

6 Advanced Parameterized Ideas

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- 6.3 Linear Programs – The Simplex Algorithm
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6.1 Linear Programs – A Mighty Blackbox Tool

Linear Programs

- ▶ *Linear programs (LPs)* are a class of optimization problems of **continuous** (numerical) variables
- ▶ can be exactly solved in worst case polytime ($\text{LINEARPROGRAMMING} \in \text{P}$)
 - ▶ interior-point methods, Ellipsoid method
- ▶ routinely solved in practice to optimality with millions of variables and constraints
 - ▶ Simplex algorithm, interior-point methods
 - ▶ many existing solvers, commercial and open source (e. g., HiGHS)

Hessy James's Apple Farm

- ▶ Hessy tries to maximize the profit of his apple farm
 - ▶ He is committed to promote regional Hessian heirloom varieties, so he only grows "*Sossenheimer Roter*" and "*Korbacher Edelrenette*"
 - ▶ each tree of "*Sossenheimer Roter*" yields apples worth € 195 per year
 - ▶ each tree of "*Korbacher Edelrenette*" yields apples worth € 255 per year
 - ▶ He has an orchard of 5 000 m²
 - ▶ each tree needs 4 m² of orchard space
 - ▶ each tree of "*Sossenheimer Roter*" needs 6 kg of organic fertilizer and 1 h harvest effort per year
 - ▶ each tree of "*Korbacher Edelrenette*" needs 4.5 kg of organic fertilizer and 3 h harvest effort per year
 - ▶ Hessy can only afford 3000 kg of fertilizer and 1700 h of harvester time per year

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 - ▶ Hessy can only afford 3000 kg of fertilizer and 1700 h of harvester time per year
- ↪ How many trees of each variety should Hessy plant?
 - ▶ What will constrain us most? Space? Fertilizer? Harvest hours?
 - ▶ What profit can Hessy expect?

Formal Linear Program for Hessy James's Apple Farm

- ▶ Classic application of linear programming in *operations research* (OR)
- ▶ We formally write LPs as follows:

optimization goal objective function constraint

Maximize: $195s + 255k$

Subject to: $4s + 4k \leq 5000$ (Orchard constraint)

$6s + 4.5k \leq 3000$ (Fertilizer constraint)

$1s + 3k \leq 1700$ (Harvest constraint)

$s \geq 0$ (Non-negativity)

$k \geq 0$ (Non-negativity)

name of the LP
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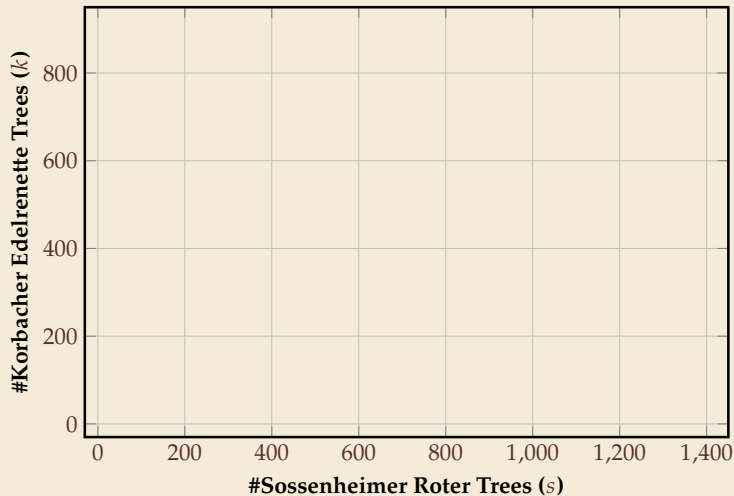
name of the LP
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▶ Terminology:

- ▶ s and k are the two *variables* of the problem; these are always real numbers.
- ▶ A vector $(s, k) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is a *feasible solution* for the LP if it satisfied all constraints.
- ▶ The largest value of the objective function (over all feasible solutions) is the *(optimal) value* z^* of the LP
- ▶ A feasible solution $(s^*, k^*) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ with optimal objective value z^* is called an *optimal solution*

