



NON-CONVEX ROBUST OPTIMIZATION

Boris Houska

Nonlinear Min-Max Problems

General Formulation:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & \max_{w \in W} F_0(x, w) \\ \text{subject to} & \max_{w \in W} F_i(x, w) \leq 0 \end{array}$$

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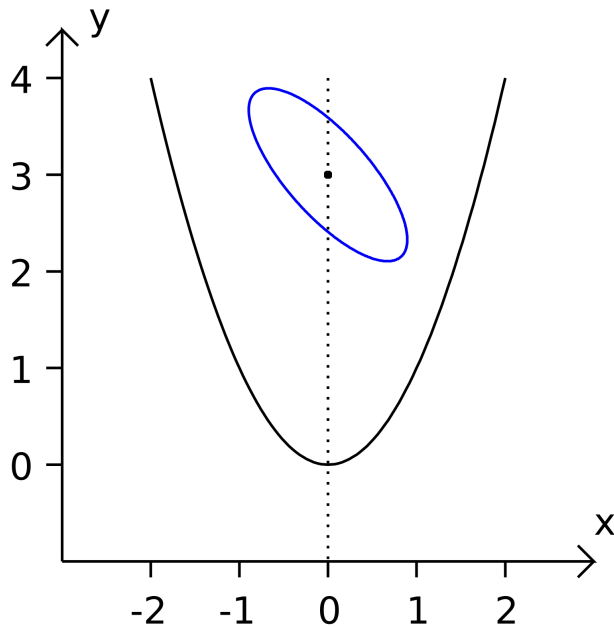
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Aim: Solve the problem in a conservative approximation.

Overview

- **Bounding the global maximizer**
- Optimality conditions in SIP and duality
- Sequential convex bi-level programming

Robust Optimization: An Example



Robust optimization problem:

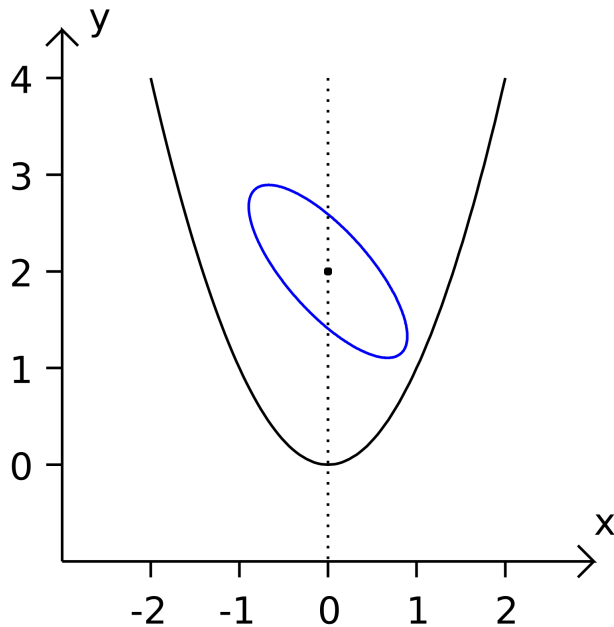
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$$\text{s.t.} \quad (x + v)^2 - (y + w) \leq 0$$

for all $(v, w) \in \mathcal{E}$.

Assumption: \mathcal{E} is a given ellipsoidal uncertainty set.

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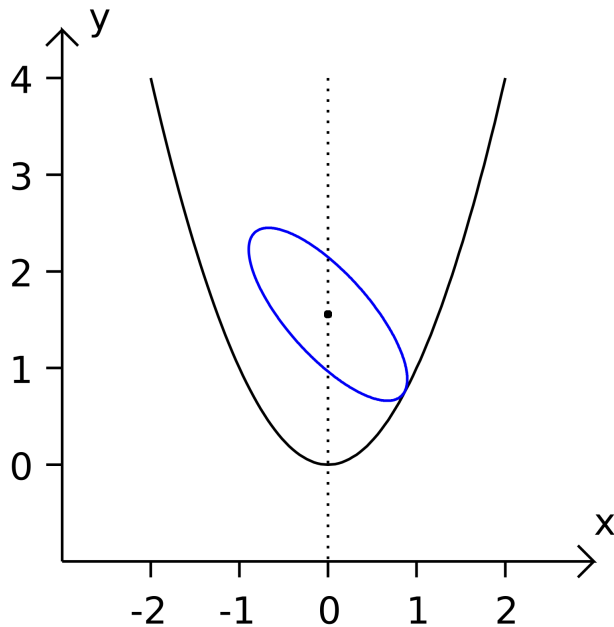
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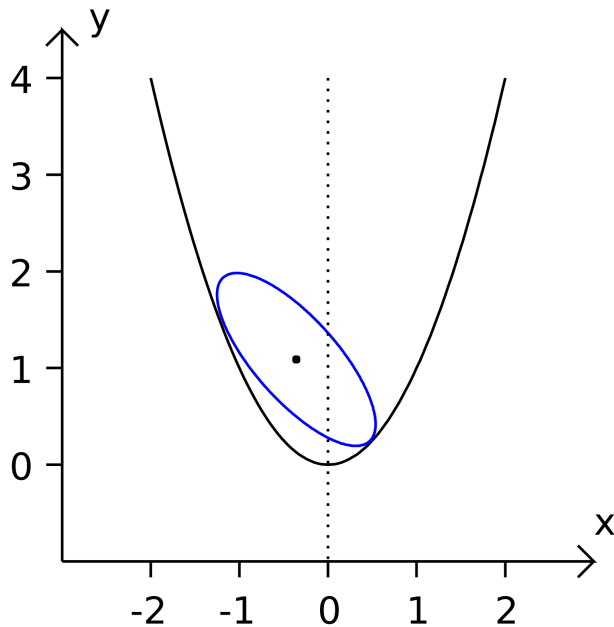
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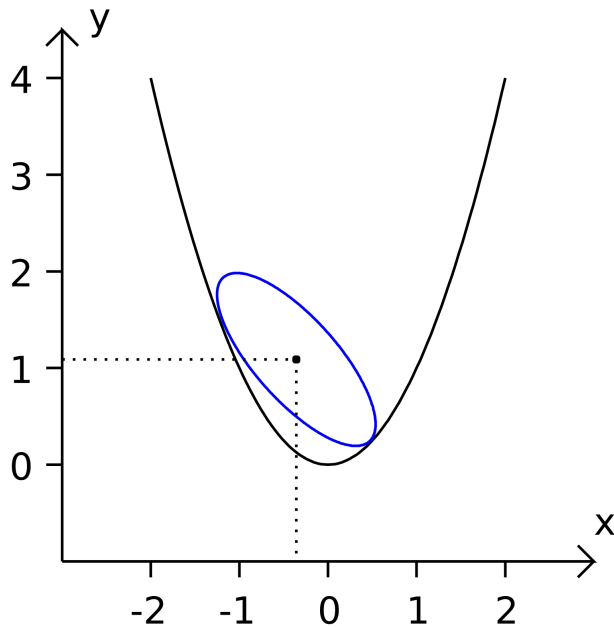
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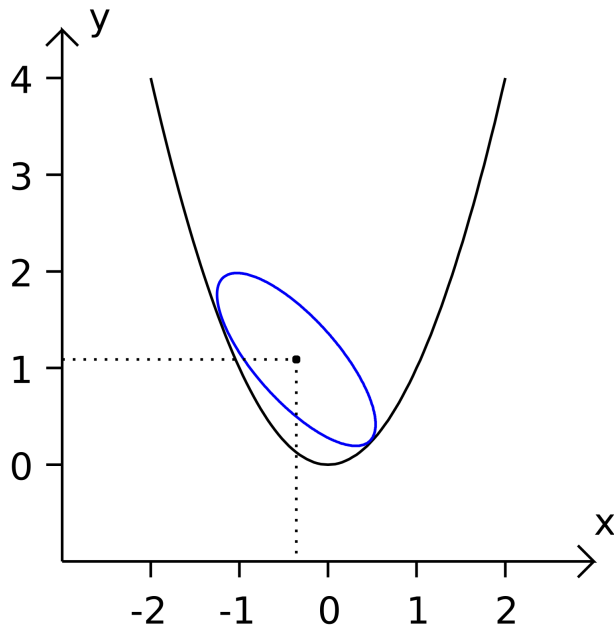
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Question: How to find optimal solution numerically?

