

# Discrete Optimization: Modelling

<https://bicmr.pku.edu.cn/~wenzw/bigdata2022.html>

Acknowledgement: this slides is based on Prof. Ted Ralphs's lecture notes

- 1 Introduction to Integer Programming
- 2 Integer Programming Modeling and Formulation
- 3 Constraint Programming (CP)

# Mixed Integer Linear Programming

- Consider linear programming with additionally constraints

$$X = \mathbb{Z}_+^p \times \mathbb{R}_+^{n-p}.$$

- The general form of such a mathematical optimization problem is

$$z_{IP} = \max\{c^\top x \mid Ax \leq b, x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^p \times \mathbb{R}_+^{n-p}\},$$

where for  $A \in \mathbb{Q}^{m \times n}$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{Q}^m$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{Q}^n$ .

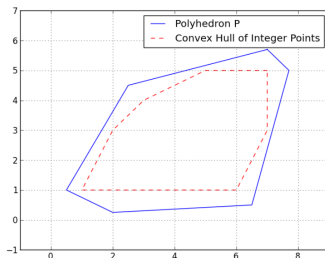
- This type of optimization problem is called a **mixed integer linear programming (MILP)** problem.
- If  $p = n$ , then we have a pure integer linear optimization problem.
- Special case: the integer variables are binary, i.e., 0 or 1.

# The Geometry of Integer Programming

- Let's consider an integer linear program

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & c^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax \leq b \\ & x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n\end{array}$$

- The feasible region is the integer points inside a polyhedron.



- Why does solving the LP relaxation not necessarily yield a good solution?

# How Hard is Integer Programming?

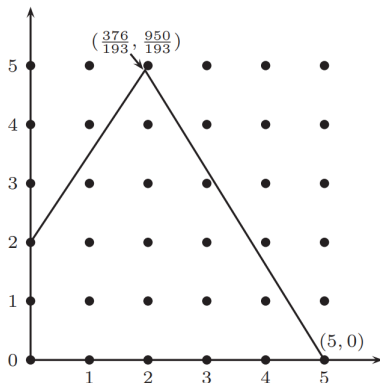
- Solving general integer programs can be much more difficult than solving linear programs.
- There is no known polynomial-time algorithm for solving general MIPs.
- Solving the associated linear programming relaxation results in an upper bound on the optimal solution to the MIP.
- In general, solving the LP relaxation, an LP obtained by dropping the integrality restrictions, does not tell us much.
  - Rounding to a feasible integer solution may be difficult.
  - The optimal solution to the LP relaxation can be arbitrarily far away from the optimal solution to the MIP.
  - Rounding may result in a solution far from optimal.
  - We can bound the difference between the optimal solution to the LP and the optimal solution to the MIP (how?).

# How Hard is Integer Programming?

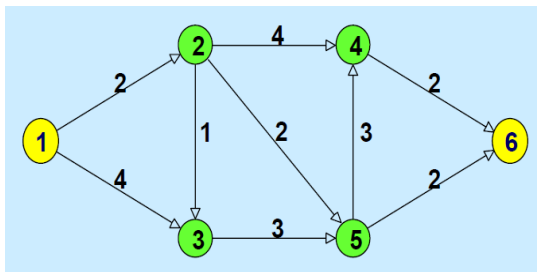
Consider the integer program

$$\begin{array}{ll}\max & 50x_1 + 32x_2, \\ \text{s.t.} & 50x_1 + 31x_2 \leq 250, \\ & 3x_1 - 2x_2 \geq -4, \\ & x_1, x_2 \geq 0 \text{ and integer.}\end{array}$$

The linear programming solution  $(\frac{376}{193}, \frac{950}{193})$  is a long way from the optimal integer solution  $(5, 0)$ .

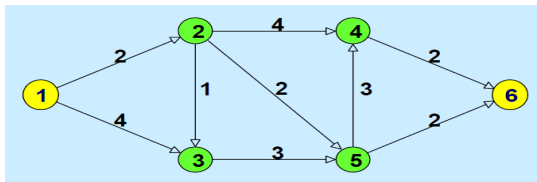


# The shortest path problem



- Consider a network  $G = (N, A)$  with cost  $c_{ij}$  on each edge  $(i, j) \in A$ . There is an origin node  $s$  and a destination node  $t$ .
- Standard notation:  $n = |N|$ ,  $m = |A|$
- cost of a path:  $c(P) = \sum_{(i,j) \in P} c_{ij}$
- What is the shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ ?

