



Application to Extended Semidefinite Optimization

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In semidefinite optimization one investigates nonlinear optimization problems in finite dimensions with a constraint requiring that a certain matrix-valued function is negative semidefinite. This type of problems arises in convex optimization, approximation theory, control theory, combinatorial optimization and engineering. In system and control theory so-called linear matrix inequalities (LMI's) and extensions like bilinear matrix inequalities (BMI's) fit into this class of constraints. Our investigations include various partial orderings for the description of the matrix constraint and in this way we extend the standard semidefinite case to other types of constraints. We apply the theory on optimality conditions developed in Chap. 5 and the duality theory of Chap. 6 to these extended semidefinite optimization problems.

7.1 Löwner Ordering Cone and Extensions

In the so-called *conic optimization* one investigates finite dimensional optimization problems with an inequality constraint with respect to a special matrix space. To be more specific, let \mathcal{S}^n denote the real linear space of symmetric (n, n) -matrices. It is obvious that this space is a finite dimensional Hilbert space with the scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ defined by

$$\langle A, B \rangle = \text{trace}(A \cdot B) \text{ for all } A, B \in \mathcal{S}^n. \quad (7.1)$$

Recall that the trace of a matrix is defined as sum of all diagonal elements of the matrix. Let C be a convex cone in \mathcal{S}^n inducing a partial ordering \preceq . Then we consider a matrix function $G : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$ defining the inequality constraint

$$G(x) \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^n}. \quad (7.2)$$

If $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ denotes a given objective function, then we obtain the *conic optimization problem*

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f(x) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & G(x) \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^n} \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^m. \end{aligned} \tag{7.3}$$

The name of this problem comes from the fact that the matrix inequality has to be interpreted using the ordering cone C . Obviously, the theory developed in this book is fully applicable to this problem structure.

In the special literature one often investigates problems of the form

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \hat{f}(X) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & \hat{G}(X) \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^n} \\ & X \in \mathcal{S}^p \end{aligned} \tag{7.4}$$

with given functions $\hat{f} : \mathcal{S}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\hat{G} : \mathcal{S}^p \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$. In this case the matrix $X \in \mathcal{S}^p$ can be transformed to a vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^{p \cdot p}$ where x consists of all columns of X by stacking up columns of X from the first to the p -th column. The dimension can be reduced because X is symmetric. Then we obtain $x \in \mathbb{R}^{\frac{p(p+1)}{2}}$. If φ denotes the transformation from the vector x to the matrix X , then the problem (7.4) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \min (\hat{f} \circ \varphi)(x) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & (\hat{G} \circ \varphi)(x) \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^n} \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^{\frac{p(p+1)}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the optimization problem is of the form of problem (7.3) and it is not necessary to study the nonlinear optimization problem (7.4) separately.

In practice, one works with special ordering cones for the Hilbert space \mathcal{S}^n . The Löwner¹² ordering cone and further cones are discussed now.

¹²K. Löwner, “Über monotone Matrixfunktionen”, *Mathematische Zeitschrift* 38 (1934) 177–216.

Remark 7.1 (ordering cones in \mathcal{S}^n).

Let \mathcal{S}^n denote the real linear space of symmetric (n, n) matrices.

- (a) The convex cone

$$\mathcal{S}_+^n := \{X \in \mathcal{S}^n \mid X \text{ is positive semidefinite}\}$$

is called the *Löwner ordering cone*.

The partial ordering induced by the convex cone \mathcal{S}_+^n is also called *Löwner partial ordering* \preceq (notice that we use the special symbol \preceq for this partial ordering). The problem (7.3) equipped with the Löwner partial ordering is then called a *semidefinite optimization problem*. The name of this problem is caused by the fact that the inequality constraint means that the matrix $G(x)$ has to be negative semidefinite.

Although the semidefinite optimization problem is only a finite dimensional problem, it is not a usual problem in \mathbb{R}^m because the Löwner partial ordering makes the inequality constraint complicated. In fact, the inequality (7.2) is equivalent to infinitely many inequalities of the form

$$y^T G(x) y \leq 0 \text{ for all } y \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

- (b) The *K-copositive ordering cone* is defined by

$$C_K^n := \{X \in \mathcal{S}^n \mid y^T X y \geq 0 \text{ for all } y \in K\}$$

for a given convex cone $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, i.e., we consider only matrices for which the quadratic form is nonnegative on the convex cone K . If the partial ordering induced by this convex cone is used in problem (7.3), then we speak of a *K-copositive optimization problem*.

It is evident that $\mathcal{S}_+^n \subset C_K^n$ for every convex cone K and $\mathcal{S}_+^n = C_{\mathbb{R}^n}^n$. Therefore, we have for the dual cones $(C_K^n)^* \subset (\mathcal{S}_+^n)^*$.

If K equals the positive orthant \mathbb{R}_+^n , then $C_{\mathbb{R}_+^n}^n$ is simply called *copositive ordering cone* and the problem (7.3) is then called *copositive optimization problem*.

- (c) The *nonnegative ordering cone* is defined by

$$N^n := \{X \in \mathcal{S}^n \mid X_{ij} \geq 0 \text{ for all } i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}.$$

In this case the optimization problem (7.3) with the partial ordering induced by the convex cone N^n reduces to a standard optimization problem of the form

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f(x) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & G_{ij}(x) \leq 0 \text{ for all } i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^m. \end{aligned}$$

The number of constraints can actually be reduced to $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ because the matrix $G(x)$ is assumed to be symmetric. So, such a problem can be investigated with the standard theory of nonlinear optimization in finite dimensions.

