5.3 Strong Duality

$P = \max\{c^T x \mid Ax \le b, x \ge 0\}$

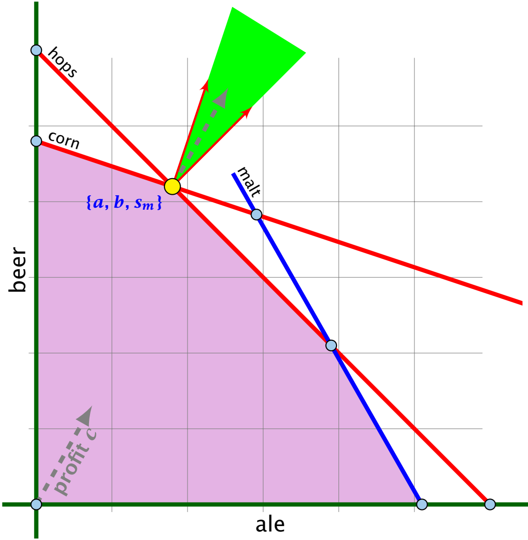
n_A: number of variables, m_A: number of constraints

We can put the non-negativity constraints into A (which gives us unrestricted variables): $\bar{P} = \max\{c^T x \mid \bar{A}x \le \bar{b}\}$

$n_{\bar{A}} = n_A$, $m_{\bar{A}} = m_A + n_A$

Dual $D = \min\{\bar{b}^T y \mid \bar{A}^T y = c, y \ge 0\}$.

5.3 Strong Duality



The profit vector c lies in the cone generated by the normals for the hops and the corn constraint (the tight constraints).

Strong Duality

Theorem 2 (Strong Duality)

Let P and D be a primal dual pair of linear programs, and let z^* and w^* denote the optimal solution to P and D, respectively. Then

$$z^* = w^*$$

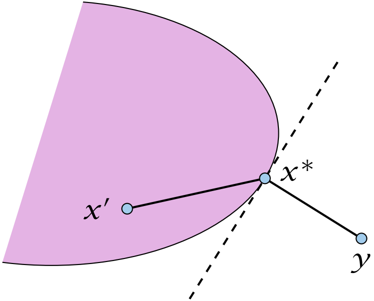
Lemma 3 (Weierstrass)

Let X be a compact set and let $f(x)$ be a continuous function on X. Then $\min\{f(x) : x \in X\}$ exists.

(without proof)

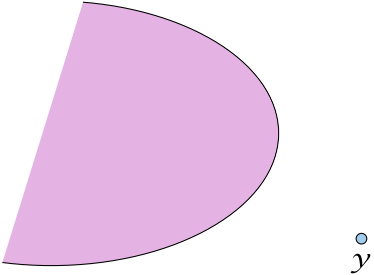
Lemma 4 (Projection Lemma)

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be a non-empty convex set, and let $y \notin X$. Then there exist $x^* \in X$ with minimum distance from y. Moreover for all $x \in X$ we have $(y - x^*)^T(x - x^*) \le 0$.



Proof of the Projection Lemma

- Define $f(x) = \|y - x\|$.
- We want to apply Weierstrass but X may not be bounded.
- $X \neq \emptyset$. Hence, there exists $x' \in X$.
- Define $X' = \{x \in X \mid \|y - x\| \leq \|y - x'\|\}$. This set is closed and bounded.
- Applying Weierstrass gives the existence.



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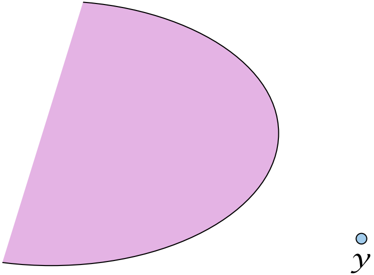

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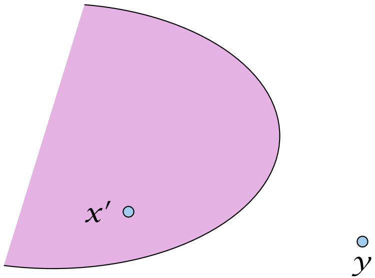

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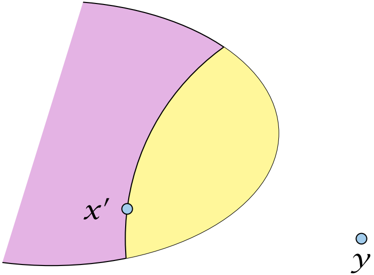

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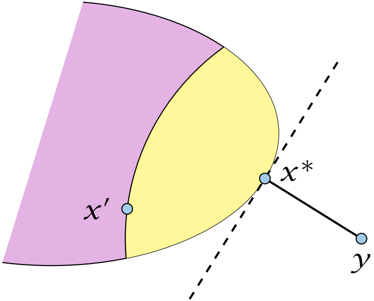

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By convexity: $x \in X$ then $x^* + \epsilon(x - x^*) \in X$ for all $0 \leq \epsilon \leq 1$.

