

Module 4: Duality Theory (Strong Duality)

Recap: Weak Duality

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

Last lecture: we described a method to construct the dual of a general linear program.

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E.g.: consider the primal LP, (P), on the right

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & (2, -1, 3)x && (P) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} x \begin{matrix} \leq \\ = \\ \geq \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \\
 & x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \leq 0, x_3 \text{ free}
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E.g.: consider the primal LP, (P), on the right – a **max LP** that falls in the **left (P_{\max}) part** of the table.

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 & \max (2, -1, 3)x && (P) \\
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Last lecture: we described a method to construct the dual of a general linear program.

E.g.: consider the primal LP, (P), on the right – a **max LP** that falls in the **left (P_{\max}) part** of the table.

→ The dual of (P) is a **min LP**.

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

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$$\min (2, 1, -2)y \quad (D)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} y \ ? \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$y \ ? \ 0$$

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Weak Duality Theorem

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

$$\implies c^T \bar{x} \leq b^T \bar{y}$$

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

$$\implies c^T \bar{x} \leq b^T \bar{y}$$

If $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$, then **both** \bar{x} and \bar{y} are optimal.

This Lecture: Strong Duality

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Question

Can we always find feasible solutions \bar{x} and \bar{y} to a primal-dual pair, (P_{max}), (P_{min}), such that $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$?

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Question

Can we always find feasible solutions \bar{x} and \bar{y} to a primal-dual pair, (P_{max}), (P_{min}), such that $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$?

Strong Duality Theorem

If (P_{max}) has an optimal solution \bar{x} , then (P_{min}) has an optimal solution \bar{y} such that $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$.

Strong Duality – for LPs in SEF

Let us prove the **Strong Duality Theorem** in the special case where (P) is in SEF.

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

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We can rewrite (P) for basis B :

$$\begin{aligned} \max z &= \bar{y}^T b + \bar{c}^T x && \text{(P')} \\ \text{s.t. } x_B + A_B^{-1} A_N x_N &= A_B^{-1} b \\ x &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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and: $\bar{x}_B = A_B^{-1} b$ and $\bar{x}_N = 0$

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

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Recall that (P) and (P') are equivalent!

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Goal: Show that \bar{y} is dual feasible.

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and: $\bar{x}_B = A_B^{-1} b$ and $\bar{x}_N = 0$ and
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Note that B is an optimal basis $\rightarrow \bar{c} \leq 0$

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$$\rightarrow c^T - \bar{y}^T A \leq 0$$

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Note that B is an optimal basis $\rightarrow \bar{c} \leq 0$

$$\rightarrow c^T - \bar{y}^T A \leq 0$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{y} &= A_B^{-T} c_B \\ \bar{c}^T &= c^T - \bar{y}^T A \end{aligned}$$

Equivalently, $A^T \bar{y} \geq c$,

Strong Duality – for LPs in SEF

We can rewrite (P) for basis B :

$$\begin{aligned} \max z &= \bar{y}^T b + \bar{c}^T x & (P') \\ \text{s.t. } x_B + A_B^{-1} A_N x_N &= A_B^{-1} b \\ x &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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

and: $\bar{x}_B = A_B^{-1} b$ and $\bar{x}_N = 0$ and
 $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$.

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Equivalently, $A^T \bar{y} \geq c$,
meaning \bar{y} is dual feasible!

Strong Duality Theorem

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Let (P) and (D) be a **primal-dual pair** of LPs. If (P) has an optimal solution, then (D) has one, and their objective values equal.

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Subtly different version via previous results:

Strong Duality Theorem – Feasibility Version

Let (P) and (D) be primal-dual pair of LPs. If **both are feasible**, then both have optimal solutions of the same objective value.

Possible Outcomes of Primal-Dual Pair (P), (D)

(D) \ (P)	optimal solution	unbounded	infeasible
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(D) \ (P)	optimal solution	unbounded	infeasible
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- ①, ⑥, and ⑧ many examples exist

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Similar arguments apply to ④ and ⑤

- ③, ⑦ follow directly from Strong Duality
- I'll leave ⑨ for you to do as an exercise!

Recap

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