

# Solving Positive LPs in Parallel using the Multiplicative Weights Update (MWU)

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# Overview

- 1 Definition and Applications
- 2 MWU For Solving Packing LPs
- 3 Experimental Results

## LPs

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . **LP** is

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \{ \leq, =, \geq \} \mathbf{b}. \end{aligned}$$

Used to solve maximum graph matchings, set cover, solutions to linear systems, network flow, discrete optimal transport, ...

# Definitions

## Positive LPs

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ , and  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ . **Packing LP** is

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{Ax} \leq \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Maximum Matching

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , find largest cardinality  $F \subseteq E$  such that  $\forall v \in V$  is incident to at most one edge in  $F$ .

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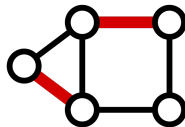
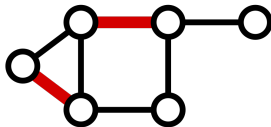
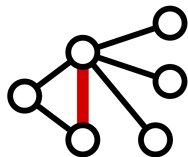
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$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{e \in E} x_e \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{e \in \text{inc}(v)} x_e \leq 1 \quad \forall v \in V \\ & x \geq \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

# Graph Matching



## Positive LPs

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ , and  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ . **Covering LP** is

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{Ax} \geq \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Dominating Set

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , find the smallest subset  $D \subseteq V$  then  $\forall v \in V$  s.t.  $(\{v\} \cup N(v)) \cap D \neq \emptyset$ .

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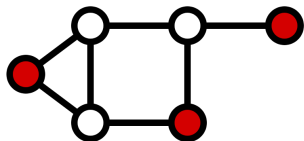
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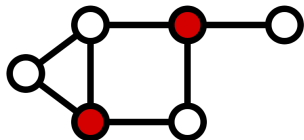


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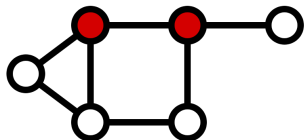
(a)



(b)



(c)



# Positive LPs

## Positive LPs

Let  $\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times n}$ ,  $b, c \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ . **Mixed Packing Covering LP** is

$$\begin{aligned} & \exists x \\ \text{s.t. } & \mathbf{P}x \leq b \\ & \mathbf{C}x \geq c \\ & x \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Solving a Positive Linear System of Equations

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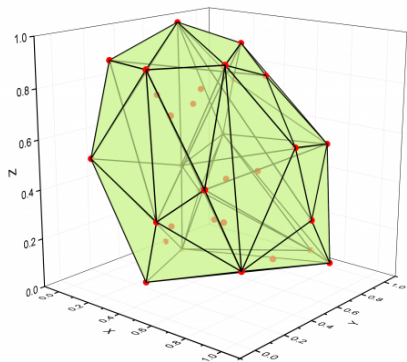
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# Simplex Method

- Looks at all adjacent boundary pts in the feasibility region
- Exact solution
- Requires feasible initial guess
- Exponential time



IPM visualised as barrier method for inequality constraints

$$\max_x c^T x + \mu_1 \log \sum_i (b_i - a_i^T x) + \mu_2 \log \sum_j x_j$$

where  $a_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  row of  $A$

- Uses Newton's iteration to compute steps
- Expensive as requires solve

- Can we do something cheaper?
- Look at subclass of LP problems with special properties... ?
- Contribution of each step depends on closeness to violation
- Above observation with positivity constraints resulted in MWU algorithm
- Used as exponentiated gradient descent in solving KL-div objective

# Methods for Solving Positive LPs

## (Normal) Packing LP

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times n}$  **Normal Packing LP** is

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{x} \geq 0 \\ \rightarrow & \max \langle \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{x} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

## Approximation

A positive LP produces an  $\epsilon$ -approximation answer if

$$\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{x} \geq \text{OPT} \text{ and } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq (1 + \epsilon)\mathbf{1}$$

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*How to solve quickly, accurately, and in parallel?*

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  - 2 in  $\mathcal{O}(\log(m) \log(n/\epsilon)/\epsilon^2)$  iterations in parallel

# MWU Framework

Recall  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times n}$

Optimization Problem (Packing LP)

