

# CSCE 686 Homework 6 - SCP Heuristics

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## 1 SCP Heuristic Design and Development [a, b]

In this section, we apply the disciplined design process advocated in [1] to construct the algorithms fundamental to the Set Covering Problem (SCP). Additionally, we introduce three heuristics to the algorithm with the goal of reducing the search number of states which must be visited.

### 1.1 Problem Domain Description: SCP

Given a set of elements:  $E = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ , a family of subsets,  $\{S_1, \dots, S_m\} \subseteq 2^E$ , and weights  $w_j \geq 0$  for each  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , the SCP is defined by the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} I \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\} \min \sum_{j \in I} w_j \\ \text{s.t. } \bigcup_{j \in I} S_j = E \end{aligned}$$

The input domain of the problem, which is a set of elements,  $E$ , can be specified by a set. The family of sets,  $S$ , is a set of sets, where each subset contains elements  $E'$  and cost  $c$ . Formally:

- Input Domain  $D_i$ : A set of elements,  $E$ , and a set of sets.
  - $E$ : Elements

- $S(E', c)$ : Set of sets
  - \*  $E'$ : Set of elements where  $E' \in E$
  - \*  $c$ : Cost of set
- Output Domain  $D_o$ : A Set of sets,  $B$ , such that  $B \in S$ , and  $B$  satisfies set minimum covering property.
- Input Function  $I(E, S)$ : Determines if the input conditions on the input  $E$  and  $S$  are satisfied. The required input conditions for this domain is that, for all  $S(E', c)$ ,  $E' \in E$ .
- Output Function:  $O(B)$ : Determines if the output conditions are met. The conditions are given met when:

$$I \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\} \min \sum_{j \in I} w_j$$

$$s.t. \bigcup_{j \in I} S_j = E$$

## 1.2 Problem Domain and Algorithm Domain Integration

The algorithm domain to which the SCP problem will be mapped in this work is the global search via depth-first search with backtracking (GS/DFS/BT) algorithm. Thus, the algorithm domain used in this work is that of GS/DFS/BT, which is described in [1]. In order to use this algorithm to solve the SCP problem, the SCP domain must be mapped to the GS/DFS/BT domain. This integration is accomplished as follows:

- GS/DFS/BT Basic Search Constructs
  - **initialization**( $D_i$ ): Initializes  $T$ , where  $T$  is a tableau.  $T$  consists of  $M$  blocks of columns, one for each  $e_k$  of  $E$ . The  $k$ th block will consist of the sets of  $S$  that cover  $e_k$ , but do not contain lower numbered elements  $e_1, \dots, e_{k-1}$ .
  - **next-state-generator**( $D_i$ ): Returns  $B$ , where  $B \in S$ .
  - **selection**( $D_i$ ): Returns  $b$  where  $b \in S$ . Generally, the specific set chosen is selected from a block of  $T$  in such a way as to maximize

the coverage of the elements  $E$ . In the case of SCP, we require that all elements  $E$  are covered and that the solution is the minimum cover for  $E$ .

- **feasibility**: Returns a Boolean, which is true if, for some  $b \subset S$ ,  $E$  is covered and is false otherwise.
  - **solution**( $B, z$ ): Returns a Boolean which is true if  $S$  covers  $E$  and is the minimum cover of  $E$ , i.e.  $z$  is minimized.
  - **objective**: Returns a set  $D_o$ , which in this algorithm is a minimum cover of  $E$ .
- Delay Termination: Because the previous GS/DFS/BT search only finds a minimal set cover, rather than a minimum set cover, we must prevent the algorithm from terminating until all covering sets have been either implicitly or explicitly examined.
    - In some as yet undefined loop, iterate finding all minimal set covers possible in the problem instance.
    - Repeat the GS/DFS/BT search for SCP, avoiding duplication where possible.

### 1.3 Algorithm Domain Specification Refinement

In order to further refine this design, in pursuit of executable code, we must disambiguate several operations. We define a candidate solution set to be  $B \subseteq S$ . We first specify the next state generation and selection functions. The next state should be a state which has not been previously selected.

The algorithm initializes a tableau,  $T$ . The tableau consists of  $M$  blocks of columns, one for each  $e_k$  of  $E$ . The  $k$ th block will consist of the sets of  $S$  that cover  $e_k$ , but do not contain lower numbered elements  $e_1, \dots, e_{k-1}$ . In each block, a variable  $g_i$  is initialized to the first position in each block  $i$ . This will keep track of the current set within the blocks.

The algorithm will define a partial solution  $D_0$ , a partial solution metric  $Z$ , a current best solution  $\hat{B}$ , and a current best metric  $\hat{Z}$ .

Three heuristics were created for the SCP. The first heuristic, which we call Heuristic 1, implements the dominance test as presented in [Chr. ref]. During the operation of the SCP algorithm, we will keep track of partial solutions in a set  $L(E_{ck}, z_k)$ , where  $E_{ck}$  is the set coverage at step  $k$ , and  $z_k$  is

the associated cost at step  $k$ . If at some step  $r > k$ ,  $E_{cr} \subseteq E_{ck}$  and  $z_r \geq z_k$ , then we know that a previous solution was better than the solution at step  $r$ . We can thus abandon this branch of the search. One of the disadvantages of this technique is that maintaining  $L$  can require significant memory, and the time required, which is polynomial, to search the list can potentially diminish the advantage of pruning branches of the tree. While not implemented, there are possibly ways to improve Heuristic 1. If, rather than a set of lists,  $L$  was represented as a tree, so that searching  $L$  could be performed in greater than  $O(m)$ , there could be significant time reduction. This is a possible future avenue for exploration.

Heuristic 2 adjusts the sorted order of the tableau to prune additional branches of the search. In the original implementation, the sets within a Block  $n$  are first sorted by lexicographical order and then by cost. In this way, cost ties are sorted in lexicographical order. Heuristic 2 first sorts the sets by  $|S|$ , or the number of elements that are covered by the set, and then by cost. This will guarantee that sets with higher coverages will be examined first. The strategy for this sort order is that searching the sets with higher coverage first will eliminate a larger portion of the search tree early.

Heuristic 3 takes advantage of the fact that we do not need to include blocks in the tableau that only have one set. For each element  $e_k \in E$ , the number of covering sets is calculated, which we will call  $\alpha_k$ .

$$\alpha_k = \sum S \text{ s.t. } S \text{ covers } e_k$$

If  $\alpha_k = 1$ , or there is only one set  $S'$  in a block  $k$ , then that block contains a set that is the only cover for some element  $e_k$ . Rather than include this block in the search,  $S'$  is automatically included in the result set  $B$ . Additionally, the set coverage,  $E_c$ , is initialized to include those elements covered by  $S'$ . In problems that have high coverages, this heuristic will not yield an improvement. However, if there exists any singly covered elements  $e_k$ , large portions of the search space will be eliminated before the search is even started, since that element already exists with  $E_c$ . The selection phase of the algorithm will never need to select any element from that block, because it will already have been covered. If  $\alpha_k = 0$  for some element  $e_k$ , then  $e_k$  does not have a valid cover, and there is no solution possible.

- $D_i - (E, S), ci$ 
  - $E$  - Set of elements  $e_k$ , where  $k = 1, \dots, m$

- $D_o$  - Set of sets,  $S_r$ , where  $r = 1, \dots, n$  Each set  $S_r$  contains elements  $e \in E$
  - $ci_r$  - Cost for each set  $S_r$ .
- $D_p$  - Partial solution set of sets,  $B$ , where each element  $B_i \in S$  is a set cover.
- *Creative data sets/selection:*
  - $E_c$  - Set of elements,  $e_c \in E$
  - $L(ci)$  - List of  $E_c$  sets covered with cost  $ci$ . When a node is visited at step  $k$ , the current cover  $E_c$  and the current cost  $Z$  are added to  $L$ . When a subsequent node is visited at step  $k + 1$ , it will search this list to see if some set  $\{E_{c1}, \dots, E_{ck-1}\}$  covers the a subset of the elements in  $E_c$ , but at a lower cost  $ci_i$ . If so, then we do not need to explore this branch of the tree. Without adding additional heuristics to  $L$ , a linear search is performed each time it is accessed. This increase complexity  $O(n)$  for each node. Although not implemented in this application, a beneficial future enhancement would be to reduce the search time required for  $L$ .
- Tableau: The tableau consists of  $M$  blocks of columns, one for each  $e_k$  of  $E$ . The  $k$ th block will consist of the sets of  $S$  that cover  $e_k$ , but do not contain lower numbered elements  $e_1, \dots, e_{k-1}$ . In each block, a variable  $l$  is initialized to the first position in each block. This will keep track of the current set within the blocks. The sets within each block are sorted by cost per element covered,  $ci_r$ . A merge sort was selected for this operation, which is  $O(n \log n)$  [1]. The merge operation for each block  $i$  is  $O((n_i m \log(n_i m)))$ . The  $\sum_{n=1}^m O((n_i m \log(n_i m))) = O(n \log n)$ . Heuristic 2 adds an additional merge sort, this time by the  $|S'| \in$  block  $i$ . Because merge sort preserves underlying sort order, we can use two consecutive sorts, the first by the  $|S'|$ , then then by the cost of the  $S'$ . The additional sort increases the initial sort complexity to  $O(2 * n \log(n))$ . The idea behind this heuristic to reduce the search space by selecting sets that have a higher coverage first. By selecting sets with higher coverage, we should potentially reduce the number of sets that are visited later in the search, where pruning will take place with either  $Z$  or the  $L$  set.