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$$\|y - x^*\|^2 \le \|y - x^* - \epsilon(x - x^*)\|^2$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\|y - x^*\|^2 &\le \|y - x^* - \epsilon(x - x^*)\|^2 \\ &= \|y - x^*\|^2 + \epsilon^2\|x - x^*\|^2 - 2\epsilon(y - x^*)^T(x - x^*)\end{aligned}$$

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Hence, $(y - x^*)^T(x - x^*) \leq \frac{1}{2}\epsilon\|x - x^*\|^2$.

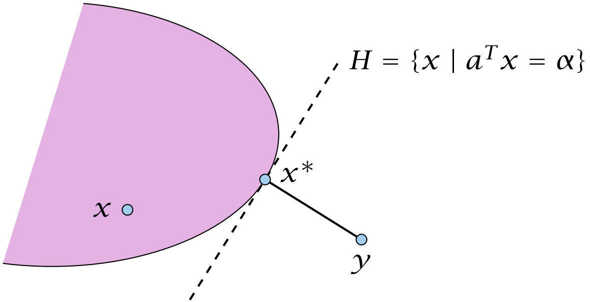
Letting $\epsilon \to 0$ gives the result.

Theorem 5 (Separating Hyperplane)

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ be a non-empty closed convex set, and let $y \notin X$. Then there exists a separating hyperplane $\{x \in \mathbb{R} : a^T x = \alpha\}$ where $a \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ that separates y from X. ($a^T y < \alpha$; $a^T x \geq \alpha$ for all $x \in X$)

Proof of the Hyperplane Lemma

- Let $x^* \in X$ be closest point to y in X.
- By previous lemma $(y - x^*)^T(x - x^*) \leq 0$ for all $x \in X$.
- Choose $a = (x^* - y)$ and $\alpha = a^T x^*$.
- For $x \in X : a^T(x - x^*) \geq 0$, and, hence, $a^T x \geq \alpha$.
- Also, $a^T y = a^T(x^* - a) = \alpha - \|a\|^2 < \alpha$



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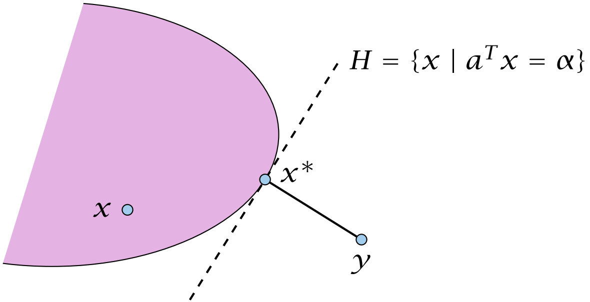

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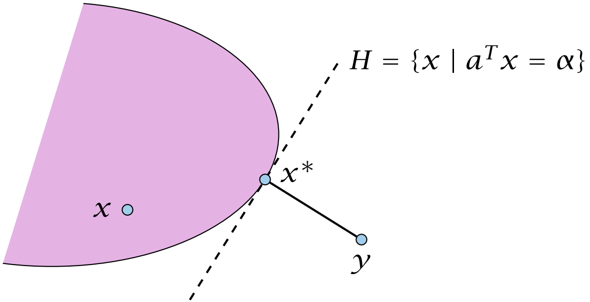

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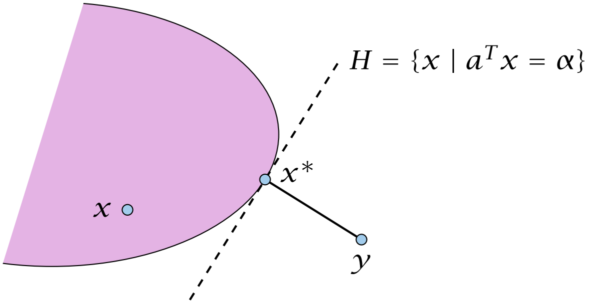

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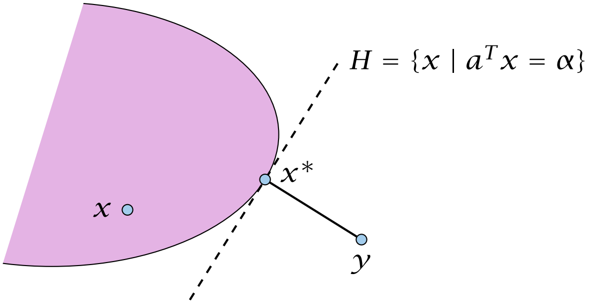

Lemma 6 (Farkas Lemma)

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Then exactly one of the following statements holds.

