

15.081J/6.251J Introduction to Mathematical
Programming

Lecture 23: Semidefinite Optimization

1 Outline

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1. Preliminaries
2. SDO
3. Duality
4. SDO Modeling Power
5. Barrier Algorithm for SDO

2 Preliminaries

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- A symmetric matrix \mathbf{A} is positive semidefinite ($\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}$) if and only if

$$\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} \geq 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{u} \in R^n$$

- $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}$ if and only if all eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} are nonnegative

- $\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{B} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}B_{ij}$

2.1 The trace

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- The *trace* of a matrix \mathbf{A} is defined

$$\text{trace}(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{jj}$$

- $\text{trace}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}) = \text{trace}(\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A})$
- $\mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{B} = \text{trace}(\mathbf{A}'\mathbf{B})$

3 SDO

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- \mathbf{C} symmetric $n \times n$ matrix
- $\mathbf{A}_i, i = 1, \dots, m$ symmetric $n \times n$ matrices
- $b_i, i = 1, \dots, m$ scalars
- Semidefinite optimization problem (SDO)

$$\begin{aligned} (P) : \quad & \min \quad \mathbf{C} \bullet \mathbf{X} \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}_i \bullet \mathbf{X} = b_i \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & \quad \quad \mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

3.1 Example

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$n = 3$ and $m = 2$

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 7 \\ 1 & 7 & 5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 8 \\ 2 & 6 & 0 \\ 8 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 9 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$b_1 = 11, \quad b_2 = 19$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{23} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & x_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} (P): \quad & \min \quad x_{11} + 4x_{12} + 6x_{13} + 9x_{22} + 7x_{33} \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad x_{11} + 2x_{13} + 3x_{22} + 14x_{23} + 5x_{33} = 11 \\ & \quad \quad 4x_{12} + 16x_{13} + 6x_{22} + 4x_{33} = 19 \\ & \quad \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{23} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & x_{33} \end{pmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

3.2 LO as SDO

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$$\begin{aligned} LO: \quad & \min \quad \mathbf{c}'\mathbf{x} \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \\ & \quad \quad \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_i = \begin{pmatrix} a_{i1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_{i2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a_{in} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & c_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & c_n \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} (P): \quad & \min \quad \mathbf{C} \bullet \mathbf{X} \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}_i \bullet \mathbf{X} = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & \quad \quad X_{ij} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \quad j = i + 1, \dots, n \\ & \quad \quad \mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & x_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

4 Duality

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$$(D) : \max \sum_{i=1}^m y_i b_i$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{i=1}^m y_i \mathbf{A}_i + \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{C}$$

$$\mathbf{S} \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

Equivalently,

$$(D) : \max \sum_{i=1}^m y_i b_i$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{C} - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i \mathbf{A}_i \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

4.1 Example

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$$(D) \max \quad 11y_1 + 19y_2$$

$$\text{s.t. } y_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 7 \\ 1 & 7 & 5 \end{pmatrix} + y_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 8 \\ 2 & 6 & 0 \\ 8 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 9 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{S} \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

$$(D) \max \quad 11y_1 + 19y_2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 1y_1 - 0y_2 & 2 - 0y_1 - 2y_2 & 3 - 1y_1 - 8y_2 \\ 2 - 0y_1 - 2y_2 & 9 - 3y_1 - 6y_2 & 0 - 7y_1 - 0y_2 \\ 3 - 1y_1 - 8y_2 & 0 - 7y_1 - 0y_2 & 7 - 5y_1 - 4y_2 \end{pmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

4.2 Weak Duality

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Theorem Given a feasible solution \mathbf{X} of (P) and a feasible solution (\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{S}) of (D) ,

$$\mathbf{C} \bullet \mathbf{X} - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i b_i = \mathbf{S} \bullet \mathbf{X} \geq 0$$

