



École des Ponts

ParisTech

Optimizing crew rotations for an airline

CERMICS

Axel Parmentier

May 24th, 2018

Schedule planning

Select flight legs operated

↓ Legs operated

Fleet assignment

Choose fleet covering each leg

↓ Legs operated by a fleet

Aircraft routing

Choose Aircraft rotations

↓ Airplane rotations

Crew pairing

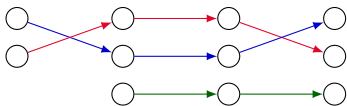
Choose Crew rotations

① Paris 10:15 – New York

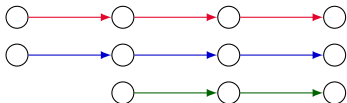
② Paris 10:25 – Montreal

① A380

② A330

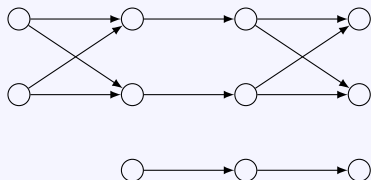


Rotation = sequence of flight legs



Aircraft Routing Problem

○ Flight $v \in V$
 → Aircraft Connection

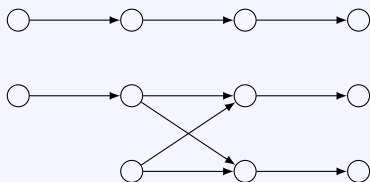


Feasible routes $r \in \mathcal{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{r \in \mathcal{R}} c_r x_r \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \left| \begin{array}{l} \sum_{r \ni v} x_r = 1 \quad \forall v \in V \\ x_r \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall r \in \mathcal{R} \end{array} \right. \end{aligned}$$

Crew Pairing Problem

○ Flight $v \in V$
 → Crew Connection

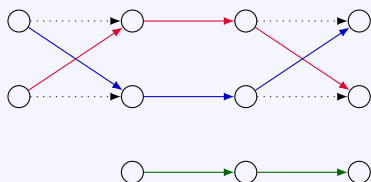


Feasible pairings $p \in \mathcal{P}$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} c_p y_p \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \left| \begin{array}{l} \sum_{p \ni v} y_p = 1 \quad \forall v \in V \\ y_p \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall p \in \mathcal{P} \end{array} \right. \end{aligned}$$

Aircraft Routing Problem

○ Flight $v \in V$
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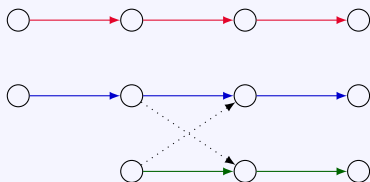


Feasible routes $r \in \mathcal{R}$

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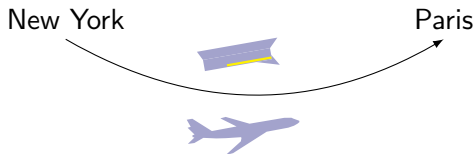
Crew Pairing Problem

○ Flight $v \in V$
 → Crew Connection

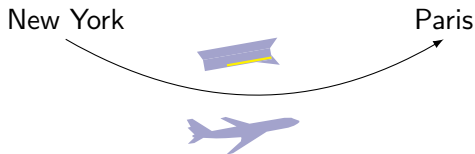


Feasible pairings $p \in \mathcal{P}$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} c_p y_p \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \left| \begin{array}{l} \sum_{p \ni v} y_p = 1 \quad \forall v \in V \\ y_p \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall p \in \mathcal{P} \end{array} \right. \end{aligned}$$



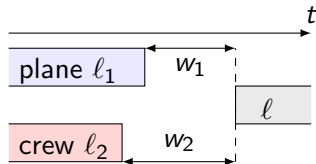
Each flight must be operated by an airplane and a crew



