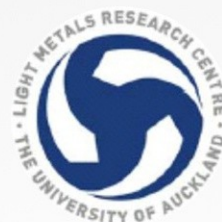


Dr. Stuart Mitchell  
LMRC  
University of Auckland  
[s.mitchell@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.mitchell@auckland.ac.nz)  
Kiwi Pycon 2009



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
NEW ZEALAND



# Contents of presentation

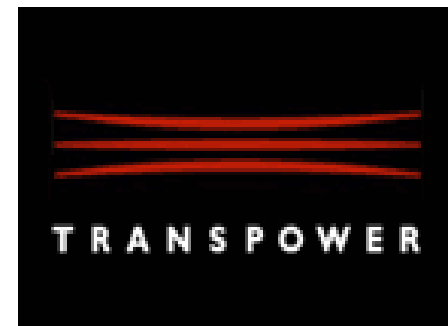
What is Mathematical Programming

When is it useful

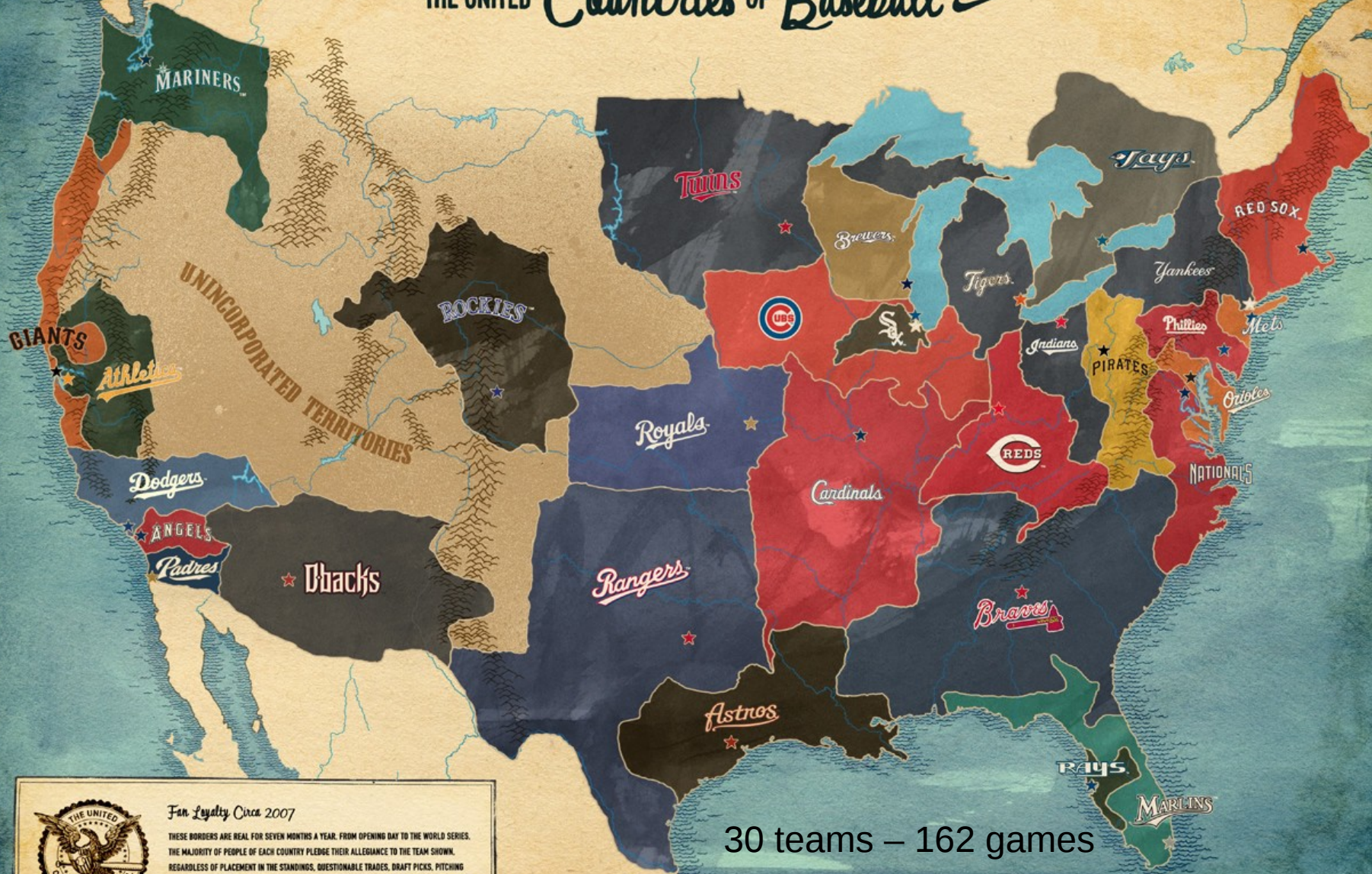
The Wedding Guest Problem

# What is Mathematical programming

- A simple mathematically precise way of stating optimisation problems.
- Use mathematically rigorous way to find a solution



# THE UNITED Countries OF Baseball



30 teams – 162 games



### Fan Loyalty Circa 2007

THESE BORDERS ARE REAL FOR SEVEN MONTHS A YEAR, FROM OPENING DAY TO THE WORLD SERIES. THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE OF EACH COUNTRY PLEDGE THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE TEAM SHOWN, REGARDLESS OF PLACEMENT IN THE STANDINGS, QUESTIONABLE TRADES, DRAFT PICKS, PITCHING ROTATIONS, UNIFORM REDESIGNS, OR MASCOT BEHAVIOR, AND THESE LINES WILL STAY TRUE UNTIL THE CITIZENS OF EACH COUNTRY VOTE TO REDRAW THE BORDERS FOR NEXT SEASON.



# THE UNITED Countries OF Baseball



Fan Loyalty Since 2007

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reds.Com reds.Com reds.Com

## CINCINNATI REDS



**APRIL 2010**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	STL		STL	STL	CHI	CHI
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CHI	FLA	FLA	FLA	FLA	PIT	PIT
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
PIT	LA	LA	LA	LA	SD	SD
25	26	27	28	29	30	
SO		HOU	HOU	HOU	STL	

**JULY 2010**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	CHI	NYM	NYM	NYM	PHI	PHI
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
