Lower Bounds on Testing Membership to a Polyhedron by Algebraic Decision Trees

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Abstract

We describe a new method of proving lower bounds on the depth of algebraic decision trees and apply it to prove a lower bound $\Omega(\log N)$ for testing membership to a convex polyhedron having N facets of all dimensions. This bound apparently does not follow from the methods developed by M. Ben-Or, A. Björner, L. Lovasz, A. Yao ([B 83], [BLY 92]) because the topological invariants used in these methods become trivial for the convex polyhedra.

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Introduction

The problem of testing membership to a semialgebraic set Σ was considered by many authors (see, e.g., [B 83], [B 92], [BKL 92], [BL 92], [BLY 92], [MH 85], [Y 92], [Y 93], [YR 80] and the references there). Here we consider a problem of testing membership to a convex polyhedron P in n-dimensional space $\mathbb{R}^n$. Let P have N facets of all the dimensions. In [MH 85] it was shown, in particular, that for this problem $O(\log N)n^{O(1)}$ upper bound is valid for the depth of linear decision trees, in [YR 80] a lower bound $\Omega(\log N)$ was obtained. A similar question was open for algebraic decision trees. In the present paper we prove a lower bound $\Omega(\log N)$ for the depth of algebraic decision trees testing membership to P (see the theorem below).

Several topological methods were introduced for obtaining lower bounds for the complexity of testing membership to Σ by linear decision trees, algebraic decision trees , algebraic computation trees (the definitions one can find in, e.g., [B 83]).

In [B 83] a lower bound $\Omega(\log C)$ was proved for the most powerful among the considered in this area computational models, namely algebraic computation trees, where C is the number of connected components of Σ or of the complement of Σ. After that, in [BLY 92], a lower bound $\Omega(\log \chi)$ for linear decision trees was proved , where χ is Euler characteristic of Σ, in [Y 92] this lower bound was extended to algebraic computation trees. A stronger lower bound $\Omega(\log B)$ was proved later in [BL 92], [B 92] for linear decision trees, where B is the sum of Betti numbers of Σ (obviously, $C, \chi \leq B$). In the recent paper [Y 93] the latter lower bound was extended to the algebraic decision trees.

Unfortunately, all the mentioned topological tools fail when Σ is a convex polyhedron, because $B = 1$ in this situation. The same is true for the method developed in [BLY 92] for linear decision trees, based on the minimal number of convex polyhedra onto which Σ can be partitioned.

To handle the case of a convex polyhedron, we introduce in section 1 another approach based on a short description of a set of all *sharp* points of a semialgebraic set W which is accepted by a branch of an algebraic decision tree. Sharp points of W are its singular (nonsmooth) points of a special kind. In order to obtain such a description we use complexity bounds for quantifier elimination in the theory of real closed fields (see [GV 88], [G 88], [R 92], [HRS 90]).

In section 2 we give an upper bound for the number of facets of P which intersect by a full dimension with the set W (using lemma 3 from section 1 which states that these are exactly the facets having intersections of a full dimension with the subset of sharp points).

In section 3 we complete the proof of the theorem.

We conclude the paper discussing a much easier (than obtained in the theorem) lower bound $\Omega(\log N_0)$, with N_0 being the number of all $(n-1)$-dimensional facets, which is valid also for a more powerful model of algebraic computaion trees.

Now let us formulate precisely the main result.

We consider algebraic decision trees of a fixed degree d (see, e.g., [B 83], [Y 93]). Suppose that such a tree T, of the depth k, tests a membership to a convex polyhedron $P \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Denote by N the number of facets of P of all dimensions from zero to n. In this paper we agree that a facet is "open", i.e., does not contain facets of smaller dimensions.

Theorem.

$$k \geq \Omega(\log N),$$

provided that $N \geq (dn)^{cn^2}$ *for some* $c > 0$.

