

Modern Robust Optimization: Opportunities for Enterprise-Wide Optimization

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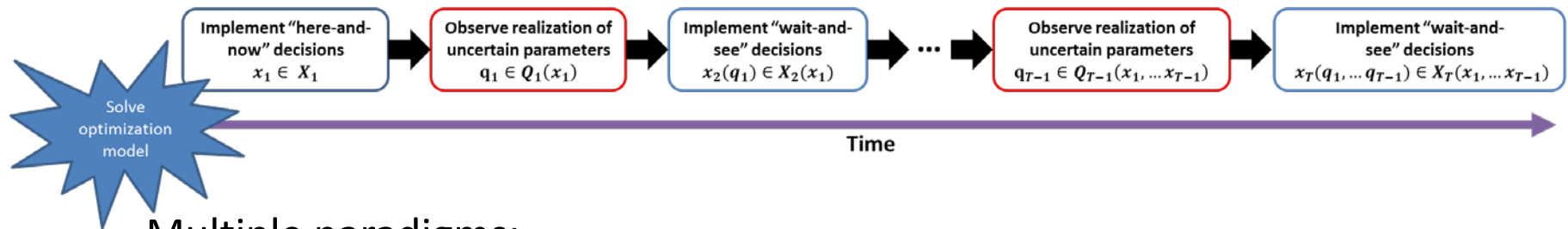
Uncertainty in EWO Setting

- Uncertainty is inherent in virtually all EWO settings, both strategic and operational ones
- Typical sources of uncertainty:
 - Market behavior
 - e.g., prices, customer demands
 - Unexpected events
 - e.g., disruptions
 - Model-system mismatch
 - e.g., unknown thermodynamics and/or kinetics
- Optimization in view of only the nominal case can lead to suboptimal/infeasible solutions
 - Need for risk-averse decision-making

Challenges for EWO under Uncertainty

- Large combinatorial component
 - Mixed-integer models with lots of discrete decisions
 - Often custom-built approaches (decomposition, branch-and-cut/price, etc.)
 - Discreteness also prevalent on the side of uncertain parameters

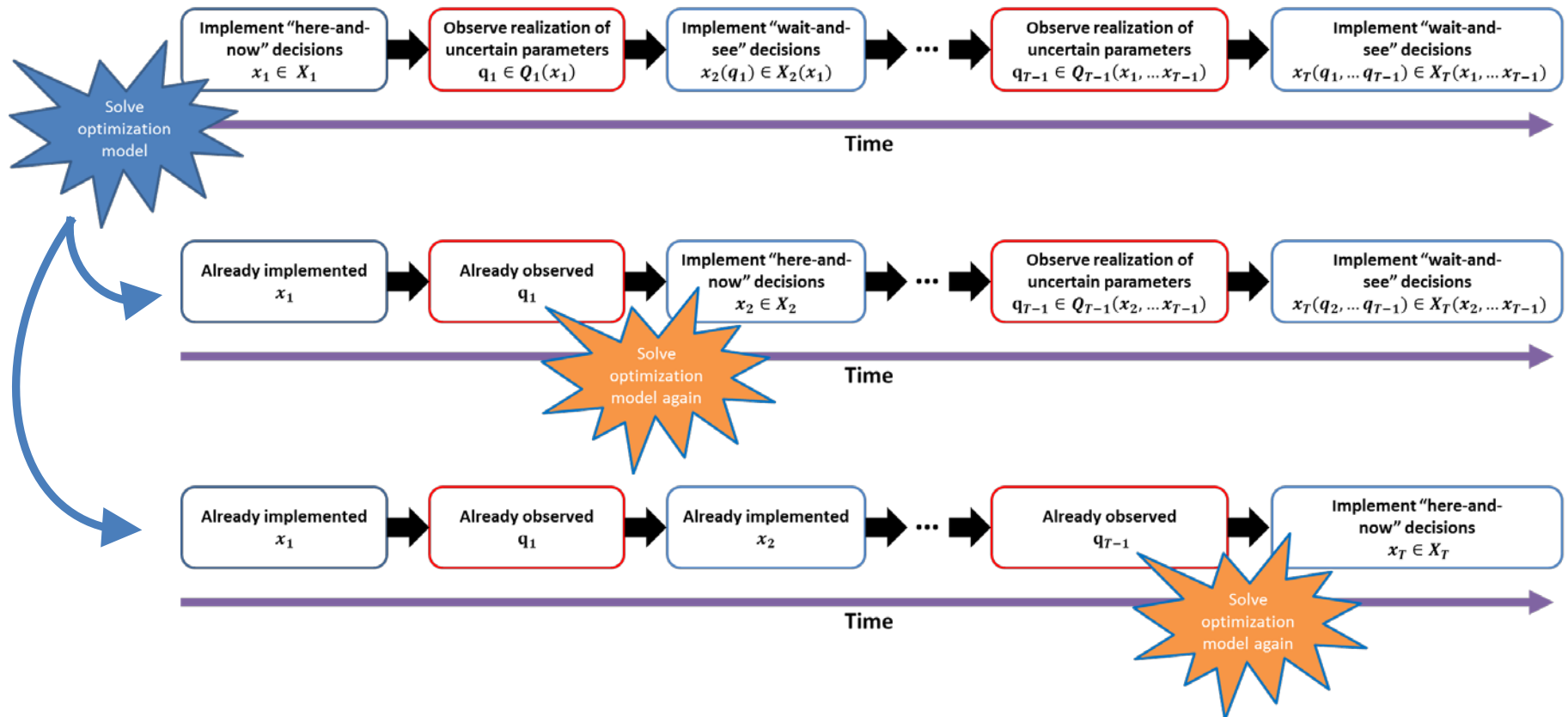
- Multi-stage horizons



- Multiple paradigms:
 - Invest now, then operate every fiscal year
 - Place/receive order now, then route material through the supply chain
 - Decide control actions for the whole control horizon
- Set up a DSS to work autonomously in a rolling horizon fashion
 - Re-optimization round-the-clock, as often as you can afford

Multi-stage Horizons (cont'd)

- Re-optimization frequency dictated by tractability
- Number of stages dictated by need to locate “better solutions”



- Need high-quality “wait-and-see” decisions (prepare to adopt them!)
- “Closed-loop feasibility” is more likely as you account for more stages

Robust Optimization

- Game theory interpretation:
 - Player 1 (decision-maker) tries to minimize the objective
 - Player 2 (adversary nature) tries to minimize feasibility margin
- Foundations in “pessimistic optimization” (Wald, Soyster)
 - Attempts to find the solution that would perform best in the “worst-case”
 - The above implies that the solution must remain feasible under all cases we want to insure against (uncertainty set)
- Some references to start with:
 - A. Ben-Tal, L. El Ghaoui and A. Nemirovski (2009). Robust Optimization. Princeton University Press
 - D. Bertsimas, D.B. Brown and C. Caramanis (2011). Theory and Applications of Robust Optimization. SIAM Review, 53(3):464
 - B.L. Gorissen, I. Yanikoglu and D. den Hertog (2015). A Practical Guide to Robust Optimization. Omega, 53:124
 - C.E. Gounaris (2017). Advances in Robust Optimization and Opportunities for Process Operations. In: Proceedings of FOCAPO 2017/CPC IX, Paper ID IF110

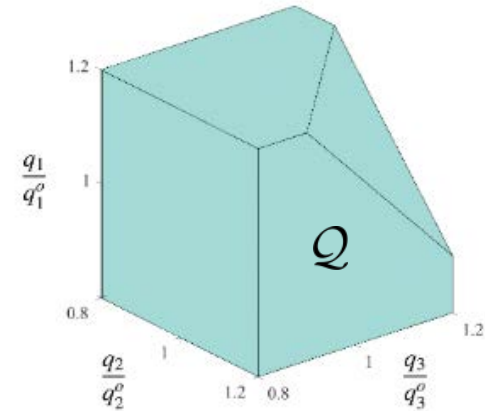
1-Stage Robust Optimization

- a.k.a. “Static” Robust Optimization

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} & f(x, q) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_i(x, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall i \end{array}$$



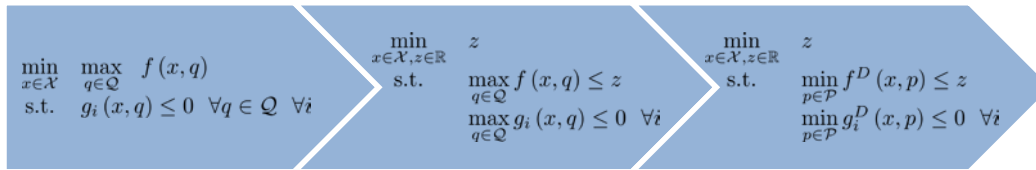
$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} & \max_{q \in \mathcal{Q}} f(x, q) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_i(x, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \quad \forall i \end{array}$$



Solving Robust Optimization Problems

Reformulation Approach

- Address semi-infinite formulation via duality-based treatment of inner problems



- ✓ The problem can be solved “monolithically,” via direct call to an appropriate optimization solver
- ✗ Restricted to settings where strong duality holds
- ✗ The size of the problem grows a lot (unnecessarily?) as the uncertainty set dimensionality grows

Robust Cutting-Plane Approach¹

- Given a (feasible or relaxed) solution, solve a separation problem to identify realizations from within the uncertainty set for which this solution violates a constraint
- Gradually enforce robustness by adding select deterministic constraints using violating realizations

- ✓ Can accommodate non-standard settings, e.g.,
 - discrete uncertain parameters
 - non MathOpt-based solvers
- ✗ Requires more elaborate implementation (and lots of “tuning”)

¹Mutapcic and Boyd, 2009

Robust Optimization

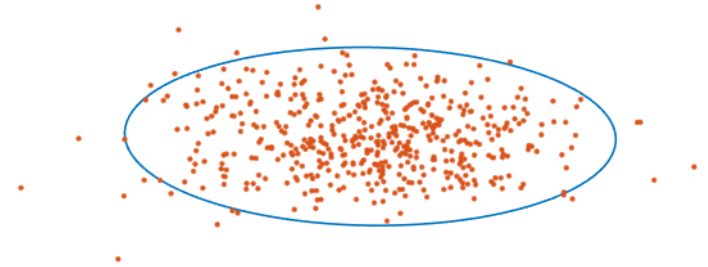
- When to consider:
 - When you can routinely solve the deterministic problem
 - Feasibility is important
 - Safety reasons
 - Cannot monetize infeasibility
 - Large number of parameters that only sparsely participate in constraints
 - Stochastic description of uncertainty meets certain criteria
 - No detailed (joint) probability distributions
 - Well-motivated, strong correlations among parameters
- Size and shape of uncertainty set is chosen by the modeler
 - Usually some norm-based set (e.g., interval, ellipsoid, box)
 - No explicit requirement for scenarios and/or probability distributions
 - If distributional information exists, uncertainty sets can be related to confidence intervals

Examples of Uncertainty Sets

■ Ellipsoids

- Gaussian confidence intervals

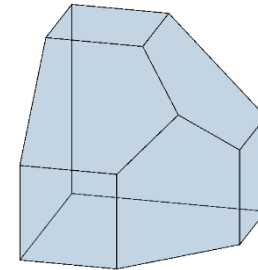
$$\mathcal{Q}_E = \{q \in \mathbb{R}^n : (q - \mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (q - \mu) \leq \beta\}$$



■ Budget sets

- aggregate forecasts at various hierarchies

$$\mathcal{Q}_B = \left\{ q \in [\underline{q}, \bar{q}]^n : \sum_{i \in B_l} q_i \leq b_l, \forall l \in \{1, \dots, L\} \right\}$$



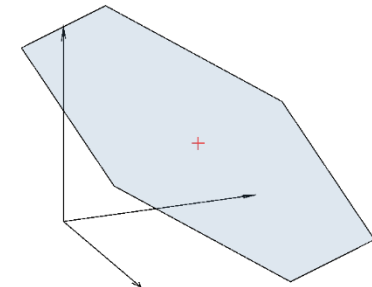
■ Factor models

- bounded disturbances around nominal values

$$\mathcal{Q}_F = \{q \in \mathbb{R}^n : q = q^0 + \Phi \xi \text{ for some } \xi \in \Xi\}$$

$$\Xi = \{\xi \in [-1, 1]^F : |e^\top \xi| \leq \beta F\}, \quad F \ll n$$

- “zero-net-alpha” models in portfolio optimization



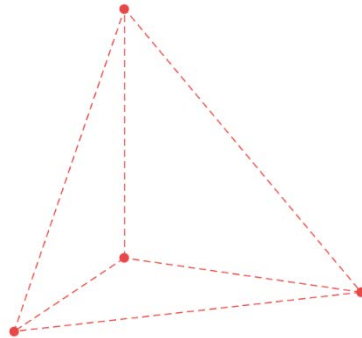
Examples of Uncertainty Sets

- **Cardinality-constrained sets**

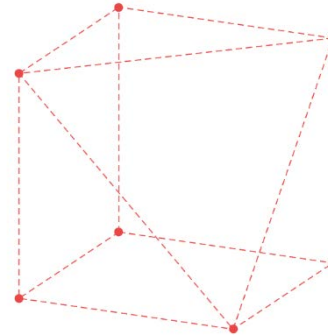
- “Gamma” sets (Bertsimas & Sim, 2004)

$$\mathcal{Q}_\Gamma = \left\{ q \in [q^0, q^0 + \hat{q}] : \exists W \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}, |W| \leq \Gamma : q_i = \begin{cases} q_i^0 + \hat{q}_i, & \text{if } i \in W \\ q_i^0, & \text{if } i \notin W \end{cases} \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \right\}$$

$\Gamma = 1$



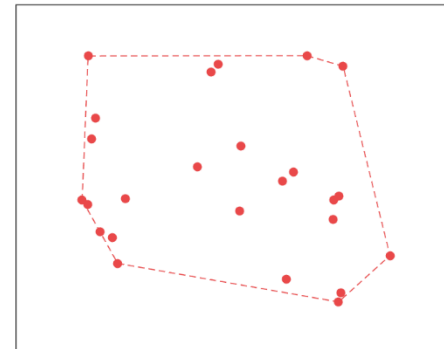
$\Gamma = 2$



- **Discrete sets**

- Collection of relevant scenarios

$$\mathcal{Q}_S = \{q^{(1)}, q^{(2)}, \dots, q^{(M)}\}$$

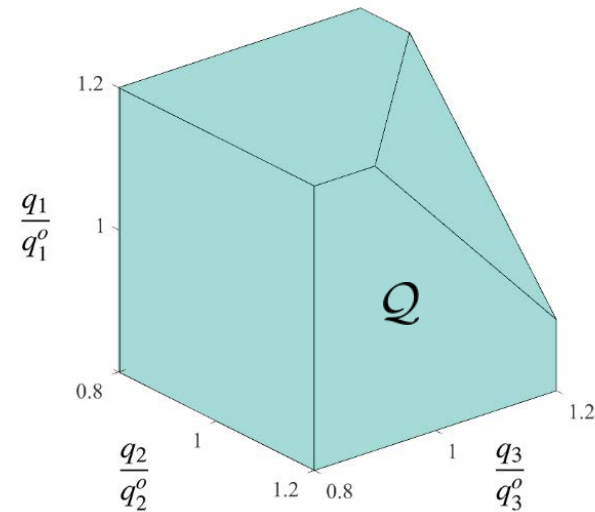


Polyhedral Uncertainty Sets

Advantages:

- Numerically tractable, maintaining class of deterministic counterpart
- Derivable from historical data via machine learning techniques
- Can always be used as approximations of non-polyhedral sets

$$Q = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} q \in \mathbb{R}^{n_q}, p \in \{0, 1\}^{n_p} : \\ Hq + Gp \leq d \\ q^L \leq q \leq q^U \end{array} \right\}$$



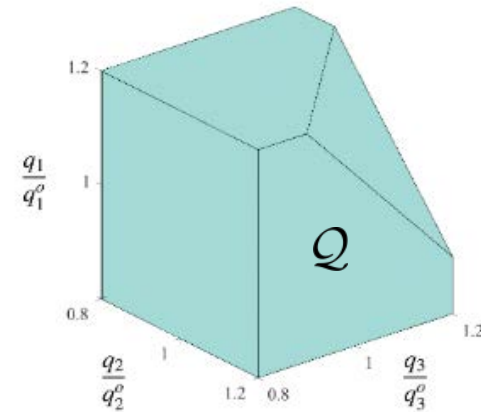
1-Stage Robust Optimization

- a.k.a. “Static” Robust Optimization

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} & f(x, q) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_i(x, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall i \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} & \max_{q \in \mathcal{Q}} f(x, q) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_i(x, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \quad \forall i \end{array}$$




- Main limitation: All decisions are considered as “here-and-now” (irrespective of whether the application mandates this or not)
- Consequently, we cannot enforce equalities involving uncertain parameters (e.g., mass balances with uncertain reaction rates)


Handling Equalities with Static RO

- SRO affords us only a single value (solution) for each decision variable, making it hard to satisfy an equality constraint that references an uncertain parameter for all its realizations

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max_{x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}} & x_1 + x_2 \\
 \text{s.t.} & q x_1 + x_2 = 0 \quad \forall q \in \{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N\}
 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max_{x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}} & x_1 + x_2 \\
 \text{s.t.} & q_1 x_1 + x_2 = 0 \\
 & q_2 x_1 + x_2 = 0 \\
 & \dots \\
 & q_N x_1 + x_2 = 0
 \end{array}$$

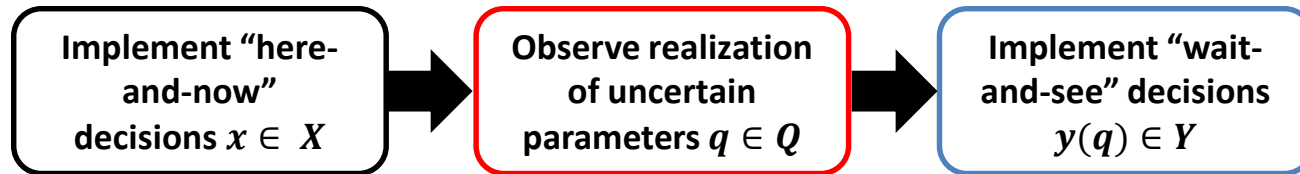


$$\begin{array}{l}
 x_1^* = 0 \\
 x_2^* = 0
 \end{array}$$

- State-variable elimination could sometimes remedy the issue

2-Stage Robust Optimization

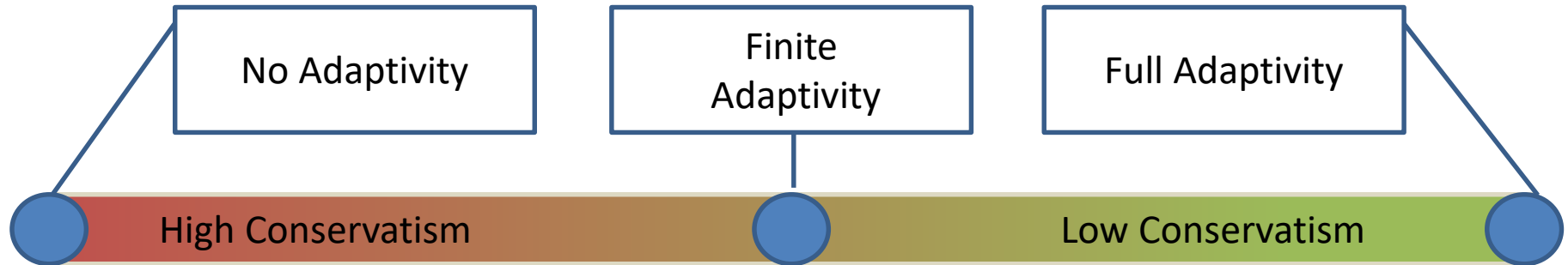
- “Adjustable” Robust Optimization



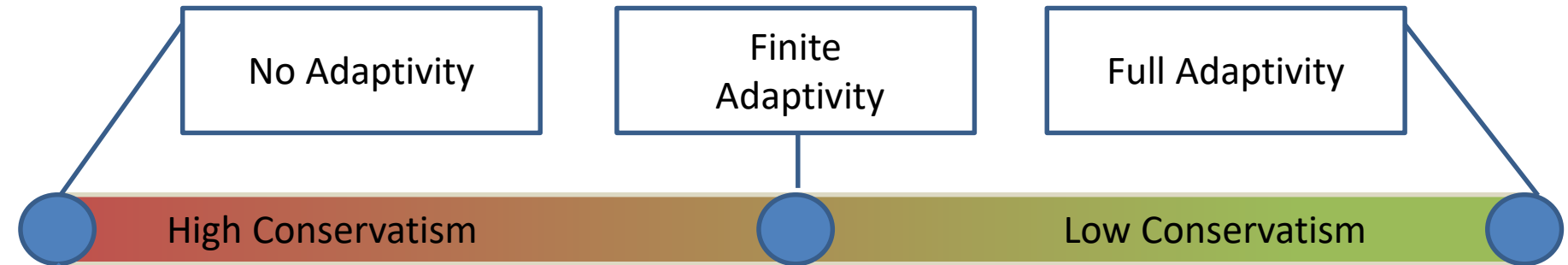
$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \max_{q \in \mathcal{Q}} \min_{y(q) \in \mathcal{Y}} \quad & f(x, y, q) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & g_i(x, y, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \quad \forall i
 \end{aligned}$$

- A specific y may be optimal for a scenario q , but suboptimal for a scenario q'
- Best $y(q)$ may correspond to any arbitrary functional dependence
- Ideally we would like to identify the best feasible y for each possible q

2-Stage Robust Optimization



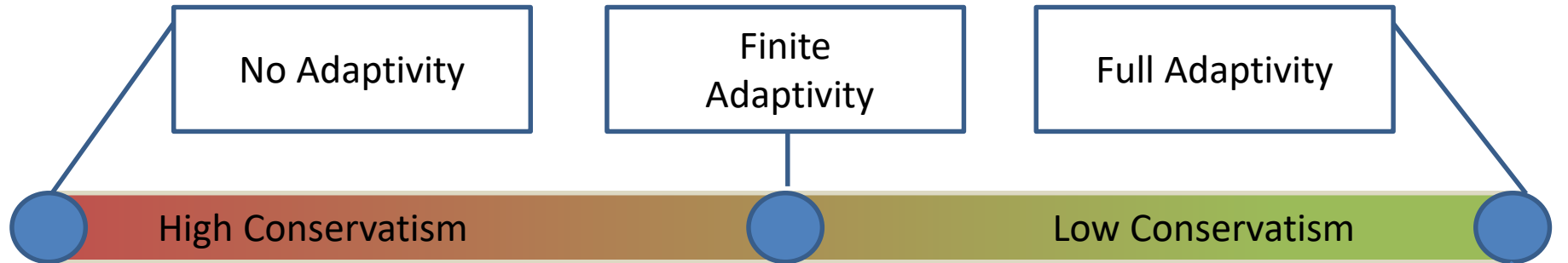
2-Stage Robust Optimization



$$y(q) \leftarrow y$$

- y variables do not depend on the uncertainty
- A single policy must be feasible for any possible realization of uncertainty
- Equivalent to 1-stage RO

2-Stage Robust Optimization

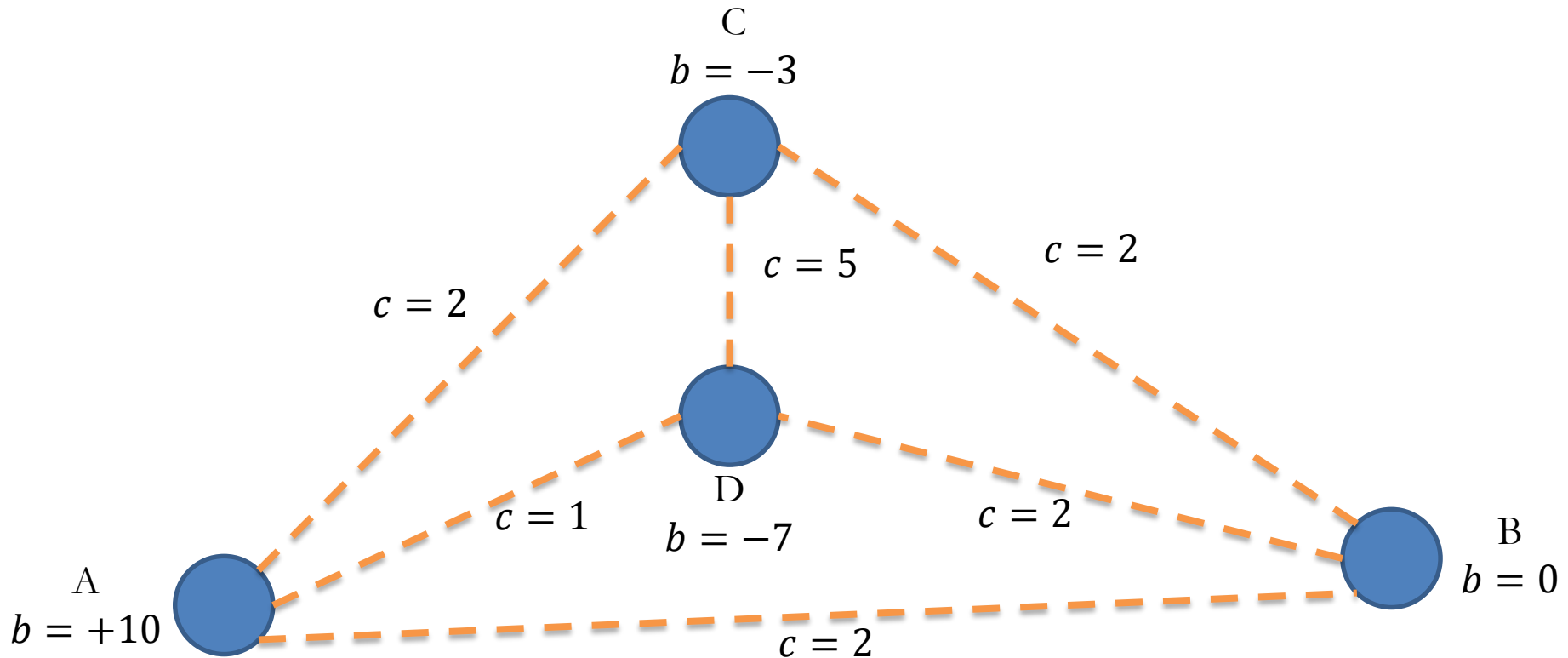


$y(q)$

- Add Benders cuts to restrict the first-stage decisions and associated cost of recourse (Thiele, 2009)
- Progressively identify violating scenarios and cover them via new policies, which are to be collectively robust in the end (Zeng and Zhao, 2013)

