Complexity

LP Feasibility Problem (LP feasibility)

- Given $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m\times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$. Does there exist $x \in \mathbb{R}$ with $Ax = b$, $x \geq 0$?
- Note that allowing A, b to contain rational numbers does not make a difference, as we can multiply every number by a suitable large constant so that everything becomes integral but the feasible region does not change.

Is this problem in NP or even in P?

The Bit Model

Input size

- The number of bits to represent a number $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ is

$$\lceil \log_2(|a|) \rceil + 1$$

- Let for an $m \times n$ matrix M, $L(M)$ denote the number of bits required to encode all the numbers in M.

$$L(M) := \sum_{i,j} \lceil \log_2(|m_{ij}|) + 1 \rceil$$

- In the following we assume that input matrices are encoded in a standard way, where each number is encoded in binary and then suitable separators are added in order to separate distinct number from each other.
- Then the input length is $\Theta(L([A|b]))$.

- In the following we sometimes refer to $L := L([A|b])$ as the input size (even though the real input size is something in $\Theta(L([A|b]))$).
- In order to show that LP-decision is in NP we show that if there is a solution x then there exists a small solution for which feasibility can be verified in polynomial time (polynomial in $L([A|b])$).

Suppose that $Ax = b$; $x \geq 0$ is feasible.

Then there exists a basic feasible solution. This means a set B of basic variables such that

$$x_B = A_B^{-1} b$$

and all other entries in x are 0.

Size of a Basic Feasible Solution

Lemma 2
Let $M \in \mathbb{Z}^{m\times m}$ be an invertable matrix and let $b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$. Further define $L' = L([M \mid b]) + n\log_2 n$. Then a solution to $Mx = b$ has rational components x_j of the form $\frac{D_j}{D}$, where $|D_j| \le 2^{L'}$ and $|D| \le 2^{L'}$.

Proof:
Cramers rules says that we can compute x_j as

$$x_j = \frac{\det(M_j)}{\det(M)}$$

where M_j is the matrix obtained from M by replacing the j-th column by the vector b.

Bounding the Determinant

Let $X = A_B$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}|\det(X)| &= \left|\sum_{\pi\in S_n} \mathrm{sgn}(\pi) \prod_{1\le i\le n} X_{i\pi(i)}\right| \\ &\le \sum_{\pi\in S_n} \prod_{1\le i\le n} |X_{i\pi(i)}| \\ &\le n! \cdot 2^{L([A|b])} \le n^n 2^L \le 2^{L'} \ .\end{aligned}$$

Analogously for $\det(M_j)$.

This means if $Ax = b$, $x \ge 0$ is feasible we only need to consider vectors x where an entry x_j can be represented by a rational number with encoding length polynomial in the input length L.

Hence, the x that we have to guess is of length polynomial in the input-length L.

For a given vector x of polynomial length we can check for feasibility in polynomial time.

Hence, LP feasibility is in NP.

Reducing LP-solving to LP decision.

Given an LP $\max\{c^Tx \mid Ax = b; x \ge 0\}$ do a binary search for the optimum solution

(Add constraint $c^Tx - \delta = M$; $\delta \ge 0$ or ($c^Tx \ge M$). Then checking for feasibility shows whether optimum solution is larger or smaller than M).

If the LP is feasible then the binary search finishes in at most

$$\log_2\left(\frac{2n2^{2L'}}{1/2^{L'}}\right) = \mathcal{O}(L') \ ,$$

as the range of the search is at most $-n2^{2L'}, \dots, n2^{2L'}$ and the distance between two adjacent values is at least $\frac{1}{\det(A)} \ge \frac{1}{2^{L'}}$.

Here we use $L' = L([A \mid b \mid c]) + n\log_2 n$ (it also includes the encoding size of c).

