# Isoperimetric Inequalities for the Hypercube with Applications to Monotonicity Testing

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Based on Iden Kalemaj's slides



### Isoperimetric Inequalities on the Hypercube

- A tool in the analysis of Boolean functions  $f : \{0,1\}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- Study the size of the "boundary" between the points x on which f(x) = 0 and on which f(x) = 1



We generalize these inequalities to real-valued functions:  $f: \{0,1\}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ .

### **Motivation:**

- To understand the structure of real-valued functions.
- To improve sublinear algorithms for monotonicity.

- 1. Explain our results on sublinear algorithms for monotonicity.
- 2. Give some background on the isoperimetric inequalities.
- 3. Prove our generalized inequalities.

### The d-Dimensional Hypercube

- Hypercube has  $2^d$  vertices, the points in  $\{0,1\}^d$ , and  $d2^{d-1}$  edges.
- $x \rightarrow y$  is an edge if:

 $x_i = 0, y_i = 1$  for some coordinate  $i \in [d]$  $x_j = y_j$  for all  $j \in [n] \setminus \{i\}$ 

- Edge  $x \to y$  is influential if  $f(x) \neq f(y)$ .
- Edge  $x \to y$  is decreasing if f(x) > f(y).



### Monotonicity of Functions

 A function f : {0,1}<sup>d</sup> → ℝ is monotone if increasing a bit of x does not decrease f(x), that is, there are no decreasing edges.

 Distance to monotonicity of f, Dist(f, MONO), is smallest number of f-values that need to be changed to make it monotone.



### Algorithmic Tasks for Sublinear-Time Algorithms

• Monotonicity testing [Rubinfeld Sudan 96, Goldreich Goldwasser Ron 98, Goldreich Goldwasser Lehman Ron Samorodnitsky 00]





• with multiplicative and additive error with **probability**  $\geq 2/3$ 

Algorithm is nonadaptive if it makes all queries before receiving any answers.

Algorithm

parameters

f(x)

### **Results on Monotonicity Testing**

- Extensively studied problem [Ergun Kannan Kumar Rubinfeld Viswanathan 00, Lehman Ron 01, Fischer 04, Batu Rubinfeld White 05, Ailon Chazelle 06, Halevy Kushilevitz 08, Bhattacharyya Grigorescu Jung Raskhodnikova Woodruff 12, Briet Chakraborty Soriano Matsliah 12, Berman Raskhodnikova Yaroslavtsev 14, Chakrabarty Seshadhri '13'14'16'19, Chen Servedio Tan 14, Belovs Blais 16, Pallavoor Raskhodnikova Varma 18, Black Chakrabarty Seshadhri '18'20]
- Functions on the hypercube  $\{0,1\}^d$ , r = number of distinct values of f.

	Boolean	<b>Real-Valued</b> (Previous)	Real-Valued (Our results)
Upper bounds	$\tilde{O}\left(\min\left(\frac{\sqrt{d}}{\varepsilon^2}, \frac{d}{\varepsilon}\right)\right)$ [Dodis Goldreich Lehman Raskhodnikova Ron Samorodnitsky 99, Goldreich Goldwassar Ron Lehman Samorodnitsky 00, Khot Minzer Safra 15]	$O\left(\frac{d}{\varepsilon}\right)$ [Chakrabarty Seshadhri 13]	$\tilde{O}\left(\min\left(\frac{r\sqrt{d}}{\varepsilon^2},\frac{d}{\varepsilon}\right)\right)$
Lower Bounds	Nonadaptive: $\widetilde{\Omega}(\sqrt{d})$ [Fischer Lehman Newman Raskhodnikova Rubinfeld 02, Chen De Servedio Tan 15, Chen Waingarten Xie 17] Adaptive : $\widetilde{\Omega}(d^{1/3})$ [Chen Waingarten Xie 17]	$\Omega(\min(r^2, d))$ [Blais Brody Matulef 12]	$\Omega(\min(r\sqrt{d}, d))$ Nonadaptive, 1-sided error

### **Results on Approximating the Distance to Monotonicity**

- Functions on the hypercube  $\{0,1\}^d$ , r = number of distinct values of f.
- All algorithms have query complexity polynomial in *d* and additive error parameter.

