

# Solving Linear and Integer Programs

**Martin Grötschel**

**22. Oktober 2014**

**Algorithmische Diskrete Mathematik I**

**„Einführung in die  
Lineare und Kombinatorische Optimierung“**

**WS 2014/2015, Institut für Mathematik, TU Berlin**



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# Vorlesungsmanuskript

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Einführung in die  
Lineare und Kombinatorische Optimierung  
(Algorithmische Diskrete Mathematik I, kurz ADM I)

Skriptum zur Vorlesung im WS 2014/2015

Prof. Dr. Martin Grötschel  
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Geplant



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# typical optimization problems

$$\begin{aligned} &\max f(x) \text{ or } \min f(x) \\ &g_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k \\ &h_j(x) \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ (and } x \in S) \end{aligned}$$

„general“  
(nonlinear)  
program  
NLP

$$\begin{aligned} &\min c^T x \\ &Ax = a \\ &Bx \leq b \\ &x \geq 0 \\ &(x \in \mathbb{R}^n) \\ &(x \in \mathbb{k}^n) \end{aligned}$$

linear  
program  
LP

$$\begin{aligned} &\min c^T x \\ &Ax = a \\ &Bx \leq b \\ &x \geq 0 \\ &\text{some } x_j \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &(x \in \{0, 1\}^n) \end{aligned}$$

(linear)  
0/1-  
mixed-  
integer  
program  
IP, MIP

program = optimization problem





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# Linear Programming

$$\max c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n$$

*subject to*

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = b_2$$

.

$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = b_m$$

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \geq 0$$

$$\max c^T x$$

$$Ax = b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

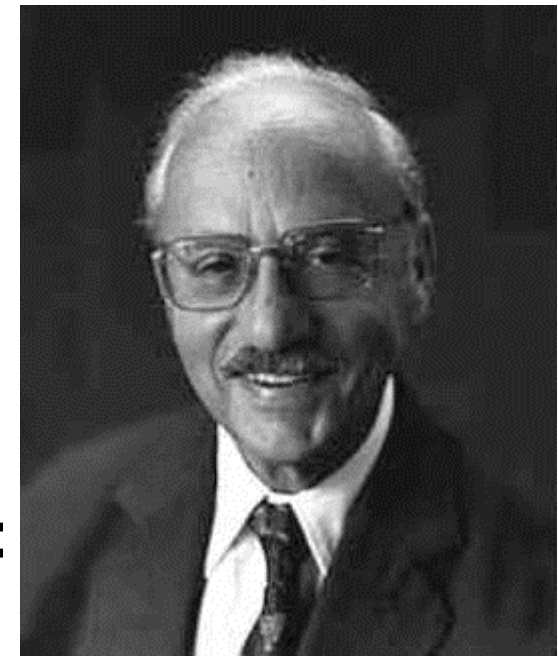
linear program  
in standard form



# Linear Programming: a very brief history

- 1826/1827 Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1786-1830): rudimentary form of the simplex method in 3 dimensions.
- 1939 L. V. Kantorovitch (1912-1986): Foundations of linear programming (Nobel Prize 1975)
- 1947 G. B. Dantzig (1914-2005): Invention of the (primal) simplex algorithm
- 1954 C.E. Lemke: Dual simplex algorithm
- 1953 G.B. Dantzig, 1954 W. Orchard Hays, and 1954 G. B. Dantzig & W. Orchard Hays: Revised simplex algorithm

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & c^T x \\ & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



# Dantzig and Bixby



George Dantzig and  
Bob Bixby

(founder of CPLEX and GUROBI)

at the International  
Symposium on Mathematical  
Programming,

Atlanta, August 2000

This lecture employs a lot of  
information I obtained from  
Bob and some of his slides.



# Linear Programming: a very brief history

---

- 1826/1827 Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1786-1830): rudimentary form of the simplex method in 3 dimensions.
- 1939 L. V. Kantorovitch (1912-1986): Foundations of linear programming (Nobel Prize 1975)
- 1947 G. B. Dantzig (1914-2005): Invention of the simplex algorithm

$$\max c^T x$$

$$Ax = b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

- Today: In my opinion and from an economic point of view, **linear programming is the most important development of mathematics in the 20th century.**



# Optimal use of scarce resources

## foundation and economic interpretation of LP

---



Leonid V. Kantorovich      Tjalling C. Koopmans  
Nobel Prize for Economics 1975

# Stiglers „Diet Problem“: „The first linear program“

Min  $x_1 + x_2$

costs

$2x_1 + x_2 \geq 3$

protein

$x_1 + 2x_2 \geq 3$

carbohydrates

$x_1 \geq 0$

potatoes

$x_2 \geq 0$

beans

minimizing the  
cost of food



George J. Stigler  
Nobel Prize in  
economics 1982

Sets  $n$  nutrients / calorie thousands , protein grams , calcium grams , iron milligrams vitamin-a thousand ius, vitamin-b1 milligrams, vitamin-b2 milligrams, niacin milligrams , vitamin-c milligrams /

$f$  foods / wheat , cornmeal , cannedmilk, margarine , cheese , peanut-b , lard liver , porkroast, salmon , greenbeans, cabbage , onions , potatoes spinach, sweet-pot, peaches , prunes , limabeans, navybeans /

Parameter  $b(n)$  required daily allowances of nutrients / calorie 3, protein 70 , calcium .8 , iron 12 vitamin-a 5, vitamin-b1 1.8, vitamin-b2 2.7, niacin 18, vitamin-c 75 /

Table a(f,n) nutritive value of foods (per dollar spent)

	calorie (1000)	protein (g)	calcium (g)	iron (mg)	vitamin-a (1000iu)	vitamin-b1 (mg)	vitamin-b2 (mg)	niacin (mg)	vitamin-c (mg)
wheat	44.7	1411	2.0	365		55.4	33.3	441	
cornmeal	36	897	1.7	99	30.9	17.4	7.9	106	
cannedmilk	8.4	422	15.1	9	26	3	23.5	11	60
margarine	20.6	17	.6	6	55.8	.2			
cheese	7.4	448	16.4	19	28.1	.8	10.3	4	
peanut-b	15.7	661	1	48		9.6	8.1	471	
lard	41.7				.2		.5	5	
liver	2.2	333	.2	139	169.2	6.4	50.8	316	525
porkroast	4.4	249	.3	37		18.2	3.6	79	
salmon	5.8	705	6.8	45	3.5	1	4.9	209	
greenbeans	2.4	138	3.7	80	69	4.3	5.8	37	862
cabbage	2.6	125	4	36	7.2	9	4.5	26	5369
onions	5.8	166	3.8	59	16.6	4.7	5.9	21	1184
potatoes	14.3	336	1.8	118	6.7	29.4	7.1	198	2522
spinach	1.1	106		138	918.4	5.7	13.8	33	2755
sweet-pot	9.6	138	2.7	54	290.7	8.4	5.4	83	1912
peaches	8.5	87	1.7	173	86.8	1.2	4.3	55	57
prunes	12.8	99	2.5	154	85.7	3.9	4.3	65	257
limabeans	17.4	1055	3.7	459	5.1	26.9	38.2	93	
navybeans	26.9	1691	11.4	792		38.4	24.6	217	

Positive Variable  $x(f)$  dollars of food  $f$  to be purchased daily (dollars)

Free Variable cost total food bill (dollars)

Equations  $nb(n)$  nutrient balance (units),  $cb$  cost balance (dollars) ;

$nb(n).. \sum(f, a(f,n)*x(f)) = g= b(n)$ ;  $cb.. cost=e= \sum(f, x(f))$ ;

Model diet stiglens diet problem /  $nb,cb$  /;

<http://www.gams.com/modlib/libhtml/diet.htm>



# Solution of the Diet Problem

---

Goal: Find the cheapest combination of foods that will satisfy the daily requirements of a person!

The problem motivated by the army's desire to meet nutritional requirements of the soldiers at minimum cost.

Army's problem had 77 unknowns and 9 constraints.

Stigler solved problem using a heuristic: \$39.93/year (1939)

Laderman (1947) used simplex: \$39.69/year (1939 prices)



first "large-scale computation"  
took 120 man days on hand operated  
desk calculators (10 human "computers")

<http://www.mcs.anl.gov/home/otc/Guide/CaseStudies/diet/index.html>



# Commercial software

---

William Orchard-Hayes (in the period 1953-1954)

The first commercial LP-Code was on the market in 1954 (i.e., **57 years ago**) and available on an IBM CPC (card programmable calculator):

Code: Simplex Algorithm with explicit basis inverse, that was recomputed in each step.

Shortly after, Orchard-Hayes implemented a version with product form of the inverse (idea of A. Orden),

**Record:** 71 variables, 26 constraints, 8 h running time

About **1960**: LP became commercially viable, used largely by oil companies.



# The Decade of the 70's: Theory

---

- V. Klee and G. J. Minty, „How good is the simplex algorithm?“, in O. Shisha (ed.), Inequalities III, Academic Press, New York, 1972, 159-172
- K. H. Borgwardt, „Untersuchungen zur Asymptotik der mittleren Schrittzahl von Simplexverfahren in der linearen Optimierung“, Dissertation, U Kaiserslautern, 1977
- L. G. Khachiyan, „A polynomial algorithm in linear programming“, (Russian), Doklady Akademii Nauk SSR 244 (1979) 1093-1096



# The Decade of the 70's: Practice

---

- Interest in optimization flowered
  - Large scale planning applications particularly popular
- Significant difficulties emerged
  - Building applications was very expensive and very risky
  - Technology just wasn't ready:
    - LP was slow and
    - Mixed Integer Programming was impossible.
- **OR could not really "deliver"** – with some exceptions, of course
- **The ellipsoid method of 1979 was no practical success.**



# The Decade of the 80's and beyond

- Mid 80's:
  - There was perception was that LP software had progressed about as far as it could.
- There were several key developments
  - IBM PC introduced in **1981**
    - Brought personal computing to business
  - Relational databases developed. ERP systems introduced.
  - **1984**, major theoretical breakthrough in LP  
N. Karmarkar, "A new polynomial-time algorithm for linear programming", *Combinatorica* 4 (**1984**) 373-395  
(Interior Point Methods, front page New York Times)
- The last ~25 years: Remarkable progress
  - We now have three competitive algorithms:  
**Primal & Dual Simplex, Barrier (interior points)**



# My opinion on Linear Programming

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- From an commercial/economic point of view:

Linear programming is the most important development of mathematics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



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# Application of LP & MIP - I

## ▪ **Transportation-airlines**

- Fleet assignment
- Crew scheduling
- Ground personnel scheduling
- Yield management
- Fuel allocation
- Passenger mix
- Booking control
- Maintenance scheduling
- Load balancing/freight packing
- Airport traffic planning
- Gate scheduling/assignment
- Upset recover and management

## ▪ **Transportation-other**

- Vehicle routing
- Freight vehicle scheduling and assignment
- Depot/warehouse location
- Freight vehicle packing
- Public transportation system operation
- Rental car fleet management

## ▪ **Process industries**

- Plant production scheduling and logistics
- Capacity expansion planning
- Pipeline transportation planning
- Gasoline and chemical blending





# Application of LP & MIP - II

## ■ Financial

- Portfolio selection and optimization
- Cash management
- Synthetic option development
- Lease analysis
- Capital budgeting and rationing
- Bank financial planning
- Accounting allocations
- Securities industry surveillance
- Audit staff planning
- Assets/liabilities management
- Unit costing
- Financial valuation
- Bank shift scheduling
- Consumer credit delinquency management
- Check clearing systems
- Municipal bond bidding
- Stock exchange operations
- Debt financing

## ■ Manufacturing

- Product mix planning
- Blending
- Manufacturing scheduling
- Inventory management
- Job scheduling
- Personnel scheduling
- Maintenance scheduling and planning
- Steel production scheduling

## ■ Coal Industry

- Coal sourcing/transportation logistics
- Coal blending
- Mining operations management

## ■ Forestry

- Forest land management
- Forest valuation models
- Planting and harvesting models



# Application of LP & MIP - III

- **Agriculture**
  - Production planning
  - Farm land management
  - Agricultural pricing models
  - Crop and product mix decision models
  - Product distribution
- **Public utilities and natural resources**
  - Electric power distribution
  - Power generator scheduling
  - Power tariff rate determination
  - Natural gas distribution planning
  - Natural gas pipeline transportation
  - Water resource management
  - Alternative water supply evaluation
  - Water reservoir management
  - Public water transportation models
  - Mining excavation models
- **Oil and gas exploration and production**
  - Oil and gas production scheduling
  - Natural gas transportation scheduling
- **Communications and computing**
  - Circuit board (VLSI) layout
  - Logical circuit design
  - Magnetic field design
  - Complex computer graphics
  - Curve fitting
  - Virtual reality systems
  - Computer system capacity planning
  - Office automation
  - Multiprocessor scheduling
  - Telecommunications scheduling
  - Telephone operator scheduling
  - Telemarketing site selection



# Application of LP & MIP - IV

- **Food processing**
  - Food blending
  - Recipe optimization
  - Food transportation logistics
  - Food manufacturing logistics and scheduling
- **Health care**
  - Hospital staff scheduling
  - Hospital layout
  - Health cost reimbursement
  - Ambulance scheduling
  - Radiation exposure models
- **Pulp and paper industry**
  - Inventory planning
  - Trim loss minimization
  - Waste water recycling
  - Transportation planning
- **Textile industry**
  - Pattern layout and cutting optimization
  - Production scheduling
- **Government and military**
  - Post office scheduling and planning
  - Military logistics
  - Target assignment
  - Missile detection
  - Manpower deployment
- **Miscellaneous applications**
  - Advertising mix/media scheduling
  - Pollution control models
  - Sales region definition
  - Sales force deployment



# Examples: ZIB & MATHEON-projects

<http://www.zib.de/Optimization/Projects/index.en.html>

## Production and Logistics

In order to be able to organize the complex production processes of modern goods in a cost efficient way many logistic problems have to be solved. This refers both to the operational procedures inside a single factory as well as to the organization of manufacturing processes distributed over different places. At ZIB we have experience with several projects in the area of logistics. Due to their special requirements, some of these projects are listed under 'Online Optimization.'

