

Branch-and-cut methods for the Network Design Problem with Vulnerability Constraints

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Abstract

The aim of Network Design Problem with Vulnerability Constraints (NDPVC), is to design survivable telecommunications networks that impose length bounds on the communication paths of each commodity pair, before and after the failure of any k links. This problem was proposed as an alternative to the Hop-Constrained Survivable Network Design Problem (k HSNDP), which addresses similar issues, but imposes very conservative constraints, possibly leading to unnecessarily expensive solution or even rendering instances infeasible. In fact, it is known that the cost of the optimal solutions of the NDPVC never exceeds that of the related k HSNDP. However, previous results using the standard methods of a general-purpose integer linear (ILP) solver, combined with several ILP formulations, show that such methods fail to solve most instances in the benchmarking test set, within a time limit of two hours.

In this paper, we propose three branch-and-cut algorithms, which are significantly more efficient in solving the NDPVC. The first algorithm is a cutting-plane method devised in the context of a new layered graph ILP formulation, whereas the other two are based on Benders decomposition methods of previously known formulations. With the proposed new methods, we are able to solve substantially more instances of the NDPVC and therefore able to provide a more complete comparison of its solutions to those of the k HSNDP.

Keywords: Networks, Integer Programming, Survivable Network Design, Hop-constraints, OR in Telecommunications, Benders Decomposition

1 Introduction

Every telecommunication network should be able to withstand a reasonable amount of technical equipment failures, without compromising the ability of any two points to communicate. Thereby, the network optimization literature contains many works related to the resistance of networks to failures (or network *survivability*), as one of the main criteria for designing reliable communication networks (see, e.g., Kerivin and Mahjoub [16]). A network is said to be survivable if every pair of nodes has a path for communication, even after the failure of a predefined number of nodes or links. Quality of service is another relevant criterion when designing telecommunication networks (see, e.g., Klinecicz [17]). One example of a quality-of-service parameter is *jitter*, which is defined as the time difference between the maximum and minimum delay among all data packets flowing in a network [26]. The delay of each data packet

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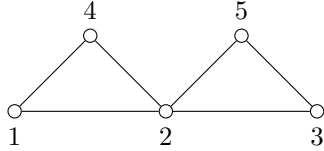


Figure 1: A feasible solution for the NDPVC with $k = 2$, $\mathcal{R} = \{\{1, 3\}\}$, $H_{13} = 2$, $H'_{13} = 3$, that does not contain two edge-disjoint paths of length 2 nor of length 3 between nodes 1 and 3, cf. Exoo [9].

depends on the propagation delay on the links that it traverses, on the path from its source to its destination, as well as on the queuing and transmission delays on each intermediate nodes. Designing networks with upper bounds on the number of links (hops) on each routing path has been the usual way of imposing constraints on the delay, and ensuring quality of service, see, e.g., Balakrishnan and Altinkemer [1], LeBlanc and Reddoch [18]. These bounds are commonly referred to as *hop constraints*.

In the last years, researchers have started to focus on network optimization problems that combine both network survivability and hop constraints. In the Hop-Constrained Survivable Network Design Problem (k HSNDP), the objective is to design a minimum-cost subgraph that has k edge- (node-) disjoint paths of at most H edges, between the source and target nodes of each commodity. Different integer programming formulations and solution algorithms have been proposed for the two variants of the k HSNDP, see [4, 12, 22]. Recently, Gouveia and Leitner [11] proposed and studied the *Network Design Problem with Vulnerability Constraints* (NDPVC), which is similar to the edge-disjoint variant of the k HSNDP but imposes less restrictions on the underlying network topology, and as a consequence, may lead to cheaper solutions. The formal definition of the NDPVC is as follows: let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected graph with nonnegative edge costs $c_e \geq 0$, for all $e \in E$, and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ a parameter specifying the network survivability. In addition, consider a set of commodities $\mathcal{R} \subseteq V \times V$. The objective is to find a minimum-cost subgraph of G , such that for each pair $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, it contains a *primary* path of length at most $H_{st} \in \mathbb{N}$, and after the removal of any $k - 1$ edges from it, the resulting subgraph contains a *backup* path of length at most $H'_{st} \in \mathbb{N}$ ($H_{st} \leq H'_{st}$).

The main motivation for this new problem is that hop-constrained variants of Menger's theorem [23] do not hold in general, and as a consequence the NDPVC is not equivalent to the k HSNDP, even when $H_{st} = H'_{st}$ for all $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$. More importantly, the following has been observed in [11]: if I is an arbitrary, feasible instance of the NDPVC, with optimal cost $v(I)$, then either (i) there is no feasible solution of the k HSNDP for I (an example of this situation is illustrated in Figure 1), or (ii) $v(I) \leq v'(I)$, where $v'(I)$ is the optimal cost of the k HSNDP for I . Furthermore, there exist instances such that $v(I) < v'(I)$, where $\frac{v'(I)}{v(I)}$ can be arbitrarily large.

The notation that follows will be used to model the NDPVC (see [11]). Let $x_e \in \{0, 1\}$, $e \in E$, be decision variables indicating whether or not an edge $e \in E$ is used in a solution, and let $E(\mathbf{x})$ denote the set of edges such that $x_e = 1$. Moreover, consider $\mathcal{F}_{st} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^{|E|} \mid \exists (s, t)\text{-path } P \text{ in } E(\mathbf{x}) \text{ s.t. } |P| \leq H_{st}\}$, the set of feasible incidence vectors of \mathbf{x} containing a path of length at most H_{st} for each commodity pair $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$; and $\mathcal{B}_{st} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^{|E|} \mid \forall F \subset E, |F| = k - 1, \exists (s, t)\text{-path } P \text{ in } E(\mathbf{x}) \setminus F \text{ s.t. } |P| \leq H'_{st}\}$, the set of feasible incidence vectors of \mathbf{x} ensuring the required redundancy, i.e., the existence of a path of length at most H'_{st} for each commodity pair $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$ after removing $k - 1$ edges. Three distinct graph-theoretical characterizations of \mathcal{B}_{st} are described in [11], and repeated below. Furthermore, several integer linear programming (ILP) formulations based on these characterizations have been proposed in the same work. The first one, CH1, is trivial and leads to a straightforward but less efficient formulation; CH2 and CH3, on the other hand, are the base of ILP formulations with fewer variables, and whose linear programming (LP) relaxation usually provides better bounds to the optimal value. Note, however, that CH2 and CH3 are specific for when $k = 2$ and as it was pointed out in [11] cannot be extended in a straightforward way to the case of $k > 2$. In the remainder of this paper, we therefore focus on the case of resilience against single edge failures, i.e., $k = 2$.

Characterization 1 (CH1 [11]). *Let $P \subset E(\mathbf{x})$ be the primary (s, t) -path of length $\leq H_{st}$ for a given commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$. Then, a valid set of the required backup paths is established by ensuring that:*

$$\forall e \in P, \quad \exists (s, t)\text{-path } P'[e] \subset E(\mathbf{x}) \setminus \{e\}, \text{ s.t. } |P'[e]| \leq H'_{st}.$$

Characterization 2 (CH2 [11]). Let $P \subset E(\mathbf{x})$ be the primary (s, t) -path of length l , $l \leq H_{st}$, for a given commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$. Then, a valid set of the required backup paths is established by ensuring that there exist l additional (s, t) -paths $P'_i \subset E(\mathbf{x})$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, l$, of length at most H'_{st} , $H'_{st} \geq H_{st}$, such that at most $l - 1$ of them contain the same edge from P , i.e.:

$$\exists (s, t)\text{-paths } P'_i \subset E(\mathbf{x}), i = 1, 2, \dots, l, \text{ s.t. } |P'_i| \leq H'_{st} \text{ and } \forall e \in P : \sum_{i=1}^l |P'_i \cap \{e\}| \leq l - 1.$$

Characterization 3 (CH3 [11]). Let $P = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_l\} \subset E(\mathbf{x})$ be the primary (s, t) -path of length l , $l \leq H_{st}$ for a given commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, such that $e_i = \{u_{i-1}, u_i\}$, $u_i \in V_{st}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, l$, $u_0 = s$, and $u_l = t$. Then, a valid set of the required backup paths is established by ensuring that:

$$\exists (s, t)\text{-paths } P'_i \subset E(\mathbf{x}), i = 1, 2, \dots, l, \text{ s.t. } |P'_i| \leq H'_{st} \text{ and } P'_i \cap \{e_i\} = \emptyset.$$

Extensive computational experiments are reported in [11] with the twofold purpose of comparing the performance of the proposed models within a general-purpose ILP solver (IBM ILOG CPLEX), and of comparing the solutions obtained by solving the NDPVC to those obtained by solving the k HSNDP. For these experiments, two classes of benchmark instances were created: one class where the nodes in the graph are distributed in a grid and the other where the nodes are randomly distributed, leading to a total of 3150 instances. The results of these experiments show that two formulations based on CH2 and CH3 are the most promising ones, as they are able to solve a higher number of the proposed instances; these two models will be revisited in Section 2.2.

However, the results also show that, in order to solve the NDPVC efficiently, one needs to design more sophisticated methods that go beyond developing a “good” formulation and using a general-purpose ILP solver such as CPLEX. Even with the best model, CPLEX only solves 781 of the 2070 grid instances, and 250 of the 1080 random instances, within the time limit of two hours. These results have complicated the other aforementioned objective in [11], of making a more complete comparison between the cost of the optimal solutions of the NDPVC and the cost of the optimal solutions of the k HSNDP. For 450 grid instances, the cost of the optimal solution of the NDPVC is shown to be smaller than that of the corresponding solution given by the k HSNDP, while for 547 grid instances the cost is shown to be the same. However, these results still leave out half of the grid instances for which no conclusion could be achieved. This situation is even worse for the random instances: for more than 70% of the instances, the authors could not obtain a conclusive comparison between the solutions of both problems.

Scientific contribution The results in [11] motivate the need for more efficient solution algorithms for the NDPVC with $k = 2$. In this paper, we propose three different branch-and-cut methods, which are based on decompositions of formulations inspired by CH1, CH2 and CH3. The first branch-and-cut algorithm is based on a new integer programming formulation based on layered graphs. The other two branch-and-cut methods proposed in this article are based on new theoretical results that reveal that the two best-performing formulations from Gouveia and Leitner [11] remain valid when we relax the flow variables to be continuous, instead of binary as originally proposed. These results are central for these two methods, in the sense that they enable the use of a standard Benders decomposition method without the need to resort to, e.g., combinatorial Benders cuts, that may significantly deteriorate their performance. In addition, these results also imply that one can decide in polynomial time whether a given set of selected edges is a feasible solution to the NDPVC, when $k = 2$. Observe, in contrast, that the analogous problem, the edge-disjoint variant of the 2HSNDP is known to be NP-hard (this follows from the complexity results in Li et al. [21]). We also introduce an ILP-based heuristic for the NDPVC which is used to initialize the three decomposition algorithms with good initial feasible solutions. Our results show that the proposed methods are significantly more efficient in solving the NDPVC, in that they are able to solve many more instances than the standard solving methods of commercial ILP solvers such as CPLEX.

