

# 05. Duality

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# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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**Lagrangian:** standard form problem (not necessarily convex)

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, p\end{array}$$

Variable  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , domain  $\mathcal{D}$ , optimal value  $p^*$

**Lagrangian:**  $L : \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , with  $\text{dom } L = \mathcal{D} \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p$ ,

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x)$$

Weighted sum of objective and constraint functions

$\lambda_i$  is Lagrange multiplier associated with  $f_i(x) \leq 0$

$\nu_i$  is Lagrange multiplier associated with  $h_i(x) = 0$

# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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**Lagrange dual function:**  $g : \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) \\ &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} \left( f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$g$  is concave, can be  $-\infty$  for some  $\lambda, \nu$

**Lower bound property:** if  $\lambda \succeq 0$ , then  $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$

*proof.*

if  $\tilde{x}$  is feasible and  $\lambda \succeq 0$ , then

$$f_0(\tilde{x}) \geq L(\tilde{x}, \lambda, \nu) \geq \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) = g(\lambda, \nu)$$

Minimizing over all feasible  $\tilde{x}$  gives  $p^* \geq g(\lambda, \nu)$

# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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Least-norm solution of linear equations

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & x^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b\end{array}$$

**dual function:**

1. Lagrangian is  $L(x, \nu) = x^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b)$
2. To minimize  $L$  over  $x$ , set gradient equal to zero:

$$\nabla_x L(x, \nu) = 2x + A^T \nu = 0 \implies x = -(1/2)A^T \nu$$

Plug into  $L$  to obtain  $g$ :

$$g(\nu) = L((-1/2)A^T \nu, \nu) = -\frac{1}{4}\nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu$$

A concave function of  $\nu$

**Lower bound property:**  $p^* \geq -(1/4)\nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu$  for all  $\nu$

# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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## Standard form LP

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b, x \succeq 0\end{array}$$

1. Lagrangian is

$$\begin{aligned}L(x, \lambda, \nu) &= c^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b) - \lambda^T x \\ &= -b^T \nu + (c + A^T \nu - \lambda)^T x\end{aligned}$$

2.  $L$  is affine in  $x$ , hence

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = L(x, \lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^T \nu & A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$g$  is linear on affine domain  $\{(\lambda, \nu) | A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0\}$ , hence concave

**Lower bound property:**  $p^* \geq -b^T \nu$  for all  $\nu$  if  $A^T \nu + c \succeq 0$

# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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## Equality constrained norm minimization

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & \|x\| \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b\end{array}$$

**dual function:**

$$g(\nu) = \inf_x (\|x\| - \nu^T Ax + b^T \nu) = \begin{cases} b^T \nu & \|A^T \nu\|_* \leq 1 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $\|\nu\|_* = \sup_{\|u\| \leq 1} u^T \nu$  is dual norm of  $\|\cdot\|$

*proof.* follows from  $\inf_x (\|x\| - y^T x) = 0$  if  $\|y\|_* \leq 1$ ,  $-\infty$ , otherwise

1. if  $\|y\|_* \leq 1$ , then  $\|x\| - y^T x \geq 0$  for all  $x$ , with equality if  $x = 0$

2. if  $\|y\|_* > 1$ , choose  $x = tu$  where  $\|u\| \leq 1$ ,  $u^T y = \|y\|_* > 1$ :

$$\|x\| - y^T x = t(\|u\| - \|y\|_*) \rightarrow -\infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

**Lower bound property:**  $p^* \geq b^T \nu$  if  $\|A^T \nu\|_* \leq 1$

# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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## Two-way partitioning

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & x^T W x \\ \text{subject to} & x_i^2 = 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n\end{array}$$

1. A non-convex problem; feasible set contains  $2^n$  discrete points
2. interpretation: partition  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  in two sets;  $W_{ij}$  is cost of assigning  $i, j$  to the same set;  $-W_{ij}$  is cost of assigning to different sets

**dual function:**

$$\begin{aligned} g(\nu) &= \inf_x \left( x^T W x + \sum_i \nu_i (x_i^2 - 1) \right) = \inf_x x^T (W + \mathbf{diag}(\nu)) x - \mathbf{1}^T \nu \\ &= \begin{cases} -\mathbf{1}^T \nu, & W + \mathbf{diag}(\nu) \succeq 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**Lower bound property:**  $p^* \geq -\mathbf{1}^T \nu$  if  $W + \mathbf{diag}(\nu) \succeq 0$

