

## §Prune-and-Search

- **The selection problem**

input: A set  $S$  of  $n$  elements

output: The  $k$ th smallest element of  $S$

- the median problem: to find the  $\left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil$ th smallest element.
- the straightforward algorithm:
  - step 1: Sort the  $n$  elements
  - step 2: Locate the  $k$ th element in the sorted list.

time complexity:  $O(n \log n)$

- **prune-and-search**

$S = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$

Let  $p \in S$ , use  $p$  to partition  $S$  into 3 subsets  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ ,  $S_3$ :

$S_1 = \{a_i \mid a_i < p, 1 \leq i \leq n\}$

$S_2 = \{a_i \mid a_i = p, 1 \leq i \leq n\}$

$S_3 = \{a_i \mid a_i > p, 1 \leq i \leq n\}$

If  $|S_1| > k$ , then the  $k$ th smallest element of  $S$  is in  $S_1$ , prune away  $S_2$  and  $S_3$ .

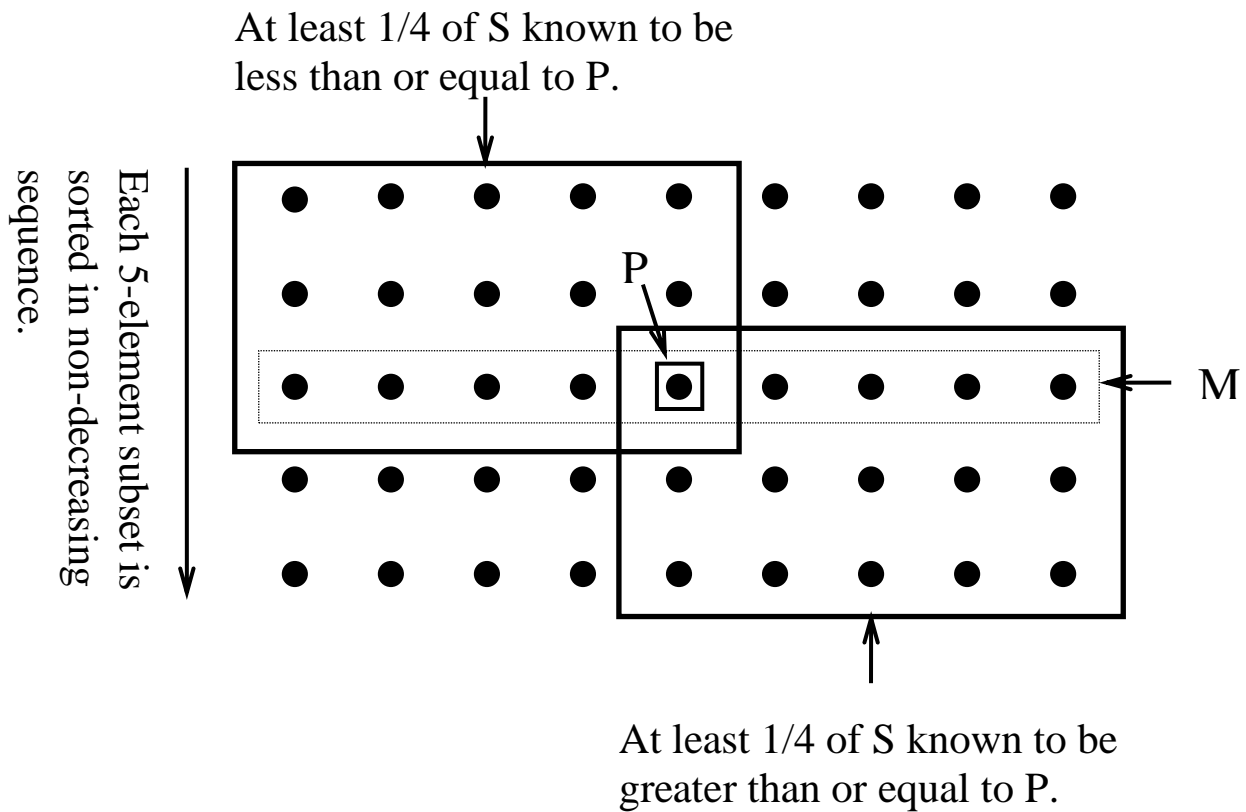
Else, if  $|S_1| + |S_2| > k$ , then  $p$  is the  $k$ th smallest element of  $S$ .

Else, the  $k$ th smallest element of  $S$  is the  $k - |S_1| - |S_2|$ th smallest element in  $S_3$ , prune away  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ .

How to select P?

The  $n$  elements are divided into  $\left\lceil \frac{n}{5} \right\rceil$  subsets.

(Each subset has 5 elements.)



## **Algorithm 7.1 A Prune-and-Search Algorithm to Find the Kth Smallest Element**

**Input:** A set  $S$  of  $n$  elements.

**Output:** The  $k$ th smallest element of  $S$ .

**Step 1.** Divide  $S$  into  $\lceil n/5 \rceil$  subsets. Each subset contains five elements. Add some dummy  $\infty$  elements to the last subset if  $n$  is not a net multiple of 5.

**Step 2.** Sort each subset of elements.

**Step 3.** Find the element  $p$  which is the median of the medians of the  $\lceil n/5 \rceil$  subsets.

**Step 4.** Partition  $S$  into  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$  and  $S_3$ , which contain the elements less than, equal to, and greater than  $p$ , respectively.

**Step 5.** If  $|S_1| \geq k$ , then discard  $S_2$  and  $S_3$  and solve the problem that selects the  $k$ th smallest element from  $S_1$  during the next iteration; else if  $|S_1| + |S_2| \geq k$  then  $p$  is the  $k$ th smallest element of  $S$ ; otherwise, let  $k' = k - |S_1| - |S_2|$ , solve the problem that selects the  $k'$ th smallest element from  $S_3$  during the next iteration.

At least  $n/4$  elements are pruned away during each iteration.

The problem remaining in step 5 contains at most  $3n/4$  elements.

time complexity:  $T(n) = O(n)$

step 1:  $O(n)$

step 2:  $O(n)$

step 3:  $T(n/5)$

step 4:  $O(n)$

step 5:  $T(3n/4)$

$$T(n) = T(3n/4) + T(n/5) + O(n)$$

Let  $T(n) = a_0 + a_1n + a_2n^2 + \dots$ ,  $a_1 \neq 0$

$$T(3n/4) = a_0 + (3/4)a_1n + (9/16)a_2n^2 + \dots$$

$$T(n/5) = a_0 + (1/5)a_1n + (1/25)a_2n^2 + \dots$$

$$T(3n/4 + n/5) = T(19n/20) = a_0 + (19/20)a_1n + (361/400)a_2n^2 + \dots$$

$$T(3n/4) + T(n/5) \leq a_0 + T(19n/20)$$

$$\Rightarrow T(n) \leq cn + T(19n/20)$$

$$\leq cn + (19/20)cn + T((19/20)^2n)$$

$\vdots$

$$\leq cn + (19/20)cn + (19/20)^2cn + \dots$$

$$+ (19/20)^p cn + T((19/20)^{p+1}n) \quad ,$$

$$(19/20)^{p+1}n \leq 1 \leq (19/20)^pn$$

$$= \frac{1 - (\frac{19}{20})^{p+1}}{1 - \frac{19}{20}} cn + b$$

$$\leq 20 cn + b$$

$$= O(n)$$

general form:

$$T(n) = T((1-f)n) + O(n^k)$$

Let  $1/(1-f) = a$  ,  $a^p = n$  ,  $p = \log_a n$

$$T(n) = T((1-f)n) + cn^k$$

$$= T((1-f)^2n) + c(1-f)^kn^k + cn^k$$

$$\vdots$$

$$= c + cn^k + c(1-f)^kn^k + c(1-f)^{2k}n^k + \dots +$$

$$c(1-f)^{pk}n^k$$

$$= c + cn^k (1 + (1-f)^k + (1-f)^{2k} + \dots + (1-f)^p)$$

$$\leq c + cn^k/(1-(1-f))$$

$$= c + cn^k/f$$

$$= O(n^k)$$

- **Linear programming with two variables**

$$\begin{cases} \text{minimize } ax + by \\ \text{subject to } a_i x + b_i y \geq c_i \quad , i = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{cases}$$

- Simplified two-variable linear programming problem:

$$\begin{cases} \text{minimize } y \\ \text{subject to } y \geq a_i x + b_i \quad , i = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{cases}$$

