



Advanced Business Modeling

CIS 418

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Production [Add WeChat edu_assist_pro](#) **lems**

Why Linear Programming?

- Linear programming (**LP**) is a tool to solve decision problems where
 - **relationships** between **decision variables** and the **objective** are **linear**
 - **relationships** between **decision variables** and **constraints** are **linear**

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- Widely used in for a xample:
 - production plan <https://eduassistpro.github.io/>
 - Portfolio optimi
 - Scheduling [Add WeChat edu_assist_pro](#)
- Algorithms exist to find globally opti

Linear vs. Non-linear

- Linear: sum of variables, multiple by scalar (coefficient)

$$x_1$$

$$5x_1$$

$$5x_1 + 3x_2$$

$$5x_1 + 3x_2 + x_3 + 100x_4 + 2.3x_5 + \dots$$

- Non-linear: x_1^2 $\sqrt[3]{x_1}$ $\ln(x_1)$ $\sin(x_1)$ e^{x_1} $5x_1 + \ln(x_2)$ $x_1 + t_1$

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This formulation is linear

$$x_1 + x_3 \geq x_2$$

But this one is not

$$(x_1 + x_3)/x_2 \geq 1$$

LP: constraints and objective are linear functions

Example: Desks or Tables?

A manufacturer makes wooden desks and tables.

Each desk requires 4 hours to cut and 2 hours to assemble.

Each table requires 3 hours to cut and 5 hours to assemble.

The manufacturer can do only up to 12 hours of cutting and 10 hours of assembling per day.

Profit is 15\$ per desk

What would be the p

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the profit?

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Formulate the problem

Variables: Desks $-x_1$ Tables $-x_2$

Constraints:

Cutting: $4x_1 + 3x_2 \leq 12$

Assembling: $2x_1 + 5x_2 \leq 10$

Non-negative production: $x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0$

