

MIP: THEORY AND PRACTICE – CLOSING THE GAP

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1. INTRODUCTION

For many years the principal solution technique used in the practice of mixed-integer programming has remained largely unchanged: Linear programming based branch-and-bound, introduced by Land and Doig (1960). This, in spite of the fact that there has been significant progress

in the theory of integer programming and in the closely related field of combinatorial optimization. Many of the ideas developed there have received extensive computational testing, but, until recently, relatively little of that work has made it into the commercial codes used by practitioners. That situation has now changed. Several such codes, among them LINGO¹, OSL², and XPRESS-MP³, as well as the CPLEX⁴ code studied in this paper, now include cutting-plane capabilities as well as other ideas from the backlog of accumulated theory. As suggested by the title of this paper, the gap between theory and practice is indeed closing.

In order to fix ideas, we begin with a formal definition. A *mixed-integer program* (MIP) is an optimization problem of the form

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && Ax = b \\ & && l \leq x \leq u \\ & && \text{some or all } x_j \text{ integral,} \end{aligned}$$

where A is an $m \times n$ matrix, called the *constraint matrix*, x is a vector of *variables*, c is the *objective function*, and l and u are vectors of bounds. Thus, a MIP is a linear program (LP) plus an integrality restriction on some or all of the variables. This last restriction is what makes MIPs difficult (NP-hard, in the technical sense); it takes a well understood, convex problem and makes it non-convex. It also makes the mixed-integer modeling paradigm a powerful tool in representing real-world business applications.

The power of the mixed-integer modeling paradigm was recognized almost immediately, dating back to the 50s and 60s, and numerous attempts were made to apply it. Unfortunately, while the modeling paradigm was strong, the available software and computers for solving the models were not. The result was disillusionment, some of which persists to this day. Many potential practitioners still believe that mixed-integer programming is nice to talk about, but has limited practical applicability. An important message of this paper is that this situation has changed, and changed dramatically just in the last year. It is now possible to solve many difficult, interesting, and practical mixed-integer models using off-the-shelf software.

The following is an outline of the contents of the paper. We begin with a discussion of advances in methods for solving linear programming

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²OSL is a trademark of IBM Corporation

³XPRESS-MP is a trademark Dash Associates Ltd.

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problems. First we give a snapshot overview of developments in the period from the mid-80s to 1998, and then we look at 1999. One reason to begin with linear programming, rather than directly with mixed-integer programming, is that linear programming is an enabling technology for solving MIPs. Given this first reason, the real motivation for including a discussion of linear programming here is that 1999 has seen some remarkable and unexpected improvements in the classical simplex method.

The discussion of linear programming will be followed by the mixed-integer programming part of the paper. The presentation emphasizes features. Specific topics to be discussed will include node presolve, heuristics for finding feasible solutions, and cutting planes. These will be followed by extensive computational results.

The discussion of mixed-integer programming features can be viewed as having two main parts. The first discusses features that attempt to decrease the “upper bound” (e.g., heuristics to find better integral solutions). The second discusses features that attempt to increase the lower bound (e.g., cutting planes). When the upper and lower bounds become equal, the computation is finished.

An important guiding principle of our mixed-integer algorithmic developments is that solving MIPs often requires a “barrage” of different, but cooperating ideas. In other words, we try to take advantage of structures that are common to many real-world MIPs, hoping that some or all will contribute to a better solution for a particular model. To do so, it is essential to develop good defaults, and implement the individual ideas in such a way that they help when they can, and otherwise hurt as little as possible. This approach is perhaps different from that of most theoretical investigations, where the goal is typically to demonstrate the efficacy of a particular new idea, usually in isolation.

Finally, we consider several examples. Two of these examples will provide a counterbalance to the idea that good defaults are sufficient to handle all models. While we would like to run mixed-integer programming codes much as we run linear-programming codes, as black boxes, there will always be instances that demand some sort of tuning or reformulation.

We close this section with one general remark. For many of the computational results presented in this paper, we will use geometric means as a method to summarize results. On occasion, when doing so, we will simply use the word “mean.” This usage will always refer to the geometric mean, and not the more common arithmetic mean. Arithmetic means can be quite misleading when applied to a set of ratios, as would often be the case in this paper.

2. LINEAR PROGRAMMING**2.1. PROGRESS SOLVING LPS: MID-80S TO 1998**

No attempt is made here to discuss linear-programming improvements in this period in detail. We will present just one table, followed by a brief discussion. A detailed discussion is a topic unto itself.

As the following table illustrates, over the past ten years there has been steady progress in our ability to solve linear programming problems⁵.

Model: PDS-30, Patient Distribution System
49944 rows, 177628 columns, 393657 nonzeros

| Version | Time (seconds) |
|------------------|----------------|
| CPLEX 1.0 (1988) | 57840 |
| CPLEX 3.0 (1994) | 4555 |
| CPLEX 5.0 (1996) | 3835 |

The model PDS-30 is one of a class of models introduced in Carolan, et al., (1990), and is well-known within the linear-programming community. For reasons that are hopefully apparent given the CPLEX 1.0 data in the table, the larger instances in this class (e.g., PDS-30) were considered very difficult when first introduced. The runtimes in the table were produced using a modern workstation, a 296 MHz Sun UltraSparc. Considering the improvement in machine speeds between 1990 and the present, probably exceeding a multiple of 1,000, describing this model as being very difficult in 1990 is an understatement.

Some remarks are in order before we move on to the developments of the last year. First, while it is not illustrated in this table, the first release of CPLEX was already a significant improvement over at least one of the standard portable codes available at that time, XMP developed by Marsten (1981). Thus, the fifteen-fold improvement for the one problem in the table in the period 1988 to 1998 can be viewed as an underestimate. Second, and much more important in our view, the most significant development of the last decade is not really reflected in this

⁵In CPLEX 1.0 only a primal simplex algorithm was available. In subsequent versions, primal and dual simplex algorithms, and a barrier algorithm were available. We used the dual simplex algorithm when solving PDS-30 with CPLEX 3.0 and 5.0.

table. This development was the leap forward in robustness of linear programming codes. They have not only become more robust in terms of solve times, but also much more robust at handling numerical difficulties and problems related to degeneracy. In short, linear programming has become more-and-more a tool that practitioners can simply use, embedding it as a black box in other applications without having to worry whether it will do its job.

2.2. PROGRESS SOLVING LPS: 1999

We began the work described in this section by making a simple observation: LPs have become larger. This is the same sort of observation that was made ten years ago at the start of the developments highlighted in the previous section. Here it led us to focus specifically on models with at least 10,000 constraints. It also led us to focus on the simplex method, since it was the simplex method that seemed to be underperforming on these large models. It didn't take long to discover where the bottleneck lay: The solution of the two (sometimes three) linear systems that are necessary at each simplex iteration. These linear systems are commonly called *BTRAN* and *FTRAN* (see Chvatál (1983)).

It is not strictly necessary to know what the *FTRAN* and *BTRAN* systems refer to here. The basic idea is quite simple. Imagine we are to solve a large linear system $Lx = a$, where L is a triangular matrix, a is extremely sparse, and x turns out to be very sparse as well. Both vectors often have fewer than 100 nonzeros among them, in spite of the fact that L is of order 10,000 or more (corresponding to a linear programming problem with 10,000 or more constraints). Clearly, when a and x contain this few nonzeros, it is unlikely that the cause was cancellation during the solve; more likely is that the number of nonzeros touched in L , in order to compute x , was very small as well. Thus, the key to reducing the cost of the solve is to do it in an amount of time linear in this number of nonzeros. As it turns out, though this fact was apparently not being exploited in linear programming codes, the existence of such an algorithm has long been known in the sparse linear algebra community. It is equivalent to a certain, natural reachability problem in a graph. See Gilbert and Peierls (1988).

