

Discrete Optimization - ADM2

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Version

git: 4e2e53d-*

compiled: Friday 17th June, 2022 19:09

Abstract

The following lecture notes are my personal (and therefore unofficial) write-up for 'Discrete Optimization' aka 'ADM II', which took place in summer semester 2022 at Technische Universität Berlin. I do not guarantee correctness, completeness, or anything else. Importantly, note that I willfully changed some specific notations, reordered some material, and left out parts that I didn't found worth typing down.

If you miss something, feel free to contribute in the repository!

Contents

Summary of lectures	3
I Lecture notes	5
1 Introduction	5
1.1 IP is "hard"	6
1.2 Representation of IPs	9
1.3 Complexity	10
2 Hardness	10
3 Complexity differences between IP and LP	18
3.1 Optimization vs. Separation	18
3.2 Certificate construction	21
3.3 Non-linearity in LP	25
4 Approaches to IP	27
4.1 Integer-optimal solutions in LP for special coefficient matrices	28
4.2 Integer-optimal solutions in LP for special RHSs	31
4.3 Combinatorial algorithms for IP	49
4.4 Fixed dimension IPs	60
4.5 Approximation algorithms	60
4.6 Rounding non-integer solutions	60
4.7 Cutting Planes	61
II Appendix	65
A Exercise sheets	65
1. exercise sheet	66
2. exercise sheet	67
3. exercise sheet	69
4. exercise sheet	71
5. exercise sheet	73
6. exercise sheet	74
7. exercise sheet	75
8. exercise sheet	77
Index	80
Image attributions	82
Literature	82

Summary of lectures

Lecture 1 (Di 19 Apr 2022)	5
Definitions for ILP. Binary LP. Disaggregation.	
Lecture 2 (Do 21 Apr 2022)	7
Further intuition why IP is hard. Big- \mathcal{O} notation	
Lecture 3 (Di 26 Apr 2022)	10
Hardness. Decision problems.	
Lecture 4 (Do 28 Apr 2022)	13
NP-complete. Problems in NPC . Reductions. Weakly vs. strongly.	
Lecture 5 (Di 03 May 2022)	17
co- NP . Ellipsoid method. Separation vs. optimization. Polar of polyhedrons.	
Lecture 6 (Do 05 May 2022)	20
Representation of polyhedra. Theorem of the Alternative and applications. Non-linearity in LP.	
Lecture 7 (Di 10 May 2022)	25
Convex duality. IP solving strategies. Integrality of LPs. Totally unimodular matrices. Network matrices.	
Lecture 8 (Do 12 May 2022)	31
Alternative MST formulations. Submodularity. Deriving Kruskal from LP.	
Lecture 9 (Di 17 May 2022)	35
Matroids. Greedy works only on matroids.	
Lecture 10 (Do 19 May 2022)	40
Polymatroids. Totally dual integral. Intersection of matroids. Circuits.	
Lecture 11 (Di 24 May 2022)	45
Efficient 2-Matroid intersection algorithm. Bipartite matching as an application. 3-Matroid is NPC . Further thoughts on Totally Dual Integrality.	
Lecture 12 (Do 02 June 2022)	49
General matchings via LP. Prerequisites for blossom algorithm.	
Lecture 13 (Di 07 June 2022)	54
TODO	
Lecture 14 (Do 09 June 2022)	54

Matching-like algorithms. T -joins as a generalization. Properties of T -joins.
Optimal T -joins in poly-time.

Lecture 15 (Di 14 June 2022) **58**

TODO

Lecture 16 (Do 16 June 2022) **61**

TODO

Part I

Lecture notes

Lecture 1
Di 19 Apr 2022

1 Introduction

In ADM1 we often already worked with Integer Programming and just assumed everything is fine. In this course however, we want to find out how Integer Programming actually works, why it is generally "hard", and under which circumstances it is "easy".

Definition 1.1 (Flavors of IP). First of all, we want to define different variants of **Integer Programming**:

- **Pure Integer Programming** assumes *all* variables are integer.
- **Mixed Integer Programming** also allows some variables to be real.
- **Binary Integer Programming**, also called 0-1-Integer-Programming, restricts the integer variables to $\mathbb{B} := \{0, 1\}$. Mixed variants are also possible.

Question 1.2. Why is IP harder than LP? Naively, one would assume this should *not* be the case, because our search space is smaller (at most countably infinite)!

Let's solve the IP in ADM1-style - suppose

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x \in Q = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n : Ax \leq b\} \end{aligned}$$

For simplicity, assume Q is bounded. Then the set of feasible points in Q is finite, and therefore we can consider the polytope

$$\text{conv}(Q) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid A'x \leq b'\}$$

for suitable A' and b' . Notice all vertices must be in Q and thus are integral. As a consequence, it is sufficient to solve the LP

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A'x \leq b'. \end{aligned}$$

Warning. Computing A', b' is non-trivial! In fact, computing the **integer hull** $\text{conv}(Q)$ is what makes IP hard.

1.1 IP is "hard"

We can gather more evidence that IP must be hard.

Theorem 1.3. Every logical statement can be expressed with integer programming.

Proof. It suffices to show that for variables $x_1, x_2, y \in \mathbb{B}$ we can find IPs that model \wedge, \vee, \neg .

- $y = x_1 \wedge x_2$ can be modeled as

$$\begin{aligned} y &\leq x_1 \\ y &\leq x_2 \\ y &\geq x_1 + x_2 - 1 \end{aligned}$$

- $y := x_1 \vee x_2$ can be modeled as

$$\begin{aligned} y &\geq x_1 \\ y &\geq x_2 \\ y &\leq x_1 + x_2 \end{aligned}$$

- $y := \neg x$ can be modeled as

$$y = 1 - x$$

□

Theorem 1.4. IP can model (finite) unions of polyhedra, e.g. non-convex problems.

Proof. Consider

$$P := \bigcup_{i=1}^k \underbrace{\{x \mid A_i x \leq b_i\}}_{P_i}$$

and introduce auxiliary binary variables

$$y_i := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in P_i, \\ 0, & \text{if we don't care.} \end{cases}$$

Now, assume $M \in \mathbb{R}$ large enough (**Big- M method**), such that

$$P_i \subseteq \bar{P} := \{x \mid A_i x \leq b_i + M \cdot \mathbf{1}\}$$

for all i . Thus, we can construct following IP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_i x \leq b_i + (1 - y_i)M \cdot \mathbf{1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \\ & \sum_i y_i = 1 \end{aligned}$$

This forces exactly one y_i to 1, resulting that $x \in P_i$ and $x \in \bar{P}$ is sufficient. We call this method **righthandside Big-M**, short RHS. Further information can be found in [NW99, Ch. 1]. \square

Note. It's also possible to handle M as a symbolic value, but this makes other things more complicated.

Problem. Finding M big enough can make LP hard to solve, because of matrix-inversions getting numerically unstable.

Alternative proof of Theorem 1.4. Assume that we can bound each $x \in P_i$ by u_i , i.e. $x \leq u_i$ (note that this is basically a hidden big- M !). Now we can disaggregate x for each P_i as its own private $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^k$, and analogously introduce $y_i \in \mathbb{B}$ to restrict ourselves to one polyhedron:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_i x_i \leq y_i b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \\ & x_i \leq y_i u_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n y_i = 1, \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = x, \\ & x, x_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Again, exactly one y_i is equal to 1, forcing the other x_j to be equal to 0, and thus setting x to x_i . We call this method **upper bound on x Big-M**, short UBX. \square

Remark 1.5. In general, it cannot be said if RHS or UBX is better. Even though RHS only introduces n new variables as opposed to UBX's nk variables, UBX's disaggregated formulation often is *tighter* in the sense that the LP relaxation is closer to the integer hull.

Lecture 2
Do 21 Apr 2022

Theorem 1.6. IP can approximate any objective function infinitely good.

Proof. First, consider a **piecewise linear** objective function f with (not necessarily equidistant) breakpoints a_1, \dots, a_k .

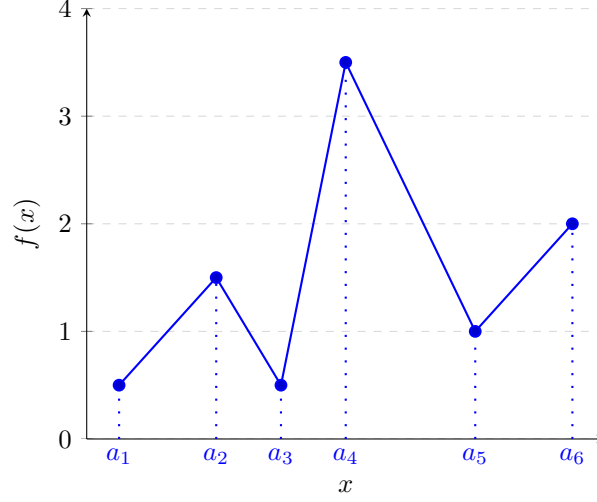


Figure 1: A piecewise linear function

Defining the intervals $I_i := [a_i, a_{i+1}]$ for each segment of f , we can introduce binary variables y_i such that

$$y_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in I_i, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Note that for $x \in I_i$, x is a convex combination of a_i, a_{i+1} . Therefore, we can express x as a linear combination of all breakpoints a_i , with the additional constraint that all except 2 scalars must be 0. By linearity, this also holds for $f(x)$. Translating into IP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\lambda} \quad & \sum_i \lambda_i f(a_i) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \lambda_1 \leq y_1, \\ & \lambda_k \leq y_{k-1}, \\ & \lambda_i \leq y_{i-1} + y_i, \quad i = 2, \dots, k-1, \\ & \sum_i y_i = 1 \end{aligned}$$

One can show this already suffices to model any cost function: For suitable choices of breakpoints we can approximate any function by piecewise linear functions. Details can be found in [AMO93, Ch. 14] or [NW99, Ch. 1]. \square

Conclusion 1.7. Summarizing, following facts that hold for IP, but not LP, deliver an intuition why IP should be hard:

1. Consider a polyhedron $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax = b\}$ and its integer hull Q . Even

though P can be "smooth" (e.g. cube), its integer hull can look more like a "disco ball" with many facets.

2. In real life, many problems can be modeled with decision variables. IP can handle this, see [Theorem 1.3](#).
3. Additionally, IP also can handle non-convex problems, see [Theorem 1.4](#) and [Theorem 1.6](#).

1.2 Representation of IPs

For a given IP, a set Q of feasible points can be formulated by many polyhedra P .

Example 1.8. Consider

$$Q := \{0000, 1000, 0100, 0010, 0110, 0101, 0011\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^4.$$

Then we can give following representations P_i such that P_i is an integer hull of Q :

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid 93x_1 + 49x_2 + 37x_3 + 29x_4 \leq 111\} \\ P_2 &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid 2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 \leq 2\} \\ P_3 &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid 2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 \leq 2, \\ &\quad x_1 + x_2 \leq 1, \\ &\quad x_1 + x_3 \leq 1, \\ &\quad x_1 + x_4 \leq 1\} \end{aligned}$$

One can show that $P_3 \subsetneq P_2 \subsetneq P_1$.

Example 1.9. A real-life example is the problem of placing facilities. Given n stores and m warehouses, decide which warehouse should be build at all, and which should deliver which store (for some cost function). Let $y_i \in \mathbb{B}$ denote if warehouse i should be opened, and x_{ij} if warehouse i should serve store j . Then

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &:= \{x \mid \forall i : \sum_j x_{ij} \leq my_i\}, \\ P_2 &:= \{x \mid \forall i, j : x_{ij} \leq y_i\} \end{aligned}$$

both represent the condition to only serve stores from warehouses that are opened. Notice that $P_2 \subsetneq P_1$ is tighter, but has $n \cdot m$ instead of n constraints.

1.3 Complexity

In order to define hardness, it is useful to define complexity first. We can use **big- \mathcal{O}** for this. During the rest of the lecture, we had a recap on this. For details, refer to canonical sources.

Lecture 3
Di 26 Apr 2022

2 Hardness

Prior, we only gave intuition why IP is "harder" than LP. In order to analyze IP more thoroughly, we now want to work towards a formal definition of hardness of problems. Basically, there are two types of problems for now:

Definition 2.1 (Problem types). We differentiate between

- **decision problems**, which can be answered by *Yes* or *No* only, and
- **optimization problems**, which seeks for a numerical value minimizing a certain (cost) function.

For the beginning, we can cheat and restrict ourselves to decision problems.

Example 2.2. Possible decision problems could be:

1. Does there exist a Hamiltonian cycle?
2. Is the LP feasible?

Question 2.3. How do we model an optimization problem as an decision problem?

Answer. We can simply introduce a parameter z which we use as a bound for the value we want to optimize.

Example 2.4. Possible reformulations of optimization problems are therefore:

1. Does there exist a feasible x with $c^T x \leq z$?
2. Does there exist a spanning tree with cost less than z ?
3. Is there a clique with size less than z ?

Definition 2.5. A **clique** C is a subset of nodes V of a graph $G = (V, E)$ s.t. for all $i, j \in C$ it must hold true that $(i, j) \in E$.

Theorem 2.6. When we model an optimization problem as a decision problem, then there exist a oracle-polynomial way to solve the optimization problem using the decision problem as an oracle.

Algorithm 1: Oracle-polynomial algorithm for max-clique

```

Use binary search to find  $z^*$  in  $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ 
 $G' \leftarrow G = (V, E)$ 
for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  do
     $G'' \leftarrow G'$ , but remove all edges incident to node  $i$ 
    if Call of decision oracle on  $G''$ ,  $z^*$  is true then
         $G' \leftarrow G''$ 
    end
end

```

Theorem 2.7. Final $\overline{G} := G'$ is a max-clique.

Proof. The size of a max clique in G' never goes below z^* . Therefore, there exists a clique $C \subseteq \overline{G}$ with $|C| = z^*$. Suppose \overline{G} has more than z^* nodes. Then $i \in \overline{G} \setminus C$. But then the algorithm would have deleted this node! \square

Corollary 2.8. If we have an optimal oracle, then one can solve decision version in oracle-polynomial time using the optimal oracle.

Conclusion 2.9. Optimization and decision version differ only by a polynomial factor of complexity. Therefore, either both are easy or both are hard.

Definition 2.10 (Certificate). Given an instance of any problem with size n , a **certificate** is a binary-encoded string that is generated by some algorithm specific to the problem, taking the instance as input. We say the certificate is a **succinct certificate**, if its *length* is polynomial in the input size n .

Definition 2.11 (NP). We say a (decision) problem P lies in **NP**, if for all Yes-instances I there exists a succinct certificate C and a certificate checking algorithm A that confirms $A(I, C)$ in polynomial time.

Theorem 2.12. Max-clique lies in **NP**

Proof. We use our clique C directly as the certificate.

Algorithm 2: Certificate checking for max-clique

```

if  $|C| < z$  then
  | return NO
end
else
  | for  $i, j \in C$  do
    | | if  $(i, j) \notin E$  then
    | | | return NO
    | | end
  | end
end
return YES

```

□

Remark 2.13. Note that we don't care for No-instances! In order to verify them we would need to list all $\binom{n}{z}$ subsets (for max-clique), which is *not* polynomial.

Theorem 2.14. $P \subseteq NP$

Proof. Let $P \in P$. Then there exists a polynomial algorithm A . Record the steps of A on an instance I and use this as a polynomial certificate. □

Theorem 2.15. $LP \in NP$, using decision variant if there is any feasible x .

Proof. If feasible, there exists a basic feasible solution x^* . We verify by checking $Bx^* = b$. One can show that x^* has polynomial bits. □

Let's also have a look at the canonical **NP** problem:

Definition 2.16 (Satisfiability problem, SAT). Consider n logical variables v_1, \dots, v_n , allowing also the negated literals $\overline{v_i}$. Additionally, we have m clauses C_1, \dots, C_m , which are subsets of the literals. Determining if there is an assignment such that the overall clause is true (i.e. each subclause has at least one true literal) is known as the **satisfiability problem**, for short SAT.

Example 2.17. A few examples:

1. $(v_1 \vee v_2 \vee v_3) \wedge (\overline{v_1} \vee \overline{v_2} \vee \overline{v_3})$
This instance is true for $v = (110)$.

$$2. (v_1 \vee v_2) \wedge (\overline{v_1} \vee v_2) \wedge (\overline{v_2} \vee v_3) \wedge (\overline{v_3} \vee \overline{v_4})$$

One can check that this instance is always false.

Theorem 2.18. SAT \in NP

Proof. The satisfiability truth assignment is a succinct certificate. \square

Theorem 2.19 (Cook). If $P \in \mathbf{NP}$, then P has an oracle-polynomial algorithm with SAT as an oracle.

Proof. Suppose $P \in \mathbf{NP}$, then P has a non-deterministic Turing Machine with polynomial size. Encode the Turing Machine as a logical formula such that it is true iff P is a Yes-instance. \square

Lecture 4
Do 28 Apr 2022

We remind ourselves that IP can formulate logic, and therefore can encode SAT formulas.

Example 2.20. Translating from [Example 2.17](#):

1.

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 + x_3 &\geq 1 \\ (1 - x_1) + (1 - x_2) + (1 - x_3) &\geq 1 \\ x &\in \mathbb{B}^3 \end{aligned}$$

2.

