

# Convex Optimization

## Lecture 2: Linear Programming

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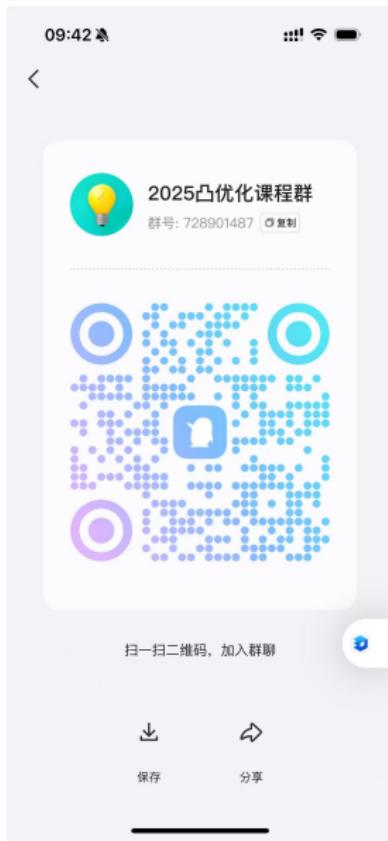
*Autumn Semester 2025*

# Outline

1 Linear Programming: the problem

2 Numerical Solution of LP

# QQ Group



# Linear Programming: the problem (1)

- Given following problem:
- An oil refinery produces two products: jet fuel and gasoline. The profit for the refinery is 0.10\$ per barrel for jet fuel and 0.20\$ per barrel for gasoline. The following conditions must be met.
  - ① Only 10,000 barrels of crude oil are available for processing;
  - ② Government contract requires at least 1,000 barrels of jet fuel;
  - ③ Private contract requires at least 2,000 barrels of gasoline;
  - ④ The delivery capacity of the truck fleet is 180,000 barrel-miles;
  - ⑤ The jet fuel is delivered to an airfield 10 miles from the refinery;
  - ⑥ The gasoline is transported 30 miles to the distributor.
- How to maximize the profit?
- $x_1$ : quantity of jet fuel;  $x_2$ : quantity of gasoline
- Target: maximize  $0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$

# Linear Programming: the problem (2)

- $x_1$ : quantity of jet fuel;  $x_2$ : quantity of gasoline
- Target: maximize  $0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$
- Formularize the conditions:
  - ① Only 10,000 barrels of crude oil are available for processing;
    - $x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000$
  - ② Government contract requires at least 1,000 barrels of jet fuel;
    - $x_1 \geq 1000$
  - ③ Private contract requires at least 2,000 barrels of gasoline;
    - $x_2 \geq 2000$

# Linear Programming: the problem (3)

- $x_1$ : quantity of jet fuel;  $x_2$ : quantity of gasoline
- Target: maximize  $0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$
- Conditions:
  - ①  $x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000$
  - ②  $x_1 \geq 1000$
  - ③  $x_2 \geq 2000$
- Formularize the conditions:
  - ④ The delivery capacity of the truck fleet is 180,000 barrel-miles;
  - ⑤ The jet fuel is delivered to an airfield 10 miles from the refinery;
  - ⑥ The gasoline is transported 30 miles to the distributor;
  - $10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000$

# Linear Programming: the complete model

- $x_1$ : quantity of jet fuel;  $x_2$ : quantity of gasoline
- Target: maximize  $0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$
- Conditions:
  - ①  $x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000$
  - ②  $x_1 \geq 1000$
  - ③  $x_2 \geq 2000$
  - ④  $10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000$
- The formal linear programming form:

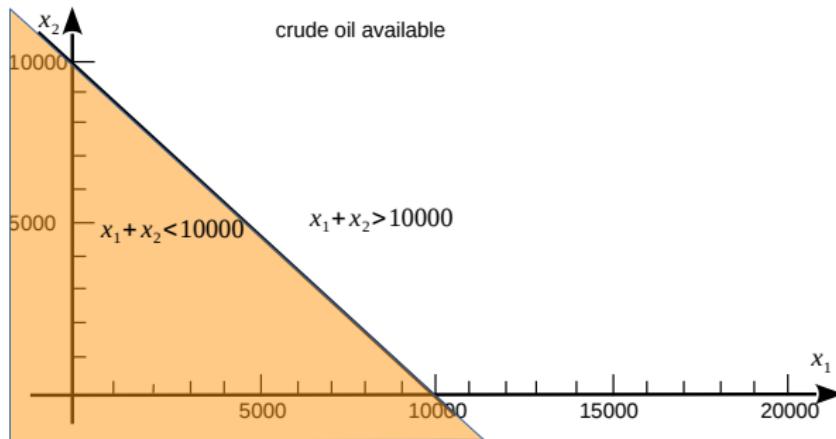
maximize  $0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$

subject to  $\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases}$  (1)

# Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (1)

maximize  $0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$

subject to  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{array} \right.$  (1)

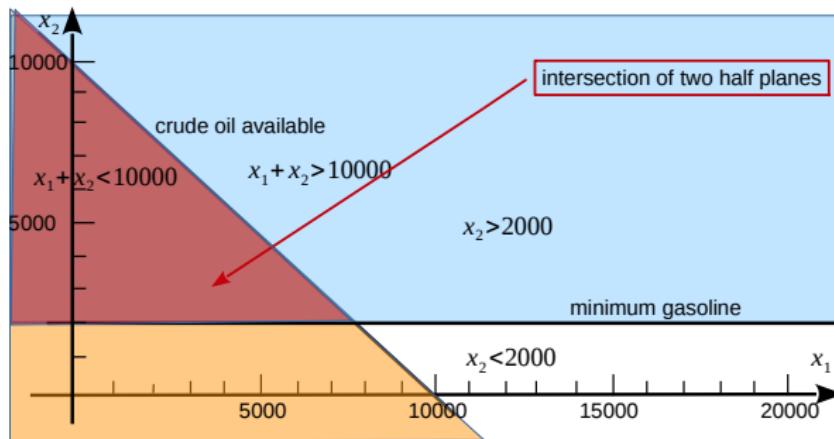


## Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (2)

$$\text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$$

subject to

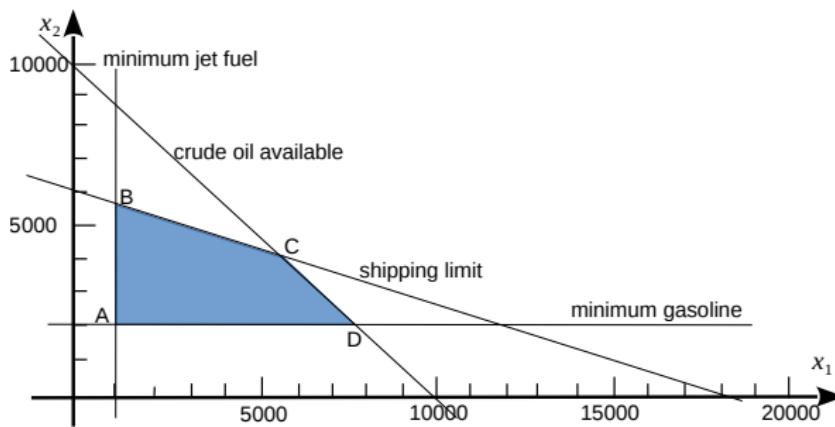
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$



## Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (3)

Max.  $0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$

subject to 
$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases}$$
 (1)

