Part VI Applications

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Examples and applications of linear conic programs

Content

- Weber problem
- Matrix optimization
- Approximating solutions of linear equations
- Portfolio management
- Minimum of a univariate polynomial of degree 2n
- Stochastic queue location problem
- Robust optimization



Weber problem

In 1909, the German economist Alfred Weber introduced the problem of finding a best location for the warehouse of a company, such that the total transportation cost to serve the customers is minimum. Suppose that there are m customers needing to be served. Let the location of customer i be $a^i \in \mathbb{R}^2, i=1,\ldots,m$. Suppose that customer may have different demands, to be translated as weight ω_i for customer i, $i=1,\ldots,m$. Denote the desired location of the warehouse to be x. Then, the optimization problem is

$$\min \quad \sum_{i=1}^{m} \omega_i t_i$$

$$s.t. \quad \begin{bmatrix} x - a^i \\ t_i \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^3, i = 1, \dots, m$$



Matrix optimization

Given A_0, A_1, \dots, A_m , determine if there is $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ such that

$$A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i \leq 0$$

which is equivalent to

$$\lambda_{\max}(A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i) \le 0$$

Notice that

$$t \ge \lambda_{\max}(A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad tI - A_0 - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i \succeq 0$$

Equivalent Problem (SDP)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & t \\ s.t. & tI - A_0 - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i A_i \succeq 0 \\ & t \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}^m \end{array}$$

Yes: If its optimal value is not positive. No: Otherwise.

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Approximating solutions of linear equations

Given $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$, solve

$$Ax = b$$

Approximation:

• *l*₁ norm:

$$\min_{x} ||Ax - b||_1 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \min_{x} \quad \sum_{i=1}^{m} t_i \\ s.t. \quad -t_i \leq A_i.x - b_i \leq t_i, i = 1, \dots, m.$$

• l_2 norm:

$$\min_{x} \|Ax - b\|_{2} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \min_{s.t.} \quad t \\ s.t. \quad \begin{bmatrix} Ax - b \\ t \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^{m+1}$$

4 D > 4 B > 4 B > 4 B > 1

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Approximating solutions of linear equations

• l_{∞} norm:

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$$\min_{x} ||Ax - b||_{\infty} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \min_{t} \quad t$$
$$s.t. \quad -t \le A_{i}.x - b_{i} \le t, i = 1, \dots, m.$$

• Logarithm approximation: $(b >_{\mathbb{R}^m_+} 0)$

Applications

$$\min_{x} \max_{1 \le i \le m} |\log(A_i \cdot x) - \log b_i| \iff s.t. \quad 1/t \le A_i \cdot x/b_i \le t, i = 1, \dots, m,$$

$$t > 0$$

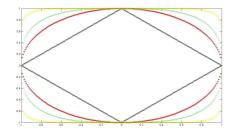
$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{array}{ccc} \min & t \\ \Leftrightarrow & s.t. & \begin{bmatrix} t - A_i \cdot x/b_i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_i \cdot x/b_i & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & t \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$$

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l_p norms

- l_2 norm. Too convex and smooth.
- l_p norm.



Black: 1-norm. Red: 2-norm. Green: 3-norm. Yellow: 8-norm.



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Convex l_p -norm problems

- p-norm domain is convex ($p \ge 1$).
- For set $\{x \mid ||x||_p \le 1\}$, the smallest one is the domain with p = 1, which is the smallest convex set containing integer points $\{-1,1\}^n$.
- For p ≥ 1, the l_p-norm problems with linear objective or linear constraints are polynomially solvable.
- Variants of l_p -norm problems should be considered.
- 0 < p < 1?



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Regularization-Sparsity of decision variables

$$\min_{s.t.} ||Ax - b||_2
s.t. ||x||_0 \le s
x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

Different formulations

$$\min_{s.t.} \|Ax - b\|_2$$

$$s.t. \|x\|_1 \le s$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\min_{s.t.} \|Ax - b\|_2 + \lambda \|x\|_1$$



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Demand of big data—Regularization

Newton methods. Unconstraint optimization prolem.

$$\min_{s.t.} ||Ax - b||_2 + \lambda ||x||_1$$

$$s.t. \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

- $||x||_1$ gets to sparsity of x, but it is non-smooth.
- · Sub-gradient direction.



