Bimonotone Subdivisions in High Dimensions

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May 19, 2018 MIT PRIMES Conference

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Supermodular Functions

Supermodular Functions

A function f from \mathbb{R}^d to \mathbb{R} is **supermodular** if for every u and v in \mathbb{R}^d , $f(u) + f(v) \le f(\min(u, v)) + f(\max(u, v))$, where $\min(u, v)$ and $\max(u, v)$ are the coordinate-wise minimum and maximum of u and v, respectively.

• Example:

$$f(u) = 1, f(v) = 3, f(\min(u, v)) = 2, f(\max(u, v)) = 4$$
$$u \quad \bigoplus \quad \max(u, v)$$
$$\min(u, v) \quad \bigoplus \quad v$$

Characterize piecewise-linear concave supermodular functions. Application: Statistics

- Given random variables $X_1, ..., X_n \in \mathbb{R}$
- Distribution of random vector $(X_1, ..., X_n)$: density function $p : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$
- If p(x) = exp(f(x)), where f is supermodular, then the random variables $X_1, ..., X_n$ are positively dependent.

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Subdivisions in \mathbb{R}^2

Point Configuration in \mathbb{R}^2

A **point configuration** is a finite collection of points $A = \{a_1, ..., a_n\}$ in Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^2 .

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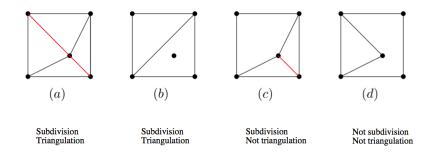
Subdivision in \mathbb{R}^2

A subdivision of a point configuration $A \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is a collection S of convex polygons, all of whose vertices are points in A, that satisfies the following conditions.

- The union of all of these polygons is the convex hull of A, denoted conv(A).
- Any pair of these polygons either do not intersect, or they intersect in a common vertex, or in a common side.
 - If all of the polygons in S are triangles, then S is a triangulation.

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Subdivisions in \mathbb{R}^2 : Example



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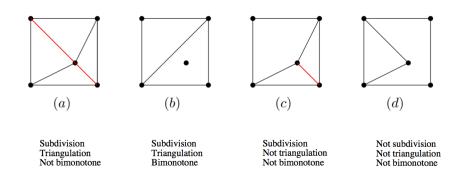
Bimonotone Subdivisions in \mathbb{R}^2

A subdivision S of a point configuration A is **bimonotone** if each of the polygons $P \in S$ is bimonotone. A polygon is bimonotone if each of its sides lies on a line given by an equality

$$ax + by + c = 0$$
,

where $ab \leq 0$.

Bimonotone Subdivisions in \mathbb{R}^2 : Example



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Bimonotone Subdivisions in \mathbb{R}^d

- A point configuration is a finite collection of points in \mathbb{R}^d .
- A subdivision of a point configuration A ⊂ ℝ^d is a collection S of convex polytopes that satisfy the conditions previously specified.

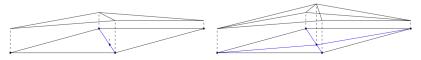
Bimonotone Subdivisions in \mathbb{R}^d

A subdivision \mathcal{T} on a point configuration $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is **bimonotone** if each of its polytopes $P \in \mathcal{T}$ is bimonotone, or in other words, if each of its sides lies on a hyperplane defined by an equation

$$a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_dx_d + b = 0,$$

where all but at most two of the coefficients $a_1, ..., a_d$ are zero. If two of them are nonzero, say a_i and a_j , then $a_i a_j < 0$, i.e. they have opposite signs.

- Place a pole of some height y_i at each of the points in point configuration A
- Tent function: spread a piece of tarp on top over all of the poles
- This creates a subdivision of A
- The tent function $h_{X,y}$ is supermodular if and only if the subdivision it induces is bimonotone.

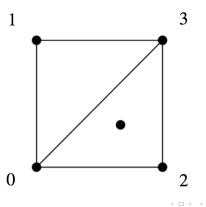


Driving Question: What is the characterization of tent-pole heights that give rise to a bimonotone subdivision?

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Algorithm

- Input: Subdivision
- For each polytope, iterate over each of its faces and check if it is bimonotone
- Output: If the subdivision is bimonotone



I would like to sincerely thank

- My mentor, Dr. Elina Robeva for her invaluable support.
- Dr. Tanya Khovanova for her continued support.
- The MIT Math Department and the MIT-PRIMES program for this research opportunity.

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