

SHEN COMIX

## Introduction to Optimization

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- Syllabus – modules I and II
- Time to prepare ~ **20** hours



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Nobody:

Mom: "*Don't drink too much coffee...*

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- You score **4** points for every hour spent on module I  
and **5** points for every hour spent on module II

How many hours for each module?

## Another example

maximize  $x_1 + x_2$

subject to  $x_2 - x_1 \leq 1$

$x_1 + 6x_2 \leq 15$

$4x_1 - x_2 \leq 10$

$x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0.$

(continue on board)

## Another example

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To-do:

- show vector  $c$  and feasible region

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To-do:

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- show vector  $c$  and feasible region *unique solution*
- replace  $c = [1 \quad 1]^\top$  with  $[\frac{1}{6} \quad 1]^\top$

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To-do:

- show vector  $c$  and feasible region *unique solution*
- replace  $c = [1 \quad 1]^T$  with  $[\frac{1}{6} \quad 1]^T$  *infinitely many solutions*
- reverse 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

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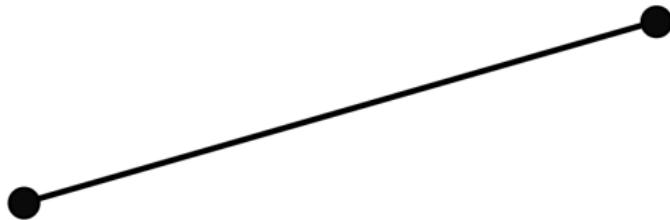
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- reverse 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> *infeasible*
- remove 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> *unbounded*

Why it suffices to look at *corner points*?

