Linear programming: introduction and examples

G. Ferrari Trecate

Dipartimento di Ingegneria Industriale e dell'Informazione Università degli Studi di Pavia

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Industrial Automation

Linear Programming (LP)

Widely used optimization technique in management science

 optimal allocation of limited resources for maximizing revenues or minimizing costs

Basic problem

$$\min_{\substack{g_i(x) \le 0 \\ =1,2,\dots,m}} f(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

- A Linear Programming (LP) problem is (1) with
 - $f(x) = c^{\mathrm{T}}x$ (linear cost)
 - $g_i(x) = a_i^{\mathrm{T}}x b_i$ (affine constraints)

An LP problem is a convex optimization problem

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Linear Programming (LP)

Canonical form

An LP problem is in *canonical form* if it is written as

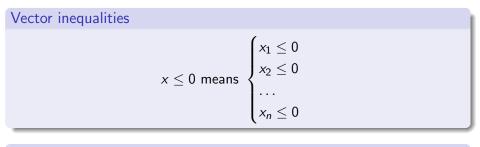
$$\min_{\substack{a_i^{\mathrm{T}}x \leq b_i, i=1,2,...,m\\ x_j \geq 0, j=1,2,...,n}} c^{\mathrm{T}}x$$

or

$$\max_{\substack{a_i^{\mathrm{T}}x \leq b_i, i=1,2,...,n \\ x_i \geq 0, j=1,2,...,n}} c^{\mathrm{T}}x$$

"<" constraints and positivity constraints on all variables

PL - matrix notation



Constraints

$$\begin{cases} a_1^{\mathrm{T}} x \leq b_1 \\ a_2^{\mathrm{T}} x \leq b_2 \\ \cdots \\ a_m^{\mathrm{T}} x \leq b_m \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow Ax \leq b, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^{\mathrm{T}} \\ a_2^{\mathrm{T}} \\ \vdots \\ a_m^{\mathrm{T}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

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PL - matrix notation

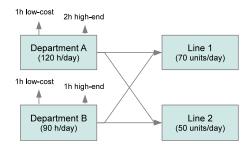
LP problem in generic form $\begin{array}{c} \min_{Ax \leq b} c^{\mathrm{T}}x \\ \end{array}$ LP problem in canonical form (LP-C) $\begin{array}{c} \min_{Ax \leq b} c^{\mathrm{T}}x \\ \xrightarrow{Ax \leq b} \\ x \geq 0 \end{array}$

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LP and management science

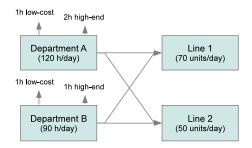
Typical decision problems in industry

- Product mix
- Diet problems
- Blending problems
- Transport problems
- Product mix with resource allocation
- Multiperiod production planning
- Portfolio optimization
- ...



A company manifactures two radio models (low-cost and high-end) and produces two components

- Department A: antennas (max. 120h hours of production per day)
 - Ih of work for a low-cost antenna
 - 2h of work for a high-end antenna
- Department B: case (max. 90h hours of production per day)
 - Ih of work for a low-cost case
 - Ih of work for a high-end case

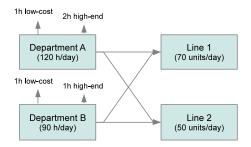


The company has two assembly lines (1 radio=1 antenna + 1 case)

- Line 1: production of low-cost models. No more than 70 units/day
- Line 2: production of high-end models. No more than 50 units/day

Profits: 20 Euros for a low-cost radio and 30 Euros for a high-end radio.

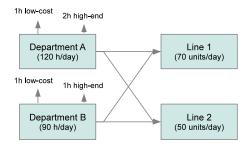
Assuming the company will sell all radios, which is the optimal number of units, for each model, that must be produced daily for maximizing the revenue?



Choice of variables

Usually this is the most difficult step in representing decision problems as optimization problems !

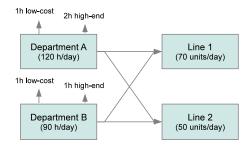
Guideline: cost and constraints must be a function of optimization variables only.