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 &\geq 1 \\ (1 - x_1) + x_2 &\geq 1 \\ (1 - x_2) + x_3 &\geq 1 \\ (1 - x_2) + (1 - x_3) &\geq 1 \\ x &\in \mathbb{B}^3 \end{aligned}$$

Definition 2.21 (Reduction). We say $P \propto Q$ (" P reduces to Q ") if there exists a polynomial algorithm A such that

1. for all instances $I \in P$, $A(I)$ is element of Q ,
2. I is **Yes-preserving**, e.g. I is Yes-instance of P iff $A(I)$ is Yes-instance of Q .

Definition 2.22 (NP-complete). A problem P is **NP-complete**, if

1. $P \in \mathbf{NP}$, and
2. for all $Q \in \mathbf{NP}$ it holds that $Q \propto P$.

We call the set of all **NP-complete** problems **NPC**.

Corollary 2.23. Using our new definition, it follows immediately from **Theorem 2.19** that $\text{SAT} \in \mathbf{NPC}$.

Proof Strategy. In order to show a problem P is **NP-complete** we first describe a way to construct a succinct certificate, and state an algorithm that describes how we use the certificate to verify a Yes-instance is indeed a Yes-instance.

After that, we find a suitable problem Q , which is known to be **NP-complete**, and try to prove $Q \propto P$. We do this by converting each instance of Q into an instance of P in polynomial time, and verify that the conversion is Yes-preserving.

Theorem 2.24. SAT is as hard as 0-1-IP

Proof. We know $0\text{-}1\text{-IP} \in \mathbf{NP}$, and therefore $0\text{-}1\text{-IP} \propto \text{SAT}$. It remains to show $\text{SAT} \propto 0\text{-}1\text{-IP}$: Let $I \in \text{SAT}$ with clauses $c_j = l_1, \dots, l_k$. We convert each clause to the inequality $l_1 + \dots + l_k \geq 1$ for binary l . As shown in **Theorem 1.3**, this encodes exactly the logic formula. \square

Definition 2.25 (3SAT). We define **3SAT** as a variant of SAT where we only allow clauses with exactly 3 literals, e.g. $|C_j| = 3$.

Theorem 2.26. 3SAT $\in \mathbf{NPC}$

Proof. 3SAT $\in \mathbf{NP}$ follows directly from $\text{SAT} \in \mathbf{NP}$. It remains to show $\text{SAT} \propto 3\text{SAT}$. Consider clause $C_j = (l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_k)$ for $k > 3$. Add $k - 3$ new variables $y_{2,j}, \dots, y_{k-2,j}$ and replace C_j with

$$(l_1 \vee l_2 \vee y_{2,j}) \wedge (\bar{y}_{2,j} \vee l_3 \vee y_{3,j}) \wedge \dots \wedge (\bar{y}_{k-2,j} \vee l_{k-1} \vee l_k)$$

One can figure out via proof tables and induction that this is indeed Yes-preserving. \square

Definition 2.27 (Node cover, NC). Given graph $G = (N, E)$, we say $C \subseteq N$ is a **node cover** if for every edge in E at least one of the nodes is in N . We define NC as the decision problem if there is a node cover of at most size z .

Theorem 2.28. $\text{NC} \in \text{NPC}$

Proof. We can easily check if for a given C , it is indeed a node cover in polynomial time. Therefore $\text{NC} \in \text{NPC}$. We want to reduce from 3SAT:

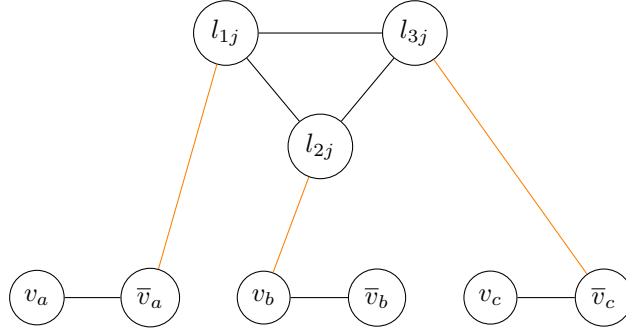


Figure 2: Schema of how to use triangle "gadgets" for a single clause C_j

Consider an instance of 3SAT and construct a graph as shown in *Figure 2*, e.g. for each variable v_i construct an edge between nodes v_i and \bar{v}_i , and for each clause C_j construct a triangle l_{1j}, l_{2j}, l_{3j} . Now, connect each node of the triangle with the corresponding literal in the clause (the **orange edges**). Using this construction, we want to prove that there is a node cover of size $n + 2m$ iff the 3SAT instance is valid.

Suppose the 3SAT instance is feasible. We use the n nodes of the feasible labeling corresponding to the literals. Now, because the labelling is valid, at least one orange edge per triangle must be covered, by construction. Therefore, we can choose 2 additional nodes per triangle that cover the triangle and the remaining orange edges.

On the other side, suppose there is a node cover of size (at most) $n + 2m$. Analogous, each triangle must have at least 2 chosen nodes to cover each edge, and each literal-pair at least 1 node, meaning our bounds must actually be exact to not overshoot $n + 2m$. Therefore, the node cover represents a valid truth assignment, which is also a valid labelling, because each clause has a remaining orange edge, which is covered by one of the literals.

Therefore, our reduction is Yes-preserving. \square

Remark 2.29. NC in bipartite graphs is in **P**.

Definition 2.30 (Independent set, IS). For a graph $G = (N, E)$ we call $S \subseteq N$ a **independent set** (or **stable set**) if no edge has both nodes in S . The decision problem, called IS, is there is a independent set of size at least z .

Theorem 2.31. $\text{IS} \in \text{NPC}$

Proof. $\text{IS} \in \text{NP}$ trivial. We can also easily show that C is a node cover iff $N \setminus C$ is stable. \square

Theorem 2.32. $\text{CLIQUE} \in \text{NPC}$

Proof. $\text{CLIQUE} \in \text{NP}$ trivial. We can also easily show that C is a clique in $G = (N, E)$ iff C is stable in (N, \overline{E}) . \square

Definition 2.33 (Partition, PART). Given $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. The decision problem if there is a set $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that

$$\sum_{i \in S} a_i = \sum_{i \notin S} a_i$$

is called **partition problem**, PART.

Theorem 2.34. $\text{PART} \in \text{NPC}$

Proof Sketch. We can show [KV18, Ch. 15.5]:

$$\text{SAT} \propto \text{3-dim match} \propto \text{subset sum} \propto \text{PART}$$

Remark 2.35. Still, PART has a pseudopolynomial algorithm using dynamic programming.

Definition 2.36. If a (numerical) problem is only **NP**-complete if it depends on the size of the numbers (e.g. polynomial in the unary bit model), we call it **weakly NP-complete**. Otherwise, we call it **strongly NP-complete**.

Definition 2.37 (3-partition, 3PART). Given the numbers $a_1, \dots, a_{3k} \in \mathbb{Z}$. The problem, if we can partition these numbers in sets of 3 such that every set has the same value, is called **3-Partition**, or 3PART.

Theorem 2.38. 3PART is strongly **NP**-complete.

Remark 2.39. Only weakly **NP**-complete problems could have pseudopolynomial algorithms (except $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$).

Lecture 5
Di 03 May 2022

Definition 2.40 (NP-hard). Consider an optimization problem P . Formally, we can't have $P \in \mathbf{NP}$, but because of **Theorem 2.6** we can introduce the notion to call P **NP-hard**, if its decision variant is **NP**-complete.

Definition 2.41 (co-NP). We say $P \in \mathbf{co-NP}$, if we have a succinct certificate for verifying No-instances.

Example 2.42. Given a matrix A . We call it totally unimodular, if every square submatrix has determinant 0 or 1. Deciding if A is totally unimodular is in **co-NP**, because giving a failing submatrix as a succinct certificate is easy.

Theorem 2.43. The decision version of LP is in **co-NP**.

Proof. The answer to the decision problem is No iff

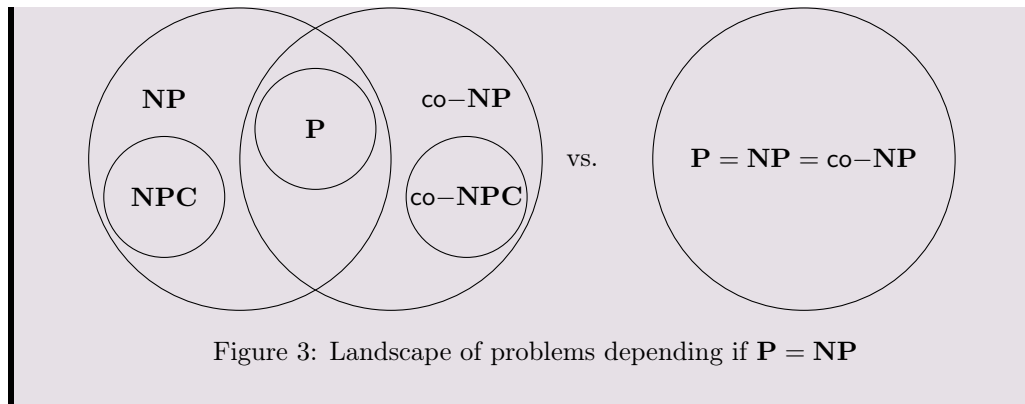
1. the system is infeasible, or
2. the system is feasible, but the optimal cost is larger than the z we want.

Because both can be decided with the tools we have in polynomial time, LP is indeed in **co-NP**. \square

Definition 2.44 (co-NP-complete). Analogous to **Definition 2.22**, we can also define **co-NP-completeness**, or **co-NPC**, for the "most difficult" problem in **co-NP**.

Remark 2.45. It holds that $\mathbf{co-NPC} \cap \mathbf{NPC} = \emptyset$, except $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$. See [KV18].

Open Question 2.46. Is $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$?



3 Complexity differences between IP and LP

Some 0-1-IPs are easy, such as bipartite matching, or the assignment problem, even though $IP \in NPC$. In the following section, we want to give intuition, why there are different complexities in IP.

3.1 Optimization vs. Separation

Recall (Ellipsoid Algorithm). As discussed in ADM1, the **ellipsoid method** can be used to determine feasibility of LPs in polynomial time. One could also call the ellipsoid method a fancy " n -dimensional binary search". A rough draft how the algorithm worked:

1. Reduce optimization version to decision version and introduce bound $L = mn \cdot \log(\max \text{ abs. data})$
2. Volume-based argument: If the LP is feasible, there is a solution within the centered cube with length 2^L .
3. Volume is zero: Perturb the problem to $Ax \leq b + 2^{-L}$, which maintains feasibility, but now has positive volume.

For details, refer to the slides from ADM1.

Definition 3.1. Given a polyhedron P with an associated cost function. We want to introduce two distinct problem types:

- The **optimization problem OPT** denotes the problem of finding an optimal $x^* \in P$.
- The **separation problem SEP** denotes the problem of deciding if $x \in P$, or else stating a separating hyperplane.

Remark 3.2. The key step of the ellipsoid method is to find a hyperplane that

separates the current x from the considered polyhedron. Especially, if $\text{SEP} \in \mathbf{P}$, then $\text{OPT} \in \mathbf{P}$. The converse can also be proven.

Definition 3.3. Let \mathcal{Q} be the class of full-dimensional polytopes with 0 inside. We define the **polar** Q^* for $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$ as

$$Q^* := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \forall x \in Q: y^T x \leq 1\}.$$

Theorem 3.4. Considering this class of polytopes, one can prove [KV18, Ch. 4, Thm. 4.22]:

1. Q^* is also a full-dimensional polytope with 0.
2. $(Q^*)^* = Q$
3. v is a vertex of Q iff $v^T y \leq 1$ is a facet of Q^*

Theorem 3.5. Suppose we can solve OPT on $\mathcal{Q} \in \mathbf{P}$ with algorithm A . Then we can use A as an oracle to solve SEP on Q^* in polynomial time.

Proof. Suppose $Q^* \in \mathcal{Q}^*$, and we want to separate y^0 . Use A to solve OPT on Q with objective function $\max(y^0)^T x$ to get $x^* \in Q$. This yields two cases:

- $(y^0)^T x^* \leq 1$: Then this holds for all $x \in Q$, and thus $y^0 \in Q^*$ by definition.
- $(y^0)^T x^* > 1$: Consider hyperplane $(x^*)^T y$. From $x^* \in Q$ it follows that for all $y \in Q^*$, that $(x^*)^T y \leq 1$, but $(x^*)^T y^0 > 1$. Thus, we found a separating hyperplane.

□

Theorem 3.6. $\text{SEP} \in \mathbf{P}$ for \mathcal{Q} iff $\text{OPT} \in \mathbf{P}$ for \mathcal{Q}

Proof. Using what we proven so far:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OPT} \in \mathbf{P} \text{ for } \mathcal{Q} &\stackrel{3.5}{\implies} \text{SEP} \in \mathbf{P} \text{ for } \mathcal{Q}^* \\ &\stackrel{\text{Ellips.}}{\implies} \text{OPT} \in \mathbf{P} \text{ for } \mathcal{Q}^* \stackrel{3.5}{\implies} \text{SEP} \in \mathbf{P} \text{ for } (Q^*)^* = \mathcal{Q} \\ &\stackrel{\text{Ellips.}}{\implies} \text{OPT} \in \mathbf{P} \text{ for } \mathcal{Q} \end{aligned}$$

□

Conclusion 3.7. There is a close relationship between OPT and SEP:

$$\boxed{\text{Complexity}}_{\text{OPT}} \iff \boxed{\text{Integrality}}_{\text{SEP}}$$

Lecture 6
Do 05 May 2022

Theorem 3.8 (Minkowski). For a polyhedron P it holds $x \in P$ iff there exist vertices v_1, \dots, v_k and rays r_1, \dots, r_l , such that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i \lambda v_i + \sum_j \mu_j r_j &= x \\ \sum_i \lambda_i &= 1 \\ \lambda, \mu &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Minkowski's Theorem is also known as **Resolution Theorem**.

Proof. See ADM1. □

Definition 3.9. We have different variants of representing a polyhedron P :

- The **H-representation** (from "hyperplane") is given by $P = \{x \mid Ax \leq b\}$.
- The **V-representation** (from "vertex") is given by **Theorem 3.8**.

Conclusion 3.10. Depending on the representation we have, we have different ways to solve OPT and SEP:

	H-representation	V-representation
OPT	LP Simplex/Ellipsoid	Brute Force
SEP	Brute Force	LP (Exercise 4.1)

Example 3.11. Consider the n -cube $C^n := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid -1 \leq x_i \leq 1\}$. It has $2n$ facets, but 2^n vertices.

Now, consider the polar of C^n , which can be shown to be the n -octahedron O^n . Remember the intuition, that the polar exchanges vertices with facets. Indeed it holds that now, we have 2^n facets, but only $2n$ vertices.

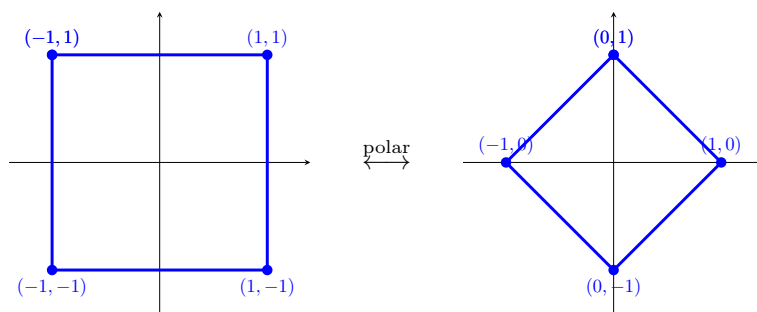


Figure 4: 2-cube vs. 2-octahedron

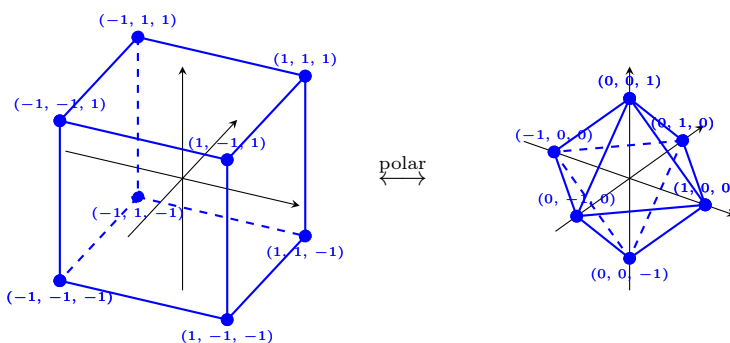


Figure 5: 3-cube vs. 3-octahedron

Information. [Polymake](#) is a tool for converting programmatically between H-representation and V-representation.

3.2 Certificate construction

Question 3.12. Consider the problem of finding a solution x to a linear or integer system. How do we construct succinct certificates of feasibility and infeasibility?

In order to answer this question, we will have to look at different kinds of systems each on their own. For the following theorems, we will consider two different systems every time, and show that the solutions can be used as the certificate we seek for.

