

CE4 – 06A

Advanced Process Optimisation

Lecture 4

Previous lecture

- Modelling discrete decisions
 - Identify and represent all possible alternatives in superstructures
 - Convert logic relations to algebraic equations
- Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP)
- Solution approaches to MILP
 - Brief overview of: (i) Brute Force Approach, (ii) Relaxation and Rounding Approach
 - Description of Branch and Bound (B&B) techniques
 - Basic steps to construct a B&B tree
 - Relaxation properties
 - Branching – node selection strategies
 - Brief mention of cutting planes

Objectives for today

- Introduction to Mixed Integer Non-Linear Programming (MINLP)
- Understand solution approaches to MINLP
 - Revise basic features of Branch-and-Bound (B&B) techniques
 - Be familiar with Generalized Benders Decomposition (GBD) and Outer-Approximation (OA) algorithms
 - Understand main structure of each algorithm
 - Understand concepts of Primal and Master Problems
 - Be able to apply GBD and OA to an MINLP Process Synthesis example
 - Compare both approaches

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Mixed Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,y} \quad & f(x,y) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \mathbf{h}(x,y) = 0 \\ & \mathbf{g}(x,y) \leq 0 \\ & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ & \mathbf{y} \in \{0,1\}^q \end{aligned}$$

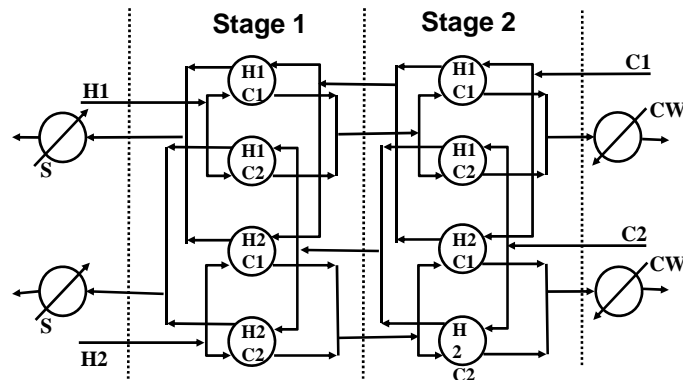
- \mathbf{x} : variable vector represents the continuous decisions (flowrates, equipment sizes, pressure, temperature, heat duties)
- \mathbf{y} : binary variables represent the existence or non-existence of process units
- In an MINLP, at least one function is nonlinear in one variable
- **What solution strategies?**

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Mixed-Integer Non-Linear Programming (MINLP)

Motivating example: Heat Exchanger Network



Assumption: **optimal network** with **minimum utility cost**, minimum # of units & minimum **area cost** for # of units)

But network cost a combination of **capital** and **operating cost** → consider both aspect simultaneously in optimal network

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Mixed-Integer Non-Linear Programming (MINLP)

✓ Optimisation problem: find the minimum cost network

✓ Consists of:

- Binary and continuous variables
- Linear constraints
- Nonlinear objective function

↓

MINLP problem

How do we solve it?

Difficulties

- **combinatorial nature** of the problem (due to **binary variables**)
- presence of **local minima** (due to **nonconvexity** of non-linear functions)

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Nonlinearity in the binary variables

- A nonlinear function of binary variables can always be reformulated so that the binary variables appear linearly
- Examples:
 - $f = y^2$, with $y \in \{0,1\}$ is equivalent to $f(y) = y$
 - $f = \exp(y)$, with $y \in \{0,1\}$ is equivalent to
$$\begin{cases} x = y \\ f = \exp(x) \\ x \in [0,1] \end{cases}$$

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“Convex” MINLP

- An oxymoron
- But a useful concept
 - the problem is convex in x for fixed y
 - the y variables appear linearly
- The algorithms we will see today can solve problems of this type to global optimality