$\max f(z)$  subject to some linear constraints where  $f(z) = c^\top z$

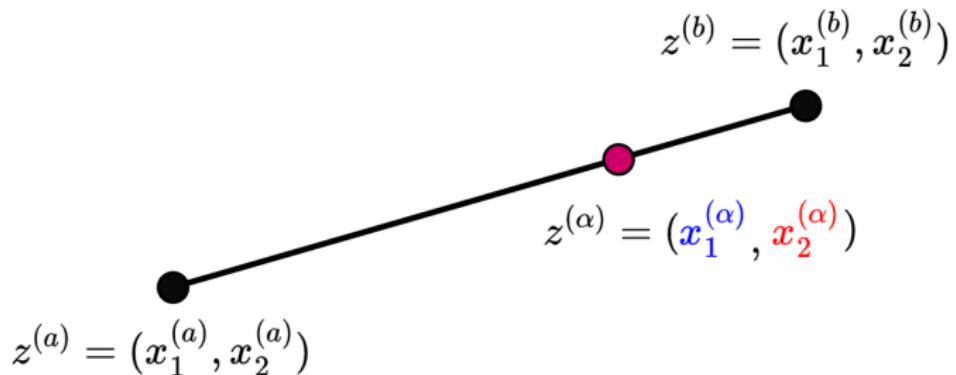
$$z^{(b)} = (x_1^{(b)}, x_2^{(b)})$$



$$z^{(a)} = (x_1^{(a)}, x_2^{(a)})$$

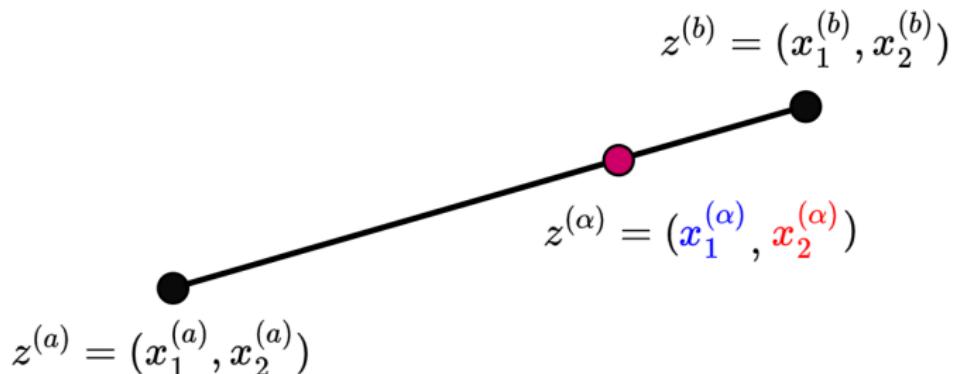
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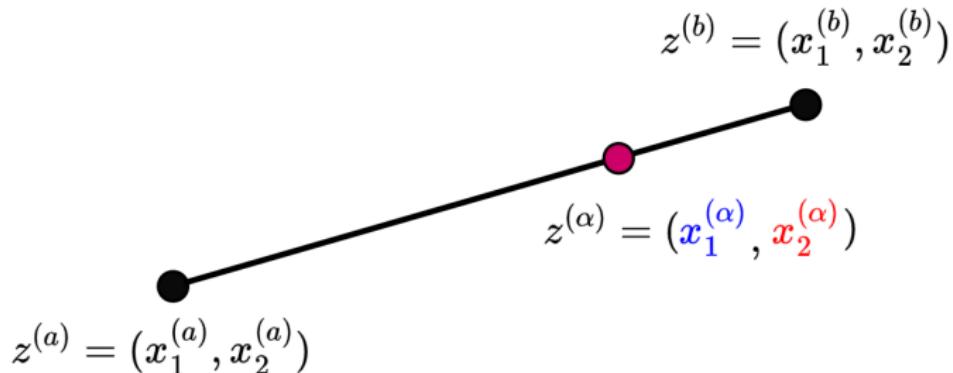
$\max f(z)$  subject to some linear constraints where  $f(z) = c^\top z$



$$z^{(\alpha)} = \alpha z^{(a)} + (1 - \alpha) z^{(b)} \quad ; \quad 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1.$$

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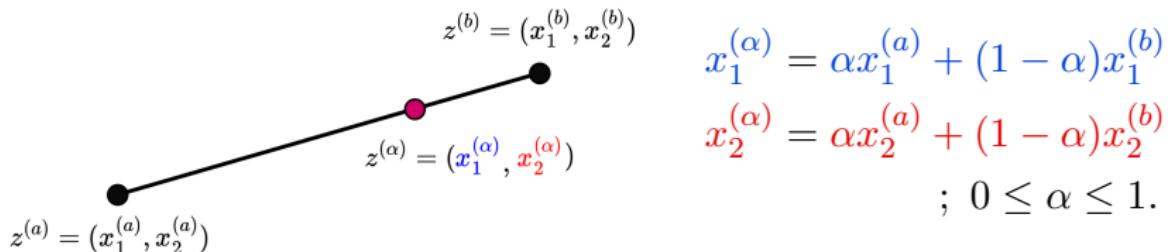
That is,

$$x_1^{(\alpha)} = \alpha x_1^{(a)} + (1 - \alpha) x_1^{(b)}$$

$$x_2^{(\alpha)} = \alpha x_2^{(a)} + (1 - \alpha) x_2^{(b)}$$

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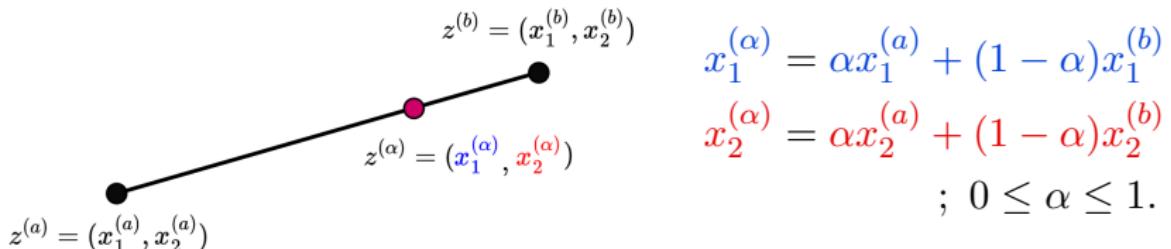
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Objective function value at  $z^{(\alpha)}$ :

