

# Tensors and Optimization

Ravi Kannan

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- Can be done for all MAX- $r$ -CSP problems. (Get  $2^r$   $r$ -tensors. But for this talk,  $r = 3$ .) Goodbye MAX-CSP. Only Tensor Optimization.



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( $p \in O(n^{0.5-\epsilon})$ ? Still open.)

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- **Planted Gaussian** problem:  $A$   $n \times n$  i.i.d.  $N(0, 1)$  entries.  $B$  has i.i.d  $N(\mu, 1)$  entries in (hidden)  $p \times p$  sub-matrix and 0 o.w. Given  $A + B$ , find  $B$ . [Spectral methods for  $p\mu \geq c\sqrt{n}$ .]

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- Planted Dense sub-graph problems.

# Tensor Optimization - What norms?

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- Moral of this: Enough to ensure that  $A$  is well approximated by  $B$  in spectral norm.

# Any tensor can be approximated

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- **No Free Lunch**: Cannot put  $\|\cdot\|_F$  in lhs or  $\|\cdot\|$  on rhs.

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- 3 Length squared sampling works ! [Stated here without proof.]
- 4 This gives us many candidate  $x$  's. How do we check which one is good ? For each  $x$ , recursively solve the matrix problem (SVD!) to determine its value !

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- Treat  $\sum_{(j,k) \in S} A_{ijk} y_j z_k$  as an estimate of  $\sum_{\text{all}(j,k)} A_{ijk} y_j z_k$ .

## For what CSP's is this good?

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- But all MAX-CSP problems can be easily solved with error at most  $O(m)$ .
- So, no use unless  $m \in \Omega(n^2)$ . **Dense**. Similar argument for higher  $r$ .

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- Theorem PTAS's for all core-dense MAX- $r$ -CSP's.

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- OPEN: Use Tensors for other Optimization Problems. Suppose we can find spectral norm of 3-tensors to within a factor of  $1 + \varepsilon$  for any constant  $\varepsilon > 0$  . [Not ruled out by NP-harness proofs.] Can one beat the best approximation factor for say Max-Cut obtained by SDP (a quadratic method) ?