# The shortest path problem



$$\min \sum_{(i,j) \in A} c_{ij} x_{ij}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_j x_{sj} = 1$$

$$\sum_j x_{ij} - \sum_j x_{ji} = 0, \text{ for each } i \neq s \text{ or } t$$

$$-\sum_i x_{it} = -1$$

$$x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \text{ for all } (i,j)$$

# Conjunction versus Disjunction

- A more general mathematical view that ties integer programming to logic is to think of integer variables as expressing **disjunction**.
- The constraints of a standard mathematical program are **conjunctive**.
  - All constraints must be satisfied.

$$g_1(x) \leq b_1 \text{ AND } g_2(x) \leq b_1 \text{ AND } \cdots \text{ AND } g_m(x) \leq b_m$$

- This corresponds to intersection of the regions associated with each constraint.
- Integer variables introduce the possibility to model disjunction.
  - At least one constraint must be satisfied.

$$g_1(x) \leq b_1 \text{ OR } g_2(x) \leq b_1 \text{ OR } \cdots \text{ OR } g_m(x) \leq b_m$$

- This corresponds to union of the regions associated with each constraint.

# Representability Theorem

The connection between integer programming and disjunction is captured most elegantly by the following theorem.

## Theorem

*A set  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is MIP representable if and only if there exist rational polytopes  $\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k$  and vectors  $r^1, \dots, r^t \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  such that*

$$\mathcal{F} = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{P}_i + \text{intcone}\{r^1, \dots, r^t\}.$$

*where  $\text{intcone}\{r^1, \dots, r^t\} = \{\sum_{i=1}^t \lambda_i r_i \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{Z}_+^t\}$*

Roughly speaking, we are optimizing over a union of polyhedra, which can be obtained simply by introducing a disjunctive logical operator to the language of linear programming.

# Outline

- 1 Introduction to Integer Programming
- 2 Integer Programming Modeling and Formulation**
- 3 Constraint Programming (CP)

# Modeling with Integer Variables

- From a practical standpoint, why do we need integer variables?
- Integer variable essentially allow us to introduce disjunctive logic.
- If the variable is associated with a physical entity that is indivisible, then the value must be integer.
- At its heart, integrality is a kind of disjunctive constraint.
- 0-1 (binary) variables are often used to model more abstract kinds of disjunctions (non-numerical).
  - Modeling yes/no decisions.
  - Enforcing logical conditions.
  - Modeling fixed costs.
  - Modeling piecewise linear functions.

# Modeling Binary Choice

- We use binary variables to model yes/no decisions.
- Example: Integer knapsack problem
  - We are given a set of items with associated values and weights.
  - We wish to select a subset of maximum value such that the total weight is less than a constant  $K$ .
  - We associate a 0-1 variable with each item indicating whether it is selected or not.

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{j=1}^m c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^m w_j x_j \leq K \\ & x \in \{0, 1\}^n \end{aligned}$$

# Modeling Dependent Decisions

- We can also use binary variables to enforce the condition that a certain action can only be taken if some other action is also taken.
- Suppose  $x$  and  $y$  are binary variables representing whether or not to take certain actions.
- The constraint  $x \leq y$  says "only take action  $x$  if action  $y$  is also taken"

# MIP reformulation of $\ell_0$ -minimization

- Big- $M$  assumption:  $\forall i, |x_i| \leq M$

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|x\|_0 \leq k, |x_i| \leq M$$

- MIP formulation:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \leq k, |x_i| \leq M y_i, y_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

## Example: Facility Location Problem

- We are given  $n$  potential facility locations and  $m$  customers.
- There is a fixed cost  $c_j$  of opening facility  $j$ .
- There is a cost  $d_{ij}$  associated with serving customer  $i$  from facility  $j$ .
- We have two sets of binary variables.
  - $y_j$  is 1 if facility  $j$  is opened, 0 otherwise.
  - $x_{ij}$  is 1 if customer  $i$  is served by facility  $j$ , 0 otherwise.
- Here is one formulation:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j y_j + \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ij} = 1 && \forall i \\ & \sum_{i=1}^m x_{ij} \leq m y_j && \forall j \\ & x_{ij}, y_i \in \{0, 1\} && \forall i, j \end{aligned}$$

# Selecting from a Set

- We can use constraints of the form  $\sum_{j \in T} x_j \geq 1$  to represent that at least one item should be chosen from a set  $T$ .
- Similarly, we can also model that at most one or exactly one item should be chosen.
- Example: Set covering problem
  - A set covering problem is any problem of the form.

$$\min \{c^\top x \mid Ax \geq 1, x_j \in \{0, 1\}\}$$

where  $A$  is a 0-1 matrix.

