



# Simplex Method Explained

## Basic Form

feasible

	$\vec{y}_I$	-1
$\vec{x}_I$	A	$\vec{b}^T = -\vec{y}_B$
-1	$\vec{c}$	$-d = f$
	$\parallel$ $\vec{x}_B$	$\parallel$ g

$$A \vec{y}_I - \vec{b}^T = -\vec{y}_B \leq \vec{0}$$
$$\vec{x}_I A - \vec{c} = \vec{x}_B \geq \vec{0}$$

1. The variables at the bottom row ( $\vec{x}_B$ ) and at the right most column ( $\vec{y}_B$ ) are called basic variables. The other variables at the leftmost column ( $\vec{x}_I$ ) and at the top row ( $\vec{y}_I$ ) are called non-basic variables or independent variables.

Initially,  $\vec{x} = \vec{x}_B$      $\vec{x} = \vec{x}_I$

$$\vec{y}_Z = \vec{y}, \quad \vec{y}_B = \vec{y}_s$$

2. The solution obtained by setting  $\vec{x}_Z = \vec{y}_Z = \vec{0}$  and  $\vec{x}_B = -\vec{e}, \vec{y}_B = \vec{b}$  is called the basic solution of the basic form.

3. At the basic solution, we have

$$g(\vec{x}) = f(\vec{y}) = d$$

4. The basic solution may not give you feasible vectors.

5. The basic solution is feasible if and if  $\vec{c} \leq \vec{0}$  and  $\vec{b} \geq \vec{0}$

6. The pivot operation changes the basic

form but the resulting basis form is equivalent to the original one.

	$y_e$	$y_j$	
$x_k$	$a^*$	$b$	$= -y_{n+k}$
$x_i$	$c$	$d$	$= -y_{n+i}$
	$\parallel$	$\parallel$	
	$x_{m+l}$	$x_{m+j}$	

$$\begin{cases} ay_e + by_j = -y_{n+k} \\ cy_e + dy_j = -y_{n+i} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} ax_k + cx_i = x_{m+l} \\ bx_k + dx_i = x_{m+j} \end{cases}$$

$x_k$  ↑

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} y_{n+k} + by_j = -ay_e \\ cy_e + dy_j = -y_{n+i} \end{cases}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a}y_{n+k} + \frac{b}{a}y_j = -y_e \\ cy_e + dy_j = -y_{n+i} \end{cases}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a} y_{n+k} + \frac{b}{a} y_j = -y_e \\ c \left( -\frac{1}{a} y_{n+k} - \frac{b}{a} y_j \right) + d y_j = -y_{n+i} \end{cases}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{1}{a} y_{n+k} + \frac{b}{a} y_j = -y_e \\ -\frac{c}{a} y_{n+k} + \left( d - \frac{bc}{a} \right) y_j = -y_{n+i} \end{cases}$$

	$y_{n+k}$	$y_j$	
$x_{n+e}$	$\frac{1}{a}$	$\frac{b}{a}$	$= -y_e$
$x_i$	$-\frac{c}{a}$	$d - \frac{bc}{a}$	$= -y_{n+i}$
	$x_k$	$x_{n+i}$	

Example:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 3 \\ -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

Sol. Add  $k=3$  to every entry

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

	$y_1$	$y_2$	$y_3$	$-1$
$x_1$	$4^*$	2	6	$1 = -y_4$ $\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$
$x_2$	0	4	5	$1 = -y_5$
$x_3$	3	6	2	$1 = -y_6$ $\frac{1}{3}$
$-1$	$\left(1\right)$	1	1	0

$\parallel$   $\parallel$   $\parallel$   
 $x_4$   $x_5$   $x_6$

	$x_1$	$y_2$	$y_3$	
$y_1$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
$x_2$	0	4	5	1
$x_3$	$-\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{9}{2}$	$-\frac{5}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
	$-\frac{1}{4}$	$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{4}$

