# Introduction to Optimization

CO 255

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## **Preface**

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# Info

Ricardo: MC 5036. OH: M $1{:}30$  -  $3\mathrm{pm}$ 

TA: Adam Brown: MC 5462. OH: F 10-11am

Books (not required)

• Intro to Linear Opt. Bertsimas

• Int Programming. Conforti

#### Grading

• assns: 20% ( $\approx 5$ )

• mid: 30% (Feb 11 in class)

• final: 50%

## Introduction

Given a set S, and a function  $f: S \to \mathbb{R}$ . An optimization problem is:

$$\max_{s.t.} f(x)$$
subject to (OPT)

- $\bullet$  S feasible region
- A point  $\overline{x} \in S$  is a feasible solution
- f(x) is objective function

(OPT) means: "Find a feasible solution  $x^*$  such that  $f(x) \leq f(x^*), \forall x \in S$ "

- Such  $x^*$  is an optimal solution
- $f(x^*)$  is optimal value

Other ways to write (OPT):

$$\max\{f(x), x \in S\}$$
$$\max_{x \in S} f(x)$$

Analogous problem

$$\min f(x)$$

$$s.t. \ x \in S$$

Note

$$\max_{s.t.} f(x) = -1 \begin{pmatrix} \min_{s.t.} -f(x) \\ s.t. & x \in S \end{pmatrix}$$

**Problem**  $x^*$  may not exist

a) Problem is unbounded:

$$\forall M \in \mathbb{R}, \exists \overline{x} \in S, \ s.t. \ f(\overline{x}) > M$$

- b)  $S = \phi$ , i.e. (OPT) is **INFEASIBLE**
- c) There may not exist  $x^*$  achieving supremum.

#### Example:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & x \\ \text{s.t} & x < 1 \end{array}$$

#### supremum

$$\sup\{f(x): x \in S\} = \begin{cases} +\infty & \text{if OPT unbounded} \\ -\infty & \text{if } S = \emptyset \\ \min\{x: x \ge f(x), \forall x \in S\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

always exist and are well-defined

#### infimum

$$\inf\{f(x) : x \in S\} = -1 \cdot \sup\{-f(x) : x \in S\}$$

From this point on, we will abuse notation and say  $\max\{f(x):x\in S\}$  is  $\sup\{f(x):x\in S\}$ .

One way to specify that I want an opt. sol. (if exists) is

$$x^* \in \operatorname{argmax} \{ f(x) : x \in S \}$$

# Linear Optimization (Programming) (LP)

$$S = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \le b \}$$

where  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $f(x) = c^T x, c \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\max_{x} c^{T} x$$

$$s.t. \ Ax \le b$$
(LP)

Note

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ A_1 & \cdots & A_n \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix} \qquad A = \begin{pmatrix} - & a_1^T & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & a_m^T & - \end{pmatrix}$$

Clarifying

$$u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
,  $u \le v \iff u_j \le v_j, \forall j \in 1, \dots, n$ 

Note

 $u \not \leq v$  is not the same as u > v

$$\binom{1}{0} \not\leq \binom{0}{1}$$

Example:

• Strict ineq. not allowed

#### halfspace, hyperplane, polyhedron

Let  $h \in \mathbb{R}^n, h_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

 ${x \in \mathbb{R}^n : h^T \le h_0}$  is a halfspace.

 $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : h^T = h_0\}$  is a hyperplane.

 $Ax \le b$  is a **polyhedron** (i.e. intersection of finitely many halfspaces).

#### Example:

n products, m resources. Producing  $j \in \{1, ..., n\}$  given  $c_j$  profit/unit and consumes  $a_{ij}$  units of resource  $i, \forall i \in \{1, ..., m\}$ . There are  $b_i$  units available  $\forall i \in \{1, ..., m\}$ .

$$\max \sum_{j=1}^{n} c_{j} x_{j}$$

$$s.t. \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} x_{j} \leq b_{i}, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$x > 0$$

which is an LP.

## 2.1 Determining Feasibility

Given a polyhedron

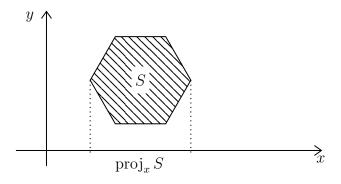
$$P = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \le b \}$$

either find  $\overline{x} \in P$  or show  $P = \emptyset$ .

