

The reconstruction problem of uniform hypergraphs from their degree sequences

Andrea Frosini

Università degli studi di Firenze

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- 1 Definitions
- 2 The class \mathcal{D}
- 3 Heuristic
- 4 Order Theory

Definitions

Graphs and Hypergraphs

A **graph** is a pair of sets $G = (V, E)$ where V is the set of vertices and $E \subseteq V \times V$ is the set of edges.

Generalization: a **hypergraph** is a pair $H = (V, E)$ where V is the set of vertices and $E \subset \mathcal{P}(V)$ is the set of hyperedges.

Remark: in particular a graph is a hypergraph.

The **degree** of a vertex v is the number of edges that intersect v .

The **degree sequence** d of a hypergraph is the sequence of the degrees of vertices arranged in non-increasing order.

A non increasing sequence of positive integers $d = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ is (hyper)graphic if there exists a (hyper)graph that realizes d .

Problem:

Can we characterize graphic and hypergraphic sequences?

Definitions

Incidence matrix

The **incidence matrix** is a binary matrix associated to the hypergraph H and identifies it **uniquely**.

The element in position (i, j) is equal to 1 if and only if the i -th hyperedge intersects the j -th vertex.

- Columns correspond to vertices,
- rows correspond to hyperedges.

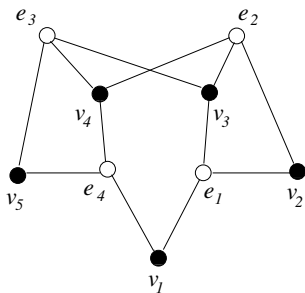
The incidence matrix has the degree sequence d as column sums. If the cardinality of each edge is k , then the hypergraph is **k -uniform**. Consequently the rows sum of the incidence matrix is (k, \dots, k) .

Problem:

**Can we reconstruct the incidence matrix (if it exists)
of a given integer sequence?**

Definitions

Example of 3-uniform hypergraph



$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$d_H = (3, 3, 2, 2, 2)$$

Previous results-Graphs

Theorem

(Erdős, Gallai 1960) *The integer sequence $d = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$, with $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_n$, is graphic if and only if $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i$ is even and*

$$\sum_{i=1}^k d_i \leq k(k-1) + \sum_{i=k+1}^n \min\{k, d_i\}, 1 \leq k \leq n.$$

Can be checked in time $O(n)$

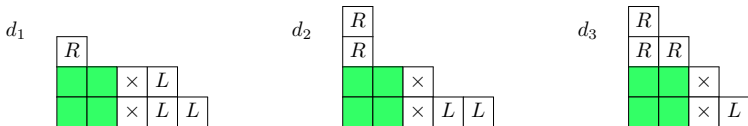
AND

We have a **polynomial** algorithm for the reconstruction of a graphic sequence (Havel, Hakimi).

Graphical partitions

A geometrical interpretation of Erdős' condition

Through its Ferrers diagram, an integer partition d can be decomposed as follows



$$\begin{array}{ll}
 d_1 = 3 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 1 & \text{graphical} \\
 d_2 = 4 + 2 + 2 + 1 + 1 & \text{maximal} \\
 d_3 = 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 & \text{not graphical}
 \end{array}$$

Theorem

An integer partition d is graphical if and only if $R(d) \preceq L(d)$ w.r.t. dominance order.

Previous results - Hypergraphs

Some sub-classes of uniform hypergraphs have been investigated:

Theorem

(A. F., C. Picouleau) *An homogeneous 3-uniform hypergraph can be reconstructed in polynomial time from its degree sequence.*

Theorem

(A. F., C. Picouleau, S. Rinaldi) *A step-one 3-uniform hypergraph can be reconstructed in polynomial time from its degree sequence.*

Similar complexity results are obtained for different of 3-uniform hypergraphs' subclasses.

Remark: these results are obtained using notions of combinatorics on words.

Previous results - Hypergraphs

In general, for a 3-uniform hypergraphic sequence the characterization problem is *NP-complete*, and consequently it is *NP-hard* the related reconstruction problem.

Theorem

(Deza, Levin, Meesum, Onn 2018) *For any fixed $k \geq 3$ it is NP-complete to decide if $d = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ is the degree sequence of a k -uniform hypergraph.*

Dimostrazione: P-time reduction of 3-partition to 3-graphic.

Research Aim: Detect further classes of uniform hypergraphs that are reconstructable in polynomial time.

The class \mathcal{D}

Starting from a non-increasing integer sequence $s = (s(1), \dots, s(n))$, with $n \geq 3$, we define the 3-uniform hypergraph $H = (V, E)$ as

$$V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\},$$

$$E = \{(v_i, v_j, v_k) \text{ s.t. } s(i) + s(j) + s(k) > 0, \text{ for } 1 \leq i < j < k \leq n\}.$$

The class \mathcal{D} is thus defined as $\mathcal{D} = \bigcup_{n \geq 3} \mathcal{D}_n$.

