

DM545/DM871
Linear and Integer Programming

Branch and Bound

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Outline

Branch and Bound

1. Branch and Bound

Outline

Branch and Bound

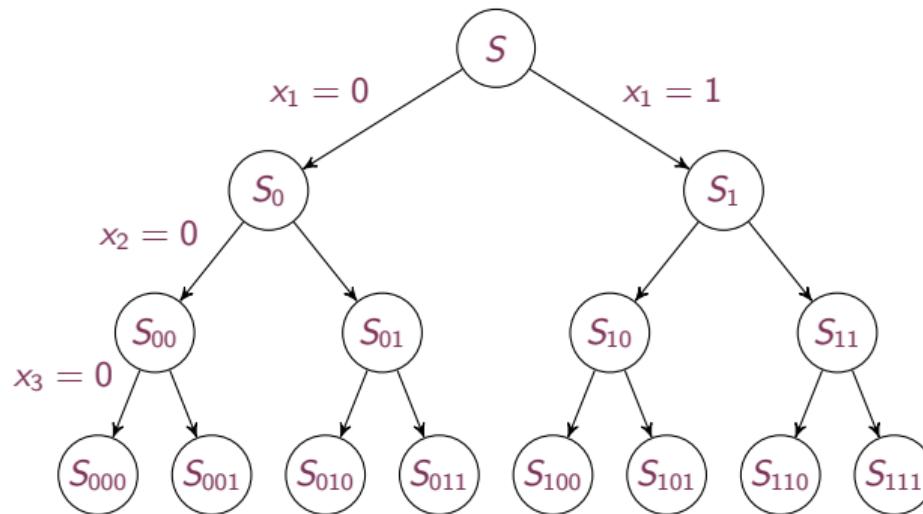
1. Branch and Bound

Branch and Bound

Branch and Bound

- Consider the problem $z = \max\{\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in S\}$
- Divide and conquer: let $S = S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_k$ be a decomposition of S into smaller sets, and let $z^k = \max\{\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in S_k\}$ for $k = 1, \dots, K$. Then $z = \max_k z^k$

For instance if $S \subseteq \{0, 1\}^3$ the enumeration tree is:

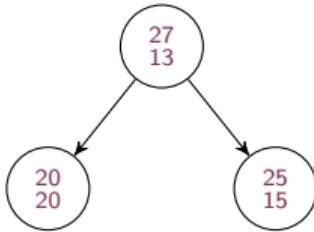


Let's consider a maximization problem

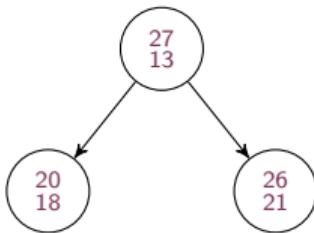
- Let \bar{z}^k be an **upper bound** on z^k (dual bound)
- Let \underline{z}^k be a **lower bound** on z^k (primal bound)
- $(\underline{z}^k \leq z^k \leq \bar{z}^k)$
- $\bar{z} = \max_k \bar{z}^k$ is an **upper bound** on z
- $\underline{z} = \max_k \underline{z}^k$ is a **lower bound** on z

Pruning (Fathoming)

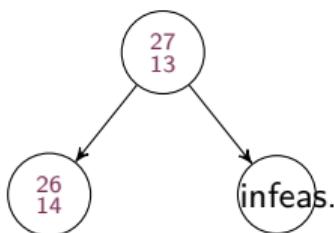
Branch and Bound



$\bar{z} = 25$
 $\underline{z} = 20$
pruned by optimality



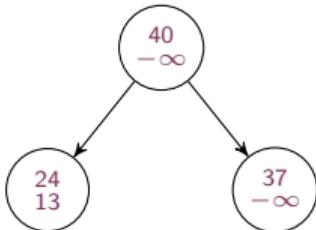
$\bar{z} = 26$
 $\underline{z} = 21$
pruned by bounding



