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*Central Curve in Semidefinite Programming.*

The Zariski closure of the central path which interior point algorithms track in convex optimization problems such as linear and semidefinite programs is an algebraic curve, called the central curve. Its degree has been studied in relation to the complexity of these interior point algorithms. We show that the degree of the central curve for generic semidefinite programs is equal to the maximum likelihood degree of linear concentration models. (Received January 19, 2021)