Each flight must be operated by an airplane and a crew

Delay propagation model

$$\xi_l = \max(\xi_{l_1} - w_1, \xi_{l_2} - w_2, 0) + \xi_l^{\text{int}}$$



Probabilistic constraints on delay propagation

$$\mathbb{P}(\xi_l > \tau) \leq \alpha \quad \text{for all } l$$

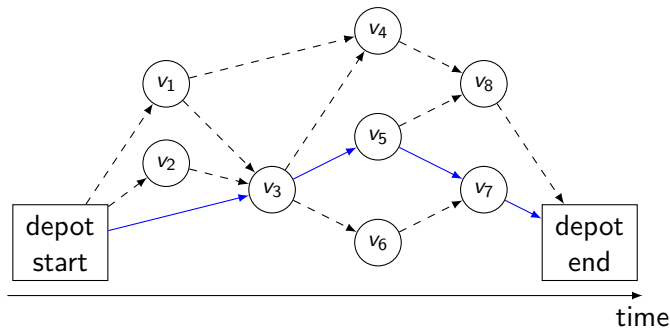
1. Column generation for rotation problems

1.1 General method

1.2 What delay changes

2. An algebraic path problem framework

3. Stochastic paths problems and delay in rotation problems



$$\min \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} c_P x_P$$

$$\sum_{P \ni v} x_P = 1 \quad \forall v$$

$$x_P \in \{0, 1\}$$

- ▶ Path cost not linear in arc costs
- ▶ Path must satisfy constraints

Constraint example

Limited number of arcs in P

Restricted master problem $\mathcal{P}' \subset \mathcal{P}$, with $|\mathcal{P}'| \ll |\mathcal{P}|$

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} c_P x_P \\ \text{st} \quad & \sum_{P \ni v} x_P = 1 \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{L} \\ & x_P \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Restricted master problem $\mathcal{P}' \subset \mathcal{P}$, with $|\mathcal{P}'| \ll |\mathcal{P}|$

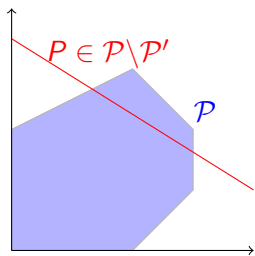
$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} c_P x_P \\ \text{st} \quad & \sum_{P \ni v} x_P = 1 \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{L} \\ & x_P \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Restricted dual problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{v \in V} y_v \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{v \in P} y_v \leq c_P \quad \forall P \in \mathcal{P}' \end{aligned}$$

Pricing subproblem

$$\min_{P \in \mathcal{P}} c_P - \sum_{v \in P} y_v$$



Algorithm:

- ▶ solve on \mathcal{P}'
- ▶ solve pricing subproblem
- ▶ add violated dual constraint to \mathcal{P}'

Restricted master problem $\mathcal{P}' \subset \mathcal{P}$, with $|\mathcal{P}'| \ll |\mathcal{P}|$

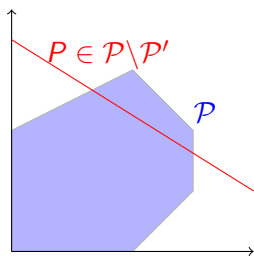
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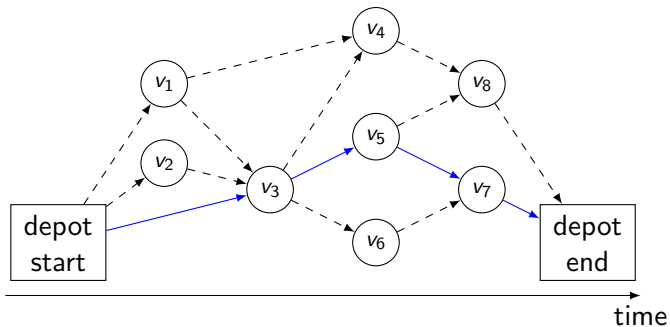


Algorithm:

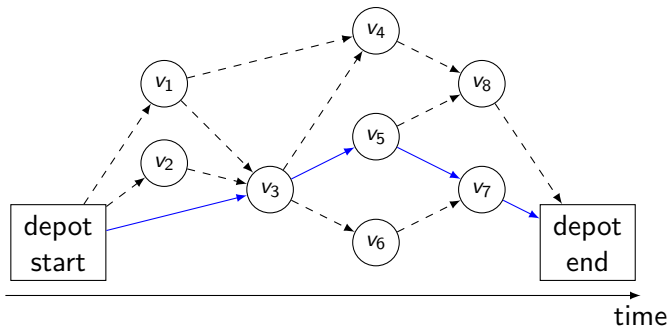
- ▶ solve on \mathcal{P}'
- ▶ solve pricing subproblem
- ▶ add violated dual constraint to \mathcal{P}'

Key element in the performance: pricing subproblem algorithm

$$\min_{PEP} CP - \sum_{v \in P} YP$$



$$\min_{P \in \mathcal{P}} CP - \sum_{v \in P} YP$$



Pricing subproblem is a resource constrained shortest path algorithm

What a good pricing algorithms changes – Airline crew pairing

Instance	$ V $	Alg	RCSP time av (mm:ss)	Pricing time	Total time (hh:mm:ss)
CP50	290	LS	00:00.560	97.55%	00:04:37.5
		LC	00:01.275	97.38%	00:11:36.9
		Our A*	00:00.016	59.87%	00:00:17.2
CP70	408	LS	00:11.489	99.52%	05:07:05.0
		LC	00:17.157	99.56%	07:28:22.2
		Our A*	00:00.039	58.48%	00:01:12.1
CP90	516	LS	00:40.707	Stopped after 48h	
		LC	01:42.864	Stopped after 48h	
		Our A*	00:00.340	81.86%	00:12:36.3
A318	669	LS	00:53.009	Stopped after 48h	
		LC	01:36.035	Stopped after 48h	
		Our A*	00:01.651	86.97%	01:32:49.6

What delay changes for aircraft routing or crew pairing

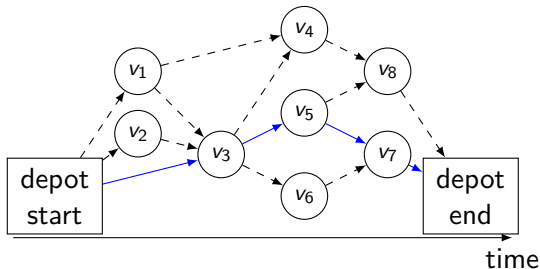
Considering only aircraft or crews

$$\xi_\ell = \max(\xi_{\ell_2} - w_2, 0) + \xi_\ell^{\text{int}}$$

Delay is a pairing property: dealt with in the subproblem: *a stochastic resource constrained shortest path problem*



Monotonicity of $\cdot \mapsto \max(\cdot, 0)$ enables to use our framework



$$\min \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} c_P x_P$$

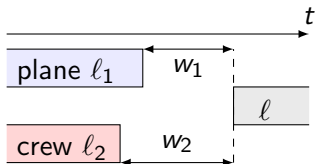
$$\sum_{P \ni v} x_P = 1 \quad \forall v$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\xi_v > \tau) \leq \alpha \quad \forall v \in V$$

$$x_P \in \{0, 1\}$$

Delay propagation model

$$\xi_l = \max(\xi_{l_1} - w_1, \xi_{l_2} - w_2, 0) + \xi_l^{\text{int}}$$



When considering airplane and crews delay, we cannot hide delay anymore in the set of rotations \mathcal{P} .

Sequential resolution

Two solution schemes

Aircraft Routing

Column generation

Master problem

Solve LP on $\mathcal{R}' \subseteq \mathcal{R}$

cost \downarrow \uparrow rot.

Pricing subproblem

Update \mathcal{R}' (path pb)

Short connect.
used \rightarrow

Crew Pairing

Column generation

Master problem

Solve LP on $\mathcal{P}' \subseteq \mathcal{P}$

cost \downarrow \uparrow rot.

