



UNIVERSITÄT  
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# Sublinear Algorithms

## Lecture 09: Applications I



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission



Previous 2 lectures:  
*Property Testing*

Next 3 lectures:  
Technology transfer from Sublinear Algorithms to  
*Traditional* algorithms

This lecture:  
*Sparse Convolution*

# Polynomial Multiplication and Convolution

$$\alpha(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{d-1} \alpha_i x^i \quad \beta(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{d-1} \beta_i x^i$$

$$\alpha(x) \cdot \beta(x) = ?$$

can be computed with FFT  
in time  $O(d \log d)$

$$(1 + x + x^3) \cdot (101 + x^2 + x^5)$$

$$(1 + x + x^{1001}) \cdot (-1 + x^4 + x^{10002})$$

$$r\text{-th coefficient: } \sum_{i=0}^r \alpha_i \cdot \beta_{r-i}$$

## Convolution

$$u, v \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$u \star v \in \mathbb{R}^{2d-1} \quad (u \star v)_r = \sum_{j=0}^r u_j v_{r-j}$$

*Convolution ~ polynomial multiplication*

## Some applications of convolution

$A, B \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ , compute  $A + B = \{a + b | a \in A, b \in B\}$   $\left( \sum_{a \in A} x^a \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{b \in B} x^b \right)$

*Subset Sum*: Given set  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  and a target  $t$ , does

$$t \in \{0, x_1\} + \{0, x_2\} + \dots + \{0, x_n\}?$$

*Knapsack (via 2D convolution)*: Given tuples  $(v_1, w_1), (v_2, w_2), \dots, (v_n, w_n)$

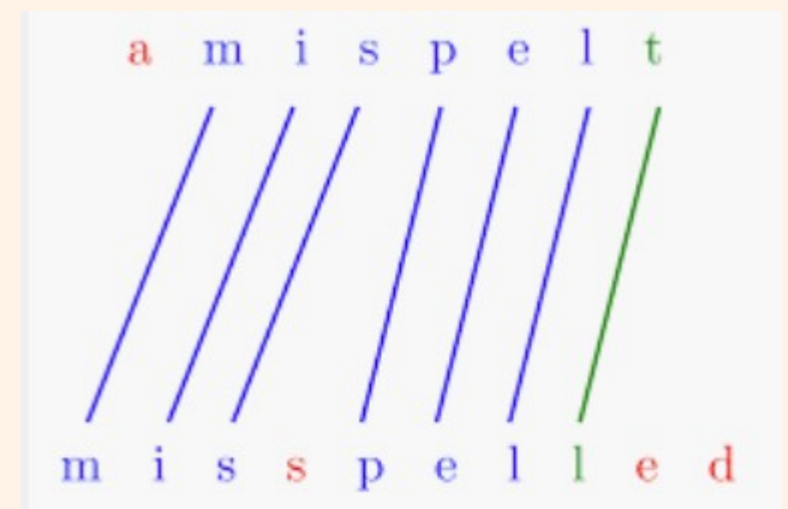
And a budget  $W$ , among the points in

$$\{0, (v_1, w_1)\} + \{0, (v_2, w_2)\} + \dots + \{0, (v_n, w_n)\}$$

with ordinate at most  $W$

which is the one with the largest abscissa ?

*Pattern Matching*: Can be written as a convolution  
between text and pattern



# Sparse Convolution

Compute convolution in time near-linear to the size of

$$\text{supp}(u \star v) = \{i : (u \star v)_i \neq 0\}$$

Going beyond  $O(d \log d)$

$$(1 + x + x^{1001}) \cdot (-1 + x^4 + x^{10002})$$

- Boolean Convolution
- Nonnegative Convolution
- Most general case

An intermediate notion: cyclic convolution

$$u \star_c v \in \mathbb{R}^d$$
$$(u \star_c v)_i = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} u_j v_{(i-j) \bmod d}$$

## Hashing the support

**Approach:** Get our hands on the support of the convolution by performing a  $\ll d$ -length convolution

(Intermediate) Promise Problem: Solve sparse convolution, given a set  $T$  which contains the support.

**Folding:** Pick a number  $B$ , and fold the vectors:

$$\tilde{v}, \tilde{u} \in \mathbb{R}^B$$

Short: sum up every  $B$ -th entry to obtain a  $B$ -length vector

$$\tilde{v}_\ell = \sum_{i \in [d]: i \bmod B = \ell} v_i$$

Claim:  $\tilde{v} \star_c \tilde{u}$   
Resembles a *hashing* of  $u \star v$  to  $B$  buckets.

$$\tilde{u}_m = \sum_{i \in [d]: i \bmod B = m} u_i$$

# Hashing the support

Approach: Get our hands on the support of the convolution by performing a  $\ll d$ -length convolution

(Intermediate) Promise Problem: Solve sparse convolution, given a set  $T$  which contains the support.