Imports: *ADT set, array, sequence, Boolean, Integer*

Operations:

- Initialization: Initial  $(E, S)$ ,  $ci$ ,  $T$ , and  $L$
- Next State Generator: The algorithm will keep track of the current block,  $t$  in the Tableau  $T$ , as well as the current set within the block,  $g_i$ . Returns a set  $b \in S_k$ , where  $S_k$  is at the  $g_i$  position of block  $k$ .
- Feasibility:  $(e, s)$  – Determine if  $e \in E$  is covered by  $s \in S$  <Add symbolic logic>
- Solution:  $(S, Z)$ : Determines if all elements  $e \in E$  have been covered by  $B$  at cost  $Z$ .
- Objective: Minimize  $Z$  to cover  $e \in E$ .
- Feasibility:  $I(x)$ :  $x = (\text{element}, \text{set}) = (e_i, s_j)$ , such that  $e_i$  should be an element in  $E$  in  $D_i$  and  $s_i$  should be a set in  $S$  in the input  $D_i$   $O(z, B)$ :  $z$  is a cost for step  $k$ , and  $B \in D_o$

## 1.4 Algorithm Domain Design Continuing Refinement

Operations:

- Initialization: Initial  $(E, S)$ ,  $ci$ ,  $T$ , and  $L$ 
  - *setupTableau()*: Sets up the Tableau  $T$
- Next State Generator: The algorithm will keep track of the current block,  $t$  in the Tableau  $T$ , as well as the current set within the block,  $g_i$ . Returns a set  $b \in S_k$ , where  $S_k$  is at the  $g_i$  position of block  $k$ .
  - *getMin()*: Gets the next block from the first uncovered element in  $E$
- Feasibility:  $(e, s)$  - Determine if  $e \in E$  is covered by  $s \in S$

- *solutionPossible()*: Determines if a solution is possible. A solution is possible if:

$$I \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\} \min \sum_{j \in I} w_j$$

$$s.t. \bigcup_{j \in I} S_j = E$$

- Solution:  $(S, Z)$  - Determines if all elements  $e \in E$  have been covered by  $B$  at cost  $Z$ .
  - *step5()*: Corresponds directly to Christofides step 5, *Test for new solution* in section 4.3: A tree search algorithm for the SPP
- Objective: Minimize  $Z$  to cover  $e \in E$ .
- Backtrack: Determines when backtracking should occur in the algorithm. This is primarily where the heuristics should prune the search space.
  - *ste4()*: Corresponds directly to Christofides step 4, *Backtrack* in section 4.3: A tree search algorithm for the SPP
  - Heuristics:
    - \* If there exists  $e_i$  in  $E$  and  $e_i$  no in  $s_j$  for all  $j$ , then no solution exists
    - \* Heuristic 3: If there exists  $e_i$  in  $E$  with  $E_i$  in  $s_k$  and  $e_i$  not in  $s_j$  for all  $j = k$ , then  $s_k$  is in all solutions. Initialize  $B'$  to include these sets. After the algorithm is completed,  $\hat{B} = \hat{B} \cup B'$ . Additionally, the vector of covered sets,  $E_c$  is initialized to include all those elements  $e \in B'$ . This initialization will ensure that these blocks in the Tableau will not be selected and thus not searched.
    - \* Heuristic 1: Determine if there is a set that covers a subset of the current elements at some step  $k$  at a lower cost.

## 2 SCP Heuristic Testing and Evaluation [c]

In this section, we evaluate the performance of the AFIT SCP Solver implemented with additional heuristics as described in the preceding section. A

design of experiments which methodically evaluates the performance of the AFIT SCP Solver on a large variety of SCP instances is constructed. This experimental design is applied to both the unmodified and modified versions of the AFIT SCP solver, and the results are analyzed.

## 2.1 Problem Selection [c.1]

The USAF RIF problem, described in [2], is real-world problem upon which all randomly constructed instances of the SCP in this work are based. A complete description of the problem is found in [2]. Briefly, the problem is that of selecting a subset of UAV pilots such that the maximum number of aircraft can be flown simultaneously for the minimum personnel cost. The details of this problem are such that the density of the corresponding SCP instances turns out to be approximately 30%. Because the RIF must be implemented at organizations of all sizes, it is reasonable to evaluate this problem over a large range of instance dimensions.

## 2.2 Test Suite Description [c.2]

The testing suite used in the this work is of similar construction to that which is used in [2]. This software suite, written in the Julia technical computing language [3], and included as Appendix B, constructs random SCP instances, and applies the AFIT SCP Solver to those instances. Given the desired dimensionality of the SPC instance, which is the number of sets, elements, and the density of the instance, the suite produces an instance conforming to that request. An input file suitable for the AFIT SCP Solver is constructed from the random instance representation in the Julia environment, and written to the disk. The AFIT SCP Solver is then programatically executed in the Julia environment. All input to the AFIT SCP Solver is conducted either via the program call or pipe to the process running the program. This process is repeated 30 times for each specification of dimensionality, in order to ensure some measure of statistical validity, and to make visible some of the more subtle trends in running time performance. All results presented in this section were obtained by running the AFIT SCP Solver as an independent process of highest priority assigned to a single 2.8 *Ghz* Intel Ivy Bridge core. Run ordering, that is the selection of the order in which individual experiments are executed, is determined randomly, to ensure that no systematic biases are present in the obtained running time performance.



## 2.3 Results [c.3]

In this section the results obtained by executing the described experimental procedure are presented. The procedure is applied one density<sup>1</sup> configuration, and a large range set counts and element counts. The limits of the experimental range are empirically determined such that all meaningful trends in the running-time surface are observable, while ensuring that total experimental running time remains manageable. The results of conducting this experimental procedure on the unmodified AFIT SCP Solver are first examined. Then, the same experimental procedure is applied to the AFIT SCP Solver which has been modified to incorporate additional heuristics. Finally, the running time performance of the two implementations of the AFIT SCP Solver are directly compared.

### 2.3.1 Unmodified AFIT SCP Solver Performance Analysis

Fig. 2.3.1 displays the results obtained by applying the methodology described in the preceding sections to the unmodified AFIT SCP Solver. As in the previous work, [2], the figure contains three plots, each of which highlights a particular element of the algorithms performance. The top-right plot is a tile plot which shows the mean running time, over 30 runs, of the SCP program, for the number number of sets indicated on the horizontal axis, and the number of elements indicated on the vertical axis. The bottom-right plot displays the marginal mean and standard deviation of program running time, as the number of sets varies. These values are calculated by taking the mean and standard deviation of the mean running time values for a particular number of sets, across all numbers of elements to cover. The top-left plot shows the marginal mean and standard deviation of running time for a particular number of elements to cover across all numbers of sets.

### 2.3.2 Modified AFIT SCP Solver Performance Analysis

In this section, we analyze the results obtained by applying the experimental procedure to the AFIT SCP Solver, modified such that it includes the heuris-

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<sup>1</sup>Previous work [2] details the impact of density on total running time performance; preliminary tests indicate that the relationships observed in [2] hold in the modified AFIT SCP Solver. Thus, we defer further analysis of the impact of density on the performance of the modified AFIT SCP Solver to future work, in order to meet the time constraints associated with this work.

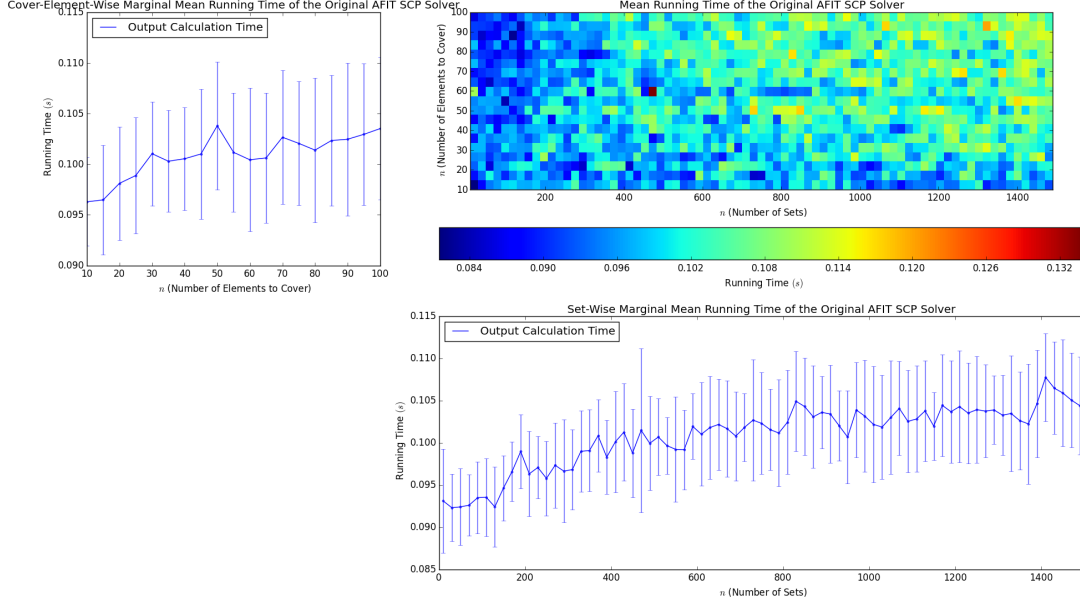


Figure 1: This figure displays the average running time performance of the original AFIT SCP Solver, over 30 runs, for various instance configurations from the problem domain. All instances in this figure have a density of approximately 0.3.

tics described above. These results are displayed in Fig. 2.3.2. Observing the figure, we observe that the heuristics considerably reduce the running time of the program. Indeed, we find that the longest observed mean running time of the modified AFIT SCP Solver is less than the shortest running time observed in Fig. 2.3.1, for the unmodified version. Though the modified AFIT SCP Solver runs in less time than the unmodified version, we see by observing the instance dimensionality comparison (top-right), that the running time trends in the instance space are similar.

