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Instituto de Ciências Matemáticas e de Computação

## Planar Maximal Covering with Ellipses

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## **Cobertura Planar Maximal por Elipses**

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# ABSTRACT

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Planar maximal covering with ellipses is an optimization problem where one wants to place ellipses on the plane to cover demand points, such that a function depending on the value of the covered points and on the cost of the ellipses that have been used is maximized. Initially, we developed an algorithm for the version of the problem where the ellipses are parallel to the coordinate axis. For the future, we intend to adapt an approximation algorithm developed for the planar maximal covering by disks and develop a method for the variant of the problem where the ellipses can be freely rotated.

**Keywords:** Optimization, Planar Maximal Covering Location Problem, maximal covering of points using ellipses.





# LIST OF FIGURES

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Figure 1 – A non-axis-parallel ellipse and its foci points. . . . .	19
Figure 2 – The ellipse as a parametric curve. . . . .	20
Figure 3 – Plot of function $L$ in the interval $[-7, 7]$ . . . . .	21
Figure 4 – The rotated ellipse. . . . .	22
Figure 5 – The representation of a complex number on two dimensions. . . . .	23
Figure 6 – Three disks that have non-empty pairwise intersection among them, but no common intersection. . . . .	31
Figure 7 – Three disks and their intersection points. . . . .	32
Figure 8 – The intersection list of a disk with three other disks. . . . .	33
Figure 9 – Three ellipses and their intersection points . . . . .	39
Figure 10 – Determining $\Gamma_+(1, 2)$ and $\Gamma_-(1, 2)$ . . . . .	40
Figure 11 – Transforming a solution of E3P into a solution of the circumradius problem. . . . .	45
Figure 12 – The interpolation error measured on roots that were found. . . . .	50
Figure 13 – An instance of E3P with four solutions. . . . .	54
Figure 14 – An instance of E3P with six solutions. . . . .	54
Figure 15 – The maximum and average error for instances with known solutions. . . . .	55
Figure 16 – The distance of the roots to the unit circle. . . . .	56
Figure 17 – The error measured on solutions found by Algorithm 5. . . . .	56
Figure 18 – An optimal solution before and after applying Lemma 6.1. . . . .	59
Figure 19 – A $(E, u, v)$ -feasible angle and a not $(E, u, v)$ -feasible angle. . . . .	60
Figure 20 – A visualization of Lemma 6.2. . . . .	62
Figure 21 – An optimal solution for the instance AB120. . . . .	66



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# LIST OF ALGORITHMS

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Algorithm 1 – Algorithm for MWC. . . . .	34
Algorithm 2 – Algorithm for MCD1 that returns a CLS. . . . .	35
Algorithm 3 – Algorithm for MCE . . . . .	42
Algorithm 4 – Algorithm for MCE- $k$ . . . . .	42
Algorithm 5 – The algorithm for E3P. . . . .	53
Algorithm 6 – An algorithm that constructs a CLS for a given ellipse. . . . .	65
Algorithm 7 – Algorithm for MCER . . . . .	66
Algorithm 8 – Algorithm for MCER- $k$ . . . . .	67



# CONTENTS

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1	INTRODUCTION . . . . .	13
2	NOTATION AND PRELIMINARIES . . . . .	17
2.1	Elliptical and Euclidean norm functions . . . . .	17
2.2	Disk . . . . .	17
2.3	Ellipse . . . . .	18
2.3.1	<i>Axis-parallel ellipse</i> . . . . .	19
2.3.2	<i>The distance between points of an ellipse-line intersection</i> . . . . .	20
2.3.3	<i>Non-axis-parallel ellipse</i> . . . . .	21
2.3.4	<i>Notation</i> . . . . .	22
2.4	Complex numbers . . . . .	23
2.5	Polynomials and their roots . . . . .	24
2.6	Real trigonometric polynomial . . . . .	25
3	MAXIMUM COVERING BY DISKS . . . . .	27
3.1	Definition . . . . .	27
3.1.1	<i>CLS and CIPS</i> . . . . .	28
3.2	Related Work . . . . .	28
3.3	One disk version . . . . .	28
3.4	Maximum Weight Clique . . . . .	29
3.4.1	<i>An algorithm for the Maximum Weight Clique Problem</i> . . . . .	31
3.5	An algorithm for MCD . . . . .	34
4	MAXIMUM COVERING BY ELLIPSES . . . . .	37
4.1	Definition . . . . .	37
4.2	Related work . . . . .	38
4.3	One Ellipse Version . . . . .	38
4.4	Determining $\Gamma_+(i, j)$ and $\Gamma_-(i, j)$ . . . . .	39
4.5	An algorithm for MCE . . . . .	40
4.6	Adding facility cost . . . . .	41
5	EVERY CENTER AND ANGLE OF ROTATION OF AN ELLIPSE GIVEN ITS SHAPE AND THREE POINTS . . . . .	43
5.1	Definition . . . . .	43

5.2	Transforming the problem . . . . .	44
5.2.1	<i>A circumradius problem</i> . . . . .	44
5.2.2	<i>The number of solutions of E3P</i> . . . . .	46
5.3	An attempt using the conic general equation . . . . .	46
5.4	An approximation method . . . . .	47
5.4.1	<i>Chebyshev polynomial</i> . . . . .	47
5.4.2	<i>Chebyshev interpolation</i> . . . . .	48
5.4.3	<i>Testing different interpolant degrees</i> . . . . .	49
5.5	Converting $\xi$ into a polynomial . . . . .	50
5.5.1	<i>Real polynomial</i> . . . . .	50
5.5.2	<i>Complex polynomial</i> . . . . .	51
5.5.2.1	<i>Further improvements</i> . . . . .	52
5.6	An algorithm for E3P . . . . .	52
5.6.1	<i>Instances with six and four solutions</i> . . . . .	54
5.6.2	<i>Numerical Stability</i> . . . . .	55
6	MAXIMAL COVERING BY ELLIPSES WITH ROTATION . . . . .	57
6.1	Definition . . . . .	57
6.2	An optimal and finite set of solutions . . . . .	58
6.2.1	<i>First case</i> . . . . .	63
6.2.2	<i>Second case</i> . . . . .	63
6.2.3	<i>Third case</i> . . . . .	63
6.3	An algorithm for MCER . . . . .	64
6.3.1	<i>Adding facility cost</i> . . . . .	67
6.3.2	<i>Improvements and implementation details</i> . . . . .	67
7	NUMERICAL EXPERIMENTS . . . . .	69
8	FUTURE WORK . . . . .	71
	BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	73

# INTRODUCTION

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The Minimum Cover Problem –also known as just the Set Cover Problem–, and the Maximal Covering Problem are the two main types of optimal covering problems found in the literature ([KARATAS; RAZI; TOZAN, 2016](#)).

One of the 21 Karp’s NP-Complete problems<sup>1</sup> ([KARP, 1972](#)), the Minimum Cover Problem is very well explored and considered to be a classic. Given a demand set along with a collection of subsets of the demand set, the problem is to determine the minimum number of elements from the collection of subsets needed to cover the whole demand set. One of its most famous examples is the Minimum Vertex Cover defined over graphs, where the vertex set has to be covered by a subset of edges.

The second type of covering problems arose from the fact that covering almost all the demand set can be a lot cheaper than having to cover it all ([QUILES; MARÍN, 2015](#)). This second type is known as Maximal Covering Location Problem (MCLP) and was introduced in [Church and Velle \(1974\)](#). In this first study, the author defined the problem on graphs, and the objective was to maximize the coverage of a demand set, which was a subset of the graph’s vertices, by choosing the location of a facility set, which covered any vertex within a given coverage radius.

Just like the Minimum Cover problem, MCLP is NP-Hard ([HATTA \*et al.\*, 2013](#)) and both deterministic, using integer programming, and heuristic methods have been proposed to solve it. A very complete survey of developments in this area can be found in [ReVelle, Eiselt and Daskin \(2008\)](#).

In [Church \(1984\)](#) a new kind of MCLP named Planar Maximal Covering Location Problem (PMCLP) was introduced. Unlike its predecessor, this version of the problem was not defined on graphs. Instead, on PMCLP the demand set and the facilities are located in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and a facility’s coverage area is determined by a distance function. Initially, the Euclidean distance was

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<sup>1</sup> The decision version, which asks if there is a cover of size  $k$ , is NP-Complete.

considered and the idea behind the method proposed in Church (1984) was to convert PMCLP into an instance of MCLP and then utilize any of the previous developed exact methods to obtain a solution for PMCLP. This reduction was done by identifying a Candidate Locations Set (CLS) which represented the possible locations that needed to be evaluated for every facility, such that the optimal solution could be found. From the CLS, a network was built on which MCLP could be applied. Generating the CLS specifically for the case of Euclidean distance will be described here on Chapter 3.

Furthermore, some variations of PMCLP can also be found in the literature: in Younies and Wesolowsky (2007) PMCLP was studied under the block norm distance, in Craparo *et al.* (2019) a mean-shift algorithm for large scale<sup>2</sup> PMCLP was proposed, and in Bansal and Kianfar (2017) a version with partial coverage and rectangular demand and facility zones was introduced.

PMCLP under Euclidean distance is also found in the literature as the Maximum Covering by Disks (MCD) problem. Early works only tackled the one-disk version of it. In Chazelle and Lee (1986) a  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  algorithm, which still stands as the best in terms of run-time complexity, was proposed beating the prior  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$  algorithm created by Drezner (1981). The  $m$  disks version of MCD was studied in Berg, Cabello and Har-Peled (2006) which had as its most important result a  $(1 - \varepsilon)$ -approximation algorithm which runs in  $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ . To achieve its main goal, however, they developed a deterministic  $\mathcal{O}(n^{2m-1} \log n)$  algorithm which gets employed into their approximation scheme. Additionally, in Aronov and Har-Peled (2008) one-disk maximum covering is proven to be 3SUM-HARD. This means that maximizing the number of points covered by a disk is as hard as finding three real numbers that sum to zero among  $n$  given real numbers.

Two versions of PMCLP are studied in this work, both of them related to ellipses. The first one was introduced in Canbolat and Massow (2009) and will be referred to here as Planar Maximal Covering by Ellipses (PMCE). This version does not allow the ellipses to rotate, so basically it only differs from its disks counterpart in the shape of the facility's coverage area. The second version was introduced in Andretta and Birgin (2013) and will be referred to here as Planar Maximal Covering by Ellipses with Rotation (PM CER). This version of the problem had no restriction on the rotation of ellipses—note that this is a slightly bigger modification of PMCLP compared to the first one, as not only the location for the facilities must be determined, but also their angle of rotation. The main motivation to study these two versions of PMCLP is that cellphone towers can have elliptically shaped coverage area, therefore, to determine what are the best locations to place  $m$  cellphone towers to maximize the amount of the population covered by their signal, an elliptical PMCLP is better-suited (CANBOLAT; MASSOW, 2009).

Only two articles have been found published in the literature that study this problem. In Canbolat and Massow (2009), a mixed-integer non-linear programming method was proposed as a first approach to the problem. For some instances, the method took too long and did not

<sup>2</sup> Numerical experiments were done for up to 3000 points.



find an optimal solution. For this reason, a heuristic method was developed using a technique called Simulated Annealing. Solutions for the instances that timed-out with the first method were then obtained. The problem was further explored in [Andretta and Birgin \(2013\)](#) which proposed a deterministic method that showed better performance obtaining optimal solutions for the instances, which the first method could not. Also, in [Andretta and Birgin \(2013\)](#), the version of the problem where the ellipses could be freely rotated was introduced and an exact method, which could not find optimal solutions for large instances; and a heuristic method were proposed for it. Despite the similarities, none of the works cited above base their development on the maximum covering by disks algorithms found in the literature.

The main results of this work are found in ?? where a new algorithm for the version of the elliptical PMCLP where the ellipses can be freely rotated is developed. The proposed algorithm has a runtime complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n^{3m})$  and one of its most important steps is finding every solution of a not-previously-known problem. In [Chapter 5](#), this problem is introduced and an algorithm for it is presented. The rest of the work is structured in the following way: [Chapter 2](#) introduces some definitions and results that are used throughout the next chapters; in [Chapter 3](#), the maximum covering by disks problem is studied and a  $\mathcal{O}(n^{2m})$  algorithm is proposed; in ??, the maximum covering by ellipses is introduced and the algorithm for the disks case is adapted for it; finally, [Chapter 8](#) presents a conclusion as well as what is left as future work. Also, ?? determines with detail the intersection of two ellipses, which is used in the algorithm developed in ??.



## NOTATION AND PRELIMINARIES

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Some definitions and results that are used throughout the text are given in this chapter.

### 2.1 Elliptical and Euclidean norm functions

A norm in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is a function that maps every vector onto a non-negative real number satisfying homogeneity and the triangle inequality.

Let  $u \in \mathbb{R}^2$  be a vector, the Euclidean norm of  $u$  is defined as

$$||u||_2 = \sqrt{u^T u}.$$

The elliptical norm, also known as weighted norm, takes a 2 by 2 positive definite matrix as its parameter. This matrix can be seen as a linear transformation of the Euclidean norm. The elliptical norm of  $u \in \mathbb{R}^2$  is defined as

$$||u||_Q = \sqrt{u^T Q u},$$

where  $Q$  is a 2 by 2 positive definite matrix. Note that the elliptical norm, when taking  $Q$  to be the identity matrix, becomes the Euclidean norm.

Determining the distance between two points, given a norm function, is done by calculating the norm of the vector defined by the difference between the two points. For example, the elliptical distance between the points  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}^2$  is given by  $||p - q||_Q$ .

### 2.2 Disk

A circle (or circumference) is a set of points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  that have the same Euclidean distance, also known as radius, to another point, also referred to as the center of the circle. A unit circle is

a circle with radius equal to 1.

A disk is the set of points bounded by a circle. In other words let  $c \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . A unit disk with center  $c$  is the set of every point  $p \in \mathbb{R}^2$  which satisfies

$$\|p - c\|_2^2 \leq 1. \quad (2.1)$$

## 2.3 Ellipse

An ellipse is a curve which is categorized, along with the parabola and the hyperbola, as a conic section. They get this name because conic sections are curves resulted from the intersection of a right circular cone in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a plane (BRANNAN; ESPLIN; GRAY, 1999). From that definition, an equation which describes any conic section is given as follows

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $A, B, C, D, E, F \in \mathbb{R}$  are fixed and  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ . Distinguishing an ellipse from the other conic sections can be done using the condition

$$4AC - B^2 > 0.$$

More details about conic sections can be found in Ayoub (1993).

Assuming the center of an ellipse is  $c \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , then Equation 2.2 can be rewritten as a quadratic form as follows

$$(p - c)^T Q (p - c) = 1,$$

with  $p \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $Q$  being a 2 by 2 positive definite matrix which carries the parameters of the ellipse. From Equation 2.2,  $Q$  can be defined as follows

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} A & \frac{B}{2} \\ \frac{B}{2} & C \end{pmatrix}.$$

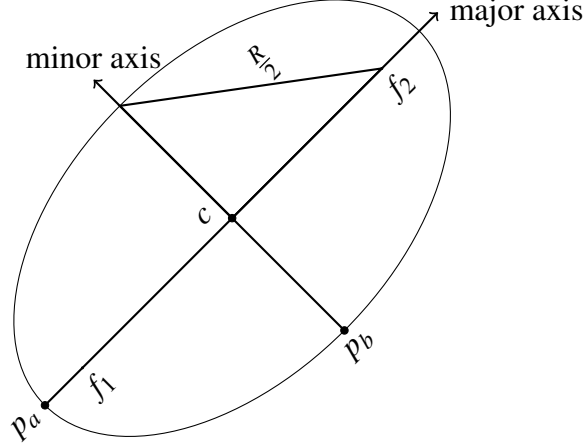
Note that asking  $Q$  to be positive definite is the same as asking  $4AC - B^2$  to be positive. This makes us arrive at the following definition of the ellipse.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}^2$  be the center of an ellipse and  $Q$  be a 2 by 2 positive definite matrix. An ellipse is the set of every point  $p \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $\|p - c\|_Q^2 = (p - c)^T Q (p - c) = 1$ . Also, a point  $p$  is considered covered by an ellipse if  $\|p - c\|_Q^2 = (p - c)^T Q (p - c) \leq 1$ .

An alternative way to define an ellipse, which can be seen as just a property derived from the definition above, is to begin its construction with two points called foci and a constant  $R \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $R$  being greater than the Euclidean distance between the two foci points (see Figure 1). The ellipse is, then, defined as the set of points whose distance to the foci is equal to  $R$ . In other

words, let  $f_1, f_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2$  be the two foci points, the ellipse is the set of every point  $p \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , such that  $\|p - f_1\|_2 + \|p - f_2\|_2 = R$ . It can be shown that this definition is equivalent to [Definition 2.1](#), with the coverage of a point  $p$  being equivalent to  $\|p - f_1\|_2 + \|p - f_2\|_2 \leq R$ .

Figure 1 – A non-axis-parallel ellipse and its foci points.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Also, in [Figure 1](#), the distance  $a = \|p_a - c\|_2$ , where  $p_a$  is one of the intersection points of the ellipse with the major axis, is called the semi-major, and the distance  $b = \|p_b - c\|_2$ , where  $p_b$  is one of the intersection points of the ellipse with the minor axis, is called the semi-minor. These two values are also referred to as the shape parameters of an ellipse. Finally, an ellipse is said to be axis-parallel if its major axis (see [Figure 1](#)), which is the line that passes through its two foci points, is parallel to the  $x$ -axis.

### 2.3.1 Axis-parallel ellipse

An axis-parallel ellipse centered at  $c = (c_x, c_y)$  can be described using [Definition 2.1](#) with  $Q$  being a diagonal matrix <sup>1</sup>. This can be understood as a scaling transformation applied to the Euclidean norm.

