

Business Analytics

Descriptive • Predictive • Prescriptive

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Business Analytics, 5e

Chapter 14 – Linear Optimization Models

Chapter Contents

- 14.1 A Simple Maximization Problem
- 14.2 Solving the Par, Inc. Problem
- 14.3 A Simple Minimization Problem
- 14.4 Special Cases of Linear Program Outcomes
- 14.5 Sensitivity Analysis
- 14.6 General Linear Programming Notation and More Examples
- 14.7 Generating an Alternative Optimal Solution for a Linear Program
- Summary

Learning Objectives (1 of 2)

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- LO 14-1 Create a linear programming model based on a problem description.
- LO 14-2 Create a spreadsheet model of a linear program and solve it with Excel Solver.
- LO 14-3 Interpret the solution of a linear program.
- LO 14-4 Calculate the value of the slack or surplus of a constraint.
- LO 14-5 Perform sensitivity analysis on an objective function coefficient and interpret an objective-function-coefficient range.

Learning Objectives (2 of 2)

- LO 14-6 Perform sensitivity analysis on the right-hand-side of a constraint and interpret a right-hand-side range.
- LO 14-7 Interpret a shadow price for a constraint.
- LO 14-8 Find an alternative optimal solution to a linear program when one exists.

Introduction

Optimization models

- can be used to support and improve managerial decision-making,
- include an **objective function** to be
 - *maximized* (profit, return on investment, advertising effectiveness), or
 - *minimized* (cost, overtime, amount of fuel),
 - in the presence of a set of restrictions, called **constraints**, and
- can be linear or nonlinear.

In this chapter, we discuss *linear optimization models*, also known as *linear programs*.

- We also explain how to use Excel Solver to solve linear programs.

14.1 The Par, Inc. Problem

Management at Par, Inc., a small golf equipment and supplies manufacturer, has decided to move into the standard and deluxe golf bag market.

Management analyzed the manufacturing process of the golf bags and produced an estimate of the number of hours per bag needed by each department involved in the operations, as well as the available hours.

The accounting department also estimated the following profit contributions:

Standard bag: \$10/unit

Deluxe bag: \$9/unit

Department	Production Time (hours)		Available (hours)
	Standard Bag	Deluxe Bag	
Cutting and Dyeing	$\frac{7}{10}$	1	630
Sewing	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{5}{6}$	600
Finishing	1	$\frac{2}{3}$	708
Inspection and Packaging	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	135

14.1 Problem Formulation

Problem formulation, or **modeling**, is the process of translating the verbal statement of a problem into a mathematical statement.

The general guidelines for problem formulation include the following steps:

- **Understand the problem thoroughly**
- **Describe the objective**
- **Describe each constraint**
- **Define the decision variables**
- **Write the objective in terms of the decision variables**
- **Write the constraints in terms of the decision variables**

Let us now use these guidelines to develop a mathematical model for Par, Inc.

14.1 Describe the Objective and Each Constraint

Par, Inc.'s objective is to maximize the total contribution to profit, subject to the following four constraints related to the available number of hours in each department.

$$1. \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of cutting and} \\ \text{dyeing time used} \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of cutting and} \\ \text{dyeing time available} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$2. \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of sewing} \\ \text{time used} \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of sewing} \\ \text{time available} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$3. \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of finishing} \\ \text{time used} \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of finishing} \\ \text{time available} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$4. \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of inspection and} \\ \text{packaging time used} \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} \text{hours of inspection and} \\ \text{packaging time available} \end{bmatrix}$$

14.1 Write Objective and Constraints in Terms of the Decision Variables

If we define the **decision variables** as

S = number of standard bags D = number of deluxe bags

we can use the unit profit contributions for standard and deluxe golf bags to write the objective function as the maximization of total profit contribution

$$\text{Max } 10S + 9D$$

and write the four department constraints as follows.

$$\frac{7}{10}S + 1D \leq 630$$

$$1S + \frac{2}{3}D \leq 708$$

$$\frac{1}{2}S + \frac{5}{6}D \leq 600$$

$$\frac{1}{10}S + \frac{1}{4}D \leq 135$$

Finally, we add **non-negativity constraints** to prevent the decision variables S and D from having negative values: $S, D \geq 0$.

14.1 Linear Programming Model for Par, Inc.

$$\text{Max} \quad 10S + 9D$$

subject to (s.t.)

$$\frac{7}{10}S + 1D \leq 630 \quad \text{Cutting and dyeing}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}S + \frac{5}{6}D \leq 600 \quad \text{Sewing}$$

$$1S + \frac{2}{3}D \leq 708 \quad \text{Finishing}$$

$$\frac{1}{10}S + \frac{1}{4}D \leq 135 \quad \text{Inspection and packaging}$$

$$S, D \geq 0$$

This mathematical model is a **linear programming model**, or **linear program**, because the objective function and all constraint functions (the left-hand sides of the constraint inequalities) are **linear functions** of the decision variables.

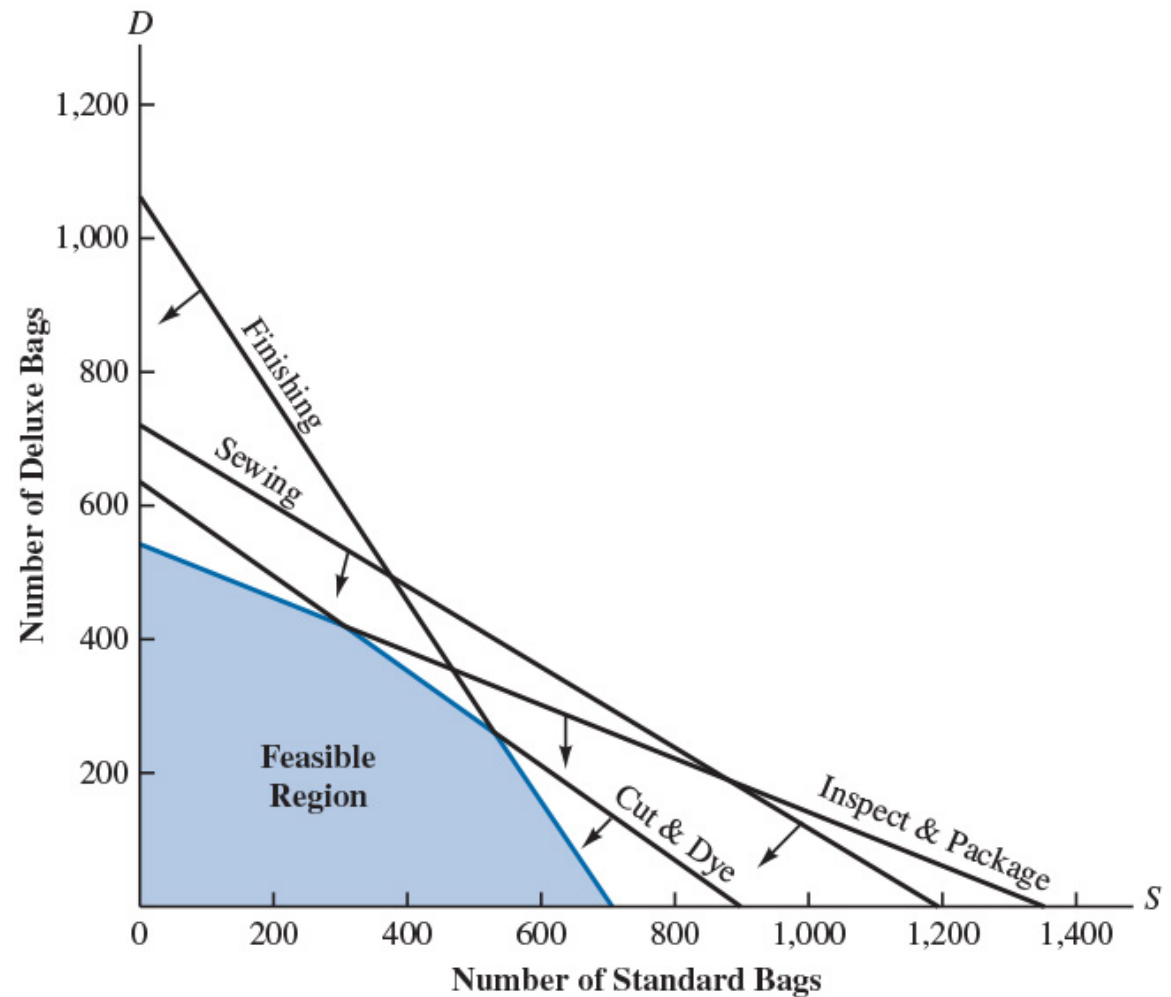
14.2 The Feasible Region of the Par, Inc. Problem

When we have only two decision variables, and the functions of these variables are linear, they form lines in a two-dimensional space.

The **feasible region** is the intersection of the *half spaces* described by each of the constraints' inequalities.

