An algorithm to compute the Hoffman constant of a system of linear constraints

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Abstract

We propose a combinatorial algorithm to compute the Hoffman constant of a system of linear equations and inequalities. The algorithm is based on a characterization of the Hoffman constant as the largest of a finite canonical collection of easy-to-compute Hoffman constants. Our algorithm and characterization extend to the more general context where some of the constraints are easy to satisfy as in the case of box constraints. We highlight some natural connections between our characterizations of the Hoffman constant and Renegar’s distance to ill-posedness for systems of linear constraints.

1 Introduction

A classical result of Hoffman [18] shows that the distance between a point $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and a non-empty polyhedron $P_{A,b} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b\}$ can be bounded above in terms of the size of the residual vector $(Au - b)_+ := \max(0, Au - b)$. More precisely, for $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ there exists a Hoffman constant $H(A)$ that depends only on $A$ such that for all $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ with $P_{A,b} \neq \emptyset$ and all $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\text{dist}(u, P_{A,b}) \leq H(A) \cdot \|(Au - b)_+\|.$$ \hfill (1)

Here $\text{dist}(u, P_{A,b}) := \min\{\|u - x\| : x \in P_{A,b}\}$. The bound (1) is a type of error bound for the system of inequalities $Ax \leq b$, that is, an inequality bounding the distance from a point $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to a nonempty solution set in terms of a measure of the error or residual of the point $u$. The Hoffman bound (1) and more general error bounds play a fundamental role in mathematical programming [30, 31, 46]. In particular, Hoffman bounds as well as other related error bounds are instrumental in establishing convergence properties of a variety of algorithms [4, 13, 17, 21, 22, 26, 28, 35, 43]. Hoffman bounds are also used to measure the optimality and feasibility of a point generated by rounding an optimal point of the continuous relaxation of a mixed-integer linear or quadratic optimization problem [15, 41].

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Furthermore, Hoffman bounds are used in sensitivity analysis [19], and to design solution methods for non-convex quadratic programs [44].

The computational task of calculating or even estimating the constant \( H(A) \) is known to be notoriously challenging [20]. The following characterization of \( H(A) \) from [16, 20, 43] is often used in the optimization literature

\[
H(A) = \max_{J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}} \frac{1}{\min_{v \in \mathbb{R}_J^+ \|v\|^{*}=1} \|A_J^T v\|^{*}}.
\]  

In (1) and throughout the paper \( A_J \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times n} \) denotes the submatrix of \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \) obtained by selecting the rows in \( J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\} \). A naive attempt to use (1) to compute or estimate \( H(A) \) is evidently non-viable because, in principle, it requires scanning an enormous number of sets \( J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\} \). A major limitation of (1) is that it does not reflect the fact that the tractability of computing \( H(A) \) may depend on certain structural features of \( A \). For instance, the computation of the Hoffman constant \( H(A) \) is manageable when the set-valued mapping \( x \mapsto Ax + \mathbb{R}^m_+ \) is surjective, that is, when \( A\mathbb{R}^n + \mathbb{R}^m_+ = \mathbb{R}^m \). In this case, as it is shown in [20, 36, 40], the sharpest constant \( H(A) \) satisfying (1) is

\[
H(A) = \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|x\|^{*}=1} \frac{1}{\min_{y \geq 0, \|y\|^{*}=1} \|A^T y\|^{*}}.
\]

This value is computable via convex optimization for suitable norms in \( \mathbb{R}^n \) and \( \mathbb{R}^m \). Furthermore, when the set-valued mapping \( x \mapsto Ax + \mathbb{R}^m_+ \) is surjective, the system of linear inequalities \( Ax < 0 \) is well-posed, that is, it is feasible and remains feasible for small perturbations on \( A \). In this case, the value \( 1/H(A) \) is precisely Renegar’s distance to ill-posedness [37, 38] of \( Ax < 0 \), that is, the size of the smallest perturbation on \( A \) that destroys the well-posedness of \( Ax < 0 \).

We propose a combinatorial algorithm that computes the sharpest Hoffman constant \( H(A) \) for any matrix \( A \) by leveraging the above well-posedness property. The algorithm is founded on the following characterization

\[
H(A) = \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A)} \frac{1}{\min_{v \in \mathbb{R}_J^+, \|v\|^{*}=1} \|A_J^T v\|^{*}},
\]

where \( \mathcal{S}(A) \) is the collection of subsets \( J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\} \) such that each \( x \mapsto A_J x + \mathbb{R}_J^+ \) is surjective. As we detail in Section 3, this characterization readily enables the computation of \( H(A) \) by computing \( \min_{v \in \mathbb{R}_J^+, \|v\|^{*}=1} \|A_J^T v\|^{*} \) over a much smaller collection \( \mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A) \). The identification of such a collection \( \mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A) \) is the main combinatorial challenge that our algorithm tackles.

Our characterization and algorithm to compute the Hoffman constant also extend to the more general context involving both linear equations and linear inequalities and, perhaps most interestingly, to the case where some equations or inequalities are easy to satisfy. The latter situation arises naturally when some of the constraints are of the form \( x \leq u \) or \( -x \leq -\ell \). Our interest in characterizing the Hoffman constant in the more general case that includes easy-to-satisfy constraints is motivated by the recent articles [4, 13, 17, 21, 35, 44].
In each of these articles, suitable Hoffman constants for systems of linear constraints that include easy-to-satisfy constraints play a central role in establishing key properties of modern optimization algorithms. In particular, we show that the facial distance or pyramidal width introduced in [21, 35] is precisely a Hoffman constant of this kind.

The paper makes the following main contributions. First, we develop a novel algorithmic approach to compute or estimate Hoffman constants (see Algorithm 1, Algorithm 2, and Algorithm 3). Second, our algorithmic developments are supported by a fresh perspective on Hoffman error bounds based on a generic Hoffman constant for polyhedral sublinear mappings (see Theorem 1). This perspective readily yields a characterization of the classical Hoffman constant \( H(A) \) for systems of linear inequalities (see Proposition 1) and a similar characterization of the Hoffman constant for systems including both linear equations and linear inequalities (see Proposition 5). Third, we develop characterizations of Hoffman constants in the more general context when some of the constraints are easy to satisfy (see Proposition 3, Proposition 6, Proposition 7, and Proposition 8). Throughout the paper we highlight the interesting and natural but somewhat overlooked connection between the Hoffman constant and Renegar’s distance to ill-posedness [37, 38], which is a cornerstone of condition measures in continuous optimization. The paper is entirely self-contained and relies only on standard convex optimization techniques. We make extensive use of the one-to-one correspondence between the class of sublinear set-valued mappings \( \Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^m \) and the class of convex cones \( K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \) defined via \( \Phi \mapsto \text{graph}(\Phi) := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m : y \in \Phi(x)\} \).

Our results are related to a number of previous developments in the rich literature on error bounds [3, 8, 16, 25, 27, 40, 42, 45] and on condition measures for continuous optimization [7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 23, 32, 33, 37, 38]. In particular, the expressions for the Hoffman constants in Proposition 1 and Proposition 5 have appeared, albeit in slightly different form or under more restrictive conditions, in the work of Klatte and Thiere [20], Li [25], Robinson [40], and Wang and Lin [43]. More precisely, Klatte and Thiere [20] state and prove a version of Proposition 5 under the more restrictive assumption that \( \mathbb{R}^n \) is endowed with the \( \ell_2 \) norm. Klatte and Thiere [20] also propose an algorithm to compute the Hoffman constant which is fairly different from ours. Li [25], Robinson [40], and Wang and Lin [43] give characterizations of Hoffman constants that are equivalent to Proposition 1 and Proposition 5 but where the maximum is taken over a different, and typically much larger, collection of index sets. As we detail in Section 2, the expression for \( H(A) \) in Proposition 1 can readily be seen to be at least as sharp as some bounds on \( H(A) \) derived by Güler et al. [16] and Burke and Tseng [8]. We also note that weaker versions of Theorem 1 can be obtained from results on error bounds in Asplund spaces as those developed in the article by Van Ngai and Théra [42]. Our goal to devise algorithms to compute Hoffman constants is in the spirit of and draws on the work by Freund and Vera [11, 12] to compute the distance to ill-posedness of a system of linear constraints. Our approach to Hoffman bounds based on the correspondence between sublinear set-valued mappings and convex cones is motivated by the work of Lewis [23]. The characterizations of Hoffman constants when some constraints are easy to satisfy use ideas and techniques introduced by the first author in [32, 33] and further developed by Lewis [24].

The contents of the paper are organized as follows. Section 2 presents a characterization of the Hoffman constant \( H(A) \) for \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \) as the largest of a finite canonical collection of easy-to-compute Hoffman constants of submatrices of \( A \). We also give characterizations of similar Hoffman constants for more general cases that include both equality and inequality constraints.
constraints, and where some of these constraints are easy to satisfy. Section 3 leverages
the results of Section 2 to devise an algorithm that computes the Hoffman constant $H(A)$
for $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ as well as other analogous Hoffman constants. Section 4 contains our main
theoretical result, namely a characterization of the Hoffman constant $H(\Phi|L)$ for a polyhedral
sublinear mapping $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^m$ when the residual is known to intersect a particular linear
subspace $L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$. The constant $H(\Phi|L)$ is the maximum of the norms of a canonical set
of polyhedral sublinear mappings associated to $\Phi$ and $L$. Section 5 presents the proofs of
the main statements in Section 2. Each of these statements is an instantiation of the generic
characterization of the Hoffman constant $H(\Phi|L)$ for suitable choices of $\Phi$ and $L$.

