

# Graph-Theoretic Convexification of Polynomial Optimization with Applications to Power Systems and Distributed Control

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# Optimization

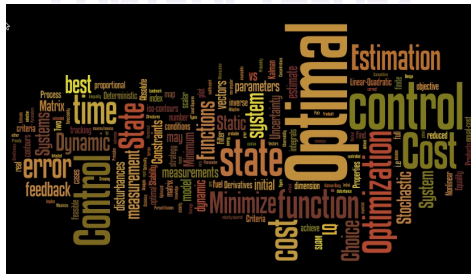
## TRANSPORTATION



## ROBOTICS



## CONTROL THEORY



# OPTIMIZATION

## MACHINE LEARNING



## FINANCE



## POWER SYSTEMS

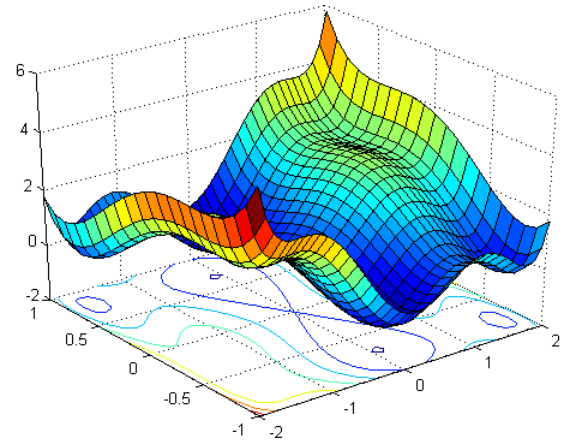
# Optimization

**Optimization problem:**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Minimize} & f(x) \\ \text{Subject to} & x \in \Omega \end{array}$$

**Universal challenges:**

- 1) Continuous nonlinearity
- 2) Discrete nonlinearity
- 3) Large-scale nature
- 4) Unreliable problem data



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500 decisions



Each decision = 0 or 1



Possibilities = almost infinity

# Optimization

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Energy systems



Tens of thousands of variables



Millions of constraints

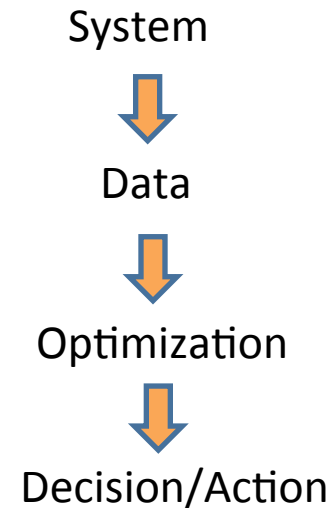
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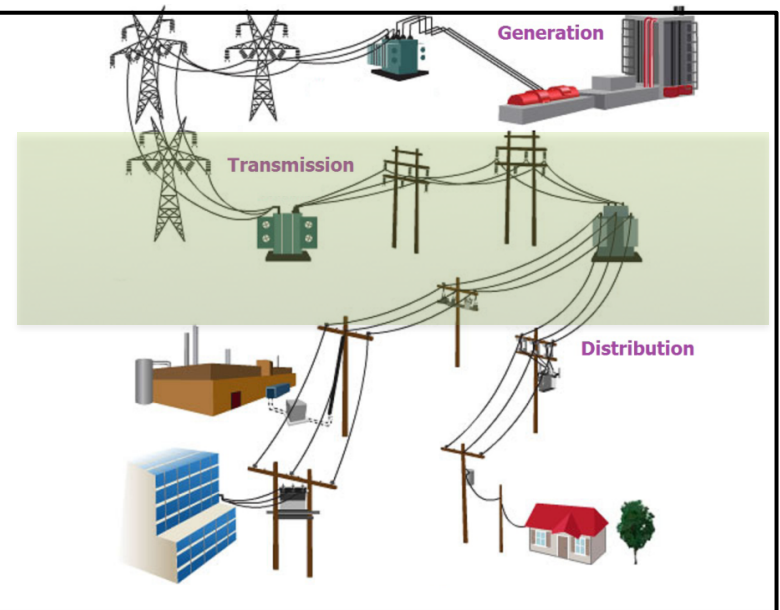


**This talk uses the \$400B power grid to illustrate our tools and techniques.**

# Power Systems

## ❑ Power system:

- ❖ A large-scale system consisting of generators, loads, lines, etc.
- ❖ Used for generating, transporting and distributing electricity.

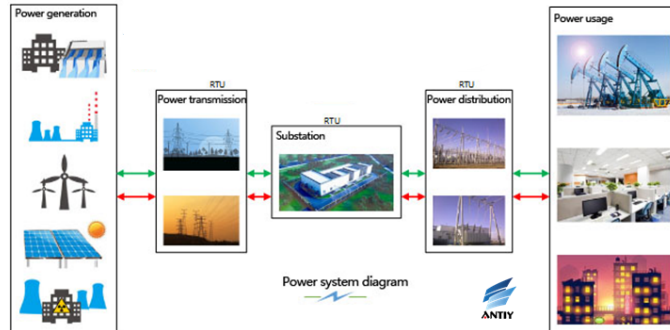


ISO, RTO, TSO

- Unit commitment (UC)
- Optimal power flow (OPF)
- Security analysis
- State estimation

# Power Operational Problems

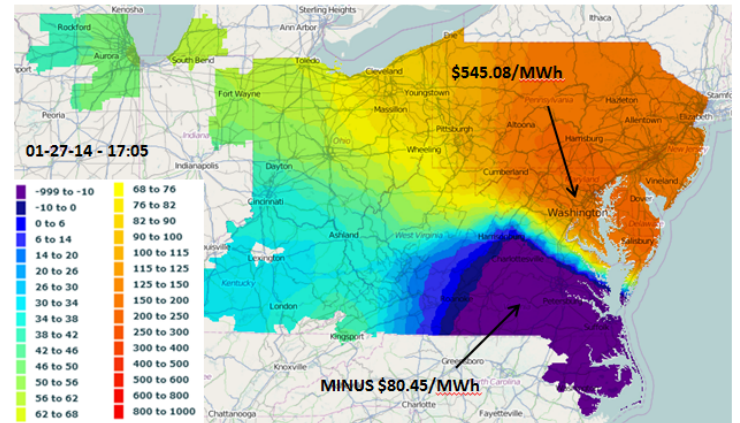
**Unit commitment:** Optimize the ON/OFF status of each generator.



Generators

Loads

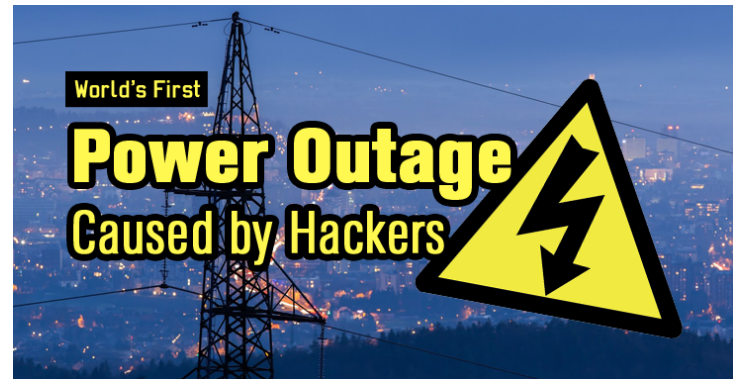
**Optimal power flow:** Optimize the flows and parameters.



**Security analysis:** Guarantee robustness to faults.



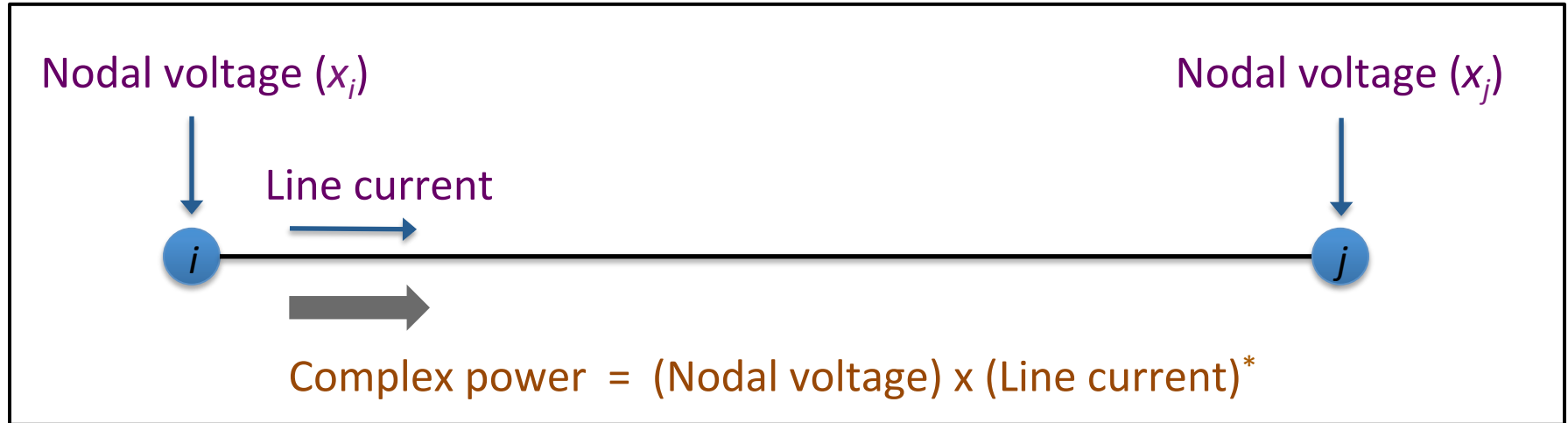
**State estimation:** Find the state of system based on noisy measurements and bad data.





