

Submodular Functions, Optimization, and Applications to Machine Learning

— Spring Quarter, Lecture 15 —

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

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

$$= f(A) + 2f(C) + f(B) = f(A) + f(C) + f(B) = f(A \cup B)$$



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 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

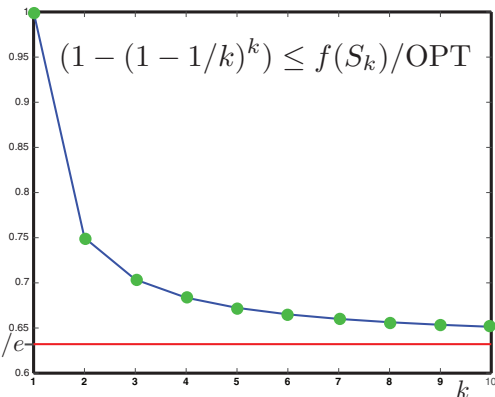
- L1(3/28): Motivation, Applications, & Basic Definitions
- L2(3/30): Machine Learning Apps (diversity, complexity, parameter, learning target, surrogate).
- L3(4/4): Info theory exs, more apps, definitions, graph/combinatorial examples, matrix rank example, visualization
- L4(4/6): Graph and Combinatorial 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): Submodular Max w. Other Constraints, Most Violated \leq , Matroids cont., Closure/Sat,
- L16(5/18): Closure/Sat, Fund. Circuit/Dep, Min-Norm Point and SFM, Min-Norm Point Algorithm, Proof that min-norm gives optimal.
- L17(5/23):
- L18(5/25):
- L19(6/1):
- L20(6/6): Final Presentations maximization.

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

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:

$$\exists v \in V \setminus S_i : f(v|S_i) = f(S_i + v|S_i) \geq \frac{1}{k}(\text{OPT} - f(S_i)) \quad (15.1)$$



Equation (??) will show that Equation (??) \Rightarrow :

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

Priority Queue

- Use a priority queue Q as a data structure: operations include:
 - Insert an item (v, α) into queue, with $v \in V$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$\text{INSERT}(Q, (v, \alpha)) \quad (15.14)$$

- Pop the item (v, α) with maximum value α off the queue.

