

Duality in Linear Programming
Optimization Methods in Management Science
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Duality in Linear Programming

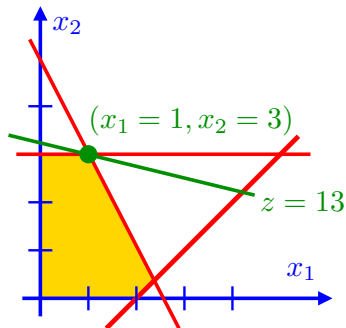
Duality:

- Motivation
- Dual problem of a canonical LP
- Dualization rules
- Weak and strong duality
- Complementary slack theorem
- Economic interpretation of the dual variables at the optimum

Motivation

Let's consider the following LP:

$$\begin{array}{llllll} \text{Max} & z = & x_1 & + & 4x_2 & \\ \text{s.t.} & & x_1 & - & x_2 & \leq 2 \\ & & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & \leq 5 \\ & & & & x_2 & \leq 3 \\ & & x_1 & , & x_2 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$



with a feasible solution: $x_1 = 1, x_2 = 3$ and $z = 13$

How to find a bound w to this LP such that $z \leq w$ for all the feasible solutions ?

Reminders About Inequalities

- Every conical combination (non-negative coefficients) of inequalities of the same type still provides a valid inequation
- Every linear combination of equalities still provides a valid equation
- It is possible to combine inequations with equations to obtain a valid inequation

Reminders About Inequalities: Examples

Example 1:

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 2x_1 & + & x_2 & \leq & 3 & \times & 3 \\ 5x_1 & - & 3x_2 & \leq & 5 & \times & 1 \\ \hline 11x_1 & & & \leq & 14 & & \end{array}$$

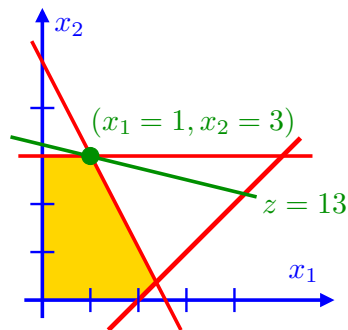
Example 2:

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} x_1 & + & 2x_2 & \leq & 3 & \times & 4 \\ 3x_1 & - & x_2 & = & 5 & \times & -1 \\ x_1 & + & x_2 & \geq & 2 & \times & -2 \\ \hline -x_1 & + & 7x_2 & \leq & 3 & & \end{array}$$

How to Find a Bound to a LP ?

Same example has before :

$$\begin{array}{llllll} \text{Max} & z = & x_1 & + & 4x_2 & \\ \text{s.t.} & & x_1 & - & x_2 & \leq 2 \\ & & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & \leq 5 \\ & & & & x_2 & \leq 3 \\ & & x_1 & , & x_2 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$



with a feasible solution: $x_1 = 1, x_2 = 3$ and $z = 13$

How to Find a Bound to a LP (Cont'd) ?

Let's multiply by 4 the second constraint ($2x_1 + x_2 \leq 5$):

$$8x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 20$$

For every pair (x_1, x_2) with **non-negative** values:

$$x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 8x_1 + 4x_2$$

Consequently, for every feasible solution of the LP we have that:

$$z = x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 8x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 20$$

We conclude that the optimal solution is **bounded** by 20:

$$z^* \leq 20$$

Can We Do Better ?

The inequation that we get by adding the first constraint and 5 times the third one is:

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} x_1 & - & x_2 & \leq & 2 & \times & 1 \\ & & x_2 & \leq & 3 & \times & 5 \\ \hline x_1 & + & 4x_2 & \leq & 17 & & \end{array}$$

For every feasible solution of the LP, we get that:

$$z = x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 17$$

This result also holds at the optimum:

$$z^* \leq 17$$

Can We Do Better ? (Cont'd)

- By adding $1/2$ times the second constraint and $7/2$ times the third one, we get:

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} 2x_1 & + & x_2 & \leq & 5 & \times & 1/2 \\ & & x_2 & \leq & 3 & \times & 7/2 \\ \hline x_1 & + & 4x_2 & \leq & 13 & & \end{array}$$

