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$$x_4 = 8 - x_1 - x_2$$

$$x_5 = \quad \quad \quad x_2 - x_3$$



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$$\begin{aligned} Z &= & 8 && + & x_3 & - & x_4 \\ x_1 &= & 8 & - & x_2 && - & x_4 \\ x_5 &= & \square && x_2 & - & x_3 \end{aligned}$$

since $b_5 = 0$ next basic solution will be identical (in particular, objective value remains the same)



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Pivot with x_2 ent.
and x_1 leav.
-----> $(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (0, 8, 8)$
 $z = 16 + \dots$



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$$\begin{array}{rcll} Z & = & & x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \\ x_4 & = & 8 & - x_1 - x_2 \\ x_5 & = & & x_2 - x_3 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{rcll} Z & = & 8 & + x_3 - x_4 \\ x_1 & = & 8 & - x_2 - x_4 \\ x_5 & = & & x_2 - x_3 \end{array}$$

Cycling: Slack forms at two iterations are identical, and SIMPLEX fails to terminate!

↓ Pivot with x_3 entering and x_5 leaving

$$\begin{array}{rcll} Z & = & 8 & + x_2 - x_4 - x_5 \\ x_1 & = & 8 & - x_2 - x_4 \\ x_3 & = & & x_2 - x_5 \end{array}$$



Cycling: SIMPLEX may fail to terminate.



Termination and Running Time

It is theoretically possible, but very rare in practice.

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Anti-Cycling Strategies



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1. Bland's rule: Choose entering variable with smallest index

→ among j with $c_j > 0$



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3. **Perturbation:** Perturb the input slightly so that it is impossible to have two solutions with the same objective value



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Replace each b_i by $\hat{b}_i = b_i + \epsilon_i$ where $\epsilon_i \gg \epsilon_{i+1}$ are all small.

"random" noise



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Lemma 29.7

Assuming INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX returns a slack form for which the basic solution is feasible, SIMPLEX either reports that the program is unbounded or returns a feasible solution in at most $\binom{n+m}{m}$ iterations.



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Every set B of basic variables uniquely determines a slack form, and there are at most $\binom{n+m}{m}$ unique slack forms.



Outline

Introduction

Standard and Slack Forms

Formulating Problems as Linear Programs

Simplex Algorithm

Finding an Initial Solution



Finding an Initial Solution

$$\begin{array}{rllll} \text{maximize} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 & \\ \text{subject to} & & & & \\ & 2x_1 & - & x_2 & \leq 2 \\ & x_1 & - & 5x_2 & \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2 & & & \geq 0 \end{array}$$



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Conversion into slack form



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Conversion into slack form

$$\begin{array}{rll} z & = & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 \end{array}$$

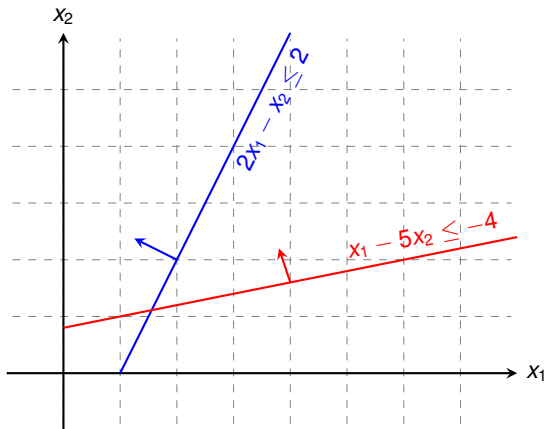
Basic solution $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = (0, 0, 2, -4)$ is not feasible!



