

# ***Fast and stable matrix multiplication***

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**joint work James Demmel, Ioana Dumitriu and Robert Kleinberg**

# *The quest for speed*

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- Standard multiplication:  $O(n^3)$  operations.

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- Is  $O(n^2)$  achievable?

# *Why should we care?*

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Complexity of matrix multiplication = complexity of  
“almost all” matrix problems:

- solving linear systems,
- evaluating determinants,
- *LU* factorization,
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See P. Bürgisser, M. Clausen, M. A. Shokrollahi  
*Algebraic complexity theory*.



# *Strassen's algorithm*

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## Main idea:

- Multiplication by recursively partitioning into smaller blocks.
- To be faster than  $O(n^3)$ , this needs a method to multiply small matrices (order  $k$ ) using  $o(k^3)$  multiplications.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{requires only} \\ \text{7 multiplications:}$$

$$M_1 := (A_{11} + A_{22})(B_{11} + B_{22})$$

$$M_2 := (A_{21} + A_{22})B_{11}$$

$$M_3 := A_{11}(B_{12} - B_{22})$$

$$M_4 := A_{22}(B_{21} - B_{11})$$

$$M_5 := (A_{11} + A_{12})B_{22}$$

$$M_6 := (A_{21} - A_{11})(B_{11} + B_{12})$$

$$M_7 := (A_{12} - A_{22})(B_{21} + B_{22}).$$

Then 
$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} \end{bmatrix},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C_{11} &:= M_1 + M_4 - M_5 + M_7 \\ C_{12} &:= M_3 + M_5 \\ C_{21} &:= M_2 + M_4 \\ C_{22} &:= M_1 - M_2 + M_3 + M_6. \end{aligned}$$

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Applied recursively, this yields running time  $O(n^{\log_2 7}) \approx O(n^{2.8})$ .

# *Coppersmith and Winograd*

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Don Coppersmith



Shmuel Winograd

*Matrix multiplication via arithmetic progressions. Journal of Symbolic Computation [1990].*

# Coppersmith and Winograd



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Used a thm on dense sets of integers containing no three terms in arithmetic progression (R. Salem & D. C. Spencer [1942]) to get an algorithm with running time  $\approx O(n^{2.376})$ .

# *Group-theoretic approach*

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Chris Umans



Henry Cohn

*A group-theoretic approach to matrix multiplication, FOCS Proceedings [2003].*



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Proposed **embedding into group algebra** to be combined with recursive partitioning.

# Why group algebras?

Multiplying two polynomials has complexity  $O(n \log n)$  instead of  $O(n^2)$  by embedding coefficients into  $\mathbb{C}[G]$  where  $G$  is a finite cyclic group of order  $N \geq 2n$ , via the map  $p \mapsto \{p(w) : w = \exp(2\pi ki/N)\}_{k=0,\dots,N-1}$ .



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The same can be done with matrix products, via the map  $A \mapsto \sum_{x,y} A(x,y)x^{-1}y$ . The group  $G$  must have special properties.

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- Perform Inverse FFT
- Extract  $C = AB$  from group algebra

## *Properties required*

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- For unambiguous embedding into  $\mathbb{C}[G]$  there must be three subgroups  $H_1, H_2, H_3$  with the **triple product property** :  
$$h_1 h_2 h_3 = 1, h_i \in H_i \implies h_1 = h_2 = h_3 = 1$$
  
(can be generalized to other subsets of  $G$ ).

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(can be generalized to other subsets of  $G$ ).

- For the resulting algorithm to be faster than  $O(n^3)$ , we must **beat the sum of the cubes**:

$$|H_1| |H_2| |H_3| > \sum_j d_j^3$$

( $d_j$  are the character degrees of  $G$ ).

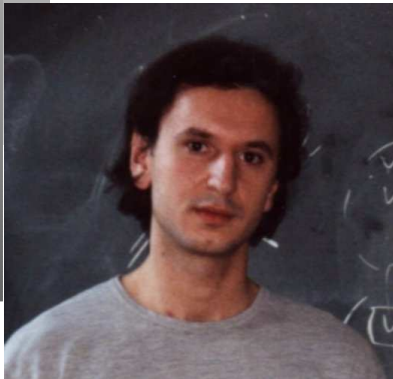
## Wedderburn's theorem

**Theorem.** The group algebra of a finite group  $G$  decomposes as the direct product

$$\mathbb{C}[G] \cong \mathbb{C}^{d_1 \times d_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{C}^{d_k \times d_k}$$

of matrix algebras of orders  $d_1, \dots, d_k$ . These orders are the character degrees of  $G$ , or the dimensions of its irreducible representations.

