

## 60016 OPERATIONS RESEARCH

Extensions of linear programming

### Last Lecture

- Initial BFS
  - "All slack basis"
  - Artificial variables
- ► Two phase simplex algorithm
  - Systematically finding initial BFS's
  - Detecting infeasibility

## This Lecture

#### Linearization methods

- ► Min-max problems
- ► Min-min problems
- ► Fractional linear programming

### Linearization methods

- Linear programming is useful, but often fairly restrictive.
- Nonlinear optimisation problems arise very commonly in applications.
  - Euclidean distance, chemical reactions, queueing problems, ...
- Nonlinearities can affect objective, constraints, or both.
  - $z = x_1^2, z = x \mod 2, ...$
  - $|x_1-x_2| \le 3$ ,  $x_1x_2+x_3 \le 5$ , ...
- Nonlinear programs can sometimes be reformulated
  - as a single LP problem
  - or as a sequence of LP problems
- ► We see the following cases:
  - min-max models (important for game theory!)
  - min-min models
  - fractional linear programming

## Min-Max Problems

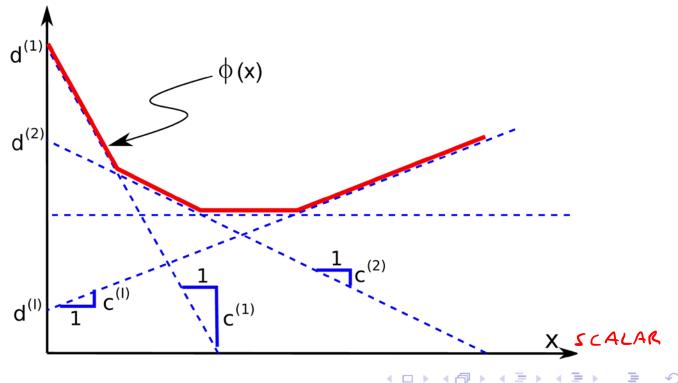
Consider a family of linear functions:  $y_i(x) = c(i)^T x + d(i)$ .

Set 
$$\underline{\phi(x)} = \max_{i=1,...,l} \left\{ c(i)^T x + d(i) \right\}$$
 for  $c(\underline{i}) \in \mathbb{R}^{\underline{n}}$ ,  $d(i) \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then,

min 
$$\phi(x)$$
  
s.t.  $Ax = b, x \ge 0$  (MM)

is called a min-max problem.



# Min-Max Problems (cont)

Perhaps surprisingly, Min-Max problems can be solved by LPs.

**Theorem.** Consider the following linear program:

min 
$$z$$
  
s.t.  $z \ge c(i)^T x + d(i) \ \forall i = 1, ..., I$   
 $Ax = b$   
 $x \ge 0, z \text{ free}$  (LP)

If  $(x_{LP}^*, z_{LP}^*)$  is an optimal solution of this LP, then  $x_{LP}^*$  is also an optimal solution of MM, and MM has optimal value  $\phi(x_{LP}^*) = z_{LP}^*$ .

# Min-Max Problems (cont)

#### **Proof by contradiction:**

- 1. Let  $(x_{LP}^*, z_{LP}^*)$  be optimal in LP.  $x_{LP}^*$  is *feasible* in MM since in LP it is  $Ax_{LP}^* = b$  and  $x_{LP}^* \ge 0$ .
- 2. Assume that  $x_{LP}^*$  is not *optimal* in MM, then there exist a  $x_{MM}^*$  such that  $\phi(x_{MM}^*) < \phi(x_{LP}^*)$ .
- 3. But then  $(x_{MM}^*, \phi(x_{MM}^*))$  must be *feasible* in LP, since in MM we require  $Ax_{MM}^* = b$ ,  $x_{MM}^* \ge 0$ , and for all i = 1, ..., I

$$\phi(x_{MM}^*) = \max_{j=1,...,l} \left\{ c(j)^T x_{MM}^* + d(j) \right\} \ge c(i)^T x_{MM}^* + d(i)$$

4. By the constraints in LP

$$z_{LP}^* \ge \max_{i=1,...,l} \{c(i)^T x_{LP}^* + d(i)\} \implies z_{LP}^* \ge \phi(x_{LP}^*)$$

and since  $z_{LP}^* \geq \phi(x_{LP}^*) > \phi(x_{MM}^*)$ ,  $x_{MM}^*$  would achieve in LP a better objective than  $z_{LP}^*$ . Thus  $x_{MM}^*$  cannot exist and  $x_{LP}^*$  must be optimal also for MM.