[more]

Current Projects: [MATHEON-B14: Comb-Log](#), [MATHEON-D17: Chip Design Verification](#), [RobotWelding](#)  
 Past Projects: [InterWarehouse](#)

## Online Optimization

In contrast to classical optimization, *Online Optimization* deals with situations where the input data of the problem is not known in advance. Therefore, decisions have to be made on the basis of incomplete knowledge. The decisions of the online algorithm are sometimes subject to further constraints. One important feature of practical online algorithms are *real-time requirements*: the algorithm has to present a feasible solution in a specified time frame.

[more]

Current Projects: [KollmorgenElevator](#), [ADAC-Dispatch](#), [Online-Planning](#)  
 Past Projects: [MATHEON-C3: Online-Modular](#), [MATHEON-C6: Online-Reopt](#), [HTK-Survey](#), [PrintSetup](#),  
[Modelling](#), [Shelf](#)



# Examples: ZIB & MATHEON-projects

<http://www.zib.de/Optimization/Projects/index.en.html>

## Telecommunication

Telecommunication technology is one of the key technologies in our society. Rapid progress in hardware development constantly enables new applications and services. The best example for this is UMTS. The tough competition in this sector forces network service providers to thoroughly control their investments and to implement potential savings. At the same time, the quality of service must be improved to get and keep new customers.

[more]

Current Projects: [MATHEON-B3: MultiLayer](#), [MATHEON-B4: UMTS](#), [X-WiN](#), [atesio](#), [NEuK](#), [ProSched](#), [EIBONE](#), [MLTN](#)

Past Projects: [FAP](#), [G-WiN](#), [OPADCO](#), [OptNet](#), [DynRoute](#), [StatRoute](#), [Momentum](#), [STP](#), [RoundRobin](#), [BOSCH-PMP](#), [B-WiN](#), [Peakedness](#), [DISCNET](#)

## Traffic

The application of mathematical optimization in public transport has been subject of successful research for many years, and more and more such methods are being put to practice. ZIB has been carrying out projects in this area for more than ten years by now, mainly in operative planning. e. g., vehicle or duty scheduling in public transport. During the last years, the application areas have widened.

[more]

Current Projects: [MATHEON-B15: Service Design](#), [Trassenbörse](#), [Airline Crew Scheduling](#), [Visualisation in Public Transit](#)

Past Projects: [MATHEON-B1: Strategic Planning](#), [Telebus](#), [BMBF-DS: Duty Scheduling](#), [BMBF-VS: Vehicle Scheduling](#), [BMBF-IS: Integrated Vehicle and Duty Scheduling](#)



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# Linear Programming

$$\min c^T x$$

$$Ax = a$$

$$Bx \leq b$$

$$x \geq 0$$



$$\min c^T x$$

$$Ax = a$$

$$Bx \leq b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

$$\min c^T x$$

$$Ax = a$$

$$x \geq 0$$

$$\min c^T x$$

$$Bx \leq b$$

Linear program in various forms.

They are all equivalent!

There are more versions!

# Optimizers' dream: Duality theorems

- Max-Flow Min-Cut Theorem

The value of a maximal (s,t)-flow in a capacitated network is equal to the minimal capacity of an (s,t)-cut.

- The Farkas Lemma

- The Duality Theorem of Linear Programming

$$\max c^T x \quad = \quad \min y^T b$$

$$Ax \leq b \quad y^T A \geq c^T$$

$$x \geq 0 \quad y \geq 0$$





# Important theorems

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- Complementary slackness theorems
- Redundancy characterizations
- Polyhedral theory

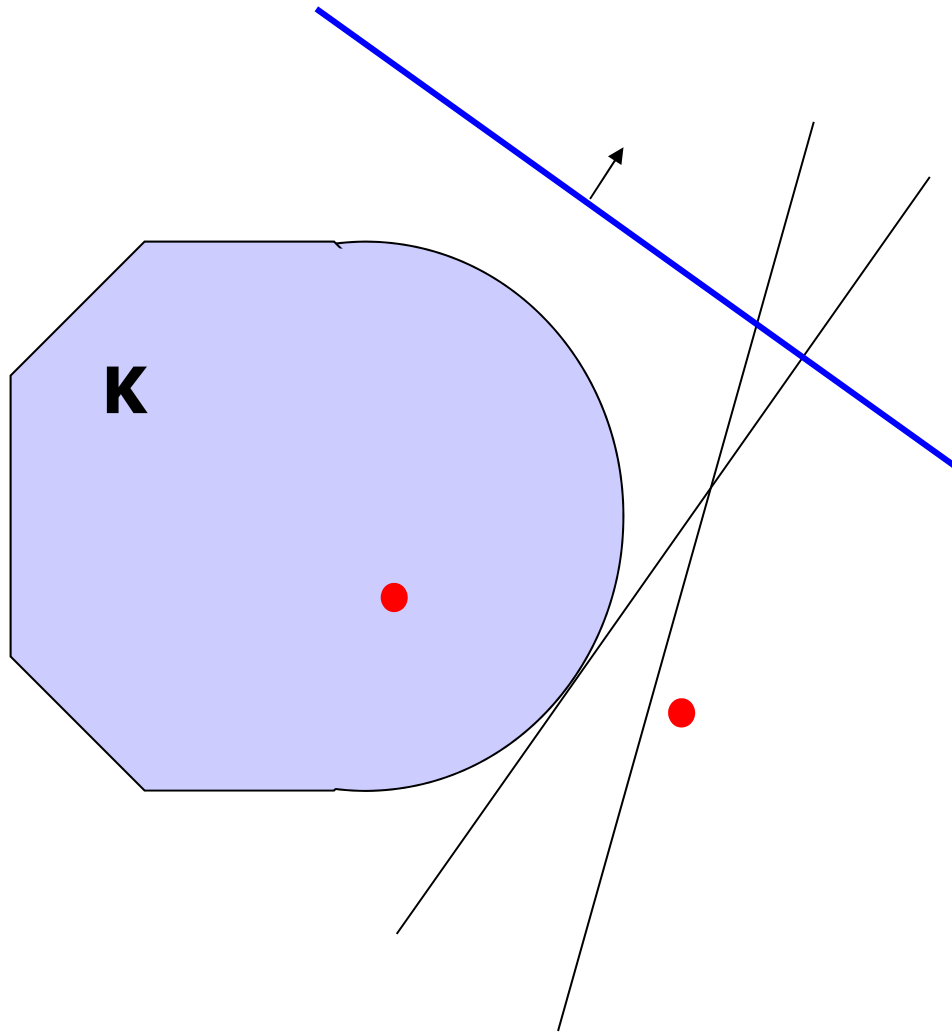


# LP Solvability

- complexity theory:
  - **Polynomial time solvability**, solvability in strongly polynomial time
  - Classes:  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{NP}$ ,  $\mathcal{NP}$ -completeness,  $\mathcal{NP}$ -hardness, etc.
- **Linear programs can be solved in polynomial time** with
  - the Ellipsoid Method (Khachiyan, 1979)
  - Interior Points Methods (Karmarkar, 1984, and others)
- **Open**: Is there a strongly polynomial time algorithm for the solution of LPs?
- Certain variants of the Simplex Algorithm run – under certain conditions – in **expected polynomial time** (Borgwardt, 1977...)
- **Open**: Is there a polynomial time variant of the Simplex Algorithm?



# Separation



# LP Solvability: Generalizations

**Theorem** (GLS 1981, 1988) (modulo technical details) : There exists a polynomial time algorithm to minimize convex functions (e.g., linear functions) over the elements of a class of convex bodies  $\mathbf{K}$  (e. g. polyhedra) if and only if, there exists a polynomial time algorithm that decides, for any given point  $\mathbf{x}$ , whether  $\mathbf{x}$  is in  $\mathbf{K}$ , and that, when  $\mathbf{x}$  is not in  $\mathbf{K}$ , finds a hyperplane that separates  $\mathbf{x}$  from  $\mathbf{K}$ .

**Short version:**

**Optimization and Separation are polynomial-time equivalent.**

**Consequence:** Theoretical Foundation of cutting plane algorithms.

**Particular special case:** Polynomial time separation algorithm for the set of positive semi-definite matrices.

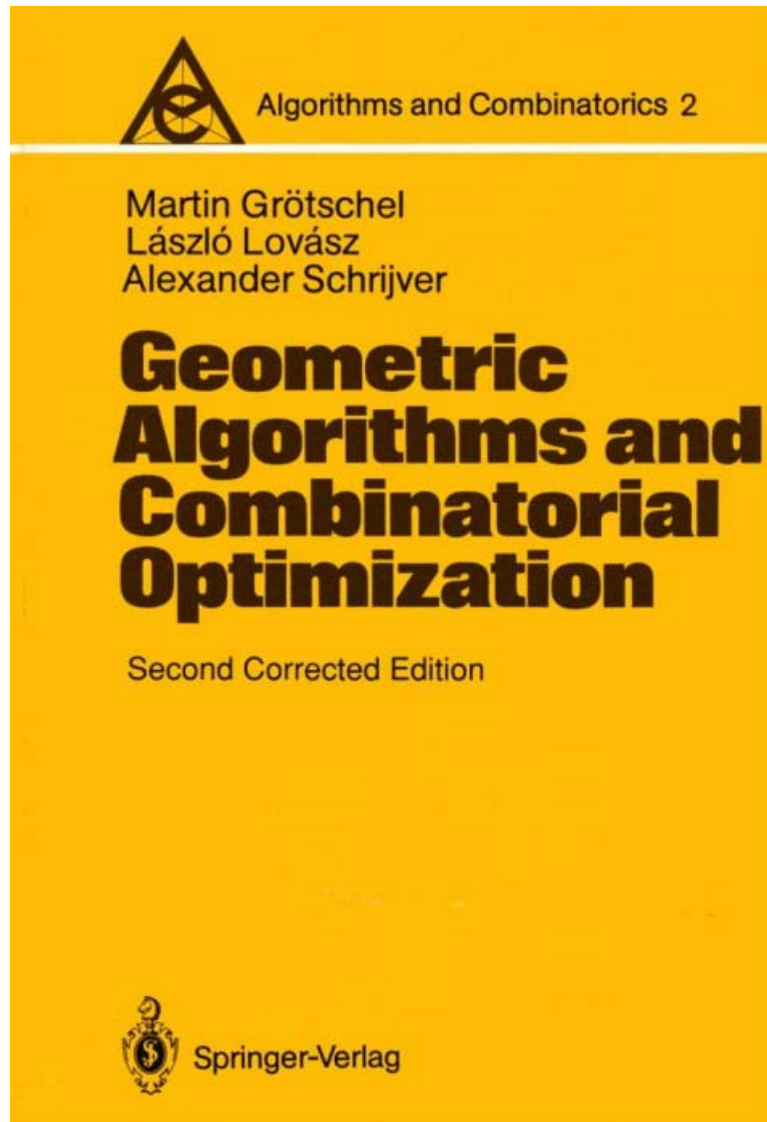
**Consequences:**

- Polynomial time algorithm for stable sets in perfect graphs.
- The beginning of **semi-definite programming**



**You can download this book from the publications list on my Web page.**

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<http://www.zib.de/groetschel/pubnew/paper/groetschellovaszschrijver1988.pdf>



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# Algorithms for nonlinear programming

- **Iterative methods** that solve the equation and inequality systems representing the **necessary local optimality conditions** (e.g., KKT).

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + \lambda_i d_i$$

$d_i \sim$  "descent direction"

$\lambda_i \sim$  "steplength"

$$d_i = -\nabla f(x_i)$$

Steepest descent

$$d_i = -(H(x_i))^{-1} \nabla f(x_i)$$

Newton

(Quasi-Newton, conjugate-gradient-, SQP-, subgradient...methods)

- **Sufficient conditions** are rarely checked.

