

# CS/ECE/ISYE524: Introduction to Optimization – Convex Optimization Models

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# Quadratic forms

- **Linear functions:** sum of terms of the form  $c_i x_i$  where the  $c_i$  are parameters and  $x_i$  are variables. General form:

$$c_1 x_1 + \cdots + c_n x_n = c^\top x$$

- **Quadratic functions:** sum of terms of the form  $q_{ij} x_i x_j$  where  $q_{ij}$  are parameters and  $x_i$  are variables. General form:

$$q_{11}x_1^2 + q_{12}x_1x_2 + \cdots + q_{nn}x_n^2 \quad (n^2 \text{ terms})$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}^\top \begin{bmatrix} q_{11} & \cdots & q_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ q_{n1} & \cdots & q_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = x^\top Q x$$

# Quadratic forms

Any quadratic function  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  can be written in the form  $x^\top Qx$  where  $Q$  is a **symmetric matrix** ( $Q = Q^\top$ ).

**Proof:** Suppose  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x^\top Rx$  where  $R$  is *not* symmetric. Since it is a scalar, we can take the transpose:

$$x^\top Rx = (x^\top Rx)^\top = x^\top R^\top x$$

Therefore:

$$x^\top Rx = \frac{1}{2} (x^\top Rx + x^\top R^\top x) = x^\top \frac{1}{2} (R + R^\top) x$$

So we're done, because  $\frac{1}{2}(R + R^\top)$  is symmetric!

# Eigenvalue decomposition

**Theorem.** Every real symmetric matrix  $Q = Q^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  can be decomposed into a product:

$$Q = U\Lambda U^T$$

where  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$  is a real diagonal matrix, and  $U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is an orthogonal matrix. i.e. it satisfies  $U^T U = I$ .

# Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

If  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and there is a vector  $v$  and scalar  $\lambda$  such that

$$Av = \lambda v$$

Then  $v$  is an *eigenvector* of  $A$  and  $\lambda$  is the corresponding *eigenvalue*.  
Some facts:

- Any square matrix has  $n$  eigenvalues (but some may be repeated — they may not all be different).
- Each eigenvalue has at least one corresponding eigenvector.
- In general, eigenvalues & eigenvectors can be complex.
- In general, eigenvectors aren't orthogonal, and may not even be linearly independent. i.e.  $V = [v_1 \ \cdots \ v_n]$  may not be invertible. If it is, we say that  $A$  is *diagonalizable* and then  $A = V\Lambda V^{-1}$ . Otherwise, Jordan Canonical Form.

Symmetric matrices are **much** simpler!

# Symmetric matrices; Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- Every symmetric  $Q = Q^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  has  $n$  **real** eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$ .
- There exist  $n$  mutually orthogonal eigenvectors  $u_1, \dots, u_n$ :

$$Qu_i = \lambda_i u_i \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$u_i^T u_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

- If we define  $U = [u_1 \ \cdots \ u_n]$  then  $U^T U = I$  and

$$Q = U \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} U^T$$

# Positive definite matrices

For a matrix  $Q = Q^T$ , the following are equivalent:

- 1  $x^T Q x \geq 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- 2 all eigenvalues of  $Q$  satisfy  $\lambda_i \geq 0$

A matrix with this property is called *positive semidefinite* (PSD). The notation is  $Q \succeq 0$ .

**Note:** When we talk about PSD matrices, we *always* assume we're talking about a symmetric matrix.

# Positive definite matrices

Name	Definition	Notation
Positive semidefinite	all $\lambda_i \geq 0$	$Q \succeq 0$
Positive definite	all $\lambda_i > 0$	$Q \succ 0$
Negative semidefinite	all $\lambda_i \leq 0$	$Q \preceq 0$
Negative definite	all $\lambda_i < 0$	$Q \prec 0$
Indefinite	everything else	(none)

## Some properties:

- If  $P \succeq 0$  then  $-P \preceq 0$
- If  $P \succeq 0$  and  $\alpha > 0$  then  $\alpha P \succeq 0$
- If  $P \succeq 0$  and  $Q \succeq 0$  then  $P + Q \succeq 0$



# Difference of positive definite matrices

**Claim:** Every symmetric matrix  $R$  can be written as  $R = P - Q$  for some appropriate choice of symmetric matrices  $P \succeq 0$  and  $Q \succeq 0$ .

