

Solutions to exam in SF1811 Optimization, August 18, 2014

1.(a)

The considered LP problem is a minimum cost network flow problem with three nodes: 1, 2 and 3, and six arcs: (1,2), (2,1), (1,3), (3,1), (2,3) and (3,2).

The suggested solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (15, 0, 10, 0, 0, 0)^\top$ corresponds to a spanning tree with the arcs (1,2) and (1,3), i.e. a basic solution. It is a feasible basic solution since all the balance equations (in all nodes) are satisfied and all variables are non-negative.

The simplex variables y_i are obtained from the equations $y_i - y_j = c_{ij}$ for basic variables, together with $y_3 = 0$. This gives

$$y_3 = 0,$$

$$y_1 = y_3 + c_{13} = 0 + 2 = 2,$$

$$y_2 = y_1 - c_{12} = 2 - 3 = -1.$$

Then the reduced costs for the non-basic variables are obtained from $r_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j$:

$$r_{21} = 1 - (-1) + 2 = 4,$$

$$r_{31} = 1 - 0 + 2 = 3,$$

$$r_{23} = 1 - (-1) + 0 = 2,$$

$$r_{32} = 1 - 0 + (-1) = 0.$$

Since all $r_{ij} \geq 0$, the suggested solution is optimal.

However, since $r_{32} = 0$, the objective value will not change if we let x_{32} become a new basic variable. Let $x_{32} = t$ and increase t from 0. Then the basic variables will change according to $x_{12} = 15 - t$ and $x_{13} = 10 + t$.

In particular, with $t = 15$, we obtain a new optimal basic solution $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = (0, 0, 25, 0, 0, 15)^\top$.

Check: $\mathbf{c}^\top \hat{\mathbf{x}} = 3 \cdot 15 + 2 \cdot 10 = 65$. $\mathbf{c}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{x}} = 2 \cdot 25 + 1 \cdot 15 = 65$.

1.(b)

We apply Gauss–Jordan’s method on the given matrix $\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 8 & 16 & 32 \\ 64 & 128 & 256 \end{bmatrix}$.

Add -8 times the first row to the second row and -64 times the first row to the third row.

Then the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is obtained, and \mathbf{B} has been transformed to *reduced row echelon form* with only one *leading one*: $\mathbf{U} = [1 \ 2 \ 4]$.

Note that $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B}^\top)^\perp = \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{B})$, and that a basis to $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{B})$ is obtained by choosing the columns in \mathbf{B} corresponding to the “leading ones” in \mathbf{U} , i.e. the first column in \mathbf{B} .

Thus, the single vector $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \\ 64 \end{pmatrix}$ forms a basis to $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{B})$, and thus also to $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B}^\top)^\perp$.

In order to find a basis for $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B})$, note that the system $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ is equivalent to the system $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$, i.e. $x_1 + 2x_2 + 4x_3 = 0$, for which the general solution is obtained by letting $x_2 = t$ and $x_3 = s$, where t and s are arbitrary real numbers. Then $x_1 = -2t - 4s$, and the general

solution to $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ can thus be written $\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = t \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

It follows that the two vectors $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ form a basis for $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B})$.

By repeating the above steps on \mathbf{B}^\top instead of \mathbf{B} the following is obtained:

The single vector $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$ forms a basis to $\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{B}^\top)$, and thus also to $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B})^\perp$.

The two vectors $\begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} -64 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ form a basis for $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B}^\top)$.

Check of orthogonality:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \\ 64 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 8 \\ 64 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} -64 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} -4 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

The vector $(1, b, 1)^\top$ belong to $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B})$ if and only if $[1 \ 2 \ 3](1, b, 1)^\top = 0$, i.e. if and only if $1 + 2b + 4 = 0$, i.e. if and only if $b = -5/2$.

2.(a) Introduce the following new non-negative variables x'_j :

$$x'_1 = x_1, \quad x'_2 = x_2, \quad x'_3 - x'_4 = x_3,$$

$$x'_5 = \text{slack variable for the constraint } x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \geq 0,$$

$$x'_6 = \text{slack variable for the constraint } x_2 + x_3 \geq 0.$$

Further, introduce the variable vector $\mathbf{x}' = (x'_1, x'_2, x'_3, x'_4, x'_5, x'_6)^\top$.

