

Today:

Feasible Interpolation & Automatizability

Cutting Planes

LIBs for CPs via Feasible Interpolation

Reminders: email me about course presentations

Automatizability : Meta-algorithmic question

Searching for \mathcal{P} -proofs of f

- # of proofs of size $s \approx 2^s$
- there is always a proof of size 2^n and easy to find

Q: Can we find a \mathcal{P} -proof in time $\text{poly}(\text{size of smallest } \mathcal{P}\text{-proof})$?

Defn [Bonet-P-Raz]

\mathcal{P} is **automatizable** in time $f(s)$ if \exists algorithm A that given an UNSAT F , outputs a \mathcal{P} -refutation of F in time $f(s)$, where $s = \text{size of shortest } \mathcal{P}\text{-refutation of } F$

Automatizability: motivation

1. Fundamental algorithmic question behind automated theorem proving / SAT solvers

2. Has lead to amazing new algorithms for unsupervised learning problems, as well as approximation algorithms (SOS)

(P automatizable + efficient P -proof of sample complexity Upper Bounds)
 \Rightarrow efficient learning alg

3. (Nearly) Equivalent to Feasible Interpolation

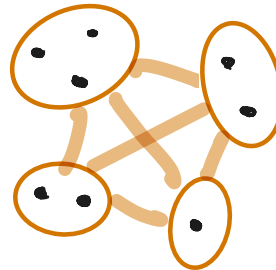
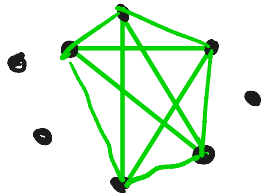
4. Connections to PAC Learning

Feasible Interpolation [Krajicek]

Interpolant formula: $A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge B(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$

Interpolant function $f_{A,B}(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A(\vec{x}, \alpha) \text{ is SAT} \\ 0 & \text{if } B(\vec{y}, \alpha) \text{ is SAT} \\ * & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Example 1: $\text{Clique}_K(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge \text{Color}_{K-1}(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$



$K=5$

Feasible Interpolation [Krajicek]

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Example 1: $\text{Clique}_k(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge \text{Color}_{k-1}(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$

Example 2: $\underbrace{\text{Ref}_p(\vec{x}, \vec{z})}_{\vec{x} \text{ is a } p \text{ refutation of } \vec{z}} \wedge \underbrace{\text{SAT}(\vec{y}, \vec{z})}_{\vec{y} \text{ is a satisfying assignment of } \vec{z}}$



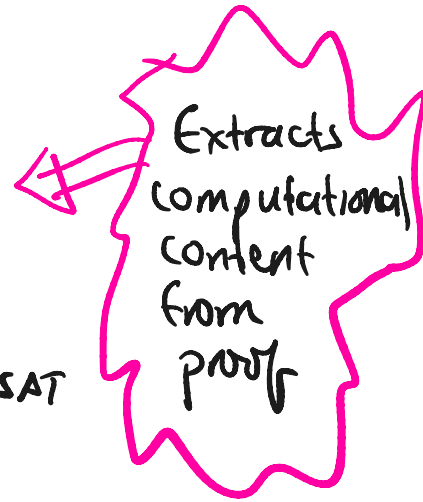
Feasible Interpolation [Krajíček]

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Defn [Krajíček]

P has **feasible interpolation** if there is a circuit $C(\alpha)$ that computes $f_{A,B}$ for every UNSAT interpolant formula $A \wedge B$, and $\text{size}(C)$ is poly in size of P -refutation of $f_{A,B}$



Feasible Interpolation [Krajíček]

Interpolant formula: $A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge B(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$

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Defn [Krajíček]

P has **monotone feasible interpolation** if whenever the \vec{z} -variables occur only negatively in B and positively in A , C is a monotone circuit (of size polynomial in the size of P -refutation of $f_{A,B}$)

Automatizability + Feasible Interpolation

Interpolant formula: $A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge B(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$

Interpolant function $f_{A,B}(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A(\vec{x}, \alpha) \text{ is SAT} \\ 0 & \text{if } B(\vec{y}, \alpha) \text{ is SAT} \\ * & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Theorem [BPR]

- ① Automatizability \Rightarrow feasible interpolation
- ② for suff strong P (that can efficiently prove their reflection principle)
feasible interp \Rightarrow automatizability

BPR: "On interpolation and automatization for Frege systems"
Bonnet-Pitassi-Raz

Automatizability + Feasible Interpolation

Interpolant formula: $A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge B(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$