Write eigenvalue decomposition as  $R = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i v_i v_i^T$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P} &= \{i = 1, 2, \dots, n : \lambda_i > 0\}, \\ \mathcal{N} &= \{i = 1, 2, \dots, n : \lambda_i < 0\}.\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$R = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}} \lambda_i v_i v_i^T - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} (-\lambda_i) v_i v_i^T.$$

Get result by setting

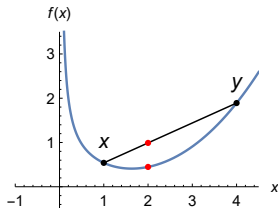
$$P = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}} \lambda_i v_i v_i^T, \quad Q = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}} (-\lambda_i) v_i v_i^T.$$

# Convex functions

- A function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is *convex* for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ , we have:

$$f(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1 - \alpha)f(y)$$

- $f$  is *concave* if  $(-f)$  is convex.



- “Holds water”
- All local minima are global minima

# Convex and concave functions on $\mathbb{R}$

## Convex functions on $\mathbb{R}$

- Affine:  $ax + b$ .
- Absolute value:  $|x|$ .
- Quadratic:  $ax^2$  for any  $a \geq 0$ .
- Exponential:  $a^x$  for any  $a > 0$ .
- Powers:  $x^\alpha$  for  $x > 0$ ,  $\alpha \geq 1$  or  $\alpha \leq 0$ .
- Negative entropy:  $x \log x$  for  $x > 0$ .

## Concave functions on $\mathbb{R}$

- Affine:  $ax + b$ .
- Quadratic:  $ax^2$  for any  $a \leq 0$ .
- Powers:  $x^\alpha$  for  $x > 0$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ .
- Logarithm:  $\log x$  for  $x > 0$ .

# Convex and concave functions

## Convex functions on $\mathbb{R}^n$

- Affine:  $a^\top x + b$ .
- Norms:  $\|x\|_2$ ,  $\|x\|_1$ ,  $\|x\|_\infty$
- Quadratic form:  $x^\top Qx$  for any  $Q \succeq 0$

## Concave functions on $\mathbb{R}^n$

- Affine:  $a^\top x + b$ .
- Quadratic form:  $x^\top Qx$  for any  $Q \preceq 0$

# Building convex functions

- ➊ Nonnegative weighted sum: If  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are convex and  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$ , then  $\alpha f(x) + \beta g(x)$  is convex.
  - ➋ Composition with an affine function:  
If  $f(x)$  is convex, so is  $g(x) := f(Ax + b)$
  - ➌ Pointwise maximum: If  $f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x)$  are convex, then  $g(x) := \max \{f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x)\}$  is convex.
- 
- **N.B.:** A composition of two convex functions is not necessarily convex!
    - *Example* in  $\mathbb{R}$ :  $g(x) = |x|$  and  $h(x) = x^2 - 1$  are both convex, but  $g(h(x)) = |x^2 - 1|$  is not convex.

# Least squares

- We often are given a linear system  $Ax = b$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , with  $m > n$  (overdetermined).
- If there is no solution to  $Ax = b$ , we try instead to have  $Ax \approx b$ .
- The least-squares approach: make Euclidean norm  $\|Ax - b\|$  as small as possible.
  - Recall:  $\|x\| := \sqrt{x_1^2 + \cdots + x_n^2} = \sqrt{x^\top x}$
- Equivalently: make  $\|Ax - b\|^2$  as small as possible.

**Standard form:**

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|Ax - b\|^2$$

This is an **unconstrained optimization problem**.