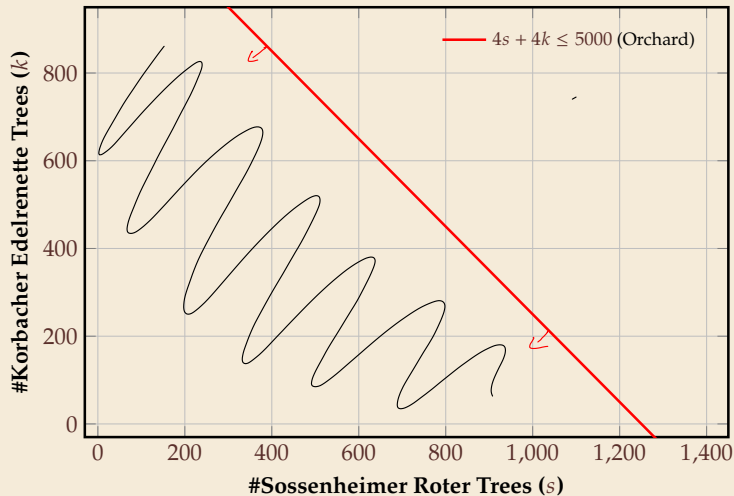
2D LPs – Graphical Solution

LPs with **two** variables can be solved graphically



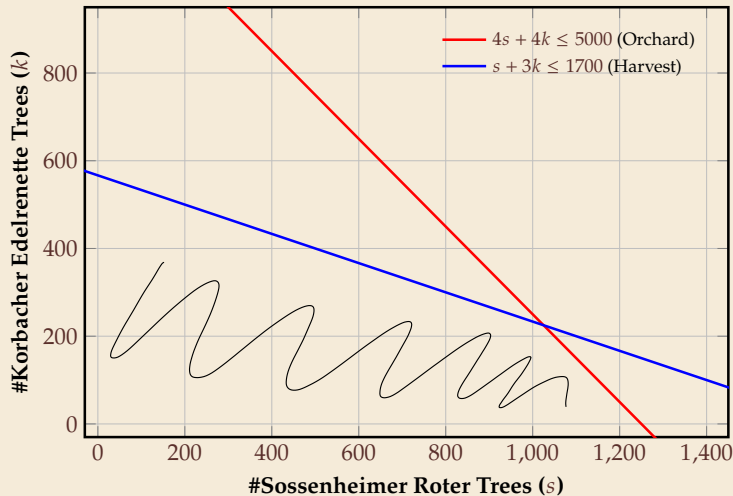
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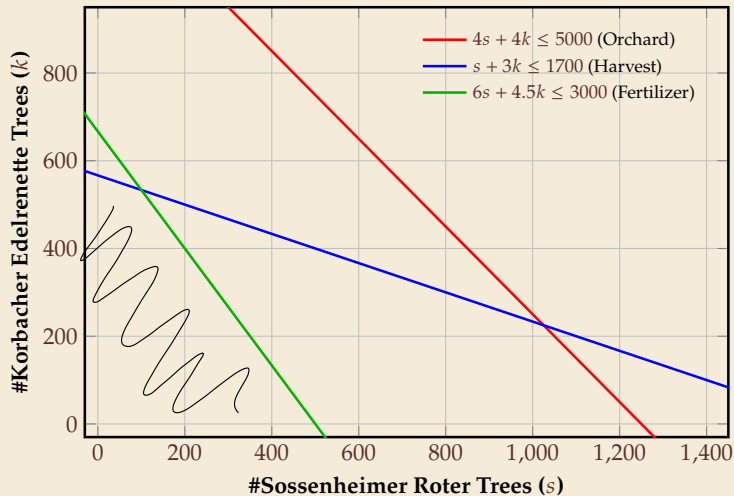
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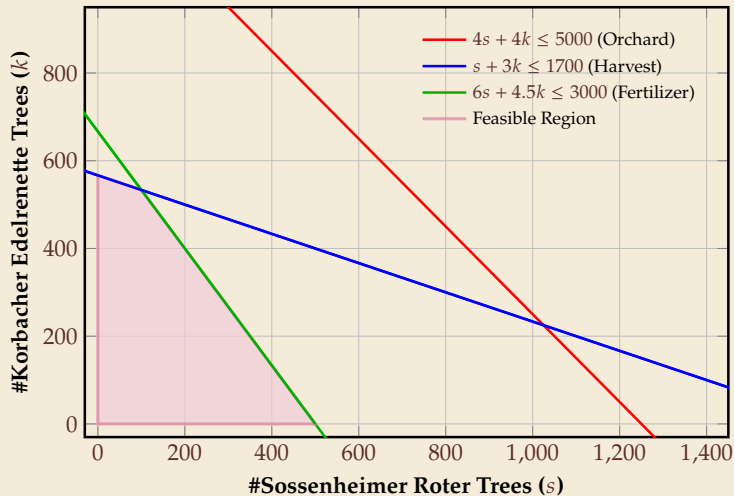
