

# Lecture 8

## Plan:

- Faces of Polyhedra
- State tons of facts
- Prove them

# Faces of Polyhedra

Def:  $a^{(1)} \dots a^{(k)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are

affinely independent if

$$\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i a^{(i)} = 0$$

and  $\sum \lambda_i = 0$  imply  $\lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_k = 0$ .

(w/out  $\sum \lambda_i = 0$ , is just linear indep.)

linear independence  $\Rightarrow$  affine independent.

Note:  $\text{aff}(X) =$  lowest dim. affine space containing  $X$ .

$\{c_i\}$  are independent iff

$\{a^{(i)}\}$  affinely independent

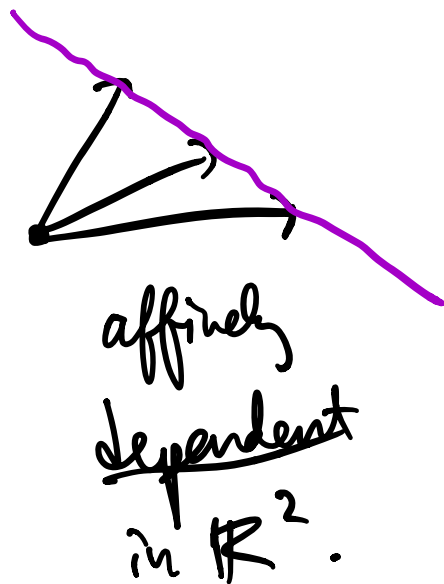
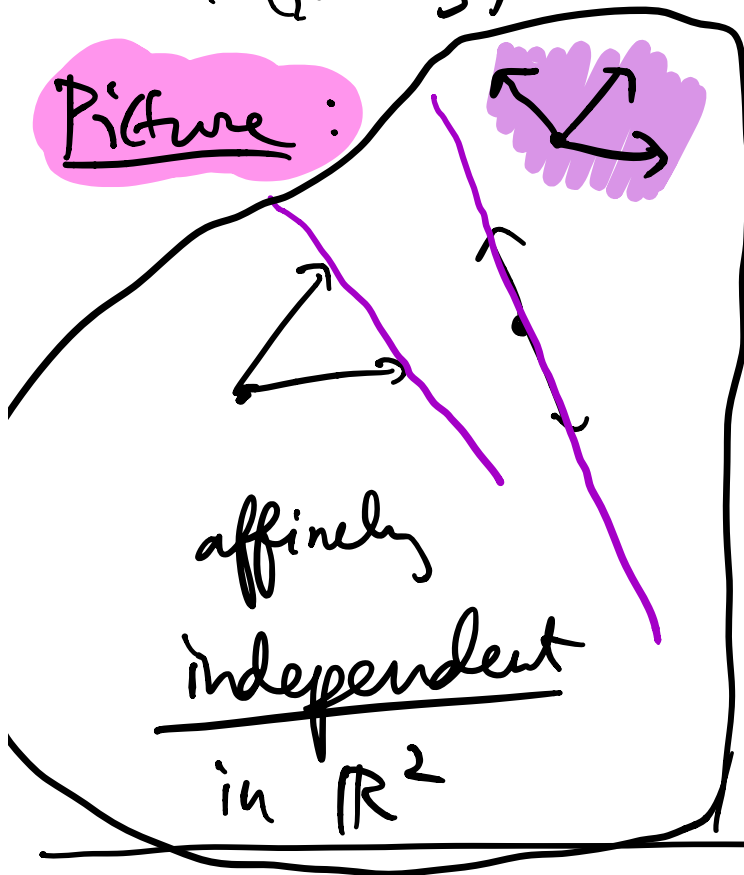
$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a^{(i)} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

linearly independent.

$\Leftrightarrow \text{aff}(\{a^{(i)}\})$  has dimension  $k-1$

$\uparrow$   
# vectors.

Picture:



Def Dimension  $\dim(P)$  of

polyhedron  $P$ :

$-1 + \max \#$  affinely  
independent points in  $P$ .

Equivalently, dimension of  
affine hull of  $P$ .

Examples:  $P = \emptyset$ ,  $\dim(P) = -1$

$P = \text{singleton}$   $\cdot$   $\dim(P) = 0$

$P = \text{line segment}$   $\diagup$   $\dim(P) = 1$

$\vdots$

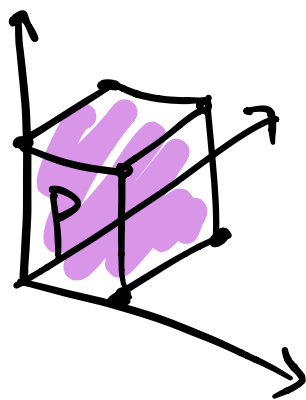


$$\text{aff}(P) = \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\dim(P) = n;$$

$P$  "full dimensional"

eg. cube in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :  $\{x_i: 0 \leq x_i \leq 1\}$



$$\dim P = 3$$

$$\dim \mathbb{R}^3 = 3$$

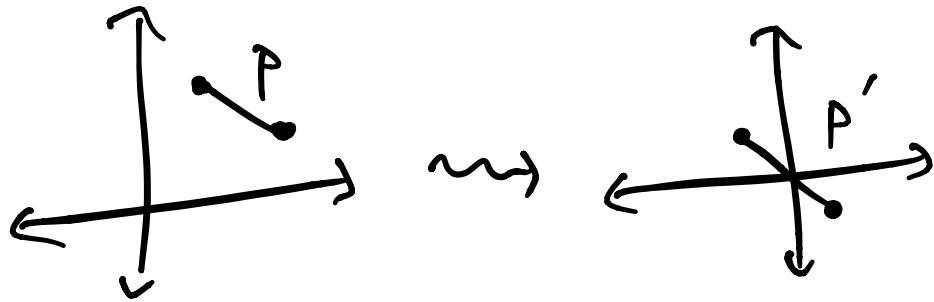
(as polyhedron).

