

Consider

$$w = dz_0 + Mz + q \tag{1}$$

$$Iv + (-q)y_0 + (-M)y = d. \tag{2}$$

If  $w_J, z_0$  and  $z_K$  is a basic solution to (1), then  $v_J, y_0$  and  $y_K$  is a basic solution to (2). Here  $J \cup K \cup \{l\}$  is a partition of  $N$  and  $l$  is the missing index.

Remember that  $L = K \cup \{l\}$ ,  $H = \{0\} \cup K$ ,  $F = [q, M]$  and

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} I_{JJ} & -F_{JH} \\ 0 & -F_{LH} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} I_{JJ} & -F_{JH}F_{LH}^{-1} \\ 0 & -F_{LH}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Lemma 1** We have a feasible basic solution corresponding to the partition  $J \cup K \cup \{l\} = N$

iff  $F_{LH}$  is nonsingular, and  $B^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \delta^n \\ \vdots \\ \delta \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$  for all sufficiently small positive  $\delta$ .

Note if  $i$  is the last index in  $L$ , then

$$B^{-1}[e_n, \dots, e_1] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix},$$

$\uparrow$   
 $B^{-1}e_i$

and we need this to be lexicographically positive (the first nonzero entry in each row is positive) for feasibility. Here the first few columns represent columns of the identity for  $j \in J$ ,  $j > i$ .

**Probability distribution** We'll assume that  $(M, q)$  is generated from some distribution satisfying

- a. [Nondegeneracy] With probability 1:

- (i) If  $J$  and  $K$  are subsets of  $N$  of the same cardinality with  $|J \setminus K| \leq 1$ , then  $M_{JK}$  is nonsingular;
  - (ii) Any a.c. solution to  $w = Mz + q$  (nonnegative or not) has at least  $n$  nonzero components.
- b. (Sign invariance) For any “sign” matrix  $S$  (diagonal with diagonal entries  $s_i := s_{ii}$  with  $s_{ii} \in \{-1, 1\}$ )

$$(SMS, Sq) \sim (M, q),$$

i.e., they have the same distribution.

Note:  $P$ -matrices and monotone matrices are invariant under these sign switches.

If  $s_i = -1$ , we could keep  $M$  and  $q$  the same and change  $w_i, z_i \geq 0$  to  $w_i, z_i \leq 0$ .

A simple case: choose  $M, q$  satisfying (a) (i) and (ii), then choose each  $(SMS, Sq)$  w.p.  $2^{-n}$ . If we can obtain a bound for this case, it will hold for all such distributions.

**Lemma 2** *If  $(M, q)$  satisfies (a) (i) and (ii), then for any partition  $J \cup K \cup \{l\} = N$ ,  $F_{LH}$  is nonsingular.*

**Proof:**

$F_{LH} = [q_L, M_{LK}]$ . Suppose there is a nontrivial linear dependence among the columns of  $F_{LH}$ .

(1) If the dependence does not involve  $q$ , then there is a nontrivial linear dependence among the columns of  $M_{LK}$ , so among the columns of  $[M_{LL}, M_{LK}] = M_{LL}$ . This contradicts (a) (i).

(2) Suppose the linear dependence involves  $q_L$ . Then scale to get  $q_L + M_{LK}z_K = 0$ . Then set

$$\begin{aligned} w_J &:= q_J + M_{JK}z_K \\ w_L &:= q_L + M_{LK}z_K = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Set  $z_J = 0$ , and then we get  $w = Mz + q$ , a.c., but with only  $n - 1$  nonzeros. This contradicts (a) (ii).

□

**Lemma 3** *If  $(M, q)$  satisfies (a) (i) and (ii), then for any partition  $J \cup K \cup \{l\} = N$ , all entries of  $B^{-1}e_i$  ( $i$  the last index in  $L$ ) are nonzero.*

**Proof:** Recall

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} I_{JJ} & -F_{JH} \\ 0 & -F_{LH} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Look at  $e_m^\top B^{-1}e_i$  for all  $m \in J \cup H = J \cup K \cup \{0\}$ .

(1)  $m = 0$ . Let

$$e_i = \begin{bmatrix} I_{JJ} & -F_{JH} \\ 0 & -F_{LH} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_J \\ y_0 \\ y_K \end{pmatrix}.$$

If  $e_0^\top B^{-1}e_i$  is zero, then  $y_0 = 0$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= v_J - M_{JK}y_K \\ 0 &= -M_{L\setminus\{i\}K}y_K \\ 1 &= -M_{iK}y_K \Rightarrow y_K \neq 0; \end{aligned}$$

then  $M_{L\setminus\{i\}K}$  is singular and this contradicts (a) (i).

