
REPORT: POLYHEDRAL COMBINATORICS, MATROIDS AND DERANDOMIZATION OF ISOLATION LEMMA

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Some Basics of Graph Theory

First we will introduce some graph properties and results which will help us in later chapters.

1.1 Incidence Matrix

Definition 1.1.1: Incidence Matrix

For an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ the Incidence Matrix, M of G is the $|V| \times |E|$ matrix where for every $v \in V$ and $e \in E$, the entry $M[v, e] = 1$ if the edge e is incident on v and otherwise 0

Theorem 1.1.1

If $G = (V, E)$ is an undirected graph with $|V| = n$ then G is connected if and only if $\text{Rank}(M) = n - 1$ over \mathbb{F}_2 .

Proof:

Corollary 1.1.2

If $G = (V, E)$ is an undirected graph with k connected components then $\text{Rank}(M) = n - k$

Proof: content...

Definition 1.1.2: Fundamental Cycles

Theorem 1.1.3

The Incidence vectors of the fundamental cycles for a spanning tree in the graph forms a basis of the null space of the incidence matrix

Proof: content...

1.2 Matching

Theorem 1.2.1 Hall's Condition

content...

Proof: content... ■

Lemma 1.2.2

Every Regular bipartite graph is union of perfect matchings.

Proof: We will induct on degree. A regular bipartite graph satisfies Hall's Condition. Therefore it has a perfect matching. So we will obtain a new regular graph of lower degree after removing the perfect matching. By induction hypothesis it must be a union of perfect matchings. Hence we get that the original graph was in fact union of perfect matchings. ■

1.3 Nice Cycles and Circulation

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph with a perfect matching.

Definition 1.3.1: Nice Cycle

A cycle C in G is a nice cycle if it has even length and the subgraph $G - C$ still has a perfect matching

In other words a nice cycle can be obtained from the symmetric difference of two perfect matchings.

Now suppose we have a weight function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ on the edges of a graph G . Let us have an even length cycle $C = v_0 \xrightarrow{e_0} v_1 \xrightarrow{e_1} \dots \xrightarrow{e_{2k-2}} v_{2k} \xrightarrow{e_{2k-1}} v_0$ in G for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Definition 1.3.2: Circulation of Cycle

For a weight assignment w on the edges the circulation $c_w(C)$ of an even length cycle is defined as the alternating sum of the edge weights of C i.e.

$$c_w(C) = \left| \sum_{i=0}^{2k-1} (-1)^i w(e_i) \right|$$

The definition of circulations is independent of the edge we start with because we take the absolute value of the alternating sum. Below we show a property for cycles in a graph having nonzero circulations lead to a unique minimum weight perfect matching.

Lemma 1.3.1 [DKR09, Lemma 3.2]

Let G be a graph with a perfect matching, and let w be a weight function such that all nice cycles in G have nonzero circulations. Then the minimum perfect matching is unique i.e. w is isolating

Proof: Suppose not, then we have two minimum weight perfect matchings M_1 and M_2 with minimum weight w.r.t w . Now we take their disjoint union $M_1 \sqcup M_2$ i.e. if there is a common edge then we take two copies of that edge connecting the same two vertices. Now it is a cycle cover of the vertices with nice cycles except the ones with copies.

Consider any one nice cycle from the cycle cover. We will form a new perfect matching M . Since the circulation of a nice cycle is nonzero either the part of it which is in M_1 is lighter or the part of it which is in M_2 is lighter. Either way we take the lighter part in M and we do this for all. So we take the part from M_1 from this cycle. Now we do this for all the nice cycles in the cycle cover. Now for the cycles with two copies of the same edge we take one of them into M . Now since $M_1 \neq M_2$ there exists at least one edge in M_1 which is not in M_2 and one edge in M_2 which is not in M_1 .

Hence $M_1 \sqcup M_2$ has at least one nice cycle, hence the way we constructed $w(M) < w(M_i)$ for some $i \in \{1, 2\}$ which contradicts the minimality of both M_1 and M_2 ■

Perfect Matching Polytope

2.1 Matching Polytope

2.2 Perfect Matching Polytope

Definition 2.2.1: Perfect Matching Polytope

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph. For any perfect matching M of G , consider the incidence vector $x^M = (x_e)_{e \in E} \in \mathbb{R}^E$ given by

$$c_e^M = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } e \in M \\ 0 & \text{o/w} \end{cases}$$

For any perfect matching M of G this vector x^M is called as a *Perfect Matching Point*. The bipartite perfect matching polytope of the graph G is defined to the convex hull of all its perfect matching points,

$$PM(G) = \text{Conv}\{x^M \mid M \text{ is a perfect matching in } G\}$$

2.3 Bipartite Perfect Matching Polytope

It also defined like the perfect matching polytope where we just take the graph to be a bipartite graph. The following lemma from [LP86] gives a simple description of the perfect matching polytope of a bipartite graph G

Theorem 2.3.1 [LP86]

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a bipartite graph and $x = (x_e)_{e \in E} \in \mathbb{R}^E$. Then $x \in PM(G)$ if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{e \in \delta(v)} x_e &= 1 \quad v \in V, \\ x_e &\geq 0 \quad e \in E \end{aligned}$$

where for any $v \in V$, $\delta(v)$ denotes the set of edges incident on the vertex v .

