

Polyhedral Homotopy Method for Nash Equilibrium Problem

(joint work with Xindong Tang)

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AMA Colloquium Series on Young Scholars in Optimization and Data Science

Discrete Math

Nash Equilibrium Problem

Consider a 2-player game with 2 strategies for each player

		2nd	
		C	D
		A	8 4
1st	A	6 7	
	B		
1st player payoff			

		2nd	
		C	D
		A	4 6
1st	A	5 8	
	B		
2nd player payoff			

		2nd	
		C	D
		A	(8,4) (4,6)
1st	A	(6,5) (7,8)	
	B		

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(B,D) is a Nash equilibrium

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(B,D) is a Nash equilibrium
(A,D) is not a Nash equilibrium

Nash Equilibrium Problem

Nash equilibrium (NE)

In game theory, a state that a player can achieve the desired outcome by not changing their initial strategy.

It is a state that every player's objective is optimized for given other players' strategies.

Nash equilibrium problem

A problem finding such Nash equilibria is called the Nash equilibrium problem (NEP).

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Algebra + Numerical Analysis

How to solve an equation?

How to find roots of $f(x) = x^5 - 3x + 1$?

Algebra + Numerical Analysis

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How to find roots of $f(x) = x^5 - 3x + 1$?

```
> solve(x^5 - 3*x + 1)
RootOf(_Z^5 - 3 _Z + 1, index = 1), RootOf(_Z^5 - 3 _Z + 1, index = 2),
RootOf(_Z^5 - 3 _Z + 1, index = 3), RootOf(_Z^5 - 3 _Z + 1, index = 4),
RootOf(_Z^5 - 3 _Z + 1, index = 5)
```

Algebra + Numerical Analysis

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- > `solve($x^5 - 3x + 1$)`
`RootOf($_Z^5 - 3_Z + 1$, index = 1), RootOf($_Z^5 - 3_Z + 1$, index = 2), RootOf($_Z^5 - 3_Z + 1$, index = 3), RootOf($_Z^5 - 3_Z + 1$, index = 4), RootOf($_Z^5 - 3_Z + 1$, index = 5)`

- > `fsolve($x^5 - 3x + 1$)`
`-1.388791984, 0.3347341419, 1.214648043`

Algebra + Numerical Analysis

How to solve an equation? (Geometric point of view)

How to find roots of $f(x) = x^5 - 3x + 1$?

Consider $g(x) = x^5 - 1$ (whose roots are the 5-th roots of unity ξ_1, \dots, ξ_5).

Then, $H(x, t) = (1 - t)f(x) + tg(x)$ finds roots of $f(x)$ as t goes from 1 to 0.

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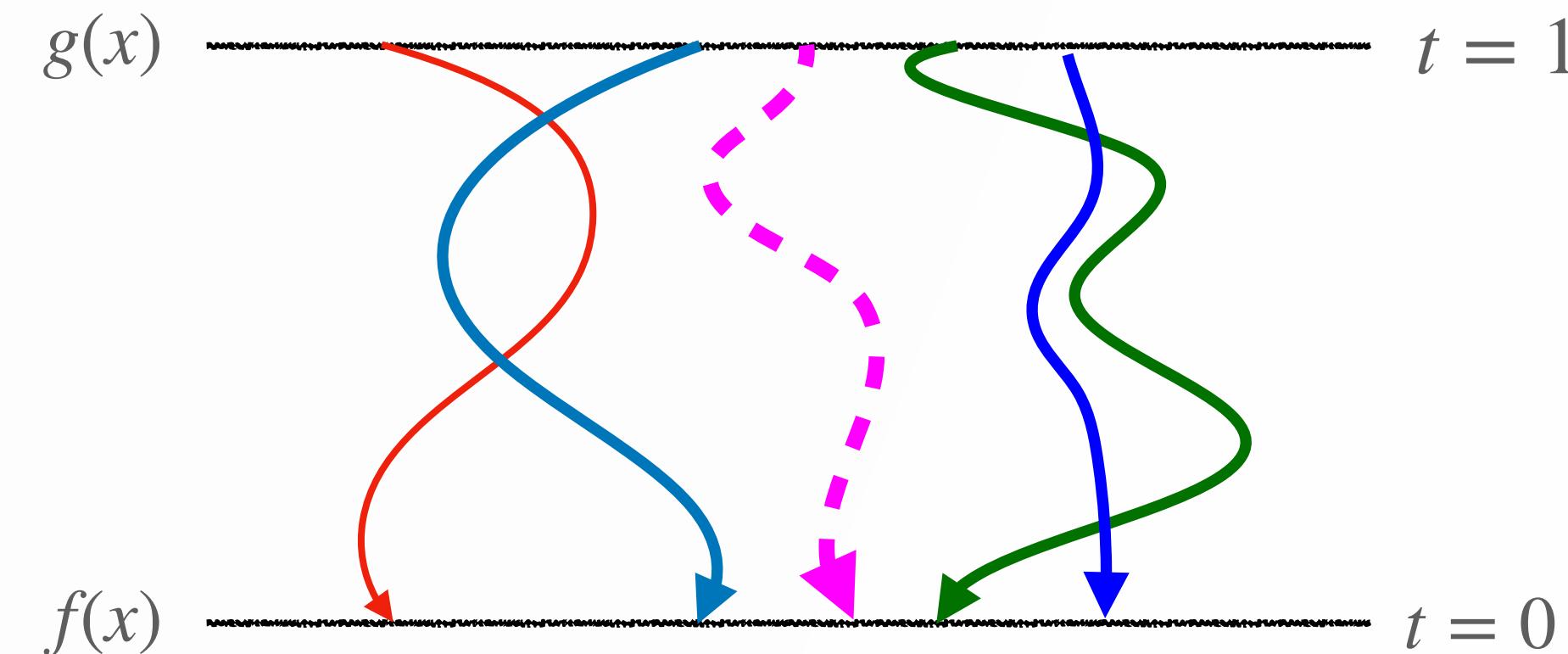
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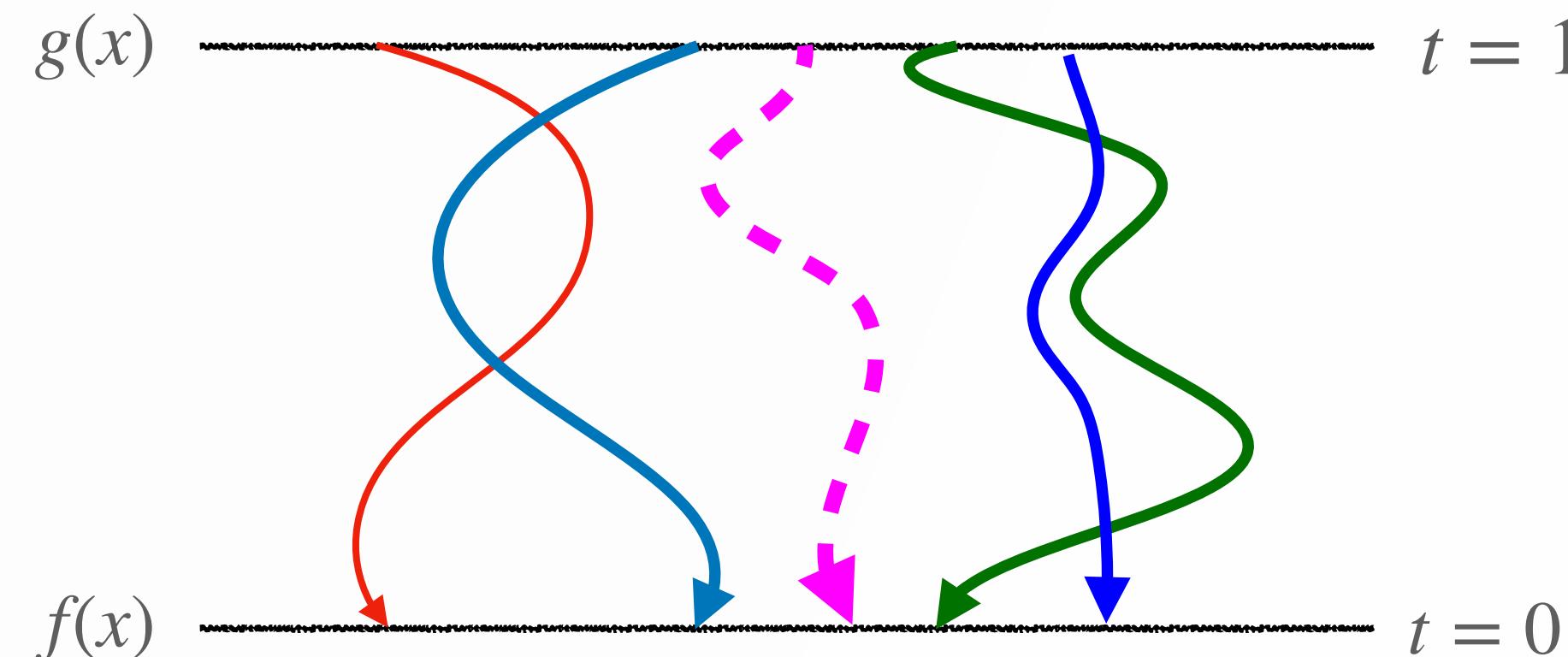
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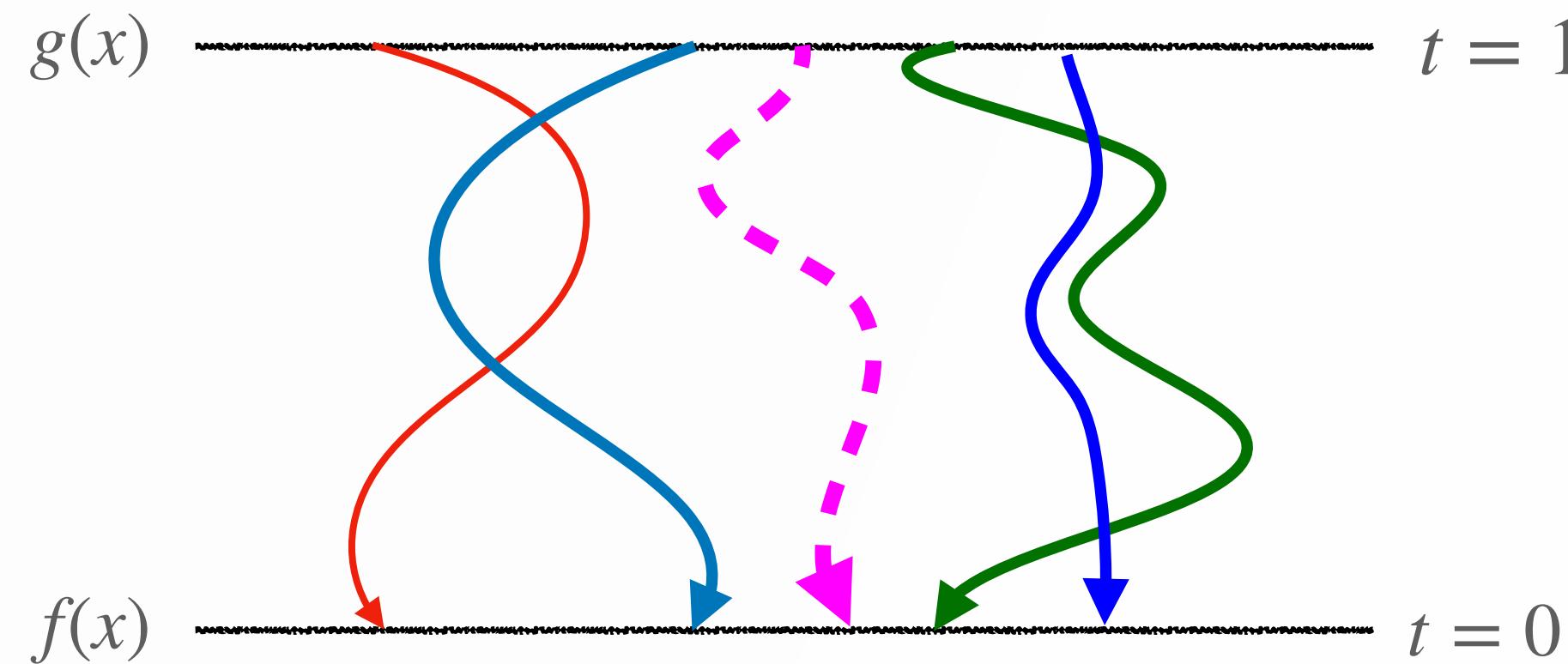
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Then, $H(x, t) = (1 - t)f(x) + tg(x)$ finds roots of $f(x)$ as t goes from 1 to 0. (**Homotopy method**)

