

# CS257: Introduction to Automated Reasoning

## QF\_LRA



**Stanford**  
University



# Overview

SMT solvers can be used to solve arithmetic problems

**Linear Programs (LPs)** are a particularly interesting class of arithmetic problems, with stand-alone solvers

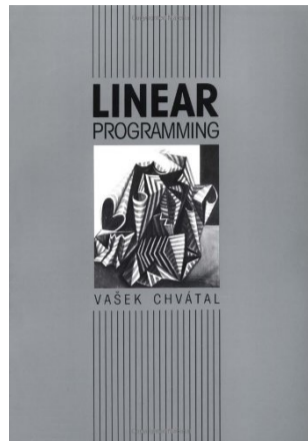
Many interesting applications: robotic planning, formal verification, operations research

Some of the slides are contributed by Guy Katz.

# Outline

- QF\_LRA
- Linear Programming
- The Simplex algorithm

Readings: DP 5.1-5.2 and optionally...



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# Linear Programs: Historical Context

- Dates back at least to 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - A procedure now called **Fourier-Motzkin elimination** first proposed by **Joseph Fourier** in 1826 and re-discovered by **Theodore Motzkin** in 1936
- More interests during and after WW2
  - 1939: **Leonid Kantorovich** formulated the problem of Linear Programming and developed a decision procedure (won Nobel prize in economics in 1975)
  - 1946: **George Dantzig** (Stanford professor 1966–2005) invented the **Simplex method**
    - ▶ Simplex still used extensively (in Operations Research)
    - ▶ **Our focus today!**
- 1979: first shown to be solvable in polynomial time by **Leonid Khachiyan**
  - 1984: Interior-point method invented by **Narendra Karmarkar**

## Review: Theory of Real Arithmetics ( $\mathcal{T}_{RA}$ )

Equality: Yes

$$\Sigma^S = \{R\}$$

$$\Sigma^F = \{+, -, *, \leq, q_i \text{ for each rational number constant } i\}$$

$\mathcal{S}$  is the class of structures that interprets  $R$  as the set of real numbers, and the functions in the usual way ( $sort(q_i) = \langle R \rangle$ )

**Quantifier-free linear real arithmetic** (QF\_LRA): 1) no quantifiers; 2)  $*$  can only appear if at least one of the two operands is a rational constant.

Many SMT solvers (e.g., Z3, cvc5) implement **Simplex** as the **theory solver** for  $\mathcal{T}_{RA}$

# Linear Programming

A **linear programming (LP)** instance includes:

- An  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  called the **constraint matrix**
- An  $m$ -dimensional vector  $b$
- An  $n$ -dimensional vector  $c$  (the **objective function**)

The goal: find a solution  $x$  that **maximizes**  $c^T x$  subject to the linear inequality constraints  $Ax \leq b$

## Example and Terminology

Maximize  $2x_2 - x_1$  subject to:

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + x_2 &\leq 3 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 &\leq -5\end{aligned}$$

Here:

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} \quad c = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find  $x$  that maximizes  $c^T x$ , subject to  $Ax \leq b$

## Example and Terminology

Maximize  $2x_2 - x_1$  subject to:

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 + x_2 &\leq 3 \\ 2x_1 - x_2 &\leq -5\end{aligned}$$

If a particular assignment of  $x$  satisfies  $Ax \leq b$ , we call it a **feasible solution**

Otherwise, it is an **infeasible solution**

Is  $\langle 0, 0 \rangle$  a feasible solution?

Is  $\langle -2, 1 \rangle$  a feasible solution?

For a given assignment of  $x$ , the value of  $c^T x$  is the **objective value** (or cost) of  $x$

What is the objective value of  $\langle -2, 1 \rangle$ ?



## Example and Terminology

A **feasible solution** with a **maximal objective value** (over all feasible solutions) is called an **optimal solution**

If a linear program has no feasible solutions, the linear program is **infeasible**

If the optimal solution's objective value is  $\infty$ , the linear program is called **unbounded**

## Geometric Interpretation

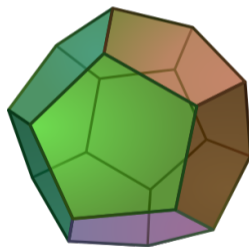
For an  $m \times n$  constraint matrix  $A$ , the set of points  $P = \{x \mid Ax \leq b\}$  form a **convex polytope** in  $n$ -dimensional space

