

Positive Semidefinite Rank

Rekha R.Thomas

University of Washington, Seattle

Joint work with:

Hamza Fawzi (MIT)

João Gouveia (U Coimbra)

Pablo Parrilo (MIT)

Richard Robinson (UW)

[arXiv:1407.4095](https://arxiv.org/abs/1407.4095)

Definition: Given $M \in \mathbf{R}_+^{p \times q}$

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = \min \left\{ k : \exists \begin{array}{l} A_1, \dots, A_p \in \mathcal{S}_+^k \\ B_1, \dots, B_q \in (\mathcal{S}_+^k)^* \\ \text{s.t. } M_{ij} = \langle A_i, B_j \rangle \end{array} \right\}$$

Definition: Given $M \in \mathbf{R}_+^{p \times q}$

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = \min \left\{ k : \exists \begin{array}{l} A_1, \dots, A_p \in \mathcal{S}_+^k \\ B_1, \dots, B_q \in (\mathcal{S}_+^k)^* \\ \text{s.t. } M_{ij} = \langle A_i, B_j \rangle \end{array} \right\}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{rk}(M) = 3$$

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 2$$

\mathcal{S}_+^2 -factorization of M :

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad B_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Definition: Given $M \in \mathbf{R}_+^{p \times q}$

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = \min \left\{ k : \exists \begin{array}{l} A_1, \dots, A_p \in \mathcal{S}_+^k \\ B_1, \dots, B_q \in (\mathcal{S}_+^k)^* \\ \text{s.t. } M_{ij} = \langle A_i, B_j \rangle \end{array} \right\}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{rk}(M) = 3$$

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 2$$

\mathcal{S}_+^2 -factorization of M :

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad B_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(I_3) = 3$$

Factorizations of matrices/operators:

(i) factoring through subspaces:

$$\text{rk}(M) = \min \{k : M = AB, A \in \mathbf{R}^{p \times k}, B \in \mathbf{R}^{k \times q}\}$$

$$\text{i.e., } \exists a_1, \dots, a_p \in \mathbf{R}^k, b_1, \dots, b_q \in (\mathbf{R}^k)^* \text{ s.t. } M_{ij} = \langle a_i, b_j \rangle$$

Factorizations of matrices/operators:

(i) factoring through subspaces:

$$\text{rk}(M) = \min \{k : M = AB, A \in \mathbf{R}^{p \times k}, B \in \mathbf{R}^{k \times q}\}$$

$$\text{i.e., } \exists a_1, \dots, a_p \in \mathbf{R}^k, b_1, \dots, b_q \in (\mathbf{R}^k)^* \text{ s.t. } M_{ij} = \langle a_i, b_j \rangle$$

(ii) factoring through cones: **cone rank of M** GPT 2013

$\mathcal{C} = \{C_i\}$ “closed” family of closed convex cones

$$\text{rk}_{\mathcal{C}}(M) = \min \left\{ k : \exists a_1, \dots, a_p \in C_k, b_1, \dots, b_q \in (C_k)^* \text{ s.t. } M_{ij} = \langle a_i, b_j \rangle \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{R}_+^k\} \quad \text{nonnegative rank} \quad \text{rk}_+(M)$$

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\mathcal{S}_+^k\} \quad \text{psd rank} \quad \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + 8 \operatorname{rk}(M)} - \frac{1}{2} \leq \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq \operatorname{rk}_+(M) \leq \min(p, q)$$

$$\operatorname{rk}(M) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 1 \qquad \operatorname{rk}(M) = 2 \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + 8 \operatorname{rk}(M)} - \frac{1}{2} \leq \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq \operatorname{rk}_+(M) \leq \min(p, q)$$

$$\operatorname{rk}(M) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 1$$

$$\operatorname{rk}(M) = 2 \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 2$$

