ALC 2024/2025
1^{st} Project – Flying Tourist Problem
SAT/MaxSAT/PB

22/09/2024, version 1.0

Overview

The 1st ALC project is to develop a software tool for solving the Flying Tourist Problem problem. In order to solve this problem, students must use solvers for Satisfiability (SAT), Maximum Satisfiability (MaxSAT), Pseudo-Boolean Satisfiability (PBS) or Pseudo-Boolean Optimization (PBO).

Context

Consider an European tourist that is planning vacations. Suppose he has a given number of days for vacations and plans to visit several European cities. For each city he plans to visit, he has fixed a number of nights to spend in each city.

The tourist will only travel between cities by plane and his trip starts and finishes in the city where he lives. For each city to visit, he fixes the number of nights to spend, but the order he visits the cities is not pre-defined.

For example, suppose the tourist lives in Lisbon and wants to visit Rome, Paris and Stockholm. Moreover, the tourist wishes to spend 3 nights in Rome and Paris and 2 nights in Stockholm. Figure 1 shows an example of a possible trip. In this case, the order is Paris, Stockholm and Rome and the trip starts and ends in Lisbon. The goal is always to find the cheapest way to travel, as long as all the travel requirements are satisfied.

Example

Table 1 provides an example of flights considering the cities of Lisbon (LIS airport), Paris (CDG airport), Rome (FCO airport) and Stockholm (ARN airport). Consider that the tourist is located in Lisbon and wants to spend 3 nights in Rome and Paris and 2 nights in Stockholm. If the trip starts in Lisbon (LIS) on the 01/09, then the tourist must arrive back in Lisbon on the 09/09. However, if the trip starts on the 02/09, then 10/10 must be the final arrival date.

Considering the flights in Table 1, the cheapest option is to start the trip on the 02/09 to Paris (CDG), then fly to Stockholm (ARN) on the 05/09, followed by a flight to Rome (FCO)

Figure 1: Example of a trip.

on the 07/09 and arriving in Lisbon on the 10/09. The total cost of the trip would be 550 (100+100+200+150).

Note that moving from a city to another can only be made with direct flights. The tourist does not want plane trips with layovers. Notice also that it might be the case that there are more than one option in each day to fly between two cities. For instance, on the 03/09 there are two flights between CDG and FCO. On the other hand, there might be some situations where there are no flights between two cities (e.g., there are no flights between LIS and ARN on the 02/09).

Problem Specification

Let $\mathscr{V}$ define the set of cities the tourist wants to visit and the origin city. Let n denote the cardinality of $\mathscr{V}$. The tourist has a period of K consecutive vacation days. Let *base* denote the city in $\mathscr{V}$ that defines the start and end city.

For each city c such that $c \in \mathscr{V} \setminus \{base\}$, k_c denotes the number of nights the tourist wants to spend in city c. Moreover, the total number of nights for all cities he plans to visit is smaller than K (i.e., $\sum_{c \in \mathscr{V} \setminus \{base\}} k_c < K$).

Let $\mathscr{F}$ denote the set of flights in consideration. All departure and arrival cities of the flights in $\mathscr{F}$ belong to set $\mathscr{V}$. Moreover, all flights occur in a period of K consecutive days and they arrive the same day as they depart. There are no overnight flights.

Your goal is to help the tourist to define its travel plans such that:

- The trip start and ends in the city defined as *base*.