### 2.3.3 Comparative Performance Analysis

Finally, we compare the results obtained for both versions of the AFIT SCP Solver directly to one another. Fig. 2.3.3 contains two means of comparing

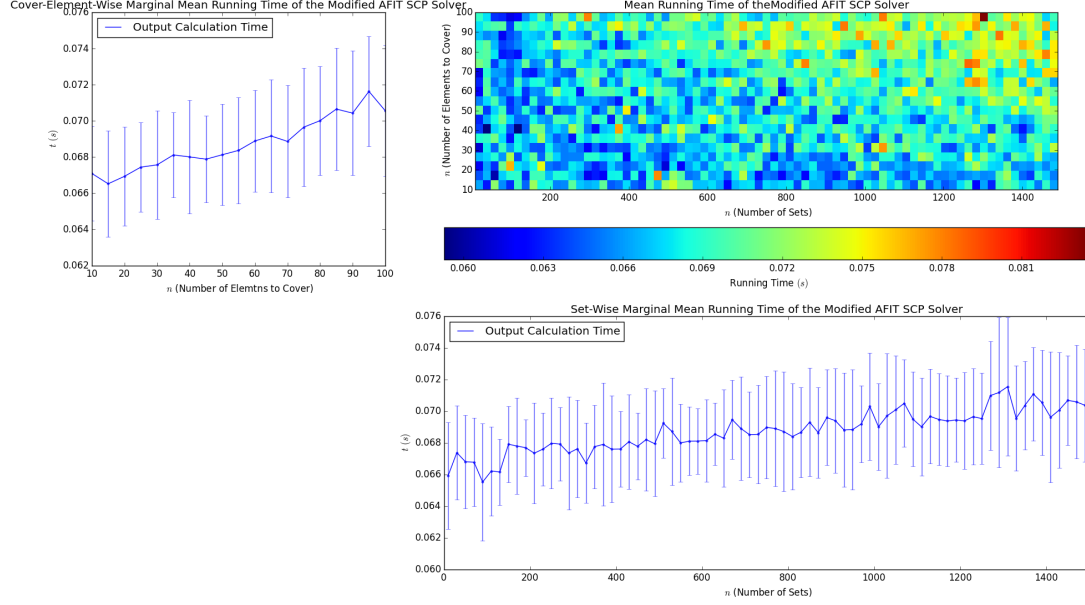


Figure 2: This figure displays the average running time performance of the modified AFIT SCP Solver, over 30 runs, for various instance configurations from the problem domain. All instances in this figure have a density of approximately 0.3.

the performance of the implementations. The top two plots display the mean running time of both algorithms with respect to the number of elements (left) and the number of set (right) in an SCP instance. The bottom plot displays a comparison of the two algorithms across the considered instance dimensionality range for both variables. This is the same data that is displayed in Fig. 2.3.2 and 2.3.1, but is scaled such that the two are show on the same color scale. This change highlights the fact that, while both produce similar trends in running time complexity, the modified version requires considerably less time for any given instance dimensionality choice.

## 2.4 Search Tree [c.4]

In this section, a search tree is constructed in order to illustrate the operation of the DFS algorithm, as it is mapped to the SCP domain. A sample search tree is drawn below in figure 2.4. The input elements are  $\{12345\}$ , and the sets, defined in  $(\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}, cost)$  format, are  $(\{1, 3\}, 1)$ ,  $(\{2, 3\}, 2)$ ,  $(\{1, 4, 5\}, 3)$ ,  $(\{2, 3, 5\}, 4)$ ,  $(\{4, 5\}, 2)$ .

## 3 AFIT SCP Program Software Engineering Practices [d,f]

In this section, the software engineering practices employed in the organizations and construction of the AFIT SCP Solver are analyzed and discussed.

### 3.1 SCP Implementation Discussion

*Does the AFIT SCP Solver employ good software engineering practices?* Due to issues with both supplied code packages, we decided to write our own SCP solver from scratch. The decision to do this was based on the limited time available to solve the compilation issues, and a conscious decision to further understand the problem algorithm by implementing it. We did study the C++ implementation prior to creating our own solution, and it does follow many good software engineering principles, although from personal experience this evaluation can be subject to opinion. The code subscribed to valid object oriented design practices, was well documented, did not use unnecessarily complicated structures, although we could not identify an underlying design pattern. By dividing the work into small pieces, such as the list and block objects, it was simplifying the problem by the "divide and conquer" paradigm [4]. We identified several instances of using functions to return multiple items with pointer references, which complicate the code somewhat. These variables probably should have been well labeled globals and used with caution. Because the code did not compile, I did examine the include structure of the files, and, as interpreted by the both Eclipse and Visual Studio, it appeared as if the software suffered from a "chicken or the egg" scenario where there was something of a circular dependency. This may have been eliminated with a more straight-forward order of object inheritance.

Our own implementation was written in Java, using Eclipse IDE and Java 7, and there is no connection to the SCP solver 2006 Java code. We did not examine that software package. Instead, the algorithm was implemented as it was presented in by Christofides in section 4.3 of [5], *A tree search algorithm for the SSP*, modified according to Section 4.4. An advantage to this technique is that we obtained a greater understanding of the Christofides algorithm. We feel that this allowed us to better implement the heuristics.

*Discuss ease of understanding code in the AFIT SCP Solver. Discuss ease of standard interfaces.*

The interfaces in the AFIT SCP C++ program were straight forward to understand. The `set_cover` implements the main control structure of the algorithm, encapsulating steps 1 through 5 of the Christofides algorithm. Our implementation uses the `searchSCP()` function, which is very similar in control structure. Reductions are performed in `reduction_2_1` and `reduction_2_2`, which are similarly performed in `searchPossible`, reduction 1 from section 4.2, and Heuristic 2, which is commented in `SCPAlpha.java` and implements reduction 2 from section 4.2. The C++ has several helper objects, such as `List`, `opair`, `set`, and `block`, with correspond to our own `Block.java`, `Element.java`, `Tableau.java`, and `Set.java`. We have an additional helper object to perform the sort, `MergeSort.java`. We believe that our own implementation has closer adherence to Object Oriented principles, however. Each of our objects directly correspond to a proposed data set in the design, and each is a simple extension of a standard ADT. The `Block` object is defined as  $t$ , the `Tableau` object is  $T$ , sets  $S$  are defined in the `Set` Object, and an element  $e \in E$  is implemented by the `Element` object. Additionally, our implementation uses the same data files as the C++ SCP implementation.

## 4 AFIT SCP Program Complexity [e]

Because SCP is known to be NP-complete, we know that the worst-case running time complexity of any algorithm which solves instances of SCP must be at least exponential. However, through the implemented heuristic and by approximation, it is possible to obtain feasible, though not necessarily optimal, solutions in sub-exponential time, for a large number of SPC instances.

## A Modified AFIT SCP Solver Code Listing

This appendix contains a complete listing of all SCP-related code written in support of this work. This code is written in the Java programming language, and is included herein for the purpose of future reproducibility of the results discussed in this work.

Listing 1: This listing contains the Main SCP Search Class.

```
1  /**
2  *
3  *   ↪ -----
4  *   ↪
5  * Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
6  *
7  *   ↪ -----
8  *   ↪
9  * Class: SCPAlpha
10 * Program: SCP/SPP program
11 *
12 * DESCRIPTION: This program solves the set-covering problem and
13 *   ↪ the
14 *   set-partitioning problem using the algorithm in Christofides
15 */
16 import java.io.BufferedReader;
17 import java.io.File;
18 import java.io.FileReader;
19 import java.io.IOException;
20 import java.util.ArrayList;
21
22 public class SCPAlpha
23 {
24     public static final String SCP_H1 = "-H1";
25     public static final String SCP_H2 = "-H2";
26     public static final String SCP_H3 = "-H3";
27     public static final String SCP_OUT = "-out";
28     public static final String SCP_OUTALL = "-noout";
29
30     ArrayList<Element> ogElements = null;
31     ArrayList<Set> ogSetArray = null;
32     ArrayList<Block> ogBlockArray = null;
33     ArrayList<Integer> ogCB = null;
34     ArrayList<LItem> ogL = null;
```

```

32 ArrayList<Set> ogSingleSets = null;
33 int ogSetID = 1;
34 int[] ogE = null;
35 ArrayList<Set> ogB = null;
36 ArrayList<Set> ogBHat = null;
37 int ogZ = 0;
38 int ogZHat = 0;
39 boolean ogDone = false;
40 boolean ogUseH1 = true;
41 boolean ogUseH2 = true;
42 boolean ogUseH3 = true;
43 boolean ogUseOut = false;
44 boolean ogNoOut = false;
45
46 int ogP = -1;
47
48
49 public SCPAlpha(String[] args)
50 {
51     long time = System.currentTimeMillis();
52     try
53     {
54         for (String m : args)
55         {
56             if (m.toUpperCase().equals(SCP_H1))
57             {
58                 ogUseH1 = false;
59             }
60             else if (m.toUpperCase().equals(SCP_H2))
61             {
62                 ogUseH2 = false;
63             }
64             else if (m.toUpperCase().equals(SCP_H3))
65             {
66                 ogUseH3 = false;
67             }
68             else if (m.toLowerCase().equals(SCP_OUT))
69             {
70                 ogUseOut = true;
71             }
72             else if (m.toLowerCase().equals(SCP_OUTALL))
73             {
74                 ogNoOut = true;
75             }
76         }

```

```

77     File temp = new File (args [0]);
78     parseFile(temp);
79
80     // ***** Reduction 2.1
81     if (searchPossible())
82     {
83         // Initialization Phase
84         // Heuristic 2
85         // The original algorithm sorts the sets according to
86         // ↳ cost, but ties are sorted by lexicographical order
87         // ↳ .
88         // Heuristic two sorts ties using number of covered items
89         // ↳ per set. Sets with greater coverage are tried
90         // ↳ first, because they eliminate a larger portion of the
91         // ↳ search space.
92
93         // *** Set of candidates *** generation
94         // Generates the tree in the form of a tableau.
95         setupTableau(ogUseH2);
96
97         if ((ogUseOut) && (!ogNoOut))
98         {
99             System.out.println(getTableauString());
100         }
101
102         searchSCP();
103
104         if (!ogNoOut)
105         {
106             System.out.println("Best Solution:");
107             printResultState();
108         }
109     }
110     else if (!ogNoOut)
111     {
112         System.out.println("Search Not Possible");
113     }
114 } catch (Exception e)
115 {
116     e.printStackTrace();
117 }
118 if ((!ogNoOut) && (ogUseOut))
119 {
120     System.out
121         .println("Time: " + (System.currentTimeMillis() -