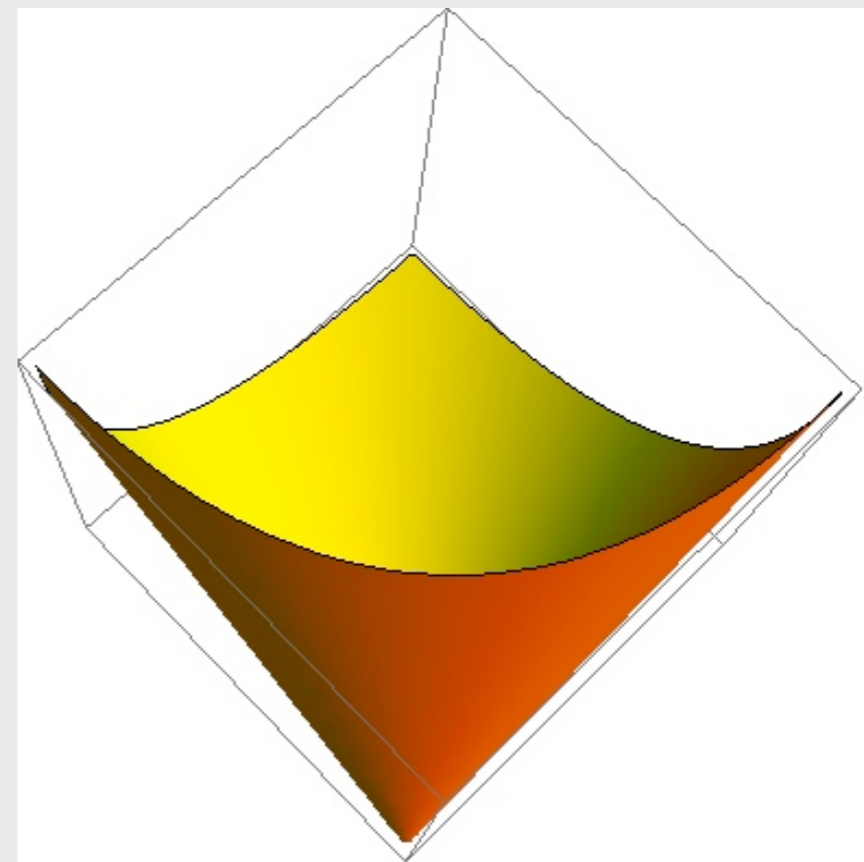
$$M_{abc} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ c & a & b \\ b & c & a \end{bmatrix}, \quad a, b, c \geq 0$$

$$\operatorname{rk} = \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 1 \Leftrightarrow a = b = c$$

$$\text{else, } \operatorname{rk} = 3 \Rightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 2, 3$$

$$\operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 2 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$a^2 + b^2 + c^2 \leq 2(ab + bc + ac)$$



$$\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + 8 \operatorname{rk}(M)} - \frac{1}{2} \leq \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq \operatorname{rk}_+(M) \leq \min(p, q)$$

$$\operatorname{rk}(M) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 1$$

$$\operatorname{rk}(M) = 2 \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 2$$

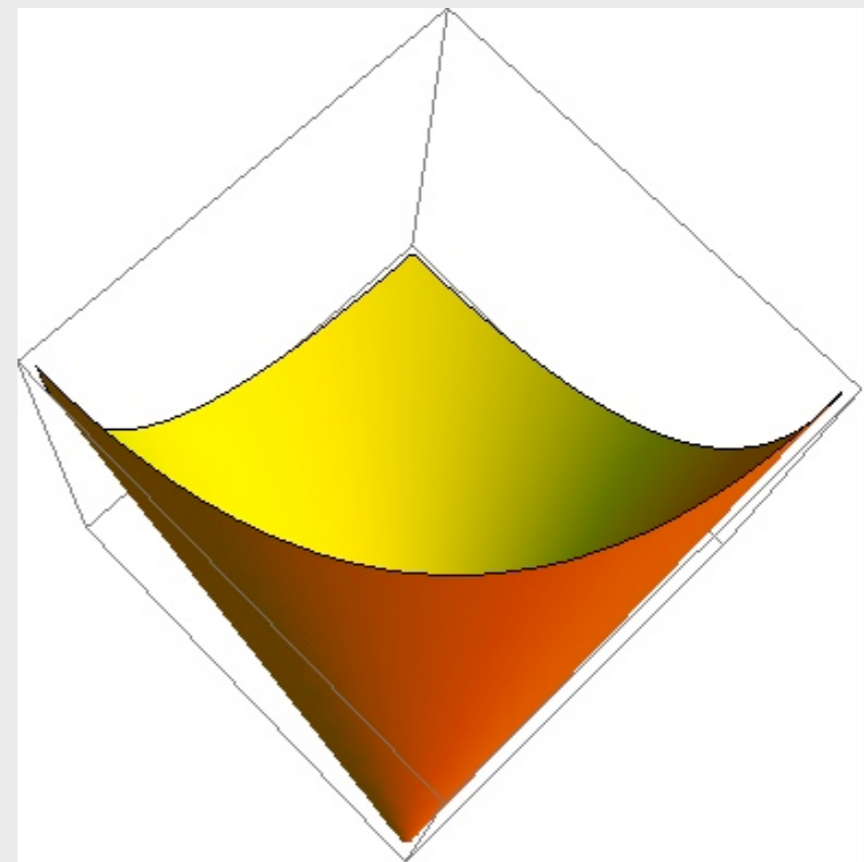
$$M_{abc} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ c & a & b \\ b & c & a \end{bmatrix}, \quad a, b, c \geq 0$$

