Dynamic Programming: Arithmetic, Geometric, Harmonic, and Power Means

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Abstract

Arithmetic, Geometric, and Harmonic means are the well-known Pythagorean means [11, 12, 14, 13]. Power mean, also known as Hölder mean, is a generalized mean for the Pythagorean means [15]. Formulas of these means have been used to derive brute-force algorithms that run at polynomial space and time O(n), but these brute-force algorithms cost more time and space when compared to their dynamic counterpart. In this paper, I derive dynamic algorithms, by technique of dynamic programming, for computing the Pythagorean and the power means. Derivations of the dynamic algorithms are written in the sections 3-6, and a weblink to Java implementation of the dynamic algorithms is provided at the end of section 3. The dynamic mean algorithms, just like the brute-force mean algorithms, are derived from mean formulas found in statistics resources like Moore et al, 1998; Stan, 2009; Chou, 1969. But the dynamic mean algorithms have elements of dynamic programming. I show that dynamic mean algorithms requires only constant time and space O(c) to compute the mean of a variable. These dynamic algorithms are less costly than the brute-force algorithms because the later require O(n) time and space. Implementation of the dynamic algorithms may be found in applications that process instant mathematical mean of very large data with respect to the time each datum is acquired. An example of a simple application is provided in the introduction section, where Bob calculates the mean number of oranges that he receives each day from Alice.

Keywords: Dynamic mean algorithm, dynamic programming, arithmetic mean, geometric mean, harmonic mean, power mean.

1. Introduction

The objective of calculating the mean is finding an average of a variable. Consider a case where Alice and Bob are friends, and every day, Alice gives Bob x_t oranges. The symbol x_t is a variable that represents the number of oranges that Bob receives from Alice each day. Suppose that on day 1, Alice gave Bob 2 oranges; on day 2, Alice gave Bob 6 oranges; and on day 3, Alice gave Bob only 1 orange. If the t subscript of x_t represent the day that Bob received an orange, then this Alice and Bob case can be stated statistically as the following:

When
$$t = 1, x_t = 2$$

When
$$t = 2, x_t = 6$$

When
$$t = 3$$
, $x_t = 1$

The case can be stated even more succinctly as the following:

$$[x_{t=1} = 2, x_{t=2} = 6, x_{t=3} = 1] \rightarrow O(3)$$
 space

Assuming that Bob planned to calculate the arithmetic mean of number of oranges he receives each day from Alice. Bob will typically do his calculation by the following brute-force mean algorithm:

On day
$$t = 1$$
: $\bar{x}_{t=1} = \frac{x_{t=1}}{t-1} = \frac{2}{1} = 2 \rightarrow O(c)$ time

The symbol \bar{x}_t represents the mean on day t.

On day
$$t = 2$$
: $\bar{x}_{t=2} = \frac{x_{t=1} + x_{t=2}}{t=2} = \frac{2+6}{2} = 4 \to O(c)$ time

On day
$$t = 3$$
: $\bar{x}_{t=3} = \frac{x_{t=1} + x_{t=2} + x_{t=3}}{t=3} = \frac{2+6+1}{3} = 3 \to O(c)$ time

Observe that on the second day, Bob must remember $x_{t=1}$ to calculate $\bar{x}_{t=2}$ on day 2. Also, Bob must sum $x_{t=1}$ and $x_{t=2}$ as part of his calculation of $\bar{x}_{t=2}$ on day 2. Again, On the third day, Bob must remember $x_{t=1}$ and $x_{t=2}$, and sum $x_{t=1}$, $x_{t=2}$ and $x_{t=3}$ during his calculation of $\bar{x}_{t=3}$ on day 3. In general, Bob must remember $x_{t=1} \cdots x_{t=n}$ and sum $x_{t=1} \cdots x_{t=n+1}$ in the process of

calculating $\bar{x}_{t=n+1}$ on day n+1. Here n represents the last day t before day n+1 that Bob received oranges from Alice. For example, if n=3 then day n is equal to day 3, and day n+1 is equal to day 4.

