Constrained Separating Plane Algorithm with Additional Clipping

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Abstract. The constrained separating plane method with additional clippings (SPACLIP-CON) for nonsmooth optimization is proposed in this paper. The method is efficient and widely applicable to nonsmooth constrained optimization problems with convex objective functions. Experimental results for solving large-scale non-smooth problems are provided.

Keywords: Nonsmooth convex optimization, Subgradient methods, Blackbox minimization, Separating plane method, SPACLIP, SPACLIP-CON, Large-scale optimization

We consider the following problem of constrained convex nondifferentiable optimization: $\min_{x \in Q} f(x)$, where f(x) is a convex nonsmooth objective function, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $Q = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n | h(x) \leq 0\}$, h(x) is a constraint nonsmooth scalar function.

This article is devoted to the further investigation of separating plane methods [1–4]. Methods work in the extended conjugate space of subgradients and the Legendre-Fenchel conjugate of f(x) $f^*(g) = \sup_x \{gx - f(x)\}$. The development of SPACLIP-CON method for the constrained problems is based on the idea of introduction of the conical approximation of a non-trivial recession cone that belongs to the epigraph of the f(x) into the inner approximation of the epi f^* .

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