

VII. Approximation Algorithms: Randomisation and Rounding

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CAMBRIDGE

Randomised Approximation

MAX-3-CNF

Weighted Vertex Cover

Weighted Set Cover



Performance Ratios for Randomised Approximation Algorithms

Approximation Ratio

A **randomised** algorithm for a problem has **approximation ratio** $\rho(n)$, if for any input of size n , the **expected** cost C of the returned solution and optimal cost C^* satisfy:

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An **approximation scheme** is an approximation algorithm, which given any input and $\epsilon > 0$, is a $(1 + \epsilon)$ -approximation algorithm.

- It is a **polynomial-time approximation scheme (PTAS)** if for any fixed $\epsilon > 0$, the runtime is polynomial in n . (For example, $O(n^{2/\epsilon})$.)
- It is a **fully polynomial-time approximation scheme (FPTAS)** if the runtime is polynomial in both $1/\epsilon$ and n . (For example, $O((1/\epsilon)^2 \cdot n^3)$.)



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extends in the natural way to **randomised algorithms**

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$$(x_1 \vee x_3 \vee \bar{x}_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_5) \wedge (x_2 \vee \bar{x}_4 \vee x_5) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)$$



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$x_1 = 1, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1, x_4 = 0$ and $x_5 = 1$ satisfies 3 (out of 4 clauses)



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Idea: What about assigning each variable independently at random?



Analysis

Theorem 35.6

Given an instance of MAX-3-CNF with n variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and m clauses, the randomised algorithm that sets each variable independently at random is a randomised $8/7$ -approximation algorithm.



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Follows from the previous Corollary.



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Algorithm: Assign x_1 so that the conditional expectation is maximized and recurse.



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GREEDY-3-CNF(ϕ, n, m)

- 1: **for** $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$
- 2: Compute $\mathbf{E}[Y \mid x_1 = v_1, \dots, x_{j-1} = v_{j-1}, x_j = 1]$
- 3: Compute $\mathbf{E}[Y \mid x_1 = v_1, \dots, x_{j-1} = v_{j-1}, x_j = 0]$
- 4: Let $x_j = v_j$ so that the conditional expectation is maximized
- 5: **return** the assignment v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n



Theorem

GREEDY-3-CNF(ϕ, n, m) is a polynomial-time $8/7$ -approximation.



Analysis of GREEDY-3-CNF(ϕ, n, m)

This algorithm is deterministic.

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computable in $O(1)$



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$$\mathbf{E} [Y \mid x_1 = v_1, \dots, x_{j-1} = v_{j-1}, x_j = v_j] \geq \mathbf{E} [Y \mid x_1 = v_1, \dots, x_{j-1} = v_{j-1}]$$



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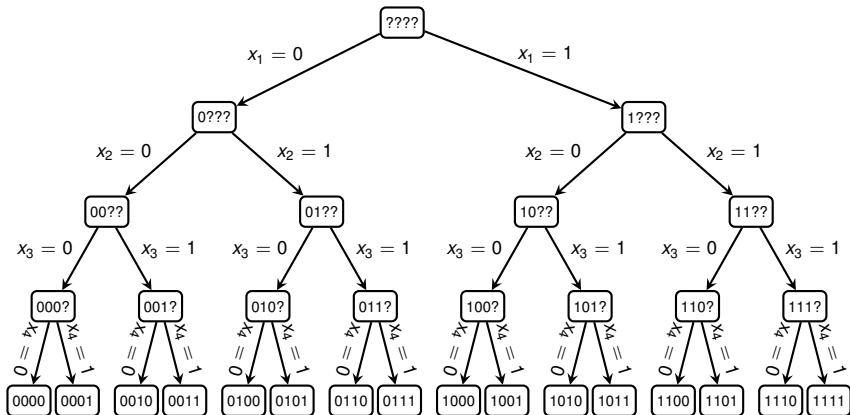
\vdots

$$\geq \mathbf{E} [Y] = \frac{7}{8} \cdot m. \quad \square$$



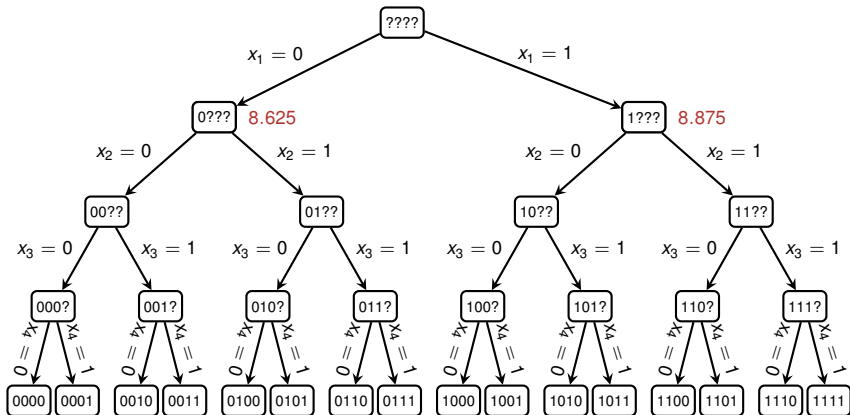
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_4}) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_4}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_3} \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_4}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee \overline{x_3} \vee \overline{x_4})$$



