

# Solving Low-Dimensional Optimization Problems via Zonotope Vertex Enumeration

Nate Veldt

PUNLAG Seminar

February 22, 2017

# Binary Quadratic Maximization (01QP)

Given: Matrix A symmetric, rational,  $n \times n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \quad \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t. } & \mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n \end{aligned}$$

NP-hard in general

# Binary Quadratic Maximization (01QP)

Given: Matrix A symmetric, rational,  $n \times n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \quad \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t. } & \mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n \end{aligned}$$

Polynomial-time for rank-d, PSD matrices  
via zonotope vertex enumeration

# Binary Quadratic Maximization (01QP)

Given: Matrix A symmetric, rational,  $n \times n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \quad \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t. } & \mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n \end{aligned}$$

**Ferrez, Fukuda, Libeling.** Solving the fixed rank convex quadratic maximization in binary variable by a parallel zonotope construction algorithm. *European Journal of Operational Research* 2005

# Zonotope: the linear projection of a hypercube into a lower dimensional space

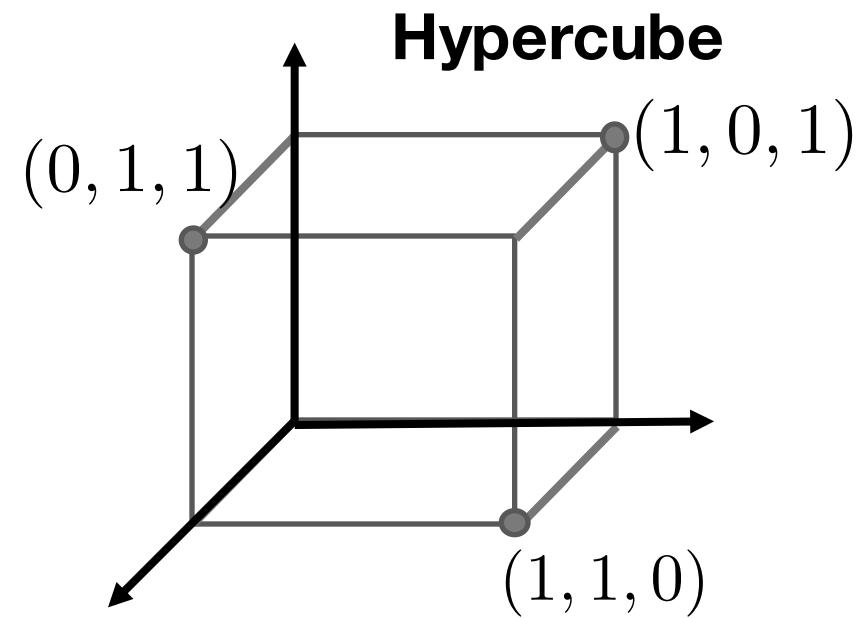
$$\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$$

$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$

# Zonotope: the linear projection of a hypercube into a lower dimensional space

$$\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$$

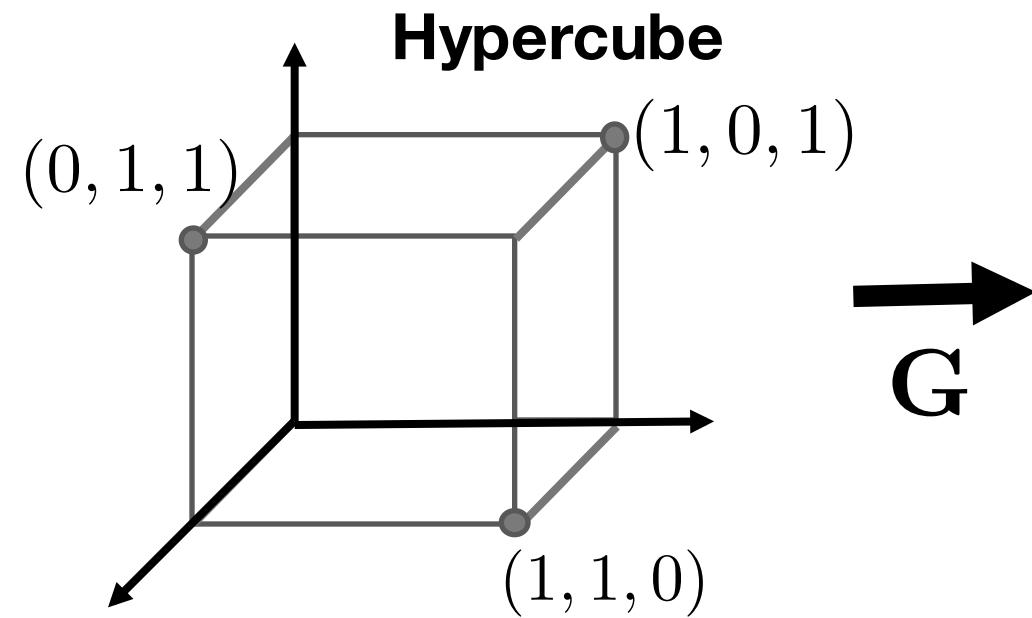
$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$



# Zonotope: the linear projection of a hypercube into a lower dimensional space

$$\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$$

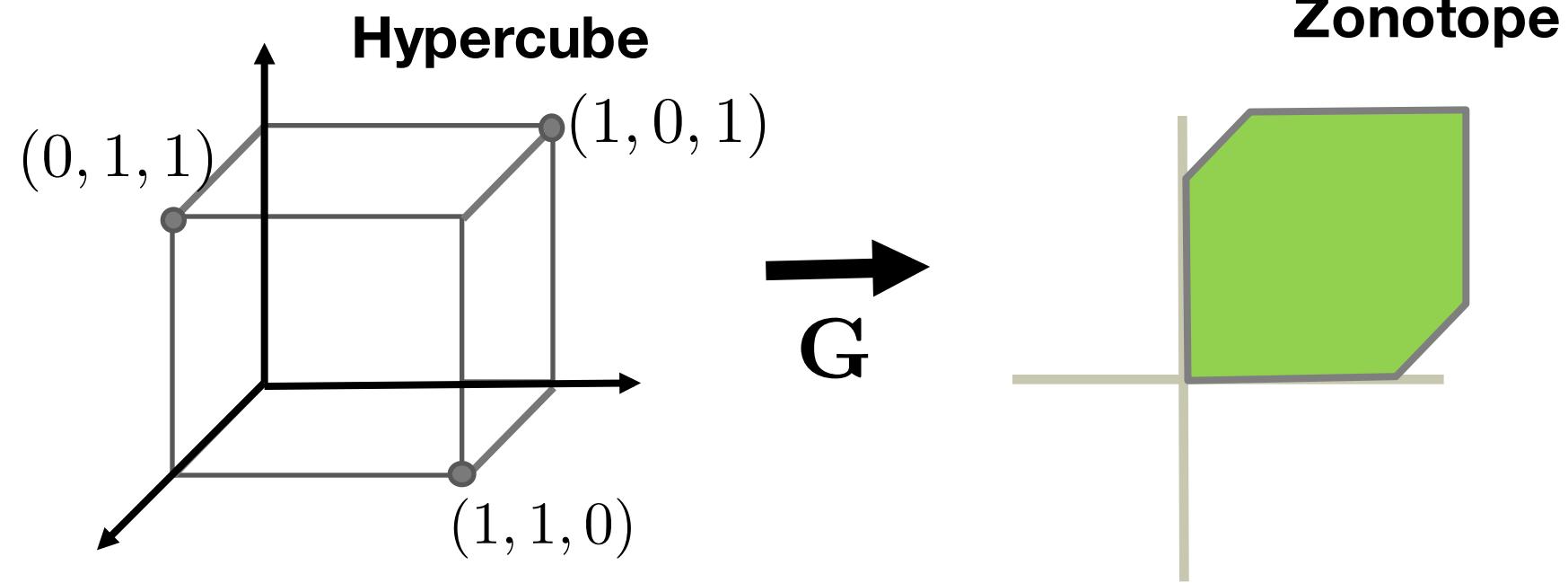
$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$



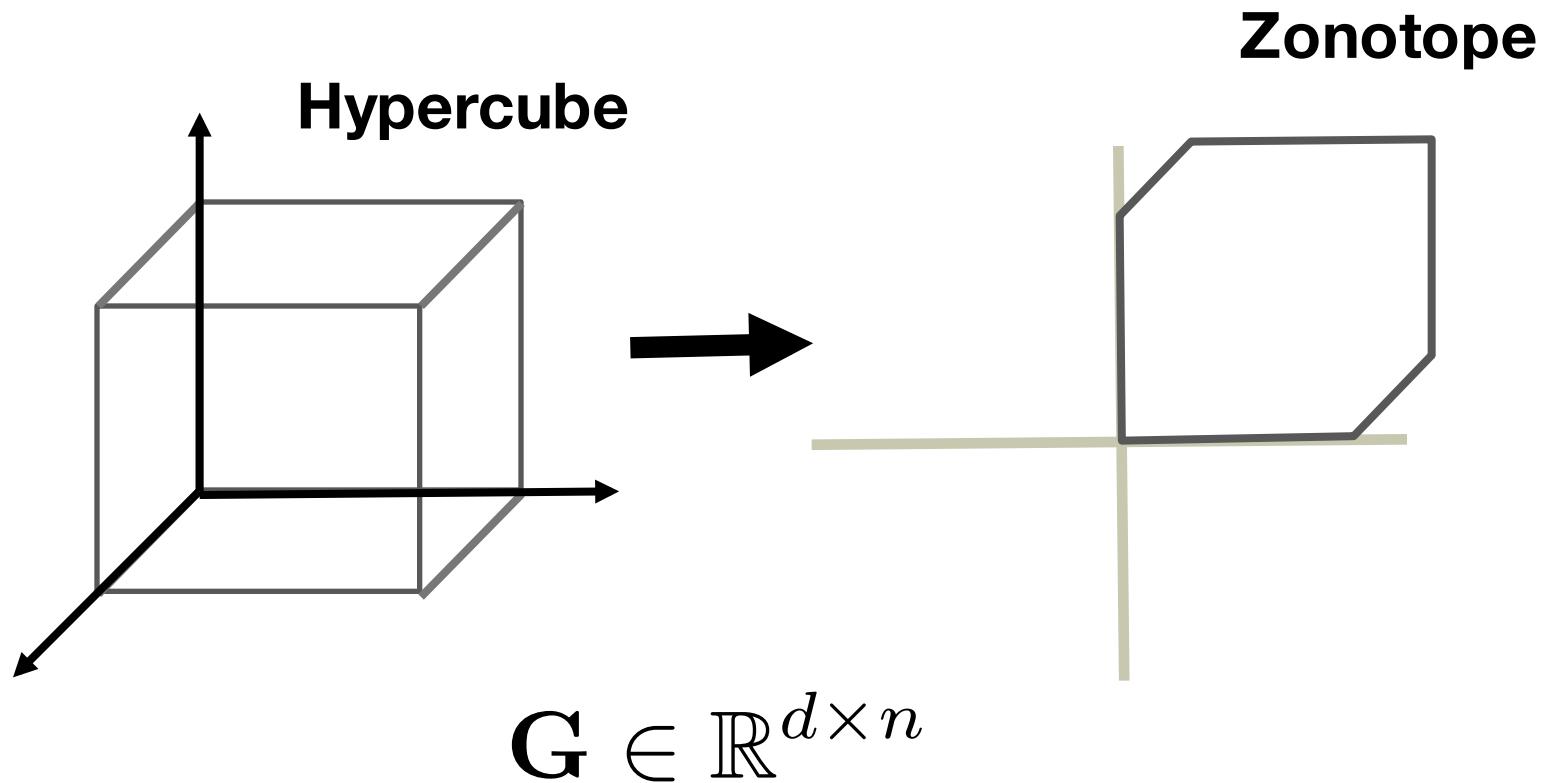
# Zonotope: the linear projection of a hypercube into a lower dimensional space

$$\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$$

$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$



# Zonotope: the linear projection of a hypercube into a lower dimensional space



$$\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$

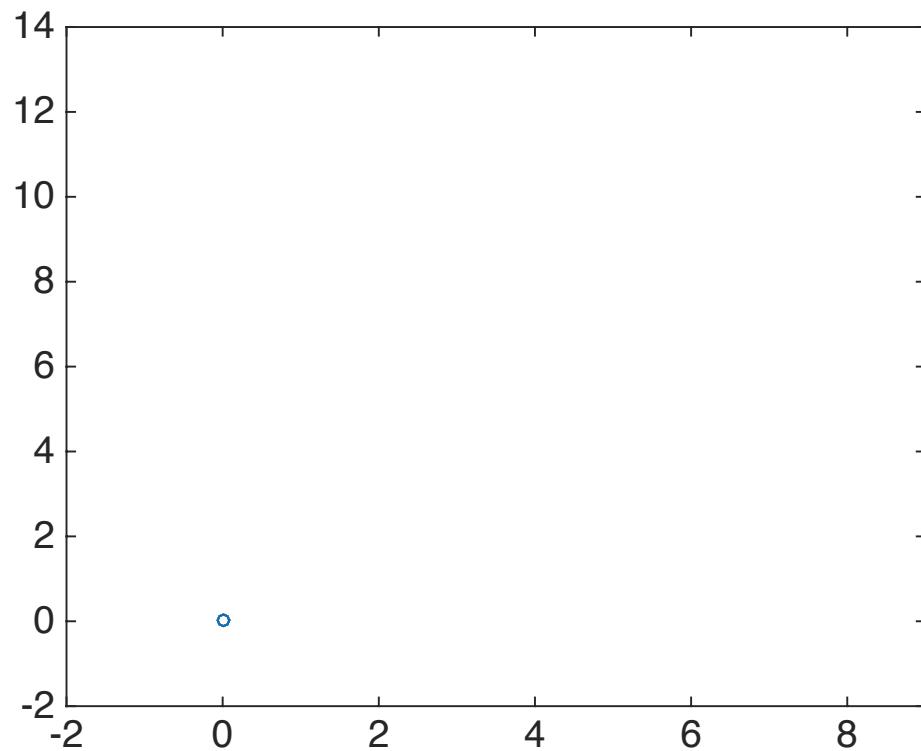
# Example of a 2D zonotope

$$\mathbf{G}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x}$$

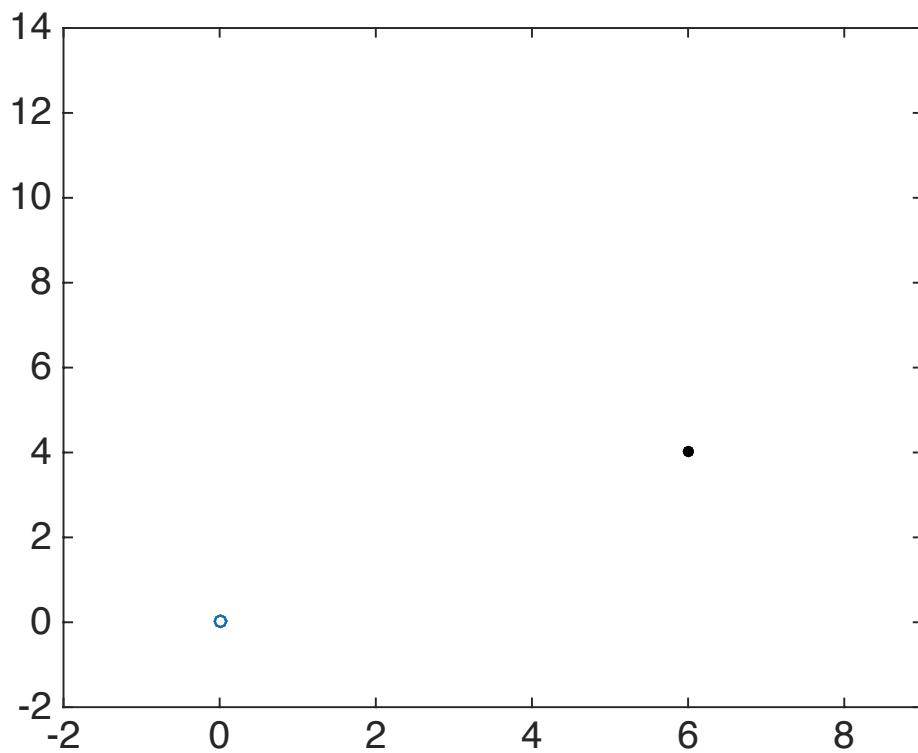
$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]\}$$

# Example of a 2D zonotope

$$\mathbf{G} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

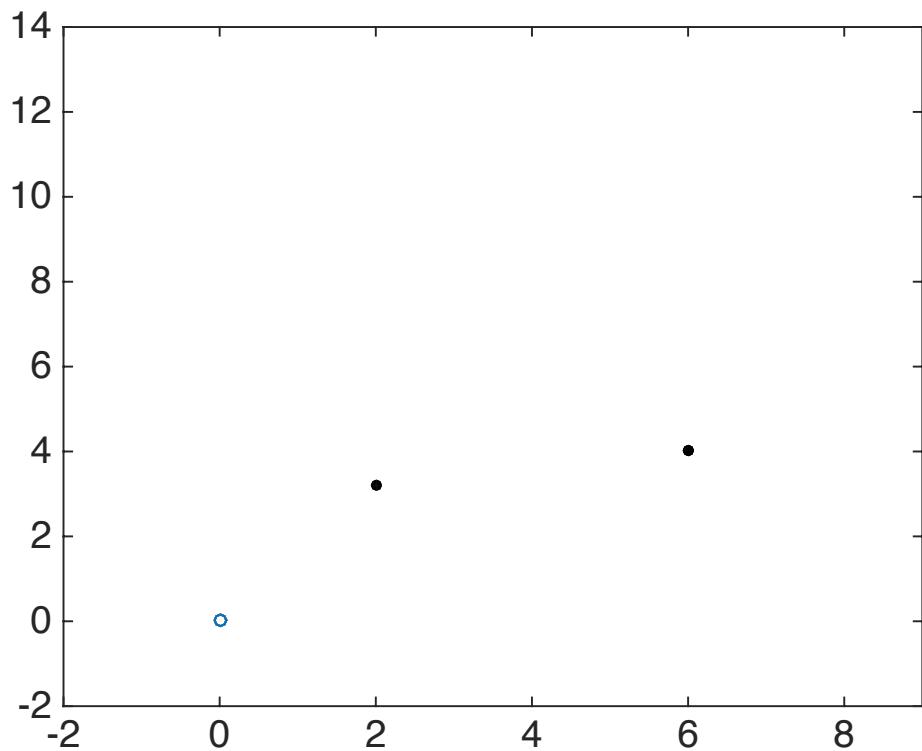


$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]\}$$

# Example of a 2D zonotope

**X**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} .5 \\ .8 \\ .2 \\ .1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3.2 \end{bmatrix}$$

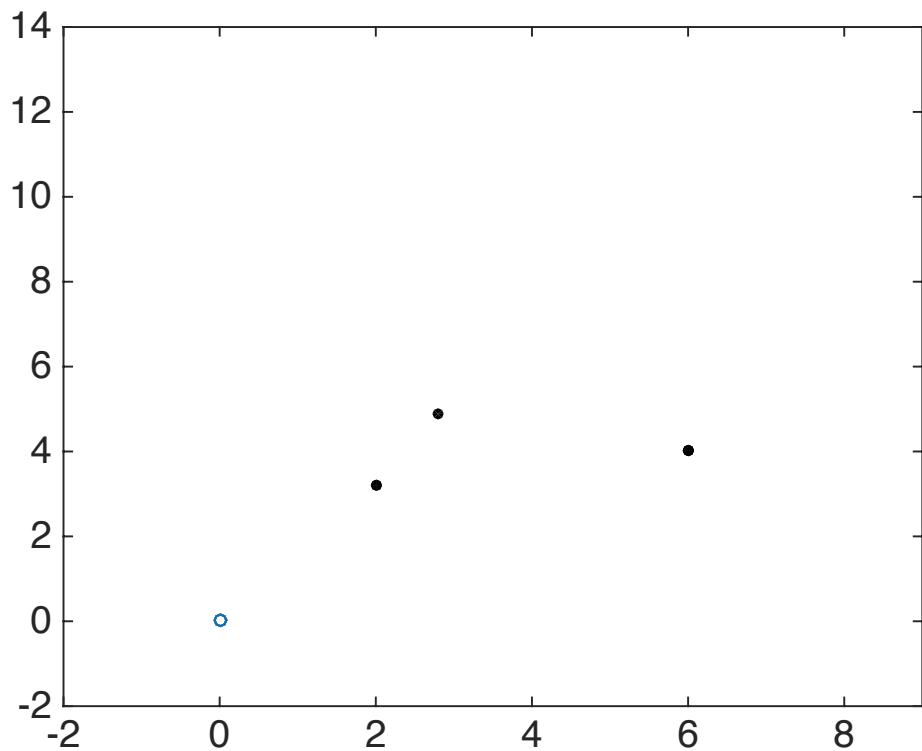


$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{ \mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1] \}$$

# Example of a 2D zonotope

**X**

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} .1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ .4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2.8 \\ 4.9 \end{bmatrix}$$

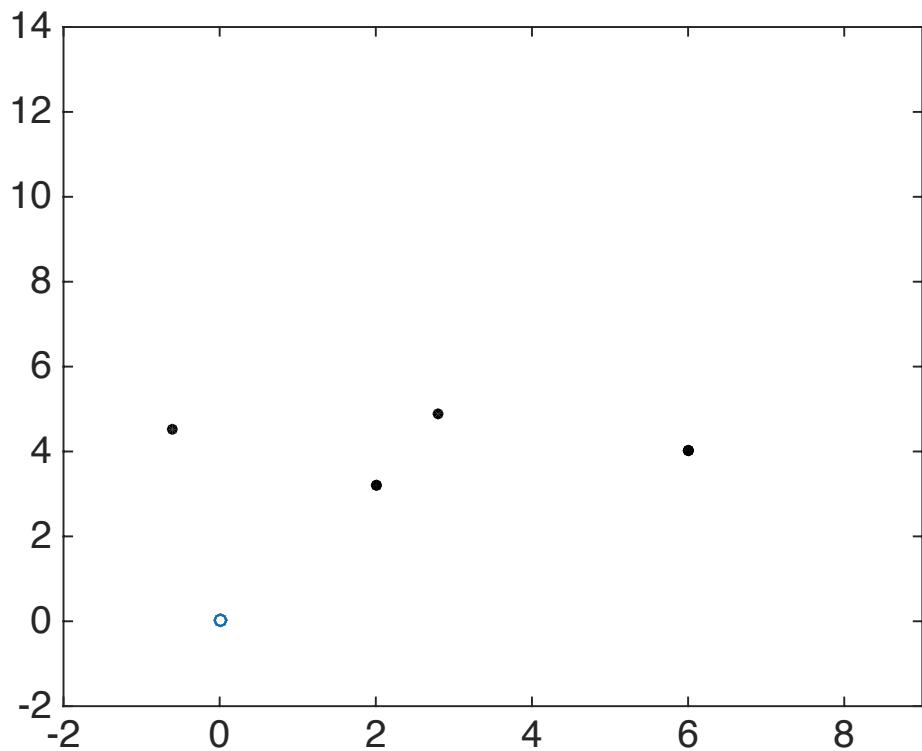


$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]\}$$

# Example of a 2D zonotope

**X**

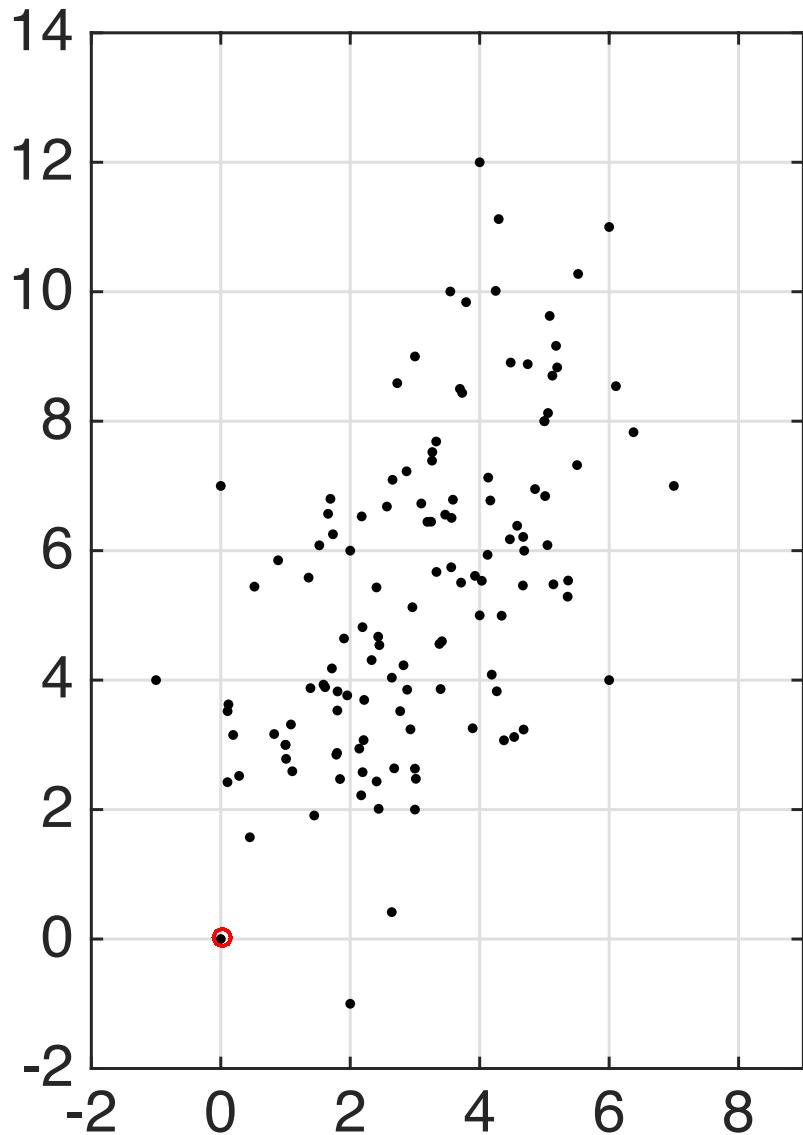
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ .1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.6 \\ 4.5 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]\}$$

