A LOWER BOUND ON THE PERMANENT
OF A (0, 1)-MATRIX

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Abstract. The paper gives a lower bound for the permanent
of a fully indecomposable (0, 1)-matrix with at least \( k \) ones in each
row. The result extends those of H. Minc and P. Gibson.

Introduction. The computation of lower bounds for the permanent of a
(0, 1)-matrix moved a step forward with the solution of Marshall Hall's
conjecture by Richard Sinkhorn [5]. This was done by using, as a tool,
the nearly decomposable matrix. Sinkhorn's argument rested heavily on
the structure of this matrix which readily lends itself to inductive proofs.
In [2] the structure of this matrix was simplified, thereby simplifying
proofs for the above results.

In [1] and [3] more efficient counting methods were used to improve
lower bounds. The result of this paper further develops counting methods.
These then are used to extend the results of Minc and Gibson.

It is assumed that the reader is familiar with some of the language and
notations of ([1], [2], [3], [4] and [5]).

Results. All matrices discussed in this work are \( n \times n \) (0, 1)-matrices
with \( n \geq 3 \). If \( A = (a_{ij}) \) is a matrix then \( \sigma(A) = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \), and \( S = \sigma(A) - (3n - 3) \).

The following two lemmas are vital to our arguments.

Lemma 1. If \( A \) is nearly decomposable then \( A \) contains at most \( 3n - 3 \)
ones [4, p. 184].

Lemma 2. If \( A \) has at least \( k \geq 3 \) ones in each row then \( S \geq (k - 3)n + 3 \).

Proof. As \( \sigma(A) \geq kn \), it follows that \( \sigma(A) - (3n - 3) \geq kn - (3n - 3) = (k - 3)n + 3 \).

Set \( R = S - (k - 3)n \). For \( k \geq 3 \) Lemma 2 implies \( R \geq 3 \). Applying Lemma 1 it is seen that if \( A \) is fully indecomposable there are \( S \) ones in \( A \) which
may be replaced by 0's yielding \( \bar{A} \), with \( \bar{A} \) still fully indecomposable.
Applying Lemma 2 it is seen that \( (k - 3)n \) of these ones may be replaced in
\( \bar{A} \) say \( n \) at a time yielding \( A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_{k-3} \) so that \( A_i \) \((i=1, 2, \ldots, k-3)\)
has at least \(i+2\) ones in each row. This being done the remaining ones, \(R\) in number, may be replaced in \(A_{k-3}\) to reconstruct \(A\).

The following notations are required for the work.

If \(0 \leq R-1 < n\) set \(R_1 = R, R_2 = 1\). If \(n \leq R-1\) set \(R_1 = n, R_2 = R-n+1\).

We are now ready to give our bound. This bound improves the bound of H. Minn as well as that of P. Gibson.

**Theorem.** If \(A\) is fully indecomposable with \(k \geq 3\) ones in each row then

\[
\text{per } A \geq [\sigma(A) - 2n + 2] + \sum_{i=2}^{k-3} (i! - 1)n + [(k - 2)! - 1]R_1 + [(k - 1)! - 1]R_2.
\]

**Proof.** By replacing 1's in \(A\) with 0's a fully indecomposable matrix \(A_0 = (a_{ij}^{(0)})\) can be obtained so that \(\sigma(A_0) = 3n - 3\). \(A_0\) has at least two 1's in each row. Further, by [3] \(\text{per } A_0 \geq \sigma(A_0) - 2n + 2\).

Pick \(n\) of the removed 1's from \(A\) (if \(k \geq 4\)) so that when 0's in \(A_0\) are replaced by these 1's yielding \(A_1 = (a_{ij}^{(1)})\), \(A_1\) has at least three ones in each row. Now

\[
\text{per } A_1 \geq \text{per } A_0 + (n - 1) + 2 \geq [\sigma(A_1) - 2n + 2] + 1.
\]

The extra 1 in the second expression is obtained by noting that \(n - 1\) of the replaced 1's each lie on a positive diagonal and the final replaced 1 lies on two positive diagonals by Hall's inequality.

Pick \(n\) of the remaining removed 1's from \(A\) (if \(k \geq 5\)) so that when 0's in \(A_1\) are replaced by these 1's yielding \(A_2 = (a_{ij}^{(2)})\), \(A_2\) has at least four 1's in each row. Again by Hall's inequality

\[
\text{per } A_2 \geq \text{per } A_1 + 2!(n - 1) + 3!
\]

\[
\geq [\sigma(A_2) - 2n + 2] + 1 + (2! - 1)(n - 1) + (3! - 1)
\]

\[
\geq [\sigma(A_2) - 2n + 2] + (2! - 1)n + (3! - 1).
\]

By Lemma 2 then we see that for \(r \leq k-3\) we have inductively \(\text{per } A_r \geq [\sigma(A_r) - 2n + 2] + (2! - 1)n + \cdots + (r! - 1)n + [(r+1)! - 1]\).

In particular for \(r = k-3\),

\[
\text{per } A_{k-3} \geq [\sigma(A_{k-3}) - 2n + 2] + \sum_{i=2}^{k-3} (i! - 1)n + [(k - 2)! - 1].
\]

We now argue two cases.

**Case I.** \(R-1 < n\). Replace \(R_1 - 1\) remaining ones into \(A_{k-3}\) to yield \(A_{k-2}\) thereby obtaining

\[
\text{per } A_{k-2} \geq [\sigma(A) - 2n + 2] + \sum_{i=2}^{k-3} (i! - 1)n + [(k - 2)! - 1]R_1.
\]
As $R = R$ we replace the remaining 1 into $A_{k-2}$ to yield $A$. Since $A$ has at least $k$ ones in each row, this 1 lies on $(k-1)!$ positive diagonals. Hence

\[ \text{per } A \geq \left[ \sigma(A) - 2n + 2 \right] + \sum_{i=2}^{k-3} (i! - 1)n + [(k - 2)! - 1]R_1 + [(k - 1)! - 1]R_2. \]

**Case II.** $n \leq R - 1$. Replace $n$ remaining ones into $A_{k-3}$ to yield $A_{k-2}$ so that $A_{k-2}$ has at least $k$ ones in each row. Therefore we have

\[ \text{per } A_{k-2} \geq \left[ \sigma(A_{k-2}) - 2n + 2 \right] + \sum_{i=2}^{k-3} (i! - 1)n + [(k - 2)! - 1]n + [(k - 1)! - 1]. \]

Now replace all of the remaining ones into $A_{k-2}$ to yield $A$ thereby obtaining

\[ \text{per } A \geq \left[ \sigma(A) - 2n + 2 \right] + \sum_{i=2}^{k-3} (i! - 1)n + [(k - 2)! - 1]R_1 + [(k - 1)! - 1]R_2. \]

This then yields the result of the theorem.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS I should like to thank the referee for several improvements of this paper. Further thanks goes to P. M. Gibson whose preprint (now [1]) in part motivated this paper.

REFERENCES


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