

# An implementation of exact knapsack separation

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**Abstract** Cutting planes have been used with great success for solving mixed integer programs. In recent decades, many contributions have led to successive improvements in branch-and-cut methods which incorporate cutting planes in branch and bound algorithm. Using advances that have taken place over the years on 0–1 knapsack problem, we investigate an efficient approach for 0–1 programs with knapsack constraints as local structure. Our approach is based on an efficient implementation of knapsack separation problem which consists of the four phases: preprocessing, row generation, controlling numerical errors and sequential lifting. This approach can be used independently to improve formulations with cutting planes generated or incorporated in branch and cut to solve a problem. We show that this approach allows us to efficiently solve large-scale instances of generalized assignment problem, multilevel generalized assignment problem, capacitated  $p$ -median problem and capacitated network location problem to optimality.

**Keywords** Knapsack problem · Cutting plane · Exact separation · Generalized assignment problem · Multilevel generalized assignment problem · Capacitated  $p$ -median problem · Capacitated network location problem

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## 1 Introduction

The binary integer linear programming problem consists of maximizing or minimizing a linear function, subject to linear constraints and binary choice restrictions on the variables. The binary integer program (BIP) problem can be expressed as

$$v_1 = \max_x \left\{ c^T x : Ax \leq b, x \in \{0, 1\}^n \right\}. \quad (1)$$

The input data are the matrices  $c \in \mathbb{Z}^{n \times 1}$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n}$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times 1}$ , which are supposed to have integer entries. The decision binary variables  $x_j \in \{0, 1\}$  for  $j \in N = \{1, \dots, n\}$  are of great importance, because they constantly occur in many model formulations of real problems in business, engineering, science, transportation etc.

Let

$$X(A, b) = \{x \in \{0, 1\}^n : Ax \leq b\}$$

be the set of feasible solutions of (1). The linear programming relaxation of (1) is obtained by ignoring the integrality requirements on  $x$ , i.e.

$$v_2 = \max_x \left\{ c^T x : x \in R(A, b) \right\}, \quad (2)$$

where

$$R(A, b) = \{x \in [0, 1]^n : Ax \leq b\}$$

is its set of feasible solutions. Let  $P(A, b)$  be the convex hull of feasible solutions of  $X(A, b)$ , i.e.

$$P(A, b) = \text{conv}(X(A, b)).$$

The polyhedral approach uses the important facts that the set  $P(A, b)$  is a polyhedron and the extreme points of  $P(A, b)$  are in  $X(A, b)$ . Thus, (1) can be formulated as the following equivalent linear program

$$v_3 = \max_x \left\{ c^T x : x \in P(A, b) \right\}, \quad (3)$$

i.e.  $v_1 = v_3$ .

The weakness of the above formulation (3) lies in the difficulty in giving an explicit description of the inequalities defining  $P(A, b)$  particularly for NP-hard problems. Moreover, in many cases the number of inequalities to describe  $P(A, b)$  is exponential. In the literature there are several approaches which try to find effective ways to construct improved approximations of  $P(A, b)$  recursively starting from those defining  $R(A, b)$ . However, it is not necessary to have an explicit representation of a polyhedron  $P(A, b)$  in terms of linear inequalities in order to optimise a linear function over  $P(A, b)$ . It is enough to be able to solve the separation problem, which is a fundamental tool in polyhedral methods. Using advances on knapsack separation problem that have taken place over the years, in this paper we investigate an efficient approach for 0–1 programs with knapsack constraints as local structure. This approach can be used independently to improve formulations with cutting planes generated or incorporated in the branch-and-cut method to solve the problem.

Let  $\tilde{P}(A, b) = \bigcap_{i=1}^m P(A_i, b_i)$ , where  $P(A_i, b_i) = \text{conv}(X(A_i, b_i))$  with

$$X(A_i, b_i) = \{x \in \{0, 1\}^n : A_i x \leq b_i\},$$

which define knapsack polytopes. It is trivial that  $P(A, b) \subseteq \tilde{P}(A, b) \subseteq R(A, b)$ . So we have

$$v_1 = v_3 \leq v_4 \leq v_2$$

where

$$v_4 = \max_x \left\{ c^T x : x \in \tilde{P}(A, b) \right\}.$$

For some specially structured problem, like the generalized assignment problem etc.,  $v_4$  can be obtained using a dual formulation by the column generation approach or Lagrangian relaxations [1–3]. But it has been demonstrated that the approach based on an exact knapsack separation algorithm in the cutting plane methods outperforms the methods using the column generation on the generalized assignment problem and capacitated  $p$ -median problem [4–6]. In this paper we propose a new implementation of this approach, where we try to make it more efficient. In Sect. 2, we present the exact separation problem and its specialization to the knapsack separation. The quality of the resulting cuts focused on tightening the representation is illustrated via several BIP problems in Sect. 3. Finally, Sect. 4 discusses conclusions.

## 2 Exact knapsack separation

In practice, the number of inequalities describing a polytope  $P$  may be very large; furthermore, often they cannot be explicitly expressed. To avoid excessive overgrowth of the formulation, the cutting plane method can be used, which base on the following idea. First, an LP problem is considered on some limited set of inequalities (LP-relaxation) and its solution  $\bar{x}$  is sought. Then, the formulation includes only those inequalities that are violated by the LP-relaxation solution obtained. To find these inequalities, the so-called separation problem is solved. For more details of theory and practice of cutting plane methods see, for example, textbook [7]

The separation problem is one of the basic problems of convex analysis. In our case, for a given point, we should recognize either the point belongs to the problem polytope or find a separation hyperplane which cuts the point from the polytope.

More precisely, let a point  $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and a polytope  $P$  be given. We have to prove that  $\bar{x} \in P$  or find an inequality  $\pi^T x \leq \pi_0$  which is valid for  $P$  and such that  $\pi^T \bar{x} > \pi_0$ . This inequality is called a cutting plane. The separation problem can be reduced to the following optimisation problem

$$v(\bar{x}) = \max_{\pi \in \Pi} \left\{ \min_{x \in P} \left\{ \pi^T \bar{x} - \pi^T x \right\} \right\}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\Pi$  is a convex compact set containing the origin in its interior. If  $v(\bar{x}) \leq 0$  then  $\bar{x} \in P$ , otherwise  $\pi^{*T} x \leq \pi^{*T} \bar{x}$  is the required cutting plane, where  $\pi^*$  is an optimal solution of (4). Problem (4) is convex and non-differentiable and it can be transformed to the following linear program:

$$\max_{(\pi, \pi_0)} \left[ \bar{x}^T \pi - \pi_0 \right], \quad (5)$$

$$h^T \pi \leq \pi_0 \quad \forall h \in P, \quad (6)$$

$$\pi \in \Pi. \quad (7)$$

The separation problem (5)–(7) for the knapsack polytope was first studied by Boyd [8–11] as a tool for Integer Programming. The recent papers by Fukasawa and Goycoolea [12],

Kaparis and Letchford [13] and the dissertations of Bonami [14] and Espinoza [15] show a renewed interest in this topic. The exact separation problem was also studied for other kinds of problems such that the knapsack set with a single continuous variable [16], the general mixed knapsack set [12], the set covering problem [17], the “local cuts” for the travelling salesman problem [18, 19].

Let us consider the exact separation in an application to the polytope of the knapsack problem. Let  $X(a, b) = \{x \in \{0, 1\}^n : a^T x \leq b\}$  be the set of feasible solutions of a knapsack problem, where  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times 1}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $P(a, b) = \text{conv}(X(a, b))$  is the corresponding polytope. First of all, the “normalization”, which is defined by the set  $\Pi$ , can be specified. It is known for the general cutting plane algorithms [14, 20], that the normalization can play a very important role in the efficiency of generated cuts. For the knapsack polytope this issue has been studied in [4]. Different kind of normalization can lead us to the non-linear problem, for example, in case of  $L_2$  norm, and the generated cuts can have different properties. It has been shown that among the linear normalizations, the normalization which provides us the maximum of the ratio between the violation and the right hand side, gives better results in comparison with  $L_1$  and  $L_\infty$  norms.