Defining the matrix  $Q$  as

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} \end{pmatrix},$$

then, starting from [Definition 2.1](#), we can obtain the following equation

<sup>1</sup> The only non-zero terms are in the main diagonal.

$$\begin{aligned}
(p-c)^T Q(p-c) &= 1 && \Rightarrow \\
\left(\frac{p_x - c_x}{a^2}, \frac{p_y - c_y}{b^2}\right)^T (p_x - c_x, p_y - c_y) &= 1 && \Rightarrow \\
\frac{(p_x - c_x)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(p_y - c_y)^2}{b^2} &= 1, && (2.3)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$ , with  $a > b$ , are ellipse's shape parameters. Also, the coverage region is determined by just changing the equality to an inequality as follows

$$\frac{(p_x - c_x)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(p_y - c_y)^2}{b^2} \leq 1. \quad (2.4)$$

Another way to represent ellipses, which will be useful in some occasions, is through writing it as a curve function of the angle with its major axis (see [Figure 2](#)).

Figure 2 – The ellipse as a parametric curve.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}^2$  be the center of an ellipse with shape parameters  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$ , with  $a > b$ . Then  $\gamma: [0, 2\pi) \mapsto \mathbb{R}^2$  defines a curve which maps every angle onto a point on the ellipse and it is defined as follows

$$\gamma(t) = \begin{cases} x(t) = a \cos t + c_x, \\ y(t) = b \sin t + c_y. \end{cases} \quad (2.5)$$

Also, its derivative with respect to  $t$  is given as follows

$$\gamma'(t) = \begin{cases} x'(t) = -a \sin t, \\ y'(t) = b \cos t. \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

### 2.3.2 The distance between points of an ellipse-line intersection

Consider an ellipse with shape parameters  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$ , centered at the origin, and a line represented by the equation  $y = mx + c$ , with  $m, c \in \mathbb{R}$ . Suppose that this line intersects the

ellipse at least at one point. Plugging the line's equation into [Equation 2.3](#), it is possible to obtain the distance between the intersection points. The final expression is given by

$$D(m, c) = \frac{\sqrt{(a^2 m^2 + b^2 - c^2)(4a^2 b^2 (1 + m^2))}}{(a^2 m^2 + b^2)},$$

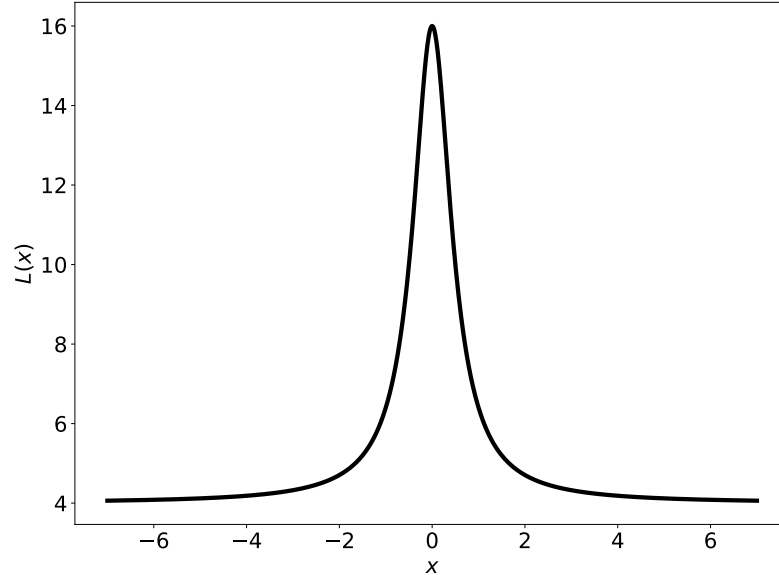
with  $D : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  being a function of the line parameters  $(m, c)$ . It is also possible to see that, when  $m$  is fixed,  $D(m, c)^2$  is a parabola, and that  $D(m, c)$  is maximized at  $c = 0$ . From that, we can conclude that if  $m$  is fixed, the line that has the most distant intersection points with an ellipse is the one that passes through the origin; and also, that  $D(m, c)$  attains every value in the range  $[0, D(m, 0)]$ . Following that, we define a function  $L : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  as

$$L(m) := D(m, 0)^2 = \frac{(a^2 m^2 + b^2)(4a^2 b^2 (1 + m^2))}{(a^2 m^2 + b^2)^2}, \quad (2.7)$$

which describes the maximum distance between points of an ellipse-line intersection considering all lines with  $m$  angular coefficient.

It is possible, by calculating the derivatives, to conclude that  $L$  has its maximum at  $m = 0$ , is increasing in  $[0, \infty)$ , is decreasing in  $(-\infty, 0]$ , and attains every value in the interval  $(4b^2, 4a^2]$ . Notice that  $L$  never hits  $4b^2$  because that is the distance between the intersection of the ellipse with a vertical line. In [Figure 3](#), an example of function  $L$  is shown with  $(a, b) = (2, 1)$ .

Figure 3 – Plot of function  $L$  in the interval  $[-7, 7]$ .



Source: Elaborated by the author.

### 2.3.3 Non-axis-parallel ellipse

A non-axis-parallel ellipse centered at  $(c_x, c_y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  can also be described by [Definition 2.1](#), nonetheless, in this work, a simpler equation is used instead. Besides the center and the

shape parameters  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$ , with  $a > b$ ; an angle of rotation  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$  is given representing the angle between the  $x$ -axis and the major axis of the ellipse. This can be seen on [Figure 4](#), where the dashed lines represent the ellipse's axes and the angle between the major-axis and the  $x$ -axis is displayed.

An ellipse rotated by  $\theta$  can be transformed into an axis-parallel, and origin-centered ellipse by applying two linear transformations: translation to make its center be at  $(0, 0)$ , and rotation to make its major axis parallel to the  $x$ -axis. Reversing these transformations produces the following equation for a non-axis-parallel ellipse

$$\frac{((x - c_x) \cos \theta + (y - c_y) \sin \theta)^2}{a^2} + \frac{((x - c_x) \sin \theta - (y - c_y) \cos \theta)^2}{b^2} - 1 = 0. \quad (2.8)$$

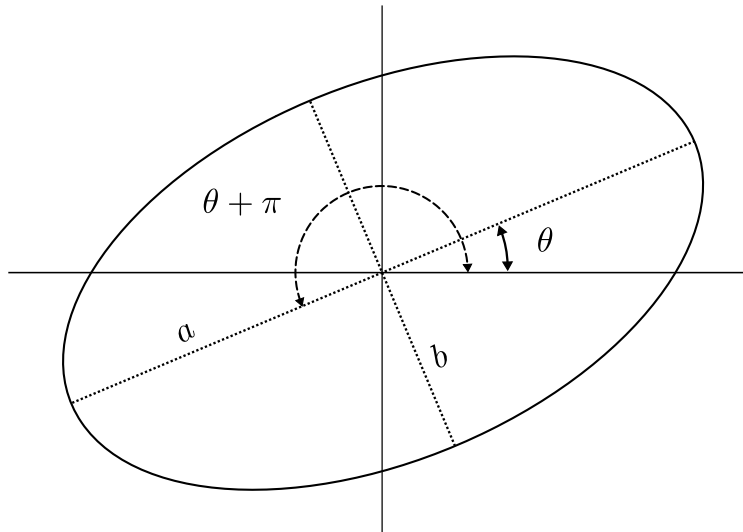
The coverage region of that same ellipse is given by every point  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  that satisfies the following equation

$$\frac{((x - c_x) \cos \theta + (y - c_y) \sin \theta)^2}{a^2} + \frac{((x - c_x) \sin \theta - (y - c_y) \cos \theta)^2}{b^2} \leq 1, \quad (2.9)$$

which is the same as [Equation 2.8](#) with the equality sign ( $=$ ) replaced by ( $\leq$ ).

Another important property of ellipses is shown on [Figure 4](#). The two angles of rotation between the major axis and the  $x$ -axis ( $\theta$  and  $\theta + \pi$ ) are equivalent – they produce the same ellipse. This symmetry is true for any angle of rotation, which means that  $\theta$  is equivalent to  $\theta + k\pi$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore, to represent any ellipse, it is enough to specify the domain of  $\theta$  as  $[0, \pi)$ .

Figure 4 – The rotated ellipse.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

### 2.3.4 Notation

As stated by [Definition 2.1](#), the word ellipse is used to refer to the set of points that satisfies the equality equation, which can be seen as the border of an ellipse's coverage area. For



this work, however, it is more convenient to refer directly to the coverage area of an ellipse and add a notation to express its border. For example, let  $E$  be an ellipse's coverage area, and  $\mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  a set of points, then  $E \cap \mathcal{P}$  denotes the set of points from  $\mathcal{P}$  inside the coverage area of that ellipse. When we need to refer specifically to the border of  $E$ , we use the boundary operator:  $\partial E$ .

## 2.4 Complex numbers

The set of complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$  can be seen as just an extension of the set of real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ . A thorough introduction on this topic is out of the scope and we just go through some basic properties that are going to be used later in [Chapter 5](#).

Any complex number  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  is composed of a real part  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , and an imaginary part  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , multiple of the imaginary unit  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ . This is expressed as  $z = a + ib$ . Because complex numbers are composed of two real numbers, mapping  $\mathbb{C}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , as shown in [Figure 5](#), provides a good way to visualize the set of complex numbers. This is also a good way to visualize Euler's Formula. As it can be seen on [Figure 5](#), any complex number can be written in terms of its radius and polar angle as

$$z = re^{i\theta} = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta),$$

with  $r$  being the length of the vector determined by the point  $z$  on the complex plane and  $\theta = \text{angle}(z)$  being its polar angle. Note that  $\text{angle}$  is a function from  $\mathbb{C}$  to  $[0, 2\pi)$ .



Figure 5 – The representation of a complex number on two dimensions.

The complex conjugate is another important operator that is utilized later. Let  $z = a + bi \in \mathbb{C}$ , then we refer to  $\bar{z}$  as the complex conjugate of  $z$  and it is defined as

$$\bar{z} = a - bi.$$

Lastly, two observations that are very important for the developments of [Chapter 5](#) need to be stated. Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{angle}(\bar{z}) &= 2\pi - \text{angle}(z), \\ \text{angle}(-z) &= \pi + \text{angle}(z). \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

Checking the validity of these two equalities can be done by just observing the symmetry between the points defined by  $z$ ,  $\bar{z}$ , and  $-z$  on the plane.

## 2.5 Polynomials and their roots

In this work, we are mostly interested in univariate polynomials defined over the complex numbers. A function  $p_n : \mathbb{C} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$  is a  $n$ -degree polynomial if it can be written as

$$p_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k, \quad (2.11)$$

with  $a_0, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{C}$ . In this work, when a polynomial is written in the form of [Equation 2.11](#) we say that it is in the power form or in the monomial form.

The famous Abel-Ruffini Theorem (a proof can be seen in [Skopenkov \(2015\)](#)) states that for polynomials of degree higher than four, there is no closed formula<sup>2</sup> to determine their roots. Fortunately, a numerical approach exists for higher-degree polynomials which works really well in practice.

In [Horn and Johnson \(1986, p. 195\)](#) a theorem is presented which says that for every univariate polynomial of degree  $n$ , there exists a companion matrix which is a  $n \times n$  matrix, such that its eigenvalues are the zeros of that polynomial. For example, the companion matrix of a degree-5 polynomial written as [Equation 2.11](#) is given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{a_0}{a_5} & -\frac{a_1}{a_5} & -\frac{a_2}{a_5} & -\frac{a_3}{a_5} & -\frac{a_4}{a_5} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Finding every eigenvalue of a matrix can be done using the QR algorithm, which runs in  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  and uses  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  memory (a very complete introduction to it can be found in [Watkins \(2008\)](#)). The first step of the QR algorithm is to convert the input matrix into the Hessenberg form. This is done because matrices in the Hessenberg form maintain its form under the iterations of the algorithm. After that, the algorithm, under some assumptions, converges to the matrix's eigenvalues after  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  iterations, each one taking  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  computations. Another method specific

<sup>2</sup> A formula with a finite number of  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\times$ ,  $\div$ ,  $\sqrt{\cdot}$ .

to companion matrices can be found in [Barel \*et al.\* \(2010\)](#). It uses the fact that companion matrices are already in the Hessenberg form to propose a  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  algorithm to find the roots of a  $n$ -degree polynomial.

In practice, LAPACK's ZGEEV routine is utilized (the user guide can be found in [Anderson \*et al.\* \(1999\)](#)), which is an implementation of the QR algorithm that returns every eigenvalue of a complex matrix.

## 2.6 Real trigonometric polynomial

The same definition found in [Powell \(1981, p. 150\)](#) for real trigonometric polynomials is given here. They are also referred to as truncated Fourier Series in [Boyd \(2006\)](#) and are given by

$$p_n(\theta) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k \cos(k\theta) + \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \sin(k\theta). \quad (2.12)$$

We say that  $p_n : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  as defined by [Equation 2.12](#) is a  $n$ -degree real trigonometric polynomial. An important property is stated in [Powell \(1981, p. 150\)](#), which says that a  $n$ -degree polynomial can have up to  $2n$  distinct roots on the interval  $[0, 2\pi)$ . It also says that a function written in the format

$$\cos^j \theta \sin^k \theta, \quad j, k \in \mathbb{Z}_+,$$

can be transformed into a real trigonometric polynomial of degree  $j + k$ . Therefore, for some  $\{c_{j,k} \in \mathbb{R} : 0 \leq j + k \leq n\}$ , the expression

$$\sum_{0 \leq j+k \leq n} c_{j,k} \cos^j \theta \sin^k \theta, \quad (2.13)$$

also represents a  $n$ -degree real trigonometric polynomial.



## MAXIMUM COVERING BY DISKS

In this chapter, we introduce a version of the classical Euclidean norm PMCLP, where each facility has a given coverage radius. We refer to this problem as Maximum Covering by Disks (MCD). We also propose an algorithm for it to later adapt it for the elliptical PMCLP in the next chapter.

### 3.1 Definition

An instance of MCD is given by a set of  $n$  demand points  $\mathcal{P} := \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , with  $p_j \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ; a set of weights  $\mathcal{W} := \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , with  $w_j \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  being the weight of point  $p_j$ ; and  $m$  disks given by their radii  $\mathcal{R} := \{r_1, \dots, r_m\}$ , with  $r_j \in \mathbb{R}_{> 0}$ . Additionally, to make the text more clear, we define a set of  $m$  disks as  $\mathcal{D} := \{D_1, \dots, D_m\}$ , with  $D_j : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R}^2$  being a function that takes the center where the  $j$ -th disk is located as input, and returns its coverage region as defined by [Equation 2.1](#).

A solution for an instance of MCD is determined by  $Q := (q_1, \dots, q_m) \in \mathbb{R}^{2m}$ , which specifies the center of every disk in  $\mathcal{D}$ . Let  $w : 2^{\mathcal{P}} \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  be a function, which takes a subset of  $\mathcal{P}$  and returns the sum of the weights of every point in it, defined as

$$w(A) = \sum_{j: p_j \in A} w_j. \quad (3.1)$$

Then an optimal solution of MCD is formulated as a solution of

$$\max_Q w \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^m \mathcal{P} \cap D_j(q_j) \right).$$

It is worth mentioning that MCD is a slightly different PMCLP than the one introduced in the first study on the subject in [Church \(1984\)](#). There, a coverage radius is given for each

demand, rather than for each facility, and a demand point is considered covered if a facility is located within its radius.

### 3.1.1 CLS and CIPS

The method proposed in Church (1984) involves the construction of a finite set of locations where each facility can be placed as a way of transforming a problem, where every point in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is a possible solution, into one where only a finite number of possibilities need to be considered. This set of possible locations is called Candidate List Set (CLS).

In Church (1984), a CLS is set to be the circle intersection point set (CIPS), which contains the intersection of circles with fixed radii centered at every demand point. This approach provides an optimal solution if a complete search on the CLS for every facility is done.

We introduce, in this chapter, a  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \lg n)$  algorithm that returns a CLS for each facility, which is based on the idea presented in Church (1984) and in the works for the one disk case by Chazelle and Lee (1986) and Berg, Cabello and Har-Peled (2006). We refer to the CLS for the  $j$ -th facility as  $S_j$  and prove that, indeed, an optimal solution can be found by just considering the centers in  $S_j$  for each facility.

## 3.2 Related Work

In Berg, Cabello and Har-Peled (2006), a  $\mathcal{O}(n^{2m-1} \log n)$  algorithm for *MCD* is developed as a sub-routine for its  $(1 - \varepsilon)$ -approximation algorithm. Firstly, they solve a sub-problem for two disks in  $\mathcal{O}(n^3 \log n)$ . Then, for the rest of the points that are not in that solution, it uses the algorithm developed in Chazelle and Lee (1986) for the one-disk case, checking every possible solution for every one of the disks left.

Also, in He *et al.* (2015) an heuristic method for large-scale *MCD* is proposed. It uses a probabilistic algorithm called mean-shift which is a gradient ascent method proven to converge to a local density maxima of any probability distribution. The mean-shift is utilized to find good candidates of centers for the unit disks, then the method backtracks to find the best assignment. The results showed that the greedy algorithm achieves an optimal coverage in some instances, but for some other ones it has a 15 percent worse coverage ratio.

## 3.3 One disk version

This version of the problem will be referred to as Maximum Covering by One Unit Disk (MCD1) and it is just a specific case of MCD with only one disk with radius one ( $m = 1$  and  $r_1 = 1$ ). We refer to an instance of MCD1 as the tuple  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W})$ . We later use the algorithm for

MCD1 here described to construct a CLS which is guaranteed to contain an optimal solution for MCD.

