

## Module 2: Linear Programs (Formalizing the Simplex)

# Finding an Optimal Solution

$$\max \quad \underbrace{(0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)}_c x$$

s.t.

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A x = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}}_b$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

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Consider  $B = \{1, 4\}$ .

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Consider  $B = \{1, 4\}$ .

- $A_B$  is square and non-singular

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Consider  $B = \{1, 4\}$ .

- $A_B$  is square and non-singular  $\Rightarrow B$  is a basis

# Finding an Optimal Solution

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Consider  $B = \{1, 4\}$ .

- $A_B$  is square and non-singular  $\Rightarrow B$  is a basis
- $A_B = I$  and  $c_B = 0$

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Consider  $B = \{1, 4\}$ .

- $A_B$  is square and non-singular  $\Rightarrow B$  is a basis
- $A_B = I$  and  $c_B = 0 \Rightarrow$  LP is in canonical form for  $B$

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Consider  $B = \{1, 4\}$ .

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- $A_B = I$  and  $c_B = \mathbf{0}$   $\Rightarrow$  LP is in canonical form for  $B$
- $\bar{x} = (2, 0, 0, 5)^\top$  is a the basic solution for  $B$ .

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- $\bar{x} = (2, 0, 0, 5)^\top$  is a the basic solution for  $B$ .
- $\bar{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$

# Finding an Optimal Solution

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Consider  $B = \{1, 4\}$ .

- $A_B$  is square and non-singular  $\Rightarrow B$  is a basis
- $A_B = I$  and  $c_B = \mathbf{0}$   $\Rightarrow$  LP is in canonical form for  $B$
- $\bar{x} = (2, 0, 0, 5)^\top$  is a the basic solution for  $B$ .
- $\bar{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$   $\Rightarrow \bar{x}$  is feasible, i.e.,  $B$  is feasible

$$\max \quad \underbrace{(0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)}_c x$$

s.t.

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A x = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}}_b$$

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$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

$B = \{1, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $B$

$(2, 0, 0, 5)^\top$  is a basic solution

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Canonical form for  $B$

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## Question

How do we find a better feasible solution?

$$\begin{array}{l}
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 \text{s.t.} \\
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 x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0
 \end{array}$$

$B = \{1, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $B$

$(2, 0, 0, 5)^\top$  is a basic solution

## Idea

Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$ .

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \max \quad \underbrace{(0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)}_c x \\
 \text{s.t.} \\
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$B = \{1, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $B$

$(2, 0, 0, 5)^\top$  is a basic solution

## Idea

Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$ .

Set  $x_k = t \geq 0$  as large as possible.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \max \quad \underbrace{(0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)}_c x \\
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$B = \{1, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

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## Idea

Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$ .

Set  $x_k = t \geq 0$  as large as possible.

Keep all other non-basic variables at 0.

$$\begin{array}{l}
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Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$ .

Set  $x_k = t \geq 0$  as large as possible.

Keep all other non-basic variables at 0.

Pick  $k = 2$ . Set  $x_2 = t \geq 0$ .

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Keep  $x_3 = 0$ .

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$$x_2 = t \geq 0, x_3 = 0$$

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$$x_2 = t \geq 0, x_3 = 0$$

## Idea

Choose basic variables such that  $Ax = b$  holds.

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$$x_2 = t \geq 0, \quad x_3 = 0$$

## Idea

Choose basic variables such that  $Ax = b$  holds.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x$$

$$\max \quad \underbrace{(0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)}_c x$$

s.t.

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Choose basic variables such that  $Ax = b$  holds.

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x \\ &= x_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + x_3 \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + x_4 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}}_{x_B} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}}_b - t \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{A_2}$$

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Choose  $t \geq 0$  as large as possible.

Basic variables must remain non-negative.

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Choose  $t \geq 0$  as large as possible.

Basic variables must remain non-negative.

$$x_1 = 2 - t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \leq \frac{2}{1}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \max \quad \underbrace{(0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)}_c x \\ \text{s.t.} \\ \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A x = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}}_b \\ x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

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$$x_1 = 2 - t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \leq \frac{2}{1}$$

$$x_4 = 5 - t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \leq \frac{5}{1}$$

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$$x_1 = 2 - t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \leq \frac{2}{1}$$

$$x_4 = 5 - t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \leq \frac{5}{1}$$

Thus, the largest possible  $t = \min \left\{ \frac{2}{1}, \frac{5}{1} \right\}$ .

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Basic variables must remain non-negative.

$$x_1 = 2 - t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \leq \frac{2}{1}$$

$$x_4 = 5 - t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \leq \frac{5}{1}$$

Thus, the largest possible  $t = \min \left\{ \frac{2}{1}, \frac{5}{1} \right\}$ .

The new feasible solution is  $x = (0, 2, 0, 3)^\top$ . It has value  $2 > 0$ .

$$\max \quad (0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

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## Remark

The new feasible solution  $x = (0, 2, 0, 3)^\top$  is a **basic** solution.