	<b>Boolean</b> [Pallavoor Raskhodnikova Waingarten 20]	Real-Valued [Fattal Ron 10]	Real-Valued (Our results)	
Upper bounds	$O\left(\sqrt{d\log d}\right)$ -factor	$O(d \log r)$ -factor	$O\left(\sqrt{d\log d}\right)$ -factor	
Lower bounds	$\widetilde{\Omega}(\sqrt{d})$ -factor nonadaptive		No depender	nce on <i>r</i>

### **Isoperimetric Inequalities for Boolean Functions**

- Undirected [Talagrand 93]
  - Edge (x, y) is influential if  $f(x) \neq f(y)$
  - $I_f(x) = #$  influential (x, y) s.t. f(x) > f(y)
  - $p_0$  = fraction of f-values that are 0 var $(f) = p_0(1 p_0)$

$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^d} \left[ \sqrt{I_f(x)} \right] = \Omega(\operatorname{var}(f) \cdot 2^d)$$



- Directed [Khot Minzer Safra 15, Pallavoor Raskhodnikova Waingarten 20]
  - Edge x → y is decreasing if f(x) > f(y)
     I<sup>-</sup><sub>f</sub>(x) = # decreasing edges leaving x

$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^d} \left[ \sqrt{I_f^-(x)} \right] = \Omega(\operatorname{Dist}(f, \operatorname{MONO}))$$





### Main Isoperimetric Inequality (Directed)

Main InequalityFor all functions 
$$f: \{0,1\}^d \to \mathbb{R}$$
, $\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^d} \left[ \sqrt{I_f^-(x)} \right] = \Omega(\text{Dist}(f, \text{MONO}))$ 

 $I_f^-(x) = #$  decreasing edges leaving x

- The inequality we use in our applications.
- Implies all other inequalities mentioned in this talk.
- We show how to prove it.

### Main Isoperimetric Inequality

**Main Inequality** For all functions  $f: \{0,1\}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\left| \sqrt{I_f^-(x)} \right| = \Omega(\text{Dist}(f, \text{MONO}))$  $\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^d}$ 

 $I_f^{-}(x) = #$  decreasing edges leaving x



### Main Isoperimetric Inequality

Main InequalityFor all functions 
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 $I_f^{-}(x) = #$  decreasing edges leaving x

• We prove it by reducing to the Boolean case, via **Boolean Decomposition Theorem**.

### **Boolean Decomposition Theorem**

- It holds for every partially ordered domain, which we represent as a DAG G.
- Monotonicity testing on POsets first studied by [Fischer Lehman Newman Raskhodnikova Rubinfeld 02]
  - Is equivalent to several other property testing problems
- Vertices V(G), edges E(G).
- $x \leq y$  iff there is directed path from x to y.
- Edge  $x \to y$  is decreasing if f(x) > f(y).



### **Boolean Decomposition Theorem**

• DE(f) = set of decreasing edges w.r.t. f

### **Boolean Decomposition Theorem**

Let G be a DAG, and  $f: V(G) \to \mathbb{R}$  a nonmonotone function.

There exist  $k \ge 1$ , Boolean functions  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k$ :  $V(G) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ 

and disjoint subgraphs  $H_1, H_2, ..., H_k$  of G such that:

1) 
$$DE(f_i) \subseteq E(H_i) \cap DE(f)$$

2)  $\sum_{i \in [k]} \text{Dist}(f_i, \text{MONO}) \ge \frac{1}{2} \text{Dist}(f, \text{MONO})$ 

Edges decreasing w.r.t.  $f_i$  are in  $H_i$ and are also decreasing w.r.t. f

Boolean functions  $f_i$  capture Dist(f, MONO)

### **Boolean Decomposition Theorem** $\Rightarrow$ **Main Inequality**



### **Boolean Decomposition: Thresholding Intuition**

• To reduce from real-valued to Boolean functions, we can consider thresholding:



Decreasing edges w.r.t.  $h_t$  are also decreasing w.r.t. f

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Decreasing edges w.r.t.  $h_t$  are also decreasing w.r.t. f

- The undirected version of the Main Inequality can be proved by considering the right *t*
- Considering all t gives a reduction to the Boolean case for  $L_1$  distance [Berman Raskhodnikova Yaroslavtsev 16]
- But it fails for proving Boolean Decomposition: the same edge could be decreasing w.r.t. different  $h_t$
- To prove Boolean Decomposition, we apply different thresholds in disjoint locations of hypercube.