$$\operatorname{rk} = \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 1 \Leftrightarrow a = b = c$$

$$\text{else, } \operatorname{rk} = 3 \Rightarrow \operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 2, 3$$

$$\operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 2 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$a^2 + b^2 + c^2 \leq 2(ab + bc + ac)$$



$$\mathcal{M}_{\operatorname{rk}_{\text{psd}}=2}^{p \times q} \subset \mathcal{M}_{\operatorname{rk}=3}^{p \times q}$$

Kubjas-Robeva-Robinson 2014

Square root rank \sqrt{M} Hadamard square root of M

$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{\cdot}}(M) := \min \{ \text{rk} \sqrt{M} \}$$

Square root rank

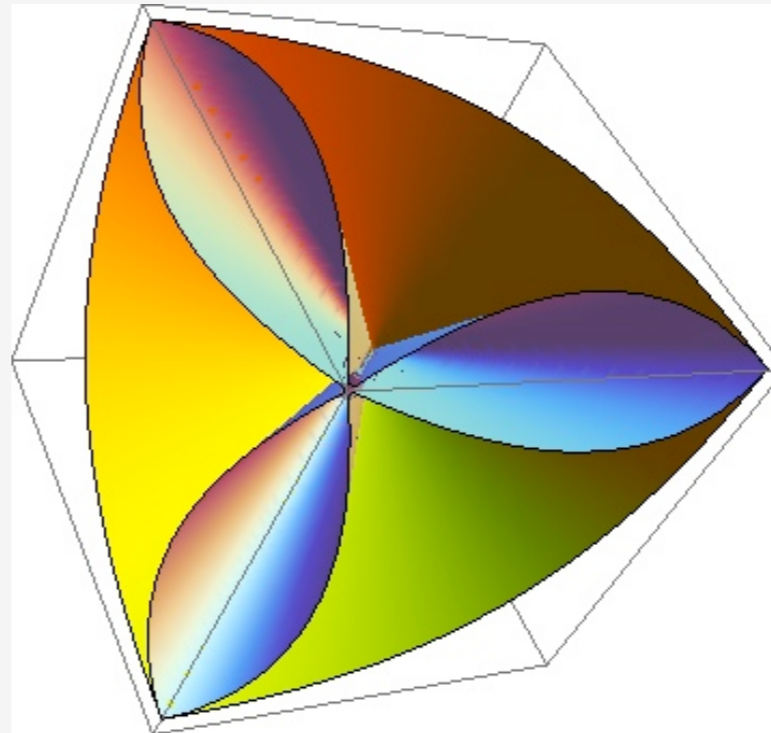
\sqrt{M} Hadamard square root of M

$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{}}(M) := \min \{ \text{rk} \sqrt{M} \}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 9 \\ 9 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{}}(M) = 2$$

$$\sqrt{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{rk} \sqrt{M} = 2$$



$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{}}(M) \leq 2 \\ \Leftrightarrow \\ (a, b, c) \text{ on this surface}$$

