

Submodular Functions, Optimization, and Applications to Machine Learning

— Spring Quarter, Lecture 14 —

http://www.ee.washington.edu/people/faculty/bilmes/classes/ee596b_spring_2016/

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$$f(A) + f(B) \geq f(A \cup B) + f(A \cap B)$$



Cumulative Outstanding Reading

- Read chapters 2 and 3 from Fujishige's book.
- Read chapter 1 from Fujishige's book.

Announcements, Assignments, and Reminders

- Homework 4, available now at our assignment dropbox (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1039754/assignments>), due (electronically) Wednesday (5/25) at 11:55pm.
- Homework 3, available at our assignment dropbox (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1039754/assignments>), due (electronically) Monday (5/2) at 11:55pm.
- Homework 2, available at our assignment dropbox (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1039754/assignments>), due (electronically) Monday (4/18) at 11:55pm.
- Homework 1, available at our assignment dropbox (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1039754/assignments>), due (electronically) Friday (4/8) at 11:55pm.
- Weekly Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-4:30, or by skype or google hangout (set up meeting via our our discussion board (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1039754/discussion_topics)).

Class Road Map - IT-I

- L1(3/28): Motivation, Applications, & Basic Definitions
- L2(3/30): Machine Learning Apps (diversity, complexity, parameter, learning target, surrogate).
- L3(4/4): Info theory exs, more apps, definitions, graph/combinatorial examples, matrix rank example, visualization
- L4(4/6): Graph and Combinatorial Examples, matrix rank, Venn diagrams, examples of proofs of submodularity, some useful properties
- L5(4/11): Examples & Properties, Other Defs., Independence
- L6(4/13): Independence, Matroids, Matroid Examples, matroid rank is submodular
- L7(4/18): Matroid Rank, More on Partition Matroid, System of Distinct Reps, Transversals, Transversal Matroid,
- L8(4/20): Transversals, Matroid and representation, Dual Matroids,
- L9(4/25): Dual Matroids, Properties, Combinatorial Geometries, Matroid and Greedy
- L10(4/27): Matroid and Greedy, Polyhedra, Matroid Polytopes,
- L11(5/2): From Matroids to Polymatroids, Polymatroids
- L12(5/4): Polymatroids, Polymatroids and Greedy
- L13(5/9): Polymatroids and Greedy; Possible Polytopes; Extreme Points; Polymatroids, Greedy, and Cardinality Constrained Maximization
- L14(5/11): Cardinality Constrained Maximization; Curvature; Submodular Max w. Other Constraints
- L15(5/16):
- L16(5/18):
- L17(5/23):
- L18(5/25):
- L19(6/1):
- L20(6/6): Final Presentations maximization.

Finals Week: June 6th-10th, 2016.

Polymatroidal polyhedron and greedy

- Thus, restating the above results into a single complete theorem, we have a result very similar to what we saw for matroids (i.e., Theorem ??)

Theorem 14.2.1

If $f : 2^E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is given, and P is a polytope in \mathbb{R}_+^E of the form $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^E : x(A) \leq f(A), \forall A \subseteq E\}$, then the greedy solution to the problem $\max\{wx : x \in P\}$ is $\forall w$ optimum *iff* f is monotone non-decreasing submodular (i.e., iff P is a polymatroid).

Multiple Polytopes associated with arbitrary f

- Given an arbitrary submodular function $f : 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (not necessarily a polymatroid function, so it need not be positive, monotone, etc.).
- If $f(\emptyset) \neq 0$, can set $f'(A) = f(A) - f(\emptyset)$ without destroying submodularity. This does not change any minima, (i.e., $\operatorname{argmin}_A f(A) = \operatorname{argmin}_{A'} f'(A)$) so assume all functions are normalized $f(\emptyset) = 0$.
- We can define several polytopes:

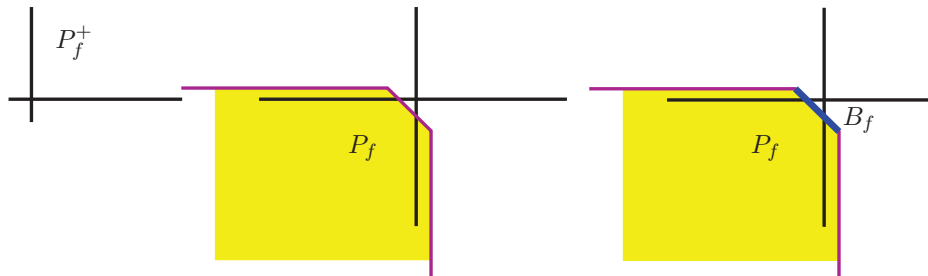
$$P_f = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^E : x(S) \leq f(S), \forall S \subseteq E\} \quad (14.1)$$

$$P_f^+ = P_f \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^E : x \geq 0\} \quad (14.2)$$

$$B_f = P_f \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^E : x(E) = f(E)\} \quad (14.3)$$

- P_f is what is sometimes called the extended polytope (sometimes notated as EP_f).
- P_f^+ is P_f restricted to the positive orthant.
- B_f is called the **base polytope**, analogous to the base in matroid.

Multiple Polytopes in 2D associated with f



$$P_f^+ = P_f \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^E : x \geq 0\} \quad (14.1)$$

$$P_f = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^E : x(S) \leq f(S), \forall S \subseteq E\} \quad (14.2)$$

$$B_f = P_f \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^E : x(E) = f(E)\} \quad (14.3)$$

A polymatroid function's polyhedron is a polymatroid.

