

Planning and Optimization

F6. Linear & Integer Programming

Malte Helmert and Gabriele Röger

Universität Basel

December 4, 2024

Planning and Optimization

December 4, 2024 — F6. Linear & Integer Programming

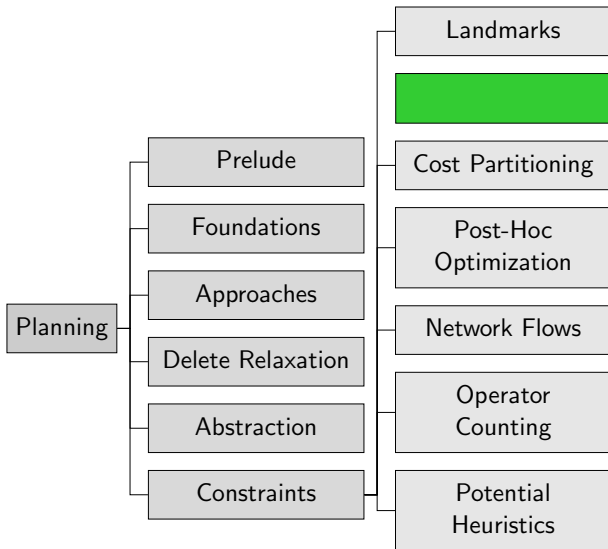
F6.1 Integer Programs

F6.2 Linear Programs

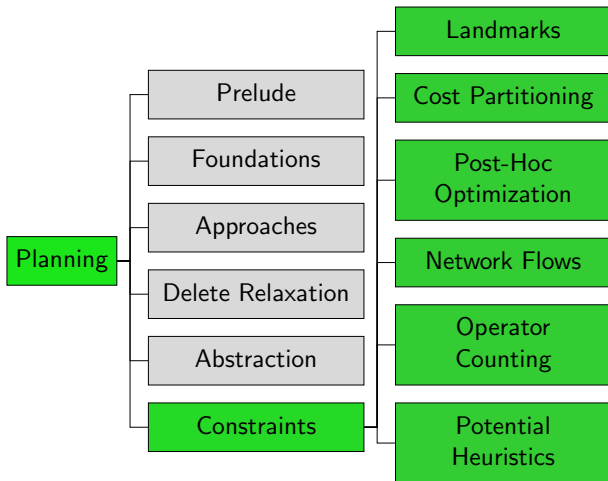
F6.3 Normal Forms and Duality

F6.4 Summary

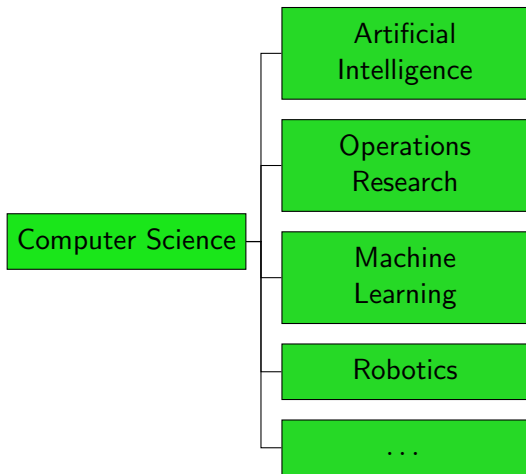
Content of the Course (Timeline)



Content of the Course (Relevance)



Not Content of this Course (Relevance)



F6.1 Integer Programs

Motivation

- ▶ This goes on beyond Computer Science
- ▶ Active **research** on IPs and LPs in
 - ▶ Operation Research
 - ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Many **application** areas, for instance:
 - ▶ Manufacturing
 - ▶ Agriculture
 - ▶ Mining
 - ▶ Logistics
 - ▶ **Planning**
- ▶ As an application, we treat LPs / IPs as a **blackbox**
- ▶ We just look at **the fundamentals**
- ▶ However, even on the application side there is much more (e.g., modelling tricks or solver parameters to speed up computation)

Motivation

Example (Optimization Problem)

Consider the following scenario:

- ▶ A factory produces two products A and B
- ▶ Selling one (unit of) B yields 5 times the profit of selling one A
- ▶ A client places the unusual order to “buy anything that can be produced on that day as long as two plus twice the units of A is not smaller than the number of B”
- ▶ More than 12 products in total cannot be produced per day
- ▶ There is only material for 6 units of A
(there is enough material to produce any amount of B)

How many units of A and B does the client receive if the factory owner aims to maximize her profit?

