

Solving QCQPs

Daniel Bienstock, Columbia University

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

Folklore result: QCQP is NP-hard

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Let w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n be **integers**, and consider:

$$\begin{aligned} W^* &\doteq \min - \sum_i x_i^2 \\ &\text{s.t. } \sum_i w_i x_i = 0, \\ &\quad -1 \leq x_i \leq 1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n. \end{aligned}$$

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$W^* = -n$, iff there exists a subset $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ with

$$\sum_{j \in J} w_j = \sum_{j \notin J} w_j$$

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$$\min c^T x - M \sum_j x_j^2$$

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$$-1 \leq x_j \leq 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n.$$

(and many other similar transformations)

Observation

Any instance of bounded-variable QCQP

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

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$$0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \Rightarrow x_i \approx \sum_{k=1}^N 2^{-k} y_{ik}, \quad y_i \in \{0, 1\}^N \quad (\text{Glover, 1970s})$$

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$$\begin{aligned} x_i x_j &= \sum_{k=1}^N 2^{-k} w_{ijk} + O(2^{-N}) \\ x_j - 1 + y_{ik} &\leq w_{ijk} \leq x_j \\ 0 &\leq w_{ijk} \leq y_{ik} \end{aligned}$$

Even more general

Solving systems of polynomial equations:

Problem: given polynomials $p_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, for $1 \leq i \leq m$
find $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $p_i(x) = 0, \forall i$

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Equivalent to the system on variables v, v_2, v_4, v_6, w, y and c :

$$\begin{aligned}c^2 &= 1 \\v^2 - cv_2 &= 0 \\v_2^2 - cv_4 &= 0 \\v_2v_4 - cv_6 &= 0 \\v_6w - cy &= 0 \\3cy - cv_4 &= -7\end{aligned}$$

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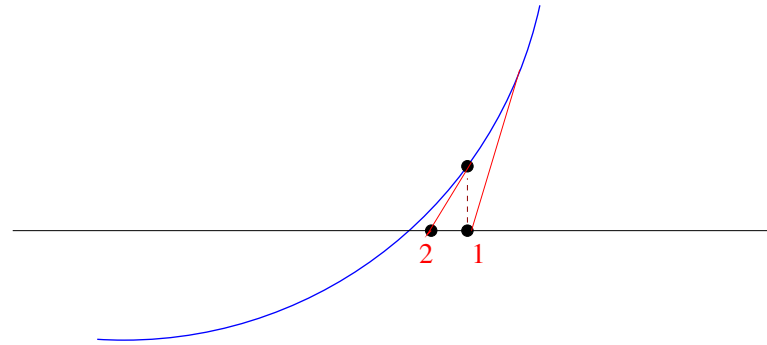
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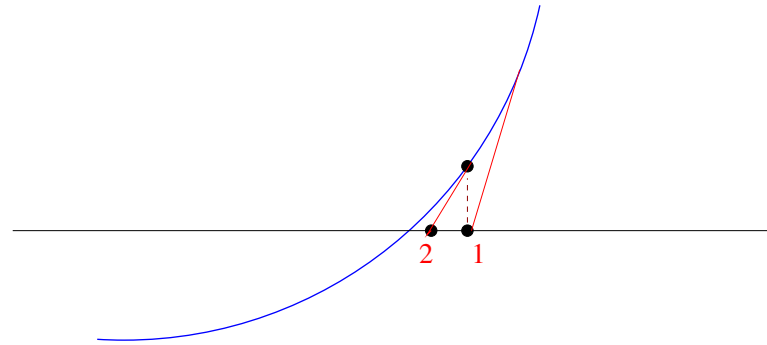


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→ If we start near a solution, quadratic convergence

“**Approximate**” solution to a system of polynomials:

a point in the region of quadratic convergence (to a solution)

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- View a problem as a vector in an appropriate space
- Endow that space with an appropriate metric
(Bombieri-Weyl Hermitian product)

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but a “nearby” problem instance could be much easier

- View a problem as a vector in an appropriate space
- Endow that space with an appropriate metric
(Bombieri-Weyl Hermitian product)
- In that space, uniformly sample a ball (of appropriate radius) around a given problem

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but a “nearby” problem instance could be much easier

- View a problem as a vector in an appropriate space
- Endow that space with an appropriate metric
(Bombieri-Weyl Hermitian product)
- In that space, consider the set of problems given by a ball (of appropriate radius) around a given problem
- We want the algorithm to run in polynomial time, on average, in that ball

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Blum, Shub, Smale (89), Blum, Cucker, Shub, Smale (98)

First version: A **non-uniform algorithm** specifies the existence of an algorithm *for each input size*.

