

(1/24/2024)

Upper bounds and lower for minimization problems

Given an optimization problem:

$$z^* = \min_{x \in X} f(x) \quad \text{where} \quad X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$$

- An upper bound $U \in \mathbb{R}$ is a number that satisfies:

$$\min_{x \in X} f(x) \leq U$$

It is perfectly OK if there are solutions $x' \in X$ such that $f(x') > U$.

We only need the condition to hold for the optimal solution $x^* \in X$.

Any feasible point $\bar{x} \in X$ gives an upper bound $U = f(\bar{x})$

- A lower bound $L \in \mathbb{R}$ is a number that satisfies:

$$\min_{x \in X} f(x) \geq L$$

Which means that

$$f(x) \geq L \quad \text{for all } x \in X$$

Finding lower bounds is usually complicated.

- Small upper bounds and large lower bounds are better.

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Lower bounds via duality

- For any LP, there is a corresponding dual LP.

Primal LP

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && 4x_1 + 3x_2 \\ &\text{subject to} && 1x_1 + 1x_2 \geq 2 \\ &&& 0x_1 + 1x_2 \geq 1 \\ &&& 1x_1 - 1x_2 \geq 3, \\ &&& x_1, x_2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Its Dual LP

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximize} && 2p_1 + 1p_2 + 3p_3 \\ &\text{subject to} && 1p_1 + 0p_2 + 1p_3 \leq 4 \\ &&& 1p_1 + 1p_2 - 1p_3 \leq 3 \\ &&& p_1, p_2, p_3 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

- More generally:

Primal

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && c^T x \\ &\text{subject to} && Ax \geq b \\ &&& x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Dual

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximize} && b^T p \\ &\text{subject to} && A^T p \leq c \\ &&& p \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

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minimize $c^T x$	maximize $b^T p$
subject to $Ax \geq b$	subject to $A^T p \leq c$
$x \geq 0$	$p \geq 0.$

Weak Duality Thm: If \bar{x} is primal feasible and \bar{p} is dual feasible:

$$(\text{min. objective}) \quad c^T \bar{x} \geq b^T \bar{p} \quad (\text{max. objective})$$

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Strong Duality Thm: If x^* is primal optimal and p^* is dual optimal:

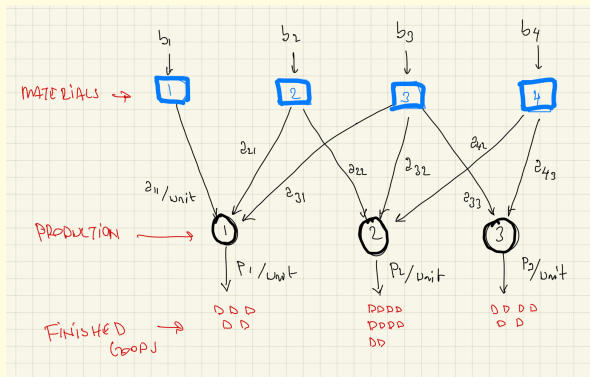
$$(\text{min. objective}) \quad c^T x^* = b^T p^* \quad (\text{max. objective})$$

LP notation example: Production planning

- A firm produces n different products using m different materials.
- Let $b_i \geq 0$, $i = 1, \dots, m$, be the available amount of the i th material.
- The j th product, $j = 1, \dots, n$, requires $a_{ij} \geq 0$ units of the i th material and results in a revenue of $p_j \geq 0$ per unit produced.
- Decide how much of each product to produce to maximize revenue.

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- The problem can now be formulated as follows:

$$\text{maximize} \quad p_1x_1 + p_2x_2 + \cdots + p_nx_n$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n \leq b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n \leq b_2$$

$$\vdots \quad \quad \quad \vdots \quad \quad \quad \vdots$$

$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n \leq b_m$$

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \geq 0$$

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LP problem using summations:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n p_j x_j \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

Written in matrix form:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & p^T x \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax \leq b, \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$
$$p^T = [p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n]$$
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

(In this example we allow x variables to take fractional value, ex: $x_3 = 2.7$)

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Integer Programming

IP Example: Labor scheduling

- A hospital wants to make a weekly night shift (10pm-6am) schedule for its nurses.
- The demand for nurses for the night shift on day j is an integer d_j , for all $j \in \{Su, Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa\}$.
- Every nurse works 5 consecutive days and takes the next 2 days off.
- Find the minimum number of nurses the hospital needs to hire.