(d) The *doubly nonnegative ordering cone* is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} D^n & := \mathcal{S}_+^n \cap N^n \\ & = \{X \in \mathcal{S}^n \mid X \text{ is positive semidefinite and} \\ & \quad \text{elementwise nonnegative}\}. \end{aligned}$$

If we use the partial ordering induced by this convex cone in the constraint (7.2), then the optimization problem (7.3) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f(x) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & G(x) \leq 0_{\mathcal{S}^n} \\ & G_{ij}(x) \leq 0 \text{ for all } i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^m. \end{aligned}$$

So, we have a semidefinite optimization problem with additional finitely many nonlinear constraints. Obviously, for every convex cone K we have $D^n \subset C_K^n$ and $(C_K^n)^* \subset (D^n)^*$.

Before discussing some examples we need an important lemma on the *Schur complement*.

Lemma 7.2 (Schur complement).

Let $X = \begin{pmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & C \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}^{k+l}$ with $A \in \mathcal{S}^k$, $C \in \mathcal{S}^l$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{(l,k)}$ be given, and assume that A is positive definite. Then we have for the Löwner partial ordering \preceq

$$-X \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^{k+l}} \iff -(C - BA^{-1}B^T) \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^l}$$

(the matrix $C - BA^{-1}B^T$ is called the Schur complement of A in X).

Proof We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 -X \leq 0_{S^{k+l}} &\iff 0 \leq (x^T, y^T) \begin{pmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & C \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= x^T A x + 2x^T B^T y + y^T C y \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^k \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad \text{and all } y \in \mathbb{R}^l \\
 &\iff 0 \leq \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^k} x^T A x + 2x^T B^T y + y^T C y \text{ for all } y \in \mathbb{R}^l.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since A is positive definite, for an arbitrarily chosen $y \in \mathbb{R}^l$ this optimization problem has the minimal solution $-A^{-1}B^T y$ with the minimal value

$$-y^T B A^{-1} B^T y + y^T C y = y^T (C - B A^{-1} B^T) y.$$

Consequently we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 -X \leq 0_{S^{k+l}} &\iff y^T (C - B A^{-1} B^T) y \geq 0 \text{ for all } y \in \mathbb{R}^l \\
 &\iff -(C - B A^{-1} B^T) \leq 0_{S^l}. \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

The following example illustrates the significance of semidefinite optimization.

Example 7.3 (semidefinite optimization).

- (a) The problem of determining the smallest among the largest eigenvalues of a matrix-valued function $A : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow S^n$ leads to the semidefinite optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\min \lambda \\
 &\text{subject to the constraints} \\
 &A(x) - \lambda I \leq 0_{S^n} \\
 &x \in \mathbb{R}^m
 \end{aligned}$$

(with the identity matrix $I \in S^n$ and the Löwner partial ordering \leq). Indeed, $A(x) - \lambda I$ is negative semidefinite if and only if for all eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ of $A(x)$ the inequality $\lambda_i \leq \lambda$ is satisfied. Hence, with the minimization of λ we determine the smallest among the largest eigenvalues of $A(x)$.

- (b) We consider a nonlinear optimization problem with a quadratic constraint in a finite dimensional setting, i.e. we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f(x) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & (Ax + b)^T(Ax + b) - c^T x - \alpha \leq 0 \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^m \end{aligned} \tag{7.5}$$

with an objective function $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, a given matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{(k,m)}$, given vectors $b \in \mathbb{R}^k$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and a real number α . If \preceq denotes again the Löwner partial ordering, we consider the inequality

$$-\begin{pmatrix} I & Ax + b \\ (Ax + b)^T & c^T x + \alpha \end{pmatrix} \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^{k+1}} \tag{7.6}$$

($I \in \mathcal{S}^k$ denotes the identity matrix). By Lemma 7.2 this inequality is equivalent to the quadratic constraint

$$(Ax + b)^T(Ax + b) - c^T x - \alpha \leq 0.$$

If the i -th column of the matrix A (with $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$) is denoted by $a^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, then we set

$$A^{(0)} := \begin{pmatrix} I & b \\ b^T & \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$A^{(i)} := \begin{pmatrix} 0_{\mathcal{S}^k} & a^{(i)} \\ a^{(i)T} & c_i \end{pmatrix} \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, k\},$$

and the inequality (7.6) is equivalent to

$$-A^{(0)} - A^{(1)}x_1 - \dots - A^{(k)}x_k \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^{k+1}}.$$

Hence, the original problem (7.5) with a quadratic constraint can be written as a semidefinite optimization problem with a linear constraint

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f(x) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & -A^{(0)} - A^{(1)}x_1 - \dots - A^{(k)}x_k \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^{k+1}} \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^m. \end{aligned}$$

Although the partial ordering used in the constraint becomes more complicated by this transformation, the type of the constraint which is now linear and not quadratic, is much simpler to handle. A similar transformation can be carried out in the case that, in addition, the objective function f is also quadratic. Then we minimize an additional variable and use this variable as an upper bound of the objective function.

