

Two-stage assignment problem under uncertainty by message-passing

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Why stochastic matchings

▶ Stochastic optimization

- ▶ Almost *all* real-world optimization problems involve uncertainty
- ▶ Two-stage stochastic optimization is a simple model for it:
 1. The problem input is only partially known (probabilistically) in advance when part of the decisions have to be taken.
 2. The full input is revealed on a second stage, and the rest of the decisions can then be taken.

▶ In the literature

- ▶ Extensively studied in the OR community when the optimization is a LP (but not only): “Stochastic Programming”
- ▶ Multi-stage (online) matching: [RANKING, Karp, Vazirani & Vazirani, 1990]
- ▶ “The simplest two-stage problem”: The two-stage stochastic matching problem was introduced in [Katriel, Kenyon-Mathieu & Upfal, 2008]. Several variants have been proved APX-Hard.

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Matchings: Notation and definitions

Given $G = (V, E)$, a **matching** is a subset $E' \subset E$ of pairwise disjoint edges.

- ▶ For every $e \in E$, we define $\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^E$ as

$$x_e = \begin{cases} 1 & e \in E' \\ 0 & e \notin E' \end{cases}$$

- ▶ E' is a matching iff $\sum_{j \in \partial i} x_{ij} \leq 1 \forall i \in V$.
- ▶ The size of the matching

$$-H_G(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{ij \in E} x_{ij}$$

- ▶ Maximum cardinality matching is “easy” (e.g. Edmonds’s “Paths, trees and flowers” algorithm)

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Two-stage Stochastic Matching

- ▶ We are given a bipartite graph $G = (V = L \cup R, E \subset L \times R)$ with L sub-divided as $L = L_1 \cup L_2$.
- ▶ G is known, but each $l \in L_2$ will be present with independent probability p_l .
- ▶ Decisions are divided in two stages:
 1. We choose a matching x for nodes in L_1 to nodes in R knowing just G and p
 2. Then a vector $t \in \{0, 1\}^{L_2}$ is extracted with $P(t) = \prod_{l \in L_2} p_l^{t_l} (1 - p_l)^{1-t_l}$
 3. Then we can choose a matching y for nodes in $\{l_j = 1\}$ to R

The scope is to minimize the final energy (in average)

$$H(x, t, y) = - \sum_{l \in L_1} \sum_{r \in R} x_{lr} - \sum_{l \in L_2} \sum_{r \in R} y_{lr}$$

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$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{t}} \min_{\mathbf{y}} H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{y})$$

Optimization by MS/BP (1)

$$\blacktriangleright \min_{\mathbf{x}} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{t}} \overbrace{\min_{\mathbf{y}} H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{y})}^{B(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t})}}_{A(\mathbf{x})}$$

Problem: neither A nor B is G -factorized *nicely*

Idea: Switch to message-space and BP/MS to factorize:

- ▶ MS: $\min_{\mathbf{y}} H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{y}) = \hat{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{u})$ where \mathbf{u} satisfy (local) MS equations, $u_{ij} = f_{MS}(\{u_{ki}\}_{k \in \partial i \setminus j})$ for all $ij \in E$
- ▶ Use BP to compute the average \mathcal{H} of the (G -factorized) observable $\hat{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{u})$ in the probability space $P_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{u}) \propto \prod_{ij} \delta(u_{ij} - f_{MS}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}, t_i)) \prod_i P_i(t_i)$.
 - ▶ BP messages are of the form $M_{ij}(u_{ij})$ and both BP equations and its expression for $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{M})$ are again G -factorized.
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 - ▶ BP messages are of the form $M_{ij}(u_{ij})$ and both BP equations and its expression for $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{M})$ are again **G-factorized**.
- ▶ Employ MS again to minimize $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{M})$ subject to BP constraints

Optimization by MS/BP (1)

$$\blacktriangleright \min_{\mathbf{x}} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{t}} \overbrace{\min_{\mathbf{y}} H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{y})}^{B(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t})}}_{A(\mathbf{x})}$$

Problem: neither A nor B is **G-factorized** *nice*ly

Idea: Switch to message-space and BP/MS to factorize:

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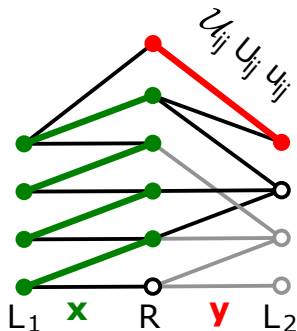
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Optimization by MS/BP (2)

- ▶ MS: $u_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$,

$$u_{ij} = - \max \left\{ -1, \max_{k \in \partial i \setminus j} u_{ki} \right\}$$

- ▶ For $\langle c \rangle < \epsilon$, actually $u_{ij} \in \{-1, 1\}$ [Mézard & Zdeborova 2006]



- ▶ BP(MS): Parametrizing $U_{ij} = M_{ij} (u_{ij} = 1)$

$$U_{ij} = p_i \prod_{k \in \partial i \setminus j} (1 - U_{ki}), \text{ where } p_i = 1 \text{ if } i \notin L_2$$

- ▶ MS(BP(MS)): For $\mathbf{U}_{ij} = \{U_{ki}\}_{k \in \partial i \setminus j}$

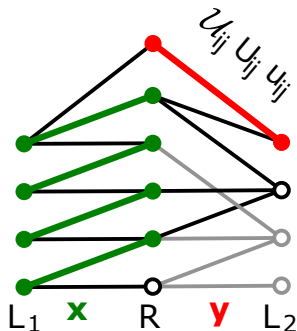
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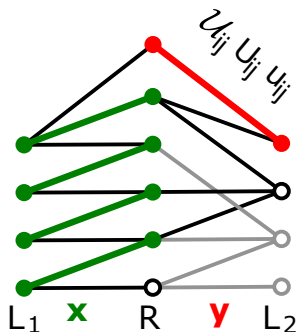
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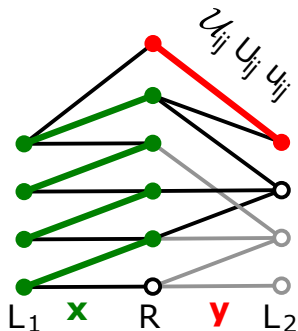
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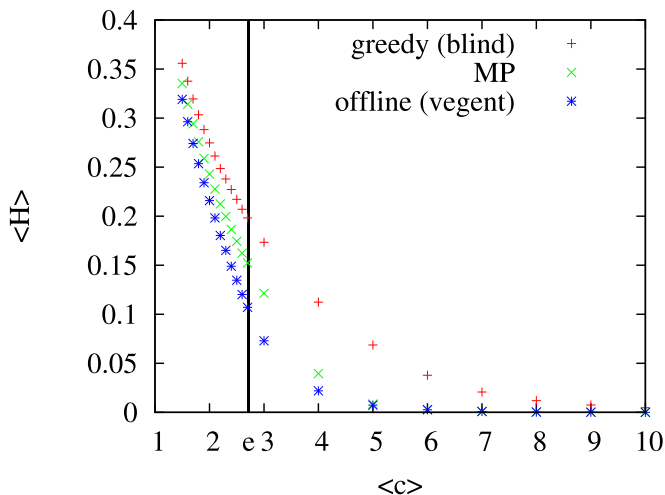
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Results



- ▶ $|L_1| = 1000, |L_2| = |R| = 2000$
- ▶ $p_l \in [0, 1]$ uniformly.
- ▶ Each point is an average of 130 to 350 instances

Open directions

- ▶ In-depth study for $\langle c \rangle > e$ and the transition at e
- ▶ Other problems: Stochastic Steiner, maximum independent set, stochastic sat
- ▶ Applications: kidney exchange, internet advertising (some in Fabrizio's talk)
- ▶ multi-stage optimization: games (e.g. zero-sum games: $\arg \min_{x_1} \max_{y_1} \cdots \min_{x_k} \max_{y_k} H(x_1, \dots, x_k, y_1, \dots, y_k)$)
- ▶ Smarter parametrizations of nested distributions

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