

# An Introduction to Semidefinite Programming for Combinatorial Optimization (Lecture 1)

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# Outline

1. Definitions
2. Optimization
3. Algorithms
4. "Classic" Applications

# Definitions

- $\mathbb{R}^p$  = real column vectors of length  $p$
- $\mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$  = real matrices of size  $p \times q$
- $S^p \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$  denotes symmetry, ensures real eigenvalues

- *Trace inner product* defined on  $\mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$ :

$$M \bullet N := \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^q M_{ij} N_{ij} = \text{trace}(M^T N)$$

- *Induced Frobenius norm*:

$$\|M\|_F := \sqrt{M \bullet M}$$

A matrix  $X \in \mathbb{S}^p$  is *positive semidefinite* iff:

- $v^T X v \geq 0$  for all  $v \in \mathbb{R}^p$
- $\lambda_{\min}[X] \geq 0$
- $X = VV^T$  for some  $V \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times r}$  (note:  $\text{rank}(X) \leq r$ )
- every principal submatrix of  $X$  has determinant  $\geq 0$

We write:

- $X \succeq 0$  or " $X$  is PSD"
- $S_+^p =$  set of  $p \times p$  PSD matrices

Important properties of  $\mathbb{S}_+^p$ :

- *Proper*, i.e., closed, convex, pointed, full-dimensional
- *Self-dual*, i.e.,  $\{S \in \mathbb{S}^p : S \bullet X \geq 0 \forall X \succeq 0\} = \mathbb{S}_+^p$
- In particular,  $X, S \succeq 0 \Rightarrow X \bullet S \geq 0$

What is the dimension of  $\mathbb{S}_+^p$  ?

- Ambient dimension is  $p^2$
- But symmetry takes away  $\binom{p}{2}$  degrees of freedom
- So dimension is  $\binom{p+1}{2}$

# When is the following matrix PSD?

$$D := \begin{pmatrix} D_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

- $D$  is a diagonal matrix
- Its eigenvalues are  $D_{11}, D_{22}, D_{33}$
- So  $D \succeq 0$  iff  $\text{diag}(D) \geq 0$

Is this matrix PSD?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & -2 & 6 \\ -2 & 1 & -3 \\ 6 & -3 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Yes, because it equals  $vv^T$  where  $v = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$

**Theorem (spectral decomposition).**  $X \succeq 0$  iff  $\exists$  orthogonal  $V \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$  and nonnegative, diagonal  $D \in \mathbb{S}^p$  s.t.  $X = VDV^T$

- Specifically,  $\text{diag}(D)$  contains the eigenvalues of  $X$ , and the columns of  $V$  are its eigenvectors

# Optimization

Given:

- Dimensions  $n$  and  $m$
- $C, A_1, \dots, A_m \in \mathbb{S}^n$
- $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$

Let  $X \in \mathbb{S}^n$  denote our variable

Primal SDP problem ( $P$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &:= \inf \quad C \bullet X \\ &\text{s.t.} \quad A_i \bullet X = b_i \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m \\ &\quad \quad X \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Specify the data for this problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{inf} & X_{12} \\ \text{s.t.} & X_{11} + X_{22} = 1 \\ & \begin{pmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} \\ X_{12} & X_{22} \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

- $n = 2$  and  $m = 1$
- $C = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
- $b_1 = 1$

Now optimize it:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inf} \quad & X_{12} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X_{11} + X_{22} = 1 \\ & \begin{pmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} \\ X_{12} & X_{22} \end{pmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inf} \quad & X_{12} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X_{11} + X_{22} = 1 \\ & X_{11} \geq 0, X_{22} \geq 0 \\ & X_{12}^2 \leq X_{11} X_{22} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inf} \quad & X_{12} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 0 \leq X_{11} \leq 1 \\ & X_{12}^2 \leq X_{11}(1 - X_{11}) \end{aligned}$$

$$p^* = -\frac{1}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad X^* = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# LP is a special case of SDP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & a_i^T x = b_i \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

↓

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \text{Diag}(c) \bullet X \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{Diag}(a_i) \bullet X = b_i \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m \\ & X \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# SOCP is a special case of SDP

$$\|x\| \leq t \iff \begin{pmatrix} t & x^T \\ x & tI \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0$$

Dual SDP problem ( $D$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &:= \sup && b^T y \\ &\text{s.t.} && C - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &:= \sup && b^T y \\ &\text{s.t.} && \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i + S = C \\ &&& S \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# What is the dual?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inf} \quad & X_{12} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X_{11} + X_{22} = 1 \\ & \begin{pmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} \\ X_{12} & X_{22} \end{pmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sup & y_1 \\ \text{s.t.} & \begin{pmatrix} -y_1 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & -y_1 \end{pmatrix} \preceq 0 \end{array}$$

$$\bullet \quad d^* = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\bullet \quad y_1^* = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad S^* = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Theorem (weak duality).** If  $(X, y, S)$  is primal-dual feasible, then  
 $C \bullet X - b^T y = X \bullet S \geq 0$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} C \bullet X - b^T y &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i + S \right) \bullet X - b^T y \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i \bullet X + S \bullet X - b^T y \\ &= S \bullet X \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary.** If  $(X, y, S)$  is primal-dual feasible and  $C \bullet X = b^T y$ , then  $(X, y, S)$  is primal-dual optimal. Moreover,  $X \bullet S = 0 \Leftrightarrow XS = 0$

**Corollary.**  $p^* \geq d^*$

In our previous example:

$$X^* = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad S^* = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$X^* S^* = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Strong Duality?** Does  $p^* = d^*$ ?

# Strong duality counterexample:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \inf X_{33} \\ \text{s.t. } X_{11} &= 0 \\ X_{12} + X_{21} + 2X_{33} &= 2 \\ X &\succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \sup 2y_2 \\ \text{s.t. } &\begin{pmatrix} -y_1 & -y_2 & 0 \\ -y_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 - 2y_2 \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

A matrix  $X \in \mathbb{S}^p$  is *positive definite* iff:

- $v^T X v > 0$  for all  $v \in \mathbb{R}^p \setminus \{0\}$
- $\lambda_{\min}[X] > 0$
- $X = VV^T$  for some invertible  $V \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$
- every principal submatrix of  $X$  has determinant  $> 0$

We write:

- $X \succ 0$  or " $X$  is PD"
- $S_{++}^p = \text{set of } p \times p \text{ PD matrices}$

In fact,  $S_{++}^p = \text{interior}(S_+^p)$

**Theorem (strong duality).** Suppose  $(P)$  and  $(D)$  are both feasible.

- If  $\exists$  primal feasible  $X$  with  $X \succ 0$ , then  $p^* = d^*$  and  $d^*$  is attained
- If  $\exists$  dual feasible  $(y, S)$  with  $S \succ 0$ , then  $p^* = d^*$  and  $p^*$  is attained
- If both regularity conditions hold, then  $\exists$  primal-dual optimal solution  $(X^*, y^*, S^*)$  such that  $p^* = C \bullet X^* = b^T y^* = d^*$  and  $X^* S^* = 0$

**Remark.** Algorithmic papers and results often assume both  $(P)$  and  $(D)$  have interior. But...in any given application, make sure to double check!