Theorem 14.2.1

Let f be a submodular function defined on subsets of E . For any $x \in \mathbb{R}^E$, we have:

$$\text{rank}(x) = \max (y(E) : y \leq x, y \in P_f) = \min (x(A) + f(E \setminus A) : A \subseteq E) \quad (14.1)$$

Essentially the same theorem as Theorem ??, but note P_f rather than P_f^+ . Taking $x = 0$ we get:

Corollary 14.2.2

Let f be a submodular function defined on subsets of E . We have:

$$\text{rank}(0) = \max (y(E) : y \leq 0, y \in P_f) = \min (f(A) : A \subseteq E) \quad (14.2)$$

Polymatroid extreme points

Theorem 14.2.1

For a given ordering $E = (e_1, \dots, e_m)$ of E and a given $E_i = (e_1, \dots, e_i)$ and x generated by E_i using the greedy procedure $(x(e_i) = f(e_i | E_{i-1}))$, then x is an extreme point of P_f

Proof.

- We already saw that $x \in P_f$ (Theorem ??).
- To show that x is an extreme point of P_f , note that it is the unique solution of the following system of equations

$$x(E_j) = f(E_j) \text{ for } 1 \leq j \leq i \leq m \quad (14.5)$$

$$x(e) = 0 \text{ for } e \in E \setminus E_i \quad (14.6)$$

There are $i \leq m$ equations and $i \leq m$ unknowns, and simple Gaussian elimination gives us back the x constructed via the Greedy algorithm!!

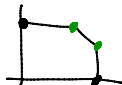
Polymatroid extreme points

- Moreover, we have (and will ultimately prove)

Corollary 14.2.2

If x is an extreme point of P_f and $B \subseteq E$ is given such that $\text{supp}(x) = \{e \in E : x(e) \neq 0\} \subseteq B \subseteq \cup(A : x(A) = f(A)) = \text{sat}(x)$, then x is generated using greedy by some ordering of B .

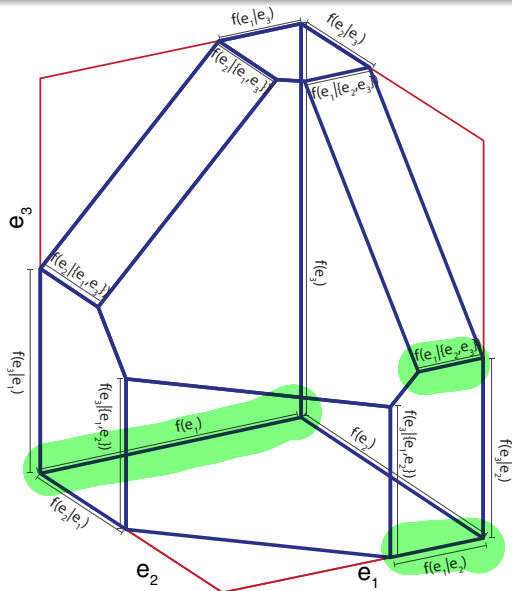
- Note, $\text{sat}(x) = \text{cl}(x) = \cup(A : x(A) = f(A))$ is also called **the closure** of x (recall that sets A such that $x(A) = f(A)$ are called tight, and such sets are closed under union and intersection, as seen in Lecture 8, Theorem ??)
- Thus, $\text{cl}(x)$ is a tight set.
- Also, $\text{supp}(x) = \{e \in E : x(e) \neq 0\}$ is called the support of x .
- For arbitrary x , $\text{supp}(x)$ is not necessarily tight, but for an extreme point, $\text{supp}(x)$ is.



Polymatroid with labeled edge lengths

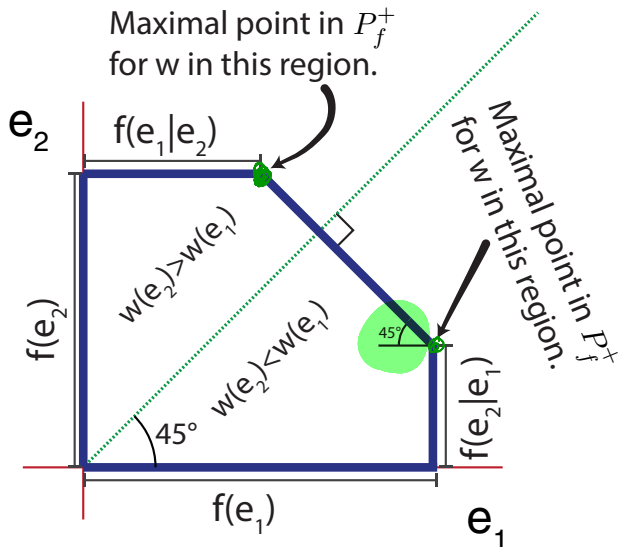
- Recall

$$f(e|A) = f(A+e) - f(A)$$
- Notice how submodularity,
 $f(e|B) \leq f(e|A)$ for $A \subseteq B$, defines the shape of the polytope.
- In fact, we have strictness here
 $f(e|B) < f(e|A)$ for $A \subset B$.
- Also, consider how the greedy algorithm proceeds along the edges of the polytope.



Intuition: why greedy works with polymatroids

- Given w , the goal is to find $x = (x(e_1), x(e_2))$ that maximizes $x^T w = x(e_1)w(e_1) + x(e_2)w(e_2)$.
- If $w(e_2) > w(e_1)$ the upper extreme point indicated maximizes $x^T w$ over $x \in P_f^+$.
- If $w(e_2) < w(e_1)$ the lower extreme point indicated maximizes $x^T w$ over $x \in P_f^+$.



The Greedy Algorithm: $1 - 1/e$ intuition.

- At step $i < k$, greedy chooses v_i to maximize $f(v|S_i)$.

$$S^* \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\substack{A \subseteq V \\ |A| \leq k}} f(A)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & S_0 \leftarrow \emptyset; \quad i = 0 \\
 & \text{repeat} \\
 & \quad v^* \in \operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V \setminus S_i} [f(S_i + v) - f(S_i)] \\
 & \quad S_{i+1} \leftarrow S_i + v^*; \\
 & \quad i++
 \end{aligned}$$

$f(v|S_i)$


The Greedy Algorithm: $1 - 1/e$ intuition.