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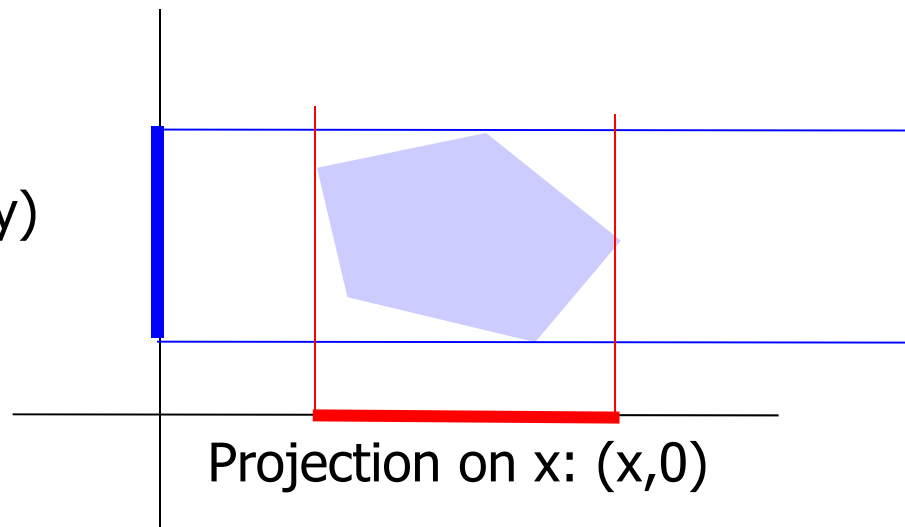




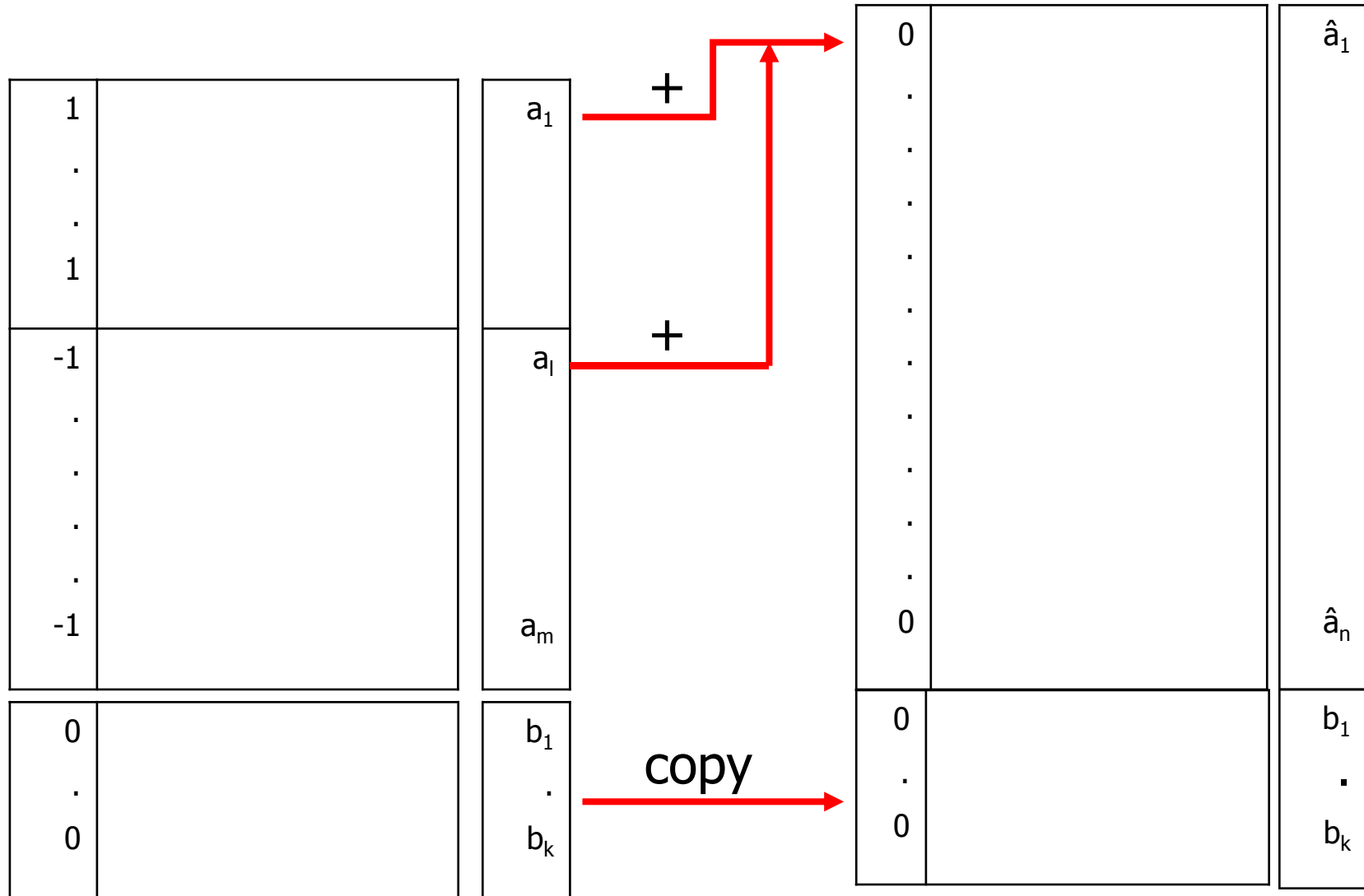
# Fourier-Motzkin Elimination

- Fourier, 1826/1827
- Motzkin, 1938
- **Method:** successive projection of a polyhedron in  $n$ -dimensional space into a vector space of dimension  $n-1$  by elimination of one variable.

Projection on  $y$ :  $(0,y)$



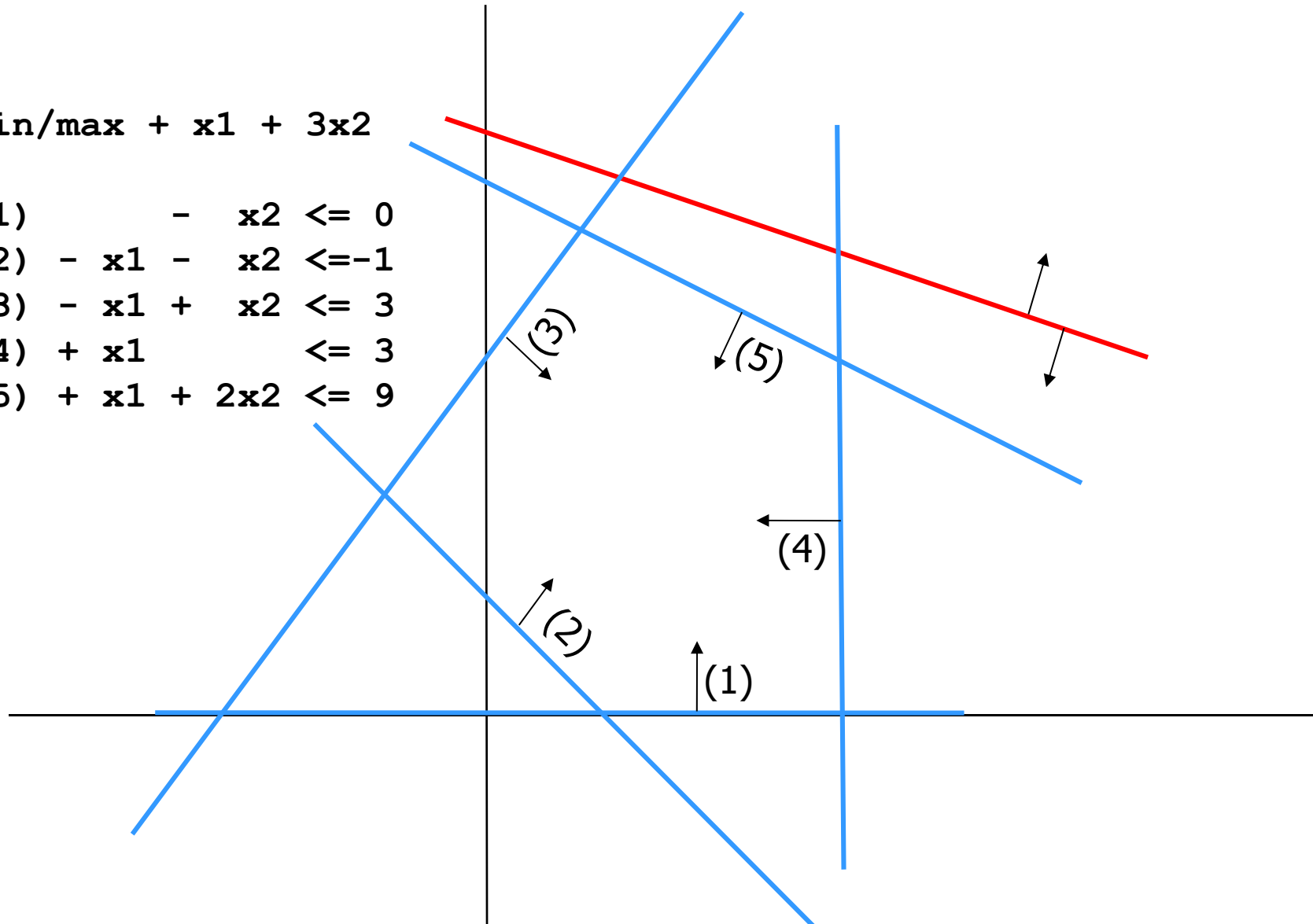
# A Fourier-Motzkin step



# Fourier-Motzkin Elimination: an example

min/max  $x_1 + 3x_2$

- (1)  $-x_2 \leq 0$
- (2)  $-x_1 - x_2 \leq -1$
- (3)  $-x_1 + x_2 \leq 3$
- (4)  $+x_1 \leq 3$
- (5)  $+x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 9$



# Fourier-Motzkin Elimination: an example, call of PORTA (Polymake)

DIM = 3

min/max + x1 + 3x2

- (1) - x2 ≤ 0
- (2) - x1 - x2 ≤ -1
- (3) - x1 + x2 ≤ 3
- (4) + x1 ≤ 3
- (5) + x1 + 2x2 ≤ 9



INEQUALITIES\_SECTION

- (1) - x2 ≤ 0
- (2) - x1 - x2 ≤ -1
- (3) - x1 + x2 ≤ 3
- (4) + x1 ≤ 3
- (5) + x1 + 2x2 ≤ 9
- (6) + x1 + 3x2 - x3 ≤ 0
- (7) - x1 - 3x2 + x3 ≤ 0

ELIMINATION\_ORDER

1 0 0

# Fourier-Motzkin Elimination: an example

DIM = 3



DIM = 3

INEQUALITIES\_SECTION

```

(1)      (1) - x2          <=  0
(2,4)    (2) - x2          <=  2
(2,5)    (3) + x2          <=  8
(2,6)    (4) +2x2 - x3    <= -1
(3,4)    (5) + x2          <=  6
(3,5)    (6) + x2          <=  4
(3,6)    (7) +4x2 - x3    <=  3
(7,4)    (8) -3x2 + x3    <=  3
(7,5)    (9) - x2 + x3    <=  9
(7,6)

```

INEQUALITIES\_SECTION

```

(1)      - x2            <=  0
(2) - x1 - x2            <= -1
(3) - x1 + x2            <=  3
(4) + x1                  <=  3
(5) + x1 + 2x2           <=  9
(6) + x1 + 3x2 - x3      <=  0
(7) - x1 - 3x2 + x3      <=  0

```

ELIMINATION\_ORDER

1 0 0



# Fourier-Motzkin Elimination: an example

DIM = 3



INEQUALITIES\_SECTION

(1) (1) - x2 <= 0  
 (2,4) (2) - x2 <= 2  
 (2,5) (3) + x2 <= 8  
 (2,6) (4) +2x2 - x3 <= -1  
 (3,4) (5) + x2 <= 6  
 (3,5) (6) + x2 <= 4  
 (3,6) (7) +4x2 - x3 <= 3  
 (7,4) (8) -3x2 + x3 <= 3  
 (7,5) (9) - x2 + x3 <= 9  
 (7,6)

(1,4) ( 1) -x3 <= -1  
 (1,7) ( 2) -x3 <= 3  
 (2,4) ( 3) -x3 <= 3  
 (2,7) ( 4) -x3 <= 11  
 (8,3) ( 5) +x3 <= 27  
 (8,4) ( 6) -x3 <= 3  
 (8,5) ( 7) +x3 <= 21  
 (8,6) ( 8) +x3 <= 15  
 (8,7) ( 9) +x3 <= 21  
 (9,3) (10) +x3 <= 17  
 (9,4) (11) +x3 <= 17  
 (9,5) (12) +x3 <= 15  
 (9,6) (13) +x3 <= 13  
 (9,7) (14) +3x3 <= 39