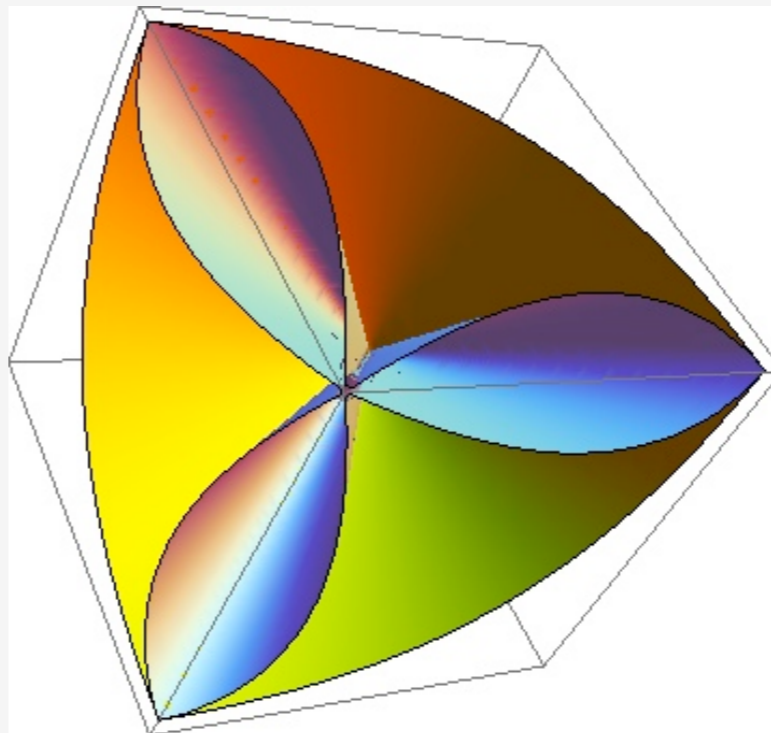
Square root rank \sqrt{M} Hadamard square root of M

$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{\cdot}}(M) := \min \{ \text{rk} \sqrt{M} \}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 9 \\ 9 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{\cdot}}(M) = 2$$

$$\sqrt{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{rk} \sqrt{M} = 2$$



$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{\cdot}}(M) \leq 2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

(a, b, c) on this surface

$$\text{rk}_{\sqrt{\cdot}}(M) = \min \{ k : \exists \mathcal{S}_+^k \text{-factorization of } M \text{ with rank one factors} \}$$

Corollaries:

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq \text{rk}_{\sqrt{\cdot}}(M)$$

$$M \in \{0, 1\}^{p \times q} \Rightarrow \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq \text{rk}(M)$$

| | rk | rk ₊ | rk _{psd} | rk _√ |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| rk | = | ≪ | ≪, > | ≪, > |
| rk ₊ | ≫ | = | ≫ | ≪, ≫ |
| rk _{psd} | <, ≫ | ≪ | = | ≪ |
| rk _√ | <, ≫ | ≪, ≫ | ≫ | = |

Euclidean distance matrices:

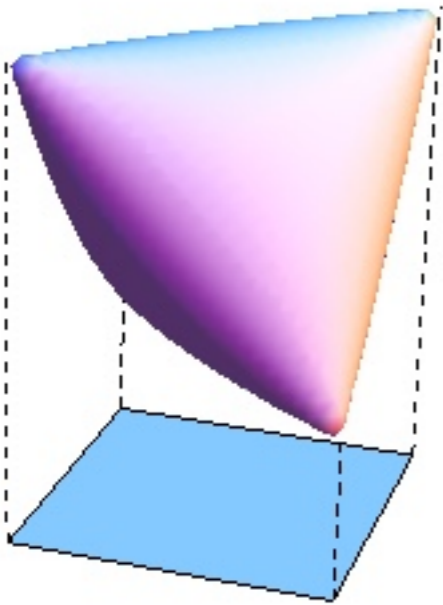
$$M_{ij} = (i - j)^2 \quad \text{rk}(M) = 3, \quad \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) = 2$$

$$\text{rk}_+(M) = \Theta(\log_2 n) \quad \text{Hrubes 2012}$$

Cannot assume all factors have rank one to study psd rank.

