

# Lagrangian relaxation

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## Relaxations

Given a problem  $\mathcal{P}$ , such as:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize } z_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{x}) \\ &\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in X_{\mathcal{P}} \end{aligned}$$

a problem  $\mathcal{R}$ , such as:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize } z_{\mathcal{R}}(\mathbf{x}) \\ &\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x} \in X_{\mathcal{R}} \end{aligned}$$

is a **relaxation** of  $\mathcal{P}$  if and only if these two conditions hold:

- $X_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq X_{\mathcal{R}}$
- $z_{\mathcal{R}}(\mathbf{x}) \leq z_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in X_{\mathcal{P}}$ .

As a consequence

$$z_{\mathcal{R}}^* = z_{\mathcal{R}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{R}}^*) \leq z_{\mathcal{R}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{P}}^*) \leq z_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{P}}^*) \leq z_{\mathcal{P}}^*.$$

The optimal value of the relaxation is not worse than the optimal value of the original problem.

## Lagrangean relaxation

Consider this problem  $\mathcal{P}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}) \text{ minimize } z_{\mathcal{P}}(x) &= c^T x \\ \text{s.t. } A_1 x &\geq b_1 \\ A_2 x &\geq b_2 \\ x &\geq 0 \text{ integer} \end{aligned}$$

A **Lagrangean relaxation** of  $\mathcal{P}$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{LR}) \text{ minimize } z_{\mathcal{LR}}(x, \lambda) &= c^T x + \lambda^T (b_1 - A_1 x) \\ \text{s.t. } A_2 x &\geq b_2 \\ x &\geq 0 \text{ integer} \end{aligned}$$

Violations of the relaxed constraints are **penalized in the objective function** by means of **Lagrangean multipliers**  $\lambda \geq 0$ .

## Is it a relaxation?

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}) \min z_{\mathcal{P}}(x) &= c^T x \\ \text{s.t. } A_1 x &\geq b_1 \\ A_2 x &\geq b_2 \\ x &\geq 0 \text{ integer} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{LR}) \min z_{\mathcal{LR}}(x, \lambda) &= c^T x + \lambda^T (b_1 - A_1 x) \\ \text{s.t. } A_2 x &\geq b_2 \\ x &\geq 0 \text{ integer} \end{aligned}$$

1. Feasible region:

$$X_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq X_{\mathcal{LR}}$$

because constraints  $A_1 x \geq b_1$  have been relaxed.

2. Objective function:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \forall x \in X_{\mathcal{P}} \Rightarrow A_1 x &\geq b_1 \\ \forall \lambda \geq 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \lambda^T (b_1 - A_1 x) \leq 0 \Rightarrow z_{\mathcal{LR}}(x, \lambda) \leq z_{\mathcal{P}}(x).$$

## Variations

Lagrangean relaxation can also be applied to **equality constraints**. In this case  $\lambda$  is unrestricted in sign.

Lagrangean relaxation can also be applied to **non-linear constraints**.

## Lagrangean dual problem

For each choice of the Lagrangean multipliers  $\lambda \geq 0$  we obtain a different instance, providing a different dual bound.

### Example (Set Covering).

The Lagrangean dual problem asks for the optimal Lagrangean multipliers  $\lambda^*$ :

$$\mathcal{LD}) z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = \max_{\lambda \geq 0} \{ z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\lambda) = \min_{x \in Q} \{ z_{\mathcal{LR}}(x, \lambda) = c^T x + \lambda^T (b_1 - A_1 x) \} \}.$$

This provides the best dual bound that can be obtained from the Lagrangean relaxation of constraints  $A_1 x \geq b_1$ . But a duality gap may still exist between  $z_{\mathcal{LD}}^*$  and  $z_{\mathcal{P}}^*$ .

## Complementary slackness

If the optimal solution  $\mathbf{x}^*$  for problem  $\mathcal{LR}$  is also feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$ , this does **not** guarantee that  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is optimal for  $\mathcal{P}$ . This is true only if the **penalty terms** are null.

