

Using a Linear Programming Approach for Modeling the Optimal Diet Problem to Help Treat Hypertension

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Abstract

The mathematical model of linear programming of the diet problem, specifically the diet, was used to reduce hypertension. In this work, we employed this model to reduce hypertension at the age of 31- 50 years for men. In our model, some foods that contain a low percentage of fat and in the same time rich in potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, and vitamin E were used in addition to fiber and protein, which help in reducing hypertension and high harmful cholesterol percentage, which leads to reduce risks of cardiovascular disease. Therefore the new mathematical model which use the above foods provided us a balanced diet, which reduces the people daily financial cost.

Keywords: *Linear programming. Diet problem. Nutrient requirement. Mathematical model.*

1. Introduction

The linear programming problem is a mathematical model that can be used to solve optimization problems with a linear objective function and a set of linear constraints that can be in the case of equality or inequality, providing optimal solutions that can satisfy the constraints [1, 2].

Many researches have shown that the DASH diet plan to reduce hypertension requires some foods that must be eaten on a daily basis to maintain a healthy heart, and these foods are rich in calcium, potassium, magnesium, protein and fiber, taking into account the reduction of saturated fat and sodium in it [3]. It is known that the linear programming model of the diet has its limits, as is the case in any model, but the important goal remains at the lowest cost to meet the daily nutritional need of people [4, 5]. At the same time, do not forget that there can

be negative side effects from excessive intake of nutrients, such as increased fiber, which can cause some health problems such as diarrhea and cramps, as well as excess magnesium can cause tachycardia and slow breathing, in addition to some negatives that can to infect people by increasing the rest of the elements [6].

Hence the need to create a food model that meets the daily human nutritional need at the lowest cost, and it can also be considered a common theoretical method for dealing with multiple objective decision-making problems [7, 8]. To model diet problems, many researchers have introduced a balanced diet plan to reduce eating disorders and meet the nutritional requirements of their bodies as well as help them avoid certain chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart attacks [9]. To find the optimal solution for nonlinear systems and

optimization problems, the authors introduced many papers in variety of science fields to discover the best solution including operation research [10- 19] reliability [20- 29] and optimization [30- 55], but in this paper and in order to obtain a balanced diet, a new model is presented for a diet that consisting of eight foods which contains seven nutrients, which in turn can help reduce the risk of developing hypertension for people from 31-50 years old. The best solution was obtained at the lowest cost by developing the model in the form of a linear programming problem and solving it using the big M method.

2. Methodology

The linear programming model of diet problem is given as follows:

$$\text{Min } z = c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n$$

Subject to the nutritional constraints,

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \geq b_1;$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \geq b_2;$$

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$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n \geq b_m;$$

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \geq 0$$

Table 1. Nutrient requirement per day (males, 31-50 years old)

Nutritional Requirement									
nutrient	Food Items								daily requirement
	100gms of chicken	100gms of rice	100gms soya beans	100gms wheat	100gms of spinach	1 class milk	100gms of orange	100gms of potato	
Calcium	16	28	37	34	99	350.35	43	8	1000 mg
Potassium	267	115	332	405	558	445.9	166	328	4700 mg

where,

c_j = cost of food j , $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$,

x_j = the number of units of food j in the diet,

a_{ij} = amount of i^{th} nutrient in food type j , $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$,

b_i = the required daily amount of nutrient i ,

m = the number of nutrients,

n = the number of food items

3. Data analysis of the new model

the new model used eight types of samples and seven nutrients. Food prices were collected from grocery stores and in dollar terms, as dietary requirements were specific to males aged 31-50 years [56].

Table 1 shows the amount of foods in grams, the amount of nutrients per unit of food, and the minimum daily nutritional requirements. The objective is to select the x_j to minimize the total cost of the diet.

<i>Iron</i>	1.14	0.8	2.57	3.88	2.71	0.15	0.13	0.31	8 mg
<i>Protein</i>	33.44	7.1	13.05	13.7	2.86	9.68	0.91	1.71	56 g
<i>Fiber</i>	0	1.3	0	12.2	2.2	0	2.2	1.8	30.8 g
<i>Magnesium</i>	31	25	130	138	79	36.75	11	20	420 mg
<i>Vitamin E</i>	0.42	0.11	0.9	0.82	2.03	0	0.15	0.01	15 mg
<i>Cost in \$</i>	0.25	0.15	0.20	0.15	0.15	0.25	0.20	0.08	minimization

3.1 Objective function

The total formulation of the above problem is:

$$\text{Min } z = 0.25x_1 + 0.15x_2 + 0.20x_3 + 0.15x_4 + 0.15x_5 + 0.25x_6 + 0.20x_7 + 0.08x_8$$

Subject to,

$$16x_1 + 28x_2 + 37x_3 + 34x_4 + 99x_5 + 350.35x_6 + 43x_7 + 8x_8 \geq 1000;$$

$$267x_1 + 115x_2 + 332x_3 + 405x_4 + 558x_5 + 445.9x_6 + 166x_7 + 328x_8 \geq 4700;$$

$$1.14x_1 + 0.8x_2 + 2.57x_3 + 3.88x_4 + 2.71x_5 + 0.15x_6 + 0.13x_7 + 0.31x_8 \geq 8;$$

$$33.44x_1 + 7.1x_2 + 13.05x_3 + 13.7x_4 + 2.86x_5 + 9.68x_6 + 0.91x_7 + 1.71x_8 \geq 56;$$

$$0x_1 + 1.3x_2 + 0x_3 + 12.2x_4 + 2.2x_5 + 0x_6 + 2.2x_7 + 1.8x_8 \geq 30.8;$$

$$31x_1 + 25x_2 + 130x_3 + 138x_4 + 79x_5 + 36.75x_6 + 11x_7 + 20x_8 \geq 420;$$

$$0.42x_1 + 0.11x_2 + 0.9x_3 + 0.82x_4 + 2.03x_5 + 0x_6 + 0.15x_7 + 0.01x_8 \geq 15;$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8 \geq 0$$

3.2. Results and discussion

The above model contains 8 variables, 7 constraints, and by using the big M method, a solution to the problem was obtained, where the minimum costs involved is 1.495 \$ with a balanced diet consisting of:

1. 33 gms of chicken per day.
2. 130 gms of wheat per day.
3. 680 gms of spinach per day.
4. 0.79 class of milk per day.

4. Conclusion

The presented mathematical model, which in turn reduces the daily cost and reduces hypertension and high harmful cholesterol percentage according to the diet problem, was formulated in a linear programming model that was illustrated by using some of the food samples that were used from the DASH food chart.

Through the presented form, we note that the minimum eating plan is obtained, in addition to the main objective of reducing the daily cost of the diet, knowing that it is possible to obtain adjustments in the solution by replacing some foods.

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