

MA427 Lecture 4

The two phase method and the Dual Simplex

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OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

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Today's lecture

- ▶ Finite termination of Simplex: Bland's rule
- ▶ Finding an initial basis
- ▶ Dual basic solutions
- ▶ The Dual Simplex Method

Termination of the Simplex

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & z \\ & z - \sum_{j \in N} \bar{c}_j x_j = \bar{z} \\ & x_{B[i]} + \sum_{j \in N} \bar{a}_{ij} x_j = \bar{b}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & x \geq 0. \end{array}$$

New solution

$$\begin{aligned} x_k(\bar{t}) &= \bar{t}; \\ x_{B[i]}(\bar{t}) &= \bar{b}_i - \bar{t} \bar{a}_{ik}, \quad i = 1, \dots, m; \\ x_j(\bar{t}) &= 0, \quad j \in N \setminus \{k\}. \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\bar{t} = \min \left\{ \frac{\bar{b}_i}{\bar{a}_{ik}} : i = 1, \dots, m, \bar{a}_{ik} > 0 \right\}.$$

Entering variable: some x_k such that $\bar{c}_k > 0$.

Exiting variable: some $x_{B[h]}$ such that $\bar{a}_{hk} > 0$ and $\bar{t} = \frac{\bar{b}_h}{\bar{a}_{hk}}$

Termination

$$\begin{aligned}x_k(\bar{t}) &= \bar{t}; \\x_{B[i]}(\bar{t}) &= \bar{b}_i - \bar{t}\bar{a}_{ik}, \quad i = 1, \dots, m; \\x_j(\bar{t}) &= 0, \quad j \in N \setminus \{k\}.\end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{t} := \min_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\} : \bar{a}_{ik} > 0} \left\{ \frac{\bar{b}_i}{\bar{a}_{ik}} \right\}$$

- ▶ Objective value goes from \bar{z} to $\bar{z} + \bar{c}_k \bar{t}$.
- ▶ If $\bar{t} > 0$, the objective value increases strictly.
- ▶ If $\bar{t} = 0$, the basis changes, but the corresponding basic feasible solution remains the same.

Cycling example

Bad tie-breaking rule: choose the entering variable with highest reduced cost, and the exiting variable with highest column coefficient.

1	-2.3	-2.15	13.55	0.4	0	0	0
0	0.4	0.2	-1.4	-0.2	1	0	0
0	-7.8	-1.4	7.8	0.4	0	1	0

1	0	-1	5.5	-0.75	5.75	0	0
0	1	0.5	-3.5	-0.5	2.5	0	0
0	0	2.5	-19.5	-3.5	19.5	1	0

1	0	0	-2.3	-2.15	13.55	0.4	0
0	1	0	0.4	0.2	-1.4	-0.2	0
0	0	1	-7.8	-1.4	7.8	0.4	0

This is the same tableau as in the beginning, only shift by two position. Repeating other two times (i.e, after 4 other pivots), we return the original tableau.

Degeneracy

Definition

A basis B is said to be **degenerate** if $\bar{b}_i = 0$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ (where $\bar{b} = A_B^{-1}b$).

- ▶ If all bases are non-degenerate, then the Simplex Method terminates regardless of how we choose the variables that enters or leaves.
- ▶ If there are degenerate bases, we could **cycle**.

To prevent cycling, we need to be careful in how we choose the entering and exiting variables.

An anti-cycling rule

Bland's rule:

- ▶ Among all variables with positive reduced cost, choose as entering variable the variable x_k such that the index k is the smallest possible.
- ▶ Let $\bar{t} = \min\{\frac{\bar{b}_i}{\bar{a}_{ik}} : \bar{a}_{ik} > 0\}$. Choose as exiting variable the variable $x_{B[h]}$ such that $\bar{a}_{hk} > 0$, $\frac{\bar{b}_h}{\bar{a}_{hk}} = \bar{t}$, and such that $B[h]$ is smallest possible.

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$$\begin{array}{rcccccccl} z & & - & 3x_2 & - & 7x_3 & & = & 26 \\ & x_1 & + & \frac{3}{2}x_2 & + & \frac{2}{3}x_3 & & = & 18 \\ & & & 0.4x_2 & - & 0.2x_3 & & + & x_5 = 3.6 \\ & & & \frac{1}{3}x_2 & - & \frac{2}{3}x_3 & + & x_4 & = 3 \end{array}$$

QUIZ: Which are the entering and exiting variables according to Bland's rule?

