#### Optimization: Examples

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2024 fall

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L.V. Kantorovich (1912-1986)

 Kantorovich (Soviet mathematician) was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1975 for his contributions to optimal resource allocation.

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where  $x \in \text{dom }(c)$  and  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  represents the domain determined by the constraints.

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- Implicit constraints. An algorithm/oracle/subroutine decides whether a given  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfies the constraints:

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• **Explicit constraints.** The condition is described by a finite set of equations and/or inequalities:

$$\begin{cases} f_i(x) \le 0, & i \in [k] := \{1, 2, \dots, k\}, \\ g_j(x) = 0, & j \in [\ell], \end{cases}$$
 (1.1)

where  $f_i$  ( $i \in [k]$ ) and  $g_j$  ( $j \in [\ell]$ ) are also real-valued functions of n variables. In this case,  $\mathcal{F}$  is the solution set of the above system.

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• The domain of definition of the optimization problem is the intersection of the domains of definition of the objective function and the constraints. For explicit constraints (1.1), this is

$$\mathcal{D} := \operatorname{\mathsf{dom}} (c) \cap \left( \bigcap_{i=1}^{\kappa} \operatorname{\mathsf{dom}} (f_i) \right) \cap \left( \bigcap_{j=1}^{t} \operatorname{\mathsf{dom}} (g_j) \right),$$

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• **Feasible solutions** refer to those  $x \in \mathcal{D}$  vectors that satisfy the criteria, i.e.,  $x \in \mathcal{F}$ . The set of these x values is denoted by  $\mathcal{L}$ . Thus,

$$\mathcal{L} := \mathcal{D} \cap \mathcal{F},$$

which, for explicit constraints (1.1), becomes

$$\mathcal{L} = \{x \in \mathcal{D} : f_i(x) \leq 0, \ g_j(x) = 0, \ i \in [k], j \in [\ell]\}.$$

• The **optimal value** associated with the problem is

$$p^* = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{L}} c(x) \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\} \cup \{\infty\},\,$$

where the infimum is  $\infty$  if the set of feasible solutions is empty, and  $-\infty$  if the objective function c takes arbitrarily small values on the feasible solutions.

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• The vector  $x_{\ell}$  is a **local optimum** if for every point in its neighborhood, c is at least as large as at  $x_{\ell}$ :

$$\exists \varepsilon > 0, \ \forall x : \|x - x_{\ell}\|_{2} < \varepsilon \quad \text{implies} \quad c(x_{\ell}) \le c(x),$$

where  $\| \ \|_2$  is the Euclidean norm defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\| \|_2 \colon \mathbb{R}^n \to [0, \infty), \ y \mapsto \|y\|_2 := \sqrt{y_1^2 + \dots + y_n^2}.$$

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$$(0 < p^* \leq) c(x_0) \leq (1+\varepsilon)p^*.$$

• In the definition of  $\varepsilon$ -approximate solution, we include the condition that the optimal value is positive,  $p^* > 0$ . In problems with negative optimal values, we need to impose the condition  $c(x_0) \leq (1-\varepsilon)p^*$ .

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Minimize} & \frac{1}{x} \\ \text{subject to} & x \ge 0. \end{array}$ 

Minimize	$\frac{1}{-}$
1.1.	X
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• The objective function is  $c(x) = x^{-1}$ , a reciprocal function defined on dom  $(c) = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .

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It can be seen that the set of feasible solutions is the open interval

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{R}_{>0} := (0, \infty) = ]0, \infty[$$

### Introductory example I (continued)

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- However, there are no  $\varepsilon$ -approximate solutions.

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• As a result, we obtain

$$p^* = -\frac{1}{e}, \qquad x^* = \frac{1}{e}.$$

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- By equivalent transformation, we mean a formal rearrangement such that the optimal value/location of one problem can be easily determined based on the optimal value/location of the other problem.

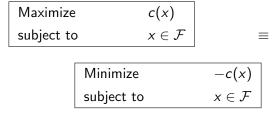
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- By equivalent transformation, we mean a formal rearrangement such that the optimal value/location of one problem can be easily determined based on the optimal value/location of the other problem.
- Now (without claiming completeness), let's mention a few possibilities.



