

Solving Mixed-Integer Semidefinite Programs

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CO@Work 2024 | Solving Mixed-Integer Semidefinite Programs | Marc Pfetsch | 1

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)**
- [Applications](#page-8-0)
- [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- [Symmetry](#page-41-0)
- [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

Basic Definitions

Recall:

- **⊳** Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be a symmetric matrix.
- \triangleright Note: All matrices in this talk will be symmetric.
- \triangleright *M* is positive semidefinite (psd), denoted $M \succeq 0$, if $x^\top M x \geq 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- . This is equivalent to *M* having nonnegative eigenvalues.
- \triangleright $M \succeq 0$ if and only if there exists $\boldsymbol{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ with $M = \boldsymbol{S}^\top \boldsymbol{S}.$
- \triangleright $S_{+}^{n} ≔ \{M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : M$ symmetric and $M \succeq 0\}$ is a closed convex cone.
- ⊵ For two matrices $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \, \langle A, B \rangle \coloneqq \sum_{ij} A_{ij}B_{ij}$ is the inner product.
- If $A, B \succeq 0$ then $\langle A, B \rangle \geq 0$.
- \triangleright *M* is positive definite, denoted *A* ≻ 0, if $x^\top Mx > 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}.$
- \triangleright [*m*] $=$ {1, ..., *m*} for *m* ∈ **N**.

From Linear to Semidefinite Programs

Let $a^0, \ldots, a^m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Primal/dual pair of linear program:

 (P) max $(a^0)^\top x$ s.t. $(a^k)^\top x = b_k \quad \forall k \in [m]$ $x \geq 0$. (*D*) min *b*

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\text{min} \quad & b^{\top} \mathsf{y} \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{k \in [m]} a^k \mathsf{y}_k - a^0 \geq 0, \\
& \mathsf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m.\n\end{aligned}
$$

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(P) \max (a^0)^{\top} x
$$

s.t. $(a^k)^{\top} x = b_k \quad \forall k \in [m]$
 $x \ge 0.$
 $(D) \min b^{\top} y$
s.t. $\sum_{k \in [m]} a^k y_k - a^0 \ge 0$,
 $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

Generalize to matrices: Let $A^0, \ldots, A^m \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be (symmetric) matrices, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Primal/dual Pair of semidefinite program (SDP):

$$
(P) \sup \langle A^{0}, X \rangle
$$

s.t. $\langle A^{k}, X \rangle = b_{k} \quad \forall k \in [m],$
 $X \succeq 0.$
 $(D) \inf D^{T} y$
s.t. $\sum_{k \in [m]} A^{k} y_{k} - A^{0} \succeq 0,$
 $y \in \mathbb{R}^{m}.$

LPs are a special case of SDPs for diagonal matrices.

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Duality for Semidefinite Programs

$$
\text{primal } (P): \quad \sup \big\{ \langle A^0, X \rangle \, : \, \langle A^k, X \rangle = b_k, \, \forall k \in [m], \, X \succeq 0 \big\},
$$
\n
$$
\text{dual } (D): \quad \inf \big\{ b^\top y \, : \, \sum_{k \in [m]} A^k y_k - A^0 \succeq 0, \, y \in \mathbb{R}^m \big\}.
$$

 \triangleright Weak duality: \hat{X} and \hat{y} feasible for (P) and (D), resp. Then

$$
0 \leq \langle \sum_{k \in [m]} A^k \hat{y}_k - A^0, \hat{X} \rangle = \sum_{k \in [1]}^m b_k \hat{y}_k - \langle A^0, \hat{X} \rangle = b^{\top} \hat{y} - \langle A^0, \hat{X} \rangle,
$$

which is equivalent to $\langle A^{0}, \hat{X} \rangle \leq b^{\top} \hat{y}$.

- \triangleright Strong Duality holds if Slater condition holds for (P) or (D): $\exists~\mathcal{X}\succ 0$ feasible for (P) or y such that $\sum_{k\in[m]}\mathcal{A}^k y_k-\mathcal{A}^0\succ 0$ in (D).
- . If Slater condition holds for (P), optimal objective of (D) is attained and vice versa.

