

Linear Program Duality

Frédéric Giroire

Motivation

- Finding **bounds on the optimal solution**. Provides a measure of the "goodness" of a solution.
- Provide **certificate of optimality**.
- Economic interpretation of the dual problem.

**** Introduction to Duality ****

Duality Theorem: introduction

$$\begin{array}{llllllll} \text{Maximize} & 4x_1 & + & x_2 & + & 5x_3 & + & 3x_4 \\ \text{Subject to :} & & & & & & & \\ & x_1 & - & x_2 & - & x_3 & + & 3x_4 \leq 1 \\ & 5x_1 & + & x_2 & + & 3x_3 & + & 8x_4 \leq 55 \\ & -x_1 & + & 2x_2 & + & 3x_3 & - & 5x_4 \leq 3 \\ & & & & & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 & \geq & 0. \end{array}$$

Lower bound: a feasible solution, e.g. $(0, 0, 1, 0) \Rightarrow z^* \geq 5$.

What if we want an **upper bound**?

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 \end{array}$$

Second Inequation $\times 5/3$:

$$\frac{25}{3}x_1 + \frac{5}{3}x_2 + 5x_3 + \frac{40}{3}x_4 \leq \frac{275}{3}.$$

Note that (all variables are positive),

$$4x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3 + 3x_4 \leq \frac{25}{3}x_1 + \frac{5}{3}x_2 + 5x_3 + \frac{40}{3}x_4$$

Hence, a first bound:

$$z^* \leq \frac{275}{3}.$$

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 \end{array}$$

Similarly, $2^d + 3^d$ constraints:

$$4x_1 + 3x_2 + 6x_3 + 3x_4 \leq 58.$$

Hence, **a second bound:**

$$z^* \leq 58.$$

→ need for a **systematic strategy**.

Duality Theorem: introduction

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 & & & & & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 & \geq & 0.
 \end{array}$$

$\times y_1$

$\times y_2$

$\times y_3$

Build **linear combinations of the constraints**. Summing:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (y_1 + 5y_2 - y_3)x_1 + (-y_1 + y_2 + 2y_3)x_2 + (-y_1 + 3y_2 + 3y_3)x_3 \\
 & + (3y_1 + 8y_2 - 5y_3)x_4 \leq y_1 + 55y_2 + 3y_3.
 \end{aligned}$$

We want left part upper bound of z . We need coefficient of $x_j \geq$ coefficient in z :

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_1 + 5y_2 - y_3 & \geq 4 \\
 -y_1 + y_2 + 2y_3 & \geq 1 \\
 -y_1 + 3y_2 + 3y_3 & \geq 5 \\
 3y_1 + 8y_2 - 5y_3 & \geq 3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Duality Theorem: introduction

Build **linear combinations of the constraints**. Summing:

$$(y_1 + 5y_2 - y_3)x_1 + (-y_1 + y_2 + 2y_3)x_2 + (-y_1 + 3y_2 + 3y_3)x_3 \\ + (3y_1 + 8y_2 - 5y_3)x_4 \leq y_1 + 55y_2 + 3y_3.$$

We want left part upper bound of z . We need coefficient of $x_j \geq$ coefficient in z :

$$\begin{array}{rrrrrr} y_1 & + & 5y_2 & - & y_3 & \geq & 4 \\ -y_1 & + & y_2 & + & 2y_3 & \geq & 1 \\ -y_1 & + & 3y_2 & + & 3y_3 & \geq & 5 \\ 3y_1 & + & 8y_2 & - & 5y_3 & \geq & 3. \end{array}$$

If the $y_i \geq 0$ and satisfy theses inequations, then

$$4x_1 + x_2 + 5x_3 + 3x_4 \leq y_1 + 55y_2 + 3y_3.$$

In particular,

$$z^* \leq y_1 + 55y_2 + 3y_3.$$

Duality Theorem: introduction

Objective: smallest possible upper bound. Hence, we solve the following PL:

$$\begin{array}{llllllll} \text{Minimize} & y_1 & + & 55y_2 & + & 3y_3 & & \\ \text{Subject to:} & & & & & & & \\ & y_1 & + & 5y_2 & - & y_3 & \geq & 4 \\ & -y_1 & + & y_2 & + & 2y_3 & \geq & 1 \\ & -y_1 & + & 3y_2 & + & 3y_3 & \geq & 5 \\ & 3y_1 & + & 8y_2 & - & 5y_3 & \geq & 3 \\ & & & & & y_1, y_2, y_3 & \geq & 0. \end{array} \quad (1)$$

It is the **dual problem** of the problem.