(2)  $m = j$ : Suppose  $e_j^\top B^{-1}e_i = 0$ . Then

$$e_i = \begin{bmatrix} I_{JJ} & -F_{JH} \\ 0 & -F_{LH} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_J \\ y_0 \\ y_K \end{pmatrix}$$

with  $v_j = 0$ . Scale so that  $y_0 = 1$  (by the case above we know  $y_0$  is nonzero) to get  $w_J, 1$ , and  $z_K$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} w_J - q_J - M_{JK}z_K &= 0 \\ -q_{L\setminus\{i\}} - M_{L\setminus\{i\}K}z_K &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Set  $w_i := q_i + M_{iK}z_K$ ,  $w_{L\setminus\{i\}} := 0$  and note that  $w_j = 0$ . Also set  $z_j := 0$  and  $z_l := 0$ . Then we have an a.c. solution with only  $n - 1$  nonzeros. This contradicts (a) (ii).

Similarly we can show  $e_k^\top B^{-1}e_i \neq 0$  for  $k \in K$ .

□

Let us look at the effects of sign switches on  $B$  and  $B^{-1}$ . Suppose  $M$  and  $q$  change to  $SMS$  and  $Sq$ . Then  $F$  becomes  $\tilde{F} = SF \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix}$  and so

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_{JK} &= S_{JJ}F_{JH}S_{HH}, \\ \tilde{F}_{LH} &= S_{LL}F_{LK}S_{HH} \end{aligned}$$

where  $S_{HH}$  is the appropriate submatrix of  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix}$ , or  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & S_{KK} \end{bmatrix}$ . So we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_{LH}^{-1} &= S_{HH}F_{LH}^{-1}S_{LL}, \\ \tilde{F}_{JH}\tilde{F}_{LH}^{-1} &= S_{JJ}F_{JH}F_{LH}^{-1}S_{LL}. \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 4** Consider the basis corresponding to the partition  $J \cup K \cup \{l\}$ , and let  $i$  denote the last index in  $L := K \cup \{l\}$ . Then if  $l = i$ , the basis is feasible with probability  $2^{-i}$ , while if  $l \neq i$ , the basis is feasible with probability at most  $2^{-i+1}$ .

**Proof:**

The  $j$ th entry ( $j \in J$ ) of  $\tilde{B}^{-1}e_i$  is  $s_j (e_j^\top B^{-1}e_i) s_i$ , positive with probability  $1/2$ , switching signs with  $s_j$ .

The 0th entry of  $\tilde{B}^{-1}e_i$  is  $(e_0^\top B^{-1}e_i) s_i$ , positive with probability  $1/2$ , switching signs with  $s_i$ .

The  $k$ th entry ( $k \in K, k \neq i$ ) is  $e_k^\top \tilde{B}^{-1}e_i = s_k (e_k^\top B^{-1}e_i) s_i$ , positive with probability  $1/2$ , switching signs with  $s_k$ .

If  $l = i$ , this accounts for all the components; we need the components in  $\{1, \dots, i\}$  to be positive, and this happens with probability  $2^{-i}$  (all the  $s$ 's named above are independent).

If  $l \neq i$ , then we have analyzed all but the  $i$ th component, which is  $e_i^\top \tilde{B}^{-1}e_i = s_i (e_i^\top B^{-1}e_i) s_i$ , which doesn't change sign with  $S$ . If it's negative, the basis is infeasible; if it is positive, the basis is feasible w.p.  $2^{-i+1}$ , since the probability is  $1/2$  for all components in  $\{1, \dots, i-1\}$ , and these events are all independent.  $\square$

**Theorem 1** If  $(M, q)$  is generated from a distribution as above, the lexicographic Lemke algorithm will take an expected number of steps at most  $\frac{n(n+1)}{4}$ .

**Proof:**

The number of steps is bounded by the number of a.c. feasible solutions, i.e., the number of partitions  $J, K, l$  giving feasibility.

The index  $i$  runs from 1 to  $n$ . If  $l = i$ , then  $K$  is some subset of  $\{1, \dots, i-1\}$ ; there are  $2^{i-1}$  such choices and then  $J$  is fixed. For any such partition, the probability of feasibility is  $2^{-i}$  by the lemma. If  $l < i$ , then there are  $i-1$  choices for  $l$ , and then  $2^{i-2}$  choices for  $K$  (any subset of  $\{1, \dots, i-1\} \setminus \{l\}$ , plus  $\{i\}$ ). Then  $J$  is determined, and by the lemma the probability of feasibility is at most  $2^{-i+1}$ .

So the expected number of feasible a.c. solutions is at most

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( 2^{i-1} \frac{1}{2^i} + (i-1) 2^{i-2} \frac{1}{2^{i-1}} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{i-1}{2} \right) = \frac{n(n+1)}{4}.$$

$\square$