

Example

- Suppose that we have the following problem

$$\max 2x + y - 5z$$

$$\text{s.t. } x + y + z \leq 1$$

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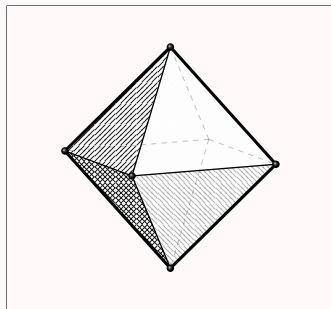
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feasible region

Fixing the Objective Value

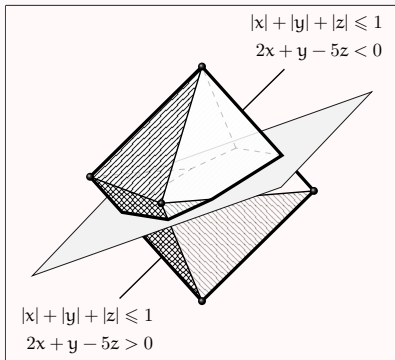
- Consider the hyperplane $F = \{(x, y, z) \mid 2x + y - 5z = c_0\}$

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- Consider the hyperplane $F = \{(x, y, z) \mid 2x + y - 5z = c_0\}$
 - ▶ its normal is $(2, 1, -5)$, so it faces down

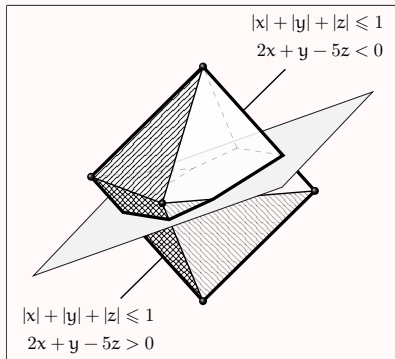
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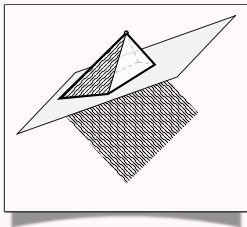
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- What happens if we increase c_0 ?

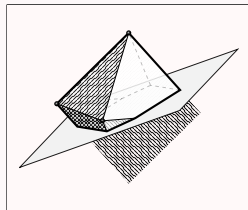
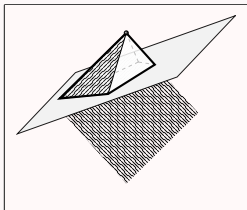
Finding the Optimum

- Increasing $c_0 \Rightarrow$ moving plane towards optimum



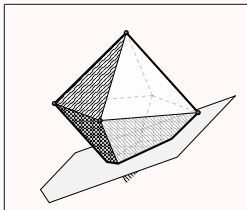
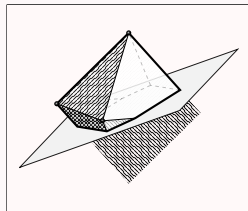
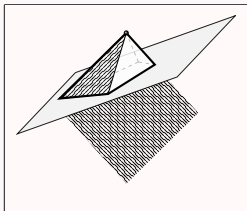
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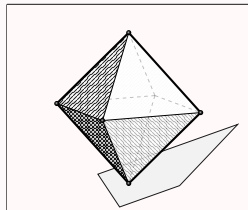
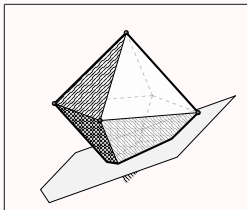
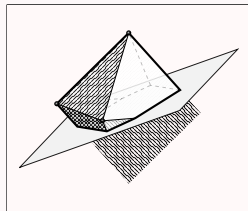
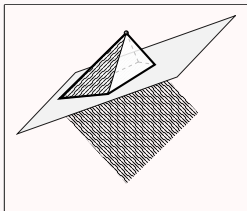
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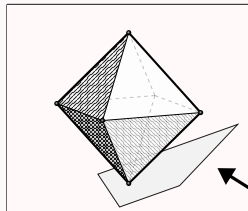
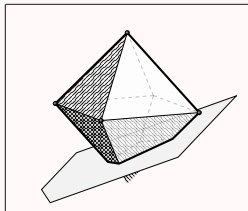
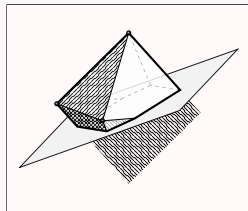
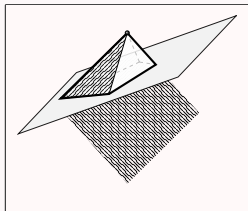
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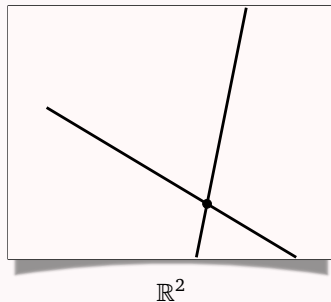
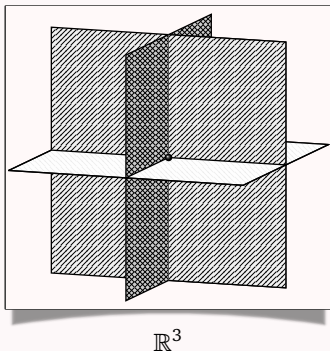
- Optimal region is either a vertex or contains one