Hashing claim:

$$(\tilde{u} \star_c \tilde{v})_r = \sum_{i \in [d]: i \bmod B=r} (u \star v)_i$$

In which term does  $u_j v_{i-j}$  contribute to?

$j + (i - j) = i$  It contributes to the  $i$ -th term in the unfolded version

$$(j, i - j) \mapsto (j \bmod B, (i - j) \bmod B)$$

$$(j \bmod B + (i - j) \bmod B) \bmod B = i \bmod B$$

It contributes to the  $(i \bmod B)$ -th term in the folded version

Convolution preserving

## Hashing the support

(Intermediate) Promise Problem: Solve sparse convolution, given a set  $T$  which contains the support.

$$(\tilde{u} \star_c \tilde{v})_r = \sum_{i \in [d]: i \bmod B=r} (u \star v)_i$$

If all  $i$  in  $T$  are distinct mod  $B$  (hashed to distinct bucket) we can recover the initial convolution from  $B$  buckets.

How? For every  $i$  in  $T$ , look at the bucket  $i \bmod B$ , and read its value.

Ensure *distinctness*: Pick random prime  $B$  of size  $\sim |T| (\log d)^2$

Bad event:  $i$  in  $T$  collides with some  $j$  in  $T$ , i.e.  $i \bmod B = j \bmod B$

$$\Pr \{i \bmod B = j \bmod B\} = \Pr \{B | i - j\} = \frac{\text{no. divisors of } i - j}{\text{no. primes}} \approx \frac{\log d}{2|T| \log^2 d} \leq \frac{1}{2|T| \log d} = \frac{1}{2|T|} \quad \Pr \{i \text{ collides with some } j \in T\} \leq \frac{|T|}{2|T|} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Repeat  $O(\log |T|)$  times – and union bound!



So, where are we?

(Intermediate) Promise Problem: Sparse convolution,  
given a set  $T$  which contains the support,  
Can be solved in time  $O(|T| (\log d)^4)$

Removing this assumption in the nonnegative case

Theorem: Given two vectors,  $v, w$  we can compute their convolution  
in time  $O(\text{out} (\log d)^5)$ , where out is  
the number of non-zero coordinates in the convolution

Let  $d$  be a power of 2. We shall discuss the case  
of finding  $A+B = \{a+b \mid a \text{ in } A, b \text{ in } B\}$   
in time  $O(|A+B| (\log d)^5)$ , for  $A, B$  in  $[d]$ .

(correctness)  $A + B \subseteq T$

(time bound)  $|T| \leq 3|A' + B'| \leq 3|A + B|$

$$A' = \left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{a}{2} \right\rfloor \mid a \in A \right\}$$
$$B' = \left\{ \left\lfloor \frac{b}{2} \right\rfloor \mid b \in B \right\}$$

Compute  $A'+B'$   
recursively

$$T := 2 \cdot (A' + B') + \{0, 1, 2\}$$

Compute  $A+B$  using the (intermediate) Promise problem routine

## Sketch of the general case

(Intermediate) Promise Problem still holds for general vectors,  
but the recursion fails

But can still solve the problem in near-linear time in  
(size of input )+ (size of output)

Idea: Before folding, add an identifier.

Let  $\omega$  be a  $(2d)$ -th root of unity.

$$\tilde{v}_m = \sum_{i \in [d]: i \bmod B=m} v_i \cdot \omega^i$$

$$(\tilde{u} \star \tilde{v})_r = \sum_{i \in [d]: i \bmod B=r} (u \star v)_i \cdot \omega^i$$

$$\tilde{u}_\ell = \sum_{i \in [d]: i \bmod B=\ell} u_i \cdot \omega^i$$

If  $i$  is isolated, then from the complex part of ,we can read  $\omega^i$   
From  $\omega^i$  we can learn  $i$  in  $O(\log d)$  time.

Iterate over all  $B$  buckets, and find possible locations

If we knew out = size of output, we'd set  $B = 10out (\log d)^2$

We recover a constant fraction of coordinates + introduce false positives  
... so “recurse” to clean the erros.

## Recap of this lecture

Sparse Convolutions:  
Compute convolutions faster than FFT

... with the help of some hashing/sketching

We can compute convolutions in near-linear output-sensitive time

Next lecture by Karl Bringmann

*Thank you*