Due to the fact that the trivial inequalities  $x_j \geq 0$  are facet-inducing and the remaining facet-inducing inequalities have nonnegative coefficients, such a kind of normalization can be expressed by posing the right-hand side to 1. Thus, the separation LP (5)–(7) for the given  $\bar{x}$  for the knapsack polytope becomes:

$$\bar{x}^T \pi^* = \max_{\pi} \left\{ \bar{x}^T \pi : x^T \pi \leq 1 \quad \forall x \in X(a, b) \right\}. \quad (8)$$

If  $\bar{x}^T \pi^* \leq 1$ , then  $\bar{x} \in P(a, b)$ ; otherwise,  $\pi^{*T} x \leq 1$  is a valid inequality separating  $\bar{x}$  from  $P(a, b)$ . There is also a very important property of this LP, that if  $\pi^*$  is a vertex of the feasible set of problem (8), this inequality is facet-inducing. Therefore all our future studies focus only on this normalization.

In practice, problem (8) cannot be written explicitly because it contains a large number of constraints. Our approach to solve it consists of the four following steps, which are detailed in the subsections below:

*Preprocessing* The fractional knapsack polytope

$$P(a, b, \bar{x}) = \{x \in P(a, b) : x_j = \bar{x}_j, \text{ if } \bar{x}_j \in \{0, 1\}\}$$

is considered and some simple preprocessing is done.

*Row generation* A cutting plane is found by solving the separation LP (8) over the  $P(a, b, \bar{x})$  using a *row generation* algorithm.

*Numerical errors* After a cutting plane has been generated, it is post-processed to avoid numerical errors.

*Sequential lifting* A resulting cut is lifted to the original space with the help of the lifting theorem.

## 2.1 Preprocessing

Without loss of generality, let us suppose that exactly  $k$  first variables are unfixed in the fractional polytope  $P(a, b, \bar{x})$ , i.e. it can be defined by

$$P(a, b, \bar{x}) = \text{conv}(X(a, b, \bar{x})),$$

where

$$X(a, b, \bar{x}) = \left\{ x \in \{0, 1\}^k : \sum_{j=1}^k a_j x_j \leq \bar{b} \right\}, \quad \bar{b} = b - \sum_{j \in N: \bar{x}_j = 1} a_j.$$

Our preprocessing procedure is based on the following evident observations:

1. If  $k = 0$  or  $\sum_{j=1}^k a_j \leq \bar{b}$  then  $\bar{x} \in P(a, b, \bar{x})$  and a violated cut does not exist.
2. Let us consider a subset of items which do not fit into the fractional knapsack, i.e.  $J^0(\bar{x}) = \{j = \overline{1, k} : a_j > \bar{b}\}$ . If  $J^0(\bar{x}) \neq \emptyset$  then it immediately follows that

$$\sum_{j \in J^0(\bar{x})} x_j \leq 0$$

is a valid inequality for  $P(a, b, \bar{x})$  and it is violated by  $\bar{x}$ , so it can directly be passed to the sequential lifting.

3. If  $k = 1$ , there is only one violated cut  $x_1 \leq 0$  which can appear only in case  $a_1 > \bar{b}$ , i.e. it is processed by the previous observations.
4. If  $k = 2$ , there is only one facet-inducing non-trivial inequality

$$x_1 + x_2 \leq 1,$$

which can directly be passed to the sequential lifting in the case of violation.

## 2.2 Row generation

Separation problem (8) is a LP problem, where each row of the constraint matrix is a feasible solution of the knapsack problem. Even for low-dimensional problems, one can hardly enumerate all the feasible points. *Row generation method* is an iterative approach where, at each iteration, a *partial separation problem* (the problem which includes only a subset of the constraints) is considered. It starts with a subset of constraints, which guarantee the boundedness of solution, then other constraints are considered as cutting planes, i.e. they are dynamically added in the case of violation. To check if there is any violated cut, a knapsack problem has to be solved. The main steps of the row generation procedure are summarized below.

*Step 0* Choose an initial subset  $U \subset X(a, b, \bar{x})$  of rows of the constraint matrix of problem (8). To avoid the unboundness of the partial separation problem, one can take unit vectors as the initial set of constraints, i.e.  $U = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \{e^i\}$ .

*Step 1* Solve the partial separation problem on the set  $U$ :

$$\bar{x}^T \bar{\pi} = \max_{\pi} \left\{ \bar{x}^T \pi : x^T \pi \leq 1 \quad \forall x \in U \right\}. \quad (9)$$

*Step 2* Check whether  $\bar{\pi}$  satisfies to all the constraints of problem (8). Then find a solution of the knapsack problem:

$$\bar{h} \in \operatorname{Argmax}_h \left\{ \bar{\pi}^T h : h \in X(a, b, \bar{x}) \right\}.$$

*Step 3* If  $\bar{h}^T \bar{\pi} > 1$ , then add  $\bar{h}$  to the constraint matrix of problem (9), i.e.  $U := U \cup \{\bar{h}\}$ , and goto Step 1.

*Step 4* If  $\bar{h}^T \bar{\pi} \leq 1$ , then  $\bar{\pi}$  is a solution of separation problem (8) and  $\bar{\pi}^T x \leq 1$  is a valid inequality for  $P(a, b, \bar{x})$ , cutting  $\bar{h}$  if  $\bar{\pi}^T \bar{h} > 1$ .

The row generation procedure requires solving a large number of knapsack problems, so using efficient knapsack algorithms is a key issue. In our computational experiments we used the modification of Pisinger's MINKAP algorithm [21] that combines dynamic programming with the bounding and reduction technique. MINKNAP algorithm requires all the coefficients of the knapsack problem being integer. However, in our case the objective function coefficients of the problems in the row generation routine can be fractional. Ceselli and Righini [2] modified the MINKNAP algorithm to deal with real coefficients allowing us to solve the problem with the given accuracy.

On Step 2 Kaparis and Letchford [13] have suggested the two following ways to enhance the row generation:

1. They try to solve the knapsack problems heuristically, and only call the exact routine when the heuristic fails. They run the simple greedy heuristic with improvements by a local search.
2. They also try to "warm-start" the separation LP (9) by adding to the set of initial constraints the solutions which were generated in the previous call of the separation routine.

We have tried both of these enhancements, but they do not affect the computational time in our implementation.

## 2.3 Numerical errors

The row generation method for solving LP-problems (Step 1) and the knapsack problem with fractional coefficients of the objective vector (Step 2) may include rounding errors. When searching for cuts, the effect of these errors may be significant, thus leading to inequalities to be weak or even invalid. To generate safe cutting planes, the obtained inequalities are post-processed to get the equivalent cuts with integer coefficients and verified validity.

So, first of all we have to implement a scaled procedure, which finds a minimum positive multiplier making all the coefficient of  $\bar{\pi}$  integer. It has been done by solving a special integer programming problem in [4,5]. Before solving the integer problem, Kaparis and Letchford [13] have suggested the following heuristic rule, which works in over 90 % of cases. Divide  $\bar{\pi}$  by  $\min_{i=1,k} \{\bar{\pi}_i - \lfloor \bar{\pi}_i \rfloor : \bar{\pi}_i > 0\}$ , and check if the resulting vector is integral (within a tolerance of  $10^{-5}$ ).

Our empirical study has shown, that the simplest enumeration of multipliers from 2 to  $10^4$  and checking the integrality within the tolerance of  $10^{-5}$  makes this procedure very fast, as it will be illustrated in computational results in Sect. 3. If an integral vector is not found in this range of multipliers, we skip this inequality from the consideration to avoid further problems with the arithmetic overflow.

Let  $\hat{\pi}$  be the resulting integer vector. To prevent rounding errors and be sure that the inequality is valid, the right hand side is computed as

$$\hat{\pi}_0 = \max \left\{ \hat{\pi}^T x : x \in X(a, b, \bar{x}) \right\}. \quad (10)$$

Previously in [4,5] this problem was solved by MINKNAP algorithm. We suggest solving it by the dynamic programming algorithm, which will be discussed in the next subsection, since it is closely linked with our lifting procedure. All the coefficients in the knapsack problem are integer, so the solution is exact and we are sure that the inequality  $\hat{\pi}^T x \leq \hat{\pi}_0$  is valid for  $P(a, b, \bar{x})$  and it is passed to the sequential lifting procedure if it remains violated by  $\bar{x}$ .

