

A Computational Theory of Robust Localization Verifiability in the Presence of Pure Outlier Measurements

Mahroo Bahreinian¹, Roberto Tron¹⁻²

(1) Department of Systems Engineering, (2) Department of Mechanical Engineering



Boston University
Robotics Laboratory

Introduction

- Localization** a set of nodes with pairwise relative translation-only measurements corrupted with outliers based on l_1 -norm optimization
- Different versions of this problem is applied in different fields like Structure from Motion (SFM), **Sensor Networks** and Simultaneous Localization And Mapping (SLAM)
- Providing a procedure to compute a **priori probability** that the recovered solution is completely or partially **congruent to the ground truth embedding**

Method

- A sensor network is modeled as an oriented graph $G(V, E)$
- Relative measurements are marred by random **outliers** with distribution

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & w.p. 1 - p_{ij}^+ - p_{ij}^- \\ F^- & w.p. p_{ij}^- \\ F^+ & w.p. p_{ij}^+ \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

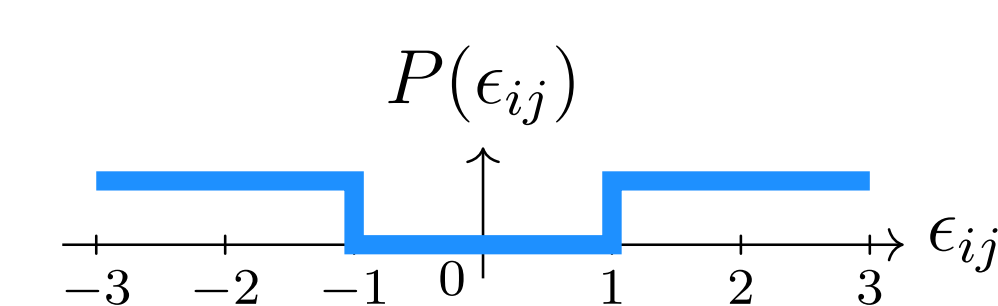


Fig.2. distribution of outlier

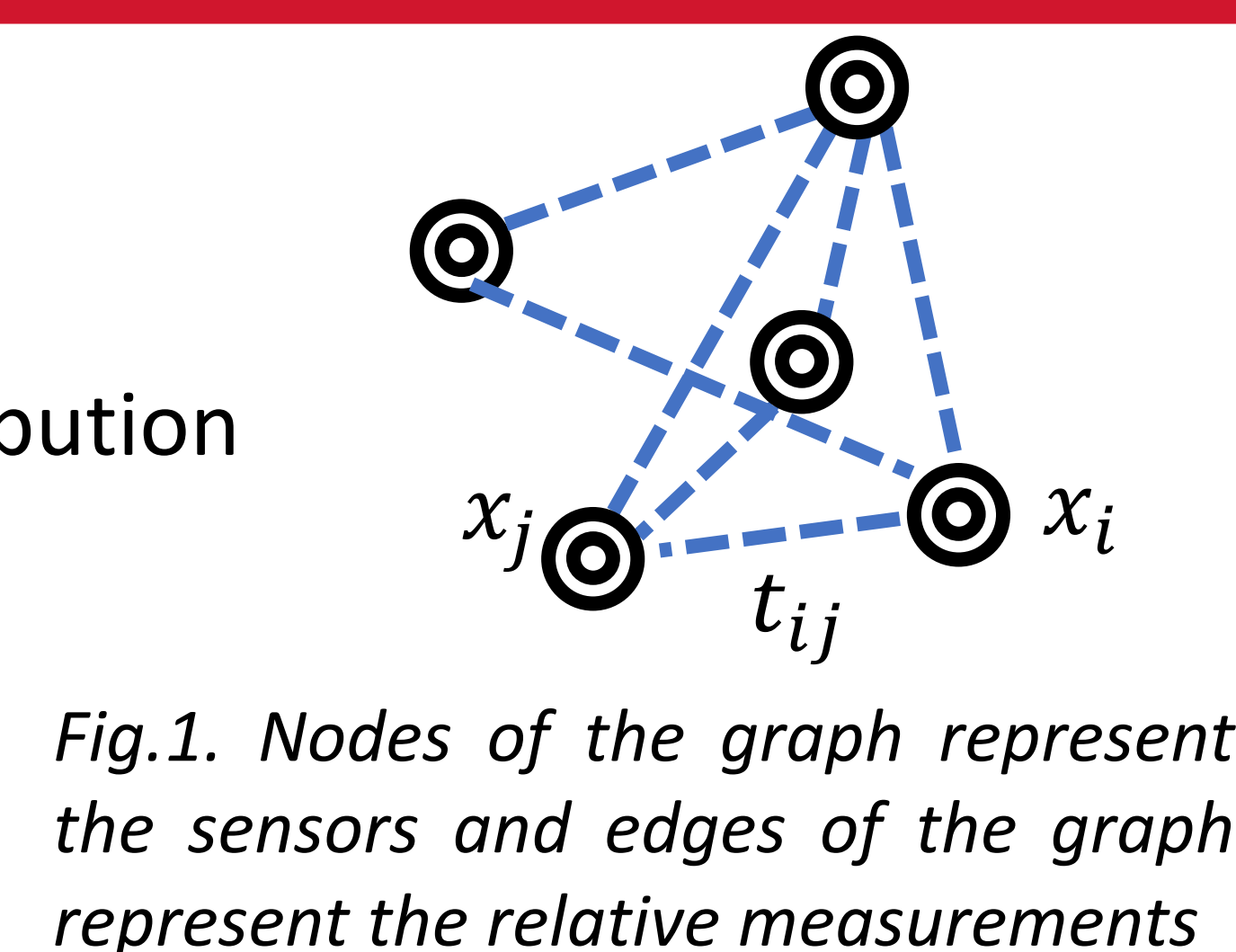


Fig.1. Nodes of the graph represent the sensors and edges of the graph represent the relative measurements

F^-, F^+ are **uniform distributions** uniform distribution with arbitrary, but finite, non-zero support

- Given t_{ij} , localize set of nodes by find all solution of the robust optimization problem

$$\min \sum_{(i,j) \in E} \|x_j - x_i - t_{ij}\|_1 \quad (3)$$

- Fixing **Translation Ambiguity** by choosing a global reference frame such that x_1 moves to origin
- Changing variables to **Canonical Form** such that the optimal solution is at origin
- Reduction optimization problem to **one-dimensional** by decomposing the l_1 -norm to **sum of absolute value across dimensions**

