



6.3.1

6.3: The Dual Problem: Minimization with \geq Problem Constraints

The simplex method can be modified to solve minimization problems.

The transpose of a matrix:

The transpose of a matrix A is called A^T and is formed by interchanging the rows and columns of A .

Example 1: Find the transpose of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$. (3×2)

$$A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2 \times 3)$$

The dual problem:

Every minimization problem with \geq constraints can be associated with a maximization problem with \leq constraints. This maximization problem is called the *dual problem*.

Example 1: Minimize $C = 2y_1 + y_2$

Standard
Minimization
Problem

Subject to $y_1 + y_2 \geq 8$

$y_1 + 2y_2 \geq 4$

$y_1 \geq 0$

$y_2 \geq 0$

First, we create a matrix A using the constraints and the objective function, with the objective function on the bottom row:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 8 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

Next, form the transpose A^T :

$$A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 8 & 4 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

From the transpose, write a new linear programming problem with new variables:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 8 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 &\leq 2 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 &\leq 1 \\ 8x_1 + 4x_2 &= Z \end{aligned}$$

note these are \leq now

All variables must be new

The dual problem is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize } Z &= 8x_1 + 4x_2 \\ x_1 + x_2 &\leq 2 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 &\leq 1 \\ x_1 &\geq 0 \\ x_2 &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

know how to write the dual problem

the dual problem is a standard maximization problem (can do Simplex on it)

Theorem of Duality:

The objective function w of a minimizing linear programming problem takes on a minimum value if and only if the objective function z of the corresponding dual maximizing problem takes on a maximum value. The maximum value of z is equal to the minimum value of w .

So, after forming the dual problem, use the simplex method to solve it.

- For slack variables, use the variables of the original minimization problem.
- When writing the solution, the values of the original variables are read from the bottom row.

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 + y_1 &= 2 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 + y_2 &= 1 \\ -8x_1 - 4x_2 + z &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

	x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z	RHS
	1	1	1	0	0	2
	1	2	0	1	0	1
	-8	-4	0	0	1	0

$\frac{2}{1} = 2$
 $\frac{1}{1} = 1 \leftarrow \text{smallest}$

most negative

$$\begin{aligned} -1R_1 + R_2 &\rightarrow R_2 \\ 8R_1 + R_2 &\rightarrow R_2 \end{aligned}$$

Do the pivot:

	x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z	RHS
	0	-1	1	-1	0	1
	1	2	0	1	0	1
	0	12	0	0	1	8

read values of y_1 and y_2 in original problem

Solution to Dual Problem:

max is $z=8$, reached when $x_1=1$ and $x_2=0$

Solution to Original Minimization Problem

min is $L=8$, reached when $y_1=0$ and $y_2=8$

Example 2: (Example from Section 5.3—plant food)

$$\text{Minimize } C = 30x_1 + 35x_2$$

$$\text{Subject to } 20x_1 + 10x_2 \geq 460$$

$$30x_1 + 30x_2 \geq 960$$

$$5x_1 + 10x_2 \geq 220$$

$$x_1 \geq 0$$

$$x_2 \geq 0$$

Example 3: An oil company operates two refineries in a certain city. Refinery I has an output of 200, 100, and 100 barrels of low-, medium-, and high-grade oil per day, respectively. Refinery II has an output of 100, 200, and 600 barrels of low-, medium-, and high-grade oil per day, respectively. The company wishes to produce at least 1000, 1400, and 3000 barrels of low-, medium-, and high-grade oil to fill an order. If it costs \$20,000/day to operate refinery I and \$30,000/day to operate refinery II, determine how many days each refinery should be operated to meet the requirements of the order at minimum cost to the company.