



# Phase Transitions of Disordered Traveling Salesperson Problems solved with Linear Programming and Cutting Planes

Hendrik Schawe    Alexander K. Hartmann

March 9, 2016  
Regensburg

# Traveling Salesperson Problem

## Linear Programming

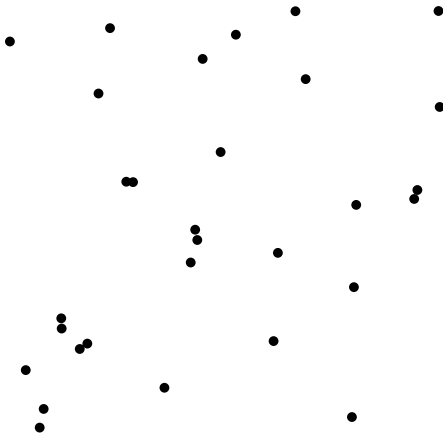
## Results

Solution probability  $p$

Structural Properties

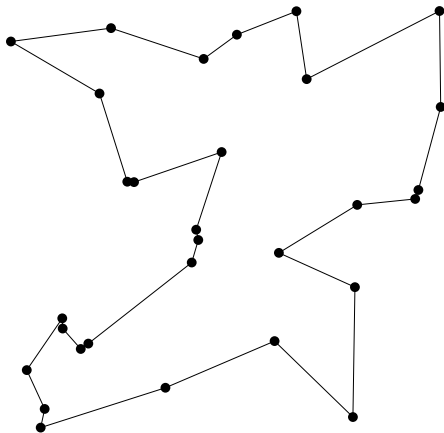
# Traveling Salesperson Problem (TSP)

Given a set of cities  $V$  and their pairwise distances  $c_{ij}$ , what is the shortest tour visiting all cities and returning to the start?



# Traveling Salesperson Problem (TSP)

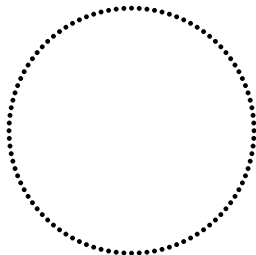
Given a set of cities  $V$  and their pairwise distances  $c_{ij}$ , what is the shortest tour visiting all cities and returning to the start?



# Tunable Ensemble

Ensemble of disordered circles driven by the parameter  $\sigma$

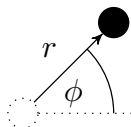
1.  $N$  cities on a circle  
with  $R = N/2\pi$



# Tunable Ensemble

Ensemble of disordered circles driven by the parameter  $\sigma$

1.  $N$  cities on a circle  
with  $R = N/2\pi$
2. displace cities  
randomly



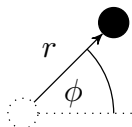
$$r \in U[0, \sigma], \phi \in U[0, 2\pi)$$



# Tunable Ensemble

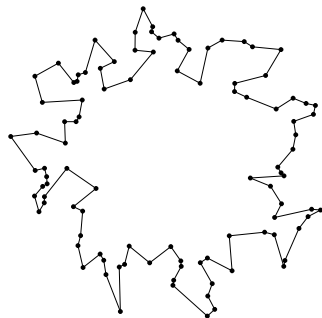
Ensemble of disordered circles driven by the parameter  $\sigma$

1.  $N$  cities on a circle  
with  $R = N/2\pi$
2. displace cities  
randomly



$$r \in U[0, \sigma], \phi \in U[0, 2\pi)$$

3. optimize the tour

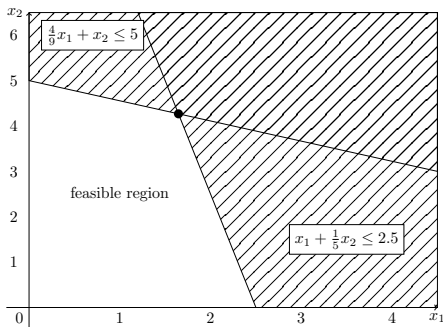


Is there a phase transition easy circle  $\rightarrow$  hard realization?

# Linear Programming (LP)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{Ax} \leq \mathbf{b} \\ & && \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{4}{9} & 1 \\ 1 & \frac{1}{5} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2.5 \end{pmatrix}$$





# Linear Programming (LP)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{Ax} \leq \mathbf{b} \\ & && \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ works outside the space of feasible solutions
- ▶ polynomial time
- ▶ can be used for combinatorial (integer) problems
  - ▶ is not always a valid solution
  - ▶ result valid  $\rightarrow$  result optimal
  - ▶ yields at least a lower bound

