

Linear Systems and Tableaus
Optimization Methods in Management Science
Master in Management
HEC Lausanne

Dr. Rodrigue Ouevray

Fall 2019 Semester

Linear Systems and Tableaus

- Reminder about linear systems
- Bases and basic solutions
- Pivoting and pivoting matrix
- Tableau
- Pivoting in a tableau
- Geometric interpretation

A Linear System

- We consider the system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ with

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- They are **4 variables** and **2 equations**
- What are the **solutions** of this system ?
- This is a classical problem in **linear algebra**

Reminders About Linear Systems

- Let $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ be a system of linear equation with \mathbf{A} a $m \times n$ matrix with $m \leq n$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = m$
- To determine all the solutions of the system, we need to choose m **linearly independent columns** of \mathbf{A} that form a basis of the **column space** of \mathbf{A} (and consequently of \mathbb{R}^m) and to express the system in that base
- Let \mathbf{B} be an invertible matrix comprised of m linearly independent columns of \mathbf{A} . After a permutation \mathbf{P} of the columns of \mathbf{A} , then \mathbf{A} is transformed into a matrix $(\mathbf{N} \mid \mathbf{B})$. This is denoted by

$$\mathbf{A} \stackrel{\mathbf{P}}{=} (\mathbf{N} \mid \mathbf{B})$$

Reminders About Linear Systems (Cont'd)

With this permutation, the linear system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ can be rewritten as:

$$(\mathbf{N} \mid \mathbf{B}) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_N \\ \mathbf{x}_B \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{b}$$

Let's multiply the preceding system by \mathbf{B}^{-1}

$$\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{N} \mid \mathbf{B}) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_N \\ \mathbf{x}_B \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{N}\mathbf{x}_N + \mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

To determine the solutions of the system, we arbitrarily choose some values of \mathbf{x}_N (the free variables) and we compute the remaining values of \mathbf{x}_B

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_N &= \mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^{n-m} \\ \mathbf{x}_B &= \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{N}\mathbf{s} \end{cases}$$

Reminders About Linear Systems (Cont'd)

From the following equations:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_N &= \mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^{n-m} \\ \mathbf{x}_B &= \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{N}\mathbf{s} \end{cases}$$

we conclude that the set of solutions S of the system $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is given by

$$S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_N \\ \mathbf{x}_B \end{pmatrix} \mid \mathbf{x}_N \in \mathbb{R}^{n-m}, \mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{N}\mathbf{x}_N \right\}$$

Example

We consider the previous example given by the system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ with

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We select columns 2 and 4 of \mathbf{A} to form a basis of the column space $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A})$ of matrix \mathbf{A} . The matrix \mathbf{B} formed by these 2 columns and its inverse are

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example (Cont'd)

Let's pre-multiply the augmented matrix $(\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{b})$ by \mathbf{B}^{-1}

$$\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{b}) = \left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} -2 & \color{red}{1} & 2 & \color{red}{0} & 1 \\ 1 & \color{red}{0} & 0 & \color{red}{1} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

The system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ expressed in base \mathbf{B} is:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lclcl} \color{red}{x_2} & = & 1 & + & 2x_1 & - & 2x_3 \\ \color{red}{x_4} & = & & - & x_1 & & \end{array} \right.$$

Example (Cont'd)

Consequently, the set of solutions of $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ is

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = s \\ x_2 = 1 + 2s - 2t \\ x_3 = t \\ x_4 = -s \end{cases}$$

with $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$. This can be expressed as:

$$S = \left\{ \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + s \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, s, t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

Bases and Basic Variables

Let $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ be a system of linear equations with $\mathbf{A} : m \times n$, $m \leq n$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = m$. Then:

- Every matrix \mathbf{B} formed by m linearly independent column of \mathbf{A} is an **ordered basis** of the system
- Columns forming \mathbf{B} are called **basic**, the other **non-basic**
- Variables corresponding to the columns of \mathbf{B} are called **basic**, the other **non-basic**
- By extension, we call a **basis** the **ordered** list of basic variables or their indices. It is denoted by \mathcal{B}

