Deterministic OR Models

CO 370

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Preface

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What is operations research (OR)? There's no standard definitions for it. One particular definition: use of mathematical models to make complex decisions for real life problems. The origin is British military in WW2. OR is actually everywhere today. Key milestone: Simplex algorithm (1947).

Recall optimization problem is of the form:

max
$$f(x)$$

s.t. a set of constraints

There are some applications: mail delivery, machine scheduling, inventory problem, network design, facility location, class scheduling, portfolio optimization, surgery planning, sensor location.

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Part I:

FORMULATIONS

LP formulations

1.1 Production problem

```
Products J = \{1, ..., n\}
Resources I = \{1, ..., m\}
```

Data:

- $\forall j \in J : c_j = \text{value of unit of product } j$
- $\forall i \in I : b_i = \text{number of units of resource } i \text{ available}$
- $\forall i \in I, \forall j \in J : a_{ij} = \text{number of units of resource } i \text{ going to product } j$

Goal: maximize values of product made subject to available resources

Var: x_i = number of units of product j produced

Then problem is

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & \sum_{j \in J} c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} & \sum_{j \in J} a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \qquad (i \in I) \\ & x_j \geq 0 \qquad \qquad (j \in J) \end{array}$$

Now let's generalize this problem to have more than one period.

```
Products J = \{1, ..., n\}
Resources I = \{1, ..., m\}
Periods K = \{1, ..., p\}
```

Then we have data

- $\forall j \in J, k \in K$: c_{jk} = unit value of product j in period k
- $\forall i \in I, k \in K$: $w_{ik} = \text{unit price for resource } i \text{ in period } k$
- $\forall i \in I, j \in J$: $a_{ij} =$ number of units of resource i going into product j

and the **goal**: decide how much of each resource to buy & how much of each product to make during each period, to maximize total profit. Unused resources are available at next time period.

Var:

- p_{ik} = number of units of resource i, purchased at start of period k
- x_{jk} = number of units of product j made in period k
- z_{ik} = number of units of resource i at the end of period k

Profit =
$$\sum_{k \in K} \left[\sum_{j \in J} c_{jk} x_{jk} - \sum_{i \in I} w_{ik} p_{ik} \right]$$
(1.1)

Then we keep track of resources: for $i \in I$, $k \in K$

$$z_{ik} = z_{i(k-1)} + p_{ik} - \sum_{j \in J} a_{ij} x_{jk}$$
 (1.2)

and we define for $i \in I$,

$$z_{i0} = 0 \tag{1.3}$$

Thus the optimization problem is

max (1.1)
s.t. (1.2), (1.3) (P)

$$p, x, z \ge 0$$

Remark:

If (P) has a feasible solution of value that is bigger than 0, then (P) is unbounded. So we are missing some assumptions, maybe? For example, $b_{ik} =$ amount of resource i that can be bound during period k. Then we can add constraints: $p_{ik} \le b_{ik}$.

1.2 Minimax

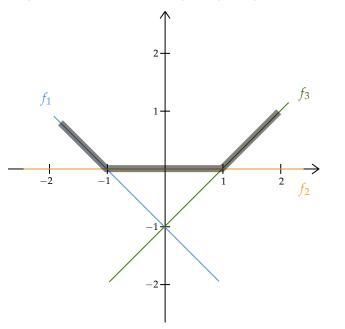
Consider the problem of the form

$$\min_{x} \max\{f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x)\} := g(x)$$
s.t. ···

where $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$.

Example:

$$f_1(x) = -x - 1$$
, $f_2(x) = 0$, $f_3(x) = x - 1$. Then $\max\{f_1(x), f_2(x), f_3(x)\}$ is as follows



A motivation

- $\forall i \in [k], f_i(x) = \text{completion time for task } i$.
- Project consists of task 1, . . . , *k*.
- g(x) = completion time of entire project

Note that minimax is not an optimization problem as we defined it. We can revise it as follows

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & y \\ \text{s.t.} & y \geq f_1(x) \\ & y \geq f_2(x) \\ & \vdots \\ & y \geq f_k(x) \\ & \dots \end{array}$$

An application minimize a piece-wise linear convex function using linear programming.

