

# Linear Programming

## Introduction to Linear Programming

April 23, 2015

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LP Duality

The Weak Duality Theorem of Linear Programming

# What is linear programming (LP)?

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A *linear program* is an optimization problem in finitely many variables having a linear objective function and a constraint region determined by a finite number of linear equality and/or inequality constraints.

# Compact Representation

$$\text{minimize} \quad c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \cdots + c_nx_n$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad a_{i1}x_1 + a_{i2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{in}x_n \leq \alpha_i \quad i = 1, \dots, s$$

$$b_{i1}x_1 + b_{i2}x_2 + \cdots + b_{in}x_n = \beta_i \quad i = 1, \dots, r.$$

## Vector Inequalities: Componentwise

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

We write  $x \leq y$  if and only if

$$x_i \leq y_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

# Matrix Notation

$$c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \cdots + c_nx_n = c^T x$$

$$c = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$Ax \leq a$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{s1} & a_{s2} & \cdots & a_{sn} \end{bmatrix} \quad a = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_s \end{bmatrix}$$

# Matrix Notation

$$b_{i1}x_1 + b_{i2}x_2 + \cdots + b_{in}x_n = \beta_i \quad i = 1, \dots, r$$



$$Bx = b$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \cdots & b_{1n} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \cdots & b_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{r1} & b_{r2} & \cdots & b_{rn} \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_r \end{bmatrix}$$

# LP's Matrix Notation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \leq a \text{ and } Bx = b \end{array}$$

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A short list:

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- ▶ resource allocation

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## Example: Plastic Cup Factory

A local family-owned plastic cup manufacturer wants to optimize their production mix in order to maximize their profit. They produce personalized beer mugs and champagne glasses. The profit on a case of beer mugs is \$25 while the profit on a case of champagne glasses is \$20. The cups are manufactured with a machine called a plastic extruder which feeds on plastic resins. Each case of beer mugs requires 20 lbs. of plastic resins to produce while champagne glasses require 12 lbs. per case. The daily supply of plastic resins is limited to at most 1800 pounds. About 15 cases of either product can be produced per hour. At the moment the family wants to limit their work day to 8 hours.

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Model this problem as an LP.

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4. Determine the *implicit constraints*.

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A local family-owned plastic cup manufacturer wants to optimize their production mix in order to maximize their profit. They produce personalized beer mugs and champagne glasses. The profit on a case of beer mugs is \$25 while the profit on a case of champagne glasses is \$20. The cups are manufactured with a machine called a plastic extruder which feeds on plastic resins. Each case of beer mugs requires 20 lbs. of plastic resins to produce while champagne glasses require 12 lbs. per case. The daily supply of plastic resins is limited to at most 1800 pounds. About 15 cases of either product can be produced per hour. At the moment the family wants to limit their work day to 8 hours.

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$$\text{Profit} = 25B + 20C$$

## Explicit Constraints

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$$\text{Resin: } 20B + 12C \leq 1800$$

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The decision variables are non-negative:  $0 \leq B$ ,  $0 \leq C$

# The Plastic Cup Factory LP Model

$$\text{maximize } 25B + 20C$$

$$\text{subject to } 20B + 12C \leq 1800$$

$$\frac{1}{15}B + \frac{1}{15}C \leq 8$$

$$0 \leq B, C$$

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**Never be afraid to add more decision variables** either to clarify the model or to improve its flexibility. Modern LP software easily solves problems with tens of thousands of variables, and in some cases tens of millions of variables. It is more important to get a correct, easily interpretable, and flexible model than to provide a compact minimalist model.

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LP model solutions found in many texts fall into the trap of trying to provide the most compact minimalist model with the fewest possible number of variables and constraints.

**Do not repeat this error in developing your own models.**

## Model 4: Blending

A company makes a blend consisting of two chemicals, 1 and 2, in the ratio 5:2 by weight. These chemical can be manufactured by three different processes using two different raw materials and a fuel. Production data are given in the table below. For how much time should each process be run in order to maximize the total amount of *blend* manufactured?