If $\mathbf{C} \bullet \mathbf{X} - \sum_{i=1}^m y_i b_i = 0$, then \mathbf{X} and (\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{S}) are each optimal solutions to (P) and (D) and $\mathbf{S}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0}$

4.3 Proof

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- We must show that if $S \succeq \mathbf{0}$ and $X \succeq \mathbf{0}$, then $S \bullet X \geq 0$
- Let $S = PDP'$ and $X = QEQ'$ where P, Q are orthonormal matrices and D, E are nonnegative diagonal matrices

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$$\begin{aligned} S \bullet X &= \text{trace}(S'X) = \text{trace}(SX) \\ &= \text{trace}(PDP'QEQ') \\ &= \text{trace}(DP'QEQ'P) = \sum_{j=1}^n D_{jj}(P'QEQ'P)_{jj} \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

since $D_{jj} \geq 0$ and the diagonal of $P'QEQ'P$ must be nonnegative.

- Suppose that $\text{trace}(SX) = 0$. Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^n D_{jj}(P'QEQ'P)_{jj} = 0$$

- Then, for each $j = 1, \dots, n$, $D_{jj} = 0$ or $(P'QEQ'P)_{jj} = 0$.
- The latter case implies that the j^{th} row of $P'QEQ'P$ is all zeros. Therefore, $DP'QEQ'P = 0$, and so $SX = PDP'QEQ' = \mathbf{0}$.

4.4 Strong Duality

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- (P) or (D) might not attain their respective optima
- There might be a duality gap, unless certain regularity conditions hold

Theorem

- If there exist feasible solutions \hat{X} for (P) and (\hat{y}, \hat{S}) for (D) such that $\hat{X} \succ \mathbf{0}$, $\hat{S} \succ \mathbf{0}$
- then, both (P) and (D) attain their optimal values z_P^* and z_D^*
- $z_P^* = z_D^*$

5 SDO vs LO

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- There may be a finite or infinite duality gap. The primal and/or dual may or may not attain their optima. Both problems will attain their common optimal value if both programs have feasible solutions in the interior of the semidefinite cone.

- There is no finite algorithm for solving *SDO*. There is a simplex algorithm, but it is not a finite algorithm. There is no direct analog of a “basic feasible solution” for *SDO*.
- Given rational data, the feasible region may have no rational solutions. The optimal solution may not have rational components or rational eigenvalues.

6 SDO Modeling Power

6.1 Quadratically Constrained Problems

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$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & (\mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_0)'(\mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_0) - \mathbf{c}'_0\mathbf{x} - d_0 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (\mathbf{A}_i\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i)'(\mathbf{A}_i\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i) - \mathbf{c}'_i\mathbf{x} - d_i \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b})'(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}) - \mathbf{c}'\mathbf{x} - d \leq 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b} \\ (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b})' & \mathbf{c}'\mathbf{x} + d \end{bmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & t \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (\mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_0)'(\mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_0) - \mathbf{c}'_0\mathbf{x} - d_0 - t \leq 0 \\ & (\mathbf{A}_i\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i)'(\mathbf{A}_i\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i) - \mathbf{c}'_i\mathbf{x} - d_i \leq 0, \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$

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\Leftrightarrow

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & t \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_0 \\ (\mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_0)' & \mathbf{c}'_0\mathbf{x} + d_0 + t \end{bmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0} \\ & \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{A}_i\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i \\ (\mathbf{A}_i\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i)' & \mathbf{c}'_i\mathbf{x} + d_i \end{bmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0} \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$

6.2 Eigenvalue Problems

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- \mathbf{X} : symmetric $n \times n$ matrix
- $\lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{X})$ = largest eigenvalue of \mathbf{X}
- $\lambda_1(\mathbf{X}) \geq \lambda_2(\mathbf{X}) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_m(\mathbf{X})$ eigenvalues of \mathbf{X}

- Theorem $\lambda_{\max}(\mathbf{X}) \leq t \Leftrightarrow t \cdot \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{0}$