- For every feasible solution, we get:

$$z = x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 13$$

- We conclude that the LP is bounded by 13
- As the feasible solution $x_1 = 1, x_2 = 3$ has a value of 13 corresponding to the value of this bound, then the inequality $z = x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 13$ gives us an **optimality certificate**
- Concretely, it is not possible to find another feasible solution for which the objective function value is strictly larger than 13

Generalization

- Every conical combination of constraints of a canonical LP is still valid, i.e. is satisfied by the system of constraints:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} a_{11}x_1 & + & \dots & + & a_{1n}x_n & \leq & b_1 \\ \dots & & \dots & & \dots & & \dots \\ a_{m1}x_1 & + & \dots & + & a_{mn}x_n & \leq & b_m \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \times y_1 \geq 0 \\ \\ \times y_m \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m (y_i a_{i1})x_1 + \dots + \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i a_{in})x_n \leq \sum_{i=1}^m y_i b_i$$

- If $c_1 \leq \sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{i1}, \dots, c_n \leq \sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{in}$, then we have that

$$z = c_1x_1 + \dots + c_nx_n \leq \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i a_{i1})x_1 + \dots + \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i a_{in})x_n \leq \sum_{i=1}^m y_i b_i$$

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

Generalization (Cont'd)

To find the best upper bound, i.e. the smallest one, we need to solve the following LP:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{Min} & w = \sum_{i=1}^m y_i b_i \\ \text{s.t.} & \sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{i1} \geq c_1 \\ & \dots \\ & \sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{in} \geq c_n \\ & y_1, \dots, y_m \geq 0\end{array}$$

This problem is called **the dual linear program** of the initial **primal** canonical LP

Dual Program of a Canonical LP

To each canonical LP:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Max} & z = \mathbf{c}\mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array} \quad (\text{PLP})$$

corresponds a **dual program** given by:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Min} & w = \mathbf{y}\mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{y}^T \geq \mathbf{c}^T \\ & \mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array} \quad (\text{DLP})$$

Important Remark

We consider here \mathbf{y} and \mathbf{c} as **row** vectors and \mathbf{b} as a **column** vector. By doing so, $\mathbf{y}\mathbf{b}$ is the scalar product between \mathbf{y} and \mathbf{b} . The product $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{y}^T$ is a column vector as well as \mathbf{c}^T . Note that $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{y}^T \geq \mathbf{c}^T \iff \mathbf{y}\mathbf{A} \geq \mathbf{c}$

Dual Program of a Canonical LP (Cont'd)

- The variables \mathbf{y} given by

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Min} & w = \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y}^T \geq \mathbf{c}^T \\ & \mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array} \quad (\text{DLP})$$

are called **decision variables** of the **dual** problem and are denoted by \mathbf{y}_D

- The **dual** problem can also be expressed in **standard** form by adding some **slack** variables \mathbf{y}_E
- In the canonical form, $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y}^T \geq \mathbf{c}^T$ is expressed as $-\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y}^T \leq -\mathbf{c}^T$
- Slack variables \mathbf{y}_E are defined as:

$$-\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y}_D^T + \mathbf{I} \mathbf{y}_E^T = -\mathbf{c}_D^T \iff -\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{I} = -\mathbf{c}_D$$

Weak Duality Theorem (1)

Theorem

Let \mathbf{x} ($= \mathbf{x}_D$) be a feasible solution of a canonical LP and \mathbf{y} ($= \mathbf{y}_D$) a feasible solution of its dual problem, then

$$\mathbf{c}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{y}\mathbf{b}$$

Proof :

- \mathbf{y} is a dual solution:

$$\mathbf{c}\mathbf{x} \leq (\mathbf{y}\mathbf{A})\mathbf{x} \quad \text{since } \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \text{ and } \mathbf{c} \leq \mathbf{y}\mathbf{A}$$

- \mathbf{x} is a primal solution:

$$\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}) \leq \mathbf{y}\mathbf{b} \quad \text{since } \mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0} \text{ and } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$$

- Then:

$$\mathbf{c}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{y}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{y}\mathbf{b}$$

Weak Duality Theorem (2)

Corollary

Let \mathbf{x} ($= \mathbf{x}_D$) be a feasible solution of PLP of value z and \mathbf{y} ($= \mathbf{y}_D$) a feasible solution of DLP of value w . If $z = w$, then the solutions \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are optimal for their respective problem.

