

# UPPER BOUNDING TECHNIQUE

This Hypercard stack was prepared by:  
Dennis L. Bricker,  
Dept. of Industrial Engineering,  
University of Iowa,  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
e-mail: dbricker@icaen.uiowa.edu



## Upper Bounding Technique

Consider the LP:

$$\text{Max } 2x_1 + 4x_2 + 5x_3 + 3x_4$$

subject to

$$x_1 + 3x_2 + 6x_3 + 2x_4 \leq 24$$

$$5x_1 + 4x_2 + 4x_4 \leq 20$$

$$\text{Simple upper bounds } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \leq x_1 \leq 3 \\ 0 \leq x_2 \leq 4 \\ 0 \leq x_3 \leq 3 \\ 0 \leq x_4 \leq 3 \end{array} \right.$$

If the upper bounding technique (UBT) is NOT used, the tableau is

2	4	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	3	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	24
5	4	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	20
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

and a 6x6 basis inverse matrix must be maintained.

*When using UBT, only a 2x2 "working basis" is used.*

When using the Upper Bounding Technique,

- **nonbasic variable** may be at *either*
  - lower bound
  - or*
  - upper bound
- a variable **enters the basis** by
  - increasing if it is at its lower bound
  - or*
  - decreasing if it is at its upper bound

## When using the Upper Bounding Technique,

- choice of the **pivot column** :

reduced cost  $\begin{cases} <0 & \text{if at lower bound} \\ >0 & \text{if at upper bound} \end{cases}$  *for minimization problem*

relative profit  $\begin{cases} >0 & \text{if at lower bound} \\ <0 & \text{if at upper bound} \end{cases}$  *for maximization problem*

## When using the Upper Bounding Technique,

- Choice of the **pivot row** :

The variable entering the basis from one bound (either lower or upper) is "blocked" whenever

it reaches its other bound

*or* a variable currently in the basis reaches its lower bound

*or* a variable currently in the basis reaches its upper bound

## Upper Bounding Technique

Consider the LP

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Maximize } cx \\ &\text{subject to } Ax = b \\ &\quad L_i \leq x_i \leq U_i \end{aligned}$$

$L_i$  might be, but need not be, zero !

Define a basis ("working basis")  $B$  such that

$$(A^B)^{-1} \text{ exists, i.e., } \det(A^B) \neq 0$$

and partition the non-basic variables into subsets

$$L = \{i \mid x_i = L_i\} \quad \text{and} \quad U = \{i \mid x_i = U_i\}$$

$$A^B x_B + A^L x_L + A^U x_U = b$$

$$A^B x_B = b - A^L x_L - A^U x_U$$

$$x_B = (A^B)^{-1} b - (A^B)^{-1} A^L x_L - (A^B)^{-1} A^U x_U$$

The current basic solution is

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{non-} \\ \text{basic} \\ \text{variables} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_U = U_U \\ x_L = L_L \end{array} \right.$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{basic} \\ \text{variables} \end{array} \quad x_B = (A^B)^{-1} b - (A^B)^{-1} A^L L_L - (A^B)^{-1} A^U U_U$$

### Selection of Variable to Enter Basis

A nonbasic variable may be in either set L (at lower bound) or set U (at upper bound)

The "relative profit" ("reduced cost" if minimizing) specifies the change in the objective function per unit *increase* in the nonbasic variable.

Non basic set	Change in $x_j$ if entering basis	sign of $\bar{c}_j = c_j - \pi A^j$	change in objective
U	decrease	positive	decrease
		negative	increase
L	increase	positive	increase
		negative	decrease

### Selection of Variable to Enter Basis

Suppose that a nonbasic variable  $x_j$  were to be selected to enter the basis...

Nonbasic Variable	Substitution Rate in Row $i$ $\alpha_{ij}$	Effect on Basic Variable $X_k$ in Row $i$	Blocking Value
in L INCREASING	positive	decrease	$(X_k - L_k)/\alpha_{ij}$
	negative	increase	$(U_k - X_k)/ \alpha_{ij} $
in U DECREASING	positive	increase	$(U_k - X_k)/ \alpha_{ij} $
	negative	decrease	$(X_k - L_k)/\alpha_{ij}$

### Selection of Pivot Row

If "blocking value" is greater than  $U_j - L_j$ , then the nonbasic variable is moved from L to U (or vice-versa), but the basis  $B$  is unchanged!

When the nonbasic variable  $X_j$  is increasing from its LOWER BOUND:

The bound on the increase is  $\theta$ , where:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \theta_0 = U_j - L_j \\ \theta_1 = \underset{\alpha_{ij} > 0}{\text{minimum}} \left\{ \frac{X_k - L_k}{\alpha_{ij}} \right\} \\ \theta_2 = \underset{\alpha_{ij} < 0}{\text{minimum}} \left\{ \frac{U_k - X_k}{|\alpha_{ij}|} \right\} \\ \theta = \text{minimum} \{ \theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2 \} \end{array} \right.$$

### Selection of Pivot Row

$\theta$	blocking value	change in partition:
$\theta_0$	$U_j - L_j$	j transfers from L to U
$\theta_1$	$\frac{X_k - L_k}{\alpha_{ij} (>0)}$	j enters B k leaves B, enters L
$\theta_2$	$\frac{U_k - X_k}{ \alpha_{ij}  (<0)}$	j enters B k leaves B, enters U

