

Convex Optimization

Prof. Nati Srebro

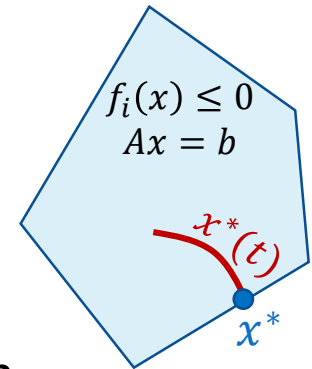
Lecture 12:

Interior Point Methods

Read: Boyd and Vandenberghe Chapter 11

Log Barrier

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$



- Central Path: $\{x^*(t) | t > 0\}$
- $x^*(t)$ strictly feasible for original (constrained) problem
- We will show: $x^*(t) \rightarrow x^*$
- How suboptimal (for original problem) is $x^*(t)$?
- How do we set t ?
- What's the complexity of optimizing with that t ?

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

Optimum x_t^* , dual opt v_t^*

$$L_t(x, v) = f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \log(-f_i(x)) + \langle v, Ax - b \rangle$$

$$0 = \nabla_x L_t(x_t^*, v_t^*) = \nabla f_0(x_t^*) + \sum_i \underbrace{\frac{-1}{tf_i(x_t^*)}}_{\lambda_{t,i}^*} \nabla f_i(x_t^*) + A^\top v_t^*$$

$$\text{Define } \lambda_{t,i}^* = \frac{-1}{tf_i(x_t^*)} > 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \leq 0, Ax = b \end{array}$$

x_t^* is strictly feasible

How suboptimal is x_t^* ?

$$L(x, \lambda, v) = f_0(x) + \sum_i \lambda_i f_i(x) + \langle v, Ax - b \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_x L(x_t^*, \lambda, v_t^*) \\ = \nabla f_0(x_t^*) + \sum_i \lambda_i \nabla f_i(x_t^*) + A^\top v_t^* \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

Optimum x_t^* , dual opt v_t^*

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$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_x L(x_t^*, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) \\ = \nabla f_0(x_t^*) + \sum_i \lambda_{t,i}^* \nabla f_i(x_t^*) + A^\top v_t^* \end{aligned}$$

$$Ax_t^* = b$$

$$f_i(x_t^*) < 0$$

$$\lambda_t^* > 0$$

But:

$$f_i(x_t^*) \cdot \lambda_{t,i}^* = f_i(x_t^*) \cdot \frac{-1}{t f_i(x_t^*)} = -\frac{1}{t}$$

Relaxed KKT

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

Optimum x_t^* , dual opt v_t^*

$$L_t(x, v) = f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \log(-f_i(x)) + \langle v, Ax - b \rangle$$

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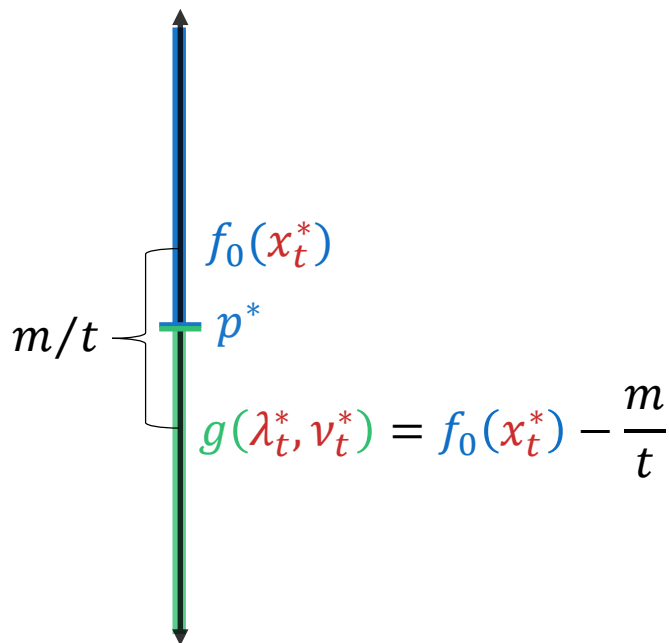
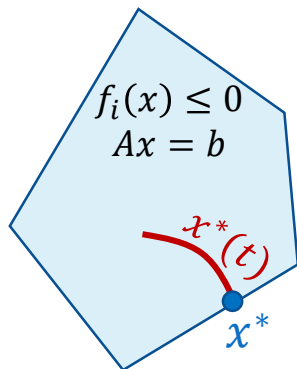
$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda_t^*, v_t^*) &= \inf_x L(x, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) = L(x_t^*, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) \\ &= f_0(x_t^*) + \sum \frac{-1}{t f_i(x_t^*)} f_i(x_t^*) + \langle v_t^*, Ax_t^* - b \rangle \\ &= f_0(x_t^*) - \frac{m}{t} \end{aligned}$$

