Optimizing a weekly diet plan

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1 Problem Statement

A nutritionist often has to create a healthy diet plan for a client. The client, in particular, has a limited budget but needs to ingest a certain amount of nutrients every day. The diet plan will take into account specific requirements of the client, such as weight maintenance or weight loss, as well as any other medical conditions, such as heart disease or diabetes.

The nutritionist must figure out the ideal quantity of each food to include in the diet plan in order to address this issue. To construct a balanced diet that satisfies the client's needs, the nutritionist must combine the available food products as efficiently as possible to deliver the required nutrients while minimising the cost of the diet.

2 Constraints

The constraints for each nutrient may vary based on individual factors, but for this problem, we will be considering daily intake of calories, protein, carbohydrates, saturated fats, sodium intake cholesterol and sugar.

 m_i

is a binary variable representing the serving amount of food selected for each particular food, out of a data set containing 551 accessible and readily available foods with varying nutrition specifications.

$$m_i = \begin{cases} 1, \text{ for 1 serving (food is selected)} \\ 0, \text{ for 0 servings(food is not selected)} \end{cases}$$

2.1

As on average, the daily intake of meals for an individual is 3 meals per day. Hence we begin with the following constraint.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} m_i \ge 3$$

2.2

The recommended maximum daily **calorie** intake depends on the individual's weight, exercise level, and other factors. This can be calculated using a BMI calculator.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} ca_{i}m_{i} \leq RecommendedCalorieIntake$$

On the other hand, base on research, the recommended minimum daily calorie intake is 1200 kcal.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} ca_i m_i \ge 1200$$

2.3

The recommended daily intake of ${f carbohydrates}$ should be between 45 % to 65 % of the total daily calorie intake in grams. 1 Kcal = 0.129595 grams

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} cb_{i}m_{i} \leq 0.65 Recommended Calorie Intake in Grams$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} cb_{i}m_{i} \geq 0.45 Recommended Calorie Intake in Grams$$

2.4

For saturated fats, men should limit their intake to no more than 30 grams per day, while women should limit their intake to no more than 20 grams per day. Sodium intake will be expressed in grams per day

$$w_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if woman } i \\ 0, & \text{if man } i \end{cases}$$

$$w_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\ldots,n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n s_i m_i (1-w_i) \leq 30$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n s_i m_i w_i \leq 20$$

2.5

For **cholesterol**, individuals with risk factors for heart disease should limit their intake to no more than 0.2g per day. Those without risk factors should aim to consume no more than 0.3g per day.

$$f_i = \begin{cases} 1, \text{ for risk of heart disease } i \\ 0, \text{ otherwise } i \end{cases} \qquad f_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\ldots,$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n ch_i m_i (1-f_i) \leq 0.3$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n ch_i m_i f_i \leq 0.2$$

2.6

As a general guideline, the recommended daily intake of **protein** is expressed in grams per kilogram of body weight. For healthy individuals, protein intake is 0.8 grams of protein per kg and for individuals trying to lose weight protein intake is equal to 0.075 of the recommended day calorie intake

$$z_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1, \text{ for individuals trying to lose weight } i \\ 0, \text{ otherwise } i \end{array} \right. \\ \\ \sum_{i=1}^n pn_im_i(1-z_i) \leq 0.8Weight \\ \\ \sum_{i=1}^n pn_im_iz_i \leq 0.075RecommendedCalorieIntakeinGrams \end{array}$$

2.7

For **sodium**, individuals with high blood pressure should limit their intake to no more than 1.5 grams per day. Those without risk factors should aim to consume no more than 2.3 grams per day.

$$hb_i = \begin{cases} 1, \text{ for individuals with high blood pressure } i \\ 0, \text{ otherwise } i \end{cases} \qquad hb_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\ldots,n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n na_i m_i (1-hb_i) \leq 2.3$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} na_i m_i hb_i \le 1.5$$

2.8

For **sugar**, individuals with diabetes should limit their intake to no more than 25 grams per day. Those without diabetes should aim to consume no more than 50 grams per day.

$$d_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1, \text{ for individuals with diabetes } i \\ 0, \text{ otherwise } i \text{ is not aired }. \end{array} \right. \quad d_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\ldots,n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} g l_i (1 - d)_i \le 50$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} g l_i d_i \le 25$$

3 Objective function

We want to minimize total cost, which is the amount of money needed to fund the healthy diet, i.e.