- At step $i < k$, greedy chooses v_i to maximize $f(v|S_i)$.
- Let S^* be optimal solution (of size k) and $\text{OPT} = f(S^*)$.

The Greedy Algorithm: $1 - 1/e$ intuition.

- At step $i < k$, greedy chooses v_i to maximize $f(v|S_i)$.
- Let S^* be optimal solution (of size k) and $\text{OPT} = f(S^*)$. By submodularity, we will show:

$$\exists v \in V \setminus S_i : f(v|S_i) = f(S_i + v|S_i) \geq \frac{1}{k} (\text{OPT} - f(S_i)) \quad (14.1)$$



The Greedy Algorithm: $1 - 1/e$ intuition.

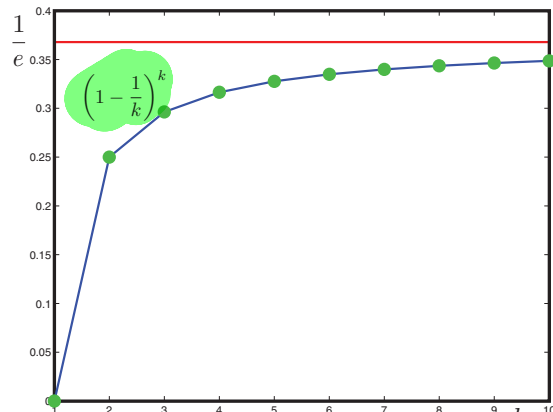
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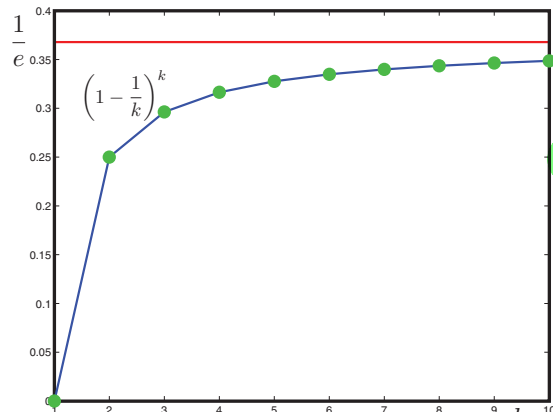
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Equation (14.10) will show that Equation (14.1)

\Rightarrow :

$$\text{OPT} - f(S_{i+1})$$

$$\leq (1 - 1/k)(\text{OPT} - f(S_i))$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{OPT} - f(S_k)$$

$$\leq (1 - 1/k)^k \text{OPT}$$

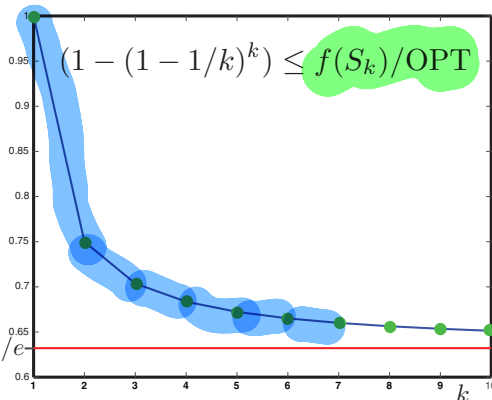
$$\leq 1/e \text{OPT}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{OPT}(1 - 1/e) \leq f(S_k)$$

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\Rightarrow :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OPT} - f(S_{i+1}) &\leq (1 - 1/k)(\text{OPT} - f(S_i)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \text{OPT} - f(S_k) &\leq (1 - 1/k)^k \text{OPT} \\ &\leq 1/e \text{OPT} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{OPT}(1 - 1/e) \leq f(S_k)$$

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

Theorem 14.3.1 (Nemhauser et al. 1978)

Given non-negative monotone submodular function $f : 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, define $\{S_i\}_{i \geq 0}$ to be the chain formed by the greedy algorithm (Eqn. (??)). Then for all $k, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}_{++}$, we have:

$$f(S_\ell) \geq (1 - e^{-\ell/k}) \max_{S: |S| \leq k} f(S) \quad (14.2)$$

OPT_k

and in particular, for $\ell = k$, we have $f(S_k) \geq (1 - 1/e) \max_{S: |S| \leq k} f(S)$.

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- k is size of optimal set, i.e., $\text{OPT} = f(S^*)$ with $|S^*| = k$

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- k is size of optimal set, i.e., $\text{OPT} = f(S^*)$ with $|S^*| = k$
- ℓ is size of set we are choosing (i.e., we choose S_ℓ from greedy chain).

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- Bound is how well does S_ℓ (of size ℓ) do relative to S^* , the optimal set of size k .

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- k is size of optimal set, i.e., $\text{OPT} = f(S^*)$ with $|S^*| = k$
- ℓ is size of set we are choosing (i.e., we choose S_ℓ from greedy chain).
- Bound is how well does S_ℓ (of size ℓ) do relative to S^* , the optimal set of size k .
- Intuitively, bound should get worse when $\ell < k$ and get better when $\ell > k$.

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

Proof of Theorem 14.3.1.

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

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- Fix ℓ (number of items greedy will chose) and k (size of optimal set to compare against).

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

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- Set $S^* \in \operatorname{argmax} \{f(S) : |S| \leq k\}$

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- Order $S^* = (v_1^*, v_2^*, \dots, v_k^*)$ arbitrarily.

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- Set $S^* \in \operatorname{argmax} \{f(S) : |S| \leq k\}$
- w.l.o.g. assume $|S^*| = k$.
- Order $S^* = (v_1^*, v_2^*, \dots, v_k^*)$ arbitrarily.
- Let $S_i = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_i)$ be the greedy order chain chosen by the algorithm, for $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, \ell\}$.