Robust Optimization: An Example

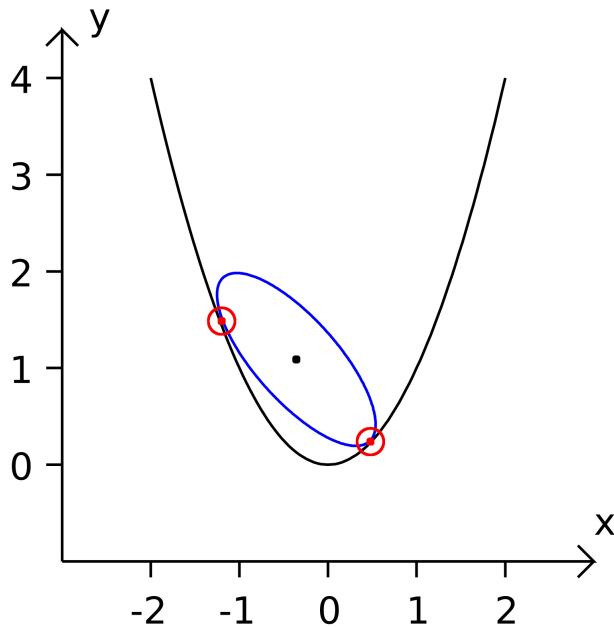


Regard as a min-max problem:

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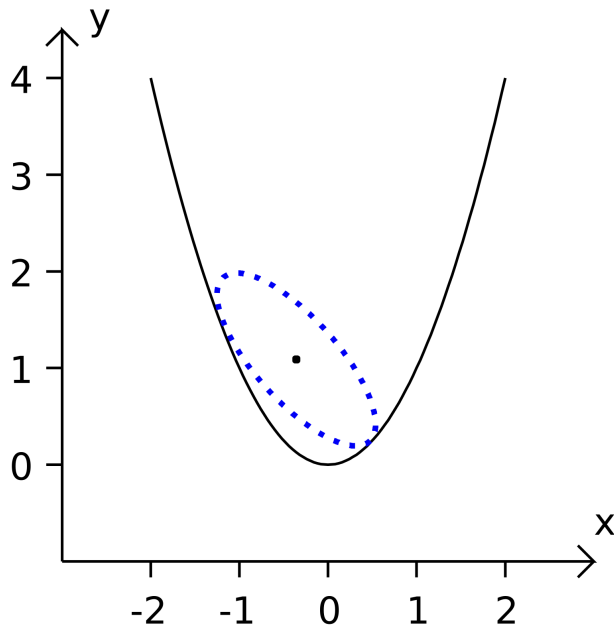


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Problem: There are two local maxima in the optimal solution.

One Possibility: Check the inequality for all points in the ellipsoid.

Approximation Strategies: Nagy, Braatz 2004, Diehl et al. 2006

Idea:

- Choose an approximation $\tilde{V}_i(x) \geq \max_{w \in W} F_i(x, w)$ and solve:

$$\min_x \tilde{V}_0(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \tilde{V}_i(x) \leq 0 \quad \text{for all } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

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Assumption: We have a function $\bar{\lambda}_i : \mathbb{R}^{n_x} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ with

$$\forall w \in \mathcal{W} : \quad \lambda_{\max} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial w^2} F_i(x, w) \right) \leq 2 \bar{\lambda}_i(x) .$$

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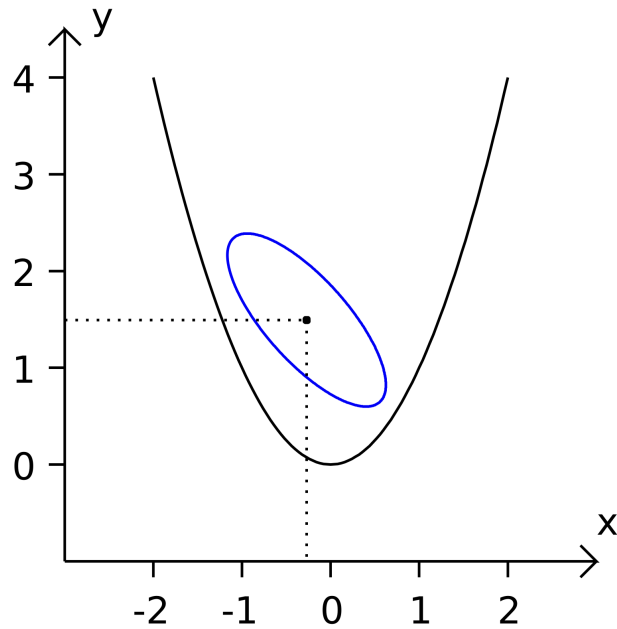
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Example: $W := \{ w \mid w^T w \leq 1 \}$. Linear approximation:

$$\tilde{V}_i(x) := L_i(x) := F_i(x, 0) + \left\| \frac{\partial F(x, 0)}{\partial w} \right\|_2 + \bar{\lambda}_i(x).$$

Example: The “Best” Conservative Linear Approximation



Consider once more the problem:

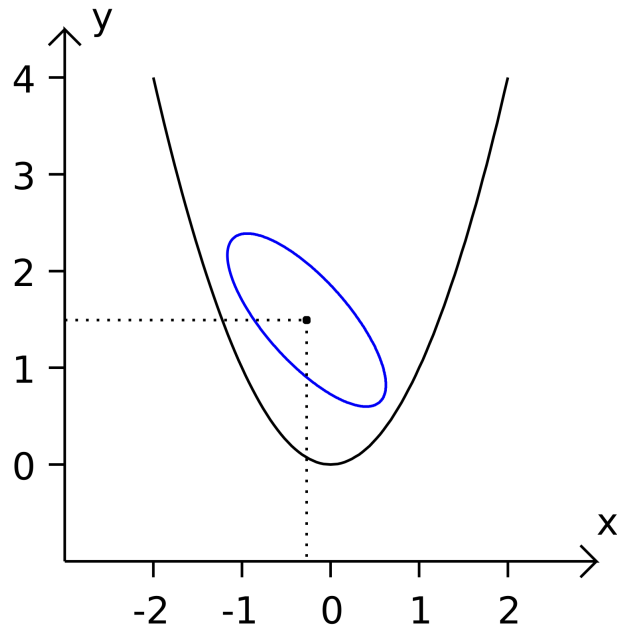
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Notation: $L = \text{Chol. factor of } \Sigma^{-1}$.