# Algorithms

**Observation.** Relying on rational or floating-point arithmetic, we cannot expect to optimize SDPs exactly

# Irrational, despite rational data:

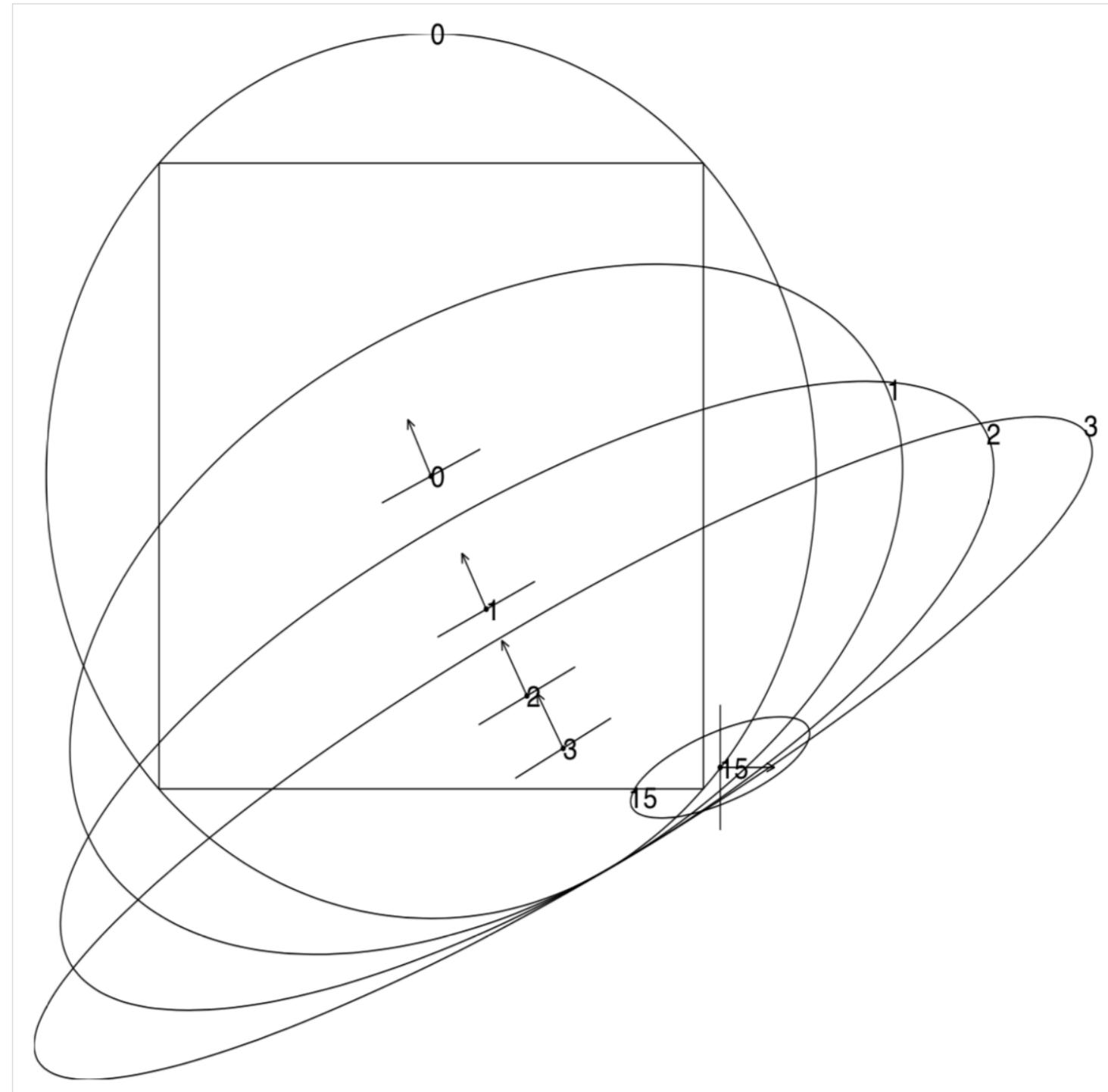
$$\begin{aligned} -\sqrt{5} &= \min \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{array} \right) \bullet X \\ \text{s.t.} & \text{trace}(X) = 1 \\ & X \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, for a user-specified  $\epsilon > 0$ , a reasonable goal is to find an  $\epsilon$ -optimal (dual) solution  $y^\epsilon$ , i.e., one satisfying:

$$\bullet \quad C - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\epsilon A_i + \epsilon I \succeq 0$$

$$\bullet \quad b^T y^\epsilon \geq d^* - \epsilon$$

# Ellipsoid Method



The setup:

- $\epsilon > 0$
- $v =$  vector encoding  $(n, m, C, A_1, \dots, A_m)$
- $\sigma =$  length of  $v$
- $\Sigma := \sigma + \|v\|_1$

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &:= \max && b^T y \\ &\text{s.t.} && C - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i \succeq 0 \\ &&& \|y\|_2 \leq \Sigma^\sigma \end{aligned}$$

Introduce relaxation ( $D_\epsilon$ ), whose optimal value is within  $\epsilon$  of  $d^*$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & b^T y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & C - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i + \epsilon I \succeq 0 \\ & \|y\|_2 \leq \Sigma^\sigma \end{aligned}$$

Key parameter:

$$\theta := \frac{\epsilon}{(\sigma + \sqrt{m}\Sigma^\sigma)^\sigma + \epsilon} \in (0, 1)$$