Integer Program: Example

Let X_A and X_B be the (**integer**) number of produced A and B

Example (Optimization Problem as Integer Program)

maximize $X_A + 5X_B$ subject to

$$2 + 2X_A \geq X_B$$

$$X_A + X_B \leq 12$$

$$X_A \leq 6$$

$$X_A \geq 0, \quad X_B \geq 0$$

↪ unique optimal solution:

produce 4 A ($X_A = 4$) and 8 B ($X_B = 8$) for a profit of 44

Same Program as Input for the CPLEX Solver

File ip.lp

Maximize

obj: X_A + 5 X_B

Subject To

c1: -2 X_A + X_B <= 2

c2: X_A + X_B <= 12

Bounds

0 <= X_A <= 6

0 <= X_B

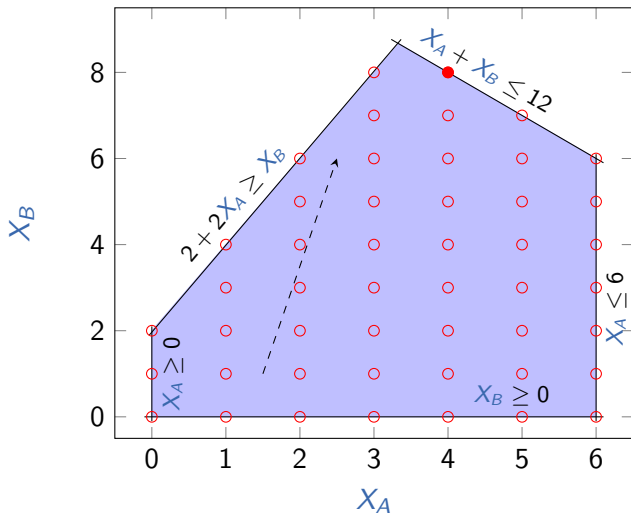
General

X_A X_B

End

→ Demo

Integer Program Example: Visualization



Integer Programs

Integer Program

An **integer program (IP)** consists of:

- ▶ a finite set of **integer-valued variables** V
- ▶ a finite set of **linear inequalities** (constraints) over V
- ▶ an **objective function**, which is a linear combination of V
- ▶ which should be **minimized** or **maximized**.

Terminology

- ▶ An integer assignment to all variables in V is **feasible** if it satisfies the constraints.
- ▶ An integer program is **feasible** if there is such a feasible assignment. Otherwise it is **infeasible**.
- ▶ A feasible maximum (resp. minimum) problem is **unbounded** if the objective function can assume arbitrarily large positive (resp. negative) values at feasible assignments. Otherwise it is **bounded**.
- ▶ The **objective value** of a bounded feasible maximum (resp. minimum) problem is the maximum (resp. minimum) value of the objective function with a feasible assignment.

Another Example

Example

minimize $3X_{o_1} + 4X_{o_2} + 5X_{o_3}$ subject to

$$X_{o_4} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_1} + X_{o_2} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_1} + X_{o_3} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_2} + X_{o_3} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_1} \geq 0, \quad X_{o_2} \geq 0, \quad X_{o_3} \geq 0, \quad X_{o_4} \geq 0$$

What example from a recent chapter does this IP encode?

↪ the minimum hitting set from Chapter F4

Complexity of Solving Integer Programs

- ▶ As an IP can compute an MHS, solving an IP must be **at least as complex** as computing an MHS
- ▶ Reminder: **MHS is a “classical” NP-complete problem**
- ▶ Good news: Solving an IP is **not harder**

↪ Finding solutions for IPs is **NP-complete**.

Removing the requirement that solutions must be **integer-valued** leads to a simpler problem

F6.2 Linear Programs

Linear Programs

Linear Program

A **linear program** (LP) consists of:

- ▶ a finite set of **real-valued variables** V
- ▶ a finite set of **linear inequalities** (constraints) over V
- ▶ an **objective function**, which is a linear combination of V
- ▶ which should be **minimized** or **maximized**.

We use the introduced IP terminology also for LPs.

Mixed IPs (MIPs) are something between IPs and LPs: some variables are integer-valued, some are real-valued.

Linear Program: Example

Let X_A and X_B be the (real-valued) number of produced A and B

Example (Optimization Problem as Linear Program)

maximize $X_A + 5X_B$ subject to

$$2 + 2X_A \geq X_B$$

$$X_A + X_B \leq 12$$

$$X_A \leq 6$$

$$X_A \geq 0, \quad X_B \geq 0$$

↪ unique optimal solution:

$$X_A = 3\frac{1}{3} \text{ and } X_B = 8\frac{2}{3} \text{ with objective value } 46\frac{2}{3}$$

Same Program as Input for the CPLEX Solver

File lp.lp

Maximize

obj: $X_A + 5 X_B$

Subject To

c1: $-2 X_A + X_B \leq 2$

c2: $X_A + X_B \leq 12$

Bounds

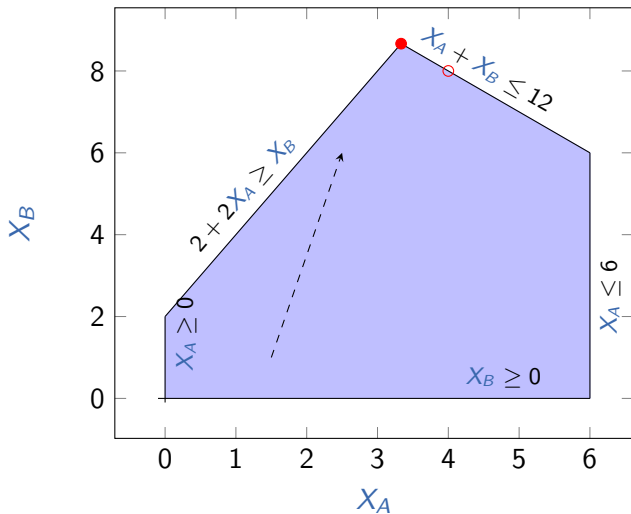
$0 \leq X_A \leq 6$

$0 \leq X_B$

End

→ Demo

Linear Program Example: Visualization



Solving Linear Programs

- ▶ **Observation:**
Here, LP solution is an **upper bound** for the corresponding IP.
- ▶ **Complexity:**
LP solving is a **polynomial-time** problem.
- ▶ **Common idea:**
Approximate IP solution with corresponding LP
(**LP relaxation**).

