## Graph sparsification

Bruno Ordozgoiti<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Aalto University

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We consider a graph G = (V, E) with Laplacian  $L_G = D_G - A_G$ .

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Definition:  $\epsilon$ -approximation of a graph.  $H = (V, E') \epsilon$ -approximates G if  $(1 - \epsilon)L_G \preccurlyeq L_H \preccurlyeq (1 + \epsilon)L_G.$  We write  $A - B \geq 0$  if A - B is P.S.D.

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Implications:

$$(1-\epsilon)x^{\mathsf{T}}L_{\mathsf{G}}x \preccurlyeq x^{\mathsf{T}}L_{\mathsf{H}}x \preccurlyeq (1+\epsilon)x^{\mathsf{T}}L_{\mathsf{G}}x.$$

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• Cuts:  $(1-\epsilon)1_S^T L_G 1_S \preccurlyeq 1_S^T L_H 1_S \preccurlyeq (1+\epsilon)1_S^T L_G 1_S.$ 

First step: build H randomly to preserve G in expectation.

$$w_H(u,v) = egin{cases} rac{w_G(u,v)}{p_{u,v}} & ext{w. p. } p_{u,v} \ 0 & ext{w. p. } 1-p_{u,v}. \end{cases}$$

 $\mathbb{E}[L_H] = \sum_{u,v \in E} p_{u,v} \frac{w_G(u,v)}{p_{u,v}} L_{u,v} = L_G$  where  $L_{u,v}$  is the Laplacian of the graph with unique edge u, v.

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We now need Chernoff bounds for the concentration of eigenvalues.



Matrix Chernoff bounds  $(Tropp, 2012)^1$ .

## Theorem

Theorem 32.3.1. Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_m$  be independent random *n*-dimensional symmetric positive semidefinite matrices so that  $||X_i|| \leq R$  almost surely. Let  $X = \sum_i X_i$  and let  $\mu_{max}$  and  $\mu_{min}$  be the maximum and minimum eigenvalues of

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Then

$$\Pr\left[\lambda_{\min}\left(\sum_{i} X_{i}\right) \leq (1-\epsilon)\mu_{\min}\right] \leq n\left(\frac{e^{-\epsilon}}{(1-\epsilon)^{1-\epsilon}}\right)^{\frac{\mu_{\min}}{R}} \leq ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^{2}\mu_{\min}}{2R}},$$
  
$$\Pr\left[\lambda_{\max}\left(\sum_{i} X_{i}\right) \geq (1+\epsilon)\mu_{\max}\right] \leq n\left(\frac{e^{\epsilon}}{(1+\epsilon)^{1+\epsilon}}\right)^{\frac{\mu_{\max}}{R}} \leq ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^{2}\mu_{\max}}{3R}}$$

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In a nutshell, if  $||X_i|| \leq R$ , we fail with probability at most  $ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^2 \mu_{min}}{2R}}$  (similar for  $\mu_{max}$ ).

Recall: 
$$L_H = \sum_{u,v \in E} \frac{w_G(u,v)}{p_{u,v}} L_{u,v}$$
.

Thus, we just need to choose  $p_{u,v}$  carefully, so that  $\left\|\frac{w_G(u,v)}{p_{u,v}}L_{u,v}\right\| \leq R$ .

But first, let's take care of a little annoyance:  $ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^2 \mu_{min}}{2R}}$ 

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$$A \preccurlyeq B(1+\epsilon) \Leftrightarrow B^{-1/2}AB^{-1/2} \preccurlyeq (1+\epsilon)I.$$

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For singular matrices we can use the pseudoinverse:

$$L_H \preccurlyeq (1+\epsilon)L_G \Leftrightarrow L_G^{+/2}L_HL_G^{+/2} \preccurlyeq (1+\epsilon)L_G^{+/2}L_GL_G^{+/2},$$

where  $L_{G}^{+/2}L_{G}^{+/2} = L_{G}^{+}$ .