Why affine, not linear? affine

independence is translation invariant:

if I used max # lin indep points - 1  
 $\dim(P) = 1$

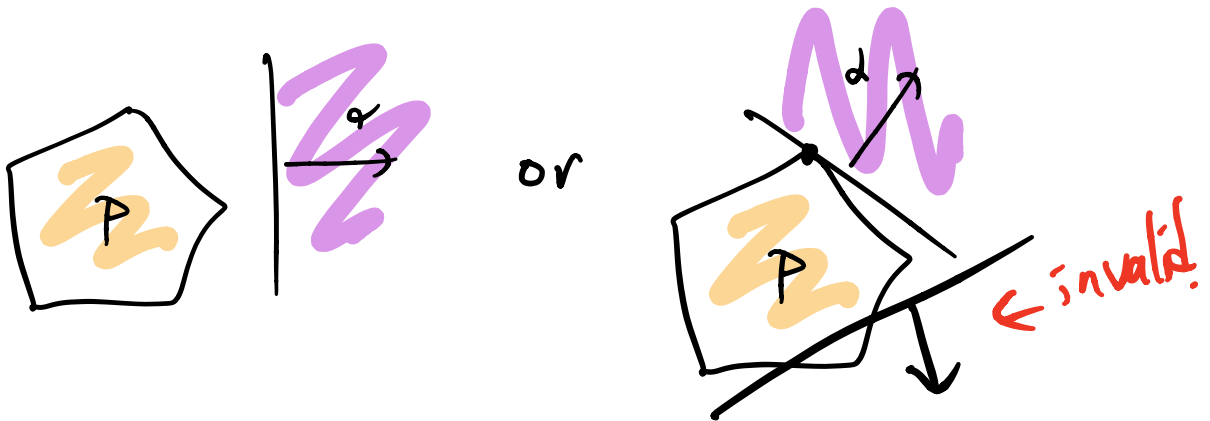
$$\dim(P') = 0$$



$$1 = \dim(P) = \dim(P')$$


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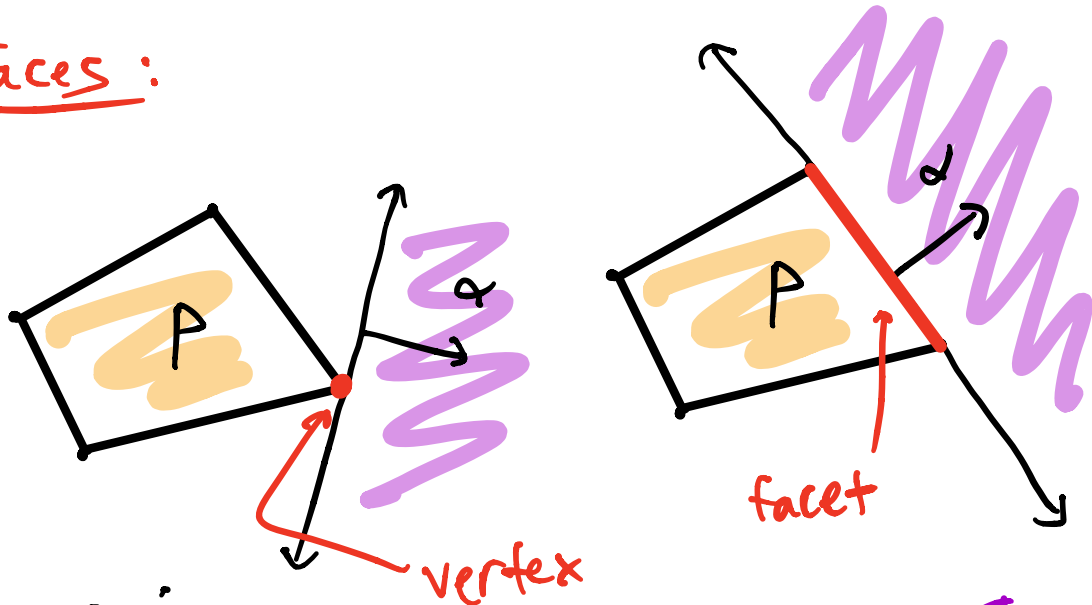
Def:  $\alpha^T x \leq \beta$  is a valid inequality for  $P$  if  $\alpha^T x \leq \beta$  for all  $x \in P$ .



Def A face of a polyhedron  $P$  is  $\{x \in P : \alpha^T x = \beta\}$  for

$$\alpha^T x \leq \beta \quad \text{valid.}$$

Faces:



Properties:

- Faces are polyhedra
- Empty face & entire  $P$  are called trivial faces
- else  $F$  nontrivial

$\dim = -1$

$\dim P$

$$0 \leq \dim(F) \leq \dim P - 1$$

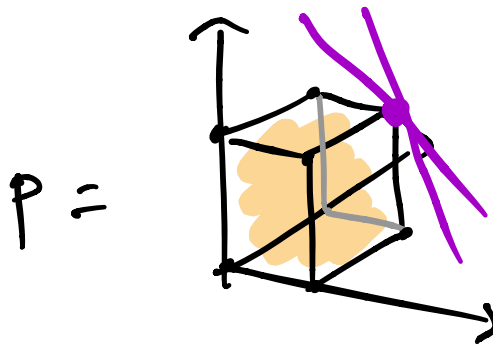
- $F : \dim(F) = \dim(P) - 1$  called facets.

