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# Semidefinite Programming for Geometric Problems in Computer Vision

Pavel Trutman

pavel.trutman@fel.cvut.cz

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**Thesis Advisor: Ing. Tomáš Pajdla, PhD.**

Center for Machine Perception, Department of Cybernetics  
Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University  
Technická 2, 166 27 Prague 6, Czech Republic  
fax +420 2 2435 7385, phone +420 2 2435 7637, www: <http://cmp.felk.cvut.cz>



## **Acknowledgements**

## Author's declaration

I declare that I have work out the presented thesis independently and that I have listed all information sources used in accordance with the Methodical Guidelines about Maintaining Ethical Principles for Writing Academic Theses.

## Prohlášení autora práce

Prohlašuji, že jsem předloženou práci vypracoval samostatně a že jsem uvedl veškeré použité informační zdroje v souladu s Metodickým pokynem o dodržování etických principů při přípravě vysokoškolských závěrečných prací.

V Praze dne .....

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Podpis autora práce

# Abstract

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## List of Symbols and Abbreviations

$\text{cl}(S)$	Closure of the set $S$ .
$\text{dom } f$	Domain of the function $f$ .
$\text{Dom } f$	$\text{cl}(\text{dom } f)$ .

# 1. Introduction

[1]

## 2. Semidefinite programming

### 2.1. Preliminaries on semidefinite programs

We introduce here some notation and preliminaries about symmetric matrices and semidefinite programs. We will introduce further notation and preliminaries later on in the text when needed.

At the beginning, let us denote the inner product for two vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i \quad (2.1)$$

and the Frobenius inner product for two matrices  $X, Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ .

$$\langle X, Y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m X_{ij} Y_{ij} \quad (2.2)$$

#### 2.1.1. Symmetric matrices

Let  $\text{Sym}_n$  denotes the space of  $n \times n$  real symmetric matrices.

For matrix  $M \in \text{Sym}_n$ , the notation  $M \succeq 0$  means that  $M$  is positive semidefinite.  $M \succeq 0$  if and only if any of the following equivalent properties holds.

1.  $x^\top M x \geq 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
2. All eigenvalues of  $M$  are nonnegative.

For matrix  $M \in \text{Sym}_n$ , the notation  $M \succ 0$  means that  $M$  is positive definite.  $M \succ 0$  if and only if any of the following equivalent properties holds.

1.  $M \succeq 0$  and  $\text{rank } M = n$ .
2.  $x^\top M x > 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .
3. All eigenvalues of  $M$  are positive.

#### 2.1.2. Semidefinite programs

The standard (primal) form of a semidefinite program in variable  $X \in \text{Sym}_n$  is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \sup_{X \in \text{Sym}_n} \langle C, X \rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &\langle A_i, X \rangle = b_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, m) \\ &X \succeq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

where  $C, A_1, \dots, A_m \in \text{Sym}_n$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$  are given.

The dual form of the primal form is the following program in variable  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &= \inf_{y \in \mathbb{R}^m} b^\top y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &\sum_{i=1}^m A_i y_i - C \succeq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

## 2.2. State of the art review

## 2.3. Theoretical background

## 2.4. Nesterov's approach

In this section, we will follow Chapter 4 of [2] by Y. Nesterov, which is devoted to convex minimization problems. We will extract from it only the minimum, just to be able to introduce an algorithm for SDP programs solving. We will present some basic definitions and theorems, but we will not prove them. For the proofs look into [2].

### 2.4.1. Self-concordant functions

**Definition 2.1 (Self-concordant function in  $\mathbb{R}$ ).** A closed convex function  $f : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is self-concordant if there exist a constant  $M_f \geq 0$  such that the inequality

$$|f'''(x)| \leq M_f f''(x)^{3/2} \quad (2.5)$$

holds for all  $x \in \text{dom } f$ .

For better understanding of self-concordant functions, we provide several examples.