Bipartite Perfect Matching

3.1 Matching and Complexity

3.2 A RNC Algorithm for SEARCH-PM

3.3 A QUASI-NC Algorithm using Isolation

Let $G = (V, E)$ be given bipartite graph. In the following discussion we will assume that G has perfect matchings. Our goal is to isolate one of the perfect matchings in G by any appropriate weight function. We will also show that if G does not have any perfect matchings then our algorithm will detect this.

We will construct an isolating weight function for bipartite graphs. The idea is to create a weight function which ensures nonzero circulations for a small set of cycles in a black-box way i.e. without having being able to compute the set efficiently. Then we will show that if we construct a smaller graph wrt this weight function then we don't have those small cycles with nonzero circulations then we have the number of cycles with twice the size of the previous ones are polynomially bounded. Then we proceed to create a new weight function which will give nonzero circulations to all the cycles with twice the size. And this way we will continue. This same type of idea we will repeatedly use with necessary modifications in ?? and [chapter 4](#).

The idea above to create a weight function which gives nonzero circulation to every nice cycles in G actually works because then we have unique perfect matching by [Lemma 1.3.1](#)

3.3.1 Isolating Small Cycles

The following lemma describes a standard trick to create a weight function for a small set of cycles in graph.

Lemma 3.3.1 [CRS93]

Let G be a graph with n vertices. Then for any number s , one can construct a set of $O(n^2s)$ weight assignments with weights bounded by $O(n^2s)$, such that for any set of s cycles, one of the weight assignments gives nonzero circulation to each of the s cycles.

Proof: Let us first assign exponentially large weights. Let e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m be some enumeration of the edges of G . Define a weight function w by $w(e_i) = 2^{i-1}$ for $i \in [m]$. Then clearly every cycle has a nonzero circulation. However we want to achieve this with small weights.

We consider the weight assignment modulo small numbers i.e. the weight function is $\{w \bmod j \mid 2 \leq j \leq t\}$ for some appropriately chosen t . We want to show that for any fixed set of s cycles $\{C_1, \dots, C_s\}$ one of these assignments will work when t is chosen large enough.

Now we want

$$\exists j \leq t, \forall i \leq s, c_w(S_i) \neq 0 \iff \exists j \leq t, \prod_{i=1}^s c_w(C_i) \neq 0 \bmod j$$

In other words we want

$$lcm(2, 3, \dots, t) \nmid \prod_{i=1}^t c_w(C_i)$$

Hence if we take t such that $lcm(2, 3, \dots, t) > \prod_{i=1}^t c_w(C_i)$ then we are done.

Now the product $\prod_{i=1}^t c_w(C_i)$ is bounded by $2^{n^2 s}$. This is because with exponential weights like in the RNC algorithm we have an isolating perfect matching so we need weights less than that and therefore the new weights are bounded by the exponential weights for which weight of a cycle can at most be 2^{n^2} and since there are s many cycle we have the bound $2^{n^2 s}$. So if we have t such that $lcm(2, 3, \dots, t) > 2^{n^2 s}$ then we are done. Now $lcm(2, 3, \dots, t) > 2^t$ for $t \geq 7$. Thus choosing $t = n^2 s$ suffices. Clearly the weights are bounded by $t = n^2 s$. ■

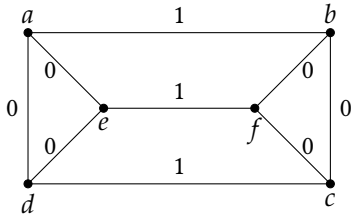
3.3.2 Union of Minimum Weight Perfect Matchings

Let us assign a weight function for bipartite graph G which gives nonzero circulations to all small cycles. Consider a new graph G_1 which obtained by the union of minimum weight perfect matchings in G . Our hope is that G_1 is significantly smaller than G .

Note:-

We don't know if G_1 can be efficiently created from G as determinant of the bi-adjacency matrix with weights in the like in the RNC algorithm be zero and therefore we can not use that way to obtain perfect matchings. We will show we don't need to construct G_1 . It is just used in the argument. Our final weight assignment will be completely black-box

We will also show by the following lemma that why this technique only works for bipartite graphs, not in general graphs i.e. G_1 constructed from minimum weight perfect matchings in G contains no other perfect matching than these. For general graph this does not hold:



In this graph we will denote the edge connected vertices a, b to be e_{ab} . And this way we will denote all the edges. Then the minimum weight perfect matchings have weight 1 and they are

$$\{e_{ad}, e_{bc}, e_{ef}\}, \quad \{e_{ac}, e_{bf}, e_{cd}\}, \quad \{e_{de}, e_{cf}, e_{ab}\}$$

Then their union has the perfect matching $\{e_{ab}, e_{cd}, e_{ef}\}$ which has weight 3 and not a minimum weight perfect matching.

The fact that G_1 has only minimum weight perfect matching is equivalent to saying that every nice cycle has zero circulation. The following lemma proves even stronger statement that every cycles has zero circulation (not necessarily nice cycles.)

Lemma 3.3.2 [FGT16, Lemma 3.2]

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a bipartite graph with weight function w . Let C be a cycle in G such that $c_w(C) \neq 0$. Let E_1 be the union of all minimum weight perfect matchings in G . Then the graph $G_1 = (V, E_1)$ does not contain C .

Proof: Consider the perfect matching polytope of G , $PM(G)$. Let the weight of the minimum weight perfect matching in G be q . Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t be all the minimum weight perfect matching points of G i.e. corners of $PM(G)$ corresponding to weight q . Consider the average point $x \in PM(G)$ of these perfect matching points, $x = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_t}{t}$. Clearly we have $w(x) = q$. And since each edge of G_1 participates in a minimum weight perfect matching for $x = (x_e)_{e \in E}$ we have $x_e \neq 0 \forall e \in E$.