The feasible region for the Par, Inc. problem is shown to the right.

Notice that the horizontal axis corresponds to the value of S and the vertical axis to the values of D .

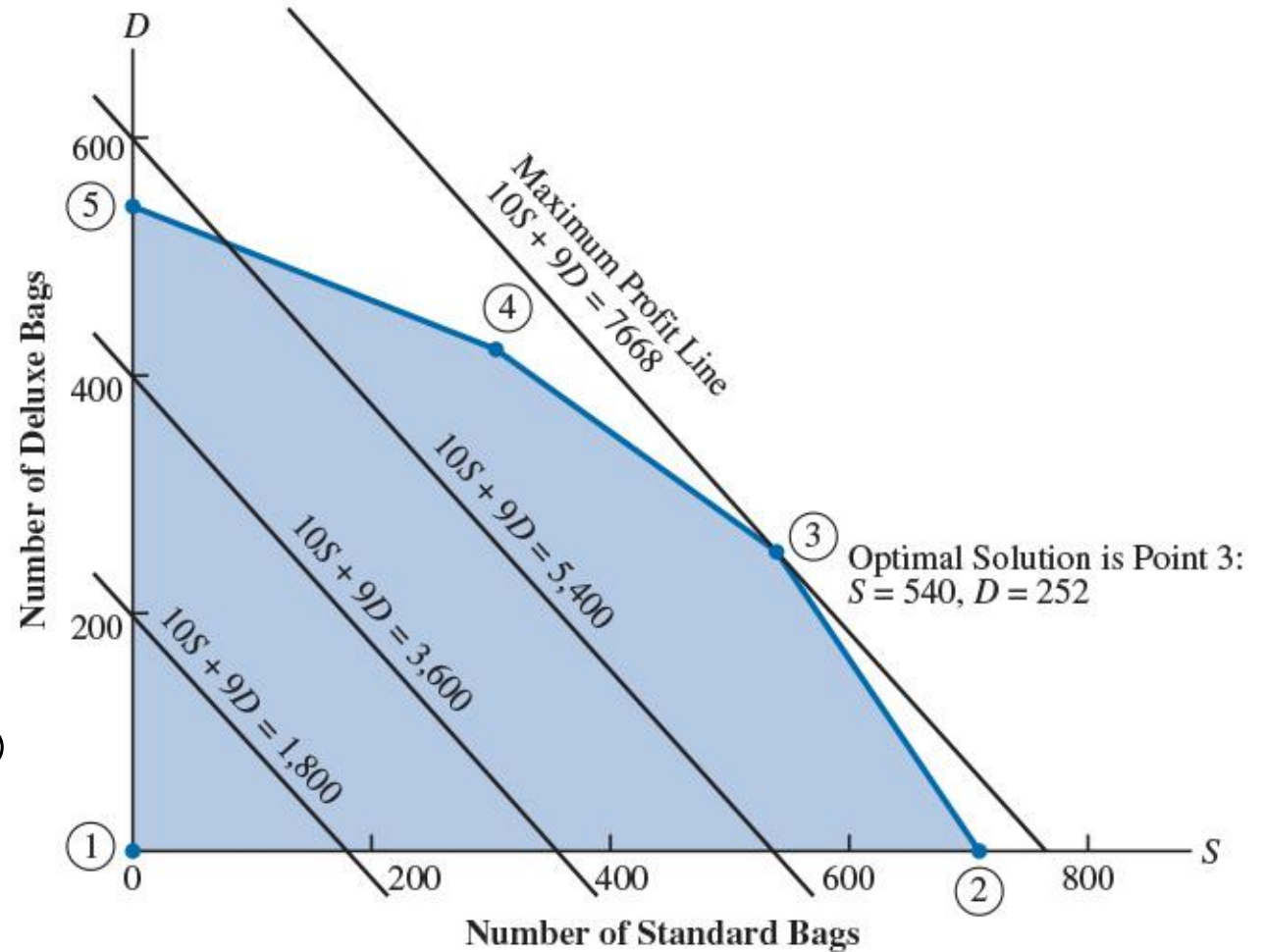


14.2 The Optimal Solution of the Par, Inc. Problem

The points where the constraints intersect on the boundary of the feasible region are called **extreme points**.

The optimal solution to the Par, Inc. problem is at ③, the extreme point that results in the highest possible objective function value.

The optimal solution is a **feasible solution** because extreme point ③ at $S = 540$ and $D = 252$ satisfies all of the problem's constraints.



14.2 Extreme Points for the Par, Inc. Problem

The simplex algorithm, developed by George Dantzig, is quite effective at investigating extreme points in an intelligent way to find the optimal solution to even very large linear programs.

- Excel Solver utilizes Dantzig's simplex algorithm to solve linear programs by systematically finding which set of constraints forms the optimal extreme point of the feasible region.
- Once it finds an optimal solution, Solver reports the optimal values of the decision variables and the optimal objective function value.

Point	S	D	Profit = $10S + 9D$
①	0	0	$10(0) + 9(0) = 0$
②	708	0	$10(708) + 9(0) = 7,080$
③	540	252	$10(540) + 9(252) = 7,668$
④	300	420	$10(300) + 9(420) = 6,780$
⑤	0	540	$10(0) + 9(540) = 4,860$

14.2 A What-If Model for the Par, Inc. Problem

A what-if model for optimization allows the user to try different values of the decision variables and see easily whether (a) that trial solution is feasible, and (b) the value of the objective function for that trial solution.

The next slide shows a spreadsheet model for the Par, Inc. problem with the optimal solution of 540 standard bags and 252 deluxe bags.

- Rows 1-9 contain the parameters for the problem.
- Cells *B14* and *C14* contain the decision variable cells.
- Cell *B16* calculates the objective function using the Excel function:

$$= \text{SUMPRODUCT}(B9:C9, \$B\$14: \$C\$14)$$

Likewise, cells *B19:B22* use the *SUMPRODUCT* function to compute the left-hand side of the constraints. Cells *C19:C22* contain the right-hand side values.

14.2 Solving Linear Programs with Excel Solver

Par, Inc.			
Parameters			
	Production Time (Hours)		Time Available
Operation	Standard	Deluxe	Hours
Cutting and Dyeing	0.7	1	630
Sewing	0.5	0.83333	600
Finishing	1	0.66667	708
Inspection and Packaging	0.1	0.25	135
Profit Per Bag	10	9.00	

	Standard	Deluxe
Bags Produced	540.00000	252.00000
Total Profit	\$7,668.00	

Department	Hours Used	Hours Available
Cutting and Dyeing	630	630
Sewing	480	600
Finishing	708	708
Inspection and Packaging	117	135

See notes for Excel Solver instructions. MODELfile: *par*

Solver Parameters

Set Objective:

To: ☒ Max ☐ Min ☐ Value Of:

By Changing Variable Cells:

Subject to the Constraints:

☒ Make Unconstrained Variables Non-Negative

Select a Solving Method:

Solving Method

Select the GRG Nonlinear engine for Solver Problems that are smooth nonlinear. Select the LP Simplex engine for linear Solver Problems, and select the Evolutionary engine for Solver problems that are non-smooth.

14.2 Excel Solver Answer Report for Par, Inc.

The Answer Report has three sections:

- Objective Cell, Variable Cells, and Constraints (which include constraint's right-hand values, formulas, binding status, and slack)

A **binding constraint** holds equality at the optimal solution (status = binding.)

The **slack** is the difference between a Constraint left- and right-hand values.

By adding a nonnegative **slack variable**, we can make the constraint equality.

$$\text{Sewing constraint: } \frac{1}{2}S + \frac{5}{6}D \leq 600 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}S + \frac{5}{6}D + \text{slack}_{\text{sewing}} = 600$$

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
13							
14			Objective Cell (Max)				
15			Cell	Name	Original Value	Final Value	
16			\$B\$16	Total Profit	\$19.00	\$7,668.00	
17							
18							
19			Variable Cells				
20			Cell	Name	Original Value	Final Value	Integer
21			\$B\$14	Bags Produced Standard	1.00000	540.00000	Contin
22			\$C\$14	Bags Produced Deluxe	1.00000	252.00000	Contin
23							
24							
25			Constraints				
26			Cell	Name	Cell Value	Formula	Status Slack
27			\$B\$19	Cutting and Dyeing Hours Used	630	\$B\$19<=\$C\$19	Binding 0
28			\$B\$20	Sewing Hours Used	480	\$B\$20<=\$C\$20	Not Binding 120
29			\$B\$21	Finishing Hours Used	708	\$B\$21<=\$C\$21	Binding 0
30			\$B\$22	Inspection and Packaging Hours Used	117	\$B\$22<=\$C\$22	Not Binding 18
31							

14.3 M&D Chemicals Cost Minimization

M&D Chemicals wants to satisfy the following requirements for the production of two raw products (A and B) at a minimum cost:

- A customer's order for 125 gallons of product A must be satisfied.
- The combined production for A and B must total at least 350 gallons.