The “best” conservative linear approximation solves the CP:

$$\min_{x,y} y \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x^2 - y + \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 2L_{1,1}x - L_{1,2} \\ -L_{2,2} \end{pmatrix} \right\|_2 + L_{1,1}^2 \leq 0.$$

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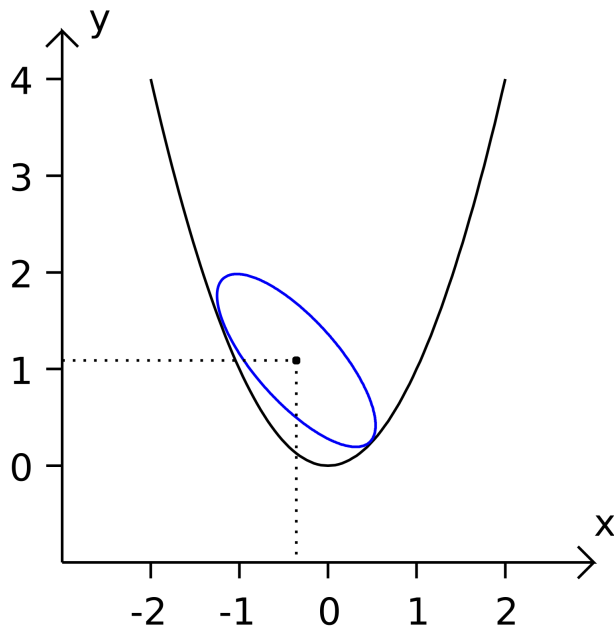
We find a conservative solution by the linear approximation:

$$\left(\tilde{x}^*, \tilde{y}^* \right) \approx (-0.27, 1.49) \neq (-0.35, 1.08) .$$

But we have lost 38% of optimality.

Can we do better?

Find the solution $(x^*, y^*) = (-0.35\dots, 1.08\dots)$ by convex optimization:



Define:

$$Q := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad q(x) := \begin{pmatrix} 2x \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

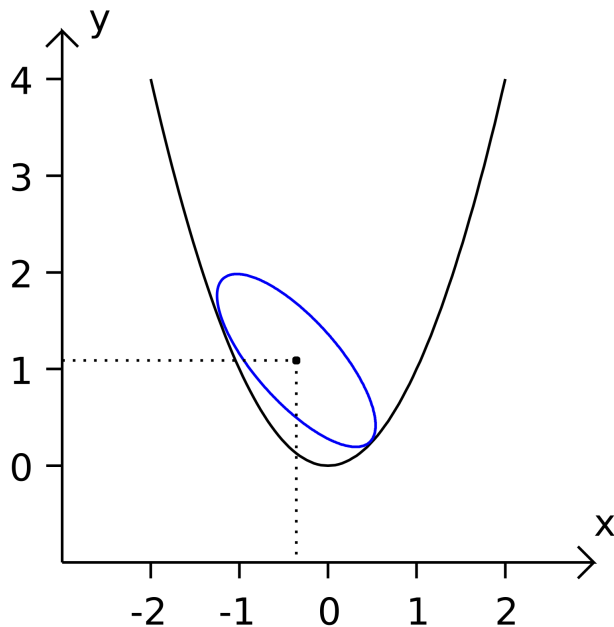
and

$$\Sigma := \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & -0.6 \\ -0.6 & 0.8 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$$

$$\min_{x, y, \lambda > 0.8} y \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x^2 - y + \frac{1}{4} q(x)^T (\lambda \Sigma - Q)^{-1} q(x) + \lambda \leq 0.$$

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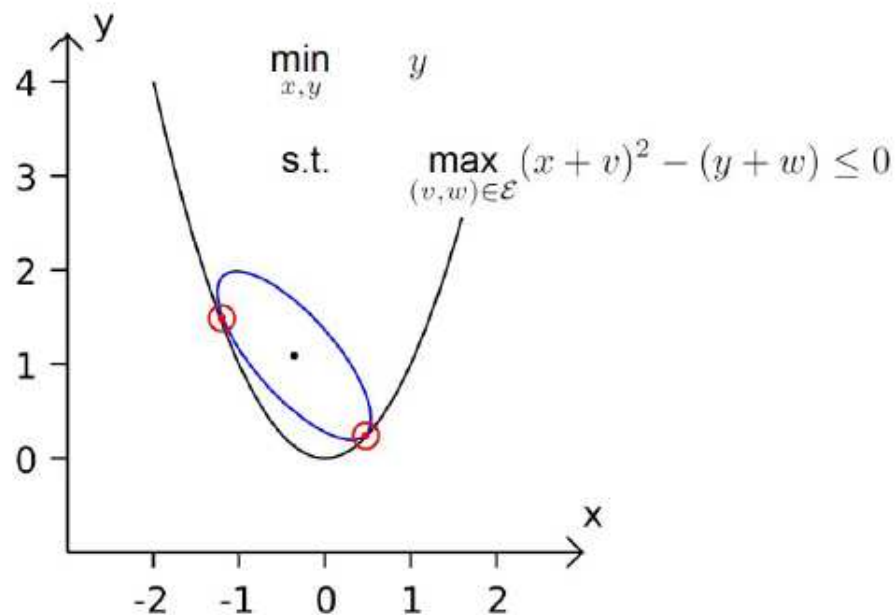
Alternative formulation as LMI:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x,y,\lambda} & y \\ \text{s.t.} & \begin{pmatrix} y - \lambda & q(x)^T & x \\ q(x) & \lambda\Sigma - Q & 0 \\ x & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

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Overview: Bounding the Global Maximizer

Example:



Methods:

- Branch & Bound
- Linear Approximation
- Linear Matrix Inequalities
- Lagrangian Duality

- [1] **Bhattacharjee**, et al. Global solution of semi-infinite programs. 2005.
- [2] **Stein** et al. The adaptive convexification algorithm for semi-infinite programming [...]. 2012.
- [3] **Nagy** and **Braatz**. Distributional uncertainty analysis using [...] polynomial chaos expansions. 2007.
- [4] **Diehl** et al. An approximation technique for robust nonlinear optimization. 2006.
- [5] **Lasserre**. Moments, Positive Polynomials and Their Applications. Imperial College Press, 2009.
- [6] **Ben-Tal**. Robust Optimization. Princeton University Press, 2009.
- [7] **Polak** et al. On the use of augmented Lagrangians [...] semiinfinite min-max problems. 2005.

Dual Lagrangian Overestimation Techniques

Question:

- Can we do better than linear approximation?

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Main Idea:

- Define the dual Lagrangian over-estimator as

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x} : M_i(x) := \min_{\lambda_i \geq \bar{\lambda}_i(x)} d_i(x, \lambda_i) \geq \min_{\lambda \geq 0} d_i(x, \lambda_i)$$

where d_i is defined to be the following dual Lagrangian function:

$$d_i(x, \lambda_i) := \max_{w \in \mathcal{W}} F_i(x, w) - \lambda_i w^T w + \lambda_i .$$

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Proposition:

- The function $d_i(x, \cdot)$ is concave for $\lambda_i \geq \bar{\lambda}_i(x)$.