(A) Enter: x_2 , exit: x_4 . (B) Enter: x_2 , exit: x_5 .

(C) Enter: x_3 , exit: x_1 .

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Theorem

The Simplex Method with Bland's pivot rule terminates for every possible instance of an LP problem and every possible choice of starting feasible basis.

Starting Simplex: how to find a feasible basis?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 4 & 2 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & -2 & -1 & -2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ -5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$x \geq 0$$

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First step: make the r.h.s. positive.

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccl} 3x_1 & + & x_2 & + & 4x_3 & + & 2x_4 & + & x_5 & = & 10 \\ 2x_1 & - & x_2 & + & 2x_3 & + & x_4 & + & 2x_5 & = & 5 \\ x_1 & + & x_2 & + & 2x_3 & - & x_4 & - & x_5 & = & 4 \end{array}$$
$$x \geq 0$$

Starting the Simplex: how to find a feasible basis?

Second step: construct the **auxiliary problem**.

$$\min x_6 + x_7 + x_8$$

$$3x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 + 2x_4 + x_5 + x_6 = 10$$

$$2x_1 - x_2 + 2x_3 + x_4 + 2x_5 + x_7 = 5$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 - x_5 + x_8 = 4$$

$$x_1, \dots, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8 \geq 0$$

Starting the Simplex: how to find a feasible basis?

Second step: construct the **auxiliary problem**.

$$w^* = \max -x_6 - x_7 - x_8$$

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NOTE:

- ▶ The auxiliary problem always has an optimum, with $w^* \leq 0$.
- ▶ If there exists a feasible solution for the initial problem, then $w^* = 0$. If there is no feasible solution, then $w^* < 0$.
- ▶ $\{6, 7, 8\}$ is a feasible basis for the auxiliary problem!

Starting the Simplex: how to find a feasible basis?

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$$x_1, \dots, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8 \geq 0$$

We write the objective function as **max** w , where

$$w + x_6 + x_7 + x_8 = 0.$$

To write the problem in tableaux form w.r.t. the basis $B = \{6, 7, 8\}$ we need to eliminate the basic variables x_6, x_7, x_8 from the objective function.

Starting the Simplex: how to find a feasible basis?

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \max w & & & \\ w - 6x_1 - x_2 - 8x_3 - 2x_4 - 2x_5 & = & -19 & \\ 3x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 + 2x_4 + x_5 + x_6 & = & 10 & \\ 2x_1 - x_2 + 2x_3 + x_4 + 2x_5 + x_7 & = & 5 & \\ x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 - x_5 + x_8 & = & 4 & \\ x_1, \dots, x_8 \geq 0 & & & \end{array}$$

Solving, we get the following optimal tableau ...

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0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
0	1	0	2	0	1	-1	-1	1
1	0	0	6	3	2	-1	-3	3
0	0	1	$-\frac{9}{2}$	-2	$-\frac{3}{2}$	1	$\frac{5}{2}$	0

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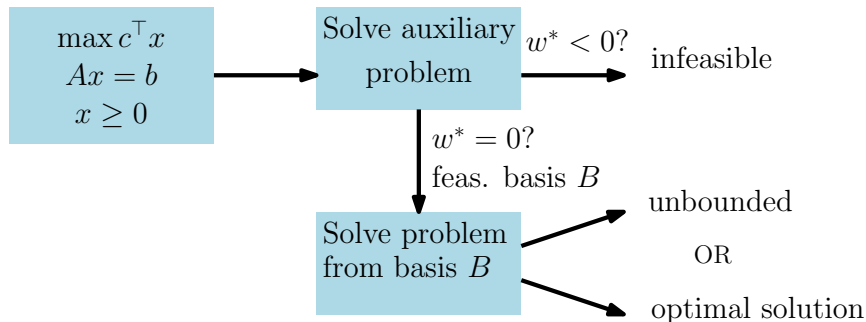
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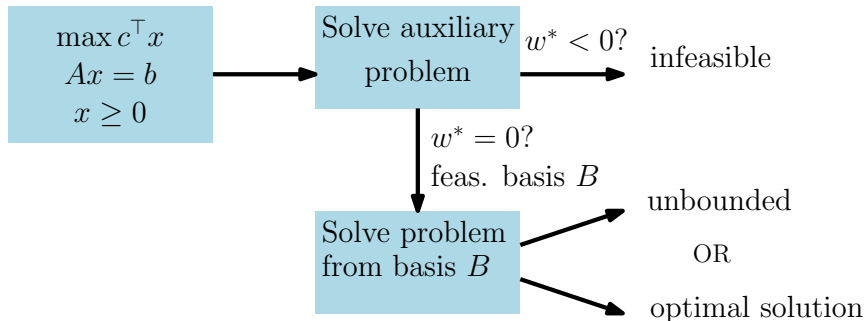
$$w^* = 0 \implies x_6^*, x_7^*, x_8^* = 0.$$