$$\min \sum_d \sum_{(i,j) \in E} |[x_j]_d - [x_i]_d - [\varepsilon_{ij}]_d| \quad (4)$$

- Transform the optimization problem to **Linear Programming** form

Types of Linear programming problem solutions:

Unique optimal solution	$0_V = \chi_{opt}$: Uniquely Verifiable	Cost-equivalent to ground truth
Multiple optimal solution	$0_V \in \chi_{opt}$: Verifiable	Cost-equivalent to ground truth
Unique/multiple optimal solution	$0_V \notin \chi_{opt}$: Not Verifiable	Cost is different from ground truth

- Introducing the **maximal verifiable component** of a graph as a subset of nodes that are always zero in the set of solutions and **congruent to ground truth** embedding.
- Defining the function that indicate if the associated localization problem is **verifiable**

$$VER = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0_V \in \chi_{opt} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

- Defining the **verifiability probability** as the probability of recovering a solution whose **cost** is the same as the ground truth.

$$p_{ver} = E[VER(G, E^\pm)] \quad (6)$$

Results

- The **verifiability** of a graph is **independent** from the specific **true positions** of nodes
- The notion of **verifiability** depends only on the graph **topology** G , the **support of the outliers** E and the **sign of the outliers**
- For a fixed outlier support E , if we change the **scale of the outliers** by positive factor, the **verifiability** of the graph **does not change**

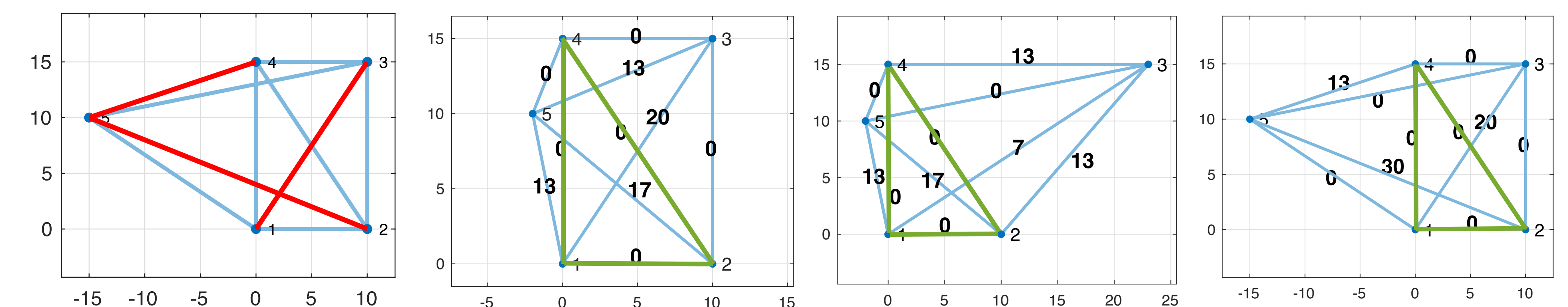


Fig.3. Verifiable graph with 5 nodes and 10 edges, 3 edges are outliers are shown by red color in left-most, the cost of each edge is shown on each and the cost of optimal solution for all embeddings are equal to the cost of the ground truth embedding which is 63

- Verifiable graph with 5 nodes and 10 edges and 3 outliers. The maximal verifiable component is the subgraph $E = \{(1,2), (2,4), (4,1)\}$