Management at M&D Chemicals has also identified the following information on product processing time, cost, and available hours for processing.

- Product A: 2 hours per gallon at a cost of \$2 per gallon
- Product B: 1 hour per gallon at a cost of \$3 per gallon
- For the coming month, 600 hours of processing time are available.

Let us begin by formulating M&D Chemicals' problem using a linear program.

14.3 Problem Formulation for M&D Chemicals

Let the decision variables for the amount of each raw product be

A = number of gallons of product A to produce

B = number of gallons of product B to produce

The objective function for the minimization of total production cost.

$$\text{Min } 2A + 3B$$

Subjected to the following constraints.

Customer's demand for 125 gallons of product A: $1A \geq 125$

Minimum combined production of 350 gallons: $1A + 1B \geq 350$

Limitation of 600 hours on available processing time: $2A + 1B \leq 600$

Non-negativity on the produced amounts of A and B: $A \geq 0, B \geq 0$

14.3 Linear Programming Model for M&D Chemicals

Min $2A + 3B$

subject to (s.t.)

$1A \geq 125$ Demand for product A

$1A + 1B \geq 350$ Total production

$2A + 1B \leq 600$ Processing time

$A, B \geq 0$

In the next slide, we show a spreadsheet model for the M&D Chemicals problem along with the Solver dialog box.

See MODELfile: *mdmodel* for the complete linear programming model.

14.3 Solution for the M&D Chemicals Problem

	A	B	C	D
1	M&D Chemicals			
2	Parameters			
3		Product A	Product B	Time Available
4	Processing Time (hours)	2	1	600
5	Production Cost	\$2.00	\$3.00	
6				
7	Minimum Total Production	350		
8	Product A Minimum	125		
9				
10				
11	Model			
12				
13		Product A	Product B	
14	Gallons Produced	250	100	
15				
16	Minimize Total Cost	\$800.00		
17				
18		Provided	Required	
19	Product A	250	125	
20	Total Production	350	350	
21				
22		Hours Used	Hours Available	Unused Hours
23	Processing Time	600	600	0
24				
25				

Solver Parameters

Set Objective:

SBS16

↑

To:

☐ Max ☒ Min ☐ Value Of:

0

By Changing Variable Cells:

SBS14:SC\$14

↑

Subject to the Constraints:

SBS19:SB\$20 >= SC\$19:SC\$20
SB\$23 <= SC\$23

↑

↓

Add
Change
Delete
Reset All
Load/Save

☒ Make Unconstrained Variables Non-Negative

Select a Solving Method:

Simplex LP

Options

Solving Method

Select the GRG Nonlinear engine for Solver Problems that are smooth nonlinear. Select the LP Simplex engine for linear Solver Problems, and select the Evolutionary engine for Solver problems that are non-smooth.

Help

Solve

Close

14.3 Excel Solver Answer Report for M&D Chemicals

The optimal solution is to produce 250 gallons of product A and 100 gallons of product B at a total cost of \$800.

The constraints section shows that the production of product A is not binding.

We can add a non-negative **surplus variable** to turn a not-binding greater-than-or-equal-to constraint into equality.

A surplus variable is subtracted from the left-hand side of the constraint:

$$\text{Demand for Product A: } 1A \geq 125 \quad \rightarrow \quad 1A - \text{surplus}_A = 125$$

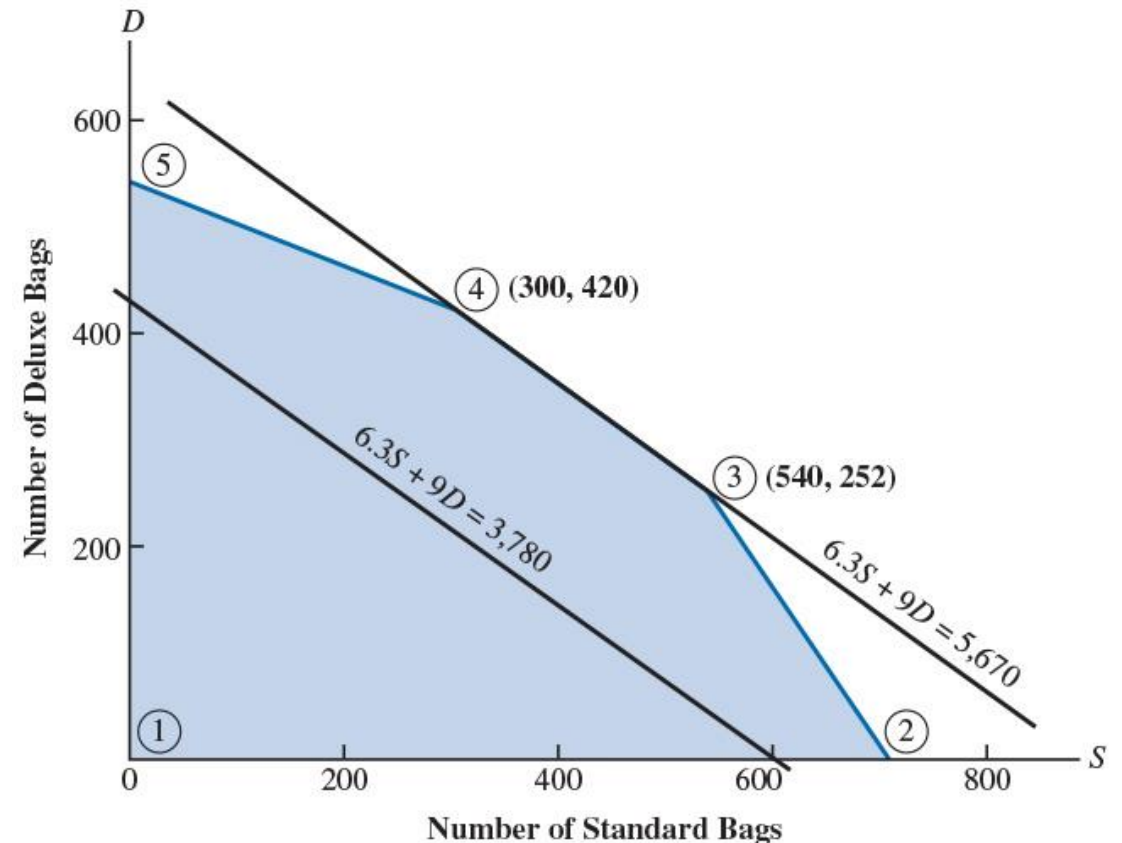
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
13							
14			Objective Cell (Min)				
15			Cell	Name	Original Value	Final Value	
16			\$B\$16	Minimize Total Cost	\$0.00	\$800.00	
17							
18							
19			Variable Cells				
20			Cell	Name	Original Value	Final Value	Integer
21			\$B\$14	Gallons Produced Product A	0	250	Contin
22			\$C\$14	Gallons Produced Product B	0	100	Contin
23							
24							
25			Constraints				
26			Cell	Name	Cell Value	Formula	Status Slack
27			\$B\$19	Product A Provided	250	\$B\$19>=\$C\$19	Not Binding 125
28			\$B\$20	Total Production Provided	350	\$B\$20>=\$C\$20	Binding 0
29			\$B\$23	Processing Time Hours Used	600	\$B\$23<=\$C\$23	Binding 0
30							

14.4 Alternative Optimal Solutions

Alternative optimal solutions occur when the optimal objective function contour line coincides with one of the binding constraint lines on the boundary of the feasible region.

For example, in the Par, Inc. problem, reducing the unit profit contribution for the standard bags to \$6.30 would make the total profit contour line parallel to the cutting and dyeing constraint line.

All points on the segment between extreme points ③ and ④ are optimal.