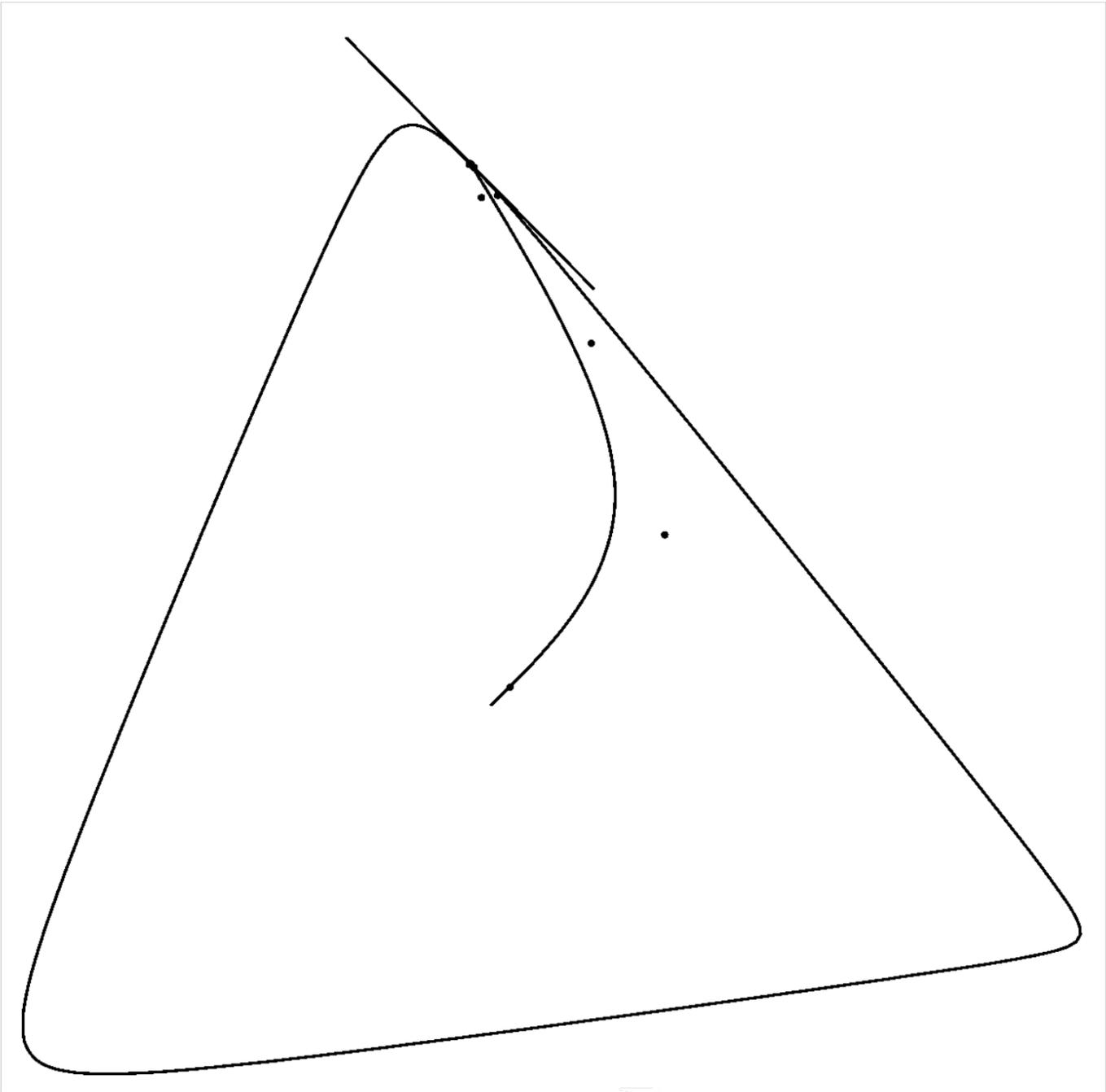
Note  $\theta \rightarrow 0$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$

**Lemma.** If problem  $(D)$  is feasible, then feasible set of  $(D_\epsilon)$  contains a Euclidean ball of radius  $\theta\Sigma^\sigma$

**Theorem.** The ellipsoid method requires  $O(m^2 \log(1/\theta))$  iterations to return an  $\epsilon$ -optimal solution to  $(D)$ . In addition, each iteration requires  $O(m^2 + mn^2 + n^3)$  floating point operations

*Note:*  $\log(1/\theta) \approx \log(1/\epsilon)$ , but  $\theta$  takes into account  $\sigma$  and  $\Sigma$

# Interior-Point Methods



The setup:

- $\epsilon > 0$
- $\sigma$  and  $\Sigma$  as before
- Both  $(P)$  and  $(D)$  interior feasible, which implies:
  - Strong duality holds
  - Central path exists
- Initial  $(X^0, y^0, S^0)$  interior primal-dual solution

Key parameter:

$$\rho := \frac{\epsilon}{\sigma + \Sigma + \epsilon^2}$$

Note  $\rho \rightarrow 0$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$

**Theorem.** The primal-dual short-step path-following method requires  $O(\sqrt{m} \log(1/\rho))$  iterations to return an  $\epsilon$ -optimal primal-dual solution. In addition, each iteration requires  $O(m^2 + mn^2 + n^3)$  floating point operations

*Note:*  $\log(1/\rho) \approx \log(1/\epsilon)$ , but  $\rho$  takes into account  $\sigma$  and  $\Sigma$

**Mosek** is one of the leading software packages for SDP:

The interior-point optimizer [in Mosek] is an implementation of the so-called homogeneous and self-dual algorithm... A solution to the homogeneous model can be computed using a primal-dual interior-point algorithm.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.mosek.com/8.1/capi/solving-conic.html>

# Other Methods

- Interior-point methods effectively deliver high accuracy for small-to medium-scale problems
- But they slow down for large instances
  - Definition of "large"? When the algorithm slows down 😊
  - Even if the instance is sparse, the linear algebra operations can be dense
- Many methods to address this, often by exploiting problem structure

**Theorem (Pataki, Barvinok, Shapiro, Deza-Laurent, 1990's).** For problem  $(P)$ , there exists an optimal solution  $X^*$  with  $r^* := \text{rank}(X^*)$  satisfying  $r^* \leq \lceil \sqrt{2m} \rceil$

**Idea (B-Monteiro, 2003).** Solve  $(P)$  as an NLP by replacing  $X$  with  $VV^T$ , where the number of columns  $p$  of  $V$  is at least  $\lceil \sqrt{2m} \rceil$

**Observation.** Despite being "dumb," this idea works well for finding a global (!) optimal  $X^*$  in practice. In 2003, we had a limited theory to explain why

**Theorem (Boumal-Voroninski-Bandeira, 2018).** Under a regularity condition, for almost all cost matrices  $C$ , choosing  $p > \lceil \sqrt{2m} \rceil$  guarantees that the first- and second-order KKT conditions in  $V$  are sufficient for global (!) optimality