$\dim(F) = 0$  called vertices

• T - all the faces called vertices

Ex: list the 28 faces of the cube

$$P = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 : 0 \leq x_i \leq 1\}$$



Fact:  $\infty$  many valid ineqs,  
but # faces finite!

# EVERYTHING

# ABOUT POLYHEDRA

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} - & a_1^T & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & a_m^T & - \end{bmatrix}$$

$\in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

$$P = \{x : Ax \leq b\}$$

$\in \mathbb{R}^n$

## ● Face Characterization!

Any nonempty face of  $P$

is

$$F_I = \left\{ x : \begin{array}{l} a_i^T x = b_i \quad \forall i \in I \\ a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad \forall i \notin I \end{array} \right\}$$

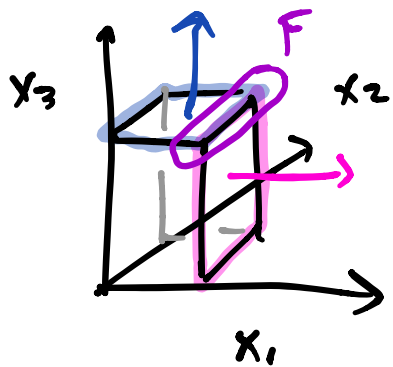
for some set  $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}$ .

(and  $F_I$  is always a face)

$\Rightarrow$  intersection of faces is a face

→ definition of faces is face

E.g. cube



$$F = \left\{ x : \begin{array}{l} x_3 = 1 \\ x_1 = 1 \\ 0 \leq x_2 \leq 1 \end{array} \right\}$$

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$$\Rightarrow \# \text{ faces} \leq 2^m + 1$$

● Facet Maximality: The facets are the maximal nontrivial faces of a nonempty polyhedron  $P$ .

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For vertices: just need equalities.

vertices = extreme points. Exercise

## ③ Vertex Characterization:

Suppose  $x^*$  extreme point of  $P$

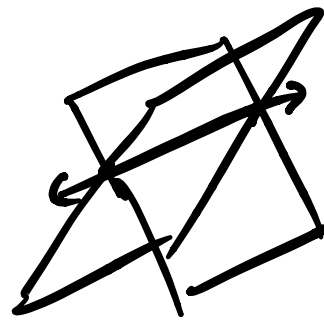
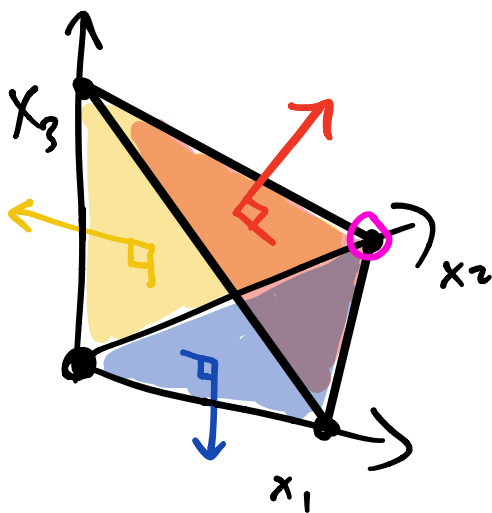
Then  $\exists I$  s.t.  $x^*$  is  
the unique soln to

$$* \quad a_i^T x = b_i \text{ for all } i \in I$$

Moreover any  $x \in P$  that uniquely solves  $*$   
is extreme.

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eg. simplex  $(0, 1, 0)$  is intersection of  
3 constraints



- Vertex minimality: For  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ , minimal nontrivial faces of polyhedron  $P$  are the vertices.

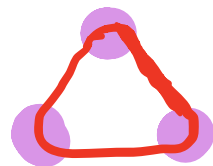
Exercise: if  $\text{rank}(A) < n$ , no vertices!

- Polytopes = convex hulls

If a polyhedron  $P$  is bounded then  $P = \text{conv}(\{\text{extreme points of } P\})$ .

(special case of Krein-Milman theorem: compact convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is  $\text{conv}(\text{extreme pts})$ .)

- Facets Characterize





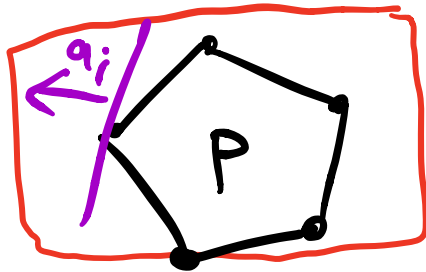
□ inequality  $a_i^T x \leq b_i$  redundant if  $P$  unchanged when it's removed.