Throughout the paper whenever we work with an Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^d$, we will assume
that it is endowed with a norm $\| \cdot \|$ and inner product $\langle \cdot , \cdot \rangle$. Unless we explicitly state
otherwise, our results apply to arbitrary norms.

2 Hoffman constants for systems of linear constraints

This section describes a characterization for the Hoffman constant $H(A)$ in (1) for systems
of linear inequalities

$$Ax \leq b.$$  

We subsequently consider analogous Hoffman constants for systems of linear equations and
inequalities

$$Ax = b$$
$$Cx \leq d.$$  

Although the latter case with equations and inequalities subsumes the former case, for expo-
sition purposes we discuss separately the case with inequalities only. The notation and main
ideas in this case are simpler and easier to grasp. The crux of the characterization of $H(A)$
based on a canonical collection of submatrices of $A$ is more apparent.

We defer the proofs of all propositions in this section to Section 5, where we show that
they follow from a characterization of a generic Hoffman constant for polyhedral sublinear
mappings (Theorem 1). We will rely on the following terminology. Recall that a set-valued
mapping $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^m$ assigns a set $\Phi(x) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ to each $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. A set-valued mapping
$\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^m$ is surjective if $\Phi(\mathbb{R}^n) = \bigcup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \Phi(x) = \mathbb{R}^m$. More generally, $\Phi$ is relatively
surjective if $\Phi(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is a linear subspace.

2.1 The case of inequalities only

Proposition 1 below gives a characterizations of the sharpest Hoffman constant $H(A)$ such
that (1) holds. The characterization is stated in terms of a canonical collection of submatrices
of $A$ that define surjective sublinear mappings.

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. We shall say that a set $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}$ is $A$-surjective if the set-valued
mapping $x \mapsto Ax + \{s \in \mathbb{R}^m : s_J \geq 0\}$ is surjective. Equivalently, $J$ is $A$-surjective if
$A_J \mathbb{R}^n + \mathbb{R}_+^J = \mathbb{R}^J$, where $A_J$ denotes the submatrix of $A$ determined by the rows in $J$. For
$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ let $S(A)$ denote the following collection of subsets of $\{1, \ldots, m\}$:

$$S(A) := \{J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\} : J \text{ is } A\text{-surjective}\}.$$
For $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ let
\[ H(A) := \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A)} H_J(A), \tag{3} \]
where
\[ H_J(A) := \max_{v \in \mathbb{R}^m, S(A) \ni x \in \mathbb{R}^n, ||v|| \leq 1} \min_{A_J x \leq v_J} ||x|| \]
for each $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$. By convention $H_J(A) = 0$ if $J = \emptyset$.

Observe that the set $\mathcal{S}(A)$ is independent of the particular norms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$. On the other hand, the values of $H_J(A), J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$ and $H(A)$ certainly depend on these norms. The constant $H(A)$ defined in (2.1) is the sharpest constant satisfying (1).

**Proposition 1.** Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Then for all $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $P_{A,b} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b\} \neq \emptyset$ and all $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$
\[ \text{dist}(u, P_{A,b}) \leq H(A) \cdot \text{dist}(b, Au + \mathbb{R}^n_+) \leq H(A) \cdot \|(Au - b)_+\|. \]
Furthermore, the first bound is tight: If $H(A) > 0$ then there exist $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $P_{A,b} \neq \emptyset$ and $u \notin P_{A,b}$ such that
\[ \text{dist}(u, P_{A,b}) = H(A) \cdot \text{dist}(b, Au + \mathbb{R}^n_+). \]

The following proposition complements Proposition 1 and yields a procedure to compute $H_J(A)$ for $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$.

**Proposition 2.** Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Then for all $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$
\[ H_J(A) = \max_{v \in \mathbb{R}^m, ||v|| \leq 1} \min_{A_J x \leq v_J} ||x|| = \max_{v \in \mathbb{R}^m_+, ||v||* \leq 1} \frac{1}{||A_J^Tv||*}, \tag{4} \]
If the mapping $x \mapsto Ax + \mathbb{R}^n_+$ is surjective then
\[ H(A) = \max_{v \in \mathbb{R}^m, ||v|| \leq 1, Ax \leq v} ||v|| = \max_{v \in \mathbb{R}^m_+, ||v||* \leq 1} \frac{1}{||A^Tv||*}. \tag{5} \]

The identity (2) in Proposition 2 has the following geometric interpretation. By Gordan’s theorem, the mapping $x \mapsto Ax + \mathbb{R}^n_+$ is surjective if and only if $0 \notin \{A^Tv : v \geq 0, ||v||* = 1\}$. When this is the case, the quantity $1/H(A)$ is precisely the distance (in the dual norm $|| \cdot ||*$) from the origin to $\{A^Tv : v \geq 0, ||v||* = 1\}$. The latter quantity in turn equals the distance to non-surjectivity of the mapping $x \mapsto Ax + \mathbb{R}^n_+$, that is, the norm of the smallest perturbation matrix $\Delta A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ such that $x \mapsto (A + \Delta A)x + \mathbb{R}^n_+$ is not surjective as it is detailed in [23]. This distance to non-surjectivity is the same as Renegar’s distance to ill-posedness of the system of linear inequalities $Ax < 0$ defined by $A$. The distance to ill-posedness provides the main building block for Renegar’s concept of condition number for convex optimization introduced in the seminal papers [37, 38] that has been further extended in [2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 32, 33] among many other articles.
The identities (2) and (2) readily yield the following bound on $H(A)$ previously established in [8, 16]

$$H(A) = \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A)} \max \{ \|v\|^* : v \in \mathbb{R}^J_+, \|A_J^T v\|^* \leq 1 \}$$

$$= \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A)} \max \{ \|\tilde{v}\|^* : \tilde{v} \in \text{ext}\{v \in \mathbb{R}^J_+, \|A_J^T v\|^* \leq 1 \} \}$$

$$\leq \max \{ \|\tilde{v}\|^* : \tilde{v} \in \text{ext}\{v \in \mathbb{R}^m_+, \|A^T v\|^* \leq 1 \} \}.$$ 

In the above expressions $\text{ext}(C)$ denotes the set of extreme points of a closed convex set $C$.

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Observe that if $J \subseteq F \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}$ and $F$ is $A$-surjective then $J$ is $A$-surjective. In other words, if $J \subseteq F \in \mathcal{S}(A)$ then $F$ provides a certificate of surjectivity for $J$. Equivalently, if $I \subseteq J$ and $I$ is not $A$-surjective then $J$ is not $A$-surjective, that is, $I$ provides a certificate of non-surjectivity for $J$. The following corollary of Proposition 1 takes this observation a bit further and provides the crux of our combinatorial algorithm to compute $H(A)$.

**Corollary 1.** Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Suppose $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A)$ and $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, m\}} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A)$ provide joint certificates of surjectivity and non-surjectivity for all subsets of $\{1, \ldots, m\}$. In other words, for all $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}$ either $J \subseteq F$ for some $F \in \mathcal{F}$, or $I \subseteq J$ for some $I \in \mathcal{I}$. Then

$$H(A) = \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H_F(A).$$

**Proof.** The conditions on $\mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{I}$ imply that for all $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$ there exists $F \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $J \subseteq F$. The latter condition implies that $H_J(A) \leq H_F(A)$. Therefore Proposition 1 yields

$$H(A) = \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A)} H_J(A) = \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H_F(A).$$

$\square$

Proposition 1, Proposition 2, and Corollary 1 extend to the more general context when some of the inequalities in $Ax \leq b$ are easy to satisfy. This occurs in particular when some of the inequalities $Ax \leq b$ are of the form $x \leq u$ or $-x \leq -\ell$. It is thus natural to consider a refinement of the Hoffman constant $H(A)$ that reflects the presence of this kind of easy-to-satisfy constraints.

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and $L \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}$. Let $L^c := \{1, \ldots, m\} \setminus L$ denote the complementary set of $L$. Define

$$H(A|L) := \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A)} H_J(A|L)$$

where

$$H_J(A|L) := \max_{y \in \mathbb{R}^{L^c}} \min_{\|x\| \leq 1} \|x\|$$

for each $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$. For ease of notation, the latter expression uses the convention that $y_j = 0$ whenever $j \in J \setminus L$. In particular, observe that $H_J(A|L) = 0$ if $J \cap L = \emptyset$. For $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ let

$$\text{dist}_L(b, S) := \inf\{\|b - y\| : y \in S, (b - y)_{L^c} = 0\}.$$
Evidently dist$_L(b,S) < \infty$ if and only if \((S-b) \cap \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m : y_{L^c} = 0\} \neq \emptyset\).

Proposition 1, Proposition 2, and Corollary 1 extend to a system of inequalities of the form \(Ax \leq b\) where the subset of inequalities \(A_L x \leq b_{L^c}\) is easy to satisfy.