Nash Equilibrium Problem

+ Numerical Algebraic Geometry

Why Homotopy Method?

- Current known methods for NEP are based on optimization methods.
 - ▶ Heavily relies on the convexity of feasible sets.
- Previous works focus on finding one NE (or finding all NEs one-by-one).
 - ▶ Homotopy methods can be proper for finding all NEs at once.

Nash Equilibrium Problem

NEP as an optimization problem.

Consider N -player game.

$$x_i := (x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,n_i}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}$$

the i -th player's strategy.

$$x := (x_1, \dots, x_N) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 + \dots + n_N}$$

a vector for all players' strategies.

$$x_{-i} := (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$$

all strategies except i -th player's strategy.

$$f_i \in \mathbb{C}[x]$$

the i -th player's objective function.

$$g_{i,j} \in \mathbb{C}[x]$$

the i -th player's constraints ($j = 1, \dots, m_i$)

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NEP as an optimization problem.

Find a tuple $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_N)$ such that u_i is a optimizer of the i -th player's optimization :

$$F_i : \begin{cases} \min_{x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}} & f_i(u_1, \dots, u_{i-1}, x_i, u_{i+1}, \dots, u_N) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_{i,j}(u_1, \dots, u_{i-1}, x_i, u_{i+1}, \dots, u_N) = 0 \quad \text{if } j \in \mathcal{E}_i \\ & g_{i,j}(u_1, \dots, u_{i-1}, x_i, u_{i+1}, \dots, u_N) \geq 0 \quad \text{if } j \in \mathcal{I}_i \end{cases}$$

where \mathcal{E}_i and \mathcal{I}_i are sets of indices for equality constraints and inequality constraints respectively.

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$X_i := \{x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i} \mid g_{i,j}(x_i) = 0, \quad g_{i,j}(x_i) \geq 0\}$
the feasible set of F_i

regular NEP

the feasible set X_i doesn't depend on x_{-i}

generalized NEP (GNEP)

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GNEP of polynomials (GNEPP)

all f_i and $g_{i,j}$ are polynomials.

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Optimality Conditions for GNEPs

KKT system

If x_i is a minimizer of F_i , then there is a Lagrange multiplier vector

$\lambda_i := (\lambda_{i,1}, \dots, \lambda_{i,m_i})$ satisfying the first-order

Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) condition.

$$\begin{cases} \nabla_{x_i} f_i(x) - \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} \lambda_{i,j} \nabla_{x_i} g_{i,j}(x) = 0 \\ \lambda_{i,j} g_{i,j}(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } j \\ g_{i,j}(x) = 0 \quad \text{if } j \in \mathcal{E}_i \\ g_{i,j}(x) \geq 0 \text{ and } \lambda_{i,j} \geq 0 \quad \text{if } j \in \mathcal{J}_i \end{cases}$$

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Optimality Conditions for GNEPs

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If x is a generalized Nash equilibrium, then the KKT condition holds for all $i = 1, \dots, N$.

Then, we have the following KKT system for each $i = 1, \dots, N$.

$$F_i := \begin{cases} \nabla_{x_i} f_i(x) - \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} \lambda_{i,j} \nabla_{x_i} g_{i,j}(x) = 0 \\ g_{i,j}(x) = 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, m_i \end{cases}$$

Find all solutions of the KKT system $F := (F_1, \dots, F_N)$.
(a posteriori NE selection required)

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Optimality Conditions for GNEPs

Example

Consider 2-player GNEP

$$\text{1st player : } \begin{cases} \min_{x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^1} & \frac{1}{2}x_1^2x_2^3 - x_1x_2^2 - 2x_1x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & 1 - x_1x_2 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{2nd player : } \begin{cases} \min_{x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^1} & \frac{1}{2}x_1^3x_2^2 - x_1^2x_2 - 2x_1x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & 1 - x_1^2 - x_2^2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

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$$F_1 : \begin{cases} \nabla_{x_1} f_1 - \lambda_1 \nabla_{x_1} g_{1,1} = x_1x_2^3 - x_2^2 - 2x_2 - \lambda_1(-x_2) \end{cases}$$

