

On the nested p-center problem



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Definition

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 - distances d_{ij} from location $i \in V$ to $j \in V$
- we want to
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 - the maximum distance of any location to its closest opened location is minimized.

The nesting property



Definition I

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 a feasible solution to the nested *p*-center problem consists of a set J^h ⊆ V



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 - for which $\mathcal{J}^h \subseteq \mathcal{J}^{h+1}$ for $h = 1, \dots, H-1$ holds
- the goal is to find a feasible solution which minimizes $\sum_{h=1}^{H} d_h(\mathcal{J}^h)$,
 - where $d_h(\mathcal{J}) = \max_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \min_{j \in \mathcal{J}} d_{ij}$ for $h \in \mathcal{H}$.

p-center problem vs nested p-center problem





The nested p-center problem: Potential applications



2024-02-28

Decision variables

 $y_j^h \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if location } j \text{ is open in} \\ & \text{time period } h \end{cases}$

open facility in period h

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 $z^h \dots$ maximum distance between any customer i and its nearest open facility in period h

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(nPC2) based on Gaar and Sinnl 2022

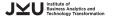
$$\min \qquad \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} z^h \tag{1a}$$

s.t.
$$\sum_{j \in V} y_j^h = p^h \qquad \forall h \in \mathcal{H}$$
 (1b)

$$z^h \geq d_{ij} - \sum_{j':d_{ij'} < d_{ij}} (d_{ij} - d_{ij'}) y_{j'}^h \qquad \forall i, j \in V, h \in \mathcal{H} \quad (1c)$$
 $y_j^h \geq y_j^{h-1} \qquad \forall j \in V, \forall h \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{1\} \quad (1d)$

$$y_j^h \ge y_j^{h-1}$$
 $\forall j \in V, \forall h \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{1\}$ (1d)

$$(y,z) \in |V| |\mathcal{H}| \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$$
 (1e)



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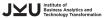
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Decision variables (nPC3) based on Ales and Elloumi 2018 $\sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} z^h \qquad (2a)$ $\sum_{j \in V} y_j^h = p^h \quad \forall h \in \mathcal{H}$ min $y_j^h \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if location } j \text{ is open in} \\ & \text{time period } h \\ 0 \dots \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$ s.t. $D_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K (D_k - D_{k-1}) u_k^h \le z^h \quad \forall h \in \mathcal{H}$ $y_j^h \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if location } j \text{ is open in} \\ & \text{time period } h \\ 0 \dots \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$ $u_k^h + \sum_{j: d_{ij} < D_k} y_j^h \ge 1 \quad \forall i \in V, \forall h \in \mathcal{H}, \forall h \in \mathcal{H}$ z^h... maximum distance between any

(2d)

Related work





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p-center problem

- First introduction of the *p*-center problem by Hakimi (1964)
- The standard textbook formulation of the *p*-center problem can be found in Daskin (2013)
- Solution approach based on the set cover problem by Contardo, Iori, and Kramer (2018)
- A compact formulation by Ales and Elloumi (2018) and Elloumi, Labbé, and Pochet (2004)
- A formulation with a projection-based branch-and-cut algorithm for the p-center problem by Gaar and Sinnl (2022)

Nested facility location problems

- First introduction of the nesting property and constraint by Roodman and Schwarz (1975)
- Extension of the nesting to a phase-in and phase-out by Roodman and Schwarz (1977)
- Reintroduction of the nesting on the example of the p-median problem by McGarvey and Thorsen (2022)
- Other work on multi-period facility locations problems mainly focus on varying demand, distances, or cost over time f.e. Calogiuri et al. (2021)

Mixed Integer Linear Programming formulations



First MILP formulation

Decision variables

$$x_{ij}^h \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if customer } i \text{ is assigned to facility location } j \text{ in period } h \\ 0 \dots \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$



First MILP formulation

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$$x_{ij}^h \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if customer } i \text{ is assigned to facility location } j \text{ in period } h \\ 0 \dots \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 $y_j^h \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if a facility is opened at location } j \text{ in period } h \\ 0 \dots \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$

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 z^h ... maximum distance between any customer i and its nearest open facility in period h

Second MILP formulation

(nPC2) min
$$\sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} z^h$$
 (3a)
s.t. $\sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} y_j^h = p^h$ $\forall h \in \mathcal{H}$ (3b)