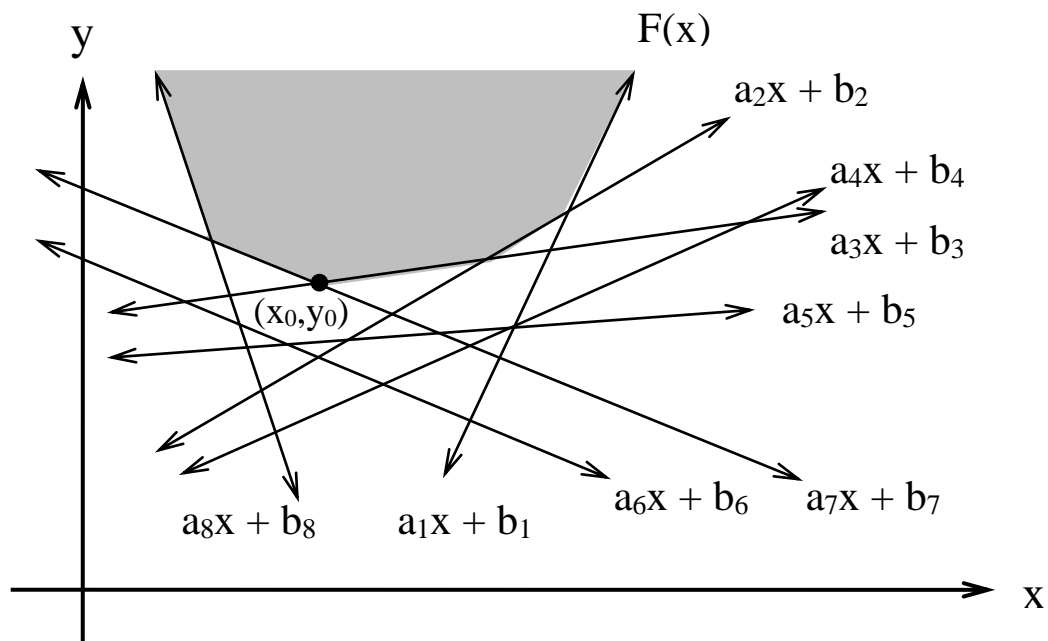


Fig. 7-2 An Example of the Special Two-Variable Linear Programming Problem

the boundary  $F(x)$ :

$$F(x) = \max_{-\infty < x < \infty} \{a_i x + b_i\}$$

the optimum solution  $x_0$ :

$$F(x_0) = \min_{-\infty < x < \infty} F(x)$$

Delete constraints:

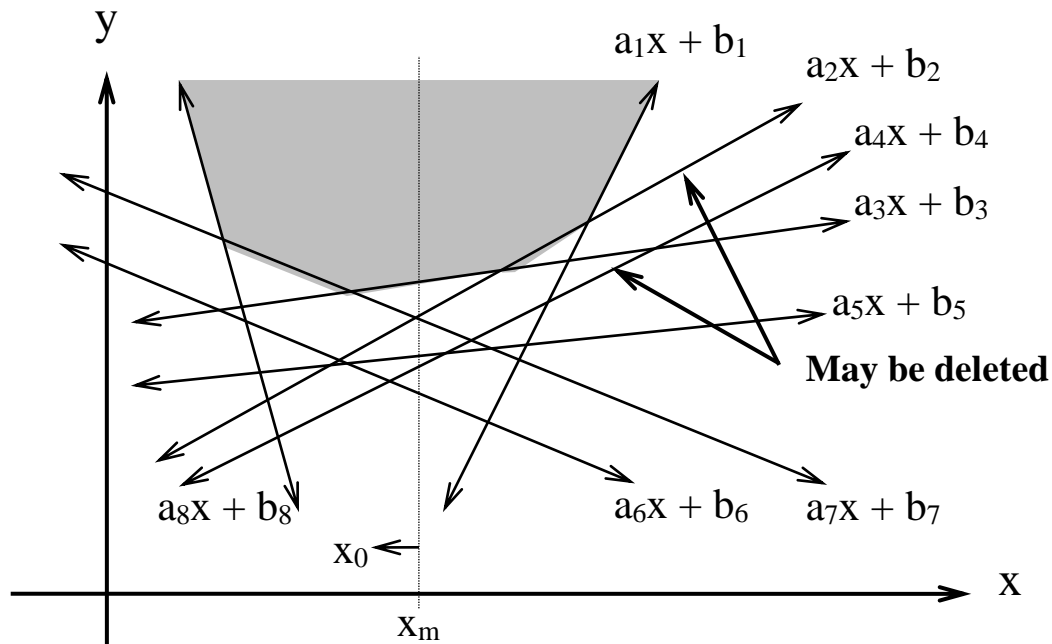


Fig. 7-3 Constraints which May be Eliminate in the Two-Variable Linear Programming Problem

If  $x_0 < x_m$  and the intersection of  $a_1x + b_1$  and  $a_2x + b_2$  is greater than  $x_m$ , then one of these two constraints is always smaller than the other for  $x < x_m$ . Thus, this constraint can be deleted.

It is similar for  $x_0 > x_m$ .

- Suppose an  $x_m$  is known. How do we know whether  $x_0 < x_m$  or  $x_0 > x_m$  ?

Let  $y_m = F(x_m) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{a_i x_m + b_i\}$

**Case 1:**  $y_m$  is on only one constraint.

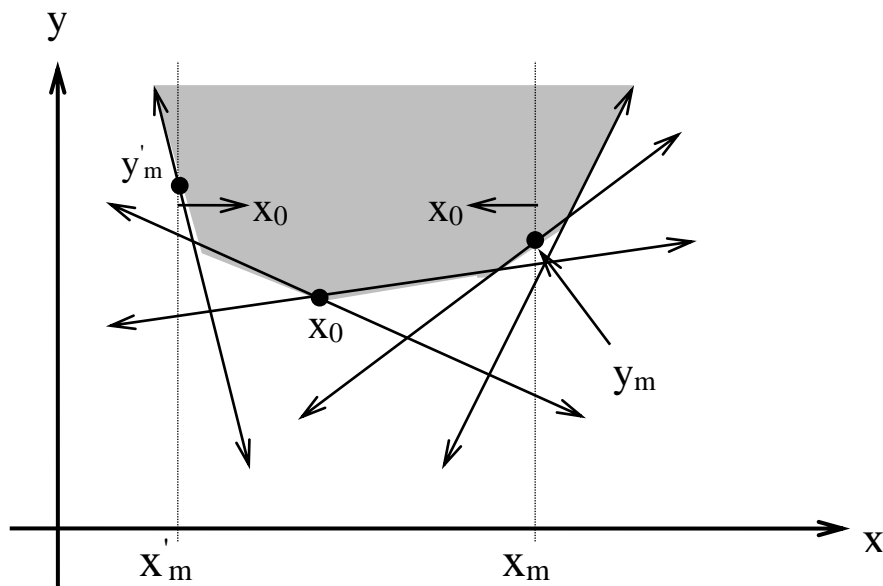


Fig.7-5 The Cases where  $x_m$  Is on Only One Constraint

Let  $g$  denote the slope of this constraint.

If  $g > 0$ , then  $x_0 < x_m$ .

If  $g < 0$ , then  $x_0 > x_m$ .



**Case 2:**  $y_m$  is the intersection of several constraints.

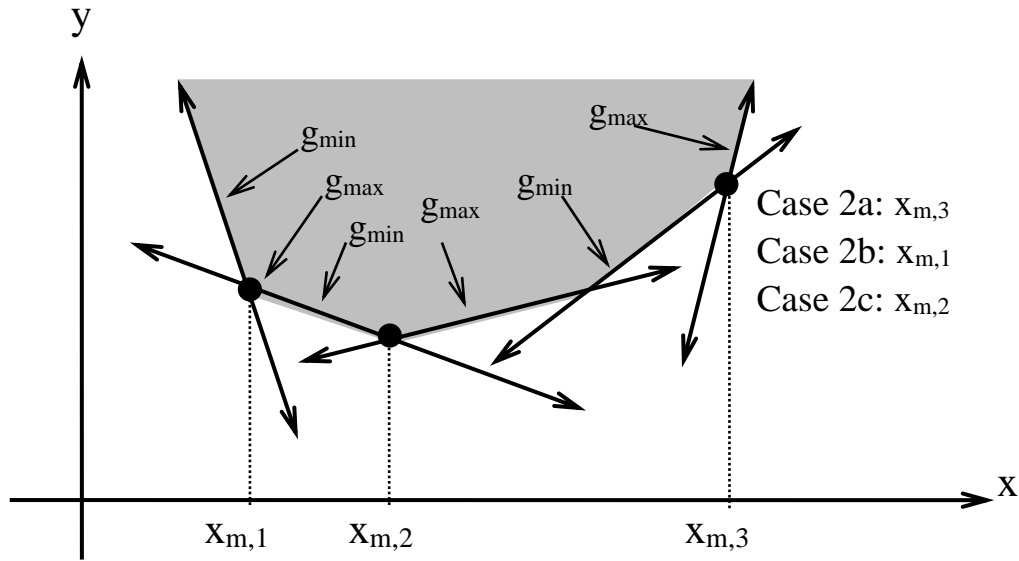


Fig. 7-6 Cases of  $x_m$  on the Intersection of Several Constraints

Let  $g_{max} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{a_i \mid a_i x_m + b_i = F(x_m)\}$ , max.

slope

$g_{min} = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{a_i \mid a_i x_m + b_i = F(x_m)\}$ , min. slop

**Case 2a:**  $g_{min} > 0, g_{max} > 0 \Rightarrow x_0 < x_m$

**Case 2b:**  $g_{min} < 0, g_{max} < 0 \Rightarrow x_0 > x_m$

**Case 2c:**  $g_{min} < 0, g_{max} > 0 \Rightarrow (x_m, y_m)$  is the optimum solution.

- **How do we choose  $x_m$  ?**

We arbitrarily group the  $n$  constraints into  $n/2$  pairs. For each pair, find their intersection. Among these  $n/2$  intersections, choose the median of their  $x$ -coordinates as  $x_m$ .