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$$\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i(\mathbf{X}) \leq t \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad t - k \cdot s - \text{trace}(\mathbf{Z}) \geq 0$$

$$\mathbf{Z} \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{X} + s \mathbf{I} \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

- Recall $\text{trace}(\mathbf{Z}) = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_{ii}$

6.3 Optimizing Structural Dynamics

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- Select x_i , cross-sectional area of structure i , $i = 1, \dots, n$
- $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{M}_0 + \sum_i x_i \mathbf{M}_i$, mass matrix
- $\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{K}_0 + \sum_i x_i \mathbf{K}_i$, stiffness matrix
- Structure weight $w = w_0 + \sum_i x_i w_i$
- Dynamics

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x})\ddot{\mathbf{d}} + \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{0}$$

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- $\mathbf{d}(t)$ vector of displacements

$$d_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{ij} \cos(\omega_j t - \phi_j)$$

- $\det(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x})\omega^2) = 0$; $\omega_1 \leq \omega_2 \leq \dots \leq \omega_n$

- Fundamental frequency: $\omega_1 = \lambda_{\min}^{1/2}(\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}))$

- We want to bound the fundamental frequency

$$\omega_1 \geq \Omega \iff \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x})\Omega^2 - \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}) \preceq \mathbf{0}$$

- Minimize weight

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Problem: Minimize weight subject to

Fundamental frequency $\omega_1 \geq \Omega$

Limits on cross-sectional areas

Formulation

$$\min \quad w_0 + \sum_i x_i w_i$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x})\Omega^2 - \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}) \preceq \mathbf{0}$$

$$l_i \leq x_i \leq u_i$$

6.4 Measurements with Noise

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- \mathbf{x} : ability of a random student on k tests

$$E[\mathbf{x}] = \bar{\mathbf{x}}, E[(\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})(\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})'] = \Sigma$$
- \mathbf{y} : score of a random student on k tests
- \mathbf{v} : testing error of k tests, independent of \mathbf{x}

$$E[\mathbf{v}] = \mathbf{0}, E[\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}'] = \mathbf{D}, \text{ diagonal (unknown)}$$
- $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{v}; E[\mathbf{y}] = \bar{\mathbf{x}}$

$$E[(\mathbf{y} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})(\mathbf{y} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})'] = \widehat{\Sigma} = \Sigma + \mathbf{D}$$
- Objective: Estimate reliably $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ and Σ

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- Take samples of \mathbf{y} from which we can estimate $\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \widehat{\Sigma}$
- $\mathbf{e}'\mathbf{x}$: total ability on tests
- $\mathbf{e}'\mathbf{y}$: total test score
- Reliability of test:=

$$\frac{\text{Var}[\mathbf{e}'\mathbf{x}]}{\text{Var}[\mathbf{e}'\mathbf{y}]} = \frac{\mathbf{e}'\Sigma\mathbf{e}}{\mathbf{e}'\widehat{\Sigma}\mathbf{e}} = 1 - \frac{\mathbf{e}'\mathbf{D}\mathbf{e}}{\mathbf{e}'\widehat{\Sigma}\mathbf{e}}$$

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We can find a lower bound on the reliability of the test

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \mathbf{e}'\Sigma\mathbf{e} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Sigma + \mathbf{D} = \widehat{\Sigma} \\ & \Sigma, \mathbf{D} \succeq \mathbf{0} \\ & \mathbf{D} \text{ diagonal} \end{aligned}$$

Equivalently,

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \mathbf{e}'\mathbf{D}\mathbf{e} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{0} \preceq \mathbf{D} \preceq \widehat{\Sigma} \\ & \mathbf{D} \text{ diagonal} \end{aligned}$$

6.5 Further Tricks

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$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{C}' \\ \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{D} \end{bmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0} \iff \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{C}\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{C}' \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

