

## 1. Description of the Problem

This section describes the two problems that are considered in this paper: the Hampered Shortest Path Problem with Neighborhoods H-SPPN and the Hampered Traveling Salesman Problem with Neighborhoods H-TSPN.

In H-SPPN, we have a source neighborhood  $N_S \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  and a target neighborhood  $N_T \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ , that we assume to be second order cone representable sets and a set  $\mathcal{B}$  of line segments that play the role of barriers that the drone cannot cross. In this model, we state the following assumptions:

- A1** The line segments of  $\mathcal{B}$  are located in general position, i.e., the endpoints of these segments are not aligned. Although it is possible to model the most general case, one can always to slightly modify one of the endpoints so that the segments are in general position.
- A2** The line segments of  $\mathcal{B}$  are opened, that is, it is possible that the drone visits the endpoints of the segments, but entering in the interior points of them is not allowed. Observe that without loss of generality, we can always slightly enlarge these segments to make them opened.
- A3** If there are two barriers that have a common portion of them, it is only considered the smallest line segment that contains both barriers.
- A4** There is no a rectilinear path to go from  $N_S$  to  $N_T$ . Otherwise, the problem becomes straightforward and the solution is the minimum distance between both neighborhoods.

The aim of the H-SPPN is to find the best pair of points  $(P_S, P_T) \in N_S \times N_T$  in the source and target neighborhoods that minimize the length of the path that joins both points without crossing any barrier of  $\mathcal{B}$  and assuming **A1-A4**.

The H-TSPN is an extension of the H-SPPN where the neighborhood set  $\mathcal{N}$  is considered to play the role of source and target in the H-SPPN and moreover, a set of given targets must be visited. The aim of the H-TSPN is to seek the shortest tour that visits each neighborhood  $N \in \mathcal{N}$  exactly once without crossing any barrier  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  and assuming again **A1-A4**. Note that, in this case, it may be interesting to consider this problem without taking into account the assumption **A4**. This more general version will be called the Hampered Traveling Salesman Problem with Visible Neighborhoods H-TSPVN.

Figure 1 shows an example of the problem H-SPPN that is considered. In the left picture, the blue neighborhood represents the source, the green one the target and the red line segments show the barriers that the drone cannot cross. In the right picture, an instance of the H-TSPN is shown, where the neighborhood are balls and the barriers are, again, the red line segments.

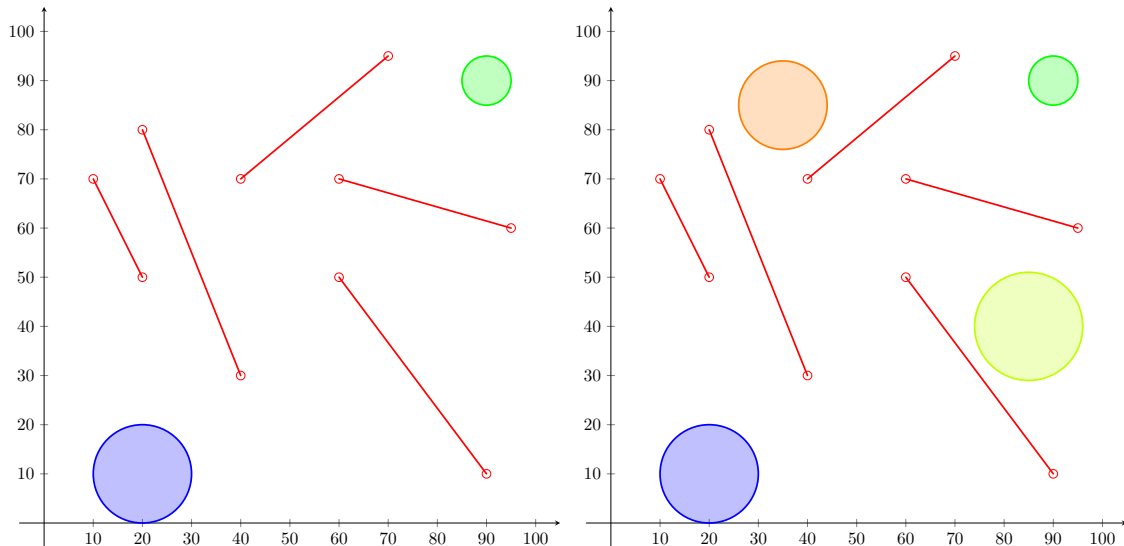


Figure 1: Problem data of the H-SPPN and H-TSPN

## 2. MINLP Formulations

This section introduces a Mixed Integer Non-Linear Programming formulation for the problems described in Section 1. First of all, we set the constraints that check whether two segments intersect. Then, we present the conic programming representation of the neighborhoods and the distance. Finally, the formulation for the H-SPPN is described and the model H-TSPN is explained as an extension of the previous problem.

First of all, we introduce the decision variables that represent the problem. These variables are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of decision variables used in the mathematical programming model

Binary Decision Variables	
Name	Description
$\alpha(P \overline{QQ'})$	1, if the determinant $\det(P \overline{QQ'})$ is positive, 0, otherwise.
$\beta(\overline{PP'} \overline{QQ'})$	1, if the determinants $\det(P \overline{QQ'})$ and $\det(P' \overline{QQ'})$ have the same sign, 0, otherwise.
$\gamma(\overline{PP'} \overline{QQ'})$	1, if the determinants $\det(P \overline{QQ'})$ and $\det(P' \overline{QQ'})$ are both positive, 0, otherwise.
$\delta(\overline{PP'} \overline{QQ'})$	1, if the line segments $\overline{PP'}$ and $\overline{QQ'}$ intersect, 0, otherwise.
$\epsilon(\overline{PP'})$	1, if the line segment $\overline{PP'}$ does not cross any barrier, 0, otherwise.
$y(PQ)$	1, if the edge $(P, Q)$ is selected in the solution of the model, 0, otherwise.
Continuous Decision Variables	
Name	Description
$P_N$	Coordinates representing the point selected in the neighborhood $N$ .
$d(PQ)$	Euclidean distance between the points $P$ and $Q$ .
$g(PQ)$	Amount of commodity passing through the edge $(P, Q)$ .