- Each row of  $A$  represents an item from a set  $S$ .
- Each column  $A_j$  represents a subset  $S_j$  of the items.
- Each variable  $x_j$  represents selecting subset  $S_j$ .
- In other words, each item must appear in at least one selected subset.

# Modeling Disjunctive Constraints

- We are given two constraints  $a^\top x \geq b$  and  $c^\top x \geq d$  with nonnegative coefficients.
- Instead of insisting both constraints be satisfied, we want at least one of the two constraints to be satisfied.
- To model this, we define a binary variable  $y$  and impose

$$\begin{aligned}a^\top x &\geq yb, \\c^\top x &\geq (1 - y)d, \\y &\in \{0, 1\}.\end{aligned}$$

- More generally, we can impose that at least  $k$  out of  $m$  constraints be satisfied with

$$\begin{aligned}a_i^\top x &\geq y_i b_i, \\ \sum_{i=1}^m y_i &\geq k, \\ y_i &\in \{0, 1\}.\end{aligned}$$

# Modeling Disjunctive Constraints (cont'd)

- Consider the disjunctive constraints  $a^\top x \geq b$  and  $c^\top x \geq d$  where the coefficients are allowed to be negative.
- To model this, we use the Big-M Reformulation. we define a binary variable  $y$  and impose

$$\begin{aligned}a^\top x &\geq b - My, \\c^\top x &\geq d - M(1 - y), \\y &\in \{0, 1\}.\end{aligned}$$

where  $M$  is a sufficiently large positive number.

# Modeling a Restricted Set of Values

- We may want variable  $x$  to only take on values in the set  $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$ .
- We introduce  $m$  binary variables  $y_j, j = 1, \dots, m$  and the constraints

$$x = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j y_j,$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^m y_j = 1,$$

$$y_j \in \{0, 1\}.$$

# Fixed-charge Problems

- In many instances, there is a fixed cost and a variable cost associated with a particular decision.
- Example: Fixed-charge Network Flow Problem
  - We are given a directed graph  $G = (N, A)$ .
  - There is a fixed cost  $c_{ij}$  associated with "opening" arc  $(i, j)$  (think of this as the cost to "build" the link).
  - There is also a variable cost  $d_{ij}$  associated with each unit of flow along arc  $(i, j)$ .
  - Consider an instance with a single supply node.
    - Minimizing the fixed cost by itself is a minimum spanning tree problem (easy).
    - Minimizing the variable cost by itself is a minimum cost network flow problem (easy).
    - We want to minimize the sum of these two costs (difficult).

# Modeling the Fixed-charge Network Flow Problem

- To model the FCNFP, we associate two variables with each arc.
  - $x_{ij}$  (fixed-charge variable) indicates whether arc  $(i,j)$  is open.
  - $f_{ij}$  (flow variable) represents the flow on arc  $(i,j)$ .
  - Note that we have to ensure that  $f_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow x_{ij} = 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{(i,j) \in A} c_{ij}x_{ij} + d_{ij}f_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j \in O(i)} f_{ij} - \sum_{j \in I(i)} f_{ji} = b_i, \quad \forall i \in N \\ & f_{ij} \leq Cx_{ij}, \quad \forall (i,j) \in A \\ & f_{ij} \geq 0, \quad \forall (i,j) \in A \\ & x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall (i,j) \in A \end{aligned}$$

# Alternative Formulations

- A key concept in the rest of the course will be that every mathematical model has many alternative formulations.
- Many of the key methodologies in integer programming are essentially automatic methods of reformulating a given model.
- The goal of the reformulation is to make the model easier to solve.

