

# Integer Programming: Techniques and Applications

**Martin Koutecký**



Prague, March 27th, 2018

# Preview

1. *Intro:* Integer Programming

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2. *IP big picture:* Fixed dim Variable dim

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Integer Programming

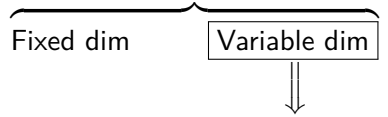
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Variable dim

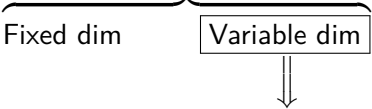
3. *Zoom:*

Unifying theory

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**My goal:**



*perspective*



*flavor*

# Intro: Integer Programming

$$\min \mathbf{w}\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{l} \leq \mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$$



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Majority of solver speedup in last 30+ years comes from **theory**, not **hardware**.  
—Bob Bixby, CPLEX & Gurobi founder

# Fixed Dimension: Volume & Flatness

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Theorem (Lenstra '83, Kannan, Tardos '87)

*ILP solvable in time  $n^{\mathcal{O}(n)} \cdot \langle A, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{u} \rangle$ .  $n = \text{dimension}$ ,  $\langle \bullet \rangle = \text{encoding length}$*

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## Parameterized complexity perspective:

- Runtime  $f(\alpha) \cdot \text{poly}(\beta)$  with  
parameter  $\alpha = n$  and  
input  $\beta = \langle A, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{u} \rangle$

$f(\alpha) \text{ poly}(\beta)$  clearly better than  $\beta^{f(\alpha)}$

FPT (fixed-parameter tractable)

XP

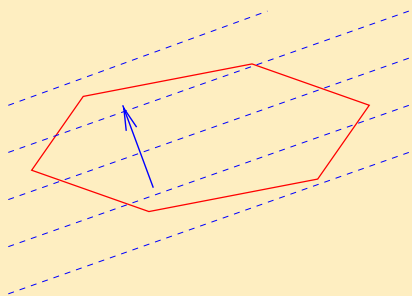
IP has many natural parameters: dimension  $n$ , #rows  $m$ , largest coefficient  $\|A\|_\infty$ , treewidth/treedepth of  $A$ , etc.

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Proof idea.



Focus on feasibility. (optimization follows)

$$P = \{ \mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b} \}.$$

- Either  $P$  has *large volume*  $\Rightarrow$  must contain an integer point (*Minkowski I*)
- Or  $P$  has *small volume*  $\Rightarrow$   $\exists$  **flatness direction**  $\Rightarrow$  cut into few slices & branch!

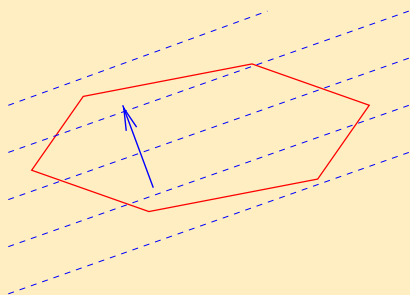


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👁 Nothing specific to *linear* IP – same idea works for any convex set  $P$ .  
**Further questions:** indefinite objectives, adding quantifiers, etc.



# Variable Dimension: Iterative Augmentation

# Variable Dimension: Unifying Theory



## 👁 **Real world is high-dimensional!**

Brief history of variable dimension IP:

- 1960's: Total Unimodularity (paths, matchings, flows) [Hoffman, Kruskal]
- 1980's: ILPs with few rows (generalized knapsack) [Papadimitriou; Eisenbrand, Weismantel]
- 2010–: Iterative methods for block structured programs [Aschenbrenner, Chen, De Loera, Hemmecke, Köppe, Lee, Marx, Onn, Romanchuk, Schulz, Weismantel]
- 2015–: Tree-structured ILPs [Ganian, Jansen, Kratsch, Ordyniak, Ramanujan]

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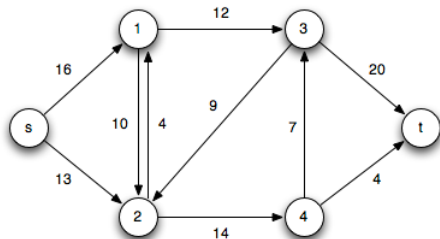
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**My best contribution:** improve, unify, make strongly polynomial *all* of these results! [K., Levin, Onn '18] + forthcoming book [Hildebrand, Köppe, K.]