Examples of Optimization Problems

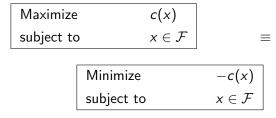
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Basic notions



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- If we know the optimal value of the minimization problem, its negative will be the optimal value of the maximization problem.

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$$(x_1 + x_2)^2 \le 0 \iff (x_1 + x_2)^2 = 0 \iff x_1 + x_2 = 0.$$

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• The introduced variables  $s_i$  are called *slack variables*.

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- Determining  $x_0$  and F can be done efficiently.

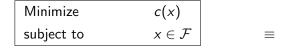
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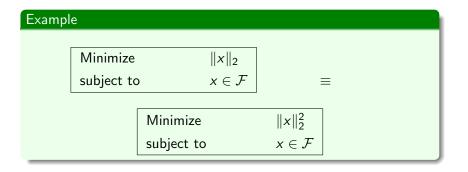
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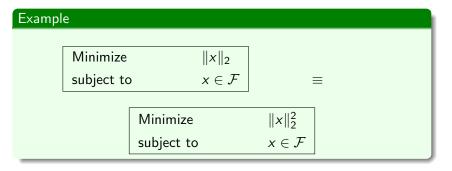
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subject to	$f_i(x_0+Fy)\leq 0$

• Let  $m : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be a strictly monotonic function on the range c (the set of values taken by the objective function).

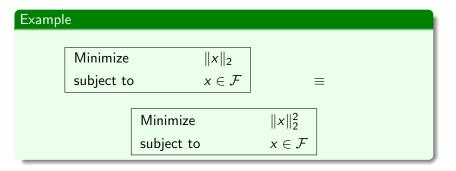
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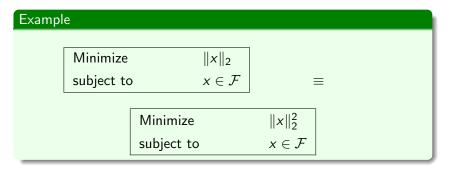




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- We made minimal changes, but the new objective function is differentiable. We will see that such a *small* advantage can be very significant.

Maximize 
$$x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1$$
. subject to  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 100$ ,  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \ge 0$ .

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• The two sets of constraints are obviously equivalent.

• The two objective functions are:

$$c_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1$$
, and  $c_2(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \sqrt{\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}{3}}$ .

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• The relationship is evident (when the constraints are satisfied):

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- The advantage of the new form is evident.

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- Instead of maximizing  $c_1$ , we can minimize  $100^2-2c_1=3c_2^2$ . Then we can apply the strictly monotonic function  $m(x)=\sqrt{\frac{x}{3}}$  (on the set of non-negative values taken by the new objective function). Thus, we obtain the second form above.
- The advantage of the new form is evident. We need to minimize the square sum given a fixed arithmetic mean.

• The two objective functions are:

$$c_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1$$
, and  $c_2(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \sqrt{\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}{3}}$ .

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- The advantage of the new form is evident. We need to minimize the square sum given a fixed arithmetic mean. With the inequality between arithmetic and quadratic means, the optimization question can be solved with elementary mathematics.

#### **Break**



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- Often, mathematical ideas are necessary for formal description.
- After a good, fortunate formalization, the optimization algorithm is often ready to go.
- Below, we present some introductory examples of basic concepts and elementary formalization tricks.

### Example I

#### Example I

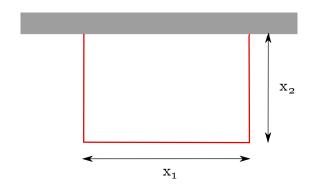
#### Example

I want to enclose the largest possible rectangular area with a fence 100 m long, with one side being a wall. How do I need to choose the side lengths?