```



```

118         ↪ time) + " ms");
119     } // SCPAlpha
120
121
122     public void searchSCP ()
123     {
124         // Initialization
125         ogZ = 0;
126         ogZHat = Integer.MAX_VALUE; //infinity
127
128         // ogB is the partial solution Do
129         ogB = new ArrayList<Set>();
130
131         // ogBHat is the current best solution
132         ogBHat = new ArrayList<Set>();
133         ogBHat.clear();
134
135         // Initialize the E variable to keep track of covered rows.
136         ogE = new int[ogElements.size()];
137
138         // Heuristic 3
139         // If there are rows that are only covered by one set, then
140         ↪ that set must be included.
141         // Add the cover to E, and this will eliminate the block from
142         ↪ consideration
143         if ((ogUseH3) && (ogSingleSets != null) && (ogSingleSets.size
144         ↪ () > 0))
145         {
146             for (Set m : ogSingleSets)
147             {
148                 addCoveredElementsFromSet(m, ogE, true);
149             }
150         }
151
152         // Initialize an array of current blocks. This array is used
153         ↪ as a queue to keep
154         // track of the current block and the history of selected
155         ↪ blocks. This is also
156         // an aid to backtracking.
157         ogCB = new ArrayList<Integer>();
158
159         // Heuristic 1
160         // Initialize L Array. This will keep track of all

```

```

157     ↪ intermediate solutions and the
// associated values. If a cover is encountered that is
158     ↪ within a previous cover, but
// has a greater cost, then there is no reason to consider
159     ↪ this branch.
ogL = new ArrayList<LItem>();
160
161 ogDone = false;
162
163 // Check to make sure that, after adding sets from heuristic
    ↪ 3, we don't already have a solution.
164 if (eCoversR())
165 {
166     ogBHat.addAll(ogSingleSets);
167     ogZHat = 0;
168     for (Set m : ogSingleSets)
169     {
170         ogZHat = ogZHat + m.ogCost;
171     }
172 }
173 else
174 {
175     // Set up initial solution. Add first block to block queue.
176     if (!ogUseH3)
177     {
178         ogCB.add(new Integer(0));
179     }
180     else
181     {
182         // Get first selectable block
183         int j = 0;
184         while ((j < ogBlockArray.size())
185             && (ogBlockArray.get(j).ogSets.size() <= 1))
186         {
187             j++;
188         }
189         ogCB.add(new Integer(j));
190     }
191
192     Set currentSet = ogBlockArray.get(currentBlock()).ogSets
193         .get(ogBlockArray.get(currentBlock()).ogCurrentPos)
        ↪ ;
194     addCoveredElementsFromSet(currentSet, ogE, true);
195     ogB.add(currentSet);
196     ogZ = ogZ + currentSet.ogCost;

```

```

197 // *** Next state/Feasibility *** Finds the next state from
198     ↪ the tableau. The feasibility function
199 // is implied, as only valid solutions are considered.
200 addMin(getMin(currentBlock()));
201
202 // Check to make sure all sets have not been covered.
203 if (currentBlock() == ogBlockArray.size())
204 {
205     ogDone = true;
206 }
207
208 while (!ogDone)
209 {
210     // Maintain partial solution
211     currentSet = ogBlockArray.get(currentBlock()).ogSets
212         .get(ogBlockArray.get(currentBlock())
213             ↪ ogCurrentPos);
214     //System.out.println("Test1: " + currentSet.ogID + "/" +
215     ↪ currentSet.ogCost + ", " + ogZ + ", " +
216     // (ogZ + currentSet.ogCost) + ", " + ogZHat + ",
217     ↪ Block: " + ogBlockArray.get(currentBlock()).ogID);
218
219     ogB.add(currentSet);
220     ogZ = ogZ + currentSet.ogCost;
221     addCoveredElementsFromSet(currentSet, ogE, true);
222     //printCB();
223     //printCP();
224     //printState();
225
226     // Heuristic 1
227     // If there are covered sets that are greater than the
228     ↪ current cover,
229     // but have less cost, then there is no reason to search
230     ↪ this branch.
231     if ((ogUseH1) && (solutionInL(ogE, ogZ)))
232     {
233         //printState();
234         step4();
235     }
236     else if (ogZ < ogZHat)
237     {
238         // Add current Do to L
239         if (ogUseH1)
240         {

```

```

236         ogL.add(new LItem(ogE, ogZ));
237     }
238
239     // *** Solution ***
240     // Determines if a partial solution is a valid solution
241     //   ↪ to the SCP.
242     step5();
243 }
244 else
245 {
246     // *** Backtracking *** step
247     // If we encounter a node that is higher in cost than
248     //   ↪ the current
249     // solution, then exploring this branch would
250     // not be fruitful.
251     step4();
252 }
253 // *** Next state/Feasibility *** Finds the next state
254 //   ↪ from the tableau. The feasibility function
255 // is implied, as only valid solutions are considered.
256 addMin(getMin(currentBlock()));
257 }
258
259 // Add all sets from heuristic 3 and add to ZHat
260 if ((ogSingleSets != null) && (ogSingleSets.size() > 0))
261 {
262     ogBHat.addAll(ogSingleSets);
263     for (Set m : ogSingleSets)
264     {
265         ogZHat = ogZHat + m.ogCost;
266     }
267 }
268 }
269 //printState();
270 } // searchSCP
271
272 /** *** Backtrack *** Step */
273 public void step4()
274 {
275     if (ogB.isEmpty())
276     {
277         ogDone = true;
278     }
279 }

```

```

278     else
279     {
280         // For current block, increase position of current set with
281         ↪ the block
282         Block currentBlock = ogBlockArray.get(currentBlock());
283         currentBlock.ogCurrentPos++;
284         // Remove the current cover from our cover array
285         addCoveredElementsFromSet(ogB.get(ogB.size() - 1), ogE,
286         ↪ false);
287         // Remove the most recent Z value
288         ogZ = ogZ - ogB.get(ogB.size() - 1).ogCost;
289         // Go back to previous block using ogCB queue
290         removeLastBlock();
291         // Remove latest solution from partial solution B
292         removeLastB();
293         // printState();
294         // If we are at the end of the first block, then we are
295         ↪ finished.
296         if ((currentBlock.ogCurrentPos >= currentBlock.ogSets.size
297         ↪ ())
298             && (currentBlock.ogID == 0))
299         {
300             ogDone = true;
301         }
302         else if (currentBlock.ogCurrentPos >= currentBlock.ogSets.
303         ↪ size())
304         {
305             // We have exhausted the block, so backtrack. Reset set
306             ↪ position for the current block
307             currentBlock.ogCurrentPos = 0;
308             // Since we cannot continue in this block, we must
309             ↪ backtrack
310             step4();
311         }
312     }
313 } // step4
314
315 /** *** Solution *** step */
316 public void step5()
317 {
318     // if all sets are covered, then we have a new best solution
319     if (eCoversR())
320     {
321         // Set BHat latest solution

```

```

316     ogBHat.clear();
317     ogBHat.addAll(ogB);
318     // Set Z to best solution
319     ogZHat = ogZ;
320     if ((ogUseOut) && (!ogNoOut))
321     {
322         System.out.println("Partial Solution:");
323         printResultState();
324     }
325     // Backtrack from current position to continue exploring
326     ↪ the blocks
327     step4();
328 }
329 // printState();
330 } // step5
331
332 /**
333  * **** Next state generator ****
334  *
335  * Gets the next block from the first uncovered element in E
336  *
337  * @param currentBlock - Current block position
338  * @return
339  */
340 public int getMin(int currentBlock)
341 {
342     int result = -1;
343     // Get next block from minimum non-covered item in E
344     int i = 0;
345     while ((i < ogE.length) && (result == -1))
346     {
347         if (ogE[i] == 0)
348         {
349             result = i;
350         }
351         else
352         {
353             i++;
354         }
355     }
356     if (result == -1)
357     {
358         result = ogE.length;
359     }

```

```

360     return result;
361 } // getMin
362
363
364 /** Adds latest minimum block to queue of blocks. */
365 public void addMin(int min)
366 {
367     if (ogCB.get(ogCB.size() - 1) != min)
368     {
369         ogCB.add(min);
370     }
371 } // addMin
372
373
374 /**
375  * Heuristic 1
376  *
377  * Determines if some partial solution E exists within the the
378  *   ↪ already visited solutions.
379  * If so, and it has a lower Z value, then we should stop
380  *   ↪ exploring this branch as a
381  * better solution has already been found.
382  *
383  * @param e - Current partial solution E
384  * @param z - Current partial solution Z
385  * @return - true if we should backtrack, false if we should
386  *   ↪ not
387  */
388 public boolean solutionInL(int[] e, int z)
389 {
390     boolean result = false;
391
392     int i = 0;
393     while ((i < ogL.size()) && (!result))
394     {
395         if ((ogL.get(i).isWithin(e)) && (z > ogL.get(i).ogCost))
396         {
397             result = true;
398         }
399         i++;
400     }
401
402     return result;
403 } // solutionInL

```

```

402
403 /**
404  * *** Initialization ***
405  *
406  * Heuristic 2
407  * The original algorithm sorts the sets according to cost ,
408  * ↪ but ties are sorted by lexicographical order.
409  * Heuristic two sorts ties using number of covered items per
410  * ↪ set. Sets with greater coverage are tried
411  * first , because they eliminate a larger portion of the
412  * ↪ search space.
413  *
414  * Sets up the Tableau
415  *
416  * @param useH2 – Determines if Heuristic 2 should be used.
417  */
418 public void setupTableau(boolean useH2)
419 {
420     ogBlockArray = new ArrayList<Block>();
421     for (int i = 0; i < ogElements.size(); i++)
422     {
423         Block b = new Block(i);
424         ArrayList<Set> sets = getAllCoveringSets(ogElements.get(i).
425             ↪ ogName);
426         b.ogSets = sets;
427
428         // Heuristic 2
429         // The original algorithm sorts the sets according to cost ,
430         ↪ but ties are sorted by lexicographical order.
431         // Heuristic two sorts ties using number of covered items
432         ↪ per set. Sets with greater coverage are tried
433         // first , because they eliminate a larger portion of the
434         ↪ search space.
435         b.sortSets(useH2);
436         ogBlockArray.add(b);
437     }
438 } // setupTableau
439
440 /**
441  * Gets all covering sets for the some item name
442  *
443  * @param name – name of item
444  * @return – All sets that cover name
445  */

