

Solving QCQPs (joint with G. Muñoz)

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Quadratically constrained, quadratic programming:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{aligned}$$

Here,

$$f_i(x) = x^T M_i x + c_i^T x + d_i$$

is a general quadratic

Each M_i is $n \times n$, wlog symmetric

Application: power flows in electrical transmission systems

Setting:

- A “grid,” given by a set of “buses” (nodes) and “lines” (arcs).
- Some buses represent generators, some other buses represent “loads”.
- **What we can control:** the behavior of generators (voltage, output).
- **What we cannot control:** most. System obeys the laws of physics.
- **What we can want:** to operate the grid in an safe and economic manner.

Optimal power flow problem in rectangular coordinates, simplest form

Variables:

- Complex voltages $e_k + jf_k$, power flows P_{km}, Q_{km} , auxiliary variables

Notation: For a bus k , $\delta(k)$ = set of lines incident with k ; V = set of buses

Basic problem

$$\min \sum_{k \in V} C_k$$

$$\text{s.t. } \forall km : P_{km} = \mathbf{g}_{km}(e_k^2 + f_k^2) - \mathbf{g}_{km}(e_k e_m + f_k f_m) + \mathbf{b}_{km}(e_k f_m - f_k e_m) \quad (1a)$$

$$\forall km : Q_{km} = -\mathbf{b}_{km}(e_k^2 + f_k^2) + \mathbf{b}_{km}(e_k e_m + f_k f_m) + \mathbf{g}_{km}(e_k f_m - f_k e_m) \quad (1b)$$

$$\forall km : |P_{km}|^2 + |Q_{km}|^2 \leq \mathbf{U}_{km} \quad (1c)$$

$$\forall k : \mathbf{P}_k^{\min} \leq \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} P_{km} \leq \mathbf{P}_k^{\max} \quad (1d)$$

$$\forall k : \mathbf{Q}_k^{\min} \leq \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} Q_{km} \leq \mathbf{Q}_k^{\max} \quad (1e)$$

$$\forall k : \mathbf{V}_k^{\min} \leq e_k^2 + f_k^2 \leq \mathbf{V}_k^{\max}, \quad (1f)$$

$$\forall k : C_k = \mathbf{F}_k \left(\sum_{km \in \delta(k)} P_{km} \right). \quad (1g)$$

Here, \mathbf{F}_k is a quadratic function for each k .

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Here, $\mathbf{F}_k, \mathbf{G}_k$ are quadratic functions for each k .

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Here, $\mathbf{F}_k, \mathbf{G}_k$ are quadratic functions for each k . **Many** possibilities, all structurally similar.

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Notation: For a bus k , $\delta(k)$ = set of lines incident with k ; V = set of buses

Basic problem

$$\min \sum_{k \in V} C_k$$

$$\text{s.t. } \forall km : P_{km} = g_{km}(e_k^2 + f_k^2) - g_{km}(e_k e_m + f_k f_m) + b_{km}(e_k f_m - f_k e_m) \quad (5a)$$

$$\forall km : Q_{km} = -b_{km}(e_k^2 + f_k^2) + b_{km}(e_k e_m + f_k f_m) + g_{km}(e_k f_m - f_k e_m) \quad (5b)$$

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Here, $\mathbf{F}_k, \mathbf{G}_k$ are quadratic functions for each k . **Many** possibilities, all structurally similar.

These are QCQPs, quadratically constrained quadratic programs, with an underlying graph structure.

State-of-the-art

- Industry can solve routine problem instances easily.

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- Unfamiliar and stressed states are difficult (impossible) to handle.
- As a result, what-if analyses become problematic. **Agnostic** what-if analysis are essentially impossible.
- Problem is **strongly** NP-hard. (A. Verma, 2009).

QCQPs

$$\mathbf{min} \quad x^T M^0 x + 2c_0^T x + d_0 \tag{6a}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \forall i : \quad x^T M^i x + 2c_i^T x + d_i \geq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m, \tag{6b}$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n. \tag{6c}$$

Each matrix M^i symmetric.

This description includes linear inequalities, bounds on individual variables, quadratic/linear equations.

QCQPs

$$\min \quad x^T M^0 x + 2c_0^T x + d_0 \quad (7a)$$

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Reformulation

$$\text{observation: } \quad x^T M^i x + 2c_i^T x = (1 \ x^T) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c_i^T \\ c_i & M^i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x \end{pmatrix} = (1 \ x^T) \tilde{M}^i \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{definition: for matrices } A, B, \quad A \bullet B \doteq \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} b_{ij}$$

$$\text{so for vector } y \text{ and matrix } A, \quad y^T A y = A \bullet y y^T$$

So **QCQP** can be rewritten as:

$$Q^* \doteq \min \quad \tilde{M}^0 \bullet X + d_0 \quad (8a)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \forall km : \quad M^i \bullet X + d_i \geq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m, \quad (8b)$$