Choice of variables - product mix

- x1: number of produced low-cost radios per day
- x₂: number of produced high-end radios per day

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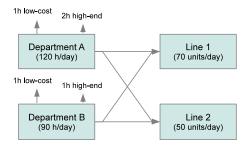
Choice of variables - product mix

- x1: number of produced low-cost radios per day
- x₂: number of produced high-end radios per day

Cost and type of problem

Cost: $20x_1 + 30x_2$, to be maximized

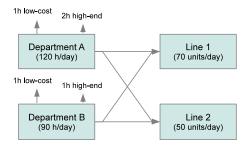
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Constraints

Capacity constraints of assembly lines

• $x_1 \le 70$ (line 1) • $x_2 \le 50$ (line 2)



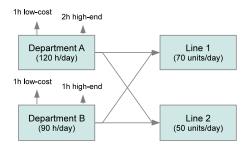
Constraints

Capacity constraints of assembly lines

• $x_1 \le 70$ (line 1) • $x_2 \le 50$ (line 2)

Capacity constraints of production departments

• $x_1 + 2x_2 \le 120$ (department 1) • $x_1 + x_2 \le 90$ (department 2)



Constraints

Capacity constraints of assembly lines

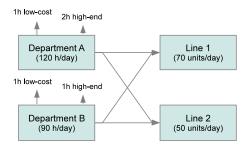
• $x_1 \le 70$ (line 1) • $x_2 \le 50$ (line 2)

Capacity constraints of production departments

• $x_1 + 2x_2 \le 120$ (department 1) • $x_1 + x_2 \le 90$ (department 2)

Positivity constraints: $x_1 \ge 0$, $x_2 \ge 0$

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LP problem

$$\begin{array}{rrrr} \max_{x_1,x_2} & 20x_1+30x_2 \\ & x_1 & \leq 70 \\ & x_2 & \leq 50 \\ x_1+2x_2 & \leq 120 \\ & x_1+x_2 & \leq 90 \\ & x_1 & \geq 0 \\ & x_2 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

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LP problem

$$\begin{array}{rrrr} \max_{x_1,x_2} & 20x_1 + 30x_2 \\ & x_1 & \leq 70 \\ & x_2 & \leq 50 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 & \leq 120 \\ & x_1 + x_2 & \leq 90 \\ & x_1 & \geq 0 \\ & x_2 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

LP problem - matrix notation

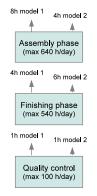
$$\min_{\substack{Ax \leq b \\ x \geq 0}} c^{\mathrm{T}} x$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \ c &= \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 30 \end{bmatrix} \\ A &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \ b &= \begin{bmatrix} 120 \\ 90 \\ 70 \\ 50 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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Product mix revised



A company manifactures two models of cases for telephones (model 1 and model 2). The production cycle comprises three phases with bounded resources that must be allocated to the two products

- Each phase is modeled through the maximal availability of men-hours per day and men-hours required to process a single unit
- Profits: 30 Euros for a model 1 unit and 20 Euros for a model 2 unit

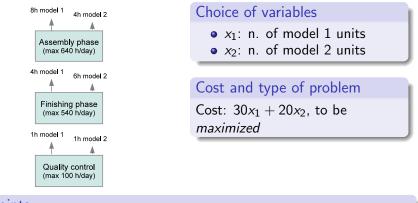
Assuming all cases will be sold, which is the optimal number of units, for each model, that must be produced daily for maximizing the revenue?

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Product mix revised



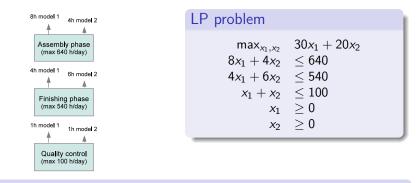
Constraints

Capacity constraints in each phase

- $8x_1 + 4x_2 \le 640$ (assembly) • $4x_1 + 6x_2 \le 540$ (finishing)
- $x_1 + x_2 \leq 100$ (quality control)

Positivity constraints: $x_1 > 0$, $x_2 > 0$

Product mix revised



LP problem - matrix notation

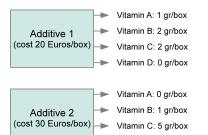
 $\max_{\substack{Ax \leq b \\ x \geq 0}} c^{\mathrm{T}} x$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \ c = \begin{bmatrix} 30 \\ 20 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 4 \\ 4 & 6 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \ b = \begin{bmatrix} 640 \\ 540 \\ 100 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Diet problem



A company producing chicken food can use two types of additives with different vitamin contents. The product is obtained by mixing additives in a suitable quantity

• Vitamin contents and additive costs are given in the picture

Vitamin D: 1 gr/box

• 1 box of chicken food must contain at least 2 gr. of vitamin A, at least 12 gr. of vitamin B, at least 36 gr. of vitamin C and at least 4 gr. of vitamin D

Which is the quantity of additives that allows the company to produce one box of chicken food while minimizing the costs ?