# Simple Example: Knapsack Problem

- We are given a set  $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$  of items and a capacity  $K$ .
- There is a profit  $c_i$  and a size  $w_i$  associated with each item  $i \in N$ .
- We want to choose the set of items that maximizes profit subject to the constraint that their total size does not exceed the capacity.
- The most straightforward formulation is to introduce a binary variable  $x_i$  associated with each item.
- $x_i$  takes value 1 if item  $i$  is chosen and 0 otherwise.
- Then the formulation is

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n w_j x_j \leq K, \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$

# An Alternative Formulation

- Let us call a set  $C \subseteq N$  a cover is  $\sum_{i \in C} w_i > K$ .
- Further, a cover  $C$  is minimal if  $\sum_{i \in C \setminus \{j\}} w_i \leq K$  for all  $j \in C$ .
- Then we claim that the following is also a valid formulation of the original problem.

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j \in C} x_j \leq |C| - 1, \quad \text{for all minimal covers } C \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\}, \quad i \in N \end{aligned}$$

- Which formulation is "better"?

# Back to the Facility Location Problem

- Here is another formulation for the same problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j y_j + \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ij} = 1, & \forall i, \\ & x_{ij} \leq y_j, & \forall i, j, \\ & x_{ij}, y_j \in \{0, 1\}, & \forall i, j. \end{aligned}$$

- Notice that the set of integer solutions contained in each of the polyhedra is the same (why?).
- However, the second polyhedron is strictly included in the first one (how do we prove this?).
- Therefore, the second polyhedron will yield a better lower bound.
- The second polyhedron is a better approximation to the convex hull of integer solutions.

# Formulation Strength and Ideal Formulations

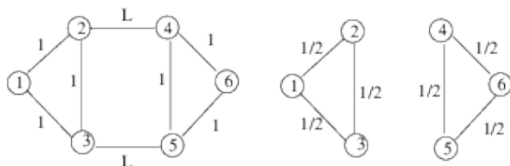
- Consider two formulations  $A$  and  $B$  for the same ILP.
- Denote the feasible regions corresponding to their LP relaxations as  $\mathcal{P}_A$  and  $\mathcal{P}_B$ .
- Formulation  $A$  is said to be at least as strong as formulation  $B$  if  $\mathcal{P}_A \subseteq \mathcal{P}_B$ .
- If the inclusion is strict, then  $A$  is stronger than  $B$ .
- If  $\mathcal{S}$  is the set of all feasible integer solutions for the ILP, then we must have  $\text{conv}(\mathcal{S}) \subseteq \mathcal{P}_A$  (why?).
- $A$  is ideal if  $\text{conv}(\mathcal{S}) = \mathcal{P}_A$ .
- If we know an ideal formulation, we can solve the IP (why?).
- How do our formulations of the knapsack problem compare by this measure?

# Strengthening Formulations

- Often, a given formulation can be strengthened with additional inequalities satisfied by all feasible integer solutions.
- Example: given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a perfect matching in  $G$  is a subset  $M$  of edge set  $E$ , such that every vertex in  $V$  is adjacent to exactly one edge in  $M$ .
  - We are given a set of  $n$  people that need to be paired in teams of two.
  - Let  $c_{ij}$  represent the "cost" of the team formed by person  $i$  and person  $j$ .
  - The nodes represent the people and the edges represent pairings.
  - We have  $x_e = 1$  if the endpoints of  $e$  are matched,  $x_e = 0$  otherwise.

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{e=\{i,j\} \in E} c_e x_e \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{\{j | \{i,j\} \in E\}} x_{ij} = 1, & \forall i \in N \\ & x_e \in \{0, 1\}, & \forall e = \{i, j\} \in E \end{aligned}$$

# Valid Inequalities for Matching



- Consider the graph on the left above.
- The optimal perfect matching has value  $L + 2$ .
- The optimal solution to the LP relaxation has value 3.
- This formulation can be extremely weak.
- Add the valid inequality  $x_{24} + x_{35} \geq 1$ .
- Every perfect matching satisfies this inequality.

# The Odd Set Inequalities

- We can generalize the inequality from the last slide.
- Consider the cut  $S$  corresponding to any odd set of nodes.
- The cutset corresponding to  $S$  is

$$\delta(S) = \{\{i,j\} \in E \mid i \in S, j \notin S\}.$$

- An odd cutset is any  $\delta(S)$  for which the  $|S|$  is odd.
- Note that every perfect matching contains at least one edge from every odd cutset.
- Hence, each odd cutset induces a possible valid inequality.

