

## Technique 2: Rounding the Dual Solution.

### Relaxation for Set Cover

Primal:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \sum_{i \in I} w_i x_i \\ \text{s.t. } \forall u & \sum_{i: u \in S_i} x_i \geq 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Dual:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & \sum_{u \in U} y_u \\ \text{s.t. } \forall i & \sum_{u: u \in S_i} y_u \leq w_i \\ & y_u \geq 0 \end{array}$$

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### Rounding Algorithm:

Let  $I$  denote the index set of sets for which the dual constraint is tight. This means for all  $i \in I$

$$\sum_{u:u \in S_i} y_u = w_i$$

## Technique 2: Rounding the Dual Solution.

### Lemma 3

*The resulting index set is an  $f$ -approximation.*

**Proof:**

Every  $u \in U$  is covered.

Suppose there is a  $u \in U$  not covered.

This means  $\sum_{i \in I} x_i a_{ij} < b_j$  for all  $j \in J$  that contains  $u$ .

But then  $x_j$  could be increased in the dual solution without

violating any constraint. This is a contradiction to the fact

that the dual solution is optimal.

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- ▶ This means  $x_i \geq \frac{1}{f}$ .
- ▶ Because of **Complementary Slackness Conditions** the corresponding constraint in the dual must be tight.
- ▶ Hence, the second algorithm will also choose  $S_i$ .

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