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# Modeling Bilevel Programs in Pyomo

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# Overview of Bilevel Programming

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A *bilevel program* is a mathematical program in which a subset of decision variables is constrained to take values associated with an optimal solution of a distinct, “lower” level mathematical program.

General formulation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{x \in X} \quad & F(x, y) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & G(x, y) \leq 0 \\
 & y \in P(x)
 \end{aligned}$$

} Upper-level problem

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(x) = \quad & \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in Y} \quad f(x, y) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x, y) \leq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

} Lower-level problem

# Example: Modeling Security Problems

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- Opponents must anticipate each other's moves
- Strategy should account for how opponent (best) responds

Extremely complex

- Impossible to enumerate the set of all states in the game

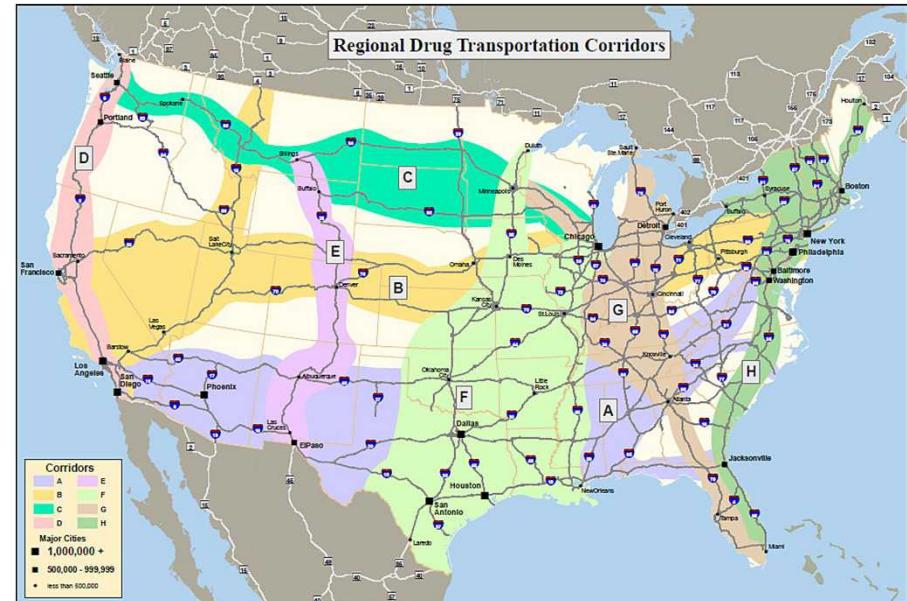
Stackelberg games - bilevel programs

# Example: Smuggling Interdiction

Interdictor minimizes the potential for a smuggler to evade detection

- Interdictor installs defenses (x) to minimize smuggler's evasion probability
- Smuggler traverses path (y) that maximizes the probability of evasion

*Origin-destination nodes maybe unknown*



- $F(x,y)$  – evasion probability
- $X$  – interdictor's constraints (e.g. resource, budget)
- $P(x)$  – feasible paths given  $x$

# Modeling Bilevel Programs

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No algebraic modeling language currently provides an *intuitive* syntax for expressing the structure of bilevel programs!

MPEC formulations are supported in several AMLs

- AMPL, AIMMS, GAMS, ...
- MacMPEC includes bilevel programs that are reformulated as single-level programs using optimality conditions

Bilevel problems can be expressed in several modeling languages:

- GAMS, YALMIP
- Explicitly pass variables and constraints to a bilevel solver

# A Simple Bilevel Example

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Practical Bilevel Optimization: Algorithms and Applications

Jonathan Bard

Example 5.1.1

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \geq 0} & x - 4y \\ \text{s.t.} & \min_{y \geq 0} \quad y \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad -x - y \leq -3 \\ & \quad -2x + y \leq 0 \\ & \quad 2x + y \leq 12 \\ & \quad -3x + 2y \leq -4 \end{array}$$

# Modeling Example 5.1.1 with YALMIP

```
sdpvar x, y;
```

```
OO = x - 4y;
```

```
CO = [x] >= 0;
```

```
OI = y;
```

```
CI = [[y]] >= 0,
```

```
  -x - y <= -3,
```

```
  -2x + y <= 0,
```

```
  2x + y <= 12,
```

```
  -3x + 2y <= -4];
```

```
solvebilevel(CO,OO,CI,OI,[y])
```

- Solve a bilevel problem using a simple branching strategy.
- Upper level problem defined by CO and OO
- Lower level problem defined by CI and OI, with decision variable y.