(c) We consider a system of autonomous linear differential equations

$$\dot{x}(t) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) \text{ almost everywhere on } [0, \infty) \quad (7.7)$$

with given matrices $A \in \mathbb{R}^{(k,k)}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{(k,l)}$. Using a feedback control

$$u(t) = Fx(t) \text{ almost everywhere on } [0, \infty)$$

with an unknown matrix $F \in \mathbb{R}^{(l,k)}$ we try to make the system (7.7) asymptotically stable, i.e. we require for every solution x of (7.7) that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t)\| = 0$$

for the Euclidean norm $\|\cdot\|$ in \mathbb{R}^k . In control theory the autonomous linear system (7.7) is called *stabilizable*, if there exists a matrix $F \in \mathbb{R}^{(l,k)}$ so that the system (7.7) is asymptotically stable.

For the determination of an appropriate matrix F we investigate the so-called Lyapunov function $v : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with

$$v(\tilde{x}) = \tilde{x}^T P \tilde{x} \text{ for all } \tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

($P \in \mathcal{S}^k$ is arbitrarily chosen and should be positive definite). Since P is positive definite we have

$$v(\tilde{x}) > 0 \text{ for all } \tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k \setminus \{0_{\mathbb{R}^k}\}. \quad (7.8)$$

For a solution x of the system (7.7) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \dot{v}(x(t)) \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} x(t)^T P x(t) \\ &= \dot{x}(t)^T P x(t) + x(t)^T P \dot{x}(t) \\ &= (Ax(t) + BFx(t))^T P x(t) + x(t)^T P (Ax(t) + BFx(t)) \\ &= x(t)^T ((A + BF)^T P + P(A + BF)) x(t). \end{aligned}$$

If the matrices P and F are chosen in such a way that $(A + BF)^T P + P(A + BF)$ is negative definite, then there is a positive number α with

$$\dot{v}(x(t)) \leq -\alpha \|x(t)\|^2 \text{ for all } t \in [0, \infty). \quad (7.9)$$

The inequalities (7.8) and (7.9) imply

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} v(x(t)) = 0. \quad (7.10)$$

Since P is assumed to be positive definite, there is a positive number $\beta > 0$ with

$$v(\tilde{x}) \geq \beta \|\tilde{x}\|^2 \text{ for all } \tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k.$$

Then we conclude with (7.10)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t)\| = 0,$$

i.e. the autonomous linear system (7.7) is stabilizable. Hence, we obtain the stabilization of (7.7) by a feedback control, if we choose a positive definite matrix $P \in S^k$ and a matrix $F \in \mathbb{R}^{(l,k)}$ so that $(A + BF)^T P + P(A + BF)$ is negative definite.

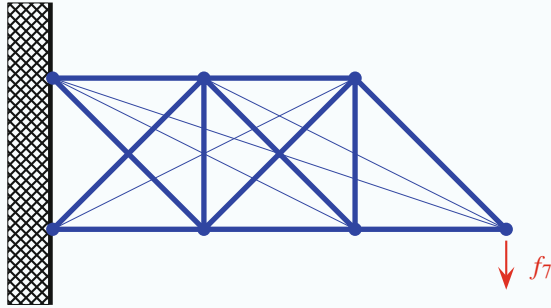
In order to fulfill this requirement we consider the semidefinite optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \lambda \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & -\lambda I + (A + BF)^T P + P(A + BF) \preceq 0_{S^k} \\ & -\lambda I - P \preceq 0_{S^k} \\ & \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \quad P \in S^k, \quad F \in \mathbb{R}^{(l,k)} \end{aligned} \quad (7.11)$$

($I \in S^k$ denotes the identity matrix and recall that \preceq denotes the Löwner partial ordering). By a suitable transformation this problem formally fits into the class (7.3) of semidefinite problems. Here G has to be defined in an appropriate way. It is important to note that it is not necessary to solve the problem (7.11). Only a feasible solution with $\lambda < 0$ is requested. Then the matrices P and F fulfill the requirements for the stabilization of the autonomous linear system (7.7).

- (d) Finally we discuss an applied problem from structural optimization and consider a structure of k elastic bars connecting a set of p nodes (see Fig. 7.1). The design variables x_i ($i = 1, \dots, k$) are the cross-sectional areas of the bars. We assume that nodal load forces f_1, \dots, f_p are given.

Fig. 7.1 Cantilever with seven nodes and the load force f_7



l_1, \dots, l_k denote the length of the bars, v is the maximal volume, and $\underline{x}_i > 0$ and \bar{x}_i are the lower and upper bounds of the cross-sectional areas. The so-called stiffness matrix $A(x) \in \mathcal{S}^p$ is positive definite for all $x_1, \dots, x_k > 0$. We want to find a feasible structure with minimal elastic stored energy. Then we obtain the optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f^T A(x)^{-1} f \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & \sum_{i=1}^k l_i x_i \leq v \\ & \underline{x}_i \leq x_i \leq \bar{x}_i \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, k\} \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \lambda \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & f^T A(x)^{-1} f - \lambda \leq 0 \\ & \sum_{i=1}^k l_i x_i \leq v \\ & \underline{x}_i \leq x_i \leq \bar{x}_i \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 7.2 the inequality constraint

$$f^T A(x)^{-1} f - \lambda \leq 0$$

is equivalent to

$$-\begin{pmatrix} A(x) & f \\ f^T & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \preceq 0_{S^{p+1}}$$

(recall that \preceq denotes the Löwner partial ordering). Hence, we get a standard semidefinite optimization problem with an additional linear inequality constraint and upper and lower bounds:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \lambda \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & -\begin{pmatrix} A(x) & f \\ f^T & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \preceq 0_{S^{p+1}} \\ & \sum_{i=1}^k l_i x_i \leq v \\ & \underline{x}_i \leq x_i \leq \bar{x}_i \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, k\}. \end{aligned}$$

Although the Löwner partial ordering is mostly used for describing the inequality constraint (7.2), we mainly investigate the more general conic optimization problem (7.3) covering the standard semidefinite problem. For the application of the general theory of this book we now investigate properties of the presented ordering cones in more detail.

