

Reformulate the problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & 2x_1 + 3|x_2 - @a@| \\ \text{subject to} & |x_1 + 2| + x_2 \leq 5, \end{array}$$

as a linear programming problem by replacing the argument  $x_k$  of each absolute value  $|x_k|$  as the difference of two new non-negative decision variables  $p_k$  and  $m_k$ , expressing its absolute value as their sum. Then put the problem into standard form, by introducing  $s$  slack variables  $x_k$  as needed, where  $k = n + 1 \dots n + s$  and  $n$  is the number of original decision variables. Please retain all constants in the cost function, so that the standard-form cost agrees with the cost in the original problem.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & [[\text{input:cost}]] \\ \text{subject to} & [[\text{input:constraint}]], \\ & [[\text{input:variables}]] \geq \mathbf{0}, \end{array}$$

Let  $x_1 + 2 = p_1 - m_1$  and replace  $|x_1 + 2|$  by  $p_1 + m_1$ . Let  $x_2 - @a@ = p_2 - m_2$ , replacing  $|x_2 - @a@|$  with  $p_2 + m_2$ . We obtain the equivalent linear programming problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & 2p_1 - 2m_1 + 3p_2 + 3m_2 - 4 \\ \text{subject to} & p_1 + m_1 + p_2 - m_2 + x_3 = @5 - a@, \\ & [p_1, m_1, p_2, m_2, x_3] \geq \mathbf{0}. \end{array}$$