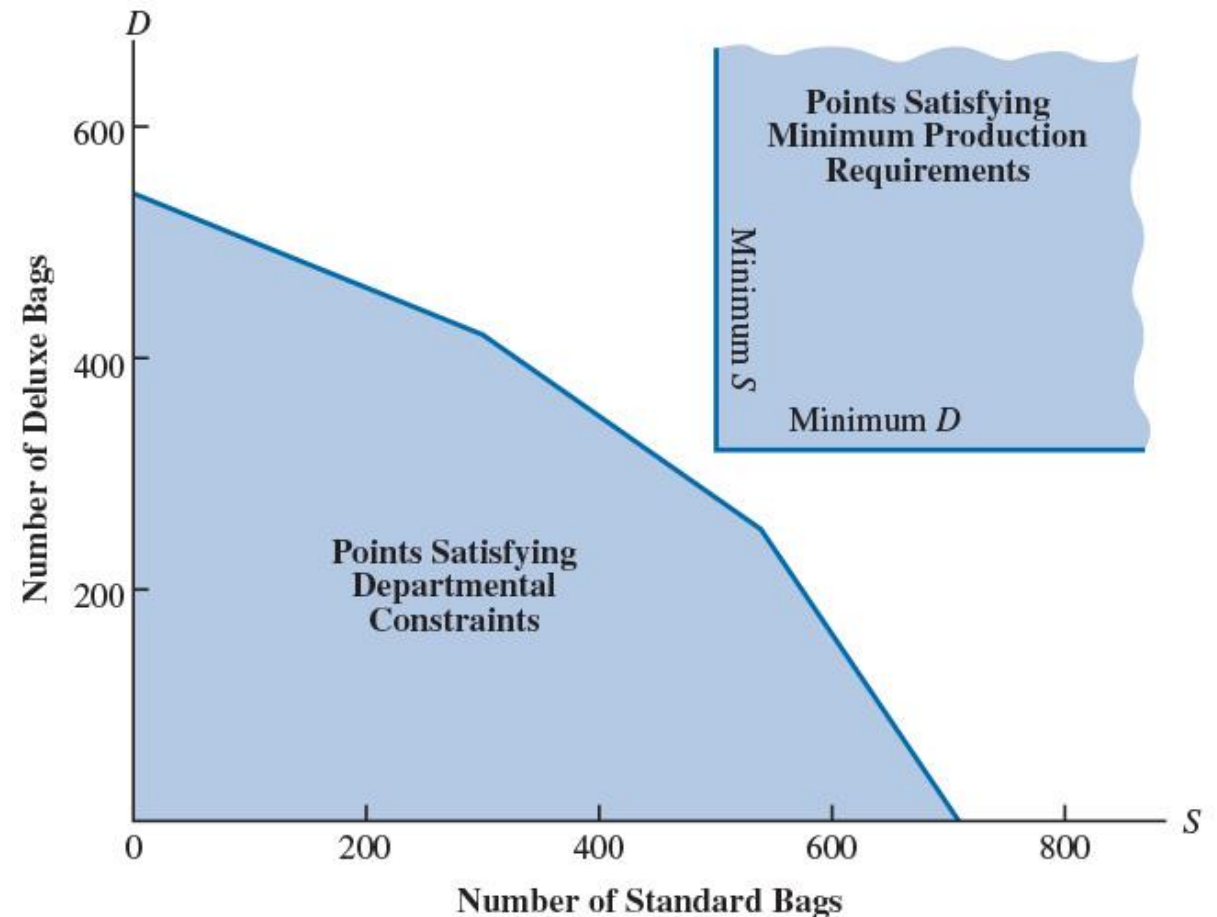
14.4 Infeasibility

Infeasibility means that no solution to the linear programming problem satisfies all the constraints, including non-negativity conditions.

- Graphically, a feasible region does not exist.

Infeasibility occurs because too many restrictions have been placed on the problem.

On the Par, Inc. problem, requiring production of $S = 500$ and $D = 360$ results in no feasible solutions.



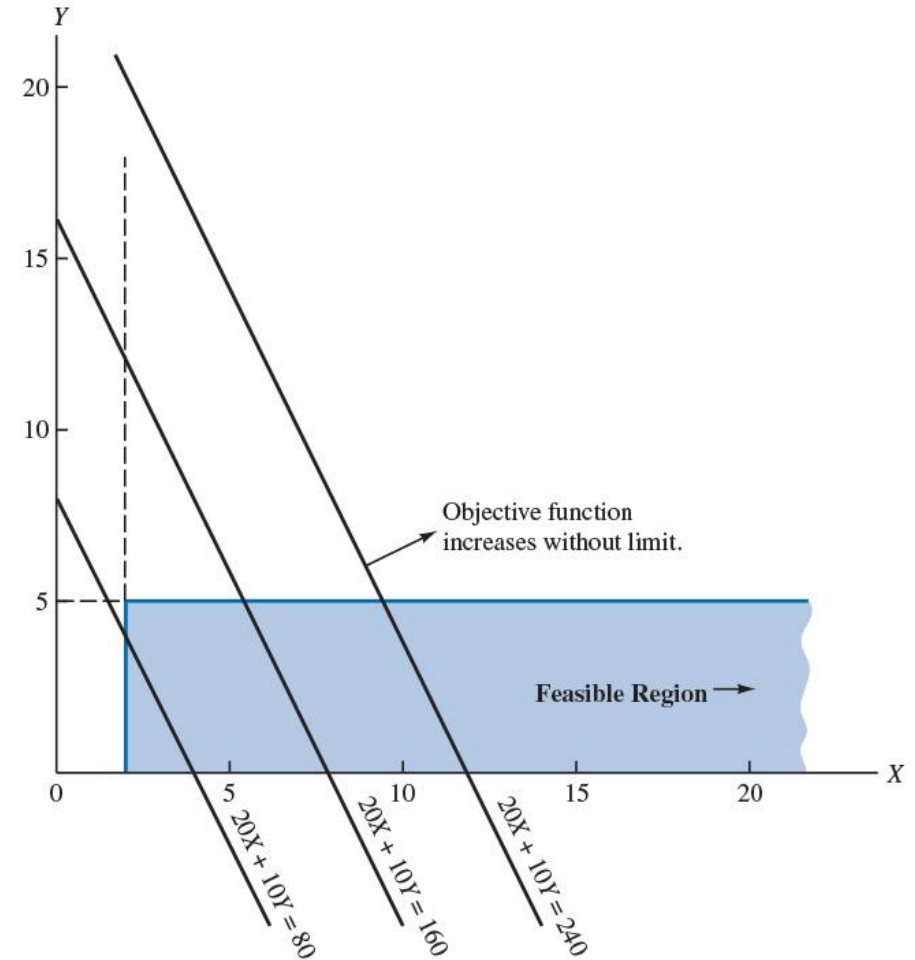
14.4 Unbounded

A linear program solution is **unbounded** if, without violating any of the constraints, the value of the solution may be made

- infinitely large for a maximization problem,
- infinitely small for a minimization problem.

As an illustration, consider the following linear program with two decision variables, X and Y :

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{Max} & 20X + 10Y \\ \text{s.t.} & 1X & \geq 2 \\ & 1Y & \leq 5 \\ & X, Y & \geq 0 \end{array}$$



14.5 Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analysis, the study of how the changes in the input parameters of an optimization model affect the optimal solution, helps in answering the following questions:

1. How will a change in a *coefficient of the objective function* affect the optimal solution?
2. How will a change in the *right-hand-side value for a constraint* affect the optimal solution?

Because sensitivity analysis is concerned with how these changes affect the optimal solution, the analysis does not begin until the optimal solution to the linear programming problem has been obtained.

For this reason, sensitivity analysis is sometimes called *postoptimality analysis*.

14.5 Shadow Price

The **shadow price** for a constraint is the *change* in the optimal objective function value if the right-hand side of that constraint is *increased* by one.

- Making a binding constraint more restrictive degrades or leaves unchanged the optimal objective function value.
- Making a binding constraint less restrictive improves or leaves unchanged the optimal objective function.
- *Nonbinding constraints will always have a shadow price of zero.*

Shadow prices are symmetric.

- The negative of the shadow price is the *change* in the objective function if the right-hand side of that constraint is *decreased* by one.

14.5 Reduced Cost and Allowable Increase/Decrease

The **reduced cost** for a decision variable is the shadow price of the nonnegativity constraint for that variable.

- In other words, the reduced cost indicates the change in the optimal objective function value that results from changing the right-hand side of the nonnegativity constraint from 0 to 1

The **allowable increase** and **allowable decrease** indicate the change in the objective function coefficient for which the current optimal solution will remain optimal.

The Excel Solver Sensitivity Report can provide useful information about the sensitivity of the optimal solution to changes in the model input data.

14.5 Solver Sensitivity Report for M&D Chemicals

The shadow price for $1A \geq 125$ is zero because the constraint is non-binding.

The shadow price of \$4 for the $1A + 1B \geq 350$ constraints can be interpreted as the *increase* in total cost when the constraint is changed to $1A + 1B \geq 351$.

The shadow price of $-\$1$ for the $2A + 1B \leq 600$ constraints can be interpreted as the *decrease* in total cost when the constraint is changed to $2A + 1B \leq 601$.

The allowable increase and decrease for each shadow price indicate the range of right-hand side values in which the solution will remain optimal.