Notation In addition to the notation already presented, we consider the following notation that will be used in the remainder of the paper. Let $T = \{s \in V \mid \exists \{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}, s < t\}$ denote the set of commodity origins (sources), and $T(s) = \{t \in V \mid \{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}, s < t\}$ denote the set of commodity destinations

(targets) of origin $s \in T$. We define $H_{\max}(s) = \max_{t \in T(s)} H_{st}$, and $H'_{\max}(s)$ analogously. Moreover, let $A = \{(i, j) \mid \{i, j\} \in E\}$ denote the arc set obtained from bi-directing edge set E . For a subset $W \subset V'$ of nodes of some graph $G' = (V', E')$, we will use $\delta(W) = \{\{i, j\} \in E' \mid i \in W, j \notin W\}$ to denote the cutset of W with respect to G' . Let, furthermore, $d_{ij} \in \mathbb{N}$ denote the minimum distance between nodes i and j in G (measured in the number of hops). Then, for each commodity pair $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, $A_{st} = \{(i, j) \in A \mid d_{si} + d_{jt} + 1 \leq H_{st}\}$ and $A'_{st} = \{(i, j) \in A \mid d_{si} + d_{jt} + 1 \leq H'_{st}\}$ are the sets of arcs feasible for establishing a primary or secondary connection of commodity $\{s, t\}$, respectively. Similarly, $E_{st} = \{\{i, j\} \in E \mid (i, j) \in A_{st} \vee (j, i) \in A_{st}\}$ and $E'_{st} = \{\{i, j\} \in E \mid (i, j) \in A'_{st} \vee (j, i) \in A'_{st}\}$ are the sets of eligible primary and secondary edges for commodity $\{s, t\}$ while $V_{st} = \{i \in V \mid \exists \{i, j\} \in E_{st}\}$ and $V'_{st} = \{i \in V \mid \exists \{i, j\} \in E'_{st}\}$ are the eligible nodes within a primary or secondary connection, respectively. Also, consider $E_s = \bigcup_{t \in T(s)} E_{st}$, and $E'_s = \bigcup_{t \in T(s)} E'_{st}$. Finally, for $e = \{i, j\} \in E$ and a set of arcs A' let $A'[e] = A' \setminus \{(i, j), (j, i)\}$.

Paper layout In Section 2, we describe the three proposed branch-and-cut methods. Next, in Section 3, we describe the primal heuristic. In Section 4, we present and analyze the results of computational experiments, before drawing conclusions in Section 5.

2 Branch-and-cut methods

In this section, we propose three decomposition approaches, based on the characterizations originally given in Gouveia and Leitner [11], and summarized in the previous section. Section 2.1 details a branch-and-cut method based on a new, layered graph formulation for the NDPVC, whose validity follows CH1. In Section 2.2, we describe Benders decomposition methods for two formulations based on CH2 and CH3, which were proposed in [11]. Note, that a similar approach could also have been explored for a straightforward formulation based on CH1, and also presented in the same paper. The results from [11] clearly indicate, however, that such a method would not be competitive with the ones that will be presented in Section 2.2. More precisely, it was shown in [11] that despite the fact that this formulation contains more variables and constraints than the formulations based on CH2 and CH3, its LP relaxation bounds are significantly weaker (in practice) than the ones obtained by the formulation based on CH3. We will therefore refrain from discussing a decomposition method based on this model and instead focus on a new, layered graph formulation based on CH1.

2.1 Layered graph formulation and branch-and-cut method based on CH1

Gouveia et al. [13] showed how to solve the hop- and diameter-constrained minimum spanning tree problem as Steiner tree problems (with only few additional constraints) on appropriately defined layered graphs. They also showed that their formulation, at the time of publication, dominates all other formulations from the literature, both theoretically, and with respect to the computational performance of a correspondingly developed branch-and-cut approach. Since then, layered graphs have been used to derive theoretically strong and computationally well-performing models for a number of network design problems with hop-, diameter-, or more general resource constraints, see, e.g., [15, 19, 25]. An effective branch-and-cut algorithm based on multiple layered graphs (one per root node) has been recently proposed by Gouveia et al. [14] for the hop-constrained Steiner tree problem with multiple roots. The formulation introduced in this section significantly generalizes this idea by considering multiple and disjoint paths per commodity, different hop limits for primary and backup paths, and terminal-dependent hop limits.

To this end, for each source $s \in T$, we define a layered graph $G_L^s = (V_L^s, A_L^s)$; the node set V_L^s is defined as $V_L^s = \{s_0\} \cup \{t_h \mid t \in T(s), h \in \{1, 2, \dots, H'_{st}\}\} \cup \{i_h \mid i \in V'_{st} \setminus (\{s\} \cup T(s)), h \in \{1, 2, \dots, H'_{\max}(s)\}\}$ and the arc set is defined as $A_L^s = \{(i_h, j_{h+1}) \mid \{i_h, j_{h+1}\} \subseteq V_L^s, (i, j) \in E'_s\}$. In addition to the edge design variables \mathbf{x} , the layered graph formulation (1)–(5), which we refer to as H_1^L , uses variables $X_{ij}^{sh} \in \{0, 1\}$, $\forall s \in T, \forall (i_{h-1}, j_h) \in A_L^s$ that indicate whether arc (i, j) is used at position h on either a primary or a backup path, originated in source s .

$$\min \sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e \tag{1}$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{(i_{h-1}, j_h) \in \delta^-(S)} X_{ij}^{s,h} \geq 1 \quad s \in T, S \subset V_L^s(H_{\max}(s)), s_0 \in S, \exists t \in T(s) : \bigcup_{h=0}^{H_{st}} t_h \cap S = \emptyset \quad (2)$$

$$\sum_{(i_{h-1}, j_h) \in \delta^-(S)[e]} X_{ij}^{s,h} \geq 1 \quad s \in T, e \in E_s, S \subset V_L^s, s_0 \in S, \exists t \in T(s) : \bigcup_{h=0}^{H'_{st}} t_h \cap S = \emptyset \quad (3)$$

$$X_{ij}^{sh} \leq x_e \quad s \in T, e = \{i, j\} \in E'_s, h \in \{1, 2, \dots, H'_{\max}(s)\} \quad (4)$$

$$X_{ij}^{sh} \in \{0, 1\} \quad s \in T, (i_{h-1}, j_h) \in A_L^s \quad (5)$$

Inequalities (2) are directed connectivity constraints ensuring the existence of a primary path of length at most H_{st} for each $s \in T$ and $t \in T(s)$. Here, $V_L^s(H_{\max}(s)) = \{i_h \in V_L^s \mid 0 \leq h \leq H_{\max}(s)\}$ for each $s \in T$, i.e., considered cutsets S are constrained to the first H_{\max} layers. Cut constraints (3) ensure the existence of a path from each $s \in T$ to each $t \in T(s)$ after removing all arcs from A_L^s that correspond to a single original edge, as stated by CH1. For each source $s \in T$ and every subset of nodes $S \subset V_L^s$, we use notation $\delta^-(S)[e] = \{(i_{h-1}, j_h) \in A_L^s \setminus \{(u_l, v_{l+1}) \in A_L^s \mid e = \{u, v\}\} \mid i_{h-1} \notin S, j_h \in S\}$ to denote all ingoing arcs of node set S on a subgraph of G_L^s in which all arcs corresponding to edge $e \in E_s$ have been removed. Similar sets of connectivity constraints ensuring disjoint paths have, e.g., been used for network design problem considering node-disjoint paths in [7, 20]. Finally, constraints (4) link arc variables on the layered graph to original edge design variables.

It is well known that although the number of cutset constraints (2) and (3) may be exponential, they can be efficiently separated. This motivates the development of a branch-and-cut method, which we refer to as BC1; see Section 4 for more details.

2.2 Benders decomposition methods based on CH2 and CH3

In this section, we first revisit the two best-performing formulations from [11], which are denoted as H_2^{AS} and H_3 , and which are based on CH2 and CH3, respectively. In Section 2.2.1, we will then prove two theoretical results related to these formulations and describe Benders decomposition methods that are enabled by these results.

Formulations H_2^{AS} and H_3 use the, previously mentioned, undirected edge design variables \mathbf{x} and can be viewed in the following form:

$$\min \quad \sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e \quad (6)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{F}_{st} \cap \mathcal{B}_{st} \quad \forall \{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R} \quad (7)$$

$$\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^{|E|} \quad (8)$$

As H_2^{AS} and H_3 only differ in the sets of variables and constraints used to model \mathcal{B}_{st} , we will next detail their common part modeling \mathcal{F}_{st} before giving all details of their formulations for \mathcal{B}_{st} .

Formulation for \mathcal{F}_{st} used in H_2^{AS} and H_3 [11] Let $y_{ij}^{st,h} \in \{0, 1\}$ be the routing variables for the primary path, indicating whether or not arc $(i, j) \in A_{st}$ is used at position $h \in \{1, 2, \dots, H_{st}\}$, in the path from source s to target t , for all $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$. For each $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, formulations H_2^{AS} and H_3 ensure that $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{F}_{st}$ through constraints (9)–(13).

$$\sum_{(s,j) \in A_{st}} y_{sj}^{st,1} = 1 \quad (9)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in A_{st}} y_{ij}^{st,h} = \sum_{(j,i) \in A_{st}} y_{ji}^{st,h+1} \quad i \in V_{st} \setminus \{s, t\}, h \in \{1, \dots, H_{st} - 1\} \quad (10)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i,t) \in A_{st}} y_{it}^{st,h} = 1 \quad (11)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (y_{ij}^{st,h} + y_{ji}^{st,h}) \leq x_e \quad e = \{i, j\} \in E_{st} \quad (12)$$

$$y_{ij}^{st,h} \in \{0,1\} \quad (i,j) \in A_{st}, h \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\} \quad (13)$$

Constraints (9)-(11) define the flow system for variables \mathbf{y} , whereas constraints (12) link the latter with variables \mathbf{x} .

Formulation for \mathcal{B}_{st} used in H_2^{AS} [11] For every commodity $\{s,t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, formulation H_2^{AS} ensures that $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_{st}$ through constraints (14)–(20), thereby using additional routing variables for the backup paths, $\tilde{z}_{ij}^{st,h} \in \{0,1, \dots, H_{st}\}$, that indicate the number of backup paths for commodity $\{s,t\} \in \mathcal{R}$ that use arc $(i,j) \in A'_{st}$ at position $h \in \{1,2, \dots, H'_{st}\}$.

$$\sum_{(s,j) \in A'_{st}} \tilde{z}_{sj}^{st,1} = \sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i,t) \in A_{st}} h y_{it}^{st,h} \quad (14)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in A'_{st}} \tilde{z}_{ij}^{st,h} = \sum_{(j,i) \in A'_{st}} \tilde{z}_{ji}^{st,h+1} \quad i \in V'_{st} \setminus \{s,t\}, \forall h \in \{1, \dots, H'_{st} - 1\} \quad (15)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} \sum_{(i,t) \in A'_{st}} \tilde{z}_{it}^{st,h} = \sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i,t) \in A_{st}} h y_{it}^{st,h} \quad (16)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (y_{ij}^{st,h} + y_{ji}^{st,h}) + \sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\tilde{z}_{ij}^{st,h} + \tilde{z}_{ji}^{st,h}) \leq \sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i',t) \in A_{st}} h y_{i't}^{st,h} \quad \{i,j\} \in E_{st} \quad (17)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\tilde{z}_{ij}^{st,h} + \tilde{z}_{ji}^{st,h}) \leq H_{st} x_e \quad e = \{i,j\} \in E'_{st} \setminus E_{st} \quad (18)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (y_{ij}^{st,h} + y_{ji}^{st,h}) + \sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\tilde{z}_{ij}^{st,h} + \tilde{z}_{ji}^{st,h}) \leq H_{st} x_e \quad e = \{i,j\} \in E_{st} \quad (19)$$

$$\tilde{z}_{ij}^{st,h} \in \{0,1, \dots, H_{st}\} \quad (i,j) \in A'_{st}, h \in \{1, \dots, H'_{st}\} \quad (20)$$

Constraints (14)-(16) define the conservation of the flow $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{st}$, whose quantity must match the length of the primary path between s and t . Inequalities (17) ensure the existence of a path connecting nodes s and t , after the failure of each edge in E_{st} , by preventing that all units of $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{st}$ flow are routed through the same edge, belonging to the primary path. Constraints (18) are linking constraints between variables $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}$ and \mathbf{x} ; for edges in E_{st} , these can be strengthened as in (19).