Question: What are the decision variables?

IP Example: Labor scheduling

What are the decision variables?

- We could try using a decision variable y_j equal to the number of nurses that work on day j .
- However, with this definition we would not be able to capture the constraint that every nurse works 5 days in a row.
- We need to know the starting day of a nurse to model the problem correctly.
- We define x_j as the number of nurses starting their week on day $j \in \{Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su\}$.
- We can now write a constraint for every day of the week to make sure that the demand is satisfied.

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We then have the following problem formulation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize} \quad & x_{Su} + x_{Mo} + x_{Tu} + x_{We} + x_{Th} + x_{Fr} + x_{Sa} \\ \text{subject to} \quad & x_{Su} + x_{We} + x_{Th} + x_{Fr} + x_{Sa} \geq d_{Su} \\ & x_{Su} + x_{Mo} + x_{Th} + x_{Fr} + x_{Sa} \geq d_{Mo} \\ & x_{Su} + x_{Mo} + x_{Tu} + x_{Fr} + x_{Sa} \geq d_{Tu} \\ & x_{Su} + x_{Mo} + x_{Tu} + x_{We} + x_{Sa} \geq d_{We} \\ & x_{Su} + x_{Mo} + x_{Tu} + x_{We} + x_{Th} \geq d_{Th} \\ & x_{Mo} + x_{Tu} + x_{We} + x_{Th} + x_{Fr} \geq d_{Fr} \\ & x_{Tu} + x_{We} + x_{Th} + x_{Fr} + x_{Sa} \geq d_{Sa} \\ & x_j \geq 0 \text{ and } \underbrace{x_j \in \mathbb{Z}}_{\text{integer}}, \quad j \in \{Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su\} \end{aligned}$$

- This would be an LP except for the integrality constraints.

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Question:

What symbols do we use for numbers?

\mathbb{R} Real numbers

\mathbb{C} Complex numbers

\mathbb{Q} Fractional numbers (Quotients)

\mathbb{N} Natural numbers

\mathbb{Z} Integers

Question: Why do we use \mathbb{Z} for integers?

Answer: The use of the letter Z to denote the set of integers comes from the German word **Zahlen** ("numbers") and has been attributed to David Hilbert.
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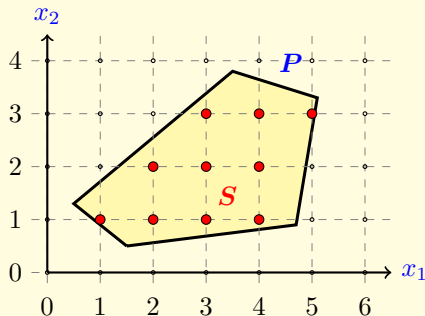
What is an Integer (Linear) Program?

A pure integer program (IP):

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax \geq b \\ & x \geq 0 \\ & x \text{ integral (i.e., } x \in \mathbb{Z}^n \text{)}. \end{aligned}$$

Feasible set: $S = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n : Ax \geq b, x \geq 0\} = \text{Polyhedron} \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$.

When $n = 2$



Remember the labor scheduling problem

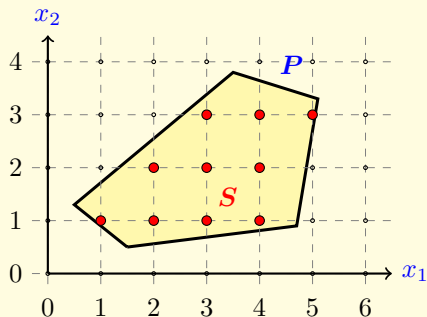
- If we ignore (“relax”) the integrality constraints, we obtain the so-called LP relaxation of this problem.