$\bar{z} = 26$
 $\underline{z} = 14$
pruned by infeasibility

Pruning

Branch and Bound



$$\bar{z} = 37$$

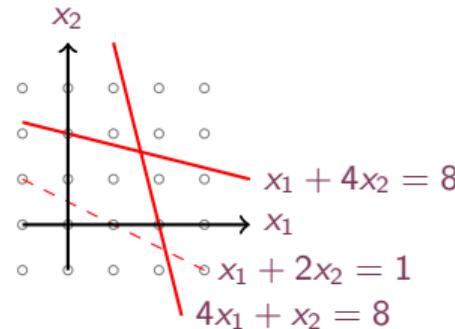
$$\underline{z} = 13$$

nothing to prune

LP Based Branch & Bound: Example

Branch and Bound

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & x_1 + 2x_2 \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + 4x_2 \leq 8 \\
 & 4x_1 + x_2 \leq 8 \\
 & x_1, x_2 \geq 0, \text{ integer}
 \end{aligned}$$



- Solve LP

	x1	x2	x3	x4	-z	b
	1	4	1	0	0	8
	4	1	0	1	0	8
	1	2	0	0	1	0
	x1	x2	x3	x4	-z	b
I' = I - II'	0	15/4	1	-1/4	0	6
II' = 1/4II	1	1/4	0	1/4	0	2
III' = III - II'	0	7/4	0	-1/4	0	-2

- continuing

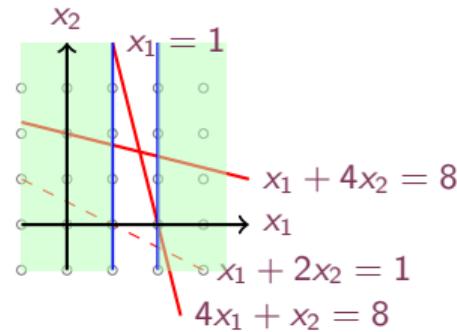
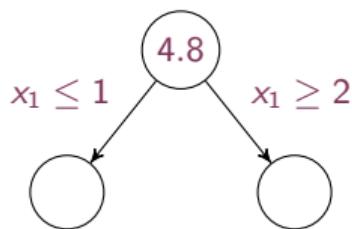
	x1	x2	x3	x4	-z	b
I' = I/15I	0	1	4/15	-1/15	0	24/15
II' = II - 1/4I'	1	0	-1/15	4/15	0	24/15
III' = III - 7/4I'	0	0	-7/15	-3/5	1	-2-14/5

$$x_2 = 1 + 3/5 = 1.6$$

$$x_1 = 8/5$$

The optimal solution will not be more than $2 + 14/5 = 4.8$

- Both variables are fractional, we pick one of the two:



- Let's consider first the left branch:

	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	-z	b	
	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	0	1	4/15	-1/15	0	0	24/15	
	1	0	-1/15	4/15	0	0	24/15	
	0	0	-7/15	-3/5	0	1	-24/5	

	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	b	-z	
I' = I - III	0	0	1/15	-4/15	1	0	-9/15	
	0	1	4/15	-1/15	0	0	24/15	
	1	0	-1/15	4/15	0	0	24/15	
	0	0	-7/15	-3/5	0	1	-24/5	

	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	b	-z	
I' = -15/4I	0	0	-1/4	1	-15/4	0	9/4	
II' = II - 1/4I	0	1	15/60	0	-1/4	0	7/4	
III' = III + I	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	0	0	-37/60	0	-9/4	1	-90/20	

always a b term negative after branching:

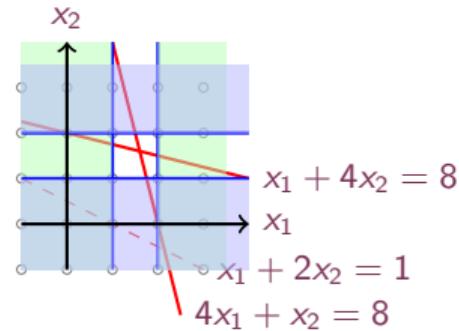
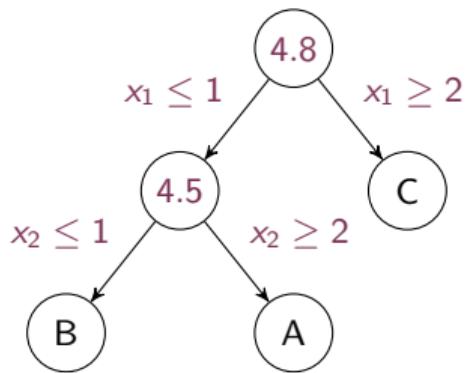
$$b_1 = \lfloor \bar{b}_3 \rfloor$$