### 2.1. Checking whether two segments intersect

Let  $\overline{PP'}$  and  $\overline{QQ'}$  be two line segments and the goal is to check whether they intersect. The following well-known computational geometry result can be used to analyze their relative position:

**Remark 1.** Let  $\overline{PP'}$  and  $\overline{QQ'}$  be two different line segments. Let also denote

$$\det(P|\overline{QQ'}) = \det \left( \overrightarrow{PQ} \mid \overrightarrow{PQ'} \right) := \det \begin{pmatrix} Q_x - P_x & Q'_x - P_x \\ Q_y - P_y & Q'_y - P_y \end{pmatrix}$$

the determinant whose arguments are  $P = (P_x, P_y)$ ,  $Q = (Q_x, Q_y)$  and  $Q' = (Q'_x, Q'_y)$ . If

$$\text{sign}(\det(P|\overline{QQ'})) = \text{sign}(\det(P'|\overline{QQ'})) \quad \text{or} \quad \text{sign}(\det(Q|\overline{PP'})) = \text{sign}(\det(Q'|\overline{PP'})),$$

then  $\overline{PP'}$  and  $\overline{QQ'}$  do not intersect.

In the following, we are going to model this condition by introducing some binary variables that check the sign of the determinants, the equality of signs, and the disjunctive condition.

To model the sign of a determinant defined by the points  $P$ ,  $Q$  and  $Q'$ , we introduce the binary variable  $\alpha(P|\overline{QQ'})$ , that assumes the value one if  $\det(P|\overline{QQ'})$  is positive and zero, otherwise. Note that the case when the determinant is null does not need to be considered, because the segments are located in general position.

It is possible to represent the sign condition by including the following constraints:

$$[1 - \alpha(P|\overline{QQ'})] L(P|\overline{QQ'}) \leq \det(P|\overline{QQ'}) \leq U(P|\overline{QQ'}) \alpha(P|\overline{QQ'}), \quad (\alpha\text{-C})$$

where  $L(P|\overline{QQ'})$  and  $U(P|\overline{QQ'})$  are a lower and an upper bound for the value of the determinant, respectively. If the determinant is positive, then  $\alpha(P|\overline{QQ'})$  must be one to make the second inequality feasible. The analogous case happens if the determinant is not positive.

Now, to check if the two determinants  $\det(P|\overline{QQ'})$  and  $\det(P'|\overline{QQ'})$  have the same sign, we introduce the binary variable  $\beta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'})$ , that is one if  $\det(P|\overline{QQ'})$  and  $\det(P'|\overline{QQ'})$  have the same sign, and zero otherwise.

Hence, the  $\beta$  variable can be represented by the equivalence constraint of the  $\alpha$  variables

$$\beta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) = \alpha(P|\overline{QQ'})\alpha(P'|\overline{QQ'}) + [1 - \alpha(P|\overline{QQ'})][1 - \alpha(P'|\overline{QQ'})].$$

This condition can be equivalently written using the auxiliary binary variable  $\gamma(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'})$  is that models the product of the  $\alpha$  variables:

$$\beta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) = 2\gamma(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) - \alpha(P|\overline{QQ'}) - \alpha(P'|\overline{QQ'}) + 1, \quad (\beta\text{-C})$$

We observe that  $\gamma(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'})$  can be linearized by using the following constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) &\leq \alpha(P|\overline{QQ'}), \\ \gamma(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) &\leq \alpha(P'|\overline{QQ'}), \\ \gamma(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) &\geq \alpha(P|\overline{QQ'}) + \alpha(P'|\overline{QQ'}) - 1. \end{aligned} \quad (\gamma\text{-C})$$

Finally, we need to check whether there exists any coincidence in the sign of the determinants, so we define the binary variable  $\delta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'})$  that is one if  $\overline{PP'}$  and  $\overline{QQ'}$  do not intersect and zero, otherwise. This condition can be modelled by using these disjunctive constraints:

$$\frac{1}{2} [\beta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) + \beta(\overline{QQ'}|\overline{PP'})] \leq \delta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) \leq 2 [\beta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'}) + \beta(\overline{QQ'}|\overline{PP'})]. \quad (\delta\text{-C})$$

Indeed, the above constraint states that if there exists a sign coincidence, then  $\delta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'})$  is one to satisfy the first constraint, and the second one is always fulfilled. However, if the sign of the determinants is not the same, then the second constraint is active and  $\delta(\overline{PP'}|\overline{QQ'})$  is null.

## 2.2. Conic programming constraints in the models

In both considered problems, namely H-SPPN and H-TSPN, there exist two second-order cone constraints that model the distance between the pair of points  $P$  and  $Q$ , as well as the representation of the neighborhoods where the points can be selected.

For the former case, we introduce the nonnegative continuous variable  $d(PQ)$  that represents the distance between  $P$  and  $Q$ :

$$\|P - Q\| \leq d(PQ), \quad \forall (P, Q) \in E. \quad (d\text{-C})$$

For the latter case, since we are assuming that the neighborhoods are second-order cone (SOC) representable, they can be expressed by means of the constraints:

$$P_N \in N \iff \|A_N^i P_N + b_N^i\| \leq (c_N^i)^T P_N + d_N^i, \quad i = 1, \dots, nc_N, \quad (N\text{-C})$$

where  $A_N^i, b_N^i, c_N^i$  and  $d_N^i$  are parameters of the constraint  $i$  and  $nc_N$  denotes the number of constraints that appear in the block associated to the neighborhood  $N$ .

It is remarkable that these inequalities can model the special case of linear constraints (for  $A_N^i, b_N^i \equiv 0$ ), ellipsoids and hyperbolic constraints (see [?] for more information).

Puede ser muy interesante el caso 3D pero quizás en otro trabajo, no?

## 2.3. A formulation for the H-SPPN

The main goal of the H-SPPN is to solve a shortest path problem in the undirected graph induced by the endpoints of the barriers and the neighborhoods. To state the model, we define the following sets:

- $V_S = \{P_S\}$ : set composed by the point selected in the source neighborhood  $N_S$ .
- $V_B = \{P_B^1, P_B^2 : B = \overline{P_B^1 P_B^2} \in \mathcal{B}\}$ : set of vertices that come from the endpoints of the barriers in the problem.

