



Simplicial Branch
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Tools for Simplicial Branch and Bound in Global Optimization

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and
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Elements of Branch and Bound (B&B) algorithms

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- ▶ Our goal is to minimize an objective function φ subject to various equality and inequality constraints, and to do this in a mathematically rigorous way.



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- ▶ Our goal is to minimize an objective function φ subject to various equality and inequality constraints, and to do this in a mathematically rigorous way.
- ▶ The algorithm essentials relevant here are:
 - 1 **while** *Termination criteria are not met* **do**
 - 2 Select a region \mathcal{D} from a list of unprocessed regions;
 Bound: Apply filters involving **bounds on ranges** to eliminate \mathcal{D} or portions of it from the search;
 - 3 **if** \mathcal{D} *cannot be eliminated or stored* **then**
 - 4 **Branch:** Split \mathcal{D} into two or more sub-regions whose union is \mathcal{D} ;
 - 5 Put each of the sub-regions into the list of unprocessed regions;
 - 6 **end**
 - 7 **end**



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Bounding ranges of a function f over a region \mathcal{D} :
Is \mathcal{D} a box or a simplex?

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- ▶ In most B&B algorithms, \mathcal{D} is a **box** or *set of bounds on the coordinates*.
 - For boxes, bounds on the ranges of functions f can be computed rigorously with simple interval evaluations or with well-studied linear relaxations.



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- ▶ In some problems, the natural region is an **n -simplex** (*e.g. a triangle for $n = 2$, a tetrahedron for $n = 3$, defined by $n + 1$ vertices*), rather than a box.



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 - Rigorously bounding ranges over a simplex has been less studied.



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 - Rigorously bounding ranges over a simplex has been less studied.
 - Two different representations of a simplex are useful in B&B algorithms, and how do we convert between these representations?



Related Work

Simplicial B&B and range computation over simplices

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▶ Stenger, Kearfott, Stynes (1970's)

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 - These works used a B&B algorithm based on simplicial subdivision to compute the topological degree of maps.



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 - We are looking forward to investigation of the relative efficiency of these techniques.
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 - We are looking forward to investigation of the relative efficiency of these techniques.
- ▶ **Paulavičius, Žilinskas, et al (current)**
 - They have extensively studied use of simplices in B&B algorithms for optimization.
 - However, their published results involve heuristic or probabilistic bounds for ranges.



Two Simplex Representations

Vertex and halfspace representations

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- ▶ The **vertex representation** of a simplex $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{S}$ is in terms of the cartesian coordinates of its $n + 1$ vertices, i.e.
$$\mathcal{S} = \langle P_0, P_1, \dots, P_n \rangle.$$



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- ▶ The **half-plane representation** of a simplex is in terms of the feasible set of $n + 1$ inequalities $Ax \geq b$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1 \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$.



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 - Each *face* S_{-i} of \mathcal{S} opposite a vertex P_i of \mathcal{S} is contained in a hyperplane $\tilde{A}_{i,:}x = b_i$, where $\tilde{A}_{i,:} = \pm A_{i,:}$.



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 - The side of the hyperplane upon which P_i lies determines the sense of the inequality $A_{i,:}x \geq b_i$.
- ▶ The vertex representation is most useful in the branching, etc., while the halfspace representation is most useful in constraint-propagation-based filters.



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- ▶ The vertex representation is most useful in the branching, etc., while the halfspace representation is most useful in constraint-propagation-based filters.
- ▶ We have studied mathematically rigorous conversions between these two representations.



Bounding the Range of f Over a Simplex

f is normally represented in terms of cartesian (box-based) coordinates.

Various possibilities

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Bounding the Range of f Over a Simplex

f is normally represented in terms of cartesian (box-based) coordinates.

Various possibilities

- ▶ We can enclose \mathcal{S} in a box, then use traditional interval extensions over the box.

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- ▶ We can enclose \mathcal{S} in a box, then use traditional interval extensions over the box.
 - This is simple, but with significant overestimation.



