

## Sparse PSD approximation of the PSD cone

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Feb 2021

# 1

## Introduction

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \langle C, X \rangle \\ \text{s.t.} & \langle A^i, X \rangle \leq b_i \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \\ & X \in \mathcal{S}_+^n, \end{array} \quad (\text{SDP})$$

where  $C$  and the  $A^i$ 's are  $n \times n$  matrices,  $\langle M, N \rangle := \sum_{i,j} M_{ij}N_{ij}$ ,  
and

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- ▶ Polynomial-time algorithm— but often challenging to solve in practice.

# A relaxation: Sparse SDP

Blekherman, Dey,  
Molinaro, Sun

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Sparse cutting-plane viewpoint:

- ▶ We can enforce PSD constraints by iteratively separating linear constraints.
- ▶ Enforcing PSD-ness on smaller  $k \times k$  principal submatrix leads to **linear constraints that are sparser**, an important property leveraged by linear programming solvers that greatly improve their efficiency.



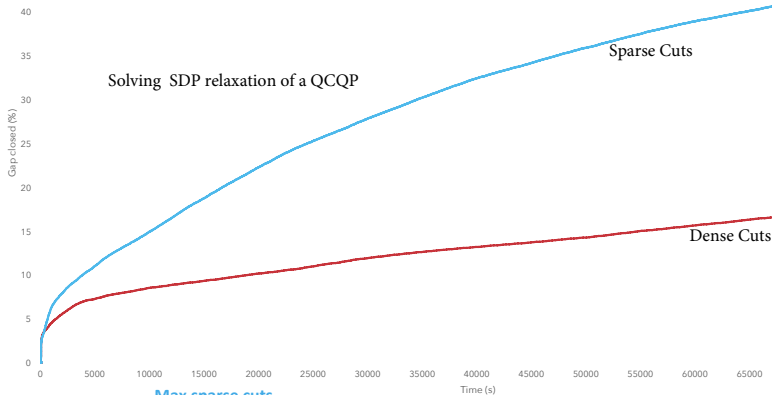
# Example from [A. Kazachkov, A. Lodi, G. Munoz, SSD (2020)]

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Sparsity level  
 $k=0.25(n+1)$

Max sparse cuts  
per iteration  
 $K=5n$

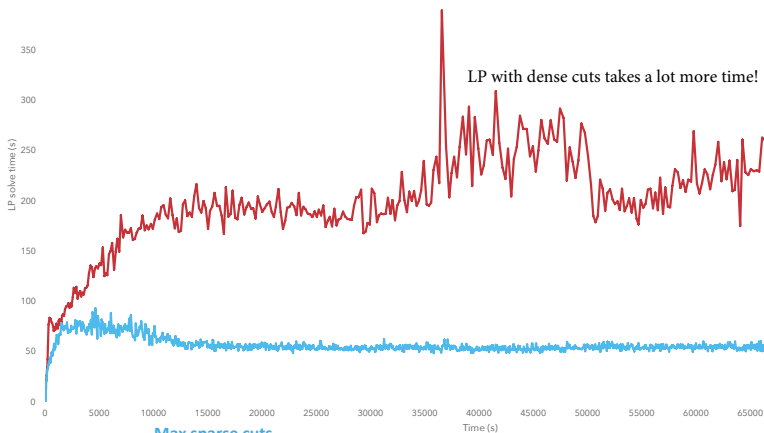
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► Sparse cutting-plane:

- [A. Qualizza, P. Belotti, and F. Margot (2012)]
- [R. Baltean-Lugojan, P. Bonami, R. Misener, and A. Tramontani (2018)]
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In many experiments, we discovered sparse SDP to give bounds quite close to that of the original SDP!

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► Power system optimization:

- [S. Sojoudi and J. Lavaei (2014)]
- [B. Kocuk, SSD, and X. A. Sun (2016)]

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 z^{\text{SDP}} := \min & \quad \langle C, X \rangle \\
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Relationship between  $z^{\text{SDP}}$  and  $z^{\text{Sparse-SDP}}$ ?

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Relationship between  $z^{\text{SDP}}$  and  $z^{\text{Sparse-SDP}}$ ?

- ▶ Seems like a difficult question to analyze.

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How much bigger is cone with all  $k \times k$  submatrices PSD from  $\mathcal{S}_+^n$ ?

