



An Integer Programming Application: Meal Plans using Fast Food Chains

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Goal:

- Optimize a diet consisting entirely of fast food and fast-casual restaurants near University City for Drexel University students in lieu of Campus dining or cooking.

Benefit:

- Target cost effective model
- Ensure nutritional goals are met
- Adaptive model (time frame, food, restaurants)

Methodology:

- Mixed Integer Linear Programming
- Minimum Cost Objective Function
- Targeted Personal Constraints:
 - Individual Health Goals
 - Exercise Habits
 - Physical Characteristics:
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Gender

Objective Function

minimize:

Total Cost =

$$\sum [\text{Cost per Item of Food}] * [\text{Quantity of Item Consumed}]$$

Constraint Type

Nutritional Requirements



Description:

Required values of Calories, Protein, Fat, Carbs, Sodium, Fiber, Sugar, & Cholesterol

Balanced Diet



Must eat breakfast, lunch and dinner every day

Variety



Cannot repeat restaurants more than once in a day, or two days in a row

Data:

- Collected from 11 restaurants initially, 1 excluded
- For each menu item:
 - Classify as Breakfast or Lunch/Dinner
 - Price
 - Nutrients

Sets:

B: A set of Breakfast Foods
L: A set of lunch Foods
D: a set of dinner foods
N: a set of nutrients
T: a set of days you are building meal plans for
R: A set of Restaurants
M: B, L or D



Parameters:

- $a_{Mn} \geq 0$
 - units of nutrients per menu item
- $z_n \geq 0$
 - units of nutrients required per day
- $c_m \geq 0$,
 - cost per menu item
- v_{br} binary,
 - Matrix that associates items for restaurants

Variables:

- Integer: Quantity of menu item/day
 - $BX_{bt} \geq 0$
 - $LX_{lt} \geq 0$
 - $DX_{dt} \geq 0$
- Binary: Attended Restaurant?
 - BY_{rt}
 - LY_{rt}
 - DY_{rt}

Objective Function

minimize:

$$\text{Total Cost} = \sum_{\substack{t \in T \\ b \in B \\ l \in L \\ d \in D}} c_b BX_{bt} + c_l BX_{lt} + c_d BX_{dt}$$

Constraint Type

Description:

Nutritional Requirements



$$a_{bn} BX_{bt} + a_{ln} BX_{lt} + a_{dn} BX_{dt} \geq z_n \text{ for each } n \text{ in } N \text{ and } t \text{ in } T$$

Balanced Diet



$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{b \in B} BX_{bt} &\geq 1 \text{ for each } t \text{ in } T \\ \sum_{l \in L} LX_{lt} &\geq 1 \text{ for each } t \text{ in } T \\ \sum_{d \in D} LX_{dt} &\geq 1 \text{ for each } t \text{ in } T \end{aligned}$$

