

# An extended supporting hyperplane algorithm for convex MINLP problems

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- ▶ A new interior point based algorithm for solving convex MINLP problems to global optimality is introduced.
  - ▶ Cutting planes are replaced with supporting hyperplanes using a line search procedure.
  - ▶ Two LP preprocessing steps are utilized to quickly get a tight linear relaxation of the part of the feasible region defined by the convex/quasiconvex constraints.
  - ▶ An interior point is required for the line search.

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- ▶ The ECP algorithm is a solver for generally convex mixed-integer nonlinear programming (MINLP) problems.
- ▶ Solves MILP relaxations of the MINLP problem where the nonlinear constraints are approximated using cutting planes.
- ▶ Implemented, e.g., in the AlphaECP solver in GAMS and available on the NEOS server.

## Roots

**Convex NLP problems** Kelley Jr. J., The cutting-plane method for solving convex programs, Journal of the SIAM, vol. 8(4), pp. 703–712, 1960.



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- Nonsmooth constraints** Eronen V.-P., Mäkelä M. M. and Westerlund T. Extended cutting plane method for a class of nonsmooth nonconvex MINLP problems, Optimization, available online, Taylor and Francis, 2013.

## An example

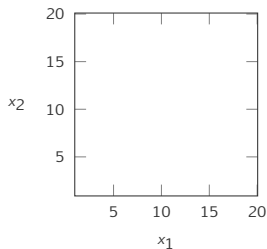
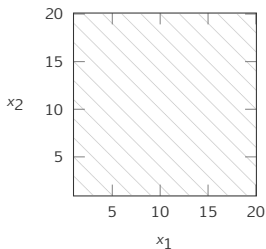
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$$\text{subject to } g_1(x_1, x_2) = 0.15(x_1 - 8)^2 + 0.1(x_2 - 6)^2 + 0.025e^{x_1} x_2^{-2} - 5 \leq 0$$

$$g_2(x_1, x_2) = 1/x_1 + 1/x_2 - x_1^{0.5} x_2^{0.5} + 4 \leq 0$$

$$2x_1 - 3x_2 - 2 \leq 0$$

$$1 \leq x_1 \leq 20, \quad 1 \leq x_2 \leq 20, \quad x_1 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x_2 \in \mathbb{Z}.$$



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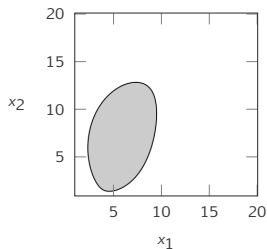
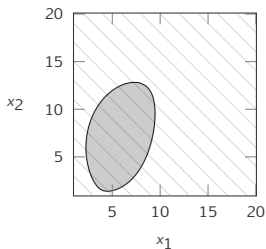
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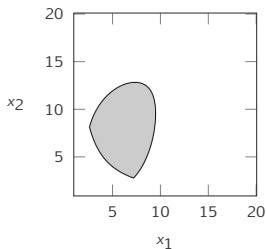
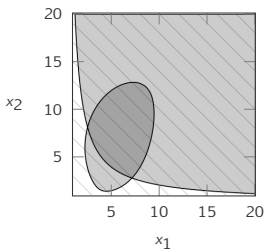
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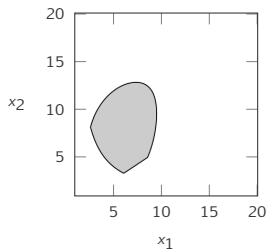
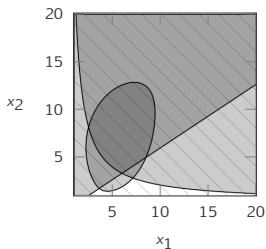
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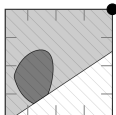
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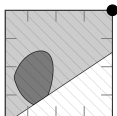




- ▶ In each iteration  $k$  of the algorithm a MILP problem is solved to obtain the solution point  $(x_1^k, x_2^k)$ .

