

# 6.215/6.255J/15.093J/IDS.200J Optimization Methods

## Lecture 6: Duality Theory II

September 28, 2021

# Today's Lecture

## Outline

- Recap on duality
- Geometry view of duality
- The dual simplex algorithm
- Duality and degeneracy
- Farkas lemma
- Duality revisited (bonus)

# Recap ... duality

An idea from Lagrange

Consider the linear optimization problem, called the **primal** with optimal solution  $x^*$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0\end{array}$$

Relax the equality constraint

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & c^T x + p^T (b - Ax) \\ \text{s.t.} & x \geq 0\end{array}$$

For any  $p$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}g(p) &\leq c^T x^* + p^T (b - Ax^*) = c^T x^* \\ &\Rightarrow \max_p g(p) \leq c^T x^*\end{aligned}$$

$$g(p) = \min_{x \geq 0} [c^T x + p^T (b - Ax)] = p^T b + \min_{x \geq 0} (c^T - p^T A)x = \begin{cases} p^T b & \text{if } c^T - p^T A \geq 0, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

So  $\max_p g(p)$  is equivalent to the following problem, called the **dual**:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & p^T b \\ \text{s.t.} & p^T A \leq c^T\end{array}$$

## Recap ... general form of the dual

**primal:**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq b_i \quad i \in M_1 \\ & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \leq b_i \quad i \in M_2 \\ & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} = b_i \quad i \in M_3 \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad j \in N_1 \\ & x_j \leq 0 \quad j \in N_2 \\ & x_j \text{ free} \quad j \in N_3 \end{array}$$

**dual:**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & p_i \geq 0 \quad i \in M_1 \\ & p_i \leq 0 \quad i \in M_2 \\ & p_i \text{ free} \quad i \in M_3 \\ & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j \leq c_j \quad j \in N_1 \\ & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j \geq c_j \quad j \in N_2 \\ & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j = c_j \quad j \in N_3 \end{array}$$

Note: The dual of the dual is the primal

## Recap ... theorems

### Theorem (weak duality)

*If  $\mathbf{x}$  is primal feasible and  $\mathbf{p}$  is dual feasible then  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \leq \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$*

### Theorem (strong duality)

*If the primal has an optimal solution, then so does the dual, and the optimal costs are equal.*

	Finite opt.	Unbounded	Infeasible
Finite opt.	*		
Unbounded			*
Infeasible		*	*

## Recap ... complementary slackness

primal:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq b_i \quad i \in M_1 \\ & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \leq b_i \quad i \in M_2 \\ & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} = b_i \quad i \in M_3 \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad j \in N_1 \\ & x_j \leq 0 \quad j \in N_2 \\ & x_j \text{ free} \quad j \in N_3 \end{array}$$

dual:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & p_i \geq 0 \quad i \in M_1 \\ & p_i \leq 0 \quad i \in M_2 \\ & p_i \text{ free} \quad i \in M_3 \\ & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j \leq c_j \quad j \in N_1 \\ & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j \geq c_j \quad j \in N_2 \\ & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j = c_j \quad j \in N_3 \end{array}$$

### Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{x}$  primal feasible and  $\mathbf{p}$  dual feasible. Then  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}$  optimal if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} p_i(\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} - b_i) &= 0, \quad \forall i \\ (c_j - \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j)x_j &= 0, \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$

## Quick check in ...

**Q:** What is the dual? primal/dual optimal solutions, and optimal value?

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & 6x_1 + 2x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & 3x_1 + x_2 \geq 3 \\ & x_1 + 7x_2 \leq 8 \\ & x_1 - x_2 = 0 \\ & x_1 \geq 0 \\ & x_2 \text{ free}\end{array}$$

# The geometry of duality

Geometry using complementary slackness

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & \sum_{i=1}^m p_i \mathbf{a}_i = \mathbf{c} \\ & \mathbf{p} \geq 0\end{array}$$

