

# Hutch++

## Optimal Stochastic Trace Estimation

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# Collaborators



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David P. Woodruff  
(CMU)

# Trace Estimation

- ◎ Goal: Estimate trace of  $n \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{A}_{ii} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$$

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- Instead,  $\mathbf{B}$  is in memory and  $\mathbf{A} = f(\mathbf{B})$ :

No. Triangles	Estrada Index	Log-Determinant
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- Computing  $\mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{6}\mathbf{B}^3$  takes  $O(n^3)$  time, which is too slow
- Computing  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \frac{1}{6}\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{B}\mathbf{x}))$  takes  $O(n^2)$  time
- If  $\mathbf{A} = f(\mathbf{B})$ , then we can often compute  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$  quickly

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$$\mathbf{x} \xrightarrow{\text{input}} \text{ORACLE} \xrightarrow{\text{output}} \mathbf{Ax}$$

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**Implicit Matrix Trace Estimation:** Estimate  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$  with as few Matrix-Vector products  $\mathbf{Ax}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Ax}_m$  as possible.

$$(1 - \varepsilon) \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) \leq \tilde{\text{tr}}(\mathbf{A}) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$$

## 3 Core Contributions

For PSD matrix trace estimation,

1. Hutch++ algorithm, which uses  $\tilde{O}(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  matrix-vector products.
  - o Improves prior rate of  $\tilde{O}(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2})$
  - o Empirically works well

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  - o Improves prior rate of  $\tilde{O}(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2})$
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2. All adaptive algorithms with finite-precision oracles use  $\Omega(\frac{1}{\varepsilon \log(1/\varepsilon)})$  queries.
3. All nonadaptive algorithms with infinite-precision oracles use  $\Omega(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  queries.

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# Hutchinson's Estimator

The classical approach to trace estimation:

Hutchinson 1991, Girard 1987

1. Draw  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with i.i.d. uniform  $\{+1, -1\}$  entries
2. Return  $\tilde{T} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_i$

Avron, Toledo 2011, Roosta, Ascher 2015

With probability  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$|\tilde{T} - \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})| \leq \tilde{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}\right) \|\mathbf{A}\|_F$$

# Hutchinson Analysis

For PSD  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\|\mathbf{A}\|_F \leq \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$ , so that:

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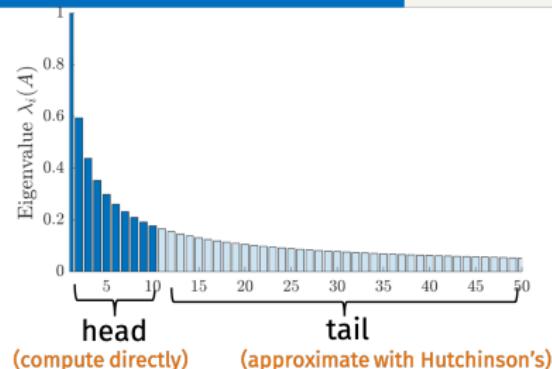
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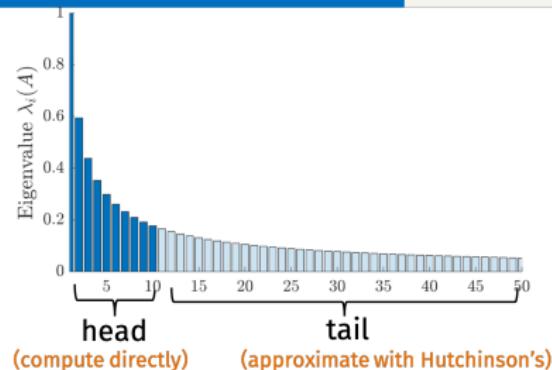
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  - Property of norms:  $\|\mathbf{v}\|_2 \approx \|\mathbf{v}\|_1$  only if  $\mathbf{v}$  is nearly sparse
- Hutchinson only requires  $O(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2})$  queries if  $\mathbf{A}$  has a few large eigenvalues

# Helping Hutchinson's Estimator



Idea: Explicitly estimate the top few eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$ . Use Hutchinson's for the rest.

