Lesson 17. The Simplex Method

0 Review

- Given an LP with *n* decision variables, a solution **x** is **basic** if:
 - (a) it satisfies all equality constraints
 - (b) at least n linearly independent constraints are active at **x**
- A basic feasible solution (BFS) is a basic solution that satisfies all constraints of the LP
- Canonical form LP:

- *m* equality constraints and *n* decision variables (e.g. *A* has *m* rows and *n* columns).
- Standard assumptions: $m \le n$, rank(A) = m
- If **x** is a basic solution of a canonical form LP, there exist *m* basic variables of **x** such that
 - (a) the columns of *A* corresponding to these *m* variables are linearly independent
 - (b) the other n m nonbasic variables are equal to 0
- The set of basic variables is the **basis** of **x**

1 Overview

- General improving search algorithm
 - 1: Find an initial feasible solution \mathbf{x}^0
 - 2: Set t = 0
 - 3: while \mathbf{x}^t is not locally optimal **do**
 - 4: Determine a simultaneously improving and feasible direction \mathbf{d} at \mathbf{x}^t
 - 5: Determine step size λ
 - 6: Compute new feasible solution $\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = \mathbf{x}^t + \lambda \mathbf{d}$
 - 7: Set t = t + 1
 - 8: end while
- The simplex method is a specialized version of improving search
 - For canonical form LPs
 - Start at a BFS in Step 1
 - Consider directions that point towards other BFSes in Step 4
 - Take the maximum possible step size in Step 5

Example 1. Throughout this lesson, we will use the canonical form LP below:

maximize
$$13x + 5y$$

subject to $4x + y + s_1 = 24$
 $x + 3y + s_2 = 24$
 $3x + 2y + s_3 = 23$
 $x, y, s_1, s_2, s_3 \ge 0$

2 Initial solutions

• For now, we will start by guessing an initial BFS

Example 2. Verify that $\mathbf{x}^0 = (0, 0, 24, 24, 23)$ is a BFS with basis $\mathcal{B}^0 = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$.

$$\vec{x}^{\circ} \text{ feasible}? = \text{ constraints satisfied ? Yes } \Rightarrow \vec{x}^{\circ} \text{ is feasible.}$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \text{ constraints satisfied ? Yes } \Rightarrow \vec{x}^{\circ} \text{ is feasible.}$$

$$\vec{x}^{\circ} \text{ basic ? LHS coeff. matrix of constraints active at } \vec{x}^{\circ}$$

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{det}(L) \neq 0 \Rightarrow \text{ There are } n = 5 \text{ active } LI \text{ constraints at } \vec{x}^{\circ}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{x}^{\circ} \text{ is a BFS : } n = m \text{ nonbasic variables: } x, y$$

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3 Finding feasible directions

- Two BFSes are **adjacent** if their bases differ by exactly 1 variable
- Suppose \mathbf{x}^t is the current BFS with basis \mathcal{B}^t
- Approach: consider directions that point towards BFSes adjacent to \mathbf{x}^t
- To get a BFS adjacent to **x**^{*t*}:
 - Put one nonbasic variable into \mathcal{B}^t
 - Take one basic variable out of \mathcal{B}^t
- Suppose we want to put nonbasic variable y into \mathcal{B}^t
- This corresponds to the **simplex direction** \mathbf{d}^{γ} corresponding to nonbasic variable y

- \mathbf{d}^{γ} has a component for every decision variable
 - e.g. $\mathbf{d}^{y} = (d_{x}^{y}, d_{y}^{y}, d_{s_{1}}^{y}, d_{s_{2}}^{y}, d_{s_{3}}^{y})$ for the LP in Example 1
- The components of the simplex direction \mathbf{d}^{y} corresponding to nonbasic variable y are:
 - $\circ d_y^y = 1$
 - $d_z^y = 0$ for all other nonbasic variables z
 - d_w^{y} (uniquely) determined by $A\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{0}$ for all basic variables w
- Why does this work? Remember for LPs, **d** is a feasible direction at **x** if
 - $\mathbf{a}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{d} \leq 0$ for each active constraint of the form $\mathbf{a}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{x} \leq b$
 - $\mathbf{a}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{d} \ge 0$ for each active constraint of the form $\mathbf{a}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{x} \ge b$
 - $\mathbf{a}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{d} = 0$ for each active constraint of the form $\mathbf{a}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{x} = b$
- Each nonbasic variable has a corresponding simplex direction



maximize 13x + 5ysubject to $4x + y + s_1 = 24$ $x + 3y + s_2 = 24$ $3x + 2y + s_3 = 23$ $x, y, s_1, s_2, s_3 \ge 0$

