

# Lovász Theta Function, Semidefinite Programs and Algorithms

Parts 1,2

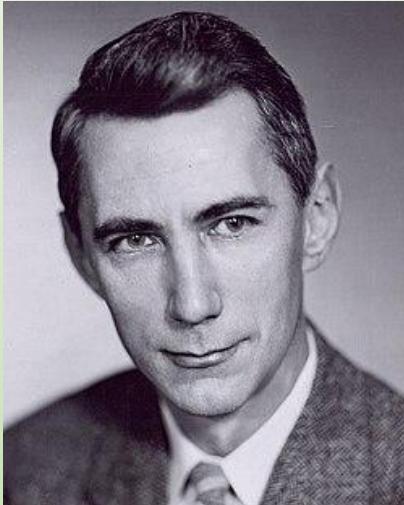
Lecturer: Rakesh Venkat

Short Term Program on “Graphs, Matrices and Applications”

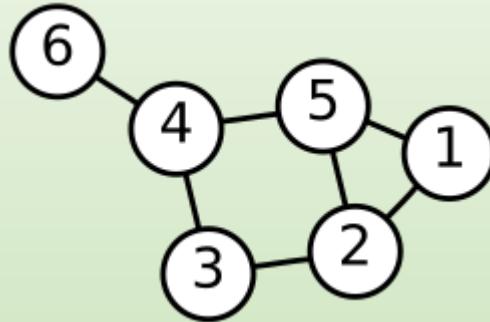
Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad

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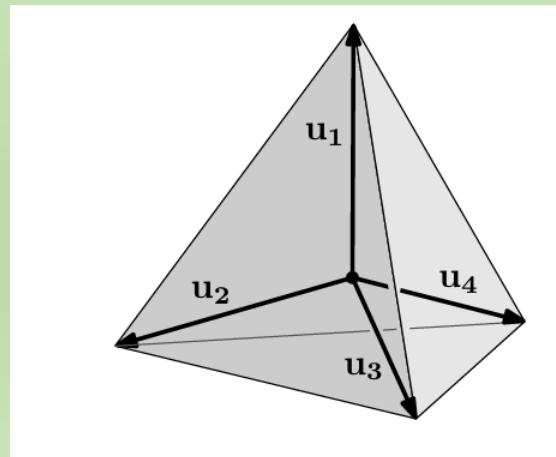
# Shannon, Lovász, Graphs and Geometry



Claude Shannon



László Lovász



# Outline for today

- Optimization in CS
- Shannon Capacity
- The Theta Function of a Graph
- Lovasz Bound
- Shannon capacity of the 5-cycle
- Linear and Semidefinite Programs

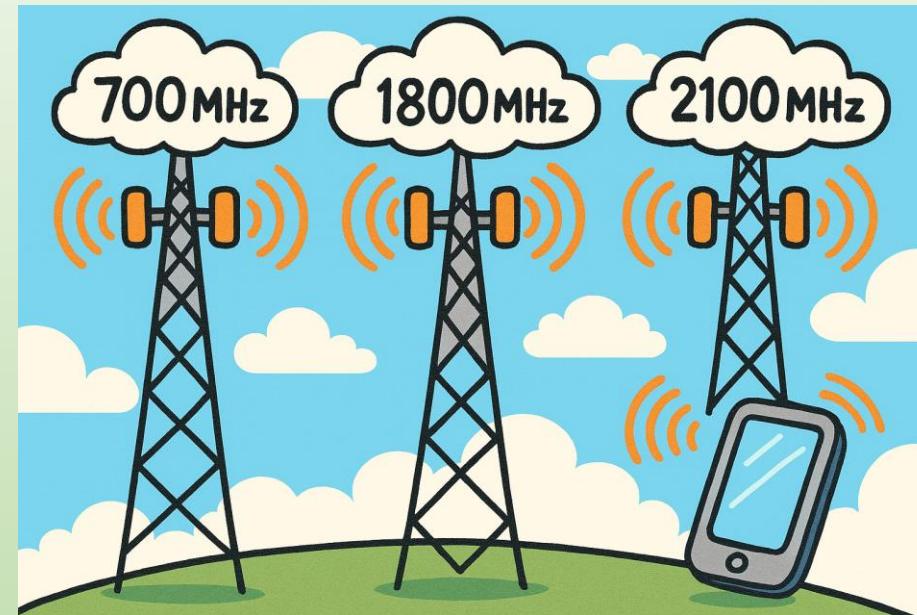
# Parts 3,4

- Semidefinite programs for the Theta function
- Sandwich theorem and perfect graphs
- Relaxations and Rounding: Combinatorial optimization. Examples.
- Goemans Williamson Max-Cut algorithm

# Broadcasting Problem

- A telecom company rolling out radio towers in a city.
- Two towers conflict if their signals interfere when they use the same frequency.
- Which towers can broadcast simultaneously on the same channel?