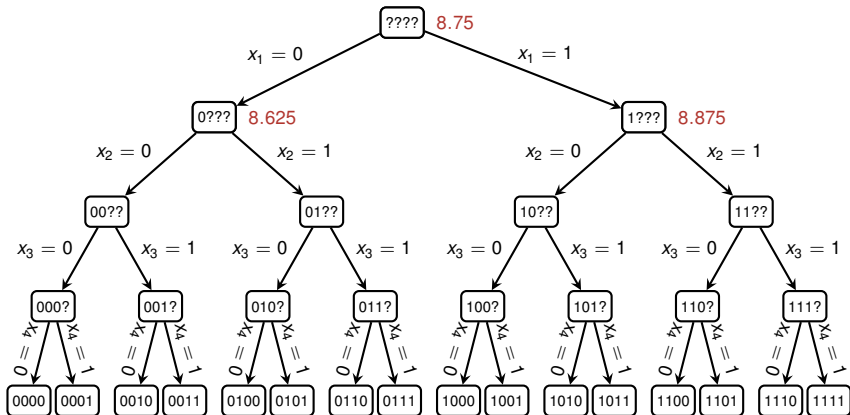
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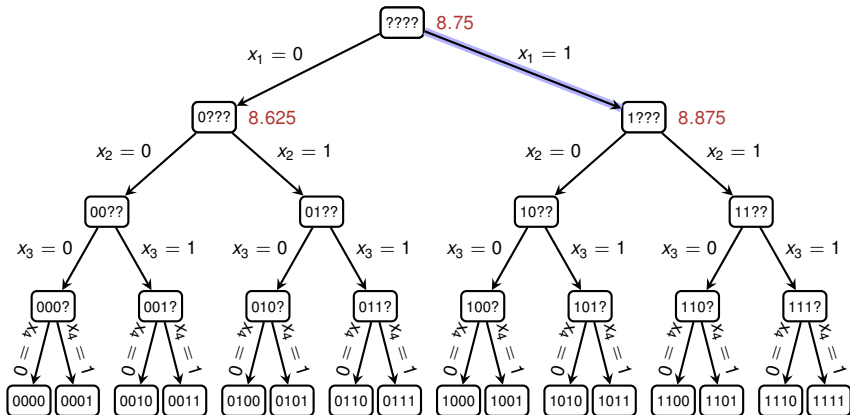
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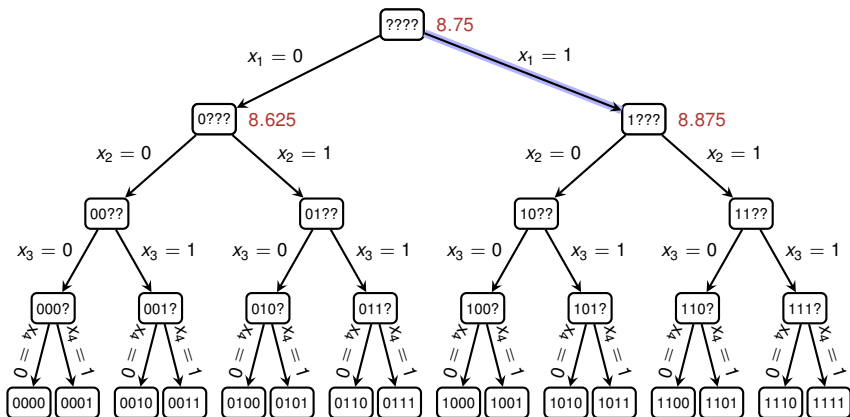
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_4}) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_4}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_3} \vee x_4) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_4}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\overline{x_1} \vee \overline{x_2} \vee x_3) \wedge (x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (x_2 \vee \overline{x_3} \vee \overline{x_4})$$



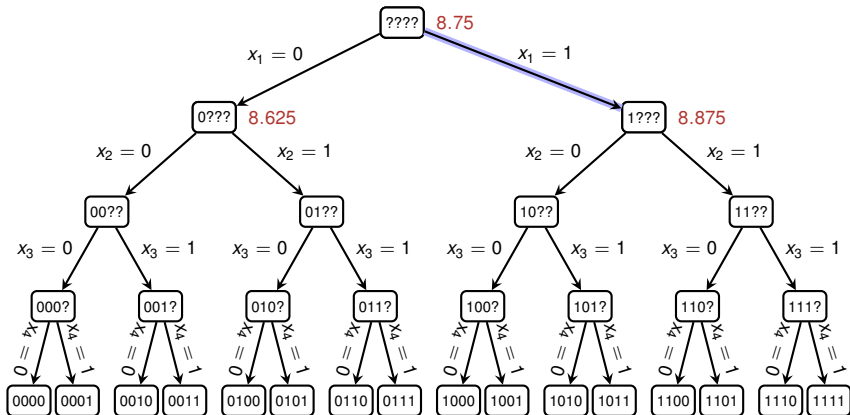
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

$$\cancel{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)} \wedge \cancel{(x_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_4)} \wedge \cancel{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_4)} \wedge \cancel{(\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee x_4)} \wedge \cancel{(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)} \wedge \cancel{(\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee \bar{x}_3)} \wedge \cancel{(\bar{x}_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_3)} \wedge \cancel{(\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_3)} \wedge \cancel{(x_1 \vee x_3 \vee x_4)} \wedge (x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3 \vee \bar{x}_4)$$



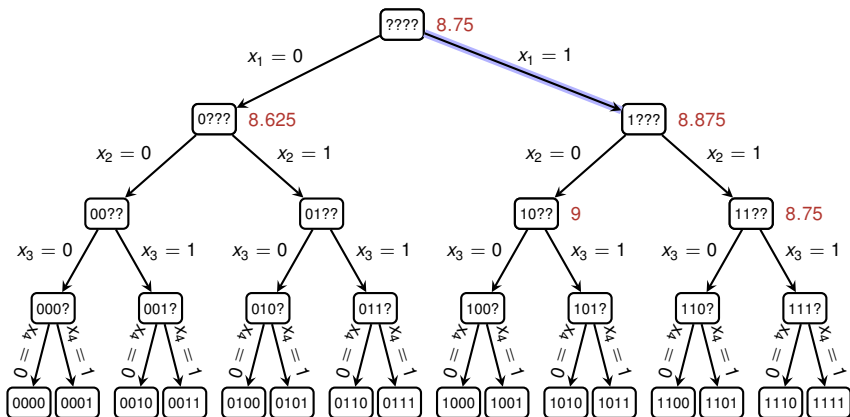
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$$1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge (\overline{x_3} \vee x_4) \wedge 1 \wedge (\overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_3}) \wedge (x_2 \vee x_3) \wedge (\overline{x_2} \vee x_3) \wedge 1 \wedge (x_2 \vee \overline{x_3} \vee \overline{x_4})$$