Analysis shows that if a computer was performing the same calculation as Bob, the computer would require O(1) + O(1) + O(1) = O(3) space for storage of $x_{t=1}, x_{t=2}, x_{t=3}$. For Alice and Bob case, this $x_{t=1}, x_{t=2}, x_{t=3}$ is equal to $x_{t=1} \cdots x_{t=n}$ if t=n=3. Hence, the brute-force mean algorithm require O(n) for storage of $x_{t=1} \cdots x_{t=n}$. It also require O(n+1) time for summation of $x_1 \cdots x_{n+1}$. If Bob knew an algorithm that require only O(c) time and space, he would be better off using that algorithm for his calculation, as such algorithm would save Bob time and memory for use on other activities. In the case of a computer dealing with very large data $x_t \cdots x_{t+k}$, where each datum is available at certain times $t \cdots t + k$, such algorithm will not require stored data $x_t \cdots x_{t+k-1}$ of past times $t \cdots t + k-1$ to calculate the current mean \bar{x}_{t+k} at time t + k. It will only require the current datum x_{t+k} at current time t + k and the stored mean of past data \bar{x}_{t+k-1} for calculation of \bar{x}_{t+k} . Therefore, such algorithm runs at O(c) space and time complexity.

In the proceeding sections, I derive dynamic mean algorithms that require only O(c) space and time to compute arithmetic, geometric, harmonic, and power means.

2. Related Work

There are other similar studies relating to Pythagorean and generalized means. According to paperdigest.org, "Huang et. al., 2003 describe how several existing software reliability growth models based on Nonhomogeneous Poisson Processes (NHPPs) can be comprehensively derived by applying the concept of weighted arithmetic, weighted geometric, or weighted harmonic mean. Wang et. al., 2009 present a very general fuzzy weighted mean, which Wang et. al., 2009 refer to as Generalised Fuzzy Weighted Mean (GFWM). With this method of construction Cuadras, 2009 combine Farlie–Gumbel–Morgentern and Ali–Mikhail–Haq copulas to obtain families of copulas which can be expressed in terms of double power series. In Long et. al., 2010 analysis of the question: What is the greatest value p and the least value q such that the two inequalities a, b > 0 and $a, \beta > 0$ holds for all $a + \beta < 1$?, Long et. al., 2010 used the power mean $M_p(a,b)$; $p \in \mathbb{R}$, arithmetic mean A(a,b), geometric mean G(a,b), and harmonic mean H(a,b) on two positive numbers a and b; stating that

$$M_p(a,b) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{a^p + b^p}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, & p \neq 0\\ \sqrt{ab}, & p = 0 \end{cases}$$

 $A(a,b) = \frac{a+b}{2}$, $G(a,b) = \sqrt{ab}$, and $H(a,b) = \frac{2ab}{a+b}$. Chu et. al., 2011 answer the question: For $\alpha \in (0,1)$, what are the greatest values p, r and m and the least values q, s and n such that the inequalities $M_p(a,b) \leq A^{\alpha}(a,b)G^{1-\alpha}(a,b) \leq M_q(a,b)$, $M_r(a,b) \leq G^{\alpha}(a,b)H^{1-\alpha}(a,b) \leq M_s(a,b)$ and $M_m(a,b) \leq A^{\alpha}(a,b)H^{1-\alpha}(a,b) \leq M_n(a,b)$ hold for all a,b > 0? Congedo et. al., 2017 treat the problem of estimating power means along the continuum $p \in (-1,1)$ given noisy observed measurement. Marcelino et. al., 2020 analyze different means of computing for

the quantum time in each cycle of the dynamic RRS. Other influential work includes Bullen, 1987; Yeo et. al., 2001."

3. Dynamic Arithmetic Mean

It is true that the arithmetic mean of a_t and b_{t+1} , where t = 2, is

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = \frac{t\bar{x}_t + x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \frac{2a+b}{3}$$

In section 2.1, I explain the method I used to derive $\frac{t\bar{x}_t + x_{t+1}}{t+1}$, and also show the derivation of the dynamic arithmetic mean.

3.1 Derivation.

All derivation in this writing begins by considering statements that are contradictions. These derivations make use of a kind of proof are known as proof-by-contradiction.

It is widely known that the standard formula for calculating arithmetic mean AM is

$$AM = \bar{x}_t = \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_t}{t}$$

Where time i ranges from 1 to t, and x_i is an observation in the set of observations x. In the set x there are t observations observed at the time interval. That means, observation x_i is obtained at time i. For example, if Bob received x_1 oranges at time 1, x_2 oranges at time 2, and x_3 oranges at time 3, then the group of oranges x_i : $1 \le \forall i \le 3$ is in the set of x, therefore, x stores three groups of oranges (i.e., $x_1, x_2, x_3 \subseteq x = x_i$: $1 \le \forall i \le 3 \subseteq x$) gotten three times: t = 1, t = 2, and t = 3. The symbol t can also be interpreted as the index of any arbitrary x_i in x, and t can be interpreted as the index of the last observation x_t in x.

