

MINLP Solver Technology

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Introduction

Fundamental Methods

Recap: Mixed-Integer Linear Programming

Convex MINLP

Nonconvex MINLP

Bound Tightening

Acceleration – Selected Topics

Optimization-based bound tightening

Synergies with MIP and NLP

Convexity

Convexification

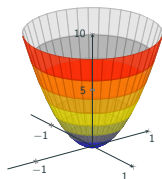
Primal Heuristics

Introduction

Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Programs (MINLPs)

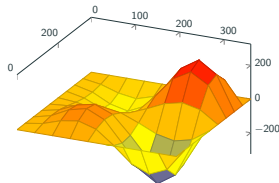
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_k(x) \leq 0 \quad \forall k \in [m] \\ & x_i \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{I} \subseteq [n] \\ & x_i \in [\ell_i, u_i] \quad \forall i \in [n] \end{aligned}$$

The functions $g_k \in C^1([\ell, u], \mathbb{R})$ can be



convex

or



nonconvex

Convex MINLP:

- Main **difficulty**: Integrality restrictions on variables
- Main **challenge**: Integrating techniques for MIP (branch-and-bound) and NLP (SQP, interior point, Kelley' cutting plane, ...)

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General MINLP = Convex MINLP **plus** Global Optimization:

- Main **difficulty**: Nonconvex nonlinearities
- Main **challenges**:
 - Convexification of nonconvex nonlinearities
 - Reduction of convexification gap (spatial branch-and-bound)
 - Numerical robustness
 - Diversity of problem class: MINLP is “The mother of all deterministic optimization problems” (Jon Lee, 2008)

Solvers for Convex MINLP

solver	citation	OA NLP-BB LP/NLP		
AlphaECP	Westerlund and Lundquist [2005], Lastusilta [2011]	ECP		
AOA	Roelofs and Bisschop [2017] (AIMMS)	✓		
Bonmin	Bonami, Biegler, Conn, Cornuéjols, Grossmann, Laird, Lee, Lodi, Margot, Sawaya, and Wächter [2008]	✓	✓	✓
DICOPT	Kocis and Grossmann [1989]	✓		
FilMINT	Abhishek, Leyffer, and Linderoth [2010]			✓
Knitro	Byrd, Nocedal, and Waltz [2006]		✓	
MINLPBB	Leyffer [1998]		✓	
MINOTAUR	Mahajan, Leyffer, and Munson [2009]		(✓)	
SBB	Bussieck and Drud [2001]		✓	
XPRESS-SLP	FICO [2008]	ECP	✓	
⋮				

- can often work as heuristic for nonconvex MINLP

Deterministic:

solver	1st ver. citation
α BB	1995 Adjiman, Androulakis, and Floudas [1998a]
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Main restriction: algebraic structure of problem must be available (see later)

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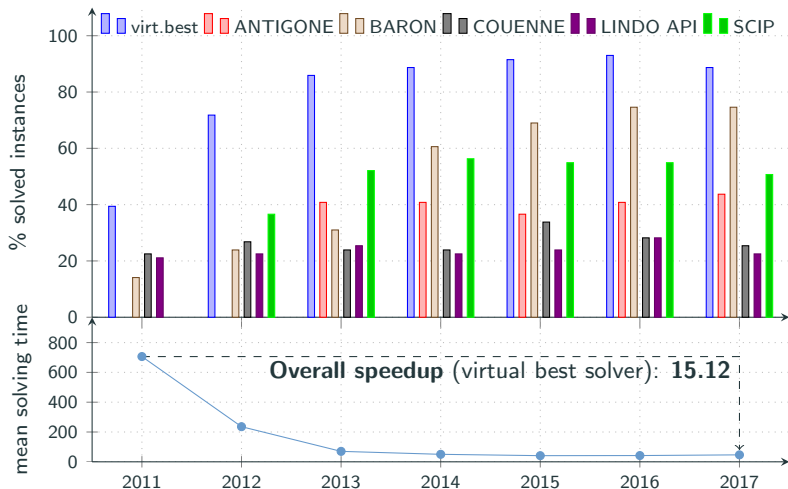
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Main restriction: algebraic structure of problem must be available (see later)

Interval-Arithmetic based: avoid round-off errors, typically NLP only, e.g., COCONUT [Neumaier, 2001], Ibex, . . .

Stochastic search: LocalSolver, OQNLP [Ugray, Lasdon, Plummer, Glover, Kelly, and Martí, 2007], . . .

Global MINLP Solver Progress: # Solved Instances and Solving Time



- 71 “non-trivial solvable” instances from MINLPLib
- time limit: 1800 seconds, gap limit: 1e-6

date	ANTIGONE	BARON	COUENNE	LINDO API	SCIP
08/2011	–	9.3.1	0.3	6.1.1.588	–
11/2012	–	11.5.2	0.4	7.0.1.497	2.1.2
07/2013	1.1	12.3.3	0.4	8.0.1283.385	3.0
09/2014	1.1	14.0.3	0.4	8.0.1694.550	3.1
11/2015	1.1	15.9.22	0.5	9.0.2120.225	3.2
09/2016	1.1	16.8.24	0.5	9.0.2217.293	3.2
08/2017	1.1	17.8.7	0.5	11.0.3742.269	4.0

Fundamental Methods

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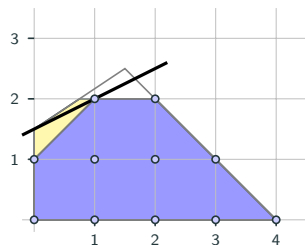
Recap: Mixed-Integer Linear Programming

MIP Branch & Cut

For mixed-integer **linear** programs (MIP), that is,

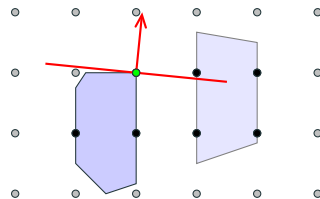
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b, \\ & x_i \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad i \in \mathcal{I}, \end{aligned}$$

the dominant method of **Branch & Cut** combines



cutting planes
[Gomory, 1958]

&



branch-and-bound
[Land and Doig, 1960]

Fundamental Methods

Convex MINLP

NLP-based Branch & Bound (NLP-BB)



MIP branch-and-bound
[Land and Doig, 1960]

MINLP branch-and-bound
[Leyffer, 1993]

Bounding: Solve **convex NLP relaxation** obtained by dropping integrality requirements.

Branching: Subdivide problem along variables x_i , $i \in \mathcal{I}$, that take **fractional value in NLP solution**.

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Branching: Subdivide problem along variables x_i , $i \in \mathcal{I}$, that take **fractional value in NLP solution**.

- However: **Robustness** and **Warmstarting**-capability of NLP solvers not as good as for LP solvers (simplex alg.)

Reduce Convex MINLP to MIP

Assume all functions $g_k(\cdot)$ of MINLP are **convex** on $[\ell, u]$.

Duran and Grossmann [1986]: MINLP and the following MIP have the **same optimal solutions**

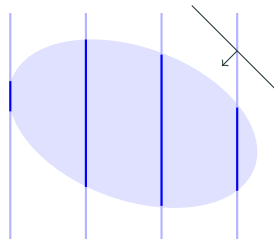
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_k(\hat{x}) + \nabla g_k(\hat{x})^T (x - \hat{x}) \leq 0, \\ & k \in [m], \quad \hat{x} \in R, \\ & x_i \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad i \in \mathcal{I}, \\ & x \in [\ell, u], \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{x} \in R$ are the solutions of the **NLP subproblems** obtained from MINLP by applying **any possible fixing for $x_{\mathcal{I}}$** , i.e.,

$$\min c^T x \text{ s.t. } g(x) \leq 0, x \in [\ell, u], x_{\mathcal{I}} \text{ fixed.}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x + y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (x, y) \in \text{ellipsoid} \\ & x \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\} \\ & y \in [0, 3] \end{aligned}$$



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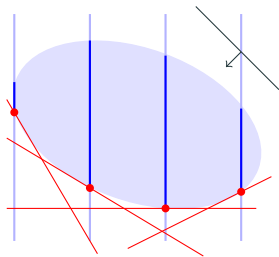
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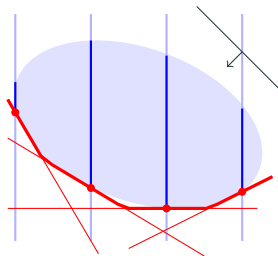
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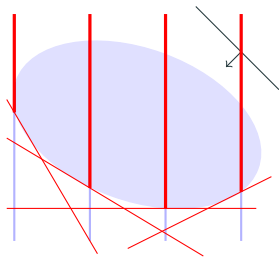
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Outer Approximation Method (OA), ECP, EHP

Convex MINLP

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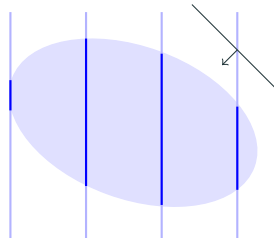
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Outer Approximation (OA) algorithm

[Duran and Grossmann, 1986]:

- Start with $R := \emptyset$.
- Dynamically increase R by **alternatively solving MIP relaxations and NLP subproblems** until MIP solution is feasible for MINLP.



