

CME 307 / MS&E 311: Optimization

LP modeling and solution techniques

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Course survey

You're interested in

- ▶ duality
- ▶ modeling real-world problems
- ▶ hyperparameter and blackbox optimization
- ▶ fairness and ethics in optimization
- ▶ ...

Outline

LP standard form

Modeling

LP inequality form

Solving LPs

Duality

Using duality

Large-scale linear programming

Integer programming

Linear programming: standard form

standard form linear program (LP)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b : \quad \text{dual } y \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array}$$

optimal value p^* , solution x^* (if it exists)

- ▶ any x with $Ax = b$ and $x \geq 0$ is called a **feasible point**
- ▶ if problem is infeasible, we say $p^* = \infty$
- ▶ p^* can be finite or $-\infty$

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what about $p^* = \infty$?

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A: otherwise infeasible or redundant rows; use gaussian elimination to check and remove

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matrix $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$

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 - ▶ solution set is $\{x : Ax = b\} = \{x_0 + Vz\}$ where columns of $V \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n-m}$ span $\text{nullspace}(A)$

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if these are confusing: review linear algebra and prove them all!

LP example: diet problem

- ▶ x_i servings of food i
- ▶ c_i cost per serving
- ▶ a_{ij} amount of nutrient j in food i
- ▶ b_j required amount of nutrient j

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Geometry of LP

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0\end{array}$$

the **feasible set** is the set of points x that satisfy all constraints

- ▶ interpretation: add up columns of A so they match b
- ▶ $Ax = b$ defines a **hyperplane**
- ▶ $x_i \geq 0$ is a **halfspace**
- ▶ $x \geq 0$ is the **positive orthant**

Geometry of LP: convexity

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- ▶ define the **feasible set** $\{x : Ax = b, x \geq 0\}$

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$$\theta x + (1 - \theta)y \in C, \quad \theta \in [0, 1]$$

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$$x \in C \quad \text{and} \quad x = \theta y + (1 - \theta)z \quad \implies \quad x = y = z$$

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- ▶ fact: if a solution exists, then some extreme point of the feasible set is optimal

Geometry of LP: polytopes

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0\end{array}$$

- ▶ define **polytope** P : convex hull of its extreme points $v_1, \dots, v_k \in \mathbf{R}^n$:

$$P = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n \mid x = \sum_{i=1}^k \theta_i v_i, \theta_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^k \theta_i = 1\}$$

- ▶ if feasible set is bounded, it is a polytope
- ▶ prove: if a solution exists, then some extreme point of the feasible set is optimal

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Let's do some modeling!

- ▶ OptiMUS: <https://optimus-solver.vercel.app/>
- ▶ power systems: https://jump.dev/JuMP.jl/stable/tutorials/applications/power_systems/
- ▶ multicast routing: <https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1iOn1T1Muh51KaA7mf7UIQOdhSFZhZyry?usp=sharing>

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practical solvers for MILP:

- ▶ Gurobi and COPT (cardinal optimizer) are the state-of-the-art commercial solvers
- ▶ GLPK is a free solver that is not as fast
- ▶ JuliaOpt/JuMP is a modeling language in Julia that calls solvers like Gurobi and is specialized for MILP applications
- ▶ CVX* (including CVXPY in python) are modeling languages that call solvers like Gurobi with good support for convex problems
- ▶ OptiMUS is a LLM-based modeling tool for MILP

Modeling challenges

model the following as standard form LPs:

1. **inequality constraints.** $Ax \leq b$
2. **free variable.** $x \in \mathbf{R}$
3. **absolute value.** constraint $|x| \leq 10$
4. **piecewise linear.** objective $\max(x_1, x_2)$
5. **assignment.** e.g., every class is assigned exactly one classroom
6. **logic.** e.g., class enrollment \leq capacity of assigned room
7. **flow.** e.g., the least cost way to ship an item from s to t

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(see chapter 1 of Bertsimas and Tsitsiklis for more details on 1–6. see <https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1iOn1T1Muh51KaA7mf7UIQOdhSFZhZyry?usp=sharing> for a detailed treatment of a flow problem.)