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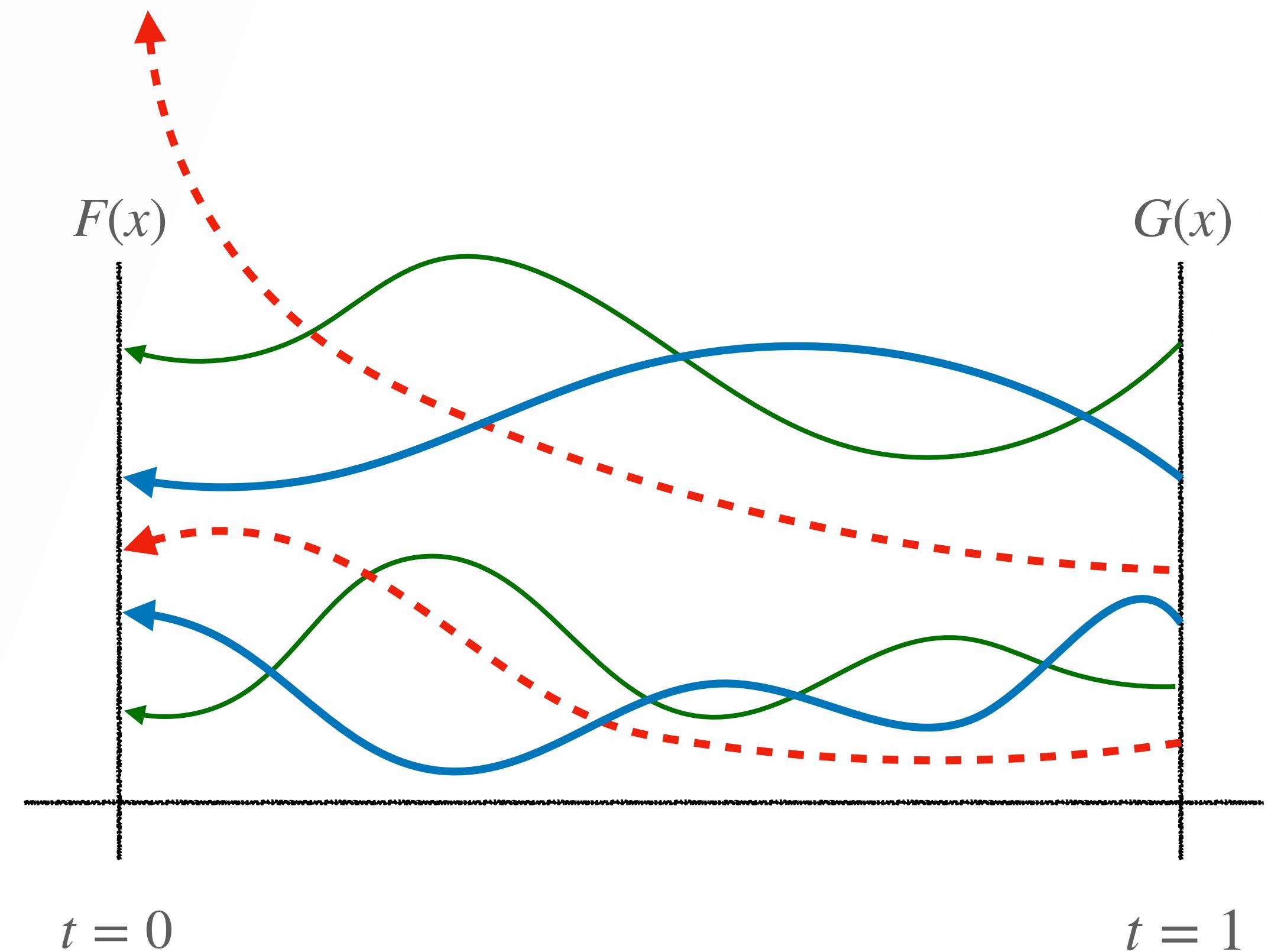
These systems provide the system $F := \{F_1, F_2\}$

Homotopy Continuation

Finding solutions by tracking homotopy

$$H(t, x) = t\gamma G(x) + (1 - t)F(x), \quad t \in [0, 1]$$

Solve F (**target system**) by constructing a homotopy with G (**start system**) whose solutions are known.



Homotopy Continuation

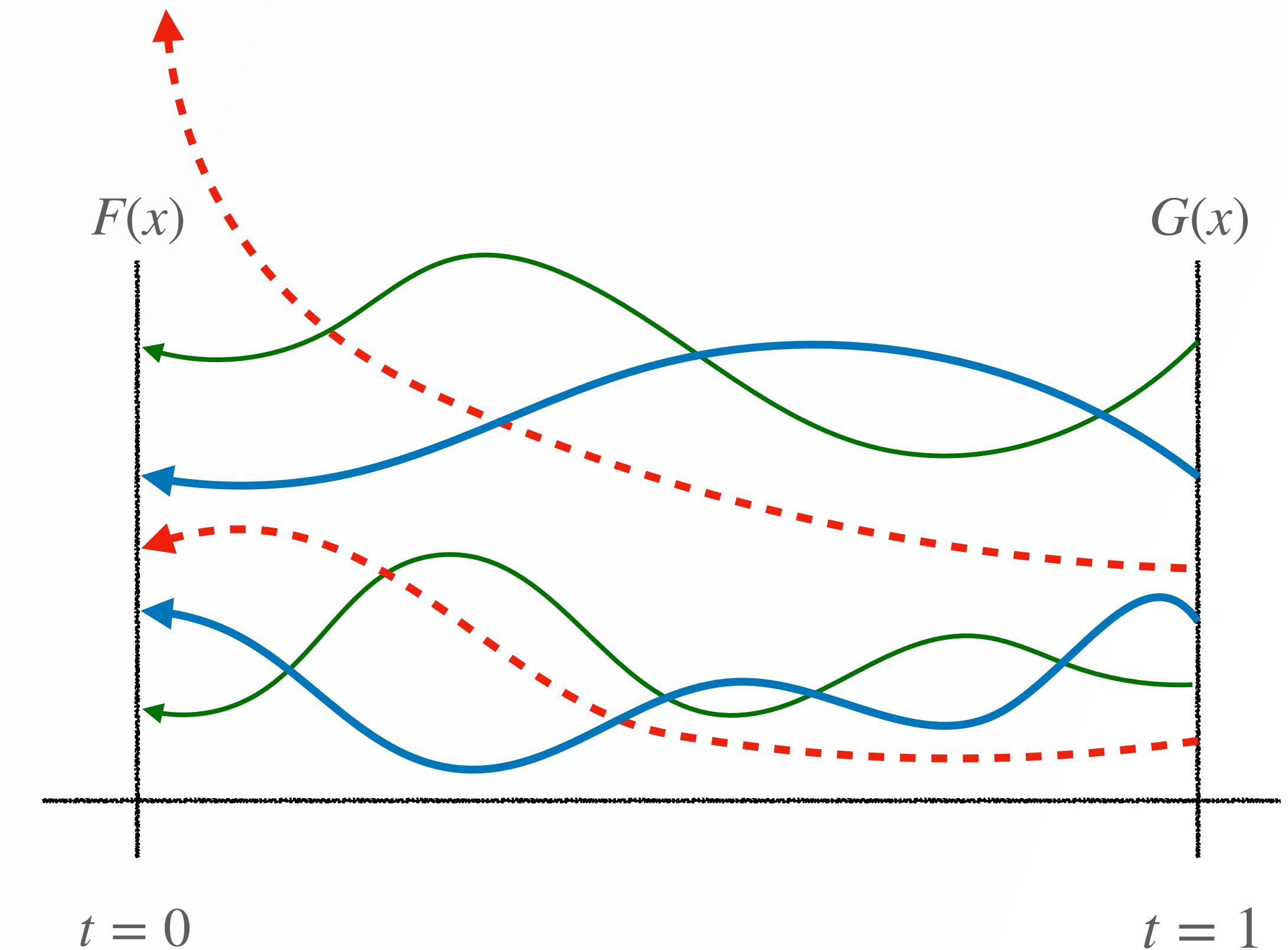
How to choose start system?

The choice of start system determines the number of homotopy paths to track.

Bézout homotopy (Bézout bound = product of degrees)

polyhedral homotopy (BKK bound)