## **Algorithm 7.2 A Prune-and-Search Algorithm to Solve a Special Linear Programming Problem.**

**Input:** Constrains S:  $a_jx + b_j$ ,  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Output:** The value  $x_0$  such that  $y$  is minimized at  $x_0$  subject to  $y \geq a_jx + b_j$ ,  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Step 1.** If S contains no more than two constraints, solve this problem by a brute force method.

**Step 2.** Divide S into  $n/2$  pairs of constraints. For each pair of constraints  $a_ix + b_i$  and  $a_jx + b_j$ , find the intersection  $p_{ij}$  of them and denote its  $x$ -value as  $x_{ij}$ .

**Step 3.** Among the  $x_{ij}$ 's (at most  $n/2$ ) of them, find the median  $x_m$ .

**Step 4.** Determine  $y_m = F(x_m) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{a_ix_m + b_i\}$

$$g_{\min} = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{a_i \mid a_ix_m + b_i = F(x_m)\}$$

$$g_{\max} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{a_i \mid a_ix_m + b_i = F(x_m)\}$$

**Step 5.**

**Case 5a.** If  $g_{\min}$  and  $g_{\max}$  are not of the same sign,  $y_m$  is the solution and exit.

**Case 5b.** otherwise,  $x_0 < x_m$ , if  $g_{\min} > 0$ , and  $x_0 > x_m$ , if  $g_{\min} < 0$ .

**Step 6.**

**Case 6a.** If  $x_0 < x_m$ , for each pair of constraints whose  $x$ -coordinate intersection is larger than  $x_m$ , prune away the constraint which is always smaller than the other for  $x \leq x_m$ .

**Case 6b.** If  $x_0 > x_m$ , for each pair of constraints whose x-coordinate intersection is less than  $x_m$ , prune away the constraint which is always smaller than the other for  $x \geq x_m$ .

Let  $S$  denote the remaining of contains. Go to Step 2.

There are totally  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  intersections. Thus,  $\lfloor n/4 \rfloor$  constraints are pruned away for each iteration.

time complexity:  $O(n)$

● **The general two-variable linear programming problem:**

$$\begin{cases} \text{minimize } ax + by \\ \text{subject to } a_i x + b_i y \geq c_i \quad , i = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{cases}$$

Let  $x' = x$

$$y' = ax + by$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\begin{cases} \text{minimize } y' \\ \text{subject to } a_i' x' + b_i' y' \geq c_i' \quad , i = 1, 2, \dots, n \\ \text{where } a_i' = a_i - b_i a / b \\ \quad b_i' = b_i / b \\ \quad c_i' = c_i \end{cases}$$

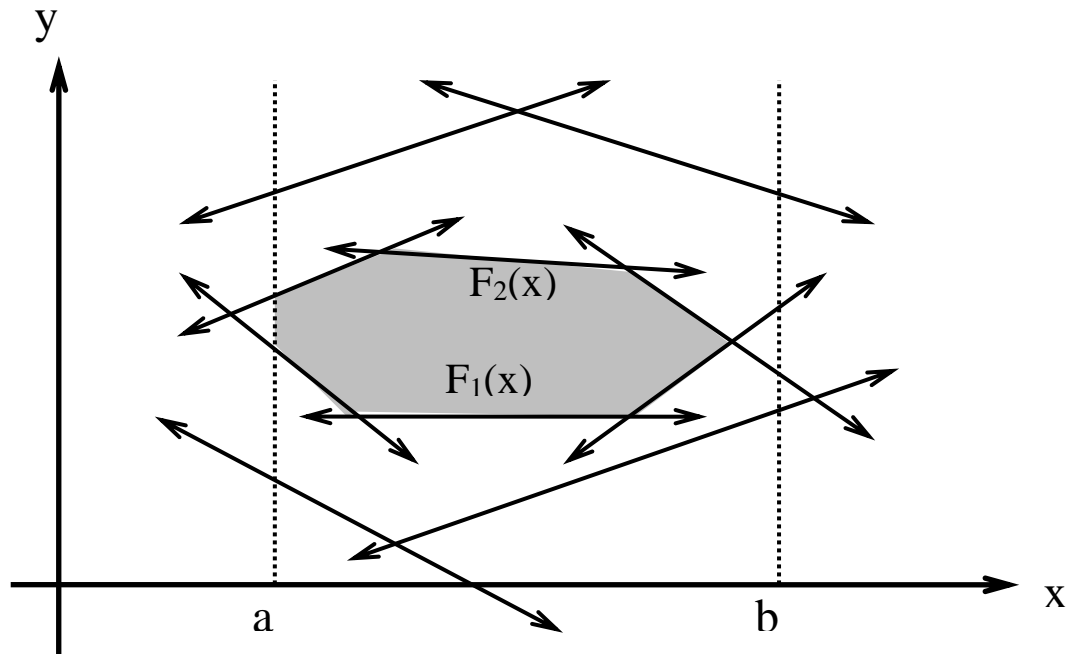
Change the symbols and rewrite as:

$$\begin{cases} \text{minimize } y \\ \text{subject to } y \geq a_i x + b_i y \quad (i \in I_1) \\ \quad y \leq a_i x + b_i y \quad (i \in I_2) \\ \quad a \leq x \leq b \end{cases}$$

define:

$$F_1(x) = \max \{a_i x + b_i, i \in I_1\}$$

$$F_2(x) = \min \{a_i x + b_i, i \in I_2\}$$



⇓

minimize  $F_1(x)$

subject to  $F_1(x) \leq F_2(x)$

$a \leq x \leq b$

.....

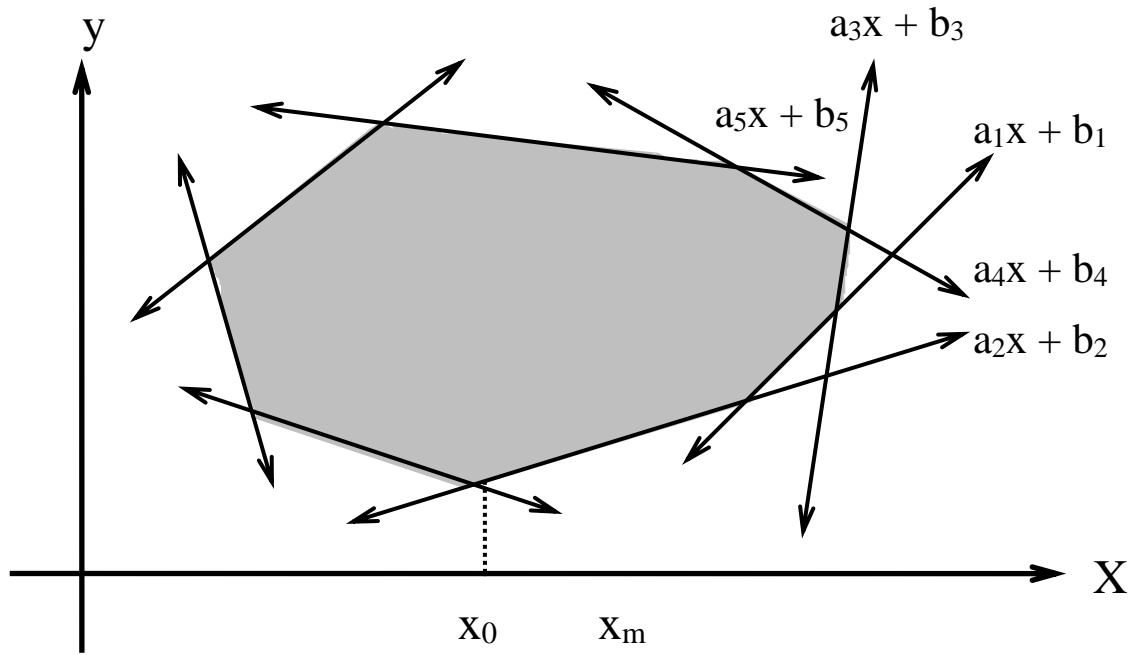


Fig. 7-9 The Pruning of Constraints for the General Two-Variable Linear Programming Problem

In Fig. 7-9, if we know  $x_0 < x_m$ , then  $a_1x + b_1$  can be delete because  $a_1x + b_1 < a_2x + b_2$  for  $x < x_m$ .

