

**Hildeth & D'Espo  
Algorithm  
for  
Quadratic  
Programming**

This Hypercard stack was prepared by:  
Dennis L. Bricker,  
Dept. of Industrial Engineering,  
University of Iowa,  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
e-mail: dbricker@icaen.uiowa.edu

author

**Hildeth & D'Espo**

A Cyclic Coordinate Search Method applied to the QP Dual Problem:

*PRIMAL*

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Minimize } \frac{1}{2}x^T Q x + c^T x \\ &\text{subject to } Ax \geq b \end{aligned}$$

*DUAL*

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Maximize } e^T \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \lambda^T D \lambda \\ &\text{subject to } \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$-\frac{1}{2}c^T Q^{-1}c$   
constant

where  $\begin{cases} e = b + A Q^{-1} c \\ D = -A Q^{-1} A^T \end{cases}$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Maximize } e^T \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \lambda^T D \lambda \\ &\text{subject to } \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

KKT Optimality Conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \hat{L}(\lambda) = D\lambda + e &\leq 0 \\ \lambda_i \frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial \lambda_i} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

*nonpositive, not nonnegative, because objective is MAX*  
*"complementary slackness"*

**Hildeth & D'Espo**

A Cyclic Coordinate Search Method applied to the QP Dual Problem:

**Step 0** : Select an initial  $\lambda^0$ , e.g.,  $\lambda_1^0 = 0$

**Step 1** : Let  $i=1$  and  $\lambda = \lambda^0$

**Step 2** : Search for maximum in direction parallel to the  $\lambda_i$ -axis by fixing  $\lambda_j, j \neq i$ , and solving

$$\frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial \lambda_i} = 0 \text{ for } \lambda_i \quad \text{a linear equation}$$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

**Hildeth & D'Espo**

**Step 3** : If  $\lambda_i < 0$ , then fix  $\lambda_i = 0$ .

$$\lambda_i \frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial \lambda_i} = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{L} \text{ (with respect to } \lambda_i \text{ alone) is at } \lambda_i < 0, \text{ then the constrained max is at } \lambda_i = 0.$$

**Step 4** : Increment  $i$ . If  $i < n$ , go to step 2.

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

**Hildeth & D'Espo**

**Step 5** : If  $\lambda \neq \lambda^0$ , then let  $\lambda^0 = \lambda$ , and go to step 1. (The current  $\lambda$  will satisfy the KKT conditions for the QP dual.)

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

- Example #1
- Example #2
- Example #3 (portfolio problem)

**EXAMPLE**

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Minimize } \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}x_2^2 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 \\ &\text{subject to } \begin{cases} 0 \leq x_1 \leq 1 \\ 0 \leq x_2 \leq 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Minimize } \frac{1}{2}x^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}^T x \\ &\text{subject to } \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x \geq \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

Dual QP Problem

$$\text{Maximize } \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}^T \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \lambda^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \lambda$$

subject to  $\lambda \geq 0$

$$\begin{cases} \text{Maximize } \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - 2\lambda_3 - 2\lambda_4 \\ \quad - \frac{1}{2} [\lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2 + \lambda_4^2] + \lambda_1\lambda_3 + \lambda_2\lambda_4 \\ \text{subject to } \lambda_1 \geq 0, \lambda_2 \geq 0, \lambda_3 \geq 0, \lambda_4 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

KKT Conditions

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \hat{L}(\lambda) \leq 0 \\ \lambda_i \frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial \lambda_i} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\nabla \hat{L}(\lambda) = D\lambda + e = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + 1 \\ -\lambda_2 + \lambda_1 + 1 \\ \lambda_1 - \lambda_3 - 2 \\ \lambda_2 - \lambda_4 - 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_i \frac{\partial \hat{L}}{\partial \lambda_i} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \lambda_1 (-\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + 1) = 0 \\ \lambda_2 (-\lambda_2 + \lambda_1 + 1) = 0 \\ \lambda_3 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_3 - 2) = 0 \\ \lambda_4 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_4 - 2) = 0 \end{cases}$$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

Hildeth & D'Esposito

Start with  $\lambda = \lambda^0 = (0,0,0,0)$

- $i=1$ ) Solve  $-\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + 1 = 0$  for  $\lambda_1$ , with  $\lambda_3 = 0$ , to get  $\lambda_1 = 1$ , so that  $\lambda = (1,0,0,0)$
- $i=2$ ) Solve  $-\lambda_2 + \lambda_4 + 1 = 0$  for  $\lambda_2$ , with  $\lambda_4 = 0$ , to get  $\lambda_2 = 1$ , so that  $\lambda = (1,1,0,0)$
- $i=3$ ) Solve  $\lambda_1 - \lambda_3 - 2 = 0$  for  $\lambda_3$ , with  $\lambda_1 = 1$ , to get  $\lambda_3 = -1 < 0$ . The maximizing  $\lambda_3$  is therefore 0, so that  $\lambda = (1,1,0,0)$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

Hildeth & D'Esposito

- $i=4$ ) Solve  $\lambda_2 - \lambda_4 - 2 = 0$  for  $\lambda_4$ , with  $\lambda_2 = 1$ , to get  $\lambda_4 = -1 < 0$ . The maximizing  $\lambda_4$  is therefore 0, so that  $\lambda = (1,1,0,0)$

(end of cycle)

Since  $(1,1,0,0) = \lambda \neq \lambda^0 = (0,0,0,0)$ , i.e.,  $\lambda$  was changed during the cycle, repeat the cycle.