Now consider a cycle C with $c_w(C) \neq 0$. Suppose $C = (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k)$ and all the edges of C are in E_1 . We will show that if we move from point x along the cycle C we reach a point in $PM(G)$ with a weight smaller than q .

Consider the point y defined as

$$\forall e \in E, \quad y_e = \begin{cases} x_e + (-1)^i \epsilon & \text{if } e = e_i \text{ for some } i \in [k] \\ x_e & \text{o/w} \end{cases}$$

for some $\epsilon \neq 0$. Clearly $x - y$ has nonzero coordinates only on the edges of the cycle C , by alternating between ϵ and $-\epsilon$. Hence

$$w(x) - w(y) = w(x - y) = \pm c_w(C) \neq 0$$

Now we take ϵ in the following way:

- Take $\text{sgn}(\epsilon)$ such that $w(x - y) > 0$.
- Take ϵ small enough such that $y_e \geq 0 \forall e \in E$.

After choosing such ϵ since $w(x) - w(y) = w(x - y) > 0$ we have $q = w(x) > w(y)$. Now we will show that $y \in PM(G)$. To show that we will show that y fulfills the conditions of [Theorem 2.3.1](#). Now the second condition that $y_e \geq 0$ for all $e \in E$ is already satisfied by the choice of ϵ . So we only need to show that for any $v \in V$

$$\sum_{e \in \delta(v)} y_e = 1$$

To show this we consider 2 cases:

Case 1: $v \notin C$. Then $\forall e \in \delta(v)$ we have $e \notin C$. So $y_e = x_e$. Since $x \in PM(G)$ we have

$$\sum_{e \in \delta(v)} x_e = 1 \implies \sum_{e \in \delta(v)} y_e = 1$$

Case 2: $v \in C$. Let e_j and e_{j+1} are the edges incident on v in C . Then

$$y_{e_j} = x_{e_j} + (-1)^j \epsilon \quad \text{and} \quad y_{e_{j+1}} = x_{e_{j+1}} + (-1)^{j+1} \epsilon \quad \forall e \in \delta(v) - \{e_j, e_{j+1}\}, y_e = x_e$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{e \in \delta(v)} y_e &= \left[\sum_{e \in \delta(v) - \{e_j, e_{j+1}\}} x_e \right] + [x_{e_j} + (-1)^j \epsilon] + [x_{e_{j+1}} + (-1)^{j+1} \epsilon] \\ &= \left[\sum_{e \in \delta(v)} x_e \right] + (-1)^j \epsilon + (-1)^{j+1} \epsilon = \sum_{e \in \delta(v)} x_e = 1 \end{aligned}$$

So the point y satisfies the property $\sum_{e \in \delta(v)} y_e = 1$ for all $v \in V$. Hence $y \in PM(G)$. Now since $w(y) < q$ there must be a corner point of the polytope which corresponds to a perfect matching in G with weight less than q . This contradicts the minimality of q . Hence C is not in G_1 . ■

This technique of moving along the cycle has been used by Mahajan and Varadarajan in [\[MV00\]](#). Now We will show another proof of this lemma by Rao, Shpilka and Wigderson in [\[GG17\]](#).

Alternate Proof [\[GG17, Proof of Lemma 6\]](#): Let G' be the multigraph obtained by taking disjoint union of all minimum weight perfect matchings (i.e. if an edge appears in k many minimum weight perfect matchings of G then G' contains k copies of the edge).

Note:-

G' is a regular graph since it is a disjoint union of matchings and matchings are regular graph of degree 1.

Suppose there exists a cycle C of non zero circulation in G_1 . Since the cycle is in G_1 then this cycle is also in G' . WLOG assume that the sum of the weights of the odd edges of C is larger than the sum of the weights of the even edges. Then we can remove a single copy of each odd edges of C from G' and add a single copy of each even edges of C to G' and we call this new graph G''

Suppose q be the minimum weight of a matching in G . Suppose G has d minimum weight matchings. Then sum of the weights of the edges in G' is qd . However, the total weight of all edges in G'' is lower than the total weight of all edges in G' . We know that G'' is a regular bipartite graph of degree d and therefore by [Lemma 1.2.2](#) it is an union of d perfect matchings.

If we decompose G'' into d perfect matchings, it is impossible that they all have weight at least q as G'' has total weight less than qd . Therefore G'' has a matching of weight less than q , which contradicts the minimality of q . ■

A consequence of this lemma is that G_1 has no other perfect matchings than the ones used to define G_1 cause if M_0 and M_1 be two different perfect matchings in G_1 then $M_0 \triangle M_1$ forms a set of nice cycles and by the Lemma 3.3.2 the circulations all of these cycles are 0 and therefore M_0 and M_1 have same weight and hence they both are minimum weight perfect matchings.

Corollary 3.3.3

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a bipartite graph with weight function w . Let E_1 be the union of all minimum weight perfect matchings in G . Then every perfect matching in the graph $G_1 = (V, E_1)$ has the same weight, the minimum weight of any perfect matching in G .