#outliers, $ E_c^\pm $	#possible combinations, $\binom{ E }{ E_c^\pm }$	#verifiable combinations
0	1	1
1	20	20
2	180	180
3	960	920
4	3360	2680
5	8064	4524
6	13440	4560
7	15360	2820
8	11520	1080
9	5120	240
10	1024	24

Table1. Verifiability analysis for all possible cases of outlier support for graph in Fig.3

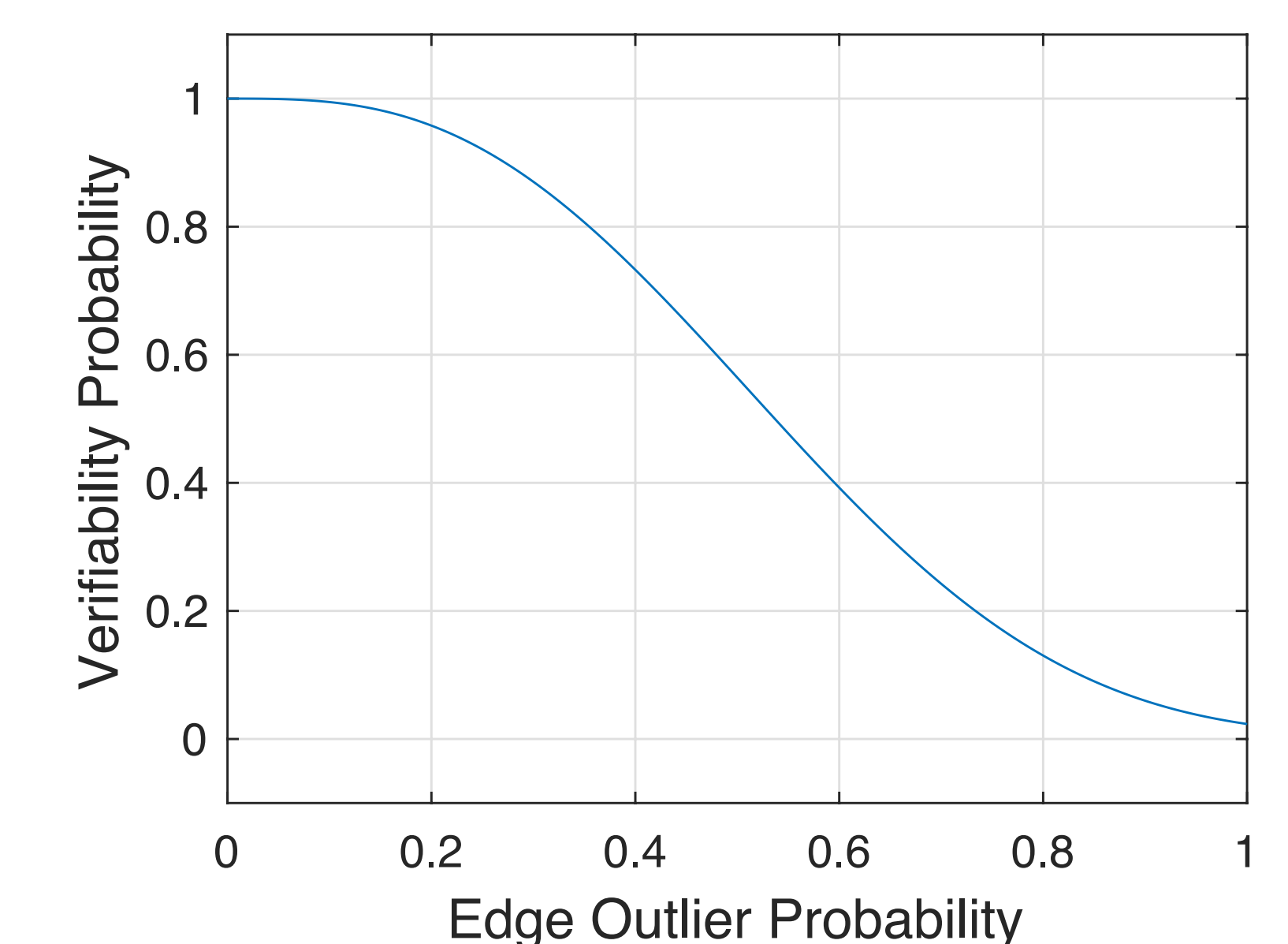


Fig.4. Verifiability probability for the graph in Fig.2

Conclusion

- Estimation of embedding of the nodes through l_1 -norm and **Linear Programming** optimization
- Providing a method to compute **verifiability** of a graph
- Defining the **verifiability probability** which characterizes the a **priori reliability**
- Studying the effect of adding noise to measurements on results and applying Huber-Loss function and piece-wise loss function for the future work

References

- [1]. A. Beck. Introduction to nonlinear optimization: theory, algorithms, and applications with MATLAB, 2014.
- [2]. G. Appa. On the uniqueness of solutions to linear programs. Journal of the Operational Research Society, 2002.