

# Linear Programming

## Fundamentals, Algorithm Simplex and Duality

Eduardo Camponogara

Department of Automation and Systems Engineering  
Federal University of Santa Catarina

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Introduction

Simplex Algorithm

Initial Solution

Duality

# Summary

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# History of Linear Programming

## History

- ▶ Linear Programming was incepted in the 1930's, experienced great advance in the 1940's with the development of the Simplex Algorithm by George Dantzig.
- ▶ LP algorithms are rather efficient.
- ▶ Specially-tailored algorithms were proposed, particularly for network-flow problems.

# History of Linear Programming

## History

- ▶ In 1979, Khachiyan discovered the first polynomial-time algorithm, which became known as the ellipsoid algorithm.
  - ▶ It is not practical.
  - ▶ The ellipsoid algorithm has significant impact on integer programming and in the solution of linear programming problems.

# History of Linear Programming

## History (continued)

- ▶ In 1984, Karmakar discovered an interior-point algorithm with polynomial time.
- ▶ This discovery led to breakthroughs in quadratic programming and convex optimization, among other fields.
- ▶ Despite the polynomial-time of the interior-point method, the Simplex algorithm remains widely used.

# The Linear Programming Problem

Linear Program:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Transforming $\geq$ into $=$

$$\begin{aligned} a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n &\geq b \\ \Leftrightarrow \\ \begin{cases} a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n - s = b \\ s \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $s$  is a (*slack variable*) since its value corresponds to the amount of resource  $b$  which is not being used.



## Dealing with Real Variables

We can convert sign-unconstrained variables into nonnegative variables:

$$x \in \mathbb{R} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x = x^+ - x^- \\ x^+ \geq 0 \\ x^- \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

## Infeasible Problem

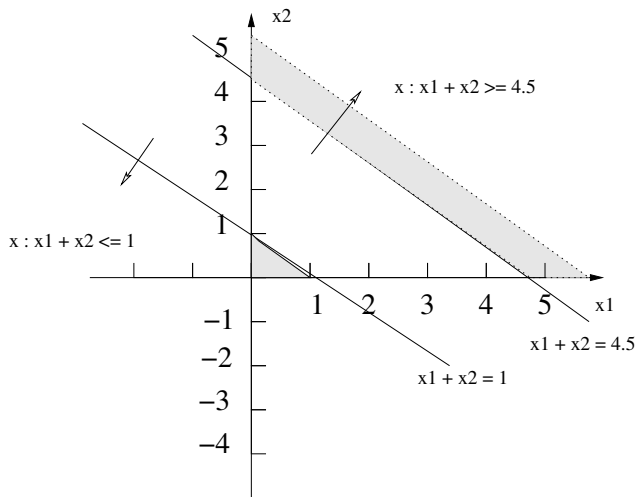
- ▶ A problem is said to be infeasible if there does not exist a candidate solution  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  that meets all constraints.
- ▶ The problem below is infeasible since  $S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b, x \geq 0\} = \emptyset$ .
- ▶ Example of infeasible problem:

$$\max \quad 5x_1 + 4x_2$$

s.t. :

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} x_1 & + & x_2 & \leq & 1 \\ -2x_1 & - & 2x_2 & \leq & -9 \\ x_1, x_2 & \geq & 0 & & \end{array}$$

## Infeasible Problem

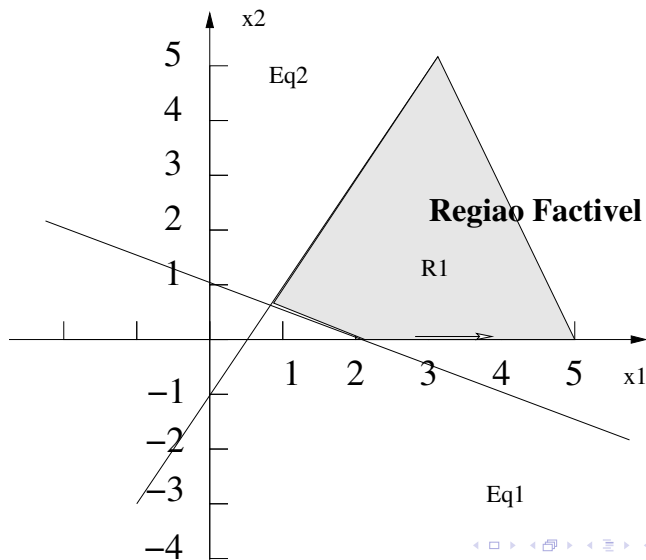


# Unbounded Problem

- ▶ A problem is unbounded if there does not exist an upper bound on the value of the objective.
- ▶ In other words, the objective value can grow arbitrarily large.
- ▶ An example of unbounded problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max & x_1 - 4x_2 \\
 \text{s.t. :} & \\
 & -2x_1 + x_2 \leq -1 \\
 & -x_1 - 2x_2 \leq -2 \\
 & x_1, x_2 \geq 0
 \end{array}$$

## Unbounded Problem



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Duality

# Simplex Algorithm

## History

- ▶ Proposed by George Dantzig in the 1940's.
- ▶ Today's algorithm differs from the original version.
- ▶ It is the building-block of branch-and-bound and branch-and-cut algorithms for integer programming.

