

Optimality of AMP Among Low-Degree Polynomials

Alex Wein

University of California, Davis

Department of Mathematics

Joint work with Andrea Montanari (Stanford)

arXiv: Equivalence of Approximate Message Passing and Low-Degree Polynomials in Rank-One Matrix Estimation

High-Dimensional Statistical Inference

- Find hidden structure in random graph
 - E.g. planted clique in $G(n, 1/2)$, stochastic block model, graph matching
- Find low-dimensional structure in random data
 - E.g. spiked matrix models, matrix factorization, tensor decomposition
- Regression / linear models
 - E.g. compressed sensing / sparse regression, phase retrieval

Common features: large input, many unknowns, planted signal

Spiked Wigner Model

signal-to-noise ratio $s > 0$

$$Y = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \theta \theta^\top + Z$$

observed data, n-by-n matrix

rank-1 "signal"

iid Gaussian "noise"

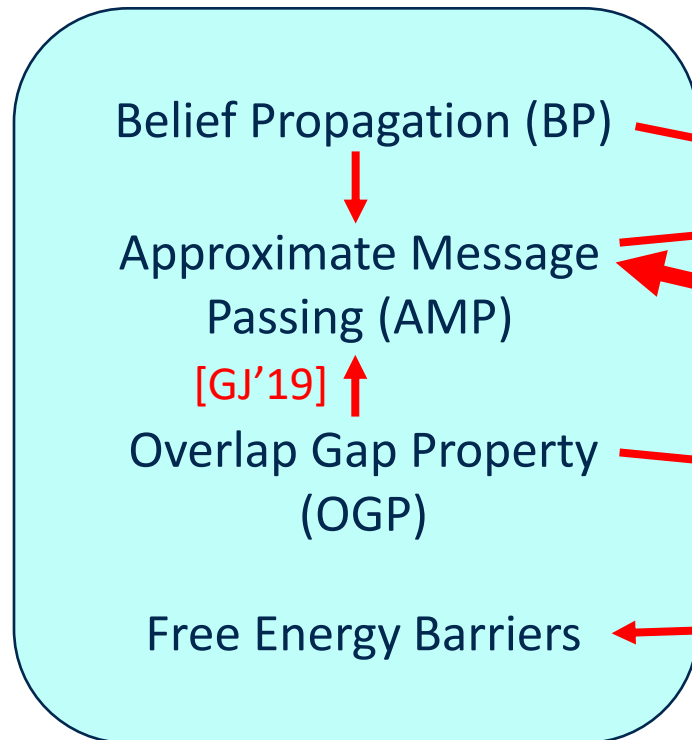
θ – unknown vector with entries iid from known fixed prior π

Goal: given Y , estimate θ

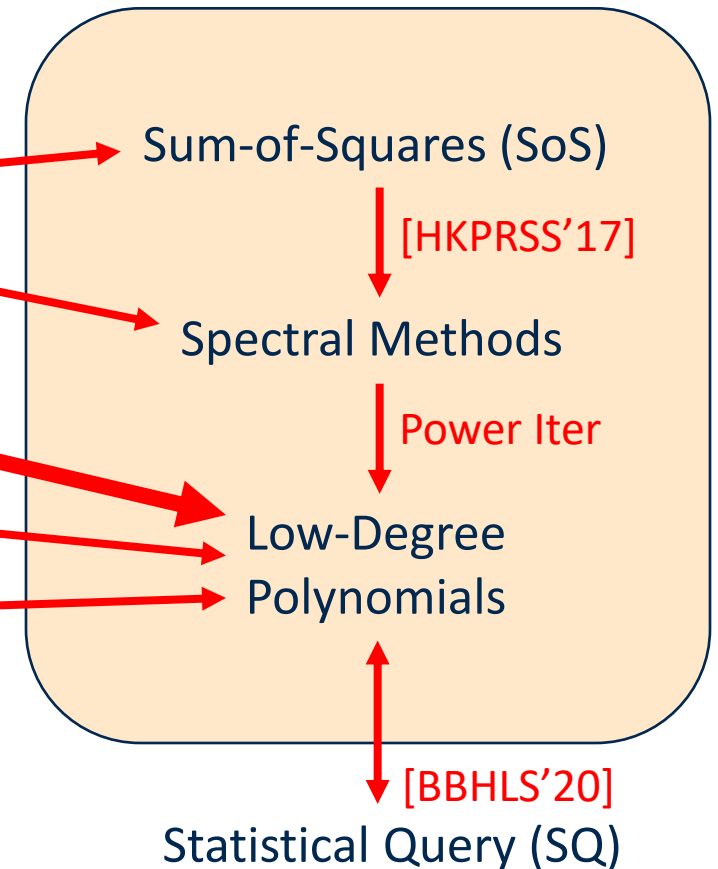
Simple "signal plus noise" model, testbed

What Are The Best Algorithms?