Let  $F(x) = F_1(x) - F_2(x)$

$x_m$  is feasible  $\Leftrightarrow F(x_m) \leq 0$

define:

$$g_{\min} = \min \{a_i \mid i \in I_1, a_i x_m + b_i = F_1(x_m)\},$$

min. slope

$$g_{\max} = \max \{a_i \mid i \in I_1, a_i x_m + b_i = F_1(x_m)\},$$

max. slope

$$h_{\min} = \min \{a_i \mid i \in I_2, a_i x_m + b_i = F_2(x_m)\},$$

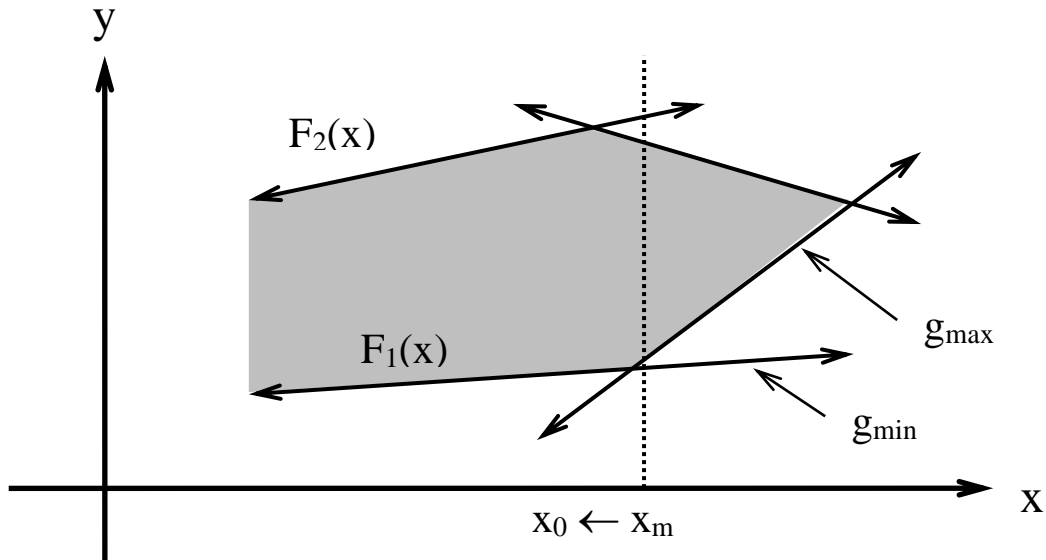
min. slope

$$h_{\max} = \max \{a_i \mid i \in I_2, a_i x_m + b_i = F_2(x_m)\},$$

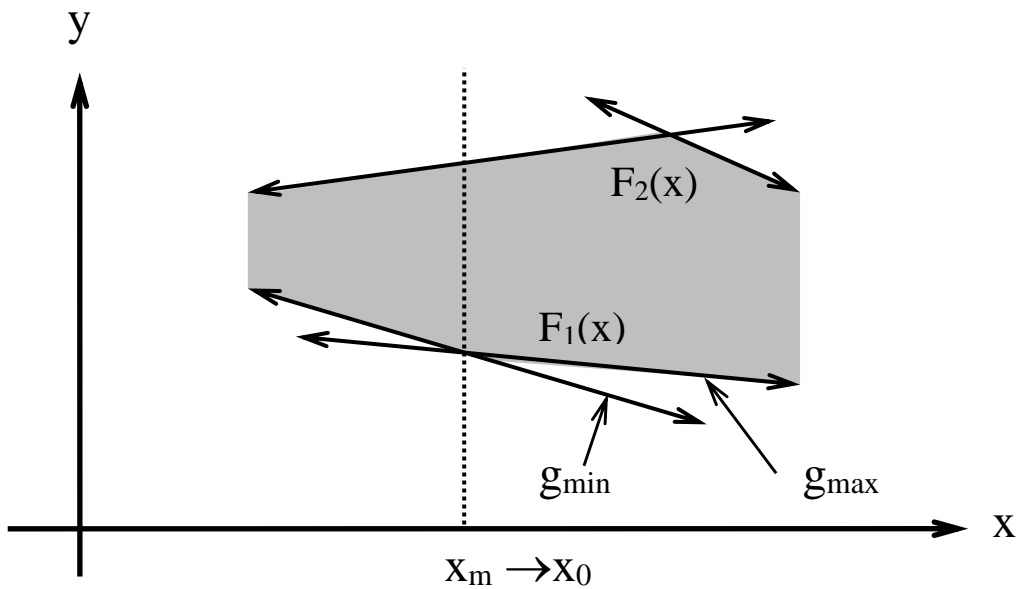
max. slope

**Case 1:**  $F(x_m) \leq 0$   
 $\Rightarrow x_m$  is feasible

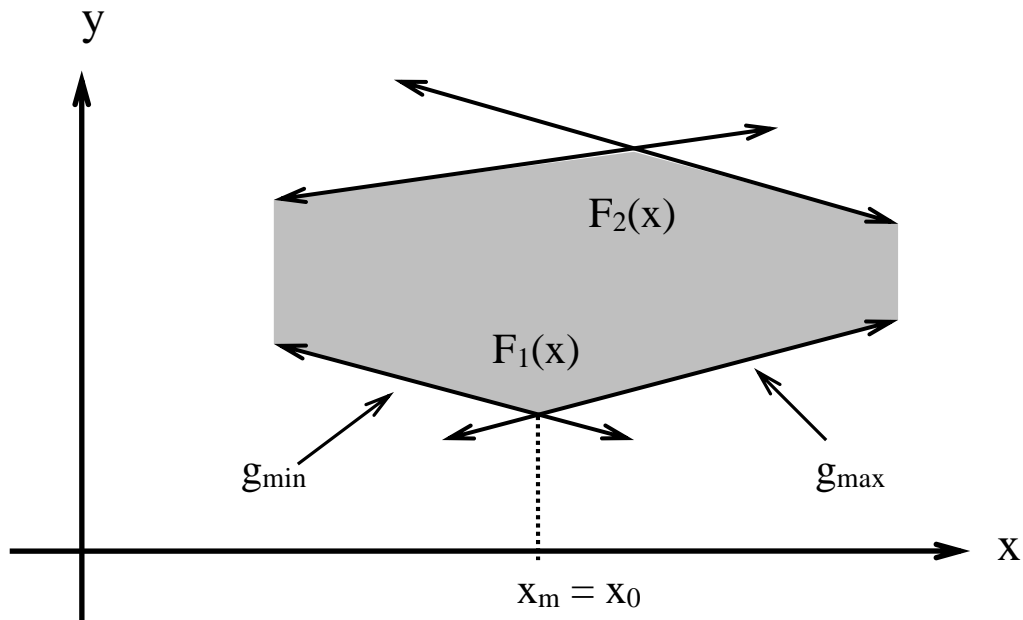
(a) If  $g_{\min} > 0$ ,  $g_{\max} > 0$ , then  $x_0 < x_m$ .



(b) If  $g_{\min} < 0$ ,  $g_{\max} < 0$ , then  $x_0 > x_m$ .