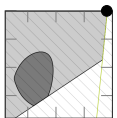


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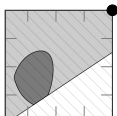


- ▶ A new cutting plane is generated for the nonlinear constraint  $g_i$  with the largest error:

$$g_i(x_1^k, x_2^k) + \nabla g_i(x_1^k, x_2^k)^T (x - x_1^k, x - x_2^k) \leq 0$$

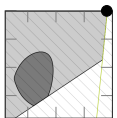


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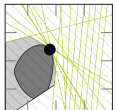
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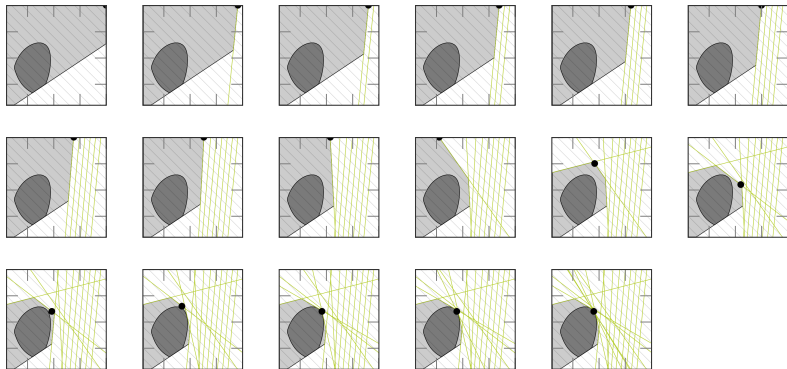
- ▶ If this point is feasible also for the MINLP problem, *i.e.*,

$$g_i(x_1^k, x_2^k) \leq \epsilon \quad \forall i = 1, 2,$$

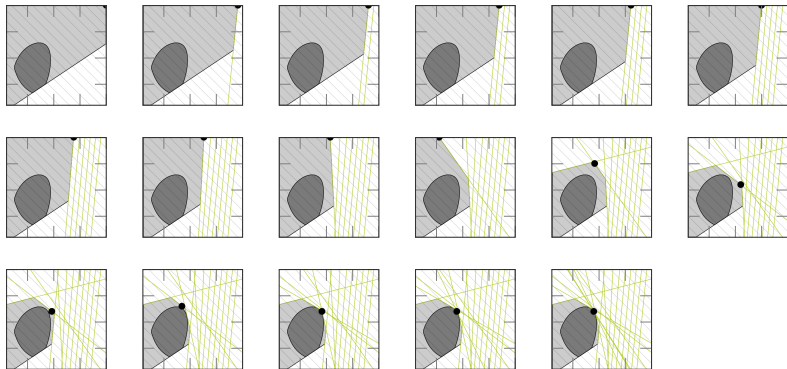


the optimal solution has been found found.

- ▶ To solve the problem with the ECP algorithm ( $\epsilon = 0.001$ ) it takes 17 iterations (17 MILP problems solved to optimality).

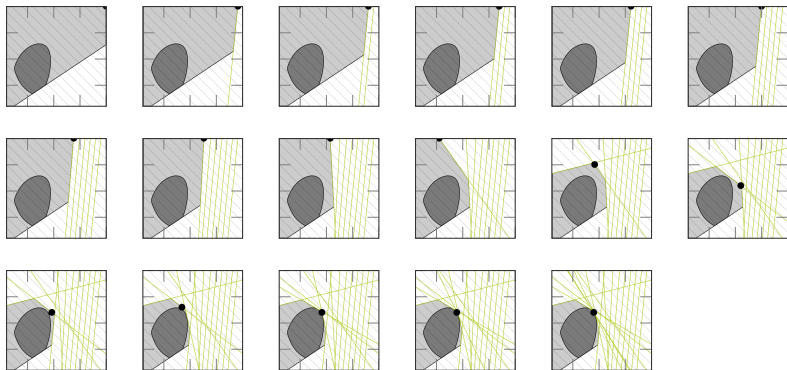


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**Generate cutting planes on the boundary of the feasible set!**

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## The MINLP problem

- ▶ The algorithm finds the optimal solution  $x^*$  to the following convex MINLP problem:

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in C \cap L \cap Y} c^T x \quad (\text{P})$$

where  $x = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N]^T$  belongs to the compact set

$$X = \{x \mid \underline{x}_i \leq x_i \leq \bar{x}_i, i = 1, \dots, N\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n,$$

the feasible region is defined by  $C \cap L \cap Y$ ,

$$C = \{x \mid g_m(x) \leq 0, m = 1, \dots, M, x \in X\},$$

$$L = \{x \mid Ax \leq a, Bx = b, x \in X\},$$

$$Y = \{x \mid x_i \in \mathbb{Z}, i \in I_{\mathbb{Z}}, x \in X\},$$

and  $C$  is a convex set.