Example 3. The basis of the BFS $\mathbf{x}^0 = (0, 0, 24, 24, 23)$ is $\mathcal{B}^0 = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$. For each nonbasic variable, *x* and *y*, we have a corresponding simplex direction. Compute the simplex directions \mathbf{d}^x and \mathbf{d}^y .

$$\frac{d^{x}}{dt} = \frac{d^{x}}{dt} = \begin{pmatrix} 1, 0, d^{x}_{s_{1}}, d^{x}_{s_{2}}, d^{x}_{s_{3}} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\frac{d^{x}}{dt} = \begin{pmatrix} 0, 1, d^{x}_{s_{1}}, d^{x}_{s_{2}}, d^{x}_{s_{3}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{d^{x}}{dt} = 0$$

$$\frac{d^{x}$$

4 Finding improving directions

- Once we've computed the simplex direction for each nonbasic variable, which one do we choose?
- We choose a simplex direction **d** that is improving
- Recall that if $f(\mathbf{x})$ is the objective function, **d** is an improving direction at **x** if

• The **reduced cost** associated with nonbasic variable *y* is

$$\bar{c}_y = \mathbf{c}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{d}^y$$

where \mathbf{d}^{γ} is the simplex direction associated with γ

• The simplex direction \mathbf{d}^{y} associated with nonbasic variable y is improving if

 $\bar{c}_y \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{for a maximization LP} \\ < 0 & \text{for a minimization LP} \end{cases}$

Example 4. Consider the BFS $\mathbf{x}^0 = (0, 0, 24, 24, 23)$ with basis $\mathcal{B}^0 = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$. Compute the reduced costs \bar{c}_x and \bar{c}_y for nonbasic variables *x* and *y*, respectively. Are \mathbf{d}^x and \mathbf{d}^y improving?

 $\vec{d}^{x} = (1, 0, -4, -1, -3) \qquad \vec{d}^{y} = (0, 1, -1, -3, -2)$ $\vec{c}_{x} = \vec{c}^{T} \vec{d}^{x} \qquad \vec{c}_{y} = \vec{c}^{T} \vec{d}^{y} \qquad = (13, 5, 0, 0, 0) \cdot (1, 0, -4, -1, -3) \qquad = (13, 5, 0, 0, 0) \cdot (0, 1, -1, -3, -2)$ $= 13 > 0 \qquad = 5 > 0$ $\vec{d}^{y} \text{ is improving} \qquad \vec{d}^{y} \text{ is improving}$

- If there is an improving simplex direction, we choose it
- If there is more than 1 improving simplex direction, we can choose any one of them
 - One option **Dantzig's rule**: choose the improving simplex direction with the most improving reduced cost (maximization LP most positive, minimization LP most negative)
- If there are no improving simplex directions, then the current BFS is a global optimal solution

5 Determining the maximum step size

- We've picked an improving simplex direction how far can we go in that direction?
- Suppose \mathbf{x}^t is our current BFS, \mathbf{d} is the improving simplex direction we chose
- Our next solution is $\mathbf{x}^t + \lambda \mathbf{d}$ for some value of $\lambda \ge 0$
- How big can we make λ while still remaining feasible?
- Recall that we computed **d** so that *A***d** = **0**
- $\mathbf{x}^t + \lambda \mathbf{d}$ satisfies the equality constraints $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ no matter how large λ gets, since

$$A(\mathbf{x}^{t} + \lambda \mathbf{d}) = A\mathbf{x}^{t} + \lambda A\mathbf{d} = A\mathbf{x}^{t} = \mathbf{b}$$

- So, the only thing that can go wrong are the nonnegativity constraints
 - \Rightarrow What is the largest λ such that $\mathbf{x}^t + \lambda \mathbf{d} \ge \mathbf{0}$?



maximize 13x + 5ysubject to $\int 4x + y + s_1$ $\mathbf{x}^{\star} = \mathbf{b}$ become \mathbf{x}^{\star} is feasible $\mathbf{x}^{\star} = \mathbf{b}$ $\mathbf{x}^{\star} = \mathbf{b}$

Example 5. Suppose we choose the improving simplex direction $\mathbf{d}^x = (1, 0, -4, -1, -3)$. Compute the maximum step size λ for which $\mathbf{x}^0 + \lambda \mathbf{d}^x$ remains feasible.