$$\sum_{e \in \delta(S)} x_e \geq 1, S \subset N, |S| \text{ odd}.$$

# Using the New Formulation

- If we add all of the odd set inequalities, the new formulation is ideal.
- Hence, we can solve this LP and get a solution to the IP.
- However, the number of inequalities is exponential in size, so this is not really practical.
- Recall that only a small number of these inequalities will be active at the optimal solution.
- Later, we will see how we can efficiently generate these inequalities on the fly to solve the IP

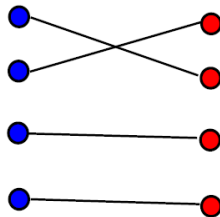
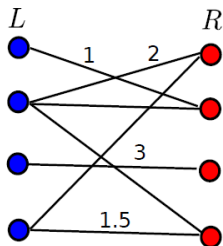
# Contrast with Linear Programming

- In linear programming, the same problem can also have multiple formulations.
- In LP, however, conventional wisdom is that bigger formulations take longer to solve.
- In IP, this conventional wisdom does not hold.
- We have already seen two examples where it is not valid.
- Generally speaking, the size of the formulation does not determine how difficult the IP is.

# The Max-Weight Bipartite Matching Problem

Given a bipartite graph  $G = (N, A)$ , with  $N = L \cup R$ , and weights  $w_{ij}$  on edges  $(i,j)$ , find a maximum weight matching.

- Matching: a set of edges covering each node at most once
- Let  $n=|N|$  and  $m = |A|$ .
- Equivalent to maximum weight / minimum cost perfect matching.



# The Max-Weight Bipartite Matching

Integer Programming (IP) formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{ij} w_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_j x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall i \in L \\ & \sum_i x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall j \in R \\ & x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, \forall (i, j) \in A \end{aligned}$$

- $x_{ij} = 1$  indicate that we include edge  $(i, j)$  in the matching
- IP: non-convex feasible set

# The Max-Weight Bipartite Matching

Integer program (IP)

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{ij} w_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_j x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall i \in L \\ & \sum_i x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall j \in R \\ & x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, \forall (i, j) \in A \end{aligned}$$

LP relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{ij} w_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_j x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall i \in L \\ & \sum_i x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall j \in R \\ & x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall (i, j) \in A \end{aligned}$$

- **Theorem.** The feasible region of the matching LP is the convex hull of indicator vectors of matchings.
- This is the strongest guarantee you could hope for an LP relaxation of a combinatorial problem
- Solving LP is equivalent to solving the combinatorial problem

# Primal-Dual Interpretation

## Primal LP relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{ij} w_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_j x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall i \in L \\ & \sum_i x_{ij} \leq 1, \forall j \in R \\ & x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall (i, j) \in A \end{aligned}$$

## Dual

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_i y_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i + y_j \geq w_{ij}, \forall (i, j) \in A \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Dual problem is solving minimum vertex cover: find smallest set of nodes  $S$  such that at least one end of each edge is in  $S$
- From strong duality theorem, we know  $P_{LP}^* = D_{LP}^*$

# Primal-Dual Interpretation

Suppose edge weights  $w_{ij} = 1$ , then binary solutions to the dual are node covers.

Dual

$$\min \sum_i y_i$$

$$\text{s.t. } y_i + y_j \geq 1, \forall (i,j) \in A$$
$$y \geq 0$$

Dual Integer Program

$$\min \sum_i y_i$$

$$\text{s.t. } y_i + y_j \geq 1, \forall (i,j) \in A$$
$$y \in \{0, 1\}$$

- Dual problem is solving minimum vertex cover: find smallest set of nodes  $S$  such that at least one end of each edge is in  $S$
- From strong duality theorem, we know  $P_{LP}^* = D_{LP}^*$
- Consider IP formulation of the dual, then

$$P_{IP}^* \leq P_{LP}^* = D_{LP}^* \leq D_{IP}^*$$

# Total Unimodularity

Defintion: A matrix  $A$  is **Totally Unimodular** if every square submatrix has determinant 0, +1 or -1.

**Theorem:** If  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is totally unimodular, and  $b$  is an integer vector, then  $\{x : Ax \leq b; x \geq 0\}$  has integer vertices.

