Conditions Beyond Treewidth for Tightness of Higher-Order LP Relaxations

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SUMMARY

- We consider linear programming (LP) relaxations for the problem of MAP inference for binary pairwise graphical models.
- We show that a low-treewidth condition obtained by Wainwright and Jordan (2004) guaranteeing tightness across all models with a given topology is not necessary.
- We also strengthen an earlier result regarding tightness of the triplet-consistent polytope $\mathbb{L}_3(G)$ for almost-balanced models.

MAP INFERENCE AND LP RELAXATIONS

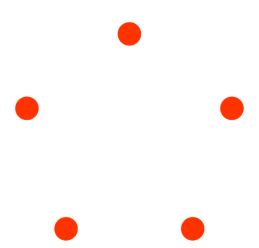
A binary pairwise graphical model is specified by a graph $G=(V,E)$, and a set of potentials $(\theta_i)_{i\in V}$, $(W_{ij})_{ij\in E}$. This gives a probabiltiy distribution for a set of binary random variables $(X_v)_{v\in V}$ - for any $x_V \in \{0,1\}^V$:

$$p(x_V) = \frac{1}{Z}\exp\left(\sum_{i\in V}\theta_i x_i + \sum_{ij\in E} W_{ij}x_ix_j\right)$$

MAP inference is the problem of finding a most likely configuration.

Combinatorial problem

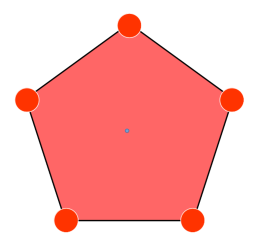
$$\max_{x\in\{0,1\}^V}\left[\sum_{i\in V}\theta_i \mathbb{1}_{x_i=1} + \sum_{ij\in E} W_{ij}\mathbb{1}_{x_i=1,x_j=1}\right]$$



Equivalent linear program

$$\max_{q\in\mathbb{M}(G)}\left[\sum_{i\in V}\theta_i q_i + \sum_{ij\in E} W_{ij}q_{ij}\right]$$

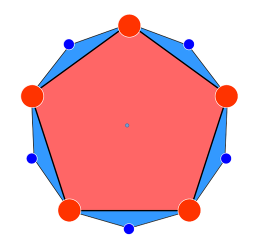
Marginal polytope $\mathbb{M}(G)$: enforce global consistency on marginals $(q_i)_{i\in V}$ and $(q_{ij})_{ij\in E}$



Relaxed linear program

$$\max_{q\in\mathbb{L}_r(G)}\left[\sum_{i\in V}\theta_i q_i + \sum_{ij\in E} W_{ij}q_{ij}\right]$$

Sherali-Adams polytope $\mathbb{L}_r(G)$: enforce consistency over each cluster of r variables on (pseudo)marginals $(q_i)_{i\in V}$ and $(q_{ij})_{ij\in E}$



This yields a polytope relaxation $\mathbb{M}(G)\subseteq\mathbb{L}_r(G)$, and we therefore have