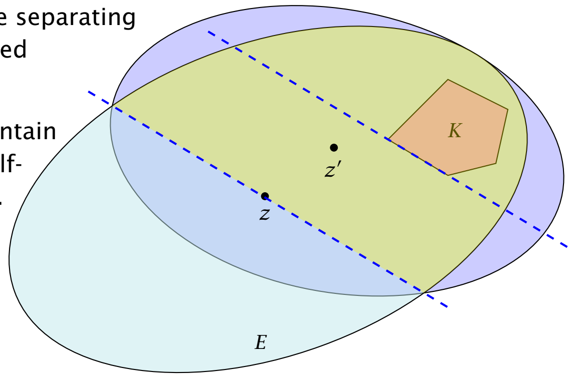
How do we detect whether the LP is unbounded?

Let $M_{\max} = n2^{2L'}$ be an upper bound on the objective value of a basic feasible solution.

We can add a constraint $c^T x \geq M_{\max} + 1$ and check for feasibility.

Ellipsoid Method

- Let K be a convex set.
- Maintain ellipsoid E that is guaranteed to contain K provided that K is non-empty.
- If center $z \in K$ STOP.
- Otw. find a hyperplane separating K from z (e.g. a violated constraint in the LP).
- Shift hyperplane to contain node z. H denotes half-space that contains K.
- Compute (smallest) ellipsoid E' that contains $K \cap H$.
- REPEAT



Issues/Questions:

- How do you choose the first Ellipsoid? What is its volume?
- What if the polytop K is unbounded?
- How do you measure progress? By how much does the volume decrease in each iteration?
- When can you stop? What is the minimum volume of a non-empty polytop?

Definition 3
A mapping $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ with $f(x) = Lx + t$, where L is an invertible matrix is called an affine transformation.

Definition 4
A ball in $\mathbb{R}^n$ with center c and radius r is given by

$$\begin{aligned} B(c,r) &= \{x \mid (x-c)^T(x-c) \le r^2\} \\ &= \{x \mid \sum_i (x-c)_i^2/r^2 \le 1\} \end{aligned}$$

$B(0,1)$ is called the unit ball.

Definition 5
An affine transformation of the unit ball is called an ellipsoid.

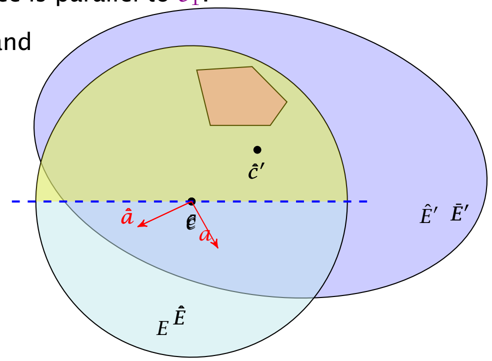
From $f(x) = Lx + t$ follows $x = L^{-1}(f(x) - t)$.

$$\begin{aligned} f(B(0,1)) &= \{f(x) \mid x \in B(0,1)\} \\ &= \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid L^{-1}(y-t) \in B(0,1)\} \\ &= \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid (y-t)^T {L^{-1}}^T L^{-1}(y-t) \le 1\} \\ &= \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid (y-t)^T Q^{-1}(y-t) \le 1\} \end{aligned}$$

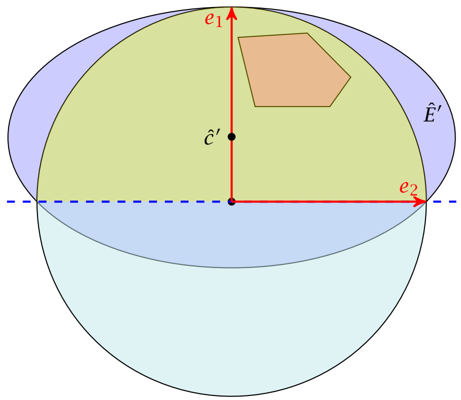
where $Q = LL^T$ is an invertible matrix.

