

Optimization 2020 - Fifth compulsory assignment

The weighted MAXCUT problem is the following optimization problem. Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ with non-negative edge weights, w_{ij} for every $ij \in E$, find a partition $V = S \cup T$, $S \cap T = \emptyset$ of the vertices, such that the weight $w(S, T)$ of the cut is maximized.

Here, for sets $A, B \subseteq V$ we have used the shorthand notation

$$w(A, B) = \sum_{\substack{ij \in E \\ i \in A, j \in B}} w_{ij}$$

Consider the following algorithm due to Johnson:

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1:  $S := \emptyset, T := \emptyset.$ 
2: for  $v \in V$  do
3:   if  $w(\{v\}, S) > w(\{v\}, T)$  then
4:      $T := T \cup \{v\}$ 
5:   else
6:      $S := S \cup \{v\}$ 
7:   end if
8: end for
9: return  $(S, T)$ 
```

Figure 1: JohnsonCut.

Show that JohnsonCut is an approximation algorithm for MAXCUT with an approximation ratio of 2. What can you say about the running time of the algorithm?