Solve  $\max \langle \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{x} \rangle$  s.t.  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$

Find  $\mathbf{x}$  such that  $\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{x} \geq \text{OPT}$ ,  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq (1 + \epsilon)\mathbf{1}$

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# Solving Lagrangian Relaxation

Lagrangian relaxation

$$\max \langle \mathbf{1}, d \rangle \text{ s.t. } w^T \mathbf{A} d \leq w^T \mathbf{1}, d \geq \mathbf{0}.$$

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## Knapsack

Equivalent to

$$\max \langle \mathbf{1}, d \rangle \text{ s.t. } \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{\mathbf{A}^T w}{\langle \mathbf{1}, w \rangle}, d \right\rangle}_g \leq 1, \text{ or}$$

$$\max d_1 + \dots + d_n$$

$$\text{s.t. } g_1 \cdot d_1 + \dots + g_n \cdot d_n \leq 1.$$

Set  $d = e_i$  s.t.  $i = \operatorname{argmin}_j g_j$ .

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## Lemma

Step (3) is called at most  $\mathcal{O}(m \cdot \eta/\epsilon) = \mathcal{O}(m \log(m)/\epsilon^2)$  times.

# MWU Example

Consider LP  $\max x_1 + x_2$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

where  $x^* = (2/5 \ 1/5)^T$ . Choose  $\epsilon = 0.1$ .

- (1,2): Initialize  $x \leftarrow \mathbb{0}$ ,  $w \leftarrow \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{1}$ ,  $\eta \leftarrow 10$

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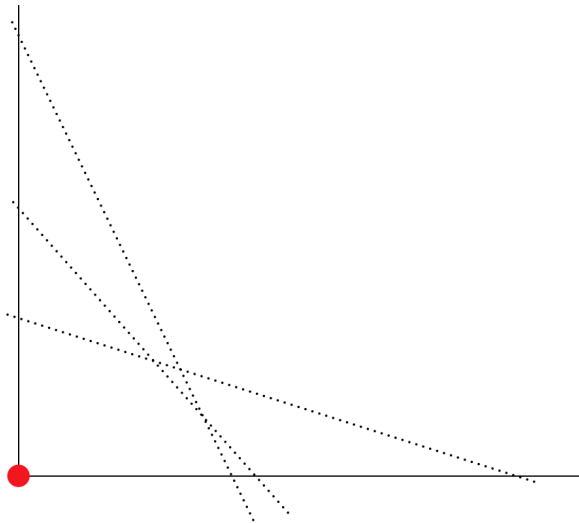
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- (3): Solve the Lagrangian,  $\operatorname{argmin} \frac{w^T \mathbf{A}}{\mathbb{1}^T w} = (1.5 \ 2)$ . Set  $d = e_1$
- (4): Increment  $x \leftarrow x + \frac{1}{4}d = (\frac{1}{4} \ 0)^T$
- (5): Update weights,  $\begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} \odot \exp(\eta \mathbf{A}d) \approx \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} \odot \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
- (3): Solve the Lagrangian,  $\operatorname{argmin} \frac{w^T \mathbf{A}}{\mathbb{1}^T w} = (\frac{19}{10} \ \frac{12}{10})$ . Set  $d = e_2$
- ...

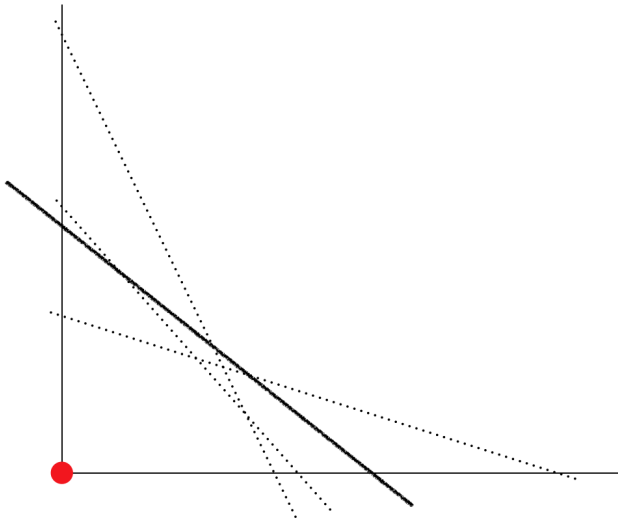
# MWU Example

Consider standard LP with  $m = 3$  constraints and  $n = 2$  vars.

