

Reducing Satisfiability to Quadratic Programming

Jayadev Misra

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We show that the boolean satisfiability problem can be reducing to the quadratic programming problem.

1 Reduction

Let x, y, z be the variables. Denote their negations by $\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}$. For a disjunct of the form $\neg x \vee y \vee z$ create an equation

$$\bar{x} + y + z \geq 1$$

For each variable x , create inequalities

$$x \geq 0, \bar{x} \geq 0$$

The objective function is

$$\min \sum_x (x\bar{x})$$

2 Properties

P1: The objective function value is non-negative: because each term is non-negative.

P2: There is a feasible solution: Set each variable to 1. Another feasible solution is to set x to $1/k$ where k is the smallest number of terms in any equation in which x appears.

P3: If the boolean formula is satisfiable then the objective function value is 0.
Proof: In satisfying the boolean formula, for each variable that is *true/false* set its value in the quadratic programming problem to 1/0. Each inequality is satisfied and $x\bar{x} = 0$. Therefore, using P1, the objective function value is 0.

P4: If function value is 0 then the boolean formula is satisfiable.

Proof: Since each term in the objective function is non-negative, the value of the function is 0 only if each term $x\bar{x} = 0$. Then one of x and \bar{x} is 0. Call the literal that is 0 *lo* and the other *hi*; if both literals are 0 then choose *lo*, *hi* arbitrarily. We claim that setting each *hi* literal to *true* and *lo* literal to *false* solves the boolean satisfiability problem. Consider an x that is *hi*. Every inequality in which x appears is satisfied because $x = 1$. Every inequality in which x does not appear is unaffected.

Note: It may be preferable to add $x + \bar{x} \leq 1$ to bound the polyhedron.