

15 Sep 2025

# Strong LP Duality

(Primal)

(weak)  
 $\leq$

(Dual)

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \preceq b \\ & x \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

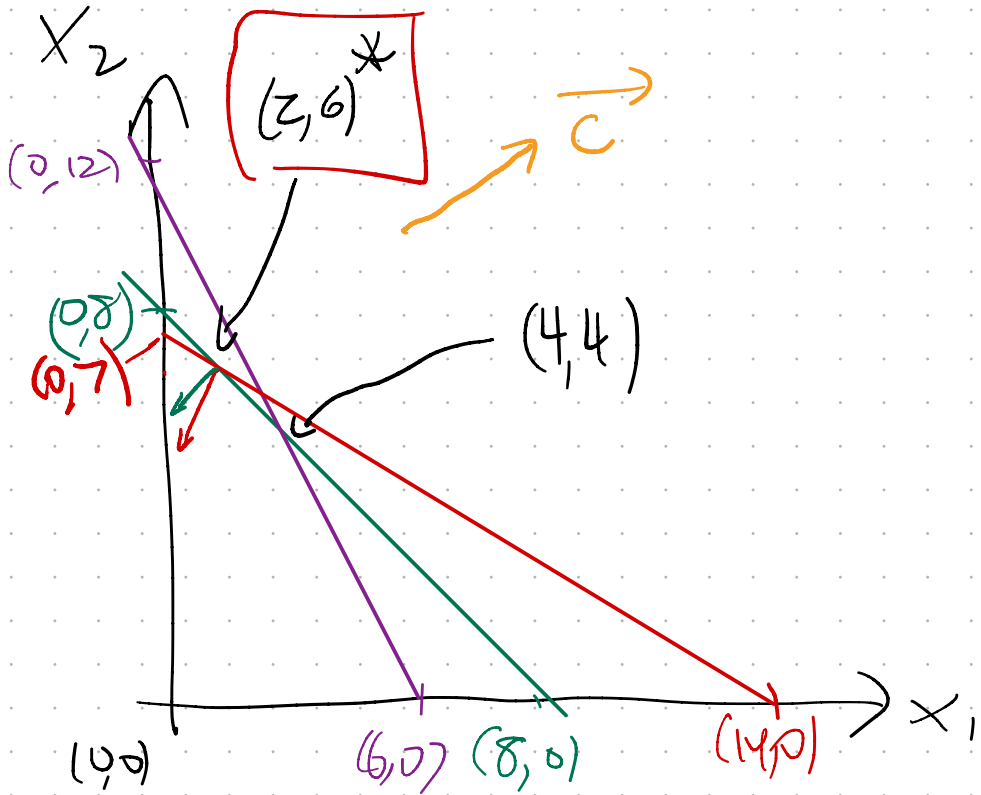
==  
 (strong)

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & b^T y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A^T y \preceq c \\ & y \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

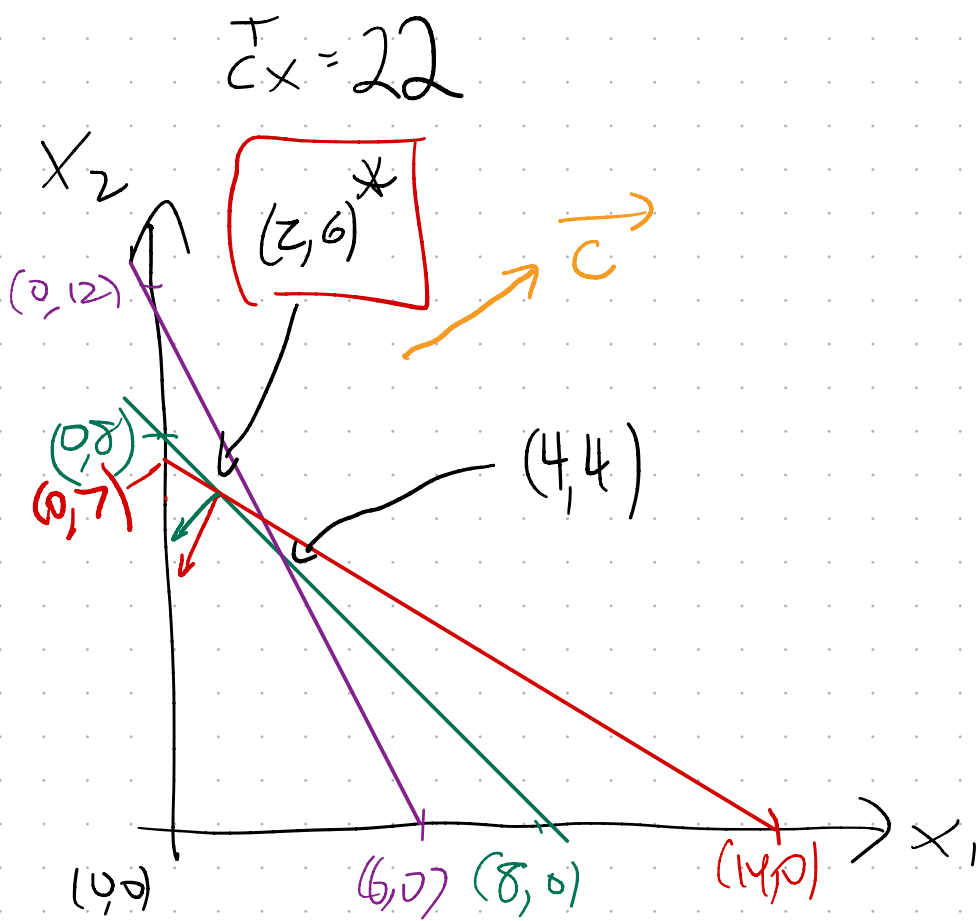
$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & 2x_1 + 3x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + x_2 \leq 8 \\ & 2x_1 + x_2 \leq 12 \\ & x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 14 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & [2 \ 3] \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \preceq \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 12 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix} \\ & x \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$c^T x = 22 \quad x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$



$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & [8 \ 12 \ 14] \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} y \preceq \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \\ & y \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$



The opt solution  $x^* = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$  satisfies

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

Any other feasible  $x$  satisfies

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

for some  $w_1, w_2 \geq 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 22 - \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 22 - w_1 - w_2$$

$y$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 8 & 12 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 22$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

In higher dimensions, take

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax + w = b \\ & x, w \geq 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} c, x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ b, w \in \mathbb{R}^m \\ A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \end{array}$$

and suppose  $\vec{x}, \vec{w}$  is an optimal point.

Further, suppose exactly  $n$  coord's  
of  $w$  are  $= 0$  and the  
rest are  $> 0$ . (with loss of generality)