# *Beating the sum of the cubes*



Balázs Szegedy



Henry Cohn



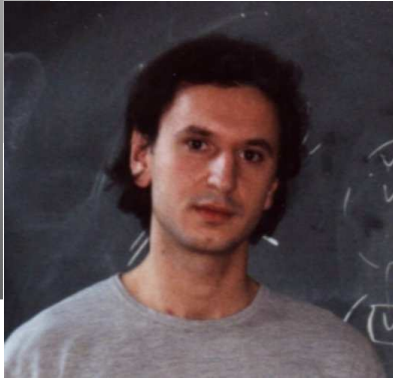
Chris Umans



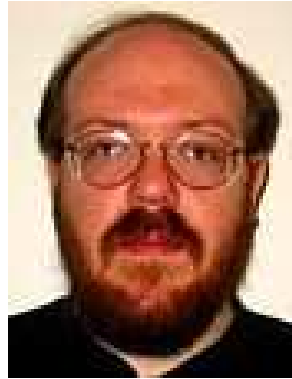
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*Group-theoretic algorithms for matrix multiplication,*  
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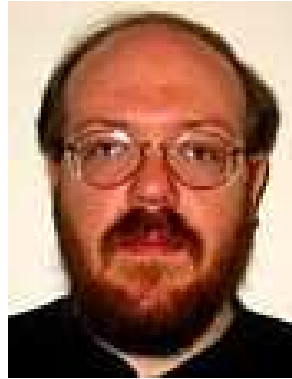
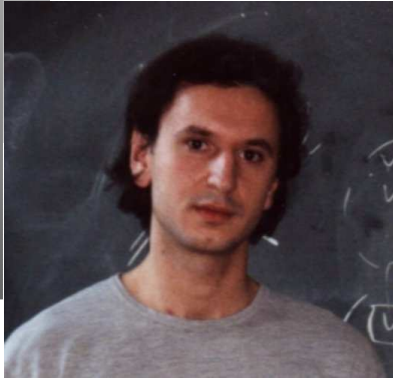


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Found groups with subsets beating the sum of the cubes and satisfying the triple product property.

# *Beating the sum of the cubes*



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Found groups with subsets beating the sum of the cubes and satisfying the triple product property.

**Press coverage: *SIAM News* [Nov 2005] by Sara Robinson.**



# Error analysis



Jim Demmel



Ioana Dumitriu



Olga Holtz



Bobby Kleinberg

***Fast matrix multiplication is stable, ArXiv Math.NA/0603207 [2006].***

# Error analysis



Jim Demmel



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*Fast matrix multiplication is stable*, [ArXiv Math.NA/0603207](https://arxiv.org/abs/math/0603207) [2006].

**Main question:** Do you get the right answer in the presence of roundoff? To answer, need error analysis for a large class of recursive matrix multiplication algorithms.

Forward error analysis in the spirit of

**D. Bini and G. Lotti** *Stability of fast algorithms for matrix multiplication*, Numer. Mathematik [1980/81].

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What was missing:

- More general roundoff assumptions
- Wider scope:
  - nonstationary algorithms
  - algorithms with pre- and post- processing

# *Recursive matmul algorithms*

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aka **Bilinear noncommutative algorithms**

- *Stationary partitioning* algorithms: at each step, split matrices into the same number  $k^2$  of square blocks.

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# *Recursive matmul algorithms*

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aka **Bilinear noncommutative algorithms**

- *Stationary partitioning* algorithms: at each step, split matrices into the same number  $k^2$  of square blocks.
- *Non-stationary partitioning* algorithms: the number of blocks may vary at each step.
- Partitioning may be combined with *pre- and post-processing*, both linear maps that introduce roundoff errors.

In all cases, the error bounds have the form

$$\|C_{comp} - C\| \leq cn^d \epsilon \|A\| \cdot \|B\| + O(\epsilon^2),$$

where  $c, d$  are modest constants,  
 $\epsilon$  machine precision,  
 $n$  order of  $A, B, C = AB$ ,  
 $C_{comp}$  computed value of  $C$ .