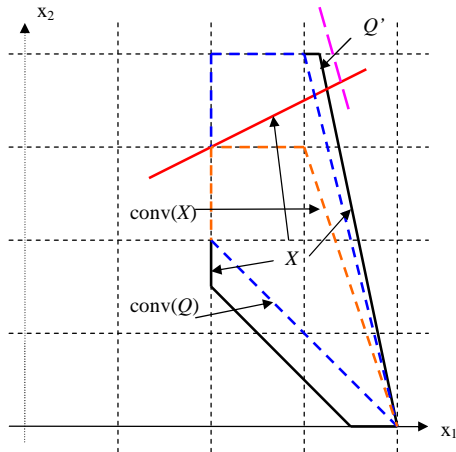
**Primal optimality** requires both:

- **feasibility**:  $\mathbf{x}^* \in X_{\mathcal{P}}$ , i.e.  $A_1 \mathbf{x}^* \geq b_1$
- **complementarity**:  $\lambda^{*T} (b_1 - A_1 \mathbf{x}^*) = 0$ .

When equality constraints are relaxed, the two conditions coincide.

## Geometrical interpretation (1)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}) \max z_{\mathcal{P}}(x) &= 7x_1 + 2x_2 \\ \text{s.t. } -x_1 + 2x_2 &\leq 4 \\ 5x_1 + x_2 &\leq 20 \\ -2x_1 - 2x_2 &\leq -7 \\ -x_1 &\leq -2 \\ x_2 &\leq 4 \\ x &\in \mathbb{Z}_+^2 \end{aligned}$$



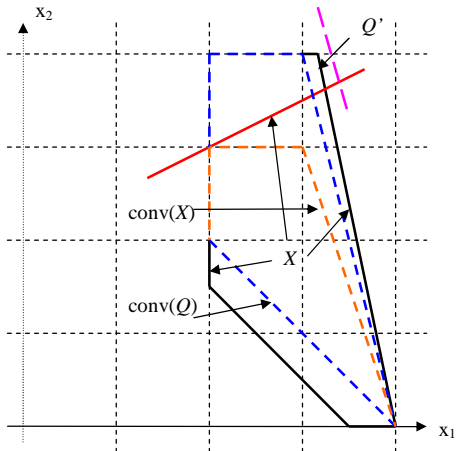


## Geometrical interpretation (2)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{LR}) \max z_{\mathcal{LR}}(x, \lambda) &= \\ &= (7+\lambda)x_1 + (2-2\lambda)x_2 + 4\lambda \\ \text{s.t. } 5x_1 + x_2 &\leq 20 \\ &-2x_1 - 2x_2 \leq -7 \\ &-x_1 \leq -2 \\ &x_2 \leq 4 \\ &x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$Q = \{(2, 2), \dots, (4, 0)\}.$$

$Q'$  is the polyhedron defined by the linear constraints of  $\mathcal{LR}$ .



## Primal viewpoint

The objective function  $z_{\mathcal{LR}}(\mathbf{x}, \lambda)$  can be seen as...

- a function of  $\mathbf{x}$  for  $\lambda$  fixed;
- a function of  $\lambda$  for  $\mathbf{x}$  fixed.

### Primal viewpoint.

For each given  $\bar{\lambda} \geq 0$  we have

$$z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\bar{\lambda}) = \max\{z_{\mathcal{LR}}(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\lambda}) : \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{Q}\}.$$

Since constraints and objectives are linear:

$$z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\bar{\lambda}) = \max\{z_{\mathcal{LR}}(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\lambda}) : \mathbf{x} \in \text{conv}(\mathcal{Q})\}.$$

This is a linear programming problem, where the orientation of the objective function depends on  $\bar{\lambda}$ .