$$\bar{b}_1 = \lfloor \bar{b}_3 \rfloor - \bar{b}_3 < 0$$

Dual simplex:

$$\min_j \left\{ \left| \frac{c_j}{a_{ij}} \right| : a_{ij} < 0 \right\}$$

- Let's branch again



We have three open problems. Which one do we choose next?
Let's take A.

	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	b	-z	
	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0	-2	
	0	0	-1/4	1	-15/4	0	9/4		
	0	1	15/60	0	-1/4	0	7/4		
	1	0	0	0	1	0	1		
	0	0	-37/60	0	-9/4	1	-9/2		
	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	b	-z	
	III+I	0	0	1/4	0	-1/4	1	0	-1/4
	0	0	-1/4	1	-15/4	0	9/4		
	0	1	15/60	0	-1/4	0	7/4		
	1	0	0	0	1	0	1		
	0	0	-37/60	0	-9/4	1	-9/2		

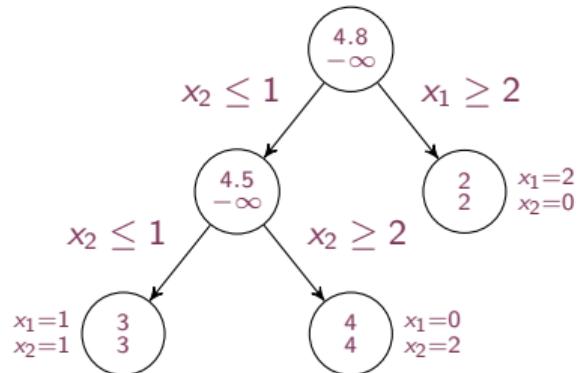
continuing we find:

$$x_1 = 0$$

$$x_2 = 2$$

$$OPT = 4$$

The final tree:



The optimal solution is 4.

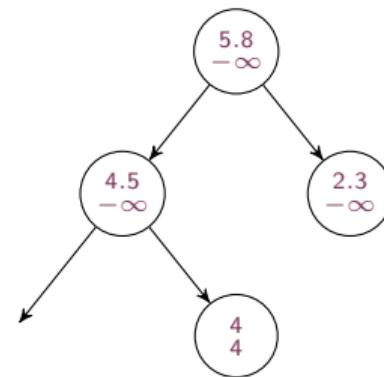
Pruning

Branch and Bound

Pruning:

1. by optimality: $\underline{z}^k = \max\{c^T x : x \in S^k\}$
2. by bound $\bar{z}^k \leq \underline{z}$

Example:



3. by infeasibility $S^k = \emptyset$

Bounding:

1. LP relaxation
2. Lagrangian relaxation
3. Combinatorial relaxation
4. Duality

Branching:

$$\begin{aligned}S_1 &= S \cap \{x : x_j \leq \lfloor \bar{x}_j \rfloor\} \\S_2 &= S \cap \{x : x_j \geq \lceil \bar{x}_j \rceil\}\end{aligned}$$

thus the current optimum is not feasible in S_1 and in S_2 .

Which variable to choose?

Eg: Most fractional variable $\arg \max_{j \in C} \min\{f_j, 1 - f_j\}$, ($f_j = x_j - \lfloor x_j \rfloor$)

Choosing Node for Examination from the list of active (or open):

