COMS21103: Linear Programming

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Definition

In general, linear Programming is optimising a linear function subject to a set of linear inequalities

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- Optimising a function is finding the minimum or maximum value of a function
- ▶ A linear function... e.g. 5 + 3x + 4y
- ▶ A linear inequality... e.g. $5x + 3y \le 10$, $3 + 5y \ge 4z$

Linear Programs arise in a variety of practical applications...

Example

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A publisher has orders for 400 copies of a certain text from Bristol (b) and 600 copies from Leeds(I). The company has 700 copies in a warehouse in Birmingham (B) and 800 copies in a warehouse in London (L). It costs $\mathfrak{L}5$ to ship a text from Birmingham to Bristol, but it costs $\mathfrak{L}4$ to ship it to Leeds. It costs $\mathfrak{L}10$ to ship a text from London to Bristol, but it costs $\mathfrak{L}8$ to ship it from London to Leeds. How many copies should the company ship from each warehouse to Bristol and Leeds to fill the order at the least cost?

What do you want to optimise?

Example

- What do you want to optimise?
 - cost

Example

- What do you want to optimise?
 - cost
 - minimise

Example

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A publisher has orders for 400 copies of a certain text from Bristol (b) and 600 copies from Leeds(I). The company has 700 copies in a warehouse in Birmingham (B) and 800 copies in a warehouse in London (L). It costs £5 to ship a text from Birmingham to Bristol, but it costs £4 to ship it to Leeds. It costs £10 to ship a text from London to Bristol, but it costs £8 to ship it from London to Leeds. How many copies should the company ship from each warehouse to Bristol and Leeds to fill the order at the least cost?

What is the linear function?

Example

- What is the linear function?
 - Define variables
 - x: # of items shipped from B to b
 - y: # of items shipped from L to b
 - w: # of items shipped from B to I
 - z: # of items shipped from L to I

Example

- What is the linear function?
 - Define variables
 - x: # of items shipped from B to b
 - y: # of items shipped from L to b
 - w: # of items shipped from B to I
 - z: # of items shipped from L to I
 - f(x, y, w, z) = 5x + 10y + 4w + 8z

Example

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Subject to what linear inequalities?

Example

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 - Required shipments
 - x + y ≥ 400
 - w + z ≥ 600

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- Subject to what linear inequalities?
 - Required shipments

$$x + y ≥ 400$$

$$w + z \ge 600$$

Available Stock

$$x + w \le 700$$

$$y + z < 800$$

Example

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- Subject to what linear inequalities?
 - Required shipments

$$x + y ≥ 400$$

$$w + z \ge 600$$

Available Stock

$$x + w \le 700$$

$$y + z \le 800$$

Non-negative Inequalities

$$x \ge 0, y \ge 0, w \ge 0, z \ge 0$$

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Linear Program - Non-standard form

```
minimise 5x + 10y + 4w + 8z

subject to x + y \ge 400

w + z \ge 600

x + w \le 700

y + z \le 800

x > 0, y > 0, w > 0, z > 0
```

Linear Program - Matrix Representation

minimise
$$5x + 10y + 4w + 8z$$

subject to $1x + 1y + 0w + 0z \ge 400$
 $0x + 0y + 1w + 1z \ge 600$
 $1x + 0y + 1w + 0z \le 700$
 $0x + 1y + 0w + 1z \le 800$
 $x \ge 0, y \ge 0, w \ge 0, z \ge 0$

Linear Program - Matrix Representation

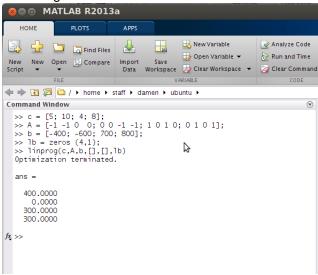
minimise
$$5x + 10y + 4w + 8z$$

subject to $-1x - 1y + 0w + 0z \le -400$
 $0x + 0y - 1w - 1z \le -600$
 $1x + 0y + 1w + 0z \le 700$
 $0x + 1y + 0w + 1z \le 800$
 $x \ge 0, y \ge 0, w \ge 0, z \ge 0$

