

# Optimization Techniques for Geometry Processing

-Part II-

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Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology



Visual Computing Institute

# Constrained Optimization

# Constrained Optimization

- general form

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && g_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots m \end{aligned}$$

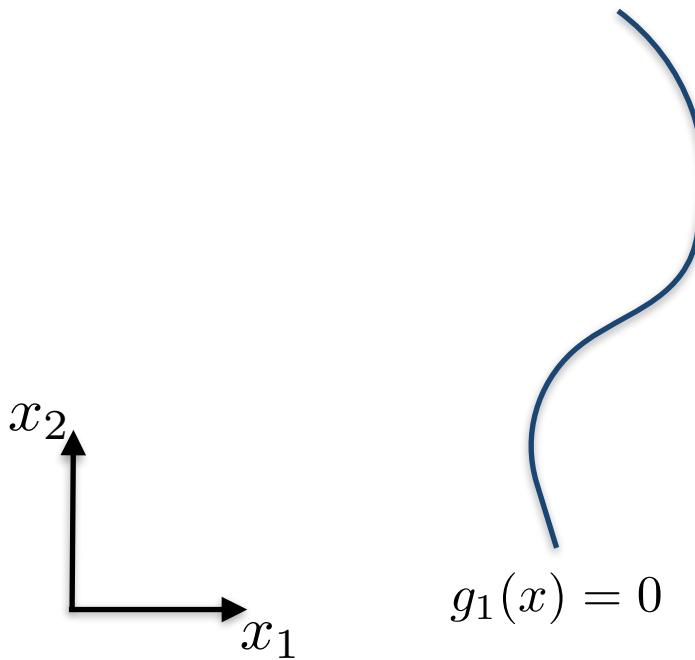
objective function  
 $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

constraint functions  
 $g_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

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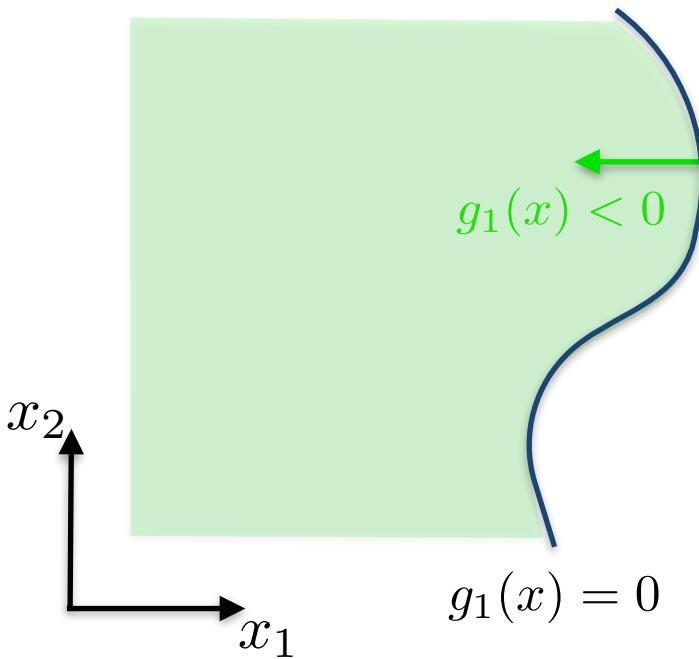
- geometric interpretation



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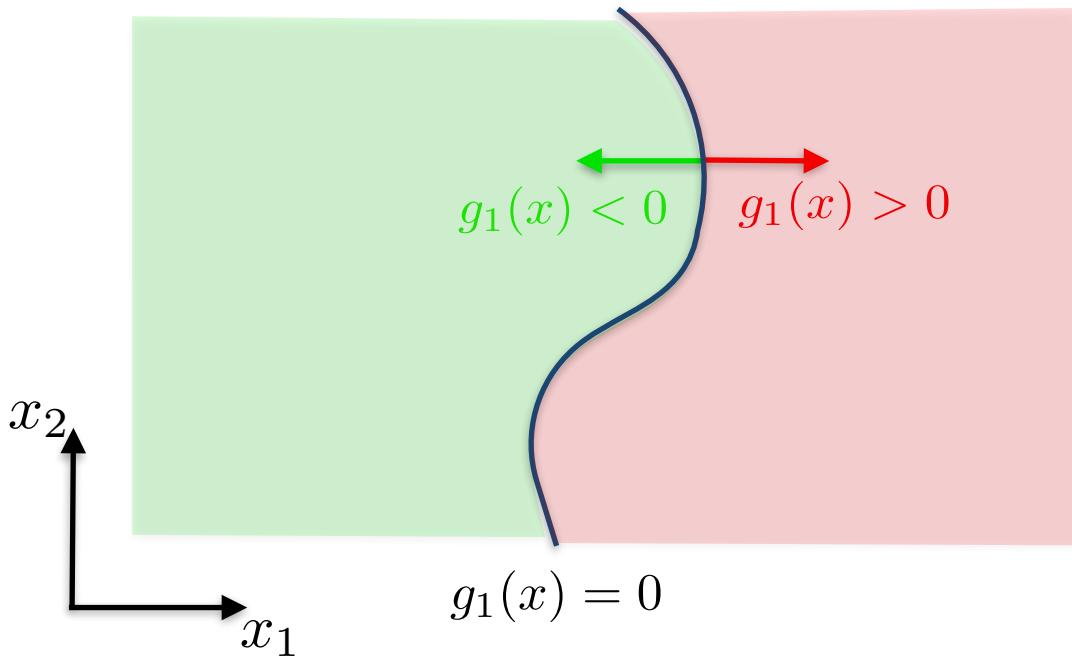
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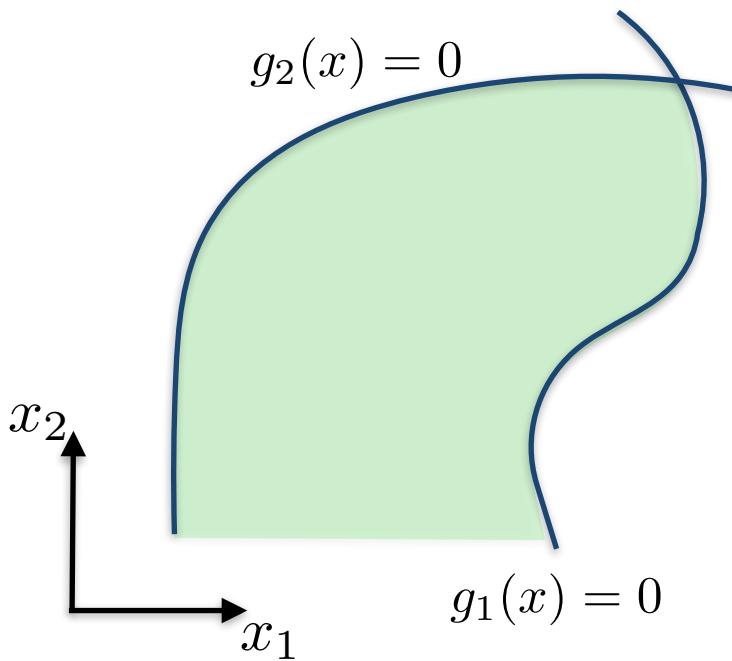
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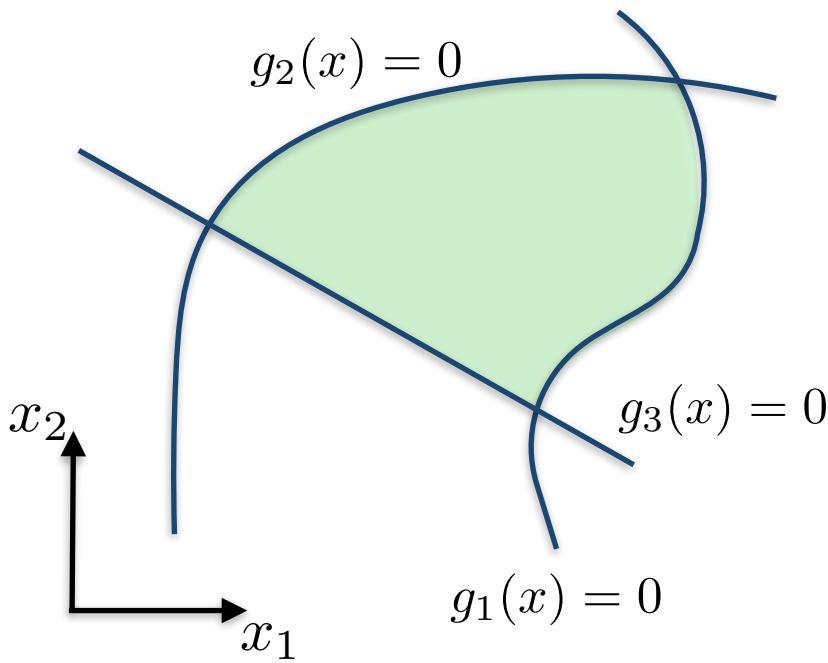
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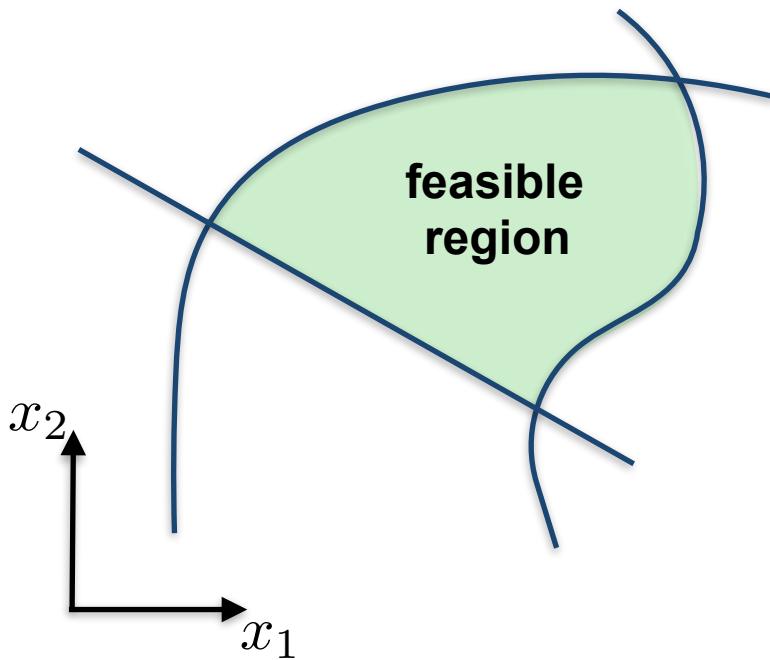
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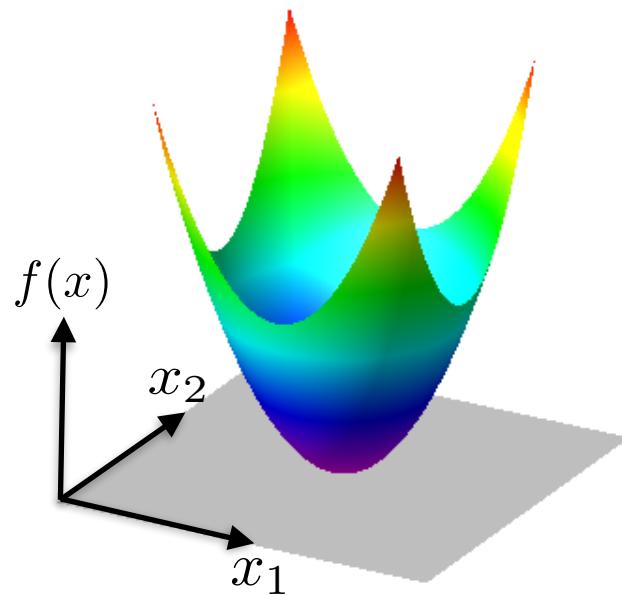
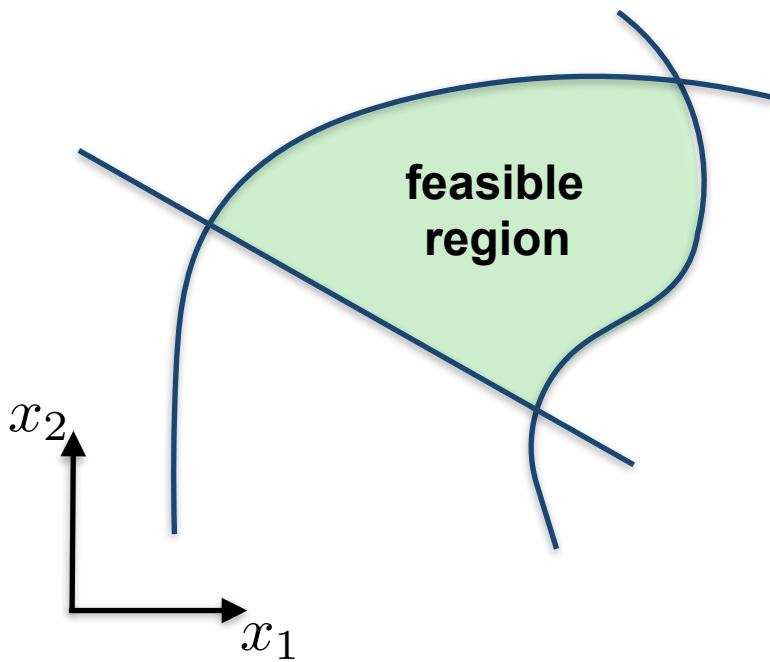
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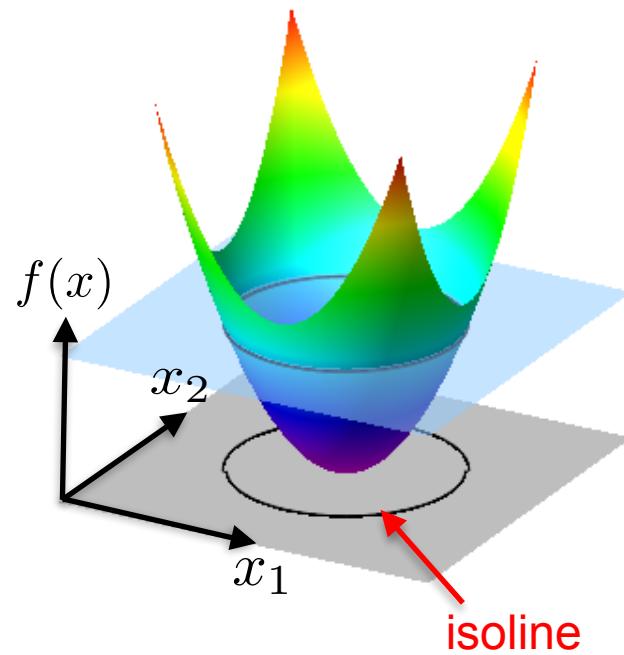
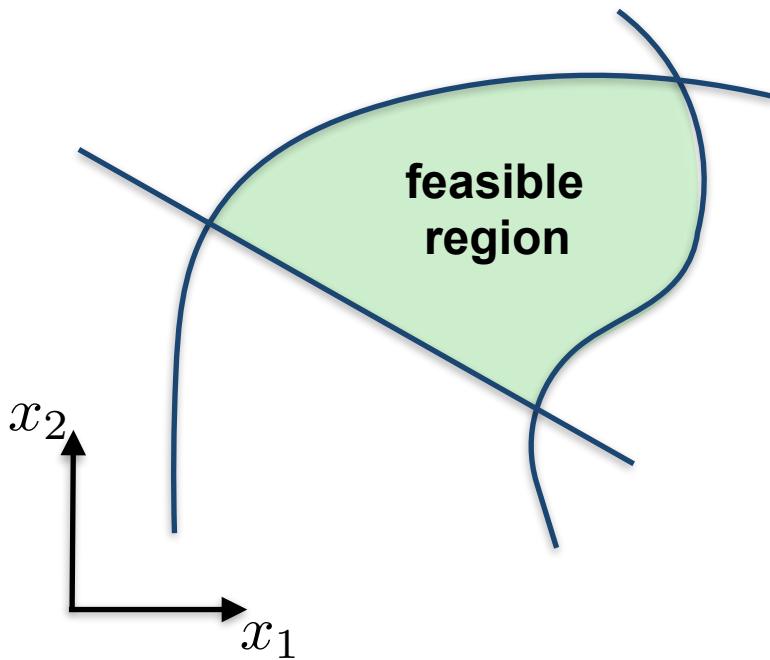
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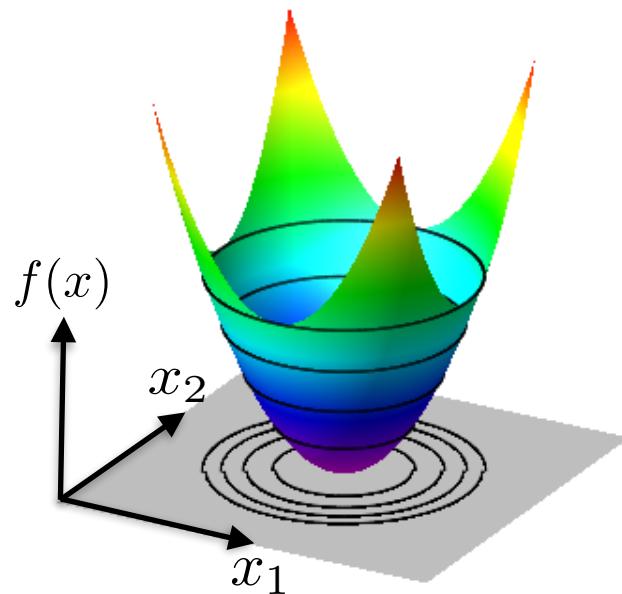
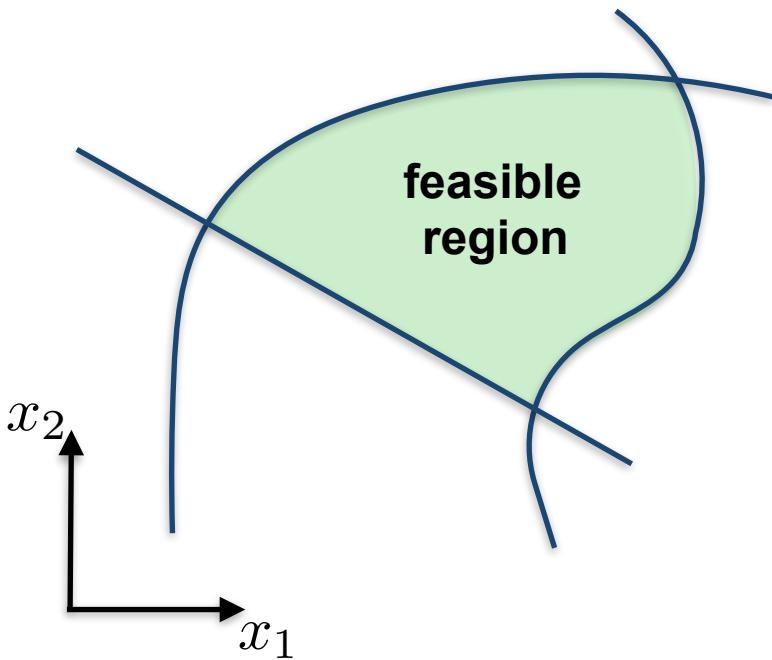
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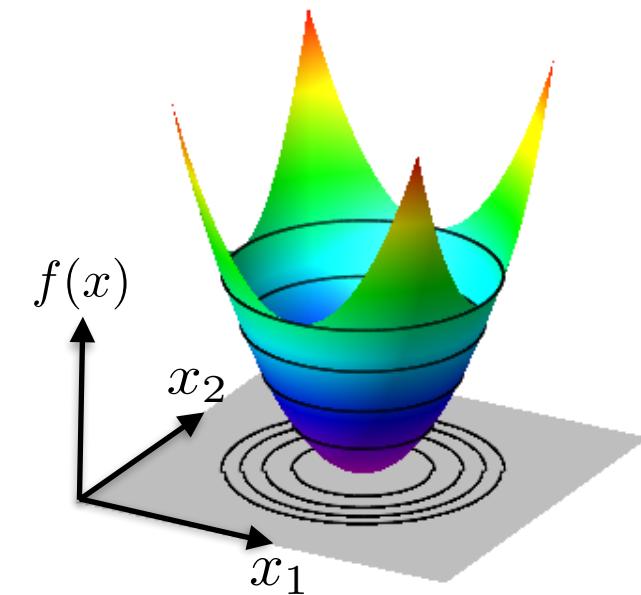
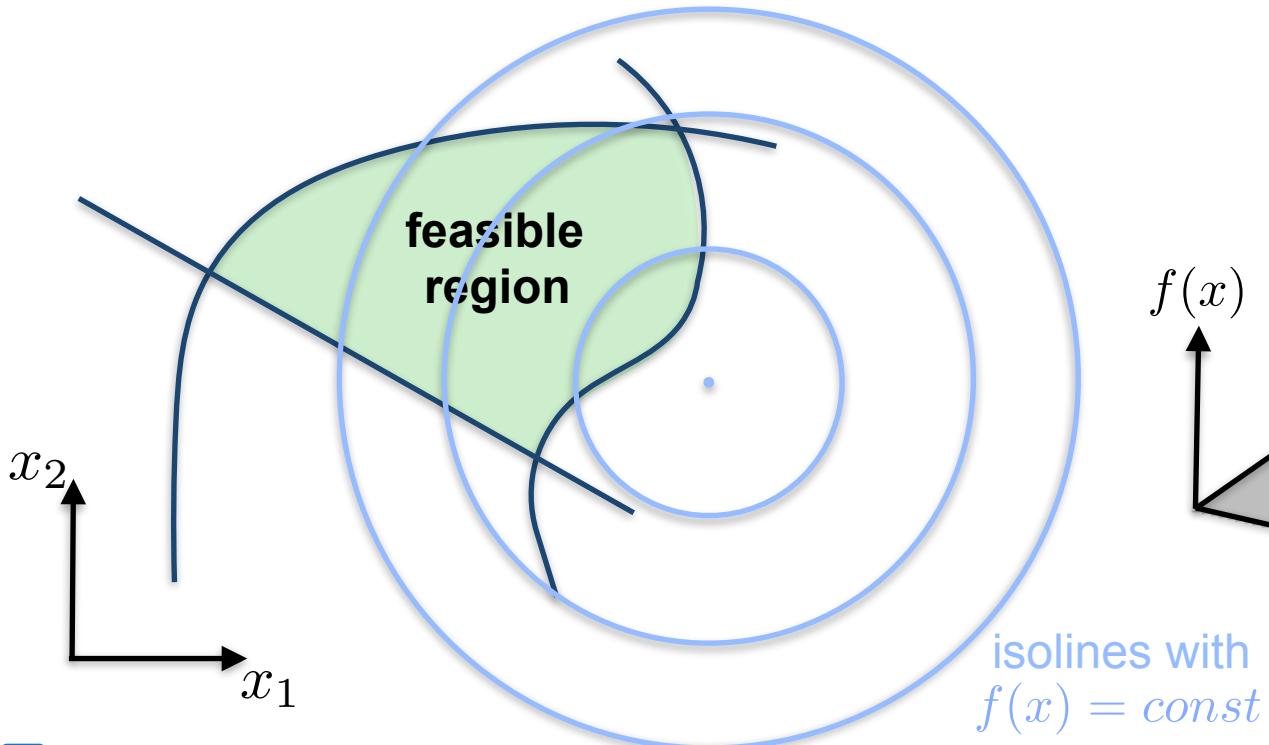
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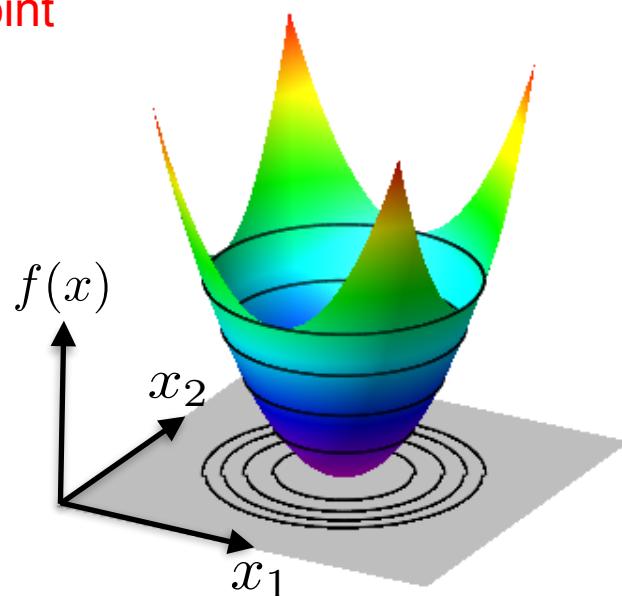
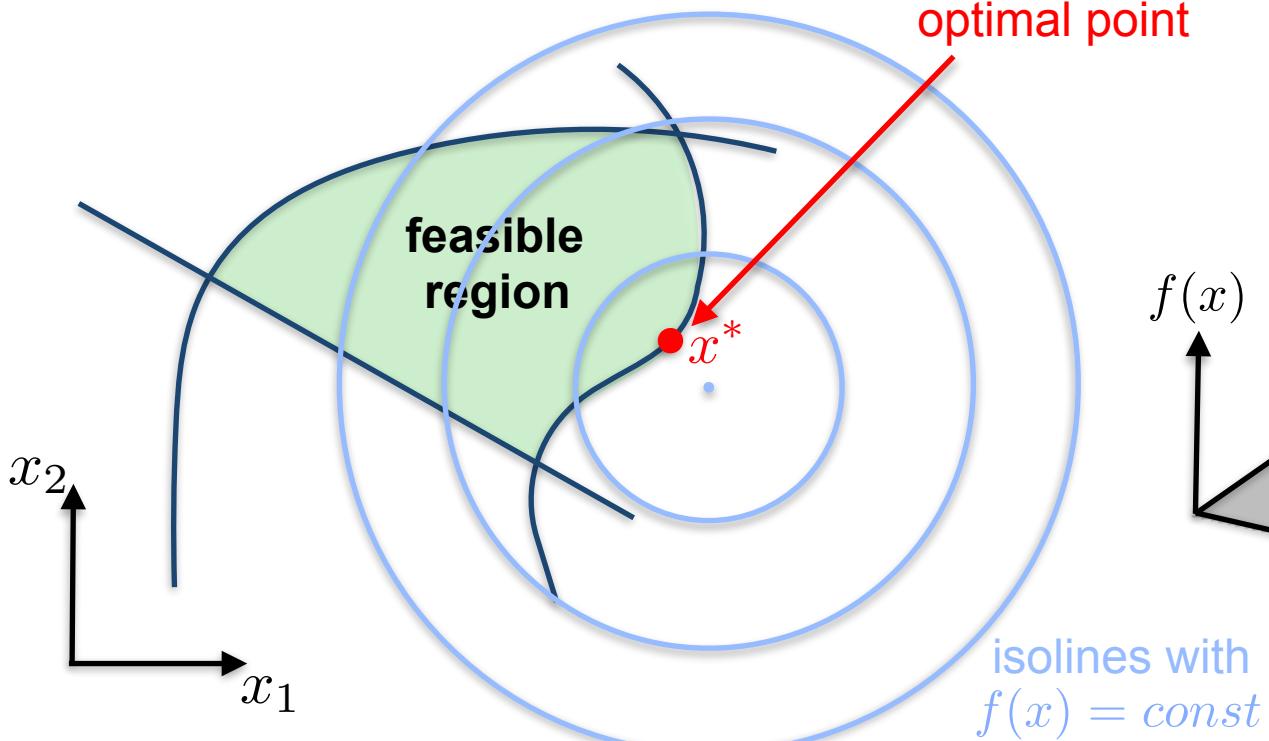
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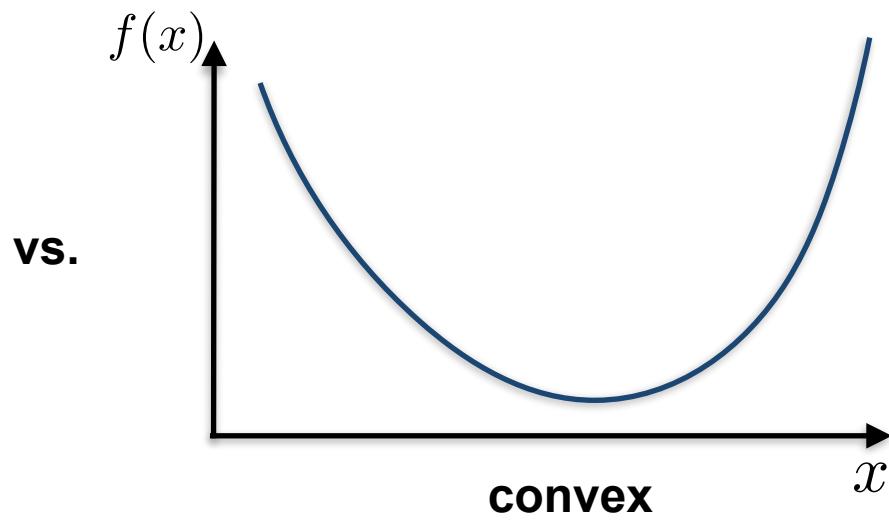
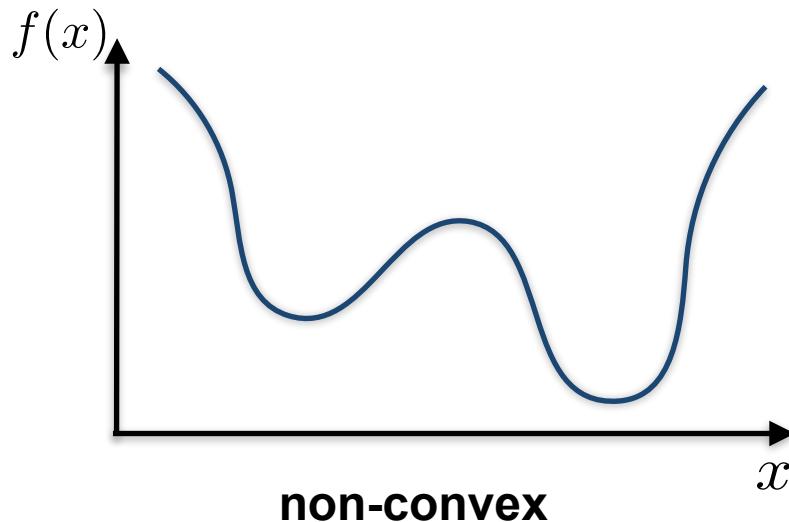
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# A few words on Convexity