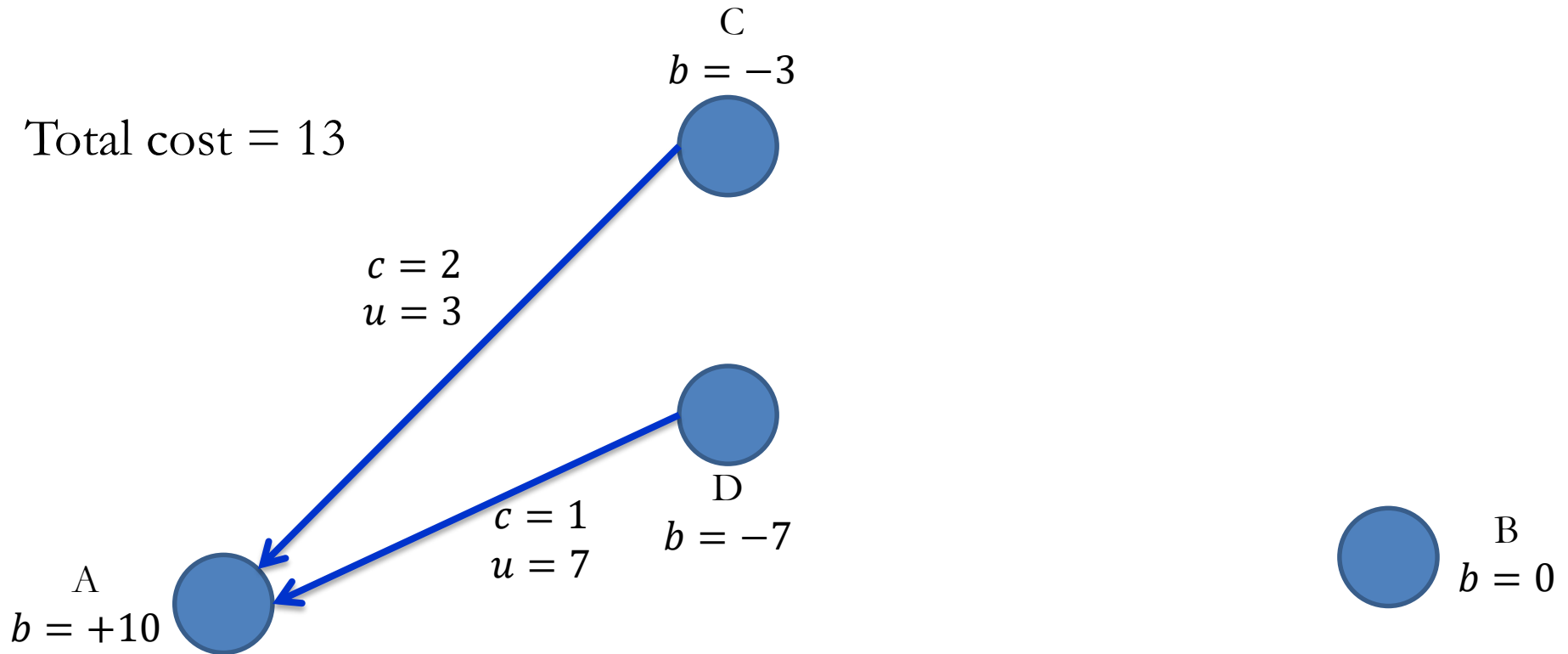
Supply Chain Network Design

- Consider the transportation of a commodity between four locations



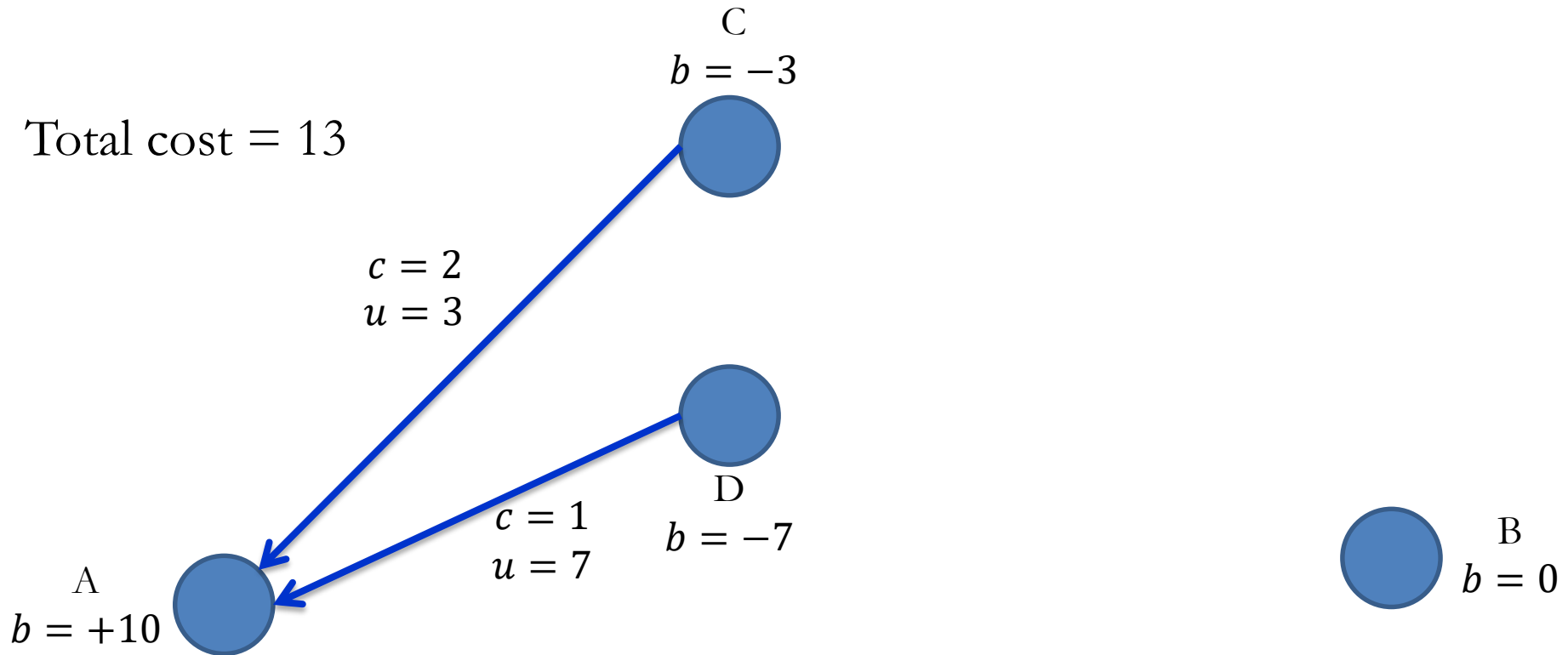
Supply Chain Network Design

- Optimal solution is to build exactly two links



Supply Chain Network Design

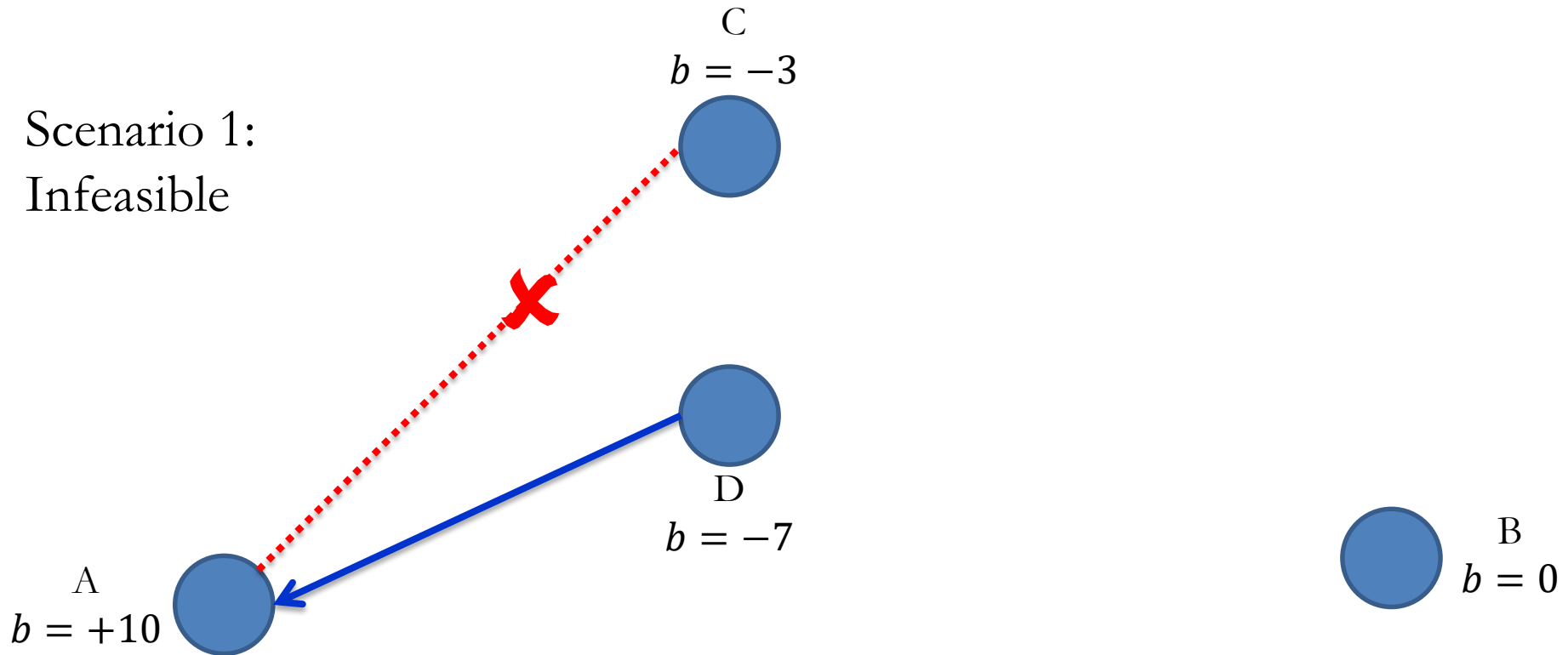
- What if up to 1 transportation link fails?



Supply Chain Network Design

- What if up to 1 transportation link fails?

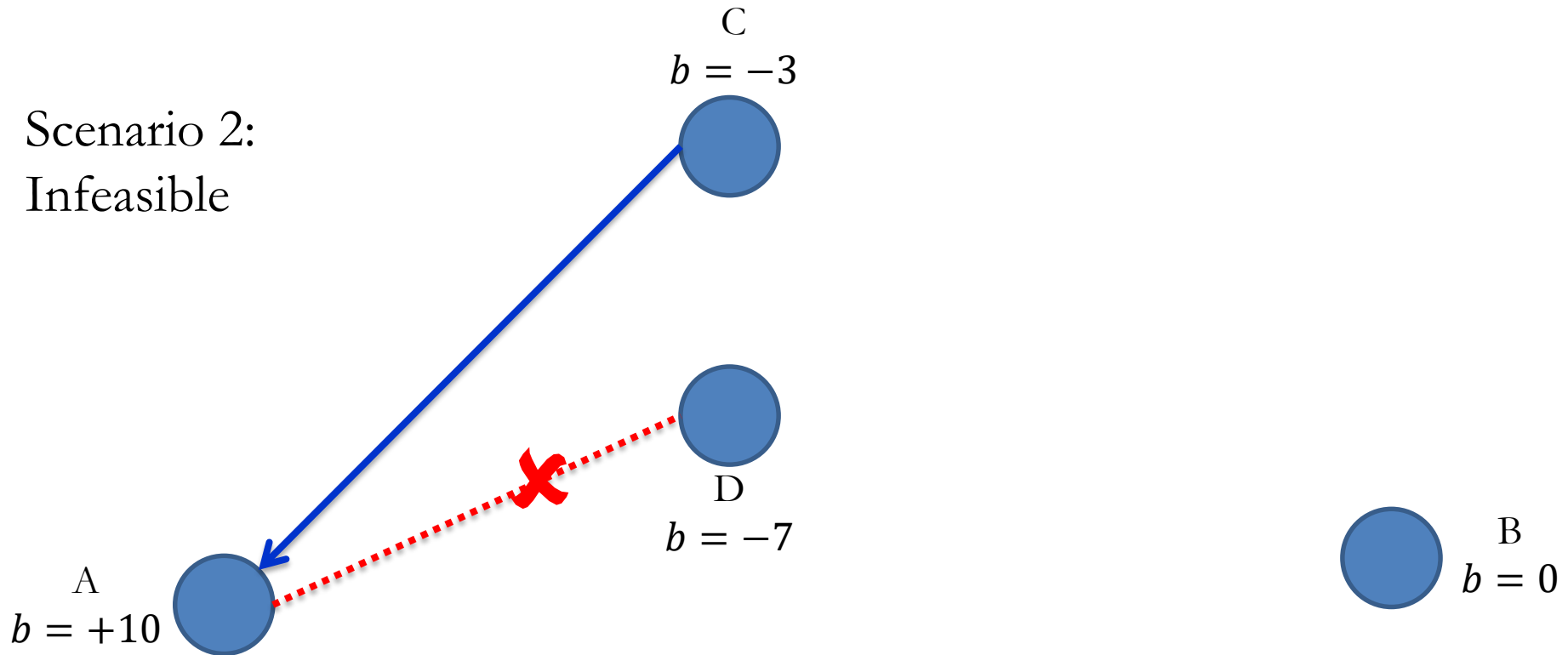
Scenario 1:
Infeasible



Supply Chain Network Design

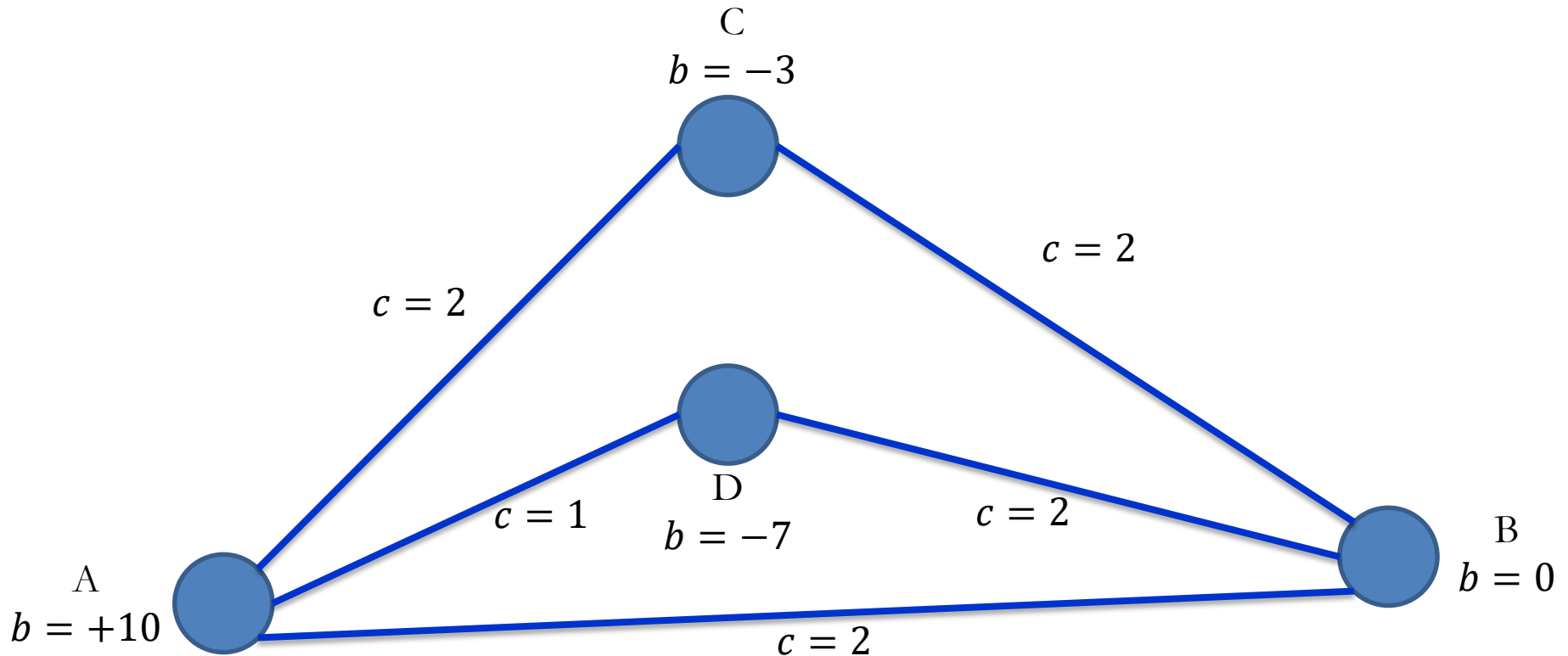
- What if up to 1 transportation link fails?

Scenario 2:
Infeasible



Supply Chain Network Design

- What if up to 1 transportation link fails?