...

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... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

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Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- For all $i < \ell$, we have

$$f(S^*)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- For all $i < \ell$, we have

$$f(S^*) \leq f(S^* \cup S_i)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- For all $i < \ell$, we have

$$f(S^*) \leq f(S^* \cup S_i) = f(S_i) + f(S^*|S_i) \quad (14.3)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- For all $i < \ell$, we have

$$f(S^*) \leq f(S^* \cup S_i) = f(S_i) + f(S^* | S_i) \quad (14.3)$$

$$= f(S_i) + \sum_{j=1}^k f(v_j^* | S_i \cup \{v_1^*, v_2^*, \dots, v_{j-1}^*\}) \quad (14.4)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- For all $i < \ell$, we have

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$$= f(S_i) + \sum_{j=1}^k f(v_j^*|S_i \cup \{v_1^*, v_2^*, \dots, v_{j-1}^*\}) \quad (14.4)$$

$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v|S_i) \quad (14.5)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

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$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v|S_i) \quad (14.5)$$

$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v_{i+1}|S_i)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

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$$f(S^*) \leq f(S^* \cup S_i) = f(S_i) + f(S^*|S_i) \quad (14.3)$$

$$= f(S_i) + \sum_{j=1}^k f(v_j^*|S_i \cup \{v_1^*, v_2^*, \dots, v_{j-1}^*\}) \quad (14.4)$$

$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v|S_i) \quad (14.5)$$

$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v_{i+1}|S_i) = f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(S_{i+1}|S_i) \quad (14.6)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- For all $i < \ell$, we have

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$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v|S_i) \quad (14.5)$$

$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v_{i+1}|S_i) = f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(S_{i+1}|S_i) \quad (14.6)$$

$$= f(S_i) + kf(S_{i+1}|S_i) \quad (14.7)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

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$$= f(S_i) + \sum_{j=1}^k f(v_j^*|S_i \cup \{v_1^*, v_2^*, \dots, v_{j-1}^*\}) \quad (14.4)$$

$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v|S_i) \quad (14.5)$$

$$\leq f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(v_{i+1}|S_i) = f(S_i) + \sum_{v \in S^*} f(S_{i+1}|S_i) \quad (14.6)$$

$$= f(S_i) + k f(S_{i+1}|S_i) \quad (14.7)$$

- Therefore, we have Equation 14.1, i.e.:

$$f(S^*) - f(S_i) \leq k f(S_{i+1}|S_i) = k(f(S_{i+1}) - f(S_i)) \quad (14.8)$$

...

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- Define gap $\delta_i \triangleq f(S^*) - f(S_i)$, so $\delta_i - \delta_{i+1} = f(S_{i+1}) - f(S_i)$,
 $= f(v_{i+1} / S_i)$

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

... proof of Theorem 14.3.1 cont.

- Define gap $\delta_i \triangleq f(S^*) - f(S_i)$, so $\delta_i - \delta_{i+1} = f(S_{i+1}) - f(S_i)$, giving
$$\delta_i \leq k(\delta_i - \delta_{i+1}) \tag{14.9}$$

or

Cardinality Constrained Polymatroid Max Theorem

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- Also, by variational bound $1 - x \leq e^{-x}$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\delta_\ell \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{k}\right)^\ell \delta_0 \leq e^{-\ell/k} f(S^*) \quad (14.12)$$

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- So solution, in the worst case, quickly gets very good. Typical/practical case is much better.

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- We describe it next:

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- For $v \notin S_{i+1}$ we have $f(v|S_{i+1}) \leq f(v|S_i)$ by submodularity.
- Therefore, if we find a v' such that $f(v'|S_{i+1}) \geq \alpha_v$ for all $v \neq v'$, then since

$$f(v'|S_{i+1}) \geq \alpha_v = \overbrace{f(v|S_i)}^{\text{fresh } (v')} \geq f(v|S_{i+1}) \quad (14.14)$$

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Stuck.

- Strategy is: find the $\operatorname{argmax}_{v' \in V \setminus S_{i+1}} \alpha_{v'}$, and then compute the real $f(v'|S_{i+1})$. If it is greater than all other α_v 's then that's the next greedy step. Otherwise, replace $\alpha_{v'}$ with its real value, resort ($O(\log n)$), and repeat.

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- Algorithm has been rediscovered (I think) independently (CELF - cost-effective lazy forward selection, Leskovec et al., 2007)
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- If a popped item is fresh, it must be the maximum — this can happen if, at given iteration, v was first popped and neither fresh nor maximum so placed back in the queue, and it then percolates back to the top at which point it is fresh — thereby avoid extra queue check.

Minoux's Accelerated Greedy Algorithm Submodular Max

Algorithm 2: Minoux's Accelerated Greedy Algorithm

```

1 Set  $S_0 \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;  $i \leftarrow 0$ ; Initialize priority queue  $Q$ ;
2 for  $v \in E$  do
3    $\text{INSERT}(Q, f(v))$ 
4 repeat
5    $(v, \alpha) \leftarrow \text{POP}(Q)$ ;
6   if  $\alpha$  not "fresh" then
7      $\text{recompute } \alpha \leftarrow f(v|S_i)$ 
8   if (popped  $\alpha$  in line 5 was "fresh") OR ( $\alpha \geq \text{MAX}(Q)$ ) then
9     Set  $S_{i+1} \leftarrow S_i \cup \{v\}$ ;
10     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ ;
11  else
12     $\text{INSERT}(Q, (v, \alpha))$ 
13 until  $i = |E|$ ;

```

Minimum Submodular Cover

- Given polymatroid f , goal is to find a covering set of minimum cost:

$$S^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_{S \subseteq V} |S| \text{ such that } f(S) \geq \alpha \quad (14.18)$$

where α is a “cover” requirement.

$$\max f(A)$$

$$A \subseteq V$$

$$|A| \leq k$$

$$f(S) \geq |V|$$

$$= \left| \bigcup_{i \in E} v_i \right|$$

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- Algorithm: Pick the first S_i chosen by aforementioned greedy algorithm such that $f(S_i) \geq \alpha$.
- For integer valued f , this greedy algorithm an $O(\log(\max_{s \in V} f(\{s\})))$ approximation. Set cover is hard to approximate with a factor better than $(1 - \epsilon) \log \alpha$, where α is the desired cover constraint.