Note: This example adapted from the [YALMIP bilevel documentation](#).

# Modeling Example 5.1.1 with GAMS

```
positive variables x,y; variables objout,objin;
equations defout,defin,e1,e2,e3,e4;
```

```
defout.. objout =e= x - 4*y;
```

```
defin.. objin =e= y;
```

```
e1.. - x - y =l= -3;
```

```
e2.. -2*x + y =l= 0;
```

```
e3.. 2*x + y =l= 12;
```

```
e4.. 3*x - 2*y =l= 4;
```

```
model bard / all /;
```

```
$echo bilevel x min objin * defin e1 e2 e3 e4 > "%emp.info%"
```

```
solve bard us emp min objout;
```

Writes an “empinfo” file that tells the solver that this is a bilevel problem with a lower level problem that minimizes objective *objin* with variables *y* subject to the constraints (*defin*), *e1*, *e2*, *e3* and *e4*.

# Modeling Example 5.1.1 with Pyomo

```

from pyomo.environ import *
from pyomo.bilevel import *

M = ConcreteModel()
M.x = Var(bounds=(0,None))
M.y = Var(bounds=(0,None))
M.o = Objective(expr=M.x - 4*M.y)

M.sub = SubModel(fixed=M.x)
M.sub.o = Objective(expr=M.y)
M.sub.c1 = Constraint(expr=- M.x - M.y <= -3)
M.sub.c2 = Constraint(expr=-2*M.x + M.y <= 0)
M.sub.c3 = Constraint(expr= 2*M.x + M.y <= 12)
M.sub.c4 = Constraint(expr=-3*M.x + 2*M.y <= -4)
  
```

- Lower level problem is declared with a *SubModel* component.
- The *var* argument indicates the lower level variables.
- Objectives, variables and constraints for the lower level problem are declared within this component.



# Pyomo Extensions for Bilevel Programs

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## Modeling extensions

- Modeling components (pyomo.bilevel)

## Model transformations

- Can be applied automatically

## *Custom solvers*

- *Solvers tailored for specific classes of bilevel problems*

# Solving Bilevel Problems

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Goal: Enable solution of bilevel problems with standard solvers

Process:

- Model problem with SubModel components
- Transform the problem to a standard form
  - LP, MIP, etc
- Apply a suitable solver

Reformulations for linear bilevel programming (BLP)

- A. BLP with continuous variables
- B. Quadratic minimax with continuous lower-level variables

# (A) BLP with Continuous Variables

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Problem:

$$\min_{x \geq 0} \quad c_1^T x + d_1^T y$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad A_1 x + B_1 y \leq b_1$$

$$\min_{y \geq 0} \quad c_2^T x + d_2^T y$$

$$A_2 x + B_2 y \leq b_2$$

Reformulation: Replace lower-level problem with corresponding optimality conditions

$$\min \quad c_1^T x + d_1^T y$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad A_1 x + B_1 y \leq b_1$$

$$d_2 + B_2^T u - v = 0$$

$$b_2 - A_2 x - B_2 y \geq 0 \perp u \geq 0$$

$$y \geq 0 \perp v \geq 0$$

$$x \geq 0, y \geq 0$$

# (A) BLP with Continuous Variables (cont'd)

---

Idea: Analyze the MPEC reformulation

Example:

- Use a custom solver that considers complementarity conditions (Bard, 1998)

Example:

- Chain reformulations: BLP  $\rightarrow$  MPEC  $\rightarrow$  GDP  $\rightarrow$  MIP
- Provide “BigM” values for unbounded variables
- Apply standard MIP solver (Fortuny-Amat and McCarl, 1981)

Example:

- Reformulate the complementarity conditions with nonlinear constraints (Ferris and Dirkse, 2005)

# (B) Quadratic Min/Max

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Problem:

- Upper level constraints do not constrain  $y$

$$X = \{x \mid A_1 x \leq b_1, x \geq 0\}$$

- The upper decision variables may be binary

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in X} \quad & \max_{y \geq 0} \quad c_1^T x + d_1^T y + x^T Q y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_2 x + B_2 y \leq b_2 \end{aligned}$$

