

# Chapter 3:

## Simplex methods [Big M method and special cases]

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**Hamdy A. Taha, Operations Research: An introduction,  
8<sup>th</sup> Edition**



**Mute ur call**

## Simplex method when some constraints are not “ $\leq$ ” constraints

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- We employ a mathematical “trick” to jumpstart the problem by adding artificial variables to the equations.

# Simplex method when some constraints are not “ $\leq$ ” constraints (cont.)

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## Example:

$$\text{Max } 16x_1 + 15x_2 + 20x_3 - 18x_4$$

ST

$$2x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 \leq 3000 \quad [1]$$

$$3x_1 + 4x_2 + 5x_3 - 60x_4 \leq 2400 \quad [2]$$

$$x_4 \leq 32 \quad [3]$$

$$x_2 \geq 200 \quad [4]$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \geq 800 \quad [5]$$

$$x_1 - x_2 - x_3 = 0 \quad [6]$$

$$x_j \geq 0 \text{ for all } j$$

# Simplex method when some constraints are not “ $\leq$ ” constraints (cont.)

## Example:

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$$x_1 - x_2 - x_3 = 0$$

$$x_j \geq 0 \text{ for all } j$$

We assign a very large negative objective function coefficient, **-M**, (**+M** for minimization problem) to each artificial variable

[1]

[2]

[3]

[4]

[5]

[6]

We add artificial : **R4, R5, R6**, respectively to the fourth, fifth, and sixth equations.

# Simplex method when some constraints are not “ $\leq$ ” constraints (cont.)

## The solution

$$\text{Max } 16x_1 + 15x_2 + 20x_3 - 18x_4 \quad \text{---MR4 ---MR5 ---MR6}$$

ST

$$2x_1 + x_2 + 3x_3 + s_1 = 3000 \quad [1]$$

$$3x_1 + 4x_2 + 5x_3 - 60x_4 + s_2 = 2400 \quad [2]$$

$$x_4 + s_3 = 32 \quad [3]$$

$$X_2 - s_4 + R_4 = 200 \quad [4]$$

$$X_1 + x_2 + x_3 - s_5 + R_5 = 800 \quad [5]$$

$$X_1 - x_2 - x_3 + R_6 = 0 \quad [6]$$

$$X_j \geq 0, S_j \geq 0, R_j \geq 0 \text{ for all } j$$

The simplex algorithm can then be used to solve this problem

Solving For the optimal solution of **[Maximization]**  
when there are artificial variables

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### Example # 1:

$$\text{MAX } 2x_1 + 5x_2$$

ST

$$x_1 \geq 4$$

$$x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 32$$

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 = 24$$

# Solving For the optimal solution of **[Maximization]** when there are artificial variables (cont.)

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## The Solution

- By adding the appropriate slack, surplus, and artificial variables, we obtain the following:

$$\text{MAX } 2x_1 + 5x_2 - MR_1 - MR_3$$

ST

$$X_1 - s_1 + R_1 = 4$$

$$X_1 + 4x_2 + s_2 = 32$$

$$3x_1 + 2x_2 + R_3 = 24$$

$$X_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, R_1, R_3 \geq 0$$



# Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

The initial table :

Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	R1	R3	RHS
R1	1	0	-1	0	1	0	4
S2	1	4	0	1	0	0	32
R3	3	2	0	0	0	1	24
Z	-2	-5	0	0	+ M	+ M	0



- Make z consistent; (R1, R3) in z-row coefficient (+M,+M) it must be zero; By apply:

**New z-row = old z-row + ( -M \* R1 row – M \* R3 row)** } MAX objective function

**New z-row = old z-row + ( M \* R1 row +M \* R3 row)** } MIN objective function

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

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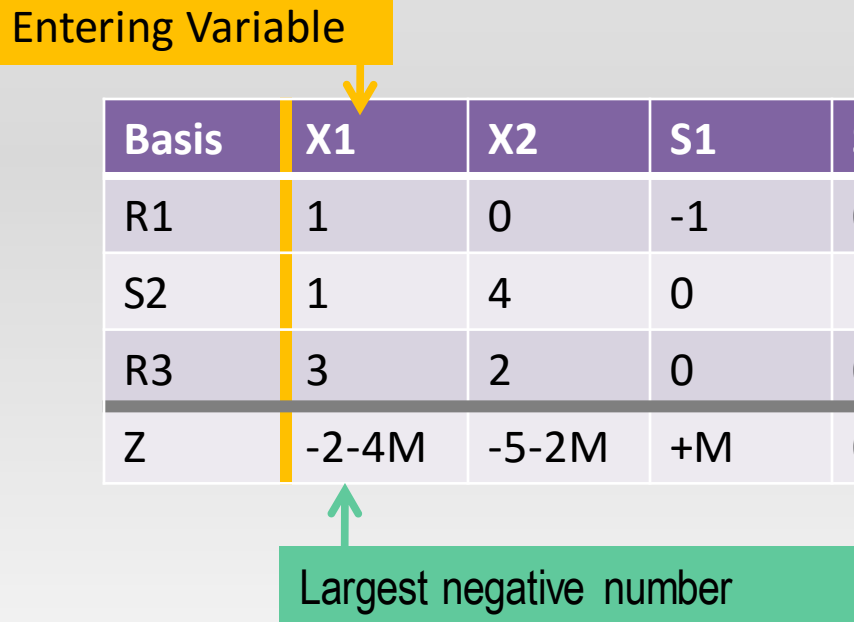
- Starting table:

Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	R1	R3	RHS
R1	1	0	-1	0	1	0	4
S2	1	4	0	1	0	0	32
R3	3	2	0	0	0	1	24
Z	-2-4M	-5-2M	+M	0	- M	- M	-28M

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

- To determine Entering Variable; We should look to the largest negative number in z-row.

Entering Variable



Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	R1	R3	RHS
R1	1	0	-1	0	1	0	4
S2	1	4	0	1	0	0	32
R3	3	2	0	0	0	1	24
Z	-2-4M	-5-2M	+M	0	- M	- M	-28M

Largest negative number

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

- Calculate the ratio; then, determine the smallest positive number as **Leaving Variable**

Leaving Variable

Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	R1	R3	RHS	Ratio
R1	1	0	-1	0	1	0	4	4
S2	1	4	0	1	0	0	32	32
R3	3	2	0	0	0	1	24	8
Z	-2-4M	-5-2M	+M	0	-M	-M	-28M	

- Pivot element =  $(1, 0, -1, 0, 1, 0, 4) / (1)$   
 $(1, 0, -1, 0, 1, 0, 4)$

# Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

- First iteration

Entering Variable

Leaving Variable

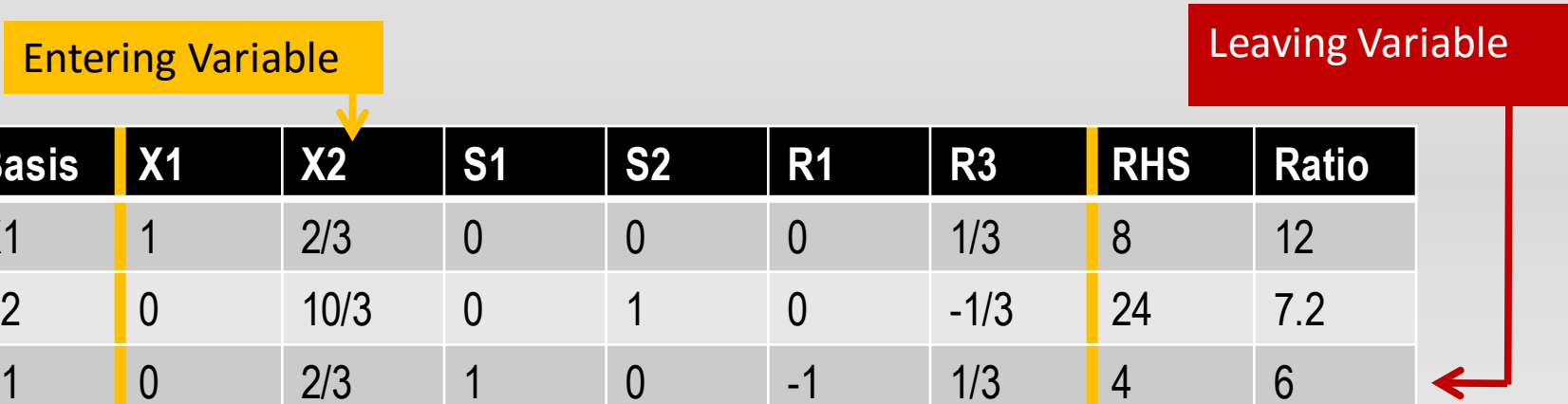
Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	R1	R3	RHS	Ratio
X1	1	0	-1	0	1	0	4	....
S2	0	4	1	1	-1	0	28	28
R3	0	2	3	0	-3	1	12	4
Z	0	-5-2M	-2-3M	0	2+3M	-M	8-12M	

# Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

- Second iteration

Entering Variable

Leaving Variable



Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	R1	R3	RHS	Ratio
X1	1	2/3	0	0	0	1/3	8	12
S2	0	10/3	0	1	0	-1/3	24	7.2
S1	0	2/3	1	0	-1	1/3	4	6
Z	0	-11/3	0	0	0	2/3	+16	

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

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- Third iteration

Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	R1	R3	RHS	Ratio
X1	1	0	-1	0	1	0	4	
S2	0	0	-5	1	5	-2	4	
X2	0	1	3/2	0	-3/2	1/2	6	
Z	0	0	11/3	0	-11/2	5/2	38	

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Maximization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

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points	Classification	Reason
X1=0, X2=0	Not Feasible	R1, R3 both Positive (4, 24)
X1=4, X2=0	Not Feasible	R3 positive= 12
X1=8, X2=0	Feasible but not optimal	X2 is negative
X1=4, X2=6	Feasible and optimal	All $x_1, x_2 \geq 0$



Solving For the optimal solution of **[Minimization]**  
when there are artificial variables

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### Example # 2:

$$\text{Min } 4x_1 + x_2$$

ST

$$3x_1 + x_2 = 3$$

$$4x_1 + 3x_2 \geq 6$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 4$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Minimization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

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### The Solution

- By adding the appropriate slack, surplus, and artificial variables, we obtain the following:

$$\text{Min } 4x_1 + x_2 + MR_1 + MR_2$$

ST

$$3x_1 + x_2 + R_1 = 3$$

$$4x_1 + 3x_2 - s_1 + R_2 = 6$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + s_2 = 4$$

$$x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, R_1, R_2 \geq 0$$

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Minimization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

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- The initial table:

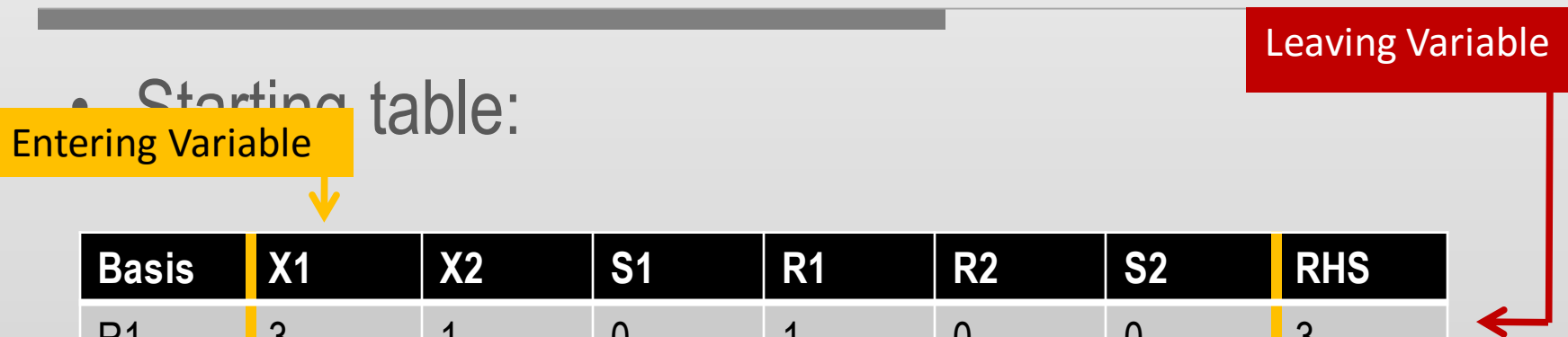
Basis	X1	X2	S1	R1	R2	S2	RHS
R1	3	1	0	1	0	0	3
R2	4	3	-1	0	1	0	6
S2	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
Z	-4	-1	0	-M	-M	0	0