$\theta = \text{minimum } \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2\}$

Selection of  
Pivot Row

When the nonbasic variable  $X_j$  is increasing from its LOWER BOUND

When the nonbasic variable is decreasing from its UPPER BOUND:

The bound on the decrease is  $\theta$ , where:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \theta_0 = U_j - L_j \\ \theta_1 = \text{minimum}_{\alpha_{ij} > 0} \left\{ \frac{U_k - X_k}{\alpha_{ij}} \right\} \\ \theta_2 = \text{minimum}_{\alpha_{ij} < 0} \left\{ \frac{X_k - L_k}{|\alpha_{ij}|} \right\} \\ \theta = \text{minimum } \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2\} \end{array} \right.$$

Selection of  
Pivot Row

$\theta = \text{minimum } \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2\}$

$\theta$	blocking value	change in partition:
$\theta_0$	$U_j - L_j$	j transfers from L to U B unchanged
$\theta_1$	$\frac{U_k - X_k}{\alpha_{ij} (>0)}$	j enters B k leaves B, enters U
$\theta_2$	$\frac{X_k - L_k}{ \alpha_{ij}  (<0)}$	j enters B k leaves B, enters L

When the nonbasic variable is decreasing from its UPPER BOUND

Selection of  
Pivot Row

Examples, with output from APL workspace UBT



Maximize  $18X_1 + 25X_2$   
 subject to 
$$\begin{cases} 30 \leq 5X_1 + 4X_2 \leq 55 \\ -12 \leq 4X_1 - 3X_2 \leq 4 \\ 2 \leq X_1 \leq 5, 4 \leq X_2 \leq 8 \end{cases}$$



Max  $2x_1 + 4x_2 + 5x_3 + 3x_4$   
 subject to 
$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + 3x_2 + 6x_3 + 2x_4 &\leq 24 \\ 5x_1 + 4x_2 &+ 4x_4 \leq 20 \\ x_1 \leq 3, x_2 \leq 4, x_3 \leq 3, x_4 \leq 3 \\ x_j &\geq 0 \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$



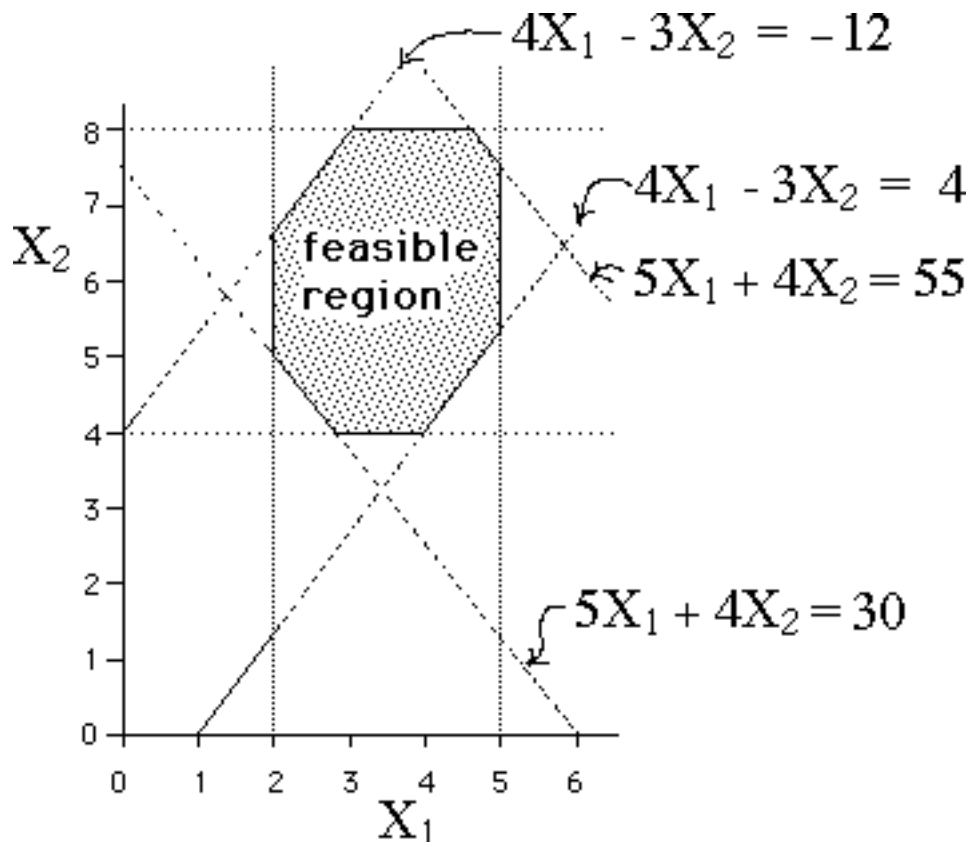
**Example**

Maximize  $18X_1 + 25X_2$   
subject to

$$\begin{cases} 30 \leq 5X_1 + 4X_2 \leq 55 \\ -12 \leq 4X_1 - 3X_2 \leq 4 \end{cases}$$

$$2 \leq X_1 \leq 5, 4 \leq X_2 \leq 8$$

The ordinary simplex or revised simplex method would require a tableau with 8 constraints, and 8 slack &/or surplus variables (in addition to  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ ). That is, an 8x8 basis matrix is required.



