

Example. SDP

$$(D) \quad \begin{aligned} V_d^* &= \sup -y_1 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &\begin{bmatrix} 0 & y_1 & 0 \\ y_1 & y_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1+y_1 \end{bmatrix} \in S_+^3 \end{aligned}$$

Observe: 1) $(y_1=0, y_2=1)$ is a feasible solution

2) $V_d^* = 0$ ($\because y_1=0$ in any feasible solution)

3) Slater condition is not satisfied, since any feasible solution has $\text{rank} \leq 2$.

Rewrite (D) as

$$\begin{aligned} \sup \quad & \underbrace{(-e_1^T y)}_b \quad (e_1 = (1, 0)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} & & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_C - y_1 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} & -1 \\ -1 & \end{bmatrix}}_{A_1} - y_2 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ \end{bmatrix}}_{A_2} \in S_+^3 \end{aligned}$$

The dual is

$$(P) \quad \begin{aligned} V_p^* &= \inf \langle C, X \rangle = X_{33} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &\langle A_1, X \rangle = -2X_{12} - X_{33} = -1, \\ &\langle A_2, X \rangle = -X_{22} = 0, \\ &X \in S_+^3. \end{aligned}$$

Observe: Any feasible solution to (P) takes the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ * & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in S_+^3$$

Hence, $V_p^* = 1$. Note that (P) does not satisfy Slater condition.

Optimization under Uncertainty

Consider

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & a_i^T x \leq b_i, \quad i=1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

The data are (a_i, b_i, c) . In some cases, they are uncertain.

How to protect our solution from such uncertainties?

Approach 1: Stochastic optimization

Assume (a_i, b_i, c) follow certain probability distribution.

Then, we can consider, e.g.,

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \mathbb{E}[c^T x] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Pr[a_i^T x \leq b_i] \geq 1 - \delta, \quad i=1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

chance constraint

Approach 2: Robust optimization

Assume (a_i, b_i, c) belong to a bounded uncertainty set.

Then, we consider, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \left[a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad \forall (a_i, b_i) \in \mathcal{U}_i \right] \end{aligned}$$

robust constraint
uncertainty set

Example: Consider the robust LP

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(RLP)} \quad \min \quad & c^T z \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & a_i^T z \leq 0, \quad \forall a_i \in \mathcal{U}_i = \{ w : \|w - \bar{a}_i\|_2 \leq r_i \} \end{aligned}$$

Note: (RLP) is not an LP, because



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there are infinitely many linear constraints.

Q: How to tackle (RLP)?

A: Observe that

$$a_i^T z \leq 0 \quad \forall a_i \in \mathcal{U}_i = \{ \bar{a}_i + r_i u : \|u\|_2 \leq 1 \}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \max_{a_i \in \mathcal{U}_i} a_i^T z \leq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \max_{\|u\|_2 \leq 1} (\bar{a}_i + r_i u)^T z \leq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{a}_i^T z + r_i \cdot \max_{\|u\|_2 \leq 1} u^T z \leq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{a}_i^T z + r_i \|z\|_2 \leq 0 \quad (\because \text{Cauchy-Schwarz})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow r_i \underbrace{\|z\|_2}_{\substack{\text{linear in} \\ z}} \leq \underbrace{-\bar{a}_i^T z}_{\substack{\text{linear in } z}} \quad (\text{SOC constraint})$$