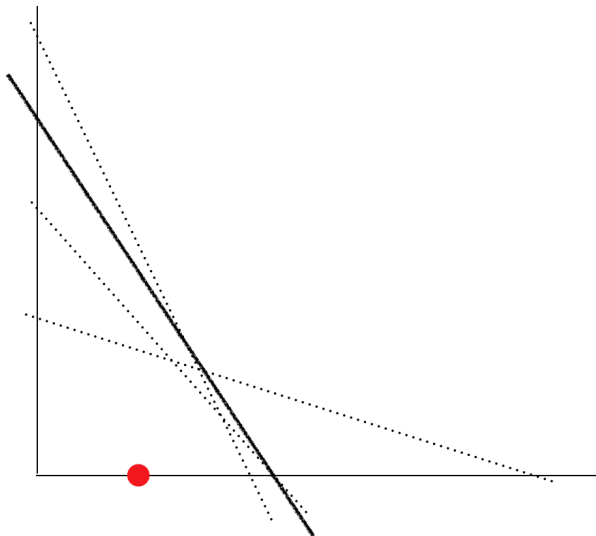




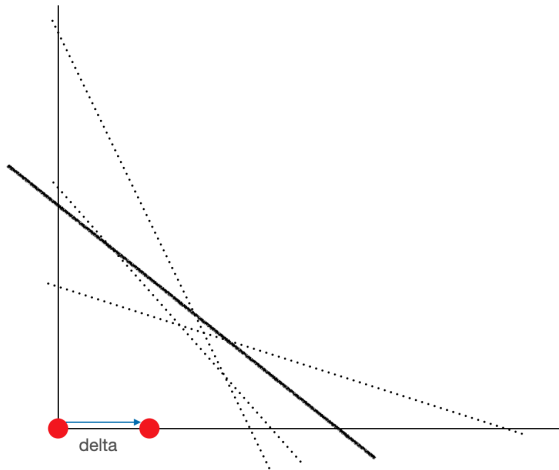
# MWU Example



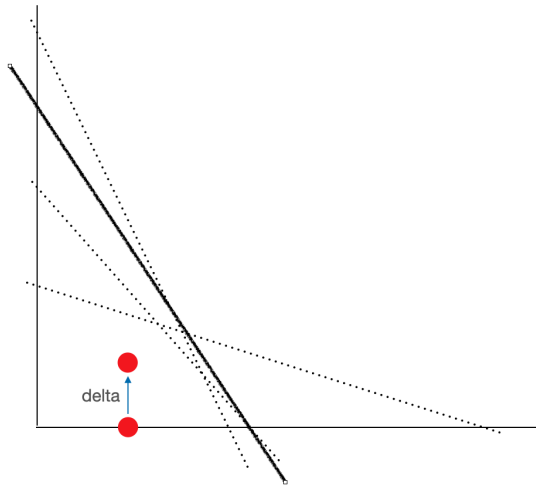
# MWU Example



# MWU Example



# MWU Example



# MWU Framework

Find  $x$  such that  $x \geq \text{OPT}$ ,  $\mathbf{A}x \leq (1 + \epsilon)\mathbb{1}$

- 1  $\mathbb{1}^T x \leftarrow 0^n$ ,  $\eta \leftarrow \log(m)/\epsilon$
- 2 Initialize weights equally  $w \leftarrow \frac{1}{m}\mathbb{1}^m$
- 3 Set  $d = e_i$  where  $i = \text{argmin}_j g_j$  (Lagrangian relaxation)
- 4 Increment  $x \leftarrow x + \delta \cdot d$  s.t.  $\delta \cdot \max_i (\eta \cdot \mathbf{A}_i d) = \epsilon$
- 5 Update weights,  $w_i = w_i \cdot \exp(\eta \cdot \mathbf{A}_i d) \forall i$
- 6 If constraints are not tight, go to step (3)

## Sequential $\rightarrow$ Parallel

How can we parallelize this (i.e., increase multiple coordinates simultaneously)?

