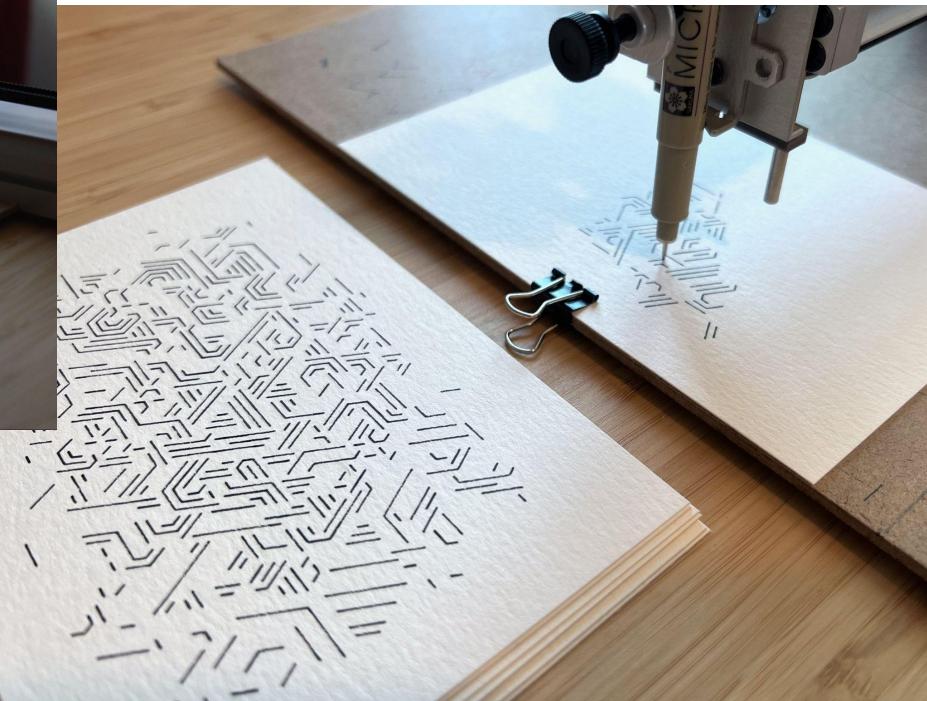
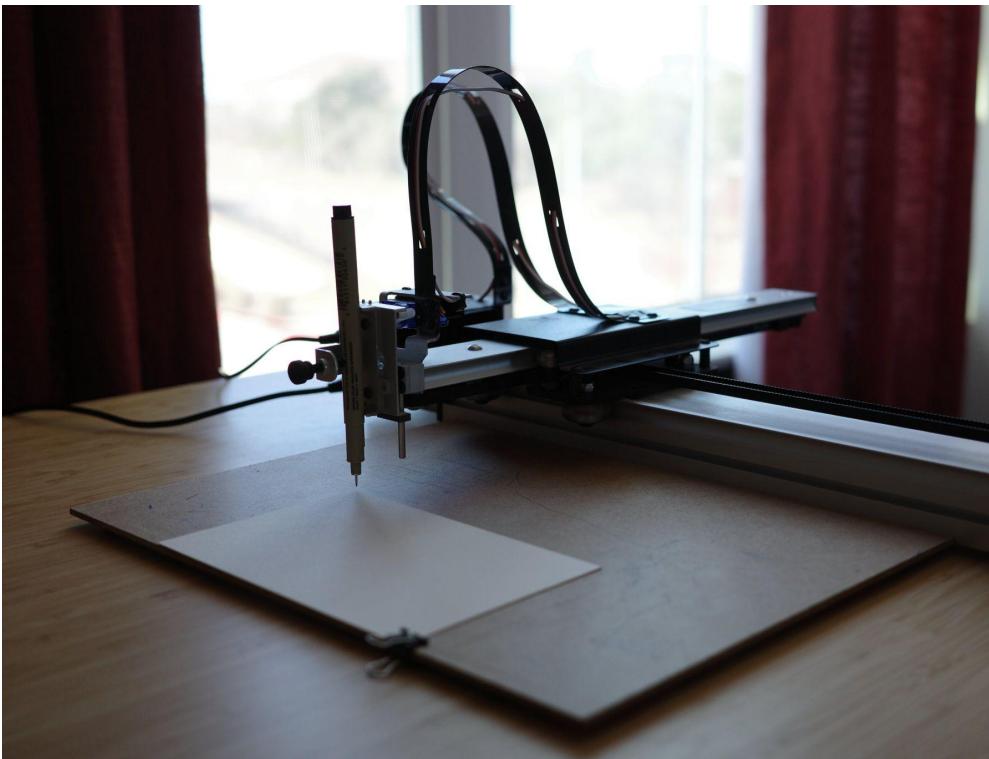
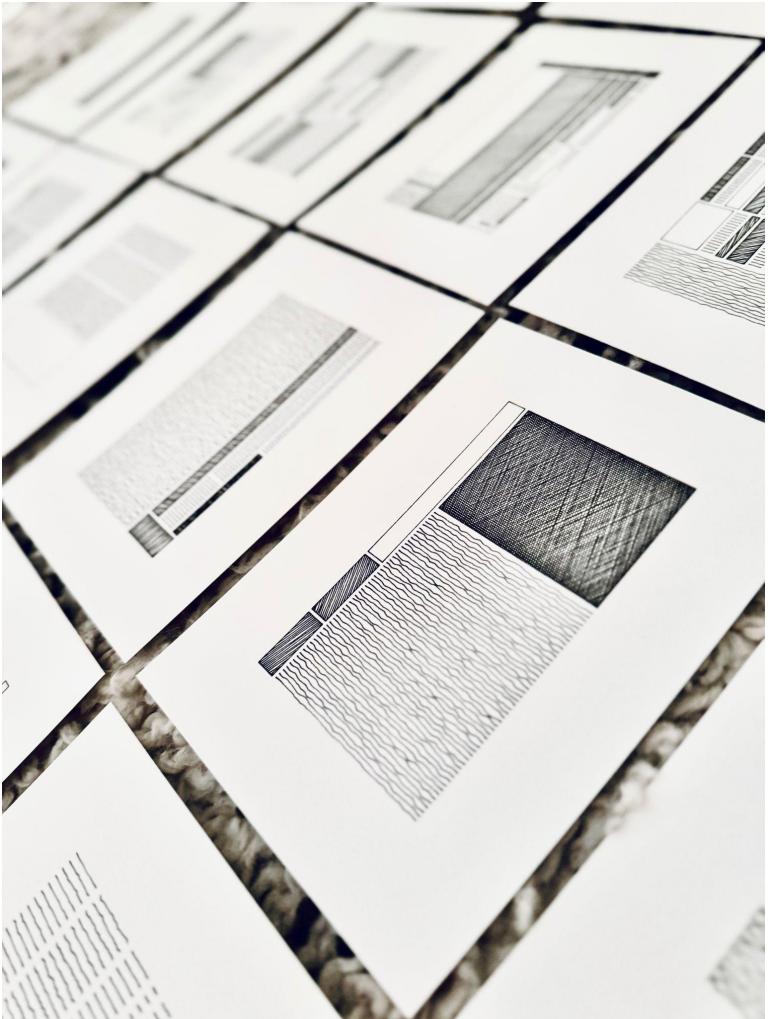


