The Simplex Method for a Two-variable Problem

0.1 Interpretation of the Graphical Method

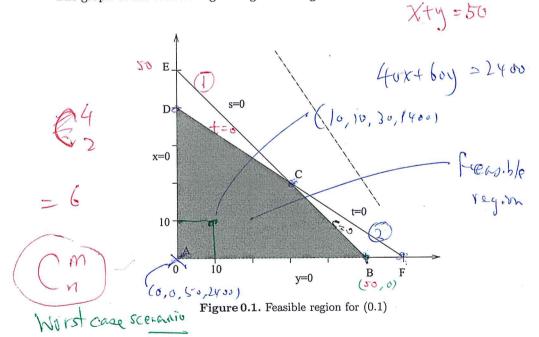
To introduce the basic ideas of the simplex method, we will use an example with only two decision variables x and y. We can then see how both the graphical method and the simplex method works. Consider

Max
$$f(x,y) = 30x + 20y$$

subject to
$$\begin{cases} x + y \le 50 \\ 40x + 60y \le 2400 \\ x, y \ge 0 \\ x > 200 \end{cases}$$

$$(0.1)$$

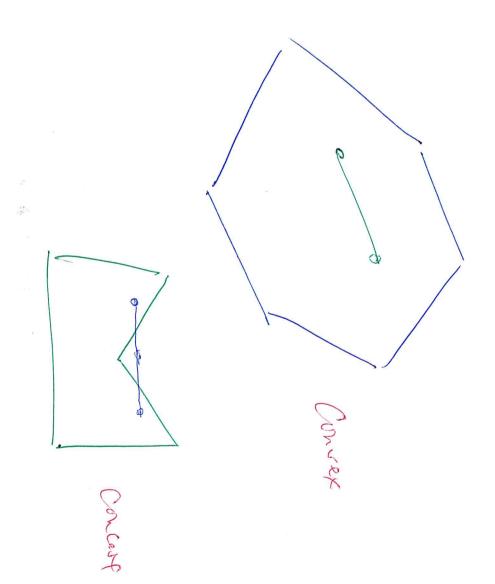
The graph of the feasible region is given in Figure 0.1



We note that the constraints are inequalities. Since inequalities are difficult to be handled by matrices, we first change them into equalities by adding two more variables

(m3) average-cose scenario

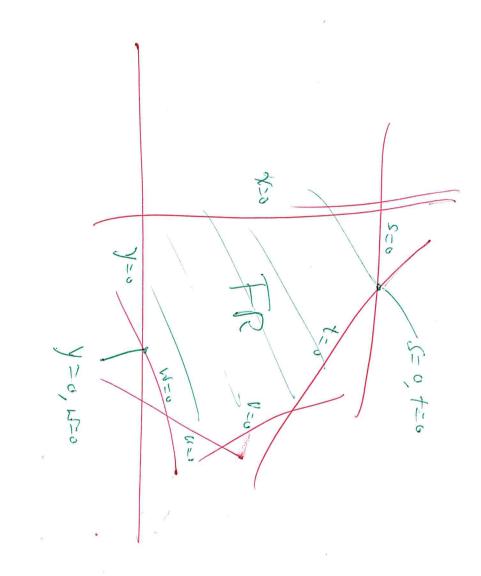
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$$\begin{cases} x + y \\ x + 2y \\$$