Theorem 3.13. Exactly one of the following systems is feasible:

$$Ax = b \quad \text{vs.} \quad \begin{aligned} y^T A &= 0 \\ y^T b &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

In particular, the left system delivers a certificate of feasibility, whereas the right a certificate of infeasibility.

Proof. Suppose both are feasible. Then we have solutions y^0, x^0 , and can construct following contradiction:

$$\begin{aligned} Ax^0 &= b \\ \Leftrightarrow \underbrace{(y^0)^T A x^0}_0 &= (y^0)^T b = 1 \end{aligned}$$

It remains to prove at least one system is feasible. We can use **Gaussian Elimination** for that: Gaussian Elimination either yields a solution x^0 we can use as a succinct certificate for feasibility, or determine it is infeasible by yielding the row multiplier y^0 in order to generate $0^T x = 1$ as a succinct certificate of infeasibility. \square

Warning. Gaussian Elimination is *not* polynomial in its natural variant because of numbers generated during the algorithm. Nonetheless, if careful and using certain tricks, Gaussian Elimination is polynomial.

Remark 3.14. Theorems stating that exactly one of two systems have a solution are called **Theorem of the Alternative**.

Theorem 3.15 (Farkas' Lemma). Exactly one of the following systems is feasible:

$$\begin{aligned} Ax \leq b \quad \quad \quad \text{vs.} \quad \quad \quad & \begin{aligned} y^T A &= 0 \\ y^T b &< 0 \\ y &\geq 0 \end{aligned} \end{aligned}$$

In particular, the left system delivers a certificate of feasibility, whereas the right a certificate of infeasibility.

Proof. Suppose both are feasible. Analogous to previous proof we can see the contradiction:

$$\begin{aligned} Ax^0 &\leq b \\ \Leftrightarrow \underbrace{(y^0)^T A x^0}_0 &\leq (y^0)^T b < 0 \end{aligned}$$

At least one system is feasible, which we can see by using the Ellipsoid Method to get a feasible x as a feasibility certificate for $Ax \leq b$. Otherwise, $Ax \leq b$ is infeasible. In that case we can use Phase 1 of the Simplex Method to generate $0^T x \leq z$ (for some $z \in \mathbb{Z}^-$) and use the extracted row multipliers y as an infeasibility certificate. Note that this y solves the right system. \square

Conclusion 3.16. We already knew from [Theorem 2.15](#) and [Theorem 2.43](#), that previous feasibility problems both lie in $\mathbf{NP} \cap \mathbf{co-NP}$. Thus, we found that Gaussian Elimination is the suspected polynomial algorithm.

Definition 3.17 (Diophantine equations). An equation of the form $Ax = b$, for $x \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, is called **diophantine equation**.

Theorem 3.18. Exactly one of following systems is feasible:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Ax = b & \text{vs.} & y^T A \in \mathbb{Z}^n \\ x \in \mathbb{Z}^n & & y^T b \notin \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

In particular, the left system delivers a certificate of feasibility, whereas the right a certificate of infeasibility.

Proof. Suppose both are feasible. Then

$$\begin{aligned} Ax^0 &= b \\ \Leftrightarrow \underbrace{(y^0)^T A}_{\mathbb{Z}^n} \underbrace{x^0}_{\mathbb{Z}^n} &= \underbrace{(y^0)^T b}_{\notin \mathbb{Z}} \end{aligned}$$

We can use the [Hermite Normal Form](#) algorithm to show that at least one system is feasible. Note that the Hermite Normal Form can be calculated in polynomial time. \square

Problem. IP is defined as finding $x \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ for $Ax \leq b$. We have already shown that $\mathbf{IP} \in \mathbf{NPC}$ (see [Theorem 2.24](#)), meaning that certificates cannot be calculated in polynomial time (unless $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{NP}$).

Conclusion 3.19. Summing everything up, we can summarize our findings for calculation of feasibility certificates in following table:

	continuous	integer
=	Gaussian Elim./Phase 1	Hermite Normal Form
≤	Linear Programming	not possible

The problem with integer inequality systems is its missing duality, e.g. there is no way of generating succinct certificates for verifying infeasibility, making it impossible to use the Theorem of the Alternative.

Remark 3.20. If we have an LP in standard form, we can also formulate a Theorem

of the Alternative using **Farkas' Lemma**:

$$\begin{array}{ll} Ax = b & Ax \leq b \\ x \geq 0 & \iff -Ax \leq -b \\ & -x \leq 0 \end{array}$$

3.15
vs.

$$\begin{array}{ll} (y^1)^T A - (y^2)^T A - (y^3)^T = 0 & y^T A \geq 0 \\ (y^1)^T b - (y^2)^T b < 0 & \iff y^T b < 0 \\ y^1, y^2, y^3 \geq 0 & y \text{ free} \end{array}$$

Note for the last equivalence that we used $y = y^1 - y^2$ with $y^1, y^2 \geq 0$, and interpreted y^3 as slack.

Theorem 3.21 (Gourdan's Theorem). Exactly one of following systems is feasible:

$$\begin{array}{ll} Ax < 0 & \text{vs.} \\ & y^T A = 0 \\ & y \geq 0 \\ & y \neq 0 \end{array}$$

Proof. Consider a feasible x such that $Ax^0 < 0$. Then we can scale and get x^0 such that $Ax \leq -\mathbf{1}$, and, again, using **Theorem 3.15**, yields our other system. Note that $y^T(-\mathbf{1}) < 0$ is equivalent to $\sum y_i > 0$, implying with $y \geq 0$ that $y \neq 0$. \square

Note. We can also check that both systems cannot be feasible:

$$\begin{array}{l} Ax^0 < 0 \\ \iff \underbrace{(y^0)^T A}_{0} x^0 < \underbrace{(y^0)^T}_{0} 0, \end{array}$$

which is a contradiction.

3.3 Non-linearity in LP

Consider an LP with lower and upper bounds and its dual:

$$\begin{array}{llll}
 \min_x & c^T x & \iff & \min_x & c^T x \\
 \text{s.t.} & Ax = b, & & \text{s.t.} & Ax = b, \\
 & l \leq x \leq u & & & x \geq l, \\
 & & & & -x \geq -u, \\
 & & & & x \text{ free} \\
 & & \text{Dual} & & \\
 & & \iff & & \max_{y, \lambda, \mu} & b^T y + l^T \lambda - u^T \mu \\
 & & & & \text{s.t.} & y^T A + \lambda^T - \mu^T = c^T, \\
 & & & & & \lambda, \mu \geq 0, \\
 & & & & & y \text{ free}
 \end{array}$$

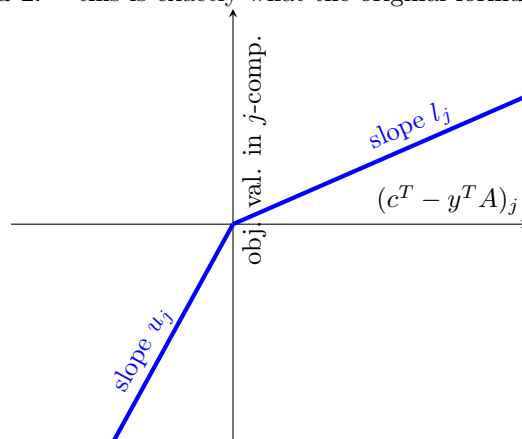
Note that we can write the dual constraint as

$$\lambda^T - \mu^T = c^T - y^T A,$$

allowing an interpretation of λ^T as the positive part of $c^T - y^T A$, and μ^T as the negative part. Reformulating thus yields

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max_{y, \lambda, \mu} & b^T y + l^T (c^T - y^T A)^+ - u^T (c^T - y^T A)^- \\
 \text{s.t.} & y \text{ free}
 \end{array}$$

Note that now, the system doesn't seem to have any constraints left, but clearly this cannot be true. In fact, $(c^T - y^T A)^+$ and $(c^T - y^T A)^-$ are piecewise linear only! Therefore, in order to get a valid LP - this is exactly what the original formulation did.



As can be seen in the plot, the cost function is concave!

Note that the function isn't smooth, but still we can define a notion for its gradient:

Definition 3.22. We call the set of possible "derivatives" in a point of a function the **subdifferential**.

Let's visualize using previous example. Let's also consider the implications for optimal solutions from complementary slackness:

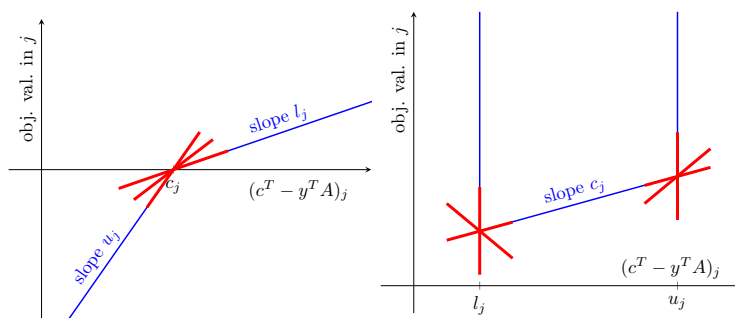
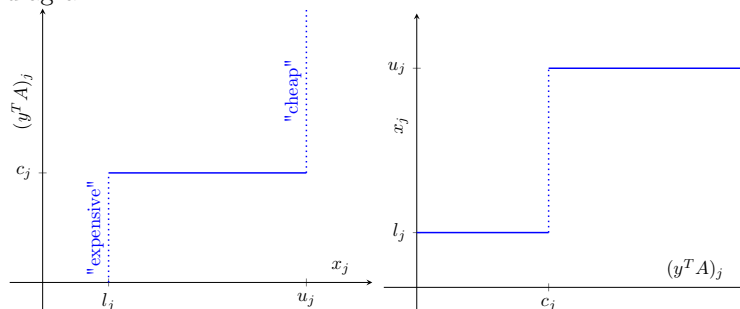


Figure 6: Exemplary dual and primal cost function in j th component with subset of subdifferentials in red

- For $\lambda_j > 0$ follows that $c_j > (y^T A)_j$ ("expensive"), and by CS $x_j = l_j$.
- For $\mu_j > 0$ follows that $c_j < (y^T A)_j$ ("cheap"), and by CS $x_j = u_j$.
- For $c_j = (y^T A)_j$ ("neutral") follows by CS that $l_j \leq x_j \leq u_j$.

Definition 3.23 (Kilter diagram). We can visualize variable-constraint pairs of complementary slackness with a **Kilter diagram**.

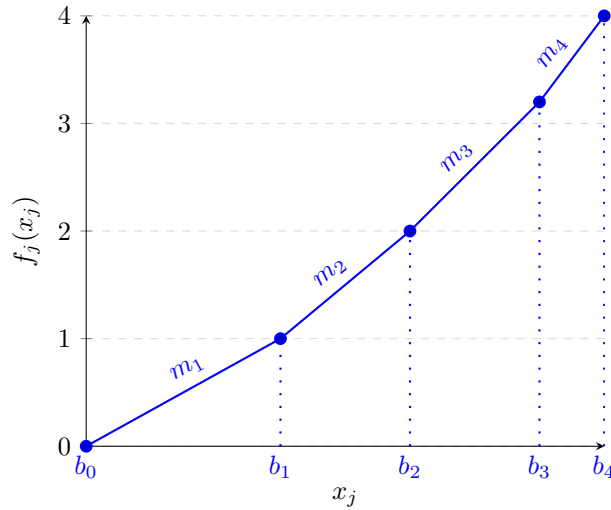
Example 3.24. Again, using our system, we can draw the primal and dual Kilter diagram:



Fact 3.25 (Convex duality). If term j of the primal objective is $f_j(x_j)$ for convex f_j , then term j of the dual objective is $-f_j^\bullet(y_j)$, such that y_j is the dual of x_j .

We're using f^\bullet as the **convex conjugate** of f , which has the property that $(f^\bullet)^\bullet = f$.

Now, consider some piecewise linear convex function with slopes m_i and breakpoints b_i .



We can express values on this function with following LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & m_1 x_{j,1} + m_2 x_{j,2} + m_3 x_{j,3} + \dots \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 0 \leq x_{j,i} \leq b_i - b_{i-1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, \\ & x_j = x_{j,1} + x_{j,2} + x_{j,3} \end{aligned}$$

Note that this forces the LP to use as much of $x_{j,i}$ as possible before moving to the next component.

Conclusion 3.26. Piecewise linear convex problems don't need IP.

Note. In fact, IP is only needed for non-convex/non-concave functions, see [AMO93, Ch. 14].

4 Approaches to IP

Even though IP is **NP**-complete, we still want to solve them as they model many real-world problems. For certain cases, though, we can use tricks to make calculation easier:

1. If the IP only has integer vertices for all b , we can just use LP.
2. If the IP only has integer vertices for a single useful b , we can at least use LP for this b , and might derive useful information anyway.
3. We could get a direct combinatorial algorithm that doesn't use LP, using OPT-SEP-duality.
4. For a *fixed* (small) dimension, we can solve IP in polynomial time.
5. If we are only interested in *good* solutions, we could use approximation algorithms and heuristics.

6. Alternatively, solve the relaxed LP and round to an IP solution.
7. We can relax "bad" constraints and variables.
8. Just use Cutting Planes.

4.1 Integer-optimal solutions in LP for special coefficient matrices

Recall. In ADM1 we proved that there are combinatorial problems that can be solved using LP nonetheless, e.g. Max-Flow, Min-Cut, Bipartite Matching, Min-Cost-Flow etc.

Question 4.1. Why do exactly these problems have the property of integer vertices?

Given an optimal vertex solution $x^* = (x_B^*, 0) = (B^{-1}b, 0)$ with basis B to an LP. By **Cramer's Rule**, it holds for all $j \in B$, that

$$x_j^* = \frac{\overbrace{\det(B_1, B_2, \dots, b_j, \dots, B_n)}^{\text{integer}}}{\det(B)}.$$

Thus, if $|\det(B)| = 1$, then x^* is integer.

Definition 4.2 (Totally unimodular). A matrix A is **totally unimodular**, if for all square submatrices B of A it holds that $\det(B) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$.

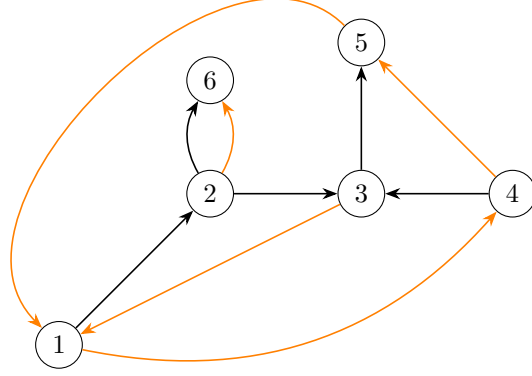
Note. Obviously, A itself must consist only of $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ entries in order to be totally unimodular.

Theorem 4.3. Given A is totally unimodular. Then all optimal vertices x^* are integer for all righthandside b 's. Conversely, if all vertices of $\{x \mid Ax \leq b, x \geq 0\}$ are integer for all righthandside b , then A is totally unimodular.

Proof. See [NW99, Thm 2.5 III 1.2]. □

Definition 4.4. Let $G = (N, A)$ be a directed graph, T a spanning tree of G , and $S \subseteq A$. We construct a matrix $D \in \mathbb{R}^{|N-1|, |S|}$, such that every column corresponds to an arc $(u, v) \in S$, and every row to an arc in T . Consider the undirected (unique) path from u to v in T . We set in each column every entry to 1, where we used the arc as supposed, to -1 , if we used the arc backwards, and 0 otherwise. Then D is called a **tree-path**, or **network matrix**.

Example 4.5. Given following graph:



Then a network matrix of this graph is given by

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \begin{array}{l}
 1 \rightarrow 2 \\
 2 \rightarrow 3 \\
 3 \rightarrow 6 \\
 3 \rightarrow 5 \\
 4 \rightarrow 3
 \end{array}
 \begin{pmatrix}
 \begin{array}{ccccc}
 1 \rightarrow 4 & 2 \rightarrow 6 & 3 \rightarrow 1 & 4 \rightarrow 5 & 5 \rightarrow 1 \\
 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\
 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\
 -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0
 \end{array}
 \end{pmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

Theorem 4.6. Any network matrix M is totally unimodular.

Proof. Every submatrix of a network matrix M is again a network matrix (deleting a row contract the arc of T). Thus it suffices to show that every square network matrix M_s has $\det(M_s) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$. We prove by induction over dimension d of M_s .