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## Question

For what basis  $B$  is  $x = (0, 2, 0, 3)^\top$  a basic solution?

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For what basis  $B$  is  $x = (0, 2, 0, 3)^\top$  a basic solution?

$$x_2 \neq 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad 2 \in B$$

$$\max \quad (0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)x$$

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## Question

For what basis  $B$  is  $x = (0, 2, 0, 3)^\top$  a basic solution?

$$x_2 \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2 \in B$$

$$x_4 \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 4 \in B$$

$$\max \quad (0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

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The new feasible solution  $x = (0, 2, 0, 3)^\top$  is a **basic** solution.

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For what basis  $B$  is  $x = (0, 2, 0, 3)^\top$  a basic solution?

$$x_2 \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2 \in B$$

$$x_4 \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 4 \in B$$

As  $|B| = 2$ ,  $B = \{2, 4\}$ .

$$\max \quad (0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

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$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

OLD

$\{1, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $\{1, 4\}$

$$\max \quad (0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

OLD

$\{1, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $\{1, 4\}$



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NEW

$\{2, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $\{2, 4\}$

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Canonical form for  $\{1, 4\}$



$$\max \quad (-1 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 0)x + 2$$

s.t.

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We only need to know how to go from the OLD basis to a NEW basis!

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WHY?

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## Example – Continued

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$$\begin{array}{l} \max \quad \underbrace{(-1 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 0)}_c x + 2 \\ \text{s.t.} \\ \quad \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A x = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}}_b \\ \quad x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

$B = \{2, 4\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $B$

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Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$  and set  $x_k = t$ :

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Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$  and set  $x_k = t$ :

$$x_3 = t \quad \rightarrow \quad 3 \text{ enters the basis}$$

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Pick  $x_B = b - tA_k$ :

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Canonical form for  $B$

Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$  and set  $x_k = t$ :

$$x_3 = t \quad \longrightarrow \quad 3 \text{ enters the basis}$$

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The **NEW** basis is  $B = \{3, 4\}$ .

$$\max \quad \underbrace{(-1.5 \quad -0.5 \quad 0 \quad 0)}_c x + 3$$

s.t.

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0.5 & 0.5 & 1 & 0 \\ -0.5 & 0.5 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_A x = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}}_b$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

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Canonical form for  $B$

$(0, 0, 1, 4)^\top$  is a basic solution

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## Claim

$(0, 0, 1, 4)^\top$  has value 3. It is optimal because 3 is an upper bound.

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## Proof

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$$\underbrace{(-1.5, 0.5, 0, 0)}_{\leq 0} \underbrace{x}_{\geq 0} + 3$$

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Let  $x$  be a feasible solution. Then

$$\underbrace{(-1.5, 0.5, 0, 0)}_{\leq 0} \underbrace{x}_{\geq 0} + 3 \leq 3.$$

## Another Example

$$\max \quad (0 \quad -4 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 0)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

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Canonical form for  $\{1, 4, 5\}$

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$$x_3 = t \quad \rightarrow \quad 3 \text{ enters the basis}$$

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Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$  and set  $x_k = t$ :

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## Another Example

$$\max \quad (0 \quad -4 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 0)x$$

s.t.

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The **NEW** basis is  $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$ .

$$\max \quad (-3 \quad 2 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0)x + 3$$

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The linear program is unbounded.

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- $x(t)$  is feasible for all  $t \geq 0$ .
- $z \rightarrow \infty$  when  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

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( $\bar{x}, r$ : certificate of unboundedness.)

# The Simplex Algorithm

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## Trying to Find a Better Basis

$$\max \quad z = c_N^\top x_N + \bar{z}$$

s.t.

$$x_B + A_N x_N = b$$

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The new basis is obtained by having  $k$  enter and  $r$  leave.

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$$\max \quad z = c_N^\top x_N + \bar{z}$$

s.t.

$$x_B + A_N x_N = b$$

$$x \geq \mathbf{0}$$

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## **Proposition**

Simplex tells the truth:

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Let us see an example...

$$\max \quad (0 \ 0 \ 2 \ 3)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

$\{1, 2\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $\{1, 2\}$

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Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$  and set  $x_k = t$ :

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Pick  $r \in B$  such that  $x_r = 0$ :

Choices  $r = 1$

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Pick  $r \in B$  such that  $x_r = 0$ :

Choices  $r = 1$  OR

$$\max \quad (0 \quad 0 \quad 2 \quad 3)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 & 6 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \geq 0$$

$\{1, 2\}$  is a feasible basis

Canonical form for  $\{1, 2\}$

Pick  $k \notin B$  such that  $c_k > 0$  and set  $x_k = t$ :

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The **NEW** basis is  $B = \{3, 4\}$ .

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To do: Find a procedure to find a feasible basis.