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• It is obvious that the objective function  $c(x_1, x_2) = x_1x_2$  is defined over the entire  $\mathbb{R}^2$  plane and  $f_1(x_1, x_2) = -x_1$ ,  $f_2(x_1, x_2) = -x_2$ ,  $g_1(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + 2x_2 - 100$ ,

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- Applying the inequality between arithmetic and geometric means and taking the constraints into account, we get

$$50 = \frac{x_1 + 2x_2}{2} \ge \sqrt{x_1(2x_2)} \qquad (\ge 0).$$



Basic notions

• Squaring both sides, we obtain

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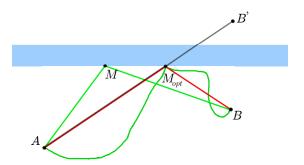
- Since  $x^* = (50, 25) \in \mathcal{L}$  is a feasible solution where c reaches this bound, thus  $p^* = 1250$ .
- Analyzing the case of equality in the inequality between arithmetic and geometric means is beneficial. Based on this, (50,25) is not just one optimal point. (50,25) is the ONLY optimal point.

#### Example

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- Among the modified paths, obviously traversing segment AB' is optimal. That is, the intersection of t and segment AB' is the optimal watering point.
- $\bullet$  Here, coming straight from A and then moving straight to B will be the shortest path for the horse in the problem.

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- Therefore, given points  $A(a_1, a_2)$  and  $B(b_1, b_2)$ , the problem can be formulated as follows:

Minimize 
$$\sqrt{(a_1-x)^2+a_2^2}+\sqrt{(b_1-x)^2+b_2^2}$$
.

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- Notice that instead of the distance, we can also consider its  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$  times.
- The formalization (similar to a previous example) can be as follows:

Minimize 
$$\sqrt{\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}{3}}$$
  
subject to  $\frac{x_1 + x_2 + x_3}{3} = \frac{100}{3}$   
 $x_1, x_2, x_3 > 0$ .

We use the inequality between the arithmetic and quadratic means to estimate the original optimal value:

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}c(x) = \sqrt{\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2}{3}} \ge \frac{x_1 + x_2 + x_3}{3} = \frac{100}{3}.$$

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• Furthermore, its optimal value is

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## Example IV

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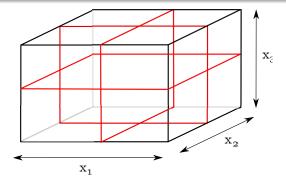
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What is the largest surface area (in the shape of a rectangular prism) that can be bound by a 400 cm long string (in the manner shown in the accompanying figure)?

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### Example IV: Formalization

The formalization is obvious:

Maximize 
$$2x_1x_2 + 2x_2x_3 + 2x_3x_1$$
 subject to  $4x_1 + 4x_2 + 4x_3 = 400$   $x_1, x_2, x_3 > 0$ .

Based on previous considerations, this is an equivalent problem to the previous one. Rethinking the equivalence leads to the conclusion that the optimal point is the same as in the previous problem.

$$x^* = \left(\frac{100}{3}, \frac{100}{3}, \frac{100}{3}\right).$$

From this, the optimal value of the original problem is

$$p^* = c(x^*) = \frac{20\,000}{3}.$$



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• With this problem, we encountered the Turán theorem in the Combinatorics course. If we denote the sizes of the three parts as  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ , and  $x_3$  and observe that we are looking for the maximum among complete 3-partite graphs, then the problem is as follows:

Maximize	$x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1$
subject to	$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 100$
	$x_1, x_2, x_3 > 0$
	$x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

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- $\bullet$  This also means that at the optimal point,  $|x_i^*-x_j^*|\leq 1$  for all  $i,j\in\{1,2,3\}.$
- There are three such possible solutions where the objective function takes a common value. Thus, the optimal points are (34, 33, 33), (33, 34, 33), (33, 34, 34).
- The optimal value is  $p^* = 3333$ .



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- Interestingly, but perhaps the discrete problem seems easier at first glance: We need to find the optimal one(s) among finite possibilities. Yet, it seems like more ideas are needed for the discrete case.

### **Break**



### Example

Let  $d, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\ell_1(x), \ldots, \ell_n(x) \colon \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$  be given linear functions. Determine the minimum of the function  $c(x) = \max_{1 \le i \le n} \ell_i(x)$ .

So the formalized problem is:

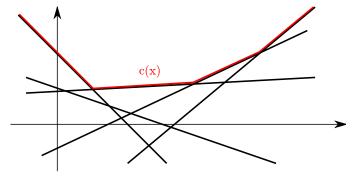
Minimize 
$$c(x)$$

The problem is global (there are no constraints).