As such, we cannot write a “program” that implements the algorithm.

It is more a proof of existence of an algorithm for each input size.

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Second version: A [uniform algorithm](#)

- allows operations over real numbers
- at unit cost per operation
- with infinite precision

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- **Not!** the usual bit-model of computation

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- Beltrán and Pardo (2009) – a randomized (Las Vegas) uniform algorithm that computes an approximate zero in *expected* polynomial time
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So what can be done over the reals?

Take any $\{-1, 1\}$ -linear program

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax = b \\ & x \in \{-1, 1\}^n. \end{aligned}$$

→

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x - M \sum_j x_j^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax = b \\ & -1 \leq x_j \leq 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n. \end{aligned}$$

- Fixed number of linear constraints?
- Fixed number of quadratic constraints?
- Non-convex quadratic constraints?

What can be done in polynomial time?

(B. and Alex Michalka, SODA 2014)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T Q x + c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|x - \mu_h\| \leq r_h, \quad h \in S, \\ & \|x - \mu_h\| \geq r_h, \quad h \in K, \\ & x \in P \doteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b\} \end{aligned}$$

Theorem.

For each fixed $|S|$, $|K|$ can be solved in polynomial time if either

(1) $|S| \geq 1$ and polynomially large number of faces of P intersect

$$\bigcap_{h \in S} \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x - \mu_h\| \leq r_h\},$$

or

(2) $|S| = 0$ and the number of rows of A is bounded.

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Strengthens previous results on the S-Lemma, and trust-region subproblem

The trust-region subproblem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & x^T Q x + c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} & \|x - \mu\| \leq r \end{array}$$

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Generalization: CDT (Celis-Dennis-Tapia) problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T Q_0 x + c_0^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T Q_1 x + c_1^T x + d_1 \leq 0 \\ & x^T Q_2 x + c_2^T x + d_2 \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where $Q_1 \succ 0$, $Q_2 \succ 0$

Even more general than QCQPs

Barvinok (STOC 1992):

For each fixed $p \geq 1$, there is a polynomial-time algorithm for deciding feasibility of a system

$$\begin{aligned}x^T M_i x &= 0, & 1 \leq i \leq p, \\ \|x\| &= 1, & x \in \mathbb{R}^n\end{aligned}$$

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- **Non-constructive.** Algorithm says “yes” or “no.”
- **Computational model?** Uniform algorithm? “Real-RAM”?

A (better?) alternative: ϵ -feasibility

For each fixed $p \geq 1$, given a system

$$\begin{aligned}x^T M_i x &= 0, & 1 \leq i \leq p, \\ \|x\| &= 1, & x \in \mathbb{R}^n\end{aligned}$$

and given $0 < \epsilon < 1$, either

- **Prove** that the system is **infeasible**, or
- **Output** $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with

$$\begin{aligned}-\epsilon &\leq x^T M_i x \leq \epsilon, & 1 \leq i \leq p, \\ 1 - \epsilon &\leq \|\hat{x}\| \leq 1 + \epsilon,\end{aligned}$$

in time polynomial in the data and in $\log \epsilon^{-1}$.

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Two issues: Constructiveness, and ϵ -feasibility

Modification to Barvinok's result

Assume that for each fixed $p \geq 1$, there is an algorithm that given a system

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Assuming such an algorithm exists ...

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And assume $|f_i(x)| \leq U_i$ over $\|x\| \leq 1$, $i = 2, \dots, m$.

