

Minimum Cuts, Maximum Area, and Duality

Gilbert Strang
 gs@math.mit.edu

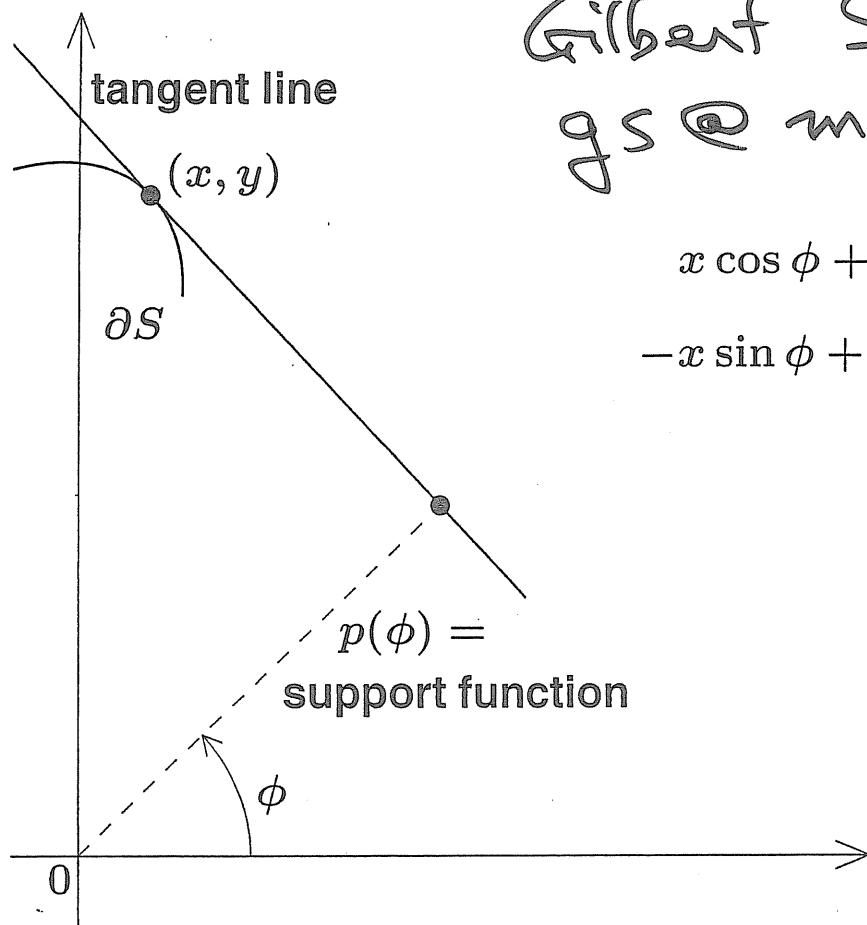


Figure 1: [Santalo]. The line at distance p is tangent to ∂S at (x, y) .

Integral geometry

$$x = p \cos \phi - p' \sin \phi, \quad y = p \sin \phi + p' \cos \phi.$$

$$dx = -(p + p'') \sin \phi d\phi, \quad dy = (p + p'') \cos \phi d\phi.$$

$$ds = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2} = (p + p'') d\phi$$

The convexity of S is equivalent to $p + p'' \geq 0$.

$$N(\phi) = \|(-\sin \phi, \cos \phi)\|$$

Perimeter of S = $\int_0^{2\pi} \|dx, dy\| = \int_0^{2\pi} (p + p'') N(\phi) d\phi$

Area of S = $\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} p(p + p'') d\phi = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (p^2 - p'^2) d\phi.$

Maximize $\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (p^2 - p'^2) d\phi$

subject to $\int_0^{2\pi} (p + p'') N(\phi) d\phi = L.$

Euler-Lagrange $p(\phi) + p''(\phi) - \lambda [N(\phi) + N''(\phi)] = 0. \quad (1)$

$$p(\phi) = \lambda N(\phi) + A \cos \phi + B \sin \phi. \quad (2)$$

Optimal shape S $p(\phi) = \lambda N(\phi) = \lambda \|(-\sin \phi, \cos \phi)\|. \quad (3)$

Classical case with $N = 1$ yields $p = \lambda$

$$\text{Maximize} \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (p^2 - p'^2) d\phi \quad \text{subject to} \quad \int p d\phi = L. \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} [(p + q)^2 - (p' + q')^2] d\phi &= \int (p^2 - p'^2) d\phi \\ &\quad - 2 \int (pq - p'q') d\phi + \int (q^2 - q'^2) d\phi. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{First variation} \quad \int (pq - p'q') d\phi &= \int (p + p'')q d\phi = 0 \\ \text{when} \quad \int q d\phi = 0 \quad \text{needs} \quad p + p'' &= \lambda. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Wirtinger} \quad \int_0^{2\pi} (q^2 - q'^2) d\phi = 2\pi \left[\sum |a_n|^2 - \sum n^2 |a_n|^2 \right] \leq 0. \quad (7)$$