λ_t^*, v_t^* dual (strictly) feasible with

$$f_0(x_t^*) - g(\lambda_t^*, v_t^*) = \frac{m}{t}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

Optimum x_t^* , dual opt v_t^*



$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \leq 0, Ax = b \end{array}$$

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How suboptimal is x_t^* ?

$$L(x, \lambda, v) = f_0(x) + \sum_i \lambda_i f_i(x) + \langle v, Ax - b \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_x L(x_t^*, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) &= \nabla f_0(x_t^*) + \sum_i \lambda_{t,i}^* \nabla f_i(x_t^*) + A^\top v_t^* \\ &= \nabla f_0(x_t^*) + \sum_i \lambda_{t,i}^* \nabla f_i(x_t^*) + A^\top v_t^* \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda_t^*, v_t^*) &= \inf_x L(x, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) = L(x_t^*, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) \\ &= f_0(x_t^*) + \sum \frac{-1}{t f_i(x_t^*)} f_i(x_t^*) + \langle v_t^*, Ax_t^* - b \rangle \\ &= f_0(x_t^*) - \frac{m}{t} \end{aligned}$$

λ_t^*, v_t^* dual (strictly) feasible with

$$f_0(x_t^*) - g(\lambda_t^*, v_t^*) = \frac{m}{t}$$

Log Barrier: Sub-Optimality

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- $x^*(t)$ is $\frac{m}{t}$ -suboptimal for original problem
- To get ϵ -suboptimal, set $t = m/\epsilon$ and solve using Newton
- Runtime? Number of Newton iterations?
- Assumptions:
 - $f_0(x)$ is self concordant
 - $f_i(x)$ is quadratic (or linear) $\rightarrow -\log(-f_i(x))$ self conc
- Objective *not* self-concordant, but scaled by t it is:

$$\tilde{f}(x) = tf_0(x) - \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x))$$

- #Newton iterations:

$$k \propto \left(\tilde{f}(x^{(0)}) - \tilde{f}(x_t^*) \right) = t \left(f_0(x^{(0)}) - f_0(x_t^*) \right) + \sum_i \log \frac{f_i(x_t^*)}{f_i(x^{(0)})} \propto \frac{m}{\epsilon} (\dots) + (\dots)$$

- Overall runtime: $\approx O\left(\frac{m(n+p)^3}{\epsilon} \left(f_0(x^{(0)}) - f_0(x^*)\right)\right)$

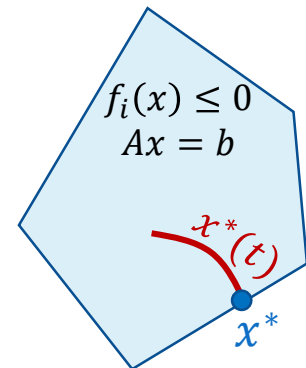
typically ≤ 0 , if $x^{(0)}$ not too close to boundary

Central Path Log Barrier Method

Init: Feasible $x^{(0)}$ and some $t^{(0)}$

Do: Solve $t^{(k)}$ -barrier problem using Newton starting at $x^{(k)}$
 $x^{(k+1)} \leftarrow x^*(t^{(k)})$
 Stop if $\frac{m}{t} \leq \epsilon$
 $t^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \mu \cdot t^{(k)}$ (for some parameter $\mu > 1$)

