Convex Underestimating Relaxation Techniques for Nonconvex Polynomial Programming Problems

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Abstract— This paper introduces to constructing problems of convex relaxations for nonconvex polynomial optimization problems. Branch-and-bound algorithms are convex relaxation based. The convex envelopes are of primary importance since they represent the uniformly best convex underestimators for nonconvex polynomials over some region. The reformulationgenerates technique (RLT) LP (linear linearization programming) relaxations of a quadratic problem. The LP-RLT yields a lower bound on the global minimum. RLT operates in two steps: a reformulation step and a linearization (or convexification) step. In the reformulation phase, the constraints (constraints and bounds inequalities) are replaced by new numerous pairwise products of the constraints. In the linearization phase, each distinct quadratic term is replaced by a single new RLT variable. This RLT process produces an LP relaxation. LMI formulations (linear matrix inequalities) have been proposed to treat efficiently with nonconvex sets. An LMI is equivalent to a system of polynomial inequalities. A semialgebraic convex set describes the system. The feasible sets are spectrahedra with curved faces, contrary to the LP case with polyhedra. Successive LMI relaxations of increasing size can be used to achieve the global optimum. Nonlinear inequalities are converted to an LMI form using Schur complements. Optimizing a nonconvex polynomial is equivalent to the LP over a convex set. Engineering application interests include system analysis, control theory, combinatorial optimization, statistics, and structural design optimization.

Keywords—convex relaxation; polynomial optimization; nonconvex optimization; LMI formulation; structural optimization

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper introduces to the problem of constructing convex relaxations for nonconvex polynomial optimization problems. Techniques such as outer-approximation, branchand-bound (B&B) algorithms, reformulation-convexification methods are convex relaxation based [1].

Convex extensions and envelopes are of primary importance to the efficiency of global optimization methods. These notions reflect the capability to construct tight convex relaxations¹. Locatelli [3] determines convex envelopes for quadratic and polynomial functions over polytopes. Convex underestimators of nonconvex functions over some region are essential to B&B techniques. However, computing convex envelopes is NP-hard, even for simple polynomials². The nuclear norm (i.e., the sum of singular values) heuristic is also used instead of the convex envelope of the objective function. The affine matrix rank minimizing problem (RMP) uses the nuclear norm of the rank function. In this case, the nonconvex objective rank function is replaced by its convex envelope (i.e., the nuclear norm) [4]. In statistics, this important practical problem may consist of finding the least complex stochastic model, which is consistent with observations and priors.

The reformulation-linearization technique (RLT) generates LP (linear programming) relaxations of a quadratic problem [5]. The LP-RLT yields a lower bound on the global minimum. RLT operates in two steps: a reformulation step and a linearization (or convexification) step. In the reformulation phase, the constraints (constraint and bound inequalities) are replaced by new pairwise products of the constraints (i.e., bound factor product, bound-constraint factor product, and constraint factor product inequalities). In the linearization phase, each distinct quadratic term is replaced by a single new RLT variable. This RLT process produces an LP relaxation.

LMI (linear matrix inequalities) formulations have been proposed to treat efficiently with nonconvex sets. An LMI is equivalent to a system of polynomial inequalities. A semialgebraic convex set describes the system. The feasible sets are spectrahedra with curved faces, contrary to the LP case with polyhedra. SOS (sum of squares) relaxations can be used to obtain good approximate SDP (semidefinite programming) descriptions of convex envelopes (e.g., computing the convex envelope of quadratic forms over polytopes via a semidefinite program). Successive LMI relaxations of increasing size can be used to achieve the global optimum³. Nonlinear inequalities are

¹ The theory of convex extensions is developed for lower semi-continuous functions in [2].

² A proposition may consist in computing the convex envelopes over simpler domains such as triangles. Some examples are proposed in [3].

³ The approach consists in approximating a programming problem (PP) by a sequence of easier relaxed problems, such that the sequence of solutions

converted to an LMI form using Schur complements. Optimizing a nonconvex polynomial is equivalent to the LP over a convex set.

Engineering application interests include system analysis, control theory, combinatorial optimization, statistics and structural design. As a practical illustration, one can mention the truss topology design problem. This problem can be set to an equivalent LMI, by using the Schur lemma for linearization.

This article is organized as follows. Section II introduces to some important convex transforms in practice, such as the eigen-transformation, the convex envelopes, the nuclear norm and the conjugacy transform. The basic reformulationlinearization technique is presented in Section III for nonconvex QP (quadratic programming) problems. An illustrative numerical example is solved in Appendix A. The effectiveness of semidefinite programming (SDP) in polynomial optimization is shown in Section IV. The following essentials aspects are introduced: the LMI feasibility sets, the LMI formulation of SOS (sum of squares) polynomials, and simplified engineering application to this approach. Appendix B is devoted to the SDP interpretation of quadratic optimization problems.

II. CONVEX TRANSFORMS

Convexification transformation methods can convert a nonconvex problem to an equivalent problem, such as a concave minimization problem, a reverse convex minimization problem or a difference convex (d.c.) programming problem. The followings are restricted to concepts such as the eigen-transformation, convex envelopes, nuclear norm and conjugacy transformations.