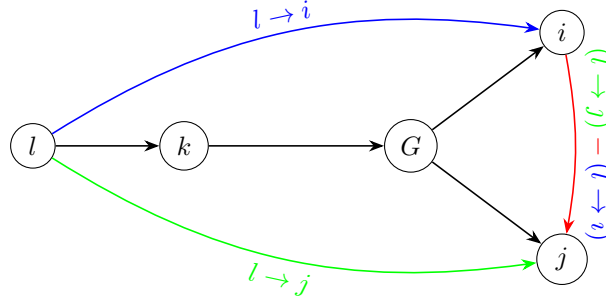
For $d = 1$ this is clear. Thus, consider the statement true for some d . Let node l be a leaf of the spanning tree T , and consider row $l \rightarrow k$. Using a case distinction:

- 0 arcs in S hit l . Then row $l \rightarrow k$ is 0, and thus $\det(M_s) = 0$.
- Exactly 1 arc in S hits l . Then row $l \rightarrow k$ is a unit vector, and block decomposition yields

$$\det(M_s) = \det \left(\begin{array}{c|cccccc} \pm 1 & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ \hline * & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & \\ \vdots & & & & \\ * & & & & \end{array} M'_s \right) = \pm \det(M'_s)$$

- Otherwise, there are at least 2 arcs in S that hit l . Let $l \rightarrow i$ and $l \rightarrow j$ be two of them. Then we can subtract column $l \rightarrow i$ from $l \rightarrow j$ and zero out the first entry of $l \rightarrow j$. Additionally, the column now is the incidence vector of

$i \rightarrow j$, by uniqueness of tree paths. As a consequence, our matrix is still a network matrix. Therefore, iteratively applying this step until a single 1 remains let us use previous case, noting that column subtraction only negates the determinant.



□

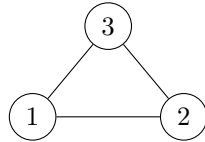
Corollary 4.7. A node-arc incidence matrix of a directed graph is totally unimodular.

Proof. Add root r and for every node i arcs $r \rightarrow i$. Because every column has form $[0, \dots, -1, \dots, -1, \dots, 0]$, this corresponds to $i \rightarrow r \rightarrow j$. □

Corollary 4.8. A node-edge incidence matrix of a bipartite graph is totally unimodular.

Proof. Add root r , for every $i \in L$ arcs $i \rightarrow r$, and for every $j \in R$ arcs $r \rightarrow j$. Note that columns refer to $i \rightarrow r \rightarrow j$. □

Remark 4.9. Not all node-edge incidence matrices are totally unimodular! For example



$$\text{with } \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2$$

Definition 4.10. A 0-1-matrix A has the **consecutive ones-property** if the 1's in each row do not have any 0's between them, i.e. 0001111100.

Corollary 4.11. A matrix A with consecutive ones-property is totally unimodular.

Proof. Suppose T is a line of connected nodes. For each row, construct an arc from the first 1 to the last 1. Then A is a network matrix for this graph. □

Note that there are totally unimodular matrices that aren't network matrices. Furthermore, it's also possible to combine totally unimodular matrices to get new ones.

Theorem 4.12. Let A_1, A_2 be two totally unimodular matrices. Then

$$\left(\begin{array}{c|c} A_1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & A_2 \end{array} \right)$$

is also totally unimodular.

Theorem 4.13 (Seymour). The set of totally unimodular matrices is fully defined by

- all network matrices,
- two additional 5×5 matrices, and
- three different composition operations, e.g. [Theorem 4.12](#).

Conclusion 4.14. Network problems are the easiest IPs.

Lecture 8
Do 12 May 2022

4.2 Integer-optimal solutions in LP for special RHSs

Definition 4.15. Given a graph $G = (N, E)$ and cost vector $c \in \mathbb{R}^E$. Finding a spanning tree T such that $c(T)$ is minimal is called **Minimal Spanning Tree** problem, short MST.

Recall. In ADM1 we learned that we can use [Kruskal's algorithm](#) to find a MST in polynomial time. Kruskal sorted the edges and added edges in this order if it wouldn't create a cycle.

On the other hand, there is also an LP formulation:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(\gamma(K)) \leq |K| - 1, \quad K \subsetneq N, \\ & x(E) = n - 1, \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Tom doesn't like the LP formulation, though, because

1. "min" and " \leq " just feel wrong,
2. rather than $x(\gamma(K))$, we should use $x(S) \leq ?$ for $S \subseteq E$.

We can circumvent this problems with following LP, for some $M \gg \max_i w_i$ and $w = M - c$, and some magic function r :

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{x \geq 0} \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(S) \leq r(S), \quad S \subseteq E, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Let's have a closer look at $r(S)$, and define it as the maximum number of edges we can choose in S without creating a cycle.

Let's also define $cc(S)$ as the number of **connected components** in (N, S) .

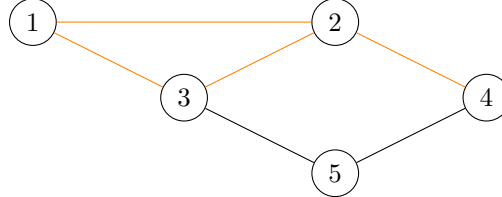
Theorem 4.16. For a graph $G = (N, E)$ it holds that $r(S) = n - cc(S)$.

Proof. Let C_1, \dots, C_k be node sets of connected components of (N, S) , meaning $cc(S) = k$. Note that $\sum_i |C_i| = n$. Furthermore, we can choose at most $|C_i| - 1$ acyclic edges per component C_i by choosing any spanning tree. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} r(S) &= \text{maximum acyclic edges in } (N, S) \\ &= \sum_i (\text{maximum acyclic edges in } C_i) \\ &= \sum_i |C_i| - 1 = n - k = n - cc(S). \end{aligned}$$

□

Example 4.17. Consider following graph:



For the **drawn** S , it holds $cc(S) = 2$, namely $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $\{5\}$, and thus $r(S) = 5 - 2 = 3$.

We can construct the dual of (1):

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{y_S} \quad & r(S) y_S \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{S: e \in S} y_S \geq w_e, \quad \forall e \in E, \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Warning. Our original LP had 2^n constraints, which means our dual has 2^n variables. Even the data $r(S)$ cannot be written down in polynomial time!

This means we need to think about $r(S)$ a little bit more. Consider a set R and edge $e \in E$ with $R \subseteq S \subseteq S + e$. The so-called **marginal cost** of adding e to R is $r(R + e) - r(R) \in \{0, 1\}$. Same goes for S .

Definition 4.18. For a set M , let $r : \mathcal{P}(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ be a function. If the marginal costs are non-decreasing for $R \subseteq S$ for the same edge, i.e.

$$r(S + e) - r(S) \leq r(R + e) - r(R),$$

then we call r **submodular**.

Theorem 4.19. Our acyclic- $r(S)$ is submodular.

Proof. It suffices to show that $r(S + e) - r(S) = 1$ and $r(R + e) - r(R) = 0$ cannot happen. Note that the connected components of R are subsets of connected components of S . Thus, if we add an edge e that connects two connected components, it also connects two components of R . By **Theorem 4.16**, this is the only way $r(S)$ increases by one, but also forces $r(R)$ to increase. \square

There is also an equivalent definition of submodularity:

Theorem 4.20. A function $r : \mathcal{P}(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **submodular** iff for all $S, R \subseteq E$

$$r(S) + r(R) \geq r(S \cap R) + r(S \cup R).$$

Proof. See **Exercise 5.2**. \square

Now let's try to derive Kruskal from our LPs (1) and (2):

Lemma 4.21. Suppose x^*, y^* are optimal in their corresponding LPs (1) and (2). Among the dual optimal solution let y^* be the one with $y^* = \sum_{S \subseteq E} (y_S)^2$ (notice the square!).

Then for $R, S \subseteq E$, if $y_R^*, y_S^* > 0$, it follows that either $R \subseteq S$ or $S \subseteq R$. We call this property **nested**.

Proof. Assume $y_R^*, y_S^* > 0$, but are not nested. Let $\varepsilon = \min(y_R^*, y_S^*) > 0$ and

$$y'_Q = \begin{cases} y_Q^* - \varepsilon, & \text{if } Q = R \vee Q = S, \\ y_Q^* + \varepsilon, & \text{if } Q = R \cup S \vee Q = R \cap S, \\ y_Q^*, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then y' is still feasible, because the ε cancel out, since $R \cup S$ and $R \cap S$ must be new sets, and every edge is either in all four sets, no set, or exactly one of R, S and $R \cup S, R \cap S$ each. The choice of ε ensures $y' \geq 0$.

Now have a look how the objective function changes and consider the difference given by:

$$\varepsilon \underbrace{(r(R \cap S) + r(R \cup S) - r(R) - r(S))}_{\leq 0 \text{ by submodularity}}$$

We cannot get cheaper though, because we were already optimal. Therefore, y' is also an optimal dual solution, but

$$\sum_S (y'_S)^2 < \sum_S (y^*_S)^2$$

is a contradiction! (One can check this by tedious calculations.) \square

Theorem 4.22. Optimal feasible basic solutions to (1) and (2) are integer, and thus solve MST.

Proof. Consider $\mathcal{I} := \{S \subseteq E \mid y^*_S > 0\}$. Because of previous lemma we can build a chain of elements of \mathcal{I} :

$$S_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq S_m, \quad |S_i| = i.$$

If length m is not possible, add some $y^*_S = 0$ sets. Thus, using this S as a basis yields following system:

$$\begin{matrix} & S_1 & S_2 & S_3 & \dots & S_m \\ \begin{matrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ \vdots \\ e_m \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 1 \\ & \ddots & & & \vdots \\ & 0 & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ & \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y^*_{S_1} \\ y^*_{S_2} \\ y^*_{S_3} \\ \vdots \\ y^*_{S_m} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} w_{e_1} \\ w_{e_2} \\ w_{e_3} \\ \vdots \\ w_{e_m} \end{pmatrix}$$

Note the basis matrix has continuous ones property (and thus being totally unimodular by Corollary 4.11), and is an upper triangular matrix, meaning the resulting equation system is easy to solve. In fact, substituting yields

$$\begin{aligned} y^*_{S_m} &= w_{e_m} \\ y^*_{S_{m-1}} &= w_{e_{m-1}} - w_{e_m} \\ &\vdots \\ y^*_{S_1} &= w_{e_1} - w_{e_2} \end{aligned}$$

So, for this y^* to be feasible (i.e. non-negative), the edges need to be ordered by weight, just like in Kruskal! Furthermore, for every edge $e_k \in E$ it holds

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{S: e_k \in S} y_S^* &= \sum_{i=k}^m y_{S_i}^* \\ &= \sum_{i=k}^m w_i - w_{i+1} \\ &= w_{e_k}, \end{aligned}$$

concluding feasibility according to (2).

On the other hand, we can simply derive a primal optimal basis:

$$\begin{matrix} & e_1 & e_2 & e_3 & \dots & e_m \\ \begin{matrix} S_1 \\ S_2 \\ S_3 \\ \vdots \\ S_m \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 1 & \dots & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{e_1}^* \\ x_{e_2}^* \\ x_{e_3}^* \\ \vdots \\ x_{e_m}^* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} r(S_1) \\ r(S_2) \\ r(S_3) \\ \vdots \\ r(S_m) \end{pmatrix}$$

Analogous, we get

$$\begin{aligned} x_{e_i}^* &= r(S_i) - r(S_{i-1}) \\ &= r(S_{i-1} + e_i) - r(S_i) \in \{0, 1\} \end{aligned}$$

which represents the edge addition step, and assures feasibility of (1)!

It remains to be shown that our constructed solutions are indeed optimal. Using strong duality, we see

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m w_i x_{e_i}^* &= \sum_{i=1}^m w_i (r(S_i) - r(S_{i-1})) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m r(S_i) (w_i - w_{i+1}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m r(S_i) y_{S_i}^* \end{aligned}$$

□

Conclusion 4.23. Using only a submodular function and LPs, we constructed an algorithm that solves MST. In particular, no special facts about trees etc. were used.

Definition 4.24 (Greedy). Given a set $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(E)$. We call following class of algorithms **greedy**:

Algorithm 3: General greedy algorithm

sort $w_1 \geq \dots \geq w_m$

$T \leftarrow \emptyset$

for $i = 1, \dots, m$ **do**

if $T \cup e_i \in \mathcal{I}$ **then**

$T \leftarrow T \cup e_i$

end

end

Theorem 4.25. The LPs (1) and (2) can be solved greedily with *any* submodular function r .

Proof. We show that it suffices to choose for $i = 1, \dots, m$ greedily x_{e_i} as big as possible, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} x_{e_1} &:= r(S_1) \\ x_{e_2} &:= r(S_2) - r(S_1) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that $x \geq 0$. Thus, consider $S \subseteq E$ in order to show $x(S) \leq r(S)$. Let $k := \max\{i \mid e_i \in S\}$. Using induction over k with the trivial base case $k = 0$, we define $S' := S \setminus e_k$. Observe, by choice of k , that $S \cap S_{k-1} = S'$ and $S \cup S_{k-1} = S_k$. Therefore, by submodularity 4.20:

$$r(S) \geq r(S') + r(S_k) - r(S_{k-1})$$

Induction on k yields $x(S') \leq r(S')$, and thus

$$\begin{aligned} x(S) &= x(S') + x_{e_k} = x(S') + r(S_k) - r(S_{k-1}) \\ &\leq r(S') + r(S_k) - r(S_{k-1}) \\ &\leq r(S) \end{aligned}$$

□

Note. Assuming non-degeneracy, then the vertices of the submodular polyhedron correspond to permutations of E . In particular, there are $m!$ vertices.

Now, let's concentrate on submodular functions where $r(\{e_i\}) \in \{0, 1\}$. We can derive this notion with matroids - a common generalisation of (combinatorial) graphs/matrices that define "independence".

Definition 4.26 (Matroid). Given a set $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(E)$. If also

1. $\emptyset \in \mathcal{I}$,
2. $S \in \mathcal{I}, R \subseteq S \Rightarrow R \in \mathcal{I}$, and
3. $R, S \in \mathcal{I}, |R| < |S| \Rightarrow \exists e \in S \setminus R : R + e \in \mathcal{I}$,

then \mathcal{I} is a **matroid**. If only properties (1) and (2) hold, we call it a **independence system**. Property (3) is also called **extensibility**.

Definition 4.27 (Rank function). Given a matroid \mathcal{I} . Define the **rank function** $r : \mathcal{P}(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ as

$$r(S) = \max_{I \in \mathcal{I}, I \subseteq S} |I|.$$

Theorem 4.28. For all matroids, the rank function is submodular.

Proof. It suffices to show for $R \subsetneq S \subsetneq S + e$ that

$$\underbrace{r(S + e) - r(S)}_{0,1} \leq \underbrace{r(R + e) - r(R)}_{0,1}.$$

The only bad case is $r(S + e) - r(S) = 1$ and $r(R + e) - r(R) = 0$. Suppose

$$\begin{aligned} r(R) &= |I_1|, I_1 \in \mathcal{I}, I_1 \subseteq R \\ r(S) &= |I_2|, I_2 \in \mathcal{I}, I_2 \subseteq S \end{aligned}$$

Set $k = r(S) - r(R) \geq 0$. From $R \subsetneq S$ and extensibility follows that there is a $K \subseteq S \setminus R$ with $|K| = k$ such that

$$I_2 = I_1 \cup K$$

Also, from $r(S + e) > r(S)$ it follows from extensibility, that there is $f \in S + e$ such that $I_2 + f \in \mathcal{I}$. We see that $f = e$, otherwise it follows from $I_2 + f \subseteq S$ that $r(S) > |I_2|$, which is a contradiction.

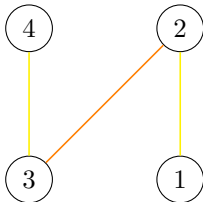
Summarizing, we see $I_2 + e \in \mathcal{I}$. From property (2) follows that $I_1 + e \in \mathcal{I}$. Also $I_1 + e \subseteq R + e$, which implies $r(R + e) = r(R) + 1 = |I_1| + 1$. This contradicts our initial assumption! \square

Corollary 4.29. Greedy is optimal for *any* matroid.

Theorem 4.30. If Greedy is optimal for all cost vectors w on an independence system, then it is a matroid.

Let (E, \mathcal{I}) be an independence system. Then extensibility states that additionally all maximal independent subsets of S have the same size, and are thus *maximum*.

Example 4.31. Note the difference of *maximal* and *maximum*! Given following graph:



Then the yellow edges form only a maximal matching, while the orange edges a maximum (and maximal) matching.

Define

$$\rho(S) = \min\{|I| \mid I \subseteq S, I \in \mathcal{I}, I \text{ maximal}\}.$$

Especially, for matroids $\rho(S) = r(S)$.

We want to prove a stronger theorem, though:

Theorem 4.32. If we apply Greedy to an independence system (E, \mathcal{I}) , then it holds

$$q := \min_{S \subseteq E} \frac{\rho(S)}{r(S)} \leq \frac{\text{greedy obj. value}}{\text{optimal obj. value}} \leq 1$$

Additionally, the worst case is attainable.

Proof. Consider $w_{e_1} \geq \dots \geq w_{e_n}$ and $S_i := \{e_1, \dots, e_i\}$. Let $G \subseteq E$ be a greedy solution and $G_k := G \cap S_k$. Let $O \subseteq E$ be an optimal solution and $O_k := G \cap O_k$.