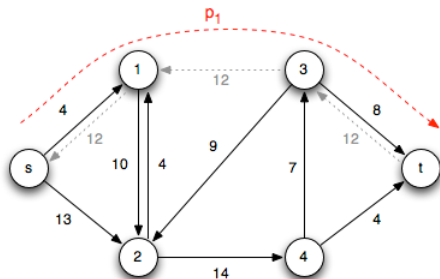
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## Max flow

augmenting step  $\equiv$  augmenting path  $p$   
(because flows decompose into paths)  
 $p$  *feasible* if enough capacity  
 $p$  *augmenting* if adds positive (trivial)  
flow *optimal* if  $\nexists$  augmenting path

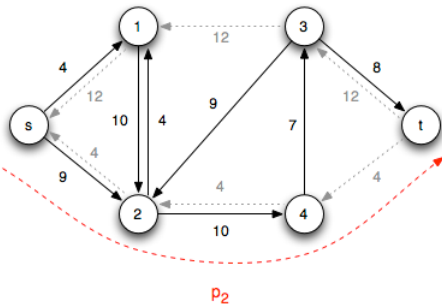
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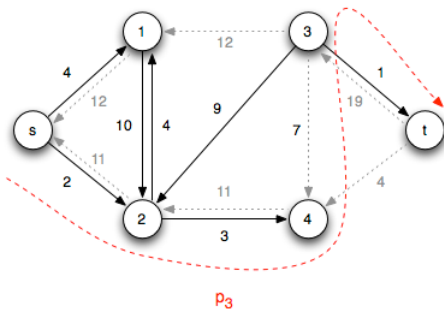


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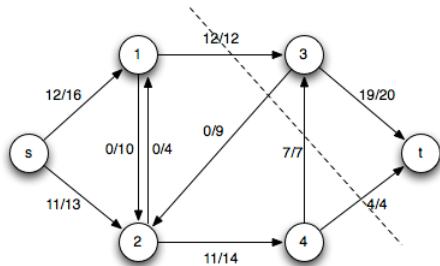
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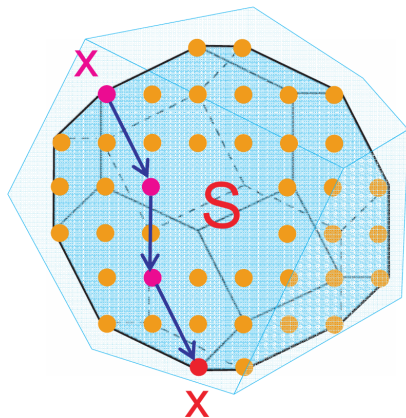
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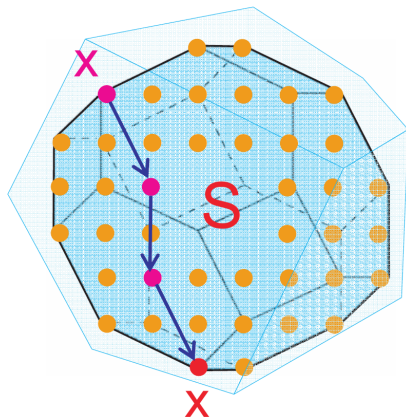
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**Goal:** Find  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \text{Ker}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbf{A})$ , s.t.

