Detecting multilinear monomials with algebraic fingerprints

Bachelor's Thesis

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Contents

1 Introduction

In recent years, there have been rapid advances in the algorithms for combinatorial problems. This has been greatly sparked by the development in algebraic techniques for solving the multilinear monomial detection problem, i.e., finding whether a multivariate polynomial contains a multilinear monomial, first introduced by Koutis in [Kou05], where the set packing problem is reduced to multilinear monomial detection.

Namely, the technique of algebraic fingeprinting, first introduced in [Kou08] and further developed in [Wil09], has found great success for many combinatorial problems. For example, with algebraic fingerprinting, the k-path problem that previously could be solved in $\mathcal{O}^*(4^k)$ time by Chen et al. in [Che+07], could be solved in $\mathcal{O}^*(2^{3k/2})$ time in [Kou08]. This result was quickly improved in [Wil09], where an $\mathcal{O}^*(2^k)$ algorithm was given.

Of course, this technique was further developed, and soon after in [Bjö14] Björklund et al. showed an algorithm   AM: This technique was further developed by Björklund [Bjö14], who showed ...   that solved the Hamiltonian problem (Hamiltonicity), i.e., finding whether a given graph contains a simple path that visits every vertex, in $\mathcal{O}^*(1.657^n)$ time. Soon enough, for k-path, an $\mathcal{O}^*(1.66^k)$ algorithm was found [Bjö+17]. The fastest algorithms for Hamiltonicity before this ran in $\mathcal{O}^*(2^n)$ and were known since 1962 [HK62], [Bel62]. This was a significant improvement on a problem that had seen no progress in nearly fifty years.

1.1 Research goals and thesis structure

AM: This section can be shortened to one paragraph

The goals of this thesis are to find out how multilinear monomial detection is relevant in combinatorial problems, and how algebraic fingerprints can be utilized to design faster algorithms for problems that use multilinear monomial detection. Also, interesting ideas regarding algebraic fingerprints are explored for.

Multilinear monomial detection is a fundamental problem, since many important combinatorial problems can be reduced into it via a problem specific algebraization. Thus, faster algorithms and new ideas for multilinear monomial detection are important.

Multilinear monomial detection is essentially searching for solutions among non-solutions, both of which are encoded as monomials in a polynomial. The technique of algebraic fingerprinting is present in multilinear monomial detection. With algebraic fingerprints, unwanted cancelation of solution monomials due to the characteristic of a field can be prevented. Moreover, algebraic fingerprints can be used to cancel non-solution monomials by abusing the characteristic.

AM: What is the meaning of $\mathcal{O}^*()$?

AM: Note use of `\citeauthor`
AM: Did Björklund really develop the technique further? or did he only show how to apply it to another problem?
AM: n or k?

AM: No need for this since you already have ToC

In the next subsections, the thesis discusses algebraization and reduction into multilinear monomial detection. The section 2 covers preliminaries. In section 3, the thesis discusses general multilinear monomial detection. In section 4, some problem specific instances of multilinear monomial detection are given, and clever utilizations of algebraic fingerprints are shown. Section 5 concludes the thesis.

1.2 Algebrization of combinatorial problems

A combinatorial problem asks whether a given finite set of objects satisfies some given constraints. For example, the k-path problem asks for, given a finite set of vertices and edges, a simple path of k vertices. The solutions and non-solutions (solution space) to combinatorial problems can be thought of as combinations of the given objects. The solution space for the k-path problem consists of combinations of k vertices and $k - 1$ edges. A non-solution combination would contain duplicate vertices, or edges that contain vertices outside the combination.

AM: Probably one can drop the vertices and think only about edges?

AM: This sounds like a very simple problem... But I guess the catch is that we want an algorithm with complexity depending only on k?

Algebraization is reducing a given problem into an algebraic form, i.e. AM: that is, a question regarding some algebraic property of some algebraic entity. In an algebraization of a combinatorial problem, the algebraic entity can be constructed from algebraic elements defined from the set of objects given as an input. The motivation behind the construction is some algebraic property that, when satisfied, gives a solution to the problem.

In [Val92], it was observed that multivariate polynomials in certain algebras have natural combinatorial interpretations. Utilizing this idea, [Kou05] managed to reduce a combinatorial problem into an algebraic form, that is, multilinear monomial detection. First, we introduce multiple variables that correspond to elements from the set of objects given as input. Then, we construct an arithmetic circuit representing a multivariate polynomial, such that it encodes all solutions and non-solutions as multivariate monomials, with multilinear monomials corresponding to solutions. Thus, the task of finding a satisfying combination to the combinatorial problem has been reduced to finding a multilinear monomial from the multivariate polynomial. It follows that a decision problem is answered by the existence of a multilinear monomial, and a counting problem by the number of multilinear monomials.