# Positive Definite

- Note that the quadratic form is PSD:

$$\|Ax - b\|^2 = (Ax - b)^\top (Ax - b) = x^\top A^\top Ax - 2b^\top Ax + b^\top b$$

- For any matrix  $A$ ,  $A^\top A$  is PSD, since for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $z = Ay$ , and then

$$0 \leq z^\top z = (A^\top y)^\top (Ay) = (y^\top A^\top)(Ay) = y^\top (A^\top A)y.$$

- So regression is a **convex optimization** problem
- Of course, you know there is a faster solution in terms of the solution of the normal equations:

# More least squares

- Solving the least squares optimization problem:

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|Ax - b\|^2$$

- Is equivalent to solving the normal equations:

$$A^T A \hat{x} = A^T b$$

- If  $A^T A$  is invertible ( $A$  has linearly independent columns)

$$\hat{x} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T b$$

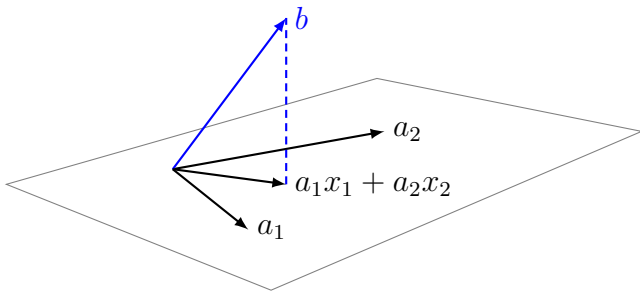
- $A^\dagger := (A^T A)^{-1} A^T$  is called the *pseudoinverse* of  $A$ . `pinv(A)` in Julia (LinearAlgebra)



# Geometry of Least Squares

- **column interpretation:** find the linear combination of columns  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  that is closest to  $b$ .

$$\|Ax - b\|^2 = \|(a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n) - b\|^2$$



# Geometry of Least Squares

- **row interpretation:** If  $\tilde{a}_i^\top$  is the  $i$ th row of  $A$ , define  $r_i := \tilde{a}_i^\top x - b_i$  to be the  $i^{\text{th}}$  residual component.

$$\|Ax - b\|^2 = (\tilde{a}_1^\top x - b_1)^2 + \cdots + (\tilde{a}_m^\top x - b_m)^2$$

We minimize the sum of squares of the residuals.

- Solving  $Ax = b$  would make all residual components zero.
- Least squares attempts to make all of them small.

# Regression Example: curve-fitting

- We are given noisy data points  $(x_i, y_i)$ .
- We suspect they are related by  $y = px^2 + qx + r$
- Find the  $p, q, r$  that best agree with the data.

Writing all the equations:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 y_1 \approx px_1^2 + qx_1 + r \\
 y_2 \approx px_2^2 + qx_2 + r \\
 \vdots \\
 y_m \approx px_m^2 + qx_m + r
 \end{array}
 \implies
 \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}
 \approx
 \begin{bmatrix} x_1^2 & x_1 & 1 \\ x_2^2 & x_2 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_m^2 & x_m & 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{bmatrix}$$

## Example: curve-fitting

- **More complicated:**  $y = pe^x + q \cos(x) - r\sqrt{x} + s x^3$
- Find the  $p, q, r, s$  that best agrees with the data.

Writing all the equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} e^{x_1} & \cos(x_1) & -\sqrt{x_1} & x_1^3 \\ e^{x_2} & \cos(x_2) & -\sqrt{x_2} & x_2^3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ e^{x_m} & \cos(x_m) & -\sqrt{x_m} & x_m^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \\ s \end{bmatrix}$$

- Julia notebook: [Regression.ipynb](#)
- We probably want to install Gurobi (for its better ability to solve quadratic optimization problems)
- Also will start doing some plotting: See <https://matplotlib.org/stable/tutorials/pyplot.html>

# Optimal tradeoffs

We often want to optimize several different objectives simultaneously, but these objectives are **conflicting**.