A. Eigen-Transformation [10]

Let QP problem be

$$\mathbf{QP} : \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Qx}$$

subject to :
$$\mathbf{Ax} \le \mathbf{b},$$

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{k} \in \left[\boldsymbol{l}_{k}, \boldsymbol{u}_{k}\right], \ k = 1, \dots, n.$$

The eigen-transformation for the QP problem is a particular linear transformation based on the eigenstructure of the quadratic objective. Let $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^{T}$ where \mathbf{D} is diagonal with eigenvalue elements of \mathbf{Q} , and \mathbf{P} column eigenvectors. Define $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{z}$, so that $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{P}^{T}\mathbf{x}$. The resulting eigentransformed QP is

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}}{\text{minimize } \mathbf{c}^{T} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{z}^{T} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{z}}\\\\ \text{subject to :}\\\\ \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{z} \leq \mathbf{b},\\\\ \mathbf{l} \leq \mathbf{P} \mathbf{z} \leq \mathbf{u}. \end{array}$$

B. Convex Envelope

Definition 1. The convex envelope for a nonconvex function f and region X is the largest convex underestimator of f over X, so that

$$\operatorname{conv}_{f,X} = \sup \left\{ c(\mathbf{x}) : c(\mathbf{x}') \leq f(\mathbf{x}'), \forall \mathbf{x}' \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n \right\},\$$

where c(.) is a convex function. \Box

The convex envelope can be a convex polyhedral representation, i.e., the maximum of a finite number of affine underestimators. In [11], Locatelli and Schoen derive convex envelopes of bivariate functions f(x, y) over general twodimensional polytopes, assuming that some conditions on f are satisfied. Carathéodory's theorem yields the convex envelope of f at a point $K \in P$. Given a polytope $P \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and a function f, we have the PP

$$\operatorname{conv}_{f,P}(K) = \min\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \lambda_i f(Q_i) : Q_i \in P, i = 1, \dots, n+1\right\},\$$

subject to :

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n+1}\lambda_i=1,\ \sum_{i=1}^{n+1}\lambda_iQ_i=K,\ \lambda_i\geq 0.$$

Theorem 1 [1], pp. 45-46. Let $f(\mathbf{x})$ be a lower semicontinuous function defined on the convex compact set $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ be the convex envelope of f on X, then we have

(i) minimize
$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \phi(\mathbf{x}) = f$$

(ii) $\{\mathbf{y} \in X : f(\mathbf{y}) = \hat{f}\} \subseteq \{\mathbf{y} \in X : \phi(\mathbf{y}) = \hat{f}\}.\Box$

Hence, the theorem states that for each nonconvex PP on a convex feasible region, one can associate a convex PP for which we have the same optimal solution.

Example 1. Let the nonconvex polynomial of degree 4 in Fig.1

$$f(x) = 1.5 + 2.882x - 1.277x^{2} + 0.096x^{3} + 0.005x^{4}$$

where $x \in [0, 7]$. The convex envelope is

conv
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1.5 - 0.489, & \text{if } x \in [0, 4.83] \\ f(x), & \text{if } x \in [4.83, 7]. \end{cases}$$

converge to a global solution of the global optimization problem. This outer approximation method (known as the cutting plane method) was initially introduced by Kelley Jr (1960) in convex programming [6]. Kelley's cutting plane algorithm starts with a relaxed LP (linear programming) solution. Thereafter, it find the solution by successively adding constraints (i.e., constructed cuts) to the problem [7], pp. 463-465 and [8], pp. 316-323. The outer-approximate with increasingly tighter convex programs was extended by Tuy (1983) [9] to general nonconvex optimization problems.

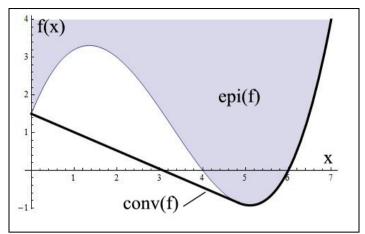


Fig 1. Convex envelope of a nonconvex polynomial over a closed convex interval.

C. Nuclear Norm

Complexity and dimensionality of the system can be expressed by means of the rank of a matrix. In [4] a low-rank matrix should correspond to different situations in statistics, system identification or control, e.g., a low-degree for a random process model, a low-order realization of a linear system. An affine rank minimization problem (RMP) consists of finding a matrix of minimum rank that satisfies a system of linear equality constraints[4].

Definition 2. The nuclear form of the $m \times n$ matrix **X** (or Schatten 1-norm, or Ky Fan *r*-norm) is the sum of its singular values, i.e.,

$$\|\mathbf{X}\|_{*} = \sum_{i=1}^{\min\{m,n\}} \sigma_{i}(\mathbf{X}), \ \sigma_{i}(\mathbf{X}) = \sqrt{\lambda_{i}(\mathbf{X}^{T}\mathbf{X})}.\Box$$

Let the RMP [4][12] be

minimize rank (\mathbf{X}) subject to : $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{b},$

where $\mathcal{A}: \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{p}$ is a linear mapping. In statistics, RMP can refer to the problem of finding the least complex stochastic model according to the available observations and prior assumptions⁴ [12].

Theorem 2. The convex envelope of the rank function $\phi(\mathbf{X}) = \operatorname{rank}(\mathbf{X})$ over the set of matrices with bounded norm $S = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} : \|\mathbf{X}\| \le 1\}$ is $\phi_{env}(\mathbf{X}) = \|\mathbf{X}\|_* .\Box$

⁴ Let the variance-covariance matrix $\mathbf{X} = E\left[\left(\tilde{\mathbf{z}} - E\left[\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\right]\right)\left(\tilde{\mathbf{z}} - E\left[\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\right]\right)^{T}\right]$ of

practice between the model complexity (i.e., rank (X)) and its accuracy

Proof⁵: See [12], pp. 54-60 □

Since the nuclear norm is the convex envelope of rank, the problem is

minimize
$$\|\mathbf{X}\|$$

subject to :
 $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{b}.$

D. Conjugacy Transformation [13]

Conjugacy transformation (or Legendre-Fenchel transform) associates with any function f a convex function f^* called convex conjugate. This important notion intervenes in the Lagrangian duality. It relates the dual with the primal function.⁶

Definition.3. Let the closed convex differentiable function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto (-\infty, \infty)$.