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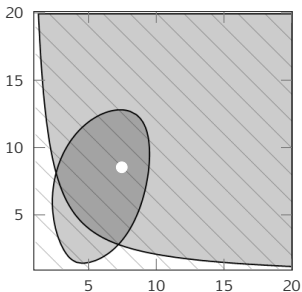
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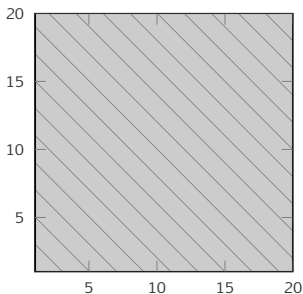
## NLP step

- If an interior point is not given, obtain a feasible, relaxed interior point (satisfying all the nonlinear constraints in  $C$ ) by solving a NLP problem.



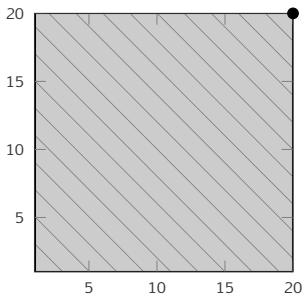
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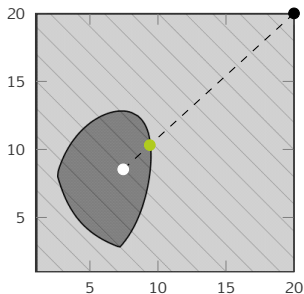
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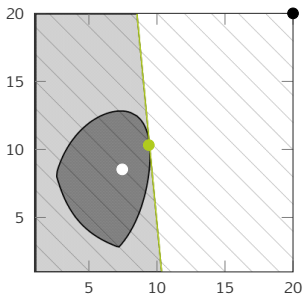
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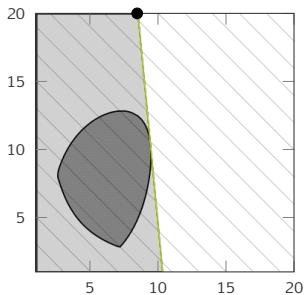
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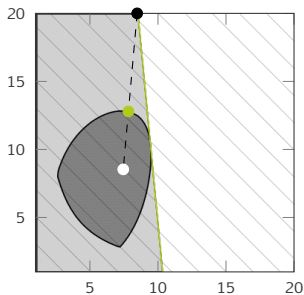
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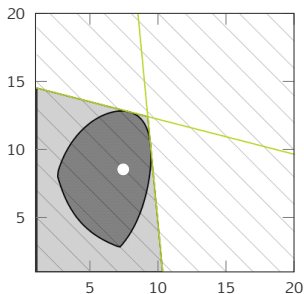
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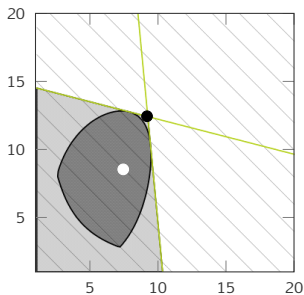
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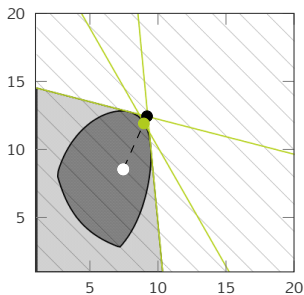
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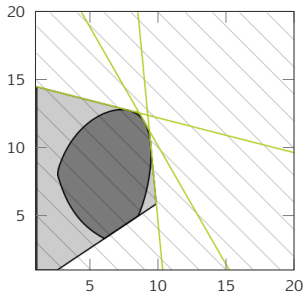
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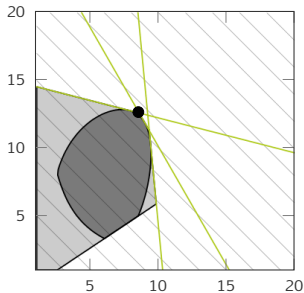
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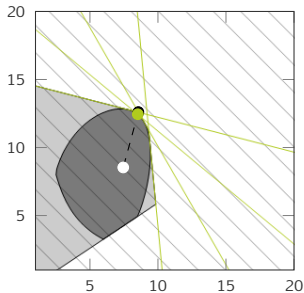
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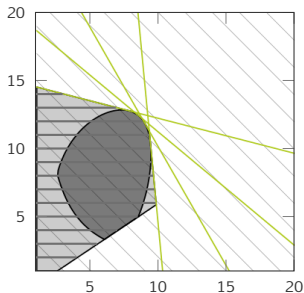
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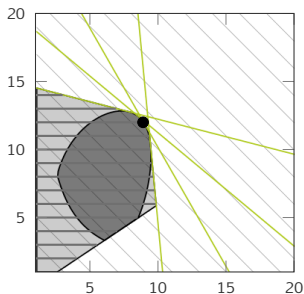
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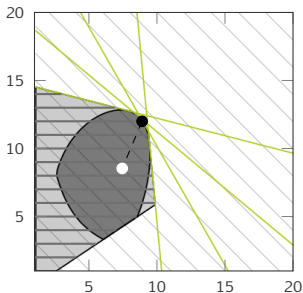
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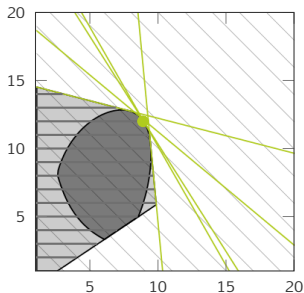
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- ▶ The point  $\tilde{x}_{\text{NLP}}$  need not be optimal but then fulfill  $F(\tilde{x}_{\text{NLP}}) < 0$ .
- ▶ Can be solved, e.g., with the accelerated gradient method in<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup>Nesterov, Y., Introductory lectures on convex optimization: A basic course, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2004.