Property

If (v_i, v_j, v_k) is an edge of H , then $(v_i, v_j, v_{k'})$ is an edge of H for all $j + 1 \leq k' \leq k$.

The degree sequences in \mathcal{D} are *unique*, i.e., if $\pi \in \mathcal{D}$ then there exists one only 3-hypergraph (up to isomorphism) realizing it.

The class \mathcal{D}_n

Example

Let $s = (3, 2, 0, -1, -2)$. The obtained 3-hypergraph is

$$H_s = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\pi_s = (5, 4, 4, 3, 2)$.

Incidence matrix structure

Block Graphs

The incidence matrix of a \mathcal{D} -hypergraph allows a splitting into blocks, grouping the rows whose first two non-zero entries occupy the same positions.

$$H_\pi = \left(\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \left. \begin{array}{l} \} B_{1,2,6} \\ \} B_{1,3,5} \\ \} B_{1,4,5} \\ \} B_{2,3,6} \\ \} B_{2,4,5} \\ \} B_{3,4,5} \end{array} \right\}$$

with $\pi = (8, 8, 8, 6, 6, 3)$ and $s = (1, 1, 1, 0, 0, -1)$.

Incidence matrix structure

Block Graphs

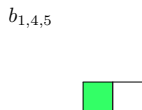
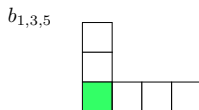
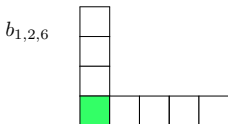
For each block, we can define an integer sequence considering its columns' sums:

$$H_{\pi} = \begin{pmatrix}
 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
 \hline
 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
 \hline
 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\
 \hline
 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
 \hline
 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0
 \end{pmatrix}
 \begin{array}{l}
 b_{1,2,6} = (4, 1, 1, 1, 1) \\
 \\
 b_{1,3,5} = (0, 3, 1, 1, 1) \\
 \\
 b_{1,4,5} = (0, 0, 1, 1)
 \end{array}$$

Incidence matrix structure

Block Graphs

The integer sequences thus obtained are graphical partitions.



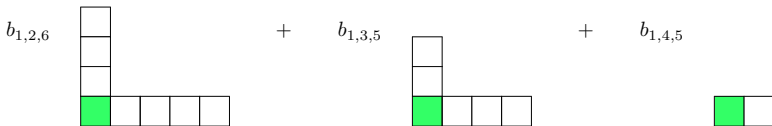
Property

The integer sequence $b_{i,j,k}$ is a *maximal graphical partition* for each $1 \leq i < j < k \leq n$.

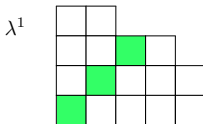
Incidence matrix structure

Block Graphs

For a fixed index i^* , summing $b_{i^*,j,k}$ on varying of j, k is equivalent to stack their Ferrers diagrams



getting a new integer partition λ^{i^*}



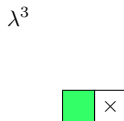
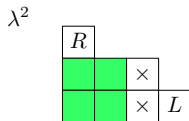
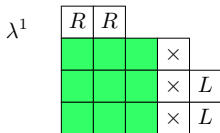
Incidence matrix structure

Block Graphs

Property

Block graphs are *maximal graphical partitions*.

If we look at block graphs as integer partitions, we find strong symmetry properties in their Ferrers diagram:



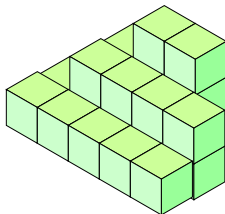
Incidence matrix structure

Plane Partitions

Stacking block graphs, each \mathcal{D} -hypergraph can be put in relation with a plane partition. In the previous example,

$$\lambda^1 + \lambda^2 + \lambda^3 = (4, 4, 3, 3, 2) + (3, 2, 2, 1) + (1, 1)$$

$$P_\pi = \begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 0 \\ & 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{matrix}$$



\mathcal{D} -plane partitions reflect symmetry properties of maximal graphical partitions.

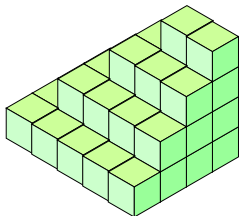
Incidence matrix structure

Plane Partitions

The complete 3-uniform hypergraph on n vertices gives $n - 2$ *complete* block graphs. Their Ferrers diagrams are rectangles of decreasing dimension and compose the *complete* plane partition.

