



An Introduction to MIR Inequalities and Relations between Families of Cuts

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- Gomory mixed-integer (GMI) inequalities/closure
- Mixed-integer rounding (MIR) inequalities/closure
- Relations between families of cuts

Readers are referred to [Cor08, BC08, MW01, DGL10, DGR11, ACL05].

Theorem

Consider a mixed-integer set with *a single equality*

$$X \equiv \left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{|I|} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{|C|} : a^\top x = a_0 \right\}.$$

Let $f_j \equiv a_j - \lfloor a_j \rfloor$ for $j \in \{0\} \cup I$, then the *GMI inequality*

$$\sum_{j \in I: f_j \leq f_0} \frac{f_j}{f_0} x_j + \sum_{j \in I: f_j > f_0} \frac{1 - f_j}{1 - f_0} x_j + \sum_{j \in C: a_j > 0} \frac{a_j}{f_0} x_j + \sum_{j \in C: a_j < 0} \frac{-a_j}{1 - f_0} x_j \geq 1 \quad (1)$$

is a valid inequality for $\text{conv}(X)$.

A proof can be found at this link.

Theorem

Consider a *general mixed-integer set*

$$X \equiv \left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{|I|} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{|C|} : a^\top x \leq a_0 \right\}.$$

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$$\sum_{j \in I} \left(\lfloor a_j \rfloor + \frac{(f_j - f_0)^+}{1 - f_0} \right) x_j + \frac{1}{1 - f_0} \sum_{j \in C: a_j < 0} a_j x_j \leq \lfloor a_0 \rfloor \quad (2)$$

is a valid inequality for $\text{conv}(X)$.

Proof.

Introduce a slack variable $a^\top x + s = a_0$ and then generate GMI ineq. (1) in the (x, s) -space:

$$\sum_{j \in I: f_j \leq f_0} \frac{f_j}{f_0} x_j + \sum_{j \in I: f_j > f_0} \frac{1 - f_j}{1 - f_0} x_j + \sum_{j \in C: a_j > 0} \frac{a_j}{f_0} x_j - \sum_{j \in C: a_j < 0} \frac{a_j}{1 - f_0} x_j + \frac{1}{f_0} s \geq 1$$

We substitute $s = a_0 - a^\top x$ to get the GMI inequality (2). □

Definition (GMI closure)

Consider a general mixed-integer set

$$X \equiv \left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{|I|} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{|C|} : Ax \leq b \right\},$$

let P denote its continuous relaxation.

- i. Add a slack variable $s \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ and obtain $Ax + s = b$.
- ii. For $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^m$, we have

$$\lambda^\top Ax + \lambda^\top s = \lambda^\top b,$$

- iii. Derive a GMI inequality (1) from the above equality, and then eliminate s , resulting a GMI inequality in the x space.
- iv. GMI closure relative to P : P^{GMI} is obtained from P by adding all the GMI inequalities.

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Remarks

- One may generate GMI inequalities from **any valid constraints**, however, those inequalities might **not cut off the current optimal solution** (e.g., basic feasible solution). Hence, in practice, one would generate GMI cuts from the **optimal simplex tableau** (which is essentially obtained by Gaussian elimination (i.e., linear combination of linear systems), this corresponds to the fact that $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^m$ in Theorem 2).

Lemma

Consider a 2-variable mixed-integer set

$$X \equiv \left\{ (x, s) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} : \begin{array}{l} x \leq a_0 + s \quad (I) \\ s \geq 0 \quad (II) \end{array} \right\}.$$

Let $f_0 \equiv a_0 - \lfloor a_0 \rfloor$, then the inequality

$$x - \frac{s}{1 - f_0} \leq \lfloor a_0 \rfloor \quad (3)$$

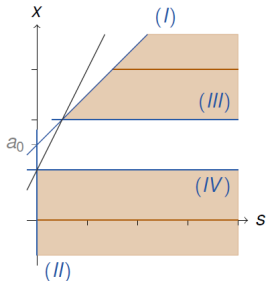
is a valid inequality for $\text{conv}(X)$.

Proof.

