

## Module 2: Linear Programs (Finding a Feasible Solution)

# The Problem

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How do we find a feasible solution?

These two questions are equivalent.

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These two questions are equivalent.

## Exercise

There is an algorithm that, given a feasible solution, finds a feasible basis.



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How do we find a feasible basis?

An easier question,

## Question

How do we find a feasible solution?

These two questions are equivalent.

## Exercise

There is an algorithm that, given a feasible solution, finds a feasible basis.

➡ We will focus on the second question.

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INPUT:  $A, b, c$ , and a **feasible solution**

OUTPUT: Optimal solution/detect LP unbounded.

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## Algorithm 2

INPUT:  $A, b, c$ .

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HOW?

We will show that...



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INPUT:  $A, b, c$ .

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HOW?

We will show that...

## Proposition

We can use **Algorithm 1** to get **Algorithm 2**.

# A First Example

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Problem: Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

$$\max (1, 2, -1, 3)x$$

s.t.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 5 & 2 & 1 \\ -2 & -9 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ -13 \end{pmatrix}$$

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

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## Remark

It does not depend on the objective function.

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**Step 2.** Construct the **auxiliary problem**.

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$$\min \quad x_5 + x_6$$

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## Remark

The auxiliary problem is

- feasible, since  $(0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 13)^\top$  is a solution, and

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The auxiliary problem is

- feasible, since  $(0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 13)^\top$  is a solution, and
- bounded, as 0 is the lower bound.

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- feasible, since  $(0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 13)^\top$  is a solution, and
- bounded, as 0 is the lower bound.

➡ Therefore, the auxiliary problem has an optimal solution.

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**Step 3.** Solve the **auxiliary problem** using **Algorithm 1**.



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$(2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)^\top$  is an optimal solution to the auxiliary problem,

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➡ Therefore,  $(2, 1, 0, 0)^\top$  is a feasible solution to  $(\star)$ .

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$$\min \quad z = x_4 + x_5$$

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$(0, 0, 1, 0, 3)^\top$  is an optimal solution to the auxiliary problem.

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**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative. OK

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**Step 3.** Solve the **auxiliary problem** using **Algorithm 1**.

$(0, 0, 1, 0, 3)^\top$  is an optimal solution to the auxiliary problem.

However,  $(0, 0, 1)^\top$  is **NOT** a solution to  $(\star)$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

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the auxiliary problem

optimal solution  $(0, 0, 1, 0, 3)^\top$

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optimal value  $= 0 + 3 = 3$ .

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## Claim

$(\star)$  does not have a solution.



$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

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## Proof

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Suppose, for a contradiction,  $(\star)$  has a solution  $x'_1, x'_2, x'_3$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

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$(\star)$  does not have a solution.

## Proof

Suppose, for a contradiction,  $(\star)$  has a solution  $x'_1, x'_2, x'_3$ .

Then,  $(x'_1, x'_2, x'_3, 0, 0)^\top$  is a feasible solution to the auxiliary problem,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

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optimal value  $= 0 + 3 = 3$ .

## Claim

$(\star)$  does not have a solution.

## Proof

Suppose, for a contradiction,  $(\star)$  has a solution  $x'_1, x'_2, x'_3$ .

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but that solution has of value 0. This is a contradiction.

# Formalize

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$$Ax = b \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

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**Step 2.** Construct the **auxiliary problem** ( $A$   $m \times n$  matrix).



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$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & z = x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{n+m} \\ \text{s.t.} & \\ & \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A & I \end{array} \right) x = b \\ & x \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

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$$Ax = b \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (*)$$

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & z = x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{n+m} \\ \text{s.t.} & \\ & \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A & I \end{array} \right) x = b \\ & x \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

$x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m}$  are the  
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# Formalize

Problem: Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

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If  $z = 0$ , then  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)^\top$  is a solution to  $(\star)$ .

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## Proposition

When  $z > 0$ , then  $(\star)$  has no solution.



$$Ax = b \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

$$\min \quad z = x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{n+m}$$

s.t.

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} A & I \end{array} \right) x = b$$
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the auxiliary problem

optimal solution

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When  $z > 0$ , then  $(\star)$  has no solution.

## Proof

Suppose, for a contradiction,  $(\star)$  has a solution  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n$ .

$$Ax = b \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \min \quad z = x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{n+m} \\ \text{s.t.} \\ \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A & I \end{array} \right) x = b \\ x \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

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When  $z > 0$ , then  $(\star)$  has no solution.

## Proof

Suppose, for a contradiction,  $(\star)$  has a solution  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n$ .

Then  $(x'_1, \dots, x'_n, \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0})^\top$  is a feasible solution to the auxiliary problem,

$$Ax = b \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

$$\min \quad z = x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{n+m}$$

s.t.

