

Duality (I)

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Outline

- The Lagrange Dual Function
 - The Lagrange Dual Function
 - Lower Bound on Optimal Value
 - The Lagrange Dual Function and Conjugate Functions
- The Lagrange Dual Problem
 - Making Dual Constraints Explicit
 - Weak Duality
 - Strong Duality and Slater's Constraint Qualification



Optimization Problems

□ Standard Form

$$\begin{aligned} & \min f_0(x) \\ \text{s. t. } & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

- Domain is nonempty

$$\mathcal{D} = \bigcap_{i=0}^m \text{dom } f_i \cap \bigcap_{i=1}^p \text{dom } h_i$$

- Denote the optimal value by p^*
- We do **not** assume the problem is convex



The Lagrangian

□ The Lagrangian $L: \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \mapsto \mathbf{R}$

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x)$$

- $\text{dom } L = \mathcal{D} \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p$
- λ_i : the Lagrange multiplier associated with the i -th inequality constraint $f_i(x) \leq 0$
- ν_i : the Lagrange multiplier associated with the i -th equality constraint $h_i(x) = 0$
- Vectors λ and ν : **dual variables** or Lagrange multiplier vectors



The Lagrange Dual Function

□ $g: \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \mapsto \mathbf{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) \\ &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} \left(f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x) \right) \end{aligned}$$

- When L is unbounded below in x , $g = -\infty$
- g is **concave**
 - ✓ g is the pointwise infimum of a family of affine functions of (λ, ν)
- It is **unconstrained**



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Lower Bounds on p^*

- For any $\lambda \geq 0$ and any ν

$$g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$$

- Proof

- \tilde{x} is a feasible point for original problem

$$f_i(\tilde{x}) \leq 0, h_i(\tilde{x}) = 0$$

- Since $\lambda \geq 0$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(\tilde{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(\tilde{x}) \leq 0$$

- Therefore

$$L(\tilde{x}, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(\tilde{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(\tilde{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(\tilde{x}) \leq f_0(\tilde{x})$$



Lower Bounds on p^*

- For any $\lambda \geq 0$ and any ν

$$g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$$

- Proof

- Hence

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) \leq L(\tilde{x}, \lambda, \nu) \leq f_0(\tilde{x})$$

- Note that $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq f_0(\tilde{x})$ for any feasible \tilde{x}

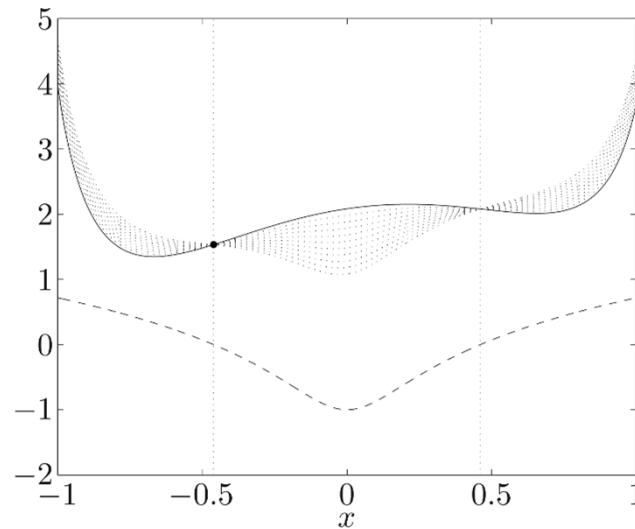
- Discussions

- The lower bound is vacuous, when $g(\lambda, \nu) = -\infty$
 - It is nontrivial only when $\lambda \geq 0, (\lambda, \nu) \in \text{dom } g$
 - Dual feasible: (λ, ν) with $\lambda \geq 0, (\lambda, \nu) \in \text{dom } g$



Example

- A Simple Problem with $x \in \mathbb{R}, m = 1, p = 0$
 - Lower bound from a dual feasible point

