

Question about SDP relaxation of QKP

Qiyao Wei

March 2021

Suppose we have n variables. Denote our quadratic optimization term $Q \in R^{n \times n}$, linear optimization term $q \in R^n$, linear capacity constraint $c \in R^n$, and the capacity term $C \in R$. Let us phrase the Quadratic Knapsack Problem (QKP) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize } \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n q_i x_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1, i \neq j}^n Q_{ij} x_i x_j \mid x \text{ binary} \right\} \\ & \text{subject to } x \in \{0, 1\}^n : \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i \leq C; x_i \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

We can see that this is a standard quadratic programming question, with a quadratic optimization term and linear optimization term, as well as a linear constraint term. We know that for general quadratic programming questions, its SDP relaxation is as follows

Quadratically Constrained Quadratic Programming:

$$\begin{aligned} z^* := & \text{Maximize } \mathbf{x}^T Q \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t. } & \mathbf{x}^T A_i \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} (\leq, =, \geq) b_i, \forall i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

that can be homogenized by adding an auxiliary variable:

$$\begin{aligned} z^* := & \text{Maximize } \mathbf{x}^T Q \mathbf{x} + 2x_{n+1} \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{x} \\ & \text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}^T A_i \mathbf{x} + 2x_{n+1} \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} (\leq, =, \geq) b_i, \forall i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & x_{n+1}^2 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Maximize } \begin{pmatrix} Q & \mathbf{q} \\ \mathbf{q}^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \bullet X \\ \text{s.t. } & \begin{pmatrix} A_i & \mathbf{a}_i \\ \mathbf{a}_i^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \bullet X = b_i, \forall i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \bullet X = 1 \\ & X \succeq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $X \in S^{n+1}$

Therefore, we do a couple of things to achieve this SDP formulation

- We slightly abuse notation here by using the same Q and q for the QKP and SDP notations. Note that the Q matrices are the same, whereas the q in the SDP notation is half of that in the QKP notation, due to our multiplication factor by 2 in our general QCQP definition.

- b. We create $n + 1$ constraints, one for each n variables being binary (either 0 or 1), and the last one for the capacity constraint. The capacity constraint is simple, as we would simply have $A = 0$ and $a = c/2$, in our SDP formulation. Recall that c is the linear constraints defined in the QKP problem. For the binary variable constraint, we constrain the i_{th} variable to satisfy $x_i^2 - x_i = 0$. In order to do that, the i_{th} element on the diagonal of A must be 1, i.e. $A[i][i] = 1$, and the i_{th} element of a would be -0.5 , i.e. $a[i] = \frac{-1}{2} = -0.5$. This is the exact same expression as the one in our general QCQP formulation.
- c. All other constraints should be easy to understand. Aside from the previous two, we simply enforce that X is PSD, and the auxiliary variable squares to 1, i.e. it is either -1 or 1

Here is my question: If I relaxed the problem this way, why didn't my MOSEK solver give integer matrix solutions? Rather, it still solved for a continuous solution. In other words, all elements of X (other than the auxiliary variable) were floating point numbers. Why is that?