Example:  $\nu = -\lambda_{\min}(W)\mathbf{1}$  gives bound  $p^* \geq n\lambda_{\min}(W)$

# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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## Lagrange dual and conjugate function

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \preceq b, \quad Cx = d\end{array}$$

**dual function:**

$$\begin{aligned}g(\nu) &= \inf_{x \in \text{dom } f_0} (f_0(x) + (A^T\lambda + C^T\nu)^T x - b^T\lambda - d^T\nu) \\ &= -f_0^*(-A^T\lambda - C^T\nu) - b^T\lambda - d^T\nu\end{aligned}$$

1. Recall definition of conjugate  $f^*(y) = \sup_{x \in \text{dom } f} (y^T x - f(x))$
2. Simplifies derivation of dual if conjugate of  $f_0$  is known

Example: entropy maximization

$$f_0(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \log x_i, \quad f_0^*(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n e^{y_i - 1}$$



# 1 Lagrange dual problem

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## The dual problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{subject to} & \lambda \succeq 0\end{array}$$

1. Finds best lower bound on  $p^*$ , obtained from Lagrange dual function
2. A convex optimization problem; optimal value denoted  $d^*$
3.  $\lambda, \nu$  are dual feasible if  $\lambda \succeq 0$ ,  $(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathbf{dom} g$
4. Often simplified by making implicit constraint  $(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathbf{dom} g$  explicit

Example: standard form LP and its dual (page 5–5)

$$\begin{array}{llll}\text{minimize} & c^T x & \text{maximize} & -b^T \nu \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b & \text{subject to} & A^T \nu + c \succeq 0 \\ & x \succeq 0 & & \end{array}$$

## 2 Weak and strong duality

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**Weak duality:**  $d^* \leq p^*$

1. Always holds(for convex and nonconvex problems)
2. Can be used to find nontrivial lower bounds for difficult problems for example, solving the SDP

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -\mathbf{1}^T \nu \\ \text{subject to} & W + \mathbf{diag}(\nu) \succeq 0\end{array}$$

Gives a lower bound for the two-way partitioning problem on page 5-7

**Strong duality:**  $d^* = p^*$

1. does not hold in general
2. (usually) holds for convex problems
3. conditions that guarantee strong duality in convex problems are called **constraint qualifications**

## 2 Weak and strong duality

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### Slater's constraint qualification

Strong duality holds for a convex problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b\end{array}$$

if it is strictly feasible, i.e.,

$$\exists x \in \mathbf{int} \mathcal{D} : f_i(x) < 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad Ax = b$$

1. also guarantees that the dual optimum is attained (if  $p^* > -\infty$ )
2. can be sharpened: e.g., can replace  $\mathbf{int} \mathcal{D}$  with  $\mathbf{relint} \mathcal{D}$  (interior relative to affine hull); linear inequalities do not need to hold with strict inequality, . . .
3. there exist many other types of constraint qualifications

## 2 Weak and strong duality

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Inequality form LP

Primal problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \preceq b\end{array}$$

Dual function

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x (c + A^T \lambda)^T x - b^T \lambda = \begin{cases} -b^T \lambda & A^T \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Dual problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -b^T \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \lambda + c = 0, \lambda \succeq 0\end{array}$$

1. from Slater' s condition:  $p^* = d^*$  if  $A\tilde{x} \prec b$  for some  $\tilde{x}$
2. in fact,  $p^* = d^*$  except when primal and dual are infeasible

## 2 Weak and strong duality

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### Quadratic program

Primal problem (assume  $P \in \mathbf{S}_{++}^n$ )

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & x^T P x \\ \text{subject to} & A x \preceq b\end{array}$$

### Dual function

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x (x^T P x + \lambda^T (A x - b)) = -\frac{1}{4} \lambda^T A P^{-1} A^T \lambda - b^T \lambda \quad (2)$$

### Dual problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -(1/4) \lambda^T A P^{-1} A^T \lambda - b^T \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & \lambda \succeq 0\end{array}$$

1. from Slater's condition:  $p^* = d^*$  if  $A\tilde{x} \prec b$  for some  $\tilde{x}$
2. in fact,  $p^* = d^*$  always holds

## 2 Weak and strong duality

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### A nonconvex problem with strong duality

