# Branch & Bound and Knapsack Lab ¶

#### **Objectives**

- · Preform the branch and bound algorithm
- Apply branch and bound to the knapsack problem
- · Understand the geometry of the branch and bound algorithm

**Brief description:** In this lab, we will try solving an example of a knapsack problem with the branch-and-bound algorithm. We will also see how adding a cutting plane helps in reducing the computation time and effort of the algorithm. Lastly, we will explore the geometry of the branch and bound algorithm.

```
In [1]: # imports -- don't forget to run this cell
import pandas as pd
import gilp
from gilp.visualize import feasible_integer_pts
from ortools.linear_solver import pywraplp as OR
```

#### Part 1: Branch and Bound Algorithm

Recall that the branch and bound algorithm (in addition to the simplex method) allows us to solve integer programs. Before applying the branch and bound algorithm to the knapsack problem, we will begin by reviewing some core ideas. Furthermore, we will identify a helpful property that will make branch and bound terminate quicker later in the lab!

**Q1:** What are the different ways a node can be fathomed during the branch and bound algorithm? Describe each.

**A:** When the output of the LP with linear relaxation is noninteger and worse than or equal to the best IP feasible solution already found. You can stop branching if there is no feasible LP solution at the node or if a IP solution is found.

**Q2:** Suppose you have a maximization integer program and you solve its linear program relaxation. What does the LP-relaxation optimal value tell you about the IP optimal value? What if it is a minimization problem?

**A:** In maximization, we know that the LP optimal value >= IP optimal value, therefore the LP with linear relaxation is an upper bound for the IP. In minimization, we know that the LP optimal value <= IP optimal value, therefore the LP with linear relaxation is a lower bound for the IP.

**Q3:** Assume you have a maximization integer program with all integral coefficients in the objective function. Now, suppose you are running the branch and bound algorithm and come across a node with an optimal value of 44.5. The current incumbent is 44. Can you fathom this node? Why or why not?

**A:** You can fathom this node since this gives an upper bound for the IP of <=44.5, or in other words, <= 44, which we already have found, so we can fathom the node since we only want to search nodes with possible IP values of 45 or greater.

**Q4:** If the optimal solution to the LP relaxation of the original program is integer, then you have found an optimal solution to your integer program. Explain why this is true.

**A:** Assume maximization. The solutoin in the LP optimal solution and a feasible solution to the IP, so LP objective value <= IP objective value. Inversely, the optimal LP solution serves as an upper bound to the optimal IP solution, since the IP is more constrained, therefore IP objective value <= LP objective value. The only way for these 2 inequalities to hold is if LP objective value = IP objective value.

Q5: If the LP is infeasible, then the IP is infeasible. Explain why this is true.

**A:** The IP is the same input as the LP except with more constraints. Therefore if the program with less constraints is infeasible, the program with more constraints is infeasible, so if the LP is infeasible the IP must also be infeasible.

The next questions ask about the following branch and bound tree. If the solution was not integral, the fractional  $x_i$  that was used to branch is given. If the solution was integral, it is denoted *INT*. In the current iteration of branch and bound, you are looking at the node with the \*.



**Q6:** Can you determine if the integer program for this branch and bound tree is a minimization or maximixation problem? If so, which is it?

A: Minimization because when constraints are added the objective value decreases

Hint: For **Q7-8**, you can assume integral coefficients in the objective function.

**Q7:** Is the current node (marked  $z^*$ ) fathomed? Why or why not? If not, what additional constraints should be imposed for each of the next two nodes?

**A:** Not fathomed because the objective value implies a lower bound for the IP objective value of 16.3, which means we could still find a IP solution with objective value >= 16.3, and the best we have is 20 so we sould continue to branch. One constraint will be x = 0 and the other x >= 1

**Q8:** Consider the nodes under the current node (where z=16.3). What do you know about the optimal value of these nodes? Why?

**A:** These nodes' optimal value will be at least equal to 16.3 if it is an LP and at least equal to 17 if the resulting solution is a feasible IP

### Part 2: The Knapsack Problem

In this lab, you will solve an integer program by branch and bound. The integer program to be solved will be a knapsack problem.

**Knapsack Problem:** We are given a collection of n items, where each item  $i=1,\ldots,n$  has a weight  $w_i$  and a value  $v_i$ . In addition, there is a given capacity W, and the aim is to select a maximum value subset of items that has a total weight at most W. Note that each item can be brought at most once.

max 
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} v_i x_i$$
s.t. 
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i \le W$$

$$0 \le x_i \le 1, \text{ integer, } i = 1, \dots, n$$

Consider the following data which we import from a CSV file:

value weight

Out[2]:

		- 0
item		
1	50	10
2	30	12
3	24	10
4	14	7
5	12	6
6	10	7
7	40	30

and W = 18.

**Q9:** Are there any items we can remove from our input to simplify this problem? Why? If so, replace index with the item number that can be removed in the code below. Hint: how many of each item could we possibly take?

