

Math 340 Note Sheet for the Final Exam, Fall 2014

$$\text{ValueAliceAnnouncesPure}(A) = \max_i \text{MinEntry of } i\text{-th row of } A = \max_i \min_j a_{ij}$$

$$\text{ValueBettyAliceAnnouncesPure}(A) = \min_j \text{MaxEntry of } j\text{-th column of } A = \min_j \max_i a_{ij}$$

$$\text{DualityGap} = (\text{ValueBettyAnnouncesPure}) - (\text{ValueAliceAnnouncesPure})$$

The value of Alice announces a mixed strategy is

$$\max_{\vec{p} \text{ stoch}} \text{MinEntry}(\vec{p}^T A)$$

Is given by LP

$$\begin{aligned} \max v \quad \text{s.t.} \quad & \vec{p}^T A \geq [v \ v \ \dots \ v], \\ & p_1 + \dots + p_m = 1, \quad p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

If all entries of A are positive this is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} \max v \quad \text{s.t.} \quad & \vec{p}^T A \geq [v \ v \ \dots \ v], \\ & p_1 + \dots + p_m \leq 1, \quad v, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

For example,

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{gives} \quad v \leq p_1 + 3p_2, \quad v \leq 2p_1 + 4p_2, \quad \text{etc.}$$

If A is $m \times n$ and $n < m$, then we know that there is an optimum strategy where at most n of p_1, \dots, p_m are nonzero.

If A is a 2×2 matrix, then either (1) the duality gap is zero, or (2) Alice and Betty have mixed strategies where the values are balanced, e.g.,

$$\vec{p}^T A = [v \ v]$$

for Alice.

For any stochastic \vec{p} and \vec{q} we have

$$\text{MinEntry}(\vec{p}^T A) \leq \text{MaxEntry}(A\vec{q})$$

and if these are equal then this common value is the value of (the mixed strategy games of A).

LP standard form: maximize $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{x}$, subject to $A\vec{x} \leq \vec{b}$, $\vec{x} \geq \vec{0}$.

Unbounded LP: A variable enters, but nothing leaves.

2-phase method: (1) introduce x_0 on right, (2) pivot x_0 into the basis for a feasible dictionary, and try to maximize $w = -x_0$, (3) if w reaches 0, pivot x_0 out of dictionary and eliminate all x_0 ; e.g.,

$$\begin{aligned} x_4 &= -7 + \dots + x_0 & x_0 \text{ enters, } x_9 \text{ leaves} \\ x_9 &= -8 + \dots + x_0 \end{aligned}$$

Degenerate pivots: say x_5 enters, and have $x_3 = 0 + x_2 - 2x_5 + \dots$. Then x_3 cannot tolerate any positive x_5 value, and leaves without changing the basic feasible solution (and z value). Degenerate pivots not necessarily bad, but cycling can only occur when all pivots in the cycle are degenerate.

Perturbation method: Add ϵ_1 to first inequality, ϵ_2 to second inequality, etc., $1 \gg \epsilon_1 \gg \epsilon_2 \gg \dots$. Never has a degenerate pivot (wrt the ϵ_i 's), since dictionary pivots represent invertible linear transformations (which can't have a row of zeros). In more detail, we have

$$\vec{x}_B = A_B^{-1}(\vec{b} + \vec{\epsilon} - A_N \vec{x}_N)$$

and since A_B is the inverse of a matrix, it cannot have a row of all 0's, and hence each entry of $A_B^{-1}\vec{\epsilon}$ is nonzero.

The formulas for simplex method dictionaries (in standard form) is

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{x}_B &= A_B^{-1}\vec{b} - A_B^{-1}A_N\vec{x}_N \\ \zeta &= \vec{c}_B^T A_B^{-1}\vec{b} + (\vec{c}_N^T - \vec{c}_B^T A_B^{-1}A_N)\vec{x}_N\end{aligned}$$

In the computation above, we compute $\vec{c}_B^T A_B^{-1}A_N$ by first computing $\vec{c}_B^T A_B^{-1}$, and then multiplying the result (a row vector) times A_N ; it would be more expensive to first compute $A_B^{-1}A_N$.

For the A_B^{-1} of the $i - 1$ -th and i -th dictionaries we have

$$A_{B_i}^{-1} = E_i A_{B_{i-1}}^{-1}$$

where E_i is an eta matrix, equal to the identity except in one column. This formula can be applied recursively to get

$$A_{B_{i+k}}^{-1} = E_{i+k} E_{i+k-1} \dots E_i A_{B_{i-1}}^{-1};$$

it turns out that due to the cost in FLOPS, the eta it is best to use k up to roughly between \sqrt{m} and m (if there are m basic variables); there are also roundoff error issues that are not analyzed in Vanderbei.

For any basis, B , A_B must be invertible, and hence there can be no linear dependence between rows of A_B (or between its columns).

Let the b -th row in a matrix game be $\vec{f}(b)$. If \vec{f} is a convex function (i.e., concave up), then Alice has an optimal strategy that is some combination of the smallest and largest values of b (i.e., the top and bottom rows). If \vec{f} is concave down, then Alice has an optimal strategy this is some combination of two adjacent rows. (These combinations can be 100% of one row in certain cases.)

The dual to (1) maximize $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{x}$ subject to $A\vec{x} \leq \vec{b}$ and $\vec{x} \geq \vec{0}$ is (2) maximize $-\vec{b} \cdot \vec{y}$ subject to $A^T \vec{y} \geq \vec{c}$ and $\vec{y} \geq 0$. If both these LP's are feasible, then for \vec{x}, \vec{y} feasible the following are equivalent: (1) \vec{x}, \vec{y} are optimal solutions; (2) $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{x} = \vec{b} \cdot \vec{y}$ (Strong Duality Theorem); (3) $x_i z_i = 0$ for all i and $y_j w_j = 0$ for all j , where the z_i 's are the dual slack variables and the w_j 's are the primal slack variables (Complementary Slackness). Furthermore, for any \vec{x}, \vec{y} feasible we have $\vec{c} \cdot \vec{x} \leq \vec{b} \cdot \vec{y}$ (Weak Duality Theorem).