Formulation for \mathcal{B}_{st} used in H_3 [11] Formulation H_3 ensures that $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_{st}$ using constraints (21)–(25) and by considering the disaggregated routing variables for the backup paths, $\hat{z}_{ij}^{stl,h}$, which are set to one if arc $(i,j) \in A'_{st}$ is used at position $h \in \{1,2, \dots, H'_{st}\}$ in the backup path of commodity $\{s,t\} \in \mathcal{R}$ with index $l \in \{1,2, \dots, H_{st}\}$, and to zero if otherwise.

$$\sum_{(s,j) \in A'_{st}} \hat{z}_{sj}^{stl,1} = \sum_{h=l}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i,t) \in A_{st}} y_{it}^{st,h} \quad l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\} \quad (21)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in A'_{st}} \hat{z}_{ij}^{stl,h} = \sum_{(j,i) \in A'_{st}} \hat{z}_{ji}^{stl,h+1} \quad i \in V'_{st} \setminus \{s,t\}, l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\}, h \in \{1, \dots, H'_{st} - 1\} \quad (22)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} \sum_{(i,t) \in A'_{st}} \hat{z}_{it}^{stl,h} = \sum_{h=l}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i,t) \in A_{st}} y_{it}^{st,h} \quad l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\} \quad (23)$$

$$y_{ij}^{st,l} + y_{ji}^{st,l} + \sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\hat{z}_{ij}^{stl,h} + \hat{z}_{ji}^{stl,h}) \leq x_e \quad e = \{i,j\} \in E'_{st}, l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\} \quad (24)$$

$$\hat{z}_{ij}^{stl,h} \in \{0,1\} \quad (i,j) \in A'_{st}, l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\}, h \in \{1, \dots, H'_{st}\} \quad (25)$$

Constraints (21)-(23) route one unit of flow \hat{z}^{stl} between s and t , if the primary path of that commodity has at least l arcs. Finally, inequalities (24) are strong linking constraints, that guarantee the condition in CH3.

2.2.1 Benders decomposition methods for H_2^{AS} and H_3

The results in [11] suggest that H_2^{AS} and H_3 perform better than the other proposed formulations, in the sense that they were able to solve a larger number of instances of the NDPVC when implemented in CPLEX. Of these two models, formulation H_3 was able to solve the highest number of the considered instances. As observed by the authors, the main explanation for this behavior is the fact that this formulation produces, by far, the best LP bounds. On the other hand, formulation H_2^{AS} , the second-best option for solving instances of the problem, benefits from the fact that it has fewer variables than H_3 . Nevertheless, the results imply that both approaches suffer from their large number of (flow) variables and constraints. Thus, it seems natural to develop a Benders decomposition method [3] from these two formulations, in order to more efficiently solve the NDPVC. Benders decomposition explores special substructures in mathematical programming formulations, often allowing for significant speed-ups in their solving. At each iteration of this method, the value of a subset of all the variables is fixed, yielding a subproblem or set of subproblems that are easier to solve. If the solution to the master problem is not feasible or optimal for a given subproblem, a Benders inequality is generated that cuts off the given, tentative, solution and the master problem is resolved. The Benders decomposition method has been used successfully to solve a wide array of optimization problems; see, e.g., Rahmaniiani et al. [24] for a detailed literature review or [4, 5, 10] for recent applications to network design problems.

The structure of formulations H_2^{AS} and H_3 makes them attractive to use in the context of Benders decomposition, by keeping the design variables \mathbf{x} in the Benders master problem and validating the feasibility of a current candidate solution through solving several independent subproblems, one for each commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$. To this end, all variables and constraints corresponding to abstract constraints (7) are projected out of the master problem and these subproblems are defined by constraints (9)–(20) for H_2^{AS} and by (9)–(13) together with (21)–(25) for H_3 .

Since the standard Benders method is based on LP duality theory, it is, however, not directly applicable to the obtained subproblems due to the integrality requirements of the involved flow variables \mathbf{y} , $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}$, and $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$, respectively. We observe that for H_3 a valid Benders decomposition algorithm could be developed by additionally using so-called combinatorial Benders cuts [8]. For H_2^{AS} , however, as flow variables $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}$ are general integers (and not binary), this approach is not applicable without considering additional variables (e.g., through discretization). Regardless, in either case, we expect that the requirement of using those typically rather weak combinatorial Benders cuts would significantly deteriorate the performance of such an algorithm.

Instead of pursuing this idea, in the following we will prove that the integrality of the flow variables in the subproblems associated to H_2^{AS} and H_3 can be relaxed, thus enabling the application of a Benders decomposition algorithm in its standard, and typically better-performing form.

For each $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, let $M_{st}^3(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ be the integral Benders subproblem defined by constraints (9)–(13) together with (21)–(25) for a given candidate vector $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ of variable values for \mathbf{x} (i.e., variables \mathbf{x} are replaced by their current values $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ in constraints (12) and (24)). Let furthermore, $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ be the linear relaxation of $M_{st}^3(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ in which constraints (13) and (25) are replaced by their relaxed variants (26) and (27), respectively.

$$y_{ij}^{st,h} \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in A_{st}, h \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\} \quad (26)$$

$$\hat{z}_{ij}^{stl,h} \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in A'_{st}, l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\}, h \in \{1, \dots, H'_{st}\} \quad (27)$$

Theorem 1. *Consider an arbitrary commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$ and let $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \{0, 1\}^{|E|}$ denote a current set of values for variables $\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^{|E|}$. Then there exists a feasible solution for $M_{st}^3(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$, if and only if there exists a feasible solution for $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$.*

Proof. Notice that each solution of $M_{st}^3(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ is also feasible for $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ as the latter is a relaxation of the former. It therefore remains to show that there exists a feasible solution of $M_{st}^3(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ whenever $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ is feasible. Thus, let $\bar{\mathbf{y}}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{z}}$ denote the values of variables \mathbf{y} and $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ in an arbitrary solution

of $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$. Let furthermore, $\bar{G}_{st} = (\bar{V}_{st}, \bar{E}_{st})$ denote the subgraph of G induced by all edges $e = \{i, j\} \in E$ such that $\bar{x}_e = 1$ in the considered solution to $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$, i.e., \bar{E}_{st} is the set of edges for which $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h}) + \sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\bar{z}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{z}_{ji}^{st,h}) > 0$ holds. We will show that

- (i) \bar{G}_{st} contains a path $P \subset \bar{E}_{st}$ between s and t (an (s, t) -path) with length at most H_{st} , and
- (ii) \bar{G}_{st} contains an (s, t) -path $P'[e] \subset \bar{E}_{st} \setminus \{e\}$ of length at most H'_{st} for each $e \in P$.

and consequently, \bar{G}_{st} satisfies CH1 for commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, which implies that $M_{st}^3(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ contains a feasible solution.

case (i): From constraints (9)–(12) we conclude that each feasible solution to $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ must contain an (s, t) -path $P = \{\{s = v_0, v_1\}, \{v_1, v_2\}, \dots, \{v_{q-1}, v_q = t\}\}$ of length at most H_{st} , i.e., $q \leq H_{st}$, with $\bar{y}_{v_h, v_{h+1}}^{st, h+1} > 0$, such that $\{v_h, v_{h+1}\} \in E_{st}$ for each $h \in \{0, \dots, q-1\}$. Together with the integrality of $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ and linking constraints (12) these nonzero flow values imply that $\{v_h, v_{h+1}\} \in \bar{E}_{st}$ for each $h \in \{0, \dots, q-1\}$ and thus $P \subset \bar{E}_{st}$.

case (ii): Consider an arbitrary $e = \{i, j\}$ included in the (primary) path P whose existence is shown above. Since, $\sum_{h=0}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{uv}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{vu}^{st,h}) > 0$ holds for each $\{u, v\} \in P$ it is sufficient to prove the existence of $P'[e]$ in \bar{G}_{st} for the following three cases: (a) $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h}) < 1$; (b) there exists $l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\}$ such that $\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,l} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,l} = 1$; and (c) $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h}) = 1$ but there does not exist $l \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\}$ such that $\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,l} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,l} = 1$.

case (a): In that case, constraints (9)–(11) imply the existence of (s, t) -path $P'[e]$ of length at most $H_{st} \leq H'_{st}$, and for which $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{uv}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{vu}^{st,h}) > 0$ for each $\{u, v\} \in P'[e]$. Together with linking constraints (12) the latter argument implies that $P'[e] \subset \bar{E}_{st}$.

case (b): Here, constraints (21)–(23) and (24) imply that there exists at least one (s, t) -path $P'[e]$ of length at most H'_{st} with $e \notin P'[e]$ and such that $\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\bar{z}_{uv}^{stl,h} + \bar{z}_{vu}^{stl,h}) > 0$ holds for each $\{u, v\} \in P'[e]$. Thus, constraints (24) and the integrality of $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ ensure that $P'[e] \in \bar{E}_{st}$.

case (c): Let $h' = \operatorname{argmin}_{h \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\}} \{\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h} > 0\}$, i.e., the smallest hop value such that there exists a non-zero primary flow on the considered edge $e = \{i, j\}$. Let, furthermore $h'' = \operatorname{argmin}_{h \in \{1, \dots, H_{st}\}} \{\sum_{(i', t) \in A_{st}} \bar{y}_{i't}^{st,h} > 0\}$ be the length of a shortest path induced by the fractional flow values $\bar{\mathbf{y}}$. We observe that constraints (9)–(11) ensure that $h' \leq h''$ since $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h}) = 1$. Thus, $\sum_{h=h'}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i', t) \in A_{st}} \bar{y}_{i't}^{st,h} = 1$ due to equations (11) and therefore $\sum_{(s, j') \in A'_{st}} \bar{z}_{sj'}^{sth', 1} = 1$, i.e., one unit of flow associated to backup path with index h' needs to be routed from s to t due to (21)–(23). Since $\bar{y}_{ij}^{st, h'} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st, h'} > 0$, constraints (24) ensure that $\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\bar{z}_{ij}^{sth', h} + \bar{z}_{ji}^{sth', h}) < 1$. As a consequence, there must exist a path $P'[e]$ of length at most H'_{st} , such that $e \notin P'[e]$, for which $\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\bar{z}_{uv}^{sth', h} + \bar{z}_{vu}^{sth', h}) > 0$ for each $\{u, v\} \in P'[e]$. Using constraints (24) and the integrality of $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ we conclude that $P'[e] \in \bar{E}_{st}$. □

To prove a similar result for H_2^{AS} given in Theorem 2, let $M_{st}^2(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ be the integral Benders subproblem defined by constraints (9)–(20) for each candidate vector $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ (i.e., variables \mathbf{x} are replaced by their current values $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ in constraints (12), (18) and (19)) and let $M_{st}^{2R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ be its linear relaxation obtained by replacing (13) and (20) by (26) and (28).

$$\bar{z}_{ij}^{st,h} \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in A'_{st}, h \in \{1, \dots, H'_{st}\} \quad (28)$$

Theorem 2. Consider an arbitrary commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$ and let $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \{0, 1\}^{|E|}$ denote a current set of values for variables $\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^{|E|}$. Then there exists a feasible solution for $M_{st}^2(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$, if and only if there exists a feasible solution for $M_{st}^{2R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$.

