

## Lecture 2 (2011-10-13):

### Definition 2.1 (connected):

A graph is called *connected* (zusammenhängend) if there exists a  $[s,t]$ -Path between all pairs of vertices  $s, t \in V$ .

### Definition 2.2 (forest, tree, spanning, forest problem, minimum spanning tree):

A *forest* (Wald) is a graph that does not contain a cycle (Kreis). A connected forest is called a *tree* (Baum). A tree in a graph (as subgraph) is called *spanning* (aufspannend), if it contains all vertices.

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge weights  $c_e \in \mathbb{R}$  for all  $e \in E$ , the task to find a forest  $W \subset E$  such that  $c(W) := \sum_{e \in W} c_e$  is maximal, is called the *Maximum Forest Problem* (Problem des maximalen Waldes). The task to find a tree  $T \subset E$  which spans  $G$  and which weight  $c(T)$  is minimal, is called the *Minimum Spanning Tree* (MST) problem (minimaler Spannbaum).

### Lemma 2.3:

A tree  $G = (V, E)$  with at least 2 vertices has at least 2 vertices of degree 1.

*Proof.* Let  $v$  be arbitrary. Since  $G$  is connected,  $\deg(v) \geq 1$ . Assume  $\deg(v) = 1$ . So  $\delta(v) = \{vw\}$ . If  $\deg(w) = 1$ , we found two vertices with degree 1. If  $\deg(w) > 1$ , there exist a neighbour of  $w$ , different from  $v : u$ . Now, again  $u$  has degree 1 or higher. If we repeat this procedure we either find a vertex of degree 1 or find again *new* vertices. Hence, after at most  $n - 1$  vertices we end up at a vertex of degree 1. Now, if  $\deg(v) \geq 2$ , we do the same and find a vertex of degree 1, say  $w$ . Then repeat the above, starting from  $w$  to find a second vertex of degree 1.  $\square$

### Corollary 2.4:

A tree  $G = (V, E)$  with maximum degree  $\Delta$  has at least  $\Delta$  vertices of degree 1.

**Lemma 2.5:** (a) For every graph  $G = (V, E)$  it holds that  $2|E| = \sum_{u \in V} \deg(u)$

(b) for every tree  $G = (V, E)$  it holds that  $|E| = |V| - 1$ .

*Proof.* (a) trivial

(b) Proof by induction. Clearly, if  $|V| = 1$  or  $|V| = 2$  it holds. Assumption: true for  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $G$  be a tree with  $n + 1$  vertices. By Lemma 2.3, there exists a vertex  $v \in G$  with  $\deg(v) = 1$ .  $G - v = G[V \setminus \{v\}]$  is a tree again with  $n$  vertices and thus  $|E(G - v)| = |V(G - v)| - 1$ . Since  $G$  differs by one vertex and one edge from  $G - v$ , the claim holds for  $G$  as well.  $\square$

### Lemma 2.6:

If  $G = (V, E)$  with  $|V| \geq 2$  has  $|E| < |V| - 1$ ,  $G$  is not connected.

## Algorithm MST

$\min_{x \in X} = -\max_{x \in X} - c(x)$  maximal forest

X spanning trees

$$\min_{x \in X} + (n-1)D = -\max_{x \in X} - c(x)(n-1)D = \max_{x \in X} \sum \underbrace{D - C_{ij}x_{ij}}_{\geq 0 \text{ if } D \geq \max_{ij \in E} c_{ij}}$$

### Theorem 2.7:

Kruskal's Algorithm returns the optimal solution.

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be Kruskal's tree and assume there exists a tree  $T'$  with  $c(T') < c(T)$ . Then there exist an edge  $e' \in T' \setminus T$ . Then  $T \cup \{e'\}$  contains a cycle  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k, e'\}$ . Let  $c_f = \max_{i=1, \dots, k} c_{l_i}$ . At the moment Kruskal chooses edge  $f$ , edge  $e'$  cannot be added yet and therefore  $c(e') \geq c(f)$ . Now exchange  $e'$  by  $f$  in  $T'$ . Hence the number of differences between  $T'$  and  $T$  is reduced by one,  $c(T'_{\text{new}}) \leq c(T') < c(T)$ . Repeating the procedure results in  $c(T) \leq \dots < c(T)$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

### Lecture 3 (2011-10-17):

#### Definition 2.7(+1):

The *running time of algorithms* (Laufzeit) of an algorithm is measured by the number of operations needed in worst case of a function of the input size. We use the  $O(\cdot)$  notation (Big-O-notation) to focus on the most important factor of the running time, ignoring constants and smaller factors.