**** Duality ****

The Dual Problem

Primal problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{Maximize} & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{Subject to:} & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n)\end{array} \quad (2)$$

Its **dual problem** is defined by the LP problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{Minimize} & \sum_{i=1}^m b_i y_i \\ \text{Subject to:} & \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i \geq c_j \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n) \\ & y_i \geq 0 \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m)\end{array} \quad (3)$$

Weak Duality Theorem

Theorem: If (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) is feasible for the primal and (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) is feasible for the dual, then

$$\sum_j c_j x_j \leq \sum_i b_i y_i.$$

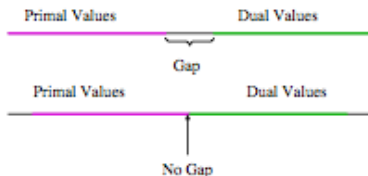
Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_j c_j x_j &\leq \sum_j (\sum_i y_i a_{ij}) x_j && \text{dual definition: } \sum_i y_i a_{ij} \geq c_j \\ &= \sum_i (\sum_j a_{ij} x_j) y_i \\ &\leq \sum_i b_i y_i && \text{primal definition: } \sum_j x_j a_{ij} \leq b_i \end{aligned}$$

Gap or No Gap?

An important question:

Is there a gap between the **largest primal value** and the **smallest dual value**?



Strong Duality Theorem

Theorem: If the primal problem has an optimal solution,

$$x^* = (x_1^*, \dots, x_n^*),$$

then the dual also has an optimal solution,

$$y^* = (y_1^*, \dots, y_n^*),$$

and

$$\sum_j c_j x_j^* = \sum_i b_i y_i^*.$$

Relationship between the Primal and Dual Problems

Lemma: The dual of the dual is always the primal problem.

Corollary: + (Strong Duality Theorem) \Rightarrow Primal has an optimal solution iff dual has an optimal solution.

Weak duality: Primal unbounded \Rightarrow dual infeasible.

		Dual		
		Optimal	Unfeasible	Unbounded
Primal	Optimal	X		
	Unfeasible		X	X
	Unbounded		X	

Relationship between the Primal and Dual Problems

Lemma: The dual of the dual is always the primal problem.

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		Dual		
		Optimal	Unfeasible	Unbounded
Primal	Optimal	X		
	Unfeasible		X	X
	Unbounded		X	

**** Certificate of Optimality ****

Complementary Slackness

Theorem: Let x_1^*, \dots, x_n^* be a feasible solution of the primal and y_1^*, \dots, y_m^* be a feasible solution of the dual. Then,

$$\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i^* = c_j \quad \text{or} \quad x_j^* = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \text{both} (j = 1, 2, \dots, n)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j^* = b_i \quad \text{or} \quad y_i^* = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \text{both} (i = 1, 2, \dots, m)$$

are necessary and sufficient conditions to have the optimality of x^* and y^* .

Complementary Slackness - Proof

x^* feasible $\Rightarrow b_i - \sum_j a_{ij}x_j \geq 0$.

y^* dual feasible, hence non negative.

