

6.842 lecture 3

The Lovász Local Lemma


The Lovász Local Lemma

Another way to argue that it's possible that
"nothing bad happens"

If A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are bad events

how do we know that there is a
positive probability that

none occur?

if A_i 's independent + "nontrivial":


$$\Pr[A_i] < 1 \quad \forall i$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\bigvee A_i] &\leq 1 - \Pr[\bigwedge \bar{A}_i] \\ &= 1 - \prod \underbrace{\Pr[\bar{A}_i]}_{> 0} \\ &< 1 \end{aligned}$$

else, usual way: Union Bound

no assumptions
on A_i 's
with respect to
independence

$$\Pr[VA_i] \leq \sum \Pr[A_i]$$

if each A_i occurs with prob $\leq p$,
then need $p < \frac{1}{n}$ to get
interesting bound i.e., $\Pr[VA_i] < 1$

What if A_i 's have "some" independence?

def. A "independent" of B_1, B_2, \dots, B_k if

$$\forall \substack{J \subseteq [k] \\ J \neq \emptyset} \quad \text{then} \quad \Pr[A \cap \bigcap_{j \in J} B_j]$$

$$= \Pr[A] \cdot \Pr[\bigcap_{j \in J} B_j]$$

Note:
[k] means $\{1, \dots, k\}$

def. A_1, \dots, A_n events

$D = (V, E)$ with $V = [n]$ is

"dependency digraph of A_1, \dots, A_n "

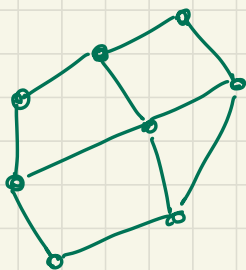
if each A_i independent of all A_j that
are not neighbors in D (i.e. all A_j st. $(i, j) \notin E$)

Lovász Local Lemma (symmetric version)

$A_1 \dots A_n$ events s.t. $\Pr(A_i) \leq p \quad \forall i$
with dependency digraph D s.t. D
has $\max \text{ degree} \leq d$.

If $epd \leq 1$ then

$$\Pr \left[\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i} \right] > 0$$



Union bound
need
 $p < \frac{1}{n}$

LLL
if $d \leq 4$
only need
 $p \leq \frac{1}{e \cdot (d+1)}$

Application

Thm. Given $S_1 \dots S_m \subseteq \bar{X}$ $|S_i| = l$

each S_i intersects at most d other S_j 's

previously
needed
 $m < 2^{l-1}$
now no
restriction
on m
but there
is a
restriction
on "degree"

if $e \cdot (d+1) \leq 2^{l-1}$

then can 2-color \bar{X} such that
each S_i not monochromatic

ie. \mathcal{H} is hypergraph with m edges,
each containing l nodes + each
intersecting $\leq d$ other edges

Pf color each elt of X red/blue iid with prob $\frac{1}{2}$

$A_i \equiv$ event that S_i
is monochromatic


even the proof starts
out the same!



$$p = \Pr[A_i] = \frac{1}{2^{l-1}}$$

A_i indep of all A_j s.t. $S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset$
so depends on $\leq d$ other A_j

since $e \cdot p \cdot (d+1) = e \cdot \frac{1}{2^{l-1}} \cdot (d+1) \leq 1$ ↖ by assumption

LLL $\Rightarrow \exists$ 2-coloring 

Comparison:

#edges = m

size of edges = l

$$m < 2^{l-1}$$

#edges = m

size of edges = l

each edge intersects
with $\leq d$ others

no
dependence
on m

$$d+1 \leq \frac{2^l}{e}$$

Application 2: Boolean Formulae

Given CNF formula st. l vars in each clause + each clause intersects $\leq d$ other clauses

If $\frac{e(d+1)}{2^l} \leq 1$ there is a satisfying assignment.

($n = \#$ vars, $m = \#$ clauses)

How do you find a solution?

partial history:

Lovász 1975

nonconstructive
(no fast algorithm to find soln)

$$d \leq 2^{l/e}$$

Beck 1991

randomized algorithm
but for more restrictive
conditions on parameters
parallel version

$$d \leq 2^{l/1000}$$

Alon 1991

$$d \leq 2^{l/8}$$

⋮
⋮
⋮

⋮
⋮
⋮

Moser 2009

negligible restrictions
for SAT

+ most other problems

$$d \leq \frac{2^l}{c}$$

Moser Tardos

•
•
•

Today Given $\Phi = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m C_i$ where C_i is
Clause with l literals + each C_i
intersects $\leq d$ other C_j 's.

