Tsinghua University

Discrete Optimistic

Fall 2024

Homework 1

Lin Zejin May 10, 2025

- **Collaborators:** I finish this homework by myself.

Problem 1. (a) When OPT $\geq c$, assume with $\frac{1}{T}$ algorithm A outputs a solution of value at least s. $T \in O(poly(n))$ Run algorithm A for $T \cdot n$ iterations. Then with $(1-\frac{1}{T})^{Tn} < e^{-n}$ probability, the algorithm A outputs a solution of value less than s.

So with at least $1 - e^{-n}$ probability, the algorithm A outputs a solution of value at least s.

(b)

$$s = \mathbb{E}[outputs] \leq \Pr[outputs \geq s - \frac{1}{n^a}] \cdot poly(n) + (1 - \Pr[outputs \geq s - \frac{1}{n^a}]) \cdot (s - \frac{1}{n^a})$$

Then

$$\Pr[outputs \geq s - \frac{1}{n^a}] \geq \frac{\frac{1}{n^a}}{poly(n) - s + \frac{1}{n^a}} = \frac{1}{n^a(poly(n) - s) + 1}$$

Here we end the proof.

Problem 2.

Problem 3. (a) Let $k = c$, $U = \{1, 2, \cdots, c\}^q$ where q large enough. Introduce

$$S_{i,b} = \{e \in U : e_i = b\},\ i \in [q], b \in [c]$$

Choose $S_{i,t}, 1 \leq t \leq c$ and the coverage is 1.

$x^*_{i,b} = \frac{1}{q}$ will also achieves coverage 1.

Then we cover each $j \in U$ with probability

$$1 - (1 - \frac{1}{c})^c$$

So the expected coverage of rounding is

$$1 - (1 - \frac{1}{c})^c$$

AS c large enough, the expected coverage of rounding is $1 - \frac{1}{e}$.

(b) With instance $k = c$, $U = \{0, 1\}^q$, $n = 2^q$ and

$$S_{i,b} = \{e \in U : e_i = b\},\ i \in [q], b = 0, 1$$

The LP solution $x^*_{i,b} = \frac{1}{q}$.
$\alpha x^*_{i,b} = \frac{(1-\epsilon)\ln n}{q} = (1-\epsilon)\ln 2 < \ln 2$.
Then

$$\Pr[j \text{ is covered}] = 1 - (1-\alpha x^*_{i,b})^q < 1 - (1-\ln 2)^q < 1 - (2^{-1.5})^{\log_2 n} = 1 - n^{-3/2}$$

So

$$\Pr[U \text{ is all covered}] < (1 - n^{-3/2})^n < 1 - n^{-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$$

as n large enough. So the randomized rounding algorithm may not be able to find a feasible solutionwith probability at least $n^{-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$.

Problem 4. (a)
(b) No, since the rounding algorithm gives a solution with expected value large than $(1-\frac{1}{e})$LP. So

$$\text{OPT} \geq (1 - \frac{1}{e})\text{LP}$$

always holds.

Problem 5. (a) Suffices to prove the decision problem that if there exists a clique of size k is whether or not NP-complete.
For an 3-SAT instance with clauses $c_1, \cdots, c_m$ and literals $x_1, \cdots, x_n$, we can construct a graph G with vertices $c_1, \cdots, c_m, x_1, \bar{x}_1, x_2, \bar{x}_2, \cdots, x_n, \bar{x}_n$ and additional clauses $x_{j_1} \wedge x_{j_2} \wedge x_{j_3}$ if there is some c_j is composed by $x_{j_1}, x_{j_2}, x_{j_3}$ or some of its nagation. Let $k = 2m + n$
First construct a complete graph.
Remove the edges between x_i and $\bar{x}_i$
Remove those edges that connnects $c_j = a \vee b \vee c$ and $\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b} \wedge \bar{c}$.
For a clause $a \wedge b \wedge c$, which means a, b, c holds in the same time, we remove the edges between $a \wedge b \wedge c$ and those additional clauses that contains one of $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c}$
Remove the edges between $a \wedge b \wedge c$ and $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c}$
Then, that a graph is clique is equivalent to this conditions:
(1) If $a \wedge b \wedge c$ belongs to it, then additional clauses that contains $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c}$ cannot belong to the same clique, and $c_j = \bar{a} \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{c}$ cannot belong if it exists.
(2) If x_i belongs to it, then $\bar{x}_i$ cannot belong to the same clique and those additional clauses contains $\bar{x}_i$ cannot belong to the same clique.
Certainly, the size of the clique in this graph cannot be larger than $2m + n$ since each clauses c_j corresponds to 8 additional clauses but at most one of them is contained.
Therefore, if $3 - SAT$ is satifiable, then we choose all true literals and all clauses that is true in the solution. Then c_j will be chosen all and exactly one of eight addtional clauses that corresponds to c_j will be chosen, so $k = 2m + n$ is reachable.

