



The Linear Assignment Problem

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Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 90 & 75 & 75 & 80 \\ 35 & 85 & 55 & 65 \\ 125 & 95 & 90 & 105 \\ 45 & 110 & 95 & 115 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 15 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 50 & 20 & 30 \\ 35 & 5 & 0 & 15 \\ 0 & 65 & 50 & 70 \end{bmatrix}$$

From each row, subtract the minimum on that row

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 15 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 50 & 20 & 30 \\ 35 & 5 & 0 & 15 \\ 0 & 65 & 50 & 70 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 15 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 50 & 20 & 25 \\ 35 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 65 & 50 & 65 \end{bmatrix}$$

From each column, subtract the minimum on that column

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 15 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 50 & 20 & 25 \\ 35 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 65 & 50 & 65 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 15 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 50 & 20 & 25 \\ 35 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 65 & 50 & 65 \end{bmatrix}$$

Draw lines across rows and columns in such a way that all zeros are covered and the minimum number of lines were used. If we drew n lines, we are done. Here, red is used instead of drawing lines.

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 15 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 50 & 20 & 25 \\ 35 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 65 & 50 & 65 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 35 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 30 & 0 & 5 \\ 55 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 45 & 30 & 45 \end{bmatrix}$$

Find the smallest entry not covered (20) subtract it from each non-covered entry and ADD it to each entry covered twice.

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 35 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 30 & 0 & 5 \\ 55 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 45 & 30 & 45 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 35 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 30 & 0 & 5 \\ 55 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 45 & 30 & 45 \end{bmatrix}$$

Draw lines to cover all the zeros again. Again, we only drew 3 lines, so we still aren't done.

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 35 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 30 & 0 & 5 \\ 55 & 5 & 0 & 10 \\ 0 & 45 & 30 & 45 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 40 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 25 & 0 & 0 \\ 55 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 40 & 30 & 40 \end{bmatrix}$$

The smallest entry is five this time. Again, subtract it from all non-covered and add it to all doubly covered. Now, notice it is possible to cover one zero in each row and column.

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 40 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 25 & 0 & 0 \\ 55 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 40 & 30 & 40 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 40 & 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 25 & 0 & 0 \\ 55 & 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 40 & 30 & 40 \end{bmatrix}$$

There

are two equally good ways to choose one zero in each row and column.