Let us fix a branch of T which returns "yes". Denote by $f_i \in \mathbb{R}[X_1, \ldots, X_n]$, $1 \leq i \leq k$ the polynomials of degrees $\deg(f_i) \leq d$, attached to the vertices of T along the fixed branch. Without loss of generality, we can assume that the corresponding signs of polynomials along the branch are

$$f_1 = \cdots = f_{k_1} = 0,\ f_{k_1+1} > 0, \ldots, f_k > 0.$$

Then the (accepted) semialgebraic set

$$W = \{f_1 = \cdots = f_{k_1} = 0,\ f_{k_1+1} > 0, \ldots, f_k > 0\}$$

lies in P. Our main technical problem is to give an upper bound for a number of facets Π of P such that $\dim(\Pi) = \dim(\Pi \cap W)$.

1 Sharp points

For an m-plane $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and a point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ denote by $Q(x)$ the m-plane, collinear to Q and containing x.

For a facet Π denote by $\overline{\Pi}$ the $\dim(\Pi)$-plane, containing Π.

Two planes Q_1, Q_2 of arbitrary dimensions are called transversal if

$$\dim(Q_1(0) \cap Q_2(0)) = \max\{0,\ \dim(Q_1(0)) + \dim(Q_2(0)) - n\}.$$

Lemma 1. *For any pair* i, j *with* $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ *and any* i*-plane* $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ *there exists a subset* $\{l_1, \ldots, l_j\} \subset \{1, \ldots, n\}$ *such that* Q *is transversal to* j*-subspace with coordinates* $X_{l_1}, \ldots, X_{l_j}$.

Proof. There exists a subset $\{m_1, \ldots, m_i\} \subset \{1, \ldots n\}$ such that Q projects bijectively onto i-subspace with coordinates $X_{m_1}, \ldots, X_{m_i}$ (along all the rest coordinates). It is sufficient to prove that the subset $\{l_1, \ldots, l_j\}$ exists for the latter. If $n - i \geq j$ then an arbitrary subset of j elements from $\{l_1, \ldots, l_{n-i}\} = \{1, \ldots, n\} \setminus \{m_1, \ldots, m_i\}$ satisfies the requirement. Else, the set $\{l_1, \ldots, l_{n-i}, l_{n-i+1}, \ldots, l_j\}$ where $\{l_{n-i+1}, \ldots, l_j\}$ is an arbitrary subset of $i + j - n$ elements from $\{m_1, \ldots, m_i\}$, satisfies the requirement.

Lemma 2. *There exists a rotation of coordinates $X_1, \dots, X_n$ such that after this rotation for every subset $\{l_1, \dots, l_j\} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ and for every facet Π of P, the subspace with the coordinates $X_{l_1}, \dots, X_{l_j}$ and the plane $\overline{\Pi}$ become transversal.*

Proof. Consider the algebraic variety $\mathcal{R}$ of all rotations of coordinates $X_1, \dots, X_n$. The nontransversality of a coordinate subspace to a facet Π imposes algebraic conditions (in the form of polynomial equations) on $\mathcal{R}$.

These equations do not vanish simultaneously at every point of $\mathcal{R}$. Indeed, fix an i-facet Π and a subspace with coordinates $X_{l_1}, \dots, X_{l_j}$. Due to lemma 1, there exists a coordinate j-subspace which is transversal to $\overline{\Pi}$. Choose a rotation which forces this subspace to coincide with the subspace with coordinates $X_{l_1}, \dots, X_{l_j}$.

It follows that for a fixed pair of i-facet and j-subspace the subvariety of all rotations satisfying the equations has the dimension smaller than $\dim(\mathcal{R})$. Since the family of all facets is finite, almost all rotations from $\mathcal{R}$ satisfy the requirement of the lemma.

Below we suppose that the coordinate system meets the requirements of lemma 2.