Reformulation: Replace lower-level problem with the linear dual

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c_1^T x + (b_2 - A_2 x)^T v \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & B_2^T v \geq d_1 + Q^T x \\ & A_1 x \leq b_1 \\ & x \geq 0, v \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# (B) Quadratic Min/Max

(cont'd)

Case 1:

- $A_2 \equiv 0$
- The reformulation is a simple LP (or a MIP if  $x$  are binary)

Case 2:

- The upper-level decision variables  $x$  are binary
- Reformulate the bilinear objective terms as disjunctions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min \quad & c_1^T x + b_2^T v - 1^T z \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & B_2^T v \geq d_1 + Q^T x \\
 & x_i = 0 \quad \wedge \quad x_i = 1 \\
 & z_i = 0 \quad \wedge \quad z_i = A_2^T(i,*)v \\
 & x \in X, v \geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

- Reformulate this GDP  $\rightarrow$  MIP using “BigM” values

# Solving Bilevel Programs in Pyomo

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## Python Script:

- Formulate the model
- Apply desired model reformulations
- Apply a suitable optimizer
  - OR
- Directly analyze the model within Python
  - (e.g. using Pyomo's algebraic structure)

## Pyomo Command:

- Execute a command that executes a Pyomo meta-solvers
  - Performs suitable reformulations
  - Applies a suitable optimizer
  - Maps the solution to the original problem

```
pyomo solve --solver=bilevel_Id model.py
```

# Pyomo Capabilities

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## Relevant Pyomo Transformations

- core.linear\_dual
- bilevel.linear\_dual
- bilevel.linear\_mpec
- gdp.bigm
- gdp.bilinear
- gdp.chull
- mpec.simple\_disjunction
- mpec.simple\_nonlinear

## Relevant Pyomo Meta-Solvers

- bilevel\_ld

# Ongoing Work ...

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- Generalization and maturation of transformations
  - E.g. Working with general BLP models
- Automatic recognition of bilevel structure
  - Can we automate the application of reformulations?
- Parameterizing transformations
  - How can we flexibly specify transformation options?
  - E.g. Specifying big-M values for specific complementarity conditions
- Additional meta-solvers
  - E.g. bilevel\_blp

# For More Information

See the new Pyomo homepage

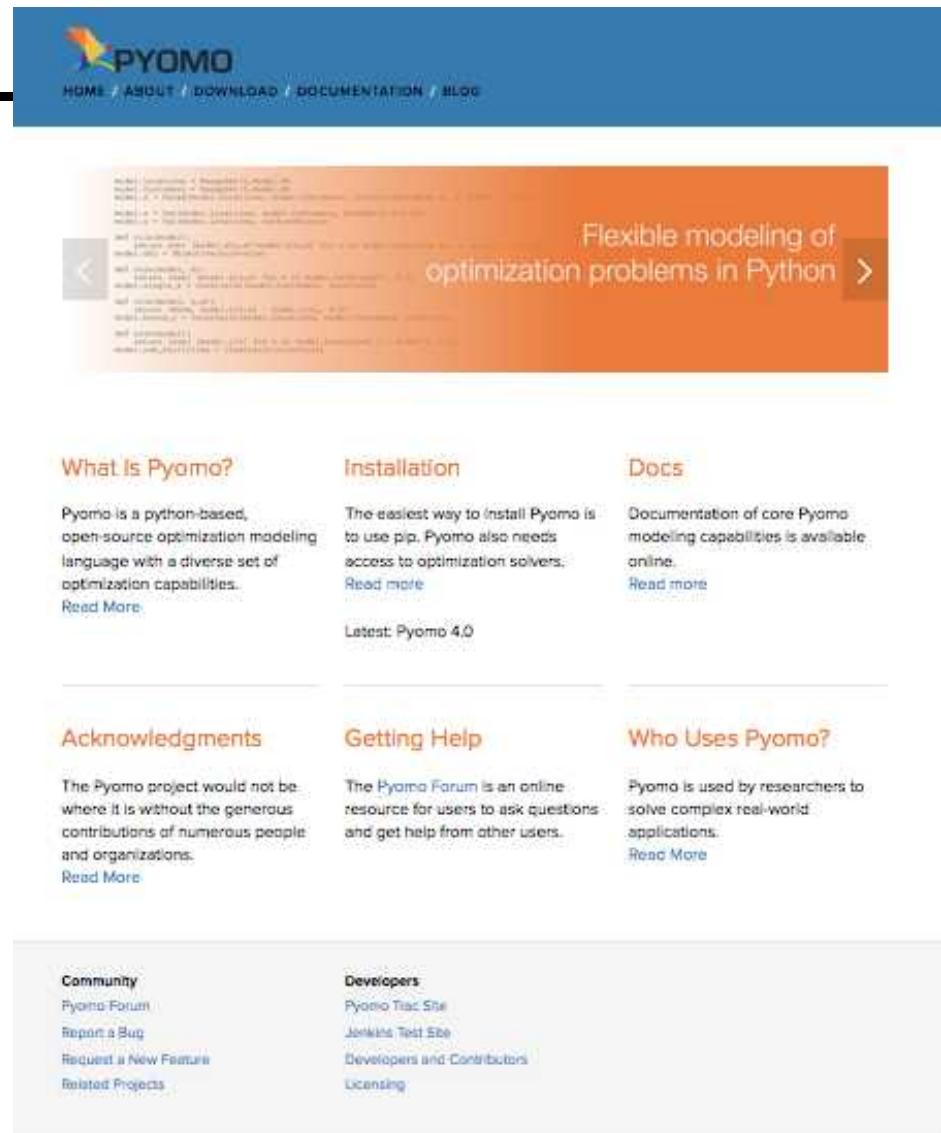
- [www.pyomo.org](http://www.pyomo.org)