Interpolant function $f_{A,B}(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A(\vec{x}, \alpha) \text{ is SAT} \\ 0 & \text{if } B(\vec{y}, \alpha) \text{ is SAT} \\ * & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Theorem [BPR]

- ① Automatizability \Rightarrow feasible interpolation
- ② for suff strong P (that can efficiently prove their reflection principle)
feasible interp \Rightarrow automatizability

\therefore automatizability of $P \approx$ proofs in P are "simple"
 \approx superpoly LBS for P (via feas. interp)

① Automizable \rightarrow Feasible Interp. [Impashvitz, BPR]

Let $A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge B(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$ have a P-refutation π

Algorithm to solve $f_{A,B}$:

on input α , run autom alg for $|\pi|$ steps

on $A(\vec{x}, \alpha)$. If it outputs a refutation output "A unsat"
else output "B unsat"

key point: If $B(\vec{y}, \alpha)$ satisfiable, let ρ be satisfying assignment. Then $A(\vec{x}, \alpha) \wedge B(\rho, \alpha) = A(\vec{x}, \alpha) \wedge 1$

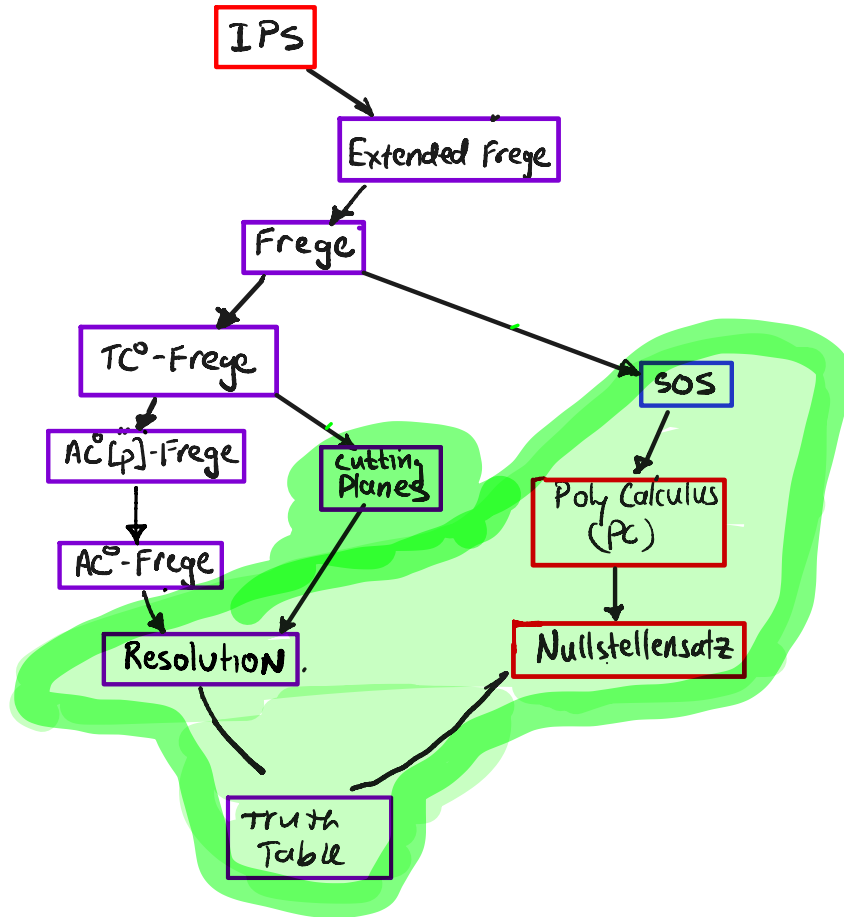
so $\pi|_{\vec{z}=\alpha, \vec{y}=\rho}$ is a refutation of $A(\vec{x}, \alpha)$

2. If P can prove its own soundness

then Feasible Interp for $P \rightarrow$ automizability of P

See Pudlak "on reducibility and symmetry
of disjoint NP pairs"

