

Transportation Problem

Promila Kumar

Introduction

The Transportation problem is one of the sub-classes of Linear programming problem in which the objective is to transport various amounts of a single homogeneous commodity, that are initially stored at various origins to different destinations in such a way that the transportation cost is minimum

Mathematical Formulation

- Let O_1, O_2, \dots, O_n be n origins
- Let D_1, D_2, \dots, D_m be m destinations
- Let a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n be
the amount of commodity available at various origins
- Let b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m be the amount
of commodity required at various destination
- Let t_{ij} be the cost of transporting one unit
from origin O_i to destination D_j

Transportation Table

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂			D _n	Availability
O ₁	x_{ij} t_{11} c_{11}	t_{12} c_{12}	-	-	t_{1n} c_{1n}	a ₁
O ₂	t_{21} c_{21}	t_{22} c_{22}	x_{ij}	x_{ij}	t_{2n} c_{2n}	a ₂
-	x_{ij}	x_{ij}	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	x_{ij}	-	-
O _m	t_{m1} c_{m1}	t_{m2} c_{m2}	-	-	t_{mn} c_{mn}	a _m
Requirement	b ₁	b ₂	-	-	b _m	$\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}$

Transportation Algorithm

1. Obtain the basic feasible solution.
2. Investigate current solution for optimality
 1. If the current solution is optimal, stop.
 2. If not, use optimality conditions of Simplex Method to determine the entering variable from non basic variables.
3. Use feasibility conditions of Simplex Method to determine leaving variable from the set of basic variables and find new basic feasible solution.
4. Go to step 2.

Basic Feasible Solution

- North West Corner Rule
- Least Cost Method
- Vogles Approximation Method

North West Corner Rule

1. Allocate maximum number of units possible in the top left corner of the transportation table.
2. Rewrite demand and availability variables.
3. Eliminate first column if demand is exhausted and first row if requirement is exhausted.
4. Repeat step 1 till all requirements are met.

Least Cost Method

1. Identify the cell with lowest cost.
2. Allocate maximum number of units possible in that cell.
3. Rewrite demand and availability variables.
4. Repeat step 1 till all requirements are met.

1. Obtain Basic Feasible solution for the following problem 1

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	1	2	3	4	6
O ₂	4	3	2	0	8
O ₃	0	2	2	1	10
Requireme nt	4	6	8	6	24

Here $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij} = 24$ so it is a balanced transportation problem

Table 1

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	1	2	3	4	6
O ₂	4	3	2	6	8(2)
O ₃	0	2	2	1	10
Requirement	4	6	8	6(o)	24

Least cost is in cell O₂ D₄ and in O₃ D₁, so let us select O₂ D₄ as it can have more allocation than O₃ D₁. After allocating 6 units to this cell, demand for D₄ is fulfilled. Delete this and work on the remaining table.

Table 2

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	1	2	3	4	6	
O ₂	4	3	2	6	0	(8) ₂
O ₃	4	0	2	2	1	(10) ₆
Requirement	(4) ₀	6	8	6(0)	24	

Now Least cost is in cell O₃ D₁, so let us allocate 4 units to this cell. Demand of destination D₁ is fulfilled. Delete this column and work on the remaining table.

Table 3

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	1	6	2	3	4	(6) ₀
O ₂	4	3	2	6	0	(8) ₂
O ₃	4	0	2	2	1	(10) ₆
Requirement	(4) ₀	(6) ₀	8	6(₀)	24	

Now Least cost is in cell O₁ D₂, so let us allocate 6 units to this cell. Demand of destination D₁ and origin O₁ is fulfilled. Delete this column as well as row and work on the remaining table.

Table 4

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability		
O ₁	1	6	2	3	4	(6)0	
O ₂	4	3	2	2	6	0	(8)(2)0
O ₃	0	2	6	2	1	4	(10)(6)0
Requireme nt	(4)0	(6)0	(8)0	6(o)	24		

Now The only possibility left is shown above. Basic feasible solution is obtained. It has $(4+3-1)=6$ basic cells, so the solution is degenerate and the cost is $6.2+2.2+6.0+4.0+2.6$

2. Obtain Basic Feasible solution for the following problem

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	13	11
O ₂	17	18	14	23	13
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requireme nt	6	10	12	15	43

Here $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij} = 43$ so it is a balanced transportation problem

Table 1

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	13 11	(11)0
O ₂	17	18	14	23	13
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requireme nt	6	10	12	(15)4	43

Now Least cost is in cell O₁ D₄, so let us allocate 11 units to this cell. Stock of Origin O₁ is exhausted. Delete this row and work on the remaining table.

