



Mathematics > Combinatorics

Unleashing the power of Schrijver's permanent inequality with the help of the Bethe Approximation

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Let $A \in \Omega_n$ be doubly-stochastic $n \times n$ matrix. Alexander Schrijver proved in 1998 the following remarkable inequality $\frac{\text{per}(A)}{F(A)} \geq \prod_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} (1 - A(i, j))$; $\text{per}(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^n A(i, \sigma(i))$, $1 \leq i, j \leq n$.

We use the above Schrijver's inequality to prove the following lower bound: $\frac{\text{per}(A)}{F(A)} \geq 1$; $F(A) = \prod_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} (1 - A(i, j))^{1 - A(i, j)}$.

We use this new lower bound to prove S.Friedland's Asymptotic Lower Matching Conjecture(LAMC) on monomer-dimer problem.

We use some ideas of our proof of (LAMC) to disprove [Lu, Mohr, Szekely] positive correlation conjecture.

We present explicit doubly-stochastic $n \times n$ matrices A with the ratio $\frac{\text{per}(A)}{F(A)} = \sqrt{2}^n$; conjecture that

$\max_{A \in \Omega_n} \frac{\text{per}(A)}{F(A)} \approx (\sqrt{2})^n$ and give some examples supporting the conjecture.

If true, the conjecture (and other ones stated in the paper) would imply a deterministic poly-time algorithm to approximate the permanent of $n \times n$ nonnegative matrices within the relative factor $(\sqrt{2})^n$. The best current such factor is e^n .

Comments: 30 pages, more typos are fixed, more remarks are added, importantly a concrete counter-example to [Lu, Mohr, Szekely] positive correlation conjecture is presented

Subjects: **Combinatorics (math.CO)**; Computational Complexity (cs.CC); Information Theory (cs.IT); Mathematical Physics (math-ph)

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