## 2.4 Sequential lifting

As it has been illustrated in [4], the most time consuming part on the separation routine is the sequential lifting, therefore we pay more attention to this issue.

Initially we have the solution of problem (10) and due to the lifting theorem we have to do the following:

*Up-lifting.* If we have that  $\bar{x}_{k+1} = 0$  then the lifted inequality is

$$\sum_{j=1}^k \hat{\pi}_j x_j + (\hat{\pi}_0 - \pi_{k+1}^0) x_{k+1} \leq \hat{\pi}_0,$$

where

$$\pi_{k+1}^0 = \max \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^k \hat{\pi}_j x_j : \sum_{j=1}^k a_j x_j \leq \bar{b} - a_{k+1}, x \in \{0, 1\}^k \right\}. \quad (11)$$

*Down-lifting.* If we have that  $\bar{x}_{k+1} = 1$  then the lifted inequality is

$$\sum_{j=1}^k \hat{\pi}_j x_j + (\pi_{k+1}^1 - \hat{\pi}_0) x_{k+1} \leq \pi_{k+1},$$

where

$$\pi_{k+1}^1 = \max \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^k \hat{\pi}_j x_j : \sum_{j=1}^k a_j x_j \leq \bar{b} + a_{k+1}, x \in \{0, 1\}^k \right\}. \quad (12)$$

Let us look more attentively at problems (10)–(12). First of all we have to mention that we are not interested in their solution vectors, we only need the optimal values. Moreover, we have the knapsack problems which have only different capacities. So, if we solve the knapsack problem (10) with maximum possible capacity  $\bar{b}$  by the dynamic programming algorithm, we immediately have the optimal values of all the problems (10)–(12).

Actually, we can use the dynamic programming algorithm in the following way (see for example [22, 23]). Let  $z_i(\beta)$  be the optimal values of knapsack problem (10) with  $i$  variables and capacity  $\beta$  for  $i = \overline{1, k}$  and  $\beta = \overline{0, \bar{b}}$ . It can be computed by the following recursion formulas:

$$\begin{aligned} z_1(\beta) &= \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \beta < a_1 \\ \hat{\pi}_1, & \text{if } \beta \geq a_1 \end{cases} \\ z_i(\beta) &= \begin{cases} z_{i-1}(\beta), & \text{if } \beta < a_i \\ \max\{z_{i-1}(\beta), z_{i-1}(\beta - a_i) + \hat{\pi}_i\}, & \text{if } \beta \geq a_i \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

We immediately have that

$$\hat{\pi}_0 = z_k(\bar{b}), \quad \pi_{k+1}^0 = z_k(\bar{b} - a_{k+1}), \quad \pi_{k+1}^1 = z_k(\bar{b} + a_{k+1}).$$

To lift the next variable we have to assign

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\pi}_{k+1} &= \hat{\pi}_0 - \pi_{k+1}^0 \text{ in the case of up-lifting,} \\ \hat{\pi}_{k+1} &= \pi_{k+1}^1 - \hat{\pi}_0, \hat{\pi}_0 = \pi_{k+1}^1, \bar{b} := \bar{b} + a_{k+1} \text{ in the case of down-lifting,} \end{aligned}$$

and compute  $z_{k+1}(\beta)$  for  $\beta = \overline{0, \bar{b}}$  by (13).

Thus, the complexity of solving problem (10) and lifting all the nonfractional variables is  $O(n \cdot \bar{b})$  and it requires only  $O(\bar{b})$  of memory, because we do not need solution vectors. This

procedure allows us to drastically reduce the computational time in comparison to solving problems (10)–(12) separately by the MINKNAP algorithm as in [4,5,13].

The lifting procedure is sequential and the resulting valid inequality depends on the order of lifting. We have tried different orders and their comparison is given in Sect. 3.

To illustrate the whole process let us consider a small example.

*Example 1* Let us consider a knapsack problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 \\ & 3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 + 4x_4 + 4x_5 \leq 5 \\ & x \in \mathbb{B}^5 \end{aligned}$$

The LP relaxation gives us the solution  $(\frac{2}{3}, 1, 1, 0, 0)$ . The preprocessing immediately defines that the inequality  $x_3 \leq 0$  is valid and we have to down-lift  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  and up-lift  $x_4$  and  $x_5$ . According to (13)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\pi}_1 &= 1; & \hat{\pi}_2 &= 1; & \hat{\pi}_3 &= 1; & \hat{\pi}_4 &= 1; & \hat{\pi}_5 &= 1; \\ \hat{\pi}_0 &= 0; & \hat{\pi}_0 &= 1; & \hat{\pi}_0 &= 2; & \hat{\pi}_0 &= 2; & \hat{\pi}_0 &= 2; \\ z_1(0) &= 0; & z_2(0) &= 0; & z_3(0) &= 0; & z_4(0) &= 0 \\ z_1(1) &= 0; & z_2(1) &= 0; & z_3(1) &= 1; & z_4(1) &= 1 \\ z_1(2) &= 0; & z_2(2) &= 1; & z_3(2) &= 1; & z_4(2) &= 1 \\ z_1(3) &= 1; & z_2(3) &= 1; & z_3(3) &= 2; & z_4(3) &= 2 \\ z_1(4) &= 1; & z_2(4) &= 1; & z_3(4) &= 2; & z_4(4) &= 2 \\ z_1(5) &= 1; & z_2(5) &= 2; & z_3(5) &= 2; & z_4(5) &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we have  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 \leq 2$  as a resulting inequality.

### 3 Computational results

The proposed algorithm has been implemented in C/C++ and linked with IBM ILOG CPLEX optimizer 12.1<sup>1</sup> library for solving linear programming problems and as a branch-and-cut framework. We did not use any presolving features to avoid losing the problem structure and the dual simplex algorithm is used in order to speed up the reoptimization is the cutting planes algorithm. All other ILOG CPLEX parameters are default. Computational experiments were carried out on an Intel Core 2Quad CPU 2.6GHz workstation with 4Gb of RAM, under Windows XP64. We did not use multithreads, so computations are limited to a single core.

In Sect. 3.1 different variants of our approach are tested on the Generalized Assignment Problem (GAP) in order to find the best one. There is also comparison with CPLEX solver and the state-of-the-art approach proposed by Posta et al. [24]. In the next subsection, the computational experiments on the Multilevel Generalized Assignment Problem, Capacited  $p$ -Median Problem and Capacitated Network Location Problem are presented. The performance profile of computational comparison is summarized in Sect. 3.5.

Kaparis and Letchford [13] have tested the exact and different other knapsack inequalities for nonspecially structured instances: i.e. instances taken from MIPLIB<sup>2</sup> and multi-dimensional knapsack problems taken from ORLIB [25]. We have tried them, but do not give any computational results because the exact knapsack separation has shown to be useless from a practical point of view. Actually, either the separation takes much more time than

<sup>1</sup> <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/integration/optimization/cplex-optimizer/>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://miplib.zib.de/>.



finding an optimal solution by CPLEX or the closed gap is negligible. Unfortunately, their code is not still available, we have not been able to do any comparison.

Our code, problems instances and tables with extended information are publicly available and can be found at [www.iv.icc.ru/papers.html](http://www.iv.icc.ru/papers.html).

### 3.1 Generalized assignment problem

Let  $M = \{1, \dots, m\}$  be a set of machines and let  $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$  be a set of tasks to be assigned to the machines from  $M$ . Let  $c_{ij}$  be the cost of assigning the task  $j$  to the machine  $i$ . Let  $d_{ij}$  be the amount of resource required by the machine  $i$  to perform the task  $j$ . Each machine has a limited amount of resources available. Let  $u_i$  be the capacity of the machine  $i \in M$ .

The *Generalized Assignment Problem* (GAP) is to find a minimum assignment cost of the tasks  $N$  to the machines  $M$  satisfying the constraint that the total amount of resources required by each machine  $i \in M$  does not exceed its capacity  $u_i$ .