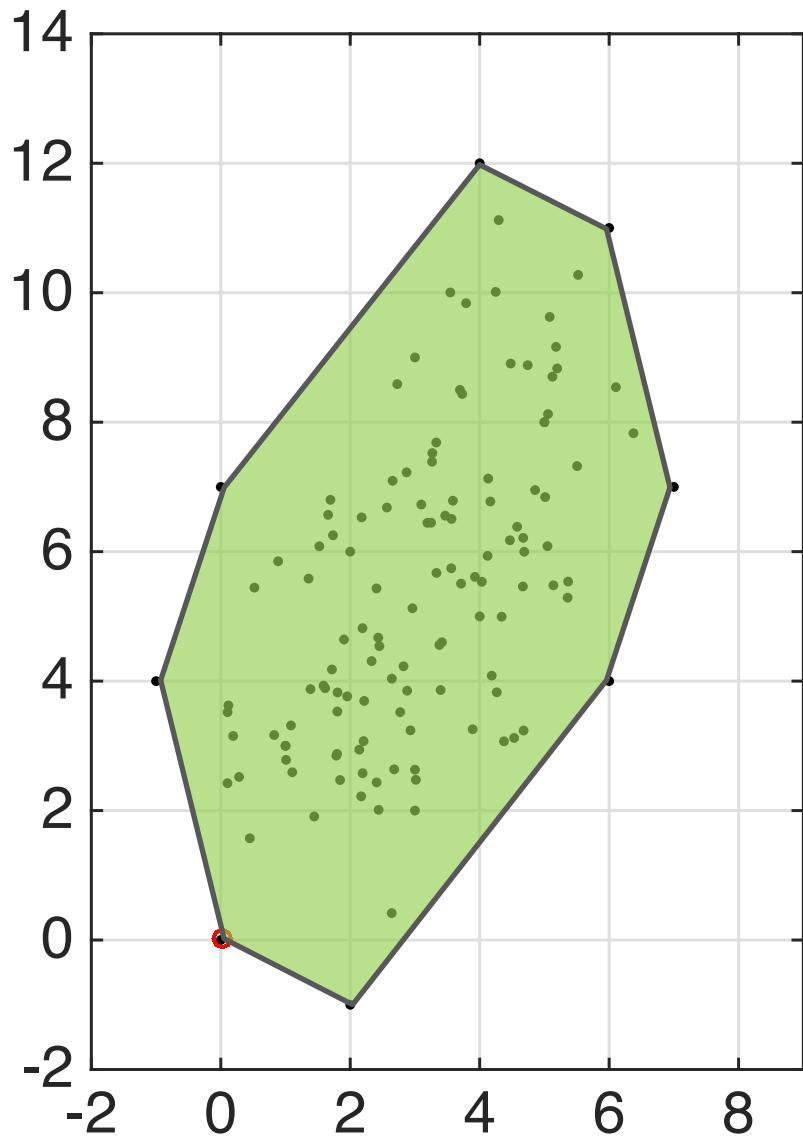
# Example of a 2D zonotope

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$



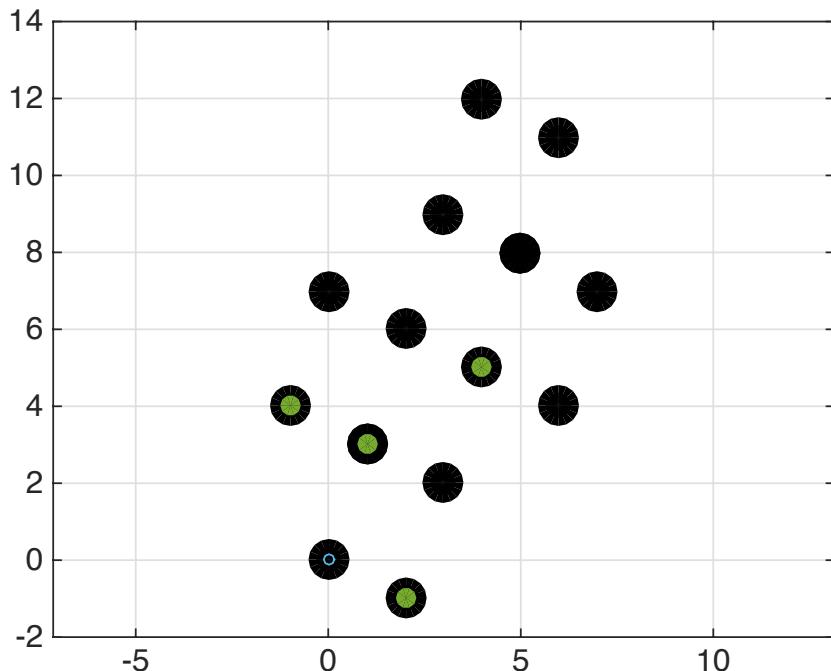
# Example of a 2D zonotope

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Example of a 2D zonotope

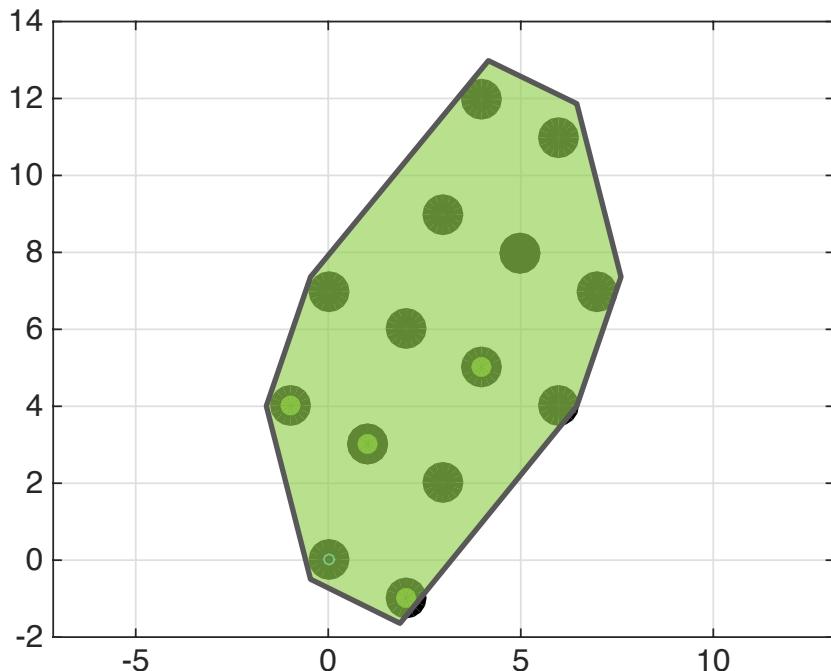
$$G \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



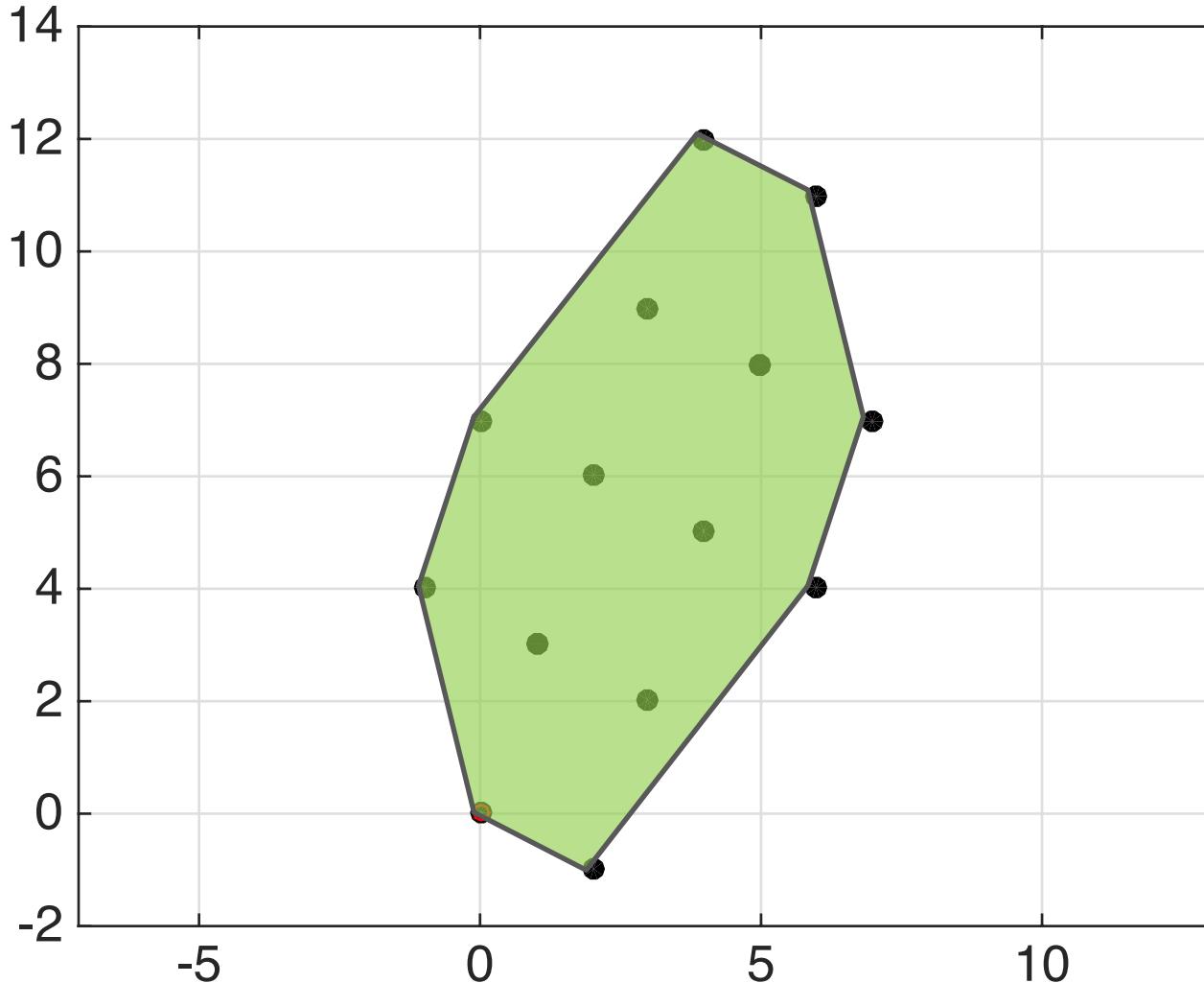
Just map the vertices of the hypercube and find the convex hull

# Example of a 2D zonotope

$$G \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



Just map the  
vertices of the  
hypercube and find  
the convex hull



$$Z(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$

$$Z(\mathbf{G}) = \mathbf{conv}\{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n\}$$

# A zonotope is a Minkowski Sum

Minkowski Sum of sets  $P, Q \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  :

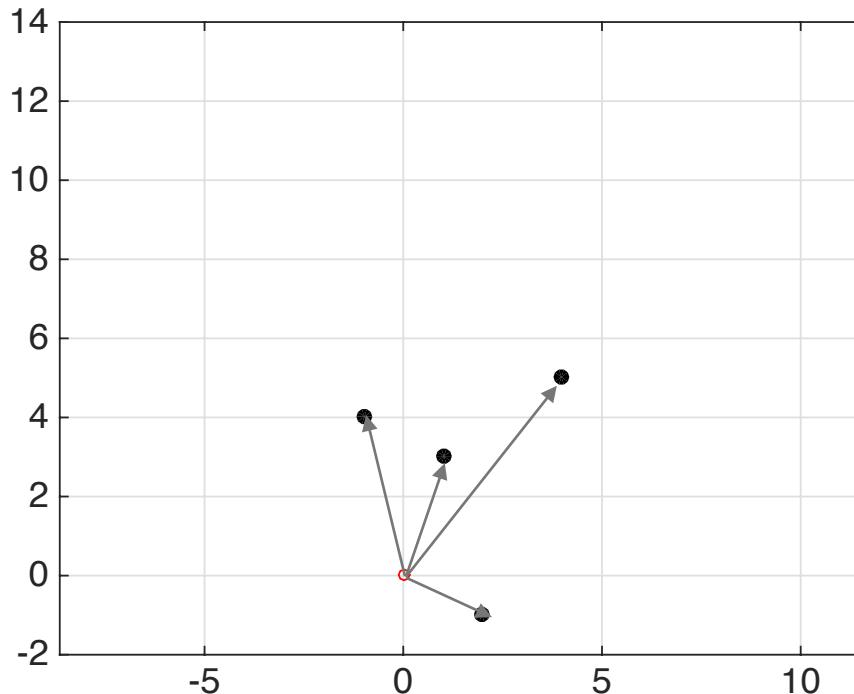
$$P \oplus Q = \{p + q \mid p \in P, q \in Q\}$$

# A zonotope is a Minkowski Sum

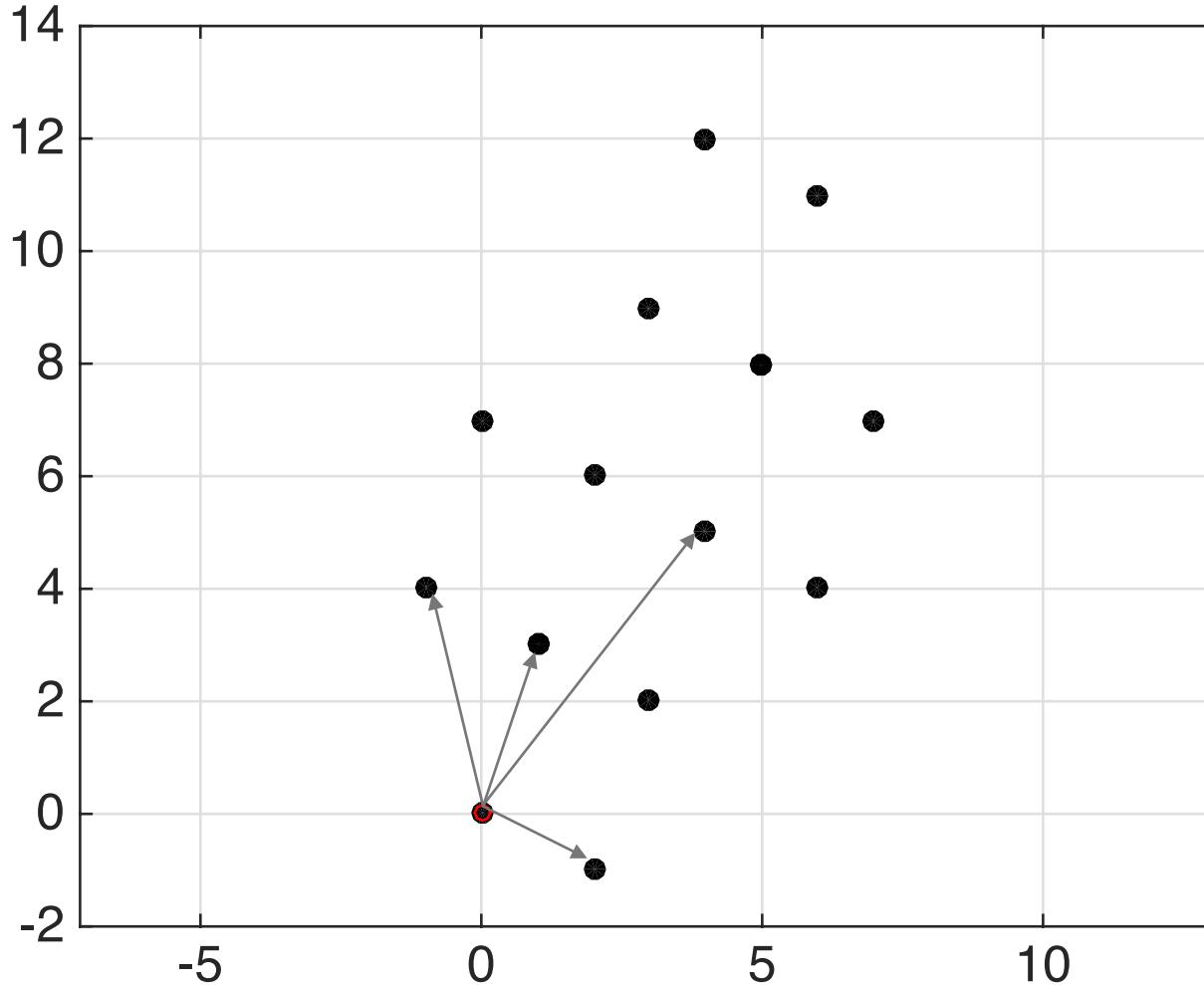
Minkowski Sum of sets  $P, Q \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ :

$$P \oplus Q = \{p + q \mid p \in P, q \in Q\}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} g_1 & g_2 & g_3 & g_4 \end{matrix}$$

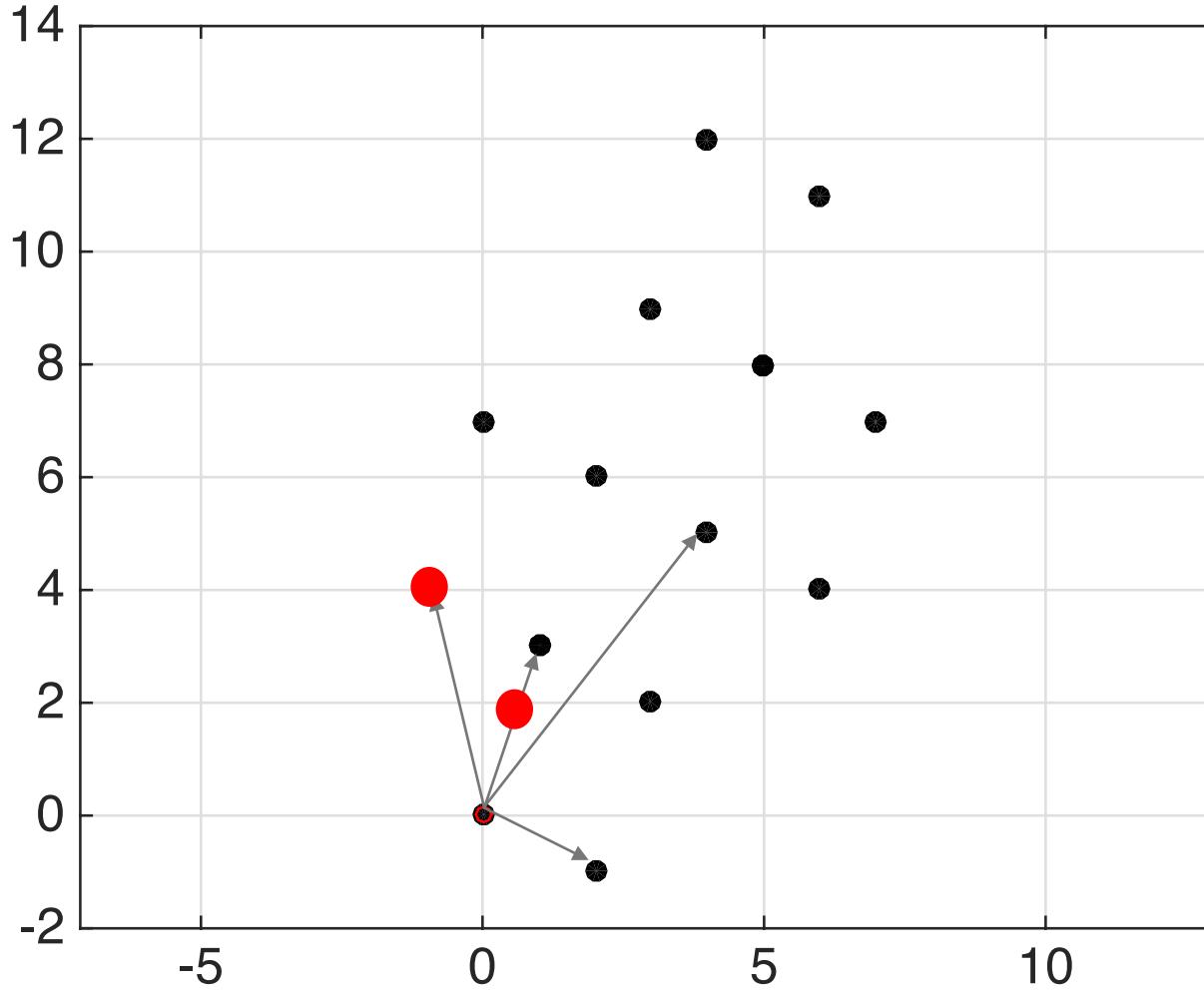


$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



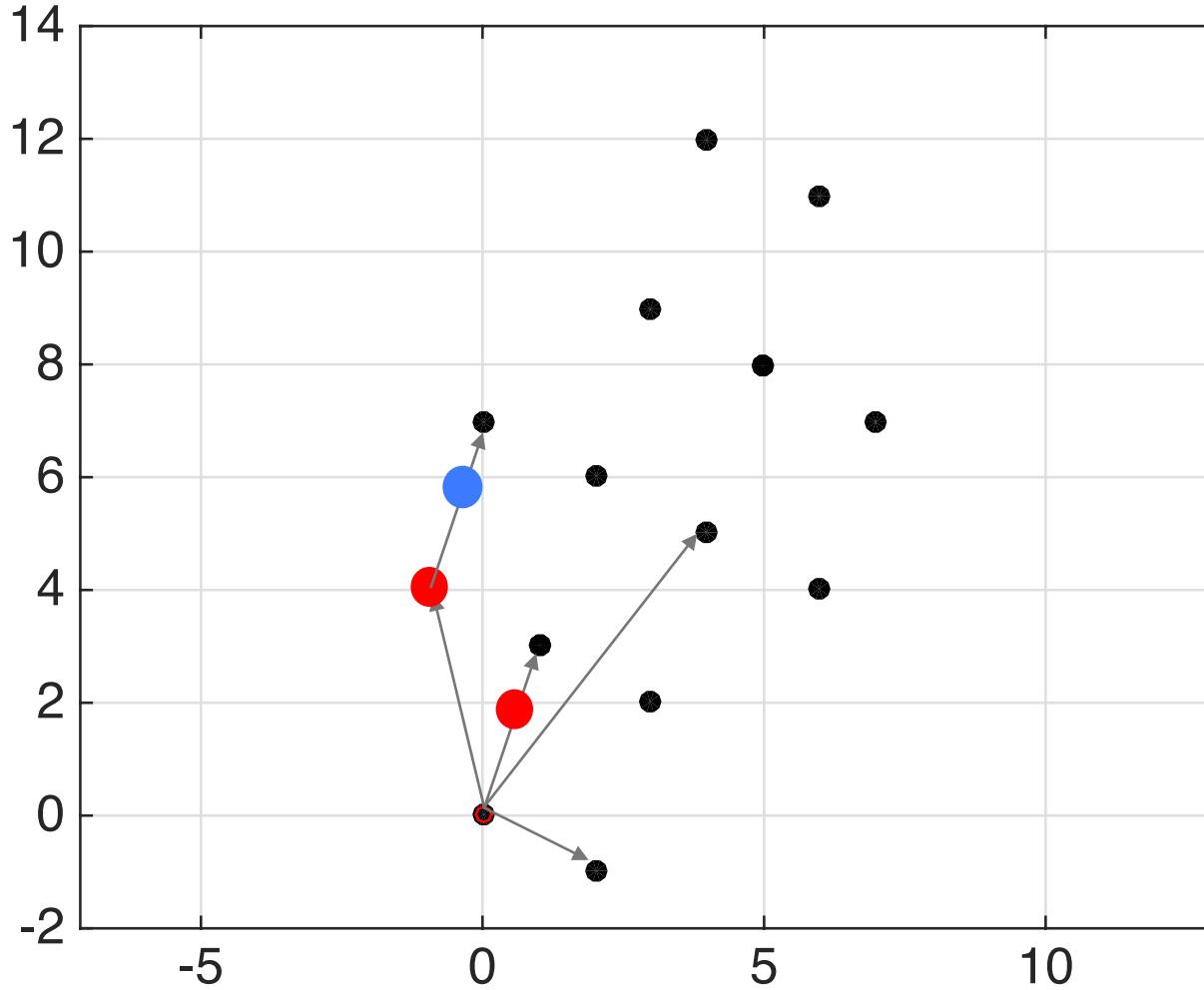
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