Basic Solutions

Let $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ be a system of equations with $\mathbf{A} : m \times n$, $m \leq n$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = m$. Let \mathbf{B} be a base of \mathbf{A} . Then:

- In base \mathbf{B} , the system can be written as

$$\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{N}\mathbf{x}_N + \mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

- The particular solution obtained by fixing non-basic variables \mathbf{x}_N to $\mathbf{0}$ is called a **basic solution corresponding to base \mathbf{B}** . It is given by:

$$\mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}_N = \mathbf{0}$$

Example

We consider the system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ with an augmented matrix $(\mathbf{A} \ \mathbf{b})$ given by:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

For base $\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ ($\mathcal{B} = \{2, 4\}$),

- the **basic** variables are $\mathbf{x}_\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$
- the **non-basic** variables are $\mathbf{x}_\mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix}$

The **basic solution** corresponding to \mathbf{B} is

$$\mathbf{x}_\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}_\mathbf{N} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Basic Solution of a Standard LP

- Let's consider a standard LP:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathbf{Ax}_D & + & \mathbf{Ix}_E = \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{x}_D & , & \mathbf{x}_E \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

- The matrix $(\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{I})$ has a size of $m \times (n + m)$ and is of full rank
- If we choose the initial base $\mathbf{B}_0 = \mathbf{I}$ formed by the slack variables, then the basic solution is given by

$$\mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{x}_E = \mathbf{b} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}_N = \mathbf{x}_D = \mathbf{0}$$

- They are m basic variables and n non-basic variables

Basic Solution of a Standard LP (Cont'd)

For any basis \mathbf{B} , its basic solution is obtained by fixing the n non-basic variables to 0

- If the i th slack variable (x_{n+i}) is fixed to 0, then the solutions lie in the following hyperplan:

$$a_{i1}x_1 + \dots + a_{in}x_n = b_i$$

- If the j th decision variable is fixed to 0, the solutions lie in the following hyperplan:

$$x_j = 0$$

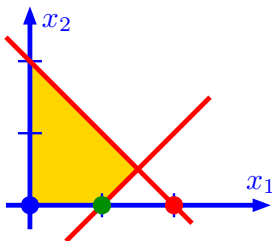
Consequently, the basic solution lies **at the intersection of the n hyperplans corresponding to the non-basic variables**

Basic Solution of a Standard LP (Cont'd)

- Consequence: for a problem with **two decision variables**, the basic solutions correspond to the intersections of the straight lines defined by the constraints, **including** non-negativity constraints
- If the basic solution lies on the edge of the feasible region, all the variables are non-negative and the solution is **feasible**
- If it is not the case, the solution is **not feasible**
- A base is **feasible** if and only if its basic solution is also **feasible**

Example

- The **yellow** zone is the feasible region
- The **blue** point is a **basic feasible** solution
- The **green** point is also a **basic feasible** solution
- The **red** point is a **basic solution** but it is not **feasible**



Pivoting: Reminder

A **pivoting** is a sequence of elementary operations on the rows of a matrix $(\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{b})$. More precisely, pivoting around a pivot $a_{ir} \neq 0$ corresponds to

- (1) **Isolate variable x_r in the i th equation.** Concretely, divide the i th row of $(\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{b})$ by a_{ir}
- (2) **Eliminate by substitution x_r in the other equations.** Concretely, subtract to the other rows of $(\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{b})$ some multiple of the i th row in order to eliminate the variable x_r from the other equations

Example

We would like to find the basic solution corresponding to $\mathcal{B} = \{1, 2, 4\}$.

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} 2 & 0 & -2 & 4 & 6 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & -4 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

Pivot around a_{11} :

Divide the first row by a_{11}

Remove x_1 from the second row

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 & -2 & 5 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & -4 & -1 \end{array} \right)$$

Pivot around a_{22} :

Change the sign of the 2nd row

Remove x_2 from the third row

Example (Cont'd)

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & -1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -5 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 5 \end{array} \right)$$

Pivot around a_{34}

$$\left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & -5 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 1 & 12 & 0 & 19 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 5 \end{array} \right)$$