PHI	★				COL	COL
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
COL	WSH	WSH	WSH	WSH	HOU	HOU
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HOU	MIL	MIL	MIL		ATL	ATL

**MAY 2010**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
						STL
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	STL	NYM	NYM	NYM	CHI	CHI
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CHI	PIT	PIT	PIT		STL	STL
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
STL	MIL	MIL	ATL	ATL	CLE	CLE
CLE	PIT					
HOU	STL		PIT	PIT	PIT	HOU

**AUGUST 2010**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ATL	PIT	PIT	PIT		CHI	CHI
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
CHI	STL	STL	STL		FLA	FLA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
FLA		ARI	ARI	ARI	LA	LA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
LA	SF	SF	SF		CHI	CHI
29	30	31				
CHI	MIL	MIL				

**JUNE 2010**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		STL	STL		WSH	WSH
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
WSH	SF	SF	SF	SF	KC	KC
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
KC		LA	LA	LA	SEA	SEA
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
SEA	OKA	OKA	OKA		CLE	CLE
27	28	29	30			
CLE	PHI	PHI	PHI			

**SEPT. - OCT. 2010**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			MIL		STL	STL
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
STL	COL	COL	COL	COL	PIT	PIT
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PIT	ARI	ARI	ARI		HOU	HOU
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
HOU	MIL	MIL	MIL		SO	SO
SD	26	27	28	29	30	1
MIL	3		HOU	HOU	HOU	MIL

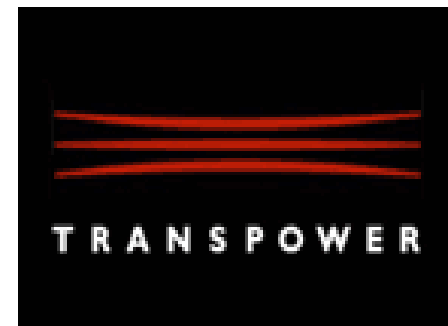
HOME AWAY

SEP. 16, 2009  
SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. GAME TIMES ARE TBC.  
All games can be heard on the Reds on Radio Network.



