

# Combining Sparsity and Symmetry for SOS-Certificates

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Let  $A$  be a graded real  $*$ -algebra.

A **sum of squares** (SOS) is an element of the form

$$q = \sum_{t \in T} q_t q_t^*$$

with  $T$  a finite index set and  $q_t \in A$ .

**In this talk:** Exploit algebraic structures for verification of existence and computation of such representations.

## Content

- 1 Historical Motivation and Applications
- 2 Symmetry Reduction
- 3 Sparsity Exploitation

## Historical Motivation and Applications

① Hilbert, 1888:

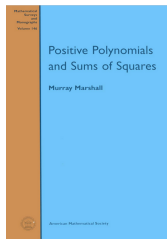
“Given  $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$ , every nonnegative polynomial  $f \in A := \mathbb{R}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  of degree  $2r$  is a sum of squares.”  
 $\Leftrightarrow (n, 2r) \in \{(1, 2r), (n, 2), (2, 4)\}$

② Motzkin, 1967:

$f = X_1^4 X_2^2 + X_1^2 X_2^4 + 1 - 3 X_1^2 X_2^2$   
is nonnegative but *not* a sum of squares.

③ *Positivstellensatz*:

A theorem that states the existence of an SOS-representation.  
Schmüdgen, 1991; Putinar, 1996.



Marshall, 2008:

POSITIVE POLYNOMIALS AND SUMS OF SQUARES.

<https://bookstore.ams.org/surv-146/>



# Applications

Let  $f, g_1, \dots, g_\ell \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ ,  $K := \{X \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid g_1(X), \dots, g_\ell(X) \geq 0\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f^* = \min_{\text{s.t. } X \in K} f(X) &= \max_{\text{s.t. } \lambda \in \mathbb{R},} \lambda && \text{(POP)} \\ &&& f - \lambda \geq 0 \text{ on } K \end{aligned}$$

## Truncated Quadratic Module

$$\text{QM}_r(g) := \left\{ q_0 + \sum_{k=0}^{\ell} q_k g_k \mid q_k \text{ is SOS of degree } \leq 2r \right\}$$

## Lasserre Hierarchy, 2001

$$\begin{aligned} f^* \geq f_{\text{sos}}^r &:= \max_{\text{s.t. } \lambda \in \mathbb{R},} \lambda \\ &&& f - \lambda \in \text{QM}_r(g) \end{aligned}$$

with  $f_{\text{sos}}^r \rightarrow f^*$  for  $r \rightarrow \infty$  under certain assumptions (Putinar).

- Korda, Henrion, Jones, 2013:  
Computing a maximal positive invariant (MPI) set of a dynamical system  $\dot{X}(t) = F(X(t))$ .
- Ozawa, 2016:  
“A finitely generated group  $\mathfrak{G}$  has *Kazhdan's property (T)*”  
 $\Leftrightarrow \exists \lambda > 0 : \Delta^2 - \lambda \Delta$  is SOS in  $\mathbb{R}[\mathfrak{G}]$  with Laplacian  $\Delta$ .

## To summarize...

- Explicit SOS-certificates give not only an optimal solution, but also an optimizer, in which the solution is attained.
- In practice: converging hierarchy of semidefinite (numerical) lower bounds by restriction of degree.
- Goal: Handle size of computation through exploitation of algebraic structures.

## Symmetry Reduction

# Symmetry in Nature and Science

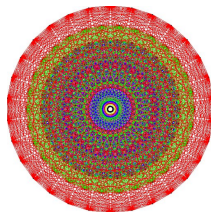


Photo credit: Matteo Fieni

## Maryna Viazovska

For the proof that the  $E_8$  lattice provides the densest packing of identical spheres in 8 dimensions, and further contributions to related extremal problems and interpolation problems in Fourier analysis.

[citation](#) | [video](#) | [popular scientific exposition](#) | [CV/publications](#)  
[interview](#) | [laudatio](#) | [proceedings](#) | [Plus magazine! article \(intro\)](#)



Source: Wikipedia/AMS

Gosset polytope drawn BY HAND (!) by Peter McMullen, 1960s

# Some Representation Theory

Let  $G$  be a finite group.