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Convexity methods

• Proximal point algorithm (PPA). For a given point x^k , the next point is an optimal solution of the following optimal solution.

$$\min_{s.t.} \|Ax - b\|_2 + \lambda \|x\|_1 + \mu \|x - x^k\|^2$$

s.t. $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

- Convergence rate?
- A textbook: Dimitri P. Bertsekas, Convex Optimization Algorithms, 2015.



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Research topics

Low-rank problems

$$\begin{aligned} & \min & rank(X) \\ & s.t. & & \|AX - B\|_F \leq \mu \\ & & X \in \mathcal{M}(m,n), \end{aligned}$$

$$& \min & & \|AX - B\|_F \\ & s.t. & rank(X) \leq r \\ & & X \in \mathcal{M}(m,n). \end{aligned}$$

- Use nuclear norm $\|X\|_* = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i$, where $X = U \mathrm{diag}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_r) V^T$, U, V are orthogonal matrixes. (See Ex. 5.24).
- Applications for formulation of problems in artificial intelligence (AI) and big data.



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Research topics

Manifold optimization problems

$$\begin{aligned} & \min & & f(X) \\ & s.t. & & X^TX = I_n \\ & & & X \in \mathcal{M}(m,n). \end{aligned}$$

An easy problem

- Newton methods and projection?
- Structure methods.



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Portfolio management—-I

$$\begin{array}{ll}
\min & x^T V x \\
\text{s.t.} & b^T x \ge \mu \\
& e^T x = 1 \\
& x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+,
\end{array}$$

where $e = (1, 1, ..., 1)^T$, V correlation matrix.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{min} & t \\ & s.t. & x^T V x \leq t \\ & b^T x \geq \mu \\ & e^T x = 1 \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+, t \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$



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Portfolio management—-I

$$\min \quad t$$

$$s.t. \quad \begin{pmatrix} Bx \\ \frac{1-t}{2} \\ \frac{1+t}{2} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^{n+2}$$

$$b^T x \ge \mu$$

$$e^T x = 1$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n, t \in \mathbb{R},$$

Portfolio management—-II

$$\text{max} \quad b^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad x^T V x \le \nu \\ e^T x = 1 \\ x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+.$$

$$\max \quad b^T x$$
s.t.
$$\begin{pmatrix} Bx \\ \frac{1-\nu}{2} \\ \frac{1+\nu}{2} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^{n+2}$$

$$e^T x = 1$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+.$$



Portfolio management—-III

$$\min \quad \frac{x^T V x}{h^T x}$$

$$s.t. \quad b^T x \ge \mu$$

$$e^T x = 1$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+.$$

min
$$t$$

s.t. $\begin{pmatrix} Bx \\ \frac{t-s}{2} \\ \frac{t}{2} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^{n+2}$
 $b^T x - s = 0$
 $e^T x = 1$
 $s \ge \mu$
 $x \in \mathbb{R}^n_+, s, t \in \mathbb{R}$.



Minimum of a univariate polynomial

Consider the problem of finding the minimum of a univariate polynomial of degree 2n:

min
$$x^{2n} + a_1 x^{2n-1} + \dots + a_{2n-1} x + a_{2n}$$

s.t. $x \in \mathbb{R}$

This problem is equivalent to

$$\max t \\ s.t. \quad x^{2n} + a_1 x^{2n-1} + \dots + a_{2n-1} x + a_{2n} - t \ge 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}$$



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Minimum of a univariate polynomial

It is well known that a univariate polynomial is nonnegative over the real domain if and only if it can be written as $sum\ of\ squares\ (SOS)$, which is equivalent to saying that there must be a positive semidefinite matrix $X\in\mathcal{S}^{n+1}_+$ such that

$$x^{2n} + a_1 x^{2n-1} + \dots + a_{2n-1} x + a_{2n} - t = (1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n) X (1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n)^T$$
.