Solving Semidefinite Programs

- SDPs can be solved in polynomial time up to a given accuracy $\varepsilon > 0$, e.g., by interior point solvers.
- . Existence of a KKT-point is guaranteed if Slater condition holds for (P) and (D). This is assumed by most interior-point SDP-solvers.
- \triangleright No "combinatorial algorithm" is known for SDPs.
- . Restarting interior point solvers is notoriously hard as compared to hot starting the simplex algorithm.
- . As a consequence, the solution of SDPs is much more time consuming (currently a factor of 10 to 100 slower).

Mixed-Integer Semidefinite Programming

Mixed-Integer Semidefinite Program (MISDP)

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\inf \quad & b^{\top} y \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{k=1}^{m} A^{k} y_{k} - A^{0} \succeq 0, \\
& \ell_{i} \leq y_{i} \leq u_{i} \qquad \qquad \forall \, i \in [m], \\
& y_{i} \in \mathbb{Z} \qquad \qquad \forall \, i \in I,\n\end{aligned}
$$

 \triangleright symmetric matrices $A^k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ for $k \in [m]_0 \coloneqq \{0,...,m\},$ $b \in \mathbb{R}^m,$

- bounds: $\ell_i \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}, u_i \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ for all $i \in [m],$
- . integer variables: *I* ⊆ [*m*].

Mixed Integer Programs (MIPs) are a special case.

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Overview

[Applications](#page-8-0)

- [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- [Symmetry](#page-41-0)
- [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

- . *n* nodes *V* ⊂ R*^d*
- . *n^f* free nodes *V^f* ⊂ *V*
- \triangleright *m* possible bars *E*
- \triangleright force $f \in \mathbb{R}^{d_f}$ for $d_f = d \cdot n_f$

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- ⊳ Cross-sectional areas $x \in \mathbb{R}^m_+$ for bars minimizing volume while creating a "stable" truss
- \triangleright Stability is measured by the compliance $\frac{1}{2}$ *f*^{*T*} *u* with node displacements *u*.

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⊳ Use uncertainty set $\{f \in \mathbb{R}^{d_f} \; : \; f = Qg : \|g\|_2 \leq 1\}$ instead of single force $f.$ ⊳ Instead of arbitrary cross-sections $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ restrict them to discrete set $\mathcal{A}.$

Elliptic Robust Discrete TTD [Ben-Tal/Nemirovski 1997; Mars 2013]

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\inf \quad & \sum_{e \in E} \ell_e \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} a x_e^a \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} 2C_{\text{max}} I & Q^T \\ Q & A(x) \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0, \\
&\sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} x_e^a \le 1 \qquad \qquad \forall e \in E, \\
&x_e^a \in \{0, 1\} \qquad \qquad \forall e \in E, a \in \mathcal{A},\n\end{aligned}
$$

with bar lengths ℓ_e , upper bound C_{max} on compliance and stiffness matrix

$$
A(x) = \sum_{e \in E} \sum_{a \in A} A_e \, a \, x_e^a
$$

for positive semidefinite, rank-one single bar stiffness matrices *Ae*.

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Cardinality Constrained Least Squares

- **▷** Sample points as rows of $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ with measurements $b_1, \ldots, b_m \in \mathbb{R}$
- \rhd Find $x ∈ ℝ^d$ minimizing $\frac{1}{2} ||Ax − b||_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} ||x||_2^2$ for a regularization parameter ρ .
- . Further restrict *x* to at most *k* non-zero components.

Cardinality Constrained Least Squares [Pilanci/Wainwright/El Ghaoui 2015]

$$
\begin{array}{ll}\n\text{inf} & \tau \\
\text{s.t.} & \begin{pmatrix} I + \frac{1}{\rho} A \, \text{Diag}(z) \, A^\top & b \\ b^\top & \tau \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0, \\
& \sum_{j=1}^d z_j \leq k, \ z \in \{0, 1\}^d.\n\end{array}
$$

Minimum k-Partitioning

- \triangleright Given undirected graph $G = (V, E)$, edge costs *c* and number of parts $k \in \mathbb{N}$.
- \triangleright Find partitioning of *V* into *k* disjoint sets V_1, \ldots, V_k minimizing the total cost within the parts

. Applications in, e.g., frequency planning and layout of electronic circuits.