Definition. *For arbitrary i, $0 \leq i \leq n$, a point $x \in W$ is called* i-sharp in W *if there exists a real $c < 1$ such that for every real $\varepsilon > 0$ and for every subset $\{j_1, \dots, j_i\} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$, for any two points $x^{(1)},\ x^{(2)} \in W \cap \{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}$ the following holds: if*

$$\| x - x^{(1)} \| = \| x - x^{(2)} \| = \varepsilon$$

then

$$\| x^{(1)} - x^{(2)} \| < 2\varepsilon c.$$

Here $\| \cdot \|$ denotes the Euclidean norm in $\mathbb{R}^K$.

Denote the semialgebraic set of all i-sharp points by S_i.

Lemma 3. *Let for a i-facet Π of P the set $W \cap \Pi$ contain a neighbourhood of some point x in Π. Then x is i-sharp.*

Proof. Due to the supposed property of the rotation of the coordinate system (see lemma 2), x is a vertex (zero-facet) of the polyhedron

$$\mathcal{P} = P \cap (\{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}(x))$$

for any subset of i elements

$$\{j_1, \dots, j_i\} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

Fix one of such subsets $\{j_1, \dots, j_i\}$. For every $\varepsilon > 0$ and each pair

$$x^{(1)},\ x^{(2)} \in W \cap \{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}$$

such that

$$\| x - x^{(1)} \| = \| x - x^{(2)} \| = \varepsilon$$

the relation

$$\| x^{(1)} - x^{(2)} \| < 2\varepsilon$$

holds according to triangle inequality because x is a vertex of $\mathcal{P}$. The existence of the required c in the definition for the subset $\{j_1, \dots, j_i\}$ follows from the existence of the maxima (less than π) among all possible flat angles in $\mathcal{P}$ with the vertex in x (taking into the account that the set of all such flat angles is compact). Then we take the maxima over all subsets $\{j_1, \dots, j_i\} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Lemma 4. $\dim(S_i) \leq i$.

Proof. Suppose that, contrary to our claim,

$$\dim(S_i) = i_1 \geq i + 1.$$

Let a point $x \in S_i$ have a smooth i_1-dimensional neighbourhood in S_i (in fact almost all the points of S_i are smooth) and denote by T_x the tangent i_1-plane to S_i at x.

Due to lemma 1, there exists a subset $\{j_1, \dots, j_i\} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that T_x and $\{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}(x)$ intersect transversaly, i.e.,

$$\dim\Big(T_x \cap (\{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}(x))\Big) = i_1 - i.$$

By the implicit function theorem, for a neighbourhood σ of x in S_i, the intersection

$$\sigma \cap (\{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}(x))$$

is smooth and its dimension is $i_1 - i$ (its tangent plane at x is $T_x \cap \{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}(x)$). Since the dimension $i_1 - i \geq 1$ this contradicts to i-sharpness of x, because by the definition of a smooth neighbourhood, for a sequence $\{\varepsilon_r\}$ such that $\lim_{r \to \infty} \varepsilon_r = 0$ there exist two sequences $\{x_r^{(1)}\}$, $\{x_r^{(2)}\} \in \sigma \cap (\{X_{j_1} = \cdots = X_{j_i} = 0\}(x))$ such that for each sufficiently large r

$$\| x - x_r^{(1)} \| = \| x - x_r^{(2)} \| = \varepsilon_r$$

and

$$\lim_{r \to \infty} \frac{\| x_r^{(1)} - x_r^{(2)} \|}{2\varepsilon_r} = 1.$$

2 The proof of the theorem

Lemma 5. *For every i, $0 \leq i \leq n-1$, the number ν_i of all i-facets Π of P such that $\dim(\Pi \cap W) = i$, does not exceed $(kd)^{O(n^2)}$.*

Proof. First let us reduce the lemma to the case of compact P. Observe that there exists a linear form $L = \beta_1 X_1 + \cdots + \beta_n X_n$ with $\beta_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $1 \leq i \leq n$ such that for every $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ the intersection $\{L + \gamma \geq 0\} \cap P$ is compact.

