

Convex Optimization

Lecture 2: Linear Programming

Lecturer: *Dr.* Wan-Lei Zhao

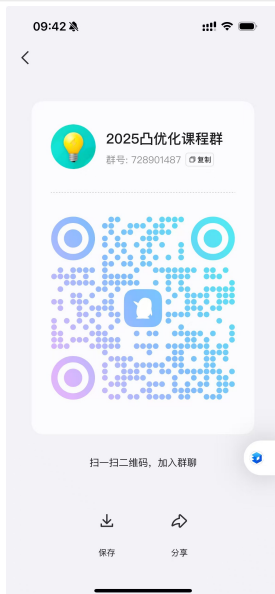
Autumn Semester 2025

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;
 - $10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000$

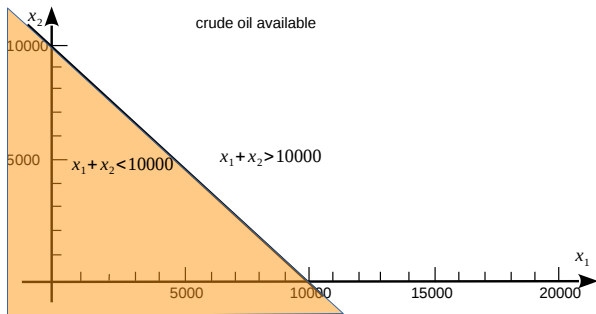
Linear Programming: the complete model

- 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:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{array} \right. \end{array} \quad (1)$$

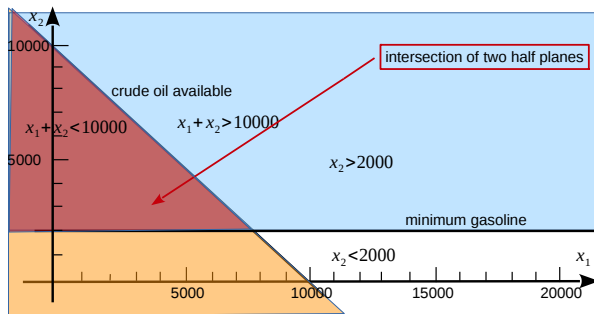
Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (1)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2 \\ & \text{subject to } \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$



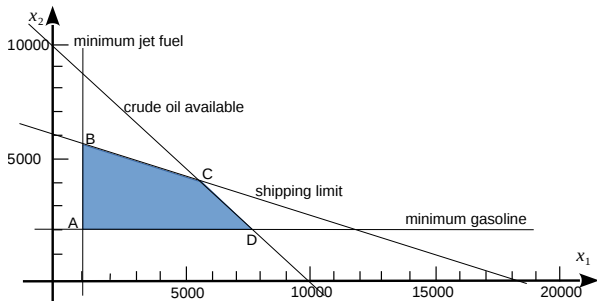
Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (2)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2 \\ & \text{subject to } \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$



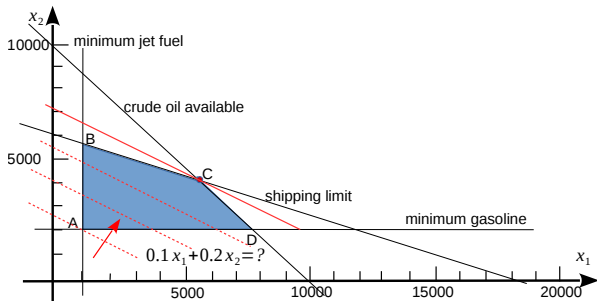
Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (3)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2 \\ & \text{subject to } \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$



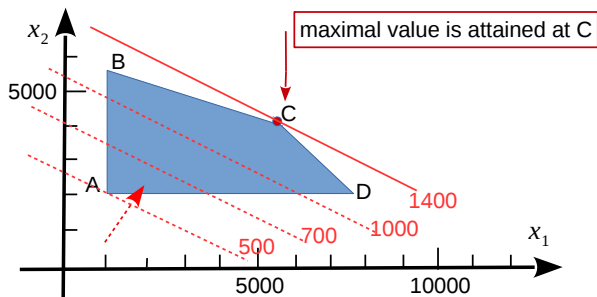
Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (4)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2 \\ \text{subject to } & \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$



Linear Programming: solve the problem with graph (5)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2 \\ \text{subject to } & \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$



Observation (1): problem is linear

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2 \\ \text{subject to } & \begin{cases} x_1 + x_2 \leq 10000 \\ x_1 \geq 1000 \\ x_2 \geq 2000 \\ 10 * x_1 + 30 * x_2 \leq 180000 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

- 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)

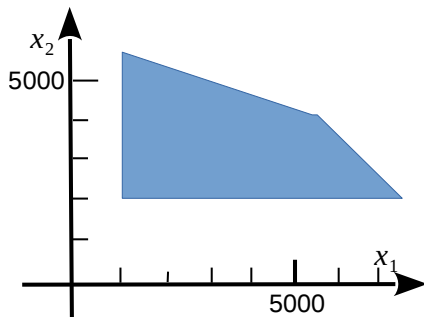
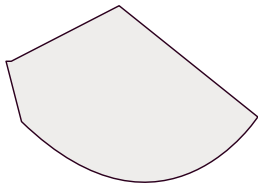
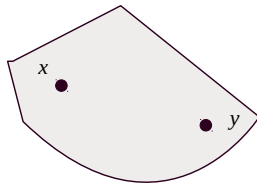
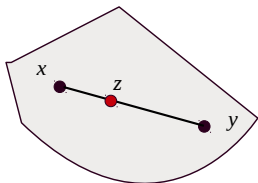


Figure: feasible set of Eqn. 1

Convex set: the concept (2)

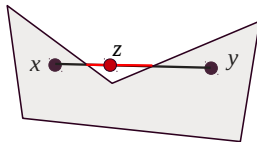


(a) Given a shape

(b) Select x, y randomly

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

(c) Linear combination

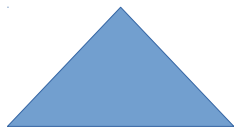


$$z = \alpha \cdot x + (1 - \alpha) \cdot y$$

(d) non-convex case

Convex set: verify your understanding

- Which is convex, which is not?



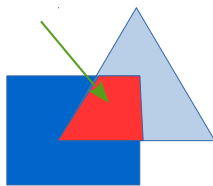
(a) Triangle



(b) Rectangle



(c) Pentagon

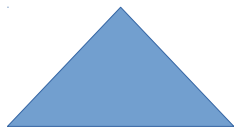


(d) Intersection

Figure: 2D shapes

Convex set: verify your understanding

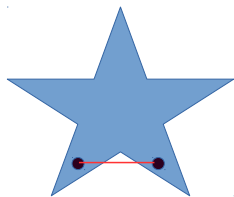
- Which is convex, which is not?



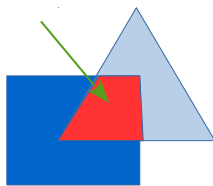
(a) Triangle: ✓



(b) Rectangle: ✓



(c) Pentagon: ✗

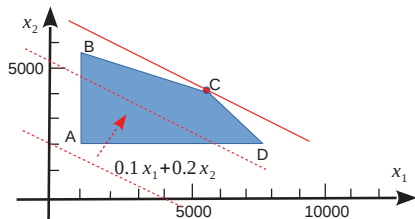


(d) Intersection: ✓

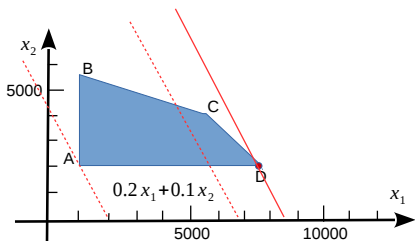
Figure: 2D shapes

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

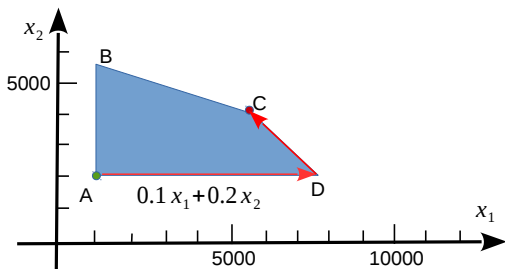
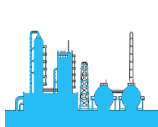


Figure: Nondegenerate jumping from one vertex to another for better solution

Review on the whole flow



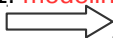
Jet fuel



Gasoline



1. modeling

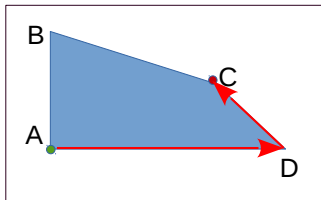


$$\max. 0.1 * x_1 + 0.2 * x_2$$

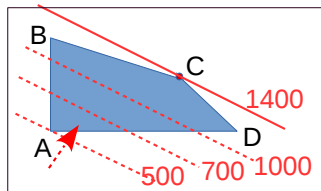
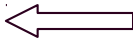
$$\text{sub. to } Ax \leq b$$

$$0 \leq x$$

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 -)

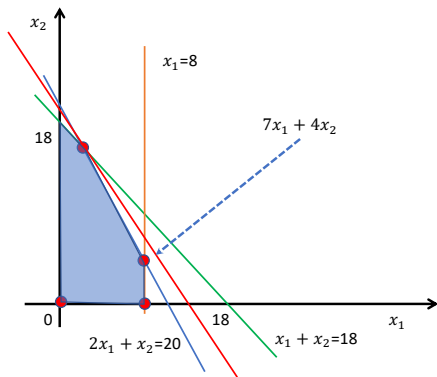
- In the year of 1939, L. Kantorovich proposed LP
- In the year of 1947, G. Danzig invented “Simplex” method
- In the year of 1944, John V. Neumann proposed game theory
- In 1984, Narendra Karmarkar proposed “inner-point” method of LP
- “Inner-point” guarantees to solve LP in polynomial time complexity

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)

$$\text{subject to } \begin{cases} \text{Max. } 7x_1 + 4x_2 \\ 2x_1 + x_2 \leq 20 \\ x_1 + x_2 \leq 18 \\ x_1 \leq 8 \\ x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$



- 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

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

- 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)

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

- 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 ??

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

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

Solve LP by Linear Transformations (6)

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

- 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)

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

- 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

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

$$\Downarrow$$

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3 \\ \text{sub. to } & \begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

- 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

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3 \\ & \text{sub. to } \begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

- 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

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

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3 \\ \text{sub. to } & \begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 56 + 4x_2 - 7s_3 \\ \text{sub. to } & \begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ x_2 + s_2 - s_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

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

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

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

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Max. } 72 - 4s_1 + s_3 \\ &\text{sub. to } \begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2s_3 = 4 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + s_3 = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

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

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

- 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

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

- 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, $s_3 \leq 8$

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 $s_3 = 6 + s_1 - s_2$

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max. } 72 - 4s_1 + (6 + s_1 - s_2) \\ \text{sub. to } & \begin{cases} x_2 + s_1 - 2(6 + s_1 - s_2) = 4 \\ -s_1 + s_2 + s_3 = 6 \\ x_1 + (6 + s_1 - s_2) = 8 \\ x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, s_3 \geq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Downarrow$$

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

Solve LP by Linear Transformations (18)

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

- 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)

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

- 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 $s_3 = 6$

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