$$\begin{array}{llllllll} \text{minimize} & x_{Su} & +x_{Mo} & +x_{Tu} & +x_{We} & +x_{Th} & +x_{Fr} & +x_{Sa} \\ \text{subject to} & x_{Su} & & & +x_{We} & +x_{Th} & +x_{Fr} & +x_{Sa} & \geq d_{Su} \\ & x_{Su} & +x_{Mo} & & & +x_{Th} & +x_{Fr} & +x_{Sa} & \geq d_{Mo} \\ & x_{Su} & +x_{Mo} & +x_{Tu} & & & +x_{Fr} & +x_{Sa} & \geq d_{Tu} \\ & x_{Su} & +x_{Mo} & +x_{Tu} & +x_{We} & & & +x_{Sa} & \geq d_{We} \\ & x_{Su} & +x_{Mo} & +x_{Tu} & +x_{We} & +x_{Th} & & & \geq d_{Th} \\ & & +x_{Mo} & +x_{Tu} & +x_{We} & +x_{Th} & +x_{Fr} & & \geq d_{Fr} \\ & & & +x_{Tu} & +x_{We} & +x_{Th} & +x_{Fr} & +x_{Sa} & \geq d_{Sa} \end{array}$$

$$x_j \geq 0 \text{ and } x_j \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad j \in \{Su, Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa\}.$$

- All feasible solutions to the integer program are also feasible to the LP relaxation.

LP relaxations – minimization objective



- P is the feasible set for the LP relaxation (ignore integrality)
- S is the feasible set for the integer program:

$$S = P \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$$

Question: How would

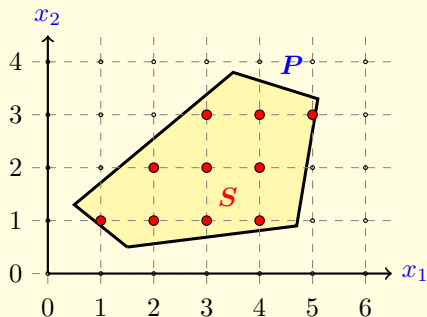
$$z_{IP} = \min c^T x \quad \text{s. t. } x \in S$$

compare to

$$z_{LP} = \min c^T x \quad \text{s. t. } x \in P ?$$

Answer: $z_{IP} \geq z_{LP}$ \leftarrow because $S \subseteq P$ and we are minimizing.

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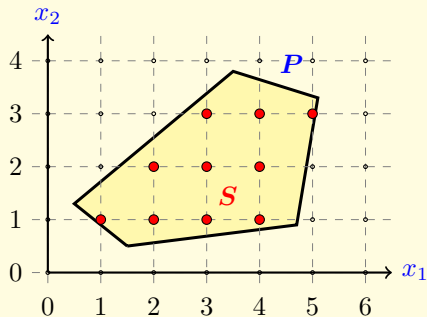
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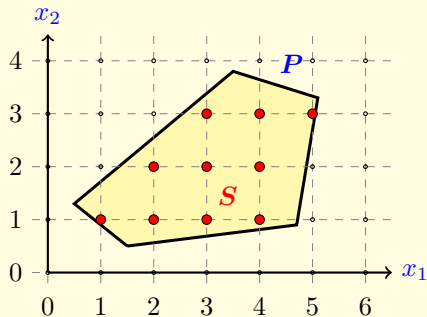
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Relaxations – lower bounds (minimization objective)

- More generally, consider the following 2 optimization problems:

$$z_S = \min f(x) \quad \text{s. t. } x \in S \quad (\text{small set})$$

$$z_B = \min f(x) \quad \text{s. t. } x \in B \quad (\text{big set})$$

where we optimize the same objective function over 2 different feasible sets S and B such that

$$S \subseteq B.$$

(B is called a **relaxation** of S as it contains more solutions.)

- Assume that both problems are feasible and have an optimal solution.

Claim: $z_S \geq z_B$.

Proof. Let $x^S \in S$ be an optimal solution for the first problem.

As $S \subseteq B$ we know that that $x^S \in B$. Therefore $f(x^S)$ is an upper bound on z_B :

$$z_S = f(x^S) \geq \underbrace{\min_{x \in B} f(x)}_{\text{because } x^S \in B} = z_B$$

- In the LP/IP setting this means that the opt. LP value gives a lower bound on the opt IP value (for minimization).