Two exact methods for MCD1 have been found in the literature. A  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  algorithm is proposed by [Chazelle and Lee \(1986\)](#) which improved the previously  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$  one proposed by [Drezner \(1981\)](#). As it has been mentioned, MCD1 is a 3SUM-HARD problem, which means that it is as hard as the 3SUM problem (the problem of finding three real numbers that sum to zero, given  $n$  real numbers). Initially the lower bound of the 3SUM problem was conjectured to be  $\Omega(n^2)$ , matching the best algorithm for MCD1, which meant that no better time-complexity could be achieved. Since then, however, better algorithms for 3SUM have been developed with a  $\mathcal{O}(\frac{n^2}{\text{poly}(n)})$  run time complexity ([KOPELOWITZ; PETTIE; PORAT, 2014](#)).

In [Drezner \(1981\)](#), the main idea used to develop the  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$  algorithm is that, even though there are infinitely many points where the disk could be placed, only a few of them, a finite amount of  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ , needs to be considered for the method to find an optimal solution. The algorithm, for every point, sorts the other points with respect to the angle they form with the first one. After that, the first point is placed on the border of the disk and, going through the sorted list, the algorithm inserts and removes points from the disk coverage. Also, when inserting and removing a point from the coverage, it only checks the disk centers that make the entering/leaving point to be on the border. Because the algorithm only checks the centers that make the disk have two points on its border, the number of centers it goes through is bounded by the number of pairs of points, which is  $\binom{n}{2} = \mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

The algorithm for MCD1, developed in this chapter, can be seen as a parallel version of the algorithm developed by [Drezner \(1981\)](#). We, however, based on [Chazelle and Lee \(1986\)](#) and [Berg, Cabello and Har-Peled \(2006\)](#), decided to work with an equivalent problem called Maximum Weight Clique (MWC) which is introduced in the next section.

## 3.4 Maximum Weight Clique

An instance of the Maximum Weight Clique (MWC) is given by a list of points  $\mathcal{P} := \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , with  $p_i \in \mathbb{R}^2$  representing the center of a unit disk; and  $\mathcal{W} := \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , with  $w_i \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  being the weight of the  $i$ -th unit disk. We also define a list  $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$ , such that  $D_i, i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , is a unit disk centered at  $p_i$  having weight  $w_i$  assigned to it.

A clique, in this context, is a non-empty intersection region of one or more disks, and its weight is the sum of the weights of those disks in the intersection. Following this, a solution for MWC can be defined as just a point  $q \in \bigcup_{j=1}^n D_j$ , which is inside any of the given disks in  $\mathcal{D}$ . From a solution  $q$ , the corresponding clique  $S$  can be obtained by intersecting every disk that contains  $q$  as follows

$$S = \bigcap_{j: q \in D_j} D_j.$$

With a geometric observation, though, the number of possible values for the solution can be reduced. Let  $\partial\mathcal{D} = \{\partial D_1, \dots, \partial D_n\}$  be the set of circles corresponding to each disk in  $\mathcal{D}$ . Unless a clique is formed by only one disk, its boundary contains at least two points, which are the intersection of two circles that are part of the clique. Because of that,  $q$  can be limited to the set of pairwise intersections of  $\partial\mathcal{D}$  as well as the set of centers of each disk  $\mathcal{P}$ , which considers the case where the optimal clique is composed of only one disk. With this observation, an optimal solution of MWC can be defined by the optimization problem

$$\max_q \sum_{D_k \cap q \neq \emptyset} w_k,$$

with  $q \in \{\partial D_i \cap \partial D_j : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\} \cup \mathcal{P}$ . With this new specification of the solution's search space, given an instance of MWC, an optimal solution can be found by going through  $\binom{n}{2} + n$  points, that is,  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  points.

It is worth pointing out that MWC is a different problem than the maximum clique on a intersection graph (a graph where the vertices are the disks and an edge exists if there is an intersection between two disks). As shown in [Figure 6](#), three disks could have non-empty pairwise intersection and still have an empty intersection of all of them together. That is why MWC is also referred to as the Maximum Geometric Clique Problem and the other version, when there is only the pairwise intersection condition, is referred to as the Maximum Graphical Clique Problem ([DE; NANDY; ROY, 2014](#)).

In [Chazelle and Lee \(1986\)](#), the method for MWC consists on building a planar graph on which the vertices are the  $\binom{n}{2}$  pairwise intersection of the circumferences and the edges are the arcs of the circumferences connecting the intersections. With the graph constructed, a traversal is done to obtain the answer, thus the time complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

As it has been mentioned, with the equivalence of the two problems, an optimal solution of the Maximum Weight Clique Problem is also an optimal solution of MCD1, which means that a disk centered at  $q^*$  which is an optimal solution of MWC, will have a maximal weight covering of the demand set  $\mathcal{P}$ .

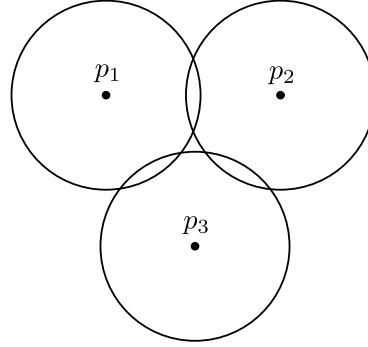
Given an instance of MCD1, the equivalent MWC instance is obtained by defining the set  $\mathcal{D}$  to contain the disks centered at  $\mathcal{P}$  and setting the weight of every disk to be the weight of its corresponding point in  $\mathcal{P}$ . A disk  $D_i$  will represent the area where a disk can be placed in order to cover  $p_i$ . This means that an intersection between some disks is a region where a disk could be placed to cover the corresponding points.

In [Figure 6](#), it can be seen that there is no point where a disk could be placed such that it would cover  $p_1, p_2$  and  $p_3$ , nonetheless, in any of the pairwise intersections, a disk could be



placed to cover the two corresponding points.

Figure 6 – Three disks that have non-empty pairwise intersection among them, but no common intersection.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Formally, in MWC, if a point  $q$  lies inside  $\bigcap_{k \in I} D_k$ , with  $I \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ , then a disk centered at  $q$  will cover the points  $p_k$ , with  $k \in I$  in the equivalent MCD1 instance. Conversely, the same applies for a disk placed at  $q$  that covers points  $p_k$ , with  $k \in I$  in the MCD1 instance. It means that  $q$  will lie inside region  $\bigcap_{k \in I} D_k$  in MWC.

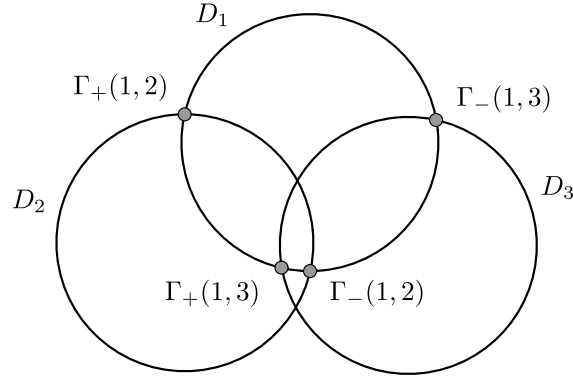
### 3.4.1 An algorithm for the Maximum Weight Clique Problem

The algorithm described here is based on the one in [Drezner \(1981\)](#), also with some ideas from [De, Nandy and Roy \(2014\)](#) and [Berg, Cabello and Har-Peled \(2006\)](#). It has a run time complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$  and uses  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  of extra space. It is worth noting, though, that a  $\mathcal{O}((n + K) \log n)$  run time, with  $K$  being the number of intersections, can be obtained by using the algorithm in [Bentley and Ottmann \(1979\)](#) to find all the intersections among the  $n$  circumferences.

In [De, Nandy and Roy \(2014\)](#) an important observation is made about the intersection regions of disks. Given an instance of MWC, any clique formed by a subset of  $\mathcal{D}$  is bounded by the arcs of circles that intersect with it. Also, those arcs have the intersection of circles as their end-points. This can be seen on [Figure 7](#) where the cliques that  $D_1$  is part of are bounded by  $D_1$ 's arcs which have its intersections with the other circles as end-points. Following this, a definition is presented to characterize the end-points of an arc bordering a clique.

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $D_i$  and  $D_j$  be two unit disks with non-empty intersection, and  $(\theta_1, \theta_2) \in [0, 2\pi)^2$  be the two angles that  $\partial D_i$  and  $\partial D_j$  intersect, with the condition that  $(\theta_1, \theta_2)$  defines an arc (counter-clockwise order) of  $D_i$  that is the border of  $D_i \cap D_j$ . Then, define  $\Gamma_+(i, j) = \theta_1$  and  $\Gamma_-(i, j) = \theta_2$ . For convenience, if  $D_i$  is tangent to  $D_j$ , then  $\theta_1 = \theta_2$ ; and if  $i = j$ , then  $\Gamma_+(i, j) = 0$  and  $\Gamma_-(i, j) = 2\pi$ .

Figure 7 – Three disks and their intersection points.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Also, we refer to  $\Gamma_+(i, j)$  as an opening angle, and to  $\Gamma_-(i, j)$  as a closing angle. In Figure 7, it is shown all the intersection points between  $D_1$  with  $D_2$  and  $D_3$ . Also, they are labeled according to Definition 3.1. Note that  $\Gamma_+(1, 3) > \Gamma_-(1, 3)$  (the angles should be in the  $[0, 2\pi]$  interval).

With Definition 3.1 in hand, we can establish the basis of the algorithm for MWC. For every disk  $D_i$ , let us describe an algorithm that gets the best clique which  $D_i$  is part of. This way, an algorithm for MWC just uses that method for every disk and returns the best solution found. Firstly, let  $A_i$  be a circular list that contains the intersection angles of  $\partial D_i$  with every circle in  $\partial \mathcal{D}$  defined as

$$A_i = \bigcup_{j=1}^n \{\Gamma_-(i, j), \Gamma_+(i, j)\}.$$

Assume also that  $A_i$  is sorted in ascending order by the angle values with ties being broken by prioritizing opening angles.

Finding the best solution which  $D_i$  is part of can be done by traversing  $A_i$  while keeping a set of active disks. When an opening intersection angle is reached, the corresponding disk is added to the active set; and when a closing one is seen, the corresponding disk is removed from the active set. This way, finding an optimal solution can be achieved by keeping the weight of the active disks as well as the best clique found so far. Notice also that because  $\Gamma_+(i, i) = 0$  and  $\Gamma_-(i, i) = 2\pi$ , any clique found by the traversal will also contain  $D_i$ .

In practice, traversing a circular list can be emulated by traversing a regular list that has a copy of the original circular list added to its end. Therefore, the list  $B_i$  is defined here as a list that contains the elements of  $A_i$  and a copy of it shifted to the interval  $[2\pi, 4\pi]$ . It is defined as

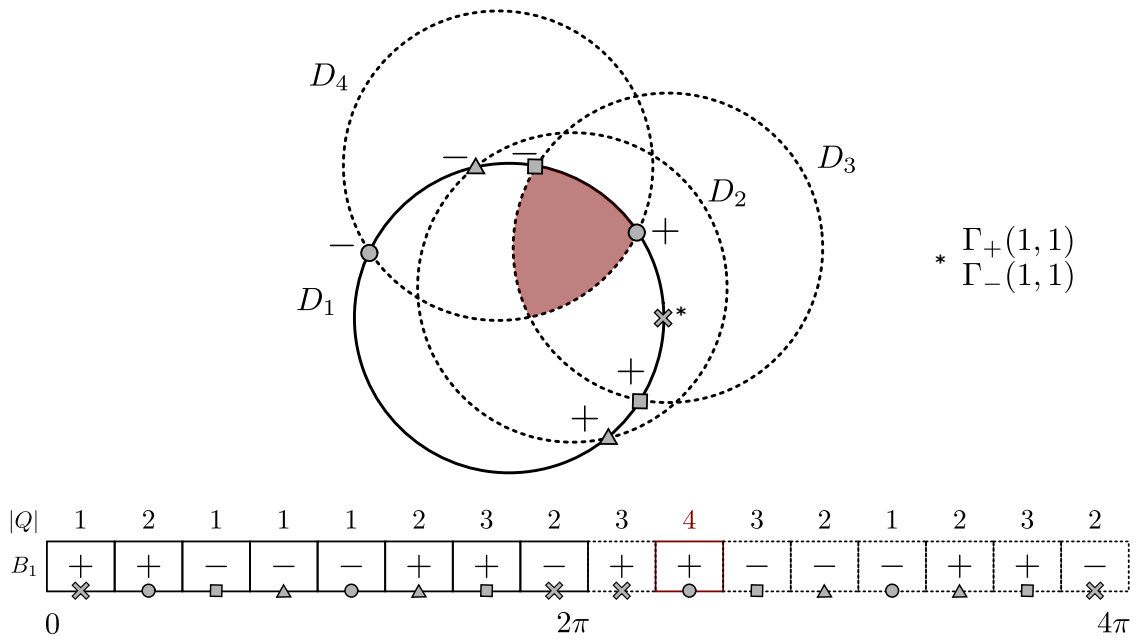
$$B_i = A_i \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^n \{2\pi + \Gamma_-(i, j), 2\pi + \Gamma_+(i, j)\}. \quad (3.2)$$

Assuming  $B_i$  is sorted with the same criteria as  $A_i$ , a simple traversal, starting at the first element and going until the last one, simulates a traversal on the circular list  $A_i$ . This works because for

any pair of disks  $D_i, D_j$ ;  $B_i$  contains  $\Gamma_+(i, j) < \Gamma_-(i, j) + 2\pi$ . That is, the algorithm encounters an opening angle before reaching a closing one for any circle.

In Figure 8, the intersection points between  $\partial D_1$  (solid border) with  $\partial D_2, \partial D_3$ , and  $\partial D_4$  (dashed border) are shown with a plus or minus sign indicating opening or closing intersection angles. The intersection list  $B_1$  is also displayed in Figure 8 along with the size of the set of active disks  $Q$  after processing a point in  $B_1$  – this is exactly what Algorithm 1 for MWC does for every disk. It is possible to see that the optimal clique highlighted in Figure 8 is enclosed by the arcs defined by  $\Gamma_+(1, 4)$  and  $\Gamma_-(1, 4)$ , and can also be identified by following  $B_1$  while keeping track of  $Q$ . The special intersection point of  $\partial D_1$  with itself can also be seen in Figure 8. Its usage is very convenient as with  $\Gamma_+(1, 1)$  and  $\Gamma_-(1, 1)$  in  $B_1$ , the algorithm inserts  $D_1$  in the set of active disks before processing any point, and removes  $D_1$  only after every point has been processed.

Figure 8 – The intersection list of a disk with three other disks.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Finally, we define Algorithm 1 for MWC. Given an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W})$  of MWC, the algorithm uses the approach described here of keeping a set of active disks while traversing the list  $B_i$ . It returns a point that is inside an optimal clique, this way Algorithm 1 can also be used to get an optimal solution for an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W})$  of MCD1.

**Algorithm 1** – Algorithm for MWC.**Input:** A set of points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , and a set of weights  $\mathcal{W} = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ .**Output:** A point that is inside the maximum weight clique of unit disks.

---

```

1: procedure  $MWC(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W})$ 
2:   Let  $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$  be a set of unit disks, with centers in  $\mathcal{P}$  and weights in  $\mathcal{W}$ 
3:    $Q_{best} \leftarrow \{\}$ 
4:    $q^* \leftarrow p_1$ 
5:   for all  $D_i \in \mathcal{D}$  do
6:     Let  $B_i$  be the list of intersection angles of  $D_i$  as defined by Equation 3.2
7:      $Q \leftarrow \{\}$  ▷ The set of active disks.
8:     for  $\theta \in B_i$  do ▷ Assuming  $B_i$  is sorted.
9:       Let  $D_j$  be the disk, such that  $\theta \in D_j \cap D_i$ 
10:      if  $\theta$  is a opening angle then
11:         $Q \leftarrow Q \cup \{D_j\}$ 
12:      else
13:         $Q \leftarrow Q \setminus \{D_j\}$ 
14:      end if
15:      if  $w(Q_{best}) < w(Q)$  then
16:         $Q_{best} \leftarrow Q$ 
17:         $q^* \leftarrow$  point corresponding to the intersection angle  $\theta$ 
18:      end if
19:    end for
20:  end for
21:  return  $q^*$ 
22: end procedure

```

---

**Theorem 1.** [Algorithm 1](#) for solving the Maximum Clique Problem has a  $\mathcal{O}((n + K) \log n)$  run time complexity, where  $K$  is the number of intersections of the  $n$  disks.

*Proof.* Finding every intersection can be done in  $\mathcal{O}((n + K) \log n)$  by a plane sweep, the method is described in [Bentley and Ottmann \(1979\)](#). Because sorting the intersection angles needs to be done, an additional  $\mathcal{O}(K \log K)$  pre-processing is added. All the other operations can be done in constant time. Therefore, the final algorithm complexity is  $\mathcal{O}((n + K) \log n)$ .  $\square$

If a simpler implementation is desired, or the number of intersections is large, determining the set  $I_i$  (the set of disks that intersect with  $D_i$ , defined in [Algorithm 1](#)) can be simply done in  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ , making the algorithm have a worst-case complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$ .

### 3.5 An algorithm for MCD

A simple adaptation can be done on [Algorithm 1](#) to make it return a CLS that contains an optimal solution of MCD for that disk. This is shown in [Algorithm 2](#). Notice also that MCD1 is defined only for unit disks, however, this constraint can be dropped, as it is introduced just for

the sake of keeping the text more simple and [Algorithm 1](#) works for any radius. A result about the runtime complexity of [Algorithm 2](#) has already been given by [Theorem 1](#), the following result states about the adaption of it to be used in an algorithm for MCD.

**Lemma 3.1.** Suppose that an instance of MCD and an index  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  are given. Then [Algorithm 2](#), when given the instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, r_j)$  as input, returns a CLS  $S_j$  of size  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ , such that  $q_j^* \in S_j$ , with  $(q_1^*, \dots, q_m^*)$  being an optimal solution of the given MCD's instance.

