

• Fourier Motzkin Elimination

Joseph Fourier (1826), Theodore Motzkin (1936, rediscovered)

Polyhedra  $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax \leq b\}$  given

Question: •  $\exists x \in P? \iff \exists x: Ax \leq b?$

We know: ' $\exists x: Ax = b?$ '  $\rightarrow$  Gauss Algorithm

$Ax \leq b?$   $\rightarrow$  VL: transform to standard

How?  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Fermi + find a Basis } B: \\ x_B = B^{-1} \cdot b (\geq 0) \end{array} \right.$

OR  $\rightarrow$  FME

• FME finds feas sol. to  $Ax \leq b$  by projections of polytopes

Short digression: projections (orthogonal)

Let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $k \leq n$

$\pi_k: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  maps  $x$  onto first  $k$  coordinates

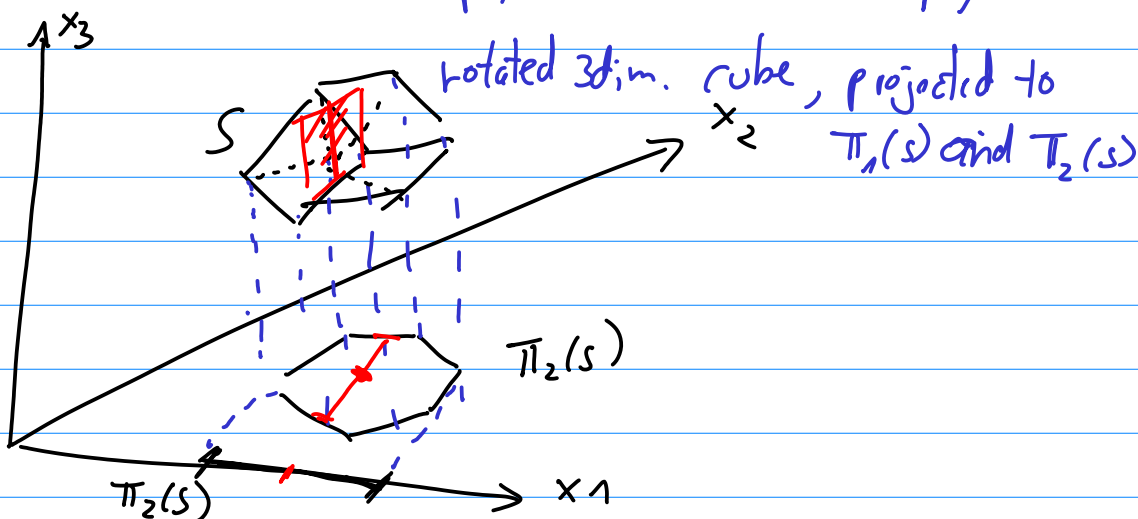
$\pi_k(x) = \pi_k(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$

extension to sets:  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\pi_k(S) := \{\pi_k(x) \mid x \in S\}$

equivalently:  $\pi_k(S) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_k) \mid \exists x_{k+1}, \dots, x_n \text{ s.t. } (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in S\}$

important note:  $S$  not empty  $\iff \pi_k(S)$  not empty

picture



useful to decide whether  $P \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is empty or not

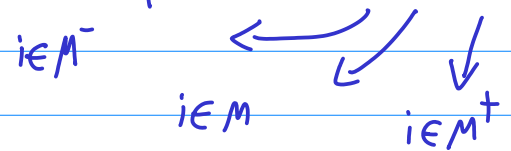
- Idea:
- eliminate  $x_n$ , project  $P$  to  $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$
  - decide for "easier" polyhedron whether non-empty ( $\rightarrow$  iterate projection)
  - $Ax \leq b$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^1 = \mathbb{R}$  is easy ( $\rightarrow$  intersection of half-open intervals, e.g.,  $x_1 \leq 7$ ,  $x_1 \geq 4$ )
  - solution for  $P$  can be found by back-substitution after choosing a value for the last variable

$$Ax \leq b, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad b \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

wlog. all entries of the first column of  $A$  ( $A_{i1}$ )  $\in \{1, 0, 1\}$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & A_2 & \dots & A_n \\ 0 & & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ \vdots & & & \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \leftarrow M^+ \\ \leftarrow M^- \\ \leftarrow M^- \\ \leftarrow M^+ \\ \vdots \end{matrix}$$

