

# Math 407A: Linear Optimization

## Lecture 9

### The Fundamental Theorem of Linear Programming The Strong Duality Theorem Complementary Slackness

Math Dept, University of Washington

The Two Phase Simplex Algorithm

The Fundamental Theorem of linear Programming

Duality Theory Revisited

Complementary Slackness

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- (iii) If it is bounded, then it has an optimal basic feasible solution.*

# Duality Theory

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{P} & \text{maximize} \quad c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} \quad Ax \leq b, \quad 0 \leq x \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{D} & \text{minimize} \quad b^T y \\ & \text{subject to} \quad A^T y \geq c, \quad 0 \leq y \end{array}$$

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What is the dual to the dual?

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The dual of the dual is the primal.

# The Weak Duality Theorem

**Theorem:**

*If  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is feasible for  $\mathcal{D}$ , then*

$$c^T x \leq y^T A x \leq b^T y.$$

*Thus, if  $\mathcal{P}$  is unbounded, then  $\mathcal{D}$  is necessarily infeasible, and if  $\mathcal{D}$  is unbounded, then  $\mathcal{P}$  is necessarily infeasible. Moreover, if  $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$  with  $\bar{x}$  feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\bar{y}$  feasible for  $\mathcal{D}$ , then  $\bar{x}$  must solve  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\bar{y}$  must solve  $\mathcal{D}$ .*

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We combine the Weak Duality Theorem with the Fundamental Theorem of Linear Programming to obtain the *Strong Duality Theorem*.

# The Strong Duality Theorem

**Theorem:**

*If either  $\mathcal{P}$  or  $\mathcal{D}$  has a finite optimal value, then so does the other, the optimal values coincide, and optimal solutions to both  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  exist.*

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$$\min f(x) = e^x$$

The optimal value is zero, but no solution exists.

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The optimal tableau is

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} RA & R & Rb \\ \hline c^T - y^T A & -y^T & -y^T b \end{array} \right],$$

where we have already seen that  $y$  solves  $\mathcal{D}$ , and the optimal values coincide.

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This concludes the proof.

## Complementary Slackness

**Theorem:** [WDT]

If  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is feasible for  $\mathcal{D}$ , then

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Thus, if  $\mathcal{P}$  is unbounded, then  $\mathcal{D}$  is necessarily infeasible, and if  $\mathcal{D}$  is unbounded, then  $\mathcal{P}$  is necessarily infeasible. Moreover, if  $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$  with  $\bar{x}$  feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\bar{y}$  feasible for  $\mathcal{D}$ , then  $\bar{x}$  must solve  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\bar{y}$  must solve  $\mathcal{D}$ .

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The SDT implies that  $x$  solves  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $y$  solves  $\mathcal{D}$  if and only if  $(x, y)$  is a  $\mathcal{P}$ - $\mathcal{D}$  feasible pair and

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We now examine the consequence of this equivalence.



## Complementary Slackness

The equation  $c^T x = y^T Ax$  implies that

$$0 = x^T (A^T y - c) = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \left( \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i - c_j \right). \quad (\clubsuit)$$

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Hence,  $(\clubsuit)$  can only hold if

$$x_j \left( \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i - c_j \right) = 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n, \quad \text{or equivalently,}$$

$$x_j = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} y_i = c_j \quad \text{or both for } j = 1, \dots, n.$$

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Similarly, the equation  $y^T Ax = b^T y$  implies that

$$0 = y^T (b - Ax) = \sum_{i=1}^m y_i (b_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j).$$

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Hence,

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# Complementary Slackness Theorem

**Theorem:**

*The vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  solves  $\mathcal{P}$  and the vector  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$  solves  $\mathcal{D}$  if and only if  $x$  is feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $y$  is feasible for  $\mathcal{D}$  and*

- (i) *either  $0 = x_j$  or  $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}y_i = c_j$  or both for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , and*
- (ii) *either  $0 = y_i$  or  $\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}x_j = b_i$  or both for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ .*

# Corollary to the Complementary Slackness Theorem

**Corollary:**

*The vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  solves  $\mathcal{P}$  if and only if  $x$  is feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$  and there exists a vector  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$  feasible for  $\mathcal{D}$  and such that*

(i) *if  $\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}x_j < b$ , then  $y_i = 0$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and*

(ii) *if  $0 < x_j$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}y_i = c_j$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .*

## Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

Does

$$x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) = \left(0, \frac{4}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{5}{3}, 0\right)$$

solve the LP

$$\text{maximize } 7x_1 + 6x_2 + 5x_3 - 2x_4 + 3x_5$$

$$\text{subject to } x_1 + 3x_2 + 5x_3 - 2x_4 + 2x_5 \leq 4$$

$$4x_1 + 2x_2 - 2x_3 + x_4 + x_5 \leq 3$$

$$2x_1 + 4x_2 + 4x_3 - 2x_4 + 5x_5 \leq 5$$

$$3x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 - 2x_5 \leq 1$$

$$0 \leq x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5.$$

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The point

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Plugging into the constraints we get

$$(0) + 3\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) + 5\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) - 2\left(\frac{5}{3}\right) + 2(0) = 4$$

$$4(0) + 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) - 2\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{5}{3}\right) + (0) = 3$$

$$2(0) + 4\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) + 4\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) - 2\left(\frac{5}{3}\right) + 5(0) < 5$$

$$3(0) + \left(\frac{4}{3}\right) + 2\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) - \left(\frac{5}{3}\right) - 2(0) = 1.$$



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Can we use this information to construct a solution to the dual problem,  $(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)$ ?

# Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

Recall that

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So  $y_3 = 0$ .

# Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

Also recall that

if  $0 < x_j$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij}y_i = c_j$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, n$ .

# Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

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## Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

Combining these observations gives the system

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 4 & 1 \\ 5 & -2 & 4 & 2 \\ -2 & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ y_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

which any dual solution must satisfy.

# Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

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This is a square system that we can try to solve for  $y$ .

# Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

3	2	4	1	6
5	-2	4	2	5
-2	1	-2	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0
3	2	0	1	6
5	-2	0	2	5
-2	1	0	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0
1	3	0	0	4
1	0	0	0	1
-2	1	0	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0

$$r_1 - 4r_4$$

$$r_2 - 4r_4$$

$$r_3 + 2r_4$$

$$r_1 + r_3$$

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3	2	4	1	6
5	-2	4	2	5
-2	1	-2	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0
3	2	0	1	6
5	-2	0	2	5
-2	1	0	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0
1	3	0	0	4
1	0	0	0	1
-2	1	0	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0

$$r_1 - 4r_4$$

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1	3	0	0	4
1	0	0	0	1
-2	1	0	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0
0	3	0	0	3
1	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	-1	0
0	0	1	0	0
1	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	1

$$r_1 + r_3$$

$$r_2 + 2r_3$$

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$$r_3 + 2r_2$$

$$r_2$$

$$\frac{1}{3}r_1$$

$$r_4$$

$$-r_3 + \frac{1}{3}r_1$$

# Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

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0	0	1	0	0
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5	-2	0	2	5
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0	0	1	0	0
1	3	0	0	4
1	0	0	0	1
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0	0	1	0	0

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1	3	0	0	4
1	0	0	0	1
-2	1	0	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0
0	3	0	0	3
1	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	-1	0
0	0	1	0	0
1	0	0	0	1
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0	0	0	1	1

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This gives the solution  $(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) = (1, 1, 0, 1)$ .

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0	0	1	0	0
1	3	0	0	4
1	0	0	0	1
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0	0	1	0	0

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1	0	0	0	1
-2	1	0	-1	-2
0	0	1	0	0
0	3	0	0	3
1	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	-1	0
0	0	1	0	0
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Is this dual feasible?



# Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

$$y = (y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) = (1, 1, 0, 1)$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & 4y_1 + 3y_2 + 5y_3 + y_4 \\ \text{subject to} & y_1 + 4y_2 + 2y_3 + 3y_4 \geq 7 \\ & 3y_1 + 2y_2 + 4y_3 + y_4 \geq 6 \\ & 5y_1 - 2y_2 + 4y_3 + 2y_4 \geq 5 \\ & -2y_1 + y_2 - 2y_3 - y_4 \geq -2 \\ & 2y_1 + y_2 + 5y_3 - 2y_4 \geq 3 \\ & 0 \leq y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4. \end{array}$$

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Clearly,  $0 \leq y$  and by construction the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of the linear inequality constraints are satisfied with equality.

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We need to check the first and inequalities.

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Fifth:  $2 + 1 + 0 - 2 = 1 \not\geq 3$ , the fifth dual inequality is violated.

## Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

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Clearly,  $0 \leq y$  and by construction the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of the linear inequality constraints are satisfied with equality.

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$$\text{Fifth: } 2 + 1 + 0 - 2 = 1 \not\geq 3, \text{ the fifth dual inequality is violated.}$$

Hence,  $x = (0, \frac{4}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{5}{3}, 0)$  cannot be optimal!

## Example: Testing Optimality via Complementary Slackness

Does the point  $x = (1, 1, 1, 0)$  solve the following LP?

$$\begin{array}{llllll} \text{maximize} & 4x_1 & +2x_2 & +2x_3 & +4x_4 & \\ \text{subject to} & x_1 & +3x_2 & +2x_3 & +x_4 & \leq 7 \\ & x_1 & +x_2 & +x_3 & +2x_4 & \leq 3 \\ & 2x_1 & & +x_3 & +x_4 & \leq 3 \\ & x_1 & +x_2 & & +2x_4 & \leq 2 \\ & 0 \leq & x_1, x_2, & x_3, x_4 & & \end{array}$$