**Idea** In 1-d, easy.  $\rightarrow$  Reduce problem in dimension n to one in dimension n-1.

**Notation** Let 
$$S = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p : Ax + Gy \leq b\}$$
, then  $\operatorname{proj}_x S := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists y \text{ so that } (x, y) \in S\}$ 

is the (orthogonal) projection if S onto x.



We will find if  $P = \emptyset$  by looking at  $\operatorname{proj}_{x_1,\dots,x_{n-1}}$ (P)

#### Fourier-Motzkin Elimination 2.2

Call  $a_{ij}$  entries of A. Let

$$M := \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$$

$$M^{+} := \{i \in M : a_{in} > 0\}$$

$$M^{-} := \{i \in M : a_{in} < 0\}$$

$$M^{0} := \{i \in M : a_{in} = 0\}$$

For  $i \in M^+$  (1):

$$a_i^T \le b_i \iff \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \le b_i \iff \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_{ij}}{a_{in}} x_j + x_n \le \frac{b_i}{a_{in}}, \quad \forall i \in M^+$$

For  $i \in M^-$  (2):

$$a_i^T x \le b_i \iff \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_{ij}}{a_{in}} x_j - x_n \le \frac{b_i}{-a_{in}}, \quad \forall i \in M^-$$

For  $i \in M^0$  (3):

$$a_i^T x \le b_i \iff \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{ij} x_j \le b_i, \quad \forall i \in M^0$$

$$P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : (1)(2)(3)\}$$

Define (4):

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left( \frac{a_{ij}}{a_{in}} - \frac{a_{kj}}{a_{kn}} \right) x_j \le \frac{b_i}{a_{in}} - \frac{b_i}{a_{kn}}, \quad \forall i \in M^+, \forall k \in M^-$$

#### Theorem 2.1

$$(\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_{n-1})$$
 satisfies (3), (4)  $\iff \exists \overline{x}_n : (\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_n) \in P$ 

$$\iff \text{If } (\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_n) \text{ satisfies } (1), (2), (3) \text{ then } (\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_{n-1}) \text{ satisfies } (3) \text{ and } \\ \text{adding } (1), (2) \implies (\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_{n-1}) \text{ satisfies } (4) \\ \implies \text{If } (\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_{n-1}) \text{ satisfies } (4)$$

$$\implies$$
 If  $(\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_{n-1})$  satisfies (4)

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_{ij}}{a_{in}} \overline{x}_j - \frac{b_i}{a_{in}} \le \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_{kj}}{a_{kn}} \overline{x}_j - \frac{b_k}{a_{kn}}, \quad \forall i \in M^+, k \in M^-$$

Let

$$\overline{x}_n := \max_{i \in M^+} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_{ij}}{a_{in}} \overline{x}_j - \frac{b_i}{a_{in}} \right\}$$

$$\implies \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_{ij}}{a_{in}} \overline{x}_j - \frac{b_i}{a_{in}} \le -\overline{x}_n, \quad \forall i \in M^+$$

and

$$-\overline{x}_n \le \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_{kj}}{a_{kn}} \overline{x}_j - \frac{b_k}{a_{kn}}, \quad \forall k \in M^-$$

$$\implies (\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_n) \in P$$

Note

Proof assumes  $M^+, M^-$  are nonempty. But statement holds regardless.

(if  $M^+$  or  $M^- = \emptyset$  then (4) yields no constraints)

#### Fourier-MotzKin

- $\bullet$   $A^n = A \cdot b^n = b$
- given  $A^i, b^i$  obtain  $A^{i-1}, b^{i-1}$  ( $A^{i-1}$  has one less column than  $A^i$ ) by applying the steps described

$$P_i := \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^i : A^i x \le b^i \}$$

then

$$P_{i-1} = \operatorname{proj}_{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}} P_i$$

and  $P_{i-1} = \emptyset \iff P_i = \emptyset$ .