ELIMINATION\_ORDER

0 1 0

min = 1 <= x3 <= 13 = max

x1 = 1

x2 = 0

x1 = 1

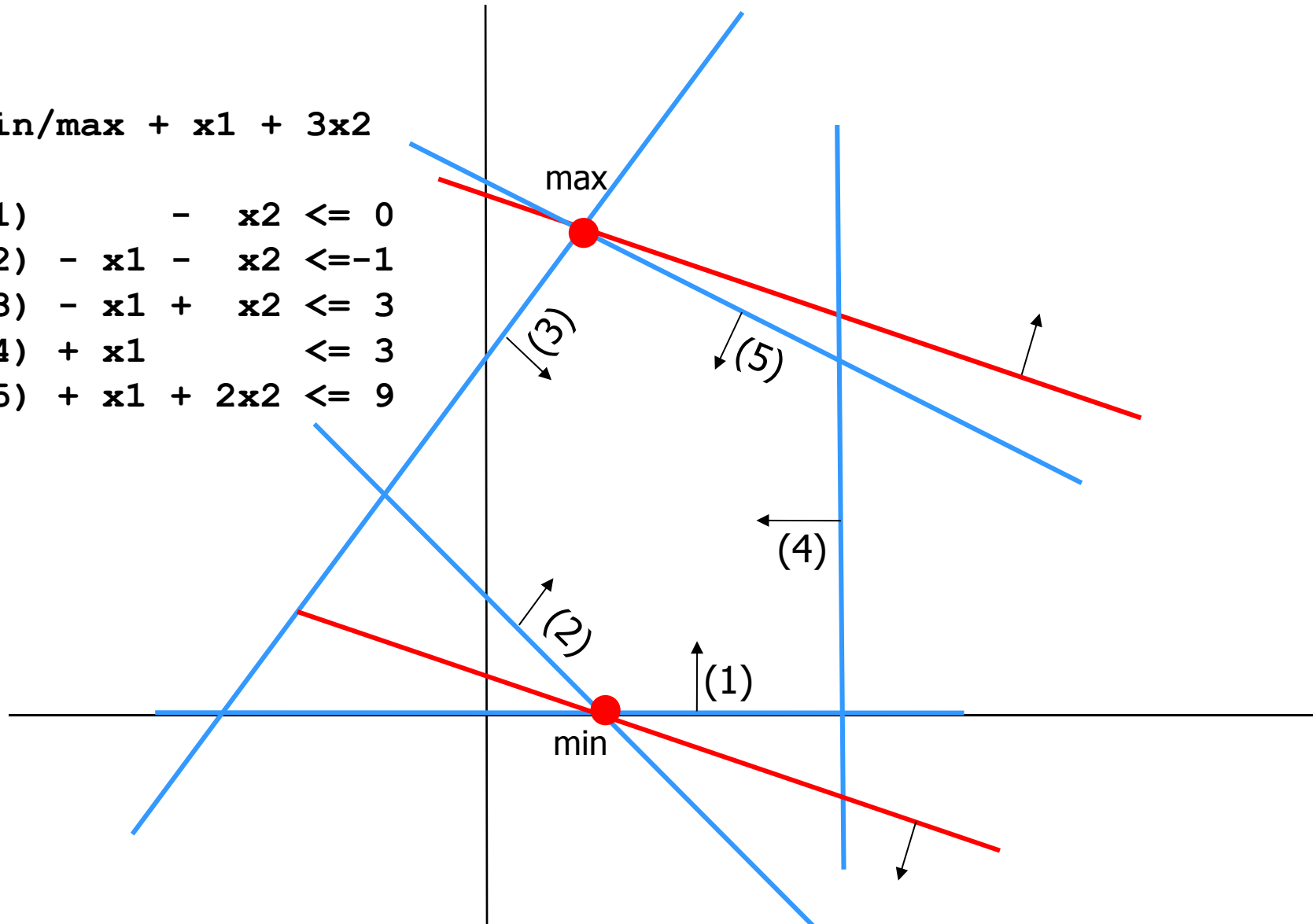
x2 = 4



# Fourier-Motzkin Elimination: an example

min/max  $x_1 + 3x_2$

- (1)  $-x_2 \leq 0$
- (2)  $-x_1 - x_2 \leq -1$
- (3)  $-x_1 + x_2 \leq 3$
- (4)  $+x_1 \leq 3$
- (5)  $+x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 9$



# Fourier-Motzkin Elimination

- FME is a wonderful constructive proof method.
- Elimination of all variables of a given inequality system directly yields the **Farkas Lemma**:

$Ax \leq b$  has a solution or  $y^T A = 0, y^T b < 0$  has a solution but not both.

- FME is computationally lousy.





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# The Simplex Method

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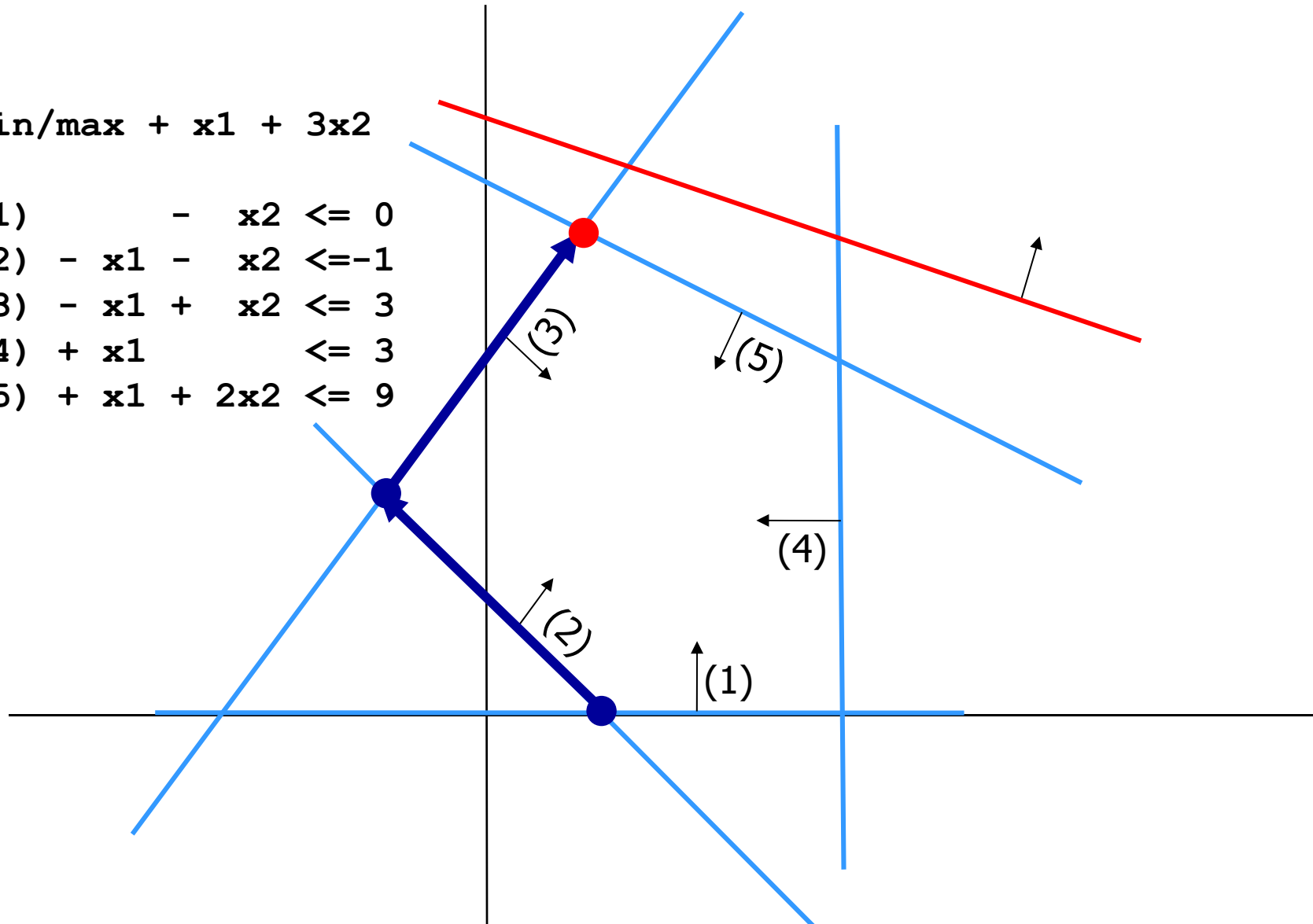
- Dantzig, 1947: primal Simplex Method
- Dantzig, 1953: revised Simplex Method
- Lemke, 1954; Beale, 1954: dual Simplex Method
- ....
- **Underlying Idea:** Find a vertex of the set of feasible LP solutions (polyhedron) and move to a better neighbouring vertex, if possible (Fourier's idea 1826/27).



# The Simplex Method: an example

min/max  $+ x_1 + 3x_2$

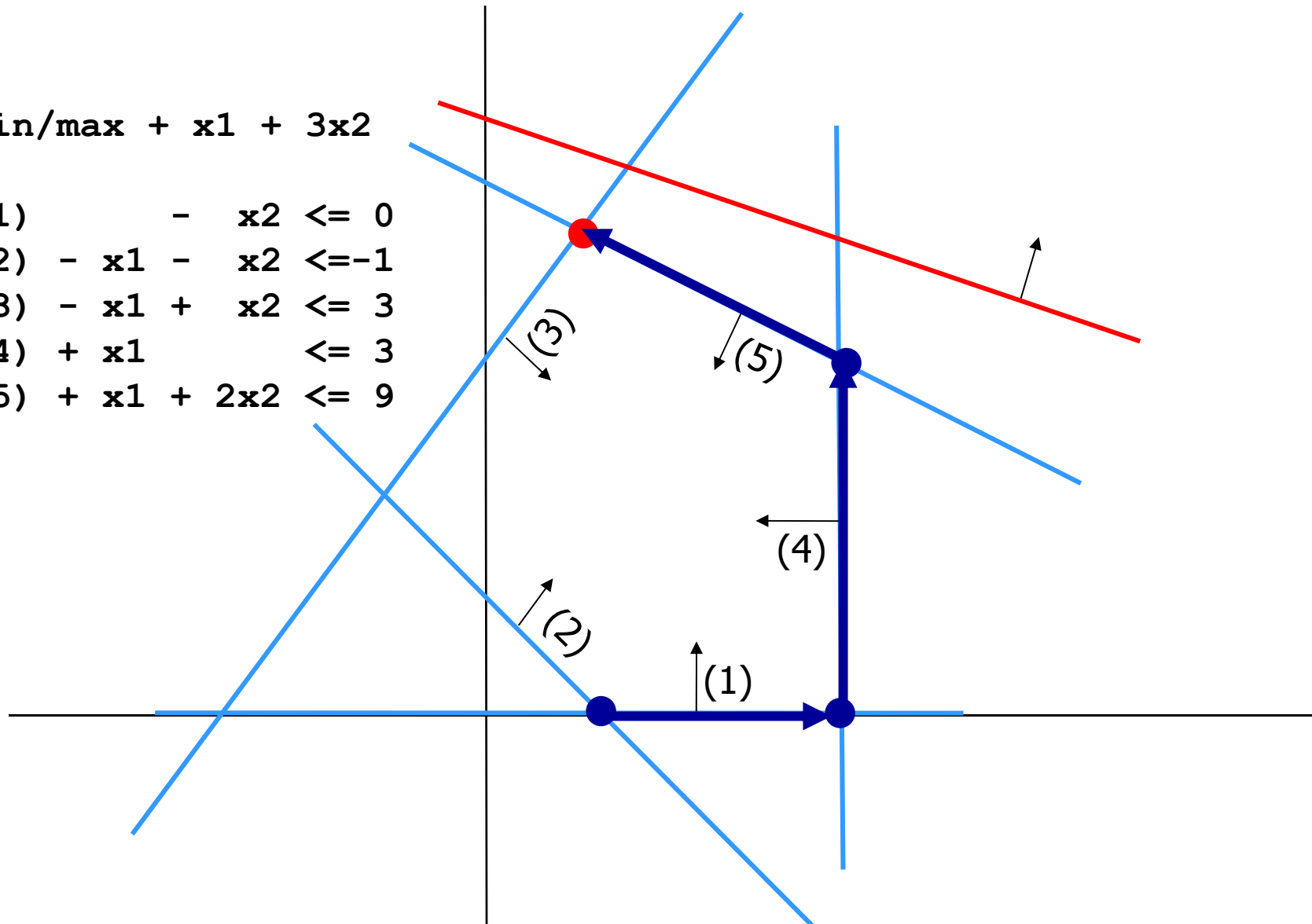
- (1)  $- x_2 \leq 0$
- (2)  $- x_1 - x_2 \leq -1$
- (3)  $- x_1 + x_2 \leq 3$
- (4)  $+ x_1 \leq 3$
- (5)  $+ x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 9$



# The Simplex Method: an example

min/max  $+ x_1 + 3x_2$

- (1)  $- x_2 \leq 0$
- (2)  $- x_1 - x_2 \leq -1$
- (3)  $- x_1 + x_2 \leq 3$
- (4)  $+ x_1 \leq 3$
- (5)  $+ x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 9$



# Hirsch Conjecture

---

If  $P$  is a polytope of dimension  $n$  with  $m$  facets then every vertex of  $P$  can be reached from any other vertex of  $P$  on a path of length at most  $m-n$ .