Important Remark

If PLP has no finite optimum, then its dual cannot have a feasible solution without contradicting the weak duality theorem!

Dual Problem of a General LP

- Similarly to the canonical case, we look for a combination of constraints to obtain a new valid constraint providing an upper bound on the optimal value
- Multipliers providing a new valid constraint of **type** \leq when we combine them:

$$\begin{array}{llllllll} a_{i1}x_1 & + & \dots & + & a_{in}x_n & \leq & b_i & \times y_i & (y_i \geq 0) \\ a_{k1}x_1 & + & \dots & + & a_{kn}x_n & = & b_k & \times y_k & (y_k \in \mathbb{R}) \\ a_{r1}x_1 & + & \dots & + & a_{rn}x_n & \geq & b_r & \times y_r & (y_r \leq 0) \end{array}$$

Dual Problem of a General LP (Cont'd)

If we impose the following constraints:

- $\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij} \geq c_j$ if $x_j \geq 0$
- $\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij} = c_j$ if $x_j \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij} \leq c_j$ if $x_j \leq 0$

then we get an upper bound for each of the terms of type $c_j x_j$ in the objective function. Indeed:

- $c_j x_j \leq (\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij}) x_j$ if $\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij} \geq c_j$ and $x_j \geq 0$
- $c_j x_j = (\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij}) x_j$ if $\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij} = c_j$ and $x_j \in \mathbb{R}$
- $c_j x_j \leq (\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij}) x_j$ if $\sum_{i=1}^m y_i a_{ij} \leq c_j$ and $x_j \leq 0$

Dualization Rules

Dualization Rules

Max problem	\longleftrightarrow	Min problem
Variable $x_j \geq 0$	\longleftrightarrow	j th constraint of type \geq
Variable $x_j \in \mathbb{R}$	\longleftrightarrow	j th constraint of type $=$
Variable $x_j \leq 0$	\longleftrightarrow	j th constraint of type \leq
i th constraint of type \leq	\longleftrightarrow	Variable $y_i \geq 0$
i th constraint of type $=$	\longleftrightarrow	Variable $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
i th constraint of type \geq	\longleftrightarrow	Variable $y_i \leq 0$

Example

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 \text{(PLP)} \left\{ \begin{array}{lcl}
 \text{Max } z = & \textcolor{red}{1}x_1 & + \textcolor{red}{3}x_2 \\
 \text{s.t.} & \textcolor{blue}{1}x_1 & + \textcolor{blue}{-1}x_2 \leq \textcolor{green}{2} \\
 & \textcolor{blue}{2}x_1 & + \textcolor{blue}{1}x_2 = \textcolor{green}{5} \\
 & & \textcolor{blue}{1}x_2 \leq \textcolor{green}{3} \\
 & x_1 & \in \textcolor{orange}{\mathbb{R}} \\
 & x_2 & \geq 0
 \end{array} \right. \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l}
 \text{Min} \\
 y_1 \geq \textcolor{violet}{0} \\
 y_2 \in \textcolor{violet}{\mathbb{R}} \\
 y_3 \geq \textcolor{violet}{0} \\
 \text{1st const. of type } = \\
 \text{2nd const. of type } \geq
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 \text{(DLP)} \left\{ \begin{array}{lcl}
 \text{Min } w = & \textcolor{green}{2}y_1 & + \textcolor{green}{5}y_2 + \textcolor{green}{3}y_3 \\
 \text{s.t.} & \textcolor{blue}{1}y_1 & + \textcolor{blue}{2}y_2 = \textcolor{red}{1} \\
 & \textcolor{blue}{-1}y_1 & + \textcolor{blue}{1}y_2 + \textcolor{blue}{1}y_3 \geq \textcolor{red}{3} \\
 & y_1 & , \quad y_3 \geq 0 \\
 & & y_2 \in \mathbb{R}
 \end{array} \right.
 \end{array}$$

