

## 4. Convex optimization problems

- optimization problem in standard form
- convex optimization problems
- quasiconvex optimization
- linear optimization
- quadratic optimization
- geometric programming
- generalized inequality constraints
- semidefinite programming

# Optimization problem in standard form

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f_0(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & && h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

- $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$  is the optimization variable
- $f_0 : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is the objective or cost function
- $f_i : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , are the inequality constraint functions
- $h_i : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  are the equality constraint functions

**optimal value:**

$$p^* = \inf \{ f_0(x) \mid f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \}$$

- $p^* = \infty$  if problem is infeasible (no  $x$  satisfies the constraints)
- $p^* = -\infty$  if problem is unbounded below

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{min } x^2 \\ & \text{st. } x \leq 2 \\ & \quad -x \leq -3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{min } x \\ & \text{st. } x \leq 5 \end{aligned}$$

# Optimal and locally optimal points

$x$  is **feasible** if  $x \in \text{dom } f_0$  and it satisfies the constraints

a feasible  $x$  is **optimal** if  $f_0(x) = p^*$ ;  $X_{\text{opt}}$  is the set of optimal points

$x$  is **locally optimal** if there is an  $R > 0$  such that  $x$  is optimal for

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } z) & f_0(z) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(z) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad h_i(z) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \\ & \|z - x\|_2 \leq R \end{array}$$

**examples** (with  $n = 1$ ,  $m = p = 0$ )

- $f_0(x) = 1/x$ ,  $\text{dom } f_0 = \mathbf{R}_{++}$ :  $p^* = 0$ , no optimal point f0(x) -> 0 as x -> +inf
- $f_0(x) = -\log x$ ,  $\text{dom } f_0 = \mathbf{R}_{++}$ :  $p^* = -\infty$  f0(x) -> -inf as x-> +inf
- $f_0(x) = x \log x$ ,  $\text{dom } f_0 = \mathbf{R}_{++}$ :  $p^* = -1/e$ ,  $x = 1/e$  is optimal See f0(x) in [0,2]
- $f_0(x) = x^3 - 3x$ ,  $p^* = -\infty$ , local optimum at  $x = 1$  See f0(x) in [-3,+3]

# Implicit constraints

the standard form optimization problem has an **implicit constraint**

$$x \in \mathcal{D} = \bigcap_{i=0}^m \text{dom } f_i \cap \bigcap_{i=1}^p \text{dom } h_i,$$

- we call  $\mathcal{D}$  the **domain** of the problem
- the constraints  $f_i(x) \leq 0$ ,  $h_i(x) = 0$  are the **explicit constraints**
- a problem is **unconstrained** if it has no explicit constraints ( $m = p = 0$ )

**example:**

$$\text{minimize } f_0(x) = - \sum_{i=1}^k \log(b_i - a_i^T x)$$

is an unconstrained problem with implicit constraints  $a_i^T x < b_i$  **iff  $b_i - a_i^T x > 0$**

# Feasibility problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{find} & x \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{array}$$

can be considered a special case of the general problem with  $f_0(x) = 0$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & 0 \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{array}$$

- $p^* = 0$  if constraints are feasible; any feasible  $x$  is optimal
- $p^* = \infty$  if constraints are infeasible

# Convex optimization problem

## standard form convex optimization problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & a_i^T x = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{array}$$

- $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_m$  are convex; equality constraints are affine
- problem is *quasiconvex* if  $f_0$  is quasiconvex (and  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  convex)

often written as

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

important property: feasible set of a convex optimization problem is convex

## example

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && f_0(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 \\ &\text{subject to} && f_1(x) = x_1/(1 + x_2^2) \leq 0 \\ &&& h_1(x) = (x_1 + x_2)^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- $f_0$  is convex; feasible set  $\{(x_1, x_2) \mid x_1 = -x_2 \leq 0\}$  is convex
- not a convex problem (according to our definition):  $f_1$  is not convex,  $h_1$  is not affine
- equivalent to the convex problem