**Polytope**: the generalization of polyhedron from 3 dimensional space to higher dimensions

**Convexity**: for all  $v_1, v_2 \in R^n$ , if  $v_1, v_2 \in P$ , then for all  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,  $\lambda v_1 + (1 - \lambda)v_2 \in P$

In other words, every point on the line segment connecting two points in  $P$  is also in  $P$

Goal: find a point **in the polytope** that maximizes  $c^T x$

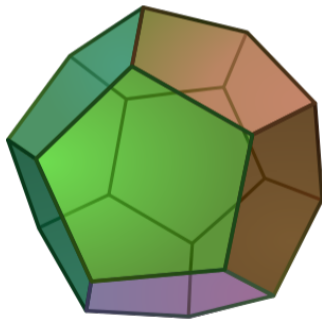


## Geometric Interpretation

The LP is **infeasible** if the polytope is **empty**

The LP is **unbounded** if the polytope is **open** in the direction of the objective function

The **optimal solution** for a bounded LP must lie on a vertex of the polytope



# Satisfiability as Linear Programming

Goal: use LP to check the satisfiability of quantifier-free conjunctive  $\mathcal{T}_{RA}$ -formulas

**Step 1:** convert equalities to inequalities

A  $\mathcal{T}_{LRA}$ -equality can be written in the form  $a^T x_i = b$

We rewrite this as  $a^T x_i \geq b \wedge a^T x_i \leq b$

## Satisfiability as Linear Programming

Goal: use LP to check the satisfiability of quantifier-free conjunctive  $\mathcal{T}_{RA}$ -formulas

**Step 2:** handle strict inequalities

A  $\mathcal{T}_{LRA}$ -literal is of the form  $a^T x_i \leq b$  or  $\neg a^T x_i \leq b$

$a^T x_i \leq b$  is already in the desired form

For the latter:

$$\neg a^T x_i \leq b$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a^T x_i > b$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -a^T x_i < -b$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -a^T x_i + y \leq -b \wedge y > 0$$

**Note:**  $y$  is a new variable and the same  $y$  is used in all atoms

**Example:** What is the result of rewriting  $\neg(2x_1 - x_2 \leq 3)$ ?

Now, the formula is of the form  $Ax \leq b \wedge y > 0$

## Satisfiability as Linear Programming

**Step 3:** To check the satisfiability of  $Ax \leq b \wedge y > 0$ , encode the following LP:

Maximize  $y$  subject to  $Ax \leq b$

The formula is **satisfiable** if and only if the **optimal value** is **positive**

Methods for solving LPs:

- **Ellipsoid method** (Khachian, 1979) Polynomial time
- **Interior-point algorithm** (Karmarkar, 1984) Polynomial time
- **Simplex algorithm** (Dantzig, 1949) Exponential time (probably)

Still, Simplex remains the most popular

## Standard Form

The general form of LP is to maximize  $y$  subject to a system of inequalities.

However, the algorithm is easier to present if we make the additional assumption that all variables are **non-negative**:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{maximize} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & x_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

We call this the **standard form**.

The algorithm we present is still general because any LP can be transformed to **standard form**.

## Standard Form

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximize} && \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ &\text{s.t.} && \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &&& x_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

Running example:

$$\begin{aligned} \max & \quad 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} & \quad 2x_1 + 3x_2 + x_3 \leq 5 \\ & \quad 4x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 11 \\ & \quad 3x_1 + 4x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 8 \\ & \quad x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



## Slack Variables

Observe the first equation

$$2x_1 + 3x_2 + x_3 \leq 5$$

Define a **new variable** to represent the **slack**:

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3, \quad x_4 \geq 0$$

Do this to every each constraint so everything becomes **equalities**

Define a new variable to represent the **objective value**:

$$z = 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 2x_1 + 3x_2 + x_3 \leq 5 \\ & 4x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 11 \\ & 3x_1 + 4x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 8 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Slack Variables

$$\max \quad 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad 2x_1 + 3x_2 + x_3 \leq 5$$

$$4x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 11$$

$$3x_1 + 4x_2 + 2x_3 \leq 8$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\max \quad z$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6 \geq 0$$

New variables are called **slack variables**

Optimal solution remains optimal for the new problem

# The Simplex Strategy

- Start with a feasible solution
  - For our example, set all original variables to 0
  - $x_4 = 5, x_5 = 11, x_6 = 8, x_1, x_2, x_3, z = 0$
- Iteratively improve the objective value
  - Go from  $x$  to  $x'$  only if  $z(x) \leq z(x')$

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

What can we improve here?