#### Example 2.7(+2):

If the running time is  $3n \cdot \log n + 26n$ , the algorithm runs in  $O(n \cdot \log n)$ . If the running time is  $3n \cdot \log n + 25n^2$ , the algorithm runs in  $O(n^2)$ .

For graph Problems, the running is expressed in the number of vertices  $n = |V|$  and the number of edges  $m = |E|$ . Sometimes  $m$  is approximated by  $n^2$ .

#### Example 2.7(+3) (Kruskal's Algorithm):

First, the edges are sorted according to nondecreasing weights. This can be done in  $O(m \cdot \log m)$ . Next, we repeatedly select an edge or reject its selection until  $n - 1$  edges are selected. Since the last selected edge might be after  $m$  steps, this routine is performed at most  $O(m)$  times.

Checking whether the end nodes of  $\{u, v\}$  are already in the same tree can be done in constant time, if we label the vertices of the trees selected so far:  $r(u) = \# \text{trees containing } u$ . If  $r(u) \neq r(v)$ , the trees are connected by  $\{u, v\}$  to a new tree.

Without going into details, the resetting of labels in one of the old trees, can be done  $O(\log n)$  on average. Since this update has to be done at most  $n - 1$  times, it takes  $O(n \cdot \log n)$ .

Overall, Kruskal runs in

$$O(n \log m + m + n \cdot \log n) = O(m \cdot \log m) = O(m \cdot \log n^2) = O(m \cdot \log n)$$

#### Definition 2.7(+4) (Shortest paths in acyclic digraphs):

A directed graph (digraph)  $D = (V, A)$  is called *acyclic* (azyklisch) if it does not contain any *directed cycles*, i.e. a *chain* (Kette)  $(v_0, a_1, v_1, a_2, v_2, \dots, a_k, v_k)$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , with  $a_i(v_{i-1}, v_i) \in A$  and  $v_k = v_0$ . In particular,  $D$  does not contain *antiparallel* arcs: if  $(u, v) \in A$ ,  $(v, u) \notin A$ . With  $\delta_D^+(v)$  we denote the arcs leaving vertex  $v$ :

$$\delta_D^+(v) = \{(u, w) \in A : u = v\}$$

similarly:

$$\delta_D^-(v) = \{(u, w) \in A : w = v\}$$

are the arcs entering  $v$ .

The *outdegree* of  $v$  is  $\deg_D^+(v) = |\delta_D^+(v)|$  (assuming simple digraph)

The *indegree* of  $v$  is  $\deg_D^-(v) = |\delta_D^-(v)|$

#### Definition 3.1:

The *shortest path* problem in a acyclic digraph is, given an acyclic digraph  $D = (V, A)$ , a length function  $C : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and two vertices  $s, t \in V$ , find a  $[s, t]$ -path of minimal length.

**Question 1:**

Does there exist a  $[s, t]$ -path at all?

**Theorem 3.2:**

A digraph  $D = (V, A)$  is acyclic, if and only if there exists a permutation  $\sigma : V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$  of the vertices such that  $\deg_{D[v_1, \dots, v_n]}^-(v_i) = 0$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  with  $v_i = \sigma^{-1}(i)$ .

*Proof.* By induction:

For digraph with  $|V| = 1$ , the statement is true. Assume the statement is true for all digraphs with  $|V| \leq n$  and consider  $D = (V, A)$  acyclic with  $n + 1$  vertices. If there does not exist a vertex with  $\deg_D^-(v) = 0$ , a directed cycle can be detected by following incoming arcs backwards until a vertex is repeated, a contradiction regarding the acyclic property of  $D$ .