The Pyomo homepage provides a portal for:

- Online documentation
- Installation instructions
- Help information
- Developer links

Coming soon:

- Blogging about Pyomo capabilities and features
- A gallery of simple examples



The screenshot shows the Pyomo homepage. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the Pyomo logo and navigation links: HOME / ABOUT / DOWNLOAD / DOCUMENTATION / BLOG. Below the header, a large orange banner features the text "Flexible modeling of optimization problems in Python" with arrows for navigation. The main content area is divided into several sections: "What Is Pyomo?", "Installation", "Docs", "Acknowledgments", "Getting Help", and "Who Uses Pyomo?". Each section contains a brief description and a "Read More" link. At the bottom, there are two columns: "Community" (Pyomo Forum, Report a Bug, Request a New Feature, Related Projects) and "Developers" (Pyomo Trac Site, Jenkins Test Site, Developers and Contributors, Licensing).

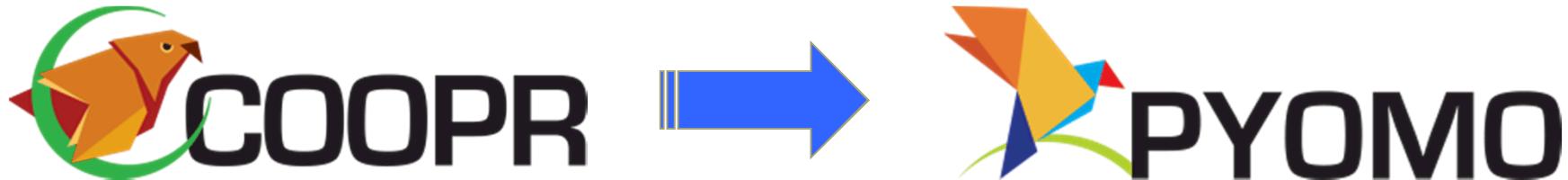
# The End

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Questions?