How to Compute the New Ellipsoid

- Use f^{-1} (recall that $f = Lx + t$ is the affine transformation of the unit ball) to rotate/distort the ellipsoid (back) into the unit ball.
- Use a rotation R^{-1} to rotate the unit ball such that the normal vector of the halfspace is parallel to e_1.
- Compute the new center $\hat{c}'$ and the new matrix $\hat{Q}'$ for this simplified setting.
- Use the transformations R and f to get the new center c' and the new matrix Q' for the original ellipsoid E.



The Easy Case



- The new center lies on axis x_1. Hence, $\hat{c}' = te_1$ for $t > 0$.
- The vectors $e_1, e_2, \ldots$ have to fulfill the ellipsoid constraint with equality. Hence $(e_i - \hat{c}')^T \hat{Q}'^{-1}(e_i - \hat{c}') = 1$.

The Easy Case

- The obtain the matrix $\hat{Q}'^{-1}$ for our ellipsoid $\hat{E}'$ note that $\hat{E}'$ is axis-parallel.
- Let a denote the radius along the x_1-axis and let b denote the (common) radius for the other axes.
- The matrix

$$\hat{L}' = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & b & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & b \end{pmatrix}$$

maps the unit ball (via function $\hat{f}'(x) = \hat{L}'x$) to an axis-parallel ellipsoid with radius a in direction x_1 and b in all other directions.

The Easy Case

- As $\hat{Q}' = \hat{L}'\hat{L}'^t$ the matrix $\hat{Q}'^{-1}$ is of the form

$$\hat{Q}'^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

The Easy Case

- $(e_1 - \hat{c}')^T \hat{Q}'^{-1} (e_1 - \hat{c}') = 1$ gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-t \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1-t \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

- This gives $(1-t)^2 = a^2$.

The Easy Case

- For $i \neq 1$ the equation $(e_i - \hat{c}')^T \hat{Q}'^{-1} (e_i - \hat{c}') = 1$ gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} -t \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{b^2} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -t \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

- This gives $\frac{t^2}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} = 1$, and hence

$$\frac{1}{b^2} = 1 - \frac{t^2}{a^2} = 1 - \frac{t^2}{(1-t)^2} = \frac{1-2t}{(1-t)^2}$$

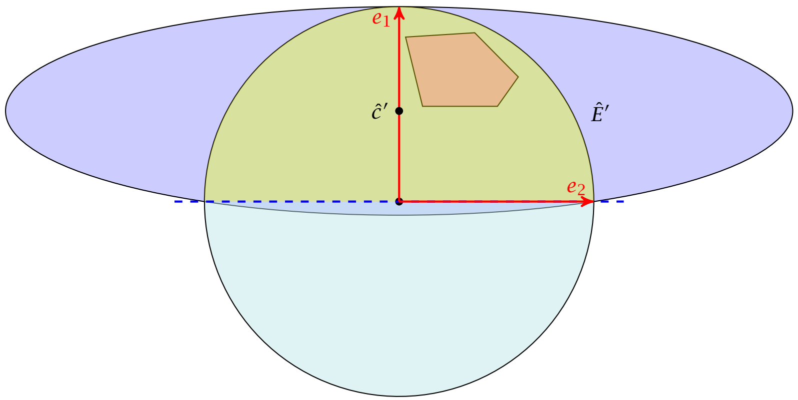
Summary

So far we have

$$a = 1 - t \quad \text{and} \quad b = \frac{1-t}{\sqrt{1-2t}}$$

The Easy Case

We still have many choices for t:



Choose t such that the volume of $\hat{E}'$ is minimal!!!

