

(Uniform) determinantal representations

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A *determinantal representation* of $p \in R$ of size N is a matrix $M \in R_{\leq 1}^{N \times N}$ with $\det(M) = p$.

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$n = 1$: companion matrices

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} x & -1 & & & \\ & x & -1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & x & -1 \\ a_0 & a_1 & \cdots & a_{n-2} & a_{n-1} + a_n x \end{bmatrix} = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n$$

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A bivariate example

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Determinantal representations always exist, but how small?

\rightsquigarrow the *determinantal complexity* $\text{dc}(p)$ is the smallest N .

Why?

Motivation I: permanent versus determinant

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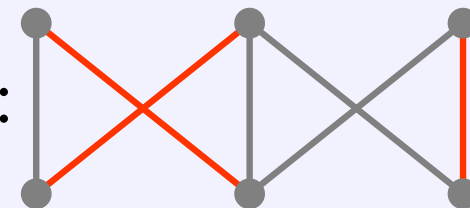
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$\text{perm}_m := \sum_{\pi \in S_m} x_{1\pi(1)} \cdots x_{m\pi(m)}$ is the $m \times m$ *permanent*.

Example

$$\text{perm}_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \text{ counts } \textit{perfect matchings}:$$



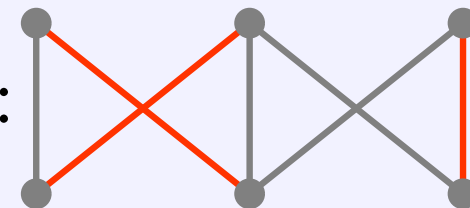
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Counting matchings in bipartite graphs is believed hard, so $\text{dc}(\text{perm}_m)$ should be large!

Conjecture

[Valiant, 70s]

$\text{dc}(\text{perm}_m)$ grows faster with m than any polynomial.

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Best known bounds

[Mignon-Ressayre 04, Grenet 12]

$$\frac{m^2}{2} \leq \text{dc}(\text{perm}_m) \leq 2^m - 1 \quad [\text{Alper-Bogart-Velasco 15: } = 7 \text{ for } m = 3]$$

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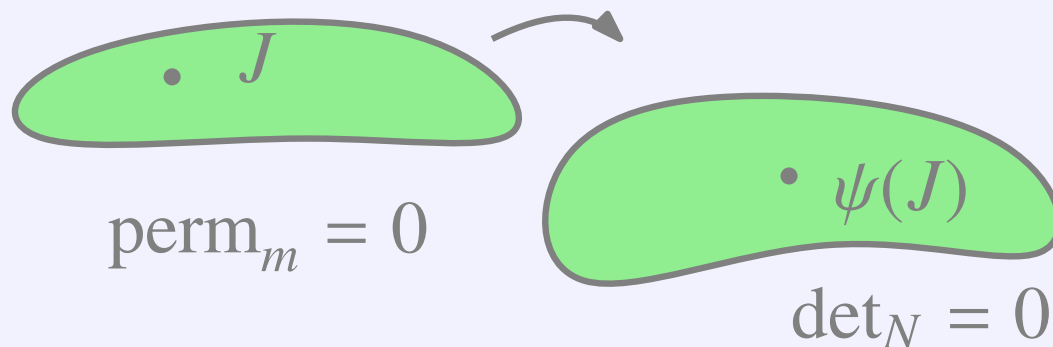
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Proof sketch of lower bound

If $\psi : \mathbb{C}^{m \times m} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ affine-linear with $\det_N(\psi(A)) = \text{perm}_m(A)$,