- 
- Risk vs Expected return (finance)
  - Power vs Fuel economy (automobiles)
  - Quality vs Memory (audio compression)
  - Space vs Time (computer programs)

# Tradeoff Applications

## 1 Radiation Treatment Planning

- Maximize dose at cancerous tissue sites
- Minimize dose to critical normal tissue

## 2 Military Planning

- Maximize number of targets hit. (Targets themselves have different priorities)
- Minimize time to reach targets.
- Minimize number of high-value weapons

## 3 Network design (retail network)

- Minimize cost of network
- Maximize customer service

## 4 Portfolio Planning

- Maximize Return
- Minimize Risk
- Minimize Tax implications
- Minimize market impact from large trades

# Optimal tradeoffs

- Suppose  $J_1 = f_1(x) = \|Ax - b\|^2$  and  $J_2 = f_2(x) = \|Cx - d\|^2$ .
- We would like to make **both**  $J_1$  and  $J_2$  small.
- A sensible approach: solve the optimization problem:

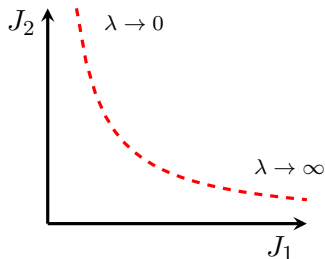
$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad J_1 + \lambda J_2$$

where  $\lambda > 0$  is a (fixed) *tradeoff parameter*.

- Then tune  $\lambda$  to explore possible results.
  - When  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ , we place more weight on  $J_1$
  - When  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ , we place more weight on  $J_2$

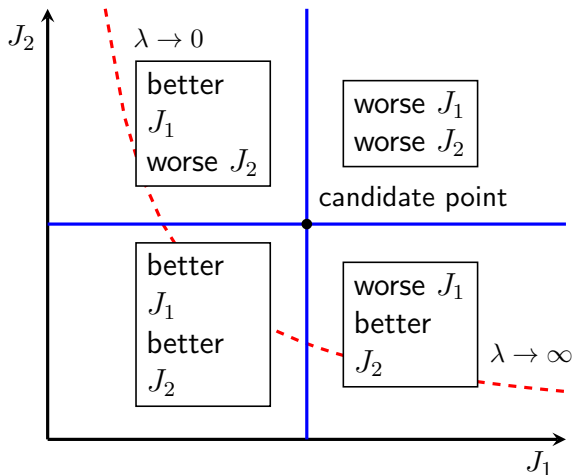
# Tradeoff analysis

- 1 Choose values for  $\lambda$  (usually log-spaced). A useful command: `lambda = logspace(p,q,n)` produces  $n$  points logarithmically spaced between  $10^p$  and  $10^q$ .
- 2 For each  $\lambda$  value, find  $\hat{x}_\lambda$  that minimizes  $J_1 + \lambda J_2$ .
- 3 For each  $\hat{x}_\lambda$ , also compute the corresponding  $J_1^\lambda$  and  $J_2^\lambda$ .
- 4 Plot  $(J_1^\lambda, J_2^\lambda)$  for each  $\lambda$  and connect the dots.