Consider two cases:

- $e_i \in G$: Then $|G_i| = |G_{i-1}| + 1$
- $e_i \notin G$: Then $|G_i| = |G_{i-1}|$

Therefore, the greedy objective value is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_i (|G_i| - |G_{i-1}|)w_{e_i} &= \sum_i |G_i|(w_{e_i} - w_{e_{i+1}}) \\
 &\geq \sum_i \rho(S_i)(w_{e_i} - w_{e_{i+1}}) \\
 &\geq q \sum_i r(S_i)(w_{e_i} - w_{e_{i+1}}) \\
 &\geq q \sum_i |O_i|(w_{e_i} - w_{e_{i+1}}) \\
 &= q \sum_i (|O_i| - |O_{i-1}|)w_{e_i} \\
 &= q \cdot \text{optimal obj. value}
 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose our q is attained at S ,

$$q = \frac{\rho(S)}{r(S)}.$$

By definition there are $I_1, I_2 \subseteq S$ with $I_1, I_2 \subseteq \mathcal{I}$ such that $r(S) = |I_2|$ and $\rho(S) = |I_1|$. Choose

$$w_e = \begin{cases} 1, & e \in S \\ 0, & e \notin S \end{cases}.$$

and consider following ordering:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|}
 \hline
 I_1 & S \setminus I_1 & S^c \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{w=1} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{w=0}$

Greedy solution will be I_1 because of maximality, but optimal solution is I_2 . Therefore $q = \frac{|I_1|}{|I_2|}$ as proposed. \square

Proof for Theorem 4.30. For matroids, $q = 1$. Otherwise, $q < 1$. \square

Corollary 4.33. Greedy is a 2-approximation for matching.

Example 4.34. Other matroids are given by:

1. Uniform: $\mathcal{I} = \{S \mid |S| \leq k\}$
2. Partition: E is partitioned into P_1, \dots, P_k . Then $I \in \mathcal{I}$ iff for all i , $|I \cap P_i| \leq 1$.
 - (a) $G = (N, A)$, $P_i = \delta^+(\{i\})$

(b) $G = (S \cup T, E)$, $P_i = \delta(\{i\}), i \in S$

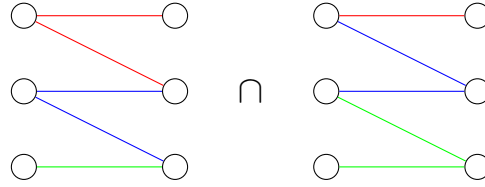
Example 4.35. Independence systems, that are *not* matroids, are for example:

1. Bipartite matching
2. Branching: $G = (N, A)$, $B \subseteq A$ is a branching iff acyclic, i.e. for all i , $\delta^-(\{i\}) \leq 1$.

Remark 4.36. Intersections of matroids seem interesting: Previous examples can be generated via intersections of partition matroids, i.e. for a bipartite graph $G = (S \cup T, E)$, the set of bipartite matchings M is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_1 &:= \{I \subseteq E \mid \forall i \in S : |I \cap \delta^+(\{i\})| \leq 1\} \\ \mathcal{I}_2 &:= \{I \subseteq E \mid \forall i \in T : |I \cap \delta^-(\{i\})| \leq 1\} \\ M &= \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2. \end{aligned}$$

We can visualize this by coloring every partition set and defining the matroids as the subsets where we take at most one edge per color:



By taking the intersection we prohibit to take multiple edges from the same node, leaving us at bipartite matchings.

Lecture 10
Do 19 May 2022

We now want to combine submodular functions with the geometrical interpretation of LPs.

Definition 4.37 (Polymatroid). Given a monotonically increasing submodular function r with $r(\emptyset) = 0$. We call the polytope

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^E \mid \forall S \subseteq E : x(S) \leq r(S)\}$$

a **polymatroid**, and r a **polymatroid rank function**.

Consider following exemplary use of rank functions:

Theorem 4.38. Let $r(S)$ be the max-flow value when we set the capacity for all incident $j \notin S$ to 0, i.e. $u_{sj} = 0$. Then r is submodular.

Proof. See homework .

□

homework

Theorem 4.39. Greedy works for polymatroids.

Proof. Polymatroids just use special submodular functions.

□

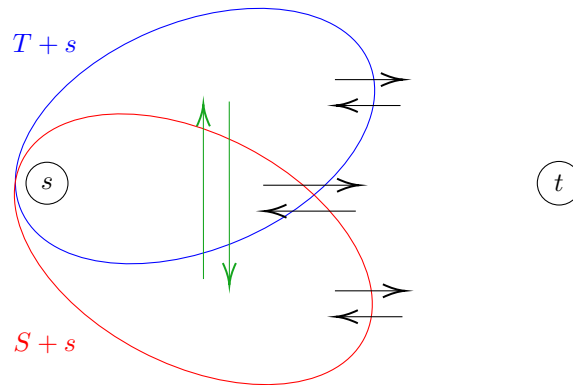
In fact, Greedy still works for non-monotone submodular functions, for example:

Theorem 4.40. Consider max-flow/min-cut on network $N = (s, t, E)$, and define $r(S)$ for all $S \subseteq E$ as the capacity of $s + S$. Then this r is submodular.

Proof. Considering $S + s, T + s, S \cap T + s, S \cup T + s$, then every edge occurs on both sides of the inequality, **except the ones from $S + s$ to $T \setminus S$** , which immediately leads to

$$r(S) + r(T) \geq r(S \cap T) + r(S \cup T).$$

Notice though that $r(\emptyset) > 0$ and r not monotone.



□

Let's compare Greedy vs. Monotonicity. If r is monotone, then $x_{e_i} = r(S_i) - r(S_{i-1}) \geq 0$. But if we don't care for $x \geq 0$, then we can apply Greedy.

$$x \text{ free} \implies \sum_{S: e \in S} y_S = w_e$$

Notice that "=" was " \geq ", but our previous proof showed that we get equality anyway for the dual constraint.

Conclusion 4.41. Greedy works for polymatroids, matroids, and general submodular functions, even with negative values.

Remark 4.42. Submodular LPs are *not* totally unimodular. Consider e.g. following submatrix of a submodular LP:

$$\det \begin{matrix} & e_1 & e_2 & e_3 \\ e_1 e_2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ e_1 e_3 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ e_2 e_3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{matrix} = -2$$

Still, we get only integer solutions, meaning submodular RHS's are special

Definition 4.43. We call a polyhedron **integral** if $P = P_I$, with P_I being the integer hull of P . Equivalently, all vertices of P are integral.

We first want to derive a tool to prove that $P = P_I$.

Theorem 4.44. If for all c such that an optimum exist holds that

$$z := \max\{c^T x \mid x \in P\} \in \mathbb{Z},$$

then P is integral.

Proof. Let v be any vertex of P . We know there is an outer cone of possible vectors c such that $z_c = c^T v \in \mathbb{Z}$. For c long enough, we can add unit vectors and still stay in the cone, i.e. for any index i also $z_{c_i} = (c + e_i)^T v \in \mathbb{Z}$. Therefore, $(c + e_i)^T v - c^T v = v_i \in \mathbb{Z}$, and in particular $v \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ \square

In order to apply this result following definition is useful:

Definition 4.45. We call a system $Ax \leq b$ **totally dual integral** if for all $c \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ with an optimum to $\{c^T x \mid x \in P\}$ the corresponding y^* is integral.

Corollary 4.46. If $Ax \leq b$ is totally dual integral, and $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, then P is integral.

Proof. Recall that our z is also the optimal objective value of the dual. We know for all c with an optimum, that $y^* \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ for $b^T y^* = z \in \mathbb{Z}$. By **Theorem 4.44**, all primary vertices are integral. \square

Theorem 4.47. For submodular r , the polyhedron $\{x \mid x(S) \leq r(S)\}$ is totally dual integral.

Proof. Greedy says (note w is synonym to c):

$$y_S^* = \begin{cases} w_i - w_{i+1}, & \text{if } S = S_i, \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases} \in \mathbb{Z}^{2^E}$$

□

Conclusion 4.48. Note the difference:

"Totally unimodular" corresponds to integral polyhedra for *all* integer-RHS.

"Totally dual integral" corresponds to integral polyhedra for *special* RHS. Submodular RHS are an example.

Consider again intersections of matroids, i.e. bipartite matchings as in [Remark 4.36](#).

Theorem 4.49. For submodular r_1, r_2 , given the primal LP

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(S) \leq r_1(S), \\ & x(S) \leq r_2(S), \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

with its dual

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{y^1, y^2} \quad & r_1^T y^1 + r_2^T y^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{S: e \in S} y_S^1 + y_S^2 \geq w_e, \\ & y^1, y^2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then the primal is totally dual integral.

Proof. Analogous to the proof of [Theorem 4.22](#) we can show there exist optimal $(y^1)^*, (y^2)^*$ whose tight sets are nested. Then, we can construct following basis:

$$\begin{matrix} & S^{1,1} & \dots & S^{1,k-1} & S^{1,k} & S^{2,l} & S^{2,l-1} & \dots & S^{2,1} \\ \begin{matrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \vdots \\ e_m \end{matrix} & \left(\begin{array}{cccccc|cccc} 0 & \dots & 0 & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ & \ddots & & & & \vdots & & & & & & & \\ 1 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{array} \right) \end{matrix}$$

Notice we obtained continuous-one property, and thus total unimodularity. Therefore, $y^* \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ as the solution to the induced linear system, resulting for the primal in total dual integrality by definition. □

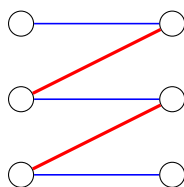
We remind ourselves of the duality of complexity and integrality: It remains to develop an efficient optimization algorithm. We restrict us to a cardinality (i.e. $c = 1$) matroid intersection algorithm:

Theorem 4.50. For two matroids $\mathcal{I}_1, \mathcal{I}_2$, we can solve

$$\max_{I \in \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2} |I|$$

efficiently.

Observation 4.51. A (naive) greedy approach to bipartite matchings doesn't work:



The **red edges** form a maximum matching which isn't maximal like the **blue set of edges**.

Idea. In order to solve the issue of wrong greedy choices we want to imitate an augmenting path algorithm on a bipartite graph defined by the current maximal solution I and I^c as partition and some edges connecting I and I^c .

We want to use following definition to describe the edges of our matroid-intersection-graph:

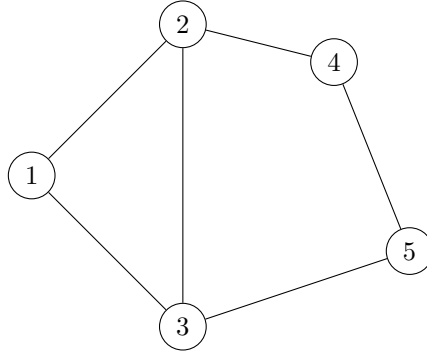
Definition 4.52 (Circuit). A **circuit** C is a minimal dependent subset in a matroid.

Note that we can visualize a matroid \mathcal{I} as a graph such that every acyclic subset is element of \mathcal{I} . A circuit is therefore always a cycle.

Example 4.53. The matroid over $E = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I} = & \{\emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}, \\ & \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{1, 5\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{2, 5\}, \{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}, \{4, 5\}, \\ & \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}, \{2, 4, 5\}, \{3, 4, 5\}, \\ & \{1, 2, 4, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4, 5\}\}, \end{aligned}$$

can be visualized as



The circuits are given as $\{1, 2, 3\}$, $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ and $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$.

Lemma 4.54. If $I \in \mathcal{I}$, but $I + e \notin \mathcal{I}$, then $I + e$ has a unique circuit.

Proof. We prove by contradiction. Suppose $I + e$ contains two distinct circuits C_1, C_2 . Suppose w.l.o.g. that $|I|$ is minimal and $I + e = C_1 \cup C_2$. Then there must exist $a \in C_1 \setminus C_2$ and $b \in C_2 \setminus C_1$.

To construct our contradiction, it suffices to show now that

$$I' := (C_1 \cup C_2) \setminus \{a, b\} \in \mathcal{I}.$$

Suppose this doesn't hold. Then there exist a circuit $C \subseteq I'$. Then $(I - a) + e$ contains C_2 (since $a \notin C_2$) and C (since $I' \subseteq (I - a) + e$). But $|I - a| = |I| - 1$ contradicts minimality of I . \square

This lemma motivates following definition:

Definition 4.55. For every $I \in \mathcal{I}$ and $e \in E$ we define

$$C(I, e) = \begin{cases} \emptyset, & \text{if } I + e \in \mathcal{I} \\ \text{unique circuit in } I + e, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

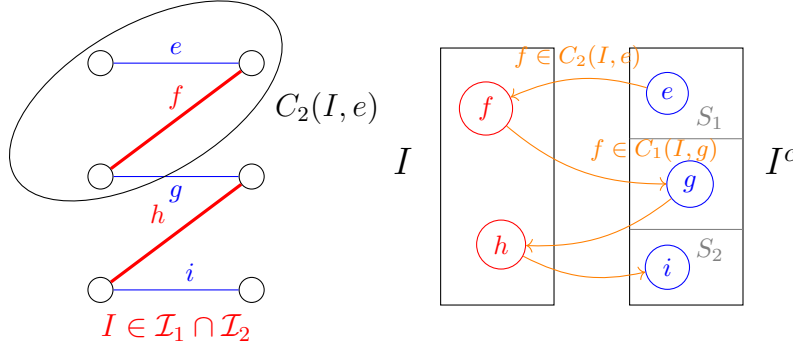
as the **fundamental circuit**.

In particular, we want to consider fundamental circuits C_1 of \mathcal{I}_1 and C_2 of \mathcal{I}_2 : Going back to our initial idea, for any $f \in I$ and $e \in I^c$, we now draw an edge iff $f \in C_1(I, e)$ or $f \in C_2(I, e)$.

Further consider

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &:= \{e \in I^c \mid I + e \in \mathcal{I}_1\}, \\ S_2 &:= \{e \in I^c \mid I + e \in \mathcal{I}_2\}. \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.56. Consider a bipartite matching and its matroid-intersection graph for some independent set $I \subseteq \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2$:



Assumption. From now on assume $S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset$. Otherwise, if there exists an $e \in S_1 \cap S_2$, then we could choose $I + e \in \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2$ greedily.

Observation 4.57. Given $I \in \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2$. Using circuits, we can swap edges such that we stay at least in \mathcal{I}_1 : Suppose $e \in S_1$ (and $e \notin S_2$). Therefore, $C_2(I, e) - e \neq \emptyset$, meaning there is a $f \in C_2(I, e) - e$ which is also in I . In order to add e to I , we must remove f . Consider $I - f$. We add $g \in I^c$ such that $f \in C_1(I, g) - g$, because deleting f will remove the only possible circuit that can appear when adding g , therefore keeping $(I - f) + g \in \mathcal{I}_1$.

We want to use previous observation along an augmenting path from S_1 to S_2 in order to generate an I' that is also in \mathcal{I}_2 .

Theorem 4.58. We prove two parts:

1. As long as there is an augmenting path from S_1 to S_2 (i.e. a path of edges in a bipartite matching), we can augment our solution.
2. If there is no augmenting path, we are optimal.

In order to prove the first part, we need a little bit more work first.

Definition 4.59. Given a bipartite graph $(\{e_0, \dots, e_k\} \cup \{f_1, \dots, f_l\}, E)$. A path

$$P = e_{i_0} \rightarrow f_{i_1} \rightarrow e_{i_1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow f_{i_s} \rightarrow e_{i_s}$$

is **shortcut-free** if for every i_j there is no larger index $i' > i_j$ such that $(e_{i_j}, f_{i'}) \in E$ or $(f_{i_j}, e_{i'}) \in E$.

Lemma 4.60. Given a shortcut-free path, for all i holds

$$C_1(I + e_0, e_i) \subseteq I \setminus \{f_1, \dots, f_{i-1}\} + e_0 + e_i$$

Proof. Suppose the opposite. Then for some i there exists a j with $1 \leq j < i$ such that $f_j \in C_1(I, e_i)$, therefore $(f_j, e_i) \in E$. But $f_j \rightarrow e_i$ is a shortcut. \square

Definition 4.61. We define

$$I_i := I \cup \{e_0, \dots, e_i\} \setminus \{f_1, \dots, f_i\}$$

as the **partial augmentation**.

Lemma 4.62. Given a shortcut-free full augmentation. For all i holds $I_i \in \mathcal{I}_1$.

Proof. We use induction over i . For $i = 0$ this follows by $e_0 \in S_1$. Assume now $I_{i-1} \in \mathcal{I}_1$ and consider two cases:

- $I_{i-1} + e_i \in \mathcal{I}_1$: Then $I_i = I_{i-1} + e_i - f_i \in \mathcal{I}_1$ by subset stability.
- $I_{i-1} + e_i \notin \mathcal{I}_1$: Then $C_1(I_{i-1}, e_i) \neq \emptyset$. Observe by **Lemma 4.60** that

$$C_1(I + e_0, e_i) \subseteq I \setminus \{f_1, \dots, f_{i-1}\} + e_0 + e_i \subseteq I_{i-1} + e_i.$$

By uniqueness of circuits, $C_1(I + e_0, e_i) = C_1(I_{i-1}, e_i)$. As a result, $f_i \rightarrow e_i \in E$ iff $f_i \in C_1(I_{i-1}, e_i)$, concluding $C_1(I_{i-1}, e_i) - f_i \in \mathcal{I}_1$, and finally $I_i \in \mathcal{I}_1$. \square

Corollary 4.63. If we augment on a shortcut-free path P , then $I' \in \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2$.

Proof. For $I' \in \mathcal{I}_1$ this follows directly from **Lemma 4.62**. For $I' \in \mathcal{I}_2$ we can derive an analogous proof. \square

This concludes part 1 of **Theorem 4.58**.