# Organizing an international postcard exchange with Rust

A gentle introduction to constrained optimization



@ippsketch  
#ptpx 2023



Left:  
@taylorbaldwin  
ptpx 2023

Right:  
@adamfuhrer  
ptpx 2023



# Constrained Optimization

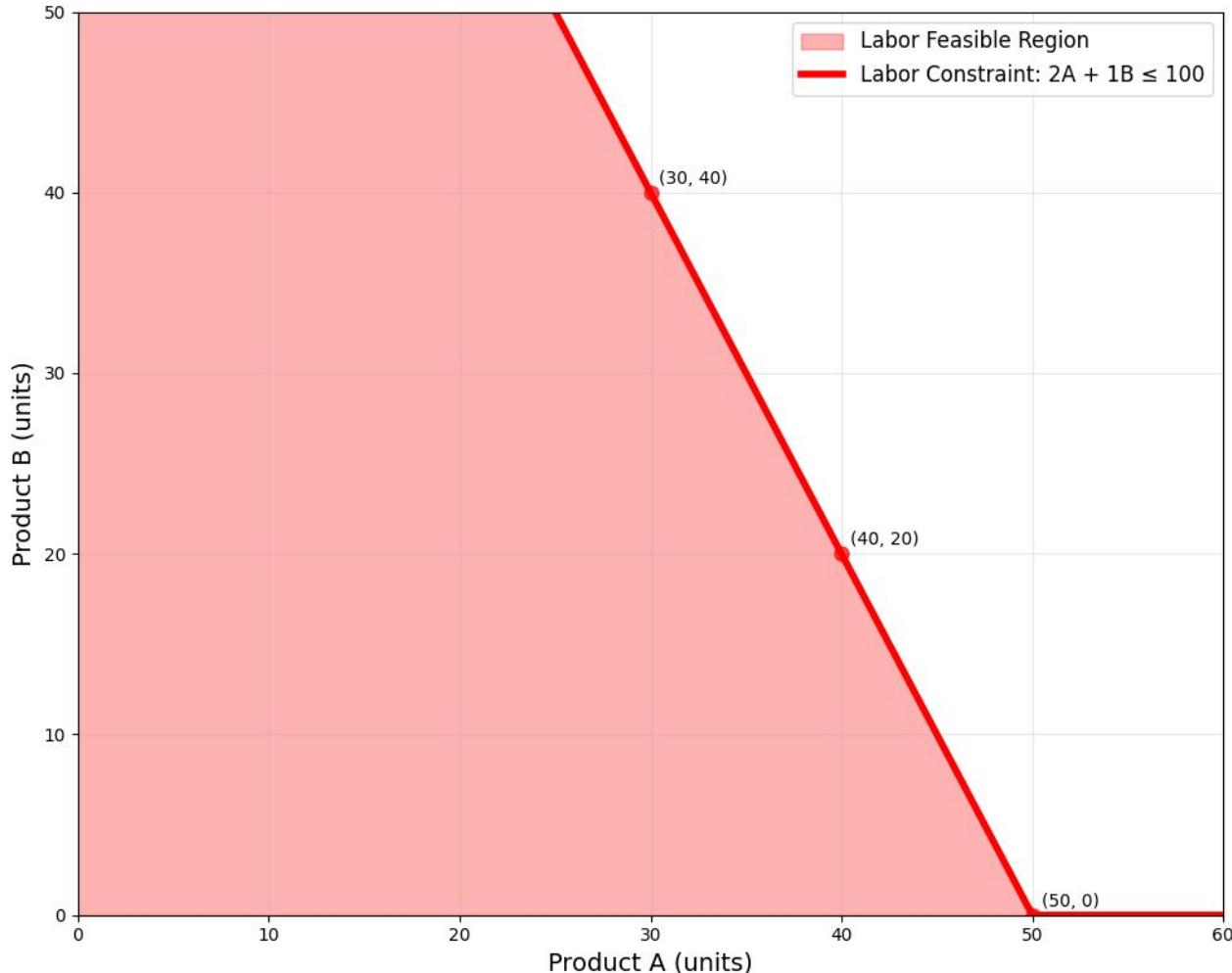
## **A factory produces two products (A and B)**

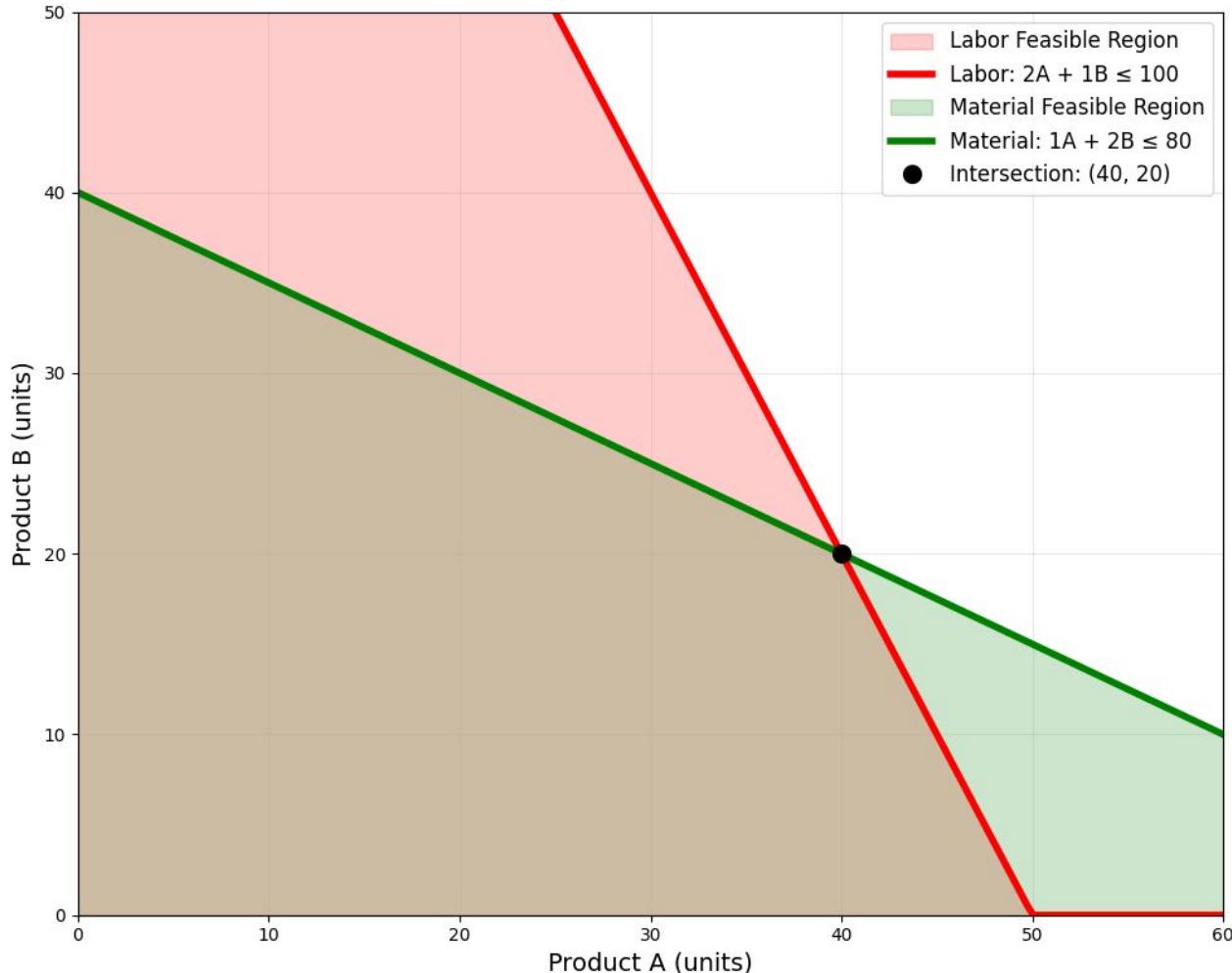
Product A: profit = \$40, requires 2 hours labor, 1 unit material

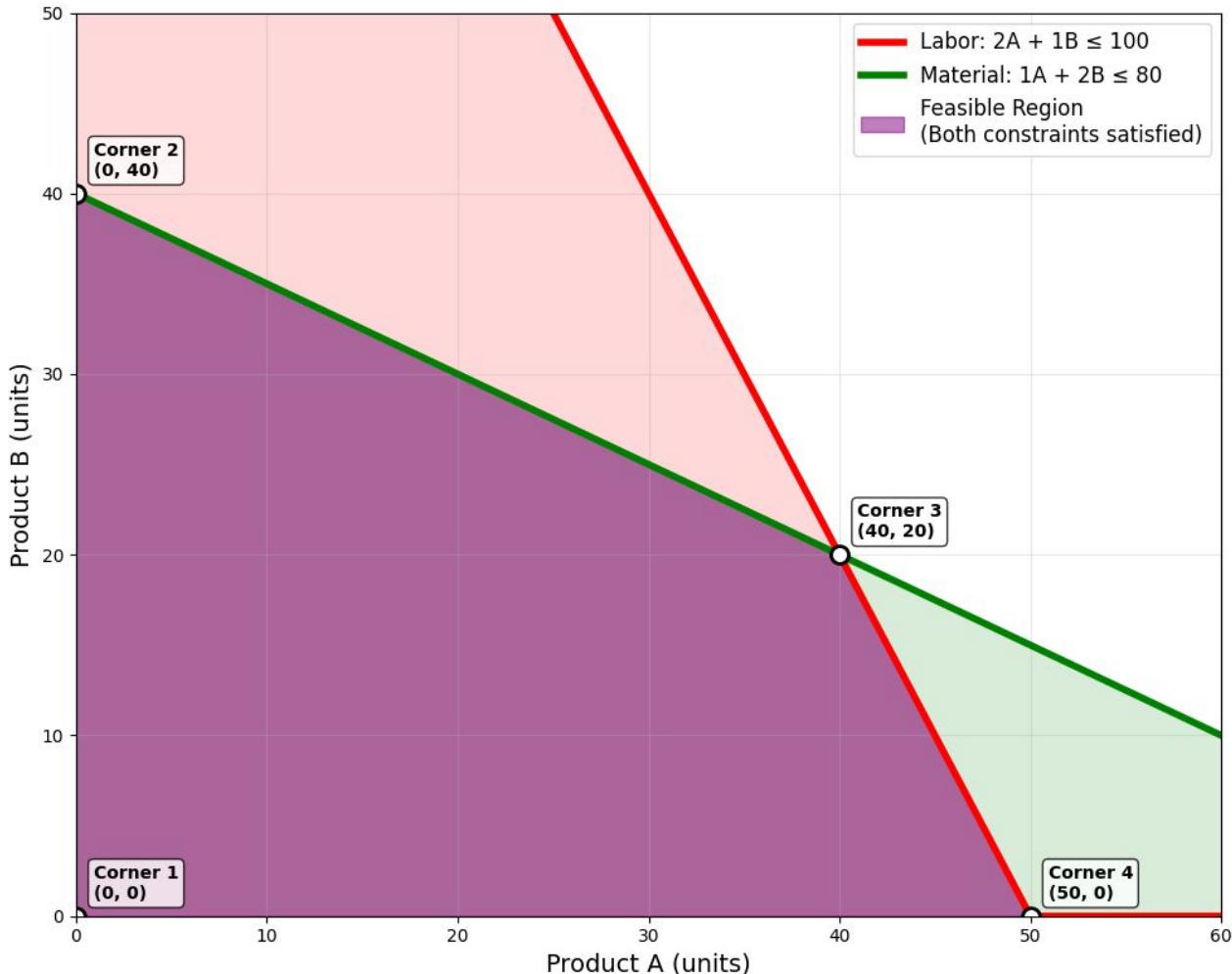
Product B: profit = \$30, requires 1 hour labor, 2 units material