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$$z^h \geq d_{ij} - \sum_{j':d_{ij'} < d_{ij}} (d_{ij} - d_{ij'}) y^h_{j'} \qquad \forall i \in \mathcal{I}, j \in \mathcal{J}, h \in \mathcal{H}$$
 (3c)

$$y_j^h \ge y_j^{h-1}$$
 $\forall j \in \mathcal{J}, h \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{1\}$ (3d)

$$y_j^h \in \{0, 1\}$$
 $\forall j \in \mathcal{J}, h \in \mathcal{H}$ (3e)

$$z^h \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \qquad \forall h \in \mathcal{H} \tag{3f}$$

Third MILP formulation

 \mathcal{D} ... set of distinct distances where $\mathcal{D}_0 < \cdots < \mathcal{D}_K$ are the values in \mathcal{D}



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Third formulation

(nPC3) min
$$\sum_{h\in\mathcal{H}} z^h \qquad (4a)$$
s.t.
$$\sum_{j\in\mathcal{J}} y_j^h = p^h \qquad \forall h\in\mathcal{H} \qquad (4b)$$

$$D_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K (D_k - D_{k-1}) u_k^h \leq z^h \qquad \forall h\in\mathcal{H} \qquad (4c)$$

$$u_k^h + \sum_{j:d_{ij} < D_k} y_j^h \geq 1 \qquad \forall i\in\mathcal{I}, \forall h\in\mathcal{H}, \forall k\in\mathcal{S}_i \cup \{K\} \qquad (4d)$$

$$u_k^h \geq u_{k+1}^h \qquad \forall h\in\mathcal{H}, \forall k\in\mathcal{K} \setminus \{K\} \qquad (4e)$$

$$y_j^h \leq y_j^{h-1} \qquad \forall h\in\mathcal{H}, \forall j\in\mathcal{J} \qquad (4f)$$

$$y_j^h \in \{0,1\} \qquad \forall h\in\mathcal{H}, \forall k\in\mathcal{K} \qquad (4h)$$

$$z^h \in \mathbb{R} \qquad \forall h\in\mathcal{H} \qquad (4i)$$

Comparing formulations

Table: Comparison of complexity of the formulations

	(nPC1)	(nPC2)	(nPC3)
Variables	$\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I} \mathcal{J} \mathcal{H})$	$\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{J} \mathcal{H})$	$\mathcal{O}((\mathcal{I} + \mathcal{K}) \mathcal{H})$
Constraints	$\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I} \mathcal{J} \mathcal{H})$	$\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I} \mathcal{J} \mathcal{H})$	$\mathcal{O}(\min(\mathcal{I} \mathcal{J} , \mathcal{I} \mathcal{K}) \mathcal{H})$

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The pCP version of formulation (nPC3) has the best known linear programming (\mathcal{LP})-bounds for the pCP, while the pCP versions of (nPC1) and (nPC2) have equally but worse \mathcal{LP} -bounds.

Reducing set K in (nPC3)

Lemma 1

Let \underline{z}^h be a valid lower bound and \overline{z}^h be a valid upper bound on the decision variable z^h for $h \in \mathcal{H}$, then the distinct distance D_k can only be the optimal distance for z^h if $\underline{z}^h \leq D^k \leq \overline{z}^h$ holds.

Therfore let set $S_i^h \subseteq S_i$ for $h \in \mathcal{H}$, where S_i^h contains only the indices k where $\underline{z}^h \leq D^k \leq \overline{z}^h$ holds and constraint (4d) can be replaced with

$$u_k^h + \sum_{i:d_i < D_h} y_j^h \ge 1 \qquad \forall i \in \mathcal{I}, \forall h \in \mathcal{H}, \forall k \in \mathcal{S}_i^h \cup \{K\}$$
 (5)

Depending on the bounds \underline{z}^h and \overline{z}^h the sets S_i^h can be much smaller than S_i .



Strengthening constraints (nPC2)

Lemma 2

Let LB_h be a lower bound on the decision variable z_h of (nPC2) for every $i \in \mathcal{I}$, $j \in \mathcal{I}$ $\mathcal{J}, h \in \mathcal{H}$ then

$$z^h \ge max\{LB^h, d_{ij}\} - \sum_{j': d_{ij'} < d_{ij}} (max\{LB^h, d_{ij}\} - max\{LB^h, d_{ij'}\})y_{j'}^h$$
 (nL-OPT)

is a valid inequality for (nPC2), i.e., every feasible solution of (nPC2) fulfills (nL-OPT). Theorem is based on Lemma 5 in Gaar and Sinnl (2022).