When the above bottleneck was removed, it then made possible further improvements to the simplex method itself. This is where the *real* progress occurred. Two examples:

- **The dual simplex algorithm:** It can be shown that variables with two finite bounds often do not need to be binding in the ratio

test. Exploiting that fact leads to what one might call a “long-step” dual simplex algorithm.

- **Fast pricing update:** If the solutions of the key linear systems at each iteration are sparse, then it is reasonable to expect that only a small number of reduced costs will change, and hence that appropriate update schemes can be introduced to accelerate the choices of entering and leaving variables in the primal and dual simplex algorithms, respectively.

For PDS-30, the resulting improvement is significant indeed:

Model: PDS-30, Patient Distribution System

49944 rows, 177628 columns, 393657 nonzeros

| Version | Time (seconds) |
|------------------|----------------|
| CPLEX 1.0 (1988) | 57840 |
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| CPLEX 5.0 (1996) | 3835 |
| CPLEX 6.5 (1999) | 165 |

Of course, PDS-30 is just one problem, used here as an illustration. Much more extensive tests were done to evaluate the effects of the changes introduced with CPLEX 6.5. In addition to the changes outlined above for the simplex method, there were also important, if not quite as dramatic, improvements in the barrier implementations. These barrier improvements can be summarized as due to two things: (a) Better ordering algorithms for the computation of the Cholesky factorization, see Rothberg and Hendrickson (1998), and (b) better exploitation of the available level-two cache in modern computing architectures, see Rothberg and Gupta (1991).

In what follows, an extensive set of test results are given to evaluate the performance improvements in CPLEX 6.5. The results are broken into two parts: Small models and large models. Before plunging into the details, it is perhaps worthwhile to point out the philosophy of the way the improvements were implemented. The overall target was “robustness and scalability” in the algorithms. At least as important as making the algorithms better on larger models was that performance did not degrade, and hopefully improved, on the broad middle-range of models that dominate in practice. Indeed, while the improvements on large models were exciting and were the impetus behind this work, the real

effort was expended in making sure that these improvements didn't get in the way when they didn't help. The same theme was mentioned earlier for mixed-integer programming.

2.3. PERFORMANCE ON SMALL LPS

Using a 400 MHz Pentium II running a Linux operating system, CPLEX 5.0 was run on all models in the CPLEX library of linear programming problems, a library that has been collected over a period now exceeding ten years. For each of the primal and dual simplex algorithms, we collected all the models that had solve times of less than 100 seconds using CPLEX 5.0. Performance on these models was then compared to CPLEX 6.5. The following table summarizes the results, where, as discussed below, a ratio bigger than 1.0 means that 6.5 was faster than 5.0:

Performance Improvements: Small LPs
CPLEX 5.0 to 6.5

| Segment | Primal Ratio | Number | Dual Ratio | Number |
|----------------|--------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 0 to 1 secs | 1.02 | 145 | 1.02 | 139 |
| 1 to 10 secs | 1.36 | 99 | 1.42 | 101 |
| 10 to 100 secs | 1.59 | 87 | 1.88 | 102 |

Thus, for example, there were 99 models where the solve time with 5.0 using primal simplex was at least 1 second and no more than 10 seconds (and 101 such models for dual simplex). For primal simplex, taking the solve time for each model with 5.0 and dividing it by the solve time for 6.5 resulted in 99 ratios of solve times. Computing the geometric mean of these ratios gave a value of 1.36. Similarly, for the dual the computed mean was 1.42. Thus, based upon this last number, one might say that for models in the 1 to 10 seconds segment, the 6.5 dual was 42% faster than the 5.0 dual. These results were a pleasant surprise. It was only for larger models that we were certain there would be substantial improvements.

Below, for completeness, we also list some size statistics for the above groups, using both the geometric mean and the median. These are problem sizes after *presolve* was applied, where *presolve* refers to a set of problem reduction routines applied prior to calling the optimization routines. Some of the original, *unpresolve* model sizes are quite substantial and would be misleading in the current context. See Brearley, et al.

(1975), and Anderson and Anderson (1995) for a discussion of presolve reductions.

Problem Sizes

Primal Simplex

| | Means | | | Medians | | |
|----------------|-------|------|----------|---------|------|----------|
| | Rows | Cols | Nonzeros | Rows | Cols | Nonzeros |
| 0 to 1 secs | 307 | 556 | 3379 | 337 | 491 | 2667 |
| 1 to 10 secs | 1396 | 3316 | 17046 | 1357 | 2814 | 15114 |
| 10 to 100 secs | 2774 | 9060 | 53962 | 3016 | 6912 | 43298 |

Dual Simplex

| | Means | | | Medians | | |
|----------------|-------|------|----------|---------|------|----------|
| | Rows | Cols | Nonzeros | Rows | Cols | Nonzeros |
| 0 to 1 secs | 287 | 488 | 2919 | 323 | 515 | 2961 |
| 1 to 10 secs | 1424 | 2973 | 15927 | 1377 | 2814 | 14295 |
| 10 to 100 secs | 2824 | 7597 | 45860 | 3266 | 6831 | 41402 |

As one final statistic, we give the geometric means of the solve times using CPLEX 6.5 for each of the above groups, using primal and dual:

CPLEX 6.5: Mean Solution Times (seconds)

| Segment | Primal Simplex | Dual Simplex |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 0 to 1 secs | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| 1 to 10 secs | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| 10 to 100 secs | 19.5 | 17.4 |

2.4. PERFORMANCE ON LARGE LPS

We also went through the entire CPLEX library of LPs, previously mentioned, and collected all instances which, after application of CPLEX 5.0 presolve, had at least 10,000 rows. From these models an attempt was made to remove those that appeared to be just minor variations on other models in the collection. In the same vein, there were several

instances, such as the PDS models, where a whole family of models with increasing sizes were found. In these cases, the largest instance from the family was included in the test-set and the others deleted.

All runs were done on PCs with 400 MHz Pentium II processors running a Linux operating system. Models were included in the final performance numbers only if, in presolved form, they were solvable within one-half Gigabyte of physical memory. This limitation was dictated by memory availability on our test machines. A time limit of 500,000 seconds (about 6 days) was also imposed for each run. A limit this large may seem excessive, but it was deemed necessary for the tests since the expectation was that several models would solve in several thousands of seconds with CPLEX 6.5 and would be a large multiple slower with CPLEX 5.0. Comparisons would not have been possible otherwise. Note that in the final analysis of the data, where ratios are used to compare the various algorithms, models that exceeded the memory limit were not included. However, those that reached the time limit were included, in such cases using 500,000 seconds as the run time. As a result the comparisons we made underestimated the actual improvements.

Table 1 in the appendix gives size statistics for the models generated, ordered by the number of constraints in the model. Generic names (LP01 through LP90, ordered by increasing numbers of constraints) have been used since many of these models are proprietary. The mean number of constraints was about 50,000, with three models having over 1,000,000 constraints. The following two tables summarize comparative performance as problem size grows. There are distinct tables for barrier and simplex (plus best) since the sets of models not meeting the memory restriction were different.