$$f(z^{(\alpha)}) = c^\top z^{(\alpha)}$$

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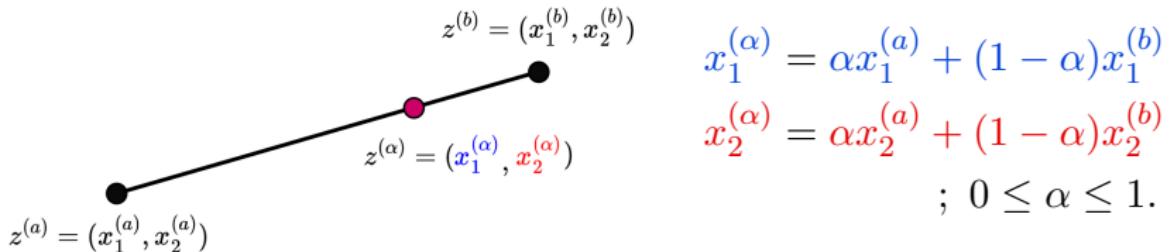
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Objective function value at  $z^{(\alpha)}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}f(z^{(\alpha)}) &= c^\top z^{(\alpha)} \\&= c_1 x_1^{(\alpha)} + c_2 x_2^{(\alpha)}\end{aligned}$$

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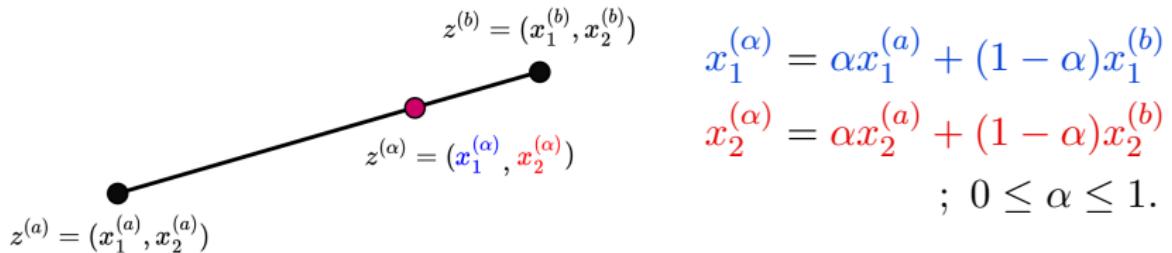
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$$\begin{aligned}f(z^{(\alpha)}) &= c^\top z^{(\alpha)} \\&= c_1 x_1^{(\alpha)} + c_2 x_2^{(\alpha)} \\&= c_1 \left( \alpha x_1^{(a)} + (1 - \alpha)x_1^{(b)} \right) + c_2 \left( \alpha x_2^{(a)} + (1 - \alpha)x_2^{(b)} \right)\end{aligned}$$

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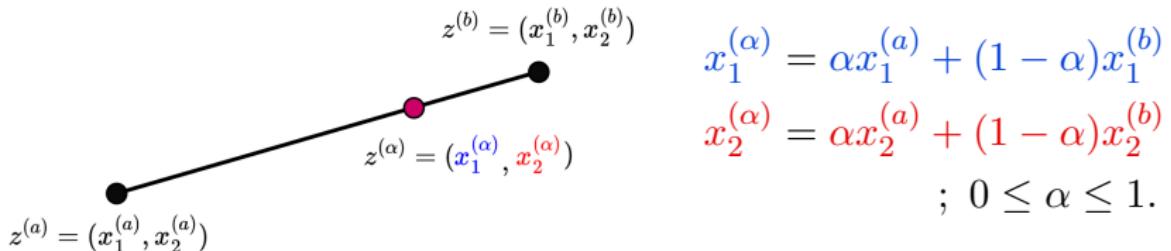


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# Top 10 algorithms from the 20<sup>th</sup> century

*Computing in Science & Engineering*, American Institute of Physics and the IEEE Computer Society, Jan 2000.



## Simplex algorithm – bird's eye view

Algorithms, Dasgupta-Papadimitriou-Vazirani [online]

Let  $v$  be any vertex of the feasible region.

while  $\exists$  a neighbor  $v'$  of  $v$  with better objective value:

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Transform  $u$  into the origin, by shifting the coordinate system from the usual  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  to the "local view" from  $u$ .