Proof. Similar to Theorem 1 it suffices to show that there exists a feasible solution of $M_{st}^2(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ whenever $M_{st}^{2R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ is feasible (the other direction is trivial). Thus, let $\bar{\mathbf{y}}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{z}}$ denote the values of variables \mathbf{y} and \mathbf{z} in an arbitrary solution of $M_{st}^{2R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$. Let furthermore, $\bar{G}_{st} = (\bar{V}_{st}, \bar{E}_{st})$ denote the subgraph of G induced by all edges $e = \{i, j\} \in E$ such that $\bar{x}_e = 1$ in the considered solution to $M_{st}^{2R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$, i.e., \bar{E}_{st} is the set of edges for which $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h}) + \sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\bar{z}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{z}_{ji}^{st,h}) > 0$ holds. Since the models for the primary path in $M_{st}^{2R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ and $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ are identical we conclude (by the same arguments as in the proof of Theorem 1) that \bar{G}_{st} contains a (primary) path $P \subset \bar{E}_{st}$ such that $|P| \leq H_{st}$.

It remains to show that for each $e \in P$, \bar{G}_{st} contains a path $P'[e] \subset \bar{E}_{st} \setminus \{e\}$ of length at most H'_{st} . We first observe that the existence of this path follows from the arguments used in the proof of Theorem 1 if $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h}) < 1$. Thus, let $\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} (\bar{y}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{y}_{ji}^{st,h}) = 1$ and let $\bar{l} = \sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i',t) \in A_{st}} h \bar{y}_{i't}^{st,h}$. Constraints (14)–(16) ensure that \bar{l} units of flow are routed along a set of paths of length at most H'_{st} each from s to t (possibly with fractional flow values). Linking constraints (19) and integrality of $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ ensures that each edge contained in such a path is contained in \bar{E}_{st} . From constraints (17) and our assumption regarding $\bar{\mathbf{y}}$ we conclude, however, that $\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} (\bar{z}_{ij}^{st,h} + \bar{z}_{ji}^{st,h}) < \bar{l}$, i.e., not all flow $\bar{\mathbf{z}}$ can be routed via edge e . Consequently, there must exist at least one path $P'[e]$ in \bar{G}_{st} that does not use edge e . \square

The relevance of Theorems 1 and 2 is that the standard Benders method can, now, be directly applied to Formulations H_2^{AS} and H_3 . The Benders master problem is defined by (6) and (8), together with the feasibility cuts $\beta_{\bar{\mathbf{x}}}^{st}(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$, $\forall \{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, that are obtained from solving the Benders subproblems. The Benders subproblems (which are separable by commodity) are defined by the duals of $M_{st}^{2R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ and $M_{st}^{3R}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ for each commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$.

In order to solve the NDPVC, we propose two branch-and-cut methods, BC2 and BC3, where a Benders decomposition of Formulations H_2^{AS} and H_3 respectively is solved at each node of the branch-and-bound tree.

3 Primal heuristic

In this section, we propose a matheuristic for the NDPVC that will be (optionally) used to provide initial solutions to the three branch-and-cut methods described in the previous section. The heuristic has two phases. In the first phase, a randomized greedy heuristic is used to generate several candidate solutions. To keep the required computing time relatively low, only the best of these solutions (the one that was first found among those, in case of ties) is subsequently improved via local search in the second phase. The underlying procedure of our matheuristic is shown in Algorithm 1, where Lines 1-12 refer to the construction phase, and Line 13 refers to the improvement phase. In the end, the method either returns a feasible solution, defined by its set of edges Ω^* , or an empty set if the considered instance is infeasible.

Algorithm 1: Matheuristic for the NDPVC.

```

1  $\Omega^* \leftarrow E$ 
2 for each start of construction phase do
3    $\Delta \leftarrow$  random order of  $\mathcal{R}$ 
4    $\Omega \leftarrow \text{Greedy}(\Delta)$ 
5   if  $\Omega = \emptyset$  then
6     Problem instance is infeasible
7     return  $\emptyset$ 
8   end
9   if  $\sum_{e \in \Omega} c_e < \sum_{e \in \Omega^*} c_e$  then
10     $\Omega^* \leftarrow \Omega$ 
11  end
12 end
13  $\Omega^* \leftarrow \text{Local\_Search}(\Omega^*)$ 
14 return  $\Omega^*$ 

```

Algorithm 2: Greedy(Δ).

```

input: Ordered set of all commodities,  $\Delta$ .
1  $\Omega \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
2  $\bar{c}_e \leftarrow c_e, e \in E$ 
3 forall  $\{s, t\} \in \Delta$  do
4    $P \leftarrow \text{Find\_HCSP}(s, t, H_{st}, \bar{c})$  // cheapest  $(s, t)$ -path with at most  $H_{st}$  hops w.r.t. costs  $\bar{c}$ 
5   if  $\sum_{e \in P} \bar{c}_e < \infty$  then
6      $\Omega \leftarrow \Omega \cup P$ 
7      $\bar{c}_e \leftarrow 0, e \in P$ 
8     forall  $e \in P$  do
9        $\bar{c}_e \leftarrow \infty$ 
10       $P'[e] \leftarrow \text{Find\_HCSP}(s, t, H'_{st}, \bar{c})$ 
11      if  $\sum_{e \in P'[e]} \bar{c}_e < \infty$  then
12         $\Omega \leftarrow \Omega \cup P'[e]$ 
13      else
14        Problem instance is infeasible
15      return  $\emptyset$ 
16    end
17     $\bar{c}_e \leftarrow 0$ 
18  end
19 else
20   Problem instance is infeasible
21 return  $\emptyset$ 
22 end
23 end
24 return  $\Omega$ 

```

In each iteration of the construction phase, we consider a random order of the set of commodities (Line 3), which is provided to the **Greedy** procedure, that creates a feasible solution (Line 4). In our experiments, we set a fixed number of ten iterations for this phase (Line 2). At the end of each iteration, the cheapest solution is stored (Lines 9 and 10).

Algorithm 2 details the **Greedy** procedure mentioned in Line 4 of Algorithm 1. This procedure iteratively designs the primary and backup paths of each commodity, following the order given as input. For each commodity a greedy approach is employed that first selects a primary path, and then, for each edge used in that path, iteratively identifies a backup path that does not use it. In order to obtain each path, a hop-constrained shortest path problem is solved (function **Find_HCSP**). The latter is essentially a resource-constrained shortest path problem (RCSP), with a single resource, and a consumption of one unit associated with every arc in the network. A well-known dynamic programming algorithm for the RCSP, originally proposed in [2], runs in time $\mathcal{O}(|V||E|)$ for the considered case, i.e., one resource and nonnegative edge weights.

Recall that, for a given set of edges, the subproblem of finding a subset of edges containing a primary path, and the required backup paths for one commodity, is independent from the same subproblem for other commodities. Thus, choosing a particular subset of edges at a given iteration of the greedy algorithm does not compromise the existence of a feasible paths for commodities considered in subsequent iterations. Furthermore, as it will be pointed out in Theorem 3, choosing and fixing a primary path before deciding upon the required backup paths, always yields a feasible solution, whenever such a solution exists. Thus, Theorem 3 shows that Algorithm 2 always finds a feasible solution for the NDPVC, provided that there exists at least one for the given instance.

Theorem 3. *Let $P \in \mathcal{F}_{st}$ be an arbitrary (s, t) -path of length at most H_{st} for commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, i.e., a primary path for that commodity. Assume that there exists an edge $e \in P$ for which no backup path exists, i.e., there does not exist an (s, t) -path $P'[e] \subseteq E'_{st} \setminus \{e\}$ of length at most H'_{st} . Then, $\mathcal{B}_{st} = \emptyset$, i.e., the problem instance is infeasible because there does not exist another primary path, say $\hat{P} \subset E_{st}$, $|\hat{P}| \leq H_{st}$, such that there exists a backup path $\hat{P}'[e] \subset E'_{st} \setminus \{e\}$, $|\hat{P}'[e]| \leq H'_{st}$, for each $e \in \hat{P}$.*

Proof. Let $P \subset E_{st}$, $|P| \leq H_{st}$, be a primary (s, t) -path for which the necessary backup paths do not exist. Assume indirectly that there exists an alternative primary path $\hat{P} \subset E_{st}$, $|\hat{P}| \leq H_{st}$, $P \neq \hat{P}$, for which the required backup paths do exist. Let $e \in P$ be an edge such that there does not exist an (s, t) -path $P'[e] \subseteq E'_{st} \setminus \{e\}$ of length at most H'_{st} . We first observe that $e \notin \hat{P}$ immediately contradicts our assumption, since in this case \hat{P} is an (s, t) -path of length at most $H_{st} \leq H'_{st}$.

Thus, $e \in \hat{P}$. Since all required backup paths exist for \hat{P} by assumption, we know that there exists an (s, t) -path $\hat{P}'[e] \subseteq E'_{st} \setminus \{e\}$ of length at most H'_{st} . Consequently, $\hat{P}'[e]$ is also a valid backup path for edge e in path P , thus contradicting our initial assumption that such a path does not exist. \square

Algorithm 3 describes the general structure of the improvement phase, that is referred to in Line 13 of Algorithm 1. At each iteration a restricted NDPVC is solved (Line 4), that only considers a subset of commodities $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$, chosen in function `ChooseCommodities` (Lines 1 and 8), while all edges used to establish valid connections (i.e., primary and backup paths) for the remaining commodities are fixed to be included in the solution. In case a cheaper solution is identified, the incumbent solution is replaced by this new solution.

Algorithm 3: `Local_Search`(Ω^*).

input: Solution Ω^* .

```

1  $\bar{\mathcal{R}} \leftarrow \text{Choose\_Commodities}$ 
2 while  $\bar{\mathcal{R}} \neq \emptyset$  and stopping criteria not met do
3    $\hat{E} \leftarrow \Omega^* \setminus \{e \in \Omega^* \mid \Psi_e = \bar{\mathcal{R}}\}$  // fixed edges
4    $v \leftarrow \min \left\{ \sum_{e \in E \setminus \Omega^*} c_e x_e - \sum_{e \in \Omega^* \setminus \hat{E}} c_e (1 - x_e) \mid \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{F}_{st} \cap \mathcal{B}_{st}, \forall \{s, t\} \in \bar{\mathcal{R}}, \mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^{|\hat{E}|}, x_e = 1, \forall e \in \hat{E} \right\}$ 
5   if  $v < 0$  then
6     | Update_Solution  $\Omega^*$ 
7   end
8    $\bar{\mathcal{R}} \leftarrow \text{Choose\_Commodities}$ 
9 end

```

In each iteration, the restricted NDPVC is solved with the general-purpose ILP solver CPLEX. Based on the results of preliminary experiments, an appropriate (small) adaptation of formulation H_3 , originally proposed by Gouveia and Leitner [11] (see also Section 2.2.1), is used. In order to reduce the solving time of the restricted problem, we fix all variables corresponding to edges $e \in \hat{E}$ to one. In addition, and to further ensure that each iteration of Algorithm 3 is not too time consuming, we do not necessarily solve each restricted problem to optimality, but instead set a time limit of two minutes, and set CPLEX's settings prioritizing the search for feasible solutions over proving optimality (`MIP Emphasis := Feasibility`).