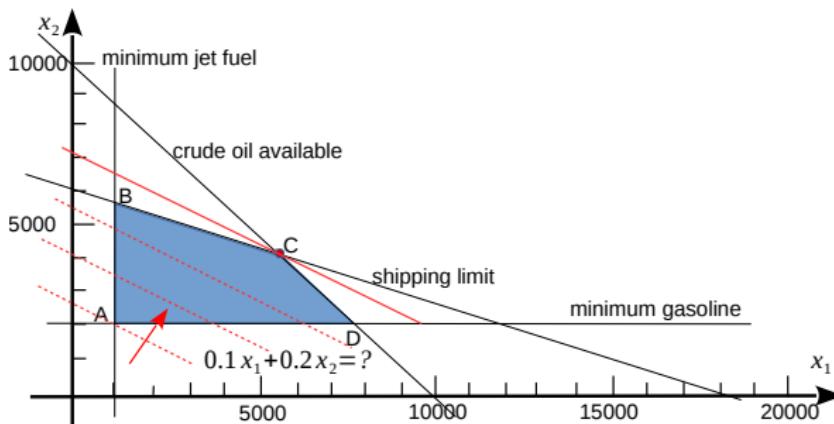


## Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (4)

$$\text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$$

subject to

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

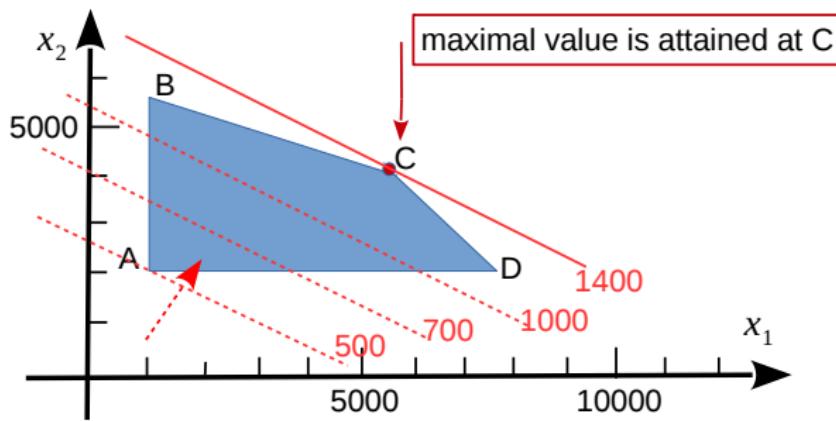


## Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (5)

$$\text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$$

subject to

$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$



# Observation (1): problem is linear

$$\text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$$

subject to 
$$\begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases}$$
 (1)

- Two parts: target function and constraints
  - ① All the constraints are linear inequations or equations (or both)
  - ② The target function is linear too!
- This class of problems are called **linear programming**
- Otherwise, it is called **non-linear programming**

# Observation (2): valid set forms a convex region (1)

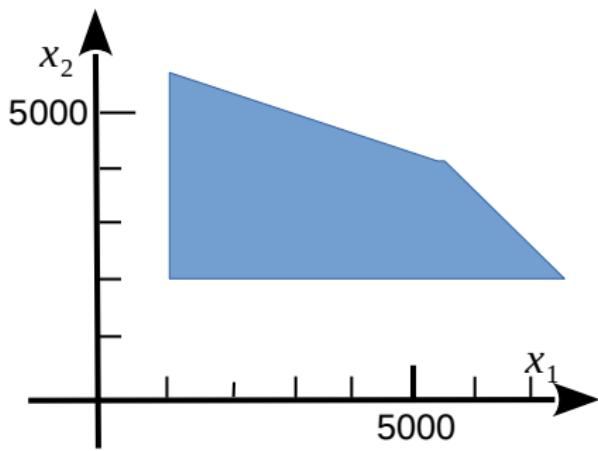
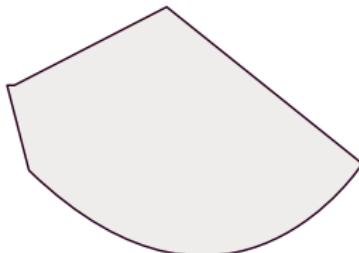
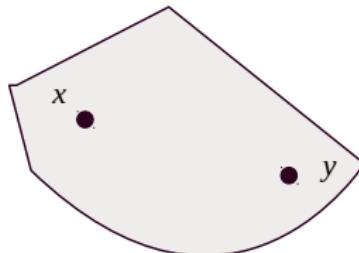
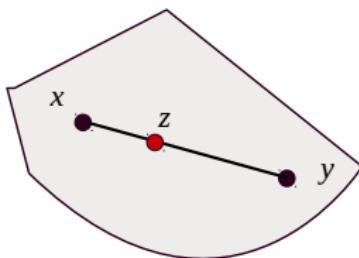


