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

Lecture 7: Sensitivity Analysis

September 30, 2021

Today's Lecture

Outline

- Last word on duality (for now)
- Sensitivity analysis: Motivation
- Global sensitivity analysis
- Local sensitivity analysis
 - Changes in **b**
 - Changes in c
 - A new variable is added
 - A new constraint is added
 - Changes in A
- Detailed example

Duality revisited

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

Background - elements of real analysis

• Continuous function: A function $f: S \to \Re$ is continuous at $x \in S$ iff

$$f(\mathbf{x}^i) \to f(\mathbf{x})$$

for all converging sequences $\{x^i\} \in S$ with limit x.

- Closed set: A set $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is closed iff when $\mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{x}^2, \ldots$ is a sequence of elements of S that converges to some $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, then $\mathbf{x} \in S$.
- Remarks:
 - Level sets $\{x: f(x) \le \alpha\}$, $\{x: f(x) \ge \alpha\}$, $\{x: f(x) = \alpha\}$ of continuous functions are closed sets for any α .
 - Every halfspace is closed.
 - Intersections of closed sets are closed.
 - Every polyhedron is closed.



Weierstrass' theorem

Theorem

If $f: \Re^n \mapsto \Re$ is a continuous function, and if S is a nonempty, closed, and bounded subset of \Re^n , then there exists some $\mathbf{x}^* \in S$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq f(\mathbf{x})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in S$. Similarly, there exists some $\mathbf{y}^* \in S$ such that $f(\mathbf{y}^*) \geq f(\mathbf{x})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in S$.

Note: Weierstrass' theorem is not valid if the set S is not closed.

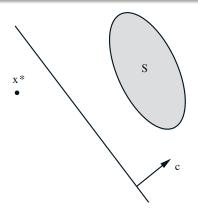
(for example, consider
$$S = \{x \in \Re \mid 0 < x \le 1\}, f(x) = x$$
)

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Separating hyperplane theorem

Theorem

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



Sensitivity Analysis - Motivation

Questions

$$z = \min \quad c^T x$$

s.t. $Ax = b$
 $x \ge 0$

Sensitivity Analysis:

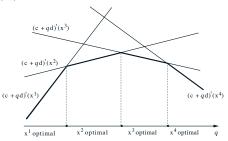
- How does z depend globally on c? on b?
- How does z change locally if either b, c, A change?
- How does z change if we add new constraints, introduce new variables?
- Importance: Insight about linear optimization and practical relevance

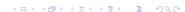
Dependence on c

$$G(c) = \min c^T x$$

s.t. $Ax = b$
 $x \ge 0$

- let x^1, x^2, \dots, x^N be the BFSs in the feasible set (assumed nonempty)
- $\Rightarrow G(c) = \min_{i=1,...,N} c^T x^i$ is a concave piecewise-linear function of c





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Dependence on **b**

Easier to see from the dual:

primal

dual

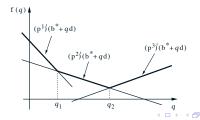
$$F(\mathbf{b}) = \min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}} \mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{x}$$

s.t. $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$
 $\mathbf{x} \ge 0$

$$F(b) = \max_{s.t.} p^T b$$

s.t. $p^T A \le c^T$

- ullet let $oldsymbol{
 ho}^1, oldsymbol{
 ho}^2, \dots, oldsymbol{
 ho}^{oldsymbol{N}}$ be the extreme points of the dual feasible set
- $\Rightarrow F(\mathbf{b}) = \max_{i=1,\dots,N} \{ (\mathbf{p}^i)^T \mathbf{b} \}$ is a convex piecewise-linear function of \mathbf{b}



Linear optimization in standard form:

$$z = \min \quad c^T x$$

s.t. $Ax = b$
 $x \ge 0$

- What does it mean that a basis **B** is optimal?
 - feasibility conditions: $B^{-1}b \ge 0$
 - optimality conditions: $c^T c_B^T B^{-1} A \ge 0$
- Suppose that there is a change in either b or c.
 How do we find whether B is still optimal?
 - check whether the feasibility and optimality conditions are satisfied



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Changes in **b**

$$b_i$$
 becomes $b_i + \delta$, i.e. $\mathbf{b} \rightarrow \mathbf{b} + \delta \mathbf{e_i}$

- **B** optimal basis for (P)
- Is **B** optimal for (P')?