One option: make  $x_1$  larger, leave  $x_2, x_3$  as is

- $x_1 \mapsto 1 \Rightarrow z \mapsto 5$
- $x_1 \mapsto 2 \Rightarrow z \mapsto 10$
- $x_1 \mapsto 3 \Rightarrow z \mapsto 15$

But  $x_4, x_5, x_6$  become negative now, so the solution is no longer **feasible**

# The Simplex Strategy

Moral of the story:

- Can't increase  $x_1$  too much
- Increase it as much as possible, **without harming feasibility**

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad x_1 \leq \frac{5}{2}, x_1 \leq \frac{11}{4}, x_1 \leq \frac{8}{3}$$

Select the **tightest bound**,  $x_1 \leq \frac{5}{2}$

- New assignment:  $x_1 = \frac{5}{2}, x_2 = x_3 = x_4 = 0, x_5 = 1, x_6 = \frac{1}{2}$
- This gives  $z = \frac{25}{2}$ , which is indeed an improvement

## The Simplex Strategy

Currently,  $x_1 = \frac{5}{2}$ ,  $x_2 = x_3 = x_4 = 0$ ,  $x_5 = 1$ ,  $x_6 = \frac{1}{2}$   
and  $z = \frac{25}{2}$

How do we continue?

For the first iteration we had:

- A **feasible solution** ✓
- An **equation system**, where
  - variables with positive value are expressed in terms of variables with 0 values

Does the current **equation system** satisfy this property?

Need to update the equations

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

# The Simplex Strategy

What should we change?

- Initially:  $x_1$  was 0,  $x_4$  was positive
- Now:  $x_4$  is 0,  $x_1$  is positive

Isolate  $x_1$ , eliminate from right-hand-side

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3 \Rightarrow x_1 = \frac{5}{2} - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{1}{2}x_4$$

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$x_1 = \frac{5}{2} - \frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{1}{2}x_4$$

$$x_5 = 1 + 5x_2 + 2x_4$$

$$x_6 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 + \frac{3}{2}x_4$$

$$z = \frac{25}{2} - \frac{7}{2}x_2 + \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{5}{2}x_4$$

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

# The Simplex Strategy

How can we improve  $z$  further?

- Option 1: decrease  $x_2$  or  $x_4$   
but we can't since  $x_2, x_4 \geq 0$
- Option 2: increase  $x_3$   
By how much?

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_1 = & \frac{5}{2} & -\frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{1}{2}x_4 \\ x_5 = & 1 & +5x_2 & +2x_4 \\ x_6 = & \frac{1}{2} & +\frac{1}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 + \frac{3}{2}x_4 \\ z = & \frac{25}{2} & -\frac{7}{2}x_2 + \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{5}{2}x_4 \end{array}$$

Bounds of  $x_3$ :  $x_3 \leq 5, x_3 \leq 1, x_3 \leq \infty$

So we increase  $x_3$  to 1

- New assignment:  $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1, x_4 = 0, x_5 = 1, x_6 = 0$
- This gives  $z = 13$ , which is again an improvement

# The Simplex Strategy

As before, we **switch**  $x_6$  and  $x_3$ , and **eliminate**  $x_3$  from right-hand-side.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} x_1 = & \frac{5}{2} & -\frac{3}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{1}{2}x_4 \\ x_5 = & 1 & +5x_2 \quad \quad \quad + 2x_4 \\ x_6 = & \frac{1}{2} & +\frac{1}{2}x_2 - \frac{1}{2}x_3 + \frac{3}{2}x_4 \\ z = & \frac{25}{2} & -\frac{7}{2}x_2 + \frac{1}{2}x_3 - \frac{5}{2}x_4 \end{array} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{rcl} x_1 = & 2 & -2x_2 - 2x_4 + x_6 \\ x_5 = & 1 & +5x_2 + 2x_4 \\ x_3 = & 1 & +x_2 + 3x_4 - 2x_6 \\ z = & 13 & -3x_2 - x_4 - x_6 \end{array}$$



# The Simplex Strategy

Can we improve  $z$  further?