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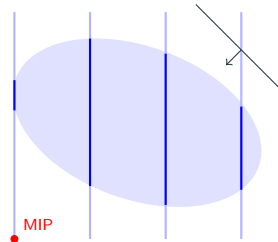
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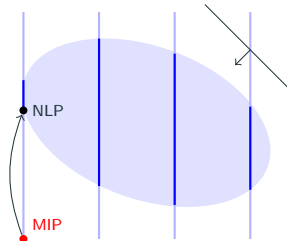
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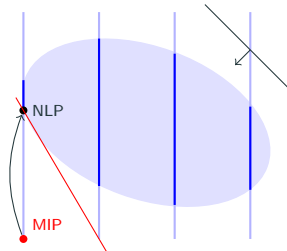
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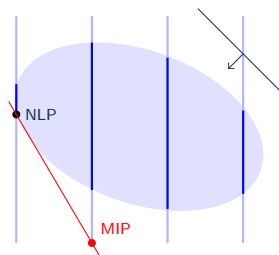
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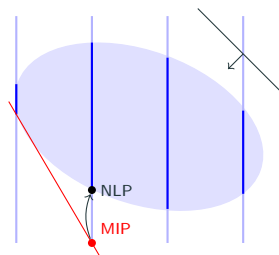
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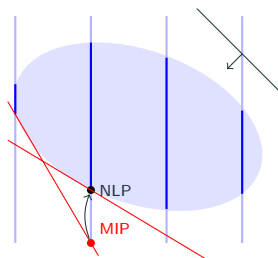
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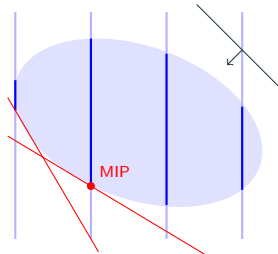
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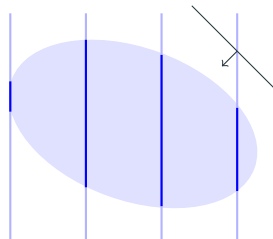
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Extended Cutting Plane Method (ECP)

[Kelley, 1960, Westerlund and Pettersson, 1995]:

- Iteratively solve **MIP relaxation only**.
- Linearize $g_k(\cdot)$ in MIP relaxation.
- No need to solve NLP, but **weaker MIP** relaxation.



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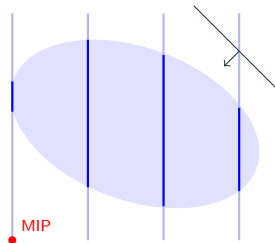
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Extended Cutting Plane Method (ECP)

[Kelley, 1960, Westerlund and Pettersson, 1995]:

- Iteratively solve **MIP relaxation only**.
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- No need to solve NLP, but **weaker MIP** relaxation.



Outer Approximation Method (OA), ECP, EHP

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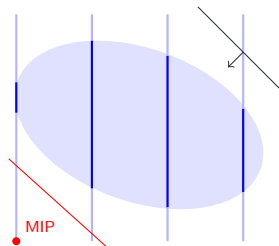
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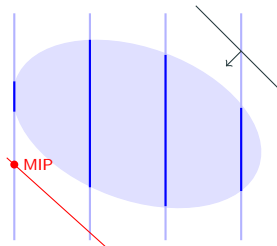
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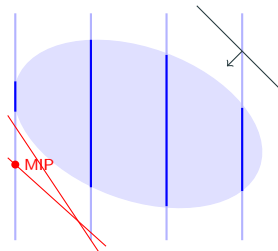
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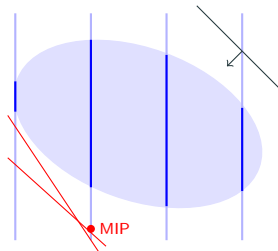
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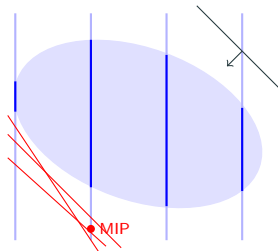
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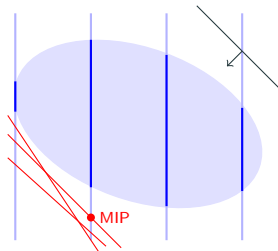
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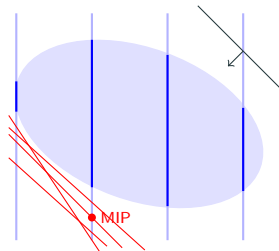
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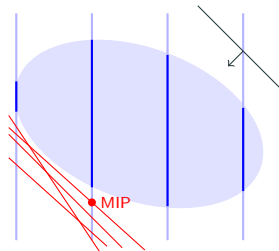
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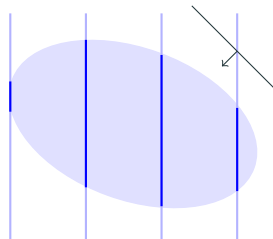
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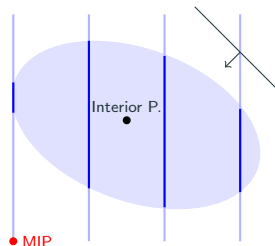
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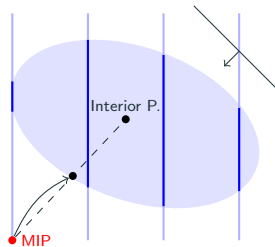
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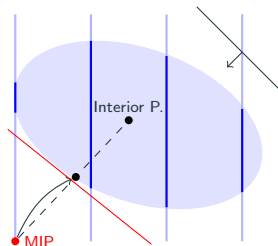
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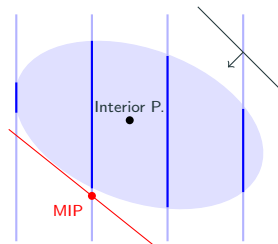
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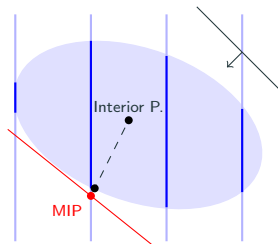
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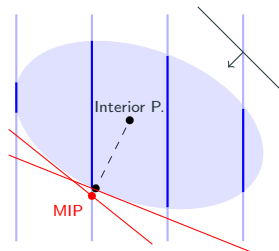
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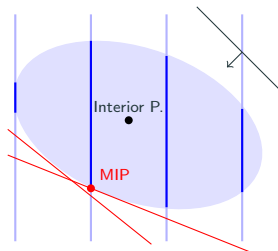
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OA/ECP/EHP: Solving a sequence of MIP relaxations can be **expensive and wasteful** (no warmstarts)

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LP/NLP- or LP-based Branch & Bound

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LP-based Branch & Bound:

- **Integrate Kelley' Cutting Plane method into MIP** Branch & Bound.
- Add **linearization in LP solution** to LP relaxation (as in ECP).
- Optional: **Move LP solution** onto NLP-feasible set $\{x \in [\ell, u] : g_k(x) \leq 0\}$ via linesearch (as in EHP) [Maher, Fischer, Gally, Gamrath, Gleixner, Gottwald, Hendel, Koch, Lübbecke, Miltenberger, Müller, Pfetsch, Puchert, Rehfeldt, Schenker, Schwarz, Serrano, Shinano, Weninger, Witt, and Witzig, 2017].

Fundamental Methods

Nonconvex MINLP

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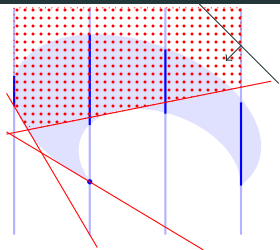
Now: Let $g_k(\cdot)$ be **nonconvex** for some $k \in [m]$.

Outer-Approximation:

- Linearizations

$$g_k(\hat{x}) + \nabla g_k(\hat{x})(x - \hat{x}) \leq 0$$

may not be valid.



NLP-based Branch & Bound:

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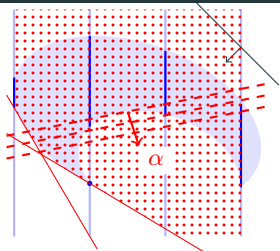
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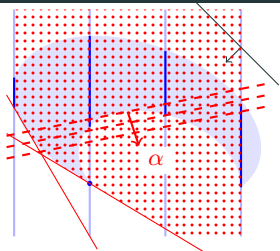
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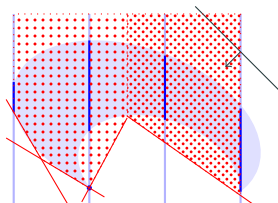


NLP-based Branch & Bound:

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Exact approach: Spatial Branch & Bound:

- Relax nonconvexity** to obtain a **tractable relaxation** (LP or convex NLP).
- Branch on “nonconvexities”** to enforce original constraints.