Lemma 7.4 (properties of the Löwner ordering cone).

For the Löwner ordering cone S_+^n we have:

- (a) $\text{int}(S_+^n) = \{X \in S^n \mid X \text{ is positive definite}\}$
- (b) $(S_+^n)^* = S_+^n$, i.e. S_+^n is self-dual.

Proof

- (a) First, we show the inclusion $\text{int}(S_+^n) \subset \{X \in S^n \mid X \text{ is positive definite}\}$. Let $X \in \text{int}(S_+^n)$ be arbitrarily chosen. Then we get for a sufficiently small $\lambda > 0$ $X - \lambda I \in S_+^n$ ($I \in S^n$ denotes the identity matrix), i.e.

$$0 \leq x^T (X - \lambda I)x = x^T Xx - \lambda x^T x \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

implying

$$x^T Xx \geq \lambda x^T x > 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0_{\mathbb{R}^n}\}.$$

Consequently, the matrix X is positive definite.

Next we prove the converse inclusion. Let a positive definite matrix $X \in \mathcal{S}^n$ be arbitrarily given. Then all eigenvalues of X are positive. Since the minimal eigenvalue continuously depends on the elements of the matrix, it follows immediately that X belongs to the interior of \mathcal{S}_+^n .

- (b) First, we show the inclusion $(\mathcal{S}_+^n)^* \subset \mathcal{S}_+^n$. Let an arbitrary matrix $X \in (\mathcal{S}_+^n)^*$ be chosen and assume that $X \notin \mathcal{S}_+^n$. Then there exists some $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ so that $y^T X y < 0$. If we set $Y := y y^T$, we have $Y \in \mathcal{S}_+^n$ and we obtain

$$\langle X, Y \rangle = \text{trace}(X y y^T) = y^T X y < 0,$$

a contradiction to $X \in (\mathcal{S}_+^n)^*$.

Now, we prove the converse inclusion. Let $X \in \mathcal{S}_+^n$ be arbitrarily given. Choose any $Y \in \mathcal{S}_+^n$. Since X and Y are symmetric and positive semidefinite it is known that there are matrices $\sqrt{X}, \sqrt{Y} \in \mathcal{S}_+^n$ with $(\sqrt{X})^2 = X$ and $(\sqrt{Y})^2 = Y$ and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle X, Y \rangle &= \text{trace}(\sqrt{X} \sqrt{X} \sqrt{Y} \sqrt{Y}) \\ &= \text{trace}(\sqrt{X} \sqrt{Y} \sqrt{Y} \sqrt{X}) \\ &= \langle \sqrt{X} \sqrt{Y}, \sqrt{X} \sqrt{Y} \rangle \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we conclude $X \in (\mathcal{S}_+^n)^*$. □

The result of Lemma 7.4,(b) is also called *Féjér theorem* in the special literature. For the K -copositive ordering cone we obtain similar results.

Lemma 7.5 (properties of the K -copositive ordering cone).

Let $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex cone. For the K -copositive ordering cone C_K^n we have:

- (a) $\{X \in \mathcal{S}^n \mid X \text{ is positive definite}\} \subset \text{int}(C_K^n)$.
- (b) In addition, if K is closed, then for $H_K := \text{convex hull} \{x x^T \mid x \in K\}$
 - (i) H_K is closed
 - (ii) $(C_K^n)^* = H_K$.

Proof

- (a) By definition we have $\mathcal{S}_+^n \subset C_K^n$. Consequently, the assertion follows from Lemma 7.4,(a).
- (b) (i) Let an arbitrary sequence $X_k \in H_K$ be chosen with the limit $X \in \mathcal{S}^n$ (with respect to the spectral norm). Since K is a cone, for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ there are

vectors $x^{(1k)}, \dots, x^{(pk)} \in K$ with the property

$$X_k = \sum_{i=1}^p x^{(ik)} x^{(ik)T}$$

(notice that by the Carathéodory theorem the number p of vectors is bounded by $n + 1$). Every $x^{(ik)} \in K$ ($i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$) can be written as

$$x^{(ik)} = \mu_{i_k} s^{(ik)}$$

with $\mu_{i_k} \geq 0$ and

$$s^{(ik)} \in K \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|x\| = 1\}$$

($\|\cdot\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^n). This set is compact because K is assumed to be closed. Consequently, we obtain for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$

$$X_k = \sum_{i=1}^p \mu_{i_k}^2 s^{(ik)} s^{(ik)T}.$$

Since $s^{(1k)}, \dots, s^{(pk)}$ belong to a compact set and $(X_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to X , the numbers $\mu_{1k}, \dots, \mu_{pk}$ are bounded and there are subsequences $(s^{(i_{l_j})})_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $(\mu_{i_{l_j}})_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ (with $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$) converging to $s^{(i)} \in K$ and $\mu_i \in \mathbb{R}$, respectively, with the property

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^p \mu_i^2 s^{(i)} s^{(i)T}.$$

This implies $X \in H_K$. Hence, H_K is a closed set.