# "Classic" Applications



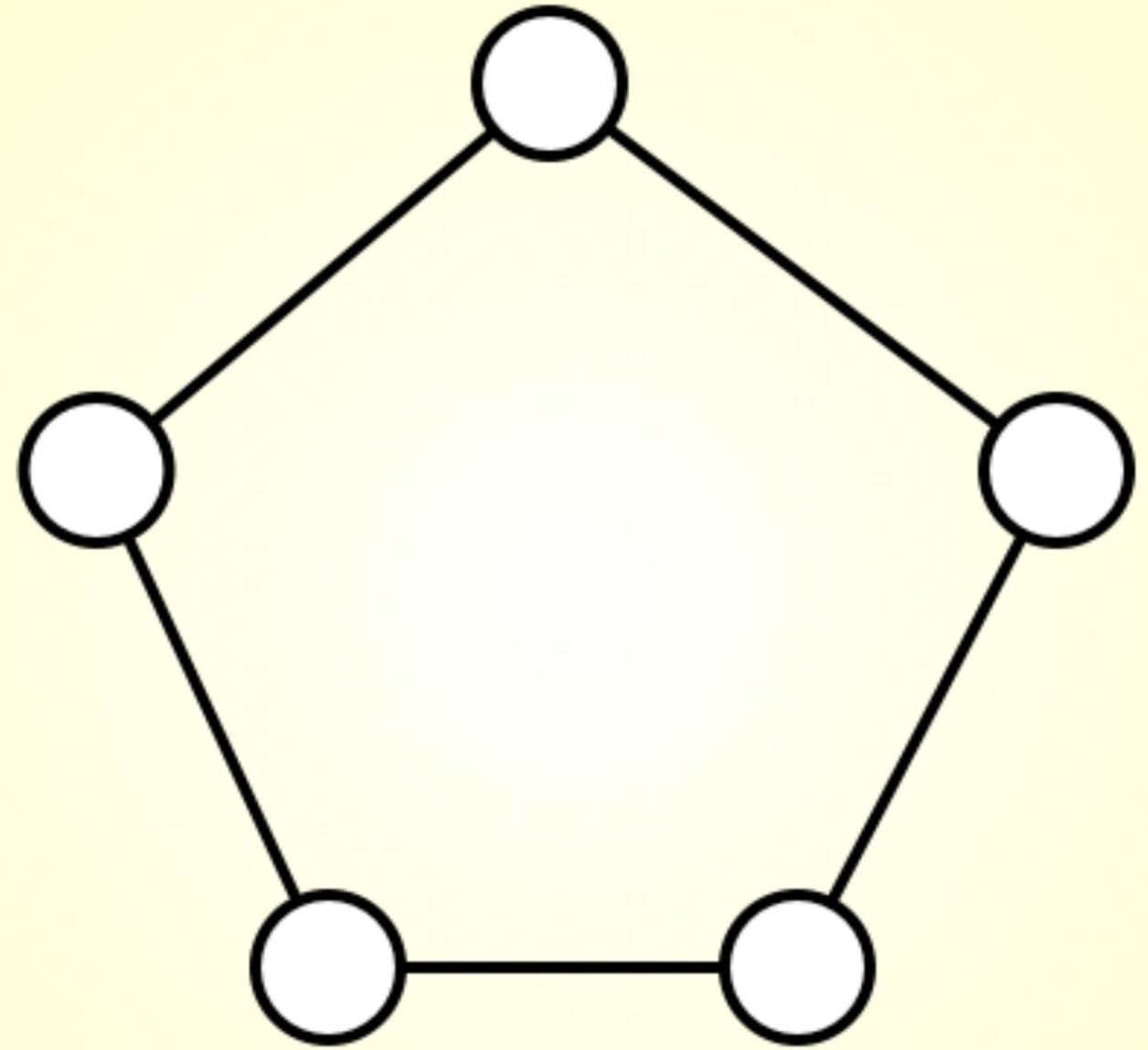
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T C x + 2 c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T A_i x + 2 a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$

