

Blocking Systems & Bottleneck Optimization Problems

References

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O. Gross } Problem". RM 1102 (1953) RAND
2. O. Gross : "The Bottleneck Assignment
Problem" P. 1630 (1959) RAND
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through a Network" O.R. (1960)
pp. 722-736
4. T.C. Hu : "The Maximum Capacity Route
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D.R. Fulkerson RAND (1968)

Maximum Capacity Route = FAT. Path Problem

Given a graph $G = [V; E]$ with edge capacities $c(e), e \in E$; Want $\max_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \min_{e \in P} c(e)$

Where \mathcal{P} : set of $s-t$ paths.

Bottleneck Assignment Problem (O. Gross) (2)

Consider an assembly line with n processing stations (in an ordered manner). Assume we have n processors and if j^{th} processor is assigned to i^{th} station, rate of productivity is r_{ij} (if j cannot do i^{th} process, $r_{ij} = 0$)

We want to assign to each service station, a processor; one processor can only do one job. We want to maximize the production rate of the assembly line.

Let E be the set of cells in an $n \times n$ matrix

(i, j) Cell has a weight r_{ij} $i = 1 \dots n$
 $j = 1 \dots n$

Let $\mathcal{P} = \left\{ P \subseteq \mathbb{E} : \begin{array}{l} \text{there is exactly one cell in} \\ \text{each row \& each column of } E \end{array} \right\}$

↙
Corresponds to an assignment.

Want $\max_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \min_{i \in P} r_{ij}$

3. Let $E = \{1, 2, \dots, 2k+1\}$: Set of elected officials ⁽³⁾
Who pass laws.

\mathcal{P} : Subset of E that can pass a law
i.e. $\{P \subseteq E : |P| \geq k+1\}$

\mathcal{P} is a clutter on E : no nested sets.

\mathcal{K} : Subsets of E that can block passage
of a bill.

$$= \{K \subseteq E : |K| = k+1\}$$

Occurs in multiperson game theory in
what are called Majority Games

4. There are other bottleneck problems all of
which lead to Blocking Systems.

We study these now.