- (ii) First we show the inclusion $H_K \subset (C_K^n)^*$. For an arbitrary $X \in H_K$ we have the representation

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^p x^{(i)} x^{(i)T} \quad \text{for some } x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(p)} \in K$$

(notice here that K is a cone). Then we obtain for every $Y \in C_K^n$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Y, X \rangle &= \text{trace}(Y \cdot X) \\ &= \text{trace} \left(Y \sum_{i=1}^p x^{(i)} x^{(i)T} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i=1}^p \text{trace}(Yx^{(i)}x^{(i)T}) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^p x^{(i)T} Yx^{(i)} \\
&\geq 0,
\end{aligned}$$

i.e. $X \in (C_K^n)^*$.

For the proof of the converse inclusion we first show $H_K^* \subset C_K^n$. Let an arbitrary $X \notin C_K^n$ be given. Then there is some $y \in K$ with $y^T X y < 0$. If we set $Y := yy^T$, then we have $Y \in H_K$ and

$$\langle Y, X \rangle = \text{trace}(Y \cdot X) = \text{trace}(Xyy^T) = y^T X y < 0,$$

i.e. $X \notin H_K^*$. Consequently $H_K^* \subset C_K^n$ and for the dual cones we get

$$(C_K^n)^* \subset (H_K^*)^*. \quad (7.12)$$

Next, we show that $(H_K^*)^* \subset H_K$. For this proof let $Z \in (H_K^*)^*$ be arbitrarily given and assume that $Z \notin H_K$. Since H_K is closed by part (i) and convex, by Theorem C.3 there exists some $V \in \mathcal{S}^n \setminus \{0_{\mathcal{S}^n}\}$ with

$$\langle V, Z \rangle < \inf_{U \in H_K} \langle V, U \rangle. \quad (7.13)$$

This inequality implies

$$\langle V, Z \rangle < 0, \quad (7.14)$$

if we set $U = 0_{\mathcal{S}^n}$. Now assume that $V \notin H_K^*$. Then there is some $\tilde{U} \in H_K$ with $\langle V, \tilde{U} \rangle < 0$. Since H_K is a cone, we have $\lambda \tilde{U} \in H_K$ for all $\lambda > 0$ and

$$0 > \lambda \langle V, \tilde{U} \rangle = \langle V, \lambda \tilde{U} \rangle \text{ for all } \lambda > 0.$$

Consequently, $\langle V, \lambda \tilde{U} \rangle$ can be made arbitrarily small contradicting to the inequality (7.13). So $V \in H_K^*$ and because of $Z \in (H_K^*)^*$ we obtain $\langle V, Z \rangle \geq 0$ contradicting (7.14). Hence we get $Z \in H_K$. With the inclusions $(H_K^*)^* \subset H_K$ and (7.12) we then conclude $(C_K^n)^* \subset H_K$ which has to be shown. \square

In the special literature elements in the dual cone $(C_{\mathbb{R}_+^n}^n)^* = H_{\mathbb{R}_+^n}$ (i.e. we set $K = \mathbb{R}_+^n$) are called *completely positive matrices*.

Finally we present similar results for the nonnegative ordering cone and the doubly nonnegative ordering cone.

Lemma 7.6 (properties of the nonnegative and doubly nonnegative ordering cone).

For the nonnegative ordering cone N^n and the doubly nonnegative ordering cone D^n we have:

- (a) $\text{int}(N^n) = \{X \in S^n \mid X_{ij} > 0 \text{ for all } i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$
- (b) $(N^n)^* = N^n$, i.e. N^n is self-dual
- (c) $\text{int}(D^n) = \{X \in S^n \mid X \text{ is positive definite and elementwise positive}\}$
- (d) $(D^n)^* = D^n$, i.e. D^n is self-dual.

Proof

(a) This part is obvious.

(b) (i) Let $X \in N^n$ be arbitrarily chosen. Then we get for all $M \in N^n$

$$\langle X, M \rangle = \text{trace}(X \cdot M) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \underbrace{X_{ij}}_{\geq 0} \cdot \underbrace{M_{ji}}_{\geq 0} \geq 0.$$

Consequently, we have $X \in (N^n)^*$.

(ii) Now let $X \in (N^n)^*$ be arbitrarily chosen. If we consider $M \in N^n$ with

$$M_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } i = k \text{ and } j = l \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for arbitrary $k, l \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, then we conclude

$$0 \leq \langle X, M \rangle = X_{kl}.$$

So, we obtain $X \in N^n$.

