

Lecture 16: Semidefinite Programming Relaxation and MAX-CUT

Rafael Oliveira

University of Waterloo
Cheriton School of Computer Science
rafael.oliveira.teaching@gmail.com

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Overview

- Max-Cut SDP Relaxation
- Max-Cut SDP Rounding
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements

Relax... & Round!

In our quest to get efficient (exact or approximate) algorithms for problems of interest, the following strategy is very useful:

¹Even more general mathematical program, so long as derive SDP from it. ▶

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$$OPT(SDP) \geq OPT(QP)$$

↑
if our QP is maximization
problem

because SDP is over a larger domain

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 - 1 If solution to SDP is *integral* and *one-dimensional*, then it is a solution to QP and we are done
 - 2 If solution has *higher dimension*, then we have to devise *rounding procedure* that transforms

high dimensional solutions \rightarrow integral & 1D solutions

$$\text{rounded SDP solution value} \geq c \cdot OPT(QP)$$

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Max-Cut

Maximum Cut (Max-Cut):

$G(V, E)$ graph.

Cut $S \subseteq V$ and size of cut is

$$|E(S, \bar{S})| = |\{(u, v) \in E \mid u \in S, v \notin S\}|.$$

Goal: find cut of maximum size.



edges across the cut

Example - Weighted Variant

Maximum Cut (Max-Cut):

$G(V, E, w)$ weighted graph. $\sum_{e \in E} w_e = 1$

Cut $S \subseteq V$ and weight of cut is the sum of weights of edges crossing cut.

Goal: find cut of maximum weight.

Max-Cut

$G(V, E, w)$ weighted graph. $\sum_{e \in E} w_e = 1$

Quadratic Program:

$$\text{maximize } \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} \frac{1}{2} \cdot w_{u,v} \cdot (1 - x_u x_v)$$

value
of the
cut

subject to $x_v^2 = 1$ for $v \in V$

$$x_v^2 = 1, x_v \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{then } x_v \in \{\pm 1\}$$

$$1 - x_u x_v = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } x_u \neq x_v \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

SDP Relaxation [Delorme, Poljak 1993]

$G(V, E, w)$ weighted graph, $|V| = n$ and $\sum_{e \in E} w_e = 1$

Semidefinite Program:

$$\text{maximize} \quad \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} \frac{1}{2} \cdot w_{u,v} \cdot (1 - y_u^T y_v)$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad \|y_v\|_2^2 = 1 \quad \text{for } v \in V$$

$$y_v \in \mathbb{R}^d \quad \text{for } v \in V$$

$$x_v \in \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow y_v \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$x_v^2 = 1 \longrightarrow \|y_v\|^2 = 1$$

$$x_u x_v \longrightarrow y_u \cdot y_v = y_u^T y_v$$

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & & | \\ y_1 & y_2 & \dots & y_n \\ | & | & & | \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Y^T Y = X \quad \leftarrow \begin{matrix} (X \text{ must} \\ \text{be PSD}) \end{matrix}$$

$$X_{ij} = y_i \cdot y_j$$

$$\text{and} \\ X_{ii} = \|y_i\|^2$$

X $n \times n$
symmetric
matrix

what value of d should we take?
 $d = n$ suffices

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Semidefinite Program:

$$\text{maximize } \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} \frac{1}{2} \cdot w_{u,v} \cdot (1 - y_u^T y_v)$$

$$\text{subject to } \begin{cases} \|y_v\|_2^2 = 1 \text{ for } v \in V \\ y_v \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ for } v \in V \end{cases}$$

$$\text{maximize } \sum_{i,j \in E} \frac{1}{2} w_{ij} (1 - x_{ij})$$

$$\text{s.t. } x_{ii} = 1 \quad \forall i \in [n]$$

$$\text{and } x_{ij} \geq 0$$

in unit sphere
of \mathbb{R}^d

What is this SDP doing?