Diet problem



Choice of variables

- x₁: n. of boxes of Additive 1
- x₂: n. of boxes of Additive 2



Cost and type of problem Cost: $20x_1 + 30x_2$, to be *minimized*

Constraints

Minimal quantities of vitamins

•
$$x_1 \ge 2$$
 (vitamin A)
• $2x_1 + x_2 \ge 12$ (vitamin B)
• $2x_1 + 5x_2 \ge 36$ (vitamin C
• $x_2 \ge 4$ (vitamin D)

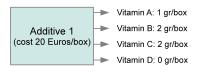
Positivity constraints: $x_1 \ge 0, x_2 \ge 0$

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Diet problem



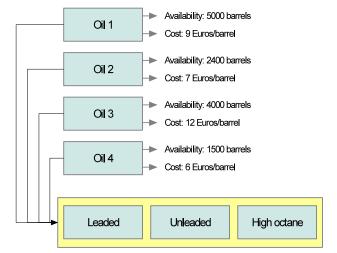


LP problem

$$\begin{array}{rrrr} \min_{x_1,x_2} & 20x_1 + 30x_2 \\ x_1 & \geq 2 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 & \geq 12 \\ 2x_1 + 5x_2 & \geq 36 \\ x_2 & \geq 4 \\ x_1,x_2 & \geq 0 \end{array}$$

LP problem - matrix notation

$\min_{\substack{Ax \ge b \\ x \ge 0}} c^{\mathrm{T}} x$	$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \ c = \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 30 \end{bmatrix}$
$Ax \ge b \\ x \ge 0$	$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \ b = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 12 \\ 36 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$



A company produces 3 types of gasoline (leaded, unleaded, high-octane) blending 4 types of oils in suitable proportions

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Problem data

- The maximal number of available barrels and the buying costs are given in the picture
- Each gasoline type must fulfill the following composition requirements

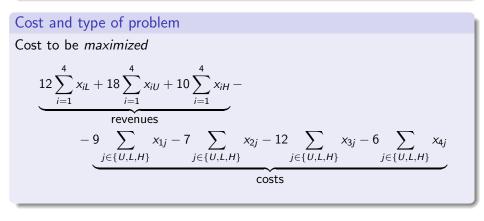
GASOLINE	% of Oil 1	% of Oil 2	% of Oil 3	% of Oil 4
Leaded	at least 40%	no more than 20%	at least 30%	
Unleaded			at least 40%	
High octane	at least 10%	no more than 50%		

• Gasoline selling prices are: 12 Euros/barrel for leaded, 18 Euros/barrel for unleaded and 10 Euros/barrel for high-octane

Which are the optimal quantities of the 4 components that have to be bought in order to maximize the profits (profits = revenues - costs) ?

Choice of variables

 x_{ij} : n. of barrels of oil *i* used for gasoline of type *j*, *i* = 1, 2, 3, 4, $j \in \{L, U, H\}$, L= Leaded, U= Unleaded, H= High-octane



Constraints

Maximal availability of barrels

- $x_{1L} + x_{1U} + x_{1H} \leq 5000$ (Oil 1)
- $x_{2L} + x_{2U} + x_{2H} \le 2400$ (Oil 2)
- $x_{3L} + x_{3U} + x_{3H} \le 4000$ (Oil 3)
- $x_{4L} + x_{4U} + x_{4H} \le 1500$ (Oil 4)