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Dual cone is also of interest:

- ▶ [E. G. Boman, D. Chen, O. Parekh, and S. Toledo (2005)]
- ▶ [Permenter, Parrilo (2017)]
- ▶ [J. Gouveia, A. Kovačec, and M. Saeed (2019)]
- ▶ [A. A. Ahmadi and A. Majumdar (2019)]

## [ $k$ -PSD closure ]

Given positive integers  $n$  and  $k$  where  $2 \leq k \leq n$ , the  $k$ -PSD closure  $(\mathcal{S}^{n,k})$  is the set of all  $n \times n$  symmetric real matrices where all  $k \times k$  principal submatrices are PSD.

## Setting-up details of precise question

Blekherman, Dey,  
Molinaro, Sun

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[ $k$ -PSD closure ]

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  1. **The norm to measure this distance** and
  2. **A normalization method**

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) &= \sup_{M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \|M\|_F=1} \text{dist}_F(M, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \\ &= \sup_{M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \|M\|_F=1} \inf_{N \in \mathcal{S}_+^n} \|M - N\|_F. \end{aligned}$$

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Note:  $\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \in [0, 1]$ .



2

Main results 1

## 2.1

Upper bounds on  $\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n)$

**Theorem (Upper Bound 1; Blekherman, D., Molinaro, Sun)**

*For all  $2 \leq k < n$  we have*

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \leq \frac{n-k}{n+k-2}. \quad (1)$$

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Theorem (Upper bound 2; Blekherman, D., Shu, Sun)

For all  $2 \leq k < n$  we have

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \leq \frac{(n-k)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{(n-k)^2 + (n-1)k^2}}. \quad (2)$$

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- ▶ When  $k \approx n$  distance between the  $k$ -PSD closure and the SDP cone is at most roughly  $\approx \left(\frac{n-k}{n}\right)^{3/2}$ .
- ▶ This bound dominates the previous bound when  $\frac{k}{n}$  is sufficiently large.



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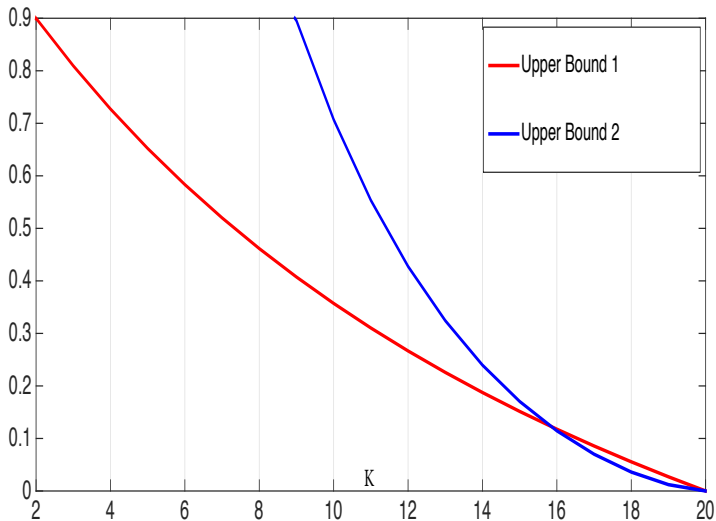
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Do we need  $n^k$  PSD  
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## 2.2

Lower bounds on  $\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n)$

Theorem (Lower bound 1; Blekherman, D., Molinaro, Sun)

*For all  $2 \leq k < n$ , we have*

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \geq \frac{n-k}{\sqrt{(k-1)^2 n + n(n-1)}}. \quad (3)$$

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- ▶ When  $k$  is small:

$$\frac{n-k}{\sqrt{(k-1)^2 n + n(n-1)}} \approx \frac{n-k}{n}$$

So **first upper bound (Thm 1) is tight** (upto constant).