AM: Somewhere we need to reference the reader to Sect. 2 for non-familiar terms like multivariate, algebras, etc.

Appropriate definitions for the variables are problem-specific. In the following section, this thesis gives a reduction into multilinear monomial detection, shown in [KW15], for the k-3D matching problem. Another simple example can be found, for the set packing problem, in [Kou05].

1.3 Reducing k-**3D matching** into multilinear monomial detection

The k-3D matching problem is defined as follows:

k-3D MATCHING

Input: Three disjoint sets A, B and C, and a set of triples $T \subset A \times B \times C$.

Question: Is there a subset $M \subseteq T$, such that $|M| = k$ and $\forall m \in M$: None of the elements in m appear in $M \backslash \{m\}$ AM: $M \setminus \{m\}$

We begin by defining new variables corresponding to the elements in A, B and C, labeled as a_i, b_j and c_k, respectively, where $i \in [|A|]$, $j \in [|B|]$ and $k \in [|C|]$.

For every triple $t \in T$, we define a multilinear monomial x that is a product of the elements in t. We introduce a set X that satisfies the following:

$$\forall x \in X : x = abc : (a, b, c) \in T.$$

Next, we define multivariate polynomials P_1 and P_k as follows:

$$P_1 = \sum_X \ , \ P_k = P_1^k.$$

Following this construction, we observe that P_k, when expanded into a sum of multivariate monomials, contains a multilinear term if and only if the original k-3D matching instance can be answered in the positive. Furthermore, every multilinear monomial in the expanded P_k corresponds to a solution to the problem, and the solutions can be directly found from the variables in the multilinear monomial. Thus, a successful reduction into multilinear monomial detection has been given for the k-3D mapping.

An example instance of k-3D matching with this exact algebraization can be found in [KW15]. TODO: show the example here

2 Related works

TODO: go through publications that utilize this algebraic fingerprinting technique, and problems that reduce to multilinear detection

3 Preliminaries

It is necessary to recall basic algebraic concepts before further discussing multilinear monomial detection and algebraic fingerprinting. section 3.1 gives definitions for a group, ring and field, and some useful concepts regarding them. section 3.2 goes through other notation and terminology used throughout the thesis.

3.1 Groups, rings and fields

A group $\mathbf{G}$ is a tuple $(G, +)$, where G is a set of elements, $+ : G \times G \to G$ is a binary operation closed under the elements in G, $+$ is associative, every element $g \in G$ has an inverse $g^{-1} \in G$, and G contains an identity element e such that $g + e = g$, $g + g^{-1} = e$ and $e = e^{-1}$. Moreover, $\mathbf{G}$ is called *Abelian* if $+$ is also commutative.

AM: There is also \mathbf
AM: See TeX source
AM: I think $e = e^{-1}$ follows from the other requirements (but that is not so important)

A ring $\mathbf{R}$ is a tuple $(R, \cdot)$ AM: $(R, +, \cdot)$, where $R = (G, +)$ is an Abelian group, $\cdot : G \times G \longrightarrow G$ is a binary operation closed under G. We call the binary operations $+$ and $\cdot$ addition and multiplication, respectively. Note, that from here on we use R as the set of elements defined for $\mathbf{R}$. In general, a bold typeface $\mathbf{X}$ represents a group, ring or field and X its set of elements. R must contain a multiplicative identity $\mathbf{1} \in R$ such that $\forall a \in R$: $a \cdot \mathbf{1} = a$. We notate the additive identity e required for the group as $\mathbf{0}$ from here on. Observe, that for any $R \neq \{\mathbf{0}\}$, $\mathbf{1} \neq \mathbf{0}$. Left and right distributive laws hold for rings, i.e.,

$$\forall a, b, c \in R: \ a \cdot (b + c) = (a \cdot b) + (a \cdot c) \wedge (b + c) \cdot a = (b \cdot a) + (c \cdot a).$$

$u \in R$ is called *unit* if it holds that $\exists v \in R: u \cdot v = v \cdot u = \mathbf{1}$, i.e., it has a multiplicative inverse $v \in R$.

