Complexity

LP Feasibility Problem (LP feasibility A)

Given $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$. Does there exist $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $Ax \le b$, $x \ge 0$?

LP Feasibility Problem (LP feasibility B)

Given $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$. Find $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $Ax \le b$, $x \ge 0$!

LP Optimization A

Given $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, $c \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. What is the maximum value of $c^T x$ for a feasible point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$?

LP Optimization B

Given $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, $c \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. Return feasible point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with maximum value of $c^T x$?

Input size

▶ The number of bits to represent a number $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ is

$$\lceil \log_2(|a|) \rceil + 1$$

$$\langle M \rangle := \sum_{i,j} \lceil \log_2(|m_{ij}|) + 1 \rceil$$

- In the following we assume that input matrices are encoded in a standard way, where each number is encoded in binary and then suitable separators are added in order to separate distinct number from each other.
- ▶ Then the input length is $L = \Theta(\langle A \rangle + \langle b \rangle)$.

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- ▶ In the following we sometimes refer to $L := \langle A \rangle + \langle b \rangle$ as the input size (even though the real input size is something in $\Theta(\langle A \rangle + \langle b \rangle)$).
- Sometimes we may also refer to $L := \langle A \rangle + \langle b \rangle + n \log_2 n$ as the input size. Note that $n \log_2 n = \Theta(\langle A \rangle + \langle b \rangle)$.
- ▶ In order to show that LP-decision is in NP we show that if there is a solution *x* then there exists a small solution for which feasibility can be verified in polynomial time (polynomial in *L*).

Suppose that $\bar{A}x = b$; $x \ge 0$ is feasible.

Then there exists a basic feasible solution. This means a set *B* of basic variables such that

$$x_B = \bar{A}_B^{-1} b$$

and all other entries in x are 0.

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Size of a Basic Feasible Solution

- ► A: original input matrix
- \blacktriangleright \bar{A} : transformation of A into standard form
- $ightharpoonup ar{A}_B$: submatrix of $ar{A}$ corresponding to basis B

Lemma 2

Let $\bar{A}_B \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times m}$ and $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$. Define $L = \langle A \rangle + \langle b \rangle + n \log_2 n$. Then a solution to $\bar{A}_B x_B = b$ has rational components x_j of the form $\frac{D_j}{D}$, where $|D_j| \leq 2^L$ and $|D| \leq 2^L$.

Proof

Cramers rules says that we can compute $x_{m{i}}$ as

$$x_j = \frac{\det(\bar{A}_B^j)}{\det(\bar{A}_B)}$$

where \bar{A}_B^J is the matrix obtained from \bar{A}_B by replacing the j-th column by the vector b.

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Analogously for $\det(A_R^j)$.

Given an LP $\max\{c^Tx\mid Ax\leq b; x\geq 0\}$ do a binary search for the optimum solution

(Add constraint $c^T x \ge M$). Then checking for feasibility shows whether optimum solution is larger or smaller than M).

If the LP is feasible then the binary search finishes in at most

$$\log_2\left(\frac{2n2^{2L'}}{1/2^{L'}}\right) = \mathcal{O}(L') ,$$

as the range of the search is at most $-n2^{2L'},\ldots,n2^{2L'}$ and the distance between two adjacent values is at least $\frac{1}{\det(A)} \geq \frac{1}{2^{L'}}$.

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How do we detect whether the LP is unbounded?

Let $M_{\text{max}} = n2^{2L'}$ be an upper bound on the objective value of a basic feasible solution.

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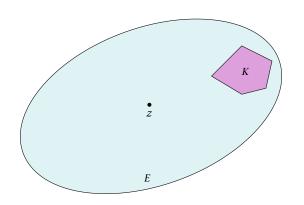
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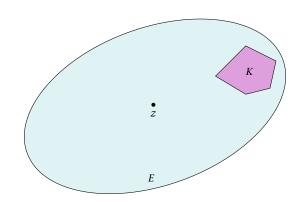
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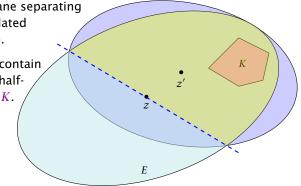


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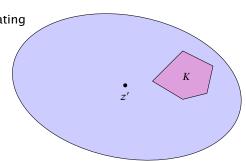
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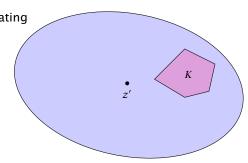
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- REPEAT



Issues/Questions:

- How do you choose the first Ellipsoid? What is its volume?
- How do you measure progress? By how much does the volume decrease in each iteration?
- When can you stop? What is the minimum volume of a non-empty polytop?

