

## Module 4: Duality Theory (Geometry of Duality)

## Recap: Strong Duality

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

$$\begin{aligned} \min b^T y & \quad (D) \\ \text{s.t. } A^T y = c \\ y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

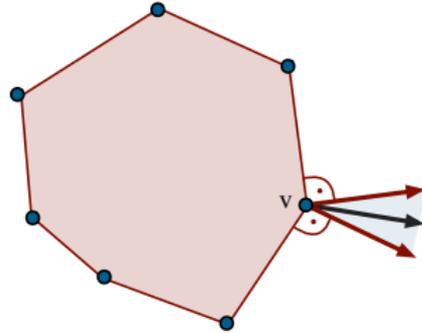
### Strong Duality Theorem

For the above **primal-dual pair** of LPs, (P) and (D), if (P) has an optimal solution, then (D) has one and their objective values equal.

# Recap: The Geometry of an LP

In **Module 2**, we saw that

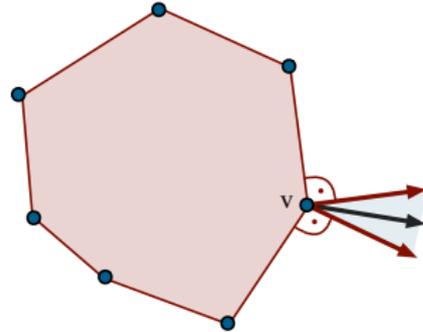
- The feasible region of an LP is a **polyhedron**.
- **Basic solutions** correspond to **extreme points** of this polyhedron.



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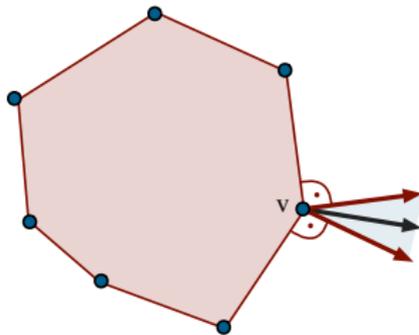
## Question

When is an extreme point **optimal**?

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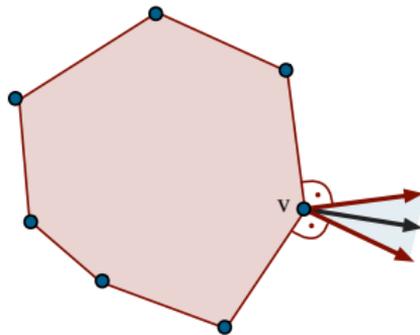
Module 2 and strong duality told us that **Simplex** computes

- a basic solution (if it exists),  
and
- a **certificate of optimality**.

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## Question

When is an extreme point **optimal**?

Module 2 and strong duality told us that **Simplex** computes

- a basic solution (if it exists), and
- a **certificate of optimality**.

**Today** we will investigate these certificates using **geometry**.

# Revisiting Weak Duality

We can rewrite (P) using slack variables  $s$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & c^T x && \text{(P')} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax + s = b \\ & s \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & b^T y && \text{(D)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A^T y = c \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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**Note:**

- $(x, s)$  feasible for (P')  $\longrightarrow$   $x$  feasible for (P)

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**Note:**

- $(x, s)$  feasible for (P')  $\longrightarrow$   $x$  feasible for (P)
- $x$  feasible for (P)  $\longrightarrow$   $(x, b - Ax)$  feasible for (P')

# Revisiting Weak Duality

Suppose  $\bar{x}$  is feasible for (P), and  $\bar{y}$  is feasible for (D)

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→  $(\bar{x}, b - A\bar{x})$  feasible for (P')

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Recall the **Weak Duality** proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{y}^T b &= \bar{y}^T (A\bar{x} + \bar{s}) \\ &= (\bar{y}^T A)\bar{x} + \bar{y}^T \bar{s}\end{aligned}$$

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**Strong Duality** tells us that:

$$\bar{x}, \bar{y} \text{ both optimal} \iff c^T \bar{x} = \bar{y}^T b$$

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$$0 = \bar{y}^T \bar{s} = \sum_{i=1}^m \bar{y}_i \bar{s}_i \quad (\star)$$

$$\max c^T x \quad (\text{P})$$

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By **feasibility**,  $\bar{y} \geq 0$  and  $\bar{s} \geq 0$

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By **feasibility**,  $\bar{y} \geq 0$  and  $\bar{s} \geq 0$  and hence

( $\star$ ) holds if and only if  $\bar{y}_i = 0$  or  $\bar{s}_i = 0$ ,

for **every**  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .

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Given:  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  feasible solutions for (P) and (D)

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**Define:**  $\bar{s} = b - A\bar{x}$

**Then:**

$\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  optimal  $\iff \bar{y}_i = 0$  or  $\bar{s}_i = 0$

for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .

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for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . We can rephrase (\*) equivalently as

$\bar{y}_i = 0$  or  $i$ th **constraint of (P)** holds with equality .

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$\bar{y}_i = 0$  or  $i$ th constraint of (P) holds with equality (is **tight**).

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## Complementary Slackness – Special Case

Let  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  be feasible for (P) and (D).

Then  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are optimal **if and only if**

(i)  $\bar{y}_i = 0$ , or

(ii) the  $i$ th constraint of (P) is **tight** for  $\bar{x}$ ,

for every row index  $i$ .

$$\max c^T x \quad (\text{P})$$

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## Complementary Slackness Conditions – Example

Consider the following LP:

$$\max (5, 3, 5)x \quad (\text{P})$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x \leq \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Its **dual** is:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & (2, 4, -1)y && \text{(D)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} y = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$\bar{x} = (1, -1, 1)^T$  and  $\bar{y} = (0, 2, 1)^T$   
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Feasible solutions  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  for (P) and (D) are optimal **if and only if**

$\bar{y}_i = 0$  or the  $i$ th primal constraint is tight for  $\bar{x}$ , for all row indices  $i$ .

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It is **easy to check** if  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are feasible.

$$(i) \quad \bar{y}_1 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad (1, 2, -1)\bar{x} = 2$$

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It is **easy to check** if  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are feasible.

- (i)  $\bar{y}_1 = 0$  or  $(1, 2, -1)\bar{x} = 2$
- (ii)  $\bar{y}_2 = 0$  or  $(3, 1, 2)\bar{x} = 4$

# Complementary Slackness Conditions – Example

Consider the following LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & (5, 3, 5)x && \text{(P)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x \leq \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Its **dual** is:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & (2, 4, -1)y && \text{(D)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} y = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Claim

$\bar{x} = (1, -1, 1)^T$  and  $\bar{y} = (0, 2, 1)^T$   
are optimal!

## Complementary Slackness

Feasible solutions  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  for (P) and (D) are optimal **if and only if**  $\bar{y}_i = 0$  or the  $i$ th primal constraint is tight for  $\bar{x}$ , for all row indices  $i$ .

It is **easy to check** if  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are feasible.

- (i)  $\bar{y}_1 = 0$  or  $(1, 2, -1)\bar{x} = 2$
- (ii)  $\bar{y}_2 = 0$  or  $(3, 1, 2)\bar{x} = 4$
- (iii)  $\bar{y}_3 = 0$  or  $(-1, 1, 1)\bar{x} = -1$

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- $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are optimal!

# General Complementary Slackness

$(P_{\max})$			$(P_{\min})$		
max	$c^T x$	$\leq$ constraint	$\geq 0$ variable	min	$b^T y$
subject to		$=$ constraint	free variable	subject to	
	$Ax \leq b$	$\geq$ constraint	$\leq 0$ variable		$A^T y \leq c$
	$x \geq 0$	$\geq 0$ variable	$\geq$ constraint		$y \geq 0$
		free variable	$=$ constraint		
		$\leq 0$ variable	$\leq$ constraint		

**Suppose:**  $(P_{\max})$  and  $(P_{\min})$  are a pair of primal and dual LPs according to the above table

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$\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  satisfy the **complementary slackness conditions** if ...

---

for all variables  $x_j$  of  $(P_{\max})$ :

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# General Complementary Slackness

(P <sub>max</sub> )			(P <sub>min</sub> )		
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**Suppose:** (P<sub>max</sub>) and (P<sub>min</sub>) are a pair of primal and dual LPs according to the above table, with feasible solutions  $\bar{x}$ , and  $\bar{y}$

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for all variables  $x_j$  of (P<sub>max</sub>):

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for all variables  $y_i$  of (P<sub>min</sub>):

- (i)  $\bar{y}_i = 0$ , or
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# General Complementary Slackness

$\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  satisfy the CS conditions if ...

