

Gap Method to Duality

— initial point vs both points —

Seiichi Iwamoto
Professor emeritus, Kyushu University

Yutaka Kimura
Department of Management Science and Engineering
Faculty of Systems Science and Technology
Akita Prefectural University

Abstract

This paper considers a minimization problem with fixed *initial* point and another minimization problem with fixed *both* initial and terminal points. We discuss a quadratic duality for these minimization problems through gap method.

1 Introduction

Recently, Iwamoto, Kimura, Fujita and Kira have shown that a new duality holds for paired optimization problems [11–28]. For a historical background of dynamic optimization and its related fields, see Bellman and others [1–7, 29], [8, 10, 31, 32].

This paper discusses two models — initial point and both points — through *gap functions*. In section 2, we consider a pair of minimization problem (P_1) and maximization problem (D_1). The problem (P_1) has a fixed *initial* point. We give another pair of (P_2) and (D_2), which is derived from the pair of (P_1) and (D_1). In section 3, we consider a pair of minimization problem (P'_1) and maximization problem (D'_1). The problem (P'_1) has both the *initial* and the *terminal* points. As in section 2, we derive another pair of (P'_2) and (D'_2) from the pair of (P'_1) and (D'_1). We show that the minimization and maximization problems for these two pairs are dual to each other through gap functions.

2 Fixed Initial Point

2.1 Pair 1

We consider a pair of minimization problem of n -variable $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ (primal)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \sum_{k=1}^n [(x_{k-1} - x_k)^2 + x_k^2] \\ (P_1) & \text{subject to} && \text{(i) } x \in R^n \\ & && \text{(ii) } x_0 = c \end{aligned}$$

and maximization problem of n -variable $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n)$ (dual)

$$(D_1) \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{Maximize } 2c\mu_1 - \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [\mu_k^2 + (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})^2] + 2\mu_n^2 \right\} \\ & \text{subject to (i) } \mu \in R^n. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1 [25] *The primal (P₁) attains a minimum*

$$m = f(\hat{x}) = c(c - \hat{x}_1) = \frac{F_{2n}}{F_{2n+1}}c^2$$

at a point

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x} &= (\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_k, \dots, \hat{x}_{n-1}, \hat{x}_n) \\ &= \frac{c}{F_{2n+1}} (F_{2n-1}, F_{2n-3}, \dots, F_{2n-2k+1}, \dots, F_3, F_1). \end{aligned}$$

The dual (D₁) attains a maximum

$$M = g(\mu^*) = c\mu_1^* = \frac{F_{2n}}{F_{2n+1}}c^2$$

at a point

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^* &= (\mu_1^*, \mu_2^*, \dots, \mu_k^*, \dots, \mu_{n-1}^*, \mu_n^*) \\ &= \frac{c}{F_{2n+1}} (F_{2n}, F_{2n-2}, \dots, F_{2n-2k+2}, \dots, F_4, F_2). \end{aligned}$$

We remark that *Fibonacci sequence* $\{F_n\}$ is defined as the solution to the second-order linear difference equation

$$x_{n+2} - x_{n+1} - x_n = 0, \quad x_1 = 1, x_0 = 0. \quad (1)$$

It is shown that (P₁) and (D₁) are dual to each other [25].

2.2 Pair 2

Next, we consider a pair of minimization problem of n -variable $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ (primal)

$$(P_2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } \sum_{k=1}^n (y_k^2 + Y_k^2) \\ & \text{subject to (i) } y \in R^n \end{aligned}$$

and maximization problem of n -variable $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n)$ (dual)

$$(D_2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{Maximize } 2c\mu_1 - \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [\mu_k^2 + (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})^2] + 2\mu_n^2 \right\} \\ & \text{subject to (i) } \mu \in R^n \end{aligned}$$

where

$$Y_k = c - \sum_{l=1}^k y_l \quad 1 \leq k \leq n. \quad (2)$$

Theorem 2 [25] *The primal (P₂) attains a minimum*

$$m = F(\hat{y}) = c\hat{y}_1 = \frac{F_{2n}}{F_{2n+1}}c^2$$

at a point

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{y} &= (\hat{y}_1, \hat{y}_2, \dots, \hat{y}_k, \dots, \hat{y}_{n-1}, \hat{y}_n) \\ &= \frac{c}{F_{2n+1}} (F_{2n}, F_{2n-2}, \dots, F_{2n-2k+2}, \dots, F_4, F_2). \end{aligned}$$

The dual (D₂) attains a maximum

$$M = g(\mu^*) = c\mu_1^* = \frac{F_{2n}}{F_{2n+1}}c^2$$

at a point

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^* &= (\mu_1^*, \mu_2^*, \dots, \mu_k^*, \dots, \mu_{n-1}^*, \mu_n^*) \\ &= \frac{c}{F_{2n+1}} (F_{2n}, F_{2n-2}, \dots, F_{2n-2k+2}, \dots, F_4, F_2). \end{aligned}$$

It is shown that (P₂) and (D₂) are dual to each other [25].