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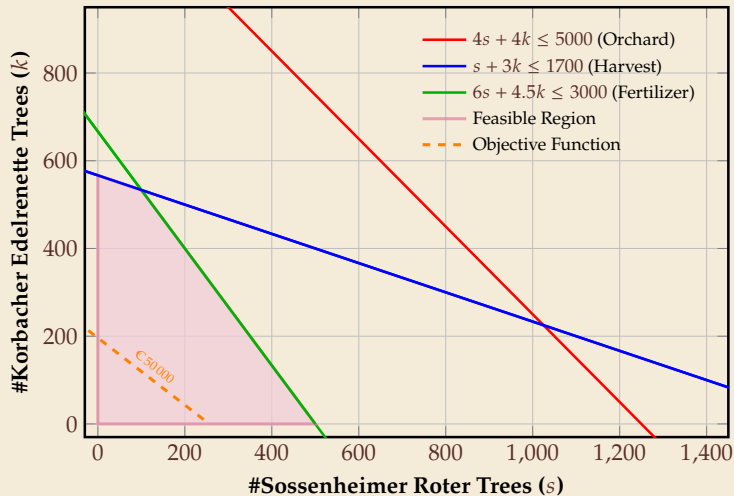
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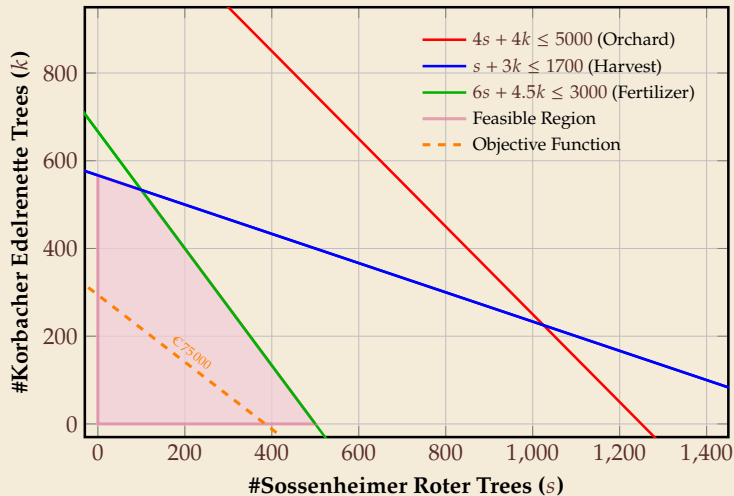
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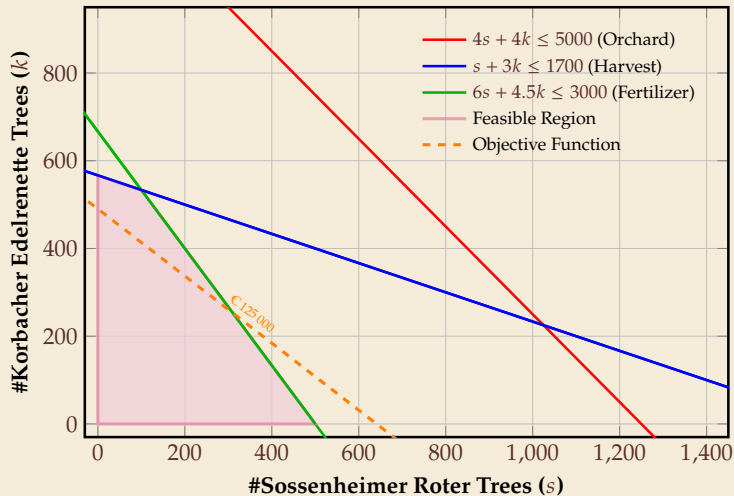