Let  $x_{ij}$  be a binary variable expressing the assignment of the task  $j \in N$  to the machine  $i \in M$ . The GAP can be formulated as:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & \sum_{i \in M} \sum_{j \in N} c_{ij} x_{ij} \\ & \sum_{i \in M} x_{ij} = 1, \quad j \in N \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

$$\sum_{j \in N} d_{ij} x_{ij} \leq u_i, \quad i \in M \quad (15)$$

$$x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad i \in M, j \in N \quad (16)$$

Constraints (14) require that each task must be assigned to a machine. Capacity constraints (15) enforce the condition that the amount of resources required by the tasks assigned to the machine  $i$  does not exceed its capacity  $u_i$  and we can apply our separation routine over them.

Because of its computational difficulty, GAP is a challenging integer program problem, which is widely addressed in the literature. A short survey and comprehensive list of references concerning this problem can be found in some recent papers [4,24].

We consider test instances included in the OR-Library [25]. The test-bed consists of three types of instances (C, D, E) with the size from  $5 \times 100$  to  $80 \times 1600$ . They are labelled according to their type and size, e.g. d05100 is an instance of type  $D$  with  $m = 5$  machines and  $n = 100$  tasks.

The computational results of the previous version of exact knapsack separation have been given for GAP and CPMP in [4,5]. The branch-and-cut algorithm with this cutting plane procedure outperforms CPLEX and the branch-and-price algorithms [2,3], which were the state-of-the-art approaches at that moment.

The results of comparison between the previous version of cutting plane algorithm and the version considered in this paper is presented in Table 1. The main differences between them are in the scaling and lifting procedures described in Sects. 2.3 and 2.4. We give the total results on instances with the same knapsack size, i.e. when the number of tasks is the same. We limit the number of generated cuts, if their number exceeds 3000 on some iteration of cutting plane procedure, then we stop. There are nine instances of each dimension. The notations in the table are the following:

n—knapsack size;

ncuts—total number of cuts generated for all instances of corresponding dimension;

**Table 1** Comparison with previous version

n	ncuts		SEP (s)		RG (%)		SCALE (%)		LIFT (%)	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
100	3172	3172	16.8	12.0	69.9	99.0	16.3	0.0	13.8	1.0
200	3977	3977	36.2	19.8	54.1	97.9	9.7	0.0	36.2	2.1
400	8257	8242	112.3	29.1	24.0	95.8	6.4	0.1	69.6	4.1
900	12,253	12,316	626.4	52.3	7.7	89.5	2.0	0.0	90.4	10.3
1600	17,117	17,172	2196.2	68.2	2.5	81.0	1.0	0.0	96.5	18.9

**Table 2** Comparison of different knapsack algorithms

n	KNAP/RG (%)			
	MINKNAP	DP	DPR	BB
100	4.2	12.3	5.4	6.8
200	4.3	14.0	8.9	6.7
400	3.5	13.8	8.6	6.2
900	3.4	10.9	8.5	8.3
1600	3.4	10.2	6.3	14.3

SEP (s)—total time spent in separation routine in seconds;

RG (%)—time spent in the row generation relative to the computational time of complete separation in the routine in percents;

SCALE (%)—time spent in the scaling procedure in percent;

LIFT (%)—time spent in the sequential lifting in percent;

old—results of previous version from [4];

new—results of the version presented in this paper.

As you can see in the table and as it has been pointed out in [4], the bottleneck of the exact separation routine is the lifting procedure. If we do not focus on small instances, we can conclude that we noticeably reduce the computational time. It has been done mainly thanks to the enhanced lifting procedure, which evidently shows its efficiency. The computational time of the scaling procedure has become negligible, which improves the results as well.

Thus the row generation is the most time consuming part of the separation routine. It is known that MINKNAP algorithm is very efficient for different knapsack instances [21, 22], therefore we have decided to check it for our case. Actually, it has been mentioned in [4] that the size of knapsack problems is usually small in the row generation, and it might happen that the simple algorithms from textbooks [22, 23] are more effective than the sophisticated MINKNAP. The computational results are given in Table 2, where the ratio of the computational time spent in the knapsack algorithm and the total time of the row generation (in percents) is given for the following knapsack algorithms: **MINKNAP** is the modification of Pisinger's MINKNAP algorithm, **DP** is a genetic dynamic programming algorithm, **DBR** is the dynamic programming algorithm with eliminating of dominated states, **BB** is the simplest branch-and-bound algorithm based on the LP relaxation bounds. As the reader can see in the table, the MINKNAP remains the most efficient for our case as well.

**Table 3** Comparison of results with the LCI separation

n	ncuts		SEP time		CP time	
	EKS	LCI+EKS	EKS	LCI+EKS	EKS	LCI+EKS
100	3172	3103	11.988	11.455	14.623	14.125
200	3977	3920	19.812	20.958	25.547	26.968
400	8242	8437	29.091	29.644	76.735	93.343
900	12,316	12,574	52.342	53.381	165.269	167.189
1600	17,172	17,464	68.179	64.287	606.124	628.874

We can also mention from Table 2 that the knapsack algorithm does not take much time in the row generation, so the main part of time is spent in optimising the separation LP with CPLEX, which we cannot improve directly. To draw this obstacle Kaparis and Letchford [13] have recommended to separate the Lifted Cover Inequalities (LCI) before the exact separation routine, since the LCI separation is very fast and effective. We have also tried this strategy. The results are presented in Table 3, where in columns **EKS** the results are given for cutting plane algorithms only with the exact knapsack separation, **LCI+EKS**—results with the separation of LCI. **SEP time** and **CP time** denoting the computational time of the separation routines and the complete cutting plane algorithm correspondingly are given in seconds. It is readily seen that the separation time is similar, but the complete cutting plane takes more time with LCI, since more cuts are generated.

To complete the tuning of the exact separation routine we have tested different orders of variables in the sequential lifting. The following four strategies have been tested:

**LIFT1**—the variables, which are fixed to one, are down-lifted first, and then the variables, which are fixed to zero, are up-lifted. This strategy has been used in [4,5] and in the previous experiments of this paper. This lifting order keeps the facet-inducing property, i.e. if the initial inequality is facet-inducing, then the resulting one is facet-inducing as well.

**LIFT2**—Kaparis and Letchford [13] have suggested to firstly consider the variables for up-lifting for which  $a_i > \beta$ . It immediately follows that their lifting coefficients can be set to 0 and it can make the lifting procedure faster.

**LIFT3**—Variables are lifted in increasing order of their reduced costs.

**LIFT4**—Variables are lifted in decreasing order of their reduced costs, which is a counterpart of the previous strategy.

The number of generated cuts, computational time in the separation and cutting plane algorithms for all the considered strategies are presented in Table 4. In contrast to [13], **LIFT2** has not given the best results. In our opinion it has happened, because the lifting procedure is quite fast in our version and this strategy does not give any advantage. On the other hand, **LIFT1** ensures us to have the facet-inducing inequality and generates the less number of cuts, so this lifting order is used in the further experiments as well.

Summarizing the empirical experience presented above, we use the following settings for the future experiments:

1. MINKNAP algorithms is used to solve knapsack problems in row generation procedure.
2. The lifted cover inequalities are not used.
3. The variables, which are fixed to one, are down-lifted first, and then the variables, which are fixed to zero, are up-lifted.

**Table 4** Comparison of lifting orders

n	ncuts				SEP time (s)			
	LIFT1	LIFT2	LIFT3	LIFT4	LIFT1	LIFT2	LIFT3	LIFT4
100	3172	3685	2982	3786	12.0	13.5	10.9	14.9
200	3977	4611	3741	4621	19.8	24.7	20.4	25.1
400	8242	9640	7886	9555	29.1	42.4	29.4	41.5
900	12,316	14,812	11,784	14,834	52.3	81.4	53.0	83.7
1600	17,172	19,445	16,018	19,640	68.2	117.1	69.9	110.4
n	CP time (s)							
	LIFT1	LIFT2	LIFT3	LIFT4				
100	14.6	16.7	13.1	18.3				
200	25.5	31.7	25.9	31.9				
400	76.7	162.1	90.7	151.4				
900	165.3	264.5	171.5	277.2				
1600	606.1	845.2	605.9	1710.8				

4. The cutting plane algorithm is stopped if we cannot find a violated cut with tolerance  $10^{-4}$ .

Now let us consider how the generated cuts can be useful for finding optimal solutions. The results of the previous version of our approach are presented in [4] and they are the best in comparison with CPLEX and the state-of-the-art branch-and-price algorithms [3]. We are updating these results with ones of our new version.

