A Recursive Algorithm to Compute the Stochastically Stable Distribution of a Perturbed Markov Matrix

Amy Greenwald joint work with John R. Wicks

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This game has two pure coordination equilibria:

- Play D and d, respectively;
- Play Q and q.

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This game has two pure coordination equilibria:

- Play D and d, respectively;
- Play Q and q.

Question

Is there a natural model in which players learn to coordinate?

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- Markov model of learning in a repeated game.
- A variant of Fictitious Play (Brown, 1951).
- Finite memory m and sample size s (with $s \leq m$).
 - Play a best-response to the empirical distribution of the sample.

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- Markov model of learning in a repeated game.
- A variant of Fictitious Play (Brown, 1951).
- Finite memory m and sample size s (with $s \leq m$).
 - Play a best-response to the empirical distribution of the sample.

The transition matrix M_0 for the Typewriter Game with m = s = 1:

M_0	Dd	Qd	Dq	Qq
Dd	1	0	0	0
Qd	0	0	1	0
Dq	0	1	0	0
Qq	0	0	0	1

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Dd	1	0	0	0
Qd	0	0	1	0
Dq	0	1	0	0
Qq	0	0	0	1

 M_0 has three pure "equilibria" (i.e., stationary distributions):

$$\left(\begin{array}{c}1\\0\\0\\0\end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{c}0\\0\\1\end{array}\right), \text{and} \left(\begin{array}{c}0\\\frac{1}{2}\\\frac{1}{2}\\0\end{array}\right)$$

Every stationary distribution of M_0 is a convex combination of these.

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- Play a best-response with probability $1-\epsilon$.
- Play arbitrarily with probability ϵ .

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- Play a best-response with probability 1ϵ .
- Play arbitrarily with probability ϵ .

The transition matrix M_{ϵ} for the Typewriter Game with m = s = 1:

M_{ϵ}	Dd	Qd	Dq	Qq
Dd	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$	ϵ^2
Qd	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$	ϵ^2	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$
Dq	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$	ϵ^2	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$
Qq	ϵ^2	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$

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- Play a best-response with probability 1ϵ .
- Play arbitrarily with probability ϵ .

The transition matrix M_{ϵ} for the Typewriter Game with m = s = 1:

M_{ϵ}	Dd	Qd	Dq	Qq
Dd	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$	ϵ^2
Qd	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$	ϵ^2	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$
Dq	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$	ϵ^2	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$
Qq	ϵ^2	$\epsilon(1-\epsilon)$	$(1-\epsilon)\epsilon$	$(1-\epsilon)(1-\epsilon)$

- M_{ϵ} is an example of a perturbed Markov matrix (PMM).
- For $\epsilon > 0$, M_{ϵ} has a unique stationary distribution.
- Letting $\epsilon \to 0$, we can select a stationary distribution of M_0 , the so-called stochastically stable distribution (SSD) of the PMM.
- We give an efficient algorithm to compute the SSD of a PMM.

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Game 2: Typewriter'



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Theorem (Young, 1998) For $2s \le m$ sufficiently large, the stochastically stable states of the repeated version of a 2×2 coordination game correspond to risk-dominant conventions.

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Theorem (Young, 1998) For $2s \le m$ sufficiently large, the stochastically stable states of the repeated version of a 2×2 coordination game correspond to risk-dominant conventions.

Experimental Results

- For $2 \le s \le m \le 4$, the stochastically stable distribution is concentrated at $Q \cdots Qq \cdots q$.
- These results suggest that it may be possible to strengthen Young's theorem.

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Game 3: Generic Coordination

	l	\mathcal{C}	r
T	3,3	0,0	0,0
M	0,0	2,2	0,0
B	0,0	0,0	1,1

Experimental Results

- Perhaps surprisingly, when s = m = 3, the SSD is $\Pr[TTTlll] = \frac{6}{7}, \Pr[MMMccc] = \frac{1}{7}.$
- Are there values of s and m for which the SSD is concentrated at $T \cdots Tl \cdots l$?
- Either way, reasonable dynamics may put sufficiently high probability on $T \cdots Tl \cdots l$.