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And assume $|f_i(\mathbf{x})| \leq U_i$ over $\|\mathbf{x}\| \leq 1$, $i = 2, \dots, m$.

Consider the system on variables $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $v_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 - v_0^2 + s_1^2 = 0, \quad (1a)$$

$$\mathbf{x}^T A_i \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c}_i^T v_0 \mathbf{x} + d_i v_0^2 + s_i^2 = 0 \quad 2 \leq i \leq m, \quad (1b)$$

$$\frac{s_i^2 + w_i^2}{U_i} - v_0^2 = 0 \quad 2 \leq i \leq m, \quad (1c)$$

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + s_1^2 + \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{s_i^2 + w_i^2}{U_i} + v_0^2 = m + 1. \quad (1d)$$

Claim: System (1) is feasible iff (*) is feasible

Consider a solution to:

$$\|x\|^2 - v_0^2 + s_1^2 = 0, \quad (1)$$

for $2 \leq i \leq m$:

$$\frac{s_i^2 + w_i^2}{U_i} - v_0^2 = 0, \quad (2)$$

$$x^T A_i x + c_i^T v_0 x + d_i v_0^2 + s_i^2 = 0, \quad (3)$$

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and so by (4)

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$$v_0^2 = 1,$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} \|x\|^2 - 1 &\leq 0, \\ x^T A_i x + c_i^T v_0 x + d_i &\leq 0 \quad 2 \leq i \leq m, \end{aligned}$$

which is what we wanted.

Theorem (abridged) System

$$\begin{aligned} \|x\|^2 - 1 &\leq 0, \\ x^T A_i x + c_i^T v_0 x + d_i &\leq 0 \quad 2 \leq i \leq m, \end{aligned}$$

is ϵ -feasible iff system

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is $O(m\epsilon)$ -feasible, and viceversa.

Optimization .

$$\begin{aligned} F^* &\doteq \min f_0(x) \\ &\text{s.t. } f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m. \end{aligned}$$

All f_i quadratic, at least one positive definite.

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Theorem. In time polynomial in the problem size and $\log \epsilon^{-1}$ we can compute a **value** \hat{F} such that

$$\hat{F} \leq F^* \leq \hat{F}.$$

Obtaining explicit solutions

$$\begin{aligned} f_i(x) &\leq 0, & 1 \leq i \leq m, \\ \|x\|^2 &= 1, \end{aligned}$$

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→ **Fix** $x_1 = \pm M_1$

Inductive step

We have fixed

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{x}_1 &= \hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_1 \\ \boldsymbol{x}_2 &= \hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_2 \\ &\dots \\ \boldsymbol{x}_k &= \hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_k \end{aligned}$$

Inductive step

We have fixed

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1, \quad \mathbf{x}_2 = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2, \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{x}_k = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k.$$

If

$$\sum_{j=1}^k \hat{x}_k = 1,$$

STOP

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STOP \rightarrow For $k + 1 \leq j \leq n$ compute*

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Assume wlog $\mathbf{M}_{k+1} = \max\{\mathbf{M}_j\}$. M_{k+1} is “big”

\rightarrow **Fix** $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \pm \mathbf{M}_{k+1}$

Theorem.

For each fixed $m \geq 1$ there is a polynomial-time algorithm that, given an optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_0(x) \doteq x^T Q_0 x + c_0^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T Q_i x + c_i^T x + d_i \leq 0 \quad 1 \leq i \leq m, \end{aligned}$$

where $Q_1 \succ 0$, and $0 < \epsilon < 1$, either

(1) proves that the problem is infeasible,

or

(2) computes an ϵ -feasible vector \hat{x} such that there exists no feasible $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $f_0(x) < f_0(\hat{x}) - \epsilon$.

The complexity of the algorithm is polynomial in the number of bits in the data and in $\log \epsilon^{-1}$

An **application**: the Optimal Power Flow problem (OPF)

Input: an undirected graph G .