Geometric Illustration

maximize
subject to

$$\begin{array}{rcllcl} 2x_1 & - & x_2 & & \\ 2x_1 & - & x_2 & \leq & 2 \\ x_1 & - & 5x_2 & \leq & -4 \\ x_1, x_2 & & & \geq & 0 \end{array}$$



Geometric Illustration

maximize
subject to

$$2x_1 - x_2$$

$$2x_1 - x_2 \leq 2$$

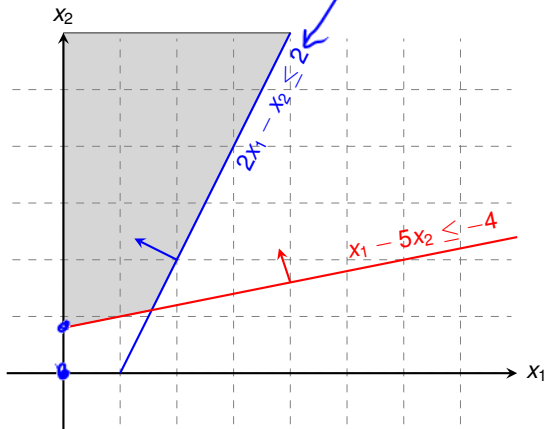
$$x_1 - 5x_2 \leq -4$$

x_1, x_2

\leq
 \leq
 \geq

2
-4
0

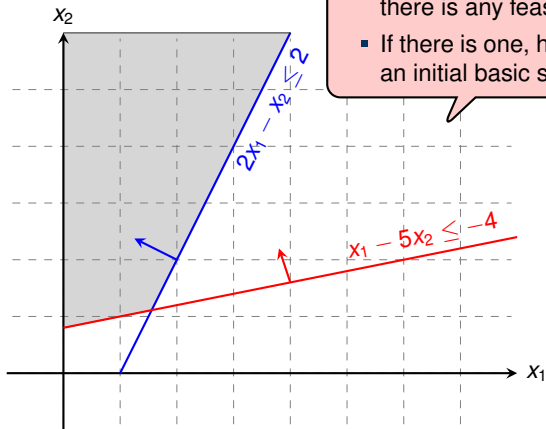
} all points (x_1, x_2) with $2x_1 - x_2 = 2$ are optimal



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Questions:

- How to determine whether there is any feasible solution?
- If there is one, how to determine an initial basic solution?



Formulating an Auxiliary Linear Program

maximize $\sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j$
subject to

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j &\leq b_i && \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ x_j &\geq 0 && \text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$



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maximize
subject to

$$-x_0$$

"Relax" each constraint

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j - x_0 &\leq b_i && \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ x_j &\geq 0 && \text{for } j = 0, 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

minimize x_0 , the "distance" from being feasible



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- “ \Leftarrow ”: Suppose that the optimal objective value of L_{aux} is 0
 - Then $\bar{x}_0 = 0$, and the remaining solution values $(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n)$ satisfy L .



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INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX(A, b, c)

- 1 let k be the index of the minimum b_i
- 2 **if** $b_k \geq 0$ // is the initial basic solution feasible?
- 3 **return** $(\{1, 2, \dots, n\}, \{n+1, n+2, \dots, n+m\}, A, b, c, 0)$
- 4 form L_{aux} by adding $-x_0$ to the left-hand side of each constraint
and setting the objective function to $-x_0$
- 5 let (N, B, A, b, c, v) be the resulting slack form for L_{aux}
- 6 $l = n + k$
- 7 // L_{aux} has $n + 1$ nonbasic variables and m basic variables.
- 8 $(N, B, A, b, c, v) = \text{PIVOT}(N, B, A, b, c, v, l, 0)$
- 9 // The basic solution is now feasible for L_{aux} .
- 10 iterate the **while** loop of lines 3–12 of SIMPLEX until an optimal solution
to L_{aux} is found
- 11 **if** the optimal solution to L_{aux} sets \bar{x}_0 to 0
- 12 **if** \bar{x}_0 is basic
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- 14 from the final slack form of L_{aux} , remove x_0 from the constraints and
restore the original objective function of L , but replace each basic
variable in this objective function by the right-hand side of its
associated constraint
- 15 **return** the modified final slack form
- 16 **else return** “infeasible”



Test solution with $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $B = \{n + 1, n + 2, \dots, n + m\}$, $\bar{x}_i = b_i$ for $i \in B$, $\bar{x}_i = 0$ otherwise.