Performance Improvements: Large LPs
CPLEX 5.0 to 6.5

| Problems | Mean Ratios | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------|------|
| | Primal Simplex | Dual Simplex | Best |
| Biggest 10 | 8.5 | 22.3 | 18.0 |
| Biggest 20 | 7.9 | 18.8 | 12.2 |
| Biggest 30 | 7.4 | 20.2 | 11.3 |
| Biggest 40 | 6.4 | 14.0 | 8.0 |
| Biggest 50 | 5.5 | 11.9 | 6.7 |
| Biggest 60 | 5.2 | 10.1 | 6.2 |
| Biggest 70 | 5.1 | 9.1 | 5.6 |
| Biggest 80 | 4.5 | 8.2 | 5.2 |
| All | 4.4 | 8.0 | 5.2 |

Performance Improvements: Large LPs – Barrier
 CPLEX 5.0 to 6.5

| Problem | Mean Ratios |
|------------|-------------|
| Biggest 10 | 11.9 |
| Biggest 20 | 5.5 |
| Biggest 30 | 4.1 |
| Biggest 40 | 3.7 |
| Biggest 50 | 3.6 |
| Biggest 60 | 3.7 |
| Biggest 70 | 3.6 |
| All | 3.6 |

The first table above refers to simplex results and the best of primal and dual simplex and barrier, where barrier includes crossover to a basic solution. The total number of models in the *All* category for simplex was 86; four models failed the memory-limit test. 75 models are in the *All* category for barrier; fifteen failed the memory-limit test.

For each model passing the memory test and for each algorithm, two runtimes were produced, one for CPLEX 5.0 and one for CPLEX 6.5. Given these sets of numbers, ratios were computed of the 5.0 time divided by the corresponding 6.5 time. Thus, a ratio bigger than 1.0 meant that 6.5 was faster.

To understand how the summary numbers in the tables were constructed, consider the row labeled Biggest 30 in the first table, for the primal and dual simplex algorithms and “best.” To get the numbers in this row, we computed the geometric means of the time ratios for models LP58 to LP90 (excluding LP85, LP89, and LP90, which failed the memory test) doing so for each of the three algorithms. The results for the primal simplex algorithm indicate a speedup of 7.4 on average, for CPLEX 6.5 versus CPLEX 5.0; for the dual the speedup was 20.2 on average; and for the best of primal, dual, and barrier, the speedup was 11.3.

In summary, the overall improvements are very large indeed. The magnitude of these improvements was unexpected.

One thing the first of the above tables does indicate quite clearly is that the dual simplex algorithm experienced a larger improvement than the other algorithms. This observation leads to the question of how the various algorithms compare to each other. Which is best? Here is a summary:

CPLEX 6.5: Algorithm Comparison

| Algorithms | Instances | Mean | Wins for Dual |
|--------------|-----------|------|---------------|
| Primal/Dual | 86 | 2.6 | 56 |
| Barrier/Dual | 78 | 1.2 | 41 |

Thus, dividing the primal solve time for each model by the dual solve time and computing the geometric means of the resulting ratios gives the result that the dual was a factor of 2.6 faster overall. 86 models were included in the test. In 56 of the instances dual was the winner. In 30 instances primal won. For the barrier versus dual comparison, it was much closer, with dual winning by only a small margin, but winning nevertheless, with a mean ratio of 1.2. Dual was the faster algorithm in 41 instances, while barrier won in 37 instances.

Missing from the table, because of the focus on the dual, is the comparison between barrier and primal. In that comparison barrier won 46 times and primal 32 times, and the mean ratio was 1.8, with barrier the winner. Finally, doing a comparison among all algorithms, using all 90 models (see Remark 3, below), we obtain the interesting result that primal won 18 times, dual 33 times, and barrier 39 times.

Remarks:

- 1 Among the 86 instances in which CPLEX 6.5 primal and dual were compared, primal and dual reached the 500,000 second time limit on one common model. This model contributed a 1.0 to the mean ratio. There were six additional instances in which the primal reached the time limit, and no additional instances for the dual.
- 2 There were four models too large to be solved with any of the algorithms within the one-half Gigabyte limit: LP13 (because of the density of the LU and Cholesky factors), LP85, LP89, and LP90. In all four cases, limited tests were run on machines with more available physical memory. In each of these cases, barrier was clearly the superior algorithm. One of the models, LP89, has yet to be solved with a simplex algorithm.

In addition to the four models just listed, there were eight models—LP26, LP63, LP71, LP78, LP79, LP80, LP81, and LP86—that could not be run with CPLEX 6.5 barrier within the one-half Gigabyte memory limit, but could be run with both primal and dual. Partial barrier tests were run with these models on larger-memory machines. In each case the simplex method dominated the performance of the barrier algorithm. In six of the cases, dual was the

superior algorithm, in one primal, and in one case primal and dual produced similar performance.

- 3 All of the numbers presented here can be viewed as biased against the barrier algorithm in the following two senses. First, the floating-point performance on the machines we used, X86 PC's, is markedly inferior to that on most UNIX workstations. Floating-point performance is key to the performance of the barrier algorithm. If these tests had been run on machines with better floating-point performance, barrier likely would have "won" the comparison with dual. Second, the barrier algorithm can be run in parallel on shared-memory machines, and produces good speedups over a wide range of model characteristics. No such parallelism appears to be available for the simplex algorithms. If this difference in parallel performance had been exploited, even to the extent of using two processors, again barrier would have won.

What can one say in general about the best way to solve large models? Which algorithm is best? If this question had been asked in 1998, our response would have been that barrier was clearly best for large models. If that question were asked now, our response would be that there is no clear, best algorithm. Each of primal, dual, and barrier is superior in a significant number of important instances.

3. MIXED-INTEGER PROGRAMMING

This is a discussion focused on features. We will consider the following topics:

- Heuristics
- Node Presolve
- Cutting Planes

As mentioned earlier, a guiding principle of our MIP developments was to apply a "barrage" of different techniques to each model. By applying every technique to every model, we benefit if any of the techniques are effective, and we free the users from having to determine which techniques are appropriate for their specific models. An unanticipated benefit from this approach was that the techniques often combine to produce results that would not have been possible with any one technique. The obvious downside is that we pay the cost of every technique, even when the technique is not effective for that model. Much of the work of implementing

the techniques we will now discuss went into creating aggressive strategies for determining that a technique is not helping and turning it off automatically.

The standard technique for solving mixed-integer programming problems is a version of divide-and-conquer known as linear-programming based branch-and-bound, or, what is now a more correct name, *branch-and-cut*. This algorithm begins by solving the linear-programming relaxation, obtained by simply deleting the integrality restrictions. If the solution x^* of this LP satisfies all the integrality restrictions, we are done; otherwise, some integrality restriction is violated. Picking an integral variable x_j that is currently fractional with value x_j^* , we *branch*, creating two separate “child” problems from the single “parent” problem, one of which has the added restriction $x_j \leq \lfloor x_j^* \rfloor$ and the other of which has the added restriction $x_j \geq \lceil x_j^* \rceil$. At any point, if a cutting plane is identified that cuts off the solution to the current LP, that constraint is added to the LP. The procedure is repeated.

Two important quantities that are generated during the branching process are an objective function upper bound and an objective function lower bound. Upper bounds are obtained by finding feasible integral solutions. Lower bounds are obtained by taking the smallest optimal objective value for a linear-programming relaxation among all current active branch-and-cut *nodes*. In terms of these two bounds, we can think of node presolve and heuristics as contributing to the upper bound, and both node presolve and cutting planes as contributing to the lower bound.

3.1. NODE PRESOLVE

It is now standard to apply problem simplification routines to linear programming problems prior to solving. For integer programming, such “root” reductions seem to be even more important. We begin by applying a restricted form of the reductions for linear programming, those that are valid for integer programs. We then apply several additional reductions, the main two being “bound strengthening” and “coefficient reduction.” See Hoffman and Padberg (1991) and Savelsbergh (1994) for discussions of mixed-integer “root” presolve.