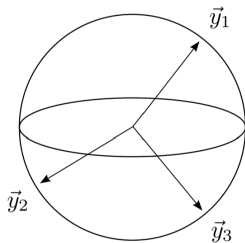


Figure 10.1: Vectors \vec{y}_v embedded onto a unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^d .

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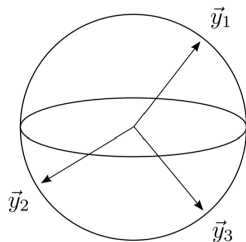
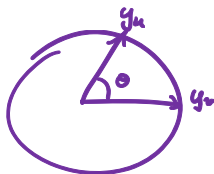


Figure 10.1: Vectors \vec{y}_v embedded onto a unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^d .

- Let $\gamma_{u,v} = y_u^T y_v = \cos(y_u, y_v)$

inner product

$$\begin{aligned}\langle y_u, y_v \rangle &= \|y_u\| \cdot \|y_v\| \cdot \cos(y_u, y_v) \\ &= 1 \cdot 1 \cdot \cos\theta\end{aligned}$$



What is this SDP doing? $\theta \in [0, \pi]$

$\theta \rightarrow \text{small} \leftrightarrow \text{large cosine}$
 $\theta > \pi/2 \leftrightarrow \text{cosine negative}$
 $\theta = \pi \leftrightarrow \text{cosine} = -1$

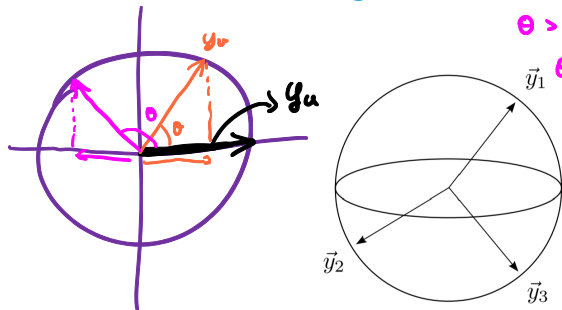
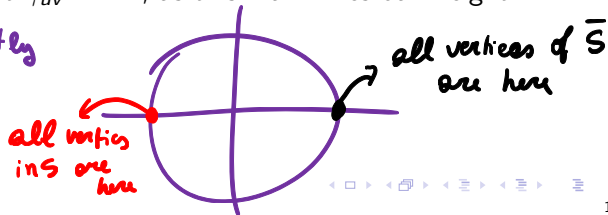


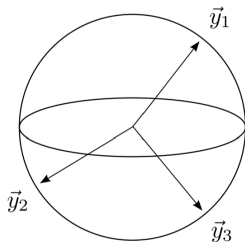
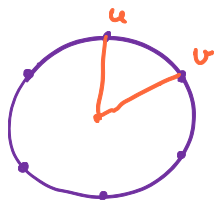
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- Let $\gamma_{u,v} = y_u^T y_v = \cos(y_u, y_v)$
- for any edge, want $\gamma_{uv} \approx -1$, as this maximizes our weight

a cut is exactly



What is this SDP doing?



SDP is pushing
apart vertices
which have
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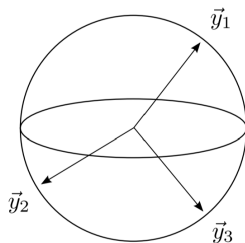


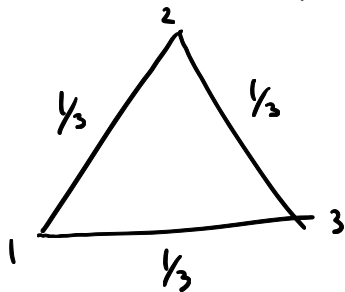
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- for any edge, want $\gamma_{uv} \approx -1$, as this maximizes our weight
- Geometrically, want vertices from our max-cut S to be as far away from the complement \bar{S} as possible
- If all y_v 's are in a one-dimensional space, then we get original quadratic program

