Midterm Project 1 – Supply chain solutions

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(You can get a full copy of the code I use for the solution here.

Description of the network flow

As the logistics manager for the rubber ducks company, we are first tasked with minimizing shipping costs for the duck supply chain.

We create a *network flow* to represent the distribution of ducks. The *nodes* of our Network flow are the warehouse_cities and the store_cities, together with a node representing the source of ducks and a node representing demand for ducks.

To formulate our *network flow*, we are going to describe edges between nodes. Ultimately, we describe a *linear program* using the network flow; the *variables* of the linear program correspond to the *edges* of our network flow. And the numerical quantities assigned to these variables represent *ducks*; in the case of an edge connecting city-nodes, the variable represents the quantity of ducks transported. In the case of an edge connecting the source node to a warehouse_city, the variable represents the *production* of ducks, and in the case of an edge connecting a store city to the Demand node, the variable represents the quantity of ducks *sold*.

We create an edge between Source and each warehouse_city, and between each store_city and Demand.

Now, we only create an edge between shipping when indicated.

Recall our shipping and relay costs:

Table 1: Shipping costs (\$ per duck)

	Chicago	LA	NY	Houston	Atlanta
Santa Fe	6	3	-	3	7
El Paso	-	7	-	2	5
Tampa Bay	-	-	7	6	4

Table 2: Relay route costs (\$ per duck)

	Chicago	LA	NY	Houston	Atlanta
Houston	4	5	6	-	2
Atlanta	4	-	5	2	-

We create functions in python representing these costs, as follows:

```
def ship_costs(f,t):
   match (f,t):
                                    # no shipping cost for "shipments" from source to warehouse
       case 'Source',_:
           return 0
       case _,'Demand':
                                    # no shipping costs for "shipments" from store to customers
           return 0
       case 'Santa Fe','Chicago':
           return 6
       case 'Santa Fe','LA':
           return 3
       case 'Santa Fe', 'Houston':
           return 3
       case 'Santa Fe','Atlanta':
           return 7
       case 'El Paso','LA':
           return 7
       case 'El Paso', 'Houston':
           return 2
       case 'El Paso','Atlanta':
           return 5
       case 'Tampa Bay','NY':
           return 7
       case 'Tampa Bay','Houston':
```

```
return 6
        case 'Tampa Bay','Atlanta':
            return 4
        case _:
            return inf
def relay_costs(f,t):
   match (f,t):
        case 'Houston','Chicago':
           return 4
        case 'Houston','LA':
           return 5
        case 'Houston','NY':
           return 6
        case 'Houston','Atlanta':
           return 2
        case 'Atlanta','Chicago':
           return 4
        case 'Atlanta','NY':
           return 5
        case 'Atlanta','Houston':
           return 2
        case _:
           return inf
```

Now we can create the remaining edges for our network flow. We only create an edge if the shipping costs are given above.

And we can use the vertices and edges to produce a diagram of the network flow, using graphviz.

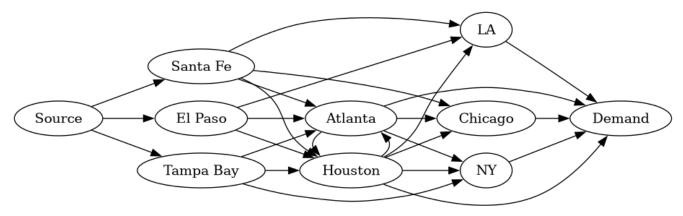
```
#------
from graphviz import Digraph as GVDigraph

dot = GVDigraph("example",format='png')
  dot.attr(rankdir='LR')

dot.node('Source')
```

```
with dot.subgraph(name='warehouse') as c:
   c.attr(rank='same')
   for vertex in warehouse_cities:
        c.node(vertex)
with dot.subgraph(name='hubs') as c:
   c.attr(rank='same')
    for vertex in hubs:
        c.node(vertex)
with dot.subgraph(name='stores') as c:
    c.attr(rank='same')
   for vertex in store_cities:
        if not (vertex in hubs):
            c.node(vertex)
c.node('Demand')
for e in edges:
 dot.edge(e["from"],e["to"])
dot.render('graph.png')
```

Here is the resulting network flow diagram. (We've chosen *not* to label it, since the labels can get a bit cluttered. We'll describe in words the constraints on the edge variables, below).



The objective function for shipping costs

Our next task is to identify the objective function for the linear program that we will use to minimize shipping costs.