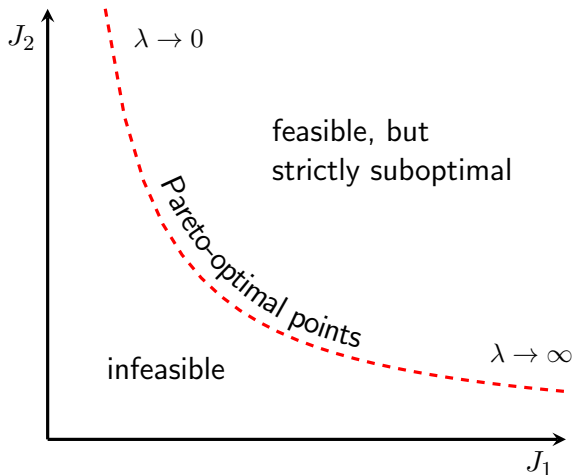




# Pareto curve

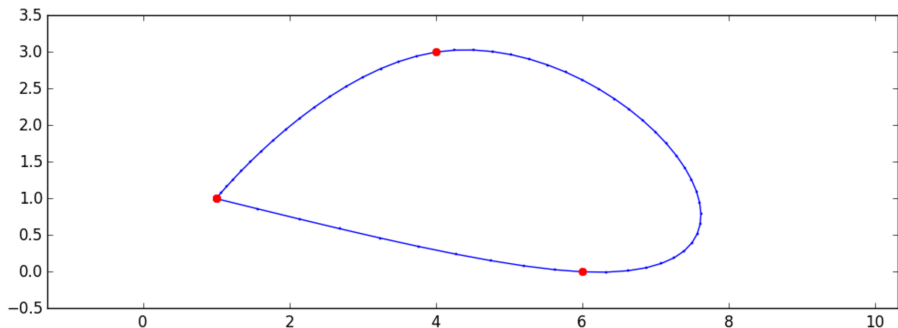


# Pareto curve



## Example: Anakin Goes Podracing

- Anakin Skywalker has a Pod, and he is practicing his pod-racing.
- We are given a set of  $k$  waypoint locations and times.
- The objective is to hit the waypoints at the prescribed times while minimizing fuel use.



# Anakin's Dynamics

- Discretize time:  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots, T$ .
- Important variables: position  $x_t$ , velocity  $v_t$ , thrust  $u_t$ . (These are vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ )
- Simplified model of the dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{t+1} &= x_t + v_t \\v_{t+1} &= v_t + u_t\end{aligned}\quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1$$

- We must choose  $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_T$ .
- Initial position and velocity:  $x_0 = 0$  and  $v_0 = 0$ .
- Waypoint constraints:  $x_{t_i} = w_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .
- Minimize fuel use:  $\|u_0\|^2 + \|u_1\|^2 + \dots + \|u_T\|^2$

# Anakin's First Model

**First model:** Hit the waypoints exactly

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{x_t, v_t, u_t}{\text{minimize}} & \sum_{t=0}^T \|u_t\|^2 \\ \text{subject to:} & x_{t+1} = x_t + v_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\ & v_{t+1} = v_t + u_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\ & x_0 = v_0 = 0 \\ & x_{t_i} = w_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, k \end{array}$$

Julia model: [Podracing.ipynb](#)

# Tradeoffs in Podracing

**Second model:** We are allowed to miss the waypoints (by a bit):

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{x_t, v_t, u_t}{\text{minimize}} && \sum_{t=0}^T \|u_t\|^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^k \|x_{t_i} - w_i\|^2 \\ & \text{subject to:} && x_{t+1} = x_t + v_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\ & && v_{t+1} = v_t + u_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\ & && x_0 = v_0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- $\lambda$  controls the tradeoff between making  $u$  small and hitting all the waypoints.
- [Tradeoff-Podracing.ipynb](#)

# Multi-objective tradeoff

- We can use a similar procedure if we have more than two costs we'd like to make small, e.g.  $J_1$ ,  $J_2$ ,  $J_3$
- Choose parameters  $\lambda > 0$  and  $\mu > 0$ . Then solve:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} & J_1(x) + \lambda J_2(x) + \mu J_3(x) \\ \text{subject to:} & \text{constraints}\end{array}$$

- Each  $\lambda > 0$  and  $\mu > 0$  yields a solution  $\hat{x}_{\lambda,\mu}$ .
- Can visualize tradeoff by plotting  $J_3(\hat{x}_{\lambda,\mu})$  vs  $J_2(\hat{x}_{\lambda,\mu})$  vs  $J_1(\hat{x}_{\lambda,\mu})$  on a 3D plot. You then obtain a *Pareto surface*.

# Minimum-norm as a regularization

- When  $Ax = b$  is underdetermined ( $A$  is wide), we can resolve ambiguity by adding a cost function, e.g. *min-norm* LS:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} & \|x\|^2 \\ \text{subject to:} & Ax = b\end{array}$$

- Alternative approach: express it as a tradeoff!