- When do we stop Newton? Why nested loops OK?
 - Stop at machine precision; OK since Newton gets there quickly
- Sketch of analysis:



#steps to reach $\frac{m}{t} \leq \epsilon$ #Newton to optimize barrier problem

$$\frac{\log \frac{m}{\epsilon}}{\log \mu} \cdot \underbrace{\left(t \left(f_0(x_{t/\mu}^*) - f_0(x_t^*) \right) + \sum_i \log \frac{f_i(x_t^*)}{f_i(x_{t/\mu}^*)} \right)}_{\substack{\text{I} \wedge \\ m(\mu - 1 - \log \mu)}} = O\left(\sqrt{m} \log \frac{m}{\epsilon}\right)$$

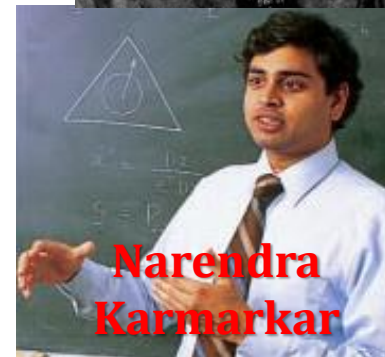
Using
 $\mu = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}\right)$

Central Path Log Barrier Method

Init: Feasible $x^{(0)}$ and some $t^{(0)}$
Do: Solve $t^{(k)}$ -barrier problem using Newton starting at $x^{(k)}$
 $x^{(k+1)} \leftarrow x^*(t^{(k)})$
Stop if $\frac{m}{t} \leq \epsilon$
 $t^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \mu \cdot t^{(k)}$ (for some parameter $\mu > 1$)

Access to:

- 2nd order oracle for f_0, f_i
- Explicit access to A, b
- Strictly feasible point $x^{(0)}$
- Assumptions:
 - f_0 convex and self-concordant
 - f_i convex quadratic (or linear)
 - $x^{(0)}$ strictly feasible with $f_i(x^{(0)}) < \delta$
- Overall #Newton Iterations: $O(\sqrt{m} (\log^{1/\epsilon} + \log \log^{1/\delta}))$
- Overall runtime: $\approx O(\sqrt{m}((n+p)^3 + m \nabla^2 \text{ evals}) \log^{1/\epsilon})$



Optimizing with Matrix Inequalities

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s. t.} & f_i(x) \preceq 0 \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

$$f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow S^{k_i}$$

- Central path given by solutions to:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \log \det(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s. t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log \det(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

$$f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow S^{k_i}$$

Optimum x_t^* , dual opt v_t^*

$$L_t(x, v) = f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \log \det(-f_i(x)) + \langle v, Ax - b \rangle$$

$$0 = \nabla_x L_t(x_t^*, v_t^*) =$$

$$\nabla f_0(x_t^*) + \sum_i \underbrace{\frac{-1}{t} f_i(x_t^*)^{-1}}_{k_i \times k_i} \odot \nabla f_i(x_t^*) + A^T v_t^*$$

$$\text{Define } \lambda_t^* = \frac{-1}{t} f_i(x_t^*)^{-1} > 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \preceq 0, Ax = b \end{array}$$

x_t^* is strictly feasible

How suboptimal is x_t^* ?

$$L(x, \lambda, v) = f_0(x) + \sum_i \langle \lambda_i, f_i(x) \rangle + \langle v, Ax - b \rangle$$

$$\nabla_x L(x_t^*, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*)$$

$$= \nabla f_0(x_t^*) + \sum_i \lambda_t^* \odot \nabla f_i(x_t^*) + A^T v_t^* = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda_t^*, v_t^*) &= \inf_x L(x, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) = L(x_t^*, \lambda_t^*, v_t^*) \\ &= f_0(x_t^*) - \sum_i \frac{1}{t} \langle f_i(x_t^*)^{-1}, f_i(x_t^*) \rangle + \langle v_t^*, Ax_t^* - b \rangle \\ &= f_0(x_t^*) - \sum_i \frac{1}{t} \text{tr } I_{k_i} = f_0(x_t^*) - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m k_i}{t} \end{aligned}$$

