# **Linear Programming**

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#### **Lecture 6 Interior Point Method**

#### Outline:

1.Motivation

2.Basic concepts

3. Primal affine scaling algorithm

4.Dual affine scaling algorithm

#### • Motivation

- -Simplex method works well in general, but suffers from exponential-time computational complexity.
- -Klee-Minty example shows simplex method may have to **visit every vertex** to reach the optimal one.
- -Total complexity of an iterative algorithm
- = # of iterations  $\times$  # of operations in each iteration

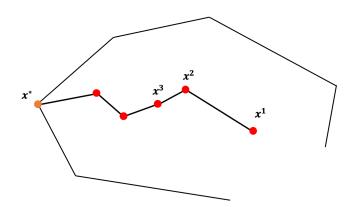
# Simplex method

- -Simple operations: only check adjacent extreme points.
- -May take many iterations: Klee-Minty example.

Question: any fix?

# • Karmarkar's (interior point) approach

-Basic idea: approach optimal solutions from the interior of the feasible domain.



- -Take **more complicated operations** in each iteration to find a better moving direction.
- -Require much fewer iterations.

## • General scheme of an interior point method

-An iterative method that moves in the interior of the feasible domain.

**Step 1:** Start with an interior solution.

Step 2: If current solution is good enough, STOP! Otherwise,

<u>Step 3:</u> Check all directions for improvement and move to a better interior solution. Go to Step 2.

## • Interior movement (iteration)

-Given a current interior feasible solution  $x^k$ , we have

$$Ax^k = b, x^k > 0.$$

-An interior movement has a general format

$$x^{k+1} := x^k + \alpha d_x^k$$

$$\begin{cases} \alpha \ge 0 : & \text{step-length} \\ d_x^k \in R^n : & \text{moving direction} \end{cases}$$

## • Key knowledge

1. Who is in the interior?

-Inital solution.

2. How do we know a current solution is optimal?

-Optimality condition.

3. How to move to a new solution?

-Which direction to move?(good feasible direction)

-How far to go?(step-length)

# • Q1 - Who is in the interior?

Standard form LP

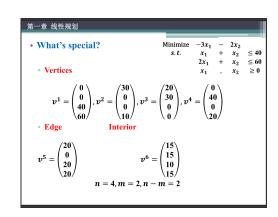
$$\begin{array}{ll}
\min & c^T x \\
\text{(LP)} & \text{s.t.} & A x = b \\
& x \ge 0
\end{array}$$

Who is at the vertex?

Who is on the edge?

Who is on the boundary?

Who is in the interior?



Two criteria for a point x to be an interior feasible solution:

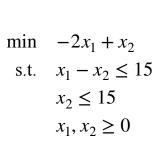
1. Ax = b (every linear constraint is satisfied)

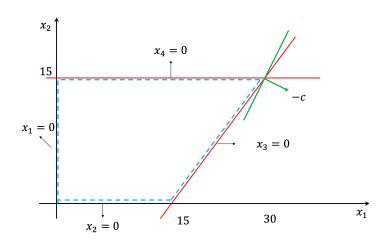
2. x > 0 (every component is positive)

#### Comments:

- 1. On a hyperplane  $H = \{x \in R^n | a^T x = \beta\}$ . (every point is interior relative to H since H does not have the concept of "boundary"!)
- 2. For the first orthant  $K = \{x \in R^n | x \ge 0\}$ . (only those x > 0 are interior relative to K.)

Example:





#### How to find an initial interior solution?

Like the simplex method, we have

- -Big M method
- -Two-phase method

(to be discussed later in "Part Two")

# • Q2 - How do we know a current solution is optimal?

Basic concept of optimality:

A current feasible solution is optimal if and only if "no feasible direction at this point is a good direction."

In other words, "every feasible direction is not a good direction to move!"

#### Feasible direction

In an interior-point method, a **feasible direction** at a current solution is a direction that allows it to take a **small movement** while **staying to be interior feasible**.

Observations:

$$x^{k+1} = x^k + \alpha d_x^k, A x^k = b, x^k > 0.$$

There is no problem to stay interior if the step-length is small enough. To maintain feasibility, we need

$$Ax^{k+1} = b \iff Ax^k + \alpha Ad_x^k = b \Rightarrow Ad_x^k = 0,$$

i.e.

 $d_x^k \in \mathcal{N}(A)$ : null space of A.

#### Good direction:

In an interior-point method, a **good direction** at a current solution is a direction that leads to a new solution with a **lower objective value**.

Observations:

$$c^T x^{k+1} \le c^T x^k \iff c^T x^k + \alpha c^T d_x^k \le c^T x^k \implies c^T d_x^k \le 0.$$

## Optimality check

Principle: "no feasible direction at this point is a good direction."