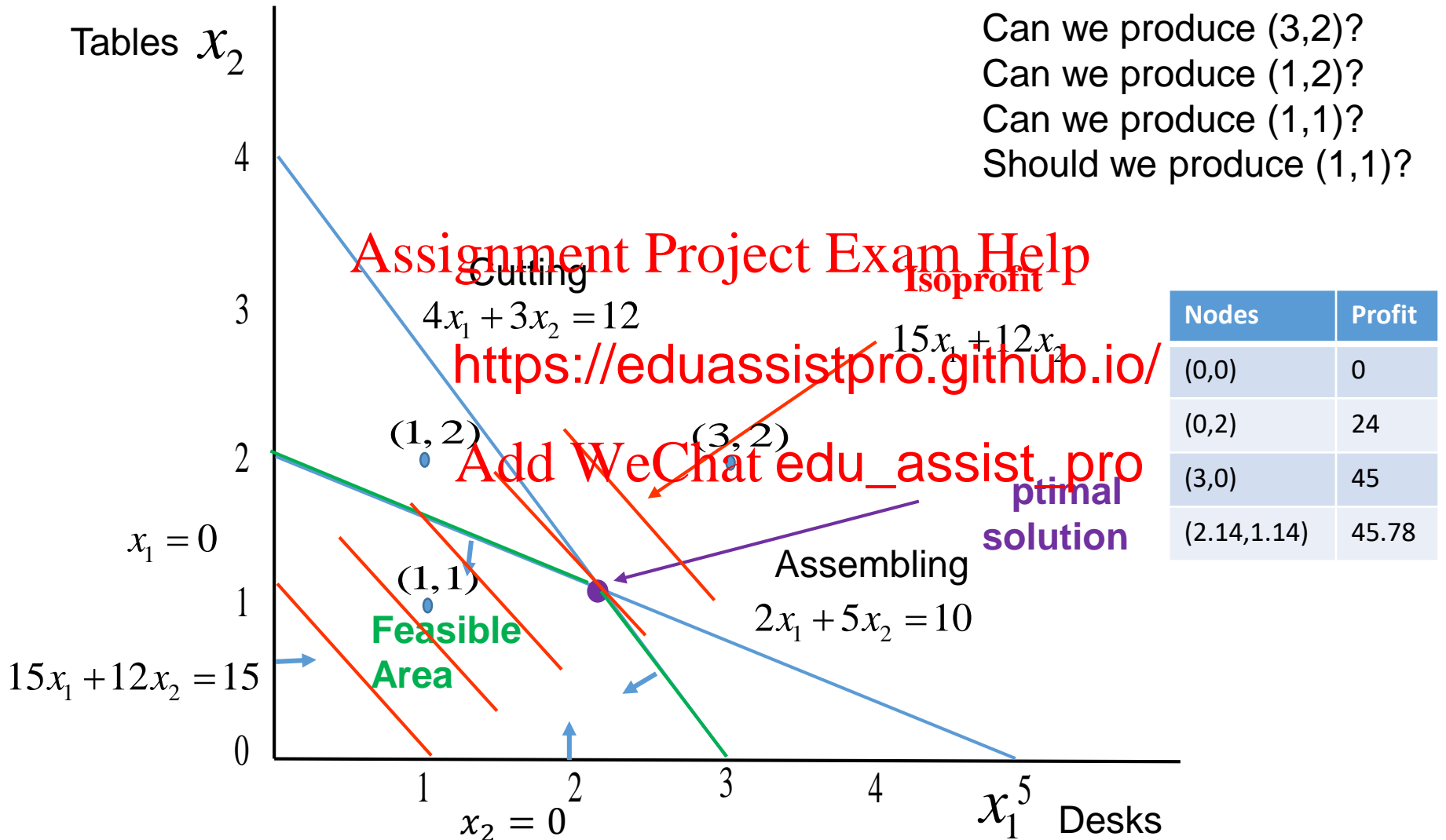
Objective: max profit $15x_1 + 12x_2$

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Linear

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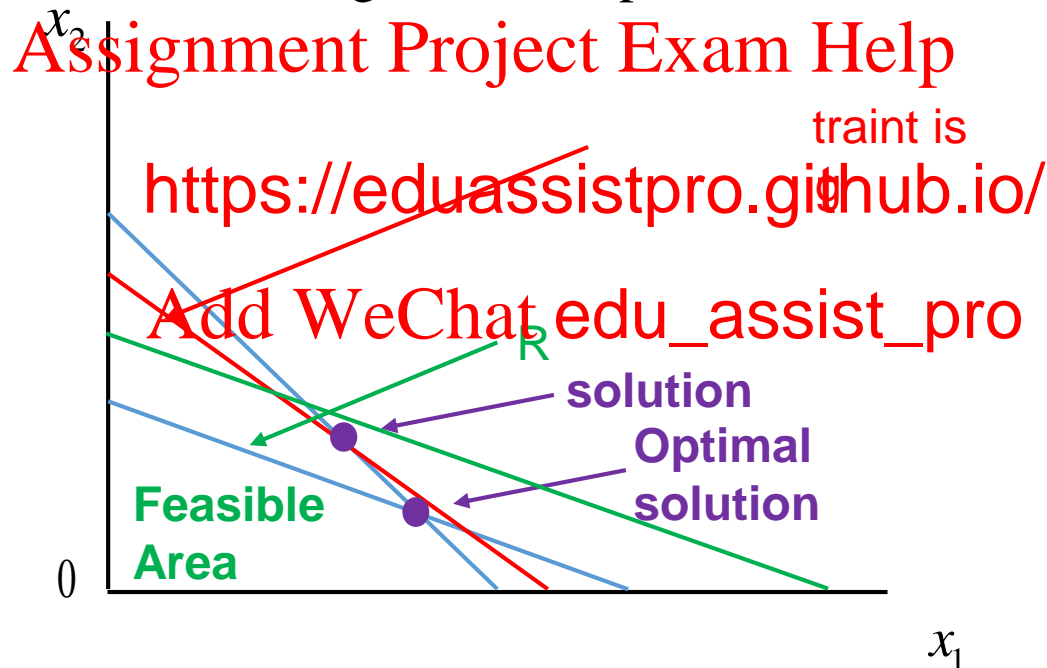
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Graphic Solution



Feasible area and optimal solution

- Feasible area – the set of all possible variable combinations.
- Binding constraints – constraints that define the edges of the feasible set.
- Not all constraints are binding. For example:



- If we relax a constraint (if we have more resources), the feasible area might change and so is the solution.