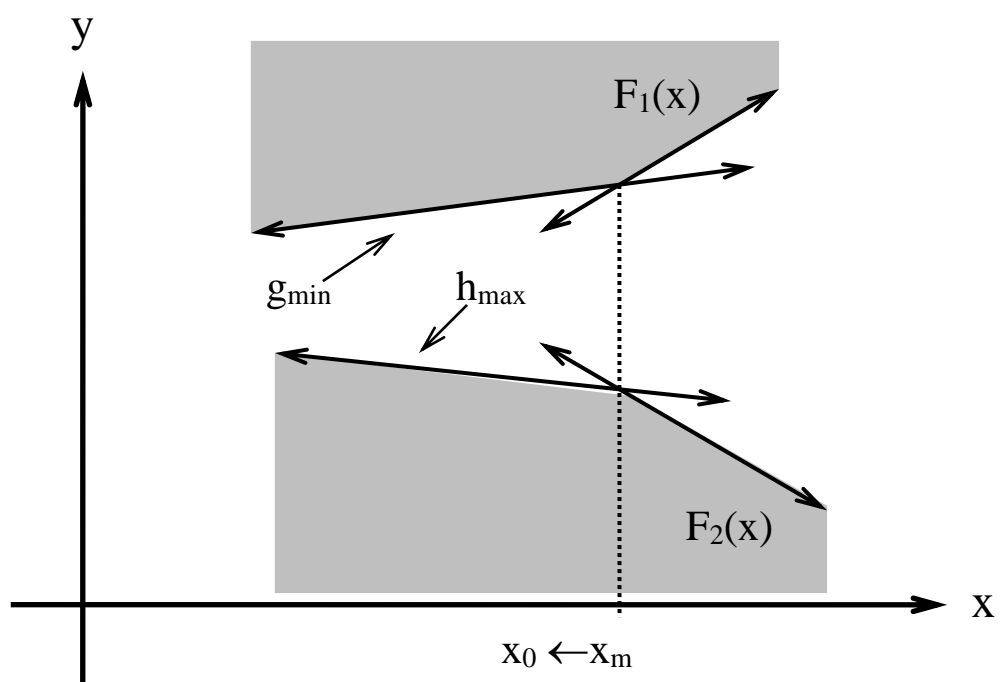


(c) If  $g_{\min} < 0$ ,  $g_{\max} > 0$ , then  $x_m$  is the optimum solution.



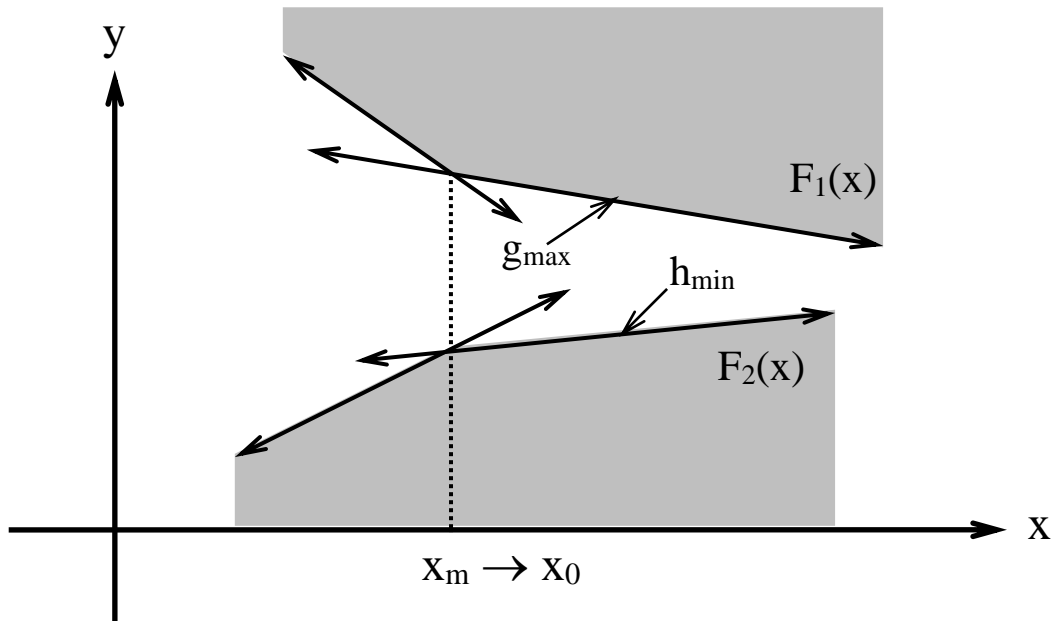
**Case 2:**  $F(x_m) > 0$   
 $\Rightarrow x_m$  is infeasible

(a) If  $g_{\min} > h_{\max}$ , then  $x_0 < x_m$ .

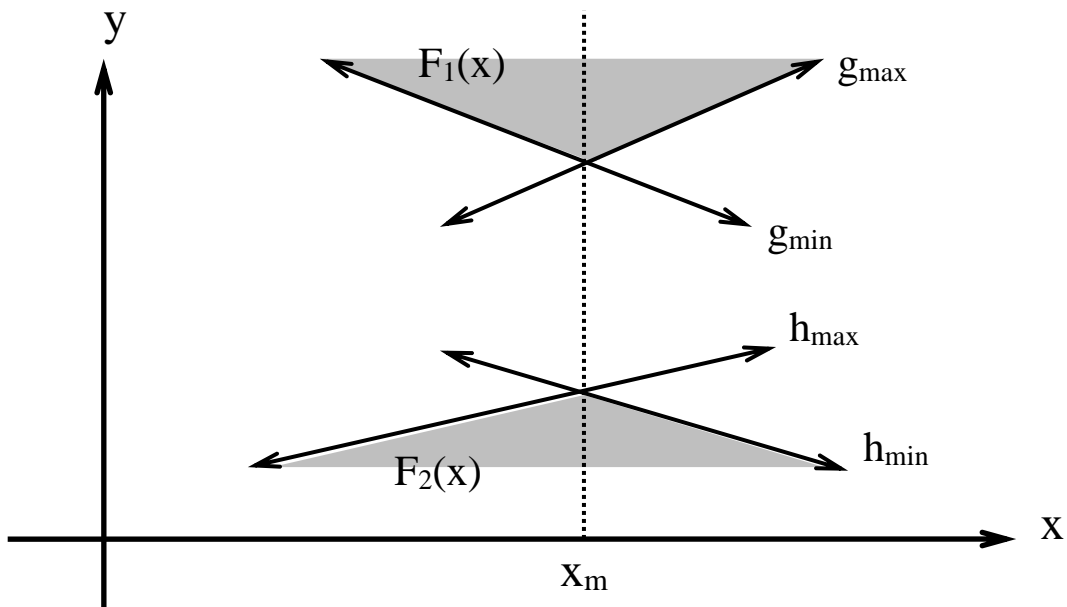




(b) If  $g_{\min} < h_{\max}$ , then  $x_0 > x_m$ .



(c) If  $g_{\min} \leq h_{\max}$ , and  $g_{\max} \geq h_{\min}$ , then no feasible solution exists.



**Algorithm 7.3 A Prune-and-Search Algorithm to  
Solve the Two-Variable Linear Programming  
Problem.**

**Input:**  $I_1: y \geq a_i x + b_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n_1$

$I_2: y \leq a_i x + b_i, i = n_1+1, n_1+2, \dots, n.$

$$a \leq x \leq b$$

**Output:** The value  $x_0$  such that

$y$  is minimized at  $x_0$

subject to  $y \geq a_i x + b_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n_1$

$y \leq a_i x + b_i, i = n_1+1, n_1+2, \dots, n.$

$$a \leq x \leq b$$

**Step 1.** Arrange the constraints in  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  into arbitrary disjoint pairs respectively. For each pair, if  $a_i x + b_i$  is parallel to  $a_j x + b_j$ , delete  $a_i x + b_i$  if  $b_i < b_j$  for  $i, j \in I_1$  or  $b_i > b_j$  for  $i, j \in I_2$ . Otherwise, find the intersection  $p_{ij}$  of  $y = a_i x + b_i$  and  $y = a_j x + b_j$ . Let the  $x$ -coordinate of  $p_{ij}$  be  $x_{ij}$ .

**Step 2.** Find the median  $x_m$  of  $x_{ij}$ 's (at most  $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor$  of them).

**Step 3.** (a) If  $x_m$  is optimal, report this and exit.

(b) If no feasible solution exists, report this and exit.

(c) Otherwise, determine whether the optimum solution lies to the left, or right, of  $x_m$ .

**Step 4.** Discard at least  $1/4$  of the constraints.  
Go to Step 1.

time complexity:  $O(n)$

- **The 1-center problem**

Given  $n$  planar points, find a smallest circle to cover these  $n$  points.