This gives a basic feasible solution to start the original LP:
 $(3, 1, 0, 0, 0)$, determined by the basis $\{1, 2, 3\}$.

The Two-Phase method



The Two-Phase method



Theorem (Fundamental Theorem of LP)

For every LP problem, one of the following holds: the problem has an optimum, the problem is infeasible, or the problem is unbounded.

Dual solutions for problems in standard form

We assume that the LP is in **standard equality form**.

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & c^\top x \\ & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Assumption: $\text{rk}(A) = m$.

The dual problem is

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & b^\top y \\ & A^\top y \geq c. \end{aligned} \quad (D)$$

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If the primal has an optimal solution, the dual also has an optimal solution. Furthermore, there exists a dual optimal solution which is **basic**.

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How does a basic dual solution look like?

Dual solutions for problems in standard form

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & b^\top y \\ & A^\top y \geq c. \end{array} \quad (D)$$

- ▶ A vector $\bar{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is a basic solution for (D) if it satisfies m linearly independent constraints of the system at equality.

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- ▶ I.e., there exists a set $B \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ with m elements such that

$$A_i^\top \bar{y} = c_i, \forall i \in B$$

and such that all the vectors A_i , $i \in B$, are linearly independent.

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- ▶ This means that \bar{y} is basic for (D) if and only if there exists a basis B such that

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- ▶ This means that \bar{y} is basic for (D) if and only if there exists a basis B such that

$$A_B^\top \bar{y} = c_B.$$

$$\implies \bar{y} = (A_B^\top)^{-1} c_B.$$

Simplex and duality

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max c^\top x & \\ Ax = b & (P) \\ x \geq 0 & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \min b^\top y & \\ A^\top y \geq c & (D) \end{array}$$

Let B be a basis. Primal solution associated to B :

$$\bar{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}_B \\ \bar{x}_N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_B^{-1} b \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Dual solution associated to B

$$\bar{y} = (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B.$$

Note:

$$c^\top \bar{x} = c_B^\top \bar{x}_B = c_B^\top A_B^{-1} b = b^\top \bar{y}.$$

\implies If \bar{x} and \bar{y} are feasible, \bar{x} and \bar{y} are optimal.

Simplex and duality

\bar{y} is feasible if $A^\top \bar{y} \geq c^\top$:

$$A_B^\top \bar{y} \geq c_B$$

$$A_N^\top \bar{y} \geq c_N$$

By definition of \bar{y} , $A_B^\top \bar{y} = c_B$. Hence \bar{y} is feasible iff

$$A_N^\top (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B \geq c_N.$$

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$$c_N - A_N^\top (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B \leq 0.$$

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$$\bar{c}_N = c_N - A_N^\top (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B \leq 0.$$

The slacks of \bar{y} are the reduced costs!

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$$A_N^\top (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B \geq c_N.$$

\implies

$$\bar{c}_N = c_N - A_N^\top (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B \leq 0.$$

The slacks of \bar{y} are the reduced costs!

\bar{y} is feasible for the dual if and only if the reduced costs associated to B are non-positive.

Simplex and duality

Definition

- ▶ The basis B is *primal feasible* if the corresponding basic solution is feasible, i.e. if $A_B^{-1}b \geq 0$.
- ▶ The basis B is *dual feasible* if the corresponding dual solution is feasible, i.e. if $c_N - A_N^T(A_B^{-1})^T c_B \leq 0$.
- ▶ If B is both primal feasible and dual feasible, then we say that B is an *optimal basis*.

Simplex and duality: example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1.5 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.3 & 0.5 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 27 \\ 21 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}, \quad c = \begin{bmatrix} 130 \\ 100 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \{1, 4, 5\}.$$

$$A_B^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{2}{3} & 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{5} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_B^{-1}b = \begin{bmatrix} 18 \\ 3 \\ 3.6 \end{bmatrix} \geq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{y} = (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{5} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 130 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{260}{3} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Basis is primal feasible but not dual feasible (\bar{y} violates the second dual constraint).