3 Fixed Both Points

3.1 Pair 1

We consider a pair of minimization problem of n -variable $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ (primal)

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} \quad \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [(x_{k-1} - x_k)^2 + x_k^2] + (x_{n-1} - x_n)^2 + (x_n - x_{n+1})^2 \\ (P'_1) \quad &\text{subject to} \quad \text{(i)} \quad x \in R^n \\ &\quad \quad \quad \text{(ii)} \quad x_0 = c, \quad x_{n+1} = d \end{aligned}$$

and maximization problem of n -variable $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n)$ (dual)

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Maximize} \quad 2c\mu_1 - \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [\mu_k^2 + (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})^2] + 2\mu_n^2 + 2d\mu_n \right\} \\ (D'_1) \quad &\text{subject to} \quad \text{(i)} \quad \mu \in R^n. \end{aligned}$$

Let $f, g : R^n \rightarrow R^1$ be the respective objective functions of primal (P'_1) and dual (D'_1):

$$f(x) = (c - x_1)^2 + x_1^2 + \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} [(x_{k-1} - x_k)^2 + x_k^2] + (x_{n-1} - x_n)^2 + (x_n - d)^2$$

$$g(\mu) = 2c\mu_1 - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [\mu_k^2 + (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})^2] - 2\mu_n^2 - 2d\mu_n.$$

Then we have an inequality

$$f(x) \geq g(\mu).$$

The sign of equality holds iff $2n$ equalities

$$\begin{aligned} c - x_1 &= \mu_1, & x_1 &= \mu_1 - \mu_2 \\ \text{(EC}_1\text{)} \quad x_{k-1} - x_k &= \mu_k, & x_k &= \mu_k - \mu_{k+1} \quad 2 \leq k \leq n-1 \\ x_{n-1} - x_n &= \mu_n, & x_n - d &= \mu_n \end{aligned}$$

holds. (EC₁) is called an *equality condition* between (P'_1) and (D'_1).

Now let us define an *inner product* $i : R^n \times R^n \rightarrow R^1$ and a *gap function* $h : R^n \times R^n \rightarrow R^1$ as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} i(x, \mu) &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [(x_{k-1} - x_k)\mu_k + x_k(\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})] \\ &\quad + (x_{n-1} - x_n)\mu_n + (x_n - x_{n+1})\mu_n \quad (x_0 = c, \quad x_{n+1} = d) \\ h(x, \mu) &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [(x_{k-1} - x_k - \mu_k)^2 + \{x_k - (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})\}^2] \\ &\quad + (x_{n-1} - x_n - \mu_n)^2 + (x_n - x_{n+1} - \mu_n)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1

$$i(x, \mu) = c\mu_1 - d\mu_n \quad \text{on } R^n \times R^n.$$

Lemma 2

- (i) $f(x) - g(\mu) = h(x, \mu) \geq 0$ on $R^n \times R^n$
- (ii) $h(x, \mu) = 0 \iff (x, \mu)$ satisfies (EC₁).

Theorem 3 (i) *It holds that*

$$f(x) \geq g(\mu) \quad \text{on } R^n \times R^n.$$

(ii) *It holds that*

$$f(x) = g(\mu) \iff (x, \mu) \text{ satisfies (EC}_1\text{)}.$$

Then (P'_1) attains a minimum $f(x)$, while (D'_1) attains a maximum $g(\mu)$.

Hence a solution (x, μ) to (EC₁) yields a minimum point x for (P'_1) and a maximum point μ for (D'_1).