**A:** we can remove item 7 because it's weight is greater than the capacity, so we can never take 7 since we must take a whole item (no fractions)

```
In [3]: # TODO: replace index
data = data.drop(7)
```

**Q10:** If we remove item 7 from the knapsack, it does not change the optimal solution to the integer program. Explain why.

**A:** Since the program is constrained to all integers, 7 can at most be used 0 times, therefore it does not affect the optimal solution to the integer program.

**Q11:** Consider removing items i such that  $w_i > W$  from a knapsack input. How does the LP relaxation's optimal value change?

**A:** When removing 7, the LP will have less feasible solutions, and the objective values will be at best equal to the objective values before removal.

In Q10-11, you should have found that removing these items removes feasible solutions from the linear program but does not change the integer program. This is desirable as the gap between the optimal IP and LP values can become smaller. By adding this step, branch and bound may terminate sooner.

Recall that a branch and bound node can be fathomed if its bound is no better than the value of the best feasible integer solution found thus far. Hence, it helps to have a good feasible integer solution as quickly as possible (so that we stop needless work). To do this, we can first try to construct a good feasible integer solution by a reasonable heuristic algorithm before starting to run the branch and bound procedure.

In designing a heuristic for the knapsack problem, it is helpful to think about the value per unit weight for each item. We compute this value in the table below.

```
In [4]: data['value per unit weight'] = (data['value'] / data['weight']).round(2
)
data
```

#### Out[4]:

item			
1	50	10	5.00
2	30	12	2.50
3	24	10	2.40
4	14	7	2.00
5	12	6	2.00
6	10	7	1.43

value weight value per unit weight

**Q12:** Design a reasonable heuristic for the knapsack problem. Note a heuristic aims to find a decent solution to the problem (but is not necessarily optimal).

**A:** Order items starting with the best weight per unit and process items in decreasing order as long as you stay within capacity constraints. Break ties by adding the higher value item.

Q13: Run your heuristic on the data above to compute a good feasible integer solution. Your heuristic should generate a feasible solution with a value of 64 or better. If it does not, try a different heuristic (or talk to your TA!)

**A:** Items: 1 and 4. 10 + 7 = 17 < 18. Our objective value is 64

We will now use the branch and bound algorithm to solve this knapsack problem! First, let us define a mathematical model for the linear relaxation of the knapsack problem.

Q14: Complete the model below.

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```
In [16]: def Knapsack(table, capacity, integer = False):
              """Model for solving the Knapsack problem.
             Args:
                 table (pd.DataFrame): A table indexd by items with a column for
          value and weight
                 capcity (int): An integer-capacity for the knapsack
                 integer (bool): True if the variables should be integer. False o
         therwise.
             ITEMS = list(table.index)
                                              # set of items
                                             # value for each item
             v = table.to_dict()['value']
             w = table.to_dict()['weight'] # weight for each item
             W = capacity
                                               # capacity of the knapsack
             # define model
             m = OR.Solver('knapsack', OR.Solver.CBC MIXED INTEGER PROGRAMMING)
             # decision variables
             x = \{ \}
             for i in ITEMS:
                 if integer:
                     x[i] = m.IntVar(0, 1, 'x_{d'} % (i))
                 else:
                     x[i] = m.NumVar(0, 1, 'x %d' % (i))
             # define objective function here
             m.Maximize(sum(v[i]*x[i] for i in ITEMS))
             # TODO: Add a constraint that enforces that weight must not exceed c
         apacity
             # recall that we add constraints to the model using m.Add()
             m.Add(sum(w[i]*x[i] for i in ITEMS) <= W)</pre>
             return (m, x) # return the model and the decision variables
In [17]: # You do not need to do anything with this cell but make sure you run i
         t!
         def solve(m):
             """Used to solve a model m."""
             m.Solve()
```

```
till [17]: # Total do Not Need to do anything with this cell but make sure you full I

t!

def solve(m):
    """Used to solve a model m."""
    m.Solve()

    print('Objective =', m.Objective().Value())
    print('iterations :', m.iterations())
    print('branch-and-bound nodes :',m.nodes())

    return ({var.name() : var.solution_value() for var in m.variables ()})
```

We can now create a linear relaxation of our knapsack problem. Now, m represents our model and x represents our decision variables.

