



A Tactical Strategy in Transportation Problems Using Statistical Process

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Abstract

In this paper, a new algorithm is projected for finding initial basic feasible solution (IBFS) using average and also compared various methods of transportation problems. The proposed approach is also discussed with various numerical problems.

Keywords: Transportation Problem, Optimal Solution, Initial Basic Feasible Solution, Average.

1. Introduction

Transportation (TP) problem is use to reduce the transportation cost for industries with the number of sources and number of destinations while satisfying the supply limit and demand requirement. TP problem was originally established by Hitchcock [6]. Dantzig [5] developed different methods for finding IBFS and then by Charnes et. al [4]. The process of solving transportation problems are as follows

1. Mathematical formulation of the transportation problem.
2. Finding initial basic feasible solution.
3. Optimize the initial basic feasible solution.

Some conventional methods to find the minimum transportation cost are North West Corner Method (NWC), Least cost method (LCM), Vogel's Approximation Method (VAM) are considered to provide initial basic feasible solution [8].

Many researchers have developed different methods for determining an initial basic feasible solution. In "A new approach to solve transportation problem", a new technique using allocation table method (ATM) was discussed to get initial basic feasible solution by Mollah mesbahuddhin Ahmed et al [14].

Neetu M. Sharma et al [16] proposed an alternative method to North West Corner method by using coefficient of range (COR). Aminur Rahman khan et al [3] introduced a new heuristic for finding an initial basic feasible solution using sum approach. A new approach to solve transportation problem based upon average total opportunity cost (ATOC) was proposed by S.M. Abdul Kalam Azad et al [1].

In this paper, a new technique is presented to find initial basic feasible solution using statistical tool called average. It is very easy to understand and apply. Numerical examples are illustrated and comparative analysis done for various problems taken from [1], [3], [8], [14], [16]. In section 2 algorithms for proposed method is presented. Numerical illustrations were presented in section 3. Comparative analysis for various approaches was presented in section 4 and section 5 concludes the proposed approach.

2. Algorithm for Proposed Method

Step 1: Formulate a transportation table from the given problem.

Step 2: Make sure that the transportation problem is balanced or not, if not, formulate it balanced.

Step 3: For each row of transportation table identify the maximum and minimum cost. Find out the average among them for every row. Display them at the side of the transportation table by placing them in the corresponding rows. Likewise, calculate the average for every column.

Step 4: Classify the row or column with the highest average between all the rows and columns. If tie occurs, use any random tie breaking choice.

Step 5: Let the largest average corresponds to the i^{th} row and let c_{ij} be the smallest in the i^{th} row. Assign the maximum feasible amount $x_{ij} = \min(a_i; b_j)$ in $(i; j)$ and cross either the i^{th} row or the j^{th} column in the normal way.

Step 6: Go to step 3 until the cell requirements are satisfied.

3 Numerical Examples with Illustration

3.1 Find Initial Basic Feasible Solution for the Following Transportation Problem

	A	B	C	D	SUPPLY
P	11	13	17	14	250
Q	16	18	14	10	300
R	21	24	13	10	400
DEMAND	200	225	275	250	

25		22		17	14	25	1	14	-	-
	1	5	1			0	4			
	1		3							
17				12		30	1	13	13	12
5		18	14	5		0	4			

	1				1					
	6				0					
21		24	27	12		40	1	15.	15.	15.
			5	5		0	7	5	5	5
			1		1					
			3		0					
200		225	275	250						
16		18.5	15	12						
16		-	15	12						
18.5		-	13.5	10						
-		-	13.5	10						

Transportation cost = 25 × 11 + 225 × 13 + 175 × 16 + 125 × 10 + 275 × 13 + 125 × 10 = 12075.

3.2 Find the Initial Basic Feasible Solution for the Following Problem

	A1	A2	A3	A4	AVAILABILITY
R1	5	3	6	2	19
R2	4	7	9	1	37
R3	3	4	7	5	34
REQUIREMENT	16	18	31	25	

5	3	19		2	19	4	-	-	-
12			6		25		37	5	5
	4	7		9		1		4	3
4		18		12			34	5	5
	3		4		7			4	4
16		18		31					
4		5		7.5			4		
3.5		5.5		8			3		
3.5		5.5		-			3		
3.5		-		-			3		

Transportation cost = 19×6+12×4+25×1+4×3+18×4+12×7 = 355.

4. Comparative Analysis

Various size of small scale transportation problems were analyzed by using NWCR, LCM, VAM, COR, ATOC, SUM APPROACH, ATM and also by PROPOSED METHOD. The comparative results were given in the Table 1.

S. N O	PROBLEM DIMENSION	PROPOSED METHOD	NWCR	LCM	VAM	COR	ATOC	AV-ER-PENALTY	SUM APPROACH	ATM
1.	3	4	3320	41	46	33	36	3320	3320	33
				20	20	20	20			20
2.	3	4	2850	44	29	28	28	2850	2850	28
				00	00	50	50			50
3.	3	4	240	32	24	24	24	241	241	24
				0	8	0	8			0
4.	3	4	1207	12	12	12	12	1220	12200	12
			5	20	82	07	20	0		82
				0	5	5	0			5
5.	3	4	355	58	36	35	36	355	355	37
				0	7	5	9			0
6.	3	4	796	10	92	79	79	796	796	79
				95	2	6	6			9
7.	3	4	2221	28	22	22	22	2221	2221	26
				97	38	21	38			96
8.	3	4	104	13	10	10	10	104	104	10
				1	5	4	4			5
9.	3	3	5920	66	64	59	59	5920	5920	72
				00	20	20	20			40
10	4	3	295	45	29	29	35	295	295	29
				5	5	5	5			5

5. Conclusion

In this paper, a tactical technique were used for finding an initial basic feasible solution using a statistical tool “Average” for the TP problem has been presented. Various size of transportation problem has analyzed. Finally observed that the minimum cost is unique and the cost is same as VAM Method. And also the proposed approach cost is reduced compared with other researcher's approach with minimum computational work.

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