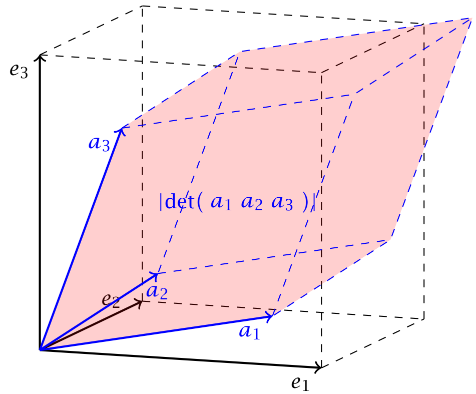
The Easy Case

We want to choose t such that the volume of $\hat{E}'$ is minimal.

Lemma 6
Let L be an affine transformation and $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. Then

$$\mathrm{vol}(L(K)) = |\det(L)| \cdot \mathrm{vol}(K) \ .$$

n-dimensional volume



The Easy Case

- We want to choose t such that the volume of $\hat{E}'$ is minimal.

$$\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}') = \operatorname{vol}(B(0,1)) \cdot |\det(\hat{L}')| \ ,$$

  where $\hat{Q}' = \hat{L}'\hat{L}'^T$.
- We have

$$\hat{L}'^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{b} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{1}{b} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \hat{L}' = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & b & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & b \end{pmatrix}$$

- Note that a and b in the above equations depend on t, by the previous equations.

The Easy Case

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}') &= \operatorname{vol}(B(0,1)) \cdot |\det(\hat{L}')| \\ &= \operatorname{vol}(B(0,1)) \cdot ab^{n-1} \\ &= \operatorname{vol}(B(0,1)) \cdot (1-t) \cdot \left(\frac{1-t}{\sqrt{1-2t}}\right)^{n-1} \\ &= \operatorname{vol}(B(0,1)) \cdot \frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}} \end{aligned}$$

The Easy Case

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathrm{d}\operatorname{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{d}t} &= \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\left(\frac{(1-t)^n}{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}}\right) \\ &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{N^2}}_{N\,=\,\text{denominator}} \cdot \Bigg(\underbrace{(-1)\cdot n\cancel{(1-t)^{n-1}}}_{\text{derivative of numerator}} \cdot \underbrace{\overset{1-2t}{\cancel{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-1}}}}_{\text{denominator}} \\ &\qquad \cancel{-}\underbrace{(n-1)\cancel{(\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-2}}}_{\text{outer derivative}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{\cancel{2}\cancel{\sqrt{1-2t}}} \cdot \cancel{(-2)}}_{\text{inner derivative}} \cdot \underbrace{\overset{1-t}{\cancel{(1-t)^n}}}_{\text{numerator}} \Bigg) \\ &= \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot (\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-3} \cdot (1-t)^{n-1} \\ &\qquad \cdot \Big((n-1)(1-t) - n(1-2t) \Big) \\ &= \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot (\sqrt{1-2t})^{n-3} \cdot (1-t)^{n-1} \cdot \Big((n+1)t - 1 \Big) \end{aligned}$$

The Easy Case

- We obtain the minimum for $t = \frac{1}{n+1}$.
- For this value we obtain

$$a = 1 - t = \frac{n}{n+1} \text{ and } b = \frac{1-t}{\sqrt{1-2t}} = \frac{n}{\sqrt{n^2-1}}$$

To see the equation for b, observe that

$$b^2 = \frac{(1-t)^2}{1-2t} = \frac{(1-\frac{1}{n+1})^2}{1-\frac{2}{n+1}} = \frac{(\frac{n}{n+1})^2}{\frac{n-1}{n+1}} = \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}$$

The Easy Case

Let $\gamma_n = \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{vol}(B(0,1))} = ab^{n-1}$ be the ratio by which the volume changes:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma_n^2 &= \Big(\frac{n}{n+1}\Big)^2\Big(\frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big)^{n-1}\\
&= \Big(1-\frac{1}{n+1}\Big)^2\Big(1+\frac{1}{(n-1)(n+1)}\Big)^{n-1}\\
&\le e^{-2\frac{1}{n+1}}\cdot e^{\frac{1}{n+1}}\\
&= e^{-\frac{1}{n+1}}
\end{aligned}
$$

where we used $(1+x)^a \le e^{ax}$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a > 0$.