```
In [18]: m, x = Knapsack(data, 18)
```

We can use the next line to solve the model and output the solution

Q15: How does this optimal value compare to the value you found using the heuristic integer solution?

**A:** We used a heuristic for the IP that found a feasible IP solution of using items 1 and 4 with objective value 64 but the LP found a solution of using item 1 and 2/3 of item 2 to get an objective value of 70. The algorithm found a higher objective value but it was not a feasible integer solution.

**Q16:** Should this node be fathomed? If not, what variable should be branched on and what additional constraints should be imposed for each of the next two nodes?

**A:** It should not be fathomed because our only feasible LP is objective value 64 but this tells us there exists branced solutions <= 70 which includes values >64 so we should branch. Furthermore, x2 is noninteger so we have a node that we can add constraints to.

After constructing the linear relaxation model using Knapsack(data1, 18) we can add additional constraints. For example, we can add the constraint  $x_2 \le 0$  and solve it as follows:

**NOTE:** The line m, x = Knapsack(data1, 18) resets the model m to the LP relaxation. All constraints from branching have to be added each time.

Q17: Use the following cell to compute the optimal value for the other node you found in Q16.

**Q18:** What was the optimal value? Can this node be fathomed? Why? (Hint: In **Q13**, you found a feasible integer solution with value 64.)

**A:** 60, so this node can be fathomed since our heuristic gave us a feasible integer solution of 64 that is better than this LP solution so we can stop branching since all branched nodes will have values <= 60

If we continue running the branch and bound algorithm, we will eventually reach the branch and bound tree below where the  $z^*$  indictes the current node we are looking at.



**Q19:** The node with z=64.857 was fathomed. Why are we allowed to fathom this node? (Hint: think back to **Q3**)

**A:** We have a feasible IP solution of 64 so we are only interested in nodes that can possibly result in IP solutions > 64. However, this node gives us an upper bound that all branched solutions will be <= 64.857 meaning <=64 since we are only interested in IP solutions. We already have a feasible IP solution of 64 so we don't need to explore this node.

**Q20:** Finish running branch and bound to find the optimal integer solution. Use a separate cell for each node you solve and indicate if the node was fathomed with a comment. (Hint: Don't forget to include the constraints further up in the branch and bound tree.)