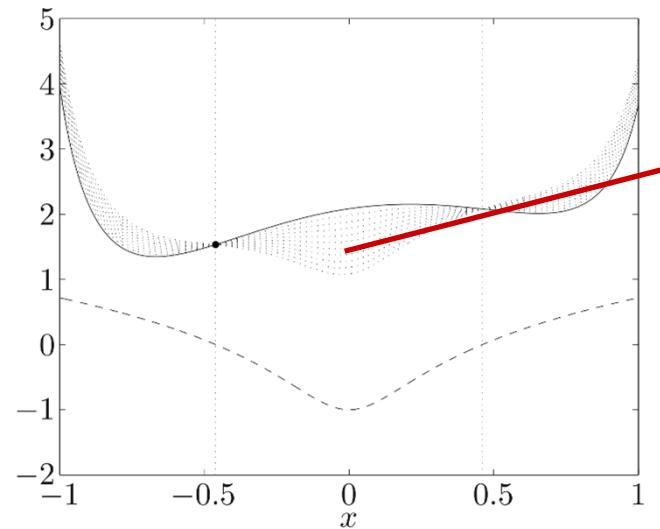


- ✓ Solid curve: objective function f_0
- ✓ Dashed curve: constraint function f_1
- ✓ Feasible set: $[-0.46, 0.46]$ (indicated by the two dotted vertical lines)



Example

- A Simple Problem with $x \in \mathbb{R}, m = 1, p = 0$
 - Lower bound from a dual feasible point



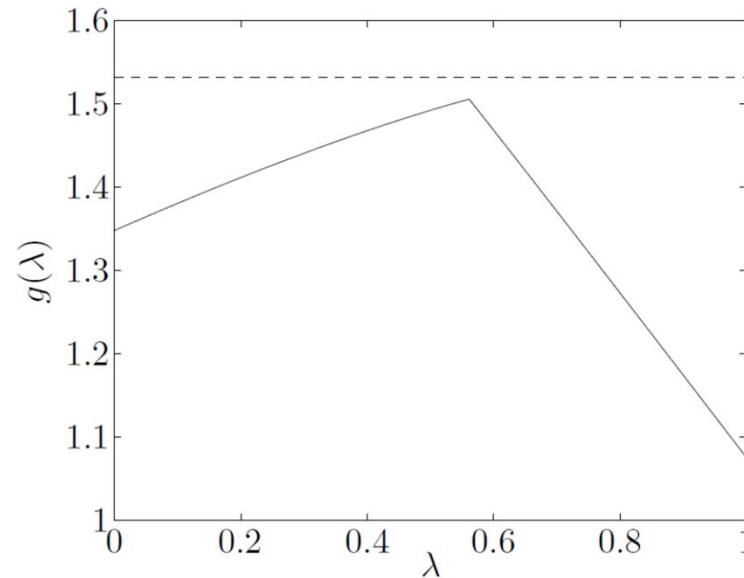
$$\begin{aligned}g(\lambda) &= \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} L(x, \lambda) \\&\leq L(x, \lambda) \leq f_0(x)\end{aligned}$$

- ✓ Optimal point and value: $x^* = -0.46, p^* = 1.54$
- ✓ Dotted curves: $L(x, \lambda)$ for $\lambda = 0.1, 0.2, \dots, 1.0$.
 - Each has a minimum value smaller than p^* as on the feasible set (and for $\lambda > 0$), $L(x, \lambda) \leq f_0(x)$



Example

□ The dual function g



- Neither f_0 nor f_1 is convex, but the dual function g is **concave**
- Horizontal dashed line: p^* (the optimal value of the problem)



Example

□ Least-squares Solution of Linear Equations

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T x \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$
- No inequality constraints
- p (linear) equality constraints

□ Lagrangian

$$L(x, v) = x^T x + v^T (Ax - b)$$

- Domain: $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p$



Example

□ Least-squares Solution of Linear Equations

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T x \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

□ Dual Function

$$g(\nu) = \inf_x L(x, \nu) = \inf_x x^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b)$$

■ Optimality condition

$$\nabla_x L(x, \nu) = 2x + A^T \nu = 0 \Rightarrow x = -(1/2)A^T \nu$$



Example

- Least-squares Solution of Linear Equations

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T x \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

