

# Introduction to Modern Control Systems

## Convex Optimization & Linear Matrix Inequalities

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AIMS CDT 2023-24


Introduction to Modern Control

January 17, 2024


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## References


### Convex Optimization & Duality Theory:


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 Bertsekas (2009)  
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 Rockafellar (1970)  
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### Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMIs):

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## Convex Optimization

- Optimization programs
- Convex sets
- Convex functions
- Operations that preserve convexity
- Convex optimization programs

## Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMIs)

- How do they look like?
- Are they convex?
- Why are they interesting

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## Optimization program - General description

A more common problem format:

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

- **Objective function**  $f_0 : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- **Domain**  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  of the objective function, from which the decision variable  $x := (x_1; x_2; \dots; x_n)$  must be chosen.
- **Inequality constraint functions**  $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, m$
- **Equality constraint functions**  $h_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, p$

$\Rightarrow$  *Maximization* fit the framework with a change of sign.

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## Optimization program – Possible outcomes

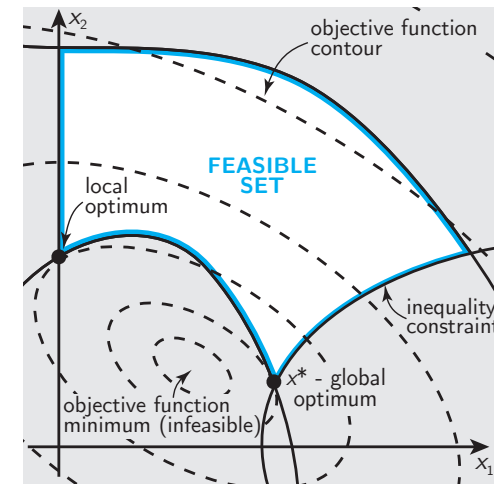
Consider the problem

$$p^* = \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x)$$

- If  $p^* = -\infty$ , then the problem is **unbounded below**.
- If the set  $\mathcal{X}$  is empty, then the problem is **infeasible** (and we set  $p^* = +\infty$ ).
- If  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^n$ , the problem is **unconstrained**.
- There might be more than one solution. The set of solutions is:

$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) := \{x \in \mathcal{X} \mid f(x) = p^*\}$$

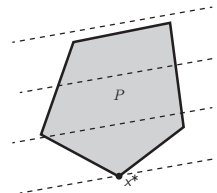
## Geometric view



## Under convexity it is easier ...

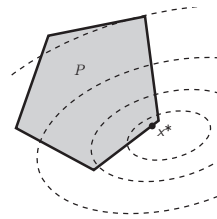
**Linear Program (LP):**

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & c^T x \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & Gx \leq h \\ & Ax = b \end{aligned}$$



**Convex Quadratic Program (QP) –  $P \succeq 0$ :**

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & \frac{1}{2}x^T Px + q^T x \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & Gx \leq h \\ & Ax = b \end{aligned}$$



$\Rightarrow$  *Convex programs*: Local optimum = Global optimum

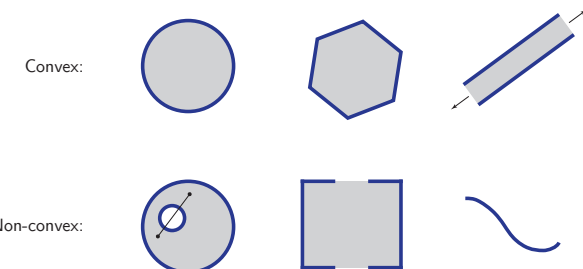
## Convex sets

### Definition (Convex Set)

A set  $\mathcal{X}$  is **convex** if and only if for any pair of points  $x$  and  $y$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ , any **convex combination** of  $x$  and  $y$  lies in  $\mathcal{X}$ :

$$\mathcal{X} \text{ is convex} \Leftrightarrow \lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y \in \mathcal{X}, \forall \lambda \in [0, 1], \forall x, y \in \mathcal{X}$$

**Interpretation:** All line segments starting and ending in  $\mathcal{X}$  stay within  $\mathcal{X}$ .



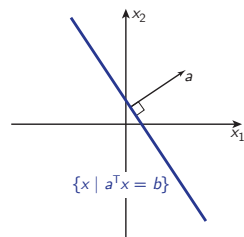
## Convex sets

### Definitions (Hyperplanes and halfspaces)

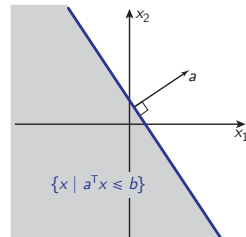
A **hyperplane** is defined by  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid a^\top x = b\}$  for  $a \neq 0$ , where  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the normal vector to the hyperplane.

A **halfspace** is defined by  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid a^\top x \leq b\}$  for  $a \neq 0$ . It can either be **open** (strict inequality) or **closed** (non-strict inequality).

For  $n = 2$ , hyperplanes define lines. For  $n = 3$ , hyperplanes define planes.



A hyperplane



A closed halfspace

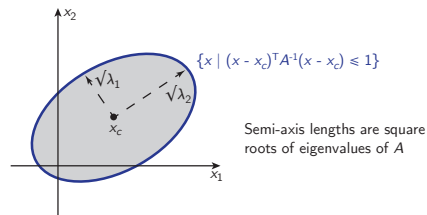
## Ellipsoid - Generalized norm ball

### Definition (Ellipsoid)

An **ellipsoid** is a set defined as

$$\mathcal{E} = \{x \mid (x - x_c)^\top A^{-1}(x - x_c) \leq 1\},$$

where  $x_c$  is the centre of the ellipsoid, and  $A \succ 0$ .



Alternatively,  $\mathcal{E} = \{x \mid T(x) \leq 0\}$  where

$$T(x) = x^\top A x + 2x^\top b + c, \text{ with } A = A^\top \succ 0.$$

## Convex sets

### Definitions (Polyhedra and polytopes)

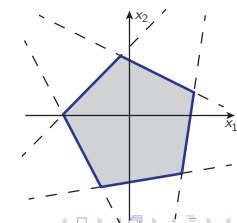
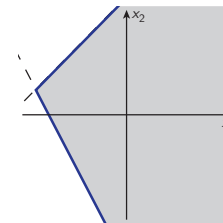
A **polyhedron** is the intersection of a *finite* number of closed halfspaces:

$$\mathcal{X} = \{x \mid a_1^\top x \leq b_1, a_2^\top x \leq b_2, \dots, a_m^\top x \leq b_m\} = \{x \mid Ax \leq b\}$$

where  $A := [a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m]^\top$  and  $b := [b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m]^\top$ .