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i m_i$

Then our MILP is

 $\text{minimize } \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i m_i$

subject to

$$m_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1, \text{ for 1 serving (food is selected)} \\ 0, \text{ for 0 servings(food is not selected)} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} m_i \ge 3$$

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} ca_{i}m_{i} \leq RecommendedCalorieIntake$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} ca_i m_i \ge 1200$$

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} cb_{i}m_{i} \leq 0.65 Recommended Calorie Intake in Grams$

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} cb_{i}m_{i} \geq 0.45 Recommended Calorie Intake in Grams$

$$w_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1, \text{ if woman } i \\ \\ 0, \text{ if man } i \end{array} \right. \qquad w_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\ldots,n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} s_{i} m_{i} (1 - w_{i}) \leq 30$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} s_i m_i w_i \le 20$$

$$f_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1, \ \text{for risk of heart disease } i & f_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\dots, \\ 0, \ \text{otherwise } i & f_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\dots, \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n ch_i m_i (1-f_i) \leq 0.3 \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n ch_i m_i f_i \leq 0.2 \\ \\ z_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1, \ \text{for individuals trying to lose weight } i \\ 0, \ \text{otherwise } i & z_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\dots,n \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n pn_i m_i (1-z_i) \leq 0.8 Weight \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n pn_i m_i z_i \leq 0.075 Recommended Calorie Intake in Grams \\ \\ hb_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1, \ \text{for individuals with high blood pressure } i \\ 0, \ \text{otherwise } i & hb_i \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i=1,\dots,n \\ \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n na_i m_i (1-hb_i) \leq 2.3 \\ \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n na_i m_i hb_i \leq 1.5 \\ \\ \\ d_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1, \ \text{for individuals with diabetes } i \\ 0, \ \text{otherwise } i \ \text{is not aired} \end{array} \right. \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n gl_i (1-d)_i \leq 50g \\ \\ \\ \sum\limits_{i=1}^n gl_i d_i \leq 25 \end{array} \right.$$

4 Assumptions

The following assumptions are made:

- 1) The datasets for nutritional values of the foods that are offered are accurate
- 2) The prices of the costs of the accessible foods are accurate as of 2021.
- 3) The client's dietary requirements and restrictions are accurately specified.
- 4) The customer does not have any other dietary restrictions or food allergies.
- 5)Main focus of the problem will be to minimise the cost of diet regardless of taste or variety.
- 6) The average individual consumes at least 3 meals/day

5 Correctness of Model

Upon decreasing Emily's maximum daily calorie intake, the cost of her diet increases. This is in line with findings from ers.usda.gov, which suggest that healthier foods typically come with a higher price tag.

Refer to Figure 1, Figure 2 in Appendix

6 Solving

To test our model, we've used the profile of a female office worker Emily, who is 25 years old, weighs 65kg, and is 162cm tall. She engages in light exercise daily and aims to lose 5 % to 10 % of her body weight over 6 to 12 months by reducing caloric intake. Using a Caloric Calculator, her recommended daily caloric intake is up to 1800 kcal and she has a risk of diabetes. Based on Emily's nutritional requirements, we recommend Emily to limit her protein intake to 42.9g, carbohydrate intake to be in the range of 760.95g - 1099.15g, and a saturated fat intake of less than 20g per day. Her sodium intake should be less than 2.3g per day, and her cholesterol intake should not exceed 300 milligrams. Taking into account her risk of diabetes, she should not exceed 30g of sugar intake per day. Therefore, we came up with a model to determine her diet for the week.