*Towers close by should use diff frequencies .*

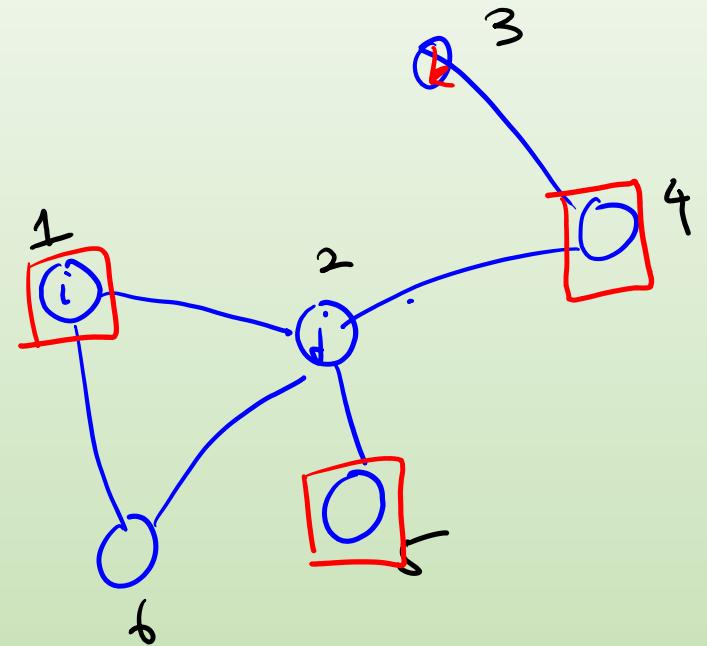


# Modelling as a graph problem

$$G = (V, E)$$

Towers : represent vertices

Edge between two towers  $i, j$   
if they may conflict



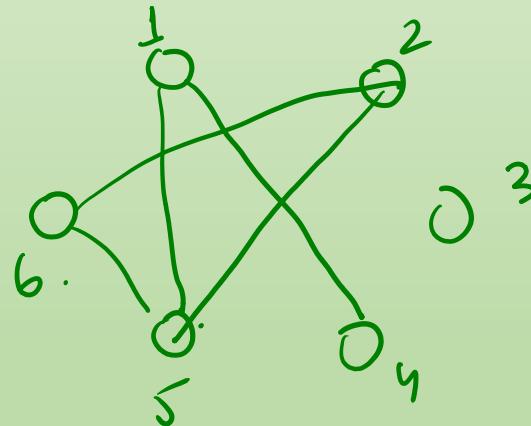
Finding : a subset  $S \subseteq V$  st.  
 $\forall i, j \in S \quad \{i, j\} \notin E$  } Such a set is called an independent set.

Q: What is  $\max_{S: \text{independent}} |S|$

# Scheduling Tasks on Shared Machines

- In a high-performance computing cluster: tasks need machines
- Some pairs of tasks can't be run at the same time because they require the same resource.
- Find the largest batch of tasks that can run in parallel without conflicts.

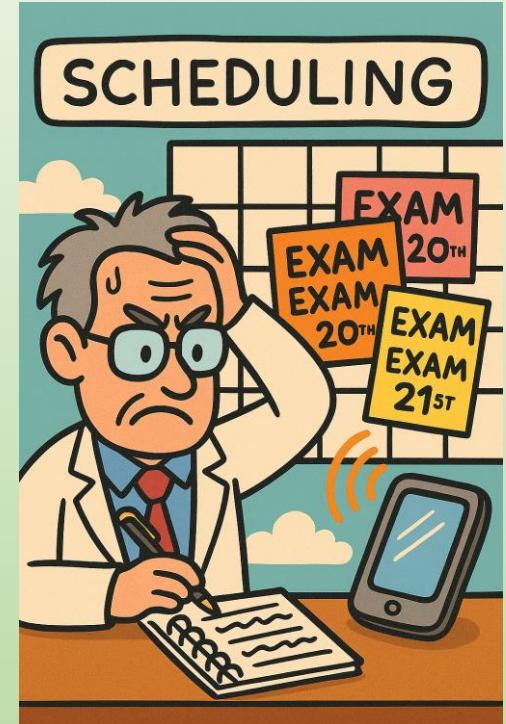
Goal: Find max indep set .



edge between  $i, j$  if they conflict .

# Scheduling Exams

- A professor has to schedule  $n$  exams
- Two exams cannot be scheduled in the same slot, if some student has registered for both of them
- Find the maximum number of exams that can be scheduled simultaneously in the same slot



• Minimum number of days required to schedule all exams?

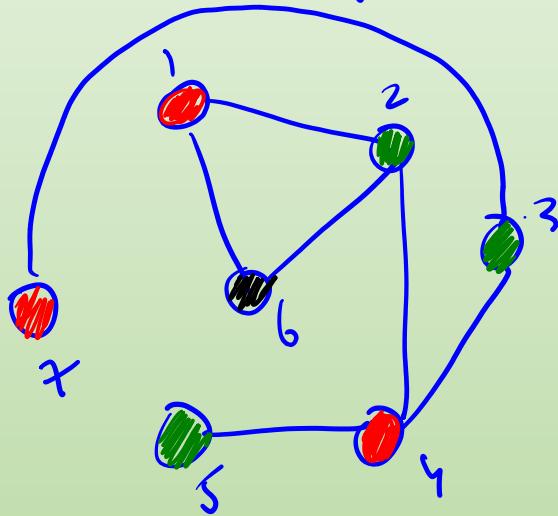
# Exam Scheduling as a graph problem

$G = (V, E)$ : conflict graph.

Vertices  $V \equiv$  exams.

edge  $\{i, j\} \in E$  if exams  $i, j$  conflict (can't be scheduled together).