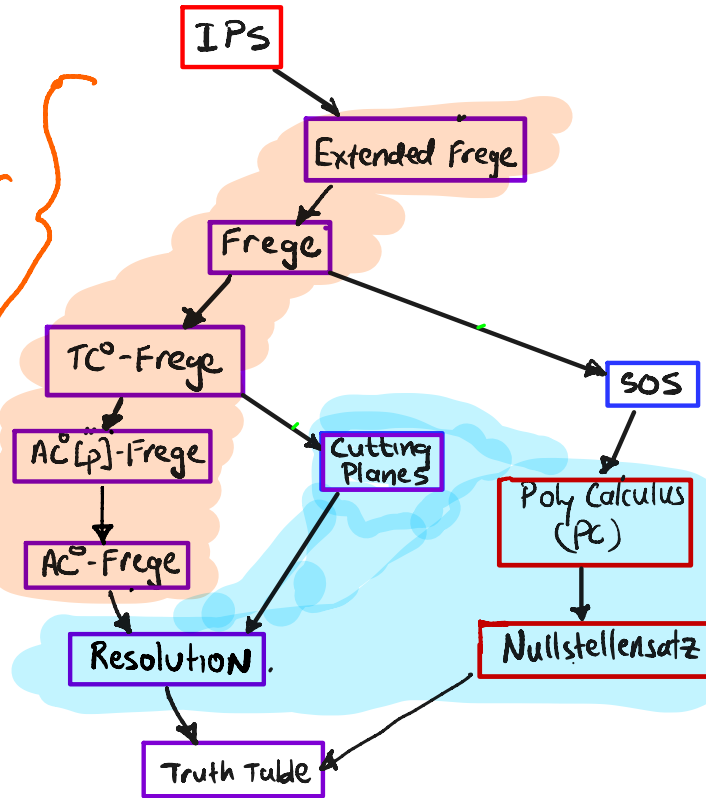
Feasible Interpolation - UPPER BOUNDS



Automatizability - LOWER BOUNDS

NON-automatizable
in polytime under
crypto assumptions

Ei: RSA
Rest: Diffie-Hellman
[KP'98, BPR'97,
BDGMP'99]



non-automatizable
in polytime
unless $W[P] = FPT$
[AR'01]

NP-hard to
automate
[AM'19]

[aRGNPRS'24, GKMP'26]

Cutting Planes

Refutation system for proving UNSOLVABILITY of a system of linear inequalities
where vars $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Defn (Cutting Planes Refutations)

Let $Ax \geq b$ be a system of integer linear inequalities

$$\{a^1 \cdot x \geq b^1, a^2 \cdot x \geq b^2, \dots, a^m \cdot x \geq b^m\} \quad \begin{matrix} A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n} \\ b \in \mathbb{Z}^m \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} A \\ \boxed{} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{matrix} \geq \bar{b}$$

A cutting planes (CP) refutation of $Ax \geq b$ is a sequence of inequalities such that each line (inequality) is either one of original ones or follows from previously derived inequalities by one of the following rules:

Division
Rule

$$\frac{a \cdot x \geq c}{\frac{a}{d} \cdot x \geq \lceil \frac{c}{d} \rceil}$$

where d divides every a_i

Non-Neg
Linear Combination

$$\frac{a \cdot x \geq c \quad b \cdot x \geq d}{(\alpha a + \beta b) \cdot x \geq \alpha c + \beta d}$$

where $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$

Cutting Planes

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where $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$

Observations:

① To refute a CNF $F = C_1 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$: convert each clause to linear inequality

$$x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3 \leadsto x_1 + (1-x_2) + x_3 \geq 1$$

and add $2n$ additional inequalities $\{x_i \geq 0, x_i \leq 1 \mid i \in [n]\}$

② Linear combin rule is sound even over \mathbb{R} ; Division rule preserves only integer solutions

③ For refuting CNFs, can assume wlog all coefficients have magnitude $\leq 2^{n^2}$. Therefore size (Π) can be measured by # of lines (linear ineq's) in the CP refutation

④ CPs is SOUND & COMPLETE

Cutting Planes Complexity

- ① CP p -simulates Resolution
- ② Res does not p -simulate CPs.
In particular, $1\text{-}1$ onto PHP_{n-1}^n has polysize CP refutations
but we showed PHP_{n-1}^n requires exponential-size Res refutations
- ③ There are UNSAT CNFs $\{F_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ requiring exponential-size CPs refutations