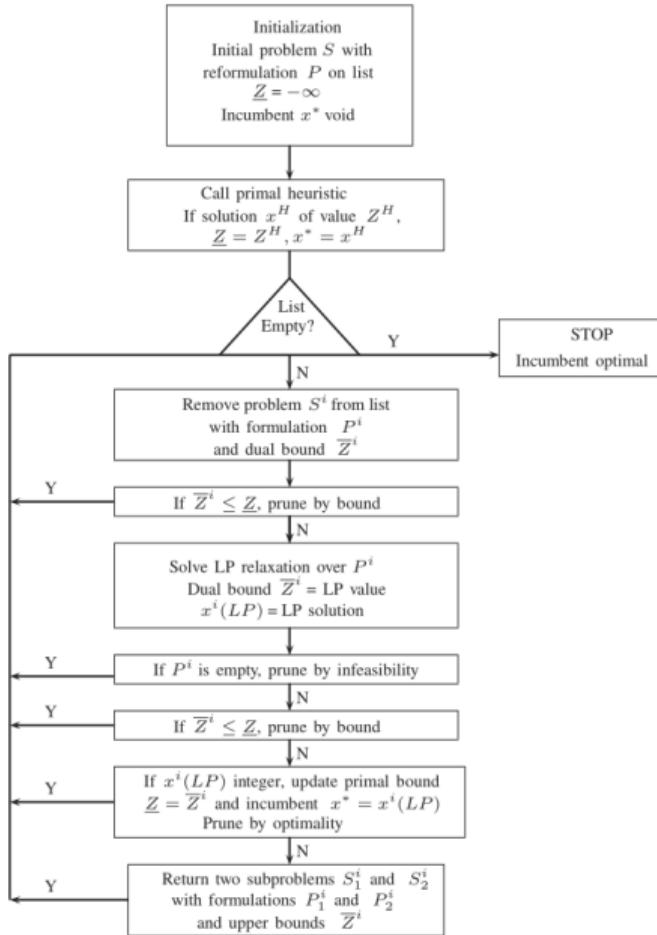
- Depth First Search (a good primal sol. is good for pruning + easier to reoptimize by just adding a new constraint)
- Best Bound First: (eg. largest upper: $\bar{z}^s = \max_k \bar{z}^k$ or largest lower - to die fast)
- Mixed strategies

Reoptimizing: dual simplex

Updating the Incumbent: when new best feasible solution is found:

$$\underline{z} = \max\{\underline{z}, 4\}$$

Store the active nodes: bounds + optimal basis (remember the revised simplex!)



$$Z = \max\{cx \mid x \in S\}$$

[Wolsey, 2021] **Lazy strategy:**

1. selection
2. LP calculation
3. pruning
4. branching
5. queue insertion

open nodes are stored with the bound
of their father

```

Branch-and-Bound Algorithm ;
begin
1.    $m := 1$ ;  $parent[1] := 0$ ;  $Q := \emptyset$ ;
     $z_{OPT} :=$  heuristic solution value (possibly  $+\infty$ );
2.   solve the continuous relaxation  $\min\{c^T x : Ax = b, x \geq 0\}$ , and let
     $x^*$  be the optimal solution found;
3.    $LB[1] := c^T x^*$  ;
4.   if ( $x^*$  integer) and ( $c^T x^* < z_{OPT}$ ) then
    begin
         $x_{OPT} = x^*$ ;  $z_{OPT} := c^T x^*$ 
    end ;
5.   if  $LB[1] < z_{OPT}$  then
    begin
        choose the fractional branching variable  $x_h^*$  ;
         $vbranch[1] := h$ ;  $value[1] := x_h^*$ ;
         $Q := \{1\}$ 
    end ;
6.   while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do /* process the active open nodes*/
    begin
7.       choose a node  $t \in Q$ , and set  $Q := Q \setminus \{t\}$  ;
8.        $h := vbranch[t]$ ;  $val := value[t]$  ;
9.       for  $child := 1$  to 2 do /* generate the children of node  $t$  */
    begin
10.           $m := m + 1$  ;
            if  $child = 1$ 
                then  $parent[m] := t$ 
            else  $parent[m] := -t$  ;
11.          define problem  $PL_m$  associated with node  $m$ 
            (constraints of  $PL_t$  plus  $x_h \leq [val]$  if  $child = 1$ ,
             or  $x_h \geq [val]$  if  $child = 2$  );
12.          solve problem  $PL_m$ , and let  $x^*$  be the optimal solution found ;
13.           $LB[m] := c^T x^*$  ;
14.          if ( $x^*$  integer) and ( $c^T x^* < z_{OPT}$ ) then
            begin /* update the optimal solution */
                 $x_{OPT} := x^*$ ;  $z_{OPT} := c^T x^*$  ;
                 $Q := Q \setminus \{j \in Q : LB[j] \geq z_{OPT}\}$ 
            end ;
15.          if  $LB[m] < z_{OPT}$  then
            begin
                choose the fractional branching variable  $x_k^*$  ;
                 $vbranch[m] := k$ ;  $value[m] := x_k^*$ ;
                 $Q := Q \cup \{m\}$ 
            end
        end
    end
end
end .