$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+1) \times (n+1)}, \quad X \succeq 0, \quad \text{of rank 1.} \quad (8c)$$

The **semidefinite relaxation** of this problem is:

$$\tilde{Q} \doteq \min \quad \tilde{M}^0 \bullet X + d_0 \quad (9a)$$

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$$\tilde{Q} \leq Q^*$$

The critical observation

- Lavaei and Low, 2011: the SDP relaxation of AC-OPF **not infrequently** is very tight
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- There is **no** exact algorithm for SDP

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- Factoid: there are polynomial-time algorithms for SDP, but require many assumptions
- There is **no** exact algorithm for SDP
- Lavaei, Low, Hiskens-Molzahn:
when the underlying network has **low tree-width**, the SDP relaxation can be solved much faster
why: standard SDP solvers can leverage low tree-width
- What exactly is tree-width?

Tree-width

Let G be an undirected graph with vertices $V(G)$ and edges $E(G)$.

A tree-decomposition of G is a pair (T, Q) where:

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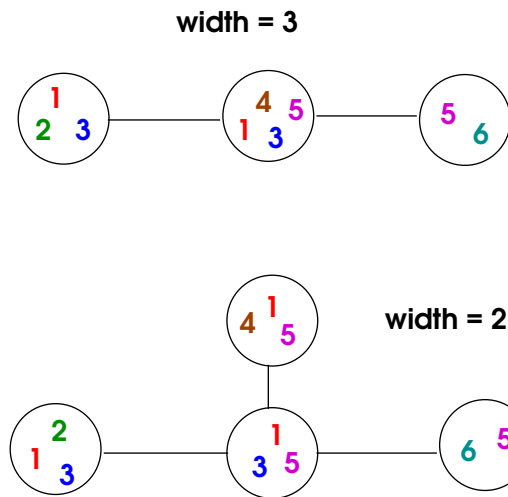
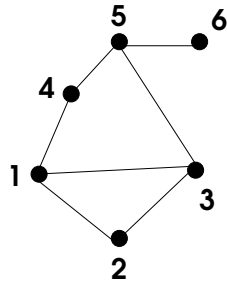
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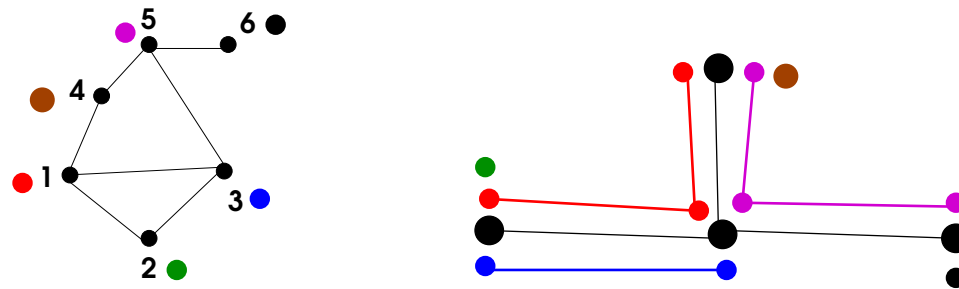


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History

Fulkerson and Gross (1965), binary packing integer programs

$$\text{IP} = \max c^T x \quad (10a)$$

$$\text{s.t. } Ax \leq b, \quad (10b)$$

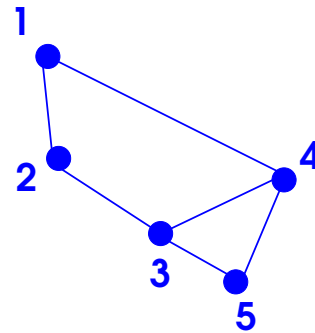
$$x \in \{0, 1\}^n \quad (10c)$$

Here, \mathbf{A} has $\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}$ -valued entries. **Idea:** use the structure of \mathbf{A} .

The **intersection graph of \mathbf{A}** , \mathbf{G}_A , has:

- A vertex for each column of A .
- An edge between two columns j, k if there is a row i with $a_{ij} \neq 0, a_{ik} \neq 0$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{5} \\ \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} \mathbf{1} & & & & \mathbf{1} & \\ & \mathbf{1} & & & & \\ & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & & & \\ & & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & & \\ & & & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$



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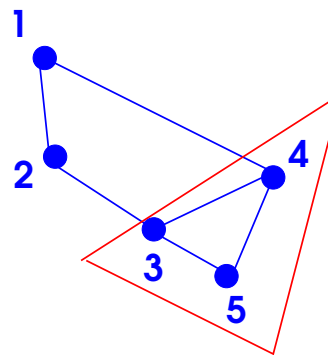
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	1	2	3	4	5
1	1			1	
2	1				
3	1	1			
4		1	1		
5			1	1	1



Each row of A induces a clique of \mathbf{G}_A .

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Theorem. If G_A is an **interval graph**, then

$$\text{IP} = \text{LP} = \max c^T x \tag{13a}$$

$$\text{s.t. } Ax \leq b, \tag{13b}$$

$$x \in [0, 1]^n. \tag{13c}$$

(so IP = value of its continuous relaxation).