The Fenchel conjugate $f^*: \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto (-\infty, \infty)$ is ⁷

$$f^{*}(\mathbf{y}) \triangleq \sup_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^{n}} \left\{ \left\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \right\rangle - f(\mathbf{x}) \right\}. \square$$

It is a generalization of the Legendre transform⁸. It expresses the maximum gap between the linear $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{y}$ and $f(\mathbf{x})$ [13] pp. 82-89.

The properties of the conjugate function are

- f^* is always convex, since it is the pointwise supremum of a family of convex functions of y.
- If f and f^* are convex, and their epigraph is closed convex, then $f^{**} = f^*(f^*) = f$. Therefore, the conjugacy transform is a symmetric transformation.
- If f and f^{*} are convex, then they satisfy the Fenchel-Young inequality

$$f(\mathbf{x}) + f^*(\mathbf{y}) \ge \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$$
 for all \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}

Example 2. [16], pp. 72-74. Let the univariate exponential function $f(x) = e^x$ where $x \in \mathbb{R}$. If y < 0, the expression $yx - e^x$ is unbounded, so that $f^*(y) = +\infty$. For y = 0, we

⁸ The Legendre transform for invertible gradient of f is $f^{\dagger}(\mathbf{s}) = \langle \mathbf{s}, \nabla^{-1} f(\mathbf{s}) \rangle - f(\nabla^{-1} f(\mathbf{s}))$. See [15].

the random \tilde{z} . In this application, the rank of X denotes the complexity of the stochastic model, i.e., the number of independent random variables needed to explain the variance-covariance matrix. The trade-off that we have in

 $f(\mathbf{X})$ is illustrated in [12].

 ⁵ The proof of the convex envelope theorem is using the conjugate functions.
 ⁶ On the conjugacy correspondence, see Bertsekas *et al.* [14], pp. 432-434.

⁷ The domain of the conjugate function consists of $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for which the supremum is finite, i.e. the difference is bounded above on dom (f).

have $\sup_{x} -e^{x} = 0$. If y > 0, the expression $yx - e^{x}$ reaches its maximum at $\hat{x} = \log_{e} y$. We deduce the convex conjugate $f^{*}(y) = y \log_{e} y - y$.⁹

Example 3. Let the negative entropy¹⁰ function $f(x) = x \log x$ on $dom(f) = \mathbb{R}_{++}$. The expression $yx - x \log x$ is bounded above on \mathbb{R}_{+} for all y. Hence $dom(f^*) = \mathbb{R}$. We deduce $f^*(y) = e^{y-1}$. The epigraphs of the original function and that of its convex conjugate are pictured in Fig 2.

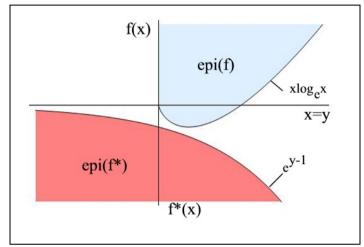


Fig 2 Convex conjugate of a negentropy function.

III. LP RELAXATIONS FOR NONCONVEX QUADRATIC POLYNOMIAL PROGRAMS

The Reformulation-Linearization Technique (RLT) by Sherali and Adams treats both discrete and continuous programming problems [5]. It is valuable for producing polyhedral outer approximations or LP relaxations for nonconvex polynomial programs having integral exponents for all nonlinear terms. RLT-LP relaxations of QP problems yield a lower bound on the global minimum [16][18]. New constraints and convex variables bounding types are introduced in [20][20] to obtain tighter lower bounds. The RLT procedure also benefits of various improvements of the implementation such as a range-reduction process, a constraint filtering technique, a new branching variable selection. Thus, filtering techniques have been proposed in [20] to accelerate the RLT

⁹ More generally, let $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i \exp(x_i), c_i > 0$. From the definition we deduce that $f'(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sup_{x_i \in \mathbb{R}} \{x_i y_i - c_i \exp(x_i)\}$. Then

we obtain $f'(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i \log_e (y_i / c_i) - \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i$ for $\forall \mathbf{y} > \mathbf{0}$, i.e., the difference between the cross-entropy function and a linear function. search¹¹. The relaxations are embedded in a convergent branchand-bound algorithm.

A. Nonconvex Quadratic Programming Problem [10]

Let a nonconvex quadratic programming problem (NQP) subject to linear equality constraints and box-constrained decision variables, such as

NQP(
$$\Omega$$
): minimize $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}$

subject to :

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \le \mathbf{b},$$
$$\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \equiv \left\{ \mathbf{x} : x_j \in \left[x_j^L, x_j^U \right], \ j = 1, \dots, n \right\}$$

where $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. **H** is an $n \times n$ indefinite symmetric matrix, **A** is the $m \times n$ matrix of coefficients, and where the hyper-rectangle Ω defines finite lower and upper bounds on the variables, with $x_j^L < x_j^U$, $\forall j = 1, ..., j$. All the linear m + 2n inequality constraints, can be expressed by

$$\mathbf{G}_{i}\mathbf{x} \equiv \sum_{k=1}^{n} G_{ik} x_{k} \leq g_{i}, i = 1, \dots, m + 2n.$$

Rewriting the NQP problem we have

$$\mathbf{NQP} : \underset{\mathbf{x}\in\Omega\subset\mathbb{R}^{n}}{\text{minimize}} \sum_{k=1}^{n} c_{k} x_{k} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{l=1}^{n} h_{kl} x_{k} x_{l}$$

subject to : (1)
$$g_{i} - \mathbf{G}_{i} \mathbf{x} \ge 0, \ i = 1, \dots, m + 2n.$$

B. Reformulation-Linearization Technique

The reformulation-linearization technique (RLT) consists in the two following phases, the reformulation and the convexification phases

- In the reformulation phase, the constraints the constraints in (1) are replaced with a pairwise product such as $(g_i G_i \mathbf{x})(g_j G_j \mathbf{x}) \ge 0, 1 \le i \le j \le m + 2n$.
- In the linearization/ convexification phase, each distinct quadratic term x_kx_l for 1 ≤ k ≤ l ≤ n is replaced by a new RLT variable w_{kl}.