The computational results of the cut-and-branch (i.e. the separation routing is used only in the root node of branch-and-bound tree) in columns **C&B** in comparison with CPLEX (**CPX**) and **POSTA** proposed by Posta et al. [24], which consists in solving a series of decision problems by a lagrangean branch-and-bound algorithm with a few variable fixing rules, are presented in Table 5. **OPT** is an optimal value found and the computational time is given for two cases: **Proof**—when the methods are run with the given optimal values, i.e. we just prove that these values are optimal; **Search**—when the methods are run from the scratch. The results are given on instances, for which it is possible to find an optimal solution with the time limit of two hours and/or 3 Gb of memory. The blank cells of the table mean that the corresponding method cannot solve the problem with the given limits. More information (integrality gap, number of cuts, separation time etc.) can be found in the tables available online at [iv.icc.ru/Papers.html](http://iv.icc.ru/Papers.html). We can see that the proposed cutting planes sufficiently improve CPLEX branch and bound, but they are inferior to the approach specially developed for GAP except of two cases *c60900*, *c201600*. Using the branch-and-cut (i.e. the separation routine is used in any node of branch-and-bound tree) we can prove the optimality of the solution for *c401600* in 1845.1 s, while POSTA do it in 7835.27 s.

### 3.2 Multilevel generalized assignment problem

In the context of large manufacturing systems, a variant of generalized assignment problem was suggested in [26]. In such systems machines can perform tasks in different “levels”,

**Table 5** Results on GAP instances

Name	OPT	Proof			Search	
		C&B	POSTA	CPX	C&B	POSTA
c05100	1931	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
c10100	1402	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.1
c20100	1243	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.2
d05100	6353	5.0	0.8	37.2	19.9	3.3
d10100	6347	203.4	8.6		1377.2	26.7
e05100	12,681	0.9	0.2	1.2	1.0	0.7
e10100	11,577	2.5	0.6	17.4	4.1	1.9
e20100	8436	3.3	0.8	0.0	15.7	1.6
c05200	3456	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.3
c10200	2806	1.1	1.5	5.0	3.1	2.0
c20200	2391	0.4	0.1	4.0	2.8	0.5
d05200	12,742	6.5	0.8	307.5	572.5	1.4
e05200	24,930	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.4
e10200	23,307	5.5	1.9	20.3	4.6	3.2
e20200	22,379	2.2	0.4	120.9	3.6	0.6
c10400	5597	3.3	1.7	14.3	3.3	2.9
c20400	4782	10.5	6.3	3871.7	16.7	16.3
c40400	4244	0.8	1.9	21.2	3.2	6.4
e10400	45,746	1.5	0.4	1.5	14.2	0.6
e20400	44,877	3.0	0.6	2946.8	21.2	1.3
e40400	44,561	138.2	36.5		203.3	67.5
c15900	11,340	4.0	1.7	300.6	411.4	11.1
c30900	9982	2.8	2.2		393.6	240.8
c60900	9326	41.1	131.6			
e15900	102,421	2.0	0.6	564.4	12.0	2.3
e30900	100,427	20.1	0.5		58.9	2.9
e60900	100,149	104.5	877.6			
c201600	18,802	2.8	2.3		1867.2	3744.9
e201600	180,645	17.7	23.1		167.1	25.8
e401600	178,293	10.8	2.4		578.5	156.8
e801600	176,820	66.6	7.8		1076.4	48.7

which entails different costs and different amount of resources required. In addition to the GAP, a set  $K = \{1, \dots, k\}$  of levels is considered. Consequently  $c_{ijk}$  is the cost of assigning the task  $j$  to the machine  $i$  at the level  $k$ ,  $d_{ijk}$  is the corresponding amount of resources required and a binary variable  $x_{ijk}$  expresses such kind of assignment. The Multilevel Generalized Assignment Problem (MGAP) can be formulated as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_x \sum_{i \in M} \sum_{j \in N} \sum_{k \in K} c_{ijk} x_{ijk} \\
 & \sum_{i \in M} \sum_{k \in K} x_{ijk} = 1, \quad j \in N
 \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

$$\sum_{j \in N} \sum_{k \in K} d_{ijk} x_{ijk} \leq u_i, \quad i \in M \quad (18)$$

$$x_{ijk} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad i \in M, j \in N, k \in K \quad (19)$$

Heuristic approaches for the MGAP was proposed in [27, 28]. A branch and cut algorithm was able to solve only small instances [29]. The most recent results were obtained in [30] by the branch-and-price (B&P) algorithm on instances with up to 80 machines, 400 task and 5 levels. Nowadays, it is a state-of-the-art exact approach for the MGAP.

The B&P algorithm was tested on generated instances of three types (C, D, E). The instances of type C are very easy and they can be solved with CPLEX in a few seconds. The instances of type D are very hard to solve, and they are not tractable by our approach, therefore we tested it on instances of type E. The results are presented in Table 6. We skip the “easy” instances, i.e. the instances for those CPLEX can find the optimal solutions in less than 10 s. Only the non-easy instances will be considered in the further experiments. The computational time of B&P is given, which was obtained on a PC with Intel P4 1.6GHz CPU and 512 MB of RAM (Table 7).

By the same way as in [30] we tested our approach on large-scale instances which were obtained from the GAP instances with 400, 900 and 1600 tasks. These tasks are divided in 2, 3 and 4 levels with the corresponding adjustments of the capacities. In Table 8 the results on instances of type C and E are presented and also compared with the B&P.

From the presented results it is evidently seen that the proposed cutting planes substantially increase the efficiency of the CPLEX solver and, in spite of the fact that our PC can be 3–4 times faster, make it very competitive with the B&P algorithm.

### 3.3 Capacitated $p$ -median problem

Let  $G(V, A)$  be a complete digraph, with the node set  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , the arc set  $A = \{ij : i \in V, j \in V\}$  and costs  $c_{ij}, ij \in A$ , usually called “distances”. A demand  $d_i$  and a capacity  $q_i$  are associated with each node  $i \in V$ . The Capacitated  $p$ -Median problem (CPMP) consists of finding  $p$  nodes (*the median nodes*) minimizing the total distance to the other nodes of graph, with the additional requirement that the total demand of the nodes assigned to each median node  $i$  does not exceed its capacity  $q_i$ .

Let  $y_i$  be the binary variable associated with the node  $i \in V$  ( $y_i = 1$  if node  $i$  is a median, 0 otherwise) and let  $x_{ij}$  be the binary variable associated with the arc  $ij \in A$  ( $x_{ij} = 1$  if the node  $j$  is assigned to median node  $i$ , 0 otherwise). The Integer Linear Programming formulation of CPMP is:

$$v = \min \sum_{ij \in A} c_{ij} x_{ij} \quad (20)$$

s.t.