For the second part, we want to prove optimality after termination of part 1. Note that for $I \in \infty \cap \in$, the matroid rank function r_i and any $S \subseteq E$

$$|I^*| = |I^* \cap S| + |I^* \cap S^c| \leq r_1(S) + r_2(S^c),$$

thus, tightness induces optimality of I . We want to find such S for an maximal I :

Lemma 4.64. Suppose $I^* \in \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2$ does not have any augmenting path. Let S be the set of nodes reachable via partial augmentation. Then

1. $|I^* \cap S^c| = r_2(S^c)$, and
2. $|I^* \cap S| = r_1(S)$.

Proof. Observe $S_1 \subseteq S^c$ and $S_2 \subseteq S$ by assumption of I^* . We prove both parts by contradiction.

1. Suppose strict inequality. By extensibility, we can add $e \in S^c \setminus I^*$ to $I^* \cap S^c$ such that $(I^* \cap S^c) + e \in \mathcal{I}_2$.

Notice $e \notin S_2$, therefore $C_2(I^*, e) \neq \emptyset$ by definition, meaning there is $f \in C_2(I^*, e) - e \subseteq I^*$, but $f \notin I^* \cap S^c$. Otherwise, $C_2(I^*, e) \subseteq (I^* \cap S^c) + e$, and by subset stability $C_2(I^*, e) \in \mathcal{I}_2$, contradicting the circuit definition.

As a consequence, $f \in I^* \cap S$, meaning f is not reachable by definition of S , but a path $e \rightarrow f$ exists by definition of our matroid intersection graph - contradiction!

2. Suppose strict inequality. By extensibility, we can add $e \in S \setminus I^*$ to $I^* \cap S^c$ such that $(I^* \cap S) + e \in \mathcal{I}_1$. Analogous, we can derive there is an $f \in I^* \cap S^c$ with a path $f \rightarrow e$, meaning f is reachable, but e is not by definition - contradiction!

□

Corollary 4.65. If $I^* \in \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2$ does not have an augmenting path, then it is optimal.

Remark 4.66. We can extend the cardinality case to arbitrary weighted intersection matroids. As a general idea, we can extend on the augmenting paths idea and additionally use successive shortest paths or the Hungarian Algorithm for a weighted bipartite matching. See [Coo+97, Ch. 8] for details.

Remark 4.67. We can use the same ideas for polymatroid and submodular intersection.

Unfortunately, matroid-intersection cannot be efficiently extended to arbitrary numbers of matroids. Intuitively, this can be explained because we cannot construct a basis with Continuous One Property by glueing the parts together as in the case with 2 matroids. This prohibits us from using Totally Dual Integrality.

Theorem 4.68. Triple-matroid intersection is in **NPC**, therefore cannot be solved efficiently.

Proof. We can reduce from HAMPATH. See the tutorial for the proof.

□

As a closing thought, we want to have a last look at Totally Dual Integrality:

Theorem 4.69. If $Ax \leq b$ is rational, then there is $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $q^{-1}Ax \leq q^{-1}b$ is Totally Dual Integral.

Nonetheless, this fact is useless since $q^{-1}b$ would have to be integral to get integer optimal solutions.

Theorem 4.70. Given a rational polyhedron. If it can be written as a Totally Dual Integral system where b is integral, then the polyhedron is integral.

Proof idea. We can add redundant constraints to "help" the dual. □

Conclusion 4.71. Totally Dual Integrality is a property of the linear system, not the polyhedron.

Lecture 12
Do 02 June 2022

4.3 Combinatorial algorithms for IP

We already considered polynomial algorithms for bipartite matchings, but can we extend this to general graphs?

Recall. We defined a (weighted) matching via IP as

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{e \in \delta(v)} x_e \leq 1, \quad \forall v \in V, \\ & x \in \mathbb{B}^E \end{aligned}$$

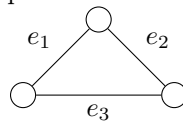
For the linear relaxation, we can find non-bipartite graphs with non-integral optimal solutions.

Idea. To fix the issue of fractional vertices, we want to add cutting planes that cut only these fractional vertices off. More general, we want to cut off odd cycles by introducing constraints

$$\sum_{e \in E(S)} x_e \leq \left\lfloor \frac{|S|}{2} \right\rfloor$$

for every $S \subseteq V$ with odd cardinality. We will call these **blossom constraints**.

Example 4.72. For following graph



is $[0.5, 0.5, 0.5]^T$ an optimal vertex for the LP relaxation, but introducing

$$x_{e_1} + x_{e_2} + x_{e_3} \leq 1$$

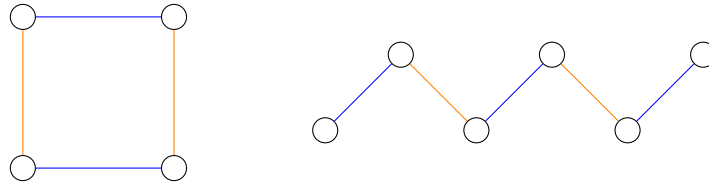
would cut this solution.

Definition 4.73. Given a graph $G = (N, E)$ and matching M .

1. A path is **alternating** w.r.t. M if its edges alternate between M and $E - M$.
2. A node is **exposed** if no edge in M hits the node.
3. A path is **augmenting** if it is alternating and both endpoints are exposed.

Theorem 4.74. A matching M is not maximum iff there exist an augmenting path w.r.t. M .

Proof. The reverse is clear. Thus, consider a non-maximum matching M . Then there is a matching M' with $|M'| = |M| + 1$. Let $D = M \Delta M'$, then D is composed from paths or even-sized cycles only, e.g.



We see that

$$|D| = |M| + |M'| - 2|M \cap M'| = 2(|M| - |M \cap M'|) + 1$$

is odd. This implies that there is an alternating path of odd length. Note $|M' - M| > |M - M'|$, so there is an M -augmenting path. \square

Using this theorem might enable us to create an algorithm!

Recall. The cardinality of a matching is at most the cardinality of a node cover. For the special case of bipartite graphs, König's theorem states that they are even equal.

Theorem 4.75 (Tutte-Berge). For $G = (N, E)$,

$$\max_{\text{matching } M} |M| = \min_{X \subseteq V} \frac{1}{2}(|V| - \text{oc}(X) + |X|)$$

where $\text{oc}(X)$ is the number of odd components in $G(V - X)$.

Proof of \leq . Let $X \subseteq V$ be such that $G(V - X)$ has k odd components H_i . Let M be a matching. For each H_i , either there exist a M -exposed node, or there exist an edge in M from H_i to X .

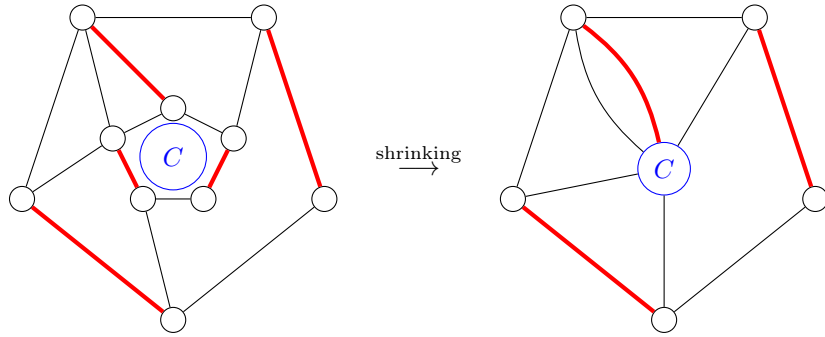
The number of such edges is at most $|X|$, therefore there must be at least $k - |X|$ exposed nodes. Because these nodes are by definition not in the matching, there remain only at most the right side of our equation many matched edges. \square

Proof of \geq . See tutorial. \square

Definition 4.76 (Cycle-shrinking). For an odd cycle C in G , we define $G' := G \times C$ to be the graph that shrinks C to a single node, but maintains all external (possibly multi-)edges.

Furthermore, if we have a matching in G' , we define its **extended matching** in G to be the original edges, plus all possible edges from C .

Example 4.77. A possible shrinking operation can be:



Additionally, a matching M' in the shrunk graph and its corresponding extended matching M in the original graph is shown.

Observation 4.78. The number of M' -exposed nodes in G' is retained by the extended matching M .

Warning. By this procedure, it is generally *not* true that M is maximum iff M' is maximum. Therefore, we need to circumvent this issue in order to use this fact.

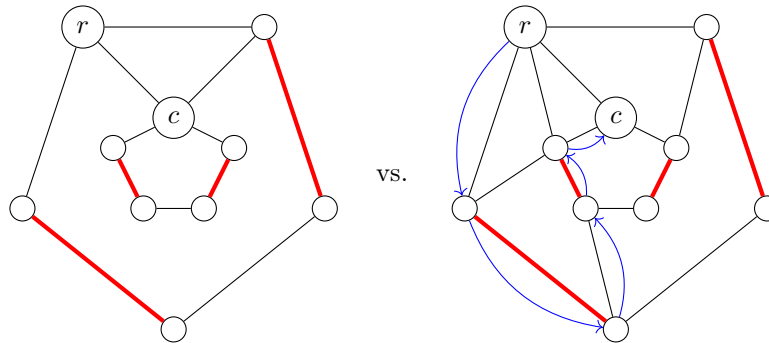
Theorem 4.79. Given G, M , and an odd cycle C such that

$$|M \cap C| = \frac{|C| - 1}{2}.$$

Let $c \in C$ be the one not covered within C . Suppose that for any M -exposed node r , all alternating $r - c$ -paths are disjoint from $V(C) - c$.

Then, M is maximum in G iff M' is maximum in G' .

Example 4.80. Following graphs illustrate when the conditions of the theorem hold and do not hold for some matching M , with a bad $r - c$ -path.



Proof. First, suppose M is maximum, but M' is not. Then $|M'| = |M| - k$ with

$$k := |M \cap C| = \frac{|C| - 1}{2}.$$

If there exists a matching N' in G' with $|N'| > |M'|$, then there exists a matching N in G with

$$|N| = |N'| + k > |M|$$

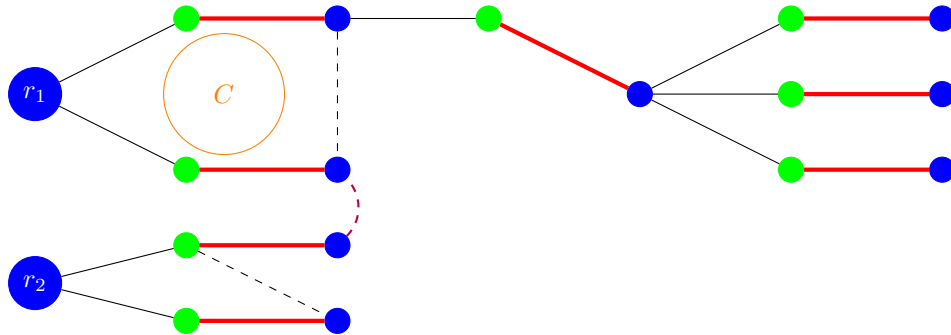
Contradiction!

For the other direction, suppose M' is maximum, but M is not. Then there exists an augmenting path P in G . Let v be an endnode of P that is not in $V(C)$, and consider two cases:

- $P \cap C = \emptyset$: Let w be the other endnode.
- $P \cap C \neq \emptyset$: Then $P \cap C$ consists only of the unmatched node c inside of C , otherwise we could construct an alternating $r - c$ -path starting from one of the end nodes of P . Again, let w be the other endnode.

As a consequence, the $v - w$ -path is M' -augmenting - contradiction! \square

ask why
script seems
wrong

Algorithm 4: Alternating tree-algorithmGraph G , matching M , exposed node r $A \leftarrow \emptyset$ $B \leftarrow \{r\}$ **while** for any $w \in V, u \in B, v \notin A \cup B: (u, v) \in E, (v, w) \in M$ **do** $A \leftarrow A + v$ $B \leftarrow B + w$ **end****Definition 4.81.** The tree we get by this algorithm is called M -**alternating tree**.**Example 4.82.** An exemplary run of the algorithm with two roots r_1, r_2 , a **matching** M , and one **odd cycle** C could yield following alternating forest,

with A and B colored correspondingly. Non-tree edges are left dashed. The purple edge could be used to connect the two roots. (Actually, going from r_1 , the node colors for the part after this edge should be swapped. Same for r_2 the other way round)

Observation 4.83. Using this algorithm we see

- A (B) contains all nodes that are endnodes of an odd (even)-length M -alternating path on T ,
- every node other than r is covered by an edge in $M \cap E(T)$,
- every path from r to any $v \in V(T)$ in T is alternating,
- $|B| = |A| + 1$

Additionally, we can conclude that any $(u, v) \in E$ with $u, v \in B$ forms an odd cycle C - shrinking it to node c (and adding c to B) does not affect our structure.

Finally, if M -alternating trees from two roots r_1, r_2 share an $(u, v) \in E$ with $u \in B_1, v \in B_2$, then there exists an M -augmenting path from r_1 to r_2 .

Now all preliminaries are set to construct the algorithm we long for.

Lecture 13
Di 07 June 2022

Algorithm 5: Blossom algorithm for maximum matching

lec12 topics

Use binary search to find z^* in $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$

$G' \leftarrow G = (V, E)$

for $i = 1, \dots, n$ **do**

$G'' \leftarrow G'$, but remove all edges incident to node i

if *Call of decision oracle on G'', z^* is true* **then**

$G' \leftarrow G''$

end

end

lec12

We know how to efficiently find optimal general matchings, implying we can also efficiently solve the separation problem with blossom constraints.

Lecture 14
Do 09 June 2022

Theorem 4.84. There is an efficient non-Ellipsoid separation algorithm for blossom constraints.

Proof. The algorithm can be found in [Coo+97, Ch. 6.8]. The rough idea is to use submodularity. \square

We want to have a look at further matching-like problems.

Definition 4.85. Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$. We want to find a min-cost walk traversing every edge at least once and finishing where we started. This problem is called **Postal Delivery Problem**, or archaically **Chinese Postman Problem**.

Remark 4.86. In the optimal case, every edge needs only to be traversed once, leading to the lower bound $\sum_{e \in E} c(e)$. The decision problem if this is possible is called **Euler Tour**, or historically **Königsberg Bridge Problem**.

Fact 4.87. Given graph G . An Euler Tour exists in G iff all nodes have even degree and G is connected.

Definition 4.88. We call G **Eulerian** if G has an Euler Tour.

What remains to be analyzed for the Postal Delivery Problem is the case if G is not Eulerian. For this, let T be the set of nodes with odd degree. We want to find a min-cost subset $J \subseteq E$ such that $E \uplus J$ is Eulerian, because this J can be interpreted as the edges we need to traverse twice (one can show there are optimal solutions with this property).

But in fact, nothing restricts us to let T be any even subset of nodes:

Definition 4.89. For a graph $G = (V, E)$, consider even-sized $T \subseteq V$ and $J \subseteq E$. If

$$T = \{v \in V \mid \deg_J(v) \text{ is odd}\},$$

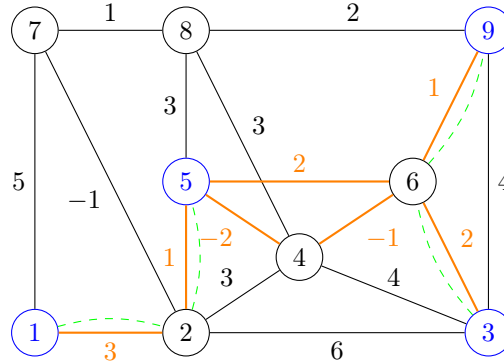
we call J a T -join. For an additional cost vector c , the corresponding optimization problem of finding a minimal T -join is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \min_J \quad & c(J) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & J \text{ is } T\text{-join} \end{aligned}$$

Remark 4.90. Applications of this are

1. our postal delivery problem using all odd nodes,
2. for $T = \{s, t\}$, an optimal T -join is an $s - t$ -path with negative costs allowed,
3. for even $|N|$ and $T = N$, a T -join is a min-cost general matching.

Example 4.91. Let's construct a T -join, for $T = \{1, 3, 5, 9\}$:



Then the orange edges J form a T -join, but while cheaper, this isn't minimal like the green edges J' .

Theorem 4.92. If J is a minimal (w.r.t. to its choice of edges) T -join, then J is a collection of $|T|/2$ edge-disjoint paths.

Proof. We prove by induction over even size $|J|$. Base case 0 is trivial. Consider $t \in T$ and let C be a connected component of (V, J) cont.t. Note $\delta_J(t)$ is odd, and $\sum_{i \in C} \delta_J(i)$ is even, therefore there exists another $s \in C$ with $\delta_J(s)$ odd. By removing $\{s, t\}$ from T and the $s - t$ -path from J , we keep our T -join property, enabling us to use our induction step. \square

Theorem 4.93. Let $s, t \in T$ connected by path P in a T -join J . Suppose there exists a cheaper $s - t$ -path P' . Then, J is not an optimal T -join.