- ① Two elements  $\sigma, \tilde{\sigma} \in G$  are called **conjugate**, if  $\sigma\tau = \tau\tilde{\sigma}$  for some  $\tau \in G$ .
- ② A  **$G$ -module**  $W$  is a vector space together with a group homomorphism  $\rho_W : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(W)$ , called **representation**.
- ③ A  $G$ -module  $W$  is called **irreducible**, if its only  $G$ -submodules are 0 and  $W$  itself.

## Fact

The number  $h$  of nonisomorphic irreducible  $G$ -modules is equal to the number of conjugacy classes.

Graduate Texts  
in Mathematics

J.-P. Serre  
Linear  
Representations  
of Finite Groups

Springer-Verlag  
New York Heidelberg Berlin

Serre, 1977:

LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS OF FINITE GROUPS.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-1-4684-9458-7>

# Setup

Let  $A = A_0 \oplus A_1 \oplus A_2 \oplus \dots$  with  $A_r$  *finite dimensional* and  $G \subseteq \mathrm{GL}(A)$  be a *finite* group with a linear action

$$G \times A_r \rightarrow A_r, (\sigma, f) \mapsto f^\sigma.$$

## Isotypic Decomposition

$$A_r \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^h \bigoplus_{j=1}^{m_r^{(i)}} V_j^{(i)}$$

$h$  number of irreducible characters of  $G$  with multiplicities  $m_r^{(i)}$  and  $V_1^{(i)}, \dots, V_{m_r^{(i)}}^{(i)}$  pairwise isomorphic  $G$ -modules.

We write  $f \in A^G$  if  $f^\sigma = f$  for all  $\sigma \in G$ .

## Reynolds Operator

$$\mathcal{R}^G : A \rightarrow A^G, f \mapsto \mathcal{R}^G(f) := \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\sigma \in G} f^\sigma.$$

# Symmetric SOS

## Observation (for fixed degree $r$ )

If  $S$  is a basis for  $A_r$  and  $\mathbf{Q} = (\mathbf{Q}^*)^t \succeq 0$  is a Hermitian psd matrix of size  $|S|$  with entries in  $A_0$ , then

$$f = (\mathbf{S})^t \cdot \mathbf{Q} \cdot (\mathbf{S})^* \in A_{2r}$$

is a sum of squares, where  $\mathbf{S}$  is the vector of basis elements.

## Proposition

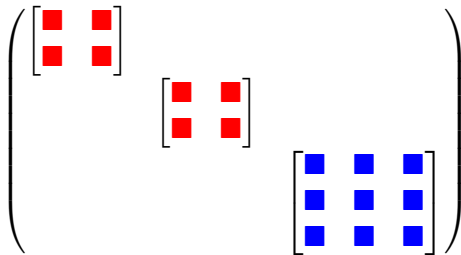
Let  $f \in A^G \cap A_{2r}$  and  $S^{(i)} \subset A_r$  contain exactly one nonzero element of each  $V_j^{(i)}$ , with  $1 \leq j \leq m_r^{(i)}$ . If  $f$  is a sum of squares in  $A$ , then there exist  $\mathbf{Q}^{(i)} = ((\mathbf{Q}^{(i)})^*)^t \succeq 0$  of size  $m_r^{(i)}$ , such that

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^h \mathcal{R}^G \left( (\mathbf{S}^{(i)})^t \cdot \mathbf{Q}_r^{(i)} \cdot (\mathbf{S}^{(i)})^* \right).$$

# Informal Consequence

“The matrix of a symmetric SOS-certificate over  $A_r$  has  $h$  blocks, each consisting of  $d_i$  many identical blocks of size  $m_r^{(i)}$ .”

$$\dim(A_r) = \sum_{i=1}^h d_i m_r^{(i)} \quad d_i := \dim(V_1^{(i)}) = \dots = \dim(V_{m_r^{(i)}}^{(i)})$$


$$\begin{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{bmatrix} & & \\ & \begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{bmatrix} & \\ & & \begin{bmatrix} \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{bmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

## Remark

Change of basis does not effect the trace. Hence, dense and symmetric relaxations (SDP) have the same theoretical value.