Thus

$$(b_i - \sum_j a_{ij}x_j)y_i \geq 0.$$

Similarly,

y^* dual feasible $\Rightarrow \sum_i a_{ij}y_i - c_j \geq 0$.

x^* feasible, hence non negative.

$$(\sum_i a_{ij}y_i - c_j)x_j \geq 0.$$

Complementary Slackness - Proof

$$(b_i - \sum_j a_{ij}x_j)y_i \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (\sum_i a_{ij}y_i - c_j)x_j \geq 0$$

By summing, we get:

$$\sum_i (b_i - \sum_j a_{ij}x_j)y_i \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_j (\sum_i a_{ij}y_i - c_j)x_j \geq 0$$

Summing + strong duality theorem:

$$\sum_i b_i y_i - \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} x_j y_i + \sum_{j,i} a_{ij} y_i x_j - \sum_j c_j x_j = \sum_i b_i y_i - \sum_j c_j x_j = 0.$$

Implies: inequalities must be equalities:

$$\forall i, (b_i - \sum_j a_{ij}x_j)y_i = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \forall j, (\sum_i a_{ij}y_i - c_j)x_j = 0.$$

$XY = 0$ if $X = 0$ or $Y = 0$. Done.

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$XY = 0$ if $X = 0$ or $Y = 0$. Done.

Theorem [Optimality Certificate]: A feasible solution x_1^*, \dots, x_n^* of the primal is **optimal** iff there exist numbers y_1^*, \dots, y_n^* such that

- ① they **satisfy the complementary slackness** condition:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i^*}{y_j^*} = \begin{cases} c_j & \text{when } x_j^* > 0 \\ 0 & \text{when } \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} x_j^* < b_i \end{cases}$$

- ② and y_1^*, \dots, y_n^* **feasible solution of the dual**, that is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i^* &\geq c_j & \forall j = 1, \dots, n \\ y_i^* &\geq 0 & \forall i = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

Example: Verify that $(2, 4, 0, 0, 7, 0)$ optimal solution of

5 → 1

$$\begin{array}{rcllclclclcl}
 \text{Max} & 18x_1 & - & 7x_2 & + & 12x_3 & + & 5x_4 & & & & \\
 \text{st:} & 2x_1 & - & 6x_2 & + & 2x_3 & + & 7x_4 & + & 3x_5 & + & 8x_6 & \leq & 1 \\
 & -3x_1 & - & x_2 & + & 4x_3 & - & 3x_4 & + & x_5 & + & 2x_6 & \leq & -2 \\
 & 8x_1 & - & 3x_2 & + & 5x_3 & - & 2x_4 & & & + & 2x_6 & \leq & 4 \\
 & 4x_1 & & & + & 8x_3 & + & 7x_4 & - & x_5 & + & 3x_6 & \leq & 1 \\
 & 5x_1 & + & 2x_2 & - & 3x_3 & + & 6x_4 & - & 2x_5 & - & x_6 & \leq & 5 \\
 & & & & & & & & & & & & \geq & 0
 \end{array}$$

x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6

$i=1 \rightarrow g_1^* \geq 0$

First step: Existence of y_1^*, \dots, y_5^* , such as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i^* &= c_j & \text{when } x_j^* > 0 \\
 y_i^* &= 0 & \text{when } \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j^* > b_i
 \end{aligned}$$

That is

i → 1 2 3 4 5

$$\begin{array}{rcllclclclcl}
 2y_1^* & - & 3y_2^* & + & 8y_3^* & + & 4y_4^* & + & 5y_5^* & = & 18 \\
 -6y_1^* & - & y_2^* & - & 3y_3^* & & & + & 2y_5^* & = & -7 \\
 3y_1^* & + & y_2^* & & & - & y_4^* & - & 2y_5^* & = & 0 \\
 & & y_2^* & & & & & & & = & 0 \\
 & & & & & & & & y_5^* & = & 0
 \end{array}$$

Handwritten notes on the right:

$$\begin{aligned}
 18 &= 1 \\
 -7 &= 2 \\
 0 &= 3 \\
 0 &= 4 \\
 0 &= 5
 \end{aligned}$$

$(\frac{1}{3}, 0, \frac{5}{3}, 1, 0)$ is solution.