#### Example 2.1.

1. Linear and convex quadratic functions.

$$f'''(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \quad (2.6)$$

Linear and convex quadratic functions are self-concordant with constant  $M_f = 0$ .

2. Negative logarithms.

$$f(x) = -\ln(x) \text{ for } x > 0 \quad (2.7)$$

$$f'(x) = -\frac{1}{x} \quad (2.8)$$

$$f''(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} \quad (2.9)$$

$$f'''(x) = -\frac{2}{x^3} \quad (2.10)$$

$$\frac{|f'''(x)|}{f''(x)^{3/2}} = 2 \quad (2.11)$$

Negative logarithms are self-concordant functions with constant  $M_f = 2$ .

3. Exponential functions.

$$f(x) = e^x \quad (2.12)$$

$$f''(x) = f'''(x) = e^x \quad (2.13)$$

$$\frac{|f'''(x)|}{f''(x)^{3/2}} = e^{-x/2} \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } x \rightarrow -\infty \quad (2.14)$$

Exponential functions are not self-concordant functions.

**Definition 2.2 (Self-concordant function in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ).** A closed convex function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is self-concordant if function

$$g(t) = f(x + tv) \quad (2.15)$$

is self-concordant for all  $x \in \text{dom } f$  and all  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Now, let us focus on the main properties of self-concordant functions.

**Theorem 2.1.** Let functions  $f_i$  be self-concordant with constants  $M_i$  and let  $\alpha_i > 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Then the function

$$f(x) = \alpha_1 f_1(x) + \alpha_2 f_2(x) \quad (2.16)$$

is self-concordant with constant

$$M_f = \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_1}} M_1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_2}} M_2 \right\} \quad (2.17)$$

and

$$\text{dom } f = \text{dom } f_1 \cap \text{dom } f_2. \quad (2.18)$$

**Corollary 2.1.** Let function  $f$  be self-concordant with some constant  $M_f$  and  $\alpha > 0$ . Then the function  $\phi(x) = \alpha f(x)$  is also self-concordant with the constant  $M_\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha}} M_f$ .

We call function  $f(x)$  as the standard self-concordant function if  $f(x)$  is some self-concordant function with the constant  $M_f = 2$ . Using Corollary 2.1, we can see that any self-concordant function can be transformed into the standard self-concordant function by scaling.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let function  $f$  be self-concordant. If  $\text{dom } f$  contains no straight line, then the Hessian  $f''(x)$  is nondegenerate at any  $x$  from  $\text{dom } f$ .

For some self-concordant function  $f(x)$ , for which we assume, that  $\text{dom } f$  contains no straight line (which implies that all  $f''(x)$  are nondegenerate, see Theorem 2.2), we denote two local norms as

$$\|u\|_x = \sqrt{u^\top f''(x) u} \quad (2.19)$$

$$\|u\|_x^* = \sqrt{u^\top f''(x)^{-1} u}. \quad (2.20)$$

Consider following minimization problem

$$x^* = \arg \min_{x \in \text{dom } f} f(x) \quad (2.21)$$

as the minimization of the self-concordant function  $f(x)$ . Algorithm 1 is describing the iterative process of solving optimization problem (2.21). The algorithm is divided into two stages by the value of  $\|f'(x_k)\|_{x_k}^*$ . The splitting parameter  $\beta$  guarantees quadratic convergence rate for the second part of the algorithm. The parameter  $\beta$  is chosen from interval  $(0, \bar{\lambda})$ , where

$$\bar{\lambda} = \frac{3 - \sqrt{5}}{2}, \quad (2.22)$$

## 2. Semidefinite programming

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**Algorithm 1** Newton method for minimization of self-concordant functions

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**Input:**

$f$  a self-concordant function to minimize  
 $x_0 \in \text{dom } f$  a starting point  
 $\beta \in (0, \bar{\lambda})$  a parameter of size of the region of quadratic convergence  
 $\varepsilon$  a precision