Consider the following disjunction

$$x \leq \lfloor a_0 \rfloor \text{ (III)} \vee x \geq \lceil a_0 \rceil \text{ (IV)}.$$

Then both $(I) + f_0(\text{III})$ and $(II) + (1 - f_0)(\text{IV})$ will produce the inequality (3). Note that the resulting ineq. is also a **split inequality**. □



Theorem

Consider a mixed-integer set with a single inequality

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Let $f_j \equiv a_j - \lfloor a_j \rfloor$ for all $j = \{0\} \cup I$, then the *MIR inequality*

$$\sum_{j \in I} \left(\lfloor a_j \rfloor + \frac{(f_j - f_0)^+}{1 - f_0} \right) x_j + \frac{1}{1 - f_0} \sum_{j \in C: a_j < 0} a_j x_j \leq \lfloor a_0 \rfloor \quad (4)$$

is a valid inequality for $\text{conv}(X)$.

Observation

The *MIR inequality* (4) is identical to the *GMI inequality* (2).

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Proof.

Considering that $x \geq 0$, one can relax $a^\top x \leq a_0$ to

$$\sum_{j \in I: f_j \leq f_0} \lfloor a_j \rfloor x_j + \sum_{j \in I: f_j > f_0} a_j x_j + \sum_{j \in C: a_j < 0} a_j x_j \leq a_0.$$

Let

$$w \equiv \sum_{j \in I: f_j \leq f_0} \lfloor a_j \rfloor x_j + \sum_{j \in I: f_j > f_0} \lceil a_j \rceil x_j, z \equiv - \sum_{j \in C: a_j < 0} a_j x_j + \sum_{j \in I: f_j > f_0} (1 - f_j) x_j.$$

We have $w - z \leq a_0$. Since $w \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}_+$, we can apply Lemma 1.

Thus

$$w - \frac{z}{1 - f_0} \leq \lfloor a_0 \rfloor.$$

Substituting w and z yields (4). □

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let P denote its continuous relaxation.

- i. By **Farkas Lemma**, any valid inequalities for P are of the form

$$\lambda^\top Ax - v^\top x \leq \lambda^\top b + t,$$

where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$, $v \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$, $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

- ii. Derive a an MIR inequality (4) from the above inequality.
- iii. **MIR closure** relative to P : P^{MIR} is obtained from P by adding all the MIR inequalities.

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Theorem (c-MIR)

Consider the following mixed-integer knapsack set

$$X \equiv \left\{ (x, s) \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n \times \mathbb{R}_+ : a^\top x - s \leq a_0, x_i \leq u_i \forall i \in [n] \right\}$$

Let T and U be a partition of set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $\delta > 0$

$$\sum_{i \in T} G\left(\frac{a_i}{\delta}\right) x_i + \sum_{i \in U} G\left(\frac{-a_i}{\delta}\right) (u_i - x_i) - \frac{s}{\delta(1-f_0)} \leq \lfloor \beta \rfloor,$$

where $\beta \equiv \frac{a_0 - \sum_{j \in U} a_j u_j}{\delta}$, $f_0 \equiv \beta - \lfloor \beta \rfloor$, $G(y) \equiv \lfloor y \rfloor + \frac{(f_y - f_0)^+}{1 - f_0}$ with $f_y \equiv y - \lfloor y \rfloor$.

Proof.

Using Eq. (4), it is easy to demonstrate the validity. □

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Three steps: (i) aggregation; (ii) bound substitution; (iii) separation.

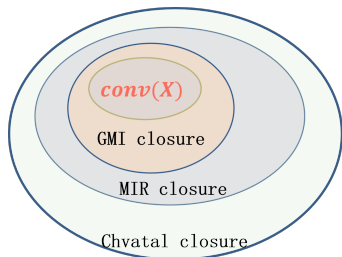
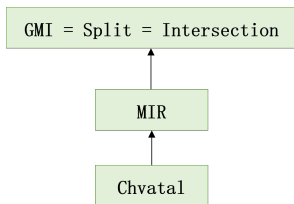
Algorithm 8.2 Separation of Complemented MIR Cuts

Input: LP relaxation $Ax \leq b$ of MIP, global bounds $l \leq x \leq u$, and current LP solution \bar{x} .

Output: Cutting planes $d^T x \leq \bar{\gamma}$.