	$x_1$	$x_3$	$y_3$	
$\rightarrow x_4 y_1$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{1}{9}$	$\frac{16}{9}$	$\frac{2}{9}$
$x_2$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$-\frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{65}{9}$	$\frac{7}{9} = -y_5$
$y_2$	$-\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{2}{9}$	$-\frac{5}{9}$	$\frac{1}{18}$
	$-\frac{1}{6}$	$-\frac{1}{9}$	$-\frac{2}{9}$	$-\frac{5}{18}$

$\parallel$   $\parallel$   $\parallel$   
 $x_1$   $x_2$   $x_4$

$$\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3) = \left(\frac{1}{6}, 0, \frac{1}{9}\right)$$

$$\vec{x}_s = (x_4, x_5, x_6) = \left(0, 0, \frac{2}{9}\right)$$

$$\vec{y} = (y_1, y_2, y_3) = \left(\frac{2}{9}, \frac{1}{18}, 0\right)$$

$$\vec{y}_s = (y_4, y_5, y_6) = \left(0, \frac{7}{9}, 0\right)$$

$$d = \frac{5}{18}$$

$$\text{maximin strategy: } \vec{p} = \frac{1}{d} \vec{x} = \frac{18}{5} \left(\frac{1}{6}, 0, \frac{1}{9}\right) = \left(\frac{3}{5}, 0, \frac{2}{5}\right)$$

$$\text{minimax strategy: } \vec{q} = \frac{1}{d} \vec{y} = \frac{18}{5} \left(\frac{2}{9}, \frac{1}{18}, 0\right) = \left(\frac{4}{5}, \frac{1}{5}, 0\right)$$

$$\text{value of } A : v = \frac{1}{d} - k = \frac{18}{5} - 3 = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\text{Check: } \vec{p}A = \left(\frac{3}{5}, 0, \frac{2}{5}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 \\ -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \left(\frac{3}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{7}{5}\right)$$

$$A\vec{q}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 & 3 \\ -3 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{1}{5} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{5} \\ -\frac{11}{5} \\ \frac{3}{5} \end{pmatrix}$$

## Minimax theorem

Thm. Given any  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ .

$\exists \vec{p} \in \mathcal{O}, \vec{q} \in \mathcal{O}, v \in \mathcal{K}$  s.t.

$$\vec{p}A \geq v\vec{1} \quad \text{and} \quad A\vec{q}^T \leq v\vec{1}^T$$

Def. 1. row value of  $A$ :

$$v_r(A) = \max_{\vec{x} \in \mathcal{O}^m} \left( \min_{\vec{y} \in \mathcal{O}^n} \vec{x}A\vec{y}^T \right) \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{depends} \\ \text{on } \vec{x} \end{array}$$

maximin value

2. column value of  $A$ :

$$v_c(A) = \min_{\vec{y} \in \mathcal{O}^n} \left( \max_{\vec{x} \in \mathcal{O}^m} \vec{x}A\vec{y}^T \right) \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{depends} \\ \text{on } \vec{y} \end{array}$$

minimax value

Minimax thm:  $v_r(A) = v_c(A)$  for any real matrix  $A$ .