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && x_1^2 + x_2^2 \\ &\text{subject to} && x_1 \leq 0 \\ &&& x_1 + x_2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Local and global optima

any locally optimal point of a convex problem is (globally) optimal

**proof:** suppose  $x$  is locally optimal, but there exists a feasible  $y$  with  $f_0(y) < f_0(x)$  (i.e.,  $x$  not globally optimal)

not in the local region

$x$  locally optimal means there is an  $R > 0$  such that

$$z \text{ feasible, } \|z - x\|_2 \leq R \implies f_0(z) \geq f_0(x)$$

consider  $z = \theta y + (1 - \theta)x$  with  $\theta = R/(2\|y - x\|_2)$

not in the local region

→  $\|y - x\|_2 > R$ , so  $0 < \theta < 1/2$

- $z$  is a convex combination of two feasible points, hence also feasible
- $\|z - x\|_2 = R/2$  and

by convexity

$$f_0(z) \leq \theta f_0(y) + (1 - \theta)f_0(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(z) &= f_0(\theta y + (1-\theta)x) \\ &\leq \theta f_0(y) + (1-\theta) f_0(x) \\ &< \theta f_0(x) + (1-\theta) f_0(x) \\ &= f_0(x) \end{aligned} \quad \dots \text{ since } f_0(y) < f_0(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} z-x &= \theta y + (1-\theta)x - x \\ &= \theta (y-x) \\ \|z-x\|_2 &= \theta \|y-x\|_2 \\ &= R/2 \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts our assumption that  $x$  is locally optimal

since we found that  $f_0(z) < f_0(x)$



# Optimality criterion for differentiable $f_0$

$x$  is optimal if and only if it is feasible and

**1st order condition for convexity**

$$f_0(y) \geq f_0(x) + \text{grad } f_0(x)' (y-x) \quad \nabla f_0(x)^T (y - x) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all feasible } y$$

**I. Assume  $\text{grad } f_0(x)' (y-x) \geq 0$**

**then  $f_0(y) \geq f_0(x)$**

**then  $x$  optimal**

**II. Assume  $x$  optimal and  $\text{grad } f_0(x)' (y-x) < 0$**

**Let  $z(t) = t y + (1-t) x$ , for  $t$  in  $[0,1]$**

**As  $t \rightarrow 0$  we arrive to a contradiction**

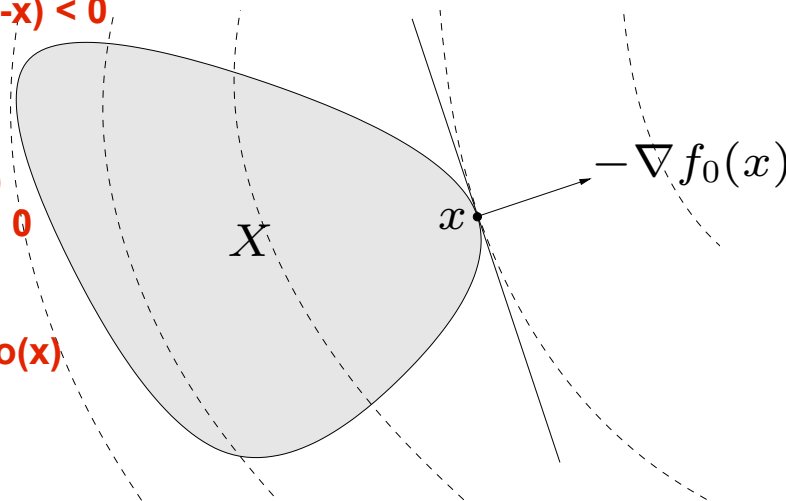
$$\frac{d}{dt} f_0(z(t)) = \text{grad } f_0(t y + (1-t) x)' (y-x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} f_0(z(t)) \text{ (at } t=0) = \text{grad } f_0(x)' (y-x) < 0$$