*Proof.* It can be seen that in any solution of MCD, a disk placed at a point  $q$  that covers at least one point  $p \in \mathcal{P}$  has a correspondence to the Maximum Weight Clique Problem: the point  $q$  is inside an intersection area of at least one disk and that area is bounded by some disk, which means it will be checked by [Algorithm 2](#) as a candidate to be an optimal solution. The number of points [Algorithm 2](#) goes through is  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ , then obviously  $|S_j| = \mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .  $\square$

Then, with [Algorithm 2](#), an algorithm for MCD that checks every possible center for every disk yields a  $\mathcal{O}(n^{2m})$  run-time complexity. This algorithm is described in ?? for the axis-parallel ellipses case.

It is worth mentioning that the choice of developing a different method for the problem, instead of using the one from [Berg, Cabello and Har-Peled \(2006\)](#), is taken for the sake of simplicity, considering both algorithms achieve similar bounds.

---

**Algorithm 2** – Algorithm for MCD1 that returns a CLS.

---

**Input:** A set of points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$  with weights  $\mathcal{W} = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , and a radius  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .  
**Output:** A CLS for the disk given by radius  $r$ .

```

1: procedure CLS-MCD( $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, r$ )
2:    $S \leftarrow \{\}$ 
3:   for all  $p_i \in \mathcal{P}$  do
4:     Let  $B_i$  be the list of intersection angles of  $\partial D_i(p_i)$  as defined by Equation 3.2
5:     for  $\theta \in B_i$  do ▷ Assuming  $B_i$  is sorted.
6:       if  $\theta$  is a opening angle then
7:         Let  $q_\theta$  be the intersection point correspondent to angle  $\theta$ 
8:          $S \leftarrow S \cup \{q_\theta\}$ 
9:       end if
10:    end for
11:  end for
12:  return  $S$ 
13: end procedure

```

---



# MAXIMUM COVERING BY ELLIPSES

In this chapter, we introduce the version of PMCLP where every facility has an axis-parallel ellipse as its coverage area. We refer to this problem as Maximum Covering by Ellipses (MCE). We also present an algorithm for it which is an adaptation of the one developed for MCD in [Chapter 3](#).

## 4.1 Definition

Axis-parallel ellipses are defined as the set of points that satisfy [Equation 2.3](#). All it takes to describe one is a pair of positive real numbers  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$ , with  $a > b$ , also called its shape parameters, and a center  $q \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

An instance of MCE is given by a set of  $n$  demand points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , with  $p_j \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ; a set of weights  $\mathcal{W} := \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , with  $w_j \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  being the weight of point  $p_j$ ; and a set of  $m$  axis-parallel ellipses given by their shape parameters  $\mathcal{R} := \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_m, b_m)\}$ , with  $(a_j, b_j) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$  and  $a_j > b_j$ . Additionally, to make the text more clear, we define a set  $\mathcal{E} = \{E_1, \dots, E_m\}$ , with  $E_j : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R}^2$  being a function that takes the center where the  $j$ -th ellipse is located as input, and returns its coverage region as defined by [Equation 2.4](#).

A solution for MCE is given by  $Q := (q_1, \dots, q_m) \in \mathbb{R}^{2m}$ , with  $q_j$  being the center of  $j$ -th ellipse. Let  $w : 2^{\mathcal{P}} \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  as defined by [Equation 3.1](#), then an optimal solution of MCE is given by the optimization problem

$$\max_q w \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^m \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j) \right).$$

In the next sections, we first study the specific case of MCE with only one facility and discuss that the results of [Chapter 3](#) still apply when ellipses are used instead of disks. After that,

we use the approach mentioned in [Chapter 3](#) of constructing a CLS for each facility and propose an algorithm for MCE.

## 4.2 Related work

The maximal planar covering using axis-parallel ellipses was first introduced in [Canbolat and Massow \(2009\)](#) which proposed a mixed integer non-linear programming method for the problem. This first approach showed to be not that efficient as it could not find an optimal solution for some instances within a timeout defined by them. To obtain solutions, not necessarily optimal ones, for the instances which the exact method showed inefficiency, a heuristic technique called Simulated Annealing was used to develop another method. Comparisons were made, which showed that the second approach was able to obtain good solutions, compared to the optimal ones found for some of the instances, within a good run-time.

The second work found in the literature was [Andretta and Birgin \(2013\)](#), which developed a method that breaks the problem into smaller ones fixing the set of points an ellipse is going to cover. For each set of points fixed as the points an ellipse is going to cover, a small optimization problem is solved to find out if there is a location where the ellipse can be placed, so to cover the set of fixed points. To enumerate the possible solutions and then find an optimal one, the method defined a data structure that stores every set of points an ellipse can cover. This method showed better results and was able to find optimal solutions for the instances that the first method could not get as well as for new created instances.

## 4.3 One Ellipse Version

The case with only one ellipse is considered first because it will be adapted to become the basis of the algorithm for more than one ellipse. We refer to this version as Maximum Cover by One Ellipse (MCE1).

An instance of MCE1 has  $m = 1$ , and we set  $(a, b) := (a_1, b_1)$ , and  $\mathcal{E} := \{E\}$ . Therefore, an instance of MCE1 is described by the tuple  $(\mathcal{P}; \mathcal{W}; (a, b))$ . A solution of MCE1 is then given by a point  $q \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and an optimal solution is given by the optimization problem

$$\max_q w(\mathcal{P} \cap E(q)).$$

An adaptation of [Algorithm 1](#) is obtained by just replacing the function that finds the intersection points between two disks by a function that finds the intersection points between two ellipses  $\partial E_i$  and  $\partial E_j$ . It can be seen in [Figure 9](#) that the intersection points and their correspondents  $\Gamma_-(i, j)$  and  $\Gamma_+(i, j)$  functions behave the same way as in the disks case. The intersection of two ellipses as well as determining  $\Gamma_-(i, j)$  and  $\Gamma_+(i, j)$  are described in the next section.



Figure 9 – Three ellipses and their intersection points



Source: Elaborated by the author.

#### 4.4 Determining $\Gamma_+(i, j)$ and $\Gamma_-(i, j)$

Let  $E_1(q_1)$ , and  $E_2(q_2)$  be two coverage region of ellipses centered at  $q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2$  respectively, with shape parameters  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$ . After changing the coordinates to make the center of the first ellipse be at the origin, the intersection points between the two ellipses are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} &= 1 & (E_1) \\ \frac{(x-h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y-k)^2}{b^2} &= 1 & (E_2), \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

where  $(h, k) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  is the center of the second ellipse after the coordinates were translated by  $-q_1$ . As both equations are equal to 1, we have

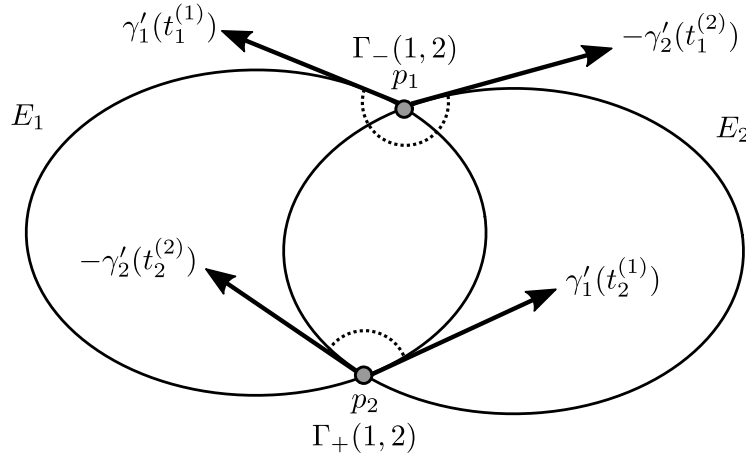
$$\begin{aligned} b^2x^2 + a^2y^2 &= b^2(x-h)^2 + a^2(y-k)^2 \\ x &= y \frac{-2ka^2}{2hb^2} + \frac{b^2h^2 + a^2k^2}{2hb^2} \\ x &= y\alpha + \beta. \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

Replacing Equation 4.2 into Equation 4.1, we get

$$y^2(b^2\alpha^2 + a^2) + y(2\beta\alpha b^2) + b^2\beta^2 - a^2b^2 = 0, \quad (4.3)$$

which is a second degree polynomial. Then,  $\partial E_1(q_1) \cap \partial E_2(q_2) \neq \{\}$  if, and only if the roots of Equation 4.3 are real. The intersection points itself can be obtained by solving the polynomial for  $y$  and plugging its value back into the  $x = y\alpha + \beta$  equation.

Suppose that  $\partial E_1(q_1) \cap \partial E_2(q_2) = \{p_1, p_2\}$ , with  $p_1 \neq p_2$ . To determine  $\Gamma_+(1, 2)$  and  $\Gamma_-(1, 2)$ , we need to first determine the intersection angles corresponding to  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  on  $E_1(q_1)$ .

Figure 10 – Determining  $\Gamma_+(1, 2)$  and  $\Gamma_-(1, 2)$ .

Source: Elaborated by the author.

Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two curves defined as Equation 2.5 for  $E_1(q_1)$  and  $E_2(q_2)$  respectively. The intersection angle of  $p_i$  in  $E_j(q_j)$  is defined as  $t_i^{(j)} \in [0, 2\pi)$ , such that  $\gamma_j(t_i^{(j)}) = p_i$ , for  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ . Obtaining  $t_i^{(j)}$  can be done analytically solving the equation

$$\frac{a p_{iy} - q_{jy}}{b p_{ix} - q_{jx}} = \tan(t_i^{(j)}).$$

Let  $\gamma'_1$  and  $\gamma'_2$  be the derivatives of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  respectively as defined by Equation 2.6. Then, considering the tangent vectors  $\gamma'_1(t_i^{(1)})$  and  $-\gamma'_2(t_i^{(2)})$ ,  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ , as shown in Figure 10, we can define a function  $\phi_{1,2}: \{p_1, p_2\} \rightarrow \{\Gamma_+(1, 2), \Gamma_-(1, 2)\}$  that takes an intersection point and returns its corresponding closing/opening intersection angle as

$$\phi_{1,2}(p_i) = \begin{cases} \Gamma_+(1, 2) & \text{angle}(\gamma'_1(t_i^{(1)}), -\gamma'_2(t_i^{(2)})) > \pi \\ \Gamma_-(1, 2) & \text{angle}(\gamma'_1(t_i^{(1)}), -\gamma'_2(t_i^{(2)})) < \pi. \end{cases}$$

Lastly, the case where that angle is equal to  $\pi$  happens only when both ellipses intersect at only one point. This case has to be treated separately as, by Definition 3.1, we need to have two equal intersection points: one as  $\Gamma_+(1, 2)$  and the other as  $\Gamma_-(1, 2)$ .

## 4.5 An algorithm for MCE

The same procedure defined in Algorithm 2 can be used to get a CLS for every ellipse in MCE. We refer to the elliptical version of that procedure as CLS-MCE (we do not define it in this chapter because it would look the same as CLS-MCD defined in Algorithm 2, apart from the name, of course).

Then, with the algorithm to construct a CLS for every ellipse in hands, an algorithm for MCE naturally comes into existence. In Algorithm 3, a complete search is done backtracking

every possibility in the CLS of every ellipse. This strategy is backed-up by [Lemma 3.1](#), which says that there is an optimal solution in the CLS of each ellipse. Following this, counting every possibility that the algorithm goes through, we arrive at the run-time complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n^{2m})$ .

It is worth mentioning that, even though we call CLS-MCE every time in the recursion, in practice, it is probably best to pre-process this step, and only call it  $m$  times for the whole set of points. Some other easy improvements can also be made in the implementation. For example, if an ellipse covers two sets of points  $X$  and  $Y$ , with  $X \subset Y$ , then set  $X$  can be ignored by the algorithm because of the non-negative weights constraint. Also, if two ellipses have their centers with Euclidean distance greater than their semi-major parameter, they for sure do not intersect. Depending on the input, this observation can make the algorithm not go through the whole list of ellipses every time it needs to determine the ellipses pairwise intersections.

## 4.6 Adding facility cost

Additionally, in [Andretta and Birgin \(2013\)](#) and [Canbolat and Massow \(2009\)](#), two other parameters are present in the definition of the problem. This extension is the result of having costs associated with every facility. In MCE, though, the total cost, which is the sum of costs of every used facility, is constant; hence, to create a decision about which ones are utilized, a new parameter  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  is given, along with a constraint on the number of used ellipses.

We refer to this version of the problem as Maximum Covering by Ellipses with a  $k$ -constraint (MCE- $k$ ). An instance of it is given by the same parameters as MCE, plus a list of costs  $\mathcal{C} = \{c_1, \dots, c_m\}$ , with  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  being the  $j$ -th ellipse's cost, and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k \leq m$ .

A solution for MCE- $k$ , however, when compared to MCE's, has a bit more cluttered description. We define it as a set  $I := \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$ , such that  $|I| = k$ ; and a tuple  $Q := (q_1, \dots, q_k)$ , with  $q_j \in \mathbb{R}^2$  being the center of the  $j$ -th ellipse in  $I$ . An optimal solution of MCE- $k$  is given by the optimization problem

$$\max_{I, Q} w \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^k \mathcal{P} \cap E_{i_j}(q_j) \right).$$

Finally, [Algorithm 3](#) can serve as basis for MCE- $k$ 's [Algorithm 4](#). Firstly, for every subset  $I \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$ , such that  $|I| = k$ , the algorithm for MCE is invoked for the instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \{(a_j, b_j) : j \in I\})$ ; that is, an instance where only the ellipses in  $I$  are present. After that, by keeping track of the utilized ellipses' costs for every  $I \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$ , an optimal solution can be obtained. This simple adjustment achieves a run-time complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(\binom{m}{k} \times n^{2k}) = \mathcal{O}(n^{3m})$ .

**Algorithm 3** – Algorithm for MCE

**Input:** A set of points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , a list of weights  $\mathcal{W} = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , and a list of shape parameters  $\mathcal{R} = \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_m, b_m)\}$ .

**Output:** An optimal solution for MCE.

```

1: procedure  $MCE(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$ 
2:   return  $MCE_{bt}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, 1)$ 
3: end procedure
4:
5: procedure  $MCE_{bt}(Z, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, j)$ 
6:   if  $j = m + 1$  then
7:     return 0
8:   end if
9:    $(q_j^*, \dots, q_m^*) \leftarrow (0, \dots, 0)$ 
10:   $S_j \leftarrow \text{CLS-MCE}(Z, a_j, b_j)$ 
11:  for  $q_j \in S_j$  do
12:     $Cov \leftarrow \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j)$ 
13:     $(q_{j+1}, \dots, q_m) \leftarrow MCE_{bt}(Z \setminus Cov, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, j + 1)$ 
14:    if  $w(\cup_{k=j}^m Z \cap E_k(q_k)) > w(\cup_{k=j}^m Z \cap E_k(q_k^*))$  then
15:       $(q_j^*, \dots, q_m^*) \leftarrow (q_j, \dots, q_m)$ 
16:    end if
17:  end for
18:  return  $(q_j^*, \dots, q_m^*)$ 
19: end procedure

```

**Algorithm 4** – Algorithm for MCE- $k$ 

**Input:** A set of points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , a list of weights  $\mathcal{W} = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , a list of shape parameters  $\mathcal{R} = \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_m, b_m)\}$ , a list of costs  $\mathcal{C} = \{c_1, \dots, c_m\}$ , and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Output:** An optimal solution for MCE- $k$ .

```

1: procedure  $MCE-k(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{C}, k)$ 
2:    $I^* = \{i_1^*, \dots, i_k^*\} \leftarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$ 
3:    $Q^* = (q_1^*, \dots, q_k^*) \leftarrow (0, \dots, 0)$ 
4:   for all  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$  do
5:      $\mathcal{R}' \leftarrow \{(a_j, b_j) \in \mathcal{R} : j \in I\}$ 
6:      $(q_1, \dots, q_k) \leftarrow MCE(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}')$ 
7:     if  $w(\cup_{j=1}^k \mathcal{P} \cap E_{i_j}(q_j)) - \sum_{j \in I} c_j > w(\cup_{j=1}^k \mathcal{P} \cap E_{i_j^*}(q_j^*)) - \sum_{j \in I^*} c_j$  then
8:        $Q^* \leftarrow (q_1, \dots, q_k)$ 
9:        $I^* \leftarrow I$ 
10:    end if
11:  end for
12:  return  $I^*, Q^*$ 
13: end procedure

```

# EVERY CENTER AND ANGLE OF ROTATION OF AN ELLIPSE GIVEN ITS SHAPE AND THREE POINTS

---

In this chapter, we introduce the problem of determining every center and angle of rotation of an ellipse with fixed shape parameters, such that it contains three given points. This problem comes up in the development of an algorithm in [Chapter 6](#). The reason to have a whole chapter devoted to it is that we could not find any work that studies this problem or even related ones. As a result, starting from scratch, we ended up trying a handful of approaches, with most of them failing on the way. We thought it would be a useful source for future works if we gave a review of some of those, going through the issues with the failing ones, and discussing the qualities of the successful ones. In the end, we propose an algorithm for the problem that involves determining the eigenvalues of a  $6 \times 6$  matrix. We also analyze its efficiency in terms of numerical accuracy and display solutions that it found.

## 5.1 Definition

We call the problem of finding a center and an angle of rotation for an ellipse given its shape parameters and three points that have to be on its border Ellipse by Three Points (E3P). An instance of it is given by three points  $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and the ellipse's shape parameters  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$ , with  $a > b$ .

Let  $E$  represent the coverage area of an ellipse with the given shape parameters  $(a, b)$ , then a solution of E3P can be defined as a pair  $(q, \theta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times [0, \pi)$ , such that  $\{u, v, w\} \subset \partial E(q, \theta)$ . As a last remark, because of its application on [Chapter 6](#), a method would only be useful for our case if it can encounter every solution of E3P. This requirement, of course, makes the problem more challenging.