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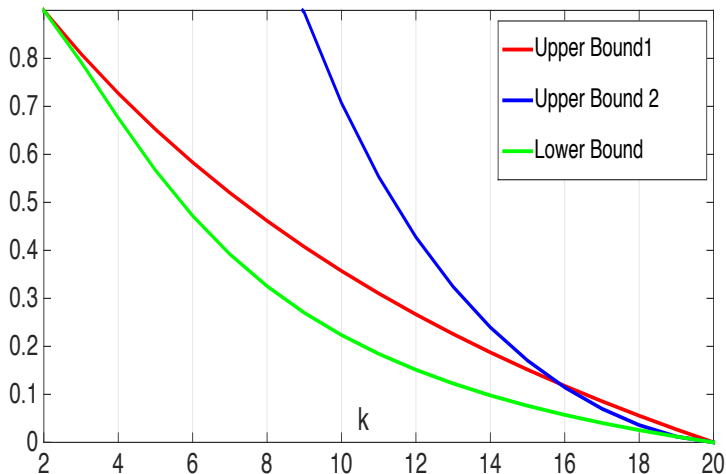
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- ▶ When  $k$  is very large:  $n-k = c$  where  $c$  is very small

$$\frac{n-k}{\sqrt{(k-1)^2 n + n(n-1)}} \approx \frac{c}{n^{3/2}}$$

So **second upper bound (Thm 2) is tight** (upto constant).



## Lower bound 2: What happens when $k = rn$ ?

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Molinaro, Sun

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- ▶ Upper bound:  $\frac{n-k}{n} = 1 - r$ , a constant independent of  $n$
- ▶ Lower bound 1:  $\approx (1/r - 1) \frac{1}{n^{1/2}}$ .

So is upper bound weak in this regime?



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So is upper bound weak in this regime?

Theorem (Lower bound 2; Blekherman, D., Molinaro, Sun)

Fix a constant  $r < \frac{1}{93}$  and  $k = rn$ . Then for all  $k \geq 2$ ,

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(S^{n,k}, S_+^n) > \frac{\sqrt{r - 93r^2}}{\sqrt{162r + 3}},$$

*which is independent of  $n$ .*

## 2.3

Do we need  $\binom{n}{k}$  PSD constraints?

Achieving the strength of  $\mathcal{S}^{n,k}$  by a polynomial number of  
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Theorem (Blekherman, D., Molinaro, Sun)

*Let  $2 \leq k \leq n - 1$ . Consider  $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$  and let*

$$m = 24 \left( \frac{n^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln \frac{n}{\delta} \right).$$

*Let  $\mathcal{I} = (I_1, \dots, I_m)$  be a sequence of random  $k$ -sets independently uniformly sampled from  $\binom{[n]}{k}$ ,*

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Let  $\mathcal{I} = (I_1, \dots, I_m)$  be a sequence of random  $k$ -sets independently uniformly sampled from  $\binom{[n]}{k}$ , and define  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{I}}$  as the set of matrices satisfying the PSD constraints for the principal submatrices indexed by the  $I_i$ 's, namely

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{I}} := \{M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : M_{I_i} \succeq 0, \forall i \in [m]\}.$$

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$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{I}} := \{M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : M_{I_i} \succeq 0, \forall i \in [m]\}.$$

Then with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  we have

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \frac{n - k}{n + k - 2}.$$

# 3

## Proof sketch

### 3.1

Proof of:

Theorem (Upper Bound 1)

For all  $2 \leq k < n$  we have

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(S^{n,k}, S_+^n) \leq \frac{n-k}{n+k-2}.$$

## Proof of Upper bound 1

Blekherman, Dey,  
Molinaro, Sun

► If

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}$$

then red-submatrix is  $k \times k$  PSD matrix.

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- ▶ **Take average** of all the above matrices for different principal  $k \times k$  submatrices (and suitably scale with a positive number), then the resulting matrix is in  $\mathcal{S}_+^n$ .
- ▶ The distance between this average PSD matrix and  $X$  gives bound.

## 3.2

Proof of:

Theorem (Upper bound 2)

Assume  $2 \leq k < n$ . Then

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \leq \frac{(n-k)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{(n-k)^2 + (n-1)k^2}}.$$

- ▶ Using **Cauchy's Interlace Theorem** for eigenvalues of symmetric matrices, we obtain that **every matrix in  $\mathcal{S}^{n,k}$  has at most  $n - k$  negative eigenvalues.**

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- ▶ Since the PSD cone consists of symmetric matrices with non-negative eigenvalues, the distance from a unit-norm matrix  $M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}$  to  $\mathcal{S}_+^n$  is upper bounded by

(absolute value of most negative eigenvalue of  $M$ )  $\times \sqrt{n - k}$ .

- ▶ So we need to **upper bound absolute value of most negative eigenvalue of  $M$**  for  $M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}$  and  $\|M\|_F = 1$ .