- Non-zero entries of vertex  $x$  are solution of  $A'x' = b'$  for some nonsingular square submatrix  $A'$  and corresponding sub-vector  $b'$
- Cramer's rule:

$$x_i = \frac{\det(A'_i \mid b')}{\det A'}$$

**Claim:** The constraint matrix of the bipartite matching LP is totally unimodular.

# The Minimum weight vertex cover

- undirected graph  $G = (N, A)$  with node weights  $w_i \geq 0$
- A vertex cover is a set of nodes  $S$  such that each edge has at least one end in  $S$
- The weight of a vertex cover is sum of all weights of nodes in the cover
- Find the vertex cover with minimum weight

Integer Program

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_i w_i y_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i + y_j \geq 1, \forall (i, j) \in A \\ & y \in \{0, 1\} \end{aligned}$$

LP Relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_i w_i y_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i + y_j \geq 1, \forall (i, j) \in A \\ & y \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# LP Relaxation for the Minimum weight vertex cover

- In the LP relaxation, we do not need  $y \leq 1$ , since the optimal solution  $y^*$  of the LP does not change if  $y \leq 1$  is added.

**Proof:** suppose that there exists an index  $i$  such that the optimal solution of the LP  $y_i^*$  is strictly larger than one. Then, let  $y'$  be a vector which is same as  $y^*$  except for  $y'_i = 1 < y_i^*$ . This  $y'$  satisfies all the constraints, and the objective function is smaller.

- The solution of the relaxed LP may not be integer, i.e.,  $0 < y_i^* < 1$
- rounding technique:

$$y'_i = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } y_i^* < 0.5 \\ 1, & \text{if } y_i^* \geq 0.5 \end{cases}$$

- The rounded solution  $y'$  is feasible to the original problem

# LP Relaxation for the Minimum weight vertex cover

The weight of the vertex cover we get from rounding is at most twice as large as the minimum weight vertex cover.

- Note that  $y'_i = \min(\lfloor 2y_i^* \rfloor, 1)$
- Let  $P_{IP}^*$  be the optimal solution for IP, and  $P_{LP}^*$  be the optimal solution for the LP relaxation
- Since any feasible solution for IP is also feasible in LP,  $P_{LP}^* \leq P_{IP}^*$
- The rounded solution  $y'$  satisfy

$$\sum_i y'_i w_i = \sum_i \min(\lfloor 2y_i^* \rfloor, 1) w_i \leq \sum_i 2y_i^* w_i = 2P_{LP}^* \leq 2P_{IP}^*$$

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# Difference with mathematical programming

Problem:

- Solving combinatorial optimization problems (Decision Optimization)

Modeling:

- Declarative modeling paradigm
- Logical constraints & global constraints
- Integer, interval & boolean variables (maybe double variables)

Solving:

- Constructive search & domain reduction (propagation)
- Based on computer science (logic programming, graph theory, ...)

Solution:

- Feasible solution & optimal solution

# A simple example: n-Queen Problem

The classic queens problem: placing  $n$  queens on an  $n \times n$  checkerboard so that no two queens can attack each other, i.e., no two queens are on the same row, column, or diagonals.

Integer variable params:

- $N$ : number of variables
- 0: minimum value
- $N-1$ : maximum value
- "X": name prefix

constraints:

- all\_diff:  $x_i \neq x_j, \forall i \neq j$

## DOcplex for n-Queen problem

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```
# Create model
mdl = CpoModel()

# Create column index of each queen
x = mdl.integer_var_list(N, 0, N - 1, "X")

# One queen per row
mdl.add(mdl.all_diff(x))

# One queen per diagonal  $x_i - x_j \neq i - j$ 
mdl.add(mdl.all_diff(x[i] + i for i in range(N)))

# One queen per diagonal  $x_i - x_j \neq j - i$ 
mdl.add(mdl.all_diff(x[i] - i for i in range(N)))
```

---

# High-level constraints: Global constraints

Global constraint captures complex relationships among multiple variables in a concise and efficient way.

## alldifferent

- All variables in a set take distinct values
- Assignment problems
- `alldifferent([x, y, z])`
- $x \neq y, x \neq z, y \neq z$

## table

- Tuple of variables takes values from predefined set
- `table([x, y, z], [(1, 2, 3), (4, 5, 6)])`
- $(x, y, z) = (1, 2, 3)$  or  $(4, 5, 6)$

## circuit

- Sequence of variables forms a Hamiltonian cycle
- Routing problems
- `circuit(x)`
- $x=[0, 1, 3, 2, 0]$  means  $0- > 1- > 3- > 2- > 0$

# Arithmetic expressions and constraints

CP Optimizer supports integer variables and is possible to contain float-point expressions in constraints or objective function.

- operator +, -, \*, /
- Sum
- Diff
- ScalProd
- Div
- Modulo(%)
- StandardDeviation
- Min
- Max
- Count
- CountDifferent
- Abs
- Element
- ==
- !=
- <
- >
- <=
- >=

# Diff and Element

## Diff & operator-

### Automatic linearization by slack variables

---