A **polytope** is a *bounded* polyhedron.

Polyhedra and polytopes are always convex.

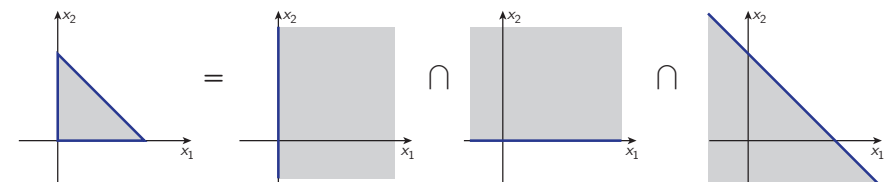


## Intersection of convex sets

### Theorem

*The intersection of two or more convex sets is itself convex.*

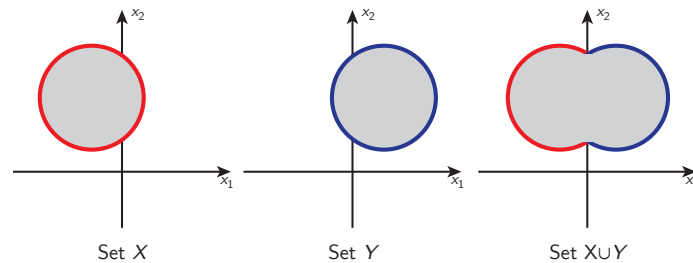
**Proof (for two sets):** Consider any two points  $a$  and  $b$  which *both* lie in *both* of two convex sets  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$ . For any  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,  $\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b$  is in both  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$ . Therefore  $\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b \in \mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$ ,  $\forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$ . This satisfies the definition of convexity for set  $\mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{Y}$ .



Think of simultaneous constraint satisfaction.

## Union of convex sets

Note that the **union** of two sets is **not** convex in general, regardless of whether the original sets were convex!



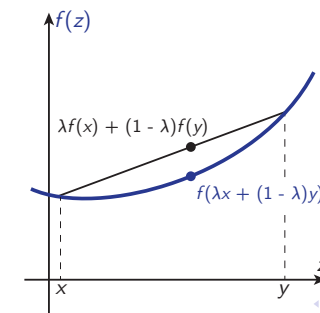
## Convex functions

### Definitions (Convex function)

A function  $f : \text{dom}(f) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **convex** if and only if its domain  $\text{dom}(f)$  is convex and

$$f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y), \quad \forall \lambda \in (0, 1), \quad \forall x, y \in \text{dom}(f)$$

The function  $f$  is **strictly convex** if this inequality is strict.



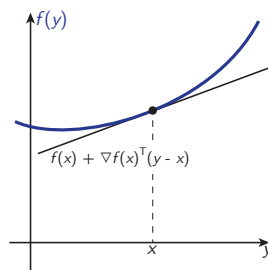
## Convex functions – 1st-order condition

A differentiable function  $f : \text{dom}(f) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with a convex domain is **convex** if and only if

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T (y - x), \quad \forall x, y \in \text{dom}(f)$$

i.e. a first order approximator of  $f$  around any point  $x$  is a global underestimator of  $f$ .

The gradient is given by  $\nabla f(x) = \left[ \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_n} \right]^T$



## Convex functions – 2nd-order condition

A twice-differentiable function  $f : \text{dom}(f) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **convex** if and only if its domain  $\text{dom}(f)$  is convex and

$$\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0, \quad \forall x \in \text{dom}(f),$$

where the Hessian  $\nabla^2 f(x)$  is defined by

$$\nabla^2 f(x)_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

If  $\text{dom}(f)$  is convex and  $\nabla^2 f(x) \succ 0$  for all  $x \in \text{dom}(f)$ , then  $f$  is **strictly convex**.

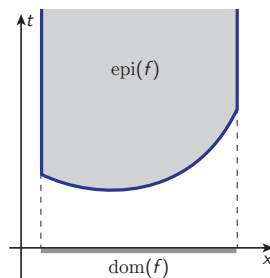
## Convex functions – Epigraph

The **epigraph** of a function  $f : \text{dom}(f) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the **set**

$$\text{epi}(f) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} \mid x \in \text{dom}(f), f(x) \leq t \right\} \subseteq \text{dom}(f) \times \mathbb{R}$$

It has dimension one higher than the domain of  $f$ .

**A function is convex if and only if its epigraph is a convex set.**



## Operations that preserve convexity

### Theorem (Non-negative weighted sum)

If  $f$  is a function convex, then  $\alpha f$  is convex for  $\alpha \geq 0$ . For several convex functions  $f_i$ ,  $\sum_i \alpha_i f_i$  is convex if all  $\alpha_i \geq 0$ .

### Theorem (Composition with affine function)

If  $f$  is a convex function, then  $f(Ax + b)$  is convex.

**Example:**  $\|Ax - b\|$  is convex for any norm; Exponential functions.

### Theorem (Pointwise maximum)

If  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  are convex functions, then  $f(x) = \max\{f_1(x), \dots, f_m(x)\}$  is convex.

**Example:** Piecewise linear functions  $\max_{i=1, \dots, m} \{a_i^\top x + b\}$  are convex.

## Convex optimization program – standard form

A standard form **convex** optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & f_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & a_i^\top x = b_i \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

This problem is convex if:

- The domain  $\mathcal{X}$  is a convex set.
- The objective function  $f_0$  is a convex function.
- The inequality constraint functions  $f_i$  are all convex.
- The equality constraint functions  $h_i(x) = a_i^\top x$  are all affine.

## Convex optimization program – standard form

A standard form **convex** optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \quad & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & f_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m} \end{aligned}$$

This problem is convex if:

- The domain  $\mathcal{X}$  is a convex set.
- The objective function  $f_0$  is a convex function.
- The inequality constraint functions  $f_i$  are all convex.
- The equality constraint functions  $h_i(x) = a_i^\top x$  are all affine.