## Lagrangian Relaxation

Equivalent to

$$\max \langle \mathbf{1}, d \rangle \text{ s.t. } \left\langle \frac{\mathbf{A}^T w}{\underbrace{\langle \mathbf{1}, w \rangle}_g}, d \right\rangle \leq 1, , d \geq 0.$$

Sequentially, set  $d = e_i$  s.t.  $i = \operatorname{argmin}_j g_j$ .

## Lagrangian Relaxation

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$$\max \langle \mathbf{1}, d \rangle \text{ s.t. } \left\langle \underbrace{\frac{\mathbf{A}^T w}{\langle \mathbf{1}, w \rangle}}_g, d \right\rangle \leq 1, d \geq 0.$$

Sequentially, set  $d = e_i$  s.t.  $i = \operatorname{argmin}_j g_j$ . Set

$$d_i = \begin{cases} f(g_i^{-1}) \text{ or } 1 - f(g_i) & : g_i < (1 + \epsilon)g_{\min} \\ 0 & : g_i \geq (1 + \epsilon)g_{\min} \end{cases}.$$

## Lagrangian Relaxation

Equivalent to

$$\max \langle \mathbb{1}, d \rangle \text{ s.t. } \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{\mathbf{A}^\top w}{\langle \mathbb{1}, w \rangle}, d \right\rangle}_g \leq 1, d \geq 0.$$

Set

$$d_i = \begin{cases} f(g_i^{-1}) \text{ or } 1 - f(g_i) & : g_i < (1 + \epsilon)g_{\min} \text{ OPT}^{-1} \\ 0 & : g_i \geq (1 + \epsilon)g_{\min} \text{ OPT}^{-1} \end{cases}.$$



## Lagrangian Relaxation

Equivalent to

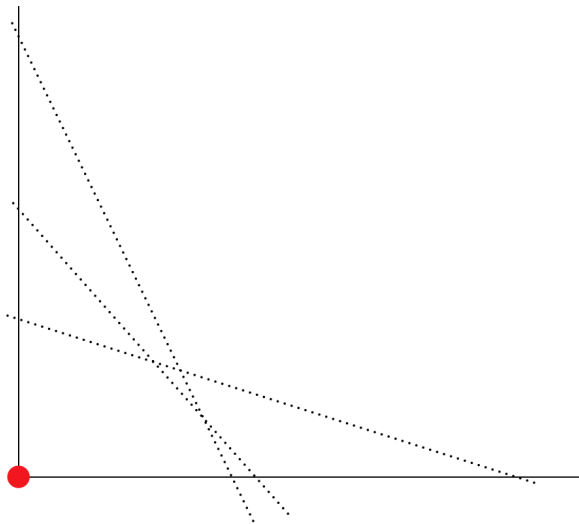
$$\max \langle \mathbb{1}, d \rangle \text{ s.t. } \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{\mathbf{A}^T w}{\langle \mathbb{1}, w \rangle}, d \right\rangle}_g \leq 1, d \geq 0.$$

Set

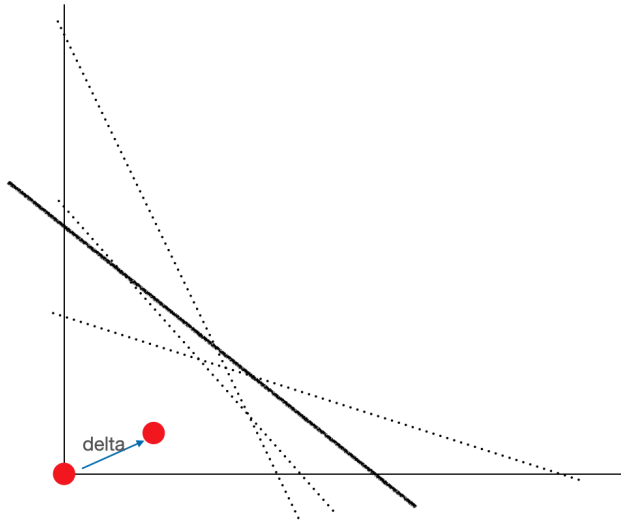
$$d_i = \begin{cases} f(g_i^{-1}) \text{ or } 1 - f(g_i) & : g_i < (1 + \epsilon) g_{\min} \text{ OPT}^{-1} \\ 0 & : g_i \geq (1 + \epsilon) g_{\min} \text{ OPT}^{-1} \end{cases}.$$