Convex Relaxation

Given: $X = \{x \in [\ell, u] : g_k(x) \leq 0, k \in [m]\}$ (continuous relaxation of MINLP)

Seek: $\text{conv}(X)$ – convex hull of X

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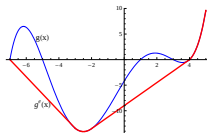
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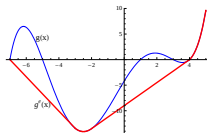
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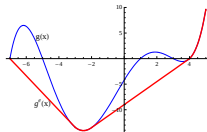
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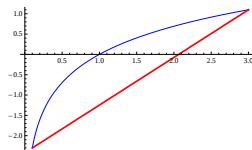
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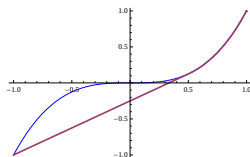
- In practice, convex envelope is **not known explicitly** in general – **except for many “simple functions”**

Convex Envelopes for “simple” functions

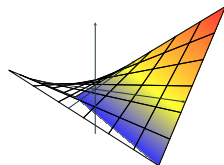
concave functions



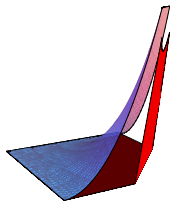
$$x^k \quad (k \in 2\mathbb{Z} + 1)$$



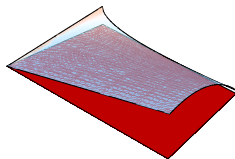
$$x \cdot y$$



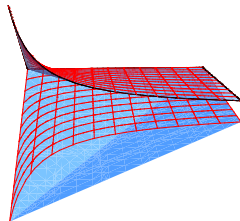
$$x^2 \cdot y^2$$



$$-\sqrt{x} \cdot y^2$$



$$x/y \quad (0 < y < \infty)$$



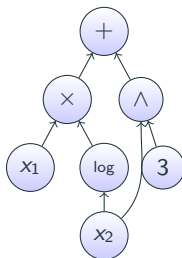
Factorable Functions [McCormick, 1976]

$g(x)$ is factorable if it can be expressed as a combination of functions from a finite set of operators, e.g., $\{+, \times, \div, \wedge, \sin, \cos, \exp, \log, |\cdot|\}$, whose arguments are variables, constants, or other factorable functions.

- Typically represented as **expression trees or graphs** (DAG).
- Excludes integrals $x \mapsto \int_{x_0}^x h(\zeta) d\zeta$ and black-box functions.

Example:

$$x_1 \log(x_2) + x_2^3$$



Reformulation of Factorable MINLP

Smith and Pantelides [1996, 1997]: By introducing **new variables and equations**, every factorable MINLP can be **reformulated** such that **for every constraint function the convex envelope is known**.

$$\begin{array}{ll} x_1 \log(x_2) + x_2^3 \leq 0 & \\ x_1 \in [1, 2], x_2 \in [1, e] & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \Rightarrow \\ \text{Reform} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} y_1 + y_2 \leq 0 \\ x_1 y_3 = y_1 \\ x_2^3 = y_2 \\ \log(x_2) = y_3 \\ x_1 \in [1, 2], x_2 \in [1, e] \\ y_1 \in [0, 2], y_2 \in [1, e^3] \\ y_3 \in [0, 1] \end{array}$$

- Bounds for new variables **inherited** from functions and their arguments, e.g., $y_3 \in \log([1, e]) = [0, 1]$.
- Reformulation may **not be unique**, e.g., $xyz = (xy)z = x(yz)$.

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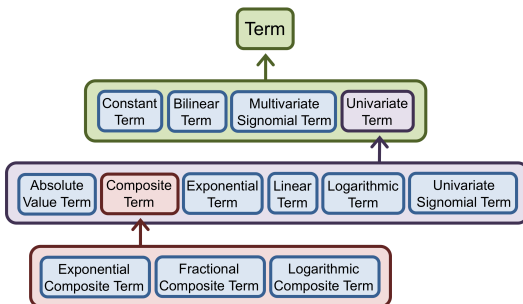
Factorable Reformulation in Practice

The type of algebraic expressions that is understood and not broken up further is **implementation specific**.

Thus, **not all functions are supported** by any deterministic solver, e.g.,

- ANTIGONE, BARON, and SCIP do not support **trigonometric functions**.
- Couenne does not support **max or min**.
- No deterministic global solver supports **external functions** that are given by routines for **point-wise evaluation** of function and derivatives.

Example ANTIGONE [Misener and Floudas, 2014]:



Recall **Spatial Branch & Bound**:

- ✓ **Relax nonconvexity** to obtain a **tractable relaxation** (often an LP).
- **Branch on “nonconvexities”** to enforce original constraints.

Spatial Branching

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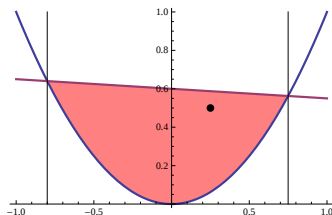
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The **variable bounds** determine the convex relaxation, e.g., for the constraint

$$y = x^2, \quad x \in [\ell, u],$$

the convex relaxation is

$$x^2 \leq y \leq \ell^2 + \frac{u^2 - \ell^2}{u - \ell}(x - \ell), \quad x \in [\ell, u].$$



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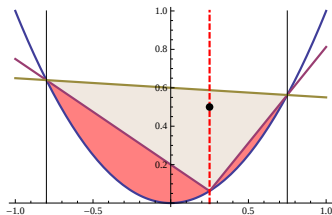
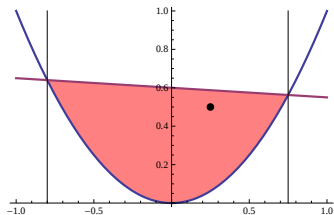
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Thus, branching on a **nonlinear variable in a nonconvex term** allows for tighter relaxations in sub-problems:



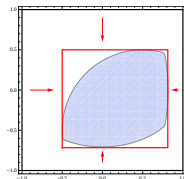
Fundamental Methods

Bound Tightening

Variable Bounds Tightening (Domain Propagation)

Tighten variable bounds $[\ell, u]$ such that

- the **optimal value** of the problem is not changed, or
- the **set of optimal solutions** is not changed, or
- the **set of feasible solutions** is not changed.



Formally:

$$\min / \max \{x_k : x \in \mathcal{R}\}, \quad k \in [n],$$

where $\mathcal{R} = \{x \in [\ell, u] : g(x) \leq 0, x_i \in \mathbb{Z}, i \in \mathcal{I}\}$ (MINLP-feasible set) or a relaxation thereof.

Bound tightening can **tighten the LP relaxation without branching**.

Belotti, Lee, Liberti, Margot, and Wächter [2009]: **overview** on bound tightening for MINLP

Feasibility-based Bound Tightening (FBBT):

Deduce variable bounds from **single constraint and box** $[\ell, u]$, that is

$$\mathcal{R} = \{x \in [\ell, u] : g_j(x) \leq 0\} \quad \text{for some fixed } j \in [m].$$

- cheap and effective $\Rightarrow$ used for **“probing”**

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Linear Constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} b &\leq \sum_{i:a_i>0} a_i x_i + \sum_{i:a_i<0} a_i x_i \leq c, & \ell &\leq x \leq u \\ \Rightarrow \quad x_j &\leq \frac{1}{a_j} \begin{cases} c - \sum_{i:a_i>0, i \neq j} a_i \ell_i - \sum_{i:a_i<0} a_i u_i, & \text{if } a_j > 0 \\ b - \sum_{i:a_i>0} a_i u_i - \sum_{i:a_i<0, i \neq j} a_i \ell_i, & \text{if } a_j < 0 \end{cases} \\ x_j &\geq \frac{1}{a_j} \begin{cases} b - \sum_{i:a_i>0, i \neq j} a_i u_i - \sum_{i:a_i<0} a_i \ell_i, & \text{if } a_j > 0 \\ c - \sum_{i:a_i>0} a_i \ell_i - \sum_{i:a_i<0, i \neq j} a_i u_i, & \text{if } a_j < 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

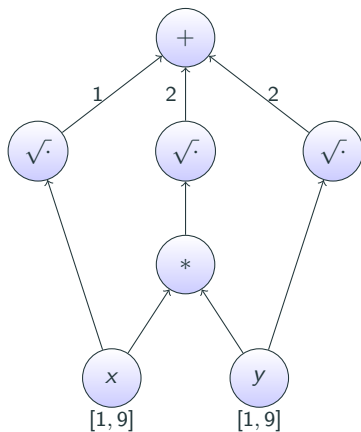
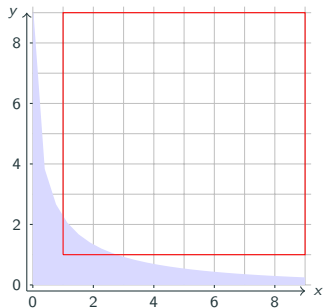
- Belotti, Cafieri, Lee, and Liberti [2010]: **fixed point** of iterating FBBT on set of linear constraints can be computed by solving one LP
- Belotti [2013]: FBBT on **two linear constraints** simultaneously

Feasibility-Based Bound Tightening on Expression “Tree”