Flows

digraph

A directed graph (digraph) is a pair (V, E) where

- *V* is a set of vertices,
- *E* is a set of ordered pairs of vertices called arcs.

Notation Let $q \in V$, then

$$\delta^{+}(q) = \{e \in E \mid e \text{ leaves } q\}$$
$$\delta^{-}(q) = \{e \in E \mid e \text{ arrives at } q\}$$

2.1 Max st-flow model

Given

- 1. digraph G = (V, E),
- 2. two vertices $s, t \in V$, and $s \neq t$,
- 3. $\forall e \in E$, arc e has capacity $u_e \ge 0$.

Now we construct an LP.

For every arc e, we will have a variable x_e , and x_e will be called the **flow** on arc e.

Notation Let $q \in V$:

$$f_x(q) := \sum_{e \in \delta^+(q)} x_e - \sum_{e \in \delta^-(q)} x_e$$

The maximization problem is then

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & f_x(s) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_x(q) = 0 & (q \in V, q \neq s, q \neq t) \\ & 0 \leq x_e \leq u_e & (e \in E) \end{array}$$

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A feasible solution to (P) is a flow. An optimal solution to (P) is a maximum flow. The value of a flow x is $f_x(S)$.

Remark:

(P) is always feasible. It is not unbounded, so there always exists a maximum flow.

Application computer network. Suppose we have

- computers s and t ($s \neq t$)
- capacity u_e (gb/s) for every link e

The goal is to computer number gb that can be sent from s to t across network. Then x_e is the amount of information across e. $f_x(q) = 0$ means no information lost.

Magic property

If u is integer, then there exists an optimal solution to (P) that is integer.

Remark:

We need the condition "*u* is integer" so that the property is still true. Also, an optimal solution to (P) is not necessarily integers.

Generalize max st-flows

We can add lower bounds to arcs: $\ell_e \ \forall e \in E$

Magic property - revised

If ℓ , u is integer, and there exists an optimal solution to (Q), then there exists an optimal solution to (Q) that is integer.

Example: Consistent rounding

The goal is to round all entries to nearest up/down integer, so that row sums & column sums still hold.

Any feasible solutions give consistent rounding.

2.2 Min cost flow model

Given

- Digraph G = (V, E)
- Capacities $u_e \ge 0$ ($e \in E$)
- Costs c_e ($e \in E$)
- Supply/demands b_q ($q \in V$)

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Then the model is

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \quad \sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad f_x(q) = b_q \quad (q \in V) \\ & \quad 0 \leq x_e \leq u_e \quad (e \in E) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, feasible solution to (P) is a flow. An optimal solution to (P) is a min cost flow.

Magic property - min cost flows

Suppose u, b are integer, then if there exists a min cost flow, then there exists a min cost flow that is integer.

Similarly, we can add a lower bound:

min
$$\sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e$$

s.t. $f_x(q) = b_q$ $(q \in V)$
 $\ell_e \le x_e \le u_e$ $(e \in E)$

Magic property - min cost flows (revised)

Suppose u, b, ℓ are integer, then if there exists a min cost flow, then there exists a min cost flow that is integer.

What is a necessary condition for b_q so that there exists a flow? $\sum_{q \in V} b_q = 0$.

Example: Staffing problem

hours	# of employees required
1-2	2
2-3	3
3-4	3
4-5	2

and we have cost of hiring a single employee between

hours	cost
1-5	6
1-4	4
3-5	5
2-4	3

The goal is to minimize cost of hiring employees while meeting staff needs.

