

# Sparsest Cut Generalizations

15-750  
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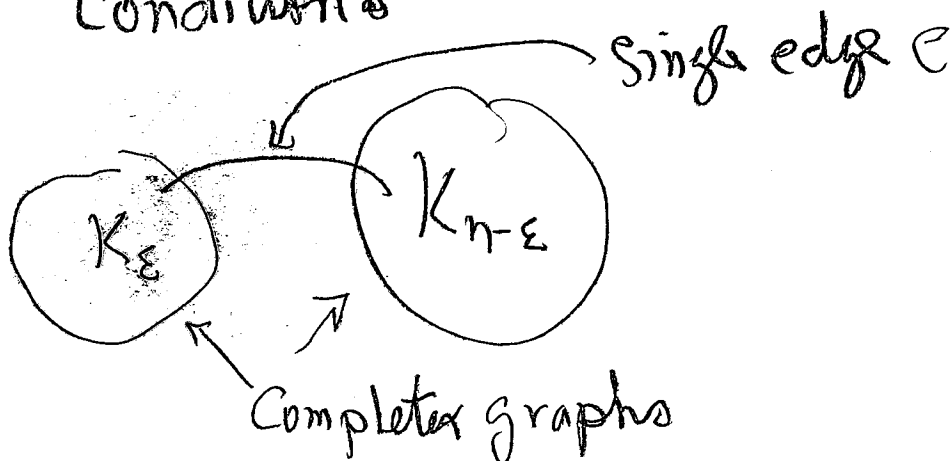
So far we have considered 2 cut probs.

- 1) S-t-Min Cut
- 2) Separators (Edge version)

Both wanted small # edges give a vertex partition  $A, B$ .

- 1) required  $s \in A$  &  $t \in B$
- 2)  $|A|$  &  $|B|$  not too big. (Strongly Balanced)

Goal: Consider relaxations of partition  
Condition!



$nG = (V, E)$  network

3) All nodes communicate to all other nodes.

Find network bottleneck!

i.e.  $\text{Min}_{S \subseteq V} \frac{|cut(S, \bar{S})|}{|S| \cdot |\bar{S}|}$  (Sparsest Cut)  
(Uniform)

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Here the communication pattern  $K_n$  (the complete graph)

$$\nabla_G(S) = \frac{|cut_G(S, \bar{S})|}{|cut_H(S, \bar{S})|} \quad H = K_n$$

$\min_S \nabla_G(S)$  more generally  $\nabla(G, H) = \min_S \nabla_{G, H}(S)$

Note  $G$  flow graph &  $H \equiv s \rightarrow t$  then

$$\nabla(G, H) \equiv \min s-t \text{ cut.}$$

As in Min s-t Cut lets consider assigning length to edges of G, say  $d_{uv}$ .

Given  $d$  over edges to all pairs by shortest path.

Really: Metric  $d: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- 1)  $d(x,y) \geq 0$
- 2)  $d(x,y) = d(y,x)$
- 3)  $d(x,z) \leq d(x,y) + d(y,z)$   $\Delta$  ineq
- 4)  $d(x,y) = 0$  iff  $x=y$

Def  $d$  is semi-metric if 1), 2), 3)

### Leighton-Rao Relaxation

$$LR(G, A) = \min_{d \text{ semi-metric}} \frac{\sum_{u,v \in G} d_{uv}}{\sum_{u,v \in A} d_{uv}}$$

### Simplest semi-metric on $V$

$$f: V \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

$$d_{uv} = |f(u) - f(v)|$$

$$\text{Sparsest Cut} \equiv \min_{f: V \rightarrow \{0,1\}} \frac{\sum_{uv \in E_G} |f(u) - f(v)|}{\sum_{uv \in E_H} |f(u) - f(v)|} = \nabla(G, H) \quad 4$$


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Thm  $LR(G, H) \leq \nabla(G, H)$

Thm  $\nabla(G, H) \leq O(\log n) \cdot LR(G, H)$

What LP for Leighton-Rat?