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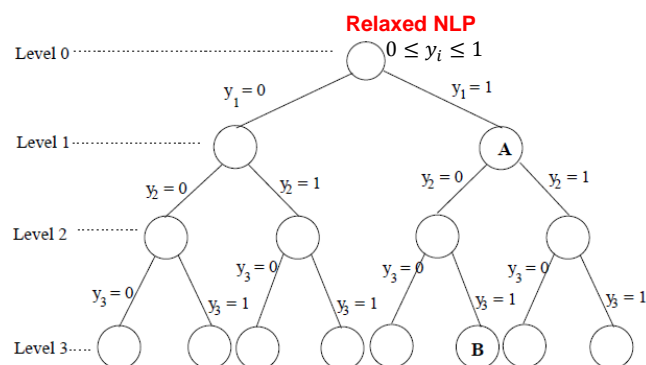
MINLP: Branch-and-Bound Approaches

- Same principle as in B&B techniques for MILP
- Main difference → relaxation at each node is an NLP, not an LP.
- If NLP nonconvex:
 - solution of relaxation can only be a lower bound on MINLP if its global minimum can be identified
 - otherwise, the B&B algorithm may converge to local solution.
- Efficiency:
 - not easy to update the NLPs at each node as in LPs
 - more effort needed at each node
- B&B algorithms can solve problems with integer variables without reformulation.

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Branch-and-Bound (B&B) tree



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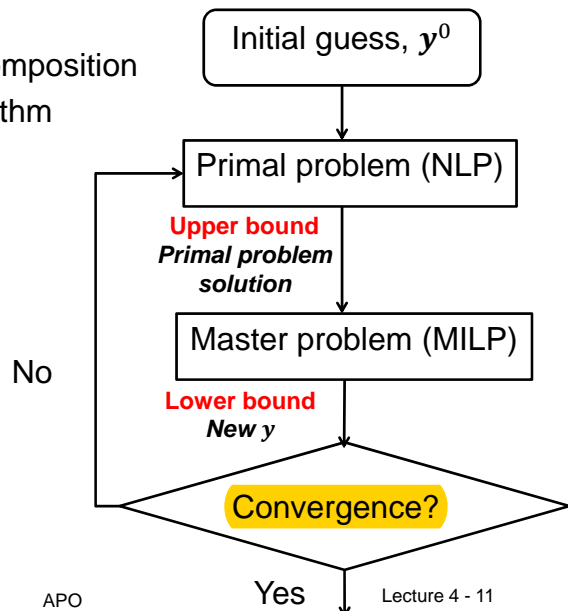
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MINLP: Decomposition Strategies

- Generalized Benders Decomposition
- Outer-Approximation algorithm



- **Basic idea:** Perform separately continuous and discrete optimization



The Generalized Benders Decomposition (GBD)

- ❖ Applied to a class of problems with the following structure (Geoffrion, 1972):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{x,y} \quad & f^x(x) + x^T A y + c^T y \\
 \text{s. t.} \quad & h^x(x) + x^T B y + d^T y = 0 \\
 & g^x(x) + x^T C y + e^T y \leq 0 \\
 & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\
 & y \in \{0,1\}^q
 \end{aligned} \quad (GBD)$$

Notes:

1. Binary variables participate in mixed-bilinear and linear terms.
2. However, any problem of form (MINLP) can be transformed into a (GBD).

GBD algorithm is based on 3 main principles:

1. Partitioning of the variable set
2. Decomposition of the problem
3. Iterative refinement

GBD – General principles

Partitioning of the variable set:

- y variables: [complicating variables](#) → handled differently from the x var.
- In original work (Geoffrion, 1972), complicating y var not only [binary](#) - could also be [continuous](#)
- algorithm can also [handle bilinear nonconvexities](#) in a rigorous manner.

Decomposition of the problem:

- Solve problem considering two types of derived problems:
 - a [primal problem](#) → provides an [upper bound](#) on the MINLP
 - a [master problem](#) → provides a [lower bound](#) on the MINLP.