- 1  $\mathbf{x}$  not opt then  $\exists$  aug  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathcal{T}$
- 2 good convergence for repeatedly adding "good"  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathcal{T}$ ,
- 3 algorithmically tame (big is OK)

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## Answer:

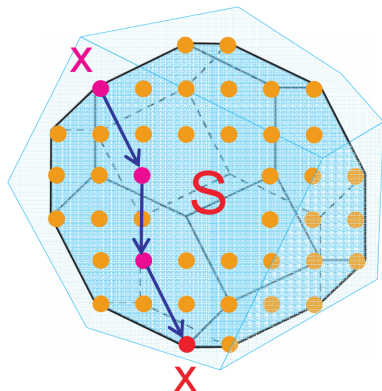
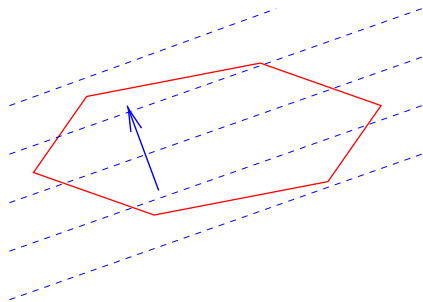
### Definition (Graver basis)

$$\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{A}) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \text{Ker}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbf{A}) \mid \mathbf{x} \text{ is } \sqsubseteq \text{-minimal}\}$$

$(\mathbf{x} \sqsubseteq \mathbf{y} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  in one orthant  $\wedge |x_i| \leq |y_i|$ ;  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathcal{G}(\mathbf{A}) \approx$  “closest to origin”)

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# Strongly Polynomial Oracle Time Algorithm

$$\min \mathbf{w}\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{l} \leq \mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$$

## Definition (Graver-best Step)

A *Graver-best step* for  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $\mathbf{h}$  s.t.  $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}$  is feasible and at least as good as any feasible  $\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{g}$  with  $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathcal{G}(A)$ .

## Definition (Graver-best Oracle)

A *Graver-best oracle* for a matrix  $A$  is one that queried on  $\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{x}$ , returns a Graver-best step  $\mathbf{h}$  for  $\mathbf{x}$ .

## Lemma (Hemmecke, Onn, Weismantel '10)

*ILP solvable in  $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot \langle A, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{u} \rangle)$  calls to a Graver-best oracle.*

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Proof.

- 1 Solve LP relaxation in  $\text{poly}(n \cdot \langle A \rangle)$  time

[Tardos '86]



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- 2 **Proximity:** integer opt not far from continuous opt  $\Rightarrow$  shrink bounds  $\mathbf{l}'$ ,  $\mathbf{u}'$ , shrink rhs  $\mathbf{b}'$ .



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- 4 **Convergence:**  $(2n - 2) \langle A, \mathbf{w}', \mathbf{b}', \mathbf{l}', \mathbf{u}' \rangle = \text{poly}(n \cdot \langle A \rangle)$  Graver-best steps suffice to reach optimum.



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- 3 Reduce objective:  $\mathbf{l}'$ ,  $\mathbf{u}'$  give small box  $\Rightarrow$  equiv.  $\mathbf{w}'$  w/ small  $\|\mathbf{w}'\|_\infty$   
[Frank, Tardos '87] + better bounds on  $\|\mathbf{w}'\|_\infty$  [WIP]
- 4 Convergence:  $(2n - 2) \langle A, \mathbf{w}', \mathbf{b}', \mathbf{l}', \mathbf{u}' \rangle = \text{poly}(n \cdot \langle A \rangle)$  Graver-best steps suffice to reach optimum.



Q: Where do I get the oracle?



# Effective Graver-best Oracles

**Primal graph**  $G_P(A)$ :

vertices  $\sim$  columns

edges  $\sim$  two columns &  $\exists$  row non-zero in both columns

**Dual graph:**  $G_D(A) = G_P(A^T)$  (swap columns/rows)

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*Effective  $G$ -b oracle if  $tw_P(A)$  small and  $g_\infty(A) = \max_{\mathbf{g} \in \mathcal{G}(A)} \|\mathbf{g}\|_\infty$  small.*

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**Q:** what ILP has small  $tw_P(A) + g_\infty(A)$  or  $tw_D(A) + g_1(A)$ ?