Composition requirements

$\frac{x_{1L}}{x_{1L} + x_{2L} + x_{3L} + x_{4L}} \ge 0.4$	in affine form	$0.6x_{1L} - 0.4x_{2L} - 0.4x_{3L} - 0.4x_{4L} \ge 0$
$\frac{\frac{x_{1L} + x_{2L}}{x_{2L}}}{\frac{x_{2L}}{x_{1L} + x_{2L} + x_{3L} + x_{4L}}} \le 0.2$	in affine form	$-0.2x_{1L} + 0.8x_{2L} - 0.2x_{3L} - 0.2x_{4L} \le 0$
$\frac{\frac{x_{1L} + x_{2L} + x_{3L}}{x_{1L} + x_{2L} + x_{3L} + x_{4L}} \ge 0.3$	in affine form	$-0.3x_{1L} - 0.3x_{2L} + 0.7x_{3L} - 0.3x_{4L} \ge 0$
$\frac{x_{3U}}{x_{1U}+x_{2U}+x_{2U}+x_{4U}} \ge 0.4$	in affine form	$-0.4x_{1U} - 0.4x_{2U} + 0.6x_{3U} - 0.4x_{4U} \ge 0$
$\frac{\frac{x_{10} + x_{20} + x_{30} + x_{40}}{x_{1H}}}{\frac{x_{1H}}{x_{1H} + x_{2H} + x_{2H} + x_{4H}}} \ge 0.1$	in affine form	$0.9x_{1H} - 0.1x_{2H} - 0.1x_{3H} - 0.1x_{4H} \ge 0$
$\frac{\frac{x_{2H}}{x_{2H}}}{\frac{x_{2H}}{x_{1H} + x_{2H} + x_{3H} + x_{4H}}} \le 0.5$	in affine form	$-0.5x_{1H} + 0.5x_{2H} - 0.5x_{3H} - 0.5x_{4H} \le 0$

Positivity constraints: $x_{ii} \ge 0$, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, $j \in \{U, L, H\}$

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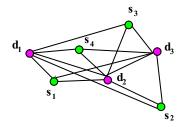
 $\max_{\substack{Ax \leq b \\ x \geq 0}} c^{\mathrm{T}} x$

with

	x	$= [x_{1L}]$	X_2	x _{3L}	× _{4L}	x _{1U}	x _{2U}	х _{3U} 2	×4U	x _{1H} x ₂	ен х	3H X4I	4] ^T
			c = [3 5	06	i 9	11	6 12	1	3 -2	4]	Т	
	Г	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	ך 0
		0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
		0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
A =		-0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A _		-0.2	0.8	-0.2	-0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.3	0.3	-0.7	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0.4	0.4	-0.6	0.4	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
	L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.5	0.5	-0.5	_0.5 」
			<i>b</i> = [5000	2400	4000) 15	00 0	0	0 0 0	0 0] ^T	

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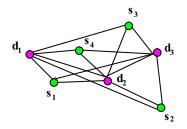
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A company owns *n* fuel storage points (i.e. *n* supply points) and it must supply *m* gas stations (i.e. *m* demand points). Every gas station can be reached from all storage points.

Data and requirements

- Every storage point has a maximal availability of a_i ≥ 0 i = 1,..., n liters of fuel
- Every gas station specifies a demand of $b_j \ge 0, j = 1, \dots, m$ liters of fuel
- $t_{ij} \ge 0$ is the cost for shipping 1 liter of fuel from storage point *i* to gas station *j*



Which are the optimal quantities of fuel to be shipped from each storage point to each gas station in order to minimize transport costs while fulfilling exactly the demands ?

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Choice of variables

 x_{ij} , i = 1, ..., n, j = 1, ..., m, n. of liters of fuel shipped from storage point i to gas station j

Cost and type of problem

Cost to be minimized

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m t_{ij} x_{ij}$$

Constraints

Maximal availability of fuel at storage points

•
$$\sum_{j=1}^{m} x_{ij} \le a_i, i = 1, ..., n$$

Demand constraints

•
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} = b_j, j = 1, ..., m$$

Positivity constraints: $x_{ij} \ge 0$, $i = 1, \ldots, n$, $j = 1, \ldots, m$

LP problem

min
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} t_{ij} x_{ij}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sum_{j=1}^{m} x_{ij} &\leq a_i, \ i = 1, \dots, n \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} &= b_j, \ j = 1, \dots, m \\ x_{ij} &\geq 0, \ i = 1, \dots, n, \ j = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$
(A)

Remarks

• Constraints (A) can be replaced by $\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} \ge b_j, j = 1, \dots, m$. Why ?

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LP problem

min
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} t_{ij} x_{ij}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sum_{j=1}^{m} x_{ij} &\leq a_i, \ i = 1, \dots, n \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} &= b_j, \ j = 1, \dots, m \\ x_{ij} &\geq 0, \ i = 1, \dots, n, \ j = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$
(A)

Remarks

- Constraints (A) can be replaced by $\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} \ge b_j$, j = 1, ..., m. Why ?
- The LP problem is always feasible ?