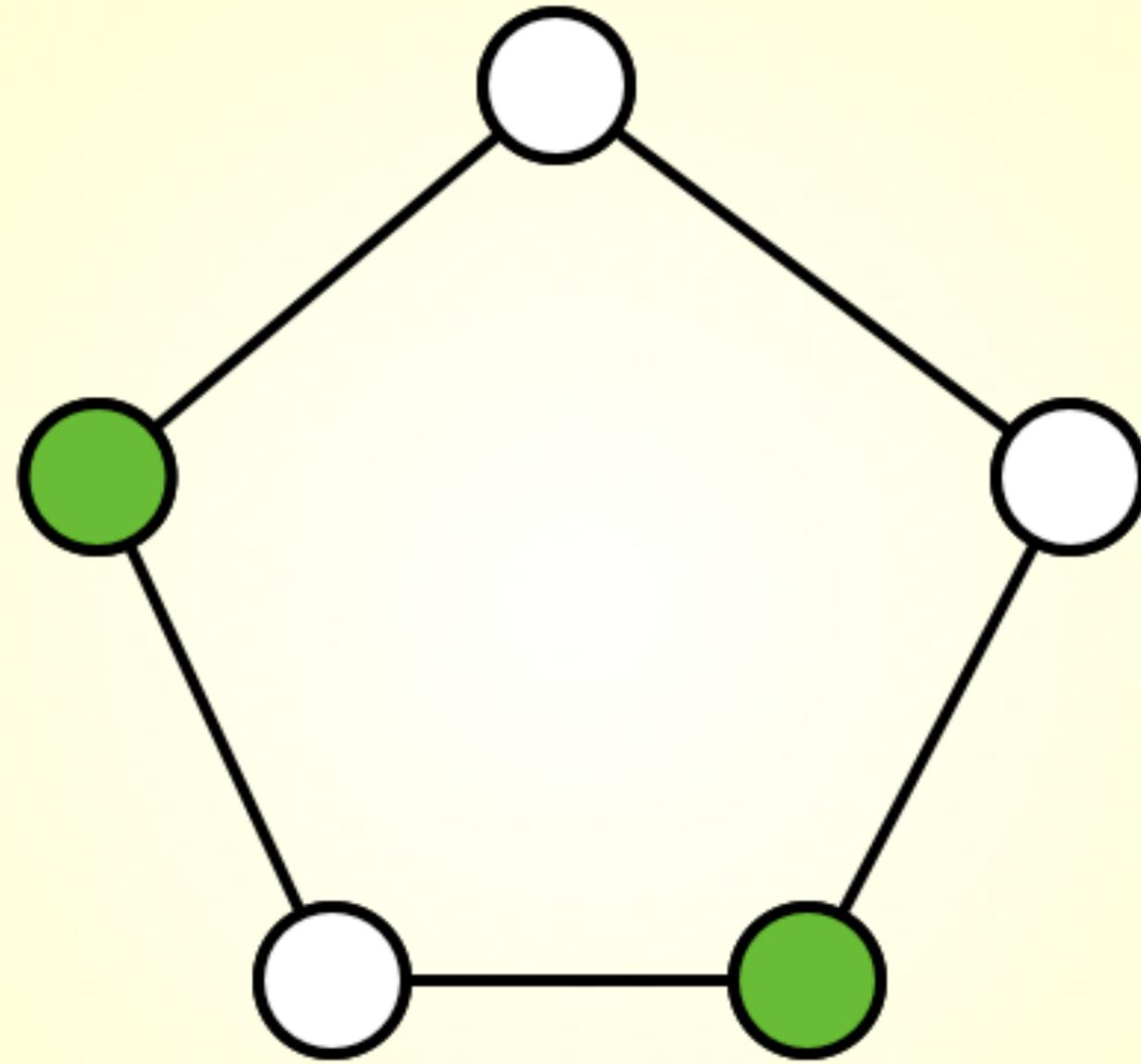
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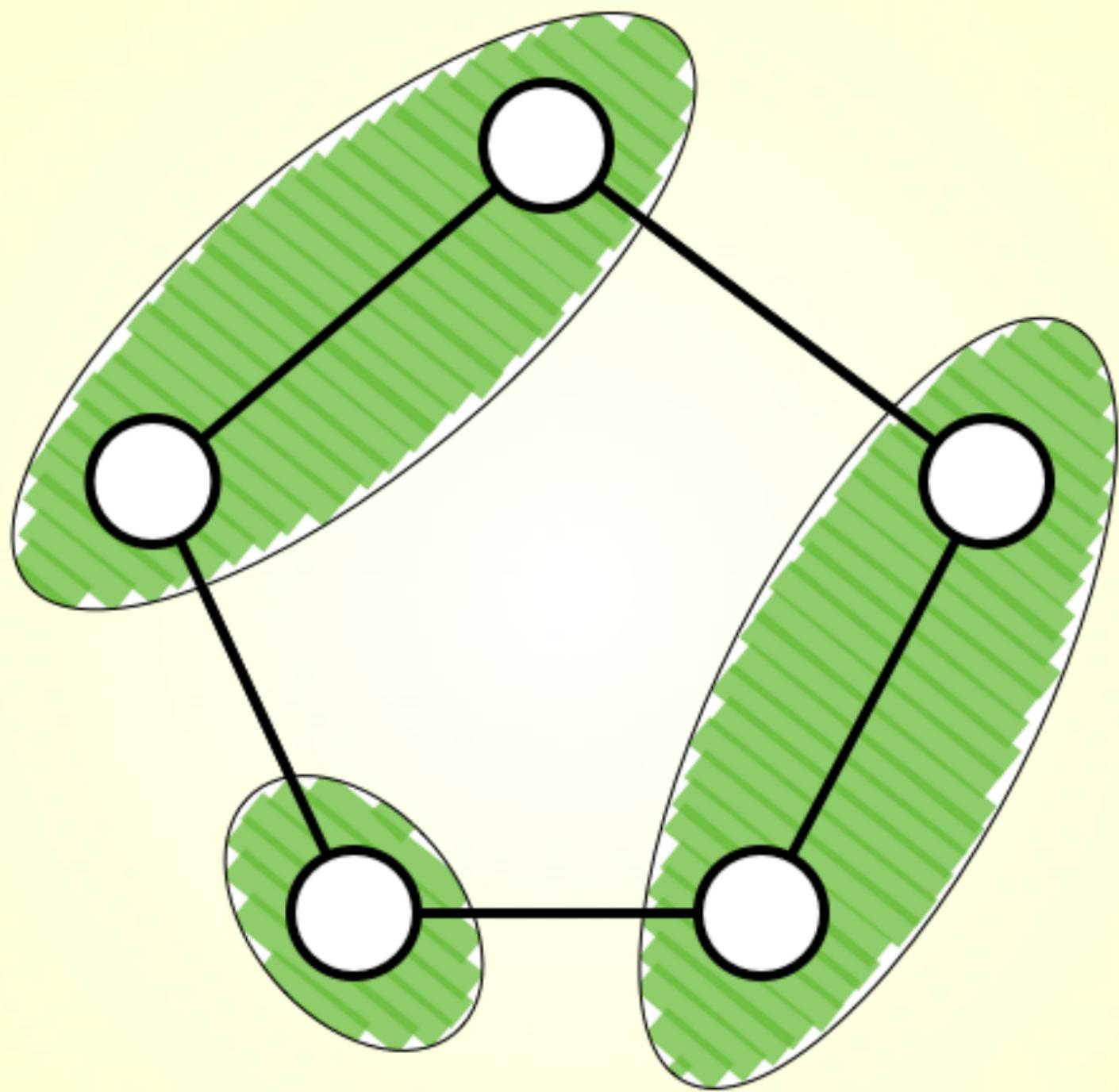
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & C \bullet X + 2 c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_i \bullet X + 2 a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad \forall i \\ & X \succeq x x^T \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x^T \\ x & X \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Maximum Stable Set

- $G = (V, E)$  undirected graph
- $\alpha = \max$  size of stable set in  $G$  (NP-hard)
- $\bar{\chi} = \min$  size of clique cover of  $G$  (NP-hard)
- $\alpha \leq \bar{\chi}$







$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &:= \max && e^T x \\ &\text{s.t.} && x_i + x_j \leq 1 \quad \forall (i, j) \in E \\ &&& x_j \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall i \in V \end{aligned}$$