(c) With Lemma 7.4,(a) and part (a) of this lemma we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{int}(D^n) &= \text{int}(\mathcal{S}_+^n \cap N^n) \\ &= \text{int}(\mathcal{S}_+^n) \cap \text{int}(N^n) \\ &= \{X \in \mathcal{S}_+^n \mid X \text{ positive definite and elementwise positive}\}. \end{aligned}$$

(d) With Lemma 7.4,(b) and part (b) of this lemma we obtain

$$(D^n)^* = (\mathcal{S}_+^n)^* \cap (N^n)^* = \mathcal{S}_+^n \cap N^n = D^n. \quad \square$$

7.2 Optimality Conditions

The necessary optimality conditions presented in Sect. 5.2 are now applied to the conic optimization problem (7.3) with the partial ordering \preceq inducing the ordering cone C . To be more specific, let $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $G : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$ be given functions and consider the conic optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f(x) \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & G(x) \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^n} \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^m. \end{aligned}$$

First, we answer the question under which assumptions the matrix function G is Fréchet differentiable.

Lemma 7.7 (Fréchet derivative of G).

Let the matrix function $G : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$ be elementwise differentiable at some $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Then the Fréchet derivative of G at \bar{x} is given by

$$G'(\bar{x})(h) = \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x}) h_i \text{ for all } h \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

with

$$G_{x_i} := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} G_{11} & \cdots & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} G_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} G_{n1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} G_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, m\}.$$

Proof Let $h \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be arbitrarily chosen. Since G is elementwise differentiable at $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, we obtain for the Fréchet derivative of G

$$G'(\bar{x})(h) = \begin{pmatrix} \nabla G_{11}(\bar{x})^T h & \cdots & \nabla G_{1n}(\bar{x})^T h \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \nabla G_{n1}(\bar{x})^T h & \cdots & \nabla G_{nn}(\bar{x})^T h \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^m G_{11x_i}(\bar{x}) h_i \cdots \sum_{i=1}^m G_{1nx_i}(\bar{x}) h_i \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{i=1}^m G_{n1x_i}(\bar{x}) h_i \cdots \sum_{i=1}^m G_{nnx_i}(\bar{x}) h_i \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x}) h_i. \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

Now we present the Lagrange multiplier rule for the conic optimization problem (7.3).

Theorem 7.8 (Lagrange multiplier rule).

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $G : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$ be given functions, and let $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be a minimal solution of the conic optimization problem (7.3). Let f be differentiable at \bar{x} and let G be elementwise differentiable at \bar{x} . Then there are a real number $\mu \geq 0$ and a matrix $L \in \mathcal{C}^*$ with $(\mu, L) \neq (0, 0_{\mathcal{S}^n})$,

$$\mu \nabla f(\bar{x}) + \begin{pmatrix} \langle L, G_{x_1}(\bar{x}) \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle L, G_{x_m}(\bar{x}) \rangle \end{pmatrix} = 0_{\mathbb{R}^m} \quad (7.15)$$

and

$$\langle L, G(\bar{x}) \rangle = 0. \quad (7.16)$$

If, in addition to the above assumptions the equality

$$G'(\bar{x})(\mathbb{R}^m) + \text{cone}(C + \{G(\bar{x})\}) = \mathcal{S}^n \quad (7.17)$$

is satisfied, then it follows $\mu > 0$.

Proof Because of the differentiability assumptions we have that f and G are Fréchet differentiable at \bar{x} . Then we apply Corollary 5.4 and obtain the existence of a real number $\mu \geq 0$ and a matrix $L \in \mathcal{C}^*$ with $(\mu, L) \neq (0, 0_{\mathcal{S}^n})$,

$$\mu \nabla f(\bar{x}) + L \circ G'(\bar{x}) = 0_{\mathbb{R}^m} \quad (7.18)$$

and

$$\langle L, G(\bar{x}) \rangle = 0.$$

For every $h \in \mathbb{R}^m$ we obtain with Lemma 7.7

$$\begin{aligned} (L \circ G'(\bar{x}))(h) &= \langle L, G'(\bar{x})(h) \rangle \\ &= \langle L, \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x})h_i \rangle \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \langle L, G_{x_i}(\bar{x}) \rangle h_i \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \langle L, G_{x_1}(\bar{x}) \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle L, G_{x_m}(\bar{x}) \rangle \end{pmatrix}^T h. \end{aligned}$$

Then the equality (7.18) implies

$$\mu \nabla f(\bar{x}) + \begin{pmatrix} \langle L, G_{x_1}(\bar{x}) \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle L, G_{x_m}(\bar{x}) \rangle \end{pmatrix} = 0_{\mathbb{R}^m}.$$

Hence, one part of the assertion is shown. If we consider the Kurcyusz-Robinson-Zowe regularity assumption (5.9) for the special problem (7.3), we have $\hat{S} = \mathbb{R}^m$ and $\text{cone}(\hat{S} - \{\bar{x}\}) = \mathbb{R}^m$. So, the equality (7.17) is equivalent to the regularity assumption (5.9). This completes the proof. \square

In the case of $\mu > 0$ we can set $U := \frac{1}{\mu}L \in C^*$ and the equalities (7.15) and (7.16) can be written as

$$f_{x_i}(\bar{x}) + \langle U, G_{x_i}(\bar{x}) \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$$

and

$$\langle U, G(\bar{x}) \rangle = 0.$$

This gives the extended Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions to matrix space problems.

In Theorem 7.8 the Lagrange multiplier L is a matrix in the dual cone C^* . According to the specific choice of the ordering cone C discussed in Lemmas 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 we take the dual cones given in Lemmas 7.4,(b), 7.5,(b),(ii) and 7.6,(b),(d). For instance, if C denotes the Löwner ordering cone, then the multiplier L is positive semidefinite.