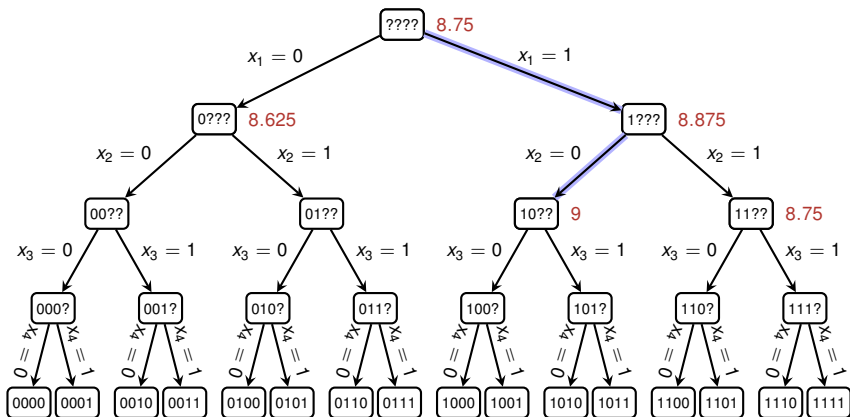
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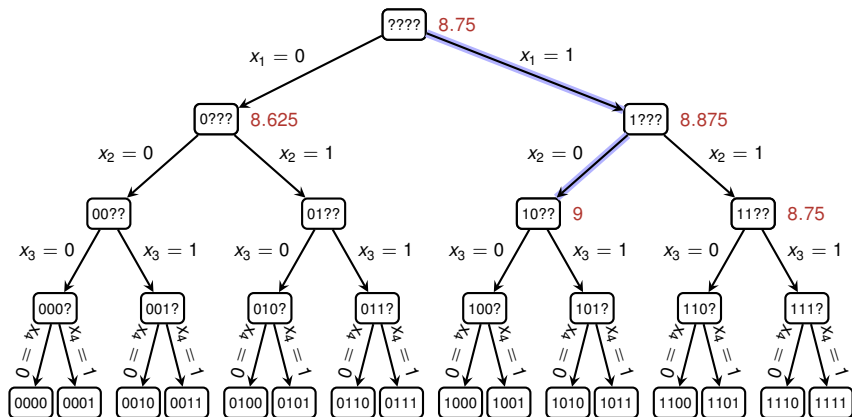
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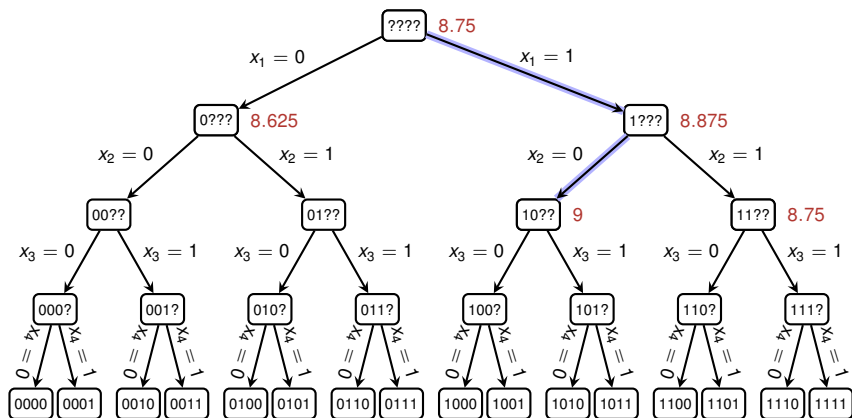
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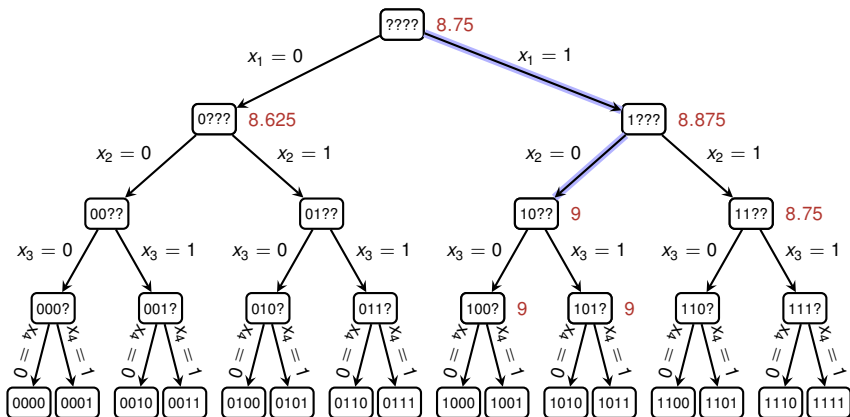
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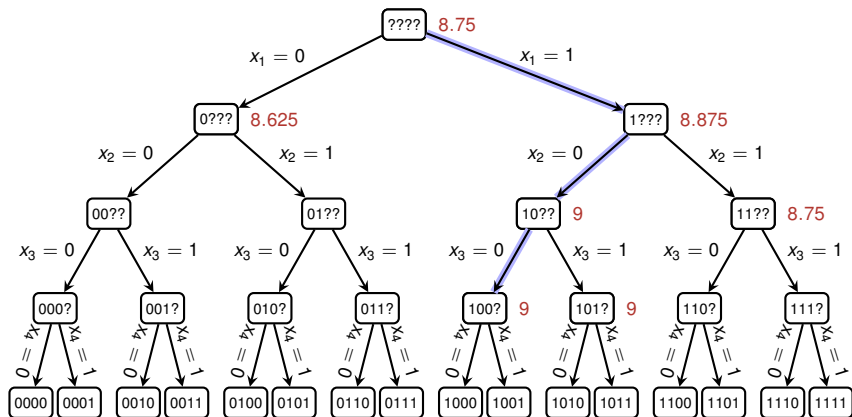
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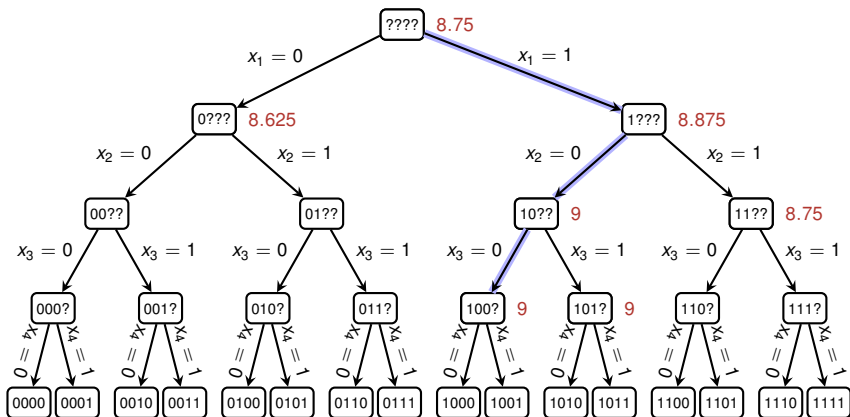
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

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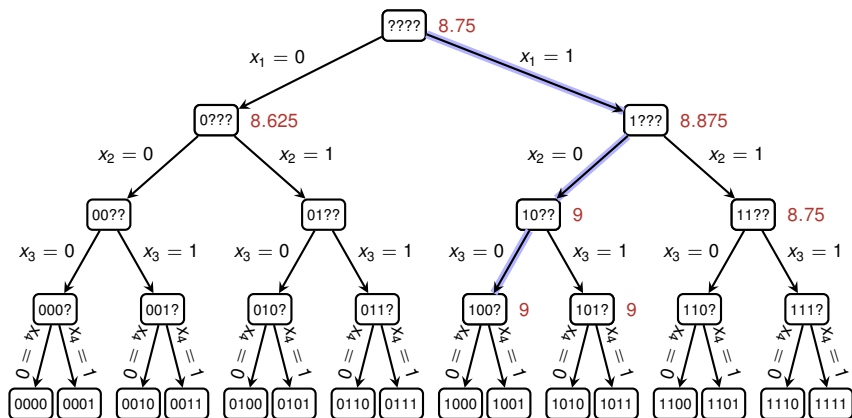
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

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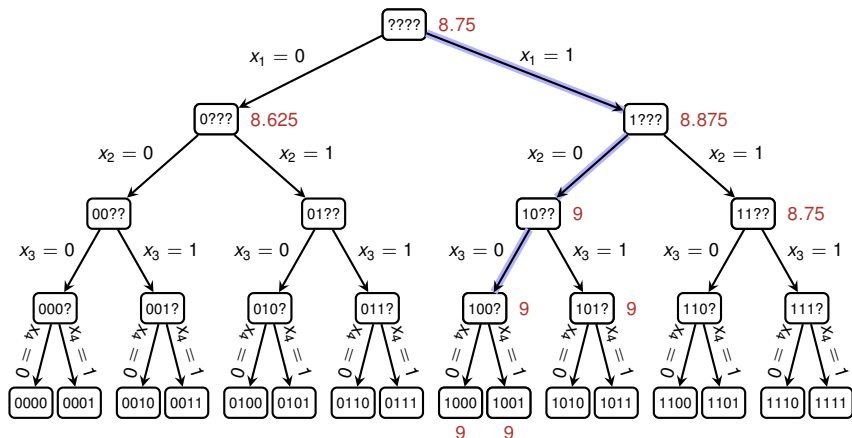
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