Use slack variables to represent inequality constraints

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introduce slack variable $s \in \mathbf{R}^m$: $Ax + s = b, s \geq 0 \iff Ax \leq b$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x + 0^T s \\ \text{subject to} & Ax + s = b \\ & x, s \geq 0\end{array}$$

Split variable into parts to represent free variables

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introduce positive variables x_+, x_- so $x = x_+ - x_-$:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x_+ - c^T x_- \\ \text{subject to} & Ax_+ - Ax_- = b \\ & x_+, x_- \geq 0\end{array}$$

Use epigraph variables to handle absolute value

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$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & 1^T t = \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \geq \|x\|_1 \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & -t \leq x \leq t \\ & x, t \geq 0\end{array}$$

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Q: Why does this work? For what kinds of functions can we use this trick?

Use binary variables to handle assignment

every class is assigned exactly one classroom:

define variable $X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$ for each class $i = 1, \dots, n$ and room $j = 1, \dots, m$

$$X_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{class } i \text{ is assigned to room } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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now solve the problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m C_{ij} X_{ij} \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{i=1}^n X_{ij} = 1, \forall j \quad (\text{every class assigned one room}) \\ & \sum_{j=1}^m X_{ij} = 1, \forall i \quad (\text{no more than one class per room}) \\ & X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \quad (\text{binary variables}) \end{array}$$

where C_{ij} is the cost of assigning class i to room j .

Use binary variables to handle logic

model class enrollment $n_i \leq$ capacity c_j of assigned room:

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what if we want p to be a variable, too?

...or use a big-M relaxation!

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suppose M is a very large number.

...or use a big-M relaxation!

model class enrollment $n_i \leq$ capacity c_j of assigned room:

define variable $X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$ for each class $i = 1, \dots, n$ and room $j = 1, \dots, m$

$$X_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{class } i \text{ is assigned to room } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

suppose M is a very large number. solve the problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m C_{ij} X_{ij} \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{i=1}^n X_{ij} = 1, \forall j \quad (\text{every class assigned one room}) \\ & \sum_{j=1}^m X_{ij} = 1, \forall i \quad (\text{no more than one class per room}) \\ & p_i \leq c_j + (1 - X_{ij})M, \forall i, j \quad (\text{capacity constraint}) \\ & X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \quad (\text{binary variables}) \end{array}$$

where C_{ij} is the cost of assigning class i to room j .

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another common form for LP is **inequality form**

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \leq b\end{array}$$

how to transform to standard form?

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how to transform to standard form?

- ▶ inequality constraints $Ax \leq b$? slack variables $s \geq 0$
- ▶ free variable $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$? split into positive and negative parts

we will see later that these forms are also related by **duality**

LP example: production planning

- ▶ x_i units of product i
- ▶ c_i cost per unit
- ▶ a_{ij} amount of resource j used by product i
- ▶ b_j amount of resource j available
- ▶ d_i demand for product i

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extensions:

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 $c^T x + f^T z$, $z_i \in \{0, 1\}$, $x_i \leq Mz_i$ for M large

Geometry of LP: inequality form

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fact: vertex \iff extreme point

Solution of LP is extreme point

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- ▶ unique: so $c^T x < c^T y$ for all $y \in P \setminus \{x\}$
- ▶ not unique: $\{X^* : c^T x = c^T x^*, x \in P\}$ is a polyhedron. It is not empty (a solution exists) and its complement is not empty (optimal value is bounded). So, it has at least one vertex. That vertex is also a vertex of P .

Basic feasible solution

define: $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ is a **basic feasible solution** (BFS) if there is a set $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ of m columns so that A_S is invertible and

$$x_S = A_S^{-1}b, \quad x_{\bar{S}} = 0, \quad x \geq 0.$$

- ▶ $A_S \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times m}$, submatrix of A with columns in S , is invertible
- ▶ BFS \iff extreme point
- ▶ two BFS with S, S' are neighbors if they share $m - 1$ columns: $|S \cap S'| = m - 1$

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define: **active set** is set of nonzero variables in x

Q: how to find a BFS?