Iterative refinement:

- Use information from any given primal and master problems
- Construct [new primal and master](#) problems in a way that:
 - obtain [tighter bounds](#)
 - achieve [convergence](#) within a finite number of iterations

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GBD – The primal problem

Primal problem

- k^{th} primal problem (P^k) obtained by fixing the binary variables in (GBD) to some combination y^k :

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,y} \quad & f(x, y^k) \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & h(x, y^k) = 0 \\ & g(x, y^k) \leq 0 \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{aligned} \quad (P^k)$$

where $f(x, y) = f^x(x) + x^T A y + c^T y$

$h(x, y) = h^x(x) + x^T B y + d^T y$

$g(x, y) = g^x(x) + x^T C y + e^T y$

- (P^k): NLP → provides an [upper bound](#) on (GBD).
- Solution of (P^k) → NLP [feasible](#) or [infeasible](#).

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GBD – Feasible primal problem

- Solution of (P^k) yields an **upper bound** \bar{f}^k on:
 - the MINLP
 - values of the continuous variables at solution x^k
 - values of the optimal Lagrange multipliers at solution λ^k and μ^k .
- Based on the optimal solution, the Lagrange function can then be formulated as:

$$\mathcal{L}(x, y; \lambda^k, \mu^k) = f(x, y) + \lambda^{kT} h(x, y) + \mu^{kT} g(x, y)$$

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GBD – Infeasible primal problem

Infeasible Primal problem

- A feasibility problem is formulated and solved to identify a feasible or nearly feasible point:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x, \alpha} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^P \alpha_i \quad \text{🗨️} \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & h(x, y^k) = \theta_i \quad \text{🗨️} \\ & g(x, y^k) \leq \theta_i \quad \text{🗨️} \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ & \alpha \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (FP^k)$$

- Solution of (FP^k) is **greater than 0** if **no feasible point** can be found.
- At solution x^k , the Lagrange multipliers $\lambda^{IP,k}$ and $\mu^{IP,k}$ enable the specification of the following Lagrange function: 🗨️

$$\mathcal{L}(x, y; \lambda^{IP,k}, \mu^{IP,k}) = \lambda^{IP,kT} h(x, y) + \mu^{IP,kT} g(x, y)$$

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GBD – The Master problem

- Relaxed master problem at iteration $K \rightarrow$ constructed from evaluating the Lagrange functions at the solution of primal and infeasible primal for all previous iterations:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{y, \eta^K} \quad & \eta^K \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \eta^K \geq \mathcal{L}(x^k, y; \lambda^k, \mu^k), k = 1, \dots, K \\ & 0 \geq \mathcal{L}^{IP}(x^k, y; \lambda^{IP,k}, \mu^{IP,k}), k = 1, \dots, K \\ & y \in \{0,1\}^q \end{aligned} \quad (M^K)$$

- (M^K) is an MILP with a single continuous variable
- η^K is a lower bound on the solution of (GBD)
- new constraint added to (M^K) at each iteration \rightarrow the sequence of lower bounds is non-decreasing
- y^K can be used to construct the primal problem for iteration $K + 1$

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GBD – Integer cuts

Integer cuts

- Any combination y^k of the binary var should not be generated twice \rightarrow the following integer cuts added to the set of constraints.
 - Let $Z^k = \{i: y_i^k = 0\}$ and $NZ^k = \{i: y_i^k = 1\}$, then:

$$\sum_{i \in NZ^k} y_i - \sum_{i \in Z^k} y_i \leq |NZ^k| - 1$$

- $|NZ^k|$ cardinality of NZ^k
- y^k becomes an infeasible solution



Example

Build the integer cut for $y^T = (1,0,0,1,1)$

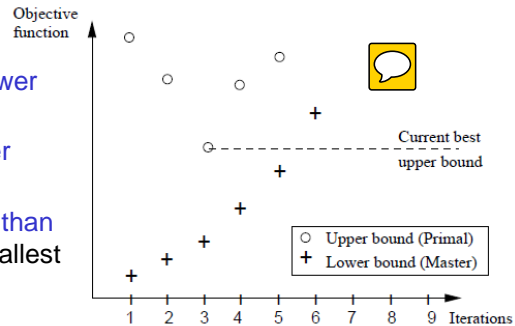
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GBD – Convergence criterion

Termination criteria

- Typical progress for the upper and lower bounds during a GBD
- Subsequent solutions → yield a larger objective
- Terminate when lower bound greater than current best upper bound (i.e. the smallest upper bound).