### **Boolean Decomposition: Importance of Matchings**



Main Idea: Construct Boolean functions  $f_i$  such that every decreasing pair in M is decreasing w.r.t. exactly one  $f_i$ 

#### **Boolean Decomposition Theorem**

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- 1. Explain how to obtain disjoint subgraphs  $H_i$  from a matching of vertices.
- 2. Specify a special matching *M*.
- 3. Define Boolean functions  $f_i$  based on subgraphs  $H_i$  obtained from M.

**Definition (Sweeping Graphs)** For two disjoint sets  $S, T \subseteq V(G)$ ,

Call (*S*, *T*) a **set-pair** 

subgraph Sweep(S, T) = union of all directed paths from vertices in S to vertices in T



#### **Useful properties:**

- Sweep(*S*, *T*) is an induced subgraph
- A vertex outside Sweep(S,T) cannot be both "above" and "below" Sweep(S,T)

It has a path **from** a vertex in Sweep(*S*,*T*) It has a path **to** a vertex in Sweep(*S*,*T*)

- Sweep(*X*, *Y*) = subgraph of paths from vertices in *X* to vertices in *Y*
- Two set-pairs of vertices (X, Y) and (X', Y') conflict if Sweep(X, Y) intersects Sweep(X', Y').

**Merge-Conflicts (Input:** matching  $M: S \rightarrow T$ )

- 1. Initialize collection of set-pairs to contain  $(\{s\}, \{t\})$  for all  $(s, t) \in M$
- 2. Repeat until there are no conflicts:
  If two set-pairs (X, Y) and (X', Y') conflict
  then merge them

 $\land$  replace them with  $(X \cup X', Y \cup Y')$ 

**3. Return** collection of set-pairs



 $M = \{(a, x), (b, y), (c, z)\}$ 

Collection =  $(\{a\}, \{x\}), (\{b\}, \{y\}), (\{c\}, \{z\})$ 

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#### Sweep({*a*}, {*x*}) union of paths from {*a*} to {*x*}



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#### Sweep({b}, {y}) union of paths from {b} to {y}



 $M = \{(a, x), (b, y), (c, z)\}$ 

Collection =  $(\{a\}, \{x\}), (\{b\}, \{y\}), (\{c\}, \{z\})$ 

- Sweep(*X*, *Y*) = subgraph of paths from vertices in *X* to vertices in *Y*
- Two set-pairs of vertices (X, Y) and (X', Y') conflict if Sweep(X, Y) intersects Sweep(X', Y').

**Merge-Conflicts (Input:** matching  $M: S \rightarrow T$ )

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Sweep( $\{a, b\}, \{x, y\}$ ) union of paths from  $\{a, b\}$  to  $\{x, y\}$ 



 $M = \{(a, x), (b, y), (c, z)\}$ Collection = ({a, b}, {x, y}), ({c}, {z})

- Sweep(*X*, *Y*) = subgraph of paths from vertices in *X* to vertices in *Y*
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**3. Return** collection of set-pairs

#### Sweep({*c*}, {*z*}) union of paths from {*c*} *to* {*z*}



Final collection

Algorithm Merge-Conflicts, given a matching  $M: S \to T$ , returns set-pairs  $(S_1, T_1), \dots, (S_k, T_k)$  such that:

- The sets  $S_i$  partition S, the sets  $T_i$  partition T.
- The subgraphs  $Sweep(S_i, T_i)$  are vertex-disjoint.
- (Rematching property) For all  $s \in S_i$ ,  $t \in T_i$  such that  $s \leq t$ : there exists another matching  $M': S \to T$  that matches (s, t).



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#### **Boolean Decomposition Theorem**

Let G be a DAG, and  $f: V(G) \to \mathbb{R}$  a nonmonotone function. There exist  $k \ge 1$ , Boolean functions  $f_1, f_2, ..., f_k: V(G) \to \{0,1\}$  and disjoint subgraphs  $H_1, H_2, ..., H_k$  of G such that: (1)  $DE(f_i) \subseteq E(H_i) \cap DE(f)$ ; (2)  $\sum_{i \in [k]} Dist(f_i, MONO) \ge \frac{1}{2} Dist(f, MONO)$ 

- $\checkmark$  Explain how to obtain disjoint subgraphs  $H_i$  from a matching of vertices.
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### Step 2: Special Matching

Max-weight, min-cardinality matching M of pairs  $x \leq y$ 

- maximizes weight(M) =  $\sum_{(x,y)\in M} (f(x) f(y))$ ,
- and amongst such matchings has the fewest pairs.