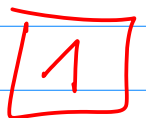
define  $x' := (x_2, \dots, x_n)$   
 $A' := (A_2 | A_3 | \dots | A_n)$



$$\underbrace{Ax \leq b}_{\text{canonical form}} \iff \begin{matrix} x_1 + a_i^+ x' \leq b_i & \forall i \in M^+ \\ -x_1 + a_i^- x' \leq b_i & \forall i \in M^- \\ a_i^0 x' \leq b_i & \forall i \in M \end{matrix}$$

$$\iff \max_{i \in M^-} (a_i^- x' - b_i) \leq x_1 \leq \min_{i \in M^+} (b_i - a_i^+ x')$$

$$a_i^0 x' \leq b_i \quad \forall i \in M$$



$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{array}{l} a_i^+ x' - b_i \leq b_j - a_j^+ x' \\ a_i^+ x' \leq b_i \end{array} \quad \forall i \in M^-, \forall j \in M^+$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{array}{l} (a_i^+ + a_j^+) x' \leq (b_j + b_i) \\ a_i^+ x' \leq b_i \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \forall i \in M^-, j \in M^+ \\ \forall i \in M \end{array}$$

$Q''$  LP in canonical form

P:  $n$  variables  
 $m$  constraints



Q:  $n-1$  variables  
 $|M^+| + |M^-| \cdot |M^-|$  constraints

$$(Ax \leq b)$$

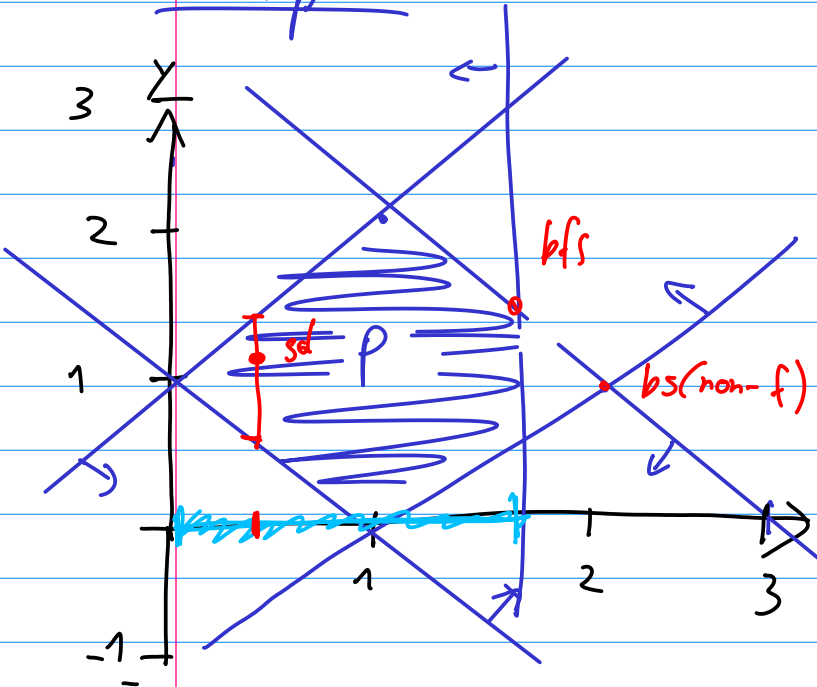
$$\left( \begin{array}{l} (a_i^+ + a_j^+) x' \leq (b_j + b_i) \quad i \in M^-, j \in M^+ \\ a_i^+ x' \leq b_i \quad i \in M \end{array} \right)$$

- use steps to eliminate  $n-1$  var., choose value for the last
- use bounds of the form  $\boxed{1}$  to choose other variables

$\rightsquigarrow$  polynomial running time?:

- no, exponential
- in every projection step, the number of constraints might double  $\rightsquigarrow 2^{(n-1)}$  times bigger

example 1:



$$\begin{aligned} x+y &\geq 1 \\ x+y &\leq 3 \quad (*) \\ x-y &\geq -1 \\ x-y &\leq 1 \\ y &\leq 1.5 \end{aligned}$$

- (1)  $-x - y \leq -1$   $M^-$
- (2)  $x + y \leq 3$   $M^+$
- (3)  $-x + y \leq 1$   $M^-$
- (4)  $x - y \leq 1$   $M^+$
- (5)  $y \leq 1.5$   $M$

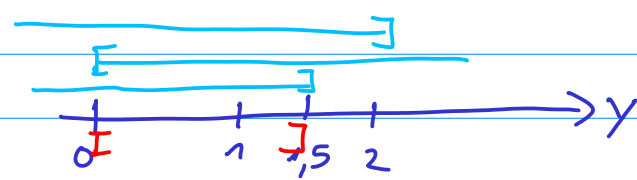
$$M^- = \{(1), (3)\}, M^+ = \{(2), (4)\}$$

$$M = \{(5)\}$$

First projection:  $(a_i^+ + a_j^-)x' \leq (b_i + b_j)$ ,  $i \in M^+, j \in M^-$   
 $a_i^+ x' \leq b_i$ ,  $i \in M$