Then the problem can be written as the following LP problem on standard form:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}' \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{b}, \quad \mathbf{x}' \geq \mathbf{0}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{c} = (0, 0, 1, -1, 0, 0)^\top.$$

2.(b) and **2.(c)**

The suggested solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (2, 1, -1)^\top$ corresponds to the solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}}' = (2, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0)^\top$ to the above problem on standard form. The optimality of this solution can be verified by showing that $\hat{\mathbf{x}}'$ is a feasible basic solution with non-negative reduced costs.

Alternatively, the optimality of $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (2, 1, -1)^\top$ can be verified using the complementarity theorem. This is the approach used here, and then 2.(c) is simultaneously solved.

When the primal problem is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{P: minimize} & \quad x_3 \\ \text{subject to} & \quad x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \geq 0, \\ & \quad x_2 + x_3 \geq 0, \\ & \quad x_1 + x_2 = 3, \\ & \quad x_1 \geq 0, \quad x_2 \geq 0, \quad x_3 \text{ "free"}, \end{aligned}$$

the corresponding dual problem is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{D: maximize} & \quad 3y_3 \\ \text{subject to} & \quad y_1 + y_3 \leq 0, \\ & \quad -y_1 + y_2 + y_3 \leq 0, \\ & \quad y_1 + y_2 = 1, \\ & \quad y_1 \geq 0, \quad y_2 \geq 0, \quad y_3 \text{ "free"}. \end{aligned}$$

The complementary theorem says that $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ are optimal solutions to P and D, respectively, if and only if

- (1) $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ are feasible solutions to P and D,
- (2) $\hat{y}_1(\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2 + \hat{x}_3) = 0$, $\hat{y}_2(\hat{x}_2 + \hat{x}_3) = 0$, $\hat{x}_1(\hat{y}_1 + \hat{y}_3) = 0$ and $\hat{x}_2(-\hat{y}_1 + \hat{y}_2 + \hat{y}_3) = 0$.

Since the suggested point $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (2, 1, -1)^\top$ is a feasible solution to P, it is an optimal solution to P if and only if there is a feasible solution $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ to D such that $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ satisfy (2) above.

Note that $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ satisfies $\hat{x}_1 - \hat{x}_2 + \hat{x}_3 = 0$, $\hat{x}_2 + \hat{x}_3 = 0$, $\hat{x}_1 + \hat{x}_2 = 3$, $\hat{x}_1 > 0$ and $\hat{x}_2 > 0$.

Thus, $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ must satisfy $\hat{y}_1 + \hat{y}_3 = 0$, $-\hat{y}_1 + \hat{y}_2 + \hat{y}_3 = 0$, $\hat{y}_1 + \hat{y}_2 = 1$, $\hat{y}_1 \geq 0$ and $\hat{y}_2 \geq 0$.

The unique solution to the first three equations is $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = (1/3, 2/3, -1/3)^\top$, and since this solution satisfies $\hat{y}_1 \geq 0$ and $\hat{y}_2 \geq 0$, it follows that $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ satisfy (1) and (2) above.

Thus, $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (2, 1, -1)^\top$ and $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = (1/3, 2/3, -1/3)^\top$ are optimal solutions to P and D.

The optimal value of P = $\hat{x}_3 = -1$. The optimal value of D = $3\hat{y}_3 = 3 \cdot (-1/3) = -1$.

3.(a)

The objective function is $f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$, with $\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & -3 \\ -3 & 2 & -3 \\ -3 & -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 20 \\ 30 \end{pmatrix}$.

LDL^T-factorization of \mathbf{H} gives

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{L} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{L}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1.5 & 1 & 0 \\ -1.5 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 20 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1.5 & -1.5 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since there is a negative diagonal element in \mathbf{D} , the matrix \mathbf{H} is *not* positive semidefinite, which in turn implies that there is no optimal solution to the problem of minimizing $f(\mathbf{x})$ without constraints. (With e.g. $\mathbf{d} = (1, 1, 1)^T$, $f(t\mathbf{d}) = -12t^2 + 60t \rightarrow -\infty$ when $t \rightarrow \infty$.)