# Modeling of Power Systems

- Consider two nodes  $i$  and  $j$  connected via a line:

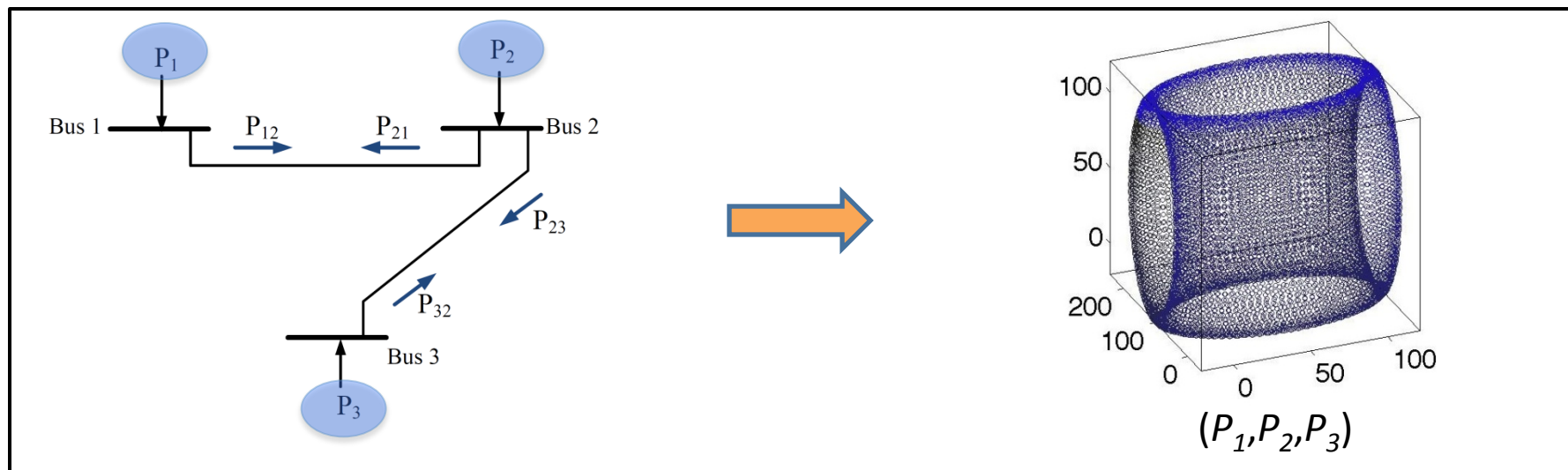
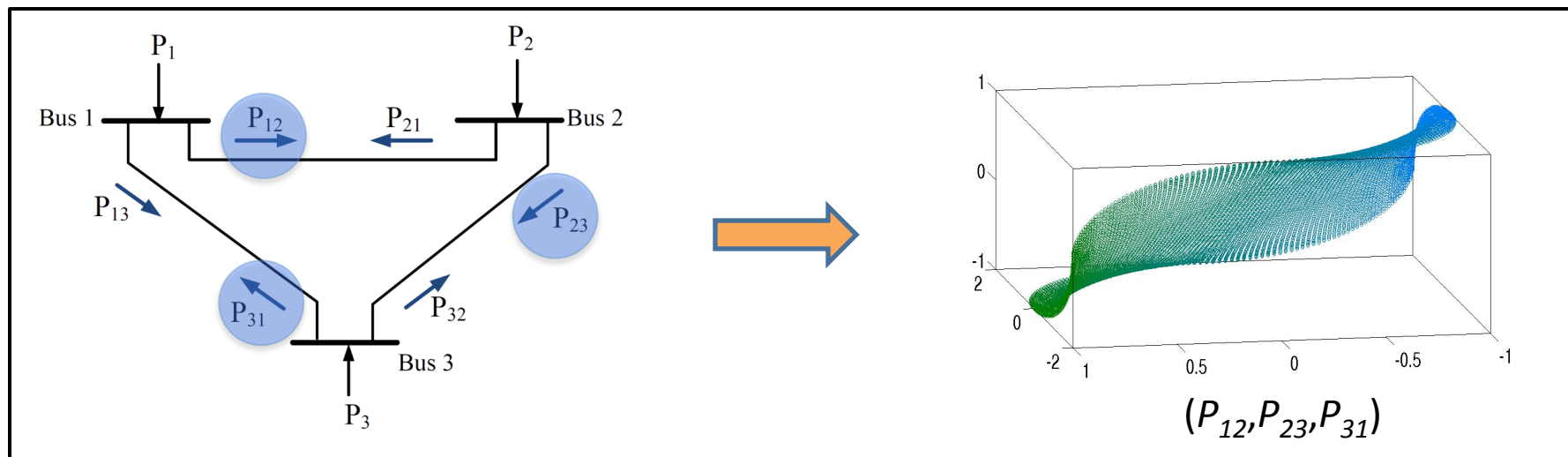


$$P_{ij} + Q_{ij}\sqrt{-1} = x_i(x_i - x_j)^* y_{ij}^*$$

Active power      Reactive power      Nonlinearity (due to laws of physics)

# Nonlinearity in Power Systems

- Nonlinear laws of physics (assuming voltage magnitudes are fixed):



# Power Operational Problems

## Challenge 1: Nonlinearity due to laws of physics

- ❑ Complexity: Strongly NP-complete with long history since 1962.
- ❑ Common practice: Approximation
- ❑ FERC Study: Annual cost of approximation > \$ 1 billion

ARPA-E is setting up a \$3.5M cash prize competition

## Challenge 2: Nonlinearity due to discrete variables

## Challenge 3: Astronomical number of security constraints

## Challenge 4: Making decisions based on noisy and bad data

Blackout due to state estimation and security analysis

U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force

Final Report on the  
August 14, 2003 Blackout  
in the  
United States and Canada:

Causes and  
Recommendations

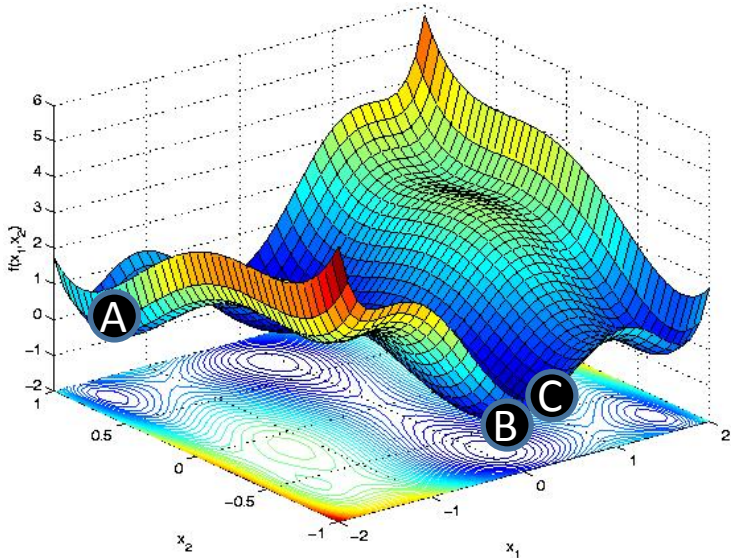


Canada

April 2004

# Nonlinear Laws of physics

□ Due to nonlinearity, there are different types of solutions:



**Point A:** Local solution

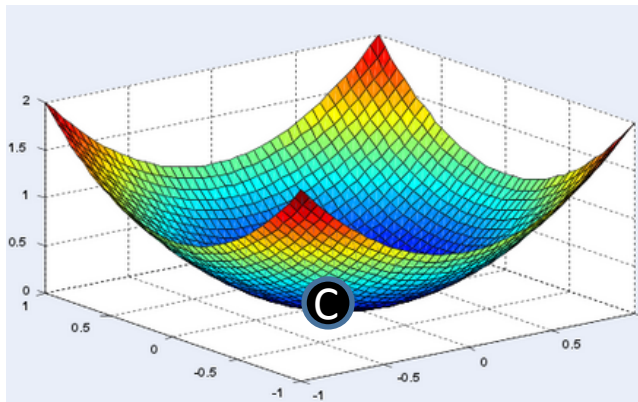
→ industry

**Point B:** Global solution

→ our method

**Point C:** Near-global solution

**Find a near-global solution with a high optimality guarantee using convex optimization**

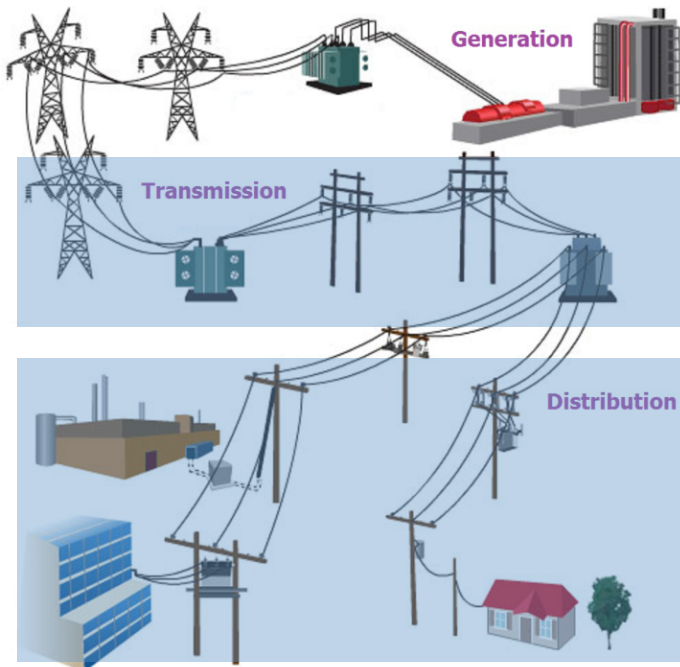


$$\text{Optimality Guarantee} \geq \frac{\text{Global cost}}{\text{Near-global cost}} \times 100$$

A number between 0 % and 100 %

# Findings for Power Systems

- ❑ To find a global solution, we proposed a method based on **SDP**.
- ❑ SDP worked for IEEE benchmark examples and several real data sets.
- ❑ For the first time, this method found and certified global minima for benchmark systems.



cyclic  
➔

**Theorem:** SDP works under positive LMPs with phase-shifting transformers.

acyclic  
➔

**Theorem:** SDP works under positive locational marginal prices (LMPs).

Physics of power networks (e.g., passivity) reduce computational complexity for power optimization problems (joint work with Steven Low and Somayeh Sojoudi)

# Findings for Power Systems

- ❑ SDP may not be exact for ISOs' large-scale systems (some negative LMPs).
- ❑ To find a near-global solution, we proposed a method named **Penalized SDP**.