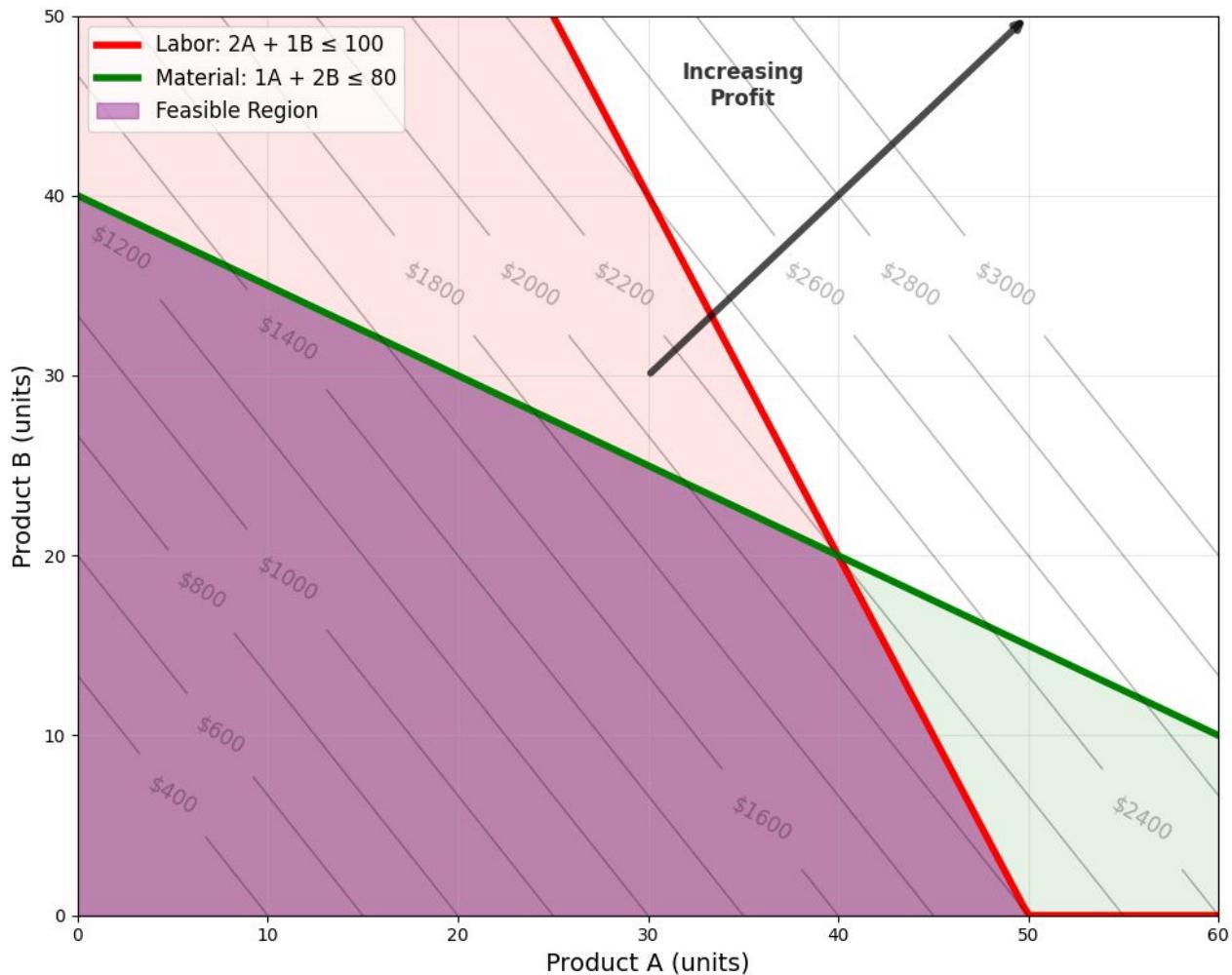
Constraints: max 100 hours labor, max 80 units material