□  $I_=: \{i : a_i^T x = b_i \ \forall x \in P\}$  "equalities"

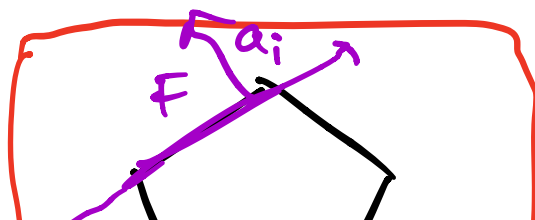
□  $I_< := \{i : \exists x \in P \ a_i^T x < b_i\}$ .  
"real inequalities"

THEN:

(Sufficiency:) If face  $a_i^T x \leq b_i$  for  $i \in I_<$  is not facet, then  $a_i^T x \leq b_i$  is redundant.



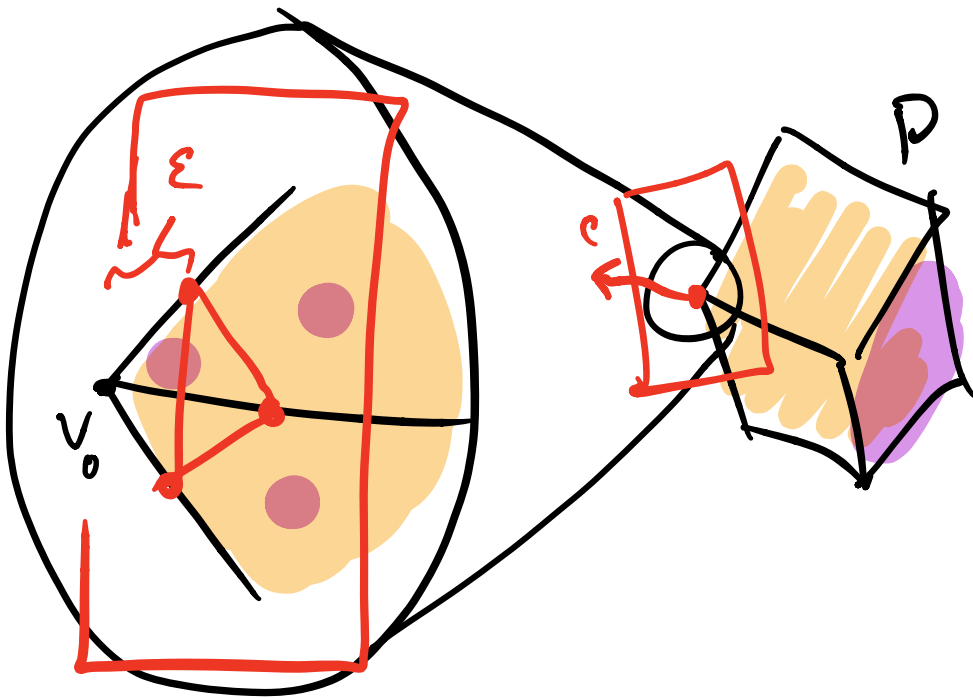
(Necessity:) If  $F$  is facet of  $P$ ,  $\exists i \in I_<$  such that  $F$  is induced by



$$a_i^T x = b_i$$



- Near vertices =  
cones over polytopes



Let  $v_0$  vertex of  $P$  from  
valid inequality  $c^T x \leq m$ .

Let  $\epsilon$  be such that  $c^T v' \leq m - \epsilon$

for all other vertices  $v'$ .

Then

$$P_0 = \{x \in P : c^T x = m - \epsilon\}$$

is a polytope & is bijection

$\{P_0$ 's dim  $k$  faces $\}$

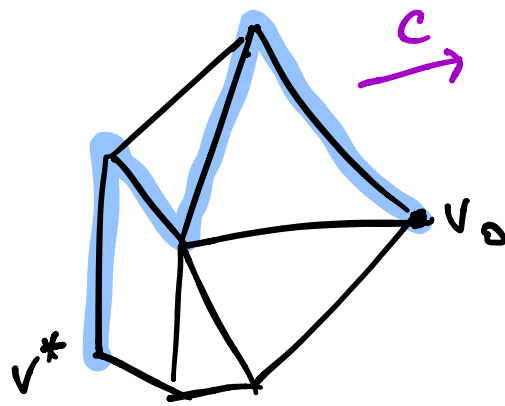


$\{P$ 's dim  $k+1$  faces  
contain  $v_0$  $\}$ .

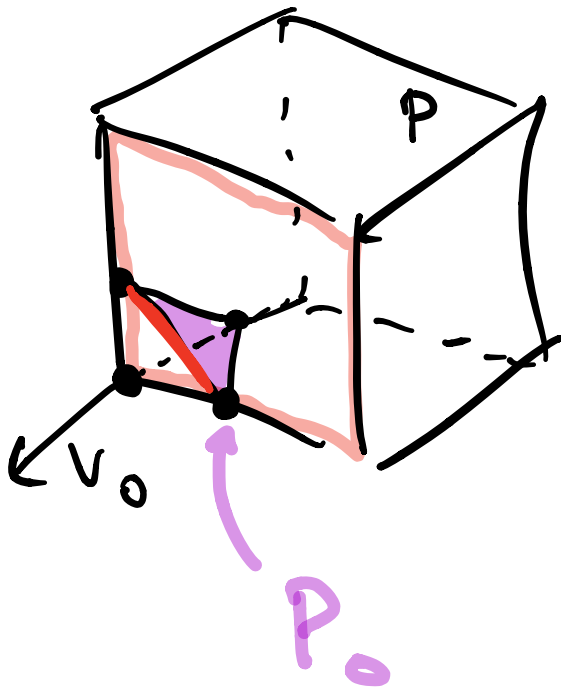
- $P$ 's "graph" connected: Graph of vertices & edges of polyhedron  $P$

is always connected.