**LP1 step**

- Starting from  $k = 1$ ,  $\Omega_0 = X$ , the problem

$$\tilde{x}_{\text{LP}}^k = \underset{\Omega_{k-1}}{\operatorname{argmin}} c^T x \quad (\text{P-LP1})$$

is repeatedly solved, and supporting hyperplanes (SHs)

$$l_k := F(x^k) + \xi_F(x^k)^T (x - x^k) \leq 0$$

are generated and added to  $\Omega_k$ .



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- ▶ If not  $F(\tilde{x}_{\text{LP}}^k) < \epsilon_{\text{LP1}}$  or a maximum number of SHs have been generated, then  $k$  is increased and (P-LP1) resolved.

## LP2 step

- ▶ This step is otherwise identical to LP1, with the exception that the linear constraints in  $L$  are now also included, *i.e.*,

$$\tilde{x}_{\text{LP}}^k = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Omega_{k-1} \cap L} c^T x$$

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$$\tilde{x}_{LP}^k = \arg \min_{\Omega_{k-1} \cap L} c^T x \quad (\text{P-LP2})$$

- ▶ (P-LP2) is repeatedly solved until  $F(\tilde{x}_{LP}^k) < \epsilon_{LP2}$  or a maximum number of SHs have additionally been generated.

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$$\tilde{x}_{\text{MILP}}^k = \operatorname{argmin}_{\Omega_{k-1} \cap L \cap Y} c^T x.$$

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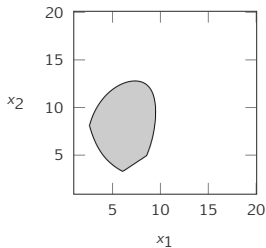
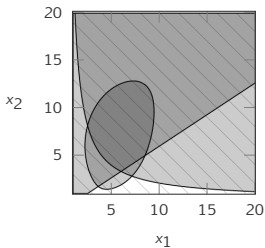
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- ▶ (P-MILP) is repeatedly solved until  $F(\tilde{x}_{\text{MILP}}^k) < \epsilon_{\text{MILP}}$ .
- ▶ Intermediate (P-MILP) problems do not need to be solved to optimality, but in order to guarantee an optimal solution of (P), the final MILP solution must be optimal.