This gives $\gamma_n \le e^{-\frac{1}{2(n+1)}}$.

How to Compute the New Ellipsoid

- Use f^{-1} (recall that $f = Lx + t$ is the affine transformation of the unit ball) to rotate/distort the ellipsoid (back) into the unit ball.
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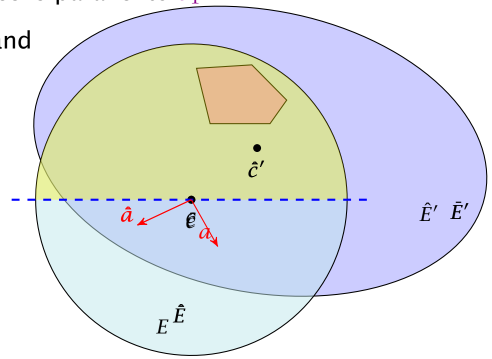
- Compute the new center $\hat{c}'$ and the new matrix $\hat{Q}'$ for this simplified setting.
- Use the transformations R and f to get the new center c' and the new matrix Q' for the original ellipsoid E.



Our progress is the same:

$$
\begin{aligned}
e^{-\frac{1}{2(n+1)}} \ge \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{vol}(B(0,1))} &= \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\hat{E}')}{\mathrm{vol}(\hat{E})} = \frac{\mathrm{vol}(R(\hat{E}'))}{\mathrm{vol}(R(\hat{E}))}\\
&= \frac{\mathrm{vol}(\bar{E}')}{\mathrm{vol}(\bar{E})} = \frac{\mathrm{vol}(f(\bar{E}'))}{\mathrm{vol}(f(\bar{E}))} = \frac{\mathrm{vol}(E')}{\mathrm{vol}(E)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Here it is important that mapping a set with affine function $f(x) = Lx + t$ changes the volume by factor $\det(L)$.

The Ellipsoid Algorithm

How to Compute The New Parameters?

The transformation function of the (old) ellipsoid: $f(x) = Lx + c$;

The halfspace to be intersected: $H = \{x \mid a^T(x-c) \le 0\}$;

$$
\begin{aligned}
f^{-1}(H) &= \{f^{-1}(x) \mid a^T(x-c) \le 0\}\\
&= \{f^{-1}(f(y)) \mid a^T(f(y)-c) \le 0\}\\
&= \{y \mid a^T(f(y)-c) \le 0\}\\
&= \{y \mid a^T(Ly+c-c) \le 0\}\\
&= \{y \mid (a^TL)y \le 0\}
\end{aligned}
$$

This means $\bar{a} = L^Ta$.

The Ellipsoid Algorithm

After rotating back (applying R^{-1}) the normal vector of the halfspace points in negative x_1-direction. Hence,

$$R^{-1}\Big(\frac{L^Ta}{\|L^Ta\|}\Big) = -e_1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\frac{L^Ta}{\|L^Ta\|} = R\cdot e_1$$

Hence,

$$\bar{c}' = R\cdot\hat{c}' = R\cdot\frac{1}{n+1}e_1 = -\frac{1}{n+1}\frac{L^Ta}{\|L^Ta\|}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c' &= f(\bar{c}') = L\cdot\bar{c}' + c \\ &= -\frac{1}{n+1}L\frac{L^Ta}{\|L^Ta\|} + c \\ &= c - \frac{1}{n+1}\frac{Qa}{\sqrt{a^TQa}} \end{aligned}$$

For computing the matrix Q' of the new ellipsoid we assume in the following that $\hat{E}', \bar{E}'$ and E' refer to the ellispoids centered in the origin.