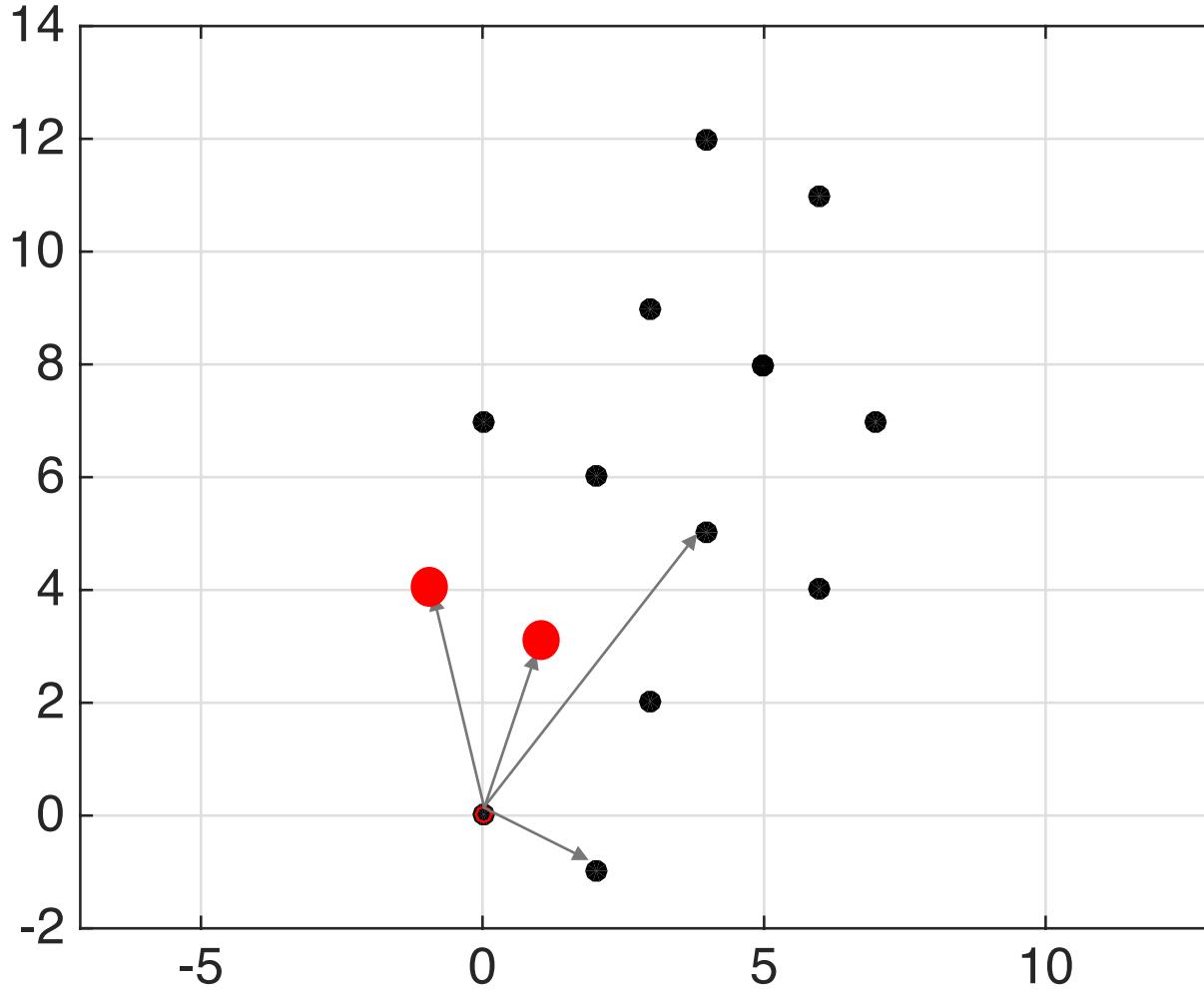
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



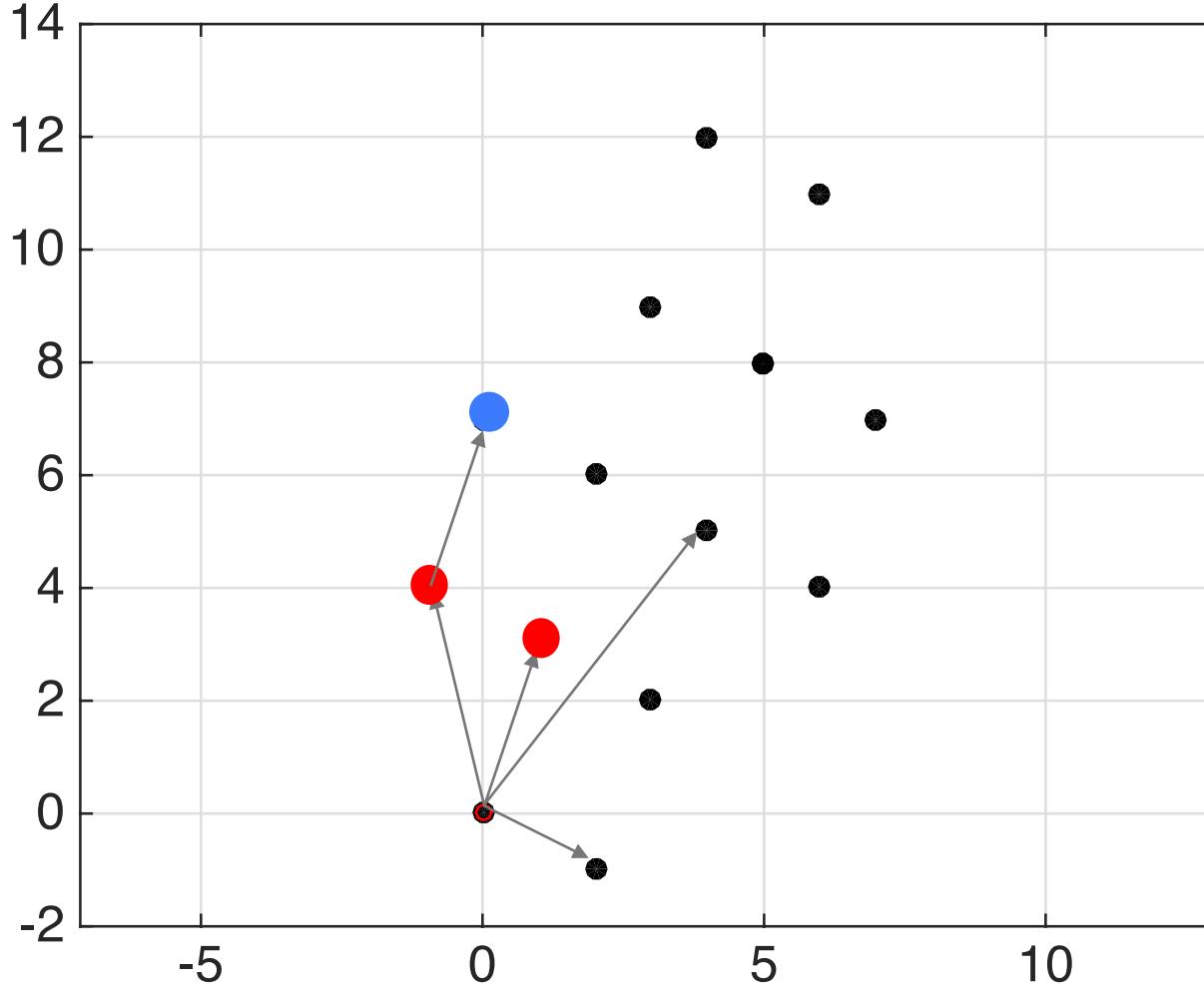
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



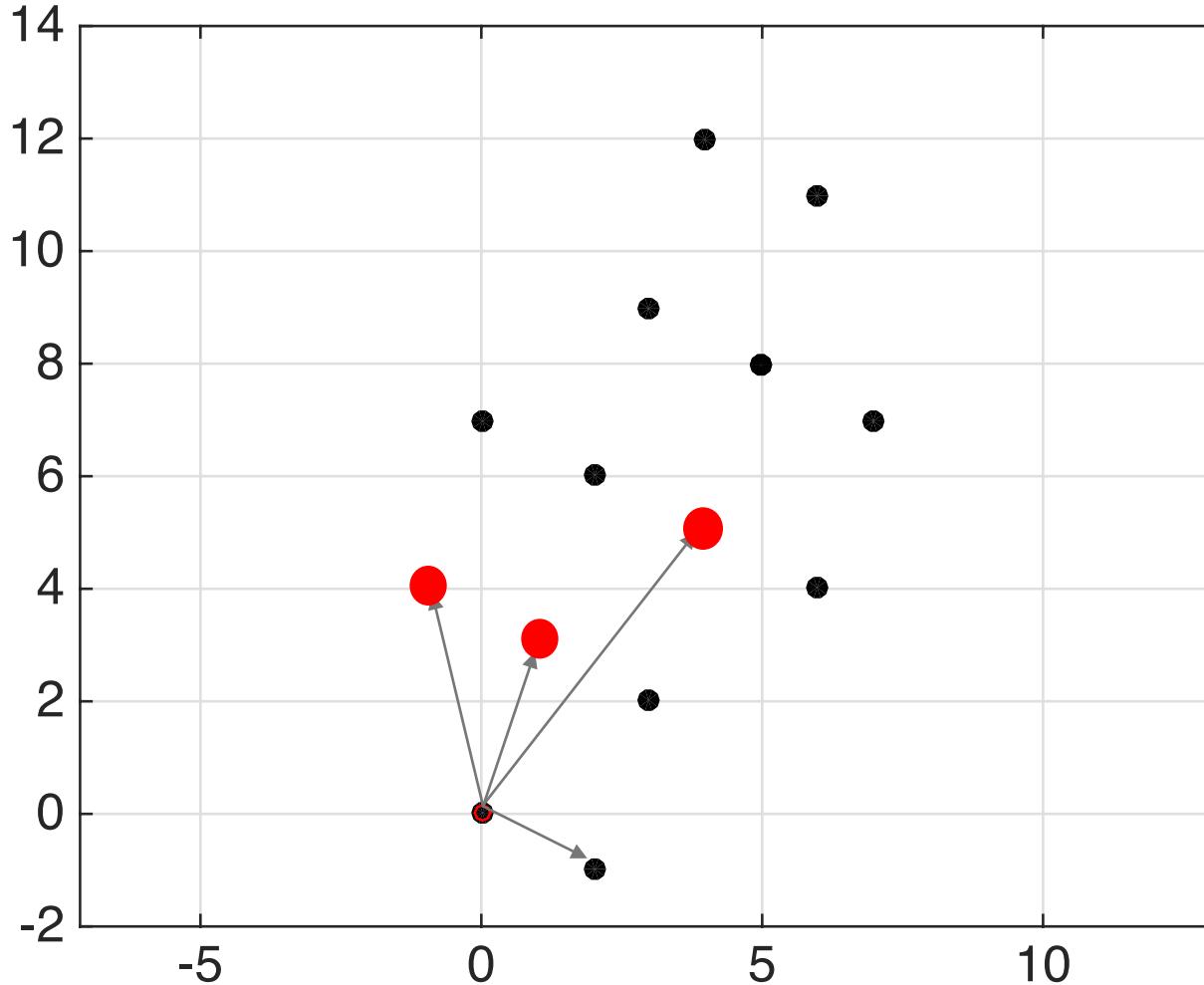
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



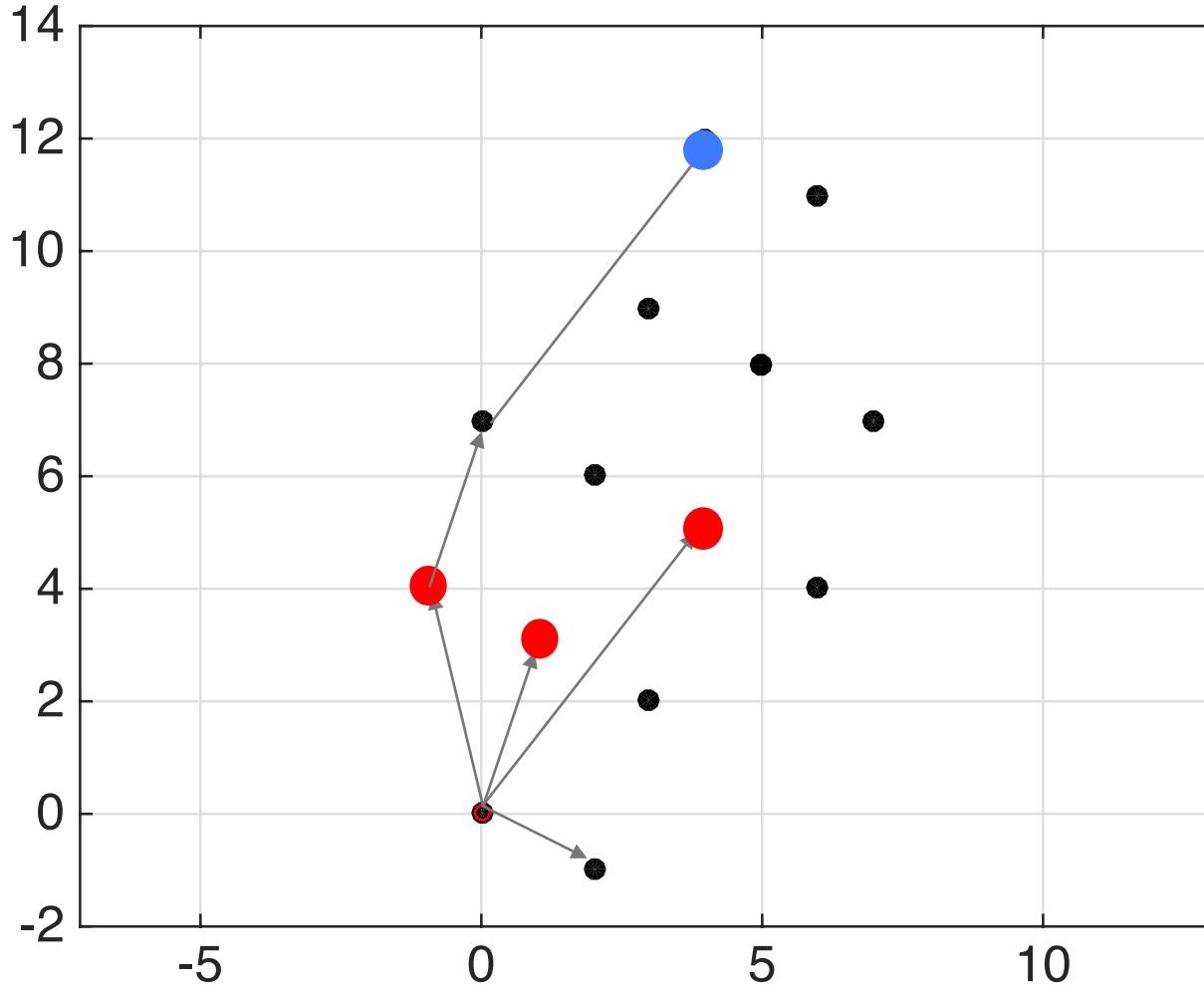
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



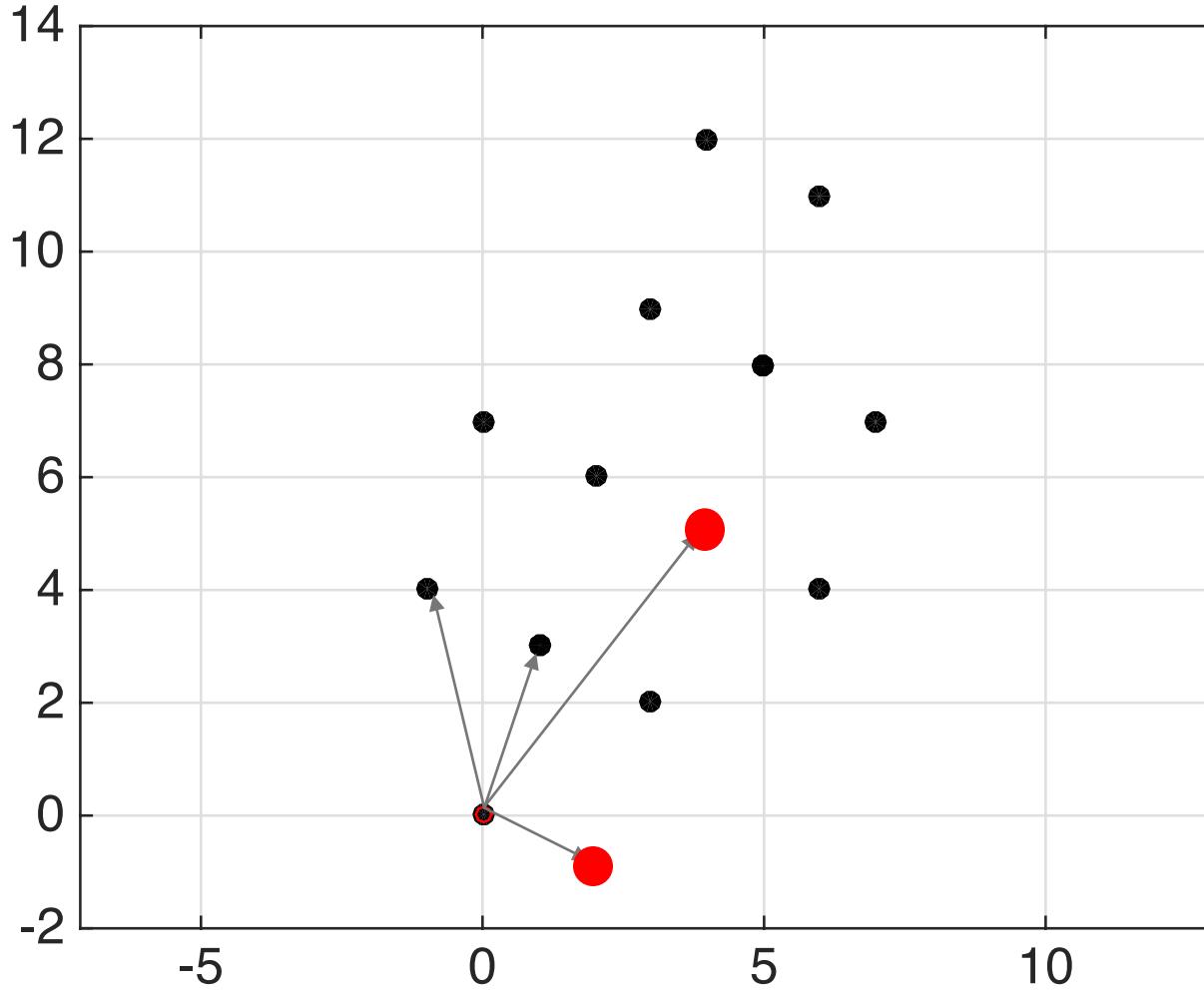
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



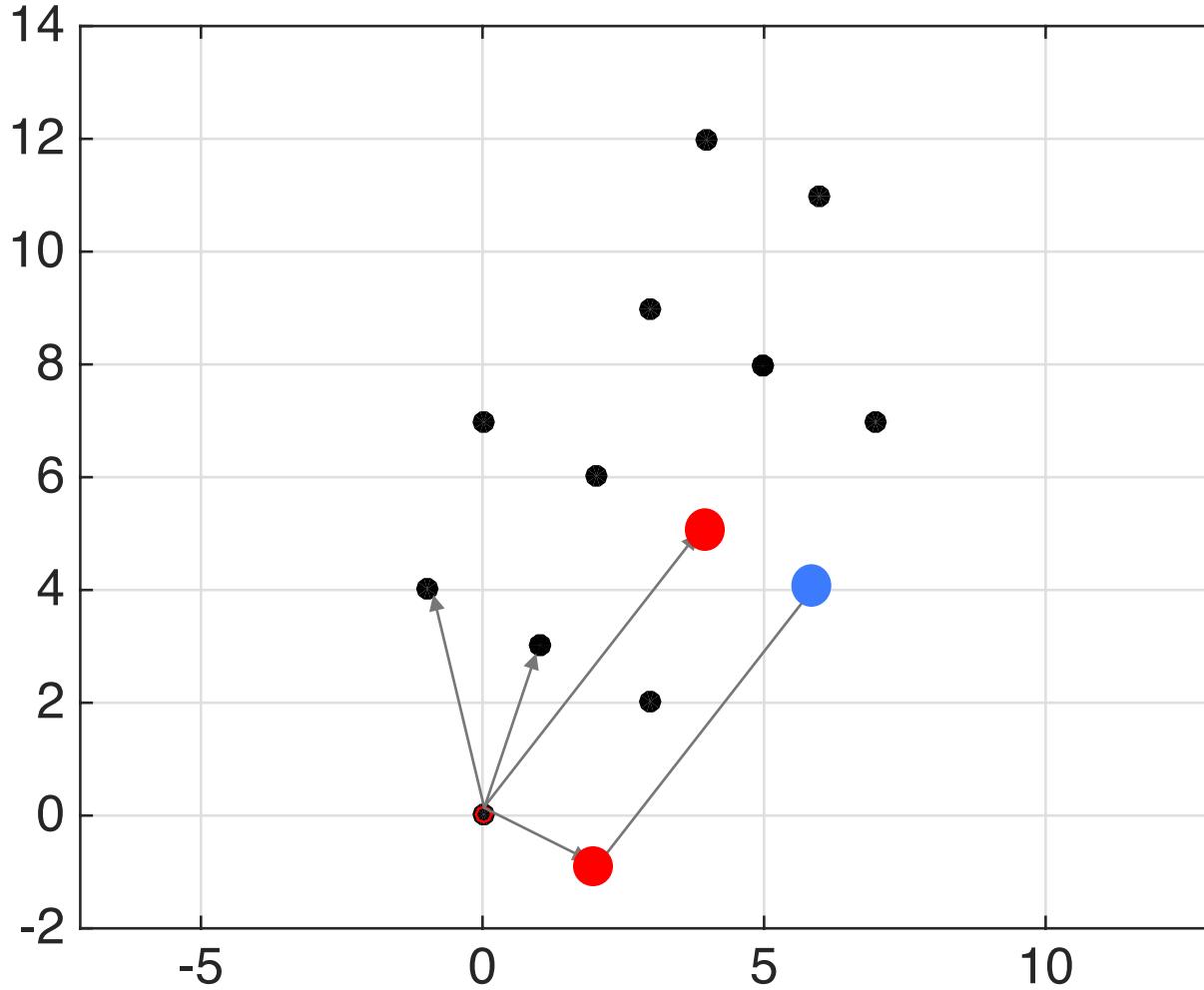
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



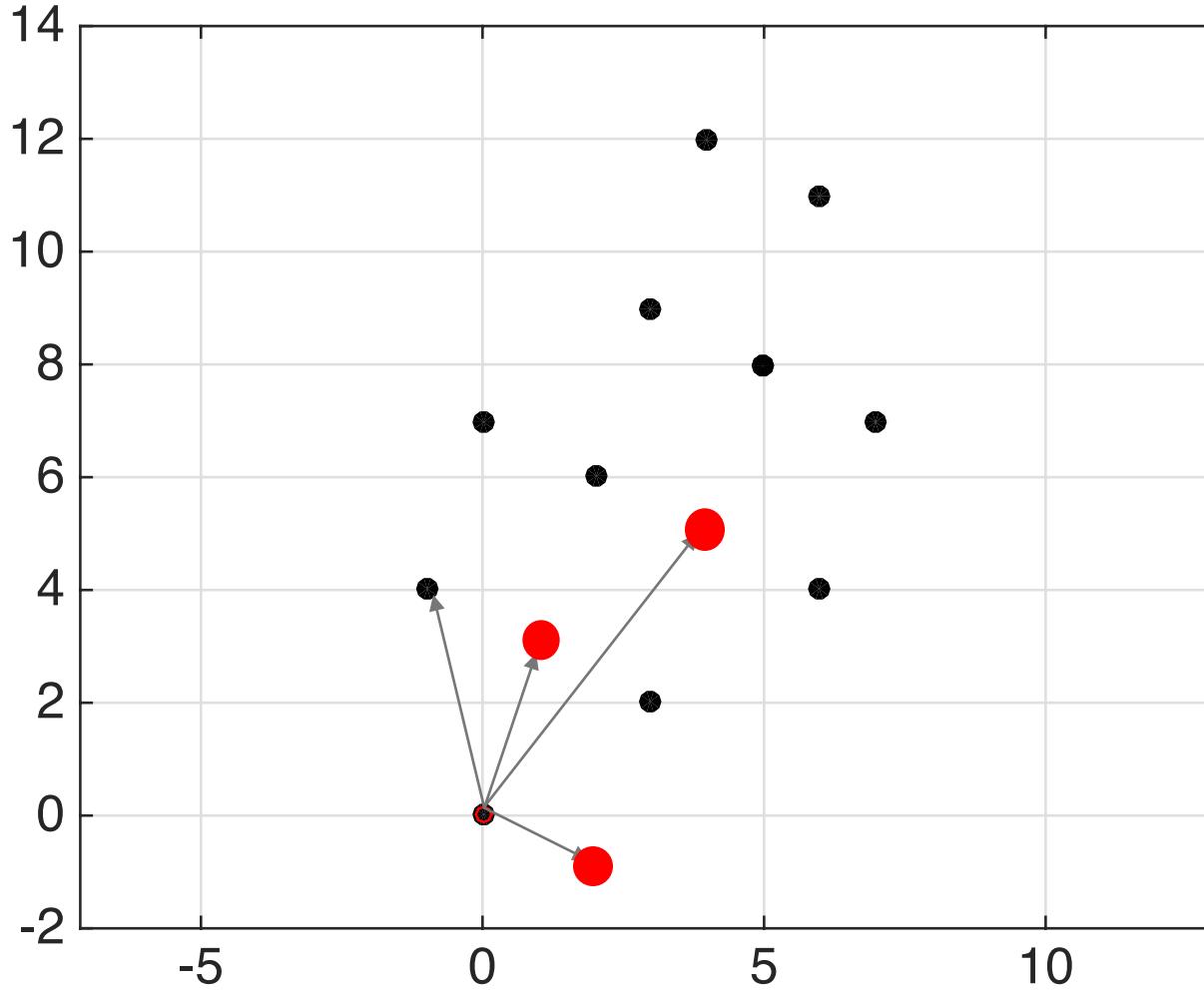
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