# Standard Problem

Linear Program:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



# Simplex Algorithm

## History

- ▶ Simplex can be viewed as a combinatorial search for the optimal columns of the constraint matrix: columns that induce an optimal basis.
- ▶ There is an exponential number of column combinations.
- ▶ Despite this large number, Simplex is efficient in practice.

## Sample Problem

Consider the following linear program:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max & 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3 \\
 \text{s.t. :} & \\
 & 2x_1 + 3x_2 + x_3 \leq 5 \\
 & 4x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 11 \\
 & 3x_1 + 4x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 8 \\
 & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0
 \end{array} \tag{1}$$

## Sample Problem

After introducing slack variables, the problem assumes the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & \delta = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3 \\
 \text{s.t. :} \quad & \\
 & w_1 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3 \\
 & w_2 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 \\
 & w_3 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3 \\
 & x_1, x_2, x_3, w_1, w_2, w_3 \geq 0
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

# Sample Problem

## Dictionary

- ▶ System (2) casts the LP problem in a form known as “**dictionary**.”
- ▶ In the “**dictionary**”, the solution is given in terms of a subset of variables (*basic variables*), with cardinality equal to the number of constraints, which are given as a function of the remaining variables (*nonbasic variables*).
- ▶ The nonbasic variables assume value “zero.”
- ▶ Thus, a solution can be obtained directly from the dictionary.

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## Sample Problem

### Dictionary (continued)

- ▶ In the above dictionary, the basis is formed by variables  $w_1$ ,  $w_2$  and  $w_3$ .
- ▶ The nonbasic variables are  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ .
- ▶ Since nonbasic variables assume value zero, we obtain a solution from the basic variables:  $w_1 = 5$ ,  $w_2 = 11$  and  $w_3 = 8$ .
- ▶ The resulting solution is feasible:
  - ▶ All variables (basic and nonbasic) are nonnegative.
  - ▶ The objective function has value  $\delta = 0$ .

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# Principles of Simplex

## Iterative method

- ▶ Simplex is an iterative process that starts with a solution  $y^0 = (x_1^0 \dots x_n^0 \ w_1^0 \dots w_m^0)^T$ , in which  $n = 3$  and  $m = 3$ , satisfying the equations of (1).
- ▶ Starting from (2), Simplex seeks a new solution  $y^1$  such that:  
 $5x_1^1 + 4x_2^1 + 3x_3^1 > 5x_1^0 + 4x_2^0 + 3x_3^0$ .
- ▶ To that end, it is necessary to bring a nonbasic variable, with a positive coefficient in the equation  $\delta$ , into the basis.
- ▶ This will raise the value of the nonbasic variable entering the basis, thereby increasing the objective.

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# Principles of Simplex

## Iterative method (continued)

- ▶ Obviously, the variable that enters the basis cannot increase indefinitely, unless the problem is unbounded.
- ▶ The first basic variable to become zero must leave the basis, becoming nonbasic at the next iteration.
- ▶ The process is repeated until convergence to the optimum, or the problem is detected to be unbounded.

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# Simplex Algorithm: Example

## Initialization

To start the iterative process, we need a feasible starting solution such as:

$$x_1^0 = 0, x_2^0 = 0, x_3^0 = 0, w_1^0 = 5, w_2^0 = 11, w_3^0 = 8$$

This solution  $y^0$  induces an objective value  $\delta = 0$ .