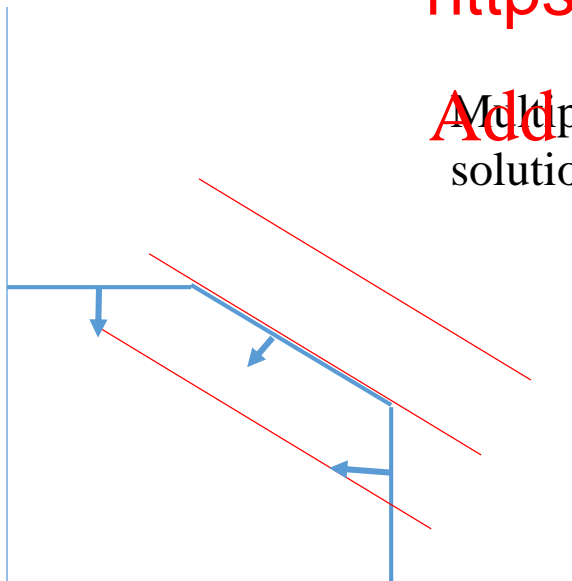
Solution properties

- An LP problem could have either:
 - A unique solution – only if the feasible set is bounded and has no holes.
 - Multiple solutions – if the isoprofit line is parallel to a binding constraint line.
 - No solution – for example, if the feasible set is not bounded, or if the feasible set is null.

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Solution properties - Summary

- Isoprofit line – the line that represents the objective function.
- The isoprofit lines are parallel to each other
- A unique solution would be found on the intersection between binding constraints.
- The solution can change if:
 - A binding constraint
 - Another constraint
 - The profitability ratios between variable (therefore the objective function changes).

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Example: Go-Green!

- **Go-Green!** company provides all the ingredients plus the recipes for cooking your own meals at home. Customers can choose between Organic, Vegan and Green meals.
- Each meal is built from a mix of ingredients in inventory:
 - Peppers
 - Kale
 - Tomatoes
 - Butternut squash
 - Arugula
- Your goal is to produce the mix of meals that maximize profits, given the inventory.

All parameters are detailed in the excel file [LP_problems.xlsx](#)

Formulate the problem

1. What are the **variables**? Name them (x_1, x_2, \dots)

2. What are the **constraints**? Write them in a mathematical form (inequalities)

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3. What is the **objective function**? Write it in a mathematical form.

4. Do we **maximize** or **minimize** the objective?

Formulate the problem

1. What are the **variables**? Name them (x_1, x_2, \dots)

Organic- x_1

Vegan- x_2

Green- x_3

2. What are the **constraints**? Write them in a mathematical form (inequalities)

• Peppers $x_1 + x_2 \leq 450$

• Kale $x_1 \leq 250$

• Tomatoes $2x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 \leq 800$

• Butternut squash $x_1 + x_2 \leq 450$

• Arugula $2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \leq 600$

• Non-negative production: $x_1 \geq 0, \quad x_2 \geq 0, \quad x_3 \geq 0$

3. What is the **objective function**? Write it in a mathematical form.

Profit: $75x_1 + 50x_2 + 35x_3$

4. Do we **maximize** or **minimize** the objective? **Maximize**

Feasibility

- Build a **spreadsheet** to **calculate the profit** from a mix of
 - ✓ 200 Organic meals,
 - ✓ 200 Vegan meals, and
 - ✓ 10 Green meals.

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- Is it **feasible** to build t <https://eduassistpro.github.io/> How do you know?

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Feasibility check

PARAMETERS

	Profit Margin
Organic dinner	\$ 75.00
Vegan dinner	\$ 50.00
Green dinner	\$ 35.00

	f Materials			
	Peppe	matatoes	Butternut squash	Arugula
Organic dinner	1	2	1	2
Vegan dinner	1	2	1	1
Green dinner	0	1	0	1

			Inventory		
Assignment Project Exam Help	Peppers	Kale	Tomatoes	Butternut squash	Arugula
	450	250	800	450	600

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Decision Variables

Organic dinner	200
Vegan dinner	200
Green dinner	10

Objective

Organic dinner	\$ 15,000.00
Vegan dinner	\$ 10,000.00
Green dinner	\$ 350.00

Total Profit \$ 25,350.00

Calculations

	Used		Available
Peppers	400	<	450
Kale	200	<	250
Tomatoes	810	>	800
Butternut squash	400	<	450
Arugula	610	>	600

Solving the optimization problem

- The problem has more than two variables – therefore it is more difficult to solve on paper (we would need to draw a 3D graph...)
- Therefore we solve it by using Excel Solver.