multihomogeneous start system



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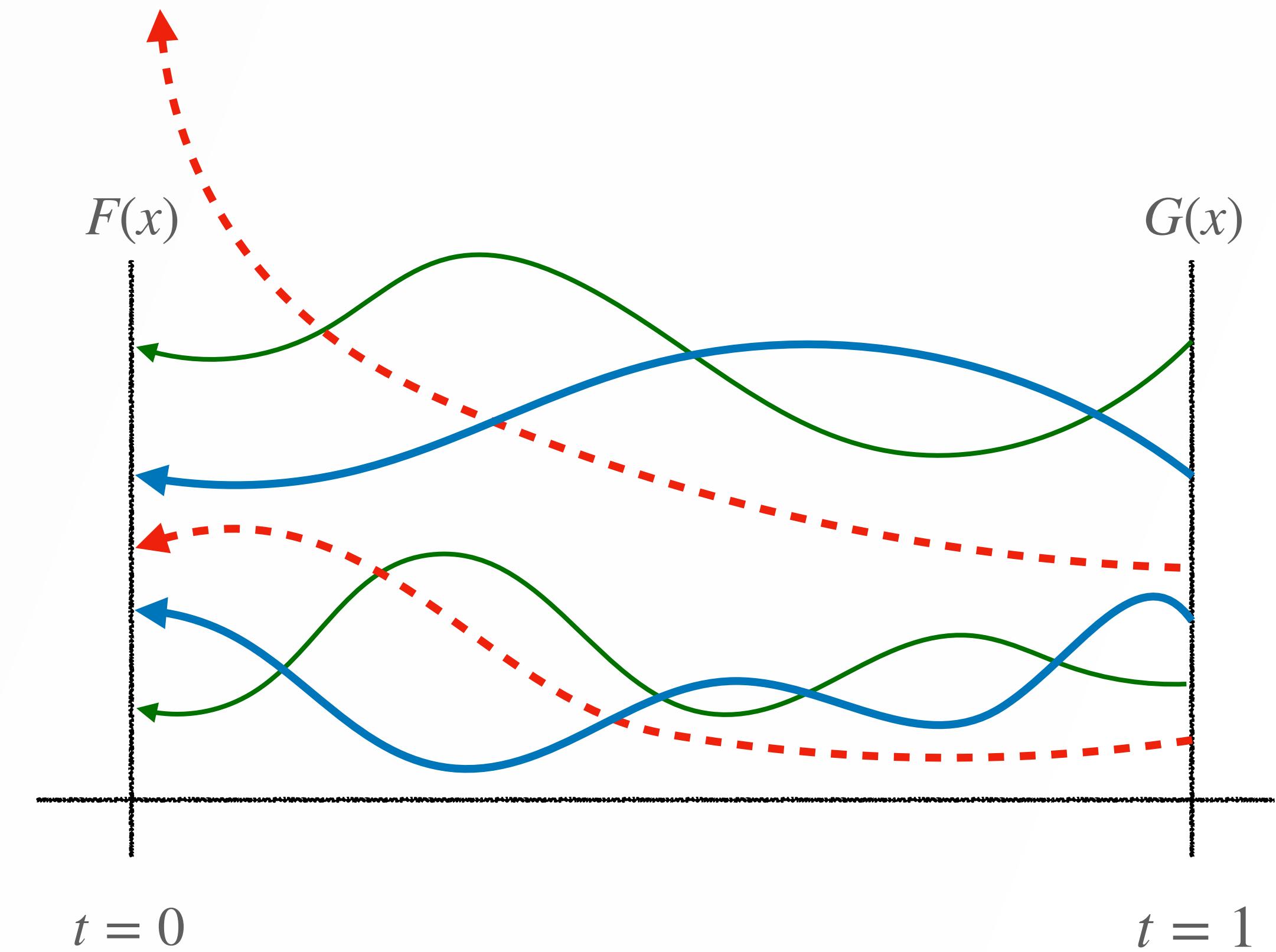
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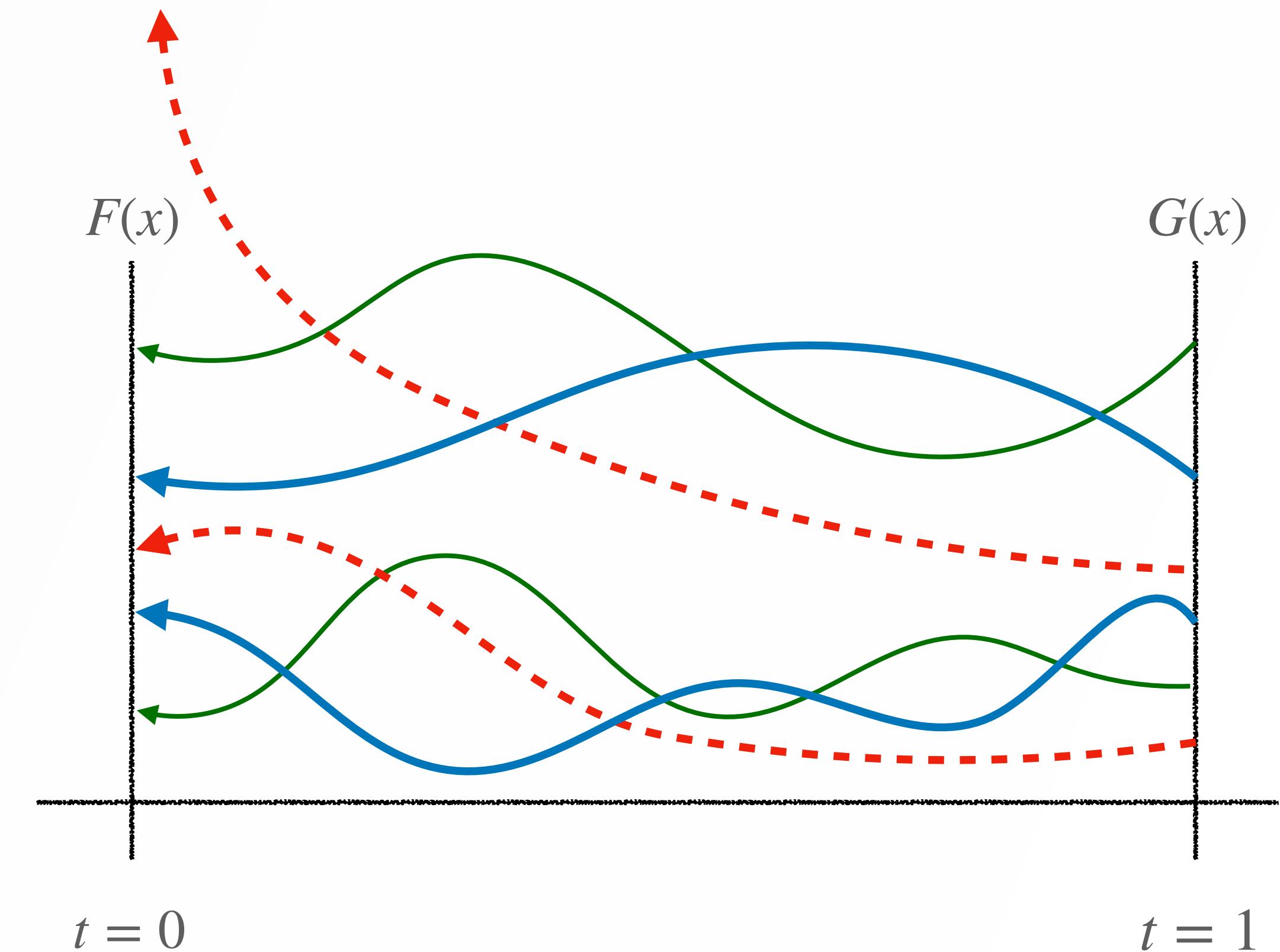
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Polyhedral Homotopy Continuation

Bernstein theorem

Theorem [Bernstein 1975]. $F := \{f_1, \dots, f_n\} \subset \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$: a square polynomial system.

Q_i : the Newton polytope of f_i . Then, (<# isolated roots in $(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\})^n$) $\leq MV(Q_1, \dots, Q_n)$.

$MV(Q_1, \dots, Q_n)$ is the **mixed volume** of Q_1, \dots, Q_n .

The mixed volume above is called the **BKK bound**.

The polyhedral homotopy tracks BKK bound many paths.

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$f \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$: a polynomial.

$A := \text{supp}(f)$: the **support** of f (the set of exponents of monomials appear in f).

$Q := \text{conv}(A) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$: the **Newton polytope** (the convex hull of A).

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the coefficient of $\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n$ term in a polynomial $\text{Vol}(\lambda_1 Q_1 + \dots + \lambda_n Q_n)$.

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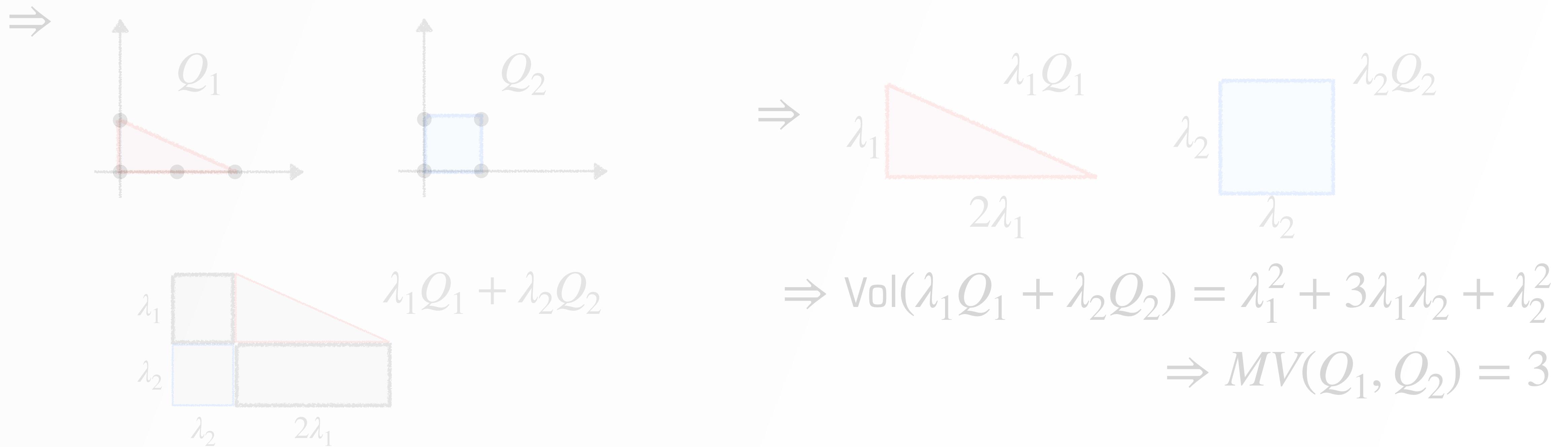
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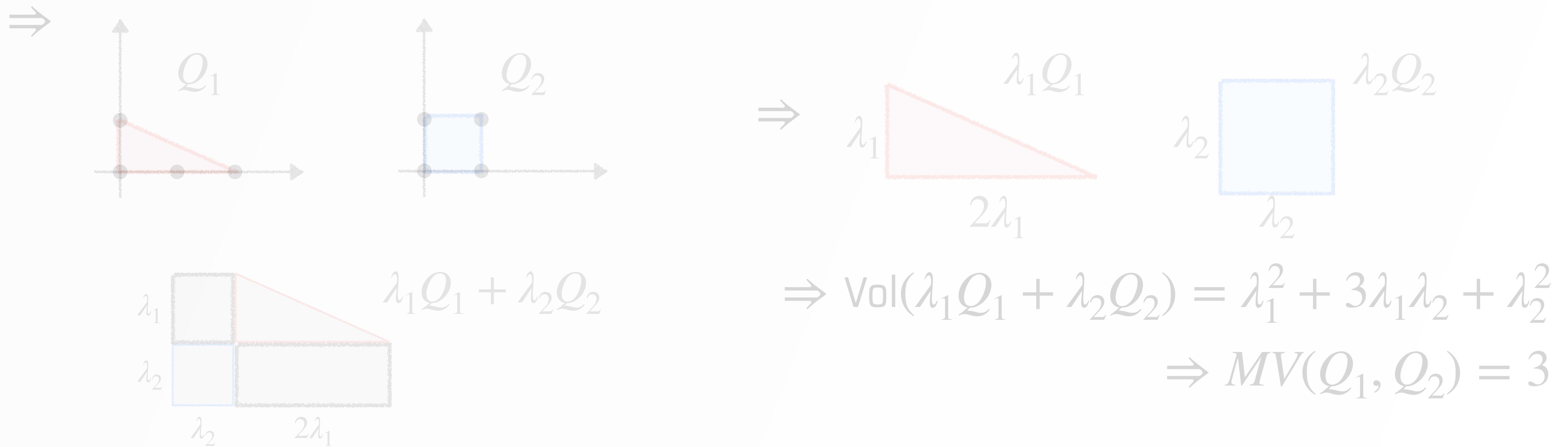
Polyhedral Homotopy Continuation