For each i-facet Π of P with $\dim(\Pi \cap W) = i$ choose a point $x_\Pi \in (\Pi \cap W)$ such that a suitable neighbourhood of x_Π in Π is contained in W. Take γ such that $x_\Pi \in P' = \{L + \gamma \geq 0\} \cap P$ for all Π. The number of all i-facets Π' of P' such that $\dim(\Pi' \cap W) = i$ is greater or equal to ν_i. From now on we assume, without loss of generality, that P is compact.

Following the definition, one can determine the set S_i of all i-sharp points by a formula Φ_i of first-order theory of reals. Formula Φ_i involves quantifiers and free variables $X_1, \ldots, X_n$.

We can assume that Φ_i is in a prenex form with the prefix of the following kind:

$$\exists c \forall \varepsilon \forall X_1^{(1)} \cdots \forall X_n^{(1)} \forall X_1^{(2)} \cdots \forall X_n^{(2)}.$$

The quantifier-free part of Φ_i is a Boolean combination of atomic subformulas of the kind $h > 0$ or $h = 0$ where h is a polynomial in variables

$$c,\ \varepsilon,\ X_1^{(1)}, \ldots, X_n^{(1)},\ X_1^{(2)}, \ldots, X_n^{(2)},\ X_1, \ldots, X_n$$

of a total degree at most $\max\{2,\ d\}$. The number of atomic subformulas is less than $O(k)$.

One can apply to Φ_i an algorithm for quantifier elimination in the theory of real closed fields (see [GV 88], [G 88], [HRS 90], [R 92]). The result would be an equivalent to Φ_i quantifier-free formula in a disjunctive normal form:

$$\bigvee_{1 \leq j \leq J} (h^{(j)} = 0 \ \&\ g_1^{(j)} > 0 \ \& \cdots \&\ g_{I_j}^{(j)} > 0).$$

Here $h^{(j)},\ g_1^{(j)}, \ldots, g_{I_j}^{(j)} \in \mathbb{R}[X_1, \ldots, X_n]$. Moreover, according to [R 92] (cf. also the estimates in [GV 88], [G 88], [HRS 90]) the following bounds hold:

$$\begin{aligned} I_j &< (kd)^{O(n)}, \\ J &< (kd)^{O(n^2)}, \qquad\qquad (1) \\ \deg_{X_1,\ldots,X_n}(h^{(j)}),\ \deg_{X_1,\ldots,X_n}(g_s^{(j)}) &< (kd)^{O(n)}. \end{aligned}$$

Due to lemma 3, for an i-facet Π of P, the equality $\dim(\Pi \cap W) = i$ is equivalent to $\dim(\Pi \cap S_i) = i$, so we can replace in the formulation of the lemma the former equality by the latter one. Moreover, taking into the account the inequality $J < (kd)^{O(n^2)}$, it is sufficient to prove the lemma separately for the conditions $\dim(\Pi \cap S_i^{(j)}) = i$ for all $1 \leq j \leq J$ instead of $\dim(\Pi \cap W) = i$, where

$$S_i^{(j)} = \{h^{(j)} = 0 \ \&\ g_1^{(j)} > 0 \ \& \cdots \&\ g_{I_j}^{(j)} > 0\} \subset S_i.$$

Thus, we shall prove that the number $\nu_i^{(j)}$ of all i-facets Π of P such that $\dim(\Pi \cap S_i^{(j)}) = i$ does not exceed $(kd)^{O(n^2)}$.

In case $i = 0$, the set S_i consists, due to lemma 4, of a finite number of points. Their number is less than $(kd)^{O(n^2)}$ according to the estimates from [M 64], [T 65], taking into the account the bounds (1). In the remaining part of this proof we shall assume that $i \geq 1$.

In the space $\mathbb{R}^{K}$ one can introduce the Zariski topology (for its properties used below, see, e.g., [H 77]), in which each closed set coincides with a set of all zeros of a multivariate polynomial with real coefficients.

