IEOR E4004 Assignment 1

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Question 1

1. *False.*
   Explanation: A LP problem has a feasible solution doesn't mean it should have optimal solution. Since the feasible region maybe unbounded, the optimal solution may not be reachable. That is, if the objective can be improved indefinitely within the feasible region, no optimal solution exists.

2. *False.*
   Explanation: An unbounded feasible region means the variables can take on infinitely large values, but the objective function may still have a finite optimal value since the optimal point may not be achieved at the unbounded direction, but instead achieve at a bounded point.

3. *False.*
   Explanation: The objective may be unbounded, so the LP may not have optimal solution at the corner point. Therefore, feasibility alone does not ensure an optimal solution exists at a corner point.

4. *False.*
   Explanation: A simple counterexample is the linear programs with three decision variables, since it can be visualized in a 3D space. Therefore a graphical solution can be approached even if the number of decision variables is more than 2.

Question 2

1. **Decision Variables**
   x_{ij}: The quantity of resource i purchased from supplier j.

   Objective Function
   The objective is to minimize the total cost:

$$\underset{x_{ij}}{\text{Minimize}}\ Z = \sum_i \sum_j C_{ij} \cdot x_{ij}$$

   where C_{ij} is is the cost per unit of resource i from supplier j.

   Constraints

(a) **Supply Capacity Constraint:** The amount of each resource purchased from a supplier must not exceed that supplier's maximum supply capacity for that resource:

$$x_{ij} \leq S_{ij}$$

where S_{ij} is the maximum supply capacity for resource i from supplier j.

(b) **Demand Satisfaction Constraint:** The total quantity of each resource purchased across all suppliers must meet or exceed the minimum required quantities:

$$\sum_{j} x_{ij} \geq D_i$$

where D_i is the minimum required quantity for resource i from the dataset.

(c) **Budget Constraint:** The total cost must not exceed the shelter's budget of \$2,000:

$$\sum_{i} \sum_{j} C_{ij} \cdot x_{ij} \leq 2000$$

(d) **Non-Negative and Integer Variables:** The quantity of resource i purchased from supplier j should be non-negative.

$$x_{ij} \geq 0, \quad x_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

2. Algebraic LP formulation is as follows:

Objective:

$$\text{Minimize } Z = \sum_{i=1}^{8} \sum_{j=1}^{3} C_{ij} \cdot x_{ij}$$

Subject to:

(a) **Budget constraint:**

$$\sum_{i=1}^{8} \sum_{j=1}^{3} C_{ij} \cdot x_{ij} \leq 2000$$

(b) **Demand satisfaction constraints:**

$$\sum_{j=1}^{3} x_{ij} \geq D_i \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, 8\}$$

(c) **Supply capacity constraints:**

$$x_{ij} \leq S_{ij} \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, 8\}, \quad \forall j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$

(d) **Non-Negative and Integer Variables:**

$$x_{ij} \geq 0, \quad x_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \forall i, j$$

3. I'd like to use Gurobi with Python to solve the problem, the code will be shared as appendix to this answer PDF, please check!

4. **Result**

Supplier	**Toilet Paper**	**Liquid Soap**	**Detergent**	**Cloth**	**Toothpaste**	**Toothbrush**	**Pads**	**Shampoo**
1	150	0	20	10	50	50	100	20
2	0	15	10	0	20	20	100	20
3	50	25	0	10	30	30	100	0

Lowest Total Cost: $1224.80

The solver provides the optimal quantities as stated above in the tableau, to fulfill the requirement of the shelter at the lowest cost $1224.80.

Implications:

- The solution achieves an optimal cost of $1224.8, staying within the monthly budget limit of $2,000.
- All required minimum quantities are met while keeping costs low.
- It prevents overspending and shortages through efficient supplier allocation.

This outcome ensures the shelter can operate sustainably, maintaining hygiene and health.