

MATH 340 202 2021W2 Introduction to Linear Programming

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)

Term 2, 2021/2022: Jan 2022 -- Apr 2022

Math 340:202 Introduction to Linear Programming

Instructor: [Young-Heon Kim](http://www.math.ubc.ca/%7Eyhkim/index.html) [\(http://www.math.ubc.ca/%7Eyhkim/index.html\)](http://www.math.ubc.ca/%7Eyhkim/index.html) **Email:** yhkim "at" math "dot" ubc "dot" ca

Class:

- **Mon/Wed/Fri** 12:00 -13:00 (Vancouver time)
- Location of class: ZOOM; go to the menu on the left side bar. (Buchanan A104 if in-person classes.)

Office hours: ZOOM. TBA

First class: Monday, January 10, 2022 **Last class:** Friday, April 8, 2022

About the Course

- This course would be more properly called Linear Optimization, optimizing a linear objective function subject to linear constraints. The word `programming' is not used in the sense of computer programming. The word `programming' refers to the program of activities given by a solution.
- Prerequisites: One of [MATH 152](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=152) [\(https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=152\)](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=152), [MATH 221](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=221) [\(https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=221\)](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=221), [MATH 223](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=223) [\(https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=223\)](https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-course&dept=MATH&course=223).
- It is highly recommended that students have taken a multi-variable calculus course (e.g. Math 200, 253, etc.). Also, basic knowledge of mathematical proofs (e.g. Math 220) is highly recommended for taking this course.

Main Reference:

- [Linear Programming by Robert Vanderbei](https://gw2jh3xr2c.search.serialssolutions.com/?sid=sersol&SS_jc=TC0002299077&title=Linear%20Programming%20Foundations%20and%20Extensions) (https://gw2jh3xr2c.search.serialssolutions.com/?sid=sersol&SS_jc=TC0002299077&title=Linear%20Programming%20Foundations%20and%20Extensions)

(electronic copy available to download through the UBC library!). For your note, I am using the 5th edition, and will use it for referring the numbers of sections and exercise.

Course topics (subject to changes):

- Basics of LP problems and computer packages. 2 weeks.
- Simplex method and related geometry. 2 weeks.
- Duality theory. 3 weeks.
- Matrix notation and sensitivity analysis. 2 weeks.
- Matrix games. 1 - 2 weeks.
- Optimal transport. 1 - 2 weeks.

Learning Goals:

- To be familiar with basic concepts of optimization
- To be able to translate practical (high dimensional) optimization problems into linear programming
- To understand the basic geometry of convex sets and its relation to linear programming
- To be able to compute solutions of linear programming by the simplex method and its variants
- To be able to manipulate matrix calculations to analyze linear optimization problems
- To understand and utilize duality to analyze linear optimization problems
- To be able to give mathematical proofs for simple statements regarding convex sets, optimization, simplex method, duality, etc.
- To be familiar with computer packages for doing mathematics

Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend all lectures and complete all assignments, quizzes, and exams to their full extent. Students should expect to spend between 9 and 12 hours per week outside of lectures. In the case a class meeting has to be missed, it is the student's responsibility to make up the missed material.

How to succeed in this course:

- It is very important to learn mathematics by "doing". For example, it is not enough to read a worked out example from a book or lecture notes. It is not enough to understand each step in the solution. You have to struggle to work out examples or problems by yourself, without looking at the solutions. This way, you build up mathematical intuition on the subject.

- Very useful advice on how to solve problems are in [Polya](http://www.math.utah.edu/%7Epa/math/polya.html) (<http://www.math.utah.edu/%7Epa/math/polya.html>).