“Statistical Mechanics”



“Theoretical Computer Science”



Linearized BP, ... [IS'23]

This Work

[GJW'20]

[BAHSWZ'22]

Statistical Query (SQ)

A Unified Theory?

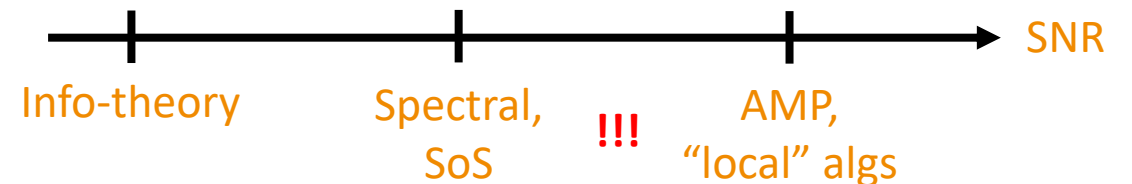
Many connections, but also caveats and counterexamples...

- Detection vs recovery vs optimization vs refutation vs sampling
- Physics predictions are “wrong” for tensor PCA (!)

[Montanari, Richard'14; Ben Arous, Gheissari, Jagannath'18]

“Redemption”

- Kikuchi hierarchy (in place of Bethe free energy) [W,Alaoui,Moore'19]
- Averaged gradient descent [Biroli,Cammarota,Ricci-Tersenghi'19]



AMP for Spiked Wigner Model

$$Y = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \theta \theta^\top + Z$$

Iterate

$$x^0 = 0$$

vector, estimate for θ

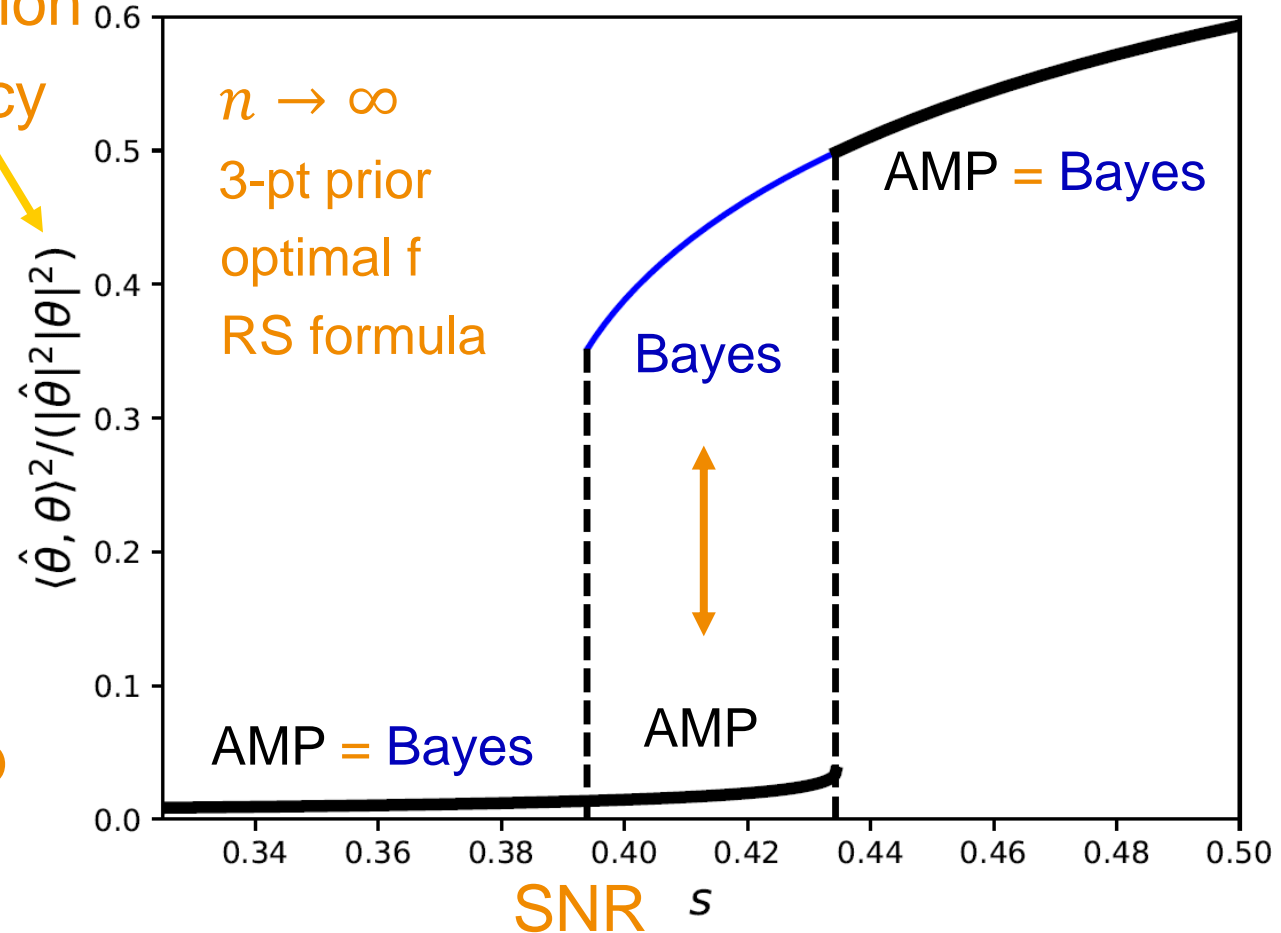
$$x^t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} Y f(x^{t-1}) - b_t f(x^{t-2})$$