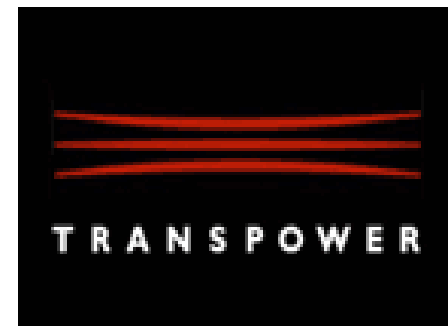
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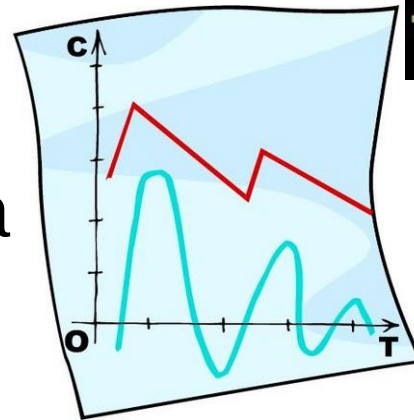


# When is it useful

- There is a decision problem



- There is lots of data



- There is money to be made



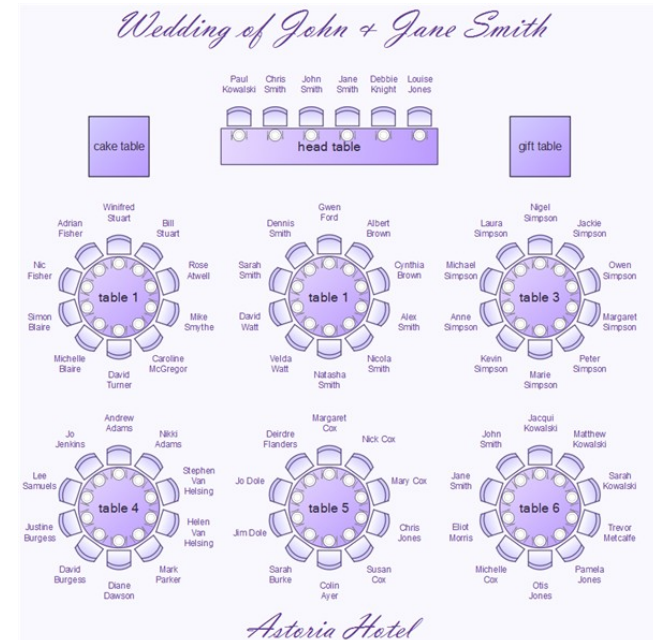


# The wedding guest problem

- Similar to work at LMRC
- A wedding planner whats to work out seating allocations

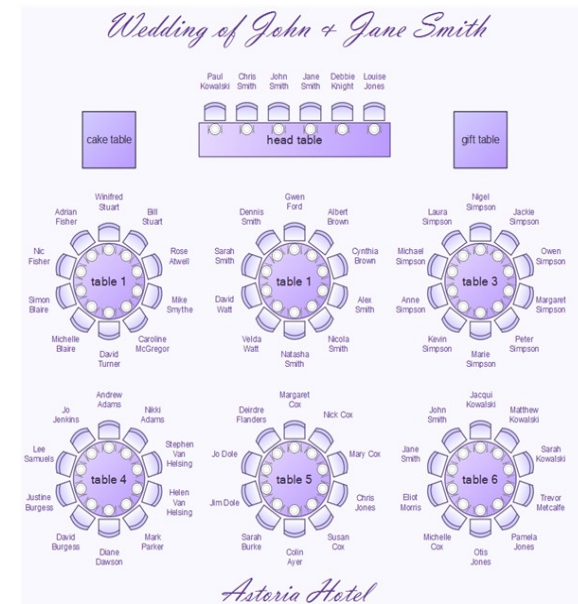
<http://weddingelegante.com>

- \* Tables near the head table (or sweetheart table) should be reserved for your closest family and friends
- \* If you're using round tables, you should generally assign males and females to alternating seats
- \* Don't forget to use your guests' ages and interests when assigning
- \* Grouping your guests into identifiable cliques (grooms college friends, work colleagues, friends of your parents, etc.) will make grouping guests together at specific tables easier
- \* Seat children under 8 years of age at the same table as their parents, but if you're expecting a great deal of 8+ children to attend, you may consider creating a "kids-only" table
- \* Leave 2-3 tables empty for vendors during their breaks or for unexpected guests
- \* Have a large diagram of the completed seating chart on hand at the reception venue on your wedding day to solve any confusion