↓

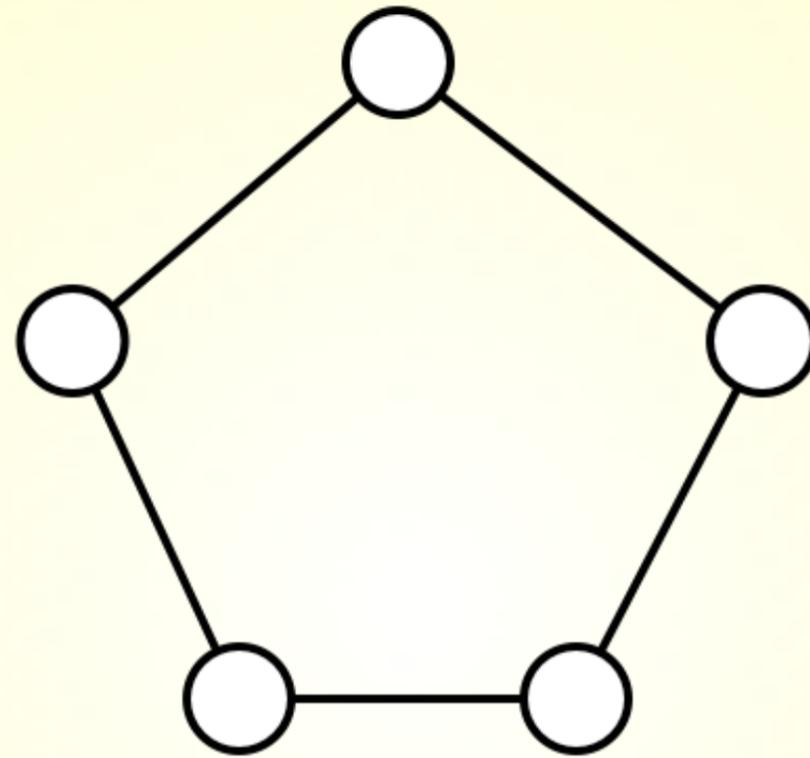
$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \max && x^T x \\ &\text{s.t.} && x_i x_j = 0 \quad \forall (i, j) \in E \\ &&& x_j^2 = x_j \quad \forall i \in V \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta &:= \max && \text{trace}(X) \\ &\text{s.t.} && X_{ij} = 0 \quad \forall (i, j) \in E \\ &&& x = \text{diag}(X) \\ &&& X \succeq xx^T \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem (Grötschel-Lovász-Schrijver, 1981).**  $\alpha \leq \vartheta \leq \bar{\chi}$

