# Computational Experience with Warmstarting Strategies for Interior Point Methods

Yinyu Ye, Stanford University

Erling D. Andersen, MOSEK Anders Skajaa, Technical University of Denmark

November 23, 2012

# In this talk

- What is warmstarting and when is it applicable?
- Example: Rolling horizon optimization
- ► Reasons why warmstarting is difficult for interior point methods
- Two new warmstarting schemes
- ► Example: Robust portfolio selection
- Computational experiments

# Motivation

- ► Useful for many applications, especially in conic integer optimization
- Lots of phone calls from MOSEK customers

# Warmstarting

 $\mathcal{P}=$  an optimization problem (LP, QP, SOCP, QCQP, ...)

 $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}=\mathsf{a}$  different optimization problem of the same type

- Assume:  $x^* = \text{solution}(\mathcal{P})$  and
- $\mathcal{P} \sim \widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  (different but similar)

Can we make use of  $x^*$  when solving  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  ?

- Warmstarting:
  - Using  $x^*$ , compute a "warm" starting point  $x^0$
  - initialize algorithm to solve  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  starting from  $x^0$

▶ In this talk: we focus on Interior Point Method (=: IPM)

# Why?

Many situations: Need to solve a series of optimization problems:

```
\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{P}_3, \mathcal{P}_4, \ldots
```

where

$$\mathcal{P}_i \sim \mathcal{P}_{i+1}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots$$

Examples:

- ▶ Rolling horizon optimization (LP, QCQP, ...)
- ▶ Efficient frontier computation (QP, SOCP)
- ► Relaxations in integer programming (LP, QP, SDP)
- ► If you just have a confident solution guess

# Example: Rolling horizon optimization of charging of PEVs



Given driving schedule, when to charge to minimize cost?

### Simple (discrete time) battery model

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + T_s(\eta/Q_n)u_k - T_sd_k$$

 $x_k =$ battery power storage at time  $t_k, x_k \in [0, 1]$ 

- $u_k = charging power at time t_k$
- $d_k = driving at time t_k$

 $T_s = time interval length$ 

 $\eta = \text{charger efficiency}$ 

 $Q_n =$  nominal capacity of battery



# **Economic Model Predictive Control**

$$(LP) \begin{cases} \min_{x,u} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} p_k u_k \\ \text{s.t.} \quad x_{k+1} = x_k + T_s(\eta/Q_n)u_k - T_s d_k \\ u_{\min} \le u_k \le u_{\max,k} \\ 0.2 \le x_k \le 0.8 \end{cases} \qquad k \in \mathcal{N} \end{cases}$$

# Model Predictive Control Loop:

for 
$$k = 0, 1, 2, ..., do$$
  
• Solve (LP) and obtain  $u_k^* = (u_k^{(0)}, u_k^{(1)}, ..., u_k^{(N-1)})$   
• Apply  $u_k^{(0)}$  at time  $t_k$  to system  
end



- This is series of related(!) linear programs
- ▶ Good reason to believe  $u_{k+1}^*$  "similar" to  $u_k^*$
- ▶ Therefore: We should utilize information from solution of problem k when solving problem k + 1

- This is series of related(!) linear programs
- ▶ Good reason to believe  $u_{k+1}^*$  "similar" to  $u_k^*$
- ▶ Therefore: We should utilize information from solution of problem k when solving problem k + 1

► Warmstarting:



# **Problem Perturbation I**

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } A x \le b \right\}$$

**Problem Perturbation I** 



# **Problem Perturbation II**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P} &= \left\{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \; \text{ s.t. } A x \leq b \right\} \\ \widehat{\mathcal{P}} &= \left\{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \; \text{ s.t. } \widehat{A} x \leq \widehat{b} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

## **Problem Perturbation II**



# **Problem Perturbation III**

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } Ax \leq b \right\}$$
$$\widehat{\mathcal{P}} = \left\{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } \widehat{A}x \leq \widehat{b} \right\}$$