Pricing subproblem

Update \mathcal{P}' (path pb)

- ▶ Feasible solutions of the Crew Pairing depend on the solutions of the Aircraft Routing: **sequential resolution is not optimal**

1. Column generation for rotation problems
2. An algebraic path problem framework
 - 2.1 Computing bounds
3. Stochastic paths problems and delay in rotation problems

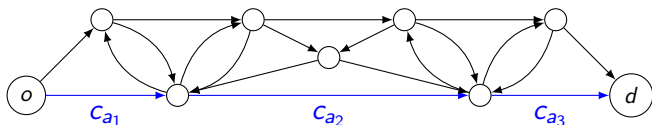
Input:

- ▶ Digraph $D = (V, A)$
- ▶ Origin o
- ▶ Destination d
- ▶ Cost $c_a \in \mathbb{R}$ for all $a \in A$

Output :

- ▶ An o - d path P minimizing

$$c_P = \sum_{a \in P} c_a$$



Ford-Bellman

Polynomial ($c_{cyc.} \geq 0$)

Dyn. Programming

Dijkstra

Polynomial

$c_a \geq 0$

A*

Non polynomial

Branch & Bound

A framework that enables to model

- ▶ many constraints,

$$\sum_{a \in P} q_a^i \leq Q^i, \text{ for } i \in [n],$$

- ▶ non linear cost / constraints,

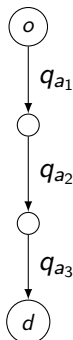
$$q_P \neq \sum_{a \in P} q_a \quad \left| \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Cost } c(q_P), \\ \text{Constraint } \rho(q_P) = 0, \end{array} \right.$$

- ▶ stochastic cost / constraints,

$$\min \mathbb{E}(c(\xi_P)) \quad / \quad \mathbb{P}(\xi_P \leq M) \leq \varepsilon.$$

Constrained Shortest Path Problem : \mathcal{NP} -complete.

q : resource



Ford-Bellman

Polynomial
⇒ bounds

Dijkstra

Polynomial
⇒ bounds

A*

Non polynomial
⇒ solve

Label cor.

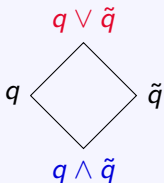
Non polynomial
⇒ solve

Definition: *lattice*

A partially ordered set (\mathcal{R}, \preceq) is a lattice if any pair (q, \tilde{q}) admits:

A greatest lower bound or **meet** denoted $q \wedge \tilde{q}$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} b \preceq q \\ b \preceq \tilde{q} \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow b \preceq q \wedge \tilde{q}$$



A least upper bound or **join** denoted $q \vee \tilde{q}$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} b \succeq q \\ b \succeq \tilde{q} \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow b \succeq q \vee \tilde{q}$$

Ex: Natural numbers

$(\mathbb{N}, |)$

- ▶ $q \wedge \tilde{q} = \text{GCD}(q, \tilde{q})$
- ▶ $q \vee \tilde{q} = \text{LCM}(q, \tilde{q})$

Ex: Paris – Toulouse by car

(\mathbb{R}^2, \leq) with the product order

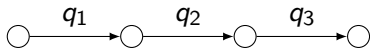
$q = (d, t) = (\text{distance}, \text{time})$

- ▶ $q \wedge \tilde{q} = (\min(d, \tilde{d}), \min(t, \tilde{t}))$
- ▶ $q \vee \tilde{q} = (\max(d, \tilde{d}), \max(t, \tilde{t}))$

Shortest Path in an ordered monoid

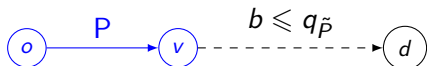
Arc resources q_a in a lattice ordered monoid $(\mathcal{R}, \oplus, \leq)$

- ▶ Associative \oplus : path resources



$$q_P = q_1 \oplus q_2 \oplus q_3$$

- ▶ Neutral element 0: empty path
- ▶ An order \leq compatible with \oplus :



$$b \leq q_{\tilde{P}} \Rightarrow q_P \oplus b \leq q_P \oplus q_{\tilde{P}} = q_{P+\tilde{P}}$$

