A Near-Optimal Depth-Hierarchy Theorem for Small-Depth Multilinear Circuits

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More Resources

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More power?

Turing machines

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Non-explicit separations.

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Boolean circuits size, depth

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Today we will focus on arithmetic formulas as a model of computation.

Arithmetic formula

Definition: An arithmetic formula



Arithmetic formula

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a directed tree



Arithmetic formula



Definition: An arithmetic formula a directed tree with nodes labeled by +, ×, x_1, \ldots, x_n or constants

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It may not always be a succinct representation.

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This is a $\prod \sum$ formula for the same polynomial.

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Extended and appended by a line of work. [Raz06,RSY07,RY09,DMPY12,KV17].

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This $\sum \prod \sum$ realization is non-multilinear!

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[Kayal, Nair, Saha, 15] show that this is not possible.

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[Kayal, Nair, Saha, 15] show that this exponential blow-up is essential while going from $\Delta = 2$ to $\Delta = 1$.

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Careful analysis shows a blow-up of $\exp(s^{1/\Delta+o(1)})$. Is the blow-up essential?

More Resources





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More Product-depth



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More power?

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Do similar techniques yield a non-commutative formula depth-hierarchy theorem?

Proof details

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Understanding the measure Example

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Figure: Map ρ applied to each copy of $H^{(1)}$. Edges that are not labelled have their variables set to 1. Dotted edges have their variables set to 0.

Random map ρ

Recall that $G^{(1)}$ is *m* copies of $H^{(1)}$.



Under the above choice of random ρ , the resulting polynomial will be $P^{(1)}|_{\rho} = \prod_{i \in [t]} (y_i + z_i)$

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Effect of ρ on $\sum \prod \sum$

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Easy to see that μ of linear polynomials is small with constant probability.

Also, μ of each product term is low, say \mathcal{U} , w.h.p.

By subadditivity of ranks, $\mu(P)$ is at most $s \cdot \mathcal{U}$

Hence, $s \geq 2^{\Omega(m)}/\mathcal{U}$.

At larger depths ...

A carefully chosen ρ at each *level* of the polynomial.

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Do similar techniques yield a non-commutative formula depth-hierarchy theorem?

Thank You!