## Convex programs: Local optimum = Global optimum

### Theorem

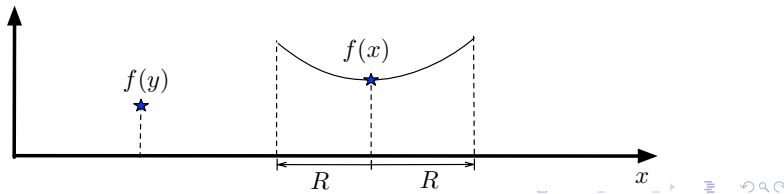
For a convex optimization problem, **every** locally optimal solution is globally optimal.

### Proof:

- Assume that  $x$  is locally optimal, but not globally optimal.
- Therefore there is some other point  $y$  such that  $f(y) < f(x)$ .
- $x$  locally optimal implies that there is some  $R > 0$  such that

$$\|z - x\|_2 \leq R \Rightarrow f(x) \leq f(z)$$

- The problem can't be convex.



## Example : Piecewise affine minimization (con'd)

### Piecewise affine minimization:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & \left[ \max_{i=1,\dots,m} \{c_i^\top x + d_i\} \right] \\ \text{subject to: } & Gx \leq h \end{aligned}$$

is **equivalent** to an LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,t} \quad & t \\ \text{subject to: } & c_i^\top x + d_i \leq t \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Gx \leq h \end{aligned}$$

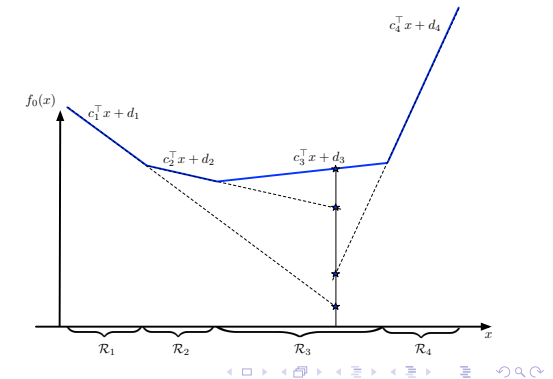
Add variables and write the problem in epigraph form  $\Rightarrow$  **epigraphic reformulation**.

## Example: Piecewise affine minimization

### Piecewise affine minimization:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & \left[ \max_{i=1,\dots,m} \{c_i^\top x + d_i\} \right] \\ \text{subject to: } & Gx \leq h \end{aligned}$$

- The function is affine on each region  $\mathcal{R}_i$ .
- Any convex and piecewise affine function can be written this way (e.g. 1st norm).
- Can be reformulated as an LP.



## What are LMIs?

A **Linear Matrix Inequality** (LMI) is a constraint of the form:

$$x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \dots + x_n A_n \preceq B$$

where the matrices  $A_1, \dots, A_n, B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  are all symmetric.

- This is a constraint that imposes matrix

$$B - \sum_i^n x_i A_i$$

to be positive semidefinite (positive definite if  $\preceq$  replaced by  $\prec$ ).

- It is equivalent to imposing  $m$  polynomial inequalities
  - Not element-wise constraints.
  - All leading principle minors are positive (for positive definite matrices).

## What are LMIs?

A **Linear Matrix Inequality** (LMI) is a constraint of the form:

$$x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B$$

where the matrices  $(A_1, \dots, A_n, B)$  are all symmetric.

- Consider the constraint

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_2 & x_3 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

- This is equivalent to 2 inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &\geq 0 \\ \det(Q) &\geq 0 \Leftrightarrow x_1 x_3 - x_2^2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## LMIs are convex constraints

### Theorem

The following LMI constraint is convex.

$$F(x) = B - \sum_i^n x_i A_i \succeq 0$$

**Proof:** Let  $x, y$  such that  $F(x), F(y) \succeq 0$ , and  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) &= B - \sum_i (\lambda x_i + (1 - \lambda)y_i) A_i \\ &= \lambda B + (1 - \lambda)B - \lambda \sum_i x_i A_i - (1 - \lambda) \sum_i y_i A_i \\ &= \lambda F(x) + (1 - \lambda)F(y) \\ &\succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## General form LMIs

**Example 1:**  $y - x^2 > 0, y > 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} y & x \\ x & 1 \end{bmatrix} \succ 0$

- Check leading principle minors
- That is an LMI; rewrite as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + y \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + x \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \succ 0$$

**Example 2:**  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 < 1 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & x_1 \\ 0 & 1 & x_2 \\ x_1 & x_2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \succ 0$

- Leading principle minors are:  $1 > 0$ ,  $\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} > 0$ , and

$$1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_2 \\ x_2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - 0 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & x_2 \\ x_1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + x_1 \cdot \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

## LMIs are convex constraints

### Theorem

The following LMI constraint is convex.

$$F(x) = B - \sum_i^n x_i A_i \succeq 0$$

**Alternative proof:** We want to show that the set  $\{x : F(x) \succeq 0\}$  is convex. We have that ...

$$\begin{aligned} \{x : F(x) \succeq 0\} &= \{x : z^T F(x) z \geq 0, \text{ for all } z\} \\ &= \bigcap_z \{x : z^T F(x) z \geq 0\} \end{aligned}$$

... but this is an infinite intersection of sets affine in  $x$  ... so it is convex!

- LMI much harder than linear constraints – an infinite number of them!
- Result can be piecewise affine – LMIs nonlinear!

## Why are LMIs interesting?

Linear Matrix Inequalities:

- Appear in many common control design problems (more later on)
- Most of the problems presented so far can be written using LMI constraints

### Linear constraints

$$Ax \leq b \iff \text{diag}(Ax) \preceq \text{diag}(b)$$

**Quadratic constraints** (It will be clear later on)

$$x^T Q x + b^T x + c \leq 0, \quad Q \succ 0 \iff \begin{bmatrix} c + b^T x & x^T \\ x & -Q^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0$$

## Duality Theory

- The Lagrangian function
- The dual problem
- Weak and strong duality
- Optimality conditions
- Game theoretic view

## LMIs in optimization

- Semidefinite programming (SDP)
- The dual of an SDP

## Summary

### 1 Introduction to convex optimization

- Under convexity: local = global optima
- Recognizing convexity makes life easier
- Interplay between convex functions and sets (epigraphic reformulation)

### 2 Linear Matrix Inequalities (LMIs)

- Nonlinear constraints
- LMI constraints are convex!
- Generalize many of the well known constraints (e.g. linear, quadratic)

## LMIs in optimization

Consider the following optimization program

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{(SDP)} : \quad & \text{subject to: } x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B \end{aligned}$$

where the matrices  $(A_1, \dots, A_n, B)$  are all symmetric.