$$(v, \alpha) \leftarrow \text{POP}(Q) \quad (15.15)$$

- Query the value of the max item in the queue

$$\text{MAX}(Q) \in \mathbb{R} \quad (15.16)$$

- On next slide, we call a popped item “fresh” if the value (v, α) popped has the correct value $\alpha = f(v|S_i)$. Use extra “bit” to store this info
- 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 3: 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    $\sqsubset$  INSERT( $Q, f(v)$ )
4 repeat
5    $(v, \alpha) \leftarrow \text{POP}(Q)$  ;
6   if  $\alpha$  not “fresh” then
7      $\sqsubset$  recompute  $\alpha \leftarrow f(v|S_i)$ 
8   if (popped  $\alpha$  in line 5 was “fresh”) OR ( $\alpha \geq \text{MAX}(Q)$ ) then
9      $\sqsubset$  Set  $S_{i+1} \leftarrow S_i \cup \{v\}$  ;
10     $i \leftarrow i + 1$  ;
11   else
12      $\sqsubset$  INSERT( $Q, (v, \alpha)$ )
13 until  $i = |E|$ ;
```

(Minimum) Submodular Set Cover

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

$$S^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_{S \subseteq V} |S| \text{ such that } f(S) \geq \alpha \quad (15.14)$$

where α is a “cover” requirement.

- Normally take $\alpha = f(V)$ but defining $f'(A) = \min \{f(A), \alpha\}$ we can take any α . Hence, we have equivalent formulation:

$$S^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_{S \subseteq V} |S| \text{ such that } f'(S) \geq f'(V) \quad (15.15)$$

- Note that this immediately generalizes standard set cover, in which case $f(A)$ is the cardinality of the union of sets indexed by A .
- Greedy Algorithm: Pick the first chain item S_i chosen by aforementioned greedy algorithm such that $f(S_i) \geq \alpha$ and output that as solution.

(Minimum) Submodular Set Cover: Approximation Analysis

- For integer valued f , this greedy algorithm an $O(\log(\max_{s \in V} f(\{s\})))$ approximation. Let S^* be optimal, and S^G be greedy solution, then

$$|S^G| \leq |S^*| H(\max_{s \in V} f(\{s\})) = |S^*| O(\log_e(\max_{s \in V} f(\{s\}))) \quad (15.14)$$

where H is the harmonic function, i.e., $H(d) = \sum_{i=1}^d (1/i)$.

- If f is not integral value, then bounds we get are of the form:

$$|S^G| \leq |S^*| \left(1 + \log_e \frac{f(V)}{f(V) - f(S_{T-1})} \right) \quad (15.15)$$

where S_T is the final greedy solution that occurs at step T .

- Set cover is hard to approximate with a factor better than $(1 - \epsilon) \log \alpha$, where α is the desired cover constraint.

Curvature of a Submodular function

- By submodularity, total curvature can be computed in either form:

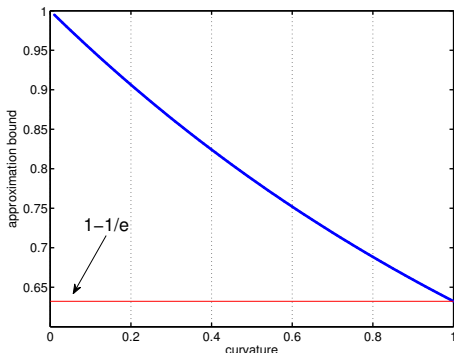
$$c \triangleq 1 - \min_{S, j \notin S: f(j|\emptyset) \neq 0} \frac{f(j|S)}{f(j|\emptyset)} = 1 - \min_{j: f(j|\emptyset) \neq 0} \frac{f(j|V \setminus \{j\})}{f(j|\emptyset)} \quad (15.17)$$

- Note: Matroid rank is either modular $c = 0$ or maximally curved $c = 1$ — hence, matroid rank can have only the extreme points of curvature, namely 0 or 1.
- Polymatroid functions are, in this sense, more nuanced, in that they allow non-extreme curvature, with $c \in [0, 1]$.
- It will be remembered the notion of “partial dependence” within polymatroid functions.

Curvature and approximation

- Curvature limitation can help the greedy algorithm in terms of approximation bounds.
- Conforti & Cornuéjols showed that greedy gives a $1/(1+c)$ approximation to $\max \{f(S) : S \in \mathcal{I}\}$ when f has total curvature c .
- Hence, greedy subject to matroid constraint is a $\max(1/(1+c), 1/2)$ approximation algorithm, and if $c < 1$ then it is better than $1/2$ (e.g., with $c = 1/4$ then we have a 0.8 algorithm).

- For k -uniform matroid (i.e., k -cardinality constraints), then approximation factor becomes $\frac{1}{c}(1 - e^{-c})$



Greedy over multiple matroids

- Obvious heuristic is to use the greedy step but always stay feasible.
- I.e., Starting with $S_0 = \emptyset$, we repeat the following greedy step

$$S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \left\{ \underset{v \in V \setminus S_i : S_i + v \in \bigcap_{i=1}^p \mathcal{I}_i}{\operatorname{argmax}} f(S_i \cup \{v\}) \right\} \quad (15.17)$$

- That is, we keep choosing next whatever feasible element looks best.
- This algorithm is simple and also has a guarantee

Theorem 15.2.2

Given a polymatroid function f , and set of matroids $\{M_j = (E, \mathcal{I}_j)\}_{j=1}^p$, the above greedy algorithm returns sets S_i such that for each i we have $f(S_i) \geq \frac{1}{p+1} \max_{|S| \leq i, S \in \bigcap_{i=1}^p \mathcal{I}_i} f(S)$, assuming such sets exists.

- For one matroid, we have a $1/2$ approximation.
- Very easy algorithm, Minoux trick still possible, while addresses multiple matroid constraints — but the bound is not that good when there are many matroids.

Greedy over multiple matroids: Generalized Bipartite Matching

- Generalized bipartite matching (i.e., max bipartite matching with submodular costs on the edges). Use two partition matroids (as mentioned earlier in class)

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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.