Figure: feasible set of Eqn. 1

# Convex set: the concept (2)

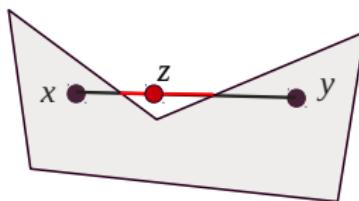


(a) Given a shape

(b) Select  $x, y$  randomly

$$z = \alpha \cdot x + (1 - \alpha) \cdot y$$

(c) Linear combination



$$z = \alpha \cdot x + (1 - \alpha) \cdot y$$

(d) non-convex case

# Convex set: verify your understanding

- Which is convex, which is not?



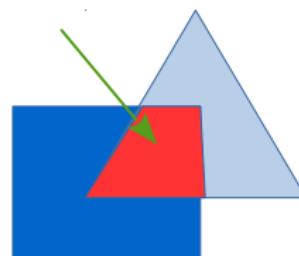
(a) Triangle



(b) Rectangle



(c) Pentagon



(d) Intersection

Figure: 2D shapes

# Convex set: verify your understanding

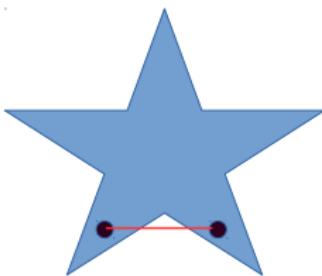
- Which is convex, which is not?



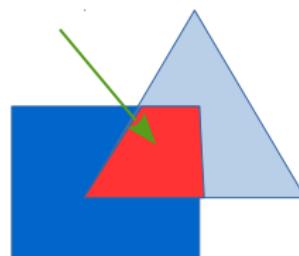
(a) Triangle: ✓



(b) Rectangle: ✓



(c) Pentagon: ✗

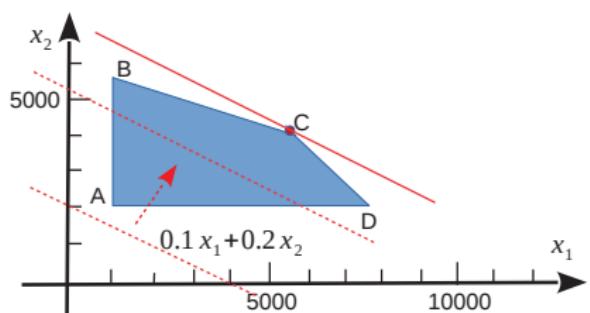


(d) Intersection: ✓

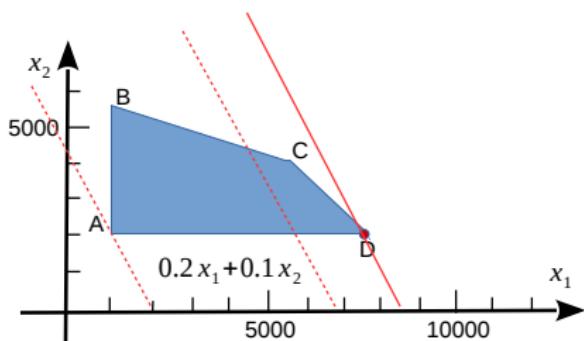
Figure: 2D shapes

## Observation (3): extremal value is attained at vertices

- Let's fix the feasible set, and try different target functions



(a) target:  $0.1x_1 + 0.2x_2$



(b) target:  $0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2$

- The optimal solution changes, but they are all located in vertices
- It is provable that extremal value is **ONLY attained at vertices**
- Solving the problem is to test different vertices for the best answers