Grading

Your grade for the course will be computed as follows:

- **HW Assignments 30%.** 10 weekly HWs. Only the best 9 HWs will be counted toward the course grade.
- **Midterm 5%. Self administered take home exam (2hr exam).**
 - Students write the exam simulating an in-class exam.
 - Students mark their own exam and then submit the graded papers.
 - The solutions and marking schemes will be provided by the instructor.
 - **Students will get full official mark as long as they submit their self graded exam.** One of the points is to honestly assess one's own work.
 - **Students who do not submit the graded exam will get zero mark.**
 - We will still record the students' self mark, only to keep record of students' progress.
- **Participation and attitude 5%.** This is calculated at the end of the semester as follows:
 - All students will start with an INITIAL PARTICIPATION GRADE proportional to the rest of their course work. For example, a student with 57/95 will start with 3/5 participation mark.
 - **To earn more grades than the initial participation grade** you should submit a one page essay discussing your learning experiences and how you have participated throughout the course. For example, you can explain what topic was most interesting to you and why, how the learning experiences have enhanced your mathematical understanding, as well as how you have participated classes/office hours/Piazza discussions. Then the instructor will determine the additional marks.
 - **The essay is due Friday, April 8.**
- **Final Exam 60%:**
 - If you do the optional term project then this mark will be the larger between
 - the actual final exam (60%) and
 - the actual final exam (40%)+optional term project (20%).
 - **IMPORTANT: Students with failing term mark (that is, less than 17/35) will not be admitted to write the final exam and will fail the course.**
- **All marks are subject to scaling.**
- **Missing midterms:** There are *no make-up midterms* in this course. Missing the midterm for a valid reason normally results in the weight of that midterm being transferred to the final exam. Examples of valid reasons include illness and travel to play a scheduled game for a varsity team. Examples of reasons that are not valid include conflicts with personal travel schedules or conflicts with work

schedules or with other classes. Any student who misses the midterm is to present to their instructor [the Department of Mathematics self-declaration form](#) ↓

(https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/75087/files/14028073/download?download_frd=1) for reporting a missed assessment to their instructor within 72 hours of the midterm date. This policy conforms with the UBC Vancouver Senate's [Academic Concession Policy V-135](#) (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>) and students are advised to read this policy carefully.

- **Please note that a student who misses the midterm and has otherwise not completed a substantial portion of the term work shall not be admitted to the final examination.**
- **Missing the Final Exam:** You will need to present your situation to the Dean's Office of your Faculty to be considered for a deferred exam. See the Calendar for [detailed regulations](#) (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,41,94,0>). Your performance in a course up to the exam is taken into consideration in granting a deferred exam status (e.g. failing badly generally means you will not be granted a deferred exam). In Mathematics, generally students sit the next available exam for the course they are taking, which could be several months after the original exam was scheduled. ***Note that your personal travel schedule is NOT a valid reason for missing a final exam and students who miss the MATH 340 exam for this reason will receive a grade of 0 on the exam and fail the course.***
- IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT that students know that IF THEY DO NOT FULFILL THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS DURING THE TERM (including not writing the midterm test(s) even if you agree to transfer the weight to the final) AND THEN MISS THE FINAL EXAMINATION, THEY MAY BE DEEMED INELIGIBLE FOR A DEFERRED FINAL.

Optional term project: This is optional and there will be no instructional support for this. Students should learn the related material, including necessary software packages by themselves.

- **If you do the optional term project then mark for the final exam will be the larger between [the actual final exam (60%)] and [the actual final exam (40%)+optional term project (20%)].** Note that optional projects will be marked strictly.
- We will also follow the following policy ***STRICTLY***.
- **Deadlines for projects:** These are **firm deadlines** and will not be flexible.
 - **February 11 (Friday):** Submission of initial proposal.
 - The proposal is to explain what problem will be considered in the project.
 - The background and aim of the project should be demonstrated.
 - It should be typed in 11pt and two pages long.
 - **Only those students who submit the proposals will be marked for their term projects.**
 - **March 7 (Monday):** Submission of any changes of the proposal. In case the students want to

change their intended project, they can submit a revised proposal by this time.