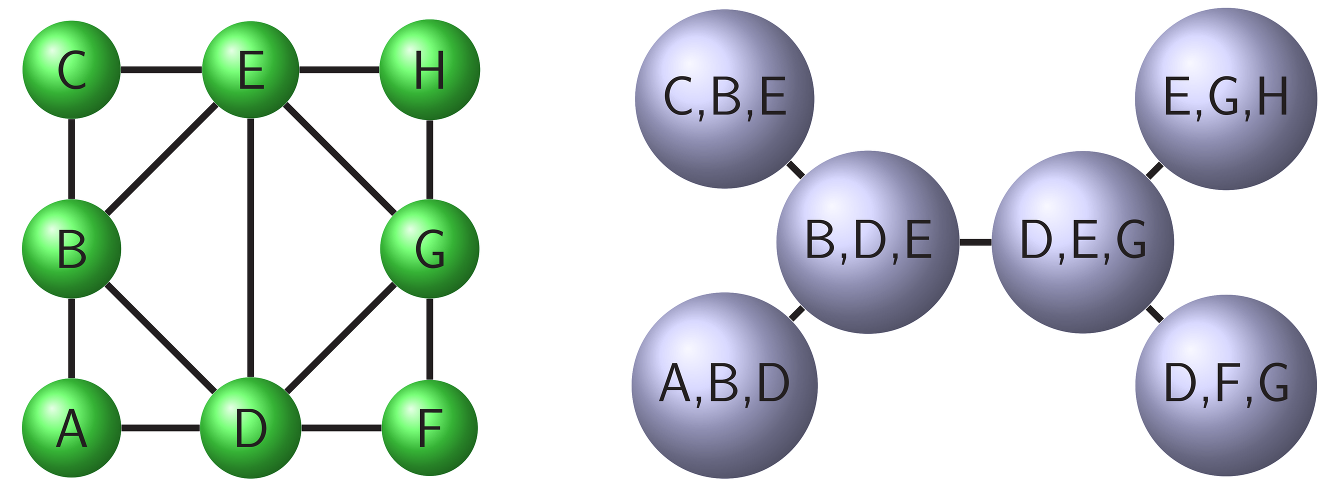
$$\max_{q\in\mathbb{M}(G)}\left[\sum_{i\in V}\theta_i q_i + \sum_{ij\in E} W_{ij}q_{ij}\right] \leq \max_{q\in\mathbb{L}_r(G)}\left[\sum_{i\in V}\theta_i q_i + \sum_{ij\in E} W_{ij}q_{ij}\right]$$

When we have equality above, we say that $\mathbb{L}_r(G)$ is **tight** for the graphical model concerned, and MAP inference can be performed efficiently by optimising over $\mathbb{L}_r(G)$.

Wainwright and Jordan (2004) showed that if a graph G has treewidth $\leq r$ then $\mathbb{L}_{r+1}(G)$ is tight **for all binary pairwise models on** G. Weller (2016) showed that this condition is necessary for $r=1,2$. **We show that it is not necessary for $r=3$, by investigating graphical models on minimal forbidden minors.**

TREEWIDTH

The *treewidth* of a graph G is the minimum width over all tree decompositions of G - intimately connected to the junction tree algorithm.



A graph of treewidth 2, and an optimal tree decomposition of the graph.

FORBIDDEN MINOR CONDITIONS

A graph G' is a *minor* of another graph G if G' is obtainable from G by deleting vertices and edges, and identifying vertices connected by an edge:

Each of the properties
- G HAS TREEWIDTH $\leq r$
- $\mathbb{L}_r(G)$ IS TIGHT FOR ALL POSSIBLE BINARY PAIRWISE GRAPHICAL MODELS ON G

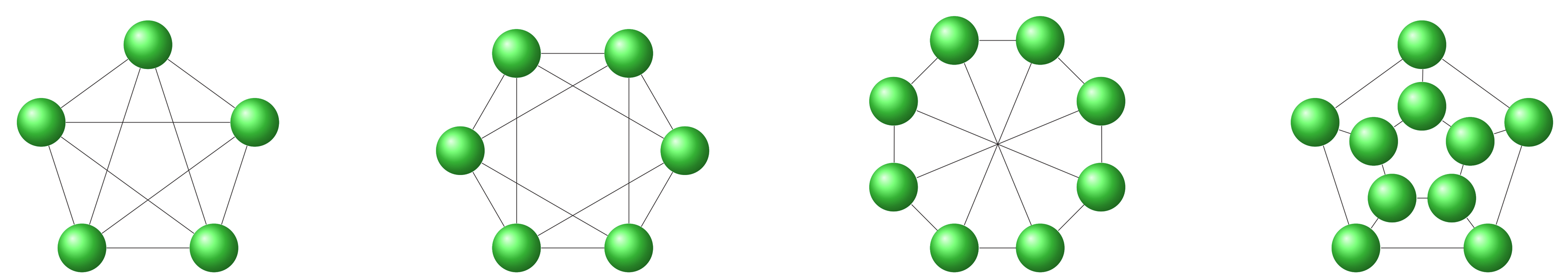
is **minor-closed**: true for $G \implies$ true for all minors of G.