- No, because  $x_2, x_4, x_6 \geq 0$
- And all appear with negative signs in the objective function

So we are done, and maximal value of  $z$  is 13

Optimal solution is  $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1, x_4 = 0$

$$x_1 = 2 - 2x_2 - 2x_4 + x_6$$

$$x_5 = 1 + 5x_2 + 2x_4$$

$$x_3 = 1 + x_2 + 3x_4 - 2x_6$$

$$z = 13 - 3x_2 - x_4 - x_6$$

# The Simplex Algorithm

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximize} && \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ &\text{s.t.} && \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &&& x_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

1. Introduce slack variables  $x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m}$
2. Set  $x_{n+i} = b_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j$
3. Start with initial feasible solution  $\bar{x}_0$
4. If some addends in the current objective function have **positive coefficients**, update the feasible solution (to improve the objective value). Otherwise, the current solution is the optimal.
5. Update the equations
6. Go to step 4

## Updating the Equations: Pivoting

As we progress towards the optimal solution, equations are updated

This computational process of constructing the new equation system is called **pivoting**

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

### Invariants:

- Number of equations (m) never changes
- Variables are either left hand side or right hand side, never both
  - Left hand side variables are called **basic**
  - Right hand side variables are called **non-basic**
- Non-basic variables always pressed against their bounds (always 0)
- Basic variable assignment determined by non-basic assignment and equations

## Updating the Equations: Pivoting

The set of basic variables is called **the basis**

In the **pivoting** step:

- A **non-basic variable** enters the basis (the **entering variable**)
- A **basic variable** leaves the basis (the **leaving variable**)

How is the entering variable chosen? To increase the value of  $z$

One strategy (**Dantzig's rule**) picks the variable with the **largest coefficient**

How is the leaving variable chosen? To maintain feasibility

Select the basic variable corresponding to the tightest upper-bound

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

## Tableau and Implementation

We have presented the equation system as a “dictionary”

A more popular version is called a **tableau**:

$$x_4 = 5 - 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_5 = 11 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_6 = 8 - 3x_1 - 4x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$z = 0 + 5x_1 + 4x_2 + 3x_3$$

⇒

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	RHS
2	3	1	1	0	0	5
4	1	2	1	1	0	11
3	4	2	1	0	1	8
5	4	3	0	0	0	0

The pivoting process can be understood as a series of **matrix operations**

## Some Pitfalls

Possible problems of the procedure that we described so far:

- **Initialization**: how to obtain an initial feasible solution?
- **Termination**: can we encounter an endless sequence of dictionaries without reaching an optimal  $z$ ?

## Pitfalls: initialization

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximize} && \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ &\text{s.t.} && \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &&& x_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

Easy when all  $b_i$ 's are non-negative

What can we do for negative  $b_i$ 's?

## Pitfalls: initialization

Solution: switch to an **auxiliary problem** with a **known feasible solution**

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximize} && \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ &\text{s.t.} && \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &&& x_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && x_0 \\ &\text{s.t.} && \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \right) - x_0 \leq b_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &&& x_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$



## Pitfalls: initialization

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && x_0 \\ &\text{s.t.} && \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \right) - x_0 \leq b_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &&& x_j \geq 0 \quad \text{for } j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

For the **auxiliary** problem, a feasible solution is easy to find: set  $x_1, \dots, x_n = 0$ , and make  $x_0$  **sufficiently large**

Original problem has a solution if and only if the optimal solution for the auxiliary problem has  $x_0 = 0$

## Initialization: example

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & x_1 + 2x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & 2x_1 - 3x_2 \leq -2 \\ & 4x_1 - x_2 \leq -4 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{array} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{ll} \max & -x_0 \\ \text{s.t.} & 2x_1 - 3x_2 - x_0 \leq -2 \\ & 4x_1 - x_2 - x_0 \leq -4 \\ & x_0, x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Initial feasible solution:  $x_0 = 4, x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0$

The dictionary of the auxiliary problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} x_3 = & -2 - 2x_1 + 3x_2 + x_0 \\ x_4 = & -4 - 4x_1 + x_2 + x_0 \\ z = & -x_0 \end{array}$$

**Any issues?** Variables on the right-hand side need to be 0

**Solution:** perform a pivot step to move  $x_0$  into the basis

$$\begin{array}{ll} x_3 = & 2 + 2x_1 + 2x_2 + x_4 \\ x_0 = & 4 + 4x_1 - x_2 + x_4 \\ z = & -4 - 4x_1 + x_2 - x_4 \end{array}$$

## The Two Steps of Simplex

Traditionally, the optimization problem is divided into two phases:

**Phase I:** Find a feasible solution

**Phase II:** Optimize the objective function

But behind the scenes, there is **only Phase II**

## Pitfalls: Termination

Recall the goal of every iteration is to **increase  $z$**

In each pivoting step, we **swap** a non-basic variable with a basic variable:

- The non-basic (**entering**) variable has a positive coefficient in the objective function
- If no such variable exists, the objective function is **optimal** and we can stop
- The leaving variable is the one imposing the **tightest constraint**

An iteration will **never make  $z$  worse**

So when might we not converge to the optimal  $z$ ?