$(\mathcal{R}, \oplus, \leq)$ is a lattice ordered monoid if

(\mathcal{R}, \oplus) is a *monoid*:

- ▶ \oplus is associative,
- ▶ \oplus has a neutral element 0

\leq is *compatible* with \oplus :

$$q \leq \tilde{q} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} r \oplus q \leq r \oplus \tilde{q} \\ q \oplus r \leq \tilde{q} \oplus r \end{cases}$$

(\mathcal{R}, \leq) is a *lattice*

Ex: Paris - Toulouse by car

$$q \oplus \tilde{q} = (d, t) \oplus (\tilde{d}, \tilde{t}) = (d + \tilde{d}, t + \tilde{t})$$

Given a lattice ordered monoid $(\mathcal{R}, \oplus, \leq)$

Input:

- ▶ Digraph $D = (V, A)$
- ▶ Two vertices $o, d \in V$
- ▶ Resources $q_a \in \mathcal{R}$
- ▶ Two non-decreasing oracles
 $c : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 $\rho : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

Output:

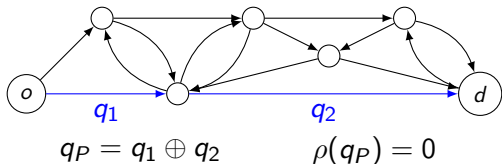
- ▶ An o - d path P such that

$$\rho\left(\bigoplus_{a \in P} q_a\right) = 0$$
 which minimizes

$$c\left(\bigoplus_{a \in P} q_a\right)$$

Ex: Paris-Toulouse by car

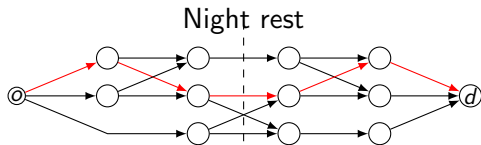
- ▶ $q = (d, t)$
- ▶ Cost: $c(q) = \lambda_1 d + \lambda_2 t$
- ▶ On time arrival:
 $\rho(q) = \mathbb{1}_{(\tau, +\infty)}(t)$



Example: Crew Pairing Pricing Subproblem

Find a pairing p of **minimum reduced cost**.

- p is an o - d path in the connection graph



- max. 4 legs per day.
- max. 3 legs if previous rest is reduced.

$$(\ell^t, \ell^d, "p") \oplus (\tilde{\ell}^t, \tilde{\ell}^d, \tilde{\nu}) = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } \ell^d > 4 \\ (\ell^t + \tilde{\ell}^t, \tilde{\ell}^d, "p") & \text{if } \nu = "n" \\ (\ell^t + \tilde{\ell}^t, \ell^d + \tilde{\ell}^d, "p") & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$q = (\ell^t, \ell^d, \nu)$$

ℓ^t : total nb legs

ℓ^d : daily nb legs

$$\nu = \begin{cases} "n" & \text{if rest} \\ "p" & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

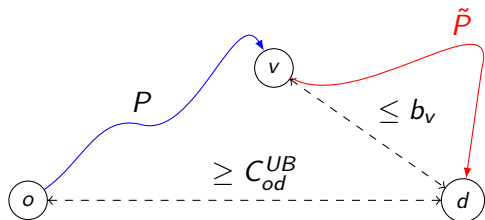
$$\text{Arc } \ell_a^d = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if reduced rest} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$c(q) = \max(c_0, \lambda \ell^t)$$

$$\rho(q) = \mathbb{1}_{(4, +\infty)}(\ell^d)$$

$$(\ell^t, \ell^d, "p") \leq (\tilde{\ell}^t, \tilde{\ell}^d, "p") \text{ if}$$

$$\ell^t \leq \tilde{\ell}^t \quad \text{and} \quad \ell^d \leq \tilde{\ell}^d$$



▶ $q_P \in \mathbb{R}$

▶ $C_{od}^{UB} \geq \min_{P \in \mathcal{P}_{o,d}} q_P$

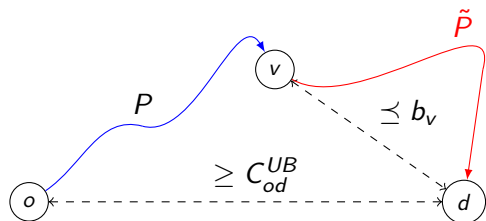
▶ $b_v \leq q_P, \forall P \in \mathcal{P}_{vd}$