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$$\sqrt{n - k} \times \left| \min \{ \lambda_1(M) \mid \|M\|_F \leq 1, M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \} \right|$$

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$$\sqrt{n - k} \times \left| \min \left\{ \lambda_1(M) \mid \sum_{j \in [n]} (\lambda_j(M))^2 \leq 1, M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \right\} \right|$$

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## Proof of upper bound 2-connection to hyperbolicity cone.

- ▶ For  $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ , let  $M|_S$  denote the principal submatrix of  $M$  obtained by removing rows and columns not in  $S$ .
- ▶ If  $|S| = k$ , and  $M \in S^{n,k}$ , then  $M|_S$  is PSD.

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## Proof of upper bound 2-connection to hyperbolicity cone.

Blekherman, Dey,  
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$$M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \Rightarrow c_k(M) := \sum_{S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}: |S|=k} \det(M|_S) \geq 0.$$

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- ▶ Let  $\lambda_1(M) \leq \lambda_2(M) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n(M)$  are the eigenvalues of  $M$ :

$$c_k(M) = \underbrace{\sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n} \lambda_{i_1}(M) \lambda_{i_2}(M) \dots \lambda_{i_k}(M)}_{e_k^n(\lambda_1(M), \lambda_2(M), \dots, \lambda_n(M))}$$



$$M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \Rightarrow \underbrace{e_k^n(\lambda(M))}_{\text{elementary symmetric polynomial}} \geq 0.$$

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$$M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \Rightarrow \underbrace{e_k^n(\lambda(M))}_{\text{elementary symmetric polynomial}} \geq 0.$$

- ▶ We can do better...

## Proof of upper bound 2- connection to hyperbolicity cone.

- ▶ Let  $M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}$ . For  $t > 0$ :

$$e_k^n((\lambda_1(M), \lambda_2(M), \dots, \lambda_n(M)) + t\vec{1}) = c_k(M + tI) > 0,$$

since all the  $k \times k$  submatrices of  $X + tI$  will be positive definite.

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$$e_k^n((\lambda_1(M), \lambda_2(M), \dots, \lambda_n(M)) + t\vec{1}) = c_k(M + tI) > 0,$$

since all the  $k \times k$  submatrices of  $X + tI$  will be positive definite.

- ▶ Every point in the open line segment:

$\{\theta\lambda(M) + (1 - \theta)\vec{1} \mid 1 > \theta \geq 0\}$  belongs to

connected component of  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x : e_k^n(x) = 0\}$  containing  $\vec{1}$ .

$H(e_k^n)$  hyperbolicity cone of elementary symmetric polynomial

- ▶

$$M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \Rightarrow \lambda(M) \in H(e_k^n).$$

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$H(e_k^n)$  hyperbolicity cone of elementary symmetric polynomial

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$$M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \Rightarrow \lambda(M) \in H(e_k^n).$$

Two nice properties:

- ▶  $\{x \mid e_k^n(x) \geq 0\} \supseteq H(e_k^n)$ .
- ▶  $H(e_k^n)$  is a convex set.

# Illustration of $\{x \mid e_2^2(x) \geq 0\}$ and $H(e_2^2)$

$$e_2^2(x) = x_1 x_2$$

- ▶  $\{x \mid e_2^2(x) \geq 0\} \equiv \{x \mid x_1 x_2 \geq 0\}$ .
- ▶  $H_2^2 :=$  connected component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{x \mid x_1 x_2 = 0\}$  that contains  $(1, 1)$ .

Figure:  $\{x \mid e_2^2(x) \geq 0\}$

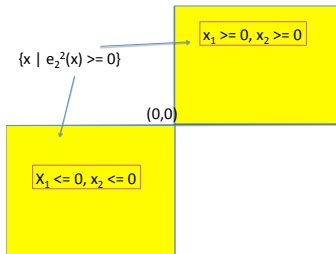
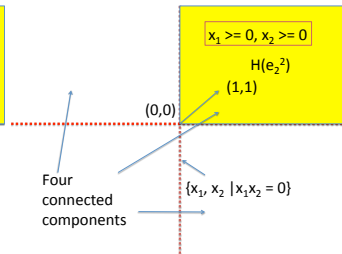


Figure:  $H(e_2^2)$



- ▶ We will say that a polynomial  $p \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is **hyperbolic with respect to a fixed vector  $v$**  if
  - ▶  $p(v) > 0$ , and
  - ▶ For all fixed  $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the univariate polynomial  $p(\hat{x} - tv) \in \mathbb{R}[t]$  has only real roots.