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<i>Process</i>	<i>Requirements per Unit Time</i>			<i>Output per Unit Time</i>	
	<i>Raw Mat. 1 (units)</i>	<i>Raw Mat. 2 (units)</i>	<i>Fuel (units)</i>	<i>Chem. 1 (units)</i>	<i>Chem. 2 (units)</i>
1	9	5	50	9	6
2	6	8	75	7	10
3	4	11	100	10	6
<i>Amount available</i>	200	400	1850		

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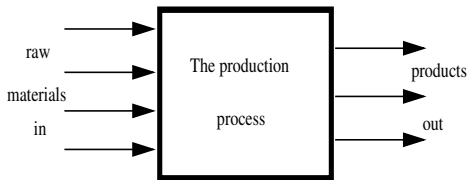
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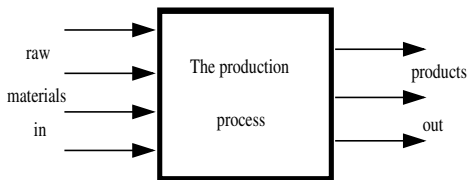
$$\text{Blend: } \frac{5}{7}B \leq C_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{2}{7}B \leq C_2$$

Implicit Constraints:  $0 \leq B$ ,  $0 \leq T_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ ,  $0 \leq C_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$

# The Production Model

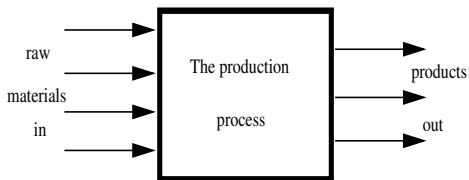


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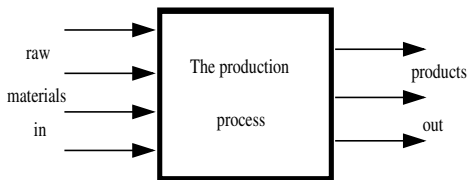
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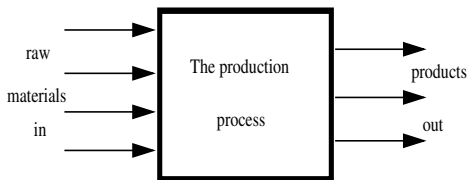
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The products are the raw materials reconfigured to look different. Profit is the difference between the purchase price of the raw materials and the sale price of their reconfigured form as products. Making a profit means that you sell the raw materials for more than you paid for them. On a per unit basis, by how much does the production process increase the value of the raw materials?

## *Hidden Hand* of the Market Place: Duality

In the market place there is competition for raw materials, or the inputs to production. This collective competition is the *hidden hand* that sets the price for goods in the market place.

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A local family-owned plastic cup manufacturer wants to optimize their production mix in order to maximize their profit. They produce personalized beer mugs and champagne glasses. The profit on a case of beer mugs is \$25 while the profit on a case of champagne glasses is \$20. The cups are manufactured with a machine called a plastic extruder which feeds on plastic resins. Each case of beer mugs requires 20 lbs. of plastic resins to produce while champagne glasses require 12 lbs. per case. The daily supply of plastic resins is limited to at most 1800 pounds. About 15 cases of either product can be produced per hour. At the moment the family wants to limit their work day to 8 hours.

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These price increases should wipe out the per unit profitability for cases of both beer mugs and champagne glasses.

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Let us compare this LP with the original LP.

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**Primal:**  $\max 25B + 20C$

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# Linear Programming Duality: Matrix Notation

 $\mathcal{P}$ 

**Primal:**  $\max c^T x$   
s.t.  $Ax \leq b$   
 $0 \leq x$

 $\mathcal{D}$ 

**Dual:**  $\min b^T y$   
s.t.  $A^T y \geq c$   
 $0 \leq y$

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Moreover, if  $c^T \bar{x} = b^T \bar{y}$  with  $\bar{x}$  feasible for  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\bar{y}$  feasible for  $\mathcal{D}$ , then  $\bar{x}$  must solve  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\bar{y}$  must solve  $\mathcal{D}$ .

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Example:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \text{maximize} & 2x_1 & - & x_2 \\ & x_1 & - & x_2 \leq & 1 \\ & -x_1 & + & x_2 \leq & -2 \\ & 0 & \leq & x_1, & x_2 \end{array}$$