$$J := \begin{bmatrix} -m+1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



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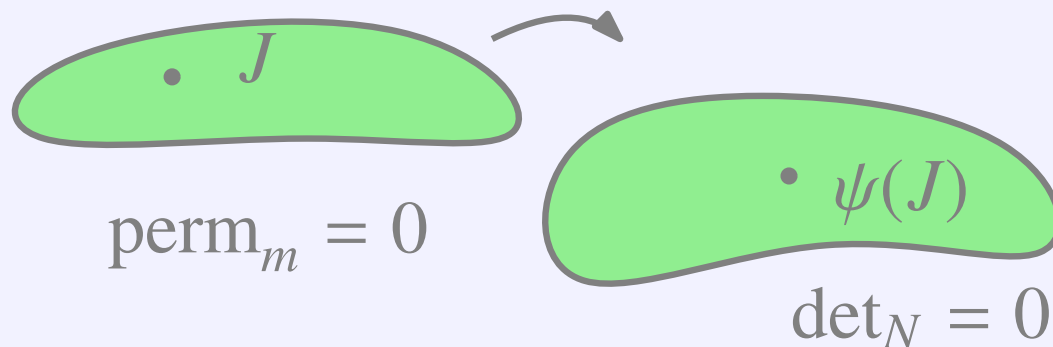
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$q_1(X) :=$ quadratic part of $\text{perm}_m(J + X)$, form of rank m^2

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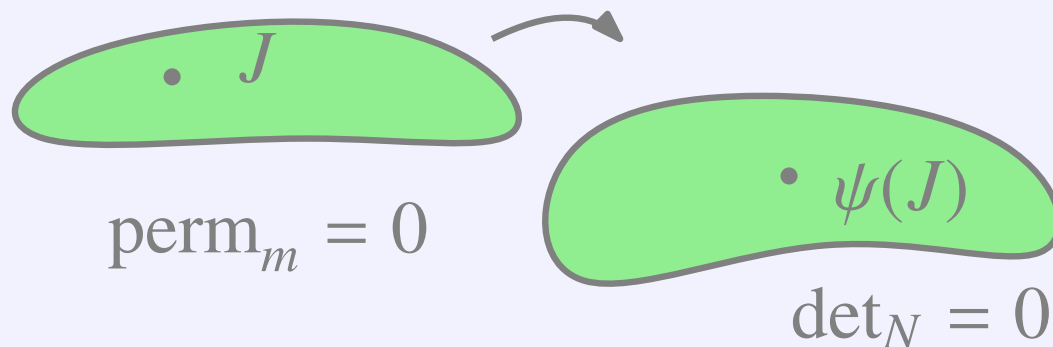
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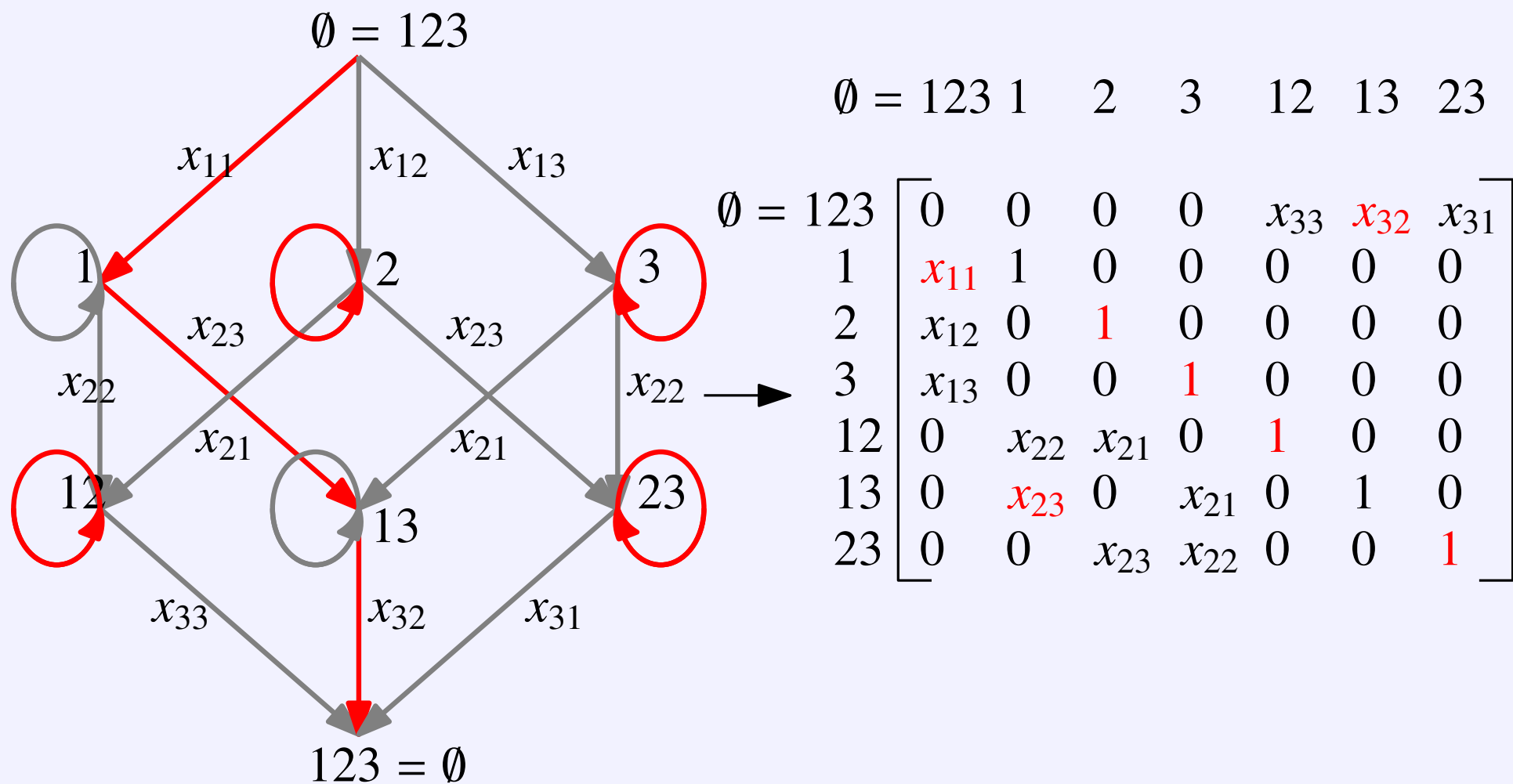
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Now $q_1(X) = q_2(L(X))$ where L linear part of ψ , so $m^2 \leq 2N$. \square