Linear Program - Matrix Representation

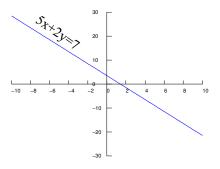
$$\mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 10 \\ 4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \, \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \, \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} -400 \\ -600 \\ 700 \\ 800 \end{bmatrix}, \, \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ w \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

Can be solved using a linear solver



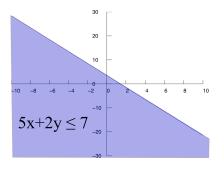
In two dimensions...

▶ A linear equation defines a line in space 5x + 2y = 7



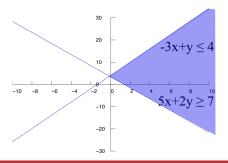
In two dimensions...

▶ A linear **inequality** defines a half-space $5x + 2y \ge 7$

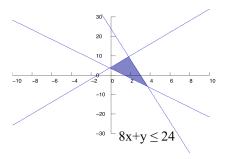


In two dimensions...

- Multiple linear inequalities constrain the space of solutions
- Setting the variables x and y to values that satisfy all constraints results in a **feasible** solution
- Setting the variables x and y to values that fail to satisfy any constraint results in an **infeasible** solution
- The shaded area represents the space of feasible solutions



When the set of inequalities represent a convex hull in space, the feasible region is said to be **bounded**



In two dimensions...

▶ If the linear program has no feasible solution, the linear program is said to be **infeasible**

e.g.
$$5x + 2y \ge 7$$

 $x \le 0$
 $y < 0$

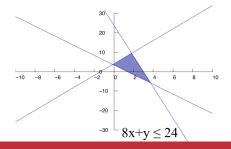
If a linear program has some feasible solutions but does not have a finite optimal objective value, it is said to be unbounded

In two dimensions...

► For the linear program

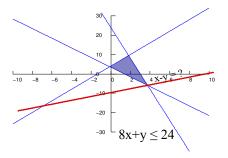
minimise
$$x-y$$
subject to $5x + 2y \ge 7$ $-3x + y \le 4$ $8x + y \le 24$

▶ The search is for a feasible solution that minimises the **objective** function x - y



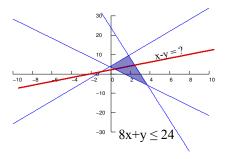
In two dimensions...

▶ The objective function takes different values within the feasible region



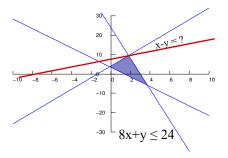
In two dimensions...

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- ► The intersection is thus either a single vertex or a line segment (that contains two vertices)

Linear Programming

In two dimensions...

- It is no accident that the optimal solution to the linear program occurs at a vertex of the feasible solution.
- The optimal value must be at the boundary of the feasible region
- ► The intersection is thus either a single vertex or a line segment (that contains two vertices)
- Eureka... calculate the objective function at all vertices!

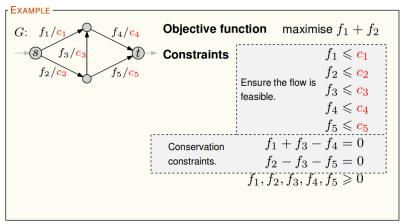
Linear Programming

In two dimensions...

- ► It is no accident that the optimal solution to the linear program occurs at a vertex of the feasible solution.
- The optimal value must be at the boundary of the feasible region
- ➤ The intersection is thus either a single vertex or a line segment (that contains two vertices)
- Eureka... calculate the objective function at all vertices!
- But... we cannot easily graph linear programs in 3+ dimensions

Max-Flow as a Linear Program

Max-flow problem can be formulated as a linear program



- Takes as input a linear program and returns an optimal solution
- It starts at some vertex and performs a sequence of iterations
- In each iteration, it moves along an edge to a neighbouring vertex whose objective value is smaller than the current vertex
- Terminates when it reaches a local optimum
- As the vertex is a convex hull, the local optimum is actually a global optimum