**Output:**

$x^*$  an optimal solution to the minimization problem (2.21)

---

```

1:  $k \leftarrow 0$ 
2: while  $\|f'(x_k)\|_{x_k}^* \geq \beta$  do
3:    $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \frac{1}{1 + \|f'(x_k)\|_{x_k}^*} f''(x_k)^{-1} f'(x_k)$ 
4:    $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 
5: end while
6: while  $\|f'(x_k)\|_{x_k}^* > \varepsilon$  do
7:    $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - f''(x_k)^{-1} f'(x_k)$ 
8:    $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 
9: end while
10: return  $x^* \leftarrow x_k$ 

```

---

which is a root of the equation

$$\frac{\lambda}{(1 - \lambda)^2} = 1. \quad (2.23)$$

The first while loop (lines 2 – 5) represents damped Newton method, where at each iteration we have

$$f(x_k) - f(x_{k+1}) \geq \beta - \ln(1 + \beta) \text{ for } k \geq 0, \quad (2.24)$$

where

$$\beta - \ln(1 + \beta) > 0 \text{ for } \beta > 0, \quad (2.25)$$

and therefore the global convergence of the algorithm is ensured. It can be shown that the local convergence rate of the damped Newton method is also quadratic, but the presented switching strategy is preferred as it gives better complexity bounds.

The second while loop of the algorithm (lines 6 – 9) is the standard Newton method with quadratic convergence rate.

The algorithm terminates when the required precision  $\varepsilon$  is reached.

### 2.4.2. Self-concordant barriers

To be able to introduce self-concordant barriers, let us denote  $\text{Dom } f = \text{cl}(\text{dom } f)$ .

**Definition 2.3 (Self-concordant barrier).** Let  $F(x)$  be a standard self-concordant function. We call it a  $\nu$ -self-concordant barrier for set  $\text{Dom } F$ , if

$$\sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}^n} (2u^\top F'(x) - u^\top F''(x)u) \leq \nu \quad (2.26)$$

for all  $x \in \text{dom } F$ . The value  $\nu$  is called the parameter of the barrier.

The inequality (2.26) can be rewritten into the following equivalent matrix notation:

$$F''(x) \succeq \frac{1}{\nu} F'(x) F'(x)^\top. \quad (2.27)$$

In Definition 2.3, the hessian  $F''(x)$  is not required to be nondegenerate. However, in case that  $F''(x)$  is nondegenerate, the inequality (2.26) is equivalent to

$$F'^\top(x) F''(x)^{-1} F'(x) \leq \nu. \quad (2.28)$$

Let us explore, which basic functions are self-concordant barriers.

**Example 2.2.**

1. Linear functions.

$$F(x) = \alpha + a^\top x, \text{ dom } F = \mathbb{R}^n \quad (2.29)$$

$$F''(x) = 0 \quad (2.30)$$

From (2.27) and for  $a \neq 0$  follows, that linear functions are not self-concordant barriers.

2. Convex quadratic functions.

For  $A = A^\top \succ 0$ :

$$F(x) = \alpha + a^\top x + \frac{1}{2} x^\top A x, \text{ dom } F = \mathbb{R}^n \quad (2.31)$$

$$F'(x) = a + A x \quad (2.32)$$

$$F''(x) = A \quad (2.33)$$

After substitution into (2.28) we obtain

$$(a + A x)^\top A^{-1} (a + A x) = a^\top A^{-1} a + 2a^\top x + x^\top A x, \quad (2.34)$$

which is unbounded from above on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Therefore, quadratic functions are not self-concordant barriers.