$$OPT(SDP) \geq \text{Weight of Maximum Cut}$$

Example

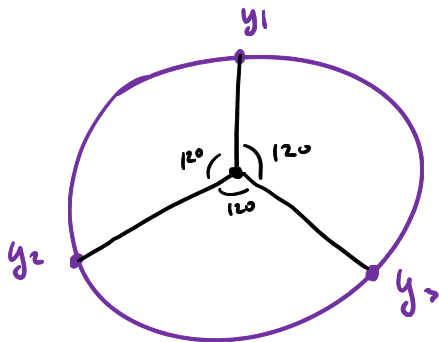
Let's consider $G = K_3$ with equal weights on edges.



Example

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- Embed $y_1, y_2, y_3 \in \mathbb{R}^2$ 120 degrees apart in unit circle



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- We get:

Example

Let's *exercise* consider $G = K_3$ with equal weights on edges.

- Embed $y_1, y_2, y_3 \in \mathbb{R}^2$ 120 degrees apart in unit circle
- We get:
- $OPT_{SDP}(K_3) = 3/4$
- $OPT_{\max\text{-cut}}(K_3) = 2/3$



$$\max \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left[\left(\underline{1 - \cos(y_1, y_2)} \right) + \left(\underline{1 - \cos(y_1, y_3)} \right) + \left(\underline{1 - \cos(y_2, y_3)} \right) \right]$$

y_i unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^3

wif net $y_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $y_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $y_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$OPT_{SDP} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{4} \cdot 3 = \frac{3}{4}$$

Example

Let's consider $G = K_3$ with equal weights on edges.

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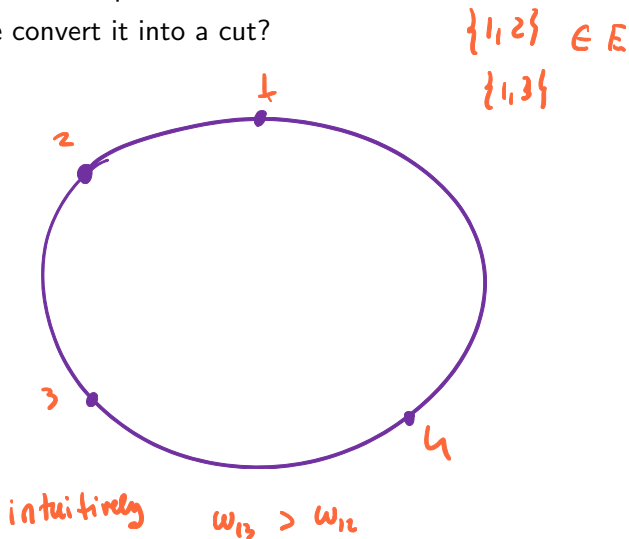
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- **Practice problem:** try this with C_5 .

Max-Cut - Rounding

- 1 Let $z_u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be an optimal solution to our SDP

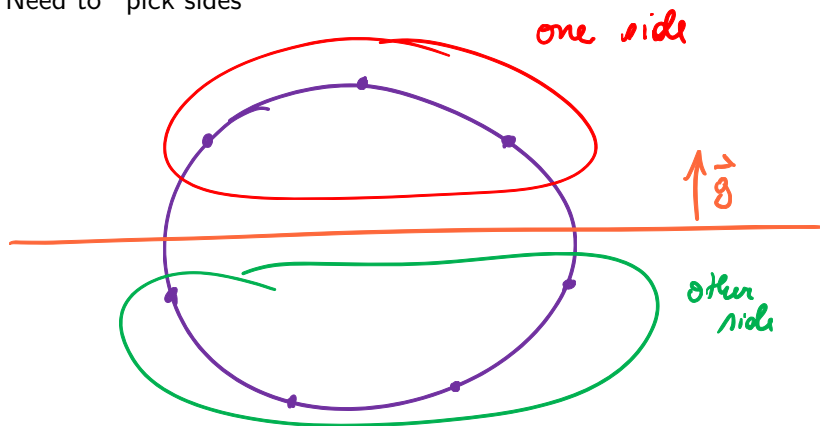
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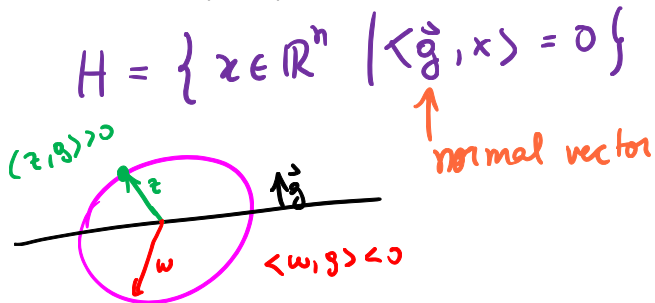
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- 4 **[Goemans, Williamson 1994]:** Choose a random hyperplane through origin!