Add slack variables to the  $\leq$  constraints to create equalities. Then put upper bounds on these slack variables:

Maximize  $18X_1 + 25X_2 + 0X_3 + 0X_4$   
subject to

$$\begin{cases} 5X_1 + 4X_2 + X_3 & = 55 \\ 4X_1 - 3X_2 & + X_4 = 4 \end{cases}$$

upper  
& lower  
bounds

$$\begin{cases} 2 \leq X_1 \leq 5 \\ 4 \leq X_2 \leq 8 \\ 0 \leq X_3 \leq 25 \\ 0 \leq X_4 \leq 16 \end{cases}$$

Using UBT,  
only a  $2 \times 2$   
basis matrix  
is required,  
i.e. a reduction  
of nearly 94%  
in the number  
of elements in  
the inverse  
matrix!

1	2	3	4	b
5	4	1	0	55
4	-3	0	1	4

Constraints

i	1	2	3	4
c[i]	18	25	0	0
L[i]	2	4	0	0
U[i]	5	8	25	16

Objective & Bounds

Current partition:

B= 2 4 / L= 3 / U= 1

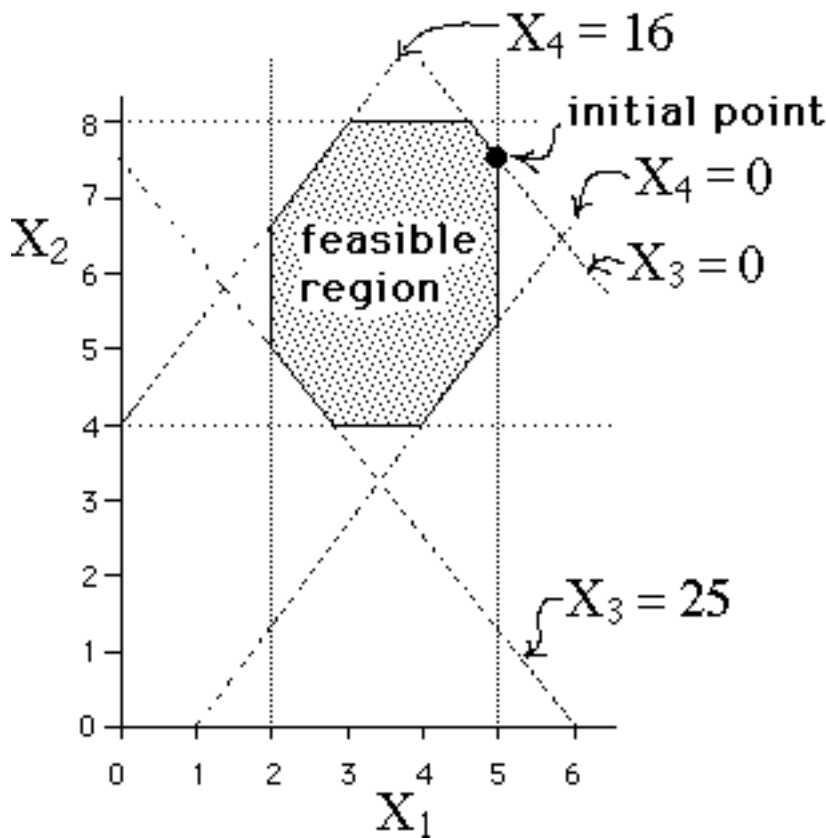
**Iteration 1**

Basis inverse matrix =  $\begin{bmatrix} 0.25 & 0 \\ 0.75 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Basic solution=  $\begin{matrix} X_1 & X_2 & X_3 & X_4 \\ 5 & 7.5 & 0 & 6.5 \end{matrix}$  with  $Z = 277.5$

$\begin{matrix} = & = & = & = \\ \text{upper bound} & \text{intermediate value} & \text{lower bound} & \text{intermediate value} \end{matrix}$

**B = {2,4}**  
**L = {3}**  
**U = {1}**



**Initial partition**

**B = {2,4}**  
**L = {3}**  
**U = {1}**

$$\pi = C_B(A^B)^{-1} = [25, 0] \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 & 0 \\ 3/4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Simplex multipliers = 6.25 0

$$C - \pi A = [18, 25, 0, 0] - [25/4, 0] \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & -3 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Reduced costs = -13.25 0 -6.25 0

Since we wish to minimize, we would choose to increase either  $X_1$  or  $X_3$ ... however,  $X_1$  is already at its upper bound ( $U=\{1\}$ ) and so we choose to enter  $X_3$  into the basis.

Entering variable is  $X_3$  from set L

Substitution Rates = 0.25 0.75

The substitution rates indicate that for each unit increase by  $X_3$ , the first basic variable ( $X_2$ ) will be reduced by 0.25 and the second ( $X_4$ ) will be reduced by 0.75.