A graph $G = (V, E)$ is an interval graph, if there is a **path P** , and a family of subpaths P_v (one for each $v \in V$), such that

- For each **pair of vertices** u and v of G , we have $\{u, v\} \in E$ **whenever** P_u and P_v intersect.
- The largest clique size of G is $\max_{p \in P} |\{v \in V : p \in P_v\}|$.
(The maximum number of subpaths that simultaneously overlap anywhere on P)

$$\text{IP} = \max c^T x \tag{14a}$$

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Definition: (Gavril, 1974) A graph $G = (V, E)$ is **chordal**, if there exists

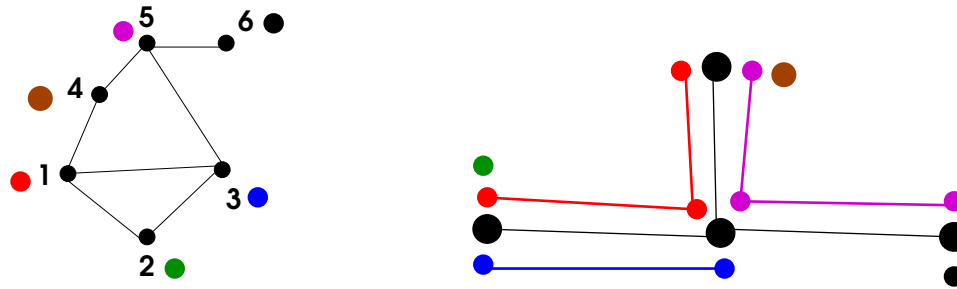
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(equivalent: a graph is chordal iff every cycle of length > 3 has a chord).

Contrast with tree-decompositions

A tree-decomposition of G is a pair (T, Q) where:

- T is a tree. **Not** a subtree of G , just a tree.
- For each vertex t of T , Q_t is a subset of $V(G)$. These subsets satisfy the two properties:
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- The **width** of (T, Q) is $\max_{t \in T} |Q_t| - 1$.



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So: A graph G has a tree-decomposition of width w iff there is a **chordal supergraph** of G of clique number $w + 1$.

$$\text{IP} = \max c^T x \tag{15a}$$

$$\text{s.t. } Ax \leq b, \tag{15b}$$

$$x \in \{0, 1\}^n \tag{15c}$$

The **intersection graph of A**, G_A , has:

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Theorem. If G_A is **chordal**, then

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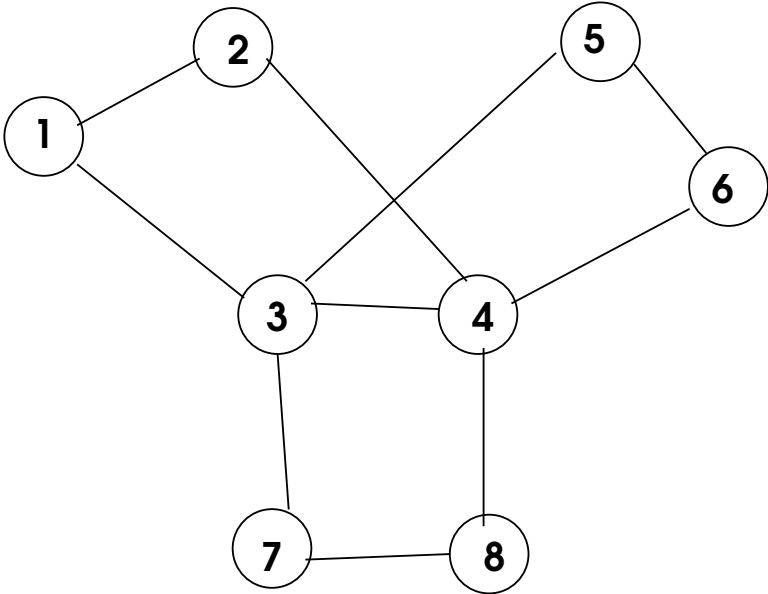
Chordal graphs are “nice.” In fact, they are **perfect**.