In the example before:  $m=5$ ,  $n=2$  and  $m-n=3$ , conjecture is true.

At present, not even a polynomial bound on the path length is known.

**Best upper bound:** Kalai, Kleitman (1992): The diameter of the graph of an  $n$ -dimensional polyhedron with  $m$  facets is at most  $m^{\log n+1}$ .

**Lower bound:** Holt, Klee (1997): at least  $m-n$  ( $m, n$  large enough).



[arXiv:1006.2814v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/1006.2814v1) [math.CO] 14 Jun 2010

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## A counterexample to the Hirsch conjecture

Francisco Santos\*

To Victor L. Klee (1925–2007), in memoriam<sup>†</sup>

### Abstract

The Hirsch Conjecture (1957) stated that the graph of a  $d$ -dimensional polytope with  $n$  facets cannot have (combinatorial) diameter greater than  $n - d$ . That is, that any two vertices of the polytope can be connected to each other by a path of at most  $n - d$  edges.

This paper presents the first counterexample to the conjecture. Our polytope has dimension 43 and 86 facets. It is obtained from a 5-dimensional polytope with 48 facets which violates a certain generalization of the  $d$ -step conjecture of Klee and Walkup.



# Computationally important idea of the Simplex Method

Let a  $(m,n)$ -Matrix  $A$  with full row rank  $m$ , an  $m$ -vector  $b$  and an  $n$ -vector  $c$  with  $m < n$  be given. For every vertex  $y$  of the polyhedron of feasible solutions of the LP,

$$\max c^T x$$

$$Ax = b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

$$A =$$

B	N
---	---

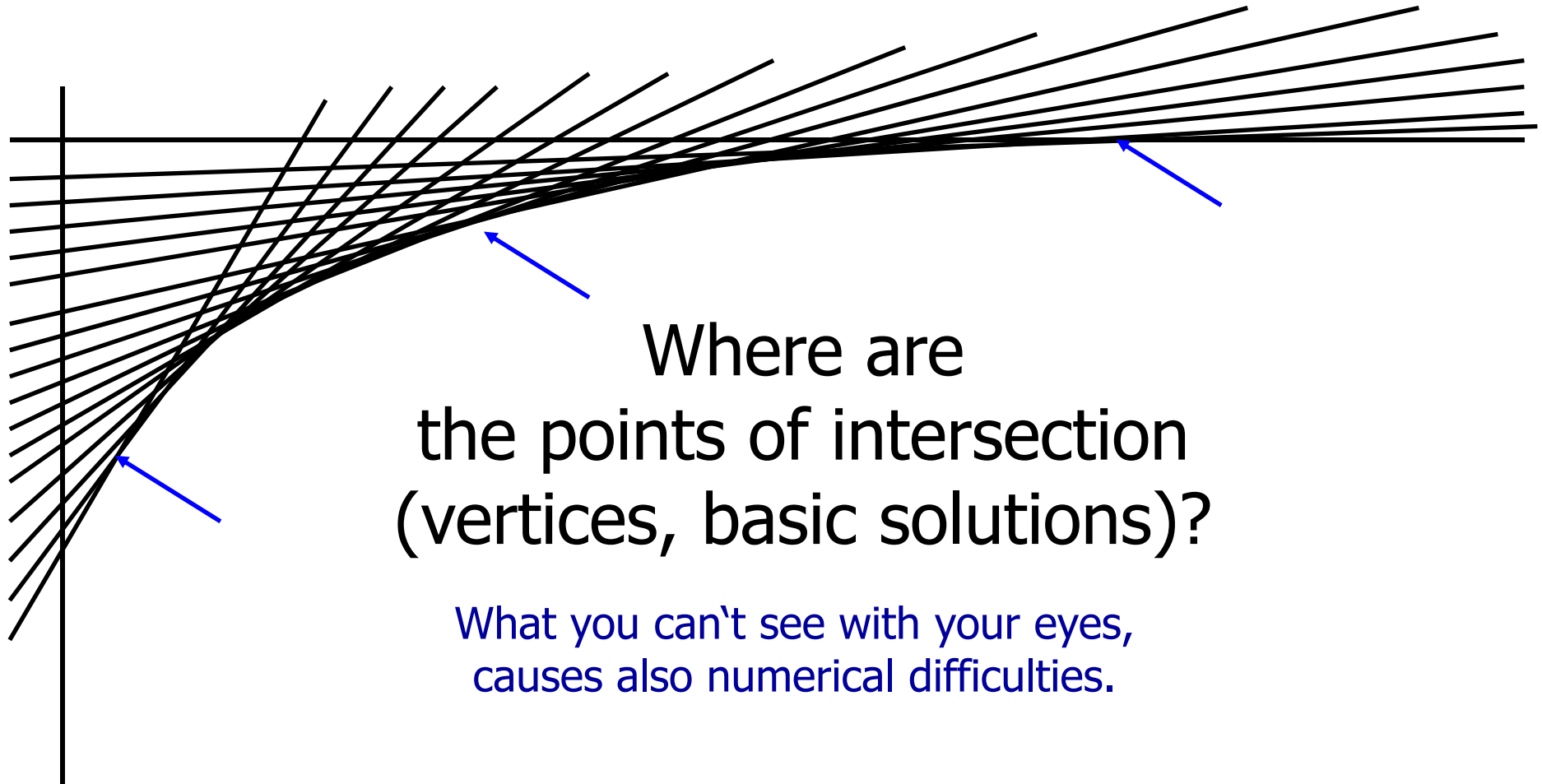
there is a non-singular  $(m,m)$ -submatrix  $B$  (called basis) of  $A$  representing the vertex  $y$  (basic solution) as follows

$$y_B = B^{-1}b, \quad y_N = 0$$

Many computational consequences:

Update-formulas, reduced cost calculations,  
number of non-zeros of a vertex,...

# Numerical trouble often has geometric reasons



Where are  
the points of intersection  
(vertices, basic solutions)?

What you can't see with your eyes,  
causes also numerical difficulties.



# Dual Simplex Method

---

- The **Dual Simplex Method** is the (Primal) Simplex Method applied to the dual of a given linear program.

Surprise in the mid-nineties:

- The Dual Simplex Method is faster than the Primal in practice.  
One key: **Goldfarb's steepest edge pivoting rule!**
- A wonderful observation for the cutting plane methods of integer programming!



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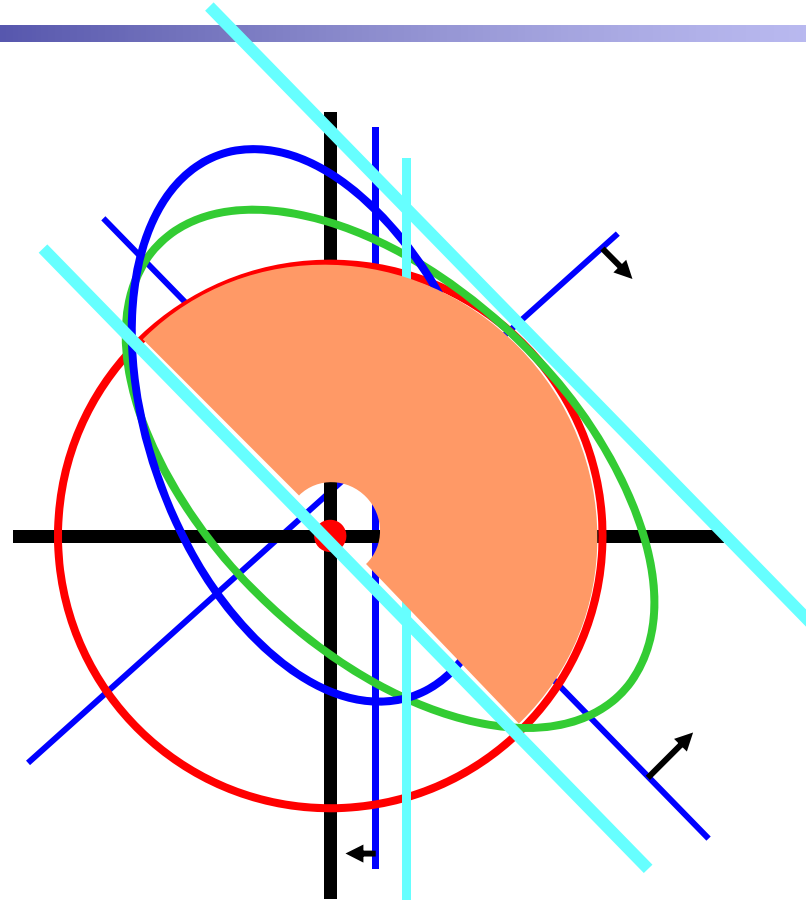
# The Ellipsoid Method

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- Shor, 1970 - 1979
- Yudin & Nemirovskii, 1976
- Khachiyan, 1979
- M. Grötschel, L. Lovász, A. Schrijver,  
*Geometric Algorithms and Combinatorial Optimization*  
Algorithms and Combinatorics 2, Springer, 1988



# The Ellipsoid Method: an example



$$\begin{aligned}
 k &:= 0, \\
 N &:= 2n((2n + 1)\langle C \rangle + n\langle d \rangle - n^3) \\
 A_0 &:= R^2 I \text{ with } R := \sqrt{n} 2^{\langle C, d \rangle - n^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$P := \{x \mid Cx \leq d\}$$

Initialization

$$a_0 := 0$$

If  $k = N$ , STOP! (Declare  $P$  empty.)

Stopping criterion

If  $a_k \in P$ , STOP! (A feasible solution is found.)

Feasibility check

If  $a_k \notin P$ , then choose an inequality, say  $c^T x \leq \gamma$ , of the system  $Cx \leq d$  that is violated by  $a_k$ .

Cutting plane choice

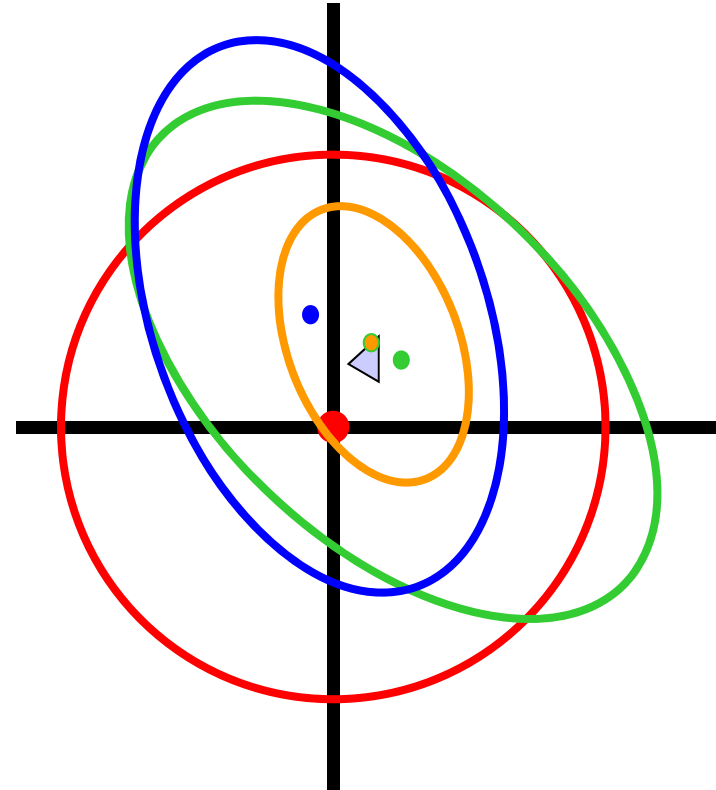
$$b := \frac{1}{\sqrt{c^T A_k c}} A_k c$$

$$a_{k+1} := a_k - \frac{1}{n+1} b \quad \text{Update}$$

$$A_{k+1} := \frac{n^2}{n^2 - 1} \left( A_k - \frac{2}{n+1} b b^T \right)$$

**The Ellipsoid Method**

# Ellipsoid Method



$a(0)$

$a(1)$

$a(2)$

$a(7)$

feasible  
solution  
found

УДК 519.95

МАТЕМАТИКА

Л. Г. ХАЧИЯН

## ПОЛИНОМИАЛЬНЫЙ АЛГОРИТМ В ЛИНЕЙНОМ ПРОГРАММИРОВАНИИ

(Представлено академиком А. А. Дородницыным 4 X 1978)

Рассмотрим систему из  $m \geq 2$  линейных неравенств относительно  $n \geq 2$  вещественных переменных  $x_1, \dots, x_j, \dots, x_n$

$$a_{i1}x_1 + \dots + a_{in}x_n \leq b_i, \quad i=1, 2, \dots, m, \quad (1)$$

с целыми коэффициентами  $a_{ij}, b_i$ . Пусть

$$L = \left[ \sum_{i,j=1}^{m,n} \log_2(|a_{ij}|+1) + \sum_{i=1}^m \log_2(|b_i|+1) + \log_2 nm \right] + 1 \quad (2)$$

есть длина входа системы, т. е. число символов 0 и 1, необходимых для записи (1) в двоичной системе счисления.