$X_2$  is currently 7.5, and its lower bound is 4, so that it must leave the basis when it is decreased by 3.5, i.e., when  $X_3$  is increased by  $\frac{7.5 - 4}{0.25} = 14$

Likewise,  $X_4$  can decrease by only 6.5 before it must leave the basis, i.e.,  $X_3$  can increase by only  $\frac{6.5 - 0}{0.75} = 26/3$

Entering variable is  $X_3$  from set L

Substitution Rates= 0.25 0.75

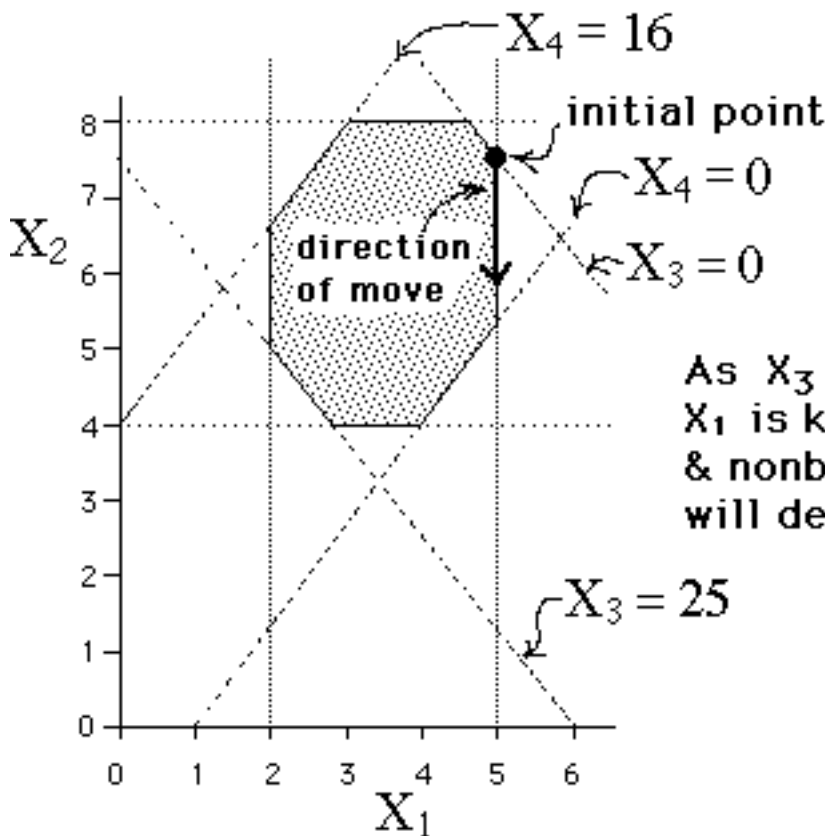
The substitution rates indicate that for each unit increase by  $X_3$ , the first basic variable ( $X_2$ ) will be reduced by 0.25 and the second ( $X_4$ ) will be reduced by 0.75.

Decreasing variables:  
Block at value:

$14.000$	$\frac{2}{4}$	$8.667$
$\frac{7.5 - 4}{0.25}$	$\frac{6.5 - 0}{0.75}$	

Block at  $X_4$  at value 8.66667

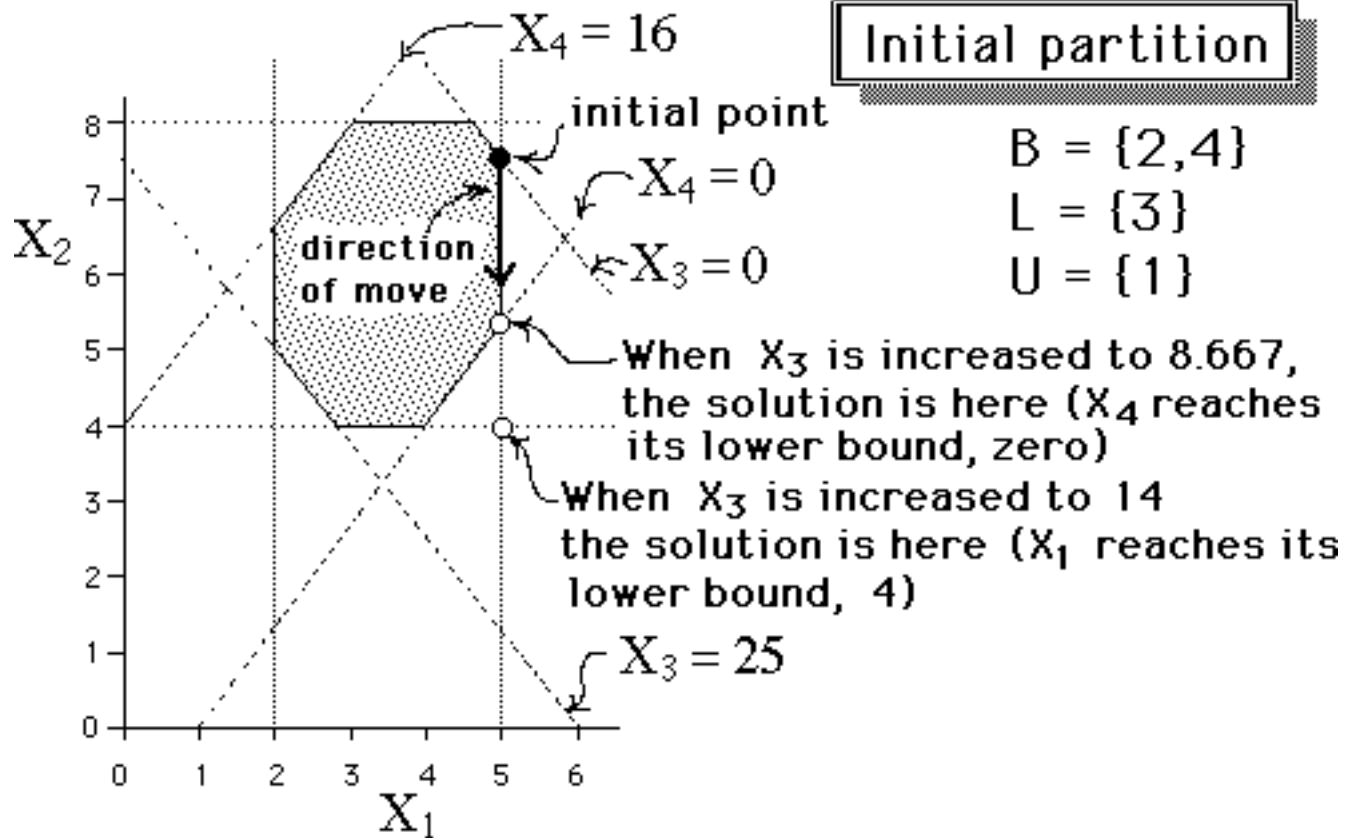
the minimum ratio!