## The two tasks at the origin

*"Both tasks are easy if the vertex is at the origin!"*

On each iteration, the algorithm has **two** tasks:

1. Check whether the current vertex is optimal (and if so, halt).
2. Determine where to move next.

Consider the LP:

$$\text{maximize } c^\top x \text{ subject to } Ax \geq b, x \geq 0 \quad ; \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

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Origin is feasible  $\implies$  Origin is a vertex

since it is the unique point at which the  $n$  inequalities

$$x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0, \dots, x_n \geq 0 \quad \text{are tight.}$$

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The origin is optimal if and only if all  $c_i \leq 0$ .

Increase some  $x_i$  for which  $c_i > 0$ .

Increase by how much? Until we hit some other constraint.

Solve using simplex algorithm

“always operate at the **origin**”

max  $2x_1 + 5x_2$  subject to

$$2x_1 - x_2 \leq 4 \quad (1)$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 9 \quad (2)$$

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 3 \quad (3)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

**Current vertex:** (4),(5)

**Objective value:**

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Current vertex: (4),(5)

Objective value: 0

Move:

$\max 2x_1 + 5x_2$  subject to

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Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

**Current vertex:** (4),(5)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_2$

max  $2x_1 + 5x_2$  subject to

$$2x_1 - x_2 \leq 4 \quad (1)$$

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Objective value: 0

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(5) is released, (3) is tightened

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STOP at  $x_2 = ?$

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**Current vertex:** (4),(5)

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STOP at  $x_2 = 3$

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$$y_2 = 3 + x_1 - x_2$$

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$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$y_1 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$-y_1 + y_2 \leq 3 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

Current vertex: (4),(3)

Objective value: 15

Move: increase  $y_1$

(4) is released, (2) is tightened

STOP at  $y_1 = ?$

$\max 15 + 7y_1 - 5y_2$  subject to

$$y_1 + y_2 \leq 7 \quad (1)$$

$$3y_1 - 2y_2 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$y_1 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$-y_1 + y_2 \leq 3 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

“always operate at the *origin*”

**Current vertex:** (4),(3)

**Objective value:** 15

**Move:** increase  $y_1$

STOP at  $y_1 = 1$

$\max 15 + 7y_1 - 5y_2$  subject to

$$y_1 + y_2 \leq 7 \quad (1)$$

$$3y_1 - 2y_2 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$y_1 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$-y_1 + y_2 \leq 3 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

Current vertex: (4),(3)

Objective value: 15

Move: increase  $y_1$

STOP at  $y_1 = 1$

New vertex: (2),(3)

$\max 15 + 7y_1 - 5y_2$  subject to

$$y_1 + y_2 \leq 7 \quad (1)$$

$$3y_1 - 2y_2 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$y_1 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

$$-y_1 + y_2 \leq 3 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the **origin**"

**Current vertex:** (4),(3)

**Objective value:** 15

**Move:** increase  $y_1$

STOP at  $y_1 = 1$

**New vertex:** (2),(3)

$$z_1 = 3 - 3y_1 + 2y_2$$

$$z_2 = y_2$$

$\max 15 + 7y_1 - 5y_2$  subject to

$$y_1 + y_2 \leq 7 \tag{1}$$

$$3y_1 - 2y_2 \leq 3 \tag{2}$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \tag{3}$$

$$y_1 \geq 0 \tag{4}$$

$$-y_1 + y_2 \leq 3 \tag{5}$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

**Current vertex:** (2),(3)

**Objective value:**

$$\max 22 - \frac{7}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2 \text{ subject to}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

**Current vertex:** (2),(3)

**Objective value:** 22

$$\max 22 - \frac{7}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2 \text{ subject to}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

**Current vertex:** (2),(3)

**Objective value:** 22

**Move:**

$$\max 22 - \frac{7}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2 \text{ subject to}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

Current vertex:

Objective value: 22

Move:



$$\max 22 - \frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2 \text{ subject to}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the **origin**"

Current vertex: (2),(3)

Objective value: 22

Move: origin is optimal!

