

# Convex Optimization

Stephen Boyd   Lieven Vandenberghe

Revised slides by Stephen Boyd, Lieven Vandenberghe, and Parth Nobel

## 5. Duality

# Outline

Lagrangian and dual function

Lagrange dual problem

KKT conditions

Sensitivity analysis

Problem reformulations

Theorems of alternatives

## Lagrangian

- ▶ **standard form problem** (not necessarily convex)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f_0(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & && h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

variable  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , domain  $\mathcal{D}$ , optimal value  $p^\star$

- ▶ **Lagrangian:**  $L : \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , with  $\text{dom } L = \mathcal{D} \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p$ ,

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

- weighted sum of objective and constraint functions
- $\lambda_i$  is **Lagrange multiplier** associated with  $f_i(x) \leq 0$
- $\nu_i$  is Lagrange multiplier associated with  $h_i(x) = 0$

## Lagrange dual function

- ▶ **Lagrange dual function:**  $g : \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ ,

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

- ▶  $g$  is concave, can be  $-\infty$  for some  $\lambda, \nu$
- ▶ **lower bound property:** if  $\lambda \geq 0$ , then  $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$
- ▶ proof: if  $\tilde{x}$  is feasible and  $\lambda \geq 0$ , then

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

minimizing over all feasible  $\tilde{x}$  gives  $p^* \geq g(\lambda, \nu)$

## Least-norm solution of linear equations

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & x^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- ▶ Lagrangian is  $L(x, v) = x^T x + v^T (Ax - b)$
- ▶ to minimize  $L$  over  $x$ , set gradient equal to zero:

$$\nabla_x L(x, v) = 2x + A^T v = 0 \quad \implies \quad x = -(1/2)A^T v$$

- ▶ plug  $x$  into  $L$  to obtain

$$g(v) = L((-1/2)A^T v, v) = -\frac{1}{4}v^T AA^T v - b^T v$$

- ▶ lower bound property:  $p^* \geq -(1/4)v^T AA^T v - b^T v$  for all  $v$

## Standard form LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b, \quad x \geq 0 \end{array}$$

- ▶ Lagrangian is

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

- ▶  $L$  is affine in  $x$ , so

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

- ▶  $g$  is linear on affine domain  $\{(\lambda, \nu) \mid A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0\}$ , hence concave
- ▶ lower bound property:  $p^* \geq -b^T \nu$  if  $A^T \nu + c \geq 0$

## Equality constrained norm minimization

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \|x\| \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- ▶ dual function is

$$g(v) = \inf_x (\|x\| - v^T Ax + b^T v) = \begin{cases} b^T v & \|A^T v\|_* \leq 1 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $\|v\|_* = \sup_{\|u\| \leq 1} u^T v$  is dual norm of  $\|\cdot\|$

- ▶ lower bound property:  $p^* \geq b^T v$  if  $\|A^T v\|_* \leq 1$



## Two-way partitioning

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & x^T W x \\ \text{subject to} & x_i^2 = 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{array}$$

- ▶ a nonconvex problem; feasible set contains  $2^n$  discrete points
- ▶ interpretation: partition  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  in two sets encoded as  $x_i = 1$  and  $x_i = -1$
- ▶  $W_{ij}$  is cost of assigning  $i, j$  to the same set;  $-W_{ij}$  is cost of assigning to different sets
- ▶ dual function is

$$g(\nu) = \inf_x \left( x^T W x + \sum_i \nu_i (x_i^2 - 1) \right) = \inf_x x^T (W + \mathbf{diag}(\nu)) x - \mathbf{1}^T \nu = \begin{cases} -\mathbf{1}^T \nu & W + \mathbf{diag}(\nu) \geq 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ lower bound property:  $p^* \geq -\mathbf{1}^T \nu$  if  $W + \mathbf{diag}(\nu) \geq 0$

## Lagrange dual and conjugate function

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \leq b, \quad Cx = d \end{array}$$

- ▶ dual function

$$\begin{aligned} g(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{x \in \text{dom} f_0} \left( f_0(x) + (A^T \lambda + C^T \nu)^T x - b^T \lambda - d^T \nu \right) \\ &= -f_0^*(-A^T \lambda - C^T \nu) - b^T \lambda - d^T \nu \end{aligned}$$

where  $f^*(y) = \sup_{x \in \text{dom} f} (y^T x - f(x))$  is conjugate of  $f_0$