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

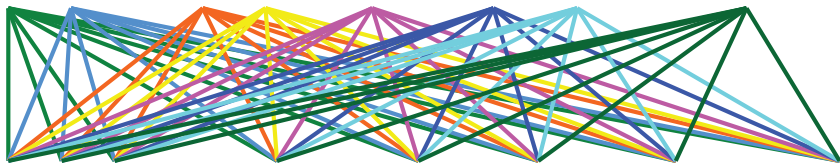
A complex network graph with many nodes and edges, colored in shades of green and blue. The nodes are arranged in a somewhat horizontal line, with many edges connecting them in a dense, overlapping manner. The edges are colored in various shades of green and blue, creating a vibrant, multi-colored web of connections. The overall structure is highly interconnected, with many nodes having multiple incoming and outgoing edges. The graph is set against a white background, making the colored lines stand out clearly.

je le ai ... comme exemple de propriété publique

Greedy over > 1 matroids: Multiple Language Alignment

- Edges incident to English words constitute an edge partition

I have ... as an example of public ownership



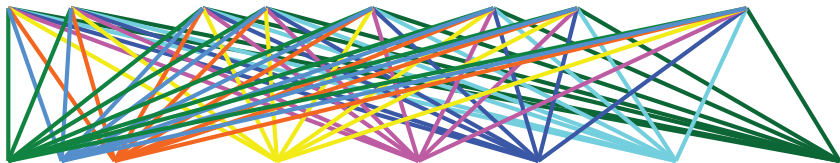
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- The two edge partitions can be used to set up two 1-partition matroids on the edges.
- For each matroid, a set of edges is independent only if the set intersects each partition block no more than one time.

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Fertility at most 1

. . . the ... of public ownership

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Fertility at most 2

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Greedy over > 1 matroids: Multiple Language Alignment

- Generalizing further, each block of edges in each partition matroid can have its own “fertility” limit:

$$\mathcal{I} = \{X \subseteq V : |X \cap V_i| \leq k_i \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, \ell\}.$$

- 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 ...

Submodular Welfare: Submodular Max over matroid partition

- Create new ground set E' as disjoint union of n copies of the ground set. I.e.,

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- Create a 1-partition matroid $\mathcal{M} = (E', \mathcal{I})$ where

$$\mathcal{I} = \{S \subseteq E' : \forall e \in E, |S \cap E_e| \leq 1\} \quad (15.3)$$

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- Create submodular function $f' : 2^{E'} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ with $f'(S) = \sum_{i=1}^n g_i(S \cap E^{(i)})$.
- 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





- Have $n = 6$ people (who don't like to share) and $|E| = m = 7$ pieces of sushi. E.g., $e \in E$ might be $e = \text{"salmon roll"}$.

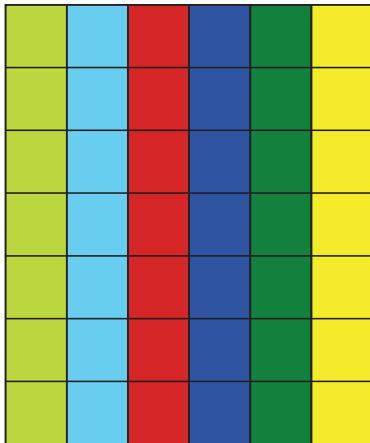
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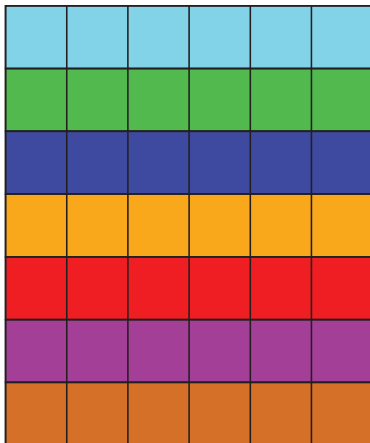
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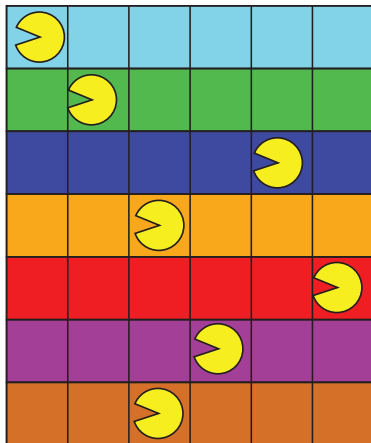
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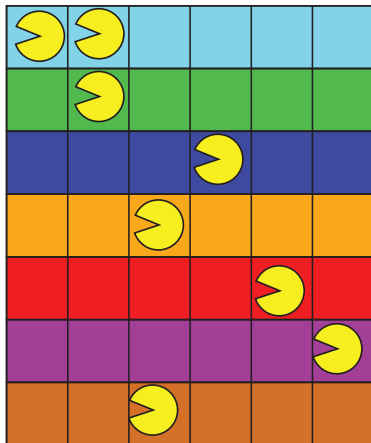
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- Partition matroid partitions:
 $E_{e_1} \cup E_{e_2} \cup E_{e_3} \cup E_{e_4} \cup E_{e_5} \cup E_{e_6} \cup E_{e_7}$.

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- independent allocation
- non-independent allocation

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- Consider a non-negative integral modular function $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$.
- A knapsack constraint would be of the form $c(A) \leq b$ where B is some integer budget that must not be exceeded. That is $\max \{f(A) : A \subseteq V, c(A) \leq b\}$.

Monotone Submodular over Knapsack Constraint

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- A knapsack constraint would be of the form $c(A) \leq b$ where B is some integer budget that must not be exceeded. That is $\max \{f(A) : A \subseteq V, c(A) \leq b\}$.
- Important: A knapsack constraint yields an independence system (down closed) but it is not a matroid!

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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

$$S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \left\{ \operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V \setminus S_i} \left(f(S_i \cup \{v\}) - f(S_i) \right) \right\} \quad (15.4)$$

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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

$$S_{i+1} = S_i \cup \left\{ \operatorname{argmax}_{v \in V \setminus S_i} \frac{f(S_i \cup \{v\}) - f(S_i)}{c(v)} \right\} \quad (15.5)$$

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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- Finding a local maximum is already hard (PLS-complete), but it is possible to find an approximate local maximum relatively efficiently.
- This is the approach that yields the $(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{\epsilon}{n})$ approximation algorithm.

Linear time algorithm unconstrained non-monotone max

- Tight randomized tight $1/2$ approximation algorithm for unconstrained non-monotone non-negative submodular maximization.

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Algorithm 7: 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     $U \leftarrow U \setminus \{v\}$ 
13 return  $L$  (which is the same as  $U$  at this point)