- (1),(2)  ~~$0y \leq 2$~~   $0 \leq 2$
- (1),(4)  $-2y \leq 0$
- (3),(2)  $2y \leq 4$
- (3),(4)  ~~$0y \leq 2$~~   $0 \leq 2$
- (5)  $y \leq 1.5$

$$\begin{aligned} y &\geq 0 \\ y &\leq 2 \\ y &\leq 1.5 \end{aligned}$$



$$\rightarrow 0 \leq y \leq 1.5$$

choose  $y = 0.5$   $\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} -x &\leq -0.5 & x &\geq 0.5 \\ x &\leq 2.5 & x &\leq 2.5 \\ -x &\leq 0.5 & x &\geq -0.5 \\ x &\leq 1.5 & x &\leq 1.5 \end{aligned}$$

$$x \in [0.5, 1.5]$$

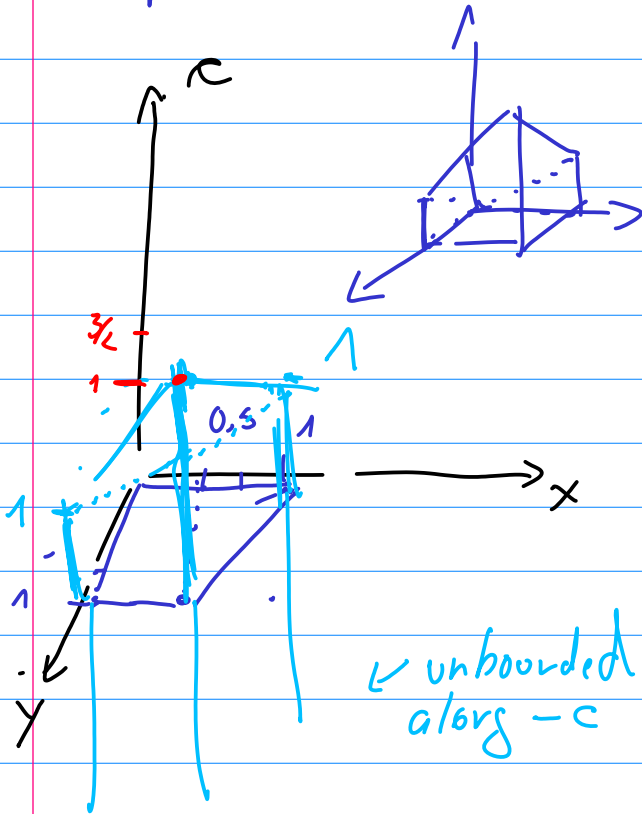
$\Rightarrow$  choose  $x = 1.1$

$\Rightarrow (1.1, 0.5) \in P$

Remark: FME shows: projections of polyhedra are polyhedra

• Solving LPs via FME:

example 2



$$\max x+y \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$$x \geq 0$$

$$y \geq 0$$

$$y \leq 1$$

$$x + \frac{1}{2}y \leq 1$$

for  
 $(1, 0)$   
 $(0.5, 1)$

add constraint for obj. value

$$c - (x+y) \leq 0$$

( $c=0 \rightarrow x, y \geq 0$ , other const.)

$$\begin{array}{rcl} -x & \leq 0 & (M^-)_1 \\ -y & \leq 0 & (M^-)_2 \\ y & \leq 1 & (M^-)_3 \\ x + \frac{1}{2}y & \leq 1 & (M^+)_4 \\ -x - y + c & \leq 0 & (M^-)_5 \end{array}$$

redundant

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \cancel{\frac{1}{2}y} & \leq 1 & (1,3) \\ -\frac{1}{2}y + c & \leq 1 & (2,3) \\ -y & \leq 0 & \\ y & \leq 1 & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \leadsto -y + 2c & \leq 2 & - \\ -y & \leq 0 & - \\ y & \leq 1 & + \end{array}$$

$\leadsto$

$$2c \leq 3 \Leftrightarrow c \leq \frac{3}{2}$$

~~$0 \leq 1$~~  red.

$\Rightarrow$  choose  $c = 3/2$

$$\begin{aligned} \sim \rightarrow & -y \leq -1 \quad (y \geq 1) & y = 1 \\ & y \geq 0 \\ & y \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sim \rightarrow & x \geq 0 \\ & x \leq 1/2 \\ & x \geq 1/2 \end{aligned} \quad x = 1/2$$

$(0.5, 1, 1.5) \in P$ , opt. sol. for LP:  $(0.5, 1)$   
with  $x + y = 0.5 + 1 = 1.5 = c$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{aligned} \min & c^T x \\ & Ax \leq b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{A} x & \leq \tilde{b} \\ \lambda - c^T x & \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\textcircled{2}$  eliminate all variables except for  $\lambda$   
system:  $A\lambda \leq b$

$\textcircled{3}$  choose smallest possible value for  $\lambda$

$\textcircled{4}$  extend  $\lambda$  to a valid solution  $(x_1, \dots, x_n, \lambda)$   
now:  $\lambda = c^T x$