## 5.2 Transforming the problem

Initially, E3P is a problem with three unknown variables: the two coordinates of the ellipse's center point,  $q_x$  and  $q_y$ , and the angle of rotation  $\theta$ . In this section, we transform E3P into the problem of finding the roots of a univariate function using a known circumcircle problem. This transformation, besides reducing the number of unknown variables to one, is later utilized in the demonstration that E3P has at most six distinct solutions, which is one of the most important properties of E3P.

To make the problem simpler, let us assume that point  $u$  is at the origin. If it is not, a simple translation by  $-u$  applied to the three points can be made to put  $u$  at the origin. Assume as well that  $(q, \theta)$  is a solution of E3P, which means that an ellipse rotated by  $\theta$ , centered at  $q$  has  $u$ ,  $v$ , and  $w$  on its border (see Figure 11 for an example). From a solution of E3P, applying a rotation of  $-\theta$  to the coordinate system, an axis-parallel ellipse can be obtained. After that, squeezing the  $x$ -axis by  $\frac{b}{a}$  can be utilized to transform the ellipse into a circle of radius  $b$ . An example of this whole process is shown in Figure 11. These transformations can be written as a function  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  defined as

$$\varphi(p, \theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{b}{a} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5.1)$$

Notice that the transformations represented by  $\varphi$  are invertible. This means that given a final state, where after applying  $\varphi$ , the three points are on the border of a radius- $b$  circle, a solution of E3P can be obtained by using the well-defined inverse function  $\varphi^{-1}$ . Additionally, to make the notation more clear, we denote by  $\Lambda(\theta)$  the triangle formed by the points  $\varphi(u, \theta)$ ;  $\varphi(v, \theta)$ ;  $\varphi(w, \theta)$ , as long as they are not collinear. This being said, we can go further and introduce a problem equivalent to E3P which is based on determining angles  $\theta$  that make the triangle  $\Lambda(\theta)$  be circumscribed in a circle of radius  $b$ .

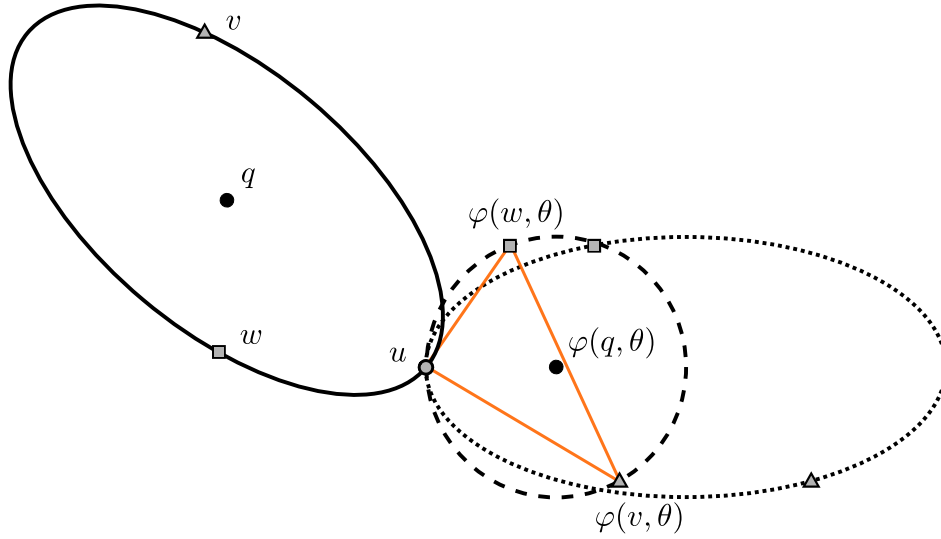
### 5.2.1 A circumradius problem

The term circumradius, in this work, is used to describe the radius of a triangle's circumscribed circle, which is a circle that has the triangle's vertices on its border. Given an instance of E3P, we define the circumradius problem as the problem of determining an angle  $\theta \in [0, \pi)$ , such that the circumradius of  $\Lambda(\theta)$  is equal to  $b$ .

As it can be seen on Figure 11, given an instance of E3P and an angle of rotation  $\theta \in [0, \pi)$  that makes  $\Lambda(\theta)$  have a circumradius  $b$ ; a solution for E3P can be obtained using the inverse transformation  $\varphi^{-1}$ . With that in mind, it is possible to conclude that both problems are equivalent because, from a solution of one, a unique solution of the other can be obtained.

The main reason to work with this problem is the reduction in the number of unknown variables from three to just one. This idea, however, would only be useful if checking the

Figure 11 – Transforming a solution of E3P into a solution of the circumradius problem.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

existence of a circumscribed circle with a radius  $b$  is a convenient problem. It turns out that, for three non-collinear points, there is always a unique circumscribed circle. Also, finding this unique circle can be done analytically, and its radius  $R$  can be computed through the following expression

$$R = \frac{\|\varphi(v, \theta)\|_2 \|\varphi(w, \theta)\|_2 \|\varphi(v, \theta) - \varphi(w, \theta)\|_2}{4A(\theta)}, \quad (5.2)$$

with  $A(\theta)$  being the area of the triangle  $\Lambda(\theta)$  (for more details about [Equation 5.2](#), or on how to determine the center of a circumscribed circle see [Johnson and Young \(1960, p. 189\)](#)). It should be pointed out that this transformation does not preserve distance or area; if that was true, the radius defined by [Equation 5.2](#) would be constant.

With the formula for the circumradius in hands, a function can be defined, such that its roots provide solutions for the circumradius problem. Imposing the radius  $R$  to be equal  $b$  and squaring to eliminate the square roots present in the Euclidean distance, a function  $\xi : [0, 2\pi) \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  is defined as

$$\xi(\theta) = 16b^2A(\theta)^2 - \|\varphi(v, \theta)\|_2^2 \|\varphi(w, \theta)\|_2^2 \|\varphi(v, \theta) - \varphi(w, \theta)\|_2^2. \quad (5.3)$$

Any root of  $\xi$  produces a triangle whose circumradius is  $b$  and subsequently provides a solution for E3P.

Before attempting to develop an algorithm to find every root of  $\xi$ , we address the question about the number of roots of  $\xi$  in the interval  $[0, \pi)$ .

### 5.2.2 The number of solutions of E3P

One of the steps of the method developed in [Chapter 6](#) is to iterate over every solution of E3P for every triplet of points. Of course, doing that is only possible for a finite number of solutions. Moreover, even if the number of solutions is finite, discovering an upper-bound for that is essential for determining the algorithm's efficiency.

**Lemma 5.1.** Any instance of E3P has at most 6 solutions.

*Proof.* Back on [Chapter 2](#), real trigonometric polynomials were introduced. It was stated that any  $n$ -degree polynomial can have up to  $2n$  distinct roots. It turns out that  $\xi$  is a real trigonometric polynomial of degree 6 and it can be written in the format given by [Equation 2.13](#). This implies that  $\xi$  can have up to 12 distinct roots. To show that, just note that it is possible to write  $\|\varphi(v, \theta)\|_2^2$  and  $A(\theta)^2$  in the same form as given by [Equation 2.13](#):

$$\|\varphi(v, \theta)\|_2^2 = (v_x \frac{b}{a} \cos \theta + v_y \frac{b}{a} \sin \theta)^2 + (v_y \cos \theta - v_x \sin \theta)^2 \quad (5.4)$$

$$A(\theta)^2 = \frac{1}{4} \det \begin{pmatrix} v_x \frac{b}{a} \cos \theta + v_y \frac{b}{a} \sin \theta & v_y \cos \theta - v_x \sin \theta \\ w_x \frac{b}{a} \cos \theta + w_y \frac{b}{a} \sin \theta & w_y \cos \theta - w_x \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}^2. \quad (5.5)$$

It is also possible to see that the term which has  $\xi$ 's highest degree is the multiplication of the three squared lengths of  $\Lambda(\theta)$ 's sides. This multiplication has the same degree of  $(\|\varphi(v, \theta)\|_2^2)^3$ , and because  $\|\varphi(v, \theta)\|_2^2$  has degree 2, the degree of  $\|\varphi(v, \theta)\|_2^2$  is 6, which consequently is  $\xi$ 's degree. Going from 12 solutions to 6 is done by using the symmetry of ellipses. In [Chapter 2](#), it was stated that any rotation in the interval  $[0, \pi)$  is identical to a rotation in  $[\pi, 2\pi)$ . Therefore, half of the roots of  $\xi$  are in  $[\pi, 2\pi)$  and can be dismissed.  $\square$

## 5.3 An attempt using the conic general equation

The idea of this approach was to use the six-parameter conic equation to represent an ellipse. This equation is given by

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0. \quad (5.6)$$

This equation actually represents any conic, for it to be an ellipse the condition  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$  must be satisfied.

Setting the first point to be the origin, we get  $F = 0$ . Using the other two points, it is possible to write  $D$  and  $E$  in terms of  $A, B, C$ . As any multiple of [Equation 5.6](#) represents the same conic, we can set  $B$  to be equal to 1. Then, we end up with two variables,  $A$  and  $C$ , and still need to impose that the final equation represents an ellipse with the given shape parameters.



Let  $\Delta = 4AC - B^2 = 4AC - 1$ , and assume  $F = 0$ , then the expressions for both major-axis and minor-axis, respectively are

$$a^2 = \frac{2 \frac{AE^2 - BDE + CD^2}{\Delta}}{A + C - \sqrt{1 + (A - C)^2}} \quad (5.7)$$

$$b^2 = \frac{2 \frac{AE^2 - BDE + CD^2}{\Delta}}{A + C + \sqrt{1 + (A - C)^2}}. \quad (5.8)$$

These two equations define two curves in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with  $A$  and  $C$  being the chosen variables. The solutions lie in the set of intersection of these curves. This set can probably be done approximated numerically, however, we decided not to further pursue this approach.

Another idea which has been explored was working with the ratio  $\frac{a^2}{b^2}$ , which becomes an expression that allows  $A$  to be written as a function of  $C$ . At first, this function appeared to be monotonic, so we tried to develop a method based on that. However, cases where the function does not behave as nicely were found. It is likely that developing a method to approximate solutions working with this function is possible, but we decided not to continue on this track.

## 5.4 An approximation method

One of the most useful techniques when dealing with complicated functions is approximation. They appear in various methods whenever a derivative or integral needs to be calculated or, for example, like in our case, when the roots of a function need to be determined. In general, one has a function  $f$  that is part of a family of functions  $\mathcal{A}$  and wants to select a simpler function  $f^*$  from a set of functions  $\mathcal{A}^*$ , such that  $f^*$  is close enough to  $f$  (POWELL, 1981, p. 3). For this problem, we consider the approximation of  $\xi$  on the interval  $[0, \pi)$  by a function in the family of  $n$ -degree Chebyshev polynomials.

### 5.4.1 Chebyshev polynomial

Chebyshev polynomials are widely used in Numerical Analysis in areas like numerical integration, polynomial approximation, and ordinary and partial differential equations. They are also very useful in practice and are present in extension libraries in Python, MATLAB and C.

Because of the scope of this work, only a brief introduction of Chebyshev polynomials of the first kind and its usage in polynomial interpolation is given. For a more thorough work on the subject, please check the book by Mason and Handscomb (2003).

We refer to  $T_n : [-1, 1] \mapsto [-1, 1]$  as the  $n$ -degree Chebyshev polynomial of the first kind, and it is defined as

$$T_n(x) = \cos(n \arccos x). \quad (5.9)$$

It is important to mention that this definition can be extended to the whole real line. Using some trigonometric identities,  $T_n$  can also be expressed as a recurrence relation

$$T_n(x) = 2xT_{n-1}(x) - T_{n-2}(x). \quad (5.10)$$

An important property worth bringing up is that Chebyshev polynomials are orthogonal and form a basis for the polynomial space. This implies that any  $p_n$  of degree up to  $n$  can be expressed as a truncated Chebyshev series

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j T_j(x). \quad (5.11)$$

One of the greatest qualities of Chebyshev polynomials is its numerical stability. [Gautschi \(1979\)](#) showed that the matrix that maps polynomials onto its coefficients written in the power form has a condition number that grows exponentially with  $n$ . On the other hand, the matrix that converts polynomials to the Chebyshev basis as [Equation 5.11](#) has a linear condition number bounded by  $\sqrt{2}n$ .

### 5.4.2 Chebyshev interpolation

Polynomial interpolation is a form of approximating a function by a polynomial of degree  $n$  that passes through  $n + 1$  chosen points. In fact, this polynomial is unique and it is determined by Lagrange's formula

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n f(x_j) \frac{\prod_{k \neq j}^{n+1} (x - x_k)}{\prod_{k \neq j}^{n+1} (x_j - x_k)}, \quad (5.12)$$

with  $f$  being the function to be approximated, and  $f_n$  the unique  $n$ -degree polynomial that passes through  $\{(x_j, f(x_j)) : j = 0, 1, \dots, n\}$ . Because of the uniqueness of interpolant polynomials, there is a direct link between the quality of an approximation and the points chosen to interpolate. As a matter of fact, depending on the points one chooses, even increasing the degree of the interpolation makes the approximation worsen. This is known as Runge's phenomenon and an example can be seen in [Powell \(1981, p. 37\)](#) where uniformly spaced points are chosen to interpolate the function  $f(x) = (1 + x^2)^{-1}$  on the interval  $[-5, 5]$ .

That is where Chebyshev interpolation comes in. Instead of choosing  $n + 1$  arbitrary points, the  $n + 1$  roots of  $T_{n+1}$ , which are also known as Chebyshev Nodes, are chosen as the interpolation points. The  $n + 1$  Chebyshev Nodes are given by

$$x_j = \cos \left( \frac{\pi(j - \frac{1}{2})}{n + 1} \right), \quad (5.13)$$

for  $j = 1, \dots, n + 1$ . This particular choice defeats Runge's phenomenon and provides a convergent approximation. Note that, if the domain of the function to be interpolated is defined on a range other than  $[-1, 1]$ , let us say  $[a, b]$ , then the transformation

$$\hat{x}_j = \frac{a + b}{2} + \frac{b - a}{2} x_j \quad (5.14)$$

can be done to map it to the Chebyshev Nodes' domain  $[-1, 1]$ .

Then, the Chebyshev interpolation of a function  $f : [a, b] \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  can be determined using Lagrange's formula and the points  $\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_n$ . As it was mentioned in [Chapter 2](#), finding the roots of a polynomial written in the monomial form can be done by determining the eigenvalues of a so-called Frobenius companion matrix. For small  $n$  this works fine, however, converting the polynomial obtained by [Equation 5.12](#) to the power form, as  $n$  grows, becomes a very ill-conditioned problem. An alternative method can be found in [Boyd \(2013\)](#), where the Chebyshev interpolation is calculated directly as a truncated Chebyshev series, as in [Equation 5.11](#), in  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ . Also, given a polynomial written in the Chebyshev basis, a  $n \times n$  matrix can be constructed, such that its eigenvalues are the roots of that polynomial. [Boyd \(2013\)](#) refers to this matrix as the Chebyshev-Frobenius companion matrix.

Therefore, the whole process of interpolating and finding the roots can be done using only Chebyshev polynomials, which have great numerical stability. Also, Chebyshev-Frobenius matrices have the same property as companion matrices, which allows their eigenvalues to be found by a QR algorithm. Summing the two steps, a  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  algorithm can be achieved, with  $n$  being the degree of the interpolation.

The last question that needs to be addressed is: how close the are roots of the Chebyshev interpolant  $f_n$  to the roots of  $\xi$ ?

Even though  $\xi$  is complicated enough, in a sense that finding its roots directly is no trivial task, it is a very well-behaved function: it is analytic and has infinitely many continuous and integrable derivatives. This satisfies all the requirements of the result in [Gottlieb and Orszag \(1977, p. 28\)](#), which says that if a function has  $m$  continuous and integrable derivatives in a closed interval, its absolute difference to its respective Chebyshev truncate series is  $\mathcal{O}(n^{-m})$ . Also, in [Battles and Trefethen \(2004\)](#), a theorem is presented stating that if a function is analytic on a neighborhood of  $[-1, 1]$ , then the convergence is  $\mathcal{O}(C^n)$ , for some  $C < 1$ .

To choose the degree of the interpolation we use the last coefficient rule-of-thumb introduced by [Boyd \(2001, p. 50\)](#). There is no guarantee that this method will choose  $n$  such that  $f_n$  is close enough to  $\xi$  everywhere on  $[0, \pi)$ . Nonetheless, in practice, it is considered to be a good estimate for the error

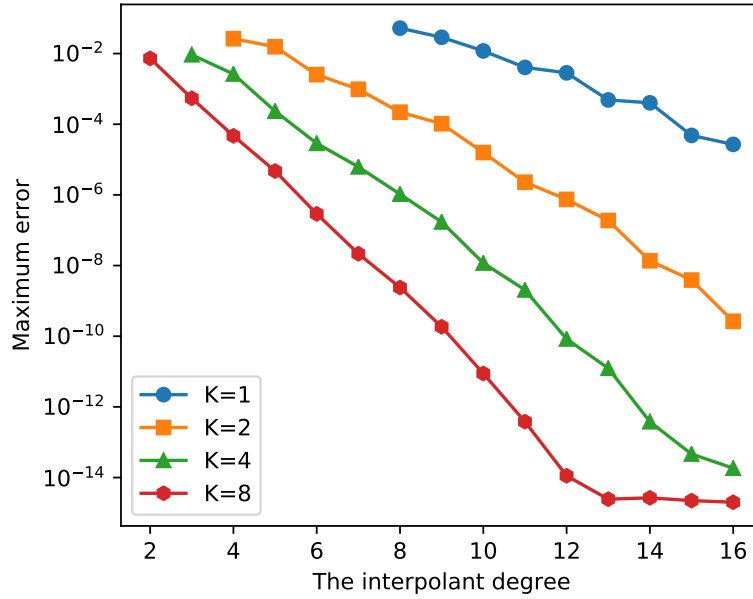
$$r_n = \max_{0 \leq \theta < \pi} |f_n(\theta) - \xi(\theta)|, \quad (5.15)$$

which measures how far the interpolation is at the point it worst approximates.