**Proposition 3.** Let \(A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}\) and \(L \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}\). Then for all \(b \in \mathbb{R}^m\) such that \(P_{A,b} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b\} \neq \emptyset\) and all \(u \in \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : A_L x \leq b_{L^c}\}\)

\[\text{dist}(u, P_{A,b}) \leq H(A|L) \cdot \text{dist}_L(b, Au + \mathbb{R}_+^m) \leq H(A|L) \cdot \|A_L u - b_{L^c}\|_+\]

Furthermore, the first bound is tight: If \(H(A|L) > 0\) then there exist \(b \in \mathbb{R}^m\) such that \(P_{A,b} \neq \emptyset\) and \(u \in \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : A_L x \leq b_{L^c}\} \setminus P_{A,b}\) such that

\[\text{dist}(u, P_{A,b}) = H(A|L) \cdot \text{dist}_L(b, Au + \mathbb{R}_+^m)\]

**Proposition 4.** Let \(A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}\setminus \{0\}\) and \(L \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}\). Then for all \(J \in \mathcal{S}(A)\)

\[H_J(A|L) = \max_{y \in \mathcal{L}} \min_{\|y\| \leq 1, A_L x \leq y} \|\|x\|\| = \max_{y \in \mathcal{L}} \min_{\|y\|\leq 1, A_L x \leq y} \|v_{J \cap L}\|^* = \frac{1}{\min_{v \in \mathcal{R}^m_+, \|v\|^* = 1} \|A_L^T v\|^*}
\]

with the convention that the denominator in the last expression is \(+\infty\) when \(J \cap L = \emptyset\).

If the mapping \(x \mapsto Ax + \mathbb{R}_+^m\) is surjective then

\[H(A|L) = \max_{F \subseteq \mathcal{F}} H_F(A|L)\]

**Corollary 2.** Let \(A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}\) and \(L \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}\). Suppose \(\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A)\) and \(\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, m\}} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A)\) are such that for all \(J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}\) either \(J \subseteq \mathcal{F}\) for some \(F \in \mathcal{F}\), or \(I \subseteq J\) for some \(I \in \mathcal{I}\). Then

\[H(A|L) = \max_{F \subseteq \mathcal{F}} H_F(A|L)\]

### 2.2 The case of equations and inequalities

The previous statements extend to linear systems of equations and inequalities combined. Proposition 5 below gives a bound analogous to (1) for the distance from a point \(u \in \mathbb{R}^n\) to a nonempty polyhedron of the form

\[\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = b, Cx \leq d\} = A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d}\]

Here and throughout this section \(A^{-1} : \mathbb{R}^m \rightharpoonup \mathbb{R}^n\) denotes the inverse set-valued mapping of the linear mapping \(x \mapsto Ax\) defined by a matrix \(A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}\).

Let \(A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}\). For \(J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}\) let \([A,C,J] : \mathbb{R}^n \rightharpoonup \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p\) be the set-valued mapping defined by

\[x \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} Ax \\ Cx \end{bmatrix} + \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ s \end{bmatrix} : s \in \mathbb{R}^p, s_J \geq 0 \right\}.
\]

Define

\[S(A;C) := \{J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\} : [A,C,J] \text{ is relatively surjective}\}\]
Proposition 5. Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \), \( C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n} \), and \( H := \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A,C)} H_J \) where

\[
H_J := \max_{(y,w) \in (A^T)^p \times \mathbb{R}^p} \min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x\| = \max_{(v,z) \in (A^T)^p \times \mathbb{R}^p} \|(v, z)\|^* = \min_{v \in A \mathbb{R}^n, z \in \mathbb{R}^p} \frac{1}{\|A^t v + C^t z\|^*},
\]

Then for all \( b \in \mathbb{R}^m, d \in \mathbb{R}^p \) such that \( A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d} := \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax = b, Cx \leq d \} \neq \emptyset \) and all \( u \in \mathbb{R}^n \)

\[
\text{dist}(u, A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d}) \leq H \cdot \text{dist} \left( \left[ b \atop d \right], \left[ Au \atop Cu \right] + \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^p_+ \right) \leq H \cdot \|A u - b\|. \tag{8}
\]

The first bound is tight: If \( H > 0 \) then there exist \( b \in \mathbb{R}^m, d \in \mathbb{R}^p \) such that \( A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d} \neq \emptyset \) and \( u \notin A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d} \) such that

\[
\text{dist}(u, A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d}) = H \cdot \text{dist} \left( \left[ b \atop d \right], \left[ Au \atop Cu \right] + \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^p_+ \right).
\]

If \([A, C, \{1, \ldots, p\}] : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p \) is surjective then

\[
H = \max_{u \in \mathbb{R}^m, z \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|(v, z)\|^* = \min_{v \in \mathbb{R}^m, z \in \mathbb{R}^p} \frac{1}{\|A^t v + C^t z\|^*}. \tag{8}
\]

Proposition 5 also extends to the case when some of the equations or inequalities in \( Ax = b, Cx \leq d \) are easy to satisfy. We next detail several special but particularly interesting cases. The next proposition considers systems of equations and inequalities when the inequalities are easy. This case plays a central role in [13].

Proposition 6. Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \), \( C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n} \), and \( H := \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(A,C)} H_J \) where

\[
H_J := \max_{y \in \{A^T x \leq 0 : \|y\| \leq 1\}} \min_{z \in \{A^T x \leq 0\}} \|x\| = \max_{(v,z) \in (A^T)^p \times \mathbb{R}^p} \|(v, z)\|^* = \min_{(v,z) \in (A^T)^p \times \mathbb{R}^p} \frac{1}{\|A^t v + C^t z\|^*},
\]

Then for all \( b \in \mathbb{R}^m, d \in \mathbb{R}^p \) such that \( A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d} \neq \emptyset \) and all \( u \in P_{C,d} \)

\[
\text{dist}(u, A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d}) \leq H \cdot \|Au - b\|. \tag{9}
\]

This bound is tight: If \( H > 0 \) then there exist \( b \in \mathbb{R}^m, d \in \mathbb{R}^p \) such that \( A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d} \neq \emptyset \) and \( u \notin P_{C,d} \setminus A^{-1}(b) \) such that

\[
\text{dist}(u, A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d}) = H \cdot \|Au - b\|. \tag{9}
\]

If \([A, C, \{1, \ldots, p\}] : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p \) is surjective then

\[
H = \max_{(v,z) \in (A^T)^p \times \mathbb{R}^p} \|(v, z)\|^* = \min_{(v,z) \in (A^T)^p \times \mathbb{R}^p} \frac{1}{\|A^t v + C^t z\|^*}. \tag{9}
\]
Notice the analogy between Proposition 6 and the following classical error bound for systems of linear equations. Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \) be full row rank. Then for all \( b \in \mathbb{R}^m \) and \( u \in \mathbb{R}^n \)

\[
\text{dist}(u, A^{-1}(b)) \leq \| A^{-1} \| \cdot \| Au - b \|
\]

where

\[
\| A^{-1} \| = \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \min_{y : x \in A^{-1}(y)} \| x \| = \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^m \setminus A^{-1}} \| v \| = \frac{1}{\min_{v \in \mathbb{R}^m \setminus A^{-1}} \| A^T v \|}
\]

is the norm of the inverse mapping \( A^{-1} : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \) defined by \( A \).

Next, consider the case when the equations are easy. This case plays a central role in [44].

**Proposition 7.** Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \), \( C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n} \), and \( H := \max_{J \in S(A,C)} H_J \) where

\[
H_J := \max_{u \in \mathbb{R}^p} \min_{x : x \in A \text{ and } C \text{ and } x \leq w_j} \| x \| = \max_{(v,z) \in (\mathbb{R}^m \setminus R^p) \times \mathbb{R}^p} \| z \| = \frac{1}{\min_{(v,z) \in (\mathbb{R}^m \setminus R^p) \times \mathbb{R}^p} \| A^T v + C^T z \|}.
\]

Then for all \( b \in \mathbb{R}^m \), \( d \in \mathbb{R}^p \) such that \( A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d} \neq \emptyset \) and all \( u \in A^{-1}(b) \)

\[
\text{dist}(u, A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d}) \leq H \cdot \text{dist} \left( d, C^* \cap \mathbb{R}^p \right) \leq H \cdot \| (C^* - d) \|.
\]

The first bound is tight: If \( H > 0 \) then there exist \( b \in \mathbb{R}^m \), \( d \in \mathbb{R}^p \) such that \( A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d} \neq \emptyset \) and \( u \in P_{C,d} \setminus A^{-1}(b) \) such that

\[
\text{dist}(u, A^{-1}(b) \cap P_{C,d}) = H \cdot \text{dist} \left( d, C^* \cap \mathbb{R}^p \right).
\]

If \([A, C, \{1, \ldots, p\}] : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p \) is surjective then

\[
H = \max_{(v,z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p} \| z \| = \frac{1}{\min_{(v,z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p} \| A^T v + C^T z \|}.
\]
Next, consider a special case when one of the equations and all inequalities are easy. This case underlies the construction of some measures of conditioning for polytopes developed in [4, 14, 17, 21, 35] to establish the linear convergence of some variants of the Frank-Wolfe Algorithm. Recall some notation from [17]. Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and consider the polytope $\text{conv}(A) := A\Delta_{n-1}$, where $\Delta_{n-1} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : \|x\|_1 = 1\}$. Observe that $v \in \text{conv}(A)$ if and only if the following system of constraints has a solution

$$Ax = v, \ x \in \Delta_{n-1}. \tag{11}$$

It is natural to consider $x \in \Delta_{n-1}$ in (2.2) as an easy-to-satisfy constraint. Following the notation in [17], for $v \in \text{conv}(A)$ let

$$Z(v) := \{z \in \Delta_{n-1} : Az = v\}.$$

The Hoffman constant $H$ in Proposition 8 below plays a central role in [17, 21, 35]. In particular, when $\mathbb{R}^n$ is endowed with the $\ell_1$ norm, $1/H$ is the same as the facial distance or pyramidal width of the polytope $\text{conv}(A)$ as detailed in [17, 35]. We will rely on the following notation. For $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ let $L_A := \{Ax : 1^T x = 0\}$ and for $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$ let $K_J := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : 1^T x = 0, \ x_J \geq 0\}$. Let $\Pi_{L_A} : \mathbb{R}^m \to L_A$ denote the orthogonal projection onto $L_A$.