The standard form to solve a simplex algorithm is:

maximise
$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} c_j x_j$$

subject to $\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} x_j \le b_i$ for $i=1,2,..m$
 $x_i \ge 0$ for $j=1,2,..n$

A linear function is in non-standard form for the Simplex algorithm if

- ► The objective function is a minimisation rather than a maximisation
- There might be variables without nonnegativity constraints
- There might be equality rather than inequality constraints
- There might be inequality constraints with an opposite sign

To convert to a standard form:

▶ If the objective function is a minimisation \rightarrow negate the coefficients e.g.

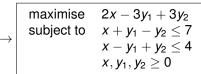
```
minimise -2x + 3y becomes maximise 2x - 3y
```

To convert to a standard form:

If a variable y does not have a non-negativity constraint \rightarrow change y to y_1-y_2 and add $y_1 \geq 0, y_2 \geq 0$ e.g.

maximise
$$2x - 3y$$

subject to $x + y \le 7$
 $x - y \le 4$
 $x \ge 0$

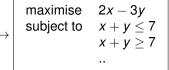


To convert to a standard form:

If equality constraint exists → replace by two inequalities ≤ b and ≥ b e.g.

maximise
$$2x - 3y$$

subject to $x + y = 7$



To convert to a standard form:

 \blacktriangleright If inequality constraint needs to change sign \rightarrow negate e.g.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximise} & 2x - 3y \\ \text{subject to} & x + y \ge 7 \\ & & \ddots \end{array}$$

maximise
$$2x - 3y$$

subject to $-x - y \le -7$
..

e.g. convert the following linear program into standard form:

minimise
$$2x_1 + 7x_2 + x_3$$

subject to $x_1 - x_3 = 7$
 $3x_1 + x_2 \ge 24$
 $x_2 \ge 0$
 $x_3 \le 0$

In addition to being in the standard form, the Simplex algorithm requires the linear program to be in the slack form.

$$Z = V + \sum_{j=1}^{n} c_{j} x_{j}$$

$$X_{n+i} = b_{i} - \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} x_{j} \text{ for } i = 1, 2, ..., m$$

$$x_{i} \ge 0 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, ..., n + m$$

- ► For each inequality $\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} x_j \leq b_i$
- Introduce a new variable s (called the slack variable because it measures the difference between the left and the right hand sides of the equation.)
- ► Rewrite the inequality $s = b_i \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j$
- ▶ Add a non-negativity constraint $s \ge 0$

e.g. convert the following linear program from standard form to slack form:

maximise
$$2x_1 - 3x_2 + 3x_3$$

subject to $x_1 + x_2 - x_3 \le 7$
 $-x_1 - x_2 + x_3 \le -7$
 $x_1 - 2x_2 + 2x_3 \le 4$
 $x_1, x_2, x_3 \ge 0$

- Step 1: add the slack variables
- Step 2: Replace the objective function value by z

$$z = 2x_1 - 3x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$x_4 = 7 - x_1 - x_2 + x_3$$

$$x_5 = -7 - +x_1 + x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_6 = 4 - x_1 + 2x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6 \ge 0$$

- Step 1: add the slack variables
- Step 2: Replace the objective function value by z

$$z = 2x_1 - 3x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$x_4 = 7 - x_1 - x_2 + x_3$$

$$x_5 = -7 - +x_1 + x_2 - x_3$$

$$x_6 = 4 - x_1 + 2x_2 - 2x_3$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6 \ge 0$$

- The variables on the left hand size of equalities are called basic variables
- The variables on the right hand size of equalities are called nonbasic variables

The Simplex Algorithm - Basic Solution

- A feasible solution can be found by setting all nonbasic variables (right-hand side variables) to 0
- This is a feasible solution and is a vertex in the convex hull because of the non-negativity constraint.
- ► For the example below, $\mathbf{x} = (0, 0, 0, 30, 24, 36)$ and z = 0
- This is referred to as a basic feasible solution

```
Z = 3x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 (1)

x_4 = 30 - x_1 - x_2 - 3x_3 (2)

x_5 = 24 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 - 5x_3 (3)

x_6 = 36 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 (4)
```