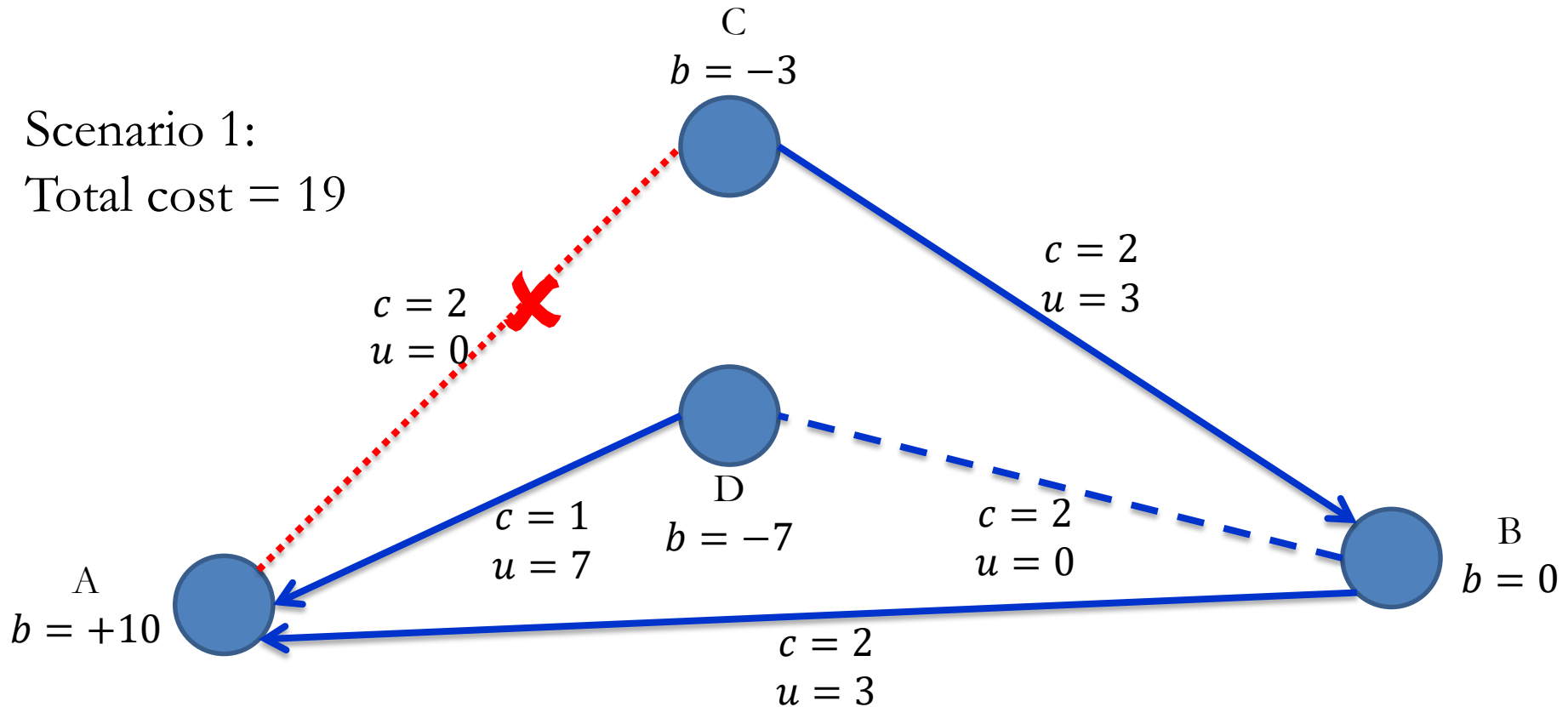


Supply Chain Network Design

- What if up to 1 transportation link fails?

Scenario 1:

Total cost = 19

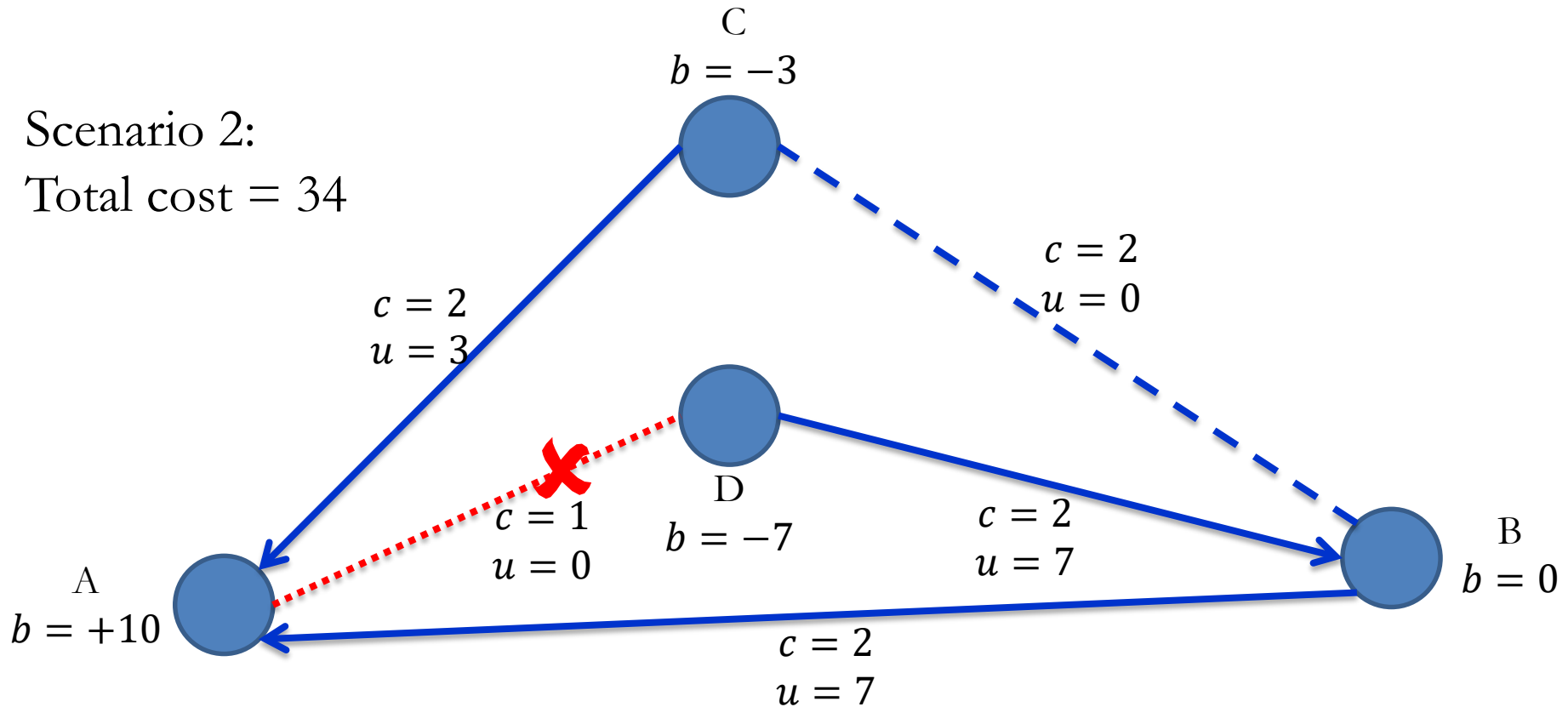


Supply Chain Network Design

- What if up to 1 transportation link fails?

Scenario 2:

Total cost = 34

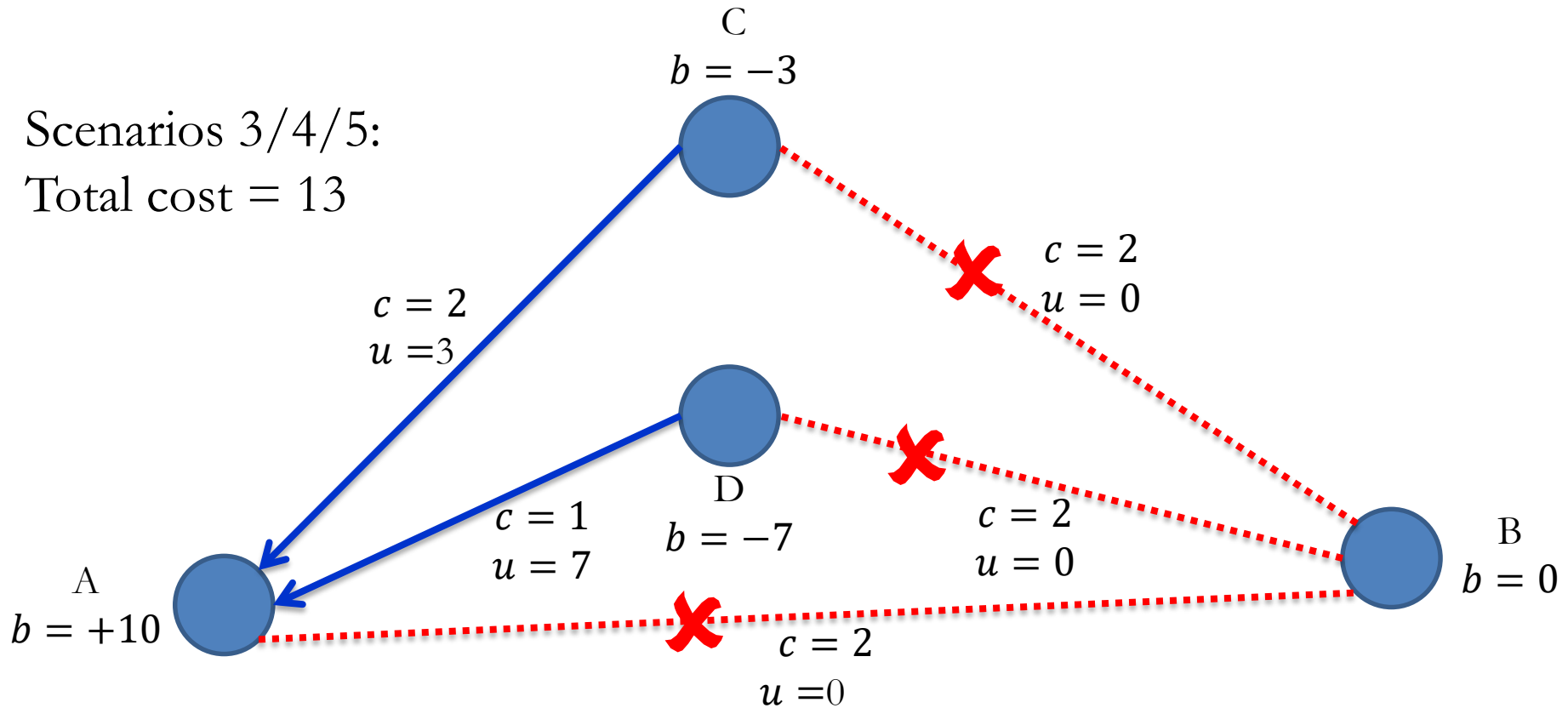


Supply Chain Network Design

- What if up to 1 transportation link fails?

Scenarios 3/4/5:

Total cost = 13

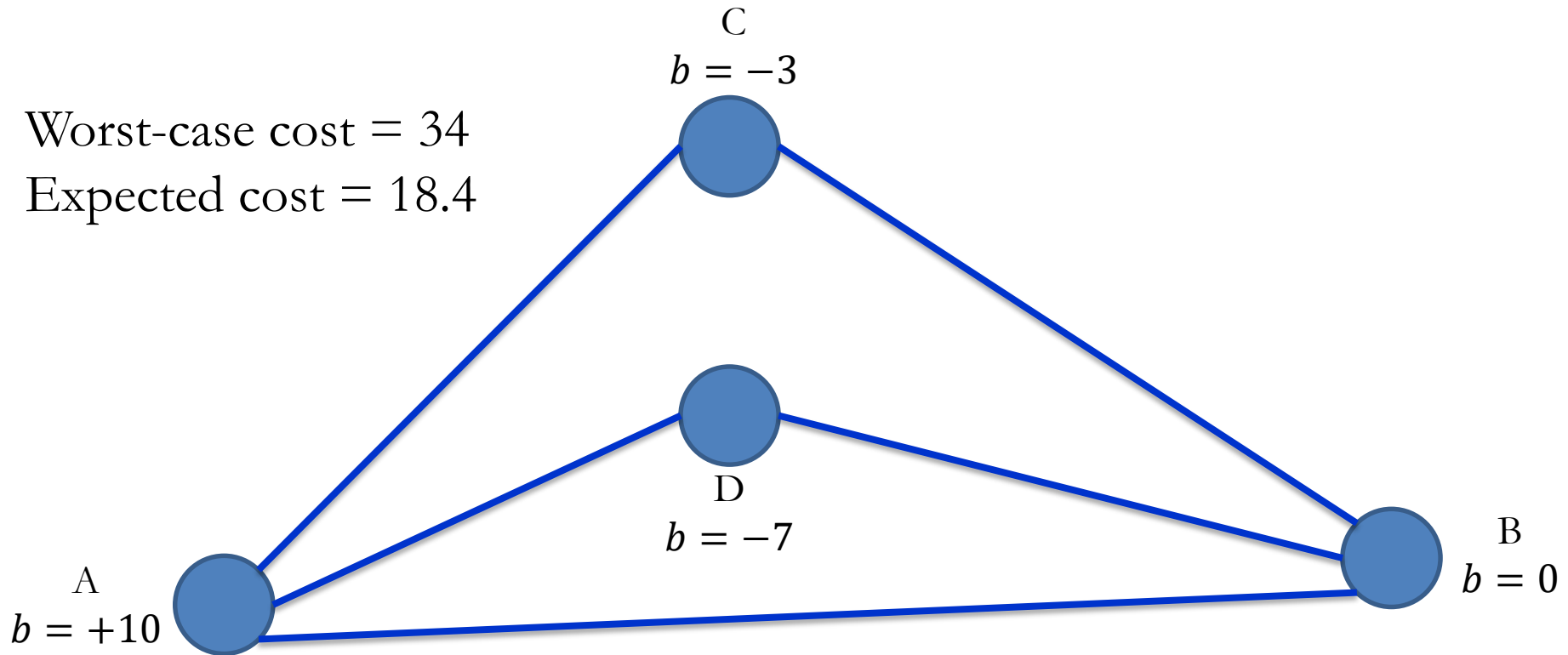


Supply Chain Network Design

- Robust (up to 1 disrupted links) Network ✓

Worst-case cost = 34

Expected cost = 18.4

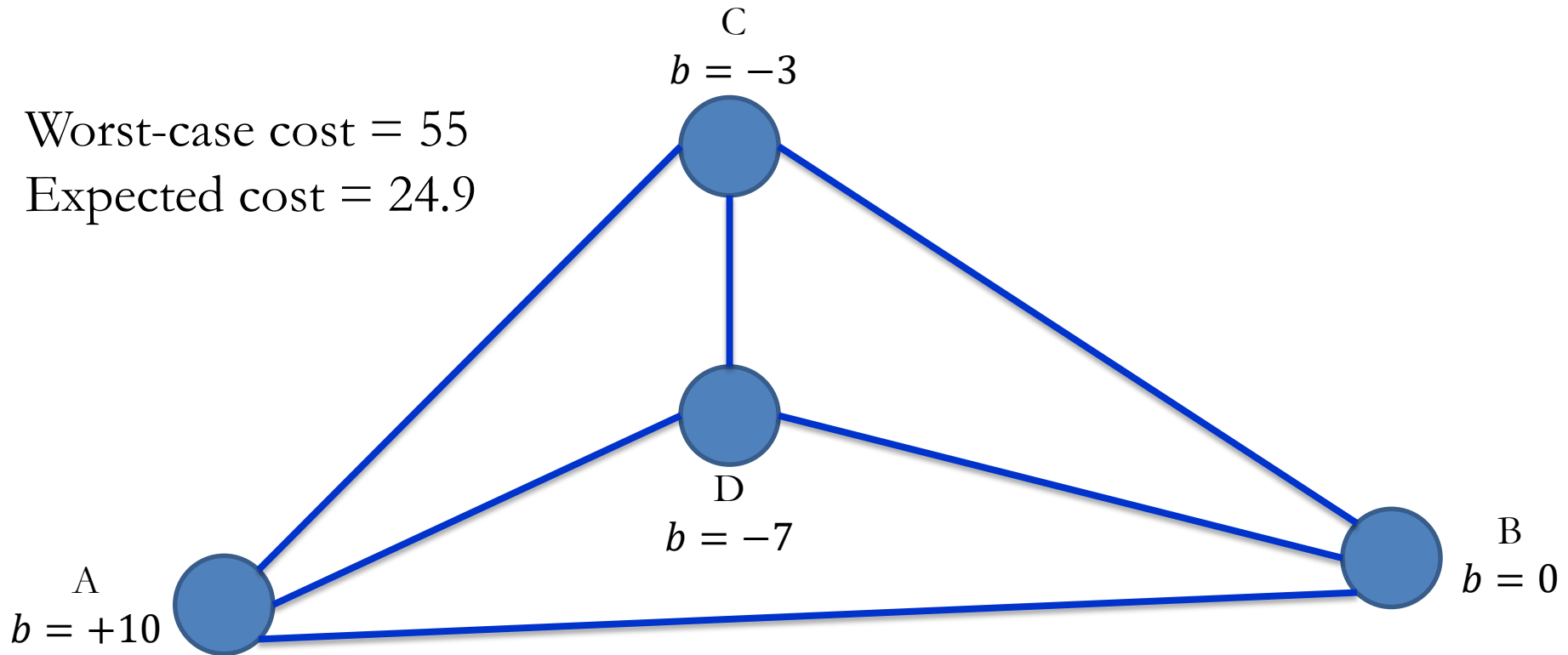


Supply Chain Network Design

- Robust (up to 2 disrupted links) Network ✓

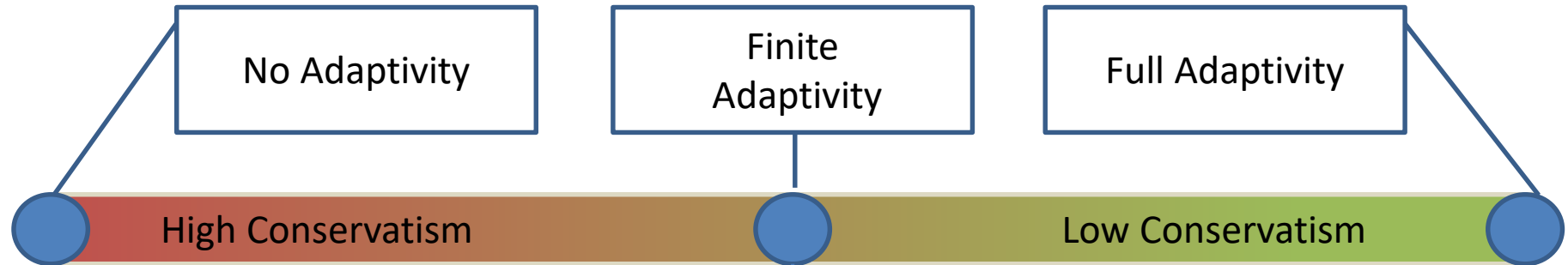
Worst-case cost = 55

Expected cost = 24.9



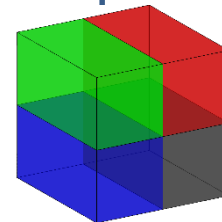
Apply C&CG to solve this problem on a larger scale!

2-Stage Robust Optimization



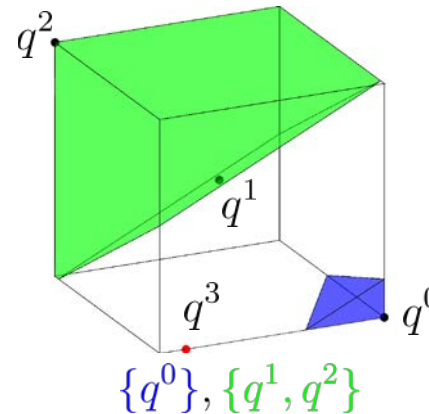
$$y(q) \leftarrow \sum_{k=1}^K z_k(q) y_k \quad (\text{where } z_k \text{ SOS1})$$

- Partition the uncertainty set into K subsets, and assign each of these to a separate policy (each policy guarantees robustness only against the subset)
- K impacts level of adaptivity
- Partitioning can be:
 - a-priori fixed (Bertsimas and Caramanis, 2010)
 - iteratively constructed (*Bertsimas and Dunning, 2016; Postek and den Hertog, 2016*)
 - optimal (*Hanasusanto et al., 2015; Subramanyam et al., 2017*)



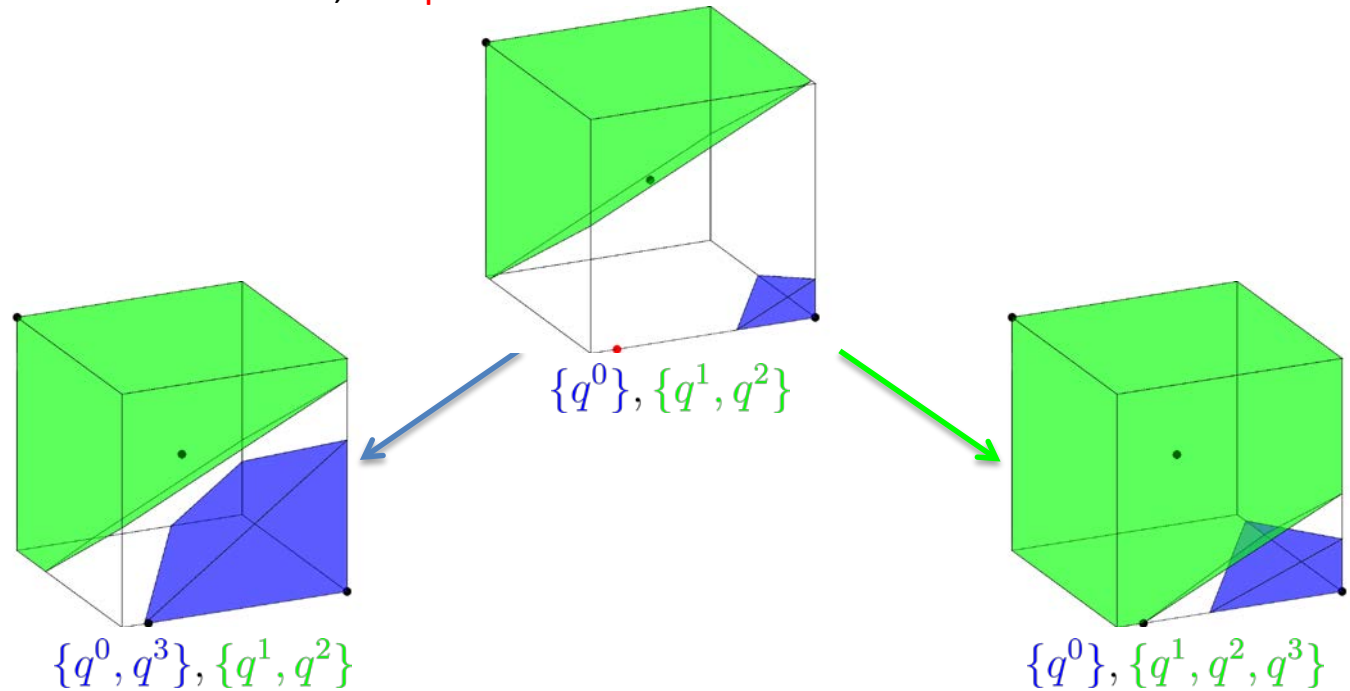
Optimal Finite Adaptivity

- Example with $K = 2$
 - Blue region = insured by policy 1, green region = insured by policy 2
 - Black points = scenarios enforced, red points = new scenarios identified