Claim  $\min \sum_{uv \in E_G} d_{uv}$

Subject:  $\sum_{uv \in E_H} d_{uv} = \frac{|E_G|}{|E_H|}$

$$d_{uw} \leq d_{uw} + d_{wv} \quad \forall u, v, w \in V$$

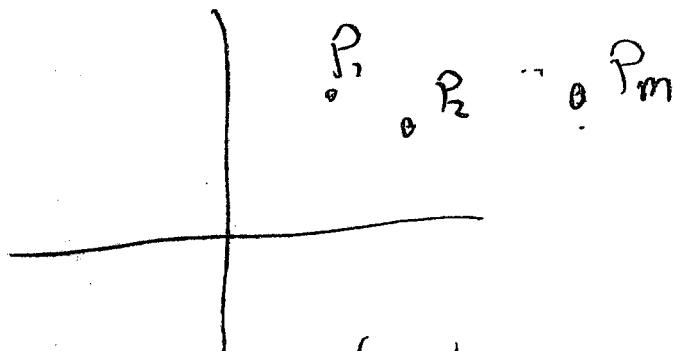
$$d_{uv} \geq 0 \quad \forall u, v \in V$$

## Simple fact

Lemma  $a_1, \dots, a_m \geq 0$  &  $b_1, \dots, b_m > 0$  then

$$\max_i \frac{a_i}{b_i} \geq \frac{a_1 + \dots + a_m}{b_1 + \dots + b_m} \geq \min_i \frac{a_i}{b_i}$$

pf considers  $\left(\frac{a_i}{b_i}\right) = \text{point in } \mathbb{R}^2$   $(b_i, a_i) = P_i$



$$\text{mean}(P_1, \dots, P_m) = (\sum b_i, \sum a_i) / m$$

$$\text{slope}(\text{Line}(O, P_i)) = \left(\frac{a_i}{b_i}\right)$$

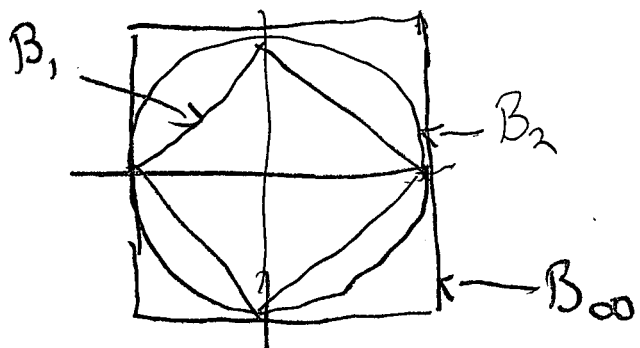
Slope of mean  $\geq$  min slope

# $L_1$ Relaxation of Sparsest Cut

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$$x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad \|x\|_1 = \sum_i |x_i| \quad \text{metric} \quad \|x-y\|_1 = \sum_i |x_i - y_i|$$

$$l_1, l_2, l_\infty \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^2 \quad B_i = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \|x\|_i = 1\}$$



$$\nabla_1(G, H) = \inf_{m, f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m} \frac{\sum_{uv \in E} \|f(u) - f(v)\|_1}{\sum_{uv \in H} \|f(u) - f(v)\|_1}$$

Thm  $\forall G, H \quad \nabla(G, H) = \nabla_1(G, H)$

pf Clearly  $\nabla_1(G, H) \leq \nabla(G, H)$

to show

$$\nabla(G, H) \leq \nabla_1(G, H) \quad (*)$$

proof of (\*)

$$f(v) = (f_1(v), \dots, f_m(v))$$

$$a_i = \sum_{uv \in G} |f_i(u) - f_i(v)| \quad b_i = \sum_{uv \in H} |f_i(u) - f_i(v)|$$

$$\nabla_i(G, H) = \frac{\sum a_i}{\sum b_i} \geq \min_i \frac{a_i}{b_i}$$

Thus WLOG  $m=1$  ie  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$\nabla$  is invariant under translation & scaling

$$\min_V f(v) = 0 \quad \& \quad \max_V f(v) = 1$$