The RLT process yields the following LP relaxation of the NQP problem¹²

¹⁰ The entropy is an index about disorder in a system (e.g., wasted energy). The negative entropy or negentropy refers to the quantity that is exported by the system to keep its own entropy at a lower level.

¹¹ Reduced size RLT (rRLT) [21] applies to nonconvex QP problems. rRLTs are obtained by replacing quadratic terms with linear constraints. An extension of the rRLT is proposed in [22] to general polynomial programs.

¹² The linearization of $\left[\cdot \right]$ is denoted by $\left[\cdot \right]_{I}$.

minimize $\sum_{k=1}^{n} c_k x_k + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} h_{kk} w_{kk} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{l=k+1}^{n} h_{kl} w_{kl}$ subject to :

$$\left[\left(\boldsymbol{g}_{i}-\mathbf{G}_{i}\boldsymbol{\mathbf{x}}\right)\left(\boldsymbol{g}_{j}-\mathbf{G}_{j}\boldsymbol{\mathbf{x}}\right)\right]_{L}\geq0,\ 1\leq i\leq j\leq m+2n.$$

C. Branch-and-Bound Algorithm

In the branch-and-bound procedure, a list of active nodes $q \in Q_s$ is maintained at each stage *s* of the algorithm. Each node *q* corresponds to some partitioned hyperrectangle $\Omega^q \subseteq \Omega$. The RLT algorithm to solve NQP consists in the following different steps [5], pp. 263-281 and [22], pp. 675-683.

• <u>Step 0</u> : Initialization. Set $s = 1, Q_s = \{1\}, q(s) = 1$ and $\Omega^1 \equiv \Omega$. Solve $LP(\Omega^1)$ and get a solution $(\overline{\mathbf{x}}, \overline{\mathbf{w}})$ for which the objective value is $LB_1 = LP(\Omega^1)$. If $\overline{\mathbf{x}}$ is feasible to $NQP(\Omega)$, update $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}^1$ and $\hat{v} = \mathbf{c}^T \hat{\mathbf{x}} + (1/2) \hat{\mathbf{x}}^T \mathbf{H} \hat{\mathbf{x}}$. If $LB_1 = \hat{v}$, then STOP. Otherwise, determine a branching variable x_p . The index p is such that $p \in \arg \max \{\theta_k, k = 1, ..., n\}$

where

$$\theta_{k} \equiv \max\left\{0, h_{kk}\left(\overline{x}_{k}^{2} - \overline{w}_{kk}\right)\right\} + \sum_{l=1}^{n} \max\left\{0, h_{kl}\left(\overline{x}_{k}\overline{x}_{l} - \overline{w}_{kl}\right)\right\}, \theta_{k} > 0$$

for k = 1, ..., n. Then, <u>GO TO STEP</u> 1.

- <u>Step 1</u>: Partitioning. Partition the selected active node $\Omega^{q(s)}$ into two sub-hyperrectangles. Denote the lower and upper bounds by $l^{q(s)}$ and $u^{q(s)}$ respectively. Then, the bounding interval $\left[l_p^{q(s)}, u_p^{q(s)}\right]$ is divided for x_p at a value \overline{x}_p , say $\left[l_p^{q(s)}, \overline{x}_p\right]$ and $\left[\overline{x}_p, u_p^{q(s)}\right]$. Replace q(s) by these two new nodes and revise Q_s .
- <u>Step 2</u>: Bounding. Solve the LP relaxation for each of the two nodes. Update the incumbent solution if possible. Determine a corresponding branching variable index, as in the initialization <u>STEP 0</u>.
- <u>Step 3</u>: Fathoming. Fathom non improving nodes by setting $Q_{s+1} = Q_s \{q \in Q_s : LB_q + \varepsilon \ge \hat{v}\}$ where ε

denote a positive tolerance¹³. If $Q_{s+1} = \emptyset$, then STOP. Otherwise increment *s* by one and GO TO STEP 4.

• <u>Step 4</u>: Node selection. Select an active node $q(s) \in \arg \min \{LB_q : q \in Q_s\}$. <u>RETURN TO STEP</u> <u>1</u>.

IV. LMI RELAXATIONS

Following the Shor's LMI formulation, [23][24] use LMI relaxations for solving nonconvex optimization problems. A hierarchy of LMI relaxations of increasing dimensions generates a monotone converging sequence of lower bounds to the global optimal solution. This section introduces to the LMI feasibility sets, SDP formulation of SOS polynomials, and illustrates these notions with a simplified engineering application, in structural optimization.

A. LMI Feasibility Sets

A linear matrix inequality (LMI) is of the canonical negative definite form [25]-[27]

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{F}_0 + x_1 \mathbf{F}_1 + \dots + x_n \mathbf{F}_n \prec 0,$$

where $\mathbf{F}_0, \mathbf{F}_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}_n$ are symmetric $m \times m$ matrices (i.e. $\mathbf{F}_0, \mathbf{F}_i \in \mathbb{S}^m$, $i = 1, \dots, n$) and $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

LMI is equivalent to semialgebraic sets of polynomial inequalities and equations. Converting an SDP to a semialgebraic set is illustrated as follows [28]

$$\left\{ \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{S}^{n} : \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 3-x & -(x+y) & 1\\ -(x+y) & 4-y & 0\\ 1 & 0 & -x \end{pmatrix} \succ 0 \right\}$$
(2)

where $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ are parameters. Determine the principal minors of **X**. Cone **X** will satisfy (2) if and only if the parameters satisfy the polynomial inequalities¹⁴

$$3-x > 0 \quad (a) \\ (3-x)(4-y) - (x+y)^2 > 0 \quad (b) \\ -x((3-x)(4-y) - (x+y)^2) - (4-y) > 0 \quad (c) \end{cases}$$
(3)

The feasible set with curved faces (also called spectrahedra) of x and y is shown in Fig. 3.