entrywise transform

Onsager term

Bayes is not comp. efficient, gap

estimation
accuracy



Main Result

Conjecture (... Lesieur, Krzakala, Zdeborová'15 ...)

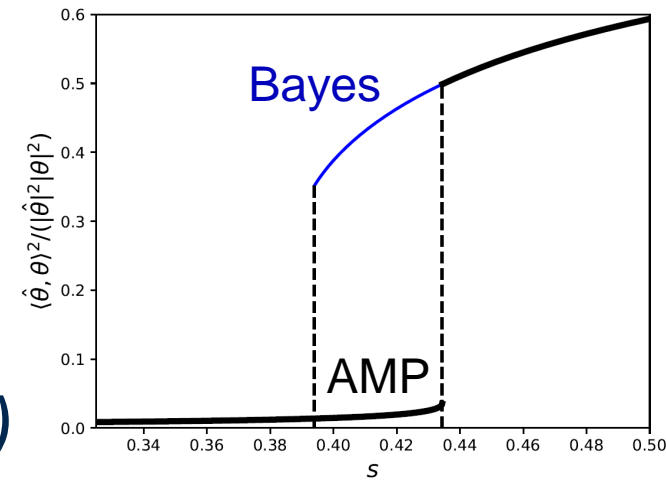
AMP has optimal MSE among all poly-time algorithms

Theorem (Montanari, W '22)

AMP has optimal MSE among all **constant-degree polynomials**

AMP (with const num iter) takes the form $(\hat{\theta}_1(Y), \dots, \hat{\theta}_n(Y))$ where $\hat{\theta}_i$ is a const-deg multivariate polynomial in the entries of Y

We show AMP is the best estimator of this form; sharp constant



Comments

Biased prior: $\mathbb{E}[\pi] \neq 0$

Open: mean-zero prior π , $O(\log n)$ iterations/degree

Open: rule out higher degree polynomials

Conjecture: need degree $n^{1-o(1)}$ to beat AMP

AMP is sub-optimal for some problems (tensor PCA, ...)