hope that SDP separated a lot of edges with
(intuition) high weight

and that a random hyperplane will
catch a good cut

Max-Cut - Rounding

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- 4 **[Goemans, Williamson 1994]**: Choose a random hyperplane through origin!
- 5 Choose normal vector $g \in \mathbb{R}^n$ from a Gaussian distribution.
- 6 Set $x_u = \text{sign}(g^T z_u)$ as our solution



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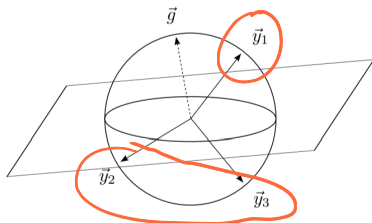


Figure 10.2: Vectors being separated by a hyperplane with normal \vec{g} .

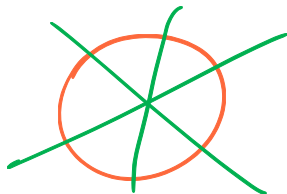
Facts we need

- We can pick a random hyperplane through origin in polynomial time.
sample vector $g = (g_1, \dots, g_n)$ by drawing $g_i \in \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

Normal
or
Gaussian
distribution

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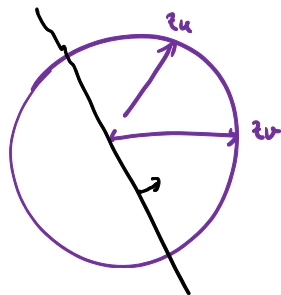
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sample vector $g = (g_1, \dots, g_n)$ by drawing $g_i \in \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- If g' is the projection of g onto a two dimensional plane, then $g' / \|g'\|_2$ is *uniformly distributed* over the unit circle in this plane.



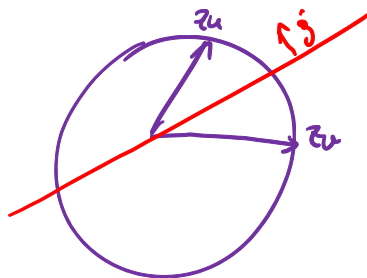
Analysis of Rounding

- Probability that edge $\{u, v\}$ crosses the cut is same as probability that z_u, z_v fall in different sides of hyperplane

$$\Pr[\{u, v\} \text{ crosses cut}] = \Pr[g \text{ splits } z_u, z_v]$$



same side
of cut



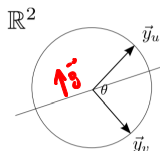
different
sides

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- Looking at the problem in the plane:



hyperplane we
choose is random
by fact 2

Figure 10.3: The plane of two vectors being cut by the hyperplane

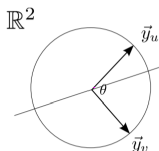
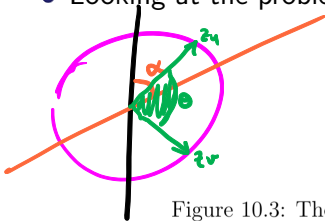
Analysis of Rounding

$$\cos \theta = z_u^T z_v \quad (= \underbrace{\|z_u\| \cdot \|z_v\|}_{\downarrow} \cdot \cos \theta)$$