### 5.4.3 Testing different interpolant degrees

In this section, we run some experiments to verify how big the interpolation degree must be for good precision to be achieved. The interpolation was run for several degrees, for every

Figure 12 – The interpolation error measured on roots that were found.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

triplet of points in an instance from [Canbolat and Massow \(2009\)](#). We considered the error to be  $|\xi(\hat{\theta})|$  for every root  $\hat{\theta}$  found.

The results are shown in [Figure 12](#), where the worst error found among every root is plotted against the interpolant degree. To improve accuracy while keeping the interpolation degree low, we took a suggestion from [Boyd \(2013\)](#), and divided  $[0, \pi)$  into  $K$  sub-intervals. That way,  $K$  interpolations are used to obtain every root in the whole interval. It can be seen in [Figure 12](#) that this strategy helps a lot in improving the accuracy even when degrees around 8 are used.

## 5.5 Converting $\xi$ into a polynomial

In [Chapter 2](#), a brief introduction is given on how to get the roots of a polynomial. For that reason, we discuss two ways of converting  $\xi$  into a polynomial in this section. The first one converts  $\xi$  into a real polynomial and the second one into a complex polynomial.

### 5.5.1 Real polynomial

From  $\xi$ , a real polynomial can be obtained by using the identity  $x = \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$ . We do not go in detail, but it is possible to show that a degree-12 polynomial can be obtained using that substitution. Computing the actual coefficients can be done using symbolic computing.

At first, the root-finding algorithm described on [Chapter 2](#) seemed to work fine and return

every solution of E3P. However, we later found out that for some instances, priorly known roots were not being found. The cause was not for sure identified, but a good guess would be that for angles which are greater than  $\frac{\pi}{4}$ ,  $x$  starts growing too rapidly which could lead to numerical instability. This issue made us abandon this approach and pursue a different way to convert  $\xi$  into a polynomial.

### 5.5.2 Complex polynomial

A complex polynomial can be obtained from  $\xi$  by using an idea published in [Boyd \(2006\)](#). There, the author uses the identities

$$\cos \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}}{2} \quad (5.16)$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2i}, \quad (5.17)$$

which relate complex numbers with trigonometric functions, to convert real trigonometric polynomials, which is the case of  $\xi$ , into univariate complex polynomials. This approach is preferable as it preserves the numerical stability of the original real trigonometric polynomial – more details about this can be found in [Weidner \(1988\)](#), where it is said that computing the roots of a real trigonometric polynomial through this transformation does not yield loss of accuracy.

It is possible to show that with that substitution and changing the variable to  $z = e^{i\theta}$ , we obtain the following function  $g : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$ , with  $\mathbb{S}$  being the unit complex circle ( $\mathbb{S} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ ):

$$g(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{12} c_k z^{k-6}, \quad (5.18)$$

for some  $c_0, \dots, c_{12} \in \mathbb{C}$ . As the equalities on [Equation 5.16](#) are valid for any  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ , function  $g(e^{i\theta})$  and  $\xi$  are equivalent, since  $g(e^{i\theta}) = \xi(\theta)$  for any  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ .

The first issue can be fixed by multiplying  $g$  by  $z^6$ . Note that this does not create further problems as  $0 \notin \mathbb{S}$ . The second issue is removed by simply extending the domain from  $\mathbb{S}$  to  $\mathbb{C}$ . As  $\mathbb{S} \subset \mathbb{C}$ , roots outside the unit circle could appear in the new polynomial, but they can be ignored as they are not roots of  $g$ . Finally, from  $g$ , the polynomial  $h : \mathbb{C} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$  is defined as

$$h(z) = z^6 g(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{12} c_k z^k. \quad (5.19)$$

By its definition it is possible to see that every root of  $g$  is also a root of  $h$ , and conversely, every root of  $h$  which is in  $\mathbb{S}$ , is also a root of  $g$ . Lastly, every root of  $g$  will correspond to a root of  $\xi$  through their angles on the unit circle. As in the first approach, symbolic computing can be put in practice to determine the coefficients of  $h$  as functions of E3P's instance.

### 5.5.2.1 Further improvements

It is possible to make another reduction and cut the size of the polynomial in half. As it has been mentioned in [Chapter 2](#), an ellipse is symmetric with respect to its axis, which implies that rotating it by  $\theta \in [0, \pi)$  is equivalent to rotating it by  $\pi + \theta$ . On the other hand, very conveniently, as given by [Equation 2.10](#), angles of complex numbers of opposite signs are  $\pi$  apart from each other, which means that  $g$  has to produce the same output for both  $z$  and  $-z$  as they represent equivalent angles of rotation for ellipses. From that, for all  $z \in \mathbb{S}$  we have

$$h(-z) = (-z)^6 g(-z) = z^6 g(z) = h(z).$$

Therefore, every odd degree coefficients of  $h$  must be zero and we can define the 6-degree polynomial  $f : \mathbb{C} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$  with the substitution  $y = z^2$  as follows

$$f(y) = \sum_{k=0}^6 c_{2k} y^k. \quad (5.20)$$

Then from every root  $\hat{y}$  of  $f$ , two roots of  $h$  can be obtained:  $\sqrt{\hat{y}}$  and  $-\sqrt{\hat{y}}$ . As the angle of one of the roots will not be between  $[0, \pi)$  we can ignore one of them. Note that the square root of  $\hat{y}$  does not need to be calculated, as only the angles are needed and they can be obtained by the identity

$$\text{angle}(\sqrt{z}) = \text{angle}(z)/2.$$

It is also worth mentioning that a pattern on the coefficients of  $f$  was identified, and maybe, for future work, it can be used for further improvements. Analyzing the polynomials produced for several instances, the following seems to be true:

$$c_k = \overline{c_{6-k}}, \quad (5.21)$$

for  $k = 0, \dots, 6$ . For now, we neither have any ideas on how [Equation 5.21](#) could be proved nor how it could be used to find the roots of  $f$ .

Finally, in the next section we use this approach of converting  $\xi$  into a complex polynomial to develop an algorithm for E3P.

## 5.6 An algorithm for E3P

Among the methods that have been described here, converting  $\xi$  into a complex polynomial was the chosen one as the basis of the algorithm for E3P. Despite the good results shown by the Chebyshev interpolation method, it can still be classified as a heuristic as none of the approaches to determine the interpolation degree ensures a good approximation in the whole interval. On top of that, ultimately, the roots of the Chebyshev polynomial are computed through determining the eigenvalues of a companion matrix, which, unless a lower-than-seven interpolation degree is utilized, is going to be larger than the companion matrix whose eigenvalues are the roots of the complex polynomial  $h$ .

Details about getting the eigenvalues of a companion matrix, and determining the center of a circumscribed circle of a triangle are omitted from [Algorithm 5](#) for the sake of clarity. Computing the coefficients of the complex polynomial  $h$  is done in our implementation using a symbolic computation library for Python called Sympy (for more information about it see [Meurer et al. \(2017\)](#)). This way,  $c_0, \dots, c_{12}$  can be written as functions of the E3P's instance. Then, basically, after building a companion matrix for the polynomial  $h$ , [Algorithm 5](#), for every eigenvalue, applies the reverse transformations described by [Equation 5.1](#) to obtain a solution for E3P.

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**Algorithm 5** – The algorithm for E3P.

---

**Input:**  $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , with  $a > b$ .

**Output:** Every solution of E3P.

```

1: procedure  $e3p(u, v, w, a, b)$ 
2:    $\hat{u} \leftarrow (0, 0)$  ▷ Translate the system, so  $u$  is at the origin.
3:    $\hat{v} \leftarrow v - u$ 
4:    $\hat{w} \leftarrow w - u$ 
5:   Let  $c_0, \dots, c_{12}$  be the coefficients of polynomial  $h$  as Equation 5.19.
6:   Let  $A$  be a  $6 \times 6$  zero matrix.
7:   for  $i \in \{1, \dots, 6\}$  do ▷ Constructing the companion matrix.
8:      $A_{i,i+1} \leftarrow 1$ 
9:      $A_{6,i} \leftarrow -\frac{c_{2(i-1)}}{c_{12}}$ 
10:  end for
11:   $Q \leftarrow \{\}$ 
12:  for all  $q \in \text{eig}(A)$  do ▷  $\text{eig}(A)$  returns every eigenvalue of  $A$ .
13:     $\theta \leftarrow \min\{\text{angle}(-q)/2, \text{angle}(q)/2\}$ 
14:    if  $|\theta| = 1$  then
15:      Let  $c$  be the center of the circumscribe circle of  $\Lambda(\theta)$ .
16:       $Q \leftarrow Q \cup \{(\varphi^{-1}(c, \theta) + u, \theta)\}$ 
17:    end if
18:  end for
19:  return  $Q$ 
20: end procedure

```

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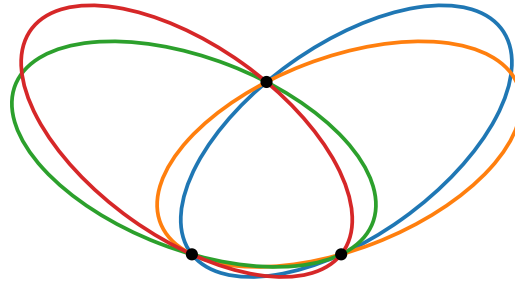
**Theorem 1.** [Algorithm 5](#) computes every solution for an instance of E3P in  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  operations.

*Proof.* It has already been shown that computing every root of  $\xi$  through the complex polynomial yields every solution of E3P, the only thing left to prove is the running time of the algorithm. Computing every eigenvalue of a matrix can be done in  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ , but as for our case  $n$  is fixed at 6, it can be stated that computing the eigenvalues for the companion matrix of  $f$  can be done in  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ . □

### 5.6.1 Instances with six and four solutions

Any instance of E3P, as stated by [Lemma 5.1](#) can have up to six solutions. At first, though, this bound seemed to be loose as for randomly generated instances like the ones generated by the model in the next section, only two solutions were returned by [Algorithm 5](#). After some investigation, we were able to construct some four-solution instances (an example is displayed in [Figure 13](#)). An interesting property of those solutions is that every one of them has their three points form an isosceles triangle.

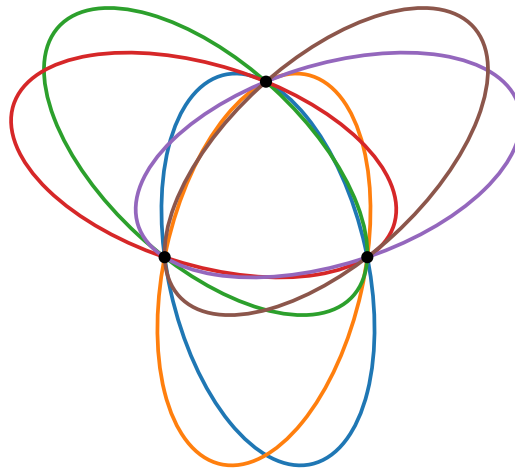
Figure 13 – An instance of E3P with four solutions.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Obtaining six-solution instances, on the other hand, was done by taking a particular case of the isosceles-triangle approach. As it can be seen in [Figure 14](#), the three points on every one of the six ellipses' border form an equilateral triangle.

Figure 14 – An instance of E3P with six solutions.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

It should be pointed out that neither non-isosceles instances with four solutions nor non-equilateral instances with six solutions could be found. Further investigating these possible properties of E3P is left as future work.

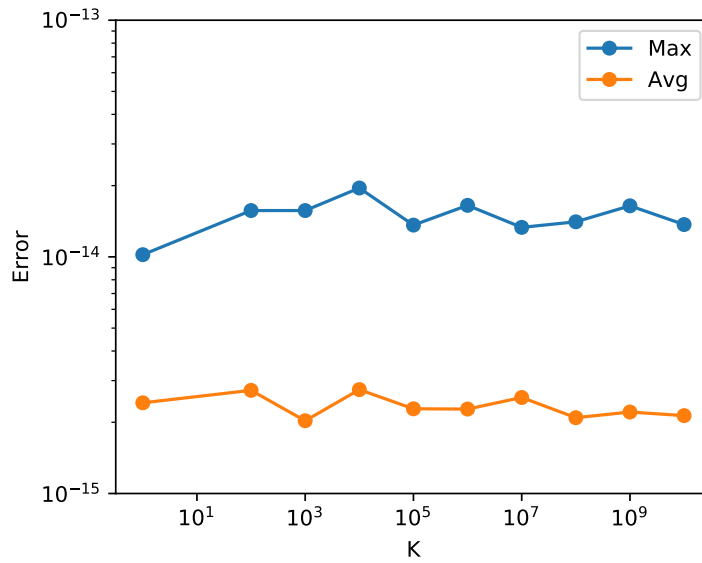


### 5.6.2 Numerical Stability

In this section we show the results of some experiments made to study the numerical stability of [Algorithm 5](#). For all the experiments, we define  $K \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , and consider instances with ellipse's shape parameters  $(K, \frac{K}{2})$ , for  $K \in \{10^j: j = 0, \dots, 10\}$ . Let  $\delta: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function defined as the left-hand-side of [Equation 2.8](#), then, for an instance with three points  $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , we define the error associated with a solution for that instance as  $\max\{|\delta(u)|, |\delta(v)|, |\delta(w)|\}$ .

The first experiment considers instances where the three points are the vertices of an ellipse rotated by  $\theta \in [0, \pi)$ . It is possible to see that such instances only have one solution, and therefore, roots with multiplicity greater than one are expected, which can be seen as a special case. For each value of  $K$ , we ran the algorithm for 100 instances generated randomly by sampling  $\theta$  according to a uniform distribution. For each instance, we took the closest solution to the priorly known one, and then, for each  $K$ , as it can be seen in [Figure 15](#), we considered the maximum and the average error.

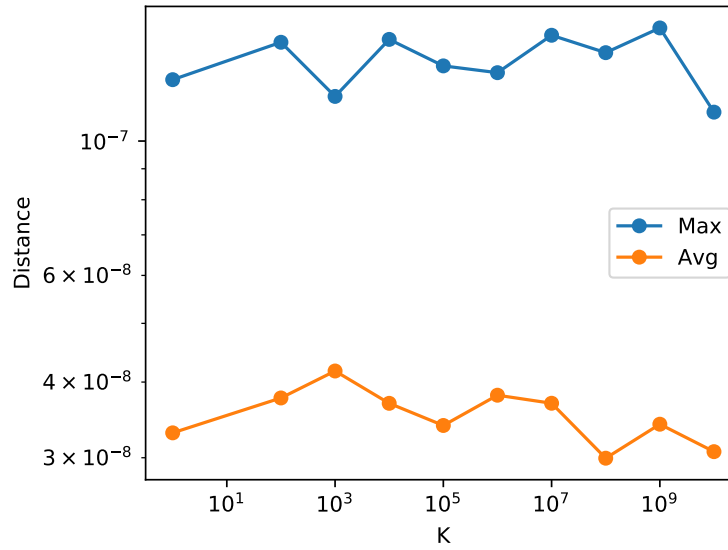
Figure 15 – The maximum and average error for instances with known solutions.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

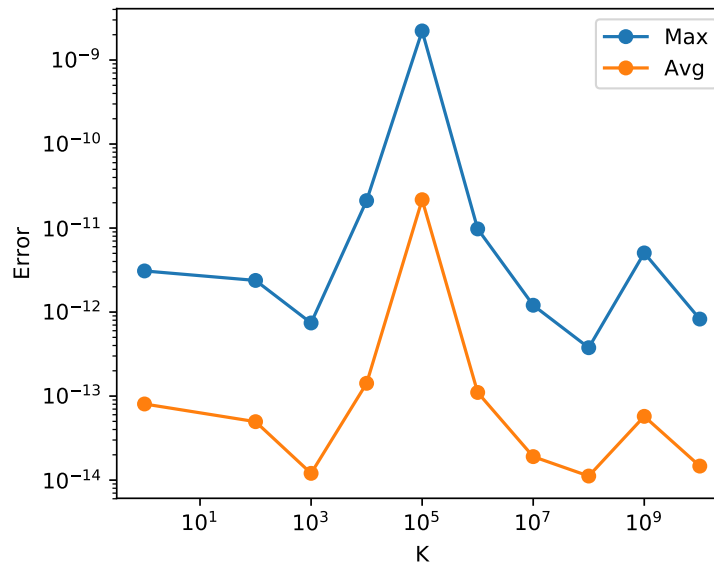
The second experiment takes the same instances as the previous one, but this time, we analyze how close the roots corresponding to the priorly known solutions are to the unit circle. The distance of a root  $\hat{x}$  of  $h$  to the unit circle is taken to be  $|\hat{x} - 1|$ . This experiment is utilized mostly to determine a good precision constant for floating point comparisons in the implementation. The results are shown in [Figure 16](#). As it can be seen that the distance always stays under  $10^{-6}$  we concluded that a good precision constant would be  $10^{-5}$ . For the last experiment we considered 100 instances for each  $K$  with three points  $(K \cos(t_j), \frac{K \sin(t_j)}{2})$ ,  $j = 1 \dots 3$ , generated randomly by sampling  $t_j$  according to a uniform distribution in  $[0, 2\pi]$ . The average and the maximum error are plotted in [Figure 17](#), and analyzing it, it is fair to say that

Figure 16 – The distance of the roots to the unit circle.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Figure 17 – The error measured on solutions found by Algorithm 5.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

Algorithm 5 is numerically stable for this example, and its error, in average, is expected to be small even if the instance's numerical values are big.