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## Proposition

When  $z > 0$ , then  $(\star)$  has no solution.

## Proof

Suppose, for a contradiction,  $(\star)$  has a solution  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n$ .

Then  $(x'_1, \dots, x'_n, \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0})^\top$  is a feasible solution to the auxiliary problem,

but that solution has of value 0.

$$Ax = b \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

$$\min \quad z = x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{n+m}$$

s.t.

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} A & I \end{array} \right) x = b$$
$$x \geq \mathbf{0}$$

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$$(x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m})^\top$$

## Proposition

When  $z > 0$ , then  $(\star)$  has no solution.

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Suppose, for a contradiction,  $(\star)$  has a solution  $x'_1, \dots, x'_n$ .

Then  $(x'_1, \dots, x'_n, \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0})^\top$  is a feasible solution to the auxiliary problem, but that solution has of value 0. This is a contradiction.

# The 2-Phase Method

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## Example

Solve the following LP,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & (1, 1, 1)x \\ \text{s.t.} & \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \\ & x \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

**Phase 1.** Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

**Phase 1.** Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

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**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative.

**Phase 1.** Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

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**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative. **OK**

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**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative. OK

**Step 2.** Construct the **auxiliary problem**.



**Phase 1.** Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative. OK

**Step 2.** Construct the **auxiliary problem**.

$$\min \quad z = x_4 + x_5$$

s.t.

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

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

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NOT in SEF

**Phase 1.** Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

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**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative. OK

**Step 2.** Construct the **auxiliary problem**.

$$\max \quad z = -x_4 - x_5$$

s.t.

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

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

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In SEF

feasible basis  $B = \{4, 5\}$

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In SEF

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NOT in canonical form

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To rewrite  $B = \{4, 5\}$  in canonical form, you can

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In SEF

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To rewrite  $B = \{4, 5\}$  in canonical form, you can

- use the formulae, OR
- notice  $A_B = I$  and rewrite the objective function as follows...

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**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative. OK

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In SEF

feasible basis  $B = \{4, 5\}$

NOT in canonical form

$$z = (0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad -1 \quad -1)x$$

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In SEF

feasible basis  $B = \{4, 5\}$

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$$z = (0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad -1 \quad -1)x$$

$$0 = (1 \quad 2 \quad -1 \quad 1 \quad 0)x - 4$$

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$$0 = (1 \quad -1 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 1)x - 4$$

---

$$z = (2 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0)x - 8$$

**Phase 1.** Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

**Step 1.** Multiply the equations such that the RHS is non-negative. OK

**Step 2.** Construct the **auxiliary problem**.

$$\max z = (2 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0) - 8$$

s.t.

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

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In SEF

feasible basis  $B = \{4, 5\}$

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In SEF

feasible basis  $B = \{4, 5\}$

canonical form for  $B$

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**canonical form for  $B$**

**Step 3.** Solve the **auxiliary problem** using **Simplex**, starting from  $B$ .



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$$\max z = (2 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0) - 8$$

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

In SEF

feasible basis  $B = \{4, 5\}$

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**Step 3.** Solve the **auxiliary problem** using **Simplex**, starting from  $B$ .

$B = \{1, 4\}$  is an optimal basis with the basic solution  $(4, 0, 0, 0, 0)^\top$ .

**Phase 1.** Find a feasible solution/detect none exist for

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (\star)$$

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

In SEF

feasible basis  $B = \{4, 5\}$

**canonical form for  $B$**

**Step 3.** Solve the **auxiliary problem** using **Simplex**, starting from  $B$ .

$B = \{1, 4\}$  is an optimal basis with the basic solution  $(4, 0, 0, 0, 0)^\top$ .

$z = 0$  implies that  $(4, 0, 0)^\top$  is a feasible solution for  $(\star)$ .

**Phase 1.**  $(4, 0, 0)^\top$  is a feasible solution for

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## Exercise

Show that this will always be the case!

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$x = (0, 8, 12)^\top$  is an optimal solution.



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(Recall that Bland's rule ensures that Simplex terminates.)

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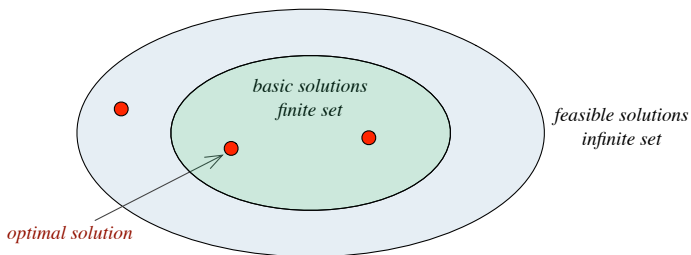
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Convert the LP into an **equivalent** LP in SEF.

Apply the previous theorem.

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Our implementation