- $V_T = \{P_T\}$ : set composed by the point selected in the target neighborhood  $N_T$ .
- $E_S = \{(P_S, P_B^i) : P_B^i \in V_B \text{ and } \overline{P_S P_B^i} \cap B'' = \emptyset, \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B}, i = 1, 2\}$ : set of edges formed by the line segments that join the point selected in the source neighborhood and every endpoint in the barriers that do not cross any barrier in  $\mathcal{B}$ .
- $E_B = \{(P_B^i, P_{B'}^j) : P_B^i, P_{B'}^j \in V_B \text{ and } \overline{P_B^i P_{B'}^j} \cap B'' = \emptyset, \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B}, i, j = 1, 2\}$ : set of edges formed by the line segments that join two vertices of  $V_B$  and do not cross any barrier in  $\mathcal{B}$ .
- $E_T = \{(P_T, P_B^i) : P_B^i \in V_B \text{ and } \overline{P_T P_B^i} \cap B'' = \emptyset, \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B}, i = 1, 2\}$ : set of edges formed by the line segments that join the point selected in the target neighborhood and every endpoint in the barriers that do not cross any barrier in  $\mathcal{B}$ . **Definimos tambien la arista que pueda unir a los dos entornos o asumimos que no hay un camino que los una? Depende del caso que consideremos el problema es convexo o no.**

At this point, we can define the graph  $G = (V, E)$  induced by the barriers and the neighborhoods, where  $V = V_S \cup V_B \cup V_T$  and  $E = E_S \cup E_B \cup E_T$ . It is interesting to note that this graph can be split into two parts: a fixed graph  $G_B = (V_B, E_B)$  whose edges can be computed by using the Remark 1 and the sets  $V_S, E_S, V_T$  and  $E_T$  that depend on where the points  $P_S$  and  $P_T$  are located as shown in Figure 2. The figures show how the graph  $G$  is generated. The blue dashed line segments represent the edges of  $E_S$ , the green ones, the edges of  $E_T$  and the red dashed lines, the edges of  $E_B$ . A special case that can be remarked occurs when the neighborhoods are points. In that case, the induced graph is completely fixed and it is only necessary to find which edges are included by keeping in mind that there can not have crossings. This idea is exploited in Subsection 2.3.1.

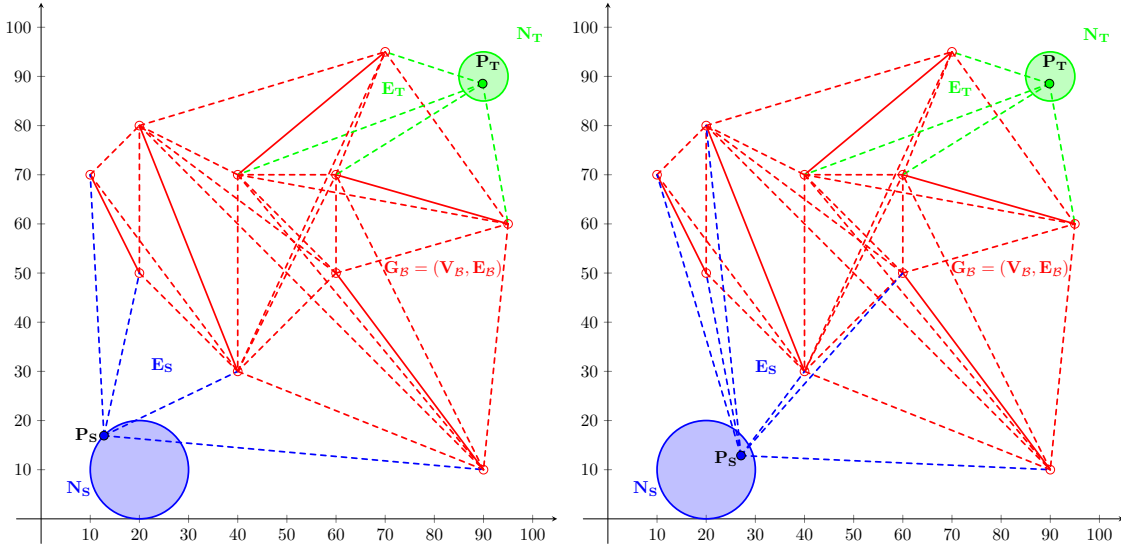


Figure 2: The construction of the graph  $G = (N, V)$

Since  $E_S$  and  $E_T$  are not fixed, the determinants in Remark 1 also depend on the location of  $P_S$  and  $P_T$ . Hence, it is essential to model the previous constraint by using binary variables. We only focus on the case of  $E_S$  but the same rationale is used for  $E_T$ .

Let  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  be a barrier and  $P_B^i$  an endpoint of  $B$ . Hence, the edge  $(P_S, P_B^i)$  belongs to  $E_S$  if

$$\overline{P_S P_B^i} \cap B'' = \emptyset, \quad \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B},$$

or, by the preceding subsection, if

$$\delta(\overline{P_S P_B^i} | \overline{P_{B''}^1 P_{B''}^2}) = 1, \quad \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B}.$$

Hence, if we denote by  $\varepsilon(P_S P_B^i)$  the binary variable that is one when  $(P_S, P_B^i) \in E_S$  and zero otherwise, this variable can be represented by means of the following inequalities:

$$\left[ \sum_{B'' \in \mathcal{B}} \delta(\overline{P_S P_B^i} | \overline{P_{B''}^1 P_{B''}^2}) - |\mathcal{B}| \right] + 1 \leq \varepsilon(P_S P_B^i) \leq \frac{1}{|\mathcal{B}|} \sum_{B'' \in \mathcal{B}} \delta(\overline{P_S P_B^i} | \overline{P_{B''}^1 P_{B''}^2}). \quad (\varepsilon-C)$$

If there is a barrier  $B' \in \mathcal{B}$  that intersects the segment  $\overline{P_S P_B^i}$ , then  $\delta(\overline{P_S P_B^i} | \overline{P_{B'}^1 P_{B'}^2})$  is zero and the second inequality enforces  $\varepsilon(P_S P_B^i)$  to be zero because the right hand side is fractional and the first inequality is non-positive. Nonetheless, if there is no barrier that intersects the segment, then  $\varepsilon(P_S P_B^i)$  is equals to one, because the left hand side of the first inequality is one and the right hand side of the second inequality too.

Las variables epsilon sobre los segmentos no tiene la notacion de segmentos, ni las y, ni las g. Lo ponemos todo de la misma forma?

Now, we can define the path that the drone can follow by taking into account the edges of the induced graph. Let  $y(PQ)$  be the binary variable that is one if the drone goes from  $P$  to  $Q$ . Then, the inequalities

$$y(P_S P_B^i) \leq \varepsilon(P_S P_B^i), \quad \forall P_B^i \in V_B, \quad (\text{y-C})$$

assure that the drone can go from  $P_S \in V_S$  to a point of a barrier only if it does not cross any barrier.

Now, we have the necessary elements to present our MINLP formulation for the H-SPPN.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \sum_{(P,Q) \in E} d(PQ)y(PQ) && (\text{H-SPPN}) \\ & \text{subject to} && \sum_{\{Q:(P,Q) \in E\}} y(PQ) - \sum_{\{Q:(Q,P) \in E\}} y(QP) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } P \in V_S, \\ 0, & \text{if } P \in V_B, \\ -1, & \text{if } P \in V_T. \end{cases} \\ & && (\alpha\text{-C}), (\beta\text{-C}), (\delta\text{-C}), (\gamma\text{-C}), (\varepsilon\text{-C}), (\text{y-C}), \\ & && (\text{d-C}), (\text{N-C}). \end{aligned}$$

The objective function minimizes the length of the path followed by the drone on the edges of the induced graph  $G$ . The first constraints are the flow conservation constraints, the second constraints represent the sets  $E_S$  and  $E_T$  and the third ones state that the points selected must be in their respective neighborhoods.