To find: min # days



▨ : Monday

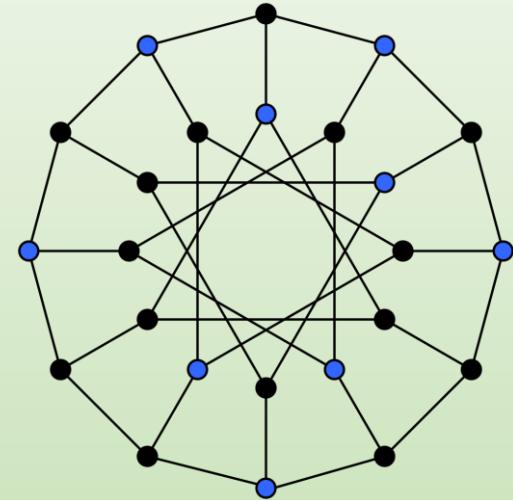
▨ : Tuesday

▨ : Wed

Assigning colors to nodes st. no two adjacent nodes have the same color.  
while minimizing the number of colors.

# Fundamental Graph Quantities

- $G = (V, E)$       $|V| = n$ .
- Independent Set  
 $S \subseteq V : \forall (i, j) \in E, \{i, j\} \notin S$ .



Brute force / trivial procedure to find a max Independent set:  
Try all  $S \subseteq V$ , check if independent  
→ Takes  $2^n$  tries for checking all  $S \subseteq V$ .

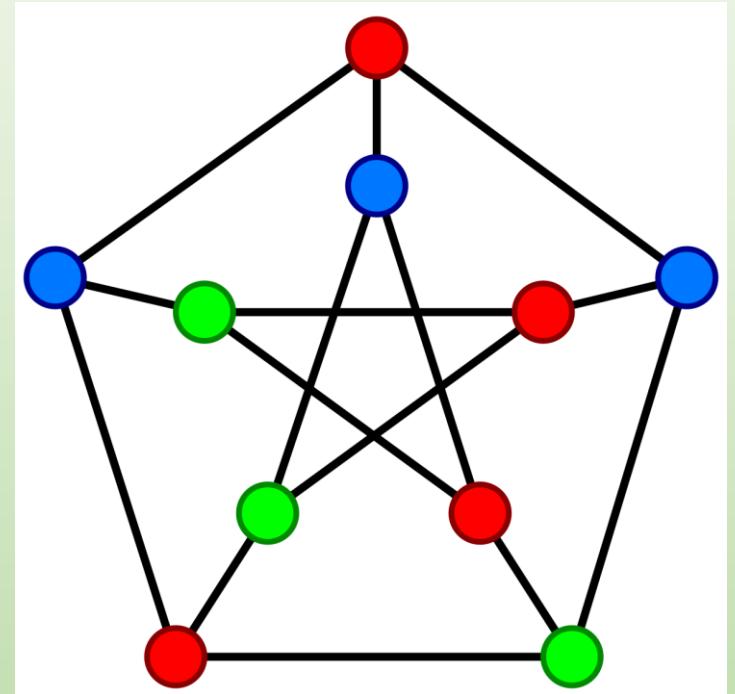
- Maximum Independent Set:  $\alpha(G)$   
 $= \max_{S: \text{indep. set}} |S|$ .

# Chromatic Number

- Proper Colouring of a graph For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  
 $\chi : V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$  is a proper- $k$ -colouring  
if  $\forall \{i, j\} \in E : \chi(i) \neq \chi(j)$

- Chromatic Number  $\chi(G)$

$= \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}} G \text{ has a proper } k\text{-colouring}$



$\chi(G)$

$\alpha(G)$

# NP-Hardness

- Both  $\alpha(G)$  and  $\chi(G)$  are believed to be *hard to compute* for any input graph  $G$

If  $P \neq NP$ ,  $\alpha(G)$  and  $\chi(G)$  can't be computed in polynomial time  
(eg:  $O(n^2)$ )  
or  $O(n^{100})$ )

- But they turn up frequently in practical applications!

- "Fix" : approximate the solution

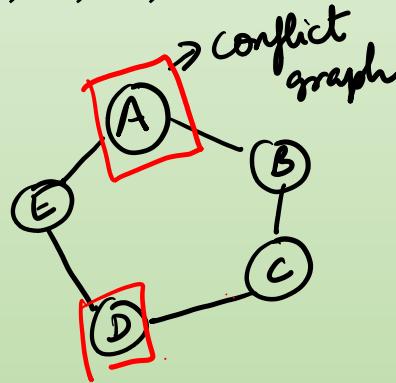
eg When  $n = 10,000,000$ . If  $\alpha(G) = 10000$   
can output  $S$  : indep,  $|S| \geq \frac{\alpha(G)}{2}$

# Information Transmission

- Suppose we send symbols across a noisy channel. Some symbols might be misread as others — they ‘conflict.’
- Example: We have a communication channel with five possible symbols:  $A, B, C, D, E$ .