Geometric Interpretation

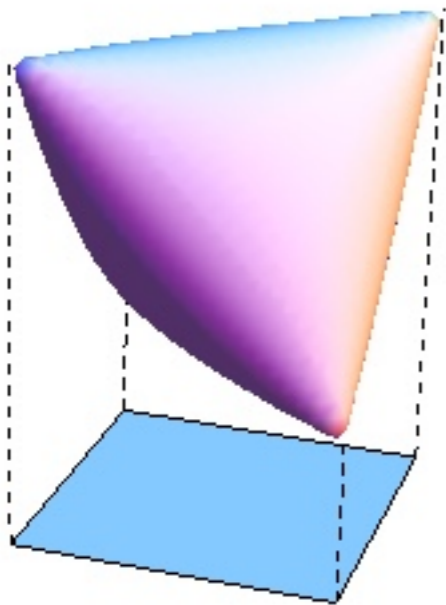
Def: $P \subseteq \mathbf{R}^n$ (convex set) has a psd lift of size k if $P = \pi(\mathcal{S}_+^k \cap L)$
 π linear map, L affine space



Geometric Interpretation

Def: $P \subseteq \mathbf{R}^n$ (convex set) has a psd lift of size k if $P = \pi(\mathcal{S}_+^k \cap L)$

π linear map, L affine space



$$P \subseteq Q$$

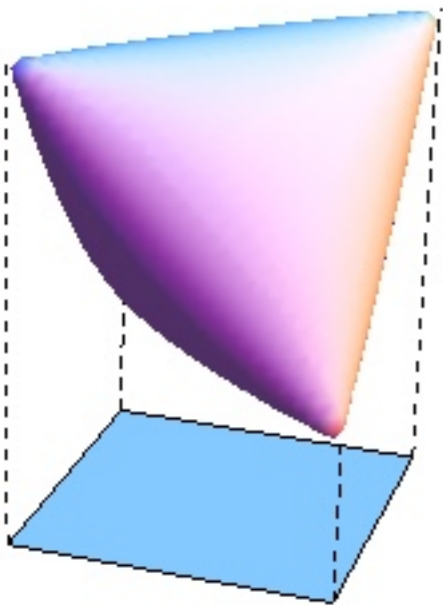
$$P = \text{conv}(p_1, \dots, p_v) \subset \mathbf{R}^n$$

$$Q = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n : a_j^T x \leq \beta_j, j = 1, \dots, f\}$$

slack matrix: $S_{P,Q} \in \mathbf{R}^{v \times f}$, $(S_{P,Q})_{ij} := \beta_j - a_j^T p_i$

Geometric Interpretation

Def: $P \subseteq \mathbf{R}^n$ (convex set) has a psd lift of size k if $P = \pi(\mathcal{S}_+^k \cap L)$
 π linear map, L affine space



$$P = \text{conv}(p_1, \dots, p_v) \subset \mathbf{R}^n$$

$$Q = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n : a_j^T x \leq \beta_j, j = 1, \dots, f\}$$

slack matrix: $S_{P,Q} \in \mathbf{R}^{v \times f}$, $(S_{P,Q})_{ij} := \beta_j - a_j^T p_i$

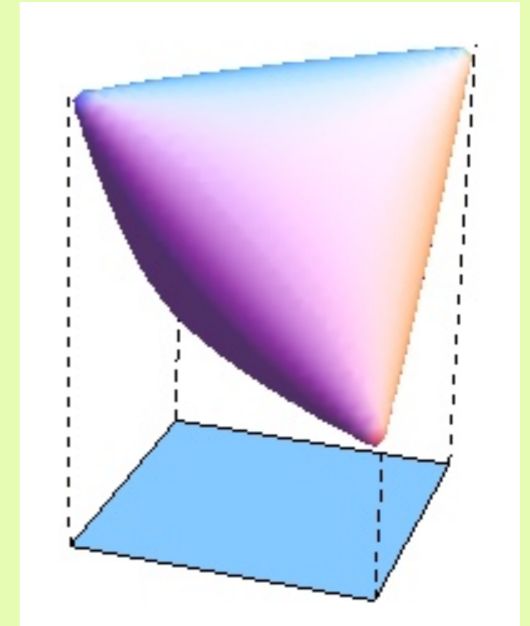
Thm: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(S_{P,Q}) = \min \{k : \exists \pi, L \text{ s.t. } P \subseteq \pi(\mathcal{S}_+^k \cap L) \subseteq Q\}$
 $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(S_{P,P}) = \min \{k : \text{s.t. } P = \pi(\mathcal{S}_+^k \cap L)\}$