IP formulations

3.1 IP tricks

Imaging we are forcing variable to take some prescribed set of values: $x \in \{5, 9, 13, 36\}$. Then we can introduce variables $z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \{0, 1\}$ so that we have two constraints:

$$1 = z_1 + z_2 + z_3 + z_4$$
$$x = 5z_1 + 9z_2 + 13z_3 + 36z_4$$

3.2 Modeling piece-wise linear function

Let $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ be piecewise linear. Given a_1, \ldots, a_k and f_1, \ldots, f_k such that $f(a_i) = f_i$. The goal is to write IP constraints with variables x, y such that $y = f(x), x \in [a_1, a_k]$.

To generalize,

1.
$$\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_k \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i = 1$$

2.
$$x = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i a_i$$

3.
$$y = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i f_i$$

4.
$$z_0,\ldots,z_k \in \{0,1\}, z_0 = z_k = 0$$

5.
$$\sum_{i=0}^{k} z_i = 1$$

6.
$$\forall p \in [k], \lambda_p \leq z_{p-1} + z_p$$

By (4) and (5), we may assume that $z_p=1$ and $z_j=0 \ \forall j \neq p$.

Claim λ_p , λ_{p+1} are the only non-zero λ variables.

Proof:

Pick
$$j \neq p, j \neq p + 1$$
. As

$$0 \le \lambda_j \le z_{j-1} + z_j = 0 + 0 = 0$$

With this claim, we can simplify (2) and (3).

3.3 Modeling union of polyhedra

Let

$$P_1 = \{x \mid A^1 x \le b^1\}$$

$$P_2 = \{x \mid A^2 x \le b^2\}$$

Goal: write condition: $x \in P_1 \cup P_2$ as part of IP.

Hypothesis: If $x \in P_1 \cup P_2$, then $0 \le x \le U$ for some U.

Constraints:

- 1. $y_1, y_2 \in \{0, 1\}$
- 2. $y_1 + y_2 = 1$
- 3. $x = x^1 + x^2$
- 4. $A^i x^i \leq y_i b^i$, i = 1, 2
- 5. $0 \le x^i \le y_i U$, i = 1, 2

To show that $x \in P_1 \cup P_2 \iff \exists x^1, x^2, y_1, y_2 \text{ such that all 5 conditions hold.}$

Proof:

First let's assume (1) - (5) hold. We may assume $y_1 = 1, y_2 = 0$. Then (5) tells us $x^2 = 0$. (3) tells us $x = x^1$. (4) implies

$$A^1x^1 \le y_1b^1 \implies A^1x \le b^1 \implies x \in P_1 \subseteq P_1 \cup P_2$$

Now suppose $x \in P_1 \cup P_2$. We may assume $x \in P_1$. Then we set $y_1 = 1, y_2 = 0, x^1 = x, x^2 = 0$. Then we can verify that all 5 conditions hold.

3.4 Perfect formulations

basis

Let *A* be a matrix with column indices $\{1, ..., n\}$. Then $B \subseteq \{1, ..., n\}$ is a basis if

- 1. A_B square,
- 2. A_B non-singular.

Remark:

A has a basis \iff rows of A are independent.

basic solution

Let A be a matrix with column indices $1, \ldots, n$. Consider

$$Ax = b \tag{*}$$

Pick B as basis of A. Then x is a basic solution of (*) if

- 1. Ax = b.
- 2. $x_j = 0$ if $j \notin B$.

x is a basic solution for (*) if x is a basic solution for some basis B.

standard equality form

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

and rows of A are independent.

The correctness of simplex algorithm implies the following theorem:

Theorem 3.1

If an LP is SEF has an optimal solution, then it has an optimal solution that is basic.

Let *A* be matrix, *b* vector with same number of entries as rows of *A*. Then $A \leftarrow_j b$ denotes matrix obtained from *A* by replacing column *j* by *b*.

Theorem 3.2: Cramer's rule

Let M be a non-singular matrix and consider Mx = b.

$$\bar{x}_j = \frac{\det(M \leftarrow_j b)}{\det(M)} \quad \forall j$$

then $M\bar{x} = b$.

Proposition 3.3

Let M be square matrix with $det(M) = \pm 1$, and M, b are integer. Then there exists a unique solution to Mx = b is integer.