If there exists a clique of size $k = 2m + n$, which means choosing n of independent literals, c_j and exactly one of eight additional clauses that corresponds to c_j. Those clauses will be TRUE when the literals that is chosen is assuemd TRUE.

So it is a feasible instance for max-clique problem.

Therefore, It is NP-Hard.

(b)

If there is a $1-\epsilon$-approximation polynomial algorithm for graph in (a) and returns a solution.

First, we prove that we can find a solution in polynomial time that contains n independent literals. That's because, each additional clause $a \wedge b \wedge c$ implies that a, b, c is TRUE, which will not cause a contradiction by the clique assumption. So we actually can choose those TRUE literals and other random literals that is not mentioned. Since we want to return a max-clique, we actually can return a solution that contains n independent literals.

Second, we prove we can find a solution in polynomial time that contains m additional clauses, *i.e.* exactly one of eight additional clauses that corresponds to c_j is contained.

Otherwise, if all of eight additional clauses that contains a, b, c or their negation are not contained. Then since we find a solution that contains n independent literals, we can choose an additional clause $a' \wedge b' \wedge c'$ such that $a' \in \{a, \bar{a}\}, b' \in \{b, \bar{b}\}, c' \in \{c, \bar{c}\}$ and a', b', c' are chosen. And we can remove vertices $\bar{a'} \vee \bar{b'} \vee \bar{c'}$ if exists. Then it remains a clique of the same size. After $O(m)$, we actually obtain a solution that contains n independent literals and m additional clauses.

The graph we obtain actually finds a solution in $3-SAT$, with value

$$\frac{(1-\epsilon)(n+2m)-n-m}{m} = \frac{(1-2\epsilon)m - \epsilon n}{m} > 1 - 3\epsilon$$

if $n < m$.

3-SAT for $n \geq m$ is P-solved. So we find a $(1-3\epsilon)$-approximation polynomial algorithm for $3-SAT$.

PCP theorem implies $3\epsilon > \epsilon_0$. So $\exists \epsilon_1 > 0$ such that $(1-\epsilon_1)$-approximation polynomial algorithm for max-clique is NP-hard.

For a graph $G = (V, E)$, define

$$G^{\otimes t} = (V^{\otimes t}, E^{\otimes t})$$

where

$$V^{\times t} = \{(v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_t) : v_i \in V\}$$

$(v_1, \cdots, v_t), (u_1, \cdots, u_t)$ are connected iff $(v_i, u_i) \in E$, $\forall i = 1, 2, \cdots, t$.

Then $S \subset G^{\times t}$ is a clique iff

$$S^i = \{v_i : (v_1, \cdots, v_i, \cdots, v_t) \in S\}$$

are all clique.

Since

$$|S| \leq \prod_{i=1}^{t} |S_i|$$

$\Rightarrow \exists\ |S_i| \geq |S|^{1/t}$.

Therefore, if we find a solution with value $(1-\epsilon)^t$ in $G^{\otimes t}$, then we find a solution with value $1-\epsilon$.

$(1-\epsilon)$-approximation is NP-Hard $\Rightarrow$ $(1-\epsilon)^t$-approximation is NP-Hard.

So $\forall \delta > 0$, δ-approximation is NP-Hard.

Problem 6.