Because $A > 0$ and $B > 0$, their reduced costs are both zero.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
6	Variable Cells							
7				Final	Reduced	Objective	Allowable	Allowable
8		Cell	Name	Value	Cost	Coefficient	Increase	Decrease
9	\$B\$14	Gallons Produced Product A	250	0	2	1	1E+30	
10	\$C\$14	Gallons Produced Product B	100	0	3	1E+30	1	
11	Constraints							
12				Final	Shadow	Constraint	Allowable	Allowable
13		Cell	Name	Value	Price	R.H. Side	Increase	Decrease
15	\$B\$19	Product A Provided	250	0	125	125	1E+30	
16	\$B\$20	Total Production Provided	350	4	350	125	50	
17	\$B\$23	Processing Time Hours Used	600	-1	600	100	125	
18								

14.6 General Linear Programming Notation

The general notation for linear programs uses the letter x with a subscript. In the Par, Inc. problem, the decision variables could be denoted as x_1 = number of standard bags, and x_2 = number of deluxe bags, so that:

$$\text{Max} \quad 10x_1 + 9x_2$$

s.t.

$$\frac{7}{10}x_1 + 1x_2 \leq 630 \quad \text{Cutting and dyeing}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}x_1 + \frac{5}{6}x_2 \leq 600 \quad \text{Sewing}$$

$$1x_1 + \frac{2}{3}x_2 \leq 708 \quad \text{Finishing}$$

$$\frac{1}{10}x_1 + \frac{1}{4}x_2 \leq 135 \quad \text{Inspection and packaging}$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$

14.6 Investment Portfolio Selection

Welte Mutual Funds, Inc., based in New York City, is looking to maximize the return on the investment of \$100,000 in

- five investment opportunities with given projected annual rates of return, and
- subject to the following investment guidelines:
 - Neither oil nor steel investments should receive more than \$50,000.
 - The amount invested in government bonds should be at least 25% of the steel industry investments.
 - The investment in Pacific Oil cannot be more than 60% of the total oil industry investment.

Investment	Projected Rate of Return (%)
Atlantic Oil	7.3
Pacific Oil	10.3
Midwest Steel	6.4
Huber Steel	7.5
Government bonds	4.5

14.6 Problem Formulation for Welte Mutual Funds

Using general linear programming notation, we define the following five decision variables:

x_1 = dollars invested in Atlantic Oil

x_2 = dollars invested in Pacific Oil

x_3 = dollars invested in Midwest Steel

x_4 = dollars invested in Huber Steel

x_5 = dollars invested in government bonds

Using the projected rate of return, we write the objective function for maximizing the total return for the portfolio as

$$\text{Max } 0.073x_1 + 0.103x_2 + 0.064x_3 + 0.075x_4 + 0.045x_5$$

14.6 Constraints for Welte Mutual Funds

The constraint specifying investment of the available \$100,000 is

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 100,000$$

Neither the oil nor steel industry should receive more than \$50,000

$$x_1 + x_2 \leq 50,000$$

$$x_3 + x_4 \leq 50,000$$

Amount invested in gov.t bonds be at least 25% of the steel industry investment

$$x_5 \geq 0.25(x_3 + x_4)$$

Pacific Oil cannot be more than 60% of the total oil industry investment

$$x_2 \leq 0.60(x_1 + x_2)$$

Finally, we have the nonnegativity constraints: $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 \geq 0$

14.6 Linear Programming Model for Welte Mutual Funds

$$\text{Max } 0.073x_1 + 0.103x_2 + 0.064x_3 + 0.075x_4 + 0.045x_5$$

s.t.

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 100,000$$

Available funds

$$x_1 + x_2 \leq 50,000$$

Oil industry maximum

$$x_3 + x_4 \leq 50,000$$

Steel industry maximum

$$x_5 \geq 0.25(x_3 + x_4)$$

Government bonds minimum

$$x_2 \leq 0.60(x_1 + x_2)$$

Pacific Oil restriction

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 \geq 0$$

14.6 The Solution for the Welte Mutual Funds Problem

A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E
1 Welte Mutual Funds Problem						1 Welte Mutual Funds Problem				
2						2				
3 Parameters						3 Parameters				
4 Investment	Projected Rate of Return					4 Investment	Projected Rate of Return			
5 Atlantic Oil	0.073		Available Funds	100000		5 Atlantic Oil	0.073	Available Funds	\$100,000.00	
6 Pacific Oil	0.103		Oil Max	50000		6 Pacific Oil	0.103	Oil Max	\$50,000.00	
7 Midwest Steel	0.064		Steel Max	50000		7 Midwest Steel	0.064	Steel Max	\$50,000.00	
8 Huber Steel	0.075		Pacific Oil Max	0.6		8 Huber Steel	0.075	Pacific Oil Max	0.6	
9 Gov't Bonds	0.045		Gov't Bonds Min	0.25		9 Gov't Bonds	0.045	Gov't Bonds Min	0.25	
10						10				
11 Model						11 Model				
12						12				
13 Investment	Amount Invested					13 Investment	Amount Invested			
14 Atlantic Oil	20000					14 Atlantic Oil	\$20,000.00			
15 Pacific Oil	30000					15 Pacific Oil	\$30,000.00			
16 Midwest Steel	0					16 Midwest Steel	\$0.00			
17 Huber Steel	40000					17 Huber Steel	\$40,000.00			
18 Gov't Bonds	10000					18 Gov't Bonds	\$10,000.00			
19						19				
20 Max Total Return	=SUMPRODUCT(B5:B9,B14:B18)					20 Max Total Return	\$8,000.00			
21						21				
22 Funds Invested		Funds Available	Unused Funds			22 Funds Invested		Funds Available	Unused Funds	
23 Total	=SUM(B14:B18)	=E5	=C23-B23			23 Total	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	
24						24				
25 Funds Invested		Max Allowed				25 Funds Invested		Max Allowed		
26 Oil	=SUM(B14:B15)	=E6				26 Oil	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00		
27 Steel	=SUM(B16:B17)	=E7				27 Steel	\$40,000.00	\$50,000.00		
28 Pacific Oil	=B15	=E8*(B14+B15)				28 Pacific Oil	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00		
29						29				
30 Funds Invested		Min Required				30 Funds Invested		Min Required		
31 Gov't Bonds	=B18	=E9*(B16+B17)				31 Gov't Bonds	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		

MODELfile: *welte*. See notes for details.

14.6 Transportation Planning

In a **transportation problem**, the quantity of goods available at each supply location (origin) is limited, and the quantity needed at several demand locations (destinations) is known.

- The usual objective in a transportation problem is to minimize the cost of shipping goods from origin to destination.

Let us revisit Foster Generators' transportation problem with the shipping of a product from three plants in Cleveland, Bedford, and York to four distribution centers located in Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, and Lexington.

- For convenience, the what-if model we developed for Foster Generators in Chapter 12 is restated in the next slide.

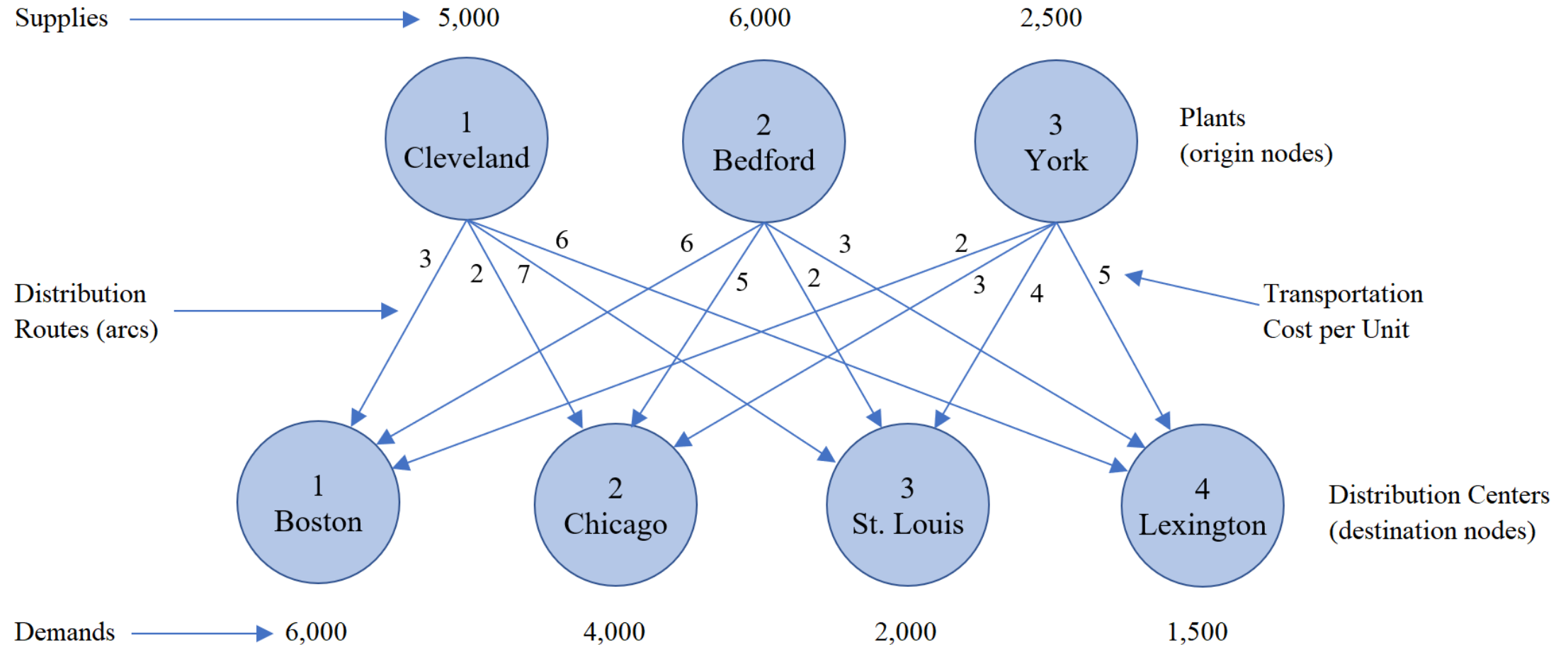
14.6 Transportation Model for Foster Generators