Check nonnegativity constraints: when is
$$\vec{x}^{\circ} + \lambda \vec{d}^{\times} \ge 0$$
?
 $\vec{x}^{\circ} + \lambda \vec{d}^{\times} = (0, 0, 24, 24, 23) + \lambda (1, 0, -4, -1, -3).$
 $= (\lambda, 0, 24 - 4\lambda, 24 - \lambda, 23 - 3\lambda)$
 $\Rightarrow \lambda \ge 0$
 $24 - 4\lambda \ge 0$
 $24 - 4\lambda \ge 0$
 $24 - \lambda \ge 0$
 $3 - 3\lambda \ge 0$
 $3 -$

• Note that only negative components of **d** determine maximum step size:

$$x_j + \lambda d_j \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0$$

• The **minimum ratio test**: starting at the BFS **x**, <u>if any component of the improving simplex direction **d** is negative, then the maximum step size is</u>

$$\lambda_{\max} = \min \left\{ \frac{x_j}{-d_j} : d_j < 0 \right\}$$

Lalways min, even for max LPs.

Example 6. Verify that the minimum ratio test yields the same maximum step size you found in Example 5.

$$\vec{d}^{x} = (1, 0, -4, -1, -3) \qquad \vec{x}^{0} = (0, 0, 24, 24, 23)$$

$$MRT: \qquad \lambda_{max} = \min\left\{\frac{24}{-(-4)}, \frac{24}{-(-1)}, \frac{23}{-(-3)}\right\} = \min\left\{6, 24, \frac{23}{3}\right\} = 6$$

$$S_{1} \qquad S_{2} \qquad S_{3} \qquad S_{1} \qquad \min\{1, 23, \frac{23}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac$$

- What if **d** has no negative components?
- For example:
 - Suppose $\mathbf{x}^0 = (0, 0, 1, 2, 3)$ is a BFS
 - $\mathbf{d} = (1, 0, 2, 4, 3)$ is an improving simplex direction at \mathbf{x}
 - $\circ~$ Then the next solution is

$$\mathbf{x}^{0} + \lambda \mathbf{d} = (\lambda, 0, 1 + 2\lambda, 2 + 4\lambda, 3 + 3\lambda)$$
 for some value of $\lambda \ge 0$

 $\circ \mathbf{x}^0 + \lambda \mathbf{d} \ge 0 \text{ for all } \lambda \ge 0!$

- We can improve our objective function and remain feasible forever!
- \Rightarrow The LP is unbounded
- Test for unbounded LPs: if all components of an improving simplex direction are nonnegative, then the LP is unbounded

6 Updating the basis

- We have our improving simplex direction **d** and step size λ_{max}
- We can compute our new solution $\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = \mathbf{x}^t + \lambda_{\max} \mathbf{d}$
- We also update the basis: update the set of basic variables
- Entering and leaving variables
 - The nonbasic variable corresponding to the chosen simplex direction enters the basis and becomes basic: this is the **entering variable**
 - Any <u>one</u> of the basic variables that define the maximum step size leaves the basis and becomes nonbasic: this is the **leaving variable**

Example 7. Compute x^{1} . What is the basis \mathcal{B}^{1} of x^{1} ? $\vec{x} = (x, y, S_{1}, S_{2}, S_{3})$ entering variable $\vec{x}^{\circ} = (0, 0, 24, 24, 23) \qquad \mathcal{B}^{\circ} = \{S_{1}, S_{2}, S_{3}\} \qquad \lambda_{mex} = 6 \qquad \vec{d}^{*} = (1, 0, -4, -1, -3)$ $S_{1} \qquad \text{"uniss" MRT}$ leaning variable $\Rightarrow \vec{x}^{1} = \vec{x}^{\circ} + \lambda_{mex} \vec{d}^{*} = (0, 0, 24, 24, 23) + 6(1, 0, -4, -1, -3)$ = (6, 0, 0, 18, 5)new basis $\mathcal{B}^{1} = \{x, S_{2}, S_{3}\} \qquad \Rightarrow \text{ nonbasie variables: } y, S_{1}$

7 Putting it all together: the simplex method

Step 0: Initialization. Identify a BFS \mathbf{x}^0 . Set solution index t = 0.