A field $\mathbf{F} = (F, +, \cdot)$ is defined with the following conditions:

- $(F, +)$ is an Abelian group

- $(F \backslash \{\mathbf{0}\}, \cdot)$ is an Abelian group

- Left and right distributive laws hold for $\mathbf{F}$

Equivalently, a ring is a field if every non-zero element is unit, $\mathbf{1} \neq \mathbf{0}$, and multiplication is commutative. The *characteristic* of a field $\mathbf{F}$ is defined as follows:

$$char(\mathbf{F}) = \begin{cases} min\{n \in \mathbb{N} : n \cdot \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{0}\} \\ 0 \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \text{if such } n \text{ does not exist} \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

Note, that a field $\mathbf{F}$ with characteristic 2 satisfies the following:

$$\forall u \in F\colon u + u = u \cdot (\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{1}) = u \cdot \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$$

TODO: group algebra, polynomial ring, linear dependency, "cancelation due to characteristic"

3.2 Notation and other terminology

TODO: create a table or like, list terms: multilinearity, multivariety, sum of monomials form & generating form (arithmetic circuit) of polynomial, degree of multivariate monomial, $\mathcal{O}$, Θ, FPT, $\mathcal{O}$*, determinism & non-determinism [or use 'Monte Carlo' :)], Schwartz-Zippel lemma

AM: Standard $\mathcal{O}$ and Θ notation should be known

4 General framework for detecting multilinear monomials

The detection of multilinear monomials in a multivariate polynomial is a fundamental problem, since many important problems can be reduced to it [TODO: quick examples (just refs?)]. Therefore, any progress in general multilinear monomial detection directly implies faster algorithms for all problems, that are reduced to and solved with general multilinear monomial detection. TODO: relate to section 2: related works

AM: These problems should "live" in their own subsection, then you can just call them "problems from Sect. X.Y"

In this section, we define the parameterized multilinear monomial detection problem, and give some non-algebraic background on solving it. Then, we discuss the algebraic framework by Koutis and Williams [Wil09; KW15] and its limits. Finally, we briefly touch on finding a solution when its existence is detected.

AM: Arithmetic circuit has bounded or unbounded fan-in / fan-out?

4.1 Problem definition

The general, parameterized multilinear monomial detection problem is defined as follows:

k-MULTILINEAR MONOMIAL DETECTION

Input: A commutative arithmetic circuit A over a set of variables X representing a polynomial $P(X)$.

Question: Does the polynomial $P(X)$ extended as a sum of monomials contain a multilinear monomial of degree k?

Clearly, an upper bound for solving the problem is given by a naive expansion of A into $P(X)$ and evaluation of $P(X)$. However, this is not optimal: an N-degree polynomial will have $2^{\Theta(N)}$ possible monomials, and most problems that can use this algebraization, have

been solved with faster algorithms. This motivates the detection of multilinear monomials without fully expanding A into a sum of monomials.

Since only multilinear terms are important in $P(X)$, any squared variable can be instantly discarded as soons as it is formed in A. This can be achieved with dynamic programming to create a polynomial $P'(X)$ that only contains multilinear monomials. Since there are 2^N multilinear monomials in $P'(X)$ with N variables, this method results in a faster algorithm than with naive expansion.

However, the underlying problems are usually FPT. This implies that scaling exponentially with the number of variables is far from optimal. In order for the complexity of the algorithm to scale with the parameter k, we can reduce the number of variables by mapping X into Y, where $|X| \geq |Y|$ and $|Y| \propto k$, and dynamically evaluate $P(Y)$ instead of $P(X)$.

However, since $|X| \geq |Y|$, a multilinear monomial in $P(X)$ may not be multilinear in $P(Y)$. For an algorithm to detect a multilinear monomial, it is necessary to use different mappings from X into Y until a multilinear monomial survives the mapping. However, the probability that any given multilinear monomial survives this mapping is around $e^{-|Y|}$ [KW15]. This implies that $\mathcal{O}(e^{|Y|})$ random mappings must be tried for a multilinear monomial to survive with a reasonable constant probability. Thus, a k-multilinear monomial is detected with a non-deterministic algorithm in $\mathcal{O}^*((2e)^{|Y|})$ time, where $|Y| \propto k$.

This is essentially the idea behind color coding introduced by Alon, Yuster, and Zwick [AYZ95]. Although here given in this algebraic form for the k-multilinear monomial detection, color coding is combinatorial, and does not rely on algebraic techniques. However, since k-multilinear monomial detection is a purely algebraic problem, it is reasonable to conjecture that there is an algebraic method for solving it.