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Relaxations – upper bounds (minimization objective)

- Once again, let

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Proof. We know that $z_S \geq z_B$ from previous slide. As $x^B \in S$,

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and therefore $z_S \leq z_B \implies z_S = z_B$

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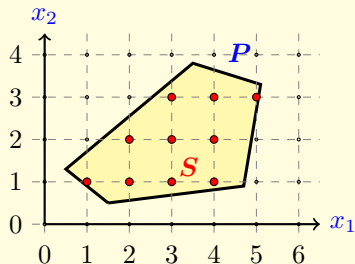
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LP vs. IP (minimization objective)

Integer program v.s. its linear programming relaxation:



$$z^{IP} = \min c^T x \text{ s.t. } x \in S (= P \cap \mathbb{Z}^n)$$

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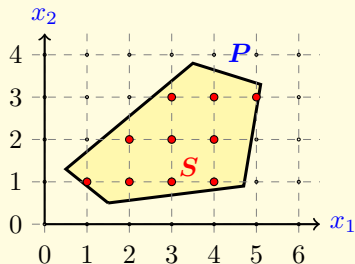
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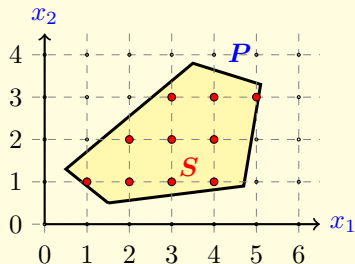
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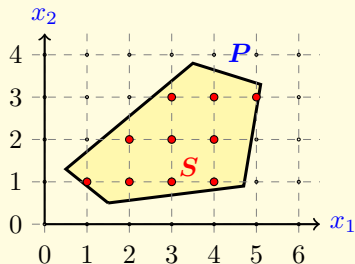
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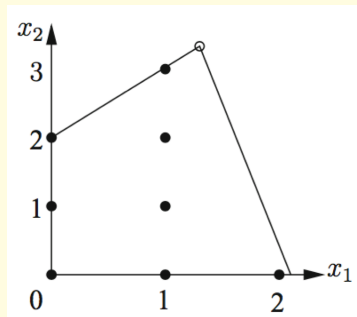
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Example: Rounding LP solutions

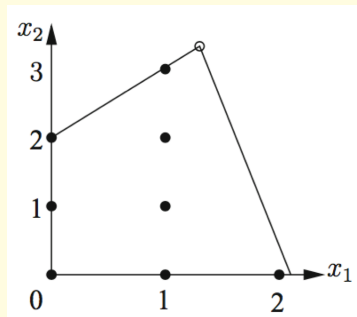
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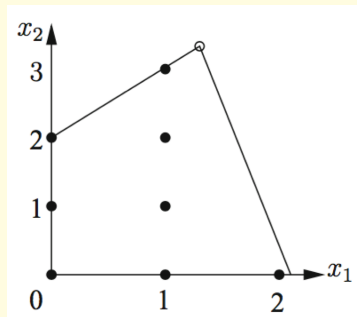
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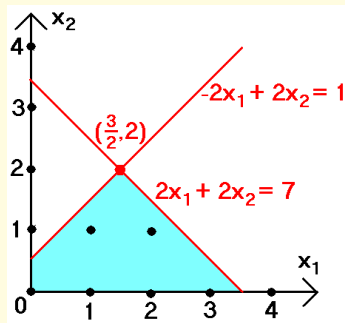
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- It also looks like we can **round** $(1.3, 3.3)$ to the optimum solution $(1, 3)$, but...

Another example: Rounding LP solutions

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & 15x_2 \\ \text{s. t.} & -2x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 1 \\ & 2x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 7 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \\ & x_1, x_2 \text{ integer}\end{array}$$

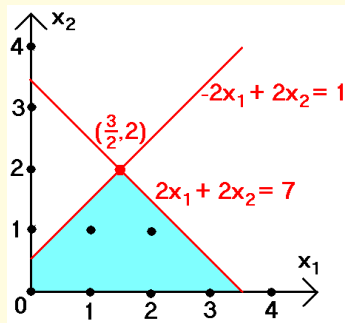


- Optimal **IP** solutions are $(1,1)$ and $(2,1)$ with obj. value 15.
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One more example: Nurse scheduling

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min \quad & x_{Su} + x_{Mo} + x_{Tu} + x_{We} + x_{Th} + x_{Fr} + x_{Sa} \\
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 & x_j \geq 0 \text{ and } \underbrace{x_j \in \mathbb{Z}}_{\text{integer}}, \quad j \in \{Su, Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa\}
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- Round-up solution $x_j = \lceil 2/5 \rceil = 1 \forall j$ is always feasible for IP (why?) with cost 7.
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Can we just round the fractional LP solution?