In particular: if  $v^*$  minimum of  $c^T x$  over  $P$ ,  
 $v_0$  vertex,  $\exists v_0 \rightarrow v^*$  path which  
 decreases objective.



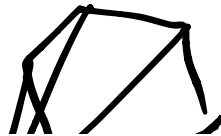
$$v_0 \perp \vec{1} \geq 0$$



bijection: dim  $k$   
 face  $F$  of  $P_0$

$\rightarrow$  dim  $k+1$  face of

$P_0$   $P$  containing  $F$   
 and  $v_0$ .



# PROOFS



Recall face characterization:

$$\text{Let } A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ -a_i^T \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

Any nonempty face of  $P = \{x : Ax \leq b\}$

is

$$\left\{ x : \begin{array}{l} a_i^T x = b_i \quad \forall i \in I \\ a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad \forall i \notin I \end{array} \right\}$$

for some set  $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}$ .

Proof of converse: exercise

Proof

Consider valid inequality

$$\alpha^T x \leq b$$

giving nonempty face  $F$ .

$$F = \{x : \alpha^T x = b\} \cap P$$

- $F =$  optimum solutions to bounded LP

$$\begin{array}{l} \max \alpha^T x \\ (P) \text{ subject to } Ax \leq b \end{array}$$

- Let  $y^*$  optimal solution to dual.

$$y^* = (y_1, \dots, y_m)$$

- Complementary slackness:

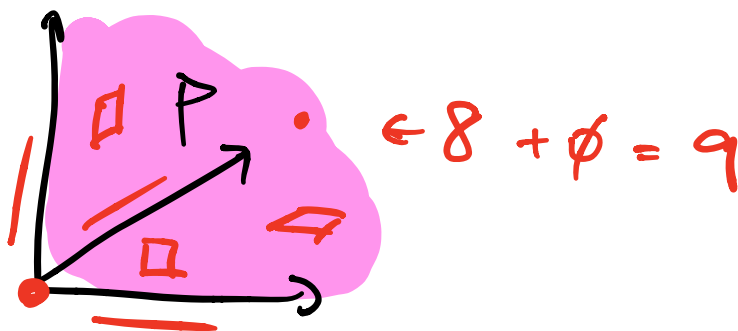
optimal solns  $F$  are

$$\{x : a_i^T x = b_i \text{ for } i : y_i^* > 0\}$$

Thus we can take  $I = \{i : y_i^* > 0\}$ .  $\square$

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Ex : • positive orthant  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_i \geq 0\} = P$   
has  $2^n + 1$  faces  $\uparrow$   $n$  inequalities  
• How many of dim  $k$ ?  $\{x_i = 0 \ i \in I\}$



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For polytopes can also bound  
# faces in terms of # vertices.  
("upper bound theorem")

("Dehn-Sommerville equations")

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Facet maximality

PF: Exercise to prove from  
face characterization.

Recall vertex characterization:

Let  $x^*$  extreme point for  $P$ .

Then  $\exists I$  s.t.  $x^*$  is the unique soln to

$$a_i^T x = b_i; \forall i \in I.$$

moreover, any such unique solution  $x^* \in P$   
is extreme.



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Proof: Given extreme point  $x^*$ ,

• define  $I = \{i : a_i^T x^* = b_i\}$ .

• Note for  $i \notin I$ ,  $a_i^T x^* < b_i$ .

• By "faces characterization",  $x^*$  uniquely defined by

$$F = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (*) & a_i^T x = b_i & i \in I \\ (**) & a_i^T x \leq b_i & i \notin I. \end{array} \right\} = \{x^*\}$$

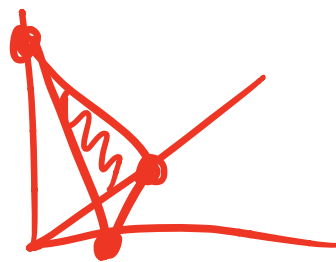
• Suppose  $\exists$  other soln.  $\hat{x}$  to (\*).  
(for contradiction)

• Because  $a_i^T x < b_i$  for  $i \notin I$ ,

$$(1-\varepsilon)x^* + \varepsilon \hat{x}$$

still satisfies  $(*)$ ,  $(**)$  for  $\varepsilon$  small enough.

- Contradicts  $F$  having only one point.  $\square$ .
- 



Basic Feasible Solutions:

For  $Q = \{Ax=b, x \geq 0\}$

can describe extreme points very explicitly.

(every  $P$  can be put in this form).

Corollary of Vertex Thm: Extreme pts. of  $Q$  as above come from setting

$$x_j = 0 \text{ for } j \in J$$

and finding unique solution to  $Ax = b$  for remaining variables.