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l will be the leaving variable so that x_l has the most negative value.

this ensures basic solution becomes feasible after line 8 (non-negative)



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- 14 from the final slack form of L_{aux} , remove x_0 from the constraints and
restore the original objective function of L , but replace each basic
variable in this objective function by the right-hand side of its
associated constraint
- 15 **return** the modified final slack form
- 16 **else return** “infeasible”

Test solution with $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $B = \{n+1, n+2, \dots, n+m\}$, $\bar{x}_i = b_i$ for $i \in B$, $\bar{x}_i = 0$ otherwise.

ℓ will be the leaving variable so that x_ℓ has the most negative value.

Pivot step with x_ℓ leaving and x_0 entering.



INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX

INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX(A, b, c)

- 1 let k be the index of the minimum b_i
- 2 **if** $b_k \geq 0$ // is the initial basic solution feasible?
- 3 **return** $(\{1, 2, \dots, n\}, \{n+1, n+2, \dots, n+m\}, A, b, c, 0)$
- 4 form L_{aux} by adding $-x_0$ to the left-hand side of each constraint
and setting the objective function to $-x_0$
- 5 let (N, B, A, b, c, v) be the resulting slack form for L_{aux}
- 6 $l = n + k$
- 7 // L_{aux} has $n + 1$ nonbasic variables and m basic variables.
- 8 $(N, B, A, b, c, v) = \text{PIVOT}(N, B, A, b, c, v, l, 0)$
- 9 // The basic solution is now feasible for L_{aux} .
- 10 iterate the **while** loop of lines 3–12 of SIMPLEX until an optimal solution
to L_{aux} is found
- 11 **if** the optimal solution to L_{aux} sets \bar{x}_0 to 0
- 12 **if** \bar{x}_0 is basic
- 13 perform one (degenerate) pivot to make it nonbasic
- 14 from the final slack form of L_{aux} , remove x_0 from the constraints and
restore the original objective function of L , but replace each basic
variable in this objective function by the right-hand side of its
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Test solution with $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $B = \{n+1, n+2, \dots, n+m\}$, $\bar{x}_i = b_i$ for $i \in B$, $\bar{x}_i = 0$ otherwise.

ℓ will be the leaving variable so that x_ℓ has the most negative value.

Pivot step with x_ℓ leaving and x_0 entering.

This pivot step does not change the value of any variable.

↓
because $\bar{x}_0 = 0!$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (1/3)

maximize $2x_1 - x_2$
subject to

$$\begin{array}{rcll} 2x_1 - x_2 & \leq & 2 \\ x_1 - 5x_2 & \leq & -4 \\ x_1, x_2 & \geq & 0 \end{array}$$

-4 → "canonical" basic solution is not feasible!



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (1/3)

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{maximize} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & & & \\ & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 & - & 5x_2 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2 & & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

↓
Formulating the auxiliary linear program



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$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{maximize} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 & - & 5x_2 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2 & & \geq 0 \end{array}$$



Formulating the auxiliary linear program

$$\begin{array}{llllll} \text{maximize} & & & & -x_0 & \\ \text{subject to} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 & - & x_0 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 & - & 5x_2 & - & x_0 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_0 & & & & \geq 0 \end{array}$$



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$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{maximize} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 & - & 5x_2 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2 & & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

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Converting into slack form



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (1/3)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & 2x_1 - x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & \\ & 2x_1 - x_2 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 - 5x_2 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Formulating the auxiliary linear program

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & -x_0 \\ \text{subject to} & \\ & 2x_1 - x_2 - x_0 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 - 5x_2 - x_0 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_0 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Converting into slack form

$$\begin{array}{ll} Z = & -x_0 \\ x_3 = & 2 - 2x_1 + x_2 + x_0 \\ x_4 = & -4 - x_1 + 5x_2 + x_0 \end{array}$$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (1/3)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & 2x_1 - x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & \\ & 2x_1 - x_2 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 - 5x_2 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Formulating the auxiliary linear program

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & -x_0 \\ \text{subject to} & \\ & 2x_1 - x_2 - x_0 \leq 2 \\ & x_1 - 5x_2 - x_0 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_0 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Basic solution
(0, 0, 0, 2, -4) not feasible!