Dual Lagrangian Overestimation Techniques

Theorem [Houska, Diehl 2010]

- The functions M_i are conservative upper bounds on the robust counterpart functions V_i and always less conservative than the best linear approximation:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x} : \quad V_i(x) \leq M_i(x) \leq L_i(x) .$$

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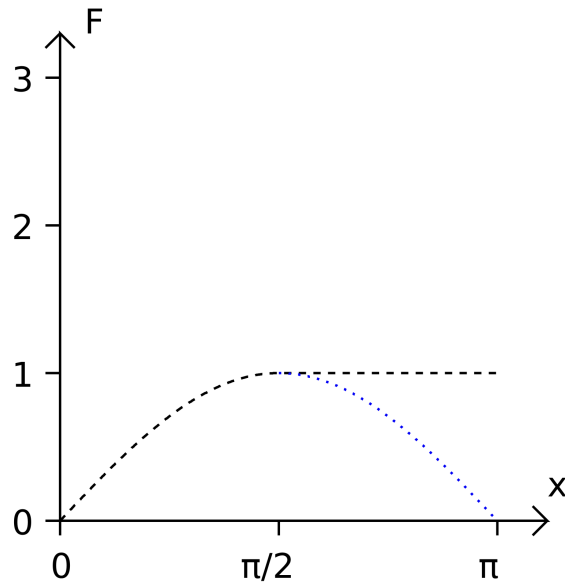
$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x} : \quad V_i(x) \leq M_i(x) \leq L_i(x) .$$

- If F_i is a quadratic form in w then the approximation is exact, i.e., we have

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x} : \quad V_i(x) = M_i(x) .$$

What about the Non-Quadratic Case?

Example: Consider the function $F(x, w) := \sin(x w)$



A Hessian upper bound is given by

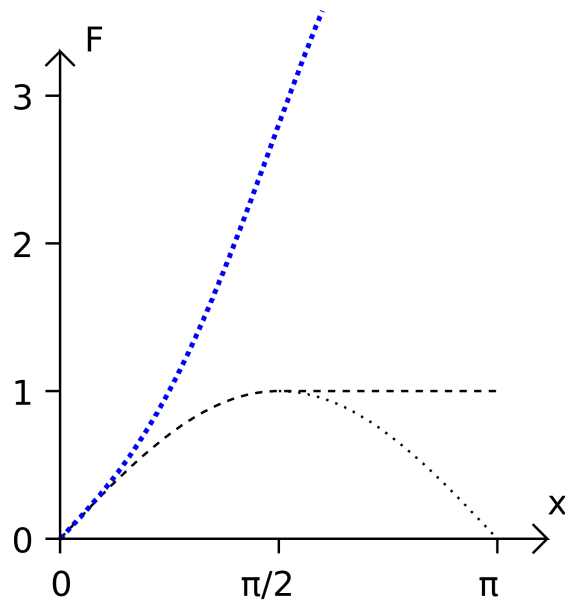
$$\bar{\lambda}(x) := \begin{cases} \frac{x^2}{2} \sin(|x|) & \text{if } |x| \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \frac{x^2}{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The exact robust counterpart function is given by

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(|x|) & \text{if } |x| \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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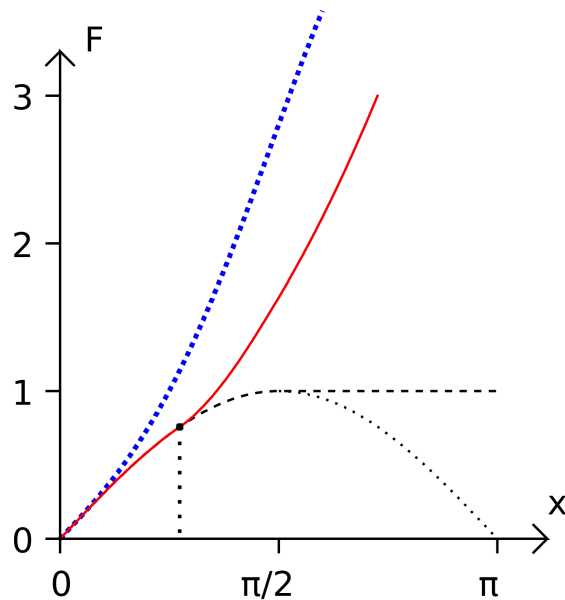
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The best linear approximation is given by

$$L(x) = \begin{cases} |x| + \frac{x^2}{2} \sin(|x|) & \text{if } |x| \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \\ |x| + \frac{x^2}{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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The dual Lagrangian overestimate M satisfies

$$V(x) \leq M(x) \leq L(x).$$

Moreover, we have $V(x) = M(x)$ for $|x| < 0.86$.

Bounds on the Duality Gap

Theorem [Houska 2011]

- With $W := \{w \mid w^T w \leq \gamma^2\}$ and

$$\bar{\gamma}_i(x) := \min_{w \in W} \left\| \left(\frac{\partial^2 F_i(x, w)}{\partial w^2} - 2\bar{\lambda}_i(x)I \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial F_i(x, 0)}{\partial w} \right\|_2 .$$

The approximation function M_i always satisfies

$$|M_i(x) - V_i(x)| \leq \bar{\lambda}_i(x) \max \{ 0, \gamma^2 - \bar{\gamma}_i(x)^2 \} .$$

Overview

- Bounding the global maximizer
- **Optimality conditions in SIP and duality**
- Sequential convex bi-level programming

Cooperation Partners

Joint work with M. Diehl, O. Stein, and P. Steuermann:



- A lifting method for generalized semi-infinite programs based on lower level Wolfe duality

PDF of the Paper available at:

- Optimization Online (December, 2011)
- Computational Optimization and Applications, 2012.

Problem Formulation

Generalized Semi-Infinite Programming:

$$\min_{x \in M} f(x) \quad \text{with} \quad M = \{x \in X \mid g(x, y) \leq 0 \text{ for all } y \in Y(x)\}$$

and

$$Y(x) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid v_\ell(x, y) \leq 0, 1 \leq \ell \leq s\}.$$

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Assumptions:

- $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a closed set.
- The functions f , g , and v are twice continuously differentiable.
- The functions $-g(x, \cdot)$, $v_\ell(x, \cdot)$, $1 \leq \ell \leq s$ are convex on $Y(x)$.

Equivalent Min-Max Formulation

Min-Max Formulation:

$$\min_x f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} x \in X \\ \max_{y, v(x,y) \leq 0} g(x, y) \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

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Standard definitions for lower level problem:

- LICQ satisfied iff $D_y v^{\text{act}}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ has full rank.
- SCC satisfied iff: $v(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) - \bar{\gamma} < 0$.
- SOSC satisfied iff: $p^\top D_y^2 \mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma}) p < 0$ for all $p \in T \setminus \{0\}$.
- Tangential Cone:

$$T := \{p \mid \forall i \in \mathbb{A}_s : D_y v_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) p = 0 \wedge \forall i \in \mathbb{A}_w : D_y v_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) p \leq 0\} .$$

Overview

Aim of this section:

- Discuss three ways to solve GSIPs:



WAY 1: MPCC

Idea:

- Write lower level optimality conditions into constraints:

$$\min_{x,y,\gamma} f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} x \in X, g(x, y) \leq 0, \\ \nabla_y \mathcal{L}(x, y, \gamma) = 0, \\ 0 \leq -v(x, y) \perp \gamma \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

with $\mathcal{L}(x, y, \gamma) := g(x, y) - \gamma^\top v(x, y)$.

