

An iteration in the simplex method

1. Compute simplex multipliers y and reduced costs s from

$$\begin{pmatrix} B^T & 0 \\ N^T & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y \\ s_N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_B \\ c_N \end{pmatrix}.$$

2. If $(s_N)_t < 0$, compute search direction p from

$$\begin{pmatrix} B & N \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_B \\ p_N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ e_t \end{pmatrix}.$$

3. Compute maximal steplength α_{\max} and limiting constraint r

$$\alpha_{\max} = \min_{i:(p_B)_i < 0} \frac{(x_B)_i}{-(p_B)_i}, \quad r = \operatorname{argmin}_{i:(p_B)_i < 0} \frac{(x_B)_i}{-(p_B)_i}.$$

4. Let $x = x + \alpha_{\max} p$.
5. Replace $(x_N)_t = 0$ by $(x_B)_r = 0$ among active constraints.

An iteration in the simplex method, alternatively

1. Compute simplex multipliers y and reduced costs s from

$$B^T y = c_B, \quad s_N = c_N - N^T y.$$

2. If $(s_N)_t < 0$, compute search direction p from

$$p_N = e_t, \quad B p_B = -N_t.$$

3. Compute maximal steplength α_{\max} and limiting constraint r

$$\alpha_{\max} = \min_{i:(p_B)_i < 0} \frac{(x_B)_i}{-(p_B)_i}, \quad r = \operatorname{argmin}_{i:(p_B)_i < 0} \frac{(x_B)_i}{-(p_B)_i}.$$

4. Let $x = x + \alpha_{\max} p$.
5. Replace $(x_N)_t = 0$ by $(x_B)_r = 0$ among active constraints.

The simplex method

- Primal simplex method described here. The basic solution x is feasible to (PLP). The corresponding y and s fulfill $A^T y + s = c$ and complementarity slack $x^T s = 0$. Optimal when $s \geq 0$.
- The simplex method needs an initial basic feasible solution. Can be obtained by a Phase I problem.
- The simplex method terminates if $\alpha_{\max} > 0$ in all iterations. The case $\alpha_{\max} = 0$ may occur if more than n constraints are active. Referred to as **degeneracy**. An **anticycling strategy** is required to guarantee convergence if $\alpha_{\max} = 0$.
- The simplex method takes a polynomial number of iterations "in general".
- One may construct "evil" (pathological) problems where the simplex method requires an exponential number of iterations or cycles.

An iteration in the simplex method

- Compute simplex multipliers y and reduced costs s from

$$B^T y = c_B, \quad s_N = c_N - N^T y.$$

- If $(s_N)_t < 0$, compute search direction p from

$$p_N = e_t, \quad B p_B = -N_t.$$

- Compute maximal steplength α_{\max} and limiting constraint r from

$$\alpha_{\max} = \min_{i: (p_B)_i < 0} \frac{(x_B)_i}{-(p_B)_i}, \quad r = \operatorname{argmin}_{i: (p_B)_i < 0} \frac{(x_B)_i}{-(p_B)_i}.$$

- Let $x = x + \alpha_{\max} p$.
- Replace $(x_N)_t = 0$ by $(x_B)_r = 0$ among active constraints.

Linear programming, optimality conditions

LP problems:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b, \\ & x \geq 0. \end{array} \quad (PLP) \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \max & b^T y \\ \text{subject to} & A^T y + s = c, \\ & s \geq 0. \end{array} \quad (DLP)$$

Partition $A = (B \ N)$. Let $x_N = 0$ and $s_B = 0$. The optimality conditions become

$$\begin{aligned} Bx_B &= b, \\ B^T y &= c_B, \quad N^T y + s_N = c_N, \\ x_B &\geq 0, \quad s_N \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

In the simplex method, all conditions except $s_N \geq 0$ are fulfilled throughout.

Sensitivity analysis

What happens if problem data is changed? For example if b and/or c are/is changed to \tilde{b} and \tilde{c} respectively.

For a given basis feasible solution the answer can be given "immediately" as long as the basis gives primal and dual feasibility, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} B & N \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{x}_B \\ \tilde{x}_N \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{b} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{x}_B \geq 0, \\ \begin{pmatrix} B^T & 0 \\ N^T & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{y} \\ \tilde{s}_N \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{c}_B \\ \tilde{c}_N \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{s}_N \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Primal simplex method and dual simplex method

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \min & c^T x \\
 \text{(PLP) subject to} & Ax = b, \\
 & x \geq 0.
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ll}
 \max & b^T y \\
 \text{(DLP) subject to} & A^T y + s = c, \\
 & s \geq 0.
 \end{array}$$

Partition $A = (B \ N)$. Let $x_N = 0$ and $s_B = 0$. The optimality conditions become

$$\begin{aligned}
 Bx_B &= b, \\
 B^T y &= c_B, \quad N^T y + s_N = c_N, \\
 x_B &\geq 0, \quad s_N \geq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Primal simplex method

All conditions except $s_N \geq 0$ are fulfilled throughout.

Dual simplex method

All conditions except $x_B \geq 0$ are fulfilled throughout.

An iteration in the dual simplex method

1. Compute primal basic solution x from

$$\begin{pmatrix} B & N \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_B \\ x_N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

2. If $(x_B)_t < 0$, compute search direction q, η_N from

$$\begin{pmatrix} B^T & 0 \\ N^T & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ \eta_N \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} e_t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

3. Compute maximal steplength α_{\max} and limiting constraint r

$$\alpha_{\max} = \min_{i: (\eta_N)_i < 0} \frac{(s_N)_i}{-(\eta_N)_i}, \quad r = \operatorname{argmin}_{i: (\eta_N)_i < 0} \frac{(s_N)_i}{-(\eta_N)_i}.$$

4. Let $y = y + \alpha_{\max} q$, $s_B = s_B + \alpha_{\max} e_t$, $s_N = s_N + \alpha_{\max} \eta_N$.
5. Replace $(s_B)_t = 0$ by $(s_N)_r = 0$ among active constraints.