

Module 2: Linear Programs (Basis)

Notation

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Consider

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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

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Then A_B is a column sub-matrix of A indexed by set B .

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$$B = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

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A_j denotes column j of A .

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Basis

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Definition

Let B be a subset of column indices. B is a **basis** if

- (1) A_B is a square matrix,
- (2) A_B is non-singular (columns are independent).

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Is $B = \{1, 2, 3\}$ a basis?

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Is $B = \{1, 5\}$ a basis? $A_B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ **NO**
 A_B is not square

Basis

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Is $B = \{2, 3, 4\}$ a basis? $A_B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ **NO**
columns of A_B are dependent

Question

Does every matrix have a basis?

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$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -3 & -2 & -1 & -3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Does every matrix have a basis? **NO**.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -3 & -2 & -1 & -3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The rows of A are dependent!

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The rows of A are dependent!

There are no 3 independent columns.

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Theorem

Max number of independent columns =

Max number of independent rows.

Question

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The rows of A are dependent!

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Theorem

Max number of independent columns =

Max number of independent rows.

Remark

Let A be a matrix with independent rows. Then B is a basis if and only if B is a maximal set of independent columns of A .

Basic Solutions

Basic Solutions

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

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- if $j \in B$ then x_j is a **basic variable**,

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Example

Basis $B = \{1, 2, 4\}$.

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Basis $B = \{1, 2, 4\}$. Then

- x_1, x_2, x_4 are the basic variables,

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Example

Basis $B = \{1, 2, 4\}$. Then

- x_1, x_2, x_4 are the basic variables, and
- x_3, x_5 are the non-basic variables.

Basic Solutions

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$$(1) Ax = b \quad \checkmark$$

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$$\underbrace{\begin{matrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{4} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}}_A x = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}}_b$$

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

Problem

Find a basic solution x for the basis $B = \{1, 4\}$?

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Thus, the basic solution is $x = (4, 0, 0, 2)^\top$.

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Basic Solutions – Uniqueness

Proposition

Consider $Ax = b$ and a basis B of A .

Then there exists a unique basic solution x for B .

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Hence, $x_B = A_B^{-1}b$.

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Multiple Bases for a Basic Solution

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A basic solution can be the basic solution for more than one basis.

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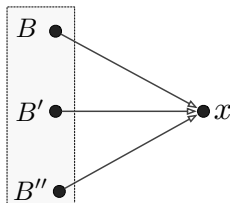
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If the rows of A are dependent, then either

- there is no solution to $Ax = b$; (P) is **infeasible**, OR
- a constraint of $Ax = b$ can be removed without changing the solutions.



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We may assume, when solving (P), that rows of A are independent.

Relation to LPs

Problem in SEF:

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We may assume, when solving (P), that rows of A are independent.

Definition

A basic solution x of $Ax = b$ is **feasible** if $x \geq 0$, i.e., if it is feasible for (P).

Consider the system

$$Ax = b$$

where the rows of A are independent.

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Recap

(1) B is a **basis** if A_B is a square, non-singular matrix.

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- (4) Each basis has a unique associated basic solution.
- (5) Several bases can have the same basic solution.
- (6) A basic solution is **feasible** if it is non-negative.