Grenet's $2^m - 1$ construction

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x_{ij} labels an arrow from an $(i - 1)$ -set to an i -set by adding j .

Theorem

[Landsberg-Ressayre, 15]

Grenet's representation is optimal among representations that preserve left multiplication with permutation and diagonal matrices.

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Compare orbit closures X_1, X_2 of $\ell^{N-m} \text{perm}_m$ and \det_N inside the space of degree- N polynomials in N^2 variables under $G = \text{GL}_{N^2}$; try to show that $X_1 \not\subseteq X_2$ by showing that multiplicities of certain G -representations are higher in $\mathbb{C}[X_1]$ than in $\mathbb{C}[X_2]$ unless N is super-polynomial in m .

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Theorem

[Bürgisser-Ikenmeyer-Panova, 16]

This approach does not work if *higher than* is restricted to $1 > 0$ (so-called *occurrence obstructions*).

Motivation II: Solving systems of equations

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In numerics, solving a univariate equation $p(x) = 0$ is often done by finding the eigenvalues of the companion matrix of p .

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Proposal

[Plestenjak-Hochstenbach, 16]

To solve $p(x, y) = q(x, y) = 0$ write $p = \det(A_0 + xA_1 + yA_2)$ and $q = \det(B_0 + xB_1 + yB_2)$ and solve the *two-parameter eigenvalue problem* $(A_0 + xA_1 + yA_2)u = 0$ and $(B_0 + xB_1 + yB_2)v = 0$.

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\rightsquigarrow translates to a joint pair of *generalised eigenvalue problems*:

$(\Delta_1 - x\Delta_0)w = 0$ and $(\Delta_2 - y\Delta_0)w = 0$ where $w = u \otimes v$ and $\Delta_0 = A_1 \otimes B_2 - A_2 \otimes B_1$, $\Delta_1 = A_2 \otimes B_0 - A_0 \otimes B_2$, $\Delta_2 = A_0 \otimes B_1 - A_1 \otimes B_0$

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If the sizes are N , then Δ_i have size N^2 , and solving takes $(N^2)^3 \dots$
(plane curves have det rep of size = deg, but harder to compute).

Theorem [Boralevi-v Doornmalen-D-Hochstenbach-Plestenjak, 16]

For n fixed, there exist C_1, C_2 such that a *sufficiently general* $p \in R_{\leq d}$ has $\text{dc}(p) \geq C_1 d^{n/2}$ and *any* $p \in R_{\leq d}$ has $\text{dc}(p) \leq C_2 d^{n/2}$.

