

# Duality - Continued

Lecture 5

October 7, 2024

# Recap From Last Time

We obtained the following primal-dual pair of problems:

Primal ( $\mathcal{P}$ )	Dual ( $\mathcal{D}$ )
minimize <sub><math>x</math></sub> $c^\top x$	maximize <sub><math>p</math></sub> $p^\top b$
$(p_i \rightarrow) \quad a_i^\top x \geq b_i, \quad i \in M_1,$	$p_i \geq 0, \quad i \in M_1,$
$(p_i \rightarrow) \quad a_i^\top x \leq b_i, \quad i \in M_2,$	$p_i \leq 0, \quad i \in M_2,$
$(p_i \rightarrow) \quad a_i^\top x = b_i, \quad i \in M_3,$	$p_i \text{ free}, \quad i \in M_3,$
$x_j \geq 0, \quad j \in N_1,$	$(x_j \rightarrow) \quad p^\top A_j \leq c_j, \quad j \in N_1,$
$x_j \leq 0, \quad j \in N_2,$	$(x_j \rightarrow) \quad p^\top A_j \geq c_j, \quad j \in N_2,$
$x_j \text{ free}, \quad j \in N_3.$	$(x_j \rightarrow) \quad p^\top A_j = c_j, \quad j \in N_3.$

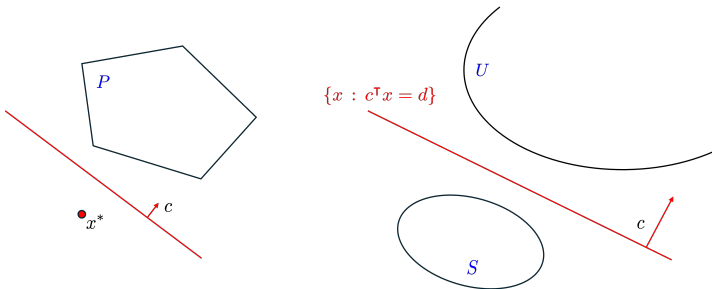
Simple rules to help you derive duals quickly:

- a dual decision variable for every primal constraint (except variables signs)
  - if "=" constraint, dual variable is free
  - if (" $\geq$ ", minimize) or (" $\leq$ ", maximize), dual variable  $\geq 0$
  - if (" $\geq$ ", maximize) or (" $\leq$ ", minimize), dual variable  $\leq 0$
- for every decision variable in the primal, there is a constraint in the dual
  - signs for the constraint derived by reversing the above

# Separating Hyperplane Theorem

## Theorem (Separating Hyperplane Theorem for Convex Sets)

Let  $S$  and  $U$  be two nonempty, closed, convex subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $S \cap U = \emptyset$  and  $S$  is bounded. Then, there exists a vector  $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $d \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $S \subset \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : c^\top x < d\}$  and  $U \subset \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : c^\top x > d\}$ .



# Separating Hyperplane Theorem - Caveats!

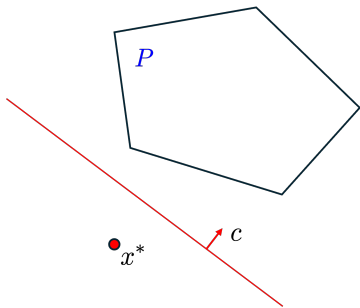
Both conditions in the theorem needed: **closed** and at least one **bounded**

# Needed For Our Purposes

We proved the first **fundamental result in optimization**!

Corollary (Needed for our purposes...)

*If  $P$  is a polyhedron and  $x^*$  satisfies  $x^* \notin P$ , there exists a hyperplane that strictly separates  $x^*$  from  $P$ , i.e.,  $\exists c \neq 0$  such that  $c^\top x^* < c^\top x \forall x \in P$ .*



# Farkas Lemma

Time for the **second fundamental result in optimization!**

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## Theorem (Farkas' Lemma)

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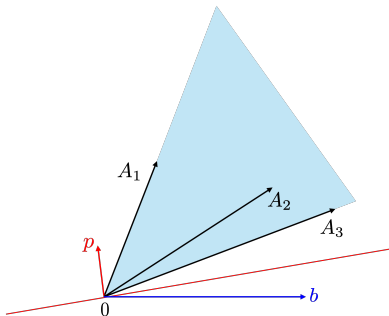
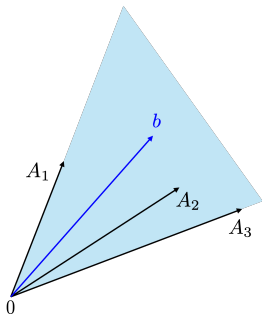


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**Proof.** “(a)  $\Rightarrow$  not (b).”