The above is a description of what we do before the branching process is started. What do we do within the tree? In the integer-programming literature there are several proposals that perform rather extensive sets of presolve operations at the nodes. However, our presolve needs to work for general-purpose models, and has to have the property that it is not too expensive in the event that it does not produce positive results for a

particular model. We have thus selected a very restricted kind of node presolve, one that does not make any changes that affect the constraint matrix: We implemented a fast, incremental form of bound strengthening. The following is an illustration of how bound-strengthening works.

Example: Resource allocation.

The problem is to decide how to split up a minute of available time among various possible jobs. Here is a constraint:

$$40x_1 + 30x_2 + 60x_3 + 60x_4 + 30x_5 + 20x_6 + 60x_7 + 40x_8 = 60$$

On the right-hand side, 60 is the total number of seconds of time available. There are eight possible choices for individual jobs. The variables, each of which must take on the value 0 or 1, determine which of the jobs are selected. Imagine that this constraint is part of a larger formulation. Down in the branch-and-cut tree, it might happen that the variable x_2 is fixed to 1 at some node (e.g., due to previous branching on that variable). The right-hand side of the above constraint may then be updated, reducing it by 30 units. If we then compute upper bounds on each of the remaining variables and round, we deduce $x_1 = x_3 = x_4 = x_7 = x_8 = 0$. These fixings are the result of one pass of bound strengthening. A second pass allows us to conclude $x_5 = 1$, and a third pass $x_6 = 0$.

As noted earlier, node presolve attacks both the lower and upper bounds simultaneously. By deriving tighter bounds on integer variables, it often increases the objective value of the associated relaxation and thus improves the lower bound. By excluding fractional values, it also increases the likelihood that the solution of the linear-programming relaxation at a node is integer feasible, thus potentially improving the upper bound. As discussed in the next section, node presolve is also used as part of the node heuristics.

Returning to the general case, it was important first to make the code incremental so that it could benefit, during branch-and-cut, when the processing of a node was followed immediately by the processing of one of its children. Also important were good choices for defaults. The choices we made were the following:

- The number of repeated applications was limited; instances exist where, unrestricted, long sequences of reductions can occur.
- Apply only to non- $(0, \pm 1)$ matrices; otherwise, no rounding occurs. If there is no rounding, all bounds that are deduced are implied by the LP. We are interested in mixed-integer reductions.

- Node presolve is applied for the first 100 nodes processed, then optionally discontinued depending upon its effectiveness during those initial 100 nodes. Every 100 nodes thereafter, node presolve is applied again, and optionally reactivated.

3.2. NODE HEURISTICS

The idea of a node heuristic is simple. Instead of waiting for branching to force integrality, we consider isolating the MIP at a particular node and applying local operations within that node to determine an integral solution. Typically these operations make use of the x vector generated as the solution of the linear-programming relaxation at that node and then perform some sort of “dive,” fixing an increasingly large number of variables until either a new, best integral solution is found, a new *incumbent*, or the fixings that are made result in infeasibility or an objective value worse than the current incumbent.

What are the reasons heuristics may help? First, having a good integral solution as early as possible helps the overall branch-and-cut procedure. It helps in reducing the number of nodes that are processed, and it speeds the processing of individual nodes by providing a tight objective-cutoff for the dual simplex algorithm (the method of choice for reoptimizing at the nodes). Second, in many real-world problems, high quality integral solutions are of much more importance than proofs of optimality.

We used the following ingredients in our implementations:

- List fixing with different orders: All our heuristics involve diving, employing a sequence of fixings. These fixings can, for example, be done with basic variables first or non-basics first, or in some combination. Each alternative gives a different sequence.
- Periodic linear solves: We optionally solve LPs during the dive. These solves are expensive, relative to other steps, and so we limit the number of solves to five.
- Reduced-cost fixing: When an LP is solved, new reduced-cost information is generated, and that can be used to determine new reduced-cost fixings.
- Quick and dirty node presolve: Here we leverage the existence of the node presolve by using a restricted version to deduce implied fixings from the preceding fixings.

With these ingredients, five different heuristics were implemented. Each of the five is applied at the root by default. The “most successful” is applied periodically at subsequent nodes.

3.3. CUTTING PLANES

This is the area in which the bulk of the theoretical work has been done. CPLEX 6.5 includes the implementation of six different kinds of cutting plane routines, each with its own defaults determining when and how often it is applied.

The kinds of cuts that are applied are listed below together with a limited set of references.

- **Knapsack Covers:** Crowder, Johnson, and Padberg (1983); Weismantel (1997).
- **GUB Covers:** Gu, Nemhauser, and Savelsbergh (1998).
- **Flow Covers:** Padberg, Van Roy, and Wolsey (1985); Gu, Nemhauser, and Savelsbergh (1999).
- **Cliques:** Johnson and Padberg (1983); Atamturk, Nemhauser, and Savelsbergh (1998).
- **Implied Bounds:** Hoffman and Padberg (1991)
- **Gomory Mixed-Integer Cuts:** Gomory (1960).

Knapsack covers were the first cuts to find extensive use in general purpose solvers, and have been successfully used in commercial codes for several years. GUB Covers are a mild extension of knapsack covers that exploit the existence of GUB constraints ($\sum_j x_j \leq 1$) intersecting a given knapsack constraint. Flow covers can be viewed as closely related to knapsacks. This class of constraints appears to be very special-purpose, but is really quite general. The separation step, that of actually finding a flow cover violated by a given x vector, uses the same approach as for knapsack covers. The lifting step, which attempts to strengthen the initially found cut by increasing the dimension of its intersection with the underlying convex hull of integral feasible solutions, is particularly important for this class, but also quite complex. Cliques are touched upon briefly in Example 2. Implied bound cuts are discussed below. Gomory cuts are the classic mixed-integer cuts introduced by Gomory in 1960, and recently reinvestigated by Balas, et al. (1996). As we shall see, the power of these cuts, long neglected, is significant.

Knapsack Extensions. Knapsack covers have been recognized in CPLEX since version 3.0. The lifting was improved significantly in version 5.0 using ideas suggested by Martin and Weismantel (1995). In version 6.5 the applicability of the existing routines was extended in the following ways:

- **Equality constraints:** Equality constraints that would be candidates for knapsack separation, if they were inequalities, are replaced by pairs of opposing inequalities.
- **Continuous variables:** Where possible, continuous variables are replaced by appropriate bounds, depending upon the sign of the corresponding constraint coefficient and the sense of the constraint.
- **Surrogate knapsacks:** Given a collection of constraints of the form

$$\sum_{j=1}^n x_j \geq b, \quad x_j \leq a_j y_j \quad (j = 1, \dots, n), \quad y_j \in \{0, 1\} \quad (j = 1, \dots, n).$$

We replace each x_j by the expression $a_j y_j$.

Implied Bounds. It is standard wisdom in integer programming that one should disaggregate variable upper bound constraints on sums of variables. These are constraints of the form:

$$x_1 + \dots + x_n \leq (u_1 + \dots + u_n)y, \quad y \in \{0, 1\}.$$

where u_j is a valid upper bound on $x_j \geq 0$ ($j = 1, \dots, n$). This single constraint is equivalent, given the integrality of y , to the following collection of “disaggregated” constraints:

$$x_j \leq u_j y \quad (j = 1, \dots, n)$$

The reason the second, disaggregated formulation is preferred is that, while equivalent given integrality, its linear-programming relaxation is stronger. However, given the ability to automatically disaggregate the first constraint, these “implied bound” constraints can be stored in a pool and added to the LP only as needed. Where n is large this latter approach will typically produce a much smaller, but equally effective LP.