Since  $g_{\min} \cdot \mathbb{1}^T x^* \leq g^T x^* \leq 1$ , then  $g_{\min} \leq \text{OPT}^{-1}$

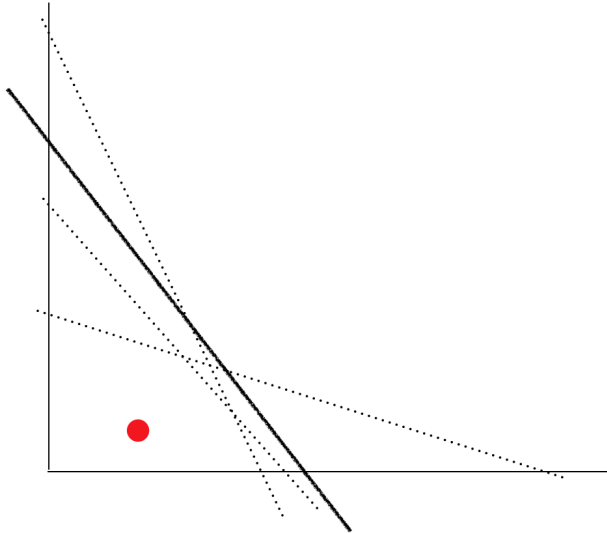
## MWU Example (Parallel)



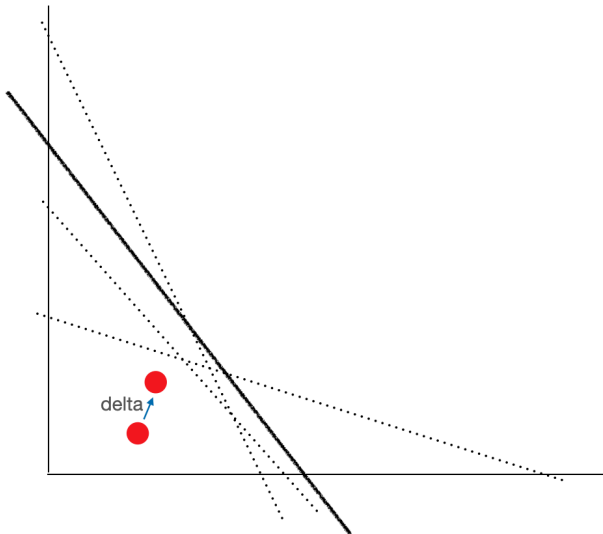
# MWU Example (Parallel)



## MWU Example (Parallel)



# MWU Example (Parallel)



# MWU Framework

- 1  $x > 0$  s.t.  $\mathbf{Ax} \leq \epsilon$ ,  $\eta \leftarrow \log(m)/\epsilon$ ,  $M \leftarrow (1 - \epsilon)\text{OPT}$
- 2 Initialize weights equally\*  $w \leftarrow \frac{1}{m}\mathbb{1}^m$
- 3 Set  $\Delta_i = \max\{0, 1 - g_i M\}$  (Lagrangian relaxation)
- 4 Increment  $x \leftarrow x + \underbrace{\eta^{-1} x \odot \Delta}_d$
- 5 Update weights,  $w_i = w_i \cdot \exp(\eta \cdot \mathbf{A}_i d) \forall i$
- 6 If constraints are not tight, go to step (3)

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\*Technically, set  $w = \exp(\eta \mathbf{Ax})$

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## Lemma (Fake)

Each iteration satisfies the invariant\*\*,

$$\frac{\langle \mathbb{1}, d \rangle}{\max(\mathbf{Ax}^{(new)}) - \max(\mathbf{Ax}^{(old)})} \geq M.$$



# MWU Framework

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## Lemma (Fake)