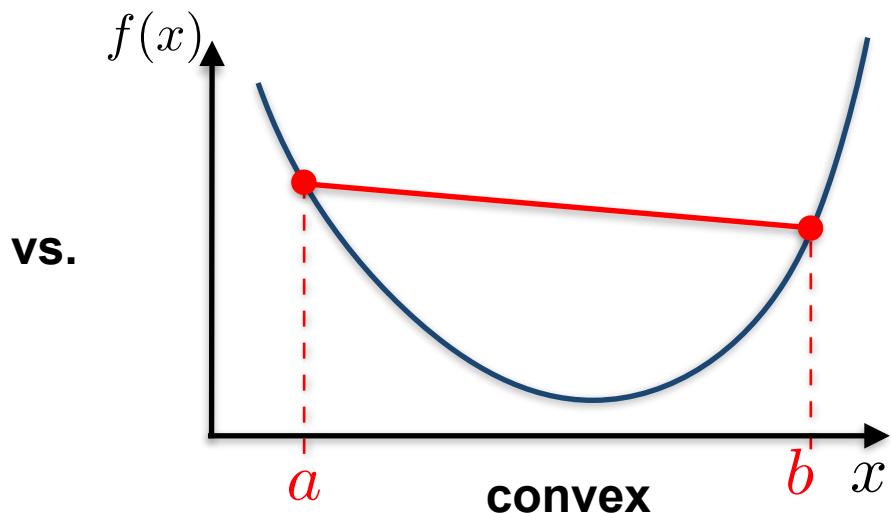
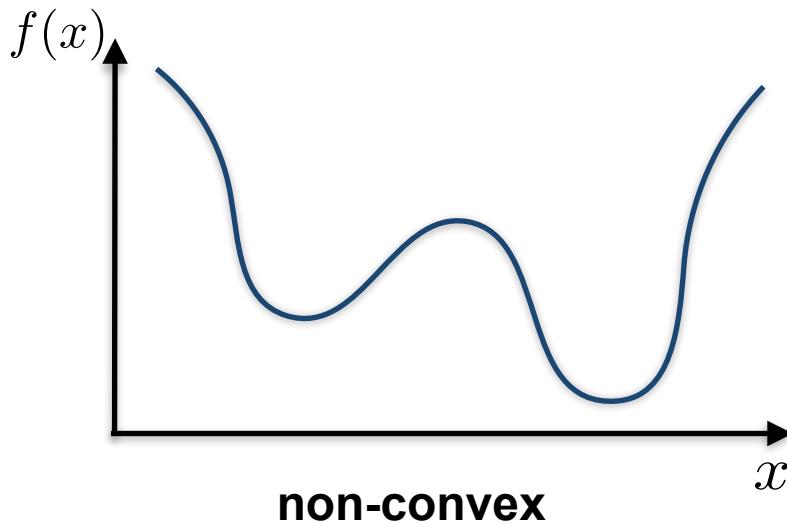
- Searching globally optimal solutions usually requires **convexity!**



vs.

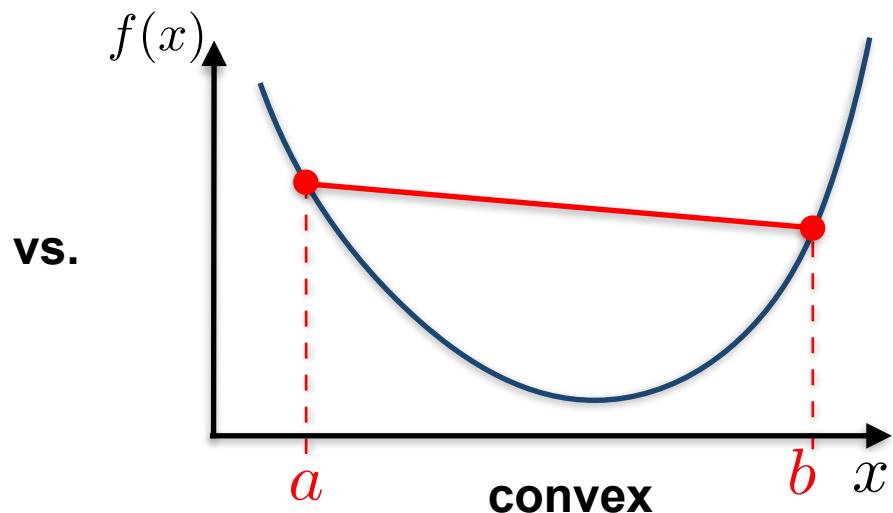
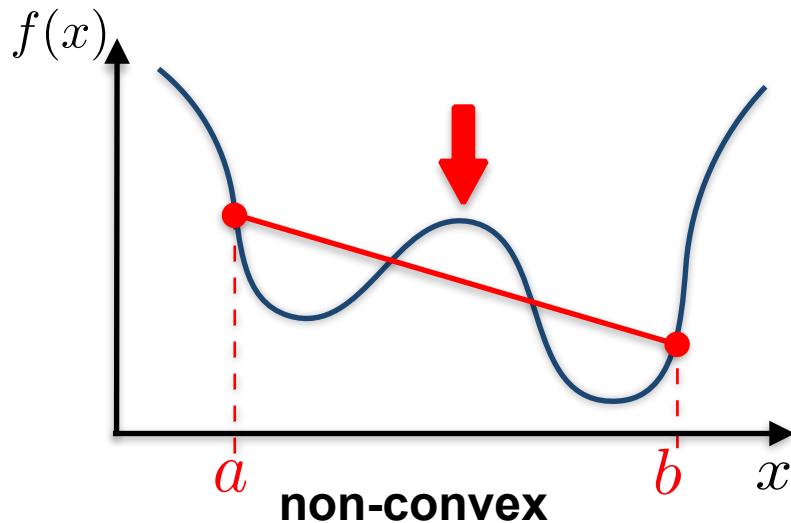
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- Searching globally optimal solutions usually requires **convexity!**
- $f$  convex if:  $f((1 - t)a + tb) \leq (1 - t)f(a) + tf(b)$   $t \in [0, 1]$



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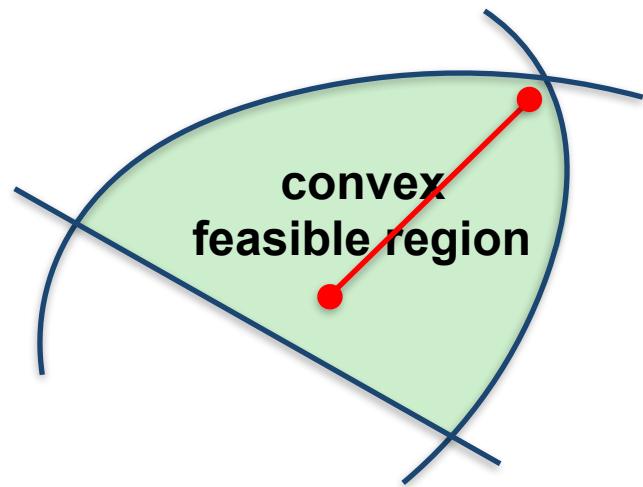
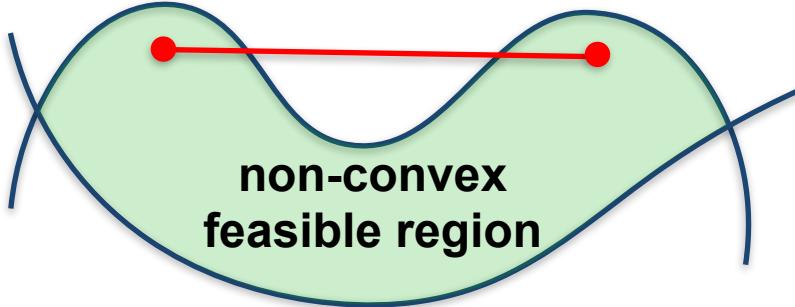
# A few words on Convexity

```
minimize     $f(x)$   
subject to     $g_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots m$ 
```

is **convex optimization problem** if  
 $f(x)$  and all  $g_i(x)$  are convex functions

## consequences

- feasible region is convex set



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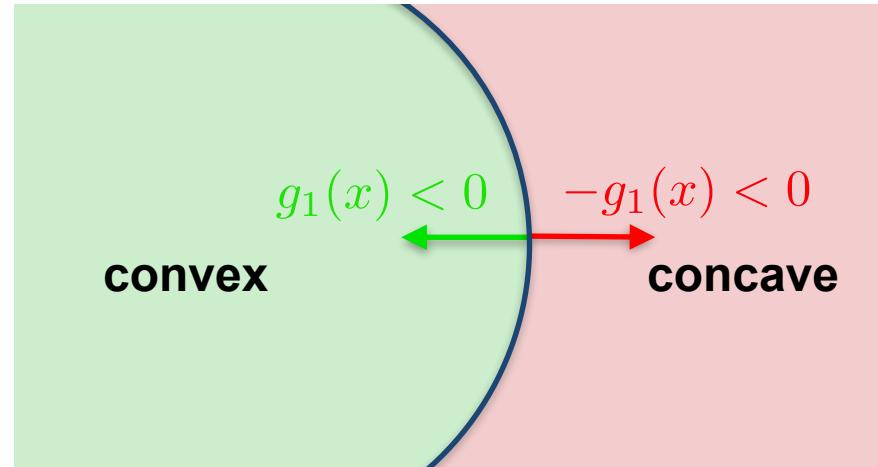
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## consequences

- feasible region is convex set
- equality constraints can only be affine, i.e.  $g_i(x) = a^T x + b$  since

$$g_i(x) = 0 \iff \begin{cases} g_i(x) \leq 0 \\ -g_i(x) \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

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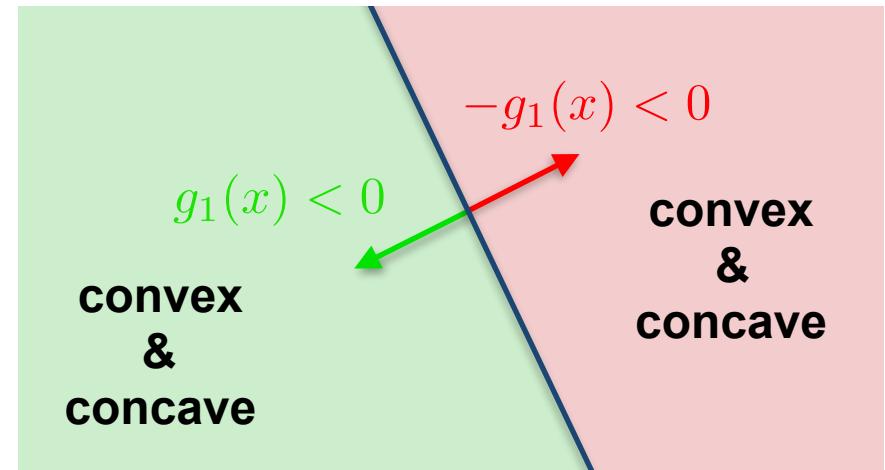
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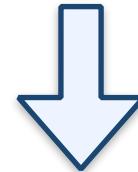
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# Convexity