A: start at a feasible point; move in a **feasible direction** until you hit another constraint; continue until you reach a BFS

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algorithms:

- ▶ enumerate all vertices and check
- ▶ fourier-motzkin elimination
- ▶ simplex method
- ▶ ellipsoid method
- ▶ interior point methods
- ▶ first-order methods
- ▶ ...

Solving LPs

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- ▶ ...

remarks:

- ▶ enumeration and elimination are simple but not practical
- ▶ simplex was the first practical algorithm; still used today
- ▶ ellipsoid method is the first polynomial-time algorithm; not practical
- ▶ interior point methods are polynomial-time and practical
- ▶ first-order methods are practical and scale to large problems

Discuss: how to solve LPs?

write down a method to solve LPs; discuss in groups.

- ▶ idea
- ▶ math
- ▶ pseudocode

complete <https://forms.gle/JbP2fLd6cRVbNUoW9> when you're ready (and before Friday noon)

(link also available from course schedule)

Enumerate vertices of LP

can generate all extreme points of LP: for each $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ with $|S| = m$,

- ▶ $A_S \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times m}$, submatrix of A with columns in S , is invertible
- ▶ solve $A_S x_S = b$ for x_S and set $x_{\bar{S}} = 0$
- ▶ if $x_S \geq 0$, then x is a BFS
- ▶ evaluate objective $c^T x$

the best BFS is optimal!

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n choose m is $\binom{n}{m} = \frac{n!}{m!(n-m)!}$ (“exponentially many”)

Simplex algorithm

basic idea: local search on the vertices of the feasible set

- ▶ start at BFS x and evaluate objective $c^T x$
- ▶ move to a neighboring BFS x' with better objective $c^T x'$
- ▶ repeat until no improvement possible

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discuss in groups:

- ▶ how to find an initial BFS?
- ▶ how to find a neighboring BFS with better objective?
- ▶ how to prove optimality?

Finding an initial BFS

solve an auxiliary problem for which a BFS is known:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & \sum_{i=1}^m z_i \\ \text{subject to} & Ax + Dz = b \\ & x, z \geq 0\end{array}$$

where $D \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times m}$ is a diagonal matrix with $D_{ii} = \mathbf{sign}(b_i)$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$.

- ▶ $x = 0, z = |b|$ is a BFS of this problem
- ▶ $(x, z) = (x, 0)$ is a BFS of this problem $\iff x$ is a BFS of the original problem

Find a better neighboring BFS

start with BFS x with active set S and turn on variable $j \notin S$

$$x^+ \leftarrow x + \theta d, \quad \theta > 0$$

where $d_j = 1$ and $d_i = 0$ for $i \notin S \cup \{j\}$. need to solve for d_S .

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$$Ax = b, \quad A(x + \theta d) = b, \implies Ad = 0$$

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$$Ad = A_S d_S + A_j = 0 \implies d_S = -A_S^{-1} A_j$$

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- ▶ if $x_S > 0$ is **non-degenerate**, then $\exists \theta > 0$ st $x^+ \geq 0$
- ▶ how does objective change?

$$c^T x^+ = c^T x + \theta c^T d = c^T x + \theta c_j - \theta c_S^T A_S^{-1} A_j$$

Reduced cost

define **reduced cost** $\bar{c}_j = c_j - c_S^T A_S^{-1} A_j, j \notin S$

Reduced cost

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fact:

- ▶ if $\bar{c} \geq 0$, x is optimal
- ▶ if x is optimal and nondegenerate ($x_S > 0$), then $\bar{c} \geq 0$

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Why duality?