#### Primal problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & x^T A x + 2b^T x \\ \text{subject to} & x^T x \leq 1\end{array}$$

$A \not\geq 0$ , hence nonconvex

#### Dual function

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x (x^T (A + \lambda I) x + 2b^T x - \lambda) \quad (3)$$

1. unbounded below if  $A + \lambda I \not\geq 0$  or if  $A + \lambda I \geq 0$  and  $b \notin \mathcal{R}(A + \lambda I)$
2. minimized by  $x = -(A + \lambda I)^\dagger b$  otherwise:  $g(\lambda) = -b^T (A + \lambda I)^\dagger b - \lambda$

#### Dual problem and equivalent SDP:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & -b^T (A + \lambda I)^\dagger b - \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} & A + \lambda I \succeq 0 \\ & b \in \mathcal{R}(A + \lambda I)\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -t - \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} & \begin{bmatrix} A + \lambda I & b \\ b^T & t \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0\end{array}$$

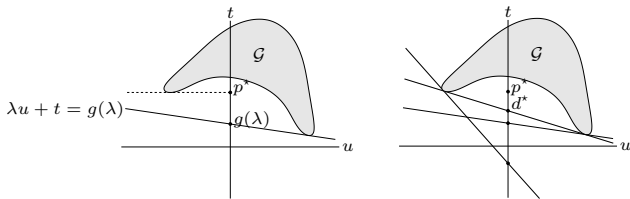
Strong duality although primal problem is not convex (not easy to show)

### 3 Geometric interpretation

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For simplicity, consider problem with one constraint  $f_1(x) \leq 0$   
**interpretation of dual function:**

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_{(u,t) \in \mathcal{G}} (t + \lambda u), \quad \mathcal{G} = \{(f_1(x), f_0(x)) | x \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

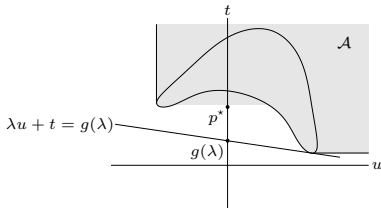


1.  $\lambda u + t = g(\lambda)$  is (non-vertical) supporting hyperplane to  $\mathcal{D}$
2. hyperplane intersects  $t$ -axis at  $t = g(\lambda)$

### 3 Geometric interpretation

**epigraph variation:** same interpretation if  $\mathcal{G}$  is replaced with

$$\mathcal{A} = \{(u, t) | f_1(x) \leq u, f_0(x) \leq t \text{ for some } x \in \mathcal{D}\}$$



#### Strong duality

1. Holds if there is a non-vertical supporting hyperplane to  $\mathcal{A}$  at  $(0, p^*)$
2. For convex problem,  $\mathcal{A}$  is convex, hence has supp. hyperplane at  $(0, p^*)$
3. Slater's condition: if there exist  $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{t}) \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $\tilde{u} < 0$ , then supporting hyperplanes at  $(0, p^*)$  must be non-vertical



# A proof of Slater's condition

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**Assumptions:** 1. contain non-empty interior point; 2. **rank**  $A = p$ . Define the following two exclusive sets:

$$\mathcal{A} = \{(u, v, t) | \exists x \in \mathcal{D}, f_i(x) \leq u_i, h_i(x) = v_i, f_0(x) \leq t\}$$
$$\mathcal{B} = \{(0, 0, s) \in \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \times \mathbf{R} | s < p^*\}$$

$\exists(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu}, \mu) \neq 0$  and  $\alpha$ , such that

$$(u, v, t) \in \mathcal{A} \implies \tilde{\lambda}^T u + \tilde{\nu}^T v + \mu t \geq \alpha$$

$$(u, v, t) \in \mathcal{B} \implies \tilde{\lambda}^T u + \tilde{\nu}^T v + \mu t \leq \alpha$$

We have 1.  $\tilde{\lambda} \succeq 0$  and  $\mu \geq 0$ ; 2.  $\mu p^* \leq \alpha$

In other words, there exists feasible  $x \in \mathcal{D}$

$$\sum \tilde{\lambda}_i f_i(x) + \tilde{\nu}^T (Ax - b) + \mu f_0(x) \geq \alpha \geq \mu p^*$$