- Important Take Home Message:

**Always Search for Convex Formulations**



**Global Optimum can be Found Efficiently**

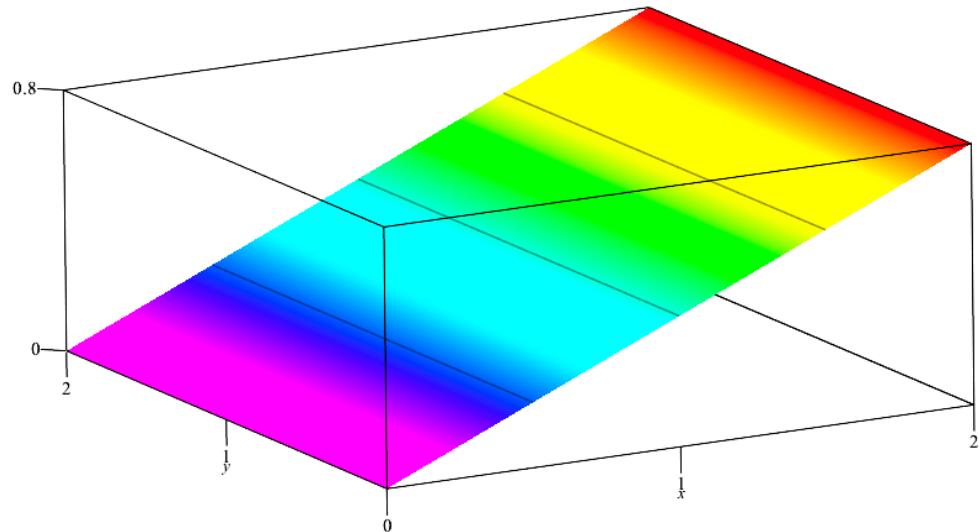
# Important (convex) Problem Classes

# Linear Program (LP)

- general form

linear objective

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && a^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && Ax \leq b \end{aligned}$$



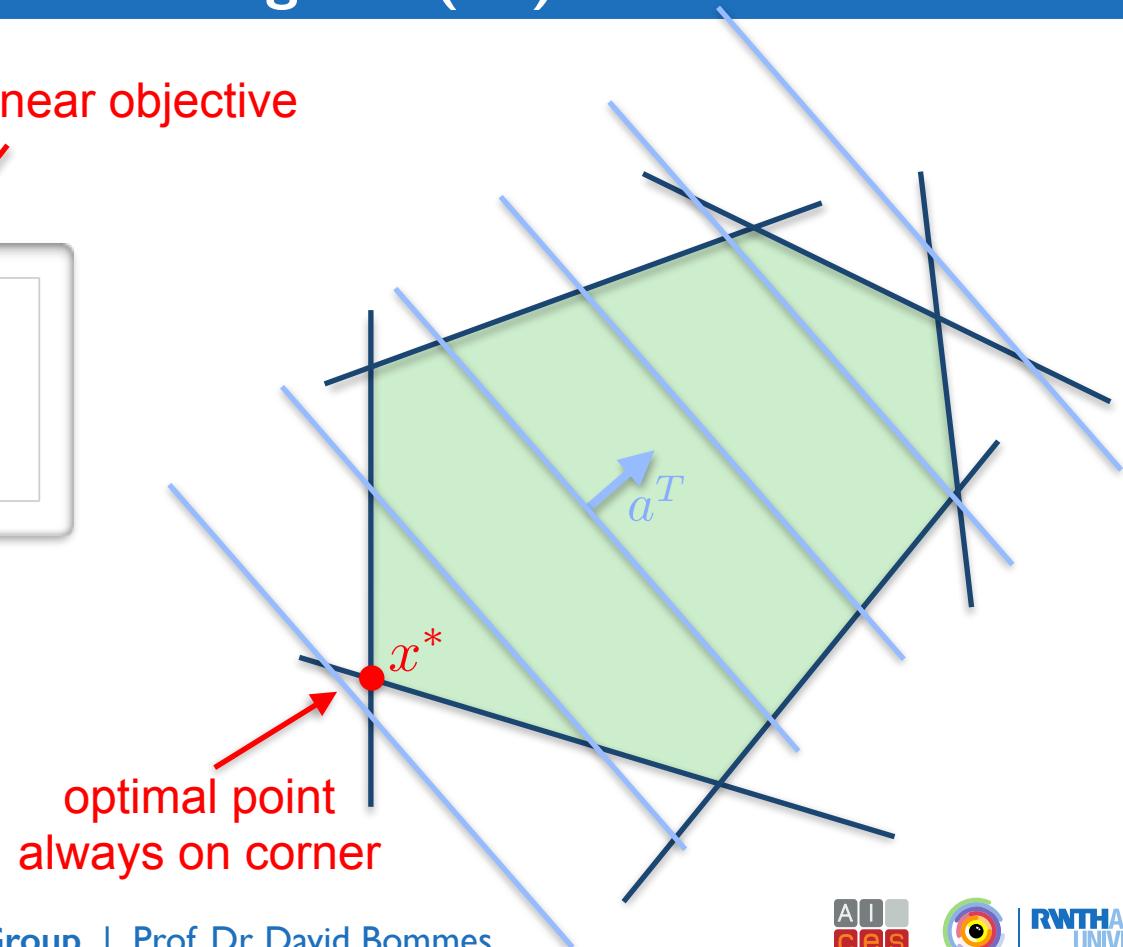
# Linear Program (LP)

- general form

minimize  $a^T x$   
subject to  $Ax \leq b$

linear inequalities  
= intersection of halfspaces  
= polyhedron

linear objective



# Example: Chebyshev Center

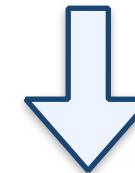
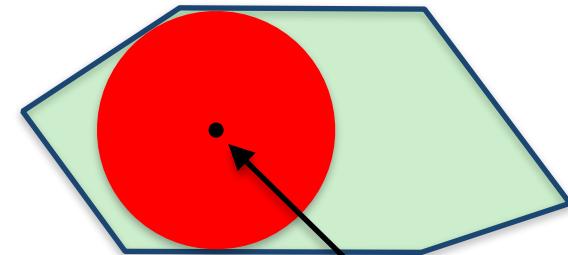
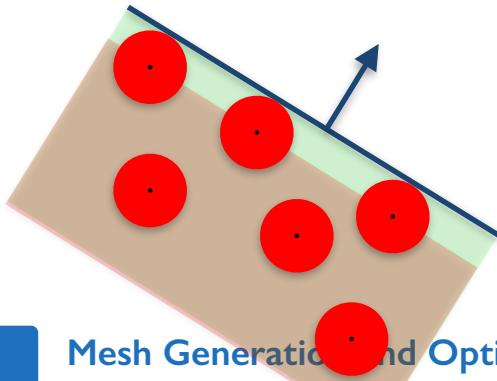
- Find largest ball inside a polyhedron in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

- Ball  $\mathcal{B} = \{x_c + u \mid \|u\|_2 \leq r\}$

- Ball of radius  $r$  is inside halfspace

$$a^T x \leq b \quad \text{if } a^T x + r\|a\|_2 \leq b$$

 offset



$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && -r \\ & \text{subject to} && a_i^T x + r\|a_i\|_2 \leq b_i \quad i = 1 \dots m \end{aligned}$$

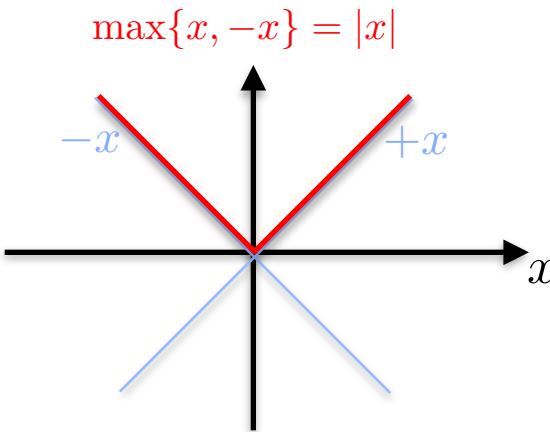
# (useful) LP Reformulations

- 1-norm:

$$\text{minimize } \|Ax - b\|_1 = \sum_i |a_i^T x - b_i|$$

LP

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \sum_i y_i \\ & \text{subject to} && y_i \geq a_i^T x - b_i \quad \forall i \\ & && y_i \geq -(a_i^T x - b_i) \end{aligned}$$



$$y_i \geq \max \pm (a_i^T x - b_i) = |a_i^T x - b_i|$$

# (useful) LP Reformulations

- 1-norm:

$$\text{minimize } ||Ax - b||_1 = \sum_i |a_i^T x - b_i|$$



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- $\infty$ -norm:

$$\text{minimize } ||Ax - b||_\infty = \max_i |a_i^T x - b_i|$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && y \\ & \text{subject to} && y \geq a_i^T x - b_i \quad \forall i \\ & && y \geq -(a_i^T x - b_i) \end{aligned}$$

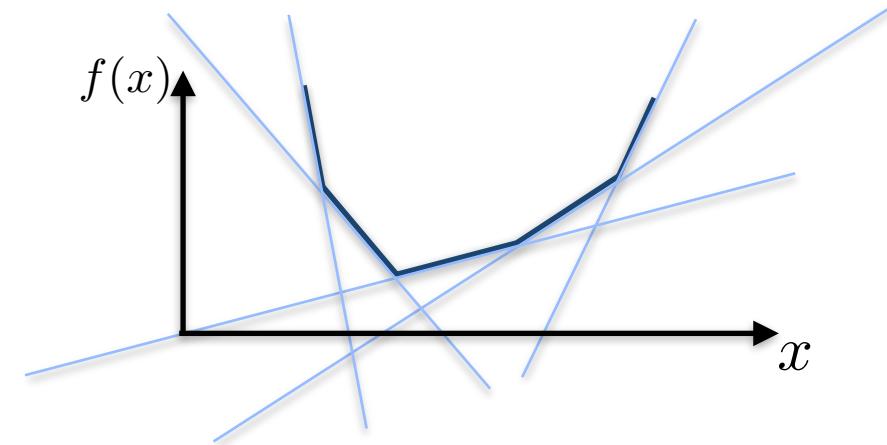
# (useful) LP Reformulations

- (convex) piecewise linear function:

$$\text{minimize } f(x) = \begin{cases} f_1(x) & \text{if } x \in [t_1, t_2) \\ f_2(x) & \text{if } x \in [t_2, t_3) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ f_k(x) & \text{if } x \in [t_k, t_{k+1}) \end{cases}$$



$$\text{minimize } \max_i |a_i^T x - b_i|$$



- approximate arbitrarily complex convex functions by LP!  
(e.g. Outer Approximation)
- works in  $\mathbb{R}^d$

# Quadratic Program (QP)

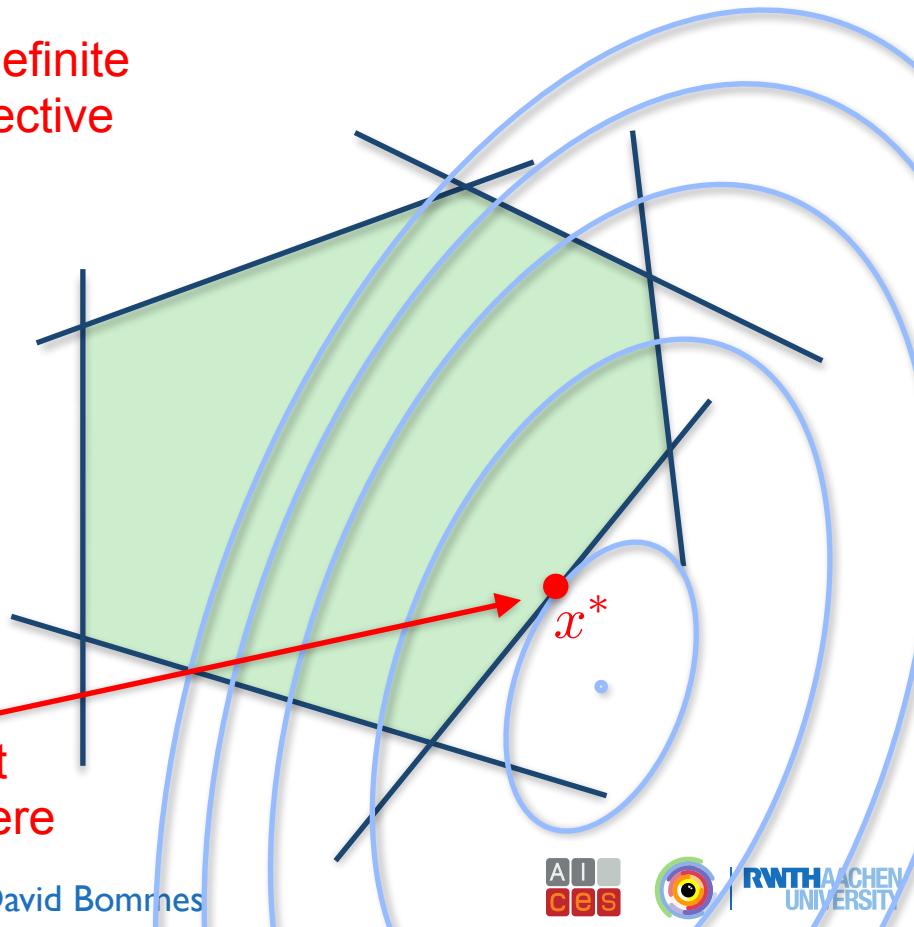
- general form

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \frac{1}{2}x^T Qx + p^T x + c \\ & \text{subject to} && Ax \leq b \end{aligned}$$

positive semidefinite quadratic objective

linear inequalities  
= intersection of halfspaces  
= polyhedron

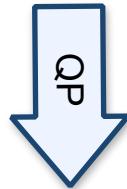
optimal point can be anywhere



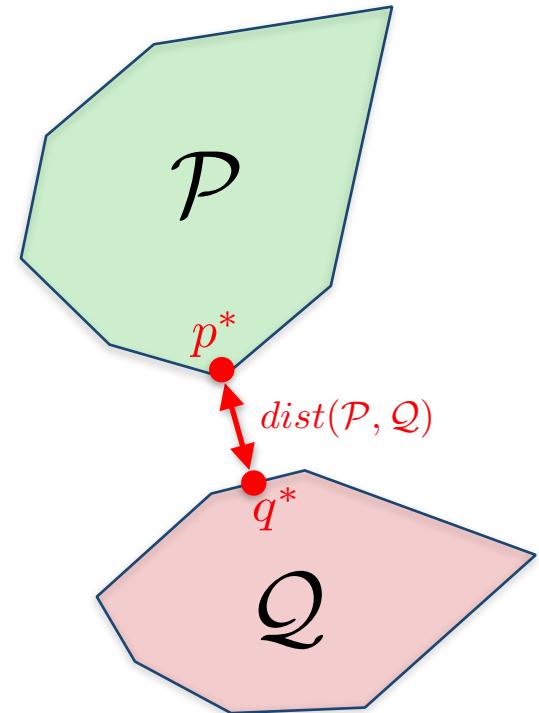
# Example QP

- Distance between polyhedra:

$$dist(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q}) = \inf\{||p - q||_2 \mid p \in \mathcal{P}, q \in \mathcal{Q}\}$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && ||p - q||_2^2 \quad \text{with } x = (p, q) \\ & \text{subject to} && A_P p \leq b_P \\ & && A_Q q \leq b_Q \end{aligned}$$



# Second-Order Cone Program (SOCP)

- general form

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && a^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && \|A_i x + b_i\|_2 \leq c_i^T x + d_i \quad i = 1 \dots m \end{aligned}$$

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- LP  $\subset$  QP  $\subset$  QCQP  $\subset$  SOCP

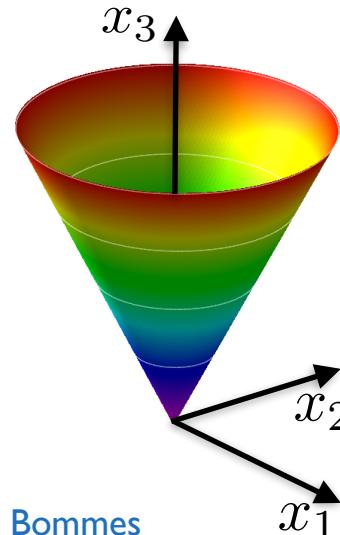
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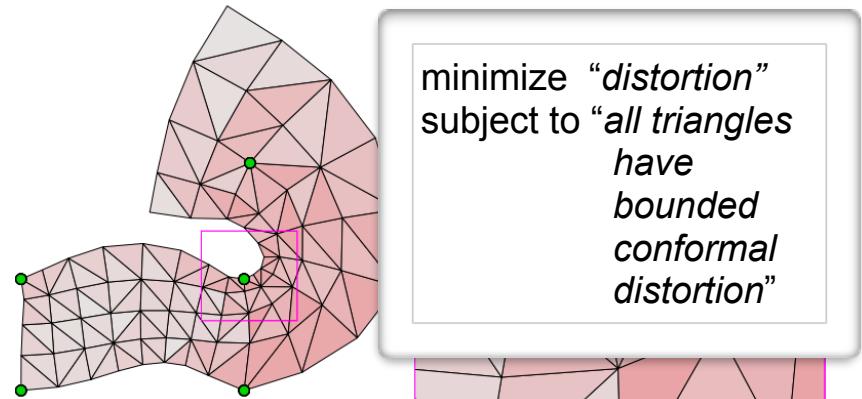
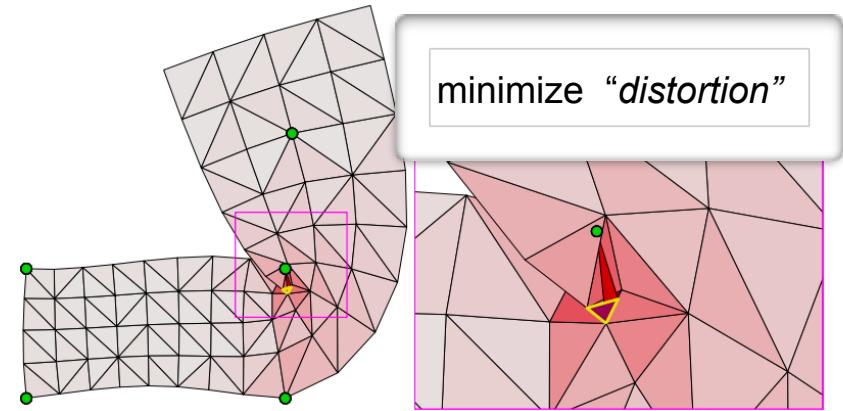
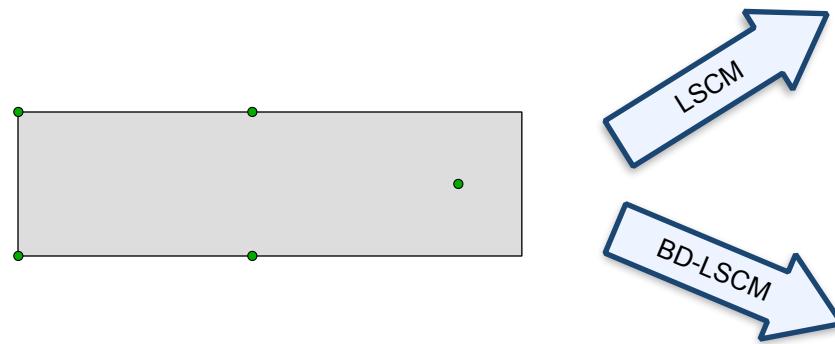
- LP  $\subset$  QP  $\subset$  QCQP  $\subset$  SOCP
- example constraint:

$$\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2} \leq x_3$$



# Example SOCP

- Bounded (conformal) distortion mappings in 2D [Lipman 2012]:



# Semidefinite Program (SDP)

- general form

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize} \quad & \text{tr}(CX) = \sum_{i,j} C_{ij} X_{ij} \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \text{tr}(A_i X) \leq b_i \quad i = 1 \dots m \\ & X \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

linear function in  
matrix space

with  $X, C, A_i \in S^n$   
(symmetric  $n \times n$  matrices)

X is required to be  
**positive semidefinite**

# Finding Minima

# First-Order Optimality Conditions

- **Necessary condition for minimum of**

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && g_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots m \end{aligned}$$

- **Lagrangian:**  $L(x, \lambda) = f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i g_i(x)$

- **Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT)**  
conditions for **minimum**  $x^*$