```

100

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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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- Most of the approaches for submodular max have not used such an approach, probably due to the difficulty in computing the “concave extension” of a submodular function (the convex extension is easy, namely the Lovász extension).
- A paper by Chekuri, Vondrak, and Zenklusen (2011) make some progress on this front using multilinear extensions.

Multilinear extension

Definition 15.3.2

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

$$F(x) = \sum_{S \subseteq V} f(S) \prod_{i \in S} x_i \prod_{j \in V \setminus S} (1 - x_j) \quad (15.6)$$

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- 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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- 3) An optimal $(1 - 1/e)$ instance of their rounding scheme that can be used for a variety of interesting independence systems, including $O(1)$ knapsacks, k matroids and $O(1)$ knapsacks, a k -matchoid and ℓ sparse packing integer programs, and unsplittable flow in paths and trees.

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

Review from lecture 11

The next slide comes from lecture 11.

A polymatroid function's polyhedron is a polymatroid.

Theorem 15.4.1

Let f be a polymatroid function defined on subsets of E . For any $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^E$, and any P_f^+ -basis $y^x \in \mathbb{R}_+^E$ of x , the component sum of y^x is

$$\begin{aligned} y^x(E) = \text{rank}(x) &= \max \left(y(E) : y \leq x, y \in P_f^+ \right) \\ &= \min (x(A) + f(E \setminus A) : A \subseteq E) \end{aligned} \quad (15.10)$$

As a consequence, P_f^+ is a polymatroid, since r.h.s. is constant w.r.t. y^x .

Taking $E \setminus B = \text{supp}(x)$ (so elements B are all zeros in x), and for $b \notin B$ we make $x(b)$ is big enough, the r.h.s. min has solution $A^* = B$. We recover submodular function from the polymatroid polyhedron via the following:

$$\text{rank} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon} \mathbf{1}_{E \setminus B} \right) = f(B) = \max \left\{ y(B) : y \in P_f^+ \right\} \quad (15.11)$$

In fact, we will ultimately see a number of important consequences of this theorem (other than just that P_f^+ is a polymatroid)

Review from lecture 12

The next slide comes from lecture 12.

Matroid instance of Theorem ??

- Considering Theorem ??, the matroid case is now a special case, where we have that:

Corollary 15.4.2

We have that:

$$\max \{y(E) : y \in P_{\text{ind. set}}(M), y \leq x\} = \min \{r_M(A) + x(E \setminus A) : A \subseteq E\} \quad (15.30)$$

where r_M is the matroid rank function of some matroid.

Most violated inequality problem in matroid polytope case

- Consider

$$P_r^+ = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^E : x \geq 0, x(A) \leq r_M(A), \forall A \subseteq E\} \quad (15.7)$$

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- Hence, there must be a set of $\mathcal{W} \subseteq 2^V$, each member of which corresponds to a **violated inequality**, i.e., equations of the form $x(A) > r_M(A)$ for $A \in \mathcal{W}$.

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- The **most violated inequality** when x is considered w.r.t. P_r^+ corresponds to the set A that maximizes $x(A) - r_M(A)$, i.e., the most violated inequality is valued as:

$$\max \{x(A) - r_M(A) : A \in \mathcal{W}\} = \max \{x(A) - r_M(A) : A \subseteq E\} \quad (15.8)$$

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- Since x is modular and $x(E \setminus A) = x(E) - x(A)$, we can express this via a min as in;

$$\min \{r_M(A) + x(E \setminus A) : A \subseteq E\} \quad (15.9)$$

Most violated inequality/polymatroid membership/SFM

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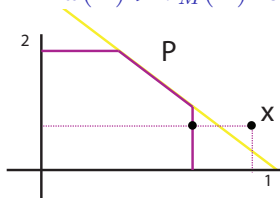
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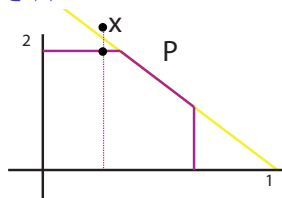
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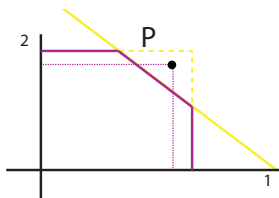
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$$\mathcal{W} = \{\{1\}, \{1, 2\}\}$$



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- We will ultimately answer how general this form of SFM is.

Review from Lecture 6

The following three slides are review from lecture 6.

Matroids, other definitions using matroid rank $r : 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$

Definition 15.5.3 (closed/flat/subspace)

A subset $A \subseteq E$ is **closed** (equivalently, a **flat** or a **subspace**) of matroid M if for all $x \in E \setminus A$, $r(A \cup \{x\}) = r(A) + 1$.

Definition: A **hyperplane** is a flat of rank $r(M) - 1$.

Definition 15.5.4 (closure)

Given $A \subseteq E$, the **closure** (or **span**) of A , is defined by $\text{span}(A) = \{b \in E : r(A \cup \{b\}) = r(A)\}$.

Therefore, a closed set A has $\text{span}(A) = A$.

Definition 15.5.5 (circuit)

A subset $A \subseteq E$ is **circuit** or a **cycle** if it is an inclusionwise-minimal dependent set (i.e., if $r(A) < |A|$ and for any $a \in A$, $r(A \setminus \{a\}) = |A| - 1$).