Proof suggests how to test if AMP is optimal for a given problem

Low-Degree Estimation Lower Bounds

Given Y , estimate θ_1

Want to understand $\text{MMSE}_{\leq D} := \inf_{p \text{ deg } D} \mathbb{E}[(p(Y) - \theta_1)^2]$

- Planted submatrix, planted dense subgraph [Schramm, W'20]
- Hypergraphic planted dense subgraph [Luo, Zhang'20]
- Tensor decomposition [W'22]

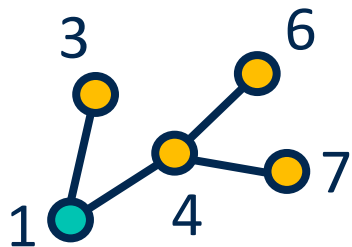
This work: exact value of $\lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}$

$$Y = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \theta \theta^\top + Z$$

Proof Sketch: AMP vs Low-Deg

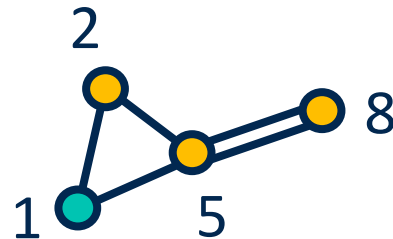
- I. AMP is as powerful as any “tree-shaped” polynomial
- II. Tree-shaped polynomials are as powerful as all polynomials (of the same degree)

tree



$$f(Y) = Y_{13} Y_{14} Y_{46} Y_{47}$$

non-tree



$$g(Y) = Y_{12} Y_{15} Y_{25} Y_{58}^2$$

$$Y = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \theta \theta^\top + Z$$

I. AMP vs Tree Polynomials

$$\text{Claim: } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MSE}_t^{\text{AMP}} = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}^{\text{Tree}}$$

(\geq) AMP is a tree polynomial

(\leq) Consider the best tree polynomial, WLOG symmetric

Given any symmetric const-deg tree polynomial, can construct a “message-passing” (MP) scheme to compute it

Prior work: AMP has best MSE among all MP schemes

[Celentano, Montanari, Wu'20; Montanari, Wu'22]

$$Y = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \theta \theta^\top + Z$$

II. Tree Poly vs All Poly

Remains to prove: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}^{\text{Tree}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}$ (rest of talk)

Conclude:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MSE}_t^{\text{AMP}} = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}^{\text{Tree}} = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}$$

AMP

Tree Poly

All Poly

$$Y = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \theta \theta^\top + Z$$

II. Tree Poly vs All Poly

Remains to prove: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}^{\text{Tree}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}$

$$\text{MMSE}_{\leq D} := \inf_{p \text{ deg } D} \mathbb{E}[(p(Y) - \theta_1)^2] = \mathbb{E}[\theta_1^2] - c^\top M^{-1} c$$

where:

$\{H_A\}$ – basis for (symmetric) const-deg polynomials

$$c_A := \mathbb{E}[H_A(Y) \cdot \theta_1]$$

$$M_{AB} := \mathbb{E}[H_A(Y) \cdot H_B(Y)]$$

$$\text{Goal: } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}^{\text{Tree}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}$$

$$\text{MMSE}_{\leq D} = \mathbb{E}[\theta_1^2] - c^\top M^{-1} c$$

$$c_A := \mathbb{E}[H_A(Y) \cdot \theta_1]$$

$$M_{AB} := \mathbb{E}[H_A(Y) \cdot H_B(Y)]$$

$$M = \begin{array}{cc} & \begin{array}{c} \text{tree} \\ \text{non-tree} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{tree} \\ \text{non-tree} \end{array} & \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline P & R \\ \hline R^\top & Q \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \Theta(1) & o(1) \\ \hline o(1) & \Theta(1) \\ \hline \end{array} \quad c = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline d \\ \hline e \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \Theta(1) \\ o(1) \end{array}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\theta_1^2] - \text{MMSE}_{\leq D} = c^\top M^{-1} c \approx d^\top P^{-1} d^\top = \mathbb{E}[\theta_1^2] - \text{MMSE}_{\leq D}^{\text{Tree}}$$

Summary

Equivalence of constant-iter AMP and constant-degree polynomials in the spiked Wigner model with any fixed prior

AMP = tree polynomials = all polynomials

Key property of Wigner model for “tree = all”: block diagonal

Use this to test if AMP is optimal for a given problem?

Evidence for AMP conjecture; connection stat mech \leftrightarrow TCS

Thanks!