Gomory Mixed-Integer Cuts. Gomory mixed-integer cuts were among the first introduced but for years have had the unfortunate reputation that they were not effective in practice. That reputation seems to be based upon two phenomena. First, Gomory cuts are often “dense,”

adding a significant number of nonzeros to the constraint matrix. The linear-programming solvers of the day just couldn't handle the resulting increased density. Second, in the early tests, cuts were applied in a way that today seems obviously bad, but was quite natural at the time. Gomory's algorithm, not simply the cuts he introduced, was being viewed as a potential complete solution to integer programming, just as the simplex method was a "complete" solution for linear programming. Thus, instead of adding groups of cuts, where a group consists of as many "good" violated cuts as could be found, cuts were added one at a time, and branching was ignored. The result was that convergence was either very slow, or simply did not occur.

Times have changed. Linear-programming solvers are better and we know cuts should be added in groups; moreover, we don't expect cuts to solve the entire problem. We now realize how strong an ally intelligent branching can be. With these thoughts in mind, Gomory cuts become a very natural choice. They are the most general cuts that we have (one can always find a violated Gomory mixed-integer cut), they are easy cuts to implement, and they have the interesting, well-known property that they combine two important ideas: Rounding and disjunction. In effect, through disjunction they capture some of the effect of branching without increasing the number of active nodes.

There is a nice geometry corresponding to Gomory mixed-integer cuts, as well as a simple, straightforward algebraic derivation. Given the importance of these cuts, we sketch both.

First, the geometry. Consider a simple mixed inequality $x + y \geq 3.5$, where $x \geq 0$ and y is integral (not necessarily nonnegative). The feasible region for the linear-programming relaxation has exactly one fractional extreme point, $(0, 3.5)$. Removing this point is easy. We round, $y \leq \lfloor 3.5 \rfloor$ and $y \geq \lceil 3.5 \rceil$, and intersect the feasible region with the resulting pair of inequalities. The result is a pair of disjoint polyhedra, in effect, a *disjunction*. This disjunction can be removed by taking the convex hull of the two polyhedra. Equivalently, we can add the cutting plane $2x + y \geq 4$ to the original defining inequality. This cut is exactly the associated Gomory mixed-integer cut, perhaps more properly viewed as a *mixed-integer rounding* cut in this case. See Wolsey (1998) for a further discussion of these issues.

Note that it is sometimes observed that Gomory cuts are weak relative to some of the combinatorially-derived cuts, those that can be shown to be facet defining. However, at least in this case, the Gomory cut is as strong as it can be. It defines the integer hull.

Now for the algebra. Let $y, x_j \in \mathbf{Z}_+$, and consider the equation

$$y + \sum_j a_{ij}x_j = d = \lfloor d \rfloor + f, \quad f > 0.$$

Think of this equation as a row of an optimal simplex tableau. Now rounding, and introducing the notation $a_{ij} = \lfloor a_{ij} \rfloor + f_j$, we may define

$$t = y + \sum(\lfloor a_{ij} \rfloor x_j : f_j \leq f) + \sum(\lceil a_{ij} \rceil x_j : f_j > f) \in \mathbf{Z}_+.$$

Subtracting yields

$$\sum(f_j x_j : f_j \leq f) + \sum((f_j - 1)x_j : f_j > f) = d - t.$$

Now applying a disjunction, effectively branching on t , we have

$$t \leq \lfloor d \rfloor \implies \sum(f_j x_j : f_j \leq f) \geq f, \text{ and}$$

$$t \geq \lceil d \rceil \implies \sum((1 - f_j)x_j : f_j > f) \geq 1 - f$$

Dividing by the right-hand side in each case, we obtain a quantity that is always nonnegative and, for the corresponding regions of t values, is at least 1. Hence, the sum is at least 1:

$$\sum\left(\frac{f_j}{f}x_j : f_j \leq f\right) + \sum\left(\frac{1 - f_j}{1 - f}x_j : f_j > f\right) \geq 1$$

This inequality is a Gomory mixed-integer cut. For simplicity, we have described it for a pure integer constraint, but adding continuous variables is easy and really contributes nothing to understanding these inequalities.

We remark that, for a variety of reasons, it has become standard in courses on integer programming to present Chvátal-Gomory integer rounding cuts. These cuts are closely related to the above, but are simpler to describe. They also have very nice, easily described theoretical properties. On the other hand, even for pure integer problems, it is the mixed-integer cuts that are computationally most useful. And, as we are about to see, the mixed-integer cuts *really* do work.

3.4. COMPUTATIONAL RESULTS

We present results for two test-sets of models. The first is MIPLIB 3.0, see Bixby, et al. (1998). This is a public-domain collection of problems that is used by many as the standard test-set for evaluating mixed-integer programming codes. To obtain the models and a complete set of statistics, see

<http://www.caam.rice.edu/~bixby/miplib/miplib.html>

We ran the following test, comparing CPLEX 6.0, which contains none of the enhancements described in this section, and CPLEX 6.5. The tests were run on a 500 MHz DEC Alpha 21264 computer with 1 Gigabyte of physical memory. Runs were made with a time limit of 7200 seconds.

The MIPLIB test-set includes 59 models. Of these 59, 22 were solved⁶ with both codes in less than ten seconds using default settings. Of the remaining 37, ten hit the time limit with version 6.0 but were solved with version 6.5. The geometric mean of the CPLEX 6.5 solution times for these ten models was 48.5 seconds. Removing these ten leaves 27 models. Eight of these 27 models were solved by neither code. In these eight cases, we compared the gap between the incumbent and the best bound at termination. Version 6.0 produced a gap that was better in one case, by about 0.1%. Taking the ratios of the percentage gaps in all eight cases, dividing the 6.0 gap by the 6.5 gap, and taking the geometric mean yielded 3.3. Thus, the mean gap for version 6.5 was 3.3 times better. Removing the eight models that were solved by neither code left 19 models. These are the ones that were (a) reasonably hard, and (b) solvable by both codes. The geometric mean of the solution-time ratios in this case was 11.2. That is, CPLEX 6.5 was over 11 times faster on average on these models. These results are summarized in the following table:

MIPLIB 3.0 - Defaults
 CPLEX 6.0 versus CPLEX 6.5
 7200 second time limit

- 22 models solved by both codes in less than 10 seconds
- 10 models solved by CPLEX 6.5 and not CPLEX 6.0
- 8 models solved by neither: CPLEX 6.5 3.3 times better gap
- 19 models solved by both: CPLEX 6.5 11.2 times faster

There is a second test-set of largely proprietary models that we prefer to MIPLIB 3.0 in evaluating performance. This test-set was assembled about two years ago, from the CPLEX model library, in the following way. On some machine (what was then the fastest machine available to us), and using the then current version of CPLEX, we ran each model using defaults. Any model that solved to optimality in less than 100

⁶The default CPLEX optimality tolerance for MIPs is a gap of 0.01%

seconds was excluded from further testing. We then made an extensive set of runs on the remaining models, some runs extending to several days, trying a variety of parameter settings. All the models that could be solved in this way were included in the test-set, with the exception of a few models (less than five) that were solvable, but took over about one-half day to solve. With these exceptions, one might characterize the resulting test-set as the models that appeared to be difficult but solvable, assuming tuning was allowed. Statistics for the 80 models in the test-set are given in Table 2 in the appendix (“GIs” stands for *general integer variables*). For the present paper, we made several kinds of runs. All used a 500 MHz DEC Alpha 21264 system and were run with a time limit of 7200 seconds.

First, we ran CPLEX 6.5 and CPLEX 6.0 with defaults. The result was that 6.5 did not solve three of the models to within default tolerances within the allotted two hours (MIP09, which is the MIPLIB 3.0 model *arki001*, MIP40, and MIP50). CPLEX 6.0 did not solve 31 models. The three models not solved by 6.5 were among these 31. Excluding these three, there was one model where the solution times were identical (and small). Version 6.5 was faster in 66 of the remaining cases, and 6.0 was faster in ten cases. Dividing the 6.0 time by the 6.5 time and taking the geometric mean⁷ gave a mean speedup of 22.3.