Changes in **b**

Need to check:

- Feasibility: $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{b} + \delta \mathbf{e_i}) \geq 0$
- ② Optimality: $c^T c_B^T B^{-1} A \ge 0$

Observations:

- Changes in b affect feasibility
- Optimality conditions are not affected

Changes in **b**

Feasibility condition:

$$\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{b}+\delta\boldsymbol{e_i})\geq 0$$

Define

$$\beta_{ij} = [\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}]_{ij}, \quad \overline{b}_j = [\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{b}]_j$$

Thus,

$$[\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{b}]_j + \delta[\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{e_i}]_j \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \overline{b}_j + \delta\beta_{ji} \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\max_{\beta_{ji}>0} \left(-\frac{\overline{b}_j}{\beta_{ji}}\right) \leq \delta \leq \min_{\beta_{ji}<0} \left(-\frac{\overline{b}_j}{\beta_{ji}}\right)$$

Changes in **b**

$$\underline{\delta} \leq \delta \leq \overline{\delta}$$

Within this range

- Current basis **B** is optimal
- Optimal cost is affine in δ :

$$z = \boldsymbol{c}_B^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{b} + \delta \boldsymbol{e_i}) = \boldsymbol{c}_B^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} \boldsymbol{b} + \delta \boldsymbol{p_i}$$

• What if $\delta > \overline{\delta}$?

Changes in **b**

$$\underline{\delta} \le \delta \le \overline{\delta}$$

Within this range

- Current basis **B** is optimal
- Optimal cost is affine in δ :

$$z = \boldsymbol{c}_{B}^{T} \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{b} + \delta \boldsymbol{e}_{i}) = \boldsymbol{c}_{B}^{T} \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} \boldsymbol{b} + \delta \boldsymbol{p}_{i}$$

- What if $\delta > \overline{\delta}$?
 - \Rightarrow current solution is primal infeasible, but satisfies optimality conditions (so dual feasible) \Rightarrow use dual simplex method

Changes in c

After perturbation, c_j becomes $c_j + \delta$, i.e. $c \rightarrow c + \delta e_j$.

Is current basis **B** still optimal?

Need to check:

- Feasibility: $B^{-1}b \ge 0$, unaffected
- Optimality: $c^T c_B^T B^{-1} A \ge 0$, affected

There are two cases:

- x_j nonbasic
- x_j basic

Changes in c; x_i nonbasic

x_i nonbasic:

- Then c_B are unaffected
- Solution remains optimal if

$$(c_j + \delta) - c_B^T B^{-1} A_j \ge 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \overline{c}_j + \delta \ge 0$$

so solution still optimal if $\delta \geq -\overline{c}_j$

- What if $\delta < -\overline{c}_j$?
 - \Rightarrow apply the primal simplex to the current BFS

Changes in c; x_i basic

x_i basic:

- ullet Then $oldsymbol{c_B} o oldsymbol{\hat{c}_B} = oldsymbol{c_B} + \delta oldsymbol{e_i}$
- Solution optimal if for all $i \neq j$:

$$[\boldsymbol{c}^T - \hat{\boldsymbol{c}}_{\boldsymbol{B}}^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}]_i \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad c_i - [\boldsymbol{c}_{\boldsymbol{B}} + \delta \boldsymbol{e}_j]^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}_i \geq 0$$

• Defining $\bar{a}_{ji} := [\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{A}]_{ji}$

$$\overline{c}_i - \delta \overline{a}_{ji} \ge 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \max_{\overline{a}_{ji} < 0} \frac{\overline{c}_i}{\overline{a}_{ji}} \le \delta \le \min_{\overline{a}_{ji} > 0} \frac{\overline{c}_i}{\overline{a}_{ji}}$$

- What if δ is outside this range?
 - ⇒ apply primal simplex to current BFS



A new variable is added

min
$$c^T x$$
 min $c^T x + c_{n+1} x_{n+1}$
s.t. $Ax = b$ \rightarrow s.t. $Ax + A_{n+1} x_{n+1} = b$
 $x \ge 0$ $x \ge 0$

In the new problem is $x_{n+1}=0$ or $x_{n+1}>0$? (i.e., is the new activity profitable?)

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A new variable is added

Current basis **B**. Is solution $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b}, x_{n+1} = 0$ optimal?

- Feasibility conditions are satisfied
- Optimality conditions:

$$c_{n+1} - \boldsymbol{c}_{\boldsymbol{B}}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}_{n+1} \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad c_{n+1} - \boldsymbol{p}^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{A}_{n+1} \geq 0$$
?