$1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 0 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1$



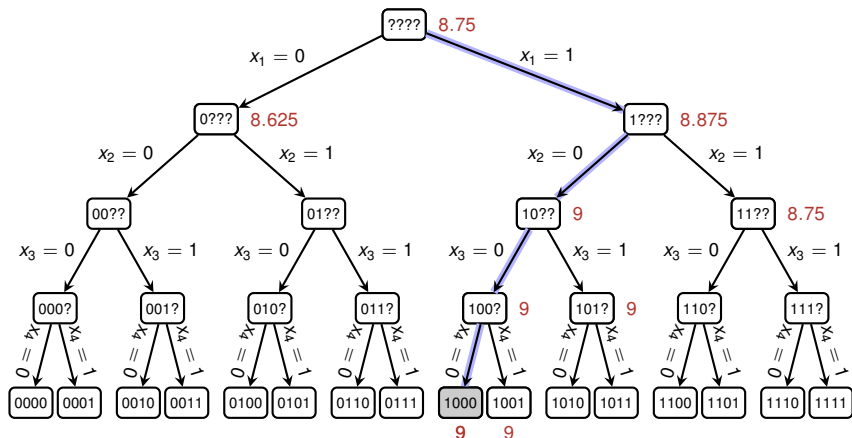
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

$1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 0 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1$



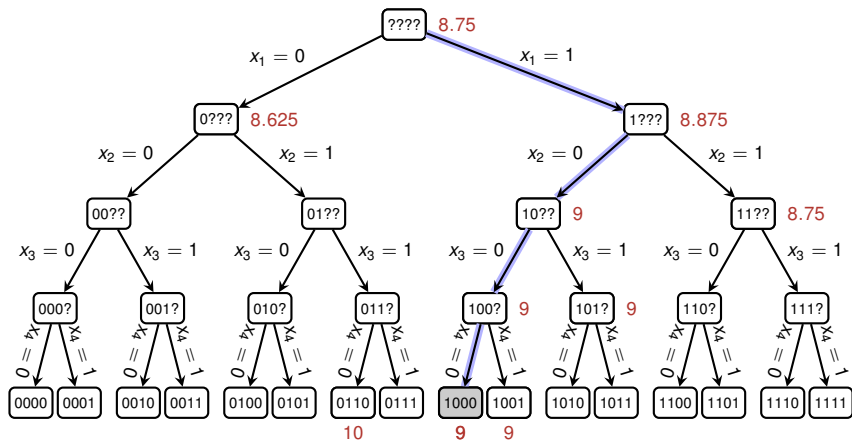
Run of GREEDY-3-CNF(φ, n, m)

$$1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 0 \wedge 1 \wedge 1 \wedge 1$$



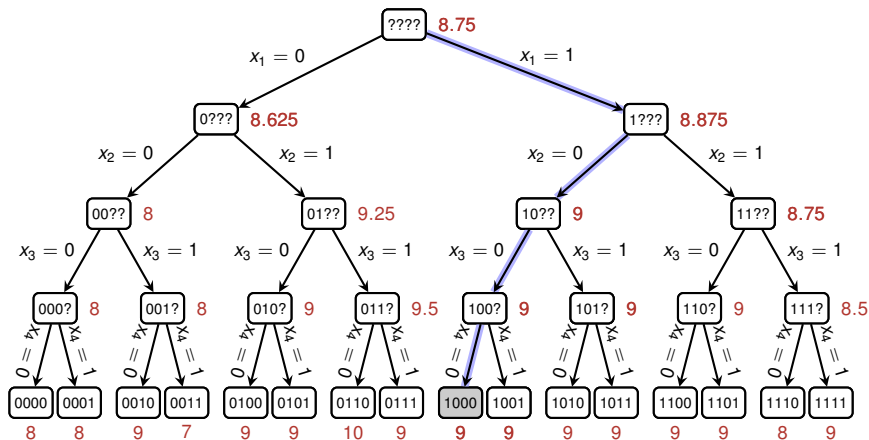
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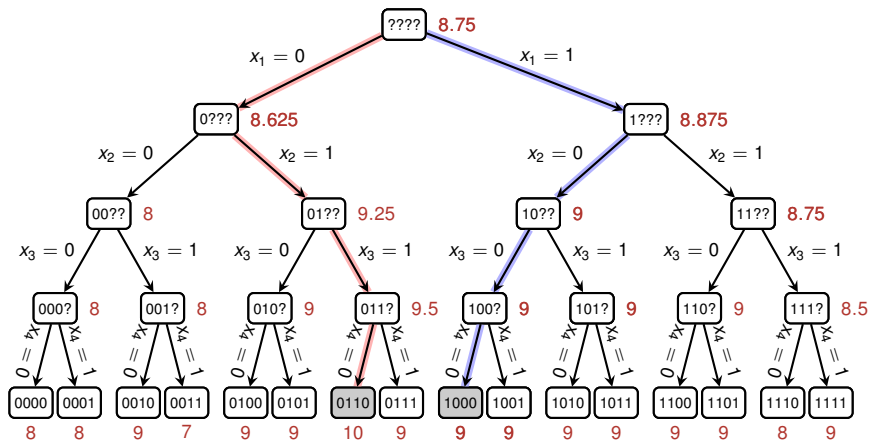
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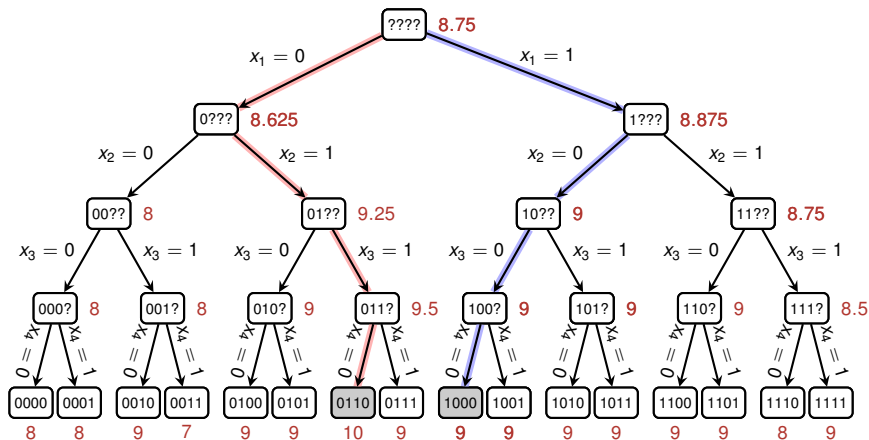
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Returned solution satisfies 9 out of 10 clauses, but the formula is satisfiable.



MAX-3-CNF: Concluding Remarks

— Theorem 35.6 —

Given an instance of MAX-3-CNF with n variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and m clauses, the randomised algorithm that sets each variable independently at random is a **randomised $8/7$ -approximation algorithm**.