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Foster Generators						
2	Parameters						
3	Shipping Cost/Unit		Destination				
4	Origin	Boston	Chicago	St. Louis	Lexington	Supply	
5	Cleveland	3	2	7	6	5000	
6	Bedford	6	5	2	3	6000	
7	York	2	5	4	5	2500	
8	Demand	6000	4000	2000	1500		
9							
10							
11	Model						
12							
13	Total Cost	=SUMPRODUCT(B5:E7,B17:E19)					
14							
15			Destination				
16	Origin	Boston	Chicago	St. Louis	Lexington	Total	
17	Cleveland	5000	0	0	0	=SUM(B17:E17)	
18	Bedford	1000	4000	1000	0	=SUM(B18:E18)	
19	York	0	0	1000	1500	=SUM(B19:E19)	
20	Total	=SUM(B17:B19)	=SUM(C17:C19)	=SUM(D17:D19)	=SUM(E17:E19)		
21							

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Foster Generators					
2	Parameters					
3	Shipping Cost/Unit		Destination			
4	Origin	Boston	Chicago	St. Louis	Lexington	Supply
5	Cleveland	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$7.00	\$6.00	5000
6	Bedford	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	6000
7	York	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	2500
8	Demand	6000	4000	2000	1500	
9						
10						
11	Model					
12						
13	Total Cost	\$54,500.00				
14						
15			Destination			
16	Origin	Boston	Chicago	St. Louis	Lexington	Total
17	Cleveland	5000	0	0	0	5000
18	Bedford	1000	4000	1000	0	6000
19	York	0	0	1000	1500	2500
20	Total	6000	4000	2000	1500	

MODELfile: *foster*. See notes for details about the spreadsheet model.

14.6 Network Representation for Foster Generators



14.6 Problem Formulation for Foster Generators

The objective function is the sum of the following three cost expressions:

1. Transportation cost from Cleveland $= 3x_{11} + 2x_{12} + 7x_{13} + 6x_{14}$
2. Transportation cost from Bedford $= 6x_{21} + 5x_{22} + 2x_{23} + 3x_{24}$
3. Transportation cost from York $= 2x_{31} + 3x_{32} + 4x_{33} + 5x_{34}$

The supply constraints limit product flow to the capacity of each plant:

1. Cleveland supply $= x_{11} + x_{12} + x_{13} + x_{14} \leq 5,000$
2. Bedford supply $= x_{21} + x_{22} + x_{23} + x_{24} \leq 6,000$
3. York supply $= x_{31} + x_{32} + x_{33} + x_{34} \leq 2,500$

The destination constraints meet the demand at the four distribution centers:

1. Boston $= x_{11} + x_{21} + x_{31} = 6,000$
2. Chicago $= x_{12} + x_{22} + x_{32} = 4,000$
3. St. Louis $= x_{13} + x_{23} + x_{33} = 2,000$
4. Lexington $= x_{14} + x_{24} + x_{34} = 1,500$

14.6 Linear Programming Model for Foster Generators

$$\text{Min } 3x_{11} + 2x_{12} + 7x_{13} + 6x_{14} + 6x_{21} + 5x_{22} + 2x_{23} + 3x_{24} + 2x_{31} + 3x_{32} + 4x_{33} + 5x_{34}$$

s.t.

$$x_{11} + x_{12} + x_{13} + x_{14} \leq 5,000$$

$$x_{21} + x_{22} + x_{23} + x_{24} \leq 6,000$$

$$x_{31} + x_{32} + x_{33} + x_{34} \leq 2,500$$

$$x_{11} + x_{21} + x_{31} = 6,000$$

$$x_{12} + x_{22} + x_{32} = 4,000$$

$$x_{13} + x_{23} + x_{33} = 2,000$$

$$x_{14} + x_{24} + x_{34} = 1,500$$

$$x_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1,2,3 \text{ and } j = 1,2,3,4$$

14.6 Spreadsheet Solution for Foster Generators

The minimum total transportation cost is \$39,500.

The Cleveland plant should ship 1,000 units to the Boston distribution center and 4,000 units to the Chicago distribution center.

The Bedford plant should ship 2,500 units to the Boston distribution center, 2,000 units to the S, Louis distribution center, and 1,500 units to the Lexington distribution center.

The York distribution center should ship all its 2,500 units to the Boston distribution center.

The distribution network is balanced, with all the plants operating at capacity and matching the demand of all the distribution centers.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Foster Generators					
2	Parameters					
3	Shipping Cost/Unit	Destination				
4	Origin	Boston	Chicago	St. Louis	Lexington	Supply
5	Cleveland	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$7.00	\$6.00	5000
6	Bedford	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	6000
7	York	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	2500
8	Demand	6000	4000	2000	1500	
9						
10						
11	Model					
12						
13	Total Cost	\$39,500.00				
14						
15		Destination				
16	Origin	Boston	Chicago	St. Louis	Lexington	Total
17	Cleveland	1000	4000	0	0	5000
18	Bedford	2500	0	2000	1500	6000
19	York	2500	0	0	0	2500
20	Total	6000	4000	2000	1500	
21						

14.6 Maximizing Banner Ad Revenue

In this example, we consider the Business, Science, and Sports sections of MHT, a large content publisher.

MHT has contracts for banner ads with five companies:

- Nile, Zstart, Cheetah, Stride, and Stove.

The expected click-through rates of MHT web content, the number of guaranteed impressions by section, and the contract impression limits for each advertiser are shown in the next slide.

MHT wants to use linear programming to allocate impressions for each of the five advertisers across the three sections of the MHT website so to maximize revenue, knowing that MHT receives \$0.30 for each click-through achieved.

14.6 Data for the MHT Banner Ad Allocation Problem

Section	Click-Through Rates					Available Impressions
	Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove	
Business	0.0155	0.0265	0.0100	0.0170	0.0105	2,550,000
Science	0.0165	0.0110	0.0125	0.0265	0.0125	2,150,000
Sports	0.0145	0.0235	0.0190	0.0225	0.0160	2,500,000

Section	Contract Impression Limits				
	Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove
Ads Lower Limit	1,500,000	1,000,000	1,100,000	1,000,000	1,500,000
Ads Upper Limit	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,800,000	2,000,000	2,000,000

14.6 Decision Variables and Objective Function for MHT

Let us define decision variables as follows:

x_{ij} = the number of impressions in section i allocated to company j

where, $i = 1$ is Business, $i = 2$ is Science, and $i = 3$ is Sports; $j = 1$ is Nile, $j = 2$ is Zstar, $j = 3$ is Cheetah, $j = 4$ is Stride, and $j = 5$ is Stove.

The objective function is the maximized expected revenue, calculated as:

$$\text{Max} \quad \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^5 (\$0.30)(\text{click-through rate})_{ij}(x_{ij})$$

That is, $\text{Max} \quad 0.0047x_{11} + 0.0080x_{12} + 0.0030x_{13} + 0.0051x_{14} + 0.0032x_{15} +$
 $0.0050x_{21} + 0.0033x_{22} + 0.0038x_{23} + 0.0008x_{24} + 0.0038x_{25} +$
 $0.0044x_{31} + 0.0071x_{32} + 0.0057x_{33} + 0.0068x_{34} + 0.0048x_{35}$

14.6 Constraints for the MHT Problem

We have three impression availability constraints, one for each section:

$$\text{Business} \quad x_{11} + x_{12} + x_{13} + x_{14} + x_{15} \leq 2,550,000$$

$$\text{Science} \quad x_{21} + x_{22} + x_{23} + x_{24} + x_{25} \leq 2,150,000$$

$$\text{Sports} \quad x_{31} + x_{32} + x_{33} + x_{34} + x_{35} \leq 2,500,000$$

Lower and upper limit constraints for each company:

$$\text{Nile} \quad 1,500,000 \leq x_{11} + x_{21} + x_{31} \leq 2,000,000$$

$$\text{Zstar} \quad 1,000,000 \leq x_{12} + x_{22} + x_{32} \leq 2,000,000$$

$$\text{Cheetah} \quad 1,100,000 \leq x_{13} + x_{23} + x_{33} \leq 1,800,000$$

$$\text{Stride} \quad 1,000,000 \leq x_{14} + x_{24} + x_{34} \leq 2,000,000$$

$$\text{Stove} \quad 1,500,000 \leq x_{15} + x_{25} + x_{35} \leq 2,000,000$$

And the non-negativity constraints: $x_{ij} \geq 0$ for $i = 1,2,3,4,5$ and $j = 1,2,3$.