Case	Cost	Guarantee	Time (sec)
Polish 2383wp	1874322.65	99.316%	529
Polish 2736sp	1308270.20	99.970%	701
Polish 2737sop	777664.02	99.995%	675
Polish 2746wop	1208453.93	99.985%	801
Polish 2746wp	1632384.87	99.962%	699
Polish 3012wp	2608918.45	99.188%	814
Polish 3120sp	2160800.42	99.073%	910

We generalized to and incorporated unit commitment, state estimation, security analysis, transmission switching, and distributed control

## Our research revitalized the area:

- ❖ Follow-up work in academia
- ❖ Interest from industry
- ❖ Many talks at FERC's summer workshops in 2012-17

**This work significantly contributed to the initiation of the ARPA-E Grid Competition**

# Convexification

## Arbitrary Real/Complex Polynomial Optimization

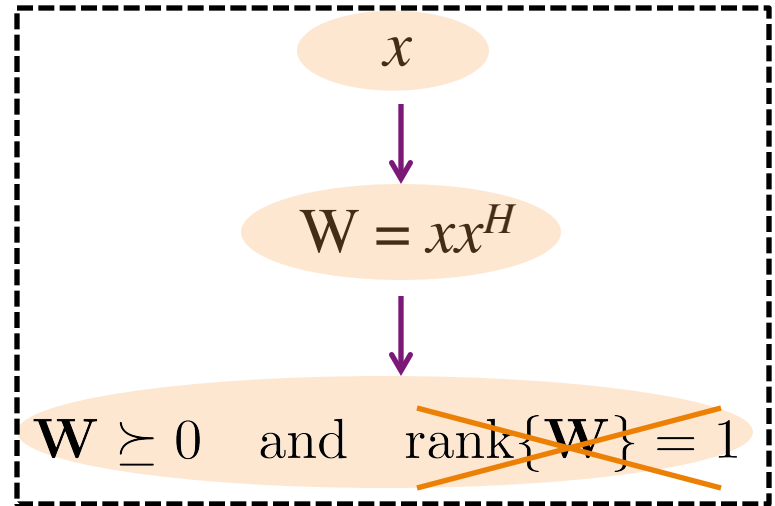
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathbb{C}^n} \quad & x^H M_0 x \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{trace}\{M_0 x x^H\} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^H M_i x \leq a_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

SDP relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{W \in \mathbb{H}^n} \quad & \text{trace}\{M_0 W\} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{trace}\{M_i W\} \leq a_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & W \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Penalized SDP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_W \quad & \text{trace}\{M_0 W\} + \lambda g(W) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{trace}\{M_i W\} \leq a_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & W \succeq 0 \\ & + \text{valid inequalities} \end{aligned}$$



**Rank-1 SDP**  $\longrightarrow$  global min  $x$



**Rank-1 SDP**  $\longrightarrow$  near-global min  $x$

# Convexification

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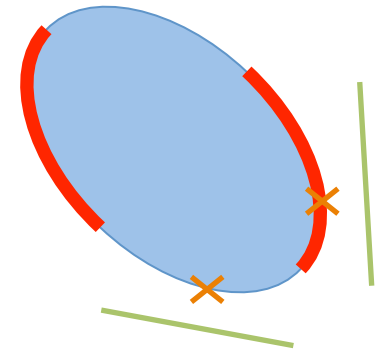
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Geometric interpretation:

High rank solution

Low rank solution





# Convexification

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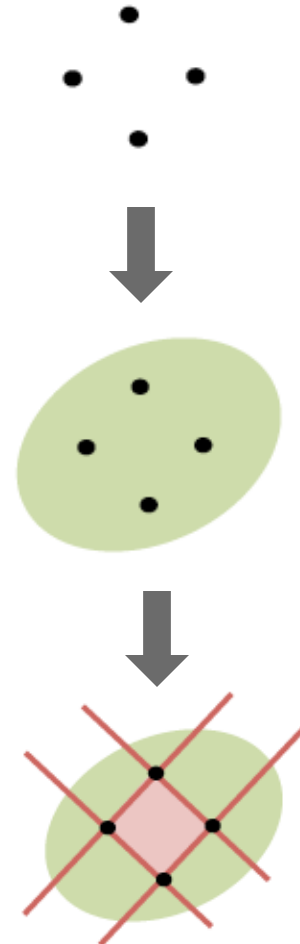
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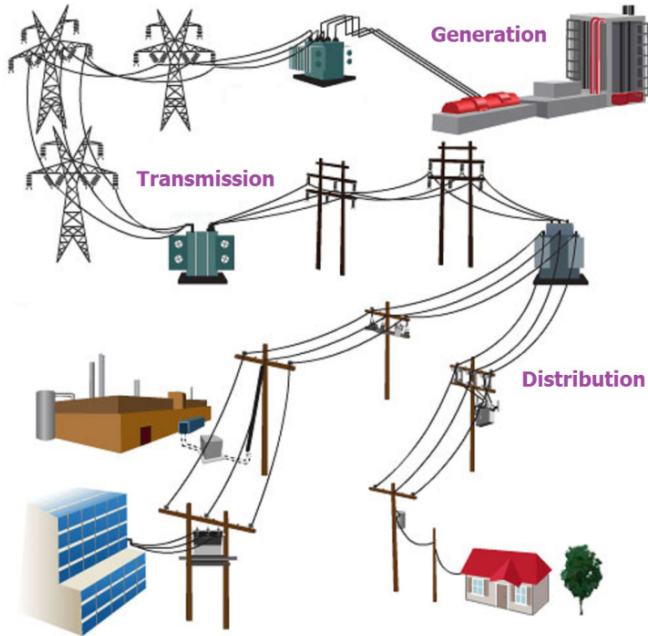
Penalized SDP

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## Valid Inequalities:



# Outline



Structured Optimization



Notion of generalized weighted graph

Sparse Optimization



Notions of OS and treewidth

Data Analytics



Statistical learning method

Algorithm for Sparse Optimization



Low-complexity methods

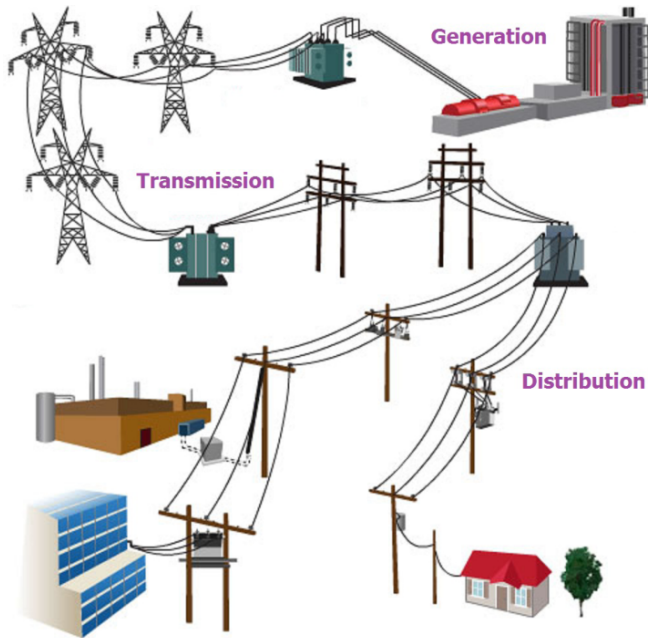
Control Theory



Optimal distributed control

❑ Testing on several real-world systems with over 13,000 buses

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# Structured Optimization

□ How does structure affect complexity?

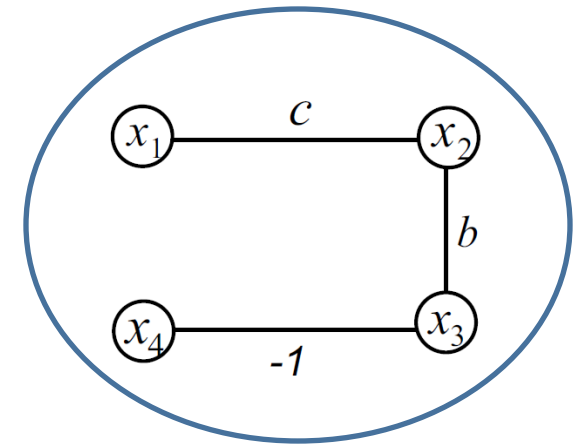
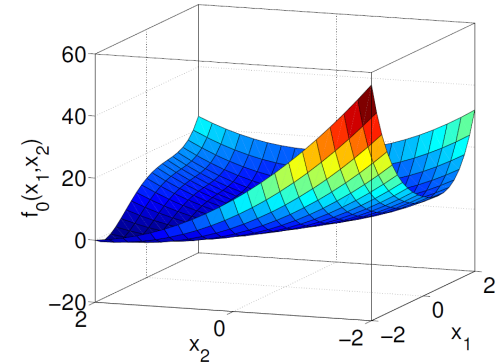
$$\min_{x_1, x_2} x_1^4 + ax_2^2 + bx_1^2x_2 + cx_1x_2$$

Trick:  $x_1^4 = (x_1^2)^2 = x_3^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathcal{R}^4} \quad & x_3^2 + ax_2^2 + bx_3x_2 + cx_1x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1^2 - x_3x_4 = 0 \\ & x_4^2 - 1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

SDP relaxation:  $\mathbf{xx}^* \rightarrow W$   
 $x_i x_j \rightarrow W_{ij}$

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{W \in \mathcal{S}^4} \quad & W_{33} + aW_{22} + bW_{32} + cW_{12} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & W_{11} - W_{34} \leq 0 \\ & W_{44} - 1 = 0 \\ & W \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

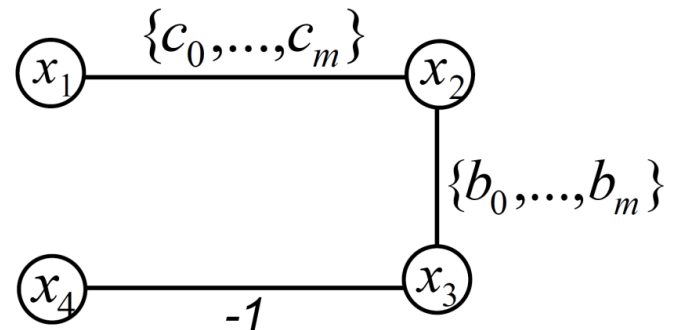
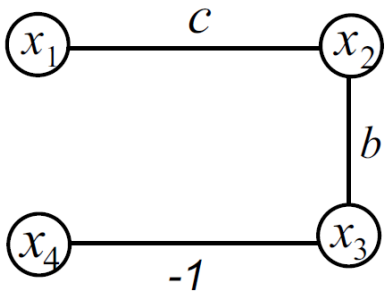


Due to structure, SDP is always exact.