Consider the question: If Bob know the arithmetic mean AM of $x_1 \cdots x_t$ at time t, and later at

time
$$t+1$$
, Alice gave Bob x_{t+1} oranges; is $\frac{AM+x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \frac{x_1+\cdots+x_{t+1}}{t+1}$?

The statement $\frac{AM + x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_{t+1}}{t+1}$ is a contradiction, thus

$$\frac{AM + x_{t+1}}{t+1} \neq \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_{t+1}}{t+1}$$

$$\frac{x_1 + \dots + x_t}{t} + x_{t+1} \neq \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_{t+1}}{t+1}$$

$$\frac{x_1 + \dots + x_t}{t} + x_{t+1} \neq x_1 + \dots + x_{t+1}$$

$$t\left(\frac{x_1 + \dots + x_t}{t}\right) + x_{t+1} = x_1 + \dots + x_{t+1}$$

$$\frac{t\left(\frac{x_1 + \dots + x_t}{t}\right) + x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_{t+1}}{t+1}$$

$$\left(\frac{t}{t+1}\right) \left(\frac{x_1 + \dots + x_t}{t}\right) + \frac{x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_{t+1}}{t+1}$$

$$\left(\frac{t}{t+1}\right) \left(\frac{x_1 + \dots + x_t}{t}\right) + \frac{x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \left(\frac{t}{t+1}\right) \left(\frac{1}{t}\sum_{i=1}^{t} x_i\right) + \frac{x_{t+1}}{t+1}$$

$$\left(\frac{t}{t+1}\right) \left(\frac{1}{t}\sum_{i=1}^{t} x_i\right) + \frac{x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \frac{1}{t+1}\sum_{i=1}^{t+1} x_i$$

$$\frac{t}{t+1}\bar{x}_t + \frac{x_{t+1}}{t+1} = \bar{x}_{t+1}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = \frac{t\bar{x}_t + x_{t+1}}{t+1}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = \frac{1}{t+k} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{t+k} x_i\right) + t\bar{x}_t\right]$$

3.2 Algorithm.

In this subsection, I show the algorithms and complexities of the brute-force and dynamic means.

The brute-force algorithm is the following:

- (1) bruteForceArithmeticMean (data): O(n) space
- (2) sum = 0.0
- (3) for each datum in data: sum += datum \longrightarrow O(n) time
- (4) arithmeticMean = sum / length(data)
- (5) return arithmeticMean

Below is the dynamic algorithm:

There need to be a datum generator function called generateDatum(t). Below is an algorithm for the datum generator:

generateDatum(t):

$$data = x_1 \cdots x_k$$

return t index of data

The generateDatum(t) algorithm provides datum at each time t for use by the brute-force and dynamic algorithms.

Finally, let there be a main algorithm that call the above algorithms:

main ():