Instead of the regularity assumption (7.17) used in Theorem 7.8 we can also consider a simpler condition.

Lemma 7.9 (regularity condition).

Let the assumption of Theorem 7.8 be satisfied and let C denote the K -copositive ordering cone C_K^n for an arbitrary convex cone K . If there exists a vector $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ so that $G(\bar{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x})(\hat{x}_i - \bar{x}_i)$ is negative definite, then the regularity assumption in Theorem 7.8 is fulfilled.

Proof By Lemma 7.5,(a) we have

$$G(\bar{x}) + G'(\bar{x})(\hat{x} - \bar{x}) = G(\bar{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x})(\hat{x}_i - \bar{x}_i) \in -\text{int}(C_K^n)$$

and with Theorem 5.6 the Kurcyusz-Robinson-Zowe regularity assumption is satisfied, i.e. the equality (7.17) is fulfilled. \square

It is obvious that in the case of the Löwner partial ordering $S_+^n = C_{\mathbb{R}^n}^n$ Lemma 7.9 is also applicable. Notice that a similar result can be shown for the ordering cones discussed in Lemma 7.6. For the interior of these cones we can then use the results in Lemma 7.6,(a) and (c).

Next, we answer the question under which assumptions the Lagrange multiplier rule given in Theorem 7.8 as a necessary optimality condition is a sufficient optimality condition for the conic optimization problem (7.3).

Theorem 7.10 (sufficient optimality condition).

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $G : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow S^n$ be given functions. Let for some $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ f be differentiable and pseudoconvex at \bar{x} and let G be elementwise differentiable and $(-C + \text{cone}(\{G(\bar{x})\}) - \text{cone}(\{G(\bar{x})\}))$ -quasiconvex at \bar{x} . If there is a matrix $L \in C^*$ with

$$\nabla f(\bar{x}) + \begin{pmatrix} \langle L, G_{x_1}(\bar{x}) \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle L, G_{x_m}(\bar{x}) \rangle \end{pmatrix} = 0_{\mathbb{R}^m} \quad (7.19)$$

and

$$\langle L, G(\bar{x}) \rangle = 0,$$

then \bar{x} is a minimal solution of the conic optimization problem (7.3).

Proof With Lemma 7.7 the equality (7.19) implies

$$\nabla f(\bar{x}) + L \circ G'(\bar{x}) = 0_{\mathbb{R}^m}.$$

By Lemma 5.16 and Corollary 5.15 the assertion follows immediately. \square

The quasiconvexity assumption in Theorem 7.10 (compare Definition 5.12) means that for all feasible $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$

$$\begin{aligned} G(x) - G(\bar{x}) &\in -C + \text{cone}(\{G(\bar{x})\}) - \text{cone}(\{G(\bar{x})\}) \\ \implies \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x})(x_i - \bar{x}_i) &\in -C + \text{cone}(\{G(\bar{x})\}) - \text{cone}(\{G(\bar{x})\}). \end{aligned}$$

For all feasible $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ this implication can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} G(x) + (\alpha - 1 - \beta)G(\bar{x}) &\in -C \text{ for some } \alpha, \beta \geq 0 \\ \implies \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x})(x_i - \bar{x}_i) + (\gamma - \delta)G(\bar{x}) &\in -C \text{ for some } \gamma, \delta \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} G(x) + \bar{\alpha}G(\bar{x}) &\in -C \text{ for some } \bar{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R} \\ \implies \sum_{i=1}^m G_{x_i}(\bar{x})(x_i - \bar{x}_i) + \bar{\gamma}G(\bar{x}) &\in -C \text{ for some } \bar{\gamma} \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

7.3 Duality

The duality theory developed in Chap. 6 is now applied to the conic optimization problem (7.3) with given functions $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $G : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow S^n$ and the partial ordering \preceq inducing the ordering cone C .

For convenience we recall the primal optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} &\min f(x) \\ &\text{subject to the constraints} \\ &G(x) \preceq_{\mathcal{S}^n} 0_{\mathcal{S}^n} \\ &x \in \mathbb{R}^m. \end{aligned}$$

According to Sect. 6.1 the dual problem can be written as

$$\max_{U \in C^*} \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^m} f(x) + \langle U, G(x) \rangle \quad (7.20)$$

or equivalently

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \lambda \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & f(x) + \langle U, G(x) \rangle \geq \lambda \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^m \\ & \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, U \in C^*. \end{aligned}$$

We are now able to formulate a *weak duality theorem* for the conic optimization problem (7.3).

Theorem 7.11 (weak duality theorem).

For every feasible \hat{x} of the primal problem (7.3) and for every feasible \hat{U} of the dual problem (7.20) the following inequality is satisfied

$$\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^m} f(x) + \langle \hat{U}, G(x) \rangle \leq f(\hat{x}).$$

Proof This result follows immediately from Theorem 6.7. □

The following *strong duality theorem* is a direct consequence of Theorem 6.8.

Theorem 7.12 (strong duality theorem).

Let the composite mapping $(f, G) : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \mathcal{S}^n$ be convex-like and let the ordering cone have a nonempty interior $\text{int}(C)$. If the primal problem (7.3) is solvable and the generalized Slater condition is satisfied, i.e., there is a vector $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ with $G(\hat{x}) \in -\text{int}(C)$, then the dual problem (7.20) is also solvable and the extremal values of the two problems are equal.

