Conic lifts of polytopes

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1. Linear Representations and Yannakakis Theorem

Polytopes

The usual way to describe a polytope P is by listing the vertices or giving an inequality description

$$\boldsymbol{P} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \boldsymbol{a}_1 \boldsymbol{x}_1 + \boldsymbol{a}_2 \boldsymbol{x}_2 + \cdots + \boldsymbol{a}_n \boldsymbol{x}_n \geq \boldsymbol{b} \right\},\$$

where b and a_i are real vectors and the inequalities are taken entry-wise.

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A linear representation of a polytope P is a description

 $P = \{x : \exists y, a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_n x_n + a_{n+1} y_1 + \dots + a_{n+m} y_m \ge b\},\$

i.e., a description of *P* as a projection of a higher dimensional polytope.

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(Ben-Tal + Nemirovski, 2001): A regular *n*-gon can be written as the projection of a polytope with $2\lceil \log_2(n) \rceil$ sides.



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Given a polytope P we are interested in finding how small can its linear representation be. This tells us how hard it is to optimize over P using LP.

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Example: For the unit cube.

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 $M = A \times B$.

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Example:

$$M = \left[\begin{array}{rrrr} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right]$$

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Let P be any polytope and S its slack matrix. Then the following are equal.

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It has a 6×6 slack matrix.



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$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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2. Other Representations: General Yannakakis Theorem

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Semidefinite Representations

A semidefinite representation of size k of a polytope P is a description

$$\boldsymbol{P} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \exists \boldsymbol{y} \text{ s.t. } A_0 + \sum A_i \boldsymbol{x}_i + \sum B_i \boldsymbol{y}_i \succeq \boldsymbol{0} \right\}$$

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where A_i and B_i are $k \times k$ real symmetric matrices.

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This tells us how hard it is to optimize over *P* using semidefinite programming.

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The Square

The 0/1 square is the projection onto x_1 and x_2 of

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_2 \\ x_1 & x_1 & y \\ x_2 & y & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0.$$

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Let M be a m by n nonnegative matrix.

Let *M* be a *m* by *n* nonnegative matrix. A PSD_k-factorization of *M* is a set of $k \times k$ positive semidefinite matrices A_1, \dots, A_m and B_1, \dots, B_n such that $M_{i,j} = \langle A_i, B_j \rangle$.

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Semidefinite Yannakakis Theorem

Theorem (G.-Parrilo-Thomas 2011)

A polytope P has a semidefinite representation of size k if and only if its slack matrix has a PSD_k-factorization.

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The psd rank of a polytope *P* is defined as

 $\operatorname{rank}_{psd}(P) := \operatorname{rank}_{psd}(S_P).$

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	0 0 0 0	0 1 -1 0	0 -1 1 0	0 0 0 0],	[1 1 0 0	-1 1 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0]	,		0 0 0 0	0 1 0 1	0 0 0) -) -	0 -1 0 1]	,	[0 0 0 0	0 1 1 0	0 1 1 0	0 0 0 0]	

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The Hexagon - continued

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$$H = \left\{ (x_1, x_2) : \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_2 & x_1 + x_2 \\ x_1 & 1 & y_1 & y_2 \\ x_2 & y_1 & 1 & y_3 \\ x_1 + x_2 & y_2 & y_3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \right\}$$

Conic Representations

In general given any closed cone K, a K-lift or K-representation of a polytope P is a representation

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where Π is a linear map and *L* an affine space.

If $K = \mathbb{R}_+^k$ or $K = \mathsf{PSD}_k$ we recover the linear and semidefinite representations respectively. Other possible choices for K would be SOCP, CoP, CP ...

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Note that since both \mathbb{R}^k_+ and PSD_k are self-dual, this notion generalizes both the notions of nonnegative and semidefinite factorization.

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Technical Note: The forward direction actually demands either a Slater condition or K to be nice.

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Several further generalizations are possible (convex bodies, symmetric lifts).

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3. Nonnegative and Semidefinite ranks

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Computing these ranks is hard. In fact checking if $rank(M) = rank_+(M)$ is NP-Hard (Vavasis '07).

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Many other complexity questions are open.