Each iteration satisfies the invariant\*\*,

$$\frac{\langle \mathbb{1}, d \rangle}{\max(\mathbf{Ax}^{(new)}) - \max(\mathbf{Ax}^{(old)})} \geq M.$$

\*\*Hard to analyze since max is not smooth

# MWU Framework

- 1  $x_i \leftarrow \frac{\epsilon}{n \cdot \|\mathbf{A}_{:,i}\|} \quad \forall i \in [n], \eta \leftarrow \log(m)/\epsilon, M \leftarrow (1 - \epsilon)\text{OPT}$
- 2 Initialize weights equally  $w \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \mathbb{1}^m$
- 3 Set  $\Delta_i = \max\{0, 1 - g_i M\}$  (Lagrangian relaxation)
- 4 Increment  $x \leftarrow x + \underbrace{\eta^{-1} x \odot \Delta}_d$
- 5 Update weights,  $w_i = w_i \cdot \exp(\eta \cdot \mathbf{A}_i d) \quad \forall i$
- 6 If constraints are not tight, go to step (3)

## Lemma

*Each iteration satisfies the invariant,*

$$\frac{\langle \mathbb{1}, d \rangle}{\text{smax}(\mathbf{A}_x^{(new)}) - \text{smax}(\mathbf{A}_x^{(old)})} \geq M.$$

## Lemma

*The algorithm converges in  $\mathcal{O}(\log(m) \log(n/\epsilon)/\epsilon^2)$  iterations.*

## Lemma

*The algorithm converges to  $x$  s.t.  $\max(\mathbf{A}x) \leq \text{smax}_\eta(\mathbf{A}x) \leq 1$ .*

## Lemma

*The algorithm converges to  $x$  s.t.  $\langle \mathbb{1}, x \rangle \geq M$ .*

## Recap

- Approximately solve special LPs using MWU up to error  $\epsilon$
- Reduce “hard” LP into series of “easy” LPs via Lagrangian relaxation
- Parallelize by doing more work simultaneously

# Experimental Results

Implemented in Python using sparse matrices (`scipy`). Run parallel LP solver (denote as Alina's alg) on personal laptop (2.3 GHz Dual-Core Intel i5, 8GB of memory) to solve:

- Maximum matchings (packing LP)\*
- Dominating set (covering LP)

Compare with other par/seq. LP solvers:

- Mahoney et al\* mixed-PC LP solver
- Kent's sequential solver\*

Also run against general optimization libraries:

- CPLEX\*
- CVXOPT
- MS-BFS-Graft (for bipartite graph matchings)