**Definition.**  $G$  is *perfect* when  $\alpha(G') = \bar{\chi}(G')$  for all induced subgraphs  $G'$

**Corollary.**  $\alpha$  and  $\bar{\chi}$  are polynomial-time computable for perfect graphs



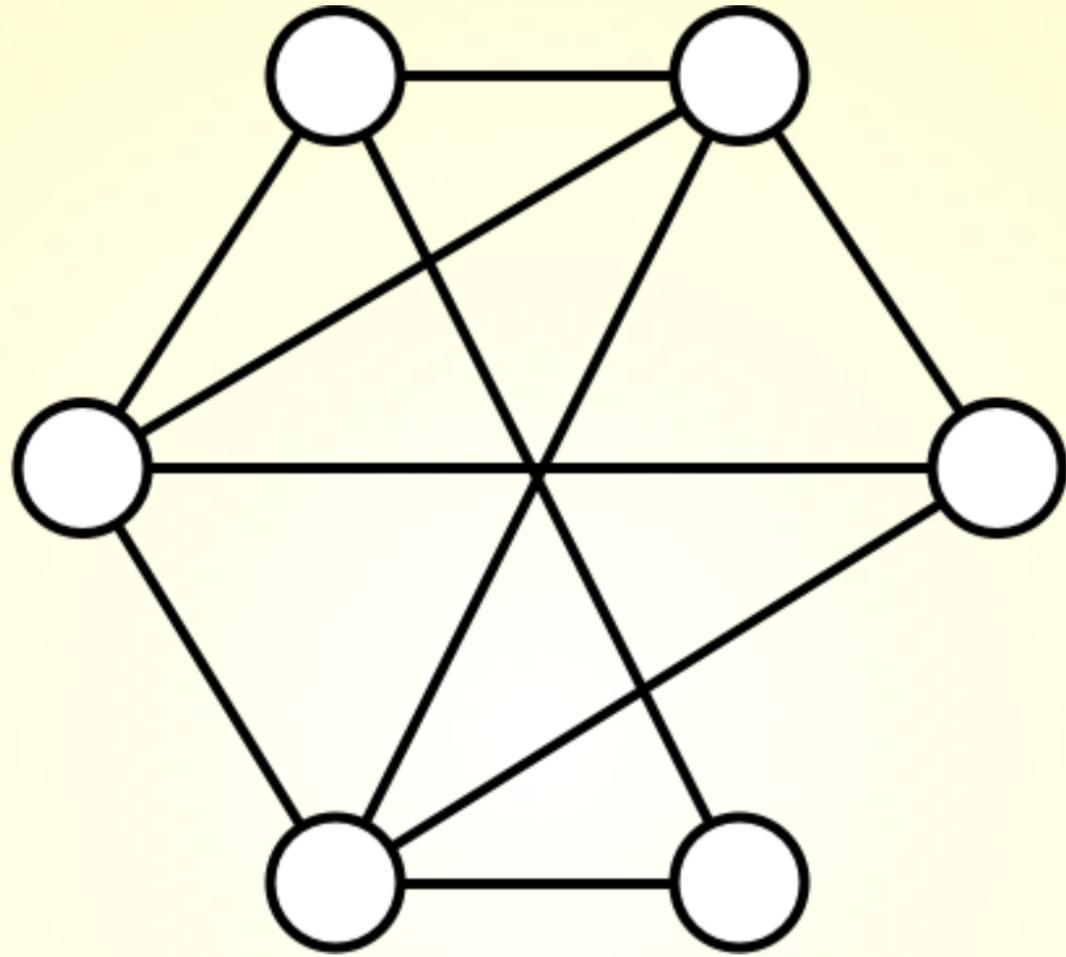
$$\alpha = 2$$

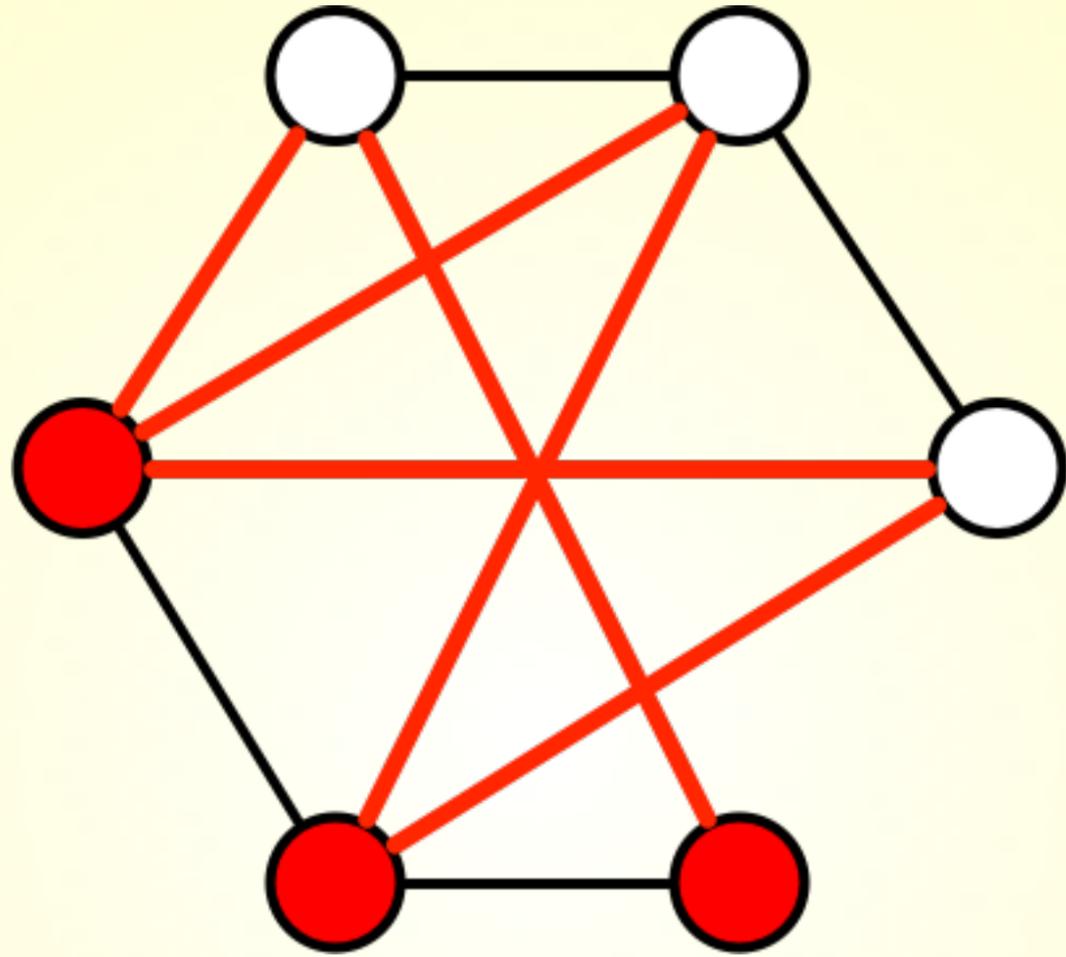
$$\vartheta = \sqrt{5}$$

$$\bar{\chi} = 3$$

# MaxCut

- $G = (V, E)$  undirected graph
- $U \subseteq V$
- $\text{cut}(U) = \#$  of edges from  $U$  to  $V \setminus U$
- Which  $U$  maximizes  $\text{cut}(U)$ ?
- This is NP-hard





cut = 6

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MaxCut} &:= \max && \sum_{ij \in E} \frac{1}{2} (1 - x_i x_j) \\ &\text{s.t.} && x_j \in \{-1, 1\} \quad \forall i \in V \end{aligned}$$

↓

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MaxCut} &= \max && \sum_{ij \in E} \frac{1}{2} (1 - x_i x_j) \\ &\text{s.t.} && x_j^2 = 1 \quad \forall i \in V \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \max && \sum_{ij \in E} \frac{1}{2} (1 - X_{ij}) \\
& \text{s.t.} && \text{diag}(X) = e \\
& && X \succeq xx^T
\end{aligned}$$

↓

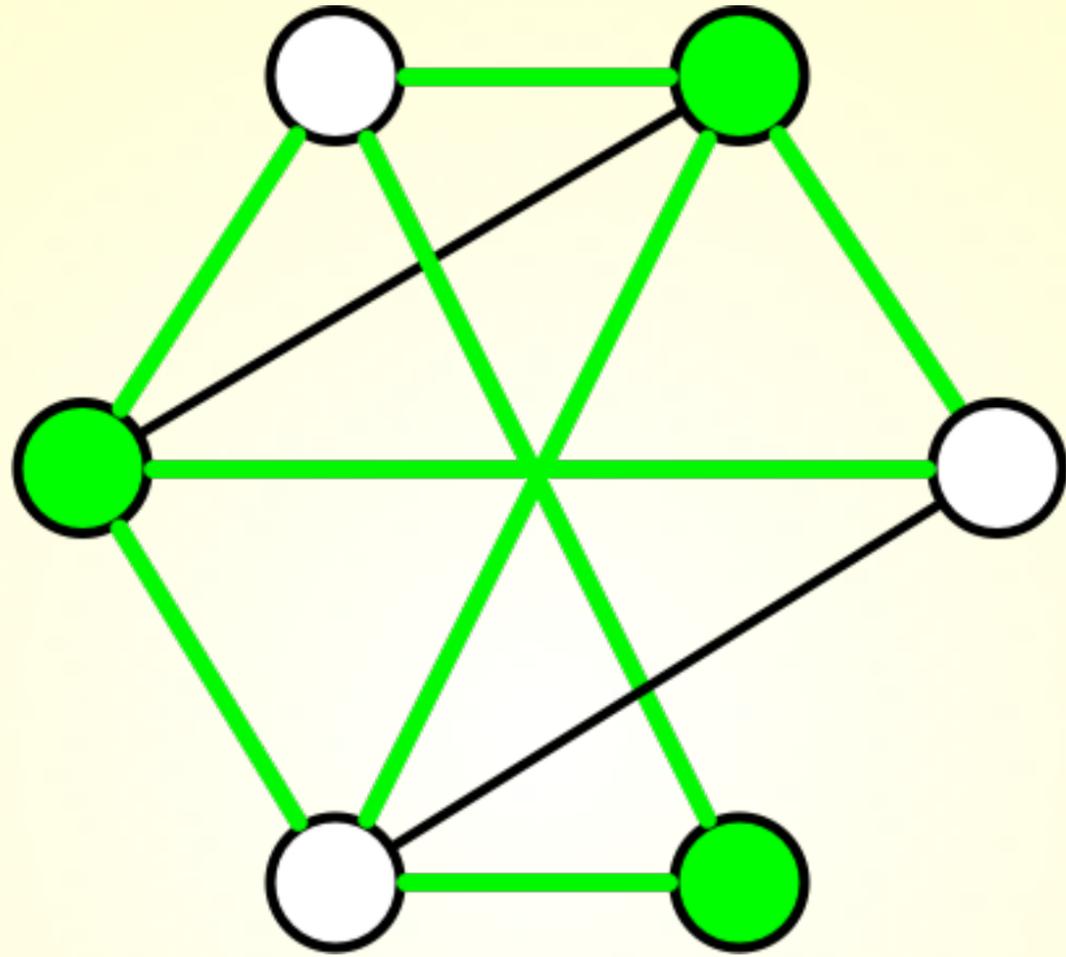
$$\begin{aligned}
& \max && \sum_{ij \in E} \frac{1}{2} (1 - X_{ij}) \\
& \text{s.t.} && \text{diag}(X) = e \\
& && X \succeq 0
\end{aligned}$$