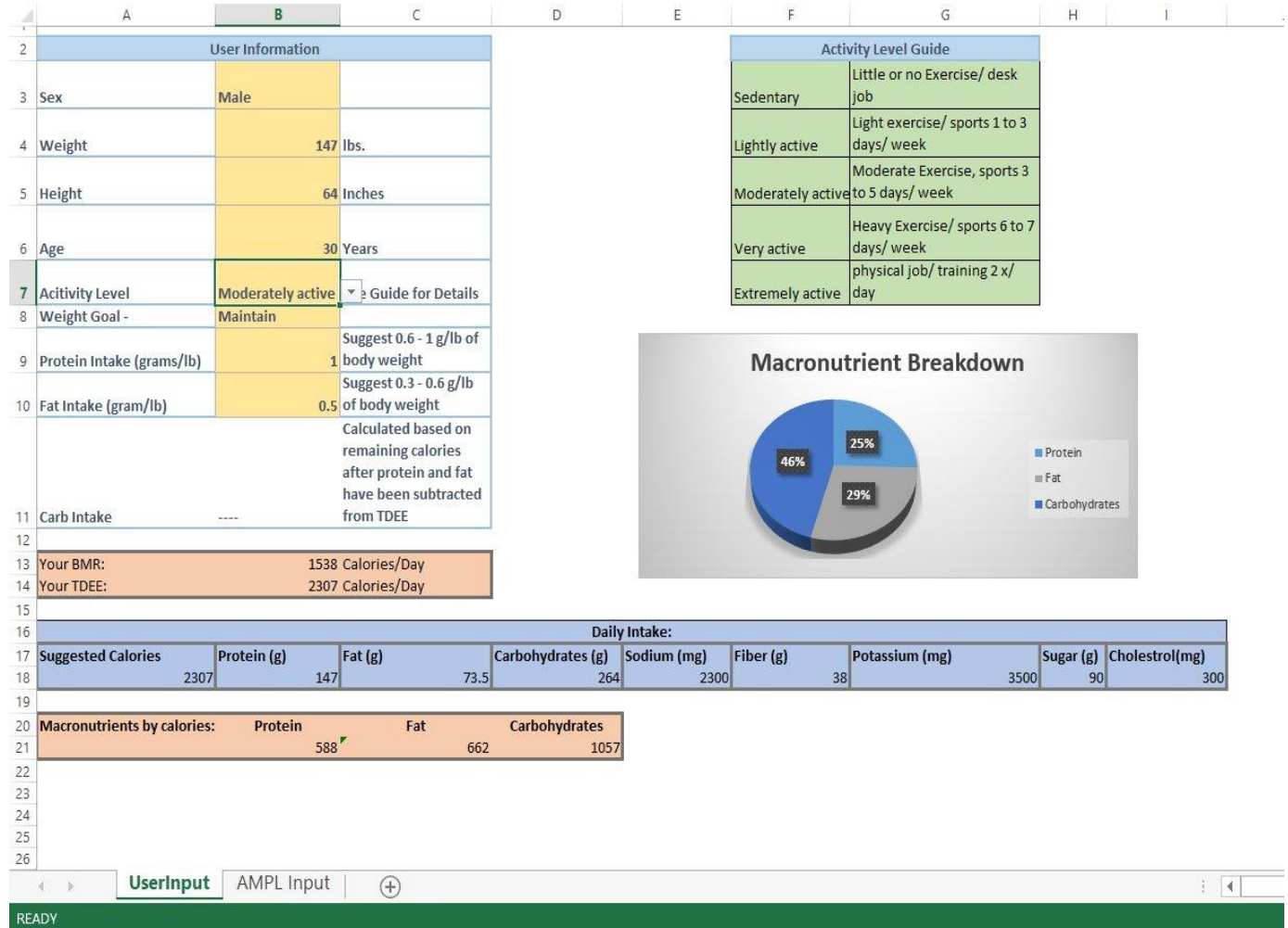
Variety



$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{r \in R} BY_{rt} &\leq 1 \text{ for each } t \text{ in } T \\ \sum_{r \in R} LY_{rt} &\leq 1 \text{ for each } t \text{ in } T \\ \sum_{r \in R} DY_{rt} &\leq 1 \text{ for each } t \text{ in } T \end{aligned}$$