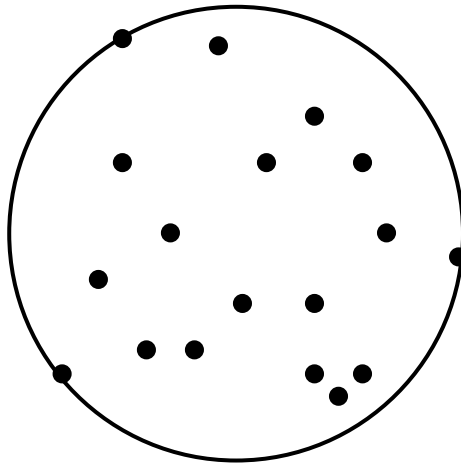
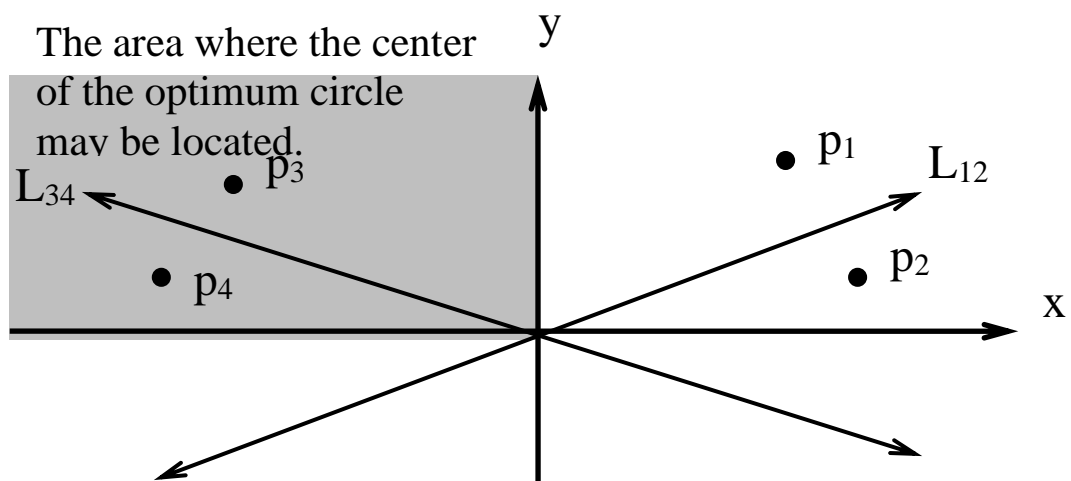


Fig. 7-16 The 1-Center Problem



$L_{12}$ : bisector of  $\overline{p_1 p_2}$ ,  $L_{34}$ : bisector of  $\overline{p_3 p_4}$

$p_1$  can be eliminated without affecting our solution.

- **The constrained 1-center problem:**

The center is restricted to lying on a straight line.

## **Algorithm 7.4 An Algorithm to Solve the Constrained 1-Center Problem.**

**Input:**  $n$  points and a straight line  $y = y'$ .

**Output:** The constrained center on the straight line  $y = y'$ .

**Step 1.** If  $n$  is no more than 2, solve this problem by a brute-force method.

**Step 2.** Form disjoint pairs of points  $(p_1, p_2), (p_3, p_4), \dots, (p_{n-1}, p_n)$ . If there are odd number of points, just let the final pair be  $(p_n, p_1)$ .

**Step 3.** For each pair of points,  $(p_i, p_{i+1})$ , find the point  $x_{i,i+1}$  on the line  $y = y'$  such that  $d(p_i, x_{i,i+1}) = d(p_{i+1}, x_{i,i+1})$ .

**Step 4.** Find the median of the  $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor$   $x_{i,i+1}$ 's. Denote it as  $x_m$ .

**Step 5.** Calculate the distance between  $p_i$  and  $x_m$  for all  $i$ . Let  $p_j$  be the point which is the farthest from  $x_m$ . Let  $x_j$  denote the projection of  $p_j$  onto  $y = y'$ . If  $x_j$  is to the left (right) of  $x_m$ , then the optimal solution,  $x^*$ , must be to the left (right) of  $x_m$ .

**Step 6.** If  $x^* < x_m$  (as illustrated in Fig. 7-18),  
for each  $x_{i,i+1} > x_m$ , prune the point  $p_i$  if  $p_i$   
is closer to  $x_m$  than  $p_{i+1}$   
otherwise prune the point  $p_{i+1}$ ;

If  $x^* > x_m$ ,

for each  $x_{i,i+1} < x_m$ , prune the point  $p_i$  if  $p_i$   
is closer to  $x_m$  than  $p_{i+1}$ ;

otherwise prune the point  $p_{i+1}$ .

**Step 7.** Go to Step 1.

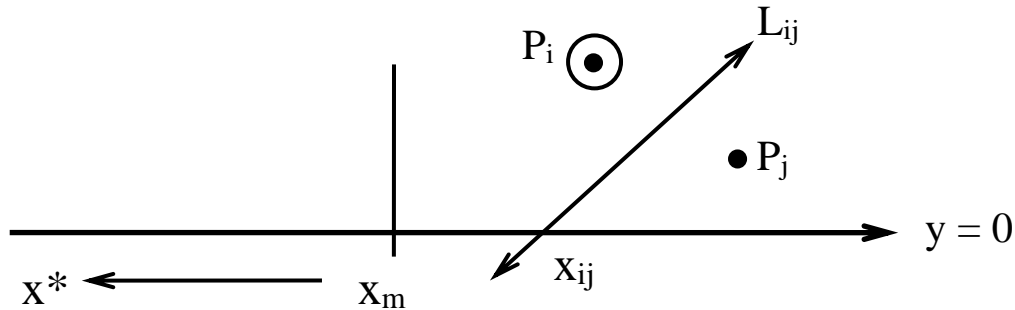


Fig. 7-18 The Pruning of Points in the Constrained 1-Center Problem

time complexity  $O(n)$

- **The general 1-center problem**

For the constrained 1-center problem, let  $(x^*, 0)$  be the center on the line  $y = 0$ .

Let  $(x_s, y_s)$  be the center of the optimum circle.

Let  $I$  be the set of points which are farthest from  $(x^*, 0)$ .

**Case 1:**  $I$  contains one point  $P = (x_p, y_p)$ .

$y_s$  has the same sign as that of  $y_p$ .

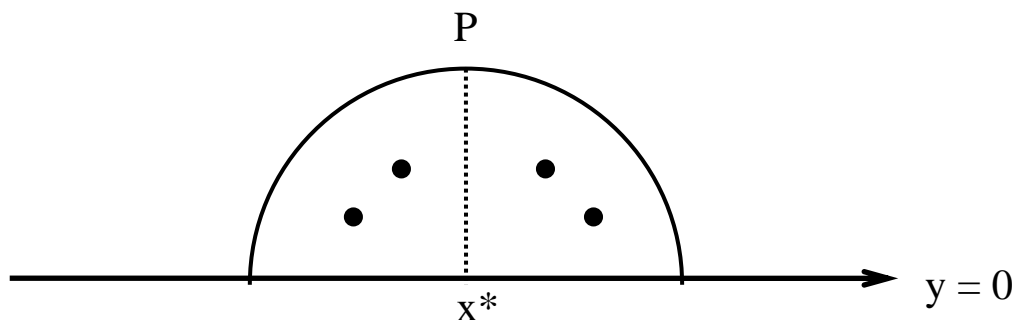
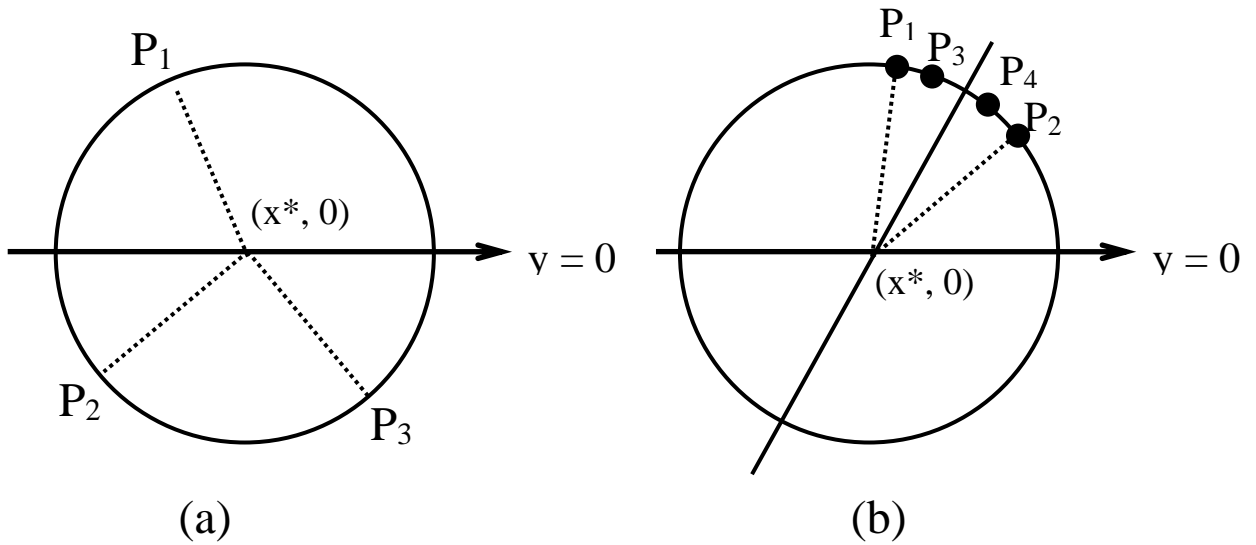


Fig. 7-20 The Case where  $I$  Contains Only One Point  
**Case 2:**  $I$  contains more than one point.