```



```

440 public ArrayList<Set> getAllCoveringSets(int name)
441 {
442     ArrayList<Set> result = new ArrayList<Set>();
443
444     for (Set m : ogSetArray)
445     {
446         if (m.ogSet[name - 1])
447         {
448             result.add(m);
449         }
450     }
451
452     return result;
453 } // getAllCoveringSets
454
455 /**
456  * Determines if E covered R, or all covered
457  *
458  * @return true if all items have been covered, false if not
459  */
460
461 public boolean eCoversR()
462 {
463     boolean result = true;
464     for (int i = 0; i < ogElements.size(); i++)
465     {
466         if (ogE[ogElements.get(i).ogName - 1] == 0)
467         {
468             result = false;
469             break;
470         }
471     }
472
473     return result;
474 } // eCoversR
475
476 /**
477  * *** Next State Generator ***
478  * Adds the current set to E
479  *
480  * E is a an integer array. If multiple sets cover a single
481  *     ↪ item,
482  * its coverage will be reflected as a value in E.
483  */

```

```

484 * @param m Set to add to E
485 * @param e Current E
486 * @param add - True if the set is added, or false if the set
    ↪ is subtracted
487 */
488 public void addCoveredElementsFromSet(Set m, int[] e, boolean
    ↪ add)
489 {
490     for (int i = 0; i < m.ogSet.length; i++)
491     {
492         if (m.ogSet[i])
493         {
494             e[i] = e[i] + (add ? 1 : -1);
495         }
496     }
497 } // addCoveredElementsFromSet
498
499
500 public String getTableauString()
501 {
502     String result = "";
503
504     System.out.print(formatStringLength(" ", 5, " ", false) + " | "
    ↪ );
505     for (Block b : ogBlockArray)
506     {
507         for (Set m : b.ogSets)
508         {
509             System.out
510                 .print(" " + formatStringLength((m.ogID) + " ", 2,
    ↪ " ", false));
511         }
512         System.out.print(" | ");
513     }
514     System.out.println();
515
516     for (int i = 0; i < ogElements.size(); i++)
517     {
518         System.out.print(
519             formatStringLength(ogElements.get(i).ogName + " ",
    ↪ 5, " ", false)
520             + " | ");
521         for (Block b : ogBlockArray)
522         {
523             for (Set m : b.ogSets)

```

```

524         {
525             System.out.print(" " + print(m.ogSet[i]));
526         }
527         System.out.print("|");
528     }
529     System.out.println();
530 }
531
532 System.out.print(formatStringLength(" ", 5, " ", false) + "| "
533     ↪ );
534 for (Block b : ogBlockArray)
535 {
536     for (Set m : b.ogSets)
537     {
538         System.out.print(
539             " " + formatStringLength((m.ogCost) + "", 2, " ",
540             ↪ false));
541     }
542     System.out.print("|");
543 }
544 System.out.println();
545
546 return result;
547 } // getTableauString
548
549 public static String print(boolean b)
550 {
551     return formatStringLength((b ? "1" : "0"), 2, " ", false);
552 }
553
554 public void printState()
555 {
556     System.out.print("E: ");
557     for (int r : ogE)
558     {
559         System.out.print(r + " ");
560     }
561     System.out.println();
562     System.out.print("B: ");
563     for (Set r : ogB)
564     {
565         System.out.print(r.ogID + " ");
566     }

```

```

567     System.out.println("");
568     printResultState();
569     System.out.println("\n");
570
571 } // printState
572
573
574 public void printResultState()
575 {
576     System.out.println("ZHat: " + ogZHat);
577     System.out.print("BHat: ");
578     for (Set r : ogBHat)
579     {
580         System.out.print(r.ogID + " ");
581     }
582     System.out.println("\n");
583 } // printState
584
585
586 public void printCP()
587 {
588     for (int i = 0; i < ogBlockArray.size(); i++)
589     {
590         System.out.print(i + ": " + ogBlockArray.get(i).
591             ↪ ogCurrentPos + ", ");
592     }
593     System.out.println();
594 }
595
596 public int currentBlock()
597 {
598     if (ogCB.size() == 0)
599     {
600         ogCB.add(new Integer(0));
601     }
602     return ogCB.get(ogCB.size() - 1);
603 } // currentBlock
604
605
606 public void removeLastBlock()
607 {
608     ogCB.remove(ogCB.size() - 1);
609 } // removeLastB
610

```

```

611
612 public void removeLastB ()
613 {
614     ogB.remove(ogB.size() - 1);
615 } // removeLastB
616
617
618 public void printCB ()
619 {
620     System.out.print("CB: ");
621     for (int m : ogCB)
622     {
623         System.out.print(m + " ");
624     }
625     System.out.println();
626 } // printCB
627
628
629 public void parseFile(File theFile) throws Exception
630 {
631     ogElements = new ArrayList<Element>();
632     ogSetArray = new ArrayList<Set>();
633     String inFile = loadStringFromFile(theFile, true);
634     // Get elements
635     int pos1 = inFile.indexOf("{");
636     int pos2 = inFile.indexOf("}");
637     String temp = inFile.substring(pos1 + 1, pos2);
638     String[] temp2 = temp.split(" ");
639     int highest = 0;
640     for (String temp3 : temp2)
641     {
642         if (!temp3.trim().equals(""))
643         {
644             ogElements.add(new Element(Integer.parseInt(temp3.trim())
645                                     ↪ ));
646             int r = Integer.parseInt(temp3.trim());
647             if (r > highest)
648             {
649                 highest = r;
650             }
651         }
652     }
653     // Get sets
654     pos1 = inFile.indexOf("{", pos2);
655     pos2 = inFile.lastIndexOf("}");

```

```

655 String sets = inFile.substring(pos1 + 1, pos2);
656 //System.out.println("Test1: " + sets);
657 String[] set = sets.split("\n");
658 for (String setLine : set)
659 {
660     if ((!setLine.trim().equals("")) && (!setLine.equals("\n")))
661         ↪ )
662     {
663         //System.out.println("Test3: " + setLine);
664         pos1 = setLine.indexOf("{");
665         pos2 = setLine.indexOf("}");
666         temp = setLine.substring(pos1 + 1, pos2);
667         temp2 = temp.split(" ");
668         Set newSet = new Set(highest);
669         for (String temp3 : temp2)
670         {
671             if (!temp3.trim().equals(""))
672             {
673                 int pos = Integer.parseInt(temp3.trim());
674                 newSet.ogSet[pos - 1] = true;
675             }
676         }
677         pos1 = setLine.indexOf(",");
678         pos2 = pos1;
679         while ((setLine.charAt(pos2) != ')') && (pos2 < setLine.
680             ↪ length()))
681         {
682             pos2++;
683         }
684         temp = setLine.substring(pos1 + 1, pos2);
685         newSet.ogCost = Integer.parseInt(temp.trim());
686         newSet.ogID = ogSetID++;
687         ogSetArray.add(newSet);
688     }
689 }
690 } // parseFile
691
692 /**
693  * searchPossible: reduction_2_1
694  *
695  * This function performs the first half of reduction 2 as
696  * ↪ mentioned in
697  * Christofides. This reduction removes from R and all sets in
698  * ↪ F, any

```

```

696 * element that appears in every set—since this element would
        ↪ be covered
697 * regardless of the solution.
698 * the element is not added back to R so this function is no
        ↪ longer called
699 *
700 * Heuristic 3
701 * Collects all sets that are the only cover for a single item.
        ↪ These
702 * Must be included in the final solution set.
703 *
704 * Determines if all sets can be covered. If not, then no
        ↪ solution is possible.
705 *
706 * @return — true if a solution is possible, or false if it is
        ↪ not.
707 */
708 public boolean searchPossible()
709 {
710     boolean result = true;
711     ogSingleSets = new ArrayList();
712     for (int i = 0; i < ogSetArray.size(); i++)
713     {
714         for (int j = 0; j < ogSetArray.get(i).ogSet.length; j++)
715         {
716             if (ogSetArray.get(i).ogSet[j])
717             {
718                 addToElement(j + 1, ogSetArray.get(i));
719             }
720         }
721     }
722     int i = 0;
723     while (i < ogElements.size())
724     {
725         if (ogElements.get(i).ogCoveringSets == 0)
726         {
727             result = false;
728         }
729         else if ((ogElements.get(i).ogCoveringSets == 1) && (
            ↪ ogUseH3))
730         {
731             // These sets must be included in the final result
732             ogSingleSets.add(ogElements.get(i).ogCoveringSetArray.get
            ↪ (0));
733         }

```

```

734
735     i++;
736 }
737
738 if (ogUseH3)
739 {
740     if (ogSingleSets.size() != 0)
741     {
742         // Remove all single sets from the list of sets
743         for (Set singleSet : ogSingleSets)
744         {
745             int j = 0;
746             boolean found = false;
747             while ((j < ogSetArray.size()) && (!found))
748             {
749                 if (singleSet == ogSetArray.get(j))
750                 {
751                     ogSetArray.remove(j);
752                     found = true;
753                 }
754                 j++;
755             }
756         }
757     }
758 }
759
760 return result;
761 } // searchPossible
762
763
764 private void addToElement(int name, Set m)
765 {
766     int i = 0;
767     boolean found = false;
768     while ((i < ogElements.size()) && (!found))
769     {
770         if (ogElements.get(i).ogName == name)
771         {
772             ogElements.get(i).ogCoveringSets++;
773             ogElements.get(i).ogCoveringSetArray.add(m);
774             found = true;
775         }
776         i++;
777     }
778