Important Remarks

- If PLP is a max problem (resp. min), then DLP is a min problem (resp. max)
- If PLP has n variables and m constraints, then its dual problem has m variables and n constraints
- Each dual variable corresponds to a constraint of PLP and each dual constraint corresponds to a variable of PLP
- The dual problem of DLP is PLP

Dual Basic Solution in a Tableau (1)

Important Result

A basis in a tableau **univocally** defines a basis of the **dual** problem in its **standard** form. The row vector $\mathbf{y} = (-\gamma_D \mid -\gamma_E)$ that can be found in the last row of a tableau is a **basic solution of the dual problem**. The m dual non-basic variables are the ones corresponding to the m primal basic variables. Conversely, the n dual basic variables are the ones corresponding to the n non-basic primal variables. The **value** of this dual solution is ζ . Moreover, $\mathbf{y}_D = -\gamma_E$ and $\mathbf{y}_E = -\gamma_D$

Dual Basic Solution in a Tableau (2)

Concretely, the dual basic solution can be read in the last row of the tableau:

$$T_B = \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} & x_D & x_E & z \\ \hline & B^{-1}A & B^{-1} & 0 & \beta \\ \hline & -\gamma_D & -\gamma_E & 1 & \zeta \end{array}$$

$y_E = (y_{m+1} \dots y_{m+n})$
 $y_D = (y_1 \dots y_m)$

A sketch of the demonstration of this important result is provided in the appendix at the end of this presentation

Strong Duality Theorem

Theorem (Strong Duality Theorem)

If a standard linear program has an optimal solution $\mathbf{x}^ = (\mathbf{x}_D^* \mid \mathbf{x}_E^*)$ of value $z^* = \mathbf{c}_D \mathbf{x}_D^*$ then its dual problem has also an optimal solution $\mathbf{y}^* = (\mathbf{y}_D^* \mid \mathbf{y}_E^*)$. Moreover, the value of this solution is $w^* = \mathbf{y}_D^* \mathbf{b} = z^*$*

Proof. Let's consider the optimal tableau provided by the simplex algorithm:

$$T_B = \begin{array}{cc|cc} & \mathbf{x}_D & \mathbf{x}_E & z & \\ \hline & \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B}^{-1} & 0 & \beta \\ \hline & -\gamma_D & -\gamma_E & 1 & \zeta \\ \hline & \mathbf{y}_E & \mathbf{y}_D & & \end{array}$$

Strong Duality Theorem

The tableau is optimal:

$$-\gamma_D \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad -\gamma_E \geq 0$$

and its dual basic solution

$$\mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}_D \mid \mathbf{y}_E) = (-\gamma_E \mid -\gamma_D)$$

is feasible. As this solution has the same value as the primal basic solution, then it is optimal !

Relationship between PLP and DLP

The table below summarizes the relationship between PLP and DLP:

	DLP		
	fo	onb	nfs
PLP: fo	SD	\emptyset	\emptyset
PLP: onb	\emptyset	\emptyset	WD
PLP: nfs	\emptyset	WD	Pos

fo = finite optimum, onb = optimum not bounded, nfs = no feasible solution,
SD = **Strong Duality**, **WD** = **Weak Duality**, **Pos** = Possible, \emptyset = empty set

The Slack Variables Theorem

Theorem (Slack Variables Theorem)

Let $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_D \mid \mathbf{x}_E)$ be a feasible solution to standard LP and $\mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}_D \mid \mathbf{y}_E)$ a feasible solution of its dual problem. These solutions are optimal for their respective problem if and only if

$$\mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{x}_D = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{x}_E = 0$$

Proof. By definition, we have

$$\mathbf{x}_E = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_D \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y}_E = \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{c}_D.$$

Moreover, as \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are feasible:

$$z = \mathbf{c}_D \mathbf{x}_D \leq (\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{x}_D = \mathbf{y}_D (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_D) \leq \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{b} = w$$

The Slack Variables Theorem (Cont'd)