# May 1980

## New York Times, Nov. 7, 1979

### A Soviet Discovery Rocks World of Mathematics

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE

*New York Times (1857-Current file)*; Nov 7, 1979; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2003)  
pg. A1

## *A Soviet Discovery Rocks World of Mathematics*

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE

A surprise discovery by an obscure Soviet mathematician has rocked the world of mathematics and computer analysis, and experts have begun exploring its practical applications.

Mathematicians describe the discovery by L.G. Khachian as a method by which computers can find guaranteed solutions to a class of very difficult problems that have hitherto been tackled on a kind of hit-or-miss basis.

Apart from its profound theoretical interest, the discovery may be applicable

in weather prediction, complicated industrial processes, petroleum refining, the scheduling of workers at large factories, secret codes and many other things.

"I have been deluged with calls from virtually every department of government for an interpretation of the significance of this," a leading expert on computer methods, Dr. George B. Dantzig of Stanford University, said in an interview.

The solution of mathematical problems by computer must be broken down into a series of steps. One class of problem sometimes involves so many steps that it

could take billions of years to compute.

The Russian discovery offers a way by which the number of steps in a solution can be dramatically reduced. It also offers the mathematician a way of learning quickly whether a problem has a solution or not, without having to complete the entire immense computation that may be required.

According to the American journal Sci-

**Continued on Page A20, Column 3**

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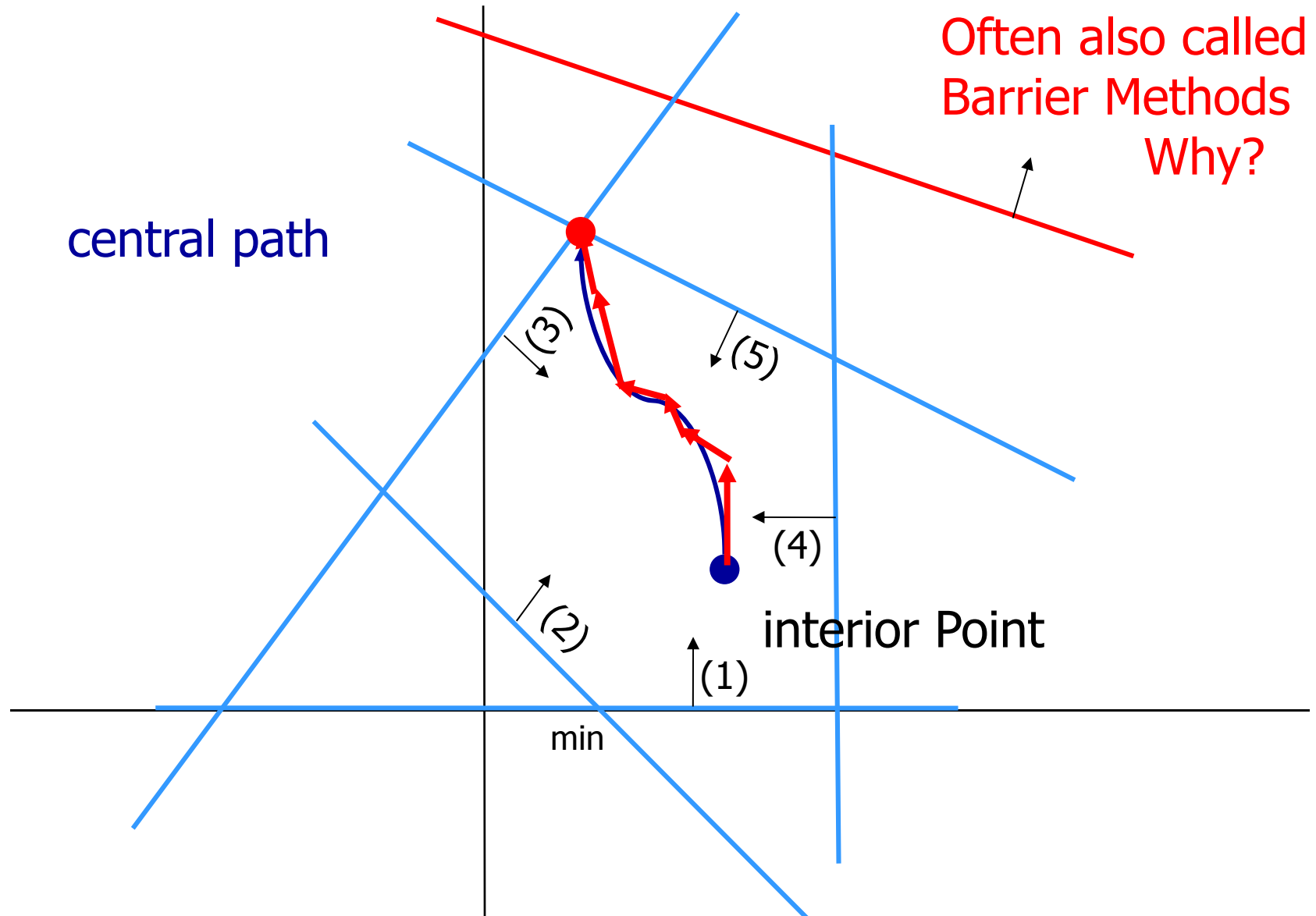
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# Interior-Point Methods: an example



# The Karmarkar Algorithm

(13.25) Der Karmarkar-Algorithmus.

**Input:**  $A \in \mathbb{Q}^{(m,n)}$  und  $c \in \mathbb{Q}^n$ . Zusätzlich wird vorausgesetzt, dass  $\frac{1}{n}A\mathbb{1} = 0$  und  $c^T\mathbb{1} > 0$  gilt.

**Output:** Ein Vektor  $x$  mit  $Ax = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{1}^T x = 1$ ,  $x \geq 0$  und  $c^T x \leq 0$  oder die Feststellung, dass kein derartiger Vektor existiert.

(1) Initialisierung. Setze

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 &:= \frac{1}{n}\mathbb{1} \\ k &:= 0 \\ N &:= 3n(\langle A \rangle + 2\langle c \rangle - n) \end{aligned}$$

(2) Abbruchkriterium.

(2.a) Gilt  $k = N$ , dann hat  $Ax = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{1}^T x = 1$ ,  $x \geq 0$ ,  $c^T x \leq 0$  keine Lösung, STOP!

(2.b) Gilt  $c^T x^k \leq 2^{-(A)-(c)}$ , dann ist eine Lösung gefunden. Falls  $c^T x^k \leq 0$ , dann ist  $x^k$  eine Lösung, andernfalls kann wie bei der Ellipsoidmethode (Satz (12.34)) aus  $x^k$  ein Vektor  $\bar{x}$  konstruiert werden mit  $c^T \bar{x} \leq 0$ ,  $A\bar{x} = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{1}^T \bar{x} = 1$ ,  $\bar{x} \geq 0$ , STOP!

**Update.**

(3) (3.a)  $D := \text{diag}(x^k)$

(3.b)  $\bar{c} := (I - DA^T(AD^2A^T)^{-1}AD - \frac{1}{n}\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^T)Dc$

(3.c)  $y^{k+1} := \frac{1}{n}\mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n(n-1)} \|\bar{c}\|} \bar{c}$

(3.d)  $x^{k+1} := \frac{1}{\mathbb{1}^T D y^{k+1}} D y^{k+1}$

(3.e)  $k := k + 1$

Gehe zu (2).



## Breakthrough in Problem Solving

By JAMES GLEICK

A 28-year-old mathematician at A.T.&T. Bell Laboratories has made a startling theoretical breakthrough in the solving of systems of equations that often grow too vast and complex for the most powerful computers.

The discovery, which is to be formally published next month, is already circulating rapidly through the mathematical world. It has also set off a deluge of inquiries from brokerage houses, oil companies and airlines, industries with millions of dollars at stake in problems known as linear programming.

### Faster Solutions Seen

These problems are fiendishly complicated systems, often with thousands of variables. They arise in a variety of commercial and government applications, ranging from allocating time on a communications satellite to routing millions of telephone calls over long distances, or whenever a limited, expensive resource must be spread most efficiently among competing users. And investment companies use them in creating portfolios with the best mix of stocks and bonds.

The Bell Labs mathematician, Dr. Narendra Karmarkar, has devised a radically new procedure that may speed the routine handling of such problems by businesses and Government agencies and also make it possible to tackle problems that are now far out of reach.

"This is a path-breaking result," said Dr. Ronald L. Graham, director of mathematical sciences for Bell Labs in Murray Hill, N.J.

"Science has its moments of great progress, and this may well be one of them."

Because problems in linear programming can have billions or more possible answers, even high-speed computers cannot check every one. So computers must use a special procedure, an algorithm, to examine as few answers as possible before finding the best one — typically the one that minimizes cost or maximizes efficiency.

A procedure devised in 1947, the simplex method, is now used for such problems.

Continued on Page A19, Column 1



Karmarkar at Bell Labs: an equation to find a new way through the maze

## Folding the Perfect Corner

A young Bell scientist makes a major math breakthrough

Every day 1,200 American Airlines jets crisscross the U.S., Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean, stopping in 110 cities and bearing over 80,000 passengers. More than 4,000 pilots, copilots, flight personnel, maintenance workers and baggage carriers are shuffled among the flights; a total of 3.6 million gal. of high-octane fuel is burned. Nuts, bolts, altimeters, landing gears and the like must be checked at each destination. And while performing these scheduling gymnastics, the company must keep a close eye on costs, projected revenue and profits.

Like American Airlines, thousands of companies must routinely untangle the myriad variables that complicate the efficient distribution of their resources. Solving such monstrous problems requires the use of an abstruse branch of mathematics known as linear programming. It is the kind of math that has frustrated theoreticians for years, and even the fastest and most powerful computers have had great difficulty juggling the bits and pieces of data. Now Narendra Karmarkar, a 28-year-old

Indian-born mathematician at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J., after only a year's work has cracked the puzzle of linear programming by devising a new algorithm, a step-by-step mathematical formula. He has translated the procedure into a program that should allow computers to track a greater combination of tasks than ever before and in a fraction of the time.

Unlike most advances in theoretical mathematics, Karmarkar's work will have an immediate and major impact on the real world. "Breakthrough is one of the most abused words in science," says Ronald Graham, director of mathematical sciences at Bell Labs. "But this is one situation where it is truly appropriate."

Before the Karmarkar method, linear equations could be solved only in a cumbersome fashion, ironically known as the simplex method, devised by Mathematician George Dantzig in 1947. Problems are conceived of as giant geodesic domes with thousands of sides. Each corner of a facet on the dome

# Milestones for Interior Point Methods (IPMs)

---

- 1984 Projective IPM: Karmarkar – efficient in practice!?
- 1989  $O(n^3L)$  for IPMs: Renegar – best complexity
- 1989 **Primal–Dual IPMs**: Kojima ... – dominant since then
- 1989 Self-Concordant Barrier: Nesterov–Nemirovskii – extensions to smooth convex optimization
- 1992 Semi-Definite Optimization (SDO) and Second Order Conic Optimization (SOCO): Alizadeh, Nesterov–Nemirovskii – new applications, approximations, software
- 1998 Robust LO: Ben Tal–Nemirovskii



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# Some LP/MIP Solvers

Solver	Version	URL
IBM CPLEX	12.2	<a href="http://www.cplex.com">www.cplex.com</a>
Gurobi	3.0	<a href="http://www.gurobi.com">www.gurobi.com</a>
FICO XPress-MP	7	<a href="http://www.fico.com/en/Products/DMTools/Pages/FICO-Xpress-Optimization-Suite.aspx">www.fico.com/en/Products/DMTools/Pages/FICO-Xpress-Optimization-Suite.aspx</a>
...		
Lindo	6.1	<a href="http://www.lindo.com">www.lindo.com</a>
Minto	3.1	<a href="http://coral.ie.lehigh.edu/~minto">coral.ie.lehigh.edu/~minto</a>
SCIP	2.0	<a href="http://scip.zib.de">scip.zib.de</a>
CBC	2.5	<a href="http://projects.coin-or.org/Cbc">projects.coin-or.org/Cbc</a>
Symphony	5.2	<a href="http://projects.coin-or.org/SYMPHONY">projects.coin-or.org/SYMPHONY</a>
glpk	4.43	<a href="http://www.gnu.org/software/glpk/glpk.html">www.gnu.org/software/glpk/glpk.html</a>
lp_solve	5.5	<a href="http://lpsolve.sourceforge.net">lpsolve.sourceforge.net</a>
...		



# Which LP solvers are used in practice?

---

## Preview summary

- Fourier-Motzkin: hopeless
- Ellipsoid Method: total failure
- primal Simplex Method: good
- dual Simplex Method: better
- Barrier Method: for large LPs frequently better
- For LP relaxations of IPs: dual Simplex Method



# MIPLIB 1992/2010



MIPLIB - Mixed Integer Problem LIBrary

## MIPLIB 2010

After its introduction, MIPLIB has become a standard test set used to compare the performance of mixed integer optimizers.