```

Warning: the algorithm on the left is
for a minimization problem

[Fischetti, 2019]

Eager strategy:

1. selection
2. branching
3. LP calculation
4. pruning
5. queue insertion

open nodes are stored with their own
bounds

Enhancements

Branch and Bound

- Preprocessor: constraint/problem/structure specific
tightening bounds
redundant constraints

variable fixing: eg: $\max\{\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} : A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{l} \leq \mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{u}\}$

fix $x_j = l_j$ if $c_j < 0$ and $a_{ij} > 0$ for all i

fix $x_j = u_j$ if $c_j > 0$ and $a_{ij} < 0$ for all i

- User defined branching priorities: establish the next variable to branch (not in gurobi)
- Special ordered sets, SOS (or generalized upper bound, GUB)

$$\sum_{j=1}^k x_j = 1 \quad x_j \in \{0, 1\}$$

instead of: $S_0 = S \cap \{\mathbf{x} : x_j = 0\}$ and $S_1 = S \cap \{\mathbf{x} : x_j = 1\}$

$\{\mathbf{x} : x_j = 0\}$ leaves $k - 1$ possibilities

$\{\mathbf{x} : x_j = 1\}$ leaves only 1 possibility

hence tree unbalanced

here: $S_1 = S \cap \{\mathbf{x} : x_{j_i} = 0, i = 1..r\}$ and $S_2 = S \cap \{\mathbf{x} : x_{j_i} = 0, i = r + 1,.., k\}$,

$$r = \min\{t : \sum_{i=1}^t x_{j_i}^* \geq \frac{1}{2}\}$$

- Cutoff value: a user-defined primal bound to pass to the system.
- Simplex strategies: simplex is good for reoptimizing but for large models interior points methods may work best.
- Strong branching: extra work to decide more accurately on which variable to branch:
 1. choose a set C of fractional variables
 2. reoptimize for each of them (in case for limited iterations)
 3. $\bar{z}_j^\downarrow, \bar{z}_j^\uparrow$ (dual bound of down and up branch)

$$j^* = \arg \max_{j \in C} \left(\text{score}(\bar{z}_j^\downarrow, \bar{z}_j^\uparrow) \right)$$

ie, choose variable with most change in objective function, ie, largest decrease of dual bound, eg, largest decrease of UB for max problem.

$\text{score}(\bar{z}_j^\downarrow, \bar{z}_j^\uparrow)$ is typically $\bar{z}_j^\downarrow + \bar{z}_j^\uparrow$ or $\max(\bar{z}_j^\downarrow, \epsilon) \cdot \max(\bar{z}_j^\uparrow, \epsilon)$

There are four common reasons why integer programs can require a significant amount of solution time:

1. There is lack of node throughput due to troublesome linear programming node solves.
2. There is lack of progress in the best integer solution, i.e., the primal bound.
3. There is lack of progress in the best dual bound.
4. There is insufficient node throughput due to numerical instability in the problem data or excessive memory usage.

For 2) or 3) the gap best feasible-dual bound is large:

$$\text{gap} = \frac{|\text{Primal bound} - \text{Dual bound}|}{\text{Primal bound} + \epsilon} \cdot 100$$

- heuristics for finding feasible solutions (generally NP-complete problem)
- find better dual bounds if they are weak: addition of cuts, stronger formulation, [branch and cut](#)
- Branch and cut: a B&B algorithm with cut generation at all nodes of the tree.
(instead of reoptimizing, do as much work as possible to tighten)

Cut pool: stores all cuts centrally

Store for active node: bounds, basis, pointers to constraints in the cut pool that apply at the node

Relative Optimality Gap

Branch and Bound

In CPLEX:

$$\text{gap} = \frac{|\text{best dual bound} - \text{best integer}|}{|\text{best integer} + 10^{-11}|}$$

In Gurobi, primal gap:

$$\text{gap} = \frac{|db - pb|}{|pb|}$$

plus if $pb = db = 0$, then the gap := 0.