```



```

779 } // addToElement
780
781
782 /** Loads text from file.
783  *
784  * @param dirName
785  *      The directory of the file the text is to be written
786  *      ↪ to.
787  * @param fileName
788  *      The name of the file.
789  * @param text
790  *      The text being written to a file. */
791 public static String loadStringFromFile(File theFile, boolean
792     ↪ addNewLine)
793 {
794     StringBuffer result = null;
795     try
796     {
797         if ((theFile == null) || (!theFile.exists()) || (!theFile.
798             ↪ isFile()))
799         {
800             return null;
801         }
802         BufferedReader b = new BufferedReader(new FileReader(
803             ↪ theFile));
804         String temp = b.readLine();
805         while (temp != null)
806         {
807             if (result == null)
808             {
809                 result = new StringBuffer();
810             }
811             if (addNewLine)
812             {
813                 result.append(temp + "\n");
814             }
815             else
816             {
817                 result.append(temp);
818             }
819             temp = b.readLine();
820         }
821         b.close();
822     } catch (IOException io)
823     {

```

```

820     System.out.println("Error reading the file " + io);
821 }
822 return result.toString();
823 } // loadStringFromFile
824
825
826 /** Formats a String to a length, with prefix specified as a
827     ↪ parameter
828     *
829     * @param m
830     *         - String to format
831     * @param length
832     *         - Length of String
833     * @param theBuffer
834     *         - String to append to front or back of the String
835     * @return String - Formatted String */
836 public static String formatStringLength(String m, int length,
837     String theBuffer, boolean after)
838 {
839     StringBuffer result = new StringBuffer();
840
841     if (m.length() == length)
842     {
843         result.append(m);
844     }
845     else if ((m.length() > length) && (length > 0))
846     {
847         if (after)
848         {
849             result.append(m.substring(0, length));
850         }
851         else
852         {
853             result.append(m.substring(m.length() - length, m.length()
854                 ↪ ));
855         }
856     }
857     else
858     {
859         if (after)
860         {
861             result.append(m);
862         }
863         for (int i = 0; i < (length - m.length()); i++)
864         {

```

```

863         result.append(theBuffer);
864     }
865     if (!after)
866     {
867         result.append(m);
868     }
869 }
870 return result.toString();
871 } // formatStringLength
872
873
874 public static void main(String[] args)
875 {
876     SCPAlpha m = new SCPAlpha(args);
877 }
878 }
879
880 class LItem
881 {
882     int[] ogElements = null;
883     int ogCost = 0;
884
885
886     public LItem(int[] elementsSource, int cost)
887     {
888         ogElements = new int[elementsSource.length];
889         for (int i = 0; i < ogElements.length; i++)
890         {
891             ogElements[i] = elementsSource[i];
892         }
893         ogCost = cost;
894     }
895
896
897     public boolean isWithin(int[] setArray)
898     {
899         boolean result = true;
900
901         for (int i = 0; i < ogElements.length; i++)
902         {
903             if ((ogElements[i] == 0) && (setArray[i] > 0))
904             {
905                 result = false;
906             }
907         }

```

```

908
909     return result;
910 } // isWithin
911
912
913 public String toString()
914 {
915     String result = "";
916
917     for (int i = 0; i < ogElements.length; i++)
918     {
919         System.out.print(ogElements[i] + " ");
920     }
921     System.out.println(", Cost: " + ogCost);
922     return result;
923 }
924
925 } // LItem

```

Listing 2: This listing contains the Element Class.

```

1  /**
2  *
3  *  ↪ _____
4  *  ↪
5  *  Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
6  *
7  *  ↪ _____
8  *  ↪
9  *
10 * Class: Element
11 * Program: SCP/SPP program
12 *
13 * DESCRIPTION: Implements an element
14 */
15 import java.util.ArrayList;
16
17 public class Element
18 {
19     public int ogName = 0;
20     public int ogCoveringSets = 0;
21     public ArrayList<Set> ogCoveringSetArray = new ArrayList();
22
23     public Element(int name)
24     {
25         ogName = name;

```

```

22 } // Element
23
24 public String toString()
25 {
26     return ogName + "";
27 }
28 } // Element

```

Listing 3: This listing contains the Block Class.

```

1  /**
2   *
3   * Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
4   *
5   *
6   * Class: Block
7   * Program: SCP/SPP program
8   *
9   * DESCRIPTION: Implements a Block
10  */
11 import java.util.ArrayList;
12 import java.util.Comparator;
13
14 public class Block
15 {
16     public ArrayList<Set> ogSets = new ArrayList<Set>();
17     int ogCurrentPos = 0;
18     int ogID;
19
20
21     public Block(int theID)
22     {
23         ogID = theID;
24     } // Block
25
26
27     public void sortSets(boolean useH2)
28     {
29         MergeSort sorter = new MergeSort();
30         if (useH2)
31         {
32             sorter.sort(ogSets, new SetSortCoverHandler());

```

```

33     }
34     sorter.sort(ogSets, new SetSortHandler());
35 } // sortSets
36
37
38 public String toString()
39 {
40     return ogID + "";
41 }
42
43 }
44
45 class SetSortHandler implements Comparator
46 {
47
48     @Override
49     public int compare(Object o1, Object o2)
50     {
51         int result = 0;
52         Set a = (Set) o1;
53         Set b = (Set) o2;
54         if (a.ogCost < b.ogCost)
55         {
56             result = -1;
57         }
58         else if (a.ogCost > b.ogCost)
59         {
60             result = 1;
61         }
62
63         return result;
64     }
65 }
66
67 class SetSortCoverHandler implements Comparator
68 {
69
70     @Override
71     public int compare(Object o1, Object o2)
72     {
73         int result = 0;
74         Set a = (Set) o1;
75         Set b = (Set) o2;
76         int aN = 0;
77         int bN = 0;

```

```

78     for (boolean r : a.ogSet)
79     {
80         if (r)
81         {
82             aN++;
83         }
84     }
85     for (boolean r : b.ogSet)
86     {
87         if (r)
88         {
89             bN++;
90         }
91     }
92     if (aN < bN)
93     {
94         result = 1;
95     }
96     else if (aN > bN)
97     {
98         result = -1;
99     }
100
101     return result;
102 }
103 }

```

Listing 4: This listing contains the Tableau Class.

```

1  /**
2   *
3   *   ↪ _____
4   *   ↪ _____
5   * Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
6   *
7   *   ↪ _____
8   *   ↪ _____
9   *
10  * Class: Set
11  * Program: SCP/SPP program
12  *
13  * DESCRIPTION: Implements a tableau
14  */
15 import java.util.ArrayList;
16
17 public class Tableau

```

```

14 {
15     public ArrayList<Block> ogBlocks = new ArrayList();
16
17 } // Tableau

```

Listing 5: This listing contains the Merge Sort Class.

```

1  /**
2   *
3   * Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
4   *
5   *
6   * Class: MergeSort
7   * Program: Util
8   *
9   */
10
11 import java.util.ArrayList;
12 import java.util.Collections;
13 import java.util.Comparator;
14
15 /**
16  * The MergeSort is handled by the Collections.sort function. If
17  * the Collections.sort
18  * function is ever changed so that it isn't stable, a stable
19  * Merge sort will have to
20  * be added.
21  *
22  * @author
23  */
24 public class MergeSort
25 {
26     public void sort(ArrayList array, Comparator sortHandler)
27     {
28         Collections.sort(array, sortHandler);
29     }
30 } // MergeSort

```



## B Testing Suite Code Listing

In this appendix we include all code, written in the Julia technical computing language [3], which implements the test suite described in this work.

Listing 6: This listing contains the code for the AFIT SCP Solver test suite.

```
1
2 #####
3 #
4 # AFIT SCP Solver Automated Testing Suite
5 #
6 # Author: Justin Fletcher
7 #
8 # Purpose: This program automatically constructs random
9 # instances of the SCP and solves them using the AFIT SCP
10 # Solver. The resultant running times are
11 #
12 #####
13 function run_scp_program(program_call, input_file_name)
14     open(program_call, "w", STDOUT) do io
15
16         println(io, input_file_name)
17         println(io, "")
18         println(io, "n")
19         println(io, "")
20         println(io, "n")
21     end
22 end
23
24 function construct_random_set_matrix(n_sets, n_cover_elements,
25     ⇨ density)
26
27     edges = density*((n_sets*n_cover_elements))
28
29     mask = randperm((n_sets*n_cover_elements))[1:edges]
30     a = reshape([(i in mask) ? 1 : 0 for i in 1:(n_sets*
31     ⇨ n_cover_elements)], (n_cover_elements, n_sets))
32
33     return(a)
34 end
35
36 function set_matrix_to_input_file(a, filename, program_dir)
37     f = open(program_dir*"\\\\"*filename, "w")
```

```

38     num_elements = size(a)[1]
39     num_sets = size(a)[2]
40
41     write(f, "{")
42
43     [write(f, " "*string(n)) for n in 1:num_elements]
44
45     write(f, " }\n")
46     write(f, "{\n")
47
48     for set in 1:num_sets
49
50         write(f, "\t(")
51         write(f, "{")
52
53         for covers_element in 1:num_elements
54             if (a[covers_element, set]==1)
55                 write(f, " $covers_element")
56             end
57         end
58         write(f, "}")
59         cost=rand(1:5)
60         write(f, ", $cost")
61         write(f, ")\n")
62     end
63
64     write(f, "}")
65
66
67     close(f)
68 end
69
70
71 #####
72
73 a = construct_random_set_matrix(100, 50, 0.3)
74
75 program_dir = "C:\\csce-686\\hw6\\scp_code\\original\\"
76 cd(program_dir)
77
78 set_matrix_to_input_file(a, "deleteme.txt", program_dir)
79
80 program_call = ' java -jar "SCP Solver 2006.jar" '
81 tic()
82 run_scp_program(program_call, "deleteme.txt")