The Zariski topology on $\mathbb{R}^{K}$ is Noetherian. In relation to it, the concepts of an irreducibility (over $\mathbb{R}$) of a set, and of the Krull dimension of a set are definable (note that for semialgebraic sets Krull dimension coincides with the Euclidean dimension). The theorem on the dimension of intersection is valid, which implies that for two closed irreducible subsets $V_1,\ V_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^{K}$, either $\dim(V_1 \cap V_2) < \min\{\dim(V_1),\ \dim(V_2)\}$, either $V_1 \subset V_2$ or $V_2 \subset V_1$.

Each subset of $\mathbb{R}^{K}$ can be (uniquely) represented as a finite union of its irreducible components. Let V be an irreducible component of $S_i^{(j)}$ (by lemma 4, $\dim(V) \leq i$), and Π be an i-facet of P such that $\dim(\Pi \cap V) = i$. Applying the theorem on the dimension of intersection to the Zariski closure $\overline{V}$ of V and to $\overline{\Pi}$, we conclude that $\overline{V} \subset \overline{\Pi}$, hence $\overline{V} = \overline{\Pi}$. Using this property, represent $S_i^{(j)}$ as a union of its irreducible components:

$$S_i^{(j)} = \bigcup_{1 \leq l \leq r_1} V^{(l)} \cup \bigcup_{r_1+1 \leq l \leq r} V^{(l)} \tag{2}$$

where for each $l,\ 1 \leq l \leq r_1$, *there exists* an i-facet Π of P such that $V^{(l)} \subset \Pi$ and for each $l,\ r_1 + 1 \leq l \leq r$, *for every* i-facet Π of P

$$\dim(V^{(l)} \cap \Pi) < i.$$

Consider an irreducible component $V^{(l)},\ 1 \leq l \leq r_1$ and the corresponding i-facet Π (such that $\dim(\Pi \cap V^{(l)}) = i$). Since $V^{(l)}$ is closed in $S_i^{(j)}$ and $\overline{V^{(l)}} = \overline{\Pi}$, we get that $V^{(l)} \supset \overline{\Pi} \cap S_i^{(j)}$, hence $V^{(l)} = \overline{\Pi} \cap S_i^{(j)}$. Because $\dim(\Pi \cap S_i^{(j)}) = i$, we conclude that $h^{(j)}$ vanishes identically on $\overline{\Pi}$, therefore

$$V^{(l)} = \overline{\Pi} \cap S_i^{(j)} = \overline{\Pi} \cap \{g_1^{(j)} > 0 \ \& \cdots \& \ g_{I_j}^{(j)} > 0\}. \tag{3}$$

Introduce a polynomial

$$g = \prod_{1 \leq l \leq I_j} g_l^{(j)},$$

and choose a real $\varepsilon > 0$ satisfying the following requirements:

(a) ε is smaller than the absolute value of any nonzero critical value of the restriction of g on $\overline{\Pi}$ for any i-facet Π of P (by Sard's theorem [Hi 76], there exist only a finite number of critical values);

(b) polynomial $g - \varepsilon$ does not vanish identically on any irreducible component of every intersection $V^{(l)} \cap \overline{\Pi},\ 1 \leq l \leq r$ (there exists at most finite number of possible values of ε such that $g-\varepsilon$ vanishes identically on $V^{(l)} \cap \overline{\Pi}$).

The property (a) implies (involving the implicit function theorem) that $\overline{\Pi} \cap \{g=\varepsilon\}$ is a nonsingular hypersurface in $\overline{\Pi}$.

> From the property (b) it follows that

$$\dim(\{g=\varepsilon\} \cap V^{(l)} \cap \overline{\Pi}) < i-1 \tag{4}$$

for each $r_1+1 \leq l \leq r$.