1. $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ *with* $Ax = b$, $x \geq 0$
2. $\exists y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ *with* $A^T y \geq 0$, $b^T y < 0$

Assume $\hat{x}$ satisfies 1. and $\hat{y}$ satisfies 2. Then

$$0 > y^T b = y^T A x \geq 0$$

Hence, at most one of the statements can hold.

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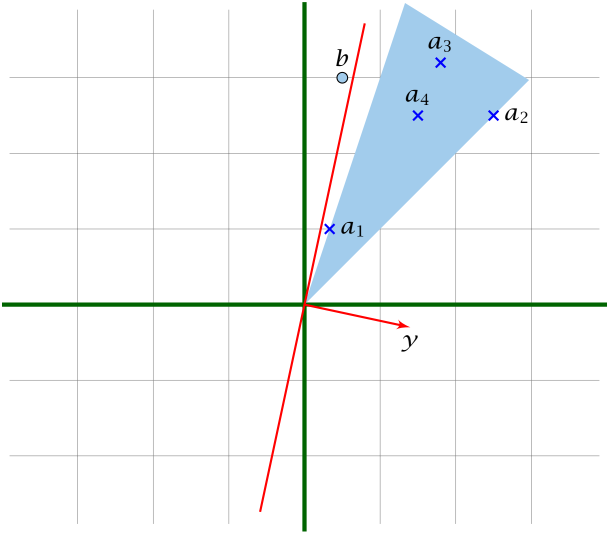
Farkas Lemma



If b is not in the cone generated by the columns of A, there exists a hyperplane y that separates b from the cone.

Proof of Farkas Lemma

Now, assume that 1. does not hold.

Consider $S = \{Ax : x \geq 0\}$ so that S closed, convex, $b \notin S$.

We want to show that there is y with $A^T y \geq 0$, $b^T y < 0$.

Let y be a hyperplane that separates b from S. Hence, $y^T b < \alpha$ and $y^T s \geq \alpha$ for all $s \in S$.

$0 \in S \Rightarrow \alpha \leq 0 \Rightarrow y^T b < 0$

$y^T Ax \geq \alpha$ for all $x \geq 0$. Hence, $y^T A \geq 0$ as we can choose x arbitrarily large.

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Lemma 7 (Farkas Lemma; different version)

Let A be an $m \times n$ matrix, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Then exactly one of the following statements holds.

1. $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ *with* $Ax \leq b$, $x \geq 0$
2. $\exists y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ *with* $A^T y \geq 0$, $b^T y < 0$, $y \geq 0$

Rewrite the conditions:

1. $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $\begin{bmatrix} A & I \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ s \end{bmatrix} = b$, $x \geq 0$, $s \geq 0$
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Proof of Strong Duality

P: $z = \max\{c^T x \mid Ax \le b, x \ge 0\}$

D: $w = \min\{b^T y \mid A^T y \ge c, y \ge 0\}$

Theorem 8 (Strong Duality)

Let P and D be a primal dual pair of linear programs, and let z and w denote the optimal solution to P and D, respectively (i.e., P and D are non-empty). Then

$$z = w \ .$$

Proof of Strong Duality

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$z \leq w$: follows from weak duality

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$$\begin{array}{lrcl} \exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n & & & \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax & \leq & b \\ & -c^T x & \leq & -\alpha \\ & x & \geq & 0 \end{array}$$

Proof of Strong Duality

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From the definition of α we know that the first system is infeasible; hence the second must be feasible.

Proof of Strong Duality

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If the solution y, v has $v = 0$ we have that

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is feasible.

Proof of Strong Duality

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is feasible. By Farkas lemma this gives that LP P is infeasible. Contradiction to the assumption of the lemma.

Proof of Strong Duality

Hence, there exists a solution y, v with $v > 0$.

We can rescale this solution (scaling both y and v) s.t. $v = 1$.

Then y is feasible for the dual but $b^T y < \alpha$. This means that $w < \alpha$.

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Fundamental Questions

Definition 9 (Linear Programming Problem (LP))

Let $A \in \mathbb{Q}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{Q}^m$, $c \in \mathbb{Q}^n$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$. Does there exist $x \in \mathbb{Q}^n$ s.t. $Ax = b$, $x \geq 0$, $c^T x \geq \alpha$?

Questions:

- Is LP in NP?
- Is LP in co-NP? yes!
- Is LP in P?

Proof:

- Given a primal maximization problem P and a parameter α. Suppose that $\alpha > \text{opt}(P)$.
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