- ▶ simplifies derivation of dual if conjugate of  $f_0$  is known
- ▶ **example: entropy maximization**

$$f_0(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \log x_i, \quad f_0^*(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n e^{y_i - 1}$$

# Outline

Lagrangian and dual function

Lagrange dual problem

KKT conditions

Sensitivity analysis

Problem reformulations

Theorems of alternatives

## The Lagrange dual problem

(Lagrange) **dual problem**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{subject to} & \lambda \geq 0 \end{array}$$

- ▶ finds best lower bound on  $p^*$ , obtained from Lagrange dual function
- ▶ a convex optimization problem, even if original **primal** problem is not
- ▶ dual optimal value denoted  $d^*$
- ▶  $\lambda, \nu$  are dual feasible if  $\lambda \geq 0, (\lambda, \nu) \in \mathbf{dom} g$
- ▶ often simplified by making implicit constraint  $(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathbf{dom} g$  explicit

## Example: standard form LP

(see page 5.5)

- ▶ primal standard form LP:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{array}$$

- ▶ dual problem is

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & g(\lambda, \nu) \\ \text{subject to} & \lambda \geq 0 \end{array}$$

with  $g(\lambda, \nu) = -b^T \nu$  if  $A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0$ ,  $-\infty$  otherwise

- ▶ make implicit constraint explicit, and eliminate  $\lambda$  to obtain (transformed) dual problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & -b^T \nu \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \nu + c \geq 0 \end{array}$$

## Weak and strong duality

**weak duality:**  $d^* \leq p^*$

- ▶ always holds (for convex and nonconvex problems)
- ▶ can be used to find nontrivial lower bounds for difficult problems, e.g., solving the SDP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & -\mathbf{1}^T \boldsymbol{\nu} \\ \text{subject to} & W + \mathbf{diag}(\boldsymbol{\nu}) \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

gives a lower bound for the two-way partitioning problem on page 5.7

**strong duality:**  $d^* = p^*$

- ▶ does not hold in general
- ▶ (usually) holds for convex problems
- ▶ conditions that guarantee strong duality in convex problems are called **constraint qualifications**

## Slater's constraint qualification

strong duality holds for a convex problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

if it is **strictly feasible**, *i.e.*, there is an  $x \in \mathbf{int} \mathcal{D}$  with  $f_i(x) < 0, i = 1, \dots, m, Ax = b$

- ▶ also guarantees that the dual optimum is attained (if  $p^* > -\infty$ )
- ▶ can be sharpened: *e.g.*,
  - can replace  $\mathbf{int} \mathcal{D}$  with  $\mathbf{relint} \mathcal{D}$  (interior relative to affine hull)
  - linear inequalities do not need to hold with strict inequality
- ▶ there are many other types of constraint qualifications

## Inequality form LP

### primal problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \leq b \end{array}$$

### dual function

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

### dual problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & -b^T \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \lambda + c = 0, \quad \lambda \geq 0 \end{array}$$

- ▶ from the sharpened Slater's condition:  $p^\star = d^\star$  if the primal problem is feasible
- ▶ in fact,  $p^\star = d^\star$  except when primal and dual are both infeasible



## Quadratic program

**primal problem** (assume  $P \in \mathbf{S}_{++}^n$ )

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && x^T P x \\ & \text{subject to} && Ax \leq b \end{aligned}$$

**dual function**

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x \left( x^T P x + \lambda^T (Ax - b) \right) = -\frac{1}{4} \lambda^T A P^{-1} A^T \lambda - b^T \lambda$$

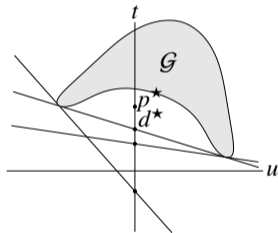
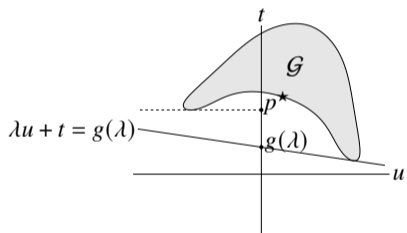
**dual problem**

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && -(1/4) \lambda^T A P^{-1} A^T \lambda - b^T \lambda \\ & \text{subject to} && \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ from the sharpened Slater's condition:  $p^* = d^*$  if the primal problem is feasible
- ▶ in fact,  $p^* = d^*$  always