## Sparsity Exploitation

# What is sparsity and where does it appear?

- Correlative Sparsity:

$$f = X_1 X_2 + X_2 X_3 + \dots + X_{99} X_{100}$$

- Term Sparsity:

$$f = X_1 X_2^{99} + X_1^{99} X_2$$

- Deep learning (robustness, computer vision)
- Power systems (optimal power flow, stability)
- Quantum systems (condensed matter)

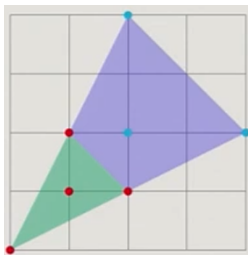


# Motzkin is not SOS

**Recall:**  $f_{\text{Motzkin}} = 1 - 3 \underline{x_1^2 x_2^2} + x_1^4 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_2^4$   
is nonnegative but *not* a sum of squares (Motzkin, 1967).

Reznick, 1978

If  $f = \sum_t q_t^2$ , then  $\text{NewtonPoly}(q_t) \subseteq \frac{1}{2} \text{NewtonPoly}(f)$ .

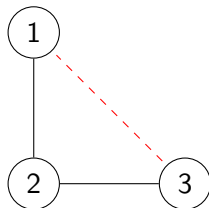


Hence, if  $f_{\text{Motzkin}}$  was SOS, then

$$f_{\text{Motzkin}} = \sum (a \mathbf{1} + \underline{b x_1 x_2} + c x_1^2 x_2 + d x_1 x_2^2)^2$$

and thus  $-3 = \sum b^2 : ($

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } \overline{\mathbf{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



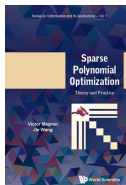
**Idea:** Instead of sums of squares of the form

$$f = (\mathbf{S})^t \cdot \mathbf{Q} \cdot (\mathbf{S})^*,$$

consider

$$\tilde{f} = (\mathbf{S})^t \cdot (\mathbf{B} \circ \mathbf{Q}) \cdot (\mathbf{S})^*,$$

where  $\mathbf{S}$  is a vector of basis elements and  $\mathbf{B}$  a binary matrix.



Magron & Wang, 2023:

SPARSE POLYNOMIAL OPTIMIZATION.

<https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/q0382>

# Symmetry-adapted TSSOS Hierarchy

$$\begin{aligned} f^* = \max \quad & \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \\ & f - \lambda \geq 0 \\ & \text{on } K \end{aligned} \quad \geq f_{\text{SOS}}^{r,s} := \max \quad \begin{aligned} & f_1 - \sum_{k,i} \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}_{r,s,k,1}^{(i)} \cdot \mathbf{Q}_k^{(i)}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{Q}_k^{(i)} \in \text{Sym}_{r-d_k}^{(i)}(\mathbf{B}_{r,s,k}^{(i)}) \\ & \mathbf{Q}_k^{(i)} \succeq 0, \forall j \geq 2 : \\ & f_j = \sum_{k,i} \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}_{r,s,k,j}^{(i)} \cdot \mathbf{Q}_k^{(i)}), \end{aligned}$$

$r$ : degree of approximation

$s$ : level of sparsity

$\mathbf{A}_{r,s,k,j}^{(i)}$ : coefficient matrices in the symmetry basis

$\mathbf{B}_{r,s,k}^{(i)}$ : binary matrices encoding sparsity

## Theorem

For fixed degree  $r \geq r_{\min}$ , the sequence  $(f_{\text{SOS}}^{r,s})_{s \geq 1}$  is monotonously nondecreasing with  $f_{\text{SOS}}^{r,*} = f_{\text{SOS}}^r$ .

For fixed sparsity order  $s \geq 1$ , the sequence  $(f_{\text{SOS}}^{r,s})_{r \geq r_{\min}}$  is monotonously nondecreasing.

**Outlook:** Convergence rate, Complex variables, Noncommutative

# Thank You.

<https://github.com/wangjie212/TSSOS>