

Contents

Abstract	v
Acknowledgements	vii
1 Introduction: summary and main results	1
1.1 Convex geometries and antimatroids	1
1.2 Finding maximum-weight convex/feasible sets	2
1.3 The realizability problem	3
1.4 Contributions and collaborations	4
2 Background	5
2.1 Basics	5
2.2 Graph theory	5
2.3 Order theory	6
2.4 Geometry	7
2.5 Complexity theory	7
3 An abstract notion of convexity	9
3.1 Convex geometries	9
3.1.1 From closure operators to convex geometries	9
3.1.2 Antimatroids and shellings	12
3.1.3 Copoints and bases	14
3.1.4 Free sets, circuits and roots	15
3.1.5 Occurrences, applications and research topics	17
3.2 Examples of convex geometries	19
3.2.1 Convex geometries on posets	19
3.2.2 Shellings of chordal graphs	20
3.2.3 Affine convex geometries	22
3.2.4 Search antimatroids in (directed) graphs	24
3.2.5 Miscellaneous	25

4 The maximum-weight convex set problem	27
4.1 A classic optimization problem	27
4.1.1 Problem definition	28
4.1.2 Computational hardness	29
4.1.3 Note on polyhedral results	31
4.2 Special cases solvable in polynomial time	31
4.2.1 Result for poset convex geometries	31
4.2.2 Result for double poset convex geometries	33
4.2.3 Result for tree convex geometries on vertices	34
4.2.4 Result for tree convex geometries on edges	35
4.2.5 Result for affine convex geometries in the plane	35
4.3 The case of split graphs	36
4.3.1 Characterization of the feasible sets	36
4.3.2 Connection between split graph shellings and posets	41
4.3.3 The base poset	44
4.3.4 Optimization results	46
4.3.5 Free sets and circuits characterization	47
4.3.6 Beyond this special case	49
5 Finding a maximum-weight convex set in a chordal graph	51
5.1 More on chordal graphs	51
5.1.1 Definitions	51
5.1.2 The clique-separator graph	52
5.2 Problems	53
5.2.1 Main problem	53
5.2.2 Dummy vertices and sub-problems	54
5.3 A special case solvable in polynomial time	55
5.3.1 The rooted poset	56
5.3.2 Reduction to a poset problem	58
5.4 A polynomial-time algorithm	60
5.4.1 Computation phase	61
5.4.2 Preprocessing	63
5.5 Analysis	64
5.5.1 Time complexity	65
5.5.2 Detailed example	67

6 The realizability problem for convex geometries	71
6.1 Basics of computational geometry	71
6.1.1 Affine convex geometries	72
6.1.2 Abstract order types and chirotopes	73
6.1.3 Existential theory of the reals	76
6.2 Hardness result for the realizability problem	77
6.2.1 Overview	77
6.2.2 Technical properties	78
6.2.3 The fixed ring	83
6.2.4 The reduction	84
7 Conclusion	89
7.1 Further work	89
7.2 Closing remark	90
A Allowable sequences and realizability problems	91
A.1 Allowable sequences	91
A.2 Realizability for allowable sequence	94
A.3 Results for simple allowable sequences	95
A.4 Realizability for convex geometries	96
Bibliography	101
Index	113