

Problem 1 (4.20 in [BT])

Consider the following linear program and its dual

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max & c^T x \\
 \text{subject to} & Ax \leq b \\
 & x \in \mathbb{R}^n
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ll}
 \min & b^T y \\
 \text{subject to} & A^T y = c \\
 & y \geq 0 \\
 & y \in \mathbb{R}^m
 \end{array}$$

Assume that both problems have an optimal solution.

We have proved complementary slackness within the lectures, *i.e.*, for any optimal solution pair (x^*, y^*) we have for each $j = 1, \dots, m$ that $y_j^* > 0$ implies $a_j^T x^* = b_j$ (where a_j is the j th row of A). We will show that there exist an optimal solution pair (x^*, y^*) such that for each $j = 1, \dots, m$ we have either $y_j^* > 0$ or $a_j^T x^* < b_j$ (strict complementary slackness).

- (a) Fix some j . Suppose that every optimal solution has $y_j = 0$. Show that there exists an optimal solution x such that $a_j^T x < b_j$ by considering the following linear program and its dual

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \min & -y_j \\
 \text{subject to} & A^T y = c \\
 & y \geq 0 \\
 & -b^T y \geq -d
 \end{array}$$

where d is the optimal objective function value of the primal/dual program.

- (b) Prove strict complementary slackness by using part (a) and taking the average of all the solutions obtained for each index j .

Problem 2

We consider the *2-matching* or sometimes also called *disjoint cycle cover* problem. Let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected complete graph and $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be weights on the edges. A 2-matching is a collection of vertex disjoint cycles that covers all the vertices. Here, we allow that an edge can occur multiple times, *i.e.*, an edge being doubled is considered to be a cycle (to be precise, we require the degree of every vertex to be exactly two). The weight of a 2-matching is the sum of the weights of all the edges that constitute the 2-matching.

Show how a minimum weight 2-matching can be computed in polynomial time.

Hint: Use minimum perfect matching on a bipartite graph as a subroutine. Construct a bipartite graph that has all the vertices of G in each partition. Add an edge between u and v ($u \neq v$) in opposite partitions with weight $c(\{u, v\})$.