**Thus, for  $t > 0$  by series expansion**

$$f_0(z(t)) = f_0(x) + \frac{d}{dt} f_0(z(t)) \text{ (at } t=0) < f_0(x)$$

**Thus,  $x$  is not optimal**



**(If it were an unconstrained problem the optimal  $x$  would be in this region.)**

if nonzero,  $\nabla f_0(x)$  defines a supporting hyperplane to feasible set  $X$  at  $x$

(all examples here follow from previous slide. More depth in Chapter 5)

- **unconstrained problem:**  $x$  is optimal if and only if

$$x \in \mathbf{dom} f_0, \quad \nabla f_0(x) = 0$$

- **equality constrained problem**

$$\text{minimize } f_0(x) \quad \text{subject to } Ax = b$$

$x$  is optimal if and only if there exists a  $\nu$  such that

$$x \in \mathbf{dom} f_0, \quad Ax = b, \quad \nabla f_0(x) + A^T \nu = 0$$

- **minimization over nonnegative orthant**

$$\text{minimize } f_0(x) \quad \text{subject to } x \succeq 0$$

$x$  is optimal if and only if

$$x \in \mathbf{dom} f_0, \quad x \succeq 0, \quad \begin{cases} \nabla f_0(x)_i \geq 0 & x_i = 0 \\ \nabla f_0(x)_i = 0 & x_i > 0 \end{cases}$$

# Equivalent convex problems

two problems are (informally) **equivalent** if the solution of one is readily obtained from the solution of the other, and vice-versa

some common transformations that preserve convexity:

- **eliminating equality constraints**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } z) & f_0(Fz + x_0) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(Fz + x_0) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$

where  $F$  and  $x_0$  are such that

$$Ax = b \iff x = Fz + x_0 \text{ for some } z$$

- **introducing equality constraints**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(A_0x + b_0) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(A_ix + b_i) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } x, y_i) & f_0(y_0) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(y_i) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & y_i = A_ix + b_i, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$

- **introducing slack variables for linear inequalities**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } x, s) & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x + s_i = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & s_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$


- **epigraph form:** standard form convex problem is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{minimize (over } x, t) & t \\
 \text{subject to} & f_0(x) - t \leq 0 \\
 & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\
 & Ax = b
 \end{array}$$

- **minimizing over some variables**

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{minimize} & f_0(x_1, x_2) \\
 \text{subject to} & f_i(x_1) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m
 \end{array}$$

x2 not in the constraints



is equivalent to

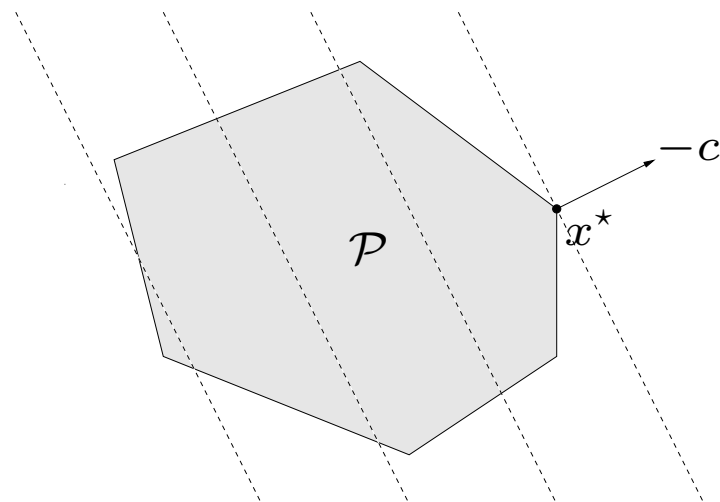
$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{minimize} & \tilde{f}_0(x_1) \\
 \text{subject to} & f_i(x_1) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m
 \end{array}$$

where  $\tilde{f}_0(x_1) = \inf_{x_2} f_0(x_1, x_2)$

# Linear program (LP)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x + d \\ \text{subject to} & Gx \preceq h \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- convex problem with affine objective and constraint functions
- feasible set is a polyhedron