3.3.3 Bounding Number of Cycles with Length Twice Large of The Smallest Cycle

By our weight function in Lemma 3.3.1 each small cycles in G has a nonzero circulation. Hence, by Lemma 3.3.2 G_1 has no small cycles. Now we want to repeat this procedure with G_1 with a new weight function. G_1 has no small cycles. Hence, we look at slightly larger cycles (twice larger) and we will argue that their number remains polynomially bounded.

Teo and Koe in [TK92] showed that the number of the shortest cycles in a graph with m edges is bounded by m^2 . In the following lemma we extend their argument and give a bound on the number of cycles that have length at most twice the length of the shortest cycles.

Lemma 3.3.4 [FGT16, Lemma 3.4]

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph with n nodes that has no cycles of length $\leq r$. Let $r' = 2r$ if r is even and $r' = 2r - 2$ otherwise. Then H has $\leq n^4$ cycles of length $\leq r'$.

Proof: Let

$$C = v_0 \xrightarrow{e_0} v_1 \xrightarrow{e_1} \dots \xrightarrow{e_{l-2}} v_{l-1} \xrightarrow{e_{l-1}} v_1$$

be a cycle of length $l \leq r'$ in G . Now we successively choose 4 nodes in C (u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3) where

$$u_i = v_{\lfloor \frac{i \cdot l}{4} \rfloor} \quad \forall i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$$

Now observe the distance between two successive nodes is $\leq \lfloor \frac{l}{4} \rfloor \leq \frac{r}{2}$. and therefore distance between the nodes u_3 and u_0 is also $\leq \lfloor \frac{l}{4} \rfloor \leq \frac{r}{2}$.

Since any node of C can be chosen as a starting point u_0 , the four nodes (u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3) associated with C are not uniquely defined. But by the following claim we will show they uniquely define C .

Claim: Cycle C is the only cycle in G of length $\leq r'$ that is associated with (u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3).

Proof: Suppose $C' \neq C$ be a cycle of length $\leq r'$ such that both C and C' are associated with same (u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3). Consider the paths between two successive nodes in both C and C' . Since $C \neq C'$ there exists a path p and p' following C and C' respectively connecting two same successive nodes in both C and C' such that $p \neq p'$. Now p and p' form a cycle in H of length

$$|p| + |p'| \leq \frac{r}{2} + \frac{r}{2} = r$$

which is not possible as there are no cycles of length $\leq r$ in G . Hence, contradiction. ■

Hence by the claim each tuple of 4 nodes uniquely defines a cycle C in H . There are $\leq n^4$ ways to choose 4 nodes and their order. Hence the number of cycles of length $\leq r'$ is at most n^4 . ■

Lemma 3.3.4 suggests that we continue from G_1 and in each successive round, we double the length of cycles and adapt the weight function to give nonzero circulations to these slightly longer cycles (twice larger). By Lemma 3.3.2 these cycles will disappear from the new graph G_2 obtained by taking only minimum weight perfect matching from G_1 . This way in $\log n$ rounds we reach a graph with no cycles i.e. with a unique perfect matching. In the following section we show how to construct the weight assignment.

3.3.4 Constructing Weight Assignment

Fractional Matroid Matching

Fractional Matroid Matchings generalizes the case for Matroid Matching or Matroid Parity problem with allowing fractional solutions for the polytope which we will show below. We start with the same kind of state like Matroid Parity Problem

4.1 Fractional Matroid Matchings Polytope

Let $M = (E, \mathcal{I})$ is a matroid with ground set E of even cardinality and with elements E is partitioned into lines or pairs. Let L is the set of lines. Let $r : \mathcal{P}(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be the rank function and $sp : \mathcal{P}(E) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(E)$ be the span function. Assume that $\forall l \in L, r(l) = 2$. With this setting (same as matroid parity problem) we now define the polytope following [VV92]

Definition 4.1.1: Fractional Matroid Matching Polytope

Let \mathcal{L} denote the lattice of flats in M with $S_1 \wedge S_2 = S_1 \cap S_2$ and $S_1 \vee S_2 = sp(S_1 \cup S_2)$ and for each line $l \in L$ let $a_l : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2\}$ be the function $a_l(S) = r(sp(l) \cap S)$. Now for any $S \in \mathcal{L}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$ let $a(S) \cdot x$ denote the vector $(a(S) \cdot x)_l = a_l(S)x_l$ for any $l \in L$. Then the set

$$FP(M) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|} \mid a(S) \cdot x \leq r(S) \text{ for each } S \in \mathcal{L}\}$$

is fractional matroid matching polytope for M and each vector $x \in FP(M)$ is called a fractional matroid matching.

We take $|L| = m$ to imply that originally the ground set has $2m$ elements. Now we can also allow x to be from \mathbb{R}^m , not restricting only to positive vectors. This polytope is a subset of $[0, 1]^m$. We will explain the setting with the following example:

Example 4.1

Consider the matroid M with ground set

$$E = \{a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2, c_1, c_2, d_1, d_2\}$$

where every 4 element subset of E is a base except these 4 sets

$$\begin{array}{lll} \{a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2\}, & \{a_1, a_2, c_1, c_2\}, & \{a_1, a_2, d_1, d_2\}, \\ \{b_1, b_2, c_1, c_2\}, & \{b_1, b_2, d_1, d_2\}, & \{c_1, c_2, d_1, d_2\} \end{array}$$

Now the lines are defined to be

$$l_1 = \{a_1, a_2\} \quad l_2 = \{b_1, b_2\}, \quad l_3 = \{c_1, c_2\}, \quad l_4 = \{d_1, d_2\}$$

Now the flats of M are empty set, individual elements, every pair of elements, set consists of one element from

each of three lines, pair of line and E . Hence $FP(M)$ is the set of $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + 2x_2 &\leq 3 & 2x_1 + 2x_3 &\leq 3 & 2x_1 + 2x_4 &\leq 3 \\ 2x_2 + 2x_3 &\leq 3 & 2x_2 + 2x_4 &\leq 3 & 2x_3 + 2x_4 &\leq 3 \\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 &\leq 4 \\ 2x_i &\leq 2 \quad \text{for each } i \in [4] \end{aligned}$$

Now we show the theorem [Theorem 4.1.1](#) which states that the fractional matroid matching polytope arises as a linear relaxation of the matroid matching problem.