Example $f_1(x, y) = a_1x^2 + b_1x + c_1y + d_1$ and $f_2(x, y) = a_2xy + b_2x + c_2y + d_2$
 $\Rightarrow A_1 = \{(2,0), (1,0), (0,1), (0,0)\}$ and $A_2 = \{(1,1), (1,0), (0,1), (0,0)\}$



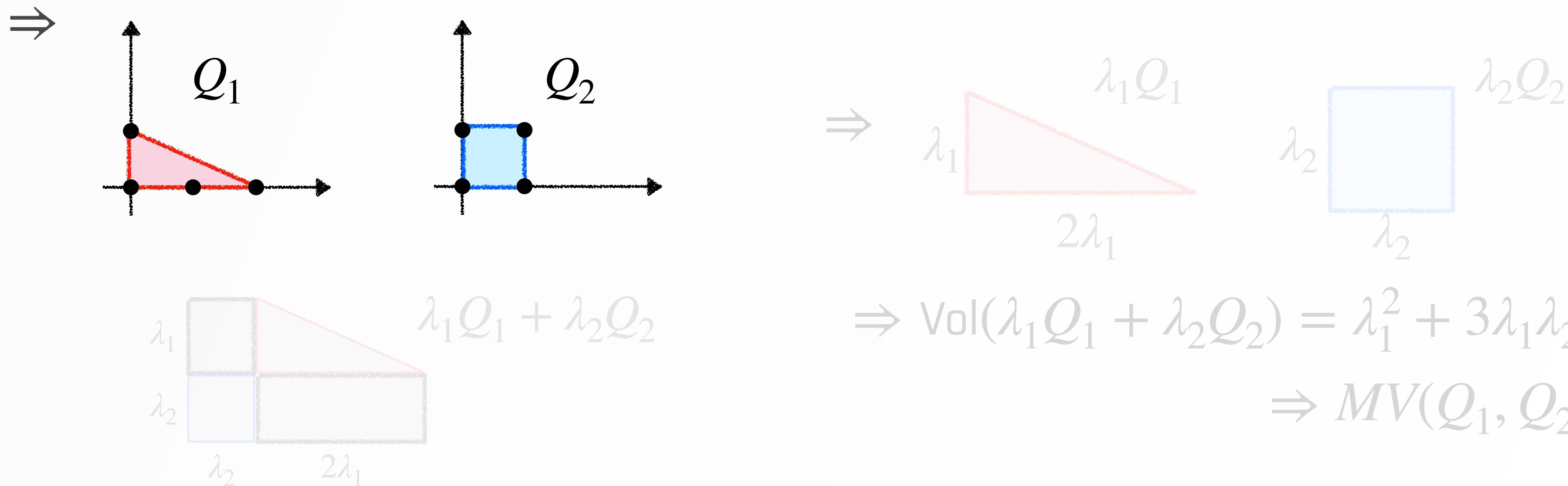
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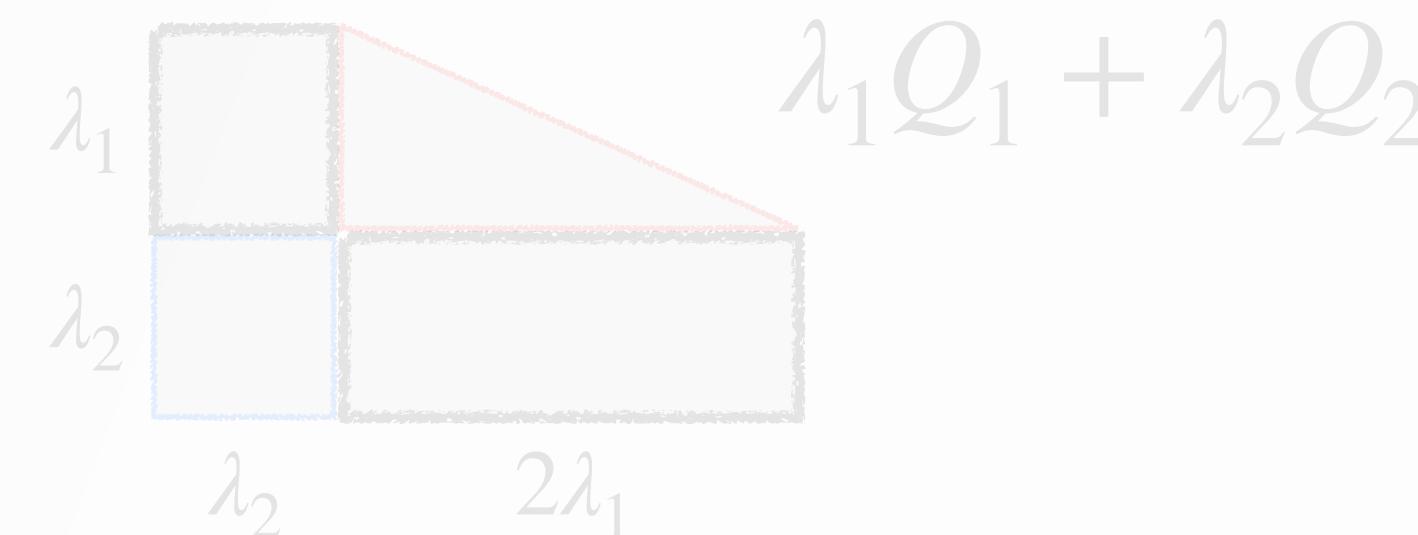
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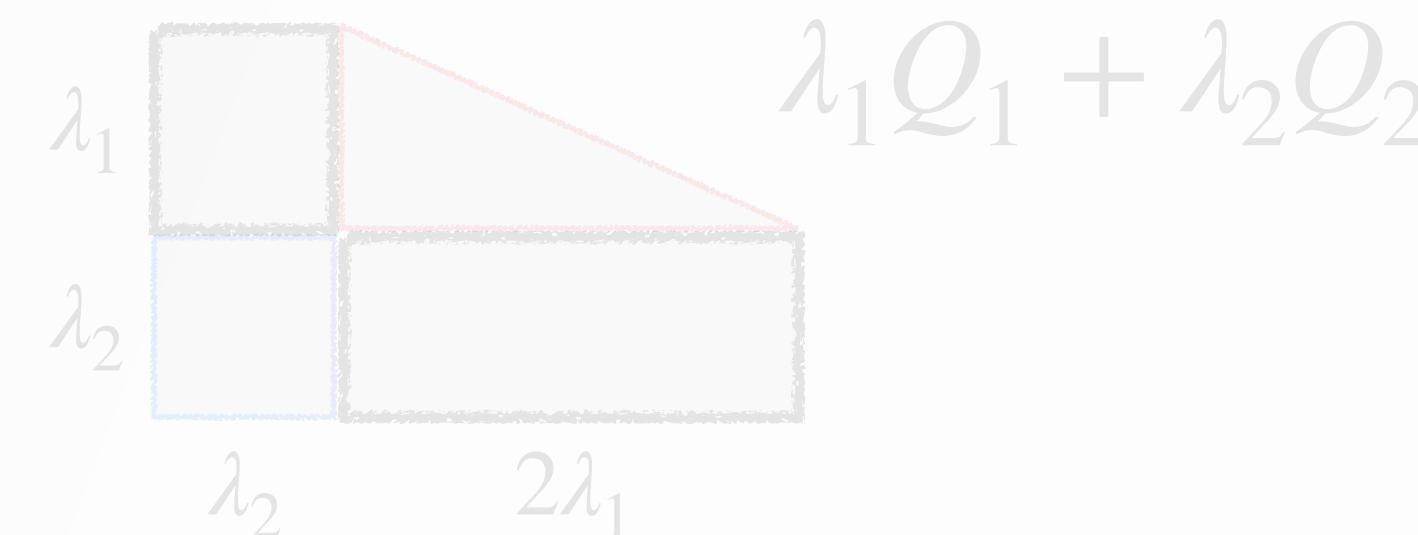
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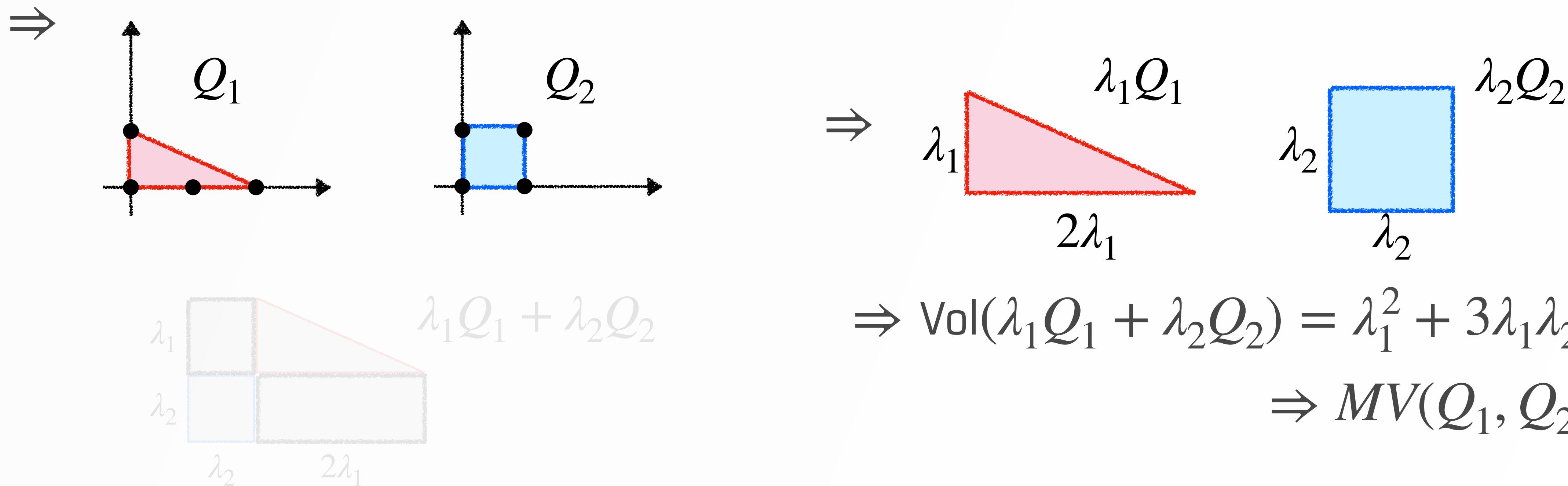