## A proof of slater's condition (cont'd)

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Case 1:  $\mu > 0$

$L(x, \tilde{\lambda}/\mu, \tilde{\nu}/\mu) \geq p^*$ , hence,  $g(\tilde{\lambda}/\mu, \tilde{\nu}/\mu) \geq p^*$

$g(\tilde{\lambda}/\mu, \tilde{\nu}/\mu) = p^*$  proved

Case 2:  $\mu = 0$

$$\sum \tilde{\lambda}_i f_i(x) + \tilde{\nu}^T(Ax - b) \geq 0, \forall x \in \mathcal{D}$$

Assume  $\tilde{x}$  satisfies the slater's conditions. Then

$$\sum \tilde{\lambda}_i f_i(\tilde{x}) \geq 0 \implies \tilde{\lambda} = 0$$

As a result,  $\tilde{\nu} \neq 0$ . Consider the following facts: 1.  $\tilde{\nu}^T(A\tilde{x} - b) = 0$ ,  
2.  $\tilde{x} \in \text{int}\mathcal{D}$ . There exists  $x$ , such that  $\tilde{\nu}^T(Ax - b) < 0$  (**rank** $A = p$ ,  
 $\tilde{\nu}$  is  $p$ -dimension).

## 4 Optimality Conditions

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**Complementary slackness:** assume strong duality holds,  $x^*$  is primal optimal,  $(\lambda^*, \nu^*)$  is dual optimal

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(x^*) = g(\lambda^*, \nu^*) &= \inf \left( f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x) \right) \\ &\leq f_0(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x^*) \\ &\leq f_0(x^*) \end{aligned}$$

hence, the two inequalities hold with equality

1.  $x^*$  minimizes  $L(x, \lambda^*, \nu^*)$
2.  $\lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  (known as complementary slackness):

$$\lambda_i^* > 0 \implies f_i(x^*) = 0, \quad f_i(x^*) < 0 \implies \lambda_i^* = 0$$

## 4 Optimality Conditions

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### Karush-Kuhn-Tucker(KKT) conditions

The following four conditions are called KKT conditions (for a problem with differentiable  $f_i, h_i$ ):

1. primal constraints:  $f_i(x) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m, h_i(x) = 0, i = 1, \dots, p$
2. dual constraints:  $\lambda \succeq 0$
3. complementary slackness:  $\lambda_i f_i(x) = 0, i = 1, \dots, m$
4. gradient of Lagrangian with respect to  $x$  vanishes:

$$\nabla f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i \nabla h_i(x) = 0$$

from page 5–17: if strong duality holds and  $x, \lambda, \nu$  are optimal, then they must satisfy the KKT conditions

## 4 Optimality Conditions

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### KKT conditions for convex problem

if  $\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\mu}$  satisfy KKT for a convex problem, then they are optimal:

1. from complementary slackness:  $f_0(\tilde{x}) = L(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$
2. from 4th condition (and convexity):  $g(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu}) = L(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$

hence,  $f_0(\tilde{x}) = g(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$

if Slater's condition is satisfied:

$x$  is optimal if and only if there exist  $\lambda, \nu$  that satisfy KKT conditions

1. recall that Slater implies strong duality, and dual optimum is attained
2. generalizes optimality condition  $\nabla f_0(x) = 0$  for unconstrained problem

## 5 Perturbation and sensitivity analysis

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(unperturbed) optimization problem and its dual

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0, i = 1, \dots, p \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{subject to} & \lambda \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

perturbed problem and its dual

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min. & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \leq u_i, i = 1, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = v_i, i = 1, \dots, p \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \max. & g(\lambda, \nu) - u^T \lambda - v^T \nu \\ \text{s.t.} & \lambda \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

1.  $x$  is primal variable;  $u, v$  are parameters
2.  $p^*(u, v)$  is optimal value as a function of  $u, v$
3. we are interested in information about  $p(u, v)$  that we can obtain from the solution of the unperturbed problem and its dual

## 5 Perturbation and sensitivity analysis

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### global sensitivity result

assume strong duality holds for unperturbed problem, and that  $\lambda, \nu$  are dual optimal for unperturbed problem

apply weak duality to perturbed problem:

$$\begin{aligned} p^*(u, v) &\geq g(\lambda^*, \nu^*) - u^T \lambda^* - v^T \nu^* \\ &= p^*(0, 0) - u^T \lambda^* - v^T \nu^* \end{aligned}$$