$$\sum_{i \in V} x_{ij} = 1, \quad j \in V \quad (21)$$

$$\sum_{i \in V} y_i = p \quad (22)$$

$$\sum_{j \in V} d_j x_{ij} \leq q_i y_i, \quad i \in V \quad (23)$$

$$y_i \in \{0, 1\}, \quad i \in V \quad (24)$$

**Table 6** Results on MGAP instances

Name	m	n	k	OPT	Proof		Search	
					C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX
E1010003-5	10	100	3	10,757	1.7		2.4	
E1010005-3	10	100	5	10,576	1.1	85.9	4.4	10.7
E1010005-4	10	100	5	10,355	1.0	26.5	2.0	
E2010003-1	20	100	3	7136	1.2		2.9	
E2010003-2	20	100	3	7352	4.1		11.8	
E2010003-3	20	100	3	7239	5.6		15.2	
E2010003-4	20	100	3	7289	1.9		4.5	1666.5
E2010003-5	20	100	3	7494	1.5		2.7	523.1
E2010004-1	20	100	4	6373	5.5		8.5	
E2010004-2	20	100	4	6374	3.3		10.9	966.6
E2010004-3	20	100	4	7050	3.7		22.1	
E2010004-4	20	100	4	7090	2.4		4.7	509.1
E2010004-5	20	100	4	7090	2.5	573.5	3.7	136.5
E2010005-1	20	100	5	6074	3.9		12.3	
E2010005-2	20	100	5	6213	2.8		6.0	
E2010005-3	20	100	5	6554	5.3		7.1	
E2010005-4	20	100	5	6338	3.3		11.2	
E2010005-5	20	100	5	5975	5.6		22.6	
E3010003-1	30	100	3	4224	12.5		70.8	
E3010003-2	30	100	3	4647	48.6		47.7	
E3010003-3	30	100	3	4528	27.7		62.1	
E3010003-4	30	100	3	4353	21.7		81.9	
E3010003-5	30	100	3	4298	28.0		102.0	
E3010004-1	30	100	4	4258	8.2		23.2	
E3010004-2	30	100	4	4286	22.7		85.2	
E3010004-3	30	100	4	4449	11.5		30.3	
E3010004-4	30	100	4	4213	25.1		78.2	
E3010004-5	30	100	4	4215	13.7		57.2	
E3010005-1	30	100	5	3888	21.6		84.5	
E3010005-2	30	100	5	4015	10.3		55.0	
E3010005-3	30	100	5	4152	11.8		30.6	
E3010005-4	30	100	5	3988	9.4		24.5	
E3010005-5	30	100	5	4090	6.0		18.3	
E1520004-1	15	200	4	25,320	2.7		5.7	1113.4
E1520004-2	15	200	4	27,622	1.2	1679.0	3.1	49.0
E1520004-3	15	200	4	26,368	1.7	364.5	4.9	20.5
E1520004-4	15	200	4	23,177	2.6		5.2	1502.5
E1520004-5	15	200	4	23,383	2.2		6.3	90.2
E1520005-1	15	200	5	22,117	4.6		10.8	282.6
E1520005-2	15	200	5	21,160	2.3		4.9	277.4
E1520005-3	15	200	5	21,393	3.1		9.3	25.2

**Table 6** continued

Name	m	n	k	OPT	Proof		Search	
					C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX
E1520005-4	15	200	5	21,138	2.7	916.2	7.4	47.5
E1520005-5	15	200	5	21,055	1.9	748.0	5.8	95.5
E3020004-1	30	200	4	17,171	7.4		16.4	
E3020004-2	30	200	4	17,258	6.2		17.9	
E3020004-3	30	200	4	16,658	25.7		57.4	
E3020004-4	30	200	4	16,851	8.0		42.9	
E3020004-5	30	200	4	18,196	4.5		9.6	
E3020005-1	30	200	5	16,635	6.7		18.8	
E3020005-2	30	200	5	17,461	8.1		27.2	
E3020005-3	30	200	5	17,233	10.8		24.3	
E3020005-4	30	200	5	16,455	5.7		16.0	
E3020005-5	30	200	5	16,202	10.1		25.0	

**Table 7** Comparison with the branch and price on MGAP instances

m	n	k	C&B	B&P
10	100	3	3.1	63.5
10	100	4	1.2	10.7
10	100	5	2.3	14.4
20	100	3	7.4	53.9
20	100	4	10.0	80.7
20	100	5	11.8	68.6
30	100	3	72.9	598.0
30	100	4	54.8	274.4
30	100	5	42.6	190.9
15	200	4	5.0	975.2
15	200	5	7.6	1037.2
30	200	4	28.8	199.2
30	200	5	22.2	271.3

$$x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad ij \in A. \quad (25)$$

Equality constraints (21) impose that each node is served by one median only. The number of median nodes is enforced by the equality (22). Capacity constraints (23) ensure that the total demand of the nodes assigned to the median node  $i$  cannot exceed its capacity  $q_i$ . Variable Upper Bound constraints  $x_{ij} \leq y_i, ij \in A$  could be added to strengthen the formulation (20)–(25). Formulation (20)–(25) is the same used in [2] and it is more general than that used in [31], where it is supposed that  $y_i = x_{ii}, i \in V$ . So it is assumed that the graph contains self loops  $ii \in A$  for all  $i \in V$  and that a median node could be assigned to another one.



**Table 8** Results on large-size MGAP instances

Name	m	n	k	OPT	Proof		Search		
					C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX	B&P
c10400	10	200	2	2378	0.5	0.6	2.0	28.9	757.7
e10400	10	200	2	22,172	1.8	63.7	7.6	13.2	17,473.8
e20400	20	200	2	22,080	2.9		4.8	327.7	121.9
e40400	40	200	2	22,031	3.1		10.1		151.9
e15900	15	300	3	33,334	3.6	3111.7	13.9	58.2	6607.2
e30900	30	300	3	33,097	12.3		50.7		1759.1
e60900	60	300	3	33,106	4.2		10.8	522.5	313.6
e201600	20	400	4	44,160	9.0		71.2	993.3	12,996.3
e401600	40	400	4	43,910	22.3		64.5		3188.5
e801600	80	400	4	43,762	4.9	8.6	8.3	28.7	2685.8

**Table 9** Results on CPMP instances from [32]

Name	n	OPT	Proof		Search	
			B&C	CPX	B&C	CPX
dd1	100	17,289.0	2.6	15.6	3.5	42.0
dd2	200	33,270.9	23.2	8.9	37.8	33.3
dd3a	300	45,335.2	33.3	43.8	50.5	73.4
dd3b	300	40,635.9	13.5	10.8	5.6	21.0
dd4a	402	61,925.5	262.3	173.0	379.9	423.8
dd4b	402	52,458.0	141.5	37.0	147.4	62.4

The previous version of our approach has been tested and compared with the CPLEX and a state-of-the-art branch-and-price algorithm [2] on instances presented ibidem (instances with titles cpmpXX) and in [32] (instances with titles ddXX). As it has outperformed the branch-and-price (and actually, CPLEX has outperformed the branch-and-price as well) and the new version cannot be less efficient, we compare our result only with the current version of CPLEX. The results are given in Tables 9, 10 and 11 with the same notation as for the GAP. In most cases the cut-and-branch algorithm is more effective than CPLEX.

Some blank cells can be filled using the branch-and-cut algorithm, whose results are given in Table 12. We have only cpmp32 and cpmp34 of type  $\beta$  unsolved to optimality yet.

### 3.4 Capacitated network location problem

By generalizing the CPMP, Ceselli et al. [33] generated different problems, which they named as the Capacitated Network Location Problems (CNLP). Their first test bed was based on the single source capacitated facility location problem instances of Holmberg et al. [34], Diaz and Fernández [35]. By modifying the fixed costs and adding the cardinality constraints (like in the CPMP), 4 types of problem instances were generated (a, b, c, d). Holmberg's instances are easy and they are omitted. In Table 13 there are only the Diaz's instances for which CPLEX cannot find the optimal solutions in 10 s. Also the results of the B&P algorithm are