# Simplex: searching extremal value over vertices

- Solution can be found by searching over the vertices
- This is the idea of classic **Simplex** method

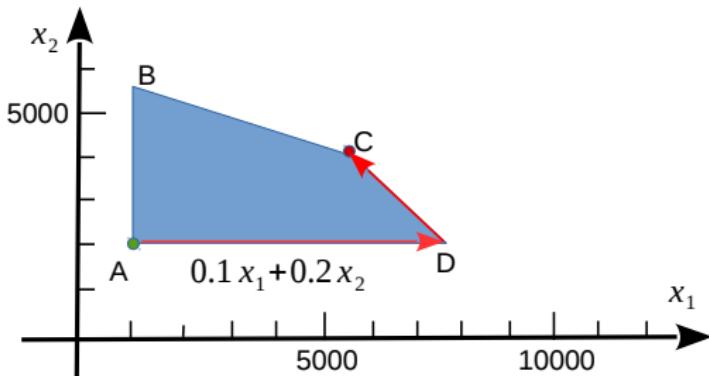
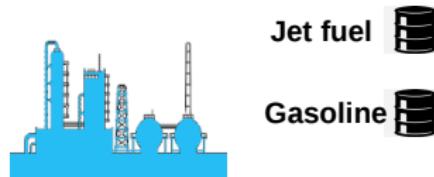


Figure: Nondegenerate jumping from one vertex to another for better solution

# Review on the whole flow



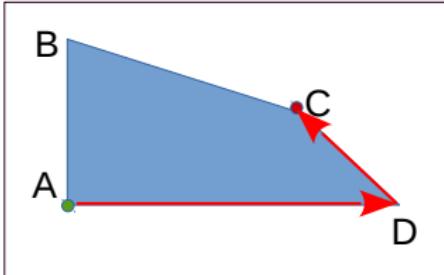
1. modeling

$$\max . 0.1*x_1 + 0.2*x_2$$

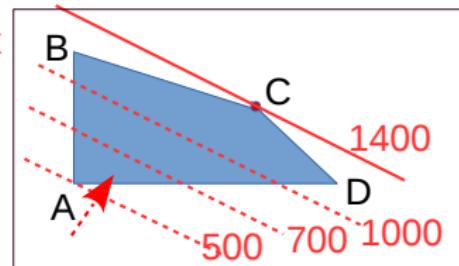
$$\text{sub. to } Ax \leq b$$

$$0 \leq x$$

2. solving model by graph



3. simplex



# Outline

1 Linear Programming: the problem

2 Numerical Solution of LP

# Scientists behind Linear Programming



(a) L. Kantorovich  
(1912 - 1986)



(b) G. Dantzig  
(1914 - 2005)



(c) J. V. Neumann  
(1903 - 1957)



(d) N. Karmarkar  
(1956 - )

- In the year of 1939, L. Kantorovich proposed LP
- In the year of 1947, G. Danzig invented “Simplex” method
- In the year of 1944, John V. Neumann proposed game theory
- In 1984, Narendra Karmarkar proposed “inner-point” method of LP
- “Inner-point” guarantees to solve LP in polynomial time complexity

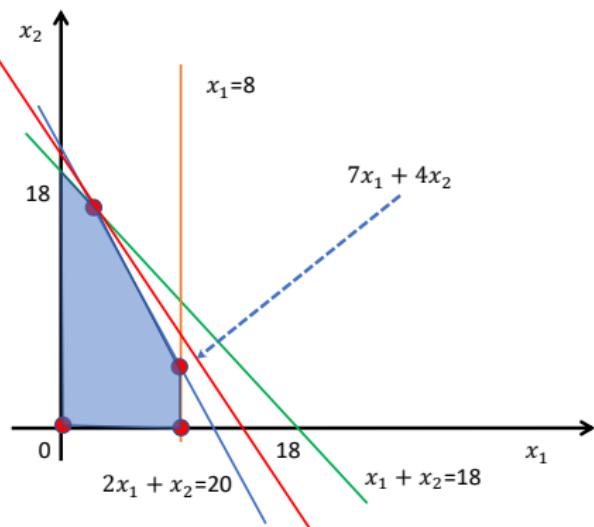
# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (1)