7 Results of Optimization Model

The full code can be found in appendix. Refer to Figure 3, Figure 4

8 Interpretation of the results

According to our model, the average predicted cost for a meal in Singapore is \$3.73. The food dataset is dated back in 2021 and considering inflation, and base on a recent research about food prices in Singapore which showed that average cost of meal is about \$5, \$3.73 per meal is reasonable cost for a meal. Based on the results, it appears that the majority of the foods recommended for consumption are unsalted and primarily made from wheat, with cooking methods that are generally considered healthier, such as boiling rather than frying. As a result, it can be concluded that **our model is reasonably reliable.**

9 Appendix

9.1 Python Code

	Customer Information	Values
0	Weight	65
1	Height	162
2	Gender	1
3	Diabetes	1
4	Risk of Heart Disease	0
5	Lose Weight	1
6	High blood Pressure	0
7	Recommended Calorie Intake	1600

Figure 1: Illustrating correctness of model

```
Status: Optimal
Total cost of the diet = $6.01
The diet consists of:
```

Figure 2: Illustrating correctness of model

```
Status: Optimal
Total cost of the diet for the day = $10.15
The diet consists of:
- 1 serving(s) of Crackers, GOYA CRACKERS, snack
- 1 serving(s) of Snacks, unsalted, wheat-based, sesame sticks
- 1 serving(s) of Fast foods, with condiments and vegetables, regular patty, cheeseburger; single
```

Figure 3: Emily's Daily Diet plan(one day)

```
Status for Monday : Optimal
Total cost of the diet for Monday = $10.15
The diet for Monday consists of:
- 1 serving(s) of Crackers, GOYA CRACKERS, snack
- 1 serving(s) of Snacks, unsalted, wheat-based, sesame sticks
- 1 serving(s) of Fast foods, with condiments and vegetables, regular patty, cheeseburger; single
Status for Tuesday : Optimal
Total cost of the diet for Tuesday = $10.22
The diet for Tuesday consists of:
- 1 serving(s) of SUNSHINE, Original Crackers, CHEEZ-IT
- 1 serving(s) of KEEBLER, Dash of Salt Crackers, CLUB
- 1 serving(s) of Chicken, roasted, cooked, with added solution, meat and skin, thigh, dark meat
Status for Wednesday : Optimal
Total cost of the diet for Wednesday = $10.86
The diet for Wednesday consists of:
- 1 serving(s) of Snacks, plain, bagel chips
- 1 serving(s) of TACO BELL, Soft Taco with steak
- 1 serving(s) of Snacks, salted, made with partially hydrogenated soybean oil, plain, potato chips
Status for Thursday : Optimal
Total cost of the diet for Thursday = $11.07
The diet for Thursday consists of:
- 1 serving(s) of Bread, cinnamon
- 1 serving(s) of KEEBLER, Minis Original Crackers, CLUB
- 1 serving(s) of Soybeans, no salt added, roasted, mature seeds
Status for Friday: Optimal
Total cost of the diet for Friday = $11.14
The diet for Friday consists of:
- 1 serving(s) of KEEBLER, Minis Multigrain Crackers, CLUB
- 1 serving(s) of Nuts, boiled and steamed, chinese, chestnuts
- 1 serving(s) of Peanuts, with salt, oil-roasted, all types
Status for Saturday : Optimal
Total cost of the diet for Saturday = $12.19
- 1 serving(s) of Coffeecake, cheese
- 1 serving(s) of Danish pastry, unenriched, cinnamon
- 1 serving(s) of Snacks, cheese-flavor, potato chips
Status for Sunday : Optimal
Total cost of the diet for Sunday = $12.69
The diet for Sunday consists of:
- 1 serving(s) of TACO BELL, Nachos
- 1 serving(s) of Bread, cheese
- 1 serving(s) of Pie crust, unbaked, regular, refrigerated
```