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<sup>1</sup>We actually work with the closure of this set



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Example:

- ▶  $e_n^n(\hat{x} - t\vec{1}) = 0$ ,

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- ▶  $e_n^n(\hat{x} - t\vec{1}) = 0$ ,
  - ▶ solution for  $t$  (roots):  $\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_n$
- ▶ The **connected set**  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{x \mid p(x) = 0\}$  containing  $v$  is called the **hyperbolicity cone of  $p$  with respect to  $v$** <sup>1</sup>.
  - ▶ **The hyperbolicity cone is a convex cone!**

<sup>1</sup>We actually work with the closure of this set

► Replace:

$$\sqrt{n-k} \times \min \left\{ \lambda_1(M) \mid \sum_{j \in [n]} (\lambda_j(M))^2 \leq 1, M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \right\}$$

- ▶ Replace:

$$\sqrt{n-k} \times \min \left\{ \lambda_1(M) \mid \sum_{j \in [n]} (\lambda_j(M))^2 \leq 1, M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k} \right\}$$

- ▶ By its relaxation:

$$\sqrt{n-k} \times \left| \min \left\{ \lambda_1(M) \mid \sum_{j \in [n]} (\lambda_j(M))^2 \leq 1, \lambda(M) \in H(e_k^n) \right\} \right|$$

- ▶ This is a convex relaxation and can be solved in closed form. The solution is the bound we obtain.

### 3.3

Proof of:

Theorem (Lower bound 1)

For all  $2 \leq k < n$ , we have

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(S^{n,k}, S_+^n) \geq \frac{n-k}{\sqrt{(k-1)^2 n + n(n-1)}}.$$

- ▶ Consider the matrix:

$$G(a, b) := (a + b)I - a\mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^\top$$

- ▶ If  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $\|u\|_2 = 1$  has a support of  $k$ , then

$$u^\top Gu =$$

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- ▶ If  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $\|u\|_2 = 1$  has a support of  $k$ , then

$$u^\top Gu = (a+b) - a \left( \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \right)^2$$



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- ▶ If  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $\|u\|_2 = 1$  has a support of  $k$ , then

$$u^\top G u = (a+b) - a \left( \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \right)^2 \geq (a+b) - a(\|u\|_1)^2$$

- ▶ Consider the matrix:

$$G(a, b) := (a + b)I - a\mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^\top$$

- ▶ If  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $\|u\|_2 = 1$  has a support of  $k$ , then

$$u^\top G u = (a+b) - a \left( \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \right)^2 \geq (a+b) - a(\|u\|_1)^2 \geq (a+b) - ak$$

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$$u^\top G u = (a+b) - a \left( \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \right)^2 \geq (a+b) - a(\|u\|_1)^2 \geq (a+b) - ak$$

- ▶ So  $G(a, b) \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}$  iff  $(1 - k)a + b \geq 0$ .
- ▶ Use these explicit matrices to obtain lower bound from  $\mathcal{S}_+^n$

### 3.4

Proof of:

Theorem (Lower bound 2)

Fix a constant  $r < \frac{1}{93}$  and  $k = rn$ . Then for all  $k \geq 2$ ,

$$\overline{\text{dist}}_F(\mathcal{S}^{n,k}, \mathcal{S}_+^n) > \frac{\sqrt{r - 93r^2}}{\sqrt{162r + 3}},$$

*which is independent of  $n$ .*

- ▶ For simplicity, assume  $k = n/2$ . (Actually proof does not have this value of  $k$ ).

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- ▶ The idea is to construct a matrix  $M$  where half of its eigenvalues take the negative value  $-\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ , with orthonormal eigenvectors  $v^1, v^2, \dots, v^{n/2}$ , and rest take a positive value  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ , with orthonormal eigenvectors  $w^1, w^2, \dots, w^{n/2}$ , i.e.,

$$M = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} (v^i)(v^i)^\top + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} (w^i)(w^i)^\top$$

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- ▶ This normalization makes  $\|M\|_F = 1$ .
- ▶  $\text{dist}_F(M, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \geq \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{n}{2}} = \text{cst independent of } n$ .

