

Course 8: Minimum cost flow problem

Author: OptimizationCity Group



www.optimizationcity.com

1

Welcome to the eighth course on our website, where we will explore the concept of Minimum cost flow problem! The minimum cost flow problem is a puzzle in network optimization that asks for the cheapest way to route a given amount of flow through a network, considering capacity limits and aiming to minimize the total cost involved.

- 1 Minimum cost flow problem
- 2 Minimum cost flow algorithm
- 3 Create an initial solution
- 4 Exercises



In this course, we will cover important topics related to graph optimization. The minimum cost flow problem is like a puzzle where we aim to find the most affordable way to move things through a network. Then We use special methods to solve this puzzle and figure out the cheapest route. Afther, To start, we make an initial plan considering things like how much can be carried and wanting to spend the least amount of money. Finally, By doing exercises and practice activities, we can get better at understanding and solving this problem.

Minimum cost flow problem



Minimum cost flow problem

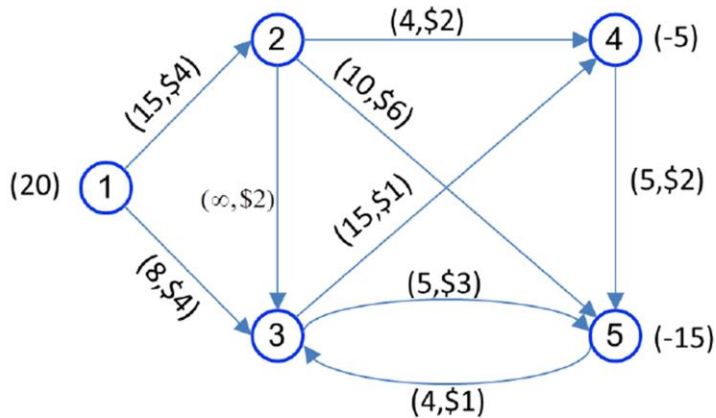
In the problem of minimum cost flow, we are looking for homogeneous product distribution from the factory (origin) to the sales market (destination). Suppose the number of products manufactured in each factory and the number of required products are known. Also, it is not necessary to send the products directly to the destinations, but it is possible to send it to the distribution centers through an intermediate point. In addition, transportation lines are limited in terms of line capacity. The goal in this issue is to minimize the cost of transporting products.

www.optimizationcity.com

3

In the minimum cost flow problem, we want to distribute the same type of product from the factory to the sales market efficiently. We know the quantity of products produced at each factory and the required quantity at each destination. Instead of sending products directly to the destinations, we can send them to distribution centers through an intermediate point if needed. However, there are limits on how much can be transported on each transportation line. The objective is to minimize the cost of transporting the products while meeting the demand.

Minimum cost flow problem



www.optimizationcity.com

4

Let's look at a simple example of the minimum cost flow problem using the diagram below. The nodes are shown as numbered circles, and the arcs are represented by arrows. The arcs have a specific direction, meaning materials or goods can be transported from one node to another in that direction. For instance, we can send materials from node 1 to node 2, but we cannot send them from node 2 to node 1. We use the notation $i-j$ to indicate the arc going from node i to node j .

In the diagram above, each arrow represents a path with a specific capacity and cost for transportation. The capacity indicates the maximum amount that can be transported along that path, while the cost per unit represents the expense associated with each unit of transportation. For instance, in the arrow (2-4), the flow can range from 0 to 4 units, and each unit passing through this path costs \$2. The symbol ∞ indicates that there is no limit on the capacity of that particular path.

Moreover, the numbers in parentheses next to the circles represent the available supply and the required demand at each node. In this diagram, node 1 is the starting point with a supply of 20 units. Nodes 4 and 5 are the destinations that require 5 and 15 units respectively, indicated by the negative sign.

Minimum cost flow problem



x_{ij} : is the number of units transported from node i to node j using arc i - j .

$$\text{Min } 4x_{12} + 4x_{13} + 2x_{23} + 2x_{24} + 6x_{25} + x_{34} + 3x_{35} + 2x_{45} + x_{53}$$

s.t.

$$(1) \quad x_{12} + x_{13} = 20$$

$$(2) \quad -x_{12} + x_{23} + x_{24} + x_{25} = 0$$

$$(3) \quad -x_{13} - x_{23} + x_{34} + x_{35} - x_{53} = 0$$

$$(4) \quad -x_{24} - x_{34} + x_{45} = -5$$

$$(5) \quad -x_{25} - x_{35} - x_{45} + x_{53} = -15$$

$$x_{12} \leq 15; x_{13} \leq 8; x_{23} \leq \infty; x_{24} \leq 4; x_{25} \leq 10; x_{34} \leq 15; x_{35} \leq 5; x_{45} \leq \infty; x_{53} \leq 4.$$

www.optimizationcity.com

5

In the minimum cost flow problem, our objective is to discover the flow pattern that incurs the lowest cost. To formulate this problem as a linear programming model, let's consider the following notation:

x_{ij} : represents the quantity of units transported from node i to node j using the arc i - j . Now, let's present the linear programming model for the minimum cost flow problem.

Equations 1 to 5 represent the flow balance equations in the network. Let's consider the balance equation at node 1 as an example.

The equation states that the combined flow leaving node 1 ($x_{12} + x_{13}$) should be equal to the supply available at node 1, which is 20 units. This ensures that the outgoing flow matches the available supply.

Similarly, the balance equation at node 2 indicates that the incoming flow to node 2 (x_{12}) is equal to the outgoing flow from node 2 ($x_{23} + x_{24} + x_{25}$). This ensures that the flow entering and leaving node 2 is properly balanced.

The minimum cost flow model in the network has a unique structure that helps determine the solution algorithm. The flow variables, denoted as x_{ij} in the balance equations, have coefficients of 0, +1, or -1. Additionally, these variables appear precisely in two balance equations: once with a coefficient of +1 representing the node where the flow originates, and once with a coefficient of -1 representing the

node where the flow enters.

Based on the above characteristics, the general form of the Minimum Cost Flow problem can be expressed as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem



$$\text{Min} \quad \sum_i \sum_j c_{ij} x_{ij}$$

s.t.

$$\sum_j x_{ij} - \sum_k x_{ki} = b_i \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$l_{ij} \leq x_{ij} \leq u_{ij}$$

The model shown here represents the general form of the minimum cost flow problem. However, we can simplify this model into more straightforward forms, which are explained below.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



simplex network method

The minimum cost flow ^{complexity} > transportation problem

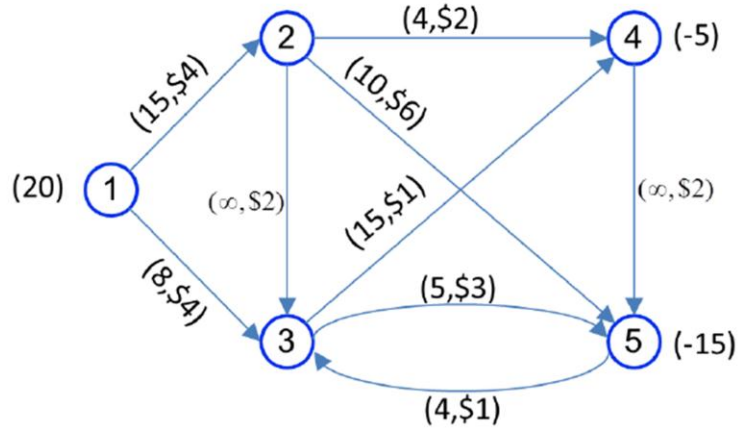
initial feasible solution is needed.

www.optimizationcity.com

7

In this part, we will learn about the simplex network method, which builds upon the network concepts discussed earlier. The minimum cost flow problem is more complex than the transportation problem because it involves intermediate nodes and capacity restrictions on each connection. To solve this problem using the simplex method, we need to find an initial feasible solution. This process is slightly different from the transportation problem and requires significant effort. Let's assume that we already have an initial feasible solution. We will illustrate the application of the simplex method to the minimum cost flow problem through an example.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm

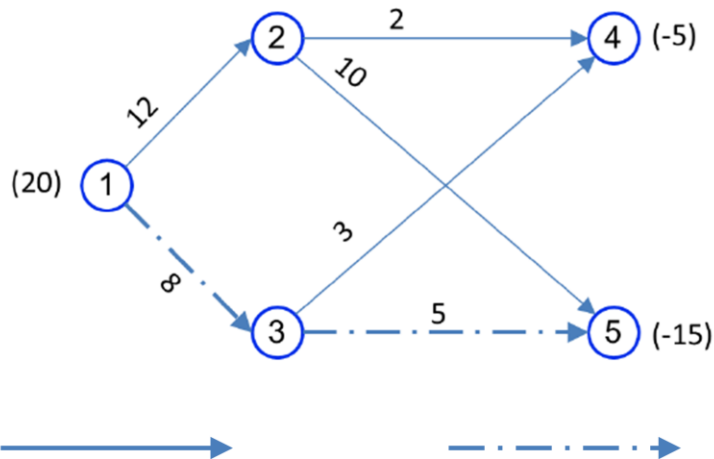


www.optimizationcity.com

8

In the diagram, each arc is labeled with two values: A and B. A represents the capacity of the arc, indicating how much can pass through it, while B represents the cost of moving one unit through the arc. Now let's take a look at the initial solution that we will consider.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



www.optimizationcity.com

9

In the picture above, the arcs represented by \dots are non-basic arcs that have reached their maximum capacity, while the solid arcs (represented by $___$) are basic arcs. These solid arcs form a spanning tree, which serves as the initial solution. To determine if this solution is optimal, we need to calculate the cost of all the non-basic arcs. To do this, we calculate y_i values for each arc (where i ranges from 1 to n). If the calculated y_i values satisfy certain conditions, we can evaluate the optimality of the solution.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



If the y_i applies in the following relations:

$$\overline{c_{ij}} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\overline{c_{ij}} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\overline{c_{ij}} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

$$c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0.$$

www.optimizationcity.com

10

If the calculated y_i values meet certain conditions, then the current basic solution is considered optimal. To calculate the y_i values, we can arbitrarily set one of the y_i values to zero and determine the remaining y_i values using the formula $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$. Let's compute the y_i values based on this equation.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



$$y_2 = 0 \rightarrow \begin{cases} (2,4) \rightarrow 0 = 2 - y_2 + y_4 \rightarrow y_4 = -2 \\ (1,2) \rightarrow 0 = 4 - y_1 + y_2 \rightarrow y_1 = +4 \\ (3,4) \rightarrow 0 = 1 - y_3 + y_4 \rightarrow y_3 = -1 \\ (2,5) \rightarrow 0 = 6 - y_2 + y_5 \rightarrow y_5 = -6 \end{cases}$$

The cost of \bar{c}_{ij} for non-basic variables is as follows:

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - 4 + (-1) = -1$$

$$\bar{c}_{23} = 2 - 0 + (-1) = +1$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 3 - (-1) + (-6) = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{45} = 2 - (-2) + (-6) = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{53} = 1 - (-6) + (-1) = +6$$

The cost associated with non-basic variables ij which is \bar{c}_{ij} is as follows:

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



To improve the current solution based on the above \bar{c}_{ij} , we have two solutions:

1- Increasing the arc flow that has a negative \bar{c}_{ij} and is now at its lower bound.

2- Reducing the arc flow that has a positive \bar{c}_{ij} and is now at its upper bound.

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - 4 + (-1) = -1$$

$$\bar{c}_{23} = 2 - 0 + (-1) = +1$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 3 - (-1) + (-6) = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{45} = 2 - (-2) + (-6) = -2 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\bar{c}_{53} = 1 - (-6) + (-1) = +6$$

www.optimizationcity.com

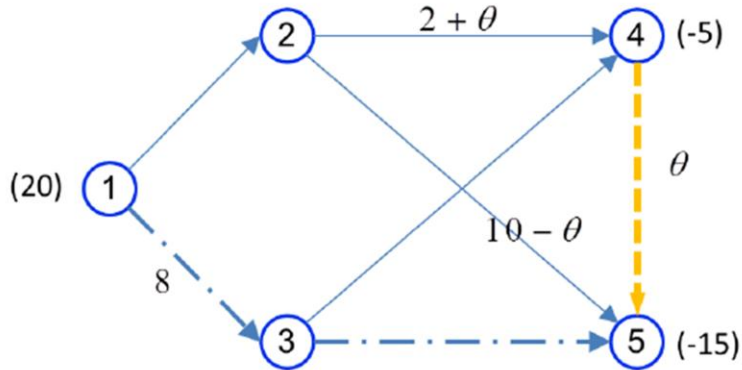
12

To improve the current solution using the provided c_{ij} values, we have two options: Increase the flow through an arc that has a negative c_{ij} and is currently at its minimum limit.

Decrease the flow through an arc that has a positive c_{ij} and is currently at its maximum limit.

Considering these cases, the only possible candidate is the arc (4,5). In the following diagram, we added the arc (4,5) to the network to determine which arc should be removed from the basic solution.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm

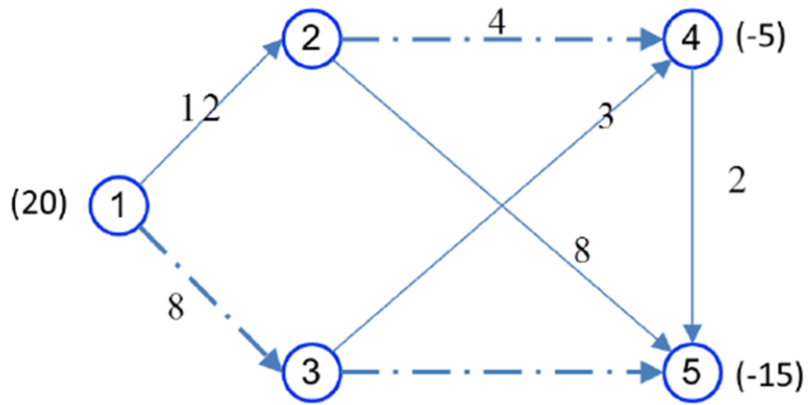


www.optimizationcity.com

13

We can increase the value of θ up to 2, which would cause the arc (2,4) to reach its maximum capacity and be removed from the basic solution. Consequently, the current basic solution is as follows:

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



www.optimizationcity.com

14

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



According to the assumption $y_2=0$.



$$y_1 = 4; y_2 = 0; y_3 = -3; y_4 = -4; y_5 = -6$$



$$\overline{c_{13}} = 4 - 4 + (-3) = -3$$

$$\overline{c_{23}} = 2 - 0 + (-3) = -1$$

$$\overline{c_{35}} = 3 - (-3) + (-6) = 0$$

$$\overline{c_{24}} = 2 - (0) + (-4) = -2$$

$$\overline{c_{33}} = 1 - (-6) + (-3) = +4$$



$$\overline{c_{ij}} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\overline{c_{ij}} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\overline{c_{ij}} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

www.optimizationcity.com

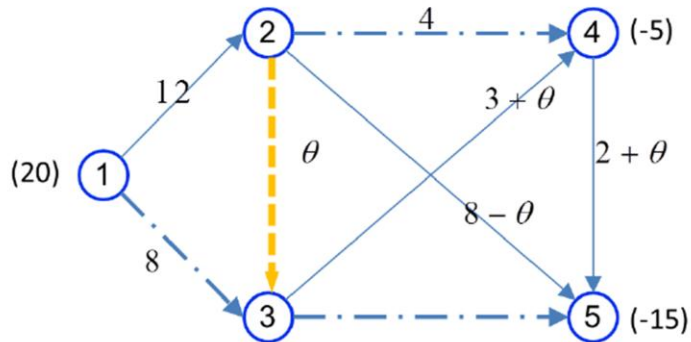
15

Based on the assumption that y_2 is equal to zero, we can calculate the values of y_i for the basic variables using the equations $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

The costs $\overline{c_{ij}}$ for identifying the input arc to the basic solution and the output arc from the basic solution are as follows:

At this point, we include the arc (2,3) in the basic solution. To determine the output arc, we proceed as follows:

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm

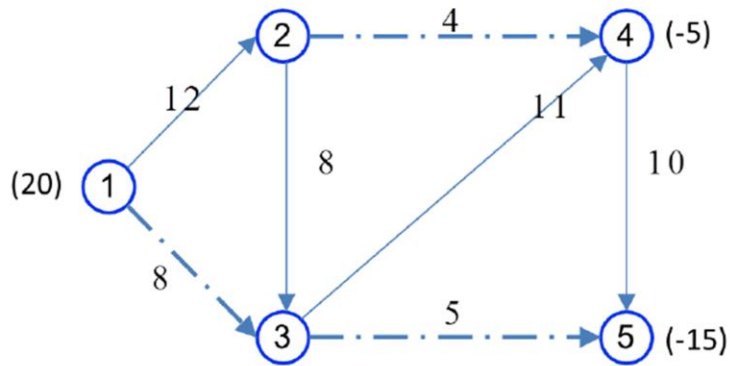


www.optimizationcity.com

16

We can increase the value of θ up to 8, resulting in the removal of the arc (2,5) from the basic solution. As a result, the updated basic solution is as follows:

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



$$y_1 = 4; y_2 = 0; y_3 = -2; y_4 = -3; y_5 = -5$$

According to the y_i s, the amount of \bar{c}_{ij} is as follows:

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - 4 + (-2) = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 6 - 0 + (-5) = +1$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 3 - (-2) + (-5) = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{24} = 2 - (0) + (-3) = -1$$

$$\bar{c}_{53} = 1 - (-5) + (-2) = +4$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$



www.optimizationcity.com

18

Using the basic solution, we calculate the values of y_i .

Based on these y_i values, we determine the amounts of \bar{c}_{ij} as follows:

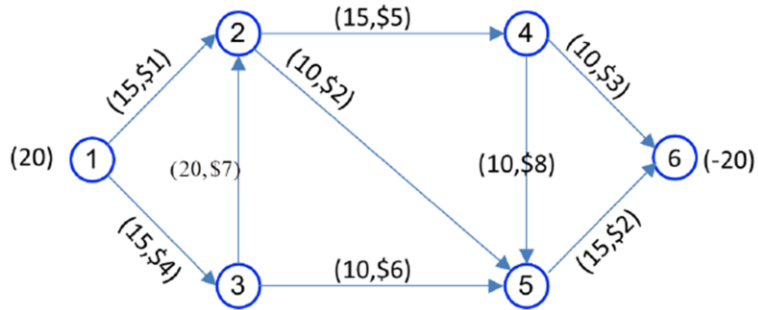
For non-basic variables, the \bar{c}_{ij} values are negative, and the arc flow is at its maximum limit. For basic variables, the \bar{c}_{ij} values are positive, and the arc flow is at its minimum limit. Therefore, the current solution is the optimal solution.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



Example:

Solve the minimum cost flow problem in the following network using the simplex method. Use the given tree for the initial solution.



www.optimizationcity.com

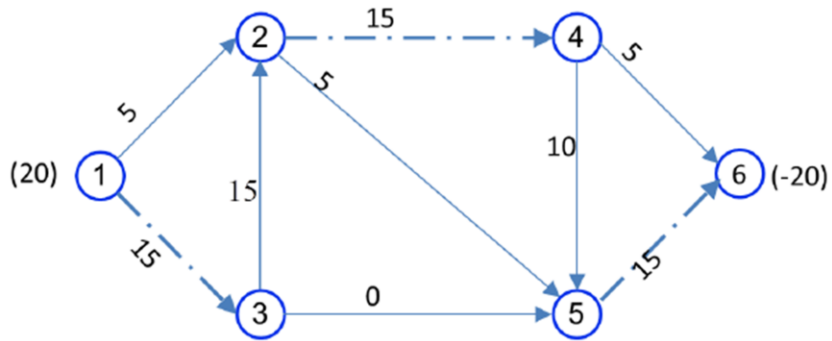
19

Let's solve the minimum cost flow problem in the network shown using the simplex method. We will utilize the provided tree as the initial solution.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



Initial solution:



www.optimizationcity.com

20

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



Solution:

$$\overline{c}_{12} = 1 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\overline{c}_{32} = 7 - y_3 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 7$$

$$\overline{c}_{25} = 2 - y_2 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -2$$

$$\overline{c}_{45} = 8 - y_4 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = 6$$

$$\overline{c}_{46} = 3 - y_4 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = 3$$

Solution:

The value of the objective function for the initial solution is 380. Assuming y_2 is equal to zero, we can calculate the y_i values using the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



The \bar{c}_{ij} for non-base arcs are as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - y_1 + y_3 = 4 - 1 + 7 = 10$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 6 - y_3 + y_5 = 6 - 7 + (-2) = -3$$

$$\bar{c}_{24} = 5 - y_2 + y_4 = 5 - 0 + 6 = 11 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 2 - y_5 + y_6 = 2 + 2 + 3 = 7$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

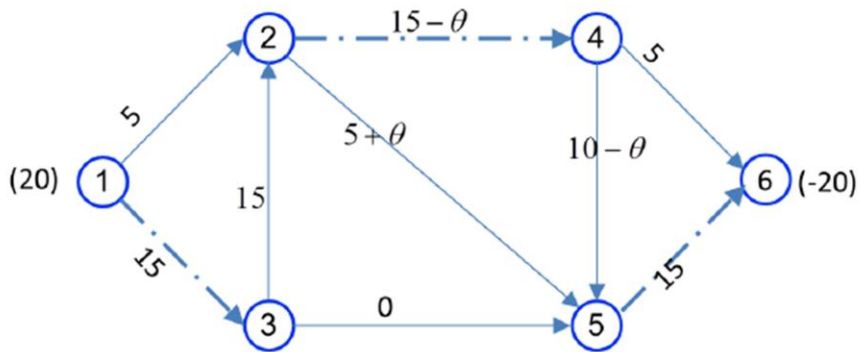
$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

The costs \bar{c}_{ij} for the non-basic arcs are as follows.

Out of the four arcs that can enter the basic solution, we select the arc (2,4). The output arc is determined as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



$$5 + \theta \leq 10; 10 - \theta \geq 0 \rightarrow \theta_{\max} = 5$$

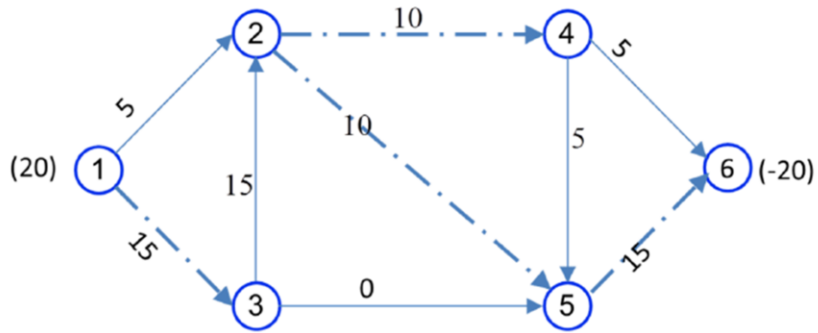
www.optimizationcity.com

23

As the arc (2,5) has reached its maximum capacity, it is removed from the basic solution.

Therefore, the updated basic solution is as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



In this solution, the value of the objective function is equal to 295.

$$\overline{c_{12}} = 1 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\overline{c_{32}} = 7 - y_3 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 7$$

$$\overline{c_{24}} = 5 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -5$$

$$\overline{c_{45}} = 8 - y_4 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -13$$

$$\overline{c_{46}} = 3 - y_4 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -8$$

In this solution, the objective function has a value of 295. Assuming y_2 is zero, we can calculate the y_i values for the basic arcs using the equations $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$ as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



The \bar{c}_{ij} for non-base arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - y_1 + y_3 = 4 - 1 + 7 = 10$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 6 - y_3 + y_5 = 6 - 7 + (-13) = -14$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 2 - y_2 + y_5 = 2 - 0 - 13 = -11$$

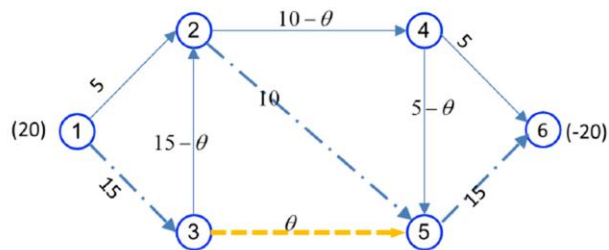
$$\bar{c}_{56} = 2 - y_5 + y_6 = 2 + 13 - 8 = 7$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

The arc (3,5) can enter the basic solutions.



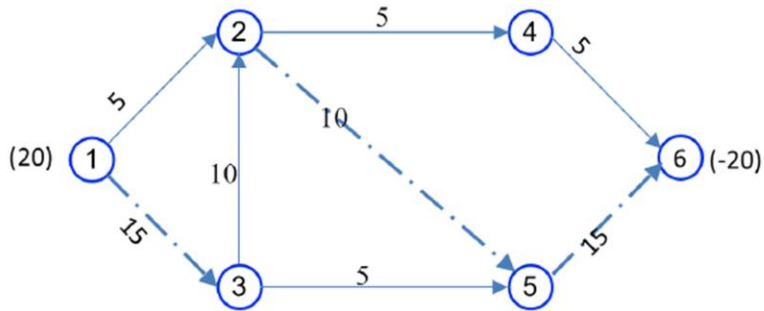
www.optimizationcity.com

26

The \bar{c}_{ij} cost for the non-basic arcs are as follows.

The arc (3,5) can be included in the basic solutions.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



In this solution, the value of the objective function is equal to 255. According to the assumption $y_2=0$, the value of y_i can be calculated from the equations $c_{ij}-y_i+y_j=0$ for the basic arcs as follows.

www.optimizationcity.com

27

By setting θ to 5, the arc (4,5) is removed from the base, and the arc (3,5) is added to the base. As a result of this change, the current solution is as follows.

In this solution, the objective function has a value of 255. Assuming y_2 is zero, we can calculate the y_i values for the basic arcs using the equations $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$ as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



$$\bar{c}_{12} = 1 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{32} = 7 - y_3 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 7$$

$$\bar{c}_{24} = 5 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -5$$

$$\bar{c}_{46} = 3 - y_4 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -8$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 6 - y_3 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = 1$$

The \bar{c}_{ij} for non-base arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - y_1 + y_3 = 4 - 1 + 7 = 10$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 2 - y_2 + y_5 = 2 - 0 + 1 = 3$$

$$\bar{c}_{45} = 8 - y_4 + y_5 = 8 + 5 + 1 = 14$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 2 - y_5 + y_6 = 2 - 1 - 8 = -7$$

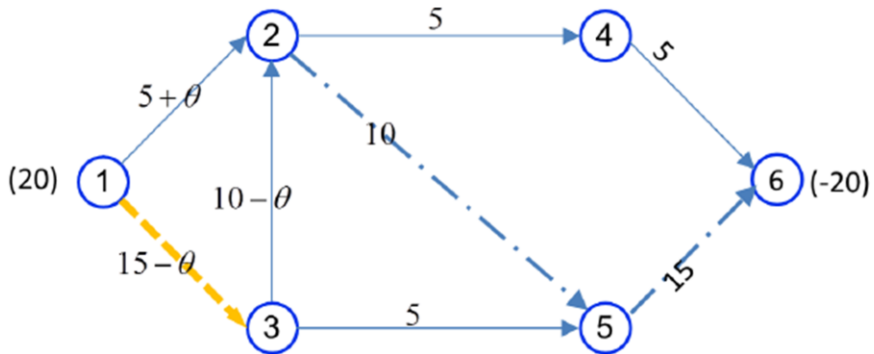
$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

The arc (1,3) can enter the basic solutions.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm

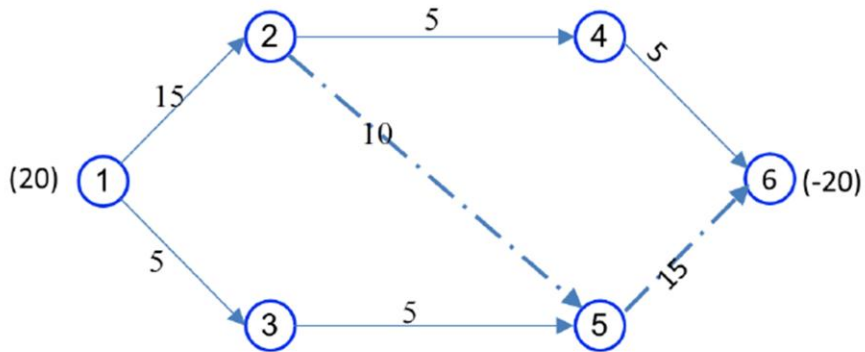


www.optimizationcity.com

29

By setting θ to 10, the arc (3,2) is removed from the base, and the arc (1,3) is added to the base. Therefore, the current solution is as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



www.optimizationcity.com

30

In this solution, the objective function has a value of 155. Assuming y_2 is zero, we can calculate the y_i values for the basic arcs using the equations $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$ as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



$$\bar{c}_{12} = 1 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - y_1 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = -3$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 6 - y_3 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -5$$

$$\bar{c}_{24} = 5 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -5$$

$$\bar{c}_{46} = 3 - y_4 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -8$$

The \bar{c}_{ij} for non-base arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{32} = 7 - y_1 + y_3 = 7 + 3 + 0 = 10$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 2 - y_2 + y_5 = 2 - 0 - 9 = -7$$

$$\bar{c}_{45} = 8 - y_4 + y_5 = 8 + 5 - 9 = 4$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 2 - y_5 + y_6 = 2 + 9 - 8 = 3$$



$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

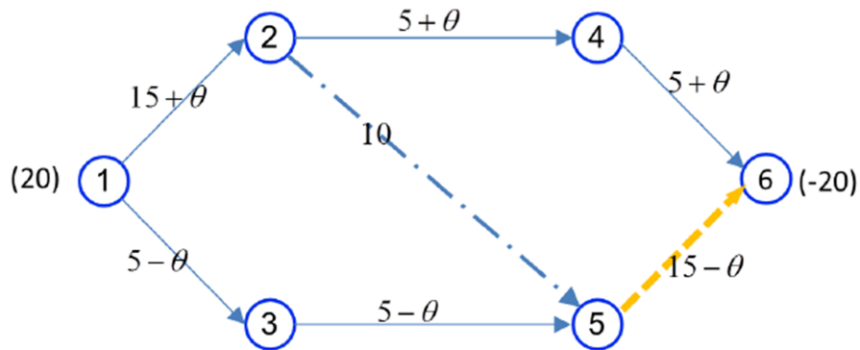
$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

The arc (5,6) enters the base. The output arc is calculated as follows.

The arc (5,6) is added to the base. The calculation for the output arc is as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm

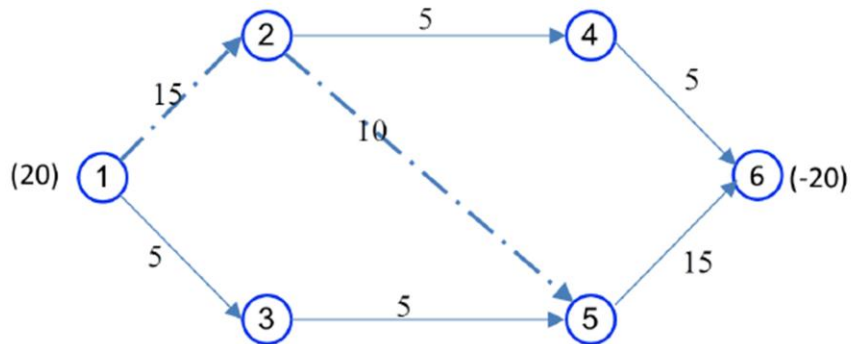


www.optimizationcity.com

32

By setting θ to 0, the arc (1,2) is removed from the base. Therefore, the updated current solution is as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



www.optimizationcity.com

33

In this solution, the objective function has a value of 155. Assuming y_2 is zero, we can calculate the y_i values for the basic arcs using the equations $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$ as follows.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



$$\bar{c}_{24} = 5 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -5$$

$$\bar{c}_{46} = 3 - y_4 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -8$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 2 - y_5 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -6$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 6 - y_3 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 4 - y_1 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 4$$

The \bar{c}_{ij} for non-base arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{12} = 1 - y_1 + y_2 = -3$$

$$\bar{c}_{32} = 7 - y_3 + y_2 = 7$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 2 - y_2 + y_5 = -4$$

$$\bar{c}_{45} = 8 - y_4 + y_5 = 8 + 5 - 6 = 7$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

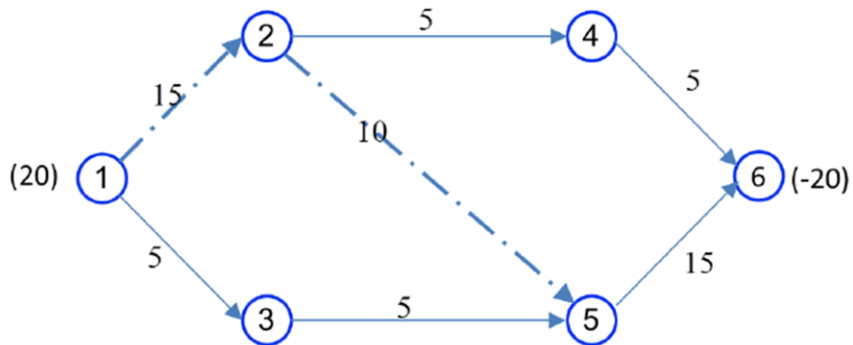
$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$



The cost \bar{c}_{ij} for the non-basic arcs are as follows.

The optimality condition is met, indicating that we have reached the optimal solution.

Minimum cost flow problem algorithm



www.optimizationcity.com

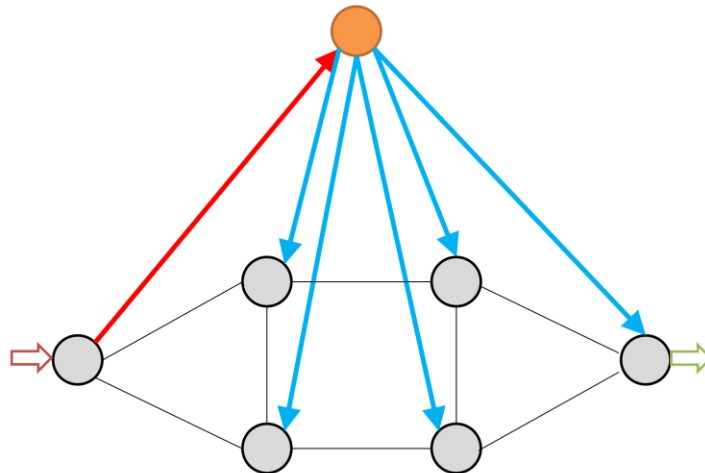
35

Note: Since θ is set to 0 in the current step, it implies a degenerate state where no improvement in the objective function value has occurred. The optimal solution is as follows.

Create an initial solution



Create an initial feasible basic solution



www.optimizationcity.com

36

To create an initial feasible basic solution, we can use a method when it's challenging to find such a solution, especially for large networks. This method involves introducing an additional node called V_{n+1} .

For nodes with a supply, we connect them to V_{n+1} by adding an arc with a cost of one. On the other hand, for nodes with demand or intermediate nodes (nodes with neither supply nor demand), we connect V_{n+1} to those nodes with an arc having a cost of one. The remaining arcs have a cost of zero.

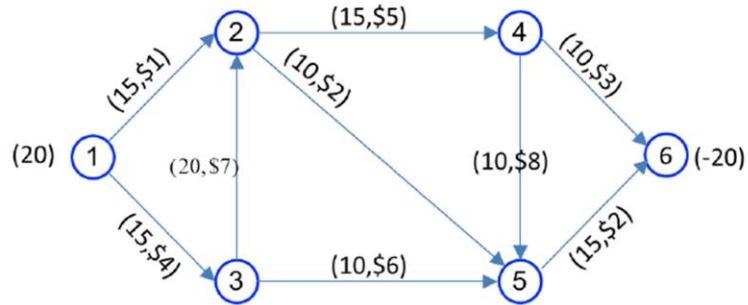
Next, we apply the simplex algorithm to this network until the value of the optimal objective function becomes zero. Once we reach this point, we have obtained an initial feasible basic solution, and we can proceed with the simplex algorithm using this solution as a starting point.

Create an initial solution



Example:

For the following network, find a initial feasible basic solution.



www.optimizationcity.com

37

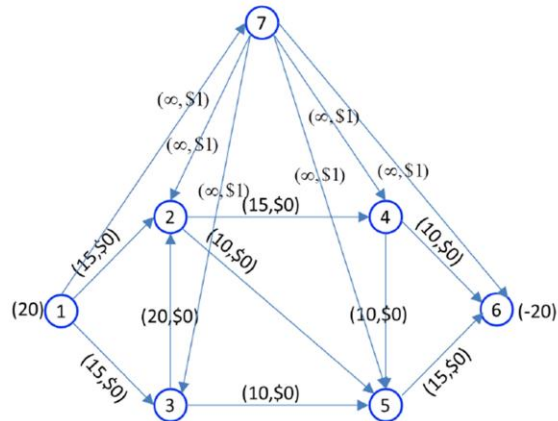
To find an initial feasible basic solution for the given network, we can follow these steps:

Create an initial solution



Solution:

We create an artificial node 7 and consider an arc from node 1 to 7 and from 7 to other nodes with a cost of 1.



38

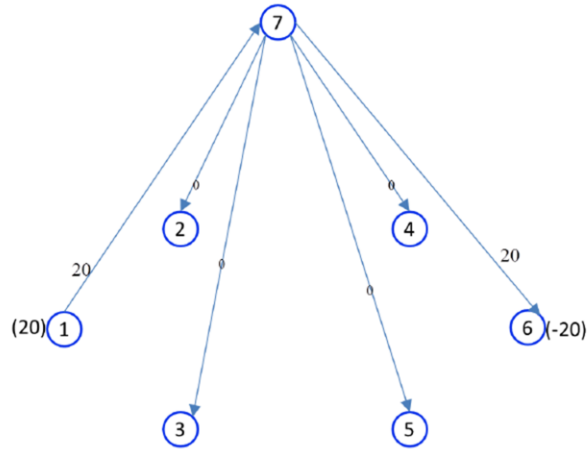
Create an artificial node, let's call it node 7.

Connect node 1 to node 7 with an arc, and create arcs from node 7 to all other nodes with a cost of 1.

Create an initial solution



The basic solution is as follows:



www.optimizationcity.com

39

The resulting basic solution is as follows:

There is an arc from node 1 to node 7.

There are arcs from node 7 to each of the other nodes, namely nodes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, all with a cost of 1.

Create an initial solution



Assuming $y_7=0$, the y_i coefficients can be obtained based on $c_{ij}-y_i+y_j=0$.

$$\overline{c_{17}} = 1 - y_1 + y_7 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\overline{c_{72}} = 1 - y_7 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_2 = -1$$

$$\overline{c_{73}} = 1 - y_7 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = -1$$

$$\overline{c_{74}} = 1 - y_7 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -1$$

$$\overline{c_{75}} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -1$$

$$\overline{c_{76}} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1$$

Assuming the value of y_7 is zero, we can calculate the y_i coefficients based on the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Create an initial solution



The cost \bar{c}_{ij} for non-basic arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{12} = 0 - y_1 + y_2 = -2 \leftarrow$$

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 0 - y_1 + y_3 = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{32} = 0 - y_3 + y_2 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{24} = 0 - y_2 + y_4 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 0 - y_2 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 0 - y_3 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{45} = 0 - y_4 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{46} = 0 - y_4 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 0 - y_5 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

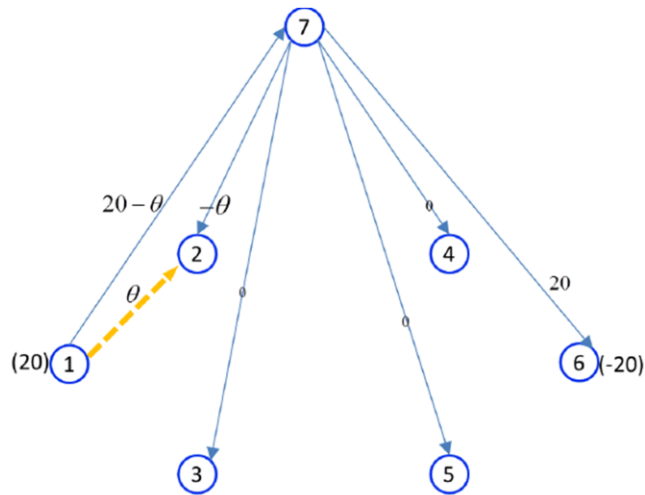
$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

The cost c_{ij} values for non-basic arcs are as follows.

Since the arc (1,2) is at its lower bound and satisfies the condition, it enters the base.

The output arc from the base can be determined as follows.

Create an initial solution

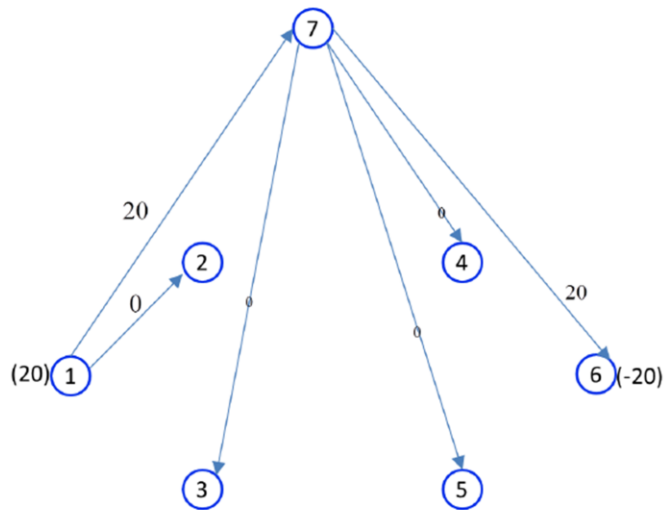


www.optimizationcity.com

42

The arc (7,2) is removed from the base, resulting in the current basic solution as follows.

Create an initial solution



www.optimizationcity.com

43

In this iteration, the value of the objective function is 40. Assuming y_7 is zero, we can calculate the values of the y_i coefficients using the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Create an initial solution



$$\begin{aligned} \bar{c}_{17} &= 1 - y_1 + y_7 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1 \\ \bar{c}_{12} &= 0 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_2 = 1 \\ \bar{c}_{73} &= 1 - y_7 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = -1 \\ \bar{c}_{74} &= 1 - y_7 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -1 \\ \bar{c}_{75} &= 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -1 \\ \bar{c}_{76} &= 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1 \end{aligned}$$

The cost \bar{c}_{ij} for non-basic arcs is as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{c}_{72} &= 1 - y_7 + y_2 = 2 \\ \bar{c}_{13} &= 1 - y_1 + y_3 = -2 \leftarrow \\ \bar{c}_{32} &= 0 - y_3 + y_2 = 2 \\ \bar{c}_{24} &= 0 - y_2 + y_4 = -2 \\ \bar{c}_{25} &= 0 - y_2 + y_5 = -2 \\ \bar{c}_{35} &= 0 - y_3 + y_5 = 0 \\ \bar{c}_{45} &= 0 - y_4 + y_5 = 0 \\ \bar{c}_{46} &= 0 - y_4 + y_6 = 0 \\ \bar{c}_{56} &= 0 - y_5 + y_6 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{c}_{ij} &= c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij} \\ \bar{c}_{ij} &= c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij} \\ \bar{c}_{ij} &= c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

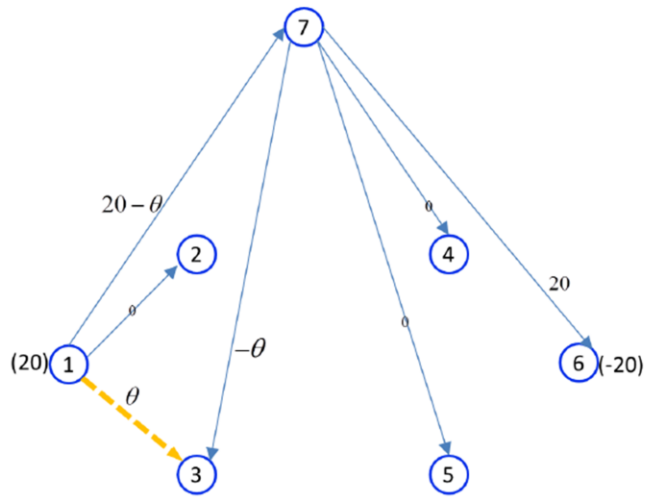
im

44

The cost c_{ij} values for non-basic arcs are as follows.

Since the arc (1,3) is at its lower bound and satisfies the condition, it enters the base.
The output arc from the base can be determined as follows.

Create an initial solution

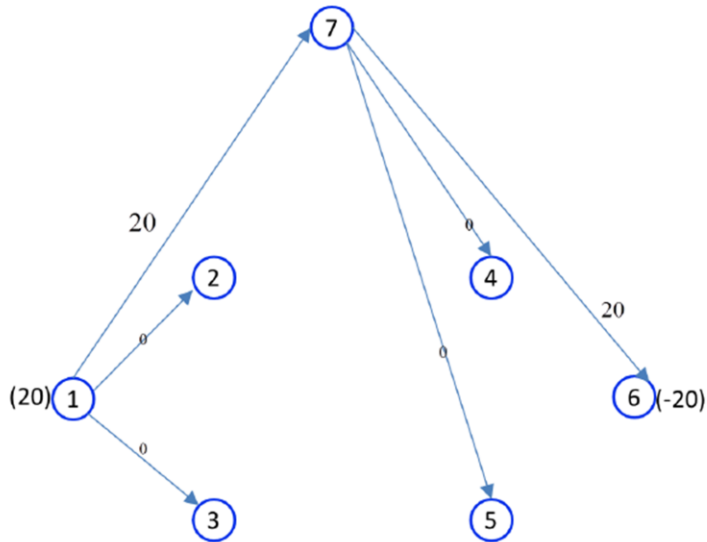


www.optimizationcity.com

45

The arc (7,3) is removed from the base, resulting in the current basic solution as follows.

Create an initial solution



www.optimizationcity.com

46

In this iteration, the value of the objective function is 40. Assuming y_7 is zero, we can calculate the values of the y_i coefficients using the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Create an initial solution



$$\bar{c}_{17} = 1 - y_1 + y_7 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{12} = 0 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_2 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 0 - y_1 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{74} = 1 - y_7 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -1$$

$$\bar{c}_{75} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -1$$

$$\bar{c}_{76} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1$$

The cost \bar{c}_{ij} for non-basic arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{72} = 1 - y_7 + y_2 = 2$$

$$\bar{c}_{73} = 1 - y_7 + y_3 = 2$$

$$\bar{c}_{32} = 0 - y_3 + y_2 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{24} = 0 - y_2 + y_4 = -2 \leftarrow$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 0 - y_2 + y_5 = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 0 - y_3 + y_5 = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{45} = 0 - y_4 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{46} = 0 - y_4 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 0 - y_5 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

ncity.com

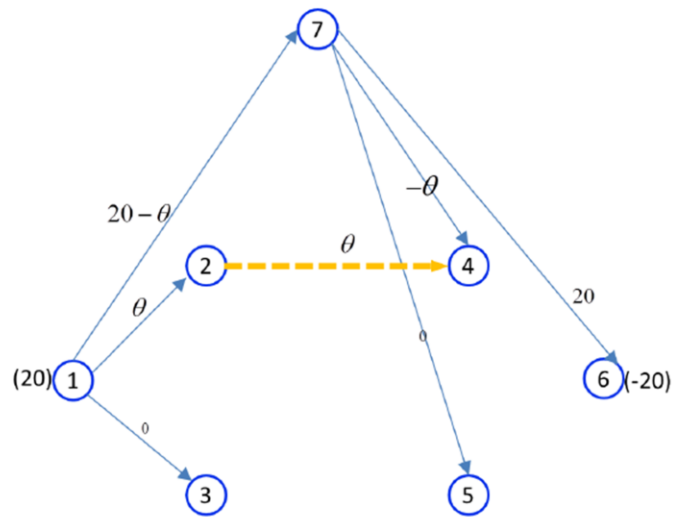
47

The cost c_{ij} values for non-basic arcs are as follows.

Since the arc (2,4) is at its lower bound and satisfies the condition, it enters the base.

The output arc from the base can be determined as follows.

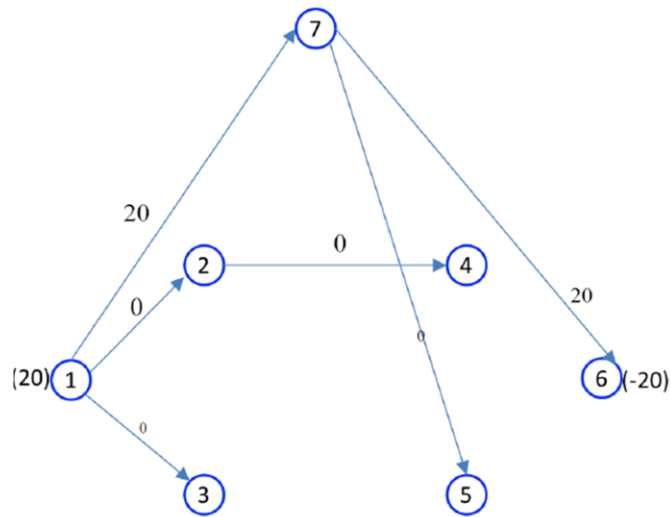
Create an initial solution



www.optimizationcity.com

48

Create an initial solution



www.optimizationcity.com

49

The arc (7,4) is removed from the base, resulting in the current basic solution as follows.

Create an initial solution



In this iteration, the value of the objective function is equal to 40. Assuming $y_7=0$, the y_i s can be obtained based on $c_{ij}-y_i+y_j=0$.

$$\overline{c_{12}} = 0 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_2 = 1$$

$$\overline{c_{13}} = 0 - y_1 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 1$$

$$\overline{c_{24}} = 0 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = 1$$

$$\overline{c_{17}} = 1 - y_1 + y_7 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\overline{c_{75}} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -1$$

$$\overline{c_{76}} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1$$

In this iteration, the objective function has a value of 40. Assuming y_7 is zero, we can find the values of the y_i coefficients by using the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Create an initial solution



The cost \bar{c}_{ij} for non-basic arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{74} = 1 - y_7 + y_4 = 2$$

$$\bar{c}_{75} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{76} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{32} = 0 - y_3 + y_2 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 0 - y_2 + y_5 = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 0 - y_3 + y_5 = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{43} = 0 - y_4 + y_3 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{46} = 0 - y_4 + y_6 = -2 \leftarrow$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 0 - y_5 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

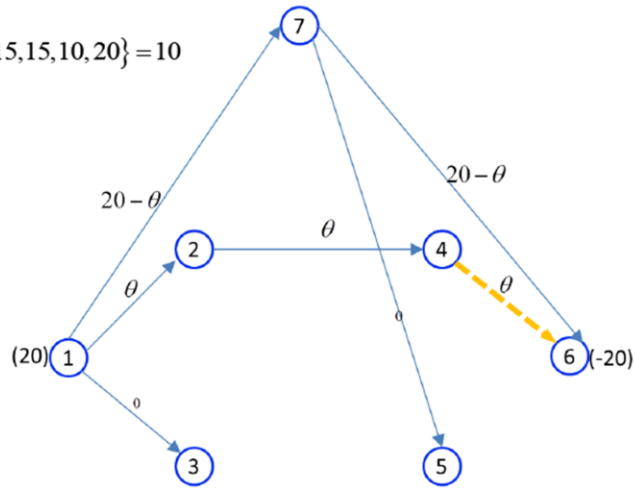
$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

Create an initial solution



$$\text{Max } \theta = \text{Min } \{15, 15, 10, 20\} = 10$$

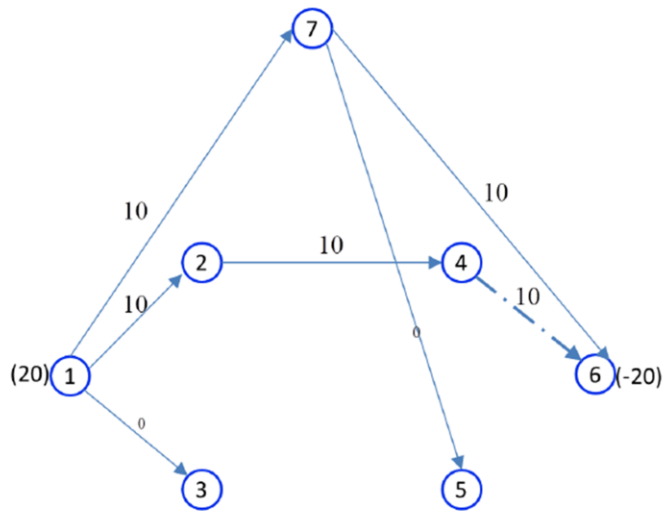


www.optimizationcity.com

52

Since the arc (4,6) is at its lower bound and meets the condition, it becomes part of the base. Let's determine the output arc from the base as follows.

Create an initial solution



www.optimizationcity.com

53

With θ (theta) equal to 10, the arc (4,6) enters the base but quickly reaches its upper limit and is removed from the base. As a result of this change, the current solution is updated as follows, and the objective value becomes 20.

Create an initial solution



$$\bar{c}_{12} = 0 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_2 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{13} = 0 - y_1 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{24} = 0 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{17} = 1 - y_1 + y_7 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\bar{c}_{75} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -1$$

$$\bar{c}_{76} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1$$

The cost \bar{c}_{ij} for non-basic arcs is as follows.

$$\bar{c}_{74} = 1 - y_7 + y_4 = 2$$

$$\bar{c}_{75} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{76} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{32} = 0 - y_3 + y_2 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{25} = 0 - y_2 + y_5 = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{35} = 0 - y_3 + y_5 = -2 \leftarrow$$

$$\bar{c}_{43} = 0 - y_4 + y_3 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{46} = 0 - y_4 + y_6 = -2$$

$$\bar{c}_{56} = 0 - y_5 + y_6 = 0$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\bar{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

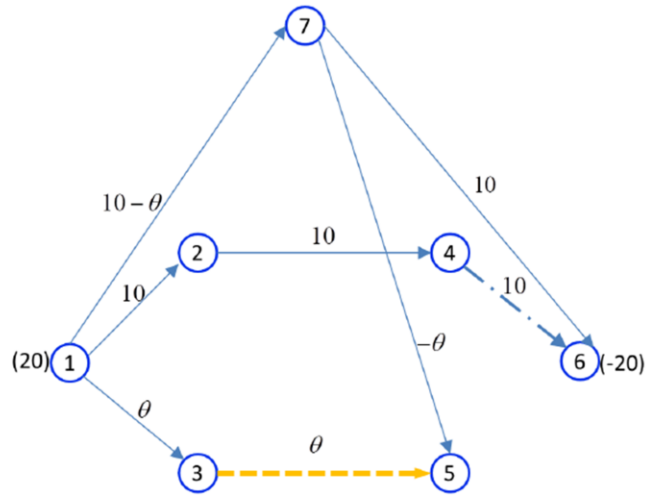
n

54

If we assume that y_7 is zero, we can calculate the values of the y_i coefficients using the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Now, let's consider the costs for non-basic arcs, which are as follows.

Create an initial solution

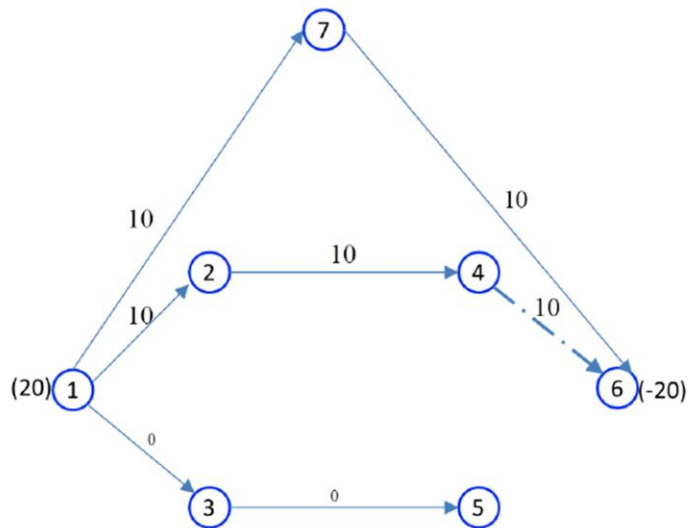


www.optimizationcity.com

55

The arc (4,6) has reached its maximum limit and fulfills the condition, making it an optimal arc. Conversely, the arc (3,5) is at its minimum limit and meets the condition, allowing it to enter the base. Let's find the output arc from the base using the following steps.

Create an initial solution



56

The arc (7,5) is no longer part of the base, which leads to the current basic solution as follows. Moreover, the objective value remains at 20.

Create an initial solution



Assuming $y_7=0$, the y_i s can be obtained based on $c_{ij}-y_i+y_j=0$.

$$\overline{c}_{17} = 1 - y_1 + y_7 = 0 \rightarrow y_1 = 1$$

$$\overline{c}_{12} = 0 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_2 = 1$$

$$\overline{c}_{13} = 0 - y_1 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = 1$$

$$\overline{c}_{35} = 0 - y_3 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = 1$$

$$\overline{c}_{24} = 0 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = 1$$

$$\overline{c}_{76} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1$$

The cost \overline{c}_{ij} for non-basic arcs is as follows.

$$\overline{c}_{72} = 1 - y_7 + y_2 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{73} = 1 - y_7 + y_3 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{74} = 1 - y_7 + y_4 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{75} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{32} = 0 - y_3 + y_2 = 0$$

$$\overline{c}_{25} = 0 - y_2 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\overline{c}_{35} = 0 - y_3 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\overline{c}_{45} = 0 - y_4 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\overline{c}_{46} = 0 - y_4 + y_6 = -2$$

$$\overline{c}_{56} = 0 - y_5 + y_6 = -2 \leftarrow$$

$$\overline{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\overline{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

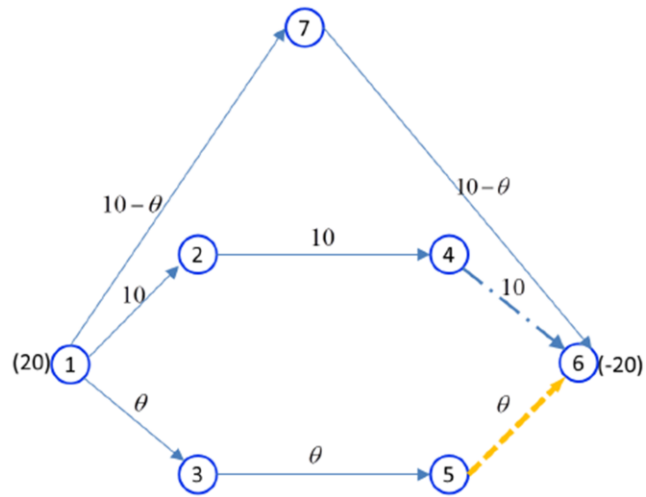
$$\overline{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$

57

If we assume that y_7 is zero, we can calculate the values of the y_i coefficients using the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Now, let's consider the costs for non-basic arcs, which are as follows.

Create an initial solution

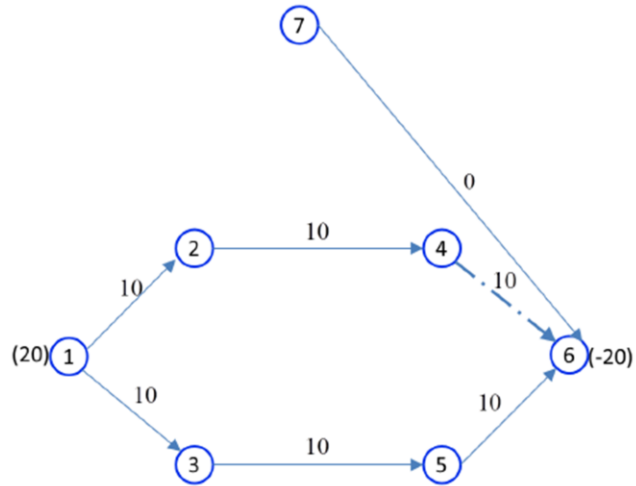


www.optimizationcity.com

58

Since the arc (5,6) is at its lower bound and meets the condition, it enters the base. Let's determine the output arc from the base as follows.

Create an initial solution



www.optimizationcity.com

59

The arc (1,7) is removed from the base, resulting in the current basic solution as follows. Additionally, the objective value is equal to 0.

Create an initial solution



Assuming $y_7=0$, the y_i s can be obtained based on $c_{ij}-y_i+y_j=0$.

$$\overline{c}_{12} = 0 - y_1 + y_2 = 0 \rightarrow y_2 = -1$$

$$\overline{c}_{13} = 0 - y_1 + y_3 = 0 \rightarrow y_3 = -1$$

$$\overline{c}_{35} = 0 - y_3 + y_5 = 0 \rightarrow y_5 = -1$$

$$\overline{c}_{24} = 0 - y_2 + y_4 = 0 \rightarrow y_4 = -1$$

$$\overline{c}_{56} = 0 - y_5 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1$$

$$\overline{c}_{76} = 1 - y_7 + y_6 = 0 \rightarrow y_6 = -1$$

The cost \overline{c}_{ij} for non-basic arcs is as follows.

$$\overline{c}_{17} = 1 - y_1 + y_7 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{72} = 1 - y_7 + y_2 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{73} = 1 - y_7 + y_3 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{74} = 1 - y_7 + y_4 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{75} = 1 - y_7 + y_5 = 2$$

$$\overline{c}_{32} = 0 - y_3 + y_2 = 0$$

$$\overline{c}_{25} = 0 - y_2 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\overline{c}_{45} = 0 - y_4 + y_5 = 0$$

$$\overline{c}_{46} = 0 - y_4 + y_6 = -2$$

$$\overline{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \geq 0; x_{ij} = l_{ij}$$

$$\overline{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0; l_{ij} < x_{ij} < u_{ij}$$

$$\overline{c}_{ij} = c_{ij} - y_i + y_j \leq 0; x_{ij} = u_{ij}$$



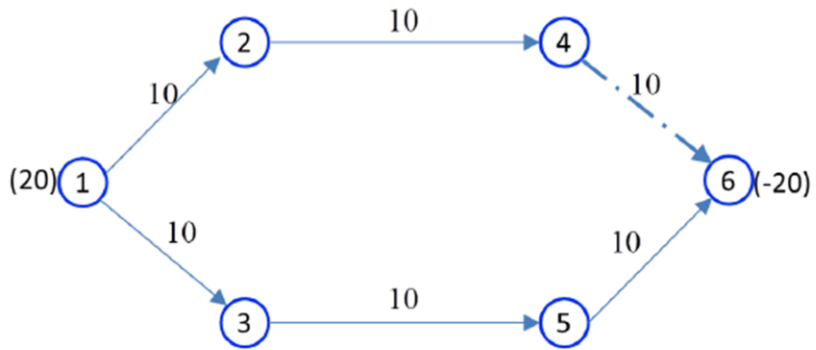
60

Assuming y_7 is zero, we can calculate the values of the y_i coefficients using the equation $c_{ij} - y_i + y_j = 0$.

Now, let's consider the costs for non-basic arcs, which are as follows.

The optimal conditions are met, indicating that the initial feasible basic solution is as follows. It is important to note that the optimal objective function value is zero.

Create an initial solution



www.optimizationcity.com

61

Therefore, there is no need for artificial arcs anymore, and node 7 can be removed from the network. Additionally, the arc (7,6) is deleted as well.

Exercises



More exercises

www.optimizationcity.com

62

If you want more practice to improve what you've learned, I've got something perfect for you. Check out my website where you'll find plenty of extra exercises to explore. Take a moment to visit my website and try out the exercises. They're not only educational but also enjoyable. I'm confident they'll help you strengthen your understanding and feel more confident. Give it a try and see for yourself.



Thanks

How to find us

www.optimizationcity.com

optimizationcity@gmail.com



www.optimizationcity.com

63