

CO327 Deterministic OR Models
Optimal transport and resource allocation
Example

Andersen Ang

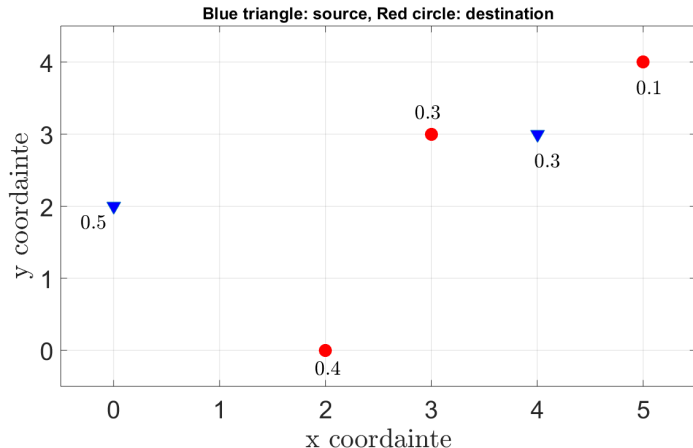
Dept. Combinatorics and Optimization, U.Waterloo, Canada

emails Homepage: angms.science

First draft: January 3, 2021

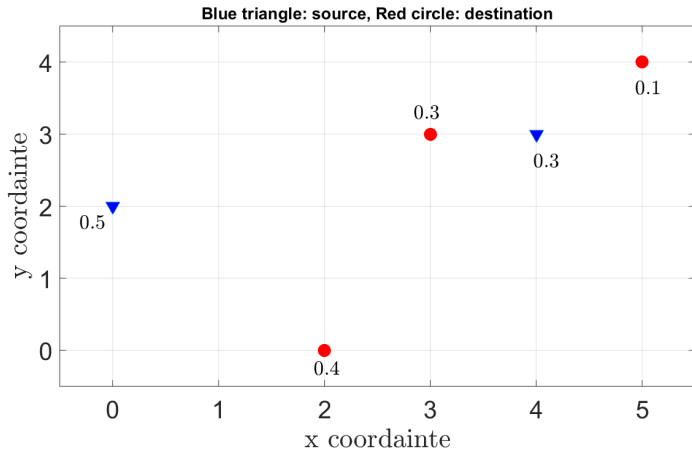
Last update: January 3, 2021

A map



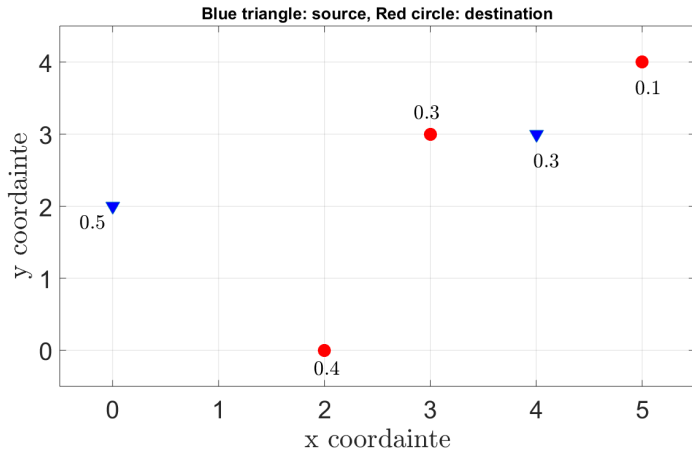
- ▶ Optimal transport problem: send products from **sources** to **destinations**.
- ▶ Cost of transportation: the distance between two points.

Define the cost (suppose cost = distance)



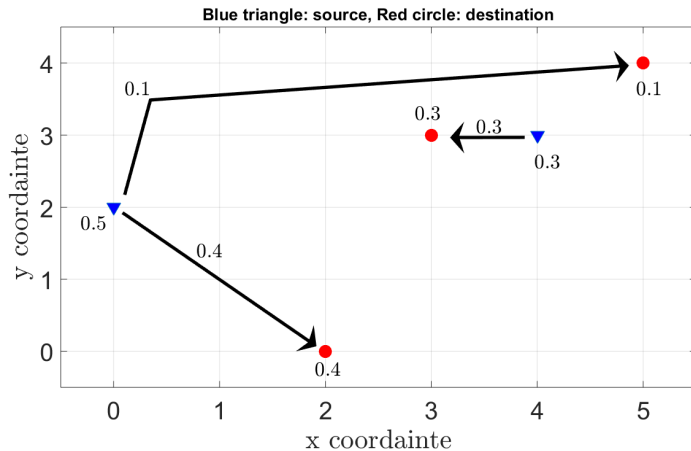
- In Euclidean distance (l_2 norm) between points, the cost of $(0, 2) \rightarrow (2, 0)$ is $\sqrt{2^2 + 2^2} = 2\sqrt{2}$.