A path $P \in \mathcal{P}_{ov}$ satisfying $q_P + b_v > C_{od}^{UB}$ is not the subpath of an optimal path.

- ▶ Generate all the paths satisfying

$$q_P + b_v \leq C_{od}^{UB}$$

- ▶ Update C_{od}^{UB}



$$\triangleright q_P \in \mathcal{R}$$

$$\triangleright C_{od}^{UB} \geq \min_{P | \rho(P)=0} c(q_P)$$

$$\triangleright b_v \preceq q_{\tilde{P}}, \forall \tilde{P} \in \mathcal{P}_{vd}$$

A path $P \in \mathcal{P}_{ov}$ satisfying $c(q_P \oplus b_v) > C_{od}^{UB}$ or $\rho(q_P \oplus b_v) = 1$ is not the subpath of an optimal path.

Generalized A* Algorithm: a Branch & Bound

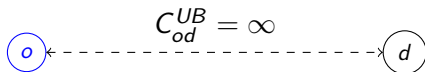
- ▶ Generate all the paths satisfying

$$c(q_P \oplus b_v) \leq C_{od}^{UB} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(q_P \oplus b_v) = 0 \quad (\text{Low})$$

- ▶ Update C_{od}^{UB}

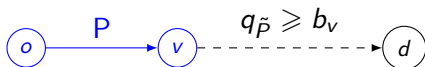
Generalized A* algorithm (2/2)

Initially: $L \leftarrow$ empty path in o

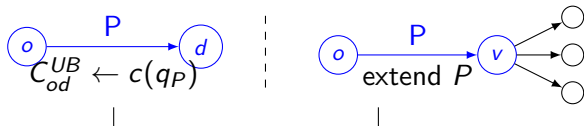


While L is not empty:

- ▶ extract $\min_{P \in L} c(q_P \oplus b_v)$



- ▶ If (Low) is satisfied, $\begin{cases} \rho(q_P \oplus b_v) = 0 \\ c(q_P \oplus b_v) < C_{od}^{UB} \end{cases}$



L : list of paths to be considered

C_{od}^{UB} : upper bound on optimal solution cost

Preprocessing: b_v
lower bound on v - d
paths resources

Key: $c(q_P \oplus b_v)$
Test: (Low)

Theorem

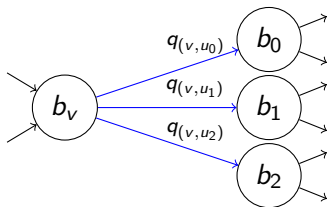
Under general assumptions (corresponding to the absence of negative cycles), A* *converges* after a finite number of iterations and

- ▶ if $C_{od}^{UB} = \infty$, then there is no feasible $o-d$ paths,
- ▶ otherwise, C_{od}^{UB} is the cost of an optimal solution.

Instance	$ V $	Alg	RCSP iter av. nb.	Cut Dom.	RCSP time av (mm:ss)
CP50	290	LS	1.020e+04	–	00:00.560
		LC	1.308e+04	–	00:01.275
		Our A*	4.914e+02	4.01%	00:00.016
CP70	408	LS	5.644e+04	–	00:11.489
		LC	7.730e+04	–	00:17.157
		Our A*	1.994e+03	4.28%	00:00.039
CP90	516	LS	9.779e+04	–	00:40.707
		LC	2.007e+05	–	01:42.864
		Our A*	9.966e+03	5.88%	00:00.340
A318	669	LS	1.319e+05	–	00:53.009
		LC	3.802e+05	–	01:36.035
		Our A*	2.549e+04	3.72%	00:01.651