Cutting Planes Complexity

① CP p-simulates Resolution

$$\frac{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_4)}{x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_4}$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \geq 1 \quad 1 - x_1 + x_4 \geq 1$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + (1 - x_1) + x_4 \geq 2$$

$$= x_2 + x_3 + x_4 \geq 1$$

↪ addition rule

$$\frac{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)}{x_2 \vee x_3 \vee x_4}$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \geq 1 \quad 1 - x_1 + x_2 + x_4 \geq 1$$

addition

$$2x_2 + x_3 + x_4 \geq 1$$

$$x_3 \geq 0 \quad x_4 \geq 0$$

addition

$$2x_2 + 2x_3 + 2x_4 \geq 1$$

division w/
rounding

$$x_2 + x_3 + x_4 \geq 1$$

Cutting Planes Complexity

② 1-1 onto PHP^n_{n-1} has short CP refutations

$$(a) \forall i \in [n] \quad P_{i1} + P_{i2} + \dots + P_{i,n-1} \geq 1$$

$$(b) \forall i \neq i' \in [n] \quad \sum_{j \in [n-1]} P_{ij} + P_{i'j} \leq 1$$

} Initial equations
for PHP^n_{n-1}

* ① Derive : $\forall j \in [n-1] \quad P_{1j} + P_{2j} + \dots + P_{nj} \leq 1$ } Hole inequalities

② Add up all eqns from ① to derive $\sum_{\substack{i \in [n] \\ j \in [n-1]}} P_{ij} \leq n-1$

③ Add up all eqns from (a) to derive $\sum_{\substack{i \in [n] \\ j \in [n-1]}} P_{ij} \geq n$

④ Add ② + ③ to derive $0 \geq 1$

It is left to derive hole inequalities: $\forall j \in [n-1] : P_{1j} + P_{2j} + \dots + P_{nj} \leq 1$

(1) $P_{1j} + P_{2j} \leq 1$ is an original inequality from (b)

(2) say we've derived (*) $P_{1j} + P_{2j} + \dots + P_{n'j} \leq 1$, $n' < n$

To derive $P_{1j} + P_{2j} + \dots + P_{n+1,j} \leq 1$:

(i) sum up: $P_{1j} + P_{n+1,j} \leq 1$ for all $i = 1 \dots n'$ to get

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n'} P_{ij} + n' \cdot P_{n+1,j} \leq n'$$

(ii) Multiply (*) by $n'-1$ to get $(n'-1) \sum_{i=1}^{n'} P_{ij} \leq n'-1$

(iii) Add (i), (ii): $n' \sum_{i=1}^{n'+1} P_{ij} \leq 2n'-1$

(iv) Divide (iii) by n' (with rounding): $\sum_{i=1}^{n'+1} P_{ij} \leq 1$



Exponential LBs for CPs - Feasible Interpolation

Defn A CNF $F(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z})$ is in **split-form** if $F = A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge B(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$
where A, B are CNFs.

Defn [Interpolant (partial) function associated with a split CNF]

Let $F = A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge B(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$. Then define

$$f_F(\vec{z}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \text{ is satisfiable} \\ 0 & \text{if } B(\vec{y}, \vec{z}) \text{ is satisfiable} \\ * & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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Example (Clique-Coclique formula)

$$F = \text{Clique}_k(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge \text{Color}_{k-1}(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$$

\vec{z} variables: $n \times n$ matrix representing an undirected graph $g = (V, E)$, $|V| = n$

\vec{x} variables: $k \times n$ matrix that represents a clique of size k (a subset $S \subseteq V$, $|S| = k$)

\vec{y} variables: $(k-1) \times n$ matrix that represents a $(k-1)$ -coloring of V

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$\text{Clique}_k(\vec{x}, \vec{z})$:

$$(i) \forall i \in [k] \quad \bigvee_{v=1}^n x_{i,v}$$

$$(ii) \forall i \neq j \in [k] \quad \bigvee_{v \in [n]} \bar{x}_{i,v} \vee \bar{x}_{j,v}$$

$$(iii) \forall u \neq v \in [n] \quad \bigvee_{i \neq j \in [k]} \bar{x}_{i,u} \vee \bar{x}_{j,v} \rightarrow z_{u,v}$$

\vec{x} defines a subset $S \subseteq [n]$ of size $\geq k$

all edges between clique vertices are in g

$\text{Color}_{k-1}(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$:

$$(1) \forall u \in [n] \quad \bigvee_{i=1}^{k-1} y_{i,u}$$

$$(2) \forall u \in [n], \forall i \neq j \in [k-1] \quad \bar{y}_{i,u} \vee \bar{y}_{j,u}$$

$$(3) \forall u \neq v \in [n] \quad \bigvee_{i \in [k-1]} \bar{y}_{i,u} \vee \bigvee_{i \in [k-1]} \bar{y}_{i,v} \vee \bar{z}_{u,v}$$