- At each iteration in the simplex algorithm, we select a non-basic variable x_i
- This chosen variable should have a positive coefficient in the objective function
- So that increasing its value would increase the objective function
- Let's choose x₁

```
Z = 3x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 (1)

x_4 = 30 - x_1 - x_2 - 3x_3 (2)

x_5 = 24 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 - 5x_3 (3)

x_6 = 36 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 (4)
```

We try to increase x₁ as much as possible without increasing any non-negativity constraint

```
Z = 3x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 (1)

x_4 = 30 - x_1 - x_2 - 3x_3 (2)

x_5 = 24 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 - 5x_3 (3)

x_6 = 36 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 (4)
```

- We try to increase x₁ as much as possible without increasing any non-negativity constraint
 - In (2), x₁ could be set to 30 max
 - In (3), x₁ could be set to 12 max
 - ▶ In (4), x_1 could be set to 9 max

```
Z = 3x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 (1)
x_4 = 30 - x_1 - x_2 - 3x_3 (2)
x_5 = 24 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 - 5x_3 (3)
x_6 = 36 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 (4)
```

- We try to increase x₁ as much as possible without increasing any non-negativity constraint
 - In (2), x₁ could be set to 30 max
 - In (3), x₁ could be set to 12 max
 - In (4), x_1 could be set to 9 max
- Equation (4) is the tightest constraint
- ▶ We therefore switch the roles of x_1 and x_6

```
z = 3x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 (1)

x_4 = 30 - x_1 - x_2 - 3x_3 (2)

x_5 = 24 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 - 5x_3 (3)

x_6 = 36 - 4x_1 - x_2 - 2x_3 (4)
```

• We re-arrange (4) so $x_1 = 9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4}$

- We re-arrange (4) so $x_1 = 9 \frac{x_2}{4} \frac{x_3}{2} \frac{x_6}{4}$
- \triangleright x_1 will be replaced by x_6 on the right-hand side of Equations 1-3

$$Z = + \frac{3(9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4})}{2} + x_2 + 2x_3 \quad (1)$$

$$x_4 = 30 - (9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4}) - x_2 - 3x_3 \quad (2)$$

$$x_5 = 24 - 2(9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4}) - 2x_2 - 5x_3 \quad (3)$$

$$x_1 = 9 - \frac{x_2}{4} \quad - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4} \quad (4)$$

$$Z = 27 + \frac{x_2}{4} + \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{3x_6}{4} \quad (1)$$

$$X_1 = 9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4} \quad (2)$$

$$X_4 = 21 - \frac{3x_2}{4} - \frac{5x_3}{2} + \frac{x_6}{4} \quad (3)$$

$$X_5 = 6 - \frac{3x_2}{2} - 4x_3 + \frac{x_6}{2} \quad (4)$$

▶ After this operation the basic variables become $(x_1, x_4 \text{ and } x_5)$

$$Z = 27 + \frac{x_2}{4} + \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{3x_6}{4} (1)$$

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$$x_4 = 21 - \frac{3x_2}{4} - \frac{5x_3}{2} + \frac{x_6}{4} (3)$$

$$x_5 = 6 - \frac{3x_2}{2} - 4x_3 + \frac{x_6}{2} (4)$$

- ▶ After this operation the basic variables become $(x_1, x_4 \text{ and } x_5)$
- The solution just changes to be (9,0,0,21,6,0) and the objective function increases to 27

$$Z = 27 + \frac{x_2}{4} + \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{3x_6}{4} \quad (1)$$

$$X_1 = 9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4} \quad (2)$$

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- ▶ After this operation the basic variables become $(x_1, x_4 \text{ and } x_5)$
- ► The solution just changes to be (9,0,0,21,6,0) and the objective function increases to 27
- This too is a vertex in the convex hull

$$Z = 27 + \frac{x_2}{4} + \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{3x_6}{4}$$
 (1)

$$X_1 = 9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4}$$
 (2)

$$X_4 = 21 - \frac{3x_2}{4} - \frac{5x_3}{2} + \frac{x_6}{4}$$
 (3)

$$X_5 = 6 - \frac{3x_2}{2} - 4x_3 + \frac{x_6}{2}$$
 (4)