**A:** 2/multi-stage stochastic or  $n$ /tree-fold IPs! Let's have a look...

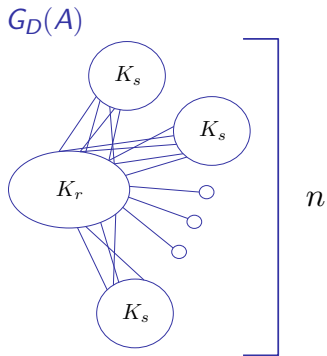
# $n$ -fold Integer Programs

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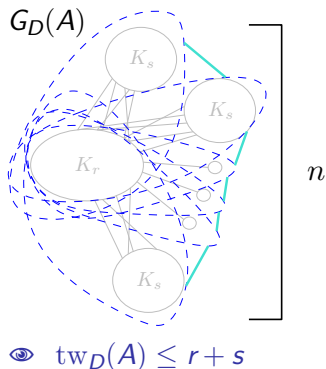
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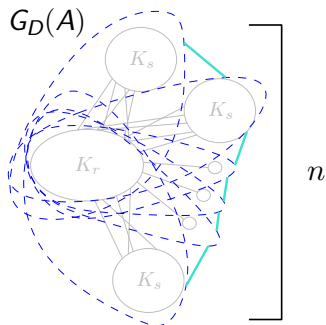
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Lemma (De Loera, Hemmecke, Onn, Weismantel '08)

$g_1(A)$  is small ( $f(\|A\|_\infty, r, s, t)$ ).

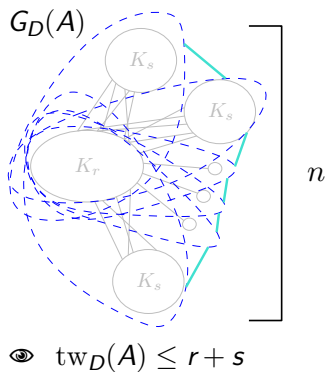
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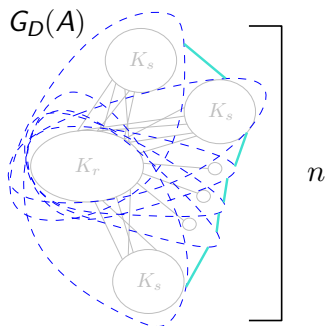
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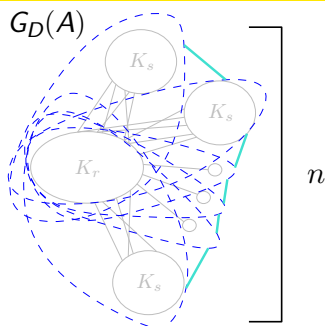
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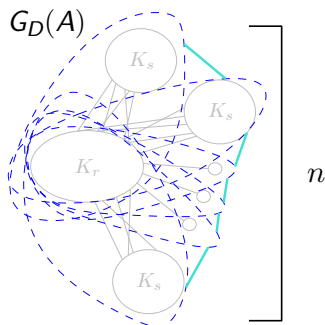
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**Generalization:** Tree-fold IP – tree block structure, bounded  $g_1(A)$  and  $\text{tw}_D(A)$ .

## 2-stage stochastic Integer Programs

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**Surprise:** Tree-fold IP is universal for all IPs with bounded  $\text{td}_D(A)$   
(i.e., every  $A$  with small  $\text{td}_D(A)$  embeds into tree-fold IP matrix without blow-up)  
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Parameterization is tight:

- ILP not likely FPT parameterized by  $\text{td}_P(A)/\text{td}_D(A)$  only,
- ILP is NP-hard for constant  $\|A\|_\infty + \text{tw}_P(A)/\text{tw}_D(A)$ .

# Applications: Computational Social Choice

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  - How to select them?
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**Boundaries are fruitful!**

# Intro: Voting

**Candidates:** ▲, ■, and ★.

**People:** preference (e.g. ■  $\succ$  ▲  $\succ$  ★), active/latent, bribery costs, etc.  
(simplify: just preference)

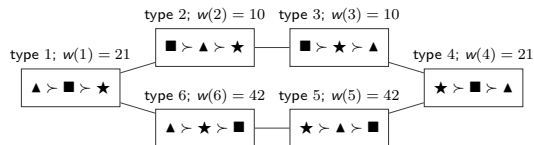
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Society  $\mathbf{w} = (21, 10, 10, 21, 42, 42)$