# Structured Optimization

$$\min_{x_1, x_2} x_1^4 + a_0 x_2^2 + b_0 x_1^2 x_2 + c_0 x_1 x_2$$

$$\text{s.t. } x_1^4 + a_j x_2^2 + b_j x_1^2 x_2 + c_j x_1 x_2 \leq \alpha_j \quad j = 1, \dots, m$$

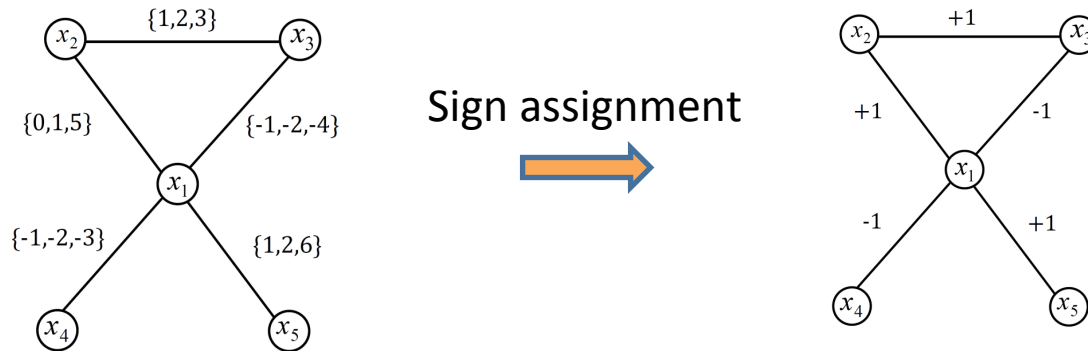


## Generalized weighted graph:

- ❑ Vertices: variables
- ❑ Edges: couples
- ❑ Weight sets: coefficients

# Structured Optimization

## Real-valued Optimization:

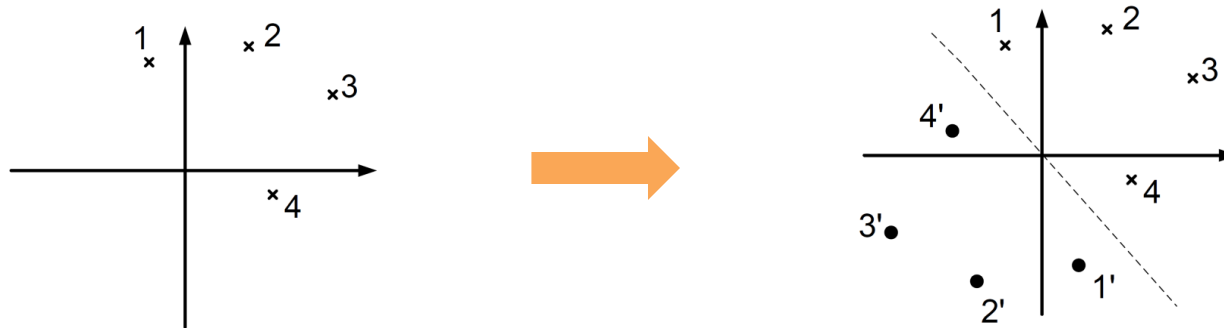


- ❑ **Local property:** the weight set of each edge is sign definite.
  - ❑ **Global property:** the number of positive sets around each cycle is even.
- 
- ❑ The proposed conditions include several existing ones ([Kim and Kojima, 2003], [Padberg, 1989], [Bose, Gayme, Chandy, and Low, 2012], etc.).

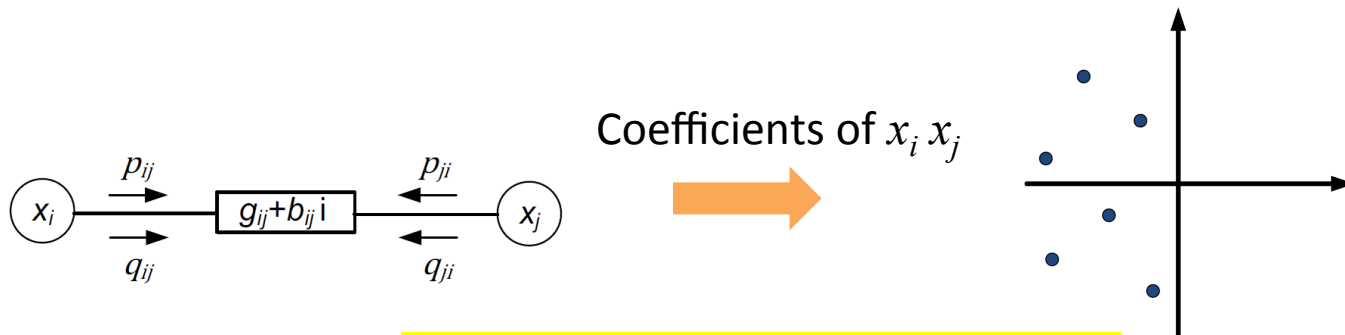
# Structured Optimization

## Complex-valued Optimization:

□ Sign-definite set : “ $T$ ” is sign definite if  $T$  and  $-T$  are separable in  $\mathbf{R}^2$

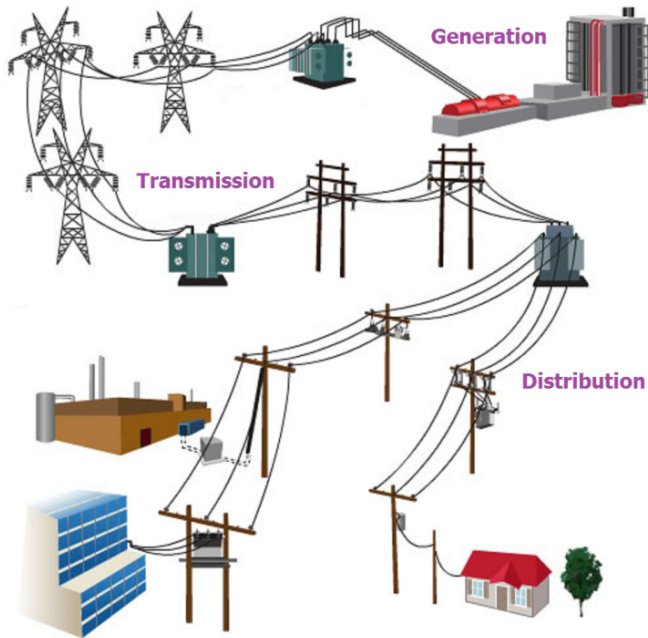


Physics of power grids reduce computational complexity.



Sign definite due to passivity

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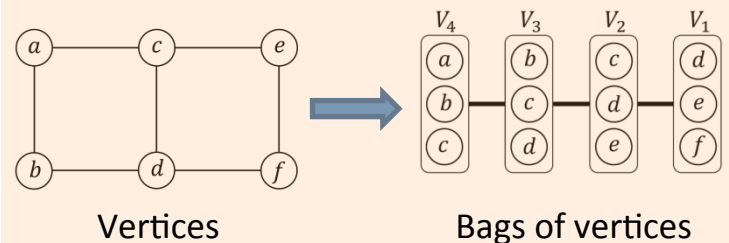


# Graph Notions

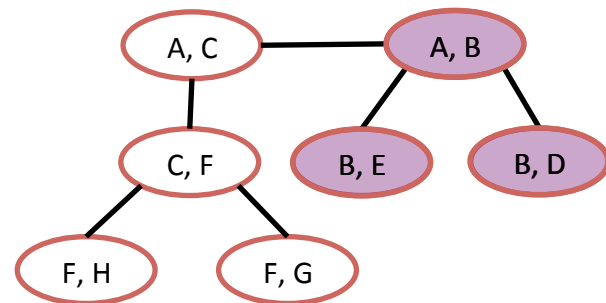
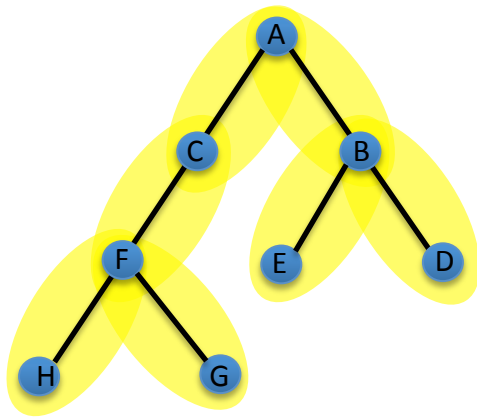
□ **Tree decomposition:** Map the graph  $G$  into a tree  $T$ :

- ❖ Each node of  $T$  is a bag of vertices of  $G$
- ❖ Each edge of  $G$  appears in one node of  $T$
- ❖ If a vertex shows up in multiple nodes of  $T$ , those nodes should form a subtree

□ **Width of  $T$ :** Max cardinality minus 1



**Treewidth of  $G$ :** Minimum width



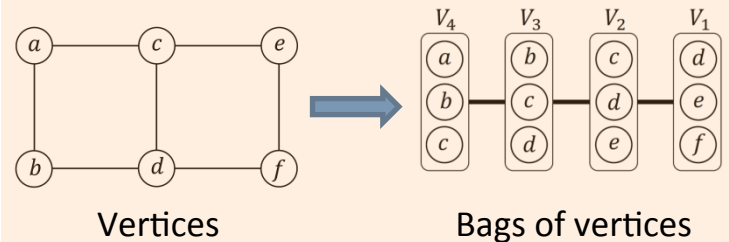
Treewidth = 1

# Graph Notions

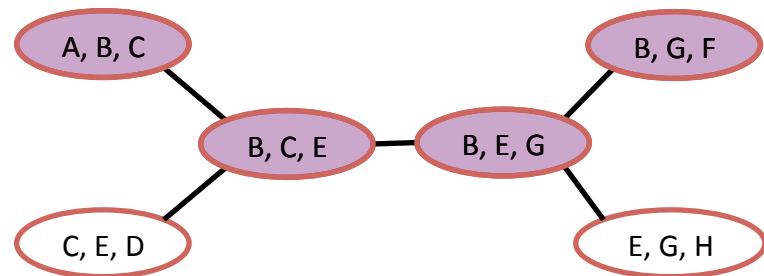
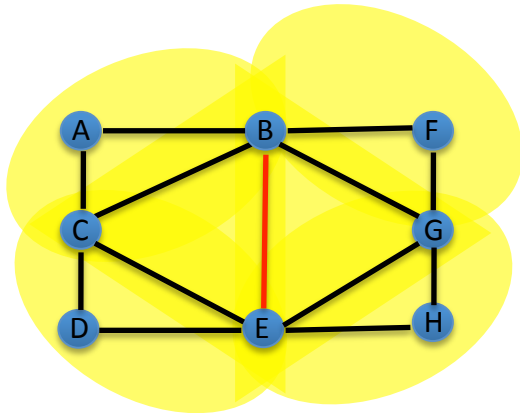
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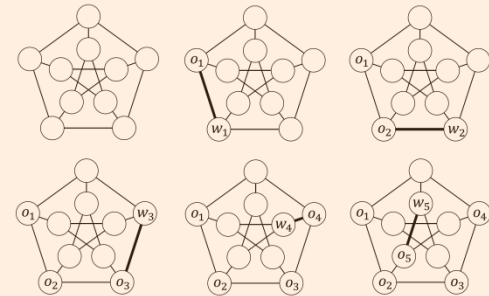


Treewidth = 2

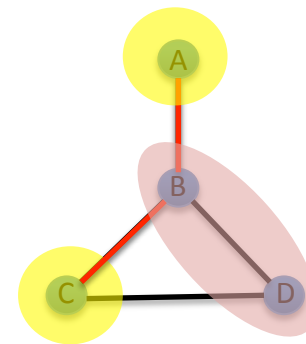
# Graph Notions

## □ OS-vertex sequence: [Hackney et al, 2009]

- ❖ Partial ordering of vertices
- ❖ Assume  $O_1, O_2, \dots, O_m$  is a sequence.
- ❖  $O_i$  has a neighbor  $w_i$  not connected to the connected component of  $O_i$  in the subgraph induced by  $O_1, \dots, O_i$



**OS:** Maximum cardinality among all OS sequences



OS-vertex sequence:  $C \longrightarrow D \longrightarrow B$

OS-vertex sequence:  $C \longrightarrow A$

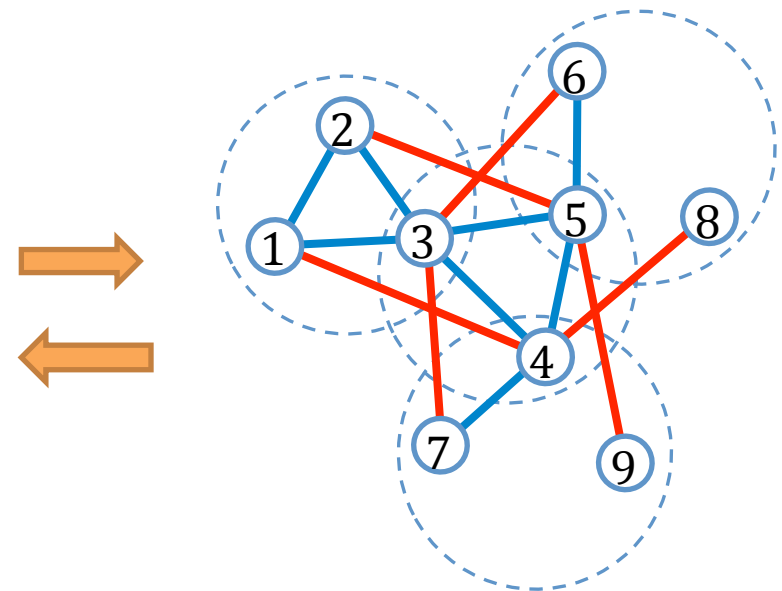
# Low-Rank Solution

- ❑ Roughly speaking, very sparse graphs have high OS and low treewidth.
- ❑ We can use these notions to find low-rank solutions.