Example:

$$\sqrt{x} + 2\sqrt{xy} + 2\sqrt{y} \in [-\infty, 7]$$

$$x, y \in [1, 9]$$

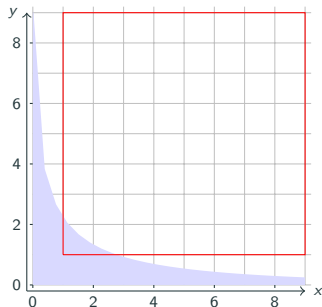


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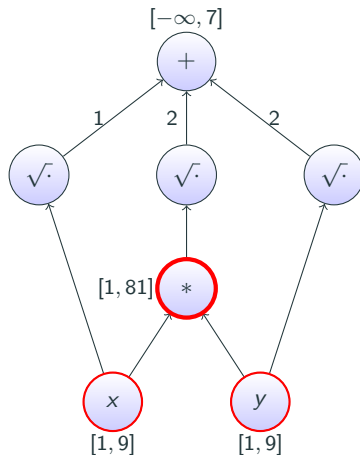
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Forward propagation:

- compute bounds on intermediate nodes (bottom-up)



$$[1, 9] * [1, 9] = [1, 81]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

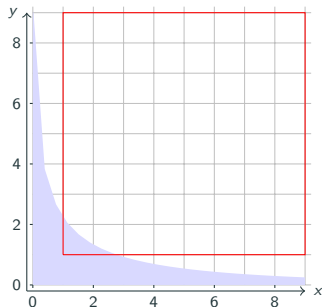
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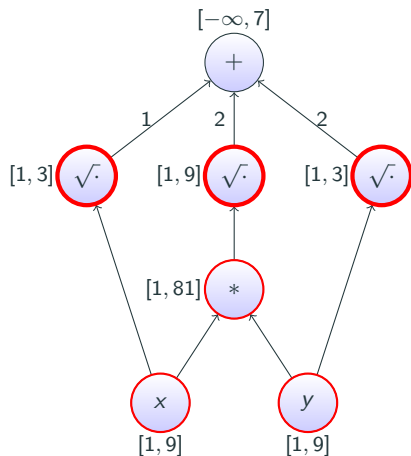
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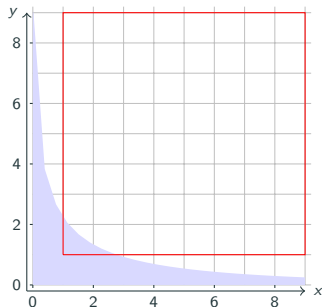
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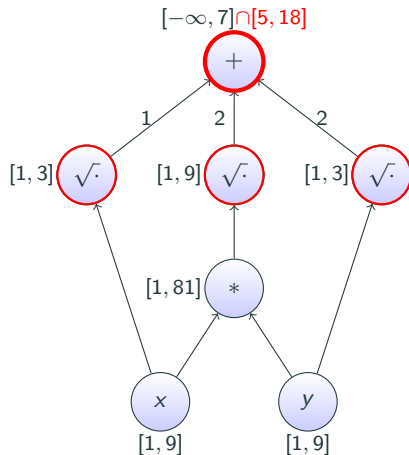
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$$[1, 3] + 2[1, 9] + 2[1, 3] = [5, 18]$$

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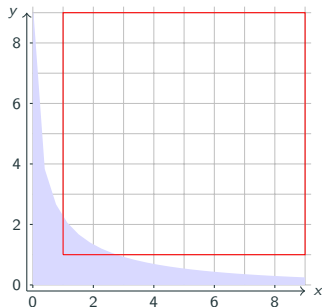
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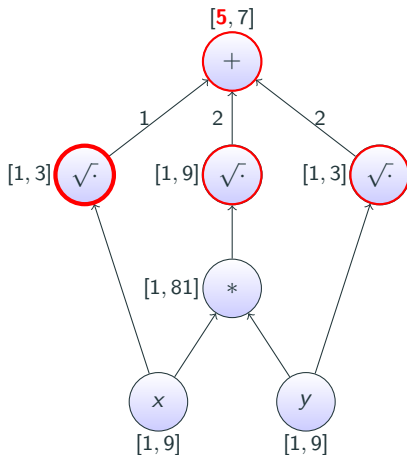


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Backward propagation:

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$$[5, 7] - 2[1, 9] - 2[1, 3] = [-19, 3]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

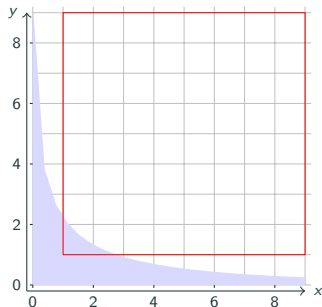
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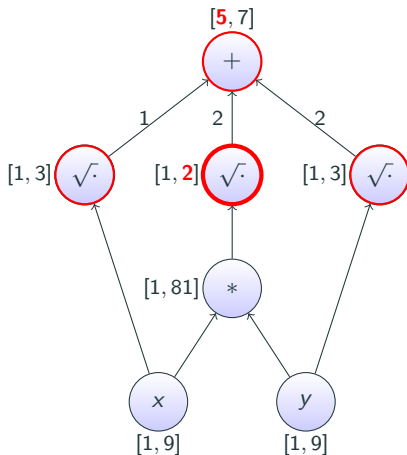


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$$([5, 7] - [1, 3] - 2[1, 3])/2 = [-2, 2]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

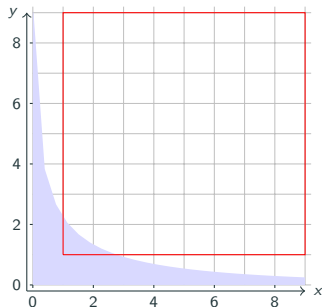
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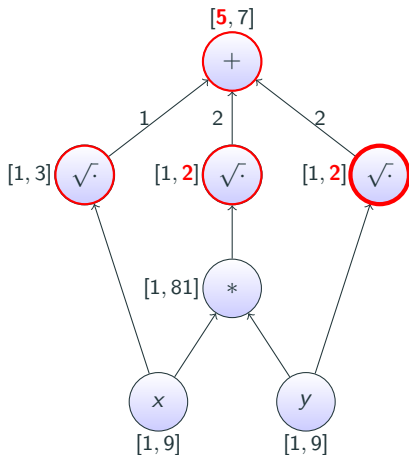


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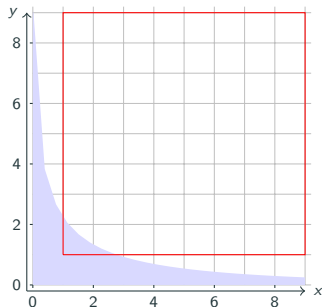
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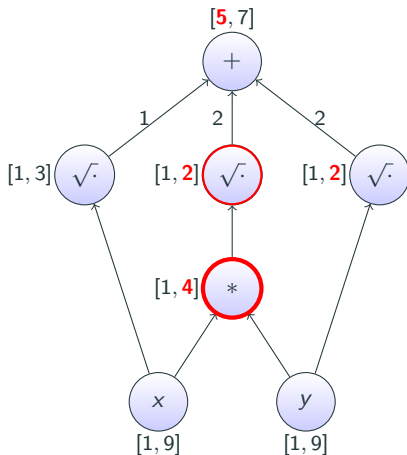


Forward propagation:

- compute bounds on intermediate nodes (bottom-up)

Backward propagation:

- reduce bounds using reverse operations (top-down)



$$[1, 2]^2 = [1, 4]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

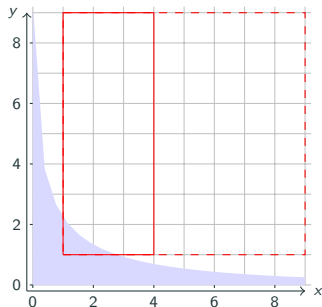
[Moore, 1966]

Feasibility-Based Bound Tightening on Expression “Tree”

Example:

$$\sqrt{x} + 2\sqrt{xy} + 2\sqrt{y} \in [-\infty, 7]$$

$$x, y \in [1, 9]$$

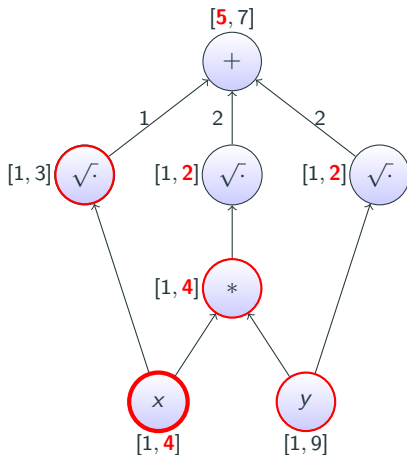


Forward propagation:

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$$[1, 3]^2 = [1, 9] \quad [1, 4]/[1, 9] = [1/9, 4]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

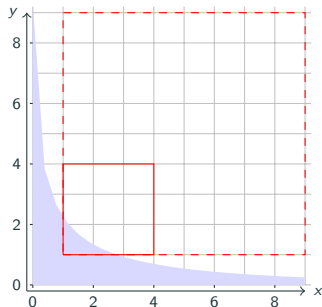
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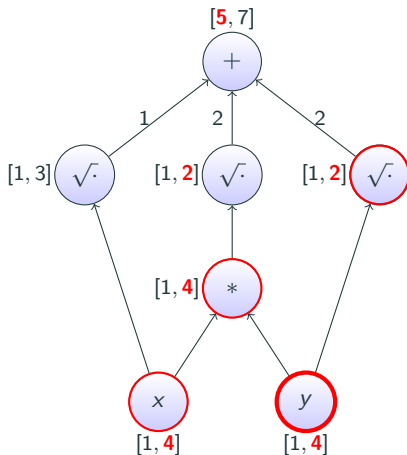