Table 2

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	11, 13	(11)0
O ₂	17	18	12, 14	23	(13)1
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requirement	6	10	(12)0	(15)4	43

Now Least cost is in cell O₂ D₃, so let us allocate 12 units to this cell. Demand of destination D₃ is fulfilled. Delete this column and work on the remaining table.

Table 3

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	13	(11)0
O ₂	17	18	14	23	(13)(1)0
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requireme nt	(6)5	10	(12)0	(15)4	43

Now Least cost is in cell O₂ D₁, so let us allocate 12 units to this cell. Stock of Origin O₂ is exhausted. Delete this row and work on the remaining table.

Table 4

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	13	(11)0
O ₂	17	18	14	23	(13)(1)0
O ₃	32	27	18	41	(19)9
Requirement	(6)5	(10)0	(12)0	(15)4	43

Now Least cost is in cell O₃ D₂, so let us allocate 10 units to this cell. Demand of Origin D₂ is fulfilled. Delete this column and work on the remaining table.

Q3. Obtain Basic Feasible solution for the following problem1

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Availability
O ₁	13	15	16	17
O ₂	7	11	2	12
O ₃	19	20	9	16
Requirement	14	8	23	

Here $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij} = 45$ so it is a balanced transportation problem

Here is basic feasible solution to the problem

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	11, 13	(11)0
O ₂	1, 17	18	12, 14	23	(13)(1)0
O ₃	5, 32	10, 27	18	4, 41	(19)(9)0
Requirement	(6)(5)0	(10)0	(12)0	(15)(4)0	43

Now The only possibility left is shown above. Basic feasible solution is obtained. It has $4+3-1=6$ basic cells, so the solution is non degenerate and the cost is $17.1+14.2+13.11+32.5+27.10+41.4$

Vogel's Approximation Method

- For each row identify lowest and next to lowest cost and find their difference and write it at the extreme right.
- Repeat the same for all the columns and write it at the bottom.
- Select a row or column having the maximum of this difference.
- In the selected row or column identify a cell with the minimum cost.
- Allocate the maximum possible number in that cell.
- Adjust the rim requirements and repeat the process.

Q3. Table 1

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Availability
O ₁	13	15	16	17
O ₂	7	11	2	12
O ₃	19	20	9	16
Requirement	14	8	23	

Now Least cost is in cell O₃ D₃, so let us allocate 16 units to this cell. Demand of destination O₃ is fulfilled. Delete this row and work on the remaining table.

Q3. Table 1

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Availability	Difference
O ₁	13	15	16	17	2
O ₂	7	11	2	12	5
O ₃	19	20	16	9	10
Requirement	14	8	(23)7	(16)0	
Difference	6	4	7		

Now Least cost is in cell O₃ D₃, so let us allocate 16 units to this cell. Demand of destination O₃ is fulfilled. Delete this row and work on the remaining table.

Q3 Table 2

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Availability	Difference
O ₁	13	15	16	17	2
O ₂	7	11	7	(12)5	5
O ₃	19	20	16	(16)0	10
Requirement	14	8	(23)(7)0		
Difference	6	4	14		

Now Least cost is in cell O₂ D₃, so let us allocate 7 units to this cell. Demand at destination D₃ is fulfilled. Delete this column and repeat the process on the remaining table.

Q3 Table 3

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Availability	Difference
O ₁	13	15	16	17	2
O ₂	5 7	11	7 2	(12)(5)0	4
O ₃	19	20	16 9	(16)0	
Requirement	(14)9	8	(23)(7)0		
Difference	6	4			

Now Least cost is in cell O₂ D₁, so let us allocate 5 units to this cell. Stock of Origin O₂ is exhausted. Delete this row and repeat the process on the remaining table.