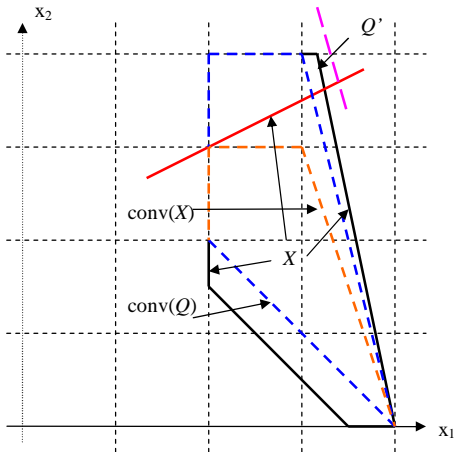
## Primal viewpoint (example).

$$\text{For } 0 \leq \bar{\lambda} \leq \frac{1}{9} \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\bar{\lambda}) = z((3, 4), \bar{\lambda}) = 29 - \bar{\lambda}.$$

$$\text{For } \bar{\lambda} \geq \frac{1}{9} \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\bar{\lambda}) = z((4, 0), \bar{\lambda}) = 28 + 8\bar{\lambda}.$$

Hence

$$z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = \min_{\bar{\lambda} \geq 0} \{z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\bar{\lambda})\} = \\ z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*\left(\frac{1}{9}\right) = z_{\mathcal{LR}}\left((3, 4), \frac{1}{9}\right) = \\ z_{\mathcal{LR}}\left((4, 0), \frac{1}{9}\right) = 28 + \frac{8}{9}.$$



## Dual viewpoint

For each given  $x^i \in \mathcal{Q}$ ,  $z_{LR}(x^i, \lambda)$  is an affine function of  $\lambda$ .

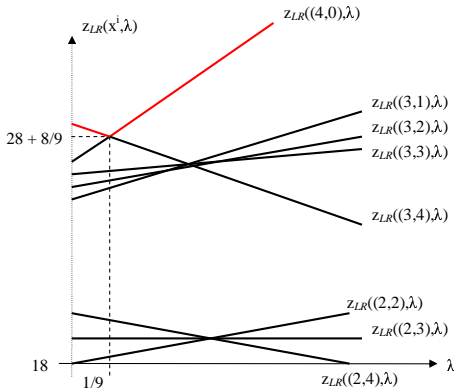
Hence  $z_{LR}^*(\lambda) = \max\{z_{LR}(x^i, \lambda) : x^i \in \mathcal{Q}, \lambda \geq 0\}$  is **piecewise linear** and **convex**.

$$z_{LR}^*(\lambda) = z_{LR}((3, 4), \lambda) \\ \text{for } 0 \leq \lambda \leq \frac{1}{9}$$

$$z_{LR}^*(\lambda) = z_{LR}((4, 0), \lambda) \\ \text{for } \lambda \geq \frac{1}{9}.$$

Then

$$z_{LD}^* = \min\{z_{LR}^*(\lambda) : \lambda \geq 0\} = \\ = z_{LR}^*\left(\frac{1}{9}\right) = 28 + \frac{8}{9}.$$



In our example when  $\lambda = \frac{1}{9}$  we have  $z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\lambda) = 28 + \frac{8}{9}$ .

Consider the point  $x^* = \frac{8}{9}(3, 4) + \frac{1}{9}(4, 0)$ , which is a convex combination of two integer points of  $\mathcal{Q}$ . Point  $x^*$  is the intersection point between the segment joining the two integer points and the relaxed constraint.

$$\begin{aligned} 28 + \frac{8}{9} &= z_{\mathcal{LR}}((3, 4), \frac{1}{9}) = z_{\mathcal{LR}}((4, 0), \frac{1}{9}) = z_{\mathcal{LR}}(x^*, \frac{1}{9}) = \\ &= c^T x^* + \frac{1}{9}(4 - (-x_1^* + 2x_2^*)) = c^T x^*. \end{aligned}$$

In general:

$$z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = \max\{c^T x : A_1 x \leq b_1, x \in \text{conv}(\mathcal{Q})\}.$$

There exists a convex combination  $x^*$  of points of  $\mathcal{Q}$ , which satisfies the relaxed constraints and such that the value of the objective function in  $x^*$  is equal to  $z_{\mathcal{LD}}^*$ . Finding this convex combination which satisfies the relaxed constraints and maximizes the original objective function is a linear problem and it is the dual of the Lagrangean dual.