# Examples

**diet problem:** choose quantities  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of  $n$  foods

- one unit of food  $j$  costs  $c_j$ , contains amount  $a_{ij}$  of nutrient  $i$
- healthy diet requires nutrient  $i$  in quantity at least  $b_i$

to find cheapest healthy diet,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \succeq b, \quad x \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

## piecewise-linear minimization

$$\text{minimize} \quad \max_{i=1, \dots, m} (a_i^T x + b_i)$$

equivalent to an LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & t \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x + b_i \leq t, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$

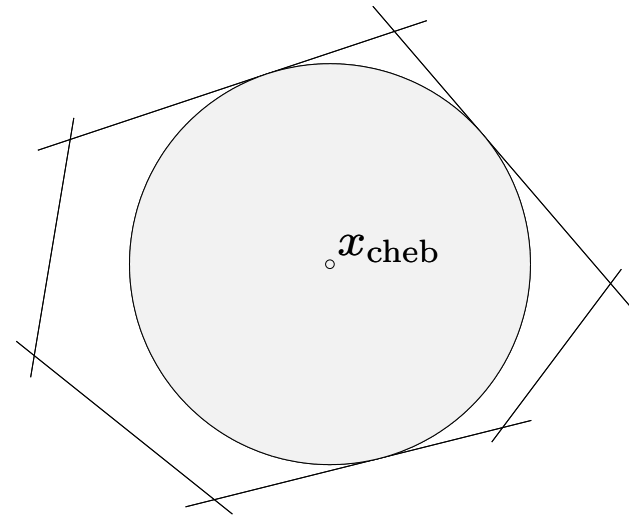
## Chebyshev center of a polyhedron

Chebyshev center of

$$\mathcal{P} = \{x \mid a_i^T x \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m\}$$

is center of largest inscribed ball

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x_c + u \mid \|u\|_2 \leq r\}$$



- $a_i^T x \leq b_i$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{B}$  if and only if

$$\sup_u \{a_i^T (x_c + u) \mid \|u\|_2 \leq r\} = a_i^T x_c + r \|a_i\|_2 \leq b_i$$

since  $\sup_u (a_i^T u) = \|a_i\|_2$  by norm duality

- hence,  $x_c, r$  can be determined by solving the LP

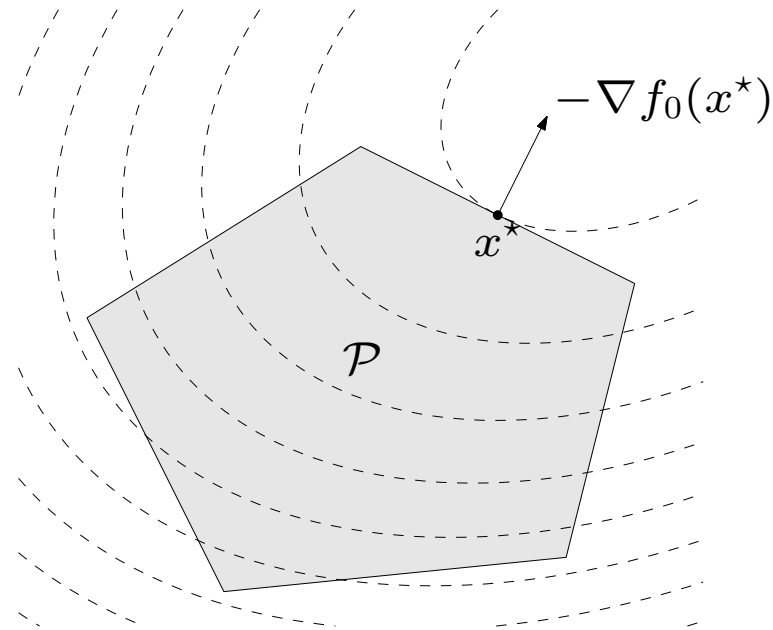
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && r \\ & \text{subject to} && a_i^T x_c + r \|a_i\|_2 \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$