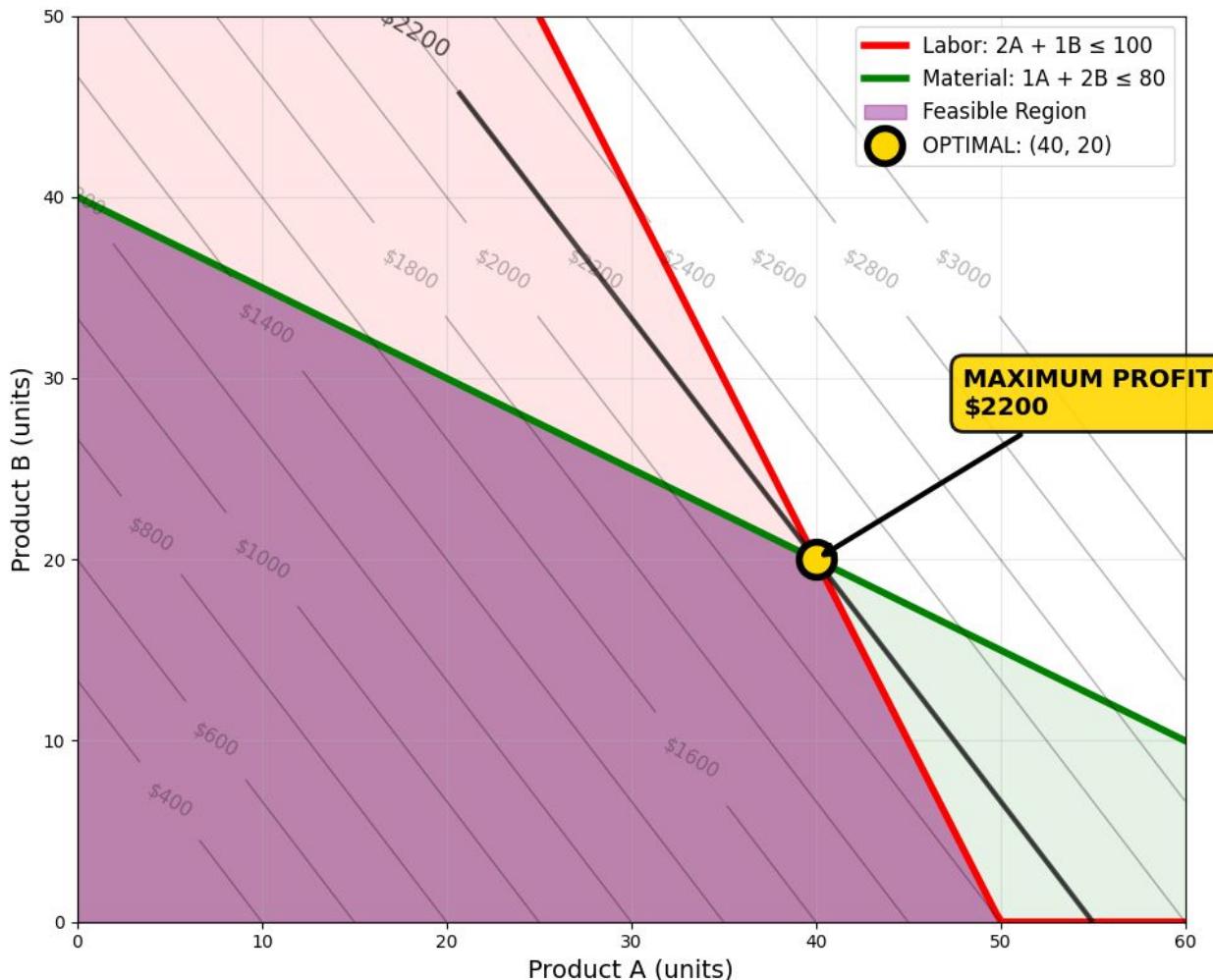
Goal: **maximize profit**

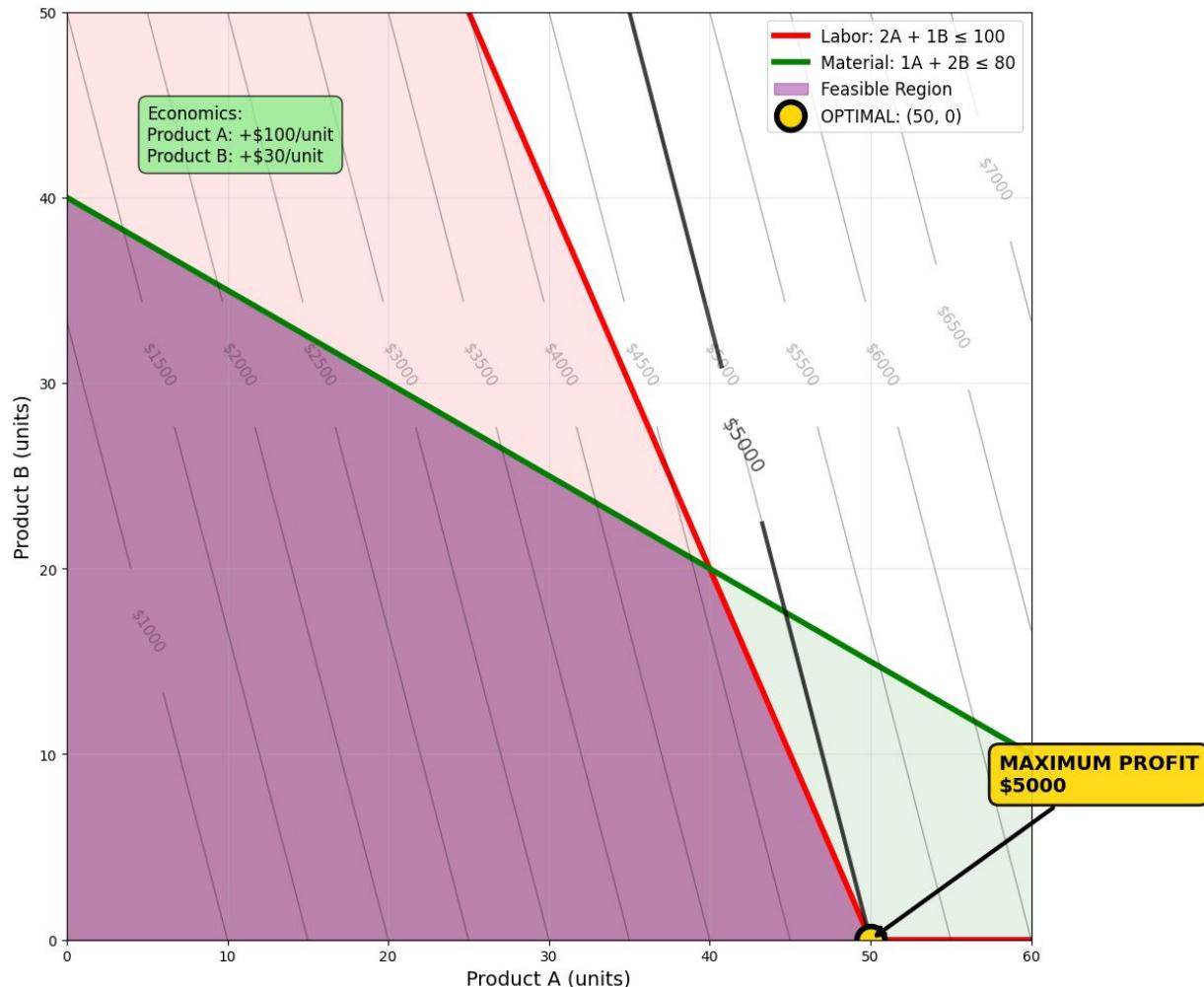








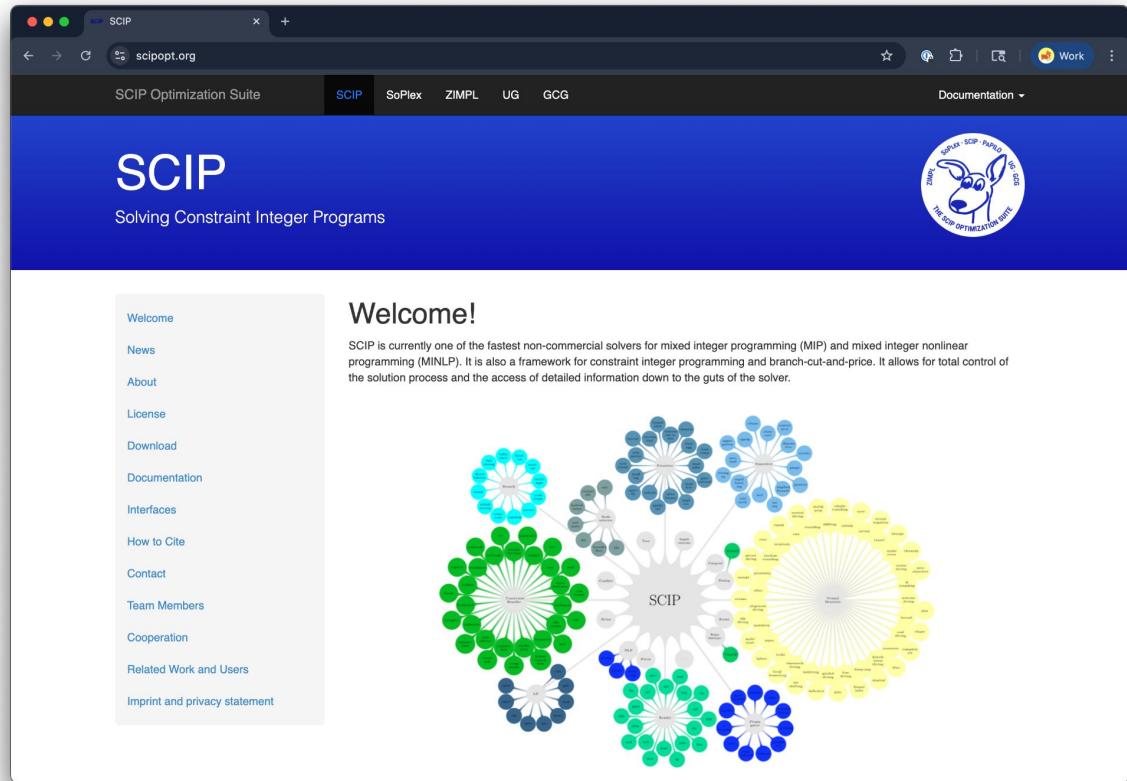




# SCIP

Zuse Institute Berlin

Apache 2.0



<https://www.scipopt.org>  
<https://github.com/scipopt/scip>

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the crates.io website for the 'russcip' crate. The page has a dark theme. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for search, browse, and login. Below it is the crates.io logo and a search bar. The main title is 'russcip v0.8.2' with the subtitle 'Rust interface for SCIP'. Below the title are tabs for 'Readme' (which is active), '41 Versions', 'Dependencies', and 'Dependents'.  
  

## russcip

A safe Rust interface for [SCIP](#). This crate also exposes access to the SCIP's C-API through the `ffi` module. The project is currently actively developed, issues/pull-requests are very welcome.

### Installation

The easiest way is to run this in your crate directory

```
cargo add russcip --features bundled
```

for other installation methods, please check [INSTALL.md](#).

### Usage

We provide multiple examples listed [here](#), and you can also check the [documentation](#).

### Accessing unsafe functions

The `ffi` module provides access to the raw C-API of SCIP. This can be used to call functions that are not wrapped in the safe interface yet. The `scip_ptr`

### Metadata

🔗 [pkg:cargo/russcip@0.8.2](#) ⓘ  
📅 2 months ago  
🕒 2021 edition  
Apache-2.0  
81.8 KiB

### Install

Run the following Cargo command in your project directory:

```
cargo add russcip
```

Or add the following line to your `Cargo.toml`:

```
russcip = "0.8.2"
```

### Documentation

🔗 [docs.rs/russcip/0.8.2](#)

### Repository

🔗 [github.com/scipopt/russcip](#)

### Owners

```
use russcip::prelude::*;

fn main() {
    let mut model = Model::new()
        .hide_output()
        .include_default_plugins()
        .create_prob("production_planning")
        .set_obj_sense(ObjSense::Maximize);
    // ...
}
```

```
let var_a = model.add_var(  
    0., // lower bound (can't create negative products)  
    f64::INFINITY, // upper bound (no inherent limit)  
    40., // objective coefficient ($40/unit)  
    "product_A", // name (arbitrary label)  
    VarType::Integer // always a whole number  
);
```

```
let var_a = model.add_var(  
    0., // lower bound (can't create negative products)  
    f64::INFINITY, // upper bound (no inherent limit)  
    40., // objective coefficient ($40/unit)  
    "product_A", // name (arbitrary label)  
    VarType::Integer // always a whole number  
);  
let var_b = model.add_var(  
    0., // lower bound (can't create negative products)  
    f64::INFINITY, // upper bound (no inherent limit)  
    30., // objective coefficient ($30/unit)  
    "product_B", // name (arbitrary label)  
    VarType::Integer // always a whole number  
);
```

```
let _labor_constraint = model.add_cons(  
    vec![&var_a, &var_b], // variables involved  
    &[2.0, 1.0],          // coefficients on each variable, respectively  
    -f64::INFINITY,       // lower bound  
    100.0,                // upper bound  
    "labor_constraint"    // name (arbitrary label)  
);
```

```
let _labor_constraint = model.add_cons(  
    vec![&var_a, &var_b],  
    &[2.0, 1.0],  
    -f64::INFINITY,  
    100.0,  
    "labor_constraint"  
);
```

