

From linear to semidefinite programming:
classes of convex optimization problems.

1. Linear programs (LP) [ORF 522]

$$\begin{cases} \min c^T x \\ \text{s.t. } Ax \leq b \\ (x \geq 0) \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \\ b \in \mathbb{R}^m \end{matrix}$$

2. Quadratic programs (QP)

$$\begin{cases} \min x^T A_0 x + b_0^T x + c_0 \\ \text{s.t. } A_i x \leq b_i \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} A_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \\ b_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ c_0 \in \mathbb{R} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m_i \times n} \\ b_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m_i} \end{matrix}$$

Convex quadratic program, if $A_0 \succeq 0$. (Example: SVM)

3. Quadratically constrained QP (QCQP)

$$\begin{cases} \min x^T A_0 x + b_0^T x + c_0 \\ \text{s.t. } x^T A_i x + b_i^T x + c_i \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \\ b_i \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ c_i \in \mathbb{R} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{Convex if all the} \\ \text{matrices are PSD} \\ \text{symmetric} \end{matrix}$$

4. SOCP: Second order cone programs

$$\begin{cases} \min_x f^T x \\ \text{s.t. } \|A_i x + b_i\|_2 \leq c_i^T x + d_i \quad i=1 \dots m \end{cases}$$

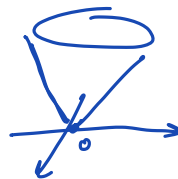
Lorentz cone

$$\mathcal{L}^{n+1} = \{(x, t) : \|x\|_2 \leq t\}$$

Example: LASSO with block sparsity

$$\min_x \|Ax - y\|_2 \quad \begin{matrix} x = (x_1 \dots x_p)^T \\ x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i} \\ \sum n_i = n \end{matrix}$$

We want as many blocks x_i 's to be zero as possible.



$$\left[\min_x \|Ax - y\|_2 + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^p \|x_i\|_2 \right] \leftarrow \begin{matrix} \ell_1\text{-norm of} \\ \text{the vector} \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} \|x_1\|_2 \\ \vdots \\ \|x_p\|_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \min_{x, z, t} z + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^p t_i \\ \|Ax - y\|_2 \leq z \\ \|x_i\|_2 \leq t_i \end{bmatrix}$$

Block-sparseified lasso appears, e.g. in model selection problem

5. SDP: Semidefinite programming

$$\begin{bmatrix} \min_{x \in S_{\text{Sym}}^{n \times n}} \text{Tr}(Cx) \\ \text{s.t. } \text{Tr}(A_i x) = b_i \\ x \succeq 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \min_{x \in S_{\text{Sym}}^{n \times n}} \sum_{k, \ell} C_{k\ell} x_{k\ell} \\ \sum_{k, \ell} (A_i)_{k\ell} x_{k\ell} = b_i \\ x \succeq 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

So Traces mean there are affine constraints on the individual entries of x

The only "matrix condition" is $x \succeq 0$

6. CP: Conic program

$$\begin{bmatrix} \min f(x) \\ \text{s.t. } Ax \leq b \\ x \in C \end{bmatrix}$$

f is convex

C is a convex cone

convex set

$$\forall x \quad \alpha x \leq x \quad \alpha > 0$$

Examples: • Non-convex cone 

• Not a conv hull of a finite set 

• Convex cones: • PSD matrices

• 2nd order cone $\{\|x\|_2 \leq t\}$

• \mathbb{R}_+^n



$$LP \subset QP \subset QCQP \subset SOCP \subset SDP \subset CP$$