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- ▶ This normalization makes  $\|M\|_F = 1$ .
- ▶  $\text{dist}_F(M, \mathcal{S}_+^n) \geq \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{n}{2}} = \text{cst independent of } n$ .
- ▶ So we only need to guarantee that  $M$  belongs to the  $k$ -PSD closure.



- ▶  $M = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} (v^i)(v^i)^\top + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} (w^i)(w^i)^\top$
- ▶ Letting  $V$  be the matrix with rows  $v^1, v^2, \dots$ , and  $W$  the matrix with rows  $w^1, w^2, \dots$ , the quadratic form  $x^\top Mx$ :

$$x^\top Mx = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \|Vx\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \|Wx\|_2^2.$$

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- ▶  $\|Vx\|_2^2 \leq \|x\|_2^2$  (because  $V$  is orthonormal)
- ▶ So *if we could construct the matrix  $W$  so that for all  $k$ -sparse vectors  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  we had*  $\|Wx\|_2^2 \approx \|x\|_2^2$ :

$$x^\top Mx \gtrsim -\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \|x\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \|x\|_2^2 \gtrsim 0 \quad \boxed{\text{for all } k\text{-sparse vectors } x},$$

- ▶  $M = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} (v^i)(v^i)^\top + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} (w^i)(w^i)^\top$
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- ▶ This approximate preservation of norms of sparse vectors is precisely the notion of the *Restricted Isometry Property*.

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## Examining the hyperbolicity relaxations

# How good is the hyperbolicity relaxation?

Blekherman, Dey,  
Molinaro, Sun

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$$\blacktriangleright \{\lambda(M) \mid M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}\} \subseteq H(e_k^n)$$

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- ▶  $\{\lambda(M) \mid M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,k}\} \subseteq H(e_k^n)$
- ▶ In fact,  $H(e_n^n) = \mathbb{R}_+^n = \{\lambda(M) \mid M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,n}\}$ .

Theorem ( $k = n - 1$ ; Blekherman, D., Shu, Sun)

*Let  $n \geq 3$ . Then:*

$$H(\mathbf{e}_{n-1}^n) = \{\lambda(M) \mid M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,n-1}\}.$$



Theorem ( $k = n - 1$ ; Blekherman, D., Shu, Sun)

Let  $n \geq 3$ . Then:

$$H(\mathbf{e}_{n-1}^n) = \{\lambda(M) \mid M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,n-1}\}.$$

Corollary

Let  $n \geq 3$ . Then:  $\{\lambda(M) \mid M \in \mathcal{S}^{n,n-1}\}$  is a convex set.

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- ▶ Every  $k \times k$  principal submatrix of  $G(1, k)$  is singular. Thus,

$$e_k^n(G(1, k-1)) = \sum_{S \subseteq [n]: |S|=k} \det(G(1, k-1)|_S) = 0.$$

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- ▶ So,  $DG(1, k-1)D \in \text{bnd}(H(e_k^n))$ , is a **non-singular matrix** and **belongs to  $\mathcal{S}^{n,k}$** .

# How good is the hyperbolicity relaxation — Comparing boundary

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## Theorem (Blekherman, D., Shu, Sun)

*Let  $2 < k < n - 1$  or  $n = 4$  and  $k = 2$ . Let  $M \in S^{n,k}$ . If  $M$  is non-singular and  $M$  belongs to the boundary of  $H(e_k^n)$ , then there exists a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $M = DG(1, k - 1)D$ .*

# How good is the hyperbolicity relaxation — Comparing boundary

## Theorem (Blekherman, D., Shu, Sun)

Let  $2 < k < n - 1$  or  $n = 4$  and  $k = 2$ . Let  $M \in S^{n,k}$ . If  $M$  is non-singular and  $M$  belongs to the boundary of  $H(e_k^n)$ , then there exists a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $M = DG(1, k - 1)D$ .

- ▶ There exist points on the boundary of  $H(e_k^n)$  with as many as  $n - k$  negative entries and no zero entries.

## Corollary

Let  $2 < k < n - 1$  or  $n = 4$  and  $k = 2$ . Then the set of “eigenvalue vectors” for matrices in  $S^{n,k}$  is strictly contained in  $H(e_k^n)$ .



# Thank You.

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