

Interpretation of Duality and Duality theorem

Dualization for everyone:

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

	primal	dual
variables	x_1, \dots, x_n	y_1, \dots, y_m
matrix	A	A^T
right hand	\mathbf{b}	\mathbf{c}
objective	$\max \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$	$\min \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y}$
constraint	i th constrain \leq	$y_i \geq 0$
	i th constrain \geq	$y_i \leq 0$
	i th constrain $=$	$y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
	$x_i \geq 0$	i th constrain \geq
	$x_i \leq 0$	i th constrain \leq
	$x_i \in \mathbb{R}$	i th constrain $=$

Diet problem: How much apricots (x_1), bananas (x_2) and cucumbers (x_3) does one have to eat to get enough of Vit A, C, K? Minimize the cost.

Need to know: % of daily value and cost:

	A	C	K	\$	ammount
apricots	60	26	6	1.53	155g
bananas	3	33	1	0.37	225g
cucumbers	2	7	12	0.18	133g

1: Write Linear Program (P) solving the diet problem and write also its dual (D).

2: What are units of y_i in (D)?

(Hint: inequalities need to make sense in units. This is known as a *dimensional analysis*.)

(y_i s are known as *shadow prices*.)

3: Imagine you want to create a multivitamin pills ACK. What is the maximum price of one ACK pill if it has to deliver 100% of recommended daily value of vitamins A,C, and K and it must beat any fruit and vegetable in terms of price?

(If you don't manage to beat fruit and vegetable, nobody will buy your fancy ACK pill.)

(Compute your price as a combination of prices of each of the vitamins.)

(Look at (D).)

Strong Duality Theorem

For the linear programs

$$\text{maximize } \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \text{ subject to } A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b} \text{ and } \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (P)$$

and

$$\text{minimize } \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y} \text{ subject to } A^T \mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{c} \text{ and } \mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0} \quad (D)$$

exactly one of the following possibilities occurs:

1. Neither (P) nor (D) has a feasible solution.
2. (P) is unbounded and (D) has no feasible solution.
3. (P) has no feasible solution and (D) is unbounded.
4. Both (P) and (D) have a feasible solution. Then both have an optimal solution, and if \mathbf{x}^* is an optimal solution of (P) and \mathbf{y}^* is an optimal solution of (D), then

$$\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y}^*.$$

That is, *the maximum of (P) equals the minimum of (D).*