

Global QCQP Solver

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1 Develop Plan

The first part is devoted to SDP relaxations.

- We first test HQCQP for vectors, add support for SeDuMi, should be able to switch SDP solvers
- Extend to inhomogeneous QCQP.
- Develop and test both relaxations, see [3.1](#), [3.2](#)
- We test on well-known problems (vectors), e.g., QKP (quadratic knapsack), Max-cut, ...
- Start to test matrix variable problems, see [3.3.1](#), SNL, QAP, etc using vectorized method.
- Introduce matrix variables, ..., if needed.

Start with Pure Python or Julia interface as a fast prototype. Then migrate to C/C++ interface with Python and Matlab support.

The second part is devoted to “Refinement”. to be discussed.

The third part is for Branch-and-cut method, using ideas from integer programming, to create a global QCQP solver using SDP as lower bound in the branching process. to be discussed.

Last part is for modeling and AMLs support.

- in Python one can use cvxpy or other AMLs; in Julia one may extend JuMP.
- add support for COPT?

2 Scope of Work

Develop a QCQP solver that uses SDP-relaxation-and-refinement approach. The QCQP solver should be problem-independent that works for any QCQP instance.

2.1 Modeling interface

The modeling interface is domain specific language, a simple tool for user to define a **QCQP** problem, then the solver translates into canonical form of QCQP. For example, for a HQCQP, canonical form includes parameters $Q, A_i, b_i, \forall i$

To-dos:

- The modeling part does the canonicalization, works like cvxpy, yalmip, etc.
- Directly use COPT.

See [Agrawal et al. \(2018\)](#), [Diamond and Boyd \(2016\)](#), [Dunning et al. \(2017\)](#), [Lofberg \(2004\)](#)

2.2 SDP interface

The SDP interface should be solver **independent**. SDP interface starts with canonical form to create a SDP-relaxation. So the users do not have to derive SDP by themselves. The interface should output a SDP problem in a standard format, e.g., SDPA format, that can be accepted by any SDP solver.

To-dos including:

- starts with canonical form.
- interface with solver: create problems, extract solutions, status, etc.
- consider two types of relaxation: method-I, method-II.

We consider two types of SDP relaxations:

2.3 Local Refinement

Local Refinement from SDP solution to QP seems to be problem dependent, whereas we can start with:

- Use Gurobi to do the refinement
- use existing methods, including residual minimization (SNL), randomization (for BQP), see [Luo et al. \(2010\)](#) and papers for SNL.
- add an **option** for user to choose a refinement method.

2.4 Branch-and-Cut for Global Optimization

3 Semidefinite Relaxation

We consider two types of SDP relaxation for canonical QCQP. We first consider for the case where x is a vector, i.e., $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize} \quad & x^T Q x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T A_i x (\leq, =, \geq) b_i, \forall i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

And for inhomogeneous QCQP,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize} \quad & x^T Q x + 2q^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T A_i x + 2a_i^T x (\leq, =, \geq) b_i \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

for inhomogeneous case, we notice:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & x^T Q x + 2q^T x \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} x^T & t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q & q \\ q^T & o \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} \\
 & \text{s.t. } 1 \leq t \leq 1
 \end{aligned}$$

we can use a homogeneous reformulation where the size of problem by 1.

3.1 Method I

3.1.1 Vector case

for $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have: $x^T A_i x = A_i \bullet (xx^T)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Maximize } Q \bullet Y \\
 & \text{s.t. } Y - xx^T \succeq 0 \text{ or } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x^T \\ x & Y \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \\
 & A_i \bullet Y (\leq, =, \geq) b_i, \forall i
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

3.1.2 Matrix case

for $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$, we have: $X^T A_i X = A_i \bullet (XX^T)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Maximize } Q \bullet Y \\
 & \text{s.t. } Y - XX^T \succeq 0 \text{ or } \begin{bmatrix} I_d & X^T \\ X & Y \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \\
 & A_i \bullet Y (\leq, =, \geq) b_i, \forall i
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

3.1.3 Inhomogeneous

SDP relaxation,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Maximize } Q \bullet Y + 2q^T x \\
 & \text{s.t. } Y - xx^T \succeq 0 \text{ or } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x^T \\ x & Y \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \\
 & A_i \bullet Y + 2a_i^T x (\leq, =, \geq) b_i, \forall i
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

Alternative

The above formulation could be unbounded. We homogenize by letting $y = (x; t)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize} \quad & y^T \begin{bmatrix} Q & q \\ q^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^T \begin{bmatrix} A_i & a_i \\ a_i^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} y (\leq, =, \geq) b_i, \forall i \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

3.2 Method II

Let $A = A_+ + A_-$ where $A_-, A_+ \succeq 0$, so we do Cholesky $R_+^T R_+ = A_+$, since R_+ may be low-rank, then we can define z_+ according the rank.

$$\begin{aligned} R_+ x = z_+, x^T A_+ x &= \|z_+\|^2 = \sum_i (z_+)_i^2 \\ y_i &= (z_+)_i^2, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & (z_+)_i \\ (z_+)_i & y_i \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0, \forall i \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

This is the so-called “many-small-cone” method.

3.3 Remark

3.3.1 Extending to matrix and tensor case

We first develop for the vector case: $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, whereas QCQP is not limited to vector case:

- vectors, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, max-cut, quadratic knapsack problem
- matrices, $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$, quadratic assignment problem, SNL, kissing number.

For example, SNL uses $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ for d -dimensional coordinates. For higher dimensional case, followings can be done:

- One may however using the vectorized method, i.e., $x = \text{vec}(X)$ to reformulate the matrix-based optimization problem, given the SDP bounds by original and vectorized relaxations are equivalent with mild assumptions. (see [Ding et al. \(2011\)](#))
- the above method may create a matrix of very large dimension resulted from Kronecker product.
- ultimately, the solver should provide an option to use user specified relaxations.

3.4 Tests

We test on specific applications:

- vectors, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, max-cut, quadratic knapsack problem
- matrices, $x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$, QAP, SNL, kissing number.

and a recent general new library as present in `qplib`, <http://qplib.zib.de/instances.html>, see [Furini et al. \(2019\)](#).

prob_num	method	solve_time	best_bound	best_obj
0	gurobi	0.008010	1609.0	1609.000000
	gurobi_rel	0.006286	1781.581401	1781.581125
	sdp_helberg	0.006992	-	1865.679912
	sdp_qcqp1	0.006028	-	2526.824086
	sdp_qcqp1_no_x	0.005026	-	2018.968153

4 Applications

4.1 Quadratic Knapsack Problem

Our test sets on QKP:

- [Johnson et al. \(1993\)](#), cannot be found
- [Billionnet and Soutif \(2004\)](#), see <http://cedric.cnam.fr/soutif/QKP/format.html>

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Appendix