## Geometric interpretation

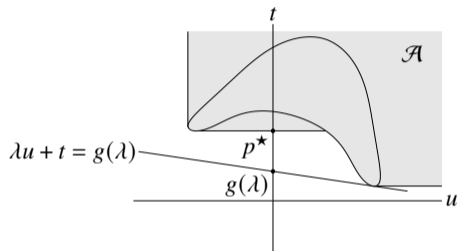
- ▶ for simplicity, consider problem with one constraint  $f_1(x) \leq 0$
- ▶  $\mathcal{G} = \{(f_1(x), f_0(x)) \mid x \in \mathcal{D}\}$  is set of achievable (constraint, objective) values
- ▶ **interpretation of dual function:**  $g(\lambda) = \inf_{(u,t) \in \mathcal{G}} (t + \lambda u)$



- ▶  $\lambda u + t = g(\lambda)$  is (non-vertical) supporting hyperplane to  $\mathcal{G}$
- ▶ hyperplane intersects  $t$ -axis at  $t = g(\lambda)$

## Epigraph variation

- ▶ same with  $\mathcal{G}$  replaced with  $\mathcal{A} = \{(u, t) \mid f_1(x) \leq u, f_0(x) \leq t \text{ for some } x \in \mathcal{D}\}$



- ▶ strong duality holds if there is a non-vertical supporting hyperplane to  $\mathcal{A}$  at  $(0, p^*)$
- ▶ for convex problem,  $\mathcal{A}$  is convex, hence has supporting hyperplane at  $(0, p^*)$
- ▶ Slater's condition: if there exist  $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{t}) \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $\tilde{u} < 0$ , then supporting hyperplane at  $(0, p^*)$  must be non-vertical

# Outline

Lagrangian and dual function

Lagrange dual problem

**KKT conditions**

Sensitivity analysis

Problem reformulations

Theorems of alternatives

## Complementary slackness

- ▶ assume strong duality holds,  $x^*$  is primal optimal,  $(\lambda^*, \nu^*)$  is dual optimal

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(x^*) = g(\lambda^*, \nu^*) &= \inf_x \left( f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x) \right) \\ &\leq f_0(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x^*) \\ &\leq f_0(x^*) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ hence, the two inequalities hold with equality
- ▶  $x^*$  minimizes  $L(x, \lambda^*, \nu^*)$
- ▶  $\lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  (known as **complementary slackness**):

$$\lambda_i^* > 0 \implies f_i(x^*) = 0, \quad f_i(x^*) < 0 \implies \lambda_i^* = 0$$

## Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions

the **KKT conditions** (for a problem with differentiable  $f_i, h_i$ ) are

1. primal constraints:  $f_i(x) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m, h_i(x) = 0, i = 1, \dots, p$
2. dual constraints:  $\lambda \geq 0$
3. complementary slackness:  $\lambda_i f_i(x) = 0, i = 1, \dots, m$
4. gradient of Lagrangian with respect to  $x$  vanishes:

$$\nabla f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i \nabla h_i(x) = 0$$

if strong duality holds and  $x, \lambda, \nu$  are optimal, they satisfy the KKT conditions

## KKT conditions for convex problem

if  $\tilde{x}$ ,  $\tilde{\lambda}$ ,  $\tilde{\nu}$  satisfy KKT for a convex problem, then they are optimal:

- ▶ from complementary slackness:  $f_0(\tilde{x}) = L(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$
- ▶ from 4th condition (and convexity):  $g(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu}) = L(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$

hence,  $f_0(\tilde{x}) = g(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$

if Slater's condition is satisfied, then

*$x$  is optimal if and only if there exist  $\lambda$ ,  $\nu$  that satisfy KKT conditions*

- ▶ recall that Slater implies strong duality, and dual optimum is attained
- ▶ generalizes optimality condition  $\nabla f_0(x) = 0$  for unconstrained problem

# Outline

Lagrangian and dual function

Lagrange dual problem

KKT conditions

**Sensitivity analysis**

Problem reformulations

Theorems of alternatives



## Perturbation and sensitivity analysis

### (unperturbed) optimization problem and its dual

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f_0(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & && h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && g(\lambda, \nu) \\ & \text{subject to} && \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

### perturbed problem and its dual

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f_0(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && f_i(x) \leq u_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & && h_i(x) = v_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && g(\lambda, \nu) - u^T \lambda - v^T \nu \\ & \text{subject to} && \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶  $x$  is primal variable;  $u, \nu$  are parameters
- ▶  $p^*(u, \nu)$  is optimal value as a function of  $u, \nu$
- ▶  $p^*(0, 0)$  is optimal value of unperturbed problem