Since the first release in 1992 the MIPLIB has been updated several times. Now again 7 years have past since the last update in 2003. And again improvements in state-of-the-art optimizers, as well as improvements in computing machinery have made several instances too easy to be of further interest.

Last year a group of interested parties including participants from ASU, COIN, FICO, Gurobi, IBM, and MOSEK met at ZIB to discuss the guidelines for the 2010 release of the MIPLIB.

### Involved people:

Tobias Achterberg (IBM)  
 Erling D. Andersen (Mosek)  
 Oliver Bastert (FICO)  
 Timo Berthold (ZIB, Matheon)  
 Robert Bixby (Gurobi)  
 Gerald Gamrath (ZIB)  
 Ambros Gleixner (ZIB)  
 Stefan Heinz (ZIB, Matheon)  
 Thorsten Koch (ZIB, Matheon)  
 Alexander Martin (TU Darmstadt)  
 Hans D. Mittelmann (Arizona State University)  
 Ted Ralphs (COIN-OR, Lehigh University)  
 Kati Wolter (ZIB)

We would be happy if you contribute to this library by sending us hard and/or real life instances. If you have any instances you would like to add to MIPLIB, please use the form below to submit it. **The current deadline for instances is 10/1/2010!**



# Independent Testing

## Benchmarks for Optimization Software

by Hans Mittelmann (mittelmann at asu.edu)

The following are NEOS solvers we have installed.

**BNBS, BPMPD, BPMPD-AMPL, Concorde, CONDOR, CSDP, DDSIP, FEASPUMP, FEASPUMP-AMPL, ICOS, NSIPS, PENBMI, PENSDP, QSOPT\_EX, SCIP, SCIP-AMPL, SDPA, SDPLR, SDPT3, SeDuMi**



<http://plato.asu.edu/bench.html>

### LINEAR PROGRAMMING

- Benchmark of serial LP solvers (10-12-2010)
- Benchmark of parallel LP solvers (10-16-2010)
- Parallel CPLEX, GUROBI, and MOSEK on LP problems (7-18-2010)
- Large Network-LP Benchmark (commercial vs free) (10-16-2010)

### MIXED INTEGER LINEAR PROGRAMMING

- MILP Benchmark - serial codes (10-15-2010)
- MILP Benchmark - parallel codes (10-14-2010)
- MILP cases that are difficult for some codes (10-8-2010)
- Feasibility Benchmark - Feaspump, CPLEX, SCIP, GUROBI (10-15-2010)
- Infeasibility Detection for MILP Problems (10-14-2010)



# LP survey

---

Robert E. Bixby, Solving Real-World Linear Programs: A Decade and More of Progress.  
*Operations Research* 50 (2002)3-15.

Bob on September 27, 2010  
at his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday party



# Progress in LP: 1988—2004

(Operations Research, Jan 2002, pp. 3—15, updated in 2004)

- Algorithms (*machine independent*):  
Primal *versus* best of Primal/Dual/Barrier      3,300x
- Machines (workstations → PCs):      1,600x
- NET: Algorithm × Machine      5,300,000x

(2 months/5300000  $\approx$  1 second)

Courtesy Bob Bixby



# The latest computational study: Ed Rothberg (Gurobi)

- [Rothberg slides](#)



- LP state of the art - according to Gurobi: as of September 28, 2010 (Bixby's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday conference in Erlangen, Germany)
- All software producer do computational studies permanently but rarely make them publicly available.

# Summary

---

- We can solve today explicit LPs with
  - up to **500,000** of variables and
  - up to **5,000,000** of constraints routinelyin relatively short running times.
- We can solve today structured implicit LPs (employing column generation and cutting plane techniques) in special cases with hundreds of million (and more) variables and almost infinitely many constraints in acceptable running times.  
(Examples: TSP, bus circulation in Berlin)



# ZIB Instances



	Variables	Constraints	Non-zeros	Description
1	12,471,400	5,887,041	49,877,768	Group Channel Routing on a 3D Grid Graph (Chip-Bus-Routing)
2	37,709,944	9,049,868	146,280,582	Group Channel Routing on a 3D Grid Graph (different model, <b>infeasible</b> )
3	29,128,799	19,731,970	104,422,573	Steiner-Tree-Packing on a 3D Grid Graph
4	37,423	7,433,543	69,004,977	Integrated WLAN Transmitter Selection and Channel Assignment
5	9,253,265	9,808	349,424,637	Duty Scheduling with base constraints



# Summary

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You should be surprised  
if a linear program could not be solved



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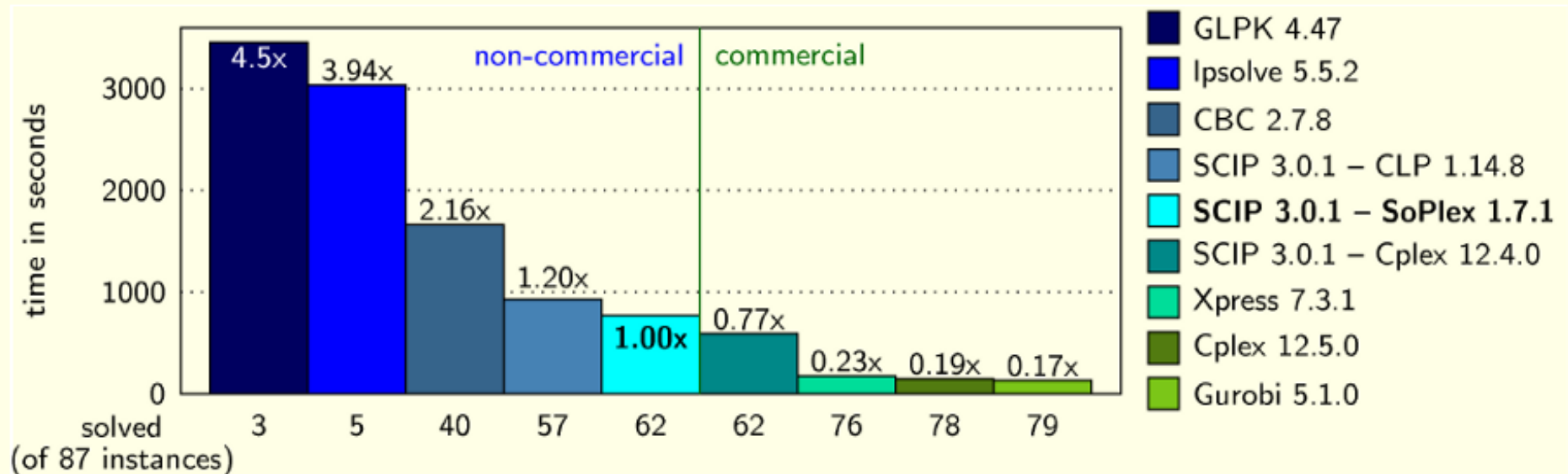


# SCIP: a ZIB optimization suite

The SCIP Optimization Suite is a toolbox for generating and solving mixed integer programs. It consists of the following parts:

- SCIP a mixed integer programming solver and constraint programming framework
- SoPlex a linear programming solver
- ZIMPL a mixed integer programming modeling language
- GCG a generic branch-cut-and-price solver
- UG a parallel framework for solving mixed integer (linear and nonlinear) programs

*integer programming* and *branch-cut-and-price*. It allows total control of the solution process and the access of detailed information down to the guts of the solver.



MIP solver benchmark (1 thread): Geometric mean of results taken from the homepage of [Hans Mittelmann](#) (10/Jan/2013). Unsolved or failed instances are accounted for with the time limit of 1 hour.

# SoPlex sequential object-oriented simplex

SoPlex is an implementation of the revised simplex algorithm. It features primal and dual solving routines for linear programs and is implemented as a C++ class library that can be used with other programs.



Roland Wunderling,  
*Paralleler und Objektorientierter  
Simplex-Algorithmus,*  
Dissertation, TU Berlin, 1997

now employed by IBM, developing  
CPLEX's LP technology



# Zimpl

- Zimpl is a little language to translate the mathematical model of a problem into a linear or (mixed-) integer mathematical program expressed in .lp or .mps file format which can be read and (hopefully) solved by a LP or MIP solver.



- Thorsten Koch, *Rapid Mathematical Programming*, Dissertation, TU Berlin 2004  
(awarded with the Dissertation Prize 2005 of the Gesellschaft für Operations Research)



# SCIP <http://scip.zib.de/>

Tobias Achterberg, Tobias, *Constraint Integer Programming*, Dissertation, TU Berlin, 2007

- Dissertation Prize 2008 of the Gesellschaft für Operations Research (GOR)
- George B. Dantzig Dissertation Award 2008 of the Institute of Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), 2nd prize)
- Beale-Orchard-Hays Prize 2009 of the Mathematical Optimization Society for the paper: Tobias Achterberg, "SCIP: Solving constraint integer programs", *Mathematical Programming Computation*, 1 (2009), pp. 1-41.
- Started is "business career" at ILOG developing CPLEX's MIP

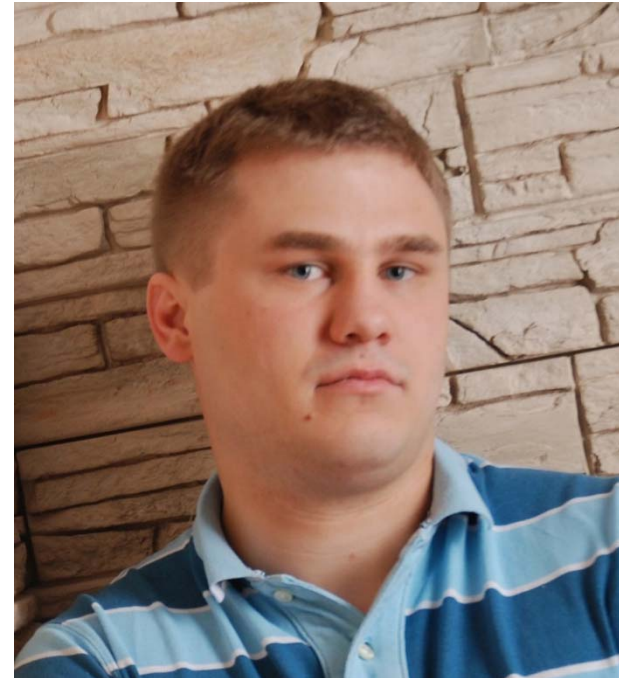


# GCG Generic Column Generation

GCG extends the branch-cut-and-price framework SCIP to a generic branch-cut-and-price solver.

- performs Dantzig-Wolfe decomposition for detected or provided structure
- Solves reformulation with branch-and-price approach
- pricing problems solved as MIPs
- generic branching rules for branch-and-price

Provides easy access to other state-of-the-art MIP solving technologies.



Gerald Gamrath,

*Generic Branch-Cut-and-Price*,  
Diploma Thesis, TU Berlin, 2010

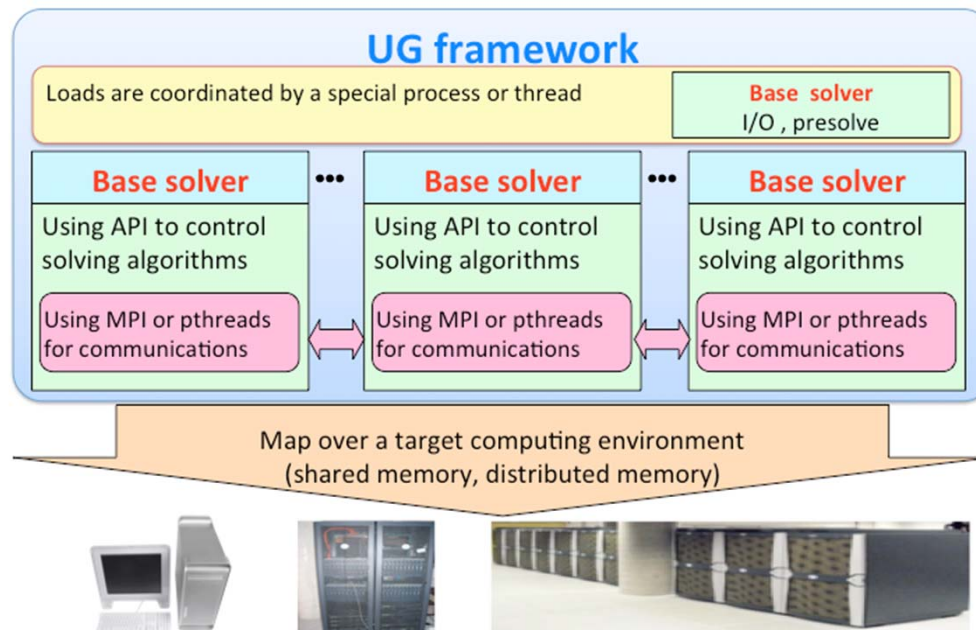
Currently developed in cooperation with  
RWTH Aachen, also funded by SPP 1307



# UG Ubiquity Generator Framework

UG is a generic framework to parallelize branch-and-bound based solvers (e.g., MIP, MINLP, ExactIP) in a distributed or shared memory computing environment.