If $pb = 0$ and $db \neq 0$, then $\text{gap} := \infty$.

Issues...

Problem of non decreasing gap if we go through zero

3186	2520	-666.6217	4096	956.6330	-667.2010	1313338	169.74%
3226	2560	-666.6205	4097	956.6330	-667.2010	1323797	169.74%
3266	2600	-666.6201	4095	956.6330	-667.2010	1335602	169.74%
Elapsed real time = 2801.61 sec. (tree size = 77.54 MB, solutions = 2)							
*	3324+	2656		-125.5775	-667.2010	1363079	431.31%
3334	2668	-666.5811	4052	-125.5775	-667.2010	1370748	431.31%
3380	2714	-666.5799	4017	-125.5775	-667.2010	1388391	431.31%
3422	2756	-666.5791	4011	-125.5775	-667.2010	1403440	431.31%

Issue resolved by

MIPLIB standard (Koch et al. MIPLIB 2010, Math Prog Comput):

$$\text{gap}(pb, db) = \begin{cases} 0.0 & pb = db = 0 \\ \infty & \text{no feasible solution found,} \\ & \text{problem reported as infeasible,} \\ & \text{or } db \leq 0 \leq pb \\ \frac{pb - db}{\inf\{|z|, z \in [db, pb]\}} \cdot 100 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (\text{minimization prob.})$$

The gap decreases monotonously during the solving process

In SCIP <https://www.scipopt.org/doc/html/FAQ.php#gapdefinition>

$$\text{gap}(pb, db) = \begin{cases} 0.0 & pb = db \\ \infty & pb \cdot db \leq 0 \\ \frac{|pb - db|}{\min\{|pb|, |db|\}} & \text{else}(pb \cdot db > 0) \end{cases}$$

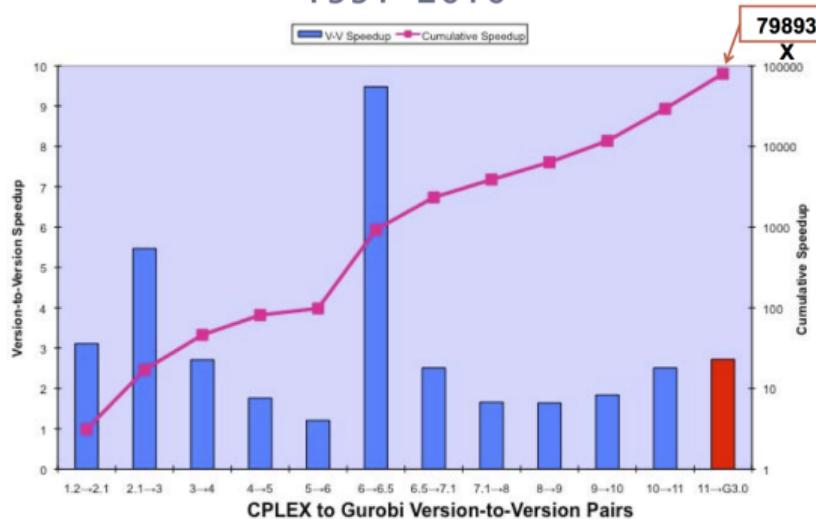
MILP Solvers Breakthroughs

Branch and Bound

We have seen Fractional Gomory cuts.

The introduction of Mixed Integer Gomory cuts in CPLEX was the major breakthrough of CPLEX 6.5 and produced the version-to-version speed-up given by the blue bars in the chart below

MIP Performance Improvements
1991–2010



(source: R. Bixby. Mixed-Integer Programming: It works better than you may think. 2010. Slides on the net)

Speedup over the past 25 years:

Hardware 2000 times

Software 2000 000 times

In the Exercises

Branch and Bound

Solve linear programming problems with:

- Simple method tool <https://www.zweigmedia.com/simplex/simplex.php>
- In Python: `scipy.optimize.linprog`
- In Python: `Python-MIP`, `pyscipopt`, `gurobipy`

Summary

Branch and Bound

1. Branch and Bound