 $mim \phi(x)$ Z7, ((i) X+ d (i) ¥; s.t. Axab Ax=b X710 x>10, 2 free Xir is femille (XLP, ZLP)  $\exists x_{nn}^* : \phi(x_{nn}^*) < \phi(x_{i}^*)$  $(\times_n^*, \phi_n^*)$  $\phi_{\text{nn}}^{*} = \max_{j \in I_{\text{nn}}} \int ((j)^{\mathsf{T}} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}}_{n} + d(j)) \} > 1$  $C(i)^T \times_{hn}^{\dagger} + d(i) \qquad \forall i$ BCP > max 1 { ((i) T x + d(i)}  $= \phi \left( X_{+}^{*} \right)$   $= \phi \left( X_{+}^{*} \right) + \phi \left( X_{+}^{*} \right) + \phi \left( X_{+}^{*} \right)$ 

$$\phi(x)$$

$$5.T. A \times = b$$

$$\phi(x) = \max_{i=1,...,L} \left\{ c^{T}(i) \times \right\}$$
  $C(i) \in \mathbb{R}^{m}$   $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$   $b \in \mathbb{R}^{m}$ 

$$C(i) \in \mathbb{R}^{^{n}}$$

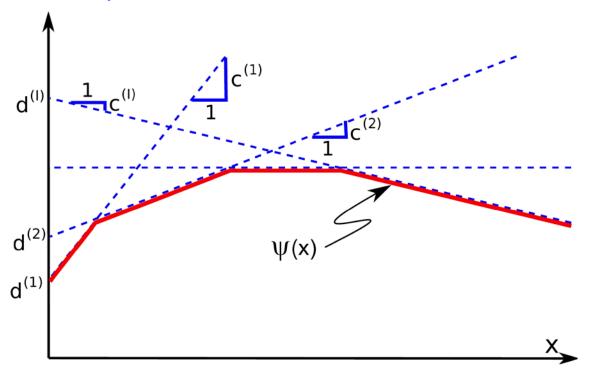
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 5 \\ 5 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad C(i) = \begin{bmatrix} 5-i \\ 3-i \end{bmatrix}$$

## Min-Min Problems

Set 
$$\psi(x) = \min_{i=1,...,I} \left\{ c(i)^T x + d(i) \right\}$$
 for  $c(i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $d(i) \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then,

min 
$$\psi(x)$$
  
s.t.  $Ax = b, x \ge 0$  (MM')

is called a min-min problem.



# Min-Min Problems (cont)

**Theorem:** Consider the following linear programs.

min 
$$z_i = c^T(i)x(i) + d(i)$$
  
s.t.  $Ax(i) = b$  (LP(i))  
 $x(i) \ge 0$ 

Let  $z_i^*$  be the optimal solution to LP(i). Let LP(j) be the LP that has the minimal objective, i.e.,

$$z_j^* = \min_{i=1,\dots,I} z_i$$

and let  $x^*(j)$  be its optimal solution. Then  $x^*(j)$  is optimal in MM' and  $\psi^* = \psi(x^*(j)) = z_i^*$ .

## Interchangeability of Min-Operations

**Lemma:** Let X and Y be arbitrary sets, and let  $f: X \times Y \to \mathbb{R}$  be an arbitrary function defined on  $X \times Y$ . Then,

$$\min_{x \in X} \min_{y \in Y} f(x, y) = \min_{y \in Y} \min_{x \in X} f(x, y) \tag{1}$$

Proof of Min-Min Theorem: The Lemma implies that

$$\begin{vmatrix}
\min_{i=1,\dots,l} & \min_{x} & c(i)^{T}x + d(i) \\
s.t. & Ax = b \\
& x \ge 0
\end{vmatrix} = \min_{i=1,\dots,l} LP(i)$$

is equal to

$$\begin{vmatrix}
\min_{\substack{x & i=1,\dots,I\\ s.t. & Ax = b\\ x \ge 0}
\end{vmatrix} = MM'.$$

Thus, the claim follows.

# Fractional Linear Programming

Consider the fractional linear program

$$\min \left\{ \frac{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_1 + \ldots + \alpha_n x_n}{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \ldots + \beta_n x_n} \mid Ax = b; \ x \ge 0 \right\}.$$
 (FLP)

We assume that

the feasible set of FLP is bounded, i.e.,

$$\exists L > 0$$
 with  $||x|| \le L$   $\forall x : Ax = b, x \ge 0$ ;

▶ the denominator of the objective function is strictly positive, i.e.,  $\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + ... + \beta_n x_n > 0$  for all feasible x.