Consider  $f(x, y) = |x - y|$ ,  $x, y \in [0, 1]$

$$\max \min |x - y| = 0$$



$$x \in [0,1] \quad y \in [0,1] \quad \cup$$

↖ take  $y=x$

$$\min_{y \in [0,1]} \max_{x \in [0,1]} |x-y| = \frac{1}{2}$$

Thm.  $V_r(A) \leq V_c(A)$

Proof.  $V_r(A) = \min_{\vec{y} \in \mathcal{P}^n} \vec{p} A \vec{y}^T$

$\vec{p}$  is a maximin strategy

$$\leq \vec{p} A \vec{q}^T$$

$$\min_{\vec{y} \in \mathcal{P}^n} \vec{p} A \vec{y}^T = V_r(A)$$

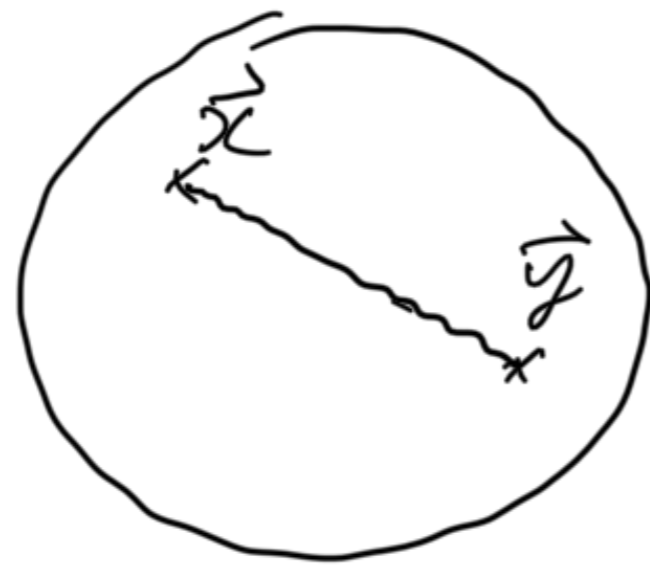
$$\leq \max_{\vec{x} \in \mathcal{P}^m} \vec{x} A \vec{q}^T$$

$\vec{q}$  is a minimax strategy

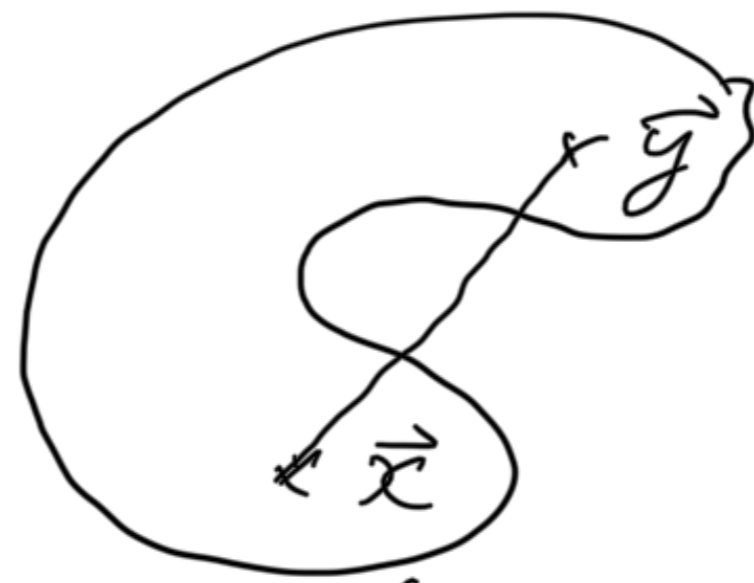
$$= V_c(A) \quad \square$$

Def. A subset  $C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be convex if

$$\underline{\lambda \vec{x} + (1-\lambda) \vec{y} \in C \text{ for any } \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in C, 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1}$$