A mapping $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ with f(x) = Lx + t, where L is an invertible matrix is called an affine transformation.

A ball in \mathbb{R}^n with center c and radius r is given by

$$B(c,r) = \{x \mid (x-c)^T (x-c) \le r^2\}$$
$$= \{x \mid \sum_i (x-c)_i^2 / r^2 \le 1\}$$

B(0,1) is called the unit ball.

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179/217

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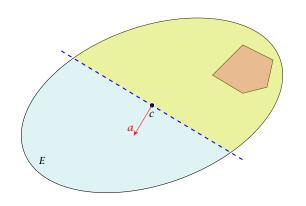
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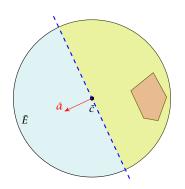
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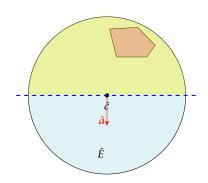
where $Q = LL^T$ is an invertible matrix.



Use f^{-1} (recall that f = Lx + t is the affine transformation of the unit ball) to rotate/distort the ellipsoid (back) into the unit ball.

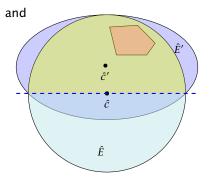


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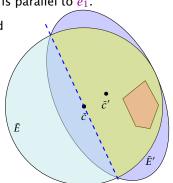


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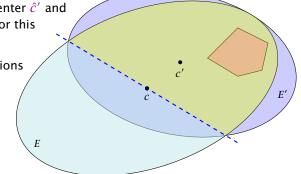


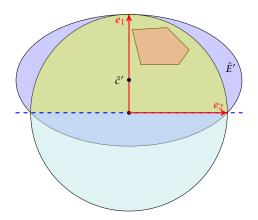
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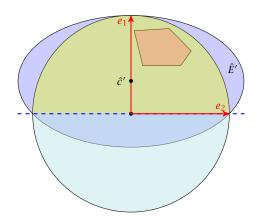
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- Let a denote the radius along the x_1 -axis and let b denote the (common) radius for the other axes.
- The matrix

$$\hat{L}' = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & b & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & b \end{pmatrix}$$

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182/217

As $\hat{Q}' = \hat{L}'\hat{L}'^t$ the matrix \hat{Q}'^{-1} is of the form

$$\hat{Q}'^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

 $(e_1 - \hat{c}')^T \hat{Q}'^{-1} (e_1 - \hat{c}') = 1$ gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-t \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a^2} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1-t \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

► This gives $(1 - t)^2 = a^2$.

For $i \neq 1$ the equation $(e_i - \hat{c}')^T \hat{Q}'^{-1} (e_i - \hat{c}') = 1$ looks like (here i = 2)

$$\begin{pmatrix} -t \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^{T} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a^{2}} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b^{2}} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{b^{2}} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -t \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

► This gives $\frac{t^2}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} = 1$, and hence

$$\frac{1}{b^2} = 1 - \frac{t^2}{a^2}$$

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► This gives $\frac{t^2}{a^2} + \frac{1}{h^2} = 1$, and hence

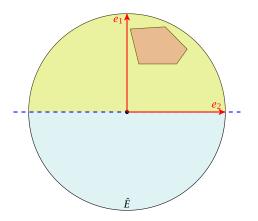
$$\frac{1}{h^2} = 1 - \frac{t^2}{a^2} = 1 - \frac{t^2}{(1-t)^2} = \frac{1-2t}{(1-t)^2}$$

Summary

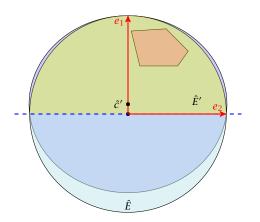
So far we have

$$a = 1 - t$$
 and $b = \frac{1 - t}{\sqrt{1 - 2t}}$

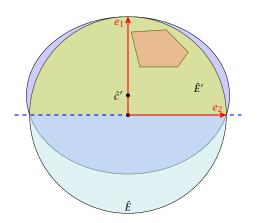
We still have many choices for t:



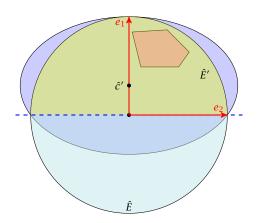
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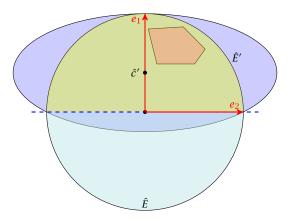
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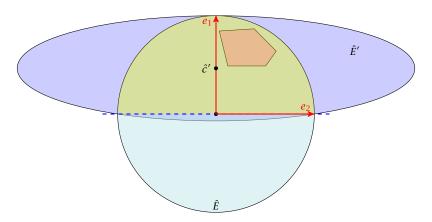
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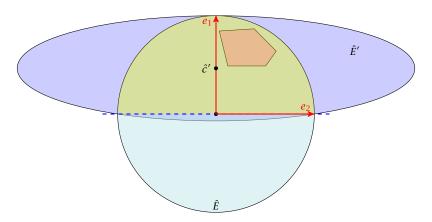
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We want to choose t such that the volume of \hat{E}' is minimal.

Lemma 6

Let L be an affine transformation and $K\subseteq \mathbb{R}^n.$ Then

 $vol(L(K)) = |det(L)| \cdot vol(K)$.

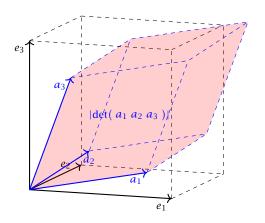
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n-dimensional volume



▶ We want to choose t such that the volume of \hat{E}' is minimal.

$$\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}') = \operatorname{vol}(B(0,1)) \cdot |\operatorname{det}(\hat{L}')| \ ,$$

Recall that

$$\hat{L}' = \left(\begin{array}{cccc} a & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & b & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & b \end{array}\right)$$

Note that *a* and *b* in the above equations depend on *t*, by the previous equations.

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We use the shortcut $\Phi := vol(B(0, 1))$.

 $\frac{\operatorname{d}\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\operatorname{d}t}$

$$\frac{\operatorname{d} \operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\operatorname{d} t} = \frac{\operatorname{d}}{\operatorname{d} t} \left(\Phi \frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}} \right)$$

$$\frac{\operatorname{d}\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\operatorname{d}t} = \frac{\operatorname{d}}{\operatorname{d}t} \left(\Phi \frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}} \right)$$
$$= \frac{\Phi}{N^2}$$

$$N = \operatorname{denominator}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \left(\Phi \frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}} \right)$$
$$= \frac{\Phi}{N^2} \cdot \left(\frac{(-1) \cdot n(1-t)^{n-1}}{\text{derivative of numerator}} \right)$$

$$\begin{split} \frac{\mathrm{d}\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{d}\,t} &= \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\,t} \left(\Phi \frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\Phi}{N^2} \cdot \left((-1) \cdot n (1-t)^{n-1} \cdot (\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1} \right. \\ &\qquad \qquad \left. \left(\mathrm{denominator} \right) \right] \end{split}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \left(\Phi \frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\Phi}{N^2} \cdot \left((-1) \cdot n(1-t)^{n-1} \cdot (\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1} - (n-1)(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-2} \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-2t}} \cdot (-2) \right)$$
inner derivative

$$\begin{split} \frac{\mathrm{d}\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{d}\,t} &= \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\,t} \left(\Phi \frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\Phi}{N^2} \cdot \left((-1) \cdot n(1-t)^{n-1} \cdot (\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1} \right. \\ &\left. - (n-1)(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-2} \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-2t}} \cdot (-2) \cdot \frac{(1-t)^n}{\mathrm{numerator}} \right] \end{split}$$

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= (n-1)(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-2} \cdot \frac{1}{Z\sqrt{1-2t}} \cdot (2) \cdot (1-t)^n \right) \\
= \frac{\Phi}{N^2} \cdot (\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-3} \cdot (1-t)^{n-1} \\
\cdot \left((n-1)(1-t) - n(1-2t) \right)$$