3.(b)

We now have a QP problem with equality constraints, i.e. a problem of the form

minimize $\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x}$ subject to $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$,

where $\mathbf{A} = [1 \ 1 \ 1]$, $\mathbf{b} = 3$, $\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 & -3 \\ -3 & 2 & -3 \\ -3 & -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 20 \\ 30 \end{pmatrix}$.

The general solution to $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, i.e. to $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 3$, is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot v_1 + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot v_2, \text{ for arbitrary values on } v_1 \text{ and } v_2,$$

which means that $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is a feasible solution, and $\mathbf{Z} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is a matrix

whos columns form a basis for the null space of \mathbf{A} .

After the variable change $\mathbf{x} = \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{v}$ we should solve the system $(\mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{Z}) \mathbf{v} = -\mathbf{Z}^T (\mathbf{H} \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{c})$, provided that $\mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{Z}$ is at least positive semidefinite.

We have $\mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{Z} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 5 \\ 5 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$, which is positive definite (since $10 > 0$, $10 > 0$, $10 \cdot 10 - 5 \cdot 5 > 0$).

The system $(\mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{H} \mathbf{Z}) \mathbf{v} = -\mathbf{Z}^T (\mathbf{H} \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{c})$ becomes

$$\begin{bmatrix} 10 & 5 \\ 5 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ with the unique solution } \hat{\mathbf{v}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ which implies that}$$

$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ is the unique optimal solution to our problem.

4.(a)

The objective function is $f(\mathbf{x}) = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 1)^{1/2} - 0.3x_1 - 0.4x_2$.

The gradient of f becomes $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\frac{x_1}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 1)^{1/2}} - 0.3, \frac{x_2}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 1)^{1/2}} - 0.4 \right)$.

The Hessian of f becomes $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 1)^{3/2}} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 + x_2^2 & -x_1x_2 \\ -x_1x_2 & 1 + x_1^2 \end{bmatrix}$.

The starting point is given by $\mathbf{x}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, and then

$$f(\mathbf{x}^{(1)}) = 1, \quad \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^{(1)}) = (-0.3, -0.4) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}^{(1)}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since a diagonal matrix with strictly positive diagonal elements is positive definite, the Hessian $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}^{(1)})$ is positive definite, and then the first Newton search direction $\mathbf{d}^{(1)}$ is obtained by solving the system

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}^{(1)})\mathbf{d} = -\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^{(1)})^\top, \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{d} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.3 \\ 0.4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{with the solution} \quad \mathbf{d}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.3 \\ 0.4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

First try $t_1 = 1$, so that $\mathbf{x}^{(2)} = \mathbf{x}^{(1)} + t_1\mathbf{d}^{(1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(1)} + \mathbf{d}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.3 \\ 0.4 \end{pmatrix}$.

Then $f(\mathbf{x}^{(2)}) = \sqrt{1.25} - 0.09 - 0.16 < 1.2 - 0.25 < 1 = f(\mathbf{x}^{(1)})$, so $t_1 = 1$ is accepted, and the first iteration is completed.

4.(b)

The function f is convex on \mathbb{R}^2 if and only if the Hessian

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 1)^{3/2}} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 + x_2^2 & -x_1x_2 \\ -x_1x_2 & 1 + x_1^2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{is positive semidefinite for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2,$$

which holds if and only if $\begin{bmatrix} 1 + x_2^2 & -x_1x_2 \\ -x_1x_2 & 1 + x_1^2 \end{bmatrix}$ is positive semidefinite for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

But $1 + x_2^2 > 0$, $1 + x_1^2 > 0$, and $(1 + x_2^2)(1 + x_1^2) - (-x_1x_2)(-x_1x_2) = 1 + x_1^2 + x_2^2 > 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, which implies that $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})$ is in fact positive definite for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, which in turn implies that f is strictly convex on the whole set \mathbb{R}^2 .

4.(c)

We should solve $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = (0, 0)$, i.e. $\frac{x_1}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 1)^{1/2}} = 0.3$ and $\frac{x_2}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 1)^{1/2}} = 0.4$.

