# Entangling Algorithms and Proofs

#### |Boaz> (Barak|



#### Based on joint work with Pravesh Kothari and David Steurer (arxiv 1701.06321)





# A classical computer scientist's apology



# Entanglement Is Hard

To create, control, understand

Image credit: John Preskill

# Entanglement Is Hard



To create, control, understand

No "simple" formula for entanglement of two qudit mixed state  $\rho$  over  $\mathbb{C}^{d^2}$ 

No "simple" formula for entanglement of e-states of  $d^2 \times d^2$  measurement M.

Best known algorithms require "brute force" (i.e.,  $2^{\Omega(d)}$  time)

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This talk: Better than brute force algorithm for (one version of) second problem.

**Thm:** Better than brute force (i.e.  $2^{\tilde{O}(\sqrt{d})}$  time) algorithm for best separable state problem.

Input: Measurement M on a two qudit system ( $0 \le M \le I$  is  $d^2 \times d^2$  matrix)

**Goal:** Distinguish between:

VS.

(i) M accepts some separable state with probability 1

(ii) *Every* separable state is accepted with probability  $\leq 1 - \epsilon$ 



Certify *M* is entanglement witness

Separable states: Generated by rank one pure states  $|u\rangle\langle v| \in \mathbb{C}^{d^2}$ 

Top e-space of *M*: Linear subspace  $W \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{d^2}$ 

Goal: Find out if they intersect



**Input:** Linear subspace  $W \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{d^2}$ 

**Goal:** Find rank one matrix  $\epsilon$ -close to W

Top e-space of *M*: Linear subspace  $W \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{d^2}$ 

Goal: Find out if they intersect





Trivial (brute force) algorithm:  $2^{O(d)}$  time

Hardness: NP hard if  $\epsilon = \frac{1}{poly(d)}$  [Gurvits'03, Gharbian'10] Requires  $d^{\Omega(\log d)}$  time for constant  $\epsilon$  [Harrow-Montanaro'13]

 $d^{O(\log d)}$  algorithm if M is 1-LOCC [Brandão-Christiandl-Yard'11]

Our Result: [B-Kothari-Steurer]  $2^{\tilde{O}(\sqrt{d})}$  time

Analysis of algorithm of [Doherty-Parrilo-Spedalieri'04]

# Sum of Squares

# Sum of Squares Paradigm

Observation: Etasbertterstolvæpriobletran poitor extraxpower.1848]



# Sum of Squares Paradigm

**Observation:** Easier to solve problems with extra power.



# General philosophy

1) Prove correctness of "hypothetical" algorithm:

• Has unbounded time.

*Identifiability* →*recovery:* Sparse coding, mixture models, community recovery, tensor completion, ...

• Gets "hints" about solution.

*Combining →rounding: Sparse vector problem, best separable state* 

2) "Lift" proof to show SoS succeeds as well.



# Deg **l** SoS Proof System

[Artin'27,Krivine'61,Stengle'71,...,Grigoriev-Vorobjov'01]

AXIOM:  $p^2 \ge 0$  for deg  $p \le \ell$ 

#### Surprisingly powerful:

- Cauchy Schwarz
- Holder
- Hypercontractivity
- Invariance principle

[B-Brandao-Harow-Kelner-Steurer-Zhou'12, De-Mossel-Neeman'12, O'Donnell-Zhou'13, Kauers-O'Donnell-Tan-Zhou'14,..]

# Deg **l** SoS Algorithm

[N.Shor'87,..,Parrilo'00,Lasserre'01]

**INPUT**: polynomial constraints on  $x_1, \ldots, x_d$ 

OUTPUT: "fake" moments of distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over  $\mathbb{R}^d$  satisfying constraints (via semi-definite programming)

SoS Proof System can't prove they are fake!

#### Sum of Squares and Quantum Information

Bell's Inequality: Alice gets  $a \in \{0,1\}$  and outputs  $X_a \in \{\pm 1\}$ , Bob gets  $b \in \{0,1\}$ and outputs  $Y_b \in \{\pm 1\}$ . Then  $R = X_0Y_0 + X_0Y_1 + X_1Y_0 - X_1Y_1 \le 2$ 

 $\mathsf{Pf:} \ R = X_0(Y_0 + Y_1) + X_1(Y_0 - Y_1) \le \sqrt{\left[X_0^2 + X_1^2\right] \cdot \left[(Y_0 + Y_1)^2 + (Y_0 - Y_1)^2\right]} \\ R \le \left[\sqrt{2((2Y_0^2 + 2Y_1^2))}\right] = \left[\sqrt{8}\right] \approx 228 \mathbf{I}$ 

*Quantum* value of this game is  $R = \sqrt{8}!$ 

Nature might not follow Einstein..

.. but she does respect Cauchy-Schwarz

# Solving Best Separable State via the Sum of Squares Algorithm

## THE DREAM IS REAL.

"Inception" approach for algorithm design

- 1. Dream you have access to moments of solution.
- Use moments to obtain answer.
  Then wake up and hope it still works.

# THE DREAM IS REAL.





First Attempt: Can compute  $\overline{A} = \mathbb{E}[|u\rangle\langle v|]$  (degree two moments  $\mathbb{E}[u_i v_j]$ )

Dist over matrices in  $W \Rightarrow \overline{A}$  is in W

A might not be rank one



# "Convexifying" rank one matrices



# "Convexifying" rank one matrices

THM: [B-Kothari-Steurer'17] For every dist  $\mathcal{D}$  over rank one  $d \times d$  matrices, exists  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{d})$  deg p s.t.  $\overline{A} = \mathbb{E}[p(A)A]$  is "almost rank one" (i.e.,  $\|\overline{A} - |u\rangle\langle v\| \| \le \epsilon \| \|u\rangle\langle v\| \|$ )

Why would that be true? And where does  $\sqrt{d}$  come from?

Inspiration: Lovett "sqrt rank theorem" in communication complexity

 $(p \text{ Schatten norm} \Rightarrow \text{deg} \approx d^{1/p})$ 

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Intuition: Random matrix eigenvalues follow Wigner semicircle law :

magnitude bounded by  $O(\sqrt{d})$ 

"Reweigh" dist by  $p(A) = (\langle u | A | u \rangle)^{\ell}$  $\Rightarrow$  Boosts e-val of u by  $\frac{\mathbb{E}[N^{\ell+2}]}{\mathbb{E}[N^{\ell}]\mathbb{E}[N^{2}]} \approx \ell$ 



Get  $\lambda_1 \approx \ell \sqrt{d} \gg d$  and  $\lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_d \approx \sqrt{d}$ 









### Other applications: unsupervised learning

**Observations:**  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots$  from model  $P(\theta)$ 

# Example applications

• **Dictionary learning** [B-Kelner-Steurer'14,...]

- Tensor decomposition [Ge-Ma'15, Ma-Shi-Steurer'16]
- Tensor completion [B-Moitra'16, Potechin-Steurer'17]
- Tensor PCA [Hopkins-Shi-Steurer'15]
- Community detection [Hopkins-Steurer'17]
- Gaussian Mixture Models [Hopkins-Lin'17, Kothari-Steinhardt'17]
- Outlier-robust estimation [Kothari-Steurer'17]

### THE DREAM IS REAL.



# Summary

- Better than brute force  $(2^{\tilde{O}(\sqrt{d})})$  time) alg for best separable state
- Still large gap from  $2^{\Omega(\log d)}$  lower bound.
- Still open: noisy version, quantum separability problem
- Ideas lead to improved algorithms in several worst case and average case settings.
- Often SoS based algorithm gives best known guarantees.
- Is this accidental? Or part of larger pattern?