Related Experimental Results

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- Edgeworth (1881) proposed a model for contracting within a simple housing economy.
- Serrano and Volij (2003) have augmented Edgeworth's model, allowing agents to make mistakes.
- Kaihatsu and Milionis in the Brown Department of Economics have applied our algorithm to Serrano and Volij's model to show that the various core allocations of the economy will emerge in the long-run with different relative frequencies.

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A matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is Markov iff

• its columns sum to 1, and

• its entries are non-negative

 $M = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ \frac{3}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$

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$$M = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \cdot & 0 \\ \frac{3}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

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A matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is Markov iff

- its columns sum to 1, and
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A vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a distribution iff

- its entries sum to 1, and
- its entries are non-negative



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A vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a distribution iff

- its entries sum to 1, and
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 $v = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{5} \\ 0 \\ \frac{3}{5} \end{pmatrix}$

Theorem Every Markov matrix M has a stationary (or invariant) distribution v: i.e., Mv = v.

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A matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is Markov iff

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 $v = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{5} \\ 0 \\ \frac{3}{5} \end{pmatrix}$

Theorem Every Markov matrix M has a stationary (or invariant) distribution v: i.e., Mv = v.

Theorem Every unichain Markov matrix M has a unique stationary distribution v.

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- A communicating class is a maximal set of nodes such that every node in the set is accessible from every other node: $\{1, 3\}, \{2\}$
- A closed class is a communicating class from which no nodes outside the class are accessible: $\{1,3\}$
- The transients are not members of any closed class: $\{2\}$

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- A communicating class is a maximal set of nodes such that every node in the set is accessible from every other node: $\{1, 3\}, \{2\}$
- A closed class is a communicating class from which no nodes outside the class are accessible: $\{1,3\}$
- The transients are not members of any closed class: $\{2\}$

A Markov matrix M is unichain if it has exactly one closed class.

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Definition

f is asymptotically equal to g (i.e., $f \sim g$) iff $\lim_{\epsilon \to 0^+} \frac{f(\epsilon)}{g(\epsilon)} = 1$.

Examples



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Definition

f is asymptotically equal to g (i.e., $f \sim g$) iff $\lim_{\epsilon \to 0^+} \frac{f(\epsilon)}{g(\epsilon)} = 1$.

Examples



Definition

Let \mathbb{C}^+ be the set of functions $f(\epsilon)$ that are asymptotically equal to a positive exponential: i.e., $f(\epsilon) \sim c\epsilon^r$ for some $c, r \ge 0$.

Examples

$f(\epsilon)$	С	r
$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
$\epsilon - \epsilon^2$	1	1
$2\epsilon^2 - 3\epsilon^4$	2	2

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A matrix M_ϵ with entries in \mathbb{C}^+ is called
perturbed Markov iff

- it is Markov
- it is unichain

for sufficiently small $\epsilon>0.$

/		$\frac{1}{2}$	0	ϵ	
	$\frac{1}{2}$	•	0	0	
	0	2ϵ		$\frac{1}{2}$	
	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$		Ϊ

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Summary

A matrix M_ϵ with entries in \mathbb{C}^+ is called
perturbed Markov iff

- it is Markov
- it is unichain
- for sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$.
- **Theorem** Every perturbed Markov matrix M_{ϵ} has a unique stationary distribution v_{ϵ} with entries in \mathbb{C}^+ .

,		$\frac{1}{2}$	0	ε	
-	$\frac{1}{2}$	•	0	0	
(0	2ϵ		$\frac{1}{2}$	
. (0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	•	Ϊ

($\frac{1+4\epsilon}{6+8\epsilon}$	
	1	
	$6+8\epsilon$	
	$1 + 2\epsilon$	
	$3+4\epsilon$	
	1	
/	$3+4\epsilon$	/

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A matrix M_ϵ with entries in \mathbb{C}^+ is called
perturbed Markov iff

- it is Markov
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for sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$.