Minimum k-Partitioning

Minimum *k*-Partitioning [Eisenblätter 2001]

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\inf \quad & \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} c_{ij} \, Y_{ij} \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{k=1}^{-1} J + \frac{k}{k-1} \, Y \succeq 0, \\
& Y_{ij} = 1, \, Y_{ij} \in \{0, 1\},\n\end{aligned}
$$

where *J* is the all-one matrix.

Constraints on the size of the partitions can be added as

$$
\ell \leq \sum_{j=1}^n w_j Y_{ij} \leq u \qquad \forall i \leq n,
$$

with w_i weight of node *j* and ℓ and u bounds on total weight of each partition.

Further Applications

- \triangleright Computing restricted isometry constants in compressed sensing
- \triangleright Optimal transmission switching problem in AC power flow
- \triangleright Robustification of physical parameters in gas networks
- \triangleright Subset selection for eliminating multicollinearity

 \triangleright ...

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)** 2 [Applications](#page-8-0) 3 [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
	- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- 5 [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- 6 [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- 7 [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- **[Symmetry](#page-41-0)**
- 9 [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

Solving Methods for MISDPs

- 1. SDP-based branch-and-bound: Solve SDP-relaxations (special case of NLP-based B&B [Dakin 1965])
- 2. LP-based branch-and-bound: Cutting plane method based on LP-relaxations [Sherali and Fraticelli 2002]; [Krishnan and Mitchell 2006]
- 3. Outer approximation: Solve MIP-relaxations [Duran and Grossmann 1986].

Implementations:

- 1. YALMIP [Löfberg 2004] and SCIP-SDP
- 2. YALMIP and SCIP-SDP
- 3. Pajarito [Coey, Lubin, and Vielma 2020]

SDP-based Branch-and-Bound

- . Relax integrality.
- . Branch on integral *y*-variables.
- . Need to solve a continuous SDP in each branch-and-bound node.
- \triangleright Relaxations can be solved by problem-specific approaches (e.g. conic bundle or low-rank methods) or interior-point solvers.
- \triangleright Convergence assumptions of SDP-solvers should be satisfied.
- . Usually much slower than solving LPs and no warmstart.

LP-based Approach

For LP-based approach and outer approximation:

 \triangleright Usual approach for convex MINLP: *g*(*Z*) = − λ _{min}(*Z*). Then *Z* \succeq 0 \Leftrightarrow *g*(*Z*) \leq 0. Use gradient cuts

$$
g(\overline{Z})+\nabla g(\overline{Z})^\top (Z-\overline{Z})\leq 0.
$$

- . But function of smallest eigenvalue is not differentiable everywhere.
- \triangleright Instead use characterization $\quad \mathsf{Z} \succeq 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad u^\top \mathsf{Z} \, u \geq 0$ for all $u \in \mathbb{R}^n.$
- ▷ If $Z \coloneqq \sum_{k=1}^m A^k y_k^* A^0 \not\succeq 0$, compute eigenvector *v* to smallest eigenvalue. Then

$$
v^{\top} Z v = \sum_{k=1}^{m} v^{\top} A^{k} v y_{k} - v^{\top} A^{0} v \ge 0
$$

is valid and cuts off $y^* \rightarrow$ Eigenvector cut.

Cutting Planes: MISOCP vs. MISDP

- . Cutting planes are often used by solvers for mixed-integer second-order cone problems (MISOCPs).
- \triangleright Approximation for SOCPs possible with polynomial number of cuts [Ben-Tal/Nemirovski 2001].
- . Approximation for SDPs needs exponential number of cuts:

Theorem ([Braun, Fiorini, Pokutta, Steurer 2015])

There are SDPs of dimension n × *n for which any polyhedral approximation is of* $size 2^{\Omega(n)}$.