Matroids by circuits

A set is independent if and only if it contains no circuit. Therefore, it is not surprising that circuits can also characterize a matroid.

Theorem 15.5.3 (Matroid by circuits)

Let E be a set and \mathcal{C} be a collection of subsets of E that satisfy the following three properties:

- ① (C1): $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{C}$
- ② (C2): if $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}$ and $C_1 \subseteq C_2$, then $C_1 = C_2$.
- ③ (C3): if $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}$ with $C_1 \neq C_2$, and $e \in C_1 \cap C_2$, then there exists a $C_3 \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $C_3 \subseteq (C_1 \cup C_2) \setminus \{e\}$.

Matroids by circuits

Several circuit definitions for matroids.

Theorem 15.5.3 (Matroid by circuits)

Let E be a set and \mathcal{C} be a collection of nonempty subsets of E , such that no two sets in \mathcal{C} are contained in each other. Then the following are equivalent.

- ① \mathcal{C} is the collection of circuits of a matroid;
- ② if $C, C' \in \mathcal{C}$, and $x \in C \cap C'$, then $(C \cup C') \setminus \{x\}$ contains a set in \mathcal{C} ;
- ③ if $C, C' \in \mathcal{C}$, and $x \in C \cap C'$, and $y \in C \setminus C'$, then $(C \cup C') \setminus \{x\}$ contains a set in \mathcal{C} containing y ;

Again, think about this for a moment in terms of linear spaces and matrices, and spanning trees.

Fundamental circuits in matroids

Lemma 15.5.1

Let $I \in \mathcal{I}(M)$, and $e \in E$, then $I \cup \{e\}$ contains at most one circuit in M .

Proof.



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In general, let $C(I, e)$ be the unique circuit associated with $I \cup \{e\}$ (commonly called the **fundamental circuit** in M w.r.t. I and e).

Matroids: The Fundamental Circuit

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- In such cases, we define $C(I, e) = \{e\}$, and we will soon see why.
- If $e \notin \text{span}(I)$, then $C(I, e) = \emptyset$, since no circuit is created in this case.

Union of matroid bases of a set

Lemma 15.5.2

Let $\mathcal{B}(D)$ be the set of bases of any set D . Then, given matroid $\mathcal{M} = (E, \mathcal{I})$, and any loop-free (i.e., no dependent singleton elements) set $D \subseteq E$, we have:

$$\bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{B}(D)} B = D. \quad (15.13)$$

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- Then choose $d' \in C(B, d)$ with $d' \neq d$.
- Then $B + d - d'$ is independent size $|B|$ subset of D and hence spans D , and thus is a d -containing member of $\mathcal{B}(D)$, contradicting $d \notin D'$.

The sat function = Polymatroid Closure

- Thus, in a matroid, closure (span) of a set A are all items that A spans (eq. that depend on A).

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- Recall, for a given $x \in P_f$, we have defined this tight family as

$$\mathcal{D}(x) = \{A : A \subseteq E, x(A) = f(A)\} \quad (15.14)$$

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- Now given $x \in P_f^+$:

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- The zero-valued minimizers of f' are thus closed under union and intersection.

The sat function = Polymatroid Closure

- Now given $x \in P_f^+$:

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- The zero-valued minimizers of f' are thus closed under union and intersection.
- In fact, this is true for all minimizers of a submodular function as stated in the next theorem.

Minimizers of a Submodular Function form a lattice

Theorem 15.6.1

For arbitrary submodular f , the minimizers are closed under union and intersection. That is, let $\mathcal{M} = \operatorname{argmin}_{X \subseteq E} f(X)$ be the set of minimizers of f . Let $A, B \in \mathcal{M}$. Then $A \cup B \in \mathcal{M}$ and $A \cap B \in \mathcal{M}$.

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Since A and B are minimizers, we have $f(A) = f(B) \leq f(A \cap B)$ and $f(A) = f(B) \leq f(A \cup B)$.



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By submodularity, we have

$$f(A) + f(B) \geq f(A \cup B) + f(A \cap B) \quad (15.17)$$



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Thus, the minimizers of a submodular function form a lattice, and there is a maximal and a minimal minimizer of every submodular function.

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$$\text{cl}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sat}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup \{A : A \in \mathcal{D}(x)\} \quad (15.18)$$

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- Eq. (15.20) says that sat consists of any point x that is P_f saturated (any additional positive movement, in that dimension, leaves P_f). We'll revisit this in a few slides.
- First, we see how sat generalizes matroid closure.

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- Consider matroid $(E, \mathcal{I}) = (E, r)$, some $I \in \mathcal{I}$. Then $\mathbf{1}_I \in P_r$ and

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- We formalize this next.

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Lemma 15.7.1 (Matroid sat : $\mathbb{R}_+^E \rightarrow 2^E$ is the same as closure.)