**Proposition 8.** Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Let $\tilde{A} := \left[\begin{array}{c} A \\ 1^T \end{array}\right] \in \mathbb{R}^{(m+1) \times n}$, $C := -I_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, and $H := \max_{J \in \mathcal{S}(\tilde{A},C)} H_J$ where

$$H_J := \max_{y \in AK_J, \ |y| \leq 1} \min_{x \in K_J, \ Ax = y} \|x\| = \max_{(v,t) \in \tilde{A} \mathbb{R}^n, \ z \in \mathbb{R}_+^n} \frac{1}{\|\Pi_{L_A}(v)\|^*} \min_{z_j = 0, \|1^T v + t 1 - z\|_*^* \leq 1} \frac{1}{\|A^T v + t 1 - z\|_*^*}.$$

Then for all $x \in \Delta_{n-1}$ and $v \in \text{conv}(A)$

$$\text{dist}(x, Z(v)) \leq H \cdot \|Ax - v\|.$$

Furthermore, this bound is tight: If $H > 0$ then there exist $v \in \text{conv}(A)$ and $x \in \Delta_{n-1} \setminus Z(v)$ such that

$$\text{dist}(x, Z(v)) = H \cdot \|Ax - v\| > 0.$$

The following analogue of Corollary 1 and Corollary 2 also holds.

**Corollary 3.** Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$. Suppose $F \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A;C)$ and $I \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, p\}} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A;C)$ are such that for all $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}$ either $J \subseteq F$ for some $F \in \mathcal{F}$, or $I \subseteq J$ for some $I \in I$. Then the expression $H := \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H_J$ in each of Proposition 5, Proposition 6, and Proposition 7 can be replaced with $H := \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H_F$. The same holds for Proposition 8 with $\tilde{A} = \left[\begin{array}{c} A \\ 1^T \end{array}\right]$ in lieu of $A$.
3 An algorithm to compute the Hoffman constant

We next describe an algorithm to compute the Hoffman constant of a system of linear equations and inequalities. We first describe the computation of the Hoffman constant \( H(A) \) in Proposition 1. We subsequently describe the computation of the Hoffman constant \( H(A; C) := H \) defined in Proposition 5.

The algorithms described below have straightforward extensions to the more general case when some equations or inequalities are easy to satisfy.

3.1 Computation of \( H(A) \)

Let \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \). Corollary 1 suggests the following algorithmic approach to compute \( H(A) \):

Find collections of sets \( \mathcal{F} \subseteq S(A) \) and \( \mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, m\}} \setminus S(A) \) that provide joint certificates of surjectivity and non-surjectivity for all subsets of \( \{1, \ldots, m\} \) and then compute \( H(A) = \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H_F(A) \).

A naive way to construct \( \mathcal{F} \) and \( \mathcal{I} \) would be to scan the subsets of \( \{1, \ldots, m\} \) in monotonically decreasing order as follows. Starting with \( J = \{1, \ldots, m\} \), check whether \( J \) is surjective. If \( J \) is surjective, then place \( J \) in \( \mathcal{F} \). Otherwise, place \( J \) in \( \mathcal{I} \) and continue by scanning each \( J \setminus \{i\} \) for \( i \in J \). Algorithm 1 and its variant, Algorithm 2, refine the above naive approach to construct \( \mathcal{F} \), \( \mathcal{I} \) more efficiently. We next describe both algorithms.

The central idea of Algorithm 1 is to maintain three collections \( \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}, J \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, m\}} \) such that the following invariant holds at the beginning of each main iteration (Step 3 in Algorithm 1):

The collections \( \mathcal{F} \subseteq S(A) \) and \( \mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, m\}} \setminus S(A) \) provide joint certificates of surjectivity and non-surjectivity for all subsets of \( \{1, \ldots, m\} \) except possibly those included in some subset in the collection \( J \).

This invariant evidently holds for \( \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{I} = \emptyset \) and \( J = \{1, \ldots, m\} \). At each main iteration, Algorithm 1 scans a set \( J \in \mathcal{J} \) to either detect that \( J \) is \( A \)-surjective or find a certificate of non-surjectivity \( I \subseteq J \). If \( J \) is \( A \)-surjective then the above invariant continues to hold after adding \( J \) to \( \mathcal{F} \) and removing all \( \tilde{J} \in \mathcal{J} \) such that \( \tilde{J} \subseteq J \). On the other hand, if \( I \) is a certificate of non-surjectivity for \( J \), then the invariant continues to hold if \( I \) is added to \( \mathcal{I} \) and \( \mathcal{J} \) is updated as follows. Replace each \( J \in \mathcal{J} \) that contains \( J \setminus \{i\} \) with the sets \( J \setminus \{i\} \) that are not included in any set in \( \mathcal{F} \). Algorithm 1 terminates when \( \mathcal{J} \) is empty. This must happen eventually since at each main iteration the algorithm either removes at least one subset from \( \mathcal{J} \) or removes at least one subset from \( \mathcal{J} \) and replaces it by proper subsets of it.

The most time-consuming operation in Algorithm 1 (Step 4) is the step that detects whether a subset \( J \in \mathcal{J} \) is \( A \)-surjective or finds a certificate of nonsurjectivity \( I \subseteq J \). This step requires solving the following problem

\[
\min\{\|A^*_J v\|\;: v \in \mathbb{R}^J_+, \|v\| = 1\}. \tag{12}
\]

Observe that \( J \) is \( A \)-surjective if and only if the optimal value of (3.1) is positive. More precisely, by Proposition 2, the minimization problem (3.1) either detects that \( J \) is \( A \)-surjective and computes \( 1/H_J(A) \) when its optimal value is positive, or detects that \( J \) is not \( A \)-surjective and finds \( v \in \mathbb{R}^J_+ \setminus \{0\} \) such that \( A^*_J v = 0 \). In the latter case, the set \( I(v) := \{i \in J : v_i > 0\} \)
is a certificate of non-surjectivity for $J$. When $J$ is not $A$-surjective, the certificate of non-surjectivity $I(v) \subseteq J$ obtained from (3.1) is typically smaller than $J$.

The tractability of problem (3.1) depends on the norms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$. In particular, when $\mathbb{R}^m$ is endowed with the $\ell_\infty$-norm we have $\|v\|^* = \|v\|_1 = 1^T v$ for $v \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ and thus (3.1) becomes the following convex optimization problem

$$\min \{\|A_j^T v\|^* : v \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, 1^T v = 1\}.$$ 

Furthermore, (3.1) is a linear program if both $\mathbb{R}^m$ and $\mathbb{R}^n$ are endowed with the $\ell_\infty$-norm or if $\mathbb{R}^m$ is endowed with the $\ell_\infty$-norm and $\mathbb{R}^n$ is endowed with the $\ell_1$-norm. Problem (3.1) is a second-order conic program if $\mathbb{R}^m$ is endowed with the $\ell_\infty$-norm and $\mathbb{R}^n$ is endowed with the $\ell_2$-norm. In our MATLAB prototype implementation described below, $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$ are endowed with the $\ell_\infty$ norm and (3.1) is solved via linear programming.

Problem (3.1) can also be solved by solving $|J|$ convex optimization problems when $\mathbb{R}^m$ is endowed with the $\ell_1$-norm. This is suggested by the characterizations of Renegar's distance to ill-posedness in [11, 12]. When $\mathbb{R}^m$ is endowed with the $\ell_1$-norm we have $\|v\|^* = \|v\|_\infty = \max_{j \in J} v_j$ for $v \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ and thus

$$\min \{\|A_j^T v\|^* : v \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, \|v\|^* = 1\} = \min_{j \in J} \min \{\|A_j^T v\|^* : v \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, v \leq 1, v_j = 1\}.$$ 

Section 3.3 below describes a more involved approach to estimate (3.1) when both $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$ are endowed with the $\ell_2$ norm.

We should note that although the specific value of the Hoffman constant $H(A)$ evidently depends on the norms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$, the $A$-surjectivity of a subset $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}$ does not. In particular, the collections $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}$ found in Algorithm 1 could be used to compute or estimate $H(A)$ for any arbitrary norms provided each $H_F(A)$ can be computed or estimated when $F \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}$ is $A$-surjective.

A potential drawback of Algorithm 1 is the size of the collection $\mathcal{J}$ that could become potentially large even if the sets $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}$ do not. This drawback suggests an alternate approach. Given $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A)$ and $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, m\}} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A)$ consider the feasibility problem

$$|J^c \cap I| \geq 1, \ I \in \mathcal{I}$$

$$|J \cap F^c| \geq 1, \ F \in \mathcal{F}$$

$$J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}. \tag{13}$$

Observe that $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}$ jointly provide certificates of surjectivity or non-surjectivity for all subsets of $\{1, \ldots, m\}$ if and only if (3.1) is infeasible. This suggests the variant of Algorithm 1 described in Algorithm 2. The main difference is that Algorithm 2 does not maintain $\mathcal{J}$ and instead relies on (3.1) at each main iteration. Algorithm 2 trades off the memory cost of maintaining $\mathcal{J}$ for the computational cost of solving the feasibility problem (3.1) at each main iteration.