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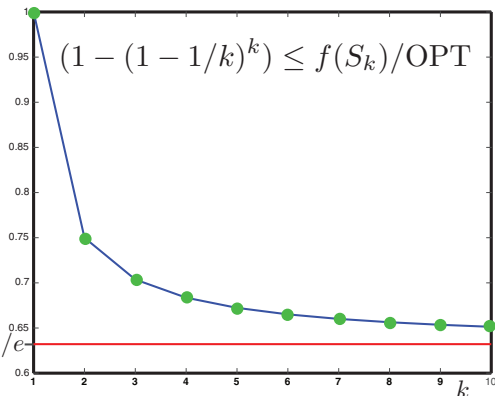
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- Minoux's accelerated greedy trick.

The Greedy Algorithm: $1 - 1/e$ intuition.

- At step $i < k$, greedy chooses v_i to maximize $f(v|S_i)$.
- Let S^* be optimal solution (of size k) and $\text{OPT} = f(S^*)$. By submodularity, we will show:

$$\exists v \in V \setminus S_i : f(v|S_i) = f(S_i + v|S_i) \geq \frac{1}{k}(\text{OPT} - f(S_i)) \quad (14.1)$$



Equation (14.10) will show that Equation (14.1)

\Rightarrow :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OPT} - f(S_{i+1}) &\leq (1 - 1/k)(\text{OPT} - f(S_i)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \text{OPT} - f(S_k) &\leq (1 - 1/k)^k \text{OPT} \\ &\leq 1/e \text{OPT} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{OPT}(1 - 1/e) \leq f(S_k)$$

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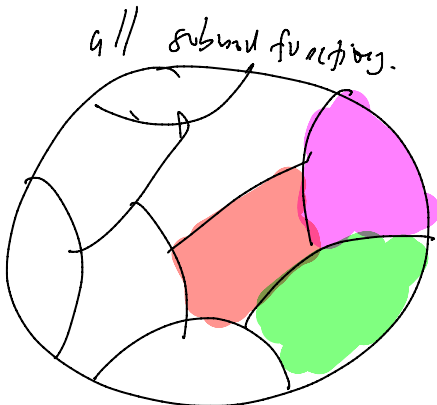
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- See problem 5, homework 4.

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- For any submodular function, we have $f(j|S) \leq f(j|\emptyset)$ so that $f(j|S)/f(j|\emptyset) \leq 1$ whenever $f(j|\emptyset) \neq 0$.



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$$\max_{I \in \mathcal{I}(M)} m(I) \leftarrow \max_{I \in \mathcal{I}(M)} f(I)$$

Curvature of a Submodular function (monotone)

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- Matroid rank functions with some dependence is **infinitely curved**.

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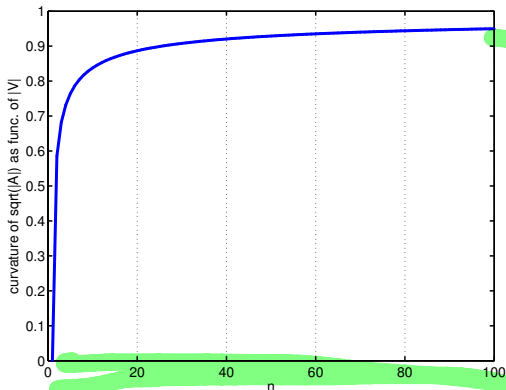
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- It will be remembered the notion of “partial dependence” within polymatroid functions.



Curvature for $f(S) = \sqrt{|S|}$

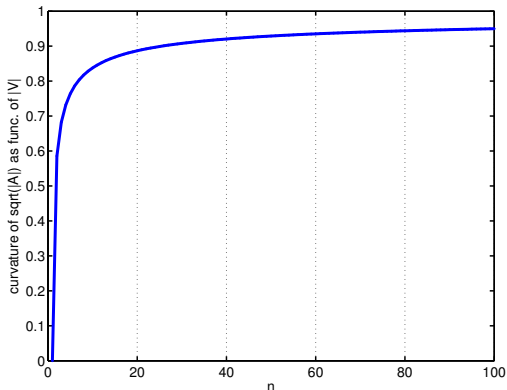
Curvature of $f(S) = \sqrt{|S|}$ as function of $|V| = n$



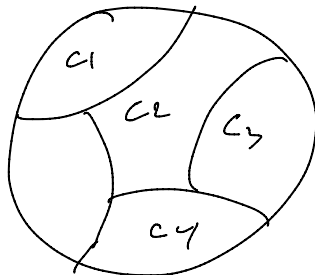
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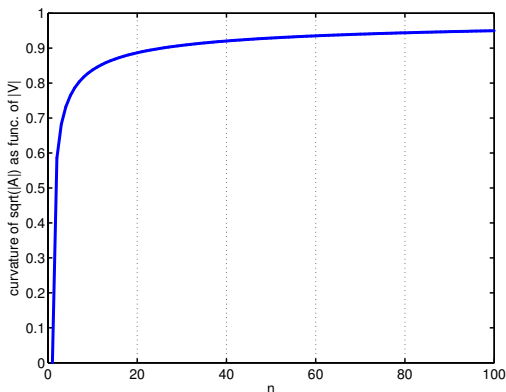


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- Functions of the form $f(S) = \sqrt{m(S)}$ where $m : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, approximation worse with n if $\min_{i,j} |m(i) - m(j)|$ has a fixed lower bound with increasing n .