1. Stationarity:  $\nabla f(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i(x^*) = 0$
2. Primal feasibility:  $g_i(x^*) \leq 0$
3. Dual feasibility:  $\lambda_i \geq 0$
4. Complementary slackness:  $\lambda_i g_i(x^*) = 0$

without constraints just  
 $\nabla f(x) = 0$

# First-Order Optimality Conditions

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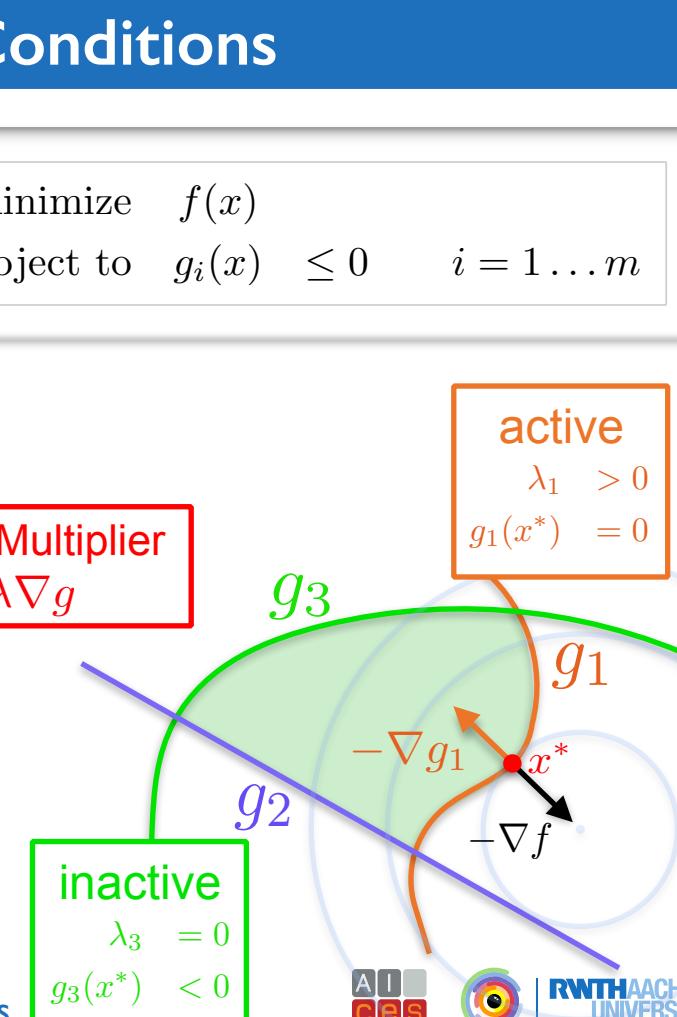
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Recall Lagrange Multiplier

$$\nabla f = -\lambda \nabla g$$

inactive  
 $\lambda_3 = 0$   
 $g_3(x^*) < 0$

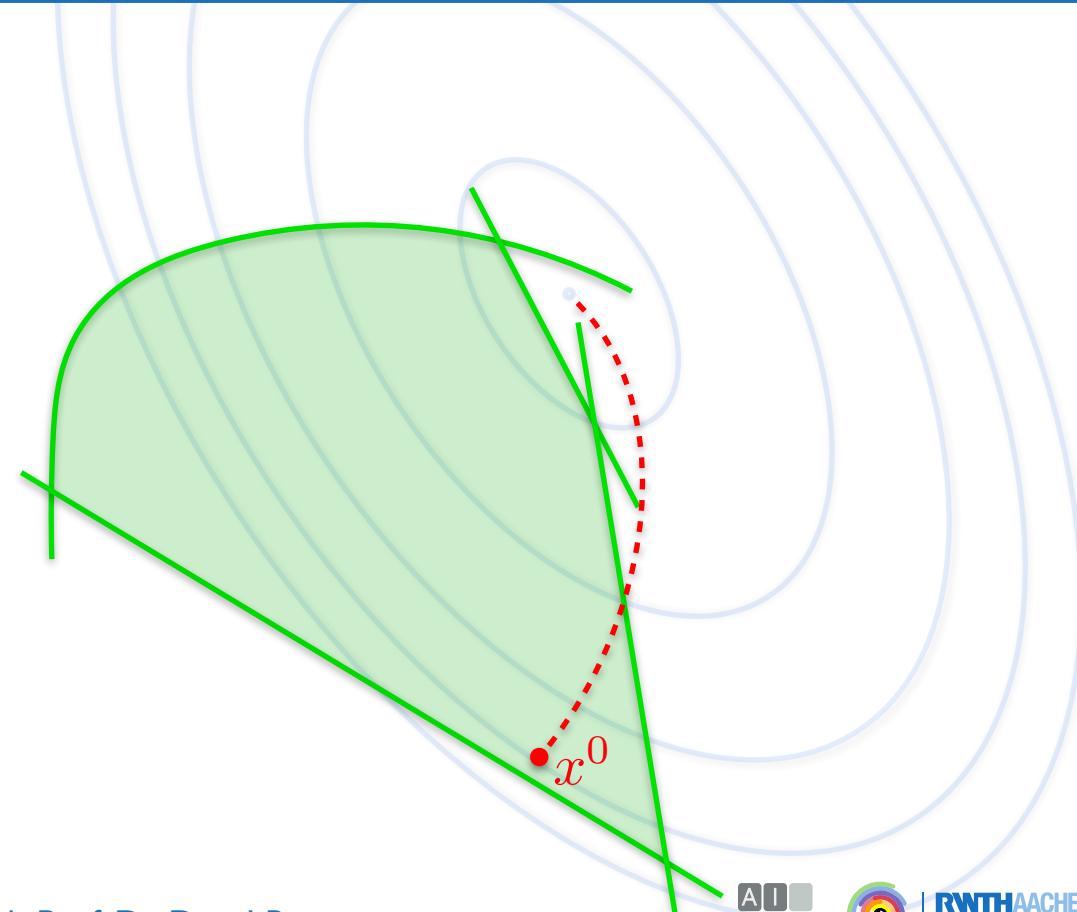


# Algorithms

# Active Set Method

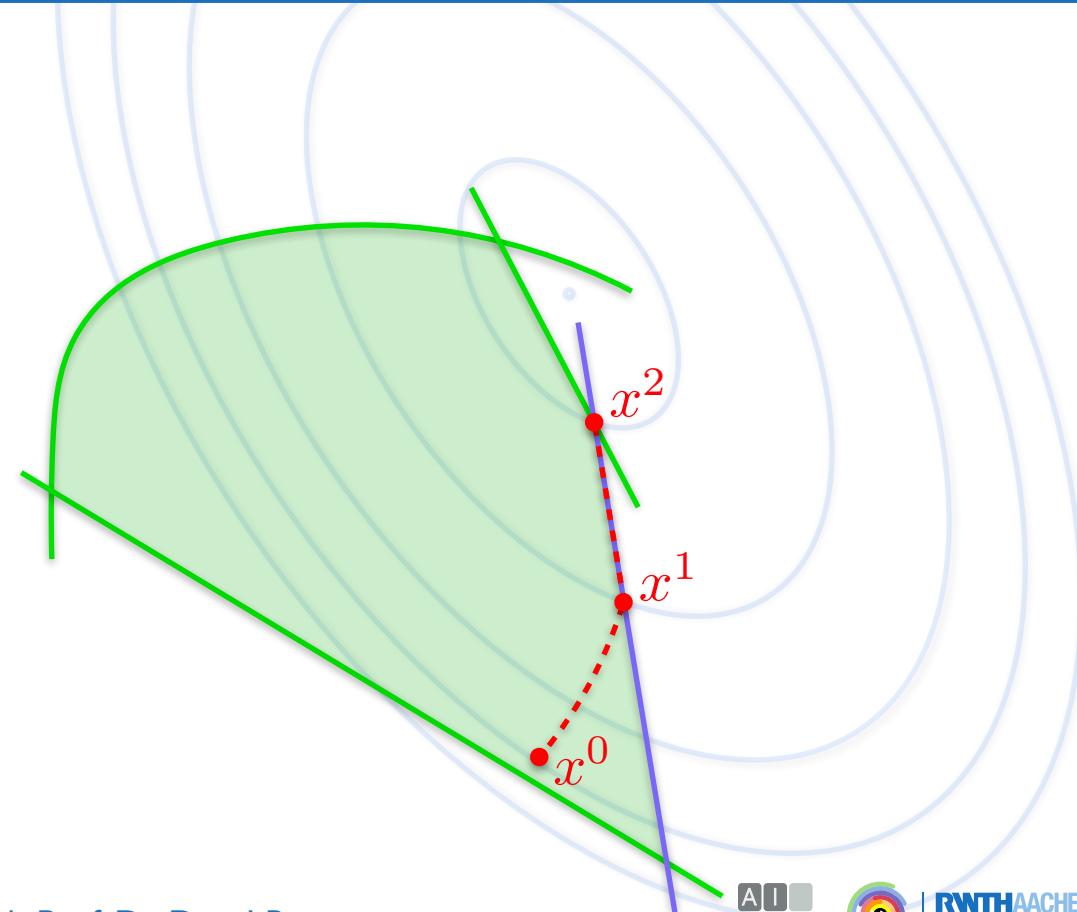
# Active Set Method

- Assume feasible  $x^0$
- Initialize Active Set  $A = \{\}$
- While KKT not satisfied
  - Optimize with equality constraints of A
  - if constraint gets violated,  
**activate** it



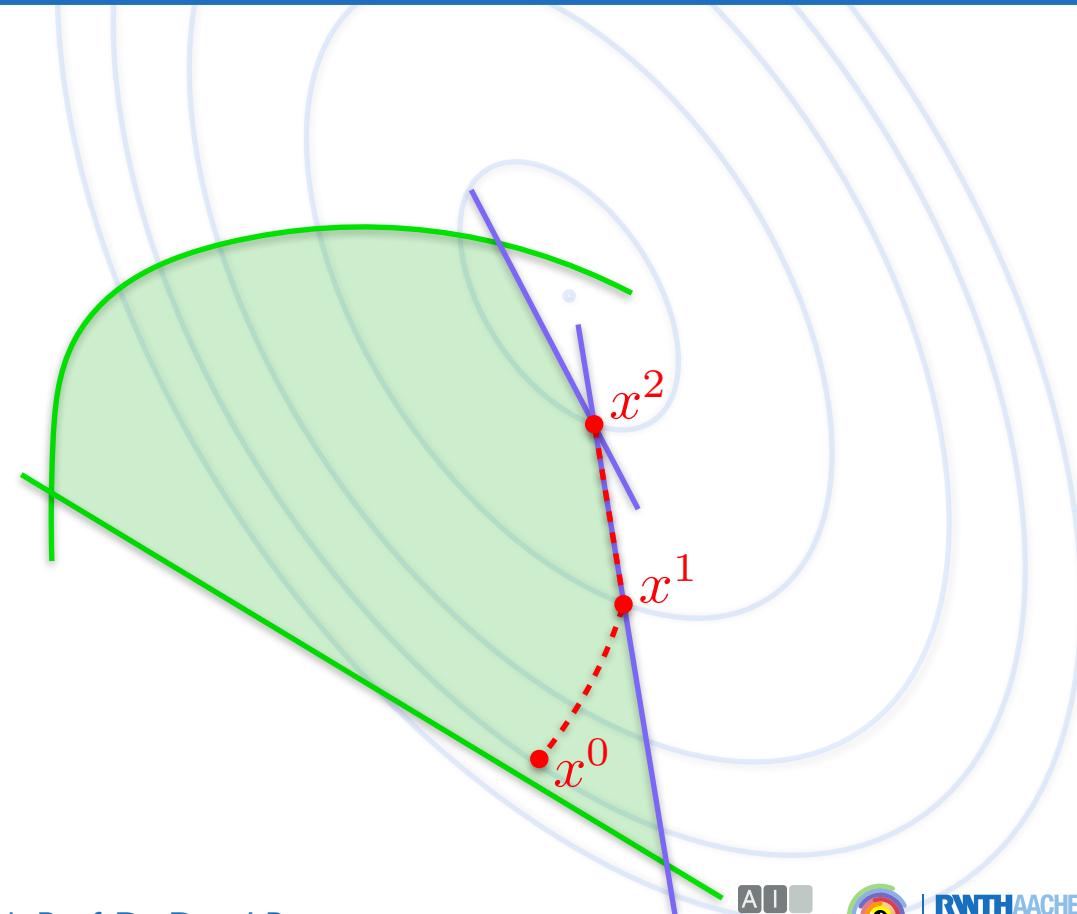
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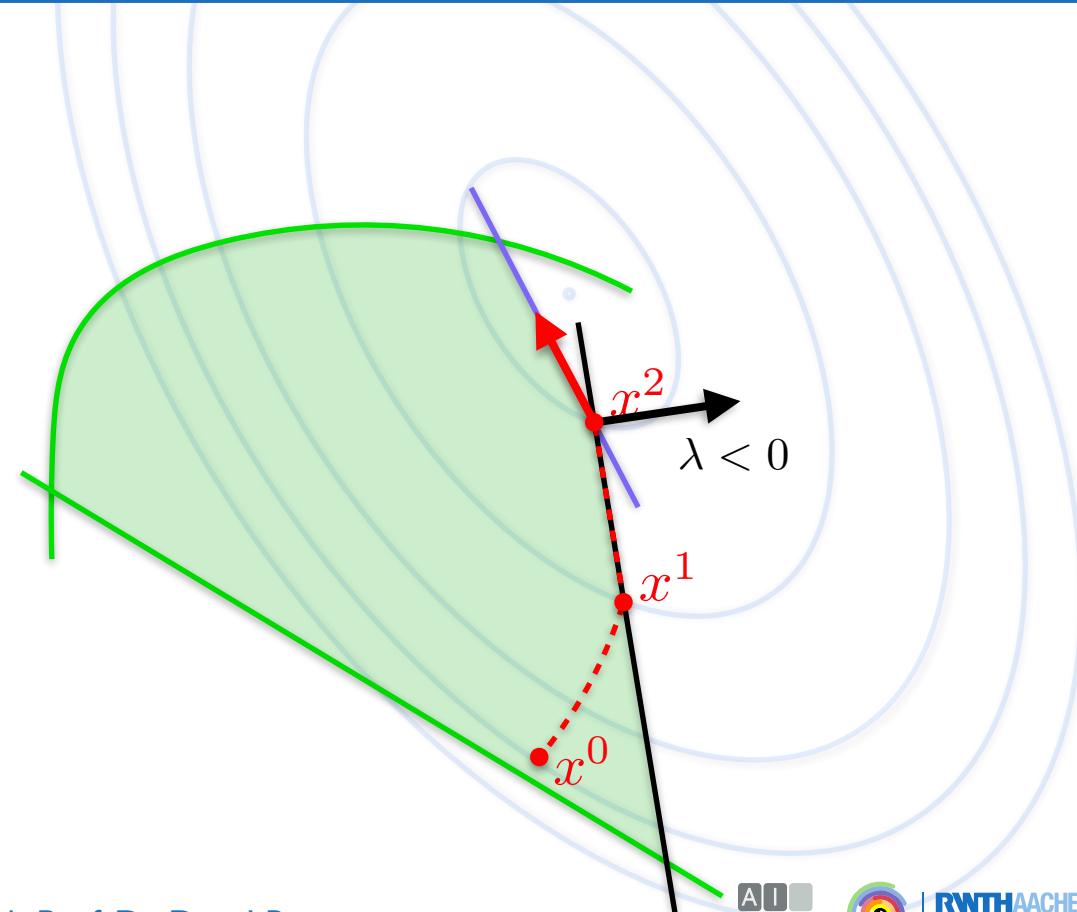
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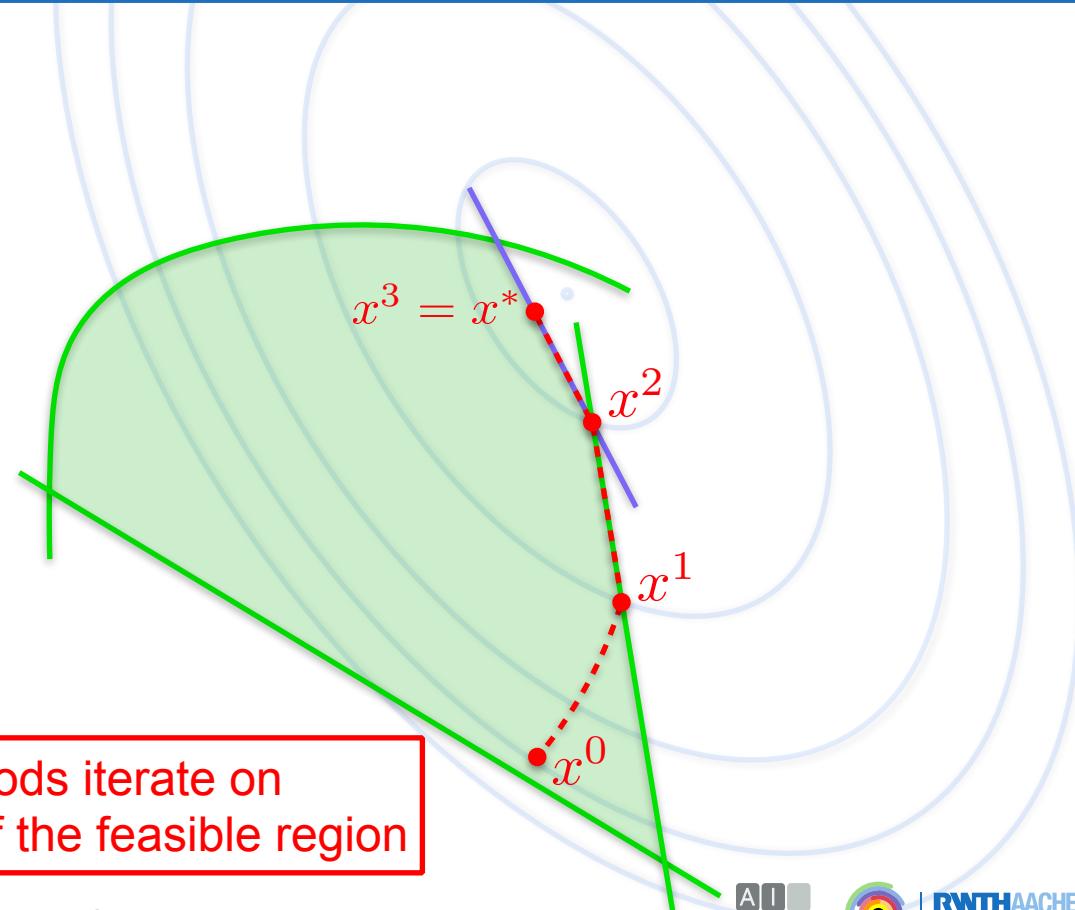
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  - if constraint gets violated, **activate** it
  - if Lagrange multiplier gets negative **deactivate** corresponding constraint



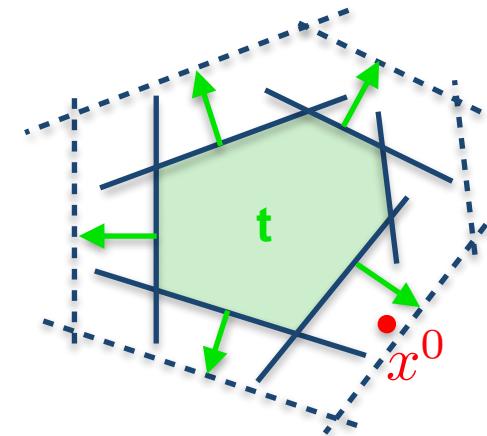
# How to find feasible starting point?