14.6 Spreadsheet Model for the MHT Problem

			D	E	F	G
MHT						
Parameters						
Section	Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove	Impressions Avail
Business	0.0155	0.0265	0.01	0.017	0.0105	2550000
Science	0.0165	0.011	0.0125	0.0265	0.0125	2150000
Sports	0.0145	0.0235	0.019	0.0225	0.016	2500000
Contracted Ads Lower Limit	1500000	1000000	1100000	1000000	1500000	
Contracted Ads Upper Limit	2000000	2000000	1800000	2000000	2000000	
Revenue per click-through	0.3					
Revenue per view	Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove	
Business	=B4*\$B\$10	=C4*\$B\$10	=D4*\$B\$10	=E4*\$B\$10	=F4*\$B\$10	
Science	=B5*\$B\$10	=C5*\$B\$10	=D5*\$B\$10	=E5*\$B\$10	=F5*\$B\$10	
Sports	=B6*\$B\$10	=C6*\$B\$10	=D6*\$B\$10	=E6*\$B\$10	=F6*\$B\$10	
Model						
	Number of Banner Ads					
	Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove	
Business	550000	2000000	0	0	0	=SUM(B20:F20)
Science	950000	0	0	1100000	100000	=SUM(B21:F21)
Sports	0	0	1100000	0	1400000	=SUM(B22:F22)
	=SUM(B20:B22)	=SUM(C20:C22)	=SUM(D20:D22)	=SUM(E20:E22)	=SUM(F20:F22)	
Click-Through Revenue	=SUMPRODUCT(B13:F15,B20:F22)					

MODELfile: *mht*

14.6 Spreadsheet Solution for the MHT Problem

All available impressions should be used, resulting in \$45,270 total revenue.

Nile impressions are split between the Business and Science sections.

Stove impressions are split between the Science and Sports sections.

Zstar, Cheetah and Stride are allocated exclusively to the Business, Sports and Science sections, respectively.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	MHT						
2	Parameters						
3	Section	Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove	Impressions Available
4	Business	0.0155	0.0265	0.0100	0.0170	0.0105	2,550,000
5	Science	0.0165	0.0110	0.0125	0.0265	0.0125	2,150,000
6	Sports	0.0145	0.0235	0.0190	0.0225	0.0160	2,500,000
7	Contracted Ads Lower Limit	1,500,000	1,000,000	1,100,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	
8	Contracted Ads Upper Limit	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,800,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	
9							
10	Revenue per click-through	\$0.30					
11							
12	Revenue per view	Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove	
13	Business	\$0.0047	\$0.0080	\$0.0030	\$0.0051	\$0.0032	
14	Science	\$0.0050	\$0.0033	\$0.0038	\$0.0080	\$0.0038	
15	Sports	\$0.0044	\$0.0071	\$0.0057	\$0.0068	\$0.0048	
16							
17	Model						
18							
19		Nile	Zstar	Cheetah	Stride	Stove	
20	Business	550000	2000000	0	0	0	2550000
21	Science	950000	0	0	1100000	100000	2150000
22	Sports	0	0	1100000	0	1400000	2500000
23		1500000	2000000	1100000	1100000	1500000	
24							
25	Click-Through Revenue	\$45,270.00					

14.6 Reduced Cost Analysis for the MHT Problem

The Variable Cells section of the Solver sensitivity report provides information on the model variables' reduced cost.

The negative reduced cost for un-allocated impressions (Final Value = 0) indicates the amount to be subtracted from the click-through rates (i.e., increased) for them to be allocated in the optimal solution.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
6	Variable Cells							
7				Final	Reduced	Objective	Allowable	Allowable
8		Cell	Name	Value	Cost	Coefficient	Increase	Decrease
9		\$B\$20	Business Nile	550000	0	0.00465	0.0003	0.0003
10		\$C\$20	Business Zstar	2E+06	0	0.00795	1E+30	0.0003
11		\$D\$20	Business Cheetah	0	-0.0014	0.003	0.00135	1E+30
12		\$E\$20	Business Stride	0	-0.0026	0.0051	0.00255	1E+30
13		\$F\$20	Business Stove	0	-0.0003	0.00315	0.0003	1E+30
14		\$B\$21	Science Nile	950000	0	0.00495	0.0003	0.0003
15		\$C\$21	Science Zstar	0	-0.005	0.0033	0.00495	1E+30
16		\$D\$21	Science Cheetah	0	-0.0009	0.00375	0.0009	1E+30
17		\$E\$21	Science Stride	1E+06	0	0.00795	0.0003	0.00225
18		\$F\$21	Science Stove	100000	0	0.00375	0.00165	0.0003
19		\$B\$22	Sports Nile	0	-0.0017	0.00435	0.00165	1E+30
20		\$C\$22	Sports Zstar	0	-0.0022	0.00705	0.00225	1E+30
21		\$D\$22	Sports Cheetah	1E+06	0	0.0057	0.0033	0.0009
22		\$E\$22	Sports Stride	0	-0.0022	0.00675	0.00225	1E+30
23		\$F\$22	Sports Stove	1E+06	0	0.0048	0.0009	0.00165

14.6 Shadow Price Analysis for the MHT Problem

The Constraints section of the sensitivity report provides information on the constraints' shadow price.

The only non-zero shadow prices are for binding constraints:

- Negative shadow prices for constraints bound to an allocation upper limit.
- Positive shadow prices for constraints bound to an allocation lower limit.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
25	Constraints							
26				Final	Shadow	Constraint	Allowable	Allowable
27		Cell	Name	Value	Price	R.H. Side	Increase	Decrease
28		\$B\$23 Nile		2E+06	0	2000000	1E+30	500000
29		\$C\$23 Zstar		2E+06	0.0003	2000000	100000	900000
30		\$D\$23 Cheetah		1E+06	0	1800000	1E+30	700000
31		\$E\$23 Stride		1E+06	0	2000000	1E+30	900000
32		\$F\$23 Stove		2E+06	0	2000000	1E+30	500000
33		\$B\$23 Nile		2E+06	-0.003	1500000	100000	900000
34		\$C\$23 Zstar		2E+06	0	1000000	1000000	1E+30
35		\$D\$23 Cheetah		1E+06	-0.0033	1100000	100000	100000
36		\$E\$23 Stride		1E+06	0	1000000	100000	1E+30
37		\$F\$23 Stove		2E+06	-0.0042	1500000	100000	100000
38		\$G\$20 Business Impressions Available		3E+06	0.00765	2550000	900000	100000
39		\$G\$21 Science Impressions Available		2E+06	0.00795	2150000	900000	100000
40		\$G\$22 Sports Impressions Available		3E+06	0.009	2500000	100000	100000

14.6 Assigning Project Leaders to Clients

An **assignment problem** involves assigning “agents” to “tasks” so to

- optimize a stated objective, with
- each agent assigned to at most one task.

As an example of an assignment problem, consider the case of Fowle Marketing Research, which needs to assign three project leaders (agents) to one of three clients (tasks) while minimizing the total time required.

The table provides all the project leader-client combinations and the estimated project completion times in days.

	Client		
Project Leader	1	2	3
1. Terry	10	15	9
2. Carle	9	18	5
3. McClymonds	6	11	3

14.6 Problem Formulation for the Fowle Problem

Let us define x_{ij} decision variables such that:

$$x_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if project leader } i \text{ is assigned to client } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $j = 1, 2, 3$.