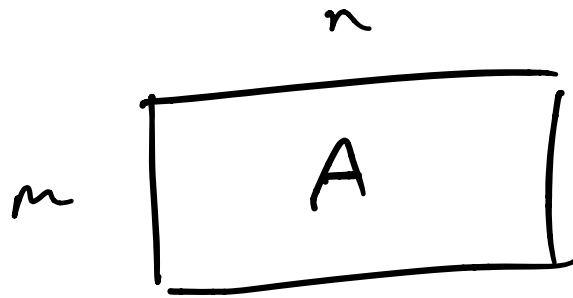
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Can say more: Extreme points of  $Q$  as above are the basic feasible solutions (bfs), feasible solns obtained as follows:

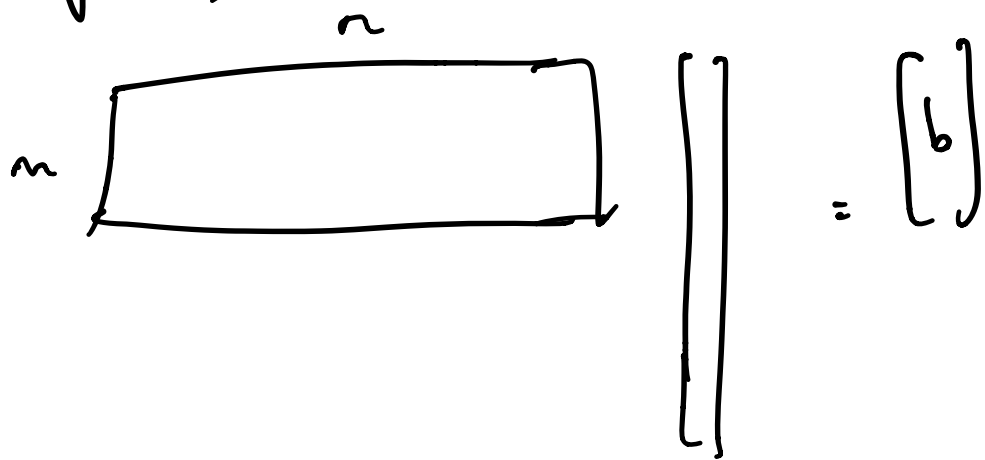
FILLED IN LEC 7 HANDOUT

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- Remove redundant rows from  $A$  ( )



- Choose  $m$  columns  $B$  of  $A$ , ( )



- Solve  $A_B x_B = 0$ ,  
set

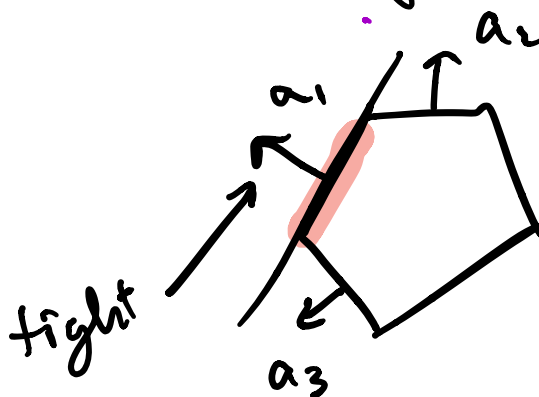
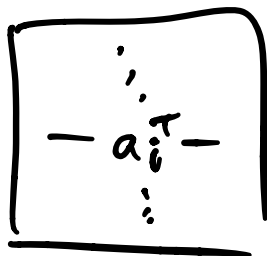
$$x_i^* = \begin{cases} & i \in B \\ & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$\{ \text{bfs} \} = \{ \text{extreme pts} \}.$$

## Recall vertex minimality

If  $\text{rank } A = n$ , vertices are minimal nontrivial faces of  $P$ .

$$P = \{x : Ax \leq b\}$$



**Proof:** Let  $F$  min'l face of  $P$ .

• Face characterization  $\Rightarrow \exists I$

$$a_i^T x = b_i, \forall i \in I$$

$$F = F_I = \left\{ x : \begin{array}{l} a_i^T x = y_i \quad \forall i \in I \\ a_j^T x \leq b_j \quad \forall j \notin I \end{array} \right\}$$

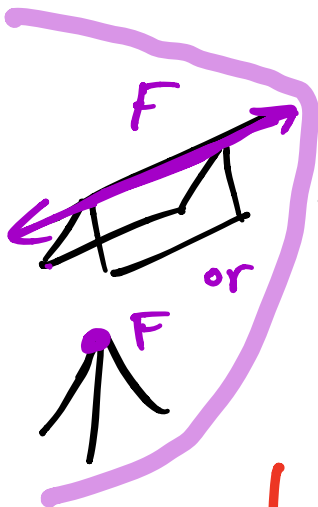
assume no redundant inequalities in  $A$ .  
and adding any elt to  $I$  makes  $F_I$  empty. (b/c else  $F_I$  face  $\subsetneq F$ ).

• Consider two cases:

(a) Only the equalities are needed (a<sub>i</sub><sup>T</sup>x = b<sub>i</sub> redund. for F).

i.e.  $F$  is exactly

$$\{x : a_i^T x = b_i \quad \forall i \in I\}.$$



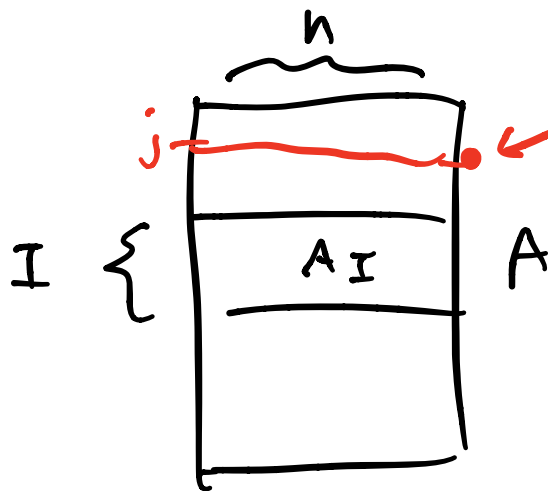
\* Claim:  $\forall j \notin I$ ,  
 $a_j \in \text{lin}(a_i : i \in I)$ ;

else  $a_j^T x \leq b_j + 1$  has solution in  $F$ , contradicting  $a_j^T x \leq b_j$ .

