

An Algorithm for Solving the System -e ;= Ax ;= e; ----x-1 =¿ 1

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Technical report No. V-1149

06.01.2012



An Algorithm for Solving the System

 $-e \le \bar{A}x \le e, \ \|x\|_1 \ge 1$

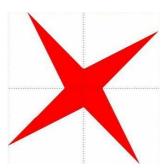
Jiří Rohn¹

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Abstract:

We describe a not-a-priori-exponential algorithm for solving the system $-e \le Ax \le e$, $||x||_1 \ge 1$. This system, despite its apparent simplicity, can be considered the basic NP-complete problem of interval computations.²



Keywords:

Linear inequalities, absolute value, NP-completeness, algorithm.

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²Above: logo of interval computations and related areas (depiction of the solution set of the system $[2,4]x_1 + [-2,1]x_2 = [-2,2], [-1,2]x_1 + [2,4]x_2 = [-2,2]$ (Barth and Nuding [1])).

1 Introduction

In this paper we describe an algorithm for solving the system of inequalities

$$-e \le Ax \le e,\tag{1.1}$$

$$||x||_1 \ge 1,\tag{1.2}$$

where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $e = (1, 1, ..., 1)^T \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $||x||_1 = \sum_i |x_i| = e^T |x|$, which can also be written in the equivalent "shorthand" form

$$|Ax| \le e, \qquad ||x||_1 \ge 1.$$
 (1.3)

The choice of the system may seem surprising: why just this system, and why such a specific form (using e and 1)? There are three reasons for this formulation.

First, in [2], Theorem 2.3 it was proved that the problem of checking solvability of the system (1.1), (1.2) is NP-complete for nonnegative symmetric positive definite rational matrices, and this result was further used there for proving NP-hardness or (co-)NP-completeness of nine other problems (see Theorems 2.12, 2.15, 2.18, 2.21, 2.30, 2.33, 2.38, 3.15 and 3.17 in [2]), thus having demonstrated that it is an ideal tool for establishing complexity results for problems with interval data. This is why this problem was called "the basic NP-complete problem of interval computations" in [4].

Second, it turns out that one of the basic NP-complete problems termed as such by Garey and Johnson [3] can be transformed to our problem.

And third – and this the topic of the present paper – there exists a not-a-priori-exponential algorithm for solving (1.1), (1.2) which, in turn, yields a not-a-priori-exponential algorithm for solving one of the basic NP-hard problems mentioned in the previous paragraph; formulation of the latter algorithm will possibly appear elsewhere.

The algorithm for solving (1.1), (1.2), which in a finite number of steps either finds a solution to (1.1), (1.2) or proves its nonexistence, is listed in the form of several interconnected MATLAB-like functions in the last Section 4. The preceding two sections bring the theoretical background and some examples.

2 Description

In order that the algorithm, whose description stretches over several pages, could be presented as a whole and not intertwined with the text, it is given in the last Section 4.

Theorem 1. For each square matrix A the algorithm **basintnpprob** (Fig. 4.1) in a finite, but not-a-priori-exponential number of steps either finds a solution x of the system (1.1), (1.2) (the case of $x \neq []$), or proves that no such a solution exists (the case of x = []).

Proof. As proved in [5], the algorithm **singreg** (Fig. 4.2), when applied to the interval matrix $[A - ee^T, A + ee^T]$ (Fig. 4.1, lines (06)-(07)) in a finite, but not-a-priori-exponential number of steps either yields a singular matrix S satisfying $|A - S| \le ee^T$ (the case of $S \ne []$), or states that such a singular matrix S does not exist (the case of S = []).

In the first case, taking an arbitrary $x \neq 0$ satisfying Sx = 0 (which exists because S is singular), we have

$$|Ax| = |(A - S)x| \le |A - S||x| \le ee^{T}|x| = ||x||_1e$$

so that for $x' = x/\|x\|_1$ we have $|Ax'| \le e$ and $\|x'\|_1 = 1$, which means that x' solves (1.3) (Fig. 4.1, lines (09)-(10)).

In the second case there does not exist a singular matrix S satisfying $|A - S| \le ee^T$. We shall prove that in this case the system (1.3) has no solution. Suppose to the contrary that (1.3) has a solution x. Then

$$|Ax| \le e \le e||x||_1 = ee^T|x|,$$

so that the interval matrix $[A - ee^T, A + ee^T]$ is singular, i.e., there exists a singular matrix S satisfying $|A - S| \le ee^T$, a contradiction (Fig. 4.1, line (08)).

