

Duality

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Duality (Part 1)

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Lagrangian dual function

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Standard Form Optimization Problem:

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &:= \min && f_0(x) \\ &\text{s.t.} && f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ &&& h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

- $\forall x \in \mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$
- optimal value p^*

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Lagrangian:

$$\begin{aligned} L(x, \lambda, \nu) &= f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^p \nu_j h_j(x) \\ &= \langle f, (1, \lambda, \nu) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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Lagrange Dual Function:

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} (L(x, \lambda, \nu)) \\ &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} (f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^p \nu_j h_j(x)) \end{aligned}$$

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- $g(\lambda, \nu)$ is concave.
- if $\lambda \geq 0$, $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$, $\forall \nu$

if \hat{x} is a feasible point, and $\lambda \geq 0$ then:

$$L(\hat{x}, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(\hat{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(\hat{x}) + \sum_{j=1}^p \nu_j h_j(\hat{x}) \leq f_0(\hat{x})$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} (f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^p \nu_j h_j(x)) \\ &\leq L(\hat{x}, \lambda, \nu) \leq f_0(\hat{x}), \quad \forall \hat{x} \text{ feasible} \end{aligned}$$

Interpretations

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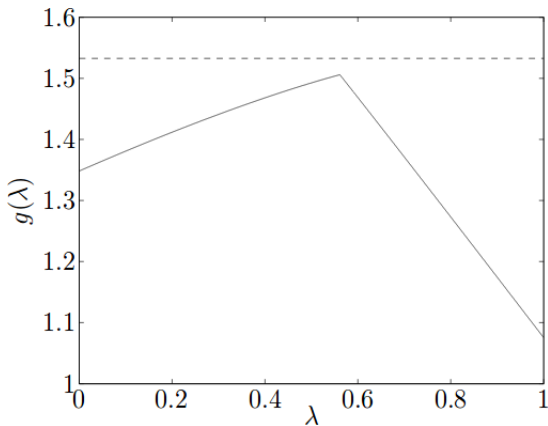


Figure 5.2 The dual function g for the problem in figure 5.1. Neither f_0 nor f_1 is convex, but the dual function is concave. The horizontal dashed line shows p^* , the optimal value of the problem.

Dual function & Conjugate

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Reminder:

We call f^* the conjugate of $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the function:

$$f^*(y) = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{D}} (y^T x - f(x))$$

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$$f^*(y) = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{D}} (y^T x - f(x))$$

For the Linear Constraint Optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f_0(x) \\ & \text{s.t.} && Ax \leq b \\ & && Cx = d \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_x (f_0(x) + \lambda^T (Ax - b) + \nu^T (Cx - d)) \\ &= -b^T \lambda - d^T \nu - \sup_x ((-A^T \lambda - C^T \nu)^T x - f_0(x)) \\ &= -b^T \lambda - d^T \nu - f_0^*((-A^T \lambda - C^T \nu)) \end{aligned}$$

Least-norm solution of linear equations

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & x^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

dual function

- Lagrangian is $L(x, \nu) = x^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b)$
- to minimize L over x , set gradient equal to zero:

$$\nabla_x L(x, \nu) = 2x + A^T \nu = 0 \implies x = -(1/2)A^T \nu$$

- plug in in L to obtain g :

$$g(\nu) = L((-1/2)A^T \nu, \nu) = -\frac{1}{4} \nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu$$

a concave function of ν

lower bound property: $p^* \geq -(1/4)\nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu$ for all ν

Standard form LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b, \quad x \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

dual function

- Lagrangian is

$$\begin{aligned} L(x, \lambda, \nu) &= c^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b) - \lambda^T x \\ &= -b^T \nu + (c + A^T \nu - \lambda)^T x \end{aligned}$$

- L is affine in x , hence

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \inf_x L(x, \lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^T \nu & A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

g is linear on affine domain $\{(\lambda, \nu) \mid A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0\}$, hence concave

lower bound property: $p^* \geq -b^T \nu$ if $A^T \nu + c \succeq 0$

Lagrange Dual Optimization Problem

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Dual optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &:= \max_{\lambda, \nu} g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{s.t. } &\lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- **dom** $g = (\lambda, \nu) | g(\lambda, \nu) > -\infty$
- $g(\lambda, \nu)$ is concave, so this problem is a convex optimization problem