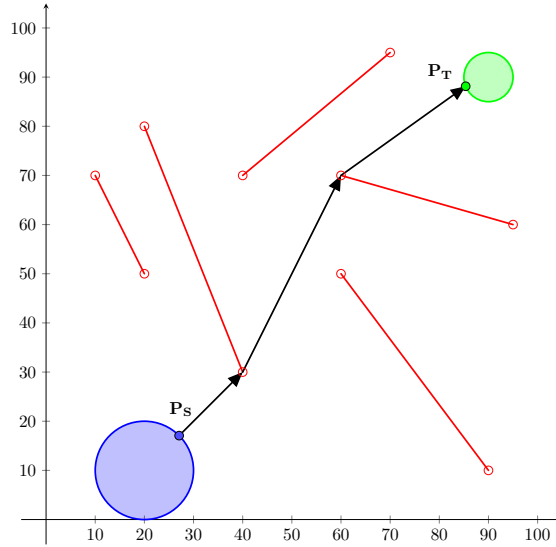


Figure 3: Solution for the instance of the H-SPPN

### 2.3.1. Reformulating the H-SPPN

The formulation for the H-SPPN presented above can be simplified by taking into account the following observation.

**Proposition 1.** *There exists a finite dominant set,  $N_S^*$ , of possible candidates to be in  $N_S$ . Moreover,*

$$N_S^* = \{P_S(P_B^i) = \arg \min_{P \in N_S} \|P_B^i - P\| : P_B^i \in V_B\}.$$

*Proof.* Note that the point selected in  $N_S$  in an optimal solution for H-SPPN must be the one that gives the minimum distance to the point of the first visited barrier in the optimal solution. Therefore,  $N^*$  must be composed, at most, by points in the set  $\{P_S(P_B^i) = \arg \min_{P \in N_S} \|P_B^i - P\| : P_B^i \in V_B\}$ .  $\square$

Therefore, we can compute the set  $N_S^*$  by solving a convex problem for each endpoint of the barriers:

$$N_S^* = \{P_S(P_B^i) = \arg \min_{P \in N_S} \|P_B^i - P\| : P_B^i \in V_B\}.$$

Moreover, the point chosen in the solution,  $P_S$ , can be represented by the points in  $N^*$  as shown below:

$$\begin{aligned} P_S &= \sum_{P_B^i \in V_B} \mu_S(P_B^i) P_S(P_B^i), \\ 1 &= \sum_{P_B^i \in V_B} \mu_S(P_B^i), \end{aligned} \tag{N*-C}$$

where  $\mu_S(P_B^i)$  is a binary variable that assumes the value one if  $P_S(P_B^i)$  is selected to go from  $N_S$  to the first barrier. The major advantage of this approach is that the whole graph  $G$  is fixed and the incident edges can be computed for each point  $P_S(P_B^i)$ ,  $P_B^i \in V_B$  separately. Defining again the variable  $y^*$  for the edges in  $E$ , the new formulation for the H-SPPN can be expressed as the following simplified program:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && \sum_{(P,Q) \in E} d(PQ)y(PQ) && \tag{H-SPPN*} \\ &\text{subject to} && \sum_{\{Q:(P,Q) \in E\}} y(PQ) - \sum_{\{Q:(Q,P) \in E\}} y(QP) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } P \in V_S, \\ 0, & \text{if } P \in V_B, \\ -1, & \text{if } P \in V_T. \end{cases} && \\ &&& \tag{d-C}, \tag{N*-C}. \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 2.** *The H-SPPN can be solved in polynomial time.*

The proof follows using the finite dominant sets  $N_S^*$  and  $N_T^*$  and taking the minimum of the lengths of the solutions for the shortest path problem that can be obtained for each pair of points.

#### 2.4. A formulation for the H-TSPN

To present our formulation for the H-TSPN, the graph induced by the endpoints of the barriers and the neighborhoods is different from the previous one for the H-SPPN. For its description, we introduce the following sets:

Discutir si abrir otra nueva sección con el modelo en el que las bolas se ven o añadir un comentario en esta subsección modificando solo la descripción de  $E_{\mathcal{N}}$

- $V_{\mathcal{N}} = \{P_N : N \in \mathcal{N}\}$ : set of the points selected in the neighborhoods  $\mathcal{N}$  to be visited.
- $V_B = \{P_B^1, P_B^2 : B = \overline{P_B^1 P_B^2} \in \mathcal{B}\}$ : set of vertices that form the barriers of the problem.
- $E_{\mathcal{N}} = \{(P_N, P_B^i) : P_B^i \in V_B \text{ and } \overline{P_N P_B^i} \cap B'' = \emptyset, \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B}, i = 1, 2\}$ : set of edges formed by the line segments that join the point selected in the neighborhoods of  $\mathcal{N}$  and every endpoint in the barriers and do not cross any barrier in  $\mathcal{B}$ .
- $E_B = \{(P_B^i, P_B^j) : P_B^i, P_B^j \in V_B \text{ and } \overline{P_B^i P_B^j} \cap B'' = \emptyset, \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B}, i, j = 1, 2\}$ : set of edges formed by the line segments that join two vertices of  $V_B$  and do not cross any barrier in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

Following the same idea as before, we set  $G = (V, E)$  induced by the barriers and the neighborhoods, where  $V = V_{\mathcal{N}} \cup V_B$  and  $E = E_{\mathcal{N}} \cup E_B$ .

The rationale of the formulation for the H-TSPN is to consider the variant called Steiner TSP (STSP) (reference to this problem), where some nodes in  $V_B$  do not have to be visited, but if necessary they can be visited more than once.

It is well known that it is possible to convert any instance of the STSP into an instance of the standard TSP, by computing the shortest paths between every pair of required nodes, when these nodes are fixed.

However, in our problem, since the points in the neighborhoods are not fixed, this simplification cannot be applied to obtain the optimal solution for the H-TSPN, although it may produce an approximation to generate lower bounds for the H-TSPN.