LP Relaxation

Theorem (LP Relaxation)

The *LP relaxation* of an integer program is the problem that arises by removing the requirement that variables are integer-valued.

For a *maximization* (resp. *minimization*) problem, the objective value of the LP relaxation is an *upper* (resp. *lower*) *bound* on the value of the IP.

Proof idea.

Every feasible assignment for the IP is also feasible for the LP. □

LP Relaxation of MHS heuristic

Example (Minimum Hitting Set)

minimize $3X_{o_1} + 4X_{o_2} + 5X_{o_3}$ subject to

$$X_{o_4} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_1} + X_{o_2} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_1} + X_{o_3} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_2} + X_{o_3} \geq 1$$

$$X_{o_1} \geq 0, \quad X_{o_2} \geq 0, \quad X_{o_3} \geq 0, \quad X_{o_4} \geq 0$$

↪ optimal solution of LP relaxation:

$X_{o_4} = 1$ and $X_{o_1} = X_{o_2} = X_{o_3} = 0.5$ with objective value 6

↪ LP relaxation of MHS heuristic is **admissible**
and can be computed in **polynomial time**

F6.3 Normal Forms and Duality

Standard Maximum Problem

Normal form for maximization problems:

Definition (Standard Maximum Problem)

Find values for x_1, \dots, x_n , to maximize

$$c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n$$

subject to the constraints

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \leq b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \leq b_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n \leq b_m$$

and $x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0, \dots, x_n \geq 0$.

Standard Maximum Problem: Matrix and Vectors

A standard maximum problem is often given by

- ▶ an m -vector $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, \dots, b_m \rangle^T$ (**bounds**),
- ▶ an n -vector $\mathbf{c} = \langle c_1, \dots, c_n \rangle^T$ (**objective coefficients**),
- ▶ and an $m \times n$ matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{coefficients})$$

- ▶ Then the problem is to find a vector $\mathbf{x} = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle^T$ to maximize $\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$ subject to $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$.

Standard Minimum Problem

- ▶ there is also a **standard minimum problem**
- ▶ it's form is identical to the standard maximum problem, except that
 - ▶ the aim is to minimize the objective function
 - ▶ subject to $\mathbf{Ax} \geq \mathbf{b}$
- ▶ All linear programs can efficiently be converted into a standard maximum/minimum problem.

Some LP Theory: Duality

Every LP has an alternative view (its **dual** LP).

| Primal | Dual |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| maximization (or minimization) | minimization (or maximization) |
| objective coefficients | bounds |
| bounds | objective coefficients |
| bounded variable | \geq -constraint |
| \leq -constraint | bounded variable |
| free variable | $=$ -constraint |
| $=$ -constraint | free variable |

dual of dual: original LP

Dual Problem

Definition (Dual Problem)

The **dual** of the standard maximum problem

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

is the standard minimum problem

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

Dual Problem: Example

Example (Dual of the Optimization Problem)

maximize $X_A + 5X_B$ subject to

$$[Y_1] \quad -2X_A + X_B \leq 2$$

$$[Y_2] \quad X_A + X_B \leq 12$$

$$[Y_3] \quad X_A \leq 6$$

$$X_A \geq 0, \quad X_B \geq 0$$

Dual Problem: Example

Example (Dual of the Optimization Problem)

minimize $2Y_1 + 12Y_2 + 6Y_3$ subject to

$$[X_A] \quad -2Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3 \geq 1$$

$$[X_B] \quad Y_1 + Y_2 \geq 5$$

$$Y_1 \geq 0, \quad Y_2 \geq 0, \quad Y_3 \geq 0$$

Duality Theorem

Theorem (Duality Theorem)

*If a standard linear program is **bounded feasible**, then so is its dual, and their **objective values are equal**.*

(Proof omitted.)

The dual provides a different perspective on a problem.

F6.4 Summary

Summary

- ▶ **Linear (and integer) programs** consist of an **objective function** that should be **maximized or minimized** subject to a set of given **linear constraints**.
- ▶ Finding solutions for **integer** programs is **NP-complete**.
- ▶ **LP solving** is a **polynomial time** problem.
- ▶ The dual of a maximization LP is a minimization LP and vice versa.
- ▶ The **dual** of a bounded feasible LP has the **same objective value**.

Further Reading

The slides in this chapter are based on the following excellent tutorial on LP solving:



Thomas S. Ferguson.

Linear Programming – A Concise Introduction.

[UCLA, unpublished document available online.](#)