

## Advanced Mathematics Support Programme®





## About the AMSP

- A government-funded initiative, managed by <u>MEI</u>, providing national support for teachers and students in all state-funded schools and colleges in England.
- It aims to increase participation in AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, and Core Maths, and improve the teaching of these qualifications.
- Additional support is given to those in priority areas to boost social mobility so that, whatever their gender, background or location, students can choose their best maths pathway post-16, and have access to high quality maths teaching.





## MEI holds the NCETM CPD Standard

The CPD Standard supports maths teachers to access information about the wide range of CPD provision on offer and to be assured of its appropriateness and quality.

ncetm.org.uk/cpdstandard

Continuing Professional Development Standard

#### National Centre

for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics







# 2 Stage Simplex James Morris James.morris@mei.org.uk

#### To think about:

In the example on the left, the origin isn't on the boundary of the feasible region. Starting at the origin, how do we get to the boundary so that we can apply the simplex algorithm?





Discrete/Decision Mathematics Topics	AQA	Edexcel	MEI	OCR A
Formulating constrained problems into Linear programs	AS	AS D1	MwA	AS
Graphical solution using an objective function	AS	AS D1	MwA	AS
Integer solution		AS D1	MwA	A Level
Slack variables	A Level	A Level D1	MwA	A Level
Simplex Method	A Level	A Level D1	MwA	A Level
Interpretation of Simplex	A Level	A Level D1	MwA	A Level
Big M method		A Level D1		
Integer programming, branch-and-bound method				A Level
Post-optimal analysis			MwA	A Level
Formulate a range of network problems as LPs			MwA	
Use of software and interpretation of output			MwA	





## In this session:

- $\geq$  constraints
- Artificial variables
- Surplus variables
- Two stage Simplex
- Playtime!
- Technology





## Two stage simplex

- The simplex algorithm relies on (0,0) being a feasible solution.
  - This isn't possible if there are ≥ constraints (we maintain the trivial constraints eg y ≥ 0)







## Slack and Surplus

- For ≤ constraints we add slack variables (how much is '*missing*')
- For ≥ constraints we subtract <u>surplus</u> variables (how much '*extra*' we have).
- As with other constraints these will be positive.







#### Maximise P= x+ 0.8y Subject to $x + y \le 1000, \quad 2x + y \le 1500, \quad 3x + 2y \le 2400$ $x + y \ge 800, \qquad x, y \ge 0$

$$P - x - 0.8y = 0$$
  

$$x + y + s_{1} = 1000$$
  

$$2x + y + s_{2} = 1500$$
  

$$3x + 2y + s_{3} = 2400$$
  

$$x + y - s_{4} = 800$$
  

$$x, y, s_{1}, s_{2}, s_{3}, s_{4} \ge 0$$







Maximise P= x+0.8y Subject to  $x + y \le 1000$ ,  $2x + y \le 1500$ ,  $3x+2y \le 2400$   $x + y \ge 800$ ,  $x, y \ge 0$ P - x - 0.8y = 0  $s_4$  is a surplus variable

P - x - 0.8y = 0  $x + y + s_{1} = 1000$   $2x + y + s_{2} = 1500$   $3x + 2y + s_{3} = 2400$   $x + y - s_{4} = 800$  $x, y, s_{1}, s_{2}, s_{3}, s_{4} \ge 0$ 







Maximise P= x+0.8y Subject to  $x + y \le 1000, \quad 2x + y \le 1500, \quad 3x+2y \le 2400$  $x + y \ge 800, \quad x, y \ge 0$ 

P - x - 0.8y = 0  $x + y + s_{1} = 1000$   $2x + y + s_{2} = 1500$   $3x + 2y + s_{3} = 2400$   $x + y - s_{4} = 800$  $x, y, s_{1}, s_{2}, s_{3}, s_{4} \ge 0$ 









#### Maximise P= x+0.8y Subject to $x + y \le 1000, \quad 2x + y \le 1500, \quad 3x+2y \le 2400$ $x + y \ge 800, \quad x, y \ge 0$

P - x - 0.8y = 0  $x + y + s_{1} = 1000$   $2x + y + s_{2} = 1500$   $3x + 2y + s_{3} = 2400$   $x + y - s_{4} + a_{1} = 800$  $x, y, s_{1}, s_{2}, s_{3}, s_{4}, a_{1} \ge 0$ 

Add artificial variables with each surplus variable  $x + y - s_4 + a_1 = 800$ 







Maximise P= x+0.8y Subject to  $x + y \le 1000$ ,  $2x + y \le 1500$ ,  $3x+2y \le 2400$  $x + y \ge 800$ ,  $x, y \ge 0$ 

$$P - x - 0.8y = 0$$

$$x + y + s_{1} = 1000 = 1000$$

$$2x + y + s_{2} = 1500 = 1500$$

$$3x + 2y + 00$$

$$x + y - s_{4} + a_{1} = \$ 0 = a_{1} = 300$$

$$x, y, s_{1}, s_{2}, s_{3}, s_{4}, a_{1} \ge 0$$





## Two stage simplex

- The simplex algorithm relies on (0,0) being a feasible solution.
- If there are ≥ constraints, add artificial variables and subtract surplus variables
- Two stage simplex has a second objective that is equal to the sum of the artificial variables
- The first stage makes the second objective zero, the second stage is as normal





#### Greater than or equal to constraints

- Simplex always starts at the origin.
- If there are ≥ constraints, add artificial variables introduce a new objective function

 $A = a_1 + a_2 + ...$ which you must minimise, since when A = 0 you are in the feasible region







## Greater than or equal to constraints

Once in the feasible region:

- Surplus variables give a measure of the perpendicular distance from each ≥ inequality
- Slack variables give a measure of the perpendicular distance from each ≤ inequality.
- Complete the simplex in the normal way.







# Two Stage SimplexMaximise P = x + 0.8ySubject to $x + y \le 1000, 2x + y \le 1500, 3x + 2y \le 2400$ $x + y \ge 800$

$$P - x - 0.8y = 0$$
  

$$x + y + s_{1} = 1000$$
  

$$2x + y + s_{2} = 1500$$
  

$$3x + 2y + s_{3} = 2400$$
  

$$x + y - s_{4} + a_{1} = 800$$

Subtract surplus variables and add artificial variables





## **Two Stage Simplex**

Maximise P - x - 0.8y = 0, Subject to  $x + y + s_1 = 1000$  $2x + y + s_2 = 1500$ ,  $3x + 2y + s_3 = 2400$  $x + y - s_4 + a_1 = 800$ 

Sometimes this is '*I*' Check with your board

Minimise  $A = a_1 + a_2 + a_{3+...}$ 

If A = 0 we get back to the boundary of the feasible region.

but we write this in terms of the other variables:

$$A = -x - y + s_4 + 800$$
$$A + x + y - s_4 = 800$$

AE Version 2.0 11/09/18.





## **Difference in specs**

- Some specs wish you to:
  - Minimise  $A = a_1 + a_2 + a_{3+...}$  (eg MEI)
  - Maximise  $I = -(a_1 + a_2 + a_{3+...})$  (eg Edexcel)
- This is effectively the same, but you should know which you board expects
- In the tableaux it will adjust how you select the pivot column:
  - A positive number if minimising (eg MEI)
  - A negative number if maximising (eg Edexcel)





## **Two Stage Simplex**

Maximise 
$$P - x - 0.8y = 0$$
,  
Subject to  $x + y + s_1 = 1000$   
 $2x + y + s_2 = 1500$ ,  $3x + 2y + s_3 = 2400$   
 $x + y - s_4 + a_1 = 800$ 

Minimise  $A = a_1 + a_2 + a_{3+...}$ but we write this in terms of the other variables:

$$A = -x - y + s_4 + 800$$
$$A + x + y - s_4 = 800$$





1	SIMPLEX 2			Ma	ximising	subject	to ≤	and/or	≥ const	raints	Setup	Reset	Auto *	1	
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6		A	Р	х	V	s1	s2	<b>s</b> 3	s4	a1	RHS	Min ratio			
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8	10	0	1	-1	-0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0				
9	23	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1000	3			
10		0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1500	750			
11		0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	2400				
12		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	-1	1	800				
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17	-	0	1	0	-0.3	0	0.5	0	0	0	750				
18	10	0	0	0	0.5	1	-0.5	0	0	0	250				
19		0	0	1	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	750				
20		0	0	0	0.5	0	-1.5	1	0	0	150				
21		0	0	0	0.5	0	-0.5	0	-1	1	50	100			
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25		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0				
26		0	1	0	0	0	0.2	0	-0.6	0.6	780				
27	100	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-1	200				
28		0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	700				
29		0	0	0	0	0	-1	1	1	-1	100	100			
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4						No. ≥ co	nstraints:	1	< >		Stage 2	Pivot 1	Pivot 2	Pivot 3	Pivot 4
23	Stage	1	Pivot	2									-		
24		A	Р	x	у	s1	s2	s3	s4	a1	RHS	Min ratio			
25		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0				
26		0	1	0	0	0	0.2	0	-0.6	0.6	780				
27		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-1	200				
28		0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	700				
29		0	0	0	0	0	-1	1	1	-1	100	100			
30		0	0	0	1	0	-1	0	-2	2	100				
31		4				1013				Α.	189 A				
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33		A	Р	х	у	s1	s2	s3	<b>s</b> 4	a1	RHS	Min ratio			
34				Los											
35		0	1	0	0	0	-0.4	0.6	0	0	840				
36		0	0	0	0	1	1	-1	0	0	100	100			
37		0	0	1	0	0	2	-1	0	0	600				
38		0	0	0	0	0	-1	1	1	-1	100				
39		0	0	0	1	0	-3	2	0	0	300				
40		13 													
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42		A	Р	x	у	s1	s2	s3	<b>s</b> 4	a1	RHS				
43															
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45		0	0	0	0	1	1	-1	0	0	100				
46		0	0	1	0	-2	0	1	0	0	400				
47		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-1	200				
48		0	0	0	1	3	0	-1	0	0	600				
40.		12													

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## Solution



#### So the solution is

- x = 400
- y = 600
- P = 880

s<sub>2</sub> = 100

Note that  $s_4$  is also basic meaning that the solution does not lie on an intersection with the  $\geq$  constraint







amsp<sup>®</sup> Edexcel Tableaux Managed by Mathematics<sup>®</sup>



Row Ops	B.V.	x	У	S <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>2</sub>	S₃	S <sub>4</sub>	$a_1$	RHS	θ
$R_1 = R_1$	S <sub>4</sub>	0	0	1	0	0	1		200	-
$R_2 = R_2 - R_1$	S <sub>2</sub>	1	0	-1	1	0	0		500	500
$R_3 = R_3 - 2R_1$	S <sub>3</sub>	1	0	-2	0	1	0		400	400
$R_4 = R_4 + R_1$	у	1	1	1	0	0	0		1000	1000
$R_5 = R_5 + 0.8R_1$	Р	- 1/5	0	4/5	0	0	0		800	





## **Minimising Problems**

Minimise C = -4x + ySubject to:

 $-3x + 2y \le 6$  $x \le 3$  $3x + y \ge 6$  $x, y \ge 0$ 

Minimise 
$$C = -4x + y$$
  
 $\Rightarrow$  Maximise  $P = -C = 4x - y$ 

#### 

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- Maximise P = -C
- $\therefore C = -P = 12$





## SAMs

Three liquid medicines, X, Y and Z, are to be manufactured. All the medicines require ingredients A, B, C and D which are in limited supply. The table below shows how many grams of each ingredient are required for one litre of each medicine. It also shows how much of each ingredient is available.

	Α	В	С	D
Each litre of X requires	2	0	2	4
Each litre of Y requires	5	2	4	3
Each litre of Z requires	3	1	2	2
Amount, in grams, of each ingredient available	20	10	70	30

When the medicines are sold, the profits are £5 per litre of X manufactured, £2 per litre of Y and £3 per litre of Z.

(i) Formulate an LP to maximise the total profit subject to the constraints imposed by the availability of the ingredients. Use x as the number of litres of X, y as the number of litres of Y and z as the number of litres of Z.
 [3] OCR(B) – MEI, Modelling with Algorithms, Paper Y433, SAM Version 2





(i) Formulate an LP to maximise the total profit subject to the constraints imposed by the availability of the ingredients. Use x as the number of litres of X, y as the number of litres of Y and z as the number of litres of Z.

The simplex algorithm is used to solve this LP. After the first iteration the tableau below is produced.

	Р	x	у	Z	$\boldsymbol{s}_1$	<b>s</b> <sub>2</sub>	<b>S</b> 3	<b>S</b> 4	RHS
2	1	0	1.75	-0.5	0	0	0	1.25	37.5
	0	0	3.5	2	1	0	0	-0.5	5
	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	10
	0	0	2.5	1	0	0	1	-0.5	55
	0	1	0.75	0.5	0	0	0	0.25	7.5

- (ii) (A) Perform a second iteration.
  - (B) Give the maximum profit, and the number of litres of X, Y and Z which should be manufactured to achieve this profit.[1]
- (iii) An extra constraint is imposed by a contract to supply at least 5 litres of Y. Produce an initial tableau which could be used to solve this new problem by using the two-stage simplex method. [3]

#### OCR(B) – MEI, Modelling with Algorithms, Paper Y433, SAM Version 2

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[2]





6	(i)		Max	imis	se	5x +	-2y +	3 <i>z</i>							M1	3.3	objective
			sub	ject t	to 2.	x+5y	$+3z \leq$	≤ <b>20</b>							A2	3.3	constraints
						2v	$+ z \leq$	≤ <b>10</b>								1.1	-1 each error
					2	r+4v	+ 27 <	70									
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						х	, <i>y</i> , <i>z</i> ∠	20									
-	(11)											DIK			[3]		
6	(11)	(A)	P	x	<i>y</i>		$S_1$	<i>S</i> <sub>2</sub>	<i>S</i> <sub>3</sub>	1	S4	20 75	5		MI	3.4	Pivot
				0	2.025	<u>5 0</u> 1	0.25	0	0		125	25			Al	1.1	all correct
			0	0	0.25	0	-0.5	1	Ő	0.2	25	7.5					
			0	0	0.75	0	-0.5	0	1	-0.2	25	52.5					
			0	1 -	- 0.125	50	-0.25	0	0	0.3	375	6.25					
															[2]		
6	(ii)	( <i>B</i> )	Max	imur	m prof	fit of £	38.75	man	ufac	turin	g 6.25	5 litres	s of X, r	none	<b>B1</b>	3.2a	
			of Y	and	2.5 lit	tres of	Z.										
															[1]		
6	(iii)			D	r	11 7	. g.	<b>G a</b>	<i></i>	g .		a	рис	1 1	 	1	
U	(111)		$\mathcal{L}$	1	л 0	$\frac{y}{1}$	31	<b>S</b> <sub>2</sub>	33	34	35	<i>u</i> <sub>5</sub>	K115		B1 R1	33	Sumlus
			1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	-1	0	3		B1	5.5	Surpius
			0	1 ·		-2 -3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		DI		
			0	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	-1	1	5				
			0	0	2	5 3	1	0	0	0	0	0	20			2.50	Additional variable
			0	0	0	2 1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10			3.50	Additional variable
			0	0	2	4 2	0	0	1	0	0	0	70			1.1	New objective
			0	0	4	3 2	0	0	0	1	0	0	30				
			2												[3]		
12-22																	





## FM Videos

- Includes minimising problems
- 2 Stage
- Big M (Edexcel)
- Use of technology (MEI)





## Using Excel ③

- Mac: Tools > excel add ins > solver add in
- Windows: File > options > solver add in

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Objective values are not taken to the LHS





TRANSP	905 <b>★</b> × √ fx	Thi cor le <i>l</i>	is calculates nsidered P = 4x - y +	the profit at e ⊦ <i>z</i> .	each vertex b	eing
	Α		В	С	D	E
1	x		У	z	Ρ	
2		0	0	0		
3		4	-5	1	C\$2,A3:C3)	
4		3	0	4	0	24
5		1	1	. 0	0	7
6		1	0	0	0	6





#### Now consider the LHS of the constraints.

# Cells D4, D5, D6 calculate the value of the constraints at the point being considered.













	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	н	1	J
1	x	У	z	Р						
2	0	0	0							
3	4	-1	1					So	lver Parameters	
4	3	0	4	0	24	G	53 Con Ol Louis	Ch	utptal	
5	1	1	0	0	7		Set Objective	Sheet		
6	1	0	0	0	6		To: O Ma	x O Min	O Value Of:	
7							By Changing	Variable Cells	5:	
8										_
9							Subject to the	e Constraints	:	
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11										Change
12		value	of the (	objecti	ve					Delete
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14		Tuncuc	m (me	RDS)						Reset All
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17							Select a Solvin	ng Method:	GRG Nonlinear 🔻	Ontions
18								_		options
19							Solving Meth	nod IC Nonlinear ei	ngine for Solver Problems th	at are smooth
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				U	L		G	н
1 x		У	Z	Р				
2	0	0	0			00	Solver Parameters	
3	4	-5	1	0		Set Objective:	\$D\$3	_
4	3	0	4	0	24	To: • Max • Max • To: • To: • Max •	Min Value Of: 0	
5	1	1	0	0	7	\$A\$2:\$C\$2	G4	_
6	1	0	0	0	6			Add
7	0	0	0	0	0			Change
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13	Vortioot		-, 22)			Shouth.		
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## Non negativity constraints











00	Solver Parameters		
Set Objective:	\$D\$3	_	
To: O Max	O Min O Value Of:	0	Don't forget to tell it to
By Changing Variab	ole Cells:		
\$A\$2:\$C\$2			✓ use the simplex
Subject to the Cons	straints		
\$D\$4:\$D\$6 <= \$ ✓ Make Unconstr Select a Solving Met	ained Variables Non-Nerstiv thod: Simplex LP	Add Change Delete Reset All Load/Save	algontnm
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Select the GRG Nonl nonlinear. Select th and select the Evolu smooth.	linear engine for Solver Probler e LP Simplex engine for linear utionary engine for Solver probl	ns that are smooth Solver Problems, ems that are non-	
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Mcrosoft Excel 1	6.14 Answer Re	port							
Worksheet: [Boo	k1]Sheet1								
Report Created: 3	30/05/2019 12:3	39:45							
<b>Result: Solver fou</b>	and a solution.	All constraints	and optimal	ity condition:	s are sati	sfied.			
Solver Engine									
Engine: Simple	x LP								. <b>r</b> = 25
Solution Time:	369367783.863	Seconds.							
Iterations: 1 Su	ibproblems: 2								x = 6
Solver Options									
Max Time Unlir	mited, Iterations	s Unlimited, Pre	cision 0.0000	01, Use Autom	natic Scal	ing			v = 0
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+ 0+2	-			. meger	-				
Constraints									
Cell	Name	Cell Value	Formula	Status	Slack				
\$D\$4	Р	22 5	\$D\$4<=\$E\$4	Not Binding	2				
\$D\$5	Р	6 5	\$D\$5<=\$E\$5	Not Binding	1				
\$D\$6	Р	6 5	\$D\$6<=\$E\$6	Binding	0				
\$A\$2:\$C\$2=Int	eger								
AE VEISIUII 2.0 11/09/10.									





### It'll also work for two Stage

Max: 
$$P - x - 0.8y = 0$$
,  
s.t.  $x + y + s_1 = 1000$   
 $2x + y + s_2 = 1500$ ,  
 $3x + 2y + s_3 = 2400$   
 $x + y - s_4 + a_1 = 800$ 

	Α	В	D	E
1	x	у	Р	
2	0	0		
3	1	0.8	0	
4	1	1	0	1000
5	2	1	0	1500
6	3	2	0	2400
7	1	1	0	800
0				

Select a Solving Method:

	Solver Parameters	L
Set Objective:	\$D\$3	
To: O Max	O Min O Value Of:	0
By Changing Var	iable Cells:	
\$A\$2:\$B\$2		
Subject to the Co	onstraints:	
\$D\$4 <= \$E\$4	L.	Add
\$D\$5 <= \$E\$5 \$D\$6 <= \$E\$6 \$D\$7 >= \$E\$7		Change
\$D\$5 <= \$E\$5 \$D\$6 <= \$E\$6 \$D\$7 >= \$E\$7		Change
\$D\$5 <= \$E\$5 \$D\$6 <= \$E\$6 \$D\$7 >= \$E\$7		Change Delete Reset All

Simplex LP

Ŧ

Options





	А	В	D	E					
1	x	У	Р						
2	400	600							
3	1	0.8	880						
4	1	1	1000	1000					
5	2	1	1400	1500	C	21 - 22 - 22 - 22 - 22 - 22 - 22 - 22 -			
6	3	2	2400	2400	ive Cell (M	lax)			
7	1	1	1000	800	Name (	Original Value	Final Value		
0					.3 P	0	880		
				Varia	ble Cells				
				C	ell Name (	<b>Original Value</b>	Final Value	Integer	_
				\$A	\$2 x	0	400	Contin	29 29
				\$B	\$2 y	0	600	Contin	
	Sla	ack 2 (s	_)	Const	traints				
	Sı	irnlue (c		e	ell Name	Cell Value	Formula	Status	Slack
			· <sub>4</sub> /	\$D	\$4 P	1000	\$D\$4<-\$E\$4	Binding	0
				\$D	\$5 P	1400	\$D\$5<=\$E\$5	Not Binding	100
				\$D	\$6 P	2400	\$D\$6<=\$E\$6	Binding	0
				\$D	\$7 P	1000	\$D\$7>=\$E\$7	Not Binding	200
AE Ver	sion 2.0 11/09/18.			0					





## http://www.zweigmedia.com/Re alWorld/simplex.html

- Will do maximise and minimise problems
- Can't do integer programming
- Scrollable box
- Easy to input data





	Ту	pe ye	our lin	iear p	rogra	mmin	g proble	em below. (Press "Example" to see how to set it up.)
max sub x + 2x + 3x - x +	kimis ject t y <= + y <: + 2y - y >=	e P = 1000 = 150 <= 2 800	x + 0 0 00 400	).8y				
								Solution:
Op	timal	Solu	ution:	p = 8	880; 1	x = 4	00, y =	600
1		So	lve	Ex	ample	e 1	Erase	Everything Rounding: 6 significant digits
							N	Decimal Fraction Mode: Integer
							The tab	bleaus will appear here.
Tab	leau	#1						
x	У	s1	s2	s3	_s4	р		
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1000	
3	2	0	ò	1	õ	õ	2400	
1	1	0	0	0	-1	0	800	
-1	-0.8	3 0	0	0	0	1	0	
Tab	leau	#2						
x	у	s1	s2	_ s3	s4	p	250	3
1	0.5	0	-0.5	0	0	0	750	
0	0.5	0	-1.	5 1	õ	õ	150	
0	0.5	0	-0.	5 0	-1	0	50	
0	-0.3	3 0	0.9	5 0	0	1	750	1





-							
Tak	oleau	#3					
х	У	s1	s2	s3	s4	р	
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	200
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	700
0	0	0	-1	1	1	0	100
0	1	0	-1	0	-2	0	100
0	0	0	0.2	0	-0	.6 1	780
Tak	oleau	#4					
x	У	s1	s2	s3	s4	р	
0	0	1	1	-1	0	0	100
1	0	0	2	-1	0	0	600
0	0	0	-1	1	1	0	100
0	1	0	-3	2	0	0	300
0	0	0	-0.	4 0.	6 0	1	840
Tab	oleau	#5					
x	y	s1	s2	s3	s4	p	
0	0	1	1	-1	0	0	100
1	0	-2	0	1	0	0	400
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	200
0	1	3	0	-1	0	0	600
0	0	0.4	0	0.2	2 0	1	880





## Modelling

- Consider:
  - Old spec Edexcel D2 transportation, allocation and game theory as LPP
  - Old spc MEI Discrete Computing examples of outputs





## Exam advice: simplex

- Many students can apply simplex accurately
- Some candidates fail to identify variables; there are still a number of candidates who define variables as 'a is crop A' etc,
- Most students can explain given inequalities but have more problems if asked to work them out from information given.
- Interpretation of solution is usually less good. Listing the values taken by the variables does not constitute interpretation, examiners needed to know what was to be made at what profit, and what would be left over.





## Exam tips

- The most common mistakes are arithmetic.
- Number the rows and write the row operations being used at the side (e.g. R4-3R2). This helps both student and the examiner to keep track of what is happening.
- Know the conditions for a tableau to be optimal; no –ves in the objective row if it is a maximise problem and no +ves in the objective row if it is a minimise problem.
- Be prepared to explain why a particular tableau is or isn't optimal.





## Exam tips

- Don't forget to write the answer at the end. Too many people lose marks because they don't interpret the solution.
- Make sure students are able to work out the value of slack variables in the tableau. These will tell you if there are any of the 'raw materials' left. This can be asked for in questions.
- Make sure they can read the values of all variables, including the slack variables form any completed tableau, even if it is not the final tableau.