## Homogenisation

- Introduce new variables  $y_i \ge 0$ , i = 1, ..., n and  $y_0 > 0$ .
- Setting  $\underline{x_i} = \frac{y_i}{y_0}$ , i = 1, ..., n, we can homogenise the fractional linear program as follows.

$$\min \frac{\alpha_{0}y_{0} + \alpha_{1}y_{1} + \alpha_{2}y_{2} + \ldots + \alpha_{n}y_{n}}{\beta_{0}y_{0} + \beta_{1}y_{1} + \beta_{2}y_{2} + \ldots + \beta_{n}y_{n}}$$
s.t. 
$$b_{i}y_{0} - \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij}y_{j} = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \ldots, m$$

$$y_{0} > 0, y_{1} \geq 0, \ldots, y_{n} \geq 0$$
(HFLP)

## Homogenisation

- For any  $(y_0, y_1, \ldots, y_n)$  feasible in HFLP,  $\lambda(y_0, y_1, \ldots, y_n)$  with  $\lambda > 0$  is also feasible and has the same objective value.
- ▶ For each  $(y_0, y_1, ..., y_n)$  we can then find a  $\lambda$  such that

$$\beta_0 y_0 + \ldots + \beta_n y_n = 1.$$

and the scaled point will have identical objective. Thus we can restrict our attention to these points and still find an optimal solution. In other words:

⇒ The denominator in the objective of HFLP can always be normalised to unity.

## Normalised Problem

Solve the normalised problem

$$\min \quad \alpha_0 y_0 + \alpha_1 y_1 + \alpha_2 y_2 + \ldots + \alpha_n y_n$$

s.t. 
$$\beta_0 y_0 + \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j y_j = 1$$
  
 $b_i y_0 - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} y_j = 0 \quad \forall \ i = 1, \dots, m$   
 $y_0 > 0, y_1 \ge 0, \dots, y_n \ge 0$ 

where the first constraint forces the denominator of the objective of HFLP to be equal to 1.

 $\Rightarrow$  This is an LP!

# Constructing a Solution for FLP

- ▶ Denote by  $(y_0^*, y_1^*, \dots, y_n^*)$  the optimal solution of the normalised problem.
- ▶ Then,  $(\frac{y_1^*}{y_0^*}, \dots, \frac{y_n^*}{y_0^*})$  is an optimal solution for FLP.
- Note: this construction only works if  $y_0^* \neq 0$ .
- Nowever, we can show that under the assumptions  $y_0$  cannot be zero at optimality.

## Relaxing the Lower Bound on $y_0$

- Let us now assume to use in HFLP  $y_0 \ge 0$  instead of  $y_0 > 0$ .
- ▶ Suppose  $y_0^* = 0$  and set  $y^* = (y_1^*, ..., y_n^*)^T$ . Since  $b_i y_0^* = 0$

$$Ay^* = 0, \ y^* \ge 0$$

- ► Here  $y^* \neq 0$  since otherwise the denominator of the objective in both HFLP and FLP is not strictly positive as assumed.
- We now note that, if x is feasible in FLP, then  $x + \lambda y^*$  is also feasible in FLP  $\forall \lambda > 0$  since given that  $Ay^* = 0$  it is

$$A(x + \lambda y^*) = Ax + \lambda Ay^* = b,$$

This would contradict that FLP has a bounded feasible set, so  $y_0^*$  cannot be zero and we can use  $y_0 \ge 0$  in HFLP.

## Relaxing the Lower Bound on $y_0$

- Let us now assume to use in HFLP  $y_0 \ge 0$  instead of  $y_0 > 0$ .
- ▶ Suppose  $y_0^* = 0$  and set  $y^* = (y_1^*, ..., y_n^*)^T$ . Since  $b_i y_0^* = 0$

$$Ay^* = 0, \ y^* \ge 0$$

- ► Here  $y^* \neq 0$  since otherwise the denominator of the objective in both HFLP and FLP is not strictly positive as assumed.
- We now note that, if x is feasible in FLP, then  $x + \lambda y^*$  is also feasible in FLP  $\forall \lambda > 0$  since given that  $Ay^* = 0$  it is

$$A(x + \lambda y^*) = Ax + \lambda Ay^* = b,$$

This would contradict that FLP has a bounded feasible set, so  $y_0^*$  cannot be zero and we can use  $y_0 \ge 0$  in HFLP.

$$\frac{x_1 + 2x_2}{4x_1 + 3x_2 + 3}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \times_{1} + \times_{2} & \leq 2 \\ - \times_{1} + \times_{2} & \leq 1 \\ \times_{i} \times_{2} & \approx 0 \end{array}$$

### BOUNDED

$$X_1 = \frac{y_1}{y_0} \qquad X_2 = \frac{y_2}{y_0}$$

$$X^* = \left(\frac{\gamma_1}{70^*}, \frac{\gamma_2}{70^*}\right)$$