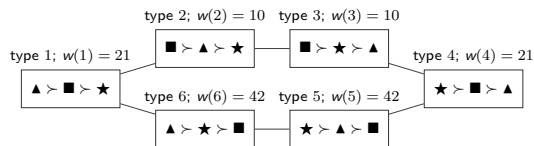
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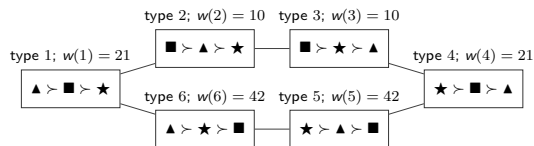
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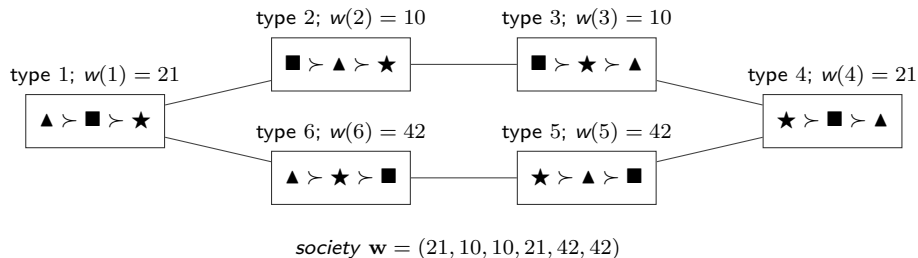


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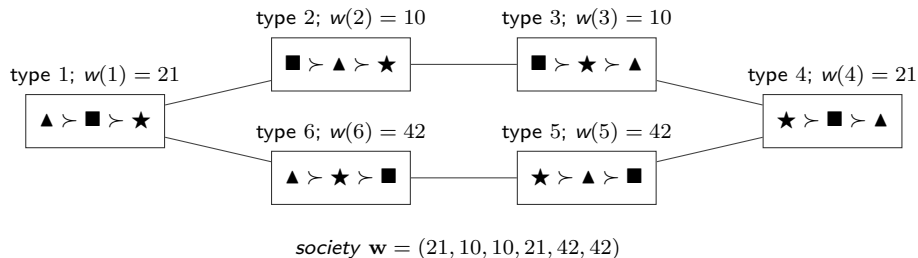
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- **Dodgson** = least #swaps to Condorcet

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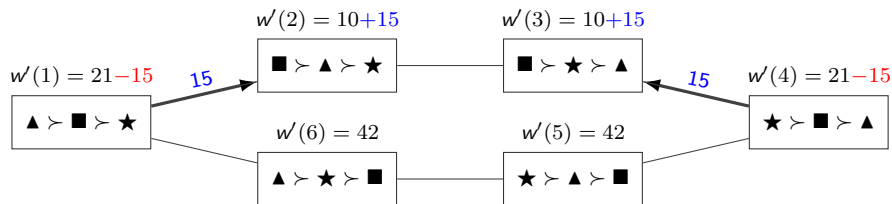


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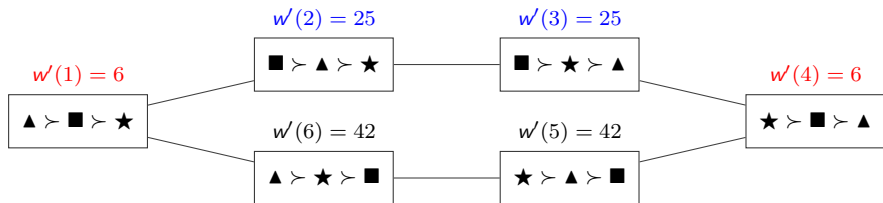


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change  $\Delta = (-15, +15, +15, -15, 0, 0)$

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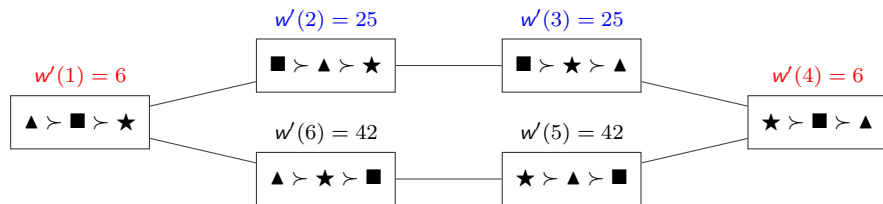