Definitions

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Weak Duality:

$$d^* \leq p^*$$

Strong Duality:

$$d^* = p^*$$

Duality Gap:

$$\text{gap} = p^* - d^*$$

Slater's Constraint Qualification

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If the primal problem is **convex** with the following form, we have conditions to ensure strong duality:

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &:= \text{minimize} && f_0(x) \\ &\text{s.t.} && f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1 \dots, m \\ &&& Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

Slater: If there exist \hat{x} in the *relative interior* of \mathcal{D} satisfying: $f_i(\hat{x}) < 0$ and $A\hat{x} = b$, then strong duality holds.
This can be reduced to the constraints f_i which are not affine.

Inequality form LP

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primal problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \preceq b \end{array}$$

dual function

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x ((c + A^T \lambda)^T x - b^T \lambda) = \begin{cases} -b^T \lambda & A^T \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

dual problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & -b^T \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \lambda + c = 0, \quad \lambda \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

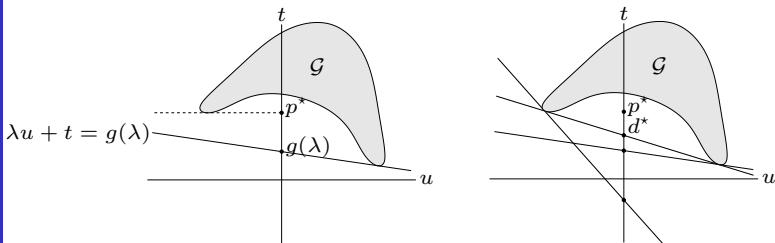
- from Slater's condition: $p^* = d^*$ if $A\tilde{x} \prec b$ for some \tilde{x}
- in fact, $p^* = d^*$ except when primal and dual are infeasible

Geometric interpretation

for simplicity, consider problem with one constraint $f_1(x) \leq 0$

interpretation of dual function:

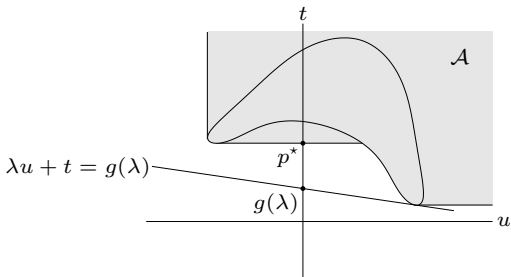
$$g(\lambda) = \inf_{(u,t) \in \mathcal{G}} (t + \lambda u), \quad \text{where } \mathcal{G} = \{(f_1(x), f_0(x)) \mid x \in \mathcal{D}\}$$



- $\lambda u + t = g(\lambda)$ is (non-vertical) supporting hyperplane to \mathcal{G}
- hyperplane intersects t -axis at $t = g(\lambda)$

epigraph variation: same interpretation if \mathcal{G} is replaced with

$$\mathcal{A} = \{(u, t) \mid f_1(x) \leq u, f_0(x) \leq t \text{ for some } x \in \mathcal{D}\}$$



strong duality

- holds if there is a non-vertical supporting hyperplane to \mathcal{A} at $(0, p^*)$
- for convex problem, \mathcal{A} is convex, hence has supp. hyperplane at $(0, p^*)$
- Slater's condition: if there exist $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{t}) \in \mathcal{A}$ with $\tilde{u} < 0$, then supporting hyperplanes at $(0, p^*)$ must be non-vertical

Proof of Slater's Constraint Qualification

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[On Board]

Sub-optimality

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If x is a primal feasible point, and (λ, ν) a dual feasible point:

$$p^* \geq g(\lambda, \nu)$$

$$0 \leq f_0(x) - p^* \leq f_0(x) - g(\lambda, \nu)$$

This leads to an absolute ϵ_{abs} and a relative ϵ_{rel} optimality criteria:

$$f_0(x) - g(\lambda, \nu) \leq \epsilon_{abs}$$

$$\frac{f_0(x) - g(\lambda, \nu)}{-f_0(x)} \leq \epsilon_{rel}, \quad f_0(x) < 0$$

$$\frac{f_0(x) - g(\lambda, \nu)}{g(\lambda, \nu)} \leq \epsilon_{rel}, \quad g(\lambda, \nu) > 0$$

KKT conditions - Non Convex

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If $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_m, h_0, \dots, h_p$ are differentiable.