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For any $\epsilon > 0$, there is **no** polynomial time $8/7 - \epsilon$ approximation algorithm of MAX3-SAT unless P=NP.

Essentially there is nothing smarter than just guessing!



Outline

Randomised Approximation

MAX-3-CNF

Weighted Vertex Cover

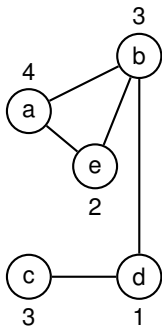
Weighted Set Cover



The **Weighted** Vertex-Cover Problem

Vertex Cover Problem

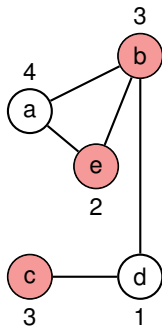
- **Given:** Undirected, **vertex-weighted** graph $G = (V, E)$
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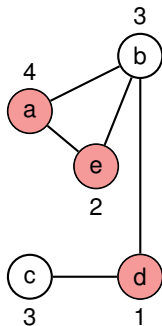
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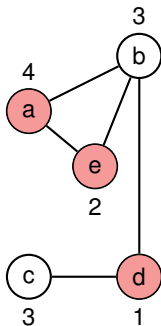


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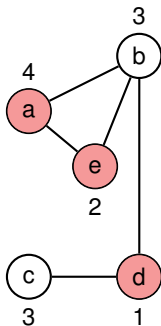


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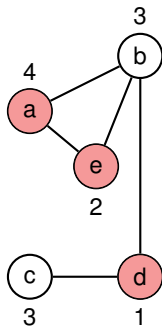


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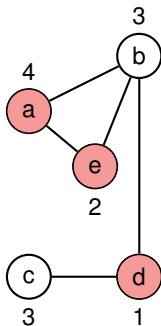


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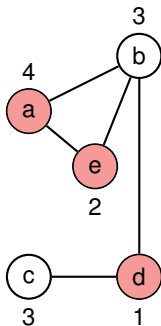


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- Perform all tasks with the **minimal amount of resources**



The Greedy Approach from (Unweighted) Vertex Cover

APPROX-VERTEX-COVER(G)

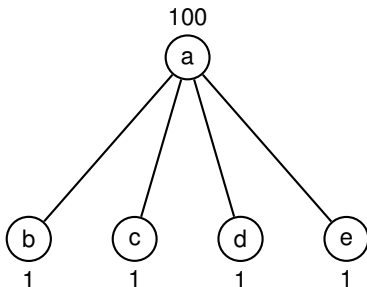
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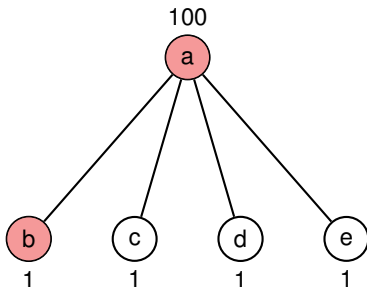
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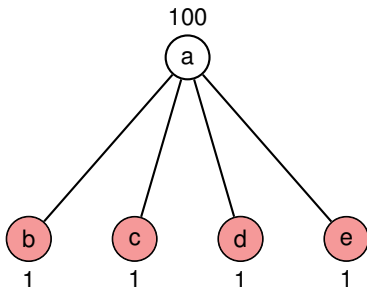
Computed solution has weight 101



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Optimal solution has weight 4



Invoking an (Integer) Linear Program

Idea: Round the solution of an associated linear program.



Invoking an (Integer) Linear Program

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0-1 Integer Program

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \sum_{v \in V} w(v)x(v) \\ \text{subject to} & x(u) + x(v) \geq 1 \quad \text{for each } (u, v) \in E \\ & x(v) \in \{0, 1\} \quad \text{for each } v \in V \end{array}$$



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Rounding Rule: if $x(v) \geq 1/2$ then round up, otherwise round down.



The Algorithm

APPROX-MIN-WEIGHT-VC(G, w)

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3 for each  $v \in V$ 
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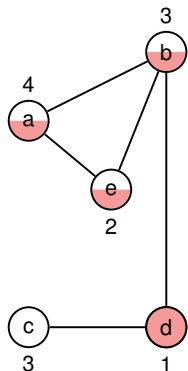
APPROX-MIN-WEIGHT-VC is a polynomial-time 2-approximation algorithm for the minimum-weight vertex-cover problem.

is polynomial-time because we can solve the linear program in polynomial time



Example of APPROX-MIN-WEIGHT-VC

$$\bar{x}(a) = \bar{x}(b) = \bar{x}(e) = \frac{1}{2}, \bar{x}(d) = 1, \bar{x}(c) = 0$$



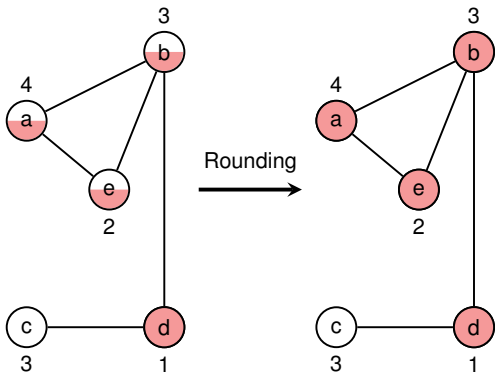
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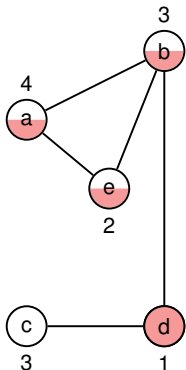
rounded solution of LP
with weight = 10



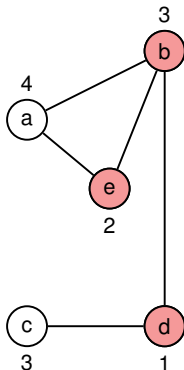
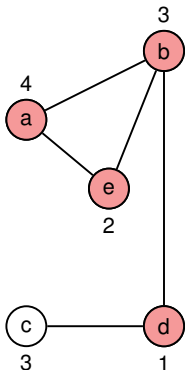
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Rounding
→



fractional solution of LP
with weight = 5.5

rounded solution of LP
with weight = 10

optimal solution
with weight = 6



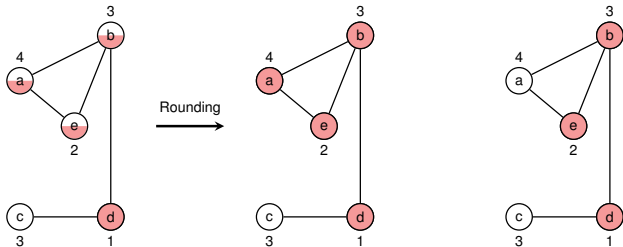
Approximation Ratio

Proof (Approximation Ratio is 2):