Theorem 4.1.1 [VV92, Theorem 2.1]

An integer vector $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ is the incidence vector of a matroid matching iff x is a fractional matroid matching.

You can clearly see this theorem by comparing the Matroid Matching Polytope and Fractional Matroid Matching Polytope so we are omitting the proof.

Theorem 4.1.2 [GP13, Theorem 1]

The vertices of the fractional matroid matching are half-integral

4.1.1 Weighted Fractional Matroid Matching

Definition 4.1.2: Weighted Fractional Matroid Matching Problem

It is to find a fractional matroid matching x that maximizes $w \cdot x$ for a non-negative weight assignment $w : L \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$.

For plain Fractional Linear Matroid Matching Problem we need to find a fractional matroid matching x which maximizes the size i.e. L_1 norm of x which is $\sum_{l \in L} |x_l|$.

Gijswijt and Pap in [GP13] gave a polynomial time algorithm for weighted fractional linear matroid matching. They also gave the following characterization for maximizing face of the polytope with respect to a weight function.

Theorem 4.1.3 [GP13, Proof of Theorem 1]

Let $L = \{l_1, \dots, l_m\}$ be a set of lines with $l_i \subseteq \mathbb{F}^n$ and $w : L \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be a weight assignment on L . Let F denote the set of fractional linear matroid matchings maximizing and $S \subseteq [m]$ such that every $x \in F$ has $y_e = 0$ for all $e \in S$. Then for some $k \leq n$, \exists a $k \times m$ matrix D_F and $b_F \in \mathbb{Z}^k$ such that

- $D_F \in \{0, 1, 2\}^{k \times m}$
- The sum of entries in any column of D_F is exactly 2
- A fractional matroid matching x is in F iff $y_e = 0$ for $e \in S$ and $D_F x = b_F$.

4.2 Isolating Weight Assignment for Fractional Matroid Matching

In this section we will describe how we can construct an isolating weight assignment for fractional matroid matching with just the number of lines as input.

Now for a face F of a polytope, let \mathcal{L}_F denote the lattice

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \{v \in \mathbb{Z}^m \mid v = \alpha(x_1 - x_2) \text{ for some } x_1, x_2 \in F \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

and $\lambda(\mathcal{L}_F)$ denote the length of the shortest vector of \mathcal{L}_F . Hence \mathcal{L}_F consists of all integral vectors parallel to the face F .

Now by [Theorem 4.1.3](#) the face maximizing the size is described by the equation $D_F x = b_F$ where $D_F \in \{0, 1, 2\}^{k \times m}$ with column sum 2. Hence \mathcal{L}_F is exactly the set of integral vectors in the null space of D_F . Therefore

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \{v \in \mathbb{Z}^m \mid D_F v = 0\}$$

So we will prove that the number of vectors in \mathcal{L}_F with size less than twice the length of shortest vector is polynomially bounded in Subsection 1.2.2.

First we will show how we can interpret D_F an incidence matrix for a graph instead of general matrix. $D_F \in \{0, 1, 2\}^{k \times m}$ where every column sum is 2. Hence we can think of a graph G_D with vertex set $[k]$ and the m edges defined as follows: for every $e \in [m]$ the e -th edge of G_D is drawn between the vertices $s, t \in [k]$ if $D_F[s, e] = D_F[t, e] = 1$ and e -th edge is a self loop on the vertex $s \in [k]$ if $D_F[s, e] = 2$.

4.2.1 Alternating Circuits

First we will define some elements called alternating indicator vectors and alternating circuits following the [\[ST17\]](#) for the proof of [Theorem 4.2.3](#).

Definition 4.2.1: Alternating Indicator Vector & Alternating Circuit

Let $C = v_0 \xrightarrow{e_0} v_1 \xrightarrow{e_1} v_2 \cdots \xrightarrow{e_{k-2}} v_{k-1} \xrightarrow{e_{k-1}} v_0$ be a closed walk of even length in a multigraph G with loops. Then the *Alternating Indicator Vector* of C denoted by $(\pm \mathbb{1})_C$ is the vector

$$(\pm \mathbb{1})_C := \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (-1)^i \mathbb{1}_{e_i}$$

C is called *Alternating Circuit* if its alternating indicator vector is nonzero

We can use the parity for $(-1)^i$ as direction of movement in C . So a closed walk C is a alternating circuit if there exists at least one edge $e \in C$ for which C has moved through e more time in one direction than the other.

Observation. $|(\pm \mathbb{1})_C| \leq |C|$ for any even length closed walk C .