If $d+1 \leq \frac{2^l}{2^{2.1}}$ then can find
of X s.t. each C_i satisfied
in time poly in m, n
 \uparrow # variables

$n = \# \text{ vars}$
 $m = \# \text{ clauses}$
 $d = \text{max degree}$

$$p = \Pr[\text{bad event } C_i \text{ unsat}] = 2^{-l}$$

Moser's Algorithm:

1. Pick random assignment to vars $1..n$
2. For each $i \in [m]$
If C_i unsatisfied
Fix (C_i) (*)
3. Output assignment

Fix (C) :

rerandomize vars in C

For C' in $\{C\} \cup \{\text{nbrs of } C\}$

If C' unsatisfied then fix (C')



- how long does it run?
- does it terminate?

Observation

if terminates, we have a sat assignment

Why does it terminate?

idea view Moser's algorithm as a "compression algorithm"

- Input is random string R s.t. $|R| = t$
- Rule: if algorithm terminates or
run out of bits in R , stop
When stop, output E = encoding of
trace of computation

Trace of Computation

do not write down bits
of R that we used

- bit string b_i for $i \in [m]$

$$b_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \text{Fix}(C_i) \text{ called on line } i \\ & \text{(top level only)} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

- for each recursive call to Fix

record: (1) which nbr clause called
(2) bits for recursive structure

$$b_1 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \exists \text{ child call} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$$b_2 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \exists \text{ right sibling} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

← save by
writing which
nbr, not
full clause
name

(see picture)

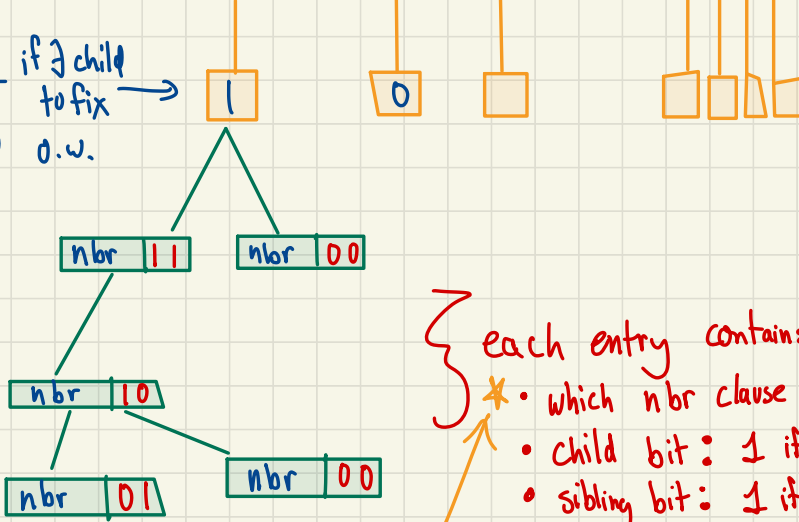
- Final variable assignment
- Any remaining random bits in R

Warning: for this lecture
will interchange T/F
+ 1/0

Picture of encoding

b: 01000001 001000 001111

1 if \exists child
to fix
0 o.w.



for each "1"
bit, draw
tree of
recursive DFS
calls

each entry contains:

- which nbr clause "fix" called on: $\log_2(d+1)$ bits
- child bit: 1 if \exists child to fix, 0 o.w.
- sibling bit: 1 if \exists sibling to fix, 0 o.w.

Save since only write which nbr,
not full clause ID.

Claim can recover R from encoding containing:

- b
- hanging trees
- final var assignment
- remaining unused bits of R

(Concatenated as bit strings)

Example

$0000011001100010111011001$
 $R = \underbrace{FFFFFTTFF}_{\text{use for initial assignment}} \underbrace{TTF}_{\text{Fix 1}} \underbrace{FFF}_{\text{Fix 2}} \underbrace{TFT}_{\text{Fix 1}} \underbrace{TTF}_{\text{Fix 3}} \dots$
 unused vars

$$\overset{(1)}{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)} \overset{(2)}{(\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_5)} \overset{(3)}{(x_4 \vee x_8 \vee x_9)} \overset{(4)}{(x_1 \vee x_6 \vee x_7)}$$

Initially $(F \overset{(1)}{F} F) (T \overset{(2)}{T} T F) (F \overset{(3)}{F} F) (F \overset{(4)}{F} TT)$

Fix(1) $(TTF) (F F F) (F F F) (T TT)$

Fix(2) $(FF F) (TT F) (FFF) (F TT)$

Fix(1) $(TFT) (FT F) (FFF) (T TT)$

Fix(3) $(TFT) (FT F) (TTF) (TTT)$

Run of algorithm:

- Call Fix(1): use next bits of R (namely $\overset{x_1 x_2 x_3}{TTF}$)
1 is now ok, 2 is now bad, 4 is still ok
- Recursively call Fix(2): next bits of R are $\overset{x_1 x_2 x_5}{FFF}$
1 is now bad, 2 is now ok, 4 still ok
- Recursively call Fix(1): next bits of R are $\overset{x_1 x_2 x_3}{TFT}$
1, 2, 4 are all ok
- Call Fix(3): next bits of R are $\overset{x_4 x_8 x_9}{TTF}$
3 ok

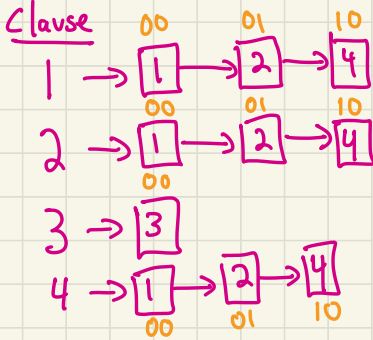
encoding of example:

$R = \overbrace{000001100}^{\text{inst assignment}} \overbrace{110000}^{\text{tree 1}} \overbrace{101110}^{\text{tree 2}} \overbrace{11001}^{\text{unused}}$

Adjacency list representation
of clauses that intersect:

(clauses intersect
with themselves)

this is not part
of encoding. Can be
reconstructed
by viewing input.



$b: [1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0]$

2nd clause
on adj list



01, 1, 0

00, 0, 0

1st clause
on adj
list

Encoding:

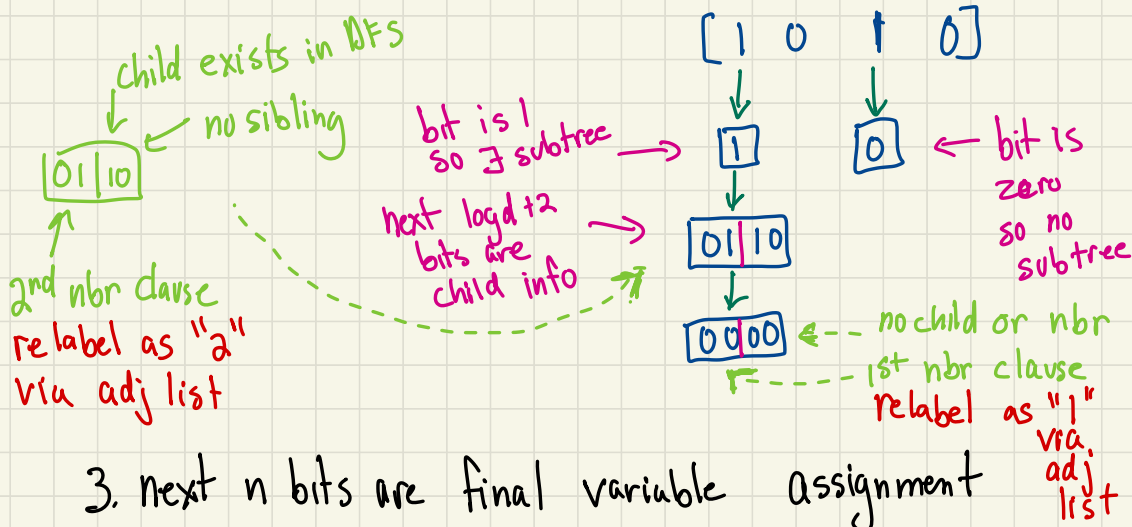
$E = \overbrace{1010}^b \overbrace{101100000}^{\text{tree 1}} \overbrace{0}^{\text{tree 2}} \overbrace{101101110}^{\text{final variable settings}} \overbrace{11001}^{\text{unused}}$

How can we reconstruct R from encoding E ?

First pass: Parse bits of encoding

1. 1st m bits give us b [1010]

2. Each "1" in b gives us hanging tree
- recover structure of tree via
DFS bits



3. next n bits are final variable assignment

x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5	x_6	x_7	x_8	x_9
T	F	T	T	F	T	T	T	F

4. remaining bits are unused bits

2nd Pass: Fill in R

- we already know what the unused bits are
- start with final var assignment

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= T \\ X_2 &= F \\ X_3 &= T \\ X_4 &= T \leftarrow F \\ X_5 &= F \\ X_6 &= T \\ X_7 &= T \\ X_8 &= T \leftarrow F \\ X_9 &= F \leftarrow F \end{aligned}$$

using tree:
look at calls to "fix" in
reverse order

last call to Fix is $\text{Fix}(3)$
 X_4, X_8, X_9 all False
 \Rightarrow last 3 bits of $R = \text{TTF}$
 $\quad \quad \quad \wedge$
 $\quad \quad \quad$ this part of