$(a_i^T x : i \in I)$  do not determine  $a_j^T x$  unless  $a_j \in \text{lin}(a_i : i \in I)$

\* Equivalently: Submatrix  $A_I$  w/ rows in  $I$  satisfies

$$\text{row}(A) = \text{row}(A_I) \quad i$$



bc if  $\text{row}(A) \neq a_j$ , then can choose  $a_j^T x$  freely for  $x \in F$ . \*

hence

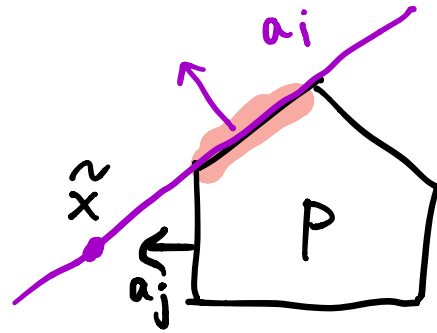
$$\text{rank}(A_I) = \text{rank}(A) = n.$$

\* Thus:  $a_i^T x = b_i$  for  $i \in I$

has unique soln, so  $F$  is

single point, i.e. a vertex. ✓

(b) Some inequality needed:  
we'll show is contradiction.



- $\exists j \notin I, \tilde{x}$  w/  $(\tilde{x} \notin P)$

$$\begin{aligned} a_i^T \tilde{x} &= b_i, \quad i \in I, \\ a_j^T \tilde{x} &> b_j \end{aligned}$$

- $F$  nontrivial  $\Rightarrow \exists \hat{x} \in F$ .

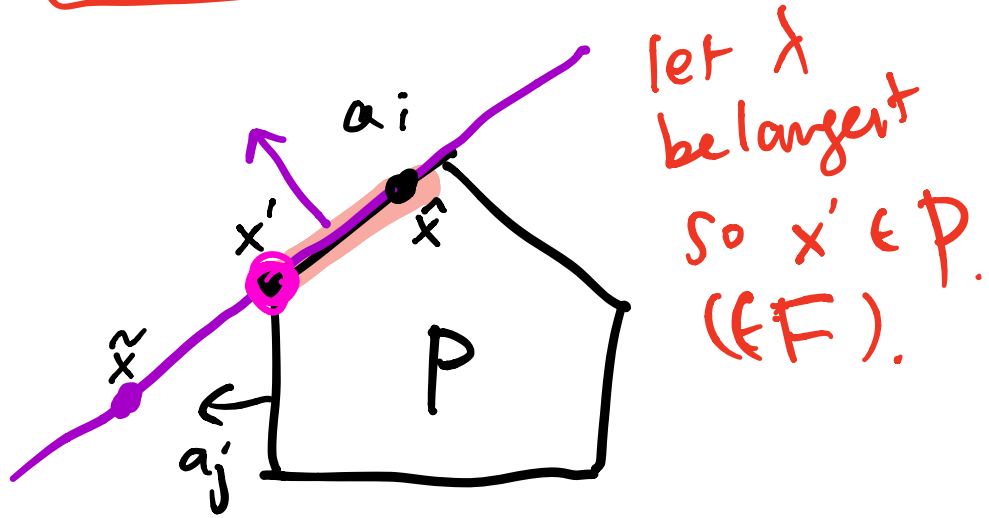
$\hat{x}$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} a_i^T \hat{x} &= b_i, \quad i \in I, \\ a_j^T \hat{x} &\leq b_j \end{aligned}$$



- Consider convex combination

$$x' = \lambda \tilde{x} + (1-\lambda) \hat{x}$$



- $x'$  satisfies one more equality  
(else could increase  $\lambda$ )  
contradicts minimality of  $\dagger$ .  $\square$

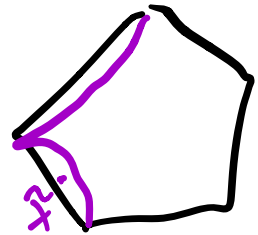
Finally we can show  
equiv b/w bounded polyhedra &  
convex hulls. (polytopes).

Recall:  $P = \{Ax \leq b\}$  bounded  
then  $P = \text{conv}(\text{Xtreme pts. of } P)$ .

i.e.  $P$  is polytope. !!  
x.

Proof: Use TOTA.

- $x \in P \Rightarrow \text{conv}(x) \subseteq P$ .
- Assume for contradiction that  $\text{conv}(x) \subsetneq P$ .
- Let  $\tilde{x} \in P \setminus \text{conv}(x)$ .



