

1 Session 12. Sensitivity Analysis

- Understanding the concept of postoptimality analysis
- Understanding and solving LP problems requiring sensitivity analysis
- Understanding the matrix representation of the Simplex solution
- After an optimal solution is found, the analyst needs to review the problem parameters and the solution.
- This process is called **postoptimality analysis**:
 - confirming or updating problem parameters (cost and availabilities of activities and resources)
 - if changes need to be introduced in the original parameters, assessing their impact on the optimality of the solution.
- If changes are small, re-optimization may not be needed.
- **Sensitivity analysis** is the study of the effect that types, ranges, and magnitude of changes in problem parameters have in the value of the objective function, *without the need to solve again the new linear problem*.

In a LP problem,

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & \mathbf{c}^t \mathbf{x} \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{Ax} \leq \mathbf{b}, \forall x_i \geq 0\end{array}$$

one can have two situations: one may have interest in knowing what happens with modifications in the parameters c or modifications in the parameters b .

In addition, one can explore what occurs when adding an extra constraint or adding a new variable.

Exercise 1

A farmer wants to minimize the cost of the food given to her livestock. Two different types of nutrients A and B are needed by the animals, and she needs a minimum nutrition to be achieved.

	A	B	price
Feed 1	10	3	16
Feed 2	4	5	14
requirements	124	60	

Find how resilient is she to the changes in the price? What happens with respect to basic vs non-basic variables in a general case?

¹

In such cases we will explore the coefficients of the objective function in the dual problem, instead.

¹veure https://youtu.be/o1pznRt_-y0?t=3378 minut 50 i següent capítol

Exercise 2

Given the LP problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & z = 16x_1 + 14x_2 \\ & 10x_1 + 4x_2 \geq 124 \\ \text{subject to} & 3x_1 + 5x_2 \geq 60 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Explore the sensitivity of the minimum value of z with respect to the parameters in the RHS of the constraints. Hint: consider the dual problem.²

Solving the dual problem gives a lot of insight into the actual situation.

Exercise 3

* In a company that manufactures two types of bikes, A and B , the owners want to maximize the benefits, taking into account that the production depends on a restricted amount of titanium, the time the machines can devote to the work and the manpower, which are all given below:

	A	B	limit
Titanium	50	30	2000
Machine time	6	5	300
Labor	3	5	200
price	50	60	

Find *here* a code with the solution using ORtools.

The Sensitivity analysis tool in Excel is nicely explained *here*.

Notice that in a non-linear scenario, what we have identified here as *reduced costs* are in fact *reduced gradient* (or actual gradient of the optimal solution) while *shadow prices* (margin for profit to be obtained by changing 1 unit in each constraint RHS term) correspond to the *Lagrange multipliers*.

References

²venim de https://youtu.be/o1pznRt_-y0?t=1603 i <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yU8updOR87c>