In case of strong duality, given the primal and dual optimal points, x^*, λ^*, ν^* .

The Optimality KKT conditions are:

$$f_i(x^*) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$h_i(x^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p$$

$$\lambda_i^* \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$\lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$\nabla f_0(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* \nabla f_i(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* \nabla h_i(x^*) = 0$$

KKT conditions - Convex

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$$f_i(\hat{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$h_i(\hat{x}) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p$$

$$\hat{\lambda}_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$\hat{\lambda}_i f_i(\hat{x}) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$\nabla f_0(\hat{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \hat{\lambda}_i \nabla f_i(\hat{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \hat{\nu}_i \nabla h_i(\hat{x}) = 0$$

For a **convex problem**, any point satisfying the above conditions is optimal with a *0 duality gap*.

If Slater's conditions are true, then the KKT conditions are **necessary and sufficient conditions** for optimality.

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$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \sum_i \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_j \nu_j h_j(x)$$

Original Problem

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \min f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t. } & f_i(x) \leq 0 \\ & h_j(x) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &= \max \inf_x L(x, \lambda, \nu) \\ &= \max g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{s.t. } & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- $g(\lambda, \nu)$ concave
- $d^* \leq p^* ::$ weak duality
- $d^* = p^* ::$ strong duality

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Original Problem

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \min f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t. } & f_i(x) \leq 0 \\ & h_j(x) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} d^* &= \max g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{s.t. } & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Complementary Slackness:

If strong duality holds, with (x^*, λ^*, ν^*) the optimal solutions.

- $\lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0, \forall i$
 - $\lambda_i^* > 0 \Rightarrow f_i(x^*) = 0$
 - $f_i(x^*) < 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_i^* = 0$

Perturbed Problem

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Original Primal

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \min f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t. } f_i(x) &\leq 0 \\ h_j(x) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Perturbed Primal

$$\begin{aligned} p^*(u, v) &= \min f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t. } f_i(x) &\leq u_i \\ h_j(x) &= v_j \end{aligned}$$

$$p^*(u, v) = \inf \{ f_0(x) \mid \exists x \in \mathcal{D}, f_i(x) \leq u_i, h_j(x) = v_j \}$$

$$p^*(0, 0) = p^*$$

If the original problem is convex, then $p^*(u, v)$ is a convex function of (u, v) . (Exercise 5.32)

Global Sensibility Analysis

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Let's assume:

- strong duality
- dual optimum is attained in (λ^*, ν^*) .

$$p^*(u, v) \geq p^*(0, 0) - \lambda^{*\top} u - \nu^{*\top} v$$

- $\lambda_i^* \gg 0$ & $u_i < 0 \rightsquigarrow p^*(u, v) \nearrow$
- $(\nu_j^* \gg 0$ & $v_j < 0)$ or $(\nu_j^* \ll 0$ & $v_j > 0) \rightsquigarrow p^*(u, v) \nearrow$
- NO guaranty for $\lambda_i^* \gg 0$ and $u_i > 0$:: only a LOWER BOUND

Local Sensibility Analysis

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If $p^*(u, v)$ is differentiable:

$$\blacksquare \lambda_i^* = \frac{\partial p^*(0,0)}{\partial u_i}$$

$$\blacksquare \nu_j^* = \frac{\partial p^*(0,0)}{\partial v_j}$$

By complementary slackness:

$$\blacksquare f_i(x^*) < 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_i^* = 0 \text{ :: small change around } u_i = 0$$

$$\blacksquare f_i(x^*) = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_i^* > 0 (\gg 0) \text{ :: } p^* \text{ greatly affected by } u_i$$

Introducing New Variables

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Original Problem

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \min f_0(Ax + b) \\ d^* &= \max \inf_x (f_0(Ax + b)) \\ &= \max p^* = p^* \end{aligned}$$