3. Logarithmic barrier for a ray.

$$F(x) = -\ln x, \text{ dom } F = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x > 0\} \quad (2.35)$$

$$F'(x) = -\frac{1}{x} \quad (2.36)$$

$$F''(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} \quad (2.37)$$

From (2.28), when  $F'(x)$  and  $F''(x)$  are both scalars, we get

$$\frac{F'(x)^2}{F''(x)} = \frac{x^2}{x^2} = 1. \quad (2.38)$$

Therefore, the logarithmic barrier for a ray is a self-concordant barrier with parameter  $\nu = 1$  on domain  $\{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x > 0\}$ .

Now, let us focus on the main properties of self-concordant barriers.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $F(x)$  be a self-concordant barrier. Then the function  $c^\top x + F(x)$  is a self-concordant function on  $\text{dom } F$ .

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**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $F_i$  be  $\nu_i$ -self-concordant barriers,  $i = 1, 2$ . Then the function

$$F(x) = F_1(x) + F_2(x) \quad (2.39)$$

is a self-concordant barrier for convex set

$$\text{Dom } F = \text{Dom } F_1 \cap \text{Dom } F_2 \quad (2.40)$$

with the parameter

$$\nu = \nu_1 + \nu_2. \quad (2.41)$$

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $F(x)$  be a  $\nu$ -self-concordant barrier. Then for any  $x \in \text{Dom } F$  and  $y \in \text{Dom } F$  such that

$$(y - x)^\top F'(x) \geq 0, \quad (2.42)$$

we have

$$\|y - x\|_x \leq \nu + 2\sqrt{\nu}. \quad (2.43)$$

There is one special point of convex set, which is important for solving convex minimization problem. It is called analytic center of convex set and we will focus on its properties.

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $F(x)$  be a  $\nu$ -self-concordant barrier for the set  $\text{Dom } F$ . The point

$$x_F^* = \arg \min_{x \in \text{Dom } F} F(x) \quad (2.44)$$

is called the analytic center of convex set  $\text{Dom } F$ , generated by the barrier  $F(x)$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** Assume that the analytic center of a  $\nu$ -self-concordant barrier  $F(x)$  exists. Then for any  $x \in \text{Dom } F$  we have

$$\|x - x_F^*\|_{x_F^*} \leq \nu + 2\sqrt{\nu}. \quad (2.45)$$

This property clearly follows from Theorem 2.5 and the fact, that  $F'(x_F^*) = 0$ .

Thus, if  $\text{Dom } F$  contains no straight line, then the existence of  $x_F^*$  (which leads to nondegenerate  $F''(x_F^*)$ ) implies, that the set  $\text{Dom } F$  is bounded.

Now, we describe the algorithm and its properties for obtaining an approximation to the analytic center. To find the analytic center, we need to solve the minimization problem (2.44). For that, we will use the standard implementation of the damped Newton method with termination condition

$$\|F'(x_k)\|_{x_k}^* \leq \beta, \text{ for } \beta \in (0, 1). \quad (2.46)$$

The pseudocode of the whole minimization process is shown in Algorithm 2.

The knowledge of analytic center allows us to solve the standard minimization problem

$$x^* = \arg \min_{x \in Q} c^\top x \quad (2.47)$$

with bounded closed convex set  $Q \equiv \text{Dom } F$ , which has nonempty interior, and which is endowed with a  $\nu$ -self-concordant barrier  $F(x)$ . Denote

$$f(t, x) = tc^\top x + F(x), \text{ for } t \geq 0 \quad (2.48)$$



**Algorithm 2** Damped Newton method for analytic centers**Input:**

$F$  a self-concordant barrier  
 $x_0 \in \text{Dom } F$  a starting point  
 $\beta \in (0, 1)$  a centering parameter

**Output:**

$x_F^*$  an approximation of the analytic center of the set  $\text{Dom } F$

---

```

1:  $k \leftarrow 0$ 
2: while  $\|F'(x_k)\|_{x_k}^* > \beta$  do
3:    $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \frac{1}{1+\|F'(x_k)\|_{x_k}^*} F''(x_k)^{-1} F'(x_k)$ 
4:    $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 
5: end while
6: return  $x_F^* \leftarrow x_k$ 