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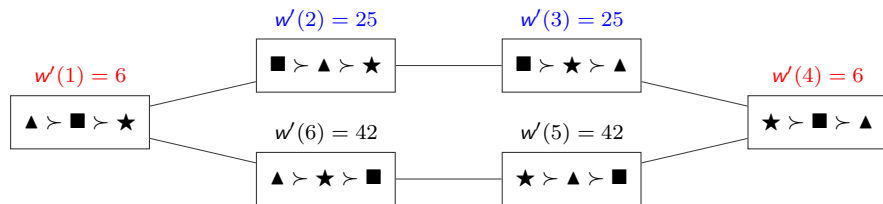
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BTW: Society graph + move + change model is “obvious” but new and very useful itself! [Faliszewski, Gonen, K., Talmon] and [AAMAS; Knop, K., Mnich]

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Solved!

Theorem (STACS, ESA, AAMAS; Knop, K., Mnich)

*Bribery in time:*

- 1 single-exp  $f(\text{\#candidates}) \cdot \text{poly}(\text{\#types}) \cdot \log(\text{\#people})$  for “simple” rules,
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# Complexity of Bribery (contd.)

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Proof of (1).

**Idea:** Encode in  $n$ -fold IP:

Blocks  $\sim$  types of people,

A block  $\sim$  #ppl moving to other type,

$(A_1 \cdots A_1) \sim$  voting rule.

Apply strongly FPT  $n$ -fold algorithm!

👁 need few constraints, *small*  $\|A_1\|_\infty$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_1 & A_1 & \cdots & A_1 \\ A_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_2 \end{pmatrix}$$





# Complexity of Bribery (contd.)

Theorem (STACS, ESA, AAMAS; Knop, K., Mnich)

*Bribery in time:*

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Proof of (2).

**Want:** formula  $\Phi_{\text{Dodgson}} \equiv “\star \text{ is Dodgson winner}” \equiv \text{least } \#swaps \text{ to Condorcet}$



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Encode  $\Phi_{\text{Dodgson}}$  in terms of society / move / change vectors

$\Rightarrow$  decide  $\exists \mathbf{x} \forall \mathbf{y} \exists \mathbf{z} : \Psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})$  sentence  $\Rightarrow$  [much modeling work]

$\Rightarrow$  decide  $\forall \mathbf{x} \exists \mathbf{y} : A(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq \mathbf{b}$  sentence



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👁 **Thm [Eisenbrand, Shmonin '08]:** Can decide

$\forall \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{Z}^m \exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^n : A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$  in time  $f(n, m) \cdot \text{poly}(\|A, \mathbf{b}\|_\infty)$

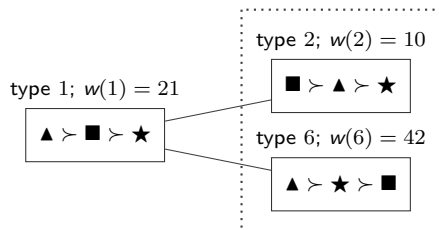


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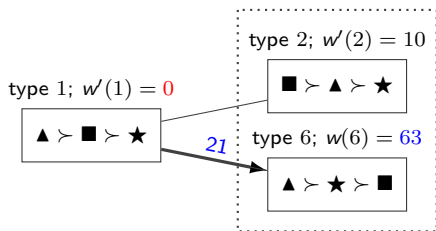