## YALMIP code (in Matlab)

```
n = 6; m = 10;  
E = [1, 2; 1, 4; 1, 5; 1, 6; 2, 4; 2, 5; 3, 4; 3, 6; 4, 5; 5, 6];  
  
A = full(sparse(E(:, 1), E(:, 2), ones(m, 1), n, n));  
A = A + A';  
  
C = 0.25 * (diag(sum(A)) - A);  
X = sdpvar(n);  
con = [diag(X) == 1; X >= 0];  
obj = C(:)' * X(:);  
solvesdp(con, -obj);
```

relaxation opt val = 8

$$X^* = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



cut = 8

**Theorem (Goemans-Williams, 1995).** The following (randomized) algorithm is an 0.87856-approximation algorithm for MaxCut:

1. Solve the SDP relaxation to obtain  $X^*$
2. Compute a factorization  $X^* = R^* (R^*)^T$
3. Randomly generate a vector  $u \in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$  uniform on the unit sphere
4. Define  $U := \{i \in V : [(R^*)^T u]_i \geq 0\}$

# Lift and Project

$$P := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b\} \subseteq [0, 1]^n$$

$$P^{01} := \text{conv}(P \cap \{0, 1\}^n)$$

What we can determine about  $P^{01}$ ?

Homogenization of  $P$ :

$$H := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \begin{array}{l} x_0 \geq 0 \\ Ax \leq x_0 b \end{array} \right\}$$

**Observation.**  $x \in P$  implies  $\begin{pmatrix} x_j \\ x_j x \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 - x_j \\ x - x_j x \end{pmatrix} \in H$

**Idea.** Linearize  $x_j x$  by introducing a new variable  $y$

# Lift

$$\widehat{\text{BCC}}(P, j) := \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n : \begin{array}{l} x_j = y_j \\ \begin{pmatrix} x_j \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1-x_j \\ x-y \end{pmatrix} \in H \end{array} \right\}$$

# Project

$$\text{BCC}(P, j) := \text{proj}_x(\widehat{\text{BCC}}(P, j))$$

**Proposition.**  $\text{BCC}(P, j)$  is a polytope and  $P^{01} \subseteq \text{BCC}(P, j) \subseteq P$ .

*Proof.*

1. Projection of a polytope is a polytope
2. As mentioned  $x \in P$  implies  $(x_j; y), (1 - x_j; x - y) \in H$  when  $y = x_j x$ . Also,  $x_j = y_j$  is valid when  $y = x_j x$  and  $x$  is binary
3. Summing  $(x_j; y)$  and  $(1 - x_j; x - y)$ , we see  $(1; x) \in H$ , as desired

# "Rinse and Repeat"

- $\text{BCC}^0(P) := \text{BCC}(P, 0) := P$
- $\text{BCC}^k(P) := \text{BCC}(\text{BCC}^{k-1}(P), k)$

Get  $P^{01} \subseteq \text{BCC}^n(P) \subseteq \dots \subseteq \text{BCC}^1(P) \subseteq P$

**Theorem (Balas-Ceria-Cornuejols, 1993).**  $BCC^n(P) = P^{01}$

**Observation.** In fact, the iterative BCC procedure depends on the order of variables in the liftings

**Idea.** Define  $N_0(P) := \bigcap_{j=1}^n \text{BCC}(P, j)$  and apply iteratively

This idea works, but unfortunately, still need  $n$  steps in general.  
Can it be strengthened further?

$$\widehat{N}_0(P) = \left\{ \left( x, y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(n)} \right) : \begin{array}{l} x_j = y_j^{(j)} \quad \forall j \\ \begin{pmatrix} x_j \\ y^{(j)} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1-x_j \\ x-y^{(j)} \end{pmatrix} \in H \quad \forall j \end{array} \right\}$$

$$X := (y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(n)})$$

$$\widehat{N}_0(P) = \left\{ (x, X) : \begin{array}{l} x = \text{diag}(X) \\ \begin{pmatrix} x_j \\ X_{.j} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1-x_j \\ x-X_{.j} \end{pmatrix} \in H \quad \forall j \end{array} \right\}$$

**Observation (Lovász-Schrijver, 1991).** With respect to  $\widehat{N}_0(P)$ , the constraints  $X = X^T$  and  $X \succeq xx^T$  are valid for  $P^{01}$

$$N(P) := \text{proj}_x \left( \widehat{N}_0(P) \cap \{X = X^T\} \right)$$

$$N_+(P) := \text{proj}_x \left( \widehat{N}_0(P) \cap \{X = X^T, X \succeq xx^T\} \right)$$

**Observation.**  $N_+(P)$  can also be gotten by constructing the SDP relaxation of the following (redundant) description of  $P \cap \{0, 1\}^n$ :

$$x_j(b - Ax) \geq 0 \quad \forall j$$

$$(1 - x_j)(b - Ax) \geq 0 \quad \forall j$$

$$x_j^2 = x_j \quad \forall j$$

$$N^1(P) := N(P), \quad N^k(P) := N(N^{k-1}(P))$$

$$N_+^1(P) := N_+(P), \quad N_+^k(P) := N_+(N_+^{k-1}(P))$$

**Corollary.** As  $k \rightarrow n$ ,  $N^k(P)$  and  $N_+^k(P)$  converge monotonically to  $P^{01}$ . Moreover,  $N_+^k(P)$  converges at least as fast as  $N^k(P)$

**Theorem.** For fixed  $k$ , can optimize over  $N^k(P)$  and  $N_+^k(P)$  in polynomial-time

**Theorem (Lovász-Schrijver, 1991).** For a given graph  $G$ , let  $P$  be the stable-set LP relaxation. Then  $N_+(P)$  implies the

- all inequalities implied by the SDP relaxation defining  $\vartheta$
- odd-cycle, odd-anti-hole, odd-wheel, and clique inequalities

For any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ , define

$$P := \{x \in [0, 1]^n : x_1 + \cdots + x_n \leq n - \epsilon\}$$

**Theorem (see Tuncel, 2010).**  $P^{01} \not\subseteq N_+^{n-1}(P)$

Until Next Time...