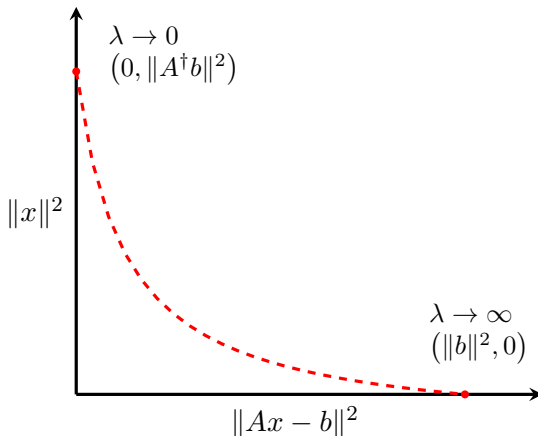
$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|Ax - b\|^2 + \lambda \|x\|^2$$

- Tradeoffs of this type are called **regularization** and  $\lambda$  is called the *regularization parameter* or *regularization weight*
- If we let  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ , we just obtain  $\hat{x} = 0$
- If we let  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ , we obtain the minimum-norm solution!



# Tradeoff visualization

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|Ax - b\|^2 + \lambda \|x\|^2$$



# Regularization

**Regularization:** Additional penalty term added to the cost function to encourage a solution with desirable properties.

## Regularized least squares:

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|Ax - b\|^2 + \lambda R(x)$$

- $R(x)$  is the regularizer (penalty function)
- $\lambda$  is the regularization parameter
- The model has different names depending on  $R(x)$ .

Regularized least squares turns out to be important in many contexts!

# Regularization

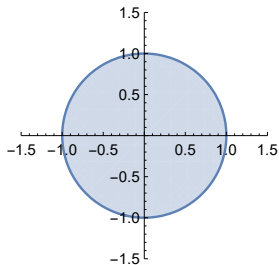
$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|Ax - b\|^2 + \lambda R(x)$$

- ❶ If  $R(x) = \|x\|^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2$   
It is called:  $L_2$  regularization, *Tikhonov regularization*, or *Ridge regression* depending on the application. It has the effect of *smoothing* the solution.
- ❷ If  $R(x) = \|x\|_1 = |x_1| + |x_2| + \cdots + |x_n|$   
It is called:  $L_1$  regularization or *LASSO*. It has the effect of *sparsifying* the solution ( $\hat{x}$  will have few nonzero entries).
- ❸  $R(x) = \|x\|_\infty = \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|, \dots, |x_n|\}$   
It is called  $L_\infty$  regularization and it has the effect of *equalizing* the solution (makes many components tie for the max absolute value).

# Norm balls

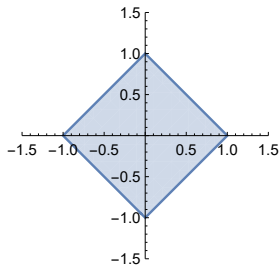
For a norm  $\|\cdot\|_p$ , the **norm ball** of radius  $r$  is the set:

$$B_r = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|x\|_p \leq r\}$$



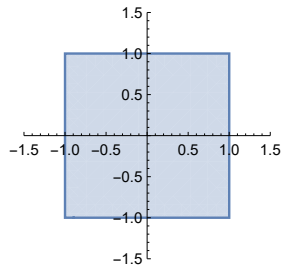
$$\|x\|_2 \leq 1$$

$$x^2 + y^2 \leq 1$$



$$\|x\|_1 \leq 1$$

$$|x| + |y| \leq 1$$



$$\|x\|_\infty \leq 1$$

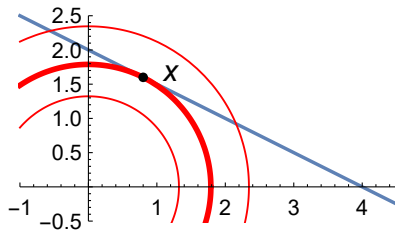
$$\max\{|x|, |y|\} \leq 1$$

# Simple example

Consider the minimum-norm problem for different norms:

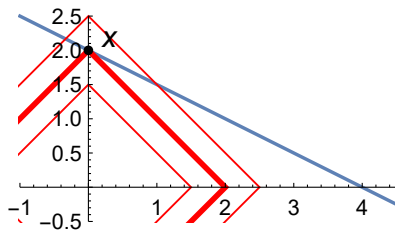
$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{x}{\text{minimize}} & \|x\|_p \\ \text{subject to:} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- set of solutions to  $Ax = b$  is an affine subspace
- solution is point belonging to smallest norm ball
- for  $p = 2$ , this occurs at the perpendicular distance

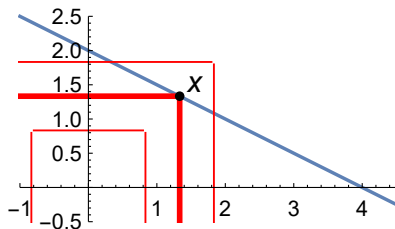


# Simple example

- for  $p = 1$ , this occurs at one of the axes.
- *sparsifying* behavior



- for  $p = \infty$ , this occurs at corners or edges, where many components tie for max value
- *equalizing* behavior



## Example: hovercraft revisited (simpler 1D case)

One-dimensional version of the hovercraft problem:

- Start at  $x_1 = 0$  with  $v_1 = 0$  (at rest at position zero)
- Finish at  $x_{50} = 100$  with  $v_{50} = 0$  (at rest at position 100)
- Same simple dynamics as before:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{t+1} &= x_t + v_t \\ v_{t+1} &= v_t + u_t\end{aligned}\quad \text{for: } t = 1, 2, \dots, 49$$

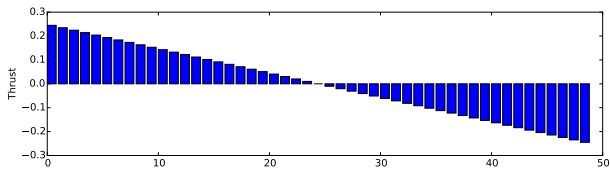
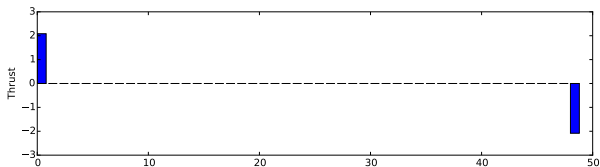
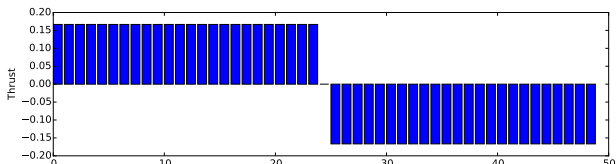
- Decide thruster inputs  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{49}$ .
- This time: minimize  $\|u\|_p$

## Example: hovercraft revisited

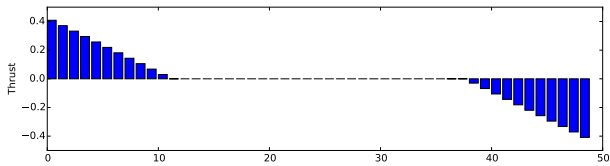
$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{x_t, v_t, u_t}{\text{minimize}} & \|u\|_p \\ \text{subject to:} & x_{t+1} = x_t + v_t \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, 49 \\ & v_{t+1} = v_t + u_t \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, 49 \\ & x_1 = 0, \quad x_{50} = 100 \\ & v_1 = 0, \quad v_{50} = 0 \end{array}$$

- This model has 150 variables, but very easy to understand.