## Global sensitivity via duality

- ▶ assume strong duality holds for unperturbed problem, with  $\lambda^*$ ,  $v^*$  dual optimal
- ▶ apply weak duality to perturbed problem:

$$p^*(u, v) \geq g(\lambda^*, v^*) - u^T \lambda^* - v^T v^* = p^*(0, 0) - u^T \lambda^* - v^T v^*$$

### ▶ implications

- if  $\lambda_i^*$  large:  $p^*$  increases greatly if we tighten constraint  $i$  ( $u_i < 0$ )
- if  $\lambda_i^*$  small:  $p^*$  does not decrease much if we loosen constraint  $i$  ( $u_i > 0$ )
- if  $v_i^*$  large and positive:  $p^*$  increases greatly if we take  $v_i < 0$
- if  $v_i^*$  large and negative:  $p^*$  increases greatly if we take  $v_i > 0$
- if  $v_i^*$  small and positive:  $p^*$  does not decrease much if we take  $v_i > 0$
- if  $v_i^*$  small and negative:  $p^*$  does not decrease much if we take  $v_i < 0$

## Local sensitivity via duality

if (in addition)  $p^*(u, v)$  is differentiable at  $(0, 0)$ , then

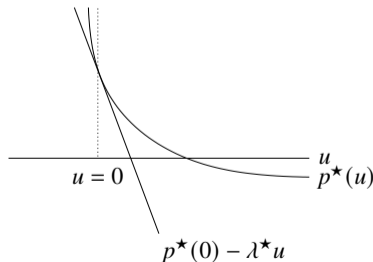
$$\lambda_i^* = -\frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial u_i}, \quad v_i^* = -\frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial v_i}$$

proof (for  $\lambda_i^*$ ): from global sensitivity result,

$$\frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial u_i} = \lim_{t \searrow 0} \frac{p^*(te_i, 0) - p^*(0, 0)}{t} \geq -\lambda_i^* \quad \frac{\partial p^*(0, 0)}{\partial u_i} = \lim_{t \nearrow 0} \frac{p^*(te_i, 0) - p^*(0, 0)}{t} \leq -\lambda_i^*$$

hence, equality

$p^*(u)$  for a problem with one (inequality) constraint:



# Outline

Lagrangian and dual function

Lagrange dual problem

KKT conditions

Sensitivity analysis

**Problem reformulations**

Theorems of alternatives

## Duality and problem reformulations

- ▶ equivalent formulations of a problem can lead to very different duals
- ▶ reformulating primal problem can be useful when dual is difficult to derive, or uninteresting

### common reformulations

- ▶ introduce new variables and equality constraints
- ▶ make explicit constraints implicit or vice-versa
- ▶ transform objective or constraint functions, *e.g.*, replace  $f_0(x)$  by  $\phi(f_0(x))$  with  $\phi$  convex, increasing

## Introducing new variables and equality constraints

- ▶ unconstrained problem: minimize  $f_0(Ax + b)$
- ▶ dual function is constant:  $g = \inf_x L(x) = \inf_x f_0(Ax + b) = p^*$
- ▶ we have strong duality, but dual is quite useless
- ▶ introduce new variable  $y$  and equality constraints  $y = Ax + b$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(y) \\ \text{subject to} & Ax + b - y = 0 \end{array}$$

- ▶ dual of reformulated problem is

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & b^T v - f_0^*(v) \\ \text{subject to} & A^T v = 0 \end{array}$$

- ▶ a nontrivial, useful dual (assuming the conjugate  $f_0^*$  is easy to express)

## Example: Norm approximation

- ▶ minimize  $\|Ax - b\|$
- ▶ reformulate as minimize  $\|y\|$  subject to  $y = Ax - b$
- ▶ recall conjugate of general norm:

$$\|z\|^* = \begin{cases} 0 & \|z\|_* \leq 1 \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ dual of (reformulated) norm approximation problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & b^T v \\ \text{subject to} & A^T v = 0, \quad \|v\|_* \leq 1 \end{array}$$

# Outline

Lagrangian and dual function

Lagrange dual problem

KKT conditions

Sensitivity analysis

Problem reformulations

**Theorems of alternatives**



## Theorems of alternatives

- ▶ consider two systems of inequality and equality constraints
- ▶ called **weak alternatives** if no more than one system is feasible
- ▶ called **strong alternatives** if exactly one of them is feasible
- ▶ examples: for any  $a \in \mathbf{R}$ , with variable  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ ,
  - $x > a$  and  $x \leq a - 1$  are weak alternatives
  - $x > a$  and  $x \leq a$  are strong alternatives
- ▶ a **theorem of alternatives** states that two inequality systems are (weak or strong) alternatives
- ▶ can be considered the extension of duality to feasibility problems