A powerful result of Robertson and Seymour (2004) states that any graph property that is minor-closed is characterised by a *finite set of minimal forbidden minors* - "minimal obstructions" to the property.

MINIMAL FORBIDDEN MINORS FOR LP TIGHTNESS AND LOW TREEWIDTH

Treewidth	Min. forbidden minors
1	K_3
2	K_4
3	K_5, O_6, M_8, Y_5 (see below)

LP Relaxation	Min. forbidden minors
$\mathbb{L}_2(G)$	K_3
$\mathbb{L}_3(G)$	K_4
$\mathbb{L}_4(G)$	K_5 + ? (**NOT** O_6, M_8, Y_5)

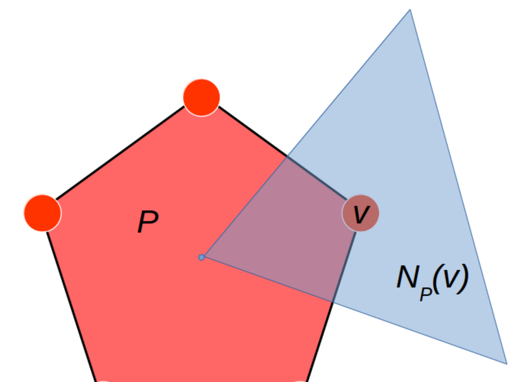


K_5 — Octahedral graph, O_6 — Wagner graph, M_8 — Pentagonal prism graph, Y_5

GEOMETRY OF SHERALI-ADAMS POLYTOPES

For a polytope $P\subset\mathbb{R}^d$ and an extremal point $v\in P$, the **normal cone** to P at v is

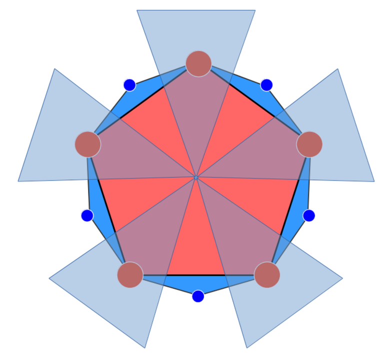
$$N_P(v) = \left\{c\in\mathbb{R}^d \,\middle|\, v\in \arg\max_{x\in P}\langle c,x\rangle\right\}$$



This gives a succinct characterisation of graphical models for which a Sherali-Adams relaxation is tight, namely:

$$\cup_{v\in\text{Vertices}(\mathbb{M}(G))} N_{\mathbb{L}_r(G)}(v)$$

We use this perspective to provide new proofs of several well-known results for tightness of $\mathbb{L}_2(G)$.



We also have the following decomposition of the entire space of potentials, which proves useful in our analysis of models over the minimal treewidth 3 forbidden minors:

$$\mathbb{R}^{V\cup E} = \cup_{v\in\text{Vertices}(\mathbb{M}(G))} N_{\mathbb{M}(G)}(v)$$

DECOMPOSITION AND LP CHECKS

For each of the treewidth 3 minimal forbidden minors $G=(V,E)$, we are interested in whether or not there exists a binary pairwise graphical model which is not tight for $\mathbb{L}_4(G)$. Writing $c=((\theta_i)_{i\in V},(W_{ij})_{ij\in E})$, this can be determined by solving the following optimisation problem:

$$\max_{c\in\mathbb{R}^{V\cup E}}\left[\max_{q\in\mathbb{L}_4(G)}\langle c,q\rangle - \max_{q\in\mathbb{M}(G)}\langle c,q\rangle\right]$$

Using the geometric considerations described above, we decompose this into a manageable number of LPs to check, yielding our main result:

The only treewidth 3 minimal forbidden minor that has models for which $\mathbb{L}_4(G)$ is not tight is K_5.

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