initialize data

```
for range t=1 to t \le n:
   add generateDatum(t) to index t of data
   bruteForceArithmeticMean (data)

for range t=1 to t \le n:
   datum = generateDatum(t);
   dynamicArithmeticMean (t, datum)

O(n^2) time and O(n) space

O(n) time and O(n) space
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It is shown that the dynamicArithmeticMean algorithm runs more efficiently than the bruteForceArithmeticMean. Similar algorithms like the dynamicArithmeticMean can be adapted to compute the dynamic geometric, harmonic, and power means. To compute either the dynamic geometric, harmonic, or power mean, change the mean formula at line (2) of the dynamicArithmeticMean algorithm to the appropriate dynamic mean formulas shown in section 4, 5, and 6. The dynamic algorithm still remain more efficient for geometric, harmonic, and power means.

Java implementation of these algorithms can be found at *github.com/calebnwokocha/Dynamic-Means*.

4. Dynamic Geometric Mean

It is true that the geometric mean of a_t and b_{t+1} , where t = 2, is

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = (x_{t+1}(\bar{x}_t)^t)^{\frac{1}{t+1}} = (b(a)^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

4.1 Derivation.

It is widely known that the standard formula for calculating geometric mean GM is

$$GM = \bar{x}_t = (x_1 \cdots x_t)^{\frac{1}{t}}$$

Where x_i ; $1 \le i \le t$ represents quantity of oranges Bob receives.

I consider the question: If Bob know the geometric mean GM of $x_1 \cdots x_t$ at time t, and later at

time
$$t+1$$
, Alice gave Bob x_{t+1} oranges; is $(GM \cdot x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}} = (x_1 \cdots x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}}$?

The statement $(GM \cdot x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}} = (x_1 \cdots x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}}$ is a contradiction, thus

$$(GM \cdot x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}} \neq (x_1 \cdots x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}}$$

$$\left((x_1 \cdots x_t)^{\frac{1}{t}} \cdot x_{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{t+1}} \neq (x_1 \cdots x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}}$$

$$(x_1 \cdots x_t)^{\frac{1}{t}} \cdot x_{t+1} \neq x_1 \cdots x_{t+1}$$

$$\left[(x_1 \cdots x_t)^{\frac{1}{t}}\right]^t \cdot x_{t+1} = x_1 \cdots x_{t+1}$$

$$\therefore \left(\left[(x_1 \cdots x_t)^{\frac{1}{t}}\right]^t \cdot x_{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{t+1}} = (x_1 \cdots x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}}$$

$$\left(\left(\left(\prod_{i=1}^t x_i\right)^{\frac{1}{t}}\right)^t \cdot x_{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{t+1}} = \left(\prod_{i=1}^{t+1} x_i\right)^{\frac{1}{t+1}}$$

$$((\bar{x}_t)^t \cdot x_{t+1})^{\frac{1}{t+1}} = \bar{x}_{t+1}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = (x_{t+1}(\bar{x}_t)^t)^{\frac{1}{t+1}}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+k} = \left((\bar{x}_t)^t \prod_{i=t+1}^{t+k} x_i \right)^{\frac{1}{t+k}}$$

5. Dynamic Harmonic Mean

It is true that the harmonic mean of a_t and b_{t+1} , where t = 2, is

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = t + 1\left(\frac{t}{\bar{x}_t} + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}\right)^{-1} = 3\left(\frac{2}{a} + \frac{1}{b}\right)^{-1}$$

5.1 Derivation.

The standard harmonic mean *HM* is the following:

$$HM = \bar{x}_t = \frac{t}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_t}}$$

Where x_i ; $1 \le i \le t$ represents quantity of oranges Bob receives.

I consider the question: If Bob know the harmonic mean HM of $x_1 \cdots x_t$ at time t, and later at

time
$$t+1$$
, Alice gave Bob x_{t+1} oranges; is $\frac{t+1}{HM+\frac{1}{x_{t+1}}}=\frac{t+1}{\frac{1}{x_1}+\cdots+\frac{1}{x_{t+1}}}?$

The statement $\frac{t+1}{HM + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}} = \frac{t+1}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}}$ is a contradiction, thus

$$\frac{t+1}{HM + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}} \neq \frac{t+1}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}}$$

$$\frac{t+1}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_t}} \neq \frac{t+1}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}}$$

$$\frac{t}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_t}} + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}} \neq \frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}$$

$$\left[\left(\frac{t}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_t}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{t} \right) \right]^{-1} + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}} = \frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}$$

$$\therefore \frac{t+1}{\left[\left(\frac{t}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_t}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{t} \right) \right]^{-1}} + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}} = \frac{t+1}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}}}$$