## How good is Lagrangean relaxation?

Let define  $\mathcal{R} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : A_1 x \leq b_1\}$ .

$$\text{conv}(X_{\mathcal{P}}) = \text{conv}(Q \cap \mathcal{R}) \subseteq \text{conv}(Q) \cap \mathcal{R}$$

Hence:  $z_{\mathcal{P}}^* = \max\{c^T x : x \in X_{\mathcal{P}}\} = \max\{c^T x : x \in \text{conv}(X_{\mathcal{P}})\} =$   
 $\max\{c^T x : x \in \text{conv}(Q \cap \mathcal{R})\} \leq \max\{c^T x : x \in \text{conv}(Q) \cap \mathcal{R}\} = z_{\mathcal{LD}}^*$ .

The duality gap  $z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* - z_{\mathcal{P}}^*$  depends on the relationship between  $X_{\mathcal{P}}$  and  $Q$  (and then  $\mathcal{R}$ ) and from the coefficients  $c$ .

$z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = z_{\mathcal{P}}^* \quad \forall c$  if and only if  $\text{conv}(Q \cap \mathcal{R}) = \text{conv}(Q) \cap \mathcal{R}$ .

In our example they do not coincide:  $z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = 28 + \frac{8}{9}$  and  $z_{\mathcal{P}}^* = 28$ .

## Lagrangean vs. linear relaxation

When the relaxed problem is a discrete one, it is interesting to compare the dual bound  $z_{\mathcal{LD}}^*$  that can be obtained from Lagrangean relaxation with the dual bound  $z_{\mathcal{LP}}^*$  which is (easily) obtained from linear relaxation.

$$z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = z_{\mathcal{LP}}^* \quad \forall c$$

if all extreme points of the polyhedron  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : A_2 x \leq b_2\}$  are integer, i.e.  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : A_2 x \leq b_2\} = \text{conv}(\mathcal{Q})$ .

In our example this does not occur and we have

$$z_{\mathcal{LP}}^* = 30 + \frac{2}{11} > z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = 28 + \frac{8}{9}.$$

If we relaxed all constraints but the last two, we would obtain a feasible region  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : A_2 x \leq b_2\}$  with integer extreme points. In that case we would have  $z_{\mathcal{LP}}^* = z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = 30 + \frac{2}{11}$ .

## Lagrangean vs. linear relaxation

Summing up:

$$\text{conv}(X_{\mathcal{P}}) \subseteq \text{conv}(\mathcal{Q}) \cap \mathcal{R} \subseteq \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : Ax \leq b\}$$

and then

$$z_{\mathcal{P}}^* \leq z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* \leq z_{\mathcal{LP}}^*.$$

In general the best dual bound given by Lagrangean relaxation is tighter than the dual bound given by linear relaxation. They are equivalent when the relaxed problem has the **integrality property** (all integral extreme points).



## Special cases

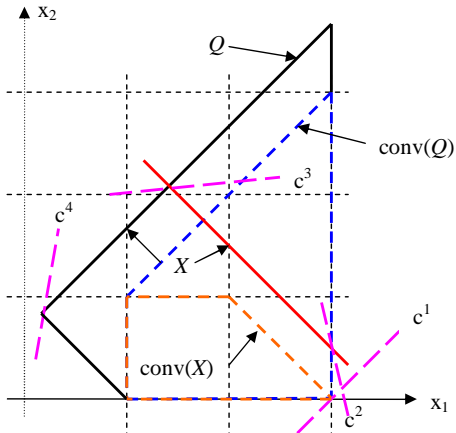
For some particular orientation of the objective function the bounds can be the same even if the general conditions for equivalence are not satisfied.

With  $c^1$ :  $z_P^* = z_{LD}^* = z_{LP}^*$ .