Example: Verify that $(2, 4, 0, 0, 7, 0)$ optimal solution of

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 \text{Max} & 18x_1 & - & 7x_2 & + & 12x_3 & + & 5x_4 & & & + & 8x_6 & & & & & \\
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 & -3x_1 & - & x_2 & + & 4x_3 & - & 3x_4 & + & x_5 & + & 2x_6 & \leq & -2 & & & \\
 & 8x_1 & - & 3x_2 & + & 5x_3 & - & 2x_4 & & & + & 2x_6 & \leq & 4 & & & \\
 & 4x_1 & & & + & 8x_3 & + & 7x_4 & - & x_5 & + & 3x_6 & \leq & 1 & & & \\
 & 5x_1 & + & 2x_2 & - & 3x_3 & + & 6x_4 & - & 2x_5 & - & x_6 & \leq & 5 & & & \\
 & & & & & & & & & & & x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6 & \geq & 0 & & &
 \end{array}$$

Second step: Verify $(\frac{1}{3}, 0, \frac{5}{3}, 1, 0)$ is a solution of the dual.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}y_i^* & \geq c_j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, n \\
 y_j^* & \geq 0 \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, m.
 \end{array}$$

Example: Verify that $(2, 4, 0, 0, 7, 0)$ optimal solution of

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 & & & & & & & & & & & & \geq & 0
 \end{array}$$

x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6

Second step: Verify $(\frac{1}{3}, 0, \frac{5}{3}, 1, 0)$ is a solution of the dual.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}y_i^* & \geq c_j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, n \\
 y_j^* & \geq 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m.
 \end{array}$$

That is, we check

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccccl}
 2y_1^* & - & 3y_2^* & + & 8y_3^* & + & 4y_4^* & + & 5y_5^* & \geq & 18 \\
 -6y_1^* & - & y_2^* & - & 3y_3^* & + & & + & 2y_5^* & \geq & -7 \\
 2y_1^* & + & 4y_2^* & + & 5y_3^* & + & 8y_4^* & + & 3y_5^* & \geq & 12 \\
 7y_1^* & - & 3y_2^* & - & 2y_3^* & + & 7y_4^* & + & 6y_5^* & \geq & 5 \\
 3y_1^* & + & y_2^* & & & - & y_4^* & - & 2y_5^* & \geq & 0 \\
 8y_1^* & + & 2y_2^* & + & 2y_3^* & + & 3y_4^* & + & y_5^* & \geq & 8
 \end{array}$$

Example: Verify that $(2, 4, 0, 0, 7, 0)$ optimal solution of

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 & -3x_1 & - & x_2 & + & 4x_3 & - & 3x_4 & + & x_5 & + & 2x_6 & \leq & -2 & & & & \\
 & 8x_1 & - & 3x_2 & + & 5x_3 & - & 2x_4 & & & + & 2x_6 & \leq & 4 & & & & \\
 & 4x_1 & & & + & 8x_3 & + & 7x_4 & - & x_5 & + & 3x_6 & \leq & 1 & & & & \\
 & 5x_1 & + & 2x_2 & - & 3x_3 & + & 6x_4 & - & 2x_5 & - & x_6 & \leq & 5 & & & & \\
 & & & & & & & & & & & & & & x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6 & \geq & 0
 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}y_i^* & \geq & c_j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, n \\
 y_j^* & \geq & 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m.
 \end{array}$$

That is, we check

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccccccl}
 2y_1^* & - & 3y_2^* & + & 8y_3^* & + & 4y_4^* & + & 5y_5^* & \geq & 18 & \text{OK} \\
 -6y_1^* & - & y_2^* & - & 3y_3^* & + & & + & 2y_5^* & \geq & -7 & \text{OK} \\
 2y_1^* & + & 4y_2^* & + & 5y_3^* & + & 8y_4^* & + & 3y_5^* & \geq & 12 & \\
 7y_1^* & - & 3y_2^* & - & 2y_3^* & + & 7y_4^* & + & 6y_5^* & \geq & 5 & \\
 3y_1^* & + & y_2^* & & & - & y_4^* & - & 2y_5^* & \geq & 0 & \text{OK} \\
 8y_1^* & + & 2y_2^* & + & 2y_3^* & + & 3y_4^* & + & y_5^* & \geq & 8 &
 \end{array}$$

Only three equations to check.