Converting into slack form

$$\begin{array}{ll} z & = & & & -x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & + & x_0 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & x_0 \end{array}$$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (2/3)

$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & & & & - & x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & + & x_0 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & x_0 \end{array}$$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (2/3)

$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & & & & - & x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & + & x_0 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & x_0 \end{array}$$

↓ Pivot with x_0 entering and x_4 leaving
(this "degenerate" pivot step ensures all basic variables are non-negative)



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (2/3)

$$\begin{array}{rcllclclcl} Z & = & & & & & - & x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & + & x_0 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & x_0 \end{array}$$

↓ Pivot with x_0 entering and x_4 leaving

$$\begin{array}{rcllclclcl} Z & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & - & x_4 \\ x_0 & = & 4 & + & x_1 & - & 5x_2 & + & x_4 \\ x_3 & = & 6 & - & x_1 & - & 4x_2 & + & x_4 \end{array}$$

↓
 $6 = 2 + 4$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (2/3)

$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & & & & - & x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & + & x_0 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & x_0 \end{array}$$

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Basic solution (4, 0, 0, 6, 0) is feasible!



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$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & & & & - & x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & + & x_0 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & x_0 \end{array}$$

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Basic solution (4, 0, 0, 6, 0) is feasible!

↓ Pivot with x_2 entering and x_0 leaving

$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & & - & x_0 \\ x_2 & = & \frac{4}{5} & - & \frac{x_0}{5} & + & \frac{x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 & = & \frac{14}{5} & + & \frac{4x_0}{5} & - & \frac{9x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \end{array}$$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (2/3)

$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & & & & - & x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 2 & - & 2x_1 & + & x_2 & + & x_0 \\ x_4 & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & + & x_0 \end{array}$$

↓ Pivot with x_0 entering and x_4 leaving

$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & -4 & - & x_1 & + & 5x_2 & - & x_4 \\ x_0 & = & 4 & + & x_1 & - & 5x_2 & + & x_4 \\ x_3 & = & 6 & - & x_1 & - & 4x_2 & + & x_4 \end{array}$$

Basic solution (4, 0, 0, 6, 0) is feasible!

↓ Pivot with x_2 entering and x_0 leaving

$$\begin{array}{rcllclcl} Z & = & & - & x_0 \\ x_2 & = & \frac{4}{5} & - & \frac{x_0}{5} & + & \frac{x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 & = & \frac{14}{5} & + & \frac{4x_0}{5} & - & \frac{9x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \end{array}$$

Optimal solution has $x_0 = 0$, hence the initial problem was feasible!



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (3/3)

$$\begin{array}{rclclclcl} Z & = & & - & x_0 & & & & \\ x_2 & = & \frac{4}{5} & - & \frac{x_0}{5} & + & \frac{x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 & = & \frac{14}{5} & + & \frac{4x_0}{5} & - & \frac{9x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \end{array}$$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (3/3)

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= && - && x_0 \\ x_2 &= & \frac{4}{5} & - & \frac{x_0}{5} & + & \frac{x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 &= & \frac{14}{5} & + & \frac{4x_0}{5} & - & \frac{9x_1}{5} & + & \frac{x_4}{5} \end{aligned}$$

↓ Set $x_0 = 0$ and express objective function by non-basic variables



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (3/3)

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= -x_0 \\ x_2 &= \frac{4}{5} - \frac{x_0}{5} + \frac{x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 &= \frac{14}{5} + \frac{4x_0}{5} - \frac{9x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$2x_1 - 2x_2 = 2x_1 - \left(\frac{4}{5} - \frac{x_0}{5} + \frac{x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \right)$$

