

Operator Scaling with Specified Marginals

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Organization

1. Examples; teaser algorithm
2. What is operator scaling?
3. Algorithmic results
4. Proofs

Special cases of operator scaling

1. **Matrix scaling:** Given nonnegative matrix A , can $D_1 A D_2$ have uniform row and column sums?
2. **Isotropic position:** Given distribution on vectors, can one change basis + *normalize* and end up in isotropic position ($\mathbb{E}[uu^\dagger] = I$)?
3. **Schur-Horn theorem:** what can arise as the diagonal of a matrix with given eigenvalues?
4. **Horn's problem:** given lists of numbers $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$, are there PSD matrices $A + B + C = I$ with lists of eigenvalues $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$, resp?
5. **Operator scaling**

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Teaser algorithm: Horn's problem.

Decision algorithm MNS12 relies on difficult theorems KT99, BZ01.

Simple $O(bm/\varepsilon^2)$ time search algorithm!

Algorithm (F18)

Input: $\varepsilon > 0$, and three nonnegative diagonal matrices D_1, D_2, D_3 .

Output: Orthogonal matrices O_1, O_2, O_3 with

$$\|O_1 D_1 O_1^\dagger + O_2 D_2 O_2^\dagger + O_3 D_3 O_3^\dagger - I_m\| \leq \varepsilon$$

- Pick entries of O_i randomly from $[2^{2b}]$, b input size.
- Set $O_i \leftarrow O_i h_i$ orthogonal by *right* multiplication with upper triangulars h_i .
- Check if *done*. Else, enforce $O_1 D_1 O_1^\dagger + O_2 D_2 O_2^\dagger + O_3 D_3 O_3^\dagger = I_m$ by simultaneous *left* multiplication of $O_i \leftarrow g O_i$ with a lower triangular g . Go to 2.

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Operator scaling

General framework: Operator scaling

Definition

An “operator” \mathbf{A} is a tuple A_1, \dots, A_r of $m \times n$ matrices, and

$$\sum_{i=1}^r A_i A_i^\dagger, \quad \sum_{i=1}^r A_i^\dagger A_i.$$

are the *left* and *right* marginals (resp.) of \mathbf{A} .

These are marginals of the two-body, mixed quantum state

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A **scaling** of a tuple \mathbf{A} of matrices is another tuple obtained by simultaneously changing basis on the left and right, i.e. $A_i \leftarrow gA_ih$.

Question:

Given a tuple \mathbf{A} and positive semidefinite matrices $P \succeq 0$, $Q \succeq 0$,
Are there scalings of \mathbf{A} with marginals arbitrarily close to P, Q ?

If so, say \mathbf{A}, P, Q is *scalable*.

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Some prior work

Producing ε -scalings on scalable instances.

- (HM13) P diagonal, $Q = I_m$, $A_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & u_i & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
Isotropic position; certify no hidden subspace (SV17) $\text{poly log}(1/\varepsilon)$.
- (GGOW16) $P = I_n$, $Q = I_n$; \mathbf{A} arbitrary.
Used for poly-time noncommutative rational identity testing.
(AGLOW17) $\text{poly log}(1/\varepsilon)$.
- (GGOW16) $P = \bigoplus p_i I_{n_i}$, $Q = I_n$, $A_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & B_i & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
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This work: A arbitrary, P, Q arbitrary.

Theorem (F18)

Exists a randomized algorithm to find ε -scalings of scalable A, P, Q

$$O(b \cdot m \cdot n \cdot \kappa(P) / \varepsilon^2)$$

where b is the bit complexity of the input.

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The algorithms

Old scaling algorithm

The following algorithm works in all the previously solved cases:

Algorithm (Naïve scaling)

Input: $\mathbf{A}, P, Q, \varepsilon$.

Output: ε -scaling of \mathbf{A} to marginals P, Q .

- Check if done. Else, **left-scale** $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow g\mathbf{A}$ so that $\sum_{i=1}^r A_i P A_i^\dagger = I$.
- Check if done. Else, **right-scale** $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow \mathbf{A}h$ so that $\sum_{i=1}^r A_i^\dagger Q A_i = I$.

One problem - *many choices* for how to scale; each matters!

In previous success stories, scalings commuted with P, Q , so choice didn't affect later steps. Suggests *careful choice necessary*.

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New scaling algorithm

A good choice: **random initial** and all the rest **upper triangular**.