- Exploits powerful performance of state-of-the-art "base solvers", such as SCIP, CPLEX, etc.
- Without the need for base solver parallelization



Yuji Shinano,  
*A Generalized Utility for  
Parallel Branch-and-Bound  
Algorithms*,  
Dissertation, Tokyo  
University of Science, 1997



# Advertisement:

## <http://zibopt.zib.de/>

# ZIB Optimization Suite

Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum für Informationstechnik Berlin  
Division Scientific Computing  
Department Optimization



The ZIB Optimization Suite is a tool for generating and solving mixed integer programs. It consists of the following parts

- ZIMPL** a mixed integer programming modeling language
- SoPlex** a linear programming solver
- SCIP** a mixed integer programming solver and constraint programming framework.

The user can easily generate linear programs and mixed integer programs with the modeling language ZIMPL. The resulting model can directly be loaded into SCIP and solved. In the solution process SCIP may use SoPlex as underlying LP solver.

Since all three tools are available in source code and free for academic use, they are an ideal tool for academic research purposes and for teaching integer programming.

See [ZIB licences](#) for more information.



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# Improving the Simplex Numerics

On the factorization of simplex basis matrices

R. LUCE, J. DUINTJER TEBBENS, J. LIESEN and R. NABBEN

Technical University of Berlin

M. GRÖTSCHEL and T. KOCH

Zuse Institute Berlin

and

O. SCHENK

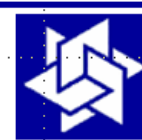
University of Basel

Reinhard Nabben



Martin Grötschel

Jörg Liesen



**MATHEON**  
**B17**



Thorsten Koch

Robert Luce

Research assistant with  
industry background



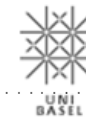
Jurjen Duintjer-Tebbens

Project researcher,  
from Czech Academy of Sciences



ZIB-Report 09-24 (July 2009)

<http://opus.kobv.de/zib/volltexte/2009/1188/>



Olaf Schenk Anshul Gupta



Martin  
Grötschel

# From the Abstract: The Findings in Brief

---

In the simplex algorithm, solving linear systems with the basis matrix and its transpose accounts for a large part of the total computation time. The most widely used solution technique is sparse LU factorization, paired with an updating scheme that allows to use the factors over several iterations. Clearly, small number of fill-in elements in the LU factors is critical for the overall performance.

Using a wide range of LPs we show numerically that after a simple permutation the non-triangular part of the basis matrix is so small, that the whole matrix can be factorized with (relative) fill-in close to the optimum. This permutation has been exploited by simplex practitioners for many years. But to our knowledge no systematic numerical study has been published that demonstrates the effective reduction to a surprisingly small non-triangular problem, even for large scale LPs.

For the factorization of the non-triangular part most existing simplex codes use some variant of dynamic Markowitz pivoting, which originated in the late 1950s. We also show numerically that, in terms of fill-in and in the simplex context, dynamic Markowitz is quite consistently superior to other, more recently developed techniques.



# A major question addressed in B17

- Most Simplex-based LP codes (such as ZIB's `SoPlex`) use Dynamic Markowitz pivoting (Markowitz, 1957) to find fill-in reducing permutations.
- There have been dozens of new LU codes, particularly in recent years (see Davis' list).
- *Is Markowitz still state of the art?*



Harry M. Markowitz (\*1928)  
Economics Nobel Price Winner 1990

# Concluding remarks

---

- Sparse GE involves many areas, including graph theory, numerical linear algebra, numerical analysis, scientific computing, ...
- Many possibilities for further research.
- B17: Markowitz, though from the 50s, still is the method of choice in the LP context (fill-in close to optimal).
- Not addressed here: Numerical stability, efficient solution of  $\mathbf{B}x=c$ , interplay of Simplex and linear solver, ...



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# Exact Linear Programming

Floating Point Computation for Linear Programming:

## Advantages of Floating Point

- Fast computation
- Lower memory usage
- Sufficient for many applications
- Results are often **very near optimal**

## Disadvantages

- Solutions are **not exact**
- Algorithms can **fail** for numerical reasons
- Correct solutions are not **guaranteed**





# Slide from Dan Steffy

Example: sgpf5y6 from Mittelmann LP test set

LP Solver	Objective Value
Cplex 7.1 Primal	6398.71
Cplex 7.1 Dual	6484.44
Cplex 12.1 Primal	6425.87
Cplex 12.1 Dual	6484.47
Gurobi 2.0 Primal	6484.47
Gurobi 2.0 Dual	6484.47
XPress-20 Primal	6349.93
XPress-20 Dual	6408.02
QSopt Primal	6419.94
QSopt Dual	6480.33
CLP-1.12.0	6481.26
Soplex 1.2.2	6473.33
GLPK-4.44	6484.47
<b>Exact Value</b>	<u>1621116398840608</u>
(QSopt_ex)	2500000000000 ≈ 6484.47

(Some results reported by W. Cook, S. Dash, H. Mittelmann, D. Steffy)



# Slide from Dan Steffy

GNU Multiple Precision  
Arithmetic Library

# GMP

«Arithmetic without limitations»

<http://gmplib.org>

Applegate, Cook, Dash and Espinoza [2007]  
tested pure rational simplex implementation.

It was **hundreds or thousands** of times  
slower than floating-point code.

GNU Multiple Precision  
Arithmetic Library

# GMP

«Arithmetic without limitations»

<http://gmplib.org>

## Hybrid Symbolic-Numeric Computation

*Use fast floating-point computation to  
assist in computing exact solutions.*

# Who is interested in exact solutions?



Thomas Hales' recent proof of the Kepler Conjecture relies on solving thousands of LPs

When are exact LP results **necessary**?

- Difficult feasibility problems
- Computer assisted proofs
- LP as a reliable subroutine
- When users demand it

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# Current issues: very<sup>n</sup> large scale

---

- Very, very large scale LPs derived from IPs: billions of variables (verification of systems on chip, transportation, telecommunication,...), (column generation, cutting planes, Lagrange ...)
- Modeling languages ZIMPL, OPL, AMPL
- “Effortless” solution of IPs using appropriate models via modeling languages



# Future Hardware Speed-Up

---

It is widely believed that in the future

- the speed of a single processor core will not substantially increase anymore
- the number of cores per processor will continuously increase
- GPUs and CPUs will merge again.
- **Conclusion:** If we want to continue to benefit from the development in hardware, LP and MIP solvers have to take advantage of parallel processing.

# Parallelization

---

- The simplex algorithm can't be efficiently parallelized.
- There is much more hope for Barrier codes, and a lot of work is going on.



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# Bicriteria Optimization Model - Profit versus Robustness

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 (BI - PCP) & \text{(i)} \quad \max \sum_{p \in P} w_p x_p \\
 & \text{(ii)} \quad \max \sum_{q \in Q} r_q y_q \\
 & \text{(iii)} \quad \sum_{p \in P_i} x_p \leq 1, \quad \forall i \in I \\
 & \text{(iv)} \quad \sum_{q \in Q_j} y_q \leq 1, \quad \forall j \in J \\
 & \text{(v)} \quad \sum_{a \in p \in P} x_p - \sum_{a \in q \in Q} y_q \leq 0, \quad \forall a \in A_{LR} \\
 & \text{(vi)} \quad x_p, y_q \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall p \in P, q \in Q
 \end{array}$$

## Variables

- Path und config usage (request  $i$  uses path  $p$ , track  $j$  uses config  $q$ )

## Constraints

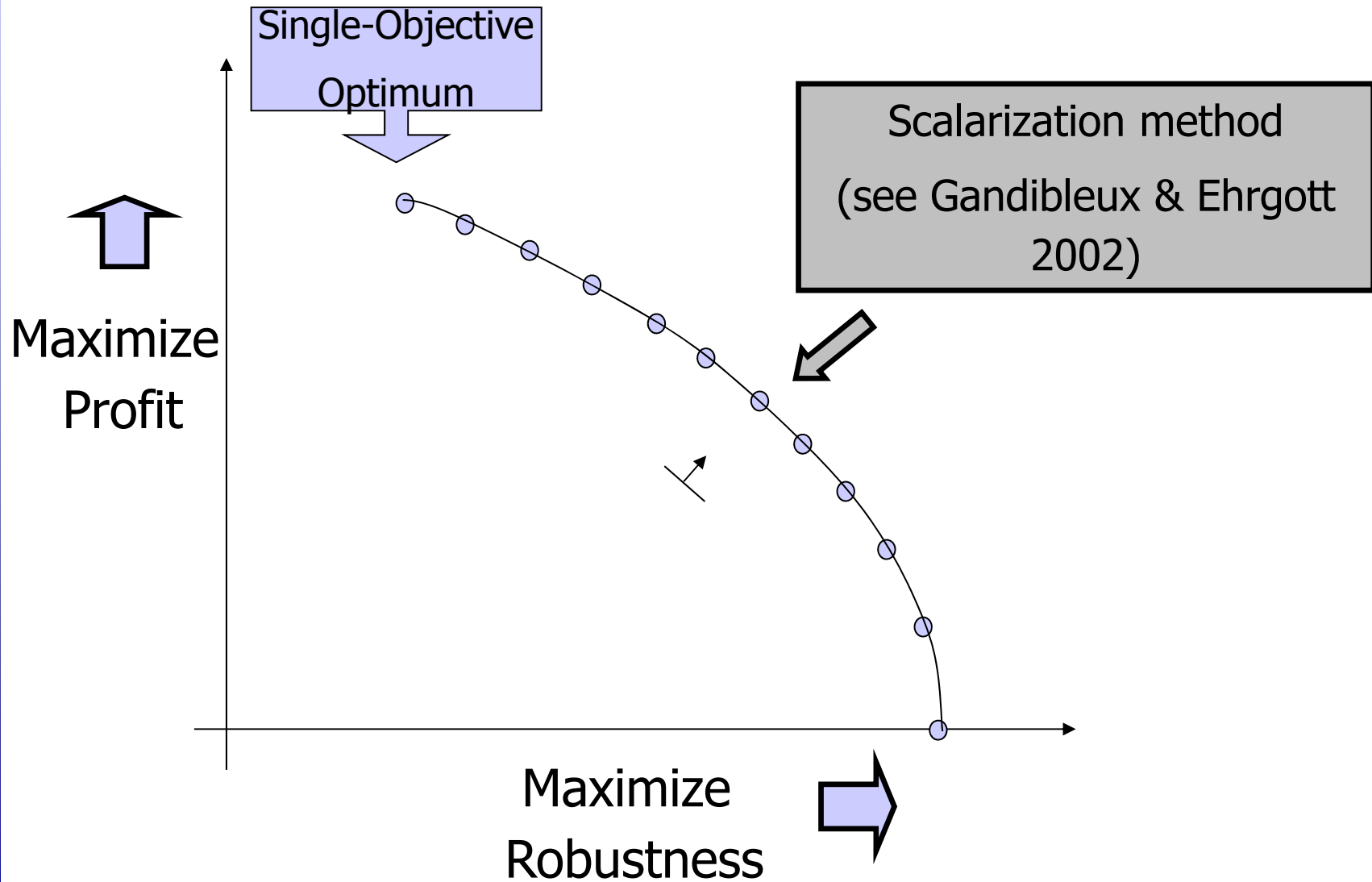
- Path and config choice
- Path-config-coupling (track capacity)

## Objective Function

- Maximize proceedings and robustness



# Price of Robustness (LP case)



# Multi-objective LP

---

- Commercial software vendors offer scalarization.
- Computing the Pareto set is (in general) beyond what we can do.
- However, for small numbers of objective functions, special purpose methods may work.



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# “Nonlinear” LPs

---

- Quadratic (convex) objective functions can be handled with the simplex method.  
Commercially available for the convex case.
- Additional quadratic (convex) constraints can be handled with interior point methods.



# Combinatorial Optimization at Work (CO@W)

- A course at TU Berlin in cooperation with MATHEON, the Berlin Mathematical School and COST TD1207
  - **Everything you every wanted to know about LP/MIP and real-world industrial applications**  
(lectures and excercises)
- Dates of the course: **September 28 – October 9, 2015**
- Language: **English**
- Location: **Zuse Institute Berlin**
- Application deadline: **June 1, 2015**
- Participation fee: **none**
- URL (info/application): **<http://co-at-work.zib.de>**
- Intended audience: **master/PhD students, Post-docs**
- Contact: **[coaw@zib.de](mailto:coaw@zib.de)**
- Lectures by: **Prof. M. Grötschel, Prof. T. Koch, Prof. B. Bixby, the SCIP Team, and many more**
- 



# Solving Linear and Integer Programs

**Martin Grötschel**

**22. Oktober 2014**

**Algorithmische Diskrete Mathematik I**

**„Einführung in die  
Lineare und Kombinatorische Optimierung“**

**WS 2014/2015, Institut für Mathematik, TU Berlin**

**Thanks for your attention**



Martin Grötschel

groetschel@zib.de

- Institut für Mathematik, Technische Universität Berlin (TUB)
- DFG-Forschungszentrum "Mathematik für Schlüsseltechnologien" (MATHEON)
- Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum für Informationstechnik Berlin (ZIB)

<http://www.zib.de/groetschel>