Submodular Maximization

advances in distributed/streaming computing

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Overview

Definitions of Submodularity

Definition (submodular concave)

A function $f: 2^V \to \mathbb{R}$ is submodular if for any $A, B \subseteq V$, we have that:

$$f(A) + f(B) \geq f(A \cup B) + f(A \cap B). \tag{1}$$

An alternate equivalent definition is more interpretable in many situations.

Definition (diminishing returns)

A function $f: 2^V \to \mathbb{R}$ is submodular if for any $A \subseteq B \subset V$, and $v \in V \backslash B$, we have that:

$$f(A+v) - f(A) \geq f(B+v) - f(B). \tag{2}$$

Modular Functions

Definition (Modularity)

A function $f : 2^V \to \mathbb{R}$ is modular if for any $A \subseteq B \subset V$, and $v \in V \backslash B$, we have that:

$$f(A + v) - f(A) = f(B + v) - f(B). \tag{3}$$

Notably, a modular function f can always be written as

$$f(S) = f(\emptyset) + \sum_{v \in S} (f(\{v\}) - f(\emptyset))$$

for any $S \subseteq V$. If we further assume $f(\emptyset) = 0$ (in this case, we call f normalized or proper), we have a simplified expression,

$$f(S) = \sum_{v \in S} f(\{v\}).$$

Monotonitcity

Definition (Monotonitcity)

A set function $f : 2^V \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to be non-decreasing if for any $A \subseteq B \subseteq V$, $f(A) \leq f(B)$. Non-increasing set functions are defined in the similar way.

When we say a submodular function is monotone, we mean it is non-decreasing.

Properties

Submodularity is closed under addition.

Property

Let $f_1, f_2 : 2^V \to \mathbb{R}$ be two submodular functions. Then

$$f : 2^V \to \mathbb{R} \;\; \textit{with} \;\; f(A) = \alpha f_1(A) + \beta f_2(A)$$

is submodular for any fixed $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$.

Submodularity is preserved under restriction.

Property

Let $f : 2^V \to \mathbb{R}$ be a submodular function. Let $S \subseteq V$ be a fixed set. Then

$$f' : 2^V \to \mathbb{R} \;\; \textit{with} \;\; f'(A) = f(A \cap S)$$

is submodular.

Properties cont.

The following property can be useful when we show that the negative of the objective function of k-median problem is submodular.

Property

Consider V as a set of indices. Let $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^V$ be a fixed vector, c_i its ith coordinate. Then

$$f : 2^V \to \mathbb{R} \quad \textit{with} \quad f(A) = \max_{j \in A} c_j$$

is submodular.

Constraints

Submodular Maximization Problem

A submodular maximization problem usually has the following form:

$$\arg\max_{I \in \mathcal{I}} f(I), \tag{4}$$

where f is a submodular function and $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^V$ is the collection of all feasible solutions. We call $\mathcal{I}$ the constraint of the optimization problem.

Constraints

$\mathcal{I}$ is important!

The structure of $\mathcal{I}$ plays a crucial role in submodular optimization:

- Different constraints have different hardness results.
- Normally the difficulty increases when the constraint becomes more general.

Popular constraints

Some popular constraints:

- Cardinality constraint
- Knapsack constraint
- Matroid constraint
- Matching
- p-System
- ...

Constraints cont.

First we define hereditary set systems.

Definition (Hereditary)

A constraint $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^V$ is said to be hereditary if

$$I \in \mathcal{I} \implies J \in \mathcal{I} \text{ for any } J \subseteq I.$$

A hereditary constraint is sometimes called an independent system and each $I \in \mathcal{I}$ is called an independent set.

All constraints we will discuss are hereditary.

Constraints cont.

Cardinality

Cardinality constraint: $\mathcal{I} = \{A \subseteq V \mid |A| \leq k\}$

Knapsack

Knapsack Constraint: each $i \in V$ is assigned a weight $w_i \geq 0$, $\mathcal{I} = \{S \subseteq V \mid \sum_{i \in S} w_i \leq W\}$.

Matching

Matching: given a graph $G = (V, E)$, a *Matching* is a set $S \subseteq E$ such that no edges in S share common vertex.

Matroid

Matroid is the generalization of the independence concept in linear algebra; omit details here ...

p-System

p-system is the most general constraint we will discuss in this survey, it includes graph matching, p-matchoid (therefore matroid) and many others as special cases.

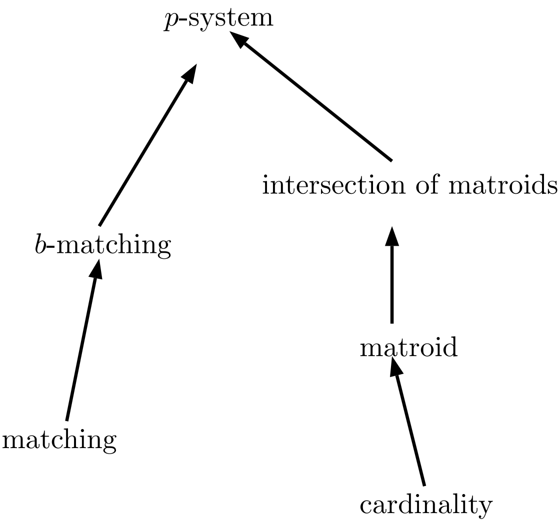
Definition of p-System

Let $(V, \mathcal{I})$ be a set system and $\mathcal{I}$ hereditary. Let $\mathcal{B}(A)$ be the collection of all bases of A.

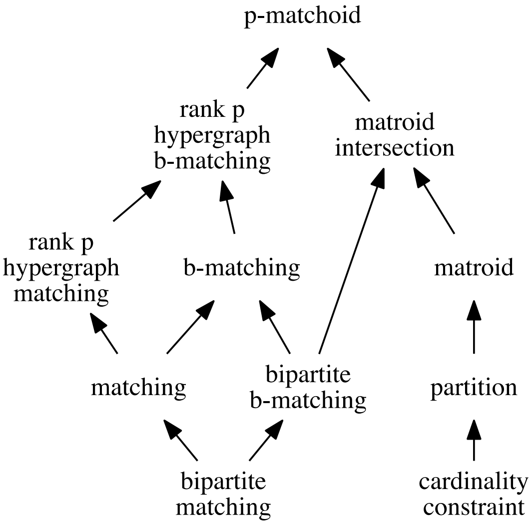
$$\mathcal{I} = \{A \subset V \mid \frac{\max_{S \in \mathcal{B}(A)} |S|}{\min_{S \in \mathcal{B}(A)} |S|} \leq p\}.$$

Note: a base of A is the maximal independent set included in A.

Hierarchy of constraints



Hierarchy of constraints (extended)



Multiple Columns

Heading

1. Statement
2. Explanation
3. Example

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Integer lectus nisl, ultricies in feugiat rutrum, porttitor sit amet augue. Aliquam ut tortor mauris. Sed volutpat ante purus, quis accumsan dolor.

Table

Treatments	Response 1	Response 2
Treatment 1	0.0003262	0.562
Treatment 2	0.0015681	0.910
Treatment 3	0.0009271	0.296

Table : Table caption

Theorem

Theorem (Mass–energy equivalence)

$E = mc^2$

Figure

Uncomment the code on this slide to include your own image from the same directory as the template .TeX file.

Citation

An example of the `\cite` command to cite within the presentation:

This statement requires citation [Smith, 2012].

References

John Smith (2012)
Title of the publication
Journal Name 12(3), 45 – 678.

The End