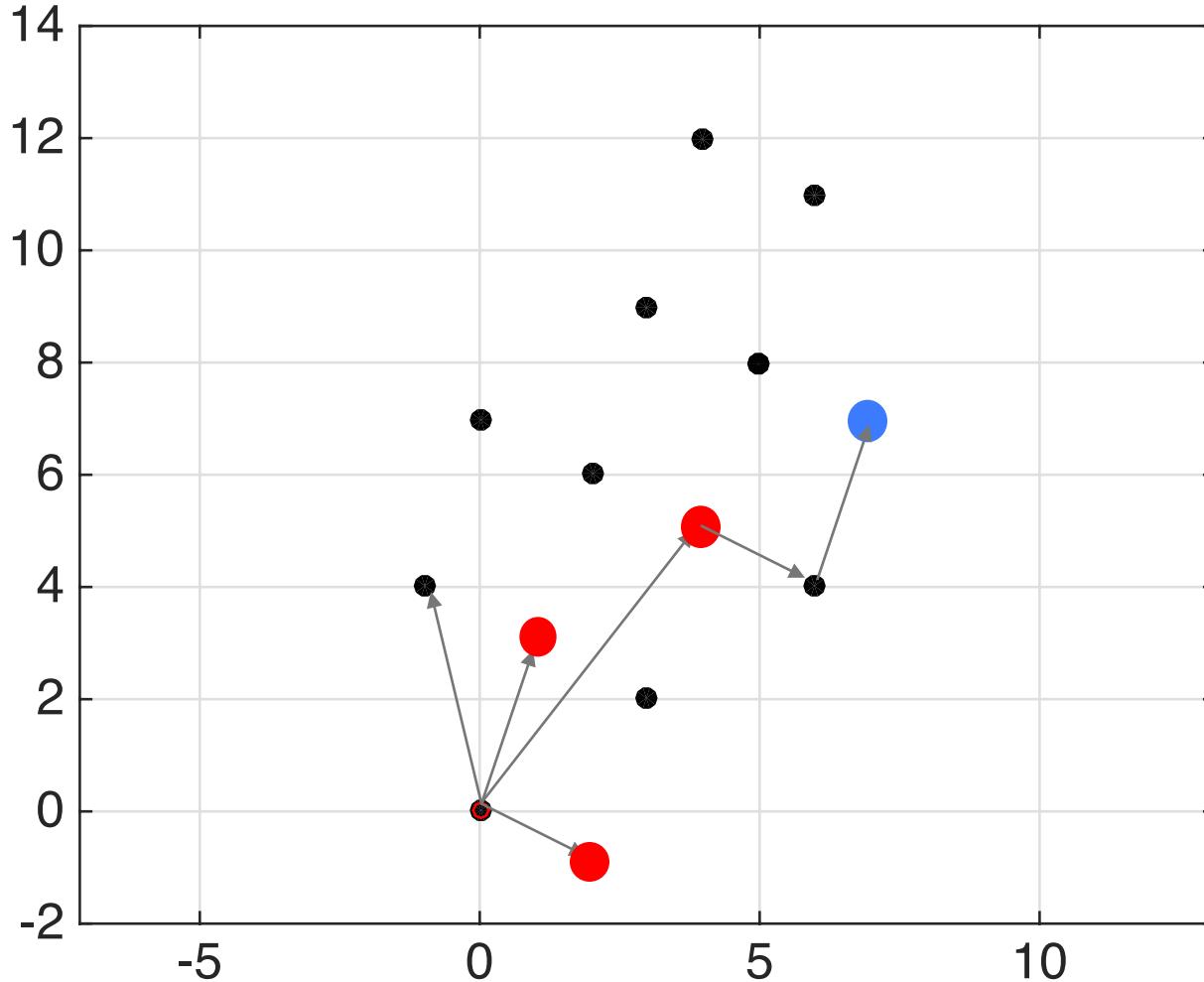
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



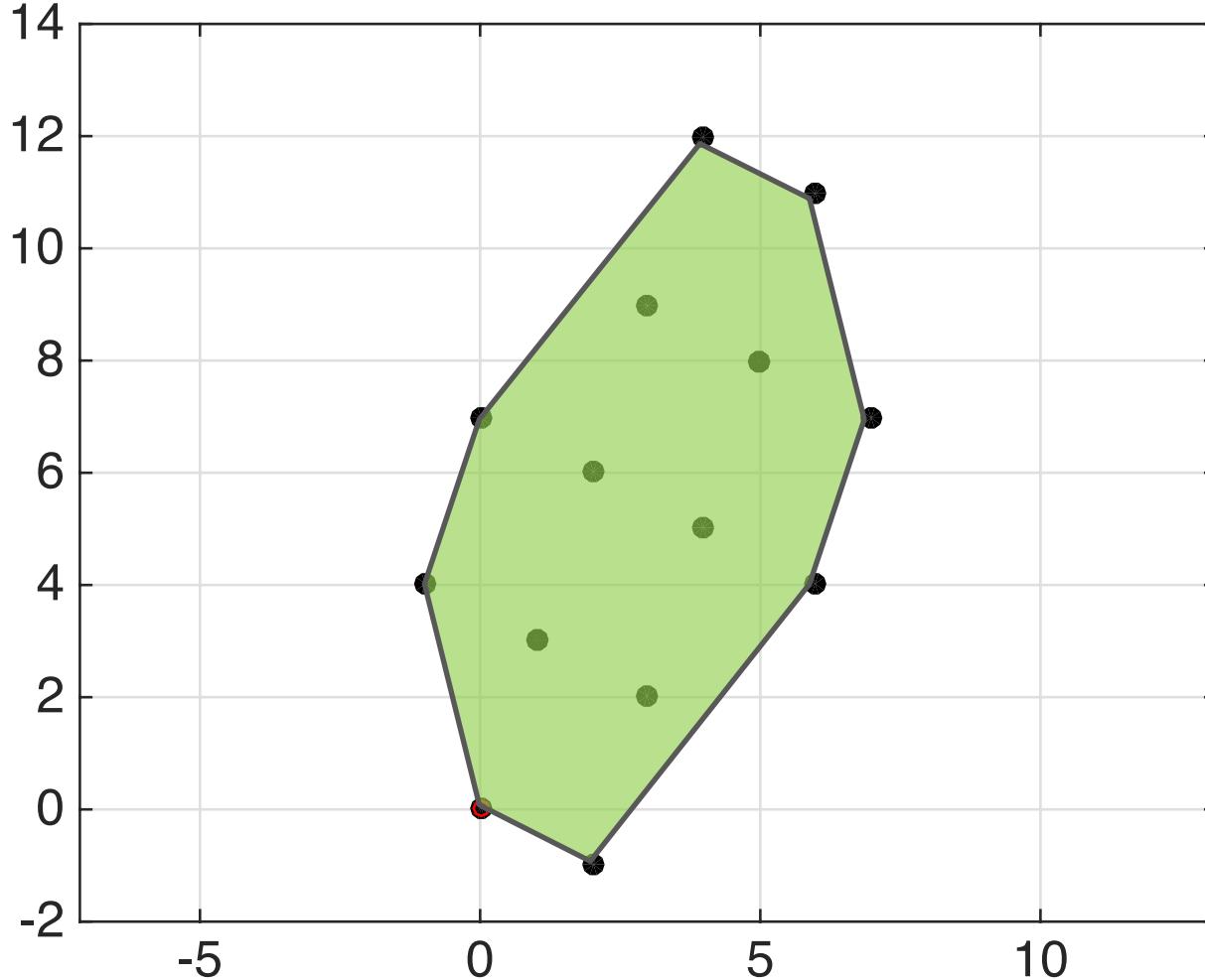
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



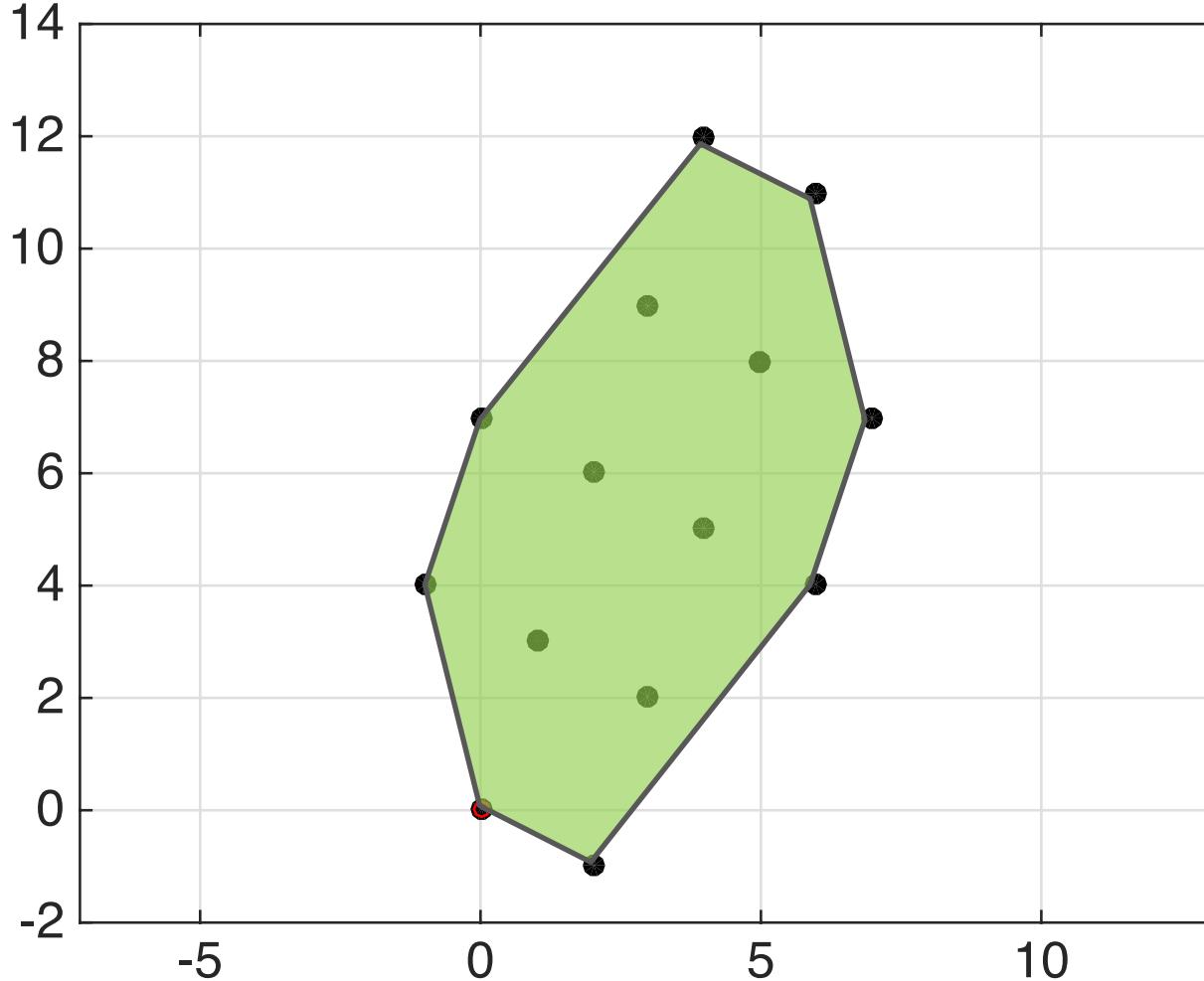
$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

$$\mathbf{G}_i = \{\gamma g_i \mid \gamma \in [0, 1]\}$$



$$\mathbf{G} = [g_1 \quad g_2 \quad \cdots \quad g_n]$$

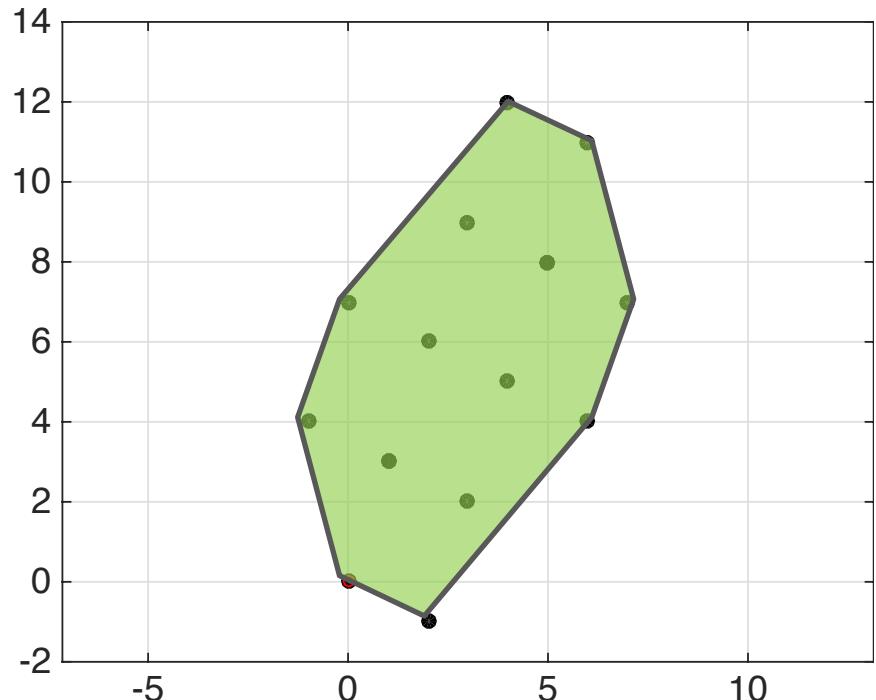
# Zonotope: a minkowski sum of line segments



$$\mathcal{Z} = G_1 \oplus G_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus G_n$$

# Zonotope Properties

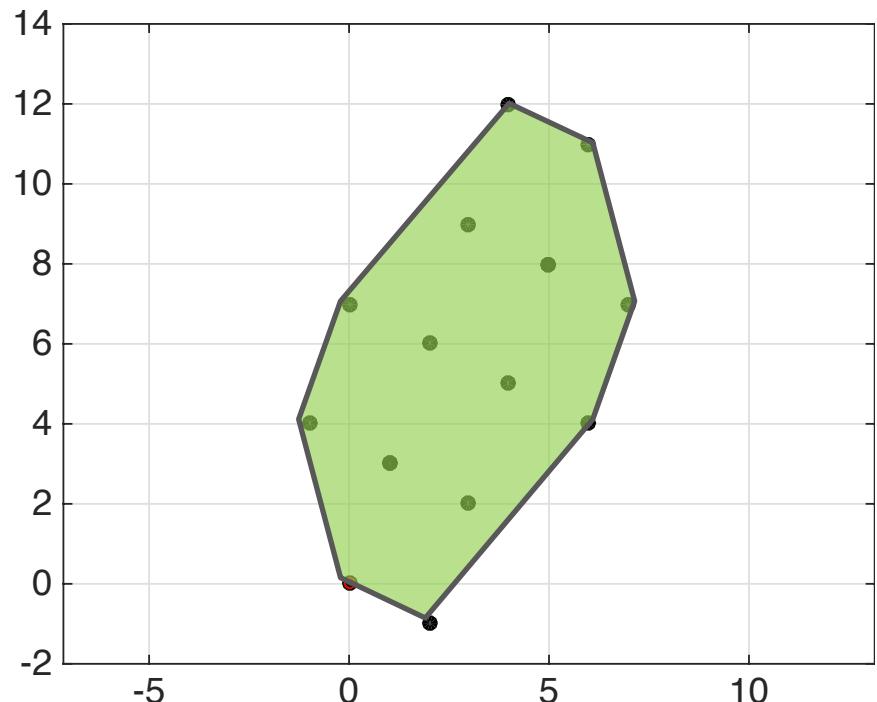
- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices



$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \mathbf{conv}\{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n\}$$

# Zonotope Properties

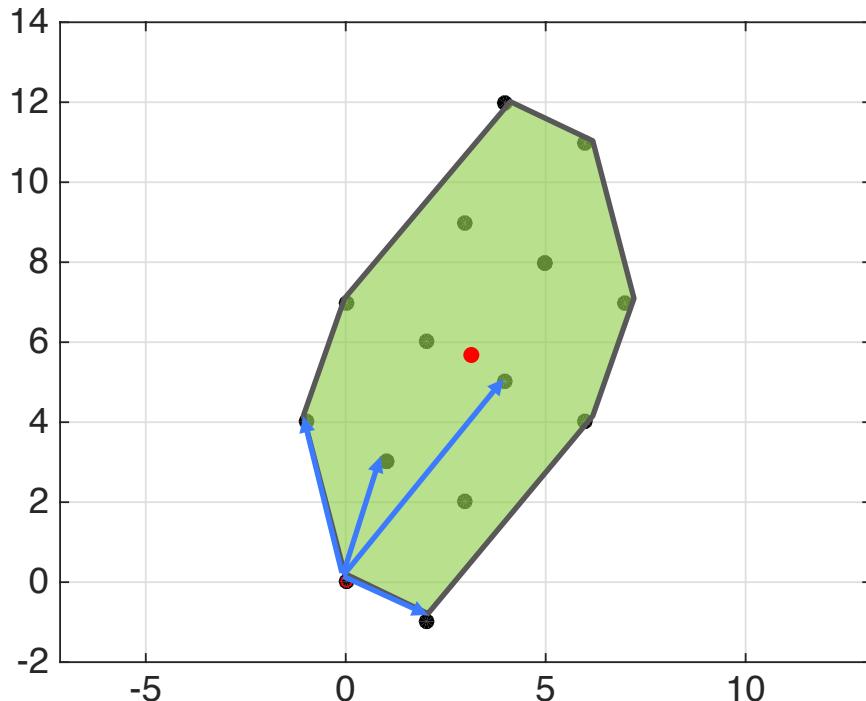
- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices



# Zonotope Properties

- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$

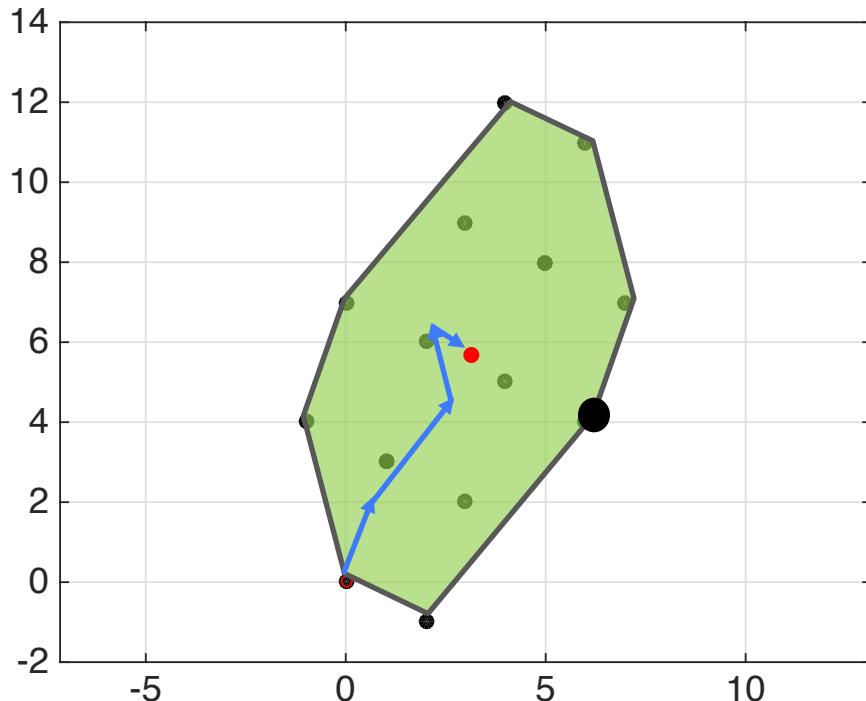


# Zonotope Properties

- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices

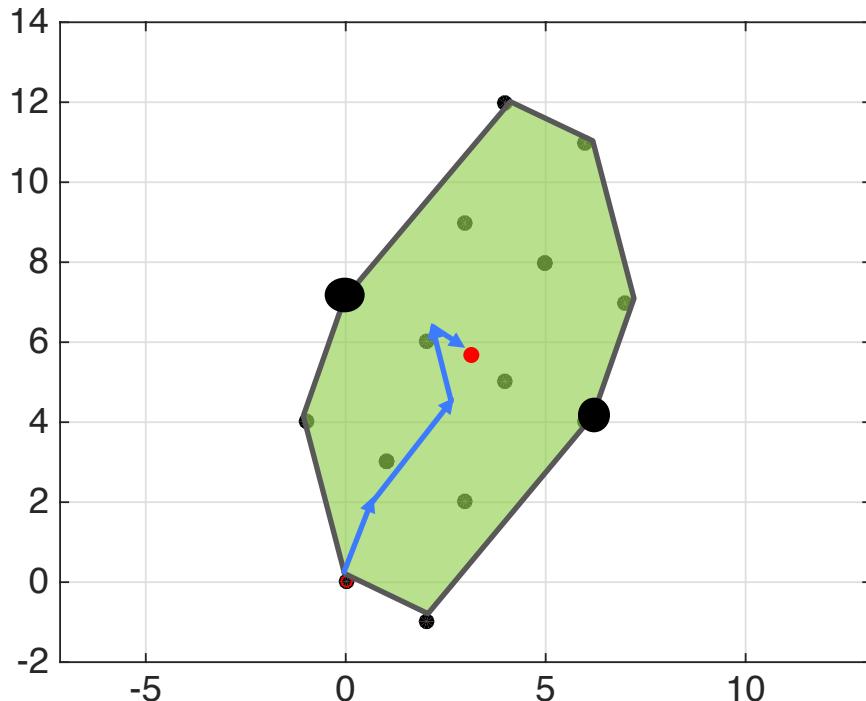
$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$

Both  $(1, 0, 0, 1)$



# Zonotope Properties

- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices

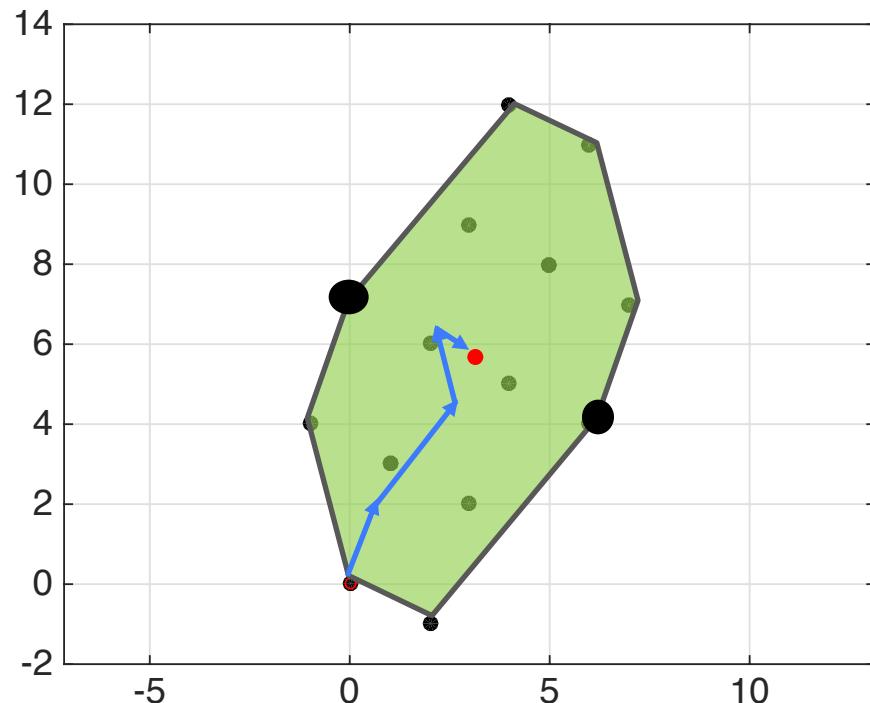


$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$

Both  $(1, 0, 0, 1)$  and  $(0, 1, 1, 0)$  are inputs

# Zonotope Properties

- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices



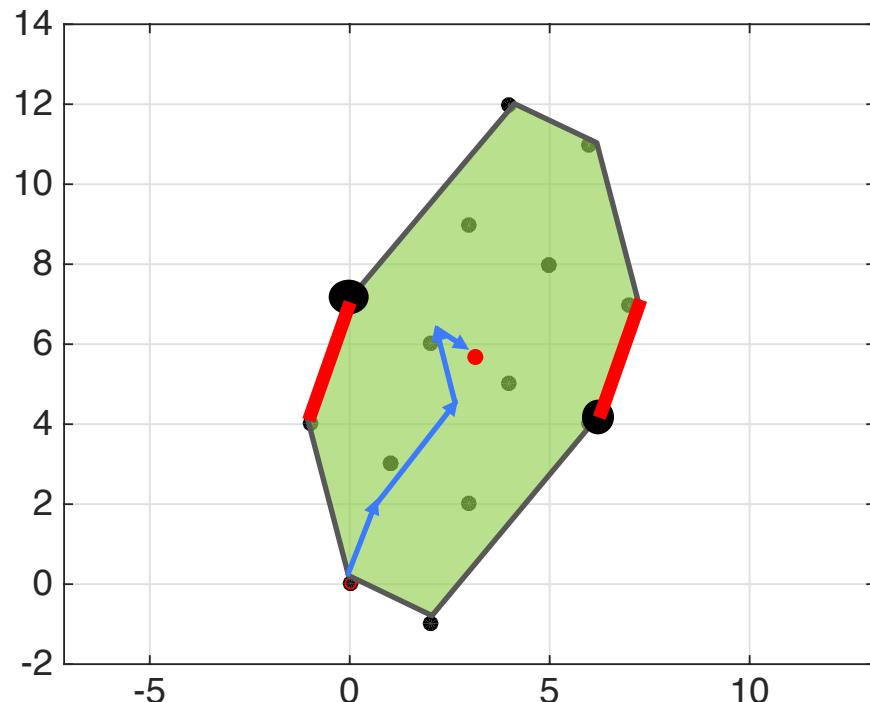
$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$

Both  $(1, 0, 0, 1)$  and  $(0, 1, 1, 0)$  are inputs

The zonotope has parallel faces

# Zonotope Properties

- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices



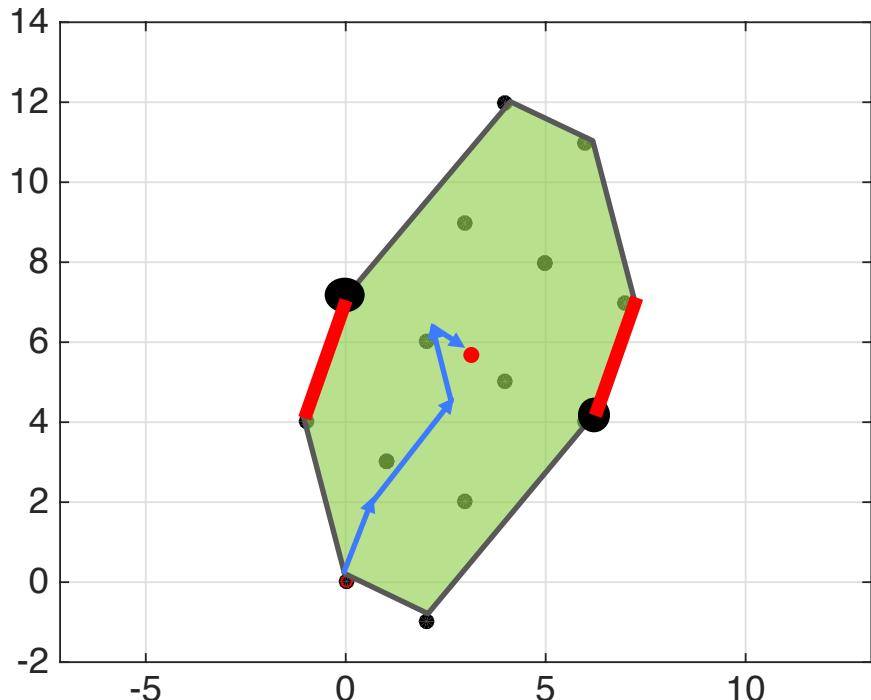
$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$