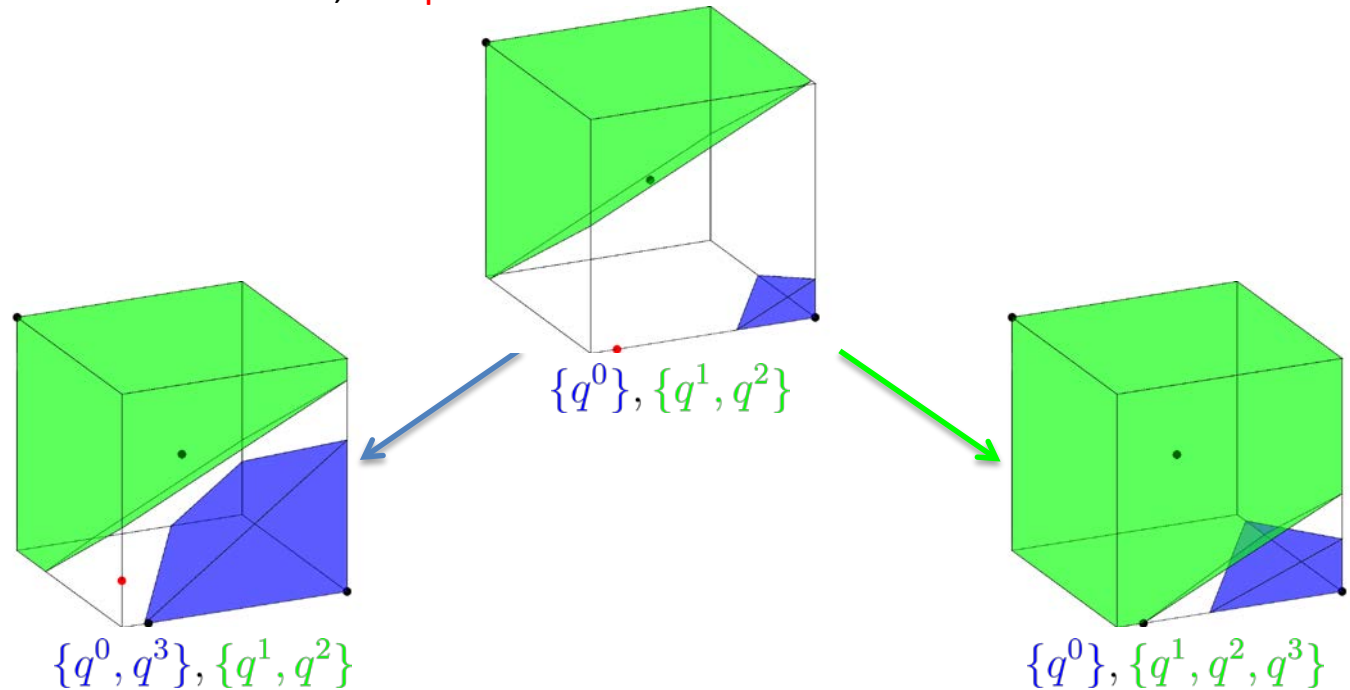
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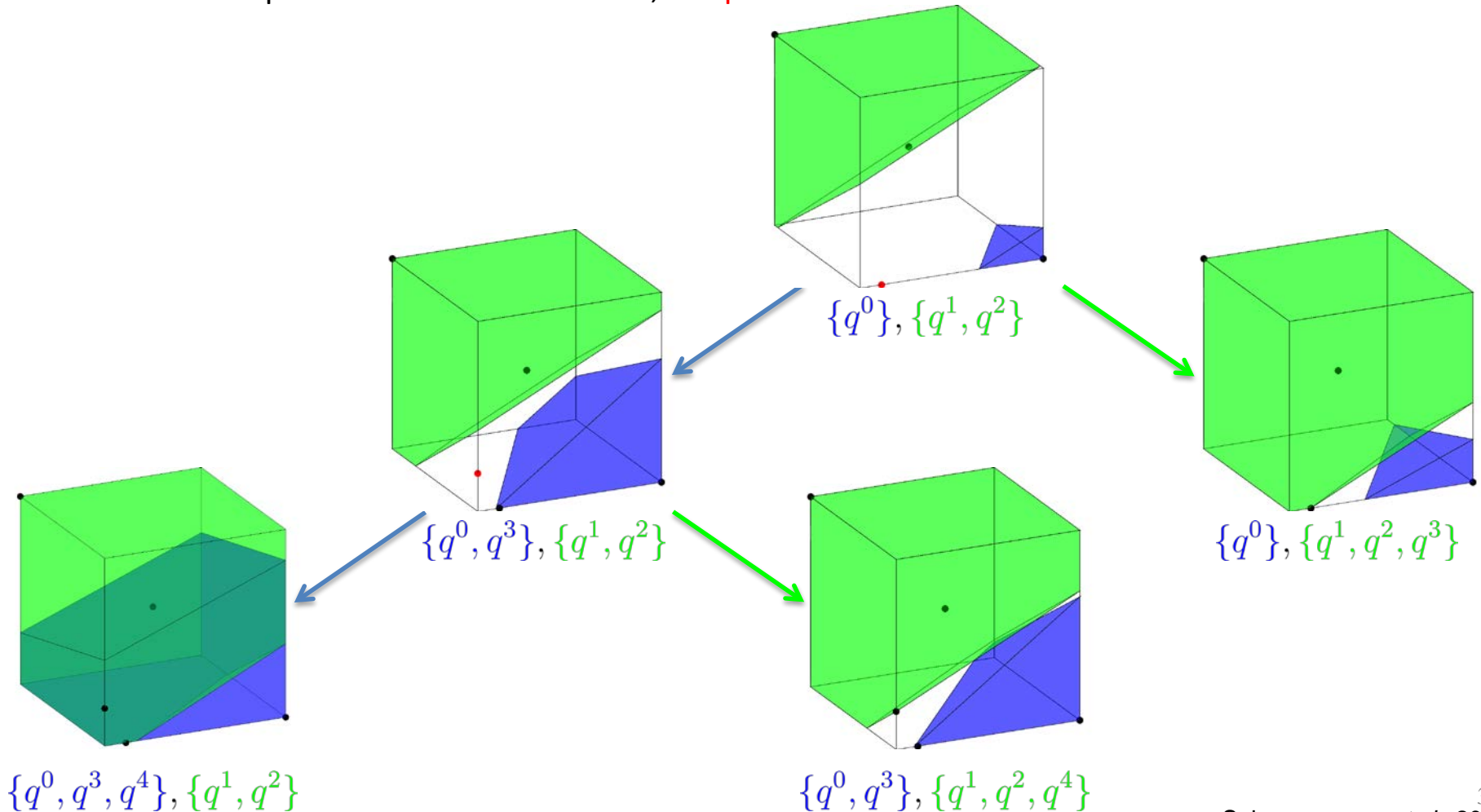
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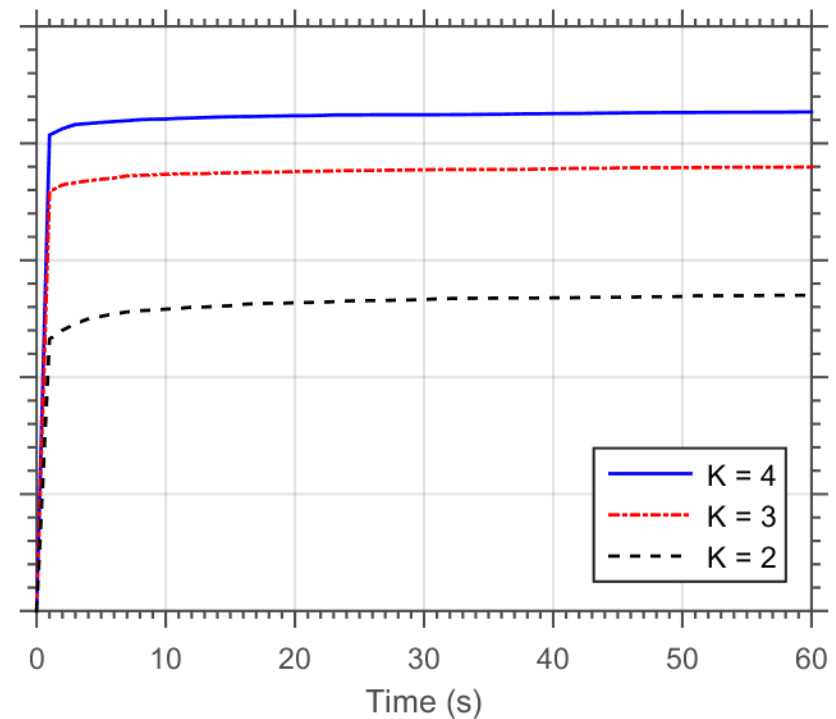
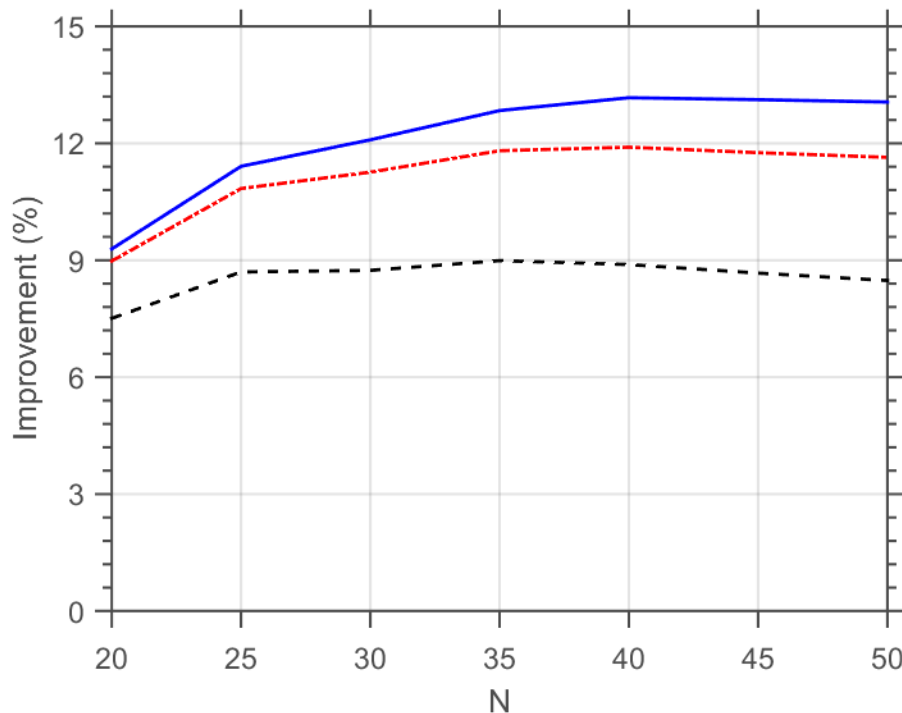
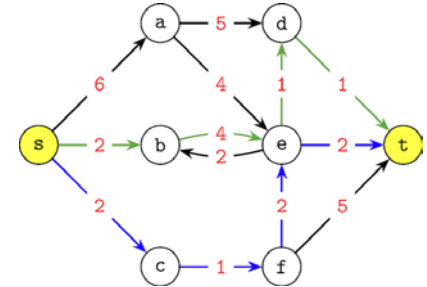
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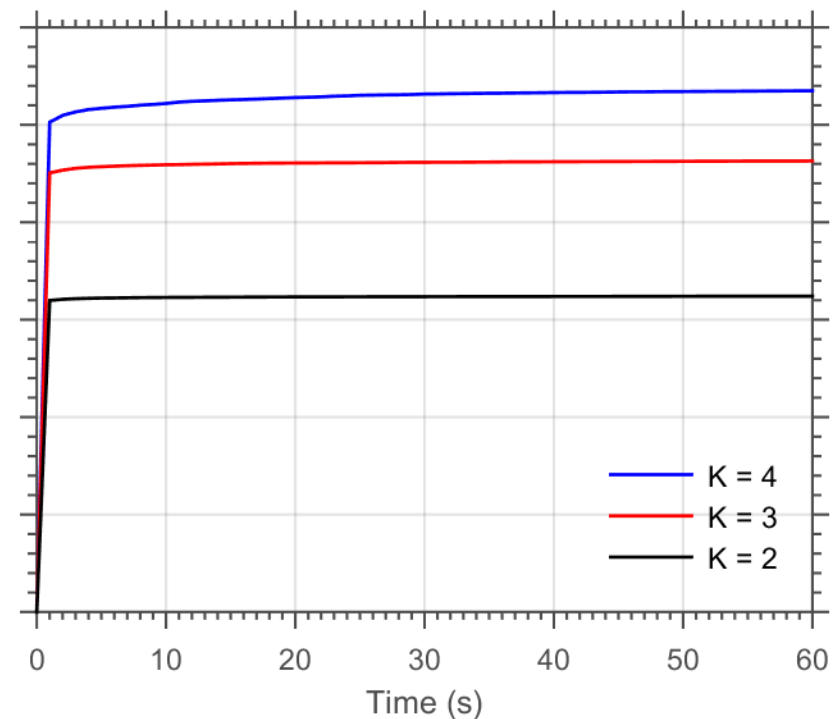
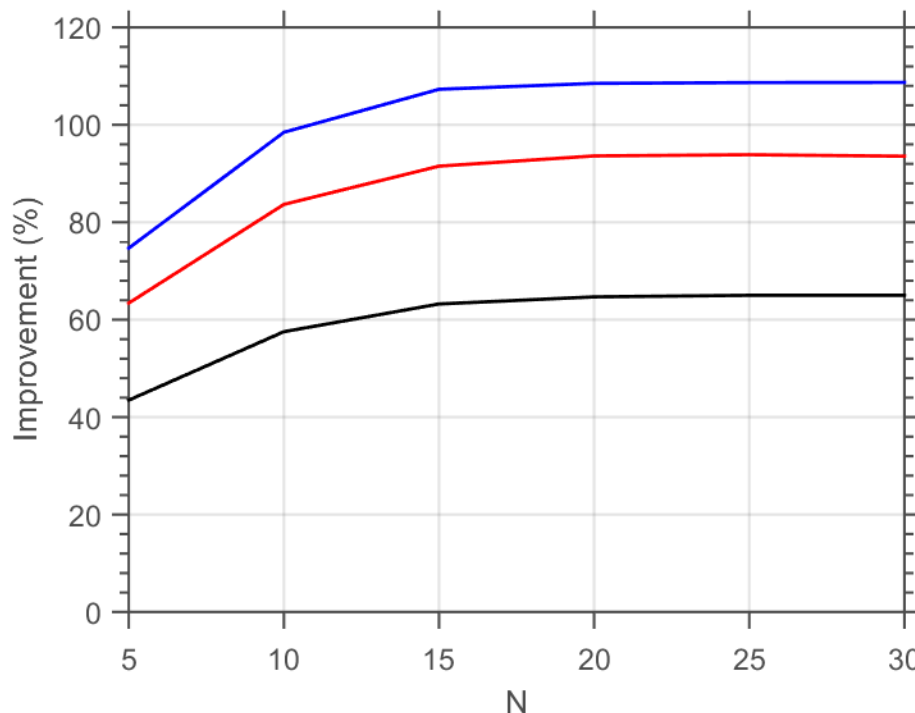
Optimal Finite Adaptivity

- **Shortest Paths with Uncertain Costs**
 - Low K suffices for maximal WC-objective gains
 - High quality solutions identified quickly

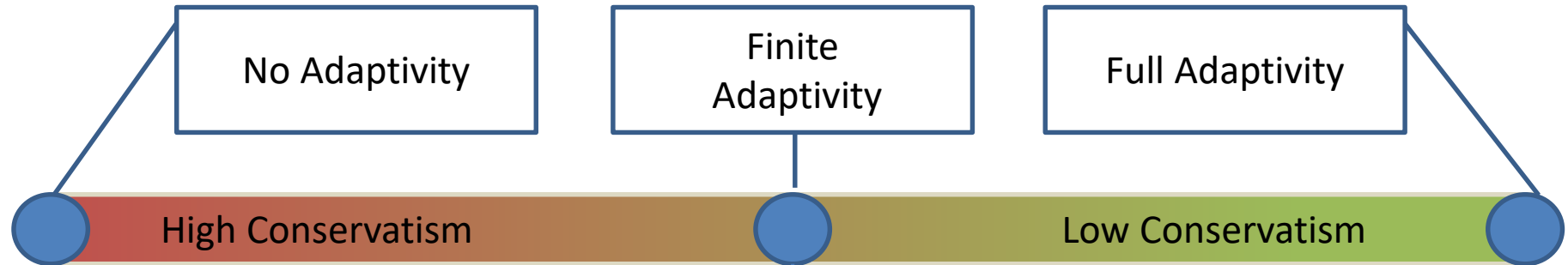


Optimal Finite Adaptivity

- Capital Budgeting with Uncertain ROIs
 - Low K suffices for maximal WC-objective gains
 - High quality solutions identified quickly



2-Stage Robust Optimization



$$y(q) \leftarrow \psi(q)$$

- Postulate a specific functional form (“decision rule”) and identify the best instantiation of these functions
- Many variants to choose from:
 - Affine $y(q) \leftarrow v + u^T q$ (*Ben-Tal et al., 2004*)
 - Piecewise-affine (*Bertsimas and Georghiou, 2015*)
 - Binary (*Bertsimas and Georghiou, 2014*)
 - Quadratic
 - Polynomial
 - ...
- Affine decision rules are by far the most popular (tractable), and often the only viable option for multi-stage problems

Multi-stage Robust Optimization



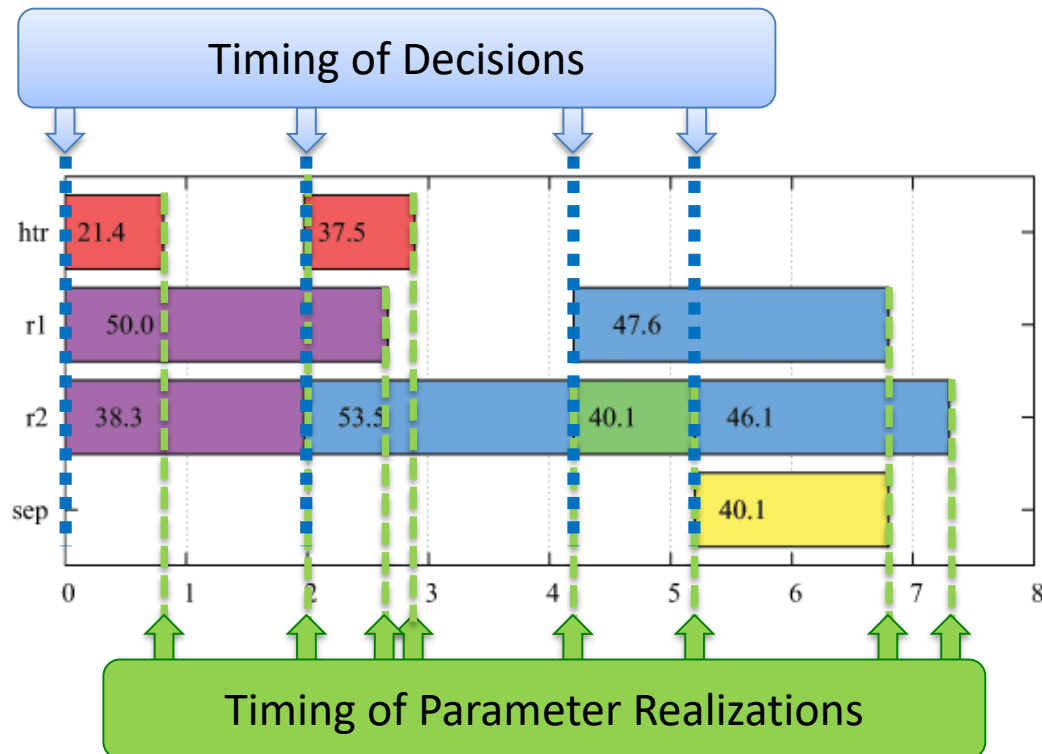
$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \max_{q_1 \in \mathcal{Q}_1} \min_{y_1(q_1) \in \mathcal{Y}_1} \max_{q_2 \in \mathcal{Q}_2} \min_{y_2(q_1, q_2) \in \mathcal{Y}_2} \cdots \max_{q_N \in \mathcal{Q}_N} \min_{y_N(q_1, \dots, q_N) \in \mathcal{Y}_N} f(x, y_1, \dots, y_N, q_1, \dots, q_N) \\
 & \text{s.t.} \quad g_i(x, y_1, \dots, y_N, q_1, \dots, q_N) \leq 0 \quad \forall (q_1, \dots, q_N) \in \prod_{j=1}^N \mathcal{Q}_j \quad \forall i
 \end{aligned}$$

- Information gets revealed progressively
- Decisions have to be taken in between revelations
- Non-anticipativity must be obeyed
- Typical examples: **Scheduling, Inventory planning**, etc.