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Pros/Cons:

- + Equivalent to original generalized semi-infinite problem, if the lower level maximizer is a KKT point.
- MPCCs are computationally demanding.

WAY 2: Dual Reformulation

Idea:

- Assume that strong duality holds.
- Introduce dual variables γ and use Wolfe duality:

$$\min_{x,y,\gamma} f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x \in X, \mathcal{L}(x, y, \gamma) \leq 0, \nabla_y \mathcal{L}(x, y, \gamma) = 0, \gamma \geq 0.$$

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Pros/Cons:

- + We end up with a “well-posed” standard optimization problem.
- The dual reformulation is not necessarily equivalent to the original problem if $Y(x) \neq \mathbb{R}^m$.

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Counter example:

- Choose $g(x, y) = -x - y^3 - 3y^2 + 16y - 12$, $v_1(y) = -y$, and $v_2(y) = y - 1$.

WAY 3: *Including the Index Constraint*

Idea:

- Start with dual reformulation but include the index set constraint:

$$\min_{x,y,\gamma} f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} x \in X, \\ g(x, y) - \gamma^\top v(x, y) = \mathcal{L}(x, y, \gamma) \leq 0, \\ \nabla_y \mathcal{L}(x, y, \gamma) = 0, \\ v(x, y) \leq 0, \quad \gamma \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

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Pros/Cons:

- + Formulation is equivalent to the original GSIP.
- We still assume the existence of KKT points...

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Question:

- Does the seemingly redundant index set constraint lead to a violation of constraint qualifications?

Constraint Qualifications (Part I)

Theorem We can prove that LICQ for LWPC if

1. The matrix $D_y v^{\text{act}}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ has full rank (lower level LICQ).
2. The condition $v(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) - \bar{\gamma} < 0$ holds (lower level strict complementarity).
3. The inequality $p^\top D_y^2 \mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma}) p < 0$ holds for all $p \in T \setminus \{0\}$ (lower level second order condition).
4. $\mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma}) = 0$ and $D_x \mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma}) = 0$ do not hold simultaneously (upper level LICQ).

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Question:

- Can we still prove the existence of KKT points if we do not have lower level strict complementarity?

Example

Consider the convex min-max problem (solution: $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma})^\top = 0$):

$$\min_x -x \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \max_{y \geq 0} x - y^2 \leq 0.$$

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$$\text{LWPC :} \quad \min_{x, y, \gamma} -x \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} 0 & \geq & x - y^2 + \gamma y \\ 0 & = & -2y + \gamma \\ 0 & \geq & -y \\ 0 & \geq & -\gamma \end{cases}$$

Example

$$\text{LWPC : } \min_{x,y,\gamma} -x \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} 0 \geq x - y^2 + \gamma y \\ 0 = -2y + \gamma \\ 0 \geq -y \\ 0 \geq -\gamma \end{cases}$$

Jacobian of the active constraints does not have full rank:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

...but we have $J\xi = (-1, -1, -1)^\top < 0$ for $\xi := (-1, 1, 1)$.

Constraint Qualifications (Part II)

Definition:

$$T := \{p \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid \forall i \in \mathbb{A}_s : D_y v_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y})p = 0 \wedge \forall i \in \mathbb{A}_w : D_y v_i(\bar{x}, \bar{y})p \leq 0\}$$

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Theorem: MFCQ for LWPC holds at (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) , if

1. There exist a vector $\xi_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}$ with $D_y v^{\text{act}}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})\xi_1 < 0$.
2. The inequality $p^\top D_y^2 \mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma})p < 0$ holds for all $p \in T \setminus \{0\}$.
3. $\mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma}) = 0$ and $\nabla_x \mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{\gamma}) = 0$ do not hold simultaneously.

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No strict complementarity assumption needed!

Numerical Examples

Example: Design Centering Problem

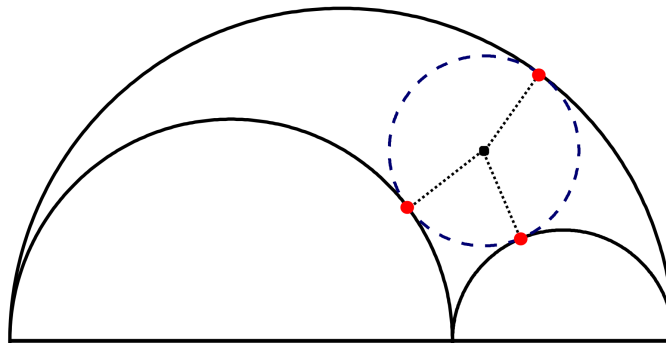
$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} & -x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} & \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0 \geq 1 - (x_1 + y_1)^2 - (x_2 + y_2)^2 & \forall y \in Y(x) \\ 0 \geq \frac{1}{4} - (x_1 - \frac{3}{2} + y_1)^2 - (x_2 + y_2)^2 & \forall y \in Y(x) \\ 0 \geq (x_1 - \frac{1}{2} + y_1)^2 - (x_2 + y_2)^2 - \frac{9}{4} & \forall y \in Y(x) \\ 0 \geq -x_2, \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

where $Y(x)$ depends explicitly on the third component of x :

$$Y(x) := \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid y^T y \leq x_3 \} .$$

Numerical Examples

- Solution found with LWPC formulation + SQP solver:



- Starting at the “poor” guess

$$x^0 := (1, 1, 0.1)^T, \quad \gamma^0 := (1, 1, 1)^T,$$

$$y_1^0 := (-0.1, -0.1)^T, \quad y_2^0 := (0.1, -0.1)^T, \quad y_3^0 := (0.1, 0.1)^T,$$

Full-step BFGS-SQP needs 56 iterations (KKT-tolerance: 10^{-9}).

Overview

- Bounding the global maximizer
- Optimality conditions in SIP and duality
- **Sequential convex bi-level programming**

Sequential Convex Bilevel Programming

Now:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}} & \max_{w_0 \in \mathcal{B}} H_0(x, w_0) \\ \text{subject to} & \max_{w_i \in \mathcal{B}} H_i(x, w_i) \leq 0 \end{array}$$

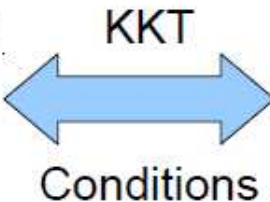
$$\mathcal{B} := \{w \in \mathbb{R}^{n_w} \mid B(x, w) \leq 0\}$$

Assumptions: The functions $-H$ and B are:

- a) convex in w and
- b) twice continuously differentiable in x and w .

Min-Max versus MPCC

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_x}} \quad \max_{w_0 \in \mathcal{B}} \quad H_0(x, w_0) \\
 & \text{subject to} \quad \max_{w_i \in \mathcal{B}} \quad H_i(x, w_i) \leq 0
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\mathcal{B} = \{w \in \mathbb{R}^{n_w} \mid B(w) \leq 0\}$$

$$L_j(x, w, \lambda) = H_j(x, w) - \lambda^T B(w)$$

Say: H convex in x ...