We tested prototype MATLAB implementations of Algorithm 1 and Algorithm 2 on collections of randomly generated matrices $A$ of various sizes (with $m > n$, where the analysis is interesting). The entries in each matrix were drawn from independent standard normal distributions. Figure 1 summarizes our results. It displays boxplots for the sizes of the sets $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}$ at termination for the non-surjective instances in the sample, that is, the matrices $A$
Algorithm 1 Computation of collections of certificates $\mathcal{F}$, $\mathcal{I}$ and constant $H(A)$

1: input $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$
2: Let $\mathcal{F} := \emptyset$, $\mathcal{I} := \emptyset$, $\mathcal{J} := \{1, \ldots, m\}$, $H(A) := 0$
3: while $\mathcal{J} \neq \emptyset$ do
4: Pick $J \in \mathcal{J}$ and let $v$ solve (3.1) to detect whether $J$ is $A$-surjective
5: if $\|A^T_J v\|^* > 0$ then
6: $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{F} \cup \{J\}$, $\hat{J} := \{\hat{J} \in \mathcal{J} : \hat{J} \subseteq J\}$, and $H(A) := \max\{H(A), \frac{1}{\|A^T_J v\|^*}\}$
7: else
8: $\mathcal{I} := \mathcal{I} \cup \{I(v)\}$
9: end if
10: end while
11: return $\mathcal{F}$, $\mathcal{I}$, $H(A)$

Algorithm 2 Computation of collections of certificates $\mathcal{F}$, $\mathcal{I}$ and constant $H(A)$ version 2

1: input $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$
2: Let $\mathcal{F} := \emptyset$, $\mathcal{I} := \emptyset$, $H(A) := 0$
3: while (3.1) is feasible do
4: Let $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\}$ solve (3.1) and let $v$ solve (3.1) to detect whether $J$ is $A$-surjective
5: if $\|A^T_J v\|^* > 0$ then
6: $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{F} \cup \{J\}$ and $H(A) := \max\{H(A), \frac{1}{\|A^T_J v\|^*}\}$
7: else
8: $\mathcal{I} := \mathcal{I} \cup \{I(v)\}$
9: end if
10: end while
11: return $\mathcal{F}$, $\mathcal{I}$, $H(A)$
such that $0 \in \text{conv}(A^T)$. We excluded the surjective instances, that is, the ones with $0 \not\in \text{conv}(A^T)$ because for those instances the collections $\mathcal{F} = \{\{1, \ldots, m\}\}$ and $\mathcal{I} = \emptyset$ provide certificates of surjectivity for all subsets of $\{1, \ldots, m\}$ and are identified at the first iteration of the algorithm when $J = \{1, \ldots, m\}$ is scanned. Thus the non-surjective instances are the interesting ones. As a reality check to our implementation of both algorithms, for every instance that we tested, we used (3.1) to verify that the final sets $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}$ indeed provide certificates of surjectivity and non-surjectivity for all subsets of $\{1, \ldots, m\}$.

![Box plots of the distributions of the sizes of the sets $\mathcal{I}$ and $\mathcal{F}$ for the non-surjective instances obtained after randomly sampling 1000 matrices with $m$ rows and $n$ columns.](image)

Figure 1: Box plots of the distributions of the sizes of the sets $\mathcal{I}$ and $\mathcal{F}$ for the non-surjective instances obtained after randomly sampling 1000 matrices with $m$ rows and $n$ columns.

The MATLAB code and scripts used for our experiments are publicly available in the following website

http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/jfp/hoffman.html

The reader can readily use these files to replicate numerical results similar to those summarized in Figure 1.
It is interesting to note that the size of the collection $\mathcal{F}$ in our experiments does not grow too rapidly. This is reassuring in light of the characterization $H(A) = \max_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H_F(A)$. Our prototype implementations are fairly basic. In particular, our prototype implementation of Algorithm 1 maintains an explicit representation of the collections $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J}$. Our prototype implementation of Algorithm 2 solves (3.1) via integer programming. Neither of them use warm-starts. It is evident that the collections $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J}$ as well as the feasibility problem (3.1) could all be handled more efficiently via more elaborate combinatorial structures such as binary decision diagrams [1, 5]. A clever use of warm-starts would likely boost efficiency since the algorithms need to solve many similar linear and integer programs.

The results of the prototype implementations of Algorithm 1 and Algorithm 2 are encouraging and suggest that more sophisticated implementations could compute the Hoffman constant $H(A)$ for much larger matrices.

### 3.2 Computation of $H(A; C)$

Throughout this subsection we let $H(A; C)$ denote the Hoffman constant $H$ defined in Proposition 5. Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$. In parallel to the observation in Section 3.1 above, Corollary 3 suggests the following approach to compute $H(A; C)$: Find collections of sets $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ and $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, p\} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A; C)}$ such that for all $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}$ either $J \subseteq F$ for some $F \in \mathcal{F}$, or $I \subseteq J$ for some $I \in \mathcal{I}$. Then compute $H(A; C) := \max_{J \in \mathcal{F}} H_J(A; C)$ where

$$H_J(A; C) = \frac{1}{\min_{v \in \mathbb{R}^n, z \in \mathbb{R}^+_I} \|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^*}.$$ 

Algorithm 1 has the straightforward extension described in Algorithm 3 to find $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ and $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{\{1, \ldots, p\} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A; C)}$ as above. Algorithm 2 has a similar straightforward extension. The most time-consuming operation in Algorithm 3 (Step 4) is the step that detects whether a subset $J \in \mathcal{J}$ satisfies $J \in \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ or finds a certificate of non-relative-surjectivity, that is, a set $I \in 2^{\{1, \ldots, p\} \setminus \mathcal{S}(A; C)}$ such that $I \subseteq J$. This step requires solving the following problem

$$\min \{\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^* : v \in \mathbb{R}^n, z \in \mathbb{R}_I^+, \|(v, z)\|^* = 1\}. \quad (14)$$

Observe that $J \in \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ if and only if the optimal value of (3.2) is positive. Thus, the minimization problem (3.2) either detects that $J \in \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ and computes $1/H_J(A; C)$ when its optimal value is positive, or detects that $J \not\in \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ and finds $z \in \mathbb{R}_I^+ \setminus \{0\}$ such that $A^Tv + C_J^Tz = 0$. In the latter case, the set $I(z) := \{i \in J : z_i > 0\}$ is a certificate of non-relative-surjectivity for $J$.

The tractability of (3.2) is a bit more nuanced than that of (3.1) due to the presence of the unconstrained variables $v \in \mathbb{R}^m$. The following easier problem allows us to determine whether the optimal value of (3.2) is positive, that is, whether $J \in \mathcal{S}(A; C)$. This is the most critical information about (3.2) used in Algorithm 3

$$\min \{\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^* : v \in \mathbb{R}^n, z \in \mathbb{R}_I^+, \|z\|^* = 1\}. \quad (15)$$

Problem (3.2) is a convex optimization problem when $\mathbb{R}^p$ is endowed with the $\ell_\infty$ norm. It is evident that the optimal value of (3.2) is zero if and only if the optimal value of (3.2) is zero.
Thus for the purpose of solving the main computational challenge in computing $H(A; C)$, that is, finding the collections $\mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{I}$, Algorithm 3 can rely on the easier problem (3.2) in place of (3.2). Nonetheless, (3.2) needs to be solved or estimated for the purpose of computing or estimating the value $H(A; C)$.

When $\mathbb{R}^{m+p}$ is endowed with the $\ell_1$-norm, (3.2) can be solved by solving $2m + |J|$ convex optimization problems. In this case $\|(v, z)\|^* = \|(v, z)\|_\infty = \max \{\max_{i=1,\ldots,m} |v_i|, \max_{j\in J} |z_j|\}$ and so

$$\min \{\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^* : v \in \mathbb{R}^m, z \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, \|(v, z)\|^* = 1\}$$

$$= \min \left( \min_{i=1,\ldots,m} \min \{\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^* : v \in \mathbb{A}\mathbb{R}^m, z \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, \|(v, z)\|_\infty \leq 1, v_i = 1\}, \min_{i=1,\ldots,m} \min \{\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^* : v \in \mathbb{A}\mathbb{R}^m, z \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, \|(v, z)\|_\infty \leq 1, v_i = -1\}, \min_{j\in J} \min \{\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^* : v \in \mathbb{A}\mathbb{R}^m, z \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, \|(v, z)\|_\infty \leq 1, z_j = 1\} \right).$$

Section 3.3 describes a more involved approach to estimate the optimal value of (3.2) when $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^m$ are endowed with the $\ell_2$ norm.

