



JOHNS HOPKINS

WHITING SCHOOL  
*of* ENGINEERING

# Algorithms for Data Science

Optimization: Linear Programming

# Introduction to Linear Programming

Linear programming (LP) is the process of optimizing a linear objective function subject to a set of linear constraints.

## Standard Form:

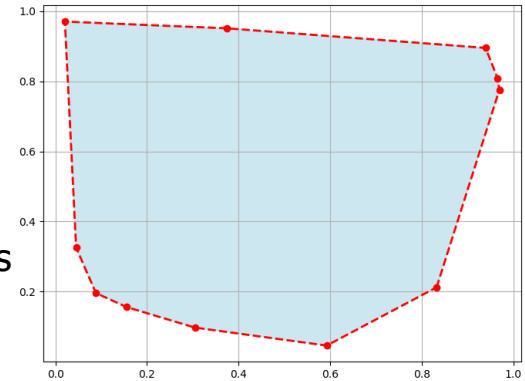
Maximize or Minimize  $c^T x$  s.t.  $Ax \leq b, x \geq 0$

## Components:

$c^T x$  Linear objective function to be maximized or minimized.

$Ax \leq b$  Linear constraints representing limits on resources or conditions

$x \geq 0$  Non-negativity constraints on decision variables.



**LP problems have a feasible region,  
and the optimal solution lies at one of its vertices.**

# Graphical Method (Two Variables)

The graphical method solves linear programming problems with two variables by visualizing the feasible region and objective function.

## Steps:

1. Plot the constraints to define the feasible region.
2. Overlay the objective function as contour lines.
3. Identify the optimal solution at a vertex of the feasible region.

## Example:

$$\text{Maximize } z = 3x_1 + 5x_2$$

S.t.

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 8$$

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 12$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$

# Graphical Method (Solved)

## Example:

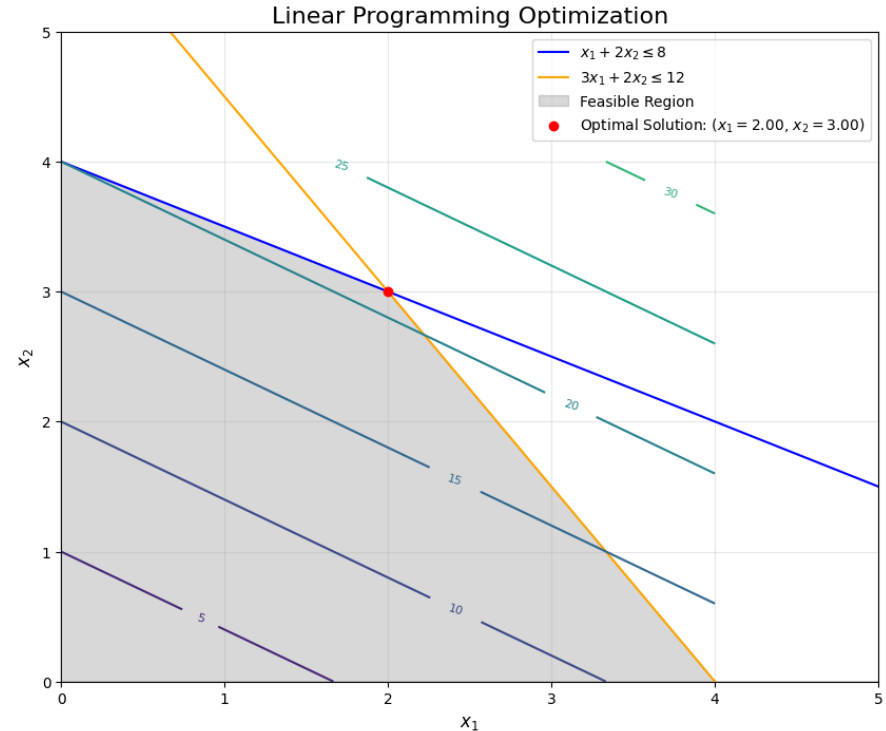
$$\text{Maximize } z = 3x_1 + 5x_2$$

S.t.