Set $x_0 = 0$ and express objective function by non-basic variables

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= -\frac{4}{5} + \frac{9x_1}{5} - \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_2 &= \frac{4}{5} + \frac{x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 &= \frac{14}{5} - \frac{9x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \end{aligned}$$



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (3/3)

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= & - & x_0 \\ x_2 &= & \frac{4}{5} & - \frac{x_0}{5} + \frac{x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 &= & \frac{14}{5} & + \frac{4x_0}{5} - \frac{9x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \end{aligned}$$

Set $x_0 = 0$ and express objective function by non-basic variables

$$2x_1 - 2x_2 = 2x_1 - \left(\frac{4}{5} - \frac{x_0}{5} + \frac{x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5}\right)$$

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Slack form
returned by
INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX

Basic solution $(0, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{14}{5}, 0)$, which is feasible!

→ Main Loop of SIMPLEX
can be now executed



Example of INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX (3/3)

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= -x_0 \\ x_2 &= \frac{4}{5} - \frac{x_0}{5} + \frac{x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \\ x_3 &= \frac{14}{5} + \frac{4x_0}{5} - \frac{9x_1}{5} + \frac{x_4}{5} \end{aligned}$$

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Basic solution $(0, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{14}{5}, 0)$, which is feasible!

Lemma 29.12

If a linear program L has no feasible solution, then INITIALIZE-SIMPLEX returns “infeasible”. Otherwise, it returns a valid slack form for which the basic solution is feasible.



Fundamental Theorem of Linear Programming

Theorem 29.13

Any linear program L , given in standard form, either

1. has an optimal solution with a finite objective value,
2. is infeasible, or
3. is unbounded.

If L is infeasible, SIMPLEX returns “infeasible”. If L is unbounded, SIMPLEX returns “unbounded”. Otherwise, SIMPLEX returns an optimal solution with a finite objective value.

proof non-trivial and requires
concept of “dual Linear program.”
[CLRS3, Chapter 29.4]



Linear Programming and Simplex: Summary

Linear Programming



Linear Programming and Simplex: Summary

Linear Programming

- extremely versatile tool for modelling problems of all kinds



Linear Programming and Simplex: Summary

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- extremely versatile tool for modelling problems of all kinds
- basis of [Integer Programming](#), to be discussed in later lectures



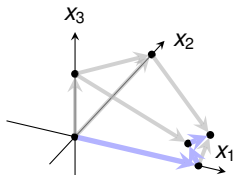
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- **In practice**: usually terminates in polynomial time, i.e., $O(m + n)$



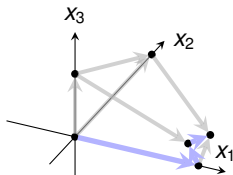
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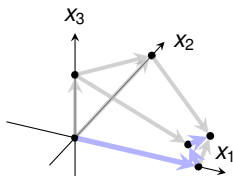
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- **In practice**: usually terminates in polynomial time, i.e., $O(m + n)$
- **In theory**: even with anti-cycling may need exponential time

Research Problem: Is there a pivoting rule which makes SIMPLEX a polynomial-time algorithm?

→ different rules lead to different instantiations of SIMPLEX



Linear Programming and Simplex: Summary

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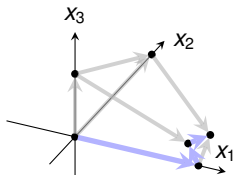
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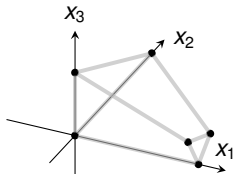
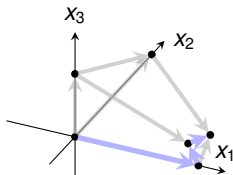
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Polynomial-Time Algorithms

- Interior-Point Methods**: traverses the interior of the feasible set of solutions (not just vertices!)



