# On a Linear Program for Minimum Weight Triangulation 

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## Minimum Weight Triangulation (MWT)

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- Goal: a triangulation $T$ minimizing $\sum_{e \in T}|e|$



## Outline

- Previous Results
- Linear Program
- Heuristics
- Integrality Gap


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## Previous Results

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- [2006] Remy and Steger. A quasi-polynomial time approximation scheme for minimum weight triangulation. ---QPTAS


## Previous Results (cont'd)

## Simple Polygons

- [1979] Gilbert. New results on planar triangulations.
- [1980] Klincsek. Minimal triangulations of polygonal domains.



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## Heuristics

- Edges In:
- $\beta$-skeleton
[Keil '93][Yang '95][Cheng and Xu '96]
- LMT-skeleton
[Dickerson et al. '97][Beirouti and Snoeyink '98][Cheng et al. '96] [Aichholzer et al '99][Belleville et al. '96][Bose et al. '02]
- Mutual Nearest Neighbors
[Gilbert '79][Yang et al. '94]
- Edges Out:
- Diamond Test
[Das and Joseph '89][Drysdale et al. '01]


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- Most random instances with 40,000 points are solvable in this way.
[Dickerson et al. '97]


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- Most random instances with 40,000 points are solvable in this way.
[Dickerson et al. '97]
- For random instances the expected number of components of LMT-skeleton is $\Omega(\mathrm{n})$. (with astronomically small constant $10^{-51}$ ). [Bose et al. '02]


## Linear Programs for MWT

## Triangle-based LP:

- [1985] Dantzig et al. Triangulations (tilings) and certain block triangular matrices.
- [1996] Loera et al. The polytope of all triangulations of a point configuration.
- [2004] Kirsanov. Minimal discrete curves and surfaces.


## Edge-based LP:

- [1997] Kyoda et al. A branch-and-cut approach for minimum weight triangulation.
- [1996] Kyoda. A study of generating minimum weight triangulation within practical time.
- [1996] Ono et al. A package for triangulations.
- [1998] Tajima. Optimality and integer programming formulations of triangulations in general dimension.
- [2000] Aurenhammer and Xu. Optimal triangulations.


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\sum_{t \ni p} X_{t}=1, \quad \forall p
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## Triangle-based LP

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minimize $\sum_{t \in \Delta}|t| \cdot X_{t}$
subject to

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{t \ni p} X_{t}=1, \quad \forall p \\
& X_{t} \in\{0,1\}, \quad \forall t \in \Delta
\end{aligned}
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minimize $\sum_{t \in \Delta}|t| \cdot X_{t}$
subject to

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\sum_{t \ni p} X_{t}=1, & \forall p \\
0 \leqslant X_{t} \leqslant 1 & \forall t \in \Delta
\end{array}
$$

## Bounds on the Integrality Gap

- An Upper Bound [Dantzig et al. '85][Loera et al. '96][Kirsanov '04]: The integrality gap of the LP in the simple-polygon case is one.


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$$
\frac{\left|O P T_{I}\right|}{\left|O P T_{F}\right|}=1.00188
$$



## Our Results

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III. Given any instance, if the heuristics find the MWT, then so does the LP.

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## Heuristics

- Edges In:
- $\beta$-skeleton
- LMT-skeleton
- Mutual Nearest Neighbors
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Theorem: Given any instance, if the heuristics find the MWT, then so does the LP (i.e. every optimal extreme point of the LP is the incidence vector of an MWT).


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- If an edge e is determined to be in MWT based on the heuristics, then no triangle with positive weight in $O P T_{F}$ crosses e.

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## High-Level Idea



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LK Convex Partition

$O P T_{F}$

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## Proof Overview



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O\left(\left|O P T_{F}\right|\right)
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## How to Break Triangles?



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## Feasibility



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## Feasibility



## Feasibility



- Feasibility: Every point is covered with weight one.

$$
\forall p \quad \sum_{t \ni p} X_{t}^{f}=1
$$



## Cost Bound

[Levcopoulos and Krznaric '96]:

- There are constants $\lambda$ and $r$ and a convex partition (LK) such that:

1) $|L K| \leqslant \lambda \cdot|M C P|$
2) The edges of LK are all $r$-sensitive ( $r \approx 4.45$ ).


## Cost Bound

- Theorem: If $C$ is an arbitrary $r$-sensitive convex partition, then there is a triangulation T that costs at most $3|C|+12 r\left|O P T_{F}\right|$.

$$
T \leqslant 3|L K|+54\left|O P T_{F}\right|
$$

$$
T \leqslant 3 \lambda|M C P|+54\left|O P T_{F}\right| \quad \square \quad T \leqslant(3 \lambda+54) \cdot\left|O P T_{I}\right|
$$

- Lemma: $|M C P| \leqslant 18 \cdot\left|O P T_{F}\right|$

$$
T \leqslant 3 \lambda|M C P|+54\left|O P T_{F}\right| \quad \Rightarrow T \leqslant 54(\lambda+1) \cdot\left|O P T_{F}\right|
$$

## Open Problems

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- What is the integrality gap of the LP?

$$
1.00188 \leqslant \text { integrality gap } \leqslant 54(\lambda+1)
$$

- Is there an $r$-sensitive convex partition that $\lambda$-approximates MCP for some small $\lambda$ ?
- Does constant rounds of lift and project bring the integrality gap to $1+\varepsilon$ ?


## Thank you!