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$$\cdot \left((n-1)(1-t) - n(1-2t) \right)$$

$$= \frac{\Phi}{N^2} \cdot (\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-3} \cdot (1-t)^{n-1} \cdot \left((n+1)t - 1 \right)$$

- We obtain the minimum for $t = \frac{1}{n+1}$.
- For this value we obtain

a

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$$b^{2} = \frac{(1-t)^{2}}{1-2t} = \frac{(1-\frac{1}{n+1})^{2}}{1-\frac{2}{n+1}}$$

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Let $\gamma_n=\frac{{\rm vol}(\hat E')}{{\rm vol}(B(0,1))}=ab^{n-1}$ be the ratio by which the volume changes:

$$\gamma_n^2$$

Let $y_n = \frac{\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\operatorname{vol}(B(0,1))} = ab^{n-1}$ be the ratio by which the volume changes:

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194/217

Let $y_n = \frac{\operatorname{vol}(\vec{E}')}{\operatorname{vol}(B(0,1))} = ab^{n-1}$ be the ratio by which the volume changes:

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where we used $(1+x)^a \le e^{ax}$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and a > 0.

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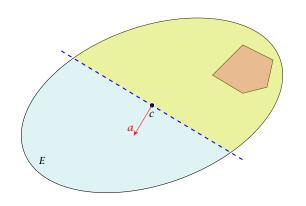
$$= \left(1 - \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{(n-1)(n+1)}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\le e^{-2\frac{1}{n+1}} \cdot e^{\frac{1}{n+1}}$$

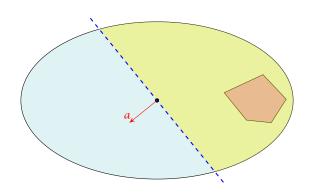
$$= e^{-\frac{1}{n+1}}$$

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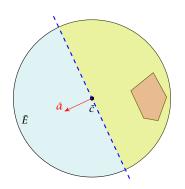
This gives $y_n \leq e^{-\frac{1}{2(n+1)}}$.



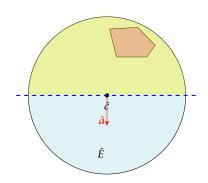
▶ Use f^{-1} (recall that f = Lx + t is the affine transformation of the unit ball) to translate/distort the ellipsoid (back) into the unit ball.



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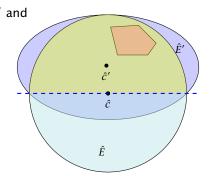


- Use f^{-1} (recall that f = Lx + t is the affine transformation of the unit ball) to translate/distort the ellipsoid (back) into the unit ball.
- Use a rotation R^{-1} to rotate the unit ball such that the normal vector of the halfspace is parallel to e_1 .

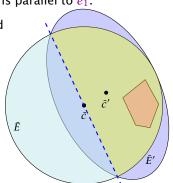


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Compute the new center \hat{c}' and the new matrix \hat{Q}' for this simplified setting.



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- Use a rotation R^{-1} to rotate the unit ball such that the normal vector of the halfspace is parallel to e_1 .
- Compute the new center \hat{c}' and the new matrix \hat{Q}' for this simplified setting.
- Use the transformations R and f to get the new center c' and the new matrix Q' for the original ellipsoid E.

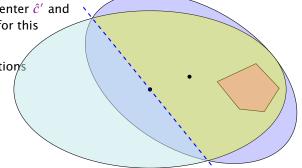


Use f^{-1} (recall that f = Lx + t is the affine transformation of the unit ball) to translate/distort the ellipsoid (back) into the unit ball.

• Use a rotation R^{-1} to rotate the unit ball such that the normal vector of the halfspace is parallel to e_1 .

Compute the new center \hat{c}' and the new matrix \hat{Q}' for this simplified setting.

Use the transformations R and f to get the new center c' and the new matrix Q' for the original ellipsoid E.

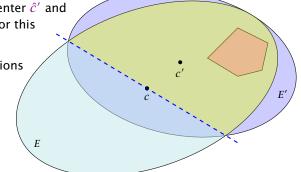


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Here it is important that mapping a set with affine function f(x) = Lx + t changes the volume by factor det(L).

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This means $\bar{a} = L^T a$.

