

Energy minimization via conic programming hierarchies

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Energy minimization

Given

- a set V (container)
- a function $w: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}$ (pair potential)
- an integer N (number of particles)

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Example

For the Thomson problem we take $V = S^2$ and $w(x,y) = \|x - y\|^{-1}$

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Approach to finding lower bounds

1. Relax the problem to a conic optimization problem
2. Find good feasible solutions to the dual problem

Related work

- ▶ The symmetry group Γ of V acts on V^k by
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- ▶ k -point bounds using the stabilizer subgroup of $k - 2$ points [Musin 2007]

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- ▶ Convergent hierarchy of *finite* semidefinite programs
- ▶ Application to low dimensional spaces

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- ▶ View w as an element in $\mathcal{C}(I_{2t})$

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- ▶ If S is a N -particle configuration, then

$$\chi_S = \sum_{R \subseteq S: |R| \leq 2t} \delta_R$$

is a feasible measure (this proves $E_t \leq E$)

Cone of moment measures

- ▶ Define the operator $A_t: \mathcal{C}(V_t \times V_t)_{\text{sym}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(I_{\min\{2t, N\}})$ by

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- ▶ When $t = N$, the extreme rays of $K_t(G)$ are precisely the measures χ_S with $S \in I_{=N}$
- ▶ This is the main step in proving $E_N = E$

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- ▶ The elements L are of the form $A_t K$ for $K \in \mathcal{C}(V_t \times V_t)_{\geq 0}$
- ▶ Strong duality holds: $E_t = E_t^*$

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- ▶ Bochner's theorem: $K \in \mathcal{C}(V_t \times V_t)_{\geq 0}^{\Gamma}$ is of the form

$$K(J, J') = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle F_k, Z_k(J, J') \rangle \quad \text{where}$$

F_k : positive semidefinite matrices (the Fourier coefficients)

Z_k : zonal matrices corresponding to the action of Γ on V_t

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- ▶ In general the Fourier series does not converge uniformly; the action of Γ on V_t has infinitely many orbits (for $t \geq 2$)
- ▶ By a summability method we have $E_{t,d}^* \rightarrow E_t^*$ as $d \rightarrow \infty$

Semidefinite programming

- ▶ The linear constraints in $E_{t,d}^*$ are of the form

$$a_i - \sum_{k=0}^d \langle F_k, A_t Z_{k,d} \rangle \leq w \quad \text{on } I_{=i} \quad \text{for } i = 0, \dots, \min\{2t, N\}$$

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- ▶ Variable transformation to write the above as polynomial inequalities over a semialgebraic set (depends on the application)
- ▶ Using sums of squares characterizations $E_{t,d}^*$ can be approximated by a sequence of finite semidefinite programs

Example: $V = S^1$ with $O(2)$ -invariant pair potential w

- ▶ Zonal matrices as polynomial matrices in the inner products:

$$Z_k(\{x_1, \dots, x_t\}, \{y_1, \dots, y_t\})_{i,j} = \left(\prod_{r,s=1}^t (x_r \cdot x_s)^i (y_r \cdot y_s)^j \right) \sum_{r,s=1}^t T_k(x_r \cdot y_s)$$

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- ▶ Each inner product is a trigonometric polynomial in these angles

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- ▶ Lennard-Jones potential: Based on a sampling implementation it appears that for e.g. $N = 3$ we have

$$E_1 < E_2 = E$$

Thank you!