Note:

- When integer cuts added to relaxed master (M^k) at each iteration
 - relaxed master may become infeasible before the lower and upper bound converge
 - all feasible integer combinations may have been explored
 - the solution is the best upper bound found so far.

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GBD - Summary

Standard problem form

$$\text{MINLP: } z = \min_{x,y} f^x(x) + x^T A y + c^T y$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{s.t. } & h^x(x) + x^T B y + d^T y = 0 \\ & g^x(x) + x^T C y + e^T y \leq 0 \\ & x \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n \\ & y \in \{0,1\}^q \end{aligned}$$

Step 1:

- Set $k = 1$, $z^u = +\infty$,
- Select y^1

Step 2:

- Solve NLP primal

$$z(y^k) = \min_x f^x(x) + x^T A y^k + c^T y^k$$

$$\text{s.t. } h^x(x) + x^T B y^k + d^T y^k = 0$$

$$g^x(x) + x^T C y^k + e^T y^k \leq 0$$

$$x \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$$

→ x^k, μ^k
- If $z(y^k) < z^u$

→ $z^u = z(y^k)$, $x^* = x^k$, $y^* = y^k$

Step 3:

- Set-up and solve MILP master

$$z^k = \min_{y,\eta} \eta^K$$

$$\text{s.t. } \eta^K \geq \mathcal{L}(x^k, y; \lambda^k, \mu^k), k = 1, \dots, K$$

$$0 \geq \mathcal{L}^{IP}(x^k, y; \lambda^{IP,k}, \mu^{IP,k}), k = 1, \dots, K$$

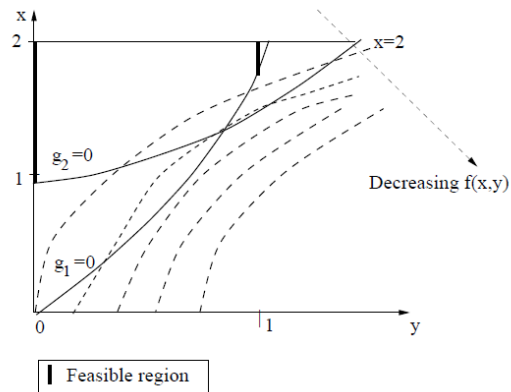
$$\sum_{i \in NZ^k} y_i - \sum_{i \in Z^k} y_i \leq |NZ^k| - 1$$

$$y \in \{0,1\}^q$$

→ y^{k+1}
- If $z^k \geq z^u$ → stop → Solution (x^*, y^*, z^u)
 Else, set $k = k+1$ → return to step 2 with new y^{k+1}

GBD - Example

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,y} \quad & -2.7y + x^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_1 = -\ln(1+x) + y \leq 0 \\ & g_2 = -\ln(x-0.57) - 1.1 + y \leq 0 \\ & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \\ & y \in \{0,1\} \end{aligned}$$



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Example – Iteration 1

1. Set $y^{(1)} = 1$
2. First primal problem $P^{(1)}$

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & -2.7 + x^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_1 = -\ln(1+x) + 1 \leq 0 \\ & g_2 = -\ln(x-0.57) - 0.1 \leq 0 \\ & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \end{aligned}$$

Solution: $(x^{(1)}, \mu^{(1)}) = (1.7183, 9.3417, 0)^T$; $f = 0.2525$.

Lagrange function:

$$L(x^{(1)}, y, \mu^{(1)}) = -2.7y + 2.9525 + 9.3417(-1 + y)$$

3. Master problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{y, \eta^{(1)}} \quad & \eta^{(1)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \eta^{(1)} \geq L(x^{(1)}, y, \mu^{(1)}) \end{aligned}$$

Solution: $\eta^{(1)} = -6.3892$ at $y^{(2)} = 0$

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Example – Iteration 2

1. Second primal problem $P^{(2)}$

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & x^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_1 = -\ln(1+x) \leq 0 \\ & g_2 = -\ln(x-0.57) - 1.1 \leq 0 \\ & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \end{aligned}$$

Solution: $(x^{(2)}, \mu^{(2)}) = (0.9028, 0, 0.6)^T$; $f = 0.815$.