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**Proof.** “(a)  $\Rightarrow$  not (b).”

(a) implies  $\exists x \geq 0 : Ax = b$ .

(b) implies  $\exists p : p^T A \geq 0$ .

But then  $p^T b = p^T Ax \geq 0$ , so (b) cannot hold.

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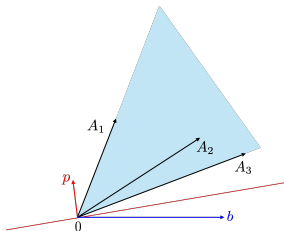
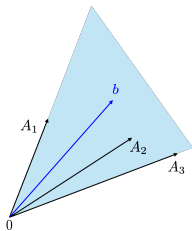
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- $\Rightarrow S$  is closed.

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- Limit  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  implies  $p^T A_i \geq 0$ . ■

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This has some important implications:

- Suppose your primal problem ( $\mathcal{P}$ ) was the standard-form LP:

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



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... there exists  $p$  (satisfying  $p^T A \leq c^T$ ) that is a **certificate of infeasibility!**

# Strong Duality

(W.L.O.G.) Consider the following primal-dual pair:

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## Theorem (**Strong Duality**)

*If  $(\mathcal{P})$  has an optimal solution, so does  $(\mathcal{D})$ , and their optimal values are equal.*

# Strong Duality

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- Assume  $(\mathcal{P})$  has optimal solution  $x^*$
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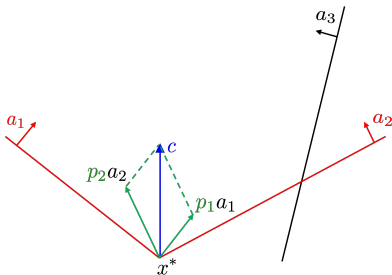
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- $c^\top d \geq 0$  because otherwise  $c^\top (x^* + \epsilon d) < c^\top x^*$  would contradict  $x^*$  optimal

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# Implications

Strong duality leaves only a few possibilities for a primal-dual pair:

		<b>Dual</b>		
		Finite Optimum	Unbounded	Infeasible
<b>Primal</b>	Finite Optimum	?	?	?
	Unbounded	?	?	?
	Infeasible	?	?	?

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Primal	Finite Optimum	Possible	Impossible	Impossible
	Unbounded	Impossible	Impossible	Possible
	Infeasible	Impossible	Possible	?



# Example

*Is this primal feasible? What is its dual?*

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & x_1 + 2x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & x_1 + x_2 = 1 \\ & 2x_1 + 2x_2 = 3.\end{array}$$

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# Optimality for Standard-Form LPs

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**Primal optimality  $\Leftrightarrow$  Dual feasibility**

Simplex terminates when finding a dual-feasible solution!

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- Modern solvers include primal and dual simplex and allow concurrent runs

# Dual Variables As Marginal Costs

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- Solved the LP and obtained  $x^*$  and  $p^*$
- Want to show that  $p^*$  is **gradient of the optimal cost with respect to  $b$**  (“almost everywhere”)
- Related to **sensitivity analysis**  
*How do the optimal value and solution depend on problem data  $A, b, c$ ?*

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- Let  $P(b) := \{x : Ax = b, x \geq 0\}$  and  $F(b)$  denote the optimal cost
- Assume that dual is feasible:  $\{p : p^\top A \leq c^\top\} \neq \emptyset$ , so  $F(b) > -\infty$
- Want to show that  $F(b)$  is **piecewise linear and convex**

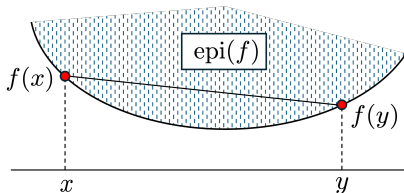
# Convex and Concave Functions

## Definition

$f : X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **convex** if  $X$  is a convex set and

$$f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y), \quad \forall x, y \in X \text{ and } \lambda \in [0, 1]. \quad (3)$$

A function is **concave** if  $-f$  is convex.