Finding a Vertex

- A vertex in \mathbb{R}^d is the intersection of d linearly independent hyperplanes

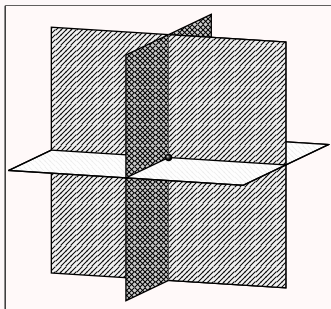
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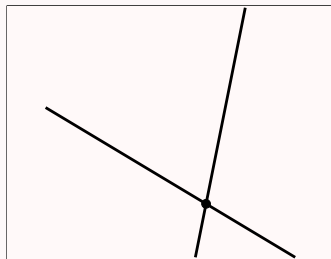


Finding a Vertex

- A vertex in \mathbb{R}^d is the intersection of d linearly independent hyperplanes



\mathbb{R}^3



\mathbb{R}^2

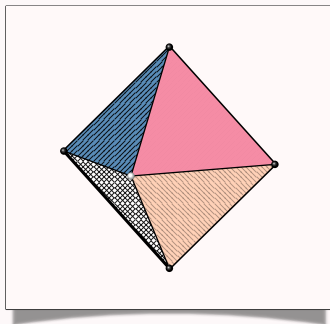
- *In other words, a solution to a linear system*

Example

$$x + y + z = 1$$

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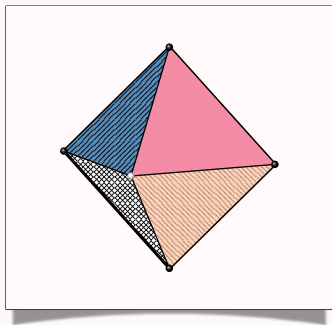


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- The associated vertex is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Duality

The Primal Problem

$$\max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}} \{ cx \mid Ax \leq b \}$$

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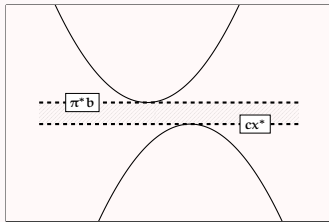
$$\min_{\pi \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times m}} \{ \pi b \mid \pi A = c, \pi \geq 0 \}$$

- Both problems are deeply connected
 - ▶ In fact, the dual provides a certificate of optimality for primal solutions

Weak Duality

Theorem (Weak Duality)

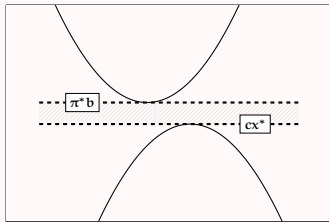
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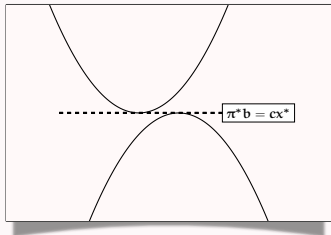
- **Proof.** $Ax \leq b \implies \underbrace{(\pi A)x}_c \leq \pi b.$ \square

Strong Duality

Theorem (Strong Duality)

$$\max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}} \{ cx \mid Ax \leq b \} = \min_{\pi \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times m}} \{ \pi b \mid \pi A = c, \pi \geq 0 \}$$

as long as both problems are feasible

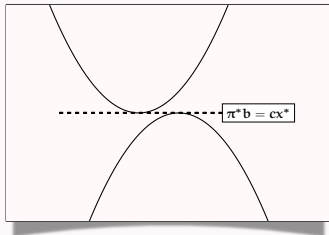


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- Proof is a little more elaborate
 - Requires Farkas' Lemma

Strong Duality

Theorem (Farkas' Lemma)

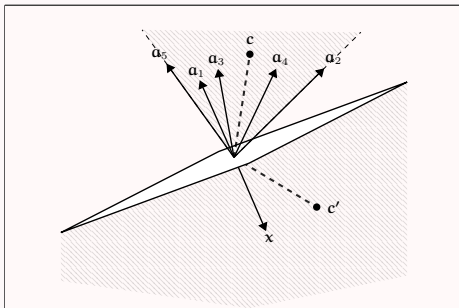
$$\exists \pi \geq 0, \pi A = c \iff \nexists x, Ax \leq 0, cx > 0$$