¹⁴ For a square $n \times n$ matrix **X**, then $\mathbf{X} \succ \mathbf{0}$ if and only if det $(\mathbf{X}_{k}) > 0$ for all k = 1, ..., n, where \mathbf{X}_{k} denotes the $k \times k$ principal minor submatrices. In the case of semidefinite $\mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{0}$ the conditions include all the minors.

¹³ An exact desired optimum requires $\varepsilon = 0$.

The Shur complement is used to reformulate quadratic convex inequality into the LMI form.

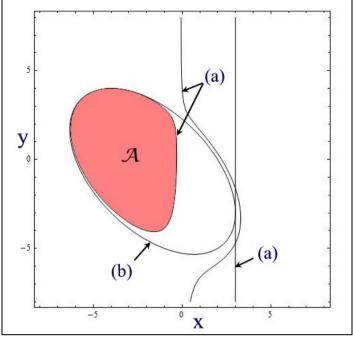


Fig. 3 . Example of a semialgebraic set.

Lemma 1. Shur Complement. Let the Hermitian block matrix $\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{C}^T \end{pmatrix}$

 $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{C}^{\mathsf{T}} \\ \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{D} \end{pmatrix}$ be a symmetric matrix with $k \times k$ block **B** and $l \times l$ block **D**. Assume that $\mathbf{B} \succ \mathbf{0}$ (i.e., positive definite).

Then, we have $\mathbf{A} \succ \mathbf{0}$, if and only if $\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{CB}^{-1}\mathbf{C} \succ \mathbf{0}$.

The LMI is equivalent to *n* polynomial inequalities. In fact, $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) \succ 0$ if and only if all its principal minors $m_k(\mathbf{x})$ are positive. We have

$$m_{k}(\mathbf{x}) = \det \begin{pmatrix} F_{11}(\mathbf{x}) & \dots & F_{1k}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ F_{k1}(\mathbf{x}) & \dots & F_{kk}(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}, \ k = 1, \dots, n$$

where $F_{kl}(\mathbf{x})$ denotes the entry on k-th and l-th column of $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})$.

B. SDP Formulation of SOS Polynomials

Semidefinite programming (SDP) in polynomial optimization consists in approximating a hierarchy of convex semidefinite relaxations as in Shor [29]. These relaxations can be constructed by using an SOS representation of nonnegative polynomials and the dual theory of moments. Indeed, testing whether a polynomial is nonnegative can be reduced to the existence of an equivalent sum of squares (SOS) polynomial via semidefinite programming [30].

Definition 4. Let the multivariate polynomial be the following finite linear combination of monomials

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} \mathbf{x}^{\alpha} \equiv \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} x_{1}^{\alpha_{1}} \dots x_{n}^{\alpha_{n}}, c_{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R},$$

where $\alpha = (\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n), \alpha_i \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Recall that the total degree of a monomial \mathbf{x}^{α} is equal to $\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n$ and that the total degree of the polynomial is the maximum degree of its monomials¹⁵.

Theorem 2. The existence of an SOS decomposition of a polynomial in *n* variables of degree 2d, such as $p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i} q_i^2(\mathbf{x})$ can result from a semidefinite programming feasibility problem [30][31].

The cone of SOS polynomials has an LMI form

The cone of SOS polynomials has an LMI formulation. A polynomial of degree $\alpha \le 2d$ is SOS if and only if

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{z}^{T} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{z}$$
, with $\mathbf{Q} \geq \mathbf{0}$,

where **z** contains all monomials with degree not greater than d. The Cholesky factorization yields $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q}$, such that $p(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{L}^T \mathbf{L} \mathbf{z} = \sum_i (\mathbf{L} \mathbf{z})_i^2$. Then, we deduce that $p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{\text{rank}(\mathbf{X})} q_i^2(\mathbf{x})$.

Example 5. Let the following quartic form [30]

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = 2x_1^4 + 2x_1^3x_2 - x_1^2x_2^2 + 5x_2^4,$$

for which the monomial vector is $\mathbf{z} = (x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2)^T$. We have

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^2 \\ x_2^2 \\ x_1 x_2 \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} q_{11} & q_{12} & q_{13} \\ q_{12} & q_{22} & q_{23} \\ q_{13} & q_{23} & q_{33} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1^2 \\ x_2^2 \\ x_1 x_2 \end{pmatrix},$$
$$= q_{11} x_1^4 + q_{22} x_2^4 + (q_{33} + 2q_{12}) x_1^2 x_2^2 + 2q_{13} x_1^3 x_2 + 2q_{23} x_1 x_2^3.$$

A positive semidefinite Q that satisfies the linear equalities

 $q_{_{11}} = 2, \ q_{_{22}} = 5, \ q_{_{33}} + 2q_{_{12}} = -1, \ 2q_{_{13}} = 2 \ \text{and} \ 2q_{_{23}} = 0$

is found by using SDP. A particular solution is $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 5 & 0\\ 1 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{L}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{L}, \ \mathbf{L} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -3 & 1\\ 0 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore, we get the SOS decomposition

¹⁵ Special cases are homogeneous forms, where the monomials have the same total degree *d*. The polynomial is homogeneous of degree *d*, since $p(\lambda \mathbf{x}) = \lambda^d p(\mathbf{x})$.