Proof:

Directly from Cramer's rule.

Totally unimodular matrix

A matrix *A* is totally unimodular if every square submatrix *N* of *A*, $det(N) \in \{0, +1, -1\}$.

Proposition 3.4

Let *A* be TU, *b* integer. Then every basic solution of Ax = b is integer.

Proof:

Suppose \bar{x} is a basic solution for basis B. If $j \notin B$, $\bar{x}_j = 0$, which is integer. The basic variables \bar{x}_B are the unique solution to $A_B x_B = b$. Since A is TU, then $\det(A_B) \in \{0, -1, +1\}$. Since B is basis, $\det(A_B) \neq 0$. Then $\det(A_B) = \pm 1$. A_B is integer as it is TU. Then by Proposition 3.3, \bar{x}_B is integer.

Theorem 3.5

If an LP is SEF has an optimal solution, it has an optimal solution that is basic.

Theorem 3.6: main theorem

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

$$\mathbf{s.t.} \quad Ax = b, x \ge 0$$
(P)

Suppose *A* is TU and *b* integer. Then if (P) has an optimal solution, it has an optimal solution that is integer.

Proof:

We may assume rows of A are linearly independent. Then (P) is SEF. Thus if (P) has an optimal solution, then by Theorem 3.5, it has an optimal basic solution \bar{x} . By Proposition 3.4, every basic solution is integer. In particular, so is \bar{x} .

Constructing TU matrices

Proposition 3.7

Let *A* be a 0, -1, +1 matrix such that for every column

- 1. we have at most one +1,
- 2. we have at most one -1.

Then *A* is TU.

Proof:

We need to show every $k \times k$ submatrix M of A has $det(M) \in \{0, -1, +1\}$. We can prove it by induction on k. Discuss by cases.

- M has a column of zeros. Then det(M) = 0.
- Every column has exactly one +1 and one -1, then row sum is zero, then rows are linearly dependent, thus det(M) = 0.
- One column has a unique non-zero entry M_{ij} . Applying cofactor expansion,

$$\det(M) = M_{ij}(-1)^{i+j} \det(M'_{ij})$$

Then by induction, the statement holds.

Constructing TU matrices from TU matrices

Proposition 3.8

Let A be TU. Then

- 1. permutation of A,
- 2. A^{T} ,
- 3. any matrix obtained from A by multiplying rows/columns by -1,
- 4. any matrix obtained by adding a unit vector to thw rows/columns

are TU.

Theorem 3.9

$$\max \quad c^T x \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad Ax = b, x \ge 0
 \tag{P}$$

Suppose *A* is TU, *b* integer. Then if (P) has an optimal solution, then it has one that is integer.

Theorem 3.10

$$\max_{s.t.} c^T x$$
s.t. $Ax = b, 0 \le x \le U$ (Q)

Suppose A is TU, b and U are integer. Then if (Q) has optimal solution, then it has one that is integer.

Proof:

We can rewrite (Q) in SEF:

max
$$c^T x$$

s.t. $\begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ I & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ U \end{bmatrix}$
 $x, s \ge 0$ (P')

We denote the first constraint by A'x' = b'. Now note that b' is integer as b, U are integer. It's clear that A' is TU. Then apply Theorem 3.9.

3.5 Application to flows

vertex-arc incidence matrix

M is the vertex-arc incidence matrix of digraph G = (V, E) if

- 1. rows of M correspond to V,
- 2. columns of *M* correspond to *E*,
- 3. for column uv we have +1 for every u, -1 for entry v and 0 otherwise.

Remark:

Let M be vertex-arc incidence matrix of G=(V,E). Pick $v\in V$: for every entry e of row v, if $e\in \delta^+(v)$, then we have +1; if $e\in \delta^-(v)$, we have -1, otherwise we have 0.

Magic property - min cost flow

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \quad c^T x \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad f_x(q) = b_q \quad (q \in V) \\ & \quad 0 < x < U \end{aligned} \tag{P}$$

Suppose b, U integer, and there exists an optimal solution. Then there exists an integer optimal solution.