# The wedding guest problem

- We need to define
  - A solution – what is the result we want



# The wedding guest problem

- We need to define
  - A solution – what is the result we want
  - Variables – parts of the solution



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- We need to define
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# The wedding guest problem

- We need to define
  - A solution – what is the result we want
  - Variables – parts of the solution
  - Objective function – how to compare solutions
  - Constraints – define a solution
    - In terms of the variables



# Mathematical expression of the problem

- This is a set partitioning problem.
  - We wish to partition the set of guests into subsets of tables.
  - We wish to maximise happiness of the tables.
  - We want everyone to be seated at exactly one table.
- This is implemented in the following python code

# Wedding Planning Formulation

Let `guests` be the set of all guests.

```
1  """
2  A set partitioning model of a wedding seating problem
3
4  Authors: Stuart Mitchell 2009
5  """
6
7  import pulp
8
9  max_tables = 5
10 max_table_size = 4
11 guests = 'A B C D E F G I J K L M N O P Q R'.split()
```

# Wedding Planning Formulation

Use `pulp.allcombinations` to generate a list of all possible table seatings.

```
20 #create list of all possible tables  
21 possible_tables = [tuple(c) for c in pulp.allcombinations(guests,  
22                                                         max_table_size)]
```



# Wedding Planning Formulation

Then we create a binary variable that will be 1 if the table will be in the solution, or zero

```
24 #create a binary variable to state that a table setting is used
25 x = pulp.LpVariable.dicts('table', possible_tables,
26                             lowBound = 0,
27                             upBound = 1,
28                             cat = pulp.LpInteger)
```

# Wedding Planning Formulation

We create the LpProblem and then make the objective function.

```
30 seating_model = pulp.LpProblem("Wedding Seating Model", pulp.LpMinimize)
32 seating_model += sum([happiness(table) * x[table] for table in possible_tables])
```

# Wedding Planning Formulation

We create the LpProblem and then make the objective function.

```
30 seating_model = pulp.LpProblem("Wedding Seating Model", pulp.LpMinimize)
32 seating_model += sum([happiness(table) * x[table] for table in possible_tables])
```

```
13 def happiness(table):
14     """
15     Find the happiness of the table
16     - by calculating the maximum distance between the letters
17     """
18     return abs(ord(table[0]) - ord(table[-1]))
```

# Wedding Planning Formulation

We specify the total number of tables allowed in the solution.

```
34 #specify the maximum number of tables  
35 seating_model += sum([x[table] for table in possible_tables]) <= max_tables, \  
36     "Maximum_number_of_tables"
```

# Wedding Planning Formulation

Multiple similar constraints (one of each guest) guarantee that a guest is allocated to exactly one table.

```
38 #A guest must seated at one and only one table
39 for guest in guests:
40     seating_model += sum([x[table] for table in possible_tables
41                           if guest in table]) == 1, "Must_seat_%s"%guest
```

# Wedding Planning Formulation

Solve the problem and print out an answer.

```
43 seating_model.solve()
45 print "The choosen tables are:"
46 for table in possible_tables:
47     if x[table].value() == 1.0:
48         print table
```

The choosen tables are out of a total of 3213:

('M', 'N')

('E', 'F', 'G')

('A', 'B', 'C', 'D')

('I', 'J', 'K', 'L')

('O', 'P', 'Q', 'R')

# Why Pulp

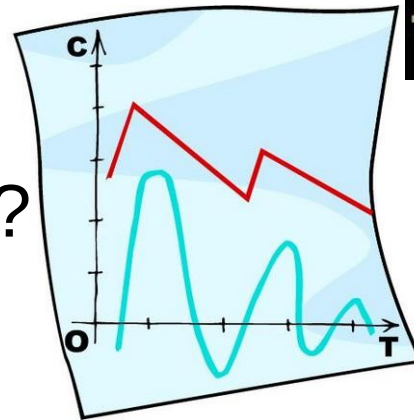
- MIT Licence
- Installation (google-code or pypi)
- Syntax
- Interoperabilty
- Documentation

# Next time you are talking to a client

- Is there a decision problem?



- Is there lots of data?



- Is there money to be made?