Q3 Table 4

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Availability	Difference
O ₁	9 13	8 15		16	(17)0
O ₂	5 7		11 7	2	(12)(5)0
O ₃		19 20	16 9		(16)0
Requirement	(14)(9)0	(8)0	(23)(7)0		
Difference					

Now The only possibility left is shown above. Basic feasible solution is obtained. It has $3+3-1=5$ basic cells, so the solution is non degenerate and the cost is $13.9+15.8+5.7+2.7+16.9$

Q4. Obtain Basic Feasible solution for the following problem

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	10	10	16	20	300
O ₂	16	6	17	25	200
O ₃	8	21	10	15	250
Requireme nt	325	175	100	150	750

Here $\sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij} = 750$ so it is a balanced transportation problem

Q4. Obtain Basic Feasible solution for the following problem

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	10	10	16	20	300	0
O ₂	16	6	17	25	(200)25	10
O ₃	8	21	10	15	250	2
Requirement	325	(175)0	100	150	750	
	2	4	6	5		

Now Least cost is in cell O₂ D₂, so let us allocate 175 units to this cell. Demand at destination D₂ is fulfilled. Delete this column and repeat the process on the remaining table.

Q4.Table 2

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	10 300	10	16	20	(300)0	6
O ₂	16	6 175	17	25	(200)25	1
O ₃	8	21	10	15	250	2
Requirement	(325)25	(175)0	100	150	750	
	2		6	5		

Now Least cost is in cell O₁ D₁, so let us allocate 300 units to this cell. Stock of Origin O₁ is exhausted. Delete this row and repeat the process on the remaining table.

Q4. Table 3

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	10 (300)	10	16	20	(300)0	
O ₂	16	6 (175)	17	25	(200)25	1
O ₃	8	21	10	15 (150)	(250)100	2
Requirement	(325)25	(175)0	100	(150)0	750	
	8		7	10		

Now Least cost is in cell O₃ D₄, so let us allocate 150 units to this cell. Demand at destination D₄ is fulfilled. Delete this column and repeat the process on the remaining table.

Q4. Table 4

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	10 300	10	16	20	(300)0	
O ₂	16	6 175	17	25	(200)25	1
O ₃	8 25	21	10	15 150	(250)(10 0)75	2
Requirement	(325)(25)0	(175)0	100	(150)0	750	
	8		7			

Now Least cost is in cell O₃ D₁, so let us allocate 25 units to this cell. Demand at destination D₁ is fulfilled. Delete this column and repeat the process on the remaining table.

Q4. Table 5

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">300</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">10</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">10</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">16</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">20</div>	(300)0	
O ₂	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">16</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">6</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">17</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">25</div>	(200)(25)0	
O ₃	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">8</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">21</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">10</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">15</div>	(250)(10)0	
Requirement	(325)(25)0	(175)0	(100)0	(150)0	750	

Now The only possibility left is shown above. Basic feasible solution is obtained. It has $4+3-1=6$ basic cells, so the solution is non degenerate and the cost is $300 \cdot 10 + 175 \cdot 6 + 17 \cdot 25 + 25 \cdot 8 + 10 \cdot 75 + 150 \cdot 15$

Moving Towards Optimality

- Stepping stone method
- Modified Distribution Method or MODI Method

Stepping Stone Method

- Determine an initial basic feasible solution.
- Make sure that number of occupied(basic) cells is exactly $m+n-1$.
- Evaluate cost effectiveness of shipping one unit of good via transportation routes which are not currently in the solution by following five steps as follows:

- 1) Select an unoccupied cell.
- 2) Beginning at this cell trace a closed path.
- 3) Assign plus(+) and minus(-) sign alternatively on each corner cell of the closed path. The cells at the corner points are called stepping stones.
- 4) Compute the net change in the cost along the closed path.
- 5) If net change corresponding to each unoccupied cell is positive, the current solution is optimal, if not...
- 6) Select the unoccupied cell having the highest negative net cost change and determine the maximum number of units that can be assigned to this cell.
- 7) Adjust the value of other cells in the closed path.
- 8) Go to step 1 and repeat the procedure.

Q5. Initial basic feasible is given and apply stepping stone method to find the optimal solution

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	13	11
O ₂	17	18	14	23	13
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requirement	6	10	12	15	43

The table shows a transportation problem with 3 origins (O₁, O₂, O₃) and 4 destinations (D₁, D₂, D₃, D₄). The cost per unit for each route is shown in a box. The initial basic feasible solution is indicated by circled numbers in the cells: 11 units from O₁ to D₄, 1 unit from O₂ to D₁, 12 units from O₂ to D₃, 5 units from O₃ to D₁, 10 units from O₃ to D₂, and 4 units from O₃ to D₄.