Both  $(1, 0, 0, 1)$  and  $(0, 1, 1, 0)$  are inputs

The zonotope has parallel faces

# Zonotope Properties

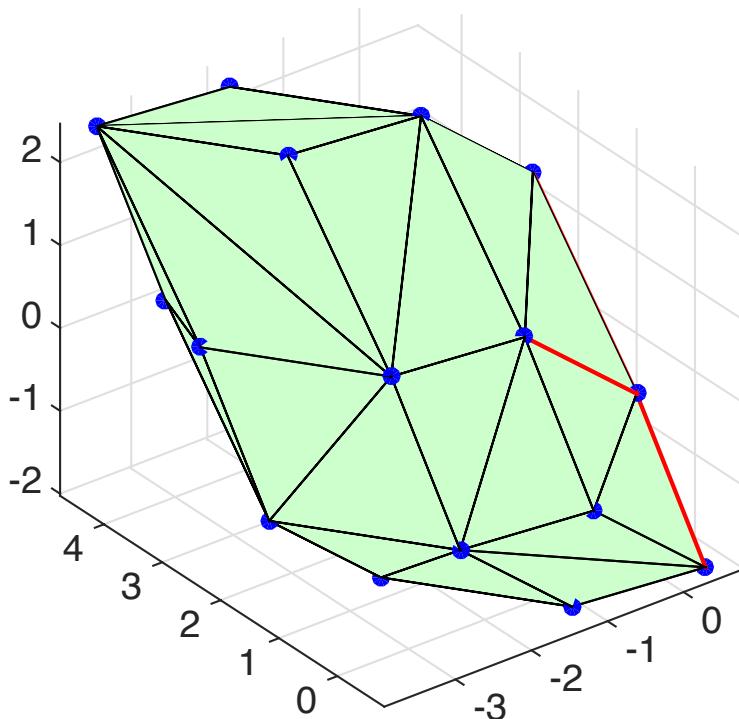
- Convex
- Centrally-symmetric
- $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices



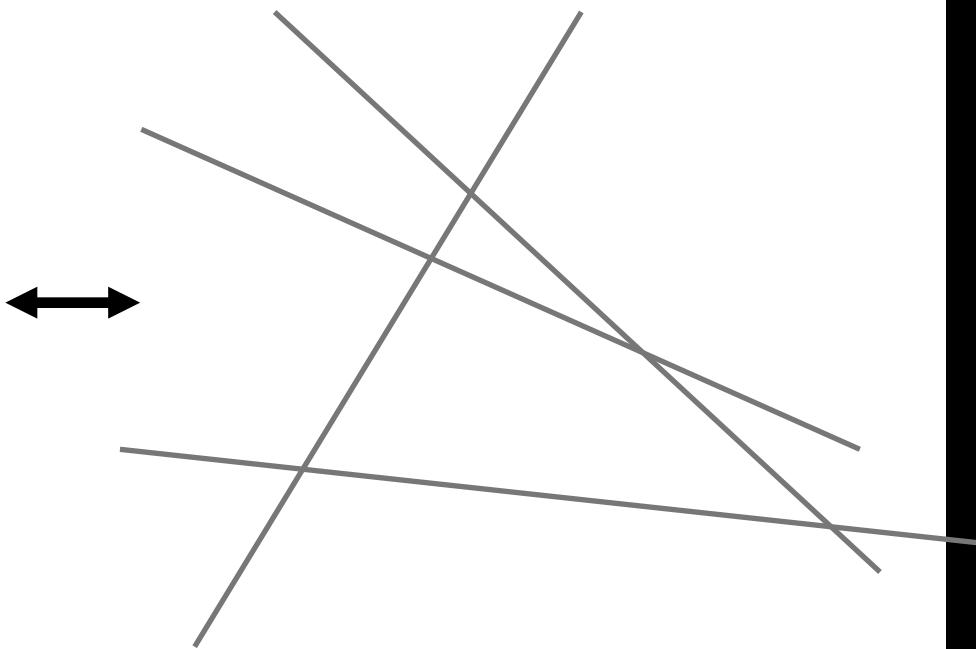
Theorem:

$$|\text{vert}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}))| \leq 2 \sum_{i=0}^{d-1} \binom{n-1}{i} = O(n^{d-1})$$

# Dual Problem: Enumerating Cells of a Hyperplane Arrangement



A zonotope in 3D with 5 generators



A hyperplane arrangement in 2D  
with 4 hyperplanes

# Solving 01BQ for low-rank, PSD matrices

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \quad \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t. } & \mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G}$

for  $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$

since  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}$

$$= \|\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

since  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}$

$$= \|\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

by convexity:  $\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n$

$$\text{since } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}$$
$$= \|\mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

by convexity:  $\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n$

**The problem is equivalent to:**

$$\max \|\mathbf{z}\|_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G} \mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$

$$\text{since } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}$$
$$= \|\mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

by convexity:  $\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n$

**The problem is equivalent to:**

$$\max \|\mathbf{z}\|_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G} \mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [0, 1]^n\}$$

**Theorem:** the maximum of a convex function  $f$  over a convex polytope  $S$  will be attained at a vertex  $v$  of the  $S$

$$\max_{x \in S} f(x)$$

$$\text{where } S = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i v_i : \sum \alpha_i = 1, \alpha_i \geq 0 \right\}$$

# Proof

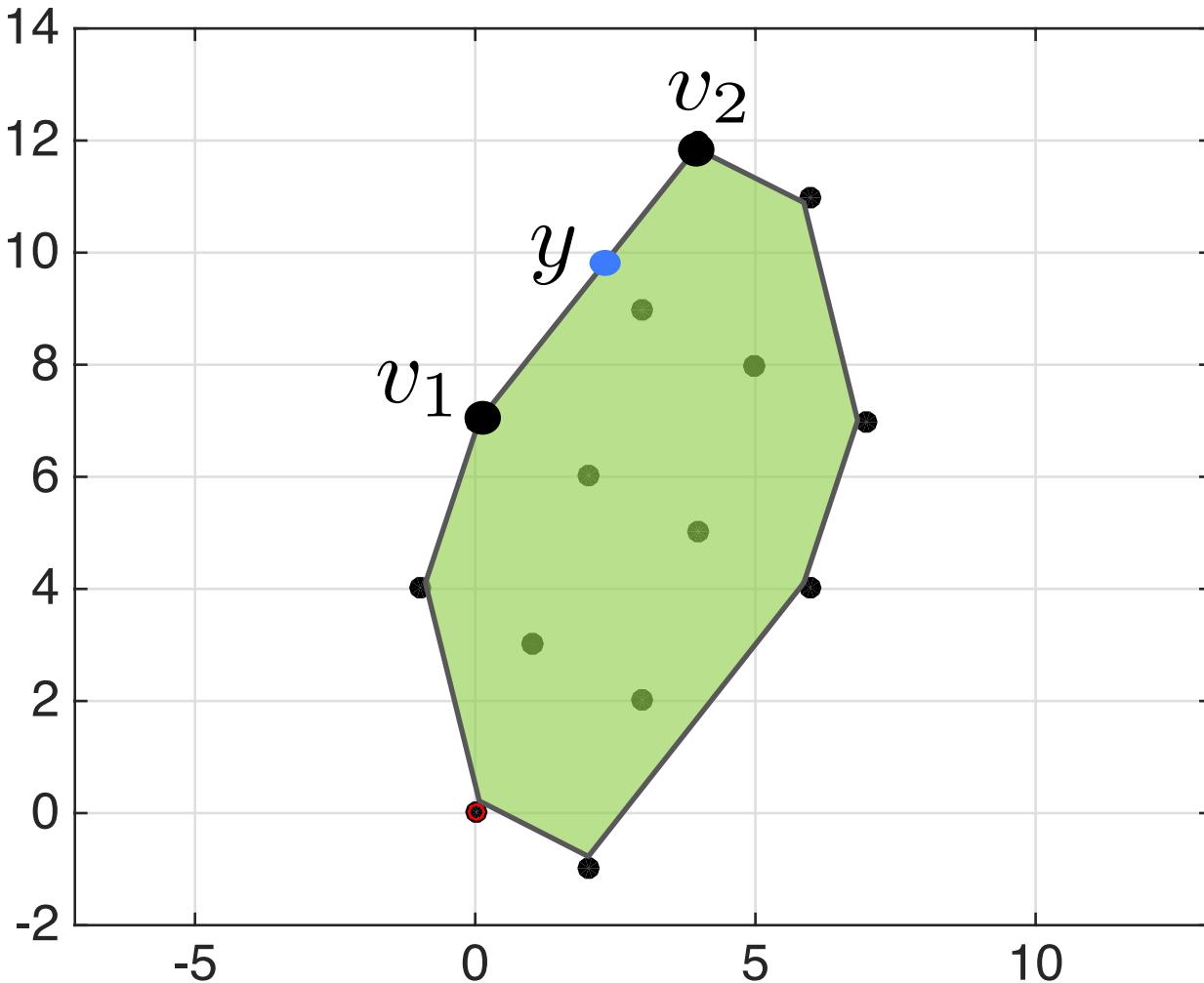
$$\text{Let } y = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i v_i$$

$$f(y) = f\left(\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i v_i\right)$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i f(v_i)$$

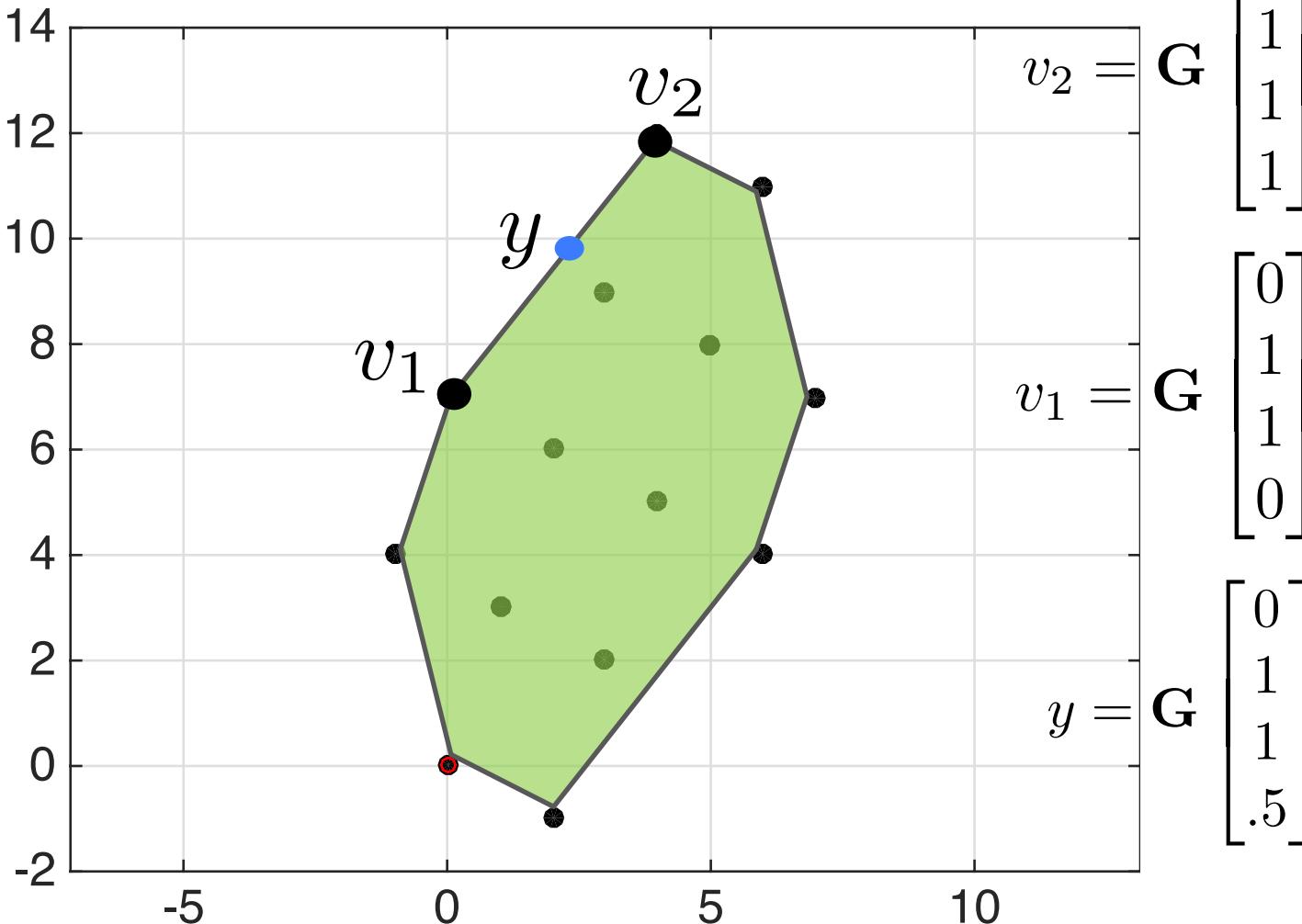
$$\leq f(v_j) \text{ for some } j$$

# Proof



$$f(y) = f(\alpha v_1 + (1 - \alpha)v_2) \leq \alpha f(v_1) + (1 - \alpha)f(v_2) \leq f(v_i)$$

# Proof



$$f(y) = f(\alpha v_1 + (1 - \alpha)v_2) \leq \alpha f(v_1) + (1 - \alpha)f(v_2) \leq f(v_i)$$

# Solving Low-Rank, PSD Binary QP

$$\max ||\mathbf{z}||_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G})$$

The max will be obtained at one of the  $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices of the zonotope generated by  $\mathbf{G}$

# Solving Low-Rank, PSD Binary QP

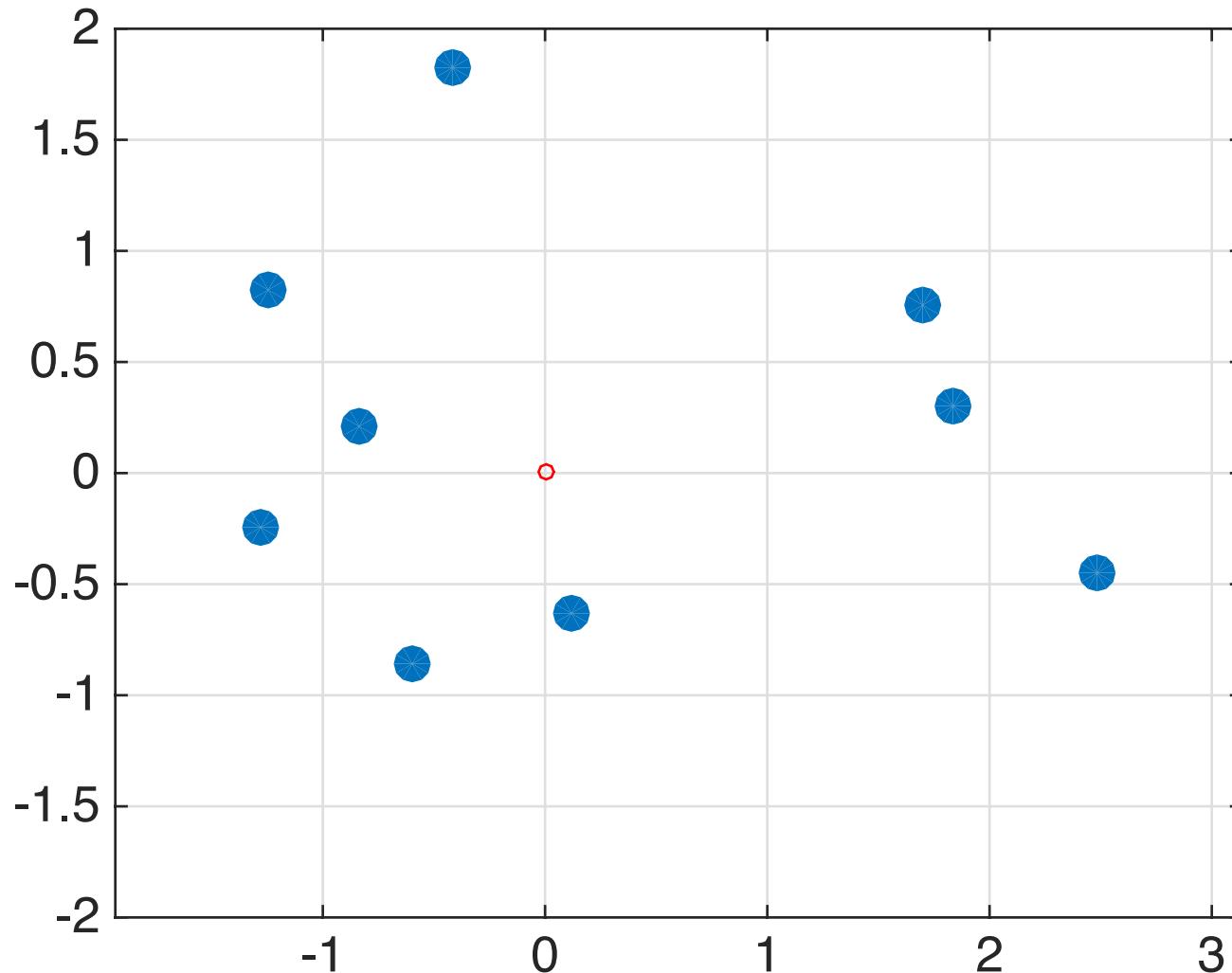
$$\max ||\mathbf{z}||_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G})$$

The max will be obtained at one of the  $O(n^{d-1})$  vertices of the zonotope generated by  $\mathbf{G}$

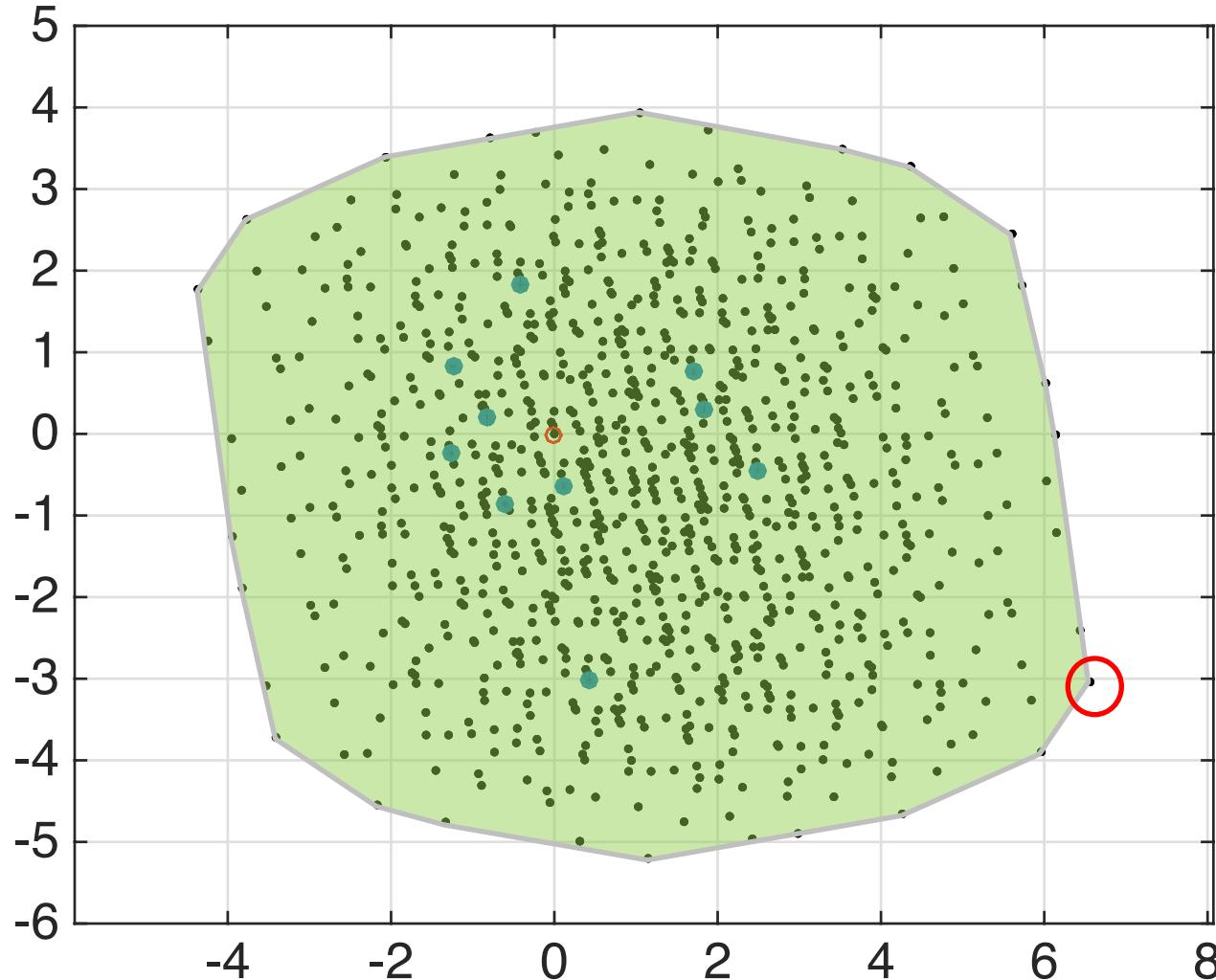
By exploring the vertices of the zonotope we solve the problem in polynomial time.

# Example where $n = 10, d = 2$



Column vectors for a matrix  $G$

# Zonotope, with optimal vertex



# What about if the binary variables are {-1,1}?

$$\max \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in \{-1, 1\}^n$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G}$$

# What about if the binary variables are {-1,1}?

$$\max \quad ||\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}||_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in \{-1, 1\}^n$$

# What about if the binary variables are {-1,1}?

$$\max \quad ||\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}||_2^2$$

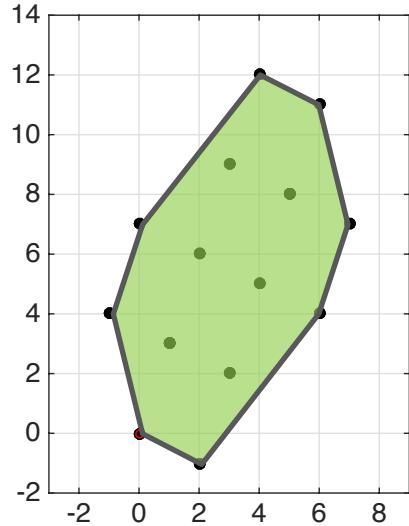
$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in \{-1, 1\}^n$$

Project from the  $[-1, 1]^n$  hypercube

(rather than the  $[0, 1]^n$  hypercube)

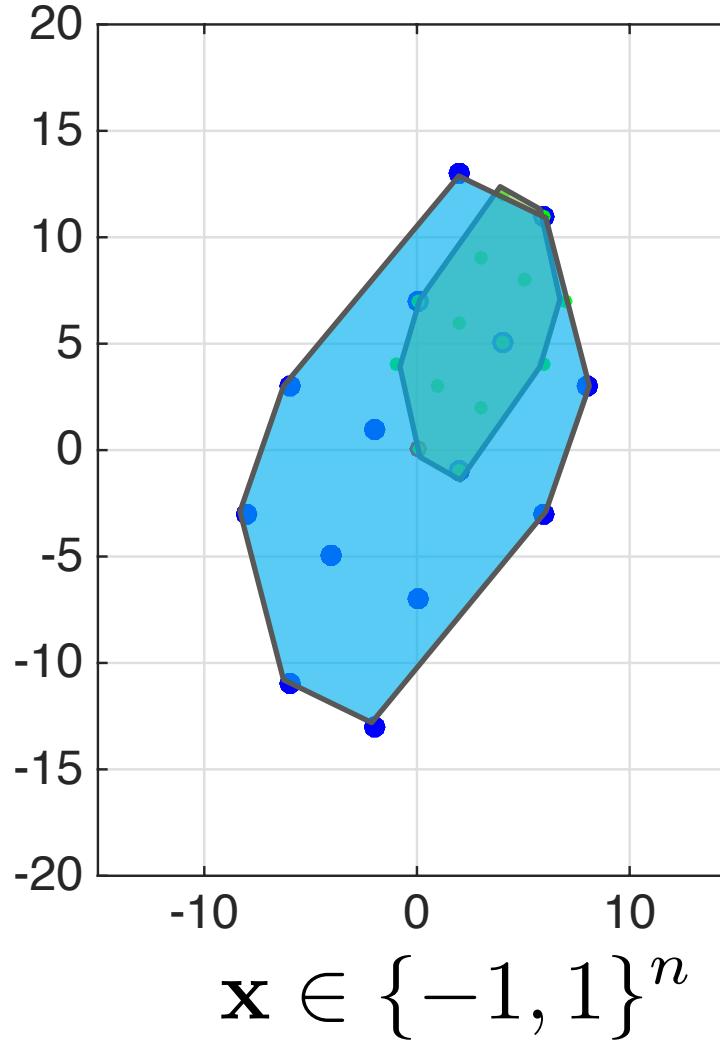
$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in [-1, 1]^n\}$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



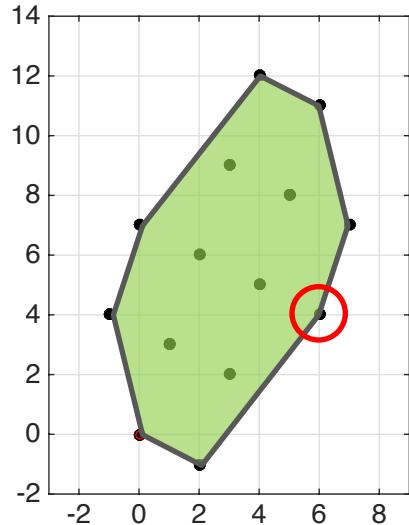
$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