Our formulation rest on adjusting single-commodity flow formulation to ensure connectivity. We can assume wlog that the neighborhood  $N_1$  is required and the drone departs from that depot (assuming to be  $N_1$ ) with  $|\mathcal{N}| - 1$  units of commodity. The idea is that the model must deliver one unit of commodity to each one of the required neighborhoods. Then, for each edge  $(P, Q) \in E$ , we define the following variables:

- $y(PQ)$ , binary variable that is equals to one if the drone goes from  $P$  to  $Q$ .
- $g(PQ)$ , non-negative continuous variable that represents the amount of the commodity passing through the edge  $(P, Q)$ .

Hence, we can adjust the single-commodity flow formulation to the induced graph  $G$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{minimize} && \sum_{(P,Q) \in E} d(PQ)y(PQ) && (\text{H-TSPN}) \\
& \text{subject to} && \sum_{\{Q:(P_N,Q) \in E_{\mathcal{N}}\}} y(P_NQ) \geq 1, && \forall P_N \in V_{\mathcal{N}}, \\
& && \sum_{\{Q:(P,Q) \in E\}} y(PQ) = \sum_{\{Q:(Q,P) \in E\}} y(QP), && \forall P \in V, \\
& && \sum_{\{Q:(Q,P_N) \in E_{\mathcal{N}}\}} g(QP_N) - \sum_{\{Q:(P_N,Q) \in E_{\mathcal{N}}\}} g(P_NQ) = 1, && \forall P_N \in V_{\mathcal{N}} \setminus \{P_{N_1}\}, \\
& && \sum_{\{Q:(Q,P) \in E\}} g(QP) - \sum_{\{Q:(P,Q) \in E\}} g(PQ) = 0, && \forall P \in V_{\mathcal{B}}, \\
& && g(PQ) \leq (|\mathcal{N}| - 1)y(PQ), && \forall (P, Q) \in E, \\
& && (\alpha\text{-C}), (\beta\text{-C}), (\delta\text{-C}), (\gamma\text{-C}), (\varepsilon\text{-C}), (\text{y-C}), \\
& && (\text{d-C}), (\text{N-C}).
\end{aligned}$$

The first constraints impose that the drone departs from each neighborhood. The second constraints are the flow conservation constraints. The third inequalities ensure that one unit of commodity is delivered to each required neighborhood. The fourth ones ensure that the amount of commodity passing through the points in the barriers is not consumed. Finally, the last inequalities enforce that if some commodity passes along an edge only if this edge is used in the tour.

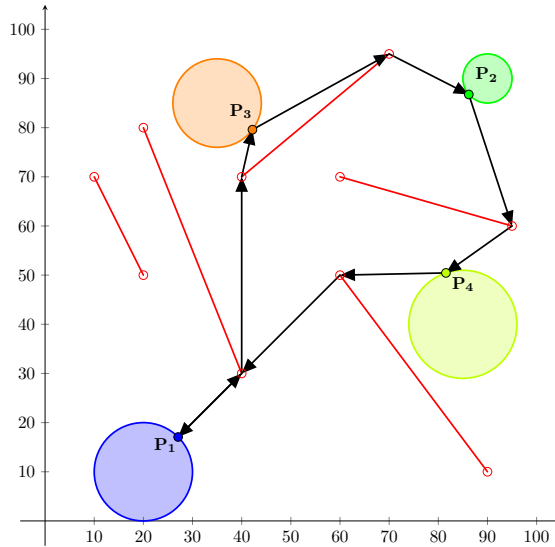


Figure 4: Solution for the instance of the H-TSPN

**Proposition 3.** *The H-TSPN is NP-complete.*

Note that, once a point is fixed in each neighborhood, the problem obtained in the induced graph  $G$  is the Steiner TSP (STSP), that is NP-complete.

Finite dominating set.

### 2.5. Relaxing the assumptions of the problem: The H-TSPVN

In this subsection, we expose the differences that appear when, in the model of the H-TSPN, we do not require that the barriers separate the neighborhoods completely, i.e., when going from one neighborhood to another one is possible without crossing any barrier. The main difference lies in the description of the edges of the graph induced by the neighborhoods and the endpoints of the barriers.

By taking the same approach, the sets that describe the graph in that case are:

- $V_{\mathcal{N}} = \{P_N : N \in \mathcal{N}\}$ : set of points in the neighborhoods  $\mathcal{N}$  that must be visited.
- $V_{\mathcal{B}} = \{P_B^1, P_B^2 : B = \overline{P_B^1 P_B^2} \in \mathcal{B}\}$ : set of vertices that form the barriers of the problem.
- $V = V_{\mathcal{N}} \cup V_{\mathcal{B}}$ .
- $E = \{(P, P') : P, P' \in V \text{ and } \overline{PP'} \cap B'' = \emptyset, \forall B'' \in \mathcal{B}\}$ : set of edges formed by the line segments that join every pair of points in  $V$  that do not cross any barrier.

The difference between the set of edges in the H-TSPVN with respect to the graph in H-TSPN is that, in the former case, the edges that join each pair of neighborhoods are considered. This fact leads to include product of continuous variables in the  $\alpha$  constraints of the model that represent the determinants that determine if the two variable points in the neighborhoods cross any barrier or not and the problem becomes nonconvex.

## 3. Strengthening the formulations

Incluir el resultado estructural que da una cota superior del numero de bolas que se puede generar

### 3.1. Preprocessing

In this subsection, we show a preprocessing result that allows to fix some variables by taking into account the relative position between the neighborhoods and the barriers. In particular, we are going to present an outcome that ensures that there are some barriers whose endpoints can not be incident in the edges of  $E_{\mathcal{N}}$  and it is not necessary to include it in  $E_{\mathcal{N}}$ .

Let denote

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cone}(P, Q, R) &:= \{\mu_1 \overrightarrow{PQ} + \mu_2 \overrightarrow{PR} : \mu_1, \mu_2 \geq 0\}, \\ \text{cone}(P, Q, R)^- &:= \{\mu_1 \overrightarrow{PQ} + \mu_2 \overrightarrow{PR} : \mu_1, \mu_2 \geq 0, \mu_1 + \mu_2 \leq 1\}, \\ \text{cone}(P, Q, R)^+ &:= \{\mu_1 \overrightarrow{PQ} + \mu_2 \overrightarrow{PR} : \mu_1, \mu_2 \geq 0, \mu_1 + \mu_2 \geq 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\text{cone}(P, Q, R)$  is the union of  $\text{cone}(P, Q, R)^-$  and  $\text{cone}(P, Q, R)^+$ . It is also important to remark that  $\text{cone}(P, Q, R)^+$  is the part of cone that crosses the barrier  $\overline{QR}$  when we consider a segment whose endpoints are  $P$  and another point of this set, i.e.