- For every vertex k , **two** variables: e_k and f_k
- For every edge $\{k, m\}$, **four** (specific) quadratics:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{k,m}^P(e_k, f_k, e_m, f_m), & \quad H_{k,m}^Q(e_k, f_k, e_m, f_m) \\ H_{m,k}^P(e_k, f_k, e_m, f_m), & \quad H_{m,k}^Q(e_k, f_k, e_m, f_m). \end{aligned}$$

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Function F_k in the objective: convex quadratic

Complexity

Theorem (2011) Lavaei and Low: OPF is (weakly) NP-hard on trees.

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{e.g. } e_1 f_6 &\rightarrow w_{e_1, f_6}, \quad \text{etc} \\ W &\doteq \{w_{i,j}\}, \quad \text{then } W \succeq 0, \quad W \text{ of rank 1} \end{aligned}$$

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Reformulation of OPF:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & F \bullet W \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_i \bullet W \leq b_i \quad i = 1, 2, \dots \\ & W \succeq 0, \quad W \text{ of rank 1.} \end{aligned}$$

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SDP Relaxation of OPF:

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Fact: The SDP relaxation almost always has a rank-1 solution!!

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Fact: The SDP relaxation frequently has a rank-1 solution!!

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Fact: The SDP relaxation sometimes has a rank-1 solution!!

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Fact: The SDP relaxation sometimes has a rank-1 solution!!

Fact: But it is usually good!!

But: the SDP relaxation is always slow on large graphs

- Real-life grids $\rightarrow > 10^4$ vertices
- SDP relaxation of OPF does not terminate

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Definition 1: A graph has treewidth $\leq w$ if it has a chordal supergraph with clique number $\leq w + 1$

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(Seymour and Robertson, late 1980s)

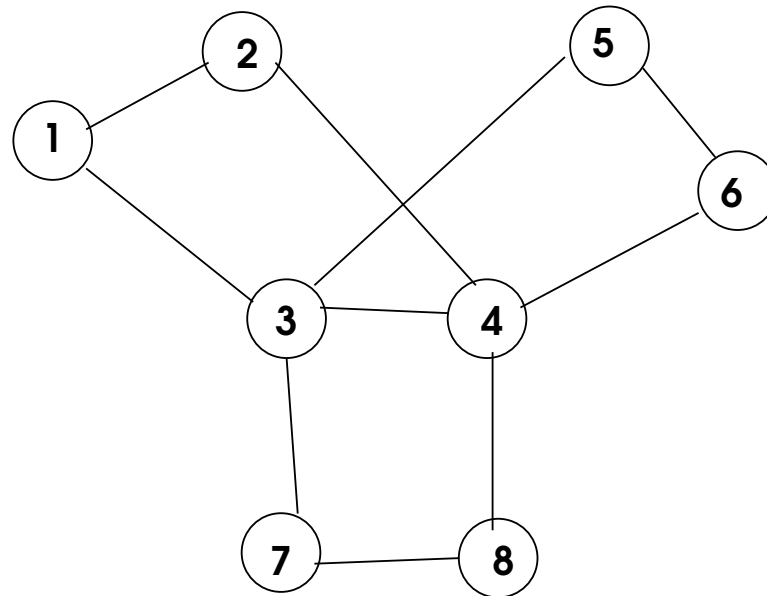
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Cholesky factorization of:



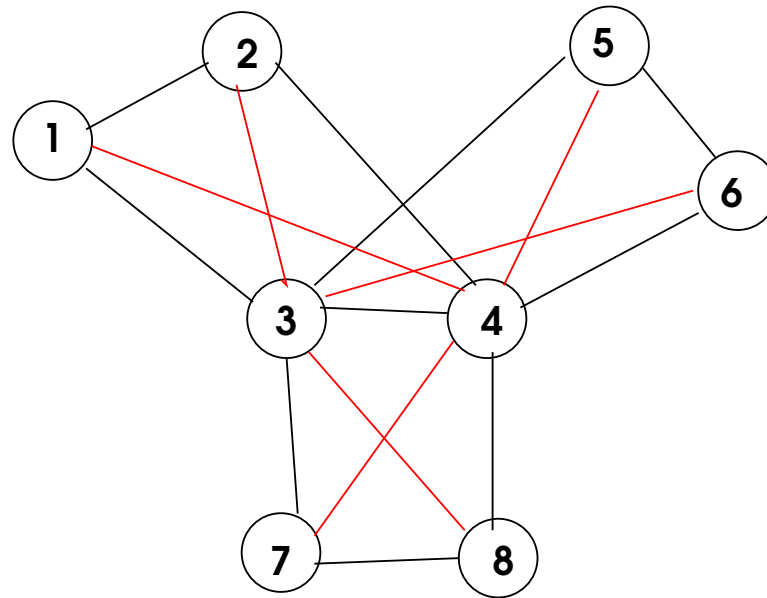
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Chordal supergraph:



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

But: the SDP relaxation is always slow on large graphs

- Real-life grids $\rightarrow > 10^4$ vertices
- SDP relaxation of OPF does not terminate

But...

Fact? Real-life grids have **small tree-width**

Matrix-completion Theorem gives fast SDP implementations:

Real-life grids with $\approx 3 \times 10^3$ vertices: \rightarrow 20 minutes runtime

OPF

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- For every edge $\{k, m\}$, **four** (specific) quadratics:

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Function F_k in the objective: convex quadratic

Graphical QCQP

Input: an undirected graph G .

- For every vertex k , a set of variables: $\{x_j : j \in I(k)\}$
- For every edge $e = \{k, m\}$, a quadratic

$$H_e(x) = H_e(\{x_j : j \in I(k) \cup I(m)\}).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_k F_k \left(\sum_{e \in \delta(k)} H_e(x) \right) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{e \in \delta(k)} H_e(x) \leq b_k \quad \forall k \\ & 0 \leq x_j \leq 1, \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$

Function F_k in the objective: arbitrary quadratic

Graphical PCPP

Input: an undirected graph G .

- For every vertex k , a set of variables: $\{x_j : j \in I(k)\}$
- For every edge $e = \{k, m\}$, a **polynomial**

$$P_e(x) = P_e(\{x_j : j \in I(k) \cup I(m)\}).$$

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Function F_k in the objective: arbitrary polynomial

BPCPP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & P_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & P_i(x) \leq b_i \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & x_j \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$

→ P_0, P_1, \dots, P_m : polynomials

BPCPP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & P_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & P_i(x) \leq b_i \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & x_j \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$

→ the **Clique graph** has:

- A vertex corresponding to each **variable**
- An edge $\{x_i, x_j\}$ if x_i and x_j occur in the same **row**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BPCPP: min} \quad & P_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & P_i(x) \leq b_i \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & x_j \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$

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Theorem:

If the clique graph has treewidth $\leq w$, there is an LP with $O(2^w m)$ variables and constraints that solves BPCPP.

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Proof. Lift-and-project techniques.

From GBPCPP to GPCPP

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GPCPP: } \quad \mathbf{F}^* &\doteq \min \sum_k F_k \left(\sum_{e \in \delta(k)} P_e(x) \right) \\ &\text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{e \in \delta(k)} P_e(x) \leq b_k \quad \forall k \\ &\quad 0 \leq x_j \leq 1, \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$

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$$0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \Rightarrow x_i = \sum_{k=1}^N 2^{-k} y_{ik} + O(2^{-N}), \quad y_i \in \{0, 1\}^N$$

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$$0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \Rightarrow x_i = \sum_{k=1}^N 2^{-k} y_{ik} + O(2^{-N}), \quad y_i \in \{0, 1\}^N$$

Theorem:

Given an instance of GPCPP with fixed treewidth of the underlying graph, and $0 < \epsilon < 1$, we can find a vector \hat{x}

- in time polynomial in the data and in ϵ^{-1} ,
- s.t. $\forall k, \sum_{e \in \delta(k)} P_e(\hat{x}) \leq b_k + M_k \epsilon$
 ($M_k =$ largest coefficient in $\sum_{e \in \delta(k)} P_e(x)$)
- and $\sum_k F_k \left(\sum_{e \in \delta(k)} P_e(\hat{x}) \right) \leq F^* + M \epsilon$

Mathematical Programming C

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