- ▶ certify optimality
 - ▶ turn \forall into \exists
 - ▶ use dual lower bound to derive stopping conditions
- ▶ new algorithms based on the dual
 - ▶ solve dual, then recover primal solution

Duality notation

- ▶ inner product

$$y^T x = \langle y, x \rangle = y \cdot x = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i x_i$$

- ▶ conjugate

$$\langle y, Ax \rangle = \langle A^T y, x \rangle$$

Warmup: Farkas lemma

Theorem (Farkas lemma)

Given $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$ and $b \in \mathbf{R}^m$, exactly one of the following is true:

- ▶ there exists $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ so that $Ax = b$ and $x \geq 0$
- ▶ there exists $y \in \mathbf{R}^m$ so that $A^T y \geq 0$ and $\langle b, y \rangle < 0$

\implies can efficiently certify infeasibility of a linear program

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proof: suppose we have $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ so that $Ax = b$ and $x \geq 0$.
then for any $y \in \mathbf{R}^m$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle y, b - Ax \rangle = \langle y, b \rangle - \langle A^T y, x \rangle \\ \langle y, b \rangle &= \langle A^T y, x \rangle \end{aligned}$$

so if $A^T y \geq 0$, then use $x \geq 0$ to conclude $\langle y, b \rangle \geq 0$.

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(opposite direction is similar)

Lagrange duality

primal problem with solution $x^* \in \mathbf{R}^n$, optimal value p^* :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b : \quad \text{dual } y \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array} \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

if x is feasible, then $Ax = b$, so $\langle y, Ax - b \rangle = 0$ for $y \in \mathbf{R}^m$.

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$$\mathcal{L}(x, y) := c^T x - \langle y, Ax - b \rangle$$

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Lagrange duality, ctd

we have a lower bound on p^* for any y , and a useful one whenever $c + A^T y = 0$.
maximize bound:

$$p^* \geq \begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & \langle y, b \rangle \\ \text{subject to} & A^T y \leq c \\ \text{variable} & y \in \mathbf{R}^m \end{array}$$

define the **dual function**

$$g(y) = \begin{cases} \langle y, b \rangle & A^T y \leq c \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Lagrange duality

weak duality asserts that $p^* \geq g(y)$ for all $y \in \mathbf{R}^m$.

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &\geq g(y) \quad \forall y \in \mathbf{R}^m \\ &\geq \underbrace{\sup_y g(y)}_{\mathcal{D}} =: d^* \end{aligned}$$

$p^* \geq d^*$ dual optimal value

Strong duality

Definition (Duality gap)

The **duality gap** for a primal-dual pair (x, y) is $c^T x - b^T y \geq 0$

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strong duality holds

- ▶ for feasible LPs
- ▶ (later) for convex problems under **constraint qualification** aka **Slater's condition**. feasible region has an **interior point** x so that all inequality constraints hold strictly

strong duality fails if either primal or dual problem is infeasible or unbounded

Strong duality for LPs

primal and dual LP in standard form:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & b^T y \\ \text{subject to} & A^T y \leq c\end{array}$$

claim: if primal LP has a bounded feasible solution x^* , then strong duality holds *i.e.*, dual LP has a bounded feasible solution y^* and $p^* = d^*$

Logic of strong duality proof

$x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ is optimal for the primal LP with optimal value p^*

\Downarrow (see next slide)

the following linear system has no solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & -b \\ c^T & -p^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \tau \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} A^T & c \\ -b^T & -p^* \end{bmatrix}$$

\Downarrow (Farkas lemma)

$$\begin{bmatrix} A^T & c \\ -b^T & -p^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -y \\ \sigma \end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \quad \sigma > 0$$

\Downarrow

y/σ is dual feasible with optimal value as least as good as p^*

Proof of strong duality for LPs

consider the following system with variables $x' \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $\tau \in \mathbf{R}$

$$Ax' - b\tau = 0, \quad c^T x' = p^* \tau - 1, \quad (x', \tau) \geq 0$$

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$$Ax' - b\tau = 0, \quad c^T x' = p^* \tau - 1, \quad (x', \tau) \geq 0$$

claim: this system has no solution. pf by contradiction:

- ▶ if $\tau > 0$, then x'/τ is feasible for LP and $c^T x'/\tau < p^*$
- ▶ if $\tau = 0$, then $x^* + x'$ is feasible for LP and $c^T (x^* + x') < p^*$

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so use Farkas' lemma:

$$\bar{A}\bar{x} = \bar{b}, \quad \bar{x} \geq 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \bar{A}^T \bar{y} \geq 0, \quad \bar{b}^T \bar{y} < 0$$

