

Assignment 1
STA3036S



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Abstract

This document outlines Plastics Inc's possibility of reaching a 20% profitability target, subject to constraints using the linear solver method in Excel.

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1 Introduction

Plastics Inc. is a small company that contains two semi-automatic production lines, referred to as line 1 and line 2. They both produce high-quality plastics of various types, namely: plastic from recycled material and standard plastic. However, the production of standard plastic is a quicker process. It sells recycled plastic at R700,00 per sheet and standard plastic at R800,00 per sheet.

Planning at Plastics Inc is done on a quarterly and annual basis. The labour demand is based off forecasts for the future year, however changes can occur during the current year.

Plastics Inc. has been through a recent expansion at the plant and as a result there is no space for future plastic production to be stored, however inventory can be stored at a public warehouse.

Each line produces components independently, and each faces its own independent constraints such as working hours available. Each type of plastic also faces its own independent demands for the given month. Plastics Inc management wishes to determine if a 20% profitability target is possible. In this project the 20% profitability target is classified as possible or impossible.

2 Assumptions

Since the given scenario lacks various details, the linear program that has been formulated in this project is based on different assumptions that have been made. The first assumption is - given the fact that storage is allowed, I can assume that there is nothing stored at the start of month one (from May). The second assumption is that the totals for the given accounting data are for the three month period. The third assumption is that the number of plastic sheets is an integer. This assumption is ignored when interpreting the sensitivity report because one cannot generate a sensitivity report in Excel with integer constraints. Finally, in all recommendations given to the Plastics Inc. at the end of the report, they are given with the sole goal of maximising profit.

3 Formulation of the Linear Programme

3.1 Decision Variables

$X_{ijk} \equiv$ The number of sheets of type i produced on line j in month k

$I_{ik} \equiv$ The total number of sheets of type i produced in month k in inventory

$S_{ik} \equiv$ The number of sheets of type i stored in month k

Where:

$i \in 1$ (recycled) ; 2 (standard)

$j \in$ (line) 1; (line) 2

$k \in 1$ (June); 2 (July); 3 (August)

$$I_{ik} = \sum_{j=1}^2 X_{ijk} + S_{ik-1}$$

$D_{ik} =$ Total demand of sheet type i in month k

$$S_{ik} = I_{ik} - D_{ik}$$

3.2 Objective Function

$$P = R - C$$

Where:

$P =$ Profit

$R =$ Revenue

$C =$ Cost

3.3 Revenue

$$R = \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 D_{ik} \times \text{R}700,00 + \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 D_{ik} \times \text{R}800,00$$

3.4 Cost

$$C = \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 (LC_{ijk} + PO_{ijk} + OC_{ijk} + PC_{ijk} + SC_{ijk})$$

Where:

LC_{ijk} = Total Labour costs to produce sheets of type i on line j in month k .

PO_{ijk} = Total production overheads from producing sheets of type i on line j in month k .

OC_{ijk} = Total overall cost to produce sheets of type i on line j in month k .

PC_{ijk} = Total production costs to produce sheets of type i on line j in month k .

SC_{ijk} = Total cost of storing sheets of type i on line j in month k .

3.4.1 Costs per hour

The following available hours are given:

| Process | hours per recycled plastic sheet | hours per standard plastic sheet |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Line 1 | 3.0 | 1.5 |
| Line 2 | 4.0 | 2.5 |

Total number of hours:

$H_{jk} = H$ = The total number of hours required to produce plastic on line j in month k

$$H = 3 \times \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{11k} + 4 \times \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{12k} + 1.5 \times \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{21k} + 2.5 \times \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{22k}$$

The following costs per hour are given:

| Cost Category | Line 1 | Line 2 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| Labour (LC) | R32,00 | R32,00 |
| Production Overheads (PO) | R24,00 | R24,00 |

Labour costs:

$$LC_{ijk} = R32,00 \times H$$

Production overheads:

$$PO_{ijk} = R24,00 \times H$$

3.4.2 Costs per sheet:

The following costs per sheet are given:

| Cost | Recycled plastic (R/sheet) | Standard Plastic (R/sheet) |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Overall | R320,00 | R400,00 |
| Packaging | R80,00 | R80,00 |
| Storage | R20,00 | R20,00 |