# **Problem Perturbation IV**

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } Ax \leq b \right\}$$
$$\widehat{\mathcal{P}} = \left\{ \min_{x} \widehat{c}^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } Ax \leq b \right\}$$

# **Problem Perturbation IV**

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } Ax \leq b \right\}$$
$$\widehat{\mathcal{P}} = \left\{ \min_{x} \widehat{c}^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } Ax \leq b \right\}$$



# Many Problems Can Happen

These examples show

- $x^*$  might be infeasible in  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$
- although  $\mathcal{P} \approx \widehat{\mathcal{P}}$ , solution may "jump"
- ▶ problem may even change status: e.g. from feasible to infeasible
- $x^*$  might be on or close to boundary in  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  (algorithmic problem)

solution  $x^*$  is not a continuous function of the data (A, b, c).

# Interior Point Algorithms for LP

$$LP(A, b, c) = \{ \min_{x} c^{T} x, \text{ s.t. } Ax = b, x \ge 0 \}$$



# Warmstarting Research

- ► The Simplex Method: works well.
- ► Active set: Often works well! (though no guarantee).
- ▶ IPMs are perceived fundamentally deficient w.r.t. warmstarting
  - $x^*$  on boundary of feasible region for  $\mathcal{P}$
  - close to the boundary, IPMs behave badly
- Previously tried for IPMs:
  - ► Solve *P* with IPM, store *all* iterates:

$$I = \left\{ x^{(0)}, x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots, x^{(\text{final})} \approx x^{\star} \right\}$$

• search I for an element that "looks good" for  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$ .

## Warmstarting Research for IPM

Original LP:  $\mathcal{P} = LP(A, b, c) = \{\min_x c^T x, \text{ s.t. } Ax = b, x \ge 0\}$ Perturbed LP:  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}} = LP(\widehat{A}, \widehat{b}, c) = \{\min_x c^T x, \text{ s.t. } \widehat{A}x = \widehat{b}, x \ge 0\}$ 



# A practical problem with the approach

- Optimization algorithms are used as black-box routines
- Usually no output of intermediate iterates
- Only output is primal solution and sometimes also dual.

# Our goal:

Warmstarting procedure using only

- $\blacktriangleright$  primal optimal or final solution of  ${\cal P}$  or
- $\blacktriangleright$  primal and dual optimal or final solution of  ${\cal P}$

when initializing algorithm to solve  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$ .

#### Homogeneous and Self-Dual Model for Linear Programming

Given a linear program  $LP(A, b, c) = \{\min_x c^T x, \text{ s.t. } Ax = b, x \ge 0\}$ , find  $(x, \tau, y, s, \kappa)$  that satisfies

$$Ax - b\tau = 0$$
$$-A^T y - s + c\tau = 0$$
$$-c^T x + b^T y - \kappa = 0$$
$$(x, \tau) \ge 0, \ (s, \kappa) \ge 0, \ y \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

- If  $\tau > 0$  then  $(x, y, s)/\tau$  is optimal for LP(A, b, c).
- If  $\kappa > 0$  then LP(A, b, c) is infeasible.

The convergence efficiency is measured by the primal-dual potential function:

$$\phi(x,s) = (n+\rho)\log(x^T s) - \sum_{j=1}^{n}\log(x_j s_j).$$

# Initialization of algorithm to solve HSD-model

► Usually, 
$$(x^0, \tau^0, y^0, s^0, \kappa^0) = (e, 1, 0, e, 1)$$
 is used (=: cold-start)  
where  $e := (1, 1, ..., 1)$  and  $\phi(x^0, s^0) = \rho \log(n)$ .

# Our warmstarting schemes

• When only primal solution  $x^*$  is available:

$$(W_{P}) \begin{cases} x^{0} = \lambda x^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ s^{0} = \mu^{0}(x^{0})^{-1} \\ y^{0} = 0 \\ \tau^{0} = 1 \\ \kappa^{0} = \mu^{0} \end{cases}$$

where

• 
$$\lambda \in [0,1], \ \mu^0 > 0$$

 $\blacktriangleright \ (x^0)^{-1}$  denotes the elementwise reciprocal of  $x^0$ 

$$x^{0} = \lambda x^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e$$

$$s^{0} = \mu^{0}(x^{0})^{-1}$$

$$\overset{e}{\lambda} = 0$$

$$\overset{e}{\lambda} = 0$$

$$\overset{e}{\lambda} = 1$$

$$\overset{e}{\rho} \text{ starting point}$$

$$\overset{e}{\mathcal{P}} \text{ optimal point } x^{*}$$

$$\overset{e}{\mathcal{P}} \text{ optimal point}$$

$$\overset{e}{\mathcal{P}} x : Ax = b \}$$

$$\overset{e}{\mathcal{F}} x : \widehat{Ax} = \widehat{b} \}$$

 $(1-\lambda)e$  added to  $x^0$  to ensure interiority (needed for IPM)  $s^0$  chosen so that  $x^0 \circ s^0 = \mu^0 e$ , where  $\circ :=$  elementwise product.

# Our warmstarting schemes

• When both primal  $x^*$  and dual solutions  $(y^*, s^*)$  are available:

$$(W_{PD}) \begin{cases} x^{0} = \lambda x^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ s^{0} = \lambda s^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ y^{0} = \lambda y^{*} \\ \tau^{0} = 1 \\ \kappa^{0} = (x^{0})^{T} s^{0}/n \end{cases}$$

• Also 
$$y^0 = \lambda y^* + (1 - \lambda)0$$
.

If new primal variables and/or new dual variables are added, they are set to default values without warmstarting.

# Our warmstarting schemes

$$(W_{P}) \begin{cases} x^{0} = \lambda x^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ s^{0} = \mu^{0} (x^{0})^{-1} \\ y^{0} = 0 \\ \tau^{0} = 1 \\ \kappa^{0} = \mu^{0} \end{cases} \qquad (W_{PD}) \begin{cases} x^{0} = \lambda x^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ s^{0} = \lambda s^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ y^{0} = \lambda s^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ y^{0} = \lambda s^{*} + (1 - \lambda)e \\ r^{0} = 1 \\ \kappa^{0} = (x^{0})^{T} s^{0}/n \end{cases}$$

- $W_P$  suited when
  - ► Just *x*<sup>\*</sup> is available (black box)
  - Just one problem is to be solved, but you have a "good guess"
- $W_{PD}$  suited when
  - ► (x\*, y\*, s\*) is available (better black box) but still no intermediate iterates

#### Warmstarting for the electric vehicle example

- $\boldsymbol{u}_k^* = (u_k^{(0)}, u_k^{(1)}, \dots, u_k^{(N-1)})$  solution at time  $t_k$
- $\blacktriangleright$  Then in place of " $x^*$ " in warmstarting schemes, we use

$$(u_k^{(1)}, \dots, u_k^{(N-1)}, u_k^{(N-1)})$$

i.e.  $\boldsymbol{u}_k^*$  translated one place





# Charging Schedule for Electric Vehicle and Warmstarting Performance

# Linear Programs from NETLIB

- ► ~90 real-life Linear Programs, varying size and sparsity
- ► For all problems, do
  - ▶ Solve  $\mathcal{P}$ . Optimal solution:  $(x^*, y^*, s^*)$
  - Generate  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  by a random perturbation of  $\mathcal{P}$ :
    - $\blacktriangleright \ \widehat{A} = A + \delta \Delta A \quad \text{or} \quad \widehat{b} = b + \delta \Delta b \quad \text{or} \quad \widehat{c} = c + \delta \Delta c$
    - $\delta$  measures perturbation magnitude
  - $\blacktriangleright$  Solve  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  coldstarting and warmstarting using  $x^*$  and  $(y^*,s^*)$
- Measure of warmstarting improvement:

$$\mathcal{R} = \frac{\# \text{Iterations to solve } \widehat{\mathcal{P}} \text{ warmstarted}}{\# \text{Iterations to solve } \widehat{\mathcal{P}} \text{ coldstarted}}$$

▶ and entire problem set:

$$\mathcal{G} = \sqrt[K]{\mathcal{R}_1 \cdots \mathcal{R}_K}$$

# Warmstarting Performance on NETLIB Linear Programs



## **Theoretical Justification**

- The primal-dual potential function initial value remains bounded by O(ρ log(n)) for any fixed 0 ≤ λ < 1.</p>
- Conservative approach requires  $\lambda \ll 1$
- In practice: use much more aggressive choice of  $\lambda$  (i.e. close to 1)
- For experiments above:  $\lambda = 0.99$ .
- ► Similar results for W<sub>P</sub>

Anders Skajaa, Erling D. Andersen and Yinyu Ye. *Warmstarting the Homogeneous and Self-Dual Interior Point Method for Linear and Conic Quadratic Problems.* Working paper to appear in Math. Prog. Computation.

# Portfolio selection and efficient frontier

► Available for investment: *n* different assets

Denote

$$\label{eq:risk} \begin{split} r_i = \text{random variable, return of asset } i \\ r = \text{vector stacking the } r_i \end{split}$$

Assume

 $r \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$ 

where

$$\label{eq:mean returns} \begin{split} \mu &= \text{mean returns} \\ \Sigma &= \text{covariance matrix} \end{split}$$

# **Classical Markowitz portfolio selection**

 $r_i = \mathsf{RV}$ , return of asset ir = vector stacking the  $r_i$ 

 $r \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$ 

- $\phi_i = \text{fraction of wealth in asset } i$
- $\phi =$  vector stacking the  $\phi_i$  (entire portfolio)
- ► Then

*Expected* return of portfolio  $\phi$  is

$$E[r^T\phi] = \mu^T\phi$$

"risk" of portfolio  $\widehat{=}$ 

$$\mathsf{Var}(r^{\,T}\phi)=\phi^{\,T}\Sigma\phi$$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mu^{T}\phi & = \text{expected return of } \phi \\ \phi^{T}\Sigma\phi \stackrel{\scriptscriptstyle \frown}{=} \text{risk of } \phi \end{array}$ 

# **Classical Markowitz portfolio selection**

Markowitz portfolio optimization:

Optimize a trade-off between max(return) and min(risk)

• Assuming we know with certainty the data  $(\mu, \Sigma)$ ,

we can compute the classical Markowitz portfolio from:

$$(\text{QP}) \begin{cases} \text{minimize}_{\phi} & \phi^T \Sigma \phi \\ \text{subject to} & \mu^T \phi \ge t \\ & e^T \phi = 1 \\ & \phi \ge 0 \end{cases}$$

i.e.: minimize variance s.t. expected return  $\geq t$ 

# $(\text{QP}) \begin{cases} & \text{minimize}_{\phi} & \phi^T \Sigma \phi \\ & \text{subject to} & \mu^T \phi \ge t \\ & e^T \phi = 1 \\ & \phi \ge 0 \end{cases}$

## Efficient frontier

- t = demanded minimal expected return
- Denote the minimum risk by q(t)
- Efficient frontier: (t, q(t)) for a range of t
- ► A series of related QPs, use warmstarting!
- Data:
  - 500 assets from S&P 500 index
  - expected returns  $\mu$  and covariances  $\Sigma$  estimated from 800 daily closing prices 2007–2011



Warmstarting performance when computing the efficient frontier

 $r_i = \mathsf{RV}$ , return of asset ir = vector stacking the  $r_i$ 

#### Robust portfolio selection

Now assume

$$r \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$$
 where  $\Sigma = V^T F V + D$ 

and data in uncertainty sets:

$$\mu \in S_{\mu} := \{ \mu : \mu = \mu_0 + \xi, \ |\xi_i| \le \gamma_i \}$$
$$D \in S_D := \{ D : D = \text{diag}(d), \ 0 \le d_i \le \bar{d}_i \}$$
$$V \in S_V := \{ V : V = V_0 + W, \ \|W_{:i}\|_G \le \bar{w}_i \}$$

D. Goldfarb and G. Iyengar. *Robust portfolio selection problems.* Math. Oper. Res., Feb. 2003.

$$\begin{split} r_i &= \mathsf{RV}, \text{ return of asset } i \\ r &= \text{vector stacking the } r_i \\ r &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma), \quad \Sigma = V^T F V + D \\ \mu^T \phi &= \text{expected return of } \phi \\ \phi^T \Sigma \phi \triangleq \text{risk of } \phi \\ S_x &= \text{ uncertainty set of } x \end{split}$$

• Find portfolio  $\phi$  minimizing *worst-case* risk (variance):

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Robust portfolio} \\ \text{selection} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\phi} & \max_{V \in S_V, D \in S_D} \{\phi^T \Sigma \phi\} \\ \text{subject to} & \min_{\mu \in S_\mu} \{\mu^T \phi\} \geq t \\ & e^T \phi = 1, \quad \phi \geq 0 \end{array} \right.$ 

$$\begin{split} r_i &= \mathsf{RV}, \text{ return of asset } i \\ r &= \text{vector stacking the } r_i \\ r &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma), \quad \Sigma = V^T F V + D \\ \mu^T \phi &= \text{expected return of } \phi \\ \phi^T \Sigma \phi \triangleq \text{risk of } \phi \\ S_x &= \text{ uncertainty set of } x \end{split}$$

► Find portfolio  $\phi$  minimizing *worst-case* risk (variance):

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Robust portfolio} \\ \text{selection} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\phi} & \max_{V \in S_V, D \in S_D} \{\phi^T \Sigma \phi\} \\ \text{subject to} & \min_{\mu \in S_\mu} \{\mu^T \phi\} \geq t \\ & e^T \phi = 1, \quad \phi \geq 0 \end{array} \right.$ 

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Compare with} \\ \text{classical} \end{array} \begin{cases} \begin{array}{c} \text{minimize}_{\phi} & \phi^T \Sigma \phi \\ \text{subject to} & \mu^T \phi \geq t \\ & e^T \phi = 1, \ \phi \geq 0 \end{array} \end{cases}$$

 $\blacktriangleright \text{ The robust portfolio selection problem } \begin{cases} \min_{\phi} \max_{V \in S_V, D \in S_D} \{\phi^T \Sigma \phi\} \\ \text{s.t. } \min_{\mu \in S_\mu} \{\mu^T \phi\} \ge t \\ e^T \phi = 1, \quad \phi > 0 \end{cases}$ 

can be formulated as equivalent Second Order Cone Program:

$$\begin{split} \min_{\{\phi,\dots\}} & \nu + \delta \\ \text{subject to} & \mu_0^T \phi - \gamma^T \psi \ge t \\ & r \ge w^T \psi, \quad -\phi \le \psi \le \phi \\ & e^T \phi = 1, \quad \phi \ge 0 \\ & \tau + e^T t \le \nu, \quad \sigma \le 1/\lambda_{\max}(H) \\ & \|(2r, \sigma - \tau)\|_2 \le \sigma + \tau \\ & \|(2v_i, 1 - \sigma\lambda_i - t_i)\|_2 \le 1 - \sigma\lambda_i + t_i, \quad i = 1,\dots, m \\ & \|(2\bar{D}^{1/2}\phi, 1 - \delta)\|_2 \le 1 + \delta \end{split}$$

- SOCPs can be solved as efficiently as QPs
- Warm points generalized via Jordan algebra operations associated with convex cones



► Frequent *rebalancing* of portfolio:

#### repeat:

- Estimate problem-data  $\mu_0, \gamma, \ldots$  and uncertainty sets based on observed data from previous time window
- Rebalance portfolio by solving robust portfolio selection problem

# end

- Series of related SOCPs
- Faster solution  $\longrightarrow$  more frequent rebalancing
- Warmstarting! (use previous portfolio as " $x^*$ ").

#### Portfolio rebalancing and warmstarting performance



# **Concluding remarks**

- ► Warmstarting schemes seem effective in practice
  - Easy to compute
  - ► Require *only* final solution of *P* (OK with black-boxes)
  - Significant work reductions in practice
  - ► Work at least for LP, QP, SOCP
- More details and examples in working paper:
  - ► More linear programs and rolling horizon conic examples
  - ► QP subproblems in cutting-plane/bundle methods
- ► Future
  - ► Easily extend-able to SDP, but computational experiments remain to be seen
  - Applications in integer optimization with branching and cutting
  - ► Theoretical question: if the perturbation is random, prove that the scheme works with high probability!

# **Concluding remarks**

- ► Warmstarting schemes seem effective in practice
  - Easy to compute
  - ► Require *only* final solution of *P* (OK with black-boxes)
  - Significant work reductions in practice
  - ► Work at least for LP, QP, SOCP
- More details and examples in working paper:
  - ► More linear programs and rolling horizon conic examples
  - ► QP subproblems in cutting-plane/bundle methods
- ► Future
  - ► Easily extend-able to SDP, but computational experiments remain to be seen
  - Applications in integer optimization with branching and cutting
  - ► Theoretical question: if the perturbation is random, prove that the scheme works with high probability!

# Thank you!

# Linear Programs from NETLIB

- We define  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}$  by randomly perturbing data A, b and c:
  - Assume  $v \in \mathbb{R}^M$  is vector we want to perturb
  - s = random number, [0, 1]-uniform
  - if  $s \le \min\{0.1, 20/M\}$

$$v_i := \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \delta r & \text{if } |v_i| \leq 10^{-6} \\ (1+\delta r) v_i & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

where r = random number, [-1, 1]-uniform

- otherwise don't change
- ▶ On average,  $\min\{10\%, 20\}$  of the elements are changed
- $\blacktriangleright$  "Magnitude" of perturbation measured by  $\delta$

# Example: Portfolio selection and efficient frontier

- ► Available for investment: *n* different assets
- Denote

$$\label{eq:risk} \begin{split} r_i = \mbox{random variable, return of asset } i \\ r = \mbox{vector stacking the } r_i \end{split}$$

Assume

$$r = \mu + V^T f + \epsilon$$

where

 $\mu = \text{mean returns}$ 

f = random returns of "factors" that drive market

- $V = \mathsf{factor} \ \mathsf{loading} \ \mathsf{matrix}, \ V \in \mathbb{R}^{m imes n}$
- $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} = \text{``residuals''}$  assumed normally distributed

# **Classical Markowitz portfolio selection**

Assume

 $\begin{array}{rcl} r_i & = & {\rm RV}, \mbox{ return of asset } i \\ r & = & \mbox{ vector stacking the } r_i \\ r & = & \mu + V^T f + \epsilon \end{array}$ 

 $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D)$  $f \sim \mathcal{N}(0, F)$ 

Then

$$r \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$$
 where  $\Sigma = V^T F V + D$ 

▶  $\phi_i$  = fraction of wealth in asset i and  $\phi$  = entire portfolio

► Then

*Expected* return of portfolio  $\phi$  is

$$E[r^T\phi] = \mu^T\phi$$

"risk" of portfolio  $\widehat{=}$ 

$$\mathsf{Var}(r^T\phi) = \phi^T \Sigma \phi$$