Proof of strong duality for LPs

consider the following system with variables $x' \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $\tau \in \mathbf{R}$

$$Ax' - b\tau = 0, \quad c^T x' = p^* \tau - 1, \quad (x', \tau) \geq 0$$

claim: this system has no solution. pf by contradiction:

- ▶ if $\tau > 0$, then x'/τ is feasible for LP and $c^T x'/\tau < p^*$
- ▶ if $\tau = 0$, then $x^* + x'$ is feasible for LP and $c^T (x^* + x') < p^*$

so use Farkas' lemma:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \bar{A}\bar{x} = \bar{b}, \quad \bar{x} \geq 0 & \text{or} \quad \bar{A}^T \bar{y} \geq 0, \quad \bar{b}^T \bar{y} < 0 \\ \begin{bmatrix} A & -b \\ c^T & -p^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \tau \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} & \text{or} \quad \begin{bmatrix} A^T & c \\ -b^T & -p^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y \\ \sigma \end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \quad \sigma > 0 \end{array}$$

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second system is feasible $\implies y/\sigma$ is dual feasible and optimal

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Duality as stopping condition

want to optimize until **primal suboptimality** $p^* - c^T x \geq 0$ or **dual suboptimality** $d^* - b^T y \geq 0$ are small enough. how?

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in practice: improve primal and dual iterates in parallel until duality gap is small enough

How to use duality to estimate sensitivity?

primal and dual LP in standard form:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c^T x \\ p^* = \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \max & b^T y \\ d^* = \text{subject to} & A^T y \leq c \end{array}$$

optimal primal and dual solution x^*, y^*

perturbed problem: primal and dual LP in standard form:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c^T x \\ \tilde{p}^* = \text{subject to} & Ax = b + \epsilon \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \max & (b + \epsilon)^T y \\ \tilde{d}^* = \text{subject to} & A^T y \leq c \end{array}$$

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y^* is feasible for perturbed problem, so

$$\tilde{p}^* = \tilde{d}^* \geq (b + \epsilon)^T y^* = d^* + \epsilon^T y^*$$

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primal and dual LP, $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$, $n \gg m$:

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approximate by using $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$: fewer variables (primal) or constraints (dual)

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- ▶ if dual constraints are all binding, $A_S^T y = c_S$, so these conditions are the same!
- ▶ active set of non-zero primal variables dual to active set of constraints that hold

Presolve

Often many constraints are redundant or can be simplified. example:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & x_3 \\ \text{subject to} & x_1 = 1 \\ & x_2 = x_3 - x_1 \\ & x_3 - x_2 \geq 0 \\ & x \geq 0\end{array}$$

a good presolve can often reduce problem from 1000s of variables and constraints down to 10s!

reference: Achterberg, Tobias, et al. "Presolve reductions in mixed integer programming." *INFORMS Journal on Computing* 32.2 (2020): 473-506.

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MILP solution vs LP solution

mixed-integer linear program (MILP):

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example:

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draw picture: where is solution of MILP? of LP relaxation?

Branch and bound

given MILP with integer variable z in rectangle $R = (l, u)$, $l \leq z \leq u$, optimal value $p^*(R)$, solution $z^*(R)$

- ▶ solve LP relaxation to produce lower bound $LB(R) \leq p^*(R)$
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otherwise, branch

- ▶ split R into two subrectangles $R_1 = (l_1, u_1)$, $R_2 = (l_2, u_2)$ so that $\mathbb{Z} \cap R = (\mathbb{Z} \cap R_1) \cup (\mathbb{Z} \cap R_2)$
- ▶ compute bounds $LB(R_1)$, $UB(R_1)$, $LB(R_2)$, $UB(R_2)$
- ▶ $R \subset R_1 \cup R_2$ so $LB(R) \leq \min(LB(R_1), LB(R_2))$
- ▶ keep best solution so far $UB \leftarrow \min(UB, UB(R_1), UB(R_2))$
- ▶ prune: eliminate rectangle from consideration if $LB(R) > UB$

draw picture in 2D