• Keep applying projection until i = 1.

$$P_0 = \varnothing \iff P_n = P = \varnothing$$

Let

$$P_i^n = P_i \times \mathbb{R}^{n-i} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n (A^i, 0) x \le b^i\}$$

not hard to see  $P_i^n = \emptyset \iff P_i = \emptyset$ 

Notice that

$$P_0 = \varnothing \iff P_0^n = \varnothing, P_0^n = \{0 \le b^0\}$$

#### Example:

$$P_2 = \begin{cases} x_1 & +x_2 & \le 1 \\ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : & -x_1 & \le 0 \\ & -x_2 & \le -2 \\ & -3x_1 & -3x_2 & \le -6 \end{cases}$$

draw the graph, clearly empty  $M^+\colon \tfrac12 x_1 + x_2 \le \tfrac12$   $M^-\colon -x_2 \le -2 \qquad -x_1 - x_2 \le -2$   $M^0\colon -x_1 \le 0$ 

$$P_{1} = \begin{cases} -x_{1} & \leq 0 \\ x_{1} \in \mathbb{R} : \frac{1}{2}x_{1} & \leq -\frac{3}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2}x_{1} & \leq -\frac{3}{2} \end{cases}$$

 $M^+$ :  $x_1 \le -3$   $M^-$ :  $-x_1 \le 0$  and  $-x_1 \le -3$   $P_0^2 =$ 

$$P_0^2 = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{array}{c} 0 \le -3 \\ 0 \le -6 \end{array} \right\} = \emptyset$$

Here  $b^0 = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix}$ 

#### Remark:

Inequality in  $P_i^n$ :

- All inequalities are obtained by a nonnegative combination of inequality in  $P_{i+1}^n \implies$  all nonnegative combination of inequalities in P.
- If all A, b are rational then so are all  $A^i, b^i$
- If  $b = 0, b_i = 0, \forall i$

#### Theorem 2.2: Farkas' Lemma

$$u^T A = 0$$

$$P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \le b\} = \varnothing \iff \exists u \in \mathbb{R}^m : u^Tb < 0$$

$$u \ge 0$$

#### Proof:

 $(\longleftarrow)$  Suppose  $\overline{x}$  satisfies  $A\overline{x} \leq b$ .

$$0 = u^T A \overline{x} < u^T b < 0$$

which is impossible.

 $(\Longrightarrow)$  If  $P=\varnothing$ . Apply Fourier-Motzkin until we get

$$P_0^n = \varnothing = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : 0x \le b^0\}$$

i.e. there exists j for which  $b_i^0 < 0$ .

If we look at corresponding constraint in  $P_0^n$  is

$$0^T x \leq b_i^0$$

which can be obtained by a vector u such that  $u^TA=0, u^Tb=b_j^0, u\geq 0.$ 

#### Farkas' Lemma (alternate statement)

Exactly one of the following has a solution:

a) 
$$Ax \leq b$$

$$u^T A = 0$$

b) 
$$u^T b < 0$$

$$u \ge 0$$

#### Farkas' Lemma (Different Form)

Exactly one of the following has a solution:

$$Ax = b$$

$$u^T A \ge 0$$

$$u^T b < 0$$

#### Proof:

(Sketch)

$$P = \left\{ x : \frac{Ax = b}{x \ge 0} \right\} = \left\{ x : \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} A \\ -A \\ -I \end{pmatrix}}_{A'} x \le \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} b \\ -b \\ -0 \end{pmatrix}}_{b'} \right\}$$

Apply original Farkas' Lemma to get  $P = \emptyset \iff \exists u_1 \in \mathbb{R}^m, u_2 \in \mathbb{R}^m, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$u_1^TA - u_2^TA - v = 0$$
 
$$u_1^Tb - u_2^Tb < 0$$
 
$$u_1, u_2, v \ge 0$$
 Let  $u = (u_2 - u_2)$  
$$u^TA - v = 0 \implies u^TA \ge 0, \quad u^Tb < 0$$
 consider a linear programming (LP):

$$u^T A - v = 0 \implies u^T A > 0, \quad u^T b < 0$$

Consider a linear programming (LP):

$$\max_{s.t.} c^T x$$

$$s.t. Ax \le b$$
 (LP)

#### Theorem 2.3: Fundamental Theorem of Linear Programming

- (LP) has exactly one of 3 outcomes:
- a) Infeasible
- b) Unbounded
- c) There exists an optimal solution.