Define the cost (suppose cost = distance)



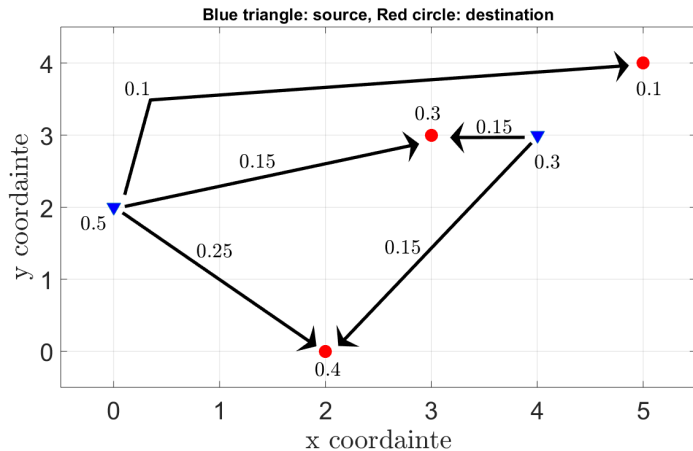
- In Manhattan distance / taxicab distance (l_1 norm) between points, the cost of $(0, 2) \rightarrow (2, 0)$ is $2 + 2 = 4$.

A bad decision



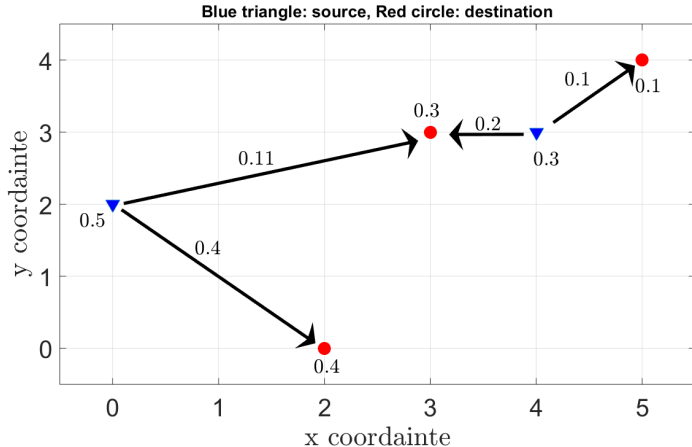
- The total cost is not minimal.

Another bad decision



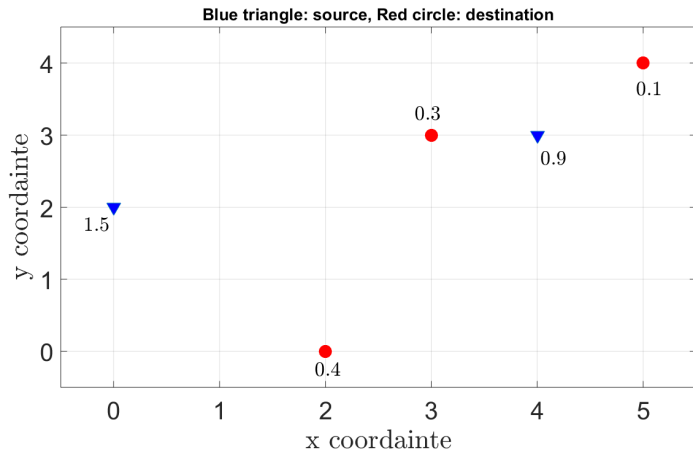
- The total cost is not minimal.

The optimal decision



- ▶ The total cost is minimal.
- ▶ Formulate this as a LP and solve it (see assignment).

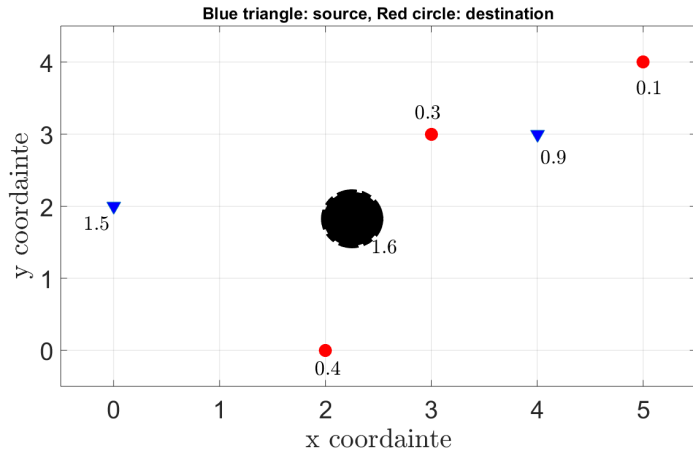
Unbalanced optimal transport



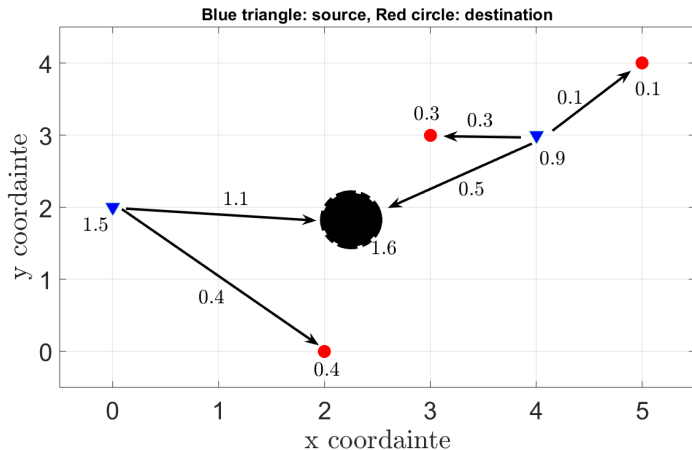
- Now more supply than demand

Adding dummy destination

Suppose you put a black hole here...



Is this optimal?



- Formulate this as a LP, and show this optimal (see assignment).

What's next

- ▶ We now have a solid understanding of optimal transport.
- ▶ Next: look at the modern optimal transport in machine learning.

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