Recall that

$$\hat{Q}' = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\ 0 & b^2 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ldots & 0 & b^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

This gives

$$\hat{Q}' = \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(I - \frac{2}{n+1}e_1e_1^T\Big)$$

because for $a = n/n+1$ and $b = n/\sqrt{n^2-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} b^2 - b^2\frac{2}{n+1} &= \frac{n^2}{n^2-1} - \frac{2n^2}{(n-1)(n+1)^2} \\ &= \frac{n^2(n+1) - 2n^2}{(n-1)(n+1)^2} = \frac{n^2(n-1)}{(n-1)(n+1)^2} = a^2 \end{aligned}$$

9 The Ellipsoid Algorithm

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{E}' &= R(\hat{E}') \\ &= \{R(x) \mid x^T\hat{Q}'^{-1}x \le 1\} \\ &= \{y \mid (R^{-1}y)^T\hat{Q}'^{-1}R^{-1}y \le 1\} \\ &= \{y \mid y^T(R^T)^{-1}\hat{Q}'^{-1}R^{-1}y \le 1\} \\ &= \{y \mid y^T(\underbrace{R\hat{Q}'R^T}_{\bar{Q}'})^{-1}y \le 1\} \end{aligned}$$

9 The Ellipsoid Algorithm

Hence,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\bar{Q}' &= R\hat{Q}'R^T \\
&= R \cdot \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(I - \frac{2}{n+1}e_1e_1^T\Big) \cdot R^T \\
&= \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(R \cdot R^T - \frac{2}{n+1}(Re_1)(Re_1)^T\Big) \\
&= \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(I - \frac{2}{n+1}\frac{L^Taa^TL}{\|L^Ta\|^2}\Big)
\end{aligned}
$$

9 The Ellipsoid Algorithm

$$
\begin{aligned}
E' &= L(\bar{E}') \\
&= \{L(x) \mid x^T\bar{Q}'^{-1}x \le 1\} \\
&= \{y \mid (L^{-1}y)^T\bar{Q}'^{-1}L^{-1}y \le 1\} \\
&= \{y \mid y^T(L^T)^{-1}\bar{Q}'^{-1}L^{-1}y \le 1\} \\
&= \{y \mid y^T(\underbrace{L\bar{Q}'L^T}_{Q'})^{-1}y \le 1\}
\end{aligned}
$$

9 The Ellipsoid Algorithm

Hence,

$$
\begin{aligned}
Q' &= L\bar{Q}'L^T \\
&= L \cdot \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(I - \frac{2}{n+1}\frac{L^Taa^TL}{a^TQa}\Big) \cdot L^T \\
&= \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(Q - \frac{2}{n+1}\frac{Qaa^TQ}{a^TQa}\Big)
\end{aligned}
$$

Incomplete Algorithm

Algorithm 1 ellipsoid-algorithm

input: point $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$, convex set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$
output: point $x \in K$ or "K is empty"
$Q \leftarrow$???
repeat
  if $c \in K$ **then return** c
  else
    choose a violated hyperplane a
    $c \leftarrow c - \frac{1}{n+1}\frac{Qa}{\sqrt{a^TQa}}$
    $Q \leftarrow \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(Q - \frac{2}{n+1}\frac{Qaa^TQ}{a^TQa}\Big)$
  endif
until ???
return "K is empty"

Repeat: Size of basic solutions

Lemma 7

Let $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax \le b\}$ be a bounded polyhedron. Let $\langle a_{\max}\rangle$ be the maximum encoding length of an entry in A, b. Then every entry x_j in a basic solution fulfills $|x_j| = \frac{D_j}{D}$ with $D_j, D \le 2^{2n\langle a_{\max}\rangle + 2n\log_2 n}$.

In the following we use $\delta := 2^{2n\langle a_{\max}\rangle + 2n\log_2 n}$.

Note that here we have $P = \{x \mid Ax \le b\}$. The previous lemmas we had about the size of feasible solutions were slightly different as they were for different polytopes.