---

for all variables  $x_j$  of ( $P_{\max}$ ):

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**Note:** The two or's above are **inclusive!**

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## Complementary Slackness Theorem

Let (P) and (D) be an arbitrary primal-dual pair of LPs, and let  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  be feasible solutions. Then these solutions are **optimal** if and only if the CS conditions hold.

# General CS Conditions – Example

(P <sub>max</sub> )			(P <sub>min</sub> )		
max	$c^T x$	$\leq$ constraint	$\geq 0$ variable	min	$b^T y$
subject to		$=$ constraint	free variable	subject to	
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	$x \geq 0$	$\geq 0$ variable	$\geq$ constraint		$y \geq 0$
		free variable	$=$ constraint		
		$\leq 0$ variable	$\leq$ constraint		

Consider the following LP...

$$\max (-2, -1, 0)x \quad (P)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ -1 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \geq \\ \leq \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1 \leq 0, x_2 \geq 0$$

# General CS Conditions – Example

(P <sub>max</sub> )			(P <sub>min</sub> )		
max	$c^T x$	$\leq$ constraint	$\geq 0$ variable	min	$b^T y$
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Consider the following LP...

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & (-2, -1, 0)x && \text{(P)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ -1 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} x \begin{matrix} \geq \\ \leq \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ & x_1 \leq 0, x_2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

... and its dual LP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & (5, 7)y && \text{(D)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} y \begin{matrix} \leq \\ \geq \\ = \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ & y_1 \leq 0, y_2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## General CS Conditions – Example

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$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ -1 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \geq \\ \leq \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1 \leq 0, x_2 \geq 0$$

$$\min (5, 7)y \quad (\text{D})$$

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$$y_1 \leq 0, y_2 \geq 0$$

**Check:**  $\bar{x} = (-1, 0, 3)^T$  and  $\bar{y} = (-1, 1)^T$  are **feasible** for (P) and (D).

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## General CS Conditions – Example

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### Complementary Slackness Theorem

Let (P) and (D) be an arbitrary primal-dual pair of LPs, and let  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  be feasible solutions. Then these solutions are **optimal** if and only if the CS conditions hold.

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$$y_1 \leq 0, y_2 \geq 0$$

### Claim

$\bar{x} = (-1, 0, 3)^T$  and  $\bar{y} = (-1, 1)^T$  are optimal

Primal conditions:

- (i)  $\bar{x}_1 = 0$  or the first (D) constraint is tight for  $\bar{y}$ .
- (ii)  $\bar{x}_2 = 0$  or the second (D) constraint is tight for  $\bar{y}$ .
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## General CS Conditions – Example

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$\bar{x} = (-1, 0, 3)^T$  and  $\bar{y} = (-1, 1)^T$  are optimal

Primal conditions:

- (i)  $\bar{x}_1 = 0$  or the **first (D)** constraint is tight for  $\bar{y}$ .
- (ii)  $\bar{x}_2 = 0$  or the **second (D)** constraint is tight for  $\bar{y}$ .
- (iii)  $\bar{x}_3 = 0$  or the **third (D)** constraint is tight for  $\bar{y}$ .

Dual conditions:

- (i)  $\bar{y}_1 = 0$  or the **first (P)** constraint is tight for  $\bar{x}$ .
- (ii)  $\bar{y}_2 = 0$  or the **second (P)** constraint is tight for  $\bar{x}$ .

# Complementary Slackness – Geometry

## Complementary Slackness Theorem

Let (P) and (D) be an arbitrary primal-dual pair of LPs, and let  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  be feasible solutions. Then these solutions are **optimal** if and only if the CS conditions hold.

Will now see a **geometric interpretation** of this theorem!

# Complementary Slackness – Geometry

## Complementary Slackness Theorem

Let (P) and (D) be an arbitrary primal-dual pair of LPs, and let  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  be feasible solutions. Then these solutions are **optimal** if and only if the CS conditions hold.

Will now see a **geometric interpretation** of this theorem!

But some **basics** first!