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Proof of lower bound

If sufficiently general $p \in R_{\leq d}$ have $\text{dc}(p) \leq N$, then the map $\det : R_{\leq 1}^{N \times N} \rightarrow R_{\leq N}$ contains $R_{\leq d}$ in the closure of its image. Comparing

dimensions, find $N^2 \cdot (n + 1) \geq \dim_{\mathbb{C}} R_{\leq d} = \binom{n + d}{n}$. □

Definition

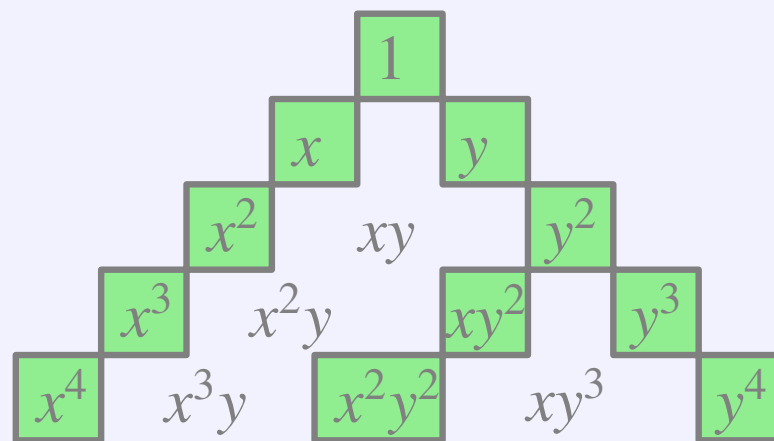
Given a nonzero subspace $V \subseteq R$ write $V_{\leq d} := V \cap R_{\leq d}$. V is *connected to 1* if $V_{\leq d+1} \subseteq R_{\leq 1} \cdot V_{\leq d}$ for all $d \geq 0$.

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Example

For $n = 2$, V spanned by these monomials is connected to 1:

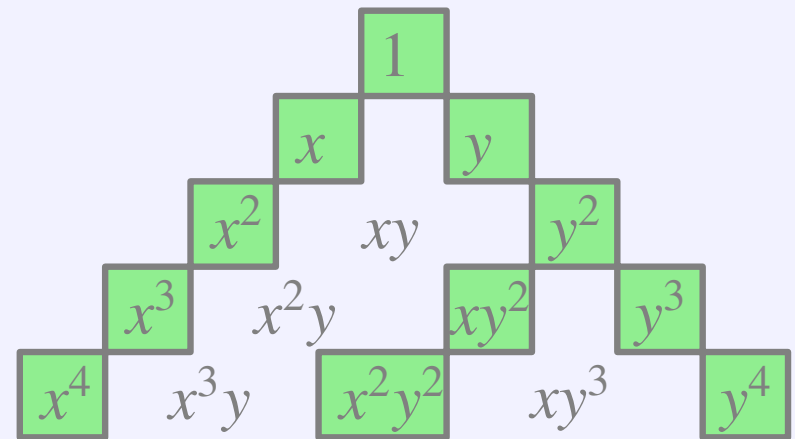


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Lemma

V connected to 1, with basis $1 = f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m$ of ascending degrees, write $f_i = \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \ell_{ij} f_j$ with $\ell_{ij} \in R_{\leq 1}$. Then V = the span of the

$(m-1) \times (m-1)$ -subdeterminants of

$$M(V) := \begin{bmatrix} \ell_{21} & -1 & & & \\ \ell_{31} & \ell_{32} & -1 & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ \ell_{m1} & \ell_{m2} & \cdots & \ell_{m,m-1} & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Proposition

Let $V \subseteq R$ be connected to 1, of dimension m , and such that $R_{\leq 1} \cdot V \supseteq R_{\leq d}$. Then there is a uniform determinantal representation of size m for the polynomials in $R_{\leq d}$.