Indeed, a faster algebraic method exists; the technique of algebraic fingerprinting first introduced by Koutis [Kou08] and further developed by Williams [Wil09] solves k-multilinear monomial detection in $\mathcal{O}^*(2^k)$ time. Since the technique focuses on the abstract k-multilinear monomial detection, to which most parameterized problems can be reduced to, it gives a general framework for solving parameterized problems [KW15].

4.2 Algebraic multilinear monomial detection

The idea of discarding squared variables as soon as they are formed in A can be expressed algebraically: any squared variable should be identical to zero.

$$\forall x \in X : x^2 = \mathbf{0} \tag{2}$$

This implies that any non-multilinear monomial will evaluate to zero in $P(X)$. Therefore, $P(X)$ will identically evaluate to zero if there are no multilinear monomials, i.e., there

exist no solutions to the original problem.

This is the basis of algebraic multilinear monomial detection introduced by Koutis [Kou08], or later referred to as *algebraic fingerprinting* [KW15]: we evaluate $P(X)$ over some algebra $\mathbf{G}$, and detect a multilinear monomial from the value returned by this evaluation. Ideally, with any $\gamma\colon X \to G$ and X' representing the image of γ, $P(X') = \mathbf{0}$ if no multilinear monomials exist, and $P(X') \neq \mathbf{0}$ otherwise, when operating over $\mathbf{G}$.

Thus, we receive an important task: find an algebra $\mathbf{G}$ for the assignment $\gamma\colon X \to G$ to meet (2), while still maintaining multilinear monomials in $P(X)$ as multilinear in $P(X')$. Furthermore, G should be commutative in order for non-multilinear monomials to always evaluate to zero due to (2).

To maintain multilinearity, it would be enough that $|X| \geq |G|$ and γ is injective. However, since For (2), for example matrices may be especially useful. Note, for example, that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For faster evaluation of $P(X')$, however, $\mathbf{G}$ needs other requirements as well. The binary operations of $\mathbf{G}$ must be fast. With matrices, this means that their dimension must be as small as possible, since matrix multiplication scales exponentially.

Moreover, in order to beat color coding, the multilinear monomials must survive the assignment $X \to G$ with a reasonable constant probability. Recall that with color coding, the probability is exponentially small to the parameter k. However, the problem here is unlike with color coding, where multilinearity was simply not always preserved. Here, a multilinear monomial, although not identical to zero by (2), can still evaluate to zero over $\mathbf{G}$. However, if we specify for a constant probability of survival, we can reliably detect multilinear monomials by evaluating $P(X)$ in $\mathbf{G}$ over a constant number of randomized assignments $X \to G$.

Such $\mathbf{G}$ is given in [Kou08], where Koutis uses the group $\mathbb{Z}_2^k$ and a known [Ter99] isomorphic mapping $\rho\colon \mathbb{Z}_2^k \to M^{2^k \times 2^k}$, where $M^{d \times d}$ is a *d-dimensional matrix group with matrix multiplication.* Note that for (2),

$$\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}_2^k \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}, i \in [2^k] : \rho(a)_{i,i} = 0$$

and

$$\rho(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}.$$

$\mathbb{Z}_2^k$, however, has a characteristic of 2. (TODO: this implies cancelation...)

(will have problem with characteristic 2) –> lead into auxiliary fingerprints (in this case, solved with group algebra $\mathbb{Z}_2[\mathbb{Z}_2^k]$, i.e., multiplying monomials with $\{\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{0}\}$)

4.2.1 Fingerprinting to prevent unwanted cancelation

To prevent multilinear terms from canceling AM: out due to characteristic, we use a set of auxiliary indeterminates F. These indeterminates, called fingerprints, are introduced in the algebrization of the combinatorial problem, such that every monomial in A is unique. This results in the uniqueness of multilinear monomials, which prevents cancelation.

AM: Probably more detail is needed

However, introducing new indeterminates raises the degree of the multilinear monomials. Therefore it may be, that there are not enough matrices to assign such that there would be no duplicates in a multilinear monomial. As a result, higher dimension AM: dimensional matrices are needed, which results in exponentially slower matrix multiplication. Thus, introducing new indeterminates slows the algorithm significantly.

In [Kou08] instead of assigning F and X values from the same algebra, Koutis uses random assignment from $\{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}\}$ into F. This is achieved by using the group algebra $\mathbb{Z}_2[\mathbb{Z}_2^k]$, where the field $\mathbb{Z}_2$ can be thought of as the fingerprints. With this assignment, there is a constant probability that a multilinear monomial will have an odd coefficient, thus surviving the cancelation due to characteristic.