Repeat: Size of basic solutions

Proof:

Let $\bar{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A & -A & I_m \\ -A & A & \end{bmatrix}$, $\bar{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ -b \end{pmatrix}$, be the matrix and right-hand vector after transforming the system to standard form.

The determinant of the matrices $\bar{A}_B$ and $\bar{M}_j$ (matrix obt. when replacing the j-th column of $\bar{A}_B$ by $\bar{b}$) can become at most

$$\begin{aligned}\det(\bar{A}_B), \det(\bar{M}_j) &\le \|\vec{\ell}_{\max}\|^{2n} \\ &\le (\sqrt{2n}\cdot 2^{\langle a_{\max}\rangle})^{2n} \le 2^{2n\langle a_{\max}\rangle + 2n\log_2 n},\end{aligned}$$

where $\vec{\ell}_{\max}$ is the longest column-vector that can be obtained after deleting all but $2n$ rows and columns from $\bar{A}$.

This holds because columns from I_m selected when going from $\bar{A}$ to $\bar{A}_B$ do not increase the determinant. Only the at most $2n$ columns from matrices A and $-A$ that $\bar{A}$ consists of contribute.

How do we find the first ellipsoid?

For feasibility checking we can assume that the polytop P is bounded; it is sufficient to consider basic solutions.

Every entry x_i in a basic solution fulfills $|x_i| \le \delta$.

Hence, P is contained in the cube $-\delta \le x_i \le \delta$.

A vector in this cube has at most distance $R := \sqrt{n}\delta$ from the origin.

Starting with the ball $E_0 := B(0, R)$ ensures that P is completely contained in the initial ellipsoid. This ellipsoid has volume at most $R^n B(0,1) \le (n\delta)^n B(0,1)$.

When can we terminate?

Let $P := \{x \mid Ax \le b\}$ with $A \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b \in \mathbb{Z}$ be a bounded polytop. Let $\langle a_{\max}\rangle$ be the encoding length of the largest entry in A or b.

Consider the following polyhedron

$$P_\lambda := \left\{x \mid Ax \le b + \frac{1}{\lambda}\begin{pmatrix}1\\ \vdots \\ 1\end{pmatrix}\right\},$$

where $\lambda = \delta^2 + 1$.

Lemma 8

P_λ is feasible if and only if P is feasible.

$\Leftarrow$: obvious!

$\Rightarrow$:

Consider the polyhedrons

$$\bar{P} = \left\{x \mid \begin{bmatrix} A & -A & I_m \\ -A & A & \end{bmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ -b \end{pmatrix}; x \geq 0\right\}$$

and

$$\bar{P}_\lambda = \left\{x \mid \begin{bmatrix} A & -A & I_m \\ -A & A & \end{bmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ -b \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{\lambda}\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}; x \geq 0\right\} .$$

P is feasible if and only if $\bar{P}$ is feasible, and P_λ feasible if and only if $\bar{P}_\lambda$ feasible.

$\bar{P}_\lambda$ is bounded since P_λ and P are bounded.

Let $\bar{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A & -A & I_m \\ -A & A & \end{bmatrix}$, and $\bar{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ -b \end{pmatrix}$.

$\bar{P}_\lambda$ feasible implies that there is a basic feasible solution represented by

$$x_B = \bar{A}_B^{-1}\bar{b} + \frac{1}{\lambda}\bar{A}_B^{-1}\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(The other x-values are zero)

The only reason that this basic feasible solution is not feasible for $\bar{P}$ is that one of the basic variables becomes negative.