$$\text{cone}(P, Q, R)^+ = \{P' : \overline{PP'} \cap \overline{QR} \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Let  $B = \overline{P_B^1 P_B^2} \in \mathcal{B}$  a barrier. In the following proposition, we give a sufficient condition to not include the edge  $(P_N, P_B^i)$  in  $E_{\mathcal{N}}$ :

**Proposition 4.** *Let  $B' = \overline{P_{B'}^1 P_{B'}^2} \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $\text{cone}(P_B^i, P_{B'}^1, P_{B'}^2)^+$  the conical hull generated by these points. If*

$$N \subset \bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{B}} \text{cone}(P_B^i, P_{B'}^1, P_{B'}^2)^+,$$

*then  $(P_N, P_B^i) \notin E_{\mathcal{N}}$ .*



*Proof.* If  $P_N \in N$ , then there exists a  $B' \in \mathcal{B}$  such that  $P_N \in \text{cone}(P_B^i, P_{B'}^1, P_{B'}^2)^+$ . Therefore,  $\overline{P_B^i P_N} \cap B' \neq \emptyset$  and  $(P_N, P_B^i) \notin E_N$ , as we claimed.  $\square$

We can check computationally the condition of the previous proposition by using the following procedure. The first issue that is solved is the one when the neighborhoods are segments. Let  $N = \overline{P_N^1 P_N^2}$  be a line segment and  $r_N$  the straight line that contains the line segment  $N$  that is represented as:

$$r_N : P_N^1 + \lambda \overrightarrow{P_N^1 P_N^2}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

---

**Algorithm 1:** Checking computationally if  $(P_N, P_B^i) \notin E_N$  when  $N$  is a segment.

---

**Initialization:** Let  $P_B^i$  be the point whose edge  $(P_B^i, P_N)$  is going to check if  $(P_N, P_B^i) \notin E_N$ .  
Set  $points = \{P_N^1, P_N^2\}$ ,  $lambdas = \{0, 1\}$ .

```

1 for  $B'' \in \mathcal{B}$  do
2   for  $j \in \{1, 2\}$  do
3     Compute the straight line
        
$$r(P_B^i, P_{B''}^j) = P_B^i + \mu_{B''}^j \overrightarrow{P_B^i P_{B''}^j},$$

        that contains the points  $P_B^i$  and  $P_{B''}^j$ .
4     Intersect  $r(P_B^i, P_{B''}^j)$  and  $r_N$  in the point  $Q_{B''}^j$  and compute  $\bar{\mu}_{B''}^j$  such that
        
$$Q_{B''}^j = P_B^i + \bar{\mu}_{B''}^j \overrightarrow{P_B^i P_{B''}^j}.$$

5     if  $|\bar{\mu}_{B''}^j| \geq 1$  then
6       Compute  $\lambda_{B''}^j$  such that
        
$$Q_{B''}^j = P_N^1 + \lambda_{B''}^j \overrightarrow{P_N^1 P_N^2}.$$

7       if  $\bar{\mu}_{B''}^j \geq 1$  then
8         Include  $\lambda_{B''}^j$  in  $lambdas$ .
9       else
10        if  $\lambda_{B''}^j \geq 0$  then
11          Set  $\lambda_{B''}^j = M \ll 0$  and include it in  $lambdas$ .
12        else
13          Set  $\lambda_{B''}^j = M \gg 0$  and include it in  $lambdas$ .
14 Order in non-decreasing order the set  $lambdas$ .
15 If it is verified that

```

$$\begin{aligned}
& \min\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\} \leq 0 \leq \max\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}, \quad \text{for some } B' \in \mathcal{B}, \\
& \min\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\} \leq 1 \leq \max\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}, \quad \text{for some } B' \in \mathcal{B}, \\
& \min\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\} \leq \lambda_{B''}^j \leq \max\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}, \quad \text{for some } B' \in \mathcal{B} \setminus \{B''\}, \quad \forall \lambda_{B''}^j \in lambdas \setminus \{M\},
\end{aligned}$$

or

$$\min\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\} \leq 0, 1 \leq \max\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}, \quad \text{for some } B' \in \mathcal{B},$$

then  $(P_N, P_B^i) \notin E_N$ .

---

Note that this algorithm also allows us to decide if the drone can access to a point of a barrier from any point of the neighborhood  $N$ . It is enough to check in (15) that

$$0 \notin [\min\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}, \max\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}] \quad \text{and} \quad 1 \notin [\min\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}, \max\{\lambda_{B'}^1, \lambda_{B'}^2\}], \quad \forall B' \in \mathcal{B}.$$

For the case when  $N$  is an ellipse, the same rationale can be followed. The idea is to generate the largest line segment contained in the ellipse and repeat the procedure exposed in the Algorithm 1. Let  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  the focal points of  $N$ .