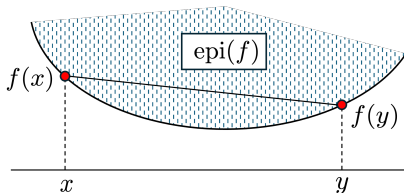
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Equivalent definition in terms of **epigraph**:

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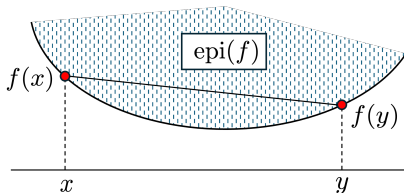
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$$\Rightarrow x_\lambda \in P(b) \Rightarrow b \in S \Rightarrow S \text{ is convex.}$$

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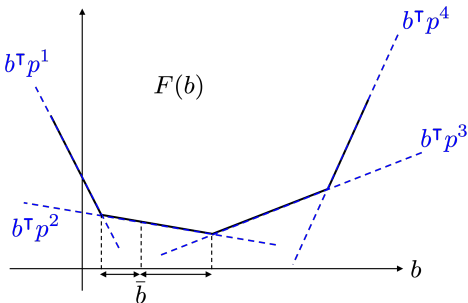
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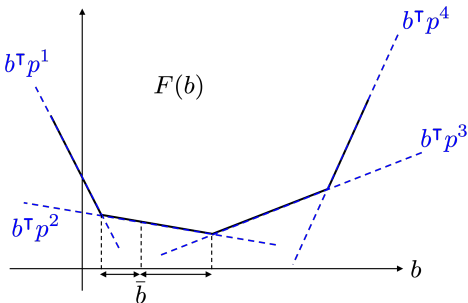
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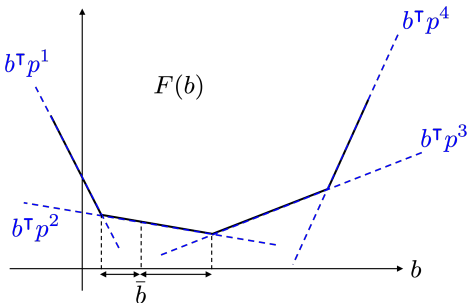
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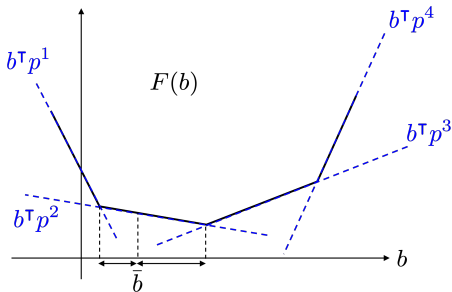
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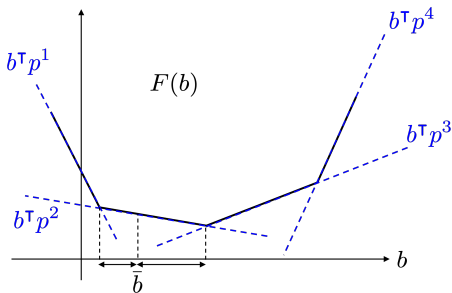


- At any  $b = \bar{b}$  where  $F(b)$  is differentiable,  $p^*$  is the **gradient of  $F(b)$**
- $p_i^*$  acts as a **marginal cost** or **shadow price** for the  $i$ -th constraint r.h.s.  $b_i$
- $p_i$  allows estimating **exact change in  $F(b)$  in a range around  $\bar{b}$**
- Modern solvers give direct access to  $p_i^*$  and the range

Gurobipy: for constraint  $c$ , the attribute  $c.Pi$  is  $p_i^*$  and the range is from  $c.SARHSLow$  to  $c.SARHSUp$