```

```

83 runtime_unmod = toq()
84 #####
85 #####
86
87 program_dir = "C:\\csce-686\\hw6\\scp_code\\modified\\"
88 cd(program_dir)
89
90 set_matrix_to_input_file(a, "deleteme.txt", program_dir)
91
92 program_call = ' java -jar scpKF.jar deleteme.txt -H1 -H2 -H3 -
    ↪ noout '
93
94 tic()
95 run_scp_program(program_call, "deleteme.txt")
96 runtime = toq()
97 #####
98 runtime_unmod
99 runtime
100 println(runtime_unmod/runtime)
101 #####
102
103 function run_scp_program_experiment(program_call, program_dir,
    ↪ num_reps, n_sets_seq, n_elements_seq, density)
104
105     cd(program_dir)
106
107     runtime_matrix = zeros((num_reps, length(n_elements_seq),
    ↪ length(n_sets_seq)))
108     for rep_num in 1:num_reps
109
110         for n_elements in 1:length(n_elements_seq)
111             for n_sets in 1:length(n_sets_seq)
112                 # Construct a random set cover problem
113                 a = construct_random_set_matrix(n_sets,
    ↪ n_elements, density)
114
115                 set_matrix_to_input_file(a, "temp_input_file.txt"
    ↪ , program_dir)
116
117                 tic()
118                 run_scp_program(program_call, "temp_input_file.
    ↪ txt")
119                 runtime = toq()
120
121                 runtime_matrix[rep_num, n_elements, n_sets] =

```

```

122                                     ↪ runtime
123             end
124     end
125
126     end
127
128     return(runtime_matrix)
129
130 end
131
132 #####
133 using PyPlot
134
135 function movingWindowAverage(inputVector , windowSize)
136
137     movingAverageWindowVector = Float64 []
138
139     for (windowMidIndex = 1:length(inputVector))
140
141         windowStartIndex = maximum([minimum([windowMidIndex-floor
142             ↪ (windowSize/2), (length(inputVector)-windowSize)])
143             ↪ , 1])
144
145         windowEndIndex = minimum([length(inputVector), (
146             ↪ windowStartIndex+windowSize)])
147
148         push!(movingAverageWindowVector, mean(inputVector[
149             ↪ windowStartIndex:windowEndIndex]))
150
151     end
152
153     return(movingAverageWindowVector)
154
155 end
156
157 #####
158 # Select the experimental range.
159 num_reps = 30
160 n_sets_seq = [10:20:1500]
161 n_elements_seq = [10:5:100]

```

```

162
163 # Initialize the program calls .
164 original_scp_call = ' java -jar "SCP Solver 2006.jar" '
165 original_program_dir = "C:\\csce-686\\hw6\\scp_code\\original\\"
166
167
168 # Run the eperiment .
169 scp_runtime_mat = @time run_scp_program_experiment(
    ↪ original_scp_call, original_program_dir, num_reps,
    ↪ n_sets_seq, n_elements_seq, 0.30)
170
171
172 #####
173
174
175 scp_runtime_mat[7,indmax(int(n_elements_seq==60)),indmax(int(
    ↪ n_sets_seq==450)))]
176
177 scp_runtime_mat[indmax(scp_runtime_mat[:,indmax(int(
    ↪ n_elements_seq==60)),indmax(int(n_sets_seq==450)))] ,
    ↪ indmax(int(n_elements_seq==60)),indmax(int(n_sets_seq
    ↪ ==206)))]
178
179 #####
180 # Calculate the mean.
181 scp_runtime_mat_mean = slice(mean(scp_runtime_mat,1), 1,:,:)
182
183 # Plot the results .
184 figure(1)
185
186 subplot(2,3,(2,3))
187 imshow(scp_runtime_mat_mean,
188         interpolation="none",
189         extent=[n_sets_seq[1],n_sets_seq[end],n_elements_seq[1],
    ↪ n_elements_seq[end]] ,
190         origin="lower",
191         aspect=5)
192 colorbar(orientation="horizontal", label=" Running Time \\$\\ (s)
    ↪ \\$\\ ")
193 xlabel(" \\$\\ n \\$\\ (Number of Sets)")
194 ylabel(" \\$\\ n \\$\\ (Number of Elements to Cover)")
195 title("Mean Running Time of the Original AFIT SCP Solver")
196 subplot(2,3,(5,6))
197 scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean = mean(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
198 scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std = std(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)

```

```

199
200 plot(n_sets_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean), label="
    ↳ Output Calculation Time", color="blue")
201 errorbar(n_sets_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean), yerr=vec
    ↳ (scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std), fmt=".", alpha=0.7, color=
    ↳ "blue")
202 title("Set-Wise Marginal Mean Running Time of the Original AFIT
    ↳ SCP Solver")
203 xlabel("$ n $" (Number of Sets))
204 ylabel(" Running Time $ (s) $" )
205 legend(loc=2)
206 xlim(0,1500)
207
208 scp_runtime_by_nelemnts_mat_mean = mean(scp_runtime_mat_mean, 2)
209
210 subplot(2,3,1)
211 scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean = mean(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,2)
212 scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std = std(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,2)
213
214 plot(n_elements_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean),
    ↳ label="Output Calculation Time", color="blue")
215 errorbar(n_elements_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean),
    ↳ yerr=vec(scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std), fmt=".", alpha
    ↳ =0.7, color="blue")
216 title("Cover-Element-Wise Marginal Mean Running Time of the
    ↳ Original AFIT SCP Solver")
217 xlabel("$ n $" (Number of Elements to Cover))
218 ylabel(" Running Time $ (s) $" )
219 legend(loc=2)
220
221
222
223
224 #####
225 #####
226 #####
227
228 # Select the experimental range.
229 num_reps = 30
230 n_sets_seq = [10:20:1500]
231 n_elements_seq = [10:5:100]
232
233
234 # Initialize the program calls.
235 modified_scp_call = ' java -jar scpKF.jar temp_input_file.txt -H1

```

```

    ↪ -noout '
236 modified_program_dir = "C:\\\\csce-686\\\\hw6\\\\scp_code\\\\modified\\"
237
238 # Run the eperiment.
239 modified_scp_runtime_mat = @time run_scp_program_experiment(
    ↪ modified_scp_call, modified_program_dir, num_reps,
    ↪ n_sets_seq, n_elements_seq, 0.30)
240
241 #####
242
243 # Calculate the mean.
244 modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean = slice(mean(
    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_mat,1), 1, :, :)
245
246 # Pplot the results.
247 figure(2)
248 subplot(2,3,(2,3))
249 imshow(modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean,
250         interpolation="none",
251         extent=[n_sets_seq[1], n_sets_seq[end], n_elements_seq[1],
    ↪ n_elements_seq[end]],
252         origin="lower",
253         aspect=5)
254 colorbar(orientation="horizontal", label=" Running Time \\\ (s)
    ↪ \\\ ")
255 xlabel(" \\\ n \\\ (Number of Sets)")
256 ylabel(" \\\ n \\\ (Number of Elements to Cover)")
257 title("Mean Running Time of theModified AFIT SCP Solver")
258
259
260 subplot(2,3,(5,6))
261 modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean = mean(
    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
262 modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std = std(
    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
263
264 plot(n_sets_seq, vec(modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean),
    ↪ label="Output Calculation Time", color="blue")
265 errorbar(n_sets_seq, vec(modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean),
    ↪ yerr=vec(modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std), fmt=".",
    ↪ alpha=0.7, color="blue")
266 title("Set-Wise Marginal Mean Running Time of the Modified AFIT
    ↪ SCP Solver")
267 xlabel(" \\\ n \\\ (Number of Sets)")
268 ylabel(" \\\ t \\\ \\\ (s) \\\ ")

```

```

269 legend(loc=2)
270 xlim(0,1500)
271
272 modified_scp_runtime_by_nelemnts_mat_mean = mean(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean, 2)
273
274
275 subplot(2,3,1)
276 modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean = mean(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean, 2)
277 modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std = std(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean, 2)
278
279 plot(n_elements_seq, vec(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean), label="Output
    ↳ Calculation Time", color="blue")
280 errorbar(n_elements_seq, vec(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean), yerr=vec(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std), fmt=".", alpha
    ↳ =0.7, color="blue")
281 title("Cover-Element-Wise Marginal Mean Running Time of the
    ↳ Modified AFIT SCP Solver")
282 xlabel("$n$ (Number of Elemtns to Cover)")
283 ylabel("$t$ (s)")
284 legend(loc=2)
285
286
287
288
289 ##### Direct comparison.
290 common_max=maximum((maximum(scp_runtime_mat_mean),maximum(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean)))
291 common_min=minimum((minimum(scp_runtime_mat_mean),minimum(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean)))
292 figure(3)
293
294
295 subplot(2,2,(1,2))
296 imshow(scp_runtime_mat_mean,
297         interpolation="none",
298         extent=[n_sets_seq[1], n_sets_seq[end], n_elements_seq[1],
    ↳ n_elements_seq[end]],
299         origin="lower",
300         aspect=5,
301         vmin=common_min,

```



```

302         vmax=common_max)
303 colorbar(orientation="horizontal", label="    Running Time \ $\ (s)
    ↳ \ $\ ")
304 xlabel(" \ $\ n \ $\ (Number of Sets)")
305 ylabel(" \ $\ n \ $\ (Number of Elements to Cover)")
306 title("Mean Running Time of the Original AFIT SCP Solver")
307 subplot(2,3,(5,6))
308 scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean = mean(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
309 scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std = std(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
310
311
312
313 subplot(2,2,(3,4))
314 imshow(modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean,
315         interpolation="none",
316         extent=[n_sets_seq[1],n_sets_seq[end],n_elements_seq[1],
    ↳ n_elements_seq[end]],
317         origin="lower",
318         aspect=5,
319         vmin=common_min,
320         vmax=common_max)
321 colorbar(orientation="horizontal", label="    Running Time \ $\ (s)
    ↳ \ $\ ")
322 xlabel(" \ $\ n \ $\ (Number of Sets)")
323 ylabel(" \ $\ n \ $\ (Number of Elements to Cover)")
324 title("Mean Running Time of the Modified AFIT SCP Solver")
325
326
327 ##### Direct comparison.
328
329
330
331 #####
332
333 modified_scp_runtime_by_nelemnts_mat_mean = mean(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean , 2)
334
335
336 subplot(1,2,1)
337 modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean = mean(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean ,2)
338 modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std = std(
    ↳ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean ,2)
339
340 plot(n_elements_seq , vec(