1. Aggregate linear constraints to obtain a single linear inequality $a^T x \leq \bar{\beta}$.
 2. Transform the variables to the canonical form $x' \geq 0$ by either
 - ▷ shifting to their lower bound $x_j \geq l_j$: $x'_j := x_j - l_j$,
 - ▷ complementing to their upper bound $x_j \leq u_j$: $x'_j := u_j - x_j$,
 - ▷ substituting with a variable lower bound $x_j \geq sx_k + d$, $k \in I$:
 $x'_j := x_j - (sx_k + d)$, or
 - ▷ substituting with a variable upper bound $x_j \leq sx_k + d$, $k \in I$:
 $x'_j := (sx_k + d) - x_j$.
 3. Divide the resulting inequality $a'^T x' \leq \bar{\beta}'$ by $\delta = \pm 1$, $\delta = \pm \max\{|a'_j| \mid j \in I\}$, and $\delta \in \{\pm a'_j \mid j \in I \text{ and } 0 < \bar{x}'_j < u'_j\}$, and generate the corresponding MIR inequalities (8.2). Choose δ^* to be the δ for which the most violated MIR inequality has been produced.
 4. In addition to δ^* , check whether the MIR inequalities derived from dividing $a'^T x' \leq \bar{\beta}'$ by $\frac{1}{2}\delta^*$, $\frac{1}{4}\delta^*$, and $\frac{1}{8}\delta^*$ yield even larger violations.
 5. Finally, select the most violated of the MIR inequalities, transform it back into the space of problem variables x , substitute slack variables, and add it to the separation storage.
-

Readers are referred to [MW01, Ach07] for more details.



Remarks

- $X^{GMI} \subsetneq X^{MIR}$ does not imply that MIR separation is futile when GMI inequalities are separated, since only a subset of GMI inequalities (rather than all inequalities that define the GMI closure) are added in practice.

Theorem (GMI closure vs MIR closure)

Consider a general mixed-integer set

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let P denote its continuous relaxation. Then $X^{\text{GMI}} \subsetneq X^{\text{MIR}}$.

Remarks

- As [Cor08, BC08, DGL10] pointed out, $X^{\text{GMI}} \subsetneq X^{\text{MIR}}$ results from the sign of λ : $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^m$ for X^{GMI} , $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$ for X^{MIR} .

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Lemma

Consider a general mixed-integer set

$$X \equiv \left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{|I|} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{|C|} : Ax \leq b \right\},$$

let P denote its continuous relaxation. *Any Chvatal inequalities are GMI inequalities.*

Proof.

Given a Chvatal inequality $\pi^\top x \leq \pi_0$ with $\pi_I \in \mathbb{Z}^{|I|}$, $\pi_C = 0$ and $\pi_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$, we know $P \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \pi^\top x \geq \pi_0 + 1\} = \emptyset$. Let $\beta \equiv \max_{x \in P} \pi^\top x$, then $\pi_0 \leq \beta < \pi_0 + 1$. Derive an **MIR inequality** (4) from $\pi^\top x \leq \beta$, we obtain $\pi^\top x \leq \pi_0$. By Observation 10, this inequality is also a **GMI inequality**. \square

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Definition (Chvatal closure)

Consider a general mixed-integer set

$$X \equiv \left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{|I|} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{|C|} : Ax \leq b \right\},$$

let P denote its continuous relaxation. Then the **Chvatal closure** relative to P is defined as

$$X^{Chvatal} \equiv \bigcap_{\substack{\pi_I \in \mathbb{Z}^{|I|}, \pi_C = 0, \pi_0 \in \mathbb{Z}: \\ \{x \in P : \pi^\top x \geq \pi_0 + 1\} = \emptyset}} \{x \in P : \pi^\top x \leq \pi_0\}$$

Definition (**Split closure**)

Consider a general mixed-integer set

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let P denote its continuous relaxation. Then the **split closure** relative to P is defined as

$$X^{split} \equiv \bigcap_{\substack{\pi_I \in \mathbb{Z}^{|I|}, \pi_C = 0 \\ \pi_0 \in \mathbb{Z}}} \text{conv} \left(\{x \in P : \pi^\top x \leq \pi_0\} \cup \{x \in P : \pi^\top x \geq \pi_0 + 1\} \right)$$

In order to show the **equivalence between split inequalities and GMI cuts**, we need the following lemma.

Lemma

Given a polyhedron $P \equiv \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b\}$, let $\Pi \equiv \{x \in P : \pi^\top x \leq \pi_0\}$. If $\Pi \neq \emptyset$ and $\alpha^\top x \leq \beta$ is a valid inequality for Π , then there exists a scalar $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $\alpha^\top x - \lambda(\pi^\top x - \pi_0) \leq \beta$ is valid for P .

Proof.

Since $\Pi \neq \emptyset$, by Farkas Lemma, there exists $u \in \mathbb{R}_+^m, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+$ such that

$$\alpha = A^\top u + \lambda \pi \text{ and } \beta \geq u^\top b + \lambda \pi_0.$$

Note that $P \neq \emptyset$ (since $\Pi \neq \emptyset$), hence $u^\top Ax \leq u^\top b$ is valid for P . As a result, $(\alpha^\top - \lambda \pi^\top) x \leq \beta - \lambda \pi_0$. Rearrange this inequality, we can come to the conclusion. □

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Proof.

In our previous talk, we have shown “ \Leftarrow ”; next we show “ \Rightarrow ”. Given a split (π, π_0) , let $\alpha^\top x \leq \beta$ be a valid inequality for both sets

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_1 &\equiv \left\{ x \in P : \pi^\top x \leq \pi_0 \right\}, \\ \Pi_2 &\equiv \left\{ x \in P : \pi^\top x \geq \pi_0 + 1 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

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Proof (Cont'd).

Case I: If $\Pi_2 = \emptyset$, since all the inequalities that define Π_1 are valid for P except possibly for $\pi^\top x \leq \pi_0$, it suffices to show that $\pi^\top x \leq \pi_0$ is a GMI inequality. This follows from the fact that $\pi^\top x \leq \pi_0$ is a Chvatal inequality and from Lemma 8.

Case II: If $\Pi_1 \neq \emptyset$ and $\Pi_2 \neq \emptyset$, by Lemma 11, there exists $u, v \in \mathbb{R}_+$ such that inequalities (5) and (6) are valid for P .

$$\alpha^\top x - u \left(\pi^\top x - \pi_0 \right) \leq \beta \quad (5)$$

$$\alpha^\top x - v \left(-\pi^\top x + \pi_0 + 1 \right) \leq \beta \quad (6)$$

Introduce slack variables $s_1, s_2 \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and subtract (5) from (6), we obtain

$$(v + u)\pi^\top x + s_2 - s_1 = (v + u)\pi_0 + v.$$

Proof (Cont'd).

Divide by $(v + u)$,

$$\pi^\top x + \frac{s_2}{v + u} - \frac{s_1}{v + u} = \pi_0 + \frac{v}{u + v}. \quad (7)$$

Using (7) as a base equality, we generate a GMI inequality

$$\frac{1}{\frac{v+u}{v}} s_2 + \frac{1}{1 - \frac{v}{v+u}} s_1 \geq 1,$$
$$\frac{1}{v} s_2 + \frac{1}{u} s_1 \geq 1.$$

Substitute s_1 and s_2 , we have

$$\alpha^\top x \leq \beta.$$



Theorem

Consider a general mixed-integer set

$$X \equiv \left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^{|I|} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{|C|} : Ax = b \right\}.$$

WLOG, assume that matrix A is of full row rank. Let B index m linearly independent columns of A (*basic*) and let N index the remain columns of A (*nonbasic*). Associated with B is a *corner polyhedron*

$$P(B) \equiv \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : Ax = b, x_j \geq 0 \forall j \in N \right\}.$$

We claim that

$$\begin{aligned} X^{\text{split}} &= \bigcap_{B \in \mathcal{B}} \bigcap_{\substack{\pi_I \in \mathbb{Z}^{|I|}, \pi_C = 0 \\ \pi_0 \in \mathbb{Z}}} \text{conv} \left(P(B) \cap \left(\{x : \pi^\top x \leq \pi_0\} \cup \{x : \pi^\top x \geq \pi_0 + 1\} \right) \right) \\ &= \bigcap_{B \in \mathcal{B}} \bigcap_{\substack{\pi_I \in \mathbb{Z}^{|I|}, \pi_C = 0 \\ \pi_0 \in \mathbb{Z}}} \left\{ x \in P(B) : \sum_{j \in N} x_j / \alpha_j \leq \pi_0 \right\} \end{aligned}$$



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