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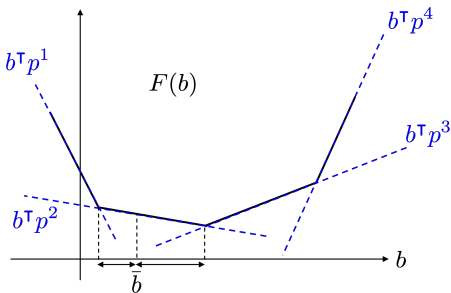
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- At  $b$  where  $F(b)$  is not differentiable, several  $p^i$  are optimal
- All such  $p^i$  are valid **subgradients** of  $F(b)$

# Global Dependency On $b$ - Implications

$$F(b) := \min\{c^\top x : Ax = b, x \geq 0\} \equiv \max\{p^\top b : p^\top A \leq c^\top\}$$



- At  $b$  where  $F(b)$  is not differentiable, several  $p^i$  are optimal
- All such  $p^i$  are valid **subgradients** of  $F(b)$

## Definition (Subgradient.)

$F$  convex, defined on (convex) set  $S$ . A vector  $p$  is a **subgradient** of  $F$  at  $\bar{b} \in S$  if

$$F(\bar{b}) + p^\top (b - \bar{b}) \leq F(b), \quad \forall b \in S.$$

# Optimal Duals As Subgradients

## Theorem

*Suppose  $F(b) := \min\{c^\top x : Ax = b, x \geq 0\} \equiv \max\{p^\top b : p^\top A \leq c^\top\} > -\infty$ . Then  $p$  is optimal for the dual **if and only if** it is a subgradient of  $F$  at  $\bar{b}$ .*

**Proof.** First show that any dual optimal  $p$  is a valid subgradient.

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- Consider arbitrary  $b \in S$
- For any feasible solution  $x \in P(b)$ , weak duality yields  $p^\top b \leq c^\top x$
- This implies  $p^\top b \leq F(b)$

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- This implies  $p^\top b \leq F(b)$
- But then,  $p^\top b - p^\top \bar{b} \leq F(b) - F(\bar{b})$

We conclude that  $p$  is a subgradient of  $F$  at  $\bar{b}$

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**Proof.** For the reverse direction, let  $p$  be a subgradient of  $F$  at  $\bar{b}$ , that is,

$$F(\bar{b}) + p^\top (b - \bar{b}) \leq F(b), \quad \forall b \in S. \quad (5)$$

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- Because this is true for any  $x \geq 0$ , we must have  $p^\top A \leq c^\top$ . *Why?*

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- This implies that  $p$  is dual-feasible
- With  $x = 0$ , we obtain  $F(\bar{b}) \leq p^\top \bar{b}$
- Using weak duality, every dual-feasible  $q$  satisfies  $q^\top \bar{b} \leq F(\bar{b}) \leq p^\top \bar{b}$

We conclude that  $p$  is optimal.

# Global Dependency On $c$

Let  $G(c) := \min\{c^\top x : Ax = b, x \geq 0\} \equiv \max\{p^\top b : p^\top A \leq c^\top\}$

## Theorem

*For an LP in standard form,*

1. *The set  $T := \{c : G(c) > -\infty\}$  is convex.*
2.  *$G(c)$  is a **concave** function of  $c$  on the set  $T$ .*
3. *If for some  $c$  the LP has a **unique** optimal solution  $x^*$ , then  $G$  is linear in the vicinity of  $c$  and its gradient is  $x^*$ .*



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**Proof.** Analogous ideas applied to the dual - omitted.

- The optimal primal solution  $x^*$  is a **shadow price for the dual constraints**
- $x^*$  remains optimal for a range of change in each objective coefficient  $c_j$
- Modern solvers also allow obtaining the range directly

Gurobi.py: attributes **SAObjLow** and **SAObjUp** for each decision variable

# Signs of Dual Variables Revisited

These ideas carry over directly to **primals in general form**:

$$\begin{array}{llll} F(b, c) := \min_{\mathbf{x}} & c^{\top} \mathbf{x} & \max_{\mathbf{p}} & \mathbf{p}^{\top} \mathbf{b} \\ & a_i^{\top} \mathbf{x} \geq b_i, & i \in M_1, & \mathbf{p}_i \geq 0, & i \in M_1, \\ & a_i^{\top} \mathbf{x} \leq b_i, & i \in M_2, & \mathbf{p}_i \leq 0, & i \in M_2, \\ & a_i^{\top} \mathbf{x} = b_i, & i \in M_3, & \mathbf{p}_i \text{ free}, & i \in M_3, \\ & x_j \geq 0, & j \in N_1, & \mathbf{p}^{\top} A_j \leq c_j, & j \in N_1, \\ & x_j \leq 0, & j \in N_2, & \mathbf{p}^{\top} A_j \geq c_j, & j \in N_2, \\ & x_j \text{ free}, & j \in N_3. & \mathbf{p}^{\top} A_j = c_j, & j \in N_3. \end{array}$$