#### Proof:

Let's assume a), b) don't hold.

If n = 1, then (LP) has an optimal solution. (Why?)

Else, define

$$\max z$$

$$s.t. \ z - c^T x \le 0 \qquad (LP')$$

$$Ax \le b$$

(LP') is also not in case a) or b). (Why?)

Also if  $(x^*, z^*)$  is an optimal solution to (LP'), then  $x^*$  is an optimal solution to (LP). (Why?)

Apply Fourier-Motzkin to

$$\left\{ (x,z) : \begin{array}{c} z - c^T x \le 0 \\ Ax \le b \end{array} \right\}$$

Until we are left with a polyhedron

$$\{z \in \mathbb{R} : A'z \le b'\}$$

Now max z s.t  $A'z \le b'$  is not cases a) or b). (Why?)

 $\rightarrow$  can get an optimal solution  $z^*$  to such problem. Apply Fourier-Motzkin back to get  $(x^*, z^*)$  optimal solution to (LP'). (Why?)

## 2.3 Certifying Optimality

$$\max_{s.t} c^T x \\ s.t \quad Ax \le b$$
 (LP)

and let  $\overline{x} \in P = \{x : Ax \leq b\}$ 

**Question** Can we certify that  $\overline{x}$  is optimal?

Example:

$$\max 2x_1 + x_2$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \le 2$$
s.t.  $x_1 + x_2 \le 2$ 

$$x_1 - x_2 \le 0.5$$

Consider  $\overline{x} = (0,1)^T$  is clearly NOT optimal.

 $x^* = (1, 0.5)^T$  and  $c^T x^* = 2.5$ . Any feasible solution satisfies

$$\begin{array}{rrrr} x_1 + 2x_2 & \leq 2 & \times 1/3 \\ x_1 + x_2 & \leq 2 & \times 1 \\ + & x_1 - x_2 & \leq 0.5 & \times 2/3 \\ \hline & 2x_1 + x_2 & \leq 3 & \end{array}$$

Instead do  $1 \times 1st$  constraint  $+ 1 \times 3rd$  constraint  $\implies 2x_1 + x_2 \le 2.5$ 

In general:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} x_1 + 2x_2 & \leq 2 & \times y_1 \\ x_1 + x_2 & \leq 2 & \times y_2 \\ & + x_1 - x_2 & \leq 0.5 & \times y_3 \\ (y_1 + y_2 + y_3)x_1 + (2y_1 + y_2 - y_3)x_2 \leq 2y_1 + 2y_2 + 0.5y_3 \end{array}$$

As long as  $y_1, y_2, y_3 \ge 0$  and

$$y_1 + y_2 + y_3 = 2$$
$$2y_1 + y_2 - y_3 = 1$$

This leads to the following linear program:

min 
$$2y_1 + 2y_2 + 0.5y_3$$
  
 $y_1 + y_2 + y_3 = 2$   
s.t.  $2y_1 + y_2 - y_3 = 1$   
 $y_1, y_2, y_3 \ge 0$ 

This is called the dual LP.

In general:

$$\max_{s.t.} c^T x$$

$$s.t. Ax \le b$$
 (P)

Dual of (P)

#### Remark:

We call (P) primal LP.

#### Theorem 2.4: Weak Duality

Let  $\overline{x}$  feasible for (P),  $\overline{y}$  feasible for (D). Then  $c^T x \leq b^T y$ .

#### Proof:

$$c^T \overline{x} = \overline{y}^T (A \overline{x}) \le \overline{y}^T b$$

where we used  $A\overline{x} < b$  and  $\overline{y} > 0$ .

#### Corrollary 2.5

Several results:

- If (P) is unbounded then (D) is infeasible.
- If (D) is unbounded then (P) is infeasible.

#### Note

(P) and (D) can both be infeasible.

• If  $\overline{x}$  is feasible for (P)  $\overline{y}$  feasible for (D)  $c^T\overline{x} = b^T\overline{y}$ , then  $\overline{x}$  optimal for (P),  $\overline{y}$  optimal for (D).