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- ▶ We can enclose \mathcal{S} in a box, then use traditional interval extensions over the box.
 - This is simple, but with significant overestimation.
- ▶ We can use the halfspace representation and constraint propagation.



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 - This can result in less overestimation, but not necessarily.

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 - This adds complication and, depending on the problem and how implemented, could involve an amount of computation comparable to that required to totally solve the original problem



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 - This can result in less overestimation, but not necessarily.
 - This adds complication and, depending on the problem and how implemented, could involve an amount of computation comparable to that required to totally solve the original problem
- ▶ We can analyze relationships between coordinates in the simplex to derive simple formulas that give sharper bounds than interval extensions over the containing boxes.



Bounding the Range of f Over a Simplex \mathcal{S}

A specially derived formula for $\mathcal{S} = \langle P_0, P_1, \dots, P_n \rangle$, with

$$P_i = (p_{i,1}, \dots, p_{i,n})$$

Begin with non-sharp bounds $\mathbf{f} = [\underline{f}, \bar{f}]$, say, obtained by evaluating over a box \mathbf{x} containing \mathcal{S} .

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Theorem:

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$$\text{Let } L_i = \text{Inf} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n p_{i,j} \check{f}_j(\text{sgn}(p_{i,j})) \right), \text{ and}$$

$$U_i = \text{Sup} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n p_{i,j} \check{f}_j(-\text{sgn}(p_{i,j})) \right), \text{ where}$$

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$$\check{f}_j(p) = \left\{ \underline{f}_j \text{ if } p \geq 0, \bar{f}_j \text{ if } p < 0, \text{ and } \mathbf{f}_j \text{ if } 0 \in p \right\}.$$

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Bounding the Range of f Over a Simplex \mathcal{S}

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Assume the domain of f has been translated so the barycenter $\frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=0}^n P_i$ is the origin $(0, \dots, 0)$, and the range of f has been translated so $f(0, \dots, 0) = 0$.



Bounding the Range of f Over a Simplex S

A specially derived formula for $S = \langle P_0, P_1, \dots, P_n \rangle$, with

$$P_i = (p_{i,1}, \dots, p_{i,n})$$

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Then the range of f over S is contained in the interval $I_0 = [\min_{0 \leq i \leq n} L_i, \max_{0 \leq i \leq n} U_i]$.



Bounding the Range of f Over a Simplex \mathcal{S}

A specially derived formula for $\mathcal{S} = \langle P_0, P_1, \dots, P_n \rangle$, with

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Then the range of f over \mathcal{S} is contained in the interval $I_0 = [\min_{0 \leq i \leq n} L_i, \max_{0 \leq i \leq n} U_i]$.

- ▶ I_0 is often narrower than \mathbf{f} .



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(The theorem is proven by considering \mathcal{S} in terms of barycentric coordinates and an associated LP.)



The Vertex and Halfspace Representations

Computing a rigorous enclosure of \mathcal{S} in a halfspace representation
from a rigorous enclosure for \mathcal{S} in a vertex representation

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The Vertex and Halfspace Representations

Computing a rigorous enclosure of \mathcal{S} in a halfspace representation from a rigorous enclosure for \mathcal{S} in a vertex representation

Simplicial Branch and Bound Tools

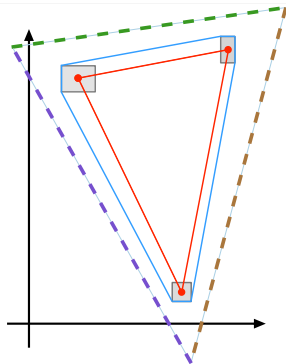
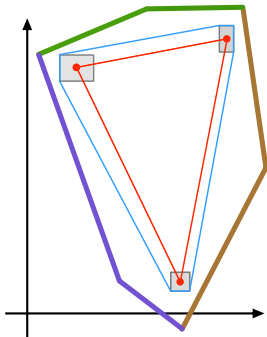
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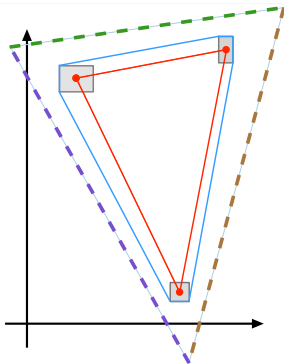
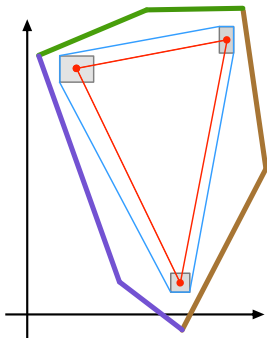
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- ▶ We bound the set of all possible halfplane equations subject to uncertainties in the vertices.



