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Maximizing a submodular set function subject to a matroid constraint (extended abstract).

(English) [Zbl 1136.90449](#)

Fischetti, Matteo (ed.) et al., Integer programming and combinatorial optimization. 12th international IPCO conference, Ithaca, NY, USA, June 25–27, 2007. Proceedings. Berlin: Springer (ISBN 978-3-540-72791-0/pbk). Lecture Notes in Computer Science 4513, 182-196 (2007).

Let $f: 2^N \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$ be a submodular set function and \mathcal{M} a matroid on N . We consider the problem $\max_{S \in \mathcal{M}} f(S)$ and its approximation. It is also known, via a reduction from the k -cover problem, that there is no $(1 - 1/e + \epsilon)$ -approximation for any constant $\epsilon > 0$, unless $P = NP$. In this paper, we improve the $1/2$ -approximation to a $(1 - 1/e)$ -approximation, when f is a sum of weighted rank functions of matroids. This class of functions captures a number of interesting problems. We show that the generalized assignment problem (GAP) is a special case of our problem; although the reduction requires $|N|$ to be exponential in the original problem size, we are able to interpret the recent $(1 - 1/e)$ -approximation for GAP by L. Fleischer, M. X. Goemans, V. S. Mirrokni and M. Sviridenko [“Tight approximation algorithms for GAP”, *Proceedings of the 17th Annual ACM–SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms*, 611–620 (2006)] in our framework. This approximation is for variants of GAP with more complex constraints.

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For the entire collection see [\[Zbl 1121.90003\]](#).

MSC:

- [90C27](#) Combinatorial optimization
- [05B35](#) Combinatorial aspects of matroids and geometric lattices
- [52B40](#) Matroids in convex geometry (realizations in the context of convex polytopes, convexity in combinatorial structures, etc.)

Cited in **3** Reviews
Cited in **28** Documents

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