*M* is a maximal matching of decreasing pairs

Run algorithm **Merge-Conflicts** with special matching *M*.

Sweep( $S_i$ ,  $T_i$ ) are the subgraphs  $H_i$ 

#### **Violation Lemma**

The set-pairs  $(S_1, T_1), \dots, (S_k, T_k)$  obtained from special matching satisfy:

• If  $s \leq t$  and  $s \in S_i$ ,  $t \in T_i$  then f(s) > f(t).

With careful thresholding, we will preserve violations of monotonicity



### Step 2: Special Matching

<u>Recall</u>: The set-pairs  $(S_1, T_1), \dots, (S_k, T_k)$  returned by **Merge-Conflicts** satisfy:

• (Rematching property) For all  $s \in S_i$ ,  $t \in T_i$  such that  $s \leq t$ :

there exists another matching  $M': S \rightarrow T$  that matches (s, t).

#### Violation Lemma

The set-pairs  $(S_1, T_1), \dots, (S_k, T_k)$  obtained from special matching satisfy:

• If  $s \leq t$  and  $s \in S_i$ ,  $t \in T_i$  then f(s) > f(t).

#### **Proof (by contradiction)**:

- Suppose that  $f(s) \le f(t)$  for some  $s \in S_i$ ,  $t \in T_i$  with  $s \le t$ .
- Use **Rematching property** to get a matching  $M': S \rightarrow T$  that matches (s, t).
- weight(M') = weight(M), since the endpoints have not changed.
- $weight(M' \setminus \{(s,t)\}) \ge weight(M)$ , because  $f(s) f(t) \le 0$ .
- But  $M' \setminus \{(s, t)\}$  has fewer pairs than M. Contradiction.





### Summary of Steps 1-2

- Start with special matching  $M: S \rightarrow T$  (max weight, min-cardinality).
- *M* is a maximal matching of decreasing pairs:  $|M| \leq \text{Dist}(f, \text{MONO}) \leq 2|M|$ .
- Run algorithm **Merge-Conflicts** to obtain set-pairs  $(S_1, T_1), (S_2, T_2), \dots, (S_k, T_k)$ .
- The subgraphs  $Sweep(S_i, T_i)$  are vertex-disjoint.

#### **Violation Lemma**

If  $s \leq t$  and  $s \in S_i$ ,  $t \in T_i$  then f(s) > f(t).



#### **Boolean Decomposition Theorem**

Let G be a DAG, and  $f: V(G) \to \mathbb{R}$  a nonmonotone function. There exist  $k \ge 1$ , Boolean functions  $f_1, f_2, ..., f_k: V(G) \to \{0,1\}$  and disjoint subgraphs  $H_1, H_2, ..., H_k$  of G such that: (1)  $DE(f_i) \subseteq E(H_i) \cap DE(f)$ ; (2)  $\sum_{i \in [k]} Dist(f_i, MONO) \ge \frac{1}{2} Dist(f, MONO)$ 

- $\checkmark$  Explain how to obtain disjoint subgraphs  $H_i$  from a matching of vertices.
- ✓ Specify a special matching M.
- 3. Define Boolean functions  $f_i$  based on subgraphs  $H_i$  obtained from M.



For all set-pairs  $(S_i, T_i)$ , define  $f_i: V(G) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ 



All decreasing edges are inside  $Sweep(S_i, T_i)$ 

 $T_{i}$ 

 $S_i$ 

0

0

0

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 $\Rightarrow$ 

Main Isoperimetric Inequality  
For all functions 
$$f: \{0,1\}^d \to \mathbb{R}$$
,  
$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^d} \left[ \sqrt{I_f^-(x)} \right] = \Omega(\text{Dist}(f, \text{MONO}))$$

### Summary

- Improved sublinear algorithms for monotonicity
  - Proved tight bounds for nonadaptive algorithms
- Generalized isoperimetric inequalities
- Proved Boolean Decomposition Theorem

### **Open Questions**

- Role of adaptivity?
  - for property testing and distance approximation
- Does Talagrand inequality generalize to other domains?
  - Specifically, the hypergrid domain  $[n]^d$ ?
  - Weaker inequalities (Margulis) generalize [Black Chakrabarty Seshadhri 18]
  - It would suffice to show such inequality for the Boolean case and then use our Boolean Decomposition Theorem to generalize to real-valued functions.
  - Would improve algorithms for monotonicity testing on hypergrid.