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- Hence $\text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_I) = \text{span}(I)$



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- Then we have $\mathbf{1}_B \leq \mathbf{1}_C \leq \mathbf{1}_{\text{span}(C)}$, and that $\mathbf{1}_B \in P_r$. We can then make the definition:

$$\text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_C) \triangleq \text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_B) \text{ for } B \in \mathcal{B}(C) \quad (15.26)$$

In which case, we also get $\text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_C) = \text{span}(C)$ (in general, could define $\text{sat}(y) = \text{sat}(\text{P-basis}(y))$).

The sat function = Polymatroid Closure

- Now, consider a matroid (E, r) and some $C \subseteq E$ with $C \notin \mathcal{I}$, and consider $\mathbf{1}_C$. Is $\mathbf{1}_C \in P_r$? No, it might not be a vertex, or even a member, of P_r .
- $\text{span}(\cdot)$ operates on more than just independent sets, so $\text{span}(C)$ is perfectly sensible.
- Note $\text{span}(C) = \text{span}(B)$ where $\mathcal{I} \ni B \in \mathcal{B}(C)$ is a base of C .
- Then we have $\mathbf{1}_B \leq \mathbf{1}_C \leq \mathbf{1}_{\text{span}(C)}$, and that $\mathbf{1}_B \in P_r$. We can then make the definition:

$$\text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_C) \triangleq \text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_B) \text{ for } B \in \mathcal{B}(C) \quad (15.26)$$

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Exercise: is $\text{span}(C) = \text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_C)$? Prove or disprove it.

The sat function, span , and submodular function minimization

- Thus, for a matroid, $\text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_I)$ is exactly the closure (or span) of I in the matroid. I.e., for matroid (E, r) , we have $\text{span}(I) = \text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_B)$.

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- Recall, for $x \in P_f$ and polymatroidal f , $\text{sat}(x)$ is the maximal (by inclusion) minimizer of $f(A) - x(A)$, and thus in a matroid, $\text{span}(I)$ is the maximal minimizer of the submodular function formed by $r(A) - \mathbf{1}_I(A)$.

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- Submodular function minimization can solve “span” queries in a matroid or “sat” queries in a polymatroid.

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- We next show more formally that these are the same.

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- So now, if A is any set such that $x(A) = f(A)$, then we clearly have

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- On the other hand, for any $e \in \text{sat}(x)$ defined as in Eq. (15.35), since e is itself a member of a tight set, there is a set $A \ni e$ such that $x(A) = f(A)$, giving

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- Therefore, the two definitions of sat are identical.

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Saturation Capacity

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- Note that any α with $0 \leq \alpha \leq \hat{c}(x; e)$ we have $x + \alpha \mathbf{1}_e \in P_f$.
- We also see that computing $\hat{c}(x; e)$ is a form of submodular function minimization.

Dependence Function

- Tight sets can be restricted to contain a particular element.
- Given $x \in P_f$, and $e \in \text{sat}(x)$, define

$$\mathcal{D}(x, e) = \{A : e \in A \subseteq E, x(A) = f(A)\} \quad (15.46)$$

$$= \mathcal{D}(x) \cap \{A : A \subseteq E, e \in A\} \quad (15.47)$$

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- Thus, $\mathcal{D}(x, e) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(x)$, and $\mathcal{D}(x, e)$ is a sublattice of $\mathcal{D}(x)$.

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$$= \mathcal{D}(x) \cap \{A : A \subseteq E, e \in A\} \quad (15.47)$$

- Thus, $\mathcal{D}(x, e) \subseteq \mathcal{D}(x)$, and $\mathcal{D}(x, e)$ is a sublattice of $\mathcal{D}(x)$.
- Therefore, we can define a unique minimal element of $\mathcal{D}(x, e)$ denoted as follows:

$$\text{dep}(x, e) = \begin{cases} \bigcap \{A : e \in A \subseteq E, x(A) = f(A)\} & \text{if } e \in \text{sat}(x) \\ \emptyset & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (15.48)$$

Dependence Function

- Tight sets can be restricted to contain a particular element.
- Given $x \in P_f$, and $e \in \text{sat}(x)$, define

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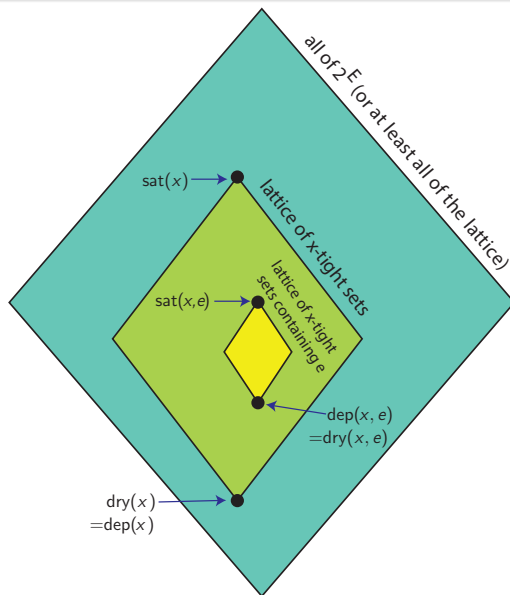
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- I.e., $\text{dep}(x, e)$ is the minimal element in $\mathcal{D}(x)$ that contains e (**the minimal x -tight set containing e**).