(Maximum over convex functions is convex)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{minimize}_{x, w, \lambda} \quad H_0(x, w_0) \\
 & \text{subject to} \quad 0 \geq H_i(x, w_i) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad 0 = \nabla_w L_j(x, w_j, \lambda_j) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad 0 \geq B(w_j) \\
 & \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq \lambda_j \\
 & \quad \quad \quad 0 = \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k^T B_k(w_k)
 \end{aligned}$$


Non-Convex ?

Optimality Conditions

Surprising (but well-known):

$$\begin{array}{ll} 0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} K(x^*, \chi^*, w^*, \lambda^*) & 0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial w} L_j(x^*, w_j^*, \lambda_j^*) \\ 0 \geq L_i(x^*, w_i^*, \lambda_i^*) & 0 \geq B(w_j^*) \\ 0 \geq \chi_i^* & 0 \leq \lambda_j^* \\ 0 = \sum_{k=1}^n \chi_k^* L_k(x^*, w_k^*, \lambda_k^*) & 0 = \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k^{*T} B(w_k^*) \end{array}$$

$$K(x, \chi, w^*, \lambda^*) := L_0(x, w_0^*, \lambda_0^*) - \sum_{k=1}^n \chi_k L_k(x, w_k^*, \lambda_k^*)$$

Only first order derivatives needed!

(Remark: ELICQ = MPCC-LICQ and EMFCQ = MPCC-MPCQ.)

-
- [1] Jongen et al.. Generalized semi-infinite optimization: a first order optimality condition [..], 1998.
[2] Hettich and Kortanek. Semi infinite programming: theory, methods, and application. 1993.

Sequential Convex Bi-Level Programming

1) Initialize x and w and evaluate derivatives of H and B .

Repeat:

2) Solve the **convex** min-max QCQP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Delta x} \max_{\Delta w_0 \in \mathcal{B}_0^{\text{lin}}} & \left\{ H^0 + L_x^0 \Delta x + \left(\frac{\Delta w_0^T L_{ww}^0}{2} + \Delta x^T L_{xw}^0 + H_w^0 \right) \Delta w_0 + \frac{\Delta x^T K_{xx} \Delta x}{2} \right\} \\ \text{s.t. } \max_{\Delta w_i \in \mathcal{B}_i^{\text{lin}}} & \left\{ H^i + L_x^i \Delta x + \left(\frac{\Delta w_i^T L_{ww}^i}{2} + \Delta x^T L_{xw}^i + H_w^i \right) \Delta w_i \right\} \leq 0 \\ & \text{with } \mathcal{B}_j^{\text{lin}} := \left\{ \Delta w_j \mid B_w^i \Delta w_i + B^i \leq 0 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

3) Line-Search & Update:

$$z^+ = z + \alpha \Delta z := (x + \alpha \Delta x, \chi + \alpha \Delta \chi, w + \alpha \Delta w, \lambda + \alpha \Delta \lambda)$$

4) Evaluate derivatives of H and B at the new point z^+ .

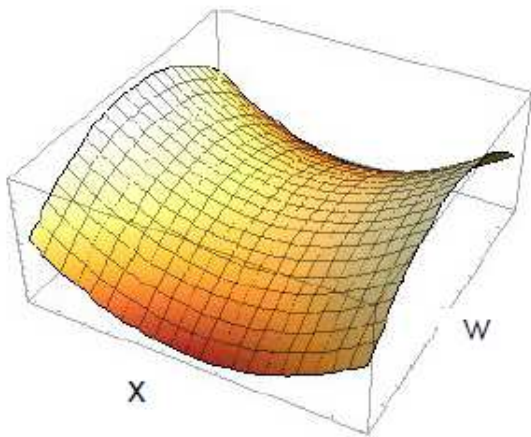
How to construct a merit function?

Quadratically convergent if (Dennis-Moré condition)

$$\left\| K_{xx} - L_{xx}^0 + \sum_{k=1}^n \chi^k L_{xx}^k \right\| \leq \mathbf{O}(\|\Delta z\|)$$

Quadratic convergence with only second derivatives, like for standard NLP, but for min-max optimization

Globalization Problem:



We go simultaneously

“downhill“ (min) and “uphill“ (max).

How to construct a merit function?

Globalization Strategy

Notation:

$$\Phi_U(x, w, \lambda) := L_0(x, w_0, \lambda_0) + \sum_{k=1}^n \hat{\chi}_k \pi_k(L_k(x, w_k, \lambda_k)) \quad \pi_k(s) = \max\{0, s_k\}$$

$$\Phi_L^j(x, w_j, \lambda_j) := \left| \frac{\partial L_j(x, w_j, \lambda_j)}{\partial w} \right| \hat{\rho}_j + \hat{\lambda}_j^T \pi(B(x, w_j))$$

$$\Phi(x, w, \lambda) := \Phi_U(x, w, \lambda) + \Phi_L^0(x, w_0, \lambda_0) + \sum_{k=1}^n \hat{\chi}_k \Phi_L^k(x, w_k, \lambda_k)$$

Theorem

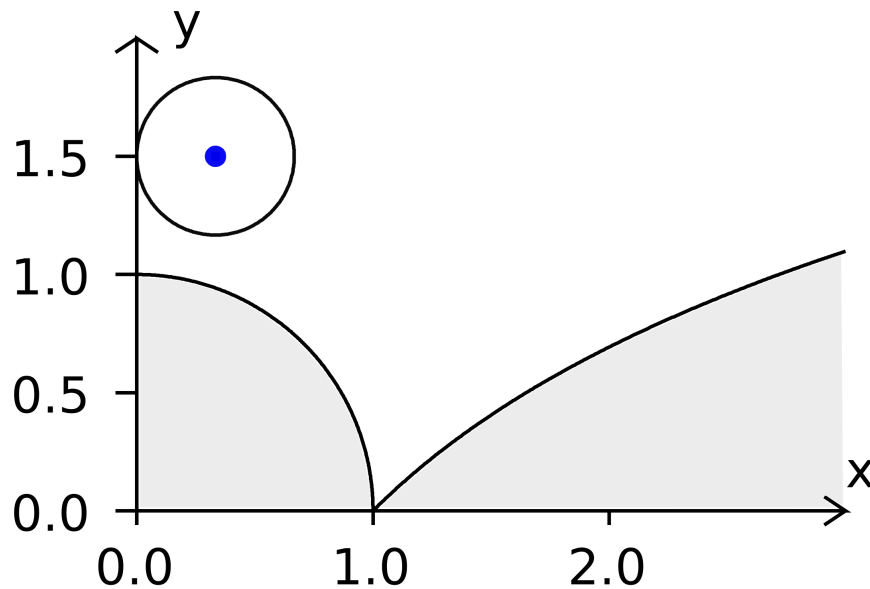
If $\hat{\chi} > |\chi^\dagger|$, $\hat{\rho}_k > \frac{3}{2} |\rho_k|$, $\hat{\lambda}_j > 0$, then the min-max QCQP

- a) finds a strict decent direction of the merit function
- or b) is infeasible
- or c) we are at a stationary point of the min-max problem.

Can be used as basis for any globalization routine, e.g., Linesearch.