With  $c^2$ :  $z_P^* < z_{LD}^* = z_{LP}^*$ .

With  $c^3$ :  $z_P^* < z_{LD}^* < z_{LP}^*$ .

With  $c^4$ :  $z_P^* = z_{LD}^* < z_{LP}^*$ .



## Observations

- In linear relaxation the objective function and the constraints remain **unchanged**; in Lagrangean relaxation they are **modified**.
- In linear relaxation the integrality restrictions are **dropped**; in Lagrangean relaxation they are **kept**.
- If the optimal solution of a linear relaxation is integer, then it is **optimal** for the original problem; if the optimal solution of a Lagrangean relaxation satisfies the relaxed constraints, **this does not guarantee that it is optimal** for the original problem.
- The linear relaxation of a problem is **unique**; Lagrangean relaxation can be defined relaxing **different** constraints.
- The value of a solution  $x$  in a linear relaxation only depends on  **$x$** ; the value of a solution  $x$  in a Lagrangean relaxation depends on  **$\lambda$** , too.

## Approximation properties

$$z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* - z_{\mathcal{P}}^* \leq \epsilon \Leftrightarrow \exists \bar{\lambda} \geq 0, \bar{x} \in X_{\mathcal{P}} :$$

- $\bar{\lambda}^T (b_1 - A_1 \bar{x}) \leq \delta_1$
- $z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\bar{\lambda}) - z_{\mathcal{LR}}(\bar{x}, \bar{\lambda}) \leq \delta_2$
- $\delta_1 + \delta_2 \leq \epsilon.$

Therefore we can have  $z_{\mathcal{LD}}^* = z_{\mathcal{P}}^*$  only if there exist  $\bar{\lambda} \geq 0$  and  $\bar{x} \in X_{\mathcal{P}}$  such that these two conditions hold:

- **Optimality:**  $z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\bar{\lambda}) = z_{\mathcal{LR}}(\bar{x}, \bar{\lambda})$
- **Complementarity:**  $\bar{\lambda}^T (b_1 - A_1 \overline{linex}) = 0.$

We can evaluate the distance from optimality if we know

- $\delta_1$ : the error due to the choice of  $\bar{x}$  in the  $\mathcal{LR}$ ;
- $\delta_2$ : the error due to the choice of  $\bar{\lambda}$  in the Lagrangean dual problem.

## Lagrangean relaxation and problem decomposition (1)

A typical application of Lagrangean relaxation is to relax **coupling constraints**: this allows to decompose the problem into independent sub-problems.

**Example: Uncapacitated facility location problem.**

$$\min z_{\mathcal{P}}(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N c_{ij} x_{ij} + \sum_{j=1}^N f_j y_j$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{j=1}^N x_{ij} = (\geq) 1 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, M$$

$$x_{ij} \leq y_j$$

$$y \in \mathcal{B}^n$$

$$\forall i = 1, \dots, M \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, N$$

## Lagrangian relaxation and problem decomposition (2)

Relaxing the first set of constraints we have penalties of the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i (1 - \sum_{j=1}^N x_{ij}):$$

$$\begin{aligned} \min z_{\mathcal{LR}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) &= \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N (c_{ij} - \lambda_i) x_{ij} + \sum_{j=1}^N f_j y_j + \sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i \\ \text{s.t. } x_{ij} &\leq y_j & \forall i = 1, \dots, M \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, N \\ & \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{B}^n \end{aligned}$$

This can be decomposed into  $N$  independent subproblems:

$$\begin{aligned} \min z_j(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) &= \sum_{i=1}^M (c_{ij} - \lambda_i) x_{ij} + f_j y_j \\ \text{s.t. } x_{ij} &\leq y_j & \forall i = 1, \dots, M \\ x_{ij} &\geq 0 & \forall i = 1, \dots, M \\ y_j &\in \{0, 1\} \end{aligned}$$

that can be easily solved.