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 \begin{array}{ll}
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- $F(b, c)$  is piece-wise linear, convex in  $b$  and piece-wise linear, concave in  $c$
- $p^*$  are subgradients for  $F(b, c)$  with respect to  $b$
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  - **the optimization problem** (max/min)
  - **the constraint type** ( $\leq, \geq$ )
  - **the signs of the shadow prices**

# Signs of Dual Variables Revisited

- There is a direct connection between:
  - the **optimization problem** (max/min)
  - the **constraint type** ( $\leq$ ,  $\geq$ )
  - the **signs of the shadow prices**
- Given two of these, can figure out the third one!
- *What is the sign of the shadow price for a ...*
  - $\leq$  constraint in a **minimization** problem ?
  - $\geq$  constraint in a **minimization** problem ?
  - $\leq$  constraint in a **maximization** problem ?
  - $\geq$  constraint in a **maximization** problem ?
- *What is the dependency of the optimal objective on the r.h.s. of a ...*
  - $\leq$  constraint in a **minimization** problem ?
  - $\geq$  constraint in a **minimization** problem ?
  - $\leq$  constraint in a **maximization** problem ?
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- There is a direct connection between:
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# Optimality Conditions and Complementary Slackness

$\min_x$	$c^\top x$		$\max_p$	$p^\top b$	
	$a_i^\top x \geq b_i,$	$i \in M_1,$		$p_i \geq 0,$	$i \in M_1,$
	$a_i^\top x \leq b_i,$	$i \in M_2,$		$p_i \leq 0,$	$i \in M_2,$
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## Theorem (Complementary Slackness)

*Let  $x$  and  $p$  be feasible solutions for  $(\mathcal{P})$  and  $(\mathcal{D})$ , respectively. Then  $x$  and  $p$  are optimal solutions for  $(\mathcal{P})$  and  $(\mathcal{D})$  if and only if:*

$$p_i(a_i^\top x - b_i) = 0, \quad \forall i$$
$$(c_j - p^\top A_j)x_j = 0, \quad \forall j.$$

# Optimality Conditions and Complementary Slackness

## Theorem (**General** Complementary Slackness)

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## Theorem (**Strict C.S. Standard-Form LPs**)

Consider the following primal-dual pair of LPs:

$$\begin{array}{ll} (\mathcal{P}) \min c^\top x & (\mathcal{D}) \max p^\top b \\ Ax = b, x \geq 0 & p^\top A \leq c^\top \end{array}$$

If  $(\mathcal{P})$  and  $(\mathcal{D})$  are feasible, they admit optimal solutions  $x^*$  and  $p^*$  satisfying **strict complementarity**:  $x_j^* > 0 \Leftrightarrow p^\top A_j = c_j$ .

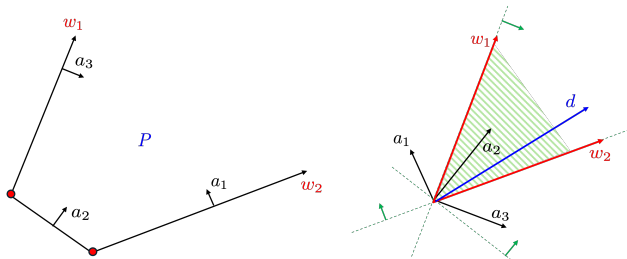
# Representation of Polyhedra

Important consequence of duality: alternative representation of all polyhedra

## Definition (Extreme rays of a polyhedron)

Consider a nonempty polyhedron  $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b\}$ . Then:

1.  $\mathcal{C} := \{d \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ad \geq 0\}$  is called the **recession cone** of  $P$ .
2. Any  $d \in \mathcal{C}$  with  $d \neq 0$  is called a **ray** of  $P$ .
3. Any ray  $d$  that satisfies  $a_i^\top d = 0$  for  $n - 1$  linearly independent  $a_i$  is called an **extreme ray** of  $P$ .