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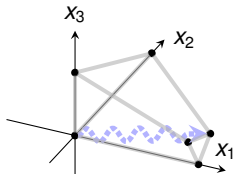
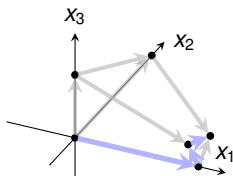
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Polynomial-Time Algorithms

- Interior-Point Methods**: traverses the interior of the feasible set of solutions (not just vertices!)

more complicated



IV. Approximation Algorithms: Covering Problems

Thomas Sauerwald

Easter 2015



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Outline

Introduction

Vertex Cover

The Set-Covering Problem



Many fundamental problems are **NP-complete**, yet they are too important to be abandoned.



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Examples: HAMILTON, 3-SAT, VERTEX-COVER, KNAPSACK,...



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Strategies to cope with NP-complete problems

1. If inputs (or solutions) are small, an algorithm with **exponential running time** may be satisfactory.
2. Isolate important **special cases** which can be solved in polynomial-time.
3. Develop algorithms which find **near-optimal** solutions in polynomial-time.



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2. Isolate important **special cases** which can be solved in polynomial-time.
3. **Develop algorithms which find near-optimal solutions in polynomial-time.**

We will call these **approximation algorithms**.



Performance Ratios for Approximation Algorithms

Approximation Ratio

An algorithm for a problem has **approximation ratio** $\rho(n)$, if for any input of size n , the cost C of the returned solution and optimal cost C^* satisfy:

$$\max\left(\frac{C}{C^*}, \frac{C^*}{C}\right) \leq \rho(n).$$



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For many problems: **tradeoff** between **runtime** and **approximation ratio**.



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An **approximation scheme** is an approximation algorithm, which given any input and $\epsilon > 0$, is a $(1 + \epsilon)$ -approximation algorithm.

- It is a **polynomial-time approximation scheme** (PTAS) if for any fixed $\epsilon > 0$, the runtime is polynomial in n .



Performance Ratios for Approximation Algorithms

Approximation Ratio

An algorithm for a problem has **approximation ratio** $\rho(n)$, if for any input of size n , the cost C of the returned solution and optimal cost C^* satisfy:

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Outline

Introduction

Vertex Cover

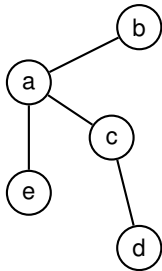
The Set-Covering Problem



The Vertex-Cover Problem

Vertex Cover Problem

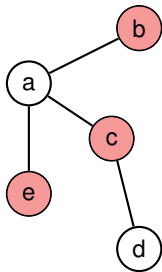
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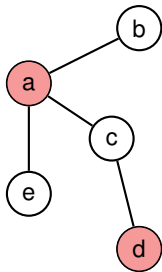
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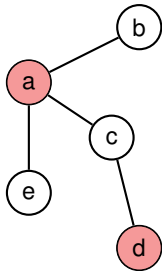


The Vertex-Cover Problem

We are covering edges by picking vertices!

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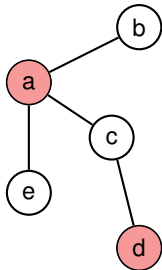
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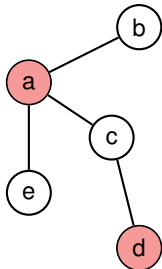
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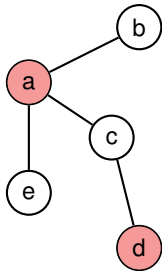
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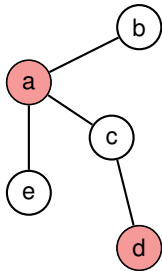
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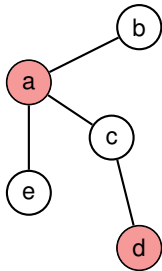
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Applications:

- Every **edge** forms a **task**, and every **vertex** represents a **person/machine** which can execute that task
- Perform all tasks with the **minimal amount of resources**
- **Extensions:** weighted ~~edges~~ **vertices** or hypergraphs