Hence, there exists i with

$$(\bar{A}_B^{-1}\bar{b})_i < 0 \leq (\bar{A}_B^{-1}\bar{b})_i + \frac{1}{\lambda}(\bar{A}_B^{-1}\vec{1})_i$$

By Cramers rule we get

$$(\bar{A}_B^{-1}\bar{b})_i < 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad (\bar{A}_B^{-1}\bar{b})_i \leq -\frac{1}{\det(\bar{A}_B)}$$

and

$$(\bar{A}_B^{-1}\vec{1})_i \leq \det(\bar{M}_j) \ ,$$

where $\bar{M}_j$ is obtained by replacing the j-th column of $\bar{A}_B$ by $\vec{1}$.

However, we showed that the determinants of $\bar{A}_B$ and $\bar{M}_j$ can become at most δ.

Since, we chose $\lambda = \delta^2 + 1$ this gives a contradiction.

Lemma 9

If P_λ is feasible then it contains a ball of radius $r := 1/\delta^3$. This has a volume of at least $r^n \mathrm{vol}(B(0,1)) = \frac{1}{\delta^{3n}}\mathrm{vol}(B(0,1))$.

Proof:

If P_λ feasible then also P. Let x be feasible for P.
This means $Ax \le b$.

Let $\vec{\ell}$ with $\|\vec{\ell}\| \le r$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}(A(x+\vec{\ell}))_i &= (Ax)_i + (A\vec{\ell})_i \le b_i + \vec{a}_i^T\vec{\ell} \\ &\le b_i + \|\vec{a}_i\| \cdot \|\vec{\ell}\| \le b_i + \sqrt{n}\cdot 2^{\langle a_{\max}\rangle}\cdot r \\ &\le b_i + \frac{\sqrt{n}\cdot 2^{\langle a_{\max}\rangle}}{\delta^3} \le b_i + \frac{1}{\delta^2+1} \le b_i + \frac{1}{\lambda}\end{aligned}$$

Hence, $x + \vec{\ell}$ is feasible for P_λ which proves the lemma.

How many iterations do we need until the volume becomes too small?

$$e^{-\frac{i}{2(n+1)}} \cdot \mathrm{vol}(B(0,R)) < \mathrm{vol}(B(0,r))$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} i &> 2(n+1)\ln\Big(\frac{\mathrm{vol}(B(0,R))}{\mathrm{vol}(B(0,r))}\Big) \\ &= 2(n+1)\ln\Big(n^n\delta^n \cdot \delta^{3n}\Big) \\ &= 8n(n+1)\ln(\delta) + 2(n+1)n\ln(n) \\ &= \mathcal{O}(\mathrm{poly}(n, \langle a_{\max}\rangle)) \end{aligned}$$

Algorithm 1 ellipsoid-algorithm

input: point $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$, convex set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, radii R and r
  with $K \subseteq B(c,R)$, and $B(x,r) \subseteq K$ for some x
output: point $x \in K$ or "K is empty"
$Q \leftarrow \mathrm{diag}(R^2,\dots,R^2)$ // i.e., $L = \mathrm{diag}(R,\dots,R)$
repeat
  if $c \in K$ **then return** c
  else
    choose a violated hyperplane a
    $$c \leftarrow c - \frac{1}{n+1}\frac{Qa}{\sqrt{a^TQa}}$$
    $$Q \leftarrow \frac{n^2}{n^2-1}\Big(Q - \frac{2}{n+1}\frac{Qaa^TQ}{a^TQa}\Big)$$
  endif
until $\det(Q) \le r^{2n}$ // i.e., $\det(L) \le r^n$
return "K is empty"

Separation Oracle:

Let $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex set. A separation oracle for K is an algorithm A that gets as input a point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and either

- certifies that $x \in K$,
- or finds a hyperplane separating x from K.

We will usually assume that A is a polynomial-time algorithm.

In order to find a point in K we need

- a guarantee that a ball of radius r is contained in K,
- an initial ball $B(c,R)$ with radius R that contains K,
- a separation oracle for K.

The Ellipsoid algorithm requires $\mathcal{O}(\mathrm{poly}(n)\cdot\log(R/r))$ iterations. Each iteration is polytime for a polynomial-time Separation oracle.