Hence, let  $v$  be a vertex with  $\deg_D^-(v) = 0$ . Set  $v_1 = v$ . The digraph  $D - v_1$  has  $n$  vertices and is acyclic, and thus has a permutation  $(v_2, \dots, v_{n+1})$  with

$$\deg_{D[v_1, \dots, v_{n+1}]}^-(v_i) = 0 \quad \forall i = 2, \dots, n + 1$$

Now,  $(v_1, \dots, v_{n+1})$  is a permutation fulfilling the condition.

In reverse, if there exists a permutation  $(v_1, \dots, v_{n+1})$ ,  $\deg_D^-(v_1) = 0$  and there cannot exist a directed cycle containing  $v_1$ . By induction, neither cycles containing  $v_i, i = 2, \dots, n + 1$  exist.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3:**

A  $[s, t]$ -path exists in a acyclic Digraph  $D = (V, A)$  if and only if in all permutations  $\sigma : V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $\deg_{D[v_1, \dots, v_n]}^-(v_i) = 0$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , it holds that  $\sigma(s) < \sigma(t)$ .

*Proof.* Assume there exists a permutation  $\sigma$  with  $\sigma(s) > \sigma(t)$ . Since outgoing arcs only go to higher ordered vertices, there does not exist a path from  $s$  to  $t$  in  $D$ .

In reverse, if there does not exist a path from  $s$  to  $t$ , we order all vertices with paths to  $t$  first, followed by  $t$  and  $s$  afterwards.  $\square$

**Question 2:**

How do we find the shortest  $[s, t]$ -path if it exists?

To simplify notation, let  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}, s = 1, t = n$  and  $(i, j) \in A \Rightarrow i < j$ . Let  $D(i)$  be the distance from  $i$  to  $n$  and  $NEXT(i)$  be the next vertex on the shortest path from  $i$  to  $n$ .

**Bellmann's Algorithm**

- (a)  $D(i) = \{\infty : i < n \text{ and } NEXT(i) = NIL, 0 : i = n\}$
- (b) FOR  $i = n - 1$  DOWNTO 1 DO
- (c)  $D(i) = \min_{j=i+1, \dots, n} \{D(j) + c(i, j)\}$  with  $c(i, j) = \infty$  if  $(i, j) \notin A$

$$(d) \quad \text{NEXT}(i) = \operatorname{argmin}_{j=i+1, \dots, n} \{D(j) + c(i, j)\}$$

**Theorem 3.4:**

Bellmann's Algorithm is correct and runs in  $O(m + n)$  time.

*Proof.* Every path from 1 to  $n$  passes through vertices of increasing ID. Assume there exists a path  $(a_1, \dots, a_k)$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^k c(a_i) < D(1)$ . Let  $a_1 = (1, j_1)$ . Since  $D(1) \leq c(a_1) + D(j_1)$ , it should hold that

$$\sum_{i=2}^k c(a_i) < D(j_1)$$

But  $D(j_1) \leq c(a_2) + D(j_2)$  with  $a_2 = (j_1, j_2)$ , etc.

In the end,  $c(a_k) < D(j_{k-1})$  but  $D(j_{k-1}) \leq c(a_k) + D(n) = c(a_k)$ , contradiction.  $\square$

#### Lecture 4 (2011-10-20):

##### Theorem 3.5:

Bellman's Algorithm is correct and runs in  $O(m + n) = O(n)$ .

*Proof.* of runtime:

$$D(i) = \min_{(i,j) \in A} D(j) + D(i,j)$$

$\Rightarrow$  Every arc is considered once, and thus overall  $O(m)$  computations are needed. Initialization costs  $O(n)$ .  $\square$

##### Bemerkung 3.5(+1):

The running time does not contain the time to find the permutation.

Observation 1: We not only found the shortest path from 1 to  $n$ , but also from  $i$  to  $n$ ,  $i = 2, \dots, n$ .

Observation 2: We can use a similar procedure for the shortest path from 1 to  $i$ ,  $i = 2, \dots, n$ . (with  $PREV(i)$  for previous instead of  $NEXT(i)$ ).

##### Question 3:

Can we find a shortest path from 1 to  $i$  in a digraph that is not acyclic, i.e. it contains cycles?