# LP formulation of the TSP

$x_{ij} = 1$  if  $i$  and  $j$  adjacent in tour

minimize 
$$\sum_i \sum_{j < i} c_{ij} x_{ij}$$

subject to 
$$\sum_j x_{ij} = 2 \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$$\sum_{i \in S, j \notin S} x_{ij} \geq 2 \quad \forall S \subset V, S \neq \emptyset, S \neq V \quad (\text{SEC})$$

$$x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$$

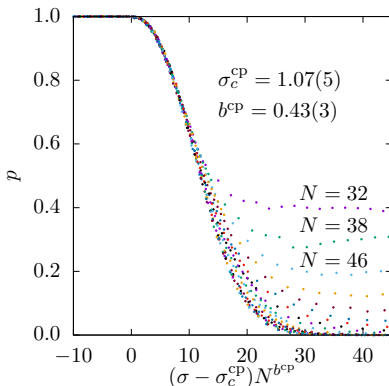
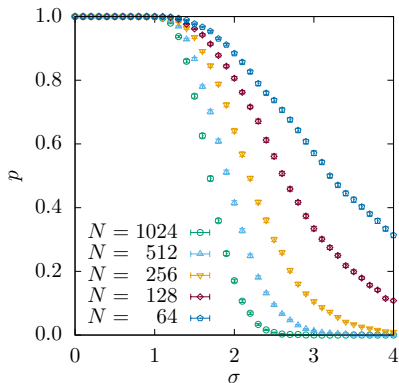
- ▶  $\forall S \subset V$  are exponentially many
  - ▶ add only violated (via cutting planes)
- ▶  $x_{ij}$  are restricted to integer
  - ▶ relax it to  $x_{ij} \in [0, 1]$  (may lead to infeasible solutions)

---

Dantzig, Fulkerson, Johnson, J. Oper. Res. Soc. Am., 2 (1954) 393

# Solution probability $p$

Probability  $p$  that the SEC-relaxation is integer



Further transition at  $\sigma \approx 0.5$  for weaker relaxation.

Schawe, Hartmann, EPL 113 (2016) 30004

# Structural Properties

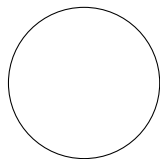
Algorithmic phase transition

→ search for physical properties that change

- ▶ solve them by branch-and-cut (exact → only small instances)

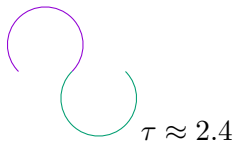
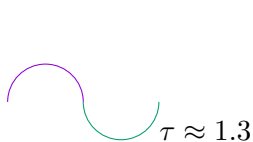
# Tortuosity

$$\tau = \frac{n-1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{L_i}{S_i} - 1 \right)$$



$\tau = 0$

\_\_\_\_\_  $\tau = 0$

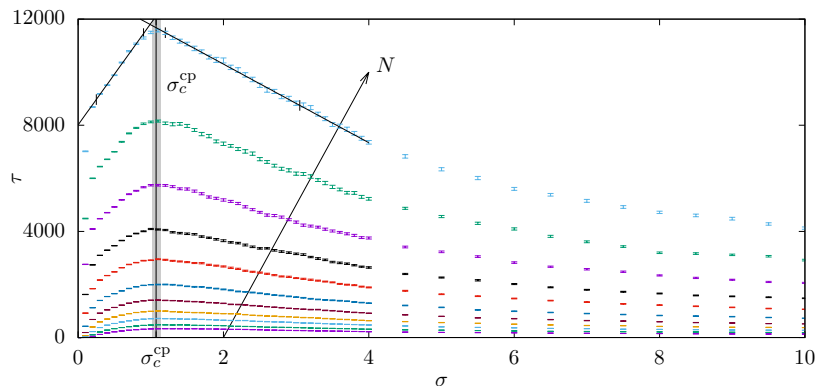


---

Grisan, Foracchia, Ruggeri, Proceedings of the 25th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Vol. 1 2003 pp. 866–869

# Tortuosity

$$\tau = \frac{n-1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{L_i}{S_i} - 1 \right)$$



# Universality

Same analysis with other ensembles or constraints

	$\sigma_c$	$b$
Degree relaxation	$\sigma_c^{\text{lp}} = 0.51(4)$	$b^{\text{lp}} = 0.29(6)$
SEC relaxation	$\sigma_c^{\text{cp}} = 1.07(5)$	$b^{\text{cp}} = 0.43(3)$
	$\sigma_c^{\tau} = 1.06(23)$	–
	$\sigma_c^{\text{cp,g}} = 0.47(3)$	$b^{\text{cp,g}} = 0.45(5)$
	$\sigma_c^{\tau,\text{g}} = 0.44(8)$	–
	$\sigma_c^{\text{cp,3}} = 1.18(8)$	$b^{\text{cp,3}} = 0.40(4)$
fast Blossom rel.	$\sigma_c^{\text{fb}} = 1.47(8)$	$b^{\text{fb}} = 0.40(3)$

# Summary

- ▶ linear programming to determine hardness
- ▶ three easy-hard transition points
- ▶ two structural properties changing at a transition