Conservation laws

Now we are going to identify the *conservation laws* for our network flow. For each interior vertex of our diagram, we need that the sum of the *incoming flow* is equal to the sum of the *outgoing flow*.

```
def getIncoming(vertex,edges):
    return [ e for e in edges if e["to"] == vertex ]

def getOutgoing(vertex,edges):
    return [ e for e in edges if e["from"] == vertex ]

def isSource(vertex,edges):
    return getIncoming(vertex,edges) == []

def isSink(vertex,edges):
    return getOutgoing(vertex,edges) == []

def interiorVertices(vertices,edges):
    return [ v for v in vertices if not( isSource(v,edges) or isSink(v,edges) ) ]
```

Observe that this code indeed finds our interior vertices:

```
interiorVertices(vertices,edges)
=>
['Santa Fe', 'El Paso', 'Tampa Bay', 'Chicago', 'LA', 'NY', 'Houston', 'Atlanta']
```

Now we can create the *conservation laws matrix* for our network flow. This matrix has one row for each interior vertex of the network flow; this row expresses the relation that the sum of flow through edges *to* the vertex is equal to the sum of flow through edges *from* the vertex.

We use the following code:

```
def conservationLaw(vertex,edges):
    ii = sum([ sbv(edges.index(e),len(edges)) for e in getIncoming(vertex,edges) ])
    oo = sum([ sbv(edges.index(e),len(edges)) for e in getOutgoing(vertex,edges) ])
    return ii - oo
```

And we can inspect this matrix:

The conservation matrix will be used to implement the linear program we will use to minimize shipping costs; it will appear as part of the *equality constraints*.

Setting up the linear program

We have already described the *objective function*. It remains to describe the equality- and inequality- constraints that we will use.

Equality constraints

When minimizing the shipping costs, we ship all available ducks from the warehouses, and we meet demand in the store cities. Thus, we implement the supply and demand as *equality constraints* in our linear program.

Recall the supply and demand specifications:

Table 3: Supplies (in ducks)

Santa Fe	El Paso	Tampa Bay
700	200	200

Table 4: Demand (in ducks)

Chicago	LA	NY	Houston	Atlanta
200	200	250	300	150

We implement these with the following code:

More precisely, for each warehouse city w, the variable corresponding to edge {'from':'Source','to':w} is equated with the quantity supplies[w].

Similarly, for each store city w, the variable corresponding to the edge {'from':w,'to':'Demand'} is equated with the quantity demand[s].

We create the pair Aeq_costs, beq_costs determining the equality constraints using the following code:

```
def lookupEdge(f,t):
   r = list(filter(lambda x: x['from'] == f and x['to'] == t, edges))
   if r != []:
        return r[0]
    else:
       return "error"
# get the *index* (in our list of edges) of the edge with 'from': f and 'to': t
def lookupEdgeIndex(f,t):
   r = lookupEdge(f,t)
   return edges.index(r)
Aeq_costs = np.concatenate([ conservationMatrix,
                             [ sbv(lookupEdgeIndex('Source',w),len(edges))
                               for w in warehouse_cities ],
                             [ sbv(lookupEdgeIndex(s,'Demand'),len(edges))
                               for s in store_cities ]
                            ],axis=0)
beq_costs = np.concatenate([ np.zeros(len(conservationMatrix)),
                             [ supplies[w] for w in warehouse_cities ],
                             [ demand[s] for s in store_cities ]
                            ])
```

Thus the first rows of Aeq_costs are the conservationMatrix computer earlier. The next group of rows account for edges Source -> warehouse_cities, and the final group of rows account for edges store_cities -> Demand.

When running the linear program, the equality constraint Aeq_costs, beq_costs will thus enforce the conservation laws, require that we ship all available ducks, and require that we meet all demand.

Inequality constraints

Finally, we need to create inequality constraints reflecting the condition that we can't ship more than 200 ducks along any single route.

The pair Aub_costs, bub_costs implement these constraints; these quantities are created by the following code:

```
# create inequality constraint matrix
# initially the only thing to account for is "can't ship more than 200 ducks"

Aub_costs = np.array([ sbv(edges.index(e),len(edges)) for e in edges_ship ]
```

Running the linear program.

We are now ready to run the linear program which minimizes shipping costs.