- Dual Function

$$\Rightarrow g(\nu) = L(-(1/2)A^T \nu, \nu) = -(1/4)\nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu$$

- Concave Function

- Lower Bound Property

$$-(1/4)\nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu \leq \inf \{x^T x \mid Ax = b\}$$



Example

□ Standard Form LP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

■ Inequality constraints: $f_i(x) = -x_i, i = 1, \dots, n$

□ Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} L(x, \lambda, \nu) &= c^T x - \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i x_i + \nu^T (Ax - b) \\ &= -b^T \nu + (c + A^T \nu - \lambda)^T x \end{aligned}$$

□ Dual Function

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_x L(x, \lambda, \nu) \\ &= -b^T \nu + \inf_x (c + A^T \nu - \lambda)^T x \end{aligned}$$



Example

□ Standard Form LP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Inequality constraints: $f_i(x) = -x_i, i = 1, \dots, n$

□ Dual Function

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^\top \nu & A^\top \nu - \lambda + c = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- The lower bound is nontrivial only when λ and ν satisfy $\lambda \geq 0$ and $A^\top \nu - \lambda + c = 0$



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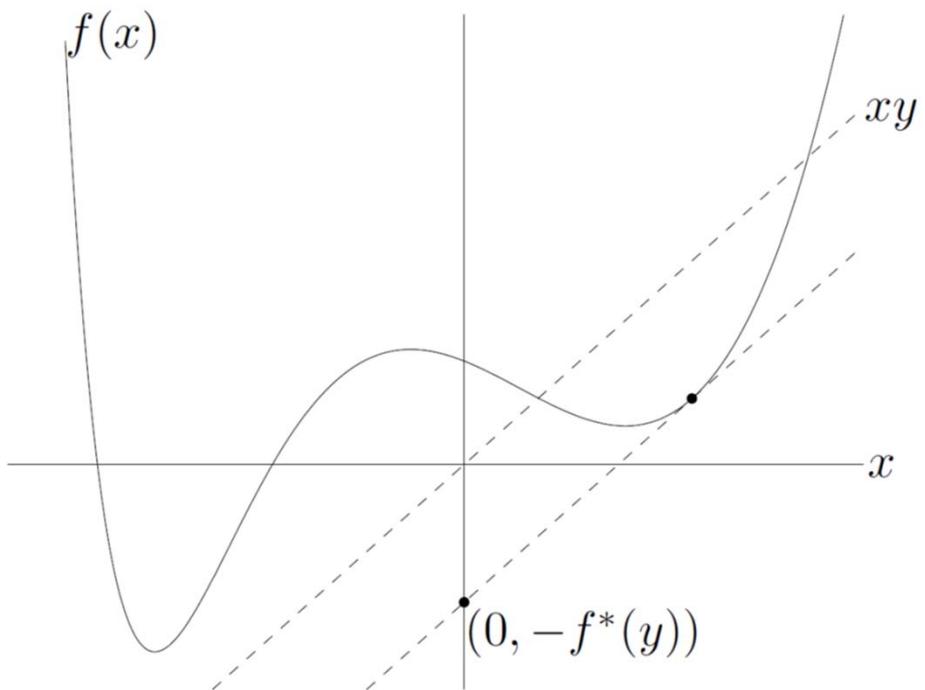


Conjugate Function

□ $f: \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$. Its conjugate function is

$$f^*(y) = \sup_{x \in \text{dom } f} (y^\top x - f(x))$$

- $\text{dom } f^* = \{y | f^*(y) < \infty\}$
- f^* is always convex





The Lagrange Dual Function and Conjugate Functions

□ A Simple Example

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(x) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & x = 0 \end{aligned}$$

□ Lagrangian

$$L(x, \nu) = f(x) + \nu^\top x$$

□ Dual Function

$$\begin{aligned} g(\nu) &= \inf_x (f(x) + \nu^\top x) \\ &= - \sup_x ((-\nu)^\top x - f(x)) = -f^*(-\nu) \end{aligned}$$