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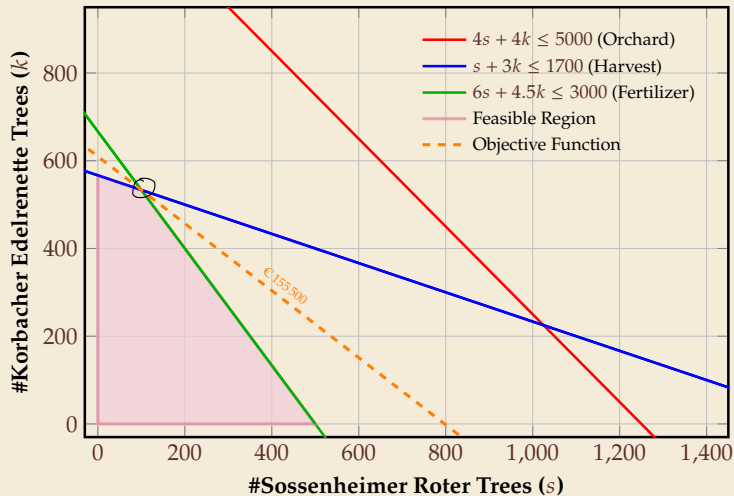
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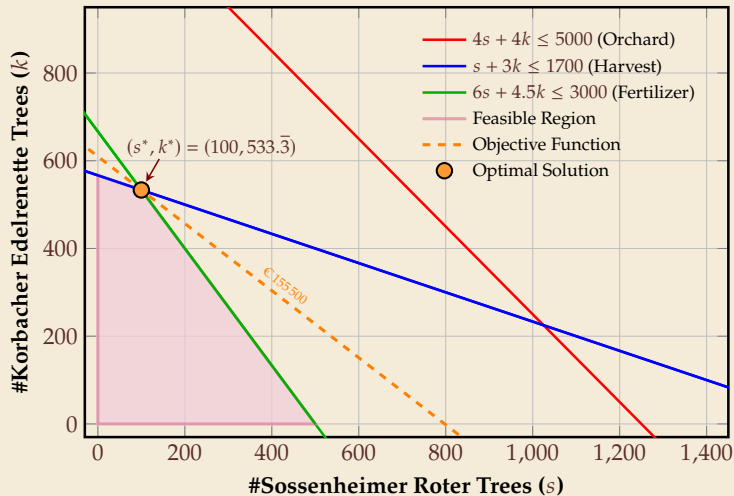
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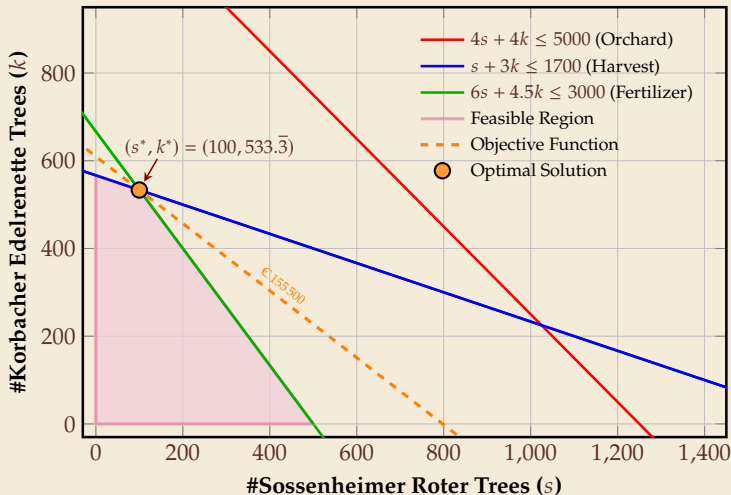
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~ Hessy should plant