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)**
- [Applications](#page-8-0)
- [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- **[Symmetry](#page-41-0)**
- [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

SCIP-SDP

Our solver: SCIP-SDP

- . Based on SCIP (<www.scipopt.org>)
- . Supports both SDP-based B&B and LP-based branch-and-cut.
- . Introduced by [Mars 2013], continued by [Gally 2019] and Matter [2022], . . .
- . Apache 2.0 license.
- . Current version 4.3: <wwwopt.mathematik.tu-darmstadt.de/scipsdp>, <https://github.com/scipopt/SCIP-SDP>
- \triangleright Approximately 50 000 lines of C-code
- . SDP-solvers: interfaces to Mosek, DSDP, SDPA
- . Matlab-Interface: <github.com/scipopt/MatlabSCIPInterface>
- . File formats: SDPA-format and CBF
- . Parallelized version available as UG-MISDP.
- . Supports rank 1 constraints.

Components (Plugins) of SCIP-SDP

- \triangleright Constraint handler for dual form: $\sum_{k \in [m]}^{m} A^{k} y_{k} A^{0} \succeq 0.$
- . Two MISDP heuristics: SDP-based diving, SDP-based randomized rounding
- . Several presolving methods: Add linear constraints implied by SDP-constraint during presolving, e.g., non-negativity of diagonal entries. (See below.)
- . Several MISDP propagators: dual fixing, minor propagation. (See below.)
- \triangleright Relaxator solves trivial relaxations (e.g., all variables fixed), otherwise calls SDP interface (SDPI).
- \triangleright Upper level SDPI does some local presolving important for SDP-solvers, e.g., removing fixed variables and removing zero rows/columns.
- \triangleright Lower level SDPI brings SDP into the form needed by the solver (e.g., primal instead of dual SDP for MOSEK) and solves it.
- . In case SDP-solver failed to converge (e.g., because of failure of constraint qualification), upper level SDPI can apply penalty formulation and call lower level SDPI for adjusted problem.

For Computations . . .

- \triangleright Use SCIP developer version (8.0.3).
- \triangleright Use Mosek 9.2.40 for solving SDP-relaxations.
- . Linux cluster with 3.5 GHz Intel Xeon E5-1620 Quad-Core CPUs.
- \triangleright Nodes and times are shifted geometric means, time limit 1 h.

Comparison of SDP and LP-based Approach

Testset: 185 instances from different sources.

Conclusions:

- \triangleright LP-based approach solves significantly less instances.
- \triangleright On the instances solved by both, it is faster by 32 % and uses less nodes.
- \triangleright Open question: Predict which method is faster and explain why.

Comparison of MISDP Solvers I

A bit older comparison:

run on 8-core Intel i7-4770 CPU with 3.4 GHz and 16GB memory over 196 instances of CBLIB; time limit of 3600 seconds, times as shifted geometric means, SDPs solved using MOSEK 8.1.0.54, MIPs/LPs using CPLEX 12.6.1; all solvers single-threaded; SCIP-SDP 3.1.1 (LP-based cutting planes), YALMIP-CUTSDP R20180926, Pajarito 0.5.0

CO@Work 2024 | Solving Mixed-Integer Semidefinite Programs | Marc Pfetsch | 26

Comparison of MISDP Solvers I

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)**
- 2 [Applications](#page-8-0)
- 3 [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- 5 [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- 6 [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- 7 [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- **[Symmetry](#page-41-0)**
- 9 [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

Dual Fixing

- \triangleright Extension of reduced-cost fixing to general MINLPs by [Ryoo and Sahinidis 1996] and primal MISDPs by [Helmberg 2000].
- . Our approach uses conic duality and only requires feasibility.

Theorem [Gally, P., Ulbrich 2018]

- \triangleright (X, W, V) : Primal feasible solution, where W, V are primal variables corresponding to variable bounds ℓ , μ in the dual,
- \triangleright f: Corresponding primal objective value,
- . *U*: Upper bound on the optimal objective value of the MISDP.

Then for every optimal solution y^* of the MISDP

$$
y_j^* \leq \ell_j + \frac{U-f}{W_{jj}} \ \ \text{if} \ \ell_j > -\infty \quad \text{and} \quad y_j^* \geq u_j - \frac{U-f}{V_{jj}} \ \ \text{if} \ \ u_j < \infty.
$$

- ⊳ For binary y_j : If $U f < W_{jj}$, then $y_j^* = 0$, if $U f < V_{jj}$, then $y_j^* = 1$.
- . 9% reduction of B&B-nodes, 23% speedup.