```
In [23]: # Template
         m, x = Knapsack(data, 18)
         # Add constraints here
         m.Add(x[2] \le 0)
         m.Add(x[3] \ll 0)
         m.Add(x[4] >= 1)
         m.Add(x[5] \le 0)
         m.Add(x[6] \le 0)
         solve(m)
         # fathomed?
         #yes - Integer output
         Objective = 64.0
         iterations : 0
         branch-and-bound nodes : 0
Out[23]: {'x_1': 1.0, 'x_2': 0.0, 'x_3': 0.0, 'x_4': 1.0, 'x_5': 0.0, 'x_6': 0.
In [24]: # Template
         m, x = Knapsack(data, 18)
         # Add constraints here
         m.Add(x[2] \le 0)
         m.Add(x[3] \le 0)
         m.Add(x[4] >= 1)
         m.Add(x[5] \le 0)
         m.Add(x[6] >= 1)
         solve(m)
         #fathomed?
          \#yes - 44 < 64
         Objective = 44.0
         iterations : 0
         branch-and-bound nodes : 0
Out[24]: {'x 1': 0.4, 'x 2': 0.0, 'x 3': 0.0, 'x 4': 1.0, 'x 5': 0.0, 'x 6': 1.
         0}
In [ ]:
```

A: The optimal solution is 64, with items 1 and 4, matching our heuristic

Q21: How many nodes did you have to explore while running the branch and bound algorithm?

A: 11, (2 additional from graph)

In the next section, we will think about additional constraints we can add to make running branch and bound quicker.

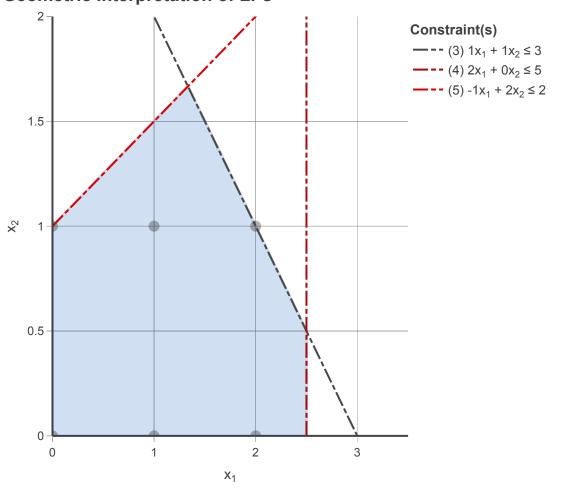
#### Part 3: Cutting Planes

In general, a cutting plane is an additional constraint we can add to an integer program's linear relaxation that removes feasible linear solutions but does not remove any integer feasible solutions. This is very useful when solving integer programs! Recall many of the problems we have learned in class have something we call the "integrality property". This is useful because it allows us to ignore the integrality constraint since we are garunteed to reach an integral solution. By cleverly adding cutting planes, we strive to remove feasible linear solutions (without removing any integer feasible solutions) such that the optimal solution to the linear relaxation is integral!

Conisder an integer program whose linear program releaxation is

max 
$$2x_1 + x_2$$
  
s.t.  $x_1 + x_2 \le 3$   
 $2x_1 \le 5$   
 $-x_1 + 2x_2 \le 2$   
 $x_1, x_2 \ge 0$ 

We can define this linear program and then visualize its feasible region. The integer points have been highlighted.



**Q22:** List every feasible solution to the integer program.

**A:** (0,0) with Obj value 0

(0,1) with Obj value 1

(1,0) with Obj value 2

(1,1) with Obj value 3

(2,0) with Obj value 4

(2,1) with Obj value 5

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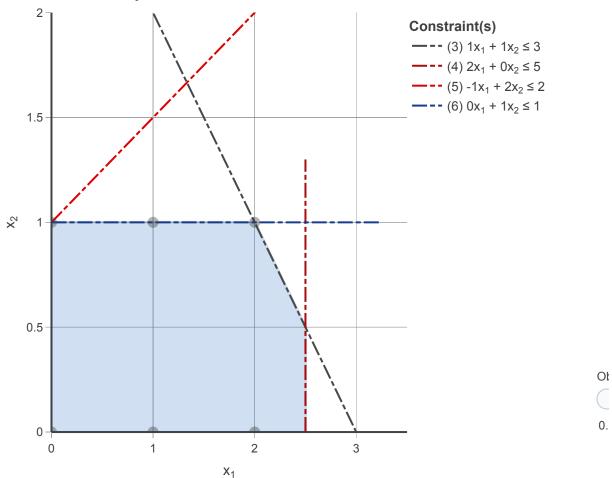
0.

**Q23:** Is the constraint  $x_2 \le 1$  a cutting plane? Why? (Hint: Would any feasible integer points become infeasible? What about feasible linear points?)

**A:** Yes it is a cutting plane because it cuts the LP feasible region, making some LP solutions no longer feasible while maintaining the IP feasible region.

Let's add this cutting plane to the LP relaxation!

#### **Geometric Interpretation of LPs**



**Q24:** Is the constraint  $x_1 \le 3$  a cutting plane? Why?

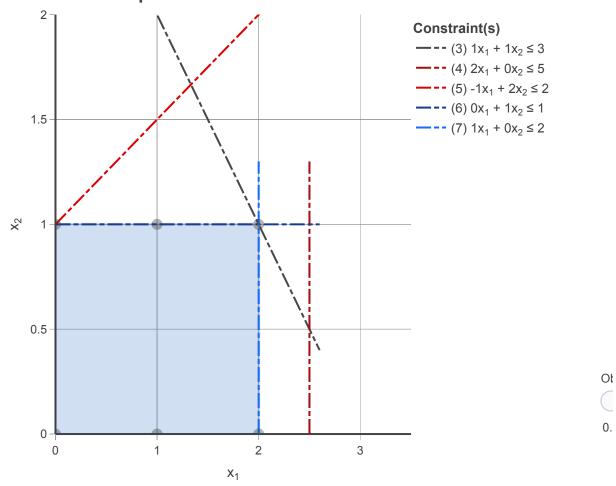
A: This is not a cutting plane because the LP feasible region is unaffected

Q25: Can you provide another cutting plane? If so, what is it?

**A:** x1 <= 2

Let's look at the feasible region after adding the cutting plane from **Q23** and one of the possible answers from **Q25**. Notice the optimal solution to the LP relaxation is now integral!

#### **Geometric Interpretation of LPs**



Let's try applying what we know about cutting planes to the knapsack problem! Again, recall our input was W=18 and:

In [28]: data

Out[28]:

	value	weight	value per unit weight
item			
1	50	10	5.00
2	30	12	2.50
3	24	10	2.40
4	14	7	2.00
5	12	6	2.00
6	10	7	1.43

**Q26:** Look at items 1, 2, and 3. How many of these items can we take simultaneously? Can you write a new constraint to capture this? If so, please provide it.

**A:** 
$$x1 + x2 + x3 <= 1$$

**Q27:** Is the constraint you found in **Q26** a cutting plane? If so, provide a feasible solution to the linear program relaxation that is no longer feasible (i.e. a point the constraint *cuts off*).

**A:** Yes because it removes feasible solutions from the LP region, such as x1 = 1 and x2 = 2/3. Also, the IP feasible region is maintained

**Q28:** Provide another cutting plane involving items 4,5 and 6 for this integer program. Explain how you derived it.

**A:** 
$$x4 + x5 + x6 \le 2$$

**Q29:** Add the cutting planes from **Q26** and **Q28** to the model and solve it. You should get a solution in which we take items 1 and 4 and  $\frac{1}{6}$  of item 5 with an objective value of 66.

Let's take a moment to pause and reflect on what we are doing. Recall from **Q9-11** that we dropped item 7 becuase its weight was greater than the capcity of the knapsack. Essentially we added the constraint  $x_7 \le 0$ . This constraint was a cutting plane! It eliminated some linear feasible solutions but no integer ones. By adding these two new cutting planes, we can get branch and bound to terminate earlier yet again! So far, we have generated cutting planes by inspection. However, there are more algorithmic ways to identify them (which we will ignore for now).

If we continue running the branch and bound algorithm, we will eventually reach the branch and bound tree below where the  $z^*$  indictes the current node we are looking at.



NOTE: Do not forget about the feasible integer solution our heuristic gave us with value 64.

**Q30** Finish running branch and bound to find the optimal integer solution. Use a separate cell for each node you solve and indicate if the node was fathomed with a comment. Hint: Don't forget the cutting plane constraints should be included in every node of the branch and bound tree.