Product A: profit = \$40, requires 2 hours labor, 1 unit material

Product B: profit = \$30, requires 1 hour labor, 2 units material

Constraints: max 100 hours labor, max 80 units material

```
let _labor_constraint = model.add_cons(  
    vec![&var_a, &var_b], // variables involved  
    &[2.0, 1.0],          // coefficients on each variable, respectively  
    -f64::INFINITY,       // lower bound  
    100.0,                // upper bound  
    "labor_constraint"    // name (arbitrary label)  
);
```

```
let _labor_constraint = model.add_cons(  
    vec![&var_a, &var_b], // variables involved  
    &[2.0, 1.0], // coefficients on each variable, respectively  
    -f64::INFINITY, // lower bound  
    100.0, // upper bound  
    "labor_constraint" // name (arbitrary label)  
);  
let _material_constraint = model.add_cons(  
    vec![&var_a, &var_b], // variables involved  
    &[1.0, 2.0], // coefficients on each variable, respectively  
    -f64::INFINITY, // lower bound  
    80.0, // upper bound  
    "material_constraint" // name (arbitrary label)  
);
```

```
let solved_model = model.solve();

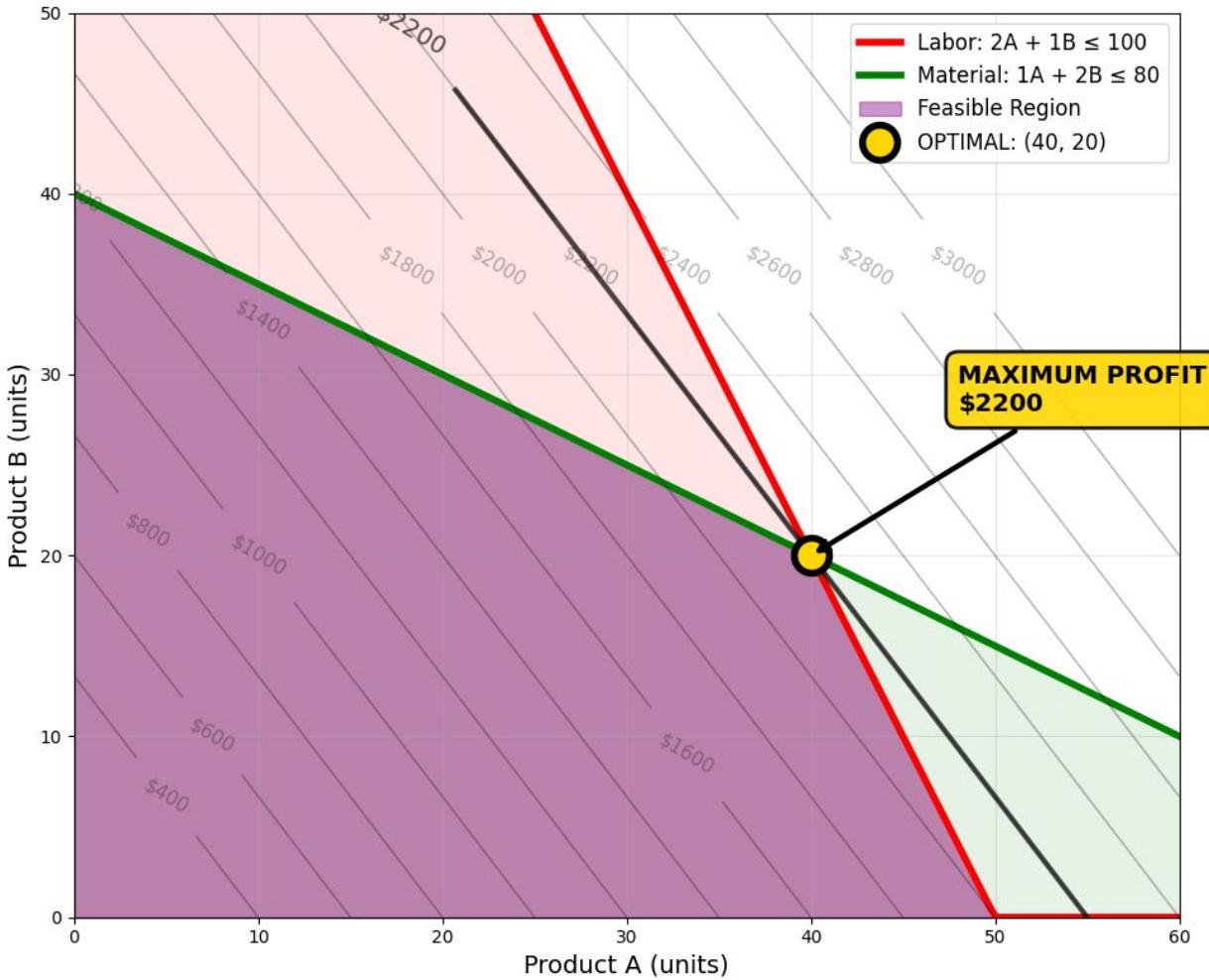
match solved_model.status() {
    Status::Optimal => {
        let sol = solved_model.best_sol().unwrap();
        let a_value = sol.val(&var_a);
        let b_value = sol.val(&var_b);
        let objective_value = solved_model.obj_val();
        println!("Optimal solution found!");
        println!("Product A: {}", a_value);
        println!("Product B: {}", b_value);
        println!("Objective value: {}", objective_value);
    }
    _ => {
        return Err(
            format!("Solver finished with status: {:?}", solved_model.status()).into()
        );
    }
}
```

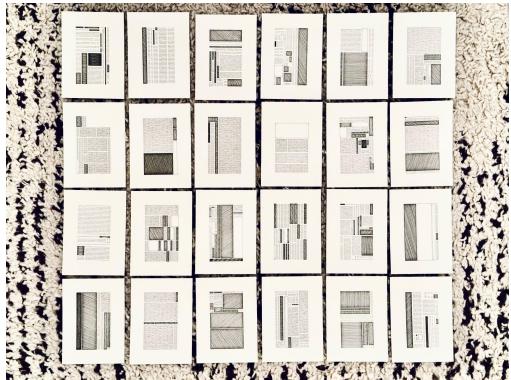
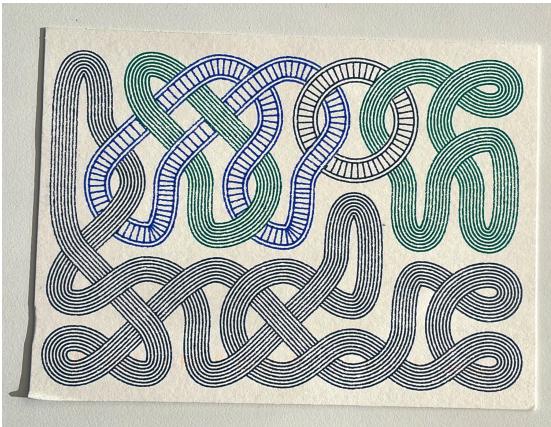
```
let solved_model = model.solve();

match solved_model.status() {
    Status::Optimal => {
        let sol = solved_model.best_sol().unwrap();
        let a_value = sol.val(&var_a);
        let b_value = sol.val(&var_b);
        let objective_value = solved_model.obj_val();
        println!("Optimal solution found!");
        println!("Product A: {}", a_value);
        println!("Product B: {}", b_value);
        println!("Objective value: {}", objective_value);
    }
    _ => {
        return Err(
            format!("Solver finished with status: {:?}", solved_model.status()).into()
        );
    }
}
```

```
~/projects/scip-talk: cargo run
  Compiling scip-talk v0.1.0
    Finished `dev` profile [unoptimized + debuginfo]
      Running `target/debug/scip-talk`
Optimal solution found!
Product A: 40
Product B: 20
Objective value: 2200
```

```
~/projects/scip-talk: c  
Compiling scip-talk  
Finished `dev` prof  
Running `target/deb  
Optimal solution found!  
Product A: 40  
Product B: 20  
Objective value: 2200
```





# Model

Variables:  $N^2$  variables represented in  $N \times N$  matrix  $\mathbf{X}$

$x_{i,j} = 1$  if participant  $i$  sends a postcard to participant  $j$ ,  
otherwise 0.

# Constraints

- No participant sends a card to themselves.
- No participant sends more cards than they signed up for.
- Every participant receives as many cards as they receive.
- No pair of participants send and receive from each other.