Lagrange function:

$$L(x^{(2)}, y, \mu^{(2)}) = 0.815176 + 0.6y$$

Higher than
best upper bound!

2. Master problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{y, \eta^{(2)}} \quad & \eta^{(2)} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \eta^{(2)} \geq L(x^{(1)}, y, \mu^{(1)}) \\ & \eta^{(2)} \geq L(x^{(2)}, y, \mu^{(2)}) \end{aligned}$$

Solution: $\eta^{(2)} = 0.2525$ at $y^{(3)} = 1$

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The Outer-Approximation (OA)

❖ Applied to a class of problems with the following structure (*Grossmann and coworkers*, 1986 onwards):

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x, y} \quad & f^x(x) + c^T y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & h^x(x) + d^T y = 0 \\ & g^x(x) + e^T y \leq 0 \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ & y \in \{0, 1\}^q \end{aligned} \quad (OA)$$

Professor Ignacio Grossmann will give a seminar at 11am on 24 February in LT3

Notes:

1. Binary variables participate in linear terms only.
2. Any problem of form (MINLP) can be transformed into a (OA).

OA algorithm is based same flowchart as GBD:

- Main difference lies in the formulation of the master problem

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OA – The Master problem

- Relaxed master problem at iteration $K \rightarrow$ constructed from linearisations at the solution of primal and infeasible primal for all previous iterations:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x, y, \eta^K} \quad & c^T y + \eta^K \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \eta^K \geq f^x(x^k) + \nabla f^x(x^k)^T (x - x^k) \\ & T^k \left[h^x(x^k) + \nabla h^x(x^k)^T (x - x^k) \right] + d^T y \leq 0 \\ & g^x(x^k) + \nabla g^x(x^k)^T (x - x^k) + e^T y \leq 0 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \vphantom{\min} \right\} , k = 1, \dots, K \quad (M^k)$$

$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
 $y \in \{0,1\}^q$

- $T^k = (t_{ii}^k)$ is the relaxation matrix Lagrange multiplier for $h_i^x(x^k)$

$$t_{ii}^k = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } \lambda_i^k < 0 \\ +1 & \text{if } \lambda_i^k > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \lambda_i^k = 0 \end{cases}, i = 1, \dots, m.$$

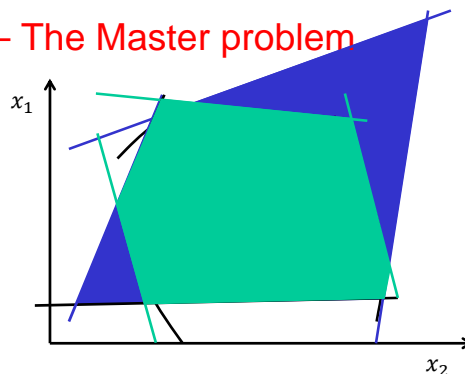
- When the primal problem is infeasible, only the linearisations of the constraints are added to the master

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OA – The Master problem

Graphical interpretation



- As for master problem in GBD, the OA master problem is such that:
 - η^K is a lower bound on the solution of (OA)
 - new constraint added to (M^k) at each iteration \rightarrow the sequence of lower bounds is non-decreasing
 - y^K can be used to construct the primal problem for iteration $K + 1$

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OA - Summary

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MINLP: } z &= \min_{x,y} f^x(x) + c^T y \\ \text{s.t. } & h^x(x) + d^T y = 0 \\ & g^x(x) + e^T y \leq 0 \\ & x \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n \\ & y \in \{0,1\}^q \end{aligned}$$

Step 1:

- a) Set $k = 1, z^u = +\infty$,
- b) Select y^1

Step 2:

- a) Solve NLP primal

$$\begin{aligned} z(y^k) &= \min_x f^x(x) + c^T y^k \\ \text{s.t. } & h^x(x) + d^T y^k = 0 \\ & g^x(x) + e^T y^k \leq 0 \\ & x \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n \end{aligned}$$