- We could also have equality constraints
- Optimization over LMI constraints

Why is this class of optimization programs interesting?

- Semidefinite programming (SDP)
- Many control analysis and synthesis problems can be written as SDPs
- Most of the problems presented so far can be written as SDPs



## Semidefinite optimization programs (SDPs)

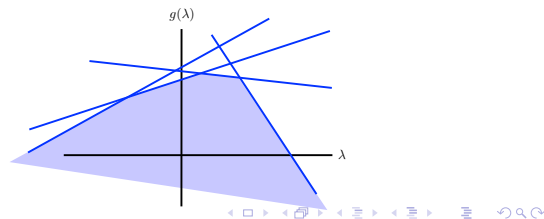
Consider the following optimization program

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^\top x \\ \text{(SDP):} \quad & \text{subject to: } x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B \end{aligned}$$

where the matrices  $(A_1, \dots, A_n, B)$  are all symmetric.

- Assume we are interested in the optimal value  $p^*$  of (SDP)
- Can we construct a lower bound for  $p^*$ , i.e.  $d^* \leq p^*$ , by solving another problem?
- This problem, called *dual*, might sometimes be easier to solve

To do this we first need some machinery – Duality Theory



## The Lagrangian function

Recall our standard form (primal) optimization problem:

$$(\mathcal{P}): \quad \begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to:} & f_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots m \\ & h_i(x) = 0 \quad i = 1 \dots p \end{array}$$

with (primal) decision variable  $x$ , domain  $\mathcal{X}$  and optimal value  $p^*$ .

**Lagrangian Function:**  $L : \mathcal{X} \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x)$$

- $\lambda_i$  : inequality Lagrange multiplier for  $f_i(x) \leq 0$ .
- $\nu_i$  : equality Lagrange multiplier for  $h_i(x) = 0$ .
- Lagrangian: weighted sum of the objective and constraint functions.

## Lagrange dual function

The **dual function**  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p$  is

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) \\ &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \left[ f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

The dual function  $g(\lambda, \nu)$  is always a **concave** function.

- $g(\lambda, \nu)$  is the pointwise infimum of affine functions  
Do you recall pointwise maximum?

## Lagrange dual function

The **dual function**  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p$  is

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) \\ &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \left[ f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

The dual function generates lower bounds for the primal optimal value, i.e.  $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$  for  $\lambda \geq 0$ :

**Proof:**

For any primal feasible solution  $\bar{x}$ :  $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(\bar{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(\bar{x}) \leq 0$

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) \leq L(\bar{x}, \lambda, \nu) \leq f_0(\bar{x}) \text{ for all } \bar{x}$$

$$g(\lambda, \nu) \leq \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f_0(x) \leq p^*$$

- $g(\lambda, \nu)$  might be  $-\infty$ ; Non-trivial if  $\text{dom } g := \{\lambda, \nu \mid g(\lambda, \nu) > -\infty\}$

## The dual problem

Every  $\nu \in \mathbb{R}^p$ ,  $\lambda \geq 0$  produces a lower bound for  $p^*$  using the dual function.

Which is the best?

$$(\mathcal{D}) : \quad \max_{\lambda, \nu} g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{subject to: } \lambda \geq 0$$

- Problem  $(\mathcal{D})$  is **convex**, even if  $(\mathcal{P})$  is not.
- Problem  $(\mathcal{D})$  has optimal value  $d^* \leq p^*$ .
- The point  $(\lambda, \nu)$  is **dual feasible** if  $\lambda \geq 0$  and  $(\lambda, \nu) \in \text{dom } g$ .
- Often impose the constraint  $(\lambda, \nu) \in \text{dom } g$  explicitly in  $(\mathcal{D})$ .

## Example : Dual of LPs

$$(\mathcal{P}) : \quad \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} c^\top x \\ \text{subject to: } Ax = b \\ Cx \leq d$$

The **dual function** is

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} [c^\top x + \nu^\top (Ax - b) + \lambda^\top (Cx - d)] \\ &= \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} [(A^\top \nu + C^\top \lambda + c)^\top x - b^\top \nu - d^\top \lambda] \\ &= \begin{cases} -b^\top \nu - d^\top \lambda & \text{if } A^\top \nu + C^\top \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

## Example : Dual of LPs – (cont'd)

$$(\mathcal{P}) : \quad \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} c^\top x \\ \text{subject to: } Ax = b \\ Cx \leq d$$

The **dual problem** is

$$(\mathcal{D}) : \quad \max_{\lambda, \nu} -b^\top \nu - d^\top \lambda \\ \text{subject to: } A^\top \nu + C^\top \lambda + c = 0 \\ \lambda \geq 0$$

- Lower bound property:  
 $-b^\top \nu - d^\top \lambda \leq p^*$  whenever  $\lambda \geq 0$ .
- The dual of a linear program is also a linear program.

## Example : Dual of a mixed-integer linear program (MILP)

$$(\mathcal{P}) : \quad \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} c^\top x \\ \text{subject to: } Ax \leq b \\ \mathcal{X} = \{-1, 1\}^n$$

The **dual function** is

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda) &= \min_{x_i \in \{-1, 1\}} [c^\top x + \lambda^\top (Ax - b)] \\ &= -\|A^\top \lambda + c\|_1 - b^\top \lambda \end{aligned}$$

The **dual problem** is

$$(\mathcal{D}) : \quad \max_{\lambda} -\|A^\top \lambda + c\|_1 - b^\top \lambda \\ \text{subject to: } \lambda \geq 0$$

The dual of a mixed-integer linear program is a linear program!

## Weak and strong duality

### Weak Duality

- It is **always** true that  $d^* \leq p^*$ .
- Sometimes the dual is much easier to solve than the primal (or vice-versa).
- Example: The dual of an MILP (difficult to solve) is a standard LP (easy to solve).

### Strong Duality

- It is **sometimes** true that  $d^* = p^*$ .
- Strong duality usually holds for convex problems.
- Strong duality usually does not hold for non-convex problems.
- Can impose conditions on convex problems to guarantee that  $d^* = p^*$ .