Final output

The basic solution corresponding to $\mathcal{B} = \{1, 2, 4\}$ is

$$x_1 = -7, \quad x_2 = 19, \quad x_4 = 5 \quad \text{and} \quad x_3 = 0$$

Pivoting Matrix

Pivoting corresponds to premultiplying the matrix $(\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{b})$ by a **pivoting matrix**. It differs from the identity matrix by only 1 column. For a pivot a_{ir} , the pivoting matrix is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \overset{r\text{th col}}{-a_{1r}/a_{ir}} & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 1/a_{ir} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & -a_{mr}/a_{ir} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \\ \\ i\text{th row} \\ \\ \end{matrix}$$

Explanation: the first row of this matrix corresponds to the operation consisting in subtracting a_{1r}/a_{ir} times the i th row to the first row; the i th row to the division of i th row by a_{ir}

Example

The three pivoting matrices of the previous example are:

$$\mathbf{P}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{P}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{P}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

One can check that:

$$\mathbf{P}_3 \mathbf{P}_2 \mathbf{P}_1 \left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} 2 & 0 & -2 & 4 & 6 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & -4 & -1 \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 0 & -5 & 0 & -7 \\ 0 & 1 & 12 & 0 & 19 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 5 \end{array} \right)$$

Definition of a Tableau

A **tableau** is an augmented matrix corresponding to a **standard** LP

$$\text{Max } (z, \text{ s.t. } x_D, x_E \geq 0)$$

Stand. LP

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} Ax_D & + & Ix_E & & = & b \\ \hline -c_D x_D & - & 0x_E & + & z & = & 0 \end{array}$$

Tableau

$$T_0 = \begin{array}{c|cc|c|c} & x_D & x_E & z & \\ \hline & A & I & 0 & b \\ \hline & -c_D & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

Initial Basis Associated With a Tableau

- A tableau is always associated with a basis of a system of equations
- For a standard LP obtained after adding some slack variables to a canonical form, the initial basis of the system is formed by the columns of the slack variables. We have that $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{B}^{-1} = \mathbf{I}$
- A tableau has an additional row corresponding to the objective function of the problem. The basis associated with the initial tableau is formed by column of slack variables + variable z

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{array} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{B}}^{-1} = \hat{\mathbf{B}}$$

Basis Associated With a Tableau

For some basis \mathbf{B} of a system of constraints of a standard LP, the basis matrix of the tableau and its inverse are:

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline -\mathbf{c}_B & 1 \end{array} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{B}}^{-1} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{B}^{-1} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{c}_B \mathbf{B}^{-1} & 1 \end{array} \right).$$

The tableau corresponding to basis \mathbf{B} (more precisely $\hat{\mathbf{B}}$) is

$$\mathbf{T}_{\hat{\mathbf{B}}} = \hat{\mathbf{B}}^{-1} \mathbf{T}_0 =$$

x_D	x_E	z	
$\mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A}$	\mathbf{B}^{-1}	0	$\mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b}$
$\mathbf{c}_B \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{c}_D$	$\mathbf{c}_B \mathbf{B}^{-1}$	1	$\mathbf{c}_B \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b}$

In a tableau \mathbf{T} , the variable z is always the last variable in the basis. We can associate to \mathbf{T} either \mathbf{B} or $\hat{\mathbf{B}}$

Example

Let's consider the following problem in standard form:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \text{Max} & (z, \text{ s.t. } x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 \geq 0) & & \\ \text{with} & 2x_1 + 3x_2 + x_3 & = & 42 \\ & -4x_1 + 6x_2 + x_4 & = & 0 \\ & x_1 + x_5 & = & 15 \\ \hline & -250x_1 - 450x_2 + z & = & 0 \end{array}$$

and $T_0 =$

x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5	z	
2	3	1	0	0	0	42
-4	6	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	15
-250	-450	0	0	0	1	0

Reading The Basic Solution

Let \mathbf{B} be a basis of the system of constraints of a standard LP.

$$T_0 \stackrel{P}{=} \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} & x_N & x_B & z \\ \hline & \mathbf{N} & \mathbf{B} & 0 \quad \mathbf{b} \\ \hline & -\mathbf{c}_N & -\mathbf{c}_B & 1 \quad 0 \end{array}$$

$$T_{\hat{B}} \stackrel{P}{=} \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} & x_N & x_B & z \\ \hline & \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{N} & \mathbf{I} & 0 \quad \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} \\ \hline & \mathbf{c}_B\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{N} - \mathbf{c}_N & 0 & 1 \quad \mathbf{c}_B\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} \end{array}$$