```
In [31]: # Template
         m, x = Knapsack(data, 18)
         # Add constraints here
         m.Add(x[1] + x[2] + x[3] \le 1)
         m.Add(x[4] + x[5] + x[6] \le 2)
         m.Add(x[5] >= 1)
         m.Add(x[4] \le 0)
         solve(m)
         # fathomed?
          #yes - 64 integer solution already found
         Objective = 64.85714285714286
         iterations : 0
         branch-and-bound nodes : 0
Out[31]: {'x 1': 1.0,
          'x 2': 0.0,
           'x_3': 0.0,
           'x_4': 0.0,
           'x_5': 1.0,
          'x_6': 0.28571428571428586}
In [32]: # Template
         m, x = Knapsack(data, 18)
         # Add constraints here
         m.Add(x[1] + x[2] + x[3] \le 1)
         m.Add(x[4] + x[5] + x[6] \le 2)
         m.Add(x[5] >= 1)
         m.Add(x[4] >= 1)
         solve(m)
         # fathomed?
         \#yes - 51 < 64
         Objective = 51.0
         iterations: 0
         branch-and-bound nodes : 0
Out[32]: {'x 1': 0.5, 'x 2': 0.0, 'x 3': 0.0, 'x 4': 1.0, 'x 5': 1.0, 'x 6': 0.
         0}
 In [ ]:
```

A: Both were fathomed, the optimal solution to the IP is objective value 64

**Q31:** Did you find the same optimal solution? How many nodes did you explore? How did this compare to the number you explored previously?

A: Yes optimal solution was 64 for both. We explored 7, which is less than 11

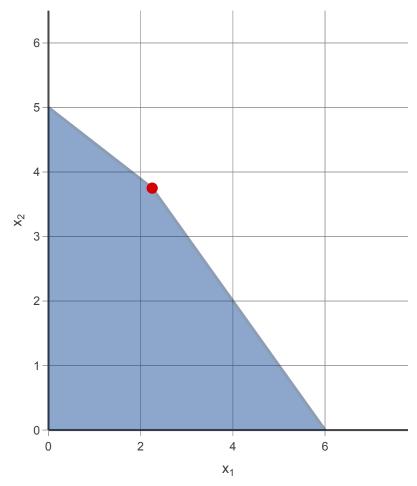
### Part 4: Geometry of Branch and Bound

Previously, we used the gilp package to viusualize the simplex algorithm but it also has the functionality to visualize branch and bound. We will give a quick overview of the tool. Similar to lp\_visual and simplex\_visual, the function bnb\_visual takes an LP and returns a visualization. It is assumed that every decision variable is constrained to be integer. Unlike previous visualizations, bnb\_visual returns a series of figures for each node of the branch and bound tree. Let's look at a small 2D example:

max 
$$5x_1 + 8x_2$$
  
s.t.  $x_1 + x_2 \le 6$   
 $5x_1 + 9x_2 \le 45$   
 $x_1, x_2 \ge 0$ , integral

