

Easier derivation of bounded pitch inequalities for set covering problems +

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Set covering

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Can we account for all valid inequalities with small coefficients?

Theorem (B. and Mark Zuckerberg, 2004)

For any fixed integer $k \geq 1$ there exists a *compact, extended* formulation whose solutions satisfy all valid inequalities with coefficients in $\{0, 1, \dots, k\}$.

“compact:” of polynomial size (for fixed k)

“extended:” uses additional variables, a **lifted** formulation

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there is a compact extended formulation for set-covering whose solutions satisfy the **rank- r Gomory** closure within multiplicative error ϵ

$\forall c \in \mathbb{R}^n :$

$$\min c^T x \quad \text{s.t. } x \in \text{projected formulation} \geq (1 - \epsilon) \left(\min c^T x \quad \text{s.t. } x \in \text{rank-}r \text{ Gomory closure} \right)$$

Two recent, related papers:

- M. Mastrolilli (sum-of-squares mod 2)
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- Today, a shorter proof +

Vector Branching (from Z's PhD thesis)

Consider a (known) valid inequality

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Gives rise to an alternate scheme for branch-and-bound

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Then, the solution to any **node** of the branch-and-bound (sub)tree thus created satisfies every valid inequality

$$\alpha^T \mathbf{x} \geq 2$$

where

- $\alpha_j \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$
- H contained in the **support** of α

Example

Consider a valid inequality

$$\sum_{j \in S} x_j \geq 2 \quad (1)$$

and suppose we vector-branch on a set covering constraint

$$\sum_{j \in H} x_j \geq 1, \quad \text{with } H \subseteq S$$

And now consider a node where $x_{j_t} = 1$ with $j_t \in H$. **But:**

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Pitch k

Consider a valid inequality of pitch k :

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So all we need is a **recursive** construction

Construction – a few corners are cut

- Set-covering system $Ax \geq e$.
- Pitch $p \geq 2$
- Z^{p-1} : recursively constructed formulation whose solutions satisfy all valid inequalities of pitch $\leq p - 1$.
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Construction – a few corners are cut

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- \mathcal{Z}^{p-1} : recursively constructed formulation whose solutions satisfy all valid inequalities of pitch $\leq p - 1$.
- For $p = 2$, \mathcal{Z}^{p-1} is the original formulation $Ax \geq e$
- Now we will consider a row i of $Ax \geq e$ and, effectively, vector-branch on it
- Actually we will write the corresponding **disjunction**

Let the row be

$$\sum_{j \in S^i} x_j \geq 1$$

where $S^i = \{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_{|S^i|}\}$.

Row i of $\mathbf{Ax} \geq \mathbf{e}$: $\sum_{j \in S^i} x_j \geq 1$, where $S^i = \{j_1, \dots, j_{|S^i|}\}$.

(a) For $1 \leq t \leq |S^i|$, polyhedron $D_i^p(t) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ given by

$$x_{j_t} = 1 \tag{5}$$

$$x_{j_h} = 0 \quad \forall 1 \leq h < t, \quad \text{and} \tag{6}$$

$$x \in \mathcal{Z}^{p-1} \tag{7}$$

(b) Polyhedron $D_i^p \doteq \text{conv}\{D_i^p(t) : 1 \leq t \leq |S^i|\}$

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Lemma:

\mathcal{Z}^p can be described by a polynomial-size formulation for fixed \mathbf{p} , and its feasible solutions satisfy all valid inequalities of pitch $\leq p$.

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Open question:

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ANY constant whatsoever?

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$w \geq 0$, $b > 0$, **integral**

Well-known result: equivalent to set-covering problem,

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$$\sum_{j \in S} x_j \geq 1, \quad \forall S \text{ with } \sum_{j \in S} w_j \geq w^* \doteq \sum_j w_j - b + 1$$

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But exponentially many constraints

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Given y , either

- Find a valid inequality with coefficients in $0, 1, \dots, k$, violated by y , or
- Certify that $\alpha^T y \geq \alpha_0 - o(1)$ for all valid $\alpha^T x \geq \alpha_0$ with $\alpha_j \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$ for all j .

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Given y , does it satisfy every valid inequality $\sum_{j \in S} x_j \geq 2$?

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So, get approximate separation, with violation if objective < 2

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Example: $8x_1 + 5x_2 + 4x_3 + 4x_4 + 4x_5 \geq 13$ (the knapsack)

Valid: $x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 \geq 3$ (non-monotone)

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Minimum clique number (minus one) over all chordal supergraphs of G

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Optimality and feasibility errors $O(\epsilon)$ (additive)

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Polynomial in the size of the data set, for fixed n, w

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Theorem. For any k, n, w, ϵ **approximate LP** of size

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