While the current incumbent is defined by its set of edges Ω^* in Algorithm 3, we also store and update a mapping $\Psi : \Omega^* \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{R}}$, i.e., for each edge $e \in \Omega^*$, Ψ_e is the set of commodities that use edge e for one of its paths. Together with parameter $N \in \mathbb{N}$, this mapping is used in procedure `ChooseCommodities` to identify a promising subset of commodities $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$. To this end, we solve the optimization problem $\bar{\mathcal{R}} \leftarrow \arg \max \left\{ \sum_{e \in \Omega^*} c_e \alpha_e : |\Psi_e| \alpha_e \leq \sum_{\{s, t\} \in \Psi_e} \beta^{st}, \sum_{\{s, t\} \in \bar{\mathcal{R}}} \beta^{st} \leq N, (\alpha, \beta) \in \{0, 1\}^{|\Omega^*| \times |\mathcal{R}|} \right\}$. Thereby, for each commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, variable $\beta_{st} \in \{0, 1\}$ indicates whether commodity $\{s, t\}$ will be included in set $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$, while variable $\alpha_e \in \{0, 1\}$ indicates whether edge $e \in E$ can be removed from Ω^* for a particular choice of $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$. We restrict the cardinality of set $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$ to at most N commodities and avoid to repeatedly choose the same set(s) of commodities by adding constraint $\sum_{\{s, t\} \in \bar{\mathcal{R}}'} \beta^{st} - \sum_{\{s, t\} \notin \bar{\mathcal{R}}'} \beta^{st} \leq |\bar{\mathcal{R}}'| - 1$, for every subset of commodities $\bar{\mathcal{R}}'$ chosen in previous iterations. To achieve a good balance between the size of the search space and the time needed for solving the restricted subproblem (Line 4) we initially set N to be the smallest value that may yield an improvement, i.e., $N \leftarrow \min_{e \in \Omega^*} |\Psi_e|$. Parameter N is increased to $\min_{e \in \Omega^*} \{|\Psi_e| : |\Psi_e| > N\}$ if no solution to the optimization problem solved in function `ChooseCommodities` is found, or after five consecutive non-improving iterations of Algorithm 3. Even through preliminary experiments indicated that the optimization problem solved in `ChooseCommodities` is generally solved very quickly, we still set a solving time limit of 30 seconds, and set CPLEX's `MIP Emphasis` to `Feasibility`. Algorithm 3 is terminated after at most 10 minutes or after 15 consecutive,

non-improving iterations.

Note that we could alternatively solve the restricted problems via the Benders decomposition method described in the previous section. However, since the integrality of the routing variables is not enforced in that case, solutions with fractional values for the flow variables may be obtained; this makes it complicated to identify the minimal set of edges necessary to route all paths associated with each commodity. As seen above, this identification is crucial in future iterations, in order to select a “promising” subset of commodities $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$ in the function `Choose_Commodities`. Therefore, it is important to obtain solutions with single-path routing for every path. We can only guarantee this by imposing the integrality of the routing variables, and solving the restricted problems with CPLEX’s standard branch-and-bound procedure.

4 Computational experiments

In this section, we present the results of computational experiments, conducted with the objective of: a) understanding under which configurations the branch-and-cut methods proposed in Section 2 are more efficient in solving instances of the NDPVC, b) comparing the efficiency of these branch-and-cut methods, with that of CPLEX’s standard solving methods, and of c) continuing the study initiated by Gouveia and Leitner [11], of comparing the solutions obtained by solving the NDPVC to those of the k HSDNP. The results of this tests are presented and analyzed in Sections 4.1 to 4.4, respectively.

For our experiments, we resorted to the instances proposed in [11]. These instances are divided in two classes, based on their graph topology: a first class based on grid graphs with chords, and a second one where only the cheapest edges from a randomly-generated complete graph are kept. For the sake of simplicity, we refer to these class of instances as *grid instances* and *random instances*, respectively. Each of these classes of instances is, in turn, partitioned in two subclasses: grid instances consist of subclasses C and D, which differ in the way commodities are selected; and random instances are divided in subclasses EU and RE, which differ in the way the costs of each edge are set. Tables 1a and 1b detail the most important parameters of each instance set, namely number of nodes ($|V|$), number of edges ($|E|$), number of commodities ($|\mathcal{R}|$), and set size ($\#$). For more details on the construction of these instances, we redirect the reader to [11]. Following [11], we consider uniform hop limits over all commodities in our experiments, i.e., $H = H_{st} = H_{uv}$ and $H' = H'_{st} = H'_{uv}$ for each pair of commodities $\{s, t\}$ and $\{u, v\}$. As such, we additionally present in Tables 1a and 1b the minimum, maximum and average value of H_{\min} for each set, where H_{\min} is the smallest commodity-independent hop limit that may enable a feasible solution of an instance. For each instance, we test the following cases: $H \in \{H_{\min}, H_{\min} + 1, H_{\min} + 2\}$ and $H' \in \{H, H + 1, H + 2\}$. Therefore, nine different instances are considered for each original instance yielding a total of 3150 test instances - 2070 grid instances and 1080 random instances which are available at <http://homepage.univie.ac.at/markus.leitner/research/instances/NDPVC-instances.tar.gz>.

All our experiments were performed on a single core within a cluster of computers, each consisting of 20 cores (2.3GHz). To each experiment, we set a time limit of 7200 CPU-seconds and a memory limit of 3GB. All formulations and methods were implemented in C++, using IBM ILOG CPLEX 12.7. The latter has been used in its standard settings, except when used in the initial heuristic; in those cases, we emphasize feasibility when solving the subproblems, see Section 3. Next, we provide additional implementation details of the proposed branch-and-cut algorithms.

Configuration of the branch-and-cut algorithm based on formulation H_1^L In BC1, connectivity constraints (2) and (3) are dynamically separated. Given a current assignment of (fractional) values $\bar{\mathbf{X}}$ to variables \mathbf{X} , the separation problem for inequalities (2) can be solved by solving a series of minimum cut problems in each layered graph G_L^s . For each $t \in T(s)$ a cut between node s_0 and node set $\bigcup_{h=0}^{H_{st}} t_h$ needs to be identified using arc capacities $\bar{\mathbf{X}}^s$. A similar approach works for constraints (3), by considering every $t \in T(s)$ and every potential primary edge $e \in E_s$ for each source $s \in T$. Thereby, for each such edge $e = \{i, j\} \in E_s$, the capacities of all arcs $(i_{h-1}, j_h) \in A_L^s$ are set to zero while variables values $\bar{\mathbf{X}}^s$ are used as capacities for all remaining arcs. In both cases, a violated inequality is identified whenever the value of the minimum cut is smaller than one. In our implementation, we use a push-relabel algorithm for the maximum flow problem [6] to identify minimum cuts.

In our separation algorithm, we only search for violated constraints (3) that ensure the required failure tolerance if no simple connectivity cuts (2) are violated by the current LP solution. For both types of cuts, we add a small epsilon to each flow capacity in order to favor sparse cuts (i.e. containing

Table 1: Summary of parameters for each instance set.

(a) Instance sets C and D.								(b) Instance sets EU and RE.							
Set	V	E	\mathcal{R}	#	H_{\min}			Set	V	E	\mathcal{R}	#	H_{\min}		
					min	avg	max						min	avg	max
C-1	100	342	5	20	3	4.7	7	EU-1	50	122	10	5	6	7.6	9
C-2	100	342	10	20	4	5.4	7	EU-2	50	122	45	5	7	8.6	11
C-3	400	1482	5	20	3	4.7	7	EU-3	50	245	10	5	4	4.6	6
C-4	400	1482	10	20	4	5.1	7	EU-4	50	245	45	5	4	4.8	6
C-5	400	1482	20	20	4	5.8	7	EU-5	75	277	10	5	5	5.6	6
C-6	900	3422	5	20	3	4.7	7	EU-6	75	277	45	5	6	8.6	12
C-7	900	3422	10	20	4	5.4	7	EU-7	75	555	10	5	3	4.4	6
C-8	900	3422	20	20	4	5.6	7	EU-8	75	555	45	5	4	4.6	5
C-9	900	3422	30	20	4	5.9	7	EU-9	100	495	10	5	5	5.2	6
D-1	25	72	10	10	3	3.8	4	EU-10	100	495	45	5	6	7.2	9
D-2	49	156	10	10	4	5.2	6	EU-11	100	990	10	5	3	4.0	5
D-3	100	342	10	10	7	8.2	9	EU-12	100	990	45	5	3	4.8	6
D-4	100	342	45	10	6	8.1	9	RE-1	50	122	10	5	3	4.6	6
D-5	400	1482	10	10	12	14.6	18	RE-2	50	122	45	5	4	5.2	6
								RE-3	50	245	10	5	2	2.8	3
								RE-4	50	245	45	5	3	3.0	3
								RE-5	75	277	10	5	3	3.8	4
								RE-6	75	277	45	5	4	4.2	5
								RE-7	75	555	10	5	2	2.6	3
								RE-8	75	555	45	5	2	2.8	3
								RE-9	100	495	10	5	3	3.6	5
								RE-10	100	495	45	5	4	4.0	4
								RE-11	100	990	10	5	2	2.0	2
								RE-12	100	990	45	5	3	3.0	3

a small number of variables). Additionally, we try to identify for each source, cuts whose associated incidence vectors are orthogonal to each other; thereby, the capacities of all arcs that are contained in a cut (for this source) already added in the current iteration of the cutting-plane loop are set to one.

To keep the number of added constraints at an acceptable level, we only add constraints (2) and (3) if they are violated by a value of more than 0.1. Finally, for each source, in our separation routine we only consider inequalities (3) for edges such that the sum of the current LP-relaxation values of their corresponding arcs on the first H layers is at least 0.1, i.e., only those that are likely to be used “significantly” within primary paths in the current solution.

Finally, we also consider variant BC1_I, in which the model is initialized through additional constraints (29)–(31) in order to potentially decrease the number of separated cutset constraints (2) and (3) and/or iterations of the cutting plane loop. In addition, these constraints may help the solver to identify general-purpose cuts.

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H_{st}} \sum_{(i_{h-1}, t_h) \in \delta^-(t_h)} X_{it}^{sh} \geq 1 \quad s \in T, t \in T(s) \quad (29)$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{H'_{st}} \sum_{(i_{h-1}, t_h) \in \delta^-(t_h)} X_{it}^{sh} \geq 2 \quad s \in T, t \in T(s) \quad (30)$$

$$\sum_{(i_{h-1}, j_h) \in \delta^-(j_h): i \neq k} X_{ij}^{sh} \geq X_{jk}^{sh} \quad s \in S, (j_{h-1}, k_h) \in \tilde{A}_L, h \geq 2 \quad (31)$$

Constraints (29) and (30) are indegree constraints for terminals, while (31) are a well-known set of

compact connectivity constraints for layered graph formulations.