Theorem Every perturbed Markov matrix M_{ϵ} has a unique stationary distribution v_{ϵ} with entries in \mathbb{C}^+ .

Theorem Every perturbed Markov matrix M_{ϵ} has a (unique) stochastically stable distribution $v_0 = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} v_{\epsilon}$.

 $\begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \epsilon \\ \frac{1}{2} & \cdot & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2\epsilon & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$

/	$1+4\epsilon$	
	$6+8\epsilon$	
	1	_ [
	$6+8\epsilon$	
	$1+2\epsilon$	
	$3+4\epsilon$	
	1]
	$3 \pm 4\epsilon$	/

($\frac{1}{6}$	
	$\frac{1}{6}$	
	$\frac{1}{3}$	
	$\frac{1}{3}$	/

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Theorem Every perturbed Markov matrix M_{ϵ} has a (unique) stochastically stable distribution $v_0 = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} v_{\epsilon}$.

We give an efficient algorithm for computing the SSD of a PMM.

(•	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	ϵ	
	$\frac{1}{2}$	•	0	0	
	0	2ϵ		$\frac{1}{2}$	
	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	•	

/	$\frac{1+4\epsilon}{6+8\epsilon}$	
	1	
	$6+8\epsilon$	
	$1 + 2\epsilon$	
	$3+4\epsilon$	
	1	
	$3+4\epsilon$	/

 $\left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} \end{array}\right)$

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Idea Compute v_{ϵ} for very small ϵ and extrapolate to infer v_0

ε	10 ⁻¹	10^{-2}	10^{-3}	 10^{-9}
v_{ϵ}	$\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.206\\ 0.147\\ 0.353\\ 0.294\end{array}\right)$	$\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.171\\ 0.164\\ 0.336\\ 0.329\end{array}\right)$	$\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.167\\ 0.166\\ 0.334\\ 0.333\end{array}\right)$	 $\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.167\\ 0.167\\ 0.333\\ 0.333\end{array}\right)$

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ε	10 ⁻¹	10^{-2}	10^{-3}	 10^{-9}
v_{ϵ}	$\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.206\\ 0.147\\ 0.353\\ 0.294\end{array}\right)$	$\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.171\\ 0.164\\ 0.336\\ 0.329\end{array}\right)$	$\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.167\\ 0.166\\ 0.334\\ 0.333\end{array}\right)$	 $\left(\begin{array}{c} 0.167\\ 0.167\\ 0.333\\ 0.333\end{array}\right)$

$$v_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

Success!
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Problem At double-precision, when $\epsilon = 10^{-4}$, the probability of transitioning from 2 to 3 falls below machine precision.

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Problem At double-precision, when $\epsilon = 10^{-4}$, the probability of transitioning from 2 to 3 falls below machine precision.

The unique stationary distribution of M_{10-4} is: $\dots, \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots \not \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{6} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = v_0$

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Markov Chain Tree Theorem In particular, the stationary distribution of a PMM M_{ϵ} is proportional to the vector $w_{M_{\epsilon}}$ of sums of aggregated weights of its directed spanning subtrees.



$$\lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \epsilon^{-5} w_{M_{\epsilon}}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{8} \\ \frac{1}{8} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\frac{1}{2}$

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Markov Chain Tree Theorem In particular, the stationary distribution of a PMM M_{ϵ} is proportional to the vector $w_{M_{\epsilon}}$ of sums of aggregated weights of its directed spanning subtrees.