Example: Verify that $(2, 4, 0, 0, 7, 0)$ optimal solution of

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccccccccccl}
 \text{Max} & 18x_1 & - & 7x_2 & + & 12x_3 & + & 5x_4 & & & + & 8x_6 & & & & & \\
 \text{st:} & 2x_1 & - & 6x_2 & + & 2x_3 & + & 7x_4 & + & 3x_5 & + & 8x_6 & \leq & 1 & & & \\
 & -3x_1 & - & x_2 & + & 4x_3 & - & 3x_4 & + & x_5 & + & 2x_6 & \leq & -2 & & & \\
 & 8x_1 & - & 3x_2 & + & 5x_3 & - & 2x_4 & & & + & 2x_6 & \leq & 4 & & & \\
 & 4x_1 & & & + & 8x_3 & + & 7x_4 & - & x_5 & + & 3x_6 & \leq & 1 & & & \\
 & 5x_1 & + & 2x_2 & - & 3x_3 & + & 6x_4 & - & 2x_5 & - & x_6 & \leq & 5 & & & \\
 & & & & & & & & & & & x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6 & \geq & 0 & & &
 \end{array}$$

Second step: Verify $(\frac{1}{3}, 0, \frac{5}{3}, 1, 0)$ is a solution of the dual.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}y_i^* &\geq c_j & \forall j = 1, \dots, n \\
 y_j^* &\geq 0 & \forall i = 1, \dots, m.
 \end{aligned}$$

That is, we check

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccccccl}
 2y_1^* & - & 3y_2^* & + & 8y_3^* & + & 4y_4^* & + & 5y_5^* & \geq & 18 & \text{OK} \\
 -6y_1^* & - & y_2^* & - & 3y_3^* & & & + & 2y_5^* & \geq & -7 & \text{OK} \\
 2y_1^* & + & 4y_2^* & + & 5y_3^* & + & 8y_4^* & + & 3y_5^* & \geq & 12 & \\
 7y_1^* & - & 3y_2^* & - & 2y_3^* & + & 7y_4^* & + & 6y_5^* & \geq & 5 & \\
 3y_1^* & + & y_2^* & & & - & y_4^* & - & 2y_5^* & \geq & 0 & \text{OK} \\
 8y_1^* & + & 2y_2^* & + & 2y_3^* & + & 3y_4^* & + & y_5^* & \geq & 8 &
 \end{array}$$

Only three equations to check.

OK. The solution $(\frac{1}{3}, 0, \frac{5}{3}, 1, 0)$ is optimal.

**** Economical Interpretation ****

Signification of Dual Variables

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Maximize} & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{Subject to:} & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Minimize} & \sum_{i=1}^m b_i y_i \\ \text{Subject to:} & \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i \geq c_j \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n) \\ & y_i \geq 0 \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m) \end{array}$$

Signification can be given to variables of the dual problem (dimension analysis):

- x_j : production of a product j (chair, ...)
- b_i : available quantity of resource i (wood, metal, ...)
- a_{ij} : unit of resource i per unit of product j
- c_j : net benefit of the production of a unit of product j

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Signification can be given to variables of the dual problem (dimension analysis):

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unit of resource i /unit of product j euros/unit of product j euros/unit of resource i

$$a_{1j} y_1 + \dots + a_{nj} y_n > c_j$$

→ y_i euro by unit of resource i .

Marginal cost of resource i .

Signification of Dual Variables

Theorem: If the LP admits at least one optimal solution, then there exists $\varepsilon > 0$, with the property: If $|t_i| \leq \varepsilon \ \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, then the LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Max} & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{Subject to:} & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i + t_i \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, n). \end{array} \quad (4)$$

has an optimal solution and the **optimal value of the objective is**

$$z^* + \sum_{i=1}^m y_i^* t_i$$

with z^* the optimal solution of the initial LP and $(y_1^*, y_2^*, \dots, y_m^*)$ the optimal solution of its dual.