The Lagrange Dual Function and Conjugate Functions

□ A More General Example

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_0(x) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \\ & Cx = d \end{aligned}$$

□ Lagrangian

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \lambda^\top(Ax - b) + \nu^\top(Cx - d)$$

□ Dual Function

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_x (f_0(x) + \lambda^\top(Ax - b) + \nu^\top(Cx - d)) \\ &= -b^\top\lambda - d^\top\nu + \inf_x (f_0(x) + (A^\top\lambda + C^\top\nu)^\top x) \\ &= -b^\top\lambda - d^\top\nu - f_0^*(-A^\top\lambda - C^\top\nu) \end{aligned}$$



The Lagrange Dual Function and Conjugate Functions

□ A More General Example

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_0(x) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \\ & Cx = d \end{aligned}$$

□ Lagrangian

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \lambda^\top(Ax - b) + \nu^\top(Cx - d)$$

□ Dual Function

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = -b^\top \lambda - d^\top \nu - f_0^*(-A^\top \lambda - C^\top \nu)$$

$$\blacksquare \quad \text{dom } g = \{(\lambda, \nu) \mid -A^\top \lambda - C^\top \nu \in \text{dom } f_0^*\}$$



Example

□ Equality Constrained Norm Minimization

$$\begin{aligned} & \min && \|x\| \\ & \text{s. t.} && Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

□ Conjugate of $f_0 = \|\cdot\|$

$$f_0^*(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \|y\|_* \leq 1, \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

□ The Dual Function

$$g(v) = -b^\top v - f_0^*(-A^\top v) = \begin{cases} -b^\top v & \|A^\top v\|_* \leq 1, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Example

□ Entropy Maximization

$$\min f_0(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \log x_i$$

$$\text{s. t. } Ax \leq b$$

$$\mathbf{1}^\top x = 1$$

□ Conjugate of f_0

$$f_0^*(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n e^{y_i - 1}$$

□ The Dual Function

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= -b^\top \lambda - \nu - f_0^*(-A^\top \lambda - \nu \mathbf{1}) \\ &= -b^\top \lambda - \nu - \sum_{i=1}^n e^{-a_i^\top \lambda - \nu - 1} \\ &= -b^\top \lambda - \nu - e^{-\nu - 1} \sum_{i=1}^n e^{-a_i^\top \lambda} \end{aligned}$$



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□ The Lagrange Dual Problem

- Making Dual Constraints Explicit
- Weak Duality
- Strong Duality and Slater's Constraint Qualification



The Lagrange Dual Problem

- For any $\lambda \geq 0$ and any ν

$$g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$$

- What is the best lower bound?

- Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \max && g(\lambda, \nu) \\ & \text{s.t.} && \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Primal Problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \min && f_0(x) \\ & \text{s.t.} && f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \quad (1) \\ & && h_i(x) = 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$



The Lagrange Dual Problem

- For any $\lambda \geq 0$ and any ν

$$g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$$

- What is the best lower bound?

- Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \quad g(\lambda, \nu) \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Dual feasible: (λ, ν) with $\lambda \geq 0, g(\lambda, \nu) > -\infty$
- Dual optimal or optimal Lagrange multipliers: (λ^*, ν^*)
- A convex optimization problem



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Making Dual Constraints Explicit

□ Motivation

- The $\text{dom } g = \{(\lambda, \nu) \mid g(\lambda, \nu) > -\infty\}$ may have dimension $\leq m + p$
- Identify the equality constraints that are 'hidden' or 'implicit' in g

□ Standard Form LP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^\top x \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

□ Dual Function

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^\top \nu & A^\top \nu - \lambda + c = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Example

□ Lagrange Dual of Standard Form LP

■ Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & g(\lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^T \nu & A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

■ An Equivalent Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -b^T \nu \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0 \\ & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- ✓ Make equality constraints explicit



Example

□ Lagrange Dual of Standard Form LP

■ Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & g(\lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^T \nu & A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

■ Another Equivalent Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -b^T \nu \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A^T \nu + c \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