0



Algebraic Approach for MMs

 Outline Why 	Gaussian Elimination		
What How Numerical Method Geometric Approach Algebraic Approach Our Representation	$\left(\begin{array}{ccc c}1 & 1 & 1 & 1\\ -\frac{3}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & 0\\ 0 & -\frac{3}{4} & 0 & 0\end{array}\right)$	$\begin{array}{cccc} 2 & + & \frac{3}{4} & 1 \\ 3 & + & \frac{3}{4} & 2' \\ & \longrightarrow \end{array}$	$\left(\begin{array}{c}1\\0\\0\end{array}\right)$
Our Algorithm An Example Summary	$\left(\begin{array}{ccc c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{9}{15} \end{array}\right)$	$2 - \frac{5}{4} 3$	$\left(\begin{array}{c}1\\0\\0\end{array}\right)$
	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & \frac{9}{15} \end{pmatrix}$	$\stackrel{1-3}{\longrightarrow}$	$\left(\begin{array}{c}1\\0\\0\end{array}\right)$

1 1 0

 $\downarrow \frac{15}{16}$ 3

0

0

0

1

1 0

 $\frac{6}{15}$

 $\frac{9}{15}$

Algebraic Approach for PMMs

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Gaussian Elimination

Example
$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow \frac{1+2\epsilon}{\epsilon(3+4\epsilon)}$$
 2

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{3+4\epsilon} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{2+4\epsilon}{3+4\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \stackrel{1-2}{\longleftarrow} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{2+4\epsilon}{3+4\epsilon} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\operatorname{ssd}(M_{\epsilon}) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{3+4\epsilon} \\ \frac{2+4\epsilon}{3+4\epsilon} \end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{array}\right)$$

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Asymptotic Equivalence

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Summary

Definition Two PMMs, M_{ϵ} and M'_{ϵ} , are asymptotically equal (a.e.) iff their entries are: i.e., $(M_{\epsilon})_{i,j} \sim (M'_{\epsilon})_{i,j}$, for all i, j.

Definition Two PMMs are stochastically equal (s.e.) iff their stationary distributions are asymptotically equal.

Theorem If two PMMs are a.e., then they are also s.e.. In particular, they have the same SSD.

Asymptotic Equivalence

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Summary

Definition Two PMMs, M_{ϵ} and M'_{ϵ} , are asymptotically equal (a.e.) iff their entries are: i.e., $(M_{\epsilon})_{i,j} \sim (M'_{\epsilon})_{i,j}$, for all i, j.

Definition Two PMMs are stochastically equal (s.e.) iff their stationary distributions are asymptotically equal.

Theorem If two PMMs are a.e., then they are also s.e.. In particular, they have the same SSD.

Example

$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } M_{\epsilon}' = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\operatorname{hv}(M_{\epsilon}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3+4\epsilon} \\ \frac{2+4\epsilon}{3+4\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \operatorname{inv}(M_{\epsilon}') = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\operatorname{ssd}(M_{\epsilon}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} = \operatorname{ssd}(M_{\epsilon}')$$
Efficient Representation

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Summary

Key Idea Represent the PMM M_{ϵ} by a pair of real-valued matrices, C and R, such that $M_{\epsilon} \sim C \epsilon^{R}$.

Example

$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} = M'_{\epsilon}$$

$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \sim C\epsilon^{R} \quad \text{where} \quad C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad R = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Summary

Key Idea Represent the PMM M_{ϵ} by a pair of real-valued matrices, C and R, such that $M_{\epsilon} \sim C \epsilon^{R}$.

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Theorem Addition and multiplication are well-defined on asymptotic equivalence classes, while subtraction and division are only defined in restricted cases: $2\epsilon - 3\epsilon$, $\frac{\epsilon^2}{\epsilon^3} \notin \mathbb{C}^+$.

Our Contributions

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Geometric Approach: MCTT

- Using our representation, one can compute the SSD using MCTT because \mathbb{C}^+ is closed under addition and multiplication.
- But this approach is combinatorial $(O(n^n))$.

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Geometric Approach: MCTT

- Using our representation, one can compute the SSD using MCTT because \mathbb{C}^+ is closed under addition and multiplication.
- But this approach is combinatorial ($O(n^n)$).

