

EMS Staff Scheduling Optimization Project

Jaipreet Kaur

December 01, 2025

1. Introduction

This project develops a mathematical optimization model to create a minimum-cost weekly schedule for EMS staff.

2. Data

```
staff <- read.csv("staff.csv")
req <- read.csv("requirements.csv")
staff

##   staff_id      name     type weekday_wage weekend_wage
## 1       P1  Garcia Paramedic        250         300
## 2       P2  Smith Paramedic        250         300
## 3       P3 Johnson Paramedic        250         300
## 4       P4 Williams Paramedic        250         300
## 5       E1    Brown   EMT        180         220
## 6       E2   Jones   EMT        180         220
## 7       E3   Miller  EMT        180         220
## 8       E4   Davis   EMT        180         220
## 9       E5   Wilson  EMT        180         220
## 10      E6   Moore   EMT        180         220
## 11      E7 Taylor   EMT        180         220
## 12      E8 Anderson  EMT        180         220

req

##          day day_num min_staff min_paramedics
## 1    Monday       1       6            2
## 2   Tuesday       2       6            2
## 3 Wednesday       3       8            3
## 4 Thursday       4       8            3
## 5   Friday       5      10            4
## 6 Saturday       6       8            3
## 7   Sunday       7       6            2
```

3. Manual Feasible Schedule

```
manual_schedule <- matrix(
  c(
    1,1,1,1,0,0,0,
    1,1,1,1,1,0,0,
    1,0,1,0,1,1,0,
    0,0,1,1,1,1,1,
    1,1,1,1,1,0,0,
    1,1,0,1,0,0,0,
    1,1,1,1,1,1,0,
    1,1,1,1,1,1,0,
    1,0,1,0,1,1,0,
    1,1,1,1,1,1,1,
    1,1,1,1,1,0,0,
    1,1,1,1,1,1,1
  ),
  nrow = 12, byrow = TRUE
)

rownames(manual_schedule) <- staff$staff_id
colnames(manual_schedule) <- req$day
manual_schedule

##      Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday
## P1        1        1        1        1       0       0       0
## P2        1        1        1        1       1       0       0
## P3        1        0        1        0       1       1       0
## P4        0        0        1        1       1       1       1
## E1        1        1        1        1       1       0       0
## E2        1        1        0        1       0       0       0
## E3        1        1        1        1       1       1       0
## E4        1        1        1        1       1       1       0
## E5        1        0        1        0       1       1       0
## E6        1        1        1        1       1       1       1
## E7        1        1        1        1       1       0       0
## E8        1        1        1        1       1       1       1

cost_manual <- function(schedule) {
  total <- 0
  for (i in 1:nrow(schedule)) {
    for (d in 1:ncol(schedule)) {
      wage <- if (d %in% c(6,7)) staff$weekend_wage[i] else staff$weekday_wage[i]
      total <- total + wage * schedule[i, d]
    }
  }
  total
}

manual_cost <- cost_manual(manual_schedule)
manual_cost

## [1] 12670
```