## Equivalent to solving:

- Primal feasibility:  $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x}^* \geq b_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, m$
- Dual feasibility:  $\mathbf{p}^* \geq 0$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i^* \mathbf{a}_i = \mathbf{c}$
- Complementary slackness :  $p_i^*(\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x}^* - b_i) = 0$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, m$

## Definitions

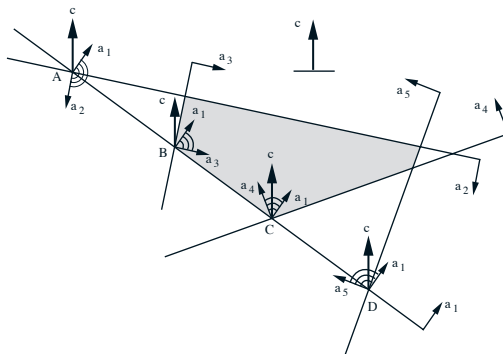
- Primal point  $\mathbf{x}$  is primal feasible if  $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} \geq b_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, m$
- Primal point  $\mathbf{x}$  is dual feasible if there exists  $\mathbf{p} \geq 0$  such that

$$p_i(\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} - b_i) = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^m p_i \mathbf{a}_i = \mathbf{c}$$



# The geometry of duality

Visualization without drawing dual feasible set



Point $x$	Primal Feasible?	Dual Feasible?
A	no	no
B	yes	no
C	yes	yes
D	no	yes

# Dual simplex algorithm

## Motivation

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq 0\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \leq \mathbf{c}^T\end{array}$$

- Primal problem in standard form.
- Simplex method feasibility  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b} \geq 0$
- **Primal optimality condition**

$$\mathbf{c}^T - \mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \geq 0$$

which is the same as **dual feasibility** for  $\mathbf{p}^T = \mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{B}^{-1}$  in dual problem

- Simplex is a **primal algorithm**: maintains **primal feasibility** and works towards **dual feasibility**
- **Dual algorithm**: maintains **dual feasibility** and works towards **primal feasibility**

# Dual simplex algorithm

## Mechanics

- Tableau as before

$-\mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{x}_B$	$\bar{c}_1$	$\dots$	$\bar{c}_n$
$x_{B(1)}$			
$\vdots$	$\mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A}_1$	$\dots$	$\mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A}_n$
$x_{B(m)}$			

- Do not require  $\mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b} \geq 0$  (a basic solution but not necessarily a BFS)
- Require  $\bar{\mathbf{c}} := \mathbf{c}^T - \mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A} := \mathbf{c}^T - \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \geq 0$  (dual feasibility)
- Dual cost is

$$\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{x}_B$$

- If  $\mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b} \geq 0$  then both dual feasibility and primal feasibility, and also same cost  $\Rightarrow$  **optimality**
- Otherwise, change basis

# Dual simplex algorithm

## An iteration

$-\mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{x}_B$	$\bar{c}_1$	...	$\bar{c}_n$
$x_{B(1)}$			
$\vdots$	$\mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A}_1$	...	$\mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A}_n$
$x_{B(m)}$			

- 1 Start with basis matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  and all reduced costs  $\geq 0$ .
- 2 If  $\mathbf{x}_B = \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{b} \geq 0$  optimal solution found; else, choose  $\ell$  s.t.  $x_{B(\ell)} < 0$ .
- 3 Consider the  $\ell$ th row (pivot row)  $x_{B(\ell)}, v_1, \dots, v_n$ . If  $\forall i v_i \geq 0$  then dual optimal cost  $= +\infty$  and algorithm terminates (this implies that the primal problem is infeasible).
- 4 Else, let  $j$  s.t.

$$\frac{\bar{c}_j}{|v_j|} = \min_{\{i | v_i < 0\}} \frac{\bar{c}_i}{|v_i|}$$

- 5 Pivot element  $v_j$ :  $\mathbf{A}_j$  enters the basis and  $\mathbf{A}_{B(\ell)}$  exits.