# Representation of Polyhedra

## Theorem (Resolution Theorem)

Let  $P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b\}$  be a non-empty polyhedron,  $x^1, x^2, \dots, x^k$  be its extreme points, and  $w^1, w^2, \dots, w^r$  be its extreme rays. Then  $P = Q$ , where

$$Q := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x^i + \sum_{j=1}^r \theta_j w^j : \lambda \geq 0, \theta \geq 0, e^\top \lambda = 1 \right\}.$$

**Proof.** Proving  $Q \subseteq P$  is immediate. To prove  $P \subseteq Q$ , assume  $\exists z \in P$  with  $z \notin Q$ . Consider the following primal-dual pair:

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{P}) \quad & \max_{\lambda \geq 0, \theta \geq 0} \sum_{i=1}^k 0\lambda_i + \sum_{j=1}^r 0\theta_j & (\mathcal{D}) \quad & \min_{p, q} p^\top z + q \\ & \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x^i + \sum_{j=1}^r \theta_j w^j = z & & p^\top x_i + q \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \\ & \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i = 1 & & p^\top w_j \geq 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, r, \end{aligned}$$

*Is  $(\mathcal{P})$  feasible? Is  $(\mathcal{D})$  feasible? What are the optimal values?*

## Representation of Polyhedra - cntd

$$P := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b\} = Q := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x^i + \sum_{j=1}^r \theta_j w^j : \lambda \geq 0, \theta \geq 0, e^\top \lambda = 1 \right\}.$$

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- $(\mathcal{P})$  is infeasible because  $z \notin Q$
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- $(p, q)$  feasible  $\Rightarrow p^\top z < -q \leq p^\top x_i$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $p^\top w_i \geq 0$
- With  $p$  as above, consider the LP  $\min_x \{p^\top x : Ax \geq b\}$

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- $(p, q)$  feasible  $\Rightarrow p^\top z < -q \leq p^\top x_i$  for any  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $p^\top w_i \geq 0$
- With  $p$  as above, consider the LP  $\min_x \{p^\top x : Ax \geq b\}$
- If optimal cost finite,  $\exists x^i$  optimal. But  $z \in P$  and  $p^\top z < p^\top x_i$  lead to  $\nexists$
- If cost is  $-\infty$ ,  $\exists w^j : p^\top w^j < 0$ , which is also a  $\nexists$



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- We have LP with constraints  $Ax \leq b$ . One of the constraints is:

$$a^T x \leq b, \tag{6}$$

where  $a$  satisfies  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  is polyhedral

- We seek decisions  $x$  that are **robustly feasible**, i.e.,

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$$\begin{aligned} p^\top d &\leq b \\ p^\top C &= x^\top. \end{aligned}$$

- This is a polynomially-sized set of constraints in  $x, p$

# Polynomially-Sized CVaR Representation

- Recall homework: ensure CVaR of portfolio payoff exceeds a lower limit
- CVaR was defined as the average over the  $k$ -smallest values (for suitable integer  $k$ )
- If payoffs in the scenarios are  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$ , the key constraint is:

$$\sum_{i=1}^k v_{[i]} \geq b, \tag{9}$$

where  $v_{[1]} \leq v_{[2]} \leq \dots \leq v_{[n]}$  is the sorted vector of payoffs.



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- By strong duality, the optimal value of LP (10) is the same as:

$$\max_{p,t} \left\{ e^\top p + k \cdot t : p + t \cdot e \leq v, p \geq 0 \right\}.$$

- So (9) is satisfied if and only:  $\exists p, t : e^\top p + k \cdot t \geq b, p + t \cdot e \leq v, p \geq 0$ .

# Asset Pricing and No-Arbitrage

- Investment world with  $n + 1$  securities indexed by  $i = 0, \dots, n$
- $i = 0$  denotes cash; the other securities can be anything (stocks, derivatives, ...)
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  - cash is riskless:  $S_0^f = R = 1 + r$ , where  $r$  is the risk-free rate of return
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- If we purchase  $x_i$  of each security  $i$ :
  - we incur immediate cost  $\sum_{i=0}^n S_i^c x_i$
  - we have future cashflow  $\sum_{i=0}^n S_i^f(\omega) \cdot x_i$  if state of world is  $\omega \in \Omega$

# Asset Pricing and No-Arbitrage

## Definition (Arbitrage)

An **arbitrage** is a trading strategy that either has a positive initial cashflow and has no risk of a loss later (type A) or that requires no initial cash input, has no risk of loss, and has a positive probability of making profits in the future (type B).