Now the total transportation cost is
 $11 \cdot 13 + 1 \cdot 17 + 12 \cdot 14 + 32 \cdot 5 + 27 \cdot 10 + 4 \cdot 41 = 922$
 Total number of basic cells is $4 + 3 - 1 = 6$

Table 2: select a non basic cell O_1D_1 and make closed path

Origins/destinations	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	Availability
O_1	21	16	25	13	11
	+			- 11	
O_2	17	18	14	23	13
	1		12		
O_3	32	27	18	41	19
	- 5	10		+ 4	
Requirement	6	10	12	15	43

Now the total cost change will be $21 - 13 + 41 - 32 = 17$

Table 3: select a non basic cell O_1D_2 and make closed path

Origins/des tinations	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	Availabil ity
O_1	21	16	25	13	11
		+		- 11	
O_2	17	18	14	23	13
	1		12		
O_3	32	27	18	41	19
	5	- 10		+ 4	
Requireme nt	6	10	12	15	43

Now the total cost change will be $16 - 13 + 41 - 27 = 17$

Table 4: select a non basic cell O_1D_3 and make closed path

Origins/destinations	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	Availability
O_1	21	16	25	13	11
O_2	17	18	14	23	13
O_3	32	27	18	41	19
Requirement	6	10	12	15	43

The table shows a closed path for the non-basic cell O_1D_3 . The path is indicated by blue ovals and signs:

- From O_1D_3 (25) to O_1D_4 (13) with a '-' sign.
- From O_1D_4 (13) to O_2D_4 (23) with a '-' sign.
- From O_2D_4 (23) to O_2D_3 (14) with a '+' sign.
- From O_2D_3 (14) to O_3D_3 (18) with a '-' sign.
- From O_3D_3 (18) to O_3D_2 (27) with a '+' sign.
- From O_3D_2 (27) to O_2D_2 (18) with a '-' sign.
- From O_2D_2 (18) to O_1D_2 (16) with a '+' sign.
- From O_1D_2 (16) to O_1D_3 (25) with a '-' sign.

 The values in blue ovals represent the flow adjustments: 11, 12, 5, 10, 4, 17, and 1.

Now the total cost change will be $25 - 13 + 41 - 32 + 17 - 14 = 24$

Table 5: select a non basic cell O_2D_2 and make closed path

Origins/destinations	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	Availability
O_1	21	16	25	13	11
O_2	17	18	14	23	13
O_3	32	27	18	41	19
Requirement	6	10	12	15	43

The table shows a closed path for the non-basic cell O_2D_2 . The path consists of the following cells: O_2D_2 (17), O_2D_3 (14), O_3D_3 (18), O_3D_4 (41), O_1D_4 (13), O_1D_2 (16), and O_2D_2 (17). The path is closed because it starts and ends at the same cell. The path is formed by alternating '+' and '-' signs: O_2D_2 (-), O_2D_3 (+), O_3D_3 (-), O_3D_4 (+), O_1D_4 (-), O_1D_2 (+), and O_2D_2 (-). The values in the cells are: O_2D_2 (17), O_2D_3 (14), O_3D_3 (18), O_3D_4 (41), O_1D_4 (13), O_1D_2 (16), and O_2D_2 (17). The values in the cells are: O_2D_2 (17), O_2D_3 (14), O_3D_3 (18), O_3D_4 (41), O_1D_4 (13), O_1D_2 (16), and O_2D_2 (17).

Now the total cost change will be $18 - 27 + 32 - 17 = 6$

Table 6: select a non basic cell O_2D_4 and make closed path

Origins/destinations	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	Availability
O_1	21	16	25	13	11
O_2	17	18	14	23	13
O_3	32	27	18	41	19
Requirement	6	10	12	15	43

The table shows a closed path for the non-basic cell O_2D_4 . The path consists of the following cells: O_2D_4 (23), O_2D_3 (14), O_3D_3 (18), O_3D_2 (27), O_1D_2 (16), O_1D_4 (13), and O_2D_4 (23). The path is closed because it starts and ends at the same cell. The cells in the path are highlighted with blue boxes. The cells O_2D_1 (17), O_3D_1 (32), and O_1D_4 (13) are highlighted with red boxes. The cells O_1D_4 (13), O_2D_1 (17), and O_3D_4 (41) are also highlighted with red boxes. The cells O_1D_4 (13), O_2D_1 (17), and O_3D_4 (41) are also highlighted with red boxes. The cells O_1D_4 (13), O_2D_1 (17), and O_3D_4 (41) are also highlighted with red boxes.