We next compared CPLEX 6.5 running defaults with tuned CPLEX 6.0 times, using the best parameter settings that are known to us. Version 6.5 was faster in 56 cases, and 6.0 in 22 cases. The mean speedup for version 6.5 using default settings compared with 6.0 using tuned settings was 3.8.

Finally, we performed two kinds of tests to evaluate the effects of some of the mixed-integer programming features that have been discussed in this paper. In the first test we started with defaults, turned off individual features one at a time, and measured, using geometric means of ratios of solve times, the effects of these changes. Our second set of tests was performed, effectively, in the opposite direction. We turned off all six kinds of cutting planes, made a set of test runs, and then turned on the individual cuts one at a time, making comparisons using ratios and geometric means. The results are given below:

⁷MIP45 was excluded from these ratios. It terminated prematurely with CPLEX 6.0 because of excessive basis singularities in the simplex method while solving some node LP.

Performance Impact: Relative to Defaults

| Cuts | | Other | |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|----|
| Implied bounds | 0% | Node presolve | 9% |
| Cliques | 0% | Node heuristics | 9% |
| GUB covers | 0% | | |
| Flow covers | 12% | | |
| Covers | 16% | | |
| Gomory cuts | 35% | | |

Performance Impact: Individual Cuts

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Implied bounds | -1% |
| Cliques | 0% |
| GUB covers | 10% |
| Flow covers | 18% |
| Covers | 58% |
| Gomory cuts | 97% |

The big winner here, and perhaps the biggest surprise, was Gomory cuts. They were clearly the most effective cuts in our tests.

4. EXAMPLES

We close with some examples. In the previous sections we have attempted to demonstrate that great progress has been made in building general-purpose mixed-integer solvers, solvers that run well with default settings. This development is critical to the wider use of mixed-integer programming in practice. Most users of mixed-integer programming are not interested in the details of how the codes work. They simply want to be able to run a code and get results. Nevertheless, there still are, and probably always will be, many examples of interesting, important MIPs that are solvable, but not without taking advantage of problem structure in some special way.

Example 1 The first example is from a customer who was primarily interested in finding feasible solutions. His criteria was, stop after finding a feasible integral solution with gap less than 1%. CPLEX 6.0 was incapable of meeting this criteria. Indeed, this model was left running for a period of several days on a fast workstation, a 600 MHz Alpha 21164 computer, and not a single feasible solution was found. Below is a CPLEX 6.5 run for this model using a 500 MHz DEC Alpha 21264 computer:

```

Problem 'unnamed.mps.gz' read.
New value for passes for generating fractional cuts: 0
New value for mixed integer optimality gap tolerance: 0.01
Reduced MIP has 7787 rows, 7260 columns, and 22154 nonzeros.
Clique table members: 533
Root relaxation solution time = 0.37 sec.

```

| Nodes | | Objective | IInf | Best Integer | Cuts/ | ItCnt | Gap |
|-------|---------|-------------|------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Node | Left | | | | Best Node | | |
| 0 | 0 | -2.8298e+07 | 224 | | -2.8298e+07 | 3095 | |
| | | -2.7769e+07 | 160 | | Cuts: 616 | 4173 | |
| | | -2.7720e+07 | 156 | | Cuts: 118 | 4548 | |
| | | -2.7703e+07 | 176 | | Cuts: 54 | 4790 | |
| | | -2.7689e+07 | 177 | | Cuts: 36 | 4916 | |
| | | -2.7685e+07 | 180 | | Cuts: 29 | 4999 | |
| | | -2.7685e+07 | 181 | | Flowcuts: 6 | 5035 | |
| 100 | 100 | -2.7590e+07 | 58 | | -2.7684e+07 | 6174 | |
| 200 | 200 | -2.7446e+07 | 12 | | -2.7684e+07 | 6673 | |
| * | 239 236 | -2.7434e+07 | 0 | -2.7434e+07 | -2.7684e+07 | 6843 | 0.91% |

```

GUB cover cuts applied: 6
Cover cuts applied: 44
Implied bound cuts applied: 66
Flow cuts applied: 295
Fractional cuts applied: 212

```

```

Integer optimal solution (0.01/1e-06): Objective = -2.7433577522e+07
Current MIP best bound = -2.7684321743e+07 (gap = 250744, 0.91%)
Solution time = 31.90 sec. Iterations = 6843 Nodes = 240 (235)

```

So, this *is* an example of a model that now solves well with default settings. One interesting aspect of the solution is that it is a case in which several features combined to produce the result. Clearly cuts were involved, and, although it is not clear from the output, the node presolve was also important. Each of several, separate features helps, but it's the combination that leads to a solution.

Example 2 Our second example illustrates how defaults are sometimes not enough. In CPLEX 6.5, several degrees of *probing* on binary variables are available. These options are not turned on by default. As is well known, even with an efficient implementation of probing, computation times can experience a combinatorial explosion.

Probing occurs in three phases in CPLEX 6.5 when activated at its “highest level.” In the first phase, it is applied to individual binary variables, as suggested in Brearley, et al. (1975). Thus, each binary variable is fixed in turn to 0 and then to 1, applying bound strengthening after each such fixing. For an individual variable, the result can include the fixing of the variable being probed (when one of the tested values forces the infeasibility of the whole model), implied bounds on continuous variables—hence, implied bound cuts become stronger when

probing is activated—and 2-cliques. The 2-cliques that result from this first phase are collected and merged together with the cliques given by GUB constraints, those that are explicit in the original formulation. The result is an initial clique table. This table is then further expanded in a second phase by applying *lifting* directly to the cuts in this table. See Suhl and Szymanski (1994). This idea was suggested to us by Johnson (1999).

Finally, since, in general, there can be an exponential number of maximal cliques, it is not possible to explicitly store all such cliques. Within the branch-and-cut tree we use the clique table and the current solution to the linear-programming relaxation, as suggested by Atamturk, et al., (1998), to generate further clique cuts.

When we first tried to solve the present example model, it appeared not to be possible with CPLEX 6.0. The optimal objective value of the root linear-programming relaxation was 1.0, and the best-bound value never moved above 2.0, even though several parameter settings were tried and several long runs were made.

In the CPLEX 6.5 run displayed below, probing was set to its highest level. The result was that a large number of clique inequalities were generated at the root. These were crucial, pushing the lower bound at the root to 20.8. At the same time, one of the five heuristics that are applied at the root succeeded in finding a feasible solution of value 21. Since, as the output indicates, the objective function in the model could be proven to take on only integral values, it followed that 21 was optimal, and the run terminated without branching.

```

Problem 'unnamed.lp.gz' read.
New value for probing strategy: 2
Elapsed time  10.22 sec. for 47% of probing
Elapsed time  20.30 sec. for 94% of probing
Probing time =  21.53 sec.
Clique table members: 1068
Root relaxation solution time = 142.18 sec.
Objective is integral.

      Nodes
      Node Left   Objective  IInf  Best Integer      Cuts/
                                Best Node  ItCnt  Gap
      0      0      1.0000  4766
                                1.0000  20704
                                20.8000  439      Cliques: 500  36839
                                20.8000  203      Cliques: 17   40402
Heuristic: feasible at 22.0000, still looking
Heuristic complete
*  0+  0      21.0000    0      21.0000      20.8000  40402  0.95%

Clique cuts applied: 349

Integer optimal solution: Objective = 2.1000000000e+01
Solution time = 792.62 sec. Iterations = 40402 Nodes = 0

```


Example 3 The *noswot* model is one of the smaller, but more difficult models in the MIPLIB 3.0 test-set. It has only 128 variables, 75 of which are binary, and 25 of which are general integers.