Some analytical calculations show that the only solution to this system is

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2)^\top = \left(\frac{0.6}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{0.8}{\sqrt{3}} \right)^\top.$$

Since f is strictly convex on \mathbb{R}^2 , $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ is the unique globally optimal solution to the problem of minimizing $f(\mathbf{x})$ on \mathbb{R}^2 .

5. With $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{c_j}{1-x_j}$ and $g(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{1+x_j} - n$, the Lagrange function becomes

$$L(\mathbf{x}, y) = f(\mathbf{x}) + y g(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{c_j}{1-x_j} + y \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{1+x_j} - n \right) = -yn + \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{c_j}{1-x_j} + \frac{y}{1+x_j} \right).$$

The Lagrange relaxed problem PR_y is defined, for a given $y \geq 0$, as the problem of minimizing $L(\mathbf{x}, y)$ with respect to $\mathbf{x} \in X$.

But this problem separates into one problem for each variable x_j , namely

$$\text{minimize } \ell_j(x_j) = \frac{c_j}{1-x_j} + \frac{y}{1+x_j} \text{ subject to } -1 < x_j < 1. \quad (0.1)$$

We have that $\ell'_j(x_j) = \frac{c_j}{(1-x_j)^2} - \frac{y}{(1+x_j)^2}$ and $\ell''_j(x_j) = \frac{2c_j}{(1-x_j)^3} + \frac{2y}{(1+x_j)^3} > 0$, which implies that $\ell_j(x_j)$ is strictly convex on the interval $(-1, 1)$.

In accordance to the instructions, we will from now on only consider the case $y > 0$.

Then there is a unique solution $\tilde{x}_j(y)$ to the equation $\ell'_j(x_j) = 0$, namely

$$\tilde{x}_j(y) = \frac{\sqrt{y} - \sqrt{c_j}}{\sqrt{y} + \sqrt{c_j}}, \quad (0.2)$$

which belongs to the interval $(-1, 1)$ for all $y > 0$.

We conclude that this $\tilde{x}_j(y)$ is the unique optimal solution to the subproblem (??).

The dual objective function is then given by

$$\varphi(y) = L(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}(y), y) = -yn + \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{c_j}{1-\tilde{x}_j(y)} + \frac{y}{1+\tilde{x}_j(y)} \right) = -yn + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n (\sqrt{y} + \sqrt{c_j})^2.$$

$$\text{Then } \varphi'(y) = -n + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} \sum_{j=1}^n (\sqrt{y} + \sqrt{c_j}) = -\frac{n}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} \sum_{j=1}^n \sqrt{c_j}$$

and $\varphi''(y) = -\frac{1}{4y\sqrt{y}} \sum_{j=1}^n \sqrt{c_j} < 0$ for all $y > 0$, so that φ is strictly concave when $y > 0$.

Assume from now on that $n = 3$, $c_1 = 1$, $c_2 = 4$ and $c_3 = 9$.

Then $\varphi'(y) = -\frac{3}{2} + \frac{6}{2\sqrt{y}}$ and the unique solution to $\varphi'(y) = 0$ is $\hat{y} = 4$.

Since φ is strictly concave for $y > 0$ it follows that $\varphi(4) > \varphi(y)$ for all $y > 0$.

The corresponding primal solution is $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (\tilde{x}_1(4), \tilde{x}_2(4), \tilde{x}_3(4))^T = (1/3, 0, -1/5)^T$, which satisfies $g(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \frac{1}{1+1/3} + \frac{1}{1+0} + \frac{1}{1-1/5} - 3 = 0$.

It follows that $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (1/3, 0, -1/5)^T$ and $\hat{y} = 4$ satisfy the global optimality conditions, and thus $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ is a global optimal solution to the primal problem.

Since X is a convex set and $g(\mathbf{x})$ is a convex function on X , the feasible region for the primal problem is a convex set. Since, in addition, $f(\mathbf{x})$ is a *strictly* convex function on X , it follows that the obtained optimal solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ must be the *unique* optimal solution to the primal problem P.