▶ 100 *Sossenheimer Roter* trees and

▶ $533 + \frac{1}{3}$ *Korbacher Edelrenette* trees

▶ Harvest **and** fertilizer *tight*

▶ orchard space isn't

~ know what to change

LPs – The General Case

► General LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c_1x_1 + \cdots + c_nx_n \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & a_{i,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n}x_n = b_i \quad (\text{for } i = 1, \dots, p) \\ & a_{i,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n}x_n \leq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = p + 1, \dots, q) \\ & a_{i,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n}x_n \geq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = q + 1, \dots, m) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = 1 \dots, r) \\ & x_j \leq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = r + 1 \dots, n) \end{aligned}$$

“don’t care” (just to make it explicit)

- arbitrary **linear** objective function
- arbitrary **linear** constraints, of type “=”, “≤” or “≥”
- variables with non-negativity constraint and unconstrained variables

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► In general, an LP can

- (a) have a *finite* optimal *objective value*
- (b) be *infeasible* (contradictory constraints / empty feasibility region), or
- (c) be *unbounded* (allow arbitrarily small objective values “ $-\infty$ ”)

↪ in polytime, can detect which case applies **and** compute optimal solution in case (a)

Classic Modeling Example – Max Flow

- ▶ The maximum- s - t -flow problem in a graph $G = (V, E)$ can be reduced to an LP (Flow)
 - ▶ variable f_e for each edge $e \in E$
 - ▶ maximize flow value F = flow out of s
 - ▶ constraint for edge capacity $C(e)$ at each edge
 - ▶ constraint for flow conservation at each vertex v (except s and t)



$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & F \\
 \text{s. t.} \quad & F = \sum_{v \in V} f_{sv} - \sum_{v \in V} f_{vs} \\
 & f_{vw} \leq C(vw) \quad (\text{for } vw \in E) \quad (\text{Flow}) \\
 & \sum_{w \in V} f_{vw} = \sum_{w \in V} f_{vw} \quad (\text{for } v \in V \setminus \{s, t\}) \\
 & f_e \geq 0 \quad (\text{for } e \in E)
 \end{aligned}$$

6.2 Linear Programs – Reformulation Tricks

How to solve an LP?

- ▶ Our focus will be on using LPs as a tool
 - ▶ in theory: reducing problem to an LP means polytime solvable
 - ▶ in practice: call good solver!

How to solve an LP?

- ▶ Our focus will be on using LPs as a tool
 - ▶ in theory: reducing problem to an LP means polytime solvable
 - ▶ in practice: call good solver!
 - ▶ *But as with any good tool, it helps to give an idea of **how** it works to effectively use it*
- ⇒ We will briefly visit the conceptual ideas of the simplex algorithm

Recall: General Form of LPs

► General LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c_1x_1 + \cdots + c_nx_n \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & a_{i,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n}x_n = b_i \quad (\text{for } i = 1, \dots, p) \\ & a_{i,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n}x_n \leq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = p + 1, \dots, q) \\ & a_{i,1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n}x_n \geq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = q + 1, \dots, m) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = 1 \dots, r) \\ & x_j \leq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = r + 1 \dots, n) \end{aligned}$$

- linear objective function and constraints (" $=$ ", " \leq ", or " \geq ")
- variables with non-negativity constraint and unconstrained variables

► Conventions:

- n variables (always called x_j)
- m constraints (coefficients always called $a_{i,j}$, right-hand sides b_i)
- minimize objective ("cost"), coefficients c_j ; objective value $z = c_1x_1 + \cdots c_nx_n$

Enter Linear Algebra

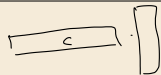
- Spelling out all those linear combinations is cumbersome

↪ Concise notation via **matrix and vector products**

- We write

► variables $x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$ **cost coefficients** $\overset{\text{bold} \rightsquigarrow \text{vector/matrix}}{c} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c_1 x_1 + \cdots + c_n x_n \\ \text{s. t.} & a_{i,1} x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n} x_n = b_i \quad (\text{for } i = 1, \dots, p) \\ & a_{i,1} x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n} x_n \leq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = p+1, \dots, q) \\ & a_{i,1} x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n} x_n \geq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = q+1, \dots, m) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = 1, \dots, r) \\ & x_j \leq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = r+1, \dots, n) \end{array}$$



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transpose (arrow from c^T to c)
dot product / scalar product (arrow from \cdot to x)

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bold ~> vector/matrix

- “=”-constraints

$$A^{(=)} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & \cdots & a_{1,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{p,1} & a_{p,2} & \cdots & a_{p,n} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n} \quad b^{(=)} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_p \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^p$$

~> $A^{(=)} \cdot x = b^{(=)}$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c_1 x_1 + \cdots + c_n x_n \\ \text{s. t.} & a_{i,1} x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n} x_n = b_i \quad (\text{for } i = 1, \dots, p) \\ & a_{i,1} x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n} x_n \leq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = p+1, \dots, q) \\ & a_{i,1} x_1 + \cdots + a_{i,n} x_n \geq b_i \quad (\text{for } i = q+1, \dots, m) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = 1, \dots, r) \\ & x_j \leq 0 \quad (\text{for } j = r+1, \dots, n) \end{array}$$

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- similarly for “ \leq ” and “ \geq ” constraints: $A^{(\leq)} x \leq b^{(\leq)}$ and $A^{(\geq)} x \geq b^{(\geq)}$
- elementwise \leq*

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dot product / scalar product

- ▶ “=”-constraints

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- ▶ similarly for “ \leq ” and “ \geq ” constraints: $A^{(\leq)} x \leq b^{(\leq)}$ and $A^{(\geq)} x \geq b^{(\geq)}$ elementwise \leq

⇒ a **single** constraint i can be written as $A_{i,\bullet} x = b_i$ $\bigwedge \{i, \cdot\}$

(generally write $A_{i,\bullet}$ for the i th row of A and $A_{\bullet,j}$ for the j th column)

Reformulations

Tricks of the Trade for working with LPs:

► min suffices: $\max c^T x = -\min(-c)^T x$

► “ \geq ”-constraints: $A_{i,\bullet} x \geq b_i \iff (-A)_{i,\bullet} x \leq -b_i$

Reformulations

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- ▶ “ \geq ”-constraints: $A_{i,\bullet} x \geq b_i \iff (-A)_{i,\bullet} x \leq -b_i$
- ▶ *slack variables*: $A_{i,\bullet} x \leq b_i \iff A_{i,\bullet} x + x_{s_i} = b_i \text{ and } x_{s_i} \geq 0$
(x_{s_i} is a new additional variable)

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- ▶ *nonnegative*: variable $x_j \leq 0 \iff x_j = x_{j,+} - x_{j,-}$ and $x_{j,+}, x_{j,-} \geq 0$
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↪ To solve LPs, can assume one of the following **normal forms**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c^T x \\ \text{s. t.} & Ax \leq b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$$m \geq n$$

or

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c^T x \\ \text{s. t.} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$$m \leq n$$

with $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$, and $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$