Now we will prove a property for all alternating circuits in G_D

Lemma 4.2.1 [\[GOR24, Proof of Claim 1, Proof of Theorem 3.4\]](#)

For any alternating circuit C we have $D_F \cdot (\pm \mathbb{1})_C = 0$

Proof: Suppose $C = v_0 \xrightarrow{e_0} v_1 \xrightarrow{e_1} v_2 \cdots \xrightarrow{e_{k-2}} v_{k-1} \xrightarrow{e_{k-1}} v_0$. We denote the i -th column of D_F is denoted by D_i . Now

$$D_i \cdot (\pm \mathbb{1})_C = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (-1)^j D_F[i, e_j] = \sum_{e_j: i \in e_j \in C} (-1)^j D_F[i, e_j]$$

Hence only the edges in C which are incident on i contributes to the above sum. Therefore the whole sum is partitioned into distinct subparts of walks where each subpart is of the form

$$v_s \xrightarrow{e_s} i \xrightarrow{e_{s+1}} i \xrightarrow{e_{s+2}} i \cdots \xrightarrow{e_{s+k-1}} i \xrightarrow{e_{s+k}} v_t \quad \text{where } v_s, v_t \neq i$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{k \text{ times}}$

i.e. the part starts from a vertex not equal to i then goes to i and after looping in i for some times the walk goes to another vertex not equal to i . We will show that for each of these parts the contribution to the sum is 0.

Now for such a subpart their contribution to the sum is

$$\delta = (-1)^s + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} (-1)^{s+i} + (-1)^{s+k}$$

We will analyze case wise:

Case 1: k is odd: Then $k - 1$ is even. Hence

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} (-1)^{s+j} = (-1)^s \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} (-1)^j = 0$$

Therefore

$$\delta = (-1)^s + (-1)^{s+k} = (-1)^s [1 + (-1)^k] = 0$$

as k is odd.

Case 2: k is even: Then $k - 2$ is even. Hence

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} (-1)^{s+j} = \left[\sum_{j=1}^{k-2} (-1)^{s+j} \right] + (-1)^{s+k-1} = (-1)^{s+k-1}$$

Hence

$$\delta = (-1)^s + 2(-1)^{s+k-1} + (-1)^{s+k} = (-1)^s [1 + 2(-1)^{k-1} + (-1)^k] = 0$$

Therefore we showed that for each such parts their contribution to the sum is 0. Therefore the total sum is 0 i.e. $D_i \cdot (\pm \mathbb{1})_C = 0$. Since this is true for all $i \in [k]$ we have $D_F \cdot (\pm \mathbb{1})_C = 0$. \blacksquare

Now we will show that any vector in the lattice \mathcal{L}_F can be decomposed into finite sum of alternating indicator vectors of alternating circuits with the property that for each such alternating circuit C , $|(\pm \mathbb{1})_C| = |C|$. Before that we introduce a relation between two vectors in \mathbb{R}^m this will come in handy for the decomposition.

Definition 4.2.2: Conformal

For $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$, x is said to be conformal to y if $x_i y_i \geq 0$ and $|x_i| \leq |y_i| \forall i \in [m]$ and it is denoted by $x \sqsubseteq y$

Lemma 4.2.2 [GOR24, Claim 1, Proof of Theorem 3.4]

For any $x \in \mathcal{L}_F$, \exists alternating circuits C_1, C_2, \dots, C_t in G_D such that

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^t (\pm \mathbb{1})_{C_i}$$

where $\forall i \in [t]$, $(\pm \mathbb{1})_{C_i} \sqsubseteq x$ and $|(\pm \mathbb{1})_{C_i}| = |C_i|$.

Proof: We will decompose a given x into alternating indicator vectors by the following iterative algorithm:

Algorithm 1: Decomposition of a Lattice Vector

Input: $x \in \mathcal{L}_F$
Output: $\mathcal{Y} = \{y_i\}$ where $|\mathcal{Y}| < \infty$ and $\forall y_i \in \mathcal{Y}$ are alternating indicator vectors

```

1 begin
2   while  $|x| \neq 0$  do
3      $y \leftarrow 0, j \leftarrow 1$ 
4     Let  $e_0 \in [m]$  such that  $x_{e_0} > 0$ 
5      $y_{e_0} \leftarrow 1$  and let  $e_0$ -th edge in  $G_D$  be  $\{v_0, v_1\}$ 
6     while True do
7       if  $\exists e \in [m]$  such that  $e$ -th edge is  $\{v_j, u\}$ ,  $|x_e| > |y_e|$  and  $(-1)^j x_e > 0$  then
8          $y_e \leftarrow y_e + (-1)^j, e_j \leftarrow e$ 
9          $v_{j+1} \leftarrow u$ 
10         $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
11      else
12        return  $x \notin \mathcal{L}_F$ 
13      if  $j \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  and  $v_j = v_0$  then
14         $x \leftarrow x - y$ 
15        return  $y$  and exit inner while loop

```

Now suppose x denote the vector at some iteration of the outer while loop. Now for all $e \in [m]$, let at j th and l th iteration of the inner while loop $(-1)^j$ and $(-1)^l$ are added to y_e respectively. Now both j and l has same parity because since the edge is not changing both times $(-1)^j x_e > 0$ and $(-1)^l x_e > 0$ has to be satisfies. Therefore we get j and l have same parity. Hence for a full run of the inner while loop for any $e \in [m]$ everytime y_e is changed the same $(-1)^j$ is added. Hence whenever y_e is changed $|y_e|$ is increased. Therefore $|y|$ increases for each iteration of the inner while loop. But $|y|$ cannot exceed $|x|$ since as the addition step works when $\exists e \in [m]$ with $|x_e| > |y_e|$ and $(-1)^j x_e > 0$, after addition $|y_e + (-1)^j| \leq |y_e| + 1 \leq |x|$. So if we start with $|y| \leq |x|$ after addition with each iteration of inner while loop we still have $|y| \leq |x|$. Also since for every such edge we add $(-1)^j$ to y_e when $(-1)^j x_e > 0$ and $|x_e| > |y_e|$. So by the first condition we have y_e and x_e has the same sign i.e. $x_e y_e > 0$. And we also have $|x_e| \geq |y_e|$. Therefore we have $y \subseteq x$.