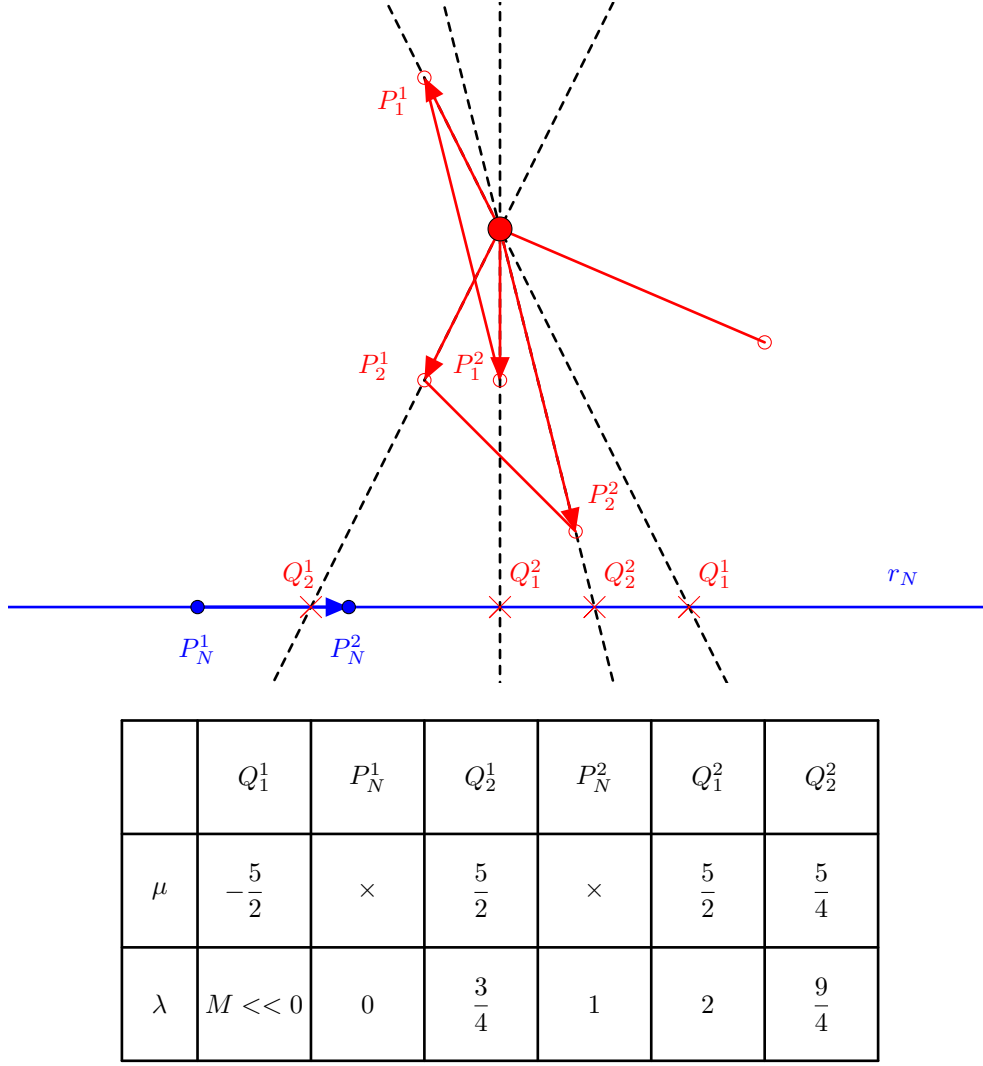


Figure 5: Example of the Algorithm 1

---

**Algorithm 2:** Checking computationally if  $(P_N, P_B^i) \notin E_N$  when  $N$  is an ellipse.

---

**Initialization:** Let  $P_B^i$  be the point whose edge  $(P_B^i, P_N)$  is going to check if  $(P_N, P_B^i) \notin E_N$ .  
Set  $points = \{\}$ ,  $lambdas = \{\}$ .

- 1 Compute the straight line  $r(F^1, F^2)$ .
  - 2 Intersect  $r(F^1, F^2)$  and  $\partial N$  in the points  $P_N^1$  and  $P_N^2$ .
  - 3 Include  $P_N^1$  and  $P_N^2$  in  $points$ .
  - 4 Apply the Algorithm 1.
- 

Estudiar resultados que eliminen algunas de las posibles aristas de  $E_S$  y  $E_T$ . Hablar que las aristas  $E_B$  se pueden preprocesar porque los puntos están fijados

### 3.2. Valid inequalities

This subsection is devoted to show some results that adjust the bigM constants that appear in the previous formulation, specifically, in the  $(\alpha-C)$ , where the modelling of the sign requires to compute the lower and upper bounds  $L$  and  $U$ , respectively. We are going to determine these bounds explicitly for the cases when the neighborhoods are ellipses and segments.

Let  $\overline{P_B^1, P_B^2} = B' \in \mathcal{B}$  be a barrier and  $P_N \in N$ . Let  $\det(P_N | \overline{P_B^1, P_B^2})$  also be the determinant whose value must be bounded. Hence, the solution of the following problem gives the lower bound of the determinant:

$$\bar{L} = \min_{P_N=(x,y) \in N} F(x, y) := \det(P_N | \overline{P_{B'_x}^1, P_{B'_x}^2}) = \begin{vmatrix} P_{B'_x}^1 - x & P_{B'_x}^2 - x \\ P_{B'_y}^1 - y & P_{B'_y}^2 - y \end{vmatrix}. \quad (\text{L-Problem})$$

### 3.2.1. Lower and upper bounds when the neighborhoods are line segments

In this case, the segment whose endpoints are  $P_{N_S}^1$  and  $P_{N_S}^2$  can be expressed as the following convex set:

$$N = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x, y) = \mu P_N^1 + (1 - \mu) P_N^2, 0 \leq \mu \leq 1\}.$$

Since we are optimizing a linear function in a compact set we can conclude that the objective function in (L-Problem) achieves its minimum and its maximum in the extreme points of  $N_S$ , that is, in  $P_N^1$  and  $P_N^2$ .

### 3.2.2. Lower and upper bounds when the neighborhoods are ellipsoids

The first case that is considered is the one when  $N$  is an ellipse, that is,  $N$  is represented by the following inequality:

$$N = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : ax^2 + by^2 + cxy + dx + ey + f \leq 0\} =$$

where  $a, b, c, d, e, f$  are coefficients of the ellipse. In an extended form, we need to find:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize} \quad F(x, y) &= \begin{vmatrix} P_{B'_x}^1 - x & P_{B'_x}^2 - x \\ P_{B'_y}^1 - y & P_{B'_y}^2 - y \end{vmatrix} = xP_{B'_y}^1 - xP_{B'_y}^2 + yP_{B'_x}^2 - yP_{B'_x}^1 + P_{B'_x}^1 P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1 P_{B'_x}^2, \\ &\text{(L-Ellipse)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad ax^2 + by^2 + cxy + dx + ey + f \leq 0.$$

Since we are minimizing a linear function in a convex set, we can conclude that the extreme points are located in the frontier, so we can use the Lagrangian function to compute these points.

$$F(x, y; \lambda) = xP_{B'_y}^1 - xP_{B'_y}^2 + yP_{B'_x}^2 - yP_{B'_x}^1 + P_{B'_x}^1 P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1 P_{B'_x}^2 + \lambda(ax^2 + by^2 + cxy + dx + ey + f).$$

$$\nabla F(x, y; \lambda) = 0 \iff \begin{cases} \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = P_{B'_y}^1 - P_{B'_y}^2 + 2ax\lambda + cy\lambda + d\lambda = 0, \\ \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = P_{B'_x}^2 - P_{B'_x}^1 + 2by\lambda + cx\lambda + e\lambda = 0, \\ \frac{\partial F}{\partial \lambda} = ax^2 + by^2 + cxy + dx + ey + f = 0. \end{cases}$$

From the first two equations we can obtain:

$$\lambda = \frac{P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1}{2ax + cy + d} = \frac{P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2}{2by + cx + e}.$$