# Objective

Maximize number of cards sent

```
let mut model = Model::new()  
    .hide_output()  
    .include_default_plugins()  
    .create_prob("pairings")  
    .set_obj_sense(ObjSense::Maximize);
```

```
// x[i][j] is 1 if person i sends a card to person j
let mut x = Vec::new();
for _ in 0..n {
    let mut row = Vec::new();
    for _ in 0..n {
        row.push(model.add_var(0., 1., 1., "adjacency", VarType::Binary));
    }
    x.push(row);
}
```

```
// Nobody sends a card to themselves.  
for i in 0..n {  
    model.add_cons(vec![&x[i][i]], &[1.], 0., 0., "no_self_exchange");  
}
```

```
// Nobody sends a card to themself.  
for i in 0..n {  
    model.add_cons(vec![&x[i][i]], &[1.], 0., 0., "no_self_exchange");  
}
```

$$0 \leq x_{i,i} * 1 \leq 0$$

(i.e.  $x_{i,i} = 0$ )

The diagram illustrates the constraint  $0 \leq x_{i,i} * 1 \leq 0$ . It features a horizontal line with ' $\leq$ ' symbols at both ends. On the left, a grey arrow points to the first ' $\leq$ ' symbol. On the right, three red arrows point from the ' $*$ ' and ' $1$ ' towards the second ' $\leq$ ' symbol. One red arrow points vertically downwards to the ' $0$ ' at the bottom.

```
// Nobody sends more cards than they signed up for.  
for i in 0..n {  
    let num_cards = cards_for_participant[i];  
    model.add_cons(  
        x[i].iter().collect(),  
        &vec![1.0; n],  
        0.,  
        num_cards as f64,  
        "num_cards",  
    );  
}
```

```
// Nobody sends more cards than they signed up for.  
for i in 0..n {  
    let num_cards = cards_for_participant[i];  
    model.add_cons(  
        x[i].iter().collect(),  
        &vec![1.0; n],  
        0.,  
        num_cards as f64,  
        "num_cards",  
    );  
}       $x_{i,0} * 1 + x_{i,1} * 1 + \dots \leq$   
          cardsForParticipant.
```

```
// Nobody sends a card to someone who sent a card to them.  
for i in 0..n {  
    for j in (i + 1)..n {  
        model.add_cons(  
            vec![&x[i][j], &x[j][i]],  
            &[1., 1.],  
            0.,  
            1.,  
            "no_mutual_exchange",  
        );  
    }  
}
```

```
// Nobody sends a card to someone who sent a card to them.  
for i in 0..n {  
    for j in (i + 1)..n {  
        model.add_cons(  
            vec![&x[i][j], &x[j][i]],  
            &[1., 1.],  
            0.,  
            1.,  
            "no_mutual_exchange",  
        );  
    }  
}  
  

$$x_{i,j} * 1 + x_{j,i} * 1 \leq 1$$

```

```
// Everyone receives a card for every card they send.  
for i in 0..n {  
    // Collect variables representing cards that i sends, and give them  
    // a coefficient of +1.  
    let mut vars: Vec<_> = x[i].iter().cloned().collect();  
    let mut coefs = vec![1.0; n];  
    // Collect variables representing cards that i receives, and give them  
    // a coefficient of -1.  
    vars.extend(x.iter().map(|row| row[i].clone()));  
    coefs.extend_from_slice(vec![-1.0; n].as_ref());  
    model.add_cons(vars.iter().collect(), &coefs, 0., 0., "card_balance");  
}
```

```

// Everyone receives a card for every card they send.
for i in 0..n {
    // Collect variables representing cards that i sends, and give them
    // a coefficient of +1.
    let mut vars: Vec<_> = x[i].iter().cloned().collect();
    let mut coefs = vec![1.0; n];
    // Collect variables representing cards that i receives, and give them
    // a coefficient of -1.
    vars.extend(x.iter().map(|row| row[i].clone()));
    coefs.extend_from_slice(vec![-1.0; n].as_ref());
    model.add_cons(vars.iter().collect(), &coefs, 0., 0., "card_balance");
}

```

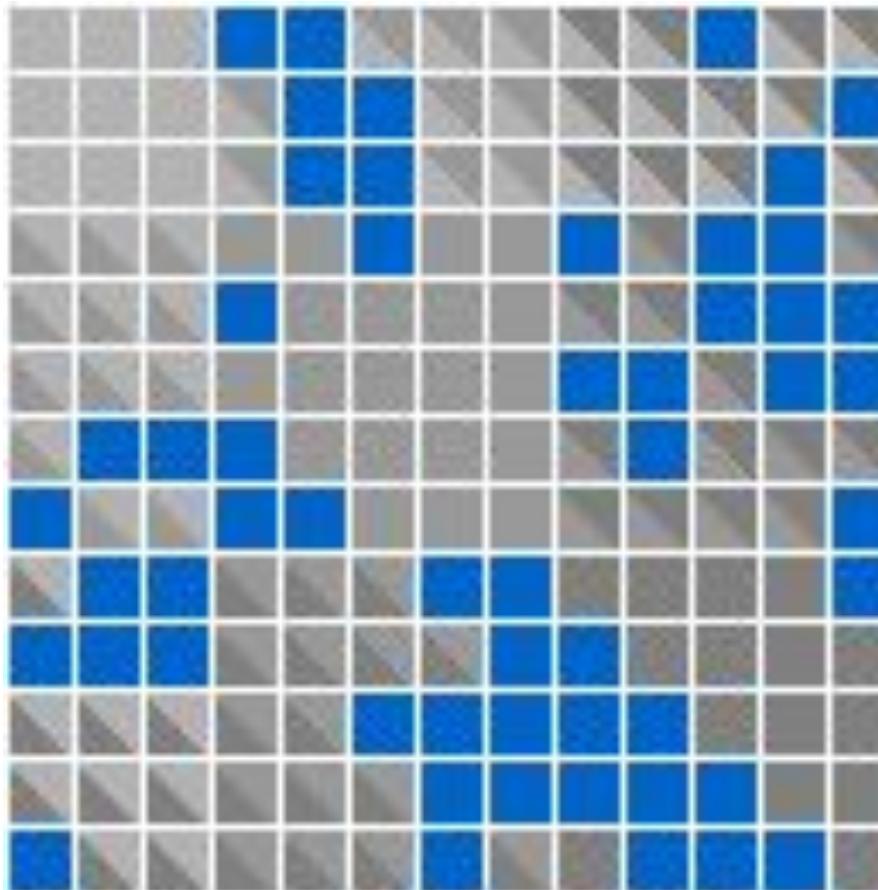
cards sent by participant
cards received by  
participant (negated)

$$0 \leq x_{i,0} + x_{i,1} + \dots + -x_{0,i} + -x_{1,i} + \dots \leq 0$$

```
let solved_model = model.solve();
let sol = solved_model.best_sol().unwrap();

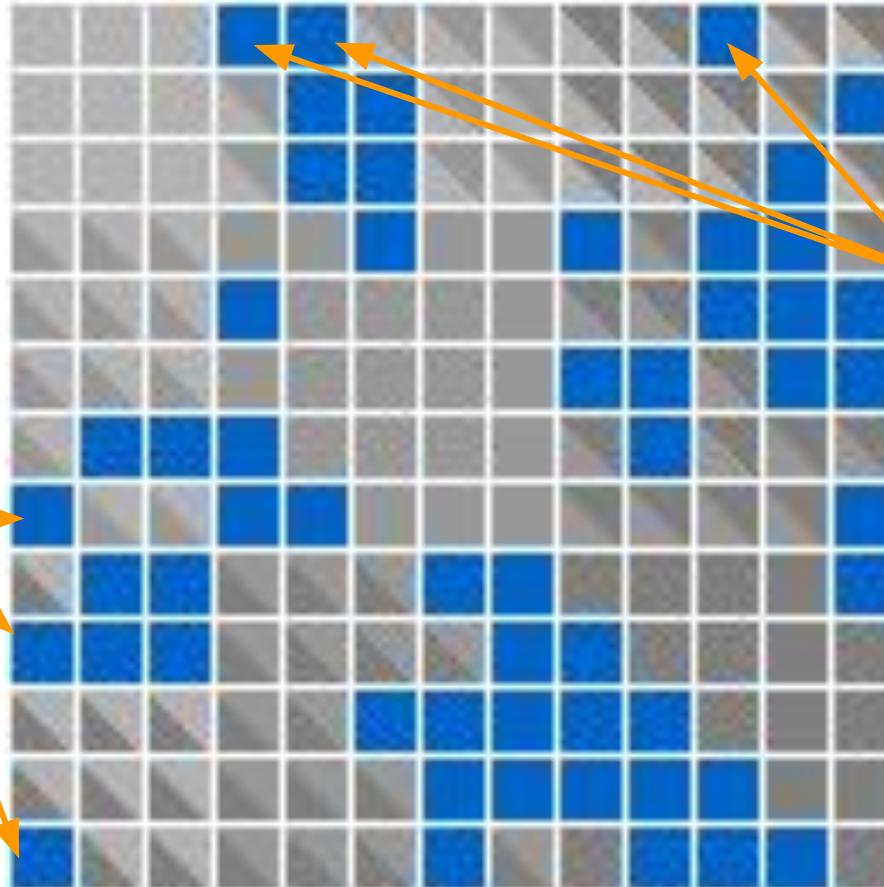
let mut result: Vec<(usize, usize)> = Vec::new();
for i in 0..n {
    for j in 0..n {
        if sol.val(&x[i][j]) >= 0.9 {
            result.push((i, j));
        }
    }
}
```

