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**"Hierarchies of Semidefinite Relaxations**  
**for Polynomial Optimization"**

**Abstract:**

We consider the (global) polynomial optimization problem  $P: \min \{f(x) : x \in K\}$  where " $f$ " is a polynomial and  $K$  a compact basic semi-algebraic set. We introduce powerful Sums Of Squares (SOS) representation results of real algebraic geometry for polynomials positive on  $K$  and show how they can be used to define a hierarchy of Semidefinite Programs of increasing size and whose associated monotone sequence of optimal values converges to the global minimum of  $P$ .