- Given

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && g_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots m \end{aligned}$$

- Corresponding (Phase 1) **Feasibility Problem**:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && t \\ & \text{subject to} && g_i(x) \leq t \quad i = 1 \dots m \end{aligned}$$



also constrained problem  
**but** for arbitrary  $x^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
simply find feasible starting point via

$$t^0 = \max_i g_i(x^0)$$

# How to find feasible starting point?

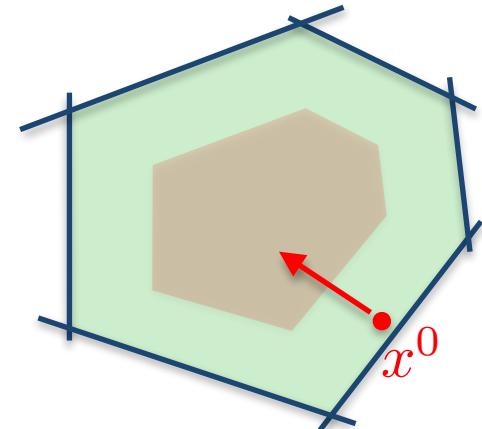
- Given

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- Corresponding (Phase 1) **Feasibility Problem**:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && t \\ & \text{subject to} && g_i(x) \leq t \quad i = 1 \dots m \end{aligned}$$

terminate as soon as  $t < 0 !!!$



also constrained problem  
but for arbitrary  $x^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
simply find feasible starting point via

$$t^0 = \max_i g_i(x^0)$$

# Active Set Method

- Many (sophisticated) variants
  - primal, dual, primal-dual, ...
- Many specializations
  - LP (e.g. simplex algorithm), QP, NLP, ...
- Good choice if
  - few constraints
  - warmstart desired
- Disadvantage
  - sometimes requires huge number of iterations

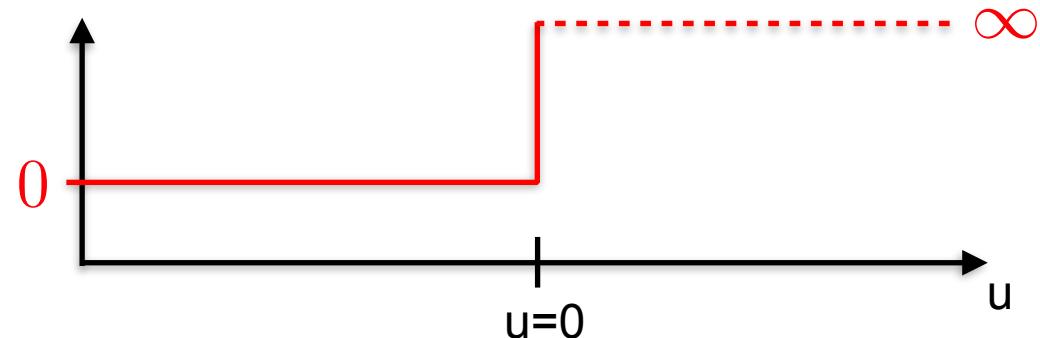
# Interior Point Method

# Interior Point Method

- Sometimes called **Barrier Method**

- **Barrier function**

$$I_-(u) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u \leq 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } u > 0 \end{cases}$$

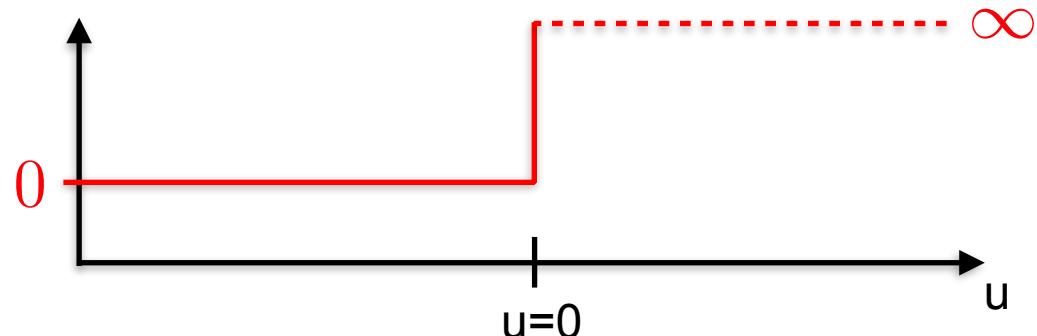


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$$I_-(u) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u \leq 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } u > 0 \end{cases}$$



- **Idea:**

minimize  $f(x)$   
subject to  $g_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots m$

**constrained**

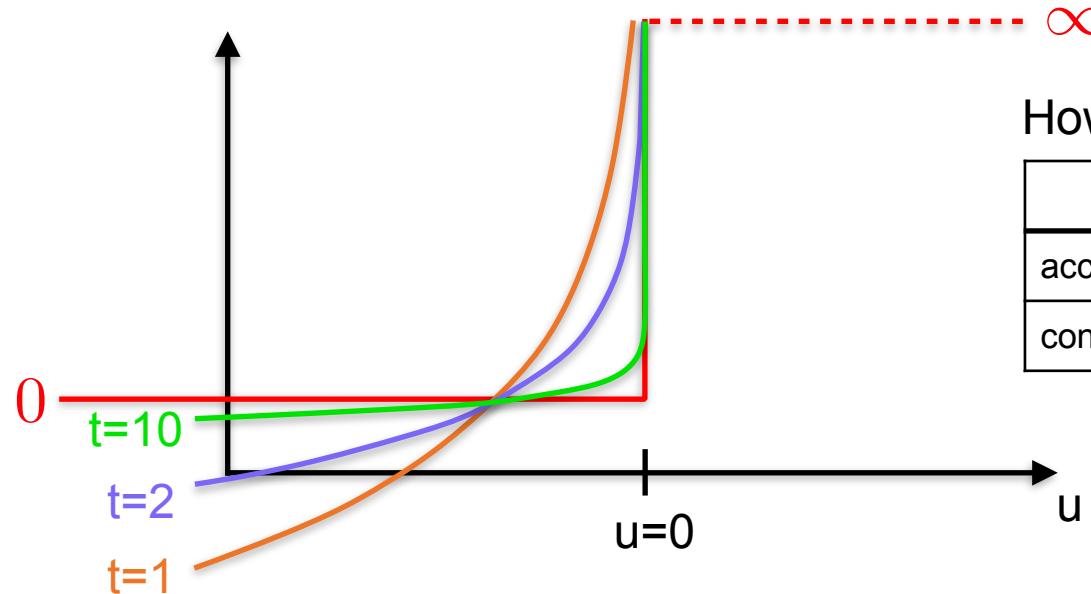
↔  
equivalent

**unconstrained**  
minimize  $f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m I_-(g_i(x))$

# Barrier Function

- **Logarithmic Barrier** (smooth and convex approximation)

$$\hat{I}_-(u) = -\frac{1}{t} \log(-u)$$



How to choose  $t$ ?

	large $t$	small $t$
accuracy	+	-
convergence	-	+

# Simple Interior Point Method

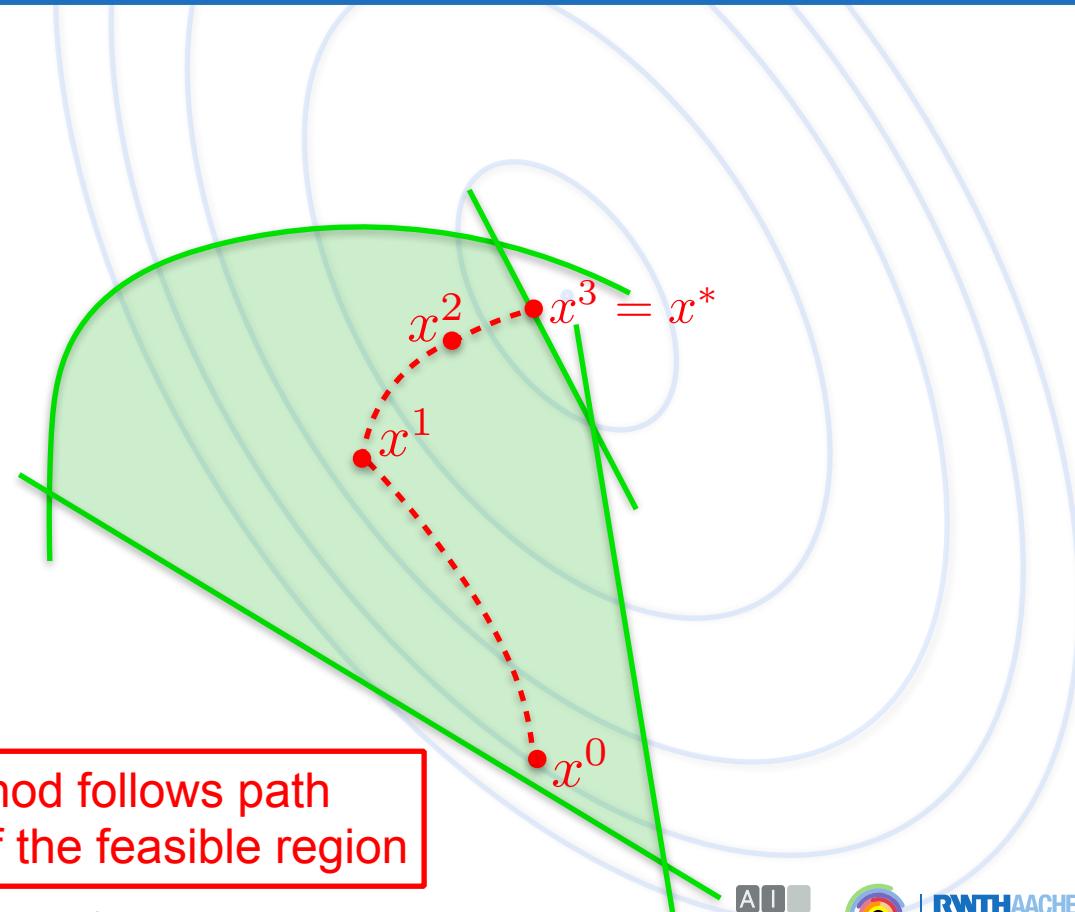
- Assume feasible  $x^0$ ,  $t := 1$
- **Iteratively solve** (unconstrained)

$$\text{minimize } f(x) - \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(-g_i(x))$$

and update  $t := 10 \cdot t$

- stop when  $\frac{m}{t} < \epsilon$

interior point method follows path through interior of the feasible region



# Interior Point Method

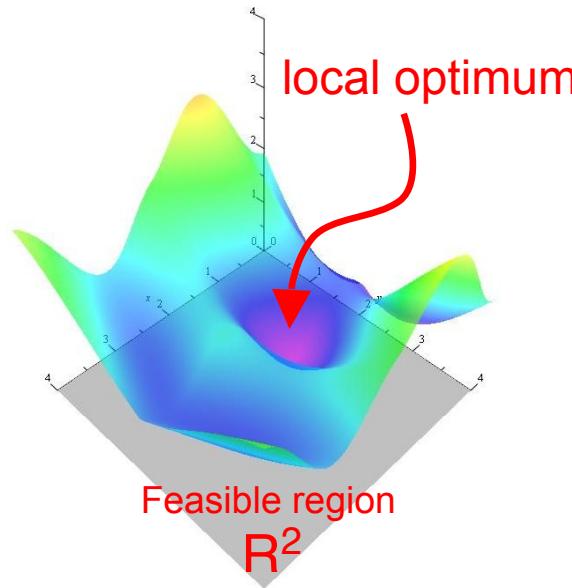
- Many (sophisticated) variants
  - primal, dual, primal-dual, ...
  - adaptive choice of  $t$
- Many specializations
  - LP, QP, NLP, ...
- Good choice if
  - large scale (sparse) problem with many constraints
  - non-convex feasible region
- Disadvantage
  - limited warmstart capabilities

# More Algorithms ...

# Mixed-Integer Optimization

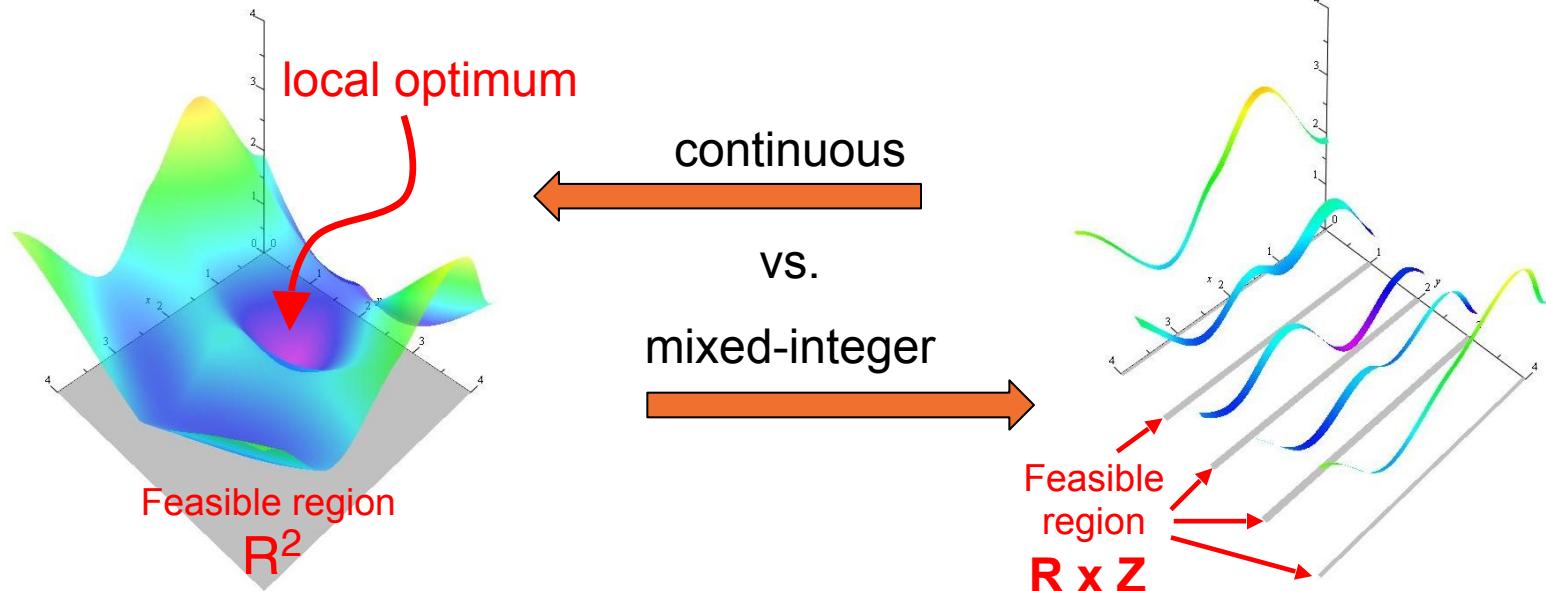
# Mixed-Integer Optimization

- Minimize objective  $f(\underbrace{x_1 \dots x_n}_{\in \mathbb{R}^n})$



# Mixed-Integer Optimization

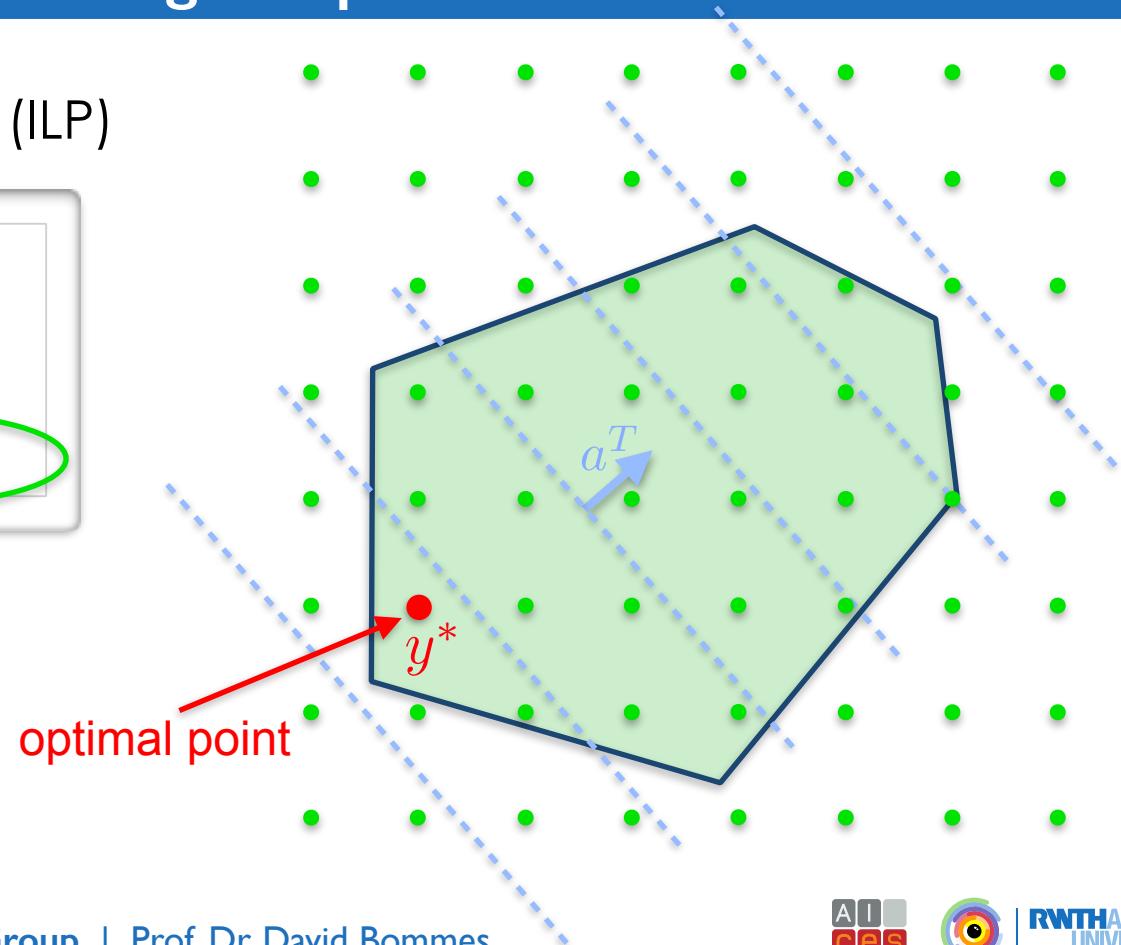
- Minimize objective  $f(\underbrace{x_1 \dots x_n}_{\in \mathbb{R}^n}, \underbrace{y_1 \dots y_d}_{\in \mathbb{Z}^d})$



# Mixed-Integer Optimization

- Integer Linear Program (ILP)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && a^T y \\ & \text{subject to} && Ay \leq b \\ & && y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \end{aligned}$$



# Branch and Bound

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- **Bounding:** initially we only know  $f(x^*, y^*) \in (-\infty, \infty)$

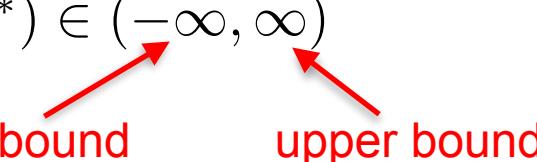
The diagram shows a horizontal line segment representing the interval  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . Two red arrows point from the text labels "lower bound" and "upper bound" to the left and right endpoints of the line segment, respectively.