A similar strengthening can be done for (??) in fromulation (nPC1).

Obtaining bounds I

Lemma 3

Let z'^{h*} be the optimal objective function value of pCP with $p = p^h$ for $h \in \mathcal{H} = \{1, 2, ..., H\}$ where $p^h > p^{h+1}$, then $UB = Hz'^{1*}$ is a valid upper bound on the optimal objective function value of n-pCP.

Then

$$\overline{z^h} = \frac{UB - \sum_{x=h+1}^{H} z'^{x*}}{h+1}$$

where $\overline{z^h}$ is a valid upper bound on the decision variable z^h of the n-pCP for $h \in \mathcal{H}$.

Obtaining bounds II

Lemma 4

Let z'^* be the optimal objective function value of pCP for a certain p'. Then z'^* is a valid lower bound \underline{z}^h on the decision variable z^h of n-pCP with $p^h = p'$.



Implementation and outline of the results



Implementation

- Implemented in C++ using the CPLEX API of CPLEX 20.1.0.0
- Formulation (nPC2) solved by branch-and-cut and seperation based on the customers
- Preprocessing for all formulations
 - solving the *p*CP for p^h , $h \in \mathcal{H}$ starting with h = H
 - $\circ p^h$ is a valid lower bound for the pCP with p^{h-1}
- Single core of an Intel Xeon X5570 machine
 - o 2.93 GHz
 - 48 GB RAM
 - Each run limited to 9 GB RAM and 3600 sec

Data

- data set PMED from "A note on solving large p-median problems" by Beasley (1985)
 - o set of 40 test instances
 - the sets contain between 100 and 900 nodes
 - o number of facilities to open initially ranging from 5 to 200

$$\mathcal{P} = \{p, p + 1, p + 2\}$$

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- data set PMED from "A note on solving large p-median problems" by Beasley (1985)
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 - $\circ \mathcal{P} = \{p, p + 1, p + 2\}$
- data set TSPLIB 2D-Euclidean distances from "TSPLIB—A Traveling Salesman Problem Library" by Reinelt (1991)
 - set of 80 test instances
 - the sets contain between 51 and 1002 nodes
 - o rounded to the nearest integer value
 - $\circ \mathcal{P} = \{4, 5, 6\}$



Preprocessing



Figure: Preprocessing



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(nPC1)-results





(nPC2)-results





(nPC3)-results





Formulation comparison





Managerial insights



Figure: On a subset of instances: Only if the problem was solved to optimality



Conclusion

- (nPC3) had the best runtimes over all instances
- For optimality gap the results are rather mixed
- The (nPC2) outperforms the (nPC1)
- Maximal relative regret of the objective value of 15%
- Maximal relative regret of number of facilities above 140%
- min-max regret as objective function was also analysed and can be found later in the thesis



On the nested p-center problem



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Formulations with non optimal instances





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Decision variables $x_{ij}^{h} \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if location } i \text{ is assigned to} \\ \text{location } j \text{ in time period } h \\ 0 \dots \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$

Decision variables $X_{ij}^{h} \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if location } i \text{ is assigned to} \\ & \text{location } j \text{ in time period } h \end{cases}$ $y_j^h \dots \begin{cases} 1 \dots \text{ if location } j \text{ is open in } \\ & \text{time period } h \\ 0 \dots \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$

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in period h

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z^h... maximum distance between any customer i and its nearest open facility in period h

(nPC1) based on Daskin 2013

min
$$\sum z^h$$
 (6a)

s.t.
$$\sum_{j \in V} y_j^h = p^h \qquad \forall h \in \mathcal{H}$$
 (6b)

$$\sum_{j\in V} x_{ij}^h = 1 \qquad \forall i\in V, h\in \mathcal{H} \qquad (6c)$$

$$x_{ij}^h \leq y_j^h \qquad \forall i, j \in V, h \in \mathcal{H}$$
 (6d)

$$\sum_{j \in V} d_{ij} x_{ij}^h \le z^h \qquad \forall i \in V, h \in \mathcal{H} \qquad \text{(6e)}$$

$$y_j^h \ge y_j^{h-1} \quad \forall h \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{1\}$$
 (6f)

$$(x,y,z)\in |V|^2|\mathcal{H}|\times |V||\mathcal{H}| imes \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$
 (6g