

Assignment 13

Post Date: 30 Jan 2013 **Due Date:** 6 Feb 2013, 14:30
 You are permitted and encouraged to work in groups of two.

Problem 1: Max-Flow Min-Cut

10 Extrapoints

Consider the following formulation of the maximum-flow problem: Given a flow network consisting of

a directed graph $D = (V, E)$, $s, t \in V$, and capacities $u : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$,

add a new “artificial” arc (t, s) with infinite capacity to E and find real values $f(e), e \in E$

maximizing $f(t, s)$

subject to

$$0 \leq f(e) \leq u(e), \quad e \in E$$

and

$$\sum_{(v,w) \in E} f(v,w) = \sum_{(w,v) \in E} f(w,v), \quad v \in V.$$

- (a) Show that the above formulation indeed corresponds to the first definition of the maximum-flow problem that you have learned in this course.
- (b) Convert the above formulation into a linear program in standard form.
- (c) Let $B = (b_{ij})_{i=1,\dots,n;j=1,\dots,m}$ be the incidence matrix of the directed graph D including the artificial arc (t, s) with some arbitrary ordering v_1, \dots, v_n and e_1, \dots, e_m of the vertices and edges, respectively, i.e., let

$$b_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } v_i \text{ tail of } e_j \\ 0, & \text{if } e_j \text{ not incident to } v_i \\ -1, & \text{if } v_i \text{ head of } e_j \end{cases}$$

Using B , define the matrix A and the vectors b and c such that your linear program corresponds to the short form

$$\text{maximize } c^T x \text{ subject to } Ax \leq b, x \geq 0.$$

- (d) Formulate the dual of the maximum-flow linear program.
- (e) Interpret the dual of the maximum-flow linear program as a minimum-cut problem.

Problem 2: 1-Variable Linear Program**6 Extrapoints**

For $a, b, c, x \in \mathbb{R}$ consider the following linear program.

$$\text{maximize} \quad cx$$

subject to

$$ax \leq b \quad \text{and} \quad x \geq 0.$$

- (a) State for which values of a, b , and c the primal and the dual linear program, respectively, are infeasible, unbounded or have an optimal solution with finite objective value, respectively. Relate the cases.
- (b) Prove or disprove that in general the dual of an unbounded linear program is infeasible.

Problem 3: Complementary Slackness**4 Extrapoints**

Let \bar{x} be a feasible solution to the primal linear program

$$\text{maximize} \quad \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j$$

subject to

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i, i = 1, \dots, m \quad \text{and} \quad x_j \geq 0, j = 1, \dots, n$$

and let \bar{y} be a feasible solution to the corresponding dual linear program. Prove that \bar{x} and \bar{y} are optimal if and only if

$$\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} \bar{y}_i = c_j \text{ or } \bar{x}_j = 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n$$

and

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \bar{x}_j = b_i \text{ or } \bar{y}_i = 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m.$$