## Feasibility problems

- ▶ consider system of (not necessarily convex) inequalities and equalities

$$f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p$$

- ▶ express as **feasibility problem**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & 0 \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p \end{array}$$

- ▶ if system is feasible,  $p^* = 0$ ; if not,  $p^* = \infty$

## Duality for feasibility problems

- ▶ dual function of feasibility problem is  $g(\lambda, \nu) = \inf_x \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x) \right)$
- ▶ for  $\lambda \geq 0$ , we have  $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$
- ▶ it follows that feasibility of the inequality system

$$\lambda \geq 0, \quad g(\lambda, \nu) > 0$$

implies the original system is infeasible

- ▶ so this is a weak alternative to original system
- ▶ it is strong if  $f_i$  convex,  $h_i$  affine, and a constraint qualification holds
- ▶  $g$  is positive homogeneous so we can write alternative system as

$$\lambda \geq 0, \quad g(\lambda, \nu) \geq 1$$

## Example: Nonnegative solution of linear equations

- ▶ consider system

$$Ax = b, \quad x \geq 0$$

- ▶ dual function is  $g(\lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -\nu^T b & A^T \nu = \lambda \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

- ▶ can express strong alternative of  $Ax = b, x \geq 0$  as

$$A^T \nu \geq 0, \quad \nu^T b \leq -1$$

(we can replace  $\nu^T b \leq -1$  with  $\nu^T b = -1$ )

## Farkas' lemma

- ▶ Farkas' lemma:

$$Ax \leq 0, \quad c^T x < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad A^T y + c = 0, \quad y \geq 0$$

are strong alternatives

- ▶ proof: use (strong) duality for (feasible) LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \leq 0 \end{array}$$

## Investment arbitrage

- ▶ we invest  $x_j$  in each of  $n$  assets  $1, \dots, n$  with prices  $p_1, \dots, p_n$
- ▶ our initial cost is  $p^T x$
- ▶ at the end of the investment period there are only  $m$  possible outcomes  $i = 1, \dots, m$
- ▶  $V_{ij}$  is the **payoff** or final value of asset  $j$  in outcome  $i$
- ▶ first investment is risk-free (cash):  $p_1 = 1$  and  $V_{i1} = 1$  for all  $i$
  
- ▶ **arbitrage** means there is  $x$  with  $p^T x < 0$ ,  $Vx \geq 0$
- ▶ arbitrage means we receive money up front, and our investment cannot lose
- ▶ standard assumption in economics: the prices are such that **there is no arbitrage**

## Absence of arbitrage

- ▶ by Farkas' lemma, there is no arbitrage  $\iff$  there exists  $y \in \mathbf{R}_+^m$  with  $V^T y = p$
- ▶ since first column of  $V$  is  $\mathbf{1}$ , we have  $\mathbf{1}^T y = 1$
- ▶  $y$  is interpreted as a **risk-neutral probability** on the outcomes  $1, \dots, m$
- ▶  $V^T y$  are the expected values of the payoffs under the risk-neutral probability
- ▶ interpretation of  $V^T y = p$ :  
*asset prices equal their expected payoff under the risk-neutral probability*

- ▶ **arbitrage theorem**: there is no arbitrage  $\iff$  there exists a risk-neutral probability distribution under which each asset price is its expected payoff

## Example

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.5 & 0.0 \\ 1.0 & 0.8 & 0.0 \\ 1.0 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 1.0 & 1.3 & 4.0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad p = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 \\ 0.9 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 \\ 0.8 \\ 0.7 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ with prices  $p$ , there is an arbitrage

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 6.2 \\ -7.7 \\ 1.5 \end{bmatrix}, \quad p^T x = -0.2, \quad \mathbf{1}^T x = 0, \quad Vx = \begin{bmatrix} 2.35 \\ 0.04 \\ 0.00 \\ 2.19 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ with prices  $\tilde{p}$ , there is no arbitrage, with risk-neutral probability

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} 0.36 \\ 0.27 \\ 0.26 \\ 0.11 \end{bmatrix}, \quad V^T y = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 \\ 0.8 \\ 0.7 \end{bmatrix}$$