(all  $c_i < 0$ )

max  $22 - \frac{7}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2$  subject to

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

Current vertex: (2),(3)

Objective value:

22

Move: origin is optimal!

(all  $c_i < 0$ )

$$\max 22 - \frac{7}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2 \text{ subject to}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the *origin*"

Current vertex: (2),(3)

Objective value:

22

Move: origin is optimal!  
(all  $c_i < 0$ )

Solve (2),(3) in the original LP:

$$\max 22 - \frac{7}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2 \text{ subject to}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

Solve using simplex algorithm

"always operate at the **origin**"

**Current vertex:** (2),(3)

**Objective value:**

22

**Move:** origin is optimal!  
(all  $c_i < 0$ )

Solve (2),(3) in the original LP:

$$(x_1, x_2) = (1, 4)$$

$$\max 22 - \frac{7}{3}z_1 - \frac{1}{3}z_2 \text{ subject to}$$

$$-\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{5}{3}z_2 \leq 6 \quad (1)$$

$$z_1 \geq 0 \quad (2)$$

$$z_2 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 - \frac{2}{3}z_2 \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}z_1 + \frac{1}{3}z_2 \leq 4 \quad (5)$$

## Back to the first example

solve using simplex



$$\text{maximize } 4x_1 + 5x_2$$

$$\text{subject to } x_1 + x_2 \leq 20$$

$$3x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 72$$

$$x_1 \geq 0$$

$$x_2 \geq 0$$



(complete on board)

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP

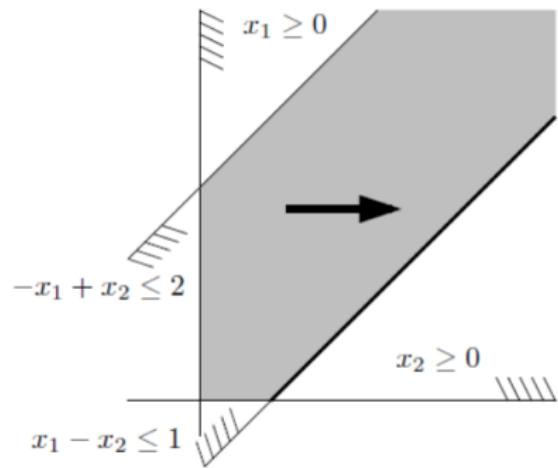
maximize  $x_1$

$$\text{subject to } x_1 - x_2 \leq 1 \quad (1)$$

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

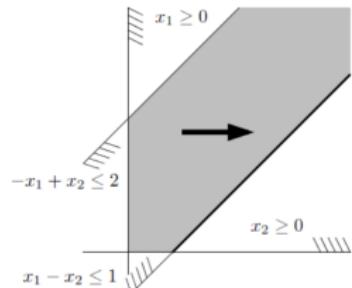
$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$



## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

$$\text{subject to } x_1 - x_2 \leq 1 \quad (1)$$

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

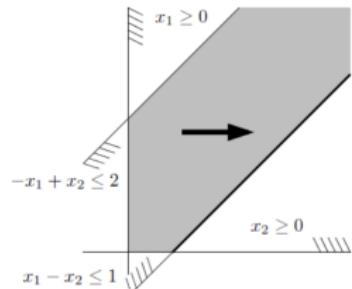
$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

Current vertex: (3),(4)

Objective value: 0

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

$$\text{subject to } x_1 - x_2 \leq 1 \quad (1)$$

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

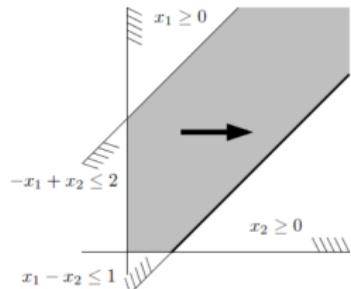
**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_1$

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

Current vertex: (3),(4)