Find the smallest arc spanning all points in I.  
 Let  $P_1 = (x_1, y_1)$  and  $P_2 = (x_2, y_2)$  be the two  
 end points of the smallest spanning arc.

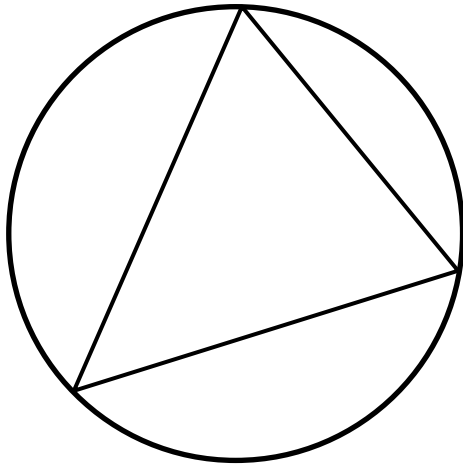
If this arc  $\geq 180^\circ$ , then  $y_s = 0$ .

else  $y_s$  has the same sign as that of  $\frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}$ .



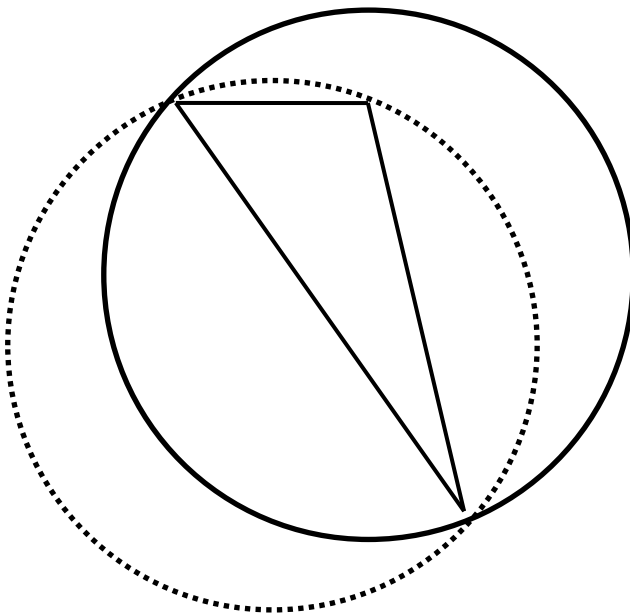
**Why?**

an acute triangle:



The circle is optimal.

an obtuse triangle:



The circle is not optimal.



Consider the case where the smallest spanning arc  $< 180^\circ$ .  $(x_1 - x^*)$  and  $(x_2 - x^*)$  must be of opposite signs. Otherwise, we can move  $x^*$  toward the direction where  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are located.

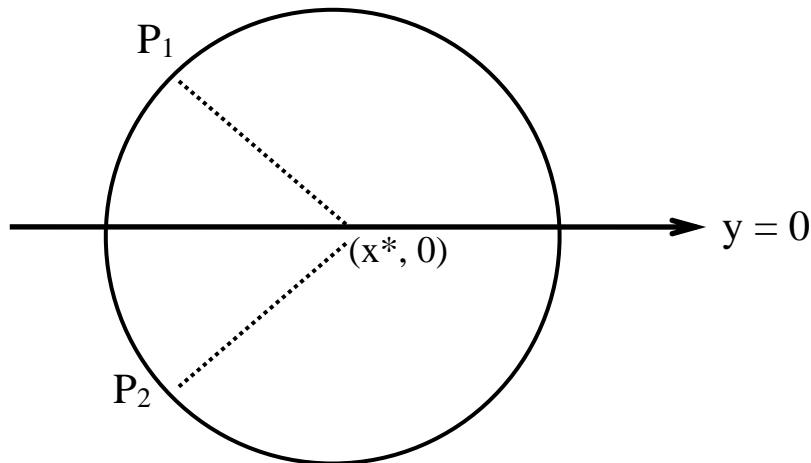


Fig.7-23 The Direction of  $x^*$  where the Degree Is Less than  $180^\circ$

Let  $P_1 = (a, b)$  and  $P_2 = (c, d)$ . without losing generality, we may assume that

$$a > x^*, b > 0$$

and  $c < x^*, d > 0$ .

Let the radius of the current circle be  $r$ .

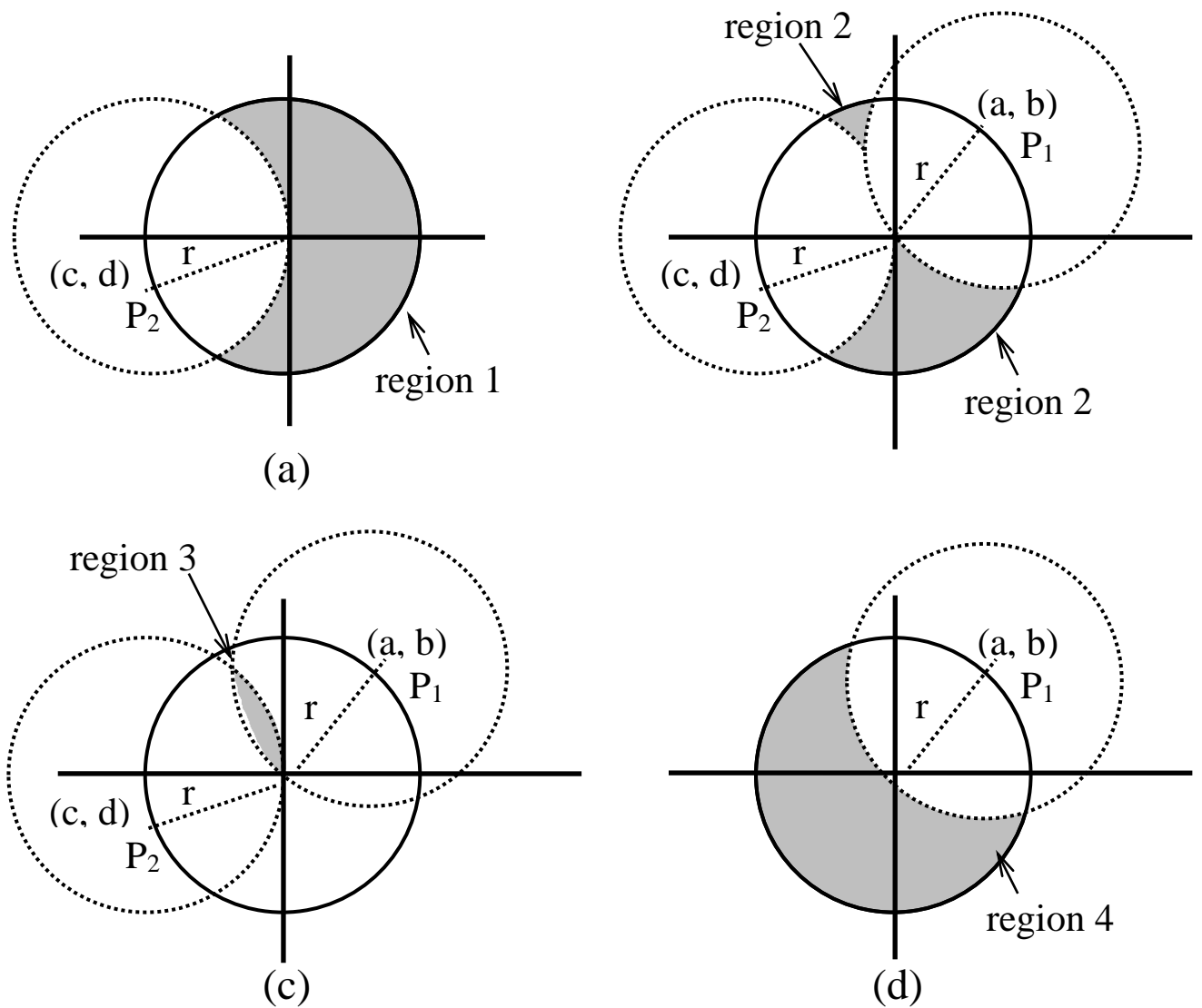


Fig. 7-24 The Direction of  $x^*$  where the Degree is Larger than  $180^\circ$

The optimum center must be located in region 3.