Rectangle covering bound

The nonnegative rank of a matrix M is larger than the size of its smallest rectangle cover.

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Example:

$$M = \left[\begin{array}{rrrrr} 0 & 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 7 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

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The nonnegative rank of a matrix M is larger than the size of its smallest rectangle cover.

Example:

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 7 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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In this case $rank_+(M) \ge 4$.

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In this case $\operatorname{rank}_+(M) \ge 4$.

The rectangle bound corresponds to the boolean rank and also relates to the minimum communication complexity of a 2-party protocol to compute the support of *M*.

A Hadamard Square Root of a nonnegative matrix M, denoted $\sqrt[H]{M}$, is a matrix whose entries are square roots (positive or negative) of the corresponding entries of M.

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 $^{H_{+}}\overline{M}$ is the nonnegative Hadamard square root of M.

Hadamard Rank and Semidefinite Rank

Proposition (G.-Robinson-Thomas 2012)

 $rank_H(M)$ is the smallest k for which we have a semidefinite factorization of M of size k using only rank one matrices.

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Corollary For 0/1 matrices

 $\operatorname{rank}_{\operatorname{psd}}(M) \leq \operatorname{rank}_{H}(M) \leq \operatorname{rank}(M).$

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For
$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
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$$\operatorname{rank}_{\operatorname{psd}}(M) = 2$$
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Consider the matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ defined by $a_{i,j} = (i - j)^2$.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 4 & 9 & 16 & \cdots \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 9 & \cdots \\ 4 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 & \cdots \\ 9 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \cdots \\ 16 & 9 & 4 & 1 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

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 $rank_+$ can be arbitrarily larger than rank and $rank_{psd}$.

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Proposition

An linear representation of P of size k induces an embedding from the facial lattice of P, L(P), to the boolean lattice $2^{[k]}$. In particular:

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 - ▶ $n_P = 28 \Rightarrow \operatorname{rank}_+(P) \ge \log_2(28) \approx 4.807.$
 - ▶ $n_{\text{edges}} = 12$, $\binom{5}{2} = 10$, $\binom{6}{3} = 20$, hence $\text{rank}_+(P) \ge 6$.

Theorem (G.-Parrilo-Thomas 2011)

If a polytope P in \mathbb{R}^n has rank_{psd} = k than it has at most $k^{O(k^2n)}$ facets.

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Big open question:

Can we find a separation between rank_{psd} and rank₊ for polytopes?

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Polytopes with minimal representations

Lemma

A polytope of dimension d does not have a semidefinite representation of size smaller than d + 1.

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Using the Hadamard rank we recover an older result.

Theorem (G.-Parrilo-Thomas 2009)

Let *P* be a polytope with dimension *d* whose slack matrix S_P is 0/1. Then *P* has a semidefinite representation of size d + 1.

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But we can say much more.

Theorem (G.-Robinson-Thomas 2012) Let *P* have dimension *d*. Then

 $\operatorname{rank}_{\operatorname{psd}}(P) = d + 1 \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{rank}_{H}(S_{P}) = d + 1.$
We will say a dimension *d* polytope *P* is SDP-minimal if it has a semidefinite representation of size d + 1.

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Properties of SDP-minimal polytopes

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- Pyramids over SDP-minimal polytopes are SDP-minimal.

Results in \mathbb{R}^2

On the plane this is enough for a full characterization.

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Proposition

A convex polygon is SDP-minimal if and only if it is a triangle or a quadrilateral.



Proposition

If P is combinatorially equivalent to an octahedron then it is SDP-minimal if and only if there are two distinct sets of four coplanar vertices of P.

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This translates to a dual result on cuboids.

It also suggests some underlying matroid characterization.

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Conic Lifts/Factorizations is an exciting area of research with many recent breakthroughs.

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Still many unanswered questions.

Complexity or rank calculations.

Conic Lifts/Factorizations is an exciting area of research with many recent breakthroughs.

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For more information

Polytopes of Minimum Positive Semidefinite Rank - Gouveia, Robinson and Thomas - arXiv:1205.5306

Lifts of convex sets and cone factorizations - Gouveia, Parrilo and Thomas - arXiv:1111.3164

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Thank you