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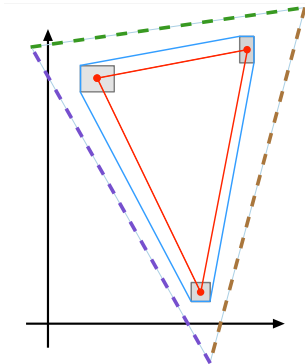
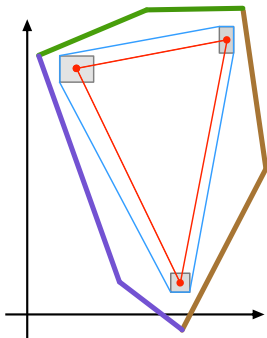
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- ▶ We bound the set of all possible halfplane equations subject to uncertainties in the vertices.
- ▶ We select certain halfplanes arbitrarily to construct the system $Ax \geq b$.



Vertex Enclosure to Halfspace Enclosure

The computations for the i -th halfspace, $0 \leq i \leq n$
corresponding to $\mathcal{S}_{-i} = \langle \tilde{P}_0, \tilde{P}_1, \dots, \tilde{P}_{n-1} \rangle$

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Vertex Enclosure to Halfspace Enclosure

The computations for the i -th halfspace, $0 \leq i \leq n$

corresponding to $\mathcal{S}_{-i} = \langle \tilde{P}_0, \tilde{P}_1, \dots, \tilde{P}_{n-1} \rangle$

- ▶ Begin with enclosures \tilde{P}_i to the actual vertices \tilde{P}_i .

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- ▶ Begin with enclosures \tilde{P}_i to the actual vertices \tilde{P}_i .
- ▶ For the i -th row of A , consider an interval enclosure to the system

$$M a_i = \begin{pmatrix} (\tilde{P}_1 - \tilde{P}_0)^T \\ \vdots \\ (\tilde{P}_{n-1} - \tilde{P}_0)^T \end{pmatrix} a_i = 0.$$



Vertex Enclosure to Halfspace Enclosure

The computations for the i -th halfspace, $0 \leq i \leq n$
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- ▶ We obtain a floating point approximation z to $M \check{a}_i = 0$, $\|z\|_2 = 1$ using a common null-space-finding procedure.



Vertex Enclosure to Halfspace Enclosure

The computations for the i -th halfspace, $0 \leq i \leq n$
corresponding to $\mathcal{S}_{-i} = \langle \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0, \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_{n-1} \rangle$

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- ▶ Begin with enclosures $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i$ to the actual vertices $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i$.
- ▶ For the i -th row of A , consider an interval enclosure to the system

$$\mathbf{M}a_i = \begin{pmatrix} (\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_1 - \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0)^T \\ \vdots \\ (\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_{n-1} - \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0)^T \end{pmatrix} a_i = 0.$$

- ▶ We obtain a floating point approximation z to $\mathbf{M}\check{a}_i = 0$, $\|z\|_2 = 1$ using a common null-space-finding procedure.
- ▶ We construct a sufficiently large box $\mathbf{a}^{(0)}$ around z , and apply an interval Newton method to the system $\mathbf{M}z = 0$, $z^T z = 1$ to prove a unique solution for every $M \in \mathbf{M}$ and generating an enclosure \mathbf{a}_i for the normal vector perpendicular to \mathcal{S}_{-i} .