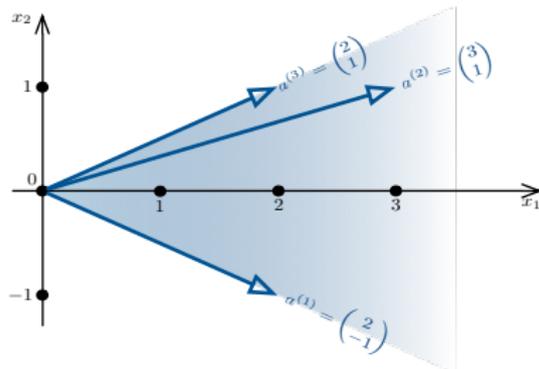
# Geometry – Cones of Vectors

## Definition

Let  $a^{(1)}, \dots, a^{(k)}$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

The **cone generated by these vectors** is given by

$$C = \{ \lambda_1 a^{(1)} + \lambda_2 a^{(2)} + \dots + \lambda_k a^{(k)} : \lambda \geq 0 \}$$



# Geometry – Cones of Vectors

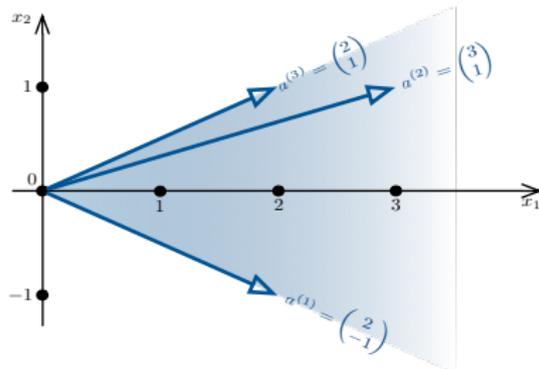
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**Example:** The cone generated by  $a^{(1)}, a^{(2)}$  and  $a^{(3)}$  is the blue-shaded area.

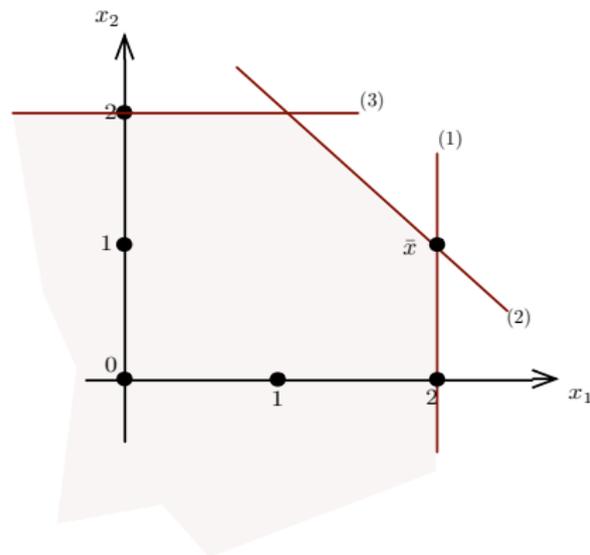


# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

Consider the following polyhedron:

$$P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 :$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A x \leq \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}}_b \}$$



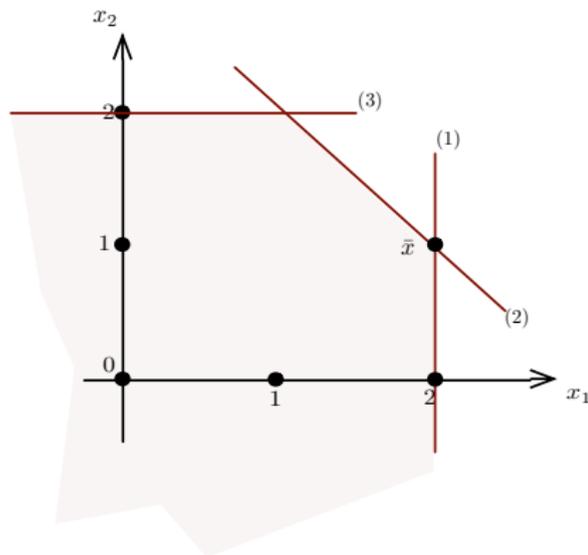
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Consider:  $\bar{x} = (2, 1)^T$



# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

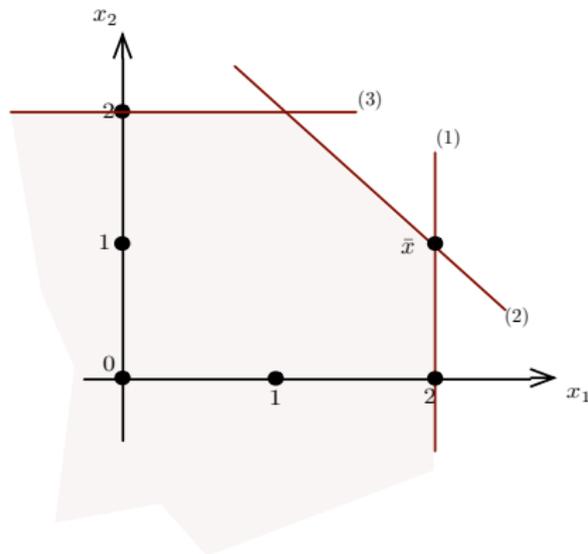
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Consider:  $\bar{x} = (2, 1)^T$

(i)  $\bar{x} \in P \rightarrow$  Check!



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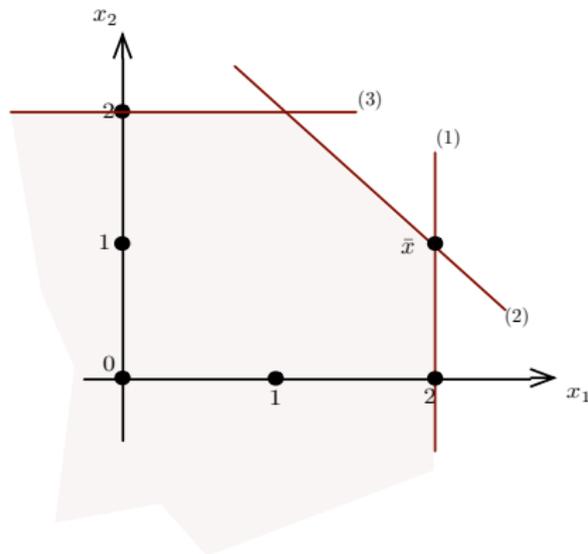
Consider:  $\bar{x} = (2, 1)^T$

(i)  $\bar{x} \in P \rightarrow$  Check!

(ii) Tight constraints:

$$\text{row}_1(A)\bar{x} = b_1$$

$$\text{row}_2(A)\bar{x} = b_2$$



# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

Consider the following polyhedron:

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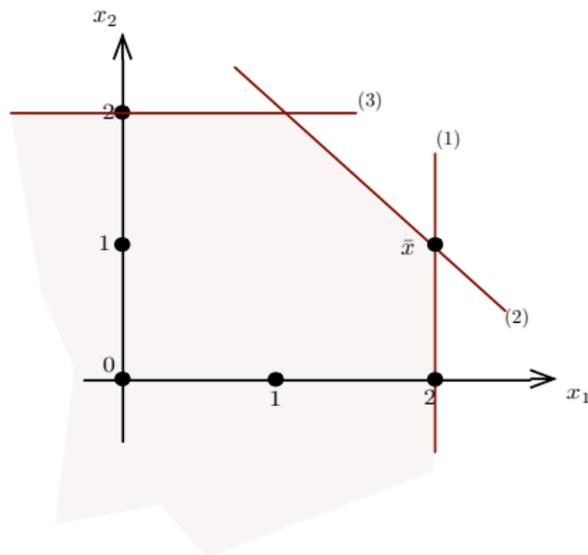
Consider:  $\bar{x} = (2, 1)^T$

(i)  $\bar{x} \in P \rightarrow$  Check!

(ii) Tight constraints:

$$\text{row}_1(A)\bar{x} = b_1 \rightarrow (1, 0)\bar{x} = 2$$

$$\text{row}_2(A)\bar{x} = b_2 \rightarrow (1, 1)\bar{x} = 3$$



Cone of tight constraints:

Cone generated by rows of tight constraints

# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

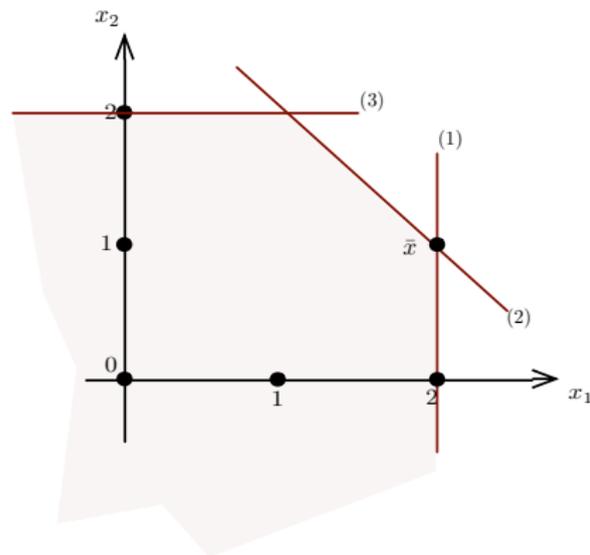
Cone of tight constraints:

Cone generated by rows of tight constraints

Tight constraints:

$$(1, 0)\bar{x} = 2 \quad (1)$$

$$(1, 1)\bar{x} = 3 \quad (2)$$



# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

Cone of tight constraints:

Cone generated by rows of tight constraints

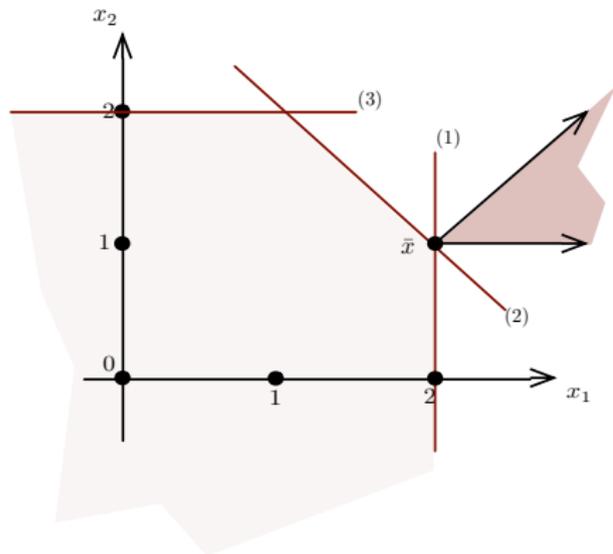
Tight constraints:

$$(1, 0)\bar{x} = 2 \quad (1)$$

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Cone of tight constraints:

$$\{\lambda_1(1, 0)^T + \lambda_2(1, 1)^T : \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \geq 0\}$$



# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

Cone of tight constraints:

Cone generated by rows of tight constraints

Tight constraints:

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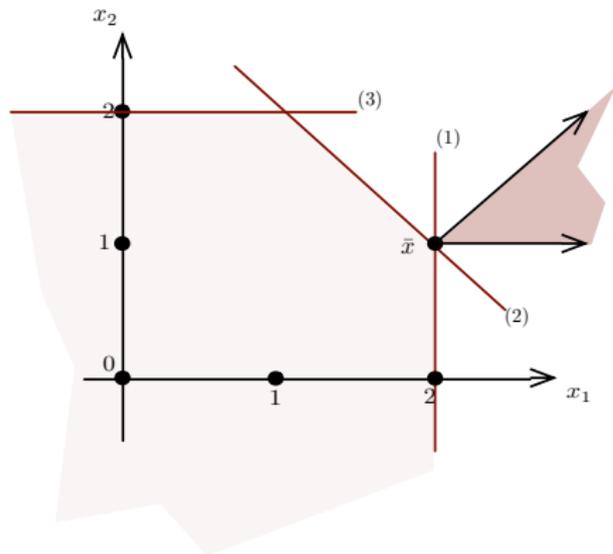
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Consider an LP of the form

$$\max\{c^T x : Ax \leq b\}$$

and a feasible solution  $\bar{x}$ .



# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

Cone of tight constraints:

Cone generated by rows of tight constraints

Tight constraints:

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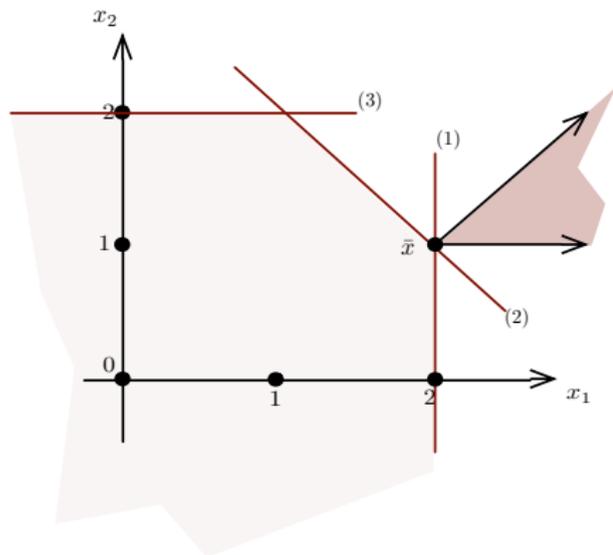
Cone of tight constraints:

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Consider an LP of the form

$$\max\{c^T x : Ax \leq b\}$$

and a feasible solution  $\bar{x}$ .