Proof:

Let *A* be the vertex-arc matrix.

Claim $f_x(q) = b_q \iff \text{row}_q(A)x = b_q$.

Proof of the claim:

Using the remark, we know that

$$row_q(A)x = \sum_{e \in \delta^+(q)} x_e - \sum_{e \in \delta^-(q)} x_e := f_x(q)$$

We can write (P) as

$$min c^T x$$
s.t. $Ax = b$

$$0 \le x \le U$$

We proved A is TU. Then it follows by Theorem 3.10.

Cone programming

This is generalization of

- 1. linear programming
- 2. second-order cone programming
- 3. semi-definite programming

We have good algorithms for these problems.

cone

 $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ is a cone if

- 1. C is convex,
- 2. $\forall \lambda \geq 0$ and $a \in C$, $\lambda a \in C$.

The second condition: *C* is closed under (non-negative scaling).

pointed cone

A cone is pointed if it does not contain an infinite line.

4.1 Examples of cones

$$\mathbb{R}^m_+ = \{ u \in \mathbb{R}^m : u \ge 0 \}$$

Second Order Cone (SOC):

$$L^{m} = \{u \in \mathbb{R}^{m} : ||(u_{1}, \dots, u_{m-1})|| \le u_{m}\}$$

semi-definite matrix

An $n \times n$ matrix M is semi-definite if $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$: $x^T M x \ge 0$.

Semi-definite cone is

 $S_+^n = \{n \times n \text{ semi-definite matrices } M\}$

Direct sum

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$, $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^q$. The direct sum and A and B is

$$A \oplus B := \{(a,b) : a \in A, b \in B\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{p+q}$$

Proposition 4.1

Let A, B be cones, then $A \oplus B$ is a cone.

4.2 Cone programming model

Let $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $A \ m \times n$ matrix, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$, K pointed cone.

Cases:

1. $K = \mathbb{R}_+^m$. Then $Ax - b \in \mathbb{R}_+^m \iff Ax \ge b$. Then it's an LP.

2. $K = L^m$. $Ax - b \in L^m$ can be rewritten as

$$\begin{bmatrix} A' \\ d^T \end{bmatrix} x - \begin{bmatrix} b' \\ p \end{bmatrix} \in L^m$$

$$||A'x - b|| \le d^T x - p$$

and this is restricted SOC program.

3. $K = S_+^n$. This is semi-definite program.

Example: Least square problem

$$\min_{x} \|Ax - b\|$$

or

$$\min t$$
s.t. $||Ax - b|| \le t$

which is restricted SOC program

4.3 (General) SOC program

min
$$c^T x$$

s.t. $||A_i x - b_i|| \le d_i^T x - p_i$ $(i = 1, ..., k)$

Is this still a cone program? In other words, is there A, B, K such that the above constraint is equivalent to $Ax - b \in K$? Yes. It's direct sum of pointed cones.

Robust optimization

$$\min \quad \cdots \\
s.t. \quad a^T x \le \beta$$

This particular constraint might be important. And *a* is part of data that is given, but *a* here might have some imprecision. This brings us the uncertainty.

5.1 Model uncertainty for *a*

Given: $\bar{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ estimate, $\epsilon \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ uncertainty. True a satisfies $a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon$.

Then we can write the condition

$$a^T x \le \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon)$$

We have different choices for ϵ , or think it for different ways.

For example, the ball:

$$a^{T}x \le \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \{u : ||u|| \le r\} := \epsilon_{1})$$
 (5.1)

the cube:

$$a^T x \le \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \{u : -r \le u_i \le r, \forall i\} := \epsilon_2)$$
 (5.2)

Let

$$S_1 = \{x \mid x \text{ satisfies (5.1)}\}$$

$$S_2 = \{x \mid x \text{ satisfies (5.2)}\}$$

What's the relationship between S_1 and S_2 ? We know that $\epsilon_1 \subseteq \epsilon_2$. The constraints in (5.1) form a subset of constraints in (5.2). Thus $S_2 \subseteq S_1$.