Using the above notation and the completion time data, we can write

$$\text{Days required for Terry's assignment} = 10x_{11} + 15x_{12} + 9x_{13}$$

$$\text{Days required for Carle's assignment} = 9x_{21} + 18x_{22} + 5x_{23}$$

$$\text{Days required for McClymond's assignment} = 6x_{31} + 11x_{32} + 3x_{33}$$

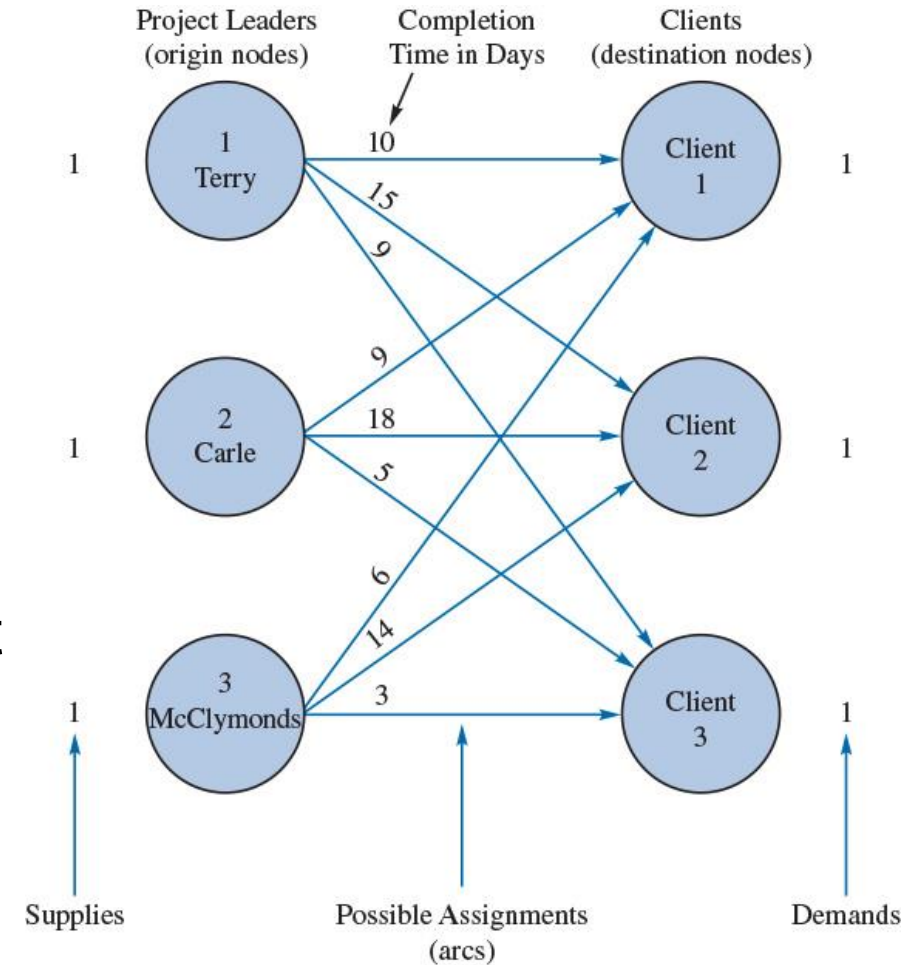
The objective function is the minimized sum of the completion times:

$$\text{Min } 10x_{11} + 15x_{12} + 9x_{13} + 9x_{21} + 18x_{22} + 5x_{23} + 6x_{31} + 11x_{32} + 3x_{33}$$

14.6 Network Representation of the Fowle Problem

The constraints for the assignment problem reflect the conditions that each project leader can be assigned to at most one client and that each client must have one assigned project leader.

$$\begin{array}{ll} x_{11} + x_{12} + x_{13} \leq 1 & \text{Terry's assignment} \\ x_{21} + x_{22} + x_{23} \leq 1 & \text{Carle's assignment} \\ x_{31} + x_{32} + x_{33} \leq 1 & \text{McClymond's assignment} \\ x_{11} + x_{21} + x_{31} = 1 & \text{Client 1} \\ x_{12} + x_{22} + x_{32} = 1 & \text{Client 2} \\ x_{13} + x_{23} + x_{33} = 1 & \text{Client 3} \end{array}$$



14.6 Linear Programming Model for the Fowle Problem

$$\text{Min} \quad 10x_{11} + 15x_{12} + 9x_{13} + 9x_{21} + 18x_{22} + 5x_{23} + 6x_{31} + 11x_{32} + 3x_{33}$$

s.t.

$$x_{11} + x_{12} + x_{13} \leq 1$$

$$x_{21} + x_{22} + x_{23} \leq 1$$

$$x_{31} + x_{32} + x_{33} \leq 1$$

$$x_{11} + x_{21} + x_{31} = 1$$

$$x_{12} + x_{22} + x_{32} = 1$$

$$x_{13} + x_{23} + x_{33} = 1$$

$$x_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, 3 \text{ and } j = 1, 2, 3$$

The next slide shows the optimal solution for this model (MODELfile: *fowle*.)

14.6 Spreadsheet Model & Solution for the Fowle Problem

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Fowle Marketing Research				
2	Parameters				
3		Client			
4	Project Leader	1	2	3	
5	Terry	10	15	9	
6	Carle	9	18	5	
7	McClymonds	6	14	3	
8					
9	Model				
10					
11	Total Completion Time	=SUMPRODUCT(B5:D7,B15:D17)			
12					
13					
14	Project Leader	to Client 1	to Client 2	to Client 3	Total
15	Terry	0	1	0	=SUM(B15:D15)
16	Carle	0	0	1	=SUM(B16:D16)
17	McClymonds	1	0	0	=SUM(B17:D17)
18		Total =SUM(B15:B17)	=SUM(C15:C17)	=SUM(D15:D17)	
19					

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Fowle Marketing Research				
2	Parameters				
3		Client			
4	Project Leader	1	2	3	
5	Terry	10	15	9	
6	Carle	9	18	5	
7	McClymonds	6	14	3	
8					
9	Model				
10					
11	Total Completion Time	26			
12					
13					
14	Project Leader	to Client 1	to Client 2	to Client 3	Total
15	Terry	0	1	0	1
16	Carle	0	0	1	1
17	McClymonds	1	0	0	1
18		Total	1	1	1
19					

Terry is assigned to Client 2, Carle to Client 1, and McClymond to Client 3 for a total completion time of 26 days.

14.7 Generating an Alternative Optimal Solution

Consider the solution to the Foster Generators transportation problem with an optimal total transportation cost of \$39,500.

$$\begin{array}{llll} x_{11} = 1,000 & x_{12} = 4,000 & x_{13} = 0 & x_{14} = 0 \\ x_{21} = 2,500 & x_{22} = 0 & x_{23} = 2,000 & x_{24} = 1,500 \\ x_{31} = 2,500 & x_{32} = 0 & x_{33} = 0 & x_{34} = 0 \end{array}$$

We can solve for an alternative optimal solution by adding the constraint for the original objective function set equal to the total transportation cost.

$$3x_{11} + 2x_{12} + 7x_{13} + 6x_{14} + 6x_{21} + 5x_{22} + 2x_{23} + 3x_{24} + 2x_{31} + 3x_{32} + 4x_{33} + 5x_{34} = 39,500$$

And set an objective function that maximizes the un-allocated shipping routes.

$$\text{Max } x_{13} + x_{14} + x_{22} + x_{32} + x_{33} + x_{34}$$

14.7 Alternative Linear Program for Foster Generators

$$\text{Max } x_{13} + x_{14} + x_{22} + x_{32} + x_{33} + x_{34}$$

s.t.

$$x_{11} + x_{12} + x_{13} + x_{14} \leq 5,000$$

$$x_{21} + x_{22} + x_{23} + x_{24} \leq 6,000$$

$$x_{31} + x_{32} + x_{33} + x_{34} \leq 2,500$$

$$x_{11} + x_{21} + x_{31} = 6,000$$

$$x_{12} + x_{22} + x_{32} = 4,000$$

$$x_{13} + x_{23} + x_{33} = 2,000$$

$$x_{14} + x_{24} + x_{34} = 1,500$$

$$3x_{11} + 2x_{12} + 7x_{13} + 6x_{14} + 6x_{21} + 5x_{22} + 2x_{23} + 3x_{24} + 2x_{31} + 3x_{32} + 4x_{33} + 5x_{34} = 39,500$$

$$x_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1,2,3 \text{ and } j = 1,2,3,4$$

14.7 Alternative Optimal Solution to the Foster Problem

In the alternative solution, Bedford ships 2,500 units to Chicago instead of Boston.

To find an alternative optimal solution to a linear program:

Step 1. Solve the linear program

Step 2. Make a new objective function to be maximized. It is the sum of those variables that were equal to zero in the solution from Step 1

Step 3. Add a constraint to the original set that forces the original objective function to be equal to the optimal objective function value from Step 1

Step 4. Solve the problem created in Steps 2 and 3. If the objective function value is positive, you have found an alternative optimal solution

From:	Amount Shipped To:				Total
	Boston	Chicago	St. Louis	Lexington	
Cleveland	3,500	1,500	0	0	5,000
Bedford	0	2,500	2,000	1,500	6,000
York	2,500	0	0	0	2,500
Total	6,000	4,000	2,000	1,500	

Summary

- We showed how the graphical solution of a two-variable linear programming problem helps us understand how the computer solves large linear programs.
- We discussed how Excel Solver can be used to solve linear optimization problems.
- Slack and surplus variables are used to represent inequality constraints as equality.
- If a linear program solution is infeasible, no optimal solution can be found.
- In the case of an unbounded solution, the objective function diverges.
- Two or more optimal extreme points exist in the case of alternative optimal solutions.
- The Excel Solver Sensitivity Report allows us to analyze the impact of changes in the objective function coefficients and right-hand side values of constraints.
- We showed how to write a mathematical model using general linear programming notation and presented additional examples of linear programming applications.