Sequential Convex Bilevel Prog.: An Example

Robust Optimization with a SCBP Method:



$$\min_{x,y} \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + y^2$$

subject to

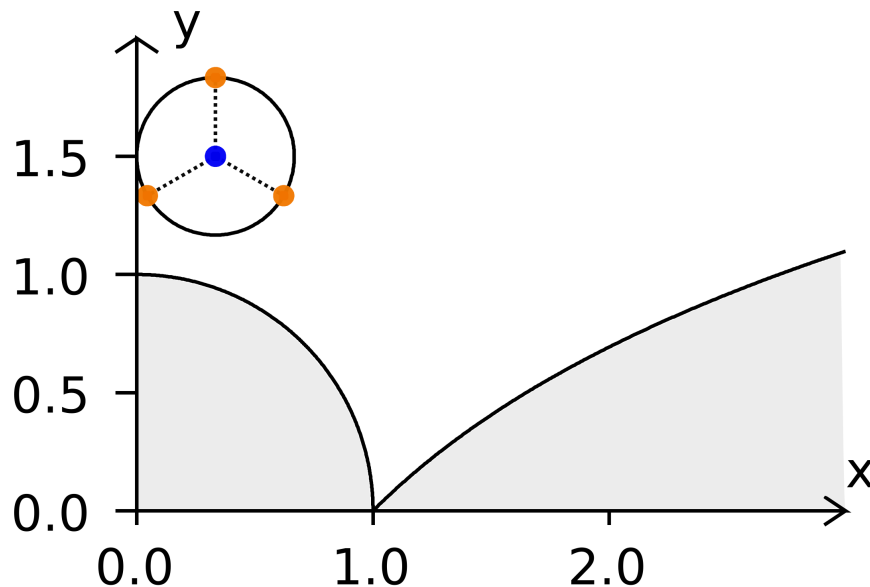
$$\begin{cases} 0 \geq -x + w \\ 0 \geq 1 - (x + w)^2 - (y + v)^2 \\ 0 \geq \log(x + w) - (y + v) \end{cases}$$

Uncertainty set:

- A ball with radius $r = \frac{1}{3}$, i.e. $B(v, w) := v^2 + w^2 - r^2 \leq 0$.

