

# Semidefinite Programming

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# Outline

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Some Theory

- Duality
- Optimality

## 3 Algorithms

- Interior Points

## 4 Applications

- The Lovász number
- Max Cut
- Machine Learning

# What Is Semidefinite Programming?

$$\begin{aligned} \min_X \quad & \langle C, X \rangle := \text{Tr}(CX) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij} X_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \langle A_i, X \rangle = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & X \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$C, A_i, X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  symmetric

$X \succeq 0 \hat{=}$   $X$  is positive semidefinite (p.s.d.)

## An Easy Example

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 \end{pmatrix}, A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, b_1 = 11, b_2 = 19$$

## An Easy Example

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 \end{pmatrix}, A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, b_1 = 11, b_2 = 19$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & x_{11} + 2x_{21} + 2x_{12} + 9x_{22} \\ \text{s.t.} & x_{11} + x_{22} = 11 \\ & 2x_{21} + 2x_{12} + 3x_{22} = 19 \\ & X = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

# Problem Session

## Problem 1

Are Linear Programs (LP) and  
Convex Quadratically  
Constrained Quadratic Programs  
(CQCQP) Semidefinite Programs  
(SDP)?

## Problem 3

iiiiiii HEAD The Lovasz

Function ===== Repitition

## Problem 2

iiiiiii HEAD Model the

MAXCUT Problem =====

Model *MAXCUT* as an IQP.  
iiiiiii origin/master

## Problem 4

Is a certain optimization problem

# Problem 1:

## Have I Ever Seen Semidefinite Programming Before?

### ■ Linear Programming

#### Linear Program

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & b_0^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & b_i^T x + c_i \leq 0, \quad i \text{ in } 1, \dots, n \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

#### Hint

Diagonal Matrix

### ■ Convex Quadratically Constrained Quadratic Programming

#### CQCQP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T A_0 x + b_0^T x + c_0 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T A_i x + b_i^T x + c_i \leq 0, \quad i \text{ in } 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

#### Hint

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Given } A_i = M_i^T M_i \\ & \text{then } x^T A_i x + b_i^T x + c_i \leq 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow & \begin{pmatrix} I & M_i x \\ x^T M_i^T & -c_i - b_i^T x \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Optimization Hierarchy

$LP < CQCQP < SDP < \text{Convex Programming}$



# What's the Dual?

## Primal Problem in Standard Form

$$\mathcal{P} = \inf_X \{ \text{Tr}(CX); \text{Tr}(A_i X) = b_i \ (i = 1, \dots, m), \ X \in \mathcal{S}_n^+ \}$$

## Dual Problem in Standard Form

$$\mathcal{D} = \sup_{y, S} \{ b^T y; \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i + S = C, \ S \in \mathcal{S}_n^+, y \in \mathbb{R}^m \}$$

# Weak Duality

## Duality Gap

Let  $X \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $(y, S) \in \mathcal{D}$ . The quantity

$$\langle C, X \rangle - b^T y$$

is called the duality gap of  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  at  $(X, y, S)$ .

## Weak Duality

Let  $X \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $(y, S) \in \mathcal{D}$ . One has

$$\langle C, X \rangle - b^T y = \langle S, X \rangle \geq 0$$

# Example with Duality Gap

## Primal Problem

$$\min -x_2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} x_2 - a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x_1 & x_2 \\ 0 & x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \preceq 0$$

## Dual Problem

$$\max -aw_{11} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \Omega \succeq 0, \quad w_{22} = 0, \quad w_{11} + 2w_{23} = 1$$

# Strong Duality

## Strict Feasibility

There exists  $X \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $S \in \mathcal{D}$  such that  $X \prec 0$  and  $S \prec 0$ .

## Strong Duality

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be strictly feasible. Then the duality gap is zero and the optimal sets of both the primal and the dual solution are nonempty.

# When is the Solution Optimal?

## Optimality Conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(A_i X) &= b_i, \quad X \succeq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i + S &= C, \quad S \succeq 0 \\ XS &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

# How to solve it?

## Interior Point Algorithm

$$\min_X \langle C, X \rangle - \mu \log \det(X); \quad \langle A_i, X \rangle = b_i \quad (i = 1; \dots, m)$$

# The Lovász number

## Definition (SDP-variant)

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. Then the Lovász-number of its complement  $\bar{G}$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\vartheta(\bar{G}) &:= \max_X \langle ee^T, X \rangle = e^T X e \\ &\text{s.t. } x_{ij} = 0, \quad \forall i \neq j : (i, j) \notin E \\ &\quad \text{Tr}(X) = 1 \\ &\quad X \text{ sym. pos. sem. def.}\end{aligned}$$

# The sandwich theorem

## Theorem

$$\omega(G) \leq \vartheta(\bar{G}) \leq \chi(G)$$



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## Example: Pentagon

$$\omega(G) = ? \quad \vartheta(\bar{G}) = \sqrt{5} \quad \chi(G) = ?$$

# The sandwich theorem

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## Example: Pentagon

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## Proof idea

SQP-relaxations of MAX CLIQUE (easy) and MIN COLORING (not so easy), respectively.

## So what?

- Both the clique and the coloring problems are NP-complete, but  $\vartheta$  can be found in polynomial time (using ellipsoid methods)
- This gives an  $n$ -approximation to  $\omega$  (and thus  $\alpha$ ) and  $\chi$
- It can be shown that no  $(n - \varepsilon)$ -approximation is possible in polynomial time, unless  $NP = ZPP$

## Problem 2:

### What is MAX CUT?

*Group presentation time.*

## Problem 2:

### What is MAX CUT?

IQP Model

Problem (MC) should be on the board now.