Forward propagation:

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$$[1, 2]^2 = [1, 4] \quad [1, 4]/[1, 4] = [1/4, 4]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

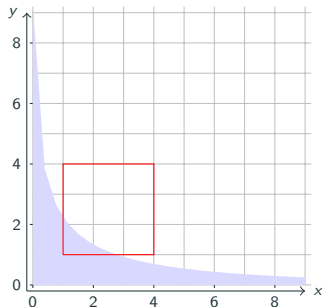
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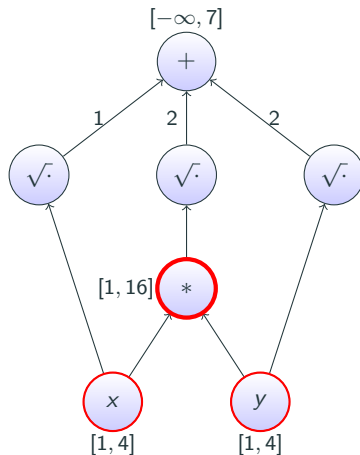


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$$[1, 4] * [1, 4] = [1, 16]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

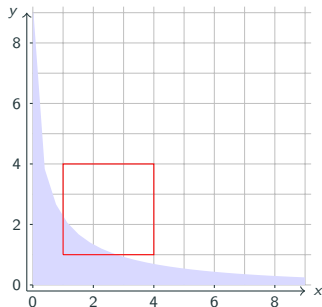
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Feasibility-Based Bound Tightening on Expression “Tree”

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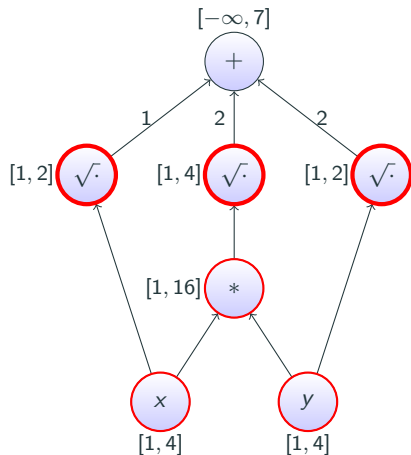


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$$\sqrt{[1, 4]} = [1, 2] \quad \sqrt{[1, 16]} = [1, 4]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

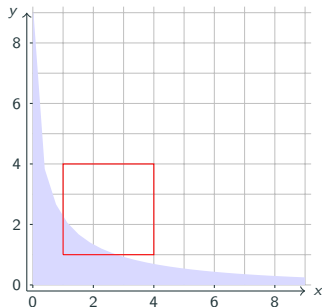
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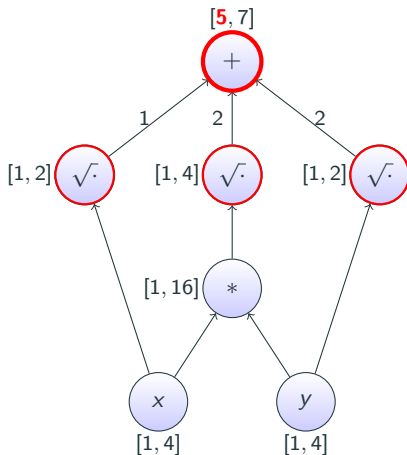


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$$[1, 2] + 2[1, 4] + 2[1, 2] = [5, 14]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

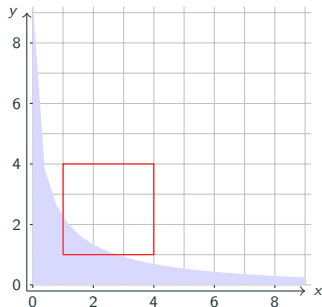
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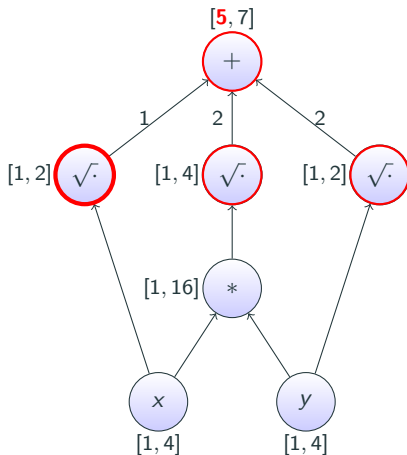


Forward propagation:

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$$[5, 7] - 2[1, 4] - 2[1, 2] = [-7, 3]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

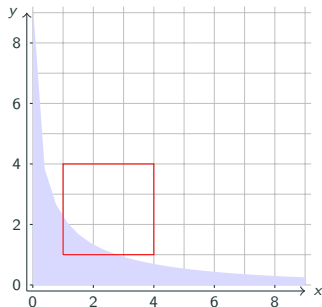
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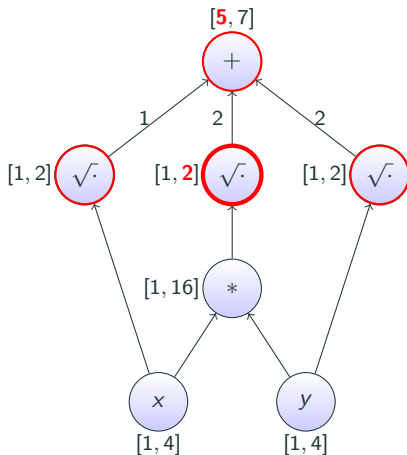


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$$([5, 7] - [1, 2] - 2[1, 2])/2 = [-0.5, 2]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

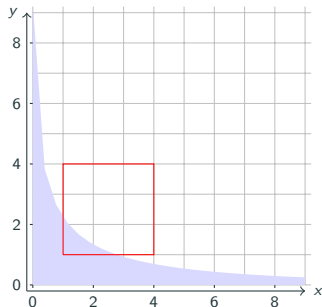
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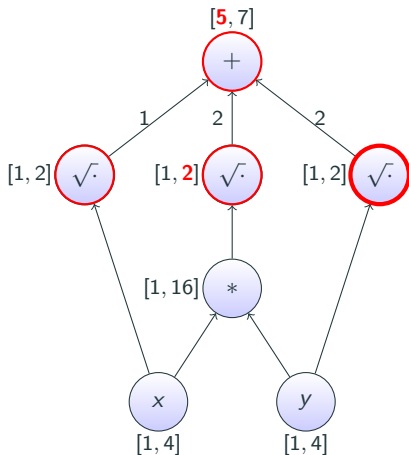


Forward propagation:

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$$([5, 7] - [1, 2] - 2[1, 4])/2 = [-2.5, 2]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

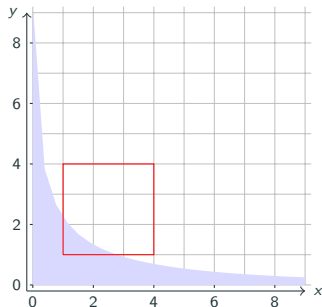
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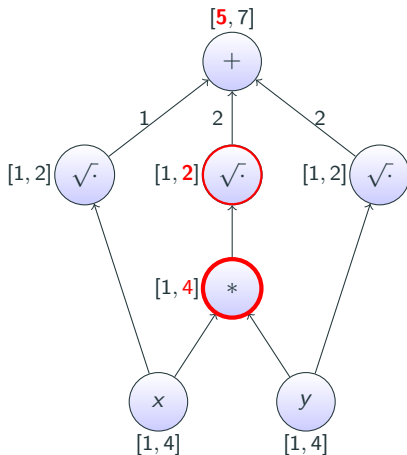


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$$[1, 2]^2 = [1, 4]$$

Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

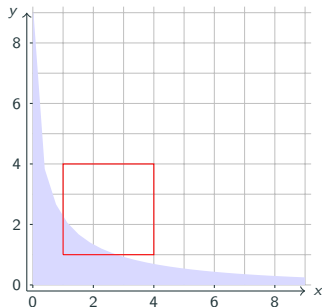
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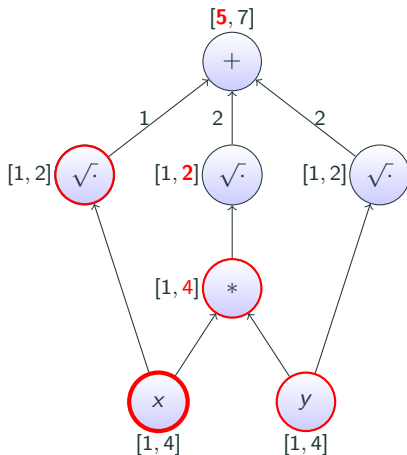


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Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