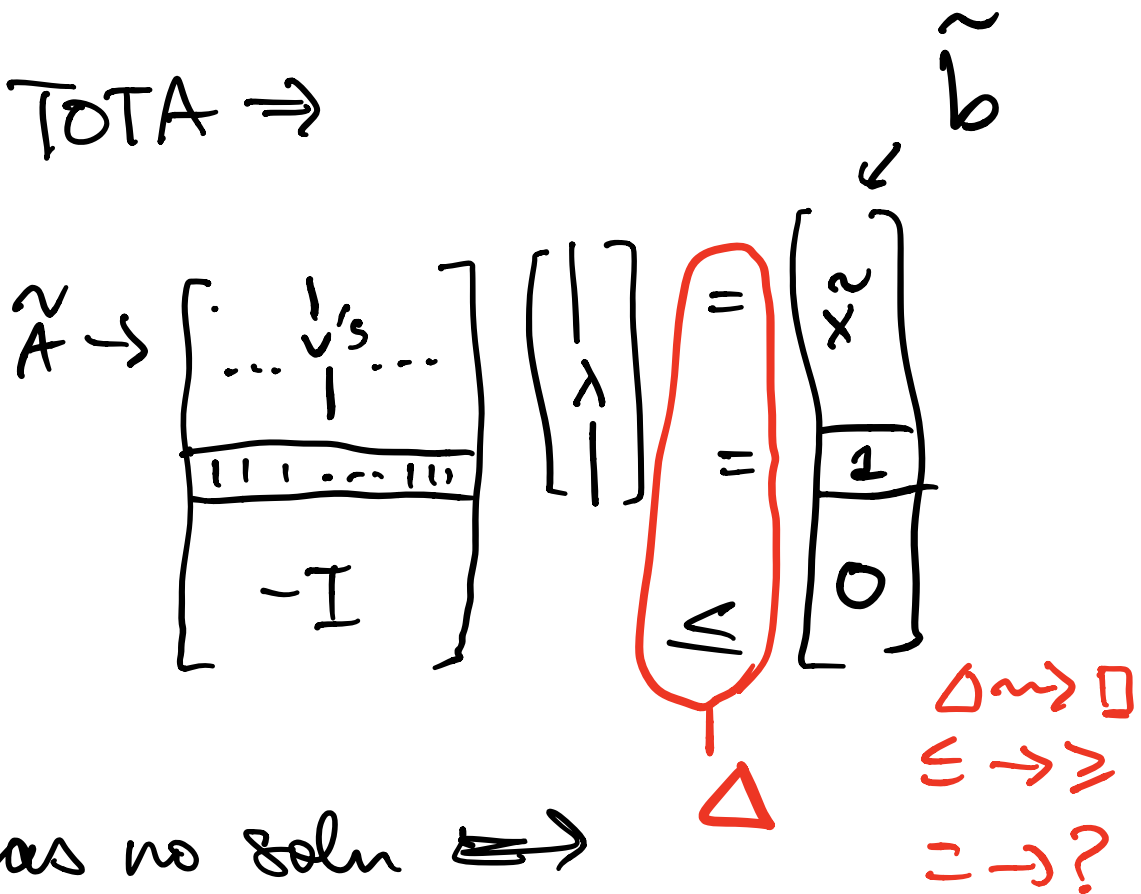
• Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v \in X} \lambda_v v &= \tilde{x} \\ \sum_{v \in X} \lambda_v &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_v \geq 0$$

has no solution.

• TOTA  $\Rightarrow$

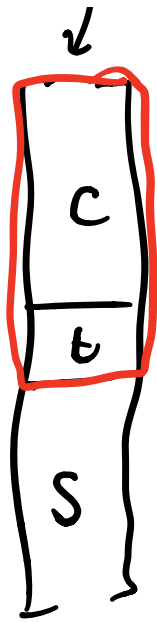
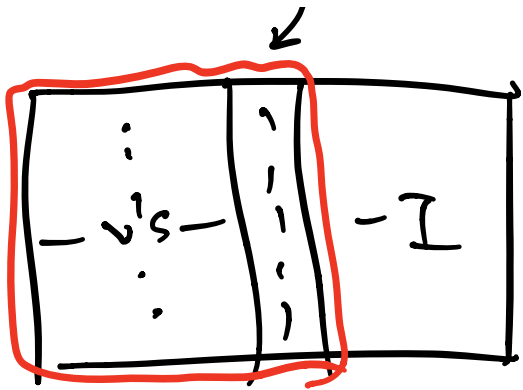


has no soln  $\Leftrightarrow$

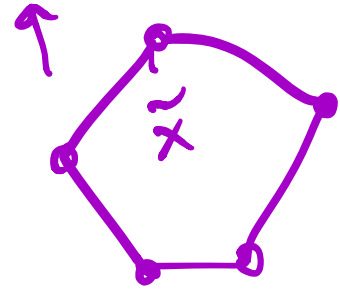
$$\tilde{A}^T y = 0, \tilde{b}^T y < 0, y \square 0$$

has soln. i.e.

$$\tilde{A}^T \quad y$$



$$= 0 \quad (*)$$



for  $y \geq 0$   
 $\Downarrow$   
 $\delta \geq 0$ , and  $y^T b < 0$ .

$$(**)$$

I.F.

$(*) \quad t + c \cdot v \geq 0 \quad \forall v \in X$

$(**) \quad t + c \cdot x < 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} c \cdot x < c \cdot v \\ \forall v \in X \end{cases}$

•  $P$  bounded  $\Rightarrow$

$$\min \{ c^T x : x \in P \} = z^* > -\infty.$$

- Face induced by  $C^T x = z^*$  nonempty, but contains no vertex.

(because  $\star \Rightarrow$  objective is less on  $\tilde{x}$  than any vertex.)

- Contradicts vertex minimality! ✓

(~~it~~ applies b/c rank  $A = n$ ;

if rank  $A < n$ ,  $P$  not bounded (b/c some solution to  $Ay = 0$ .  $\square$ .)

assume w/log  $0 \in P \Rightarrow b_i \geq 0$