Why small tree-width helps

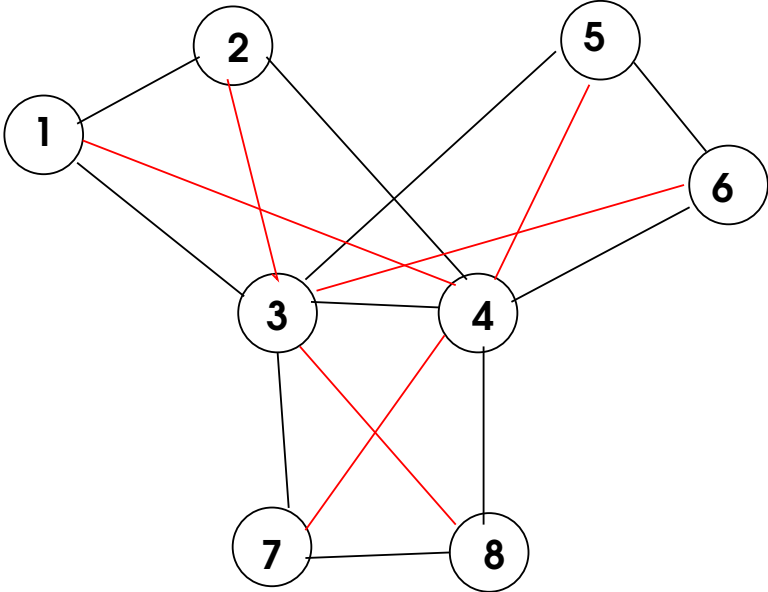
Cholesky factorization of:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * & & & & \\ * & * & & * & & & \\ * & & * & * & * & & * \\ & * & * & * & & * & * \\ & & * & & * & * & \\ & & & * & * & * & \\ & * & & & & * & * \\ & & * & & & * & * \end{pmatrix}$$

Cholesky factorization of:



Chordal supergraph:



Pivoting order: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 3, 4

Graph Minors Project: Robertson and Seymour, 1983 - 2004

→ Tree-width as a measure of the complexity of a graph

CAUTION

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sparsity \neq small tree-width

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sparsity \neq small tree-width

\exists graphs of max deg 3 and arbitrarily high tree-width

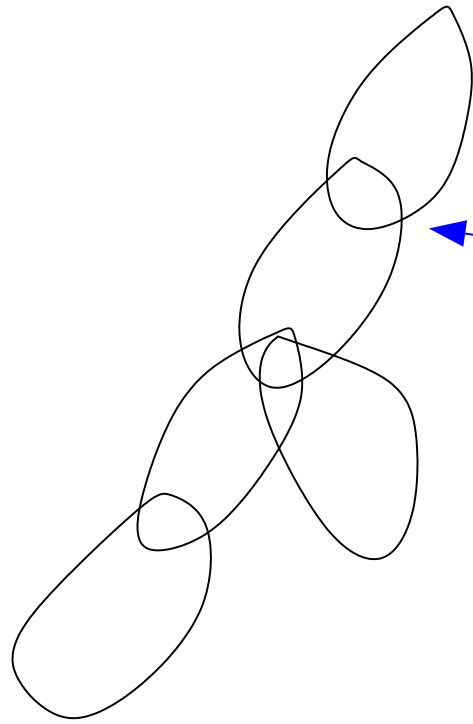
Graph Minors Project: Robertson and Seymour, 1983 - 2004

→ Tree-width as a measure of the complexity of a graph

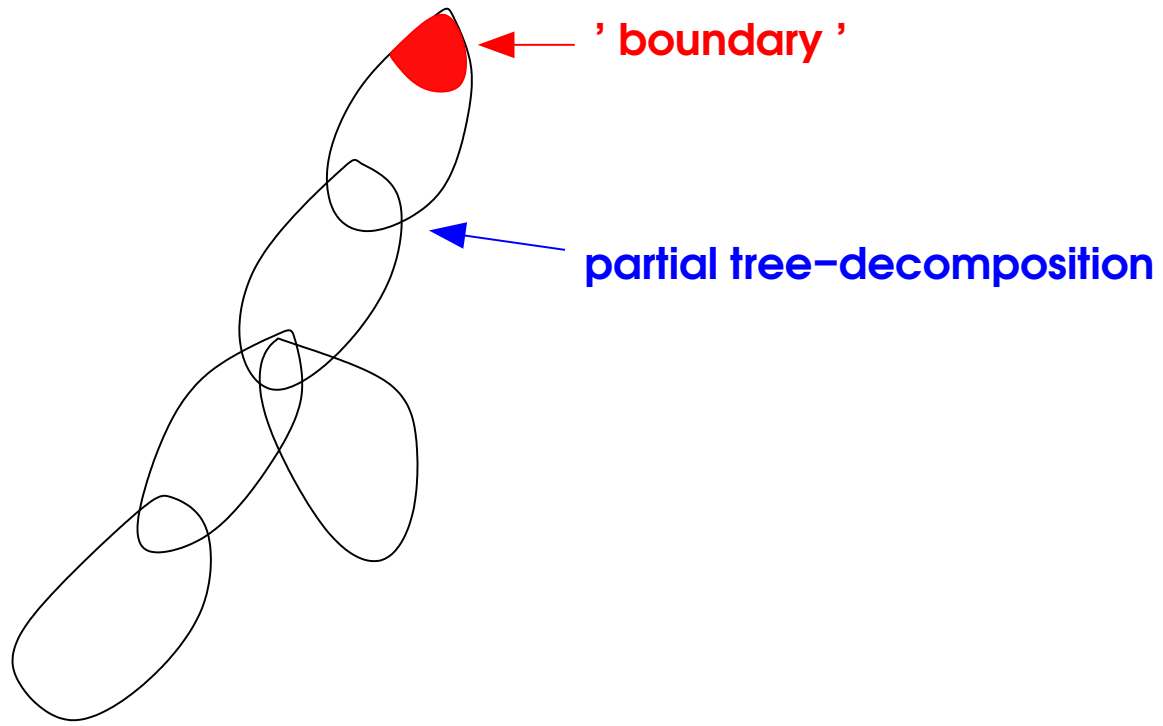
- Algorithms community: small tree-width makes hard problems easy (late 1980s)
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TSP, max. clique, graph coloring, ...

