

OPTIMIZATION FOR ORDER IDEALS UNDER A WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT (*)

G. O. H. KATONA

Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1053 Budapest V, Reáltanoda u. 13-15, Hongrie

Résumé. — On appelle famille héréditaire une famille \mathcal{F} de parties d'un ensemble de cardinalité n si $B \in \mathcal{F}$ et $A \subset B$ alors $A \in \mathcal{F}$. Etant donné une fonction réelle $w(x)$ ($0 \leq x \leq n$) (fonction de poids) notre but est de déterminer pour quelles familles \mathcal{F} l'expression $\sum_{A \in \mathcal{F}} w(|A|)$ atteint son minimum

où nous supposons que \mathcal{F} est une famille héréditaire de cardinalité N (N est fixé).

Si $w(x)$ est une fonction monotone, croissante, le problème est alors trivial; les éléments de \mathcal{F} doivent être tous les parties de cardinalités $0, 1, \dots, k$ plus certaines parties de cardinalité $k + 1$, par exemple les plus petites dans l'ordre lexicographique (quasi-sphère).

Le problème devient moins évident si $w(x)$ est une fonction monotone, décroissante. Dans ce cas on doit définir \mathcal{F} comme les N premières parties dans l'ordre lexicographique (quasi-cylindre).

Si la fonction $w(x)$ est croissante puis décroissante (ou l'inverse), alors une famille optimale \mathcal{F} doit être l'intersection ou l'union d'une quasi-sphère et d'un quasi-cylindre selon les cas.

Les résultats ci-dessus ont été obtenus en collaboration avec R. Ahlswede, et feront partie d'un article à paraître dans « Advances in Mathematics ».

Many extremal problems for families of subsets are such that it is easy to prove that the extremal family \mathcal{F} has the order ideal property (i.e. $A \subset B \in \mathcal{F}$ implies $A \in \mathcal{F}$). This fact makes sense to study order ideals, but there are other motivations, too.

Let $f(x)$ be a real-valued function on the non-negative integers. We want to minimize the value

$$\sum_{A \in \mathcal{F}} f(|A|) \quad (1)$$

where \mathcal{F} is an order ideal, $|\mathcal{F}| = N$ is fixed and $|X|$ means the size of X . If $f(x)$ is monotonically increasing then the problem is trivial. We have to choose the N subsets with the smallest possible size, that is, all the sets with sizes

$0, 1, \dots, k$

$$\left(\binom{n}{0} + \dots + \binom{n}{k} \right) \leq N < \left(\binom{n}{0} + \dots + \binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k+1} \right)$$

and some of the sets with size $k + 1$. We call such an arrangement a *quasi-sphere* if the sets of size $k + 1$

(*) This is an abstract of the talk of the author at the conference. However its results are contained in a common paper with R. Ahlswede [1].

are chosen in lexicographic order (as 0,1 sequences).

On the other hand, a family of the first N subsets in lexicographic order is called a *quasi-cylinder*.

Théorème — *If $f(x)$ is monotonically decreasing then (1) takes its maximal value for a quasi-cylinder. If $f(x)$ is increasing in the interval $[0, k]$ and decreasing in $[k, n]$ (for some $0 < k < n$), then the union of a quasi-cylinder and a quasi-sphere gives the optimum in (1). On the other hand, if $f(x)$ is first decreasing and then increasing, then the intersection of a quasi-cylinder and a quasi-sphere is optimal for (1).*

As an application, it is easy to prove a theorem of Lindsey (see [2], [3], [4] and [5]) :

$$\max_{|\mathcal{F}|=N} |\{ (A, B) : A, B \in \mathcal{F}, |A - B| + |B - A| = 1 \}| \quad (2)$$

is assumed for a quasi-cylinder.

To prove this, we have to show first, that (2) is maximal for an order ideal. This is trivial. On the other hand (2) is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
\max_{|\mathcal{F}|=N} \sum_{i=1}^n |\{ (A, B) : A, B \in \mathcal{F}, A \subset B, |B| = |A| + 1 = i \}| &= \max_{|\mathcal{F}|=N} \sum_{i=1}^n |\{ B : B \in \mathcal{F}, |B| = i \}| i = \\
&= \max_{|\mathcal{F}|=N} \sum_{B \in \mathcal{F}} |B| = - \min_{|\mathcal{F}|=N} \sum_{B \in \mathcal{F}} (-|B|).
\end{aligned}$$

As the function $f(x) = -x$ is decreasing, our theorem leads to the desired statement.

In [1] there is another application for random graphs.

References

- [1] R. AHLWEDE and G. O. H. KATONA, Contributions to the geometry of Hamming spaces, *Discrete Math.* **17** (1977) 1-22.
- [2] G. F. CLEMENTS, Sets of lattice points which contain a maximal number of edges, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **27** (1971) 13-15.
- [3] J. H. LINDSEY, Assignment of numbers to vertices, *Amer. Math. Monthly* **71** (1964) 508-516.
- [4] A. J. BERNSTEIN, Maximally connected arrays on the n -cube, *SIAM J. Appl. Math.* **15** (1967) 1485-1489.
- [5] L. H. HARPER, Optimal assignments of number to vertices, *J. Soc. Industr. Appl. Math.* **12** (1964) 131-135.