6.3 Linear Programs – The Simplex Algorithm

Simplex – Geometric Intuition

$$\min c^T x$$

$$\text{s. t. } Ax \leq b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

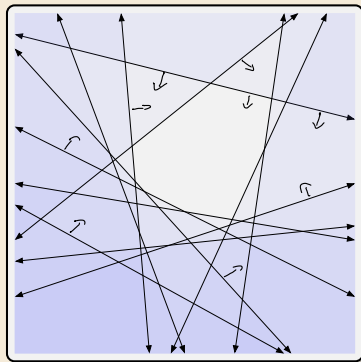
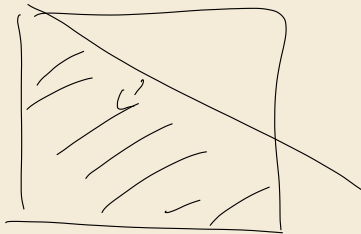
+ nondegeneracy

► constraint $A_{i,\bullet}x \leq b_i$
defines a *hyperplane*

$$n=2$$

\rightsquigarrow *halfspace*

$$H_i = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : A_{i,\bullet}x \leq b_i\}$$



Simplex – Geometric Intuition

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$$x \geq 0$$

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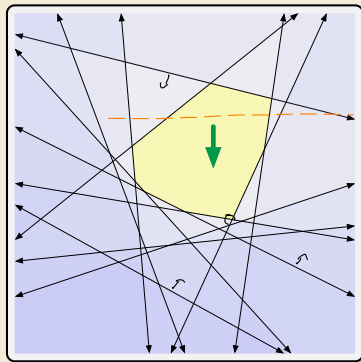
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↪ *halfspace*

$$H_i = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : A_{i,\bullet}x \leq b_i\}$$

► c = **direction** of improvement in \mathbb{R}^n
(normal vector for hyperplane $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : c^T x = 0\}$)

► “Roll a ball downhill inside feasible region”



Simplex – Geometric Intuition

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$$x \geq 0$$

+ nondegeneracy

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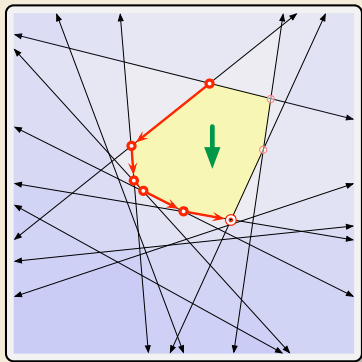
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(normal vector for hyperplane $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : c^T x = 0\}$)

► “Roll a ball downhill inside feasible region”

↪ Optimal point x^* must lie on boundary!

(assuming finite optimal objective value z^*)



Simplex – Geometric Intuition

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$$\text{s. t. } Ax \leq b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

+ nondegeneracy

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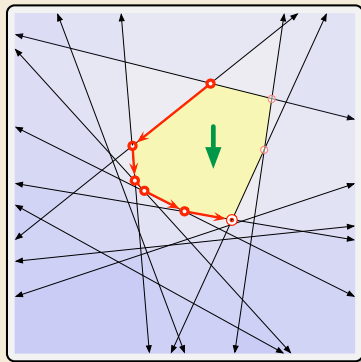
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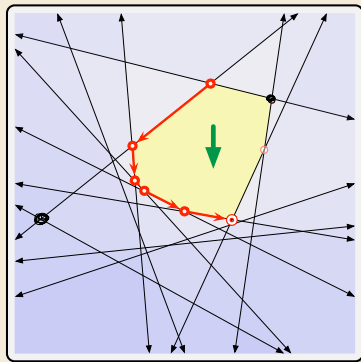
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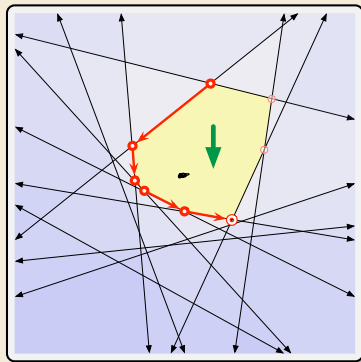
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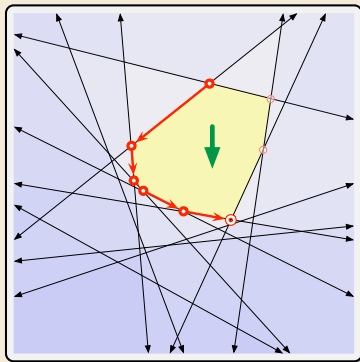
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(n count \rightsquigarrow polyhedral brute force)