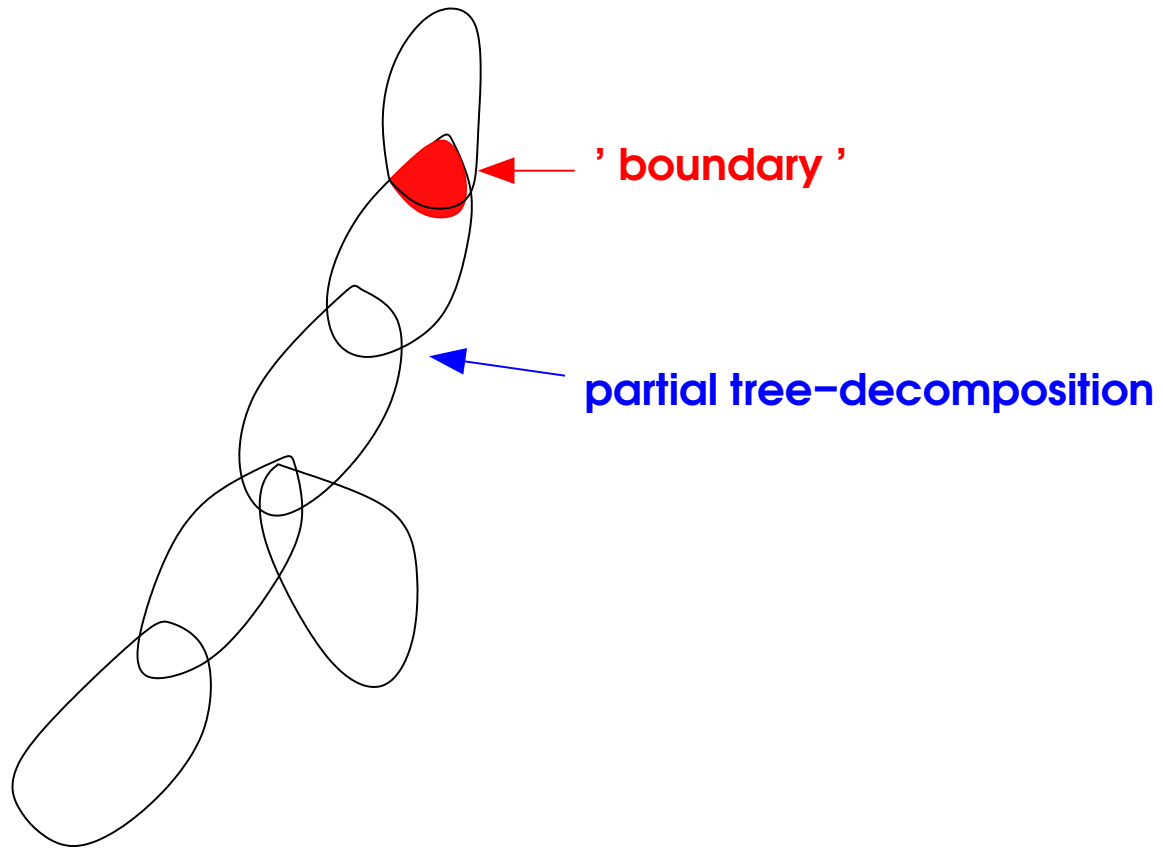
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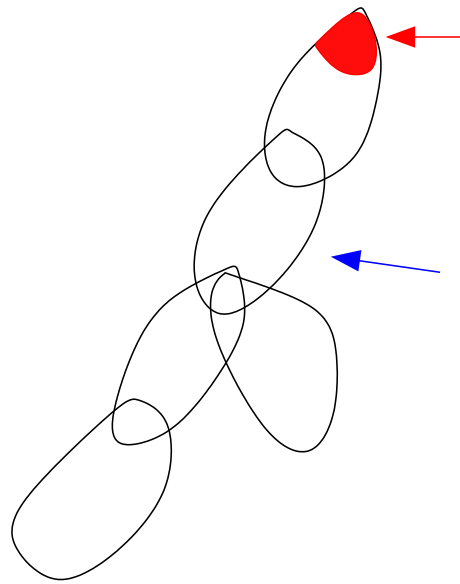
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- Many NP-hard problems can be solved in polynomial time on graphs with small tree-width:
TSP, max. clique, graph coloring, ...
- Fellows & Langston; Bienstock & Langston; Arnborg, Corneil & Proskurowski;
many other authors
- Common thread: exploit tree-decomposition to obtain good algorithms
- So-called “nonserial dynamic programming” (1972)