# Branch and Bound

- **Bounding:** initially we only know  $f(x^*, y^*) \in (-\infty, \infty)$   

- **Idea:** improve bounds by series of **continuous problems**

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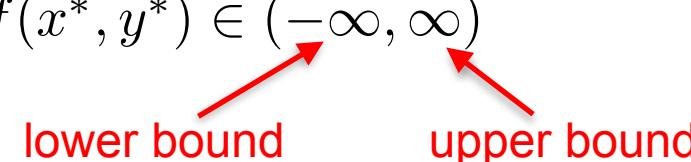
- **Idea:** improve bounds by series of **continuous problems**
- **Continuous Relaxation:** assume that all variables are continuous

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f(x, y) \\ \text{subject to} & g_i(x, y) \leq 0 \\ & y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \end{array} \quad \text{MIP}$$



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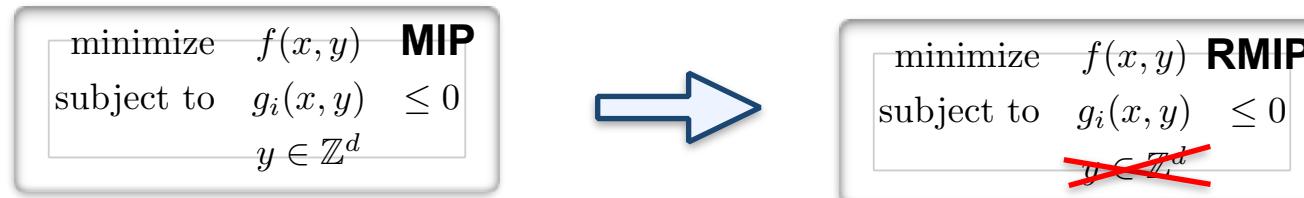
$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f(x, y) \\ \text{subject to} & g_i(x, y) \leq 0 \\ & y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \end{array} \quad \text{MIP} \quad \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f(x, y) \\ \text{subject to} & g_i(x, y) \leq 0 \\ & \cancel{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \end{array} \quad \text{RMIP}$$

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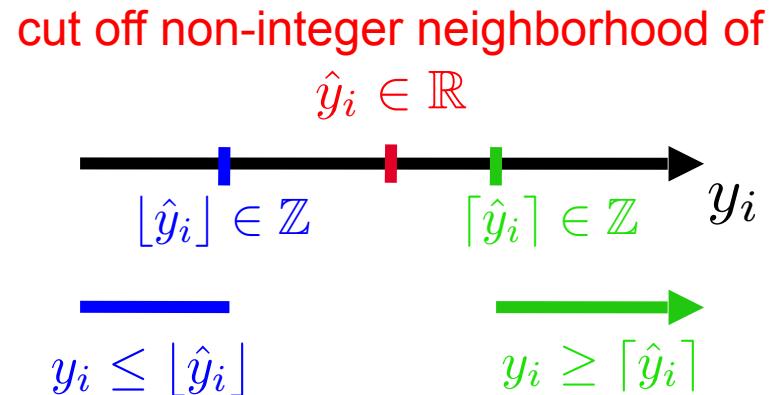
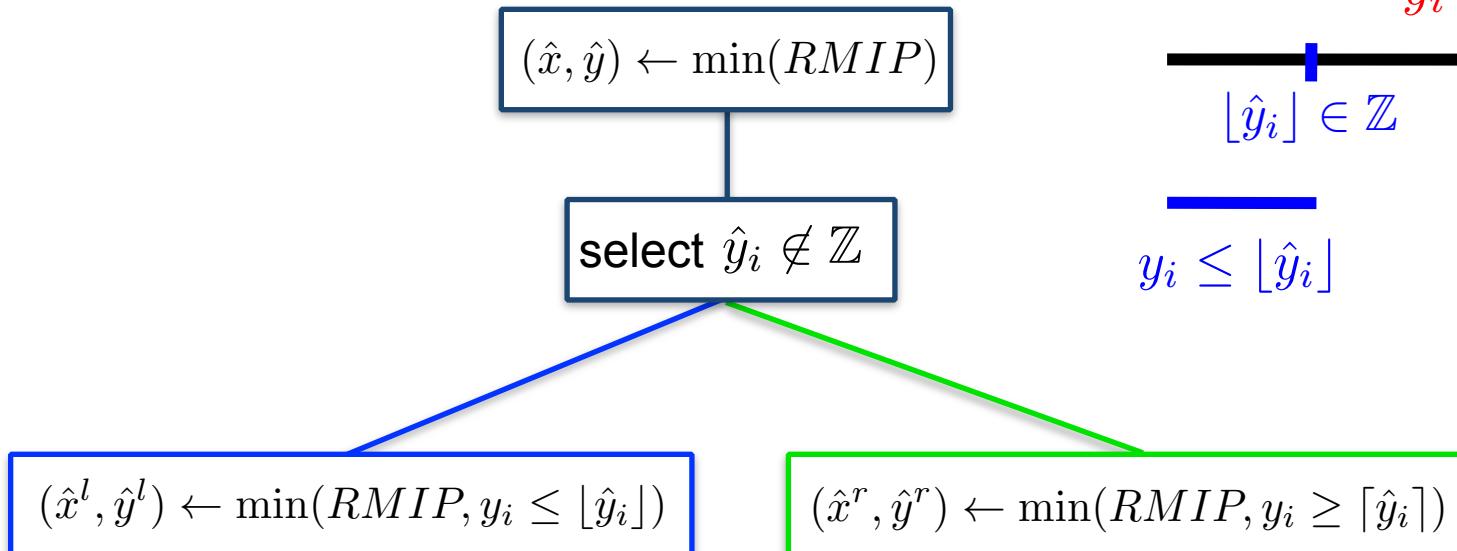

- **Idea:** improve bounds by series of **continuous problems**
- **Continuous Relaxation:** assume that all variables are continuous



- MIP is restriction of RMIP  lower bound  $\min(MIP) \geq \min(RMIP)$
- How to obtain upper bound? How to improve bounds?

# Branch and Bound

- **Branching:**



improve lower bound  $\min\{f(\hat{x}^l, \hat{y}^l), f(\hat{x}^r, \hat{y}^r)\} \geq f(\hat{x}, \hat{y})$

# Branch and Bound

- active node

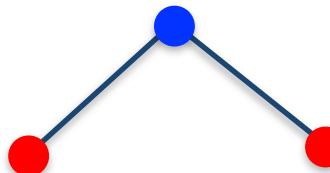


# Branch and Bound

- active node
- finished node

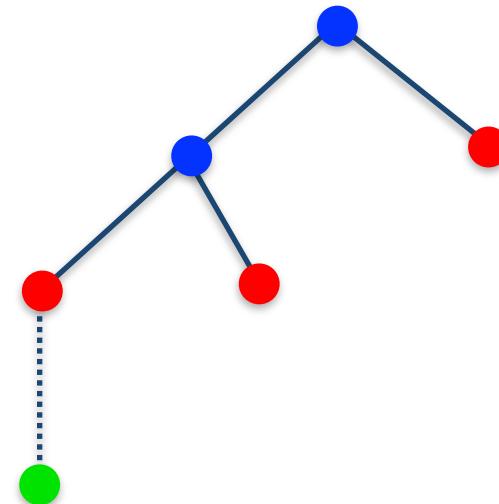


- lower bound:  $\min\{\dots\}$



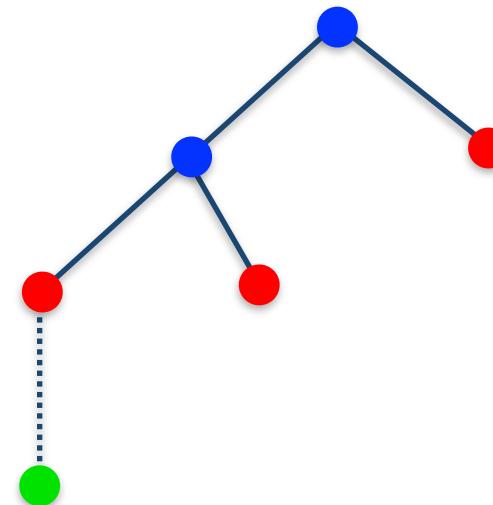
# Branch and Bound

- active node 
- finished node 
- feasible node 
- lower bound:  $\min\{\text{red circles}\}$



# Branch and Bound

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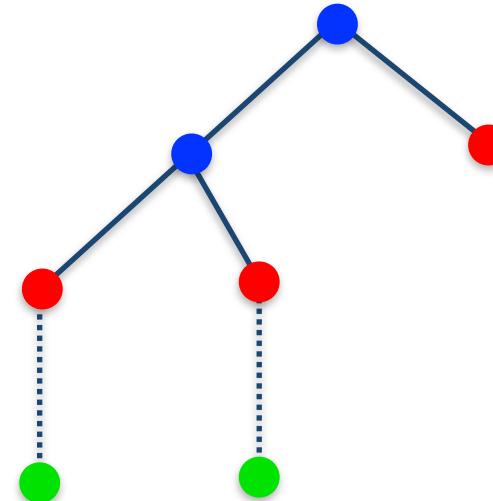


$y \in \mathbb{Z}^d$   upper bound

# Branch and Bound

- active node 
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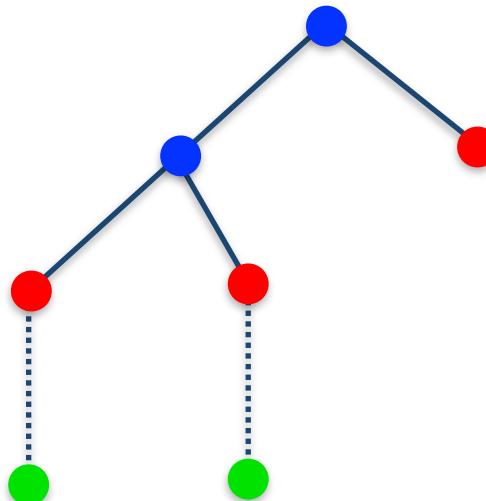
- lower bound:  $\min\{\text{red circles}\}$
- upper bound:  $\min\{\text{green circles}\}$



$y \in \mathbb{Z}^d$   upper bound

# Branch and Bound

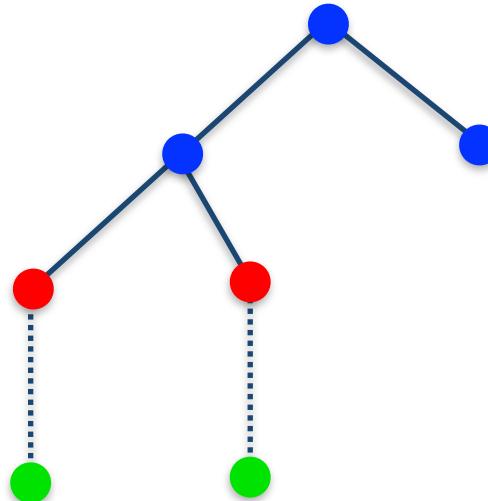
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**pruning**  
if  > upper bound  
(or infeasible)

# Branch and Bound

- active node 
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- lower bound:  $\min\{\bullet\}$  
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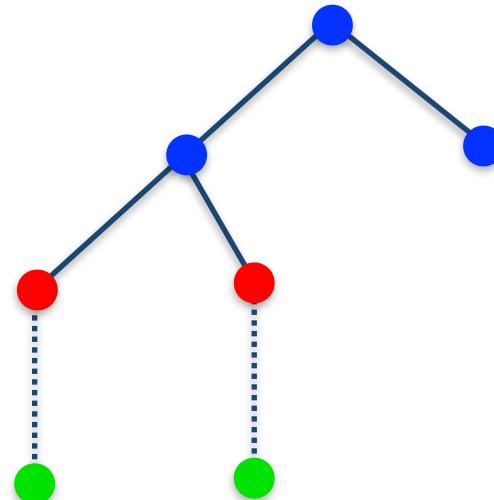


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# Branch and Bound

- active node 
- finished node 
- feasible node 

- lower bound:  $\min\{\bullet\}$  
- upper bound:  $\min\{\bullet\}$  



- terminate when  $\min\{\bullet\} - \min\{\bullet\} < \text{epsilon}$   

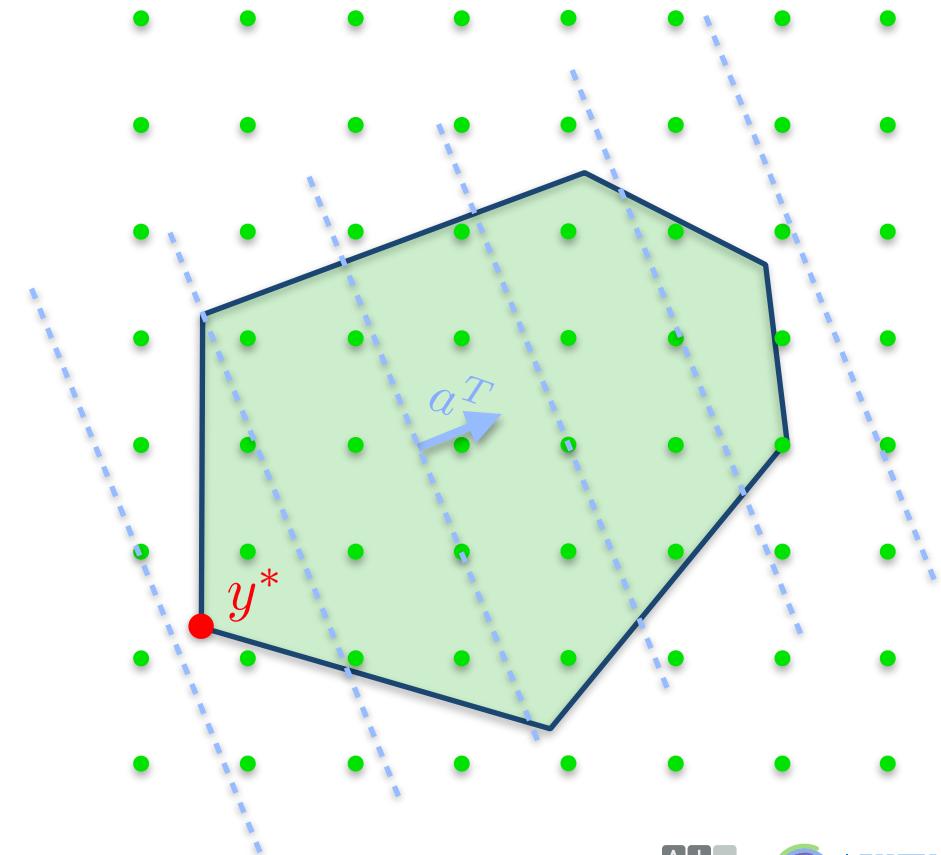
global optimum if RMIP convex!

# Branch and Bound

- Node Selection Strategies
  - Depth-First Search
  - Best-First Search (w.r.t. lower bound)
  - Dynamic heuristics
- Branching Strategies
  - Maximum Infeasibility — most undecided first (close to .5)
  - Strong Branching — best improvement of lower bound
  - Pseudo Reduced Cost — approximation of strong branching
  - Dynamic heuristics

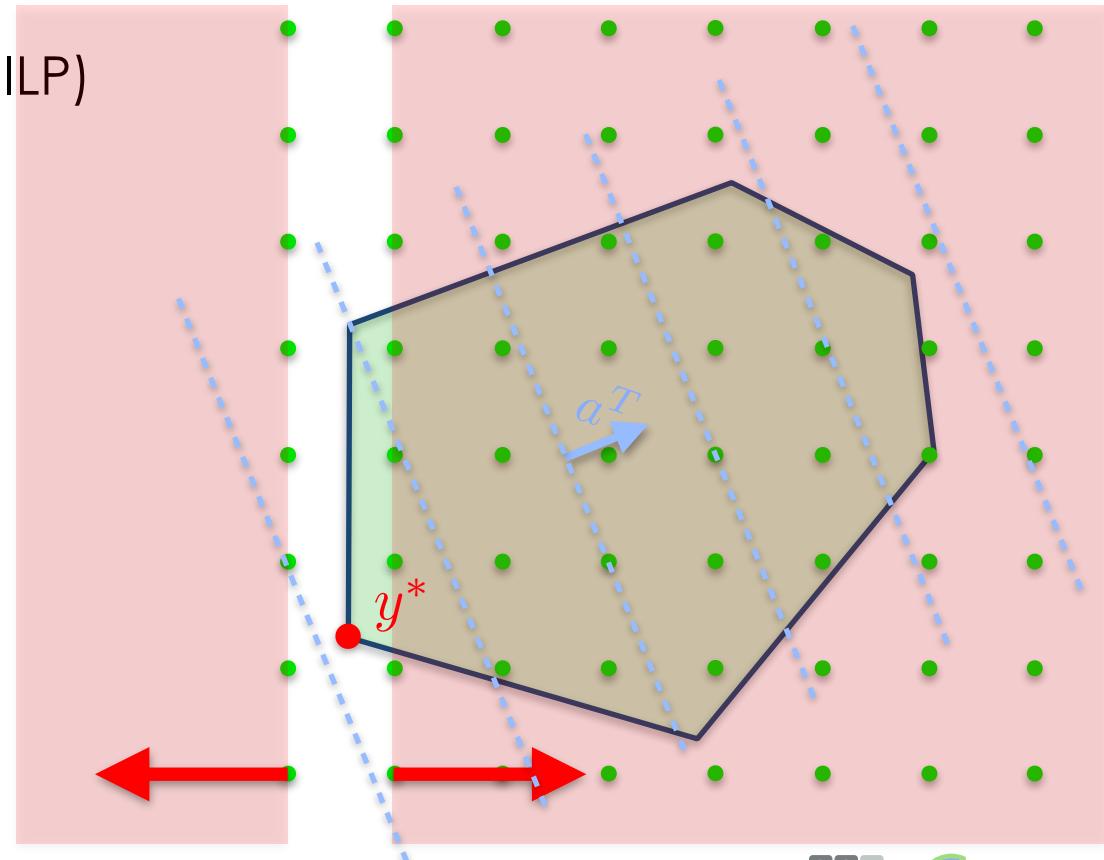
# Example: Branch and Bound

- Integer Linear Program (ILP)