Model Implementation

Decision Support System: Nutritional Requirements



Implement using AMPL

```
# Objective Function
# #####

minimize fun :
    sum{b in breakfastFoods, t in days} bcost[b]*BX[b,t]
    + sum{l in lunchFoods, t in days} lcost[l]*LX[l,t]
    + sum{d in dinnerFoods, t in days} dcost[d]*DX[d,t]
    + sum{r in restaurants , t in days} (BY[r,t]+LY[r,t]+DY[r,t])
    + sum{n in nutrients , t in days} (nutrSlack[n,t])
.
```

```
set breakfastFoods;
set lunchFoods;
set dinnerFoods;

set restaurants;

set nutrients;

set days;

param bcost{breakfastFoods} >= 0;
param lcost{lunchFoods} >= 0;
param dcost{dinnerFoods} >= 0;

param bnutr{breakfastFoods , nutrients} >= 0;
param lnutr{lunchFoods , nutrients} >= 0;
param dnutr{dinnerFoods , nutrients} >= 0;
param nutrGoal{nutrients,days} >= 0;

param vB{breakfastFoods,restaurants};
param vL{lunchFoods,restaurants};
param vD{dinnerFoods,restaurants};

# Decision Variables
# #####
var BX{breakfastFoods,days} binary >= 0;
var LX{lunchFoods,days} binary >= 0;
var DX{dinnerFoods,days} binary >= 0;

var nutrSlack{nutrients,days} >= 0 ;

var BY{restaurants , days} binary >= 0;
var LY{restaurants , days} binary >= 0;
var DY{restaurants , days} binary >= 0;
```

```
# Constraints
# #####

# At least one item per meal
subject to c1 {t in days} :
    sum{b in breakfastFoods}
    BX[b,t] >= 1;
subject to c2 {t in days} :
    sum{l in lunchFoods} LX[l,t]
    >= 1;
subject to c3 {t in days} :
    sum{d in dinnerFoods} DX[d,t]
    >= 1;

# Meet nutrition minimums
subject to c4 {t in days , n in nutrients} :
    sum{b in breakfastFoods} (bnutr[b,n]*BX[b,t])
    + sum{l in lunchFoods} (lnutr[l,n]*LX[l,t])
    + sum{d in dinnerFoods} (dnutr[d,n]*DX[d,t])
    + nutrSlack[n,t] = nutrGoal[n,t]
;

# Binary Linking Constraints
subject to c6 {b in breakfastFoods , t in days , r in restaurants}:
    vB[b,r]*BX[b,t] - 100000*BY[r,t] <= 0;
subject to c7 {l in lunchFoods , t in days , r in restaurants}:
    vL[l,r]*LX[l,t] - 100000*LY[r,t] <= 0;
subject to c8 {d in dinnerFoods , t in days , r in restaurants}:
    vD[d,r]*DX[d,t] - 100000*DY[r,t] <= 0;

# Cannot go to the same restaurant more than once in a day
subject to c9 {r in restaurants,t in days}:
    (BY[r,t] + LY[r,t] + DY[r,t]) <= 1
;

# Cannot have the same item more than twice during the plan
# subject to c10 {b in breakfastFoods} : sum{t in days} (BX[b,t]) <=
1;
# subject to c11 {l in lunchFoods} : sum{t in days} (LX[l,t]) <= 1;
# subject to c12 {d in dinnerFoods} : sum{t in days} (DX[d,t]) <= 1;
```


Conclusion and Discussion

Sample Meal Plans:

Restaurant	Item	Price	Calories	Protein	Fat	Carbs	Sodium	Fiber	Sugar	Chol.
<i>Breakfast</i>										
Starbucks	Pumpkin Cookie	2.25	330	4	19	37	125	0	18	30
Starbucks	Oatmeal with Fresh Blueberries	3.45	220	5	2.5	43	125	5	13	0
Starbucks	Oatmeal with Fresh Blueberries	3.45	220	5	2.5	43	125	5	13	0
Starbucks	Oatmeal with Fresh Blueberries	3.45	220	5	2.5	43	125	5	13	0
<i>Lunch</i>										
McDonald's	Side Salad	1	20	1	0	4	10	1	2	0
McDonald's	Side Salad	1	20	1	0	4	10	1	2	0
McDonald's	Chicken McNuggets 4 Piece w/ Marinara Sauce	1.99	205	9	12	14	435	1	2	25
<i>Dinner</i>										
Subway	6" Oven Roasted Chicken	4.25	320	23	5	47	610	5	8	40
Subway	6" Oven Roasted Chicken	4.25	320	23	5	47	610	5	8	40
Total		25.09	1875	76	48.5	282	2175	28	79	135
Goals			2400	100	50	350	2200	30	80	250
Difference			525	24	1.5	68	25	2	1	115

Discussion

Future Considerations:

- More Restaurants/Availability
- Personal preferences
- Other dietary restrictions (vegetarian)

Learnings:

- Importance of model efficiency and solvers as well as data size\