**Table 10** Results on CPMP instances, types  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ 

Name	n	OPT	Proof		Search	
			C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX
cpmp08 $\alpha$	50	820	23.2	11.4	20.8	19.6
cpmp14 $\alpha$	100	982	15.4	5.0	30.8	19.4
cpmp15 $\alpha$	100	1091	13.0	10.6	21.1	14.5
cpmp18 $\alpha$	100	1043	13.6	4.0	14.8	19.0
cpmp20 $\alpha$	100	1005	211.4	204.5	648.1	428.7
cpmp21 $\alpha$	150	1288	18.6	8.6	39.3	49.7
cpmp22 $\alpha$	150	1256	41.2	43.3	107.9	220.7
cpmp23 $\alpha$	150	1279	2.8	7.1	6.5	11.9
cpmp24 $\alpha$	150	1220	6.8	14.6	11.7	16.5
cpmp26 $\alpha$	150	1264	59.9	11.6	76.4	28.7
cpmp27 $\alpha$	150	1323	181.8	172.1	234.4	179.2
cpmp31 $\alpha$	200	1378	27.3	9.8	42.9	24.8
cpmp32 $\alpha$	200	1424	360.3	1324.0	531.0	3721.8
cpmp33 $\alpha$	200	1367	35.3	16.9	126.5	65.8
cpmp34 $\alpha$	200	1385	163.0	57.3	241.1	609.5
cpmp35 $\alpha$	200	1437	78.3	33.7	206.2	114.7
cpmp36 $\alpha$	200	1382	13.1	10.5	36.0	69.1
cpmp37 $\alpha$	200	1458	28.0	8.4	51.0	22.7
cpmp38 $\alpha$	200	1382	127.0	59.1	338.3	353.5
cpmp39 $\alpha$	200	1374	20.9	6.8	87.7	13.7
cpmp40 $\alpha$	200	1416	13.2	11.2	86.1	24.3
cpmp04 $\beta$	50	384	48.0	25.0	46.0	30.5
cpmp07 $\beta$	50	445	51.5	29.1	18.4	22.3
cpmp09 $\beta$	50	436	4.0	6.6	8.2	10.6
cpmp10 $\beta$	50	461	16.7	21.3	33.0	37.3
cpmp11 $\beta$	100	544	20.4	69.0	39.3	83.1
cpmp12 $\beta$	100	504	4.9	6.4	16.3	17.7
cpmp13 $\beta$	100	555	40.3	74.5	131.1	90.8
cpmp14 $\beta$	100	544	21.3	21.1	28.8	57.0
cpmp15 $\beta$	100	583	12.6	46.3	27.2	79.7
cpmp16 $\beta$	100	534	261.7	1019.7	340.4	594.5
cpmp18 $\beta$	100	508	4.3	6.6	11.7	10.5
cpmp19 $\beta$	100	551	116.5	203.0	164.6	212.2
cpmp20 $\beta$	100	555				
cpmp21 $\beta$	150	681	14.1	20.3	18.0	20.3
cpmp22 $\beta$	150	660	75.2	1562.3	218.0	1272.6
cpmp23 $\beta$	150	663	611.8	5357.6	811.4	4132.7
cpmp24 $\beta$	150	594	21.3	71.8	22.6	50.0
cpmp26 $\beta$	150	653	12.4	20.6	21.8	15.1
cpmp27 $\beta$	150	736	1831.0	0.0	604.6	5969.5
cpmp28 $\beta$	150	644	37.6	30.1	47.4	26.4
cpmp29 $\beta$	150	649	11.4	14.2	24.3	10.3

**Table 10** continued

Name	n	OPT	Proof		Search	
			C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX
cpmp30 $\beta$	150	630	24.7	63.7	46.9	132.6
cpmp31 $\beta$	200	727	258.9	2600.6	225.3	4317.2
cpmp32 $\beta$	200	832				
cpmp33 $\beta$	200	713	636.7		791.3	
cpmp34 $\beta$	200	816				
cpmp35 $\beta$	200	746	1308.4		776.2	6252.1
cpmp36 $\beta$	200	701	45.4	472.5	105.1	151.6
cpmp37 $\beta$	200	753	14.4	35.9	35.3	79.6
cpmp38 $\beta$	200	746	943.7	5020.3	762.0	0.0
cpmp39 $\beta$	200	722	53.5	60.9	111.1	716.6
cpmp40 $\beta$	200	763				

given, which are taken from the paper [33] and which were obtained on the same PC as for the MGAP.

There are also instances based on the CPMP in [33], but they are not available and, thus, are not included into the consideration.

### 3.5 Performance profile

To illustrate the performance comparison between the cut and branch and CPLEX, on the base of Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, their performance profile has been plotted in Fig. 1. The performance profile for optimization solvers was presented by Dolan and Moré [36]. Suppose we are given with  $n_p$  test instances and  $n_s$  solvers. To compare the performance on problem  $p$  by solver  $s$  with the best performance by any solver on this problem; the performance ratio  $\rho_{ps}$  is used, which is defined by the following way:

$$\rho_{ps} = \frac{t_{ps}}{\min \{t_{ps} : s = 1, \dots, n_s\}},$$

where  $t_{ps}$  is the computing time required to solve problem  $p$  by solver  $s$ . In order to obtain an overall assessment of a solver on the given model test set, a cumulative distribution function  $P_s(\tau)$  is defined:

$$P_s(\tau) = \frac{\text{size} \{p = 1, \dots, n_p : \rho_{ps} \leq \tau\}}{n_p}$$

$P_s(\tau)$  is the probability that a performance ratio  $\rho_{ps}$  is within a factor of  $\tau$  of the best possible ratio. In practice, solvers with large probability  $P_s(\tau)$  are to be preferred. It is immediately seen from the Fig. 1, that the cut and branch are much better in the both cases of proving optimality and searching for optimal solutions.

**Table 11** Results on CPMP instances, types  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ 

Name	n	OPT	Proof		Search	
			C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX
cpmp08 $\gamma$	50	353	18.3	48.1	35.5	101.9
cpmp10 $\gamma$	50	390	9.8	42.9	12.5	53.1
cpmp12 $\gamma$	100	391	17.1	71.0	27.2	61.0
cpmp14 $\gamma$	100	447	11.8	47.0	14.8	46.5
cpmp16 $\gamma$	100	447	34.2	214.0	140.5	109.7
cpmp18 $\gamma$	100	456	12.3	110.3	22.0	87.8
cpmp19 $\gamma$	100	445	19.4	32.3	20.4	26.3
cpmp20 $\gamma$	100	460	12.4	87.8	34.6	252.5
cpmp21 $\gamma$	150	599	152.4	995.0	206.3	733.1
cpmp22 $\gamma$	150	561	201.5	3514.7	570.1	3988.2
cpmp23 $\gamma$	150	564	32.6	597.0	90.0	800.0
cpmp24 $\gamma$	150	505	21.0	113.8	98.9	108.0
cpmp26 $\gamma$	150	540	3.6	166.3	7.9	26.4
cpmp27 $\gamma$	150	579	40.6	234.6	104.4	199.6
cpmp28 $\gamma$	150	503	5.2	13.9	5.8	13.3
cpmp29 $\gamma$	150	545	47.6	1006.1	60.9	473.0
cpmp30 $\gamma$	150	502	21.3	467.1	51.0	124.5
cpmp31 $\gamma$	200	575	5.5	63.4	6.8	21.8
cpmp32 $\gamma$	200	724	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
cpmp33 $\gamma$	200	618	1615.0	0.0	3511.7	0.0
cpmp34 $\gamma$	200	709	0.0	0.0	3288.8	0.0
cpmp35 $\gamma$	200	611	349.5	3724.3	525.0	5209.9
cpmp36 $\gamma$	200	580	45.4	390.7	110.1	692.8
cpmp37 $\gamma$	200	631	1625.4	5517.7	3845.8	0.0
cpmp38 $\gamma$	200	608	94.6	1320.9	122.3	350.3
cpmp39 $\gamma$	200	589	216.2	5720.9	713.5	724.1
cpmp40 $\gamma$	200	630	183.9	0.0	498.8	0.0
cpmp08 $\delta$	50	312	3.8	21.1	7.6	16.1
cpmp09 $\delta$	50	412	3.4	38.5	6.8	41.1
cpmp10 $\delta$	50	458	8.9	118.0	8.9	254.8
cpmp11 $\delta$	100	415	5.8	58.2	17.7	21.9
cpmp12 $\delta$	100	377	15.4	233.0	29.1	82.3
cpmp14 $\delta$	100	421	9.0	29.7	22.5	20.5
cpmp15 $\delta$	100	496	7.4	59.7	12.0	10.6
cpmp16 $\delta$	100	428	2.4	85.1	5.7	24.1
cpmp17 $\delta$	100	440	13.1	100.6	40.7	31.8
cpmp18 $\delta$	100	450	16.1	66.4	59.1	31.4
cpmp19 $\delta$	100	450	8.7	92.0	20.2	62.9
cpmp20 $\delta$	100	486	19.1	173.4	65.9	330.2
cpmp21 $\delta$	150	552	15.3	116.5	28.4	38.5
cpmp22 $\delta$	150	601	166.5	0.0	250.5	0.0