Solution for  
3x3 4x5 5x5



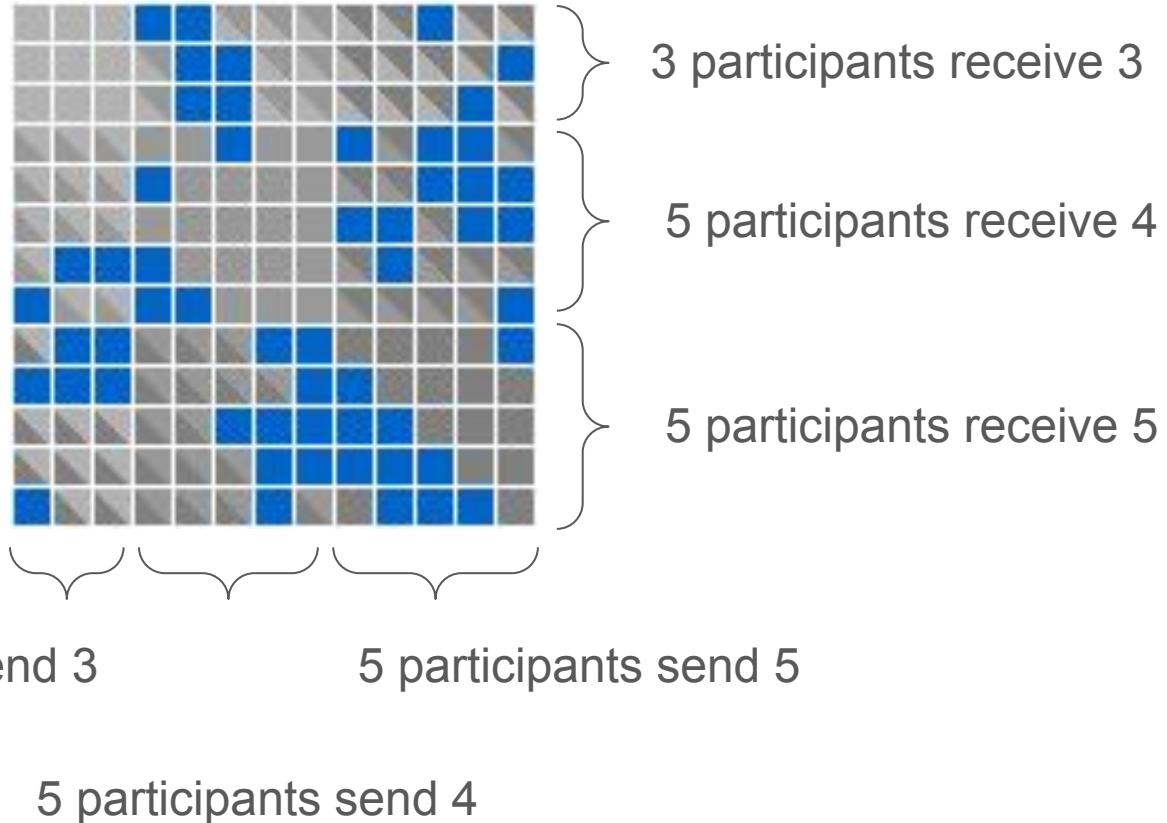
Solution for  
3x3 4x5 5x5

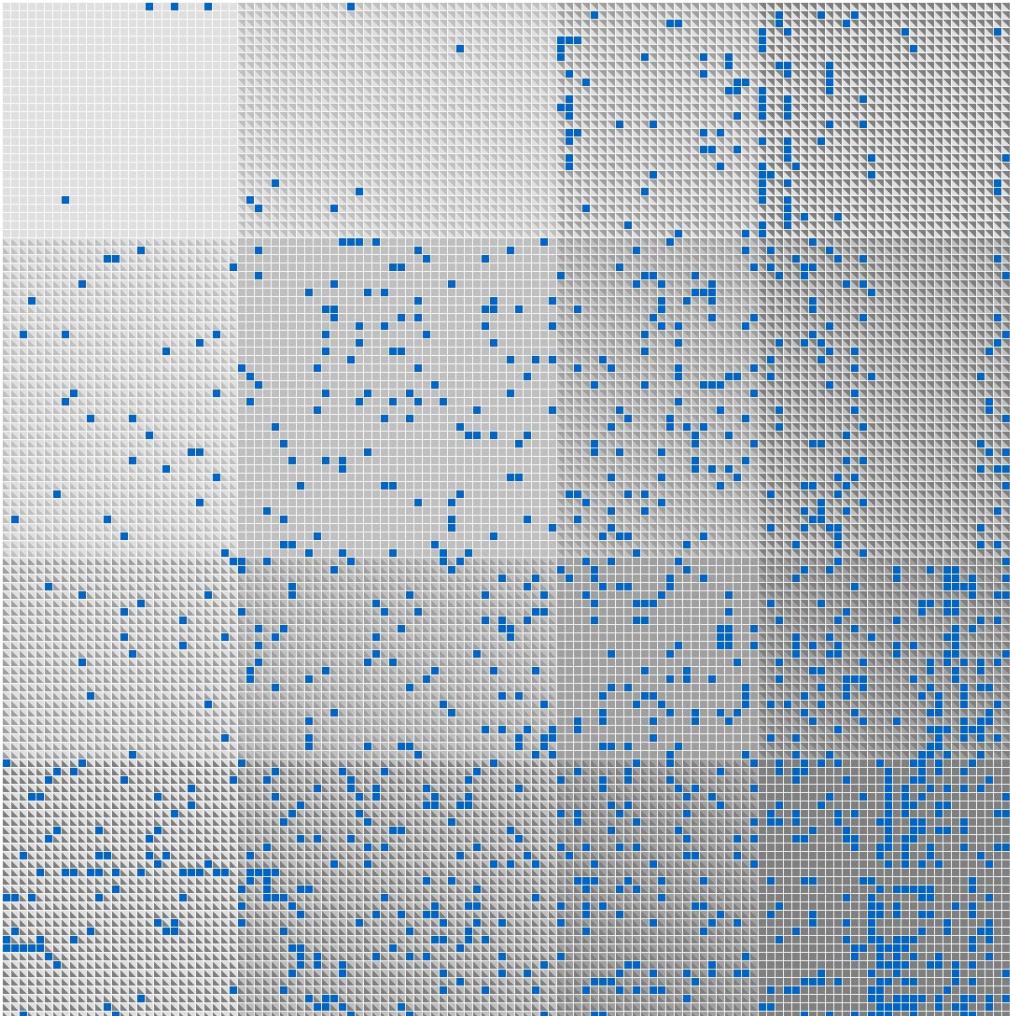
Participant 0 sends  
to participants  
7, 9, 12



Participant 0 receives  
from participants  
3, 4, 10

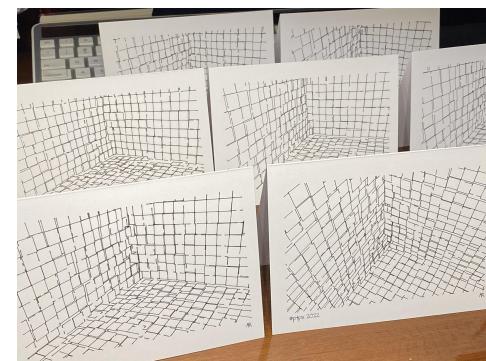
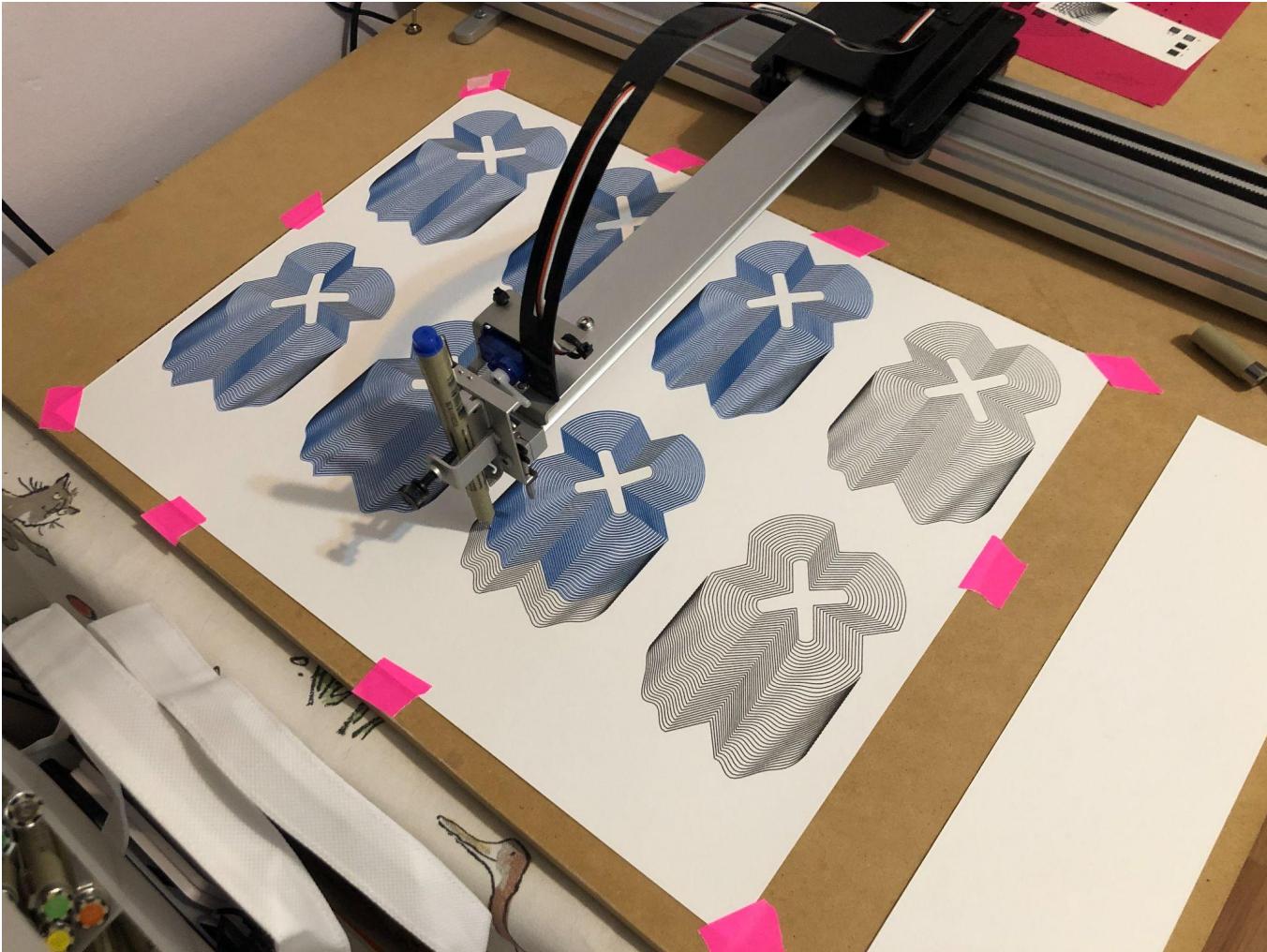
Solution for  
3x3 4x5 5x5





```
real    0m1.841s  
user    0m1.736s  
sys     0m0.041s
```

```
Received 110  
Total number of participants: 121  
Total number of pairings: 1200
```