✓ An LP in inequality form

Standard Form LP

Lagrange Dual

Inequality Form LP



Example

□ Lagrange Dual of Inequality Form LP

■ Inequality form LP (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \end{aligned}$$

■ Lagrangian

$$L(x, \lambda) = c^T x + \lambda^T (Ax - b) = -b^T \lambda + (A^T \lambda + c)^T x$$

■ Lagrange dual function

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda) &= \inf_x L(x, \lambda) = -b^T \lambda + \inf_x (A^T \lambda + c)^T x \\ &= \begin{cases} -b^T \lambda & A^T \lambda + c = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$



Example

□ Lagrange Dual of Inequality Form LP

■ Inequality form LP (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \end{aligned}$$

■ Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\max \quad g(\lambda) = \begin{cases} -b^T \lambda & A^T \lambda + c = 0, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \lambda \geq 0$$

■ An Equivalent Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -b^T \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A^T \lambda + c = 0 \\ & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



Example

□ Lagrange Dual of Inequality Form LP

■ Inequality form LP (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \end{aligned}$$

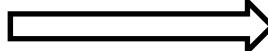
■ An Equivalent Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -b^T \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A^T \lambda + c = 0 \\ & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

✓ An LP in standard form

Inequality Form LP

Lagrange Dual



Standard Form LP



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Weak Duality

- For any $\lambda \geq 0$ and any ν

$$g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$$

- What is the best lower bound?

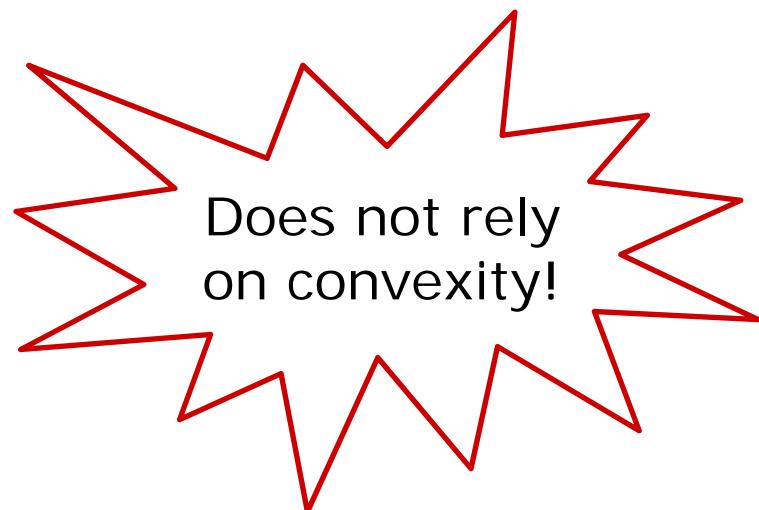
- Lagrange Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \max && g(\lambda, \nu) \\ & \text{s.t.} && \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Optimal value d^*

- Weak Duality

$$d^* \leq p^*$$





Weak Duality

□ Weak Duality

$$d^* \leq p^*$$

- If the primal problem is unbounded below, i.e., $p^* = -\infty$, we must have $d^* = -\infty$, i.e., the Lagrange dual problem is infeasible
- If $d^* = \infty$, we must have $p^* = \infty$

□ Optimal duality gap

$$p^* - d^*$$

- Nonnegative



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Strong Duality

□ Strong Duality

$$d^* = p^*$$

- The optimal duality gap is zero
- The best bound that can be obtained from the Lagrange dual function is tight
- In general, does not hold

□ Usually hold for convex optimization

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

- f_0, \dots, f_m are convex



Slater's Constraint Qualification

- Constraint Qualifications
 - Sufficient conditions for strong duality
- Slater's condition
 - $\exists x \in \text{relint } \mathcal{D}$ such that
$$f_i(x) < 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad Ax = b$$
 - Such a point x is called strictly feasible
- If Slater's condition holds and the problem is convex
 - Strong duality holds
 - Dual optimal value is attained when $d^* > -\infty$