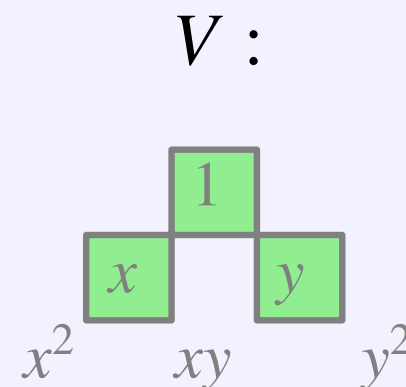
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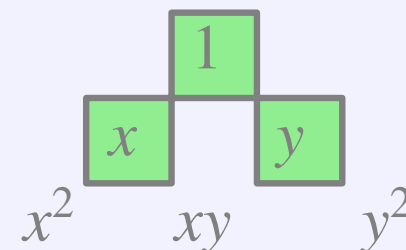
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$V :$



Theorem

For $n = 2$ there exist uniform det representations of size $\sim \frac{d^2}{4}$.

[Hochstenbach-Plestenjak 16]



V connected to 1 and $R_{\leq 1} \cdot V \supseteq R_{\leq d}$ imply $\dim V \geq \frac{1}{n} \binom{n+d}{n}$

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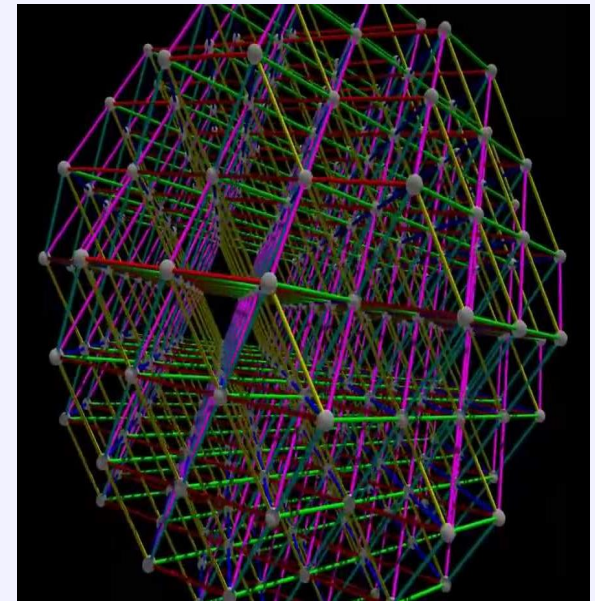
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Construction uses the lattice of type A_{n-1} with generating matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & \\ -1 & 2 & \ddots & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & -1 \\ & & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$



(David Madore, YouTube)

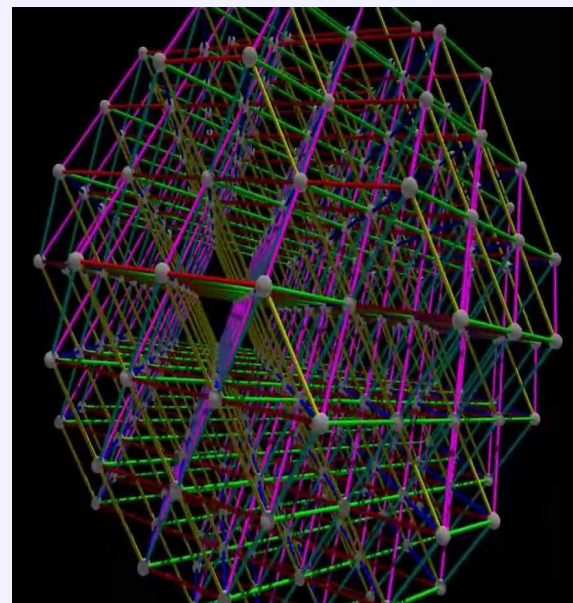
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But the exponent of d is n rather than $n/2$.

Proposition

Suppose $V_1, V_2 \subseteq R$ connected to 1 such that $R_{\leq 1} \cdot V_1 \cdot V_2 \supseteq R_{\leq d}$.
Then there is a uniform det representation of degree- d polynomials
of size $-1 + \dim V_1 + \dim V_2$.

Second construction: divide and conquer!

