

A Remark on Approximating Permanents of Positive Definite Matrices

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ABSTRACT: Let A be an $n \times n$ positive definite Hermitian matrix with all eigenvalues between 1 and 2. We represent the permanent of A as the integral of some explicit log-concave function on \mathbb{R}^{2n} . Consequently, there is a fully polynomial randomized approximation scheme (FPRAS) for $\text{per } A$.

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INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

Let $A = (a_{ij})$ be an $n \times n$ complex matrix. The permanent of A is defined as

$$\text{per } A = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{k=1}^n a_{k, \sigma(k)}$$

where S_n is the symmetric group of all $n!$ permutations of the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Recently, in particular because of connections with quantum optics, there was some interest in efficient computing (approximating) $\text{per } A$, when A is a positive semi-definite Hermitian matrix, see [A+17], [GS18] and references therein. As is known, in that case $\text{per } A$ is real and non-negative, see, for example, Chapter 2 of [Mi78]. In [A+17], Anari, Gurvits, Oveis Gharan and Saberi constructed a deterministic polynomial time algorithm approximating the permanent of a positive semidefinite $n \times n$ Hermitian matrix A within a multiplicative factor of c^n for $c = e^{1+4/84}$, where 0.577 is the Euler constant. Similarly to the case of a non-negative real matrix A , the problem of exact computation of $\text{per } A$ for a positive semidefinite matrix A is #P-hard [GS18].

If A is a non-negative real matrix, a fully polynomial randomized approximation scheme (FPRAS) for $\text{per } A$ was constructed by Jerrum, Sinclair and Vigoda [J+04]. Given an $n \times n$ matrix non-negative A and a real $0 << 1$, the algorithm of [J+04]

This research was partially supported by NSF Grant DMS 1855428. produces in $(n\epsilon)^{O(1)}$ time a number approximating $\text{per } A$ within relative error ϵ . The algorithm is randomized, meaning that the number satisfies the desired condition with a sufficiently large probability p , for example, with $p = 0.9$ (then by running m independent copies of the algorithm and taking the median of the computed s , one can make the probability of error exponentially small in m). No such algorithm is known in the case of a positive semidefinite Hermitian A , and the question of existence of an FPRAS in that case was asked in [A+17] and [GS18].

In this note, we show that there is a fully polynomial randomized approximation scheme (FPRAS) for permanents of positive definite matrices with the eigenvalues between 1 and 2. Namely, we represent $\text{per } A$ for such an $n \times n$ matrix A as the integral of an explicitly constructed log-concave function $f_A : \mathbb{R}^{2n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, so that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} f_A(t) dt = \text{per } A$$

There is an FPRAS for integrating log-concave functions, see [LV07] for the detailed analysis and history of the Markov Chain Monte Carlo approach to the problem of integrating log-concave functions and a closely related problem of approximating volumes of convex bodies. Hence the above integral representation

and an integration algorithm from [LV07] instantly produce an FPRAS for computing the permanent of a positive definite Hermitian matrix with all eigenvalues between 1 and 2. We note that a standard interpolation argument implies that the problem of computing $\text{per } A$ exactly remains #P-hard, when restricted to positive definite matrices with eigenvalues between 1 and 2. Indeed, the set X_n of such $n \times n$ matrices has a non-empty interior in the vector space of all $n \times n$ Hermitian matrices. Given an arbitrary $n \times n$ Hermitian matrix B , one can draw a line L through B and an interior point of X_n . Since the restriction of the permanent onto that line is a univariate polynomial of degree at most n , by computing the permanent $\text{per } A_i$ for $n + 1$ distinct matrices $A_i \in L \cap X_n$, we would be able to compute $\text{per } B$ exactly by interpolation, which is a #P-hard problem, cf. [GS18]. We consider the space C^n with the standard norm

$$\|z\|^2 = |z_1|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2; \quad \text{where } z = (z_1; \dots; z_n):$$

We identify $C^n = R^{2n}$ by identifying $z = x + iy$ with $(x; y)$. For a complex matrix

$L = (l_{jk})$, we denote by $\bar{L} = l_{jk}$ its conjugate, so that $l_{jk} = \bar{l}_{kj}$ for all $j; k$:

We prove the following main result.

(1.1) Theorem. Let A be an $n \times n$ positive definite matrix with all eigenvalues between 1 and 2. Let us write $A = I + B$, where I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix and B is an $n \times n$ positive semidefinite Hermitian matrix with eigenvalues between 0 and 1. Further, we write $B = LL^*$, where $L = (l_{jk})$ is an $n \times n$ complex matrix. We define linear functions $\phi_j; \dots; \phi_n : C^n \rightarrow C$ by

$$\phi_j(z) = \sum_{k=1}^n l_{jk} z_k \quad \text{for } z = (z_1; \dots; z_n):$$

Let us define $f_A : C^n \rightarrow R_+$ by

$$f_A(z) = \frac{1}{n!} e^{-\sum_{j=1}^n |\phi_j(z)|^2} :$$

(1) Identifying $C^n = R^{2n}$, we have

$$\text{per } A = \int_{R^{2n}} f_A(x; y) dx dy:$$

(2) The function $f_A : R^{2n} \rightarrow R^{2n}$ and if

$$x = \alpha x_1 + (1 - \alpha)x_2 \quad \text{and}$$

then $f_A(x; y)$

f_A is log-concave, that is, if $(x_1; y_1); (x_2; y_2) \in R^{2n}$

$$y = \alpha y_1 + (1 - \alpha)y_2 \quad \text{for some } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$$

$$f_A(x_1; y_1) f_A(x_2; y_2) \geq f_A(x; y):$$

2. Proofs

We start with a known integral representation of the permanent of a positive semidefinite matrix.