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)**
- 2 [Applications](#page-8-0)
- 3 [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- 5 [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)

6 [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)

- 7 [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- **[Symmetry](#page-41-0)**
- 9 [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

Bound Tightening

For an index $k \in [m]$, define

$$
P_k \coloneqq \{i \in [m] \setminus \{k\} : A^i \succeq 0\}, \qquad N_k \coloneqq \{i \in [m] \setminus \{k\} : A^i \preceq 0\},
$$

as well as

$$
\underline{\mu}_k := \inf \left\{ \mu : A^k \mu + \sum_{i \in P_k} A^i u_i + \sum_{j \in N_k} A^j \ell_j - A^0 \succeq 0 \right\},
$$

$$
\overline{\mu}_k := \sup \left\{ \mu : A^k \mu + \sum_{i \in P_k} A^i u_i + \sum_{j \in N_k} A^j \ell_j - A^0 \succeq 0 \right\}
$$

or $\pm\infty$ if $\pm\infty$ occurs in bounds (ℓ , *u*).

Lemma (Tighten Bounds (TB))

Let all matrices be (positive or negative) semidefinite. Then, $\underline{\mu}_k \le y_k \le \overline{\mu}_k$ is valid *for all k* ∈ [*m*]*. We can round bounds for integral variables.*

One-Variable SDPs

 \triangleright For computing bound tightenings, need to solve one-variable SDPs.

$$
\inf \{\mu : \mu A - B \succeq 0, \ \ell \leq \mu \leq u\}.
$$

for symmetric $A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.

- \triangleright Can easily see: $\mu \mapsto \lambda_{\min}(\mu A B)$ is concave.
- \triangleright Let $\hat{\mathsf{v}}$ be a unit eigenvector for $\lambda_{\sf min}(\hat{\mu}\, \mathsf{A}-\mathsf{B})$ for $\hat{\mu}\in\mathbb{R}.$ Then $\hat{\mathsf{v}}^\top\mathsf{A}\hat{\mathsf{v}}$ is a supergradient, i.e.,

$$
\lambda_{\min}(\mu \, A - B) \leq \lambda_{\min}(\hat{\mu} \, A - B) + (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \, \hat{\nu}^\top A \hat{\nu}
$$

for all $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$.

- \triangleright Goal: Want increase μ from ℓ until $\lambda_{\min}(\mu \, A - B) = 0.$
- \triangleright Yields semismooth Newton algorithm ...

One-Variable SDPs

$$
v_k = \text{eigenvector for } \lambda_k := \lambda_{\min}(A\mu_k - B)
$$

$$
\mu_{k+1} = \mu_k - \frac{\lambda_k}{(v^k)^{\top}Av^k}
$$

Handle easy cases, e.g., infeasible if $\lambda_{\min}(A \cup -B) < 0$, supergradient positive.

- . Always converges.
- \triangleright Converges Q-superlinearly to a zero μ^{\star} of $f(\mu) = \lambda_{\text{min}}(\mu \, \mathcal{A} \mathcal{B})$, given that $\partial f(\mu^{\star})$ is nonsingular and the starting point lies near μ^{\star} [Qi and Sun, 1993].
- \triangleright Very fast in practice; bottleneck: eigenvector computation ...

Condensed Computational Results

Testset with 185 instances, results from [Matter and P. 2023]:

- \triangleright Bound tightening applied in every node produces a speed-up of about 7 %.
- \triangleright MIX includes bound tightening and several other methods. It produces a speed-up of about 22 %.
- Some techniques do not do anything on some instances.
- . The methods are effective if they can be applied and induce a small time overhead.

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)**
- [Applications](#page-8-0)
- [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- [Symmetry](#page-41-0)
- [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

Conflict Analysis I

- \triangleright The original idea is to learn from infeasible nodes in a branch-and-bound-tree.
- \triangleright Idea transferred from SAT-solving to MIPs by [Achterberg 2007].
- \triangleright More generally, can be seen as a way to learn cuts from solutions of the duals \rightarrow similar to "dual ray/solution analysis" [Witzig et al. 2017, Witzig 2021].