Thus, the sign of  $y_3$  must be the sign of  $\frac{b+d}{2} = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}$ .

Similarly,  $x_s$  has the same sign as that of  $\frac{a+c}{2} = \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}$ .

### **Algorithm 7.5 A Prune-and-Search Algorithm to**

## Solve the 1-Center Problem

**Input:** A set  $S = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$  of  $n$  points.

**Output:** The smallest enclosing circle for  $S$ .

**Step 1.** If  $S$  contains no more than 16 points, solve the problem by a brute-force method.

**Step 2.** From disjoint pairs of points,  $(p_1, p_2), (p_3, p_4), \dots, (p_{n-1}, p_n)$ . For each pair of points,  $(p_i, p_{i+1})$ , find the perpendicular bisector of line segment  $\overline{p_i p_{i+1}}$ . Denote them as  $L_{i/2}$ , for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n$ , and compute their slopes. Let the slope of  $L_k$  be denoted as  $s_k$ , for  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n/2$ .

**Step 3.** Compute the median of  $s_k$ 's, and denote it by  $s_m$ .

**Step 4.** Rotate the coordinate system so that the  $x$ -axis coincide with  $y = s_m x$ . Let the set of  $L_k$ 's with positive (negative) slopes be  $I^+$  ( $I^-$ ). (Both of them are of size  $n/4$ .)

**Step 5.** Construct disjoint pairs of lines,  $(L_{i+}, L_{i-})$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n/4$ , where  $L_{i+} \in I^+$  and  $L_{i-} \in I^-$ . Find the intersection of each pair and denote it by  $(a_i, b_i)$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n/4$ .

**Step 6.** Find the median of  $b_i$ 's. Denote it as  $y^*$ . apply the constrained 1-center subroutine of this constrained 1-center problem be  $(x', y^*)$ .

**Step 7.** Apply procedure 7.2, using  $S$  and  $(x', y^*)$  as the parameters. If  $y_s = y^*$ , report, "The circle

found in step 6 with  $(x', y^*)$  as the center is the optimal solution” and exit.

Otherwise, record  $y_s > y^*$  or  $y_s < y^*$ .

**Step 8.** If  $y_s > y^*$ , find the median of  $a_i$ 's for those  $(a_i, b_i)$ 's where  $b_i < y^*$ . If  $y_s < y^*$ , find the median of those  $(a_i, b_i)$ 's where  $b_i > y^*$ . Denote the median as  $x^*$ . Apply the constrained 1-center algorithm to  $S$ , requiring that the center of circle be located on  $x = x^*$ . Let the solution of this constrained 1-center problem be  $(x^*, y')$ .

**Step 9.** Apply 7.2, using  $S$  and  $(x^*, y')$  as the parameters. If  $x_s = x^*$ , report “the circle found in Step 8 with  $(x^*, y')$  as the center is the optimal solution” and exit. Otherwise, record  $x_s > x^*$  and  $x_s < x^*$ .

**Step 10.**

**Case 1:**  $x_s > x^*$  and  $y_s > y^*$ .

Find all  $(a_i, b_i)$ 's such that  $a_i < x^*$  and  $b_i < y^*$ . Let  $(a_i, b_i)$  be the intersection of  $L_{i+}$  and  $L_{i-}$ . (See Step 5.). Let  $L_{i-}$  be the bisector of  $p_j$  and  $p_k$ . Prune away  $p_j(p_k)$  if  $p_j(p_k)$  is closer to  $(x^*, y^*)$  than  $p_k(p_j)$ .

**Case 2:**  $x_s < x^*$  and  $y_s > y^*$ .

Find all  $(a_i, b_i)$ 's such that  $a_i > x^*$  and  $b_i < y^*$ . Let  $(a_i, b_i)$  be the intersection of  $L_{i+}$  and  $L_{i-}$ . Let  $L_{i+}$  be the bisector of  $p_j$  and  $p_k$ . Prune away  $p_j(p_k)$  if  $p_j(p_k)$  is closer to  $(x^*, y^*)$  than  $p_k(p_j)$ .

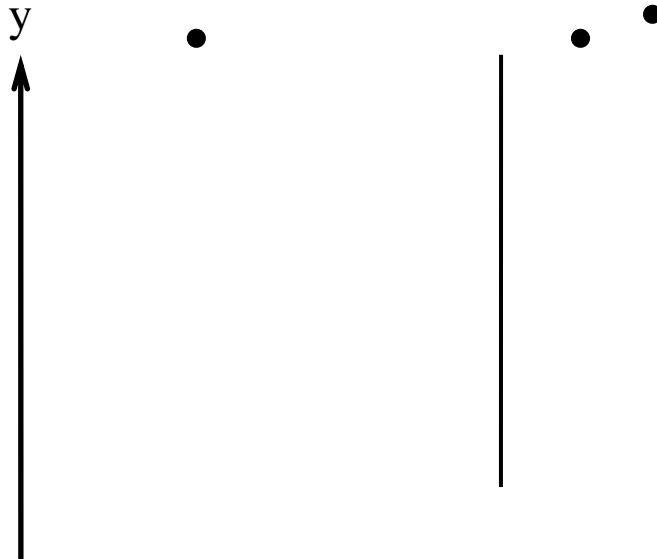
**Case 3:**  $x_s < x^*$  and  $y_s < y^*$ .

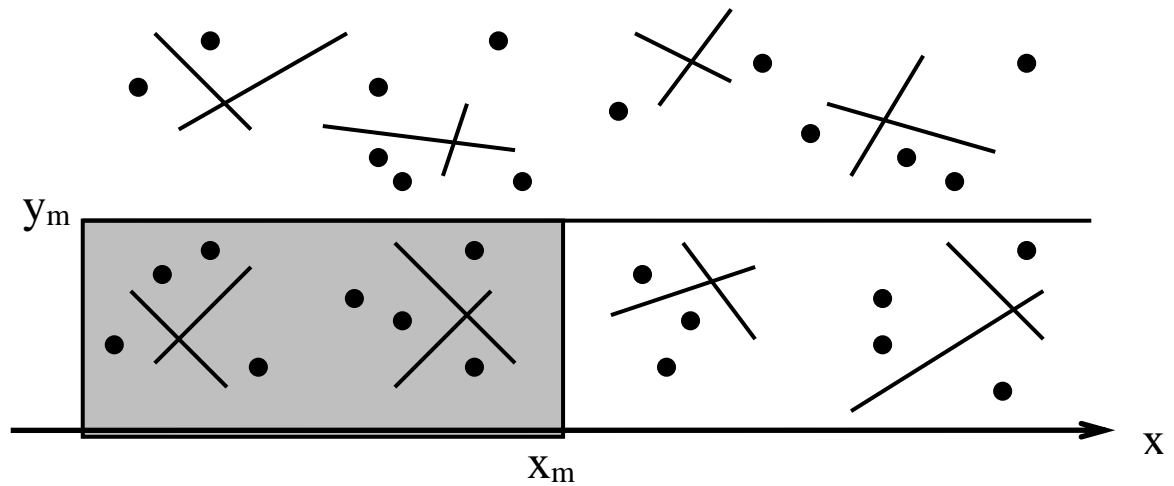
Find all  $(a_i, b_i)$ 's such that  $a_i > x^*$  and  $b_i > y^*$ . Let  $(a_i, b_i)$  be the intersection of  $L_{i+}$  and  $L_{i-}$ . Let  $L_{i-}$  be the bisector of  $p_j$  and  $p_k$ . Prune away  $p_j(p_k)$  if  $p_j(p_k)$  is closer to  $(x^*, y^*)$  than  $p_k(p_j)$ .

**Case 4:**  $x_s > x^*$  and  $y_s < y^*$ .

Find all  $(a_i, b_i)$ 's such that  $a_i < x^*$  and  $b_i > y^*$ . Let  $(a_i, b_i)$  be the intersection of  $L_{i+}$  and  $L_{i-}$ . Let  $L_{i+}$  be the bisector of  $p_j$  and  $p_k$ . Prune away  $p_j(p_k)$  if  $p_j(p_k)$  is closer to  $(x^*, y^*)$  than  $p_k(p_j)$ .

**Step 11.** Let  $S$  be the remaining points. Go to Step 1.





One point for each of  $n/4$  intersections of  $L_{i+}$  and  $L_{i-}$  is pruned away.

Thus,  $n/16$  points are pruned away in each iteration.

time complexity:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(15n/16) + O(n) \\ &= O(n) \end{aligned}$$