After rotating back (applying R^{-1}) the normal vector of the halfspace points in negative x_1 -direction. Hence,

$$R^{-1}\left(\frac{L^T a}{\|L^T a\|}\right) = -e_1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\frac{L^T a}{\|L^T a\|} = R \cdot e_1$$

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$$\begin{aligned} c' &= f(\bar{c}') = L \cdot \bar{c}' + c \\ &= -\frac{1}{n+1} L \frac{L^T a}{\|L^T a\|} + c \\ &= c - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{Qa}{\sqrt{a^T Qa}} \end{aligned}$$

For computing the matrix Q' of the new ellipsoid we assume in the following that \hat{E}' , \bar{E}' and E' refer to the ellispoids centered in the origin.

199/217

$$\hat{Q}' = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & b^2 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & b^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

This gives

$$\hat{Q}' = \frac{n^2}{n^2 - 1} \left(I - \frac{2}{n+1} e_1 e_1^T \right)$$

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9 The Ellipsoid Algorithm

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9 The Ellipsoid Algorithm

Hence,

$$Q' = L\bar{Q}'L^{T}$$

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$$= \frac{n^{2}}{n^{2} - 1} \left(Q - \frac{2}{n+1} \frac{Qaa^{T}Q}{a^{T}Qa} \right)$$

Incomplete Algorithm

Algorithm 1 ellipsoid-algorithm

- 1: **input**: point $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$, convex set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$
- 2: **output:** point $x \in K$ or "K is empty"
- 3: *Q* ← ???
- 4: repeat
- 5: if $c \in K$ then return c
- 6: else
- 7: choose a violated hyperplane *a*
- 8: $c \leftarrow c \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{Qa}{\sqrt{a^T Qa}}$
 - $Q \leftarrow \frac{n^2}{n^2 1} \left(Q \frac{2}{n+1} \frac{Qaa^TQ}{a^TQa} \right)$
- 10: endif
- 11: until ???
- 12: return "K is empty"

Repeat: Size of basic solutions

Lemma 7

Let $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax \leq b\}$ be a bounded polyhedron. Let $L := 2\langle A \rangle + \langle b \rangle + 2n(1 + \log_2 n)$. Then every entry x_j in a basic solution fulfills $|x_j| = \frac{D_j}{D}$ with $D_j, D \leq 2^L$.

In the following we use $\delta := 2^L$.

Proof:

We can replace P by $P':=\{x\mid A'x\leq b;x\geq 0\}$ where $A'=\begin{bmatrix}A-A\end{bmatrix}$. The lemma follows by applying Lemma 2, and observing that $\langle A'\rangle=2\langle A\rangle$ and n'=2n.

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For feasibility checking we can assume that the polytop P is bounded; it is sufficient to consider basic solutions.

Every entry x_i in a basic solution fulfills $|x_i| \le \delta$.

Hence, P is contained in the cube $-\delta \le x_i \le \delta$.

A vector in this cube has at most distance $R:=\sqrt{n}\delta$ from the origin.

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When can we terminate?

Let $P := \{x \mid Ax \leq b\}$ with $A \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b \in \mathbb{Z}$ be a bounded polytop.

Consider the following polyhedron

$$P_{\lambda} := \left\{ x \mid Ax \le b + \frac{1}{\lambda} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} ,$$

where $\lambda = \delta^2 + 1$.

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Note that the volume of P_{λ} cannot be 0

Lemma 8

 P_{λ} is feasible if and only if P is feasible.

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$$\bar{P} = \left\{ x \mid \left[A - A \, I_m \right] x = b; x \ge 0 \right\}$$

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P is feasible if and only if \bar{P} is feasible, and P_{λ} feasible if and only if \bar{P}_{λ} feasible.

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Let
$$\bar{A} = [A - A I_m]$$
.

 $ar{P}_{\lambda}$ feasible implies that there is a basic feasible solution represented by

$$x_B = \bar{A}_B^{-1}b + \frac{1}{\lambda}\bar{A}_B^{-1}\begin{pmatrix} 1\\ \vdots\\ 1\end{pmatrix}$$

(The other x-values are zero)

The only reason that this basic feasible solution is not feasible for \bar{P} is that one of the basic variables becomes negative.