Cf. with error bound for  $n^3$ -algorithm:

$$|C_{comp} - C| \leq cn\epsilon |A| \cdot |B| + O(\epsilon^2).$$



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## ***Semi-direct product, wreath product***

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If  $H$  is any group and  $Q$  is a group which acts (on the left) by automorphisms of  $H$ , with  $q \cdot h$  denoting the action of  $q \in Q$  on  $h \in H$ , then the **semidirect product**  $H \rtimes Q$  is the set of ordered pairs  $(h, q)$  with the multiplication law

$$(h_1, q_1)(h_2, q_2) = (h_1(q_1 \cdot h_2), q_1 q_2).$$



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If  $H$  is any group,  $S$  is any finite set, and  $Q$  is a group with a left action on  $S$ , the **wreath product**  $H \wr Q$  is the semidirect product  $(H^S) \rtimes Q$  where  $Q$  acts on the direct product of  $|S|$  copies of  $H$  by permuting the coordinates according to the action of  $Q$  on  $S$ .

## Running example, I

Consider the set  $S = \{0, 1\}$  and a two-element group  $Q$  whose non-identity element acts on  $S$  by swapping 0 and 1. Let  $H$  be the group  $(\mathbb{Z}/16)^3$ . An element of  $H^S$  is an ordered pair of elements of  $H$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{00} & x_{01} & x_{02} \\ x_{10} & x_{11} & x_{12} \end{pmatrix}.$$

An element of  $H \wr Q$  is an ordered pair  $(X, q)$  where  $X$  is a matrix as above, and  $q = \pm 1$ . Example:

$$(X, -1) \cdot (Y, -1) = \left( \begin{pmatrix} x_{00} + y_{10} & x_{01} + y_{11} & x_{02} + y_{12} \\ x_{10} + y_{00} & x_{11} + y_{01} & x_{12} + y_{02} \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right)$$

## *Triple product property*

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If  $S, T$  are subsets of a group  $G$ , let  $Q(S, T)$  denote their right quotient set:

$$\begin{aligned} Q(S, T) &:= \{st^{-1} : s \in S, t \in T\}, \\ Q(S) &:= Q(S, S). \end{aligned}$$

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**Definition.** If  $H$  is a group and  $X, Y, Z$  are three subsets, we say  $X, Y, Z$  satisfy the **triple product property** if, for all  $q_x \in Q(X)$ ,  $q_y \in Q(Y)$ ,  $q_z \in Q(Z)$ , the condition  $q_x q_y q_z = 1$  implies  $q_x = q_y = q_z = 1$ .

# *Simultaneous triple product property*

---

If  $\{(X_i, Y_i, Z_i) : i \in I\}$  is a collection of ordered triples of subsets of  $H$ , we say that this collection satisfies the **simultaneous triple product property (STPP)** if, for all  $i, j, k \in I$  and all  $q_x \in Q(X_i, X_j)$ ,  $q_y \in Q(Y_j, Y_k)$ ,  $q_z \in Q(Z_k, Z_i)$ , the condition  $q_x q_y q_z = 1$  implies  $q_x = q_y = q_z = 1$  and  $i = j = k$ .

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**Lemma** If a group  $H$  has subsets  $\{X_i, Y_i, Z_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  satisfying the simultaneous triple product property, then for every element  $h\pi$  in  $H \wr \text{Sym}_n$  there is at most one way to represent  $h\pi$  as a quotient  $(x\sigma)^{-1}y\tau$  such that  $x \in \prod_{i=1}^n X_i$ ,  $y \in \prod_{i=1}^n Y_i$ ,  $\sigma, \tau \in \text{Sym}_n$ .

## Running example, II

In our running example, the group  $H$  is  $(\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z})^3$ . Consider the following three subgroups of  $H$ .

$$X := (\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z}) \times \{0\} \times \{0\}$$

$$Y := \{0\} \times (\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z}) \times \{0\}$$

$$Z := \{0\} \times \{0\} \times (\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z})$$

Then  $X, Y, Z$  satisfy the triple product property: if  $q_x \in Q(X)$ ,  $q_y \in Q(Y)$ ,  $q_z \in Q(Z)$ , and  $q_x + q_y + q_z = 0$ , then  $q_x = q_y = q_z = 0$ .