Configuration of the Benders decomposition methods based on formulations H_2^{AS} and H_3
 In BC2 and BC3, we resort to the built-in Benders decomposition method of CPLEX 12.7. This new feature enables one to simply provide the ILP formulation to the solver and let CPLEX automatically recognize a decomposition. In our work, we use a second variant of this new feature, in which we also define the Benders master and subproblems by indicating which variables should stay in the Benders master problem (i.e., the edge design variables \mathbf{x}) and which should be in which subproblem (i.e., we define one subproblem for each commodity $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$). This second variant seems better in our case as (i) we already know which decomposition we want to use, and (ii) automatically detecting a decomposition turned out to be too time consuming (compared to explicitly specifying the decomposition) and hence led to a worse overall performance in preliminary experiments.

This new feature of CPLEX works in a black box manner, thus limiting the extent to which the user can include problem-specific acceleration techniques. In the previous section, we have discussed one such technique, a primal heuristic, whose impact is evaluated in Section 4.1. In addition, we also implemented a cut loop that is executed before applying a Benders approach in order to quickly increase the dual bound (which is otherwise equal to zero at the beginning of the Benders approaches) at the root node of the branch-and-cut tree.

In this cut loop, we begin by dynamically separating the connectivity cuts $\sum_{e \in \delta(W) \cap E_{st}} x_e \geq 1$, $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}$, $W \subset V : s \in W, t \notin W$. In order to identify the most violated cuts, we solve a series of minimum cut problems, where the arc capacities are set to the incumbent value of the design variable x linked to the associated edge; in the first iteration, this value is zero for all edges. If no more violated inequalities of this type exist, we separate in a similar way, the following cuts, that ensure connectivity between the source and target node of each commodity, after the failure of any edge that can potentially belong to the primary path: $\sum_{e \in \delta(W) \cap E'_{st} \setminus e'} x_e \geq 1$, $\{s, t\} \in \mathcal{R}, e' \in E_{st}, W \subset V : s \in W, t \notin W$. For each such edge, the capacities of the two arcs associated with that edge are set to zero in the corresponding minimum cut problem. Additional details on the algorithm used to solve the minimum cut problems, and on the techniques used to make this cut loop efficient are presented above, in the description of the configuration of BC1. Our preliminary experiments in which we added these cuts *a priori* showed, however, that doing so does not particularly improve the efficiency of the proposed branch-and-cut methods. On the contrary, we observed that for many instances, even though the bound originally reported by CPLEX after processing the root node could be improved by adding the generated cuts, the overall run time of the new branch-and-cut method (minus the run time of the cut loop) was actually longer than before. Thus, the results discussed in the following are obtained from experiments without using this cut loop.

4.1 Heuristic solution quality

In this section, we analyze the performance of the matheuristic proposed in Section 3. Table 2 provides a first overview of its performance, with separate focus given to each phase in it: the construction or greedy phase (represented by the superscript g) and the full heuristic (indicated by the superscript g+ls). Besides reporting average run times, we also present average gaps between the cost of the best-known solution (UB^*) and that of the solution obtained at the end of each phase (UB_{avg}^g and UB_{avg}^{g+ls} for the greedy phase and the full algorithm, respectively), i.e., for each instance we have $gap^g = \frac{UB_{\text{avg}}^g - UB^*}{UB_{\text{avg}}^g}$ and $gap^{g+ls} = \frac{UB_{\text{avg}}^{g+ls} - UB^*}{UB_{\text{avg}}^{g+ls}}$, while gap_{avg}^g and gap_{avg}^{g+ls} are the averages over the corresponding subsets of instances. These numbers are grouped by instance subset in Table 2. Additional insights can be obtained from Table 4 in Appendix A, where the same data is grouped by considered hop limits.

We first observe that the greedy heuristic is extremely fast (at most two seconds) in finding feasible solutions, which are on average 20% and 16% more expensive than the best solution known for grid and random instances, respectively. One additional advantage that immediately results from Theorem 3 is that the greedy heuristic provides an efficient way to determine whether an instance is feasible or not.

The results in Table 2 clearly indicate that the second phase (i.e., local search) of the proposed matheuristic is typically able to significantly improve the solution constructed by the greedy heuristic. This effect seems to be more pronounced on grid instances for which the final gap to the overall best-known solution is comparably small (4% on average); for the random instances, it is slightly larger (9%

Table 2: Average running times (t_{avg}^g and $t_{\text{avg}}^{g+\text{ls}}$) in seconds and gaps to the best-known solution (gap_{avg}^g and $gap_{\text{avg}}^{g+\text{ls}}$) in percent, for the greedy heuristic (g) and the greedy heuristic with subsequent local search (g+ls).

(a) Instance sets C and D					(b) Instance sets EU and RE.				
Set	t_{avg}^g	$t_{\text{avg}}^{g+\text{ls}}$	gap_{avg}^g	$gap_{\text{avg}}^{g+\text{ls}}$	Set	t_{avg}^g	$t_{\text{avg}}^{g+\text{ls}}$	gap_{avg}^g	$gap_{\text{avg}}^{g+\text{ls}}$
C-1	0	204	19	1	EU-1	0	329	10	4
C-2	0	403	21	6	EU-2	0	226	7	6
C-3	0	129	21	1	EU-3	0	300	15	8
C-4	0	211	19	3	EU-4	0	263	17	13
C-5	0	441	21	5	EU-5	0	310	13	7
C-6	0	90	19	0	EU-6	1	487	13	8
C-7	0	249	22	2	EU-7	0	379	18	10
C-8	1	360	22	4	EU-8	1	375	17	11
C-9	1	469	19	4	EU-9	0	388	13	7
D-1	0	58	13	3	EU-10	1	483	11	6
D-2	0	240	16	3	EU-11	0	437	12	5
D-3	0	518	17	8	EU-12	1	519	12	6
D-4	1	351	24	13	RE-1	0	190	18	6
D-5	2	647	18	10	RE-2	0	150	15	11
Avg	0	301	20	4	RE-3	0	171	16	5
					RE-4	0	168	25	17
					RE-5	0	258	18	6
					RE-6	0	152	20	12
					RE-7	0	274	17	6
					RE-8	0	233	27	15
					RE-9	0	289	20	7
					RE-10	1	271	19	10
					RE-11	0	206	20	7
					RE-12	1	346	23	12
					Avg	0	300	16	9

on average). Finally, the average running time of five minutes for both classes of instances suggests that the termination criteria most often met by the heuristic is the limit on iterations without improvement.

We also observe that the solution quality obtained by the greedy heuristic seems to decrease when the number of commodities increases. This can be observed clearly for instances of test set RE (the odd-index instances have 10 commodities, the even-index instances have 45 commodities). In addition, it seems that when considering instances with many commodities, the developed local search also fails to improve the initial solutions as much as for cases with comparably few commodities. For example, for instances of test set RE with 10 commodities the average gap_{avg}^g is 18% and the value of $\frac{gap_{\text{avg}}^{g+ls}}{gap_{\text{avg}}^g}$ is 34%; for instances of test set RE with 45 commodities these values are 22% and 60%, respectively.

The strong impact of the number of commodities on the performance of our matheuristic is not surprising, given the structure of both its phases. In contrast to this, we do not observe a strong relation between the performance of the heuristics and the instance’s topology, neither in terms of network size nor sparsity. Recall that the run time of the resource-constrained shortest path algorithm used in the greedy phase depends linearly on both the number of nodes and edges, i.e., $\mathcal{O}(|V||E|)$. Independent of these parameters, its run time is, however, negligible for the considered instances. A larger impact on the run time of the local search phase might be expected since larger or denser network could increase the difficulty of solving the restricted NDPVCs. However, the reported results indicate that this does not seem to be the case for our instances.

While, the overall solution quality achieved by the propose primal heuristic seems quite acceptable on average (in particular given the relatively simple design of the heuristic) the obtained results also suggest several ideas for further performance improvements: (i) increasing the number of iterations associated with the first phase, benefiting from its negligible run time, in order to explore other solution neighborhoods; (ii) improving the selection of commodities to be resolved in each iteration of the second phase (method `Choose_Commodities` in Algorithm 3), and (iii) increasing the number of possible iterations of the second phase without improvement, taking in mind that the reported average run time of the heuristic is only half the imposed time limit.

4.2 Influence of primal heuristic and initialization constraints

In this section, we aim to identify the best-performing variants of each proposed branch-and-cut method. Thus, we will study (i) the effect the initialization constraints (29)–(31) on BC1 and (ii) the influence of providing an initial solution to each of the branch-and-cut methods by the matheuristic from Section 3. In addition, we will also analyze whether further improvements of this initial heuristic would significantly improve the performance of our branch-and-cut methods.

To distinguish the different configurations of our methods, we use the following notation: BCx indicates the basic branch-and-cut method based on the formulation using CHx , $x \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, while BCx^H is the variant of BCx in which the solution obtained by the matheuristic is provided to the solver as initial solution. Finally, BCx^* refers to a variant of BCx in which the overall best-known solution is given as initial solution to CPLEX. Naturally, the latter is not a valid method to solve the NDPVC. As mentioned above, it serves, however, as a benchmark that provides insights on the performance of a branch-and-cut method when initialized with an almost-perfect initial heuristic. Finally, for BC1 we also consider variant $BC1_I$ in which constraints (29)–(31) are initially added to the model.

Obtained results are summarized by Figures 2 to 5 while more detailed numerical results are also given in Tables 5 to 8, see Appendix A. Thereby, Figures 2 and 4 depict cumulative numbers of instances of grid and random instances, respectively, solved within a certain CPU time for the considered branch-and-cut variants. Similarly, Figures 3 and 5 show cumulative numbers of instances whose optimality gap (gap_{opt}), is within a certain value. This gap is computed as $gap_{\text{opt}} = \frac{UB-LB}{UB}$, where UB and LB are, respectively, the best lower and upper bound obtained by the corresponding method for the particular instance. In order to keep the results consistent, we assign a run time of 7200 seconds to instances that exceeded the time limit, and an optimality gap of 100% to instances for which no feasible solution could be identified within the given time limit. Additionally, we assign both a run time of 7200 seconds and an optimality gap of 100% to instances that exceeded the memory limit, before CPLEX finishes preprocessing the model and starts the solving procedure.

Figures 2a and 4a reveal that including initialization constraints (29)–(31), i.e., considering $BC1_I$, significantly reduces the running times of BC1, without compromising the observed optimality gaps (see

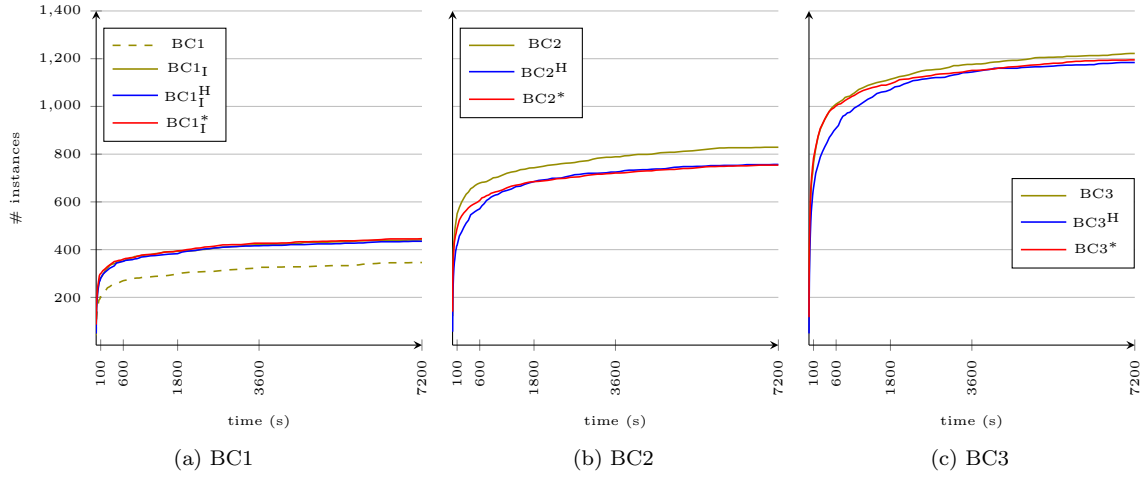


Figure 2: Cumulative numbers of instances of test sets C and D, solved within a certain CPU time. Results are grouped in subfigures according to the branch-and-cut methods (BC_x). Results are also shown for variants initialized by the solution from the matheuristic (BC_x^H), or with the best known solution (BC_x^*). For the BC1, the impact of using initialization constraints (29)–(31) is also shown ($BC1_I$).