Algebraic Approach: GE

• Using our representation, one cannot compute the SSD using GE because \mathbb{C}^+ is not closed under subtraction and division.

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Summary

Geometric Approach: MCTT

- Using our representation, one can compute the SSD using MCTT because \mathbb{C}^+ is closed under addition and multiplication.
- But this approach is combinatorial $(O(n^n))$.

Algebraic Approach: GE

- Using our representation, one cannot compute the SSD using GE because \mathbb{C}^+ is not closed under subtraction and division.
- Our algorithm can be viewed as a careful implementation of GE.
 - \circ We subtract and divide only by elements of \mathbb{C}^+ for which the entries of the PMM remain exponentially convergent.
 - E.g., We invert only unperturbed Markov matrices ($O(n^3)$).

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A recursive algorithm calls itself on smaller problem instances.

Characterization of Stationary Distributions

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 $\frac{1}{2}$

3

 $\frac{1}{2}$

 $\overline{2}$

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Theorem For any Markov matrix M:

- M restricted to each of its closed classes has a unique stationary distribution.
- Every stationary distribution of M is a convex combination of the stationary distributions of its closed classes.
- Every stationary distribution of M puts weight 0 on transients.

Characterization of Stochastically Stable Distributions

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M_0						
$\frac{1}{2}$ 0 0	$\frac{1}{2}$. 0	$\begin{array}{c} 0\\ 0\\ \cdot\\ \frac{1}{2} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0\\ 0\\ \frac{1}{2}\\ \cdot\end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \end{array} $		
0	0	0	0	•	/	



Theorem For any PMM M_{ϵ} :

- Its SSD is one of the stationary distributions of the unperturbed matrix $M_0: M_{\epsilon}v_{\epsilon} = v_{\epsilon} \rightarrow M_0v_0 = v_0$.
- Hence, the is a convex combination of the stationary distributions of the closed classes of M_0 .

$$\psi_{0} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{6} \\ \frac{1}{6} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Theorem For any PMM M_{ϵ} :

- Its SSD is one of the stationary distributions of the unperturbed matrix M_0 : $M_{\epsilon}v_{\epsilon} = v_{\epsilon} \rightarrow M_0v_0 = v_0$.
- Hence, the is a convex combination of the stationary distributions of the closed classes of M_0 .

Corollary

If M_0 is unichain, its unique stationary distribution is the SSD of M_ϵ .

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An Example

A recursive algorithm calls itself on smaller problem instances.

Base Case

If M_0 is unichain, then the SSD of M_ϵ is the unique stationary distribution of M_0 .

Key Construction #1: Reduce

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Reduce

- Reduce M_{ϵ} to \widehat{M}_{ϵ} by eliminating indices of M_{ϵ} , so that \widehat{M}_{ϵ} contains only one representative of each SCC of M_0 .
- Along the way, record (multiples of) the stationary distributions of the closed classes of M_0 in the columns of a matrix i_0 .
- Key to the Recursion: The entries of the SSD of \widehat{M}_{ϵ} are the coefficients that combine the columns of i_0 into the SSD of M_{ϵ} .

Reduce Graphically

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An Example

• Reduce M_{ϵ} to \widehat{M}_{ϵ} by eliminating indices of M_{ϵ} so that \widehat{M}_{ϵ} contains only one representative of each SCC of M_0 .