Algorithm (Random + Triangular)

Input: \mathbf{A} , P , Q , ε .

Output: ε -scaling of \mathbf{A} to marginals P , Q or ERROR.

- Scale \mathbf{A} on left and right by *random matrices* with entries in $[6 \cdot 2^{2b}]$.
- Repeat, t times returning ERROR if not possible:
 - If done, **return** \mathbf{A} . Else, **left-scale** $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow g^\dagger \mathbf{A}$ with g *upper triangular*.
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- **return** ERROR

Theorem

Provided $t = \Omega(b \cdot m \cdot n \cdot \kappa(P)/\varepsilon^2)$, Random+Triangular outputs ERROR with probability at most $1/3$ if \mathbf{A} , P , Q is scalable.

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The proofs

Proof idea: reduction

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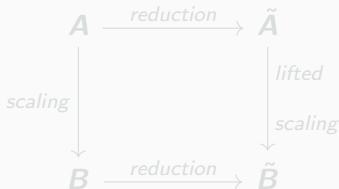
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\Leftrightarrow naïve scaling steps on $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$, which converge! (Gu04)

\mathbf{A} has left marginal $P \iff \tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ has left marginal I

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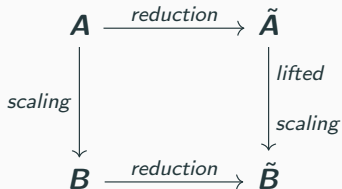
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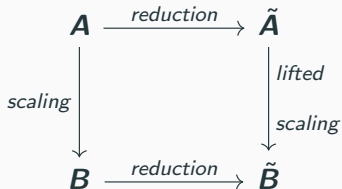
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Reduction example

Reduction for

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } Q = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix}_{A_i} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & 0 & 0 \\ d & e & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{\tilde{A}_{i1}}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & a & b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & d & e \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{\tilde{A}_{i2}} \dots$$

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Upper triangular scalings “lift”

Scaling \mathbf{A} on right by

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Whenever \mathbf{A} , P , Q scalable by upper triangulars, the following terminates:

Algorithm (Triangular scaling)

Input: \mathbf{A} , P , Q , ε .

Output: ε -scaling of \mathbf{A} to P , Q by upper triangulars.

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Running time analysis

Analysis almost identical to (GGOW16, Gu04); progress measure is

$$\text{cap } \tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \inf_{X \succ 0} \frac{\det \sum \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_i X \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_i^\dagger}{\det X}$$

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1. After the first step, $\text{cap } \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \geq C \exp(-10bm)$ where b is total bit-complexity of \mathbf{A} (GGOW16 + DM17 + log-convexity of $\text{cap}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}})$).
 2. If \mathbf{A} not ε -scaling,

$$\text{cap } \widetilde{g\mathbf{A}} \geq e^{\frac{pn}{\text{Tr } P} \varepsilon^2} \text{cap } \tilde{\mathbf{A}}$$

by AM-GM. Similar for right scaling.

3. Entire time after first step, $\text{cap } \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \leq C$.

Running time $O\left(\frac{bm \text{Tr } P}{\varepsilon^2 p_n}\right) = O(b \cdot m \cdot n \cdot \kappa(P)/\varepsilon^2)$.

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What about general scalings?

So far:

If the random initial scaling gAh is scalable to P, Q by upper triangulars, the triangular scaling part of Random + Triangular succeeds.

General scalings

It remains to show that the *random* part succeeds:

If \mathbf{A}, P, Q scalable by **anything**, then $g\mathbf{A}h, P, Q$ is scalable by **upper triangulars** with probability at least $2/3$ over choice of g, h .

“Proof:”

Lemma

(g, h) such that $g\mathbf{A}h$ is **NOT** scalable to P, Q by upper triangulars forms an algebraic variety V of degree at most $2 \cdot 2^{2b}$.

If \mathbf{A}, P, Q scalable, then V must not be everything (the scaling matrices must not lie in V !).

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Future work

1. No known poly. time decision algorithms for the operator scaling question (even Brascamp-Lieb) - **must scale exponentially close to be sure!**
2. Improve ε -dependence to $\log(1/\varepsilon)$ (a way to solve previous two problems).
3. **Long term goal:** $\text{poly}(\log(1/\varepsilon))$ for one-body quantum marginals - nice consequences:
 - new polynomial time null-cone membership algorithms,
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