3 Examples

In this section we give two examples with 100×100 matrices. In the first one a solution is found, whereas the second one has no solution.

```
>> tic, rand('state',1); n=100; A=rand(n,n); x=basintnpprob(A);
\rightarrow x', min(ones(n,1)-abs(A*x)), norm(x,1), toc
ans =
      Columns 1 through 10
                                                                                       -0.0293 -0.0154 -0.0091
      Columns 11 through 20
                                                                                                                  0.0303 0.0005
                                                                                                                                                                       0.0155 -0.0003 0.0026 -0.0037
      0.0074 -0.0204 -0.0157
                                                                                       0.0054
      Columns 21 through 30
   -0.0023 \quad 0.0111 \quad 0.0045 \quad -0.0043 \quad 0.0043 \quad -0.0027 \quad 0.0032 \quad -0.0157 \quad 0.0070 \quad -0.0069 \quad
      Columns 31 through 40
   -0.0067 0.0135 0.0097
                                                                                       0.0004 -0.0200 0.0013 0.0137 -0.0030 -0.0003
      Columns 41 through 50
                                                                                       0.0009 -0.0148 -0.0051
      Columns 51 through 60
                                                                                                               0.0103 0.0101 0.0036
                                                                                       0.0028
      Columns 61 through 70
                                                                                        0.0094 0.0051 -0.0048 0.0053 -0.0094 -0.0082 -0.0002
   -0.0035 -0.0065 0.0161
      Columns 71 through 80
      0.0046 -0.0094 -0.0128
                                                                                       Columns 81 through 90
      0.0225 - 0.0145 - 0.0092 - 0.0110 - 0.0008 \ 0.0045 - 0.0143 \ 0.0081 \ 0.0115
      Columns 91 through 100
   -0.0168 \quad 0.0108 \quad 0.0026 \quad 0.0143 \quad 0.0050 \quad 0.0055 \quad -0.0094 \quad -0.0123 \quad -0.0028 \quad -0.0111
ans =
      0.9981
```

```
ans =
   1.0000
Elapsed time is 0.804711 seconds.

>> tic, rand('state',1); n=100; A=10000*rand(n,n); x=basintnpprob(A);
>> x', min(ones(n,1)-abs(A*x)), norm(x,1), toc
x =
   []
ans =
   []
ans =
   []
Elapsed time is 0.407147 seconds.
```

4 The algorithm

```
function x = \mathbf{basintnpprob}(A)
(01)
(02)
         \% BASic INTerval NP PROBlem.
(03)
         \% \ x \neq []: x \text{ solves } -e \leq Ax \leq e, \|x\|_1 \geq 1.
         \% x = []: -e \le Ax \le e, ||x||_1 \ge 1 has no solution.
(04)
         n = \operatorname{size}(A, 1); e = \operatorname{ones}(n, 1);
(05)
         \mathbf{A} = [A - ee^T, A + ee^T];
(06)
(07)
         S = \mathbf{singreg}(\mathbf{A});
         if S = [], x = []; return, end
(08)
         find an x \neq 0 satisfying Sx = 0;
(09)
(10)
         x = x/||x||_1;
```

Figure 4.1: An algorithm for solving the basic interval NP-complete problem.

```
(01)
        function S = singreg(A)
        \% S \neq []: S is a singular matrix in A.
(02)
        % S = []: no singular matrix in A exists.
(03)
         S = []; n = \text{size}(\mathbf{A}, 1); e = (1, \dots, 1)^T \in \mathbb{R}^n;
(04)
         if A_c is singular, S = A_c; return, end
(05)
         R = A_c^{-1}; \, D = \Delta |R|;
(06)
         if D_{kk} = \max_j D_{jj} \ge 1
(07)
            x = R_{\bullet k};
(08)
(09)
            for i = 1 : n
               if (\Delta|x|)_i > 0, y_i = (A_c x)_i/(\Delta|x|)_i; else y_i = 1; end
(10)
               if x_i \ge 0, z_i = 1; else z_i = -1; end
(11)
(12)
            S = A_c - T_y \Delta T_z; return
(13)
(14)
         end
         if \varrho(D) < 1, return, end
(15)
         b = e;
(16)
         x = Rb; \ \gamma = \min_k |x_k|;
(17)
         for i = 1 : n
(18)
(19)
            for j = 1 : n
               x' = x - 2b_j R_{\bullet j};
(20)
               if \min_k |x_k'| > \gamma, \gamma = \min_k |x_k'|; x = x'; b_j = -b_j; end
(21)
(22)
            end
(23)
         end
         [\mathbf{x}, S] = \mathbf{intervalhull}(\mathbf{A}, [b, b]);
(24)
```