\vec{y} defines legal coloring of $[n]$

There is no edge in g between vertices of different colors

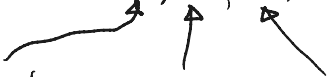
Example (Clique-Coclique formula) $F = \text{Clique}_k(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge \text{Color}_{k+1}(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$

Interpolant function for Clique-coclique :

$$f(\vec{z}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if graph encoded by } \vec{z} \text{ contains a } k\text{-clique} \\ 0 & \text{if graph " " } \vec{z} \text{ has a } (k+1)\text{-coloring} \\ * & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Feasible Interpolation Theorem for CP

There exists a polysized circuit $C(F, \Pi, \alpha)$ that outputs $f_F(\alpha)$.



 split formula over $\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}$ CP refutation of F assignment to \vec{z} variables

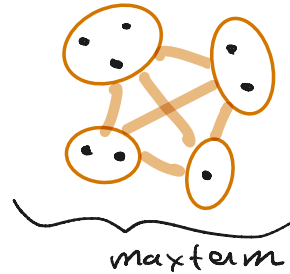
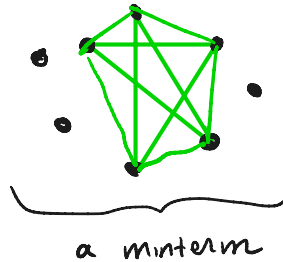
Furthermore

- (a) if $A(\vec{x}, \vec{z})$ is monotone in \vec{z} (only contains positive z -literals) then circuit C is a monotone real circuit.
- (b) and if all coefficients in Π have magnitude $\leq \text{poly}(n)$ then C is a monotone Boolean circuit

Defn Fix k . A minterm (for clique-coclique formula) is a graph containing a k -clique and no other edges

A maxterm is a maximal graph that is $(k-1)$ -colorable
(its vertices partitioned into $k-1$ groups such that $e_{ij} = 1$ iff vertices i and j belong to different groups)

$k=5$



Theorem [Razborov, "Lower Bounds on the monotone complexity of some Boolean functions"]

Let $k = \sqrt{n}$. Then any monotone circuit C that accepts all minterms and rejects all maxterms has size $2^{\Omega(n^\epsilon)}$ for some $\epsilon > 0$

Feasible Interpolation for CP

Lemma There is a polytime alg $A(F, \Pi, \alpha)$ that outputs $f_F(\alpha)$.

Proof Fix F, Π , and assignment α to \vec{z} .

We will show: for each line $f(\vec{x}) + g(\vec{y}) + h(\vec{z}) \geq D$ in Π , $\exists D_0, D_1$, $D_0 + D_1 \geq D - h(\alpha)$
such that we can derive in CPs: $f(\vec{x}) \geq D_0$ from $A(\vec{x}, \alpha)$
 $g(\vec{y}) \geq D_1$ from $B(\vec{y}, \alpha)$

Thus we obtain CP derivations of $0 \geq D_0$ from $A(\vec{x}, \alpha)$ and $0 \geq D_1$ from $B(\vec{y}, \alpha)$.

Since either $D_0 \geq 1$ or $D_1 \geq 1$ we have a refutation of $0 \geq 1$ from either $A(\vec{x}, \alpha)$ or from $B(\vec{x}, \alpha)$.

So $A(F, \Pi, \alpha)$ computes $D_0 + D_1$ + outputs 1 if $D_1 \geq 1$ and 0 if $D_0 \geq 0$.

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Lemma There is a polytime alg $A(F, \Pi, \alpha)$ that outputs $f_F(\alpha)$.

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such that we can derive in CPs: $f(\vec{x}) \geq D_0$ from $A(\vec{x}, \alpha)$
 $g(\vec{y}) \geq D_0$ from $B(\vec{y}, \alpha)$

- BASE CASE: True for initial clauses

- Linear combination
(assume addition)

$$f_1(\vec{x}) + g_1(\vec{y}) + h_1(\vec{z}) \geq C \quad f_2(\vec{x}) + g_2(\vec{y}) + h_2(\vec{z}) \geq D$$

$$f_1(\vec{x}) \geq C_0 \quad g_1(\vec{y}) \geq C_1 \\ C_0 + C_1 \geq C - h_1(\alpha)$$

$$f_2(\vec{x}) \geq D_0 \quad g_2(\vec{y}) \geq D_1 \\ D_0 + D_1 \geq D - h_2(\alpha)$$

By induction

$$f_1(\vec{x}) + f_2(\vec{x}) \geq C_0 + D_0$$

$$g_1(\vec{y}) + g_2(\vec{y}) \geq C_1 + D_1$$

Addition

Feasible Interpolation for CP

Lemma There is a polytime alg $A(F, \Pi, \alpha)$ that outputs $f_F(\alpha)$.