Initial partition

- $B = \{2, 4\}$
- $L = \{3\}$
- $U = \{1\}$

As  $X_3$  is increased (while  $X_1$  is kept at its upper bound & nonbasic), both  $X_2$  and  $X_4$  will decrease.



Current partition:

$B = 2\ 3 / L = 4 / U = 1$

Basis inverse matrix =  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -0.33333 \\ 1 & 1.33333 \end{bmatrix}$

$B = \{2, 3\},$   
 $L = \{4\}, U = \{1\}$

Basic solution = 5 5.33333 8.66667 0 with  $Z = 223.333$

Simplex multipliers = 0 -8.33333

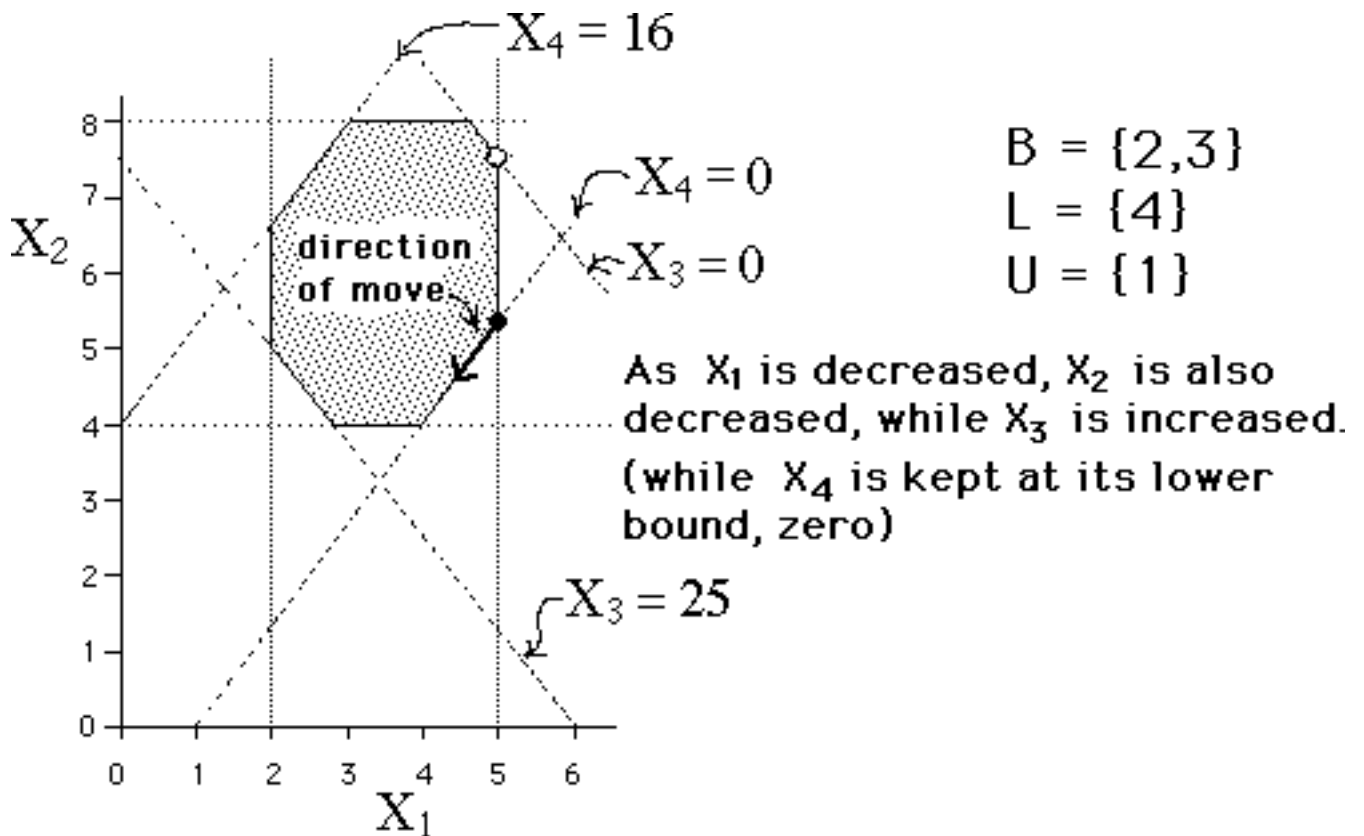
Reduced costs = 51.3333 0 0 8.33333

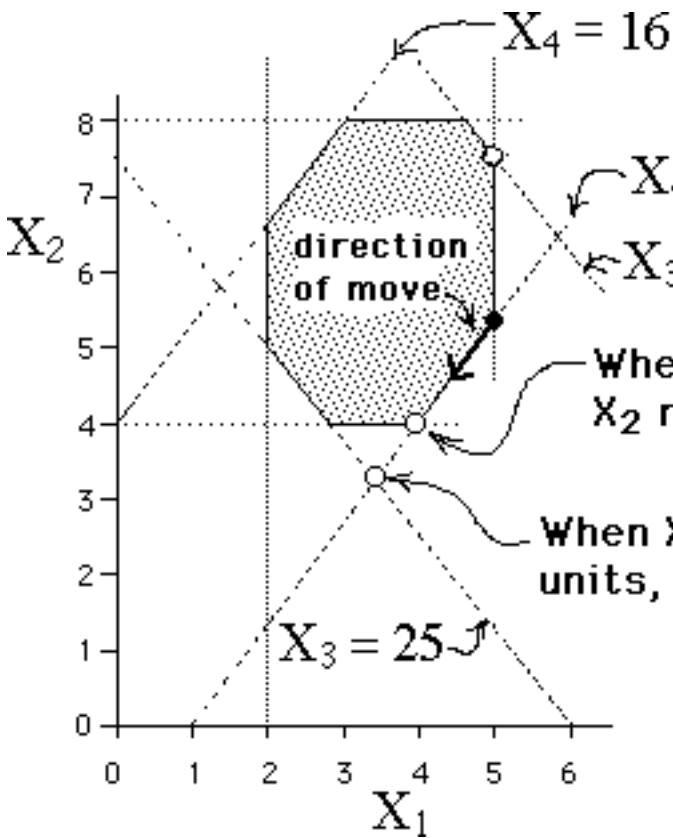
Since we are minimizing, we would choose to decrease either  $X_1$  or  $X_4$ . However,  $X_4$  is already at its lower bound, and so we choose to enter  $X_1$  into the basis (from set  $U$ ).

Entering variable is  $X_1$  from set  $U$   
 Substitution Rates=  $-1.33333$   $10.3333$

The negative substitution rate indicates that the first basic variable ( $X_2$ ) will also decrease as  $X_1$  is decreased, while the positive substitution rate indicates that the second basic variable ( $X_3$ ) will increase as  $X_1$  is decreased.

Increasing variables:		
Block at value:	$1.581^3$	$\frac{U_3 - x_3}{\alpha_2} = \frac{25 - 8\frac{2}{3}}{10\frac{1}{3}}$
Decreasing variables:		
Block at value:	$1.000^2$	$\frac{x_2 - L_2}{\alpha_1} = \frac{5\frac{1}{3} - 4}{\frac{4}{3}}$
Block at $X_1$ at value 1		





**Partition**

B = {2,3}  
 L = {4}  
 U = {1}

When  $X_1$  has decreased by 1 unit,  $X_2$  reaches its lower bound.

When  $X_1$  has decreased by 1.581 units,  $X_3$  reaches its upper bound.

Current partition:

B= 1 3 / L= 4 2 / U=

Basis inverse matrix =  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.25 \\ 1 & -1.25 \end{bmatrix}$