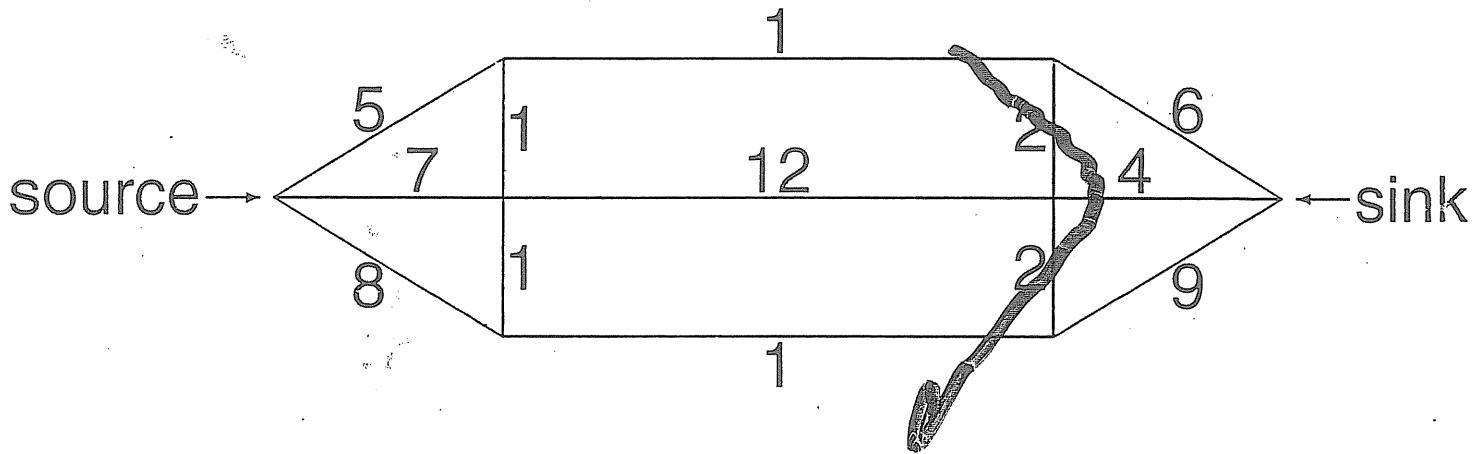
Then $p = \lambda$ and $S = \text{circle}$ is optimal

Gilbert Strang

gs@math.mit.edu

math.mit.edu/~gs

Maximum Flow = Minimum Cut



Kirchhoff's Law at each node (Flow in = Flow out)

Continuous equivalent: $\operatorname{div} v = 0$.

Continuous capacity: $\|v\| \leq c(x, y)$

$$v = (v_1, v_2)$$

$$\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} = 0.$$

Maximize λ

$$v \cdot n = -\lambda$$

Boundary

Source / Sink

$$v \cdot n = \lambda$$

$$\operatorname{div}(v_1, v_2) =$$

$$\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$v \cdot n$$

$$= -\lambda$$

$$v_1^2 + v_2^2 \leq 1$$

(capacity)

$$v \cdot n = \lambda$$

Maximize λ

Internal source

$$\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} = \lambda$$

$$v_1^2 + v_2^2 \leq 1$$

(capacity)

$$\iint \operatorname{div} v = \int_{\partial S} v \cdot n \leq |\partial S| \text{ so } \lambda \leq \frac{|\partial S|}{|S|}$$

$$\text{Linear Programming} \quad |v_1| + |v_2| \leq 1$$

Maximum Flow Out of a Square

Maximize λ with

$$\operatorname{div} v = \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} = \lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \|v\| \leq 1$$

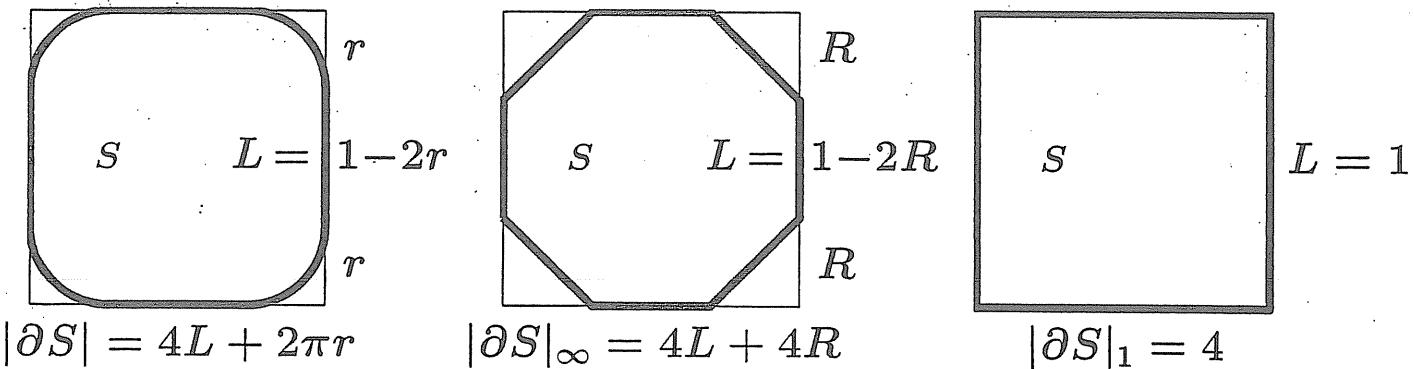
Dual problem Minimize
$$\frac{\iint \|\operatorname{grad} u\| dx dy}{\iint u dx dy}$$

Extreme point is characteristic function of a set S

Minimize
$$\frac{\int \|n\|_D ds}{\text{area of } S}$$

Solution gives minimum cut: Inside Ω it is an isoperimetric

circular arc — diamond — square in $\ell^2 - \ell^\infty - \ell^1$



In ℓ^2 the maximum flow has $\operatorname{div} v = 2 + \sqrt{\pi}$. What is v ?