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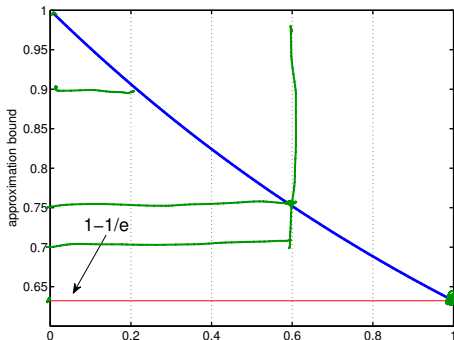
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$$\lim_{c \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} (1 - e^{-c}) = 1$$

For k -uniform matroid (i.e., k -cardinality constraints), then approximation factor becomes

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



Generalizations

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- Combinations of the above (e.g., knapsack & multiple matroid constraints).

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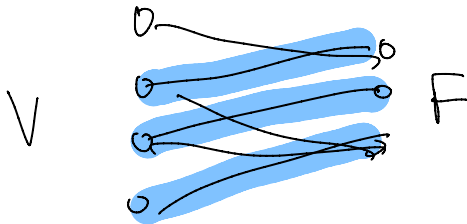
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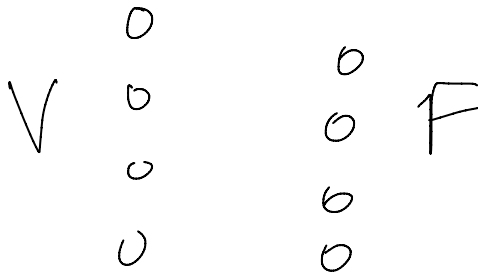


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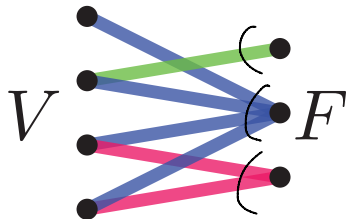
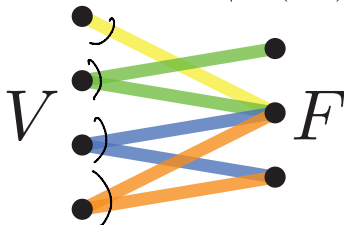


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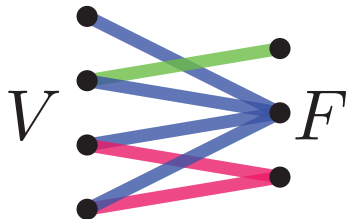
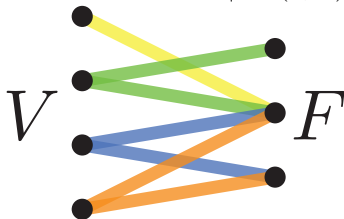
Matroid Intersection and Bipartite Matching

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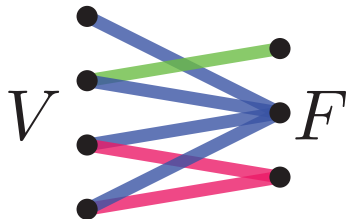
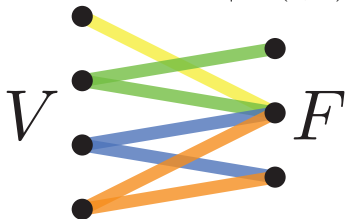
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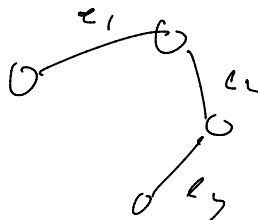
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- In bipartite graph case, therefore, can be solved in polynomial time.

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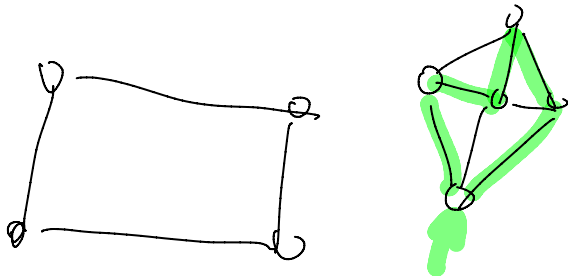
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- This is again a matroid intersection problem.

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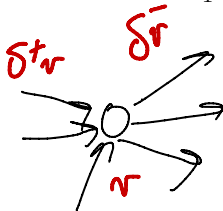


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- Then a Hamiltonian cycle exists iff there is an n -element intersection of M_1 , M_2 , and M_3 .

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- But bipartite graph example gives us hope for 2 matroids, as in that case we can easily solve $\max |X|$ s.t. $x \in \mathcal{I}_1 \cap \mathcal{I}_2$.

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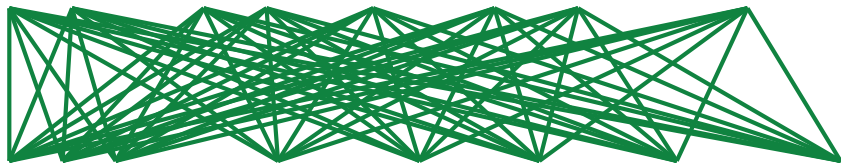
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- Consider bipartite graph $G = (E, F, V)$ where E and F are the left/right set of nodes, respectively, and V is the set of edges.
- E corresponds to, say, an English language sentence and F corresponds to a French language sentence — goal is to form a matching (an alignment) between the two.

Greedy over > 1 matroids: Multiple Language Alignment

- Consider English string and French string, set up as a bipartite graph.