Now since we start the algorithm by adding 1 to y_{e_0} at Line 5 we have initially $|y| > 0$ and afterwards with each iteration of the inner while loop $|y|$ increases so we have $|y| > 0$. Now if the current iteration of the inner while loop ends at Line 13 then we get a closed walk C since in each iteration of the inner while loop the algorithm follows a walk in G_D . So C is an alternating circuit and we have $|y| = |C|$. Now since $y \subseteq x$ we have $|x - y| = |x| - |y| < |x|$. Since C is alternating circuit by Lemma 4.2.1 we have $y \in \mathcal{L}_F$. Hence we have $x - y \in \mathcal{L}_F$.

Now all that remains is to show that the algorithm never goes to Line 11 if $x \in \mathcal{L}_F$. The only reason the algorithm can go to Line 11 is if at some iteration of the inner while loop can not find an edge $e \in [m]$ such that $|x_e| > |y_e|$ and $(-1)^j x_e > 0$ where $e \in \delta(v_j)$ where $\delta(v_j)$ denotes the set of edges incident on v_j . Suppose at this point we have the walk

$$\mathcal{P} = v_0 \xrightarrow{e_0} v_1 \xrightarrow{e_1} \dots \xrightarrow{e_{j-1}} v_j$$

Now by following the proof of Lemma 4.2.1 we have that $D_i y = 0$ for all $i \in [k]$ except $i \notin \{v_0, v_j\}$.

Claim: If j is odd then $D_{v_j} y > 0$ and if j is even then $D_{v_j} y < 0$.

Proof: We will prove the case for j is odd. The even case will follow similarly. Since j is odd we have $j - 1$ even. Therefore $x_{e_{j-1}} > 0$ as $(-1)^{j-1} x_{e_{j-1}} > 0$. Therefore for both e_0 and e_{j-1} , $x_{e_0}, x_{e_{j-1}}$ positive. Now take the partitions as described in the proof of Lemma 4.2.1. Now we analyze case wise:

Case 1: $v_0 \neq v_j$: Then only the partition containing v_{e_j} might contribute something nonzero because other partitions contributes 0 to the sum $D_{v_j} y$. Let the partition be

$$v_s \xrightarrow{e_{j-k-1}} v_j \xrightarrow{e_{j-k}} v_j \xrightarrow{e_{j-k+1}} \dots \xrightarrow{e_{j-1}} v_j \quad \text{where } v_s \neq v_j$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{k+1 \text{ times}}$

Now k can not be more than 1 since if e_{j-1} and e_{j-2} are both loops in v_j then for e_{j-1} , $x_{e_{j-1}} > 0$ but $x_{e_{j-2}} < 0$ but $e_{j-1} = e_{j-2} \implies 0 < x_{e_{j-1}} = x_{e_{j-2}} < 0$. Then this partition contributes $\delta = (-1)^{j-2} + 2(-1)^{j-1} = -1 + 2 > 0$ to $D_{v_j} y$ if there is a loop and if there is no loop then it also contributes 1 as then the contribution will be only $(-1)^{j-1} = 1 > 0$.

Case 2: $v_0 = v_j$: If v_0 and v_j is in same partition i.e. $j = 1$ then the it contributes $(-1)^0 = 1 > 0$ to the sum. Otherwise v_0 is in different partition. By the above case we know that the value contributed by the partition containing v_j is 1. So we have to only find the contribution by the partition containing v_0 . Again by same logic as the above case from v_0 at most one loop starting from v_0 and then it moves to some other vertex. Hence the sum contributed is $2(-1)^0 + (-1)^1 = 2 - 1 = 1$ if there is a loop and if there is no loop then it contributes $(-1)^0 = 1$. Hence in both cases the contribution of the partition containing v_0 to the sum $D_{v_j}y$ is 1. Hence we have $D_{v_j}y > 0$.

Hence by above we get that if j is odd then the value $D_{v_j}y > 0$. Similarly following the same process in the case of j is even we get $D_{v_j}y < 0$. ■

Hence by the lemma we have that if j is odd $D_{v_j}y > 0$ and if j is even then $D_{v_j}y < 0$. So WLOG suppose j is odd. Now define

$$\text{supp}^+(x) = \{i \in [m] \mid x_i > 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{supp}^-(x) = \{i \in [m] \mid x_i < 0\}$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = D_{v_j}x &= \sum_{e \in \text{supp}^+(x) \cap \delta(v_j)} D_F[v_j, e] \cdot |x_e| - \sum_{e \in \text{supp}^-(x) \cap \delta(v_j)} D_F[v_j, e] \cdot |x_e| \\ 0 < D_{v_j}y &= \sum_{e \in \text{supp}^+(x) \cap \delta(v_j)} D_F[v_j, e] \cdot |y_e| - \sum_{e \in \text{supp}^-(x) \cap \delta(v_j)} D_F[v_j, e] \cdot |y_e| \end{aligned}$$