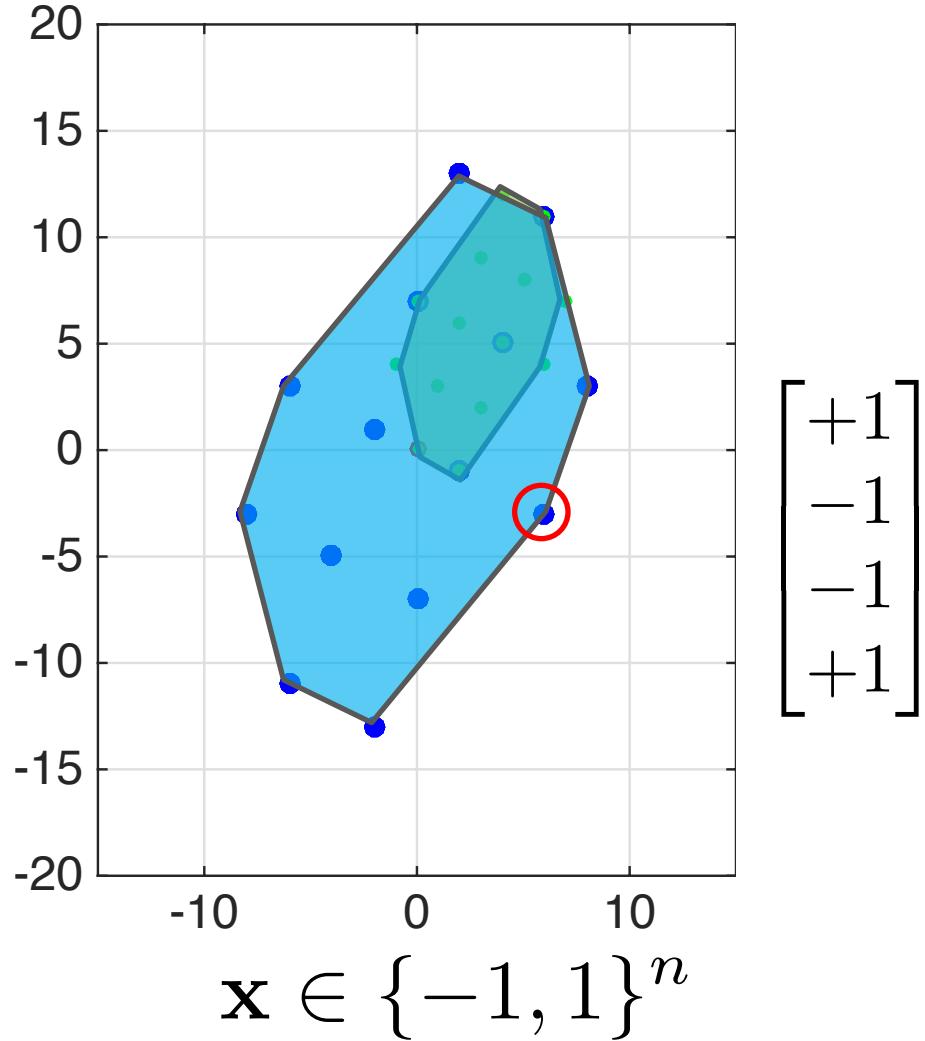
# Relationship between zonotopes



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

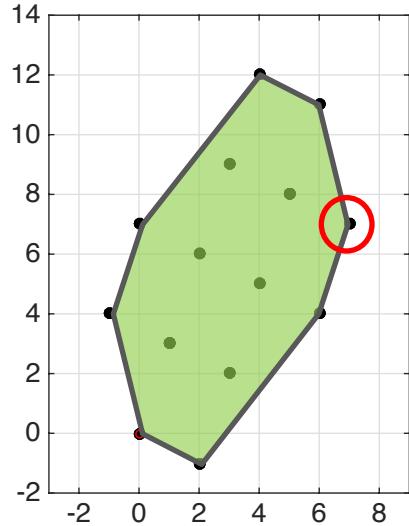
$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} +1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ +1 \end{bmatrix}$$

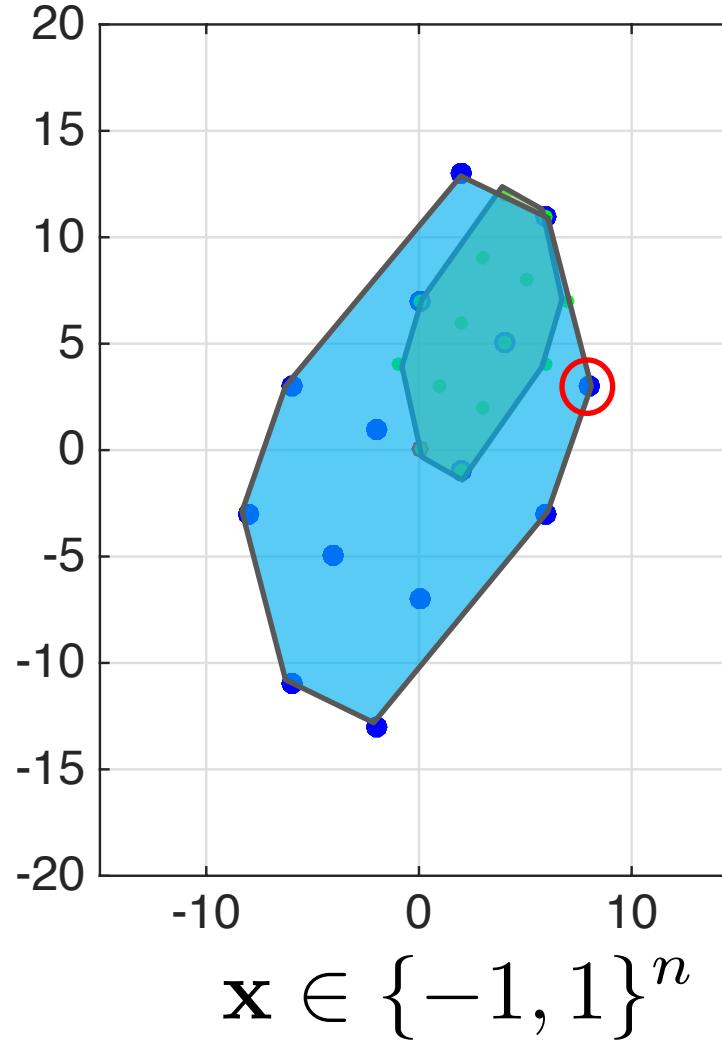
$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



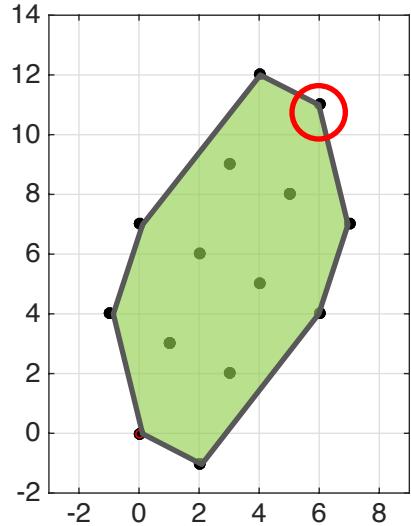
$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



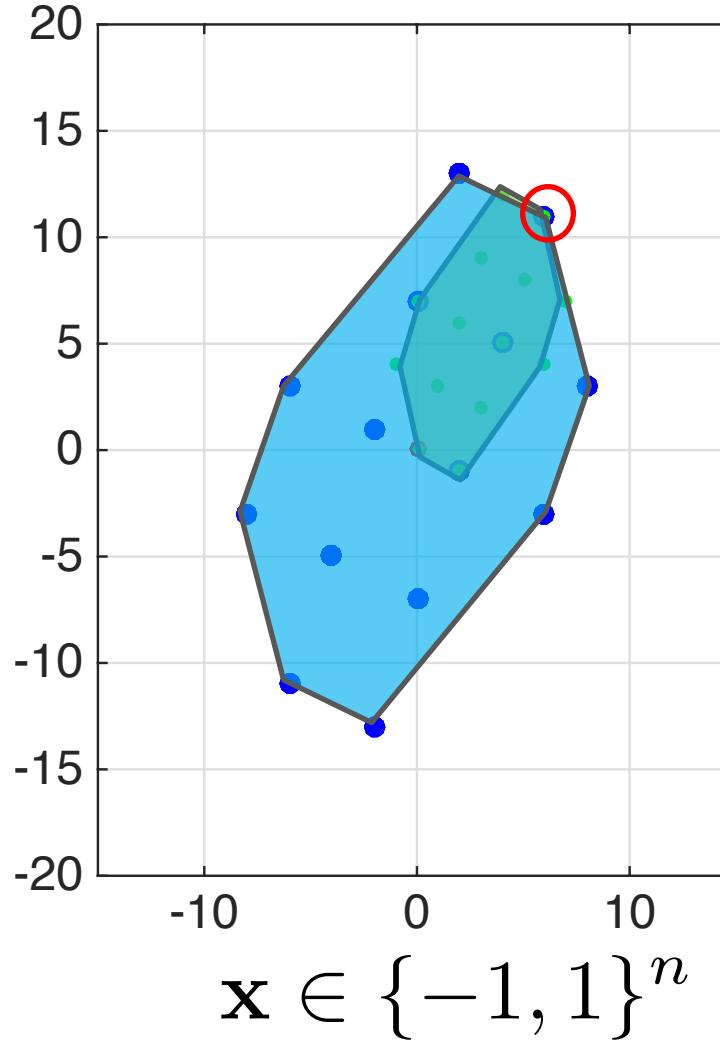
$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



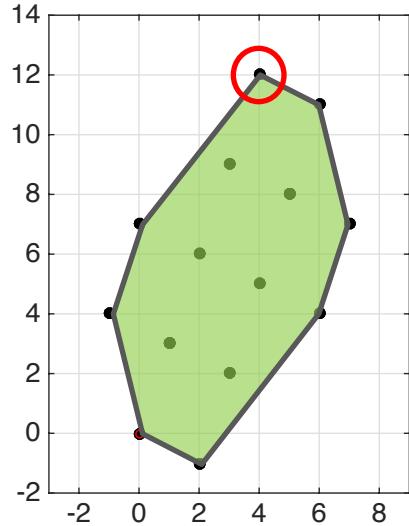
$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



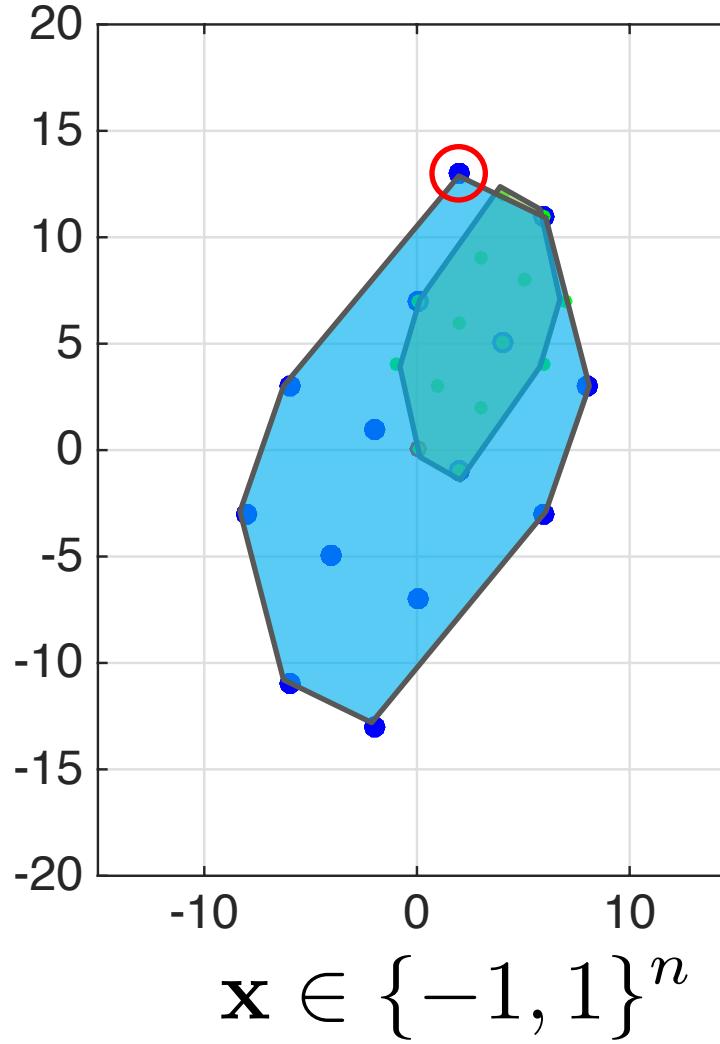
$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



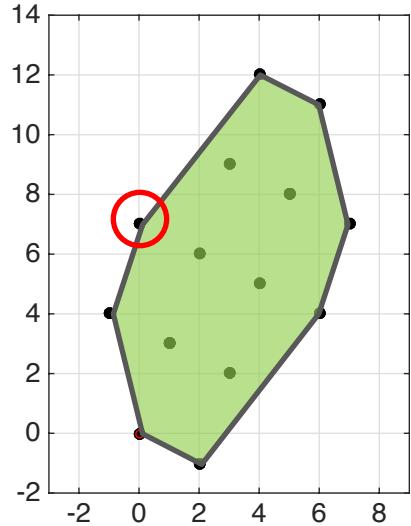
$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



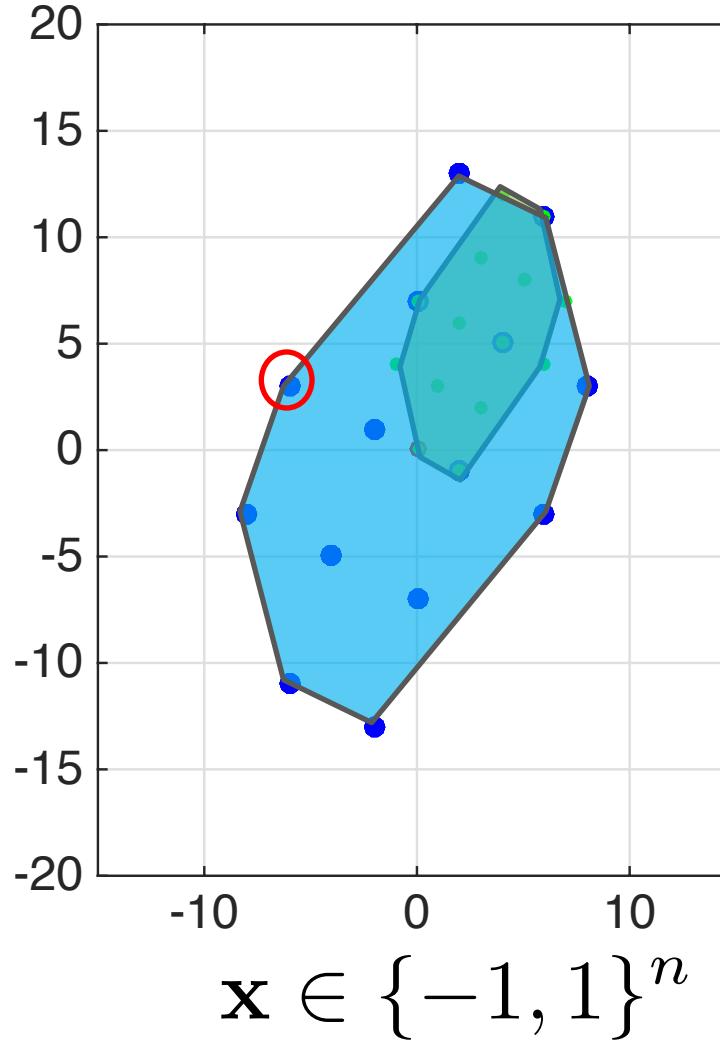
$$\text{Center} = (0, 0)$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



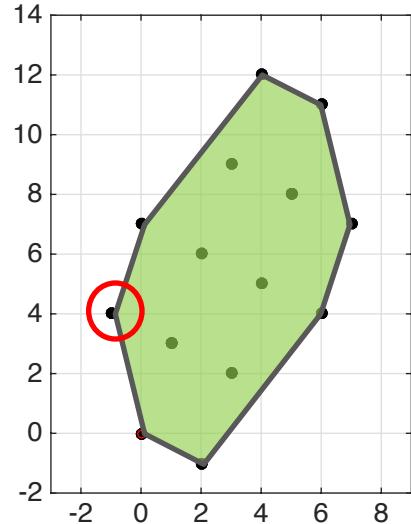
$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



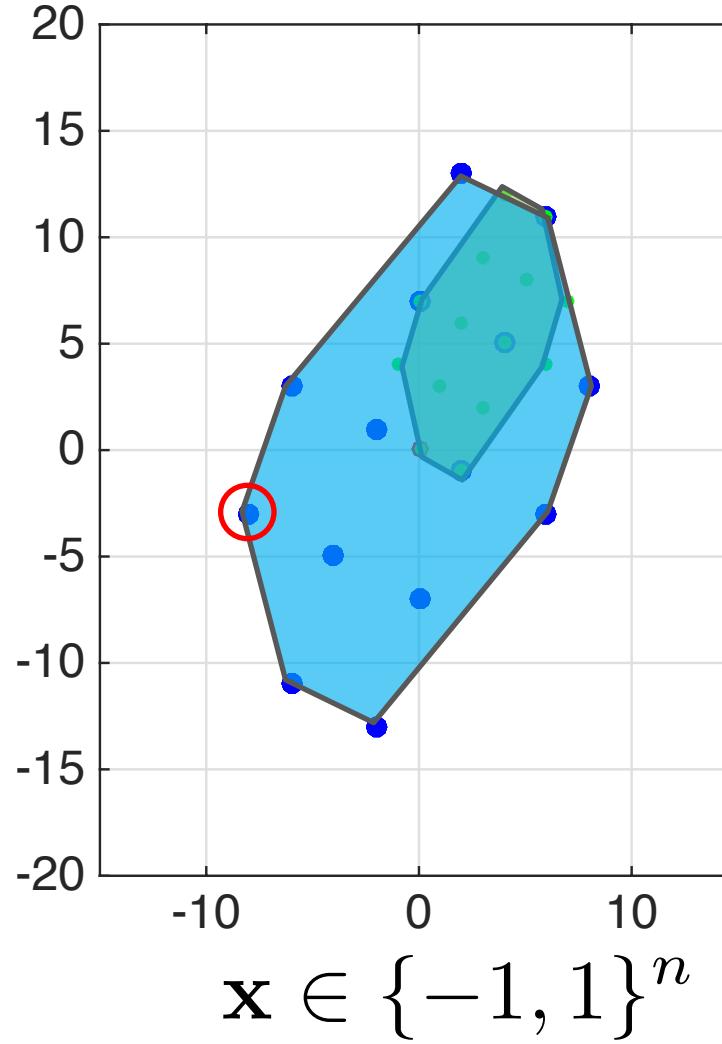
$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



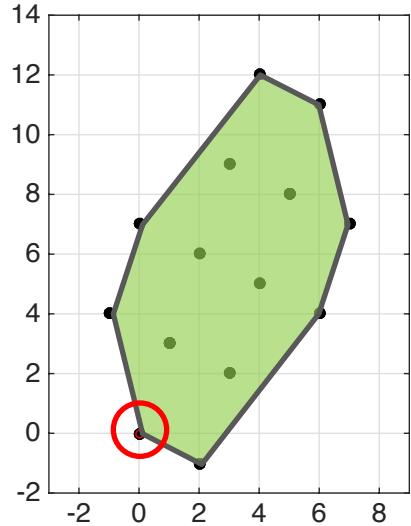
$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



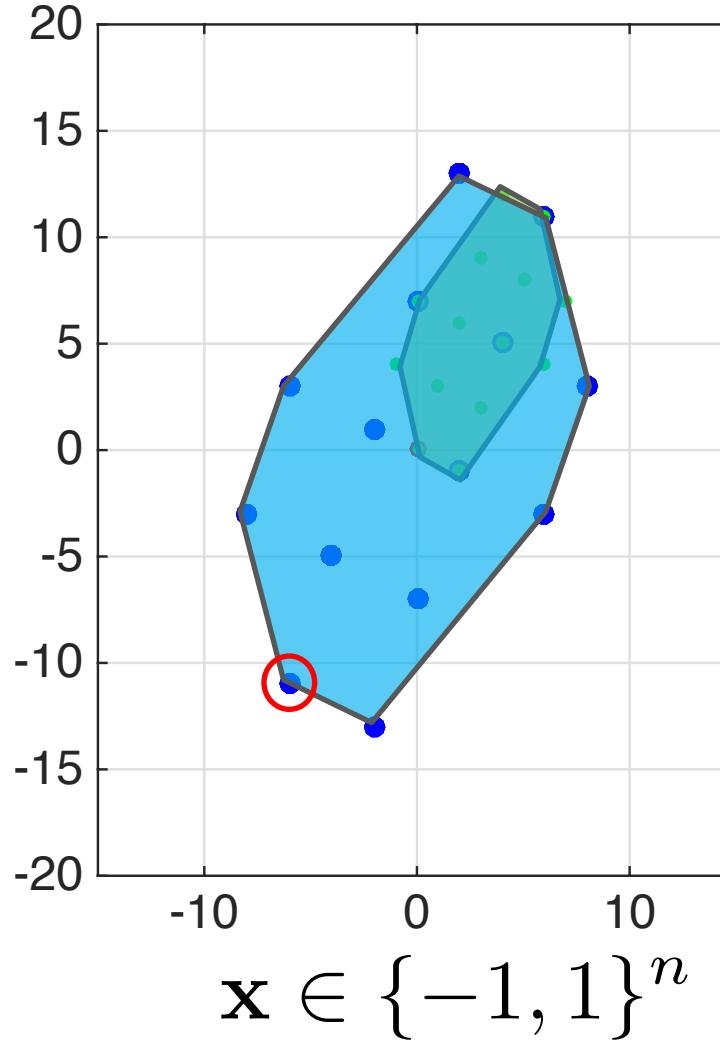
$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



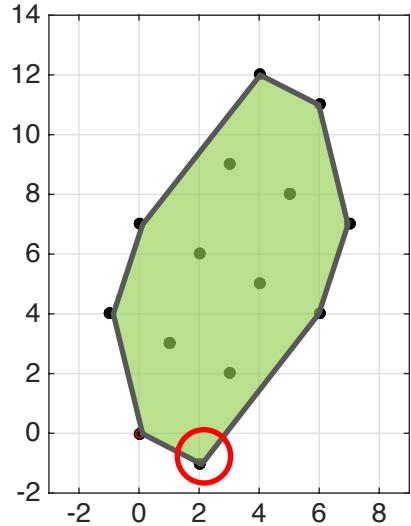
$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



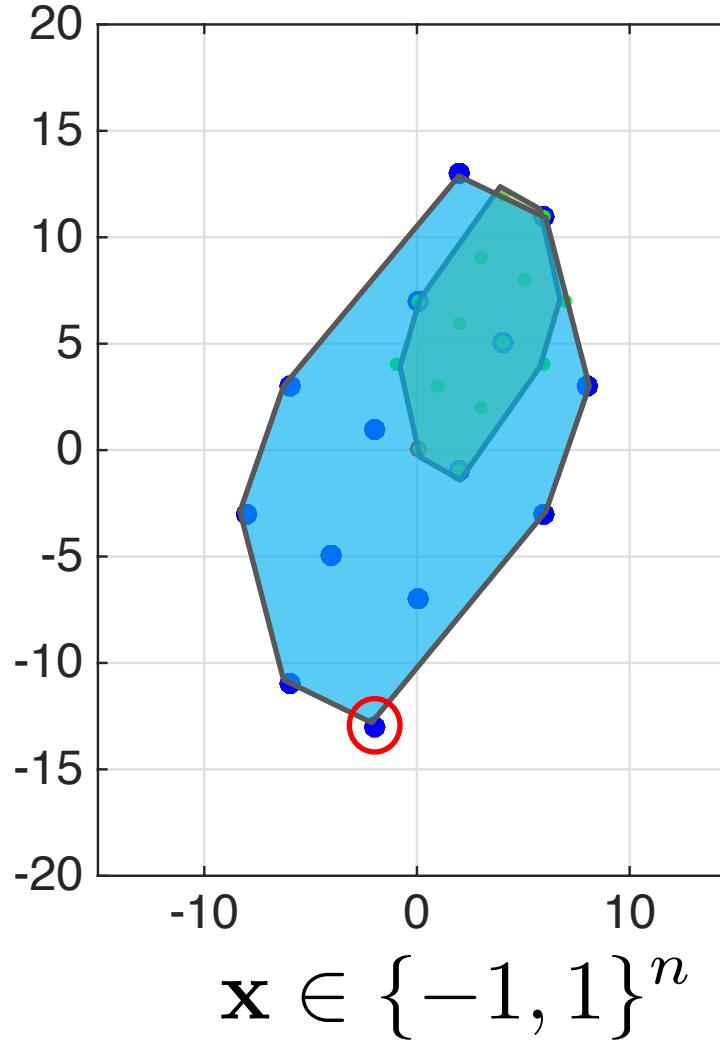
$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

# Relationship between zonotopes



$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$\text{Center} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n g_i$$



$$\text{Center} = (0,0)$$

# Methods for vertex enumeration

Theorem:

Given  $\mathbf{G}$ , there exists an  $O(n^{d-1})$ -time algorithm to enumerate all extremal binary input vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  corresponding to vertices of the zonotope

**Gritzmann, Sturmfels.** Minkowski addition of polytopes:  
computational complexity and applications to Gröbner bases.  
*SIAM J. Disc. Math* 1993

# Methods for vertex enumeration

## 1. Incremental strategy

*Get vertices for  $k$  of the generators, and then update with one more generator.*

Time Complexity:  $O(n^{d-1})$

Memory:  $O(n^{d-1})$

**Edelsbrunner**, Algorithms in Combinatorial Geometry,  
*Springer*, 1987

# Methods for vertex enumeration

## 2. Reverse Search Enumeration

Use an “adjacency oracle” (returns a vertex’s neighbors) and a “finite local search function” (maps a vertex to an adjacent vertex), to iterate through vertices of a zonotope.