Proof. We show that

$$J' := (J - P) \Delta P'$$

is a better T -join. Deleting P will result only in s, t changing parity. Adding P' then again changes parity of s, t , either by adding or deleting exactly one edge. For the other nodes in P' , either 0, 1, or 2 edges are also in J , but every case doesn't change parity again. So, we maintain T -join-property.

Calculating everything further yields

$$\begin{aligned} c(J') &\leq c(J) + c(P' \setminus P) - c(P \setminus P') \\ &= c(J) + (c(P' \setminus P) - c(P' \cap P)) - (c(P \setminus P') - c(P' \cap P)) \\ &= c(J) + \underbrace{c(P') - c(P)}_{<0} < c(J) \end{aligned}$$

as wished. \square

Corollary 4.94. If $c \geq 0$, then optimal J consists of $|T|/2$ shortest paths.

Consider now negative costs c .

Definition 4.95. Let $M \subseteq E$ be the set of negative-valued edges, and define

$$T^M := \{i \in \mathbb{N} \mid \delta_M(i) \text{ is odd}\}.$$

Remark 4.96. M is a T^M -join.

Lemma 4.97. If J is a T -join and J' is a T' -join, then $J \Delta J'$ is a $(T \Delta T')$ -join.

Proof. Let $v \in T \Delta T'$. Then w.l.o.g. $v \in T$ and $v \notin T'$, so $\deg_J(v)$ is odd, while $\deg_{J'}(v)$ is even. Because only edges that are both in J and J' cancel each other out in $J \Delta J'$, it holds $\deg_{J \Delta J'}(v) \equiv \deg_J(v) + \deg_{J'}(v) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$.

Otherwise, $v \notin T\Delta T'$, so v is either in both or none of J, J' . An analogous argument shows $\deg_{J\Delta J'}(v) \equiv \deg_J(v) + \deg_{J'}(v) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. \square

Theorem 4.98. J is an optimal T -join w.r.t. cost vector c iff $J\Delta M$ is an optimal $(T\Delta T^M)$ -join w.r.t. cost vector $|c|$.

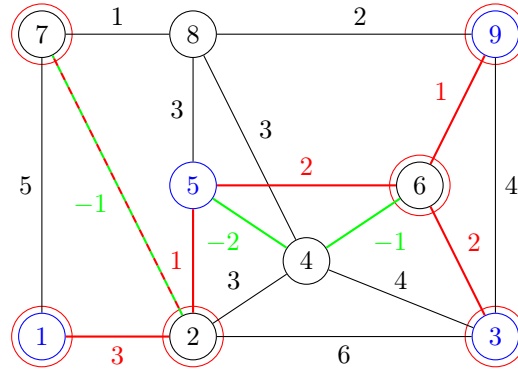
Proof. By Lemma 4.97 and Remark 4.96 we can form the symmetric difference of any side and get the other side as a corresponding join (note $A\Delta B\Delta B = A$). It remains to prove optimality. Calculations show:

$$\begin{aligned} c(J) &= c(J \setminus M) + c(J \cap M) + \underbrace{c(M \setminus J) - c(M \setminus J)}_{=0} \\ &= \underbrace{c(J \setminus M)}_{\text{only positive}} + c(M) - \underbrace{c(M \setminus J)}_{\text{only negative}} \\ &= |c|(J\Delta M) + c(M) \end{aligned}$$

So, minimizing one side also minimizes the other side, which immediately proves our equivalence (note $c(M)$ is constant). \square

Corollary 4.99. Calculating an optimal T -join is in \mathbf{P} .

Example 4.100. Building upon previous example, again consider $T = \{1, 3, 5, 9\}$, but note now $T^M = \{2, 5, 6, 7\}$ and $T\Delta T^M = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9\}$.



Note that the red edges form an optimal $T\Delta T^M$ -join. Taking its symmetric difference with M directly yields our initial (optimal) T -join.

We still need an LP-formulation, though. We will utilize following definition for this:

Definition 4.101. If $S \subseteq E$ such that $|S \cap T|$ is odd (even), we call S **T -odd** (**T -even**).

Theorem 4.102. If $c \geq 0$, then solving

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(\delta(S)) \geq 1, \quad \forall T\text{-odd } S \subseteq E, \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

yields an optimal T -join.

Proof. See [Coo+97, Thm. 5.28]. □

However, there are two problems:

1. It is only $\frac{1}{2}$ -integral and not totally dual integral.
2. If c arbitrary, then it could be unbounded.

We can circumvent these problems with a tighter LP. Consider following motivation: Let $S \subseteq N$ and $F \subseteq \delta(S)$. If S is T -odd and $|F|$ even, then $|\delta(S) \setminus F|$ is odd. This means, if J is a T -join and uses all edges in F , then it must also use at least one edge from $\delta(S) \setminus F$. Analogous, if S is T -even, we conclude $|F|$, and get to the same result. We encode this property as follows:

why is $\delta(S)$ always odd?

Theorem 4.103. For any c , the LP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(\delta(S) \setminus F) \geq 1 + x(F) - |F|, \quad \forall S, F, |S \cap T| + |F| \text{ odd}, \\ & 1 \geq x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

is Totally Dual Integral and yields an integral optimal T -join.

Proof. Note the right side is equal to 1 iff all edges of F are used. For the actual proof, see [Coo+97, Thm. 5.30]. □

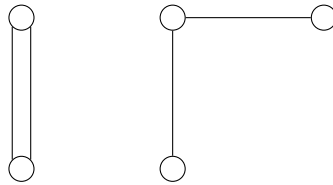
Lecture 15
Di 14 June 2022

Definition 4.104. We can generalize matchings as follows:

- Replacing $x(\delta(i)) \leq 1$ by $x(\delta(i)) \leq b$ yields b -matchings.
- Additionally introducing upper bounds $x_e \leq u_e$ is called (b, u) -matching.

content
lec15

Example 4.105. A 2-matching is given by



Notice how perfect $(2, 1)$ -matchings are close to TSP. Suppose $S \subseteq V, F \subseteq \delta(S)$ such that $b(S) + u(F)$ is odd. Further, suppose $b(S)$ is even. Then on one hand, $u(F)$ is odd, on the other hand $x(\delta(S))$ is even. Then $x(F) \neq x(\delta(S))$. Thus

$$x(\delta(S) \setminus F) \geq 1 + x(F) - u(F)$$

Analogous, the same follows for $b(S)$ odd.

A perfect (b, u) -matching is given by the LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(\delta(i)) = b_i, \quad \forall i, \\ & 0 \leq x \leq u, \\ & x(\delta(S) - F) \geq 1 + x(F) - u(F), \quad \forall S, F \text{ s.t. } b(S) + u(F) \text{ odd} \end{aligned}$$

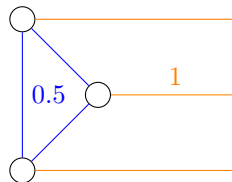
There is also an equivalent form: If b is even, then $b(H)$ is also even.

handle teeth
stuff

$$x(E(H)) + x(T) \leq |H| + \left\lfloor \frac{|T|}{2} \right\rfloor$$

Note. For 2-matching, we have exponentially many constraints. These can be separated in polynomial time. This, however, does *not* mean we can optimize TSP in polynomial time with Ellipsoid, since there could be non-integer optimal solutions (or: we need more constraints, and these make TSP NP-complete).

Example 4.106. Consider following part of a 2-matching, where same colors have same edge values in the solution:



This violates our handle-teeth constraint for TSP.

4.4 Fixed dimension IPs

Theorem 4.107. For a fixed number of variables, or a fixed number of constraints, there exists a polynomial algorithm that solves IP.

Proof. The proof requires lattice theory. See [NW99, Ch. 2-6.5, Thm. 5.4+5] for details. \square

4.5 Approximation algorithms

Recall. Greedy on independent systems, which are not matroids, are suboptimal, but can be used for approximated solutions, see [Theorem 4.32](#).

Definition 4.108. For a maximisation problem and (polynomial) algorithm A , if

$$\max \frac{z^*}{\text{worst-case result of } A} \leq \alpha$$

we call A an **α -approximation** algorithm.

Example 4.109. Matching can be solved by Greedy as a 2-approximation.

Definition 4.110. There exist several classes of approximation algorithms:

- **FPTAS (Fully Polynomial Time Approximation Scheme):** There exists an algorithm polynomial in $|I|$ and $1/\varepsilon$ to get an $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximation.
- **PTAS (Polynomial Time Approximation Scheme):** There exists an algorithm polynomial in $|I|$ and potentially exponential in $1/\varepsilon$ to get an $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -approximation.
- **Fixed Factor:** There exists a threshold β such that there is a polynomial algorithm for all $\alpha \geq \beta$, but it is **NP**-hard to approximate for $1 \leq \alpha < \beta$.
- **Inapproximate NP-hard** to approximate for any $\alpha > 1$.

what does
this mean?
Inapproximate

4.6 Rounding non-integer solutions

Idea. Solve LP, get x^{LP} , and round up or down to get a solution x^{IP} .

This is a bad idea in general:

Theorem 4.111. Naive rounding of x^{LP} can introduce arbitrarily large errors (see [KV18, Thm. 5.7] for a more exact version).

Proof. We can construct following bad instance depending on some parameter α , such

that the gap between the rounded optimal LP solution and the actual optimal IP solution scales with α . □

lattice plot

Remark 4.112. Not all instances can be rounded out-of-the-box to a feasible solution.

sharp triangle plot non-roundable

4.7 Cutting Planes

Recall our initial idea was to compute the integer hull P^I of P , which is however NP -hard. But, instead of computing *all* of P^I , in most cases it suffices to calculate P^I "near" x^I . Thus, we want to find a cutting plane $\alpha^T x > \beta$ such that

1. x^{LP} violates the plane, i.e. $\alpha^T x^{\text{LP}} > \beta$, and
2. all of P^I satisfies the cutting plane, i.e. for all $x \in P \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ should hold $\alpha^T x^{\text{LP}} \leq \beta$

Idea. Find Cutting Planes, add to LP (reoptimize via dual simplex), and repeat until we get x^{IP} .

Finding cutting planes can be done via SEP.

Remark 4.113. There is a technical issue with convergence. While we know, in general we cannot guarantee polynomial running time, it is also possible that P^I isn't even a polyhedron:

Because of $\sqrt{2}$ being irrational, there will be infinitely feasible integer points getting infinitely close, but never touching it. This cannot be handled with finitely many constraints.

plot irrational constraint

Theorem 4.114 (Fundamental theorem of IP). For rational A, b and $P = \{x \mid Ax \leq b\}$ holds that P^I is a polyhedron.

Proof. See [KV18, Thm. 5.1] □

Lecture 16
Do 16 June 2022

Question 4.115. How do we find Cutting planes?

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Consider the Simplex Tableau, and some $x^{\text{LP}} \notin \mathbb{Z}^n$, e.g. $x_1^{\text{LP}} \notin \mathbb{Z}$. Then, $x_1^{\text{LP}} > 0$, and it must be in the basis. Row 1 of the tableau therefore looks like:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + \bar{a}_{1,N}^T x_N &= \bar{b}_1 \\ \implies x_1 + \lfloor \bar{a}_{1,N}^T \rfloor x_N &\leq \bar{b}_1 \end{aligned}$$

If $x \in P^I$, then the left-hand side is integral, so

$$x_1 + \lfloor \bar{a}_{1,N}^T \rfloor x_N \leq \lfloor \bar{b}_1 \rfloor$$

and for their difference

$$f(\bar{a}_{1,N}^T)x_N \geq f(\bar{b}_1)$$

such that f maps to the fractional part of its input. This is clearly feasible for all integral vertices in P , and thus also for P^I . But x^{LP} violates it, since the left-hand side is equal to 0, while the right-hand side must be positive - we found our cutting plane! This particular type is called **Gomory cut**.

Fact 4.116. Repeatedly finding Gomory cuts leads in a finite number of iterations to an optimal integral solution.

By 1963 though, Gomory cuts were abandoned, because there were issues that could not be resolved:

Remark 4.117. Even though they can be easily generated by an optimal simplex tableau, in practice Gomory cuts appear to be slow. Additionally, this procedure can be numerically unstable because of rounding errors.

Maybe we need to think larger - let's try to generalize Gomory Cuts: Starting with $Ax \leq b$, we introduce row multipliers $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ such that

make more
clean

$$\begin{aligned} y^T Ax &\leq y^T b \\ y &\geq 0 \\ y^T A &\in \mathbb{Z}^n \\ y^b &\text{ fractional} \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$y^T Ax \leq \lfloor y^T b \rfloor$$

is a cutting plane, called a **Chvátal Cut**, or more general **Chvátal-Gomory Cut**.

Fact 4.118. The multiplier y is a succinct certificate that this is a valid cutting plane for P^I . This is also called a **Chvátal proof**.

Example 4.119. We try to derive a possible Chvátal proof for general matchings. Recall the base-LP

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \quad & w^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x(\delta(i)) \leq 1, \quad \forall i \in V, \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

which produces non-integral solutions in general, e.g. [Example 4.72](#). Therefore, we needed to introduce the blossom constraints for all odd $S \subseteq E$ as cutting planes:

$$x(E(S)) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{|S|}{2} \right\rfloor$$

For Chvátal, we now sum the first constraint over all $i \in S$,

$$2x(E(S)) + x(\delta(S)) \leq |S|,$$

and sum the second constraint multiplied by $-\frac{1}{2}$ for all $e \in \delta(S)$

$$-x(\delta(S)) \leq 0,$$

In total and divided by 2, we get

$$x(E(S)) \leq \frac{|S|}{2}.$$

Because all properties hold, we can round down and get our Chvátal plane. While in this case these CPs are already enough to cut down to P^I , in general it usually is more complicated.

Let's find some properties about Chvátal-Gomory cuts.

Theorem 4.120. Define P' as P with *all* possible Chvátal-Gomory cuts added. Then P' is a polyhedron.

tikz graphic

Proof. As a general idea, we will show that every Chvátal cut is equivalent to a Chvátal cut generated from a finite set S . Then, it follows directly that P' is still a polyhedron.

For S , we define

$$S := \{x \mid \exists 0 \leq y < 1 : x = y^T A \wedge y^T A \in \mathbb{Z}^n\}$$

which is obviously finite.

Suppose there is a “big” \bar{y} that defines any Chvátal cut via

$$(\bar{y}^T A)x \leq \lfloor \bar{y}b \rfloor.$$

We define

$$\tilde{y} := f(\bar{y}).$$

Note $0 \leq \tilde{y} < 1$. Calculations show:

$$\tilde{y}^T A = \underbrace{\bar{y}^T A}_{\text{integral}} - \underbrace{\lfloor \bar{y} \rfloor A}_{\text{integral}}$$

which implies $\tilde{y} \in S$. Also,

$$\tilde{y}^T b = \bar{y}^T b - \underbrace{[\bar{y}] b}_{\text{integral}}$$

So, $\tilde{y}^T b$ and $\bar{y}^T b$ have the same fractional part, or

$$[\tilde{y}b] = [\bar{y}] b = [\bar{y}b]$$

finish proof

See also [Coo+97, Thm. 6.34]. □

Theorem 4.121. There is an $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that repeatedly calculating Chvátal closure P_{i+1} from P_i (that is, $P_{i+1} := P'_i$) will lead to $P^I = P_k$. We call this k the **Chvátal rank** of P_1 .

Part II

Appendix

A Exercise sheets

1. exercise sheet

Exercise 1.1. Did on paper.

2. exercise sheet

Exercise 2.1. An correct ordering is given by:

$$O(\varepsilon^n) \subseteq O(n^{\varepsilon-1}) \subseteq O(n^{-\varepsilon}) \subseteq O\left(\frac{\log n}{n^\varepsilon}\right) \quad (3)$$

$$\subseteq O\left(\frac{1}{\log n}\right) \subseteq O\left(\frac{\log^2 n}{\log n}\right) \subseteq O\left(\frac{1}{\log^2 n}\right) \quad (4)$$

$$\subseteq O\left(e^{\frac{1}{n}}\right) = O(1) = O\left(\left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^n\right) \quad (5)$$

$$\subseteq O(\log n) \subseteq O\left(\frac{n^\varepsilon}{\log n}\right) \subseteq O(n^\varepsilon) \subseteq O(n^\varepsilon \log n) \subseteq O(n^{1-\varepsilon}) \quad (6)$$

$$\subseteq O\left(\frac{n}{\log n}\right) \subseteq O(n \log n) \subseteq O(n^2) \subseteq O(n^2 \log n) \subseteq O(n^e) \quad (7)$$

$$\subseteq O(n^{\log n}) \subseteq O(e^n) \subseteq O((\log n)^n) \subseteq O(n!) \quad (8)$$

These can mostly achieved by the fact that $n^x \in O(n^y)$ if $x \leq y$, and $(\log n) \cdot n^x \in O(n^y)$ if $y > x$, otherwise the other way around. Additionally, it is often useful to consider the logarithm of the functions we compare, because it maintains monotonocity.

Exercise 2.2. Analoguous to the lecture we can introduce constraints, such that $y_{ij} = x_i \wedge x_j$:

$$\begin{aligned} y_{ij} &\leq x_i \\ y_{ij} &\leq x_j \\ y_{ij} &\geq x_i + x_j - 1 \\ y_{ij} &\in [0, 1] \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 2.3. We can show that $f(x_1) = \max(c_1 x_1, c_1 p + c_2 x_1 - c_2 p)$ using a case distinction.