Figure 4: Emily's Weekly Diet plan(one week)



```
food_items = list(food_data['name'])

# Create a dictionary of price for all food items
price = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['price']))

# Create a dictionary of calories for all food items
calories = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['calories']))

# Create a dictionary of protein for all food items
protein = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['carbriv]))

# Create a dictionary of carbohydrate for all food items
carbohydrate = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['carbohydrate']))

# Create a dictionary of fats for all food items
saturated_fat = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['carbohydrate']))

# Create a dictionary of sodium for all food items
sodium = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['saturated_fat']))

# Create a dictionary of cholesterol for all food items
cholesterol = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['cholesterol']))

# Create a dictionary of sugars for all food items
cholesterol = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['cholesterol']))

# Create a dictionary of sugars for all food items
sugars = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['sugars']))

# Create a dictionary of sugars for all food items
sugars = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['sugars']))

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# Create a dictionary of sugars for all food items
sugars = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['sugars']))

# Create a dictionary of sugars for all food items
sugars = dict(zip(food_items, food_data['sugars']))

# Create a dictionary of sugars for all food items
sugars = dict(
```

```
Output exceeds the size limit. Open the full output data in a text editor

('Chicken, boiled, feet': food_Chicken, boiled, feet,
'Pie, lemon, fried pies': food_Pie, lemon, fried_pies,
'Salami, turkey, cooked': food_Salami, turkey, cooked,
'McDONALD'S, Hash Brown': food_McDONALD'S, Hash Brown,
'Fish, moked, haddock': food_Fish, smoked, haddock,
'DEDNY'S, french fries': food_DENY'S, french_fries,
'Ground turkey, cooked': food_Ground_turkey, cooked,
'MURRAY, Vanilla Wafer': food_WURRAY, Vanilla Wafer,
'WENDY'S, french fries': food_WURRAY, Vanilla Wafer,
'Lebanon bologna, beef': food_Lebanon_Bologna, Deef,
'TACU BELL, Taco_Salad': food_Taco_Balad,
'Sauce, worcestershire': food_Suce, worcestershire,
'Cabbage, cooked, napa': food_Cabbage, cooked, napa,
'Peppers, fried, ancho': food_Parsley, dreeze_dried,
'Nuts, dried, plinuis': food_Vers_dried, plinuis,
'Potato salad with egg': food_Parsley, freeze_dried,
'Nuts, dried, plinuis': food_SILK_Plain_soy_yogurt,
'SILK Plain soy yogurt': food_SILK_Plain_soy_yogurt,
'Food_Fire, foods, vegetables and mayonnaise, large patty; with condiments, cheeseburger; double':
food_Fork, pan-fried, cooked, all grades, trimmed to @' fat, separable lean only, whole, brisket':
food_Beef, braised_cooked, all grad
```

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| Proceedings | Suprementation | Proceedings | Proceedings
```

11

9.2 Constraint reference

https://www.healthhub.sg/programmes/191/nutrition-hub/tools-and-resourcescalorie-calculator https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/types/different-fats-nutrition/::text=The%20government%20recommends%20that%3A,of%20saturated%20fat%20a%20day https://www.content-of-foods::text=If%20you%20have%20risk%20factors,than%20300%20milligrams%20a%20day. https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/sodium-per-dayrecommendations.https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/sodium-per-dayrecommendations.https://www.healthlub.sg/programmes.hub/eat-less::text=How%20much%20sugar%20should%20we,a%202000%2Ddaily%20calorie%20intake.https://www.who.int/news/item03-2015-who-calls-on-countries-to-reduce-sugars-intake-among-adults-and-children.https://www.inchcalculator.com/convert/calorie-burto-gram/https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/10490/dietary-reference-intakes-for-energy-carbohydrate-fiber-fat-fatty-acids-choleprotein-and-amino-acids.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Most%20people%20with%20intake.https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/anemia/iron-deficiency::text=Mo

9.3 Code reference

 $https://machinelearninggeek.com/solving-balanced-diet-problem-in-python-using-pulp\ https://neos-guide.org/case-studies/om/the-diet-problem/\ https://towardsdatascience.com/linear-programming-and-discrete-optimization-with-python-using-pulp-449f3c5f6e99\ https://of-nutritional-constraints-included-in-the-linear-programming-optimization-models \ bl4277817604$

9.4 Dataset

 $https://databank.worldbank.org/source/food-prices-for-nutrition/\ https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/trolukovich/nutritional-values-for-common-foods-and-products\ https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/NutritiveValueofFoods/NutritiveValueofFoods.pdf\ https://www.worldbank.org/source/food-prices-for-nutrition/\ https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/trolukovich/nutritional-values-for-common-foods-and-products\ https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/NutritiveValueofFoods/NutritiveValueofFoods.pdf\ https://www.worldbank.org/source/food-prices-for-nutrition/\ https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/trolukovich/nutritional-values-for-common-foods-and-products\ https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/NutritiveValueofFoods/NutritiveValueofFoods.pdf\ https://www.worldbank.org/source/food-prices-for-nutrition/\ https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/NutritiveValueofFoods/NutritiveValueofFoods.pdf\ https://www.worldbank.org/source/food-prices-for-nutrition/\ https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/NutritiveValueofFoods/N$

9.5 Correctness of model

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