Multi-stage Robust Optimization



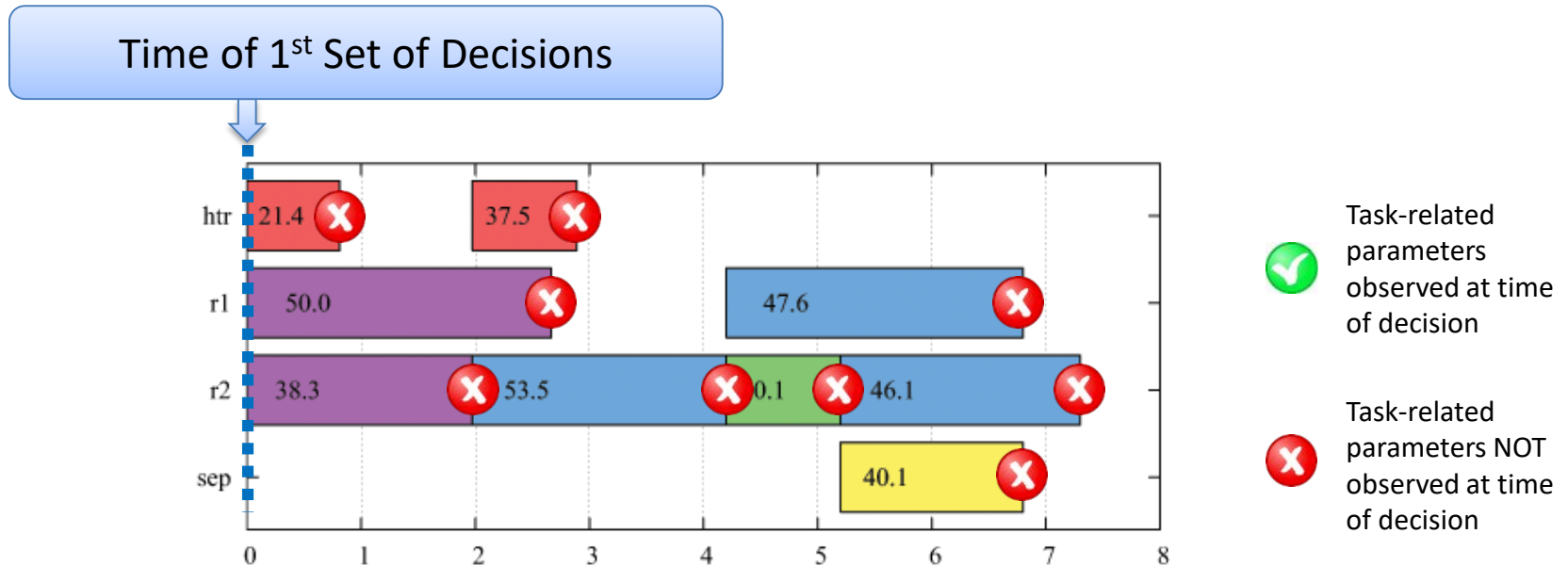
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Multi-stage Robust Optimization



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Multi-stage Robust Optimization



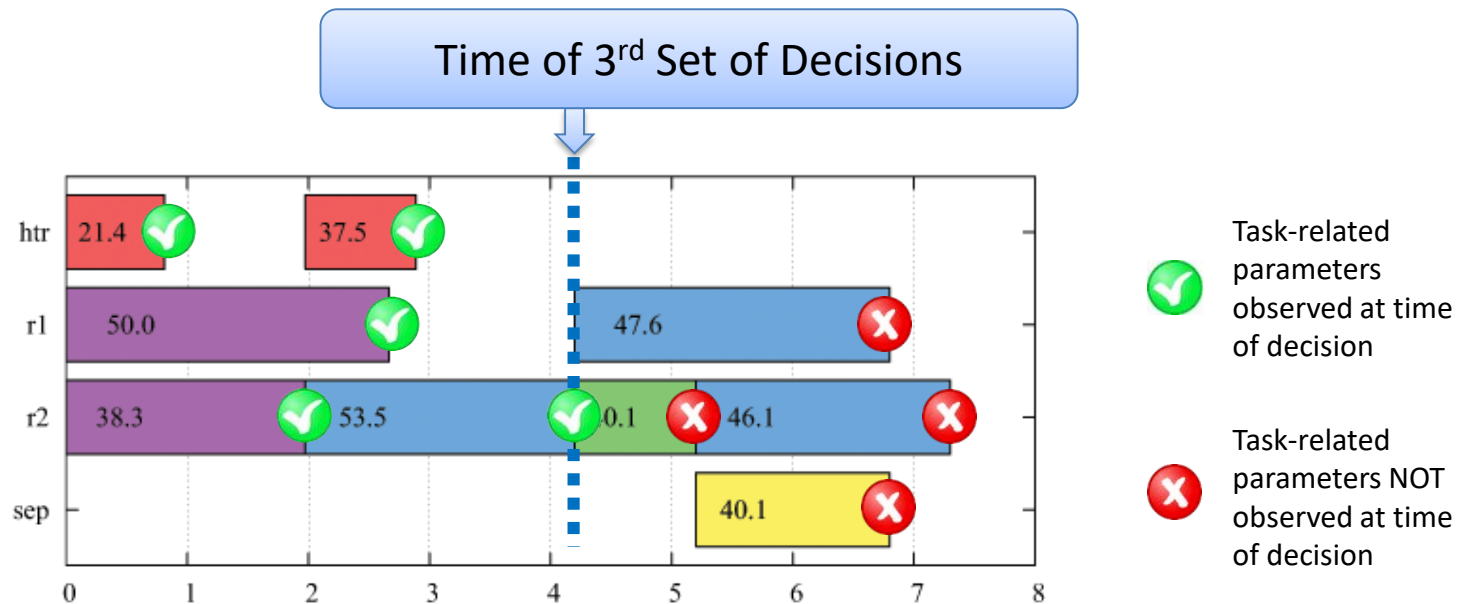
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Multi-stage Robust Optimization



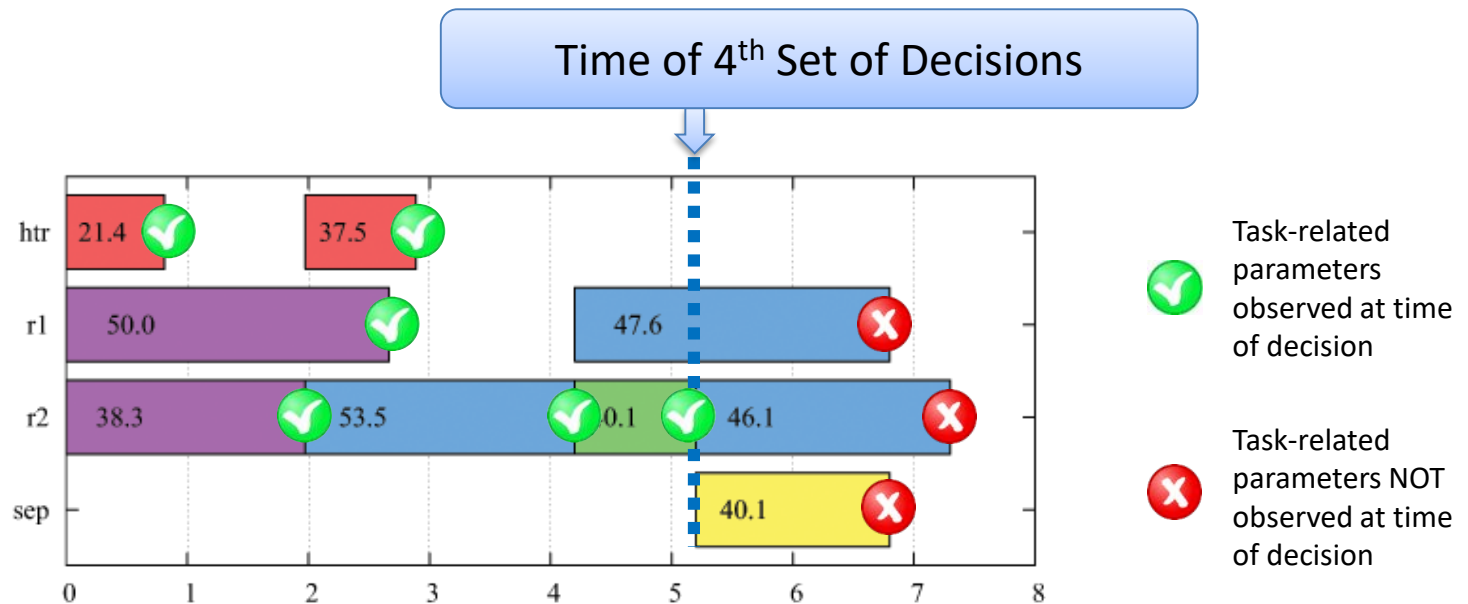
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Multi-stage Robust Optimization



- Typical examples: **Scheduling, Inventory planning, etc.**



Multi-stage Robust Optimization



- Affine Decision Rules

$$y_1 \leftarrow v_1 + u_{11}^T q_1$$

$$y_2 \leftarrow v_2 + u_{21}^T q_1 + u_{22}^T q_2$$

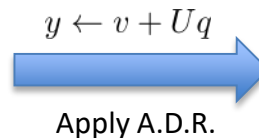
$$y_3 \leftarrow v_3 + u_{31}^T q_1 + u_{32}^T q_2 + u_{33}^T q_3$$

$$\vdots$$

$$y_N \leftarrow v_N + u_{N1}^T q_1 + u_{N2}^T q_2 + u_{N3}^T q_3 + \cdots + u_{NN}^T q_N$$

Expect (lots of) degeneracy!

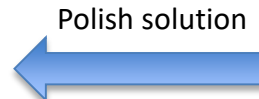
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \max_{q \in \mathcal{Q}} \min_{y(q) \in \mathcal{Y}} \quad & f(x, y, q) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_i(x, y, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\substack{x \in \mathcal{X}, \\ z \in \mathbb{R}, v \in \mathbb{R}, U \in \mathbb{R}}} \quad & z \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & z \geq f(x, v, U, q) \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \\ & g_i(x, v, U, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \quad \forall i \\ & v + Uq \in \mathcal{Y} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \min_{z \in \mathbb{R}, v \in \mathbb{R}, U \in \mathbb{R}} \quad & f(x^*, v, U, q^0) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & z^* \geq f(x^*, v, U, q) \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \\ & g_i(x^*, v, U, q) \leq 0 \quad \forall q \in \mathcal{Q} \quad \forall i \\ & v + Uq \in \mathcal{Y} \end{aligned}$$

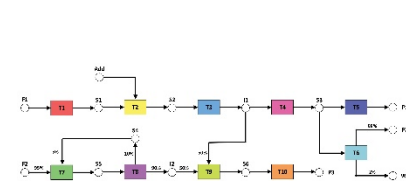
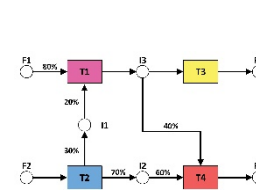
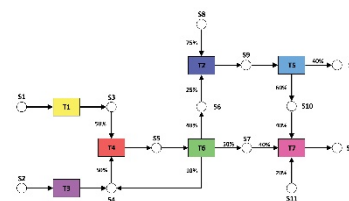
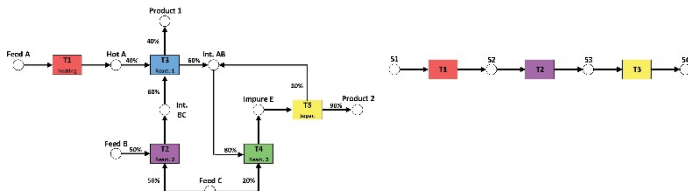
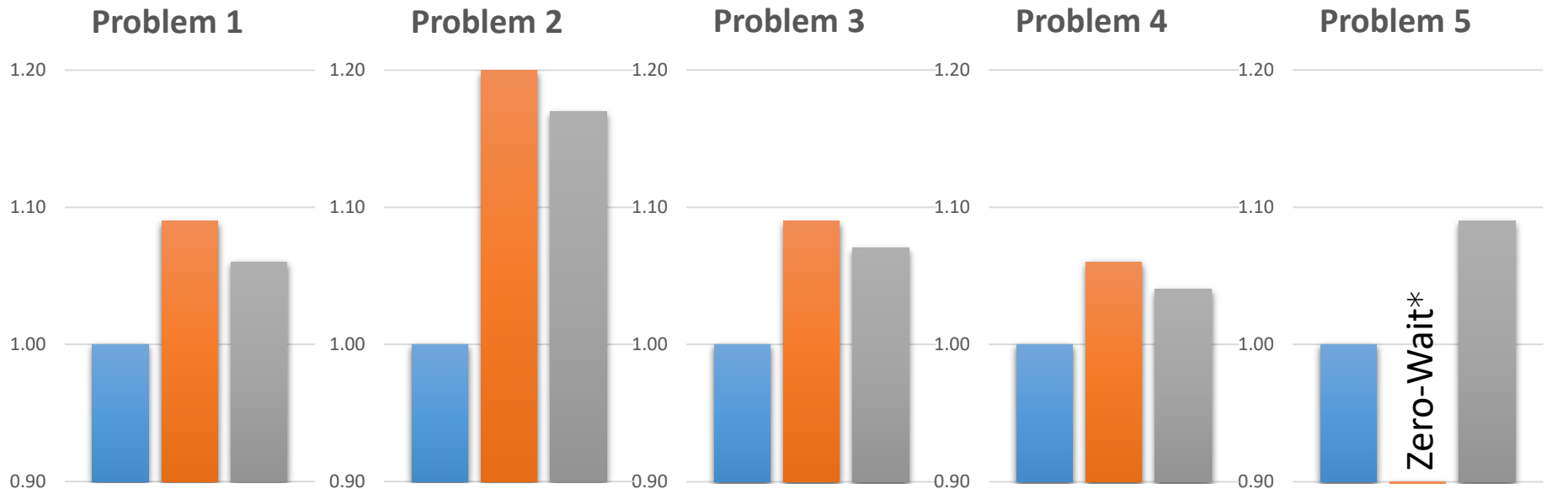


$$(x^*, z^*, v^*, U^*)$$

Multi-stage RO Example: Process Scheduling

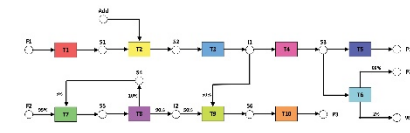
Worst-case Makespan (processing time uncertainty)