Minimum costs b_v of v - d paths satisfy the **dynamic programming equation**:

$$\begin{cases} b_d = 0, \\ b_{v \neq d} = \min \left(b_v, \min_{u \in N^+(v)} (q_{(v,u)} + b_u) \right) \end{cases}$$



(b_v) is a **fixed point** of:

$$F : (b_v)_v \mapsto (b'_v)_v \text{ s.t.: } \begin{cases} b'_d = 0 \\ b'_{v \neq d} = \min \left(b_v, \min_{u \in N^+(v)} (q_{(v,u)} + b_u) \right) \end{cases}$$

Usual Ford-Bellman algorithm

$(b_v^k) = F^k(\infty)$ is the cost of a **shortest v - d path** with at most k arcs.

If there is no cycles of negative costs, $(b_v) = F^n(\infty)$ satisfies the dynamic programming equation. $n = |V|$.

Generalized dynamic programming equation

$$\begin{cases} b_d = 0, \\ b_{v \neq d} = \bigwedge \left(q_v, \bigwedge_{u \in N^+(v)} (q_{(v,u)} \oplus b_u) \right) \end{cases}$$

Admits a greatest solution b_v^\dagger (Knaster-Tarski fixed-point theorem)

$$F : (b_v)_v \mapsto (b'_v)_v \text{ st: } \begin{cases} b'_d = 0 \\ b'_{v \neq d} = \bigwedge \left(b_v, \bigwedge_{u \in N^+(v)} (q_{(v,u)} \oplus b_u) \right) \end{cases}$$

Generalized Ford-Bellman algorithm

$(b_v^k) = F^k(\infty) \leq q_P$ for of any v - d path P with at most k arcs.

$$F : (b_v)_v \mapsto (b'_v)_v \text{ st: } \begin{cases} b'_d = 0 \\ b'_{v \neq o} = \bigwedge \left(b_v, \bigwedge_{u \in N^+(v)} (q_{(v,u)} \oplus b_u) \right) \end{cases}$$

- ▶ $b_v^k = F^k(b_v)$
- ▶ $b_v^\dagger = F(b_v^\dagger)$
- ▶ $b_v^\infty = \bigwedge_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+} b_v^k$
- ▶ $b_v^{\text{opt}} = \bigwedge_{P \in \mathcal{P}_{vd}} q_P$
- ▶ ℓ^* : nb arcs in longest elem. path

Theorem

$$b_v^\dagger \leq b_v^\infty \leq b_v^{\ell^*} \leq b_v^{\text{opt}} \leq q_P \quad \text{for all } P \text{ in } \mathcal{P}_{vd}.$$

1. Column generation for rotation problems
2. An algebraic path problem framework
3. Stochastic paths problems and delay in rotation problems

A slightly simpler problem

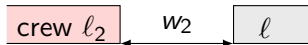
$$\begin{aligned} \min_P \quad & c(q_P) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbb{P} \left(\sum_{a \in P} \xi_a > \tau \right) \leq 5\% \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ lattice ordered monoid ?

Slacks makes things more complicated

$$\xi_\ell = \max(\xi_{\ell_2} - w_2, 0) + \xi_\ell^{\text{int}}$$

but the same ideas can be used



Monotonicity of $\cdot \mapsto \max(\cdot, 0)$ enables to use our framework

Almost sure order on random variables on $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$:

$$\xi \leq \tilde{\xi} \quad \text{if} \quad \xi(\omega) \leq \tilde{\xi}(\omega) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Meet of two random variables:

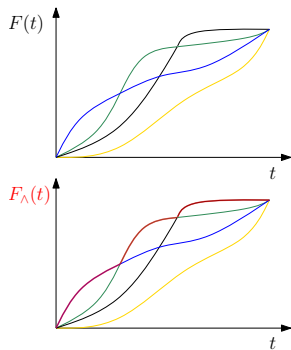
$$(\xi \wedge \tilde{\xi})(\omega) = \min(\xi(\omega), \tilde{\xi}(\omega)).$$

Compatible with *addition* $\xi + \tilde{\xi}$.