Transformed Problem

$$\begin{aligned} p'^* &= \min f_0(y) \\ &\text{s.t. } Ax + b = y \\ d'^* &= \max b^T \nu - f_0^*(\nu) \\ &\text{s.t. } A^T \nu = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Reminder:

$$\begin{aligned} g'(\nu) &= \inf_{x,y} (f_0(y) - \nu^T y + \nu^T Ax + b^T \nu) \\ &= \begin{cases} -f_0^*(\nu) + b^T \nu, & A^T \nu = 0 \\ -\infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Introducing New Equality Constraints

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Original Problem

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \min f_0(A_0x + b_0) \\ \text{s.t. } & f_i(A_ix + b_i) \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Transformed Problem

$$\begin{aligned} p'^* &= \min f_0(y_0) \\ \text{s.t. } & f_i(y_i) \leq 0 \\ & A_ix + b_i = y_i \end{aligned}$$

Leads to a new dual:

$$\begin{aligned} d'^* &= \max \sum_i \nu_i^T b_i - f_0^*(\nu_0) - \sum_i \lambda_i f_i^*(\nu_i/\lambda_i) \\ \text{s.t. } & \lambda \geq 0 \\ & \sum_i A_i^T \nu_i = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Weak Alternatives

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Either: (P1) has a solution OR (P2) has a solution OR none
(Only implication of the infeasibility).

Example:

$$f_i(x) \leq 0, \forall i, \quad h_j(x) = 0, \forall j, \text{ is feasible} \quad (1)$$

or

$$0 < g(\lambda, \nu), \quad \lambda \geq 0, \text{ is feasible} \quad (2)$$

If \hat{x} a feasible point for (1), and $(\hat{\lambda}, \hat{\nu})$ feasible for (2) then:

$$0 < g(\hat{\lambda}, \hat{\nu}) \leq \underbrace{\sum_i \hat{\lambda}_i f_i(\hat{x})}_{\leq 0} + \underbrace{\sum_j \hat{\nu}_j h_j(\hat{x})}_{=0} \leq 0$$

Strong Alternatives

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Either: (P1) has a solution OR (P2) has a solution (equivalence between feasibility of one and infeasibility of the other).

Example, with f_i convex $\forall i$:

$$f_i(x) < 0, \forall i, \quad \exists x \in \text{relint}(\mathcal{D}), Ax = b, \text{ is feasible} \quad (3)$$

or

$$0 \leq g(\lambda, \nu), \lambda \geq 0, \lambda \neq 0, \text{ is feasible} \quad (4)$$

Farkas Lemma

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The Farkas Lemma is a strong alternative:

Either

$$Ax = b, \quad x \geq 0$$

has a solution

or

$$A^T y \geq 0, \quad b^T y < 0$$

has a solution

Hilbert's Nullstellensatz

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Some generalization of alternatives theorems:

Let's have $P_i \in \mathbb{R}[\mathbb{C}^n]$, $i = 1 \dots m$.

Either

$$P_1(x) = 0, \dots, P_m(x) = 0$$

has a solution $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$.

OR $\exists Q_1, \dots, Q_m \in \mathbb{R}[\mathbb{C}^n]$ such that

$$P_1(x)Q_1(x) + \dots + P_m(x)Q_m(x) = -1$$

has a solution.

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By contradiction, assume

$$-c \notin \left\{ \sum_{i \in I} z_i a_i \mid z_i \geq 0 \right\} = K$$

K is a convex closed cone, thus by the *strict separating hyperplane theorem*, there exists $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ such that :

$$-c^T \zeta < \gamma, \quad \left(\sum_{i \in I} z_i a_i^T \right) \zeta > \gamma, \quad \forall z_i \geq 0$$

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Lemma : Let $K \subset \mathbb{R}^q$ be a cone. Suppose there exist $p \in \mathbb{R}^q$ and $M \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\forall x \in K, p^T x \geq M$$

Then $M \geq 0$

Proof : We will prove this by contradiction. Suppose there exists $x' \in K$ such that $p^T x' < 0$ (and thus, $M < 0$). Consider

$$\alpha = \frac{2M}{p^T x'} > 0 \text{ and } y = \alpha x'$$

$y \in K$ since $\alpha > 0$ and $x' \in K$. But :

$$p^T y = 2M \frac{p^T x'}{p^T x'} = 2M < M$$

since $M < 0$. That contradicts the fact that $p^T x \geq M$ for all $x \in K$. \square