- We cannot always **round** the solution of the LP relaxation to the optimal solution of the IP:

1. Rounding to it a **feasible** integer solution might be impossible
2. Moreover, the IP can be **infeasible** even though the LP is feasible

Example: $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0.6 \geq x_1 \geq 0.2, 0.75 \geq x_2 \geq 0.41\}$

3. Even if rounding to an integer solution is possible, the opt. IP sol. can be arbitrarily far (different) from the opt. LP sol.
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$\lfloor x_j \rfloor$ and $\lceil x_j \rceil$ for all fractional components x_j

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Solving IPs: Branch and Bound

How do we solve an IP?

$$z^{IP} = \min c^T x \quad \text{s.t.} \quad Ax \geq b, \quad x \geq 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{Z}^n \quad (IP)$$

- Relaxing integrality gives an LP problem (easy to solve)
- Solving LP gives an lower bound z^{LP} (for minimization)
- The optimal solution x^{LP} (to LP may have fractional components, say, $x_j^{LP} \notin \mathbb{Z}$, (eg., $x_1^{LP} = 3.31$) $\implies x^{LP}$ not feasible for (IP).

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Idea: Divide the solution set, and the IP into two new **subproblems**

IP_1 and IP_2 , with **additional** constraints

$$IP_1 : x_1 \leq \lfloor x_1^{LP} \rfloor = 3 \qquad IP_2 : x_1 \geq \lceil x_1^{LP} \rceil = 4$$

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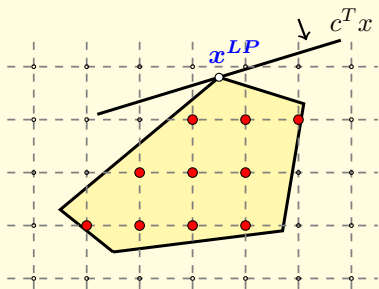
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Note: **Any** feasible (optimal) solution of IP is either in IP_1 **or** in IP_2

Note: **No** feasible solution of LP_1 **or** LP_2 can have $x_1 = 3.31$

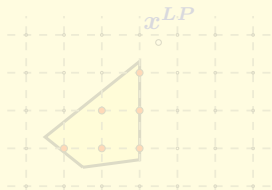
Partitioning step for integer programs



$$\begin{aligned}
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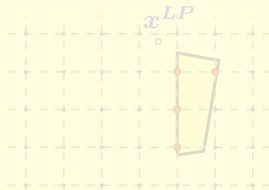
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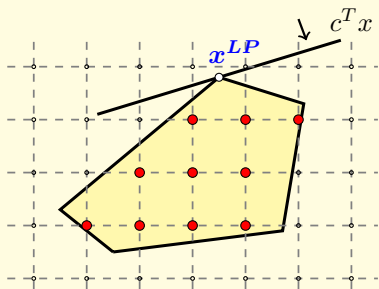
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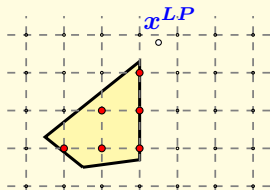
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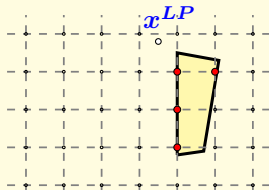
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Partitioning an IP problem into 2 subproblems

- Solve the LP relaxation:

$$z^{LP} = \min\{c^T x : x \in P\} = c^T x^{LP}$$

- Divide:

$$P_1 = P \cap \{x_1 \leq \lfloor x_1^{LP} \rfloor\} \text{ and } P_2 = P \cap \{x_1 \geq \lceil x_1^{LP} \rceil\}$$

- We have:

$$P \cap \mathbb{Z}^n = (P_1 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n) \cup (P_2 \cap \mathbb{Z}^n) \quad \longleftarrow \text{integer points}$$

- Whereas:

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More generally: Divide and conquer principle

Consider

$$z^* = \min \{f(x) : x \in S\}$$

If a collection of disjoint sets $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ satisfy

$$S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \dots \cup S_k$$

then $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ is called a partition of S

Let $z^i = \min\{f(x) : x \in S_i\}$, and $z^i \geq z_{LB}^i$ \longleftarrow a lower bound

Observation 1:

$$z^* = \min\{z^1, z^2, z^3, \dots, z^k\}$$

Observation 2:

$$z^* \leq \min\{z^1, z^3, z^8, \dots\} \quad \longleftarrow \text{some } z^i \text{'s are missing here}$$

Observation 3:

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(In branch and bound, we dynamically decide how to partition of S .)