##### Theorem 4.1:

The Moore-Bellman-Algorithm returns the shortest paths from 1 to  $i = 1, \dots, n$  provided  $D$  does not contain negative-weighted directed cycles.

*Proof.* We call an arc  $(i,j) \in A$  an *upgoing* arc (Aufwärtsbogen) if  $i < j$  and a *downgoing* arc (Abwärtsbogen) if  $i > j$ .

A shortest path from 1 to  $i$  contains at most  $n - 1$  arcs. If an upgoing arc is followed by a downgoing arc (or vice versa), we have a *change of direction* (Richtungswechsel). With at most  $n - 1$  arcs, at most  $n - 2$  changes of direction are possible.

Let  $D(i, m)$  be the value of  $D(i)$  at the end of the  $m$ -th iteration. We will show (and this is enough):

$$D(i, m) = \min\{c(W) : W \text{ is the directed } [1, i]\text{-path with at most } m \text{ changes of directions}\}$$

We prove it by induction on  $m$ .

- For  $m = 0$ , the algorithm is equivalent to Bellman's algorithm for acyclic graphs. Thus,  $D(i, 0)$  is the length of the shortest path without any change of direction.
- Now, let us assume, that the statement is true for  $m \geq 0$  and the subroutine is executed for the  $m + 1$ -st time. The set of  $[1, i]$ -paths with at most  $m + 1$  changes of direction consists of

- (a)  $[1, i]$ -paths with  $\leq m$  changes of direction
- (b)  $[1, i]$ -paths with exactly  $m + 1$  changes of direction

$\Rightarrow D(i, m)$

- Since every path starts with an upgoing arc  $(1, k)$ , the last arc after  $m + 1$  changes is either a downgoing arc if  $m + 1$  is odd or an upgoing arc if  $m + 1$  is even. We restrict ourselves to  $m + 1$  odd ( $m + 1$  even is similar).

To compute the minimum length path in (b) we use an additional induction on  $i = n, n - 1, \dots, j + 1$ . Since every path ending at  $n$  ends with an upgoing arc, there do not exist such  $[1, n]$ -paths. Hence,  $D(n, m + 1) = D(n, m)$ .

Now assume that  $D(k, m + 1)$  is correctly computed for  $i \leq k \leq n$ . The shortest path from 1 to  $i - 1$  with exactly  $m + 1$  changes ends with a downgoing arc  $(j, i - 1)$ ,  $j > i - 1$ .

$D(j, m + 1)$  is already computed correctly. If  $PREV(j) > j$ , no change of direction is required in  $j$  and  $D(i - 1, m + 1) = D(j, m + 1) + c(j, i - 1)$ . If  $PREV(j) < j$ , the last arc of the  $[1, j]$ -Path is upgoing, and thus  $D(i - 1, m + 1) = D(j, m) + c(j, i)$ . The last change of direction at  $j$  is thus, in worst case, the  $(m + 1)$ -st change. Hence,  $D(i - 1, m + 1)$  fulfills the statement.

□

#### Remark 1:

In fact, the algorithm finds the minimum length of a chain (kette) with at most  $n - 2$  changes of direction. In case of negative weighted cycles these might be in a chain several times.

In case no negative weighted cycles exist, the min. length chains are indeed paths. Hence, the algorithm only works correctly if *all* cycles are non-negative weighted.

#### Remark 2:

If a further executing of the subroutine ( $m = n - 1$ ) results in at least one change of a value  $D(i)$ , then the digraph contains negative weighted cycles.

#### Remark 3:

A more efficient implementation is given by E'sopo-Pape-Variant.

## Dijkstra's Algorithm for non-negative weights

#### Theorem 4.2:

Dijkstra returns the shortest paths from 1 to  $i$ ,  $i = 1 \dots n$ , provided all weights  $\geq 0$ .

*Proof.* Each step, one vertex is moved from  $T$  to  $S$ . At the end of a step,  $D(j)$  is the shortest path from 1 to  $j$  via vertices in  $S$ .

