

# Math 407A: Linear Optimization

## Lecture 9

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

Math Dept, University of Washington

- 1 The Two Phase Simplex Algorithm
- 2 The Fundamental Theorem of linear Programming
- 3 Duality Theory Revisited
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# Duality Theory

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

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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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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  $c^T x = y^T A x$  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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Therefore,  $y_i (b_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j) = 0 \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$

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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$$3x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 - x_4 - 2x_5 \leq 1 \quad : y_4$$

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The point

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must be feasible for the LP.

Plugging into the constraints we get

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

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

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

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

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Recall that

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# 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

Also recall that

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

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$$-2y_1 + y_2 - 2y_3 - y_4 = -2 \quad (x_4 = \frac{5}{3} > 0)$$

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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.

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

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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

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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

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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

$$r_1 + r_3$$

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

$$r_4$$

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0	0	1	0	0

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1	0	0	0	1
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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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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
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?



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

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

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We need to check the first and inequalities.

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

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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?

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