λ_t^*, v_t^* dual (strictly) feasible with

$$f_0(x_t^*) - g(\lambda_t^*, v_t^*) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m k_i}{t}$$

Optimizing with Matrix Inequalities

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \preceq 0 \in S^{k_i} \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \log \det(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- An optimum $x^*(t)$ for the t -barrier problem is $\epsilon = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m k_i}{t}$ suboptimal for constrained problem

Intuition: with single SDP constraint $F \preceq 0$, $F(x) = \text{diag}(f_1(x), \dots, f_m(x))$ can handle m scalar constraints $f_i: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, so expect error to scale as $\dim(F)$

- Central Path method:

Init: Feasible $x^{(0)}$ and some $t^{(0)}$
Do: Solve $t^{(k)}$ -barrier problem using Newton starting at $x^{(k)}$
 $x^{(k+1)} \leftarrow x^*(t^{(k)})$
Stop if $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m k_i}{t} \leq \epsilon$
 $t^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \mu \cdot t^{(k)}$ (for some parameter $\mu > 1$)

Central Path Method for SDP

Init: Feasible $x^{(0)}$ and some $t^{(0)}$
Do: Solve $t^{(k)}$ -barrier problem using Newton starting at $x^{(k)}$
 $x^{(k+1)} \leftarrow x^*(t^{(k)})$
Stop if $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m k_i}{t} \leq \epsilon$
 $t^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \mu \cdot t^{(k)}$ (for some parameter $\mu > 1$)

Access to:

- 2nd order oracle for f_0, f_i
- Explicit access to A, b
- Strictly feasible point $x^{(0)}$
- Assumptions:
 - $f_0: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex and self-concordant
 - $f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow S^{k_i}$ convex quadratic (or linear)
 - $x^{(0)}$ strictly feasible with $f_i(x^{(0)}) < \delta I$
- Overall #Newton Iterations: $O(\sqrt{\sum_i k_i} (\log^{1/\epsilon} + \log \log^{1/\delta}))$
- Overall runtime: $\approx O\left(\sqrt{\sum_i k_i} \left((n+p)^3 + \sum_i k_i^3 + m \nabla^2 \text{ evals}\right) \log^{1/\epsilon}\right)$



Arkadi
Nemirovski

Yuri
Nesterov

Optimizing with Generalized Inequalities

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s. t.} & f_i(x) \preccurlyeq_{K_i} 0 \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

$$f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k_i}, \text{ proper cone } K_i \subset \mathbb{R}^{k_i}$$

Definition: $\psi: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **generalized log of degree θ** for the proper cone $K \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ if:

- $\text{dom } \psi = \text{int } K$ (i.e. $\psi(x) < \infty \Leftrightarrow x \succ_K 0$)
- $-\psi$ is closed, **self concordant**, strictly convex ($\nabla^2 \psi(x) \prec 0$)
- For all $x \succ_K 0$ and $s > 0$, we have $\psi(sx) = \psi(x) + \theta \log s$

For $K = S_+^k$: $\log \det(sX) = \log(s^k \det X) = \log \det X + k \log s$

For positive orthant, $K = \mathbb{R}_+^k$: $\psi(x) = \sum_i \log x_i$

$$\rightarrow \psi(sx) = \sum_i \log sx_i = \sum_i (\log x_i + \log s) = \psi(x) + k \log(s)$$

Optimizing with Generalized Inequalities

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \preceq_{K_i} 0 \\ & Ax = b\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \psi_i(f_i) \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b\end{array}$$

$f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k_i}$, proper cone $K_i \subset \mathbb{R}^{k_i}$

$\psi_i: \mathbb{R}^{k_i} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **generalized log of degree θ_i** for K_i

- An optimum $x^*(t)$ for the t -barrier problem is $\epsilon = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \theta_i}{t}$ suboptimal for constrained problem
- Central Path method:

Init: Feasible $x^{(0)}$ and some $t^{(0)}$

Do: Solve $t^{(k)}$ -barrier problem using Newton starting at $x^{(k)}$
 $x^{(k+1)} \leftarrow x^*(t^{(k)})$

Stop if $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \theta_i}{t} \leq \epsilon$