Hence, there exists i with

$$(\bar{A}_B^{-1}b)_i < 0 \leq (\bar{A}_B^{-1}b)_i + \frac{1}{\lambda}(\bar{A}_B^{-1}\vec{1})_i$$

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$$(\bar{A}_B^{-1}b)_i < 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad (\bar{A}_B^{-1}b)_i \le -\frac{1}{\det(\bar{A}_B)} \le -1/\delta$$

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If P_{λ} is feasible then it contains a ball of radius $r:=1/\delta^3$. This has a volume of at least $r^n \text{vol}(B(0,1)) = \frac{1}{\delta^{3n}} \text{vol}(B(0,1))$.

213/217

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213/217

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$$(A(x + \vec{\ell}))_i = (Ax)_i + (A\vec{\ell})_i \le b_i + \vec{a}_i^T \vec{\ell}$$

$$\le b_i + ||\vec{a}_i|| \cdot ||\vec{\ell}||$$

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$$\begin{split} (A(x+\vec{\ell}))_i &= (Ax)_i + (A\vec{\ell})_i \leq b_i + \vec{a}_i^T \vec{\ell} \\ &\leq b_i + \|\vec{a}_i\| \cdot \|\vec{\ell}\| \leq b_i + \sqrt{n} \cdot 2^{\langle a_{\text{max}} \rangle} \cdot r \end{split}$$

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$$\le b_i + \frac{\sqrt{n} \cdot 2^{\langle a_{\text{max}} \rangle}}{\delta^3} \le b_i + \frac{1}{\delta^2 + 1} \le b_i + \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

Lemma 9

If P_{λ} is feasible then it contains a ball of radius $r:=1/\delta^3$. This has a volume of at least $r^n \mathrm{vol}(B(0,1)) = \frac{1}{\delta^{3n}} \mathrm{vol}(B(0,1))$.

Proof:

If P_{λ} feasible then also P. Let x be feasible for P. This means $Ax \leq b$.

Let $\vec{\ell}$ with $\|\vec{\ell}\| \leq r$. Then

$$\begin{split} (A(x+\vec{\ell}))_i &= (Ax)_i + (A\vec{\ell})_i \le b_i + \vec{a}_i^T \vec{\ell} \\ &\le b_i + \|\vec{a}_i\| \cdot \|\vec{\ell}\| \le b_i + \sqrt{n} \cdot 2^{\langle a_{\text{max}} \rangle} \cdot r \\ &\le b_i + \frac{\sqrt{n} \cdot 2^{\langle a_{\text{max}} \rangle}}{\delta^3} \le b_i + \frac{1}{\delta^2 + 1} \le b_i + \frac{1}{\lambda} \end{split}$$

Hence, $x + \vec{\ell}$ is feasible for P_{λ} which proves the lemma.

$$e^{-\frac{i}{2(n+1)}} \cdot \operatorname{vol}(B(0,R)) < \operatorname{vol}(B(0,r))$$

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$$= \mathcal{O}(\operatorname{poly}(n) \cdot L)$$

Algorithm 1 ellipsoid-algorithm 1: **input:** point $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$, convex set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, radii R and r

with $K \subseteq B(c,R)$, and $B(x,r) \subseteq K$ for some x

3: **output**: point
$$x \in K$$
 or " K is empty"
4: $O \leftarrow \operatorname{diag}(R^2, \dots, R^2)$ // i.e., $L = \operatorname{diag}(R, \dots, R)$

if
$$c \in K$$
 then return c

endif

13: return "K is empty"

choose a violated hyperplane
$$a$$

choose a violated hy
$$1 ext{ } Qa$$

12: **until** $\det(Q) \leq r^{2n}$ // i.e., $\det(L) \leq r^n$

$$c \leftarrow c - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{Qa}{\sqrt{a^T Qa}}$$

$$c - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{Qa}{\sqrt{aTC}}$$

$$\frac{Qa}{\sqrt{a^TC}}$$

$$\sqrt{a^T \zeta}$$

$$\overline{a^TQa}$$

$$C \leftarrow C - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^T Q a}}$$

$$Q \leftarrow \frac{n^2}{n^2 - 1} \left(Q - \frac{2}{n+1} \frac{Q a a^T Q}{a^T Q a} \right)$$



Let $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex set. A separation oracle for K is an algorithm A that gets as input a point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and either

- ightharpoonup certifies that $x \in K$,
- ightharpoonup or finds a hyperplane separating x from K.

We will usually assume that A is a polynomial-time algorithm.

In order to find a point in K we need

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