## Duality – A geometric view

Assume one inequality constraint only:

$$\mathcal{G} := \{(u, t) \mid t = f_0(x), u = f_1(x), x \in \mathcal{X}\}$$

Primal problem:

$$p^* = \min \{t \mid (u, t) \in \mathcal{G}, u \leq 0\}$$

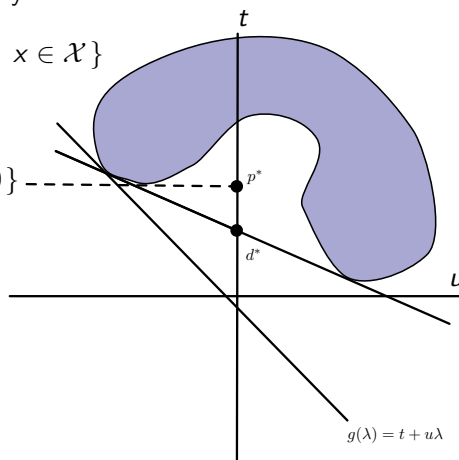
Dual function:

$$g(\lambda) = \min_{(u,t) \in \mathcal{G}} (t + \lambda u)$$

Dual problem:

$$d^* = \max_{\lambda \geq 0} g(\lambda)$$

The quantity  $p^* - d^*$  is the **duality gap**.



## Strong duality for convex problems

An optimization problem with  $f_0$  and all  $f_i$  convex:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_0(x) \\ (\mathcal{P}) : \quad & \text{subject to: } f_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots m \\ & Ax = b \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n} \end{aligned}$$

### Slater Condition

If there is at least one **strictly feasible point**, i.e.

$$\left\{ x \mid Ax = b, f_i(x) < 0, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \right\} \neq \emptyset$$

Then  $p^* = d^*$ .

- Stronger version: Only the nonlinear functions  $f_i(x)$  must be strictly satisfiable (non-empty interior).
- Other **constraint qualification** conditions exist.

## Primal and dual solution properties

Assume that strong duality holds, with optimal solution  $x^*$  and  $(\lambda^*, \nu^*)$ .

- From strong duality,  $d^* = p^* \Rightarrow g(\lambda^*, \nu^*) = f_0(x^*)$ .

- From the definition of the dual function:

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(x^*) = g(\lambda^*, \nu^*) &= \min_x \left\{ f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x) \right\} \\ &\leq f_0(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x^*) \leq f_0(x^*) \end{aligned}$$

[weak duality]

$$\Rightarrow f_0(x^*) = g(\lambda^*, \nu^*) = f_0(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x^*)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left. \begin{aligned} \lambda_i^* &= 0 \text{ for every } f_i(x^*) < 0. \\ f_i(x^*) &= 0 \text{ for every } \lambda_i^* > 0. \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Complementary slackness}$$

## Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) optimality conditions

Assume that all  $f_i$  and  $h_i$  are differentiable. **Necessary** conditions for optimality:

- 1) Primal Feasibility:

$$\begin{aligned} f_i(x^*) &\leq 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ h_i(x^*) &= 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

- 2) Dual Feasibility:

$$\lambda^* \geq 0$$

- 3) Complementary Slackness:

$$\lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

- 4) Stationarity:

$$\nabla_x L(x^*, \lambda^*, \nu^*) = \nabla f_0(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* \nabla f_i(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* \nabla h_i(x^*) = 0$$

## KKT optimality conditions

Assume that all  $f_i$  and  $h_i$  are differentiable and problem is **convex**:

- 1) If  $(x^*, \lambda^*, \nu^*)$  satisfy the KKT conditions, then

- they are primal and dual optimal
- they result in zero duality gap, i.e.  $p^* = d^*$

- 2) If in addition Slater's condition holds, then

- duality gap is zero and the dual optimum is attained (existence of  $(\lambda^*, \nu^*)$  is guaranteed)
- $x^*$  is optimal **if and only if** there exists  $(\lambda^*, \nu^*)$  that, together with  $x^*$ , satisfy the KKT conditions

## Game theoretic view

Assume inequality constraints only.

We have that for all  $x$

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} L(x, \lambda) &= \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \left( f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) \right) \\ &= \begin{cases} f_0(x) & \text{if } f_i(x) \leq 0 \text{ for all } i; \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Since this holds for all  $x$ , we then have that

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} L(x, \lambda) \\ d^* &= \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} L(x, \lambda) \end{aligned}$$

## Game theoretic view

- Game between **primal (Peter)** and **dual (Debbie)** variables:

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \min_x \max_{\lambda} L(x, \lambda) \\ d^* &= \max_{\lambda} \min_x L(x, \lambda) \end{aligned}$$

- Consider the  $d^*$  game – **Debbie** plays first, **Peter** plays second

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &= \max_{\lambda} \min_x L(x, \lambda) \leq \text{any value} \\ &= \forall \lambda \quad \exists x \quad L(x, \lambda) \leq \text{any value} \\ &= \exists x(\lambda) \quad \forall \lambda \quad L(x, \lambda) \leq \text{any value} \quad [x(\cdot) \text{ is parametric in } \lambda] \\ &\leq \exists x \quad \forall \lambda \quad L(x, \lambda) \leq \text{any value} \\ &= \min_x \max_{\lambda} L(x, \lambda) \\ &= p^* \end{aligned}$$

## Game theoretic view

- Game between **primal (Peter)** and **dual (Debbie)** variables:

$$p^* = \min_x \max_{\lambda} L(x, \lambda)$$

$$d^* = \max_{\lambda} \min_x L(x, \lambda)$$

- If **Peter** plays second  $\Rightarrow$

$$d^* \leq p^* \text{ [weak duality]}$$

- Duality gap corresponds to the advantage of **Peter**
- Strong duality = Zero duality gap  
 $\Rightarrow$  No advantage for any of the players

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## Semidefinite programming – Interpretation of the dual

We can lift this constraint in the objective with Lagrange multiplier  $\lambda \geq 0$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \lambda) = c^T x + \lambda \max_{z \neq 0} z^T F(x) z$$

$$= c^T x + \lambda \bar{z}_x^T F(x) \bar{z}_x$$

where  $\bar{z}_x$  is the one that achieves the maximum (assuming it is attained);  
merging it with  $\lambda$  we have

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \Lambda) = c^T x + z^T F(x) z$$

$$= c^T x + \langle zz^T, F(x) \rangle = c^T x + \langle \Lambda, F(x) \rangle$$

where  $\Lambda = zz^T \succeq 0$ .