## Which relaxation should we choose?

There is a trade-off between three criteria:

- How many constraints do we relax? (n. of Lagrangean multipliers)
- How difficult the relaxed problem is? (computing time)
- Does the relaxed problem have the integrality property? (tightness of the dual bound)

## An example

Consider for instance the Generalized Assignment Problem.

$$\begin{aligned} \min z_{\mathcal{P}}(x) &= \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N c_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t. } \sum_{j=1}^N x_{ij} &= (\geq) 1 && \forall i = 1, \dots, M \\ \sum_{i=1}^M a_{ij} x_{ij} &\leq b_j && \forall j = 1, \dots, N \\ x &\in \mathcal{B}^{M \times N} \end{aligned}$$

We can relax the **assignment constraints**, the **capacity constraints** or both: we get three different relaxations.

## Lagrangean relaxation 1

Penalty terms of constraints  $\sum_{j=1}^N x_{ij} = (\geq) 1 \forall i = 1, \dots, M$  have the form  $\sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i (1 - \sum_{j=1}^N x_{ij})$ . Then we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \min z_{\mathcal{LR}}^1(x, \lambda) &= \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N (c_{ij} - \lambda_i) x_{ij} + \sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i \\ \text{s.t. } \sum_{i=1}^M a_{ij} x_{ij} &\leq b_j && \forall j = 1, \dots, N \\ x &\in \mathcal{B}^{M \times N} \end{aligned}$$

This relaxation:

- requires  $M$  multipliers,
- implies solving  $N$  knapsack problem instances,
- does not have the integrality property.



## Lagrangian relaxation 2

Penalty terms of constraints  $\sum_{i=1}^M a_{ij} x_{ij} \leq b_j \forall j = 1, \dots, N$  have the form:  $\sum_{j=1}^N \mu_j (\sum_{i=1}^M a_{ij} x_{ij} - b_j)$ . Then we obtain:

$$\min z_{\mathcal{LR}}^2(x, \mu) = \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N (c_{ij} + a_{ij} \mu_j) x_{ij} - \sum_{j=1}^N \mu_j b_j$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{j=1}^N x_{ij} = (\geq) 1$$

$$\forall i = 1, \dots, M$$

$$x \in \mathcal{B}^{M \times N}$$

This relaxation:

- requires  $N$  multipliers,
- implies solving  $M$  trivial problem instances,
- does have the integrality property.

## Lagrangean relaxation 3

Relaxing both sets of constraints, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \min z_{\mathcal{LR}}^3(x, \lambda, \mu) &= \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N (c_{ij} - \lambda_i + a_{ij} \mu_j) x_{ij} + \sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i - \sum_{j=1}^N \mu_j b_j \\ \text{s.t. } x &\in \mathcal{B}^{M \times N} \end{aligned}$$

This relaxation:

- requires  $M + N$  multipliers,
- implies solving  $M \times N$  trivial problem instances,
- does have the integrality property.

## How do we solve the Lagrangean dual problem?

The Lagrangean dual problem consists of minimizing a piecewise linear and convex function in a space with as many dimensions as the number of Lagrangean multipliers.

- **Convexity**: good news. There are no sub-optimal local minima.
- **Piecewise linearity**: bad news. First order partial derivatives (gradient vector) are not continuous everywhere.

It is a linear programming problem with as many constraints as the number of integer points in  $\mathcal{Q}$ .

To solve this problem we can use one of several approximation methods:

- sub-gradient optimization,
- multiplier adjustment,
- dual ascent.

## Sub-gradient optimization (1)

It is a local search algorithm that iteratively moves from a current point  $\lambda^{(k)}$  to a next point  $\lambda^{(k+1)}$  with a step of length  $\sigma^{(k)}$  in the direction opposite of the sub-gradient  $b - Ax^*(\lambda^{(k)})$ .