We see that the minimal shipping costs are \$5,300.00:

```
costs_result.fun
=>
5300.0
```

And we can see the required shipping levels by inspecting costs_result.x. Let's view a report of this information:

```
def report(x):
   for (val,e) in zip(x,edges):
      print(f"{e['from']:10} -> {e['to']:10}: {val: 7.2f}")
report(costs_result.x)
         -> Santa Fe : 700.00
Source
Source
         -> El Paso : 200.00
Source
         -> Tampa Bay : 200.00
         -> Chicago : 200.00
Santa Fe
Santa Fe
         -> LA
               : 200.00
Santa Fe
         -> Houston : 200.00
Santa Fe -> Atlanta : 100.00
         -> LA :
El Paso
                        0.00
El Paso
         -> Houston : 200.00
El Paso
         -> Atlanta : -0.00
Tampa Bay -> NY : 200.00
Tampa Bay -> Houston : 0.00
Tampa Bay -> Atlanta :
Houston
         -> Chicago :
                       0.00
Houston
         -> LA
Houston
         -> NY
Houston -> Atlanta : 50.00
Atlanta -> Chicago :
                       0.00
Atlanta
         -> NY
                        0.00
Atlanta
       -> Houston :
                       0.00
Chicago
         -> Demand : 200.00
         -> Demand
                   : 200.00
LA
NY
         -> Demand
                       250.00
         -> Demand :
                       300.00
Houston
         -> Demand : 150.00
Atlanta
```

Los Angeles potential strike scenario

We must deal with restive workers in LA. We consider two outcomes: how are costs affected if we *meet workers demands* and if the workers go on strike?

Demand scenario

The workers demand would result in the doubling of all shipping costs to LA.

Using the following code, we can model the "demand scenario" shipping costs:

```
def LA_demand_ship_costs(f,t):
    match (f,t):
        case (_,'LA'):
        return 2*ship_costs(f,t)  ## double shipping costs to LA
        case _:
            return ship_costs(f,t)

def LA_demand_relay_costs(f,t):
    match (f,t):
        case (_,'LA'):
        return 2*relay_costs(f,t)  ## double shipping costs to LA
        case _:
        return relay_costs(f,t)
```

These changes modify the require *objective function* for the linear program which will tell us the impact of the demand-scenario on our shipping costs.

With the updated objective function, we can now run the linear program:

We can see the outcome:

```
LA_demand_costs_result.fun
=>
5900.0
```

And we can see the details of how our shipping choices will be affected.

```
report(LA_demand_costs_result.x)
Source
          -> Santa Fe :
                          700.00
Source
          -> El Paso :
                          200.00
      -> Tampa Bay :
                          200.00
Source
Santa Fe
          -> Chicago :
                          200.00
Santa Fe
         -> LA
                          200.00
```

```
Santa Fe
         -> Houston
                        200.00
Santa Fe
         -> Atlanta :
                         100.00
El Paso
         -> T.A
                         0.00
         -> Houston : 200.00
El Paso
El Paso
         -> Atlanta :
Tampa Bay -> NY
                       200.00
Tampa Bay -> Houston :
                         0.00
Tampa Bay -> Atlanta :
                         0.00
                         0.00
Houston
         -> Chicago :
Houston
         -> LA
                         0.00
Houston -> NY
                        50.00
Houston
         -> Atlanta : 50.00
        -> Chicago :
Atlanta
                         0.00
Atlanta
         -> NY
                         0.00
         -> Houston :
Atlanta
                         0.00
Chicago
         -> Demand : 200.00
                    : 200.00
LA
         -> Demand
NY
         -> Demand
                        250.00
         -> Demand
Houston
                        300.00
         -> Demand : 150.00
Atlanta
```

Thus, our costs increase from \$5300 to \$5900 - an increase of \$600.

Strike scenario

Now we must model the strike scenario for LA. If workers demands are not met, they will strike and the maximum number of supplies that can be shipped on *all routes to LA* is cut in half (i.e., from 200 to 100).

Thus, the *inequality constraints* for the linear program must be modified.