Notice that we used the fact that

$$z^T F(x) z = \sum_{i,j} z_i z_j F(x)_{ij} = \sum_{i,j} (zz^T)_{ij} F(x)_{ij} = \langle zz^T, F(x) \rangle$$

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## Semidefinite programming

**Primal SDP problem** (all matrices are symmetric):

$$\min c^T x$$

subject to:  $x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B$

**Lagrangian:**

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \Lambda) = c^T x + \sum_i \langle \Lambda, A_i \rangle x_i - \langle \Lambda, B \rangle,$$

where  $\langle X, Y \rangle = \text{trace}(X^T Y) = \sum_{i,j} X_{ij} Y_{ij}$ .

This fact relies on “dual cone” arguments, and the fact that trace is the inner product for matrices. Alternatively, recall that

$$F(x) = \sum_i x_i A_i - B \preceq 0 \Leftrightarrow z^T F(x) z \leq 0, \forall z \neq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \max_{z \neq 0} z^T F(x) z \leq 0$$

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## Semidefinite programming

**Primal SDP problem:**

$$\min c^T x$$

subject to:  $x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B$

where the matrices  $(A_1, \dots, A_n, B)$  are all symmetric.

**Lagrangian:**

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \Lambda) = c^T x + \sum_i \langle \Lambda, A_i \rangle x_i - \langle \Lambda, B \rangle$$

$$= \sum_i (c_i + \langle \Lambda, A_i \rangle) x_i - \langle \Lambda, B \rangle$$

**Dual function:**

$$g(\lambda) = \begin{cases} -\langle \Lambda, B \rangle & \text{if } c_i + \langle \Lambda, A_i \rangle = 0 \text{ for } i = 1 \dots n \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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## Semidefinite programming

**Primal SDP problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^\top x \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B \end{aligned}$$

where the matrices  $(A_1, \dots, A_n, B)$  are all symmetric.

**Dual function:**

$$g(\lambda) = \begin{cases} -\langle \Lambda, B \rangle & \text{if } c_i + \langle \Lambda, A_i \rangle = 0 \text{ for } i = 1 \dots n \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**The dual problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -\langle B, \Lambda \rangle \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & \langle A_i, \Lambda \rangle = -c_i, \text{ for all } i \\ & \Lambda \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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## Semidefinite programming

**Primal SDP problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^\top x \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B \end{aligned}$$

**The dual problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -\langle B, \Lambda \rangle \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & \langle A_i, \Lambda \rangle = -c_i, \text{ for all } i \\ & \Lambda \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Weak duality:**

$$\begin{aligned} p^* - d^* &= c^\top x + \langle B, \Lambda \rangle \quad [\text{primal feasibility}] \\ &\geq c^\top x + \sum_i \langle A_i, \Lambda \rangle x_i \quad [\text{dual feasibility}] \\ &= \sum_i c_i x_i - \sum_i c_i x_i = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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## Semidefinite programming

**Primal SDP problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^\top x \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + \cdots x_n A_n \preceq B \end{aligned}$$

**The dual problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -\langle B, \Lambda \rangle \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & \langle A_i, \Lambda \rangle = -c_i, \text{ for all } i \\ & \Lambda \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Weak duality:**  $p^* - d^* \geq 0$

**Strong duality:**

Under Slater's condition, i.e. constraints in the primal need to be satisfied with  $\prec$  instead of  $\preceq$ . For SDPs the *dual of the dual* is the primal.

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## Summary

### 1 Duality Theory

- Construct  $d^* \leq p^*$  in three steps
  - 1 Construct the Lagrangian (lift and weight constraints in the objective)
  - 2 Construct dual function and "eliminate" primal variables
  - 3 Formulate dual problem (don't forget constraints on dual variables)
- Optimality conditions
- Geometric and gaming interpretation of duality

### 2 LMIs in optimization

- Semidefinite programming (SDP)
- Construct the dual of an SDP (similar procedure with linear programs)
- Weak duality, strong duality under Slater's condition

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## Reformulation in LMIs

- The Schur complement
  - Non-obvious LMIs
  - From nonlinear constraints to LMIs
- The S-procedure
  - From quadratic implications to LMIs
  - Turning set containment arguments in LMIs

## LMIs for stability & controller synthesis

- Recap of stability theorems
- Lyapunov matrix inequality
- Controller synthesis by means of an example

## Non-obvious LMIs

Some cases (like the QP) are harder to write as LMIs.

The Schur complement provides the means to do so

**Schur complement:** Turns a nonlinear constraint into an LMI

### Theorem (Schur complement)

Assume that  $Q(x) = Q(x)^\top$ ,  $R(x) = R(x)^\top$ : affine functions of  $x$ . We then have that

$$R(x) \succ 0 \text{ and } Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top \succ 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \succ 0$$

## Schur complement

**Schur complement:** The non-strict case

Assume that  $Q(x) = Q(x)^\top$ ,  $R(x) = R(x)^\top \succ 0$ : affine functions of  $x$

We then have that

$$Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top \succeq 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

**Example 1:**

$$\|A\|_2 \leq t \Leftrightarrow A^\top A \preceq t^2 I, t \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} tI & A^\top \\ A & tI \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

**Example 2:** The QP (we have seen this before)

$$x^\top Qx + b^\top x + c \leq 0, \quad Q \succ 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} c + b^\top x & x^\top \\ x & -Q^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0$$

## Schur complement – Proof for the strict case

**Proof of ( $\Leftarrow$ ):**

Assume  $\begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \succ 0$ . For all  $[u \ v] \neq 0$  we have

$$F(u, v) = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}^\top \begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

Considering  $u = 0$  we have

$$F(0, v) = v^\top R(x)v > 0, \text{ for all } v \neq 0 \Rightarrow R(x) \succ 0$$

Consider now  $v = -R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top u$ , with  $u \neq 0$

$$F(u, v) = u^\top (Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top)u > 0, \text{ for all } u \neq 0 \\ \Rightarrow Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top \succ 0$$

## Schur complement – Proof for the strict case

**Proof of ( $\Rightarrow$ ):**

Now assume  $R(x) \succ 0$  and  $Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top \succ 0$ , and as before

$$F(u, v) = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}^\top \begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} > 0$$

Fix  $u$  and minimize over  $v$ :  $\nabla_v F(u, v) = 2R(x)v + 2S(x)^\top u = 0$ . Since  $R(x) \succ 0$ , we have that  $v^* = -R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top u$ . Substitute it in the expression of  $F(u, v)$  to obtain

$$F(u) = u^\top (Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top) u$$

Since  $Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top \succ 0$ ,  $u^* = 0$  minimizes  $F(u)$ . As a result,  $(u^*, v^*) = (0, 0)$  and  $F(u^*, v^*) = 0$ .