\*Results included in these slides

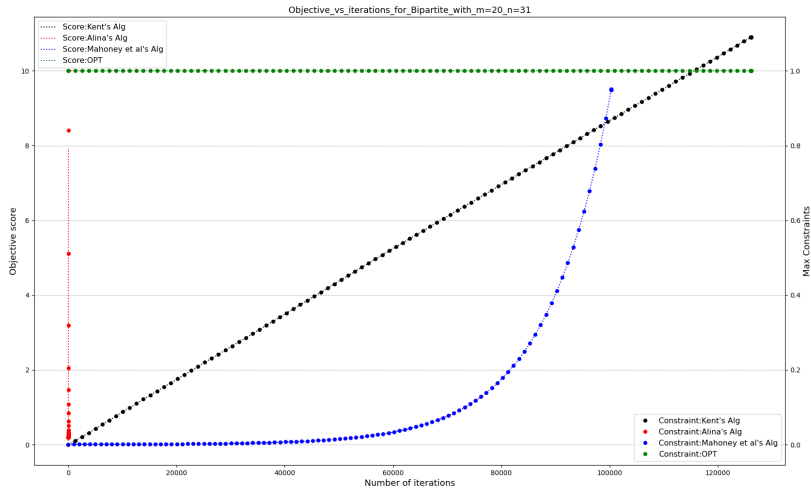
# Problem Definition

## Maximum Matching

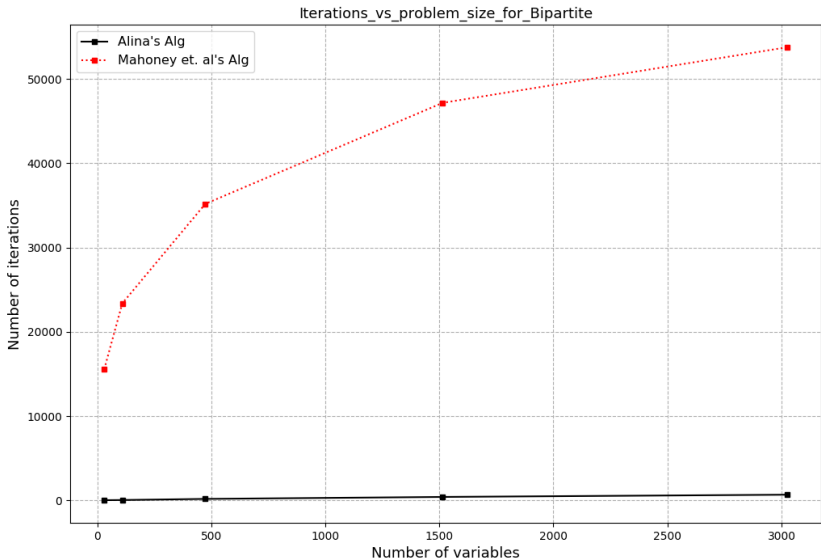
Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , find largest cardinality  $F \subseteq E$  such that  $\forall v \in V$  is incident to at most one edge in  $F$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \max \sum_{e \in E} x_e \text{ s.t.} \\ \sum_{e \in \text{inc}(v)} x_e \leq 1 \quad \forall v \in V \\ x \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Iteration Count Comparison



# Iteration Count Growth Comparison



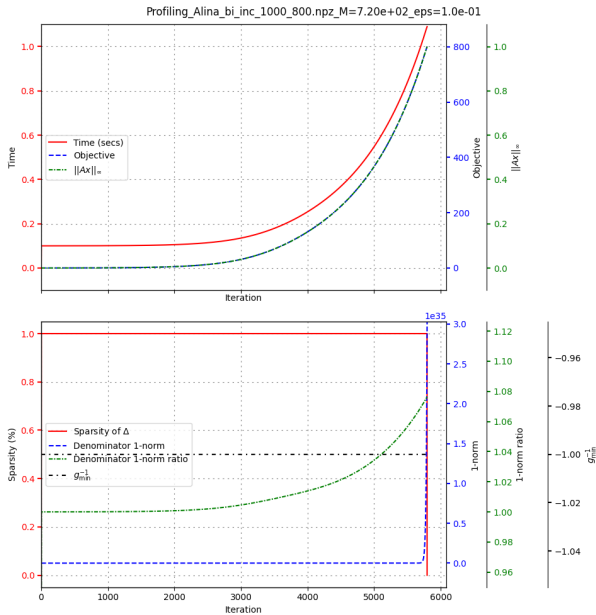


# Experimental Results

Table: CPLEX vs. ParPacLP runtime and iteration count for graph matching with  $\epsilon = 0.1$ . Breakdown is (matvec,vecop)

Problem	CPLEX	LP	LP Arith.	LP Iters
bi_20_30	0.0s	0.445s	(0.18s,0.12s)	2215
bi_200_300	0.45s	4.73s	(1.73s,1.70s)	4350
bi_800_1000	1.66s	106s	(40.3s,45.1s)	5800

# Iteration Count Growth Comparison



# Increasing Step Sizes (Safely)

Can we take larger steps?

Is the step size,

$$d = \eta^{-1}(x \odot \Delta)$$

too conservative?

Solution is optimal (i.e.,  $\langle \mathbb{1}, x \rangle \geq M$ ) as long as

$$\frac{\langle \mathbb{1}, x + d \rangle - \langle \mathbb{1}, x \rangle}{\text{smax}_{\eta}(\mathbf{A}(x + d)) - \text{smax}_{\eta}(\mathbf{A}x)} = \frac{\langle \mathbb{1}, d \rangle}{\delta t} \geq M$$

# Increasing Step Sizes (Safely)

Can we take larger steps?

Is the step size,

$$d = \eta^{-1}(x \odot \Delta)$$

too conservative?