I have ... as an example of public ownership

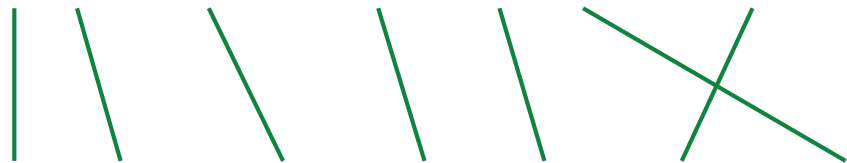


je le ai ... comme exemple de propriété publique

Greedy over > 1 matroids: Multiple Language Alignment

- One possible alignment, a matching, with score as sum of edge weights.

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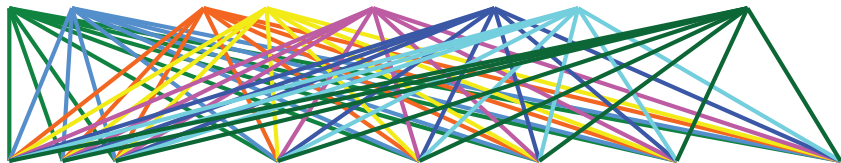


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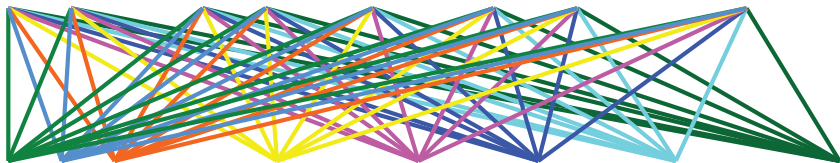
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- Maximizing submodular function subject to multiple matroid constraints addresses this problem.

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- We can solve this via submodular maximization subject to multiple matroid independence constraints as we next describe ...

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- Submodular welfare maximization becomes matroid constrained submodular max $\max \{f'(S) : S \in \mathcal{I}\}$, so greedy algorithm gives a $1/2$ approximation.

Submodular Social Welfare





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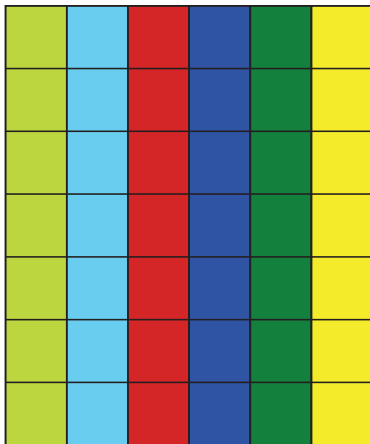
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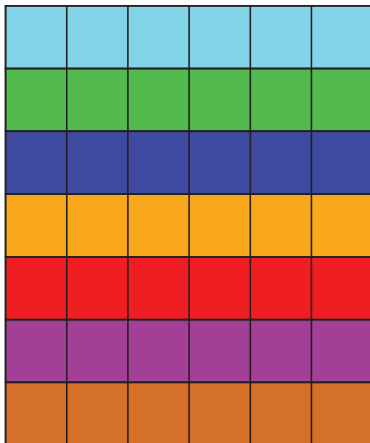
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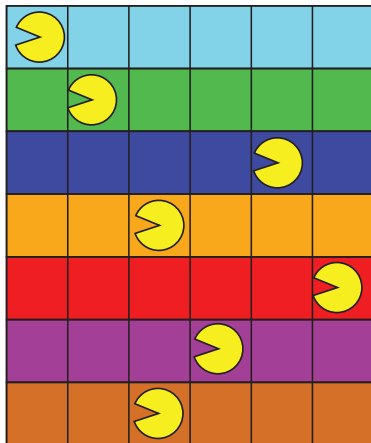
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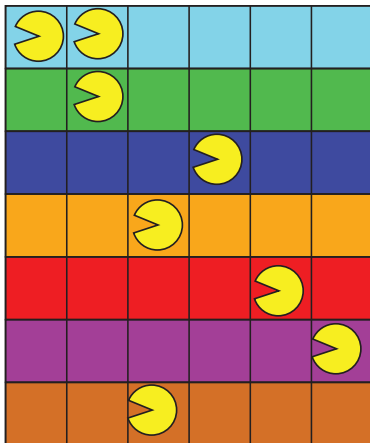
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- Important: A knapsack constraint yields an independence system (down closed) but it is not a matroid!
- $c(e)$ may be seen as the cost of item e and if $c(e) = 1$ for all e , then we recover the cardinality constraint we saw earlier.

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- Greedy can be seen as choosing the best **gain**: Starting with $S_0 = \emptyset$, we repeat the following greedy step

$$S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \left\{ \operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V \setminus S_i} \left(f(S_i \cup \{v\}) - f(S_i) \right) \right\} \quad (14.28)$$

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- Core idea in knapsack case: Greedy can be extended to choose next whatever looks **cost-normalized** best, i.e., Starting some initial set S_0 , we repeat the following cost-normalized greedy step

$$S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \left\{ \operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V \setminus S_i} \frac{f(S_i \cup \{v\}) - f(S_i)}{c(v)} \right\} \quad (14.29)$$

which we repeat until $c(S_{i+1}) > b$ and then take S_i as the solution.

A Knapsack Constraint

- There are a number of ways of getting approximation bounds using this strategy.
- If we run the normalized greedy procedure starting with $S_0 = \emptyset$, and compare the solution found with the max of the singletons $\max_{v \in V} f(\{v\})$, choosing the max, then we get a $(1 - e^{-1/2}) \approx 0.39$ approximation, in $O(n^2)$ time (Minoux trick also possible for further speed)
- Partial enumeration: On the other hand, we can get a $(1 - e^{-1}) \approx 0.63$ approximation in $O(n^5)$ time if we run the above procedure starting from all sets of cardinality three (so restart for all S_0 such that $|S_0| = 3$), and compare that with the best singleton and pairwise solution.
- Extending something similar to this to d simultaneous knapsack constraints is possible as well.