- **April 8 (Friday)**. The final deadline for submission of the final project.
- Up to TWO people can work together as a team.
- The project should be **original**, be **application of linear programming to practical problems**, **and it SHOULD** be specifically targeted to solving problems **RELATED TO UBC and/or British Columbia**; e.g. transportation in Vancouver, housing market in Vancouver, UBC students' scheduling problem, reducing carbon exhaustion in British Columbia, etc.
- The term project should be in the form of a typed written report. The expected length is 10-- 15 pages (or more if you have many pictures and datasets), in 11pt.
- The report should be ORIGINAL. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will result in academic discipline.
- The optional term project will be marked under the following rubrics:
 - Originality of the project and how it is formulated: 30%. Is the project interesting? Are the problems formulated properly and in an original way?
 - Mathematical contents: 20%. How well are the contents of the course embedded in the project? Is the mathematics correctly applied?
 - Supporting data: 20%. Are the supporting data for the project adequate, and well explained?
 - Presentation of the material: 30%. This includes: whether the presentation is to the point, and logically well organized.

Exams:

- **Midterm**: Take-home exam. **Tuesday, March 8. Self administered 2hr exam.**
- **Final Exam**: TBA.

HW Assignments Schedule:

All times are the Vancouver time.

There will be a total of 10 HW assignments throughout the term. The best 9 HWs will be counted towards the course grade:

- **Jan 21 (Friday): HW 1 due**
- **Jan 28 (Friday): HW 2 due**
- **Feb 4 (Friday): HW 3 due**
- **Feb 11 (Friday): HW 4 due**
- **Feb 18 (Friday): HW 5 due**
- **March 4 (Friday) HW 6 due**
- **March 8 (Tuesday): Take-home midterm exam.**
- **March 10 (Thursday): graded take-home midterm exam submission due.**
- **March 11 (Friday): HW 7 due**

- **March 18 (Friday): HW 8 due**
- **March 25 (Friday): HW 9 due**
- **April 1 (Friday): HW 10 due.**

Homework Assignments Policy:

At the end of the semester, **your lowest homework grade will be dropped.** This policy is intended to cover situations where you may miss an assignment for whatever reason, without you needing to ask for a concession. **Most academic concession requests for assignments will be addressed by this policy.**

- Students may work together on the HW assignments but must write up their solutions **independently**. Copying is forbidden. Any 2 (or more) assignments with some virtually identical answers deemed the result of copying will be given 0 total credit, and there will be further consequences for such dishonest actions. The students are reminded of the plagiarism policies of UBC.
- We will be using Canvas for collecting the HWs.
- **Late homework is not accepted.**
- Unreadable homework will get a zero mark. You should write neatly and organize your material for a third party to be able to clearly understand.
- Work must be shown.
- Missed homework will count as a zero mark.
- The number of each homework problem should be clearly printed.
- It is probable that only a subset of those problems turned in would be graded, and you will not be informed (in advance) which ones these are. For example, if your homework does not contain any of the problems to be graded (which will be known only after the due date), you will get zero mark. So, it would be better for you to do all the problems to be handed in.
- For selected problems, only some important steps and/or the final answer will be checked.

How to ask for change of marking:

- If you feel that a returned assessment is incorrectly marked, you can appeal that mark by submitting a regrade request statement to the instructor within one week of the return of the marked assignment. The statement should include a summary of what you feel was incorrectly evaluated with some justification of the claim. Your work will be re-evaluated in accordance with the established grading procedures, and re-marked if necessary. Note in unusual circumstances, if you mistakenly received a higher grade than earned, your final grade might decrease upon re-marking.

Computing

For certain assignments and if you opt for the optional project, you will need to use software packages for computing linear programming problems.

- **Our default programming language is Python language via Jupyter Notebook, which is available available via the [UBC syzygy server \(https://ubc.syzygy.ca/jupyter/hub/\)](https://ubc.syzygy.ca/jupyter/hub/)** You can use this using your UBC CWL. There is Python library for linear programming, called PuLp. More details will be given later in the class.
- For learning python language, there are many sources; e.g. the online book <https://automatetheboringstuff.com/>
- Vanderbei has an [online pivoting tool](http://www.princeton.edu/~7Ervdb/JAVA/pivot/simple.html) [\(http://www.princeton.edu/~7Ervdb/JAVA/pivot/simple.html\)](http://www.princeton.edu/~7Ervdb/JAVA/pivot/simple.html) that lets you choose entering and exiting variables and performs the pivot automatically. This is a good way to get an idea of how the simplex method will work on larger problems without having to do all of the algebra by hand.