Reduce Algebraically

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An Example

Summary

$\widehat{M}_{\epsilon} = \operatorname{reduce}_{\epsilon} (M_{\epsilon})$ 1. $\Lambda_{\epsilon} = M_{\epsilon} - I$ 2. $\widehat{\Lambda_{\epsilon}} = p_{\epsilon} \Lambda_{\epsilon} i_{\epsilon}, \text{ where}$

$$p_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} I & -\overline{N_{\epsilon}} \overline{\Lambda_{\epsilon}}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} P \quad \text{and} \quad i_{\epsilon} = P^{t} \begin{pmatrix} I \\ -\overline{\Lambda_{\epsilon}}^{-1} \widetilde{N_{\epsilon}} \end{pmatrix}$$

3.
$$\widehat{M}_{\epsilon} = \widehat{\Lambda_{\epsilon}} + I$$

Here, P is a permutation matrix taking a subset of indices $s \subset \{1, \ldots, n\}$ of Λ_{ϵ} to the last |s| indices of Λ_{ϵ} : $P\Lambda_{\epsilon}P^t = \begin{pmatrix} \widetilde{\Lambda_{\epsilon}} & \overline{N_{\epsilon}} \\ \widetilde{N_{\epsilon}} & \overline{\Lambda_{\epsilon}} \end{pmatrix}$.

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Example $s = \{3\}$

 $\widehat{\Lambda_{\epsilon}}$

$$\Lambda_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \widehat{\Lambda_{\epsilon}} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

$$p_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} I & -\overline{N_{\epsilon}} \overline{\Lambda_{\epsilon}}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{2\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{1+2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$i_{\epsilon} = P^{t} \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ -\overline{\Lambda_{\epsilon}}^{-1} \widetilde{N_{\epsilon}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{1+2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= p_{\epsilon} \Lambda_{\epsilon} i_{\epsilon}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{2\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{1+2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{1+2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -2\epsilon & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} & 0 \\ 2\epsilon & -\frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{1+2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

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An Example

Summary

Theorem When reducing one of M_0 's closed classes, i_0 records (a multiple of) the stationary distributions of that class.

Example

$$\lim_{\epsilon \to 0} i_{\epsilon} = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{1+2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = i_0$$

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An Example

Theorem When reducing one of M_0 's closed classes, i_0 records (a multiple of) the stationary distributions of that class.

Example

$$\lim_{\epsilon \to 0} i_{\epsilon} = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{1+2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = i_0$$

Theorem Up to normalization, i_0 maps $\operatorname{ssd}(\widehat{M}_{\epsilon})$ to $\operatorname{ssd}(M_{\epsilon})$.

Example

$$\operatorname{ssd}\left(\widehat{M}_{\epsilon}\right) \propto \left(\begin{array}{c}1\\2\end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix}1&0\\0&1\\0&1\end{pmatrix}} \begin{pmatrix}1\\2\\-\end{array}\right) \propto \operatorname{ssd}\left(M_{\epsilon}\right)$$

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Observation By definition, $\widehat{\Lambda}_{\epsilon} = \widetilde{\Lambda}_{\epsilon} - \overline{N}_{\epsilon} \overline{\Lambda}_{\epsilon}^{-1} \widetilde{N}_{\epsilon}$, but $\widehat{\Lambda}'_{\epsilon} \equiv \widetilde{\Lambda}_{\epsilon} - \overline{N}_{\epsilon} \overline{\Lambda}_{0}^{-1} \widetilde{N}_{\epsilon}$ yields essentially the same result.

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An Example

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Theorem \widehat{M}_{ϵ} and \widehat{M}'_{ϵ} are stochastically equal.

Check

$$\widehat{M}_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{M}'_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\operatorname{inv}\left(\widehat{M}_{\epsilon}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{3+4\epsilon} \\ \frac{2+4\epsilon}{3+4\epsilon} \end{array}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \operatorname{inv}\left(\widehat{M}_{\epsilon}'\right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{array}\right)$$

$$\operatorname{ssd}(M_{\epsilon}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} = \operatorname{ssd}(M'_{\epsilon})$$

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Theorem \widehat{M}_{ϵ} and \widehat{M}'_{ϵ} are stochastically equal.