## Example: Low-rank PSD completion

?	■	■	■	?	?	?	?	?
■	?	■	?	■	?	?	?	?
■	■	?	■	■	■	■	?	?
■	?	■	?	■	?	■	■	?
?	■	■	■	?	■	?	?	■
?	?	■	?	■	?	?	?	?
?	?	■	■	?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	■	?	?	?	?	?
?	?	?	?	■	?	?	?	?

Sparse graph:



- ❑ Minimizing every nonzero weighted sum of the red entries gives a low-rank matrix.

# Low-Rank Solution

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{D}^n} x^H M_0 x$$

$$\text{s.t. } x^H M_i x \leq a_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

↓ SDP

$$\min_W \text{trace}\{M_0 W\}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \text{trace}\{M_i W\} \leq a_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

$$W \succeq 0$$

↓ Embedding +  
penalization of  
red entries

$$\min_{\bar{W}} \text{trace}\{\bar{M}_0 \bar{W}\} + \sum_{(j,k) \in \mathcal{G}'} \varepsilon_{j,k} \bar{W}_{jk}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \text{trace}\{\bar{M}_i \bar{W}\} \leq \bar{a}_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, \bar{m}$$

$$\bar{W} \succeq 0$$



**Sparsity Graph  $\mathcal{G}$ :** Generalized weighted graph



Often infinitely many low-rank and high-rank solutions

**Theorem:** SDP has a solution such that

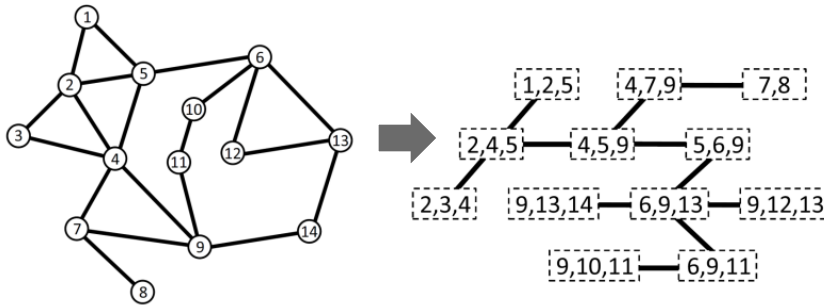
$$\text{Rank}\{W^{\text{opt}}\} \leq |\mathcal{G}'| - \min_{\mathcal{G}_s} \left\{ \text{OS}(\mathcal{G}_s) \mid (\mathcal{G}' - \mathcal{G}) \subseteq \mathcal{G}_s \subseteq \mathcal{G}' \right\}$$

=  $\text{TW}(\mathcal{G}) + 1$  for  $\mathcal{G}'$  as enriched supergraph

□ This result includes the recent work *Laurent and Varvitsiotis, 2012*.

# Treewidth in Power Systems

## Tree decomposition for IEEE 14-bus system:



## Case studies:

System $\mathcal{G}$	$tw\{\mathcal{G}\}$	System $\mathcal{G}$	Bound on $tw\{\mathcal{G}\}$
IEEE 14-bus	2	Polish 2383wp	23
IEEE 30-bus	3	Polish 2736sp	23
New England 39-bus	3	Polish 2746wop	23
IEEE 57-bus	5	Polish 3012wp	24
IEEE 118-bus	4	Polish 3120sp	24
IEEE 300-bus	6	Polish 3375wp	25



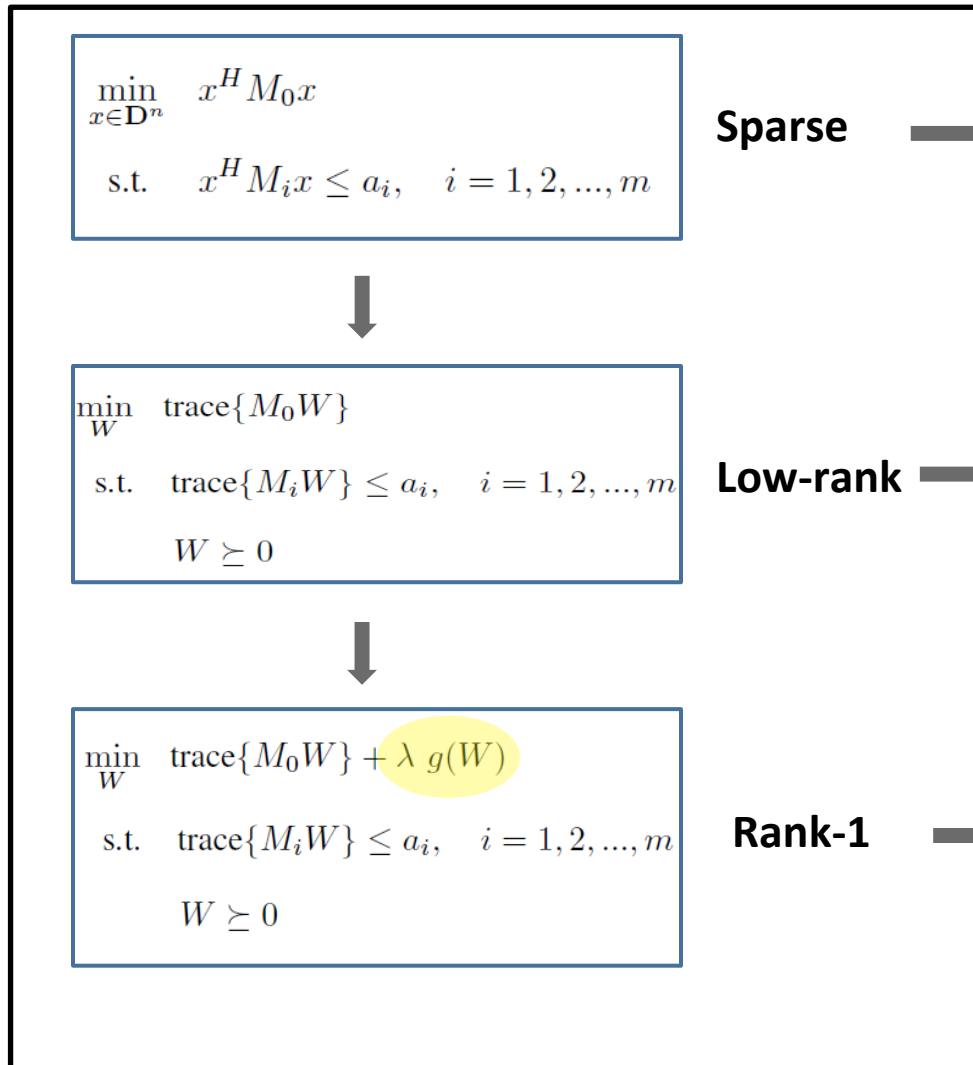
Treewidth of EU Grid < 35

Treewidth of NY < 40

**Theorem:** The rank of SDP solution is upper bounded by **Treewidth + 1**.

Complexity of solving optimization over a grid depends on its treewidth (related work by Bienstock & Munoz 2015).

# Non-convexity Localization

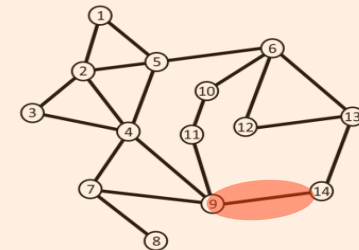


SDP works if  $G$  has no edges:

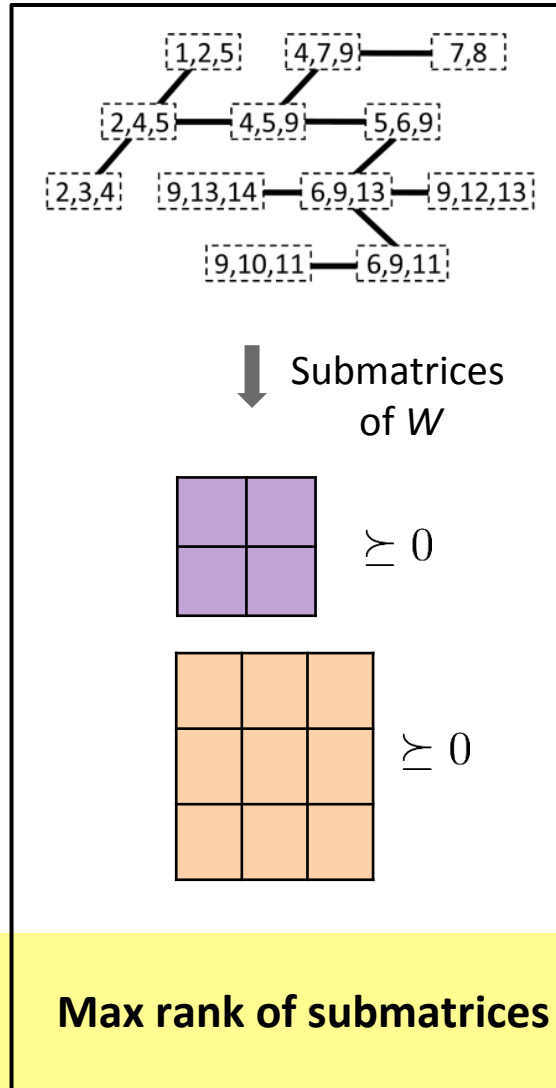
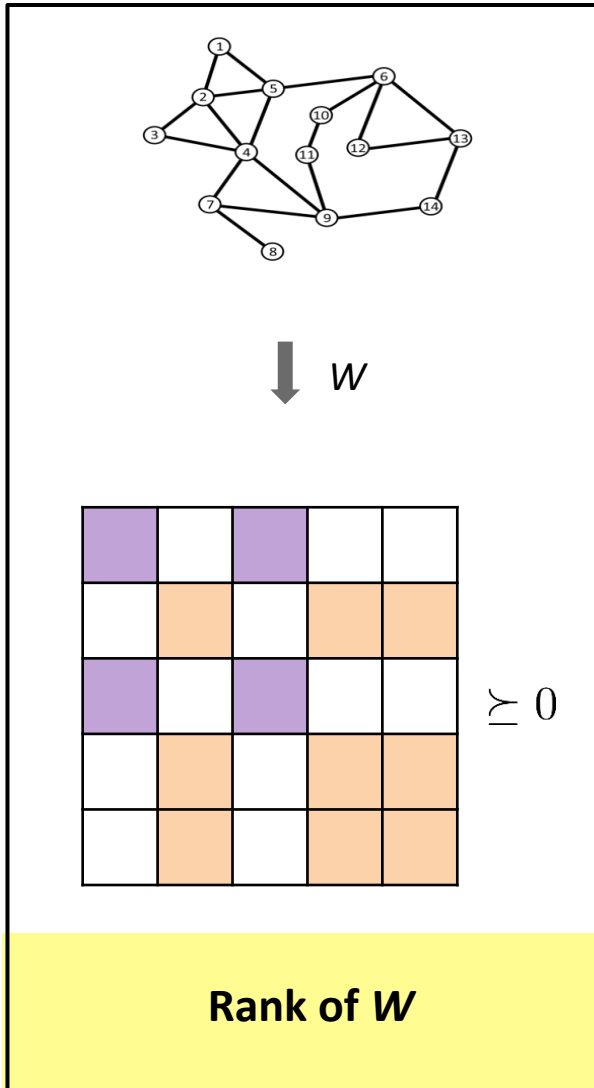
$$x_i^2 \implies y_i \quad (\text{LP})$$

- Assume SDP fails.
- **Can we identify what edges caused the failure?**
- Localized non-convexity v.s. uniform non-convexity?

**Approach for localized case:**  
Penalty over problematic edges



# Problematic Edges



**Problematic edges:**  
Identified based on high-rank submatrices

IEEE 300-bus: 2  
Polish 2383-bus : 11



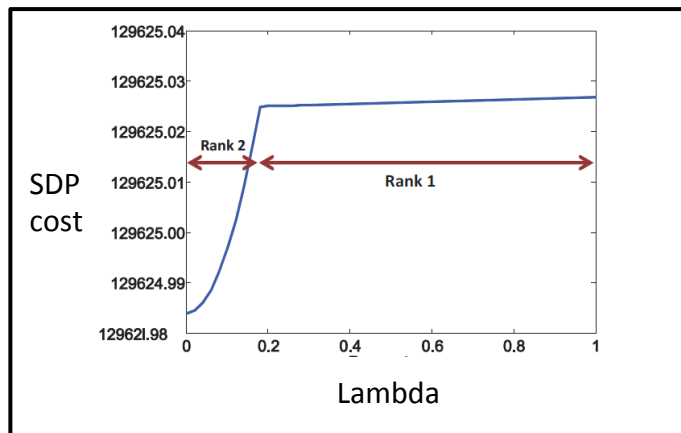
# Near-Global Solutions

**Strategy:** Penalize reactive loss over problematic lines (proposed a systematic method)

## □ Modified IEEE 118-bus:

❖ 3 local solutions

❖ Costs: 129625, 177984, 195695



Case	TW	Cost	Guarantee	Time (sec)
Chow's 9 bus	2	5296.68	100%	≤ 5
IEEE 14 bus	2	8081.53	100%	≤ 5
IEEE 24 bus	4	63352.20	100%	≤ 5
IEEE 30 bus	3	576.89	100%	≤ 5
NE 39 bus	3	41864.40	99.994%	≤ 5
IEEE 57 bus	5	41737.78	100%	≤ 5
IEEE 118 bus	4	129660.81	99.995%	≤ 5
IEEE 300 bus	6	719725.10	99.998%	13.9
Polish 2383wp	23	1874322.65	99.316%	529
Polish 2736sp	23	1308270.20	99.970%	701
Polish 2737sop	23	777664.02	99.995%	675
Polish 2746wop	23	1208453.93	99.985%	801
Polish 2746wp	24	1632384.87	99.962 %	699
Polish 3012wp	24	2608918.45	99.188%	814
Polish 3120sp	24	2160800.42	99.073 %	910

Case	Minima	Cost	Guarantee
WB2	2	877.78	100%
WB3	2	417.25	100%
WB5	2	946.58	99.995%
WB5 Mod	3	1482.22	100%
LMBM3	5	5694.54	100%
LMBM3_50	2	5823.86	99.807%
case22loop	2	4538.80	100 %
case30loop	2	2863.06	100%
case30loop Mod	3	2861.88	100%
case39 Mod4	3	557.15	99.999%
case118 Mod1	3	129625.19	99.999%
case118 Mod2	2	85987.59	100 %
case300 Mod2	2	474643.46	99.996%

7000 simulations

# Penalty Design

## Why was penalty chosen as loss?

$$\begin{aligned} \min_W \quad & \text{trace}\{M_0 W\} + \lambda g(W) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{trace}\{M_i W\} \leq a_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & W \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Proposed penalty:

$$g(W) = \text{trace}\{MW\}$$

## Guess for solution of original QCQP: $x_*$

- $M \succeq 0$
- $Mx_* = 0$
- Zero is a simple eig of  $M$ .

**Theorem:** SDP is exact if the solution is in a vicinity of  $x_*$ .

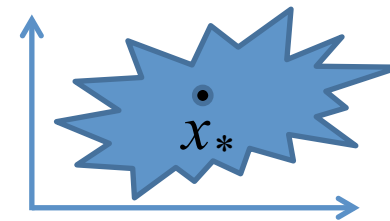
## First try:

$$g(W) = \|W\|_*$$

- ❖ Compressed sensing and phase retrieval
- ❖ Need  $n \log n$  measurements for a much simpler problem [Candes and Recht].

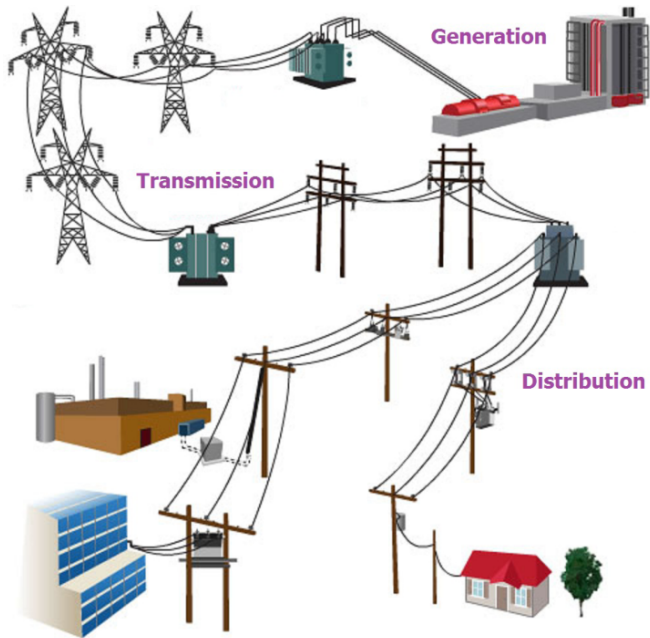
## Algorithm design: How to find the best M?

## Recovery region for $x$ :



$$R_M = \{x \mid g(x, M) \succeq 0\}$$

# Outline



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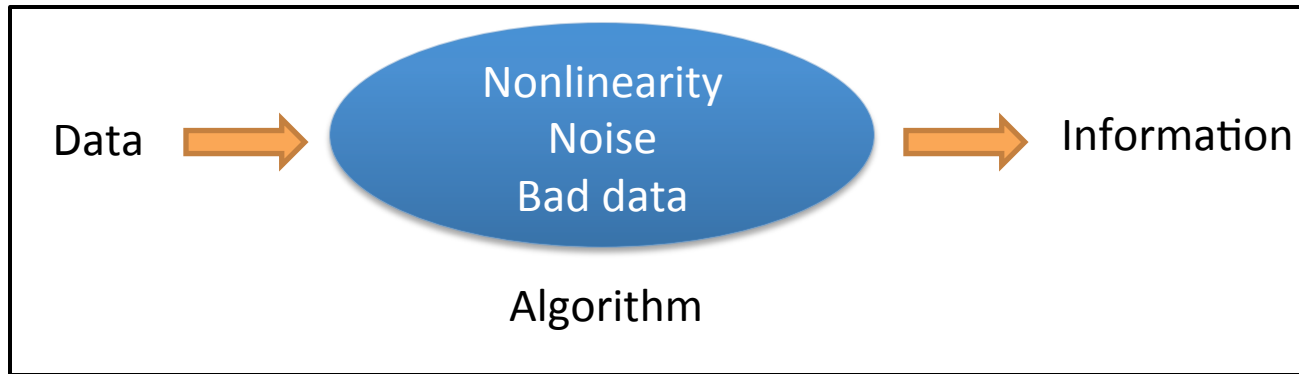
Low-complexity methods

Control Theory



Optimal distributed control

❑ Testing on several real-world systems with over 13,000 buses



$$x_r = \langle \mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^*, \mathbf{M}_r \rangle + \omega_r + \eta_r, \quad r \in \mathcal{M}$$

measurement      unknown state      noise      bad data

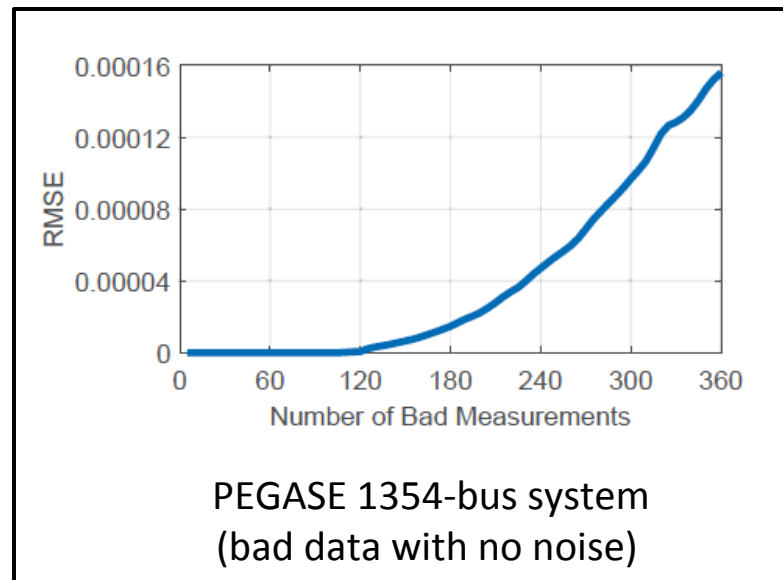
□ **Penalized SDP:** Two-term objective to handle non-convexity and noise estimation