Approximation Ratio

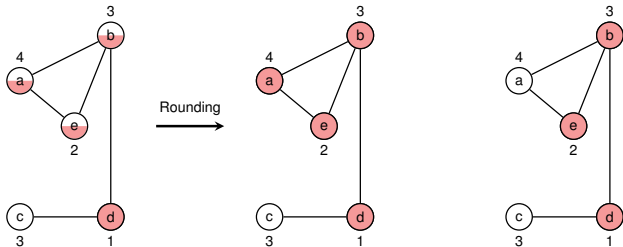
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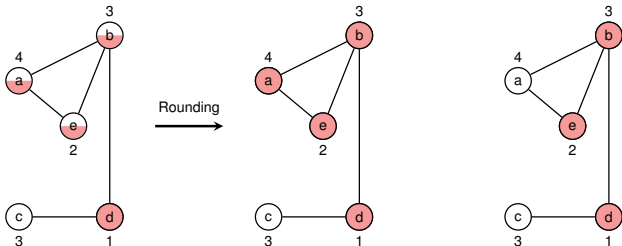
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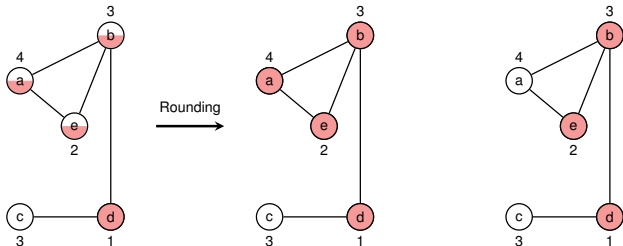


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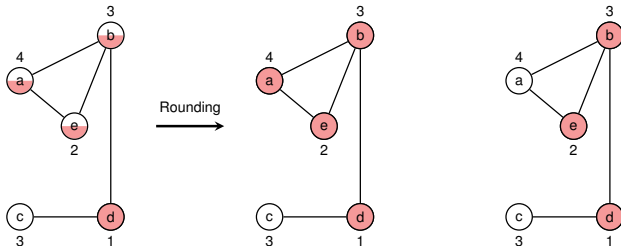
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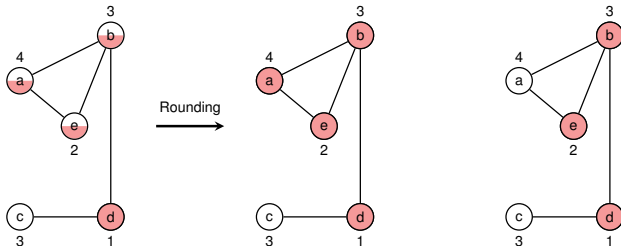
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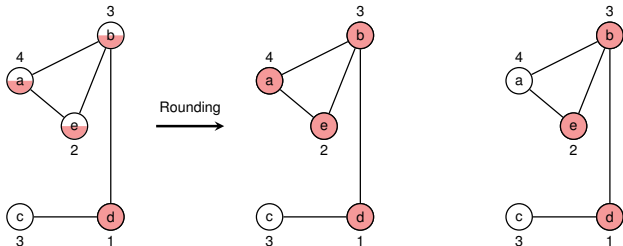
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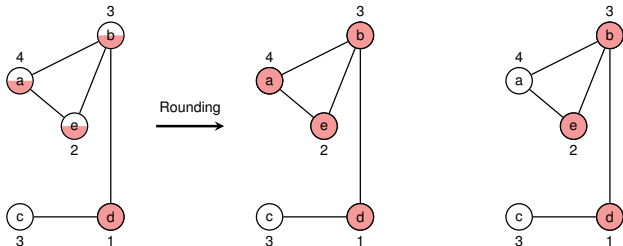
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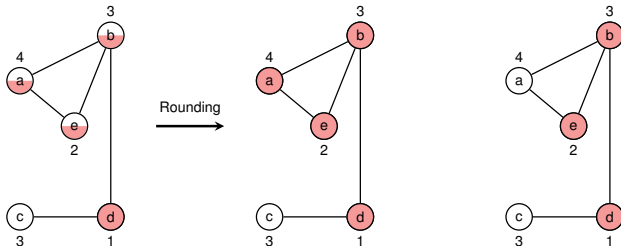
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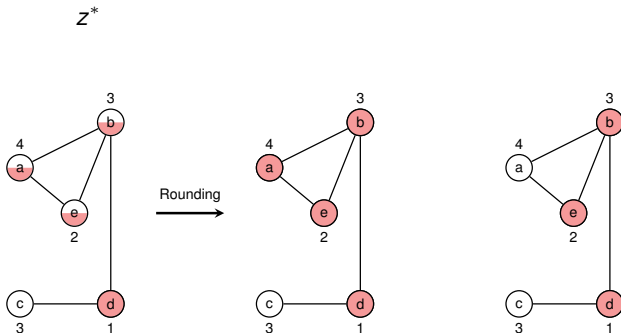
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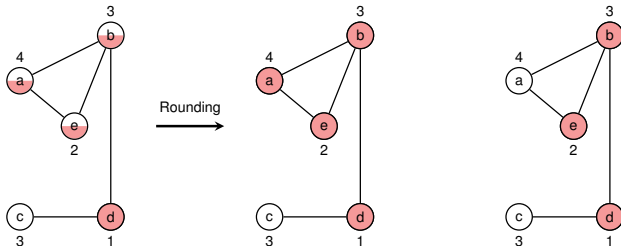
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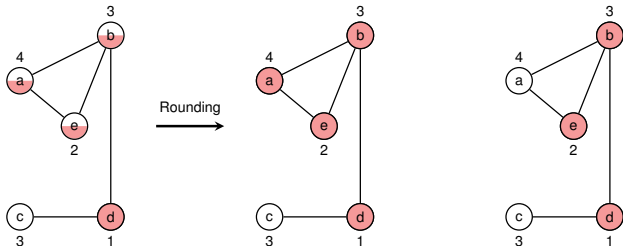
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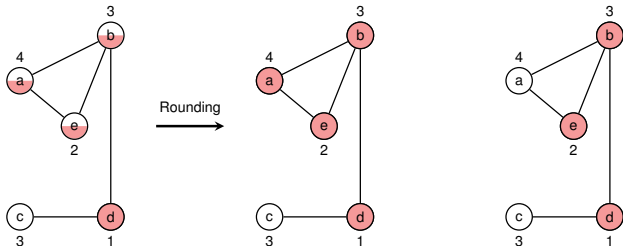
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Approximation Ratio

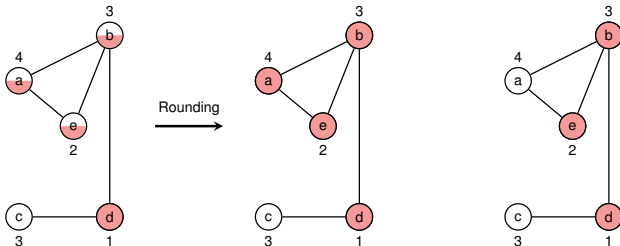
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Approximation Ratio