- In our opening example, there are only two unknowns  $x_1$  and  $x_2$
- The problem can be easily solved by graph
- In practice, there could be hundreds of unknowns
- Hundreds of linear constraints
- It is unrealistic to solve it by graph

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (2)

subject to

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 \leq 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 \leq 18 \\ x_1 \leq 8 \\ x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$



- First of all, it is not a linear equation problem
- We cannot solve it as the way of  $Ax = b$
- We introduce three slack variables for three inequations  $s_1, s_2$  and  $s_3$
- To convert them into equations

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (3)

- We introduce three slack variables for three inequations  $s_1$ ,  $s_2$  and  $s_3$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2 \\ \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2x_1 + x_2 + s_1 = 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 + s_2 = 18 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

- We introduce three slack variables for three inequations  $s_1$ ,  $s_2$  and  $s_3$
- Even for above problem, we cannot solve it by  $Ax=b$
- There are five variables and three equations
- We are going to address it in another way

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (4)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2 \\
 \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2x_1 + x_2 + s_1 = 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 + s_2 = 18 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \tag{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Given initially  $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0$
- If we want to maximize  $7x_1 + 4x_2$
- Increasing  $x_1$  is more profitable as its coefficient **7** is greater

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (5)

- If we want to maximize  $7x_1 + 4x_2$
- Increasing  $x_1$  is more profitable as its coefficient **7** is greater
- How much we could increase  $x_1$ ??

$$\text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + x_2 + s_1 = 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 + s_2 = 18 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

- $x_1$  is bounded by three constraints
- Let's look at the three constraints

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (6)

$$\text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + x_2 + s_1 = 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 + s_2 = 18 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

- $x_1$  is bounded by three constraints
  - Let's look at the three constraints
- ① For the 1st constraint,  $2x_1$  should be no greater than 20,  $x_1 \leq 10$
  - ② For the 2nd constraint,  $x_1$  should be no greater than 18,  $x_1 \leq 18$
  - ③ For the 3rd constraint,  $x_1$  should be no greater than 8,  $x_1 \leq 8$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (7)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2 \\
 \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2x_1 + x_2 + s_1 = 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 + s_2 = 18 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \quad (2)
 \end{aligned}$$

- ① For the 1st constraint,  $2x_1$  should be no greater than 20,  $x_1 \leq 10$
- ② For the 2nd constraint,  $x_1$  should be no greater than 18,  $x_1 \leq 18$
- ③ For the 3rd constraint,  $x_1$  should be no greater than 8,  $x_1 \leq 8$
- We can see  $x_1$  should be increased to 8 at most

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (8)

- With the 3rd constraint, we have  $x_1 = 8 - s_3$
- We plug this into the target and the other constraints

$$\text{Max. } 7(8 - s_3) + 4x_2$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} 2(8 - s_3) + x_2 + s_1 = 20 \\ (8 - s_3) + x_2 + s_2 = 18 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

↓

$$\text{Max. } 56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (9)

- With the 3rd constraint, we have  $x_1 = 8 - s_3$
- We plug this into the target and the other constraints

$$\text{Max. } 56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

- We look at the target  $56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3$
- Increasing  $s_3$  is not helpful
- Increasing  $x_2$  could make the target larger
- How much we can increase about  $x_2$ ?