Overall costs:

$$OC_{ijk} = \text{R}320,00 \times \sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{1jk} + \text{R}400,00 \times \sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{2jk}$$

Packaging costs:

$$PC_{ijk} = \text{R}80,00 \times \left(\sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{1jk} + \sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 X_{2jk} \right)$$

Storage costs:

$$SC_{ijk} = \text{R}20,00 \times \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^3 S_{ik}$$

3.5 Constraints

3.5.1 Demand Constraints

The following demands are given:

| Month | Recycled plastic | Standard Plastic |
|--------|------------------|------------------|
| June | 75 | 45 |
| July | 150 | 90 |
| August | 75 | 75 |

As such the formalised demand constraints are given as:

$$I_{11} \geq 75 \quad (1)$$

$$I_{12} \geq 150 \quad (2)$$

$$I_{13} \geq 75 \quad (3)$$

$$I_{21} \geq 45 \quad (4)$$

$$I_{22} \geq 90 \quad (5)$$

$$I_{23} \geq 75 \quad (6)$$

3.5.2 Time Constraints

The following available hours per month are given:

| Month | Recycled plastic | Standard plastic |
|--------|------------------|------------------|
| June | 280 | 500 |
| July | 150 | 160 |
| August | 300 | 200 |

As such the time constraints are given as:

$$H_{11} \leq 280 \quad (7)$$

$$H_{12} \leq 150 \quad (8)$$

$$H_{13} \leq 300 \quad (9)$$

$$H_{21} \leq 500 \quad (10)$$

$$H_{22} \leq 160 \quad (11)$$

$$H_{23} \leq 200 \quad (12)$$

3.5.3 Integer Constraint

$$X_{ijk} \in Z \quad (13)$$

4 Final Values and Solution

The final values and the solution as generated by solver in the “No overtime” Excel sheet are:

$$X_{111} = 71$$

$$X_{112} = 5$$

$$X_{113} = 62$$

$$X_{121} = 109$$

$$X_{122} = 40$$

$$X_{123} = 13$$

$$X_{211} = 44$$

$$X_{212} = 90$$

$$X_{213} = 75$$

$$X_{221} = 1$$

$$X_{222} = 0$$

$$X_{223} = 0$$

Objective function:

Profit = Revenue - Costs

$$= \text{R}378\,000,00 - \text{R}300\,068,00$$

$$= \text{R}77\,932,00$$

$$\text{Profitability} = \frac{\text{Profit}}{\text{Revenue}} \times 100$$

$$= \text{R}77\,932,00 \div \text{R}378\,000,00 \times 100$$

$$= 20,62\%$$

5 Sensitivity Report Analysis

In order to generate the sensitivity report, the integer constraints had to be ignored as Excel cannot generate a sensitivity report given integer constraints. Thus the values used in this analysis are not the values that generated the final answer as stated in Section 4, but rather their unrounded precursors.

The sensitivity reports for “No Overtime” and “Overtime” can be seen below.

Variable Cells

| | Cell | Name | Final Value | Reduced Cost | Objective Coefficient | Allowable Increase | Allowable Decrease |
|----------|---------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Recycle | \$B\$3 | Line 1 June | 70.83333333 | 0 | -628 | 56 | 20 |
| | \$C\$3 | Line 1 July | 5 | 0 | -608 | 20 | 60 |
| | \$D\$3 | Line 1 August | 62.5 | 0 | -588 | 56 | 56 |
| | \$B\$4 | Line 2 June | 109.1666667 | 0 | -684 | 20 | 56 |
| | \$C\$4 | Line 2 July | 40 | 0 | -664 | 1E+30 | 20 |
| | \$D\$4 | Line 2 August | 12.5 | 0 | -644 | 56 | 40 |
| Standard | \$B\$13 | Line 1 June | 45 | 0 | -624 | 10 | 28 |
| | \$C\$13 | Line 1 July | 90 | 0 | -604 | 30 | 10 |
| | \$D\$13 | Line 1 August | 75 | 0 | -584 | 612 | 28 |
| | \$B\$14 | Line 2 June | 0 | -28 | -680 | 28 | 1E+30 |
| | \$C\$14 | Line 2 July | 0 | -30.5 | -660 | 30.5 | 1E+30 |
| | \$D\$14 | Line 2 August | 0 | -28 | -640 | 28 | 1.00E+30 |