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(2x_1^2 - 3x_2^2 + x_1x_2 \right)^2 + \left(x_2^2 + 3x_1x_2 \right)^2.$$

C. Truss Topology Design

A truss topology design (TTD) problem concerns a mechanical construction made up thin elastic bars linked to each other at nodes. The construction deforms under an external load until the tensions compensate the external forces. The goal is to design a truss of a given weight that best withstand the given weight. In other words, the compliance of the truss (i.e., potential energy resulting from the deformation) with regards to the load will be put as small as possible [25] pp. 21-29 and 227-247.¹⁶

Suppose that TTD problem consists in *N* bars of length $\mathbf{l} \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$ and cross-sections $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$ for which lower and upper bounds are imposed, i.e., $\mathbf{a} \le \mathbf{x} \le \mathbf{b}$. Let *V* be the total volume of the construction, we must have $\mathbf{l}^{T}\mathbf{x} \le v$. Let **f** the external forces and **d** the node displacements. Let the semidefinite stiffness matrix $\mathbf{A} \ge \mathbf{0}$ be the following linear mapping $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}_{1}x_{1} + \dots + \mathbf{A}_{N}x_{N}$. At the static equilibrium of the construction loaded by **f**, we must have the nonlinear equality $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{f}$. The objective for the TTD problem being to minimize elastic stored energy $\mathbf{f}^{T}\mathbf{d}$ (i.e., maximize

being to minimize elastic stored energy $\mathbf{f} \mathbf{d}$ (i.e., maximize stiffness), the standard TTD optimization problem is

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{x \in [\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}] \subset \mathbb{R}^{N}}{\text{minimize } \mathbf{f}^{T} \mathbf{d}} \\ \text{subject to :} \\ \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{f}, \\ \mathbf{l}^{T} \mathbf{x} \leq \nu, \\ \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) \geq \mathbf{0}. \end{array}$$

$$(4)$$

To obtain an equivalent LMI problem, we have to operate the following successive transformations to (4): eliminate the equilibrium constraint with $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{f}$, place the objective to constraints with the auxiliary variable γ , and linearize with Schur lemma. We achieve the equivalent LMI formulation

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{\mathbf{x} \in [\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}] \subset \mathbb{R}^{N}}{\text{minimize } \gamma} \\ \text{subject to :} \\ \mathbf{l}^{T} \mathbf{x} \leq \nu, \\ \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & \mathbf{f}^{T} \\ \mathbf{f} & \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix} \succ \mathbf{0}. \end{array}$$

V. CONCLUSION: LAGRANGE AND SEMIDEFINITE RELAXATIONS

Table ... shows the links between the Lagrange and semidefinite relaxation.

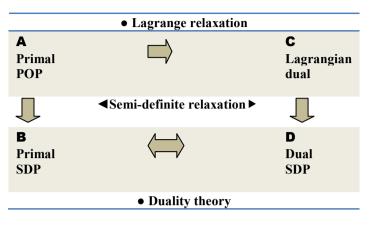
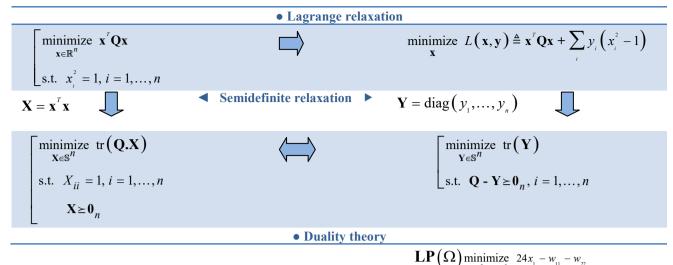


Table ... illustrates these links by using the binary QP programming problem.

¹⁶ The interests of SDP for structural design in engineering are presented and developed in [32], pp. 443-467.



VI. APPENDIX A - EXAMPLE TO THE RLT PROCESS

A. Problem Formulation

Let the following nonlinear quadratic problem (NQP)¹⁷

NQP: minimize $24x_1 - x_1^2 - x_2^2$ subject to : $-3x_1 + 4x_2 \le 24$,

 $3x_1 + 8x_2 \le 120$, where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2)^T$ and $\Omega = [x_1^L, x_1^U] \times [x_2^L, x_2^U]$. Using RLT, NQP is reformulated as the linearized LP:

 $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}$ subject to : $G1 \equiv \left(x_{i}^{L}\right)^{2} + w_{i} - 2x_{i}^{L}x_{i} \ge 0,$ $G2 = -x_{1}^{L}x_{1}^{U} - w_{1} + x_{1}^{L}x_{1} + x_{1}^{U}x_{1} \ge 0,$ $G3 = x_{1}^{L}x_{2}^{L} + w_{12} - x_{2}^{L}x_{1} - x_{1}^{L}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G4 \equiv -x_{1}^{L}x_{2}^{U} - w_{1} + x_{2}^{U}x_{1} + x_{1}^{L}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G5 = \left(x_{\perp}^{U}\right)^{2} + w_{\perp} - 2x_{\perp}^{U}x_{\perp} \ge 0,$ $G6 = -x^{L}x^{U}_{,} - w_{,} + x^{L}_{,} x + x^{U}_{,} x_{,} \ge 0,$ $G7 \equiv x_{1}^{U}x_{2}^{U} + w_{12} - x_{2}^{U}x_{1} - x_{1}^{U}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G8 \equiv \left(x_{2}^{L}\right)^{2} + w_{2} - 2x_{2}^{L}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G9 = -x_{2}^{L}x_{2}^{U} - w_{22} + x_{2}^{L}x_{2} + x_{2}^{U}x_{2} \ge 0,$ G10 = $\left(x_{2}^{U}\right)^{2} + w_{22} - 2x_{2}^{U}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G11 = -24x_1^{L} + 3w_1 - 4w_2 + 24x_1 - 3x_1^{L}x_1 + 4x_1^{L}x_2 \ge 0,$ $G12 \equiv -120x_{1}^{L} - 3w_{11} - 8w_{12} + 120x_{1} + 3x_{1}^{L}x_{1} + 8x_{1}^{L}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G13 = 24x_1^{U} - 3w_{11} + 4w_{12} - 24x_1 + 3x_1^{U}x_1 - 4x_1^{U}x_2 \ge 0,$ $G14 = 120x_1^{U} + 3w_1 + 8w_2 - 120x_1 - 3x_1^{U}x_1 - 8x_1^{U}x_2 \ge 0,$ $G15 = -24x_{2}^{L} + 3w_{2} - 4w_{2} - 3x_{2}^{L}x_{1} + 24x_{2} + 4x_{2}^{L}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G16 = -120x_{2}^{L} - 3w_{12} - 8w_{22} + 3x_{2}^{L}x_{1} + 120x_{2} + 8x_{2}^{L}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G17 = 24x_{2}^{U} - 3w_{12} + 4w_{22} + 3x_{2}^{U}x_{1} - 24x_{2} - 4x_{2}^{U}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G18 \equiv 120x_{2}^{U} + 3w_{12} + 8w_{22} - 3x_{2}^{U}x_{1} - 120x_{2} - 8x_{2}^{U}x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G19 \equiv 576 + 9w_{11} - 24w_{12} + 16w_{22} + 144x_{1} - 192x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G20 \equiv 2880 - 9w_{11} - 12w_{12} + 32w_{22} + 288x_{1} - 672x_{2} \ge 0,$ $G21 \equiv 14400 + 9w_{11} + 48w_{12} + 64w_{22} - 720x_{1} - 1920x_{2} \ge 0,$

¹⁷ Adapted from [22], p.683.

where $\mathbf{w} = (w_{11}, w_{12}, w_{22})^T$. The first ten linear constraints are the linearized bound factor pairwise inequalities. The next eight linear constraints are the linearized bound-constraint factor pairwise inequalities. The last three constraints are linearized constraint factor pairwise inequalities.

Branch-and-Bound Resolution R

Suppose the following lower and upper bounds $x_1^L = 0, x_1^U = 24, x_2^L = 0, x_2^U = 15$. Solving $LP(\Omega^1)$, we obtain $(\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \hat{w}_{11}, \hat{w}_{12}, \hat{w}_{22}) = (8, 6, 192, 48, 72)$ for which the objective value is $v(LP(\Omega^1)) = 92$. The solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (8, 6)^T$ is feasible to NQP and produces an objective value of $\hat{v} = -72$. At this stage, we can observe that $\hat{w}_{12} = \hat{x}_1 \hat{x}_2$ is true, whereas $\hat{w}_{11} = 192 \neq \hat{x}_1^2 = 64$ and $\hat{w}_{22} = 72 \neq \hat{x}_1^2 = 36$ both differ. Hence, we need to split the interval for x_1 at $\hat{x}_1 = 8$ or for x_2 at $\hat{x}_2 = 6$.

Using the branching rule to decide, we obtain $\theta_{1} = \max\{0, -(64 - 192)\} = 128$ and $\theta_{2} = \max \{0, -(36 - 72)\} = 36$. Comparing the results, we select x_1 , which achieves the best value. Then, we replace the interval Ω^1 with two sub-hyperrectangles $\Omega^2 = \{ \mathbf{x} : x_1 \in [0, 8], x_2 \in [0, 15] \}$ and $\Omega^3 = \{ \mathbf{x} : x_1 \in [8, 24], x_2 \in [0, 15] \}$. Thereafter, using the same procedure, we obtain results for the other steps in TABLE 1. We observe that the convergence is achieved at step 2 where $v(LP(\Omega^2)) = v(LP(\Omega^3)) = v^*.$

| Relaxation # | Decision and Lifting Variables | | | | | Objective Functions | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|------|
| | x_1 | <i>x</i> ₂ | W_{11} | W_{12} | <i>W</i> ₂₂ | v | v(#) |
| $LP(\Omega^1)$ | 8 | 6 | 192 | 48 | 72 | -72 | 92 |
| $LP(\Omega^2)$ | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 | -36 | -36 |
| $LP(\Omega^3)$ | 24 | 6 | 576 | 144 | 36 | -36 | -36 |
| | | | | | | | |

TABLE 1 SUCCESSIVE RELAXATIONS

 $\Omega^{1} = [0, 24] \times [0, 15], \quad \Omega^{2} = [0, 8] \times [0, 15]$ where and $\Omega^3 = [8, 24] \times [0, 15].$

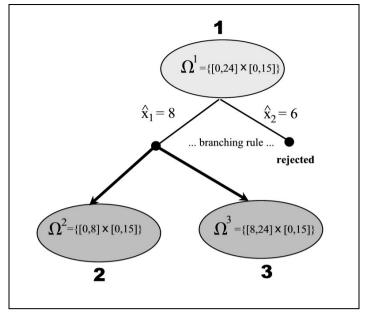


Fig. 1. Branch-and-bound decision tree.

VII. APPENDIX B - SEMIDEFINITE PROGRAMMING TO OP PROBLEMS

QP problems can be interpreted as SDP problems by using the Schur complements with regular and singular matrices. The QP problems are extended by considering an unconstrained QP, a bilinear QP and a single constraint QP¹⁸. The complexity of nonconvex quadratic problems is studied in [36]. It is shown that even one negative eigenvalue makes the problem NB hard.