This model is very difficult to solve with the currently available branch-and-cut codes. With CPLEX 6.0 it appeared to be unsolvable, even after days of computation. It *is* now solvable with CPLEX 6.5, running defaults, but the solution time of 22445 seconds (500 MHz DEC Alpha 21264), and the enumerated 26,521,191 branch-and-cut nodes, are not a pleasant sight.

In contrast, this model does suddenly become easy if the following eight constraints are added:

```

c184: X21 - X22 >= 0
c185: X22 - X23 >= 0
c186: X23 - X24 >= 0
c187: 2.08 X11 + 2.98 X21 + 3.47 X31 + 2.24 X41
      + 2.08 X51 + 0.25 W11 + 0.25 W21 + 0.25 W31 + 0.25 W41 + 0.25 W51
      <= 20.25
c188: 2.08 X12 + 2.98 X22 + 3.47 X32 + 2.24 X42
      + 2.08 X52 + 0.25 W12 + 0.25 W22 + 0.25 W32 + 0.25 W42 + 0.25 W52
      <= 20.25
c189: 2.08 X13 + 2.98 X23 + 3.4722 X33 + 2.24 X43
      + 2.08 X53 + 0.25 W13 + 0.25 W23 + 0.25 W33 + 0.25 W43 + 0.25 W53
      <= 20.25
c190: 2.08 X14 + 2.98 X24 + 3.47 X34 + 2.24 X44
      + 2.08 X54 + 0.25 W14 + 0.25 W24 + 0.25 W34 + 0.25 W44 + 0.25 W54
      <= 20.25
c191: 2.08 X15 + 2.98 X25 + 3.47 X35 + 2.24 X45
      + 2.08 X55 + 0.25 W15 + 0.25 W25 + 0.25 W35 + 0.25 W45 + 0.25 W55
      <= 16.25

```

Where do these constraints come from? Some time ago, one of the authors of this paper discovered what looked like a high degree of symmetry among some of the variables in the model: X21, X22, X23, and X24. He tried the following idea. There are 24 different ways of forming triples of constraints from these variables, in the way indicated above by constraint c184–c186, with each of these triples removing the symmetry on the variables. Being uncertain that his symmetry observation was really valid for the entire model, he then simply solved the 24 individual instances, and, in so doing, the entire model.

As some explanation for why this approach, creating 24 related instances, could be effective, consider taking several disjoint copies of the same model and putting them side by side in a single model. Doing so is not a good idea; the models, even if they are slightly different, should be solved individually. However, at least for pure LPs, something reasonable will happen, and the total solution time will grow in some way that is not too-highly nonlinear in the number of disjoint copies that have been combined. Indeed, in the case of a barrier algorithm, the total computation time can be expected to grow something close to linearly

in the number of copies. However, doing this kind of replication with an integer program is an entirely different matter. There the number of nodes in the search, and hence the solution time, can be expected to grow like the *product* of the number of nodes in the individual search trees.

Returning to the *noswot* instance, the above result prompted one of our co-workers, Irv Lustig (1999), to “reverse engineer” the original model, and give a representation using the OPL modeling language (see Van Hentenryck (1999)). Another co-worker, Jean-Francois Puget (1999), then studied this representation and noticed that it could be given an interpretation as a resource allocation model on five machines, with scheduling, horizon constraints, and transition times. It was then clear that four of the five “machines” were indeed identical, and hence that constraints c184-c186 were valid. In other words, it was necessary to solve only one of the 24 instances mentioned above. In addition, it was also observed that the transition-time constraints could be strengthened by adding five additional cuts that exploited the fact that there was actually a minimum positive transition cost of 0.25. Essentially the argument was that if a machine performs k different jobs, then it must pay at least $0.25(k - 1)$ in transition cost. These last constraints are also due to Puget.

With these added constraints, the model becomes solvable. Here are the results using CPLEX 6.0 and 6.5 on a 400 MHz Pentium II Laptop running a Linux operating system:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| CPLEX 6.0: | 142 seconds | 169090 nodes |
| CPLEX 6.5: | 16 seconds | 9807 nodes |

So, this is a case where good modeling makes the biggest difference, but having a stronger code is also valuable.

5. SUMMARY

In this paper we have discussed recent advances in linear and mixed-integer programming. The linear-programming improvements were most striking for larger models, but are effective for small and medium-sized models as well. One important consequence of this work is that for large models barrier algorithms are no longer dominant; each of primal and dual simplex, and barrier is now the winning choice in a significant number of cases.

For mixed-integer programming, the improvements were dramatic. These resulted from mining an extensive backlog of theoretical ideas from the scientific literatures for integer programming and combinatorial optimization. Particular attention was given to developing good default

implementations of these ideas so that they could be applied in concert, each helping on the problems to which they applied, while causing a minimal degradation in performance when they didn't apply.

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Appendix: Problem Size Statistics

Table 1 Large LP Statistics

| Model | Rows | Columns | Nonzeros | Model | Rows | Columns | Nonzeros |
|-------|-------|---------|----------|-------|--------|---------|----------|
| LP01 | 10295 | 50040 | 150110 | LP36 | 30190 | 57000 | 623730 |
| LP02 | 13005 | 77133 | 361567 | LP37 | 30258 | 492266 | 1162517 |
| LP03 | 14738 | 33025 | 151383 | LP38 | 31770 | 272372 | 829040 |
| LP04 | 15014 | 37372 | 103866 | LP39 | 33440 | 56624 | 161831 |
| LP05 | 15051 | 34553 | 132295 | LP40 | 34994 | 87510 | 208179 |
| LP06 | 15349 | 35215 | 162709 | LP41 | 35519 | 43582 | 557466 |
| LP07 | 15455 | 59942 | 225514 | LP42 | 35645 | 34675 | 208769 |
| LP08 | 15540 | 23752 | 86753 | LP43 | 36400 | 92878 | 246006 |
| LP09 | 16223 | 28568 | 88340 | LP44 | 38782 | 261079 | 1508199 |
| LP10 | 16768 | 39474 | 203112 | LP45 | 39951 | 125000 | 381259 |
| LP11 | 17681 | 165188 | 690273 | LP46 | 41340 | 64162 | 370839 |
| LP12 | 18262 | 23211 | 136324 | LP47 | 41344 | 163569 | 1928534 |
| LP13 | 18750 | 84375 | 9993717 | LP48 | 41366 | 78750 | 2110518 |
| LP14 | 19103 | 33490 | 276895 | LP49 | 43387 | 107164 | 189864 |
| LP15 | 19374 | 180670 | 5392558 | LP50 | 43687 | 164831 | 722066 |
| LP16 | 19519 | 45832 | 124280 | LP51 | 44150 | 200077 | 4966017 |
| LP17 | 19844 | 55528 | 152952 | LP52 | 44211 | 37199 | 321663 |
| LP18 | 19999 | 85191 | 170369 | LP53 | 47423 | 81915 | 228565 |
| LP19 | 21019 | 115761 | 728432 | LP54 | 48097 | 150138 | 1195800 |
| LP20 | 22513 | 99785 | 337746 | LP55 | 48548 | 163200 | 617683 |
| LP21 | 22797 | 63995 | 172018 | LP56 | 54447 | 326504 | 1807146 |
| LP22 | 23610 | 44063 | 154822 | LP57 | 55020 | 117910 | 391081 |
| LP23 | 23700 | 23005 | 169045 | LP58 | 55463 | 191233 | 840986 |
| LP24 | 23712 | 31680 | 81245 | LP59 | 60384 | 100078 | 485414 |
| LP25 | 24377 | 46592 | 2139096 | LP60 | 63856 | 144693 | 717229 |
| LP26 | 26618 | 38904 | 1067713 | LP61 | 66185 | 157496 | 418321 |
| LP27 | 27349 | 97710 | 288421 | LP62 | 67745 | 111891 | 305125 |
| LP28 | 27441 | 15128 | 96118 | LP63 | 69418 | 612608 | 1722112 |
| LP29 | 27899 | 26243 | 261968 | LP64 | 72258 | 226090 | 2242086 |
| LP30 | 28240 | 55200 | 161640 | LP65 | 84840 | 316800 | 1899600 |
| LP31 | 28420 | 164024 | 505253 | LP66 | 95011 | 197489 | 749771 |
| LP32 | 29002 | 111722 | 2632880 | LP67 | 99578 | 326504 | 2102273 |
| LP33 | 29017 | 20074 | 2001102 | LP68 | 105127 | 154699 | 358171 |
| LP34 | 29147 | 9984 | 1013168 | LP69 | 108393 | 112955 | 602948 |
| LP35 | 29724 | 98124 | 196524 | LP70 | 118158 | 487427 | 974854 |