dep and sat in a lattice

- Given some $x \in P_f$,
- The picture on the right summarizes the relationships between the lattices and sublattices.
- Note,

$$\bigcap_e \text{dep}(x, e) = \text{dep}(x).$$



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- Note that dry need not be the empty set. **Exercise: give example.**

An alternate expression for $\text{dep} = \text{dry}$

- Now, given $x \in P_f$, and $e \in \text{sat}(x)$, recall distributive sub-lattice of e -containing tight sets $\mathcal{D}(x, e) = \{A : e \in A, x(A) = f(A)\}$

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- But actually, $\text{dry}(x, e) = \text{dep}(x, e)$, so we have derived another expression for $\text{dep}(x, e)$ in Eq. (15.50).

Dependence Function and Fundamental Matroid Circuit

- Now, let $(E, \mathcal{I}) = (E, r)$ be a matroid, and let $I \in \mathcal{I}$ giving $\mathbf{1}_I \in P_r$.
We have $\text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_I) = \text{span}(I) = \text{closure}(I)$.
- Given $e \in \text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_I) \setminus I$ and then consider an $A \ni e$ with $|I \cap A| = r(A)$.

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- By SFM lattice, \exists a unique minimal $A \ni e$ with $|I \cap A| = r(A)$.
- Thus, $\text{dep}(\mathbf{1}_I, e)$ must be a circuit since if it included more than a circuit, it would not be minimal in this sense.

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- Therefore, when $e \in \text{sat}(\mathbf{1}_I) \setminus I$, then $\text{dep}(\mathbf{1}_I, e) = C(I, e)$ where $C(I, e)$ is the unique circuit contained in $I + e$ in a matroid (the **fundamental circuit** of e and I that we encountered before).

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- We are thus free to take subsets of I as A , all of which must contain e , but all of which have rank equal to size.
- Also note: in general for $x \in P_f$ and $e \in \text{sat}(x)$, we have $\text{dep}(x, e)$ is tight by definition.

Summary of sat, and dep

- For $x \in P_f$, $\text{sat}(x)$ (span, closure) is the maximal saturated (x -tight) set w.r.t. x . I.e., $\text{sat}(x) = \{e : e \in E, \forall \alpha > 0, x + \alpha \mathbf{1}_e \notin P_f\}$. That is,

$$\text{cl}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sat}(x) \triangleq \bigcup \{A : A \in \mathcal{D}(x)\} \quad (15.54)$$

$$= \bigcup \{A : A \subseteq E, x(A) = f(A)\} \quad (15.55)$$

$$= \{e : e \in E, \forall \alpha > 0, x + \alpha \mathbf{1}_e \notin P_f\} \quad (15.56)$$

- For $e \in \text{sat}(x)$, we have $\text{dep}(x, e) \subseteq \text{sat}(x)$ (fundamental circuit) is the minimal (common) saturated (x -tight) set w.r.t. x containing e . I.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dep}(x, e) &= \begin{cases} \bigcap \{A : e \in A \subseteq E, x(A) = f(A)\} & \text{if } e \in \text{sat}(x) \\ \emptyset & \text{else} \end{cases} \\ &= \{e' : \exists \alpha > 0, \text{ s.t. } x + \alpha(\mathbf{1}_e - \mathbf{1}_{e'}) \in P_f\} \end{aligned} \quad (15.57)$$

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- But, analogous to the circuit case, is there an exchange property for $\text{dep}(x, e)$ in the form of vector movement restriction?

Dependence Function and exchange

- For $e \in \text{span}(I) \setminus I$, we have that $I + e \notin \mathcal{I}$. This is a set addition restriction property.
- Analogously, for $e \in \text{sat}(x)$, any $x + \alpha \mathbf{1}_e \notin P_f$ for $\alpha > 0$. This is a vector increase restriction property.
- Recall, we have $C(I, e) \setminus e' \in \mathcal{I}$ for $e' \in C(I, e)$. I.e., $C(I, e)$ consists of elements that when removed recover independence.
- In other words, for $e \in \text{span}(I) \setminus I$, we have that

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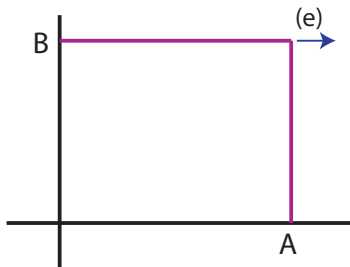
- I.e., an addition of e to I stays within \mathcal{I} only if we simultaneously remove one of the elements of $C(I, e)$.
- But, analogous to the circuit case, is there an exchange property for $\text{dep}(x, e)$ in the form of vector movement restriction?
- We might expect the vector $\text{dep}(x, e)$ property to take the form: a positive move in the e -direction stays within P_f^+ only if we simultaneously take a negative move in one of the $\text{dep}(x, e)$ directions.