convex



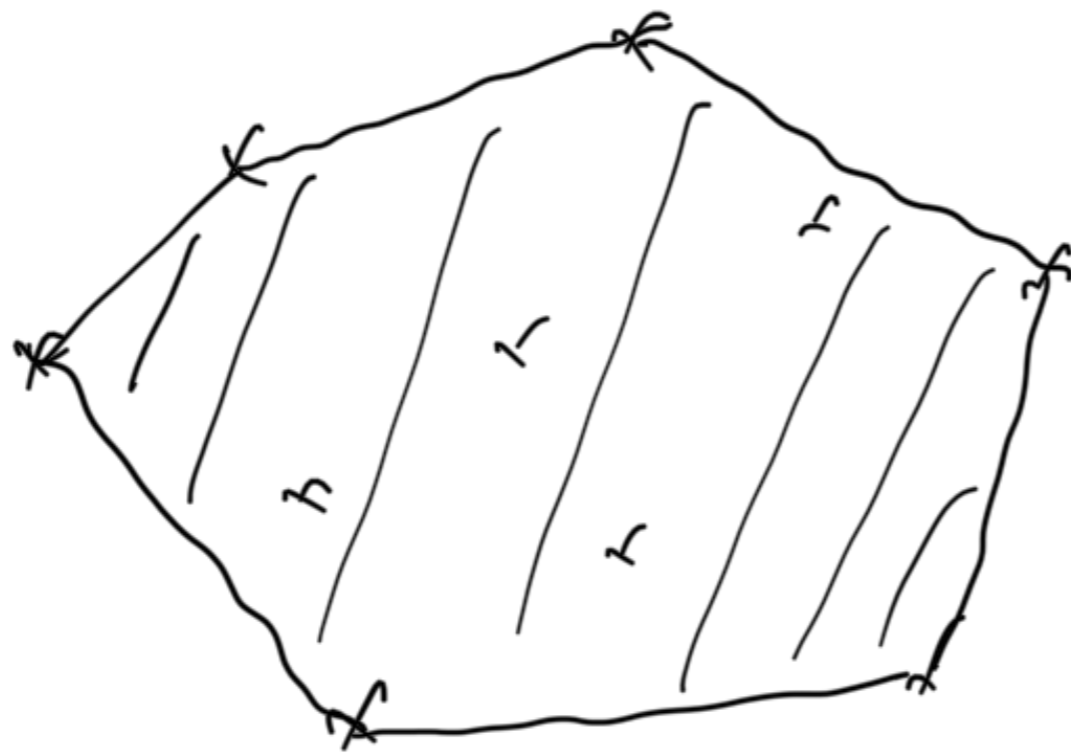
not convex

The convex hull of  $\{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \dots, \vec{x}_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is

$$\text{Conv}(\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_k\}) = \{\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \vec{x} = \lambda_1 \vec{x}_1 + \lambda_2 \vec{x}_2 + \dots + \lambda_k \vec{x}_k$$