- Possible confusion:

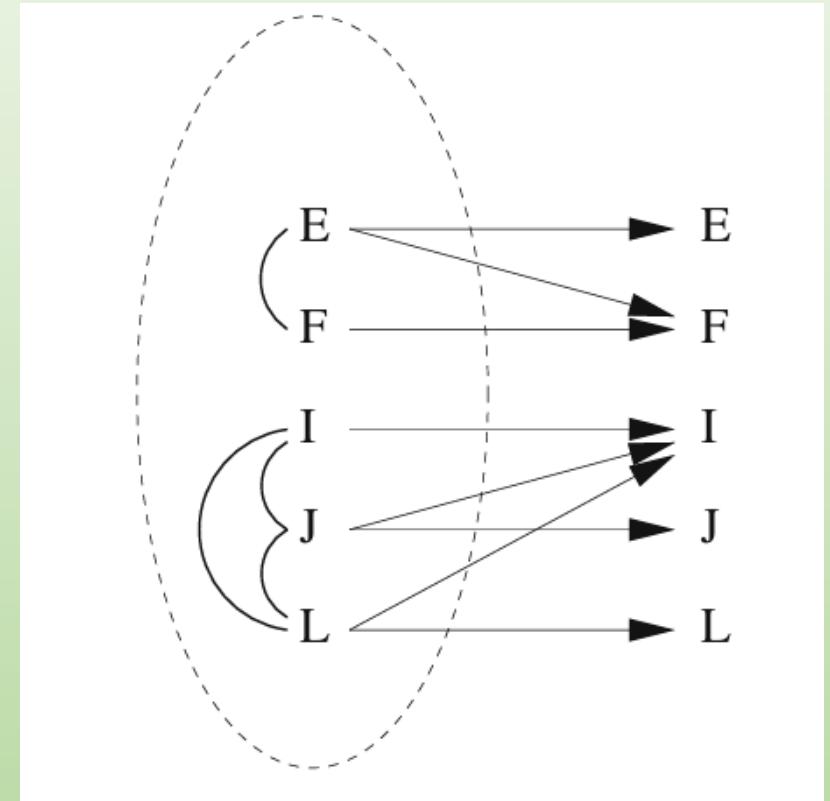
- A with B, E,
- C with B, D,
- E with A, D



- Goal: Transmit a message without confusion at the receiver's end. At most how many alphabets can you transmit?

# Another example

- If you receive “JILL”
- What are the possible words that might have led to it?
  - JILL, JJLL, JLLL may all have been received as JILL
- Conflict graph shows that 2 messages (e.g. fix E and I) can be transmitted without ambiguity from the sender’s end
- Can you do something better if you allow to transmit  $k = 2$  symbols at a time?

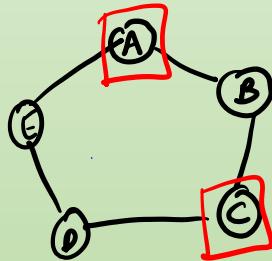


Transmitting 2 symbols at a time.

$\{ \underbrace{E, F}, \underbrace{I, J, L} \}$

Every message consists of (two symbols).

5-cycle:  
Conflict graph



$d=2$  here.

$k=2$  symbols at a time.

AA, AC, CA, CC.

↓

4 messages can be sent by using the channel twice

In fact 5 messages can be sent:

$\{ \underline{AA}, BC, CE, \underline{DB}, ED \}$

# Definition: Similarity Graph $G$

- $v \sim w$ :  $v$  is similar to  $w$  if  $v = w$  or  $\{v, w\} \in E$
- Similarity-free dictionary on  $G$   $\rightarrow$  a collection of vertices, all of which are pairwise dissimilar.

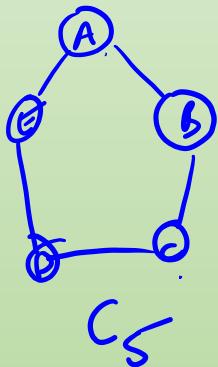
# Graph $G^k$

$$G^k = (V^k, E_k).$$

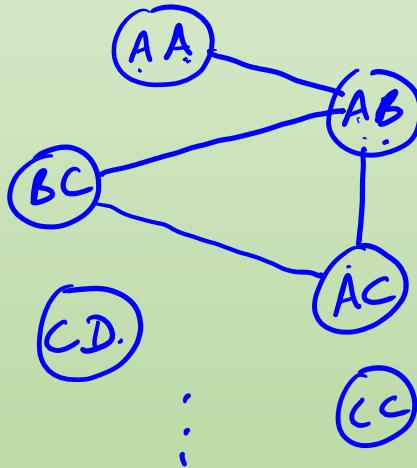
$$\{(v_1, \dots, v_k),$$

$$(v'_1, \dots, v'_k)\} \in E_k, \text{ if } \forall i = 1 \dots k,$$

$$v_i \sim v'_i \text{ (i.e. } v_i \text{ is similar to } v'_i \text{)}.$$

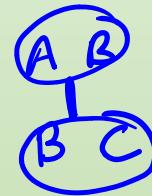
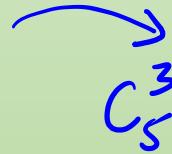


$$\alpha(C_5) = 2.$$



25 vertices

$$\alpha(C_5^2) \geq 4$$



$\{B, E\} \rightarrow$  Indep set in bipartite graph

$$\{B, E\} \times \{B, E\}$$



$$\{(B, B), (B, E), (E, B), (E, E)\}$$

indep set in squared graph

# Independent sets in $G, G^k$

• Theorem:  $\alpha(G^{k+l}) \geq \alpha(G^k) + \alpha(G^l)$

The diagram shows the inequality  $\alpha(G^{k+l}) \geq \alpha(G^k) + \alpha(G^l)$ . Below  $\alpha(G^{k+l})$  is a downward arrow pointing to  $v^{k+l}$ . Below  $\alpha(G^k)$  is a downward arrow pointing to  $v^k$ . Below  $\alpha(G^l)$  is a downward arrow pointing to  $v^l$ .