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\substack{\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{H}^n \\ \nu \in \mathbb{R}^m}}{\text{minimize}} && \langle \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{M} \rangle + \mu \times \|\nu\|_1 \\ & \text{subject to} && \langle \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{M}_r \rangle + \nu_r = x_r, \quad r \in \mathcal{M}, \\ & && \mathbf{W} \succeq 0. \end{aligned}$$

# State Estimation

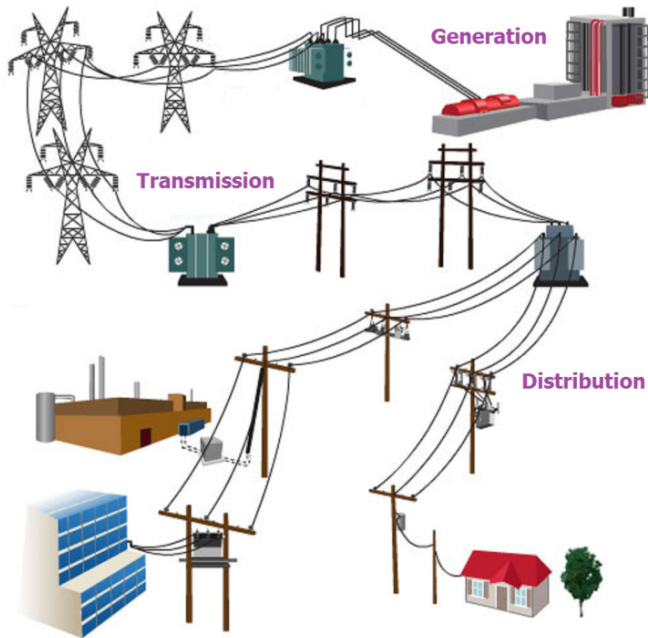
**Theorem:** For carefully designed  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mu$ , if the number of bad data measurements is not too high, we have

$$\|\mathbf{W}^{\text{opt}} - \alpha \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v}^*\|_F \leq \sqrt{\tau \times \text{trace}\{\mathbf{W}^{\text{opt}}\} \times \|\omega\|_1}$$



- ❑ The above framework allows studying and mitigating the worst attacks possible on power grids.

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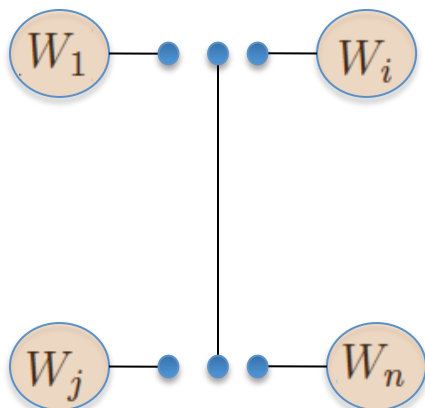
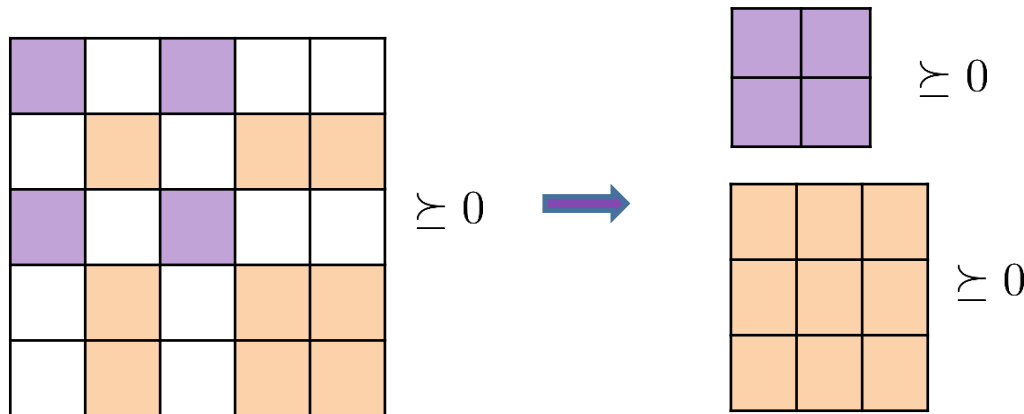


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# Low-Complexity Distributed Computation

**Goal:** Design a low-complex algorithm for sparse conic optimization (LP/QP/QCQP/SOCP/SDP)



minimize  $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{W}_i)$

subject to:

- $\text{tr}(\mathbf{B}_j^i \mathbf{W}_i) = b_j^i \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, p_i \text{ and } i \in \mathcal{V}$
- $\text{tr}(\mathbf{C}_j^i \mathbf{W}_i) \leq c_j^i \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, q_i \text{ and } i \in \mathcal{V}$
- $\mathbf{W}_i \succeq 0 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{V}$
- $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}[i]} \text{tr}(\mathbf{D}_k^{i,j} \mathbf{W}_j) = d_k^{(i)} \quad \forall k = 1, \dots, r_i \text{ and } i \in \mathcal{V}$
- $\sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}[i]} \text{tr}(\mathbf{E}_k^{i,j} \mathbf{W}_j) \leq e_k^{(i)} \quad \forall k = 1, \dots, s_i \text{ and } i \in \mathcal{V}$
- $\mathbf{W}_i(I_{i,j}, I_{i,j}) = \mathbf{W}_j(I_{j,i}, I_{j,i}) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}^+$

Sum of agents' objectives

Local constraints

Overlapping constraints

# Low-Complexity Distributed Computation

- ❑ **Distributed Algorithms for Big Data:** ADMM-based dual decomposed SDP (related work: [Parikh and Boyd, 2014], [Wen, Goldfarb and Yin, 2010], [Andersen, Vandenberghe and Dahl, 2010]).

## Algorithm for Conic Optimization:

- Based on over-relaxed ADMM
- Has a guaranteed convergence
- Communications between agents
- Basic operations and eigenvalue decomposition.

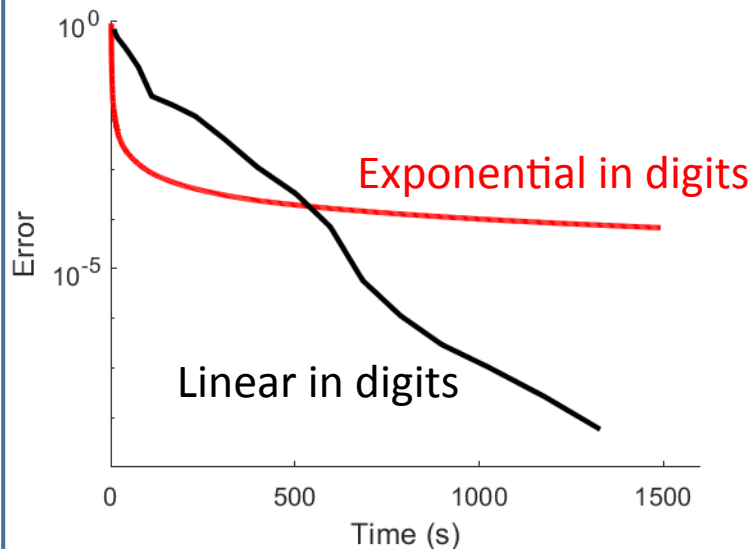
- ❑ Code written in C++
- ❑ Tested on Amazon EC2 (36 cores, 60 GB RAM)
- ❑ 8000 agents with 40x40 local matrices
- ❑ Full-scale SDP: **57.6 billion variables**
- ❑ Decomposed-SDP: **12.8 million variables**
- ❑ MOSEK, SeDumi, SDPT3: **take months to solve**

	$p_i = 5, q_i = 0$	$p_i = 0, q_i = 5$	$p_i = 5, q_i = 5$
$P_{\text{obj}}$	3.939822e+06	6.475070e+06	9.458764e+06
$D_{\text{obj}}$	3.939368e+06	6.475035e+06	9.458743e+06
iter	325	1264	2810
$t_{\text{CPU}}$ (min)	2.218	7.973	19.539
$t_{\text{iter}}$ (sec per iter)	0.410	0.378	0.417
Optimality	99.98%	99.9994%	99.9997%



# Low-Complexity Second-order Methods

## First-Order versus Interior-Point



FOM:  $O(n)$  time  $\times$   $O(1/\epsilon)$  iters

IPM:  $O(n^6)$  time  $\times$   $O(\log(1/\epsilon))$  iters

## Sparsity-Exploiting IPM:

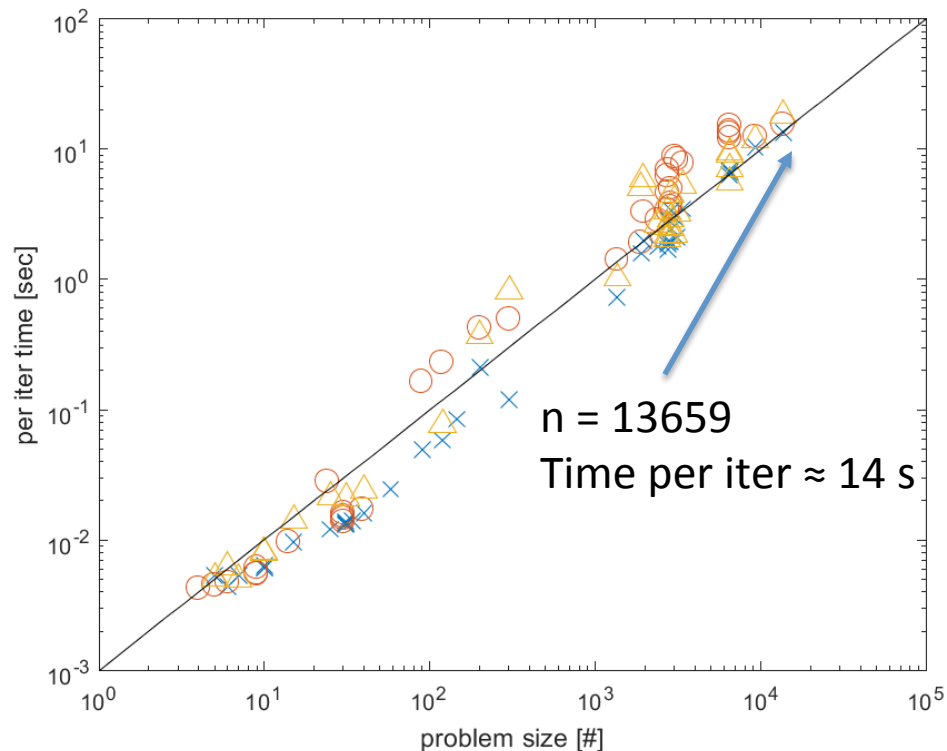
$O(n)$  time  $\times$   $O(\log(1/\epsilon))$  iters

(We also developed a rank-exploiting IPM.)