# MAXIMAL COVERING BY ELLIPSES WITH ROTATION

This chapter introduces the elliptical PMCLP where there is no axis-parallel constraint, and the ellipses can be freely rotated. We refer to this problem as Maximal Covering by Ellipses with Rotation (MCER). In comparison with MCE, this problem introduces a new variable that is responsible for determining the rotation angle of every ellipse, making MCER a more challenging problem.

## 6.1 Definition

An instance of the non-axis-parallel is defined exactly like the axis-parallel one on [Chapter 4](#). It is given by a set of demand points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ ,  $p_j \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ; a list of weights  $\mathcal{W} := \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , with  $w_j \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  being the weight of point  $p_j$ ; and  $m$  ellipses given by their shape parameters  $\mathcal{R} := \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_m, b_m)\}$ , with  $(a_j, b_j) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^2$  and  $a_j > b_j$ . Additionally, to make the text more clear, we define a set of  $m$  functions that represent the coverage regions of each ellipse as  $\mathcal{E} = \{E_1, \dots, E_m\}$ , with  $E_j: \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^2$  being a function that takes the center and angle of rotation where the  $j$ -th ellipse is located as input, and returns its coverage region as defined by [Equation 2.9](#). Lastly, an instance of MCER is defined as the tuple  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$ .

Given an instance of *MCER*, we define  $Q := (q_1, \dots, q_m) \in \mathbb{R}^{2m}$  as the centers of each ellipse, and  $\Theta := (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m) \in [0, \pi)^m$  as the angles of rotation of each ellipse. Then, we define MCER as the problem of determining  $Q$  and  $\Theta$  (placing and rotating each ellipse) to maximize the weight of the points covered by the  $m$  ellipses given by

$$\max_{Q, \Theta} w \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \mathcal{P} \cap E_i(q_i, \theta_i) \right). \quad (6.1)$$

In addition to that, we define an equivalence relation between solutions of MCER. We say that two solutions are equivalent if the set of points covered by them is the same. That is, two

solutions of MCER  $(Q, \Theta)$  and  $(Q', \Theta')$  are said to be equivalent if, and only if

$$\bigcup_{j=1}^m \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q'_j, \theta'_j) = \bigcup_{j=1}^m \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j, \theta_j).$$

In the next section we present some results which ultimately lead up to the construction of a finite set that contains at least one optimal solution for MCER.

## 6.2 An optimal and finite set of solutions

In this section, we construct a finite list of centers and angles of rotation, also referred to as a CLS, for each ellipse and show that at least one optimal solution is in the set of solutions created from those lists. The results presented in this section are strongly based on [Chapter 5](#), more specifically on [Lemma 5.1](#), which states that there exists at most six solutions for any instance of E3P.

We start by introducing a lemma, which says that given an optimal solution of MCER, it is always possible to find an equivalent one, such that every ellipse covering more than one point has two of them on its border.

**Lemma 6.1.** Let  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$  be an optimal solution of an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  of MCER. Then, for any  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  with  $|\mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)| \geq 2$ , an equivalent solution  $(Q', \Theta^*)$  exists, such that  $|\mathcal{P} \cap \partial E_j(q'_j, \theta_j^*)| \geq 2$ .

*Proof.* First, the angle of rotation can be ignored as it does not change.

Let  $A = \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)$  be the set of points covered by the  $j$ -th ellipse and  $X = \bigcap_{p \in A} E_j(p, \theta_j^*)$  be the region of intersection of ellipses centered at each point in  $A$ .

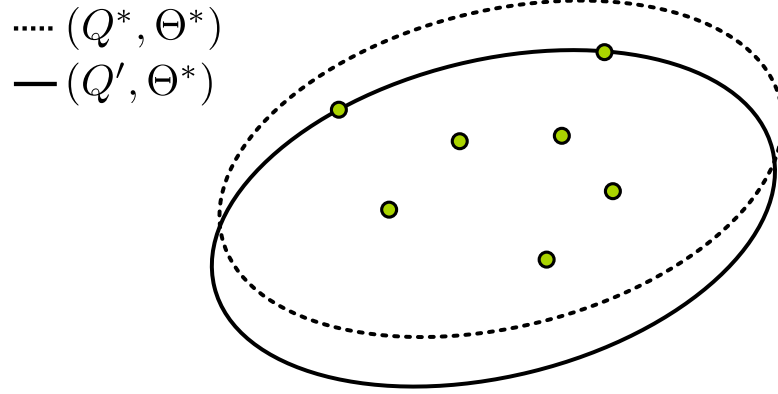
As it was shown on [Chapter 4](#),  $X$  is a region that is limited by arcs of ellipses. As this region is the non-empty intersection of more than one ellipse, there are at least two of these arcs that encounter at one point, creating a vertex. Selecting any of these vertices as  $q'_j$  will make  $|\mathcal{P} \cap \partial E_j(q'_j, \theta_j^*)| \geq 2$ .

□

What [Lemma 6.1](#) is saying is that transforming any optimal solution of MCER into an equivalent optimal solution where every ellipse that covers more than one point has two points on its border is possible (an example can be seen in [Figure 18](#)). [Lemma 6.1](#) also says that this equivalent optimal solution can always be achieved by just translating the ellipses; that is, no change in the angle of rotation is required.

Next, a new notation is introduced for the set of equivalent solutions of an optimal one that has at least two points on the border of every ellipse.

Figure 18 – An optimal solution before and after applying Lemma 6.1.



Source: Elaborated by the author.

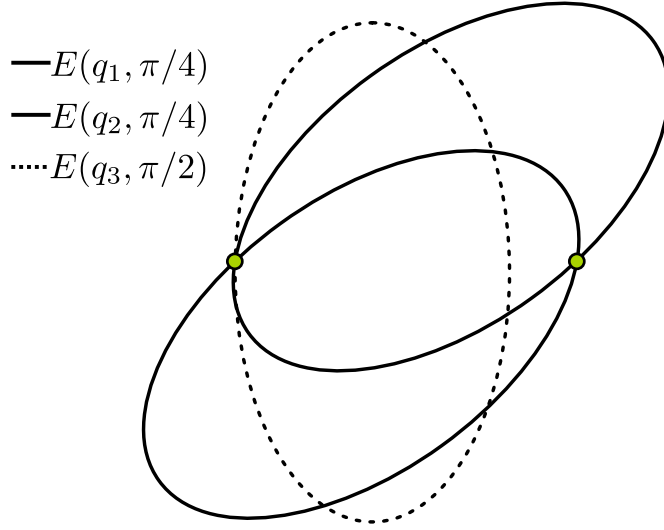
**Definition 6.1.** Let  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$  be an optimal solution for an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  of MCER. We define  $\Pi(Q^*, \Theta^*)$  as the set of every equivalent solution of  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$ , such that for any  $(Q, \Theta) \in \Pi(Q^*, \Theta^*)$ , for  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  with  $|\mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)| \geq 2$ , we have  $|\mathcal{P} \cap \partial E_j(q_j', \theta_j)| \geq 2$ .

Next, we introduce a notation that helps us characterize angles which given an ellipse rotated by it and two points, it is possible to find a center for the ellipse, such that it contains the two points on its border.

**Definition 6.2.** Let  $E$  be the coverage region of an ellipse and  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . An angle  $\theta \in [0, \pi)$  is said to be  $(E, u, v)$ -feasible if there is  $q \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $\{u, v\} \subset \partial E(q, \theta)$ . In addition to that, given an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  of MCER, the set of  $(E_j, u, v)$ -feasible angles is referred to as

$$\Phi_j(u, v) := \{\theta \in [0, \pi) : \theta \text{ is a } (E_j, u, v)\text{-feasible angle}\}. \quad (6.2)$$

In Figure 19 two examples for Definition 6.2 are shown. The example with a solid border shows two given points on the border of two ellipses rotated by  $\pi/4$ , making  $\pi/4$  a  $(E, u, v)$ -feasible angle. The other example, with a dashed border, presents a case where an ellipse rotated by  $\pi/2$  is not able to have the two points on its border, no matter where it is placed; because of that,  $\pi/2$  is said to be a non  $(E, u, v)$ -feasible angle.

Figure 19 – A  $(E, u, v)$ -feasible angle and a not  $(E, u, v)$ -feasible angle.

Source: Elaborated by the author.

Following that, we introduce a lemma that is responsible for connecting the developments of this chapter with the results of [Chapter 5](#). This lemma makes it possible to describe a type of solution which, for sure, is part of the equivalence class of any optimal solution. It says that, for any ellipse that covers more than two points in a given optimal solution, an equivalent solution exists with at least one of the two properties:

- Three points lie on the ellipse's border.
- Two points lie on the ellipse's border, for any feasible angle.

**Lemma 6.2.** Let  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$  be an optimal solution of an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  of MCER;  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , such that  $|\mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)| > 2$ ;  $(Q', \Theta') \in \Pi(Q^*, \Theta^*)$ ; and  $\{u, v\} \subset \partial E_j(q_j', \theta_j')$ .

If, for all  $(\hat{Q}, \hat{\Theta})$  equivalent solution of  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$ ,  $|\mathcal{P} \cap \partial E_j(\hat{q}_j, \hat{\theta}_j)| < 3$ , then for all  $\theta \in \Phi_j(u, v)$ , there exists  $q \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , such that  $\{u, v\} \subset \partial E_j(q, \theta)$  and  $\mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*) = \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q, \theta)$ .

*Proof.* According to [Lemma 6.1](#), there exists  $\{u, v\} \subset \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)$ , such that an equivalent optimal solution  $(Q', \Theta')$  exists with  $u$  and  $v$  on the border of  $E_j(q_j', \theta_j^*)$ . Therefore,  $\theta_j^* \in \Phi_j(u, v)$ .

Now suppose that  $u$  and  $v$  have the same  $y$ -coordinate, that is, the angle between them is 0. If they do not, a rotation can be applied to make them have the same  $y$ -coordinate. Then, the first thing we are proving is that  $\Phi_j(u, v) = [0, 2\alpha]$  for a specific case that any instance can be transformed into using translation and rotation on every element of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

In [Chapter 2](#), a function  $L: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  was defined in [Equation 2.7](#). This function takes the angular coefficient  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  and, considering the family of lines parallel to the one described by  $y = mx$ , returns the maximum squared distance between two intersection points of a line in that family and an axis-parallel ellipse centered at the origin.

To use those results here, we need to consider the ellipse to be fixed at the origin and axis-parallel, and consider the problem of rotating and translating the points in  $\mathcal{P}$  instead.

Let  $\theta \in [0, \pi] \setminus \{\pi/2\}$ , and  $u', v'$  be the points  $u, v$  after a rotation by  $\theta$ . Then, if  $L(\tan \theta) \geq \|v - u\|_2^2$ , it is possible to apply a translation to  $u', v'$ , such that they end up in the border of the fixed ellipse. This means that, it is possible to find an angle of rotation and a center to place  $E_j$ , such that it has  $u, v$  on its border.

Now we use some properties of function  $L$  whose details are given in [Chapter 2](#). Defining  $l(\theta) = L(\tan \theta)$ , with  $l : [0, \pi] \setminus \{\pi/2\}$ , we can say that

- $l$  is decreasing in  $[0, \pi/2)$  because  $L$  is decreasing in  $[0, \infty)$ . Therefore, if there is  $\alpha \in [0, \pi/2)$ , such that  $l(\alpha) = \|v - u\|_2^2$ , then  $l(\theta) > \|v - u\|_2^2$ , for  $\theta \in (\alpha, \pi/2)$ . That implies  $[0, \alpha] \subset \Phi_j(u, v)$ .
- $l(\theta) = l(\pi - \theta)$  because  $L$  is an even function. Therefore, if there is  $\alpha \in [0, \pi/2)$ , such that  $l(\alpha) = \|v - u\|_2^2$ , then  $l(\theta) > \|v - u\|_2^2$ , for  $\theta \in (\pi/2, \pi - \alpha)$ . That implies  $[\pi - \alpha, \pi] \subset \Phi_j(u, v)$ .

We then conclude that  $\Phi_j(u, v) = [0, \alpha] \cup [\pi - \alpha, \pi]$ , and, of course, in the case that there is no  $\alpha \in [0, \pi/2)$ , such that  $l(\alpha) = \|v - u\|_2^2$ , we have  $\Phi_j(u, v) = [0, \pi]$ . From that, if we rotate every point in  $\mathcal{P}$  by  $\pi - \alpha$ , we obtain  $\Phi_j(u, v) = [0, 2\alpha]$ .

With this result in hand, we can use a continuity argument to complete our proof as follows. Let  $\delta : \Phi_j(u, v) \mapsto \mathbb{R}^2$  be a continuous function which takes an angle  $\theta \in \Phi_j(u, v)$  and returns a center, such that  $\{u, v\} \subset \partial E_j(\delta(\theta), \theta)$ , and, from solution  $(Q', \Theta')$ ,  $\delta(\theta'_j) = q'_j$ . Notice that, in general, for any angle in  $\Phi_j(u, v)$ , there are two possible centers that make  $\{u, v\} \subset \partial E_j(\delta(\theta), \theta)$  (see [Figure 19](#) for an example), however, imposing  $\delta(\theta'_j) = q'_j$  makes  $\delta$  be a well-defined function. This is shown in [Figure 20](#) where  $\delta$  is plotted for the whole interval  $\Phi_j(u, v)$ .

Let  $w \in \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*) \setminus \{u, v\}$ , then we define  $f_w : \mathbb{R}^2 \times [0, \pi) \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  to be a function that takes a center  $q \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and an angle of rotation  $\theta \in [0, \pi)$ , and returns the elliptical distance between  $w$  and  $E_j(q, \theta)$  minus 1 as defined by the left-and-side of [Equation 2.8](#). Keep in mind that, for all  $w \in \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*) \setminus \{u, v\}$ , we have that  $f_w(q'_j, \theta'_j) < 0$ .

For all  $w \in \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*) \setminus \{u, v\}$ , we have that  $f_w(q'_j, \theta_j^*) < 0$  as they are covered by the  $j$ -th ellipse. Then, to evaluate  $f_w$  for every center and feasible angle that maintains  $u$  and  $v$  on  $E_j$ 's border, we introduce a new function  $g_w : \Phi_j(u, v) \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , which is defined as  $g_w(\theta) = f_w(\delta(\theta), \theta)$ . As  $f_w$  and  $\delta$  are continuous functions,  $g_w$  is also continuous.

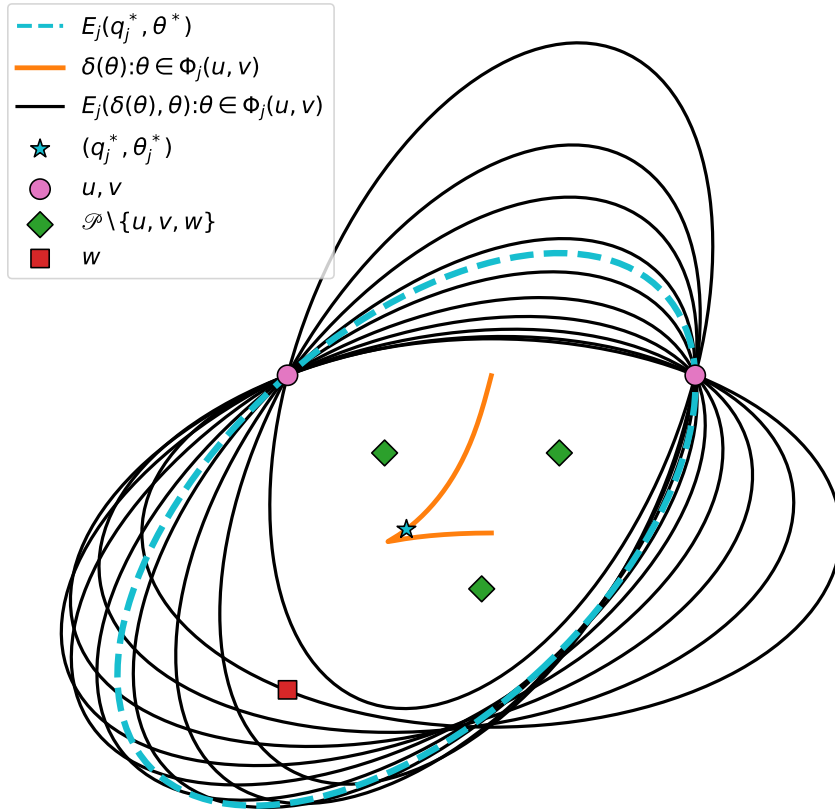
Therefore, for any  $\theta \in \Phi_j(u, v)$ , if a point  $w \in \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*) \setminus \{u, v\}$  is not covered by  $E_j(\delta(\theta), \theta)$ , it must have  $g_w(\theta) > 1$ . Then, by continuity, another angle  $\bar{\theta} \in \Phi_j(u, v)$  must exist, such that  $g_w(\bar{\theta}) = 1$ , which means that  $w \in \partial E_j(\delta(\bar{\theta}), \bar{\theta})$ , contradicting the hypothesis. The

same can be said about the case where there exists an angle  $\theta \in \Phi_j(u, v)$ , such that a point  $w \in \mathcal{P} \setminus E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)$  enters the coverage of  $E_j(\delta(\theta), \theta)$ .  $\square$

What [Lemma 6.2](#) is saying is that, for every ellipse in an instance of MCER, unless an equivalent optimal solution with three points on its border exists, the angle of rotation can practically be ignored. Because of that, it will be shown that we can construct a CLS which is finite and also contains an optimal solution.

In [Figure 20](#), a visualization of [Lemma 6.2](#) is presented. An initial optimal solution is given by the dashed-border ellipse and its center, represented by a star point. From it, the continuous function  $\delta$  is defined by moving the ellipse through the rotation angles in  $\Phi_j(u, v)$  while maintaining  $u, v$  on its border. Ten angles were chosen from  $\Phi_j(u, v)$  to be shown in [Figure 20](#), among those were 0 and  $\max\{\Phi_j(u, v)\}$ ; their corresponding ellipses are displayed with solid-line borders. Consistently with [Lemma 6.2](#), the points in  $\mathcal{P} \setminus \{u, v, w\}$  stay within the ellipse's cover for any angle of rotation, and, for point  $w$ , there exists an angle, such that it is on the ellipse's border.