Constraints

| | Cell | Name | Final Value | Shadow Price | Constraint R.H. Side | Allowable Increase | Allowable Decrease |
|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Standard | \$B\$16 | Inventory after production June | 45 | -10 | 45 | 90 | 10 |
| | \$C\$16 | Inventory after production July | 90 | -30 | 90 | 10 | 75 |
| | \$D\$16 | Inventory after production August | 75 | -612 | 75 | 75 | 25 |
| | \$B\$38 | June Line 1 | 280 | 18.6666667 | 280 | 327.5 | 47.5 |
| | \$B\$39 | July Line 1 | 150 | 25.3333333 | 150 | 315 | 15 |
| | \$B\$40 | August Line 1 | 300 | 18.6666667 | 300 | 37.5 | 112.5 |
| Recycle | \$B\$6 | Inventory after production June | 180 | 0 | 75 | 105 | 1E+30 |
| | \$C\$6 | Inventory after production July | 150 | -40 | 150 | 12.5 | 37.5 |
| | \$D\$6 | Inventory after production August | 75 | -644 | 75 | 37.5 | 12.5 |
| | \$E\$38 | June Line 2 | 436.6666667 | 0 | 500 | 1E+30 | 63.33333 |
| | \$E\$39 | July Line 2 | 160 | 5 | 160 | 420 | 63.33333 |
| | \$E\$40 | August Line 2 | 50 | 0 | 200 | 1E+30 | 150 |

Figure 1: "No overtime" Sensitivity report

Variable Cells

| Cell | Name | Final Value | Reduced Cost | Objective Coefficient | Allowable Increase | Allowable Decrease |
|---------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$B\$3 | Line 1 June | 70.83333333 | 0 | -628 | 56 | 20 |
| \$C\$3 | Line 1 July | 5 | 0 | -608 | 20 | 76 |
| \$D\$3 | Line 1 August | 75 | 0 | -588 | 588 | 56 |
| \$B\$4 | Line 2 June | 109.1666667 | 0 | -684 | 20 | 56 |
| \$C\$4 | Line 2 July | 40 | 0 | -664 | 1E+30 | 20 |
| \$D\$4 | Line 2 August | 0 | -56 | -644 | 56 | 1E+30 |
| \$B\$13 | Line 1 June | 45 | 0 | -624 | 10 | 28 |
| \$C\$13 | Line 1 July | 90 | 0 | -604 | 58 | 10 |
| \$D\$13 | Line 1 August | 75 | 0 | -584 | 584 | 56 |
| \$B\$14 | Line 2 June | 0 | -28 | -680 | 28 | 1E+30 |
| \$C\$14 | Line 2 July | 0 | -30.5 | -660 | 30.5 | 1E+30 |
| \$D\$14 | Line 2 August | 0 | -56 | -640 | 56 | 1E+30 |

Constraints

| Cell | Name | Final Value | Shadow Price | Constraint R.H. Side | Allowable Increase | Allowable Decrease |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$B\$18 | Inventory after production <= | 45 | -10 | 45 | 90 | 10 |
| \$C\$18 | Inventory after production <= | 90 | -58 | 90 | 10 | 28.33333333 |
| \$D\$18 | Inventory after production <= | 75 | -584 | 75 | 28.33333333 | 75 |
| \$B\$38 | June Line 1 | 280 | 18.66666667 | 280 | 327.5 | 47.5 |
| \$B\$39 | July Line 1 | 150 | 25.33333333 | 150 | 315 | 15 |
| \$B\$40 | August Line 1 | 337.5 | 0 | 380 | 1E+30 | 42.5 |
| \$B\$8 | Inventory after production <= | 180 | 0 | 75 | 105 | 1E+30 |
| \$C\$8 | Inventory after production <= | 150 | -96 | 150 | 15.83333333 | 14.16666667 |
| \$D\$8 | Inventory after production <= | 75 | -588 | 75 | 14.16666667 | 75 |
| \$E\$38 | <= Line 2 | 436.6666667 | 0 | 500 | 1E+30 | 63.33333333 |
| \$E\$39 | <= Line 2 | 160 | 5 | 160 | 420 | 63.33333333 |
| \$E\$40 | <= Line 2 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 1E+30 | 200 |

Figure 2: "Overtime" Sensitivity report

5.1 Variable Cells

Note this is analysing the “No overtime sensitivity report”.