Local Search Algorithms

From J. Vondrak

- Local search involves switching up to t elements, as long as it provides a (non-trivial) improvement; can iterate in several phases. Some examples follow:
- $1/3$ approximation to unconstrained non-monotone maximization [Feige, Mirrokni, Vondrak, 2007]
- $1/(k + 2 + \frac{1}{k} + \delta_t)$ approximation for non-monotone maximization subject to k matroids [Lee, Mirrokni, Nagarajan, Sviridenko, 2009]
- $1/(k + \delta_t)$ approximation for monotone submodular maximization subject to $k \geq 2$ matroids [Lee, Sviridenko, Vondrak, 2010].

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- Thus, any approximation algorithm must be for unipolar submodular functions. E.g., non-negative but otherwise arbitrary submodular functions.
- We may get a $(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{\epsilon}{n})$ approximation for maximizing non-monotone non-negative submodular functions, with most $O(\frac{1}{\epsilon} n^3 \log n)$ function calls using approximate local maxima.

Submodularity and local optima

- Given any submodular function f , a set $S \subseteq V$ is a local maximum of f if $f(S - v) \leq f(S)$ for all $v \in S$ and $f(S + v) \leq f(S)$ for all $v \in V \setminus S$ (i.e., local in a Hamming ball of radius 1).

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- Similarly, given $v_1, v_2 \notin S$, and $f(S + v_1) \leq f(S)$ and $f(S + v_2) \leq f(S)$. Submodularity requires $f(S + v_1) + f(S + v_2) \geq f(S) + f(S + v_1 + v_2)$ which requires $f(S + v_1 + v_2) \leq f(S)$.

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- This is the approach that yields the $(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{\epsilon}{n})$ approximation algorithm.

Linear time algorithm unconstrained non-monotone max

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Algorithm 6: Randomized Linear-time non-monotone submodular max

```

1 Set  $L \leftarrow \emptyset$  ;  $U \leftarrow V$  /* Lower  $L$ , upper  $U$ . Invariant:  $L \subseteq U$  */ ;
2 Order elements of  $V = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$  arbitrarily ;
3 for  $i \leftarrow 0 \dots |V|$  do
4    $a \leftarrow [f(v_i|L)]_+$ ;  $b \leftarrow [-f(U|U \setminus \{v_i\})]_+$  ;
5   if  $a = b = 0$  then  $p \leftarrow 1/2$  ;
6   ;
7   else  $p \leftarrow a/(a + b)$ ;
8   ;
9   if Flip of coin with  $\Pr(\text{heads}) = p$  draws heads then
10     $L \leftarrow L \cup \{v_i\}$  ;
11  Otherwise /* if the coin drew tails, an event with prob.  $1 - p$  */
12     $U \leftarrow U \setminus \{v\}$ 

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- It may be possible to choose the random order smartly to get better results in practice.

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- Often the computational costs of the algorithms are prohibitive (e.g., exponential in k) with large constants, so these algorithms might not scale.
- On the other hand, these algorithms offer deep and interesting intuition into submodular functions, beyond what we have covered here.

Some results on submodular maximization

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- More general constraints are possible too, as we see on the next table (for references, see Jan Vondrak's publications <http://theory.stanford.edu/~jvondrak/>).

Submodular Max Summary - 2012: From J. Vondrak

Monotone Maximization

Constraint	Approximation	Hardness	Technique
$ S \leq k$	$1 - 1/e$	$1 - 1/e$	greedy
matroid	$1 - 1/e$	$1 - 1/e$	multilinear ext.
$O(1)$ knapsacks	$1 - 1/e$	$1 - 1/e$	multilinear ext.
k matroids	$k + \epsilon$	$k / \log k$	local search
k matroids and $O(1)$ knapsacks	$O(k)$	$k / \log k$	multilinear ext.

Nonmonotone Maximization

Constraint	Approximation	Hardness	Technique
Unconstrained	$1/2$	$1/2$	combinatorial
matroid	$1/e$	0.48	multilinear ext.
$O(1)$ knapsacks	$1/e$	0.49	multilinear ext.
k matroids	$k + O(1)$	$k / \log k$	local search
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- A paper by Chekuri, Vondrak, and Zenklusen (2011) make some progress on this front using multilinear extensions.

Multilinear extension

Definition 14.5.3

For a set function $f : 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, define its **multilinear extension** $F : [0, 1]^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$F(x) = \sum_{S \subseteq V} f(S) \prod_{i \in S} x_i \prod_{j \in V \setminus S} (1 - x_j) \quad (14.30)$$

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- Another connection between submodularity and convexity/concavity

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Lemma 14.5.5

Let $F : [0, 1]^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be multilinear extension of set function $f : 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, then

- If f is monotone non-decreasing, then F is non-decreasing along any line of direction $d \in \mathbb{R}^E$ with $d \geq 0$
- If f is submodular, then F is concave along any line of direction $d \geq 0$, and is convex along any line of direction $\mathbf{1}_v - \mathbf{1}_w$ for any $v, w \in V$.
- Another connection between submodularity and convexity/concavity
- but note, unlike the Lovász extension, this function is neither.

Submodular Max and polyhedral approaches

- Basic idea: Given a set of constraints \mathcal{I} , we form a polytope $P_{\mathcal{I}}$ such that $\{\mathbf{1}_I : I \in \mathcal{I}\} \subseteq P_{\mathcal{I}}$
- We find $\max_{x \in P_{\mathcal{I}}} F(x)$ where $F(x)$ is the multi-linear extension of f , to find a fractional solution x^*
- We then round x^* to a point on the hypercube, thus giving us a solution to the discrete problem.

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- Also, Vondrak showed that this scheme achieves the $\frac{1}{c}(1 - e^{-c})$ curvature based bound for any matroid, which matches the bound we had earlier for uniform matroids with standard greedy.
- In practice, one needs to do Monte-Carlo methods to estimate the multilinear extension (so further approximations would apply).