

# Analytic algorithms for the moment polytope

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## Based on joint work with



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Mainly from “Towards a theory of non-commutative optimization:  
geodesic 1st and 2nd order methods for moment maps and polytopes”  
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# Outline

1. Moment polytopes by example
2. Algorithms for the general problem

# Moment polytopes

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## Motivating question

### Horn's problem:

Are  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the spectra of three  $n \times n$  matrices  $H_1, H_2, H_3$  such that

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## Horn set

Let  $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{P}(\text{Mat}(n)^2)$ , define

$$\mu : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \text{Herm}(n)^3$$

by

$$\mu : [A_1, A_2] \mapsto \frac{(A_1 A_1^\dagger, A_2 A_2^\dagger, A_1^\dagger A_1 + A_2^\dagger A_2)}{\|A_1\|^2 + \|A_2\|^2}.$$

Note  $\text{eigs}(AA^\dagger) = \text{eigs}(A^\dagger A)$ , so

$$\text{eigs}(A_1 A_1^\dagger), \quad \text{eigs}(A_2 A_2^\dagger), \quad \text{eigs}(A_1^\dagger A_1 + A_2^\dagger A_2)$$

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# Moment polytopes

- $G = GL(n)$
- $\pi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$  a representation of  $G$  where  $U(n)$  acts unitarily
- $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^m)$  a projective variety fixed by  $G$ ,

Moment map is the map  $\mu : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow n \times n$  Hermitians  $=: \text{Herm}(n)$  given by

$$\mu : v \mapsto \nabla_{H \in \text{Herm}(n)} \log \|e^H \cdot v\|$$

$i\mu$  is a moment map for  $U(n)$  in the physical sense! In particular:

## Theorem (Kirwan)

Image of

$$\mathcal{V} \xrightarrow{\mu} \text{Herm}(n) \xrightarrow{\text{take eigs.}} \mathbb{R}^n$$

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## Link to algebra

Why are moment polytopes interesting?

Encode asymptotic representation theory of coordinate ring of  $\mathcal{V}$ !

Theorem (Mumford, Ness '84, Brion '87)

Let  $V_{G,\lambda}$  denote irrep of  $G$  of type  $\lambda$ . Then

$$\bigcup_k \frac{1}{k} \{ \lambda : V_{G,\lambda} \subset \mathbb{C}[\mathcal{V}]_k \} = \Delta(\mathcal{V}) \cap \mathbb{Q}^n!$$

Additional math (Schur-Weyl duality, Saturation [KT00])  $\implies$

Horn polytope  $\cap (\mathbb{Z}^n)^3 = \{ (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) : V_{GL(n),\lambda_3} \in V_{GL(n),\lambda_1} \otimes V_{GL(n),\lambda_2} \}$

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# Algorithmic tasks

## Input $(\mathcal{V}, \pi, \lambda)$

- Projective variety  $\mathcal{V}$  as arithmetic circuit parametrizing it
- Representation  $\pi$  as its list of irreducible subrepresentations as elements of  $\mathbb{Z}^n$
- Target  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Q}^n$

1. **membership:** determine whether  $\lambda$  in  $\Delta(\mathcal{V})$ .
2.  $\varepsilon$ -**search:** given  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , either find an element  $v \in \lambda$  such that
  - $\|\mu(v) - \text{diag}(\lambda)\| < \varepsilon$ , OR
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i.e. find an approximate preimage under  $\mu$ !

$1/\exp(\text{poly})$ -search suffices for membership!

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## Algorithm for $\epsilon$ -search for Horn polytope (F18)

**Input:**  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) \in (\mathbb{R}^n)^3$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ .

1. Choose  $A_1, A_2$  at random. Define

$$\mu_1 = A_1 A_1^\dagger, \quad \mu_2 = A_2 A_2^\dagger, \quad \mu_3 = A_1^\dagger A_1 + A_2^\dagger A_2.$$

Want  $\mu_j = \text{diag}(\lambda_j)$

2. **while**  $\|\mu_3 - \text{diag}(\lambda_3)\| > \epsilon$ , **do**:
  - a. Choose  $B$  upper triangular such that  $B^\dagger \mu_3 B = \text{diag}(\lambda_3)$ ,  
Set  $A_i \leftarrow A_i B$ .
  - b. For  $i \in 1, 2$ , choose  $B_i$  upper triangular s.t.  $B_i^\dagger \mu_i B_i = \text{diag}(\lambda_i)$ ,  
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The case  $\lambda = 0$  is the null-cone problem from Ankit's talk!

1. Is membership in **P**?

- For tori ( $G = \mathbb{C}_\times^n$ ) Folklore,[SV17]
- For Horn polytope, by saturation conjecture[MNS12]

2. Is it in **RP**?

- We think so in general, but no proof yet!

3. Is it in **NP** or **coNP**?

- In **NP**  $\cap$  **coNP** for  $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^m)$  [BCMW17]
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# General algorithms

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## Convert $\varepsilon$ -search to an optimization problem

For  $b \in B :=$  upper triangular matrices, define

$$\text{cap}_\lambda(v) := \inf_{b \in B} \frac{\|b \cdot v\|}{\prod_i |b_{ii}|^{\lambda_i}}.$$

### Kempf-Ness Theorem

$$\lambda \in \Delta(\mathcal{V}) \iff \text{cap}_\lambda(v) > 0 \text{ for generic } v \in \mathcal{V}$$

$\varepsilon$ -search reduces to finding algorithm for the following:

- Given  $b$  with  $\|\mu(b \cdot v) - \text{diag}(\lambda)\| > \varepsilon$ ,
- Output  $b'$  with

$$\frac{\|b' \cdot v\|}{\prod_i |b'_{ii}|^{\lambda_i}} < (1 - \delta) \frac{\|b \cdot v\|}{\prod_i |b_{ii}|^{\lambda_i}}.$$

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- Given  $b$  with  $\|\mu(b \cdot v) - \text{diag}(\lambda)\| > \varepsilon$ ,
- Output  $b'$  with

$$\frac{\|b' \cdot v\|}{\prod_i |b'_{ii}|^{\lambda_i}} < (1 - \delta) \frac{\|b \cdot v\|}{\prod_i |b_{ii}|^{\lambda_i}}.$$

# Optimization algorithms

**Alternating minimization:**  $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$  time [BFGOWW18]

- Tensor products of easy reps e.g. Horn,  $k$ -tensors

$\log \text{cap}_\lambda(v)$  can be cast as a **geodesically convex program!**

Domain is positive-semidefinite matrices; geodesics through  $P$  take the form  $\sqrt{P}e^{Ht}\sqrt{P}$

**Geodesic gradient descent:**  $\text{poly}(1/\varepsilon)$  time [BFGOWW19]

- Any representation, e.g.  $\mathcal{V} = \bigwedge^k \mathbb{C}^n, \text{Sym}^k \mathbb{C}^n$ , arbitrary quivers

**Geodesic trust-regions:**  $\text{poly}(\log(1/\varepsilon), \log \kappa)$  time [BFGOWW19]

- $\kappa$  is smallest condition-number of an  $\varepsilon$ -optimizer for  $\text{cap}_\lambda(v)$
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## Open problems

1. Is moment polytope membership in  $\mathbf{NP} \cap \mathbf{coNP}$ , or even  $\mathbf{RP}$  or  $\mathbf{P}$ ?
2. Membership is in  $\mathbf{P}$  for Horn's problem. But how about  $\exp(-\text{poly})$ -search?
3. If  $(A_1, A_2)$  a random pair of matrices, does  $\text{cap}_\lambda(A_1, A_2)$  have an  $\epsilon$ -minimizer with condition number at most

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**Merci!**