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From the previous lemma, we see that $\gamma \geq 0$, so
 $(\sum_{i \in I} z_i a_i^T) \zeta > 0$, $\forall z_i \geq 0$. Thus, by taking $z_i = 1$, $z_j = 0$
 $\forall i \neq j$, we have :

$$a_i^T \zeta > 0, \forall i \in I$$

Furthermore, since $-c^T \zeta < (\sum_{i \in I} z_i a_i^T) \zeta$, $\forall z_i \geq 0$, by taking
 $z_i = b_i - a_i^T x^*$, which is nonnegative and equal to 0 for $i \in I$,
we have :

$$\begin{aligned} -c^T \zeta &< \left(\sum_{i \in I} (b_i - a_i^T x^*) a_i^T \right) \zeta \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

To sum this up, we have :

$$-c^T \zeta < 0, \quad a_i^T \zeta > 0, \quad \forall i \in I$$

For an $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough, let us consider $d = x^* - \varepsilon \zeta$. This d is primal-feasible :

- For $i \notin I$, $a_i^T d = \underbrace{a_i^T x^*}_{< b_i} - \varepsilon a_i^T \zeta < b_i$ for ε small enough (the strict inequality forms an open neighbourhood of x^*).
- For $i \in I$, $a_i^T d = a_i^T x^* - \varepsilon a_i^T \zeta = b_i - \underbrace{\varepsilon a_i^T \zeta}_{> 0} \leq b_i$.

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On top of that :

$$c^T d = c^T x^* - \varepsilon c^T \zeta = p^* \underbrace{-\varepsilon c^T \zeta}_{<0} < p^*$$

This contradicts the fact that p^* is the optimal value. So there exists $z \geq 0$ such that $z_i = 0 \forall i \notin I$ and $A^T z + c = 0$. This z is dual feasible, thus $-b^T z \leq p^*$ (weak duality theorem). But :

$$-b^T z = - \sum_{i \in I} b_i z_i = -x^{*T} \underbrace{\left(\sum_{i \in I} z_i a_i \right)}_{=-c} = c^T x^* = p^*$$

So z is dual optimal.

We denote (\mathcal{P}) the primal problem (that we suppose infeasible), (\mathcal{D}) the dual one. Consider (\mathcal{P}') and its dual (\mathcal{D}') :

$$\begin{aligned} p' = \min & 0 \\ \text{s.t. } & Ax \leq b \end{aligned} \quad (\mathcal{P}')$$

$$\begin{aligned} d' = \max & -b^T z \\ \text{s.t. } & A^T z = 0 \\ & z \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (\mathcal{D}')$$

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Since (\mathcal{P}) is infeasible, so is (\mathcal{P}') , so $p'^* = \infty$. (\mathcal{D}') is feasible (since $z = 0$ is feasible), so $d' \geq 0$. Suppose $d' = 0$. Since :

- (\mathcal{D}') is feasible
- d' is finite
- (\mathcal{P}') is the dual of (\mathcal{D}')

we have, through question 1, $d' = p'$. So (\mathcal{P}') should be feasible, which is a contradiction. So $d' > 0$.

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So there exists $\tilde{v} \geq 0$ such that $A^T \tilde{v} = 0$ and $b^T \tilde{v} < 0$. Let us denote v^* a feasible solution to (\mathcal{D}) . Pose, for $\varepsilon > 0$:

$$z = v^* + \varepsilon \tilde{v} \geq 0$$

z is admissible for (\mathcal{D}) :

$$A^T z + c = \underbrace{A^T v^* + c}_{=0} + \varepsilon \underbrace{A^T \tilde{v}}_{=0} = 0$$

Furthermore,

$$-b^T z = -b^T v^* + \varepsilon \underbrace{(-b^T \tilde{v})}_{>0} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow +\infty} +\infty$$

So (\mathcal{D}) is unbounded above, and $d^* = +\infty$.

5.23.3

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We clearly see that the problem in the example is infeasible, so $p^* = +\infty$. Let us find its dual problem :

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && -z_1 + z_2 \\ & \text{subject to} && z_2 + 1 = 0 \\ & && z_1, z_2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

As we can see, $z_2 = -1$, which is not non-negative. So the problem is infeasible, and $d^* = -\infty$.