#### Theorem 2.6: Strong Duality

 $x^*$  is optimal for (P)  $\iff \exists y^*$  feasible for (D) such that  $c^T x^* = b^T y^*$ .

#### Proof:

$$(\iff)$$
  $\checkmark$   $(\implies)$  Is (D) infeasible? Suppose  $\left\{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : A^T y = c \atop y \ge 0\right\} = \varnothing$ 

(Alternate version of Farkas' Lemma)  $\exists u: u^T A \geq 0 \iff \exists d: Ad \leq 0$   $c^T d > 0$ 

Take look at  $x' = x^* + d$ , then

$$Ax' = Ax^* + Ad \le b$$
$$c^T x' = c^T x^* + c^T d > c^T x^*$$

Contradiction. Thus (D) has an optimal solution  $y^*$ .

Now let  $\gamma = b^T y^*$ , and let  $\theta := \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \begin{matrix} Ax \leq b \\ -c^T x \leq -\gamma \end{matrix} \right\}$ .

If  $\theta = \emptyset$ , by Farkas'

Case 1:  $\overline{\lambda} > 0$ .

Let  $y' = \frac{\overline{y}}{\overline{\lambda}}$ . Then we have

$$A^T y' = A^T \frac{\overline{y}}{\overline{\lambda}} = c$$
 and  $b^T y' = b^T \frac{\overline{y}}{\overline{\lambda}} < \gamma$  and  $y' = \frac{\overline{y}}{\overline{\lambda}} \ge 0$ 

Contradicts optimality of  $y^*$ .

$$A^Ty=0$$

Case 2:  $\overline{\lambda} = 0$ . Then  $b^T y < 0$ 

$$\overline{y} \ge 0$$

Now we can do the same thing previously. Let  $y' = y^* + \overline{y}$ , then

$$A^T y' = A^T y^* + A^T \overline{y} = c$$

and

$$y' = y^* + \overline{y} \ge 0$$
$$b^T y' = b^T y^* + b^T \overline{y} < b^T y^*$$

Contradicts optimality of  $y^*$ .

Thus  $\theta \neq \emptyset$ .

Let 
$$\overline{x} \in \theta$$

$$c^T x^* \underbrace{\leq}_{\text{weak duality}} b^T y^* = \gamma \underbrace{\leq}_{\overline{x} \in \theta} c^T \overline{x} \leq c^T x^*$$

where the last inequality is because  $\overline{x}$  feasible for (P),  $x^*$  optimal for (P).

### 2.4 Possible Outcomes

See here.

## 2.5 Duals of generic LPs

$$\max 2x_1 + 3x_2 - 4x_3$$

$$x_1 + 7x_3 \le 5$$

$$2x_2 - x_3 \ge 3$$
s.t
$$x_1 + x_3 = 8$$

$$x_2 \le 6$$

$$x_1 \ge 0$$

$$x_2 \le 0$$

and dual

min 
$$(5, -3, 8, -8, 6, 0, 0)y$$
  
s.t  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} y = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $y \ge 0$   $(D_1)$ 

min 
$$(5, -3, 8, -8, 6)y$$
  
s.t  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 7 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} y \leq \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $y \geq 0$   $(D_2)$ 

Claim  $(y_1^*, \ldots, y_5^*)$  is optimal for  $(D_2) \iff (y_1^*, \ldots, y_5^*, y_6^*, y_7^*)$  optimal for  $(D_1)$  with

$$y_6^* = y_1^* + y_3^* - y_4^* - 2$$
  
$$y_7^* = 3 - (-2y_2^* + y_5^*)$$

min 
$$(5,3,8,6)y$$
  
s.t  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 7 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} y \stackrel{\geq}{\leq} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $y_1 \geq 0, y_2 \leq 0$   $y_4 \geq 0$   $(D_3)$ 

Claim Opt value of  $(D_2)$  and  $(D_3)$  are same.

In general

#### 2.5.1 Cheat Sheet

Here or

Primal (m	ax)	Dual (min)	
Constraint	\  \\ \	$\geq 0$ $\leq 0$ free	Variable
Variable	≥ ≤ free		Constraint

#### Remark:

This is not symmetric... The way you can remember it is by thinking natural variables in real life, like you cannot have negative number of cars and so on...

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