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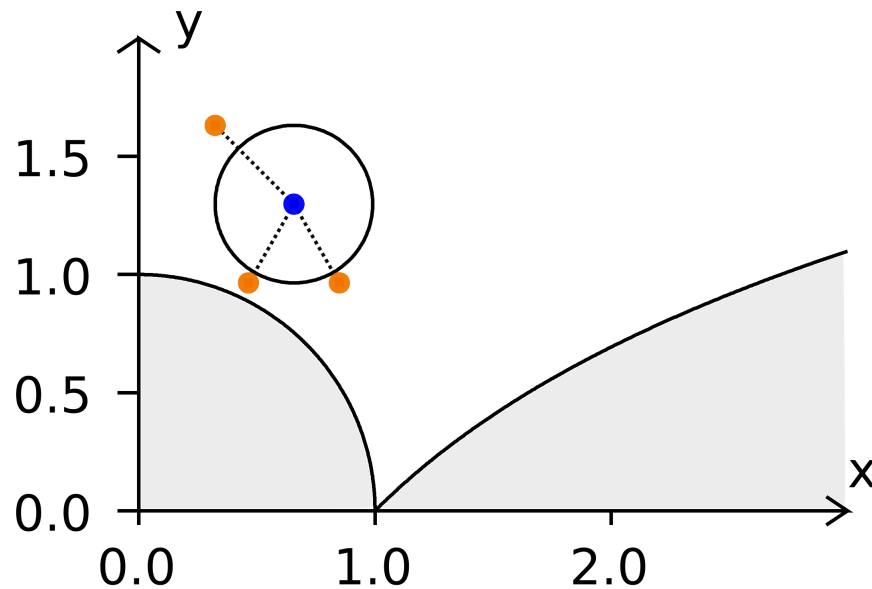
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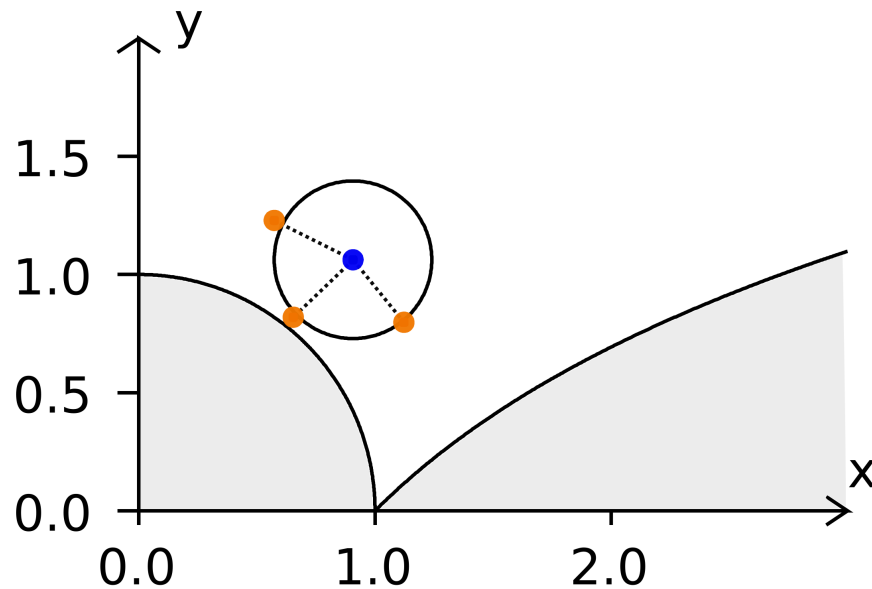
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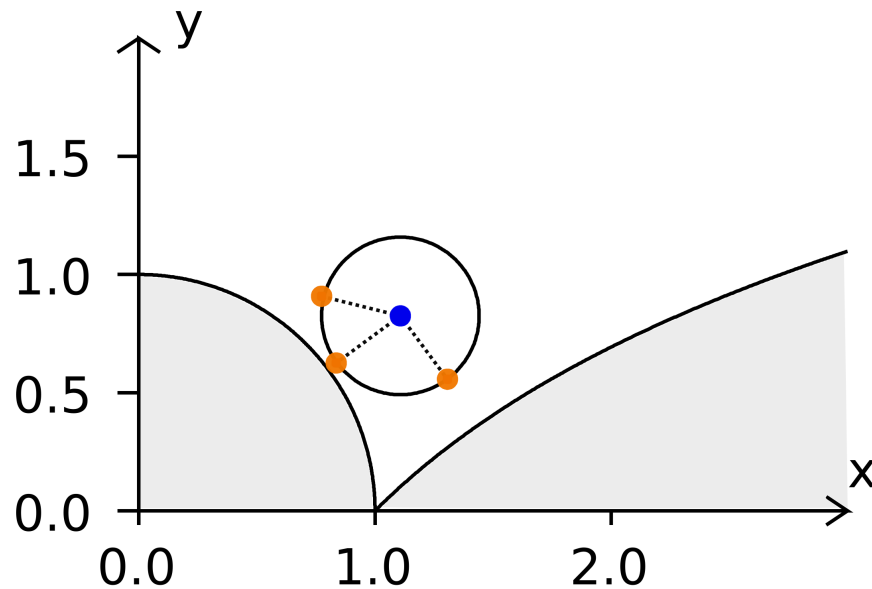
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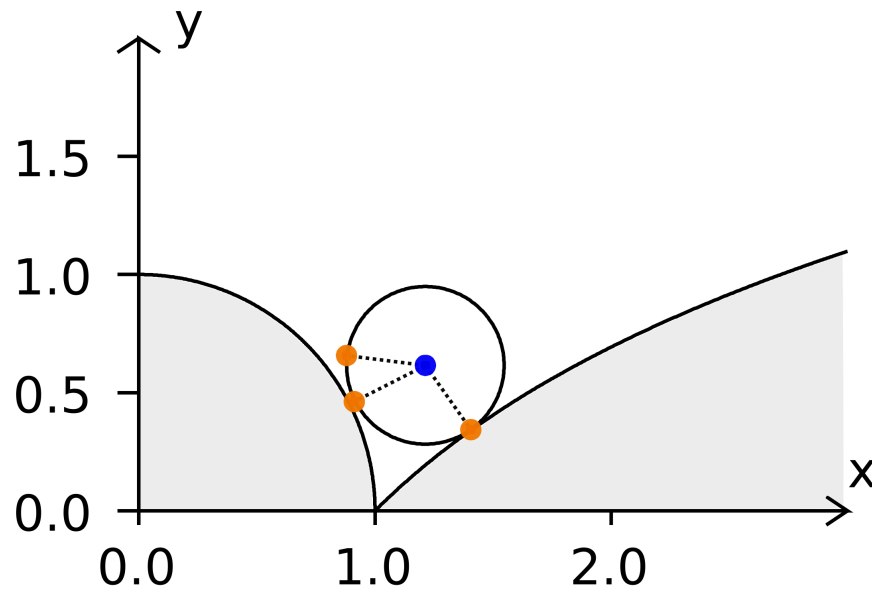
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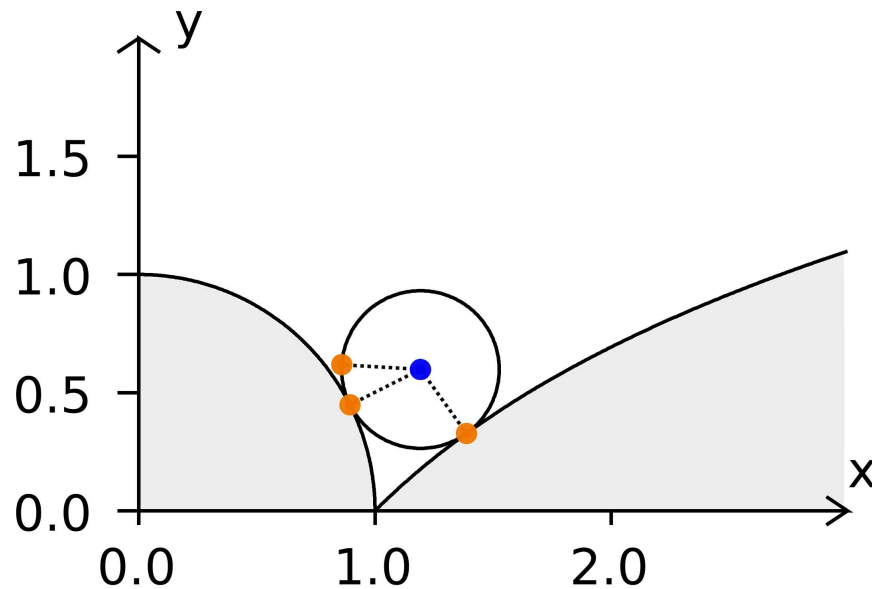
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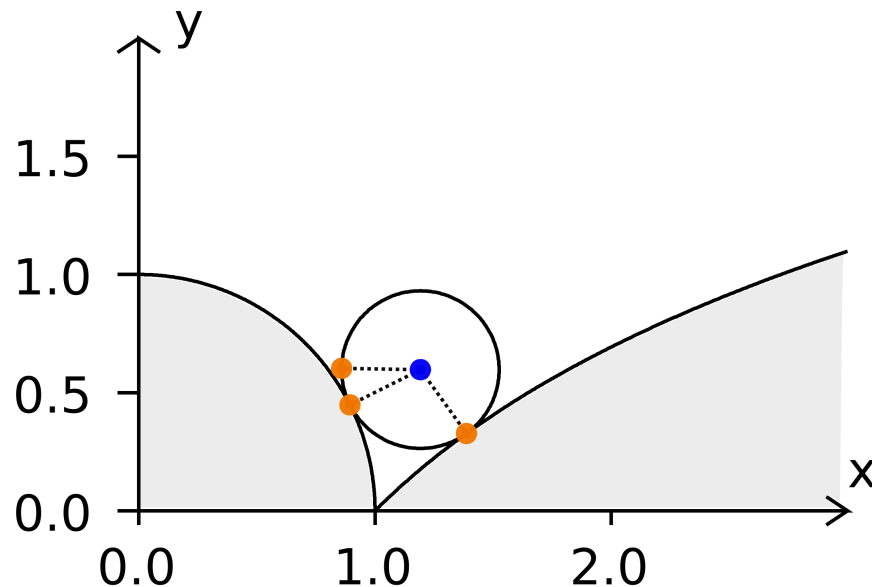
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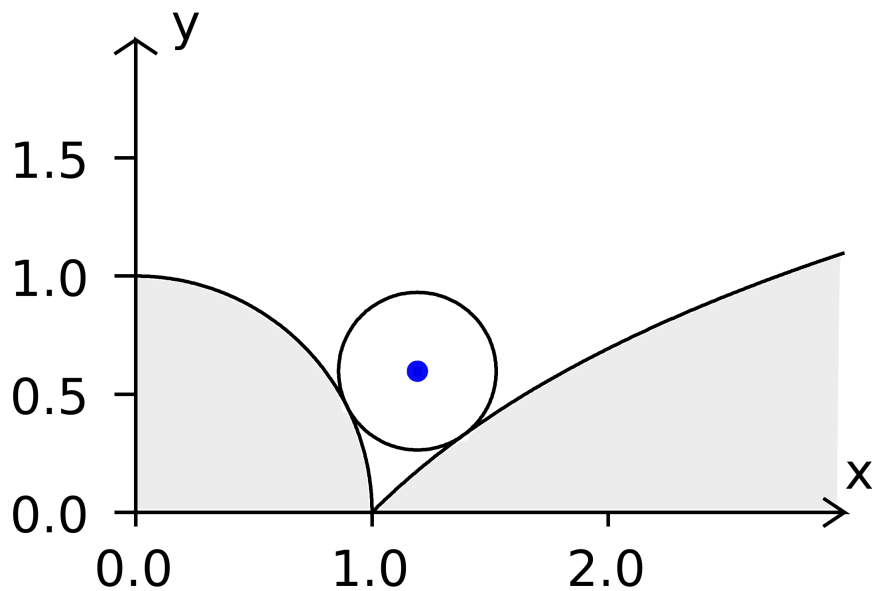
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Iteration	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$-\log_{10}(\text{KKT-TOL})$	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.5	3.4	7.0	12.1

Summary

- Linear Approximation Techniques
- Lagrange Dual Relaxations
- Optimality Conditions in SIP
- Min-Max versus MPCC formulations
- Sequential Convex Bi-Level Programming