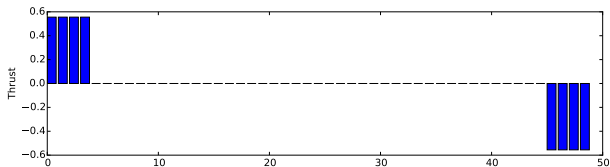


**1** Minimizing  $\|u\|_2^2$  (smooth)**2** Minimizing  $\|u\|_1$  (sparse)**3** Minimizing  $\|u\|_\infty$  (equalized)

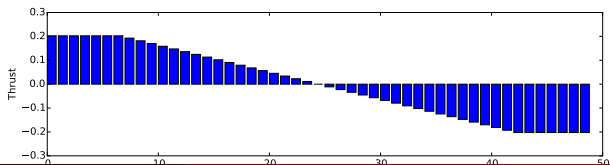
1 Minimizing  $\|u\|_2^2 + \lambda\|u\|_1$  (smooth and sparse)



2 Minimizing  $\|u\|_\infty + \lambda\|u\|_1$  (equalized and sparse)



3 Minimizing  $\|u\|_2^2 + \lambda\|u\|_\infty$  (equalized and smooth)



# Hierarchical Optimization

- One popular way for dealing with multiple objectives or goals is to combine them into objective using weights or penalties.
  - This can work.
  - But I don't recommend it in some cases...
    - If the quantities you are combining are in different units
    - If you have significantly more than two objectives
- 
- Instead, often decision-makers have **priorities** for the individual goals
  - In this case you can solve the problem in a **hierarchical** manner

# Hierarchical Optimization

- Suppose we wish to make some decisions  $x \in X$ , but we have three different goals/objectives:
  - ①  $\min f_1(x)$
  - ②  $\max f_2(x)$
  - ③  $\min f_3(x)$
- In **hierarchical optimization**, we solve the objectives in the given order.
- As we move down the hierarchy, we impose the **constraint** that we do (almost?) as well with respect to the previous objectives.
- This of course generalizes to any number of goals that you can put in a priority order

# Hierarchical Optimization

- 1 First, solve for the highest priority objective

$$z_1^* := \min_{x \in X} f_1(x)$$

- 2 Next, constrained to do (almost) as well with respect to first objective, solve for second priority:

$$z_2^* := \max_{x \in X} \{f_2(x) : f_1(x) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)z_1^*\}$$

- 3 Finally, solve final objective constrained to do (almost) as well with respect to first two objectives:

$$\min_{x \in X} \{f_3(x) : f_1(x) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)z_1^*, f_2(x) \geq (1 - \varepsilon)z_2^*\}$$

## The Upshot

Final solution is best with respect to the third objective that is within  $\varepsilon\%$  of the best for the first two objectives

# Annakin Again—Constrained Waypoints

- Suppose now that we only wish to make sure that we get "close enough" to the waypoints, which we measure by saying that each component of the position is within  $\beta$  units away

$$\begin{aligned} F^* := \underset{x,v,u}{\text{minimize}} \quad & \sum_{t=0}^T \|u_t\|^2 \\ \text{subject to:} \quad & x_{t+1} = x_t + v_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\ & v_{t+1} = v_t + u_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\ & \|x_{t_i} - w_i\|_\infty \leq \beta \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, k \\ & x_0 = v_0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

[Tradeoff-Podracing-Constraint.ipynb](#)

# Hierarchical—Finish Slow

- Now suppose that for a fixed value of  $\beta$ , we have a secondary objective to be going as slow as possible at the end of the race
- But we also want to make sure that we won't use too much more fuel than we do in an optimal fuel plan
- [Tradeoff-Pod racing-Hierarchical.ipynb](#)

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \underset{x,v,u}{\text{minimize}} & \|v_T\|^2 \\
 \text{subject to:} & x_{t+1} = x_t + v_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\
 & v_{t+1} = v_t + u_t \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1 \\
 & \|x_{t_i} - w_i\|_\infty \leq \beta \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, k \\
 & x_0 = v_0 = 0 \\
 & \sum_{t=1}^T \|u_t\|^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon) F^*
 \end{array}$$