# What Happened to Coopr?

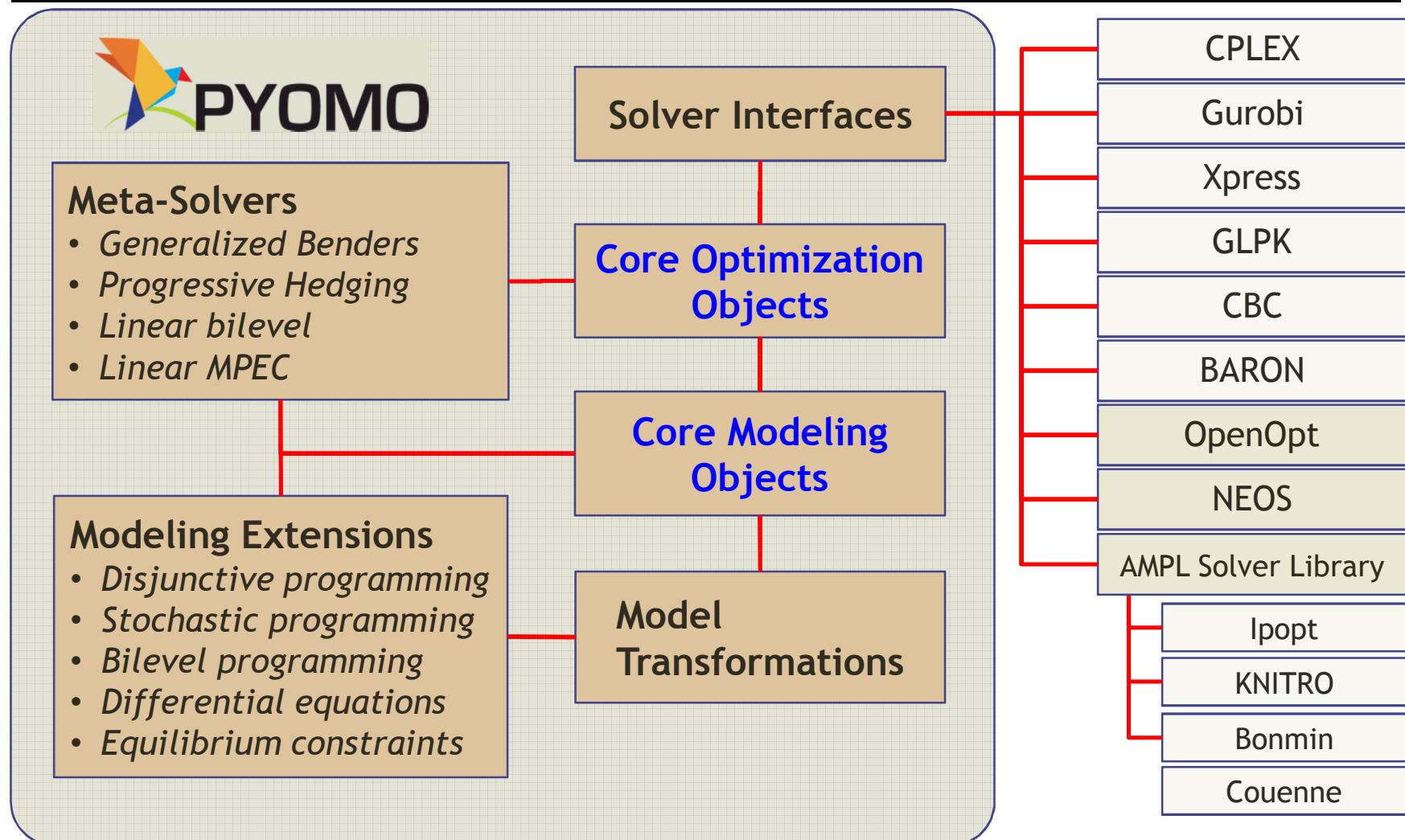
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- Users were installing Coopr but using Pyomo
  - Pyomo modeling extensions were not distinct enough
  - Researchers cited “Coopr/Pyomo”
- Users/Developers were confused by the `coopr` and `pyomo` commands
- Developers were coding in Coopr but talking about Pyomo

**We need to provide clear branding this project!**

# Pyomo at a Glance



# (A) BLP with Continuous Variables

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Problem:

$$\min_{x \geq 0} \quad c_1^T x + d_1^T y$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad A_1 x + B_1 y \leq b_1$$

$$\min_{y \geq 0} \quad c_2^T x + d_2^T y$$

$$A_2 x + B_2 y \leq b_2$$

Reformulation: This is the MPEC model that eliminates the  $v$  variable in the reformulation on the earlier slide.

$$\min \quad c_1^T x + d_1^T y$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad A_1 x + B_1 y \leq b_1$$

$$b_2 - A_2 x - B_2 y \geq 0 \perp u \geq 0$$

$$y \geq 0 \perp d_2 + B_2^T u \geq 0$$

$$x \geq 0, y \geq 0$$