Hence, this problem can be cast as an SDP:

$$\max_{s.t.} t$$

$$s.t. \quad a_{2n} - t = X_{11}$$

$$a_{2n-k} = \sum_{i+j=k+2} X_{ij}, \ k = 1, \dots, 2n-1$$

$$X_{(n+1),(n+1)} = 1$$

$$X \in \mathcal{S}_{+}^{n+1}$$



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For a given polynomial $p(x)=x^n+a_{n-1}x^{n-1}+\cdots+a_1x+a_0,\ p(x)\geq 0$ for any $x\in\mathbb{R}$ if and only if n is even and $p(x)=\sum_{i=1}^rq_i^2(x)$ where $q_i(x),i=1,2,\ldots,r$ are polynomials.

The sufficient result is obvious.



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- The sufficient result is obvious.
- Necessary.
 - n is even.

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 - By induction. $n=0, p(x)=a_0\geq 0, \Rightarrow p(x)=(\sqrt{a_0})^2$.
 - Suppose $n=2k,\,k\geq 0$ be true. For n=2(k+1), the minimum of p(x) is attainable at x_0 as p(x) is convex and $p(x)\to +\infty$ when $x\to \pm \infty$.



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 - $p(x_0) \ge 0$ and $p(x) p(x_0) = (x x_0)^s p_1(x)$ where $p_1(x_0) \ne 0$.
 - If s is odd, then $p_1(x)$ is odd. We have $x_1 \neq x_0$ and $p_1(x_1) = 0$. Without loss of generality, let $x_1 > x_0$. There exists a $\delta > 0$ such that $p(x) p(x_0) < 0$ for $x_0 < x < x_1 + \delta$. Contradictory.



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 - We have s even and then $p_1(x) \ge 0$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$. $p_1(x) = \sum_{i=1}^r q_i^2(x)$ $\Rightarrow p(x) = (x x_0)^s \sum_{i=1}^r q_i^2(x) + p(x_0) = \sum_{i=1}^r [(x x_i^{s/2} q_i(x)]^2 + (\sqrt{p(x_0)})^2$.



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Background

Suppose there are m potential customers to serve in the region. Customers' demands are random, and once a customer calls for service, then the server in the service center will need to go to the customer to provide the required service. In case the server is occupied, then the customer will have to wait. The goal is to find a good location for the service center in order to minimize the expected waiting time of service.



Assumptions and notations

Suppose that the service calls from the customer are identically independent distributed, and the demand process follows the Poisson distribution with overall arrival rate λ , and the probability that any service call is from customer i is assumed to be p_i for $i=1,\ldots,m$. The queueing principle is First Come First Service, and there is only one server in the service center. This model can be regarded as M/G/1 queue as in Queueing theory, and the expected service time, including waiting time and traveling, can be explicitly computed. To this end, denote the velocity of the server to be v, and the location of customer i is a^i , $i=1,\ldots,m$, and the location of the service center to be x.

Problem formulation

The expected waiting time for customer i is given by

$$\omega_i(x) = \frac{(2\lambda/v^2) \sum_{j=1}^m p_j \|x - a^j\|^2}{1 - (2\lambda/v) \sum_{j=1}^m p_j \|x - a^j\|^2} + \frac{1}{v} \|x - a^i\|,$$

where the first term in the expected term is the expected waiting time for the server to be free and the second the term is the waiting time for the server to travel after his departure at the service center.



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Observing the fact that

$$||x||_2^2/s \le t, \ s > 0 \iff \left| \left| \left[\begin{array}{c} x \\ \frac{t-s}{2} \end{array} \right] \right| \right|_2 \le \frac{t+s}{2}$$

We can formulate this problem as an SOCP:

min
$$(2m\lambda/v^2) \sum_{i=1}^{m} p_i t_i + (1/v) \sum_{i=1}^{m} t_{0i}$$

s.t. $\begin{bmatrix} x - a^i \\ t_{0i} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^3, \begin{bmatrix} x - a^i \\ \frac{t_i - s}{2} \\ \frac{t_i + s}{2} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^4, i = 1, ..., m$
 $s \le 1 - (2\lambda/v) \sum_{i=1}^{m} p_i s_i, \begin{bmatrix} x - a^i \\ s_i \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^3, i = 1, ..., m.$



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Robust optimization

min
$$f_0(x)$$

s.t. $f_i(x, u_i) \le 0$
 $\forall u_i \in \mathcal{U}_i, i = 1, \dots, m.$

Motivation

- The parameters are inexact;
- The parameters cannot be foreseen;
- The parameters may vary with time and other environment factors;