The cone of tight constraints at  $\bar{x}$  is the cone generated by the rows of  $A$  corresponding to tight constraints at  $\bar{x}$ .

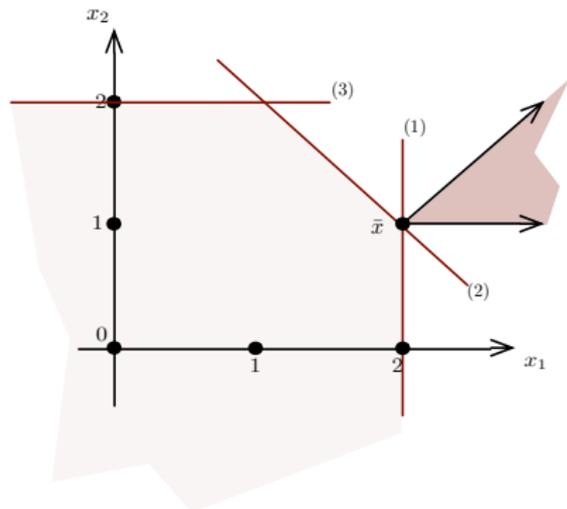
# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

## Theorem

Let  $\bar{x}$  be a **feasible solution** to

$$\max\{c^T x : Ax \leq b\}$$

Then  $\bar{x}$  is optimal if and only if  $c$  is in the **cone of tight constraints** for  $\bar{x}$ .



$$P = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x \leq \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

## Theorem

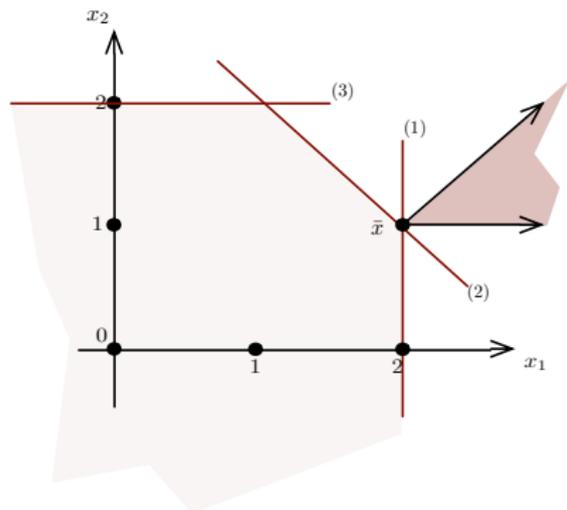
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Then  $\bar{x}$  is optimal if and only if  $c$  is in the **cone of tight constraints** for  $\bar{x}$ .

**Example:** Consider the LP

$$\max\{(3/2, 1/2)x : x \in P\}$$



$$P = \left\{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x \leq \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}\right\}$$