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 8$$

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 12$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$



# Simplex Algorithm

A systematic method for solving LP problems by iterating over the vertices of the feasible region that guarantees an optimal solution for feasible LP problems.

## Algorithm Steps

1. Initialization: Identify a starting vertex.
2. Pivoting: Move to an adjacent vertex to improve solution.
  1. Evaluate reduced cost for each variable.
  2. Select entering and leaving variables.
  3. Update the solution by solving a linear system.
3. Optimality Check

$$O(mn)$$

$$O(mn)$$

$$O(m)$$

$$O(m^2)$$

$$O(m)$$

$O(2^n)$  per pivot

Total Complexity  $O(2^n \cdot m^2)$

# Simplex Algorithm Example

**Example:**

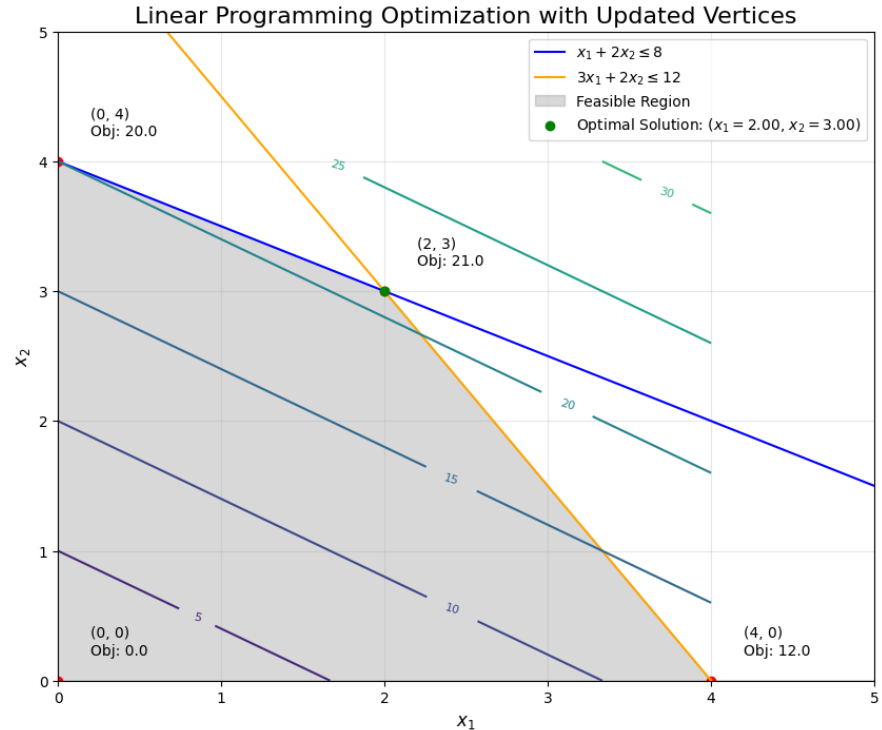
$$\text{Maximize } z = 3x_1 + 5x_2$$

S.t.

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 8$$

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 12$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$



# LP in Python

## Example:

$$\text{Maximize } z = 3x_1 + 5x_2$$

S.t.

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 8$$

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 12$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$

```
from scipy.optimize import linprog

# Coefficients of the objective function
c = [-3, -5] # Negative for maximization

# Coefficients of the constraints
A = [[1, 2], [3, 2]]
b = [8, 12]

# Bounds for variables
x_bounds = [(0, None), (0, None)]

# Solve LP problem
result = linprog(c, A_ub=A, b_ub=b,
                 bounds=x_bounds, method='simplex')

# Print results
print("Optimal Value:", -result.fun) # Flip the
sign back for maximization
print("Optimal Solution:", result.x)
```



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