- This operation is known as a pivot, which exchanges the positions of one nonbasic variable (called the entering variable) and one basic variable (called the leaving variable)
- Next we choose another entering variable (we can choose x_2 or x_3 and let's choose x_3)

$$Z = 27 + \frac{x_2}{4} + \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{3x_6}{4}$$
 (1)

$$X_1 = 9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4}$$
 (2)

$$X_4 = 21 - \frac{3x_2}{4} - \frac{5x_3}{2} + \frac{x_6}{4}$$
 (3)

$$X_5 = 6 - \frac{3x_2}{2} - 4x_3 + \frac{x_6}{2}$$
 (4)

 \blacktriangleright We try to increase x_3 as much as possible without increasing any non-negativity constraint

- ► We try to increase *x*₃ as much as possible without increasing any non-negativity constraint
 - In (2), x_3 could be set to 18 max
 - ▶ In (3), x_3 could be set to 8.4 max
 - ▶ In (4), x_3 could be set to 1.5 max

- ▶ We try to increase *x*₃ as much as possible without increasing any non-negativity constraint
 - In (2), x_3 could be set to 18 max
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- We try to increase x₃ as much as possible without increasing any non-negativity constraint
 - ▶ In (2), x_3 could be set to 18 max
 - In (3), x₃ could be set to 8.4 max
 - In (4), x₃ could be set to 1.5 max
- Equation (4) is the tightest constraint
- ▶ We therefore switch the roles of x_3 and x_5
- $X_3 = \frac{3}{2} \frac{3x_2}{8} \frac{x_5}{4} + \frac{x_6}{8}$

$$Z = 27 + \frac{x_2}{4} + \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{3x_6}{4}$$
 (1)

$$X_1 = 9 - \frac{x_2}{4} - \frac{x_3}{2} - \frac{x_6}{4}$$
 (2)

$$X_3 = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3x_2}{8} - \frac{x_6}{4} + \frac{x_6}{8}$$
 (3)

$$X_4 = 21 - \frac{3x_2}{4} - \frac{5x_3}{2} + \frac{x_6}{4}$$
 (4)

► The current solution is (33/4, 0, 3/2, 69/4, 0, 0) with the objective value 111/4

$$Z = \frac{111}{4} + \frac{x_2}{16} - \frac{x_5}{8} - \frac{11x_6}{16} \quad (1)$$

$$X_1 = \frac{33}{4} - \frac{x_2}{16} + \frac{x_5}{8} - \frac{5x_6}{16} \quad (2)$$

$$X_3 = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3x_2}{8} - \frac{x_5}{4} + \frac{x_6}{8} \quad (3)$$

$$X_4 = \frac{69}{4} + \frac{3x_2}{16} + \frac{5x_6}{8} - \frac{x_6}{16} \quad (4)$$

- ► The current solution is (33/4, 0, 3/2, 69/4, 0, 0) with the objective value 111/4
- ▶ Next we increase x_2 by substituting it with x_3

$$Z = \frac{111}{4} + \frac{x_2}{16} - \frac{x_6}{8} - \frac{11x_6}{16}$$
(1)

$$X_1 = \frac{33}{4} - \frac{x_2}{16} + \frac{x_5}{8} - \frac{5x_6}{16}$$
(2)

$$X_3 = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3x_2}{8} - \frac{x_5}{4} + \frac{x_6}{8}$$
(3)

$$X_4 = \frac{69}{4} + \frac{3x_2}{16} + \frac{5x_5}{8} - \frac{x_6}{16}$$
(4)