- New z-row = old z-row + ( M \* R1 row + M \* R3 row)

# Solving For the optimal solution of [Minimization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

Leaving Variable

Starting table:  
Entering Variable



Basis	X1	X2	S1	R1	R2	S2	RHS
R1	3	1	0	1	0	0	3
R2	4	3	-1	0	1	0	6
S2	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
Z	-4+7M	-1+4M	-M	0	0	0	9M

# Solving For the optimal solution of [Minimization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

- First iteration

Entering Variable

Leaving Variable

Basis	X1	X2	S1	R1	R2	S2	RHS
X1	1	1/3	0	1/3	0	0	1
R2	0	5/3	-1	-4/3	1	0	2
S2	0	5/3	0	-1/3	0	1	3
Z	0	$(1+5M)/3$	-M	$(4-7M)/3$	0	0	$4+2M$

# Solving For the optimal solution of [Minimization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

- Second iteration

Entering Variable

Leaving Variable

Basis	X1	X2	S1	R1	R2	S2	RHS
X1	1	0	1/5	3/5	-1/5	0	3/5
X2	0	1	-3/5	-4/5	3/5	0	6/5
S2	0	0	1	1	-1	1	1
Z	0	0	1/5	8/5 - M	-1/5 - M	0	18/5

## Solving For the optimal solution of [Minimization] when there are artificial variables (cont.)

- Third iteration

Basis	X1	X2	S1	R1	R2	S2	RHS
X1	1	0	0	2/5	0	-1/5	2/5
X2	0	1	0	-1/5	0	3/5	9/5
s1	0	0	1	1	-1	1	1
Z	0	0	0	7/5 - M	-M	-1/5	17/5

- Optimal solution :  $x_1 = 2/5$ ,  $x_2 = 9/5$ ,  $z = 17/5$

# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases

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- There are four special cases arise in the use of the simplex method.
  1. Degeneracy
  2. Alternative optima
  3. Unbounded solution
  4. Nonexisting ( infeasible ) solution



# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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## 1. Degeneracy ( no improve in objective)

- It typically occurs in a simplex iteration when in the minimum ratio test more than one basic variable determine 0, *hence two or more variables go to 0*, whereas only one of them will be leaving the basis.
- This is in itself not a problem, but making simplex iterations from a degenerate solution may give rise to cycling, meaning that after a certain number of iterations without improvement in objective value the method may turn back to the point where it started.

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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### Example:

$$\text{Max } 3x_1 + 9x_2$$

ST

$$x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 8$$

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 4$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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### The solution:

- The constraints:

$$X_1 + 4x_2 + s_1 = 8$$

$$X_1 + 2x_2 + s_2 = 4$$

$$X_1, x_2, s_1, s_2 \geq 0$$

# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)



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Entering Variable						Leaving Variable					
Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS						
s1	1	4	1	0	8						
s2	1	2	0	1	4						
Z	-3	-9	0	0	0						

# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

Entering Variable

Leaving Variable



Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS
X2	1/4	1	1/4	0	2
s2	1/2	0	-1/2	1	0
Z	-3/4	0	2/4	0	18

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS	Same objective
X2	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	2	
X1	1	0	-1	2	0	
Z	0	0	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	18	

- Same objective no change and improve ( cycle)
- It is possible to have no improve and no termination for computation.

# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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## 2. Alternative optima

- If the z-row value for one or more nonbasic variables is 0 in the optimal tableau, alternate optimal solution is exist.