$$t+1 \left(\left[t \left(\sum_{i=1}^t \frac{1}{x_i} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{t} \right) \right]^{-1} + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}} \right)^{-1} = t+1 \left(\sum_{i=1}^{t+1} \frac{1}{x_i} \right)^{-1}$$

$$t+1 \left(\left[\bar{x}_t \left(\frac{1}{t} \right) \right]^{-1} + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}} \right)^{-1} = \bar{x}_{t+1}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = t+1 \left(\frac{t}{\bar{x}_t} + \frac{1}{x_{t+1}} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+k} = t+k \left(\frac{t}{\bar{x}_t} + \frac{t+k}{x_t} \right)^{-1}$$

6. Dynamic Power Mean

It is true that the power mean of a_t and b_{t+1} , where t=2 and m=1, is

$$\bar{x}_{t+1} = \left(\frac{\bar{x}_t^m t + x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} = \left(\frac{(a^1 \cdot 2) + b^1}{3}\right)^{\frac{1}{1}}$$

6.1 Derivation.

The standard power mean *PM* is the following:

$$PM = \bar{x}_t = \left(\frac{x_1^m + \dots + x_t^m}{t}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

Where x_i ; $1 \le i \le t$ represents quantity of oranges Bob receives.

I consider the question: If Bob know the power mean PM of $x_1 \cdots x_t$ at time t, and later at time

$$t + 1$$
, Alice gave Bob x_{t+1} oranges; is $\left(\frac{PM + x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} = \left(\frac{x_1^m + \dots + x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$?

The statement $\left(\frac{PM+x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} = \left(\frac{x_1^m+\cdots+x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$ is a contradiction, thus

$$\left(\frac{PM + x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \neq \left(\frac{x_1^m + \dots + x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

$$\left(\frac{\left(\frac{x_{1}^{m}+\cdots+x_{t}^{m}}{t}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}+x_{t+1}^{m}}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}\neq\left(\frac{x_{1}^{m}+\cdots+x_{t+1}^{m}}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

$$\frac{\left(\frac{x_1^m + \dots + x_t^m}{t}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} + x_{t+1}^m}{t+1} \neq \frac{x_1^m + \dots + x_{t+1}^m}{t+1}$$

$$\left(\frac{x_1^m + \dots + x_t^m}{t}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}} + x_{t+1}^m \neq x_1^m + \dots + x_{t+1}^m$$

$$t\left(\left[\left(\frac{x_{1}^{m}+\cdots+x_{t}^{m}}{t}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}\right]^{m}\right)+x_{t+1}^{m}=x_{1}^{m}+\cdots+x_{t+1}^{m}$$

$$\vdots\left(\frac{t\left(\left[\left(\frac{x_{1}^{m}+\cdots+x_{t}^{m}}{t}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}\right]^{m}\right)+x_{t+1}^{m}}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}=\left(\frac{x_{1}^{m}+\cdots+x_{t+1}^{m}}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

$$\left(\left[t\left(\left[\left(\frac{1}{t}\sum_{i=1}^{t}x_{i}^{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}\right]^{m}\right)+x_{t+1}^{m}\right]\cdot(t+1)^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}=\left(\frac{1}{t+1}\sum_{i=1}^{t+1}x_{i}^{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

$$\left(\left[\bar{x}_{t}^{m}t+x_{t+1}^{m}\right]\cdot(t+1)^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}=\bar{x}_{t+1}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+1}=\left(\frac{\bar{x}_{t}^{m}t+x_{t+1}^{m}}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

$$\bar{x}_{t+k}=\left(\frac{1}{t+k}\left[\left(\sum_{i=t+1}^{t+k}x_{i}^{m}\right)+\bar{x}_{t}^{m}t\right]\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

Note that $x_1 \cdots x_t$ is data Bob have about quantities of oranges he receives from Alice, and x_i is a datum in x.

7. Conclusion

I have shown deviations of Pythagorean and generalized power mean algorithms designed by dynamic programming. The dynamic arithmetic mean algorithm implement the formula:

$$\bar{x}_{t+k} = \frac{1}{t+k} \left[\left(\sum_{i=t+1}^{t+k} x_i \right) + t\bar{x}_t \right]$$

The dynamic geometric mean algorithm implement the formula:

$$\bar{x}_{t+k} = \left((\bar{x}_t)^t \prod_{i=t+1}^{t+k} x_i \right)^{\frac{1}{t+k}}$$

The dynamic harmonic mean algorithm implement the formula:

$$\bar{x}_{t+k} = t + k \left(\frac{t}{\bar{x}_t} + \sum_{i=t+1}^{t+k} \frac{1}{x_i} \right)^{-1}$$

And finally, the dynamic power mean algorithm implement the formula:

$$\bar{x}_{t+k} = \left(\frac{1}{t+k} \left[\left(\sum_{i=t+1}^{t+k} x_i^m \right) + \bar{x}_t^m t \right] \right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

The dynamic mean algorithms run more efficiently than brute-force mean algorithms when computing Pythagorean and generalized power means of increasing data. Data is said to be increasing if its datum acquisition depends on change in t.

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