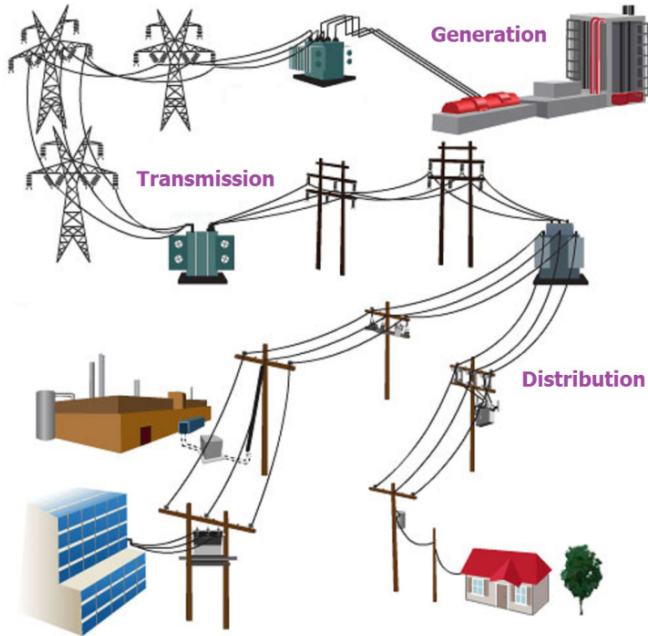
□ Consider 40 power systems.

□ Solve three SDP problems for each system:

- MAX 3-CUT (o)
- Lovasz Theta (x)
- MAX BISECTION ( $\Delta$ )



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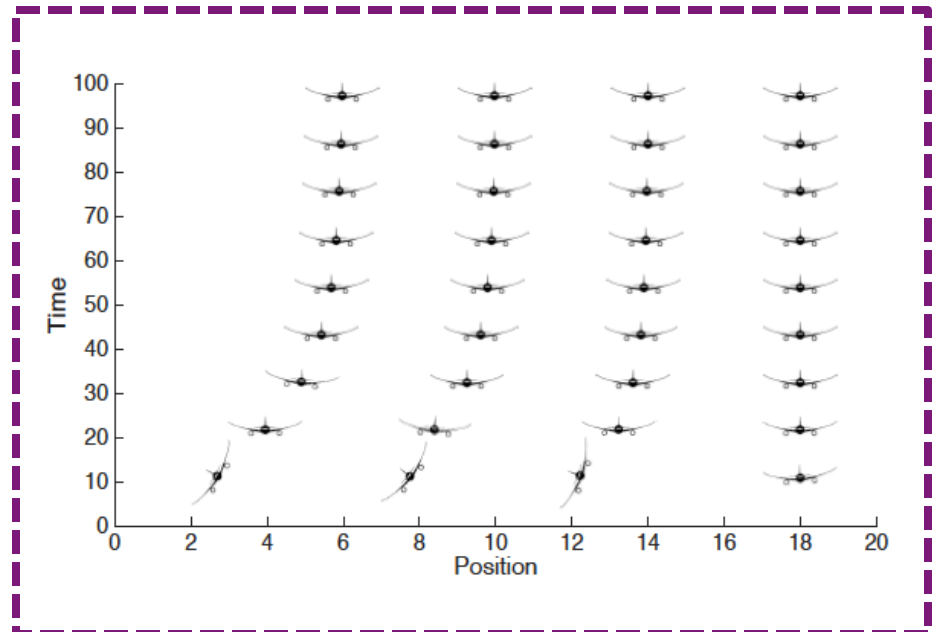
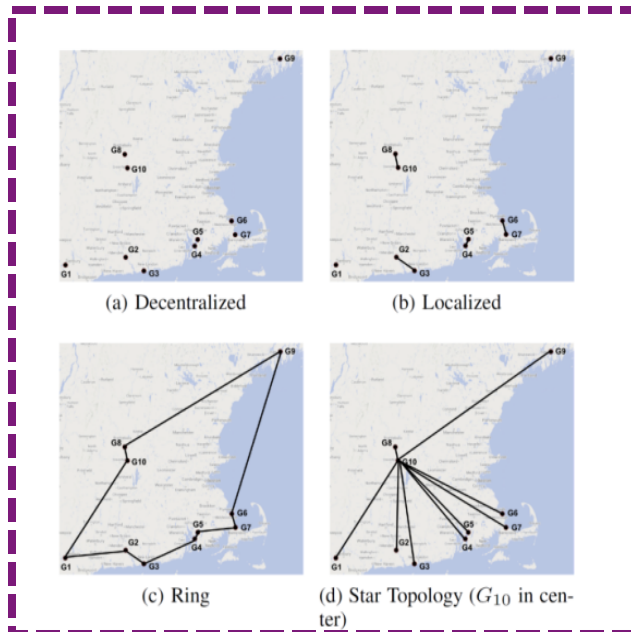
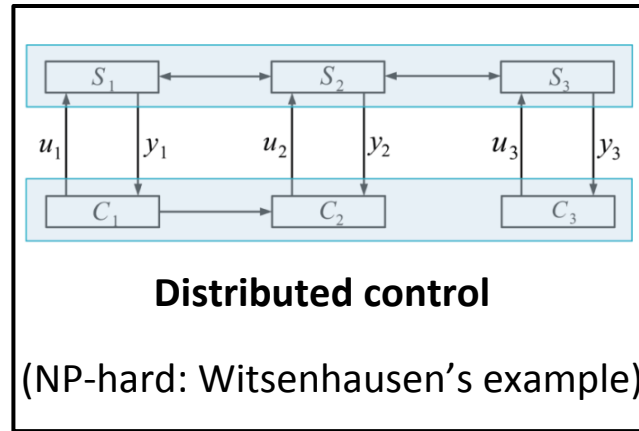


Optimal distributed control

❑ Testing on several real-world systems with over 13,000 buses

# Distributed Control

**Optimization for differential equations:** Optimal control, dynamic programming, system ID, robust control, etc.



# Distributed Control

**Result 1:** Design based on penalized SDP (rank at most 3).

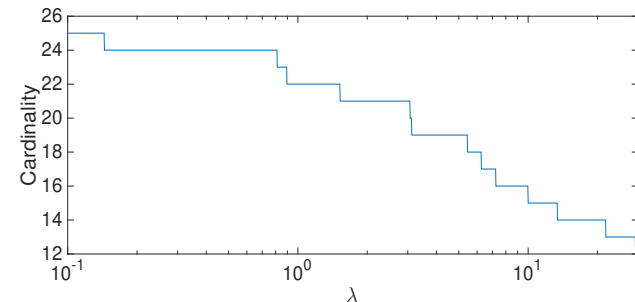
**Result 2:** Design based on a closed-form formula:

$$\left(1 + \mu_s \sqrt{C_1^s(K_d)}\right)^2 J(K_c) \geq J(K_d) \geq J(K_c)$$

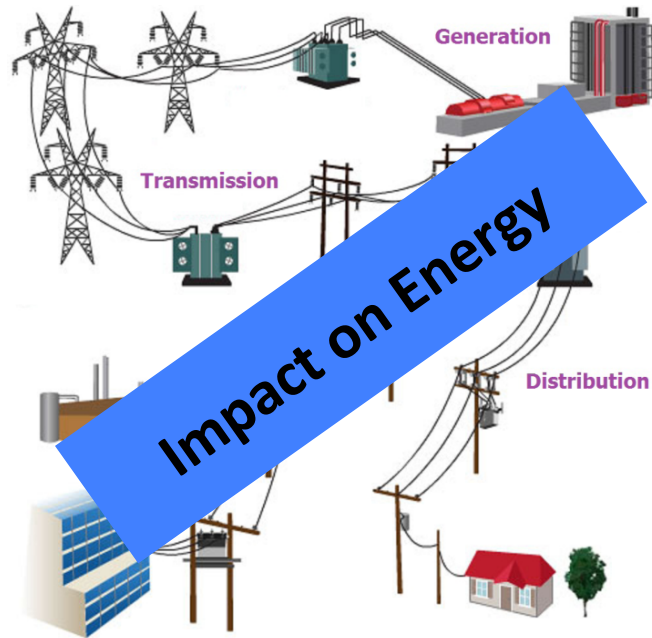
$$\mu_s = \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\kappa(V) \|B\|_2}{(1 - \rho(A + BK_d)) \sqrt{\mathcal{E}\{\|x_c[\infty]\|_2^2\}}}, \\ \frac{1 - \rho(A + BK_d) + \kappa(V) \|K_d\|_2 \|B\|_2}{(1 - \rho(A + BK_d)) \sqrt{\mathcal{E}\{\|u_c[\infty]\|_2^2\}}} \end{array} \right\}$$

**Result 3:** Design a controller with  $k$  communication links:

$$\min_{K \in \mathcal{S}} J(K) + \lambda \|K\|_1$$



# Conclusions



**Optimization is hard in the worst case, but real-world problems may not be too hard.**

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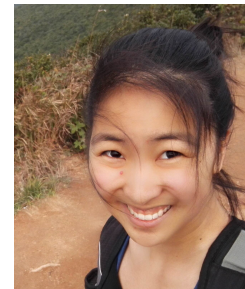
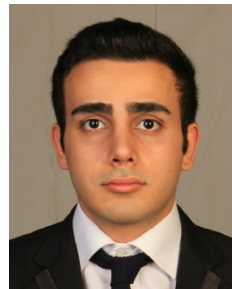
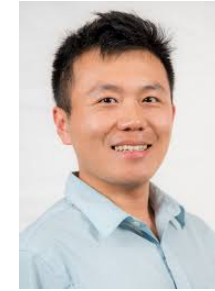
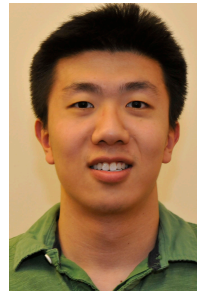


Optimal distributed control

❑ Testing on several real-world systems with over 13,000 buses

# Former and Current Group Members

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- Ming Jin
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- Morteza Ashraphjuo
- SangWoo Park
- Victoria Chang
- Han Feng

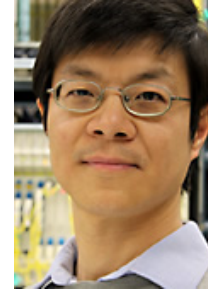


# Incomplete List of Collaborators

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## Caltech and UT Austin:

- John Doyle
- Richard Murray
- Steven Low
- Ross Baldick



## Stanford, Concordia, Washington:

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- David Tse
- Amir Aghdam
- Baosen Zhang



## UC Berkeley:

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