For instance, if the ordering cone C is the K -copositive ordering cone C_K^n for some convex cone $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, then by Lemma 7.5,(a) the generalized Slater condition in Theorem 7.12 is satisfied whenever $G(\hat{x})$ is negative definite for some $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. In this case a duality gap cannot appear.

With the investigations in Sect. 6.4 it is simple to state the dual problem of a linear semidefinite optimization problem. If we specialize the problem (7.3) to the linear problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min c^T x \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & B \preceq A(x) \\ & x_1, \dots, x_m \geq 0 \end{aligned} \tag{7.21}$$

with $c \in \mathbb{R}^m$, a linear mapping $A : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$ and a matrix $B \in \mathcal{S}^n$. Since A is linear, there are matrices $A^{(1)}, \dots, A^{(m)} \in \mathcal{S}^n$ so that

$$A(x) = A^{(1)}x_1 + \dots + A^{(m)}x_m \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^m.$$

Then the primal linear problem (7.21) can also be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \min c^T x \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & B \preceq A^{(1)}x_1 + \dots + A^{(m)}x_m \\ & x_1, \dots, x_m \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{7.22}$$

For the formulation of the dual problem of (7.22) we need the adjoint mapping $A^* : \mathcal{S}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} A^*(U)(x) &= \langle U, A(x) \rangle \\ &= \langle U, A^{(1)}x_1 + \dots + A^{(m)}x_m \rangle \\ &= \langle U, A^{(1)} \rangle x_1 + \dots + \langle U, A^{(m)} \rangle x_m \\ &= \left(\langle U, A^{(1)} \rangle, \dots, \langle U, A^{(m)} \rangle \right) \cdot x \\ & \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^m \text{ and all } U \in \mathcal{S}^n. \end{aligned}$$

Using the general formulation (6.19) we then obtain the dual problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \langle B, U \rangle \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & \langle A^{(1)}, U \rangle \leq c_1 \\ & \quad \vdots \\ & \langle A^{(m)}, U \rangle \leq c_m \\ & U \in C^*. \end{aligned} \tag{7.23}$$

In the special literature on semidefinite optimization the dual problem (7.23) is very often the primal problem with $C^* = \mathcal{S}_+^n$. In this case our primal problem is then the dual problem in the literature.

Exercises

(7.1) Show that the Löwner ordering cone \mathcal{S}_+^n is closed and pointed.

(7.2) Show for the Löwner ordering cone

$$\mathcal{S}_+^n = \text{convex hull} \{xx^T \mid x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}.$$

(7.3) As an extension of Lemma 7.2 prove the following result: Let $X = \begin{pmatrix} A & B^T \\ B & C \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{S}^{k+l}$ with $A \in \mathcal{S}^k$, $C \in \mathcal{S}^l$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{(l,k)}$ be given, and assume that A is positive definite. Then we have for an arbitrary convex cone $K \subset \mathbb{R}^l$:

$$X \in C_{\mathbb{R}^k \times K}^{k+l} \iff C - BA^{-1}B^T \in C_K^l.$$

(7.4) Show for arbitrary $A, B \in \mathcal{S}_+^n$

$$\langle A, B \rangle = 0 \iff AB = 0_{\mathcal{S}^n}.$$

(7.5) Let A be a given symmetric (n, n) matrix. Show for an arbitrary $(j-i+1, j-i+1)$ block matrix A^{ij} ($1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$) with

$$A_{kl}^{ij} = A_{i+k-1, i+l-1} \text{ for all } k, l \in \{1, \dots, j-i+1\} :$$

$$A \text{ positive semidefinite} \implies A^{ij} \text{ positive semidefinite.}$$

(7.6) Show that the linear semidefinite optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min x_2 \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & - \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 1 \\ 1 & x_2 \end{pmatrix} \leq 0_{\mathcal{S}^2} \\ & x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

(where \leq denotes the Löwner partial ordering) is not solvable.

(7.7) Let the linear mapping $G : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^2$ with

$$G(x_1, x_2) = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ for all } (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

be given. Show that G does not fulfill the generalized Slater condition given in Theorem 7.12 for $C = \mathcal{S}_+^2$.

(7.8) Let $c \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $B \in \mathcal{S}^n$ and a linear mapping $A : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$ with

$$A(x) = A^{(1)}x_1 + \dots + A^{(m)}x_m \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

for $A^{(1)}, \dots, A^{(m)} \in \mathcal{S}^n$ be given. Show that for the linear problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min c^T x \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & B \preceq A(x) \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^m \end{aligned}$$

the dual problem is given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \langle B, U \rangle \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & \langle A^{(1)}, U \rangle = c_1 \\ & \quad \vdots \\ & \langle A^{(m)}, U \rangle = c_m \\ & U \in \mathcal{C}^*. \end{aligned}$$

(7.9) Consider the linear semidefinite optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min x_1 \\ & \text{subject to the constraints} \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -x_1 & 0 \\ -x_1 & -x_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -x_1 - 1 \end{pmatrix} \preceq 0_{\mathcal{S}^3} \\ & x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

(where \preceq denotes the Löwner partial ordering). Give the corresponding dual problem and show that the extremal values of the primal and dual problem are not equal. Why is Theorem 7.12 not applicable?