$\rightarrow x^k, \mu^k$
- b) If $z(y^k) < z^u$
 $\rightarrow z^u = z(y^k), x^* = x^k, y^* = y^k$

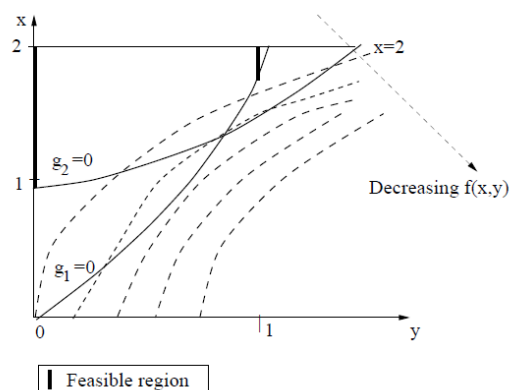
Step 3:

- a) Set-up and solve MILP master $\rightarrow y^{k+1}$

$$\begin{aligned} z^k &= \min_{y,\eta} c^T y + \eta^K \\ \text{s.t. } & \eta^K \geq f^x(x^k) + \nabla f^x(x^k)^T (x - x^k) \\ \text{s.t. } & T^k \left[h^x(x^k) + \nabla h^x(x^k)^T (x - x^k) \right] + d^T y \leq 0, \\ & g^x(x^k) + \nabla g^x(x^k)^T (x - x^k) + e^T y \leq 0 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} z^k &= \min_{y,\eta} c^T y + \eta^K \right.} \right\} \\ & k = 1, \dots, K \\ & \sum_{i \in NZ^k} y_i - \sum_{i \in Z^k} y_i \leq |NZ^k| - 1 \\ & y \in \{0,1\}^q \end{aligned}$$
- b) If $z^k \geq z^u \rightarrow$ stop \rightarrow Solution (x^*, y^*, z^u)
 Else, set $k = k+1 \rightarrow$ return to step 2 with new y^{k+1}

OA – Example revisited

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x,y} & -2.7y + x^2 \\ \text{s.t. } & g_1 = -\ln(1+x) + y \leq 0 \\ & g_2 = -\ln(x-0.57) - 1.1 + y \leq 0 \\ & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \\ & y \in \{0,1\} \end{aligned}$$



Example – Iteration 1

1. Set $y^{(1)} = 1$
2. First primal problem $P^{(1)}$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & -2.7 + x^2 \\ \text{s.t.} & g_1 = -\ln(1+x) + 1 \leq 0 \\ & g_2 = -\ln(x-0.57) - 0.1 \leq 0 \\ & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \end{array}$$

Solution: $(x^{(1)}, \mu^{(1)}) = (1.7183, 9.3417, 0)^T$; $f = 0.2525$.

3. Master problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{y, \eta^{(1)}} & -2.7y + \eta^{(1)} \\ \text{s.t.} & \eta^{(1)} \geq 3.4366x - 2.9526 \\ & -0.3679 - 0.3679x + y \leq 0 \\ & 0.2581 - 0.8709x + y \leq 0 \\ & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \\ & y \in \{0, 1\} \end{array}$$

Solution: $\eta^{(1)} = -1.9339$
at $x = 0.29637$; $y^{(2)} = 0$

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Example – Iteration 2

1. Second primal problem $P^{(2)}$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & x^2 \\ \text{s.t.} & g_1 = -\ln(1+x) \leq 0 \\ & g_2 = -\ln(x-0.57) - 1.1 \leq 0 \\ & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \end{array}$$

Solution: $(x^{(2)}, \mu^{(2)}) = (0.9028, 0, 0.6)^T$; $f = 0.815$.

Higher than
best upper bound!