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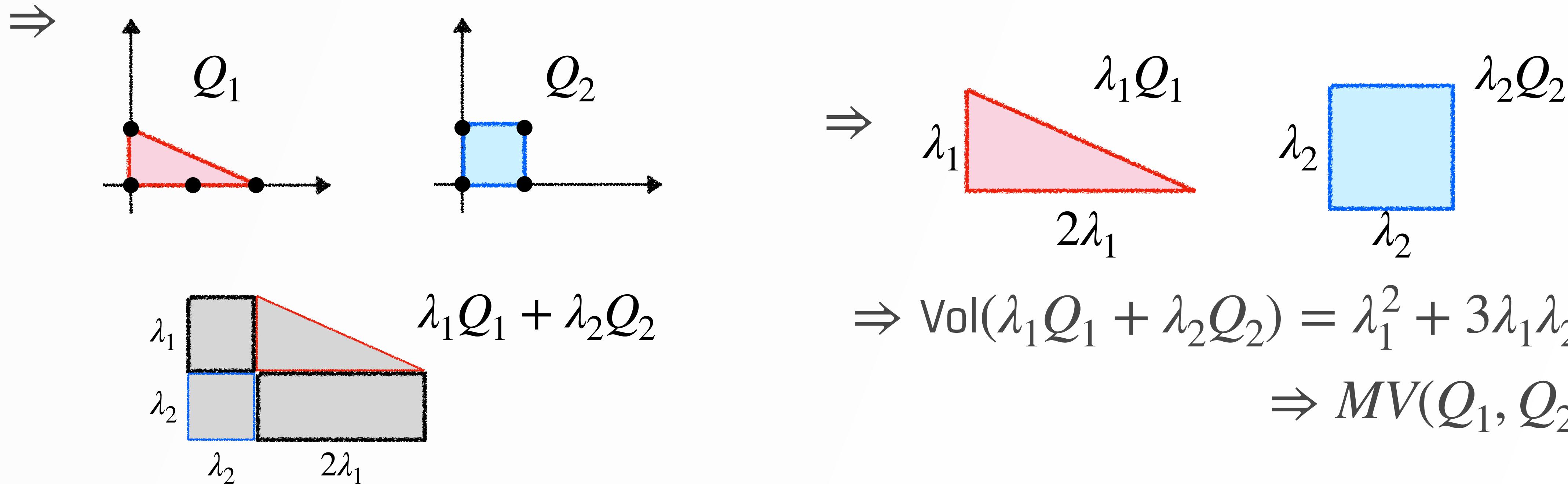
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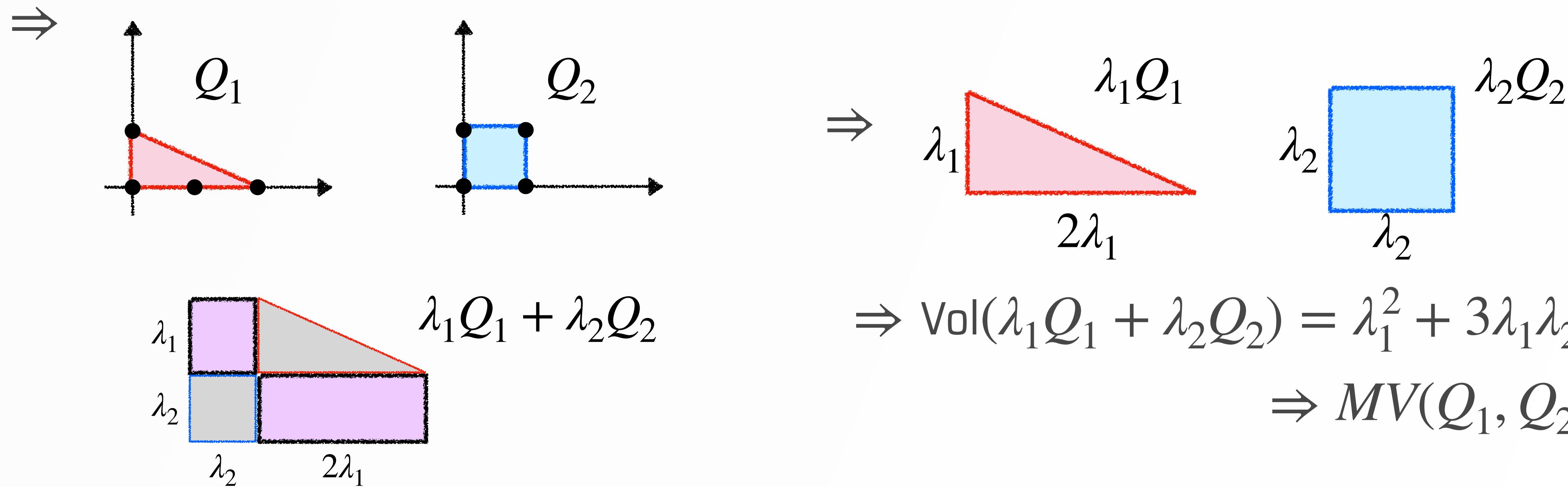
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Bernstein Generic System

The second part of Bernstein theorem

Theorem [Bernstein 1975]. $F := \{f_1, \dots, f_n\} \subset \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$: a square polynomial system.

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When a system achieves the BKK bound, we say that the system is **Bernstein generic**.