Check

$$\widehat{M}_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{\epsilon}{1+2\epsilon} \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \widehat{M}'_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\operatorname{nv}\left(\widehat{M}_{\epsilon}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3+4\epsilon} \\ \frac{2+4\epsilon}{3+4\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \operatorname{inv}\left(\widehat{M}'_{\epsilon}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\operatorname{ssd}\left(M_{\epsilon}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} = \operatorname{ssd}\left(M'_{\epsilon}\right)$$

Corollary Up to normalization, i_0 maps $\operatorname{ssd}\left(\widehat{M}'_{\epsilon}\right)$ to $\operatorname{ssd}\left(M_{\epsilon}\right)$.

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A recursive algorithm calls itself on smaller problem instances.

Base Case

• If M_0 is unichain, then the SSD of M_ϵ is the unique stationary distribution of M_0 .

Step

• Reduce each of M_0 's SCCs to one representative, recording the corresponding transformations i_0 to recover the SSD.

Key Construction #2: Scale

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Key Construction #2: Scale

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An Example

Problem

What is the SSD of
$$\widehat{M}'_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$
? (NB: \widehat{M}'_0 is not unichain.)

Scale

- Introduce at least one edge into $G(M_0)$ exiting a closed class. The result is one fewer closed class or one additional SCC.
 - Record the corresponding transformation i_0 to recover the SSD.
- Two types of scaling: uniform and non-uniform.

Uniform Scale

 $G(M_{\epsilon})$

 2ϵ

2

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An Example

Example "Divide" Λ_{ϵ} by 2ϵ .

$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow M_{\epsilon}' = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$





 $\frac{1}{2}$

2

Uniform Scale

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An Example

Example "Divide" Λ_{ϵ} by 2ϵ .

$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow M_{\epsilon}' = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$





 $\frac{1}{2}$

Observation

- $G(M_0)$ contains two singleton SCCs.
- $G(M'_0)$ contains a non-singleton SCC.

Uniform Scale

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Summary

Example "Divide" Λ_{ϵ} by 2ϵ .

$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow M_{\epsilon}' = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$





 $\frac{1}{2}$

Observation

 $G(M_0)$ contains two singleton SCCs.

 $G(M'_0)$ contains a non-singleton SCC.

```
Theorem inv (M_{\epsilon}) = inv (M'_{\epsilon}).
Corollary ssd (M_{\epsilon}) = ssd (M'_{\epsilon}).
```

Scale Algebraically

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An Example

$$M' = \text{scale} (M_{\epsilon}, D_{\epsilon})$$

1. $\Lambda_{\epsilon} = M_{\epsilon} - I$
2. $\Lambda'_{\epsilon} = \Lambda_{\epsilon} D_{\epsilon}$

3.
$$M'_{\epsilon} = \Lambda'_{\epsilon} + I$$

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Summary

$M' = \text{scale} (M_{\epsilon}, D_{\epsilon})$ 1. $\Lambda_{\epsilon} = M_{\epsilon} - I$ 2. $\Lambda'_{\epsilon} = \Lambda_{\epsilon} D_{\epsilon}$ 3. $M'_{\epsilon} = \Lambda'_{\epsilon} + I$

Example If
$$M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \epsilon \\ 2\epsilon & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$
 and $D_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \end{pmatrix}$,
then $M'_{\epsilon} = \text{scale}(M_{\epsilon}, D_{\epsilon}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 1 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$.

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An Example

Example "Divide" only the first two columns of Λ_{ϵ} by ϵ^2 .

 $G(M_{\epsilon}) \xrightarrow{\epsilon^{5} \cdot \epsilon^{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}} 2$

 $M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^5 & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \epsilon^2 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$





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An Example

Example "Divide" only the first two columns of Λ_{ϵ} by ϵ^2 .

 $M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon^{\circ} \\ \epsilon^{5} & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \epsilon^{2} & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$



$$M_{\epsilon}^{\prime\prime} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon^{3} \\ \epsilon^{3} & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G(M_{\epsilon}^{\prime\prime})$$



$$D_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } i_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 1 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M'_{\epsilon} = \operatorname{scale} \left(M_{\epsilon}, D_{\epsilon} \right)$$
$$M''_{\epsilon} = \operatorname{scale} \left(M'_{\epsilon}, i_{\epsilon} \right)$$

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An Example

Example "Divide" only the first two columns of Λ_{ϵ} by ϵ^2 .