## *Running example, IIa*

Now consider the following six subsets of  $H$ :

$$\overline{X}_0 := \{1, 2, \dots, 15\} \times \{0\} \times \{0\}$$

$$\overline{Y}_0 := \{0\} \times \{1, 2, \dots, 15\} \times \{0\}$$

$$\overline{Z}_0 := \{0\} \times \{0\} \times \{1, 2, \dots, 15\}$$

$$\overline{X}_1 := \{0\} \times \{1, 2, \dots, 15\} \times \{0\}$$

$$\overline{Y}_1 := \{0\} \times \{0\} \times \{1, 2, \dots, 15\}$$

$$\overline{Z}_1 := \{1, 2, \dots, 15\} \times \{0\} \times \{0\}.$$

Then  $(\overline{X}_0, \overline{Y}_0, \overline{Z}_0)$  and  $(\overline{X}_1, \overline{Y}_1, \overline{Z}_1)$  satisfy the simultaneous triple product property.



# Discrete Fourier transform

If  $H$  is an abelian group, let  $\widehat{H}$  denote the set of all homomorphisms from  $H$  to  $S^1$  aka **characters**.

Canonical bijection  $(\chi_1, \chi_2) \mapsto \chi$ :

$$\chi(h_1, h_2) = \chi_1(h_1)\chi_2(h_2).$$

There is a left action of  $\text{Sym}_n$  on the set  $\widehat{H}^n$ :

$$\sigma \cdot (\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_n) := (\chi_{\sigma^{-1}(1)}, \chi_{\sigma^{-1}(2)}, \dots, \chi_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}).$$

Denote by  $\Xi(H^n)$  a subset of  $\widehat{H}^n$  containing exactly one representative of each orbit of the  $\text{Sym}_n$  action on  $\widehat{H}^n$ . Note  $|\Xi(H^n)| = \binom{|H|+n-1}{n}$ .

## Running example, III

A character  $\chi$  of the group  $H = (\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z})^3$  is uniquely determined by a triple  $(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  of integers modulo 16. For an element  $h = (b_1, b_2, b_3) \in H$ ,

$$\chi(h) = e^{2\pi i(a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3)/16}.$$

A character of the group  $H^2$  may be represented as

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$

as before. The group  $\text{Sym}_2 = \{\pm 1\}$  acts on  $\widehat{H}^2$  by exchanging the two rows of such a matrix. The set  $\Xi(H^2)$  has cardinality  $\binom{4096}{2} + 4096 = 8,390,656$ .

# Abelian STP families

An **abelian STP family** with growth parameters  $(\alpha, \beta)$  is a collection of ordered triples  $(H_N, \Upsilon_N, k_N)$ , satisfying

1.  $H_N$  is an abelian group.
2.  $\Upsilon_N = \{(X_i, Y_i, Z_i) : i = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$  is a collection of  $N$  ordered triples of subsets of  $H_N$  satisfying the simultaneous triple product property.
3.  $|H_N| = N^{\alpha+o(1)}$ .
4.  $k_N = \prod_{i=1}^N |X_i| = \prod_{i=1}^N |Y_i| = \prod_{i=1}^N |Z_i| = N^{\beta N+o(N)}$ .

If  $\{(H_N, \Upsilon_N, k_N)\}$  is an abelian STP family, then Lemma above ensures that there is a 1-1 mapping

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^N X_i\right) \times \left(\prod_{i=1}^N Y_i\right) \times (\text{Sym}_N)^2 \rightarrow H_N \wr \text{Sym}_N$$

given by  $(x, y, \sigma, \tau) \mapsto (x\sigma)^{-1}y\tau$ .

## Remark

If  $\{(H_N, \Upsilon_N, k_N)\}$  is an abelian STP family, then Lemma above ensures that there is a 1-1 mapping

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given by  $(x, y, \sigma, \tau) \mapsto (x\sigma)^{-1}y\tau$ . This implies also

$$\begin{aligned} |H_N|^N N! &\geq (k_N N!)^2 \\ N^{\alpha N + o(N)} N^{N + o(N)} &\geq N^{2\beta N + o(N)} N^{2N + o(N)} \\ \alpha + 1 &\geq 2\beta + 2 \\ \frac{\alpha - 1}{\beta} &\geq \frac{\alpha + 1}{\beta + 1} \geq 2. \end{aligned}$$

## Running example, IV

Extend our example to an abelian STP family. For  $N \geq 1$  let  $\ell = \lceil \log_2(N) \rceil$  and let  $H_N = H^\ell$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq N$  let  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\ell$  denote the binary digits of the number  $i - 1$  (padded with initial 0's so that it has exactly  $\ell$  digits) and let

$$X_i = \prod_{m=1}^{\ell} \bar{X}_{i_m}, \quad Y_i = \prod_{m=1}^{\ell} \bar{Y}_{i_m}, \quad Z_i = \prod_{m=1}^{\ell} \bar{Z}_{i_m}.$$

The triples  $(X_i, Y_i, Z_i)$  satisfy the simultaneous triple product property.