From this equality, we can express  $y$  as a function of  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1)(2by + cx + e) &= (P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2)(2ax + cy + d), \\ y \left[ 2b(P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1) - c(P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2) \right] &= \left[ 2a(P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2) - c(P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1) \right] x + \left[ d(P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2) - e(P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1) \right], \\ y &= \left[ \frac{2a(P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2) - c(P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1)}{2b(P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1) - c(P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2)} \right] x + \left[ \frac{d(P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2) - e(P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1)}{2b(P_{B'_y}^2 - P_{B'_y}^1) - c(P_{B'_x}^1 - P_{B'_x}^2)} \right], \\ y &= mx + n. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we can substitute  $y$  in the third equation to compute the value of  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} ax^2 + by^2 + cxy + dx + ey + f &= ax^2 + b(mx + n)^2 + cx(mx + n) + dx + e(mx + n) + f = \\ &= (a + bm^2 + cm)x^2 + (2bmn + cn + d + em)x + (n^2b + en + f) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

By using the standard form of the solution of a quadratic equation:

$$\begin{aligned} x^\pm &= \frac{-(2bmn + cn + d + em) \pm \sqrt{(2bmn + cn + d + em)^2 - 4(a + bm^2 + cm)(n^2b + en + f)}}{2(a + bm^2 + cm)}, \\ y^\pm &= mx^\pm + n. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, to compute the lower and upper bounds, we only need to evaluate  $x^\pm$  and  $y^\pm$  in the objective function and the lowest and highest value correspond to  $L(P_N | P_{B'}^1, P_{B'}^2)$  and  $U(P_N | P_{B'}^1, P_{B'}^2)$ , respectively.

## 4. Computational experiments

The following section is devoted to study the behaviour of the formulations proposed in the Section 2. In the first subsection, the procedure of generating random instances is described. The second one details the configuration of the experiments that have been executed. The third subsection reports the results obtained in these experiments.

### 4.1. Data generation

To generate the instances of our experiments, we will take into account the assumptions **A1-A4** stated in the Section 1. The idea is to generate line segments located in a general position without crossings and neighborhoods that do not intersect with these line segments. The following procedure describes how to construct the instances when the neighborhoods are balls.

---

#### Algorithm 3: Generation of instances when the neighborhoods are balls

---

**Initialization:** Let  $|\mathcal{N}|$  be the number of neighborhoods to generate. Let  $r_{\text{init}} = 10$  be the half of the initial length of the barriers. Set  $\mathcal{N} = \{\}$ ;  $points = \{\}$ ;  
 $\mathcal{B} = \{(0,0)(100,0), (100,0)(100,100), (100,100)(0,100), (0,100)(0,0)\}$ .

- 1 Generate  $|\mathcal{N}|$  points uniformly distributed in the square  $[0, 100]^2$  and include them in  $points$ .
- 2 **for**  $P, P' \in points$  **do**
- 3     **if**  $\overline{PP'} \cap B = \emptyset, \forall B \in \mathcal{B}$  **then**
- 4         Compute  $\vec{d} = \overrightarrow{PP'}$ .
- 5         Compute  $M = P + \frac{1}{2}\vec{d}$ .
- 6         Compute the unitary vector  $\vec{n}_u$  perpendicular to  $\vec{d}$ .
- 7         Set  $r = r_{\text{init}}$ .
- 8         Generate the barrier  $B(r) = \overline{P_B^+ P_B^-}$  where  $P_B^\pm = M \pm r\vec{n}_u$ .
- 9         **while**  $B(r) \cap B' \neq \emptyset$  for some  $B' \in \mathcal{B}$  **do**
- 10             Set  $r := r/2$ .
- 11             Generate the barrier  $B(r)$ .
- 12         Include  $B(r)$  in  $\mathcal{B}$ .
- 13 **for**  $P \in points$  **do**
- 14     Set  $r_{\min} = \min_{\{P_B \in \mathcal{B} : B \in \mathcal{B}\}} d(P, P_B)$ .
- 15     Generate a random  $radii$  uniformly distributed in the interval  $[\frac{1}{2}r_{\min}, r_{\min}]$ .
- 16     Set the ball  $N$  whose center is  $P$  and radii is  $radii$ .
- 17     Include  $N$  in  $\mathcal{N}$ .

---

To generate the instances when the neighborhoods are segments, we can take the balls built in the previous procedure and draw a random angle that determines which point and its diametrically opposite point are selected as the endpoints of the line segment.

### 4.2. Configuration of the experiments

Since no benchmark instances are available in the literature for this problem, we have generated ten instances with a number  $|\mathcal{N}| \in \{5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 80\}$  of two typologies: balls and line segments. We have considered the cases with and without preprocessing the variables of the formulations as explained in Subsection 3.1 and we have reported the average results.

The formulations were coded in Python 3.9.2 and solved in Gurobi 9.1.2 [?] in a AMD® Epyc 7402p 24-core processor. A time limit of 1 hour was set in the experiments.

### 4.3. Results of the experiments

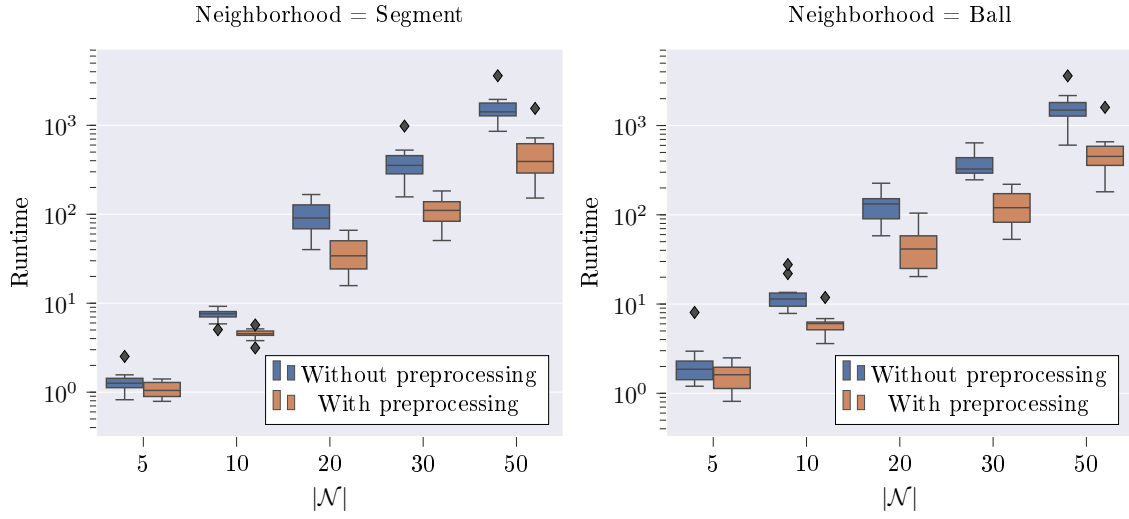


Figure 6: Runtime of the model H-TSPN without and with preprocessing when the neighborhoods are segments and balls.