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**Begin**

Initialize  $\lambda^{(0)}$ ;  $k:=0$ ;

**while** not EndTest **do**

Solve  $\max_{x \in Q} z_{\mathcal{LR}}(x, \lambda^{(k)}) = c^T x + \lambda^{(k)T}(b - Ax)$  s.t.  $x \in Q$ ;

Obtain  $x^*(\lambda^{(k)})$ ;

Choose  $\sigma^{(k)}$ ;

$\lambda^{(k+1)} := \max\{\lambda^{(k)} - \sigma^{(k)}(b - Ax^*(\lambda^{(k)})), 0\}$ ;

$k := k + 1$ ;

**end while**

**End**

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The sub-gradient algorithm is **not monotonic**: it is necessary to save the best value encountered so far.

## Sub-gradient optimization (2)

- **Initialization** is usually not important. The algorithm is not sensitive to it.
- The **end test** succeeds when no improvements are observed after a given number of iterations.
- The **step** can be chosen with some heuristic rule.

**Rule of thumb (a).** If

- $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k \sigma^{(i)} = \infty$  and
- $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sigma^{(k)} = 0$ ,

then the sub-gradient algorithm converges to the optimal value of the Lagrangean dual.

**Rule of thumb (b).** If  $\sigma^{(k)} = \sigma^{(0)} \rho^k$  with  $\rho < 1$ , then it converges to optimality provided that  $\mu^{(0)}$  and  $\rho$  are large enough.

## Sub-gradient optimization (3)

Beasley's rules of thumb:

- Normalize the right hand sides of the relaxed constraints to 1;
- Choose  $0 < \pi \leq 2$ ;
- Choose  $\lambda^{(0)}$  arbitrarily;
- Define a scalar step  $\sigma = \frac{\pi |\bar{z} - z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\lambda^{(0)}, x^*)|}{\sum_i \max\{G_i, 0\}^2}$ , where
  - $\bar{z}$  is the value of a feasible solution (possibly increased by a small percentage);
  - $x^*$  is the optimal solution of  $\mathcal{LR}(\lambda^{(0)})$ ;
  - $z_{\mathcal{LR}}^*(\lambda^{(0)}, x^*)$  is the corresponding optimal value;
  - $i$  is the index spanning all relaxed constraints;
  - $G_i = b_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j^*$  is the sub-gradient of constraint  $i$  evaluated in  $x^*$ ;
- Update  $\lambda_i := \max\{0, \lambda_i + \sigma G_i\}$ ;
- Halve  $\pi$  when the best value does not improve for a certain number of iterations;
- Stop after a prescribed number of iterations of when  $\pi$  becomes "small enough".

## Algorithmic improvements

### Lagrangian heuristics.

The information provided by the optimal solution of the Lagrangian relaxation (corresponding to a dual bound), is used to build a primal feasible solution.

Lagrangian heuristics must be tailored to each specific problem and relaxation.

This allows to compute **primal bounds** every time dual bounds are computed in a branch-and-bound algorithm.

### Variable fixing.

After solving a Lagrangian relaxation, we have:

- a **reduced cost** for each variable,
- a **gap** between a primal and a dual bound.

If the reduced cost is larger than the gap, the current value of the variable can be fixed.

## Lagrangean decomposition (1)

Given a problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_1 x \geq b_1 \\ & A_2 x \geq b_2 \\ & x \in \mathcal{B}^n \end{aligned}$$

we can transform it into the equivalent problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c'^T x + (c - c')^T y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_1 x \geq b_1 \\ & A_2 y \geq b_2 \\ & x = y \\ & x, y \in \mathcal{B}^n \end{aligned}$$

Now we can relax the coupling constraint  $x = y$  and decompose.



## Lagrangean decomposition (2)

From the Lagrangean relaxation of the coupling constraints (equalities) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c'^T x + (c - c')^T y + \lambda^T (x - y) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_1 x \geq b_1 \\ & A_2 y \geq b_2 \\ & x, y \in \mathcal{B}^n \end{aligned}$$

which decomposes into

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & (c' + \lambda)^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_1 x \geq b_1 \\ & x \in \mathcal{B}^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & (c - c' - \lambda)^T y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_2 y \geq b_2 \\ & y \in \mathcal{B}^n \end{aligned}$$