3.2 Equality condition 1

Now let us analyze the equality condition (EC₁). The equality condition (EC₁) yields a pair of linear systems of n -equation on n -variable:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 3x_1 - x_2 = c \\
 (\text{EQ}_x) \quad & -x_{k-1} + 3x_k - x_{k+1} = 0 \quad 2 \leq k \leq n-1 \\
 & -x_{n-1} + 2x_n = d,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 2\mu_1 - \mu_2 = c \\
 (\text{EQ}_\mu) \quad & -\mu_{k-1} + 3\mu_k - \mu_{k+1} = 0 \quad 2 \leq k \leq n-1 \\
 & -\mu_{n-1} + 3\mu_n = -d.
 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3 *The system (EQ_x) has a unique solution*

$$\hat{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{x}_1 \\ \hat{x}_2 \\ \hat{x}_3 \\ \dots \\ \hat{x}_{n-2} \\ \hat{x}_{n-1} \\ \hat{x}_n \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}} \begin{pmatrix} F_{2n-1}c + F_2d \\ F_{2n-3}c + F_4d \\ F_{2n-5}c + F_6d \\ \dots \\ F_5c + F_{2n-4}d \\ F_3c + F_{2n-2}d \\ F_1c + F_{2n}d \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

The system (EQ_μ) has a unique solution

$$\mu^* = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1^* \\ \mu_2^* \\ \mu_3^* \\ \dots \\ \mu_{n-2}^* \\ \mu_{n-1}^* \\ \mu_n^* \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}} \begin{pmatrix} F_{2n}c - F_1d \\ F_{2n-2}c - F_3d \\ F_{2n-4}c - F_5d \\ \dots \\ F_6c - F_{2n-5}d \\ F_4c - F_{2n-3}d \\ F_2c - F_{2n-1}d \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Hence the condition (EC₁) has a unique solution (\hat{x}, μ^*) .

Theorem 4 *The primal (P'₁) attains a minimum*

$$m = f(\hat{x}) = c(c - \hat{x}_1) - d(\hat{x}_n - d) = \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}}(F_{2n}c^2 - 2cd + F_{2n-1}d^2)$$

at the point \hat{x} .

The dual (D₁') attains a maximum

$$M = g(\mu^*) = c\mu_1^* - d\mu_n^* = \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}}(F_{2n}c^2 - 2cd + F_{2n-1}d^2)$$

at the point μ^* .

Hence the gap function $h = h(x, \lambda)$ attains the zero minimum at (\hat{x}, μ^*) .

3.3 Pair 2

We consider a pair of minimization problem of n -variable $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ (primal)

$$(P'_2) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{minimize} \quad \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (y_k^2 + Y_k^2) + y_n^2 + (Y_n - d)^2 \\ \text{subject to} \quad \text{(i)} \quad y \in R^n \end{array}$$

and maximization problem of n -variable $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n)$ (dual)

$$(D'_2) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Maximize} \quad 2c\mu_1 - \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [\mu_k^2 + (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})^2] + 2\mu_n^2 + 2d\mu_n \right\} \\ \text{subject to} \quad \text{(i)} \quad \mu \in R^n \end{array}$$

where

$$Y_k = c - \sum_{l=1}^k y_l \quad 1 \leq k \leq n. \quad (5)$$

Let $F, g : R^n \rightarrow R^1$ be the respective objective functions of primal (P'₂) and dual (D'₂):

$$\begin{aligned} F(y) &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (y_k^2 + Y_k^2) + y_n^2 + (Y_n - d)^2 \\ g(\mu) &= 2c\mu_1 - \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [\mu_k^2 + (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})^2] + 2\mu_n^2 + 2d\mu_n \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have an inequality

$$F(y) \geq g(\mu).$$

The sign of equality holds iff $2n$ equalities

$$(EC_2) \quad \begin{array}{l} y_1 = \mu_1, \quad Y_1 = \mu_1 - \mu_2 \\ y_k = \mu_k, \quad Y_k = \mu_k - \mu_{k+1} \quad 2 \leq k \leq n-1 \\ y_n = \mu_n, \quad Y_n - d = \mu_n \end{array}$$

holds. (EC₂) is called an *equality condition* between (P'₂) and (D'₂).