Figure 4.2: An algorithm for finding a singular matrix in an interval matrix.

```
function [x, S] = intervalhull(A, b)
(01)
(02)
          \% Computes either the interval hull \mathbf{x}
(03)
          % of the solution set of \mathbf{A}x = \mathbf{b},
          % or a singular matrix S \in \mathbf{A}.
(04)
(05)
           \mathbf{x} = []; S = [];
(06)
           if A_c is singular, S = A_c; return, end
           x_c = A_c^{-1}b_c; z = \operatorname{sgn}(x_c); \underline{x} = x_c; \overline{x} = x_c;
(07)
           Z = \{z\}; D = \emptyset;
(08)
           while Z \neq \emptyset
(09)
               select z \in Z; Z = Z - \{z\}; D = D \cup \{z\};
(10)
               [Q_z, S] = \mathbf{qzmatrix}(\mathbf{A}, z);
(11)
               if S \neq [], \mathbf{x} = []; return, end
(12)
               [Q_{-z}, S] = \mathbf{qzmatrix}(\mathbf{A}, -z);
(13)
               if S \neq [], \mathbf{x} = []; return, end
(14)
               \overline{x}_z = Q_z b_c + |Q_z|\delta;
(15)
               \underline{x}_z = Q_{-z}b_c - |Q_{-z}|\delta;
(16)
               if \underline{x}_z \leq \overline{x}_z
(17)
                   \underline{x} = \min(\underline{x}, \underline{x}_z); \overline{x} = \max(\overline{x}, \overline{x}_z);
(18)
                   for j = 1 : n
(19)
                       z' = z; z'_j = -z'_j;
(20)
                       if ((\underline{x}_z)_j(\overline{x}_z)_j \leq 0 and z' \notin Z \cup D)
(21)
                           Z=Z\cup\{z'\};
(22)
(23)
                       end
(24)
                   end
(25)
               end
(26)
           end
(27)
           \mathbf{x} = [\underline{x}, \overline{x}];
          function [Q_z, S] = \operatorname{\mathbf{qzmatrix}}(\mathbf{A}, z)
(01)
          % Computes either a solution Q_z
(02)
          % of the equation QA_c - |Q|\Delta T_z = I,
(03)
(04)
          % or a singular matrix S \in \mathbf{A}.
(05)
          for i = 1 : n
                \begin{split} [x,S] &= \textbf{absvaleqn} \ (A_c^T, -T_z \Delta^T, e_i); \\ \textbf{if} \ S &\neq [\,], \ S = S^T; \ Q_z = [\,]; \ \textbf{return} \end{split} 
(06)
(07)
(08)
               (Q_z)_{i\bullet} = x^T;
(09)
(10)
(11)
          S = [];
```

Figure 4.3: An algorithm for computing the interval hull.

```
function [x, S] = absvaleqn(A, B, b)
(01)
(02)
        % Finds either a solution x to Ax + B|x| = b, or
(03)
        % a singular matrix S satisfying |S - A| \leq |B|.
        x = []; S = []; i = 0; r = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n; X = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n};
(04)
        if A is singular, S = A; return, end
(05)
        z = \operatorname{sgn}(A^{-1}b);
(06)
        if A + BT_z is singular, S = A + BT_z; return, end
(07)
        x = (A + BT_z)^{-1}b;
(08)
        C = -(A + BT_z)^{-1}B;
(09)
(10)
        while z_j x_j < 0 for some j
(11)
            i = i + 1;
            k = \min\{j \mid z_j x_j < 0\};
(12)
(13)
            if 1 + 2z_k C_{kk} \le 0
               S = A + B(T_z + (1/C_{kk})e_k e_k^T);
(14)
(15)
               x = []; return
(16)
            end
            if ((k < n \text{ and } r_k > \max_{k < j} r_j) \text{ or } (k = n \text{ and } r_n > 0))
(17)
               x = x - X_{\bullet k};
(18)
               for j = 1 : n
(19)
                  if (|B||x|)_j > 0, y_j = (Ax)_j/(|B||x|)_j; else y_j = 1; end
(20)
(21)
               end
(22)
               z = \operatorname{sgn}(x);
               S = A - T_y |B| T_z;
(23)
(24)
               x = []; \mathbf{return}
(25)
            end
(26)
            r_k = i;
(27)
            X_{\bullet k} = x;
(28)
            z_k = -z_k;
(29)
            \alpha = 2z_k/(1 - 2z_k C_{kk});
            x = x + \alpha x_k C_{\bullet k};
(30)
            C = C + \alpha C_{\bullet k} C_{k \bullet};
(31)
(32)
        end
```

Figure 4.4: An algorithm for solving an absolute value equation.

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