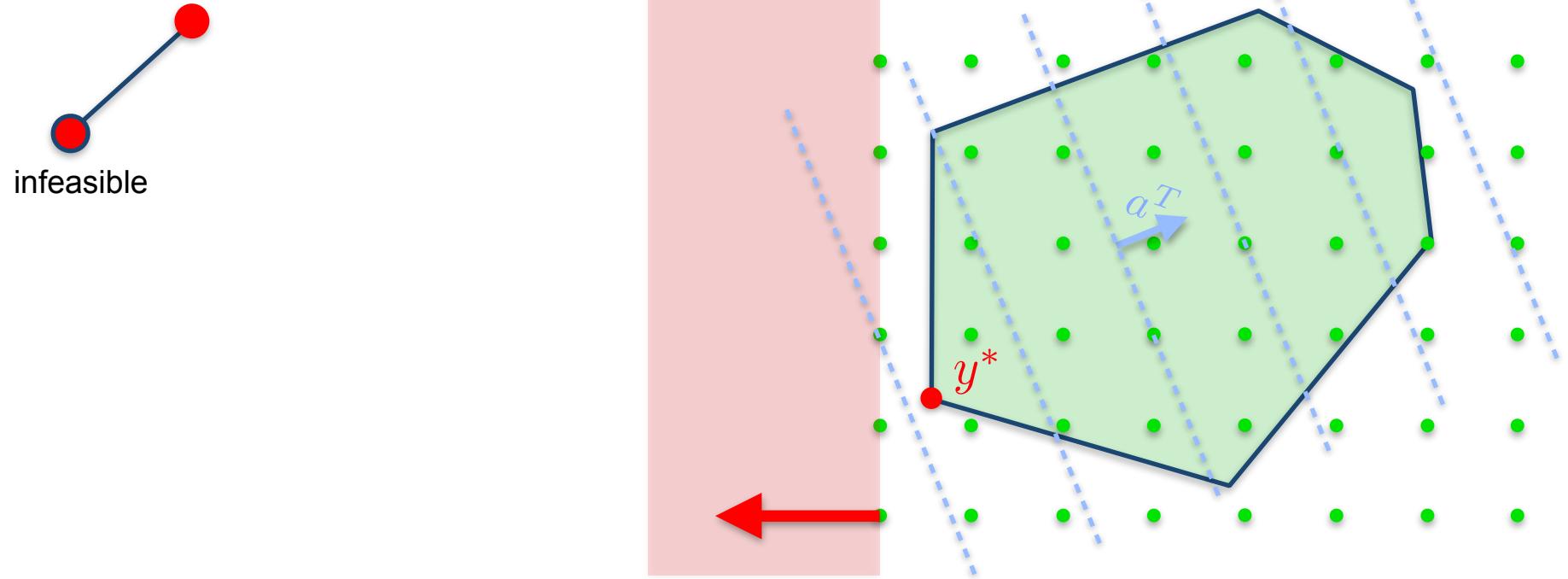
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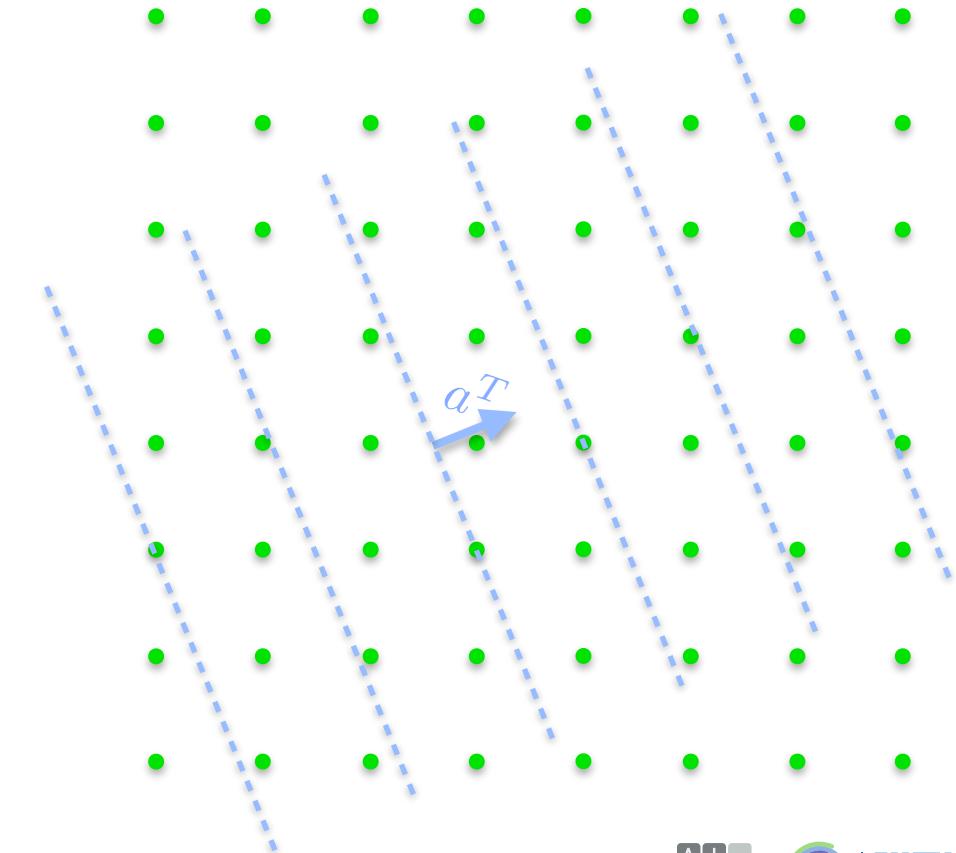
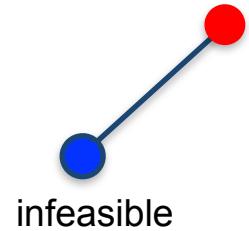
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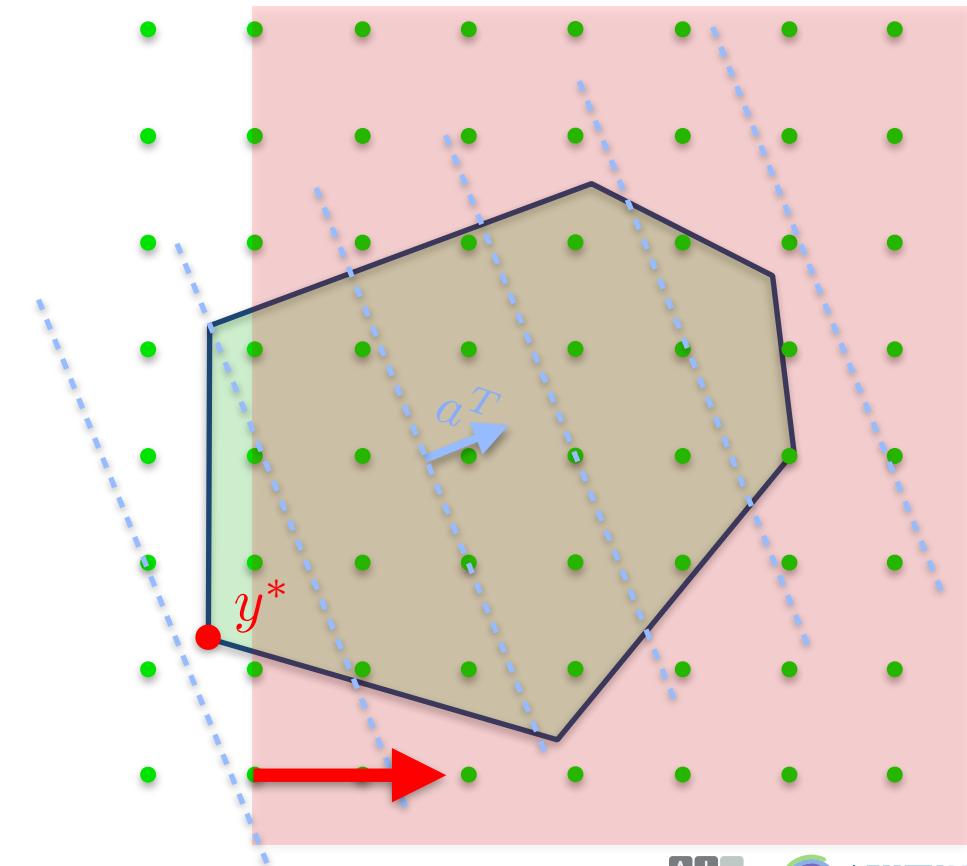
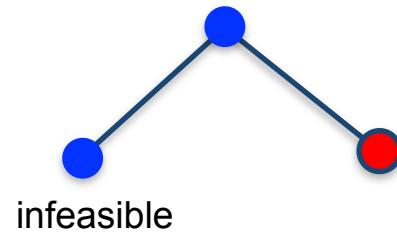
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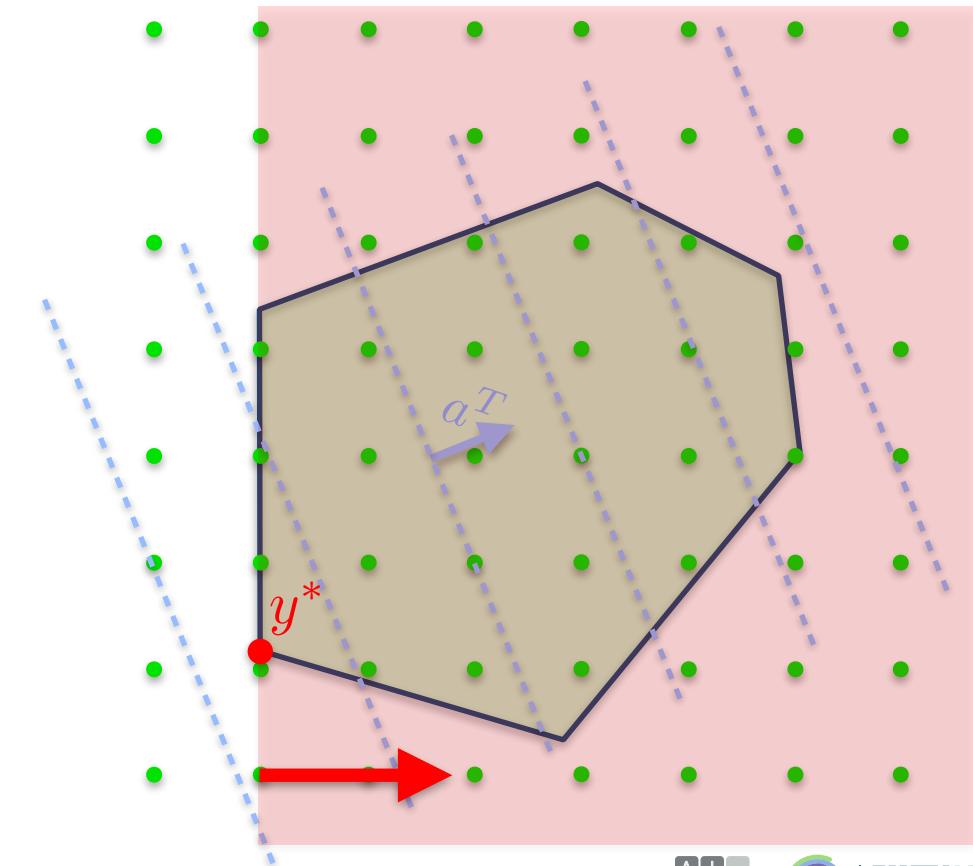
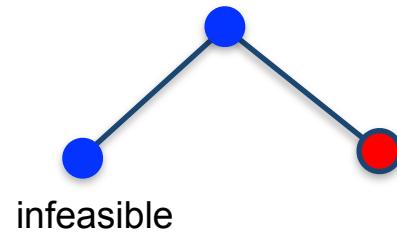
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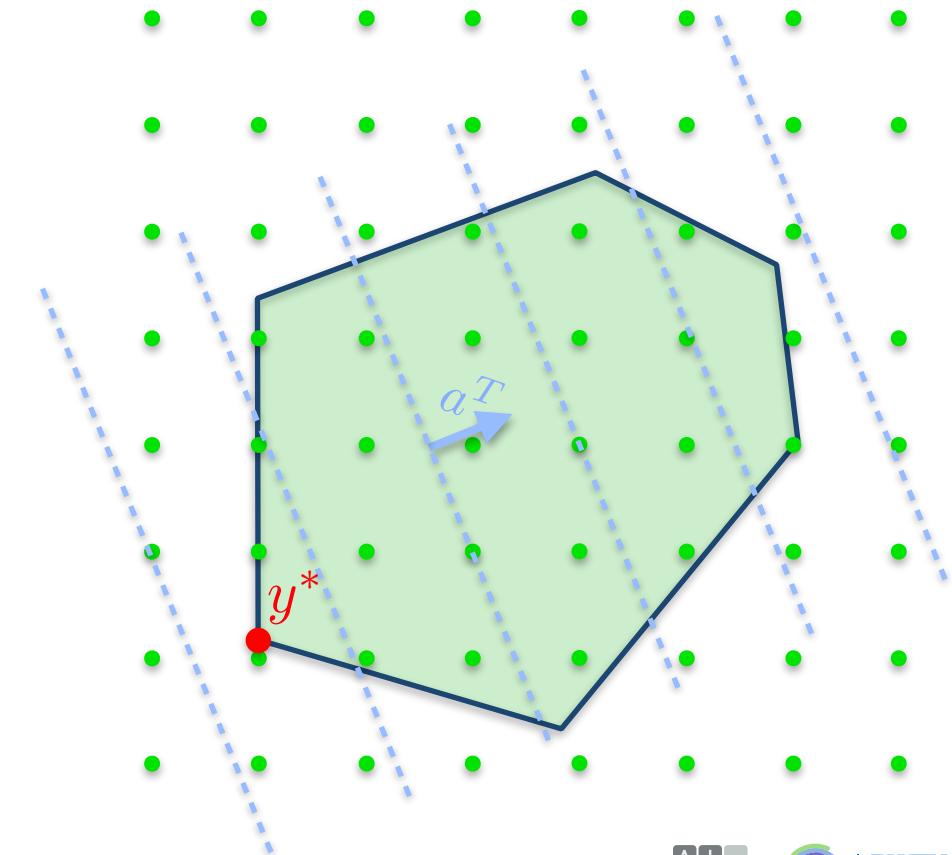
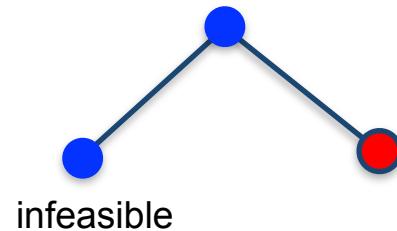
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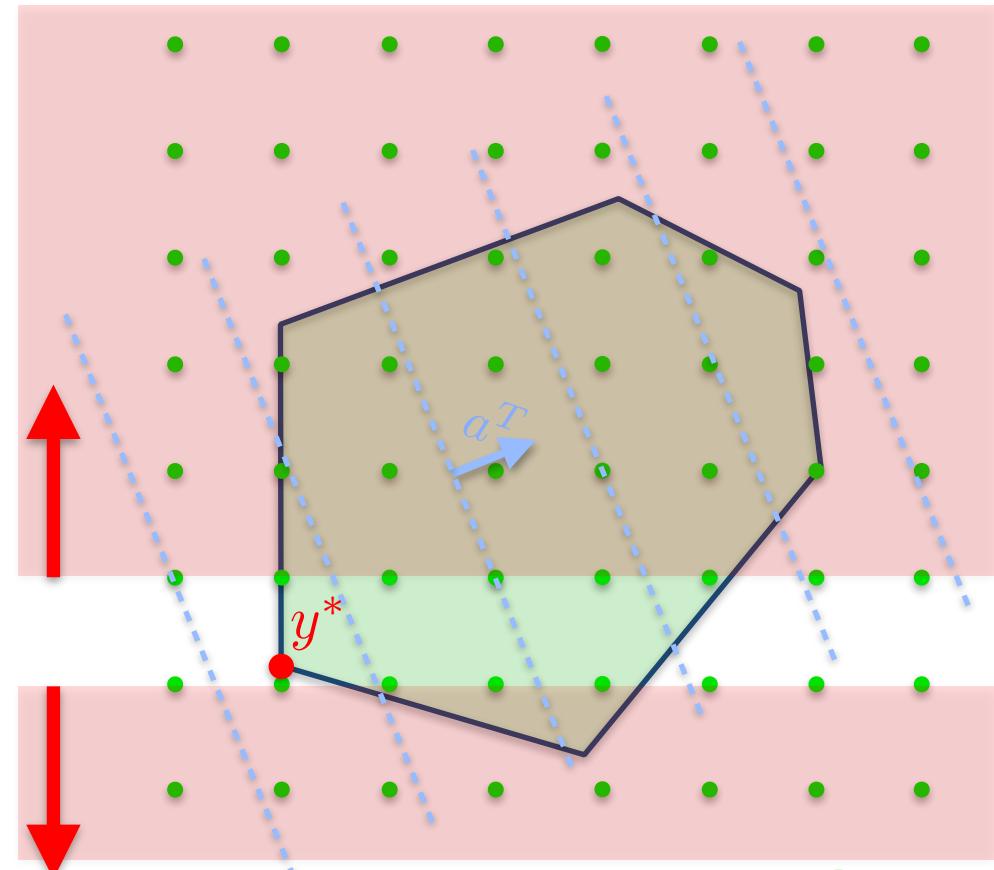
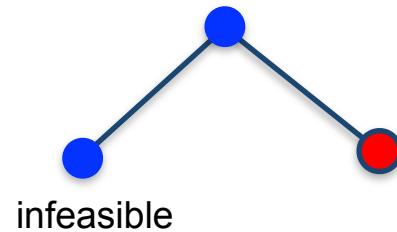
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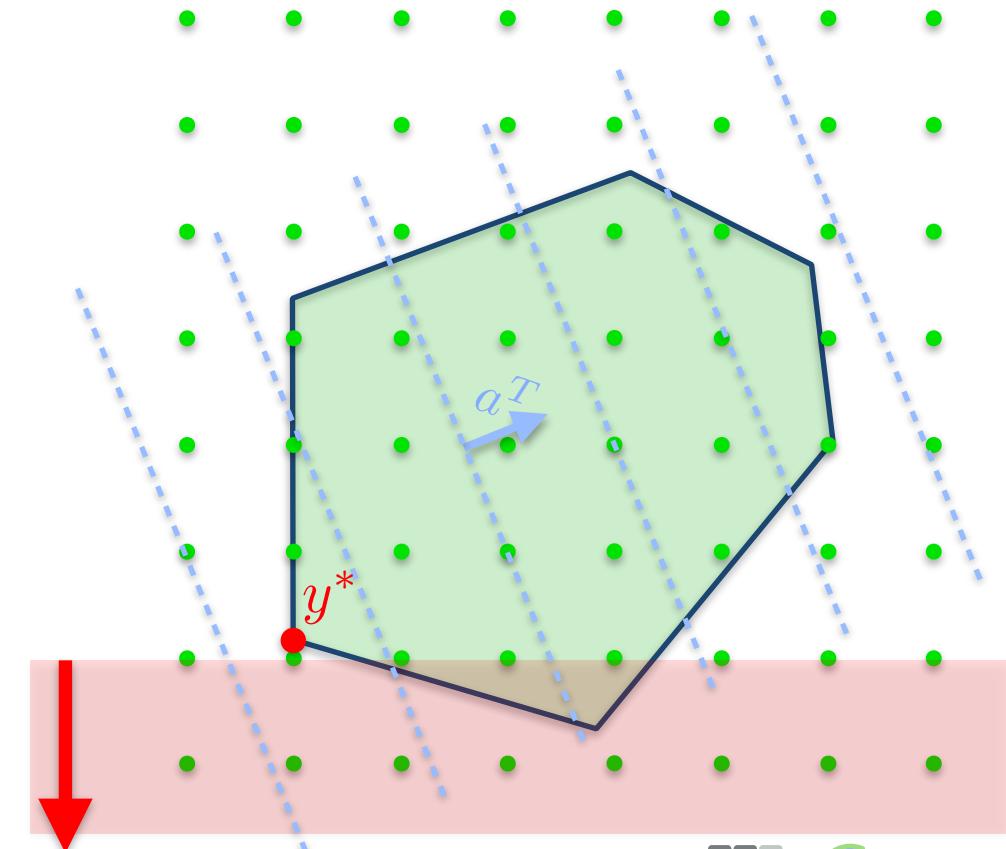
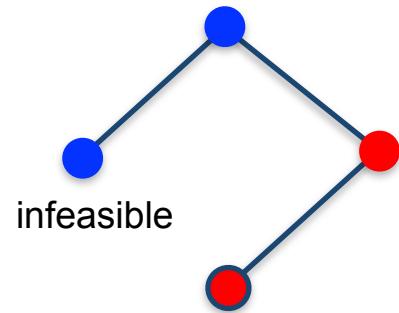
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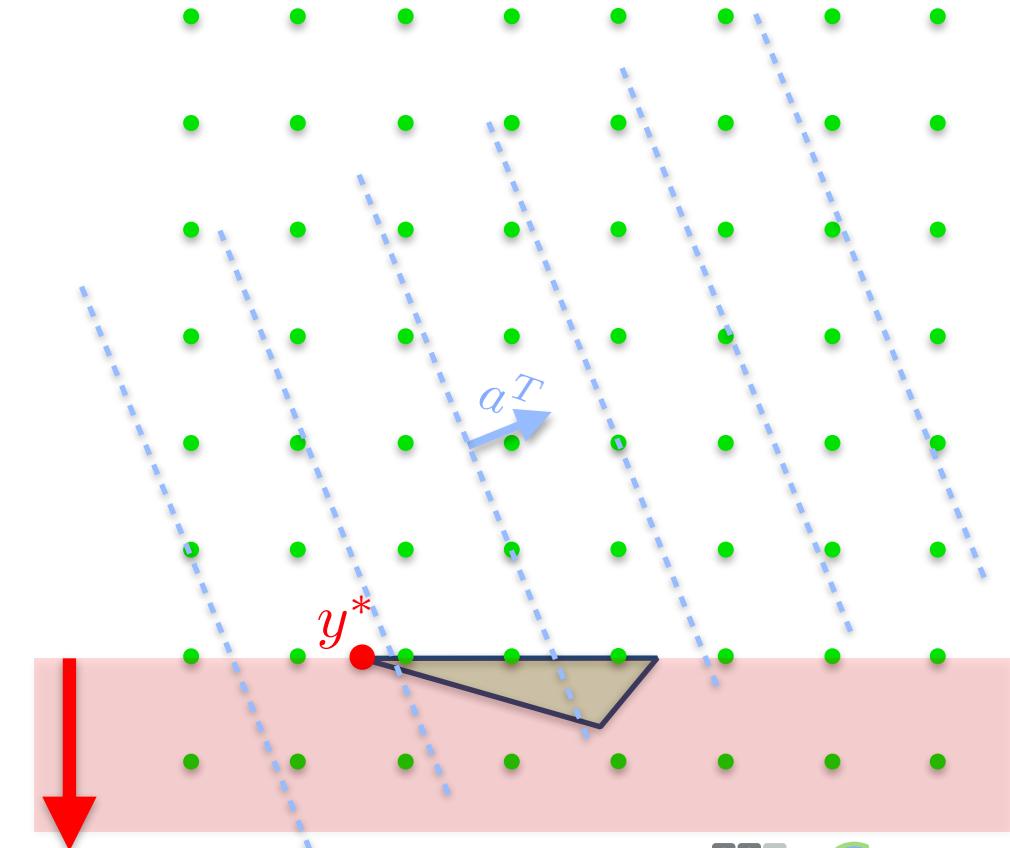
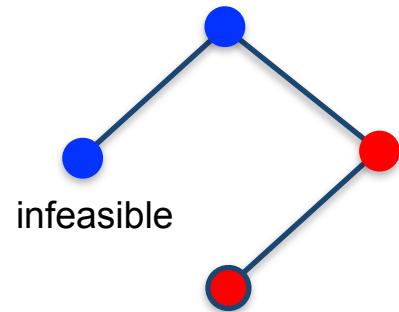
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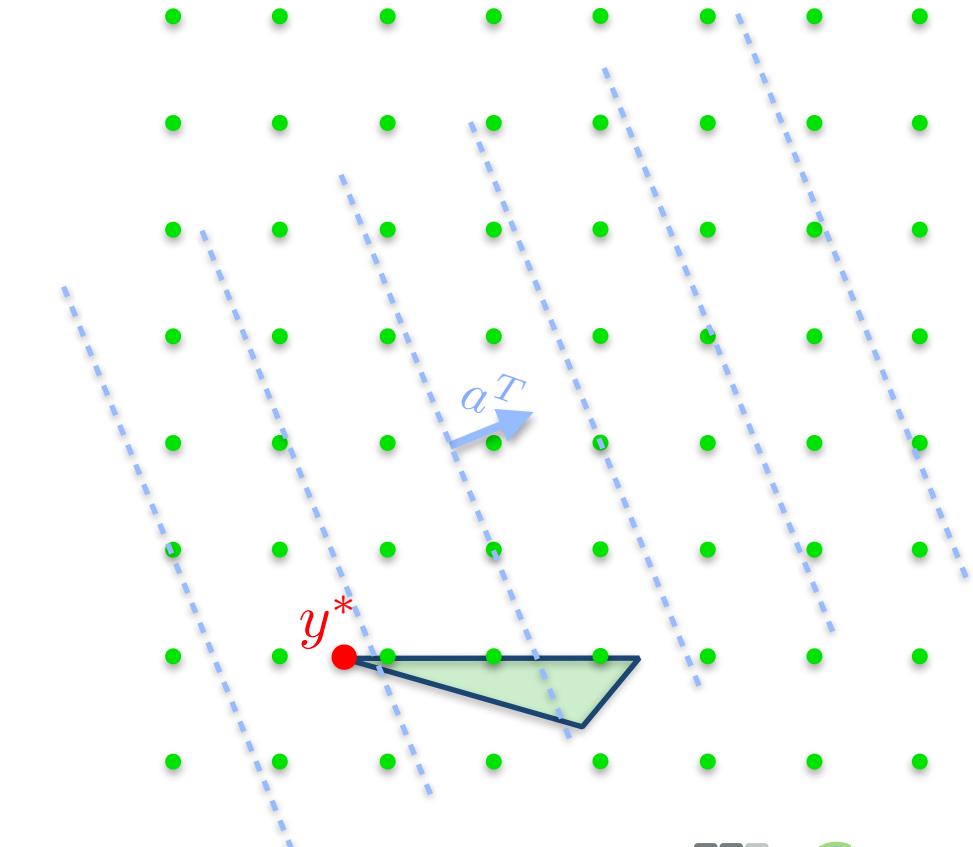
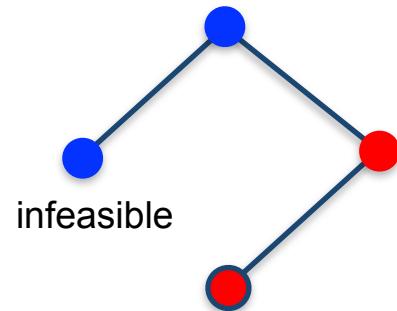
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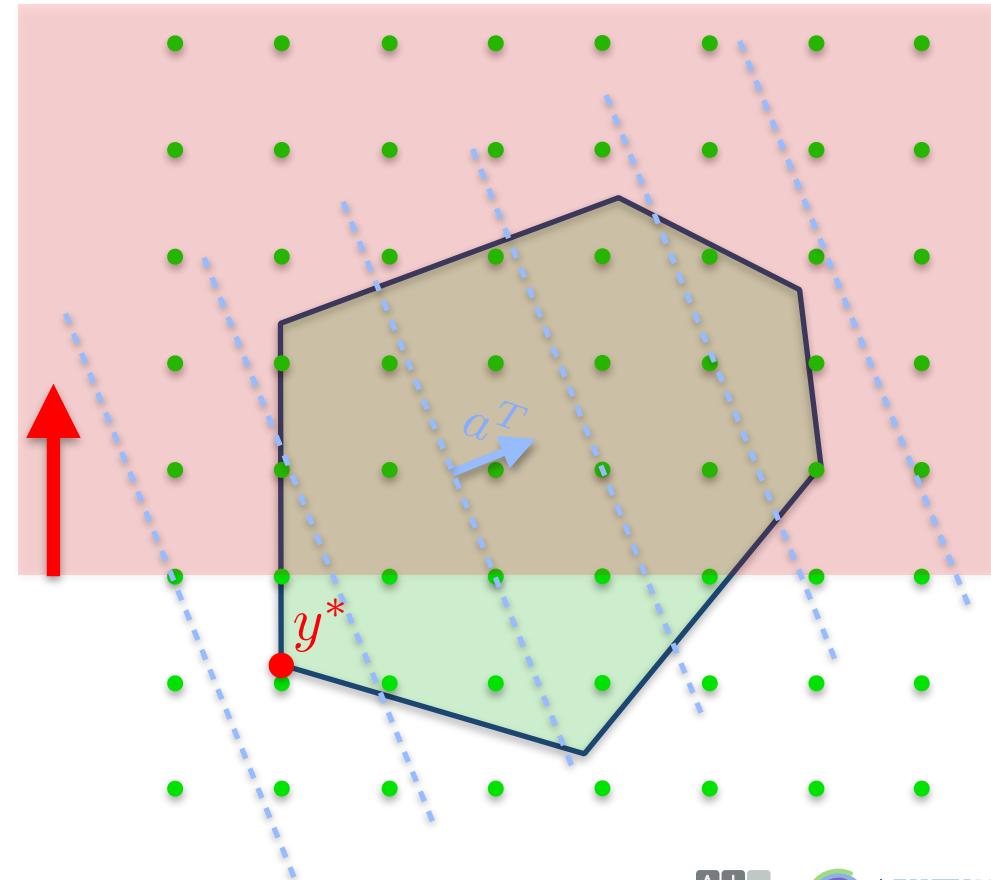
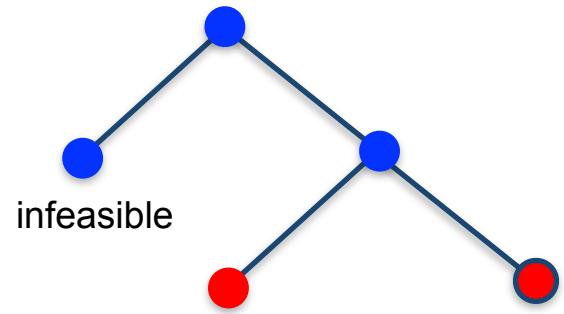
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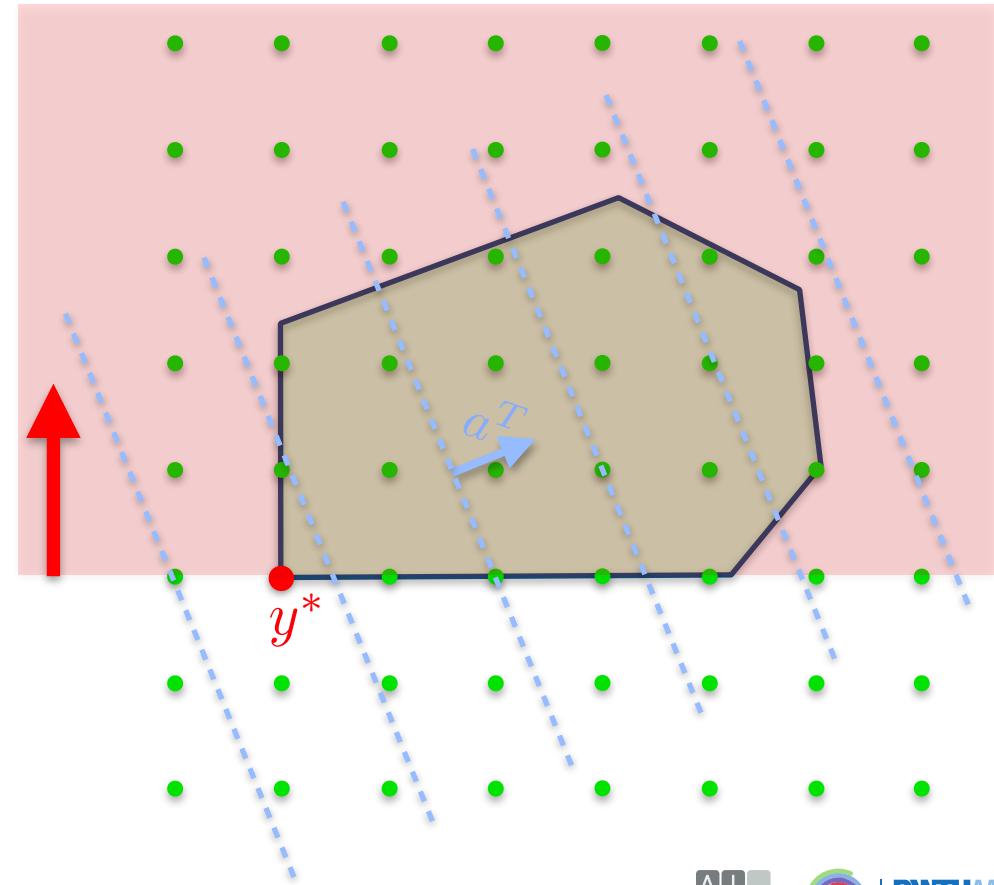
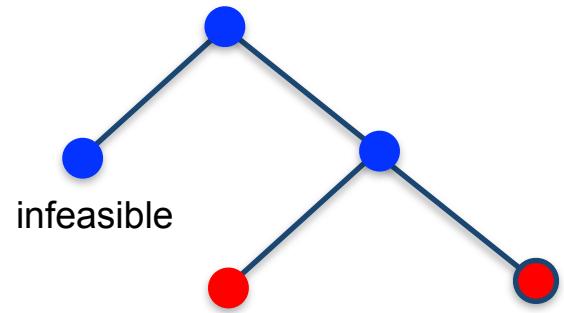
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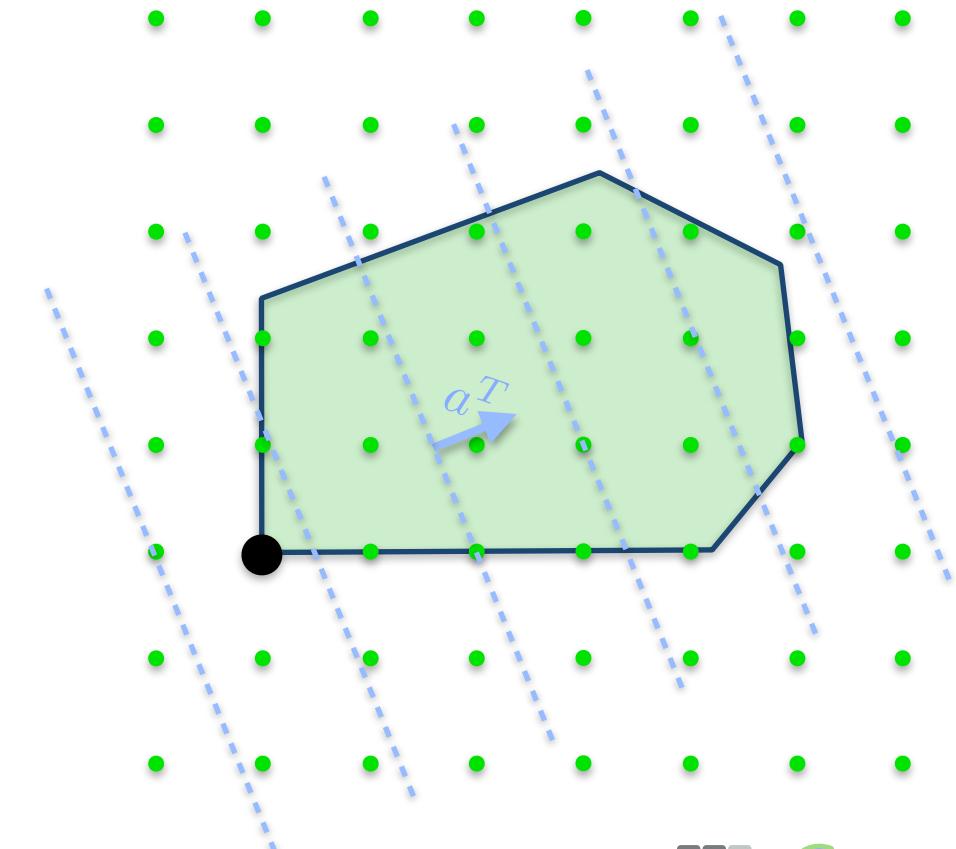
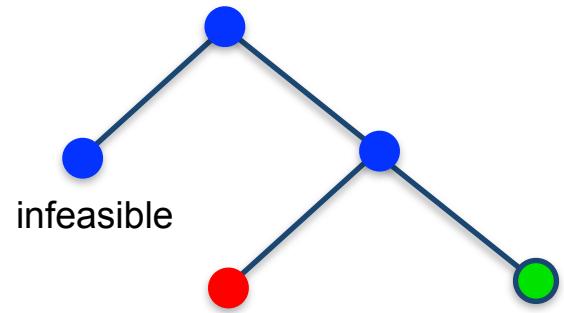
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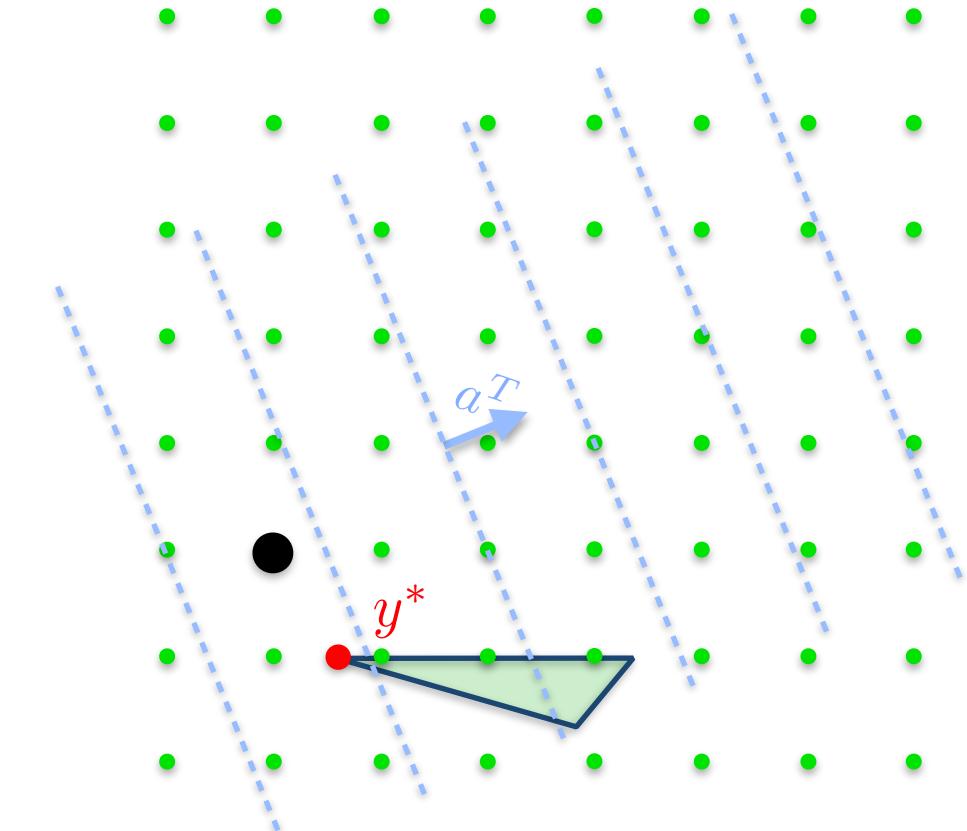
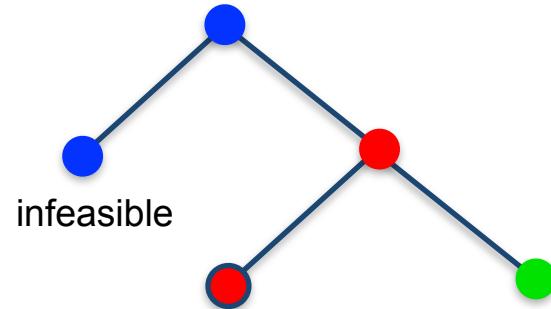
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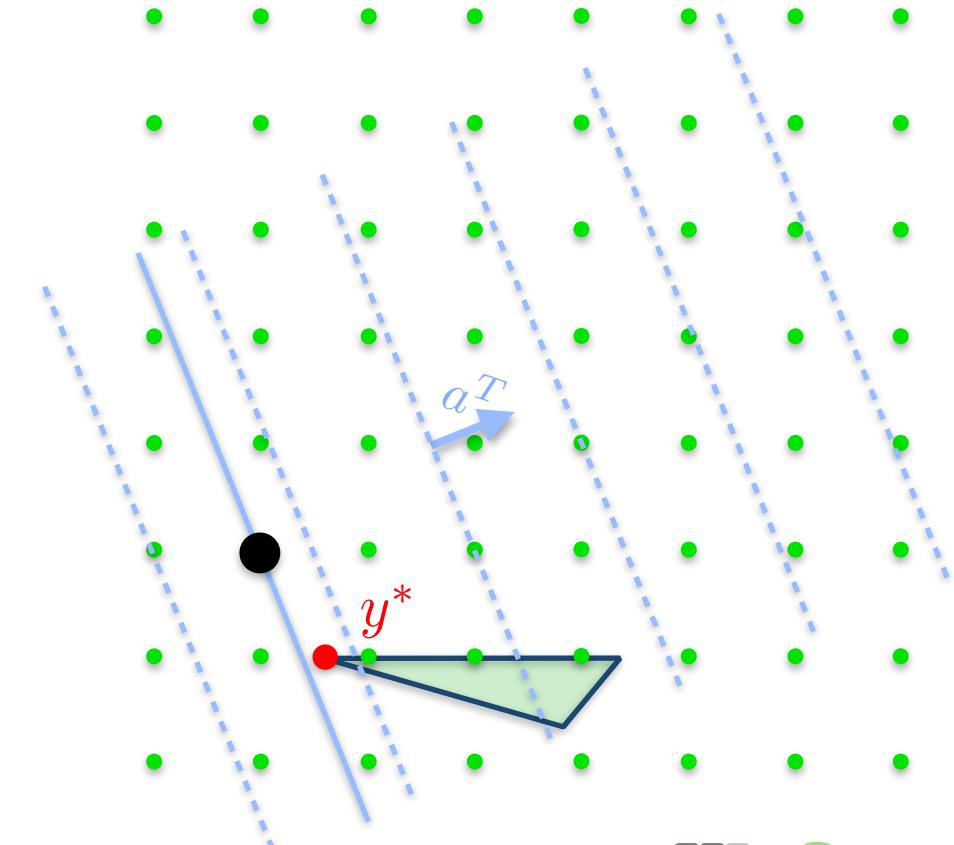
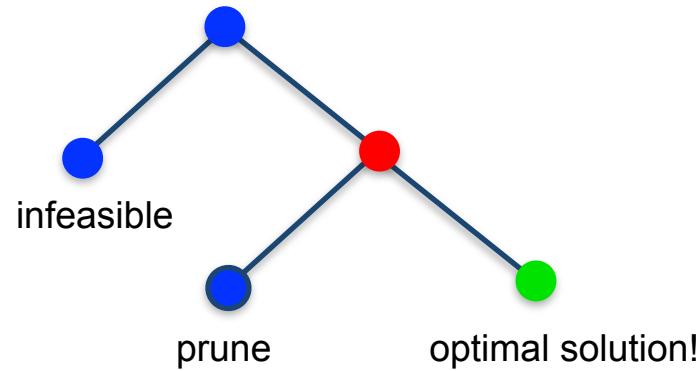
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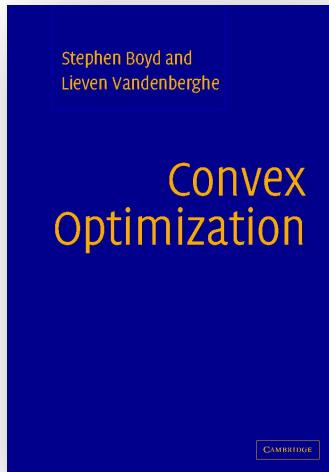