partial tree-decomposition

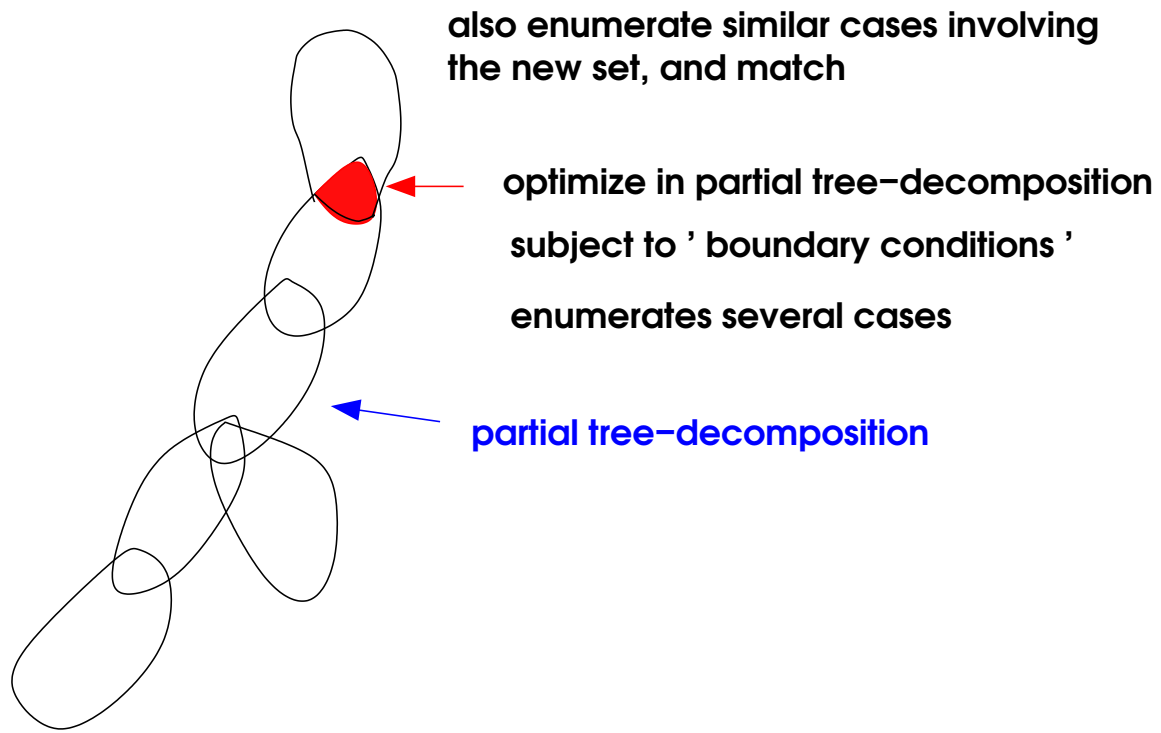






**optimize in partial tree-decomposition
subject to ' boundary conditions '
enumerates several cases**

partial tree-decomposition



More recent history

- B. and Özbay. 2003. Tree-width and the Sherali-Adams reformulation operator. Implies that on graphs with tree-width $\leq \omega$, the Sherali-Adams reformulation for vertex packing, at level $\leq \omega$, is exact.
- Wainwright and Jordan, 2004. (Constraint satisfaction community). On an all-binary polynomial optimization problem whose constraint graph has tree-width $\leq \omega$, the Sherali-Adams reformulation for vertex packing, at level $\leq \omega$, is exact.
- Lasserre, Waki, others (2006-). Polynomial-size *relaxations* for *continuous* polynomial optimization problem if the underlying constraint graph has bounded tree-width.

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- Lasserre, Waki et al, others (2006-). Polynomial-size *relaxations* for *continuous* polynomial optimization problem if the underlying constraint graph has bounded tree-width.

Question:

Can we use bounded tree-width to obtain good *provably accurate, polynomial-size* formulations for polynomial optimization?

Theorem: Given an instance of **AC-OPF** on a graph with a tree-decomposition of width ω , and n nodes, and $0 < \epsilon < 1$,

there is a linear program **LP** such that:

- (a) The number of variables and constraints is $O(2^{2\omega} \omega n \epsilon^{-(\omega+1)} \log_2 \epsilon^{-1})$.
- (b) An optimal solution to **LP** solves **AC-OPF**, within tolerance ϵ .

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Theorem: Unless P=NP, above cannot be improved even for $\omega = 2$.