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Example: Robust linear program

min
$$c^T x$$

s.t. $a_i^T x \le b_i$
 $\forall a_i \in \{a_i^0 + \sum_{j=1}^p u_j a_i^j \mid ||u||_2 \le 1\},$
 $i = 1, \dots, m$

For any x

$$\max_{a_i} a_i^T x = \max_{u} (a_i^0)^T x + \sum_{j=1}^p u_j (a_i^j)^T x$$
$$= (a_i^0)^T x + \|((a_i^1)^T x, \dots, (a_i^p)^T x)^T\|_2$$

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Example: Robust linear program

Therefore

$$a_i^T x \le b_i, \forall a_i \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \|((a_i^1)^T x, \dots, (a_i^p)^T x)^T\|_2 \le b_i - (a_i^0)^T x$$

Equivalent SOCP

min
$$c^T x$$

$$s.t. \begin{bmatrix} (a_i^1)^T x \\ \vdots \\ (a_i^p)^T x \\ b_i - (a_i^0)^T x \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{L}^{p+1}, i = 1, \dots, m$$



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Robust convex QCQP

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \quad f^T x \\ & s.t. \quad x^T A^T A x \leq 2 b^T x + c \\ & \quad \forall (A,b,c) \in \{ (A^0,b^0,c^0) + \sum_{j=1}^p u_j (A^j,b^j,c^j) \mid \|u\|_2 \leq 1 \}, \end{aligned}$$
 Let $U(x) = (A^0 x, A^1 x, \dots, A^p x)$ and
$$V(x) = \begin{bmatrix} c^0 + 2(b^0)^T x & \frac{1}{2}c^1 + (b^1)^T x & \cdots & \frac{1}{2}c^p + (b^p)^T x \\ \frac{1}{2}c^1 + (b^1)^T x & 0 & & & \\ & \vdots & & \ddots & & \\ \frac{1}{2}c^p + (b^p)^T x & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



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Robust convex QCQP

$$\begin{aligned} & x^TA^TAx \leq 2b^Tx + c \\ \Leftrightarrow & \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix}^TU^T(x)U(x)\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix}^TV(x)\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix} \leq 0, \forall \|u\|_2 \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma

Let
$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -I_n \end{pmatrix}$$
 and $Q = V(x) - U^T(x)U(x)$. Then the implication
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix}^T P \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix} \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix}^T Q \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix} \geq 0 \text{ is valid if and only if } Q - \lambda P \succeq 0 \text{ for some } \lambda \geq 0.$$



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Proof of the lemma-I

Equivalent reformulation.

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ u \end{array} \right)^T P \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ u \end{array} \right) \geq 0 \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ u \end{array} \right)^T Q \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ u \end{array} \right) \geq 0$$

if and only if the optimal value of the following problem is nonnegative

$$\min \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix}^T Q \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix}$$

$$s.t. \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix}^T P \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{pmatrix} \ge 0 \quad (E1)$$

$$u \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$



Proof of the lemma-II

The SDP relaxation of (E1)

min
$$Q \bullet X$$

 $s.t.$ $P \bullet X \ge 0$ (E2)
 $x_{11} = 1$
 $X \in \mathcal{S}_{+}^{n+1}$.

- If (E2) has an optimal solution X, then (E1) and (E2) have the same optimal value and the optimal solutions can be rank-one decomposed from X.
- The dual of (E2)

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max
$$\sigma$$
s.t. $\lambda P + \sigma \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0_n \end{pmatrix} + S = Q$ (E3)
$$\lambda \ge 0, \sigma \in \mathbb{R}, S \in \mathcal{S}^{n+1}_+.$$

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Proof of the lemma-III

To prove the strong duality of (E2) and (E3), and (E2) is attainable.

$$S = Q - \lambda P - \sigma \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0_n \end{pmatrix} = Q + \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda - \sigma & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda I_n \end{pmatrix}$$

- For a sufficient big $\lambda>0$ and a sufficient negative σ , we have $S\in\mathcal{S}^{n+1}_{\perp}.$
- For $\|u\|_2 \leq 1$, we have $\bar{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \bar{u} \end{array}\right)^T P \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \bar{u} \end{array}\right) \geq 0$. Let $\bar{X} = \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \bar{u} \end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \bar{u} \end{array}\right)^T$.
- \bar{X} is a feasible solution of (E2) and (E3) is upper bounded.
- (E2) and (E3) are strong duality and (E2) is attainable. Hence (E1) and (E2) have the same optimal value.