```
In [33]: nodes = gilp.bnb_visual(gilp.examples.STANDARD_2D_IP)
In [35]: nodes[0].show()
```

### **Geometric Interpretation of LPs**



Ob 0.0 Run the cells above to generate a figure for each node and view the first node. At first, you will see the LP relaxation on the left and the root of the branch and bound tree on the right. The simplex path and isoprofit slider are also present.

**Q32:** Recall the root of a branch and bound tree is the unaltered LP relaxation. What is the optimal solution? (Hint: Use the objective slider and hover over extreme points).

A: The optimal solution is 41.25

**Q33:** Assume that we always choose the variable with the minimum index to branch on if there are multiple options. Write down (in full) each of the LPs we get after branching off the root node.

**A:** One LP will be 5x1+8x2  $x1+x2 \le 6$   $5x1+9x2 \le 45$   $x1,x2 \ge 0$ , x1<=2

Another will be 5x1+8x2  $x1+x2 \le 6$   $5x1+9x2 \le 45$   $x1,x2 \ge 0$ , x1>=3

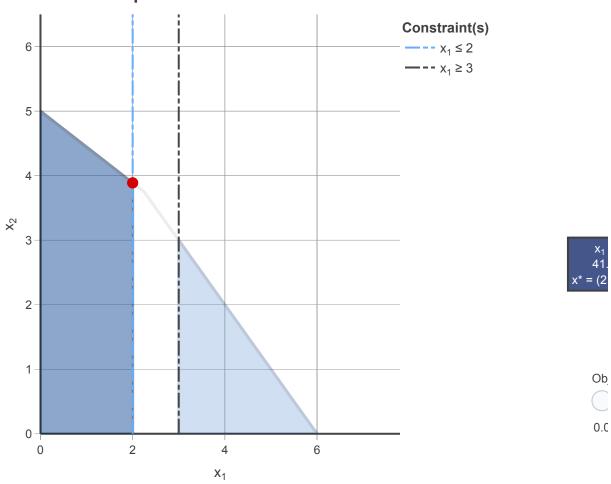
Q34: Draw the feasible region to each of the LPs from Q33 on the same picture.

**A:** The picture would have one feasible region with cutting plane at  $x1 \le 2$  and one region with cutting plane at  $x1 \ge 3$ 

Run the following cell to see if the picture you drew in Q34 was correct.

In [36]: nodes[1].show()

#### **Geometric Interpretation of LPs**



The outline of the original LP relaxation is still shown on the left. Now that we have eliminated some of the fractional feasible solutions, we now have 2 feasible regions to consider. The darker one is the feasible region associated with the current node which is also shaded darker in the branch and bound tree. The unexplored nodes in the branch and bound tree are not shaded in.

Q35: Which feasible solutions to the LP relaxation are removed by this branch?

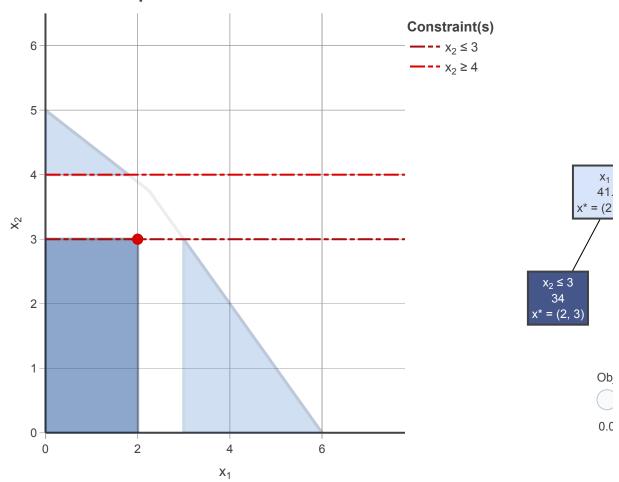
**A:** feasible solutions with x1 > 2

Q36: At the current (dark) node, what constraints will we add? How many feasible regions will the original LP relaxation be broken into?

**A:**  $x2 \le 3$  and  $x2 \ge 4$ 

In [37]: nodes[2].show()





Q37: What is the optimal solution at the current (dark) node? Do we have to further explore this branch? Explain.

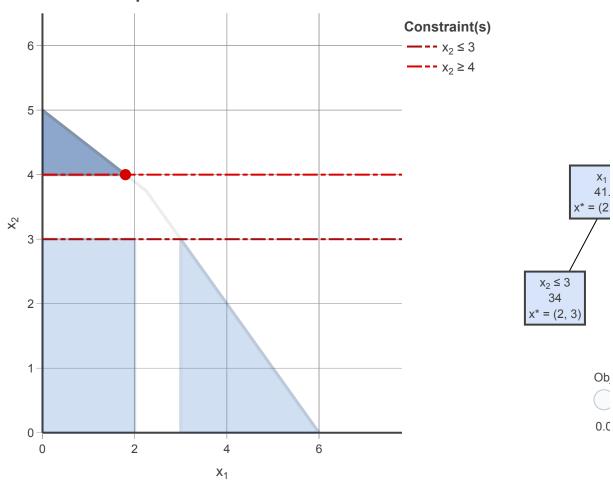
**A:** The optimal solution is x1 = 2 and x2 = 3 with objective value 34. We do not have to further explore since this is a feasible solution to the IP

**Q38:** Recall shaded nodes have been explored and the node shaded darker (and feasible region shaded darker) correspond to the current node and its feasible region. Nodes not shaded have not been explored. How many nodes have not yet been explored?

A: 2 nodes

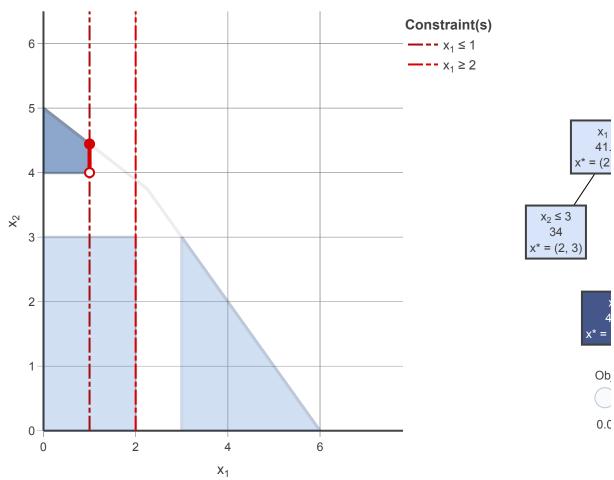
**Q39:** How many nodes have a degree of one in the branch and bound tree? (That is, they are only connected to one edge). These nodes are called leaf nodes. What is the relationship between the leaf nodes and the remaining feasible region?

A: 3, and the leaf nodes indicate the feasible regions in the graph



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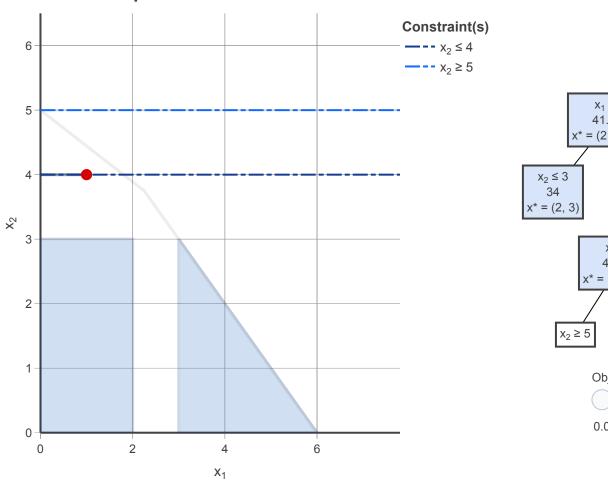


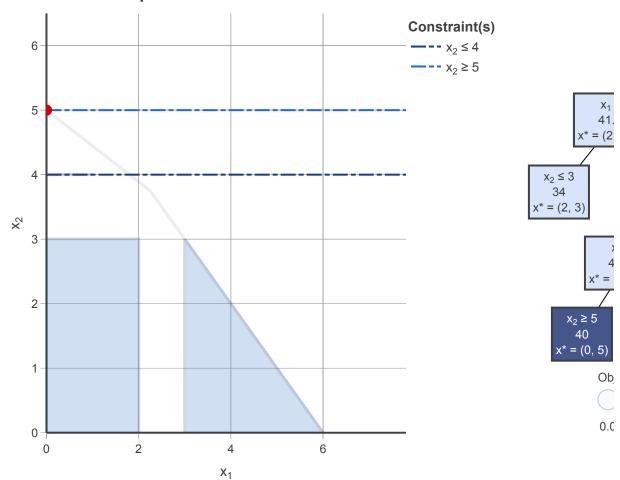


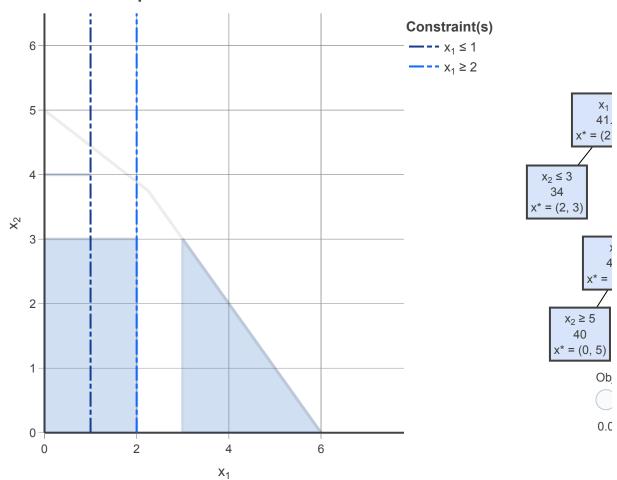
**Q40:** At the current (dark) node, we added the constraint  $x_1 \le 1$ . Why were the fractional solutions  $1 < x_1 < 2$  not eliminated for  $x_2 <= 3$ ?

**A:** Because we found a feasible integer solution when  $x2 \le 3$  so we stopped branching and adding leaf nodes, so the feasible region for  $x1 \le 2$  and  $x2 \le 3$  should no longer be reduced.