Time Complexity:  $O(n \text{ LP}(n,d) |V| )$

Memory:  $O(nd)$

# Methods for vertex enumeration

## 2. Reverse Search Enumeration

*Use an “adjacency oracle” (returns a vertex’s neighbors) and a “finite local search function” (maps a vertex to an adjacent vertex), to iterate through vertices of a zonotope.*

Time Complexity:  $O(n \text{ LP}(n,d) |V| )$

Memory:  $O(nd)$

**Ferrez, Fukuda, Libeling.** Solving the fixed rank convex quadratic maximization in binary variable by a parallel zonotope construction algorithm.

# Methods for vertex enumeration

## 3. Random vertex enumeration

For  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.  $\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x} \neq 0$ ,

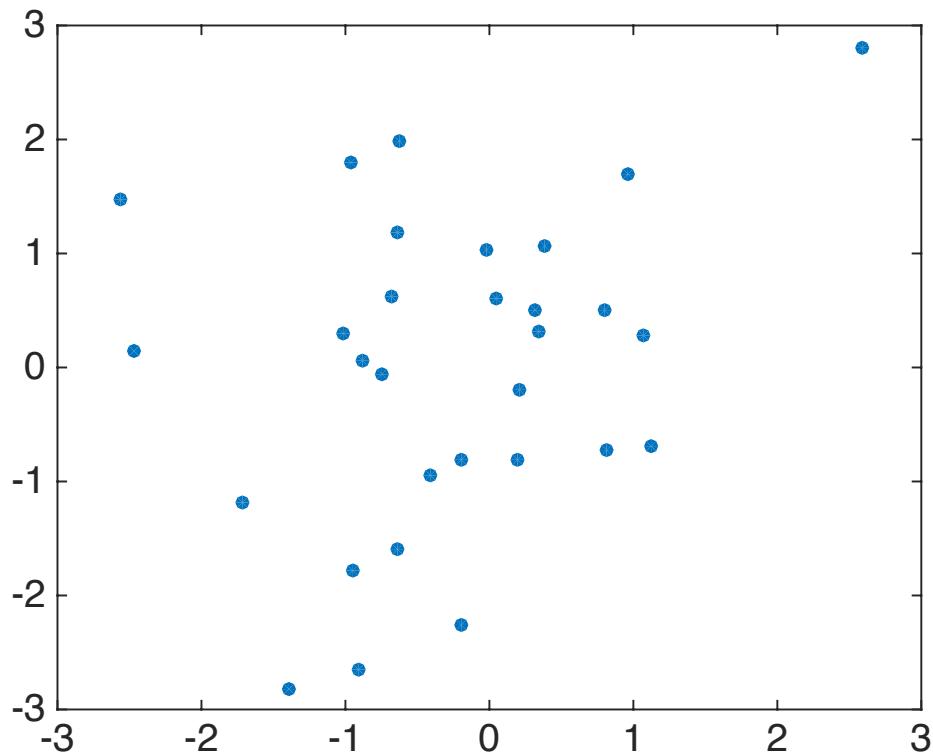
$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{G}\text{sign}(\mathbf{G}\mathbf{x})$  is a vertex of  $\mathcal{Z}(\mathbf{G})$

**Stinson, Gleich, Constantine.** A randomized algorithm  
for enumerating zonotope vertices, *arXiv:1602.06620* 2016

# Vector Partition Problem

Let  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  be  $n$  vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^d$

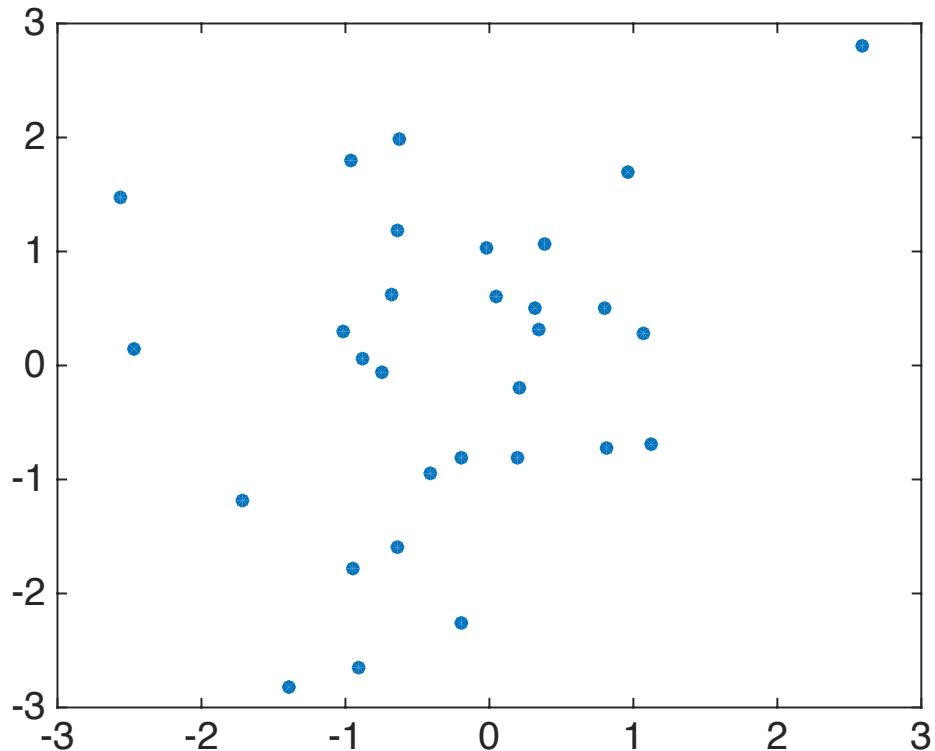
$f : \mathbb{R}^{d \times p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , convex objective function



# Vector Partition Problem

Let  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  be  $n$  vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^d$

$f : \mathbb{R}^{d \times p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , convex objective function



$$\max f(S)$$

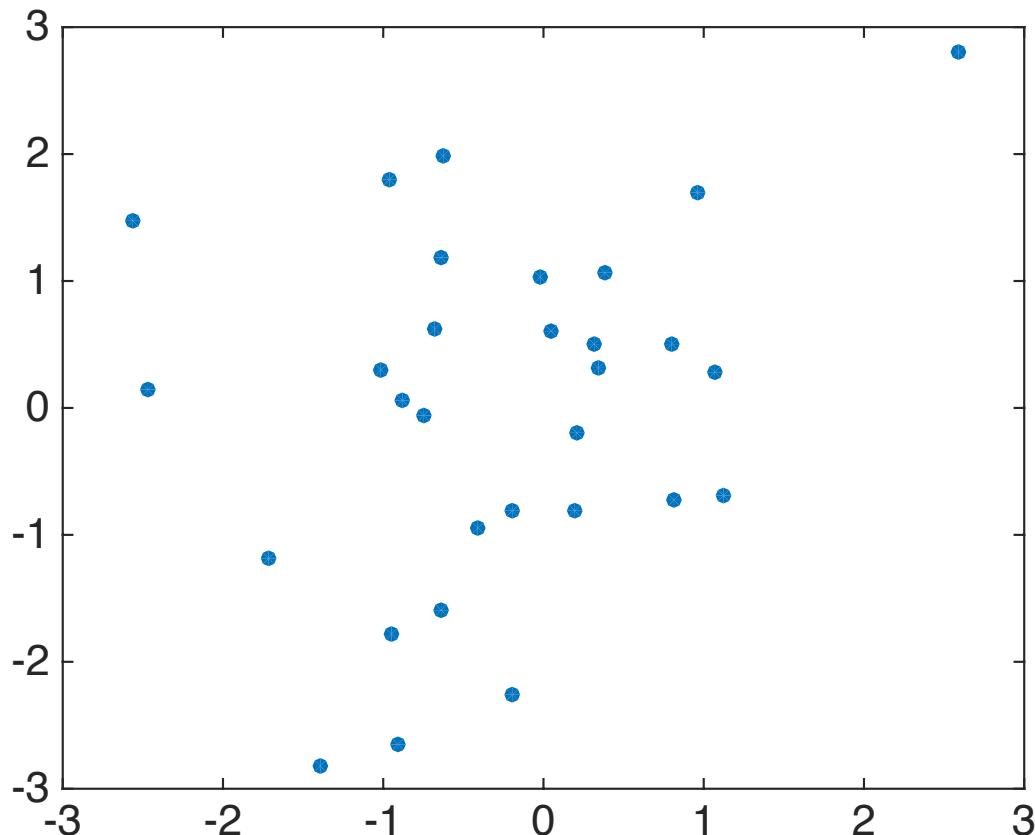
$$S = [s_1 \quad s_2 \quad \cdots \quad s_p]$$

$$s_i = \sum_{v \in \text{cluster } i} v \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

**Onn, Schulman.** The Vector Partition Problem for Convex  
Objective Functions *Mathematics of Operations Research*. 2001

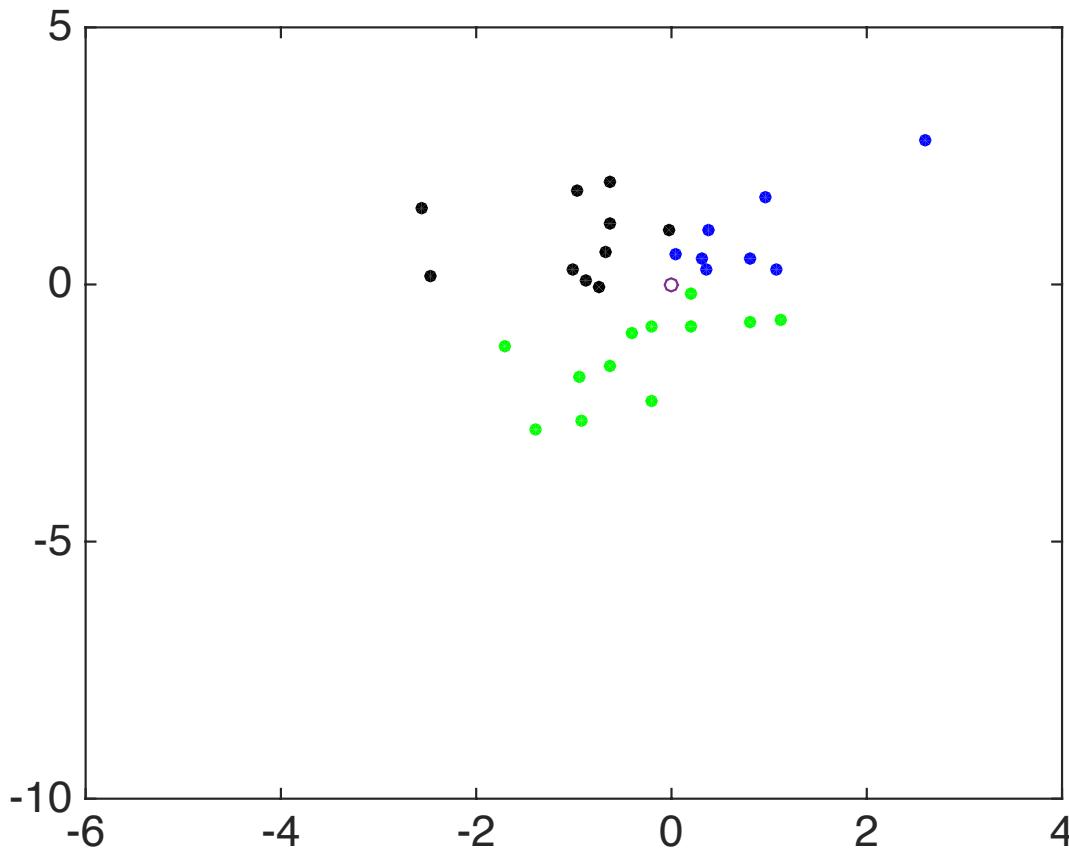
# Vector Partition Problem

$$\max f(S)$$



# Vector Partition Problem

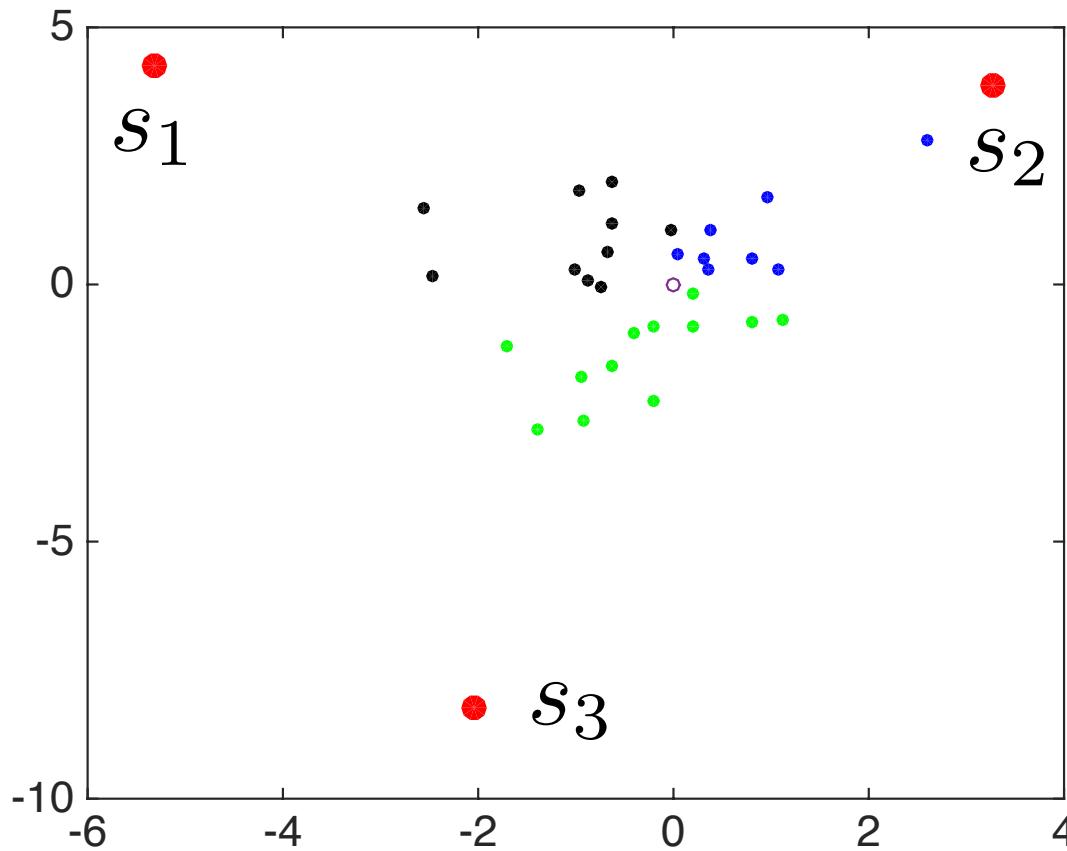
$$\max f(S)$$



Get a clustering of  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$

# Vector Partition Problem

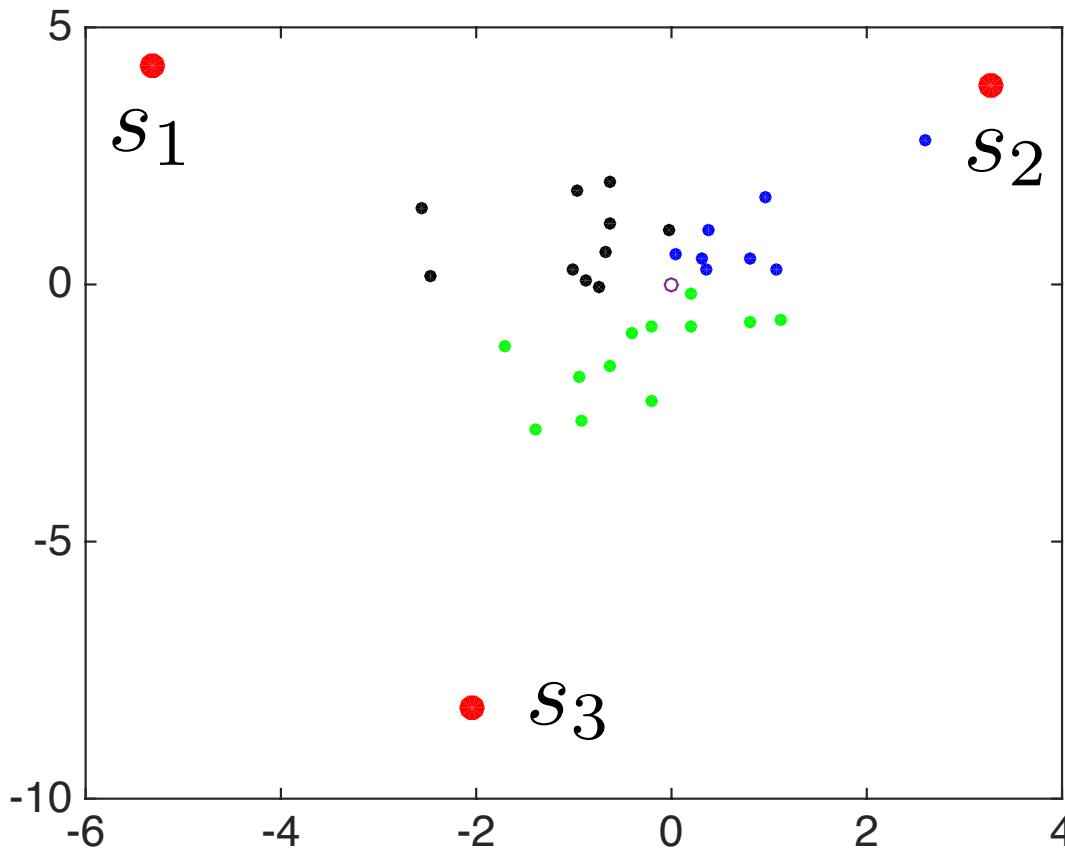
$$\max f(S)$$



Sum up vectors in each cluster to get  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_p$

# Vector Partition Problem

$$\max f(S)$$



Form  $\mathbf{S} = [s_1 \ s_2 \ \dots \ s_p]$

# Vector Partition Problem

$$\max f(S)$$

$$\mathbf{S} = [s_1 \quad s_2 \quad \cdots \quad s_p]$$

$$s_i = \sum_{v \in \text{cluster } i} v \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

The set of all  $S$  matrices is *not* a zonotope.

# The problem is solved by exploring the *signing zonotope*

Let  $\sigma = (\sigma_{r,s}^i) \in \{-1, 1\}^M$ , where

- $i$  is the index of a vector  $v_i$
- $r, s$  are indices of distinct clusters
- $M = \binom{p}{2}n$

$$\sigma = (\sigma_{r,s}^i) \in \{-1, 1\}^M$$

Associate with  $\sigma$  a matrix  $\mathbf{A}_\sigma$ :

$$\mathbf{A}_\sigma = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{1 \leq r < s \leq p} \sigma_{r,s}^i v_i \cdot (e_r - e_s)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times p}$$

This is a  $\pm 1$  combination of matrices

$$W_{r,s}^i = v_i \cdot (e_r - e_s)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times p}$$

**Fact:**  $W_{r,s}^i$  have zero row sum.

Example: let  $d = 2, p = 3, r = 1, s = 3, v = (1, 3)$

$$\begin{aligned} W_{r,s}^i &= v_i \cdot (e_r - e_s)^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)^T \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} ([1 \quad 0 \quad -1]) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 3 & 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Define a  $d(p - 1)$  dimensional vector by stacking columns

$$\rightarrow w(i, r, s) = [1 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 0]^T$$

Given  $\sigma \in \{-1, 1\}^M$ :

$$\mathbf{A}_\sigma = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{1 \leq r < s \leq p} \sigma_{r,s}^i W_{r,s}^i \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times p}$$

$\mathbf{A}_\sigma$  also has zero row sum, so associate  $\sigma$  with a  $d(p - 1)$  dimensional vector  $Z_\sigma$  by stacking columns.

**Definition:** The signing zonotope is the convex hull of vectors  $Z_\sigma$ :

$$\mathcal{Z} = \mathbf{conv}\{Z_\sigma : \sigma \in \{-1, 1\}^M\}$$

**Equivalently:**  $\mathcal{Z}$  is the zonotope generated by vectors  $w(i, r, s)$ .

# VPP is solvable in polynomial time

**Definition:** An *extremal signing*  $\sigma$  is a signing that corresponds to a vertex of  $\mathcal{Z}$ .

**Theorem** (Onn, Schulman 2001)

- Every vertex of  $\mathcal{Z}$  maps to a clustering of the  $n$  vectors
- There is some vertex of  $\mathcal{Z}$  that maps to the optimal clustering
- $\mathcal{Z}$  has  $O(n^{d(p-1)-1})$  vertices

By exploring the polynomially many vertices of  $\mathcal{Z}$  we find the optimal clustering of the  $n$  input vectors.

# VPP is solvable in polynomial time

**Definition:** An *extremal signing*  $\sigma$  is a signing that corresponds to a vertex of  $\mathcal{Z}$ .

**Theorem** (Onn, Schulman 2001)

- Every vertex of  $\mathcal{Z}$  maps to a clustering of the  $n$  vectors
- There is some vertex of  $\mathcal{Z}$  that maps to the optimal clustering
- $\mathcal{Z}$  has  $O(n^{d(p-1)-1})$  vertices

**Onn, Schulman.** The Vector Partition Problem for Convex Objective Functions *Mathematics of Operations Research*. 2001

# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings

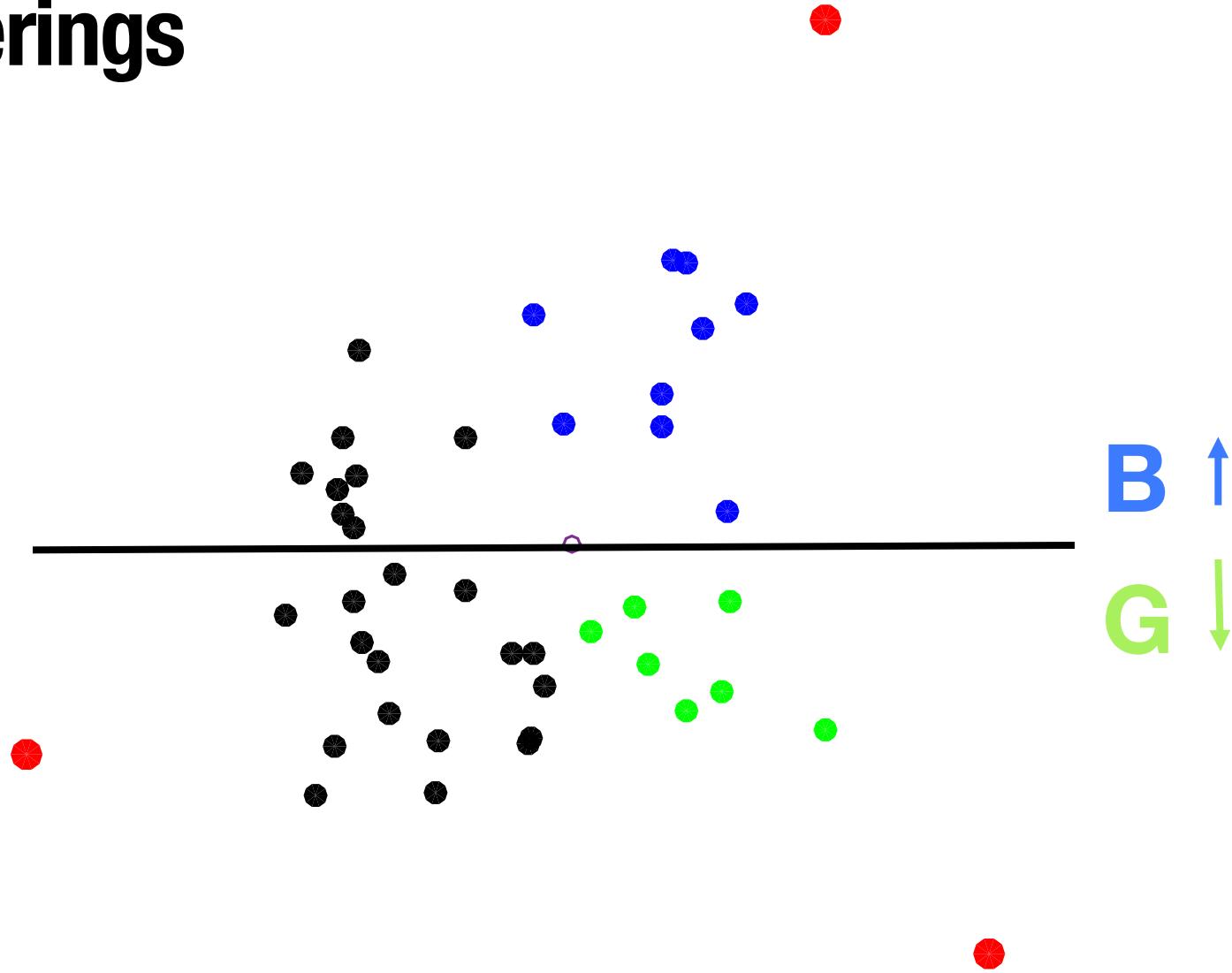
Every extremal signing  $\sigma$  encodes “separation” information:

$$\sigma_{r,s}^i = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } i \text{ could be in cluster } r, \text{ but not } s \\ -1 & \text{if } i \text{ could be in cluster } s, \text{ but not } r \end{cases}$$

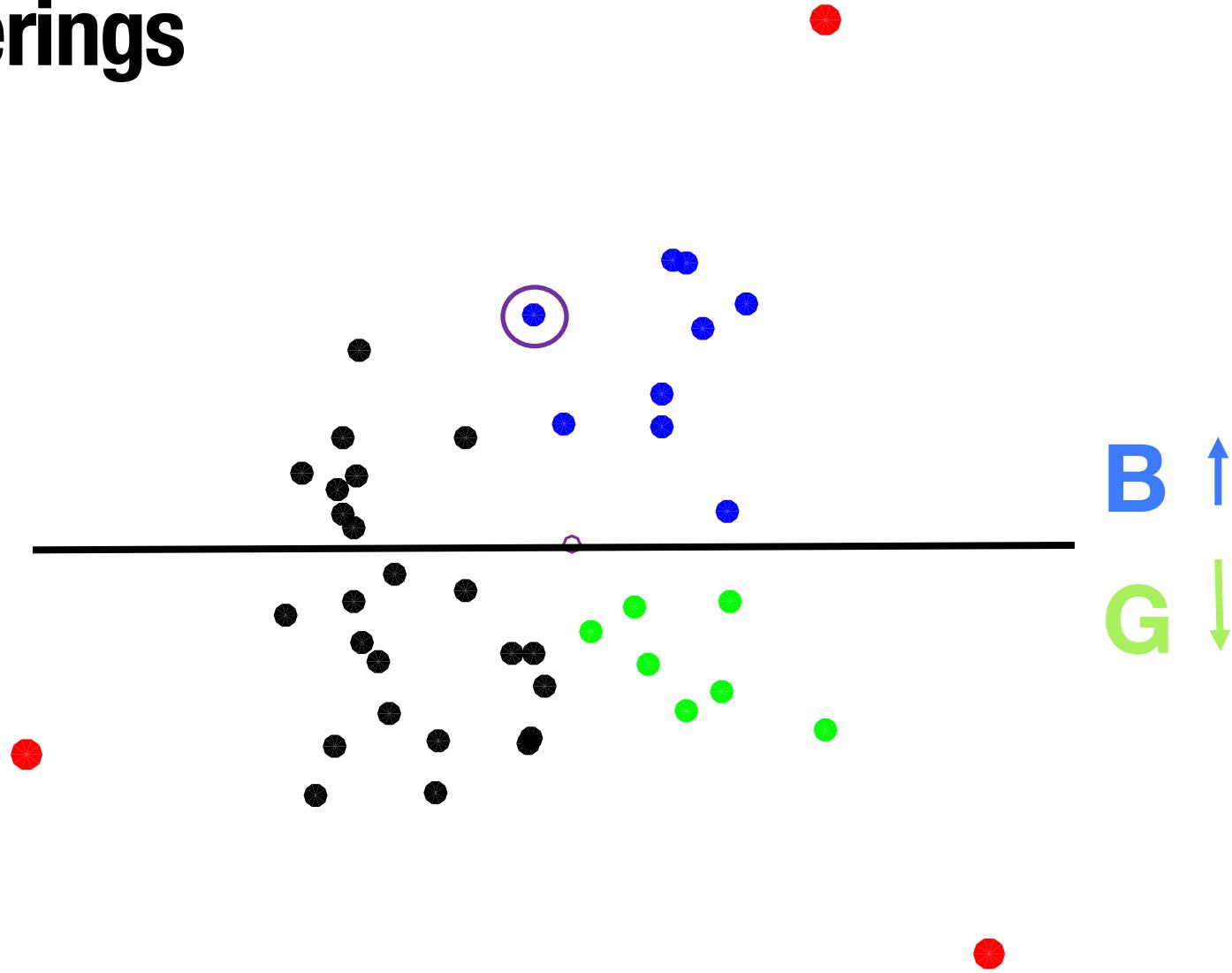
If we can obtain an extremal signing  $\sigma$ , we can figure out where each vector  $v_i$  belongs.