Observe that, due to (a) and according to elementary facts from Morse theory [Hi 76], every connected component of the set $V^{(l)} = \overline{\Pi} \cap \{g_1^{(j)} > 0 \ \& \cdots \& \ g_{I_j}^{(j)} > 0\}$ (see (3)) containes at least one (necessarily compact) connected component of the hypersurface $\{g=\varepsilon\}$ in $\overline{\Pi}$ [1] (note that the signs of all polynomials $g_1^{(j)}, \ldots, g_{I_j}^{(j)}$ are constant on each connected component of $\{g=\varepsilon\}$). Thus, in order to estimate the number $\nu_i^{(j)}$ of all i-facets Π of P such that $\dim(\Pi \cap S_i^{(j)}) = i$, it is sufficient to bound properly the number of all connected components of $\{g=\varepsilon\}$ in $\overline{\Pi} \cap \{g_1^{(j)} > 0 \ \& \cdots \& \ g_{I_j}^{(j)} > 0\}$ for all i-facets Π.

The rest of the proof of the lemma closely follows [GKS 93].

Because of the property (a) of ε, for a fixed i-facet Π, each compact connected component G_Π of $\overline{\Pi} \cap \{g=\varepsilon\}$ divides $\overline{\Pi} \setminus G_\Pi$ into exactly two connected components (according to Jordan-Brouwer theorem, see, e.g., [D 72]). Hence, the zero Betti number $b_0(\overline{\Pi} \setminus G_\Pi) = 2$. Then, Alexander's duality principle (see, e.g., [D 72]) implies that the $(i-1)$th Betti number,

$$b_{i-1}(G_\Pi) = b_0(\overline{\Pi} \setminus G_\Pi) - 1 = 1.$$

It follows that

$$\nu_i^{(j)} \leq \sum_{\Pi} \sum_{G_\Pi} b_{i-1}(G_\Pi)$$

where the exterior sum ranges over all i-facets Π of P and the interior ranges over all connected components G_Π of $\overline{\Pi} \cap \{g=\varepsilon\} \cap \{g_1^{(j)} > 0 \ \& \cdots \& \ g_{I_j}^{(j)} > 0\}$.

Relations (2) and (3) imply:

$$S_i^{(j)} \cap \{g=\varepsilon\} = \left(\bigcup_{\Pi} \bigcup_{G_\Pi} G_\Pi \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{r_1+1 \leq l \leq r} V^{(l)} \cap \{g=\varepsilon\} \right) \qquad (5).$$

Here the union $\cup_\Pi$ ranges over all i-facets Π of P.

Let us analyse the pairwise intersections of the sets involved in the union (5).

(i) For a fixed Π, any two different sets of the kind G_Π do not intersect being two different connected components.

[1] Actually there exists *exactly* one connected component of $\{g=\varepsilon\}$ of this kind [GV 92], we do not use this fact here.

(ii) For two different facets Π and Π', two sets G_Π and $G_{\Pi'}$ do not intersect. Indeed, G_Π and $G_{\Pi'}$ lie in the Euclidean closures $cl(\Pi)$, $cl(\Pi')$ of the facets Π, Π' respectively. Suppose that there exists a point $x \in G_\Pi \cap cl(\Pi) \cap cl(\Pi')$, thus $x \in cl(\Pi) \setminus \Pi$. Then each point of a neighbourhood of x satisfies all the inequalities $g_l^{(j)} > 0,\ 1 \le l \le I_j$. Hence (because $h^{(j)}$ vanishes identically on $\overline{\Pi}$),

$$S_i^{(j)} \cap (\overline{\Pi} \setminus cl(\Pi)) \neq \emptyset$$

which contradicts to $S_i^{(j)} \subset P$.

(iii) According to (4), for each i-facet Π of P the following holds:

$$\dim(G_\Pi \cap (\bigcup_{r_1+1 \le l \le r} V^{(l)} \cap \{g = \varepsilon\})) < i - 1.$$

Properties (i)—(iii) imply that $(i-1)$-th Betti numbers of all pairwise intersections of the terms of the union (5) are zeroes. Therefore, applying Mayer–Vietoris theorem (see, e.g., [D 72]) to the union (5), we get:

$$b_{i-1}\left(\left(\bigcup_{\Pi}\bigcup_{G_\Pi} G_\Pi\right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{r_1+1 \le l \le r} V^{(l)} \cap \{g = \varepsilon\}\right)\right) \ge$$

$$\ge \sum_{\Pi}\sum_{G_\Pi} b_{i-1}(G_\Pi) + b_{i-1}\left(\bigcup_{r_1+1 \le l \le r} V^{(l)} \cap \{g = \varepsilon\}\right). \qquad (6)$$

The right side of the inequality (6) is obviously not less than the first item

$$\sum_{\Pi}\sum_{G_\Pi} b_{i-1}(G_\Pi)$$

which is an upper bound for $\nu_i^{(j)}$ (see above).