We will see: (5.1) can be replaced by a single SOC constraint: $||f(x)|| \le g(x)$ where f, g affine. (5.2) can be replaced by a finite number of linear constraints (with additional variables).

5.2 Modeling uncertainty by a ball

Given data r > 0, $\bar{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$. We then have $\epsilon = \{u \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid ||u|| \le r\}$.

$$a^T x \le \beta \qquad (a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon)$$
 (*)

As (*) has infinitely many of inequalities, the goal is to replace (*) with a single inequality. The key idea is to fix x. Note that

$$(*) \iff \max\{a^T x : a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon\} \le \beta$$
$$\bar{a}^T x + \max\{a^T x - \bar{a}^T x : a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon\} \le \beta$$
$$\bar{a}^T x + \max\{(a - \bar{a})^T x : a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon\} \le \beta$$
$$\bar{a}^T x + \max\{u^T x : u \in \epsilon\} \le \beta$$

Note that $\max\{u^Tx : u \in \epsilon\} = r\|x\|$ given ϵ is a radius r ball. Then

$$\bar{a}^T x + r \|x\| \le \beta$$

and this is exactly SOC constraint.

ellipsoid

An ellipsoid is a set of the form $\{Pu : ||u|| \le 1\}$ and P is a non-singular matrix.

For example, let
$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is generalization of the ball.

5.3 Modeling uncertainty by a hypercube

Recall the constraint

$$a^T x \le \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon)$$
 (1)

where $\epsilon = \{U \mid -r \le v_j \le r, \forall j\}$. We need to show

- 1. ((<u>)</u>) is equivalent to single constraint, involving absolute values.
- 2. $(\)$ is equivalent to finite number of linear constraints.

$$a^T x \ge \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon)$$
 (2)

Fix x. Then the above constraint is equivalent to

$$\min\{a^T x \mid a - \bar{a} \in \epsilon\} \ge \beta$$

Then similarly,

$$\bar{a}^T x + \min\{u^T x \mid u \in \epsilon\} \ge \beta$$

Note that assume u is optimal, then

$$u^{T}x = \sum_{j} u_{j}x_{j}$$

$$= \sum_{j:x_{j} \geq 0} u_{j}x_{j} + \sum_{j:x_{j} < 0} u_{j}x_{j}$$

$$= \sum_{j:x_{j} \geq 0} -rx_{j} + \sum_{j:x_{j} < 0} rx_{j}$$

$$= -r\sum_{j} |x_{j}|$$

Proposition 5.1

$$a^T x \ge \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \{u \mid -r \le u_j \le r, \forall j\})$$

is equivalent to

$$\bar{a}^T x - r \sum_j |x_j| \ge \beta$$

Corollary 5.2

$$a^T x \le \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \{u \mid -r \le u_j \le r, \forall j\})$$

is equivalent to

$$\bar{a}^T x + r \sum_j |x_j| \le \beta$$

Proposition 5.3

- 1. $\exists x \text{ such that } \bar{a}^T x + r \sum_j |x_j| \leq \beta$
- 2. $\exists x, y \text{ such that } \bar{a}^T x + r \sum_j y_j \leq \beta, y_j \geq x_j, y_j \geq -x_j.$

are equivalent.

Proposition 5.4

$$a^T x \le \beta \quad (a - \bar{a} \in \{u \mid -r \le u_i \le r, \forall j\})$$

is equivalent to

$$\bar{a}^T x + r \sum_j y_j \le \beta$$

$$y_j \geq x_j, y_j \geq -x_j, \ \forall j$$

This can be generalized to be a rectangle. Given $\Delta \ge 0$. Then

$$\epsilon = \{i \mid -\delta_j \le u_j \le \delta_j, \ \forall j\}$$

For example, $\Delta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$



PART II:

Interpretations of optimal solutions

Duality review