Now, consider the same example as earlier

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize} \quad & c^T x = -x_1 - x_2 \\ \text{subject to} \quad & 0.15(x_1 - 8)^2 + 0.1(x_2 - 6)^2 + 0.025e^{x_1} x_2^{-2} - 5 \leq 0 \\ & 1/x_1 + 1/x_2 - x_1^{0.5} x_2^{0.5} + 4 \leq 0 \\ & 2x_1 - 3x_2 - 2 \leq 0 \\ & 1 \leq x_1 \leq 20, \quad 1 \leq x_2 \leq 20, \quad x_1 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x_2 \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

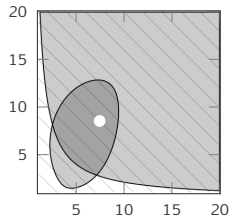


## NLP step – find an interior point

$$\tilde{x}_{\text{NLP}} = \underset{(x_1, x_2) \in X}{\operatorname{argmin}} F(x_1, x_2),$$

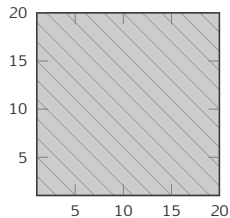
where  $F(x_1, x_2) := \max\{g_1(x_1, x_2), g_2(x_1, x_2)\}$ .

- ▶ The problem can be found using a suitable NLP solver.
- ▶ Not required to be the optimal point
- ▶ The optimal point here is (7.45, 8.54)



## LP1-step – Iteration 1

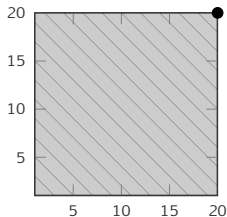
- ▶ Assume initially that  $\Omega_0 = X$ .



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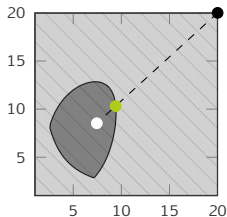
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$$x^k = \lambda \tilde{x}_{\text{NLP}} + (1 - \lambda) \tilde{x}_{\text{LP}}^k.$$



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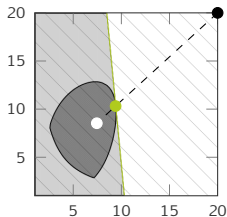
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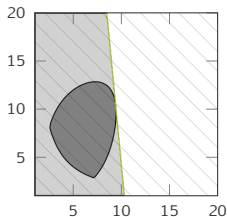
- ▶ Generate supporting hyperplane in  $x^k$  and add to  $\Omega$ .



## LP1-step – Iteration 2

- $\Omega_1 = \{x | l_1(x) \leq 0, x \in X\}$ .

$$l_1(x) = 3.26x_1 + 0.313x_2 - 33.9$$



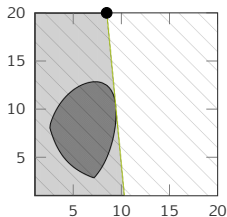
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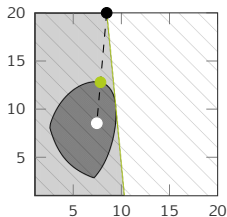
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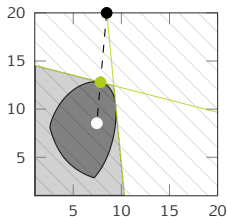
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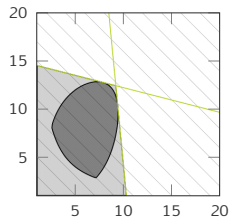


## LP1-step – Iteration 3

►  $\Omega_2 = \{x | l_j(x) \leq 0, j \in \{1, 2\}, x \in X\}$

$$l_1(x) = 3.26x_1 + 0.313x_2 - 33.9$$

$$l_2(x) = 0.332x_1 + 1.30x_2 - 19.2$$

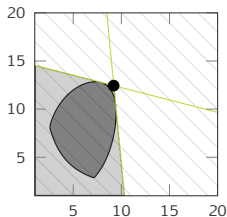


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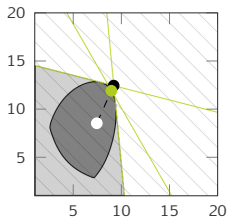
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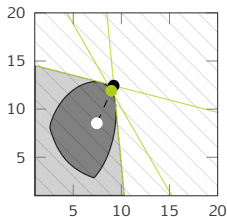
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- ▶ Terminate LP1-step since  $F(\tilde{x}_{LP}^k) < \epsilon_{LP1}$ .

