



Computer Science
Operations Research

Simplex Algorithm

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1 The Simplex Algorithm

The simplex algorithm, developed by George Dantzig in 1947, arises from the need to solve linear programming problems. This problem was fundamentally proposed by Kantorovich and Koopman, who developed the optimal location problem and the problem of resources. The Simplex method optimizes an objective function subject to linear constraints, using an iterative process to improve the value of the objective function until the optimal solution is reached. Its ability to solve complex problems and its use in various applications make it an essential tool in the optimization of resources and strategic decisions in industry, economics, and operations research.

Given the time of its development, it was essentially thought to be solved by hand; however, now there are digital tools that allow the process to be automated.

1.1 George Dantzig

The American mathematician was born in 1914 and died in 2005. In addition to being the creator of the Simplex algorithm, he was head of the Scientific Computing of Operations Research (SCOOP), where he promoted linear programming for strategic purposes during World War II.



2 Problem: P7

The problem inputted by the user is called “P7” and consists of maximizing the following function:

$$Z = x_1 \cdot 0.000000 + x_2 \cdot 2.000000$$

Subject to:

$$x_1 \cdot 1.000000 + x_2 \cdot -1.000000 \leq 4.000000$$

$$x_1 \cdot -1.000000 + x_2 \cdot 1.000000 \leq 1.000000$$

3 Initial Matrix

Z	x_1	x_2	S_1	S_2	b
1.000	-0.000	-2.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.000	1.000	-1.000	1.000	0.000	4.000
0.000	-1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000	1.000

4 Result Analysis

4.1 Unbounded problems

Sometimes the simplex algorithm may be faced with an unbounded problem, as a result of poor constraint management at the time of modeling. In the simplex table is represented by a column full of negatives

In this case it is found in the column 1 where there are no valid fractions:

Z	x_1	x_2	S_1	S_2	b	Fractions
1.000	-2.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	2.000	0.000
0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000	5.000	<i>Invalid</i>
0.000	-1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000	1.000	<i>Invalid</i>