Now let us define an *inner product* $i : R^n \times R^n \rightarrow R^1$ and a *gap function* $h : R^n \times R^n \rightarrow R^1$ as follows.

$$i(y, \mu) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} [y_k \mu_k + Y_k (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})] + y_n \mu_n + (Y_n - d) \mu_n$$

$$h(y, \mu) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \{(y_k - \mu_k)^2 + [Y_k - (\mu_k - \mu_{k+1})]^2\} + (y_n - \mu_n)^2 + \{(Y_n - d) - \mu_n\}^2.$$

We note that

$$Y_k = c - Z_k; \quad Z_k = \sum_{l=1}^k y_l \quad 1 \leq k \leq n.$$

Lemma 4

$$i(y, \mu) = c\mu_1 - d\mu_n \quad \text{on } R^n \times R^n.$$

Lemma 5

- (i) $F(y) - g(\mu) = h(y, \mu) \geq 0$ on $R^n \times R^n$
- (ii) $h(y, \mu) = 0 \iff (y, \mu)$ satisfies (EC₂).

Theorem 5 (i) *It holds that*

$$F(y) \geq g(\mu) \quad \text{on } R^n \times R^n.$$

(ii) *It holds that*

$$F(y) = g(\mu) \iff (y, \mu) \text{ satisfies (EC}_2\text{)}.$$

Then (P'₂) attains a minimum $F(y)$, while (D'₂) attains a maximum $g(\mu)$.

Hence a solution (y, μ) to (EC₂) yields a minimum point x for (P'₂) and a maximum point μ for (D'₂).

3.4 Equality condition 2

Now let us analyze the equality condition (EC₂). The equality condition (EC₂) yields a pair of linear systems of n -equation on n -variable:

$$(EQ_y) \quad \begin{aligned} 2y_1 - y_2 &= c \\ -y_{k-1} + 3y_k - y_{k+1} &= 0 \quad 2 \leq k \leq n-1 \\ -y_{n-1} + 3y_n &= -d, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& 2\mu_1 - \mu_2 = c \\
(\text{EQ}_\mu) \quad & -\mu_{k-1} + 3\mu_k - \mu_{k+1} = 0 \quad 2 \leq k \leq n-1 \\
& -\mu_{n-1} + 3\mu_n = -d.
\end{aligned}$$

Needless to say, both the systems are identical.

Lemma 6 *The system (EQ_y) has a unique solution*

$$\hat{y} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_1 \\ \hat{y}_2 \\ \hat{y}_3 \\ \dots \\ \hat{y}_{n-2} \\ \hat{y}_{n-1} \\ \hat{y}_n \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}} \begin{pmatrix} F_{2n}c - F_1d \\ F_{2n-2}c - F_3d \\ F_{2n-4}c - F_5d \\ \dots \\ F_6c - F_{2n-5}d \\ F_4c - F_{2n-3}d \\ F_2c - F_{2n-1}d \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

The system (EQ_μ) has a unique solution

$$\mu^* = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1^* \\ \mu_2^* \\ \mu_3^* \\ \dots \\ \mu_{n-2}^* \\ \mu_{n-1}^* \\ \mu_n^* \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}} \begin{pmatrix} F_{2n}c - F_1d \\ F_{2n-2}c - F_3d \\ F_{2n-4}c - F_5d \\ \dots \\ F_6c - F_{2n-5}d \\ F_4c - F_{2n-3}d \\ F_2c - F_{2n-1}d \end{pmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

Hence the condition (EC₂) has a unique solution (\hat{y}, μ^*) .

Theorem 6 *The primal (P'₂) attains a minimum*

$$\begin{aligned}
m = f(\hat{y}) &= c\hat{y}_1 - d\hat{y}_n = c\hat{y}_1 - d(c - \hat{Y}_n - d) \\
&= \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}}(F_{2n}c^2 - 2cd + F_{2n-1}d^2)
\end{aligned}$$

at the point \hat{y} .

The dual (D'₂) attains a maximum

$$M = g(\mu^*) = c\mu_1^* - d\mu_n^* = \frac{1}{F_{2n+1}}(F_{2n}c^2 - 2cd + F_{2n-1}d^2)$$

at the point μ^* .

Hence the gap function $h = h(y, \mu)$ attains the zero minimum at (\hat{y}, μ^*) .

