

Deterministic Optimization

Linear Optimization Modeling
Network Flow Problems

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Modeling using Linear
Optimization

Modeling using Linear Programs

Learning Objectives

- Construct linear programming models for a wide range of applications
- Solve LP models with CVX
- Recognize nonlinear problems that can be modeled as LPs

This lesson:

LP models via examples Part 1

- Ingredients of a linear optimization model
- A simple example

Ingredients of a linear program

A Linear program (or a linear optimization model) is composed of:

- Variables:

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

- A linear objective function:

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i = \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}.$$

- Linear constraints:

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \leq b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \geq b_2$$

$$a_{31}x_1 + a_{32}x_2 + \dots + a_{3n}x_n = b_3$$



$$\mathbf{a}_1^\top \mathbf{x} \leq b_1$$

$$\mathbf{a}_2^\top \mathbf{x} \geq b_2$$

$$\mathbf{a}_3^\top \mathbf{x} = b_3$$

A Simple Example of LP

A simple example of a linear program is given below:

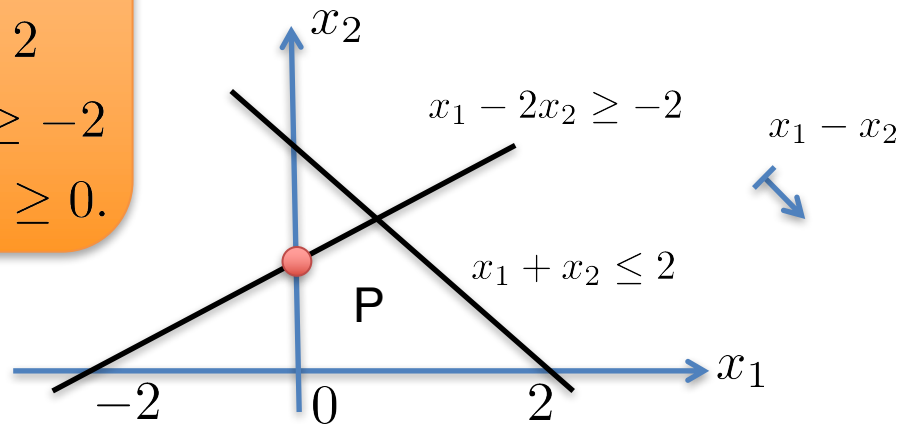
$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & x_1 - x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 - 2x_2 \geq -2 \\ & x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0.\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}^\top \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 - 2x_2 \geq -2 \\ & x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0.\end{array}$$

Optimal solution:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

To visualize the feasible region of this LP, we can draw the following picture:



P: Polyhedron

Summary

- To construct a linear program, we need to define variables, objective function, and constraints.
- The objective function must be a linear function of the variables.
- The constraints must be linear inequality or equality constraints.
- Simple LPs in 2-D can be drawn in pictures.