$S \times T$  is Indep set in  $G^{k+l}$   $\leftarrow$  Indep set  $S \times$  Indep set  $T$ .

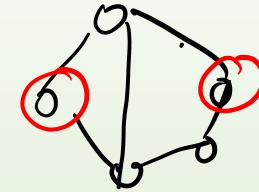
Example:  $C_5$

$$\alpha(C_5^2) > \alpha(C_5) \times \alpha(C_5).$$

$\parallel$                        $\parallel$   
5                              2.

~

# Shannon Capacity



- Bits of information transmitted is  $\log_2 \alpha(G)$  (definition)

Use graph  $G^k \rightarrow \alpha(G^k)$  is # distinct messages we can transmit w/o confusion. For  $C_5$

- For  $k$ -letter words, average information per bit is:

$$\frac{1}{k} \log_2 (\alpha(G^k))$$

- #1 { AA
- #2 { BC
- #3 { CE
- #4 { DB
- #5 { ED

For  $C_5$   $k=1$ ,  $\frac{1}{1} \log_2 2$

$k=2$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} \times \log_2 5 > 1 \approx \underline{1.161}$   $\beta$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $\alpha(C_5^2)$

# Part 2

Lovász Theta Function and Shannon Capacity of  $C_5$

# Quick Recap of Part 1

- Independence number  $\alpha(G)$  and chromatic number  $\chi(G)$  are hard-to-compute quantities of  $G$ , but important from both theoretical and practical standpoints

- Alphabet =  $\{A, B, C, \dots\}$ , each is a vertex of  $G = (V, E)$

- $\{i, j\} \in E$  if alphabet at vertex  $i$  and  $j$  are *similar* (i.e. can be confused)

- $\alpha(G)$  = max subset of non-similar messages

$$G^k = (V^k, E')$$

$(v_1, \dots, v_k) \sim (v'_1, \dots, v'_k)$   
if  $v_i$  is similar to  $v'_i$   
for all  $i$ .

- $\alpha(G^k)$  = max subset of non-similar messages that can be transmitted using  $G^k$  ( $k$  symbols at a time used)

- Information per alphabet symbol =  $\frac{1}{k} \log_2(\alpha(G^k))$

- $\alpha(G^k) \geq \alpha(G)^k$ , inequality may be strict (e.g.  $\alpha(C_5^2) = \underline{\underline{5}} > 2^2$ )

# Shannon Capacity: definition

Shannon capacity  $\leftarrow$  
$$\sigma(G) = \sup \left\{ \frac{1}{k} \log \alpha(G^k) : k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

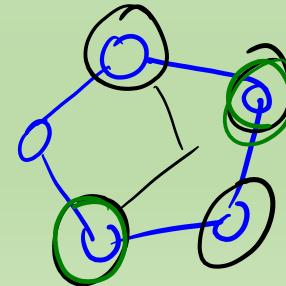
$\rightarrow$  size of max indep set in  $G^k$ .

- Note that  $C_5$  shows that  $k = 1$  need not always be the best!

$$\alpha(G^k) \leq |V|^k \Rightarrow \sigma(G) = \frac{1}{k} \log_2 |V|^k \leq \log_2 |V|$$

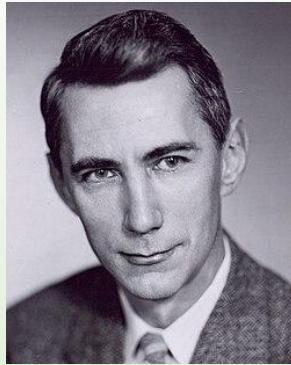
- $\sigma(G)$  is bounded, and satisfies the limit criterion

$$\sigma(G) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \alpha(G^k).$$



# Hard to analyze!

- $\sigma(G)$  is “notoriously” hard to compute even for simple graphs [Shannon, 1956]
- Lovasz [1979] determined  $\sigma(C_5)$  via an ingenious “relaxation”
- Open to determine  $\sigma(G)$  for many graphs, even  $C_7$



# Finding $\sigma(G)$

- Let  $S(G) := 2^{\{\sigma(G)\}} = \left( \alpha(G^k) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} \geq (\alpha(G)^k)^{\frac{1}{k}} = \alpha(G)$ .

- To find what  $S(G)$  is, first look to bound it

- Lovasz's idea: look at a geometrical representation of  $G$ , and its properties



# Lovasz's approach: Orthonormal Representations

- Let  $G = (V, E)$ , with  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

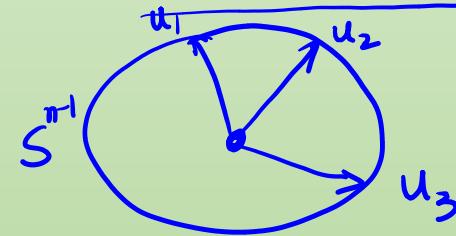
$\{i, j\} : i \neq j$

- Let  $\underline{\underline{\bar{E}}} = \binom{V}{2} \setminus E$

- **Orthonormal Representation** of  $G$ : A set of unit vectors  $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  satisfying:

- $\underline{u_i^T} u_j = 0 \iff \underline{\{i, j\}} \in \bar{E}$

- Dimension?  $= n$



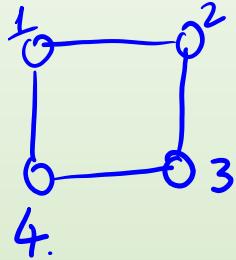
# Orthonormal Representations examples

- Trivial orthonormal representation in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .  $u_i^\top u_j = 0 \Leftrightarrow \{i, j\} \in \overline{E}$

$$\text{Vertex } i \mapsto e_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow i$$

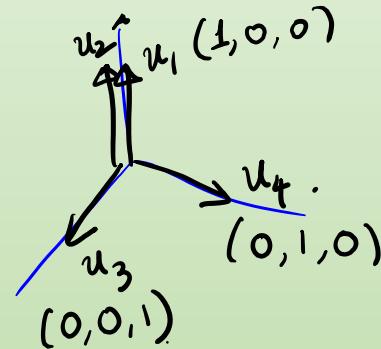
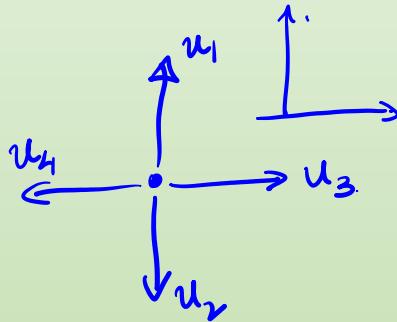
- Complete graph  $K_n$  : (A non-trivial orthonormal rep<sup>n</sup>) :  
Let all  $u_i$ 's be the same (no constraint since all edges are present).

# 4-Cycle $C_4$



$$u_1 \quad u_2 \quad u_3 \quad u_4$$

s.t. 
$$\begin{array}{l} u_1 \perp u_3 \\ u_2 \perp u_4 \end{array} \rightarrow \dots$$



Value of an OR for  $G$  OR = orthonormal rep<sup>n</sup>.

- Let  $U = \{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  be an Orthonormal Representation of  $G$

- The **value** of  $U$  is defined as

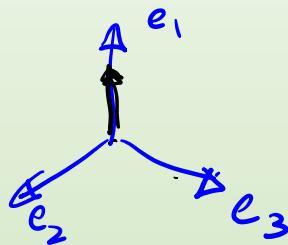
$$\vartheta(U) := \min_{c: \|c\|=1} \left( \max_i \frac{1}{(c^T u_i)^2} \right)$$

$c$  that minimizes this is called the "handle".

- Note:  $\vartheta$  is read as "theta"

eg. Trivial rep<sup>n</sup>  
 $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$ .

Take  $c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} (1, 1, 1, \dots, 1)$



$$g(U) := \min_{c: \|c\|_2=1} \max_{i \in [n]} \frac{1}{(c^T u_i)^2}$$

If  $c = e_1$ , say,  
 $\max_{i \in [n]} \frac{1}{(c^T e_i)^2} = \infty$ .

$$g(u) = n$$

Complete graph  $K_n$ :  $\{u, u, u, \dots, u\}$

$c = u$ , then  $\max \frac{1}{(c^T u)} = 1$

$$\therefore g(u) = 1$$

Ex: for  $C_4$ .

# Theta function $\vartheta(G)$ for $G$



$$\vartheta(G) := \min_{\underline{U}: \underline{OR} \text{ for } \underline{G}} \vartheta(\underline{U})$$

*Intuitively:*  
Want all vectors to fit in a small cap  
around  $c$ .

- Note: Minimum exists (continuous function over a compact set)
- Why consider the quantity  $\vartheta(G)$ ?

# Lovász Bound $(\alpha(G^k))^{\frac{1}{k}}$

- **Theorem:**  $S(G) \leq \vartheta(G)$

Proof uses two lemmas:

- Lemma A:  $\vartheta(G \cdot H) \leq \vartheta(G)\vartheta(H)$

- Corollary:  $\vartheta(G^k) \leq \vartheta(G)^k$

- Lemma B: For all graphs  $G'$ :  $\alpha(G') \leq \vartheta(G')$

Fix any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Apply Lemma B to  $G' = G^k$ .

$$\alpha(G^k) \leq \vartheta(G^k) \leq \vartheta(G)^k$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{\text{Lem B}} \qquad \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{\text{Lem A}}$

$$\Rightarrow (\alpha(G^k))^{\frac{1}{k}} \leq \vartheta(G) \Rightarrow S(G) \leq \vartheta(G)$$

□

# Lemma A

- **Lemma A:**  $\vartheta(G \cdot H) \leq \vartheta(G)\vartheta(H)$

Definition (Strong Graph Product):  $G \cdot H$

$$G = (V, E), \quad H = (W, F)$$

$G \cdot H$  has vertex set  $V \times W$

Edge between  $(v, w)$  and  $(v', w')$  if

$$\underbrace{v \sim v'}_{\text{in } G} \text{ and } \underbrace{w \sim w'}_{\text{in } H}.$$

Proof strategy: Use OR for  $G$  and OR for  $H$  to give a valid OR for  $G \cdot H$ , with value =  $\vartheta(G) \cdot \vartheta(H)$ .

$$\vartheta(G \cdot H) \leq \vartheta(G) \cdot \vartheta$$

Want:  $\vartheta(G \cdot H) \leq \vartheta(G) \cdot \vartheta(H)$

Let  $P = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{|V|}\}$  be an optimal OR for  $G$  with handle vector  $c$ .  
 Let  $Q = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{|W|}\}$  be an optimal OR for  $H$  with handle vector  $d$ .