**Table 11** continued

Name	n	OPT	Proof		Search	
			C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX
cpmp23 $\delta$	150	555	39.4	1298.6	121.5	988.6
cpmp24 $\delta$	150	487	238.1	2590.2	200.2	269.8
cpmp25 $\delta$	150	436	10.3	276.1	20.8	44.2
cpmp26 $\delta$	150	512	5.6	36.4	7.3	26.1
cpmp27 $\delta$	150	743	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
cpmp28 $\delta$	150	471	21.2	413.7	71.1	55.1
cpmp30 $\delta$	150	444	5.6	109.7	7.0	19.8
cpmp31 $\delta$	200	541	258.2	0.0	2505.7	1844.0
cpmp32 $\delta$	200	802	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
cpmp33 $\delta$	200	557	90.1	1578.2	149.2	344.8
cpmp34 $\delta$	200	845	1114.7	0.0	1586.7	0.0
cpmp35 $\delta$	200	552	17.3	906.6	32.5	5245.7
cpmp36 $\delta$	200	551	75.3	3105.3	154.8	1774.8
cpmp37 $\delta$	200	594	360.1	6795.2	381.6	1624.0
cpmp38 $\delta$	200	592	63.3	2976.3	43.0	1820.0
cpmp39 $\delta$	200	540	166.1	1803.5	238.0	595.1
cpmp40 $\delta$	200	588	1316.4	0.0	1349.0	0.0

**Table 12** Results of the branch-and-cut on CPMP instances

Name	n	OPT	Proof B&C
cpmp20 $\beta$	100	555	14,248.2
cpmp40 $\beta$	200	762	38,480.1
cpmp32 $\gamma$	200	724	213,392.6
cpmp27 $\delta$	150	743	54,660.5
cpmp32 $\delta$	200	802	82,002.0

## 4 Conclusions

In this paper we are reporting on the computational experiments on a new implementation of the exact separation over the 0–1 knapsack polytope. The careful elaboration of all algorithm elements (especially the lifting procedure) and their correct tuning make this approach much more efficient. It was proved on the following problem whose constraints have a distinct knapsack structure: the Generalized Assignment Problem (GAP), Multilevel Generalized Assignment Problem (MGAP), Capacitated  $p$ -Median Problem, Capacitated Network Location Problem.

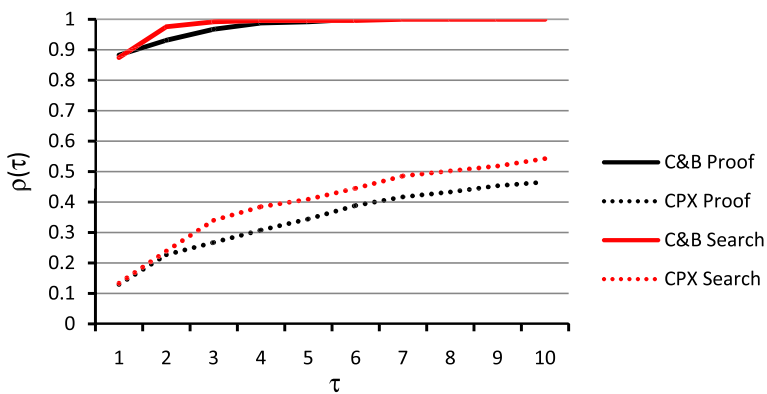
The computational results apparently show that for these problems the proposed approach can be a very competitive counterpart to the branch-and-price approach. Another advantage of our approach is that it deals with the explicit standard formulation of these problems, containing only the original variables. The user can easily use our separation procedure in

**Table 13** Results on CNLP instances

Name	m	n	OPT	Proof		Search		
				C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX	B&P
p20-a	20	40	26,561	1.0	22.5	1.5	26.7	
p21-a	20	40	7295	1.4	8.6	2.1	13.1	
p26-a	20	50	4448	1.1	5.3	2.0	12.5	365.2
p30-a	20	50	10,816	4.1	6260.3	47.7		
p31-a	20	50	4466	1.2	4.3	2.4	13.6	2864.4
p33-a	20	50	39,463	8.8	1056.5	20.3	3061.7	
p36-a	30	60	16,781	1.7	45.0	2.5	23.3	2008.7
p37-a	30	60	14,668	3.8	3.9	17.5	12.2	
p39-a	30	60	41,007	1.0	4.4	6.3	34.3	856.1
p40-a	30	60	61,633	2.4	44.2	4.2	172.6	
p44-a	30	75	36,022	3.4	2182.1	7.6		
p46-a	30	75	48,701	1.5	7.5	3.0	94.4	
p47-a	30	75	66,230	10.3	87.8	18.8	210.3	
p49-a	30	75	79,614	3.1	143.3	13.7	790.9	
p51-a	30	90	9060	29.4	416.4	94.9	296.4	
p52-a	30	90	34,652	2.0	27.7	13.0	86.6	
p53-a	30	90	30,038	1.0	2.5	2.2	14.8	340.0
p55-a	30	90	69,610	2.6	533.7	3.8	2782.5	
p20-b	20	40	13,502	0.9	16.3	1.3	34.3	1053.7
p21-b	20	40	3870	0.9	6.3	1.2	10.7	400.9
p26-b	20	50	2499	1.1	9.9	8.4	17.2	384.0
p30-b	20	50	5650	15.0	1239.7	36.6	2697.8	
p33-b	20	50	20,024	8.0	973.4	26.8	1704.8	
p36-b	30	60	8746	1.8	39.5	11.0	112.2	2340.7
p37-b	30	60	7681	8.0	10.2	27.7	25.8	
p39-b	30	60	20,762	1.1	2.5	2.2	16.4	3111.7
p40-b	30	60	31,047	2.5	41.0	5.9	191.4	
p44-b	30	75	18,247	3.6	1444.3	6.9		
p46-b	30	75	24,716	1.8	8.2	2.8	122.6	2676.4
p47-b	30	75	33,489	16.8	428.2	36.0	1397.0	
p49-b	30	75	40,104	2.6	136.9	15.2	383.5	
p52-b	30	90	17,663	2.5	31.2	18.8	104.5	
p53-b	30	90	15,376	1.1	2.7	1.7	19.3	808.0
p55-b	30	90	35,162	2.6	663.4	3.6		
p18-d	20	40	14,418	1.2	6.5	1.2	30.3	555.3
p20-d	20	40	24,862	0.8	2.9	1.0	11.2	604.1
p33-d	20	50	38,010	0.7	14.2	1.1	31.9	740.3
p34-d	30	60	8323	3.7	4.7	5.2	11.4	188.0
p35-d	30	60	8177	2.8	8.2	3.5	39.1	459.9
p42-d	30	75	11,062	2.7	14.6	40.4	106.3	903.5
p44-d	30	75	38,049	0.7	3.9	1.8	17.6	211.6

**Table 13** continued

Name	m	n	OPT	Proof		Search		
				C&B	CPX	C&B	CPX	B&P
p47-d	30	75	67,682	1.0	1.8	1.5	15.4	416.9
p48-d	30	75	85,720	6.2	7.4	21.2	18.6	1408.7
p49-d	30	75	92,198	1.9	3.1	2.8	14.9	1325.2
p55-d	30	90	84,207	29.2	599.5	90.4	3670.7	
p57-d	30	90	107,404	10.3	5.0	11.6	11.0	323.9

**Fig. 1** Performance profile

the standard Branch and Cut frameworks, like IBM ILOG CPLEX, without deep diving in the exigent implementation of the Branch and Price algorithm.

Of course, the proposed approach cannot be the best in all cases even for the considered problems. For example, it loses to the specially designed algorithm for the GAP, and it is not efficient for the GAP and MGAP instances of type D. But it can be a useful tool to couple with other methods, which take more advantage from the study of specific problem structure. Such kind of the study can open new directions for the further investigations.

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