1. Let's assume that the solutions are optimal. Then we have to show that the slack variables conditions are satisfied. If \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are optimal, then $z = w$ and the previous inequalities are indeed equalities. So:

$$\mathbf{c}_D \mathbf{x}_D = (\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{x}_D \iff (\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{c}_D) \mathbf{x}_D = 0 \iff \mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{x}_D = 0$$

$$\mathbf{y}_D (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_D) = \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{b} \iff \mathbf{y}_D (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_D - \mathbf{b}) = 0 \iff \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{x}_E = 0$$

The Slack Variables Theorem (Cont'd)

2. Conversely, if $\mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{x}_D = 0$ and $\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{x}_E = 0$, then we have to show that these solutions are optimal

$$\mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{x}_D = (\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{c}_D) \mathbf{x}_D = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad (\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{x}_D = \mathbf{c}_D \mathbf{x}_D$$

and

$$\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{x}_E = \mathbf{y}_D (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_D - \mathbf{b}) = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{y}_D (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_D) = \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{b}$$

So

$$z = \mathbf{c}_D \mathbf{x}_D = (\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{x}_D = \mathbf{y}_D (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_D) = \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{b} = w$$

and solutions \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are optimal

The Slack Variables Theorem (Cont'd)

Remark. As solutions \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are feasible, they are non-negative. Consequently:

$$\mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{x}_D = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad y_{m+j} x_j = 0 \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, n$$

and

$$\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{x}_E = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad y_i x_{n+i} = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m$$

Dual Variables at the Optimum

- If a standard LP has a finite optimum, this is also the case for its dual problem et we have that:

$$z^* = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j^* = \sum_{i=1}^m y_i^* b_i = w^*$$

- If the primal solution is non-degenerated, then the optimal value of the dual variable y_i represents the **marginal price** of resource i at the optimum:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial b_i} z^* = y_i^*$$

Dual Variables at the Optimum (Cont'd)

- In other words, y_i^* is the potential increase of the optimal value of the problem if the resource i , limited to b_i , is increased by one unit (we assume that the current basis keeps optimal)
- Note that this interpretation is not valid if the primal solution is degenerated (the basis changes but the optimal value keeps the same)

Appendix. Dual Basic Solution in a Tableau

A basis in a tableau univocally defines a basis of the dual problem in its standard form. Moreover, the basic solution associated with this dual basis can be read in the last row of the tableau.

$$T_B = \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} & x_D & x_E & z \\ \hline & B^{-1}A & B^{-1} & 0 \quad \beta \\ \hline & -\gamma_D & -\gamma_E & 1 \quad \zeta \end{array}$$

$y_E = (y_{m+1} \dots y_{m+n})$
 $y_D = (y_1 \dots y_m)$

In order to show that the vector $y = (y_D \mid y_E) = (-\gamma_E \mid -\gamma_D)$ is a solution of the system of constraints of DLP, let's remind that

$$-\gamma_D = c_B B^{-1}A - c_D \quad \text{and} \quad -\gamma_E = c_B B^{-1}$$

Appendix. Dual Basic Solution in a Tableau (Cont'd)

On the other hand, dual constraints $\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A} \geq \mathbf{c}_D$ can be written in standard form as

$$-\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{I} = -\mathbf{c}_D$$

If we replace \mathbf{y}_D and \mathbf{y}_E by the expressions of $-\gamma_E$ and $-\gamma_D$, we get

$$-\mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{y}_E \mathbf{I} = \gamma_E \mathbf{A} - \gamma_D = -\mathbf{c}_B \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{c}_B \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{c}_D = -\mathbf{c}_D$$

This shows that $\mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}_D \mid \mathbf{y}_E) = (-\gamma_E \mid -\gamma_D)$ is a solution of the standard dual problem.

Appendix. Dual Basic Solution in a Tableau (Cont'd)

We still need to check that this dual solution is basic. As the reduced costs of the m basic primal variables are null (a basic primal variable has by construction a zero in its last row), then \mathbf{y} has at least m null components.

Indeed, the m dual non-basic variables are the ones corresponding to the the m primal basic variables. Conversely, the n dual basic variables are the ones corresponding to the n non-basic primal variables.

As a final remark, the value of the basis dual solution is given by

$$w = \mathbf{y}_D \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c}_B \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b} = \zeta$$

and has the same value as the one corresponding to the primal basic solution.