

## Maxcut problem -

diff nodes  $\rightarrow$  cut  
Same nodes  $\rightarrow$  no cut



our objective is to maximise this cut  
out of all  $n$  nodes.

we have to generate  $n$ -node graph  
and calculate cut values  
return the max of it

$$x_i = +1 \text{ or } -1$$

$$x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$$

$2^n$  possibilities to generate a graph  
of  $n$  nodes

if  $n \rightarrow \infty$  NP Hard problem

$$x_i x_j \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{if } -1 & \text{cut} \\ \text{if } +1 & \text{No cut} \end{array}$$

Rewrite

$$\frac{1 - x_i x_j}{2} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{if } 1 & \text{cut} \\ \text{if } 0 & \text{No cut} \end{array}$$

Objective :-  $\max \sum \left( \frac{1 - x_i x_j}{2} \right)$

if  $w$  is the weight of edge

$$\max \left( w_{ij} \left( \frac{1 - x_i x_j}{2} \right) \right)$$

Rewrite in matrix notation

Consider matrix  $X = x x^T$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{let } x &= n \times 1 \\ &= [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] \end{aligned}$$

So  $X_{ij}$  values are all  $x_i x_j$

$$\Rightarrow \max \left[ w_{ij} \left( \frac{1 - x_i x_j}{2} \right) \right] \Rightarrow \max \left[ w_{ij} \left( \frac{1 - X_{ij}}{2} \right) \right]$$

New objective

$$\max \left[ w_{ij} \left( \frac{1 - x_{ij}}{2} \right) \right]$$

then this  $X$  has properties

$$\textcircled{1} X_{ii} = 1 \quad \text{---} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & 1 \\ -1 & x & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{2} X \geq 0$$

$\hookrightarrow$  positive semi definite  
matrix as it can be  
written as  $X = xx^T$

$$\textcircled{3} \text{Rank}(X) = 1 \quad \rightarrow \text{as it is produced  
by single vector } x$$

$$\textcircled{4} X \text{ is symmetric}$$

This is still hard to solve as  $x \in (-1+1)$

This Binary input is making it Rank 1

In General, low rank matrix is easy to solve  
compared to high rank.

But as Rank 1 is NP-hard we try to find  
next low Rank solution.

we know  $1 \leq \text{Rank of matrix} < \infty$

New objective -

$$\text{maximise } \left( \sum w_{ij} \frac{[1 - x_{ij}]}{2} \right)$$

$$x \geq 0$$

$$\text{Rank} > 1$$

$$x_{ii} = 1$$

$x$  is symmetric

$$\Rightarrow x = vv^T$$

$v = n \times k$  matrix

instead of  $n = n \times 1$  size

we are taking a vector of points

$$\Rightarrow v = n \times k \text{ size}$$

this is called SDP relaxation. There is a method proposed long before to solve SDP problem.

In this paper they proposed new method of solving this SDP which is EP-SDP

we add some entropy to our objective function. This entropy pushes the function to become low-Rank (Not certainly Rank 1)

So the flow is

Rank 1  $\rightarrow$  High Rank  $\rightarrow$  push close to Rank 1

Entropy functions -

① Tsallis entropy - 
$$\frac{1}{1-\alpha} \left[ \frac{\text{tr}(X^\alpha)}{(\text{tr} X)^\alpha} - 1 \right]$$

② Renyi entropy - 
$$\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \frac{X^{\alpha-1}}{\text{tr} X^\alpha} \left( I - \frac{X}{\text{tr} X} \right) V$$

③ Neumann entropy - 
$$\frac{\text{tr} X I - X}{(\text{tr} X)^2} \left[ I + \log \frac{X}{\text{tr} X} \right] V$$

Here we will use Tsallis's entropy.

## New objective function

$$\max \sum w_{ij} \left( \frac{1 - x_{ij}}{2} \right) - \lambda R(X)$$

$\lambda$  - controls strength of entropy

$R(X)$  - entropy function

① we use gradient descent to solve this Objective.

② Then to the result we apply GW Rounding and convert back to +1 and -1

### ① Gradient descent

$$v \rightarrow v + \eta(\nabla)$$

$\eta$  is step value

$\nabla$  is differentiate of  $v$

In our objective  $X = v v^T$

so we try to find Best  $v$



## Algorithm -

choose rank  $k$

Initialise  $V$  randomly

Normalise each row  $v_i \leftarrow \frac{v_i}{\|v_i\|}$

set penalty  $\lambda \leftarrow \lambda_0$

for each penalty stage  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$

for each iteration  $m = 1, 2, \dots, M$

compute gradient

$$[f_{\text{on}} \leftarrow f_{\text{on}} + \lambda (\nabla)]$$

diff  $\downarrow$  obj + diff entropy



$$V \leftarrow V - \eta (g_f + \lambda g_R)$$

obj diff + entropy diff

$$\lambda \leftarrow f \lambda_0$$

We will get  $V$ , apply GW Rounding to  
Convert to  $+1$  and  $-1$

## ② GW Rounding -

for a value  $k$

if  $A \cdot k$  and  $k$  has same sign  $\rightarrow +1$   
has diff sign  $\rightarrow -1$

$k$  is an arbitrary value

$A$  is our  $v$  matrix

Using this gradient based entropy penalty proved to give us much faster solution than regular SDP solving.

## Entropy Penalised

## Semi-Definite Programming

19-02-2026

Cham Phouksa