$t^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \mu \cdot t^{(k)}$ (for some parameter $\mu > 1$)

Generalized Central Path Method

Init: Feasible $x^{(0)}$ and some $t^{(0)}$
Do: Solve $t^{(k)}$ -barrier problem using Newton starting at $x^{(k)}$
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Stop if $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \theta_i}{t} \leq \epsilon$
 $t^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \mu \cdot t^{(k)}$ (for some parameter $\mu > 1$)

Access to:

- 2nd order oracle for f_0, f_i, ψ_i
- Explicit access to A, b
- Strictly feasible point $x^{(0)}$
- Assumptions:
 - ψ_i self-concordant generalized log of degree θ_i for K_i
 - $f_0: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex and self-concordant
 - $f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow S^{k_i}$ convex quadratic (or linear)
 - $x^{(0)}$ strictly feasible with $\psi_i(-f_i(x^{(0)})) \leq \log \delta$



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How do we find feasible $x^{(0)}$?

- Option 1: use separate procedure

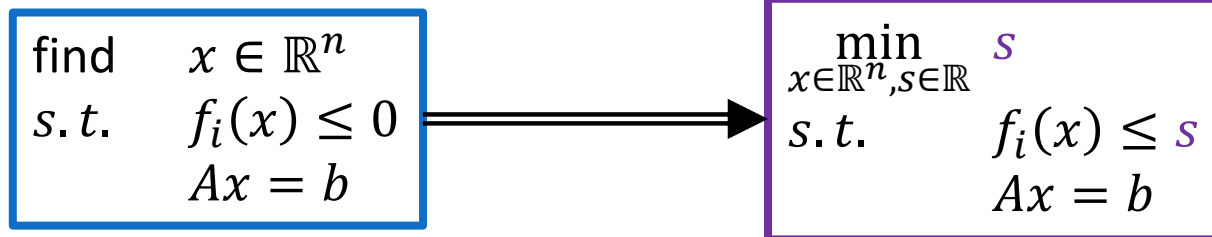
Phase I: solve feasibility problem to find feasible $x^{(0)}$

Phase II: solve opt problem starting from $x^{(0)}$

How do we solve a feasibility problem?

Convert to optimization problem (with easy init $x_I^{(0)}$)

(for now, no implicit constraints, $\text{dom } f_i = \mathbb{R}^n$, eg LP, QP, SDP, SOCP)

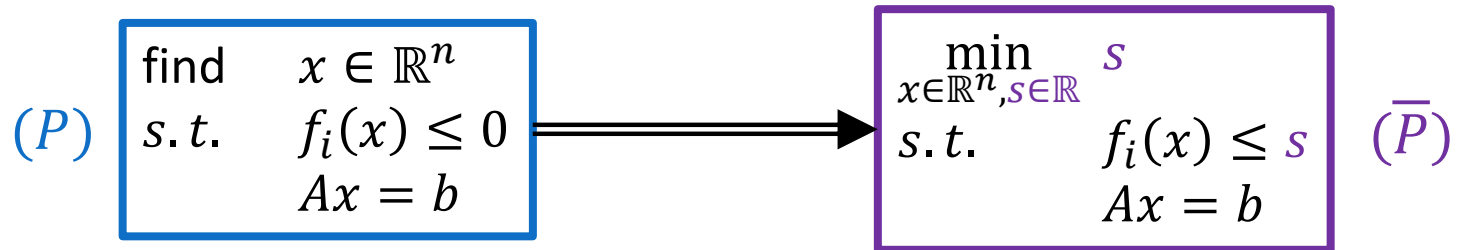


Initialize to any solution $Ax_I^{(0)} = b$

and $s^{(0)} = \max_i \left(f_i \left(x_I^{(0)} \right) \right) + 1$.

Solve using central path method.

Phase I Method



How well do we need to optimize?