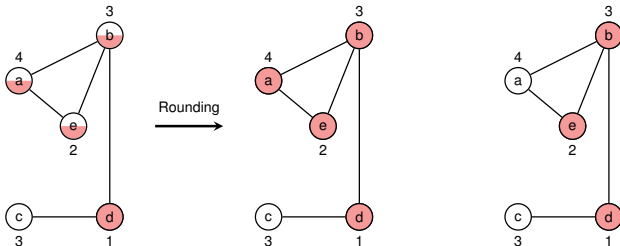
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- Let C^* be an optimal solution to the minimum-weight vertex cover problem
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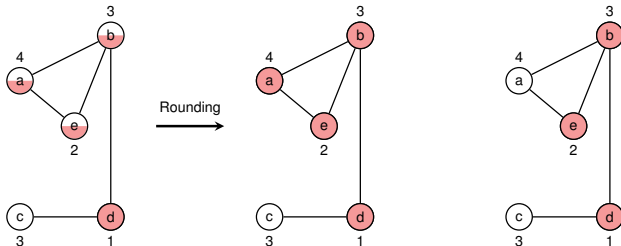
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Randomised Approximation

MAX-3-CNF

Weighted Vertex Cover

Weighted Set Cover



The **Weighted** Set-Covering Problem

Set Cover Problem

- **Given:** set X and a family of subsets \mathcal{F} , and a **cost function** $c : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$
- **Goal:** Find a **minimum-cost** subset $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad X = \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{C}} S.$$



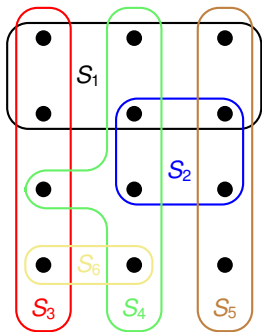
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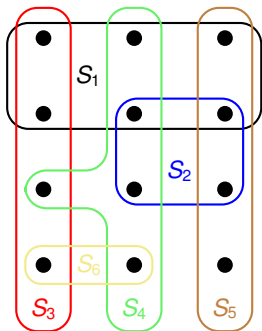
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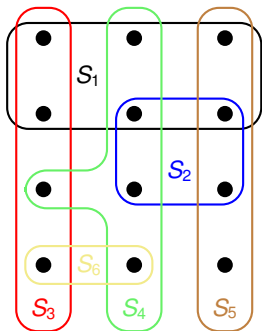
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Remarks:

- generalisation of the weighted vertex-cover problem
- models resource allocation problems



Setting up an Integer Program



Setting up an Integer Program

0-1 Integer Program

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \sum_{S \in \mathcal{F}} c(S)y(S) \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{S \in \mathcal{F}: x \in S} y(S) \geq 1 \quad \text{for each } x \in X \\ & y(S) \in \{0, 1\} \quad \text{for each } S \in \mathcal{F} \end{array}$$



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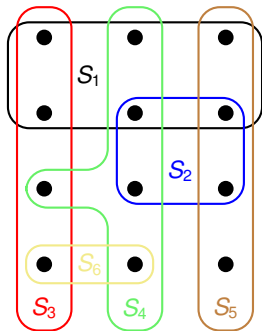
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Linear Program

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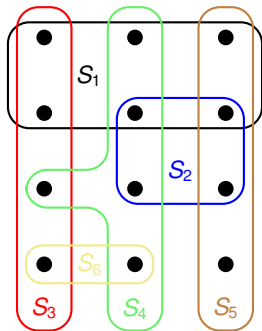
Back to the Example



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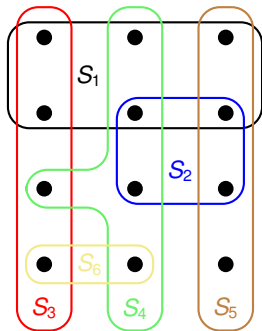
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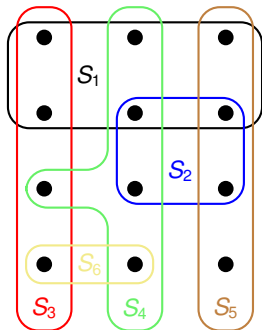


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Cost equals 8.5



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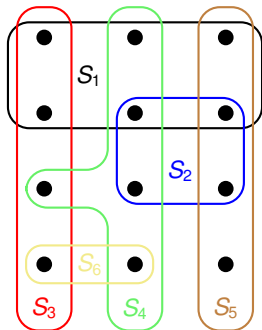
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The strategy employed for Vertex-Cover would take all 6 sets!



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The strategy employed for Vertex-Cover would take all 6 sets!

Even worse: If all y 's were below 1/2, we would not even return a valid cover!



Randomised Rounding

	S_1	S_2	S_3	S_4	S_5	S_6
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Idea: Interpret the y -values as **probabilities** for picking the respective set.



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- Let $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ be a **random set** with each set S being included independently with probability $y(S)$.
- More precisely, if y denotes the optimal solution of the LP, then we compute an integral solution \bar{y} by:

$$\bar{y}(S) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{with probability } y(S) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad \text{for all } S \in \mathcal{F}.$$



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- Therefore, $\mathbf{E}[\bar{y}(S)] = y(S)$.



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- The **expected cost** satisfies

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Proof of Lemma

Lemma

Let $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ be a random subset with each set S being included independently with probability $y(S)$.

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clearly runs in polynomial-time!



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- **Step 2:** The expected approximation ratio ✓
 - By previous lemma, the expected cost of one iteration is $\sum_{S \in \mathcal{F}} c(S) \cdot y(S)$.
 - Linearity $\Rightarrow \mathbf{E}[c(\mathcal{C})] \leq 2 \ln(n) \cdot \sum_{S \in \mathcal{F}} c(S) \cdot y(S) \leq 2 \ln(n) \cdot c(\mathcal{C}^*)$



Analysis of WEIGHTED SET COVER-LP

Theorem

- With probability at least $1 - \frac{1}{n}$, the returned set \mathcal{C} is a valid cover of X .
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Proof:

- **Step 1:** The probability that \mathcal{C} is a cover \checkmark
 - By previous Lemma, an element $x \in X$ is covered in one of the $2 \ln n$ iterations with probability at least $1 - \frac{1}{e}$, so that

$$\Pr[x \notin \cup_{S \in \mathcal{C}} S] \leq \left(\frac{1}{e}\right)^{2 \ln n} = \frac{1}{n^2}.$$

- This implies for the event that all elements are covered:

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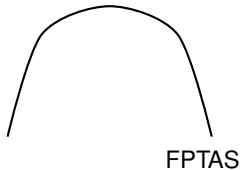
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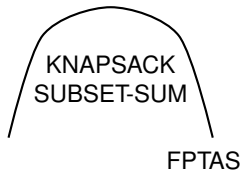
Typical Approach for Designing Approximation Algorithms based on LPs