For $n = 6$, we get

$$\lambda^1 + \lambda^2 + \lambda^3 + \lambda^4 = (4, 4, 4, 4, 4) + (3, 3, 3, 3) + (2, 2, 2) + (1, 1)$$



$$P_\pi = \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

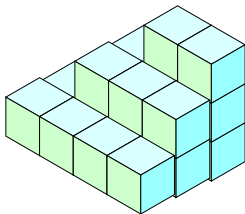
Decomposition of a \mathcal{D} -Hypergraph

Property

Given P_π a plane partition related to a generic \mathcal{D} -hypergraph with n vertices, there exists P_{π^*} , submatrix of P_π , such that P_{π^*} is the plane partition of a complete \mathcal{D} -hypergraph.

So, each \mathcal{D} -plane partition contains a complete \mathcal{D} -plane partition of lower size.

P_{π^*} and the related \mathcal{D} -hypergraph H^* are called **core** of H .



$$P_\pi = \begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

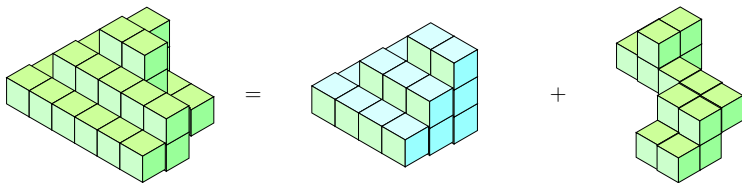
Decomposition of a \mathcal{D} -Hypergraph

We can always decompose a \mathcal{D} -plane partition as

$$P_\pi = P_{\pi^*} + R_\pi + L_\pi.$$

$R_\pi = L_\pi$ holds, since block graphs are always maximal graphical partitions.

Example



Plane partition of $\pi = (12, 10, 10, 7, 7, 5, 3)$, given by the integer sequence $s = (3, 2, 2, 0, 0, -2, -3)$.

Heuristics from plane partitions

We take advantage from the decomposition of a \mathcal{D} -hypergraph as

$$P_\pi = P_{\pi^*} + R_\pi + L_\pi.$$

Strategy: preliminary construction of H^* , the core of the incidence matrix (always exact and in polynomial time).

Aim: avoiding the insertion of extra-rows during the construction of the matrix H .

In general, we do not know the correct order of insertion of rows for the completion of the matrix. Choosing different orders, we can define different subclasses of sequences that admit a polynomial time reconstruction.

Heuristic from plane partitions

Complementarity

Given a \mathcal{D} -sequence $\pi = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$, we define its **complementary sequence** as $\pi^c = (d_M - d_1, \dots, d_M - d_n)$, where $d_M = \frac{(n-2)(n-1)}{2}$ is the maximum admitted value for the degree of a vertex.

If \mathbb{H} is the complete 3-uniform hypergraph, π^c is the degree sequence of $H_\pi^c = \mathbb{H} - H_\pi$, the **complementary hypergraph** of the \mathcal{D} -hypergraph H_π .

We underline that complementary hypergraphs have the same properties of \mathcal{D} -hypergraphs. In particular, they are **unique** and their incidence matrix allows a splitting into blocks.

Heuristic from plane partitions

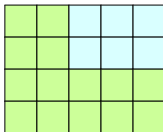
Complementarity

Given a \mathcal{D} -sequence $\pi \in \mathcal{D}_n$ and its block graphs λ^i , we define the *complementary block graph* of λ^i as

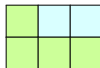
$$\lambda^{i^c} = \underbrace{(n-i-1, \dots, n-i-1)}_{(n-i)} - \lambda^i$$

for $i = 1, \dots, n-2$. It is obtained as the complementary respect to the complete block graph.

λ^1, λ^{1^c}



λ^2, λ^{2^c}



Block and complementary block graphs $\pi = (7, 6, 6, 3, 3, 2)$.

Heuristic from plane partitions

Reconstruction strategy

We propose a new reconstruction strategy, based on the interpretation of hypergraphs as plane partitions and complementarity.

Key point: we reconstruct the plane partition of the hypergraph stacking block and complementary block graphs at the same time.

RecP-core

- 0 Input: π of length n ;
- 1 Reconstruct P_{π^*} the core of the plane partition;
- 2 Construct the planes from P^1 to P^{n-2} , avoiding ambiguous insertions;
- 3 Complete the construction of planes, from P^{n-2} to P^1 ;
- 4 Output: P_{π} .

Heuristic from plane partitions

Example of reconstruction

- Input: $\pi_s = (23, 21, 20, 19, 17, 12, 11, 10, 5)$;
- Construction of P_{π^*} , the plane partition of the complete \mathcal{D} -hypergraph with 6 vertices;
- Update: $\pi = (13, 11, 10, 9, 7, 2, 11, 10, 5)$ and $\pi^c = (5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23)$;
- Partial construction of planes, from P^1 to P^4 , avoiding ambiguous insertions;

We avoid the insertion of extra-rows during the reconstruction process!