At a current solution, we check that:

No 
$$d_x^k \in R^n$$
 with  $Ad_x^k = 0$  can make  $c^T d_x^k < 0$ .

### • Q3 - How to move to a new solution?

- 1. Which direction to move?
- a good, feasible direction.
- "Good" requires  $c^T d_x^k \le 0$ .
- "Feasible" requires  $A d_x^k = 0$ ,  $d_x^k \in \mathcal{N}(A)$ : null space of A.

## **Question: any suggestion?**

## A good direction

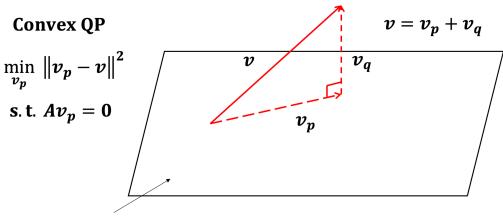
-Reduce the objective value

 $c^T d_x^k \le 0$  Candidate:  $d_x^k = -c$  (negative gradient) (steepest descent)

-Maintain feasibility

 $A d_x^k = 0$  Candidate: projected negative gradient

$$\boldsymbol{d}_{x}^{k} = [\boldsymbol{I} - \boldsymbol{A}^{T} (\boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{A}^{T})^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}](-\boldsymbol{c})$$



 $\mathcal{N}(M)$  =Null space of matrix M

$$\mathcal{N}(M) = \{x \mid Mx = 0\}$$

$$v_p = [I - M^T (MM^T)^{-1}M]v$$

$$v_q = M^T (MM^T)^{-1}Mv$$

$$\boldsymbol{d}_{x}^{k} = [\boldsymbol{I} - \boldsymbol{A}^{T} (\boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{A}^{T})^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}](-\boldsymbol{c}) = \boldsymbol{P}_{x}^{k} (-\boldsymbol{c}),$$

 $P_x^k \stackrel{\triangle}{=} I - A^T (AA^T)^{-1}A$ : <u>null space projection matrix</u>

2. How far to go?

-To satisfy every linear constraint.

Since  $A d_x^k = 0$ ,  $d_x^k \in \mathcal{N}(A)$ : null space of A,  $A x^{k+1} = A x^k + \alpha A d_x^{k+1} = b$ , the step-length can be real number.

-To stay to be an interior solution, we need  $x^{k+1} > 0$ .

How to choose step-length?

One easy approach: in order to keep  $x^{k+1} = x^k + \alpha d_x^k > 0$ , we may use the "minimum ratio test" to determine the step-length.

Observation:

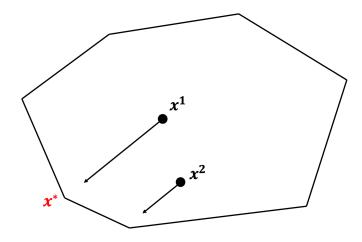
When  $x^k$  is close to the boundary, the step-length may be very small.

Question: then what?

#### Obervations

If a current solution is **near the center** of the feasible domain (polyhedral set), it makes sense to move along the **steepest descent direction**.

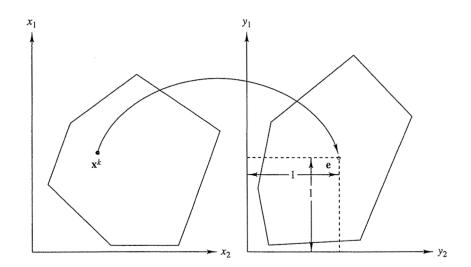
If a current solution is not near the center, we need to re-scale its coordinates to transform it to become "near the center".



Question: but how?

#### • Where is the center?

We need to know where is the "center" of the non-negative/first orthant:  $\{x \in R^n | x \ge 0\}.$ 



If  $x^k = e = (1, 1, \dots, 1)^T$ , then

- (1)  $x^k$  is one-unit away from the boundary. (2) As long as  $\alpha < 1$ ,  $x^{k+1} > 0$ . (if  $|(d_x^k)_i| \le 1$ ,  $\forall i$ )

Question: If not, what to do?

# Concept of scaling

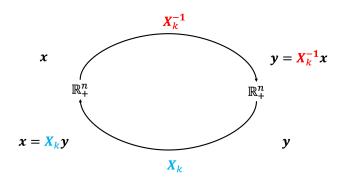
Scale  $x^k$  to be e.

Define a diagonal scaling matrix:

$$X_k = \operatorname{diag}(x_i^k) = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^k & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & x_2^k & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & x_n^k \end{pmatrix}$$

then  $X_k^{-1}x^k = e$ .