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Computations for the i -th halfspace (continued)

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- ▶ We possibly reverse the sign of \mathbf{a}_i depending on the sign of $\mathbf{a}_i^T(\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i - \mathbf{P}_0)$.



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Computations for the i -th halfspace (continued)

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- ▶ We possibly reverse the sign of \mathbf{a}_i depending on the sign of $\mathbf{a}_i^T(\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i - \mathbf{P}_0)$.
- ▶ Compute $b_i \approx \mathbf{a}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0$ using floating point computations.



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- ▶ We possibly reverse the sign of \mathbf{a}_i depending on the sign of $\mathbf{a}_i^T(\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i - \mathbf{P}_0)$.
- ▶ Compute $b_i \approx \mathbf{a}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0$ using floating point computations.
- ▶ Gradually decrease b_i until a \underline{b}_i with $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ for $0 \leq j \leq n$.



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- ▶ We possibly reverse the sign of \mathbf{a}_i depending on the sign of $\mathbf{a}_i^T (\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i - \mathbf{P}_0)$.
- ▶ Compute $b_i \approx \mathbf{a}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0$ using floating point computations.
- ▶ Gradually decrease b_i until a \underline{b}_i with $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ for $0 \leq j \leq n$.
- ▶ **Proposition:** Let $\mathbf{H}_i = \{x : \mathbf{a}_i^T x \geq \underline{b}_i\}$. Verification of $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ ($j = 0, 1, \dots, n$) implies $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbf{H}_i$.



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- ▶ We possibly reverse the sign of \mathbf{a}_i depending on the sign of $\mathbf{a}_i^T(\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i - \mathbf{P}_0)$.
- ▶ Compute $b_i \approx \mathbf{a}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0$ using floating point computations.
- ▶ Gradually decrease b_i until a \underline{b}_i with $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ for $0 \leq j \leq n$.
- ▶ **Proposition:** Let $\mathbf{H}_i = \{x : \mathbf{a}_i^T x \geq \underline{b}_i\}$. Verification of $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ ($j = 0, 1, \dots, n$) implies $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbf{H}_i$.
- ▶ Since $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$, $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ for any $\mathbf{a}_i \in \mathbf{a}_i$, so, with the same reasoning behind the proposition, $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbf{H}_i = \{x : \mathbf{a}_i^T x \geq \underline{b}_i\}$.



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- ▶ We possibly reverse the sign of \mathbf{a}_i depending on the sign of $\mathbf{a}_i^T(\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_i - \mathbf{P}_0)$.
- ▶ Compute $b_i \approx \mathbf{a}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_0$ using floating point computations.
- ▶ Gradually decrease b_i until a \underline{b}_i with $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ for $0 \leq j \leq n$.
- ▶ **Proposition:** Let $\mathbf{H}_i = \{x : \mathbf{a}_i^T x \geq \underline{b}_i\}$. Verification of $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ ($j = 0, 1, \dots, n$) implies $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbf{H}_i$.
- ▶ Since $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$, $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{P}_j \geq \underline{b}_i$ for any $\mathbf{a}_i \in \mathbf{a}_i$, so, with the same reasoning behind the proposition, $\mathcal{S} \subset H_i = \{x : \mathbf{a}_i^T x \geq \underline{b}_i\}$.
- ▶ In other words, \mathbf{a}_i can be any floating-point quantity in \mathbf{a}_i .



What next?

Comparisons of simplicial-based and box-based B&B

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- ▶ Sam has initial implementations of the same basic B&B algorithm using both simplices and boxes, incorporating the techniques we have explained here.



What next?

Comparisons of simplicial-based and box-based B&B

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- ▶ Sam has initial implementations of the same basic B&B algorithm using both simplices and boxes, incorporating the techniques we have explained here.
- ▶ We have selected both general test problems and test problems on which there is an underlying simplicial geometry.



What next?

Comparisons of simplicial-based and box-based B&B

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- ▶ Sam has initial implementations of the same basic B&B algorithm using both simplices and boxes, incorporating the techniques we have explained here.
- ▶ We have selected both general test problems and test problems on which there is an underlying simplicial geometry.
- ▶ This work is in progress.