More generic statement for AC-OPF

$$\min \sum_{k \in V} C_k$$

$$\text{s.t. } \forall km : P_{km} = \mathbf{g}_{km}(e_k^2 + f_k^2) - \mathbf{g}_{km}(e_k e_m + f_k f_m) + \mathbf{b}_{km}(e_k f_m - f_k e_m)$$

$$\forall km : Q_{km} = -\mathbf{b}_{km}(e_k^2 + f_k^2) + \mathbf{b}_{km}(e_k e_m + f_k f_m) + \mathbf{g}_{km}(e_k f_m - f_k e_m)$$

$$\forall km : |P_{km}|^2 + |Q_{km}|^2 \leq \mathbf{U}_{km}$$

$$\forall k : P_k = \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} P_{km}; \quad \mathbf{P}_k^{\min} \leq P_k \leq \mathbf{P}_k^{\max}$$

$$\forall k : Q_k = \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} Q_{km}; \quad \mathbf{Q}_k^{\min} \leq Q_k \leq \mathbf{Q}_k^{\max}$$

$$\forall k : (\mathbf{V}_k^{\min})^2 \leq e_k^2 + f_k^2 \leq (\mathbf{V}_k^{\max})^2$$

$$\forall k : C_k = \mathbf{F}_k(P_k, Q_k, e_k, f_k) + \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} \mathbf{H}_{km}(P_{km}, Q_{km}, e_k, f_k, e_m, f_m)$$

Here, the \mathbf{F}_k and \mathbf{H}_{km} are quadratics.

A generalization: graphical QCQPs (abridged)

Inputs:

- (1) An undirected graph \mathbf{H} .
- (2) For each vertex \mathbf{v} of \mathbf{H} a set $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$, and for $j \in \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$ there is a real variable \mathbf{x}_j .
Write $\mathcal{V} = \cup_{\mathbf{v} \in V(\mathbf{H})} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$.
- (3) For each edge $\{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}\}$ denote by $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}}$ the vector of all \mathbf{x}_j for $j \in \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}) \cup \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{u})$.
- (4) For each vertex \mathbf{v} , and each edge $\{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}\}$ a family of quadratics $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}}^k(\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}})$ for $k = 1, \dots, N(\mathbf{v})$.
- (5) A vector $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{V}}$.

A generalization: graphical QCQPs (abridged)

Inputs:

- (1) An undirected graph H .
- (2) For each vertex v of H a set $J(v)$, and for $j \in J(v)$ there is a real variable x_j .
Write $\mathcal{V} = \cup_{v \in V(H)} J(v)$.
- (3) For each edge $\{v, u\}$ denote by $x^{v,u}$ the vector of all x_j for $j \in J(v) \cup J(u)$.
- (4) For each vertex v , and each edge $\{v, u\}$ a family of quadratics $p_{v,u}^k(x^{v,u})$ for $k = 1, \dots, N(v)$.
- (5) A vector $c \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{V}}$.

Problem:

$$\text{(GQCQP):} \quad \min c^T x$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad \sum_{u \in \delta(v)} p_{v,u,k}(x^{v,u}) \geq 0, \quad v \in V(H), \quad k = 1, \dots, N(v)$$

$$0 \leq x_j \leq 1, \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{V}.$$

A generalization: mixed-integer graphical QCQPs (abridged)

Inputs:

- (1) An undirected graph \mathbf{H} .
- (2) For each vertex \mathbf{v} of \mathbf{H} a set $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$, and for $j \in \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$ there is a real variable \mathbf{x}_j .
Write $\mathcal{V} = \cup_{\mathbf{v} \in V(\mathbf{H})} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$.
- (3) For each edge $\{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}\}$ denote by $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}}$ the vector of all \mathbf{x}_j for $j \in \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}) \cup \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{u})$.
- (4) For each vertex \mathbf{v} , and each edge $\{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}\}$ a family of quadratics $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}}^k(\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}})$ for $k = 1, \dots, N(\mathbf{v})$.
- (5) A vector $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{V}}$.
- (6) A partition $\mathcal{V} = \mathbf{V}_Z \cup \mathbf{V}_R$.

Problem:

$$\text{(MGP):} \quad \min c^T x$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad \sum_{u \in \delta(v)} p_{v,u,k}(x^{v,u}) \geq 0, \quad v \in V(H), \quad k = 1, \dots, N(v)$$

$$0 \leq x_j \leq 1 \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{V}_R; \quad x_j = 0 \text{ or } 1 \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{V}_Z.$$

- (1) An undirected graph \mathbf{H} .
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Write $\mathcal{V} = \cup_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{H})} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$.
- (3) For each edge $\{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}\}$ denote by $\mathbf{x}^{v,u}$ the vector of all \mathbf{x}_j for $\mathbf{j} \in \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v}) \cup \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{u})$.
- (4) For each vertex \mathbf{v} , and each edge $\{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}\}$ a family of polynomials $p_{v,u}^k(\mathbf{x}^{v,u})$ for $k = 1, \dots, N(\mathbf{v})$.
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$$\text{(MGP):} \quad \min \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \tag{20a}$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad \sum_{u \in \delta(v)} p_{v,u,k}(\mathbf{x}^{v,u}) \geq 0, \quad v \in V(H), \quad k = 1, \dots, N(v) \tag{20b}$$

$$0 \leq x_j \leq 1 \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{V}_R; \quad x_j = 0 \text{ or } 1 \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{V}_Z. \tag{20c}$$

Theorem: Given an instance of **MGP** on a graph with a tree-decomposition of width ω , there is an equivalent instance of **MGP** on a graph

- With tree-width $\leq 2\omega + 1$
- Of maximum degree **3**.