If  $S = V(T = \emptyset)$ ,  $D(i)$  is thus the shortest  $[1, i]$ -path

□

## Lecture 5 (2011-10-24):

Shortest paths between all pairs of vertices

Solution 1: Apply Moore-Bellman or Dijkstra to all vertices  $i$  as starting vertex

Solution 2: Apply Floyd's Algorithm

Notation:

$w_{ij}$  = length of the shortest  $[i, j]$ -path,  $i \neq j$

$w_{ii}$  = length of the shortest directed cycle containing  $i$

$p_{ij}$  = predecessor of  $j$  on the shortest  $[i, j]$ -path (cycle)

$W = (w_{ij})$  is the *shortest path length matrix*

### Theorem 5.1:

The Floyd Algorithm works correctly if and only if  $D = (V, A)$  does not contain any negative weighted cycles.

$D$  contains a negative weighted cycle if and only if one of the diagonal elements  $w_{ii} < 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $W^k$  be the matrix  $W$  after iteration  $k$ , with  $W^0$  being the initial matrix. By induction on  $k = 0, \dots, n$  we show that  $W^k$  is the matrix of shortest path lengths with vertices  $1, \dots, k$  as possible internal vertices, provided  $D$  does not contain a negative cycle on these vertices.

If  $D$  has a negative cycle, then  $w_{ii}^k < 0$  for an  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

For  $k = 0$ , the statement clearly true.

Assume, it is correct for  $k \geq 0$ , and we have executed the  $(k + 1)$ st iteration.

It holds that  $w_{ij}^{k+1} = \min\{w_{ij}^k, w_{i,k+1}^k + w_{k+1,j}^k\}$ . Note that, provided no negative cycle exists,  $w_{i,k+1}^{k+1}$  does not have any vertex  $k + 1$  as internal vertex, and thus  $w_{i,k+1}^{k+1} = w_{i,k+1}^k$  (similarly,  $w_{k+1,j}^{k+1} = w_{k+1,j}^k$ ).

$w_{i,k+1}^k$  is the minimal length of a  $[i, k + 1]$ -path with  $\{1, \dots, k\}$  as allowed internal vertices. Similarly,  $w_{k+1,j}^k$ .

Thus,  $w_{i,k+1}^k + w_{k+1,j}^k$  is the minimal length of an  $[i, j]$ -path (not necessarily simple) containing  $k + 1$  (mandatory) and  $\{1, \dots, k\}$  (voluntary). If the shortest path from  $i$  to  $j$  using  $\{1, \dots, k + 1\}$  does not contain  $k + 1$ , it only contains  $\{1, \dots, k\}$  (voluntary) and, hence,  $w_{ij}^k$  is the right value.

What remains to show is that the connection of the  $[i, k + 1]$ -path with the  $[k + 1, j]$ -path is indeed a simple path.

Let  $K$  be this chain. After removal of cycles, the chain  $K$  contains (of course) a simple  $[i, j]$ -path  $\bar{K}$ . Since such cycles may only contain vertices from  $\{1, \dots, k + 1\}$ , one cycle must contain  $k + 1$ . If this cycle is not negatively weighted, then path  $\bar{K}$  is shorter and  $w_{ij} < w_{i,k+1}^k + w_{k+1,j}^k$ .

If this cycle is negatively weighted,  $w_{k+1,k+1}^k < 0$  (the cycle only contains internal vertices from  $\{1, \dots, k\}$ ) and algorithm would have stopped earlier.  $\square$



## Min-Max-Theorems for combinatorial Optimization Problems

From "Optimierung A": Duality of linear programs

$$\max_{\text{s. t.}, Ax \leq b, x \geq 0} c^T x = \min_{\text{s. t.}, A^T y \geq c, y \geq 0} b^T y$$

For several combinatorial problems  $\min\{c(x) : x \in X\}$

We can define a second set  $Y$  and a function  $b(y)$  with  $\max\{b(y) : y \in Y\} = \min\{c(x) : x \in X\}$  where  $Y$  and  $b(y)$  have a graph theoretical interpretation.

Existence of such a "Dual" Problem indicates often that the problem can be solved "efficiently". For the shortest path problem several max-min-theorems exist.