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Proof of the lemma-IV

To prove the attainable of (E3).



- Slater condition: There exists a $u^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\|u^0\|_2 < 1$. We have convex set $\mathcal Y$ such that $u^0 \in \mathcal Y$ and $\|u\|_2 < 1$, $\forall u \in \mathcal Y$.
- We have $u^i \in \mathcal{Y}, i=1,2,\ldots,n+1$ such that $u^i, i=1,2,\ldots,n+1$ are linearly affine independent, $\|u^i\|_2 < 1, i=1,2,\ldots,n+1$, and $u^0 = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \tau_i u^i$ where $\tau_i > 0$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \tau_i = 1$. Then
- $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u^i \end{pmatrix}$, $i=1,2,\ldots,n+1$ are linearly independent. Let

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \tau_i \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u^i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u^i \end{pmatrix}^T.$$

• $X \in \mathcal{S}_{++}^{n+1}$, $x_{11} = 1$, $P \bullet X = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \tau_i P \bullet \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u^i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u^i \end{pmatrix}^T > 0$.



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Proof of the lemma-V

- (E3) is attainable.
- Final results for the lemma.
 - " \Rightarrow " If (E2) is nonnegative, then there exists an optimal solution $\sigma \geq 0$ and $\lambda \geq 0$ of (E3) based on the strong duality such that

$$S = Q - \lambda P - \sigma \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0_n \end{array} \right) \in \mathcal{S}_+^{n+1}. \text{ Thus } Q - \lambda P \in \mathcal{S}_+^{n+1}.$$

• " \Leftarrow " If there exists a $\lambda \geq 0$ such that $Q - \lambda P \in \mathcal{S}^{n+1}_+$, then let $\sigma = 0$. (λ, σ) is a feasible solution of (E3). We have the optimal value of (E3) is no less than 0. Hence (E2), and then (E1) is nonnegative. We get the result.

S-lemma-I

Given $P \in \mathcal{S}^n$ and $Q \in \mathcal{S}^n$ and there exists a $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $y^T P y > 0$. Then the implication $x^T P x \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x^T Q x \geq 0$ is valid if and only if $Q - \lambda P \succeq 0$ for some $\lambda \geq 0$.

The first model

$$\min_{s.t.} x^T Q x
s.t. x^T P x \ge 0 \quad (F1)
x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

The second model

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & Q \bullet X \\ s.t. & P \bullet X \ge 0 \\ & X \in \mathcal{S}^n_+. \end{array}$$



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S-lemma-II

The third model: the dual of (F2)

• Under the condition of nonnegative and x=0, X=0 are optimal solutions respectively, prove the strong duality of (F1), (F2) and (F3). The attainable of (E3) is similar to the proof above.

Robust convex QCQP

From S-lemma,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix}^T U^T(x)U(x) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix}^T V(x) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ u \end{bmatrix} \le 0, \forall \|u\|_2 \le 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow V(x) - U^T(x)U(x) - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -I \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0, \exists \lambda \ge 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} V(x) - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ U(x) \end{bmatrix} & U^T(x) \\ & I \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0, \exists \lambda \ge 0$$
(by Schur complementary theorem)

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Robust convex QCQP

Equivalent SDP

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \quad f^T x \\ & s.t. \quad \begin{bmatrix} c^0 + 2(b^0)^T x - \lambda & \frac{1}{2}c^1 + (b^1)^T x & \cdots & \frac{1}{2}c^p + (b^p)^T x & (A^0 x)^T \\ \frac{1}{2}c^1 + (b^1)^T x & \lambda & & & (A^1 x)^T \\ & \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \frac{1}{2}c^p + (b^p)^T x & & \lambda & & (A^p x)^T \\ & & A^0 x & A^1 x & \cdots & A^p x & I \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$