# Dual simplex algorithm

## An example

### Primal

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & x_1 + x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 + 2x_2 \geq 2 \\ & x_1 \geq 1 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0\end{array}$$

### Dual

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & 2p_1 + p_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & p_1 + p_2 \leq 1 \\ & 2p_1 \leq 1 \\ & p_1, p_2 \geq 0\end{array}$$

Primal problem in standard form:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & x_1 + x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 + 2x_2 - x_3 = 2 \\ & x_1 - x_4 = 1 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0\end{array}$$

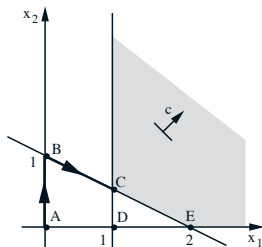
$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & x_1 + x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & -x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = -2 \\ & -x_1 + x_4 = -1 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0\end{array}$$

# Dual simplex algorithm

Geometries of the primal and dual

**Primal**

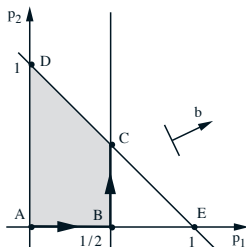
$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & x_1 + x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 + 2x_2 \geq 2 \\ & x_1 \geq 1 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0\end{array}$$



(a)

**Dual**

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & 2p_1 + p_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & p_1 + p_2 \leq 1 \\ & 2p_1 \leq 1 \\ & p_1, p_2 \geq 0\end{array}$$



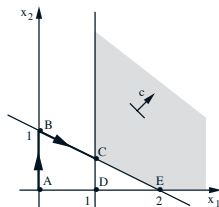
(b)

# Dual simplex algorithm

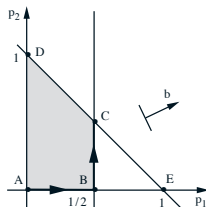
## Initial tableau

### Primal

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min \quad & x_1 + x_2 \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & -x_1 - 2x_2 + x_3 = -2 \\
 & -x_1 + x_4 = -1 \\
 & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$



(a)



(b)

Initial tableau associated with the dual BFS point A:

		$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
	0	1	1	0	0
$x_3 =$	-2	-1	-2*	1	0
$x_4 =$	-1	-1	0	0	1

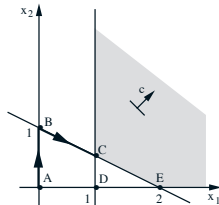
# Dual simplex algorithm

## An example

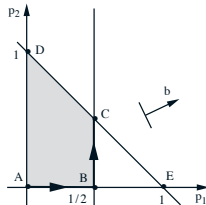
Two iterations of the dual simplex method:

		$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
	$-1$	$1/2$	$0$	$1/2$	$0$
$x_2 =$	$1$	$1/2$	$1$	$-1/2$	$0$
$x_4 =$	$-1$	$-1^*$	$0$	$0$	$1$

		$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
	$-3/2$	0	0	$1/2$	$1/2$
$x_2 =$	$1/2$	0	1	$-1/2$	$1/2$
$x_1 =$	1	1	0	0	-1



(a)



(b)



# Duality and degeneracy

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq 0\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \leq \mathbf{c}^T\end{array}$$

- Any basis matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  leads to dual basic solution  $\mathbf{p}^T = \mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{B}^{-1}$ .
- The dual constraint  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j \leq c_j$  is active (i.e.,  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_j = c_j$ ) if and only if the reduced cost  $\bar{c}_j = c_j - \mathbf{c}_B^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{A}_j$  is zero.
- Since  $\mathbf{p}$  is  $m$ -dimensional, dual degeneracy (more than  $m$  active constraints) implies more than  $m$  reduced costs that are zero.
- Since all reduced costs of basic variables in the primal must be zero, dual degeneracy is obtained whenever there exists a nonbasic variable (in the primal) whose reduced cost is zero.