# Quadratic program (QP)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && (1/2)x^T P x + q^T x + r \\ & \text{subject to} && Gx \preceq h \\ & && Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

- $P \in \mathbf{S}_+^n$ , so objective is convex quadratic
- minimize a convex quadratic function over a polyhedron



# Examples

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (Ax - b)' (Ax - b) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} x' A' A x - b' A x + \text{constant} \end{aligned}$$

## least-squares

$$\text{minimize } \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Making gradient} = 0 \\ & A' A x^* - b' A = 0 \\ & x^* = (A' A)^{-1} A b \end{aligned}$$

- analytical solution  $x^* = A^\dagger b$  ( $A^\dagger$  is pseudo-inverse)
- can add linear constraints, *e.g.*,  $l \preceq x \preceq u$

## linear program with random cost

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \bar{c}^T x + \gamma x^T \Sigma x = \mathbf{E} c^T x + \gamma \mathbf{var}(c^T x) \\ & \text{subject to} && Gx \preceq h, \quad Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

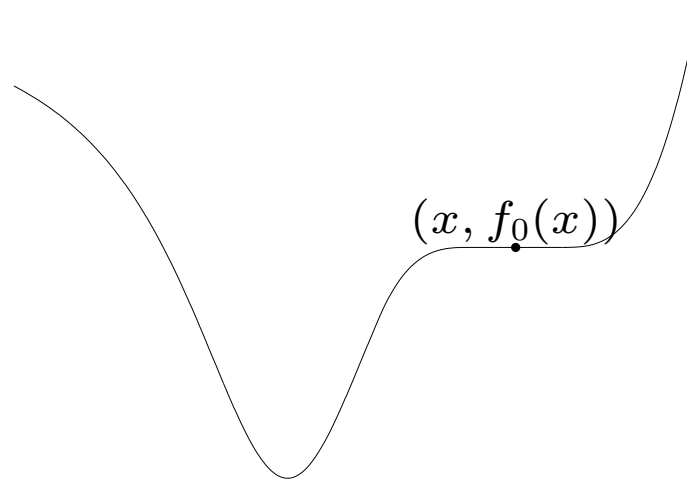
- $c$  is random vector with mean  $\bar{c}$  and covariance  $\Sigma$
- hence,  $c^T x$  is random variable with mean  $\bar{c}^T x$  and variance  $x^T \Sigma x$
- $\gamma > 0$  is risk aversion parameter; controls the trade-off between expected cost and variance (risk)

# Quasiconvex optimization

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

with  $f_0 : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  quasiconvex,  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  convex

can have locally optimal points that are not (globally) optimal



## convex representation of sublevel sets of $f_0$

if  $f_0$  is quasiconvex, there exists a family of functions  $\phi_t$  such that:

- $\phi_t(x)$  is convex in  $x$  for fixed  $t$
- $t$ -sublevel set of  $f_0$  is 0-sublevel set of  $\phi_t$ , i.e.,

$$f_0(x) \leq t \iff \phi_t(x) \leq 0$$

### example

$$f_0(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$$

with  $p$  convex,  $q$  concave, and  $p(x) \geq 0$ ,  $q(x) > 0$  on  $\text{dom } f_0$

can take  $\phi_t(x) = p(x) - tq(x)$ :

- for  $t \geq 0$ ,  $\phi_t$  convex in  $x$
- $p(x)/q(x) \leq t$  if and only if  $\phi_t(x) \leq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &\leq t q(x) \\ p(x) - t q(x) &\leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## quasiconvex optimization via convex feasibility problems

$$\phi_t(x) \leq 0, \quad f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad Ax = b \quad (1)$$

- for fixed  $t$ , a convex feasibility problem in  $x$
- if feasible, we can conclude that  $t \geq p^*$ ; if infeasible,  $t \leq p^*$

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*Bisection method for quasiconvex optimization*

**given**  $l \leq p^*$ ,  $u \geq p^*$ , tolerance  $\epsilon > 0$ .

**repeat**

1.  $t := (l + u)/2$ .
2. Solve the convex feasibility problem (1).
3. **if** (1) is feasible,  $u := t$ ; **else**  $l := t$ .