# • Transformation - affine scaling



The transformation is 1.one-to-one

2.onto

3.invertible

4.boundary to boundary

**5.interior to interior** 

$$\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k} = [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{X}_{k} \mathbf{A}^{T} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{X}_{k}^{2} \mathbf{A}^{T})^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{X}_{k}] (-\mathbf{X}_{k} \mathbf{c})$$

$$\mathbf{y}^{k+1} = \mathbf{y}^{k} + \alpha_{k} \frac{\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k}}{\|\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k}\|}$$

$$\alpha_{k} = 0.99(\text{say}) \quad 0 < \alpha_{k} < 1$$

$$x^{k+1} = X_k y^{k+1} = X_k (y^k + \alpha_k \frac{d_y^k}{\|d_y^k\|})$$

$$= X_k y^k + \alpha_k X_k \frac{d_y^k}{\|d_y^k\|}$$

$$= x^k + \frac{\alpha_k}{\|d_y^k\|} d_y^k$$

$$X_k d_v^k = d_x^k = -X_k [I - X_k A^T (A X_k^2 A^T)^{-1} A X_k] (X_k c)$$

## Step-length in the transformed space

Minimum ratio test in the y-space

In order to make sure that  $y^{k+1} > 0$ , we need

$$\mathbf{y}^k + \alpha_k \mathbf{d}_v^k > \mathbf{0}$$

Case 1:  $d_k^y \ge 0$ , then  $\alpha_k \in (0, +\infty)$ . Typically,  $d_y^k = 0$ , then the objective value is a constant in its feasible domain.

Case 2:  $(\boldsymbol{d}_{y}^{k})_{i} < 0$  for some i.

Then

$$(\mathbf{y}^{k})_{i} + \alpha_{k}(\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k})_{i} > 0 \iff (\mathbf{y}^{k})_{i} > -\alpha_{k}(\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k})_{i} \iff \alpha_{k} < \frac{(\mathbf{y}^{k})_{i}}{-(\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k})_{i}} = \frac{1}{-(\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k})_{i}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_{k} = \min_{i} \{ \frac{\alpha}{-(\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k})_{i}} | (\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k})_{i} < 0 \} \text{ for some } \alpha \in (0,1).$$

### Property 1

Iteration in the x-space:

$$x^{k+1} = X_{k}y^{k+1} = X_{k}(e + \alpha_{k}d_{y}^{k})$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}X_{k}d_{y}^{k}$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}X_{k}P_{k}(-X_{k}c)$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}X_{k}[I - X_{k}A^{T}(AX_{k}^{2}A^{T})^{-1}AX_{k}](-X_{k}c)$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}[X_{k} - X_{k}^{2}A^{T}(AX_{k}^{2}A^{T})^{-1}AX_{k}](-X_{k}c)$$

$$= x^{k} - \alpha_{k}[X_{k}^{2}c - X_{k}^{2}A^{T}(AX_{k}^{2}A^{T})^{-1}AX_{k}^{2}c]$$

$$= x^{k} - \alpha_{k}[X_{k}^{2}[c - A^{T}(AX_{k}^{2}A^{T})^{-1}AX_{k}^{2}c]]$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}\{-X_{k}^{2}[c - A^{T}(AX_{k}^{2}A^{T})^{-1}AX_{k}^{2}c]\}$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}\{-X_{k}^{2}[c - A^{T}(AX_{k}^{2}A^{T})^{-1}AX_{k}^{2}c]\}$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}\{-X_{k}^{2}[c - A^{T}w^{k}]\}$$

$$= x^{k} + \alpha_{k}d_{x}^{k}$$

## Property 2

Feasible direction in x-space:

$$x^{k+1} = X_k y^{k+1} = X_k (y^k + \alpha_k \frac{d_y^k}{\|d_y^k\|})$$

$$= X_k y^k + \alpha_k X_k \frac{d_y^k}{\|d_y^k\|}$$

$$= x^k + \frac{\alpha_k}{\|d_y^k\|} X_k d_y^k$$

$$= x^k + \frac{\alpha_k}{\|d_y^k\|} d_x^k$$

Since  $AX_k d_y^k = 0$ ,  $Ad_x^k = 0$ , i.e.,  $d_x^k \in \mathcal{N}(A)$ .

## Property 3

Good direction in x-space:

$$c^{T}x^{k+1} = c^{T}(x^{k} + \alpha_{k}X_{k}d_{y}^{k})$$

$$= c^{T}x^{k} + \alpha_{k}c^{T}X_{k}d_{y}^{k}$$

$$= c^{T}x^{k} + \alpha_{k}c^{T}X_{k}[P_{k}(-X_{k}c)]$$

$$= c^{T}x^{k} - \alpha_{k}(-X_{k}c)^{T}[P_{k}(-X_{k}c)]$$

$$= c^{T}x^{k} - \alpha_{k}(-X_{k}c, P_{k}(-X_{k}c))$$

$$= c^{T}x^{k} - \alpha_{k}\|P_{k}(-X_{k}c)\|^{2}$$

$$= c^{T}x^{k} - \alpha_{k}\|d_{y}^{k}\|^{2}$$

Hence,  $c^T x^{k+1} \le c^T x^k$ , and  $c^T x^{k+1} < c^T x^k$  if  $d_y^k \ne 0$ .