Hence,  $F(u, v) > 0$  for all  $u, v \neq 0 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \succ 0$ .

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## Schur complement – Ellipsoidal inequality

Assume that  $Q(x) = Q(x)^\top$ ,  $R(x) = R(x)^\top \succ 0$ : affine functions of  $x$ . We then have that

$$Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top \succeq 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

Consider the ellipsoid

$$(x - x_c)^\top A^{-1}(x - x_c) \leq 1, \quad A = A^\top \succ 0$$

(... and recall that it is convex).

Setting  $Q(x) = 1$ ,  $R(x) = A$  and  $S(x) = (x - x_c)^\top$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & (x - x_c)^\top \\ (x - x_c) & A \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

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## Schur complement – Maximum singular value

Assume that  $Q(x) = Q(x)^\top$ ,  $R(x) = R(x)^\top \succ 0$ : affine functions of  $x$ . We then have that

$$Q(x) - S(x)R(x)^{-1}S(x)^\top \succeq 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} Q(x) & S(x) \\ S(x)^\top & R(x) \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

Let  $A(x)$ : affine in  $x$  and real valued.

Let also  $\bar{\sigma}[A(x)]$  be the maximum singular value of  $A(x)$ , i.e. the square root of the largest eigenvalue of  $A(x)A(x)^\top$ , i.e.  $\bar{\lambda}[A(x)A(x)^\top]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\sigma}(A(x)) \leq 1 &\Leftrightarrow \bar{\lambda}[A(x)A(x)^\top] \leq 1 \\ &\Leftrightarrow A(x)A(x)^\top \preceq I \\ &\Leftrightarrow I - A(x)I^{-1}A(x)^\top \succeq 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} I & A(x) \\ A(x)^\top & I \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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## S-procedure

**S-procedure:** Turns quadratic implications to LMIs

Consider two quadratic functions

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(x) &= x^\top A_0 x + 2x^\top b_0 + c_0 \\ f(x) &= x^\top A x + 2x^\top b + c, \end{aligned}$$

where all matrices/vectors are given, and  $A_0 = A_0^\top$ ,  $A = A^\top$ .

**Problem:** When is it true that one quadratic inequality implies another? In other words, when does

$$f(x) \geq 0, \quad x \neq 0 \Rightarrow f_0(x) \geq 0$$

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## S-procedure (cont'd)

### Theorem

The following implication holds

$$f(x) \geq 0, x \neq 0 \Rightarrow f_0(x) \geq 0$$

if there exists

$$\tau \geq 0 \text{ such that } f_0(x) - \tau f(x) \geq 0$$

Still not an LMI ... but  $f_0(x), f(x)$ , are quadratic in  $x$ .

## S-procedure (cont'd)

### Theorem

The following implication holds

$$f(x) \geq 0, x \neq 0 \Rightarrow f_0(x) \geq 0$$

if there exists

$$\tau \geq 0 \text{ such that } f_0(x) - \tau f(x) \geq 0$$

For a quadratic function  $f(x) = x^T A x + 2x^T b + c$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} A & b \\ b^T & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \forall x \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \xi x \\ \xi \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} A & b \\ b^T & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi x \\ \xi \end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \forall x, \xi$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A & b \\ b^T & c \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

## S-procedure (cont'd)

### Theorem

The following implication holds

$$f(x) \geq 0, x \neq 0 \Rightarrow f_0(x) \geq 0$$

if there exists

$$\tau \geq 0 \text{ such that } f_0(x) - \tau f(x) \geq 0$$

Since  $f_0(x), f(x)$ , are quadratic in  $x$ , the condition above is equivalent to an LMI in  $\tau$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_0 & b_0 \\ b_0^T & c_0 \end{bmatrix} - \tau \begin{bmatrix} A & b \\ b^T & c \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

## S-procedure (cont'd)

### Theorem

The following implication holds

$$f(x) \geq 0, x \neq 0 \Rightarrow f_0(x) \geq 0$$

if there exists

$$\tau \geq 0 \text{ such that } f_0(x) - \tau f(x) \geq 0$$

Since  $f_0(x), f(x)$ , are quadratic in  $x$ , this is equivalent to an LMI in  $\tau$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_0 & b_0 \\ b_0^T & c_0 \end{bmatrix} - \tau \begin{bmatrix} A & b \\ b^T & c \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

The **only if** part also holds true (though non-obvious) if  $\exists \bar{x}$  such that  $f(\bar{x}) > 0$ , i.e. the “ellipsoids” have non-empty interior condition. In that case we get equivalence!

## A containment problem

**Problem:** Determine an ellipsoid  $\mathcal{E}$  centered at the origin

$$\mathcal{E} = \{x \mid x^\top A^{-1}x \leq 1\},$$

that contains a polytope  $\mathcal{P}$  with vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_p$ .

In other words, we are looking for  $\mathcal{P} \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ .

**Restate the problem:** If  $x \in \mathcal{P}$  then  $x \in \mathcal{E}$ . But  $x \in \mathcal{P}$  is equivalent to  $v_i \in \mathcal{P}$ , for all  $i = 1, \dots, p$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} v_i^\top A^{-1}v_i &\leq 1, \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, p. \\ \Leftrightarrow 1 - v_i^\top A^{-1}v_i &\geq 0, \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, p. \end{aligned}$$

Using the Schur complement lemma we can turn it into an LMI

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & v_i^\top \\ v_i & A \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0, \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, p.$$

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## Stability analysis – Linear systems

Consider the linear, time-invariant (LTI) dynamical system

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t), \quad x(0) = x_0$$

where  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the system state and  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ .

It is called *autonomous* since there are no inputs.

**Definition:** The autonomous LTI system is *asymptotically stable* if, for all  $x(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0.$$

In the scalar case ( $n = 1$  and  $A = a \in \mathbb{R}$ ), we can solve the ODE:

$$x(t) = e^{at}x_0$$

If  $a < 0$ , then the system is asymptotically stable.

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## Stability analysis recap – Linear systems

Consider the linear, time-invariant (LTI) dynamical system

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t), \quad x(0) = x_0$$

where  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the system state and  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ .

It is called *autonomous* since there are no inputs.