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LP problem

min
$$\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n t_{ij} x_{ij}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sum_{j=1}^{m} x_{ij} &\leq a_i, \ i = 1, \dots, n \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} &= b_j, \ j = 1, \dots, m \\ x_{ij} &\geq 0, \ i = 1, \dots, n, \ j = 1, \dots, m \end{array}$$
(A)

Remarks

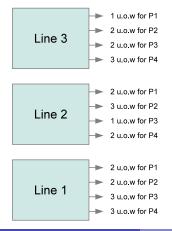
- Constraints (A) can be replaced by $\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij} \ge b_j$, j = 1, ..., m. Why ?
- The LP problem is always feasible ? NO !
 - A necessary and sufficient condition for feasibility is

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \ge \sum_{j=1}^m b_j$$

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In standard product mix problems, capacity constraints are fixed. We now assume to have resources that can be allocated to different production phases



A food company produces 4 products P_i , i = 1, 2, 3, 4. Each product must go through 3 production lines L_j , j = 1, 2, 3. Each line is modeled through the units of work (u.o.w.) required to process a single unit of product

Requirements

- At least 1000 units of P₂ and no more than 500 units of P₁ must be produced
- U.o.w are men-hours that fall in 7 categories T_i , i = 1, ..., 7 according to the versatility of workers

Category	Destination line	Max. availability
T_1	Line 1	12000
<i>T</i> ₂	Line 2	7000
<i>T</i> ₃	Line 3	9000
T ₄	Lines 1 and 2	4000
T ₅	Lines 1 and 3	3000
<i>T</i> ₆	Lines 2 and 3	3000
T ₇	Lines 1,2 and 3	2000

Profits per unit are 10 Euros for P₁, 12 Euros for P₂, 13 Euros for P₃ and 14 Euros for P₄

Assuming all products will be sold, which is a joint production and resource allocation plan that maximizes the profits ?

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Choice of variables

Two categories of variables are needed

- P_i , $i = 1, \ldots, 4$: units of product i
- T_4L_1 , T_4L_2 , T_5L_1 , T_5L_3 , T_6L_2 , T_6L_3 , T_7L_1 , T_7L_2 , T_7L_3 . For instance T_4L_1 is the number of men-hours of category T_4 allocated to line 1.

Cost and type of problem

Cost to be *maximized*

 $10P_1 + 12P_2 + 13P_3 + 14P_4$

Constraints

Capacity constraints of production lines

•
$$2P_1 + 2P_2 + 3P_3 + 3P_4 \le 12000 + T_4L_1 + T_5L_1 + T_7L_1$$
 (line 1)
• $2P_1 + 3P_2 + P_3 + 2P_4 \le 7000 + T_4L_2 + T_6L_2 + T_7L_2$ (line 2)
• $P_1 + 2P_2 + 2P_3 + 3P_4 \le 9000 + T_5L_3 + T_6L_3 + T_7L_3$ (line 3)

Bounds on the number of products

- $P_2 \ge 1000$
- $P_4 \le 500$

Maximal availability of u.o.w. for versatile workers

• $T_4L_1 + T_4L_2 \le 4000$ • $T_5L_1 + T_5L_3 \le 3000$ • $T_6L_2 + T_6L_3 \le 3000$ • $T_7L_1 + T_7L_2 + T_7L_3 \le 2000$

Positivity contraints:

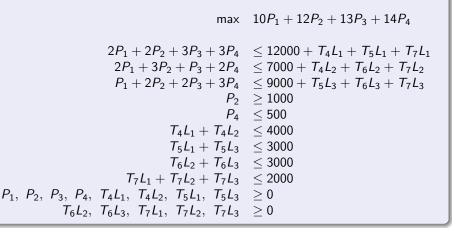
 $P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, T_4L_1, T_4L_2, T_5L_1, T_5L_3, T_6L_2, T_6L_3, T_7L_1, T_7L_2, T_7L_3 \ge 0$

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LP problem

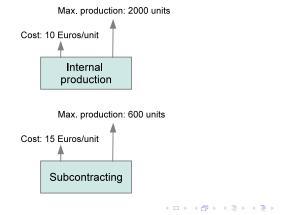


Exercise

Write the LP problem in matrix notation

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A company must determine how many washing machines should be produced during each of the next 5 months. Washing machines production can be internal or subcontracted to another company. Production capacities and costs are given in the figure



Data and Requirements

- Inventory cost: 2 Euros/unit for a whole month
- Inventory at the beginning of the first month: 300 units
- Inventory at the end of the fifth month: 300 units
- Demand during each of the next five months (the company must meet demands on time)

Month	Demand
1	1200
2	2100
3	2400
4	3000
5	4000

How many washing machines must be produced (internally and by the subcontractor), each month, in order to meet demands on time and minimize the costs ?