$i \in V, j \in W$   $(G = (V, E), H = (W, F))$

$\boxed{(i, j)} \in V(G \cdot H) \rightarrow u_i \otimes v_j \rightarrow \text{Tensor product}$

$x \otimes y = \begin{matrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n & \in \mathbb{R}^m \end{matrix}$

$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 y_1 \\ x_1 y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_i y_j \\ \vdots \\ x_n y_m \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{mn}$

Above is a valid OR for  $G \cdot H$  since:

$$(u_i \otimes v_j)^T (u_{i'} \otimes v_{j'}) = (u_i^T u_{i'}) \times (v_j^T v_{j'})$$

$= 0$  iff  $(i, i') \in \bar{E}$  or  $(j, j') \in \bar{F}$   
 $\equiv (i, j) \not\sim (i', j')$  in  $G \cdot H$ .

Fact:  $(x \otimes y)^T (x' \otimes y') = (x^T x') \times (y^T y')$

$$\vartheta(P \otimes Q)$$

↓  
vectors  $(u_i \otimes v_j)$

Use handle vector  $(c \otimes d)$

$$\begin{aligned}\vartheta(P \otimes Q) &\leq \max_{(i,j) \in V \times W} \frac{1}{((c \otimes d)^T (u_i \otimes v_j))^2} \\ &= \max_{(i,j) \in V \times W} \frac{1}{(c^T u_i)^2 \cdot (d^T v_j)^2} \\ &= \max_i \frac{1}{(c^T u_i)^2} \times \max_j \frac{1}{(d^T v_j)^2} \\ &= \vartheta(G) \times \vartheta(H)\end{aligned}$$

□

# Lemma B

**Lemma B:** For all graphs  $G'$ :  $\alpha(G') \leq \vartheta(G')$

Proof: Let  $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  be an optimal OR for  $G'$ , with handle vector  $c$ .

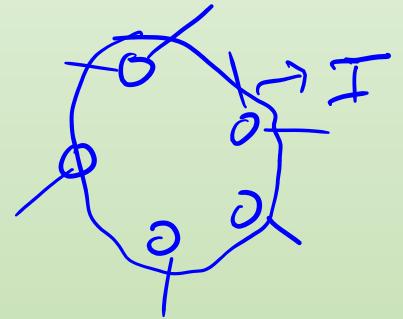
Let  $I$  be a <sup>maximum</sup> independent set in  $G'$ ,

$$(a) \|c\|^2 = c^T c \geq \sum_{i \in I} (c^T u_i)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \geq \frac{\sum_{i \in I} (c^T u_i)^2}{|I|} \geq \left( \min_{i \in I} (c^T u_i)^2 \right) \times |I|$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\min_{i \in I} (c^T u_i)^2} \geq |I| = \alpha(G')$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\alpha(G')} \leq \max_{i \in I} \frac{1}{(c^T u_i)^2} \leq \max_{i \in V} \frac{1}{(c^T u_i)^2} = \underline{\vartheta(G')}$$

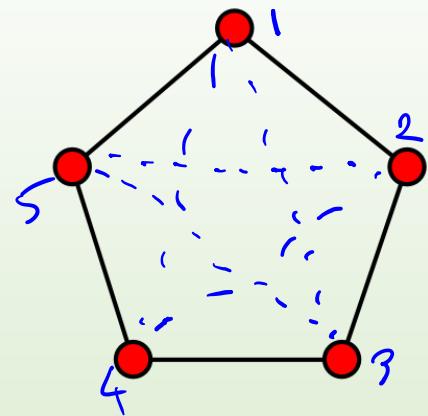


$$S(G) \leq \underbrace{\vartheta(G)}_{\text{Theta function}}.$$

$\downarrow$

$$\left(\alpha(G^k)\right)^{1/k}.$$

Shannon capacity of  $C_5$ : Lovász's umbrella construction



**Lemma:**  $C_5$  has an OR with value  $= \sqrt{5}$ . Thus,  $\vartheta(C_5) = \sqrt{5}$

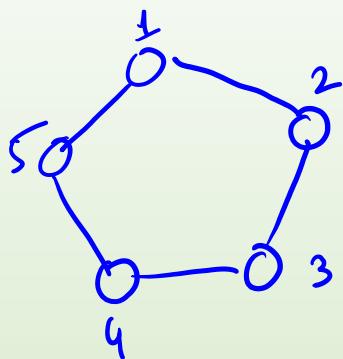
Recall that we had shown that  $S(C_5) \geq \sqrt{5}$ . Combined with the above, we infer that  $S(C_5) = \sqrt{5}$ .