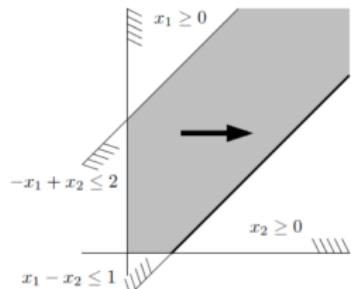
Objective value: 0

Move: increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2$  (2)

$x_1 \geq 0$  (3)

$x_2 \geq 0$  (4)

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

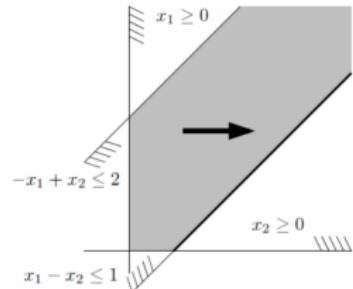
**Move:** increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

**New vertex:** (1),(4)

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2$  (2)

$x_1 \geq 0$  (3)

$x_2 \geq 0$  (4)

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

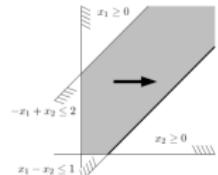
**New vertex:** (1),(4)

$$y_2 = x_2$$

$$y_1 = 1 - x_1 + x_2$$

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

**New vertex:** (1),(4)

$$y_2 = x_2$$

$$y_1 = 1 - x_1 + x_2$$

---

maximize  $1 - y_1 + y_2$

subject to  $y_1 \geq 0$  (1)

$$y_1 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

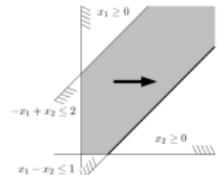
$$y_1 - y_2 \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

**Current vertex:** (1),(4)

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

Current vertex: (3),(4)

Objective value: 0

Move: increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

New vertex: (1),(4)

$$y_2 = x_2$$

$$y_1 = 1 - x_1 + x_2$$

---

maximize  $1 - y_1 + y_2$

subject to  $y_1 \geq 0$  (1)

$$y_1 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

$$y_1 - y_2 \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

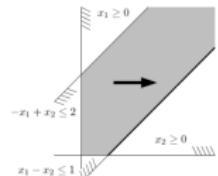
$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

Current vertex: (1),(4)

Objective value: 1

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

Current vertex: (3),(4)

Objective value: 0

Move: increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

New vertex: (1),(4)

$$y_2 = x_2$$

$$y_1 = 1 - x_1 + x_2$$

---

maximize  $1 - y_1 + y_2$

subject to  $y_1 \geq 0$  (1)

$$y_1 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

$$y_1 - y_2 \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

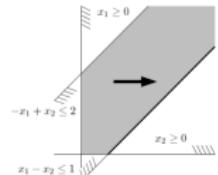
Current vertex: (1),(4)

Objective value: 1

Move: increase  $y_2$

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

Current vertex: (3),(4)

Objective value: 0

Move: increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

New vertex: (1),(4)

$$y_2 = x_2$$

$$y_1 = 1 - x_1 + x_2$$

maximize  $1 - y_1 + y_2$

subject to  $y_1 \geq 0$  (1)

$$y_1 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

$$y_1 - y_2 \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

Current vertex: (1),(4)

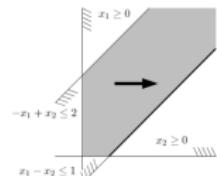
Objective value: 1

Move: increase  $y_2$

STOP at  $y_2 = ?$

## Another interesting example

Unbounded LP



maximize  $x_1$

subject to  $x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$  (1)

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_1$

STOP at  $x_1 = 1$

**New vertex:** (1),(4)

$$y_2 = x_2$$

$$y_1 = 1 - x_1 + x_2$$

maximize  $1 - y_1 + y_2$

subject to  $y_1 \geq 0$  (1)

$$y_1 \leq 3 \quad (2)$$

$$y_1 - y_2 \leq 1 \quad (3)$$

$$y_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

**Current vertex:** (1),(4)

**Objective value:** 1

**Move:** increase  $y_2$

STOP at  $y_2 = ?$

LP is unbounded

## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

$$\text{subject to } -x_1 + x_2 \leq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x_1 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

subject to  $-x_1 + x_2 \leq 0$  (1)

