

# HW help: proving polyhedrality

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

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How to prove a set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is polyhedral?

One, often difficult way, is to write  $S = \{x: Ax \leq b, Fx = d\}$ . Usually we have tricks:

## Tricks

① Finite intersection of polyhedral sets is still polyhedral

② "lift-and-project"  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , then "lift" to a larger space  $\mathbb{R}^{n+k}$  by introducing new variables, and  $S = P(T)$ ,  $T$  a polyhedral set in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+k} \Rightarrow S$  polyhedral  
 ↑ project

(Why does this work?  $T$  polyhedral  $\Rightarrow \exists \{z_1, \dots, z_m\} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+k}$  s.t.  $T = \text{conv}(\{z_1, \dots, z_m\})$   
 $\Rightarrow S = \text{conv}(\{Pz_1, \dots, Pz_m\}) \Rightarrow S$  polyhedral)  
 ↘ via ③

③  $\text{conv}(V)$ ,  $\underbrace{|V|}_{\text{finite set}} < \infty$ , is polyhedral. So find vertices  $V$

Why?  $\text{conv}(\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}) = \{x = \sum_{i=1}^m t_i \vec{v}_i : \sum t_i = 1, t_i \geq 0\}$   
 encode as

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & -A \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{where } t = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 \\ \vdots \\ t_m \end{bmatrix}$$

$A = [v_1, \dots, v_m]$   $n \times m$  matrix

encode as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & I^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} = 1$$

encode as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} \geq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

So  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix}$  is polyhedral, so projection to just  $x$  is polyhedral (trick ②)

In my quick justifications, I used ③ to prove ② (in fact I used an "iff" version of ③), and used ② to prove ③ ... so not an actual proof)