The values of the basic variables in \mathbf{B} can be read from the **last** column of the tableau:

$$x_B = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} \quad (x_N = 0)$$

Feasible Tableau

- A tableau is **feasible** only and only if its **basic solution** is feasible:

$$T_B \text{ is feasible} \iff B^{-1}b \geq 0$$

Characteristics of
a **feasible** tableau

x_D			x_E			Z	
						0	\oplus
						\vdots	\vdots
						0	\oplus
*	...	*	*	...	*	1	*

- The symbol * means any real value and \oplus any non-negative number (zero or a number larger than zero)

Example

The initial tableau below is feasible

$$\mathbf{T}_0 = \begin{array}{c|cccccc|c} & x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 & z & \\ \hline & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 42 \\ & -4 & 6 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 15 \\ \hline & -250 & -450 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

Its basic solution is:

$$\mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{x}_E = \begin{pmatrix} x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 42 \\ 0 \\ 15 \end{pmatrix} \geq \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}_N = \mathbf{x}_D = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

Pivoting in a Tableau

- Pivoting around element (i, r) has the effect of replacing the i th variable in the basis by x_r
- In every tableau T_B , the matrix \hat{B}^{-1} can be found below the slack variables and variable z

$$T_B = \begin{array}{c|ccc|c} & x_D & x_E & z & \\ \hline & B^{-1}A & \hat{B}^{-1} & 0 & B^{-1}b \\ \hline c_B B^{-1}A - c_D & c_B \hat{B}^{-1} & 1 & c_B B^{-1}b \end{array}$$

Pivoting and Adjacency

- Two bases are **adjacent** if they only differ by one variable
- This relationship is defined on **non-ordered** bases: $\mathcal{B}_1 = \{1, 7, 3, 5\}$ and $\mathcal{B}_2 = \{5, 1, 7, 2\}$ are adjacent
- Two basic solutions or two tableaus are **adjacent** if their bases are adjacent

Index of the Variables in the Current Basis

- To which variable corresponds the i th variable in the current basis ?
- We denote by σ the function returning the index of the i th basic variable
- For instance, we have $\sigma(1) = 2$, $\sigma(2) = 6$ and $\sigma(3) = 3$ for the basis $\mathcal{B} = \{2, 6, 3\}$

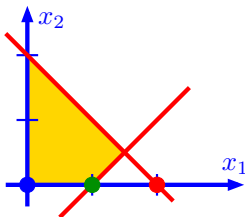
Geometric Interpretation of a Pivoting (1)

Let's consider the following canonical LP:

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{Max} & z = & 2x_1 & + \quad x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & & x_1 & + \quad x_2 \leq 2 \\ & & x_1 & - \quad x_2 \leq 1 \\ & & x_1 & , \quad x_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$$T_0 = \begin{array}{ccccc|c|c} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & z & & \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \\ \hline -2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \end{array}$$

The **basic** solution corresponds to $x_3 = 2$, $x_4 = 1$, $x_1 = x_2 = 0$. We are at the origin of the axes (**blue** point). This solution is **feasible** and $\sigma(1) = 3$, $\sigma(2) = 4$



Geometric Interpretation of a Pivoting (2)

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{Max} & z = & 2x_1 & + \quad x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & & x_1 & + \quad x_2 \leq 2 \\ & & x_1 & - \quad x_2 \leq 1 \\ & & x_1 & , \quad x_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$$T_0 = \begin{array}{ccccc|cc} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & z & \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline -2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

If x_1 enters the basis, then it can replace x_3 or x_4 . As x_2 keeps outside the basis, then we move along the x_1 axis

- If x_1 replaces x_3 (pivot α_{11}), then $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 0, x_4 = -1$ (red point). This solution is **not feasible**
- If x_1 replaces x_4 (pivot α_{21}), then $x_1 = 1, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1, x_4 = 0$ (green point). This solution is **feasible**