**until**  $u - l \leq \epsilon$ .

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requires exactly  $\lceil \log_2((u - l)/\epsilon) \rceil$  iterations (where  $u, l$  are initial values)

## Linear-fractional program

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & Gx \preceq h \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

### linear-fractional program

$$f_0(x) = \frac{c^T x + d}{e^T x + f}, \quad \text{dom } f_0(x) = \{x \mid e^T x + f > 0\}$$

- a quasiconvex optimization problem; can be solved by bisection

# Second-order cone programming

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && \|A_i x + b_i\|_2 \leq c_i^T x + d_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & && Fx = g \end{aligned}$$

$$(A_i \in \mathbf{R}^{n_i \times n}, F \in \mathbf{R}^{p \times n})$$

- inequalities are called second-order cone (SOC) constraints:

$$(A_i x + b_i, c_i^T x + d_i) \in \text{second-order cone in } \mathbf{R}^{n_i+1}$$

## Robust linear programming

the parameters in optimization problems are often uncertain, *e.g.*, in an LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \end{array}$$

there can be uncertainty in  $c$ ,  $a_i$ ,  $b_i$

two common approaches to handling uncertainty (in  $a_i$ , for simplicity)

- deterministic model: constraints must hold for all  $a_i \in \mathcal{E}_i$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x \leq b_i \text{ for all } a_i \in \mathcal{E}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \end{array}$$

- stochastic model:  $a_i$  is random variable; constraints must hold with probability  $\eta$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{prob}(a_i^T x \leq b_i) \geq \eta, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$



## deterministic approach via SOCP

- choose an ellipsoid as  $\mathcal{E}_i$ :

$$\mathcal{E}_i = \{\bar{a}_i + P_i u \mid \|u\|_2 \leq 1\} \quad (\bar{a}_i \in \mathbf{R}^n, \quad P_i \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n})$$

center is  $\bar{a}_i$ , semi-axes determined by singular values/vectors of  $P_i$

- robust LP

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad \forall a_i \in \mathcal{E}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

is equivalent to the SOCP

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && \bar{a}_i^T x + \|P_i^T x\|_2 \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

(follows from  $\sup_{\|u\|_2 \leq 1} (\bar{a}_i + P_i u)^T x = \bar{a}_i^T x + \|P_i^T x\|_2$ )

**$\bar{a}_i^T x$  is constant wrt  $u$ , only analyze  $(P_i u)^T x$   
 $\sup_{\|u\|_2 \leq 1} u^T P_i^T x = \|P_i^T x\|_2$  by norm duality**

## stochastic approach via SOCP

- assume  $a_i$  is Gaussian with mean  $\bar{a}_i$ , covariance  $\Sigma_i$  ( $a_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{a}_i, \Sigma_i)$ )
- $a_i^T x$  is Gaussian r.v. with mean  $\bar{a}_i^T x$ , variance  $x^T \Sigma_i x$ ; hence

$$\mathbf{prob}(a_i^T x \leq b_i) = \Phi \left( \frac{b_i - \bar{a}_i^T x}{\|\Sigma_i^{1/2} x\|_2} \right)$$

where  $\Phi(x) = (1/\sqrt{2\pi}) \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$  is CDF of  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

- robust LP

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{prob}(a_i^T x \leq b_i) \geq \eta, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \end{aligned}$$

with  $\eta \geq 1/2$ , is equivalent to the SOCP

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && \bar{a}_i^T x + \Phi^{-1}(\eta) \|\Sigma_i^{1/2} x\|_2 \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

# Geometric programming

## monomial function

$$f(x) = cx_1^{a_1}x_2^{a_2}\cdots x_n^{a_n}, \quad \text{dom } f = \mathbf{R}_{++}^n$$

with  $c > 0$ ; exponent  $a_i$  can be any real number

**posynomial function:** sum of monomials

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K c_k x_1^{a_{1k}} x_2^{a_{2k}} \cdots x_n^{a_{nk}}, \quad \text{dom } f = \mathbf{R}_{++}^n$$