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Choice of variables

Three categories of variables are needed

- P_i , i = 1, ..., 5: units produced internally during month i
- S_i , i = 1, ..., 5: units produced by the subcontrator during month i
- I_i , $i = 1, \ldots, 4$: inventory at the end of month i

Cost and type of problem

Cost to be minimized

$$10\sum_{i=1}^{5} P_i + 15\sum_{i=1}^{5} S_i + 2\sum_{i=1}^{4} I_i$$

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Constraints

Maximal production

• $P_i \le 2000, i = 1, ..., 5$ (internal production) • $S_i \le 600, i = 1, ..., 5$ (subcontracting)

• $S_i \geq 000, \ i = 1, \dots, 5$ (subcontract

Balance constraints: for month i,

Inventory at the end of month i = Inventory at the end of month i - 1 ++ month i production - month i demand

• $I_1 = 300 + P_1 + S_1 - 1200$ • $I_2 = +I_1 + P_2 + S_2 - 2100$ • $I_3 = +I_2 + P_2 + S_2 - 2400$ • $I_4 = +I_3 + P_3 + S_3 - 3000$ • $300 = +I_4 + P_4 + S_4 - 4000$

Positivity contraints: $P_i, S_i \ge 0, i = 1..., 5, I_j \ge 0, j = 1..., 4$

LP problem

$$\begin{array}{rll} \min & 10\sum_{i=1}^{5}P_{i}+15\sum_{i=1}^{5}S_{i}+2\sum_{i=1}^{4}I_{i}\\ P_{i} &\leq 2000, \ i=1,\ldots,5\\ S_{i} &\leq 600, \ i=1,\ldots,5\\ I_{1}-P_{1}-S_{1} &= 300-1200\\ I_{2}-I_{1}-P_{2}-S_{2} &= -2100\\ I_{3}-I_{2}-P_{2}-S_{2} &= -2400\\ I_{4}-I_{3}-P_{3}-S_{3} &= -3000\\ -I_{4}-P_{4}-S_{4} &= -4000-300\\ P_{i},S_{i} &\geq 0, \ i=1\ldots,5\\ I_{j} &\geq 0, \ j=1\ldots,4 \end{array}$$

Ferrari Trecate (DIS)

Industrial Automation

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A manager must decide how to invest 500000 Euros in different financial products. His goal is to maximize earnings while avoiding high risk exposure

Financial products and expected return on investment

Financial product	Market	Return %
T ₁	Cars - Germany	10.3
T ₂	Cars - Japan	10.1
T ₃	Computers - USA	11.8
T ₄	Computers - USA	11.4
T ₅	Household appliances - Europe	12.7
T ₆	Household appliances - Asia	12.2
T ₇	Insurance - Germany	9.5
T ₈	Insurance - USA	9.9
T ₉	вот	3.6
T ₁₀	ССТ	4.2

Investment requirements

- No more than 150000 Euros in the car options
- On the second second
- So more than 100000 Euros in the appliance options
- At least 100000 Euros in the insurance options
- At least 125000 Euros in BOT or CCT
- At least 40% of the money invested in CCT must be invested in BOT
- Ø No more than 250000 Euros must be invested in German options
- In the second second

Choice of variables

 T_i , i = 1, ..., 10: thousands of Euros invested in the financial product i

Cost and type of problem

Cost to be maximized

 $\begin{array}{l} 0.103\,T_{1}+0.101\,T_{2}+0.118\,T_{3}+0.114\,T_{4}+0.127\,T_{5}+0.122\,T_{6}+0.095\,T_{7}+\\ +0.099\,T_{8}+0.036\,T_{9}+0.042\,T_{10} \end{array}$

Constraints

Total investment: $\sum_{i=1}^{10} T_i = 500$ Investment requirements:

T₁ + T₂ ≤ 150
T₃ + T₄ ≤ 150
T₅ + T₆ ≤ 100
T₇ + T₈ ≥ 100
T₉ + T₁₀ ≥ 125
T₉ - 0.4 T₁₀ ≥ 0
T₁ + T₇ ≤ 250
T₃ + T₄ + T₈ ≤ 200
Positivity constraints: T_i ≥ 0, i = 1..., 10