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

$\lambda^0 = \lambda = (1,1,0,0)$

- $i=1$ ) Solve  $-\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + 1 = 0$  for  $\lambda_1$ , with  $\lambda_3 = 0$ , to get  $\lambda_1 = 1$ , so that  $\lambda = (1,0,0,0)$
  - $i=2$ ) Solve  $-\lambda_2 + \lambda_4 + 1 = 0$  for  $\lambda_2$ , with  $\lambda_4 = 0$ , to get  $\lambda_2 = 1$ , so that  $\lambda = (1,1,0,0)$
  - $i=3$ ) Solve  $\lambda_1 - \lambda_3 - 2 = 0$  for  $\lambda_3$ , with  $\lambda_1 = 1$ , to get  $\lambda_3 = -1 < 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_3 = 0$  so that  $\lambda = (1,1,0,0)$
  - $i=4$ ) Solve  $\lambda_2 - \lambda_4 - 2 = 0$  for  $\lambda_4$ , with  $\lambda_2 = 1$ , to get  $\lambda_4 = -1 < 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_4 = 0$  so that  $\lambda = (1,1,0,0)$
- (end of cycle)

Since  $\lambda = \lambda^0 = (1,1,0,0)$ , i.e.,  $\lambda$  was unchanged during the cycle, the algorithm has converged, and  $\lambda^* = (1,1,0,0)$  is the optimum of the QP dual problem.

recovery of primal optimal variables

$$\begin{aligned} x^*(\lambda^*) &= Q^{-1} [A^T \lambda^* - c] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \left( \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \lambda^* - \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &\Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1^* = -\lambda_1^* + \lambda_3^* + 2 = 1 \\ x_2^* = -\lambda_2^* + \lambda_4^* + 2 = 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

EXAMPLE

Consider the convex QP problem

$$\begin{cases} \text{Minimize} & 2x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2x_1x_2 - 4x_1 - 6x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 8 \\ -x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 10 \\ x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

that is, 
$$\text{Min } \frac{1}{2} x^T \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} x + [-4 \ -6] x$$

subject to 
$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ +1 & -2 \\ +1 & 0 \\ 0 & +1 \end{bmatrix} x \geq \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ -10 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Quadratic terms:

$$D = -A Q^{-1} A^T = - \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ +1 & -2 \\ +1 & 0 \\ 0 & +1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -5/2 & -2 & 1 & 3/2 \\ -2 & -5/2 & 1/2 & 3/2 \\ 1 & 1/2 & -1/2 & -1/2 \\ 3/2 & 3/2 & -1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Computation of QP Dual Objective Function

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

Linear terms:

$$e = b + A Q^{-1}c = \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ -10 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ +1 & -2 \\ +1 & 0 \\ 0 & +1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Computation of QP Dual Objective Function

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -8 \\ -10 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 13 \\ 11 \\ -5 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \\ -5 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}$$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

Maximize  $\frac{1}{2} \lambda^T D \lambda + e^T \lambda$   
subject to  $\lambda \geq 0$

QP Dual Problem

Maximize  $\frac{1}{2} \{ -5/2 \lambda_1^2 - 5/2 \lambda_2^2 + 1/2 \lambda_3^2 + \lambda_4^2 - 4 \lambda_1 \lambda_2 + 2 \lambda_1 \lambda_3 + 3 \lambda_1 \lambda_4 + 2 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 + 3 \lambda_2 \lambda_4 - \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \} + 5 \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - 5 \lambda_3 - 8 \lambda_4$   
subject to  $\lambda \geq 0$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

KKT Conditions

$$D\lambda + e \leq 0$$

$$\lambda [D\lambda + e] = 0$$

$$\lambda \geq 0$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_1 [-5/2 \lambda_1 - 2 \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + 3/2 \lambda_4 + 5] = 0 \\ \lambda_2 [-2 \lambda_1 - 5/2 \lambda_2 + 1/2 \lambda_3 + 3/2 \lambda_4 + 1] = 0 \\ \lambda_3 [\lambda_1 + 1/2 \lambda_2 - 1/2 \lambda_3 - 1/2 \lambda_4 - 5] = 0 \\ \lambda_4 [3/2 \lambda_1 + 3/2 \lambda_2 - 1/2 \lambda_3 - \lambda_4 - 8] = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\lambda_1 \geq 0, \lambda_2 \geq 0, \lambda_3 \geq 0, \lambda_4 \geq 0$$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

Hildeth & D'Esposito

Let  $\lambda = (0,0,0,0)$

Either  $\lambda_1 = 0$   
or  $\lambda_1 = 2/5 [5 - 2\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + 3/2 \lambda_4] = 2$   
Let  $\lambda_1 = 2$   $\lambda = (2,0,0,0)$