Yannakakis 91: polyhedral-lifts, P polytope, $\text{rk}_+(S_{P,P})$

GPT 2013: cone-lifts, P convex set, $\text{rk}_C(\text{slack operators})$

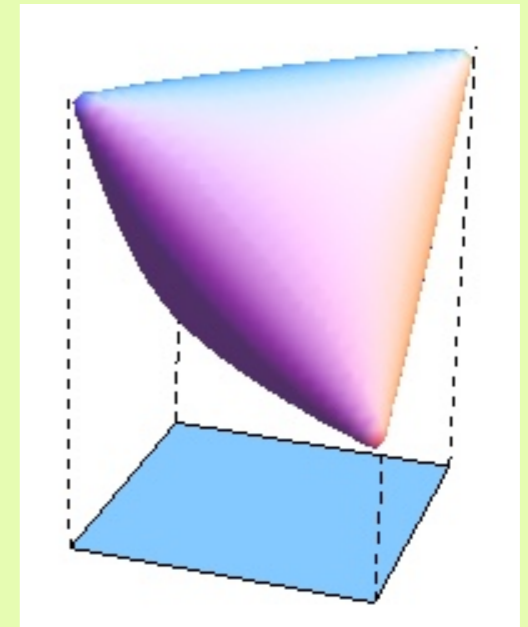
$$P = [-1, 1]^2 = \left\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & y \\ x & 1 & z \\ y & z & 1 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \right\}$$

$$S_P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 3$$

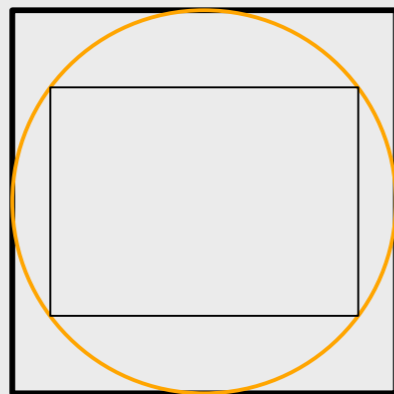
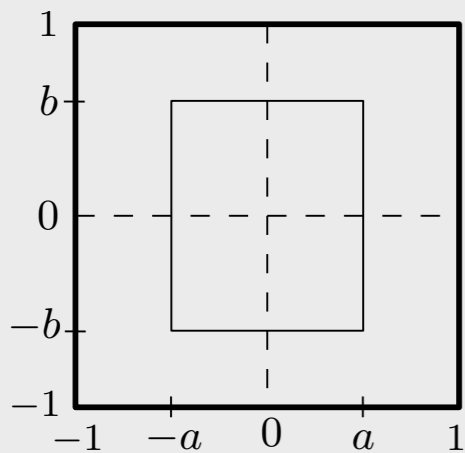


$$P = [-1, 1]^2 = \left\{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbf{R}^3 : \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & y \\ x & 1 & z \\ y & z & 1 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \right\}$$

$$S_P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{rk}_{\text{psd}} = 3$$



$$Q = [-1, 1]^2, \quad P = [-a, a] \times [-b, b]$$



$$S_{P,Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 1+a & 1+b & 1-a & 1-b \\ 1-a & 1+b & 1+a & 1-b \\ 1-a & 1-b & 1+a & 1+b \\ 1+a & 1-b & 1-a & 1+b \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{rk}_{\text{psd}} = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } a^2 + b^2 > 1 \\ 2 & \text{if } 0 < a^2 + b^2 \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } a = b = 0 \end{cases}$$