Proof Fix F, Π , and assignment α to \vec{z} .

We will show: for each line $f(\vec{x}) + g(\vec{y}) + h(\vec{z}) \geq D$ in Π , $\exists D_0, D_1, D_0 + D_1 \geq D - h(\alpha)$
such that we can derive in CPs: $f(\vec{x}) \geq D_0$ from $A(\vec{x}, \alpha)$
 $g(\vec{y}) \geq D_1$ from $B(\vec{y}, \alpha)$

- BASE CASE: True for initial clauses

- Division w/ rounding:
$$f(x) + g(y) + h(z) \geq D \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{1}{d} (f(x) + g(y) + h(z)) \geq \lceil \frac{D}{d} \rceil$$

$$f(x) \geq D_0 \quad g(y) \geq D_1, \quad D_0 + D_1 \geq D - h(\alpha) \quad \text{By induction}$$

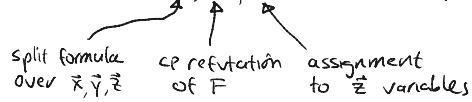
$$\frac{1}{d} f(x) \geq \lceil \frac{D_0}{d} \rceil \quad \frac{1}{d} g(y) \geq \lceil \frac{D_1}{d} \rceil \quad \text{Division}$$

$$\text{where: } \lceil \frac{D_0}{d} \rceil + \lceil \frac{D_1}{d} \rceil \geq \lceil \frac{D_0 + D_1}{d} \rceil \geq \lceil \frac{D - h(\alpha)}{d} \rceil = \lceil D - \frac{h(\alpha)}{d} \rceil$$

\swarrow
since d divides $h(\alpha)$

Feasible Interpolation Theorem for CP

There exists a polysized circuit $C(F, \Pi, \alpha)$ that outputs $f_F(\alpha)$.



Furthermore

- (a) if $A(\bar{x}, \bar{z})$ is monotone in \bar{z} (only contains positive z -literals) then C is a monotone real circuit then circuit C is a monotone real circuit.
- (b) and if all coefficients in Π have magnitude $\leq \text{poly}(n)$ then C is a Boolean monotone circuit

Defn A monotone real circuit for $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ is a sequence of functions g_1, \dots, g_s where $g_s = f$ and $\forall i < s$ g_i satisfies one of these conditions:

- $g_i = x_i$
- There is a monotone real function $\phi: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and $j, k < i$ such that $g_i = \phi(g_j, g_k)$

Proof of Feasible Interpolation for CP follows from previous Lemma by inspection (show for every line in split proof, there is a monotone real ckt that computes $-D_0$). Axioms: $-D_0 = h(\alpha) - D$ which is monotone function of α since z only occurs positively in $A(x, z)$

Intermediate Lines: use additions, multipl. by nonneg constants, division which are all monotone real functions

Cutting Planes Lower Bounds

Theorem (Clique-Coclique formula) $F = \text{Clique}_K(\vec{x}, \vec{z}) \wedge \text{Color}_{K-1}(\vec{y}, \vec{z})$

Any CP refutation of Clique-Coclique formula requires exponential size

PF

1. By monotone Feasible Interpolation for CPs, a size S CP refutation implies $\text{poly}(S)$ size monotone real circuits for separating K -cliques from $K-1$ -colorable graphs, $\forall K$
2. By [Razborov] (for low coefficient case) and [Cook-Haken] (for general case), monotone real circuits for clique-coclique require size $\exp(n^c)$
 \therefore for $K = \delta n$; this implies $2^{\Omega(n^c)}$ CP Lower bounds.

Other Results and open problems

1. For a long time the only LBs for CP were via feasible interpolation, and therefore they only held for "split" formulas.

Recently [Fleming-Pankrator-P. Robere] and [Hrubes-Pudlak] managed to prove exponential LBs for random k -CNFs, $k = O(\log n)$ by generalizing the feasible interp. method to arbitrary formulas.

Open: Improve the CP LBs for random k -CNFs for $k = O(1)$.

2. For Resolution, we have exponential LBs for random k -CNFs for all $k \geq 3$.

Proof uses random restrictions, or a slick argument [Beame-Karp-Saks-P]

We may do this later.