## Running example, IV

Growth parameters of this abelian STP family.

$|H_N| = |H|^\ell = (16^3)^{1 + \lfloor \log_2(N) \rfloor} = N^{3 \log_2(16) + O(1/\log N)}$ ,  
hence  $\alpha = 3 \log_2(16) = 12$ . Also,

$$\begin{aligned} k_N &= \prod_{i=1}^N |X_i| = \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{m=1}^{\ell} |\bar{X}_{i_m}| = 15^{N\ell} \\ &= 15^{N \log_2(N) + O(N)} = N^{N \log_2(15) + O(N/\log N)}, \end{aligned}$$

hence  $\beta = \log_2(15)$ .

# Abelian STP algorithms

- The non-abelian group used in the algorithm is a wreath product of  $H_N$  with the symmetric group  $S_N$ .
- The mapping from  $\mathbb{C}[G]$  to a product of matrix algebras, in the Wedderburn thm, is computed by applying  $N!$  copies of FFT of  $H_N$ , in parallel.
- The three subsets satisfying the triple product property are defined using the sets  $X_i, Y_i, Z_i$ .
- The resulting algorithm has running time  $O(n^{(\alpha-1)/\beta+o(1)})$ .



- **Embedding** (NO ARITHMETIC): Compute the following pair of vectors in  $\mathbb{C}[H \wr \text{Sym}_N]$ .

$$a = \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in Y} A_{xy} e_{x^{-1}y}$$

$$b = \sum_{y \in Y} \sum_{z \in Z} B_{yz} e_{y^{-1}z}.$$

- **Fourier transform** (ARITHMETIC): Compute the following pair of vectors in  $\mathbb{C}[\widehat{H}^N \rtimes \text{Sym}_N]$ .

$$\hat{a} = \sum_{\chi \in \widehat{H}^N} \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sym}_N} \left( \sum_{h \in H^N} \chi(h) a_{\sigma h} \right) e_{\chi, \sigma}.$$

$$\hat{b} = \sum_{\chi \in \widehat{H}^N} \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sym}_N} \left( \sum_{h \in H^N} \chi(h) b_{\sigma h} \right) e_{\chi, \sigma}.$$

- **Assemble matrices** (NO ARITHMETIC): For every  $\chi \in \Xi(H^N)$ , compute the following pair of matrices  $A^\chi, B^\chi$ , whose rows and columns are indexed by elements of  $\text{Sym}_N$ .

$$A_{\rho\sigma}^\chi = \hat{a}_{\rho\cdot\chi,\sigma\rho^{-1}}$$

$$B_{\sigma\tau}^\chi = \hat{b}_{\sigma\cdot\chi,\tau\sigma^{-1}}$$

- **Multiply matrices** (ARITHMETIC): For every  $\chi \in \Xi(H^N)$ , compute the matrix product  $C^\chi = A^\chi B^\chi$  by recursively applying the abelian STP algorithm.

- **Disassemble matrices** (NO ARITHMETIC):

Compute a vector

$\hat{c} = \sum_{\chi, \sigma} \hat{c}_{\chi, \sigma} e_{\chi, \sigma} \in \mathbb{C}[\widehat{H}^N \rtimes \text{Sym}_N]$  whose components  $\hat{c}_{\chi, \sigma}$  are defined as follows.

Given  $\chi, \sigma$ , let  $\chi_0 \in \Xi(H^N)$  and  $\tau \in \text{Sym}_N$  be such that  $\chi = \tau \cdot \chi_0$ . Let

$$\hat{c}_{\chi, \sigma} := C_{\tau, \sigma \tau}^{\chi_0}.$$

- **Inverse Fourier transform** (ARITHMETIC):  
Compute the following vector  $c \in \mathbb{C}[H \wr \text{Sym}_N]$ .

$$c = \sum_{h \in H^N} \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sym}_N} \left( \frac{1}{|H|^N} \sum_{\chi \in \widehat{H}^N} \chi(-h) \hat{c}_{\chi, \sigma} \right) e_{\sigma h}.$$

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- **Output** (NO ARITHMETIC): Output the matrix  $C = (C_{xz})$  whose entries are given by the formula

$$C_{xz} = c_{x^{-1}z}.$$

## *Running example, $V$*

In our example with  $H = (\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z})^3$  and  $N = 2$ , we have  $k_N N! = (15^2)(2!) = 450$ , so the seven steps above constitute a reduction from 450-by-450 matrix multiplication to  $|\Xi(H^2)|$  2-by-2 matrix multiplication problems. Recall that  $|\Xi(H^2)| = 8,390,656$ .