Lemma 7.1 If  $\exists x^k \in P$ ,  $x^k > 0$  with  $d_y^k > 0$ , then the standard LP is unbounded below.

### Property 4

Optimality check

Lemma 7.2 If there exists an  $x^k \in P^0$  with  $d_y^k = 0$ , then every feasible solution of the linear programming problem (7.1) is optimal. (the objective value is a constant)

For  $x^k \in P^0 = \{x \in R^n | Ax = b, x \geq 0\}$ , if  $d_y^k = -P_k X_k c = 0$ , then  $X_k c$  falls in the orthogonal space of  $\mathcal{N}(AX_k)$ , i.e.,  $X_k c \in \text{row space of } (AX_k)$ .  $\Rightarrow \exists u^k$ , s.t.  $(AX_k)^T u^k = X_k c$  or  $(u^k)^T AX_k = c^T X_k$  $\Rightarrow (u^k)^T A = c^T$ 

For any feasible solution x,

$$\boldsymbol{c}^T \boldsymbol{x} = (\boldsymbol{u}^k)^T \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{x} = (\boldsymbol{u}^k)^T \boldsymbol{b}$$

Since  $(\boldsymbol{u}^k)^T \boldsymbol{b}$  does not depend on  $\boldsymbol{x}$ , the value of  $\boldsymbol{c}^T \boldsymbol{x}$  remains constant over P.

# Property 5

Lemma 7.3 If the linear programming problem (7.1) is bounded below and its objective function is not constant, then the sequence  $\{c^T x^k | k = 1, 2, \cdots\}$  is well-defined and strictly decreasing.

### Property 6

We may define

$$\mathbf{w}^k \equiv (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{X}_k^2 \mathbf{A}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{X}_k^2 \mathbf{c}$$
 (dual estimate)  
 $\mathbf{r}^k \equiv \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{w}^k$  (reduced cost)

If  $\mathbf{r}^k \geq \mathbf{0}$ , then  $\mathbf{w}^k$  is dual feasible, and  $(\mathbf{x}^k)^T \mathbf{r}^k = (\mathbf{X}_k \mathbf{y}^k)^T \mathbf{r}^k = (\mathbf{X}_k \mathbf{e})^T \mathbf{r}^k = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{X}_k^T \mathbf{r}^k = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{X}_k \mathbf{r}^k$  becomes the duality gap, i.e.,  $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{w}^k = \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{X}_k \mathbf{r}^k$ .

Therefore, if  $r^k \ge 0$  and  $e^T X_k r^k = 0$ , then  $x^k \leftarrow x^*$ ,  $w^k \leftarrow w^*$ .

## Property 7 Moving direction and reduced cost

$$d_y^k = [I - X_k A^T (A X_k^2 A^T)^{-1} A X_k] (-X_k c)$$

$$= -[X_k c - X_k A^T (A X_k^2 A^T)^{-1} A X_k^2 c]$$

$$= -X_k [c - A^T (A X_k^2 A^T)^{-1} A X_k^2 c]$$

$$= -X_k [c - A^T w^k]$$

$$= -X_k r^k$$

## • Key steps of primal affine scaling algorithm

Step 1 Set 
$$k \leftarrow 0$$
,  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , find  $x^0 > 0$  and  $Ax^0 = b$ .

$$\mathbf{w}^{k} = (A \mathbf{X}_{k}^{2} A^{T})^{-1} A \mathbf{X}_{k}^{2} \mathbf{c}$$

$$\mathbf{r}^{k} = \mathbf{c} - A^{T} \mathbf{w}^{k}$$
If  $\mathbf{r}^{k} \geq \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{e}^{T} \mathbf{X}_{k} \mathbf{r}^{k} \leq \epsilon$ , then STOP!  $\mathbf{x}^{k} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{*}$ ,  $\mathbf{w}^{k} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}^{*}$ . Otherwise,

Step 3 Compute  $d_y^k = -X_k r^k$ .

If  $d_y^k \ge 0$ (but  $\ne 0$ ), then STOP! Unbounded below.

If  $\mathbf{d}_{y}^{k} = \mathbf{0}$ , then STOP!  $\mathbf{x}^{k} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{*}$  (the objective value is a constant). Otherwise,

Step 4 Find 
$$\alpha_k = \min_i \{ \frac{\alpha}{-(\boldsymbol{d}_y^k)_i} | (\boldsymbol{d}_y^k)_i < 0 \}.$$

$$\boldsymbol{x}^{k+1} = \boldsymbol{x}^k + \alpha_k \boldsymbol{X}_k \boldsymbol{d}_y^k$$

$$k := k+1.$$
Go to Step 2.