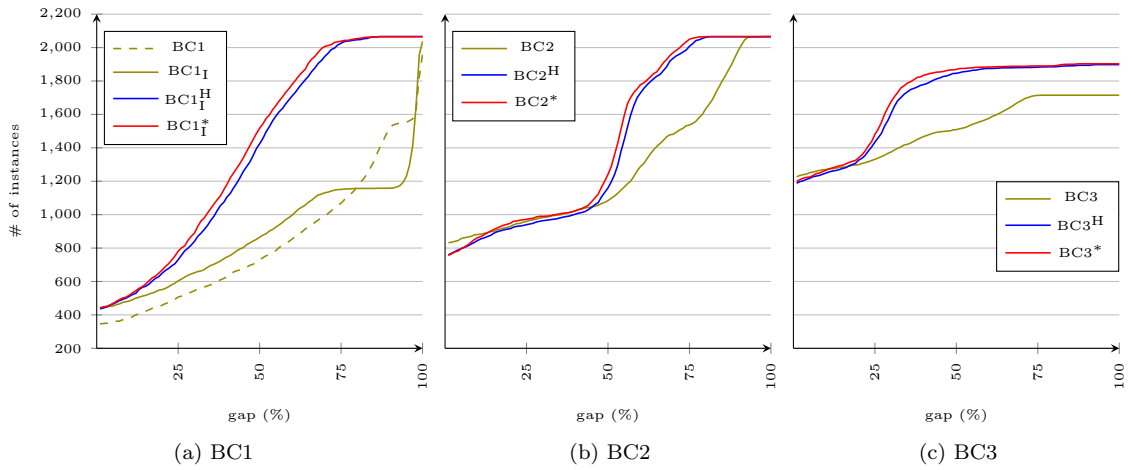


Figure 3: Cumulative numbers of instances of test sets C and D, for which the remaining optimality gap is within a certain value. Results are grouped in subfigures according to the branch-and-cut methods (BC_x). Results are also shown for variants initialized by the solution from the matheuristic (BC_x^H), or with the best known solution (BC_x^*). For the BC1, the impact of using initialization constraints (29)–(31) is also shown ($BC1_I$).

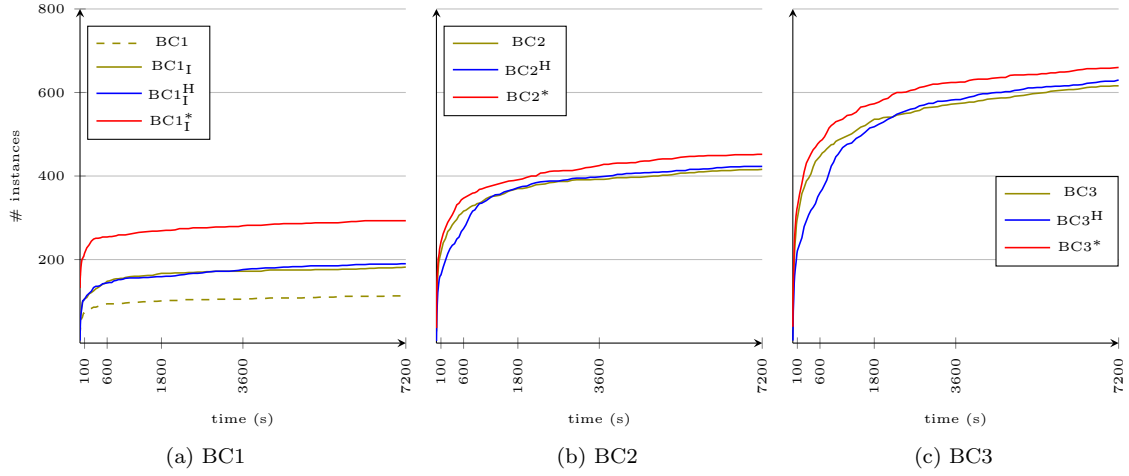


Figure 4: Cumulative numbers of instances of test sets EU and RE, solved within a certain CPU time. Results are grouped in subfigures according to the branch-and-cut methods (BC_x). Results are also shown for variants initialized by the solution from the matheuristic (BC_x^H), or with the best known solution (BC_x^*). For the BC1, the impact of using initialization constraints (29)–(31) is also shown ($BC1_I$).

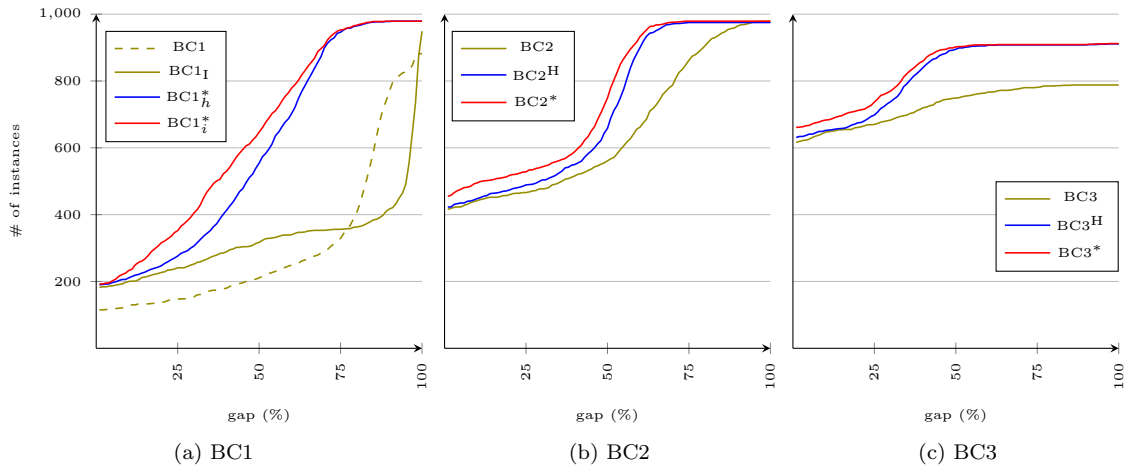


Figure 5: Cumulative numbers of instances of test sets EU and RE, for which the remaining optimality gap is within a certain value. Results are grouped in subfigures according to the branch-and-cut methods (BC_x). Results are also shown for variants initialized by the solution from the matheuristic (BC_x^H), or with the best known solution (BC_x^*). For the BC1, the impact of using initialization constraints (29)–(31) is also shown ($BC1_I$).

Figures 3a and 5a, as well as Tables 5 and 7). Concerning the variants of BC1, we will therefore focus our further analysis on BC1_I.

Figures 2 to 5 show that the impact of using a primal heuristic is similar for all three branch-and-cut methods. For grid instances, we observe from Figure 2 that providing an initial solution (even an almost-perfect one as in variants BC x^*) does not seem to improve the efficiency of the branch-and-cut algorithms. In fact, for these instances, we can observe that in its basic configuration, BC1_I has a performance similar to BC1_I^H, whereas BC2 and BC3 even perform better than BC2^H and BC3^H, respectively. One could be tempted to believe that the running time of the primal heuristic is the bottleneck here; however, the similar results obtained for BC x^* confirm that this is not case. Instead, we postulate that for some instances in sets C and D, providing CPLEX with a feasible solution - however good it might be - impacts negatively the node selection of the branch-and-bound tree.

The benefits of a primal heuristic become nevertheless clear when analyzing the optimality gaps depicted in Figures 3 and 5: when a good initial feasible solution is provided, the optimality gaps at the end of the run tend to be substantially lower. This suggests that CPLEX's built-in heuristics are not particularly effective in creating good feasible solutions for the NDPVC. We also observed that for more difficult instances, they even often struggle to find a single solution.

Finally, we conclude that for grid instances, BC1_I^H, BC2^H, and BC3^H have similar performances than their counterparts, BC1_I^{*}, BC2^{*}, and BC3^{*} respectively, both in terms of run times and optimality gaps. This suggests that for these type of instances, our proposed primal heuristic performs sufficiently good (for the use of providing an initial solution for a branch-and-cut procedure), since the final performance is almost identical to the one that can be observed when passing an overall best-known solution (which is in fact an optimal solution in many cases) to the branch-and-cut algorithm.

For instances of test sets EU and RE, providing an extremely good primal solution to CPLEX also has a positive impact to the run time: Methods BC x^* , $x \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, are overall faster in solving random instances to optimality; BC x^H and BC x present comparable run times, but BC x^H performs better with respect to the remaining optimality gaps. These results suggest that for random instances, the performance of the branch-and-cut methods may be further improved through the development of a better heuristic. To this end, we note, however, that in contrast to BC x^H , variants BC x^* also benefit from the fact that they do not devote a portion of the run time to computing the initial solution.

4.3 Comparison to the state of the art

In this section, we compare the performance of the proposed branch-and-cut methods to the performance of CPLEX's standard solving methods implementing the ILP formulations proposed by Gouveia and Leitner [11]. For this comparison, we consider only the best-performing branch-and-cut method for each characterization (i.e., BC1_I^H, BC2^H, and BC3^H), as well as H₂^{AS} and H₃, for which the best performance is reported in [11]. Figures 6 and 7 report numbers of solved instances within a given time and numbers of instances with a final optimality gap below some threshold for grid and random instances, respectively.

First and foremost, we observe that the branch-and-cut methods BC2^H and BC3^H perform significantly better than their respective counterparts, H₂^{AS} and H₃, both in terms of number of instances solved to optimality (Figure 6) and optimality gaps (Figure 7). Furthermore, on the considered benchmark instances, BC3^H clearly outperforms all other methods in terms of its ability to solve instances to proven optimality. In the time limit of two hours, BC3^H is able to solve 1188 of the 2070 grid instances, more than 50% more instances than those solved by the second- and third-fastest methods, H₃ and BC2^H respectively. From the more detailed results given in Tables 9 to 12 (see Appendix A), we observe that for two sets of grid instances, D-1 and D-2, BC3^H solves every instance in the time limit; for three other sets, C-1, C-3 and C-6 it finishes with an optimality gap of at most 2%. For random instances, this difference in efficiency is also substantial, with BC3^H solving almost 40% more instances than the second-fastest method, BC2^H. For five sets of random instances, EU-1, EU-3, RE-1, RE-3 and RE-5, BC3^H is able to solve every instance within the time limit; for another six, EU-2, EU-5, RE-2, RE-7, RE-9 and RE-11 it terminates with a gap of at most 2%.