•

$$\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{b}'\mathbf{x} + c \geq 0, \forall \mathbf{x} \iff \begin{bmatrix} c & \mathbf{b}' \\ \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{A} \end{bmatrix} \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

6.6 MAXCUT

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- Given $G = (N, E)$ undirected graph, weights $w_{ij} \geq 0$ on edge $(i, j) \in E$
- Find a subset $S \subseteq N$: $\sum_{i \in S, j \in \bar{S}} w_{ij}$ is maximized
- $x_j = 1$ for $j \in S$ and $x_j = -1$ for $j \in \bar{S}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MAXCUT : } \quad \max \quad & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} (1 - x_i x_j) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_j \in \{-1, 1\}, \quad j = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

6.6.1 Reformulation

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- Let $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}'$, i.e., $Y_{ij} = x_i x_j$
- Let $\mathbf{W} = [w_{ij}]$
- Equivalent Formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MAXCUT : } \quad \max \quad & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} - \mathbf{W} \bullet \mathbf{Y} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_j \in \{-1, 1\}, \quad j = 1, \dots, n \\ & Y_{jj} = 1, \quad j = 1, \dots, n \\ & \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}' \end{aligned}$$

6.6.2 Relaxation

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- $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}' \succeq \mathbf{0}$
- Relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RELAX : } \quad \max \quad & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} - \mathbf{W} \bullet \mathbf{Y} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Y_{jj} = 1, \quad j = 1, \dots, n \\ & \mathbf{Y} \succeq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\text{MAXCUT} \leq \text{RELAX}$$

- It turns out that:

$$0.87856 \text{ RELAX} \leq \text{MAXCUT} \leq \text{RELAX}$$

- The value of the SDO relaxation is guaranteed to be no more than 12% higher than the value of the very difficult to solve problem MAXCUT

7 Barrier Algorithm for SDO

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- $\mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{0} \Leftrightarrow \lambda_1(\mathbf{X}) \geq 0, \dots, \lambda_n(\mathbf{X}) \geq 0$
- Natural barrier to repel \mathbf{X} from the boundary $\lambda_1(\mathbf{X}) > 0, \dots, \lambda_n(\mathbf{X}) > 0$:

$$-\sum_{j=1}^n \log(\lambda_j(\mathbf{X})) =$$

$$-\log\left(\prod_{j=1}^n \lambda_j(\mathbf{X})\right) = -\log(\det(\mathbf{X}))$$

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- Logarithmic barrier problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & B_\mu(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{C} \bullet \mathbf{X} - \mu \log(\det(\mathbf{X})) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{A}_i \bullet \mathbf{X} = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & \mathbf{X} \succ \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

- Derivative: $\nabla B_\mu(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{C} - \mu \mathbf{X}^{-1}$
- KKT

$$\mathbf{A}_i \bullet \mathbf{X} = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m,$$

$$\mathbf{X} \succ \mathbf{0},$$

$$\mathbf{C} - \mu \mathbf{X}^{-1} = \sum_{i=1}^m y_i \mathbf{A}_i.$$

- Since \mathbf{X} is symmetric, $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}'$.

$$\mathbf{S} = \mu \mathbf{X}^{-1} = \mu \mathbf{L}'^{-1} \mathbf{L}^{-1}$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \mathbf{L}' \mathbf{S} \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{I}$$

•

$$\mathbf{A}_i \bullet \mathbf{X} = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m,$$

$$\mathbf{X} \succ \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}'$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m y_i \mathbf{A}_i + \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{C}$$

$$\mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbf{L}' \mathbf{S} \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{0}$$

- Nonlinear equations: Take a Newton step analogously to IPM for LO.
- Barrier algorithm needs $O\left(\sqrt{n} \log \frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon}\right)$ iterations to reduce duality gap from ϵ_0 to ϵ

8 Conclusions

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- SDO is a very powerful modeling tool
- SDO represents the present and future in continuous optimization
- Barrier Algorithm is very powerful
- Research software available

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Fall 2009

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