- $x_1 = p$: Trivial.
- $x_1 > p$: Consider $c_1 < c_2$. Multiplying by $x_1 - p$ (which is positive) and rearranging yields $c_1 x_1 < c_1 p + c_2 x_1 - c_2 p$.
- $x_1 < p$: Analoguous, but now $x_1 - p$ is negative, which reverses the inequality.

As shown in ADM1, the maximum of linear functions can be written as an LP by

introducing a helper variable as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & z + \sum_{i=2}^n c_i x_i \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \\ & l \leq x_1 \leq u \\ & x_2, \dots, x_n \leq 0 \\ & z \geq c_1 x_1 \\ & z \geq c_1 p + c_2 x_1 - c_2 p\end{array}$$

3. exercise sheet

- Exercise 3.1.** 1. We can show easily that $\text{SPATH} \in \mathbf{P}$ by using the fact from ADM1, that breadth-first search started from s finds a shortest path to t in polynomial time. Therefore, if the shortest path has length $k^* \leq k$, we can return true, and false otherwise.
2. We first show $\text{LPATH} \in \mathbf{NP}$: Suppose an instance of LPATH is true, then there is a path of at least length k . Therefore, we can simply use this path as a succinct certificate and verify in polynomial time that the path is indeed valid.

It remains to show that we can reduce a \mathbf{NP} -complete problem to LPATH . It suffices to show $\text{UHAMPATH} \propto \text{LPATH}$: Suppose we have an instance $((V, E), s, t)$ of UHAMPATH . We can simply reduce it to the problem of finding a path of at least length $|V| - 1$ starting in s and ending in t , because every such path is indeed a hamiltonian path, because every vertex needs to be visited exactly once. Therefore, if there is a hamiltonian path, it is already a path of at least length $|V| - 1$. For the other direction, if there is a path of at least length $|V| - 1$, then it must visit every node exactly once in order to be a valid path.

This shows that the reduction is Yes-preserving.

Exercise 3.2. If DOUBLESAT is true, then we can choose any two valid assignments as a succinct certificate and easily verify their correctness in polynomial time.

It remains to show $\text{SAT} \propto \text{DOUBLESAT}$: Starting from our SAT -instance, we can simply introduce two new variables a, b and a new clause $a \vee b$. This construction is Yes-preserving, because if the original instance is infeasible, the new instance still has no assignments. On the other hand, if there is a valid assignment in the original, then we now have at least 3 valid instances for different assignments of a and b .

Exercise 3.3. We notice that $a \vee b$ is equivalent to $\neg a \implies b$, and $\neg b \implies a$. By doing this for all clauses, we can construct a graph with the literals as vertices, and the implications as directed edges. Now, checking for each literal pair $l, \neg l$ if both can reach one another by a directed path suffices to show feasibility:

If previous condition holds true, then by logic it must hold that a feasible assignment satisfies $l \Leftrightarrow \neg l$, which is impossible. On the other hand, if this is never the case, then there must be a feasible solution:

We can construct this solution by iteratively setting either l or $\neg l$ to true, depending if $l \implies \neg l$ holds, and then also set every implied variable to true. If we would encounter a variable r which is already false, then $\neg r$ must be true, and therefore all further implications would need to be true by construction. Because $l \implies r$,

also $\neg r \implies \neg l$, meaning that l would be already false - contradiction!
Therefore, our construction always works.

4. exercise sheet

Exercise 4.1. We're given an instance (v^1, \dots, v^k, x^0) as described. If $x_0 \in P$, then $x_0 \in \text{conv}(v^1, \dots, v^k)$. Thus there exist $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i v^i &= x_0 \\ \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i &= 1, \\ \lambda &\geq 0\end{aligned}$$

which we can find by LP. Otherwise, the system is found infeasible, and we know there must exist c with $c^T x \geq c^T x^0$. We first show it suffices that this property holds for all vertices.

Suppose $c^T v^i \geq c^T x^0$. Let $x = \sum_i \lambda'_i v^i \in P$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}c^T x &= \sum_i \lambda'_i c^T v^i \\ &\geq \sum_i \lambda'_i c^T x^0 \\ &= c^T x^0.\end{aligned}$$

Note that we used $\lambda' \geq 0$ and $\sum_i \lambda'_i = 1$ in the second and third step.

Using

$$c^T v^i \geq c^T x^0 \Leftrightarrow (v^i - x^0)^T \cdot c \geq 0,$$

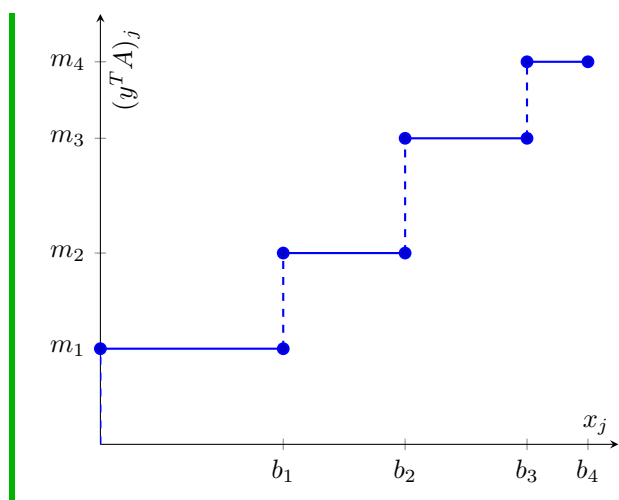
this means we can find c with following constraints via LP:

$$(v^i - x^0)^T \cdot c \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k.$$

Exercise 4.2. We solve:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Exercise 4.3. The Kilter diagram of the primal is given by



5. exercise sheet

Exercise 5.1. TBD

Exercise 5.2. Let r be submodular as defined, and let $A, B \subseteq E$ be sets. We prove by induction over $n := |B - A| \in \mathbb{N}$ that

$$r(A) + r(B) \geq r(A \cup B) + r(A \cap B). \quad (9)$$

Suppose $n = 0$. Then $A \cup B = A$ and $A \cap B = B$, implying equality of (9).

Now, consider (9) to be true for sets $A, B \subseteq E$ such that $|B - A| = n$. Suppose $A, B \subseteq E$ with $|B - A| = n + 1 > 0$, and let $e \in B - A$. Notice that $A \cap B \subseteq A \subseteq E$ with $e \notin A$. Therefore, by applying rearranged submodularity, we get

$$r((A + e) \cap B) - r(A + e) \geq r(A \cap B) - r(A). \quad (10)$$

Additionally, $|B - (A + e)| = n$ by choice of e , enabling us to use the (rearranged) induction step (9):

$$r(B) \geq r((A + e) \cup B) + r((A + e) \cap B) - r(A + e)$$

Knowing $(A + e) \cup B = A \cup B$, and applying (9) yields

$$r(B) \geq r(A \cup B) + r(A \cap B) - r(A),$$

which was to be shown.

Exercise 5.3. TBD

6. exercise sheet

Exercise 6.1. TBD

Exercise 6.2. We show that r is a polymatroid rank function. We already know $r(\emptyset) = 0$. It is also easy to prove that r monotonically increasing for $R \subseteq S$, because every flow in R is also feasible in S . It remains to show submodularity.

7. exercise sheet

Exercise 7.1. For even-sized subsets $B \subseteq V$ we introduce

$$\sum_{e \in E(B)} x_e \leq \frac{|B|}{2}.$$

We can merge this without problems with the odd blossom constraints, and get

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \quad & \mathbf{1}^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{e \in \delta(v)} x_e \leq 1, \quad \forall v \in V, \\ & \sum_{e \in E(B)} x_e \leq \left\lfloor \frac{|B|}{2} \right\rfloor, \quad \forall B \subseteq V, |B| \geq 2, \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

and construct the dual

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{y, z} \quad & \mathbf{1}^T y + \sum_{\substack{B \subseteq V, \\ |B| \geq 2}} \left\lfloor \frac{|B|}{2} \right\rfloor z_B \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i + y_j + \sum_{B: e \in E(B)} z_B \geq 1, \quad \forall (i, j) \in E, \\ & y, z \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now, given an optimal matching M (with corresponding solution x) and its Tutte-Berge subset $X \subseteq V$, we construct the optimal dual solution by setting for every $i \in V$

$$y_i := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i \in X \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

Furthermore, consider $G^- := G(V \setminus X)$, the graph without nodes X . For every $B \subseteq V$ with at least 2 nodes, we set

$$z_B := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } B \text{ is maximal connected component in } G^- \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

This solution is feasible, because now every edge is covered either by a node $i \in X$, or otherwise is part of one of the connected components of G^- , thus satisfying our only dual constraint. It remains to show its optimality via strong duality - it holds

that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{1}^T x = |M| &= \frac{1}{2}(|N| + |X| - oc(X)) \\
 &= |X| + \frac{1}{2}(|N - X| - oc(X)) \\
 &= \mathbf{1}^T y + \frac{1}{2}(|N - X| - oc(X)).
 \end{aligned}$$

What is left is to show $\frac{1}{2}(|N - X| - oc(X)) = \sum_{B \text{ is cc in } G^-} \left\lfloor \frac{|B|}{2} \right\rfloor z_B$. Note that every node of G^- is in exactly one connected component, so our sum on the right side is at most $\frac{1}{2}|N - X|$. It holds that

$$\left\lfloor \frac{|B|}{2} \right\rfloor = \begin{cases} \frac{|B|}{2}, & B \text{ is even-sized} \\ \frac{|B|-1}{2}, & B \text{ is odd-sized,} \end{cases}$$

Because $oc(X)$ is based on G^- by construction, this immediately yields the part we need to subtract from $|N - X|$, proving optimality.

Exercise 7.2. TBD

8. exercise sheet

Exercise 8.1. TBD

Exercise 8.2. Observe that G has a T -join if and only if all connected components of G have a T -join. So it suffices to show the case when G is connected.

Now suppose that G has a T -join $J \subseteq E$. Consider

$$a := \sum_{v \in T} \deg_J(v) \text{ and } b := \sum_{v \in N-T} \deg_J(v).$$

The term $a + b$ precisely double-counts the cardinality of J . Hence, $a + b$ is even. Since b is a sum of even addends it also must be even. We can follow that $a = a + b - b$ is even. Finally, because all summands of a are odd there must be an even number of elements in T .

Assume conversely T to have even cardinality $2t$ and let v_1, \dots, v_{2t} be the distinct nodes of T . For G is connected there exists a path P_i connecting v_i and v_{i+t} for all $i = 1 \dots t$. Now define J to be the edges of E occurring in an odd number of these t paths. For every $i \in [t]$ the sum

$$\sum_{j=1}^t \deg_{P_j}(v_i) = \deg_{P_i}(v_i) + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^t \deg_{P_j}(v_i) = 1 + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^t \deg_{P_j}(v_i)$$

is odd because for every $i \in [t] \setminus \{j\}$ the addend $\deg_{P_j}(v_i)$ is either 0 or 2. Analogously, we can argue that this sum is also odd for all the other nodes of T and even for all nodes not in T . By construction of J we have

$$\deg_J(v) \equiv \sum_{j=1}^t \deg_{P_j}(v) \pmod{2}$$

for all nodes $v \in N$. This shows that J is a T -join.

Exercise 8.3. We prove:

(a) Let J be a T -join and $S \subseteq V$. Then the sum of all degrees of S limited to J is:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v \in S} \delta_J(v) &= \sum_{v \in S \cap T} \delta_J(v) + \sum_{v \in S \setminus T} \delta_J(v) \\ &\equiv |S \cap T| \cdot 1 + 0 \\ &\equiv |S \cap T| \pmod{2} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $|\delta(S) \cap J|$ must have the same parity as $|S \cap T|$, because otherwise the

theoretical sum of degrees of $G(S)$ would be odd. This would contradict that the sum of all degrees in a (sub-)graph must be always even!

$J \cap \delta(S)$ is non-empty because $|S \cap T|$ has odd parity by definition.

(b) We prove both directions.

“ \Rightarrow ” Suppose F includes a T -join J . Consider the T -cut of a T -odd $S \subseteq V$.
By (a), $F \cap \delta(S) \supseteq J \cap \delta(S) \neq \emptyset$.

“ \Leftarrow ” Suppose F has only non-empty intersections with T -cuts. We construct a T -join $J \subseteq F$ as follows:

Algorithm 6: Construct T -join

```

 $J \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
 $U \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
while  $v \in T - U$  do
     $S \leftarrow \{v\}$ 
     $K \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
    while true do
        Choose any  $(u, w) \in \delta(S) \cap F$ 
         $S \leftarrow S + u$ 
         $K \leftarrow K + (u, w)$  if  $w \in U$  then
            Add any node reachable from  $w$  via  $J$  to  $S$  and corresponding edges
            to  $K$ 
        end
        if  $w \in T$  then
             $U \leftarrow U + \{v, w\}$ 
            Let  $P \subseteq K$  be the (unique) path from  $v$  to  $w$ 
             $J \leftarrow J \Delta P$ 
            break
        end
    end
end
end

```

We start from any unused node $v \in T$ and construct a path to another unused node in T by repeatedly adding any edge in F from the T -cut formed by all visited nodes S . For this, we need to assure S is always T -odd: If our new node is in T , but used, we need to repair our T -odd-property of S by adding all nodes in the connected component of our partial solution J . In particular, there must be an even number of nodes in this component we add.

Therefore, our algorithm is well-defined and terminates.

It is clear that our final $J \subseteq F$. Furthermore, by [Lemma 4.97](#), our partial J is always a T -join for U (because P is a T -join for $\{u, w\}$). Thus, in the end we have $T = U$ and J is a T -join. (This feels more complicated than necessary...)

Any feasible solution now has a non-empty intersection with any T -cut, therefore the solution contains a T -join. Because we only have non-negative costs, an optimal solution does not need any edges that aren't part of the included T -join. Since every T -join is also feasible by our theorem, an optimal IP-solution is also a minimal T -join.

(c) We prove both directions.

“ \Rightarrow ” Suppose F includes a T -cut $\delta(S)$. Consider a T -join J , then $F \supseteq \delta(S) \supseteq \delta(S) \cap J \neq \emptyset$.

“ \Leftarrow ” We prove the contraposition: Suppose F does not include a T -cut. Then, for every T -cut $\delta(S)$ it holds $\delta(S) \cap (E - F)$ is non-empty. By (b), $E - F$ includes a T -join J . Therefore, $J \cap F = \emptyset$.

Index

- α -Approximation, 60
- Alternating, 50
- Alternating tree, 53
- approximation
 - fixed factor, 60
 - FPTAS, 60
 - PTAS, 60
- Augmenting, 50
- Big-M method, 6
 - righthandside, 7
 - upper bound, 7
- big-O, 10
- Blossom constraints, 49
- Certificate, 11
- certificate
 - succinct, 11
- Chinese Postman Problem, 54
- Chvátal proof, 62
- Chvátal rank, 64
- Circuit, 44
- circuit
 - fundamental, 45
- Clique, 10
- Connected components, 32
- Consecutive ones-property, 30
- Convex conjugate, 26
- Cramer's Rule, 28
- Cutting Plane
 - Chvátal Cut, 62
 - Gomory Cut, 62
- Diophantine equation, 23
- Ellipsoid method, 18
- Euler Tour, 54
- Eulerian, 54
- Exposed, 50
- Extended matching, 51
- Extensibility, 37
- Farkas' Lemma, 22, 24
- Gaussian Elimination, 22
- Gourdan's Theorem, 24
- Greedy, 36
- Hermite Normal Form, 23
- Independence system, 37
- Independent set, 15
- Integer hull, 5
- Integer Programming, 5
 - binary, 5
 - mixed, 5
 - pure, 5
- Integral, 42
- Königsberg Bridge Problem, 54
- Kilter diagram, 26
- Kruskal's algorithm, 31
- Marginal cost, 33
- Matroid, 37
- Minimal Spanning Tree, 31
- Minkowski's Theorem, 20
- Nested, 33
- Network matrix, 28
- Node cover, 14
- NP, 11
 - co-NP, 17
 - coNP-complete, 17
 - hard, 17
- NP-complete, 14
 - strongly, 16
 - weakly, 16
- objective function
 - piecewise linear, 8
- Partial augmentation, 47
- partition, 16
 - 3-partition, 16
- Polar, 19
- polyhedron
 - H-representation, 20
 - V-representation, 20
- Polymatroid, 40
- polymatroid
 - rank function, 40

- Postal Delivery Problem, 54
- problem types
 - decision, 10
 - optimization, 10, 18
- Rank function, 37
- reduction, 13
 - Yes-preserving, 13
- Resolution Theorem, 20
- Satisfiability problem, 12
- satisfiability problem
 - 3-satisfiability, 14
- separation problem, 18
- Shortcut-free, 46
- Stable set, 15
- Subdifferential, 25
- Submodular, 33
- T-even, 58
- T-odd, 58
- Theorem of the Alternative, 22
- Totally dual integral, 42
- Totally unimodular, 28
- Tree-path, 28
- Tutte-Berge, 50

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