**Definition:** The autonomous LTI system is *asymptotically stable* if, for all  $x(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0.$$

What if  $n > 1$ ? Can we work the same way? The ODE solution is then

$$x(t) = e^{At}x_0,$$

where  $e^{At}$  is the matrix exponential, i.e.

$$e^{At} = I + At + \frac{1}{2}A^2t^2 + \frac{1}{3}A^3t^3 + \dots$$

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## Stability analysis recap – Linear systems

Consider the linear, time-invariant (LTI) dynamical system

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t), \quad x(0) = x_0$$

where  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the system state and  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ .

It is called *autonomous* since there are no inputs.

**Definition:** The autonomous LTI system is *asymptotically stable* if, for all  $x(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0.$$

What if  $n > 1$ ? Can we work the same way? The ODE solution is then

$$x(t) = e^{At}x_0,$$

where  $e^{At}$  is the matrix exponential. Can we do without computing  $e^{At}$ ?

Navigation icons

## Stability analysis recap – Linear systems

### Theorem

An autonomous LTI system is asymptotically stable, i.e.  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$ , **if and only if**  $A$  is Hurwitz, i.e. all its eigenvalues have negative real part.

Moved from matrix exponential to eigenvalue computation – there must be some connection with LMIs.

### Theorem

Given some matrix  $Q = Q^\top \succ 0$ , a matrix  $A$  is Hurwitz **if and only if** there exists  $X = X^\top \succ 0$  that satisfies the Lyapunov Matrix Equation

$$A^\top X + XA = -Q$$

Equivalently, since  $Q \succ 0$  and it is arbitrary ...

## Stability analysis recap – Linear systems

For asymptotic stability  $A$  has to be Hurwitz, i.e.

### Theorem

Given some matrix  $Q = Q^\top \succ 0$ , a matrix  $A$  is Hurwitz **if and only if** there exists  $X = X^\top \succ 0$  that satisfies the Lyapunov Matrix Equation

$$A^\top X + XA = -Q$$

Equivalently, since  $Q \succ 0$  and it is arbitrary ...

### Theorem

A matrix  $A$  is Hurwitz **if and only if** there exists  $X = X^\top \succ 0$  that satisfies the Lyapunov Matrix Inequality

$$A^\top X + XA \prec 0$$

This is an LMI in  $X$ !

## Stability analysis recap – Nonlinear systems

Asymptotic stability for nonlinear systems; Lyapunov theory again

### Theorem

Let  $x = 0$  be an equilibrium of  $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t))$ , and let  $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a domain containing  $x = 0$ . **If** there exists a continuous, differentiable function  $V : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$V(0) = 0, \quad V(x) > 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{0\}$$

$$\dot{V}(x) < 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{0\}$$

**then**  $x = 0$  is asymptotically stable.

Linear systems stability comes then as a special case.

## Stability analysis recap – Nonlinear systems

Linear systems stability comes then as a special case. Consider  $\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t)$  and let  $V(x) = x^\top Xx$  be a Lyapunov function. The Lyapunov stability theorem requires

$$V(0) = 0 : \text{ satisfied}$$

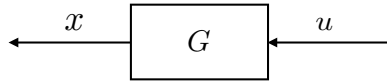
$$V(x) > 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{0\} : \Leftrightarrow X \succ 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{V}(x) < 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{0\} : &\Leftrightarrow x^\top (A^\top X + XA)x < 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow A^\top X + XA \prec 0 \end{aligned}$$

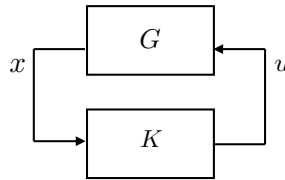
Using a quadratic Lyapunov function we can “prove” Lyapunov Matrix Equation from the nonlinear Lyapunov’s stability theorem.

## State feedback control design

Consider a system  $G: \dot{x} = Ax + Bu$



Determine a feedback gain matrix  $K$  such that  $u = Kx$  renders the closed loop system stable.



Closed loop system:  $\dot{x} = (A + BK)x$ .

- Goal: Determine  $K$  such that  $A + BK$  is Hurwitz.

## State feedback control design (cont'd)

Closed loop system:  $\dot{x} = (A + BK)x$ .

- Goal: Determine  $K$  such that  $A + BK$  is Hurwitz.

**Lyapunov stability (recall from Lecture 3):** A matrix  $A$  is Hurwitz if and only if there exists  $P = P^T \succ 0$  such that

$$A^T P + PA \prec 0$$

**Equivalent representation:** Multiply by  $P^{-1}$  from the left and right:

$$P^{-1}A^T P P^{-1} + P^{-1}P A P^{-1} \prec 0$$

and set  $X = P^{-1}$ . We then have

$$XA^T + AX \prec 0$$

## State feedback control design (cont'd)

Closed loop system:  $\dot{x} = (A + BK)x$ .

- Goal: Determine  $K$  such that  $A + BK$  is Hurwitz.

**Lyapunov stability:** A matrix  $A$  is stable if and only if there exists  $X = X^T \succ 0$  such that

$$XA^T + AX \prec 0$$

Enforce this condition with  $A + BK$  in place of  $A$  and determine  $K$  and  $X$ :

$$X(A + BK)^T + (A + BK)X \prec 0$$

which leads to

$$XA^T + (XK^T)B^T + AX + B(KX) \prec 0$$

## State feedback control design (cont'd)

Closed loop system:  $\dot{x} = (A + BK)x$ .

- Goal: Determine  $K$  such that  $A + BK$  is Hurwitz.

**Lyapunov stability:** A matrix  $A$  is stable if and only if there exists  $X = X^T \succ 0$  such that

$$XA^T + AX \prec 0$$

We are left with this condition which is not nice!

$$XA^T + (XK^T)B^T + AX + B(KX) \prec 0$$

Setting  $Z = KX$  we have

$$XA^T + Z^T B^T + AX + BZ \prec 0$$

Solve this LMI to determine  $X$  and  $Z$  and then compute  $K = ZX^{-1}$

## Summary

### 1 Reformulation in LMI constraints

- Schur complement
  - Commonly used “trick”
  - Appears in quadratic problems, and many others
- The  $S$ -procedure
  - Turns quadratic implications in LMI constraints
  - Useful in set containment problems

### 2 LMIs for stability & controller synthesis

- Recap of stability theorems for linear and nonlinear systems
- Lyapunov stability for linear systems by means of LMIs
- Example for controller synthesis

Thank you! Questions?

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