# Simplex Algorithm: Example

## Step 1

- ▶ The incumbent solution is not optimal.
- ▶ Any increase in the value of  $x_1$  increases the value of  $\delta$ .
- ▶ The value of  $x_1$  cannot increase arbitrarily since it is limited by the inequalities:

$$\begin{cases} w_1 = 5 - 2x_1 \geq 0 \\ w_2 = 11 - 4x_1 \geq 0 \\ w_3 = 8 - 3x_1 \geq 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 \leq 5/2 = 2.5 \\ x_1 \leq 11/4 = 2.75 \\ x_1 \leq 8/3 = 2.667 \end{cases}$$



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## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 1 (continued)

Thus, the value of  $x_1$  at the next iteration should be less than  $\{5/2, 11/4, 8/3\}$ , which leads to:

$$x_1 = \frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}w_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 \quad (3)$$

## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 1 (continued)

Replacing (3) in the system (2) in order to move  $w_1$  to the right-hand side, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_1 &= \frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}w_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 \\
 w_2 &= 11 - 4\left(\frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}w_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3\right) - x_2 - 2x_3 \\
 &= 1 + 2w_1 + 5x_2 \\
 w_3 &= 8 - 3\left(\frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}w_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3\right) - 4x_2 - 2x_3 \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2}w_1 + \frac{1}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 \\
 \delta &= 5\left(\frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}w_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3\right) + 4x_2 + 3x_3 \\
 &= \frac{25}{2} - \frac{5}{2}w_1 - \frac{7}{2}x_2 + \frac{1}{2}x_3
 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

# Simplex Algorithm: Example

## Step 1 (continued)

Now, replacing equations (4) in the “**dictionary**” (2), the following dictionary results:

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 \max & \delta & = & \frac{25}{2} - \frac{5}{2}w_1 - \frac{7}{2}x_2 + \frac{1}{2}x_3 \\
 & x_1 & = & \frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}w_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 \\
 & w_2 & = & 1 + 2w_1 + 5x_2 \\
 & w_3 & = & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2}w_1 + \frac{1}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3
 \end{array} \tag{5}$$

## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 1 (continued)

- ▶ The solution induced by the dictionary (5) is  $y^1 = (x_1^1, x_2^1, x_3^1, w_1^1, w_2^1, w_3^1) = (\frac{5}{2}, 0, 0, 0, 1, \frac{1}{2})$  with objective  $\delta = \frac{25}{2}$ .
- ▶ In this dictionary, the variables  $x_1$ ,  $w_2$ , and  $w_3$  are basic such that the set  $\mathbb{B} = \{x_1, w_2, w_3\}$  contains all basic variables.
- ▶ The remaining variables  $\mathbb{N} = \{x_2, x_3, w_1\}$  form the set of nonbasic variables.

## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 1 (continued)

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## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 2

- ▶ The incumbent solution is not optimal!
- ▶ Notice that a small increase in the value of  $x_3$  will invariably increase the value of  $\delta$ .
- ▶ We cannot increase the value of  $x_3$  indefinitely because it will turn the solution infeasible — other variables may become negative.

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## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 2 (continued)

For the solution to remain feasible, the following inequalities must be respected:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = \frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}x_3 \geq 0 \\ w_3 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}x_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_3 \leq 5 \\ x_3 \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 2 (continued)

- Therefore,  $w_3$  must leave the basis so that  $x_3$  enter the basis without violating any constraint.
- After replacing equation  $x_3 = 1 + 3w_1 + x_2 - 2w_3$  in the equations of the dictionary (5), we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_1 &= \frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{2}w_1 - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}(1 + 3w_1 + x_2 - 2w_3) \\
 &= 2 - 2w_1 - 2x_2 + w_3 \\
 \delta &= \frac{25}{2} - \frac{5}{2}w_1 - \frac{7}{2}x_2 + \frac{1}{2}(1 + 3w_1 + x_2 - 2w_3) \\
 &= 13 - w_1 - 3x_2 - w_3
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 2 (continued)

Replacing the equations of the dictionary (5) by the equations (6) results into a new dictionary:

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl}
 \text{Max} & \delta & = & 13 & -w_1 & -3x_2 & -w_3 \\
 & x_1 & = & 2 & -2w_1 & -2x_2 & +w_3 \\
 & w_2 & = & 1 & +2w_1 & +5x_2 & \\
 & x_3 & = & 1 & +3w_1 & +x_2 & -2w_3
 \end{array} \tag{7}$$

whose basis is  $\mathbb{B} = \{x_1, x_3, w_2\}$ .

## Simplex Algorithm: Example

### Step 2 (continued)

The solution given by the dictionary (7) is optimal:

- ▶  $x_1 = 2$ ,  $x_2 = 0$ ,  $x_3 = 1$ ,  $w_1 = 0$ ,  $w_2 = 1$ ,  $w_3 = 0$
- ▶  $\delta = 13$  is the optimal value because the coefficients of the nonbasic variables in the equation  $\delta$  are all negative, in the dictionary given by (7),
- ▶ Increasing the value of any nonbasic variable will reduce the value of the objective.