Now be construction of y we have $y \sqsubseteq x \implies |x_e| \geq |y_e|, x_e y_e > 0 \forall e \in [m]$. The algorithm stopped at Line 13 since $\nexists e \in \delta(v_j)$ such that $|x_e| > |y_e|$ and $(-1)^j x_e = -x_e > 0$. Therefore $|x_e| = |y_e|$ for all $e \in \text{supp}^+(x) \cap \delta(v_j)$ otherwise the algorithm would have proceeded one more step and $\text{supp}^-(x) \cap \delta(v_j) = \text{supp}^-(y) \cap \delta(v_j)$ since for any $e \in [m]$, $x_e y_e > 0$. Therefore $\text{supp}^+(x) \cap \delta(v_j) = \text{supp}^+(y) \cap \delta(v_j)$. Now for all $e \in \text{supp}^+(x) \cap \delta(v_j)$ we have $|x_e| \geq |y_e|$. Hence we have

$$0 = D_{v_j}y \geq D_{v_j}x > 0$$

It is a contradiction. Hence if $x \in \mathcal{L}_F$ the algorithm never goes to Line 13. And therefore the algorithm successfully decomposes x into sum of alternating circuits. ■

4.2.2 Bounding vectors in \mathcal{L}_F with Small Size

Theorem 4.2.3 [GOR24]

Let $D \in \{0, 1, 2\}^{p \times m}$ be a matrix such that the sum of entries of each column equals 2. Let \mathcal{L}_D denote the lattice $\{v \in \mathbb{Z}^m \mid Dv = 0\}$. Then it holds that

$$|\{v \in \mathcal{L}_D \mid |v| < 2\lambda(\mathcal{L}_D)\}| \leq m^{O(1)}$$

Proof: For the given D consider the graph G_D obtained from D as explained at the start of Section 1.2. to show that the number of vectors in \mathcal{L}_D with size less than twice the size of shortest vector in \mathcal{L}_D we will show that for any such lattice vector there is only one alternating circuit in the decomposition of the vector in Lemma 4.2.2.

Claim: Any lattice vector $x \in \mathcal{L}_D$ with $|x| < 2\lambda(\mathcal{L}_D)$ is an alternating vector $(\pm \mathbb{1})_C$ of some alternating circuit C in G_D such that $|x| = |C|$

Proof: Suppose the contrary. Since $x \in \mathcal{L}_D$ by Lemma 4.2.2 $\exists C_1, \dots, C_t$ with $t \geq 2$ such that $x = \sum_{i=1}^t (\pm \mathbb{1})_{C_i}$ with $(\pm \mathbb{1})_{C_i} \sqsubseteq x$ and $|(\pm \mathbb{1})_{C_i}| = |C_i|$ for all $i \in [t]$. Then we have

$$|x| = \sum_{i=1}^t |(\pm \mathbb{1})_{C_i}| \geq t\lambda(\mathcal{L}_D) \geq 2\lambda(\mathcal{L}_D)$$

which is a contradiction since we assumed that $|x| < 2\lambda(\mathcal{L}_D)$. Hence $t = 1$ i.e. $x = (\pm \mathbb{1})_C$ for some alternating circuit C with $|x| = |C|$. ■

Hence the Claim implies that $\lambda(\mathcal{L}_D)$ is equal to the size of the smallest alternating circuit of G_D . And it also implies that we only need to bound the number of alternating indicator vectors that correspond to alternating circuit of size at most $2\lambda(\mathcal{L}_D)$ to prove the lemma. For that by the [Theorem 4.2.4](#) we get that the number of such alternating indicator vectors are polynomially bounded by m . ■

Theorem 4.2.4 [ST17, Lemma 5.4]

Let G be a graph on n vertices such that the size of the smallest alternating circuit λ . Then the cardinality of the set

$$\{(\pm \mathbb{1})_C \mid C \text{ is an alternating circuit in } G \text{ of size at most } 2\lambda\}$$

is at most n^{17} .

Proof: content... ■

4.2.3 Algorithm for Finding Isolating Weight Assignment

With this theorem we have

Theorem 4.2.5 [GTV21, Theorem 2.5]

Let k be a positive integer and $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ a polytope such that its extreme ppoints are in $\{0, \frac{1}{k}, \frac{2}{k}, \dots, 1\}^m$ and there exists a constant $c > 1$ with

$$|\{v \in \mathcal{L}_F : |v| < c\lambda(\mathcal{L}_F)\}| \leq m^{O(1)}$$

for any face F of P . Then there exists an algorithm that, given k and m , outputs a set $\mathcal{W} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^m$ of $m^{O(\log km)}$ weight assignments with weights bounded by $m^{O(\log km)}$ such that there exists at least one $w \in \mathcal{W}$ that is isolating for P , in time $\text{polylog}(km)$ using $m^{O(\log km)}$ many parallel processors.

Using this we finally have an algorithm for isolating a fractional matroid matching polytope:

Theorem 4.2.6 [GOR24, Theorem 3.1]

There exists an algorithm that given $m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ outputs a set $\mathcal{W} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_+^m$ of $m^{O(\log m)}$ weight assignments with weights bounded by $m^{O(\log m)}$ such that, for any fractional matroid matching polytope P of m lines, there exists at least one $w \in \mathcal{W}$ that is isolating for P , in time $\text{polylog}(m)$ using $m^{O(\log m)}$ many parallel processors.

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