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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### Example:

$$\text{Max } 2x_1 + 4x_2$$

ST

$$x_1 + 2x_2 \leq 5$$

$$x_1 + x_2 \leq 4$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$



# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

---

## The solution

$$\text{Max } 2x_1 + 4x_2$$

ST

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + s_1 = 5$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + s_2 = 4$$

$$x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2 \geq 0$$

# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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Entering Variable						Leaving Variable					
Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS						
s1	1	2	1	0	4						
s2	1	1	0	1	5						
Z	-2	-4	0	0	0						



## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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- Optimal solution is 10 when  $x_2=5/2$ ,  $x_1=0$ .

Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS
x2	1/2	1	1/2	0	5/2
s2	1/2	0	-1/2	1	3/2
Z	0	0	2	0	10

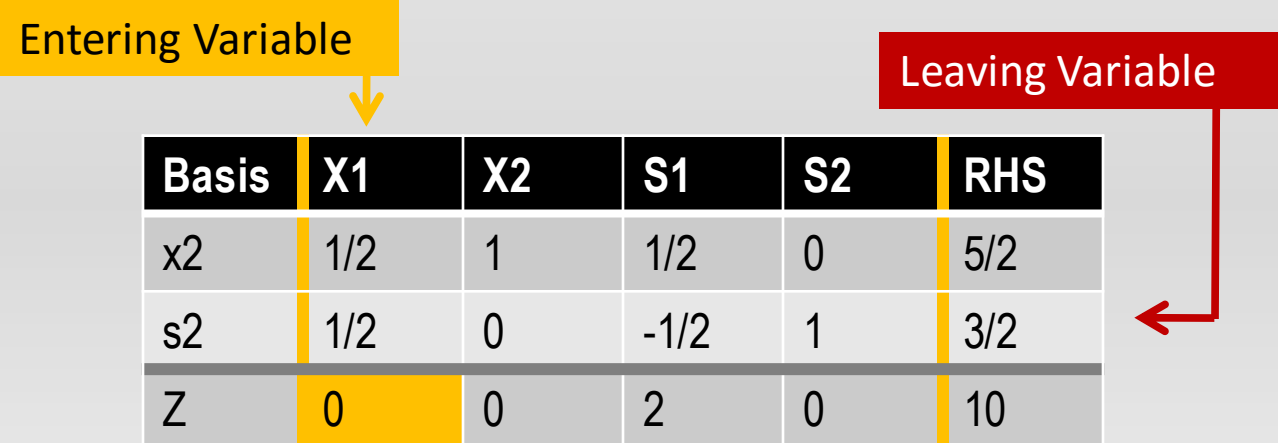
- How do we know from this tubule that alternative optima exist ?

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

- By looking at z-row coefficient of the nonbasic variable

Entering Variable

Leaving Variable



Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS
x2	1/2	1	1/2	0	5/2
s2	1/2	0	-1/2	1	3/2
Z	0	0	2	0	10

- The coefficient for x1 is 0, which indicates that x1 can enter the basic solution without changing the value of z.

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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- The second alternative optima is:

Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS
x2	0	1	1	-1	1
x1	1	0	-1	2	3
Z	0	0	2	0	10

- The new optimal solution is 10 when  $x_1=3$ ,  $x_2=1$

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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### 3. Unbounded solution

- It occurs when nonbasic variables are zero or negative in all constraints coefficient (max) and variable coefficient in objective is negative

# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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## Example

$$\text{Max } 2x_1 + x_2$$

ST

$$x_1 - x_2 \leq 10$$

$$2x_1 \leq 40$$

$$x_1, x_2 \geq 0$$

# Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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## The solution

Max  $2x_1 + x_2$

ST

$$x_1 - x_2 + s_1 = 10$$

$$2x_1 + s_2 = 40$$

$$x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2 \geq 0$$



## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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Basis	X1	X2	S1	S2	RHS
x2	1	-1	1	0	10
x1	2	0	0	1	40
Z	-2	-1	0	0	0

- All value if x2( nonbasic variable) either zero or negative.
- So, solution space is unbounded

## Simplex Algorithm – Special cases (cont.)

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### 4. Infeasible solution

- R coefficient at end  $\neq 0$
- This situation can never occur if all the constraints are of the type “ $\leq$ ” with nonnegative RHS