Dependence Function and exchange in 2D

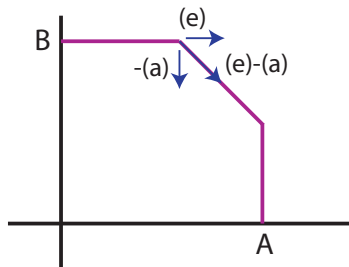
- $\text{dep}(x, e)$ is set of neg. directions we must move if we want to move in pos. e direction, starting at x and staying within P_f .

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- Viewable in 2D, we have for $A, B \subseteq E$, $A \cap B = \emptyset$:



Left: $A \cap \text{dep}(x, e) = \emptyset$, and we can't move further in (e) direction, and moving in any negative $a \in A$ direction doesn't change that. Notice no dependence between (e) and any element in A .



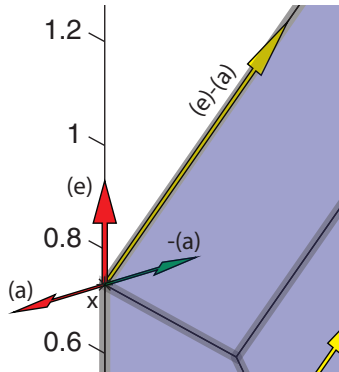
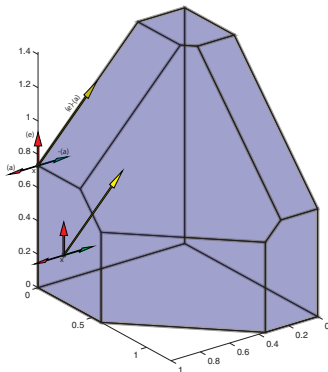
Right: $A \subseteq \text{dep}(x, e)$, and we can't move further in the (e) direction, but we can move further in (e) direction by moving in some $a \in A$ negative direction. Notice dependence between (e) and elements in A .

Dependence Function and exchange in 3D

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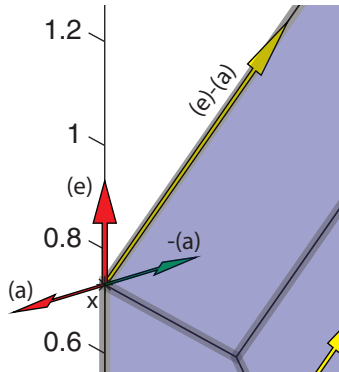
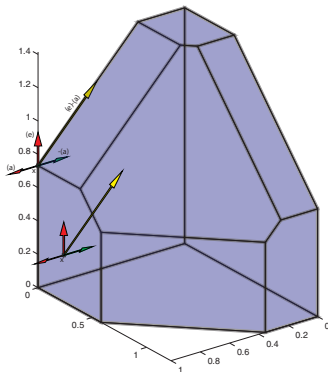
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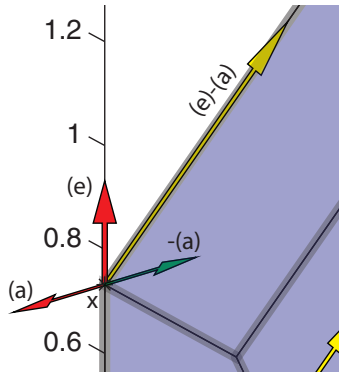
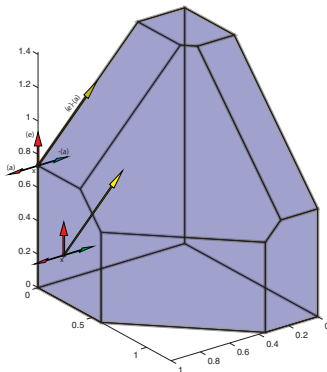
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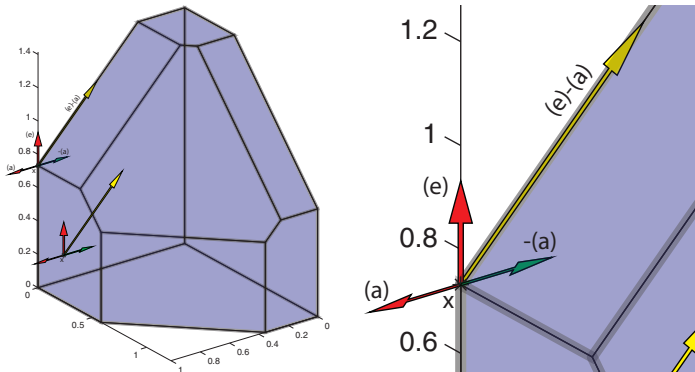


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$$\text{dep}(x, e) = \{a : a \in E, \exists \alpha > 0 : x + \alpha(\mathbf{1}_e - \mathbf{1}_a) \in P_f\} \quad (15.59)$$

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- We next show this formally ...

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- The derivation for $\text{dep}(x, e)$ involves turning a strict inequality into a non-strict one with a strict explicit slack variable α :

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- Also, if $e' \in A$ but $e \notin A$, then

$$x(A) + \alpha(\mathbf{1}_e(A) - \mathbf{1}_{e'}(A)) = x(A) - \alpha \leq f(A) \text{ since } x \in P_f.$$

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