Either  $\lambda_2 = 0$   
or  $\lambda_2 = 2/5 [1 - 2\lambda_1 + 1/2 \lambda_3 + 3/2 \lambda_4] = -6/5$   
Let  $\lambda_2 = 0$   $\lambda = (2,0,0,0)$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

Hildeth & D'Esposito

Either  $\lambda_3 = 0$   
or  $\lambda_3 = 2 [-5 + \lambda_1 + 1/2 \lambda_2 - 1/4 \lambda_4] = -6$   
Let  $\lambda_3 = 0$   $\lambda = (2,0,0,0)$

Either  $\lambda_4 = 0$   
or  $\lambda_4 = [-8 + 3/2 \lambda_1 + 3/2 \lambda_2 - 1/2 \lambda_3] = -5$   
Let  $\lambda_4 = 0$   $\lambda = (2,0,0,0)$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

$\lambda = (2,0,0,0) \neq \lambda^0 = (0,0,0,0)$

Therefore, repeat the cycle.

(This will leave  $\lambda$  unchanged, so that  $\lambda^* = (2,0,0,0)$  satisfies the KKT conditions and is therefore optimal for the QP dual problem.)

The primal optimal solution is then recovered by  $x^*(\lambda^*) = Q^{-1} [A^T \lambda^* - c]$

©Dennis Bricker, U. of Iowa, 1998

$x^*(\lambda^*) = Q^{-1} [A^T \lambda^* - c]$  where  $\lambda^* = (2,0,0,0)$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1^* \\ x_2^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda_1^* - 1/2 \lambda_2^* + 1/2 \lambda_3^* + 1/2 \lambda_4^* + 5 \\ -3/2 \lambda_1^* - 3/2 \lambda_2^* + 1/2 \lambda_3^* + \lambda_4^* + 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE

Minimize  $x^T \begin{bmatrix} 12 & -5.6 & 23 \\ -5.6 & 2.8 & -12 \\ 23 & -23 & 55.2 \end{bmatrix} x$   
subject to  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \leq 10000$   
 $0.09x_1 + 0.07x_2 + 0.10x_3 \geq 800$   
 $x_j \geq 0, j=1,2,3$

"Optimal Portfolio Problem"

|                             |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|
| Hessian Matrix of Objective | 12   | -5.6 | 23   |
|                             | -5.6 | 2.8  | -12  |
|                             | 23   | -12  | 55.2 |

|                          |      |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|------|---|---|---|
| Linear Cost Coefficients | i    | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|                          | C(i) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|                         |      |      |     |   |       |
|-------------------------|------|------|-----|---|-------|
| Constraint Coefficients | -1   | -1   | -1  | ≤ | 10000 |
|                         | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.1 | ≤ | 800   |

plus nonnegativity constraints:  $X \geq 0$



The QP dual is  

$$\text{Max } (E+L) + .5 \times (D+L) + D+L$$
 subject to  $L \geq 0$   
 where L is the vector of dual variables

The D matrix (Hessian of dual objective) is

|            |            |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| -43.987252 | 3.3512039  | 8.2294617  | 32.174220  | 3.5835694  |
| 3.351203   | -0.2553307 | -0.6283286 | -2.450212  | -0.2726628 |
| 8.229461   | -0.6283286 | -1.8696883 | -5.864022  | -0.4957507 |
| 32.174220  | -2.4502124 | -5.8640226 | -23.618980 | -2.6912181 |
| 3.583569   | -0.2726628 | -0.4957507 | -2.691218  | -0.3966005 |

The E vector (linear coefficients of dual objective) is  

$$-10000 \ 800 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0$$

The Kuhn-Tucker conditions for the dual are:

$$L \times (D+L + E) = 0, \\ L \geq 0$$



| iteration | Lambda  |         |         |         |         |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1         | 0.000E0 | 3.133E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 2         | 1.137E1 | 3.282E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 3         | 2.273E1 | 3.432E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 4         | 3.410E1 | 3.581E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 5         | 4.546E1 | 3.730E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 6         | 5.682E1 | 3.879E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 7         | 6.819E1 | 4.028E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 8         | 7.955E1 | 4.177E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 9         | 9.091E1 | 4.326E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 10        | 1.023E2 | 4.475E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 11        | 1.136E2 | 4.625E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 12        | 1.250E2 | 4.774E3 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| ⋮         | ⋮       | ⋮       | ⋮       | ⋮       | ⋮       |
| 120       | 1.347E3 | 2.082E4 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 121       | 1.359E3 | 2.097E4 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 122       | 1.370E3 | 2.111E4 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 123       | 1.381E3 | 2.126E4 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 124       | 1.393E3 | 2.141E4 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |
| 125       | 1.404E3 | 2.156E4 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 | 0.000E0 |



SOLUTION

(after 125 iterations, without converging!)

Portfolio Example

Primal Variables:  $x = 1992.79439 \ 7655.682777 \ 847.5071055$   
 Slack:  $y = -495.9842719 \ 5.684341886E-13$   
 Dual Variables:  $\text{Lambda} = 1392.503289 \ 21409.73162 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0$   
 Objective Function: 1256046.34

The optimal primal solution is (5000,5000,0)