On the other hand, the left side of (6), being (see (5)) equal to

$$b_{i-1}(\{h^{(j)} = 0 \ \&\ g_1^{(j)} > 0 \ \&\cdots\&\ g_{I_j}^{(j)} > 0 \ \&\ g = \varepsilon\}),$$

does not exceed $(kd)^{O(n^2)}$, according to [M 64], [T 65] and taking into the account the bounds (1).

Hence the estimate $\nu_i^{(j)} < (kd)^{O(n^2)}$ is established. Since, by (1), $J < (kd)^{O(n^2)}$, we get:

$$\nu_i \le \sum_{1 \le j \le J} \nu_i^{(j)} < (kd)^{O(n^2)}.$$

The lemma is proved.

3 Algebraic computation trees

Consider now *algebraic computation trees* which constitute a more powerful computational model than algebraic decision trees (of a fixed degree) which we were dealing with so far (see, e.g., [B 83]).

Let an algebraic computation tree T_0 of the depth k_0 test a membership to an n-dimensional polyhedron $P \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Denote by N_0 the number of all $(n-1)$-facets of P.

We claim that $k_0 \geq \Omega(\log(N_0))$.

In order to prove that, consider any branch of T_0 with the output "yes". Let

$$W_1 = \{f_1^{(1)} = \cdots = f_{k_2}^{(1)} = 0 \ \& \ f_{k_2+1}^{(1)} > 0 \ \& \cdots \& \ f_{k_0}^{(1)} > 0\} \subset P$$

be the semialgebraic (accepted) set, corresponding to this branch. In this formula $f_i^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}[X_1, \ldots, X_n]$, $1 \leq i \leq k_0$ are all the polynomials occuring along the branch.

Obviously, $\deg(f_i^{(1)}) \leq 2^{k_0}$ (cf. [B 83]).

Assume that for a $(n-1)$-facet Π of P, the dimension $\dim(W_1 \cap \Pi) = n-1$. Here, the $(n-1)$-plane $\overline{\Pi}$ is defined by

$$\overline{\Pi} = \{ \sum_{1 \leq j \leq n} \alpha_j X_j - \beta = 0\}$$

for some $\alpha_j, \ \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

Denote

$$f^{(1)} = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k_2} (f_i^{(1)})^2.$$

Evidently, $f^{(1)} \not\equiv 0$, otherwise the dimension of the open set W_1, $\dim(W_1) = n$, which means that $W_1 \cap (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus P) \neq \emptyset$.

Because polynomial $f^{(1)}$ vanishes on $\overline{\Pi}$, the linear expression $\sum \alpha_j X_j - \beta$ divides $f^{(1)}$, therefore the number of $(n-1)$-facets such that $\dim(W_1 \cap \Pi) = n-1$ does not exceed

$$\deg(f^{(1)}) < 2^{O(k_0)}.$$

Since there are at most 3^{k_0} branches in T_1, arguing as at the end of the proof of the theorem, we get the lower bound

$$k_0 \geq \Omega(\log(N_0)).$$

Note that the number of all facets of all dimensions $N \leq (\max\{2, \ \frac{N_0}{n}\})^n$, and this estimate is sharp. Thus, the bounds $\log(N)$ (from the theorem) and $\log(N_0)$ can differ by a factor $O(n)$.

An interesting open problem remains lower bound $\Omega(\log(N))$ for the depth of algebraic computation trees.

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