Strong Duality

Theorem (Farkas' Lemma)

$$\exists \pi \geq 0, \pi A = c \iff \nexists x, Ax \leq 0, cx > 0$$

- Provides conditions under which a system of inequalities is solvable



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$$\pi A = c$$

$$\pi b + s = \delta - \varepsilon$$

$$\pi \geq 0$$

$$s \geq 0$$

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- **Proof of Strong Duality.** Suppose the minimum of the dual problem is equal to $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$
- The following system is obviously infeasible for any $\varepsilon > 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\pi A &= \mathbf{c} \\ \pi \mathbf{b} + s &= \delta - \varepsilon \\ \pi &\geq \mathbf{0} \\ s &\geq 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(\pi, s) \begin{bmatrix} A & \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{bmatrix} &= (\mathbf{c}, \delta - \varepsilon) \\ (\pi, s) &\geq \mathbf{0}\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}A\mathbf{x} + \lambda \mathbf{b} &\leq \mathbf{0} \\ \lambda &\leq 0 \\ \mathbf{c}\mathbf{x} + \lambda(\delta - \varepsilon) &> 0\end{aligned}$$

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 - ▶ Thus $\mathbf{y} = -\lambda^{-1}\mathbf{x}$ is a primal solution whose objective value is greater than $\delta - \varepsilon$
- From Weak Duality, $\delta - \varepsilon < \mathbf{cy} \leq \delta$
- Since ε was arbitrary, and it can be as close as possible to 0, we have that $\mathbf{cy} = \delta$. \square

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$$x \text{ and } \pi \text{ optimal} \iff \pi(b - Ax) = 0$$

- **Proof.** Note that $cx = \pi Ax \leq \pi b$
- Besides, $cx = \pi b$ (that is, x and π are optimal) if and only if $\pi Ax = \pi b$. \square

Finding an Optimal Solution

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$$(\pi_B, \pi_N) = (\mathbf{A}_B^{-1}\mathbf{c}, 0)$$

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- From Complementary Slackness, \mathbf{x} is optimal as long as $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$ and $\pi \geq 0$

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$$\min \pi_1 + \pi_2 + \pi_3 + \pi_4 + \pi_5 + \pi_6 + \pi_7 + \pi_8$$

$$\text{s.t. } \pi_1 + \pi_2 + \pi_3 + \pi_4 - \pi_5 - \pi_6 - \pi_7 - \pi_8 = 2$$

$$\pi_1 + \pi_2 - \pi_3 - \pi_4 + \pi_5 + \pi_6 - \pi_7 - \pi_8 = 1$$

$$\pi_1 - \pi_2 + \pi_3 - \pi_4 + \pi_5 - \pi_6 + \pi_7 - \pi_8 = -5$$

$$\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \pi_4, \pi_5, \pi_6, \pi_7, \pi_8 \geq 0$$

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Dual solution

$$\pi_1 + \pi_2 + \pi_3 = 2$$

$$\pi_1 + \pi_2 - \pi_3 = 1$$

$$\pi_1 - \pi_2 + \pi_3 = -5$$

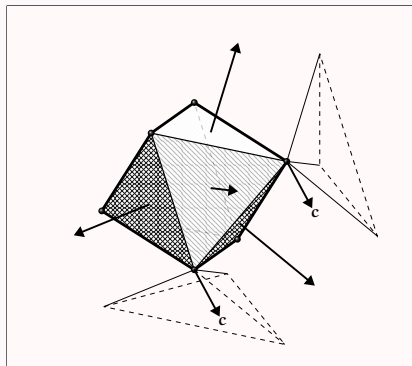
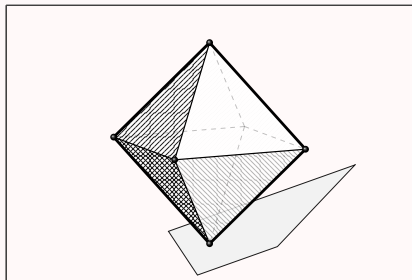
$$\pi_4, \dots, \pi_8 = 0$$

Geometrical Intuition

- \mathbf{x} is optimal if \mathbf{c} lies in the cone spanned by tight constraints

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Standard Form

Theorem (Strong Duality)

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}} \{ cx \mid Ax = b, x \geq 0 \} = \max_{\pi \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times m}} \{ \pi b \mid \pi A \leq c \}$$

as long as both problems are feasible

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- From Complementary Slackness, x is optimal as long as $x \geq 0$ and $\pi A \leq c$
 - The latter is equivalent to requiring positive reduced costs, that is, $\bar{c} = c - \pi A = c - (A_B^{-1}c_B)A \geq 0$