where  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k \geq 0$

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_k = 1\}$$

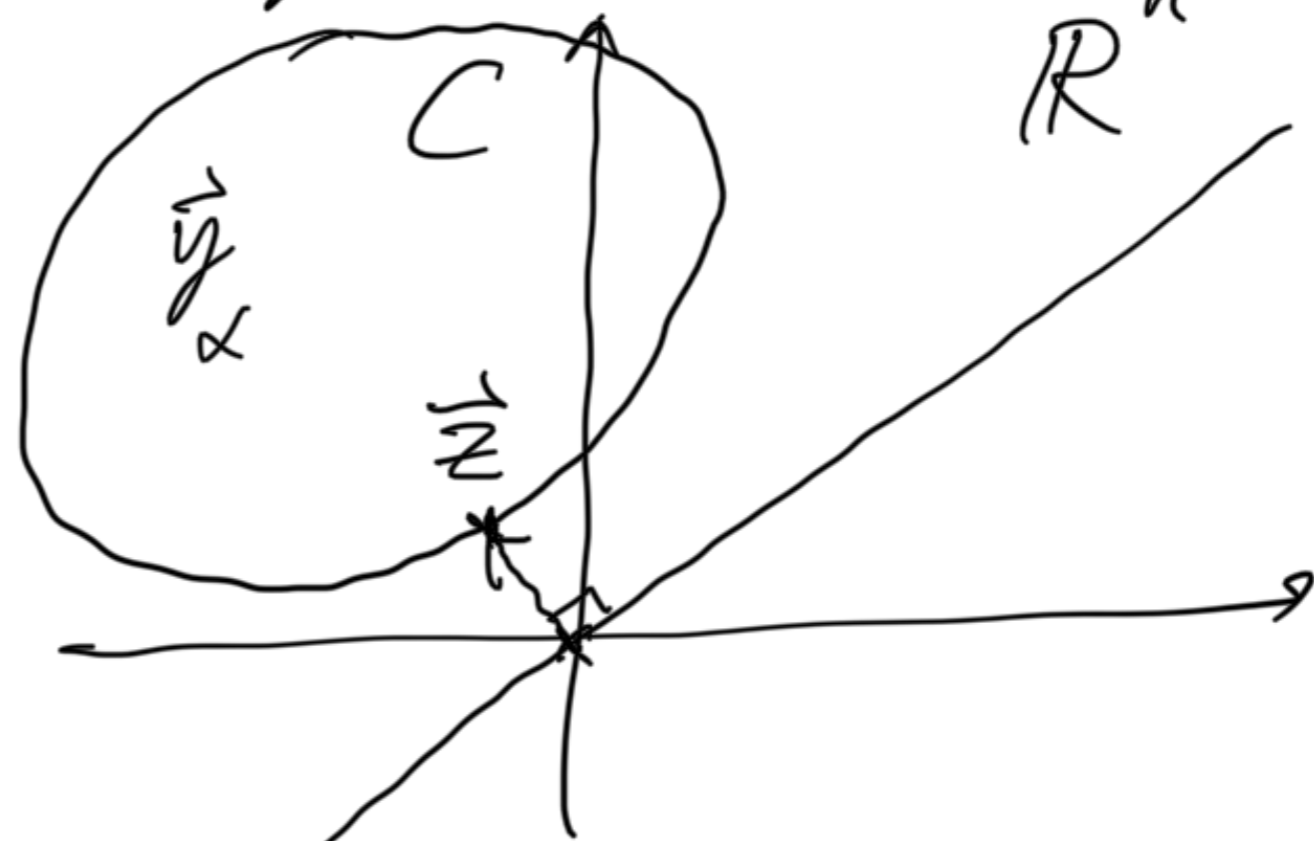
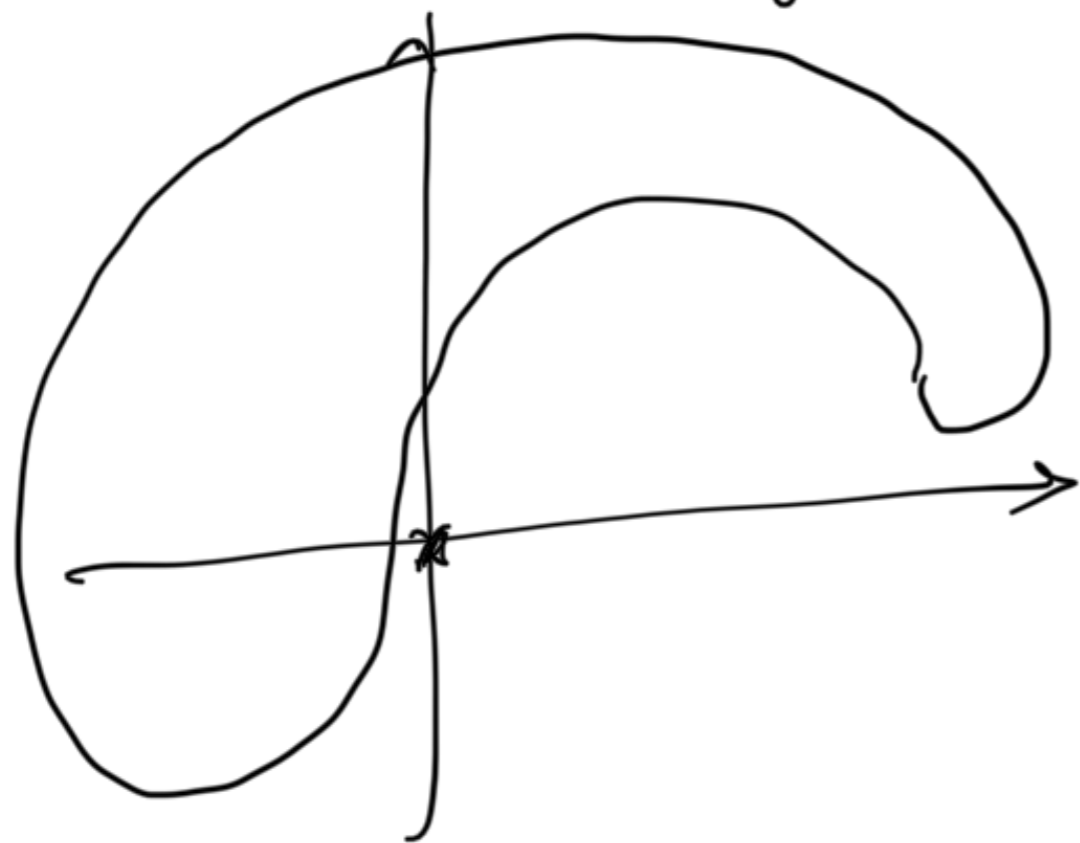


The convex hull is the smallest convex set containing  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_k$ .

