

Examination Scheduling

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May 25, 2016

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Outline

Problem

Modeling The Problem

Next Steps

PROBLEM

Problem

Find a good examination schedule for the exam period of the TUM.

Criteria for a good examination schedule

- Each exam is planned in exactly one period

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- In each room there is only one exam at a time
- There are enough seats for each exam
- No student has to write two exams at the same time
- Rooms for an exam are minimized
- Time between exams is maximized

MODELING THE PROBLEM

Variables

$$x_{i,k,l} := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if exam } i \text{ is written in period } l \text{ in room } k \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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$$y_{i,l} := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if exam } i \text{ is written in period } l \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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$$(2) \quad \sum_{\text{rooms } k} x_{i,k,l} \geq y_{i,l} \quad \forall \text{ exams } i, \forall \text{ periods } l$$

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$$(\text{c.f. } 2) \quad \sum_{\text{rooms } k} x_{i,k,l} \geq y_{i,l} \quad \forall \text{ exams } i, \forall \text{ periods } l$$

Constraints

- There are enough seats for the students in the exam rooms:

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$$(4) \quad \sum_{\substack{\text{periods } l, \\ \text{rooms } k}} c_k \cdot x_{i,k,l} \geq s_i \quad \forall \text{ exams } i$$

$s_i := \#$ students taking exam i

$c_k := \#$ seats in room k

Constraints

- In every room there is at most one exam at a given time:

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$$(5) \quad \sum_{\text{exams } i} x_{i,k,l} \leq 1 \quad \forall \text{ rooms } k, \forall \text{ periods } l$$

Constraints

- There are no conflicts for students taking multiple exams:

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$$(6) \quad \sum_{\substack{\text{exams } j, \\ j \text{ conflicts with } i}} y_{j,l} \leq (1 - y_{i,l}) \cdot M \quad \forall \text{exams } i, \forall \text{periods } l$$

Objective function

- Minimize the total number of rooms:

(a)
$$\min \sum_{\substack{\text{exams } i, \\ \text{rooms } k, \\ \text{periods } l}} x_{i,k,l}$$

Objective function

- Maximize the time between two exams:

$$(b) \quad \max \sum_{\substack{\text{exams } i,j \\ i \text{ conflicts with } j}} d_{i,j}$$

$d_{i,j} :=$ distance between exams i and j

Objective function

- Combine the previous two objective functions using a weighting factor $\gamma > 0$:

$$(a,b) \quad \min \sum_{\substack{\text{exams } i, \\ \text{rooms } k, \\ \text{periods } l}} x_{i,k,l} - \gamma \cdot \sum_{\substack{\text{exams } i,j \\ i \text{ conflicts with } j}} d_{i,j}$$

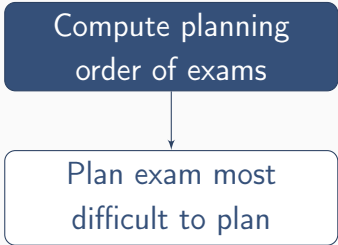
NEXT STEPS

Finding a feasible starting solution

Compute planning
order of exams

Finding a feasible starting solution

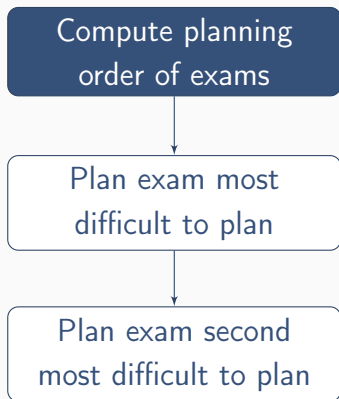
Compute planning
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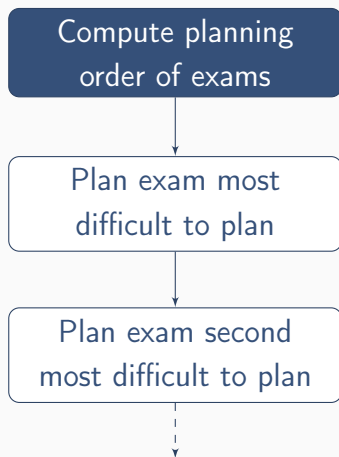
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graph TD; A[Compute planning order of exams] --> B[Plan exam most difficult to plan];
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Plan exam most
difficult to plan

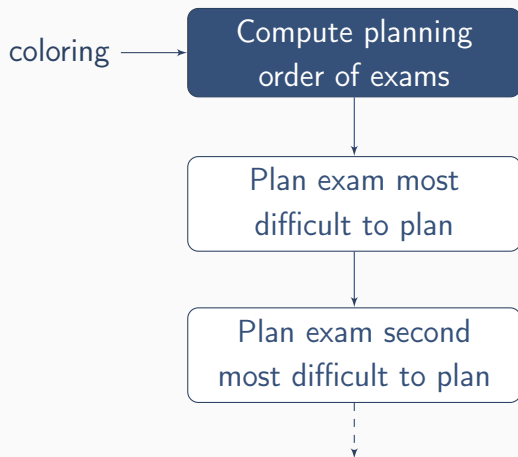
Finding a feasible starting solution



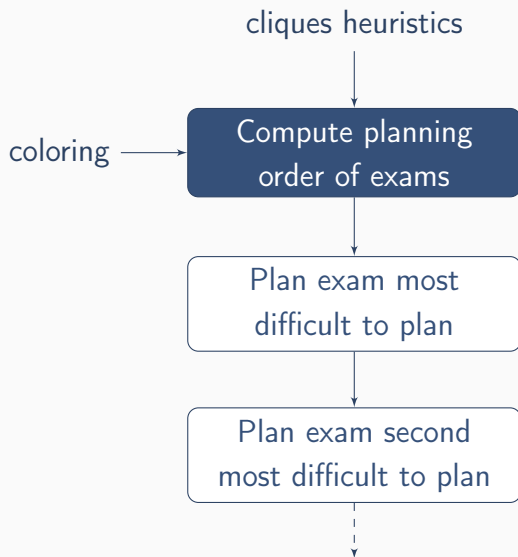
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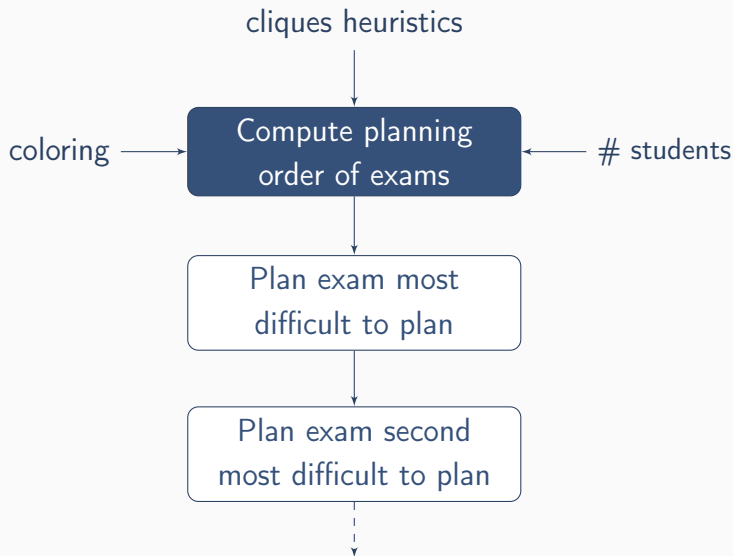
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- Use a path-based model and column generation.

Data acquisition



Figure 1: Server, hopefully somewhere in Germany