By comparison, the naive reduction from 450-by-450 to 2-by-2 matrix multiplication — by partitioning each matrix into  $(225)^2$  square blocks of size 2-by-2 — would require the algorithm to compute  $(225)^3 = 11,390,625$  smaller matrix products.

Using this for recurrence gives running time  $O(n^{2.95})$ .



## *Running example, $V$*

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Instead, if we use the  $N = 2, H = (\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z})^3$  construction as the basis of an abelian STP family, we may apply the abelian STP algorithm which uses a more sophisticated recursion as the size of the matrices grows to infinity. For example, when  $N = 2^\ell$ , we have  $n = k_N N! = 15^{N^\ell} (2^\ell)!$  matrix multiplications. As  $N! = O(n^{0.21})$ , the resulting running time can be shown to be  $O(n^{2.81})$ .

**Theorem.** If  $\{(H_N, \Upsilon_N, k_N)\}$  is an abelian STP family with growth parameters  $(\alpha, \beta)$ , then the corresponding abelian STP algorithm is stable. It satisfies the error bound

$$\|C_{comp} - C\|_F \leq \mu(n)\varepsilon \|A\|_F \cdot \|B\|_F + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

with the Frobenius norm  $\|\cdot\|_F$  and the function  $\mu$  of order

$$\mu(n) = n^{\frac{\alpha+2}{2\beta}} + o(1).$$

Let  $\omega$  be the exponent of matrix multiplication.

**Theorem.** For every  $\alpha > 0$  there exists an algorithm for multiplying  $n \times n$  matrices that performs  $O(n^{\omega+\alpha})$  operations and satisfies the bound

$$\|C_{comp} - C\| \leq \mu(n)\varepsilon \|A\| \cdot \|B\| + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

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**Remark:** It is an open question whether a group-theoretic algorithm can achieve  $O(n^{\omega+\alpha})$  for arbitrarily small  $\alpha$ .



Ran Raz

*On the complexity  
of matrix product*  
SIAM J. Computing  
[2003].

**Theorem.** The exponent of matrix multiplication is achievable by bilinear noncommutative algorithms. More precisely, for every arithmetic circuit of size  $S$  which computes the product of two matrices  $A$ ,  $B$  over a field with characteristic zero, there is a bilinear circuit of size  $O(S)$  that also computes the product of  $A$  and  $B$ .

## *Tradeoff between $n$ and $\varepsilon$*

---

All our bounds are of the form

$$\|C_{comp} - C\| \leq \mu(n)\varepsilon\|A\| \cdot \|B\| + O(\varepsilon^2), \quad (*)$$

$\mu(n) = O(n^c)$  for some constant  $c \geq 1$ .

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All algorithms satisfying  $(*)$  are in fact  $O(\cdot)$ -equivalent.

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From: Olga Holtz [[view email](#)]  
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### Fast matrix multiplication is stable

Authors: [James Demmel](#), [Ioana Dumitriu](#), [Olga Holtz](#), [Robert Kleinberg](#)

Comments: 14 pages

Subj-class: Numerical Analysis; Group Theory; Computational Complexity; Data Structures and Algorithms  
MSC-class: 65Y20, 65F30, 65G50, 68Q17, 68W40, 20C05, 20K01, 16S34, 43A30, 65T50

We perform forward error analysis for a large class of recursive matrix multiplication algorithms in the spirit of [D. Bini and G. Lotti, Stability of fast algorithms for matrix multiplication, Numer. Math. 36 (1980), 63--72]. As a consequence of our analysis, we show that the exponent of matrix multiplication can be achieved by numerically stable algorithms. We also show that new group-theoretic algorithms proposed in [H. Cohn, and C. Umans, A group-theoretic approach to fast matrix multiplication, FOCS 2003, 438--449] and [H. Cohn, R. Kleinberg, B. Szegedy and C. Umans, Group-theoretic algorithms for matrix multiplication, FOCS 2005, 379--388] are all included in the class of algorithms to which our analysis applies, and are therefore numerically stable. We perform detailed error analysis for three specific fast group-theoretic algorithms.

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