B = {1, 3}  
 L = {4, 2}  
 U =  $\emptyset$

Basic solution= 4 4 19 0 with Z = 172

Simplex multipliers= 0 4.5

Reduced costs= 0 38.5 0 -4.5

Entering variable is  $X_1$  from set L

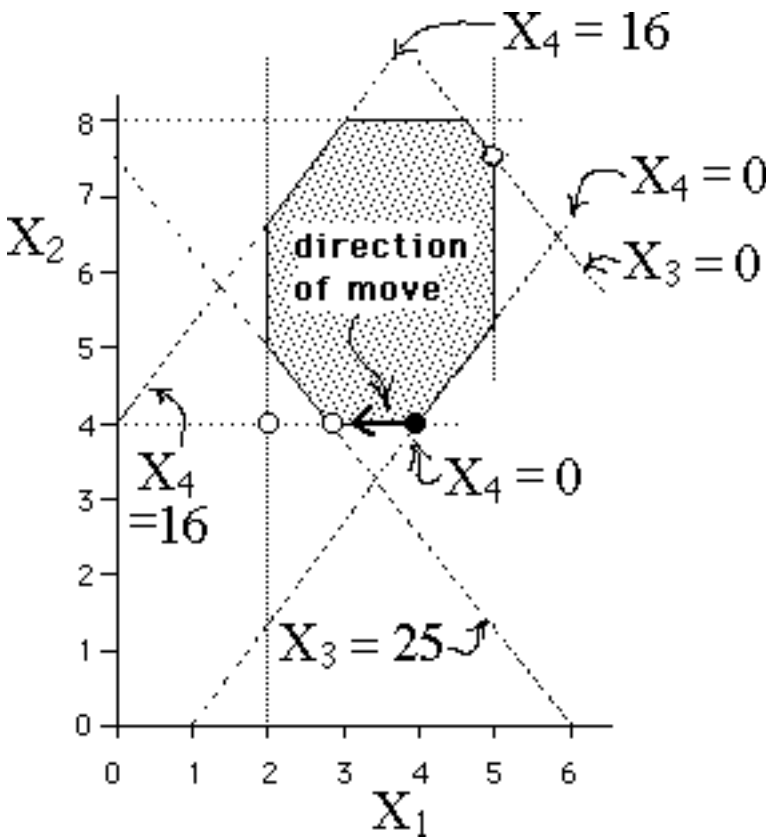
Substitution Rates= 0.25 -1.25

Increasing variables: 3  
 Block at value: 4.800

Decreasing variables: 1  
 Block at value: 8.000

Block at  $X_3$  at value 4.8





**Partition**

$B = \{1, 3\}$   
 $L = \{4, 2\}$   
 $U = \emptyset$

As  $X_4$  is increased, first  $X_3$  reaches its upper bound, and then  $X_1$  reaches its lower bound.

Current partition:  
 $B = 1, 4 / L = 2 / U = 3$   
 Basis inverse matrix =

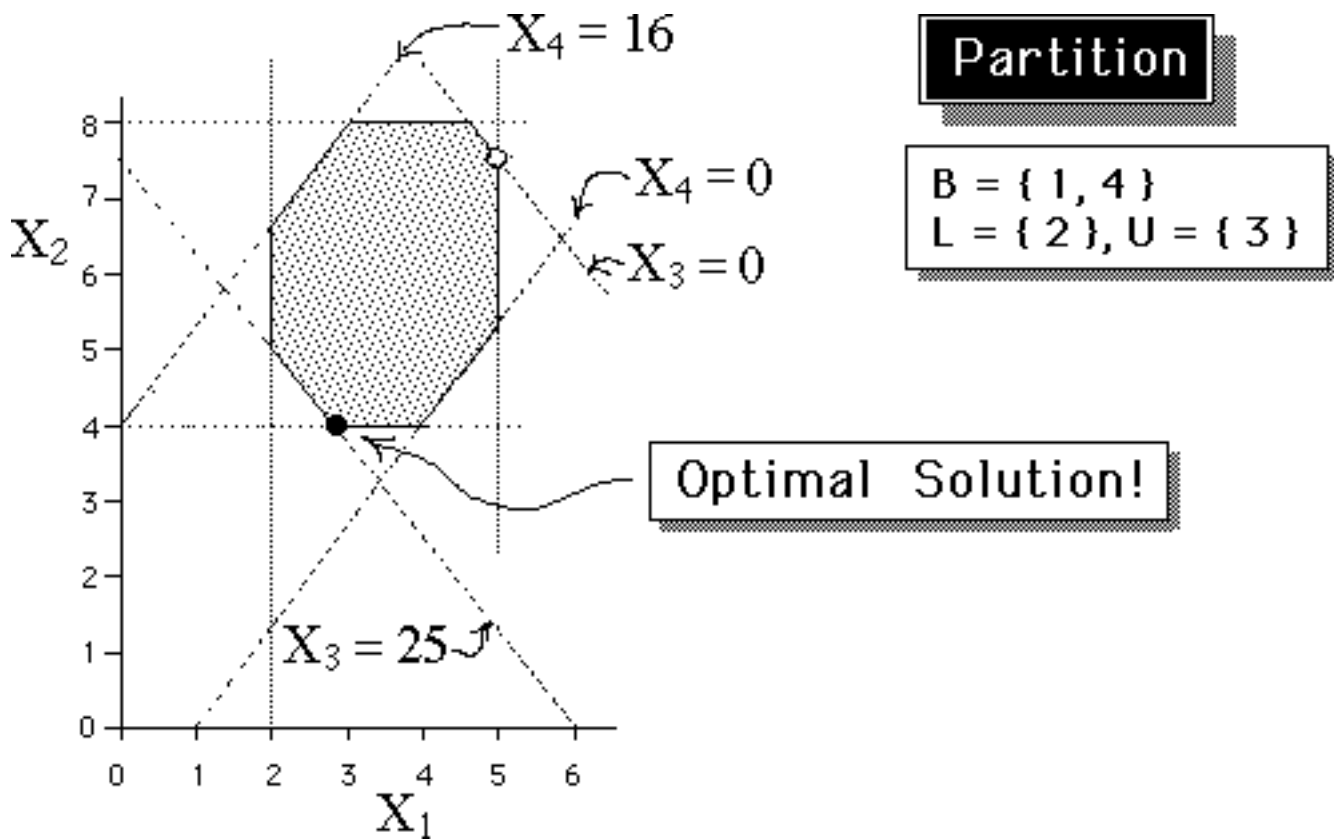
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.2 & 0 \\ -0.8 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$B = \{1, 4\}$   
 $L = \{2\}, U = \{3\}$

Basic solution = 2.8 4 25 4.8 with  $Z = 150.4$   
 Simplex multipliers = 3.6 0  
 Reduced costs = 0 10.6 -3.6 0

The positive reduced cost indicates that lowering  $X_2$  would improve the solution... but  $X_2$  is already at its lower bound.