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Example – Iteration 2

2. Master problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{y, \eta^{(2)}} \quad & -2.7y + \eta^{(2)} \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \eta^{(2)} \geq 3.4366x - 2.9526 \\
 & -0.3679 - 0.3679x + y \leq 0 \\
 & 0.2581 - 0.8709x + y \leq 0 \\
 & \eta^{(2)} \geq 1.8056x - 0.8150 \\
 & 0.2581 - 0.8709x + y \leq 0 \\
 & 2.7130 - 2.3256x + y \leq 0 \\
 & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \\
 & y \in \{0,1\}
 \end{aligned}$$

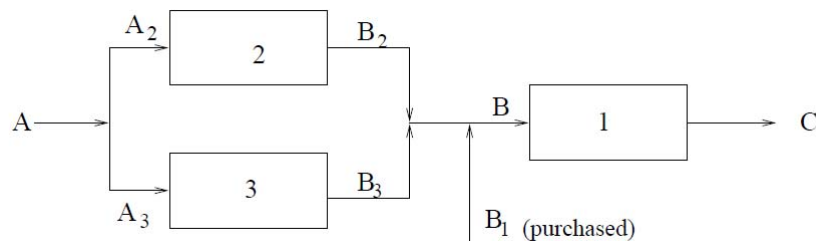
Solution: $\eta^{(2)} = 0.2525$

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A Process Synthesis Example

- Make chemical C with a process 1 that uses raw material B
- B can be purchased or it can be made with processes 2 or 3, which use A as a raw material
- F_A , F_B and F_C : flowrates in tons/hr



- What processes and production levels maximise total profit?

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Data

- Conversions:
 - Process 1: $F_C = 0.9F_B$
 - Process 2: $F_B = \ln(1 + F_A)$
 - Process 3: $F_B = 1.2 \ln(1 + F_A)$
 - Maximum capacity
 - Process 2: 5 tons/hr of B
 - Process 3: 10 tons/hr
- Prices:
- A: \$1800/ton
 - B: \$7000/ton
 - C: \$13000/ton
- Maximum demand: 1 ton/hr

		Fixed cost (10 ³ \$/hr)	Variable cost (10 ³ \$/ton)
Investment Cost	Process 1	3.5	2.0
	Process 2	1.0	1.0
	Process 3	1.5	1.2

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Problem formulation

- What processes and production levels maximise total profit?

- Binary variables:

y_1, y_2, y_3 equal to 1 is corresponding process exists

- Formulation

$$\min_{F, y} -13F_C + 7F_{B1} + 1.8(F_{A2} + F_{A3}) + 3.5(y_1 + 2F_C + y_2 + F_{B2} + 1.5y_3 + 1.2F_{B3})$$

Mass balances

$$F_C = 0.9F_B$$

$$F_{B2} = \ln(1 + F_{A2})$$

$$F_{B3} = 1.2 \ln(1 + F_{A3})$$

$$F_B = F_{B1} + F_{B2} + F_{B3}$$

Logical constraints

$$F_C \leq y_1$$

$$F_{B2} \leq 5y_2$$

$$F_{B3} \leq 10y_3$$

$$y_2 + y_3 \leq 1$$

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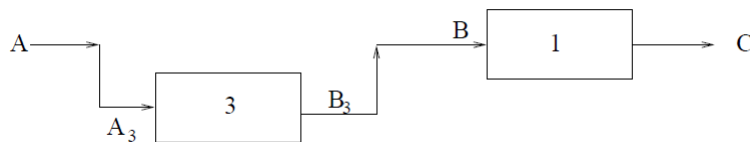
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Problem solution

- Starting point: $\mathbf{y}^T = (1,1,1)$

Iteration	1	2	3	4	5
GBD	-27.33	-23.83	-11.85	-2.72	-1.92
OA/ER	-3.71	$+\infty$	—	—	—

- Solution: $\mathbf{y}^T = (1,0,1)$; Profit: \$1920 / hr



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GBD vs OA

GBD

- Small Master problem, almost purely integer
- Master problem bound not as tight
- More major iterations (NLPs)

OA

- Larger Master problem (more constraints and variables, grows rapidly)
- Lower bound at least as tight
- Fewer iterations/NLPs

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Recap

- Three approaches to solve MINLPs
 - Branch-and-Bound
 - Generalized Benders Decomposition
 - Outer-Approximation
- Global optimality guaranteed for “convex” MINLPs
- Comparative analysis of algorithms