Lemma (Special case of hyperplane separation theorem)

Let  $C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a closed convex set and  $\vec{0} \notin C$ . Then  $\exists \vec{z} \in C$  s.t.

$$\langle \vec{z}, \vec{y} \rangle > 0 \text{ for any } \vec{y} \in C \quad \langle \vec{z}, \vec{y} \rangle = \vec{z}^T \vec{y}$$



Proof.

Take  $\vec{z} \in C$  s.t.

$$|\vec{z}| = \min_{\vec{y} \in C} |\vec{y}|$$

Then  $\langle \vec{z}, \vec{y} \rangle > 0 \quad \forall \vec{y} \in C$   
 Thm. Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix.

Then either

1.  $\exists \vec{x} \in \mathcal{P}^m$  s.t.  $\vec{x}A > \vec{0}$ , in this case  $V_r(A) > 0$ ,
2.  $\exists \vec{y} \in \mathcal{P}^n$  s.t.  $A\vec{y}^T \leq \vec{0}$ , in this case  $V_c(A) \leq 0$ .

$\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^{V_r \quad 0 \quad V_c}$  cannot happen

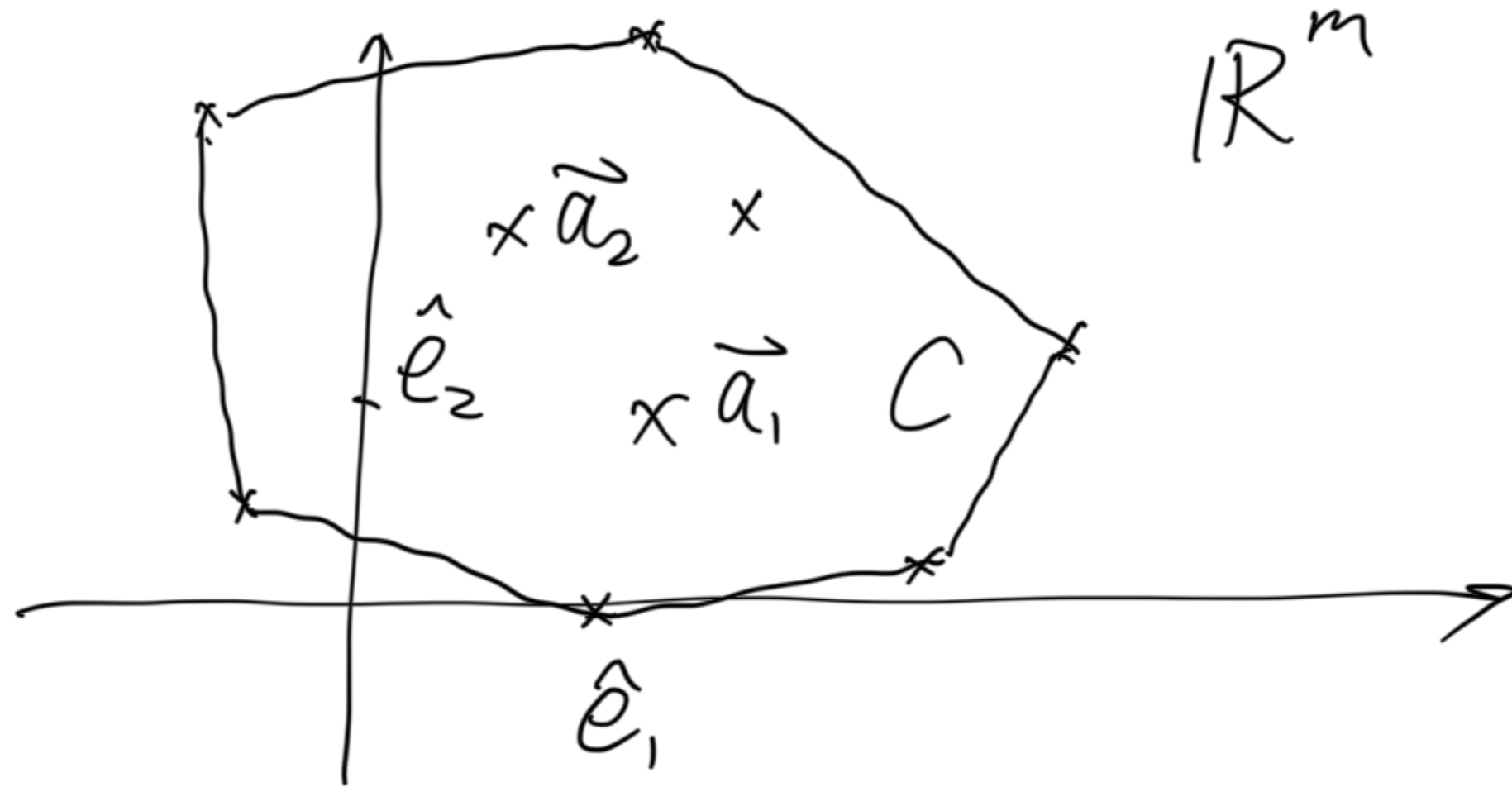
$\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^{0 \quad V_r \quad V_c} \quad \overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^{V_r \quad V_c \quad 0}$  ✓