4. Optimization Model Implementation

```
library(lpSolve)

## Warning: package 'lpSolve' was built under R version 4.3.3

staff_ids <- staff$staff_id
days <- req$day_num
n_staff <- length(staff_ids)
n_days <- length(days)

col_index <- function(i,d) (i-1)*n_days + d
n_vars <- n_staff * n_days

# Objective vector
c_vec <- rep(0,n_vars)
for(i in 1:n_staff){
  for(d in 1:n_days){
    wage <- if(d %in% c(6,7)) staff$weekend_wage[i] else staff$weekday_wage[i]
    c_vec[col_index(i,d)] <- wage
  }
}

A <- list(); dir <- c(); rhs <- c()

# Daily staff req
for(d in 1:n_days){
  row <- rep(0,n_vars)
  for(i in 1:n_staff) row[col_index(i,d)] <- 1
  A <- append(A,list(row)); dir <- c(dir,>=); rhs <- c(rhs, req$min_staff[d])
}

# Paramedics
paramedics <- which(staff$type=="Paramedic")
for(d in 1:n_days){
  row <- rep(0,n_vars)
  for(i in paramedics) row[col_index(i,d)] <- 1
  A <- append(A,list(row)); dir <- c(dir,>=); rhs <- c(rhs, req$min_paramedics[d])
}

# Max 5 days/week
for(i in 1:n_staff){
  row <- rep(0,n_vars)
  for(d in 1:n_days) row[col_index(i,d)] <- 1
  A <- append(A,list(row)); dir <- c(dir,<=); rhs <- c(rhs, 5)
}

# No >4 consecutive
for(i in 1:n_staff){
  for(start in 1:3){
    row <- rep(0,n_vars)
    for(d in start:(start+4)) row[col_index(i,d)] <- 1
```

```

        A <- append(A,list(row)); dir <- c(dir,"<="); rhs <- c(rhs,4)
    }
}

# Availability
unavailability <- list(
  c("P1",7),
  c("P4",1), c("P4",2),
  c("E2",6), c("E2",7),
  c("E5",5)
)
id_map <- setNames(1:n_staff, staff_ids)

for(u in unavailability){
  i <- id_map[[u[1]]]
  d <- as.numeric(u[2])
  row <- rep(0,n_vars); row[col_index(i,d)] <- 1
  A <- append(A,list(row)); dir <- c(dir,"=="); rhs <- c(rhs,0)
}

A_mat <- do.call(rbind,A)

solution <- lp(
  direction="min",
  objective.in=c_vec,
  const.mat=A_mat,
  const.dir=dir,
  const.rhs=rhs,
  all.bin=TRUE
)

optimal_cost <- solution$objval
optimal_cost

```

```
## [1] 11300
```

```

x_opt <- matrix(solution$solution, nrow=n_staff, byrow=TRUE)
rownames(x_opt) <- staff_ids
colnames(x_opt) <- req$day

x_opt

```

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
## P1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
## P2	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
## P3	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
## P4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
## E1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
## E2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
## E3	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
## E4	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
## E5	0	1	1	1	0	1	1

```

## E6      1      0      1      1      1      1      0
## E7      0      0      1      1      1      1      0
## E8      0      0      1      0      1      0      0

```

5. Final Schedule Output Table

```

library(knitr)

## Warning: package 'knitr' was built under R version 4.3.3

library(dplyr)

##
## Attaching package: 'dplyr'

## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
## 
##     filter, lag

## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
## 
##     intersect, setdiff, setequal, union

# Convert 0/1 to or -
display_schedule <- ifelse(x_opt == 1, " ", "-")

schedule_df <- as.data.frame(display_schedule)
schedule_df$`Total Days` <- rowSums(x_opt)

# Individual cost
individual_cost <- function(i){
  total <- 0
  for(d in 1:ncol(x_opt)){
    wage <- if(d %in% c(6,7)) staff$weekend_wage[i] else staff$weekday_wage[i]
    total <- total + wage * x_opt[i,d]
  }
  total
}

schedule_df$Cost <- sapply(1:nrow(x_opt), individual_cost)
schedule_df <- cbind(Staff = staff$staff_id, schedule_df)

# Daily totals
daily_total <- colSums(x_opt)
paramedic_idx <- which(staff$type=="Paramedic")
paramedic_daily <- colSums(x_opt[paramedic_idx,])

summary_df <- rbind(
  schedule_df,

```

```

  c("Daily Total", as.character(daily_total), "", ""),
  c("Paramedics", as.character(paramedic_daily), "", ""))
)

kable(
  summary_df,
  align="c",
  caption="Final EMS Optimal Weekly Schedule"
)

```

Table 1: Final EMS Optimal Weekly Schedule

	Staff	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total Days	Cost
P1	P1		-					-	5	1300
P2	P2	-			-				5	1350
P3	P3			-			-		5	1300
P4	P4	-	-					-	4	1050
E1	E1			-	-	-	-		3	580
E2	E2				-		-	-	4	720
E3	E3		-	-					5	980
E4	E4	-		-					5	980
E5	E5	-				-			5	980
E6	E6		-					-	5	940
E7	E7	-	-					-	4	760
E8	E8	-	-		-		-	-	2	360
13	Daily Total	6	6	8	8	10	8	6		
14	Paramedics	2	2	3	3	4	3	2		

```

cat("**Total Weekly Cost: $", format(optimal_cost, big.mark=', '),
    "**", sep="")

```

```

## **Total Weekly Cost: $11,300**

```