**Onn, Schulman.** The Vector Partition Problem for Convex Objective Functions *Mathematics of Operations Research*. 2001

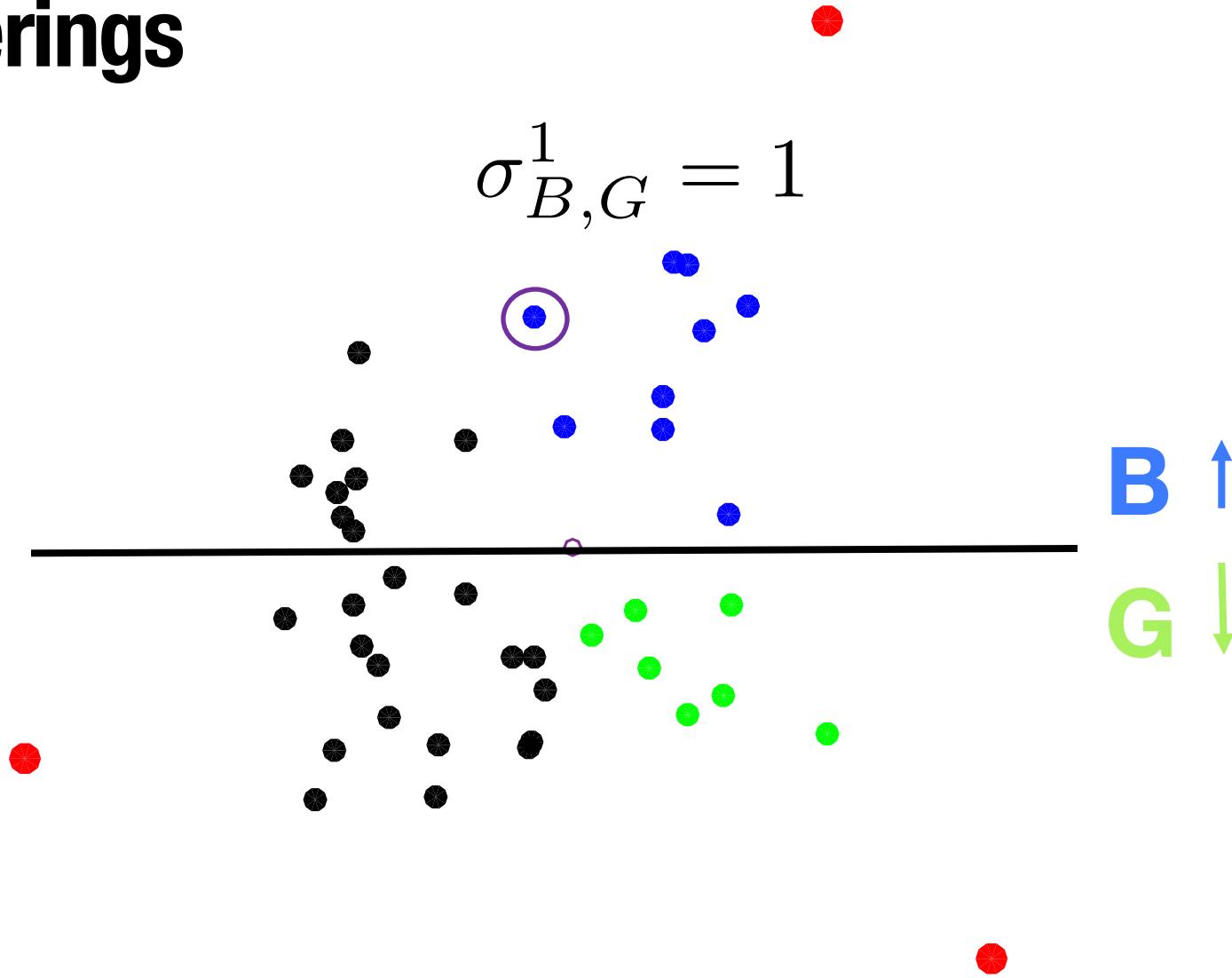
# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



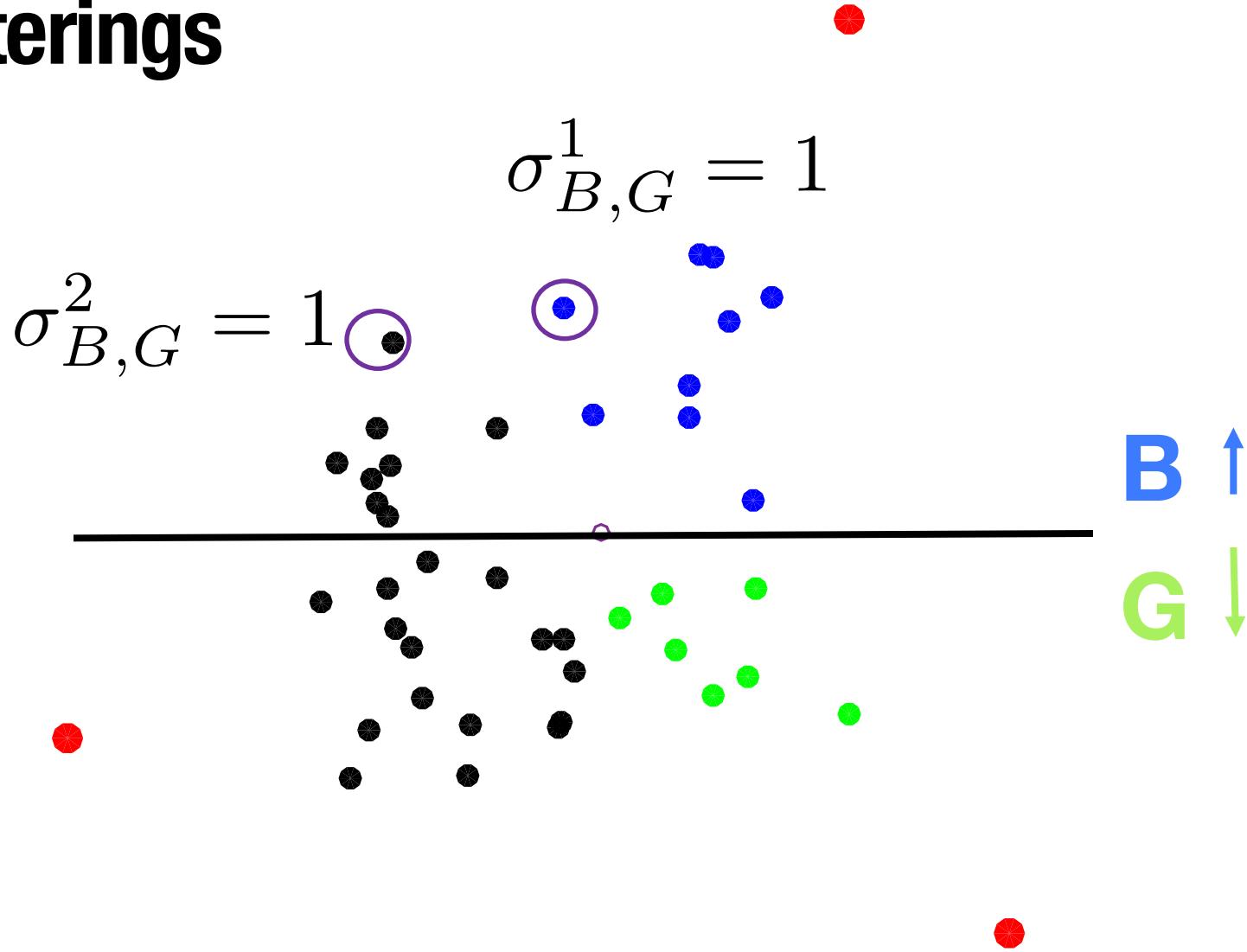
# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



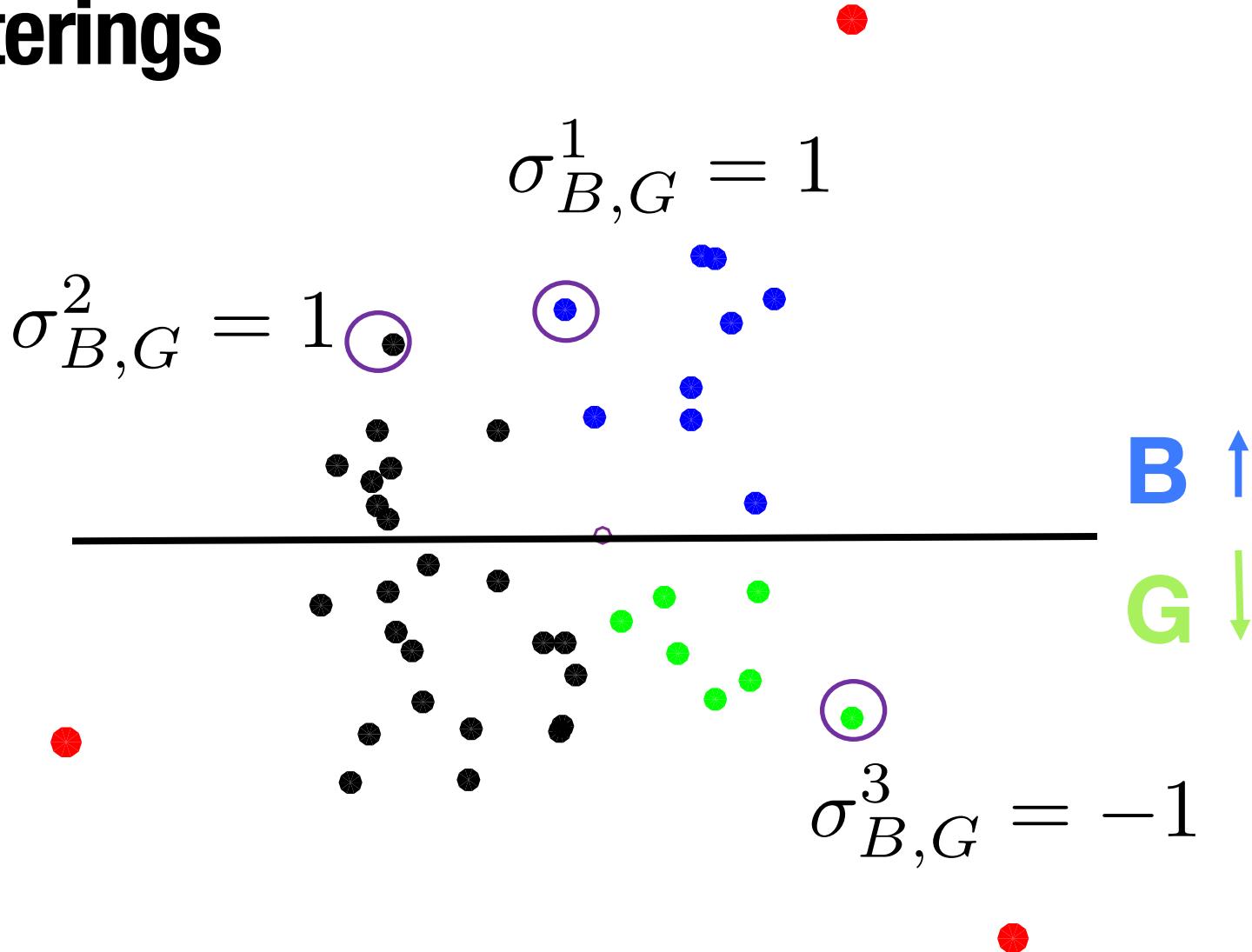
# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



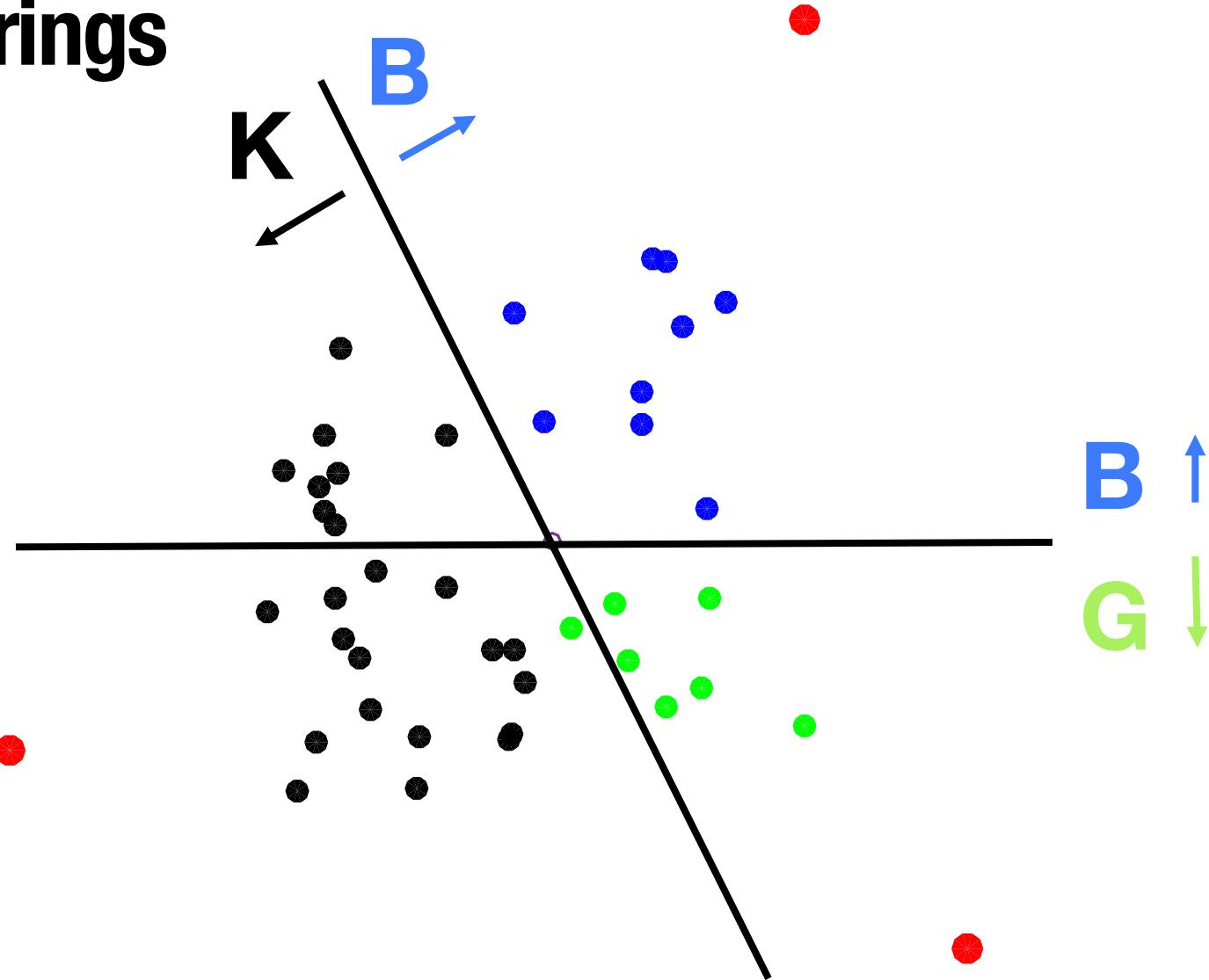
# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



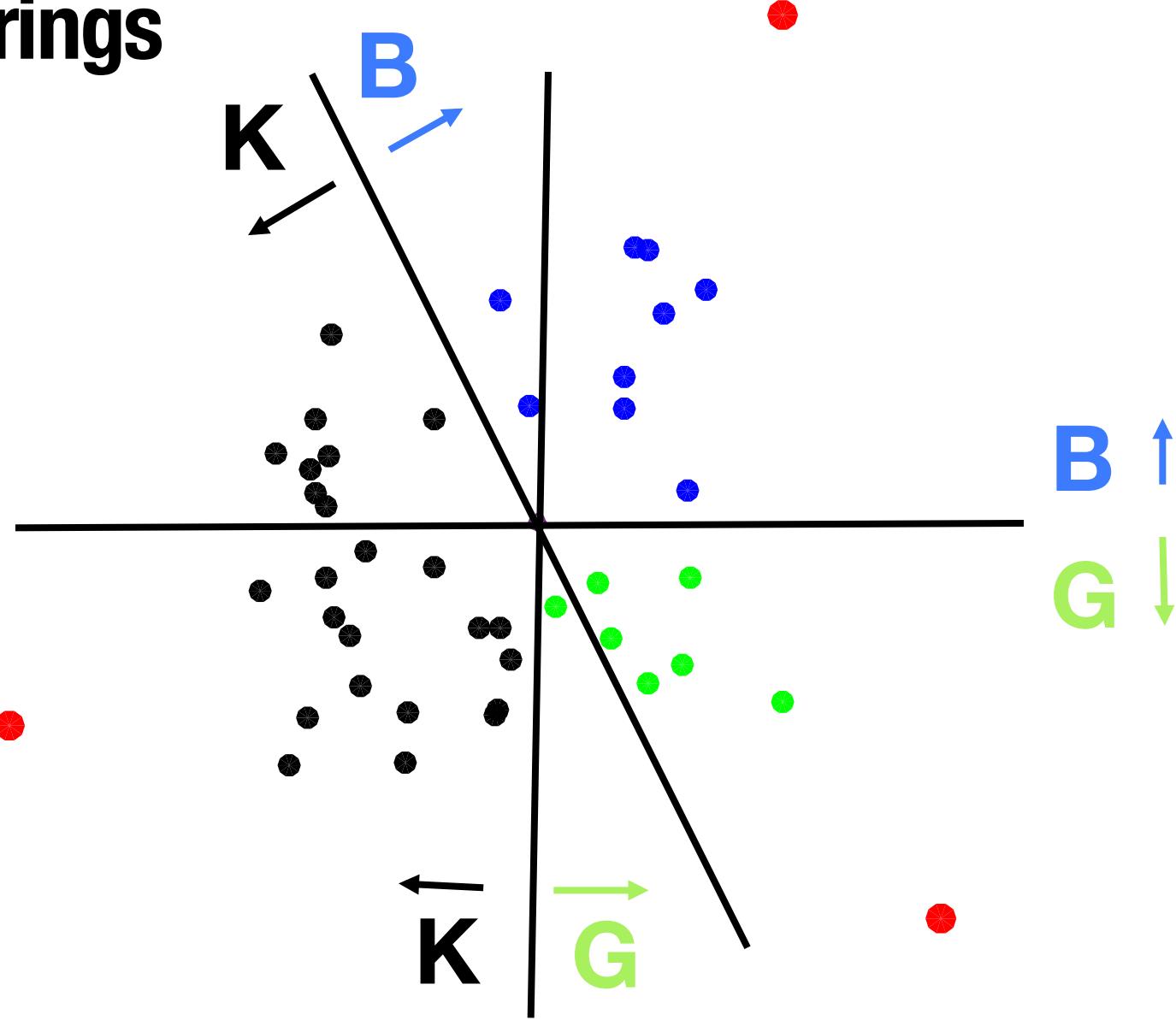
# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



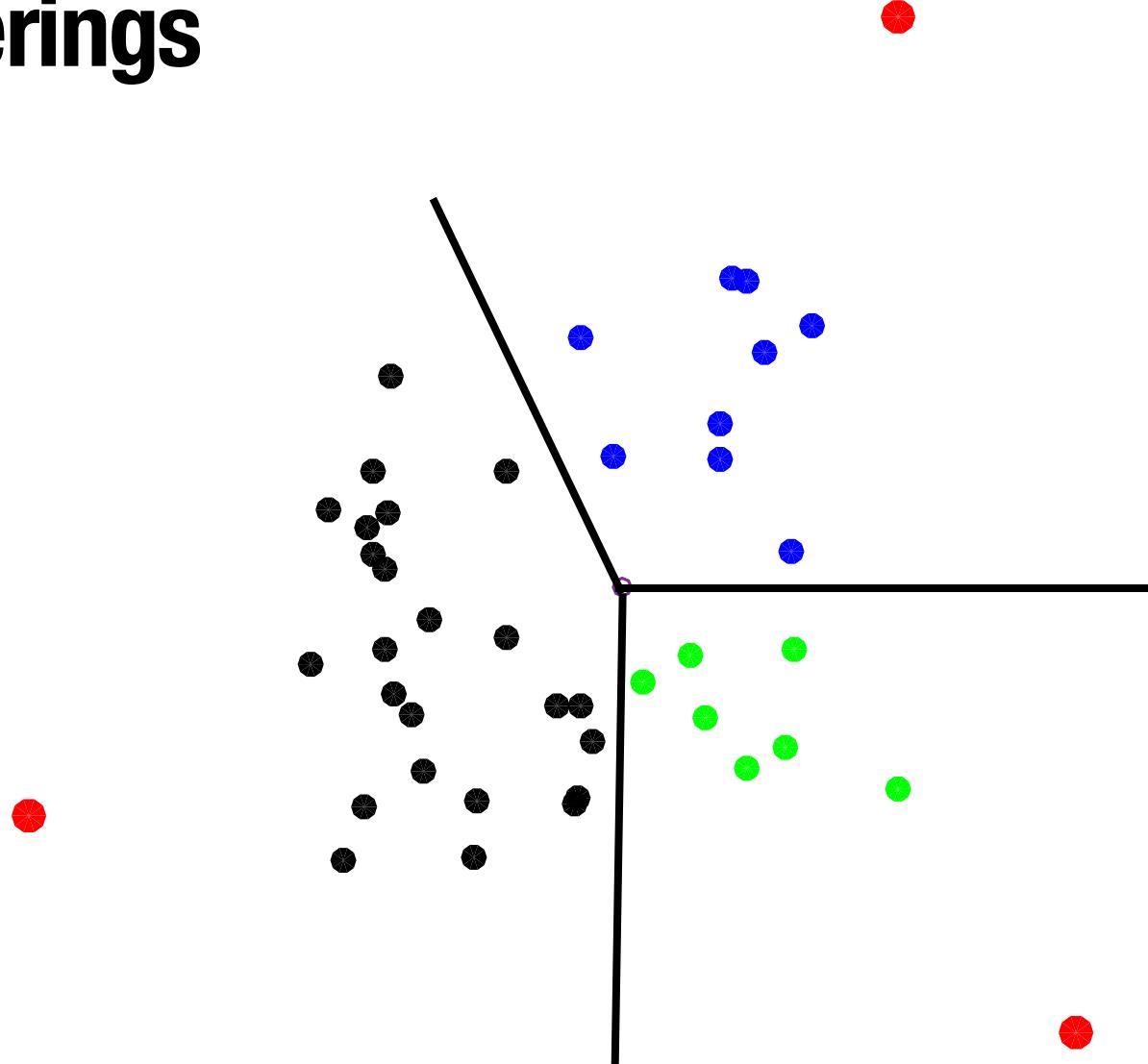
# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



# Intuition for mapping signings to clusterings



Thanks!