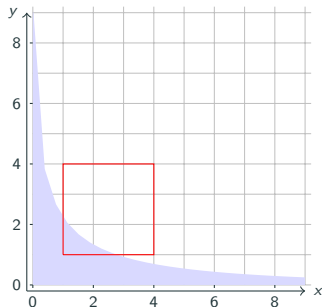
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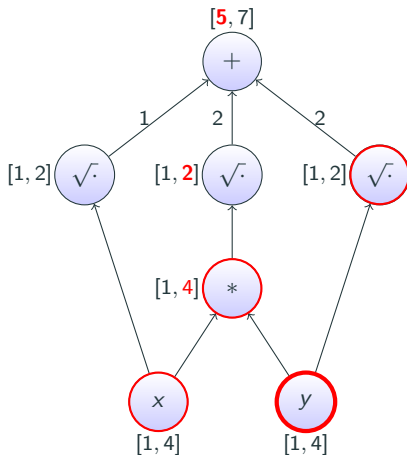


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Application of **Interval Arithmetics**

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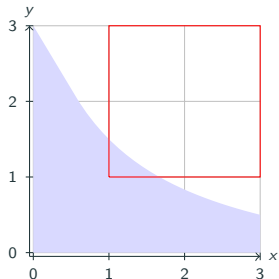
Problem: Overestimation

Example – reformulated:

$$(x' = \sqrt{x}, y' = \sqrt{y})$$

$$x' + 2x'y' + 2y' \in [-\infty, 7]$$

$$x', y' \in [1, 3]$$



Simple FBBT:

$$x' \leq 7 - 2x'y' - 2y'$$

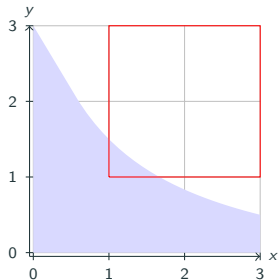
$$x' \leq (7 - x' - 2y')/(2y')$$

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$$\leq 7 - 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 - 2 \cdot 1$$

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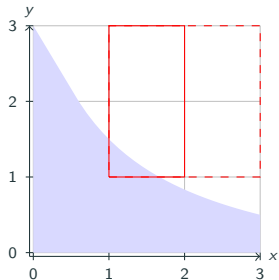
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Simple FBBT:

$$x' \leq 7 - 2x'y' - 2y'$$

$$\leq 7 - 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 1 - 2 \cdot 1 = \mathbf{3}$$

$$x' \leq (7 - x' - 2y') / (2y')$$

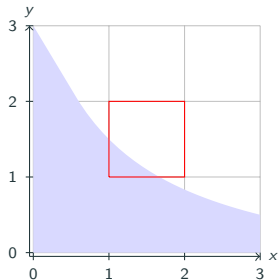
$$\leq (7 - 1 - 2 \cdot 1) / (2 \cdot 1) = \mathbf{2}$$

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$$x' + 2x'y' + 2y' \in [-\infty, 7]$$

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$$y' \leq (7 - 2x'y' - x') / 2 \leq \mathbf{2}$$

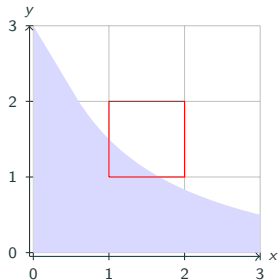
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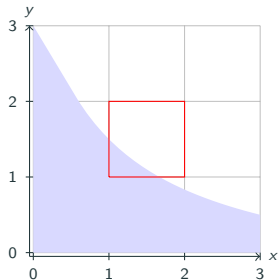
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Consider **Bivariate Quadratic** as **one term**

[Vigerske, 2013, Vigerske and Gleixner, 2017]:

$$x' \leq \frac{7 - 2y'}{1 + 2y'}$$

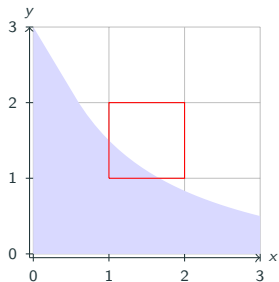
$$y' \leq \frac{7 - x'}{2 + 2x'}$$

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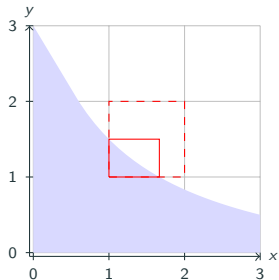


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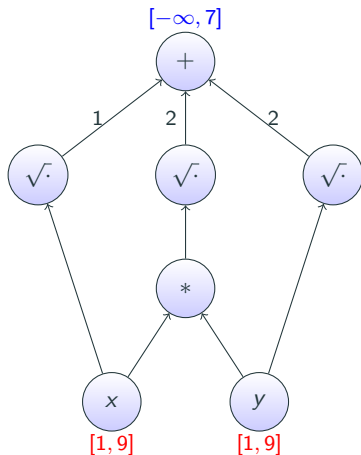
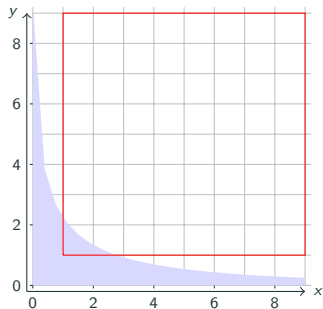
$$y' \leq \frac{7 - x'}{2 + 2x'} \leq \frac{7 - 1}{2 + 2 \cdot 1} = \frac{\mathbf{3}}{\mathbf{2}}$$

FBBT on Expression Graph

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- **Common subexpressions** from different constraints may stronger boundtightening.

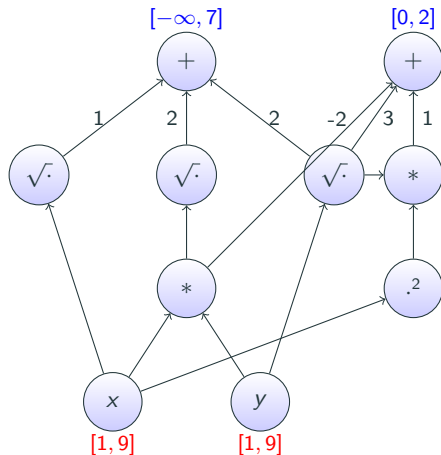
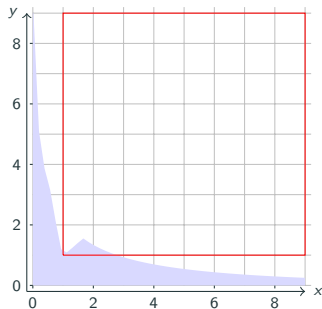
FBBT on Expression Graph

Example:

$$\sqrt{x} + 2\sqrt{xy} + 2\sqrt{y} \in [-\infty, 7]$$

$$x^2\sqrt{y} - 2xy + 3\sqrt{y} \in [0, 2]$$

$$x, y \in [1, 9]$$



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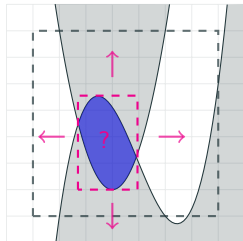
Acceleration – Selected Topics

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Optimization-based bound tightening

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Recall: **Bound Tightening** $\equiv \min / \max \{x_k : x \in \mathcal{R}\}, k \in [n]$, where
 $\mathcal{R} \supseteq \{x \in [\ell, u] : g(x) \leq 0, x_i \in \mathbb{Z}, i \in \mathcal{I}\}$



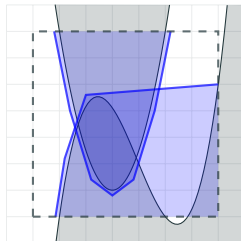
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Optimization-based Bound Tightening

[Quesada and Grossmann, 1993, Maranas and Floudas, 1997, Smith and Pantelides, 1999, ...]:

- $\mathcal{R} = \{x : Ax \leq b, c^T x \leq z^*\}$ **linear relaxation** (with obj. cutoff)



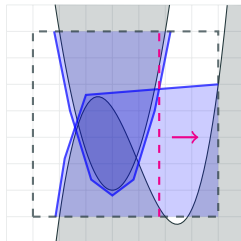
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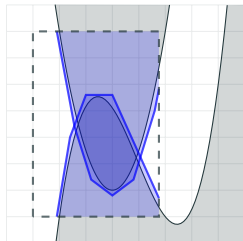
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- simple, but effective on nonconvex MINLP: **relaxation depends on domains**
- but: potentially **many expensive LPs** per node



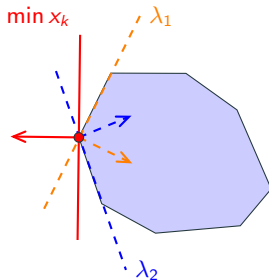
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Advanced implementation [Gleixner, Berthold, Müller, and Weltge, 2017]:

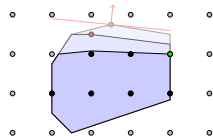
- solve OBBT LPs at **root only**, learn dual certificates $x_k \geq \sum_i r_i x_i + \mu z^* + \lambda^T b$
- propagate duality certificates during tree search ("**approximate OBBT**")
- greedy ordering for faster LP warmstarts, filtering of provably tight bounds
- **16% faster** (24% on instances ≥ 100 seconds) and **less time outs**