# Summary

- Omnipresence of Optimization in Geometry Processing
- Unconstrained Optimization
- Equality Constrained Optimization
- Inequality Constrained Optimization
- Mixed-Integer Optimization
- Importance of Convexity

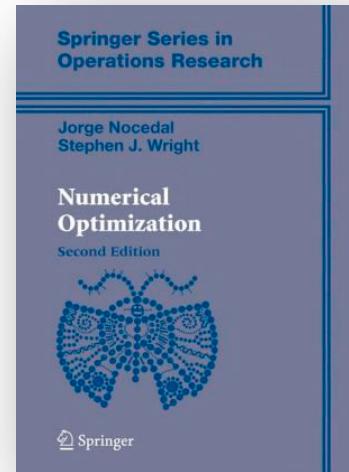
# Outlook

- Further Reading

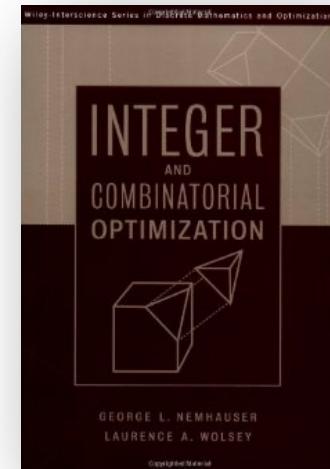


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Convex Optimization  
Cambridge University Press, 2004.

**Get PDF online:**  
<http://stanford.edu/~boyd/cvxbook/>



J. Nocedal and S. J. Wright  
Numerical Optimization  
Springer, 2006.



G. L. Nemhauser and L. A. Wolsey  
Integer and Combinatorial Optimization  
John Wiley & Sons, 1999.

# Software

- **Eigen** — linear algebra
- **IPOPT** — fast opensource C++ interior point method
- **Mosek** — commercial (convex) optimization in C, Java, Python...
- **Gurobi** — commercial mixed-integer optimization
- **CPLEX** — commercial mixed-integer optimization
- **Matlab** — many algorithms, good for prototyping
- **CVX** — prototyping for convex optimization
- **CoMISo** — unified interface to above algorithms

# Thank You!