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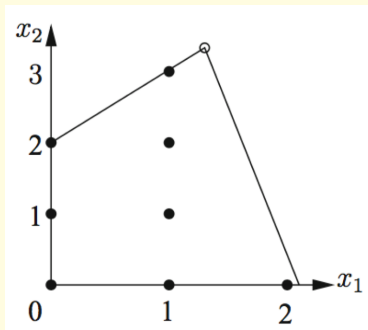
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Example

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(IP)} & \min \quad x_1 - 2x_2 \\ & \text{s. t.} \quad -x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \\ & \quad \quad 8x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 17 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \text{ integer} \end{array}$$



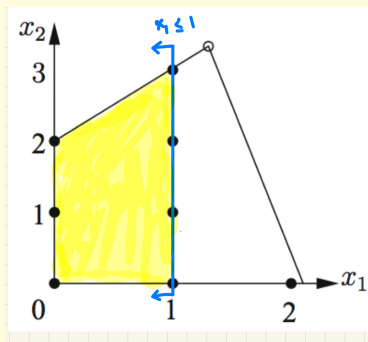
- Optimal solution to LP is $x^{\text{LP}} = (1.3, 3.3)^T$ with objective $z^{\text{LP}} = -5.3$
- We now have a lower bound for the IP: $L = -5.3$
- We can branch on either x_1 or x_2
- Choose $x_1 \Rightarrow$ Create 2 subproblems by adding the constraints:

$$(i) \ x_1 \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad (ii) \ x_1 \geq 2$$

to the IP.

Example

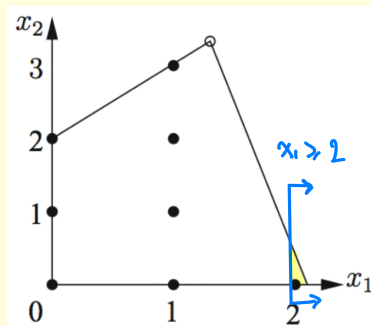
$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(IP1)} & \min \quad x_1 - 2x_2 \\ & \text{s. t.} \quad -x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \\ & \quad \quad 8x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 17 \\ & \quad \quad x_1 \leq 1 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \text{ integer} \end{array}$$



- Optimal solution to LP1 is $x^{\text{LP1}} = (1, 3)^T$ with $z^{\text{LP1}} = -5$
- As the LP solution is integral, we solved IP1 to optimality: $z^{\text{IP1}} = -5$
(We do not need to explore this subproblem anymore.)
- We now have an upper bound for the IP: $U = -5$
- Let's go back to the other subproblem IP2.

Example

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(IP2)} \quad & \min \quad x_1 - 2x_2 \\ & \text{s. t.} \quad -x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \\ & \quad \quad 8x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 17 \\ & \quad \quad x_1 \geq 2 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \text{ integer} \end{aligned}$$



- Optimal solution to LP2 is $x^{\text{LP2}} = (2, 0.5)^T$ with $z^{\text{LP2}} = 1$
- Notice that

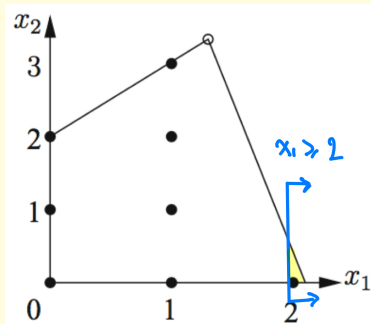
$$z^{\text{IP2}} \geq z^{\text{LP2}} = 1 > -5 = U$$

- There cannot be better integer solutions in this subproblem.
- We are done:

$$z^{\text{IP}} = -5$$

Example

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(IP2)} & \min \quad x_1 - 2x_2 \\ & \text{s. t.} \quad -x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \\ & \quad \quad 8x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 17 \\ & \quad \quad x_1 \geq 2 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \\ & \quad \quad x_1, x_2 \text{ integer} \end{array}$$



- Optimal solution to LP2 is $x^{\text{LP2}} = (2, 0.5)^T$ with $z^{\text{LP2}} = 1$
- Notice that

$$z^{\text{IP2}} \geq z^{\text{LP2}} = 1 > -5 = U$$

- There cannot be better integer solutions in this subproblem.
- We are done:

$$z^{\text{IP}} = -5$$