Acceleration – Selected Topics

Synergies with MIP and NLP

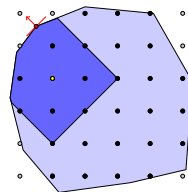
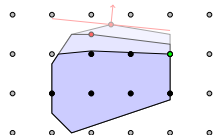
Many MIP techniques can be generalized for MINLP

- MIP **cutting planes applied** to LP relaxation, e.g., Gomory, Mixed-Integer Rounding, Flow Cover
- MIP **cutting planes generalized** to MINLP, e.g., Disjunctive Cuts [Kılınç, Linderoth, and Luedtke, 2010, Belotti, 2012, Bonami, Linderoth, and Lodi, 2012]



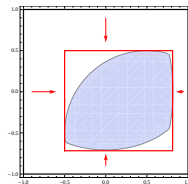
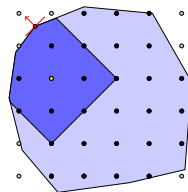
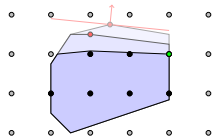
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- MIP **primal heuristics applied** to MIP relaxation; generates fixings and starting point for sub-NLP
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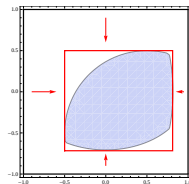
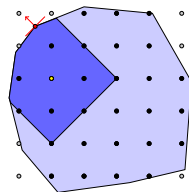
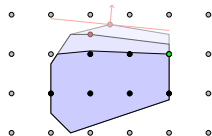
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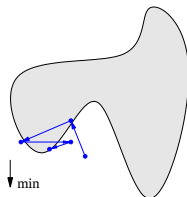
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- **Bound Tightening**
- **Symmetry detection and breaking** [Liberti, 2012, Liberti and Ostrowski, 2014]



NLP Solvers (finding local optima) are used in MINLP solver

- to find feasible points when integrality and linear constraints are satisfied
- to solve continuous relaxation in NLP-based B&B



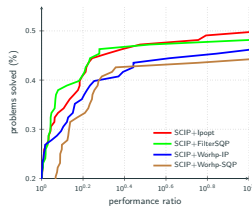
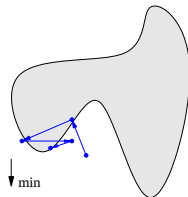
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- performance of NLP solver is problem-dependent
- some MINLP solvers interface several NLP solvers:

ANTIGONE: CONOPT, SNOPT

BARON: FilterSD, FilterSQP, GAMS/NLP (e.g., CONOPT), IPOPT, MINOS, SNOPT

SCIP (next ver.): FilterSQP, IPOPT, WORHP



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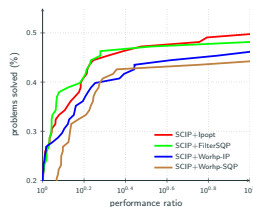
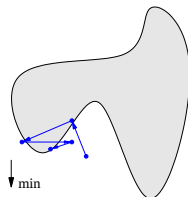
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- strategy to select NLP solver becomes important: e.g., in SCIP, always choosing best NLP solver finds 10% more locally optimal points and is 2–3x faster than best single solver [Müller et al., 2017]
- BARON chooses according to solver performance
- “fast fail” on expensive NLPs, warmstart in B&B seem important [Müller et al., 2017, Mahajan et al., 2012]



Acceleration – Selected Topics

Convexity

Analyze the Hessian:

$$f(x) \text{ convex on } [\ell, u] \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0 \quad \forall x \in [\ell, u]$$

- $f(x)$ quadratic: $\nabla^2 f(x)$ constant $\Rightarrow$ compute spectrum numerically
- general $f \in C^2$: estimate eigenvalues of Interval-Hessian [Nenov et al., 2004]

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Analyze the Algebraic Expression:

$$f(x) \text{ convex} \Rightarrow a \cdot f(x) \begin{cases} \text{convex,} & a \geq 0 \\ \text{concave,} & a \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$f(x), g(x) \text{ convex} \Rightarrow f(x) + g(x) \text{ convex}$$

$$f(x) \text{ concave} \Rightarrow \log(f(x)) \text{ concave}$$

$$f(x) = \prod_i x_i^{e_i}, x_i \geq 0 \Rightarrow f(x) \begin{cases} \text{convex,} & e_i \leq 0 \forall i \\ \text{convex,} & \exists j : e_i \leq 0 \forall i \neq j; \sum_i e_i \geq 1 \\ \text{concave,} & e_i \geq 0 \forall i; \sum_i e_i \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

Second Order Cones (SOC)

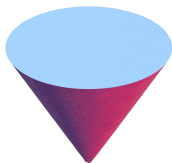
Consider a constraint $x^T A x + b^T x \leq c$.

If A has only **one negative eigenvalue**, it may be reformulated as a **second-order cone constraint** [Mahajan and Munson, 2010], e.g.,

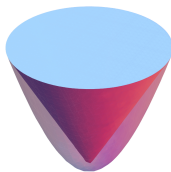
$$\sum_{k=1}^N x_k^2 - x_{N+1}^2 \leq 0, x_{N+1} \geq 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^N x_k^2} \leq x_{N+1}$$

- $\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^N x_k^2}$ is a convex term that can easily be linearized
- BARON and SCIP recognize “obvious” SOC $(\sum_{k=1}^N (\alpha_k x_k)^2 - (\alpha_{N+1} x_{N+1})^2 \leq 0)$

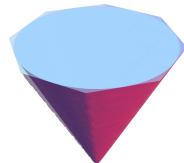
Example: $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 \leq 0$ in $[-1, 1] \times [-1, 1] \times [0, 1]$



feasible region



not recognizing SOC



recognizing SOC

(initial relaxation)

Acceleration – Selected Topics

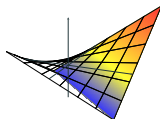
Convexification

Convex Envelopes for Product Terms

Bilinear $x \cdot y$ ($x \in [\ell_x, u_x]$, $y \in [\ell_y, u_y]$):

$$\max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_x y + u_y x - u_x u_y \\ \ell_x y + \ell_y x - \ell_x \ell_y \end{array} \right\} \leq x \cdot y \leq \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_x y + \ell_y x - u_x \ell_y \\ \ell_x y + u_y x - \ell_x u_y \end{array} \right\}$$

[McCormick, 1976, Al-Khayyal and Falk, 1983]

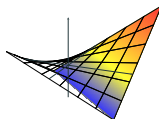


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Trilinear $x \cdot y \cdot z$:

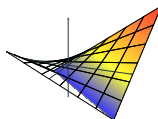
- Similar formulas by **recursion**, considering $(x \cdot y) \cdot z$, $x \cdot (y \cdot z)$, and $(x \cdot z) \cdot y$
 $\Rightarrow$ **18 inequalities** for convex underestimator [Meyer and Floudas, 2004]

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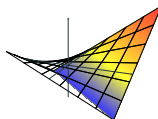
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Quadrilinear $u \cdot v \cdot w \cdot x$:

- Cafieri, Lee, and Liberti [2010]: apply formulas for bilinear and trilinear to groupings $((u \cdot v) \cdot w) \cdot x$, $(u \cdot v) \cdot (w \cdot x)$, $(u \cdot v \cdot w) \cdot x$, $(u \cdot v) \cdot w \cdot x$ and compare strength numerically

Vertex-Polyhedral Functions

For a **vertex-polyhedral** function, the convex envelope is determined by the **vertices of the box**:

Given $f(\cdot)$ vertex-polyhedral over $[\ell, u] \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, value of convex envelope in x is

$$\min_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{2^n}} \left\{ \sum_p \lambda_p f(v^p) : x = \sum_p \lambda_p v^p, \sum_p \lambda_p = 1, \lambda \geq 0 \right\} \quad (C)$$

$$= \max_{a \in \mathbb{R}^n, b \in \mathbb{R}} \{ a^T x + b : a^T v^p + b \leq f(v^p) \forall p \}, \quad (D)$$

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- **Multilinear functions:** $f(x) = \sum_{I \in \mathcal{I}} a_I \prod_{i \in I} x_i$, $I \subseteq [n]$ [Rikun, 1997]
- **Edge-concave functions:** $f(x)$ with $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i^2} \leq 0$, $i \in [n]$ [Tardella, 1988/89]

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(C) and (D) allow to compute facets of convex envelope:

- naive: **try every subset** of $n + 1$ vertices: $\binom{2^{n+1}}{n}$ choices!
- Bao, Sahinidis, and Tawarmalani [2009], Meyer and Floudas [2005]: efficient methods for moderate n

Consider a function $x^T A x + b^T x$ with $A \not\preceq 0$.

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be such that $A - \text{diag}(\alpha) \succeq 0$. Then

$$x^T A x + b^T x + (u_x - x)^T \text{diag}(\alpha)(x - \ell_x)$$

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- can be generalized to twice continuously differentiable functions $g(x)$ by bounding the minimal eigenvalue of the Hessian $\nabla^2 H(x)$ for $x \in [\ell_x, u_x]$ [Androulakis, Maranas, and Floudas, 1995, Adjiman and Floudas, 1996, Adjiman, Dallwig, Floudas, and Neumaier, 1998b]

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- underestimator is exact for $x_i \in \{\ell_i, u_i\}$
- thus, if x is a vector of binary variables ($x_i^2 = x_i$), then

$$x^T A x + b^T x = x^T (A - \text{diag}(\alpha))x + (b + \text{diag}(\alpha))^T x$$

for $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$ and $A - \text{diag}(\alpha) \succeq 0$. $\Rightarrow$ used in CPLEX, Gurobi

Eigenvalue Reformulation

Consider a function $x^T A x + b^T x$ with $A \not\equiv 0$.

- Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ be **eigenvalues** of A and $v_1, \dots, v_n$ be corresp. **eigenvectors**.

$$\Rightarrow x^T A x + b^T x + c = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i (v_i^T x)^2 + b^T x + c. \quad (\text{E})$$

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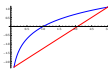
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- introducing auxiliary variables $z_i = v_i^T x$, function becomes **separable**:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i z_i^2 + b^T x + c$$

- underestimate **concave functions** $z_i \mapsto \lambda_i z_i^2$, $\lambda_i < 0$, as known



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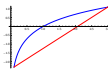
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- underestimate **concave functions** $z_i \mapsto \lambda_i z_i^2$, $\lambda_i < 0$, as known
- one of the methods for **nonconvex QP in CPLEX** (keeps convex $\lambda_i z_i^2$ in objective and solves relaxation by QP simplex) [Bliek, Bonami, and Lodi, 2014]

Reformulation Linearization Technique (RLT)

Consider the QCQP

$$\min x^T Q_0 x + b_0^T x \quad (\text{quadratic})$$

$$\text{s.t. } x^T Q_k x + b_k^T x \leq c_k \quad k = 1, \dots, q \quad (\text{quadratic})$$

$$Ax \leq b \quad (\text{linear})$$

$$\ell \leq x \leq u \quad (\text{linear})$$

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Introduce new variables $X_{i,j} = x_i x_j$:

$$\min \langle Q_0, X \rangle + b_0^T x \quad (\text{linear})$$

$$\text{s.t. } \langle Q_k, X \rangle + b_k^T x \leq c_k \quad k = 1, \dots, q \quad (\text{linear})$$

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$$X = xx^T \quad (\text{quadratic})$$

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$$\text{s.t. } x^T Q_k x + b_k^T x \leq c_k \quad k = 1, \dots, q \quad (\text{quadratic})$$

$$Ax \leq b \quad (\text{linear})$$

$$\ell \leq x \leq u \quad (\text{linear})$$

Introduce new variables $X_{i,j} = x_i x_j$:

$$\min \langle Q_0, X \rangle + b_0^T x \quad (\text{linear})$$

$$\text{s.t. } \langle Q_k, X \rangle + b_k^T x \leq c_k \quad k = 1, \dots, q \quad (\text{linear})$$

$$Ax \leq b \quad (\text{linear})$$

$$\ell \leq x \leq u \quad (\text{linear})$$

$$X = xx^T \quad (\text{quadratic})$$

Adams and Sherali [1986], Sherali and Alameddine [1992], Sherali and Adams [1999]:

- relax $X = xx^T$ by linear inequalities that are derived from **multiplications of pairs of linear constraints**

RLT: Multiplying Bound Constraints

Multiplying bounds $\ell_i \leq x_i \leq u_i$ and $\ell_j \leq x_j \leq u_j$ yields

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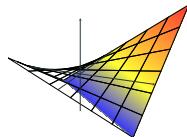
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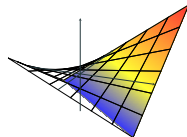
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$$X_{i,j} \geq \ell_i x_j + \ell_j x_i - \ell_i \ell_j \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n, i \leq j$$

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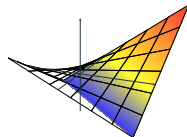
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- these inequalities are used by **all solvers**
- not every solver introduces $X_{i,j}$ variables explicitly

RLT: Multiplying Bounds and Inequalities

Additional inequalities are derived by multiplying pairs of linear equations and bound constraints:

$$(A_k^T x - b_k)(x_j - \ell_j) \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sum_{i=1}^n A_{k,i} x_i (x_j - \ell_j) - b_k (x_j - \ell_j) \geq 0$$

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ANTIGONE [Misener and Floudas, 2012]:

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(close to bilinear term elimination of Liberti and Pantelides [2006])
- in all cases, consider only products that **do not add new nonlinear terms**
(avoid $X_{i,j}$ without corresponding $x_i x_j$)
- learn useful RLT cuts in the first levels of branch-and-bound

Semidefinite Programming (SDP) Relaxation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min x^T Q_0 x + b_0^T x & \Leftrightarrow \min \langle Q_0, X \rangle + b_0^T x \\ \text{s.t. } x^T Q_k x + b_k^T x \leq c_k & \text{s.t. } \langle Q_k, X \rangle + b_k^T x \leq c_k \\ Ax \leq b & Ax \leq b \\ \ell_x \leq x \leq u_x & \ell_x \leq x \leq u_x \\ & X = xx^T \end{array}$$

- relaxing $X - xx^T = 0$ to $X - xx^T \succeq 0$, which is equivalent to

$$\tilde{X} := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x^T \\ x & X \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0,$$

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yields a **semidefinite programming relaxation**

- SDP is computationally demanding, so **approximate by linear inequalities**: for $\tilde{X}^* \not\succeq 0$ compute **eigenvector** v with **eigenvalue** $\lambda < 0$, then

$$\langle v, \tilde{X} v \rangle \geq 0$$

is a valid cut that cuts off $\tilde{X}^*$ [Sherali and Fraticelli, 2002]

- available in Couenne and Lindo API (non-default)
- Qualizza, Belotti, and Margot [2009] (Couenne): **sparsify cut** by setting entries of v to 0

Anstreicher [2009]:

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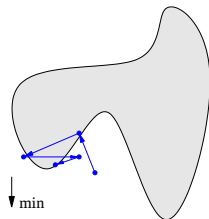
Acceleration – Selected Topics

Primal Heuristics

Sub-NLP Heuristics

Given a solution satisfying all integrality constraints,

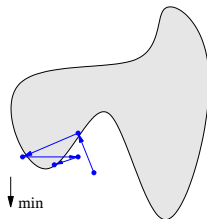
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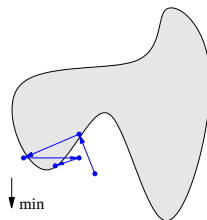
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- additionally, SCIP runs its MIP heuristics on MIP relaxation (rounding, diving, feas. pump, LNS, ...)



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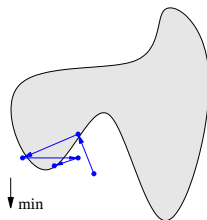


NLP-Diving: solve NLP relaxation, restrict bounds on fractional variable, repeat

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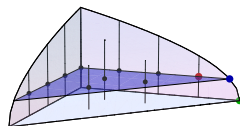
NLP-Diving: solve NLP relaxation, restrict bounds on fractional variable, repeat

Multistart: run local NLP solver from **random starting points** to increase likelihood of finding global optimum

Smith, Chinneck, and Aitken [2013]: sample many random starting points, move them **cheaply towards feasible region** (average gradients of violated constraints), **cluster**, run NLP solvers from (few) center of cluster (in SCIP [Maher et al., 2017])

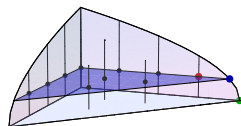
“Undercover” (SCIP) [Berthold and Gleixner, 2014]:

- Fix nonlinear variables, so problem becomes MIP (pass to SCIP)
- not always necessary to fix all nonlinear variables, e.g., consider $x \cdot y$
- find a minimal set of variables to fix by solving a Set Covering Problem



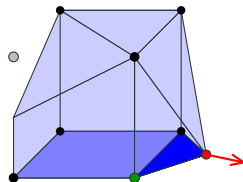
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Large Neighborhood Search [Berthold, Heinz, Pfetsch, and Vigerske, 2011]:

- RENS [Berthold, 2014b]: fix integer variables with integral value in LP relaxation
- RINS, DINS, Crossover, Local Branching



Iterative Rounding Heuristic (Couenne) [Nannicini and Belotti, 2012]:

1. find a local optimal solution to the **NLP relaxation**
2. find the nearest integer feasible solution to the **MIP relaxation**
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Feasibility Pump (Couenne) [Belotti and Berthold, 2017]:

- **alternately find feasible solutions to MIP and NLP relaxations**
- solution of NLP relaxation is **“rounded” to solution of MIP** relaxation (by various methods trading solution quality with computational effort)
- solution of MIP relaxation is **projected onto NLP** relaxation (local search)
- various choices for objective functions and accuracy of MIP relaxation
- D’Ambrosio et al. [2010, 2012]: previous work on Feasibility Pump for nonconvex MINLP

Thank you for your attention!

Consider contributing your NLP and MINLP instances to MINLPLib¹!

Some recent MINLP reviews:

- Burer and Letchford [2012]
- Belotti, Kirches, Leyffer, Linderoth, Luedtke, and Mahajan [2013]
- Boukouvala, Misener, and Floudas [2016]

Some recent books:

- Lee and Leyffer [2012]
- Locatelli and Schoen [2013]

¹<http://www.gamsworld.org/minlp/minlplib2/html/index.html>

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