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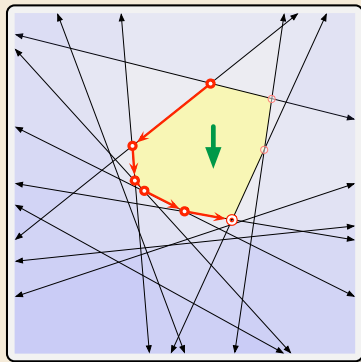
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Move to better neighbor until optimal.

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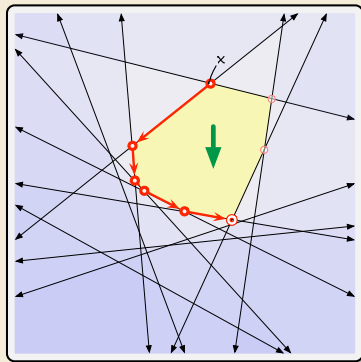
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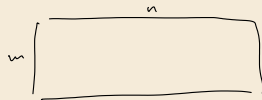
```

1 procedure simplexIteration( $H = \{H_1, \dots, H_m\}$ ):
2   if  $\bigcap H == \emptyset$  return INFEASIBLE
3    $x :=$  any feasible vertex
4   while  $x$  is not locally optimal //  $c$  “against wall”
5     // pivot towards better objective function
6     if  $\forall$  feasible neighbor vertex  $x' : c^T x' > c^T x$ 
7       return UNBOUNDED
8     else
9        $x :=$  some feasible lower neighbor of  $x$ 
10  return  $x$ 
  
```

Simplex – Linear Algebra Realization

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \\ & + \text{nondegeneracy}\end{array}$$

- ▶ Here use equality constraints $\rightsquigarrow \underline{m \leq n}$
- ▶ Assume $\text{rank}(A) = m$ (nondegeneracy)
- ▶ every $J = \{j_1, \dots, j_m\} \subseteq [n]$ corresponds to *basis* of A : $\{A_{\bullet, j_1}, \dots, A_{\bullet, j_m}\}$
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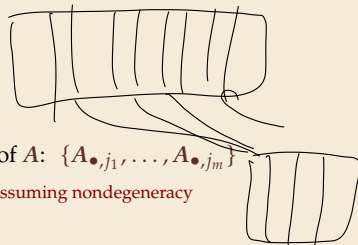
- ▶ $x_J = (x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_m})^T$ vector of *basis variables*
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\rightsquigarrow We have $Ax = b \iff A_J x_J + A_{\bar{J}} x_{\bar{J}} = b \iff$

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- ▶ *basic solution* setting $x_{\bar{J}} = 0$ gives $x_J = A_J^{-1} b \rightsquigarrow$ correspond to *vertices* from before
 - ▶ may or may not be a feasible *basic solution*: $x_J \geq 0$?

\rightsquigarrow given J , can easily compute basic solution and check feasibility

Simplex – Local Optimality Test

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Convex function over a convex domain
 ↪ local opt \Rightarrow global opt

↪ No (local) improvement possible $\iff \tilde{\mathbf{c}}_{\bar{J}} \geq 0 \iff$ current basic solution **optimal**

- ▶ Otherwise: Bring \bar{j}_k with $\tilde{c}_{\bar{j}_k} < 0$ into basis
 - ▶ This means we increase $x_{\bar{j}_k}$ as much as possible until some x_{j_k} becomes 0
 - ↪ corresponds to moving to neighbor vertex

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► Alternative methods

- **ellipsoid method** (separation-oracle based)
- **interior-point methods** (numeric algorithms)
- 👍 worst case polytime
- 👍 interior-point method fastest in practice
- 👎 more complicated, harder to implement well