Table 1 (continued) Large LP Statistics

| Model | Rows | Columns | Nonzeros | Model | Rows | Columns | Nonzeros |
|-------|--------|---------|----------|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| LP71 | 123964 | 93288 | 459680 | LP81 | 269640 | 1205640 | 6481640 |
| LP72 | 125211 | 159109 | 457198 | LP82 | 280756 | 920198 | 5936426 |
| LP73 | 129181 | 467192 | 1025706 | LP83 | 319256 | 638512 | 1231403 |
| LP74 | 155265 | 377918 | 930166 | LP84 | 344297 | 559428 | 1909649 |
| LP75 | 175147 | 358239 | 1211488 | LP85 | 363458 | 146096 | 11470110 |
| LP76 | 179080 | 707556 | 1570514 | LP86 | 589250 | 1533590 | 5327318 |
| LP77 | 185929 | 189867 | 2787708 | LP87 | 716772 | 1169910 | 2511088 |
| LP78 | 186441 | 23732 | 397080 | LP88 | 1000000 | 1685236 | 3370472 |
| LP79 | 209760 | 363092 | 1061495 | LP89 | 1204750 | 1229623 | 4693571 |
| LP80 | 238969 | 772273 | 5795991 | LP90 | 1709857 | 1903725 | 4959650 |

Table 2 Large MIP Statistics

| Model | Rows | Columns | Binaries | GIs |
|-------|------|---------|----------|------|
| MIP01 | 230 | 2025 | 1800 | 0 |
| MIP02 | 759 | 17561 | 17561 | 0 |
| MIP03 | 4089 | 121871 | 121870 | 1 |
| MIP04 | 4116 | 41428 | 41427 | 1 |
| MIP05 | 823 | 8904 | 8904 | 0 |
| MIP06 | 426 | 7195 | 7195 | 0 |
| MIP07 | 1095 | 11005 | 10940 | 65 |
| MIP08 | 1838 | 807 | 807 | 0 |
| MIP09 | 1048 | 1388 | 415 | 123 |
| MIP10 | 2597 | 2288 | 1166 | 1122 |
| MIP11 | 123 | 133 | 39 | 32 |
| MIP12 | 105 | 117 | 34 | 30 |
| MIP13 | 91 | 104 | 30 | 28 |
| MIP14 | 8619 | 5428 | 1305 | 2 |
| MIP15 | 37 | 526 | 526 | 0 |
| MIP16 | 396 | 162 | 146 | 8 |
| MIP17 | 631 | 783 | 28 | 0 |
| MIP18 | 2176 | 6000 | 6000 | 0 |
| MIP19 | 113 | 392 | 391 | 0 |
| MIP20 | 236 | 1282 | 1277 | 0 |
| MIP21 | 827 | 961 | 152 | 0 |
| MIP22 | 2588 | 435 | 435 | 0 |
| MIP23 | 15 | 154 | 0 | 153 |
| MIP24 | 852 | 1337 | 19 | 0 |
| MIP25 | 80 | 500 | 500 | 0 |
| MIP26 | 4036 | 769 | 190 | 0 |
| MIP27 | 41 | 49 | 0 | 30 |
| MIP28 | 516 | 47311 | 47311 | 0 |
| MIP29 | 582 | 55515 | 55515 | 0 |
| MIP30 | 363 | 1298 | 1254 | 0 |

Table 2 (continued) Large MIP Statistics

| Model | Rows | Columns | Binaries | GIs |
|-------|-------|---------|----------|------|
| MIP31 | 2291 | 1992 | 174 | 12 |
| MIP32 | 6256 | 8537 | 197 | 0 |
| MIP33 | 1392 | 1224 | 240 | 168 |
| MIP34 | 1392 | 1224 | 240 | 168 |
| MIP35 | 1248 | 1224 | 384 | 336 |
| MIP36 | 1368 | 1152 | 216 | 168 |
| MIP37 | 1224 | 1152 | 336 | 336 |
| MIP38 | 2407 | 1214 | 802 | 0 |
| MIP39 | 3147 | 2505 | 388 | 1 |
| MIP40 | 192 | 845 | 845 | 0 |
| MIP41 | 1799 | 1008 | 0 | 1008 |
| MIP42 | 43 | 51 | 0 | 39 |
| MIP43 | 146 | 578 | 444 | 0 |
| MIP44 | 2094 | 5592 | 443 | 3212 |
| MIP45 | 684 | 1564 | 235 | 0 |
| MIP46 | 68 | 151 | 150 | 0 |
| MIP47 | 13 | 151 | 150 | 0 |
| MIP48 | 12 | 151 | 150 | 0 |
| MIP49 | 148 | 1280 | 1280 | 0 |
| MIP50 | 788 | 645 | 140 | 0 |
| MIP51 | 212 | 260 | 259 | 0 |
| MIP52 | 2054 | 10724 | 10724 | 0 |
| MIP53 | 908 | 129 | 31 | 0 |
| MIP54 | 4480 | 10958 | 96 | 0 |
| MIP55 | 291 | 422 | 98 | 0 |
| MIP56 | 2280 | 1090 | 0 | 1090 |
| MIP57 | 36 | 87482 | 87482 | 0 |
| MIP58 | 176 | 548 | 548 | 0 |
| MIP59 | 755 | 2756 | 2756 | 0 |
| MIP60 | 45 | 86 | 55 | 0 |
| MIP61 | 246 | 240 | 64 | 0 |
| MIP62 | 1192 | 840 | 48 | 0 |
| MIP63 | 2984 | 1451 | 1451 | 0 |
| MIP64 | 291 | 556 | 300 | 15 |
| MIP65 | 249 | 690 | 690 | 0 |
| MIP66 | 314 | 5111 | 41 | 0 |
| MIP67 | 20022 | 17665 | 17664 | 0 |
| MIP68 | 23259 | 29342 | 13215 | 0 |
| MIP69 | 524 | 1197 | 1100 | 96 |
| MIP70 | 331 | 45 | 45 | 0 |
| MIP71 | 146 | 578 | 444 | 0 |
| MIP72 | 42 | 17419 | 17419 | 0 |
| MIP73 | 3228 | 15541 | 15540 | 0 |
| MIP74 | 1359 | 1959 | 0 | 1959 |
| MIP75 | 234 | 378 | 168 | 0 |
| MIP76 | 234 | 378 | 168 | 0 |
| MIP77 | 4277 | 2417 | 1364 | 0 |
| MIP78 | 845 | 3345 | 235 | 0 |
| MIP79 | 10108 | 3836 | 1862 | 0 |
| MIP80 | 27 | 26306 | 26306 | 0 |

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