PSD ranks of polytopes

Briet-Dadush-Pokutta 2013: not all $\{0, 1\}$ -polytopes in \mathbf{R}^n have small psd lifts

no concrete 0/1-polytope family so far with large psd rank

favorite candidate: $\text{COR}(n) = \text{conv}(aa^\top : a \in \{0, 1\}^n)$

PSD ranks of polytopes

Briet-Dadush-Pokutta 2013: not all $\{0, 1\}$ -polytopes in \mathbf{R}^n have small psd lifts

no concrete 0/1-polytope family so far with large psd rank

favorite candidate: $\text{COR}(n) = \text{conv}(aa^\top : a \in \{0, 1\}^n)$

GPT 13: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(P) = k \Rightarrow P$ has at most $k^{O(k^2 n)}$ facets

eg. psd rank of n -gons grow to infinity with n

GRT 13: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(\text{generic } n\text{-gon}) = \Omega(\sqrt[4]{n})$

no family so far with large gap between psd and nonnegative rank

Equivariant psd lifts of polytopes:

(lifts that respect the symmetries of the polytope -- a la Yannakakis)

Fawzi-Parrilo-Saunderson 2013: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}^{\text{eq}}(\text{CUT}(n)) \geq \binom{n}{\lceil n/4 \rceil}$

Lee-Raghavendra-Steurer-Tan 2013

FSP 2014: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}^{\text{eq}}(\text{regular } n\text{-gon}) = \Theta(\log n)$

GPT 13: $\text{rk}_{+}^{\text{eq}}(\text{regular } n\text{-gon}) = n$ n prime power

provides exponential gap in sizes of LP and PSD equivariant lifts

Lower bounds on psd rank

support not powerful: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M^2) \leq \text{rk}(M)$ Lee-Theis 12

Barvinok 12:

M has k distinct entries $\Rightarrow \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq \binom{k-1 + \text{rk}(M)}{k-1}$

Lower bounds on psd rank

support not powerful: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M^2) \leq \text{rk}(M)$ Lee-Theis 12

Barvinok 12:

M has k distinct entries $\Rightarrow \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq \binom{k-1 + \text{rk}(M)}{k-1}$

A lower bounding technique using results of Renegar:

- (1) $L \cap \mathcal{S}_+^k$ is bounded by polynomials of degree $\leq k$
- (2) bound poly describing algebraic boundary of $\pi(L \cap \mathcal{S}_+^k) = P$
- (3) degree of this boundary poly $\geq \#$ facets of P

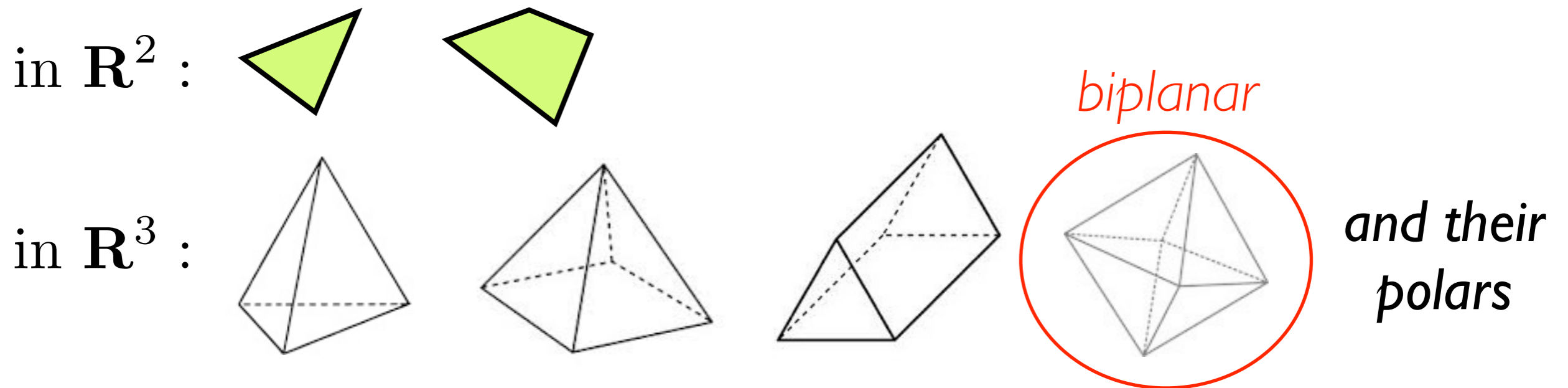
e.g. **GPT 13:** $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(n\text{-gon}) = \Omega \left(\sqrt{\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}} \right)$... deWolf-Lee-Wei 14