↓  
when we set  $k=2$ , we have

$$\alpha(C_5^2) = 5$$

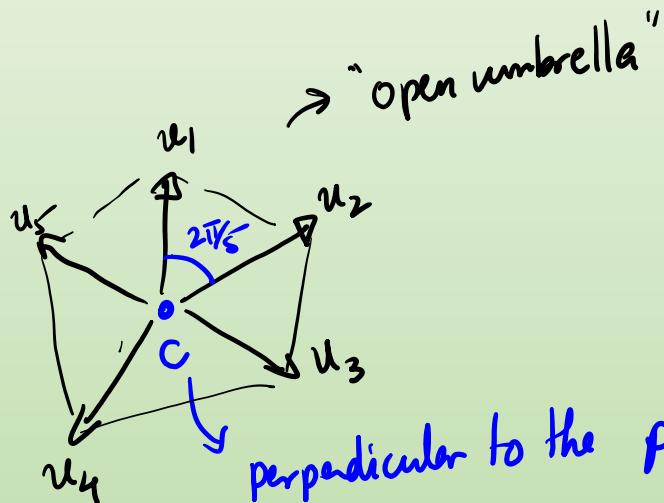
$$\Rightarrow (\alpha(C_5^2))^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow S(C_5) \geq \sqrt{5}$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vartheta(u) \\ \downarrow \\ OR \end{array} \right.$$

is small if vectors "cluster around" the handle vector  $c$ .



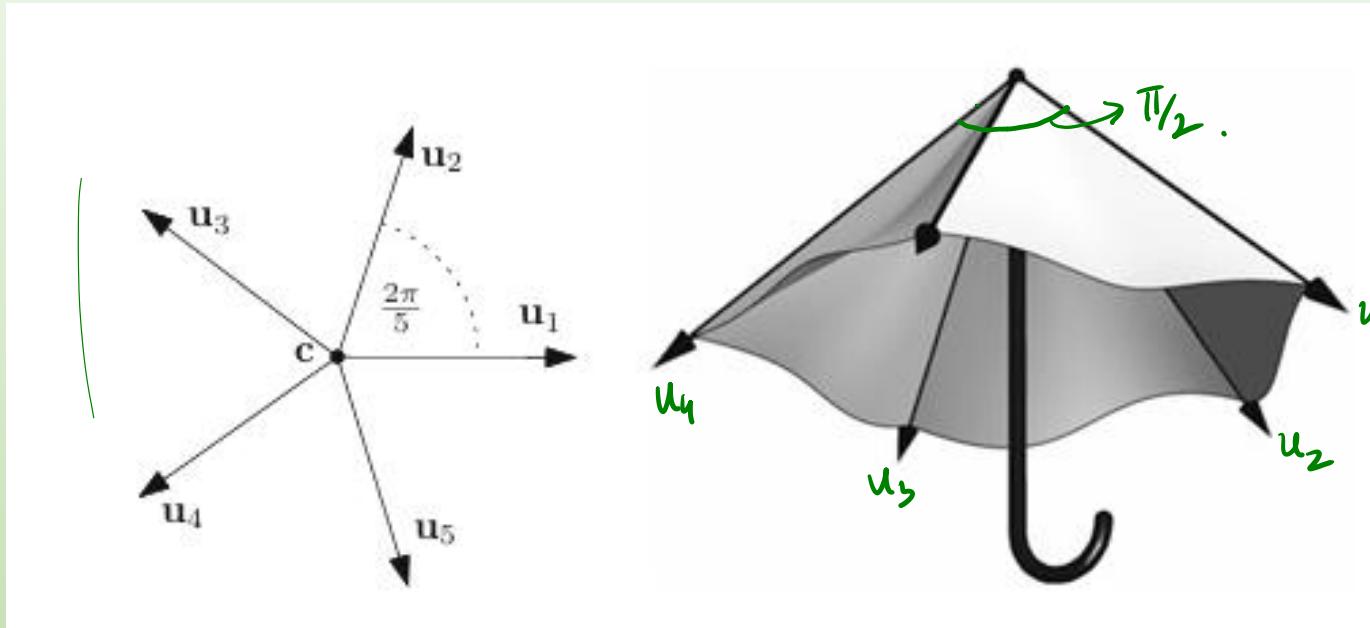
Angle between  $u_1, u_3 = \frac{4\pi}{5} > \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Finally, we have:



Obs<sup>n</sup>: At some intermediate point, orthogonality is satisfied

# Illustration of OR for $C_5$



$$\vartheta(u) = \frac{1 - \cos 4\pi/5}{-\cos 4\pi/5} = \sqrt{5}$$

At satisfying point of OR:  $u_i = \left( \cos \frac{2\pi i}{5}, \sin \frac{2\pi i}{5}, z \right)$ , for  $i=1, 2, 3, 4, 5$

$$v_5^T u_z = 0 \Rightarrow (1, 0, z)^T \begin{pmatrix} \cos 4\pi/5 \\ \sin 4\pi/5 \\ z \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \frac{4\pi}{5} + z^2 = 0.$$

To analyze  $S(G)$ , used a "proxy"  $\leq \underbrace{\vartheta(G)}$ .

$(\underbrace{\alpha(G^k)})^{1/k}$   
↓  
hard to analyze

$$\vartheta(G^k) \leq (\vartheta(G))^k$$

□

/

## More properties of $\vartheta(G)$

- For a graph  $G$  and its complement  $\bar{G}$ ,  $\vartheta(G)\vartheta(\bar{G}) \geq n$

# Relaxations for combinatorial quantities

- Linear Relaxation for Independent Set



# References

- B. Gartner and J. Matousek, Approximation Algorithms and Semidefinite Programming, Springer, 2012