Solve line search:  $\max \alpha$  s.t.

$$\frac{\alpha \langle \mathbf{1}, d \rangle}{\text{smax}_\eta(\mathbf{A}(x + \alpha \cdot d)) - \text{smax}_\eta(\mathbf{A}x)} \geq M$$
$$\max(\mathbf{A}(x + \alpha \cdot d)) \leq 1.$$

Binary search over  $\alpha$ .

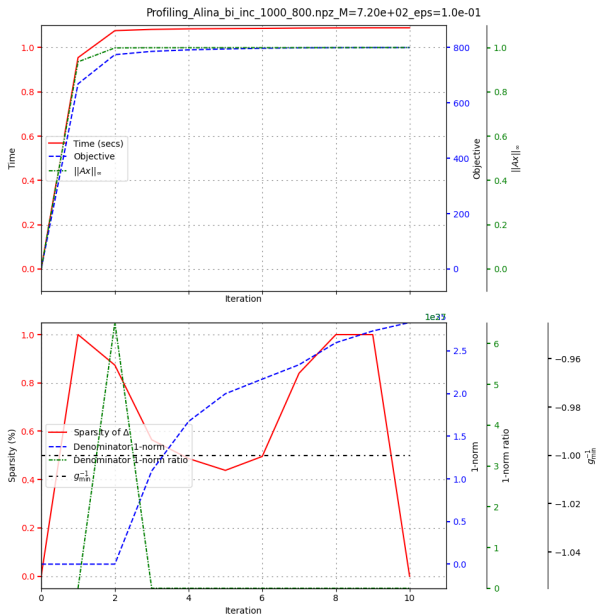
Table: CPLEX vs. ParPacLP+BS runtime and iteration count for graph matching with  $\epsilon = 0.1$ . Breakdown is (matvec,vecop,BS)

Problem	CPLEX	LP	LP Arith.	LP Iters
bi_800_1000	1.66s	0.26s	(0.1,0.1,0.0)	1
bi_2000_3000	17.52s	1.93s	(0.6,0.7,0.4)	8
A_2000_10	0.46s	0.07s	(0.0,0.0,0.0)	17
A_10000_16	38.17s	1.54s	(0.4,0.6,0.3)	16
wiki-Vote	0.44s	0.18s	(0.0,0.0,0.1)	25
amazon0312	1766.7s	23.6s	(6.2,5.5,9.8)	52
web-Google	173.2s	50.0s	(14.6,9.9,21.8)	49
cit-Patents	8171.5s	306s	(88.8,78.0,118)	62

Table: Dimensions of graphs from SuiteSparse

Problem	m	n	nnz
wiki-Vote	1.7e4	2.1e6	4.1e5
amazon0312	8.0e5	6.4e6	1.3e7
web-Google	1.8e6	1.0e7	2.0e7
cit-Patents	7.5e6	3.3e7	6.6e7

# Experimental Results



# Next Steps and Questions

- Binary step search takes the most time. Find ways to reduce the time.
- Without  $M$ , we need binary search to approximate OPT. Can we avoid/reduce this overhead?
- The parallel algorithm spends majority of time in initial stages. Can we accelerate this?
- Pair/couple LP with another LP solver that is fast in the beginning
- Solving an “easier” problem (subset of constraint, loosen constraints, etc.)

## Tuning opportunities

- Introduce  $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2$  where  $M = (1 - \epsilon_1)\text{OPT}$  and  $\epsilon \leftarrow \epsilon_2$
- We can incorporate “easier” problem’s solution by scaling down. Opportunities to trade-off how much time is spent in “easier” problem vs. parallel LP.

- Arora, Sanjeev, Elad Hazan, and Satyen Kale. "The multiplicative weights update method: a meta-algorithm and applications." *Theory of Computing* 8.1 (2012): 121-164.
- Ene, Alina, personal communications.
- Mahoney, Michael W., et al. "Approximating the Solution to Mixed Packing and Covering LPs in Parallel  $\tilde{O}(\epsilon^{-3})$  Time." 43rd International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP 2016). Schloss Dagstuhl-Leibniz-Zentrum fuer Informatik, 2016.
- Quanrud, Kent. Fast approximations for combinatorial optimization via multiplicative weight updates. Diss. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2019.