Heuristic from plane partitions

Example of reconstruction

The update sequence is $\pi = (1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 1, 1, 3, 1)$, we have to insert five hyperedges to complete the reconstruction.

- 1 By cardinality reasons, $(4, 5, 7) \in H_\pi$, *inserted*.
- 2 $(3, 4, 9) \in H_\pi$ implies $(2, 4, 9) \in H_\pi$, in conflict with $\pi_9 = 1$, *excluded*.
- 3 $(3, 6, 7) \in H_\pi$ implies $(2, 6, 7) \in H_\pi$, in conflict with $\pi_6 = 1$ and $\pi_7 = 1$, *excluded*.
- 4 It follows that $(3, 5, 8) \in H_\pi$ and $(2, 5, 8) \in H_\pi$, *inserted*.
- 5 $(2, 4, 9)$ is the last hyperedges involving v_4 , and we have $\pi_4 \neq 0$, *inserted*.
- 6 $(1, 6, 8)$, *inserted*.

Heuristic from plane partitions

- There is not any insertion of extra-rows in H_π and H_{π^c} ;
- It is necessary to find an algorithmic way to implement the partial reconstruction of planes, based on *geometrical properties* of maximal graphical (complementary) partitions;
- Avoiding ambiguous insertions, we have a partial and *correct* reconstruction of π in polynomial time;
- Implementation (in polynomial time) of the implications required for the completion of the hypergraph;
- *Uniqueness* of \mathcal{D} -sequences should ensure the correct completion of the incidence matrix, but we need a rigorous proof.

\mathcal{D} -sequences and Order Theory

Triplets' Poset

We consider Ω_n the set of all triplets (a_1, a_2, a_3) whose elements are in $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and s.t. $1 \leq a_1 < a_2 < a_3 \leq n$. We define a partial order relation on it:

$$(a_1, a_2, a_3) \leq (b_1, b_2, b_3) \text{ if and only if } a_i \leq b_i \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3.$$

We get the partially ordered set $\mathcal{T}_n = (\Omega_n, \leq)$.

Each triplet $(i, j, k) \in \Omega_n$ identifies the hyperedge of the complete 3-hypergraph on n vertices that intersects v_i, v_j and v_k .

Property

Given $h_1, h_2 \in \Omega_n$ s.t. $h_1 \leq h_2$, if $h_2 \in H_\pi$ then $h_1 \in H_\pi$, with H_π the \mathcal{D} -hypergraph with degree sequence π . Similarly, if $h_1 \leq h_2$ and $h_1 \notin H_\pi$, then $h_2 \notin H_\pi$.

\mathcal{D} -sequences and Order Theory

Theorem

Each hypergraph related to a \mathcal{D} -sequence π can be uniquely associated to an ideal I_π of the poset \mathcal{T}_n .

Remark: the correspondence is not bijective. There exist ideals in \mathcal{T}_n that identify 3-hypergraphs that are *not* \mathcal{D} -hypergraphs.

Hypergraphs identified by ideals keep the properties of \mathcal{D} -hypergraphs: their incidence matrix allows a splitting into blocks but they are *not unique* (in general).

We define a new class of 3-graphic sequences, $\mathcal{D}_n^{\text{ext}}$, as the class of sequences identified by ideals of \mathcal{T}_n .

An extension of \mathcal{D} -sequences

Example

 $v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3 \ v_4 \ v_5 \ v_6 \ v_7 \ v_8 \ v_9$

1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

 $v_1 \ v_2 \ v_3 \ v_4 \ v_5 \ v_6 \ v_7 \ v_8 \ v_9$

0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

3-uniform hypergraph not in \mathcal{D} and related to the ideal

$I_\pi = \downarrow \{(1, 6, 9), (3, 5, 8)\}$ (degree sequence

$d_H = (25, 19, 19, 16, 16, 12, 10, 10, 5)$).

Conclusions and Future Developments

- Extend the defined heuristics to get the polynomial time reconstruction of (subclasses of) \mathcal{D}_n^{ext} ;
- As an alternative, prove that the reconstruction problem is NP-hard also for \mathcal{D} -sequences;
- Find bijections between classes \mathcal{D}_n , \mathcal{D}_n^{ext} and known combinatorial structures, with the aim of establishing their cardinalities. Investigate \mathcal{T}_n and its ideals;
- Generalize our results to k -uniform degree sequences and hypergraphs, detecting new classes of *unique* sequences that admit a polynomial time solution for the consistency and reconstruction problems.

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