# Linear Programming Problems

Model each one of the following problems as a linear programming problem. Make a list indicating clearly the variables and their meaning, the objective function, and the constraints. Once each of the problems is clearly stated, solve it using both the Excel Solver, and the functions “linprog” or “intlinprog” in the matlab optimization toolbox. You can choose use another tool instead of matlab, for example Python. If that is the case, indicate the name of the optimization library used, and provide a link where it can be downloaded or purchased.

Problem 1:

A manufacturing firm has discontinued the production of a certain unprofitable article. This has created considerable excess production capacity. The management is considering devoting this excess capacity to the production of one or more of three possible different articles: call them article 1, article 2 and article 3. The available capacity on the machines, which might limit production, is summarized in the following table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Machine type | Available machine time (hours per week). |
| Milling machine | 200 |
| Lathe | 100 |
| Grinder | 50 |

The number of machine hours required by each one of the possible articles is give in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Machine type | Article 1 | Article 2 | Article 3 |
| Milling machine | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| Lathe | 4 | 3 |  |
| Grinder | 2 |  | 1 |

The sales department indicates that the sales potential for products 1 and 2 exceeds the maximum production rate, and that the sales potential for products 3 is 20 units per week.

The unit profit would be $200, $60 and $80, respectively, on articles 1, 2 and 3.

Determine how many pieces of each new article the firm should produce in order to maximize profit.

Notice that the numbers of articles must be integers (i.e., we cannot produce a fraction of an article).

# Problem 2.

Find out what it the cheapest diet based on milk, beef and eggs, such that the daily requirements of vitamins A, C and D are satisfied, according to the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Vitamin:  milligrams/ration of food | Ration of milk | Ration of beef | Ration of egg | Minimum daily |
| A | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1 mg |
| C | 100 | 10 | 10 | 50 mg |
| D | 10 | 100 | 10 | 10 mg |
| Cost per ration | $1.0 | $2.0 | $0.50 |  |

Consider two scenarios:

1. Fractions of rations are allowed, for example, 0.7 ration of egg.
2. Fraction of rations are not allowed (the diet must consist of integer numbers of rations).

Problem 3

Consider a product mix problem within the context of a simplified oil refinery situation. Suppose that the refinery wishes to blend four petroleum constituents into three grades of gasoline: A, B, and C. The problem is to determine the mix of the four constituents that will maximize profit.

The availability and costs of the four constituents are given on the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Constituent | Maximum quantity available in barrels per day | Cost per barrel |
| 1 | 3000 | $3.0 |
| 2 | 2000 | $6.0 |
| 3 | 4000 | $4.0 |
| 4 | 1000 | $5.0 |

To maintain the required quality for each grade of gasoline, it is necessary certain maximum or minimum percentages of the constituents in each blend. These are given in the table below, along with the selling price for each grade:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Specifications | Selling price per barrel |
| A | Not more than 30% of 1.  Not less than 40% of 2.  Not more than 50% of 3. | $5.50 |
| B | Not more than 50% of 1.  Not less than 10% of 2. | $4.50 |
| C | Not more than 70% of 1. | $3.50 |

Assume that all other cash flows are fixed, so that the «profit» to be maximized is total sales minus the total cost of constituents. Determine the optimal amount and blend of each grade of gasoline. Fractions of barrels are allowed on the solution.

# Problem 4

A certain farming organization operates three farms of comparable productivity. The output of each farm is limited both by the usable area and by the amount of water available for irrigation. The data for the upcoming season is contained in the following table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Farm | Usable area in Hectares | Water available in Hectare-meter \* (See note below) |
| 1 | 200 | 250 |
| 2 | 150 | 333 |
| 3 | 300 | 150 |

The organization is considering three crops for planting, which differ primarily in their expected profit per Hectare and in their consumption of water. Furthermore, the total area that can be devoted to each of the crops is limited by the amount of appropriate harvest equipment available. This information is specified in the following table.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crop | Maximum area in Ha | Water consumption in Hectare-meter/Hectare | Expected profit per hectare |
| A | 350 | 1.6 | $800 |
| B | 400 | 1.3 | $600 |
| C | 150 | 1.0 | $100 |

In order to maintain a uniform workload among the farms, it is the policy of the organization that the percentage of the usable area planted must be the same for each farm. However, any combination of the crops may be grown at any of the farms. The organization wishes to know how much of each crop should be planted at the respective farms in order to maximize the expected profit.

\*Note: A hectare-meter is a unit of volume of water, equivalent to the volume of water contained in one hectare (10 000 square meter) area irrigated with a water level of 1 meter.