# Degeneracy

Relation between primal and dual basic solutions: Example

Primal

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & 3x_1 + x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 + x_2 - x_3 = 2 \\ & 2x_1 - x_2 - x_4 = 0 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0\end{array}$$

Dual

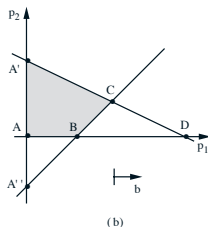
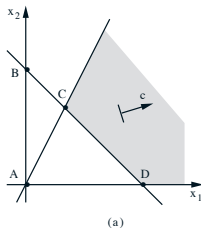
$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & 2p_1 \\ \text{s.t.} & p_1 + 2p_2 \leq 3 \\ & p_1 - p_2 \leq 1 \\ & p_1, p_2 \geq 0\end{array}$$

(equivalent primal problem - easier to visualize in two dimensions)

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & 3x_1 + x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & x_1 + x_2 \geq 2 \\ & 2x_1 - x_2 \geq 0 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0\end{array}$$

# Degeneracy

## Relation between primal and dual basic solutions: Example



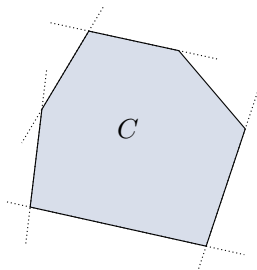
- Four basic solutions in primal:  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ .
- Six distinct basic solutions in dual:  $A$ ,  $A'$ ,  $A''$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ .
- Different bases may lead to the same basic solution for the primal, but to different basic solutions for the dual. Some are feasible and some are infeasible.

# Farkas Lemma

## Motivation

Suppose we have the *polyhedral* set

$$C = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} = b_i, \quad i \in [1, \dots, m] \}$$



**How to show that  $C \neq \emptyset$ ?**

- Any element  $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in C$  serves as a *certificate*

**How to show that  $C = \emptyset$ ?**

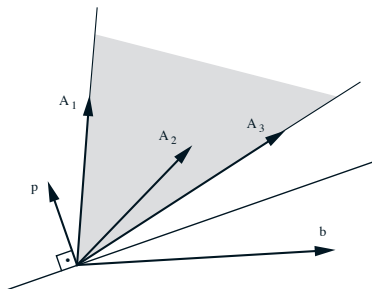
- Certifying nonexistence seems hard ...

# Farkas Lemma

## Theorem

*Exactly one of the following two alternatives hold:*

- ①  $\exists \mathbf{x} \geq 0$  s.t.  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ .
- ②  $\exists \mathbf{p}$  s.t.  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \geq 0^T$  and  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} < 0$ .



# Farkas Lemma

Proof using duality

⇒ (Easy) If  $\exists \mathbf{x} \geq 0$  s.t.  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ , and if  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \geq 0^T$ , then  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{Ax} \geq 0$

⇐ (Harder) Assume there is no  $\mathbf{x} \geq 0$  s.t.  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$

$$\begin{array}{ll} (P) \max & 0^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} (D) \min & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \geq 0^T \end{array}$$

(P) infeasible  $\Rightarrow$  (D) either unbounded or infeasible

Since  $\mathbf{p} = 0$  is feasible  $\Rightarrow$  (D) unbounded  
 $\Rightarrow \exists \mathbf{p} : \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \geq 0^T$  and  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} < 0$

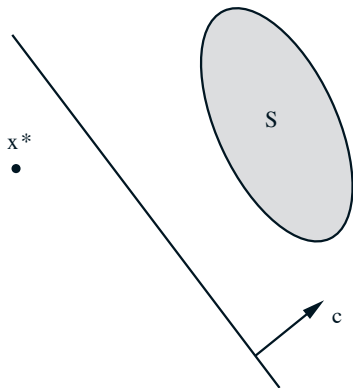
# Duality revisited

- So far: Simplex  $\longrightarrow$  Duality  $\longrightarrow$  Farkas lemma
  - specialized to LP, relied on a particular algorithm
- Alternative: Separation theorem (a geometric property)  $\longrightarrow$  Farkas lemma  $\longrightarrow$  Duality
  - purely geometric, generalizes to general nonlinear problems, more fundamental

# Separating hyperplane theorem

## Theorem

Let  $S$  be a nonempty closed convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\mathbf{x}^* \notin S$ . Then there exists a vector  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}^* < \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in S$ .