Slater's Constraint Qualification

- Constraint Qualifications
 - Sufficient conditions for strong duality
- Slater's condition (weaker form)
 - If the first k constraint functions are affine
 - $\exists x \in \text{relint } \mathcal{D}$ such that
 - $f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$
 - $f_i(x) < 0, \quad i = k + 1, \dots, m$
 - $Ax = b$
 - When constraints are all linear equalities and inequalities, and $\text{dom } f_0$ is open
 - ✓ Reduce to feasibility



Example

- Least-squares Solution of Linear Equations

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax = b \end{aligned}$$

- Dual Problem

$$\max -\frac{1}{4}v^\top AA^\top v - b^\top v$$

- Slater's condition

- The primal problem is feasible, i.e., $b \in \mathcal{R}(A)$

- Strong duality always holds

- Even when $b \notin \mathcal{R}(A)$



Example

□ Lagrange dual of LP



□ Strong duality holds for any LP

- If the primal problem is feasible **or** the dual problem is feasible

□ Strong duality may fail

- If **both** the primal and dual problems are infeasible



Example

□ QCQP (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & (1/2)x^\top P_0 x + q_0^\top x + r_0 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (1/2)x^\top P_i x + q_i^\top x + r_i \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

- $P_0 \in \mathbf{S}_{++}^n$ and $P_i \in \mathbf{S}_+^n, i = 1, \dots, m$

□ Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -(1/2)q(\lambda)^\top P(\lambda)^{-1}q(\lambda) + r(\lambda) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- $P(\lambda) = P_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i P_i, q(\lambda) = q_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i q_i$
- $r(\lambda) = r_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i r_i$

□ Slater's condition

- $\exists x, (1/2)x^\top P_i x + q_i^\top x + r_i < 0, i = 1, \dots, m$



Example

□ A Nonconvex Quadratic Problem (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^\top Ax + 2b^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^\top x \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

- $A \in \mathbf{S}^n, A \succcurlyeq 0$ and $b \in \mathbf{R}^n$
- Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} L(x, \lambda) &= x^\top Ax + 2b^\top x + \lambda(x^\top x - 1) \\ &= x^\top(A + \lambda I)x + 2b^\top x - \lambda \end{aligned}$$

- Dual Function

$$g(\lambda) = \begin{cases} -b^\top(A + \lambda I)^+ b - \lambda & A + \lambda I \succcurlyeq 0, b \in \mathcal{R}(A + \lambda I) \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Example

□ A Nonconvex Quadratic Problem (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^\top Ax + 2b^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^\top x \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

■ $A \in \mathbf{S}^n, A \succcurlyeq 0$ and $b \in \mathbf{R}^n$

□ Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -b^\top(A + \lambda I)^\dagger b - \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A + \lambda I \succcurlyeq 0, b \in \mathcal{R}(A + \lambda I) \end{aligned}$$

■ A convex optimization problem



Example

□ A Nonconvex Quadratic Problem (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^\top Ax + 2b^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^\top x \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

- $A \in \mathbf{S}^n, A \succcurlyeq 0$ and $b \in \mathbf{R}^n$

Strong duality
holds

□ Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -\sum_{i=1}^n (q_i^\top b)^2 / (\lambda_i + \lambda) - \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \lambda \geq -\lambda_{\min}(A) \end{aligned}$$

- A convex optimization problem
- λ_i and q_i : eigenvalues and corresponding (orthonormal) eigenvectors of A



Example

□ A Nonconvex Quadratic Problem (Primal Problem)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^\top Ax + 2b^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^\top x \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

- $A \in \mathbf{S}^n, A \succcurlyeq 0$ and $b \in \mathbf{R}^n$

Strong duality holds for any optimization problem with quadratic objective and one quadratic inequality constraint, provided Slater's condition holds

□ Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & -\sum_{i=1}^n (q_i^\top b)^2 / (\lambda_i + \lambda) - \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \lambda \geq -\lambda_{\min}(A) \end{aligned}$$

- A convex optimization problem
- λ_i and q_i : eigenvalues and corresponding (orthonormal) eigenvectors of A



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