Date (day/month)	Origin	Destination	Departure Time	Arrival Time	Price (EUR)
01/09	LIS	CDG	10:00	12:30	150
01/09	LIS	FCO	11:00	14:00	120
01/09	LIS	ARN	13:00	17:15	250
02/09	LIS	CDG	10:00	12:30	100
02/09	LIS	FCO	11:00	14:00	170
...	...	...	...	...	...
03/09	CDG	FCO	10:00	12:00	160
03/09	CDG	FCO	19:00	21:00	120
...	...	...	...	...	...
04/09	FCO	CDG	10:00	12:00	200
04/09	CDG	ARN	11:00	13:40	160
04/09	FCO	ARN	17:00	20:15	300
...	...	...	...	...	...
05/09	FCO	CDG	10:00	12:00	200
05/09	CDG	ARN	11:00	13:40	100
05/09	FCO	ARN	17:00	20:15	300
...	...	...	...	...	...
06/09	FCO	CDG	10:00	12:00	260
06/09	CDG	ARN	11:00	13:40	110
06/09	FCO	ARN	17:00	20:15	300
...	...	...	...	...	...
07/09	FCO	CDG	10:00	12:00	220
07/09	CDG	FCO	11:00	13:40	140
07/09	ARN	FCO	17:00	20:15	200
...	...	...	...	...	...
09/09	FCO	LIS	10:00	12:00	200
09/09	CDG	LIS	11:00	13:40	110
09/09	ARN	LIS	17:00	20:15	250
...	...	...	...	...	...
10/09	FCO	LIS	10:00	12:00	150
10/09	CDG	LIS	11:00	13:40	110
10/09	ARN	LIS	17:00	20:15	300

Table 1: Sample of flights considering the cities in Figure 1.

- The tourist arrives and departs from each city only once.
- For each city $c \in \mathcal{V} \setminus \{base\}$, the tourist stays there exactly k_c nights.
- The total cost of plane tickets is minimized.

Project Details

You are to implement a tool, or optionally a set of tools, invoked with command `proj1`. Your implementation must use a SAT/MaxSAT/PB tool to solve the travelling tourist problem as previously specified.

Your tool does not take any command-line arguments. The problem instance is to be read from the standard input.

Consider an instance file named `instance.ttp`. The tool is expected to be executed as follows:

```
proj1 < instance.ttp > solution.out
```

The tool must write the solution to the standard output, which can then be redirected to a file (e.g., `solution.out`).

The programming languages to be used are only C/C++, Java or Python. The formats of the files used by the tool are described below.

File Formats

You can assume that all input files follow the description provided in this document. There is no need to check if the input is correct. Additionally, all lines (input or output) must terminate with the end-of-line character.

Input Format

The input file representing a problem instance is a text file that follows the following format:

- One line with an integer n $(n > 1)$ defining the number of cities to visit;
- One line with the name of a city and a three letter code (airport code) defining the *base* city;
- A sequence of $n-1$ lines where each line has the name of a city, a three letter code defining the airport code for the city and one integer defining the number of nights to be spent in the city;
- One line with an integer m $(m \geq 1)$ defining the number of flights;
- A sequence of m lines where each line contains:
  - flight date in the format DD/MM;
  - two airport codes denoting the departure and arrival airports;
  - two timestamps in the format HH:MM denoting the departure and arrival time;
  - one integer denoting the flight's cost in Euros

There is always one white space between names and integers in the same line. Moreover, all lines end with an end-of-line character.

Output Format

The output representing an optimal solution to the problem instance must comply with the following format:

- One line with an integer defining the overall final cost;
- A sequence of n lines with the chronological sequence of flights defining the trip. Each line contains the date of the flight, the city of departure, the city of arrival, the departure time and the cost of the flight, separated by one white space. All lines terminate with an end of line character.

Important: The final version to be submitted for evaluation must comply with the described output. Project submissions that do not comply will be severely penalized, since each incorrect output will be considered as a wrong answer. An application that verifies if the output complies with the description will be available on the course's website.