# An SDP-approximation algorithm (Goermans-Williamson)

## Outline

- Relax (MC) into a QP (P)
- Find approximation bound of (P)
- Show: (P) equivalent to SDP (SP)
- Strong duality holds for (SP) (ommitted)
- Solve SQP's dual in polynomial time

# QP Relaxation of (MC)

(P)

$$\begin{aligned} W_P^* := \max \quad & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} w_{ij} (1 - v_i^T v_j) \\ \text{s.t. } \quad & v_i \in \mathbb{S}^n \quad \forall i \in V \end{aligned}$$

## A randomized algorithm using (P)

1. Solve (P) to get vectors  $v_i$
2. Sample  $r \sim \text{UNIFORM}(\mathbb{S}^n)$
3. Set  $S := \{i \mid v_i^T r \geq 0\}$



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For cut  $W$  obtained this way:

$$E[W] = \sum_{i < j} w_{ij} \frac{\arccos(v_i^T v_j)}{\pi}$$

# A bound given by $E[W]$

## Theorem

$$E[W] \geq \alpha \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} w_{ij} (1 - v_i^T v_j)$$

with

$$\alpha := \min_{0 \leq \Theta \leq \pi} \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\Theta}{1 - \cos \Theta} > .87856 \dots$$

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## Corollary

$$E[W] \geq \alpha W_P^* \geq \alpha W_{MC}^*$$

# SDP formulation of (P)

(SD)

$$\begin{aligned} W_P^* := \max \quad & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} w_{ij} (1 - y_{ij}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_{ii} = 1 \quad \forall i \in V \\ & Y \text{ sym. pos. sem. def.} \end{aligned}$$

# SDP formulation of (P)

(SD)

$$\begin{aligned} W_P^* := \max & \quad \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} w_{ij} (1 - y_{ij}) \\ \text{s.t. } & y_{ii} = 1 \quad \forall i \in V \\ & Y \text{ sym. pos. sem. def.} \end{aligned}$$

How is this an SDP? Rewrite the objective!

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i \in V} \sum_{j \in V} w_{ij} (1 - y_{ij}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} W_{tot} - \frac{1}{4} \langle W, Y \rangle \end{aligned}$$

## How is $(P) \Leftrightarrow (SP)$ ?

- Recall that a symmetric matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is positive semidefinite iff for some  $m \leq n$

$$\exists B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} : A = B^T B$$

- Given pos. semidef.  $A$ , such a  $B$  can be found in  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  using incomplete Cholesky decomposition.
- Interpret  $Y$  in  $(SP)$  as the Gram-Matrix of vectors  $v_i$  in  $(P)$

## (Almost) Solving (SQ) in polynomial time

- For this particular Problem, strong duality holds.
- Using the dual, a cut with weight at least  $W_{SQ}^* - \varepsilon$  can be found in  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n}(\log W_{tot} + \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}))$  iterations using an interior point algorithm. Each iteration can be implemented in  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$
- This cut is a 0.878 approximation to  $W_{MC}^*$

# 'Quality' of the approximation

Can  $\alpha > 0.87856$  be improved?

No! The relaxation is tight.

- For  $C_5$  :  $E[W] \approx .884 W_{MC}^*$
- For Peterson graph  $\approx .8787$
- Examples are known such that  $E[W] < .8786 W_{MC}^*$

How does the algorithm do in practice?

- Usually within 4% of  $W_M^*$
- 'Almost always' within 9%



## Problem 4:

What is modeled here and is it a SDP?

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & \rho \\ \text{s.t.} & (a_i - c)^T E (a_i - c) \leq 1 \quad \forall i \\ & (b_j - c)^T E (b_j - c) \geq \rho^2 \quad \forall j \\ & E \in \mathbb{S}_+^n\end{array}$$

# Classification - Using SDP to tell two things apart (1)

## Ellipsoid

$$\mathcal{E} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; (x - c)^T E (x - c) \leq 1, E \text{ is p.s.d.}\}$$

## First idea for SDP

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \rho \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (a_i - c)^T E (a_i - c) \leq 1 \quad \forall i \\ & (b_j - c)^T E (b_j - c) \geq \rho^2 \quad \forall j \\ & E \in \mathbb{S}_+^n \end{aligned}$$

## Classification - Using SDP to tell two things apart (2)

### Second Idea

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \rho \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (1, a_i)^T \bar{E} (1, a_i) \leq 1 \quad \forall i \\ & (1, b_j)^T \bar{E} (1, b_j) \geq \rho^2 \quad \forall j \\ & E \in \mathbb{S}_+^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

## Classification - Using SDP to tell two things apart (2)

### Second Idea

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & \rho \\ \text{s.t.} & (1, a_i)^T \bar{E} (1, a_i) \leq 1 \quad \forall i \\ & (1, b_j)^T \bar{E} (1, b_j) \geq \rho^2 \quad \forall j \\ & E \in \mathbb{S}_+^{n+1}\end{array}$$

### Ellipsoid Separation

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & -k \\ \text{s.t.} & (1, a_i)^T \bar{E} (1, a_i) \leq 1 \quad \forall i \\ & (1, b_j)^T \bar{E} (1, b_j) \geq k \quad \forall j \\ & E \in \mathbb{S}_+^{n+1}\end{array}$$