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$\alpha \in [0, \pi)$
 z parameters hyperplane

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- Probability of splitting z_u, z_v :

$$\Pr[\{u, v\} \text{ crosses cut}] = \frac{\theta}{\pi} = \frac{\cos^{-1}(z_u^T z_v)}{\pi} = \frac{\cos^{-1}(\gamma_{uv})}{\pi}$$

range which separates z_u, z_v
 all possible hyperplanes

Analysis of Rounding

- Expected value of cut:

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{value of cut}] = \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} w_{u,v} \cdot \frac{\cos^{-1}(\gamma_{uv})}{\pi}$$

↑
weight
of edge
 u,v

$\Pr[\{u,v\} \text{ is a cut edge}]$

$\mathbb{E}[\text{value of } u,v]$

Analysis of Rounding

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- Recall that

$$OPT_{SDP} = \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} \frac{1}{2} \cdot w_{u,v} \cdot (1 - z_u^T z_v) = \sum_{\{u,v\} \in E} \frac{1}{2} \cdot w_{u,v} \cdot (1 - \gamma_{uv})$$

because $\{z_u\}_{u \in V}$
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- If we find α such that

$$\frac{\cos^{-1}(\gamma_{uv})}{\pi} \geq \frac{\alpha}{2} (1 - \gamma_{uv}), \quad \text{for all } \gamma_{uv} \in [-1, 1]$$

Then we have an α -approximation algorithm!

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[\text{value of your cut}] \geq \alpha \cdot OPT_{SDP}$$

$$\sum w_{uv} \cdot \frac{\cos^{-1}(\gamma_{uv})}{\pi} \geq \sum w_{uv} \cdot \frac{\alpha}{2} (1 - \gamma_{uv}) = \alpha \cdot \sum \frac{1}{2} w_{uv} (1 - \gamma_{uv})$$

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- For $x \in [-1, 1]$, we have

$$\frac{\cos^{-1}(x)}{\pi} \geq \underbrace{0.878}_{\alpha} \cdot \frac{1-x}{2}$$

proof by elementary calculus.

Conclusion of rounding algorithm

with constant probability we get a cut

with $(0.878 - \epsilon) \cdot \text{OPT}$

(can amplify this probability)

Putting Everything Together

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 - 2 If have *higher dimensional* solutions, *rounding procedure*
Random Hyperplane Cut algorithm, ~~with high probability~~ we get

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{cost}(\text{rounded solution})] \geq 0.878 \cdot OPT(SDP) \geq 0.878 \cdot OPT(\text{Max-Cut})$$

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- 2 Recent and exciting work, driven by *Unique Games Conjecture* (UGC), shows that if UGC is true, then all these approximation algorithms are *tight!*

<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~anupamg/adv-approx/lecture24.pdf>

in particular UGC \Rightarrow cannot obtain
better than
0.878 approx.
for MAX-cut

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- 3 Other applications in robust statistics, via the SDP & Sum-of-Squares connection

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.11581>

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<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~anupamg/adv-approx/lecture24.pdf>

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- 4 Connections to automated theorem proving

<https://ecc.weizmann.ac.il/report/2019/106/>

Remarks

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All of these are amazing final project topics!

Conclusion

- Mathematical programming - very general, and pervasive in (combinatorial) algorithmic life
- Mathematical Programming hard in general
- Sometimes can get SDP rounding!
- Solve SDP and round the solution
 - Deterministic rounding when solutions are nice
 - Randomized rounding when things a bit more complicated

Acknowledgement

- Lecture based largely on:
 - Lecture 14 of Anupam Gupta and Ryan O'Donnell's Optimization class
<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~anupamg/adv-approx/>
 - Chapter 6 of book [Williamson, Shmoys 2010]
- See their notes at
<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~anupamg/adv-approx/lecture14.pdf>

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