(2.1) The integral formula. Let μ be the Gaussian probability measure in \mathbb{C}^n with density

$$\frac{1}{n} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \|z\|^2} \quad \text{where} \quad \|z\|^2 = |z_1|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2 \quad \text{for} \quad z = (z_1, \dots, z_n):$$

For the expectations of products of coordinates, we have

$$E z_i \overline{z_j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Let $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be linear functions and let $B = (b_{jk})$ be the $n \times n$ matrix,

$$b_{jk} = E \phi_j \overline{\phi_k} = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \phi_j(z) \overline{\phi_k(z)} d\mu(z) \quad \text{for} \quad j, k = 1, \dots, n:$$

Hence B is a positive semidefinite Hermitian matrix and the Wick formula (see, for example, Section 3.1.4 of [Ba16]) implies that

$$(2.1.1) \quad \det B = E \prod_{j=1}^n \phi_j \overline{\phi_j} = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \prod_{j=1}^n \phi_j(z) \overline{\phi_j(z)} d\mu(z):$$

Next, we need a simple lemma.

(2.2) Lemma. Let $q : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be a positive semidefinite quadratic form. Then the function

$$h(x) = \ln(1 + q(x))$$

is concave.

Proof. It suffices to check that the restriction of h onto any affine line $x(t) = a + bt$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is concave. Thus we need to check that the univariate function

$$G(t) = \ln(1 + (a + bt)^T Q (a + bt)) \quad \text{for} \quad t \in \mathbb{R};$$

where $Q = 0$, is concave, for which it suffices to check that $G''(t) \leq 0$ for all t . Via the affine substitution $t := (t - t_0)/\sigma$, it suffices to check that $g''(\sigma) \leq 0$, where

$$g(\sigma) = \ln(1 + \sigma^2 + \sigma^4) \tag{2.2}$$

We have

$$g'(\sigma) = \frac{2\sigma(1 + \sigma^2)}{1 + \sigma^2 + \sigma^4}$$

and

$$g''(\sigma) = \frac{2(1 + \sigma^2 + \sigma^4) - 4\sigma^2(1 + \sigma^2)}{(1 + \sigma^2 + \sigma^4)^2} = \frac{2(1 + \sigma^2 + \sigma^4) - 4\sigma^2 - 4\sigma^4}{(1 + \sigma^2 + \sigma^4)^2} = \frac{2(1 - \sigma^2)}{(1 + \sigma^2 + \sigma^4)^2}$$

$$2+2^2+2^2 \quad 4^2 \quad 2 \quad 2^4 \quad 2^4 \quad 4^2 \quad 4^2 \quad 4^{22}$$

=

$$6^2 \quad \frac{(1+2+2)^2}{+2^2+2^4+2^4+4^{22}}$$

$$= \frac{(1+2+2)^2}{(1+2+2)^2} = 0$$

and the proof follows.

(2.3) Proof of Theorem 1.1. We have

$$\text{per } A = \text{per}(I + B) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \prod_{j=1}^n (1 + |b_j|^2) e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n |b_j|^2} \prod_{j=1}^n db_j$$

where B_j is the principal $|J| \times |J|$ submatrix of B with row and column indices in J and where we agree that $\text{per } B_j = 1$. Let us consider the Gaussian probability measure in \mathbb{C}^n with density $\pi^{-n} e^{-\sum |z_k|^2}$. By (2.1.1), we have

$$\text{per } B_j = E \prod_{i \in J} |z_i|^2$$

and hence

$$\text{per } A = E \prod_{j=1}^n (1 + |z_j|^2) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} \prod_{j=1}^n (1 + |z_j|^2) \prod_{j=1}^n e^{-\frac{1}{2} |z_j|^2} dz_j$$

and the proof of Part (1) follows.

We write

$$\prod_{j=1}^n (1 + |z_j|^2) e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n |z_j|^2} = \prod_{j=1}^n (1 + |z_j|^2) e^{-\frac{1}{2} |z_j|^2} \prod_{j=1}^n e^{-\frac{1}{2} |z_j|^2}$$

where

$$q(z) = \prod_{j=1}^n (1 + |z_j|^2) e^{-\frac{1}{2} |z_j|^2}$$

By Lemma 2.2 each function $(1 + |z_j|^2) e^{-\frac{1}{2} |z_j|^2}$ is log-concave on $\mathbb{R}^{2n} = \mathbb{C}^n$ and hence to complete the proof of Part (2) it suffices to show that q is a positive semidefinite Hermitian form. To this end, we consider the Hermitian form

$$p(z) = \prod_{j=1}^n (1 + |z_j|^2) = \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n |z_j|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n |z_j|^2 |z_k|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n |z_j|^2 |z_k|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n |z_j|^2 |z_k|^2$$

$$X = \sum_{k_1, k_2} c_{k_1 k_2} z_{k_1} z_{k_2}$$

$$1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n$$

where

$$c_{k_1 k_2} = \sum_{j=1}^n c_{k_1 k_2}^{-1} j_{k_1} j_{k_2} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k_1, k_2 \leq n$$

Hence for the matrix $C = (c_{k_1 k_2})$ of p , we have $C = L L$. We note that $B = LL$ and that the eigenvalues of B lie between 0 and 1. Therefore, the eigenvalues of $L L$ lie between 0 and 1 (in the generic case, when L is invertible, the matrices LL and $L L$ are similar). Consequently, the eigenvalues of C lie between 0 and

1 and hence the Hermitian form $q(z)$ with matrix $I - C$ is positive semidefinite, which completes the proof of Part (2).

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