# Geometry – Cone of Tight Constraints

## Theorem

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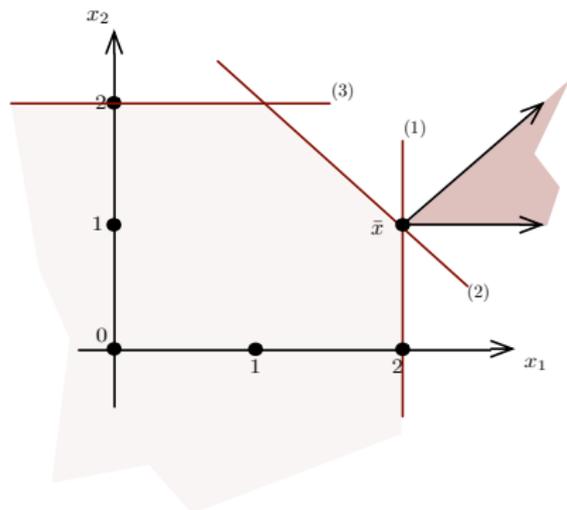
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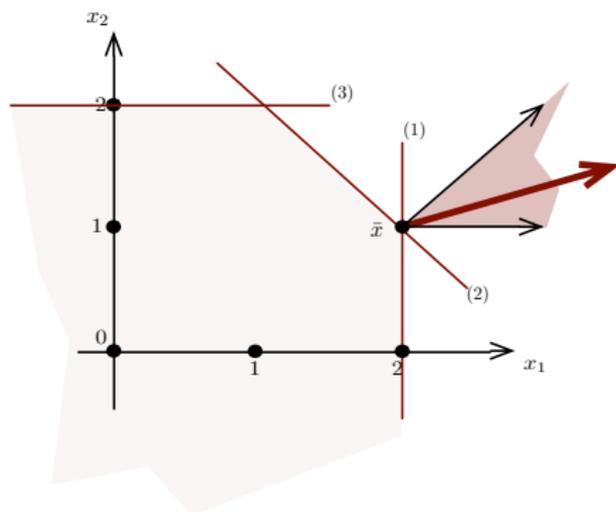
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The above theorem follows from **CS Theorem!**

## Geometric Optimality – Towards a Proof

If we write out the LP:

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CS Theorem →  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  optimal!

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**Hence:**  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  are optimal!

# Wrapping up...

We almost proved:

## Theorem

Let  $\bar{x}$  be a **feasible solution** to

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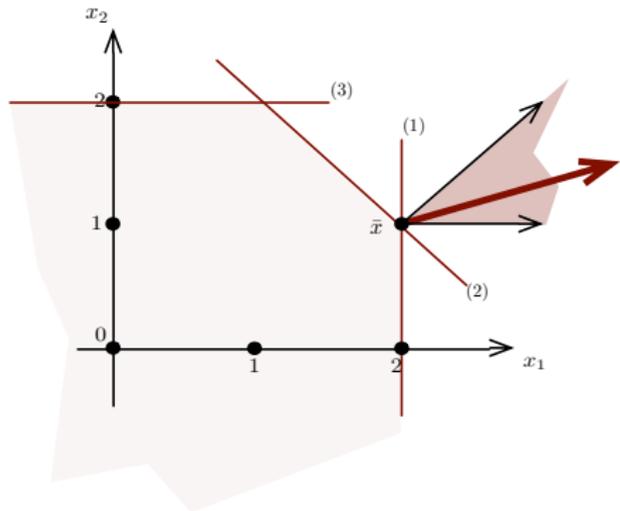
We can use CS conditions and  $\bar{y}$  to show that  $c$  lies in cone of tight constraints for  $\bar{x}$ . **This is an exercise!**

## Recap

Given a feasible solution  $\bar{x}$  to

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$\bar{x}$  is optimal if and only if  $c$  is in the **cone of tight constraints** for  $\bar{x}$ .



$$\max (3/2, 1/2)x \quad (P)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x \leq \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

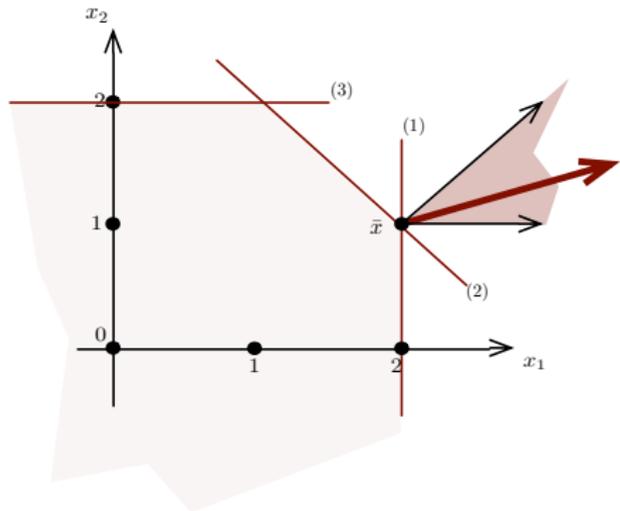
## Recap

Given a feasible solution  $\bar{x}$  to

$$\max\{c^T x : Ax \leq b\}$$

$\bar{x}$  is optimal if and only if  $c$  is in the **cone of tight constraints** for  $\bar{x}$ .

This provides a nice **geometric view** of optimality certificates



$$\max (3/2, 1/2)x \quad (\text{P})$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x \leq \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$