# Farkas' lemma revisited

Consider only the hard part of the lemma:

## Theorem

*If  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \geq 0$  is infeasible, then there exists a vector  $\mathbf{p}$  such that  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \geq 0^T$  and  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} < 0$ .*

- let  $S = \{\mathbf{y} \mid \exists \mathbf{x} \text{ such that } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Ax}, \mathbf{x} \geq 0\}$  and assume that  $\mathbf{b} \notin S$
- $S$  is convex; nonempty; closed (it is indeed the projection of  $\{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \mid \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Ax}, \mathbf{x} \geq 0\}$  onto the  $\mathbf{y}$  coordinates, so also a polyhedron, and therefore closed)
- $\mathbf{b} \notin S$ :  $\exists \mathbf{p}$  such that  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} < \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{y}$  for every  $\mathbf{y} \in S$
- since  $0 \in S$ , we must have  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} < 0$
- $\forall \mathbf{A}_i$  and  $\forall \lambda > 0$ ,  $\lambda \mathbf{A}_i \in S$  and  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} < \lambda \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_i$
- divide by  $\lambda$  and then take limit as  $\lambda$  tends to infinity:  
 $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_i \geq 0 \forall i \Rightarrow \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \geq 0^T$

## Duality theorem revisited

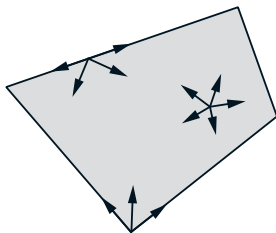
$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{Ax} \geq \mathbf{b}\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{c}^T \\ & \mathbf{p} \geq 0\end{array}$$

Assume that the primal has an optimal solution  $\mathbf{x}^*$ . We will show that the dual problem also has a feasible solution with the same cost. Strong duality follows then from weak duality.

# Duality theorem revisited

- $I(\mathbf{x}^*) = \{i \mid \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x}^* = b_i\}$  set of indices of the active constraints
- feasible directions at  $\mathbf{x}^*$  are  $\{\mathbf{d} : \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{d} \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in I(\mathbf{x}^*)\}$



- we first show that if  $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{d} \geq 0$  for every  $i \in I(\mathbf{x}^*)$ , then  $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{d} \geq 0$ :
  - consider such a  $\mathbf{d}$ , then  $\mathbf{a}_i^T (\mathbf{x}^* + \epsilon \mathbf{d}) \geq \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x}^* = b_i$  for all  $i \in I(\mathbf{x}^*)$
  - if  $i \notin I(\mathbf{x}^*)$ , we have  $\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x}^* > b_i \Rightarrow \mathbf{a}_i^T (\mathbf{x}^* + \epsilon \mathbf{d}) > b_i$  for any  $\epsilon$  small enough
  - $\mathbf{x}^* + \epsilon \mathbf{d}$  is feasible for any  $\epsilon$  small enough
  - by optimality of  $\mathbf{x}^*$ ,  $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{d} \geq 0$

# Duality theorem revisited

- by Farkas' lemma,  $\exists p_i \geq 0 \forall i \in I(\mathbf{x}^*)$  such that:

$$\mathbf{c} = \sum_{i \in I} p_i \mathbf{a}_i$$

- for  $i \notin I(\mathbf{x}^*)$ , define  $p_i = 0$ , so  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{c}^T$
- in conclusion:

$$\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{b} = \sum_{i \in I(\mathbf{x}^*)} p_i b_i = \sum_{i \in I(\mathbf{x}^*)} p_i \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}^*$$