When we solve an optimization problem using excel, we do the following:

- Choose arbitrary variables (Guess!)
- Calculate the y variables
- Calculate the variables
- Use solver and define the variable and constraints
- Let solver find the solution for y

LP using vector and matrix notation

n decision variables as a column vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Product of a row vector and a column vector as the objective

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m constraints, all constraints are linear variables f the n decision variables

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Very brief review of matrix (array) multiplication

Array dimensions are denoted as [number of rows x number of columns]

[n x 1]

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

[1 x n]

$$[c_1 \ c_2 \ \dots \ c_n]$$

[m x n]

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Two matrices can be multiplied if their dimensions match. The result has the same number of rows as the first matrix and the same number of columns as the second.

$$[1 \times n] \quad \times \quad [n \times 1] \quad = \quad [1 \times 1]$$

$$[c_1 \ c_2 \ \dots \ c_n] \times \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n$$

A very brief review of how to multiply matrices

Matrix multiplication is not commutative: $A \times B \neq B \times A$

$$\begin{array}{c} [n \times 1] \\ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} [1 \times n] \\ [c_1 \quad c_2 \quad \dots \quad c_n] \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} [n \times n] \\ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 c_1 & x_1 c_2 & \dots & x_1 c_n \\ x_2 c_1 & x_2 c_2 & \dots & x_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_n c_1 & x_n c_2 & \dots & x_n c_n \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} [1 \times n] \\ [c_1 \quad c_2 \quad \dots \quad c_n] \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} [n \times 1] \\ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \end{array} = c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + \dots + c_n x_n$$

The element in row **r** and column **m** of the **result** is the **matrix product** of

- row **r** of the **first matrix** and
- column **m** of the **second matrix**.

Useful excel functions

- SUMPRODUCT – sum the product of two arrays.

The dimension of the two arrays must be equal!

- Array1 = [1 2 3 5]
- Array2 = [4 5 6 2]

$$\text{Sumproduct}(\text{Array1}, \text{Array2}) = 1*4 + 2*5 + 3*6 + 5*2 = 42$$

- TRANSPOSE – transpose a matrix.

- Array1 = [1 2

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$

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- Matrix2 = $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 6 & 5 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ TRANSP $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 5 & 2 \\ 7 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

If you are using the TRANSPOSE function, you must enter the formula in as an array formula, i.e. use <CTRL><SHIFT><ENTER>

Useful excel functions (cont.)

- Mmult – the product of two matrices.

The inner dimensions of the two matrices must be equal!

Matrix1: [5 3 2] - it is a 1x3 matrix

Matrix2: $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 6 & 5 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ - it is a 3x4 matrix

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Mmult(Matrix1, Matrix2) - it is a 1x4 matrix (=vector in this case)

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- For array operations the first step is to **select the correct dimensions** for the **result**.
- After entering the function use <CTRL><SHIFT><ENTER> instead of just <ENTER> to let Excel know that you want to use an array function. You will see curly brackets around your function.
- Use MMULT(A,B) to multiply two matrices: **A** and **B**. Remember MMULT(A,B)≠MMULT(B,A). To multiply more than two matrices, you can nest MMULT() operations.