▶ The current solution is (8,4, 0, 18, 0, 0) with the objective value 28

$$Z = 28 - \frac{x_3}{6} - \frac{x_5}{6} - \frac{2x_6}{3}$$
 (1)

$$X_1 = 8 + \frac{x_6}{6} + \frac{x_5}{6} - \frac{x_6}{3}$$
 (2)

$$X_2 = 4 - \frac{8x_3}{3} - \frac{2x_5}{3} + \frac{x_6}{3}$$
 (3)

$$X_4 = 18 - \frac{x_3}{2} + \frac{x_5}{2}$$
 (4)

- ▶ The current solution is (8,4, 0, 18, 0, 0) with the objective value 28
- ▶ In the original linear program $x_1 = 8$, $x_2 = 4$ and $x_3 = 0$, with the objective value = 28

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- ▶ In the original linear program $x_1 = 8$, $x_2 = 4$ and $x_3 = 0$, with the objective value = 28
- The slack variables measure how much slack remains within each inequality
- All non-basic variables have a negative coefficient in the objective function
- ► The vertex with the maximum value is reached terminate

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 (4)

$$(N,B,A,b,c,v) = SIMPLEX (A,b,c);$$

convert to slack form (N: nonbasic variable, B: basic variable)

(N,B,A,b,c,v) = SIMPLEX (A,b,c);while some index $j \in N$ has $c_j > 0$ do

- convert to slack form (N: nonbasic variable, B: basic variable)
- find a nonbasic variable that can increase the objective value

end

```
 \begin{aligned} &(\mathsf{N},\mathsf{B},\mathsf{A},\mathsf{b},\mathsf{c},\mathsf{v}) = \mathsf{SIMPLEX}\; (\mathsf{A},\mathsf{b},\mathsf{c});\\ &\mathbf{while}\; some\; index\; j \in \mathit{N}\; has\; c_j > 0\; \mathbf{do}\\ &\mathbf{for}\; each\; i \in \mathit{B}\; \mathbf{do}\\ &\Delta_i = b_i/a_{ij};\\ &\mathbf{end} \end{aligned}
```

- convert to slack form (N: nonbasic variable, B: basic variable)
- find a nonbasic variable that can increase the objective value

end

```
(N,B,A,b,c,v) = SIMPLEX (A,b,c);

while some index j \in N has c_j > 0 do

for each i \in B do

\Delta_i = b_i/a_{ij};

end

choose l \in B that minimises \Delta_l;
```

- convert to slack form (N: nonbasic variable, B: basic variable)
- find a nonbasic variable that can increase the objective value
- find the tight basic variable

end

- convert to slack form (N: nonbasic variable, B: basic variable)
- find a nonbasic variable that can increase the objective value
- find the tight basic variable
- replace the nonbasic with the basic variable

```
(N,B,A,b,c,v) = SIMPLEX (A,b,c);
while some index j \in N has c_i > 0 do
     for each i \in B do
          \Delta_i = b_i/a_{ii};
     end
     choose I \in B that minimises \Delta_I;
     if \Delta_I == \inf then
          return "unbounded"
     else
          (N,B,A,b,c,v) = PIVOT(N,B,A,b,c,v,l,e)
    end
end
for i=1...n do
     if i \in B then
          \bar{x}_i = b_i
     else
          \bar{x}_i = 0
    end
end
return (\bar{x_1}, \bar{x_2}, ..., \bar{x_n})
```

- convert to slack form (N: nonbasic variable, B: basic variable)
- find a nonbasic variable that can increase the objective value
- find the tight basic variable
- replace the nonbasic with the basic variable
- find the values of the original variables
- return the values of original variables

Example

Solve the following linear program using the Simplex Algorithm

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximise} & 18x_1 + 12.5x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & x_1 + x_2 \leq 20 \\ & x_1 \leq 12 \\ & x_2 \leq 16 \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Further Reading

- Introduction to Algorithms
 T.H. Cormen, C.E. Leiserson, R.L. Rivest and C. Stein.
 MIT Press/McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 0-262-03293-7.
 - Chapter 27 Linear Programming