Efficient Calculation of Determinants of Symbolic Matrices with Many Variables

Ziv Scully

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 $n \times n$ matrices:

$$\det (A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \left[\operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^n A_{i,\sigma(i)} \right]$$

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We are interested in matrices with polynomial entries.

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \\ m & n & o & p \end{pmatrix} = \frac{afkp - aflo - agjp + agln + ahjo - ahkn}{-bekp + belo + bgip - bglm - bhio + bhkm} \\ + cejp - celn - cfip + cflm + chin - chjm \\ - dejo + dekn + dfio - dfkm - dgin + dgjm$$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \\ m & n & o & p \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a(fkp - flo - gjp + gln + hjo - hkn) \\ -b(ekp - elo - gip + glm + hio - hkm) \\ +c(ejp - eln - fip + flm + hin - hjm) \\ -d(ejo - ekn - fio + fkm + gin - gjm) \end{pmatrix}$$

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Minor Expansion

Naive calculation requires $\Theta(n!n)$ polynomial multiplications.

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 $\textit{Minor expansion requires } \sum_{i=2}^n i \binom{n}{i} \in \Theta(2^n n) \text{ polynomial multiplications.}$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ 0 & f & g & h \\ 0 & 0 & k & l \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p \end{pmatrix} = afkp$$

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$$A^{(k+1)}_{i,j} = A^{(k)}_{i,j} - \frac{A^{(k)}_{i,k}}{A^{(k)}_{k,k}} A^{(k)}_{k,j}$$

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Fraction-free Gaussian elimination requires $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \Theta(i^2) \in \Theta(n^3)$ polynomial multiplications and divisions.

Preservation of "simple" polynomials (e.g., those with few terms):

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• Absolute value of determinant is invariant under row swaps.

Random polynomial matrices:

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Sort rows r in ascending order based on these scores:

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- Product of one more than number of terms for each entry of a row, $\prod_{i=1}^{n} (\operatorname{nterms}(r_i) + 1).$

Empirical Results

Data



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Further Questions

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Do more experiments!

Vary other criteria.

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- Different algorithms and variations.
- Crossover points between algorithms.
- Machine learning.

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