## geometric program (GP)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{array}$$

with  $f_i$  posynomial,  $h_i$  monomial

## Geometric program in convex form

change variables to  $y_i = \log x_i$ , and take logarithm of cost, constraints

- monomial  $f(x) = cx_1^{a_1} \cdots x_n^{a_n}$  transforms to

$$\log f(e^{y_1}, \dots, e^{y_n}) = a^T y + b \quad (b = \log c)$$

- posynomial  $f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K c_k x_1^{a_{1k}} x_2^{a_{2k}} \cdots x_n^{a_{nk}}$  transforms to

$$\log f(e^{y_1}, \dots, e^{y_n}) = \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^K e^{a_k^T y + b_k} \right) \quad (b_k = \log c_k)$$

- geometric program transforms to convex problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \exp(a_{0k}^T y + b_{0k}) \right) \\ & \text{subject to} && \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \exp(a_{ik}^T y + b_{ik}) \right) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & && Gy + d = 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Generalized inequality constraints

convex problem with generalized inequality constraints

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \preceq_{K_i} 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- $f_0 : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  convex;  $f_i : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^{k_i}$   $K_i$ -convex w.r.t. proper cone  $K_i$
- same properties as standard convex problem (convex feasible set, local optimum is global, etc.)

**conic form problem:** special case with affine objective and constraints

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Fx + g \preceq_K 0 \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

extends linear programming ( $K = \mathbf{R}_+^m$ ) to nonpolyhedral cones

# Semidefinite program (SDP)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && x_1 F_1 + x_2 F_2 + \cdots + x_n F_n + G \preceq 0 \\ & && Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

with  $F_i, G \in \mathbf{S}^k$

- inequality constraint is called linear matrix inequality (LMI)
- includes problems with multiple LMI constraints: for example,

$$x_1 \hat{F}_1 + \cdots + x_n \hat{F}_n + \hat{G} \preceq 0, \quad x_1 \tilde{F}_1 + \cdots + x_n \tilde{F}_n + \tilde{G} \preceq 0$$

is equivalent to single LMI

$$x_1 \begin{bmatrix} \hat{F}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{F}_1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} \hat{F}_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{F}_2 \end{bmatrix} + \cdots + x_n \begin{bmatrix} \hat{F}_n & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{F}_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \hat{G} & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{G} \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0$$

# Eigenvalue minimization

$$\text{minimize } \lambda_{\max}(A(x))$$

where  $A(x) = A_0 + x_1A_1 + \cdots + x_nA_n$  (with given  $A_i \in \mathbf{S}^k$ )

equivalent SDP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & t \\ \text{subject to} & A(x) \preceq tI \end{array}$$

- variables  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $t \in \mathbf{R}$
- follows from

$$\lambda_{\max}(A) \leq t \iff A \preceq tI$$

## Matrix norm minimization

$$\text{minimize } \|A(x)\|_2 = \left(\lambda_{\max}(A(x)^T A(x))\right)^{1/2}$$

where  $A(x) = A_0 + x_1 A_1 + \cdots + x_n A_n$  (with given  $A_i \in \mathbf{R}^{p \times q}$ )

equivalent SDP

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{minimize } t \\ \text{subject to } \begin{bmatrix} tI & A(x) \\ A(x)^T & tI \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

- variables  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $t \in \mathbf{R}$
- constraint follows from

Let  $X = \begin{bmatrix} W & B \\ B' & C \end{bmatrix}$

Schur complement:

$$D = C - B' W^{-1} B$$

If  $W$  in  $S_{++}$  then

$X$  in  $S_+$  if and only if  $D$  in  $S_+$

Assume this is  $X$  and you will see

$$\|A\|_2 \leq t \iff A^T A \preceq t^2 I, \quad t \geq 0$$

$$\iff \begin{bmatrix} tI & A \\ A^T & tI \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$