Now the total cost change will be $23 - 41 + 32 - 17 = -3$

Table 7: select a non basic cell O_3D_3 and make closed path

Origins/des tinations	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	Availabil ity
O_1	21	16	25	13	11
O_2	17	18	14	23	13
O_3	32	27	18	41	19
Requireme nt	6	10	12	15	43

Closed path for O_3D_3 (circled values):
 $O_3 \rightarrow D_1$ (5, -) $\rightarrow O_1 \rightarrow D_1$ (21) $\rightarrow O_1 \rightarrow D_4$ (11, +) $\rightarrow O_2 \rightarrow D_4$ (23) $\rightarrow O_2 \rightarrow D_3$ (14, -) $\rightarrow O_3 \rightarrow D_3$ (18, +) $\rightarrow O_3 \rightarrow D_1$ (5, -)

Now the total cost change will be $18 - 14 + 17 - 32 = -11$ which is most negative, so this cell will become occupied or basic cell. Maximum allocation that can be made in this cell is 5. Hence now $O_3 D_1$ will become non basic cell. The new basic solution will look like:

Instead of making all these tables we can make 1 table as follows

Unoccupied Cell	Closed Path			Net cost change
$O_1 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_1$	$21 - 13 + 41 - 32 = 17$
$O_1 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_2$	$16 - 13 + 41 - 27 = 17$
$O_1 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_1 \rightarrow$ $O_2 D_1 \rightarrow$ $O_2 D_3$	$25 - 13 + 41 - 32 + 17 - 14 = 24$
$O_2 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$	$18 - 27 + 32 - 17 = 6$
$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$	$23 - 41 + 32 - 17 = -3$
$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3$	$18 - 32 + 17 - 14 = -11$

The most negative net cost change is -11 corresponding to $O_3 D_3$. So this cell will now become a basic cell.

Table 8: New improved basic feasible solution

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	13	11
O ₂	17	18	14	23	13
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requirement	6	10	12	15	43

Now the transportation cost will be
 $17.6 + 14.7 + 13.11 + 27.10 + 18.5 + 41.4 = 867$ which is definitely better.
 We repeat the whole process

Stepping Stone Method (table 8)

Unoccupied Cell	Closed Path					Net cost change
$O_1 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_4 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$	$21 - 13 + 41 - 18 + 14 - 17 = 21$
$O_1 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_2$			$16 - 13 + 41 - 27 = 17$
$O_1 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3$			$25 - 13 + 41 - 18 = 35$
$O_2 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_2$			$18 - 14 + 18 - 27 = -5$
$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_4$			$23 - 14 + 18 - 41 = -14$
$O_3 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$			$32 - 18 + 14 - 17 = 11$

The most negative net cost change is -14 corresponding to $O_2 D_4$. So this cell will now become a basic cell.

Table 9: New improved basic feasible solution

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availabil ity
O ₁	21	16	25	13	11
O ₂	17	18	14	23	13
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requireme nt	6	10	12	15	43

Now the transportation cost will be
 $17.6 + 14.3 + 13.11 + 27.10 + 18.9 + 23.4 = 811$ which is definitely better.
 We repeat the whole process

Stepping Stone Method (table 9)

Unoccupied Cell	Closed Path				Net cost change	
$O_1 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$		$21 - 13 + 23 - 17 = 14$	
$O_1 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_2$	$16 - 13 + 23 - 14 + 18 - 27 = 3$
$O_1 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3$		$25 - 13 + 23 - 14 = 21$	
$O_2 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_2$		$18 - 14 + 18 - 27 = -5$	
$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$		$41 - 23 + 14 - 18 = 14$	
$O_3 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$		$32 - 18 + 14 - 17 = 11$	

The most negative net cost change is -5 corresponding to $O_2 D_2$. So this cell will now become a basic cell.