References

- [1] E.F. Beckenbach and R.E. Bellman, Inequalities, Springer-Verlag, Ergebnisse 30, 1961.
- [2] R.E. Bellman, Dynamic Programming, Princeton Univ. Press, NJ, 1957.
- [3] ———, Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Control Processes, Vol.I, Linear Equations and Quadratic Criteria, Academic Press, NY, 1967.
- [4] ———, Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Control Processes, Vol.II, Nonlinear Processes, Academic Press, NY, 1971.
- [5] ———, Methods of Nonlinear Analysis, Vol.I, Nonlinear Processes, Academic Press, NY, 1972.
- [6] ———, Methods of Nonlinear Analysis, Vol.II, Nonlinear Processes, Academic Press, NY, 1972.
- [7] ———, Introduction to Matrix Analysis, McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, 1970 (Second Edition is a SIAM edition 1997).
- [8] J.M. Borwein and A.S. Lewis, Convex Analysis and Nonlinear Optimization Theory and Examples, Springer-Verlag, New York, 2000.
- [9] R.A. Dunlap, The Golden Ratio and Fibonacci Numbers, World Scientific Publishing Co.Pte.Ltd., 1977.
- [10] W. Fenchel, Convex Cones, Sets and Functions, Princeton Univ. Dept. of Math, NJ, 1953; H. Komiya, *Japanese translation*, Chisen Shokan, Tokyo, 2017.
- [11] S. Iwamoto, Theory of Dynamic Program, Kyushu Univ. Press, Fukuoka, 1987 (*in Japanese*).
- [12] ———, Mathematics for Optimization II – Bellman Equation –, Chisen Shokan, Tokyo, 2013 (*in Japanese*).
- [13] S. Iwamoto, Y. Kimura and T. Fujita, Complementary versus shift dualities, J. Non-linear Convex Anal., **17**(2016), 1547–1555.
- [14] ———, On complementary duals – both fixed points –, Bull. Kyushu Inst. Tech. Pure Appl. Math., **67**(2020), 1–28.
- [15] ———, On complementary duals — both fixed points (II) — , Bull. Kyushu Inst. Tech. Pure Appl. Math., **69**(2022), 7–34.
- [16] ——— On complementary duals — both fixed points (III) —, Bull. Kyushu Inst. Tech. Pure Appl. Math. **71**(2024), pp. 13–42.

- [17] S. Iwamoto and Y. Kimura, Semi-Fibonacci programming – identical duality – , RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2078, pp.114–120, 2018.
- [18] ———, Semi-tridiagonal Programming – Complementary Approach – , RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2190, pp.180–187, 2021.
- [19] ———, Identical Duals – Gap Function – , RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2194, pp.56–67, 2021.
- [20] ———, Triplet of Fibonacci Duals — with or without constraint — , RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2220, pp.56–66, 2022.
- [21] ———, Gibonacci Optimization — duality — , RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2242, pp.1–13, 2023.
- [22] ———, Fibonacci Optimization and its related field — duality — (II), RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2274, pp.215–228, 2024.
- [23] ———, Gap function approach to duality — basic model — , RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2304, pp.206–216, 2025.
- [24] ———, Gap function approach to duality — discount model vs control model — , RIMS Kokyuroku, Vol.2323, pp.190–197, 2025.
- [25] ———, Quadruple dual — basic-model — , submitted to RIMS Kokyuroku.
- [26] S. Iwamoto and A. Kira, The Fibonacci complementary duality in quadratic programming, Ed. W. Takahashi and T. Tanaka, Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Nonlinear Analysis and Convex Analysis (NACA2007 Taiwan), Yokohama Publishers, Yokohama, March 2009, pp.63–73.
- [27] A. Kira and S. Iwamoto, Golden complementary dual in quadratic optimization, Modeling Decisions for Artificial Intelligence, Eds. V. Torra and Y. Narukawa, Springer-Verlag Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence, Vol.5285, 2008, pp.191–202.
- [28] A. Kira, The Golden optimal path in quadratic programming, Ed. W. Takahashi and T. Tanaka, Proceedings of the International Conference on Nonlinear Analysis and Convex Analysis (NACA2007 Taiwan), Yokohama Publishers, Yokohama, March 2009, pp.95–103.
- [29] E.S. Lee, Quasilinearization and Invariant Imbedding, Academic Press, New York, 1968.
- [30] S. Nakamura, A Microcosmos of Fibonacci Numbers — Fibonacci Numbers, Lucas Numbers, and Golden Section — (Revised), Nippon Hyoronsha, 2008 (*in Japanese*).
- [31] R.T. Rockafeller, Conjugate Duality and Optimization, SIAM, Philadelphia, 1974.
- [32] M. Sniedovich, Dynamic Programming: foundations and principles, 2nd ed., CRC Press 2010.