- If yes, solution $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{b}, x_{n+1} = 0$ optimal
- Otherwise, use primal simplex



A new constraint is added

If current solution feasible, it is optimal; otherwise, apply dual simplex

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Changes in A

- Suppose $a_{ij} o a_{ij} + \delta$
- Assume A_i does not belong in the basis
 - Feasibility conditions:

$$B^{-1}b \ge 0$$
, unaffected

- Optimality conditions: $c_{\ell} c_{B}^{T} B^{-1} A_{\ell} \geq 0$, $\ell \neq j$, unaffected
- Optimality condition: $c_j \boldsymbol{p^T}(\boldsymbol{A}_j + \delta \boldsymbol{e_i}) \geq 0 \Rightarrow \overline{c}_j \delta p_i \geq 0$
- What if \boldsymbol{A}_i is basic?

see BT exercise 5.3



A furniture company

- A furniture company makes desks, tables, chairs
- The production requires wood, finishing labor, carpentry labor

	Desk	Table	Chair	Avail.
Profit	60	30	20	-
Wood (ft)	8	6	1	48
Finish hrs.	4	2	1.5	20
Carpentry hrs.	2	1.5	0.5	8

A furniture company - formulation

Decision variables:

$$x_1 = \#$$
 desks, $x_2 = \#$ tables, $x_3 = \#$ chairs

LO formulation:

max
$$60x_1 + 30x_2 + 20x_3$$

s.t. $8x_1 + 6x_2 + x_3 \le 48$ (Wood)
 $4x_1 + 2x_2 + 1.5x_3 \le 20$ (Finishing)
 $2x_1 + 1.5x_2 + 0.5x_3 \le 8$ (Carpentry)
 $x_1, x_2, x_3 \ge 0$

A furniture company - formulation standard form

Decision variables:

$$x_1 = \#$$
 desks, $x_2 = \#$ tables, $x_3 = \#$ chairs

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{max} & 60x_1 + 30x_2 + 20x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} & 8x_1 + 6x_2 + x_3 & \leq 48 \quad \text{(Wood)} \\ & 4x_1 + 2x_2 + 1.5x_3 & \leq 20 \quad \text{(Finishing)} \\ & 2x_1 + 1.5x_2 + 0.5x_3 & \leq 8 \quad \text{(Carpentry)} \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

In standard form:

Note: profit = -z

A furniture company - simplex tableau(s)

Initial tableau:

		s_1	<i>s</i> ₂	<i>S</i> ₃	x_1	<i>X</i> ₂	X3
	0	0	0	0	-60	-30	-20
$s_1 = s_2 = s_2 = s_1$	48	1	0	0	8	6	1
$s_2 =$	20	0	1	0	4	2	1.5
$s_3=$	8	0	0	1	8 4 2	1.5	0.5

Final tableau:

		s_1	<i>s</i> ₂	<i>S</i> ₃	x_1	x_2	<i>X</i> 3
	280	0	10	10	0	5	0
$s_1 =$	24	1	2	-8	0	-2	0
$x_3 =$	8	0	2	-4	0	-2	1
$x_1 =$	2	0	-0.5	1.5	1	1.25	0

A furniture company - information in the final tableau

Problem in standard form:

min
$$-60x_1 - 30x_2 - 20x_3$$

s.t. $s_1 + 8x_1 + 6x_2 + x_3 = 48$
 $s_2 + 4x_1 + 2x_2 + 1.5x_3 = 20$
 $s_3 + 2x_1 + 1.5x_2 + 0.5x_3 = 8$
 $s_1, s_2, s_3, x_1, x_2, x_3 > 0$

$$\mathbf{A} = \left(\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 8 & 6 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 & 2 & 1.5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1.5 & 0.5 \end{array}\right)$$

Final tableau - What is B, B^{-1} ?

$$\mathbf{B} = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 1 & 8 \\ 0 & 1.5 & 4 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 2 \end{array}\right)$$

$$\mathbf{B}^{-1} = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 2 & -8 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & -0.5 & 1.5 \end{array}\right)$$

What is the dual optimal solution p

$$\boldsymbol{p}^T = \boldsymbol{c}_B^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} = (0, -20, -60) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -8 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & -0.5 & 1.5 \end{pmatrix} = (0, -10, -10)$$

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Changes in **b** - furniture company - marginal cost/shadow price

Why is the optimal dual solution $p_2 = -10$ called a marginal cost or shadow price for the finishing hours constraints?

- Suppose that finishing hours become 21 (from 20).
- Currently only desks (x_1) and chairs (x_3) are produced
- Finishing and carpentry hours constraints are tight
- Does this modification (from 20 to 21) leave current basis optimal?