- **Step 1: Simplex directions.** For each nonbasic variable *y*, compute the corresponding simplex direction \mathbf{d}^{y} and its reduced cost \bar{c}_{y} .
- Step 2: Check for optimality. If no simplex direction is improving, stop. The current solution \mathbf{x}^t is optimal. Otherwise, choose any improving simplex direction **d**. Let x_e denote the entering variable.
- **Step 3: Step size.** If $\mathbf{d} \ge \mathbf{0}$, stop. The LP is unbounded. Otherwise, choose the leaving variable x_{ℓ} by computing the maximum step size λ_{max} according to the minimum ratio test.
- **Step 4: Update solution and basis.** Compute the new solution $\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = \mathbf{x}^t + \lambda_{\max} \mathbf{d}$. Replace x_ℓ with x_e in the basis. Set t = t + 1. Go to Step 1.

Problem 1. Consider the following LP

maximize
$$4x_1 + 3x_2 + 5x_3$$

subject to $2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 \le 18$
 $4x_1 + 2x_2 + 5x_3 \le 10$
 $x_1, x_2, x_3 \ge 0$
(1)

The canonical form of this LP is

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -i & 4 & i & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & 5 & 0 & i \end{pmatrix}$$
 maximize $4x_1 + 3x_2 + 5x_3$
subject to $2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 + s_1 = 18$
 $4x_1 + 2x_2 + 5x_3 + s_2 = 10$
 $x_1, x_2, x_3, s_1, s_2 \ge 0$ (2)

a. Use the simplex method to solve the canonical form LP (2). In particular:

- Use the initial BFS $\mathbf{x}^0 = (0, 0, 0, 18, 10)$ with basis $\mathcal{B}^0 = \{s_1, s_2\}$.
- Choose your entering variable using **Dantzig's rule** that is, choose the improving simplex direction with the most positive reduced cost. (If this was a minimization LP, you would choose the improving simplex direction with the most negative reduced cost.)
- b. What is the optimal value of the canonical form LP (2)? Give an optimal solution.
- c. What is the optimal value of the original LP (1)? Give an optimal solution.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{x}^{0} &= (0, 0, 0, 18, 10) \quad \mathcal{B}^{0} &= \{s_{i}, s_{2}\} \\ \vec{x}^{x_{i}} &= (1, 0, 0, d_{s_{i}}, d_{s_{2}}) \quad \vec{d}^{x_{2}} &= \vec{d}^{x_{2}} &= (0, 1, 0, d_{s_{i}}, d_{s_{2}}) \quad \vec{d}^{x_{3}} &= (0, 0, 1, d_{s_{i}}, d_{s_{2}}) \\ \vec{A}\vec{d}^{x_{i}} &= \vec{0} & 2 + d_{s_{1}} &= 0 \\ 4 + d_{s_{2}} &= \vec{0} & 2 + d_{s_{2}} &= 0 \\ \vec{A} &= d_{s_{2}} &= 0 & 2 + d_{s_{2}} &= 0 \\ \vec{A} &= d_{s_{2}} &= 0 & 2 + d_{s_{2}} &= 0 \\ \vec{A} &= (1, 0, 0, -2, -4) &= \vec{d}^{x_{2}} &= (0, 1, 0, 1, -2) \\ \vec{C}x_{1} &= 4 & \vec{C}x_{2} &= 3 & \vec{C}x_{3} &= (0, 0, 1, -4, -5) \\ \vec{C}x_{1} &= 4 & \vec{C}x_{2} &= 3 & \vec{C}x_{3} &= (0, 0, 1, -4, -5) \\ \vec{M}T &: & \lambda_{max} &= \min\left\{\frac{-18}{-(-4)}, -\frac{10}{-(-5)}\right\} &= \min\left\{\frac{9}{2}, 2\right\} &= 2 & s_{2} \text{ leaving} \\ \vec{M}T &: & \lambda_{max} &= \min\left\{\frac{-18}{-(-4)}, -\frac{10}{-(-5)}\right\} &= \min\left\{\frac{9}{2}, 2\right\} &= 2 & s_{2} \text{ leaving} \\ \vec{N}^{1} &= \vec{X}^{0} + \lambda_{max}\vec{d}^{x_{3}} &= (0, 0, 0, 1, -4, -5) &= (0, 0, 2, 10, 0) \\ \vec{B}^{1} &= \{x_{3}, s_{1}\} \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{x}^{(1)} = (0, 0, 2, (0, 0))$ $\mathcal{B}^{(1)} = 2$	[x3, S,] nonbasic vars: X1, X2, S2	maximize $4x_1 + 3x_2 + 5x_3$ subject to $2x_1 - x_2 + 4x_3 + s_1 = 18$
$\vec{d}_{1}^{X_{1}}, \vec{d}_{2}^{X_{1}} = (1, 0, d_{X_{3}}, d_{S_{1}}, 0)$	$\vec{d}_{1}^{X_{2}}$, $\vec{d}_{2}^{X_{2}} = (0, 1, d_{X_{3}}, d_{S_{1}}, 0)$	$4x_1 + 2x_2 + 5x_3 + s_2 = 10$
$A\vec{l}_{=0}^{x_{1}} = 2 + 4dx_{3} + ds_{1} = 0$	$A\vec{d}_{z=0}^{x_{z}} = -[+ 4dx_{z} + ds_{z}] = 0$	\vec{J}^{S_2} , $\vec{J}^{S_2} = (0, 0, d_{X_2}, d_{S_1}, 1)$
$=) d_{x_3} = -\frac{4}{5} d_{s_1} = -\frac{4}{5}$	$\Rightarrow d_{X_3} = -\frac{2}{5}, d_{S_1} = \frac{13}{5}$	$\overrightarrow{AJ^{s_2}=0} \forall dx_3 + ds_1 = 0$
$\Rightarrow \vec{d}^{X_1} = (1, 0, -\frac{4}{5}, \frac{6}{5}, 0)$	$\Rightarrow \vec{d}^{X_2} = (0, 1, -\frac{2}{5}, \frac{13}{5}, 0)$	$5dx_3 + (= 0)$
$\overline{C}x_{i} = 0$	$\overline{C_{X_2}} = 1$ choose x_2 entening	$= 2 a_{X_3} = -\frac{1}{5} a_{X_1} = 5$ $= \frac{1}{5} a_{X_1} = \frac{1}{5} $
$\frac{1}{2}$		$\overline{C}_{S_2} = -1$
$MRT: \lambda_{max} = min \left[-(\frac{2}{5}) \right] = 3$	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
$\Rightarrow \vec{\chi}^2 = \vec{\chi} + \lambda_{max}\vec{d}^{\chi_2} = (0, 0)$	$2, 10, 0$ + $5(0, 1, -\frac{2}{5}, \frac{13}{5}, 0) = ($	0, 5, 0, 23, 0)
$\mathcal{B}^2 = \left\{ X_{\Sigma_i} S_i \right\}$		
$\vec{\chi}^{2} = (0, 5, 0, 23, 0) \mathcal{B}^{2} = \{\chi$	2, 5, 3	
$\vec{d}_{i}^{k_{1}} = \vec{d}_{i}^{k_{1}} = (1, d_{k_{2}}, o, d_{s_{1}}, o)$	$\vec{d}^{x_3} : \vec{d}^{x_3} = (0, dx_2, 1, ds_1, 0)$	$\vec{J}_{1}^{S_{1}}$, $\vec{J}_{2}^{S_{2}} = (0, d_{1}, 0, d_{2}, 1)$
$A\vec{d} = \vec{o} = d - dx_2 + ds_1 = 0$	$A\vec{J}^{x_3} = \vec{0}$: $4 - d_{x_2} + d_{s_1} = 0$	$A\overline{d}^{s_2}=\overline{0}: -dx_2 + ds_1 = 0$
$4 + 2l_{x_2} = 0$	$5 + 2dx_2 = 0$	$z = \frac{1}{2} \int dx_2 dx_2 dx_3 dx_4 dx_4 dx_4 dx_4 dx_4 dx_4 dx_4 dx_4$
$= \frac{1}{2} $	$\Rightarrow d^{X_3} = (0, -\frac{5}{2}, 1, -\frac{13}{2}, 0)$	$= \frac{1}{4} \frac{S_2}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2$
$\overline{c}_{X_1} = -2$	$\overline{C}_{x_3} = -\frac{5}{2}$	$\hat{c}_{S_2} = -\frac{3}{2}$
No simplex directions are improving $\Rightarrow \bar{x}^{\pm}$ is optimal!		
optimal solution: $\vec{X} = (0, 5)$	0,23,0)	· · · · · · · · · · · · ·
=> In the original LP, x,=0,	$x_1 = 5$, $x_3 = 0$ is an optimal solution	intion "/ value 15.