```
lloNumExpr e1 = x * y;  
lloNumExpr e2 = z / w;  
lloNumExpr diff = lloDiff (e1, e2);  
model.add(diff == 0);
```

---

### Element: $y = \text{array}[x]$

---

```
// Create the model  
lloModel model(env);  
  
// Define an array  
lloIntArray array(env, 4);  
array[0] = 10;  
array[1] = 20;  
array[2] = 30;  
array[3] = 40;  
  
// Define variables  
lloIntVar x(env, 0, 3, "x");  
lloIntVar y(env, 0, 100, "y");  
  
// Add the element constraint  
model.add(y == lloElement(array, x));
```

---

# Logical and compatibility constraints

- &&
- ||
- Not
- IfThen

```
                                IfThen


---


model.add(IfThen(x >= 5, y <= 3));

// Nested structure
model.add(IfThen(x >= 5, IfThen(y <= 3, z == 0)));

// Combined with global constraints
model.add(IfThen(x != y, AllDiff(env, x, y, z)));
```

- AllowedAssignments

```
                                AllowedAssignments


---


IloIntTupleSet allowed(env);
allowed.add(IloIntArray(env, 2, 1, 2));
allowed.add(IloIntArray(env, 2, 2, 3));
```

- 

ForbiddenAssignments

```
model.add(AllowedAssignments(vars, allowed));
```

# Special constraints on integer variables

Theoretically, these special constraints can be written from arithmetic constraints and expressions, but they can also be designed and implemented to reduce domains efficiently during a search.

- AllDiff
- AllMinDistance
- Pack
- Inverse
- Lexicographic
- Distribute

## Pack

---

```
lloIntVarArray bin(env, 3, 0, 1); // 3 items, 2 bins
lloIntArray size(env, 3); // Size of each item
size[0] = 2;
size[1] = 3;
size[2] = 4;
lloIntVarArray load(env, 2, 0, 5); // Max capacity is 5

model.add(lloPack(bin, size, load));
```

---

# Interval variables

## Interval variables

### Static

- StartOf
- EndOf
- LengthOf
- SizeOf

### Dynamic

- StartEval
- EndEval
- LengthEval
- SizeEval

### StartOf

---

```
lloIntervalVar task(env, 10); // Task with duration 10
lloIntExpr start = lloStartOf(task); // Static start time
model.add(start >= 5); // Task must start after time 5
```

---

### StartEval

---

```
lloIntervalVar task(env, 10);
lloIntVar condition(env, 0, 1); // 0 or 1

// Dynamic start time: if condition=1, start time increases by 5
lloIntExpr dynamicStart = lloStartEval(task) + condition * 5;

// Constraint depends on runtime value of 'condition'
model.add(dynamicStart <= 20);
```

---

# Special constraints on interval variables

## Forbidden constraints

- ForbidStart
- ForbidEnd
- ForbidExtent

### Precedence constraints

- End/Start
- + Before/At
- + End/Start
- e.g.  
EndBeforeStart

### Groups of interval variables

- PresenceOf
- Isomorphism
- Span
- Alternative
- Synchronize

### Sequence constraints

- First
- Last
- Before
- Prev

# Special constraints on interval variables

- \* CumulFunctionExpr
  - AlwaysIn/AlwaysEqual
  - AlwaysConstant
  - AlwaysNoState
  - operator  $\leq$ ,  $\geq$
- Pulse
- Step
- StepAtStart
- StepAtEnd
- HeightAtStart
- HeightAtEnd

## Resource usage constraints

---

```
lloIntervalVar task1(env, 10, "Task1");  
lloIntervalVar task2(env, 5, "Task2");  
  
lloCumulFunctionExpr resourceUsage(env);  
resourceUsage += lloPulse(task1, 2);  
resourceUsage += lloPulse(task2, 1);  
resourceUsage += lloStep(5, 3);  
resourceUsage += lloStepAtStart(task1, 1);  
resourceUsage += lloStepAtEnd(task2, -1);  
  
model.add(resourceUsage <= 5);
```

---