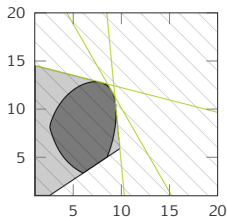
## LP2-step – Iteration 4

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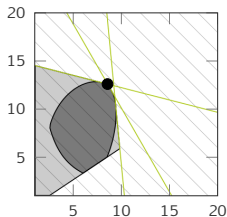
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- $k = 4$ , solve LP now in  $\Omega \cap L$ ,

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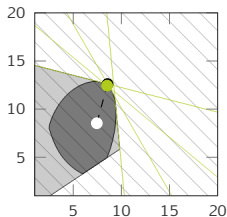
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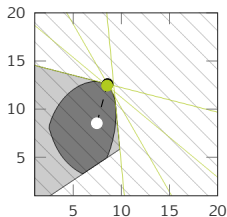
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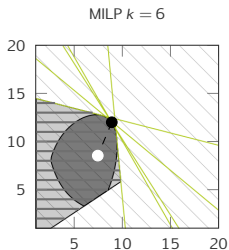
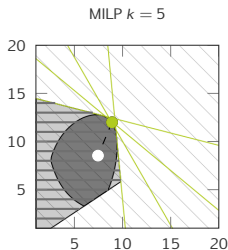


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- ▶ Terminate LP2-step since  $F(\tilde{x}_{LP}^k) < \epsilon_{LP2}$ .

## MILP step – Iterations 5 and 6



- ▶ In this step the integer requirements in  $Y$  are also considered, *i.e.*, initially  $k = 5$ ,  $\Omega = \Omega_{k-1} \cap L \cap Y$ .
- ▶ The MILP steps are required to guarantee an integer-feasible solution.

## Solution and comparisons to other solvers

- ▶ Solving the MINLP problem with the supporting hyperplane algorithm gives the following solution

Type	Iteration	Obj. funct.	$x_1$	$x_2$	$F(x_1, x_2)$
LP1	1	-40.0000	20.0000	20.0000	30 359
LP1	2	-28.4720	8.47199	20.0000	14.9321
LP1	3	-21.6378	9.19722	12.4406	0.957382
LP2	4	-21.1639	8.56022	12.6037	0.229455
MILP	5	-20.9065	8.90647	12	0.00442134
MILP	6	-20.9036	8.90362	12	$4.22619 \cdot 10^{-6}$

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MILP	6	-20.9036	8.90362	12	$4.22619 \cdot 10^{-6}$

- Solution times compared to some other MINLP solvers:

Solver	Subproblems solved	Time (s)	Implementation
ESH	6 MILP (6 OPT)	0.7	Prototype in Mathematica + CBC
ECP	21 MILP (10 OPT) + 1 NLP	1.4	GAMS 24.2 + CPLEX
DICOPT	10 NLP + 10 MILP	1.5	GAMS 24.2 + CONOPT + CPLEX

## Some test cases

Problem	# variables	# binaries	# lin. constrs	# nonlin. constrs
Syntes2	12	5	11	3
Ravempb	112	54	185	1

## Syntes 2

Solver	Subproblems solved	Time (s)
ESH	7 + 6 + 24 = 37 MILP (37 OPT)	0.8
ECP	64 MILP (28 OPT)	3.8
ECP + NLP	21 MILP (10 OPT) + 1 NLP	1.5
DICOPT	7 NLP + 7 MILP	0.8

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### Ravempb

Solver	Subproblems solved	Time (s)
ESH	$5 + 8 + 8 = 21$ MILP (21 OPT)	6.1
ECP	62 MILP (15 OPT)	5.4
ECP + NLP	62 MILP (15 OPT) + 1 NLP	5.4
DICOPT	7 NLP + 7 MILP	2.4

## Future work

### Implementations of the algorithm

- ▶ Mathematica / Wolfram Language. Early prototype “available”.
- ▶ COIN-OR: Utilize the Optimization Services and Open Solver Interface APIs.
- ▶ GAMS: Utilize the COIN-OR GAMSLinks API?



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### Development of the algorithm

- ▶ Pseudoconvex constraints and objective functions.
- ▶ Selection (update) strategies of the interior point.
- ▶ Strategies for the LP1/LP2 steps.