Figure 20 – A visualization of [Lemma 6.2](#).



Source: Elaborated by the author.



Let  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$  be an optimal solution of an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  of MCER. We will define a set  $\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  and show that there exists an equivalent solution  $(Q', \Theta')$  to  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$ , such that  $(Q', \Theta') \in \Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$ . This is the same thing as showing that  $\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  contains an optimal solution for the instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$ . The whole set  $\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  is constructed from a set of solutions for every ellipse. Let  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , we denote by  $S_j$  the CLS for the  $j$ -th ellipse; its construction is broken into three separated cases denoted by  $S_j^{(1)}$ ,  $S_j^{(2)}$ , and  $S_j^{(3)}$ . Next, we define them precisely.

### 6.2.1 First case

This is the case where  $|E_j(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)| = 1$ , that is, the  $j$ -th ellipse only covers one point. This case is not treated by any of the previous results presented in this chapter. Nevertheless, taking this possibility into account can be done by including solutions in  $S_j$  that are guaranteed to cover at least one point. This is represented by

$$S_j^{(1)} = \bigcup_{u \in \mathcal{P}} \{(u, 0)\}. \quad (6.3)$$

### 6.2.2 Second case

The second and third cases are addressed by [Lemma 6.2](#). Consider the second case to be the one where the  $j$ -ellipse covers more than one point and there is no equivalent solution with three points on the its border. By [Lemma 6.2](#),  $(Q^*, \Theta^*)$  can be represented by a solution that has some pair of points  $u, v$  on the ellipse's border, and is rotated by some angle in  $\Phi_j(u, v)$ . As only one angle is needed, we define  $\theta_{uv}$  as the angle that makes the major-axis of the ellipse to be aligned with the line that passes through  $u$  and  $v$ ; this angle surely is in  $\Phi_j(u, v)$  as the longest segment that crosses an ellipse is its major-axis. Having said that, we refer to  $S_j^{(2)}$  the set of possible solutions that takes this case into account; we define it as

$$S_j^{(2)} = \bigcup_{\{u, v\} \subset \mathcal{P}} \{(q, \theta_{uv}) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R} : \{u, v\} \subset \partial E_j(q, \theta_{uv})\}. \quad (6.4)$$

For a pair of points  $u, v$ , determining every ellipse with a fixed rotation angle that has  $u$  and  $v$  on its border is equivalent to determining the intersection points of two axis-parallel ellipses with the same shape parameters. This problem is discussed with great detail in [section 4.4](#).

### 6.2.3 Third case

The only case left is the one where there is an equivalent solution with three points on the  $j$ -th ellipse's border. We call this set of possible solutions  $S_j^{(3)}$ , and define it as

$$S_j^{(3)} = \bigcup_{\{u, v, w\} \subset \mathcal{P}} \{(q, \theta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R} : \{u, v, w\} \subset \partial E_j(q, \theta)\}. \quad (6.5)$$

Determining the set  $S_j^{(3)}$  can be done using the results from [Chapter 5](#) for every triplet of points.

Finally, we define the CLS for the  $j$ -th ellipse as  $S_j = S_j^{(1)} \cup S_j^{(2)} \cup S_j^{(3)}$ , and the set of possible solutions of an instance of MCER as

$$\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}) = \{(Q, \Theta) \in \mathbb{R}^{2m} \times \mathbb{R}^m : (q_j, \theta_j) \in S_j \text{ for all } j \in \{1, \dots, m\}\}. \quad (6.6)$$

**Theorem 2.** Let  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  be an instance of MCER, and  $\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  be a set of solutions defined by [Equation 6.6](#). Then there exists an optimal solution  $(Q^*, \Theta^*) \in \Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$ , and  $|\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})| = \mathcal{O}(n^{3m})$ .

*Proof.* For every  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , by [Lemma 6.2](#), any optimal solution that covers more than one point can be transformed into one that is in  $S_j^{(2)}$  or in  $S_j^{(3)}$ . If an optimal solution covers only one point, it can be transformed into another one that is in  $S_j^{(1)}$ .

From [section 4.4](#), we can conclude that  $|S_j^{(2)}| \leq 2\binom{n}{2} = \mathcal{O}(n^2)$ . By [Lemma 5.1](#), we have that  $|S_j^{(3)}| \leq 6\binom{n}{3} = \mathcal{O}(n^3)$ . Therefore,  $|S_j| = \mathcal{O}(n^3)$ , and as  $|\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})| = |S_1| \times |S_2| \times \dots \times |S_m|$ , we have  $|\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})| = \mathcal{O}(n^{3m})$ .  $\square$

## 6.3 An algorithm for MCER

In this section we describe an algorithm for MCER that does a complete search on the CLS of each ellipse.

Firstly, we describe an algorithm that constructs a CLS for a given ellipse. Let  $E$  be the coverage region of an ellipse with shape parameters  $(a, b)$ . We assume that in [Algorithm 6](#), the procedure  $e2p(u, v, a, b)$  returns every  $(q, \theta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ , such that,  $\{u, v\} \subset \partial E(q, \theta)$ , and  $\theta$  is an rotation angle that makes  $E$ 's major-axis parallel to the line defined by  $u$  and  $v$ . Also, the procedure  $e3p$  called in [Algorithm 6](#) is defined in [Algorithm 5](#).

After that, we define [Algorithm 7](#) which takes an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  of MCER, and returns an optimal solution for it. Even though it is based on [Theorem 2](#), the set of solutions  $\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  is not explicitly built in [Algorithm 7](#). Instead, a complete search is done by backtracking the CLS of every ellipse returned by procedure CLS-MCER.

Two procedures are defined in [Algorithm 7](#). The first one, called *MCER*, returns an optimal solution for an instance  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$  using the second procedure  $MCER_{bt}$ . This second procedure is responsible for the backtracking and takes two additional parameters  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , which represents the index of the ellipse that  $MCER_{bt}$  is currently processing, and  $Z \subset \mathcal{P}$ , which represents the set of points that have not been covered by the ellipses already processed by  $MCER_{bt}$ .

**Corollary 6.1.** [Algorithm 7](#) takes  $\mathcal{O}(n^{3m})$  computations and returns an optimal solution for an instance of MCER.

---

**Algorithm 6** – An algorithm that constructs a CLS for a given ellipse.

---

**Input:** A set of points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , and an ellipse's shape parameters  $(a, b)$ .

**Output:** A CLS for the ellipse with shape parameters  $(a, b)$  considering the demand set  $\mathcal{P}$ .

```

1: procedure CLS-MCER( $\mathcal{P}, a, b$ )
2:    $S \leftarrow \{\}$ 
3:   for  $u \in \mathcal{P}$  do
4:      $S \leftarrow S \cup \{(u, 0)\}$ 
5:   end for
6:   for  $\{u, v\} \in \mathcal{P}$  do
7:      $S \leftarrow S \cup e2p(u, v, a, b)$ 
8:   end for
9:   for  $\{u, v, w\} \in \mathcal{P}$  do
10:     $S \leftarrow S \cup e3p(u, v, a, b)$  ▷ Defined in Algorithm 5.
11:  end for
12:  return  $S$ 
13: end procedure

```

---

*Proof.* For every  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , unless  $Z = \{\}$ , when choosing the center and angle of rotation for the  $j$ -th ellipse, Algorithm 7 does not consider any  $(q_j, \theta_j) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ , such that  $Z \cap E_j(q_j, \theta_j) = \{\}$ . Apart from those solutions, which are non-optimal, Algorithm 7 considers every solution in  $\Omega(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$ . □

In Figure 21 a solution return by Algorithm 7 for the instance AB120 taken from Andretta and Birgin (2013) is displayed. The exact method developed by Andretta and Birgin (2013), for this instance, could not obtain an optimal solution within the established time limit, however, comparing with the solution obtained by our algorithm, their heuristic method does find an optimal solution. In the next chapter, we give more details about the solutions found by our algorithm, along with the proposal of some new instances for MCER and MCER- $k$ .

**Algorithm 7** – Algorithm for MCER

**Input:** A set of points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , a list of weights  $\mathcal{W} = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , and a list of shape parameters  $\mathcal{R} = \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_m, b_m)\}$ .

**Output:** An optimal solution for the given instance of MCER.

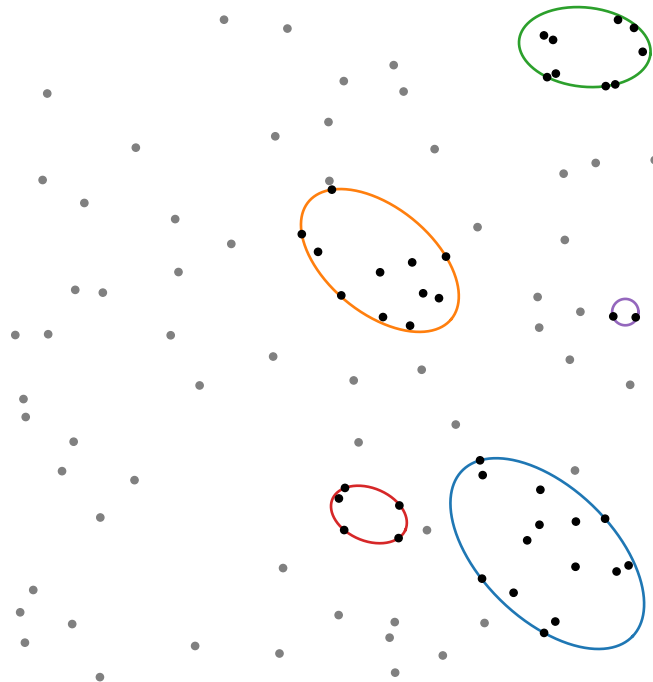
```

1: procedure  $MCER(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R})$ 
2:   return  $MCER_{bt}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, 1)$ 
3: end procedure

4: procedure  $MCER_{bt}(Z, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, j)$ 
5:   if  $j = m + 1$  then
6:     return 0
7:   end if
8:    $ans \leftarrow 0$ 
9:    $(q_j^*, \dots, q_m^*); (\theta_j^*, \dots, \theta_m^*) \leftarrow (0, \dots, 0); (0, \dots, 0)$   $\triangleright$  Setting to 0 as a default value.
10:   $S_j \leftarrow \text{CLS-MCER}(Z, a_j, b_j)$ 
11:  for  $(q_j, \theta_j) \in S_j$  do
12:     $Cov \leftarrow \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j, \theta_j)$ 
13:     $(q_{j+1}, \dots, q_m); (\theta_{j+1}, \dots, \theta_m) \leftarrow MCER_{bt}(Z \setminus Cov, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, j + 1)$ 
14:     $Cov \leftarrow \bigcup_{k=j}^m \mathcal{P} \cap E_k(q_k, \theta_k)$ 
15:    if  $w(Cov) > ans$  then
16:       $ans \leftarrow w(Cov)$ 
17:       $(q_j^*, \dots, q_m^*); (\theta_j^*, \dots, \theta_m^*) \leftarrow (q_j, \dots, q_m); (\theta_j, \dots, \theta_m)$ 
18:    end if
19:  end for
20:  return  $(q_j^*, \dots, q_m^*); (\theta_j^*, \dots, \theta_m^*)$ 
21: end procedure

```

Figure 21 – An optimal solution for the instance AB120.



### 6.3.1 Adding facility cost

In this section, we consider the extended version of MCER where each facility has a cost assigned to it and exactly  $k$  of them must be used in a solution. We refer to this version of the problem as Maximum Covering by Ellipses with Rotation and a  $k$ -constraint (MCER- $k$ ).

An instance of MCER- $k$  has the same parameters as MCER plus a list of costs  $\mathcal{C} := \{c_1, \dots, c_m\}$ , with  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  being the cost of the  $j$ -th facility; and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k \leq m$ .

A solution for MCER- $k$  is given by  $(I, Q, \Theta)$ , with  $I := \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$ ;  $Q := (q_1, \dots, q_k) \in \mathbb{R}^{2k}$ , with  $q_j$  being the center of the  $i_j$ -th ellipse; and  $\Theta := (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k) \in [0, \pi)^k$ , with  $\theta_j$  being the angle of rotation of the  $i_j$ -th ellipse. An optimal solution of MCER- $k$  is given by the optimization problem

$$\max_{I, Q, \Theta} w \left( \bigcup_{j=1}^k \mathcal{P} \cap E_{i_j}(q_j, \theta_j) \right).$$

Then, in the same way that it is done in [Chapter 4](#), we introduce [Algorithm 8](#) for MCER- $k$  that uses [Algorithm 7](#) for every  $I := \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$ . Therefore, [Algorithm 8](#) returns an optimal solution for MCER- $k$  in  $\mathcal{O}(\binom{m}{k} n^{3k}) = \mathcal{O}(n^{4m})$  time.

---

#### Algorithm 8 – Algorithm for MCER- $k$

---

**Input:** A set of points  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ , a list of weights  $\mathcal{W} = \{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ , a list of shape parameters  $\mathcal{R} = \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_m, b_m)\}$ , a list of costs  $\mathcal{C} = \{c_1, \dots, c_m\}$ , and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Output:** An optimal solution for MCER- $k$ .

```

1: procedure MCER- $k(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{C}, k)$ 
2:    $I^* = \{i_1^*, \dots, i_k^*\} \leftarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$ 
3:    $Q^* = (q_1^*, \dots, q_k^*) \leftarrow (0, \dots, 0)$ 
4:    $\Theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_k^*) \leftarrow (0, \dots, 0)$ 
5:   for all  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$  do
6:      $\mathcal{R}' \leftarrow \{(a_j, b_j) \in \mathcal{R} : j \in I\}$ 
7:      $(q_1, \dots, q_k); (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k) \leftarrow \text{MCER}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{R}')$ 
8:     if  $w(\bigcup_{j=1}^k \mathcal{P} \cap E_{i_j}(q_j, \theta_j)) - \sum_{j \in I} c_j > w(\bigcup_{j=1}^k \mathcal{P} \cap E_{i_j^*}(q_j^*, \theta_j^*)) - \sum_{j \in I^*} c_j$  then
9:        $Q^* \leftarrow (q_1, \dots, q_k)$ 
10:       $\Theta^* \leftarrow (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$ 
11:       $I^* \leftarrow I$ 
12:     end if
13:   end for
14:   return  $I^*, Q^*, \Theta^*$ 
15: end procedure

```

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### 6.3.2 Improvements and implementation details

Some improvements can be made in the implementation of [Algorithm 7](#). Instead of calling procedure CLS-MCER every time in the backtracking routine, it is suggested that it is

done outside in a pre-processing phase.

Let  $(Q, \Theta)$  and  $(Q', \Theta')$  be two solutions of MCER. If, for any  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , we have  $\mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q'_j, \theta'_j) \subset \mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q_j, \theta_j)$ , solution  $(Q', \Theta')$  can be dismissed. This can be done in the CLS-MCER procedure in [Algorithm 6](#).

In our implementation we use the same approach used in [Andretta and Birgin \(2013\)](#). When constructing the CLS for the  $j$ -th ellipse, a tree-like data structure is utilized to verify if a solution  $(q, \theta)$  covers a subset of another solution or not.

Keeping an upper-bound for the solution during the backtracking in [Algorithm 7](#) can also provide a good improvement in practice. Let  $z_j = \max_{(q, \theta) \in S_j} w(\mathcal{P} \cap E_j(q, \theta))$ , and  $OPT$  the value of an optimal solution. When the algorithm chooses  $(q_j, \theta_j) \in S_j$  as the solution for the  $j$ -th ellipse, we have

$$OPT \leq w \left( \bigcup_{k=1}^j \mathcal{P} \cap E_k(q_k, \theta_k) \right) + \sum_{k=j+1}^m z_k. \quad (6.7)$$

This upper-bound is easy to compute as  $\{z_1, \dots, z_m\}$  can be pre-processed, and the weight of every point covered so far in the backtrack can be obtained by adding another parameter to the *MCER* procedure.

In the next chapter, we present the results of numerical experiments for MCER and MCER- $k$  and compare them with the results published in [Andretta and Birgin \(2013\)](#).

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# NUMERICAL EXPERIMENTS

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## FUTURE WORK

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To take advantage of the great amount of work found in the literature, we decided to first introduce the planar maximal covering by disks problem, develop a method for it, and just then adapt it for the ellipses case. It turned out that because of the similarities between the two problems, adapting was possible and actually very simple. This made the method developed by us have a very different approach than the ones in (ANDRETTA; BIRGIN, 2013) and (CANBOLAT; MASSOW, 2009). The next step is to implement it and compare the results that (ANDRETTA; BIRGIN, 2013) obtained.

For the next step of our master's research we set the following objectives as primary:

- Study the  $(1 - \varepsilon)$ -approximation method for the planar covering with disks in (BERG; CABELLO; HAR-PELED, 2006) and develop an adapted version of the algorithm for ellipses with the same time complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ .
- Develop an exact method for the version of the problem introduced in (ANDRETTA; BIRGIN, 2013) where the ellipses can be freely rotated.

The following goals are set as secondary:

- Develop a probabilistic approximation algorithm based on (ARONOV; HAR-PELED, 2008) which proposed a Monte Carlo approximation for the problem of finding the deepest point in a arrangement of regions. The method runs in  $\mathcal{O}(n\varepsilon^2 \log n)$  and can be applied to solve the case with one ellipse. The case with more than one ellipse is left as a challenge for us for the next steps of our research.
- In (HE *et al.*, 2015), the task of finding every center candidate, after eliminating all the non-essential ones, is done in  $\mathcal{O}(n^5)$  run-time complexity. We want to generalize this for the elliptical distance function and achieve a better run-time complexity. We also intend to use the mean-shift algorithm to try to develop a greedy version for the ellipses version.



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