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (10)

- We look at the target  $56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3$
- Increasing  $x_2$  could make the target larger
- How much we can increase about  $x_2$ ?
- We look at the three constraints

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3 \\ \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

- For the 1st constraint,  $x_2 \leq 4$
- For the 2nd constraint,  $x_2 \leq 10$
- For the 3rd constraint,  $x_2$  is not bounded

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (11)

- ① For the 1st constraint,  $x_2 \leq 4$
- ② For the 2nd constraint,  $x_2 \leq 10$
- ③ For the 3rd constraint,  $x_2$  is not bounded
- ④ We should consider the 1st constraint
- ⑤ Plug  $x_2 = 4 - s_1 + 2s_3$  into the target and the other constraints

Max.  $56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3$

sub. to 
$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (12)

- ① For the 1st constraint,  $x_2 \leq 4$
  - ② For the 2nd constraint,  $x_2 \leq 10$
  - ③ For the 3rd constraint,  $x_2$  is not bounded
- We should consider the 1st constraint
  - Plug  $x_2 = 4 - s_1 + 2s_3$  into the target and the other constraints

Max.  $56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3$

sub. to 
$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (13)

- We should consider the 1st constraint
- Plug  $x_2 = 4 - s_1 + 2s_3$  into the target and the other constraints

$$\text{Max. } 56 + 4(4 - s_1 + 2s_3) - 7s_3$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ (4 - s_1 + 2s_3) + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$



$$\text{Max. } 72 - 4s_1 + s_3$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (14)

- We should consider the 1st constraint
- Plug  $x_2 = 4 - s_1 + 2s_3$  into the target and the other constraints

$$\text{Max. } 72 - 4s_1 + s_3$$

sub. to 
$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

- Now let's look at target  $72 - 4s_1 + s_3$  again
- Increasing  $s_1$  do nothing good for us
- Increasing  $s_3$  will make the target larger

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (15)

- Now let's look at target  $72 - 4s_1 + s_3$  again
- Increasing  $s_1$  do nothing good for us
- Increasing  $s_3$  will make the target larger

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 72 - 4s_1 + s_3 \\ \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

- For the 1st constraint,  $-2s_3 \leq 4$  is not bounded
- For the 2nd constraint,  $s_3 \leq 6$
- For the 3rd constraint,  $s_3 \leq 8$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (16)

- ① For the 1st constraint,  $-2s_3 \leq 4$  is not bounded
- ② For the 2nd constraint,  $s_3 \leq 6$
- ③ For the 3rd constraint,  $s_3 \leq 8$
- Therefore, we should consider the 2nd constraint  $s_3 = 6 + s_1 - s_2$

$$\text{Max. } 72 - 4s_1 + s_3$$

sub. to

$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (17)

- Therefore, we should consider the 2nd constraint  $s_3 = 6 + s_1 - s_2$
- Plug  $s_3 = 6 + s_1 - s_2$  into the target and the other constraints

$$\text{Max. } 72 - 4s_1 + (6 + s_1 - s_2)$$

sub. to 
$$\begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2(6 + s_1 - s_2) = 4 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + (6 + s_1 - s_2) = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$



Max.  $78 - 3s_1 - s_2$

sub. to 
$$\begin{cases} x_2 - s_1 + 2s_2 = 16 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_1 - s_2 = 2 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (18)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Max. } 78 - 3s_1 - s_2 \\
 \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_2 - s_1 + 2s_2 = 16 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_1 - s_2 = 2 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \tag{5}
 \end{aligned}$$

- We look at the target  $78 - 3s_1 - s_2$  again
- Given  $s_1 \geq 0$  and  $s_2 \geq 0$
- There is no way to improve the target further

# Solve LP by Linear Transformations (19)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 78 - 3s_1 - s_2 \\ \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_2 - s_1 + 2s_2 = 16 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_1 - s_2 = 2 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

- The maximum is achieved when  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  is 0
- Plug  $s_1 = 0$  and  $s_2 = 0$  into the first two constraints
- We have  $x_1 = 2$ ,  $x_2 = 16$ , and  $s_3 = 6$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2 \\ \text{sub. to } & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2x_1 + x_2 + s_1 = 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 + s_2 = 18 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$