Algorithm 3 Computation of collections of certificates $\mathcal{F}$, $\mathcal{I}$ and constant $H(A; C)$

1: \textbf{input} $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$
2: Let $\mathcal{F} := \emptyset$, $\mathcal{I} := \emptyset$, $\mathcal{J} := \{1, \ldots, p\}$, $H(A; C) := 0$
3: \textbf{while} $\mathcal{J} \neq \emptyset$ \textbf{do}
4: \hspace{1em} Pick $J \in \mathcal{J}$ and let $(v, z)$ to detect whether $J \in S(A; C)$
5: \hspace{1em} if $\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^* > 0$ then
6: \hspace{2em} $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{F} \cup \{J\}$, $\hat{J} := \{\hat{J} \in \mathcal{J} : \hat{J} \subseteq J\}$, $H(A; C) := \max \left\{H(A; C), \frac{1}{\|A^Tv + C_J^Tz\|^*} \right\}$
7: \hspace{2em} Let $\mathcal{J} := \mathcal{J} \setminus \hat{J}$
8: \hspace{1em} else
9: \hspace{2em} $\mathcal{I} := \mathcal{I} \cup \{I(v)\}$, $\hat{J} := \{\hat{J} \in \mathcal{J} : I(z) \subseteq \hat{J}\}$
10: \hspace{2em} Let $\tilde{J} := \{\hat{J} \setminus \{i\} : \hat{J} \in \mathcal{J}, i \in I(v), \hat{J} \setminus \{i\} \not\subseteq F \text{ for all } F \in \mathcal{F}\}$
11: \hspace{2em} Let $\mathcal{J} := (\mathcal{J} \setminus \hat{J}) \cup \tilde{J}$
12: \hspace{1em} end if
13: \textbf{end while}
14: \textbf{return} $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{I}, H(A; C)$

3.3 Estimating (3.2) for Euclidean norms

Throughout this subsection suppose that $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^{m+p}$ are endowed with the $\ell_2$ norm and $J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}$ is fixed. We next describe a procedure to compute lower and upper bounds on (3.2) within a factor $(4p + 9)$ of each other by relying on a suitably constructed self-concordant barrier function. We concentrate on the case when $J \in S(A; C)$ as otherwise (3.2) can easily detect that $J \not\in S(A; C)$. By Proposition 5 the optimal value of (3.2) equals

$$\frac{1}{H_J(A; C)} = \max \{r : (y, w) \in (A\mathbb{R}^n) \times \mathbb{R}^J, \|(y, w)\|_2 \leq r \Rightarrow (y, w) \in \mathcal{D}\} \quad (16)$$
where $\mathcal{D} = \{(Ax, Cjx + s) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n, s \in \mathbb{R}^J_+, \|x\|_2 \leq 1\}$. Equation (3.3) has the following geometric interpretation: $1/H_J(A; C)$ is the distance from the origin to the relative boundary of $\mathcal{D}$.

Let $f(x, s) := -\log(1 - \|x\|_2^2) - \sum_{j=1}^p \log(s_j)$ and define $F : \text{ri}(\mathcal{D}) \to \mathbb{R}$ as follows

$$F(y, w) := \min_{x, s} f(x, s)$$

$Ax = y$

$Cjx + s = w.$

From [29, Proposition 5.1.5] it follows that the function $F$ constructed in (3.3) is a $(p + 2)$-self-concordant barrier function for $\mathcal{D}$. A straightforward calculus argument shows that

$$E := \{d \in (A\mathbb{R}^n) \times \mathbb{R}^J : \langle \nabla^2 F(0, 0)d, d \rangle \leq 1\} = \{M^{1/2}d : d \in (A\mathbb{R}^n) \times \mathbb{R}^J, \|d\| \leq 1\},$$

where

$$M := \begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ Cj & I \end{bmatrix} \nabla^2 f(\bar{x}, \bar{s})^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} A \\ Cj \\ I \end{bmatrix}^T$$

and $(\bar{x}, \bar{s})$ is the solution to (3.3) for $(y, w) := (0, 0) \in \text{ri}(\mathcal{D})$.

The ellipsoid $E$ in (3.3) is the Dikin ellipsoid in $(A\mathbb{R}^n) \times \mathbb{R}^J$ associated to $F$ and centered at $(0, 0)$. Therefore from the properties of self-concordant barriers [29, 39] it follows that $E \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ and $\{d \in \mathcal{D} : \langle \nabla F(0, 0), d \rangle \geq 0\} \subseteq (4p + 9) \cdot E$. These two properties and (3.3) imply that

$$\sigma_{\min}(M^{1/2}) \leq \frac{1}{H_J(A; C)} \leq (4p + 9) \cdot \sigma_{\min}(M^{1/2})$$

where $\sigma_{\min}(M^{1/2})$ denotes the smallest positive singular value of $M^{1/2}$.

We thus have the following procedure to estimate (3.2): First, solve (3.2). If this optimal value is zero then the optimal value of (3.2) is zero as well. Otherwise, let $(\bar{x}, \bar{s})$ solve (3.3) for $(y, w) := (0, 0)$ and let $M$ be as in (3.3). The values $\sigma_{\min}(M^{1/2})$ and $(4p + 9) \cdot \sigma_{\min}(M^{1/2})$ are respectively a lower bound and an upper bound on the optimal value $1/H_J(A; C)$ of (3.2).

4 A Hoffman constant for polyhedral sublinear mappings

We next present a characterization of the Hoffman constant for polyhedral sublinear mappings when the residual is known to intersect a predefined linear subspace. To that end, we will make extensive use of the following correspondence between polyhedral sublinear mappings and polyhedral cones.

A set-valued mapping $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^m$ is a polyhedral sublinear mapping if

$$\text{graph}(\Phi) = \{(x, y) : y \in \Phi(x)\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$$

is a polyhedral cone. Conversely, if $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ is a polyhedral convex cone then the set-valued mapping $\Phi_K : \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^m$ defined via

$y \in \Phi_K(x) \iff (x, y) \in K$
is a polyhedral sublinear mapping since graph(Φ_K) = K by construction.

Let Φ : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m be a polyhedral sublinear mapping. The domain, image, and norm of Φ are defined as follows:

\text{dom}(Φ) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x, y) \in \text{graph}(Φ) \text{ for some } y \in \mathbb{R}^m\},

\text{Im}(Φ) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x, y) \in \text{graph}(Φ) \text{ for some } x \in \mathbb{R}^n\},

\|Φ\| = \max_{x \in \text{dom}(Φ)} \min_{y \in Φ(x)} \|y\|.

In particular, the norm of the inverse mapping Φ⁻¹ : \mathbb{R}^m \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n is

\|Φ⁻¹\| = \max_{y \in \text{dom}(Φ⁻¹)} \min_{\|x\| ≤ 1} \|x\| = \max_{y \in \text{Im}(Φ)} \min_{\|y\| ≤ 1} \|x\|.

We will rely on the following more general concept of norm. Let Φ : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m be a polyhedral sublinear mapping and \mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m be a linear subspace. Let

\|Φ⁻¹|\mathcal{L}\| := \max_{y \in \text{Im}(Φ) \cap \mathcal{L}} \min_{\|y\| ≤ 1} \|x\|.

It is easy to see that \|Φ⁻¹|\mathcal{L}\| is finite if Φ : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m is a polyhedral sublinear mapping and \mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m is a linear subspace.

For \(b \in \mathbb{R}^m\) and \(S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m\) define

\text{dist}_{\mathcal{L}}(b, S) = \inf\{\|y - y\| : y \in S, b - y \in \mathcal{L}\}.

Observe that dist_{\mathcal{L}}(b, S) < ∞ if and only if \((S - b) \cap \mathcal{L} \neq \emptyset\). Furthermore, observe that \|Φ⁻¹|\mathcal{L}\| = \|Φ⁻¹\| and dist_{\mathcal{L}}(b, S) = dist(b, S) when \mathcal{L} = \mathbb{R}^m.

Let \(K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m\) be a polyhedral convex cone. Let \(\mathcal{T}(K) := \{T_K(u, v) : (u, v) \in K\}\) where \(T_K(u, v)\) denotes the tangent cone to \(K\) at the point \((u, v) \in K\), that is,

\[T_K(u, v) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m : (u, v) + t(x, y) \in K \text{ for some } t > 0\}.\]

Observe that since \(K\) is polyhedral the collection of tangent cones \(\mathcal{T}(K)\) is finite.

Recall that a polyhedral sublinear mapping \(Φ : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m\) is relatively surjective if \(\text{Im}(Φ) = Φ(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m\) is a linear subspace. Given a polyhedral sublinear mapping \(Φ : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m\) let

\(\mathcal{G}(Φ) := \{T \in \mathcal{T}(\text{graph}(Φ)) : Φ_T \text{ is relatively surjective}\}\)

and

\(\mathcal{H}(Φ|\mathcal{L}) := \max_{T \in \mathcal{G}(Φ)} \|Φ_{T⁻¹}|\mathcal{L}\|\).

**Theorem 1.** Let \(Φ : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m\) be a polyhedral sublinear mapping and \(\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m\) be a linear subspace. Then for all \(b \in \text{Im}(Φ)\) and \(u \in \text{dom}(Φ)\)

\[\text{dist}(u, Φ⁻¹(b)) ≤ \mathcal{H}(Φ|\mathcal{L}) \cdot \text{dist}_{\mathcal{L}}(b, Φ(u)).\]  

(20)

Furthermore, the bound (1) is tight: If \(\mathcal{H}(Φ|\mathcal{L}) > 0\) then there exist \(b \in \text{Im}(Φ)\) and \(u \in \text{dom}(Φ)\) such that \(0 < \text{dist}_{\mathcal{L}}(b, Φ(u)) < ∞\) and

\[\text{dist}(u, Φ⁻¹(b)) = \mathcal{H}(Φ|\mathcal{L}) \cdot \text{dist}_{\mathcal{L}}(b, Φ(u)).\]
The following lemma is the main technical component in the proof of Theorem 1. We defer its proof to the end of this section.

**Lemma 1.** Let $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ be a polyhedral sublinear mapping and $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear subspace. Then

$$
\max_{T \in \mathcal{T}(\text{graph}(\Phi))} \|\Phi_T^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| = \max_{T \in \mathcal{E}(\Phi)} \|\Phi_T^{-1}\mathcal{L}\|.
$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.** Assume that $b - v \in \mathcal{L}$ for some $v \in \Phi(u)$ as otherwise the right-hand-side in (1) is $+\infty$ and (1) trivially holds. We will prove the following equivalent statement to (1): For all $b \in \text{Im}(\Phi)$ and $(u, v) \in \text{graph}(\Phi)$ with $b - v \in \mathcal{L}$

$$
\text{dist}(u, \Phi^{-1}(b)) \leq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot \|b - v\|.
$$

To ease notation, let $K := \text{graph}(\Phi)$ so in particular $\Phi = \Phi_K$. We will use the following consequence of Lemma 1: $\|\Phi_T^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| \leq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L})$ for all $T \in \mathcal{T}(K)$.

Assume $b - v \neq 0$ as otherwise there is nothing to show. We proceed by contradiction. Suppose $b \in \text{Im}(\Phi)$ and $(u, v) \in K$ are such that $b - v \in \mathcal{L}$ and

$$
\|x - u\| > \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot \|b - v\|
$$

for all $x$ such that $(x, b) \in K$. Let $d := \frac{b - v}{\|b - v\|} \in \mathcal{L}$ and consider the optimization problem

$$
\max_{w, t} \quad t
$$

$$
(u + w, v + td) \in K,
$$

$$
\|w\| \leq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot t.
$$

Since $b \in \text{Im}(\Phi) = \text{Im}(\Phi_K)$ it follows that $d = (b - v)/\|b - v\| \in \text{Im}(\Phi_{T_K(u, v)}) \cap \mathcal{L}$. Hence there exists $(z, d) \in T_K(u, v)$ with $\|z\| \leq \|\Phi_{T_K(u, v)}^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| \leq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L})$. Since $K$ is polyhedral, for $t > 0$ sufficiently small $(u + tz, v + td) \in K$ and so $(w, t) := (tz, t)$ is feasible for problem (4). Let

$$
C := \{(w, t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_+ : (w, t) \text{ is feasible for } (4)\}.
$$

Assumption (4) implies that $t < \|b - v\|$ for all $(w, t) \in C$. In addition, since $K$ is polyhedral, it follows that $C$ is compact. Therefore (4) has an optimal solution $(\bar{w}, \bar{t})$ with $0 < \bar{t} < \|b - v\|$.

Let $(u', v') := (u + \bar{w}, v + \bar{t}d) \in K$. Consider the modification of (4) obtained by replacing $(u, v)$ with $(u', v')$, namely

$$
\max_{w', t'} \quad t'
$$

$$
(u' + w', v' + t'd) \in K,
$$

$$
\|w'\| \leq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot t'.
$$

Observe that $b - v' = b - v - \bar{t}d = (\|b - v\| - \bar{t})d \neq 0$. Again since $b \in \text{Im}(\Phi)$ it follows that $d = \frac{b - v'}{\|b - v'\|} \in \text{Im}(\Phi_{T_K(u', v')}) \cap \mathcal{L}$. Hence there exists $(z', d) \in T_K(u', v')$ such that $\|z'\| \leq \|\Phi_{T_K(u', v')}^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| \leq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L})$. Therefore, (4) has a feasible point $(w', t') = (t'z', t')$ with $t' > 0$. In
particular \((u' + w', v' + t'd) = (u + \bar{w} + w', v + (\bar{t} + t')d) \in K\) with \(\|\bar{w} + w'\| \leq \|\bar{w}\| + \|w'\| \leq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot (\bar{t} + t')\) and \(\bar{t} + t' > \bar{t}\). This contradicts the optimality of \((\bar{w}, \bar{t})\) for (4).

To show that the bound is tight, suppose \(\mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) = \|\Phi^{-1}_T|\mathcal{L}\| > 0\) for some \(T \in \mathcal{S}(\Phi) \subseteq T(K)\). The construction of \(\|\Phi^{-1}_T|\mathcal{L}\|\) implies that there exists \(d \in \mathcal{L}\) with \(\|d\| = 1\) such that the problem

\[
\min_{z} \|z\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad (z, d) \in T
\]

is feasible and has an optimal solution \(\bar{z}\) with \(\|\bar{z}\| = \|\Phi^{-1}_T|\mathcal{L}\| = \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) > 0\). Let \((u, v) \in K\) be such that \(T = T_K(u, v)\). Let \(b := v + td\) where \(t > 0\) is small enough so that \((u, v) + t(\bar{z}, d) \in K\). Observe that \(b \in \text{Im}(\Phi)\) and \(b - v = td \neq 0\). To finish, notice that if \(x \in \Phi^{-1}(b)\) then \((x - u, b - v) = (x - u, td) \in T_K(u, v) = T\). The optimality of \(\bar{z}\) then implies that

\[
\|x - u\| \geq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot t = \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot \|b - v\|.
\]

Since this holds for all \(x \in \Phi^{-1}(b)\) and \(b - v \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \{0\}\), it follows that \(\text{dist}(u, \Phi^{-1}(b)) \geq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot \|b - v\| \geq \mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) \cdot \text{dist}_{\mathcal{L}}(b, \Phi(u)) > 0\). \(\square\)

The proof of Lemma 1 relies on a convex duality construction. In each of \(\mathbb{R}^n\) and \(\mathbb{R}^m\) let \(\|\cdot\|^*\) denote the dual norm of \(\|\cdot\|\), that is, for \(u \in \mathbb{R}^n\) and \(v \in \mathbb{R}^m\)

\[
\|u\|^* := \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\| \leq 1} \langle u, x \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \|v\|^* := \max_{y \in \mathbb{R}^m : \|y\| \leq 1} \langle v, y \rangle.
\]

Given a cone \(K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n\), let \(K^* \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m\) denote its dual cone, that is,

\[
K^* := \{(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m : \langle u, x \rangle + \langle v, y \rangle \geq 0 \quad \text{for all} \quad (x, y) \in K\}.
\]

Given a sublinear mapping \(\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m\), let \(\Phi^* : \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n\) denote its upper adjoint, that is

\[
u \in \Phi^*(v) \Leftrightarrow \langle u, x \rangle \leq \langle v, y \rangle \quad \text{for all} \quad (x, y) \in \text{graph}(\Phi).
\]

Equivalently, \(u \in \Phi^*(v) \Leftrightarrow (-u, v) \in \text{graph}(\Phi)^*\).

Observe that for a polyhedral convex cone \(T \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m\) and a linear subspace \(\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m\)

\[
\|\Phi^{-1}_T|\mathcal{L}\| = \max_y \|\Phi^{-1}_T(y)\| \quad \text{where} \quad y \in \text{Im}(\Phi_T) \cap \mathcal{L}, \quad \|y\| \leq 1,
\]

where

\[
\|\Phi^{-1}_T(y)\| := \min_{x} \|x\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad (x, y) \in T.
\]

By convex duality it follows that

\[
\|\Phi^{-1}_T(y)\| = \max_{u,v} -\langle v, y \rangle, \quad \|u\|^* \leq 1, \quad (u, v) \in T^*.
\]
Therefore when $T$ is a polyhedral cone

$$\| \Phi_T^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \| = \max_{u, v, y} \langle v, y \rangle - \langle v, y \rangle$$

$$y \in \text{Im}(\Phi_T) \cap \mathcal{L},$$

$$\| y \| \leq 1,$$

$$\| u \|^{*} \leq 1,$$

$$(u, v) \in T^{*}. \quad (24)$$

For a linear subspace $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ let $\Pi_\mathcal{L} : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ denote the orthogonal projection onto $\mathcal{L}$. The following proposition is in the same spirit as Borwein’s norm-duality Theorem [6].

**Proposition 9.** Let $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a polyhedral sublinear mapping and $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be a linear subspace. If $\Phi$ is relatively surjective then

$$\mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) = \| \Phi^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \| = \max_{u, v} \| \Pi_{\text{Im}(\Phi)} \cap \mathcal{L}(v) \|^{*} = \frac{1}{\min_{u \in \Phi^{*}(v)} \| u \|^{*}}.$$  

**Proof.** Since $\text{graph}(\Phi) \subseteq T$ for all $T \in T(\text{graph}(\Phi))$ and $\Phi$ is relatively surjective, it follows that $\| \Phi_T^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \| \leq \| \Phi^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \|$ for all $T \in T(\text{graph}(\Phi))$. Consequently $\mathcal{H}(\Phi|\mathcal{L}) = \| \Phi^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \|$. Furthermore, since $\Phi$ is relatively surjective, from (4) it follows that

$$\| \Phi^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \| = \max_{u, v} \| \Pi_{\text{Im}(\Phi)} \cap \mathcal{L}(v) \|^{*}$$

$$\| u \|^{*} \leq 1,$$

$$u \in \Phi^{*}(v).$$

The latter quantity is evidently the same as $\frac{1}{\min_{u \in \Phi^{*}(v)} \| u \|^{*}}$. \hfill \square

We will rely on the following equivalence between *surjectivity* and *non-singularity* of sublinear mappings. A standard convex separation argument shows that a closed sublinear mapping $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is surjective if and only if

$$(0, v) \in \text{graph}(\Phi)^{*} \Rightarrow v = 0. \quad (25)$$

Condition (4) is a kind of *non-singularity* of $\Phi^{*}$ as it can be rephrased as $0 \in \Phi^{*}(v) \Rightarrow v = 0$. 

**Proof of Lemma 1.** Without loss of generality assume $\text{span}(\text{Im}(\Phi)) = \mathbb{R}^m$ as otherwise we can work with the restriction of $\Phi$ as a mapping from $\mathbb{R}^n$ to $\text{span}(\text{Im}(\Phi))$. To ease notation let $K := \text{graph}(\Phi)$. We need to show that

$$\max_{T \in T(K)} \| \Phi_T^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \| = \max_{T \in E(\Phi)} \| \Phi_T^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \|.$$  

By construction, it is immediate that

$$\max_{T \in T(K)} \| \Phi_T^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \| \geq \max_{T \in E(\Phi)} \| \Phi_T^{-1} | \mathcal{L} \|. $$
To prove the reverse inequality let \( T \in \mathcal{T}(K) \) be fixed and let \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{y}) \) attain the optimal value \( \| \Phi_T^{-1} \mathcal{L} \| \) in (4). Let \( \bar{F} \) be the minimal face of \( K^* \) containing \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v}) \) and \( \bar{T} := \bar{F}^* \in \mathcal{T}(K) \). As we detail below, \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{y}) \) can be chosen so that \( \Phi_T \) is surjective. If \( \| \Phi_T^{-1} \mathcal{L} \| = 0 \) then it trivially follows that \( \| \Phi_T^{-1} \mathcal{L} \| \leq \| \Phi_T^{-1} \mathcal{L} \| \). Otherwise, since \( \| \bar{y} \| \leq 1 \) and \( \bar{y} \in \mathcal{L} \) we have

\[
\| \Phi_T^{-1} \mathcal{L} \| = -\langle \bar{v}, \bar{y} \rangle \leq \| \Pi_\mathcal{L}(\bar{v}) \|^*.
\]

Since \( \bar{y} \in \mathcal{L} \) and \( \bar{v} \in \mathcal{L} \), it follows that \( \bar{y} \in \mathcal{L} \) and \( \bar{v} \in \mathcal{L} \). We claim that the minimal face \( \bar{F} \) of \( K^* \) containing \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v}) \) is the minimal face of \( \bar{F} \) that satisfies \( \langle \bar{v}, \bar{y} \rangle = 0 \) thereby contradicting the assumption that \( \bar{v} \) is an extreme point of \( V \). We claim that the minimal face \( \bar{F} \) of \( K^* \) containing \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v}) \) satisfies

\[
(0, v') \in \bar{F} = \bar{T}^* \Rightarrow v' = 0
\]

thereby establishing the surjectivity of \( \Phi_T \) (cf., (4)). To prove this claim, proceed by contradiction. Assume \( (0, v') \in \bar{F} \) for some nonzero \( v' \in \mathbb{R}^m \). The choice of \( \bar{F} \) ensures that \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v}) \) lies in the relative interior of \( \bar{F} \) and thus for \( \alpha > 0 \) sufficiently small both \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v} + \alpha v') \in \bar{F} \subseteq \bar{T}^* \) and \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v} - \alpha v') \in \bar{F} \subseteq \bar{T}^* \). The optimality of \( (\bar{u}, \bar{v}) \) implies that both \( \langle \bar{v} + \alpha v', \bar{y} \rangle \geq \langle \bar{v}, \bar{y} \rangle \) and \( \langle \bar{v} - \alpha v', \bar{y} \rangle \geq \langle \bar{v}, \bar{y} \rangle \) and so \( \langle \bar{v}', \bar{y} \rangle = 0 \). Thus both \( \bar{v} + v' \in V \) and \( \bar{v} - v' \in V \) with \( tv' \neq 0 \) thereby contradicting the assumption that \( \bar{v} \) is an extreme point of \( V \).

\[ \square \]

5 Proofs of propositions in Section 2

Proof of Proposition 3. Let \( \Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m \) be defined by \( \Phi(x) := Ax + \mathbb{R}^n_+ \) and \( \mathcal{L} := \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^m : y_{L^c} = 0 \} \). Observe that for this \( \Phi \) we have

\[
\text{graph}(\Phi) = \{(x, Ax + s) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m : s \geq 0 \}.
\]

Hence \( \mathcal{T}(\text{graph}(\Phi)) = \{ T_J : J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, m\} \} \) where

\[
T_J = \{(x, Ax + s) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m : s_J \geq 0 \}.
\]

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Furthermore, for $T_J$ as above the mapping $\Phi_{T_J} : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is defined by  

$$\Phi_{T_J}(x) = \{Ax + s : s_J \geq 0\}.$$  

Therefore, $\Phi_{T_J}$ is relatively surjective if and only if $J$ is $A$-surjective. In other words, $T_J \in \mathcal{S}(\Phi) \Leftrightarrow J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$ and in that case  

$$\|\Phi_{T_J}^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| = \max_{y \in \mathcal{R}^L} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|y\| = 1} \|x\| = H_J(A|L).$$  

To finish, apply Theorem 1 to $\Phi$ and $\mathcal{L}$.

**Proof of Proposition 4.** Let $\mathcal{L} := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^m : y_{Lc} = 0\}$. If $J \in \mathcal{S}(A)$ then the polyhedral sublinear mapping $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ defined via  

$$x \mapsto Ax + \{s \in \mathbb{R}^m : s_J \geq 0\}$$  

is surjective. Thus Proposition 9 yields  

$$H_J(A|L) = \|\Phi^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| = \frac{1}{\min_{(u,v) \in \text{graph}(\Phi)^*} \|u\|^*}.$$  

To get (4), observe that $u \in \Phi^*(v)$ if and only if $u = A^T v, v_J \geq 0,$ and $v_{J^c} = 0,$ and when that is the case $\Pi_L(v) = v_{J^c}L$. Finally observe that (4) readily follows form (4).  

Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 follow as special cases of Proposition 3 and Proposition 4 by taking $L = \{1, \ldots, m\}$. The proofs of the remaining propositions are similar to the proofs of Proposition 3 and Proposition 4.

**Proof of Proposition 5.** Let $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p$ be defined as  

$$\Phi(x) := \left[\begin{array}{c} Ax \\ Cx \end{array}\right] + \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^p$$  

and $\mathcal{L} := \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p$. Then $\mathcal{T}(\text{graph}(\Phi)) = \{T_J : J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\}\}$ where  

$$T_J := \{(x, Ax, Cx + s) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p) : s_J \geq 0\}.$$  

Furthermore, $T_J \in \mathcal{S}(\Phi) \Leftrightarrow J \in \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ and in that case  

$$\|\Phi_{T_J}^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| = \max_{(y, w) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}} \min_{\|x\| \leq 1, Ax = y, Cx \leq w} \|x\|.$$  

Observe that $u \in \Phi_{T_J}^*(v, z) \Leftrightarrow (-u, v, z) \in T_J^* \Leftrightarrow u = A^T v + C_J^T z_J, z_J \geq 0,$ and $z_{J^c} = 0.$ Thus for $J \in \mathcal{S}(A; C)$ Proposition 9 yields  

$$\|\Phi_{T_J}^{-1}\mathcal{L}\| = \max_{(v, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p} \|\Pi_{\text{Im}(\Phi_{T_J}^*) \cap \mathcal{L}(v, z)}\|^* = \max_{(v, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p} \|\Pi_{A(\mathbb{R}^p) \times \mathbb{R}^p}(v, z)\|^* = \max_{(v, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^p} \|(v, z)\|^*.$$  

To finish, apply Theorem 1.  

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Proof of Proposition 6. The proof is identical to the proof of Proposition 5 if we take \( L = \mathbb{R}^m \times \{0\} \) instead.

Proof of Proposition 7. The proof is identical to the proof of Proposition 5 if we take \( L = \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^p \) instead.

Proof of Proposition 8. The proof is similar to the proof of Proposition 5. Let \( \Phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \) be defined as

\[
\Phi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{A} x \\ C x \end{bmatrix} + \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^n
\]

and \( L = \mathbb{R}^m \times \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^p \). Then \( \mathcal{T}(\text{graph}(\Phi)) = \left\{ T_J : J \subseteq \{1, \ldots, p\} \right\} \) where

\[
T_J := \left\{ (x, \tilde{A} x, -x + s) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n) : s_J \geq 0 \right\}.
\]

Furthermore, \( T_J \in \mathcal{S}(\Phi) \iff J \in \mathcal{S}(\tilde{A}; C) \) and in that case

\[
\text{Im}(\Phi_T_J) \cap L = \left\{ (y, 0, 0) : y = Ax, 0 = 1^T x, 0 = -x + s \text{ for } s \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ with } s_J \geq 0 \right\}.
\]

Thus

\[
\|\Phi^{-1}_{T_J}|L\| = \max_{y \in \mathcal{K}_J} \min_{x \in \mathcal{K}_J \|y\| \leq 1} \|x\|.
\]

Observe that \( u \in \Phi^*_T_J(v, t, z) \iff u = A^T v + t 1 - z, z_J \geq 0, \text{ and } z_{Jc} = 0 \). Thus for \( J \in \mathcal{S}(\tilde{A}; C) \) Proposition 9 yields

\[
\|\Phi^{-1}_{T_J}|L\| = \max_{(v, t, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \atop z_{Jc} = 0, \|A^T v + t 1 - z\| \leq 1} \left\| \Pi_{\text{Im}(\Phi_T_J) \cap L}(v, t, z) \right\|^*.
\]

To finish, apply Theorem 1.

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