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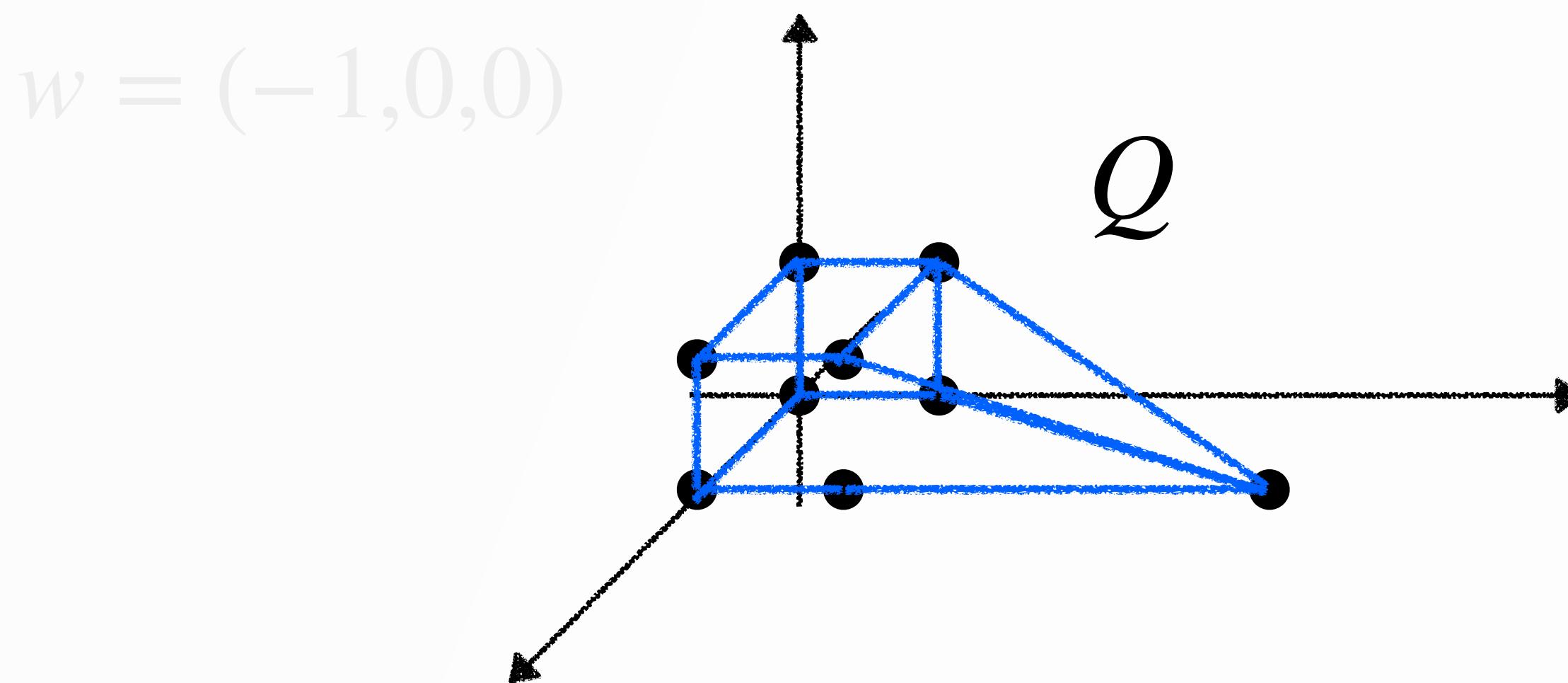
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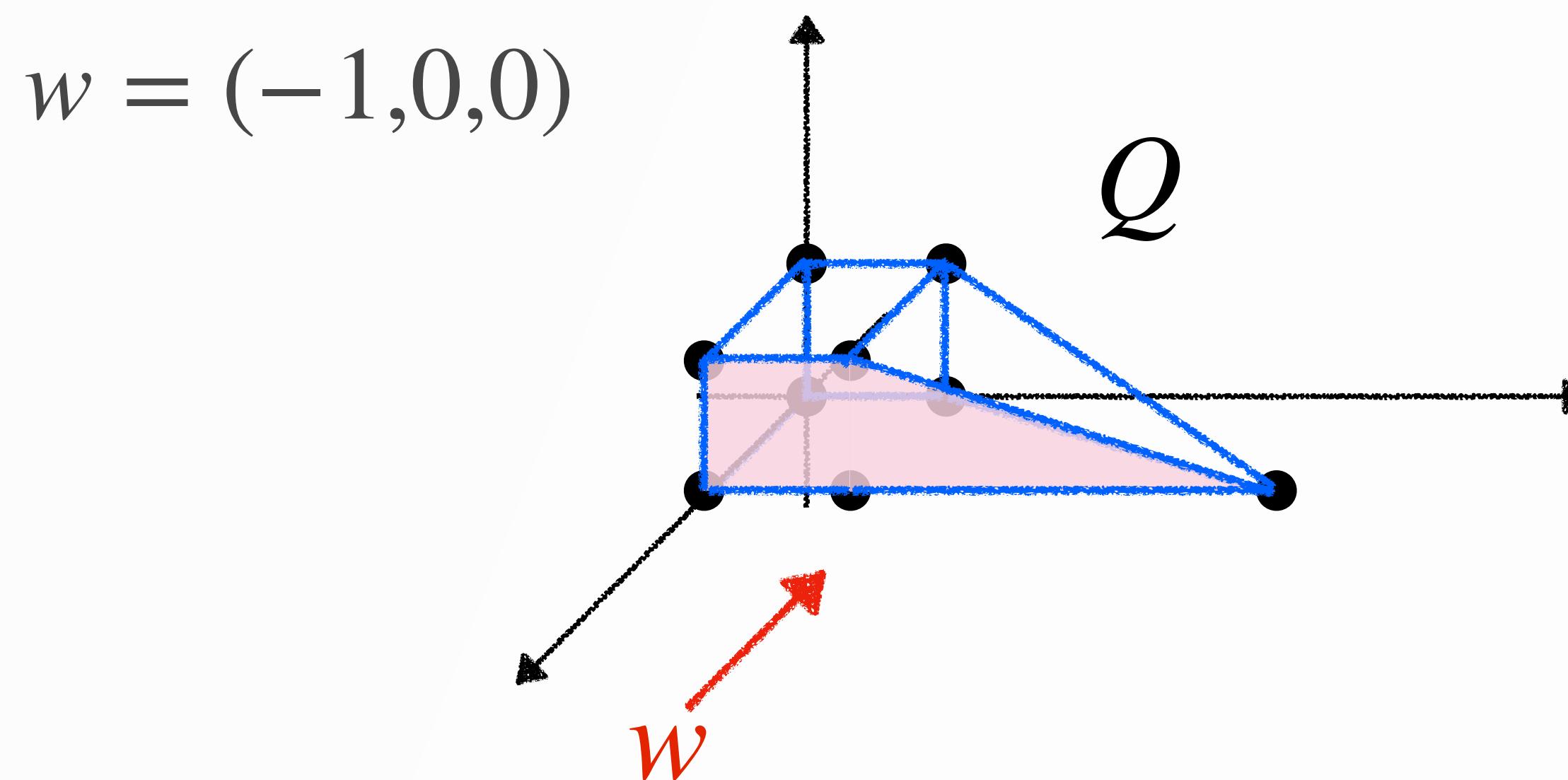
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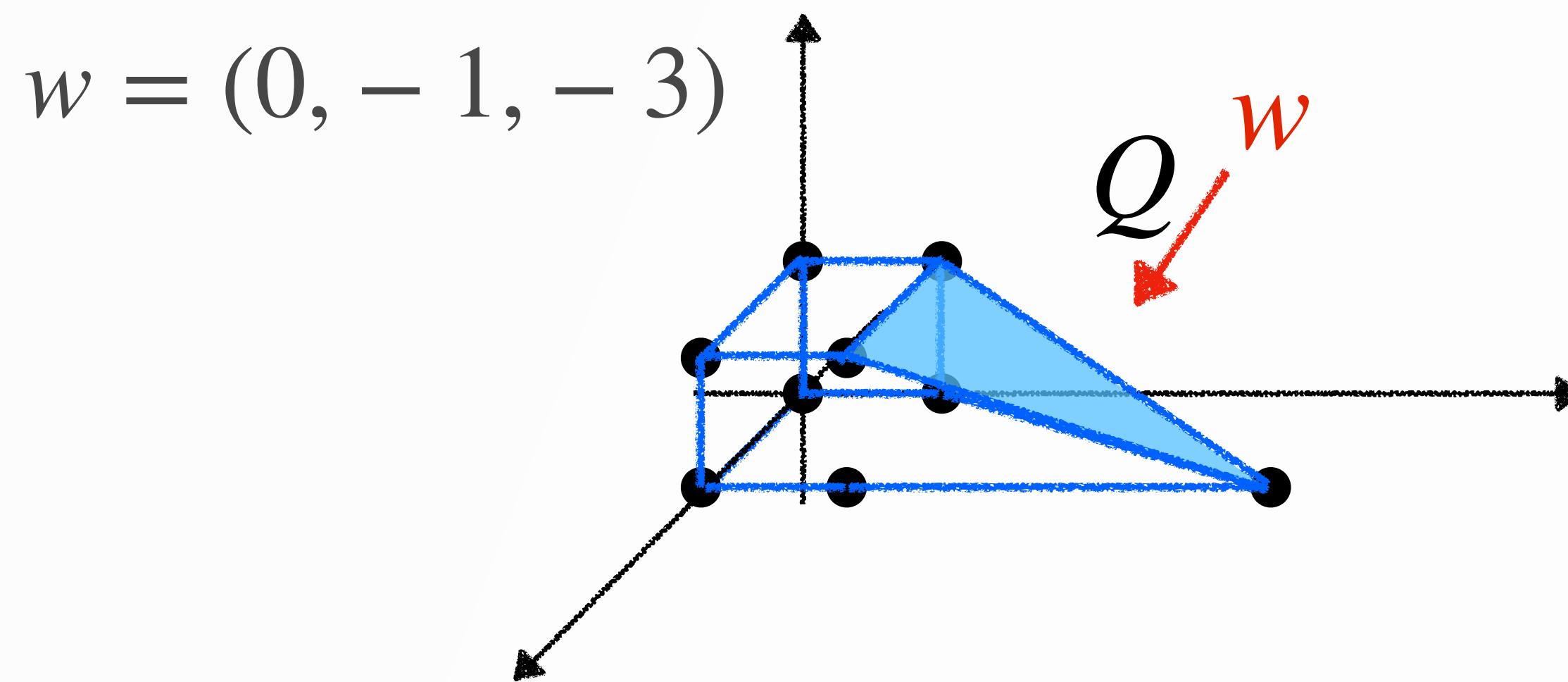
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Solving KKT System