```

```

    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean), label="
    ↪ Modified AFIT SCP Solver", color="blue")
341 errorbar(n_elements_seq, vec(
    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean), yerr=vec(
    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std), fmt=".", alpha
    ↪ =0.7, color="blue")
342
343
344 scp_runtime_by_nelemnts_mat_mean = mean(scp_runtime_mat_mean, 2)
345
346 subplot(1,2,1)
347 scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean = mean(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,2)
348 scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std = std(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,2)
349
350 plot(n_elements_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean),
    ↪ label="Unmodified AFIT SCP Solver", color="red")
351 errorbar(n_elements_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_mean),
    ↪ yerr=vec(scp_runtime_by_nelements_mat_std), fmt=".", alpha
    ↪ =0.7, color="red")
352 title("Cover-Element-Wise Marginal Mean Running Time of
    ↪ Variations of the AFIT SCP Solver")
353 xlabel(" \ $ \ n \ $ \ (Number of Elements to Cover)")
354 ylabel(" Running Time \ $ \ (s) \ $ \ ")
355 legend(loc=2)
356
357
358 #####
359
360
361 subplot(1,2,2)
362 modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean = mean(
    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
363 modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std = std(
    ↪ modified_scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
364
365 plot(n_sets_seq, vec(modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean),
    ↪ label="Modified AFIT SCP Solver", color="blue")
366 errorbar(n_sets_seq, vec(modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean),
    ↪ yerr=vec(modified_scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std), fmt=".",
    ↪ alpha=0.7, color="blue")
367
368 subplot(1,2,2)
369 scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean = mean(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
370 scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std = std(scp_runtime_mat_mean ,1)
371

```

```

372 plot(n_sets_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean), label="
      ↳ Unmodified AFIT SCP Solver", color="red")
373 errorbar(n_sets_seq, vec(scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_mean), yerr=vec
      ↳ (scp_runtime_by_nsets_mat_std), fmt=".", alpha=0.7, color=
      ↳ "red")
374 title("Set-Wise Marginal Mean Running Time of VArations of the
      ↳ AFIT SCP Solver")
375 xlabel("\$ n \$ (Number of Sets)")
376 ylabel("Running Time \$ (s) \$")
377 legend(loc=2)
378 xlim(0,1500)

```

## References

- [1] G. Lamont, “Advanced algorithim design class notes: Algorithm design.”
- [2] J. Fletcher and J. Knapp, “"csce 686 - homework 5".”
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- [5] Cristofides, *Graph Algorithms*.

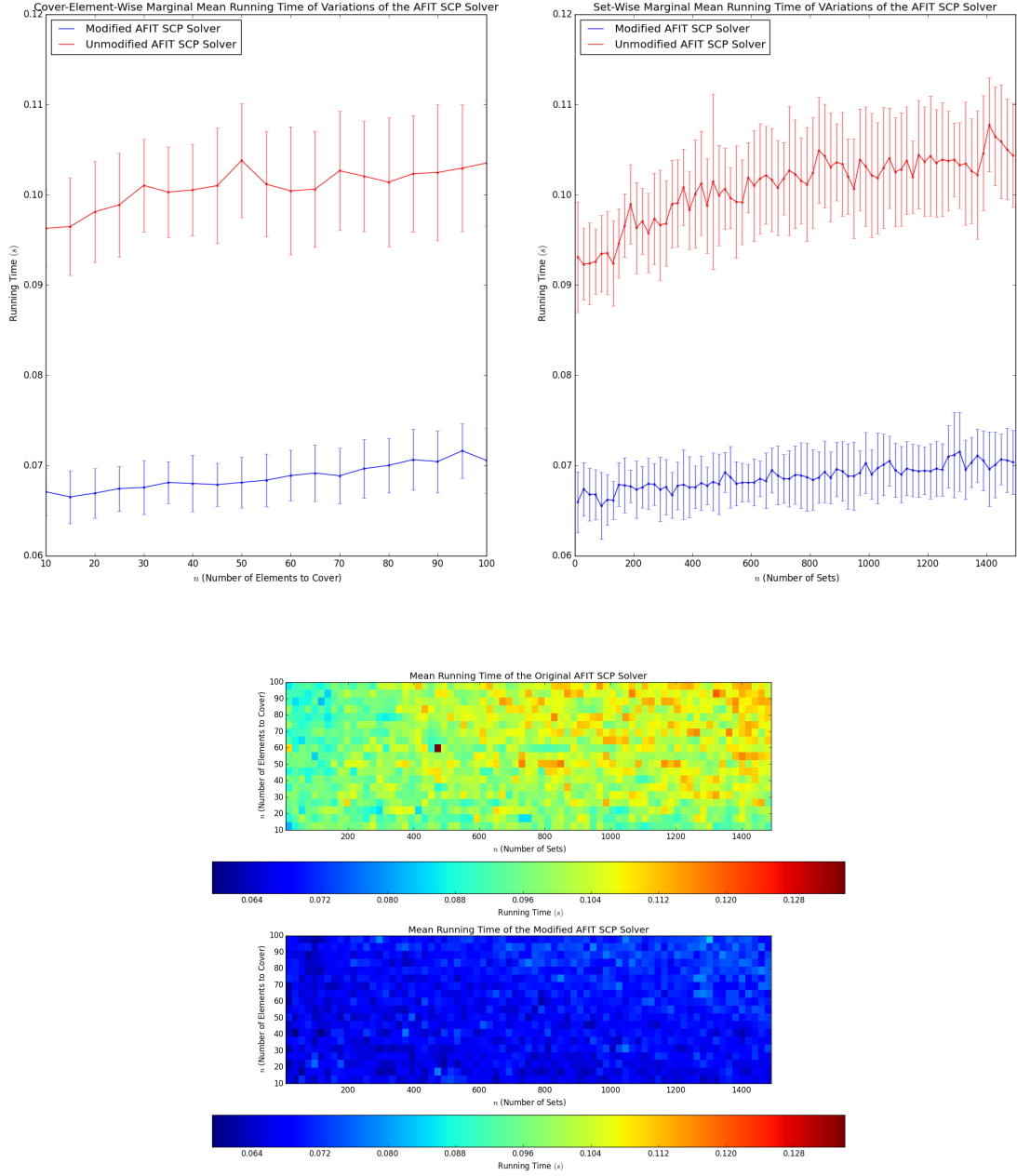


Figure 3: This figure displays the marginal mean running time of the the modified and unmodified AFIT SCP Solver, with respect to the number of sets in the instance and the number of elements to cover in the instance (top-left and top-right, respectively). The bottom plot displays both tile plots on a common scale. All instances have a density of approximately 0.3.

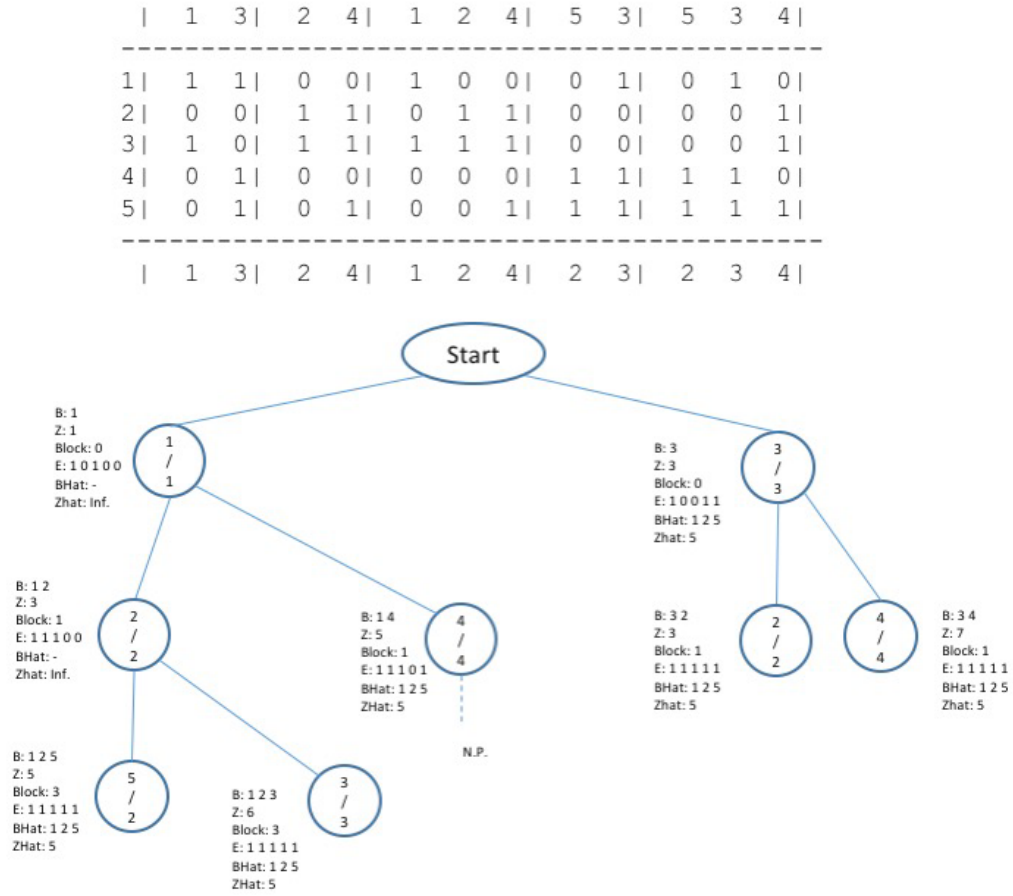


Figure 4: This figure displays a sample graph created using the supplied input data. The initial Tableau is shown above the graph.