An Approximation Algorithm based on Greedy

APPROX-VERTEX-COVER(G)

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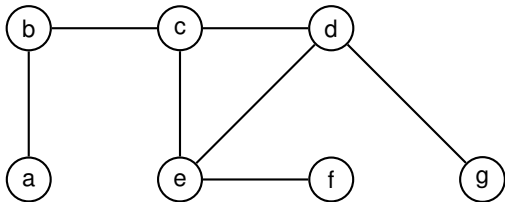
potentially many choices



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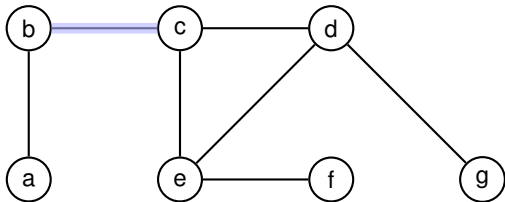
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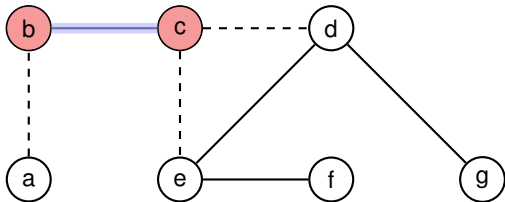
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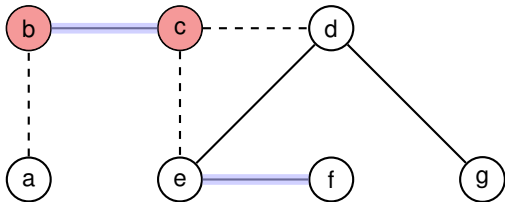
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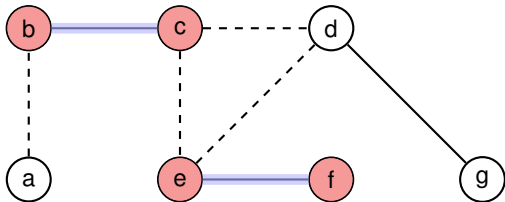
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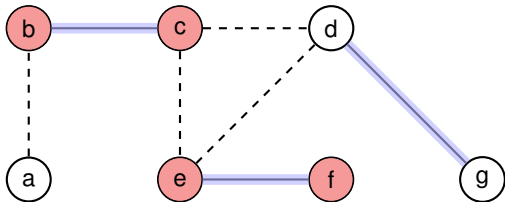
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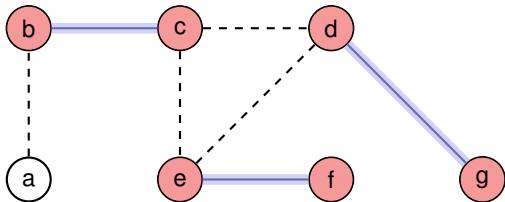
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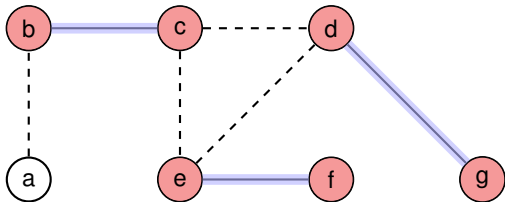
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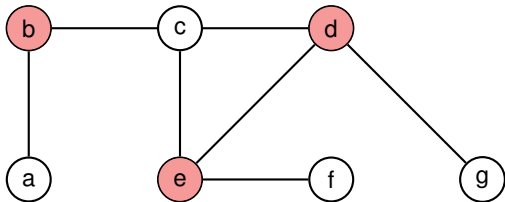
APPROX-VERTEX-COVER produces a set of size 6.



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The optimal solution has size 3.



Analysis of Greedy for Vertex Cover

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We can bound the size of the returned solution without knowing the (size of an) optimal solution!

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