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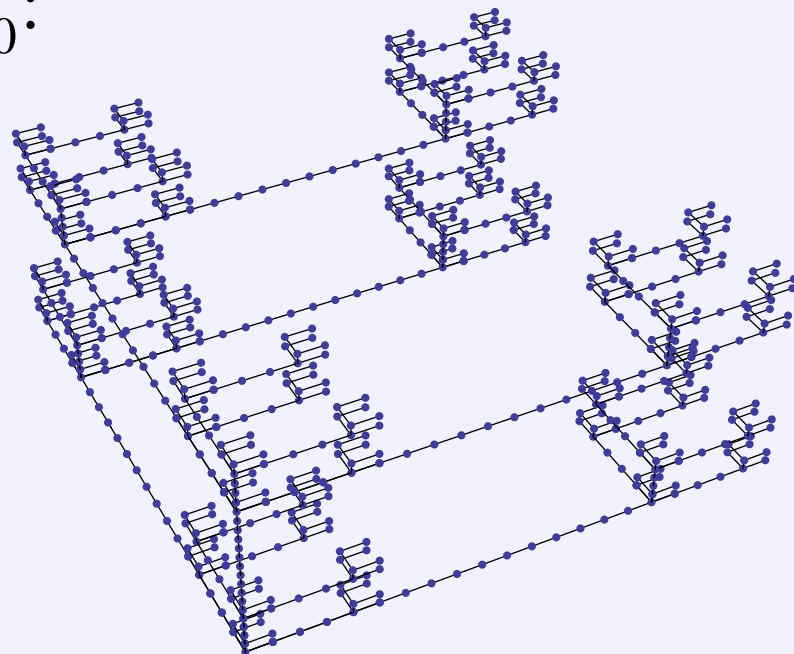
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- For odd n , find subsets $A_0, A_1 \subseteq (\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0})^n$, connected to 0, of “dimension” $\frac{n}{2}$ such that $A_0 + A_1 = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$:
 - start with $B_0 := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \{0, 1\} \cdot 2^{2j}$;
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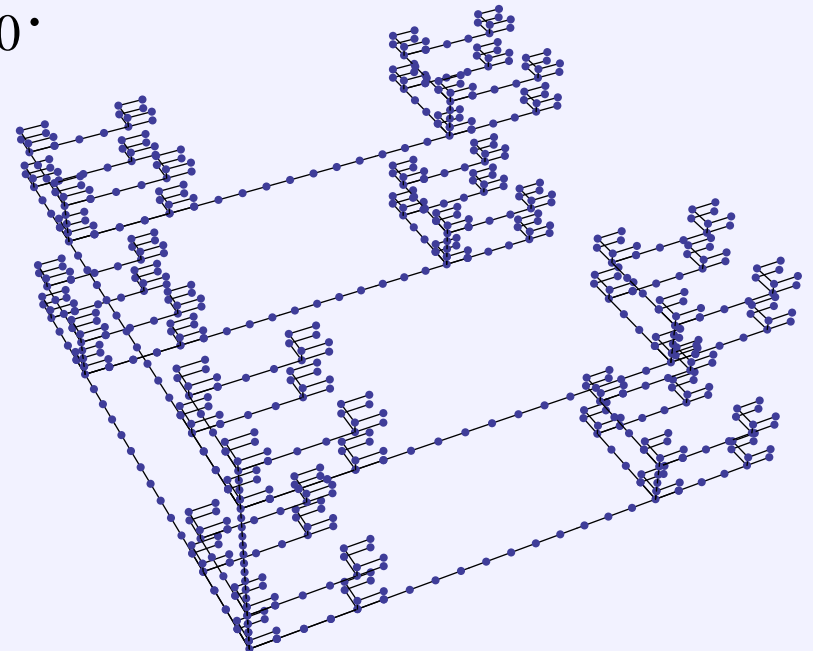
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Take V_i spanned by the monomials with exponent vectors in A_i . \square



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Many questions remain:

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Thank you!

Theorem [Boralevi-v Doornmalen-D-Hochstenbach-Plestenjak, 16]

For n fixed, there exist C_1, C_2 such that a *sufficiently general* $p \in R_{\leq d}$ has $\text{dc}(p) \geq C_1 d^{n/2}$ and *any* $p \in R_{\leq d}$ has $\text{dc}(p) \leq C_2 d^{n/2}$.

Many questions remain:

- what are the best constants C_1, C_2 ?
- what about the regime where d is fixed and n runs?
- *symmetric* determinantal representations?

Thank you!

Motivation III: hyperbolic polynomials

If $p = \det(A_0 + \sum_i x_i A_i)$ with $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ symmetric and A_0 positive definite, then the restriction of p to any line through 0 has only real roots. For $n = 2$ the converse also holds (Helton-Vinnikov).