### Definition 5.2:

An  $(s, t)$ -cut (Schnitt) in a digraph  $D = (V, A)$  with  $s, t \in V$  is a subset  $B \subset A$  of the arcs with the property that every  $(s, t)$ -path contains at least one arc of  $B$ .

Stated otherwise, for every cut  $B$ , there exists a vertex set  $W \subset V$  such that

- $s \in W, t \in V \setminus W$
- $\delta^+(w) = \{(i, j) \in A : i \in W, j \in V \setminus W\} \subseteq B$

### Theorem 5.3:

Let  $D = (V, A)$  be a digraph,  $c(a) = 1 \forall a \in A, s, t \in V, s \neq t$ . Then the minimum length of a  $[s, t]$ -path equals the maximum number of arc-disjoint  $(s, t)$ -cuts.

*Proof.* Follows from ?? □

### Theorem 5.4:

Let  $D = (V, A)$  be a digraph,  $c(a) \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \forall a \in A \wedge s, t \in V \wedge s \neq t$ . Then the min length of an  $[s, t]$ -path equals the maximum number  $d$  of (not necessarily different)  $(s, t)$ -cuts  $C_1, \dots, C_d$  such that every arc  $a \in A$  is contained in at most  $c(a)$  cuts.

*Proof.* We define  $(s, t)$ -cuts  $C_i = \delta^+(v_i)$  with  $V_i = \{v \in V : \exists (s, v)\text{-path with } c(P) \leq i - 1\}$

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= \{s\} \\ v_2 &= \{5, 3, 4\} \\ v_3 &= \{5, 2, 3, 4\} \\ v_4 &= v_3 \cup \{6\} \end{aligned}$$

(for the example graph on the board)

The shortest  $[s, t]$ -path  $P$  consists of arcs  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  with arc  $a_j$  contained in  $(s, t)$ -cuts  $C_i, i \in \{\sum_{l=1}^{j-1} c(a_l) + 1, \dots, \sum_{l=1}^j c(a_l)\}$ : exactly  $c(a)$  cuts. □

## Lecture 6 (2011-10-26):

### Knapsack problem

#### Definition 6.1:

The *Knapsack problem* is defined by a set of items  $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$  weights  $a_i \in \mathbb{N}$ , value  $c_i \in \mathbb{N}$ , and a bound  $b \in \mathbb{N}$ . We search for a subset  $S \subset \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$a(S) = \sum_{i \in S} a_i \leq b \text{ and } c(S) = \sum_{i \in S} c_i \text{ maximum}$$

Approach 1: Greedy algorithm

Idea: Items with small weight but high value are the most attractive ones.

Procedure:

- (a) Sort the items such that  $\frac{c_1}{a_1} \leq \frac{c_2}{a_2} \leq \dots \leq \frac{c_n}{a_n}$ .

Set  $S = \emptyset$ .

- (b) For  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do if  $(a(S) + a_i \leq b)$  then

$S = S \cup \{i\}$

endif

endfor

- (c) return  $S$  and  $c(S)$

#### Theorem 6.2:

The greedy algorithm does *not* guarantee an optimal solution.

*Proof.* Let  $b = 10$ ,  $n = 6$

|       |    |   |   |   |   |
|-------|----|---|---|---|---|
| $i$   | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| $a_i$ | 9  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| $c_i$ | 19 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Greedy:  $S = \{1\}$ ,  $c(s) = 20$

Optimal:  $S = \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \}$ ,  $c(S) = 20$

□

Approach 2: Integer Linear Programming

The set of solutions  $X$  of a combinatorial optimization problem can (almost always) be written as the intersection of integer points in  $\mathbb{N}_0^n$  and a polyhedron  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \leq b\}$

Let  $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$  be a vector representing all solutions of the knapsack problem:

$$x_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in S \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$X = \{0, 1\} \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x_i \leq b\}$$

$$\text{Knapsack: } \max \sum_{i=0}^n c_i x_i$$

The *linear relaxation* (Lineare Relaxierung) of an ILP is the linear program obtained by relaxing the integrality of the variables:

$$\max \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i$$

$$\text{s. t. } \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i \leq b, 0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$