

An introduction to optimization with Python

Whiskas cat food, shown below, is manufactured by Uncle Ben's. Uncle Ben's want to produce their cat food products as cheaply as possible while ensuring they meet the stated nutritional analysis requirements shown on the cans. Thus, they want to vary the quantities of each ingredient used (the main ingredients being chicken, beef, mutton, rice, wheat and gel) while still meeting their nutritional standards.

INGREDIENTS: Selected meat derived from chicken, beef and mutton; rice; wheat bran; gel; all essential vitamins and minerals, including thiamine and taurine. No preservatives.	NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS:	
	Minimum% Crude Protein	8.0
	Minimum% Crude Fat	6.0
	Maximum% Crude Fibre	2.0
	Max % Salt (Naturally Occurring)	0.4

The costs of the chicken, beef, and mutton are \$0.013, \$0.008 and \$0.010 respectively, while the costs of the rice, wheat and gel are \$0.002, \$0.005 and \$0.001 respectively. (All costs are per gram.) For this exercise we will ignore the vitamin and mineral ingredients. (Any costs for these are likely to be very small anyway.)

Each ingredient contributes to the total weight of protein, fat, fiber and salt in the final product, which must be 100 grams. The contributions (in grams) per gram of ingredient are given in the table below.

Component	Protein	Fat	Fibre	Salt
Chicken	0.1	0.08	0.001	0.002
Beef	0.2	0.1	0.005	0.005
Mutton	0.15	0.11	0.003	0.007
Rice	0.0	0.01	0.1	0.008
Wheat bran	0.04	0.01	0.15	0.0
Gel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Give the amount of each ingredient in the can, so that the cost is minimized, while respecting the nutritional requirements.

Hint 1 : This is a linear programming problem, try to put in LP equations the problem.

Hint 2 : There are several linear solvers in Python, you can have a look at <https://realpython.com/linear-programming-python/>