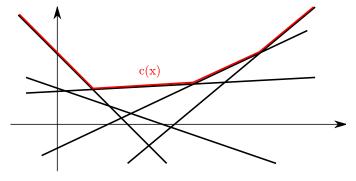
Basic notions

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• Even this specific choice gives a faithful representation of the objective function. The maximum of linear functions c is *piecewise* linear. For d > 1, this means that the domain of c can be divided into connected parts on which c is linear.

### Example VI: Reformulation

Basic notions

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 $\bullet$  In the optimization problem equivalent to the previous one, we minimize the number m such that the definition (maximality) of the objective function in that case is built into the constraints.

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	$\vdots \\ \ell_n(x) \leq m,$
subject to	$\ell_1(x) \leq m$ ,
Minimize	m

where  $(x, m) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}$ .

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### Linear Programming, LP

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  be a given matrix,  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$  fixed vectors, and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the unknown vector. The problem:

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Minimize	$c^{T}x$
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where  $Ax \leq b$  denotes the *componentwise less than or equal* relation between Ax and b in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

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Examples of Optimization Problems

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- If we formulate a problem as an LP problem, then we are *beyond* the hard part. (Just like in high school, if we reduced our work to solving a quadratic equation during solving equations).
- We finish our work with one of the general LP algorithms (such algorithms are easily accessible with public source code).

### Example

Consider the LP problem where the linear objective function  $(c^Tx)$  is a random variable represented by the vector c. We assume that its expected value,  $\overline{c} = \mathbb{E}[c]$ , is known, and the constraints are no longer dependent on randomness.

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- Based on the linearity of expected value,  $\mathbb{E}[c^Tx] = (\mathbb{E}[c])^Tx$ .
- An LP problem remains our optimization question:

Minimize	$(\mathbb{E}[c])^T x$
subject to	$Ax \leq b$ .

#### Definition

Sets of points in the form  $\mathcal{P} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : a_i^\mathsf{T} x \leq b, \ i = 1, \dots, k\}$  are called polyhedra. If the polyhedron  $\mathcal{P}$  is bounded (i.e., compact: bounded and closed), then it is called a polytope.

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- ullet In fact, deciding whether  ${\cal P}$  is empty is also a central problem.
- $\bullet$  In our case, we need to measure how deeply a point in  ${\cal P}$  is inside  ${\cal P}.$
- There are many solutions/answers. We discuss one solution associated with Chebyshev.



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 $B(c,r) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x-c|^2 \le r^2\}$  is the ball centered at c with radius r.

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 $\bullet$  Our fundamental problem: Given  $\mathcal{P}$ , find a Chebyshev center.

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There are two types of signed distances. The above one is positive in the half-space  $\{x: a^{\mathsf{T}}x > b\}$  and negative in the complementary (open) half-space.

• The Chebyshev center problem is equivalent to the following:

Maximize 
$$r$$
 subject to  $a_i^\mathsf{T} x + |a_i| r \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$   $r \geq 0$ 

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• Our first type of condition is equivalent to  $\frac{a_i^T}{|a_i|}x+r\leq \frac{b}{|a_i|}$ , i.e.,

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- The reformulated optimization problem is an LP problem.

### **Break**



## Example X: Least Squares Problem

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• This is an unconstrained optimization problem. It is easily handled based on basic linear algebraic and geometric knowledge.

#### Example

Consider a series of measurements (e.g., measurements taken at different times in an experimental laboratory or measurements from a meteorological station at certain location), where  $t_1, t_2, \ldots t_N$  and  $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_N$  denote the measurement times and the measured parameters, respectively. We are looking for a "low," d-degree polynomial that is a good "hypothesis" for the changes in p.

Let

$$p(x) = x_d x^d + \dots + x_1 x + x_0$$

be the polynomial, i.e., for the measured vector  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_N)^T$ , we need to minimize the distance in  $L_2$  from

$$x_d(t_1^d, \ldots, t_N^d)^{\mathsf{T}} + x_{d-1}(t_1^{d-1}, \ldots, t_N^{d-1})^{\mathsf{T}} + \ldots$$

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to p.

• In the least squares problem, the objective function is quadratic, unlike in LP where it is linear. We will now examine a common generalization of the two problems.

#### Quadratic Programming, QP

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  be symmetric matrices, and let  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{R}^m$  be vectors.

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- It is worth noting that the basic QP problem can also be handled (an efficient algorithm is known for it) if the objective function is convex (i.e., A is positive semidefinite). If we bring a problem into this form (convex QP), then we are "ready".

• Consider the LP problem in which the linear objective function  $(c^Tx)$  is a vector of random variables c. Assume that its expected value is  $\overline{c} = \mathbb{E}[c]$ , and its covariance matrix is  $\Sigma = \mathbb{E}[(c-\overline{c})(c-\overline{c})^T]$ . Furthermore, the constraints do not depend on randomness anymore.

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- We have seen that if we only minimize the expected value of the objective function  $(\mathbb{E}[c^Tx] = (\mathbb{E}[c])^Tx)$ , then we obtain an LP problem.
- However, in this case, we do not take into account the *risk*.

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#### Stochastic LP

Minimize	$\mathbb{E}[c^T x] + \gamma  \mathbb{V}ar[c^T x]$
subject to	$Ax \leq b$
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where  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  is a parameter chosen for the application.

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With simple transformations,

$$Var[c^{\mathsf{T}}x] = \mathbb{E}[(c^{\mathsf{T}}x - \mathbb{E}[c^{\mathsf{T}}x])^2] = \mathbb{E}[(c^{\mathsf{T}}x - (\mathbb{E}[c])^{\mathsf{T}}x)^2]$$
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The convex QP form of the question is now apparent.

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Determine the distance between two given polyhedra in *n*-dimensional Euclidean space!

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• Since the polyhedra arise as solution sets of linear inequalities, each polytope corresponds to an inequality system ( $C_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{k_1 \times n}$ ,  $C_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{k_2 \times n}$ ):

$$\mathcal{P}_1 = \{x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n : C_1 x_1 \leq d_1\} \text{ and } \mathcal{P}_2 = \{x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n : C_2 x_2 \leq d_2\}.$$

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The distance between them is

$$d(\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2) = \inf\{d(x_1, x_2) : x_1 \in \mathcal{P}_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{P}_2\},\$$

where 
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• To this end, consider the vectors and matrices formed from  $d_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{k_1}, d_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{k_2}, x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{(k_1+k_2)\times n}$  as follows:

$$d = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}, \quad C = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & 0 \\ 0 & C_2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times 2n}$$

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• If we further construct the  $n \times n$  identity matrix, then

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our objective function can be written in the form  $x^TAx$ .

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our objective function can be written in the form  $x^TAx$ .

• Using the above notation, we see that this is a convex QP problem. Based on the above, determining the distance between two polytopes can be efficiently accomplished.

### **Break**



### Example

Given a simple graph G. Determine

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• Any arbitrary vertex set can be described by its characteristic vector  $\chi_U \in \{0,1\}^V \subset \mathbb{R}^V$ . The size of U is exactly  $1^T \chi_U$ , where  $1 \in \mathbb{R}^V$  is a vector with all components equal to 1.

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- The elements of  $\{0,1\}^V$  can be described by the conditions  $0 \le x_v \le 1$ ,  $x_v \in \mathbb{Z}$  for all v vertices. A 0-1 vector will be the characteristic vector of a clique if at most one of its vertices falls into every pair of disconnected vertices u and v. That is, for all  $uv \notin E(G)$ ,  $u \ne v$  vertices, we have  $x_u + x_v \le 1$ .

# Example XIV: Clique Problem (continued)

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ullet The well-known  $\mathcal{N}P$ -hard clique problem can be formulated as follows:

Maximize  $1^{\mathsf{T}}x,$  subject to  $0 \leq x_v \leq 1, \ x_v \in \mathbb{Z} \ \text{for all $v$ vertices}$   $x_u + x_v \leq 1$  for all disconnected vertices  $uv \not\in E(G), u \neq v.$ 

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The basic problem:

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### Integer Programming, IP

The basic problem:

Minimize	$c^{T}x$
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### Example

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• Algebraically formalizing the condition yields the following equivalent optimization problem:

Maximize	$1^T x$ (where $x \in \mathbb{R}^{E(G)}$ )
subject to	$0 \leq x_{e} \leq 1$ , $x_{e} \in \mathbb{Z}$
	$\sum_{e:v\in e} x_e \le 1 \text{ for all } v \text{ vertices.}$

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Examples of Optimization Problems

### Example XVI: Matching Problem: Relaxation

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### Notation

$$\nu^*(G)$$

denotes the optimal value of the above LP problem.

### **Theorem**

If G is bipartite, then  $\nu^*(G) = \nu(G)$ .

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#### $\mathsf{Theorem}^*$

Let G be a bipartite graph. Then

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• The case of non-bipartite graphs will be studied further later.

• Finally, let's formalize/algebraize an  $\mathcal{N}P$ -hard problem.

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#### Example

Given a graph G. Determine the clique parameter  $(\omega(G))$ , i.e., the size of the largest clique.

• We saw that the question can also be formulated as an IP problem. The following theorem gives an alternative, far from obvious, formalization of determining  $\omega(G)$ .

#### Example XIV: Clique Problem Revisited: Theorem

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Basic notions

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times V}$  be the adjacency matrix of graph G, and consider the following problem  $(x, 0, 1 \in \mathbb{R}^{V})$ :

Maximize	$x^{T}Ax$
subject to	<i>x</i> ≥ 0
	$1^T x = 1$ .

## Example XIV: Clique Problem Revisited: Theorem

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Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times V}$  be the adjacency matrix of graph G, and consider the following problem  $(x, 0, 1 \in \mathbb{R}^{V})$ :

Maximize 
$$x^{\mathsf{T}}Ax$$
 subject to  $x \succeq 0$   $1^{\mathsf{T}}x = 1$ .

Then

$$p^* = 1 - \frac{1}{\omega(G)}.$$

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vector, where k = |V(G)| and  $n_1, \ldots, n_k \in \mathbb{N}$  numbers form a partition of  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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Examples of Optimization Problems

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- $\circ$  Each point  $v_i$  of G corresponds to an independent set  $V_i$  of  $n_i$  points in  $\widetilde{G}$  (i = 1, ..., k).
- $\circ$  If points  $v_i, v_j \in V(G)$  are adjacent, then a complete bipartite graph  $K_{n_i,n_j}$  is formed between the respective  $V_i, V_j$  sets (all possible edges are drawn).

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- o If points  $v_i, v_j \in V(G)$  are not adjacent, then there is no edge between the corresponding  $V_i, V_i$  sets.

ullet By definition, the number of points of  $\widetilde{G}$  is

$$|V(\widetilde{G})| = \sum_{i=1}^{k} n_i = N \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{n_i}{N} = N$$

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• The largest clique of  $\widetilde{G}$  has size  $\omega(G)$ . Applying Turán's theorem, its number of edges is at most the number of edges of the  $\omega(G)$ -class/N-point Turán graph ( $\Longrightarrow \omega(G)|N$ ):

$$|E(\widetilde{G})| \leq |E(T_{N,\omega(G)})| = {\omega(G) \choose 2} \left(\frac{N}{\omega(G)}\right)^2 = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\omega(G)}\right) \frac{N^2}{2}.$$

• Summarizing the above, we obtain

$$c(x) = \frac{2}{N^2} |E(\widetilde{G})| \le 1 - \frac{1}{\omega(G)},$$

if  $x \in \mathcal{L} \cap \mathbb{Q}^{V(G)}$ .

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- ullet  $\mathbb{Q}^{V(G)}$  is a dense set in  $\mathcal{L}$ , and the objective function is continuous.
- This proves the missing inequality. Thus,  $p^* = 1 \frac{1}{\omega(G)}$ .

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- Among the conditions of the convex QP problem, only the positive semidefiniteness of the quadratic form matrix is missing.
- Omitting this condition results in a form capable of formalizing hopeless optimization problems.

#### This is the End!

Thank you for your attention!