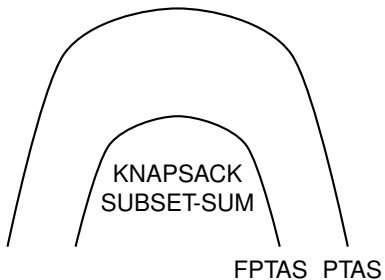
Spectrum of Approximations



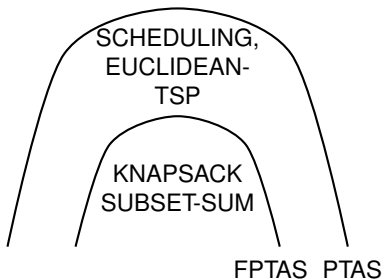
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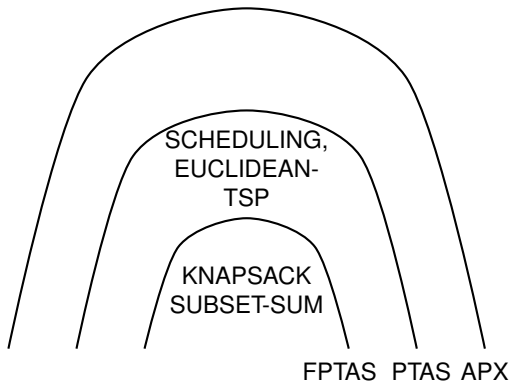
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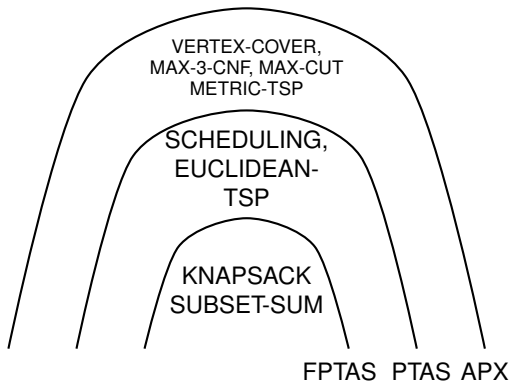
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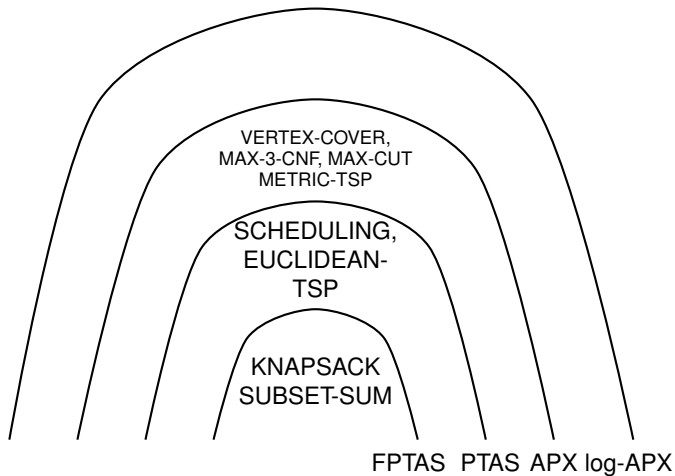
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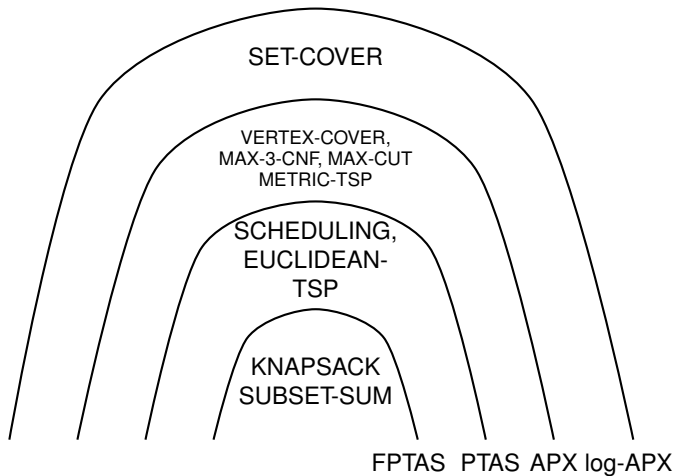
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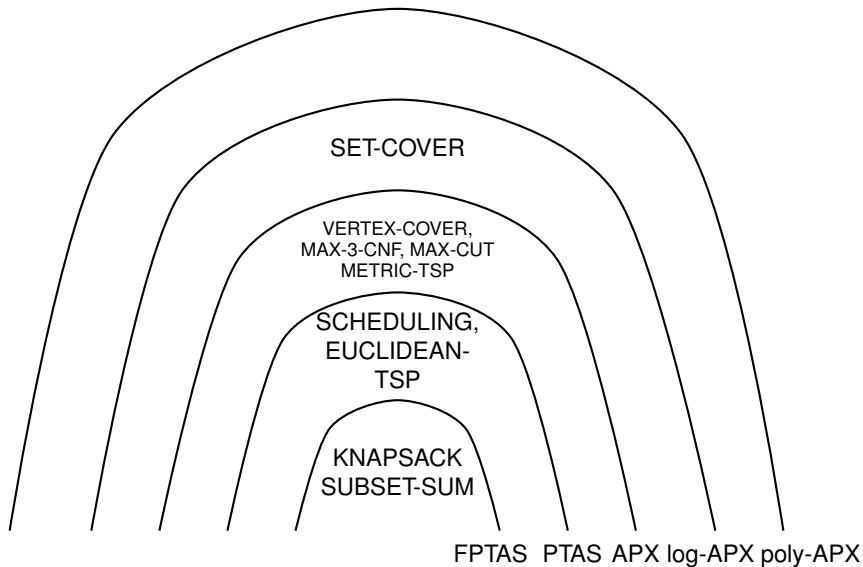
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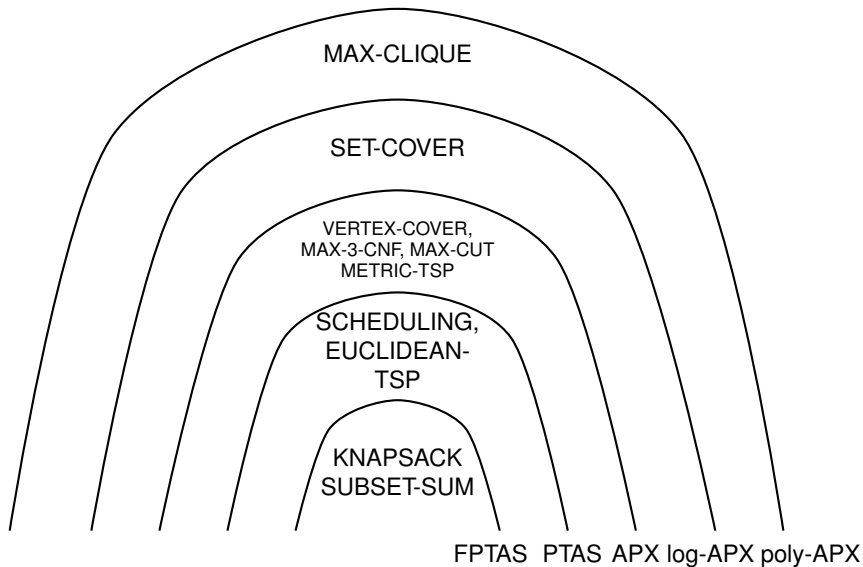
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