C. Unconstrained Quadratic Optimization Problem

Let the unconstrained nonconvex OP be

$$\underset{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^{n}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{P}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}^{T}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}$$

 $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{S}^n$. For $\mathbf{P} \succ \mathbf{0}$, the optimal where value is $p^* = -(1/2)\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{q} + r$. More generally, we have

$$p^{*} = \begin{cases} -(1/2)\mathbf{q}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{P}^{\dagger}\mathbf{q} + r, \text{ for } \mathbf{P} \ge \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{P}) \\ -\infty, \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

 \mathbf{P}^{\dagger} is the pseudo-inverse of **P**, and $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{P})$ denotes where the range of P.

D. Bilinear Ouadratic Optimization Problem

r

$$\underset{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^{n}}{\text{ninimize } \mathbf{x}^{T}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}+2\mathbf{y}^{T}\mathbf{B}^{T}\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{y}^{T}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{y}}$$
(5)

¹⁸ This presentation is inspired from Boyd and Vandenberghe [33]. A large number of real-world applications , e.g., in engineering models, design and control can be QPs with a quadratic objective and a linear set of constraints. The properties of QPs and the different techniques for solving QPs are reviewed in [34]. The theory of nonconvex QP problems via SDPs is discussed in Nesterov et al. [35]. Lagrangian relaxations are used derive good approximate solutions.

Suppose that we have a regular matrix A. The solution is $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = -\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$.

The initial QP problem (5) is rewritten as

$$\inf_{\mathbf{x}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{y} \end{pmatrix}^{\mathrm{T}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B}^{\mathrm{T}} & \mathbf{C} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{y} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The Schur complement of **A** in the partitioned matrix is $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{B}$. Using the optimal expression for **x**, we find the optimal value

$$p^* = \mathbf{y}^T \left(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{B} \right) \mathbf{y}$$

Suppose that we have a singular matrix A. If $A \ge 0$ and the range condition¹⁹ $By \in \mathcal{R}(A)$, then the QP problem is solvable, and the optimal value for this problem is generalized as follows

$$p^* = \mathbf{y}^T \left(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^{\dagger} \mathbf{B} \right) \mathbf{y} \; .$$

E. Single Constraint Quadratic Optimization Problem

Let the nonconvex QP be constrained with a quadratic inequality

minimize
$$\mathbf{x}^{T} \mathbf{A}_{0} \mathbf{x} + 2 \mathbf{b}_{0}^{T} \mathbf{x} + c_{0}$$

subject to : (6)
 $\mathbf{x}^{T} \mathbf{A}_{1} \mathbf{x} + 2 \mathbf{b}_{1}^{T} \mathbf{x} + c_{1} \le 0.$

where $\mathbf{A}_i \in \mathbb{S}^n$, $\mathbf{b}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $\mathbf{c}_i \in \mathbb{R}$ for i = 0, 1. Since the quadratic terms $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{x}$ can be expressed as $\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T)$, a new variable \mathbf{X} is defined by $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T$. Relaxing this constraint by $\mathbf{X} > \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T$ and using the Solur complement the OP problem (6).

 $\mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{x}^{\mathsf{T}}$ and using the Schur complement, the QP problem (6) is now expressed as minimize $\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{X}) + \mathbf{b}_{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{x} + c_{\mathsf{T}}$

subject to :
tr
$$(\mathbf{A}_{1}\mathbf{X}) + \mathbf{b}_{1}\mathbf{X} + c_{1} \le 0,$$

 $\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{x}^{T} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \ge \mathbf{0}.$

The Lagrangian of problem (6) is

 $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x},\lambda) = \mathbf{x}^{T} (\mathbf{A}_{0} + \lambda \mathbf{A}_{1}) + 2(\mathbf{b}_{0} + \lambda \mathbf{b}_{1}) \mathbf{x} + c_{0} + \lambda c_{1}.$ The dual function is $g(\lambda) = \inf_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x},\lambda)$, so that

$$g(\lambda) = \begin{cases} c_0 + \lambda c_1 - (\mathbf{b}_0 + \lambda \mathbf{b}_1)^T (\mathbf{A}_0 + \lambda \mathbf{A}_1)^{\dagger} (\mathbf{b}_0 + \lambda \mathbf{b}_1), \\ \text{for } \mathbf{A}_0 + \lambda \mathbf{A}_1 \geq \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{b}_0 + \lambda \mathbf{b}_1 \in R(\mathbf{A}_0 + \lambda \mathbf{A}_1), \\ -\infty, \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The dual problem and its equivalent hypograph form are

$$\begin{cases} \underset{\lambda}{\text{maximize } g(\lambda)} \\ \text{subject to :} \\ \lambda \ge 0. \end{cases} \begin{cases} \text{maximize } t \\ \text{subject to :} \\ g(\lambda) \ge t, \\ \lambda \ge 0. \end{cases}$$

Using the Schur complement of $\mathbf{A}_0 + \lambda \mathbf{A}_1$, the dual problem is expressed as the following SDP

maximize t

$$\begin{split} \lambda &\geq \mathbf{0}, \\ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{_{0}} + \lambda \mathbf{A}_{_{1}} & \mathbf{b}_{_{0}} + \lambda \mathbf{b}_{_{1}} \\ (\mathbf{b}_{_{0}} + \lambda \mathbf{b}_{_{1}})^{T} & c_{_{0}} + \lambda c_{_{1}} - t \end{pmatrix} &\geq \mathbf{0}. \end{split}$$

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¹⁹ The range condition is also given by $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{T})\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$.

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