

Communication and Extension Complexity

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1 Extended Formulations and Extension Complexity

Consider a discrete optimization problem, which usually has the formula

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} & x \in V \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is a finite set. Linear programming (LP) is a powerful technique solving (1). Define a *polytope* as the convex hull of V :

$$P = \text{conv}(V) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : x = \sum_{i=1}^l a_i v_i, \text{ s.t. } v_i \in V, 0 \leq a_i \leq 1, \sum_{i=1}^l a_i = 1\}. \tag{2}$$

One can solve (1) by an LP:

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