$x_1 \leq 2$  (2)

$x_1 \geq 0$  (3)

$x_2 \geq 0$  (4)

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

$$\text{subject to } -x_1 + x_2 \leq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x_1 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_2$

## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

$$\text{subject to } -x_1 + x_2 \leq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x_1 \leq 2 \quad (2)$$

$$x_1 \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x_2 \geq 0 \quad (4)$$

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_2$



## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

subject to  $-x_1 + x_2 \leq 0$  (1)

$x_1 \leq 2$  (2)

$x_1 \geq 0$  (3)

$x_2 \geq 0$  (4)

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_2$



CAN'T!

## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

subject to  $-x_1 + x_2 \leq 0$  (1)

$x_1 \leq 2$  (2)

$x_1 \geq 0$  (3)

$x_2 \geq 0$  (4)

**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_2$



CAN'T!

## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

subject to  $-x_1 + x_2 \leq 0$  (1)

$x_1 \leq 2$  (2)

$x_1 \geq 0$  (3)

$x_2 \geq 0$  (4)

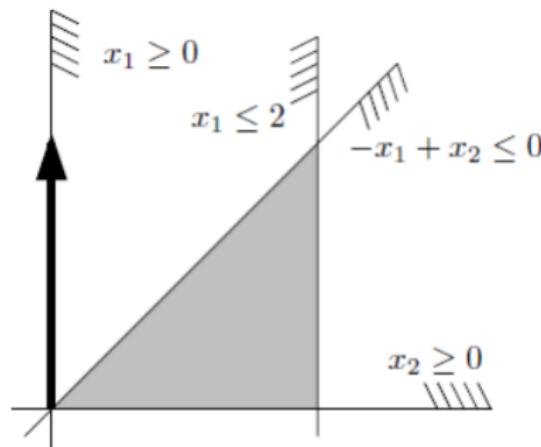
Current vertex: (3),(4)

Objective value: 0

Move: increase  $x_2$



CAN'T!



## One last example

Degeneracy

maximize  $x_2$

subject to  $-x_1 + x_2 \leq 0$  (1)

$x_1 \leq 2$  (2)

$x_1 \geq 0$  (3)

$x_2 \geq 0$  (4)

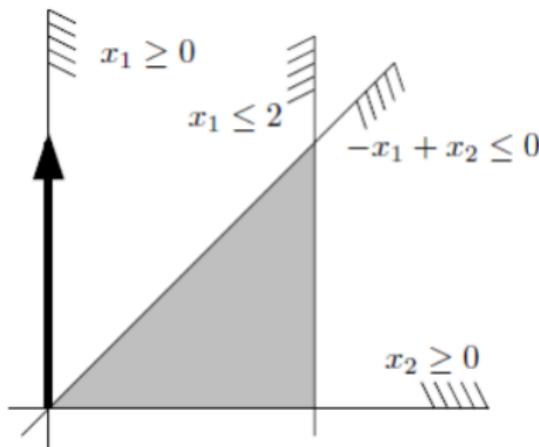
**Current vertex:** (3),(4)

**Objective value:** 0

**Move:** increase  $x_2$



CAN'T!



**Move:** increase  $x_1 \rightarrow$

LP in standard form

simplex tableau demands . . .

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } c^\top x \\ & \text{subject to } Ax = b, \\ & \quad x \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

LP in standard form

simplex tableau demands . . .

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } c^\top x \\ & \text{subject to } Ax = b, \\ & \quad x \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose we are given the inequality constraint

$$x_1 \leq 7.$$

LP in standard form

simplex tableau demands . . .

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ & \text{subject to } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}, \\ & \quad \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose we are given the inequality constraint

$$x_1 \leq 7.$$

Convert to an **equality constraint** – introduce a **slack variable**:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + s_1 &= 7 \\ s_1 &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$