```
In [39]: # Show the next three iterations of the branch and bound algorithm
    nodes[5].show()
    nodes[6].show()
    nodes[7].show()
```







Q41: What constraints are enforced at the current (dark) node? Why are there no feasible solutions at this node?

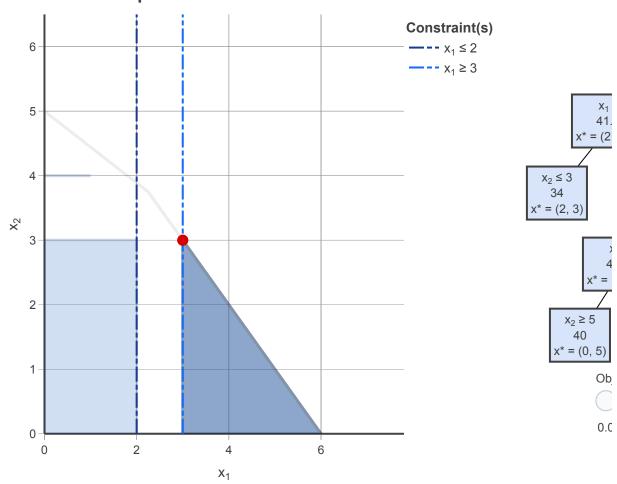
**A:** x1 <=2, x2 >= 4, and x1 >= 2, so there is no feasible solution since x2 must be 2, but we have already explored this and found x1 = 3.889 which does not obey the x2 >=4 constraint so there is no feasible solution

branch\_and\_bound\_lab

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In [40]: nodes[8].show()

### **Geometric Interpretation of LPs**



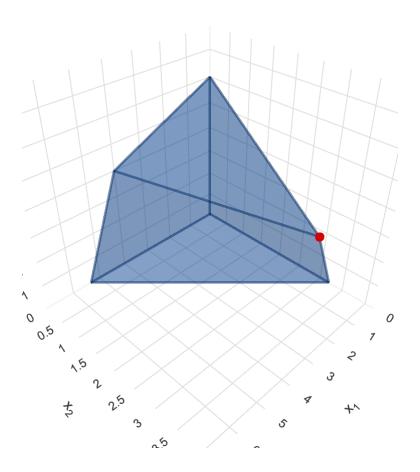
Q42: Are we done? If so, what nodes are fathomed and what is the optimal solution? Explain.

**A:** We are done because all leaves are integer or infeasible. All leaf nodes are fathomed, x1 = 0 x2 = 5 with objective value = 40 is the optimal solution

Let's look at branch and bound visualization for an integer program with 3 decision variables!