With the updated inequality constraints, we can run the linear program modeling a strike in LA:

In the strike scenario, our costs go up to \$6050.00. Indeed:

```
LA_strike_costs_result.fun
=>
6050.0
```

```
report(LA_strike_costs_result.x)
       -> Santa Fe : 700.00
Source
Source
       -> El Paso : 200.00
       -> Tampa Bay : 200.00
Source
Santa Fe -> Chicago : 200.00
Santa Fe -> LA : 100.00
Santa Fe -> Houston : 200.00
        -> Atlanta : 200.00
Santa Fe
        -> LA :
El Paso
                      0.00
El Paso
        -> Houston : 200.00
El Paso
        -> Atlanta :
Tampa Bay -> NY : 200.00
Tampa Bay -> Houston : 0.00
Tampa Bay -> Atlanta :
                      0.00
        -> Chicago : 0.00
Houston
        -> LA : 100.00
Houston
Houston -> NY
Houston -> Atlanta :
                      0.00
Atlanta -> Chicago : -0.00
                 : 50.00
Atlanta -> Houston :
                      0.00
Chicago -> Demand : 200.00
        -> Demand : 200.00
LA
        -> Demand : 250.00
NY
Houston -> Demand : 300.00
Atlanta -> Demand : 150.00
```

Assessment in LA

Comparing the two LA scenarios, the strike imposes \$150 more shipping costs – raising our costs to \$6,050 – than the demand scenario – which only raises our costs to \$5,900.

So unless there are relevant issues not considered here, we should probably agree to the LA workers demands.

Houston potential strike scenario

We must now consider the same situation just contemplated in LA, but for the city Houston.

Demand scenario

Once again, we model the shipping costs and the relay costs with new functions. This time, we double the shipping rate on routes *to* Houston:

```
def Houston_demand_ship_costs(f,t):
    match (f,t):
        case (_,'Houston'):
            return 2*ship_costs(f,t)  ## double shipping costs to Houston
        case _:
            return ship_costs(f,t)
def Houston_demand_relay_costs(f,t):
```

```
match (f,t):
    case (_,'Houston'):
        return 2*relay_costs(f,t) ## double shipping costs to Houston
    case _:
        return relay_costs(f,t)
```

Using these new costs functions, we define the corresponding objective vector, and run the linear program for the *Houston* - demand scenario:

Under the demand scenario in Houston, our costs go up to \$6250.00.

```
Houston_demand_costs_result.fun
6250.0
report(Houston_demand_costs_result.x)
=>
Source
         -> Santa Fe :
                       700.00
Source
        -> El Paso : 200.00
Source
         -> Tampa Bay : 200.00
Santa Fe -> Chicago : 200.00
Santa Fe
        -> LA
                  : 200.00
Santa Fe
Santa Fe -> Atlanta : 200.00
El Paso
        -> LA :
                       0.00
El Paso
         -> Houston : 200.00
El Paso
         -> Atlanta : -0.00
Tampa Bay -> NY : 200.00
Tampa Bay -> Houston :
                       0.00
Tampa Bay -> Atlanta :
Houston
         -> Chicago :
                       0.00
Houston -> LA
                       0.00
Houston -> NY
                       0.00
Houston -> Atlanta :
Atlanta -> Chicago :
                        0.00
Atlanta -> NY
                       50.00
Atlanta -> Houston :
                       0.00
         -> Demand
Chicago
                       200.00
        -> Demand : 200.00
```

```
NY -> Demand : 250.00

Houston -> Demand : 300.00

Atlanta -> Demand : 150.00
```

Strike scenario

We now model the consequences on our shipping costs of a strike in Houston. As before, we have to modify the inequality constraints Aub, bub. We do this in the same manner as we did for the LA situation, and we run the resulting linear program.

The result shows that our shipping costs are \$6050 in the event of a strike in Houston:

```
Houston_strike_costs_result.fun
6050.0
report(Houston_strike_costs_result.x)
Source
          -> Santa Fe :
                         700.00
Source
         -> El Paso :
                         200.00
Source
         -> Tampa Bay : 200.00
Santa Fe
          -> Chicago :
                         200.00
Santa Fe
         -> LA
                     : 200.00
Santa Fe
          -> Houston : 100.00
Santa Fe
                     : 200.00
          -> Atlanta
El Paso
          -> LA
                         -0.00
El Paso
          -> Houston : 100.00
El Paso
          -> Atlanta : 100.00
Tampa Bay -> NY
                        200.00
Tampa Bay -> Houston :
                          0.00
Tampa Bay -> Atlanta :
                          0.00
Houston
          -> Chicago :
                         0.00
Houston
          -> LA
Houston
         -> NY
                          0.00
Houston -> Atlanta :
                          0.00
Atlanta
         -> Chicago
Atlanta
          -> NY
                          50.00
Atlanta -> Houston :
```

```
Chicago -> Demand : 200.00

LA -> Demand : 200.00

NY -> Demand : 250.00

Houston -> Demand : 300.00

Atlanta -> Demand : 150.00

>>>
```

Assessment for Houston

In the case of Houston, the demand scenario raises costs to \$6250, while the strike scenario raises costs to \$6050. Thus, meeting the worker demands costs \$200 more than allows the strike. Perhaps the best strategy is to continue to negotiate with the Houston worker rather than capitulate to the current demands.