Solution change:

$$z_{\text{new}} - z_{\text{old}} = (-60 \cdot 1.5 - 20 \cdot 10) - (-60 \cdot 2 - 20 \cdot 8) = -10$$

An increase profit of 10

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Changes in **b** - furniture company - budget range for finishing hours

- Suppose finishing hours change by δ becoming (20 + δ)
- Basic variables

$$\mathbf{x}_{B} = \mathbf{B}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 48 \\ 20 + \delta \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -8 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & -0.5 & 1.5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 48 \\ 20 + \delta \\ 8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 24 + 2\delta \\ 8 + 2\delta \\ 2 - 0.5\delta \end{pmatrix}$$

• Current basis optimal if and only if $x_B \ge 0$ or

$$-4 \le \delta \le 4$$

• Note that even if current basis is optimal, optimal solution values do change:

$$s_1 = 24 + 2\delta$$

$$x_3 = 8 + 2\delta$$

$$x_1 = 2 - 0.5\delta$$

$$z = -60(2 - 0.5\delta) - 20(8 + 2\delta) = -280 - 10\delta$$

Changes in **b** - furniture company - reduced cost

- What does it mean that the reduced cost for x_2 is 5?
- Suppose you are forced to produce $x_2 = 1$ (1 table)
- How much will the profit decrease?

$$8x_1 + x_3 + s_1 + 6 \cdot 1 = 48$$
 $s_1 = 26$
 $4x_1 + 1.5x_3 + 2 \cdot 1 = 20 \Rightarrow x_1 = 0.75$
 $2x_1 + 0.5x_3 + 1.5 \cdot 1 = 8$ $x_3 = 10$

new profit - old profit =
$$\Delta_{ ext{profit}} = -(z_{ ext{new}} - z_{ ext{old}})$$

$$\Delta_{\mathsf{profit}} = (30 \cdot 1 + 60 \cdot 0.75 + 20 \cdot 10) - (60 \cdot 2 + 20 \cdot 8) = 275 - 280 = -5$$

Changes in **b** - furniture company - reduced cost

Another way to calculate the same thing using optimal dual variables:

$$\rho^T = (0, -10, -10)$$
If $x_2 = 1$

Profit effect due to producing one table
$$-(-30) = +30$$
 Profit effect due to decrease wood by -6
$$-(-6*0) = 0$$
 Profit effect due to decrease finishing hours by -2
$$-(-2*-10) = -20$$
 Profit effect due to decrease carpentry hours by -1.5
$$-(-1.5*-10) = -15$$
 Total profit effect

Suppose profit from tables increases from \$30 to \$34.

Should it be produced? At \$35? At \$36?

Changes in c - furniture company

- Suppose profit from desks becomes $60 + \delta$.
- ullet For what values of δ does current basis remain optimal?
- Optimality conditions

$$c_j - \boldsymbol{c}_B^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}_j \geq 0 \iff \boldsymbol{c} - \boldsymbol{p}^T \boldsymbol{A} \geq 0$$

for dual vector

$$\boldsymbol{p}^T = \boldsymbol{c}_B^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} = [0, -20, -(60 + \delta)] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & -8 \\ 0 & 2 & -4 \\ 0 & -0.5 & 1.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= [0, -10 + 0.5\delta, -10 - 1.5\delta]$$

- We have $c_i \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A}_i = 0$ for all basic variables.
- We need to check for all non-basic variables $c_j \boldsymbol{p}^T \boldsymbol{A}_j \geq 0$.

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Changes in c - furniture company

- Variables s_1, x_3, x_1 are basic
- Reduced costs of non-basic variables

$$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{c}_{x_2} \\ \overline{c}_{s_2} \\ \overline{c}_{s_3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 30 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - [0, -10 + 0.5\delta, -10 - 1.5\delta] \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1.5 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{c}_{\mathsf{x}_2} \\ \overline{c}_{\mathsf{s}_2} \\ \overline{c}_{\mathsf{s}_3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 + 1.25\delta \\ 10 - 0.5\delta \\ 10 + 1.5\delta \end{bmatrix}$$

• Current basis optimal if $-4 \le \delta \le 20$

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A new variable is added - furniture company

- Suppose the company has the opportunity to produce stools
- Profit \$ 15; requires 1 ft of wood, 1 finishing hour, 1 carpentry hour.
- Should the company produce stools?

- Reduced cost $c_4 \boldsymbol{c}_B^T \boldsymbol{B}^{-1} A_4 = -15 (0, -10, -10) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 5 \ge 0$
- Current basis still optimal. Do not produce stools

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