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where 
$$L_G^{+/2} L_G^{+/2} = L_G^+$$
. Now,  
 $\Pi = L_G^{+/2} L_G L_G^{+/2}$  is a projection. Indeed,  
 $\Pi \Pi = L_G^{+/2} L_G L_G^{+/2} L_G^{+/2} L_G L_G^{+/2} = L_G^{+/2} L_G L_G^{+/2} = \Pi$ . So  $\mu_{min} = \mu_{max} = 1$ .  
 $\blacktriangleright$  And  $\mathbb{E} \left[ L_G^{+/2} L_H L_G^{+/2} \right] = \Pi$ .

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Thus, we sample matrices X as follows:

$$w_X(u,v) = \begin{cases} \frac{w_G(u,v)}{p_{u,v}} L_G^{+/2} L_{u,v} L_G^{+/2} & \text{w. p. } p_{u,v} \\ 0 & \text{w. p. } 1 - p_{u,v} \end{cases}$$

so that  $\sum_{(u,v)\in E} X_{u,v} = L_G^{+/2} L_H L_G^{+/2}$ .

Since we want  $||X_{u,v}|| \leq R$ , we choose  $p_{u,v} = \frac{1}{R} w_G(u,v) ||L_G^{+/2} L_{u,v} L_G^{+/2}||$ .

We now fail with probability at most  $ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^2 \mu_{\min}}{2R}} = ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^2}{2R}}$  (similar for  $\mu_{max}$ ).

How may edges do we pick?

Conveniently,  $\|L_G^{+/2}L_{u,v}L_G^{+/2}\| = (\delta_u - \delta_v)^T L_G^+(\delta_u - \delta_v) = R_{eff}(u, v)$ , which is the effective resistance between u and v.

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Interpretations of  $w_G(u, v)R_{eff}(u, v)$ :

**>** probability that (u, v) appears in a random spanning tree,

leverage score of the edge (u, v) in the incidence matrix.

So  $\mathbb{E}[|E_H|] = \sum_{(u,v)\in E} p_{u,v} = \sum_{(u,v)\in E} \frac{1}{R} w_G(u,v) R_{eff}(u,v) =$ 

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So 
$$\mathbb{E}[|\mathcal{E}_H|] = \sum_{(u,v)\in E} p_{u,v} = \sum_{(u,v)\in E} \frac{1}{R} w_G(u,v) R_{eff}(u,v) = \frac{n-1}{R}.$$

Thus, we sample about  $\frac{n}{R}$  edges in expectation, and our probability failure is at most  $ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^2}{2R}}$ .

How to choose *R*?

Thus, we sample about  $\frac{n}{R}$  edges in expectation, and our probability failure is at most  $ne^{\frac{-\epsilon^2}{2R}}$ .

How to choose R?

$$R = \frac{\epsilon^2}{3.5 \log n}.$$

Thus, we sample about  $\frac{n}{R}$  edges in expectation, and our probability failure is at most  $ne^{\frac{-e^2}{2R}}$ .

How to choose *R*?

$$R = rac{\epsilon^2}{3.5 \log n}.$$

We have found a graph H = (V, E') with  $\mathbb{E}\left[|E'|\right] = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{n\log n}{\epsilon^2}\right)$  satisfying

$$\Pr\left[\lambda_{\min}\left(L_{G}^{+/2}L_{H}L_{G}^{+/2}\right) \le (1-\epsilon)\mu_{\min}\right] \le ne^{-\epsilon^{2}/(2R)} \le ne^{-(3.5/2)\log n} = n^{-3/4},$$
  
$$\Pr\left[\lambda_{\max}\left(L_{G}^{+/2}L_{H}L_{G}^{+/2}\right) \ge (1+\epsilon)\mu_{\max}\right] \le ne^{-\epsilon^{2}/(3R)} \le ne^{-(3.5/3)\log n} = n^{-1/6}.$$

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There are linear-sized  $\left(O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon^2}\right)\right)$  sparsifiers! (Batson et al., 2012)<sup>2</sup>

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Will this work with adjacency matrices?

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G = (V, E). |V| = 1000. Density: 0.05. Planted subgraph with |V'| = 100, density: 0.75.



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Thanks!



Batson, J., Spielman, D. A., and Srivastava, N. (2012). Twice-ramanujan sparsifiers. *SIAM Journal on Computing*, 41(6):1704–1721.

Tropp, J. A. (2012). User-friendly tail bounds for sums of random matrices. *Foundations of computational mathematics*, 12(4):389–434.