The negative reduced cost indicates that increasing  $X_3$  would improve the solution... but  $X_3$  is already at its upper bound.



Since no change in the nonbasic variables will yield an improved solution, the current solution is optimal!

$B = \{1, 4\}$   
 $L = \{2\}, U = \{3\}$

**Optimal Solution**

i	1	2	3	4
$X[i]$	2.800	4.000	25.000	4.800

Objective  $Z = 150.4$

**EXAMPLE**

$$\text{Max } 2x_1 + 4x_2 + 5x_3 + 3x_4$$

subject to

$$x_1 + 3x_2 + 6x_3 + 2x_4 \leq 24$$

$$5x_1 + 4x_2 + 4x_4 \leq 20$$

*Simple upper bounds*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \leq x_1 \leq 3 \\ 0 \leq x_2 \leq 4 \\ 0 \leq x_3 \leq 3 \\ 0 \leq x_4 \leq 3 \end{array} \right.$$



Current partition:

B= 5 6 / L= 1 2 3 4 / U= *empty*

Basis inverse matrix =  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Basic solution= 0 0 0 0 24 20 with Z = 0

Simplex multipliers= 0 0

Relative profits= 2 4 5 3 0 0

Entering variable is X[3] from set L

Substitution Rates= 6 0

Decreasing variables:

Block at value:

4.000 <sup>5</sup>  $\theta_1$

Variable does NOT enter basis,  
but moves to opposite bound

**Iteration 1**

$$\theta = \theta_0 = 3 - 0$$

Current partition:

B= 5 6 / L= 1 2 4 / U= 3

Iteration 2

Basis inverse matrix =  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ *basis inverse matrix  
is unchanged!*

Basic solution= 0 0 3 0 6 20 with Z = 15

Simplex multipliers= 0 0

Relative profits= 2 4 5 3 0 0

Entering variable is X[2] from set L

 $\theta_0 = 4 - 0$ 

Substitution Rates= 3 4

Decreasing variables:

Block at value: 2.000<sup>5</sup> 5.000<sup>6</sup>

Block at X[5] at value 2

 $\theta = \theta_1$ *variable 2 replaces 5,  
and 5 enters L!*

Current partition:

B= 2 6 / L= 1 4 5 / U= 3

Iteration 3

Basis inverse matrix =  $\begin{bmatrix} 0.333333 & 0 \\ -1.33333 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

Basic solution= 0 2 3 0 0 12 with Z = 23

Simplex multipliers= 1.33333 0

Relative profits= 0.666667 0 -3 0.333333 -1.33333 0

Entering variable is X[3] from set U

Substitution Rates= 2 -8

 $\theta_0 = 3 - 0$ 

Increasing variables:

Block at value: 1.000<sup>2</sup>  $\theta_1 = \theta$ 

Decreasing variables:

Block at value: 1.500<sup>6</sup>  $\theta_2$ 

Block at X[2] at value 1

*Variable 2 is replaced  
by variable 3 in B,  
and variable 2 enters  
set U*

Current partition:

B= 3 6 / L= 1 4 5 / U= 2

Iteration 4

Basis inverse matrix =

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.166667 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Basic solution= 0 4 2 0 0 4 with Z = 26

Simplex multipliers= 0.833333 0

Relative profits= 1.16667 1.5 0 1.33333 -0.833333 0

Entering variable is X[4] from set L

Substitution Rates= 0.333333 4

 $\theta_0 = 3 - 0$ 

Decreasing variables:

Block at value: 3 6  
6.000 1.000

Block at X[6] at value 1

 $\theta_2 = \infty$  $\theta_1$ 

*Variable 6 is  
replaced in B by  
variable 4, and  
enters set L*

Current partition:

B= 3 4 / L= 1 5 6 / U= 2

Iteration 5

Basis inverse matrix =

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.166667 & -0.0833333 \\ 0 & 0.25 \end{bmatrix}$$

Basic solution= 0 4 1.66667 1 0 0 with Z = 27.3333

Simplex multipliers= 0.833333 0.333333

Relative profits= -0.5 0.166667 0 0 -0.833333 -0.333333

variable 1 is  
in L and cannot  
be decreased

variable 2 is  
in U and cannot  
be increased

variable 5 is  
in L and cannot  
be decreased

variable 6 is  
in L and cannot  
be decreased

**Optimal partition:  $B = \{ 3, 4 \}, L = \{ 1, 5, 6 \}, U = \{ 2 \}$**

**Optimal Solution**

$i$	1	2	3	4	5	6
$X[i]$	0.000	4.000	1.667	1.000	0.000	0.000

Objective  $Z = 27.3333$