```
In [41]: nodes = gilp.bnb_visual(gilp.examples.VARIED_BRANCHING_3D_IP)
```

```
In [42]: # Look at the first 3 iterations
    nodes[0].show()
    nodes[1].show()
    nodes[2].show()
```



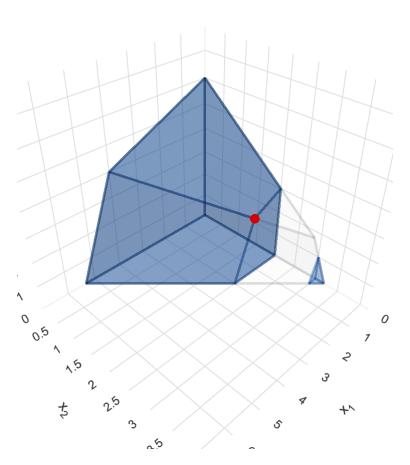


0.0

#### Constraint(s)

 $x_2 \le 2$ 

 $x_2 \ge 3$ 





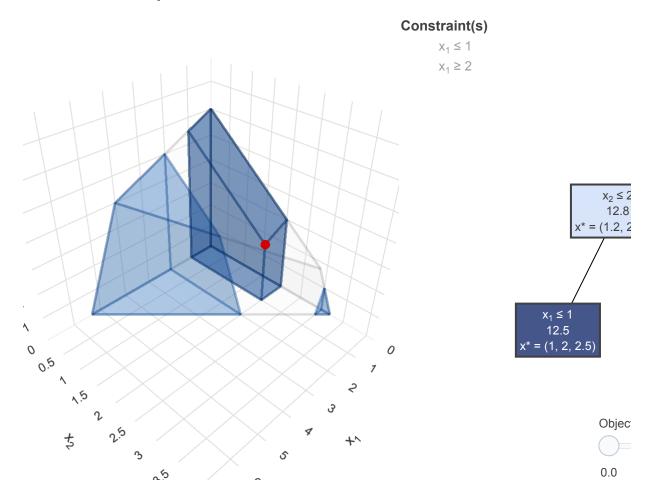




0.0

12/4/2020 branch\_and\_bound\_lab

## **Geometric Interpretation of LPs**

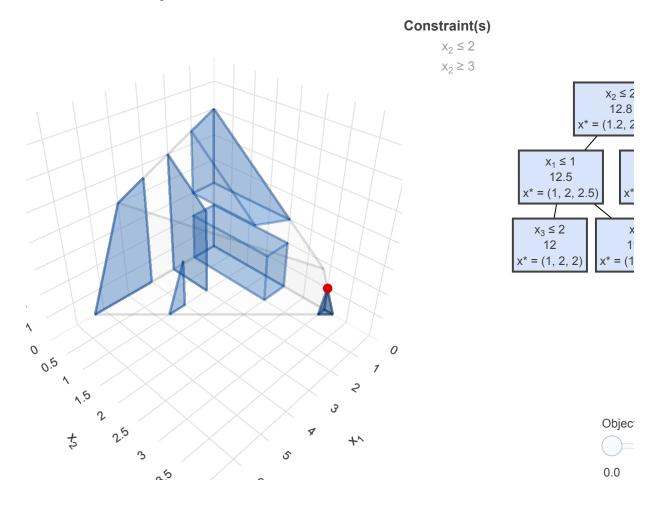


Let's fast-forward to the final iteration of the branch and bound algorithm.

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In [43]: nodes[-1].show()

#### **Geometric Interpretation of LPs**



**Q43:** Consider the feasible region that looks like a rectangular box with one corner point at the origin. What node does it correspond to in the tree? What is the optimal solution at that node?

A: This corresponds to the leaf node that is rightmost of the left side of the root node with optimal solution 12

**Q44:** How many branch and bound nodes did we explore? What was the optimal solution? How many branch and bound nodes would we have explored if we knew the value of the optimal solution before starting branch and bound?

**A:** We explored 13, and the optimal solution was 13. If we knew this previously we would have arrived at this node after 2 iterations.

### **Bonus: Branch and Bound for Knapsack**

Consider the following example:

item	value	weight
1	2	1
2	9	3
3	6	2

The linear program formulation will be:

max 
$$2x_1 + 9x_2 + 6x_3$$
  
s.t.  $1x_1 + 3x_2 + 2x_3 \le 10$   
 $x_1, x_2, x_3 \ge 0$ , integer

In gilp, we can define this lp as follows: