



On efficient solutions of 0-1 multi-objective linear programming problems

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Abstract An error in an algorithm, in Jahanshahloo et al. (Asia Pacific Journal of Operational Research 21(1):127–139, 2004), to generate efficient solutions to a 0-1 multi objective linear programming problems is detected and a modified algorithm is suggested. Further, an erroneous conclusion in the proof of the theorem, which states that at least one optimal solution among the optimal solutions of an individual 0-1 linear program is an efficient solution, is also corrected.

Keywords 0-1 multi objective linear programming · Efficient solution

1 Introduction

A 0-1 multi-objective linear programming problem(0-1 MOLP) is defined as:

$$\text{Max}\{C_1 W, C_2 W, \dots, C_r W\}, \quad \text{subject to } AW \leq b, \quad W \in \{0, 1\}^n \quad (1.1)$$

where $C_i = (c_{i1}, c_{i2}, \dots, c_{in})$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$, A is $m \times n$ matrix, $W = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$, a column vector and b is a m component vector. Let C be a matrix whose rows are C_i . Let X be the set all feasible solutions of the 0-1 MOLP i.e.,

$$X = \{W | AW \leq b, w_j \in \{0, 1\}, j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

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Consider the example given in [1] and in [2]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Max } 3w_1 + 6w_2 + 5w_3 - 2w_4 + 3w_5 \\
 & \text{Max } 6w_1 + 7w_2 + 4w_3 + 3w_4 - 8w_5 \\
 & \text{Max } 5w_1 - 3w_2 + 8w_3 - 4w_4 + 3w_5 \\
 & \text{Subject to } -2w_1 + 3w_2 + 8w_3 - w_4 + 5w_5 \leq 13 \\
 & \qquad \qquad 6w_1 + 2w_2 + 4w_3 + 4w_4 - 3w_5 \leq 15 \\
 & \qquad \qquad 4w_1 - 2w_2 + 6w_3 - 2w_4 + w_5 \leq 11 \\
 & \qquad \qquad w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4, w_5 \in \{0, 1\}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

Simple calculations show that the example has one more efficient solution $W_5^* = (1, 0, 1, 1, 1)$. The efficient solutions calculated using the algorithm in [1] are $W_1^* = (1, 1, 1, 0, 0)$, $W_2^* = (1, 0, 1, 0, 1)$, $W_3^* = (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $W_4^* = (1, 0, 1, 0, 0)$. In fact, the optimal solution of the first objective function is $(1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ with optimum value 15 but in [1] the optimal solution is taken as $(1, 1, 1, 0, 0)$.

Definition 1.1 $W^* \in X$ is an efficient solution of the problem (1.1) if and only if there does not exist a point $W \in X$, such that

$$(C_1W, C_2W, \dots, C_rW) \geq (C_1W^*, C_2W^*, \dots, C_rW^*)$$

and the inequality holds strictly for at least one index i.e., for any point $W \in X$, either

$$(C_1W, C_2W, \dots, C_rW) \leq (C_1W^*, C_2W^*, \dots, C_rW^*) \tag{1.3}$$

or there are indices i_1, i_2 ($i_1 \neq i_2$),

$$C_{i_1}W > C_{i_1}W^* \text{ and } C_{i_2}W < C_{i_2}W^* \tag{1.4}$$

Remark 1.2 In case (1.4), we say that W and W^* are *not comparable* with respect to C and in case (1.3), we say W^* dominates W with respect to C .

If W^* is an efficient solution and for a $W \in X$, $CW = CW^*$ then we shall consider W also an efficient solution.

Denote by P_i the 0-1 linear program with i^{th} objective function (i^{th} row of C) subject to X with the set of optimal solutions \mathcal{O}_i . Let $\mathcal{O}_{i_1i_2\dots i_t}$ ($i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_t$) be the set of all common optimal feasible solutions of $P_{i_1}, P_{i_2}, \dots, P_{i_t}$. Clearly,

$$\mathcal{O}_{i_1i_2\dots i_t} = \bigcap_{k=i_1}^{i_t} \mathcal{O}_k$$

There are $2^r - 1$ such sets. The following lemma is immediate.

Lemma 1.3 *If $\mathcal{O}_{12\dots r}$ is non-empty then $\mathcal{O}_{12\dots r}$ is the set of all efficient solutions.*

Remark 1.4 In view of above lemma, henceforth, we shall assume that $\mathcal{O}_{12\dots r} = \phi$.

Remark 1.5 In the example (1.2), the vector $W_5^* = (1, 0, 1, 1, 1)$ gives $CW_5^* = (9, 5, 12)$ which is not comparable with $CW_1^* = (14, 17, 10)$, $CW_2^* = (11, 2, 16)$,

$CW_3^* = (15, 12, 9)$ and $CW_4^* = (8, 10, 13)$. Hence it is also an efficient solution. Hence the algorithm in [1] does not find all efficient solutions. The proposed algorithm also finds this efficient solution.

2 Some basic results

The statement of the theorem 2.1 in [1]:

Theorem 2.1 *If $\mathcal{O}_l = \{W_{1l}^*, W_{2l}^*, \dots, W_{fl}^*\}$ be the set of optimal solutions of P_l then at least one vector in \mathcal{O}_l is an efficient solution of the problem (1.1).*

First, we prove the case $|\mathcal{O}_l| = 1$ which is also proved in [1].

Lemma 2.2 *Suppose $\mathcal{O}_{12\dots r} = \phi$. If $|\mathcal{O}_i| = 1$ then the vector in \mathcal{O}_i is an efficient solution of the problem (1.1).*

Proof Let $\mathcal{O}_i = \{W^*\}$. Hence for any $W \in X - \{W^*\}$,

$$C_i W < C_i W^*$$

and for $k \neq i$,

$$C_k W \leq C_k W^* \text{ or } C_k W > C_k W^*$$

If $C_k W \leq C_k W^*$ for all $k \neq i$, then W^* dominates W with respect to C . If there is $k (\neq i)$, such that $C_k W > C_k W^*$ then W^* and W are not comparable with respect to C . In both cases, W^* is an efficient solution of the problem (1.1). □

While proving the theorem we must also consider a case whether $\mathcal{O}_l \cap \mathcal{O}_i = \phi$ for each \mathcal{O}_i , $|\mathcal{O}_i| = 1$, other wise elements in these intersections are efficient solutions by above lemma. The following statement is also proved in the proof of the theorem 2.1 in [1].

Lemma 2.3 *No vector in $X - \mathcal{O}_l$ dominates vectors in \mathcal{O}_l .*

Proof Let $W^0 \in X - \mathcal{O}_l$ and W_{ql}^* be such that

$$C_i W^0 \geq C_i W_{ql}^*, i = 1, 2, \dots, r \text{ and there exists } k, C_k W^0 > C_k W_{ql}^*.$$

Clearly $k \neq l$ as W_{ql}^* is optimal. At $i = l$, we must have $C_l W^0 = C_l W_{ql}^*$ i.e., $W^0 \in \mathcal{O}_l$ which is not true. □

Corollary 2.4 *If the vector in $X - \mathcal{O}_l$ is not dominated by vectors in \mathcal{O}_l then it is non-comparable with vectors in \mathcal{O}_l .*

Proof At $i = l$, we must have $C_l W^0 < C_l W_{ql}^*$. Since the vector is not dominated by vectors in \mathcal{O}_l there is $k \neq l$ such that $C_k W^0 > C_k W_{ql}^*$. i.e., W^0 and W_{ql}^* are not comparable. □

Remark 2.5 For the case $|\mathcal{O}_l| > 1$ the proof in [1] uses the relation \leq on vectors which is a partial order and not a linear. The conclusion drawn: $Y_{kl} \leq Y_{kl}$ and $Y_{kl} \neq Y_{kl}$ is because of the assumption that the relation \leq is linear. It may happen that for some vectors $W_{i_1l}^*, W_{i_2l}^*, \dots, W_{i_l}^*$ in \mathcal{O}_l ,

$$CW_{i_1l}^* = CW_{i_2l}^* = \dots = CW_{i_l}^*$$

Hence the correction in the proof is required.

Proof [Theorem (2.1)] when $|\mathcal{O}_l| > 1$:

Define a mapping $C : \mathcal{O}_l \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^r$ such that $W \mapsto CW$. Consider, the range of the map

$$\mathcal{R}(C) = \{CW | W \in \mathcal{O}_l\}.$$

Suppose

$$\mathcal{R}(C) = \{K_1, K_2, \dots, K_z\}$$

We have $K_i \neq K_j$ for all $i \neq j$. Now, we define a directed graph on $\mathcal{R}(C)$ using the partial ordering \leq on the vectors. We say there is a directed edge between K_i to K_j if and only if $K_i \leq K_j$. Since all K_i 's are distinct there are no directed cycles. (A directed cycle means a few K_i 's are equal.)

Therefore, a component of the graph of $\mathcal{R}(C)$ is a directed tree. Hence there is at least one vertex, say K_t with out-degree zero. Clearly, in view of the lemma (2.3), inverse image of this K_t contains efficient solutions as image of no vector in \mathcal{O}_l dominates K_t . □

Remark 2.6 Note that above proof also works for $|\mathcal{O}_l| = 1$. Further we can also define a directed graph (Hasse diagram [3]) on \mathcal{O}_l using the partial ordering \leq on the vectors.

Remark 2.7 The observation in above corollary 2.4 is used in the proposed algorithm to find efficient solutions. Consider P_0 as the 0-1 LP:

$$\text{Max } \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W, \quad \text{subject to } AW \leq b, \quad W \in \{0, 1\}^n \tag{2.1}$$

It is proved in [1] (Theorem 2.3) that each optimal solution of the problem (2.1) is an efficient solution for the problem (1.1). Thus, in view of corollary 2.4, in order to find efficient solutions other than optimal solutions of P_0 and the unique optimal solutions of P_i , we must find non-comparable vectors with respect to these vectors.

Let \widetilde{G}_0 be the set of optimal feasible solutions of the problem (2.1). Let optimal value of P_0 be z^* . Put

$$G_0 = \widetilde{G}_0 \cup \left(\bigcup_{\alpha=1}^t \mathcal{O}_{i_\alpha} \right) \text{ where } |\mathcal{O}_{i_\alpha}| = 1. \tag{2.2}$$

In [1], in the beginning of the algorithm, in order to find other efficient solutions of the problem (1.1), not in G_0 , it has been observed that following inequalities

$$C_i W \leq C_j W_j^* \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, r$$

are not satisfied simultaneously. The conclusion deduced is that for each $W_j^* \in G_0$ there is k such that

$$C_k W > C_k W_j^*$$

But, if $C_i W = C_i W_j^*$ for all $i \neq k$, we get

$$C_i W \geq C_i W_j^* \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, r$$

This is not expected as W_j^* is an efficient solution. Therefore, we must ensure that for each $W_j^* \in G_0$ there are $t, i, t \neq i$ such that

$$C_i W > C_i W_j^* \text{ and } C_t W < C_t W_j^*$$

i.e., W would be non comparable with each vector in G_0 .

3 The algorithm

We shall find efficient solutions of the problem (1.1) in $X - G_0$ when $\mathcal{O}_{12\dots r} = \phi$.
 Suppose

$$G_0 = \{W_1^*, W_2^*, \dots, W_p^*\}.$$

Obviously for any $W \in X - G_0$

$$\sum_{i=1}^r C_i W < z^*$$

As a first step we add a constraint in the problem (2.1),

$$\sum_{i=1}^r C_i W < z^* - \epsilon \tag{3.1}$$

where $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$. We denote this new 0-1 LP by $P_0(\epsilon)$. We take ϵ such that optimal feasible solutions of $P_0(\epsilon)$ are not in \widetilde{G}_0 . To get a new vector non-comparable with all vectors in G_0 , in view of remark 2.7, we add following constraints to $P_0(\epsilon)$ to get an extended version of P_0 , denoted by $P_0^E(\epsilon)$.

$$\begin{aligned} C_i W &> C_i W_j^* - M t_{ij} \\ C_i W - M s_{ij} &< C_i W_j^* \\ t_{ij} + s_{ij} &\leq 1 \\ t_{1j} + t_{2j} + \dots + t_{rj} &\leq r - 1 \\ s_{1j} + s_{2j} + \dots + s_{rj} &\leq r - 1 \\ s_{1j} + s_{2j} + \dots + s_{rj} &> 0 \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

where $i = 1, 2, \dots, r, j = 1, 2, \dots, p, t_{ij}, s_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$ and M is a positive large number.

We solve $P_0^E(\epsilon)$ to get all optimal feasible solutions $W_{p+l}^*, l = 1, 2, \dots, p_1$. Put

$$\mathcal{O}'_0 = \left\{ W_{p+1}^*, W_{p+2}^*, \dots, W_{p+p_1}^* \right\}$$

Let z_0^* be an optimum value of $P_0^E(\epsilon)$. If $P_0^E(\epsilon)$ is infeasible we stop. Otherwise, since $z_0^* < z^*$, we modify the constraint (3.1) as

$$\sum_{i=1}^r C_i W < z_0^* - \epsilon \tag{3.3}$$

where $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$. Choose ϵ such that optimal feasible solutions are not in $G_1 = G_0 \cup \mathcal{O}''_0$. Denote the problem by $P_1(\epsilon)$. To get $P_1^E(\epsilon)$ add constraints like Eq. 3.2 in $P_1(\epsilon)$ for $j = p + 1, \dots, p + p_1$. Let \mathcal{O}''_1 be the set of optimal solutions to $P_1^E(\epsilon)$ with optimum value z_1^* . Write $G_2 = G_1 \cup \mathcal{O}''_1$. In general, $P_k^E(\epsilon)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max} && \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W, \\ & \text{subject to} && AW \leq b, \\ & && \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W < z_{k-1}^* - \epsilon \\ & && C_i W > C_i W_j^* - M t_{ij} \\ & && C_i W - M s_{ij} < C_i W_j^* \\ & && t_{ij} + s_{ij} \leq 1 \\ & && t_{1j} + t_{2j} + \dots + t_{rj} \leq r - 1 \\ & && s_{1j} + s_{2j} + \dots + s_{rj} \leq r - 1 \\ & && s_{1j} + s_{2j} + \dots + s_{rj} > 0 \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

where $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$; $j = 1, 2, \dots, p, p + 1, \dots, p + p_1, \dots, p + p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_{k-1}$ and $w_j, t_{ij}, s_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$. Observe that

$$\dots < z_k^* < z_{k-1}^* < \dots < z_1^* < z_0^* < z^*. \tag{3.5}$$

Put

$$G_k = G_{k-1} \cup \mathcal{O}''_k \tag{3.6}$$

Theorem 3.1 *An optimum solution of Eq. 3.4 is an efficient solution of the problem (1.1). In particular, an optimal solution of Eq. 3.4 is not comparable with vectors in G_{k-1} .*

Proof Let W^* be an optimal solution of $P_k^E(\epsilon)$. Let $W_j^* \in G_{k-1}$. If for all $i, t_{ij} = 0$ then

$$\begin{aligned} & C_i W^* > C_i W_j^* \quad \text{for all } i \\ \Rightarrow & \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W^* > \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W_j^* = z_t^* \text{ for some } t \in \{0, 1, \dots, k - 1\} \text{ or } z^* \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

which is not true, because $\sum_{i=1}^r C_i W^* < z_{k-1}^* < z_0^* < z^*$. Hence there is i_1 such that

$$\begin{aligned} & t_{i_1 j} = 1 \\ \Rightarrow & s_{i_1 j} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & C_{i_1} W^* < C_{i_1} W_j^* \end{aligned}$$

Now, Since $\sum_{i=1}^r s_{ij} > 0$, there is i_2 such that $s_{i_2j} = 1 (\Rightarrow t_{i_2j} = 0)$. Clearly $i_1 \neq i_2$, otherwise $t_{i_1j} + s_{i_1j} > 1$. Thus, for $i_1 \neq i_2$,

$$C_{i_1} W^* < C_{i_1} W_j^* \text{ and } C_{i_2} W^* > C_{i_2} W_j^*$$

i.e., W^* is not comparable with vectors in G_{k-1} . □

Theorem 3.2 (Theorem 2.5 [1]) *Each efficient solution of the problem (1.1) not in G_0 is an optimal solution of $P_k^E(\epsilon)$ for some k .*

Proof Suppose algorithm stops at $k = N$ i.e. $P_N^E(\epsilon)$ is infeasible. This means there is no vector left in $X - G_{N-1}$ which is non-comparable with vectors in G_{N-1} . Let W^* be an efficient solution of the problem (1.1) not in G_0 and let $z = \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W^*$.

Since W^* is an efficient solution, it is non-comparable with vectors in G_{N-1} . If $z < z_{N-1}^*$ then in view of Eq. 3.4, W^* would satisfy constraints of $P_N^E(\epsilon)$, but $P_N^E(\epsilon)$ is infeasible. Therefore, $z \geq z_{N-1}^*$. Suppose

$$z_k^* \leq z \leq z_{k-1}^* \text{ for some } k = 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$$

Since W^* is an efficient solution, it is not comparable with vectors in G_k i.e., constraints of $P_k^E(\epsilon)$ are satisfied by W^* . This implies $z = z^*$ and hence $W^* \in G_k$. □

Remark 3.3 The constraints

$$t_{1j} + t_{2j} + \dots + t_{rj} \leq r - 1 \text{ and } s_{1j} + s_{2j} + \dots + s_{rj} \leq r - 1$$

are redundant.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} t_{ij} + s_{ij} &\leq 1 \\ \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^r (t_{ij} + s_{ij}) &\leq r \end{aligned}$$

Since $s_{1j} + s_{2j} + \dots + s_{rj} > 0$ there is at least one $s_{ij} > 0$, hence $\sum_{i=1}^r s_{ij} \geq 1$. Thus

$$\sum_{i=1}^r t_{ij} \leq r - \sum_{i=1}^r s_{ij} \leq r - 1$$

If $s_{ij} = 1$ for all i , $t_{ij} = 0$ for all i . We get

$$C_i W > C_i W_j^* \text{ for all } i \tag{3.7}$$

Note that $W_j^* \in G_k$. If $W_j^* \in \cup_{i=1}^r \mathcal{O}_i$ then $W_j^* \in \mathcal{O}_k$ for some k such that $|\mathcal{O}_k| = 1$. Clearly Eq. 3.7 is not true for $i = k$. Further, if $W_j^* \in G_k - (\cup_{i=1}^r \mathcal{O}_i)$, then Eq. 3.7 implies

$$z_{k-1}^* > \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W > \sum_{i=1}^r C_i W_j^* = z_t^* \text{ for some } t \in \{0, 1, \dots, k - 1\} \text{ or } z^*$$

which is not true in view of Eq. 3.5.

4 The example

Now, we consider the example (1.2) which originally from [2]. Note that, in this example $C_1 = (3, 6, 5, -2, 3)$, $C_2 = (6, 7, 4, 3, -8)$, $C_3 = (5, -3, 8, -4, 3)$. The unique optimum solutions of P_1, P_2, P_3 are $W_1^* = (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $W_2^* = (1, 1, 1, 0, 0)$, $W_3^* = (1, 0, 1, 0, 1)$ respectively. In this case, P_0 is

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max } 14w_1 + 10w_2 + 17w_3 - 3w_4 - 2w_5 \\ & \text{Subject to } -2w_1 + 3w_2 + 8w_3 - w_4 + 5w_5 \leq 13 \\ & \quad 4w_1 - 2w_2 + 6w_3 - 2w_4 + w_5 \leq 11 \\ & \quad 6w_1 + 2w_2 + 4w_3 + 4w_4 - 3w_5 \leq 15 \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

Further, also note that the optimum solution for P_0 is W_2^* with optimum value 41. Hence

$$G_0 = \{W_1^*, W_2^*, W_3^*\}.$$

To get $P_0(\epsilon)$ we add following constraint in P_0

$$14w_1 + 10w_2 + 17w_3 - 3w_4 - 2w_5 < 41 - \epsilon \quad (4.2)$$

Then, to get $P_0^E(\epsilon)$, we add following constraints

$$\begin{aligned} (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &> (15 - Mt_{11}, 12 - Mt_{21}, 9 - Mt_{31}) \\ (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &> (14 - Mt_{11}, 17 - Mt_{21}, 10 - Mt_{31}) \\ (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &> (11 - Mt_{11}, 2 - Mt_{21}, 16 - Mt_{31}) \\ (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &< (15 + Ms_{11}, 12 + Ms_{21}, 9 + Ms_{31}) \\ (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &< (14 + Ms_{12}, 17 + Ms_{22}, 10 + Ms_{32}) \\ (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &< (11 + Ms_{13}, 2 + Ms_{23}, 16 + Ms_{33}) \\ t_{ij} + s_{ij} &\leq 1 \\ t_{1j} + t_{2j} + t_{3j} &\leq 2 \\ s_{1j} + s_{2j} + s_{3j} &\leq 2 \\ s_{1j} + s_{2j} + s_{3j} &> 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

where $i = 1, 2, 3, j = 1, 2, 3$.

The unique optimum solution is $W_4^* = (1, 0, 1, 0, 0)$ with optimum value 31. Next, we modify the constraint (4.2) as

$$14w_1 + 10w_2 + 17w_3 - 3w_4 - 2w_5 < 31 - \epsilon \quad (4.4)$$

and add the following constraints in Eq. 4.3 to get $P_1^E(\epsilon)$

$$\begin{aligned} (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &> (8 - Mt_{14}, 10 - Mt_{24}, 13 - Mt_{34}) \\ (C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) &< (8 + Ms_{14}, 10 + Ms_{24}, 13 + Ms_{34}) \\ t_{i4} + s_{i4} &\leq 1 \\ t_{14} + t_{24} + t_{34} &\leq 2 \\ s_{14} + s_{24} + s_{34} &\leq 2 \\ s_{14} + s_{24} + s_{34} &> 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

The unique optimum solution of $P_1^E(\epsilon)$ is $W_5^* = (1, 0, 1, 1, 1)$ with optimum value 26. now, we modify (4.4) as

$$14w_1 + 10w_2 + 17w_3 - 3w_4 - 2w_5 < 26 - \epsilon$$

and add again following constraints in Eq. 4.5 to get $P_2^E(\epsilon)$

$$(C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) > (9 - Mt_{14}, 5 - Mt_{24}, 12 - Mt_{34})$$

$$(C_1W, C_2W, C_3W) < (9 + Ms_{14}, 5 + Ms_{24}, 12 + Ms_{34})$$

$$t_{i5} + s_{i5} \leq 1$$

$$t_{15} + t_{25} + t_{35} \leq 2$$

$$s_{15} + s_{25} + s_{35} \leq 2$$

$$s_{15} + s_{25} + s_{35} > 0$$

$P_2^E(\epsilon)$ is infeasible. Hence there are no efficient solutions left.

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