Simplex and duality: example

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$$B = \{1, 2, 5\}.$$

$$A_B^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 0 \\ -2 & 3 & 0 \\ 0.4 & -0.9 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad A_B^{-1}b = \begin{bmatrix} 12 \\ 9 \\ 0.9 \end{bmatrix} \geq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{y} = (A_B^{-1})^\top c_B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 0.4 \\ -2 & 3 & -0.9 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 130 \\ 100 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 60 \\ 40 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Basis is primal feasible and dual feasible \implies **optimal basis**.

Proof of the Strong Duality Theorem

Theorem (Strong Duality Theorem)

If the primal problem has an optimal solution x^ , then also the dual has an optimal solution y^* , and*

$$c^\top x^* = b^\top y^*.$$

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Proof.

Apply the two phases method with Bland's rule. It terminates. The Primal Simplex maintains a primal feasible basis at every iteration. It terminates when reduced costs are all non-positive. This means that the basis is also dual feasible. The primal and dual solution determined have the same value. □

Dual Simplex Method

- ▶ **The (Primal) Simplex Method** maintains at each iteration a **primal feasible basis** until it finds an optimal basis (i.e., a basis that is also dual feasible).

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Dual Simplex Method

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- ▶ **The Dual Simplex Method** maintains at each iteration a **dual feasible basis** until it finds an optimal basis (i.e., a basis that is also primal feasible).
- ▶ Main motivations for studying the Dual Simplex Method:
 - ▶ It is more efficient in practice;
 - ▶ It is widely used in Integer Programming, both in the **Branch-and-Bound method** and in the **Cutting Planes method**. (We will see this in a few lectures)

Dual Simplex Method

Let B be dual feasible.

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \max & z & & \\ & z & - \sum_{j \in N} \bar{c}_j x_j & = \bar{z} \\ & x_{B[i]} & + \sum_{j \in N} \bar{a}_{ij} x_j & = \bar{b}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & x & & \geq 0. \end{array}$$

- Dual feasible means $\bar{c}_j \leq 0$ for all $j \in N$.

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- ▶ Dual feasible means $\bar{c}_j \leq 0$ for all $j \in N$.
- ▶ if $\bar{b}_i \geq 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$, then B is optimal.

Dual Simplex Method

Let B be dual feasible.

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \max & z & & \\ & z & - \sum_{j \in N} \bar{c}_j x_j & = \bar{z} \\ & x_{B[i]} & + \sum_{j \in N} \bar{a}_{ij} x_j & = \bar{b}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & x & & \geq 0. \end{array}$$

- ▶ Dual feasible means $\bar{c}_j \leq 0$ for all $j \in N$.
- ▶ if $\bar{b}_i \geq 0$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$, then B is optimal.
- ▶ Suppose there exists h such that $\bar{b}_h < 0$.
We select $x_{B[h]}$ to leave the basis. Who enters?

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If x_k enters, the new reduced costs \tilde{c}_j are

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{c}_{B[h]} &= -\frac{\bar{c}_k}{\bar{a}_{hk}}, \\ \tilde{c}_j &= \bar{c}_j - \frac{\bar{c}_k}{\bar{a}_{hk}} \bar{a}_{hj}, j \in N \setminus \{k\} \end{aligned}$$

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- This happens if and only if we select x_k such that $\bar{a}_{hk} < 0$ and

$$\frac{\bar{c}_k}{\bar{a}_{hk}} \leq \frac{\bar{c}_j}{\bar{a}_{hj}} \text{ for every } j \in N \setminus \{k\} \text{ such that } \bar{a}_{hj} < 0.$$

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- **Q.** What if $\bar{a}_{hj} \geq 0$ for all $j \in N$?

Dual Simplex Method

Input: $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$, a *dual feasible basis* $B = \{B[1], \dots, B[m]\}$;

Output: *Either an optimal solution \bar{x} for (P) , or we determine that (P) is infeasible.*

1. Compute the tableau with respect to the current basis B ;
2. If $\bar{b} \geq 0$, then B is optimal, STOP.
3. Otherwise, choose an index h such that $\bar{b}_h < 0$;
 - 3a. If $\bar{a}_{hj} \geq 0 \ \forall j \in N$, then the problem is infeasible, STOP.
 - 3b. Otherwise, choose $k \in N$ such that

$$\bar{a}_{hk} < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\bar{c}_k}{\bar{a}_{hk}} = \min \left\{ \frac{\bar{c}_j}{\bar{a}_{hj}} : j \in N, \bar{a}_{hj} < 0 \right\};$$

Set $B[h] := k$, return to 1.

Example

$$\begin{array}{rcllcl} \max & -3x_1 & -4x_2 & -5x_3 & & \\ & 2x_1 & +2x_2 & +x_3 & \geq & 6 \\ & x_1 & +2x_2 & -3x_3 & \geq & 5 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 & \geq & 0 & & \end{array}$$

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Add “surplus variables” x_4 and x_5 and write in tableau form w.r.t. the basis $\{4, 5\}$, which is dual feasible because the reduced costs are nonpositive.

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \max z & & & \\ z & +3x_1 & +4x_2 & +5x_3 = 0 \\ & -2x_1 & -2x_2 & -x_3 +x_4 = -6 \\ & -x_1 & -2x_2 & +3x_3 +x_5 = -5 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

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x_4 leaves the basis and x_1 enters because $\min\{3/2, 4/2, 5/1\} = 3/2$.

Example

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccl} z & & +x_2 & +\frac{7}{2}x_3 & \frac{3}{2}x_4 & & = & -9 \\ x_1 & +x_2 & +\frac{1}{2}x_3 & -\frac{1}{2}x_4 & & & = & 3 \\ & -x_2 & +\frac{7}{2}x_3 & -\frac{1}{2}x_4 & +x_5 & = & -2 \end{array}$$

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x_5 leaves the basis and x_2 enters because $\{\frac{1}{1}, \cdot, \frac{3/2}{1/2}\} = 1$

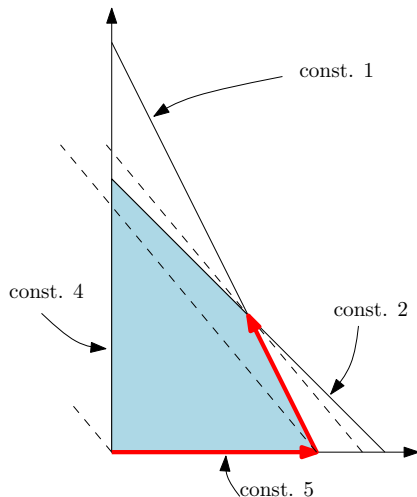
$$\begin{array}{rcccccl} z & & +7x_3 & +x_4 & +x_5 & = & -11 \\ x_1 & & -2x_3 & -x_4 & +x_5 & = & 1 \\ x_2 & +\frac{5}{2}x_3 & +\frac{1}{2}x_4 & +x_5 & & = & 2 \end{array}$$

In the dual space:

$$\begin{array}{llll} \min & -6y_1 & -5y_2 & \\ & -2y_1 & -y_2 & \geq -3 \\ & -2y_1 & -2y_2 & \geq -4 \\ & -y_1 & +3y_2 & \geq -5 \\ & y_1 & & \geq 0 \\ & & y_2 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Active dual constraints:

- ▶ $\{4, 5\}$ - Dual sol. $(0, 0)$
- ▶ $\{1, 5\}$ - Dual sol. $(\frac{3}{2}, 0)$
- ▶ $\{1, 2\}$ - Dual sol. $(1, 1)$



Termination of the Dual Simplex

Let B be a dual feasible basis,

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- Suppose $x_{B[h]}$ exits the basis and x_k enters. What is the new value in the objective function?

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- At every iteration the objective value does not increase (and in fact it decreases if $\bar{c}_k < 0$).

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- At every iteration the objective value does not increase (and in fact it decreases if $\bar{c}_k < 0$).
- Indeed, the dual problem is a minimization problem, so we are finding “better” dual solutions.

Bland's rule

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- ▶ As in the Primal Simplex, the objective value might not improve from one iteration to the next (i.e. if $\bar{c}_k = 0$).
 - ▶ The following “dual” variant of Bland's rule ensures that the Dual Simplex Method terminates.
- ▶ Among all variables eligible to exit the basis (i.e. $x_{B[i]}$ s.t. $\bar{b}_i < 0$), choose the one with smallest subscript.
 - ▶ Among all variables eligible to enter the basis, choose the one with smallest subscript.