The optimal solution consists of the following amounts of recycled from line 1: 70,833 in June, 5 in July and 75 in August. The optimal solution for line 2 consists of the following amounts 109,17 for June, 40 for July and 12,5 for August. Whereas for standard plastic the optimal solution values for line 1 are 45 for June, 90 for July and 75 for August. The standard plastic for all three months for line two is 0.

On the one hand since all of the recycled plastic from line 1 and 2 has a reduced cost of 0 which means that profit cannot be increased by changing these amounts as the definition of the reduced cost is “how much a 1 unit change in the coefficients of the objective function will change profit.” This essentially means that it is the amount by which the objective function parameters would have to improve before it would be possible for a corresponding variable to take on a positive value in the optimal solution (ie for it to become a part of the solution).

On the other hand when the reduced cost is not zero, for example with the case of standard plastic line 2 for June, the reduced cost is -28, which represents the amount by which profit will be reduced if I include a unit from line 2 in June in the solution - hence it does not make enough profit to warrant its inclusion. The profit needs to improve by at least 28. The same reasoning goes for line 2 in July and August with values of -30,5 and -28. Therefore they are not included in the solution and it would not be beneficial to add them.

On the other hand for line 2 for August by changing the right hand side of the constraint the profit will decrease by 56.

5.2 Constraints

5.2.1 Hour Constraints

In all cases, it appears that increasing the hour constraints will increase profit given that all shadow prices are ≥ 0 . In particular, the available production hours on line 1 should be increased if possible. Every 1 unit increase in the available hours for June, will increase profit by R18,67; every 1 unit increase in the available hours for July, will increase profit by R25,33 and every 1 unit increase in the available hours for August, will increase profit by R18,67. The effect of changing the production capacity of line 2 is less impactful: every 1 unit increase in the available hours for July, will increase profit by R5,00, otherwise changing the available hours in June and August will have no effect on profit. As such, it would seem that the additional 80 hours that are available at the end of August, should be implemented on line 1, however this view fails to take their cost into account. The additional cost offsets the gain had by these hours and as such they should not be incorporated. Hence it is recommended that additional production hours only be included if they come at no extra cost.

5.2.2 Overtime

With reference to whether or not it is profitable to implement the extra 80 hours of Overtime it can be seen from comparing sensitivity reports of “No overtime” and “Overtime” that it is not in fact profitable to add these hours as profit would decrease as

the objective function values would actually decrease while the objective coefficients remain unchanged with the added Overtime. This can be seen as the profit with Overtime implemented is R77106,67, while the profit without Overtime is R78 006,67 (clearly this is more profitable). This is due to the cost of the Overtime as touched on in section 5.2.1.

5.2.3 Demand constraints

With reference to the “No overtime” sensitivity report it can be noted that for line 1; for standard plastic the shadow price of inventory after production for June is -10. This means that for every 1 unit increase in the demand for June the profit will decrease by R10,00. This is a similar case for inventory after production for July (with a decrease in profit of R30,00) and August (with a decrease in profit of R612,00). This essentially alludes to the fact that Plastics Inc. should not increase their demand as this will lead to a decrease in profit. Similarly for recycled plastic for line 2, no more inventory should be stored (no increase in demand is needed) as for a 1 unit for August profit will decrease by R40,00 and for August it will decrease by R644,00. However for June, since the shadow price is 0, increasing or decreasing the demand will have no effect on the optimal value of the problem.

6 Conclusion

To conclude it is possible for Plastics Inc to make a profitability target of 20% as the linear programme reveals that with No overtime added the profitability is 20.64% with a profit of R78006,67 and with Overtime added the profitability is 20.40%

with a profit of R77 106,67 - this is with the given assumptions. In summary, I recommend that production capabilities be improved particularly on line 1 as this will greatly increase profit. However, this is only recommended if it can be done at no extra cost.

7 Member Contributions

my group worked cohesively together with each member contributing substantially to the project.

Matthew Whall solved the linear programme as Ill as the additional scenario with Overtime.

Kiara Beilinson performed the sensitivity analysis.

Both members worked together on the abstract, introduction, assumptions and conclusion.

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