■ W.C. Deterministic
■ Static Robust
■ Adjustable Robust

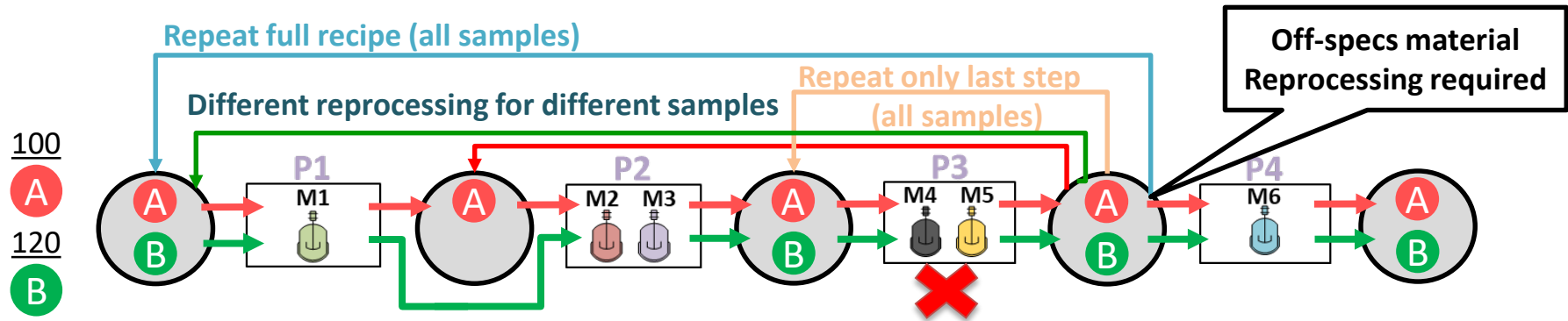


Expected Makespan (processing time uncertainty)

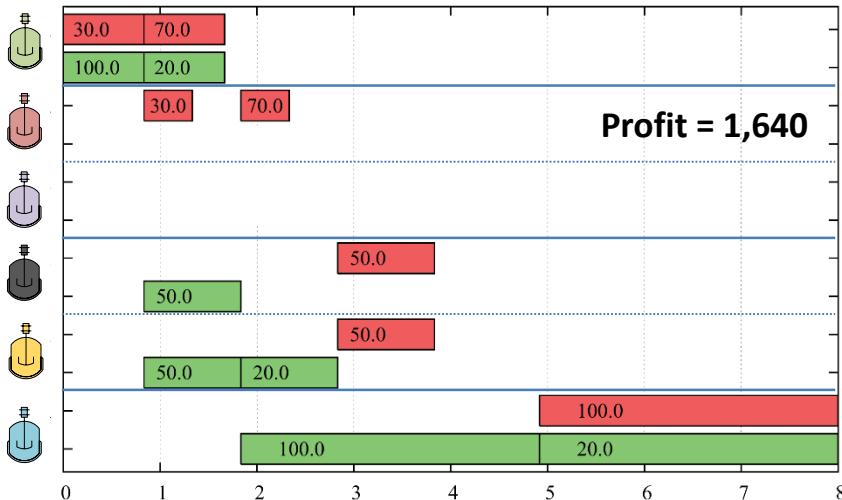
■ Adjustable Robust



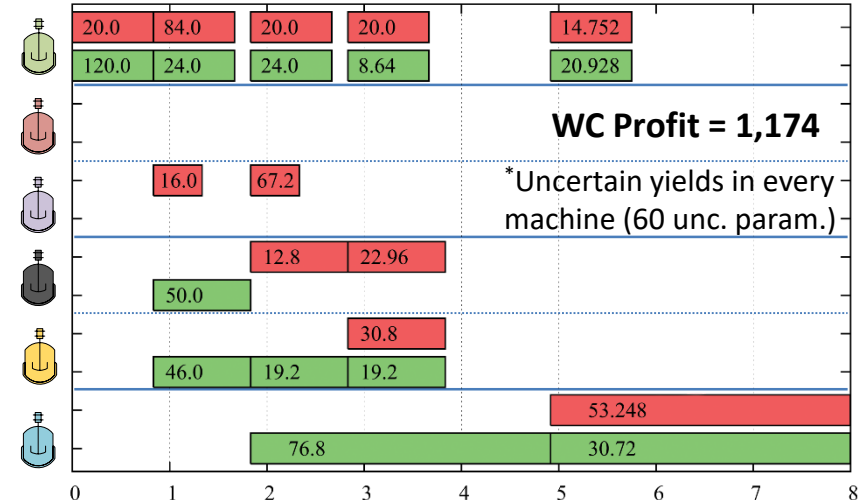
Multi-Tasking Scheduling with Reprocessing



Deterministic Optimal Schedule



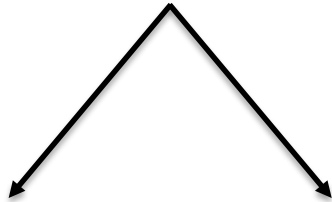
Adjustable Robust Optimal Schedule*



Endogenous Uncertainty

Flavors of endogeneity:

Uncertain parameters
can be classified as:



Exogenous:

Parameter realizations
do **not depend** on
decisions
(e.g., weather)

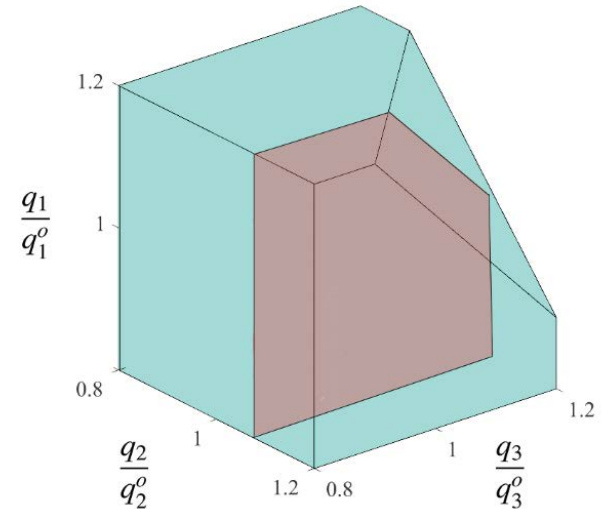
Endogenous:

Decisions **can affect**
the realizations of
uncertain parameters
(e.g., maintenance
decisions affect
failure rates)

- **Materialization:** Decisions may make specific parameters lose their physical meaning (e.g., production yields of non-executed processes)
- **Timing of realization:** Decisions can affect the time stage at which parameters are observed (e.g., demand for a new product will be revealed after the period it is launched)
- **Distributional support:** Decisions can affect the underlying distributions from which a parameter realization draws (e.g., technology decisions can affect the production yields)

Decision-Dependent Uncertainty Sets

- Avoids unnecessarily conservative solutions that attempt to insure against risk we are not really exposed to
- Provides for a considerable degree of modeling flexibility so as to capture the endogenous nature of parameters



$$\mathcal{Q} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} q \in \mathbb{R}^{nq}, p \in \{0, 1\}^{np} : \\ Hq + Gp \leq d \\ q^L \leq q \leq q^U \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{Q}(w) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} q \in \mathbb{R}^{nq}, p \in \{0, 1\}^{np} : \\ H(v^q(w) \circ q) + G(v^p(w) \circ p) \leq Dw + d \\ q^L \leq q \leq q^U \end{array} \right\},$$

where: $v^q(w) \in \{0, 1\}^{nq}$ and $v^p(w) \in \{0, 1\}^{np}$

Example

$$w_1 q_1 + w_2 q_2 + w_3 q_3 \leq 1.1 (w_1 q_1^0 + w_2 q_2^0 + w_3 q_3^0)$$

If the binary decision $w_2 = 0$ prohibits parameter q_2 from materializing, then this parameter should not participate in the facet so as not to reduce the conservatism of the solution

Modeling Capabilities

Modify distributional information

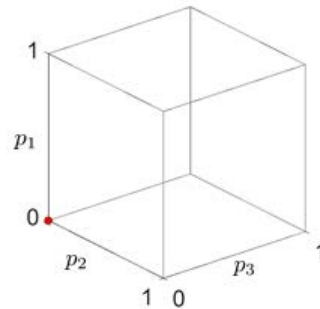
$$q \leq d_1 w_1 + d_2 w_2 + d_3 w_3$$

- No w selected
 $q \leq 0$
- w_1 selected
 $q \leq d_1$
- w_2 selected
 $q \leq d_2$
- w_3 selected
 $q \leq d_3$

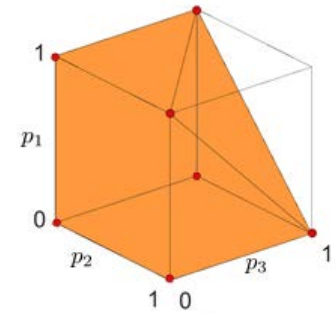
Control which scenarios are admitted by the set

$$p_1 + p_2 + p_3 \leq w_1 + w_2 + w_3$$

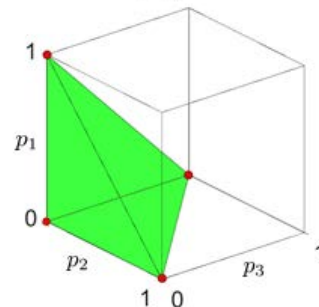
- No w selected
 $p_1 + p_2 + p_3 \leq 0$



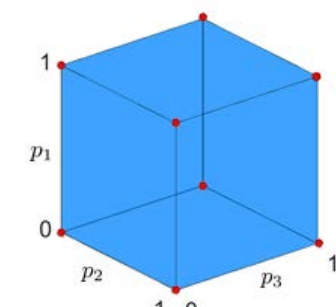
- Only two w selected
 $p_1 + p_2 + p_3 \leq 2$



- Only one w selected
 $p_1 + p_2 + p_3 \leq 1$



- All three w selected
 $p_1 + p_2 + p_3 \leq 3$



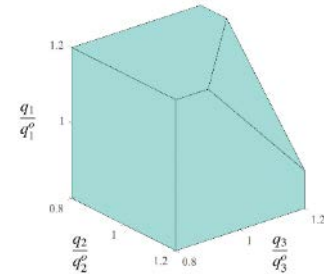
Modeling Capabilities

Remove the effect of
non-materialized
parameters

$$w_1 q_1 + w_2 q_2 + w_3 q_3 \leq (1 + 0.1) (w_1 q_1^0 + w_2 q_2^0 + w_3 q_3^0)$$

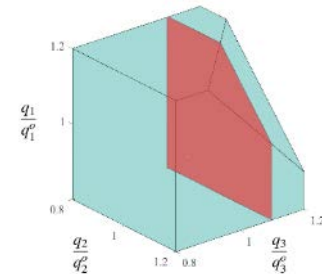
- All three w_1, w_2, w_3 have been selected:

$$1 q_1 + 1 q_2 + 1 q_3 \leq (1 + 0.1) (1 q_1^0 + 1 q_2^0 + 1 q_3^0)$$



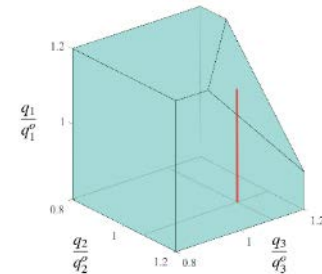
- Only w_1, w_2 have been selected:

$$1 q_1 + 1 q_2 + 0 q_3 \leq (1 + 0.1) (1 q_1^0 + 1 q_2^0 + 0 q_3^0)$$



- Only w_1 has been selected:

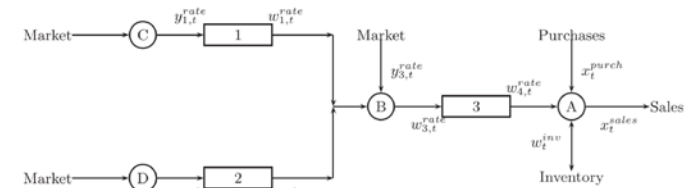
$$1 q_1 + 0 q_2 + 0 q_3 \leq (1 + 0.1) (1 q_1^0 + 0 q_2^0 + 0 q_3^0)$$



Case Studies

I. Capacity Expansion

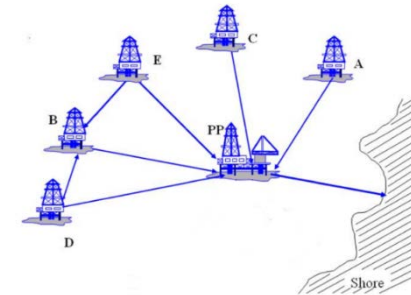
- *Production yield* of process i in time period t
 - Materialized, if process utilized in that period
- *Demand* for final product
 - Materialized always (exogenous)



(Goel and Grossmann, 2006)

II. Offshore Oil Production

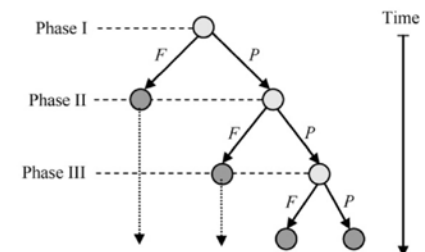
- *Initial deliverability* of field f
 - Materialized, if drilling occurs
 - Value depend on technology utilized
- *Reserve size* of field f
 - Materialized always (exogenous)



(Goel and Grossmann, 2004)

III. Clinical Trial Planning

- *Trial outcome* of drug i in phase j
 - Materialized, if trial begins in some time period t



(Colvin and Maravelias, 2008)

Benefits of Using DDUS

Normalized robust (max) objectives for 3 levels of uncertainty (low, medium, high)

Case Study	Deterministic	non-DDUS		
		L	M	H
I	100	71	65	44
II	100	69	63	41
III	100	57	45	36

Benefits of Using DDUS

Normalized robust (max) objectives for 3 levels of uncertainty (low, medium, high)

Case Study	Deterministic	DDUS			non-DDUS		
		L	M	H	L	M	H
I	100	90	84	79	71	65	44
II	100	87	79	60	69	63	41
III	100	71	65	54	57	45	36

Opportunities = Challenges

MODERN ROBUST OPTIMIZATION CAN (in principle) ...

- 1 Solve problems using "cutting-plane-like" approaches that progressively enforce the robustness of a solution
 - Capitalizes on deterministic optimization machinery
 - Provides more flexibility about what can be uncertain (e.g., disruptions)
 - Allows for better integration with custom-built solvers, including metaheuristics
- 2 Handle recourse (incl. mixed-integer recourse) in multi-stage decision making settings
 - Path to full adaptivity for 2-stage problems
 - Decision rules can be used (carefully) to address N-stage problems
 - Coping with equality constraints
- 3 Address endogenous uncertainty
 - Use of decision-dependent uncertainty sets

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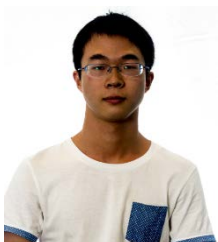
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