Piazza vs Canvas Discussions and Canvas email:

- The piazza forum is for discussions between students. The instructor will not monitor it.
- If you have course related questions for the instructor, personalized or for the whole class, then please use the Canvas (Discussions for the class-wide questions, the Canvas Mail for personalized questions). Of course, visiting the office hours is a great way to communicate with the instructor.
- Please avoid using my math email address, unless urgent, to help me keep my math mailbox under the storage limit; using the Canvas email will also help your message to be not classified as a spam and missed.

Covid-19 related:

To protect others and oneself, I hope people in the class make all the effort, including wearing masks, getting vaccinations, and sanitizing their hands as often as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. Attendance

If you feel ill, you should not attend class in person. Stay home and use the self-assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/>

for guidance. Appropriate concessions will be provided to you, including lecture streaming or recording. Please contact the instructor if you have any questions about these concessions, including concessions around missing an assessment.

If you do not feel ill, you are expected to attend class in person. Math is challenging; and active, in-person participation is important to your academic success.

You are encouraged to make connections early in the term with other students. Members of your study group can support each other by sharing notes and ideas, and by checking in on each other. If you feel ill on a final exam day, you should not attend the exam. You must apply for deferred standing (an academic concession) through Science Advising no later than 48 hours after the missed exam. Students who are granted deferred standing write the final exam/assignment at a later date.

More information is available at

<https://science.ubc.ca/students/advising/concession>.

2. Masking

You are expected to wear a mask to class.

In general, you must follow UBC's campus rules, available at

<https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/ubc-campus-rules-guidance-documents/>.

3. Asking questions

Questions during and after class are always appreciated. If you would like to ask questions after class, either wait in your seat (if there is time), or talk to the instructor outside. Do not crowd the instructor.

4. Vaccinations

UBC and public health authorities strongly recommend, and your instructor and fellow students would very much appreciate, that you be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The recommendations are here:

<https://covid19.ubc.ca/health-guidance-and-vaccines/>. More information is available at

<http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>.

Academic integrity:

Students are expected to uphold the academic honesty standards that are summarized below. Some specific remarks:

You may collaborate with your classmates when working on homework assignments, but you are required to submit solutions written up by you using your own words.

In homework assignments, if you find a solution on the internet, a book, or elsewhere, you are required to cite the source. Pretending that someone else's work is yours is plagiarism and subject to disciplinary action -- see <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

Do not post your homework assignments and your solutions on any note-sharing websites.

You are expected to work on the synchronous assessments by yourself. Collaboration on quizzes and the final exam is not allowed.

During synchronous assessments, the use of note-sharing websites, discussion boards (piazza etc.), and private communications with anyone other than the instructors are not allowed.

For a detailed list and explanation of academic misconduct, as defined by UBC, and its potential consequences, see: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

University policies

Academic Honesty and Standards

Academic honesty is essential to the continued functioning of the University of British Columbia as an institution of higher learning and research. All UBC students are expected to behave as honest and responsible members of an academic community. Breach of those expectations or failure to follow the appropriate policies, principles, rules, and guidelines of the University with respect to academic honesty may result in disciplinary action.

It is the student's obligation to inform himself or herself of the applicable standards for academic honesty. Students must be aware that standards at the University of British Columbia may be different from those in secondary schools or at other institutions. If a student is in any doubt as to the standard of academic honesty in a particular course or assignment, then the student must consult with the instructor as soon as possible, and in no case should a student submit an assignment if the student is not clear on the relevant standard of academic honesty.

If an allegation is made against a student, the Registrar may place the student on academic hold until the President has made his or her final decision. When a student is placed on academic hold, the student is blocked from all activity in the Student Service Centre.

Statement on UBC Policies and Resources to Support Student Success

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available at <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>

Statement from the Provost's office pertaining to the potential restrictions to international students' online learning experiences as a result of remote learning:

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include,

but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

Copyright:

All materials of this course (course handouts, lecture notes, assessments, course readings, etc.) are the intellectual property of the Course Instructors or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
------	---------	-----