Example 1

```
3
Madrid MAD
London LHR 3
Berlin BER 2
20
01/09 MAD LHR 10:00 12:30 150
01/09 MAD BER 10:00 12:30 200
02/09 MAD BER 12:00 14:30 150
02/09 MAD LHR 13:00 15:30 300
03/09 MAD LHR 10:00 12:30 250
03/09 MAD BER 11:00 13:30 60
04/09 LHR BER 09:00 11:00 200
04/09 BER LHR 10:00 12:00 100
05/09 LHR BER 09:00 11:00 300
05/09 BER LHR 10:00 12:00 300
05/09 BER MAD 15:00 17:30 20
05/09 LHR MAD 18:00 20:30 150
06/09 LHR BER 09:00 11:00 300
06/09 BER LHR 10:00 12:00 300
06/09 BER MAD 15:00 17:30 250
06/09 LHR MAD 18:00 20:30 150
07/09 LHR BER 09:00 11:00 300
07/09 BER LHR 10:00 12:00 300
07/09 BER MAD 15:00 17:30 400
07/09 LHR MAD 18:00 20:30 150
```

The optimal solution would be:

```
400
02/09 Madrid Berlin 12:00 150
04/09 Berlin London 10:00 100
07/09 London Madrid 18:00 150
```

Example 2

```
5
Lisbon LIS
Paris CDG 3
Rome FCO 3
Stockholm 2
25
01/09 LIS CDG 10:00 12:30 150
01/09 LIS FCO 11:00 14:00 120
01/09 LIS ARN 13:00 17:15 250
02/09 LIS CDG 10:00 12:30 100
02/09 LIS FCO 11:00 14:00 170
03/09 CDG FCO 10:00 12:00 160
03/09 CDG FCO 19:00 21:00 120
04/09 FCO CDG 10:00 12:00 200
04/09 CDG ARN 11:00 13:40 160
04/09 FCO ARN 17:00 20:15 300
05/09 FCO CDG 10:00 12:00 200
05/09 CDG ARN 11:00 13:40 100
05/09 FCO ARN 17:00 20:15 300
06/09 FCO CDG 10:00 12:00 260
06/09 CDG ARN 11:00 13:40 110
06/09 FCO ARN 17:00 20:15 300
07/09 FCO CDG 10:00 12:00 220
07/09 CDG FCO 11:00 13:40 140
07/09 ARN FCO 17:00 20:15 200
09/09 FCO LIS 10:00 12:00 200
09/09 CDG LIS 11:00 13:40 110
09/09 ARN LIS 17:00 20:15 250
10/09 FCO LIS 10:00 12:00 150
10/09 CDG LIS 11:00 13:40 110
10/09 ARN LIS 17:00 20:15 300
```

The optimal solution would be:

```
550
02/09 Lisbon Paris 10:00 100
05/09 Paris Stockholm 11:00 100
07/09 Stockholm Rome 17:00 200
10/09 Rome Lisbon 10:00 150
```

Additional Information

The project is to be implemented in groups of one or two students.

The project is to be submitted through the git repository of the group. The faculty will create the group's repositories with a sample of problem instances. Jointly with your code, the repository must also contain a short report describing the main features of your project.

The report to be submitted must describe: (1) the problem to be solved, (2) how to install and run your project, (3) a description of the encoding and (4) the algorithm and configurations used to solve it.

Optionally, you can also discuss variations of this problem. In particular, (1) how could you handle the problem (e,g,, the changes to the encoding) considering that the tourist could make layovers when travelling between cities [1] and (2) how could you handle the situation where instead of having a fixed number of nights in each city, the tourist could provide a minimum and maximum number of nights (i.e., instead of defining 3 nights in Paris, he would define a minimum of 2 nights and a maximum of 5 nights).

The evaluation will be made taking into account correctness and efficiency given a reasonable amount of CPU time (80%) and the report (20%).

The input and output formats described in this document must be strictly followed.

Project Dates

- Project published: 22/09/2024.
- Project due: 09/10/2024 at 23:59.

Omissions & Errors

Any detected omissions or errors will be added to future versions of this document. Any required clarifications will be made available through the course's official website.

[1] Do not consider overnight layovers.

Versions

22/09/2024, version 1.0: Original version.