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= T \leftarrow F \\ X_2 &= F \leftarrow F \\ X_3 &= T \leftarrow F \\ X_4 &= T \leftarrow F \\ X_5 &= F \\ X_6 &= T \\ X_7 &= T \\ X_8 &= T \leftarrow F \\ X_9 &= F \leftarrow F \end{aligned}$$

2nd to last call to Fix is Fix(1)
 x_1, x_2, x_3 all False

\Rightarrow 2nd to last 3 bits of this part of R = TFT

⇒ Initial vars: FFF F F TT FF

rolls : TTF FFF TFF TTF

$X_1 = T \leftarrow F \leftarrow T \leftarrow F$
 $X_2 = F \leftarrow F \leftarrow T \leftarrow F$
 $X_3 = T \leftarrow F \leftarrow F$
 $X_4 = T \leftarrow F$
 $X_5 = F \leftarrow F$
 $X_6 = T$
 $X_7 = T$
 $X_8 = T \leftarrow F$
 $X_9 = F \leftarrow F$

3rd to last call to Fix is
 Fix (2) $\bar{X}_1, \bar{X}_2, X_5$ false
 so $X_1 = X_2 = T$
 $X_5 = F$

\Rightarrow 3rd to last 3 bits of
 this part of $R = FFF$

4th to last (first) call to Fix
 is Fix (1) X_1, X_2, X_3 false

\Rightarrow 4th to last (first) 3 bits
 of this part of $R = TTF$

Initial assignment: (read rightmost setting)

$X_1 = T \leftarrow F \leftarrow T \leftarrow F$
 $X_2 = F \leftarrow F \leftarrow T \leftarrow F$
 $X_3 = T \leftarrow F \leftarrow F$
 $X_4 = T \leftarrow F$
 $X_5 = F \leftarrow F$
 $X_6 = T$
 $X_7 = T$
 $X_8 = T \leftarrow F$
 $X_9 = F \leftarrow F$

Initial assignment
 $FFF F F T T F F$

$FFFFFTTFF$ $\underbrace{\quad}_{\text{initial}}$ $\underbrace{TTF}_{\text{fix 1}}$ $\underbrace{FFF}_{\text{fix 2}}$ $\underbrace{TFT}_{\text{fix 1}}$ $\underbrace{TTF}_{\text{fix 3}}$

$R = \overbrace{000001100} \quad \overbrace{110} \quad \overbrace{000} \quad \overbrace{101} \quad \overbrace{110} \quad \overbrace{11001}$

How compressed is this encoding of random bits?

Let $W =$ # bits actually used by algo

$S =$ # calls to Fix
(including recursive)

Then $W = n + s \cdot l$

Length of trace encoding E_R

$$\leq \underbrace{m}_{\text{describe } b} + \underbrace{(\log(d+1) + 2)}_{\text{describe node in "hanging tree"}} \times S + n + \underbrace{|R| - W}_{\text{output assignment}} \quad \text{Remaining}$$

$n + s \cdot l$
↓

$$\leq m + (\log(d+1) + 2 - l) \times S + \cancel{n - n} + |R|$$

so

$$|E_R| - |R| \leq m + \underbrace{(\log(d+1) + 2 - l)}_{\text{we assumed } d+1 \leq 2^{l-2.1}} \times S$$

$$d+1 \leq 2^{l-2.1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \log d+1 \leq l-2.1$$

$$\leq m + (l-2.1+2-l) \times S = m - 0.1 \times S$$

So, when S is big enough, $|Trace| \ll |R|$

Is compression of Trace a problem?

- we just gave a "lossless" compression scheme for random strings that lead to long runtimes.
- how many (random) strings can be compressed by b bits? $\leq 2^{-b}$ fraction

why? let compression fctn $f: \{0,1\}^t \rightarrow \{0,1\}^*$

f is 1-1

(can reconstruct x from $f(x)$)

$$|\{0,1\}^t| = 2^t$$

$$\left| \bigcup_{t' \leq t-b} \{0,1\}^{t'} \right| < 2^{t-b}$$

$$\text{fraction compressed by } b \text{ bits} \leq \frac{2^{t-b}}{2^t} = 2^{-b}$$

$O(m)$ bound on $\underbrace{\# \text{ calls to fix:}}_{=S}$

Suppose $S \geq 10(m+b)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{then } |E_R| - |R| &\leq m - 0.1 \times S \\ &= m - 0.1(10(m+b)) \\ &= m - m - b \end{aligned}$$

above \Rightarrow at most 2^{-b} fraction of strings R
can have $S \geq 10(m+b)$

e.g. let $b = 10$

$$\Pr[\# \text{ calls to fix} \geq 10m + 100] \leq 2^{-10}$$