- If we find feasible (x, s) for ($\bar{P}$) with $s < 0$ (even if not optimal)
 $\rightarrow$ x is strictly feasible for (P), can use as starting point for Phase II
- If we find ϵ -suboptimal (x, s) with $s > \epsilon$
 $\rightarrow$ Certificate that (P) is not feasible
- Otherwise (ϵ -suboptimal but $s < \epsilon$)
 $\rightarrow$ Not sure, either (P) barely feasible or barely infeasible

Require δ -strict-feasibility ($\exists_x Ax = b, f_i(x) < \delta$), optimize to $\epsilon = \delta/2$

Phase I+II: Details and Analysis

- To allow bounding overall complexity of Phase I+II, use:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, s \in \mathbb{R}} & s \\ \text{s. t.} & f_i(x) \leq s \quad Ax = b \\ & \langle \mathbf{g}, x \rangle \leq 1 \quad f_0(x) \leq M \end{array}$$

- Assume existence of (unknown) feasible solution with $\|\tilde{x}\| \leq R$, $\min_i f_i(\tilde{x}) \leq \delta < 0$ and $f_0(\tilde{x}) \leq M$
- Pick $x_I^{(0)}$ satisfying $Ax_I^{(0)} = b$ and denote $G = \max_i \|\nabla f_i(x_I^{(0)})\|$ and $F = \max_i f_i(x_I^{(0)}) > 0$
- Use $s_I^{(0)} = mGR + F$ and set $\mathbf{g} = -\sum_i \frac{\nabla f_i(x_I^{(0)})}{s_I^{(0)} - f_i(x_I^{(0)})}$ (this ensures $\langle \mathbf{g}, \tilde{x} \rangle \leq 1$)

➔ Number of Phase I+II Newton iterations bounded by:

$$N_I = O\left(\sqrt{m} \log \frac{mGR+F}{\delta}\right) \quad N_{II} = O\left(\sqrt{m} \log \frac{M-p^*}{\epsilon}\right)$$

With Matrix Inequalities

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \preceq 0 \in S^{k_i} \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

Phase I Method:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{find} & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \preceq 0 \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, s \in \mathbb{R}} & s \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \preceq sI \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

Initialize to any solution $Ax_I^{(0)} = b$
and $s_I^{(0)} = \max_i \lambda_{\max} \left(f_i \left(x_I^{(0)} \right) \right) + 1$.

Solve using central path method.

Implicit Constraints?

- Can add as explicit constraints to Phase I method

OR, a an often better alternative to Phase I+II Central Path:

- **Option 2:** Primal-Dual Methods allowing infeasible start

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) \\ \text{s. t.} & f_i(x) \leq 0, Ax = b \end{array}$$

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \sum_i \lambda_i f_i(x) + \langle \nu, Ax - b \rangle$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-f_i(x)) \\ \text{s. t.} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

$$L_t(x, \nu) = f_0(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_i \log(-f_i(x)) + \langle \nu, Ax - b \rangle$$

Newton iteration of log-barrier method:

1. Use (C) to eliminate $\lambda_i = \frac{-1}{t f_i(x)}$,
substitute to get problem in x, ν .
→ (D) becomes $0 = \nabla_x L\left(x, \frac{-1}{t f_i(x)}, \nu\right) = \nabla_x L_t(x, \nu)$
2. Linearize (D) about $x = x^{(k)} + \Delta x$
3. Solve (P)+(D̃) for $\Delta x, \nu$, take step in direction Δx
(ensuring progress, and (f)+(λ) remain valid)

Relaxed KKT

- (f) $f_i(x) \leq 0$
- (λ) $\lambda_i \geq 0$
- (P) $Ax = b$
- (D) $\nabla_x L(x, \lambda, \nu) = 0$
- (C) $\lambda_i \cdot f_i(x) = -1/t$

Iteration of Primal/Dual method: (work on $x^{(k)}, \lambda^{(k)}, \nu^{(k)}$)

1. Linearize (D)+(C) about $x = x^{(k)} + \Delta x$ and $\lambda = \lambda^{(k)} + \Delta \lambda$
2. Solve (P)+(D̃)+(C̃) for $x = x^{(k)} + \Delta x, \lambda = \lambda^{(k)} + \Delta \lambda, \nu = \nu^{(k)} + \Delta \nu$
take step in direction $\Delta x, \Delta \lambda, \Delta \nu$ (ensuring (f)+(λ) remain valid)