Table 10: New improved basic feasible solution

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability
O ₁	21	16	25	13	11
O ₂	17	18	14	23	13
O ₃	32	27	18	41	19
Requirement	6	10	12	15	43

Now the transportation cost will be
 $17.6 + 18.3 + 13.11 + 27.7 + 18.12 + 23.4 = 796$ which is definitely better.
 We repeat the whole process

Stepping Stone Method (table 10)

Unoccupied Cell	Closed Path				Net cost change
$O_1 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$		$21 - 13 + 23 - 17 = 14$
$O_1 D_2 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_2$		$16 - 13 + 23 - 18 = 8$
$O_1 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_1 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	\rightarrow	$25 - 13 + 23 - 14 = 26$
$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_2$		$18 - 14 + 18 - 27 = 5$
$O_3 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_4 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$		$41 - 23 + 14 - 18 = 9$
$O_3 D_1 \rightarrow$	$O_3 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_3 \rightarrow$	$O_2 D_1$		$32 - 18 + 14 - 17 = 6$

The (net change) opportunity cost corresponding to each unoccupied cell is positive the current table gives the optimal solution.

Moving Towards Optimality

- Determine an initial basic feasible solution consisting of $m + n - 1$ basic variables.
- Determine set of numbers u_i ($i=1,2,\dots,m$) for each row and v_j ($j=1,2,\dots,n$) for each column so that $C_{i,j} = u_i + v_j$ for basic(occupied) cells.
- The process can be initiated by assigning value '0' to any one of these u_i or v_j .

- For all non-basic cells compute $u_i + v_j - c_{i,j}$
- Enter them on one corner of the corresponding cell.
- If all $u_i + v_j - c_{i,j} \leq 0$ then the current solution is optimal.
- If at least one $u_i + v_j - c_{i,j} > 0$ select the one with the largest value to become new basic variable.
- Make a loop starting from the selected cell and assign values $+\theta$ and $-\theta$ alternatively.
- Assign maximum value to θ so that one basic variable becomes zero and others remain positive.
- Repeat the process till all $u_i + v_j - c_{i,j} \leq 0$.

Q6. Find the optimal solution for the given problem:

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availabil ity	
O ₁	5	3	6	2	19	u ₁ = 0
O ₂	4	7	9	1	37	u ₂ = 3
O ₃	3	4	7	5	34	u ₃ = 1
Requireme nt	16	18	31	25	90	
	v ₁ = 2	v ₂ = 3	v ₃ = 6	v ₄ = -2		

The transportation cost will be
 $18.3 + 6.1 + 12.9 + 25.1 + 16.3 + 18.7 = 367$
 We proceed towards optimality.

Calculating net evaluations

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availabil ity	
O ₁	5 $2-5=-3$	3 18	6 1	2 $-2+0-2=-4$	19	$u_1 = 0$
O ₂	4 $3+2-4=1$	7 $3+3-7=-1$	9 12	1 25	37	$u_2 = 3$
O ₃	3 16	4 $1+3-4=0$	7 18	5 $1-2-5=-6$	34	$u_3 = 1$
Requireme nt	16	18	31	25	90	
	$v_1 = 2$	$v_2 = 3$	$v_3 = 6$	$v_4 = -2$		

For non basic cells calculate $u_i + v_j - c_{ij}$,
 O₂D₁ being largest positive cell will be new basic cell.

Next better solution

Origins/destinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availability	
O ₁	5 $2-5=-3$	3 18	6 1	2 $-2+0-2=-4$	19	$u_1 = 0$
O ₂	4 $3+2-4=1$ + θ	7 $3+3-7=-1$	9 $12-\theta$	1 25	37	$u_2 = 3$
O ₃	3 $16-\theta$	4 $1+3-4=0$	7 $18+\theta$	5 $1-2-5=-6$	34	$u_3 = 1$
Requirement	16	18	31	25	90	
	$v_1 = 2$	$v_2 = 3$	$v_3 = 6$	$v_4 = -2$		

Assign value θ to cell O₂D₁ and make a loop using basic cells.
Choose θ in such a way that one cell becomes non basic ($\theta = 12$)

Next better solution

Origins/des tinations	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	Availabil ity	
O ₁	5 -3	3 18	6 1	2 -3	19	u ₁ = 0
O ₂	4 12	7 -2	9 -1	1 25	37	u ₂ = 2
O ₃	3 4	4 0	7 30	5 -5	34	u ₃ = 1
Requireme nt	16	18	31	25	90	
	v ₁ = 2	v ₂ = 3	v ₃ = 6	v ₄ = -1		

For all non basic cells calculate $u_i + v_j - c_{ij} \leq 0$, so the current solution is optimal and optimal value is $18.3 + 6.1 + 12.4 + 25.1 + 4.3 + 30.7 = 355$