Remark. If we start with an instance of AC-OPF, the equivalent problem is no longer an AC-OPF problem.

Approximation (Glover, 1975)(abridged)

Let \mathbf{x} be a variable, with bounds $0 \leq \mathbf{x} \leq 1$. Let $0 < \gamma < 1$. Then we can approximate

$$\mathbf{x} \approx \sum_{i=1}^L 2^{-i} \mathbf{y}_i$$

where each \mathbf{y}_i is a **binary variable**. In fact, choosing $L = \lceil \log_2 \gamma^{-1} \rceil$, we have

$$\mathbf{x} \leq \sum_{i=1}^L 2^{-i} \mathbf{y}_i \leq \mathbf{x} + \gamma.$$

So: given an instance of **MGP**, approximate each continuous variable \mathbf{x}_j in this manner.

Theorem: Consider an instance \mathcal{I} of problem **MGP**, with n variables. Then there is another instance, \mathcal{B} of **MGP**, with

- (1) \mathcal{B} is defined on the same graph as \mathcal{I} .
- (2) all variables in \mathcal{B} are binary.
- (3) For each continuous variable \mathbf{x}_j of \mathcal{I} , we now have $\log_2 J^* \log \epsilon^{-1}$ binary variables used to approximate \mathbf{x}_j .
- (4) Solving \mathcal{B} to exact optimality yields a solution to \mathcal{I} within tolerance ϵ .

J^* = size of largest set $J(v)$. (AC-OPF $\Rightarrow J^* = 2$)

Review

(1) A mixed-integer, graphical polynomial optimization problem on a graph with a tree-decomposition of width ω .

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(3) An all-binary, graphical polynomial optimization problem on the same graph which is equivalent to the problem in (2) within tolerance ϵ . The sets $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{v})$ have grown by a factor of $\log_2 J^* \log_2 \epsilon^{-1}$.

Ancient History of this Talk

Fulkerson and Gross (1965), binary packing integer programs

$$\text{IP} = \max \quad c^T x \tag{21a}$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad Ax \leq b, \tag{21b}$$

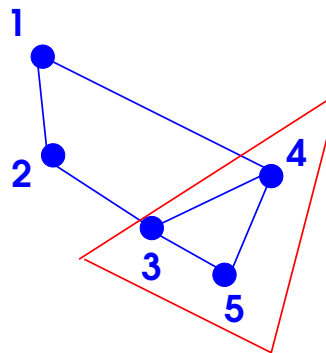
$$x \in \{0, 1\}^n \tag{21c}$$

Here, A has $0, 1$ -valued entries. **Idea:** use the structure of A .

The **intersection graph of A** , G_A , has:

- A vertex for each column of A .
- An edge between two columns j, k if there is a row i with $a_{ij} \neq 0$, $a_{ik} \neq 0$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{4} & \mathbf{5} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & 1 \\ & 1 & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & \\ & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$



Each row of A induces a clique of G_A .

Review

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(3) An all-binary, graphical polynomial optimization problem on the same graph which is equivalent to the problem in (2) within tolerance ϵ . The sets $J(\mathbf{v})$ have grown by a factor of $\log_2 J^* \log_2 \epsilon^{-1}$.



(4) **Corollary.** The intersection graph of the problem in (3) has a tree-decomposition of width at most

$$O(\omega J^* \log_2 J^* \log_2 \epsilon^{-1})$$

Note: There are **two** graphs. The initial graph used to define the problem, and the intersection graph for the constraints in (3).

Pièce de Résistance

Theorem. Given an all-binary problem on n variables and whose intersection graph has a tree-decomposition of width k , then there is an exact linear programming representation using

$$O(2^k n)$$

variables and constraints.

Construction similar to Lovász-Schrijver, Sherali-Adams, Lasserre, Bienstock-Zuckerberg

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J^* = size of largest set $J(\mathbf{v})$. (AC-OPF $J^* = 2$)

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(B) A linear program that solves the problem in (A) within tolerance ϵ , of size

$$O(2^{O(\omega J^*)} \omega J^* \epsilon^{-1} N)$$

Should we able to do better?

Probably.

But.

- There are trivial AC-OPF problems where there is a unique feasible solution and it is irrational.
Under the bit model of computing we cannot produce an “exact” answer.
- AC-OPF is weakly NP-hard on *trees*. Lavaei and Low (2011), a more recent proof by Coffrin and van Hentenryck.
- AC-OPF is strongly NP-hard on general graphs. A. Verma (2009). So no strong approximation algorithms exist unless $P = NP$.