Sampling

- ▶ Any random variable can be approximated by a random variable on a finite probability space $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n\}$
- ▶ Bounds on the error

Problem with n scenarios can be computationally difficult



Usual stochastic order \leq_{st}

$$\xi \leq_{st} \tilde{\xi} \quad \text{if} \quad \mathbb{P}(\xi \leq t) \geq \mathbb{P}(\tilde{\xi} \leq t) \quad \text{for all } t$$

Meet of two random variables

$$F_{\xi \wedge \tilde{\xi}} = \max(F_{\xi}, F_{\tilde{\xi}})$$

compatible with *convolution product* *

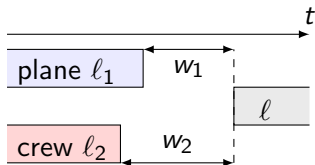
- ▶ \leq_{st} is *coarser* than almost sure order: $\xi \leq \tilde{\xi} \Rightarrow \xi \leq_{st} \tilde{\xi}$.
- ▶ **Better bounds:** $b_v^{\text{opt,as}} \leq_{st} b_v^{\text{opt,st}}$

Numerical results on Stochastic Crew Pairing

Instance	α (min)	Alg.	κ	CG iter.	Pricing time	Avg. paths	Cut Dom.	MIP time	Add. Cost	Total time (hh:mm:ss)
CP50	5%	A*	10	67	93.23%	1.730e+03	-	0.253%	138.01%	00:00:55.5
CP50	10%	A*	10	78	92.34%	1.741e+03	-	0.161%	72.65%	00:01:02.0
CP50	15%	A*	10	94	93.34%	3.029e+03	-	0.243%	0.00%	00:02:34.1
CP50	5%	cor.	10	54	94.53%	1.903e+03	0.33%	0.232%	138.01%	00:01:02.2
CP50	10%	cor.	10	62	94.75%	1.846e+03	0.30%	0.146%	72.65%	00:01:07.9
CP50	15%	cor.	10	97	95.53%	2.976e+03	0.27%	0.083%	0.00%	00:03:32.8
CP70	5%	A*	10	125	95.62%	1.172e+04	-	0.118%	57.64%	00:06:10.2
CP70	10%	A*	10	150	95.11%	1.059e+04	-	0.756%	53.04%	00:06:28.1
CP70	15%	A*	10	150	95.56%	1.822e+04	-	0.066%	0.00%	00:10:33.0
CP70	5%	cor.	10	121	97.20%	1.150e+04	0.49%	0.069%	57.64%	00:09:37.6
CP70	10%	cor.	10	140	97.46%	1.123e+04	0.45%	0.686%	53.07%	00:12:12.3
CP70	15%	cor.	10	145	98.30%	1.562e+04	0.31%	0.026%	0.00%	00:23:01.4
CP90	5%	A*	30	218	98.66%	7.928e+04	-	0.016%	45.57%	01:53:20.0
CP90	10%	A*	30	236	98.93%	8.701e+04	-	0.053%	41.22%	02:23:22.6
CP90	15%	A*	30	295	98.95%	1.324e+05	-	0.009%	0.00%	04:16:44.0
A318	5%	A*	150	341	99.76%	3.888e+05	-	0.002%	8.30%	57:08:59.0
A318	10%	A*	150	381	99.74%	4.342e+05	-	0.001%	7.32%	70:00:06.8
A318	15%	A*	150	395	99.77%	4.783e+05	-	0.001%	0.00%	94:32:26.5

► $\mathbb{P}(\xi_\ell > \tau) \leq \alpha$ for all ℓ with $\tau = 30$ minutes

Even if routing and pairings solution x_r and y_p are known, computing the distribution of ξ_ℓ is difficult (inference problem in a probabilistic graphical model with large treewidth)



Use a scenario approach.

- ▶ Delay cannot be dealt with in the subproblem
- ▶ Poorer relaxation