Conflict Analysis II

Consider

$$
\inf \{b^\top y : A(y) \coloneqq \sum_{k=1}^m A^k y_k - A^0 \succeq 0, \ Dy \geq d, \ \ell \leq y \leq u\}
$$

and $\hat{X} \succ 0$, $\hat{z} \ge 0$. Aggregation yields:

$$
\langle A(y), \hat{X} \rangle + \hat{z}^\top D y \geq \hat{z}^\top d.
$$

Idea: Do not add this (redundant) inequality, but perform bound propagation, taking integrality conditions into account.

Conflict Analysis III

The dual can provide $(\hat{X}, \hat{z}, \hat{r}^{\ell}, \hat{r}^{\nu})$:

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\sup \quad & \langle A^0, X \rangle + z^\top d + \ell^\top r^\ell - u^\top r^u \\
\text{s.t.} \quad & \langle A^j, X \rangle + (D^\top z)_j + r_j^\ell - r_j^u = b_j \quad \forall j \in [m], \\
& X \succeq 0, \ z, \ r^\ell, \ r^u \geq 0.\n\end{aligned}
$$

Similarly for a primal ray satisfying:

$$
\langle A^j, X \rangle + (D^{\top} z)_j + r_j^{\ell} - r_j^{\mu} = 0 \qquad \forall j \in [m],
$$

$$
\langle A^0, X \rangle + d^{\top} z + \ell^{\top} r^{\ell} - u^{\top} r^{\mu} > 0,
$$

$$
X \succeq 0, z, r^{\ell}, r^{\mu} \ge 0.
$$

Lemma

Let $(\hat{X}, \hat{z}, \hat{r}^{\ell}, \hat{r}^{\nu})$ be a primal ray. Then the aggregated inequality is infeasible with *respect to the local bounds* ℓ *and u.*

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Conflict Analysis – Computations

Generate a conflict constraint for each feasible or infeasible node. Store them as constraints and perform bound propagation.

- . Using conflicts provides a speed-up and node-reduction of about 8 %.
- . Average number of conflict constraints per node: 1.25 (Note that we also run in heuristics and we do not count nodes of heuristics).

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)**
- [Applications](#page-8-0)
- [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- [Symmetry](#page-41-0)
- [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

Symmetry Detection

Goal: apply known symmetry handling methods.

For a permutation σ of $[n]$:

$$
\sigma(A)_{ij}=A_{\sigma^{-1}(i),\sigma^{-1}(j)}\quad \forall i,\,j\in[n].
$$

Definition

A permutation $\pi \in \mathcal{S}_m$ of variables is a formulation symmetry if there exists a permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ such that

1. $\pi(I) = I$, $\pi(\ell) = \ell$, $\pi(u) = u$, and $\pi(b) = b$ $(\pi$ leaves integer variables, variable bounds, and the objective coefficients invariant),

2.
$$
\sigma(A^0) = A^0
$$
 and, for all $i \in [m]$, $\sigma(A^i) = A^{\pi^{-1}(i)}$.

Such symmetries can be detected by using graph automorphism algorithms.

Symmetry: Computed Symmetries

 S_k = full symmetric group on *k* elements; D_k = dihedral group.

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Symmetry: Computational Results

Results from [Hojny and P. 2023]:

 \triangleright Speed-up of about 4 % for all instances;

- \triangleright Speed-up of about 34 % for the 21 instances that contain symmetry.
- \triangleright Number of generators is quite small.
- \triangleright Note that we do not exploit symmetries in the solutions of the SDPs (yet).

Overview

- **[Preliminaries](#page-2-0)**
- **[Applications](#page-8-0)**
- 3 [Solution Methods](#page-17-0)
- [SCIP-SDP](#page-22-0)
- 5 [Dual Fixing](#page-29-0)
- 6 [Presolving MISDPs](#page-31-0)
- 7 [Conflict Analysis](#page-36-0)
- **[Symmetry](#page-41-0)**
- 9 [Conclusion & Outlook](#page-45-0)

Conclusion & Outlook

- \triangleright Framework for solving general MISDPs
- \triangleright Several methods help to improve performance.
- \triangleright Solving SDPs is still one bottleneck, but often yields strong bounds.
- \triangleright Future: follow development path for MIP-solvers for MISDP-solvers as well.

SCIP-SDP is available in source code at <http://www.opt.tu-darmstadt.de/scipsdp/>

Thank you for your attention!

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