Setting up decision variables as a row vector

PARAMETERS							
					f Materials		
	Profit Margin		Peppe		matoes	Butternut squash	Arugula
Organic dinner	\$ 75.00		Organic dinner	1	2	1	2
Vegan dinner	\$ 50.00		Vegan dinner	1	2	1	1
Green dinner	\$ 35.00		Green dinner	0	0	1	0
					Inventory		
			Peppers	Kale	Tomatoes	Butternut squash	Arugula
			450	250	800	450	600

Objective: profit

$$[x_{Organic} \quad x_{Vegan} \quad x_{Green}] \times \begin{bmatrix} 50 \\ 35 \end{bmatrix} = 50x_{Organic} + 35x_{Green}$$

Constraints: inventory

$$[x_{Organic} \quad x_{Vegan} \quad x_{Green}] \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$= [(x_{Or}+x_V) \quad (x_{Or}) \quad (2x_{Or} + 2x_V + x_G) \quad (x_{Or} + x_V) \quad (2x_{Or} + x_V + x_G)]$$

Setting up decision variables as a column vector

PARAMETERS									
					f Materials				
	Profit Margin				Peppe		matoes	Butternut squash	Arugula
Organic dinner	\$ 75.00				1		2	1	2
Vegan dinner	\$ 50.00				1		2	1	1
Green dinner	\$ 35.00				0	0	1	0	1
					Inventory				
					Peppers	Kale	Tomatoes	Butternut squash	Arugula
					450	250	800	450	600

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Objective: profit

$$[75 \quad 50 \quad 35] \times \begin{bmatrix} x_{Organic} \\ x_{Vegan} \\ x_{Green} \end{bmatrix} = 75x_{Organic} + 50x_{Vegan} + 35x_{Green}$$

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Constraints: inventory

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} x_{Organic} \\ x_{Vegan} \\ x_{Green} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{Organic} + x_{Vegan} \\ x_{Organic} \\ 2x_{Organic} + 2x_{Vegan} + x_{Green} \\ x_{Organic} + x_{Vegan} \\ 2x_{Organic} + x_{Vegan} + x_{Green} \end{bmatrix}$$

Robustness

- Problem: if something changes in the data, the solution might change
- If you are running a business, you want to make sure that small changes in prices would not drag you into a completely different production setting.
- Would the current solution still be optimal?
- How robust is the solution?
- Answer: by sensitivity analysis.
- Go back to the spreadsheet, in risk solver choose

Reports -> Optimization -> Sensitivity

Sensitivity Report

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What happens if the profit margins change?

Decision Variable Cells

Cell	Name	Final Value	Reduced Cost	Objective Coefficient	Allowable Increase	Allowable Decrease
\$C\$18	Organic dinner Profit Margin	200	0	75	25.00000002	5.00000002
\$C\$19	Vegan dinner Profit Margin	200	0	50	25.00000001	12.50000001
\$C\$20	Green dinner Profit Margin	0	-25	35	2.5	1E+30

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These capture a ch

As long as profit ma <https://eduassistpro.github.io/> n, the optimal solution does not change.

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If the Organic dinner profit margin rose dinner or fell to \$70 per dinner (while other profit margins did not change), it would still be optimal to produce 200 Organic dinners and 200 Vegan dinners.

The optimal mix would change if the Organic dinner profit margin increased past \$100, or decreased below \$70.

What is the reduced cost?

Decision Variable Cells

Cell	Name	Final Value	Reduced Cost	Objective Coefficient	Allowable Increase	Allowable Decrease
\$C\$18	Organic dinner Profit Margin	200	0	75	25.0000002	5.0000002
\$C\$19	Vegan dinner Profit Margin	200	0	50	25.0000001	12.5000001
\$C\$20	Green dinner Profit Margin	0	-2.5	35	2.5	1E+30

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Holding all else constant, the profit from producing any Green dinners will have to increase by \$2.50 before we will produce any Green dinners out of our inventory.

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Shadow prices

Non-zero shadow prices (aka dual variables) are associated with binding constraints.

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Just ONE more tomato would increase profits by \$12.50, one extra arugula would increase profits by \$25.

If the supply of arugula increases past 650 units, or decreases past 400 units, the shadow price associated with the arugula changes.

Shadow prices

Lets assume we do not have the sensitivity report.
How can we figure out the shadow price of tomatoes?

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Shadow prices

Lets assume we do not have the sensitivity report.
How can we figure out the shadow price of tomatoes?

Solution:

- We add one more tomato to the inventory.
- We keep everything else fixed.
- We calculate the optimal profit.
- The shadow price of a tomato is the difference between the new profit and the previous profit.
- If the profit did not change the shadow price would be zero. If the constraint over tomatoes is not binding.

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