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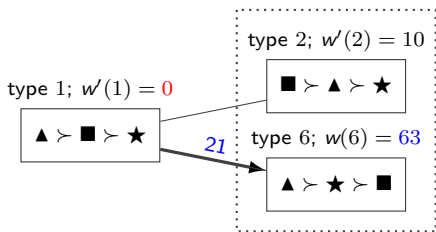
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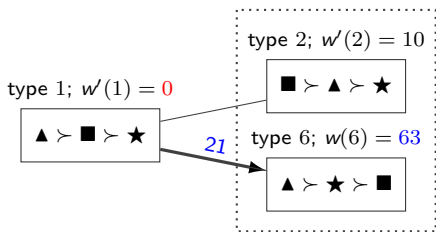
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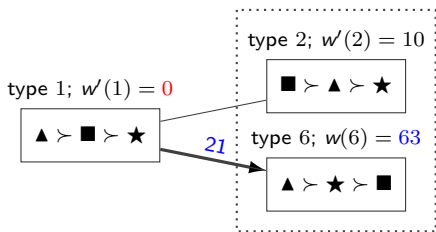
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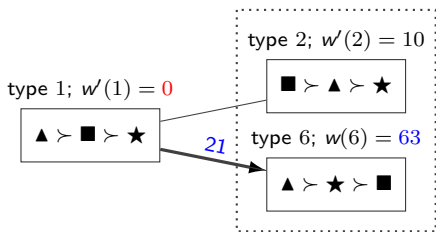
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Theorem (Faliszewski, Gonen, K., Talmon '18)

BRIBERY IN SOCIETY GRAPHS solvable in time  
 $f(\#types\ of\ people) \cdot \log(\#people)$ , for most voting rules.

# Other Applications

**$n$ -fold IP:** no applications in parameterized complexity before 2016. Now:

- **Scheduling** with short jobs and many machine types; many different objectives ( $C_{\max}$ ,  $\sum w_j C_j$ , tardiness,  $\ell_p$ -norm, weighted flow time, ...) [JoSh '17; Knop, K.] & [WIP]  
Efficient PTASes [Jansen, Klein, Maack, Rau '18]
- **Stringology:** double-exp  $\Rightarrow$  single-exp, many problems [ESA; Knop, K., Mnich]
- **Graph algorithms:** graph layout problems, simple dense graphs [ditto]
- Computational Social Choice [STACS, ESA; Knop, K., Mnich]

# Engineering & Research Directions

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**Summary:** “small”  $\ell_1/\ell_\infty$ -norm augmenting steps might be good enough.

**Q:** How *small*? True guarantee:  $g_1(A)$  – might be large in practice :(

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(What could go wrong: local optima or slow convergence) ... We tested it:

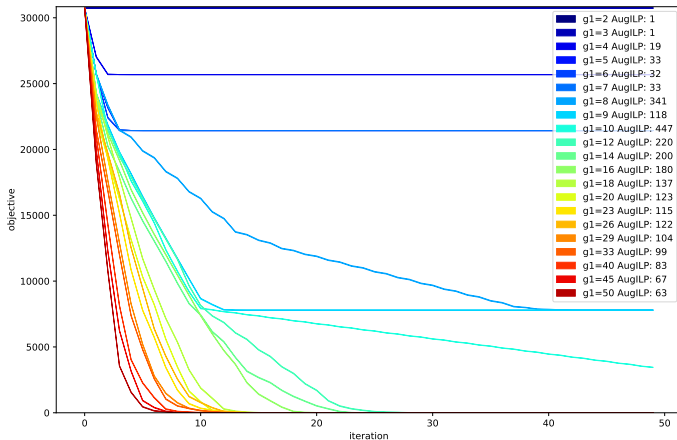
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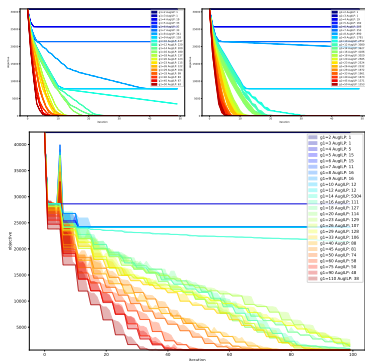
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👁 much better than predicted worst case!

**Idea:** use tree decomposition to divide & conquer ILP; previously impossible due to inefficient tw computations.

*Introducing automatic decomposition methods in primal heuristics is very interesting.*

—Matthias Köppe (UC Davis)

(Student project [Altmanová, Knop, K.] & [WIP])



# Research Outlook

- Big picture view of Integer Programming
  - beyond convexity? (so far just IQP par by  $n + \|A\|_\infty + \|Q\|_\infty$ )
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**Thank  
you!**

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