### sensitivity interpretation

1. if  $\lambda_i^*$  large:  $p^*$  increases greatly if we tighten constraint  $i$  ( $u_i < 0$ )
2. if  $\lambda_i^*$  small:  $p^*$  does not decrease much if we loosen constraint  $i$  ( $u_i > 0$ )
3. if  $\nu_i$  large and positive:  $p^*$  increases greatly if we take  $v_i < 0$ ; if  $\nu_i$  large and negative:  $p^*$  increases greatly if we take  $v_i > 0$
4. if  $\nu_i$  small and positive:  $p^*$  does not decrease much if we take  $v_i > 0$ ; if  $\nu_i^*$  small and negative:  $p^*$  does not decrease much if we take  $v_i < 0$

## 5 Perturbation and sensitivity analysis

**local sensitivity:** if (in addition)  $p(u, v)$  is differentiable at  $(0, 0)$ , then

$$\lambda_i^* = -\frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial u_i}, \quad \nu_i^* = -\frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial v_i}$$

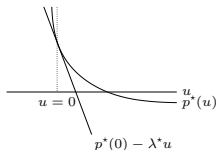
*proof.* (for  $i$ ): from global sensitivity result,

$$\frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial u_i} = \lim_{t \searrow 0} \frac{p^*(te_i, 0) - p^*(0, 0)}{t} \geq -\lambda_i^*$$

$$\frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial u_i} = \lim_{t \nearrow 0} \frac{p^*(te_i, 0) - p^*(0, 0)}{t} \leq -\lambda_i^*$$

hence, equality

$p(u)$  for a problem with one(inequality) constraint:





## 6 Examples

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### Duality and problem reformulations

1. equivalent formulations of a problem can lead to very different duals
2. reformulating the primal problem can be useful when the dual is difficult to derive, or uninteresting

### common reformulations

1. introduce new variables and equality constraints
2. make explicit constraints implicit or vice-versa
3. transform objective or constraint functions e.g., replace  $f_0(x)$  by  $\phi(f_0(x))$  with  $\phi$  convex, increasing

## 6 Examples

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### Introducing new variables and equality constraints

$$\text{minimize } f_0(Ax + b)$$

1. dual function is constant:  $g = \inf_x L(x) = \inf_x f_0(Ax + b) = p^*$
2. we have strong duality, but dual is quite useless

### reformulated problem and its dual

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(y) \\ \text{subject to} & Ax + b - y = 0 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & b^T \nu - f_0^*(\nu) \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \nu = 0 \end{array}$$

dual function follows from

$$\begin{aligned} g(\nu) &= \inf_{x,y} (f_0(y) - \nu^T y + \nu^T Ax + b^T \nu) \\ &= \begin{cases} -f_0^*(\nu) + b^T \nu & A^T \nu = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

## 6 Examples

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**norm approximation problem:** minimize  $\|Ax - b\|$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & \|y\| \\ \text{subject to} & y = Ax - b\end{array}$$

can look up conjugate of  $\|\cdot\|$ , or derive dual directly

$$\begin{aligned}g(\nu) &= \inf_{x,y} (\|y\| - \nu^T y - \nu^T Ax + b^T \nu) \\ &= \begin{cases} -b^T \nu + \inf_y (\|y\| + \nu^T y) & A^T \nu = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} -b^T \nu & A^T \nu = 0, \|\nu\|_* \leq 1 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

**dual of norm approximation problem**

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & b^T \nu \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \nu = 0, \|\nu\|_* \leq 1\end{array}$$

## 6 Examples

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Implicit constraints

**LP with box constraints:** primal and dual problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax + b = 0 \\ & -\mathbf{1} \preceq x \preceq \mathbf{1} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & -b^T \nu - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_1 - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_2 \\ \text{subject to} & c + A^T \nu + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0 \\ & \lambda_1 \succeq 0, \lambda_2 \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

reformulation with box constraints made implicit

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) = \begin{cases} c^T x & -\mathbf{1} \preceq x \preceq \mathbf{1} \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

dual function

$$\begin{aligned} g(\nu) &= \inf_{-\mathbf{1} \preceq x \preceq \mathbf{1}} (c^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b)) \\ &= -b^T \nu - \|A^T \nu + c\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

**dual problem:** maximize  $-b^T \nu - \|A^T \nu + c\|_1$