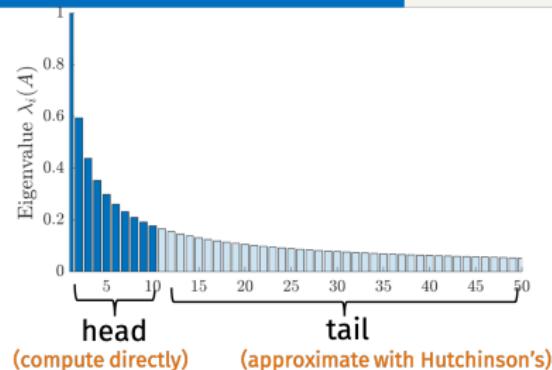
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1. Find a good rank- $k$  approximation  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k$
2. Notice that  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{tr}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k) + \text{tr}(\mathbf{A} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k)$
3. Compute  $\text{tr}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k)$  exactly
4. Compute  $\tilde{T} \approx \text{tr}(\mathbf{A} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k)$  with  $m$  steps of Hutchinson's
5. Return  $\text{Hutch}^{++}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{tr}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k) + \tilde{T}$

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5. Return  $\text{Hutch}^{++}(\mathbf{A}) = \text{tr}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k) + \tilde{T}$

- ⑤ Lemma:  $\|\mathbf{A} - \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_k\|_F \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{k}} \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$ 
  - Replaces earlier bound  $\|\mathbf{A}\|_F \leq \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$
  - For all  $\mathbf{v}$ , there exists  $k$ -sparse  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}$  such that

$$\|\mathbf{v} - \tilde{\mathbf{v}}\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \|\mathbf{v}\|_1$$

- ⑥ Final Theorem:
  - Using rank- $k$  approximation and  $m$  samples in Hutchinson's
  - $|\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) - \text{Hutch}^+(\mathbf{A})| \leq O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{km}}\right) \text{tr}(\mathbf{A})$
  - Set  $k = m = \tilde{O}\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$

# Implimentation

- ① Input: Number of matrix-vector queries  $m$

1. Sample  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{m}{3}}$  and  $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times \frac{m}{3}}$  with i.i.d.  $\{+1, -1\}$  entries
2. Compute  $\mathbf{Q} = \text{qr}(\mathbf{AS})$
3. Return  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{Q}) + \frac{3}{m} \text{tr}(\mathbf{G}^T (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Q}^T) \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Q}^T) \mathbf{G})$

```
1 - function T = hutchplusplus(A, m)
2 -     S = 2*randi(2,size(A,1),m/3);
3 -     G = 2*randi(2,size(A,1),m/3);
4 -     [Q,~] = qr(A*S,0);
5 -     G = G - Q*(Q'*G);
6 -     T = trace(Q'*A*Q) + 1/size(G,2)*trace(G'*A*G);
7 - end
```

If you want to learn more

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## 25 Minute Version of this Talk: More Details

- Full proof of Hutch++ Correctness
- Intuitions for both lower bounds
- Discussion of some experiments

In the full paper: Even more details

- Non-Adaptive Algorithm
- Minor Optimizations
- Full Proofs
- Richer discussion of experiments

Code: [github.com/RaphaelArkadyMeyerNYU/hutchplusplus](https://github.com/RaphaelArkadyMeyerNYU/hutchplusplus)

# Open Questions

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- ① **In progress:** Lower bounds for e.g.  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^3)$ ,  $\text{tr}(e^{\mathbf{A}})$ ,  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^{-1})$
- ① What about inexact oracles? We often approximate  $f(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{x}$  with iterative methods. How accurate do these computations need to be?
- ① Extend to include row/column sampling? This would encapsulate e.g. SGD/SCD.

# THANK YOU

Code available at  
[github.com/RaphaelArkadyMeyerNYU/hutchplusplus](https://github.com/RaphaelArkadyMeyerNYU/hutchplusplus)