Theorem [L.-Tang]. Suppose that for each $i = 1, \dots, N$, polynomials f_i and $g_{i,j}$ are generic for all $j = 1, \dots, m_i$. Then the KKT system $F = \{F_1, \dots, F_N\}$ is Bernstein general.

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Hence, for a generic KKT system, the polyhedral homotopy method can find all solutions.

Selecting GNEs from KKT Points

$\mathcal{K}_{\mathbb{C}}$: the set of KKT points (x, λ) obtained by the homotopy method.

\mathcal{K} : the set of real KKT points with $\lambda \geq 0$ and $g_{i,j}(x) \geq 0$.

$$\mathcal{K} = \{(x, \lambda) \in \mathcal{K}_{\mathbb{C}} \cap \mathbb{R}^N \mid \lambda_{i,j} \geq 0, g_{i,j}(x) \geq 0\}$$

$\mathcal{P} := \pi_x(\mathcal{K})$: a projection of \mathcal{K} onto x coordinates.

Selecting GNEs from KKT Points

$\mathcal{K}_{\mathbb{C}}$: the set of KKT points (x, λ) obtained by the homotopy method.

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Selecting GNEs from KKT Points

For $u = (u_1, \dots, u_N) \in \mathcal{P}$, consider the following optimization problem:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \delta_i := \min_{x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}} & f_i(x_i, u_{-i}) - f_i(u_i, u_{-i}) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_{i,j}(x_i, u_{-i}) = 0 \quad \text{if } j \in \mathcal{E}_i \\ & g_{i,j}(x_i, u_{-i}) \geq 0 \quad \text{if } j \in \mathcal{J}_i \end{array} \right.$$

If u is a GNE, then each u_i is a minimizer.

We solve the optimization problem using the moment-SOS relaxation.

Experiments

Example 1) Non-convex Problem

$$\text{1st player : } \begin{cases} \min_{x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^2} & 3x_{2,1}(x_{1,1})^3 + 5(x_{1,2})^3 - 2 \sum_{j=1}^2 x_{1,j} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^2 x_{2,j} \\ s.t. & 5x_{1,1} - 2x_{1,2} + 3x_{2,2} - 1 \geq 0, 3 - x_{2,1} \cdot x_1^T x_1 \geq 0, \\ & x_{1,1} \geq -2, x_{1,2} \geq 1; \end{cases}$$

$$\text{2nd player : } \begin{cases} \min_{x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2} & (2x_{1,1} + 3x_{1,2})(x_{2,1})^3 - 3x_{2,1} + 7(x_{2,2})^2 + 5x_{1,1}x_{1,2}x_{2,2} \\ s.t. & 7x_{1,2} + 3x_{2,2} - 5x_{2,1}^2 + 3 \geq 0, 2x_{2,1} \geq -1, \\ & 2 - x_{2,2} \geq 0, 5 + x_{2,2} \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

The KKT system has the mixed volume 480, Solving using HomotopyContinuation.jl, it 480 KKT points and gives a unique GNE in 5.75 seconds (4 seconds to compute KKT points, 1.75 seconds for selecting).

(0.7636, 1, 0.47, -0.2727)

Experiments

Example 1) Non-convex Problem

$$\text{1st player : } \begin{cases} \min_{x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^2} & 3x_{2,1}(x_{1,1})^3 + 5(x_{1,2})^3 - 2 \sum_{j=1}^2 x_{1,j} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^2 x_{2,j} \\ s.t. & 5x_{1,1} - 2x_{1,2} + 3x_{2,2} - 1 \geq 0, 3 - x_{2,1} \cdot x_1^T x_1 \geq 0, \\ & x_{1,1} \geq -2, x_{1,2} \geq 1; \end{cases}$$

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$$(0.7636, 1, 0.47, -0.2727)$$

Experiments

Example 2) Convex Problem

Example A.3 of **[Facchinei-Kanzow 2010]**

A 3-player game with objectives $f_i = \frac{1}{2}x_i^\top A_i x_i + x_i^\top (B_i x_{-i} + b_i)$ where

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 20 & 5 & 3 \\ 5 & 5 & -5 \\ 3 & -5 & 15 \end{bmatrix}, A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & -1 \\ -1 & 9 \end{bmatrix}, A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 48 & 39 \\ 39 & 53 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & 10 & 11 & 20 \\ 10 & -4 & -17 & 9 \\ 15 & 8 & -22 & 21 \end{bmatrix}, B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 20 & 1 & -3 & 12 & 1 \\ 10 & -4 & 8 & 16 & 21 \end{bmatrix}, B_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -2 & 22 & 12 & 16 \\ 9 & 19 & 21 & -4 & 20 \end{bmatrix}, b_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, b_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, b_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Constraints are given $-10 \leq x \leq 10$, $g_{1,1} = 20 - x_{1,1} - x_{1,2} - x_{1,3} \geq 0$, $g_{1,2} = x_{2,1} - x_{3,2} - x_{1,1} - x_{1,2} + x_{1,3} + 5 \geq 0$, $g_{2,1} = x_{1,2} + x_{1,3} - x_{3,1} - x_{2,1} + x_{2,2} + 7 \geq 0$, $g_{3,1} = x_{1,1} + x_{1,3} - x_{2,1} - x_{3,2} + 4 \geq 0$.

Experiments

Example 2) Convex Problem

Example A.3 of **[Facchinei-Kanzow 2010]**

The mixed volume : 12096

Solution found : 11631 KKT points

GNE found : 5 GNEs found with 4 newly found

Elapsed time : 177 seconds

Experiments

Comparison

Comparison with known methods on Example 1) and 2) :

Interior point method (**Dreves-Facchinei-Kanzow-Sagratella 2011**)

Augmented Lagrangian method (**Kanzow-Steck 2016**)

Gauss-Seidel method (**Nie-Tang-Xu 2021**)

Semidefinite relaxation (**Nie-Tang 2021**)

Experiments

Comparison

IPM : Interior point method, **ALM** : Augmented Lagrangian method, **GSM** : Gauss-Seidel method, **SDP** : Semidefinite relaxation,

PHC : Solved by using the polyhedral homotopy method (`HomotopyContinuation.jl`)

		IPM	ALM	GSM	SDP	PHC
Example 1)	Time	Fail	Fail	11.47	17.89	5.75
	Error			$4 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$1 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$2 \cdot 10^{-8}$
Example 2)	Time	3.12	1.50	Fail	11.55	177
	Error	$2 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$1 \cdot 10^{-7}$		$2 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$1 \cdot 10^{-6}$ (5 GNEs)

Experiments

Example 3) Random nonconvex GNEP

Consider N -player GNEP whose i -th player's optimization problem is

$$\begin{cases} \min_{x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}} & f_i(x_i, x_{-i}) \\ \text{s.t.} & -x_i^\top A_i x_i + x_{-i}^\top B_i x_i + c_i^\top x \geq d_i \end{cases}$$

where $A_i = R_i^\top R_i$ with randomly generated $R_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times n_i}$ and $B_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times (n-n_i)}$, $c_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $d_i \in \mathbb{R}$.

The objective f_i is a dense polynomial of degree d with randomly generated real coefficients.

For various (d, N, n_i) -values, solve the problem 100 times and record the success rate (for finding mixed volume many KKT points) and elapsed time (solving KKT + selecting GNEs).

Experiments

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Experiments

Example 3) Random nonconvex GNEP

d	N	n_i	Mixed volume	Success rate	Average time
2	2	2	25	100 %	0.0563 + 1.1330
	2	3	49	100 %	0.1802 + 1.5098
	3	2	125	100 %	0.8473 + 3.1890
3	2	2	100	100 %	0.1893 + 2.5667
	2	3	484	100 %	2.1800 + 5.7500
	3	2	1000	97 %	5.2550 + 14.4360
4	2	2	289	100 %	0.8270 + 4.4256
	2	3	2809	95 %	24.5330 + 21.9054
	3	2	4913	95 %	44.0899 + 40.6792

Thank you for your attention