## Pitfalls: Terminations

**Theorem:** if the simplex method fails to terminate, it must be **cycling** (i.e., same dictionary is repeated infinitely often)

**Proof sketch:**

1. there are only finitely many bases;
2. each bases uniquely defines the dictionary;
3. Therefore, there are only finitely many values of  $z$  to try

If simplex is cycling, then  $z$  has to **stop increasing**

## Degenerate Pivots

Consider the following case:

$$x_1 = -2x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$z = 5x_2 - x_3 + 4x_4$$

Dantzig's rule: pick  $x_2$  as the entering variable

Leaving variable is  $x_1$ , but its value cannot increase

So the value of  $z$  doesn't change after this iteration

A pivot is called **degenerate** iff it does not change the objective value

**Note:** empirically **rare** in practice

Cycling can only occur in the presence of **degenerate pivot**.

## Pivoting Strategies

There exist variable selection **strategies** that guarantee termination

**Bland's Rule** (1977): the simplex method terminates as long as the entering and leaving variables are selected by the **smallest-subscript rule** in each iteration

Example:  $z = -5x_1 - 3x_2 + 4x_3 + 40x_4$

The entering variable is:  $x_3$

Leaving variable: still the one imposing the **tightest constraint**, but break tie by picking the smaller subscript

Modern solvers use more sophisticated heuristics (e.g., **Steepest Edge**) that might not prevent cycling

When cycling is detected: switch to Bland's rule for a while

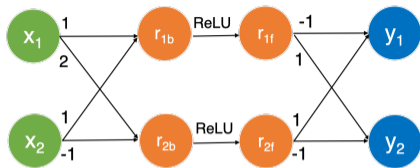
**Complexity**: the common strategies all have worse-case **exponential time**

## Possible optimizations

- More sophisticated pivoting strategy
- Use rational number representation (to handle numerical instability)
- Handle general Linear Program (variables can have non-zero lower bounds and/or finite upper bounds)
- Extract **irreducible infeasible subset** in case of infeasibility (theory explanations)
- ...



# Application: Neural Network Verification



Property to verify:  $\forall x_1, x_2. ((x_1 \in [-2, 1] \wedge x_2 \in [-2, 2]) \rightarrow y_1 < y_2)$

1. Encoding of the neural network  $\phi_n$  (linear + ReLUs):

$$r_{1b} = x_1 + x_2 \quad r_{2b} = 2x_1 - x_2$$

$$y_1 = -r_{1f} + r_{2f} \quad y_2 = r_{1f} - r_{2f}$$

$$(r_{1b} \leq 0 \wedge r_{1f} = 0) \vee (r_{1b} \geq 0 \wedge r_{1f} = r_{1b})$$

$$(r_{2b} \leq 0 \wedge r_{2f} = 0) \vee (r_{2b} \geq 0 \wedge r_{2f} = r_{2b})$$

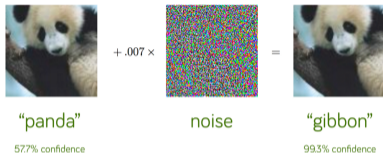
2. Encoding of the the property  $\phi_p$ :

Submit your answer to <https://pollev.com/andreww095>

3. Property holds iff  $\phi_n \wedge \phi_p$  is **unsatisfiable**

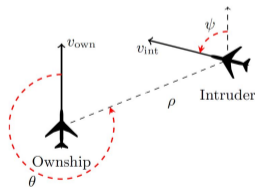
# Practical properties

- Robustness property:  $\forall x', \|x - x'\| < \epsilon \Rightarrow \|N(x) - N(x')\| < \delta$



“There is no adversarial input within  $\epsilon$  distance”

- Reachability property:  $\forall x, x \in [x_l, x_u] \Rightarrow y \in [y_l, y_u]$



“Whenever intruder is **near** and **to the right** advise **strong left**.”

A lot of attentions in recent years.