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- a type-A arbitrage means  $\exists x$  such that:

$$\sum_{i=0}^n S_i^c \cdot x_i < 0 \quad \text{(positive initial cashflow)}$$

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- a type-B arbitrage means  $\exists x$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^n S_i^c \cdot x_i &= 0 && \text{(no initial cash input)} \\ \sum_{i=0}^n S_i^f(\omega) \cdot x_i &\geq 0, \forall \omega \in \Omega && \text{(no risk of loss)} \\ \exists \omega \in \Omega : \sum_{i=0}^n S_i^f(\omega) \cdot x_i &> 0, && \text{(positive probability of profit).} \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

# Asset Pricing and No-Arbitrage

## Definition (R.N.P.M.)

A **risk-neutral probability measure** on the set  $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_m\}$  is a vector  $p \in \mathbb{R}^m$  so that  $p > 0$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^m p_j = 1$  and for every security  $S_i, i = 0, \dots, n$ ,

$$S_i^c = \frac{1}{R} \left( \sum_{j=1}^m p_j S_i^f(\omega_j) \right) = \frac{1}{R} \mathbb{E}_p[S_i^f].$$

- Above,  $\mathbb{E}_p[S]$  is the expected value of the random variable  $S$  under the probability distribution  $p := (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m)$
- The definition states that the current price/value of every asset,  $S_i^c$ , exactly equals **the discounted expected price/value in the future**
- The expectation is taken with respect to the R.N.P.M.
- Discounting is done at the risk-free interest rate  $R$

# Asset Pricing and No-Arbitrage

## Theorem (Asset Pricing Theorem)

*A risk-neutral probability measure exists **if and only if** there is no arbitrage.*

**Proof.** Consider the following linear program with variables  $x_i$ , for  $i = 0, \dots, n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & \sum_{i=0}^n S_i^c \cdot x_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=0}^n S_i^f(\omega_j) \cdot x_i \geq 0, j = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

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- Suppose no type-A arbitrage. Then, no type-B arbitrage if and only if all constraints are tight for all optimal solutions of (13):  $\sum_{i=0}^n S_i^f(\omega_j) \cdot x_i^* = 0$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, m$

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- Dual constraint for  $i = 0$  implies  $\sum_{j=1}^m p_j^* = \frac{1}{R}$ , so taking  $p^* \cdot R$  yields a RNPM.

The converse direction is proved in an identical manner. ■

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Resource matrix $A$ :	Flight leg 1	1	0	...	1
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- Goal: decide how many itineraries of each type to sell to maximize revenue



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  - For an “exotic” itinerary that requires seats on several flights  $f \in E$ , the **minimum price** to charge is given by the sum of the shadow prices,  $\sum_{f \in E} p_f$

# Network Revenue Management

- Let  $x_i$  denote the number of itineraries of type  $i$  that the airline plans to sell, and let  $x$  be the vector with components  $x_i$
- The problem can be formulated as follows:

$$\max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^I} \left\{ r^\top x : Ax \leq c, x \leq d \right\}$$

- $Ax \leq c$  capture the constraints on plane capacity
- $x \leq d$  states that the planned sales cannot exceed the demand
- In practice, an approach that includes **all possible itineraries** encounters challenges
  - gargantuan LP
  - poor demand estimates for some itineraries
- To sell “exotic itineraries”, use the **shadow prices for the capacity constraints**
  - $p \in \mathbb{R}^F$  : dual variables for capacity constraints  $Ax \leq c$
  - At optimality,  $p_f$  is marginal revenue lost if airline loses one seat on flight  $f$
  - For an “exotic” itinerary that requires seats on several flights  $f \in E$ , the **minimum price** to charge is given by the sum of the shadow prices,  $\sum_{f \in E} p_f$
- **Bid-price heuristic** in network revenue management
- Broader principle of how to price “products” through resource usage/cost