Profit

Finally, returning to the non-strike scenario, we consider also the value of the ducks themselves.

The following table shows the impact on revenue at each city from selling 1 rubber duck; in the warehouse cities, this impact measures production costs (and hence is negative) while in store cities, the impact measures sales revenue (and hence is positive):

Table 5: Profit by city (in \$ per duck)

Santa fe	El Paso	Tampa Bay	Chicago	NY	Houston	Atlanta	LA
-8	-5	-10	15	25	10	10	20

We are going to create a linear program that maximizes *total profit*, taking into account revenue *and* shipping costs. Thus, we need to make a vector from the profit quantities which will contribute to the required objective function.

We assign *revenue* to edges: edges of the form Source -> a will be assigned the revenue figure from the table for city a. And edges of the form b -> Demand will be assigned the revenue figure from the above table for city b.

```
def revenue(e):
    match e['from'],e['to']:
        case 'Santa Fe', 'Demand':
            return -8
        case 'El Paso','Demand':
            return -5
        case 'Tampa Bay','Demand':
            return -10
        case 'Chicago','Demand':
            return 15
        case 'NY','Demand':
            return 25
        case 'Houston','Demand':
            return 10
        case 'Atlanta','Demand':
            return 10
        case 'LA','Demand':
            return 20
        case _:
            return 0
```

In order to maximize profit, we need to create the appropriate objective function.

We define a vector sales such that for a vector x of shipping values, sales $\cdot x$ returns the revenue from sales of the corresponding ducks.

Now the objective function for the profit linear program is given by sales - costs-obj, where costs_obj was the vector computing the shipping costs (the objective function used when minimizing shipping costs).

When maximizing profit, we no longer want to *require* that we use all available supplies, and we don't want to *require* that we meet demand in each store.

Rather, we will view the supplies and demand quantities as *upper bounds* for the values of the variables assigned respective to edges of the form Source -> a and b -> Demand (for warehouse cites a and store cities b).

In particular, the equality constraints for the profit linear program are exactly the *conservation laws*:

```
Aeq_profit = conservationMatrix
beq_profit = np.zeros(len(conservationMatrix))
```

And the inequality constraints are as follows:

- variables corresponding to edges in edges_ship or edges_relay must be <= 200.
- variables corresponding to edges Source -> a must be <= supply(a).
- variables corresponding to edges b -> Demand must be <= demand(b).

In code, this yields the following definition for the pair Aub_profit; bub_profit:

We now run the linear program maximizing profit (remember since we *maximize* profit we negate the objective function profit_obj):

This shows that the maximum profit is \$4,800.00.

```
profit_result.fun
-4800.00
>>> report(profit_result.x)
Source
           -> Santa Fe :
Source
           -> El Paso
                             200.00
Source
           -> Tampa Bay :
                              50.00
Santa Fe
           -> Chicago
                             200.00
Santa Fe
                             200.00
           -> LA
           -> Houston
Santa Fe
                               0.00
Santa Fe
           -> Atlanta
                               0.00
El Paso
           -> LA
El Paso
           -> Houston
                             200.00
El Paso
           -> Atlanta
                               0.00
Tampa Bay
           -> NY
                              50.00
Tampa Bay
           -> Houston
Tampa Bay
           -> Atlanta
Houston
           -> Chicago
           -> LA
Houston
                               0.00
Houston
           -> NY
                             200.00
Houston
           -> Atlanta
                               0.00
Atlanta
           -> Chicago
Atlanta
           -> NY
                              -0.00
Atlanta
           -> Houston
Chicago
           -> Demand
                             200.00
LA
           -> Demand
                             200.00
NY
           -> Demand
                             250.00
Houston
           -> Demand
Atlanta
           -> Demand
```

Notice that in maximizing profit, we didn't use all available ducks (e.g. 700 ducks were available in Santa Fe, but we only used 400 of them).

And we didn't meet demand in all store cities. The configuration quoted by linprog yields a situation where we sold *no* ducks in Houston and Atlanta, but it is of course possible that we could achieve the same profit with a different flow in which some ducks were sold in Houston and Atlanta.