Data formats	Mathematica · MPS · nl · sol																
Modeling tools	AIMMS · AMPL · APMonitor · ECLIPSe-CLP · Gekko · GAMS · GNU MathProg · JuMP · LINDO · OPL · Mathematica · MiniZinc · OptimJ · PuLP · Pyomo · TOMLAB · Xpress Mosel · ZIMPL · CasADi																
Solvers	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>LP, MILP*</td><td>APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · BCP* · CLP · CBC* · CPLEX* · FortMP* · GCG* · GLOP* · GLPK/GLPSOL* · Gurobi Optimizer* · HiGHS* · LINDO* · Lp_solve · LOQO · Mathematica · MINOS · MINTO* · MOSEK* · NAG · SCIP* · SoPlex · Octeract Engine* · SYMPHONY* · Xpress Optimizer*</td></tr> <tr> <td>QP, MIQP*</td><td>APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · CBC* · CLP · CPLEX* · FortMP* · HiGHS · Gurobi Optimizer* · IPOPT · LINDO* · Mathematica · MINOS · MOSEK* · NAG · Octeract Engine* · SCIP* · Xpress Optimizer*</td></tr> <tr> <td>QCP, MIQCP*</td><td>APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · CPLEX* · Gurobi Optimizer* · IPOPT · LINDO* · Mathematica · MINOS · MOSEK* · NAG · SCIP* · Octeract Engine* · Xpress Optimizer* · Xpress NonLinear*</td></tr> <tr> <td>SOCP, MISOCP*</td><td>Artelys Knitro* · CPLEX* · Gurobi Optimizer* · LINDO* · LOQO · Mathematica · MOSEK* · NAG · SCIP* · Xpress Optimizer*</td></tr> <tr> <td>SDP, MISDP*</td><td>Mathematica · MOSEK · NAG</td></tr> <tr> <td>NLP, MINLP*</td><td>AOA* · APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · BARON* · Couenne* · Galahad library · Gurobi Optimizer* · IPOPT · LINDO* · LOQO · MIDACO* · MINOS · NAG · NLPQLP · NPSOL · SCIP* · SNOPT* · Octeract Engine* · WORHP · Xpress NonLinear*</td></tr> <tr> <td>GO</td><td>ANTIGONE* · BARON · Couenne* · Xpress Global · Mathematica · LINDO · SCIP · Octeract Engine</td></tr> <tr> <td>CP</td><td>Artelys Kalis · Comet · CPLEX CP Optimizer · Gecode · Mathematica · JaCoP · Xpress Kalis</td></tr> </table>	LP, MILP*	APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · BCP* · CLP · CBC* · CPLEX* · FortMP* · GCG* · GLOP* · GLPK/GLPSOL* · Gurobi Optimizer* · HiGHS* · LINDO* · Lp_solve · LOQO · Mathematica · MINOS · MINTO* · MOSEK* · NAG · SCIP* · SoPlex · Octeract Engine* · SYMPHONY* · Xpress Optimizer*	QP, MIQP*	APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · CBC* · CLP · CPLEX* · FortMP* · HiGHS · Gurobi Optimizer* · IPOPT · LINDO* · Mathematica · MINOS · MOSEK* · NAG · Octeract Engine* · SCIP* · Xpress Optimizer*	QCP, MIQCP*	APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · CPLEX* · Gurobi Optimizer* · IPOPT · LINDO* · Mathematica · MINOS · MOSEK* · NAG · SCIP* · Octeract Engine* · Xpress Optimizer* · Xpress NonLinear*	SOCP, MISOCP*	Artelys Knitro* · CPLEX* · Gurobi Optimizer* · LINDO* · LOQO · Mathematica · MOSEK* · NAG · SCIP* · Xpress Optimizer*	SDP, MISDP*	Mathematica · MOSEK · NAG	NLP, MINLP*	AOA* · APOPT* · ANTIGONE* · Artelys Knitro* · BARON* · Couenne* · Galahad library · Gurobi Optimizer* · IPOPT · LINDO* · LOQO · MIDACO* · MINOS · NAG · NLPQLP · NPSOL · SCIP* · SNOPT* · Octeract Engine* · WORHP · Xpress NonLinear*	GO	ANTIGONE* · BARON · Couenne* · Xpress Global · Mathematica · LINDO · SCIP · Octeract Engine	CP	Artelys Kalis · Comet · CPLEX CP Optimizer · Gecode · Mathematica · JaCoP · Xpress Kalis
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CP	Artelys Kalis · Comet · CPLEX CP Optimizer · Gecode · Mathematica · JaCoP · Xpress Kalis																

## PARTIAL LIST OF 2019 RULES & CONSTRAINTS

Teams playing in London home or close the week prior, on BYE (or home?) the week after

Two teams must play Thursday of Week 14 after playing Thanksgiving Day

No team plays more than two road games against team coming off their BYE

No team plays consecutive road games involving cross-country trips unless requested

All teams playing road Thursday games are home the previous week

All teams playing home Thursday games have limited travel the previous week

Teams can travel no more than 2 time zones for a Thursday game

No team has earliest BYE in consecutive seasons

Manage 3-game road trips (and 3-game home stands for teams with ticket issues)

Minimize number of teams playing road game after road MNF

Minimize number of division series that end in first half of season

Minimize number of division series that are played less than 3 weeks apart

Minimize number of teams that play two consecutive road games to start or end season

Maximize number of late-season division games

Minimize early-season 1pm games for teams with weather concerns

CBS/FOX have at least three 1pm games every week, preferably geographically diverse

CBS/FOX have at least five total games, preferably six or more when doubleheader network

CBS and FOX shouldn't "lose" their key teams or an entire division all on same weekend

Run gpt-oss, OpenAI's new open weights model. [Run now →](#)



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Engineering

May 7, 2025 • 10 minute read

## Linear Programming for Fun and Profit



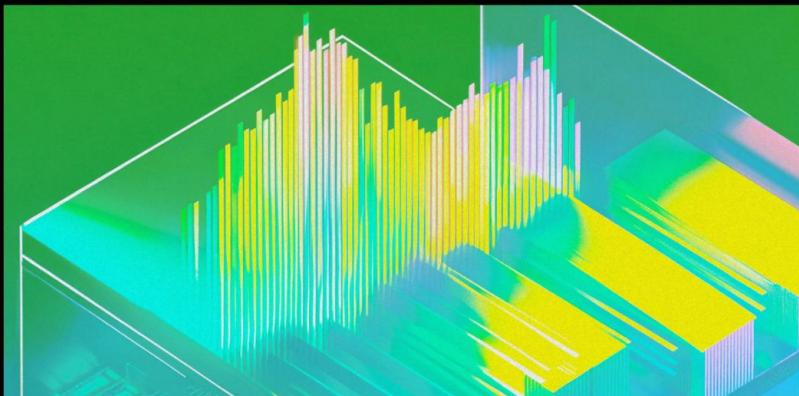
Colin Weld

Member of Technical Staff



Irfan Sharif

Member of Technical Staff



<https://modal.com/blog/resource-solver>

# Thanks!

paul@modal.com

github.com/paulgb/scip-talk

modal.com/careers

