6. Approximation and fitting

- norm approximation
- least-norm problems
- regularized approximation
- robust approximation

Robust approximation

minimize $\|Ax - b\|$ with uncertain A

two approaches:

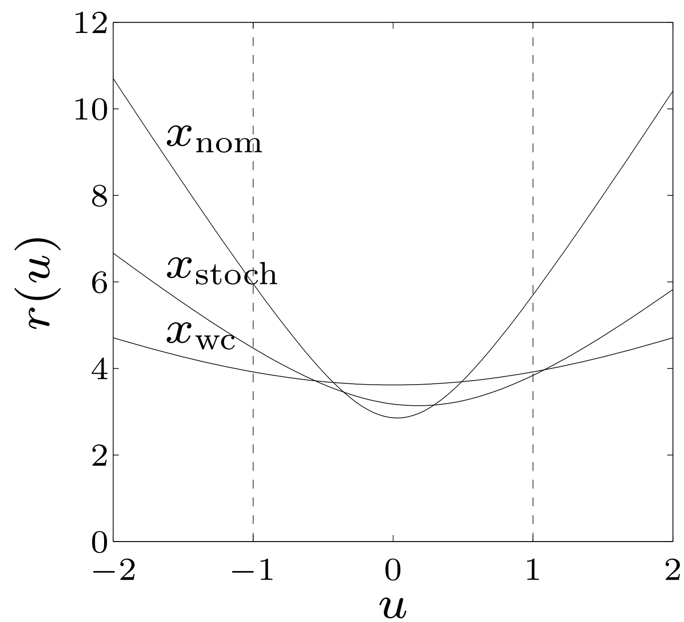
- **stochastic**: assume A is random, minimize $\mathbf{E}\,\|Ax - b\|$
- **worst-case:** set $\mathcal{A}$ of possible values of A, minimize $\sup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} \|Ax - b\|$

tractable only in special cases (certain norms $\|\cdot\|$, distributions, sets $\mathcal{A}$)

example: $A(u) = A_0 + uA_1$

- $x_{\rm nom}$ minimizes $\|A_0 x - b\|_2^2$
- $x_{\rm stoch}$ minimizes $\mathbf{E}\,\|A(u)x - b\|_2^2$ with u uniform on $[-1, 1]$
- $x_{\rm wc}$ minimizes $\sup_{-1 \le u \le 1} \|A(u)x - b\|_2^2$

figure shows $r(u) = \|A(u)x - b\|_2$



stochastic robust LS with $A = \bar{A} + U$, U random, $\mathbf{E}\, U = 0$, $\mathbf{E}\, U^T U = P$

$$\text{minimize} \quad \mathbf{E}\, \|(\bar{A} + U)x - b\|_2^2$$

- explicit expression for objective:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}\, \|Ax - b\|_2^2 &= \mathbf{E}\, \|\bar{A}x - b + Ux\|_2^2 \\ &= \|\bar{A}x - b\|_2^2 + \mathbf{E}\, x^T U^T U x \\ &= \|\bar{A}x - b\|_2^2 + x^T P x \end{aligned}$$

- hence, robust LS problem is equivalent to LS problem

$$\text{minimize} \quad \|\bar{A}x - b\|_2^2 + \|P^{1/2}x\|_2^2$$

- for $P = \delta I$, get Tikhonov regularized problem

$$\text{minimize} \quad \|\bar{A}x - b\|_2^2 + \delta \|x\|_2^2$$

worst-case robust LS with $\mathcal{A} = \{\bar{A} + u_1 A_1 + \cdots + u_p A_p \mid \|u\|_2 \leq 1\}$

$$\text{minimize} \quad \sup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 = \sup_{\|u\|_2 \leq 1} \|P(x)u + q(x)\|_2^2$$

where $P(x) = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 x & A_2 x & \cdots & A_p x \end{bmatrix}$, $q(x) = \bar{A}x - b$

- from page 5–14, strong duality holds between the following problems

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & \|Pu + q\|_2^2 \\ \text{subject to} & \|u\|_2^2 \leq 1 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & t + \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & \begin{bmatrix} I & P & q \\ P^T & \lambda I & 0 \\ q^T & 0 & t \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

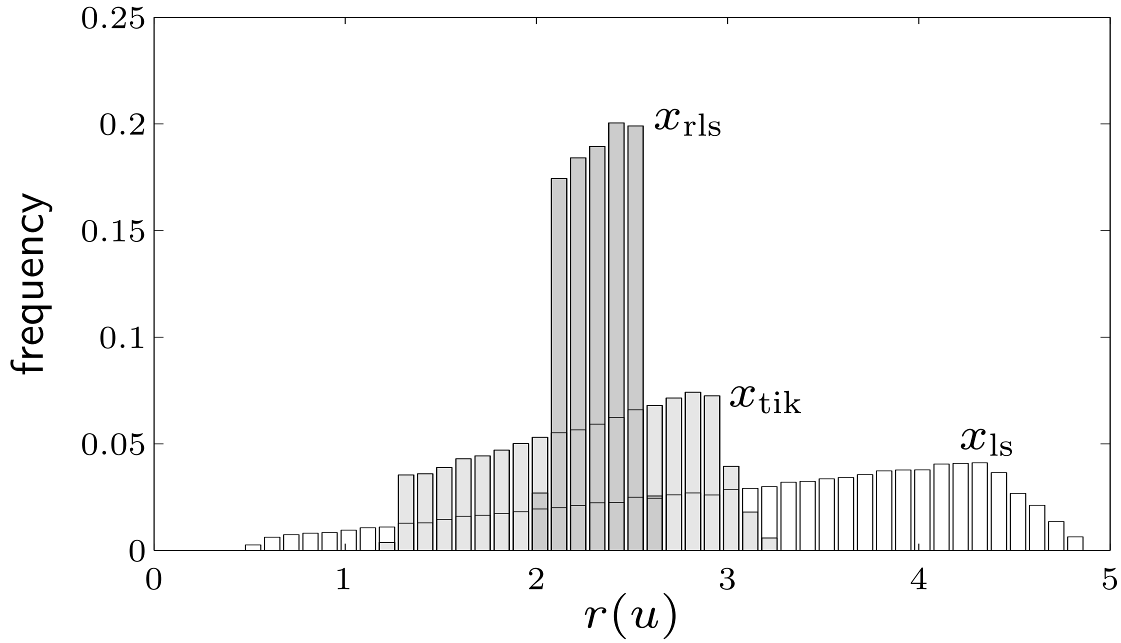
- hence, robust LS problem is equivalent to SDP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & t + \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & \begin{bmatrix} I & P(x) & q(x) \\ P(x)^T & \lambda I & 0 \\ q(x)^T & 0 & t \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

example: histogram of residuals

$$r(u) = \|(A_0 + u_1 A_1 + u_2 A_2)x - b\|_2$$

with u uniformly distributed on unit disk, for three values of x



- $x_{\rm ls}$ minimizes $\|A_0 x - b\|_2$
- $x_{\rm tik}$ minimizes $\|A_0 x - b\|_2^2 + \|x\|_2^2$ (Tikhonov solution)
- $x_{\rm wc}$ minimizes $\sup_{\|u\|_2 \leq 1} \|A_0 x - b\|_2^2 + \|x\|_2^2$