4.2.2 The algebraic framework for parameterized problems

[Wil09] reduces multilinear detection (after assinging variables values from some algebra) to polynomial identity testing for a polynomial P(A) that has fingerprints as variables. Fingerprints are then assigned values from a field that has more elements than P(A) has roots, which means that P(A) evaluates to non-zero with high probability (if there are solutions)

AM: Text seems to presume reader knows what it is
AM: $ ... $

The algebraic fingerprinting framework by Koutis and Williams solves k-multilinear monomial detection by essentially reducing it to polynomial identity testing. The polynomial identity testing problem is defined as follows:

Polynomial identity testing
Input: An arithmetic circuit A that computes the polynomial $P(X)$ in field $\mathbf{X}$.
Question: Is $P(X)$ identical to the zero polynomial, i.e., $P(X) = \mathbf{0}$?

AM: Motivate why PIT is not a trivial problem. (It might well seem like it is!)

TODO

AM: Field $\mathbf{X}$ fixed in advance?

4.2.3 Limits of the framework

TODO: give some cons wrt. color coding (difficult derandomization, are we able to add weights for optimization problems?)

TODO: explain the limit in general multilinear detection with this algebraic framework (impossible to find better algebra than what is used for the current fastest k-mld algorithm), [KW09]

4.3 Finding the solution

Multilinear monomial detection has only been given as a detector for a solution, i.e., a decision algorithm. Talk about actually finding the solution.

[Kou08] gives an algorithm that solves the decision problem for k-path. k-path is found with $\mathcal{O}^*(n + min(k^2, m))$ applications of the algorithm.

[Wil09] solves the decision problem for k-path. [Wil09] also gives an algorithm that finds a path when it is known that a k-path exists.

[Bjö+17] solves the decision problem for k-path starting at some vertex s. A k-path can be found by just applying the algorithm for every vertex.

AM: Yes, but probably restrict it to ~ 1 page (there is enough content as it is)

5 Improving algebraic fingerprinting

As mentioned in section 4.2.3, the algebraic fingerprinting framework proposed by Koutis and Williams [Wil09; KW15] for k-multilinear monomial detection has a lower bound of $\mathcal{O}^*(2^k)$. However, this framework AM: is very generic since it approaches the abstract multilinear monomial detection without utilizing the combinatorial properties specific to the underlying problem. The idea of adding auxiliary fingerprint variables in the algebrization, though, has potential for these properties. TODO: rephrase more clearly

AM: O and "lower bound" don't go well together

Indeed, faster algorithms have been found by designing new algebrizations with techniques similar to algebraic fingerprinting, where the fingerprints are designed to abuse the underlying combinatorial properties. In section 5.1, we show how Björklund [Bjö14] exploited the cancelation due to characteristic to cancel non-solution monomials by clever design of fingerprints.

AM: for...?
AM: make use of

Furthermore, the evaluation of the polynomial in the algebraic fingerprinting framework is done sequentially. However, the matrix representations of the group algebras used in [Wil09] offer possibilities for parallelization. In section 5.2, AM: we discuss the ideas of Ekanayake et al. behind the distributed multilinear monomial detection [Eka+19] (are discussed) AM: .

5.1 Fingerprinting for cancelation of non-solutions

TODO: go over Björklund et al. for k-path or Hamiltonicity, managed to design fingerprints such that non-solutions cancel

In the algebraic framework by Koutis and Williams, fingerprints prevent the cancelation of multilinear monomials. Attacking the Hamiltonian path problem, however, Björklund designed fingerprints such that non-multilinear monomials, i.e. non-solution terms, cancel due to characteristic, while the multilinear terms remain with constant probability [Bjö14]. This resulted in the current fastest algorithm for undirected Hamiltonicity, running in $\mathcal{O}^*(2^n)$ time.

Before discussing the algebrization and the fingerprints, we define the Hamiltonian path problem.

HAMILTONIAN PATH (HAMILTONICITY)
Input: A directed graph $G = (V, E)$.
Question: Does G contain a simple path that visits every vertex?

TODO: give the algebrization and/or show how it works

5.2 Parallelizing multilinear monomial detection

AM: Probably very ambitious to describe the full thing here... (You already need to focus on getting the details right in Sects. 4 and 5.1.) Maybe instead just give a broad picture of what other things people have considered? (unless this is really the only other thing out there)

TODO

6 Conclusion

TODO: conclude

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AM: No need for URL if you have DOIs, also no need for ISSNs

AM: You should use math style in the title of [Wil09]

AM: use dblp.org

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