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# Auxiliary Problem

## Original Problem

Maximize  $-2x_1 - x_2$

Subject to :

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq -1$$

$$-x_1 - 2x_2 \leq -2$$

$$x_2 \leq 1$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$

# Auxiliary Problem

## Auxiliary Problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \max & -x_0 \\
 \text{s.t. :} & \\
 & -x_1 + x_2 - x_0 \leq -1 \\
 & -x_1 - 2x_2 - x_0 \leq -2 \\
 & \phantom{-x_1} x_2 - x_0 \leq 1 \\
 & x_0, x_1, x_2 \geq 0
 \end{array}$$



# Auxiliary Problem

## Initial Dictionary

$$\begin{array}{rcllcl}
 \max & \delta & = & & -x_0 \\
 & w_1 & = & -1 & +x_1 & -x_2 & +x_0 \\
 & w_2 & = & -2 & +x_1 & +2x_2 & +x_0 \\
 & w_3 & = & 1 & & -x_2 & +x_0
 \end{array}$$

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Duality

# Duality

- ▶ Associated to any linear programming problem  $P$  (primal) is another linear programming problem, the dual, which is denoted  $D$ .
- ▶ Theoretical consequences.
- ▶ Any solution for the dual  $D$  induces a limit for the optimum value of the primal  $P$ , and vice versa.

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# Motivation

Consider the sample problem:

$$\begin{aligned} P : \quad & \max \quad 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \\ & \text{s.t. :} \\ & \quad x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 1 \\ & \quad 3x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \leq 3 \\ & \quad x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

Any feasible solution to  $P$  induces a lower bound.

- ▶ For example,  $x' = (1, 0, 0)$  shows that the optimum objective  $\delta^* \geq 4$ .
- ▶ Using the solution  $x'' = (0, 0, 3)$ , we discover that  $\delta^* \geq 9$ .

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# Motivation

## Issues

- ▶ Are these lower bounds close to the optimum?
- ▶ Let's multiply the first constraint of (8) by 2, multiply the second constraint by 3, and then add them up as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2(x_1 + 4x_2) & \leq & 2(1) \\ 3(3x_1 - x_2 + x_3) & \leq & 3(3) \\ \hline 11x_1 + 5x_2 + 3x_3 & \leq & 11 \end{array}$$

- ▶ Notice that  $4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \leq 11x_1 + 5x_2 + 3x_3 \leq 11$ , because  $x_j \geq 0$ .
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## Motivation

- ▶ To obtain tight bound, we follow the same procedure but, this time, we use variables rather than fixed values.
- ▶ By multiplying the constraints with nonnegative variables:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} y_1(x_1 + 4x_2) & \leq & y_1 \\ y_2(3x_1 - x_2 + x_3) & \leq & 3y_2 \\ \hline (y_1 + 3y_2)x_1 + (4y_1 - y_2)x_2 + y_2x_3 & \leq & y_1 + 3y_2 \end{array}$$

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## Motivation

Now, we stipulate that:

$$\begin{aligned}y_1 + 3y_2 &\geq 4 \\4y_1 - y_2 &\geq 1 \\y_2 &\geq 3 \\y_1, y_2 &\geq 0\end{aligned}\tag{9}$$

Values for  $(y_1, y_2)$  satisfying the inequalities (9) lead to the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta &= 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \\&\leq (y_1 + 3y_2)x_1 + (4y_1 - y_2)x_2 + y_2x_3 \\&\leq y_1 + 3y_2\end{aligned}$$

## Motivation

Now, we stipulate that:

$$\begin{aligned}y_1 + 3y_2 &\geq 4 \\4y_1 - y_2 &\geq 1 \\y_2 &\geq 3 \\y_1, y_2 &\geq 0\end{aligned}\tag{9}$$

Values for  $(y_1, y_2)$  satisfying the inequalities (9) lead to the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta &= 4x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \\&\leq (y_1 + 3y_2)x_1 + (4y_1 - y_2)x_2 + y_2x_3 \\&\leq y_1 + 3y_2\end{aligned}$$

## Motivation

- ▶ We obtain an upper bound  $(y_1 + 3y_2)$  for  $\delta^*$ .
- ▶ We wish to minimize this upper bound:

$$\begin{aligned} D : \quad & \min \quad y_1 + 3y_2 \\ & \text{s.t. :} \\ & y_1 + 3y_2 \geq 4 \\ & 4y_1 - y_2 \geq 1 \\ & y_2 \geq 3 \\ & y_1, y_2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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# Linear Programming

- ▶ Thank you for attending this lecture!!!