Proof. Let  $C = \text{Conv}(\{\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_n, \hat{e}_1, \hat{e}_2, \dots, \hat{e}_m\}) \subset \mathbb{R}^m$

where  $\vec{a}_1^T, \dots, \vec{a}_n^T$  are column vectors of  $A$

$$A = [\vec{a}_1^T \quad \vec{a}_2^T \quad \dots \quad \vec{a}_n^T]$$

$\hat{e}_1, \dots, \hat{e}_m$  vectors in the standard basis.



$C$  is a closed convex set.

① Suppose  $\vec{0} \notin C$ .

Then by the lemma,  $\exists \vec{z} \in C$  s.t.

$$\langle \vec{z}, \vec{y} \rangle > 0 \quad \forall \vec{y} \in C$$

In particular, Take  $\vec{y} = \hat{e}_1, \dots, \hat{e}_m$ .

$$\langle \vec{z}, \hat{e}_i \rangle = z_i > 0 \quad \vec{z} = (z_1, \dots, z_m)$$

Take  $\vec{x} = \frac{1}{z_1 + \dots + z_m} \vec{z} \in \mathcal{P}^m$

$\hookrightarrow x \quad \hookrightarrow \gamma \sim \tau \sim \tau \quad \hookrightarrow \tau \tau$

$$\vec{x}A = \vec{x}[\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_n]$$

$$= [\vec{x}\vec{a}_1^T, \vec{x}\vec{a}_2^T, \dots, \vec{x}\vec{a}_n^T]$$

$$> \vec{0} \quad (\langle \vec{x}, \vec{a}_i \rangle = \vec{x}\vec{a}_i^T > 0)$$

② Suppose  $\vec{0} \in C$ .  $\vec{a}_i \in C$

Then  $\exists \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_{n+1}, \dots, \lambda_{n+m} \geq 0$

$$\text{with } \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_{n+m} = 1$$

$$\text{s.t. } \lambda_1 \vec{a}_1 + \lambda_2 \vec{a}_2 + \dots + \lambda_n \vec{a}_n + \lambda_{n+1} \hat{e}_1 + \dots + \lambda_{n+m} \hat{e}_m = \vec{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow A \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_{n+m} \end{pmatrix} = -\lambda_{n+1} \hat{e}_1 - \lambda_{n+2} \hat{e}_2 - \dots - \lambda_{n+m} \hat{e}_m$$

$$\text{Take } \vec{y} = \frac{1}{\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n} (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \in \mathcal{P}^n$$

At least one of  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  is nonzero

because  $\hat{e}_1, \dots, \hat{e}_m$  are linearly independent.

$$A \vec{g}^T = \frac{-1}{\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{n+1} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_{n+m} \end{pmatrix}$$