Polytopes of min psd rank Gouveia-Robinson-T. 13:

Theorem: $\text{rk}(S_P) = n + 1 \leq \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(P)$
equality holds $\Leftrightarrow \text{rk}_{\sqrt{}}(S_P) = n + 1$

Polytopes of min psd rank Gouveia-Robinson-T. 13:

Theorem: $\text{rk}(S_P) = n + 1 \leq \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(P)$
equality holds $\Leftrightarrow \text{rk}_{\sqrt{}}(S_P) = n + 1$



Theorem: $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(\text{STAB}(G)) = n + 1 \Leftrightarrow G$ perfect

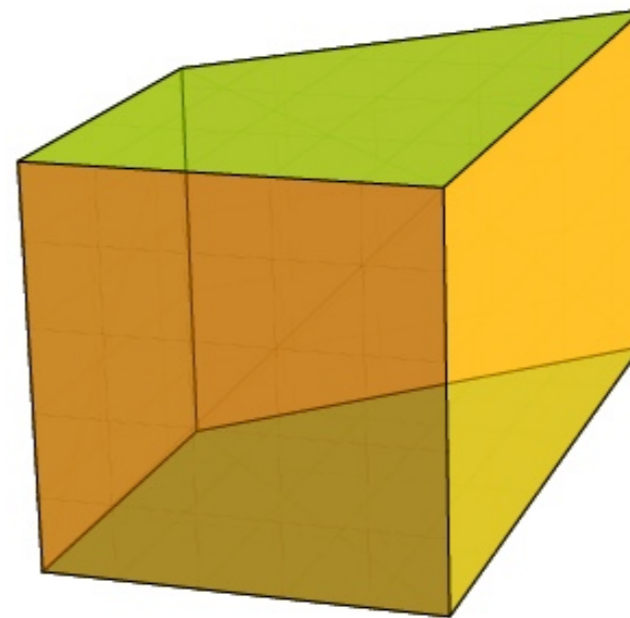
Grande-Sanyal 14: *psd minimal matroid polytopes*

a corollary

$$\exists M : \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}^{\mathbf{Q}}(M) > \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}^{\mathbf{R}}(M) \quad \text{Fawzi-Gouveia-Robinson 14}$$

M is the slack matrix of a biplanar cuboid

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



Open for nonnegative rank

PSD rank of convex sets

$$C \subset \mathbf{R}^n \iff \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(C) = \text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(\text{slack operator of } C)$$

Long history of constructing psd lifts of interesting convex sets in optimization/control/real algebraic geometry ...

i.e. show $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(C) < \infty$

Helton-Nie Conjecture:

Every convex semi-algebraic set has finite psd rank.

Scheiderer 12: true for convex hulls of algebraic curves

Complexity issues:

Robinson 14: Square root rank
is NP-hard to compute.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_1^2 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & a_2^2 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & a_n^2 \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Complexity issues:

Robinson 14: Square root rank is NP-hard to compute.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_1^2 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & a_2^2 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & a_n^2 \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Is psd rank NP-hard to compute?

Vavasis 2009: nonnegative rank is NP-hard

Complexity issues:

Robinson 14: Square root rank is NP-hard to compute.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_1^2 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & a_2^2 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & a_n^2 \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Is psd rank NP-hard to compute?

Vavasis 2009: nonnegative rank is NP-hard

For fixed k , is it NP-hard to decide if $\text{rk}_{\text{psd}}(M) \leq k$?

Arora-Ge-Kannan-Moitra 12, Moitra 13:

poly-time decidable for nonnegative rank

Some of the things I did not talk about ...

- Space of psd factorizations
- Quantum information interpretation of psd rank
- Approximate factorizations and approximations of polytopes
- Symmetric psd factorizations