 $M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon^* \\ \epsilon^5 & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \epsilon^2 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$





 $M_{\epsilon}^{\prime\prime} = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^3 & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdot \end{array}\right)$

Observation

- $G(M_0)$ contains three singleton SCCs.
- $G(M_0'')$ contains a non-singleton SCC.

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Example "Divide" only the first two columns of Λ_{ϵ} by ϵ^2 .

 $M_{\epsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^5 & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \epsilon^2 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$





 $M_{\epsilon}^{\prime\prime} = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} \cdot & 0 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^3 & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdot \end{array}\right)$

Observation

- $G(M_0)$ contains three singleton SCCs.
- $G(M_0'')$ contains a non-singleton SCC.

Theorem Up to normalization, i_{ϵ} maps $\operatorname{inv}(M_{\epsilon}'')$ to $\operatorname{inv}(M_{\epsilon})$. **Corollary** Up to normalization, i_0 maps $\operatorname{ssd}(M_{\epsilon}'')$ to $\operatorname{ssd}(M_{\epsilon})$.

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An Example

A recursive algorithm calls itself on smaller problem instances.

Base Case

If M_0 is unichain, then the SSD of M_ϵ is the unique stable distribution of M_0 .

Step

- Reduce each of M_0 's SCCs to one representative, recording the corresponding transformations i_0 to recover the SSD.
- Once all M_0 's SCCs are singletons, scale to introduce at least one edge into $G(M_0)$ exiting a closed class, recording the corresponding transformation i_0 to recover the SSD.

Pseudocode

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function SSD (M_{ϵ})

- 1. Calculate the communicating classes C of M_0 , marking each as closed, transient, and/or singletons
- 2. If M_0 has only 1 closed class 3. return $(inv(M_0))$
- 4. If M_0 has a non-singleton SCC 5. $\left(\widehat{\Lambda_{\epsilon}}, i_0\right) = \text{collapse}_0\left(\Lambda_{\epsilon}, C\right)$ 6. $\text{return}\left(i_0^*\left(\text{SSD}\left(\widehat{M_{\epsilon}}\right)\right)\right)$
- 7. Else (if all M_0 's SCCs are singletons)
 - $(\Lambda'_\epsilon, i_0) = {\sf nonUniformScale}\left(\Lambda_\epsilon, C
 ight)$
 - $\Lambda_{\epsilon}'' = {\rm uniformScale}\left(\Lambda_{\epsilon}',C\right)$
 - $\operatorname{return}(i_0^*\left(\operatorname{SSD}\left(M_\epsilon''\right)\right))$

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 $\left(\begin{array}{ccccc} \cdot & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^{3} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \cdot & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon^{5} & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^{2} & \cdot \end{array}\right)$

 ϵ^3 ,

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 $\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^3 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \cdot & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon^5 & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^2 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$

 ϵ^3

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 $\left(\begin{array}{ccccc} -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^3 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \cdot & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon^5 & \cdot & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \epsilon^2 & \cdot \end{array}\right)$

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Geometric Approach: MCTT

- Using our representation, one can compute the SSD using MCTT because \mathbb{C}^+ is closed under addition and multiplication.
- But this approach is combinatorial ($O(n^n)$).

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Geometric Approach: MCTT

- Using our representation, one can compute the SSD using MCTT because \mathbb{C}^+ is closed under addition and multiplication.
- But this approach is combinatorial ($O(n^n)$).

Algebraic Approach: GE

- Using our representation, one cannot compute the SSD using GE because \mathbb{C}^+ is not closed under subtraction and division.
- We give an efficient algorithm for computing the SSD of a PMM that restricts the use of arithmetic operations.

References

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- Our Contributions
- References

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