```

---

as a parametric penalty function. Using Theorem 2.3 we can see, that  $f(t, x)$  is self-concordant in  $x$ . Let us introduce new minimization problem using the parametric penalty function  $f(t, x)$

$$x^*(t) = \arg \min_{x \in \text{dom } F} f(t, x). \quad (2.49)$$

This trajectory is called the central path of the problem (2.47). We will reach the solution  $x^*(t) \rightarrow x^*$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Moreover, since the set  $Q$  is bounded, the analytic center  $x_F^*$  of this set exists and

$$x^*(0) = x_F^*. \quad (2.50)$$

From the first-order optimality condition, any point of the central path satisfies equation

$$tc + F'(x^*(t)) = 0 \quad (2.51)$$

Since the analytic center lies on the central path and can be found by Algorithm 2, all we have to do, to find the solution  $x^*$ , is to follow the central path. This enables us an approximate centering condition:

$$\|f'(t, x)\|_x^* = \|tc + F'(x)\|_x^* \leq \beta, \quad (2.52)$$

where the centering parameter  $\beta$  is small enough.

Assuming  $x \in \text{dom } F$ , one iteration of the path-following algorithm consists of two steps:

$$t_+ = t + \frac{\gamma}{\|c\|_x^*}, \quad (2.53)$$

$$x_+ = x - F''(x)^{-1}(t_+c + F'(x)). \quad (2.54)$$

**Theorem 2.7.** Let  $x$  satisfy the approximate centering condition (2.52)

$$\|tc + F'(x)\|_x^* \leq \beta \quad (2.55)$$

with  $\beta < \bar{\lambda} = \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}$ . Then for  $\gamma$ , such that

$$|\gamma| \leq \frac{\sqrt{\beta}}{1 + \sqrt{\beta}} - \beta, \quad (2.56)$$

## 2. Semidefinite programming

we have again

$$\|t_+c + F'(x_+)\|_{x_+}^* \leq \beta. \quad (2.57)$$

This theorem ensures the correctness of the presented iteration of the path-following algorithm. For the whole description of the path-following algorithm, please see Algorithm 3.

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### Algorithm 3 Path following algorithm

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**Input:**

$F$  a  $\nu$ -self-concordant barrier  
 $x_0 \in \text{dom } F$  a starting point satisfying  $\|F'(x_0)\|_{x_0}^* \leq \beta$ , e.g. the analytic center  $x_F^*$  of the set  $\text{Dom } F$   
 $\beta \in (0, 1)$  a centering parameter  
 $\gamma$  a parameter satisfying  $|\gamma| \leq \frac{\sqrt{\beta}}{1+\sqrt{\beta}} - \beta$   
 $\epsilon > 0$  an accuracy

**Output:**

$x^*$  an optimal solution to the minimization problem (2.47)

```

1:  $t_0 \leftarrow 0$ 
2:  $k \leftarrow 0$ 
3: while  $\epsilon t_k < \nu + \frac{(\beta + \sqrt{\nu})\beta}{1-\beta}$  do
4:    $t_{k+1} \leftarrow t_k + \frac{\gamma}{\|c\|_{x_k}^*}$ 
5:    $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - F''(x_k)^{-1}(t_{k+1}c + F'(x_k))$ 
6:    $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 
7: end while
8: return  $x^* \leftarrow x_k$ 

```

---

The parameters  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  in Algorithm 2 and Algorithm 3 can be fixed. The reasonable values are:

$$\beta = \frac{1}{9}, \quad (2.58)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{\beta}}{1 + \sqrt{\beta}} - \beta = \frac{5}{36}. \quad (2.59)$$

## 2.5. Implementation details

## 2.6. Comparison with the state of the art methods

### **3. Conclusion**

## A. Contents of the enclosed CD

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