As for BC2^H, even though it has a comparable efficiency to that of H₃ in solving grid instances, it clearly dominates the latter when it comes to solving random instances. We also observe that the performance of BC1_I^H is significantly worse than that of BC3^H (or BC2^H) in the sense that it solves fewer grid and random instances. Still, we note that in Figure 7 more instances are reported having optimality gaps under 100% for BC1_I^H (as well as for BC2^H), than for BC3^H; as these methods all use the same

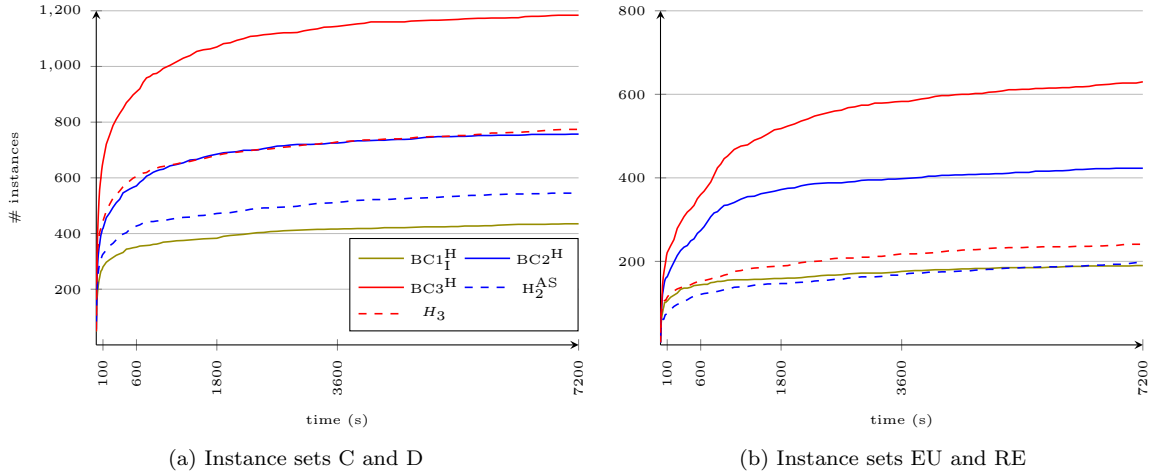


Figure 6: Cumulative numbers of instances solved within a certain CPU time, when solved by the branch-and-cut methods and by CPLEX’s standard solving methods.

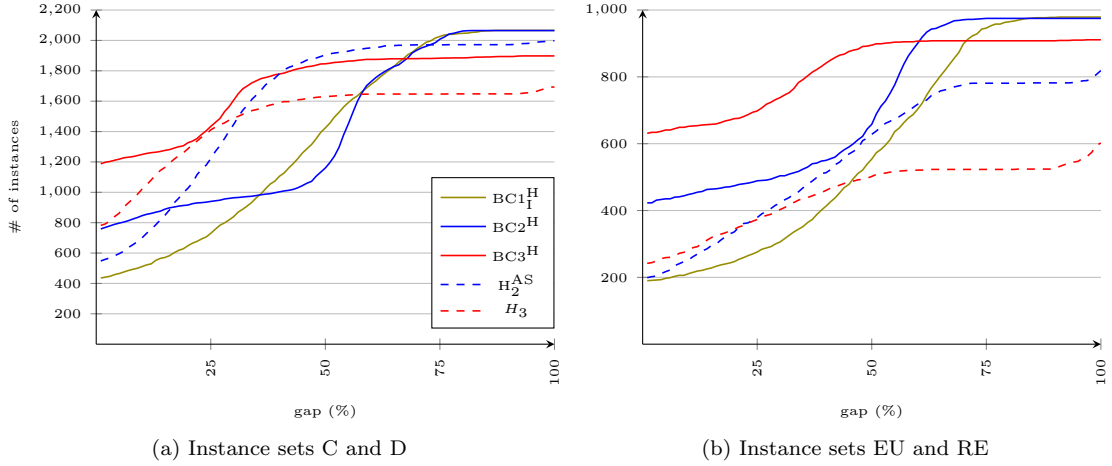


Figure 7: Cumulative numbers of instances for which the remaining optimality gap is within a certain value, when solved by the branch-and-cut methods and by CPLEX’s standard solving methods.

primal heuristic, this suggests that the latter might be more likely to surpass the memory limit than its slower counterparts. Finally, consider Tables 10 and 12 that report the results grouped by (H, H') . These results highlight a clear trend: the NDPVC tends to become harder with the increase of $\Delta_{H'}$.

4.4 Comparison to the k HNSNDP

To achieve the final goal of our computationally study, we compare the solutions of the NDPVC, to those obtained by solving the related k HNSNDP. This study has already been started in [11]. However, the comparably-poor performance of the developed methods prevented the authors from drawing conclusions for most of the instances. The superior methods in the present article allow us to extend their study and to provide additional, conclusive results for 811 grid instances and 405 random instances. Results are summarized in Tables 3a and 3b, grouped by test set, and in Tables 13a and 13b (see Appendix A), grouped by $(H, H') = (H_{\min} + \Delta_H, H_{\min} + \Delta_H + \Delta_{H'})$. We note that conclusions are drawn using the combination of the results from [11] and the new ones obtained through the approaches proposed in the present paper.

Table 3: Overall number of cases in which solution to NDPVC is provably better (bt) and provably equal (eq) compared to the k HNSDP, and number of cases where k HNSDP is provably infeasible and NDPVC feasible (feas). Remaining cases could not be decided.

(a) Instance sets C and D.					(b) Instance sets EU and RE.				
Set	#	bt	feas	eq	Set	#	bt	feas	eq
C-1	180	56	0	124	EU-1	45	7	0	38
C-2	180	44	0	125	EU-2	45	15	0	30
C-3	180	26	0	151	EU-3	45	24	0	21
C-4	180	56	0	122	EU-4	45	15	0	5
C-5	180	41	0	83	EU-5	45	22	0	21
C-6	180	24	0	155	EU-6	45	10	1	4
C-7	180	36	0	134	EU-7	45	12	0	23
C-8	180	39	0	124	EU-8	45	7	0	4
C-9	180	21	0	85	EU-9	45	21	0	17
D-1	90	44	0	46	EU-10	45	3	0	5
D-2	90	58	0	32	EU-11	45	12	0	12
D-3	90	59	0	28	EU-12	45	3	0	4
D-4	90	37	0	3	RE-1	45	9	0	36
D-5	90	33	0	22	RE-2	45	23	0	13
Total	2070	574	0	1234	RE-3	45	7	0	38
					RE-4	45	7	0	11
					RE-5	45	10	0	35
					RE-6	45	7	0	10
					RE-7	45	8	0	34
					RE-8	45	5	0	9
					RE-9	45	7	0	35
					RE-10	45	6	0	6
					RE-11	45	4	0	40
					RE-12	45	5	0	5
					Total	1080	249	1	456

From Table 3a, we observe that the optimal solution of the NDPVC is cheaper than the one of the k HNSDP in at least almost 27% of the considered grid instances and equally expensive in at least 60% of the cases. For the remaining grid instances (11% of instances of set C and 20% of set D) our results do not allow to draw conclusions. On instance set C, the likelihood that a cheaper solution can be obtained by solving the NDPVC seems to increase with $\Delta_{H'}$. The difference between the NDPVC and the k HNSDP also seems to be pronounced when more dependencies between the commodities are present (i.e., on instance set D). Here, the solution of the NDPVC is cheaper for 231 instances and of equal cost for 131 instances (88 cases remain undecided).

For random instances, the relative proportion of instances whose NDPVC is cheaper seems to be slightly lower than for grid instances. Here, the NDPVC solutions of at least 23% of these instances are cheaper than those of k HNSDP and of equal costs for at least 42%. The results also identify one instance from test set D, for which the NDPVC is feasible and the k HNSDP is infeasible.

Finally, when comparing these results with those presented by Gouveia and Leitner [11], we see that the main gain that we obtain by using the newly proposed branch-and-cut algorithms, is in the identification of many more instances for which the optimal cost is the same for both problems. In particular, the number of such instances now reported is 133% higher than in [11]; in contrast, the relative gain in the number of instances proved to have a smaller optimal cost for the NDPVC is “only” of 44%. This is however not surprising. In fact, in order to prove that an instance has an optimal cost for the NDPVC that is lower than the optimal cost of the corresponding k HNSDP, it is sufficient to find a feasible solution of NDPVC for which this is true, whereas to prove the converse, one must be sure that the solution obtained for the NDPVC (with optimal cost equal to that of the related k HNSDP) is optimal. Therefore, since by using the branch-and-cut algorithms we are now able to solve more instances to optimality, it is natural that we are able to conclude the latter for many more instances than in [11].

5 Conclusions

The Network Design Problem with Vulnerability Constraints (NDPVC), proposed by Gouveia and Leitner [11] simultaneously addresses two fundamental criteria in the design of telecommunication networks: survivability and quality of service. Survivability is safeguarded by ensuring that any two points in the network can still communicate after the failure of a reasonable amount of technical equipment, e.g., links. Quality of service, on the other hand, is closely related to the number of links each communication packet must traverse, on the path from its origin to its destination. As such, in the NDPVC, one must design networks with a guaranteed maximum hop distance between each commodity pair, before and after the failure of a given number of links. The motivation for this problem is that is far less conservative than the well-known k HNSDP, which addresses the same two criteria, but often leads to more costly solutions and sometimes even fails to provide feasible ones. In fact, Gouveia and Leitner [11] show that for any feasible instance of the NDPVC, either the cost of its optimal solution does not exceed that of the related k HNSDP, or the related k HNSDP is infeasible. The authors also propose several ILP formulations for the NDPVC with one link failure ($k = 2$), based on three graph-theoretical characterizations of feasible backup systems. However, when used in combination with the standard solving methods of general-purpose ILP solvers, e.g., CPLEX, these formulations fail to solve to optimality the majority of the benchmarking instances. Consequently, for almost 60% of the instances, no optimal solution can be achieved.

In this paper, we propose branch-and-cut methods, based on decompositions of formulations inspired by the characterizations in [11]. The first method is a cutting plane algorithm for a new layered graph formulation. The other two methods are motivated by new theoretical results that show that the two best-performing formulations in [11] are still valid when relaxing the integrality of the flow variables, thus allowing them to be combined with Benders decomposition methods. In order to provide these methods with good initial feasible solutions, a primal heuristic is also proposed and tested.

The results of our computational experiments show that, whereas the cutting plane method based on the layered graph formulation does not perform particularly well, the Benders decomposition methods are significantly more efficient in solving the NDPVC than the methods used in [11]. Notably, the best performing Benders decomposition method solved, in the time limit of two hours, 71% more instances than the best-performing ILP formulation from [11].

Consequently, we are able to increase, by 39% of the total number of instances tested, the comparison

proposed in [11], between the NDPVC and the k HNSNDP. These new results indicate that for (at least) about one in four instances, the optimal solution of the NDPVC is cheaper than that of k HNSNDP, and only rarely is the NDPVC feasible and the latter infeasible.

Our results also indicate that the solution quality obtained from the proposed matheuristic is good enough when used to initialize an exact method by means of a valid primal bound. Results also show, however, that the optimality gap of these solution is not negligible, thus indicating that the design of more effective, stand-alone, metaheuristics could be a topic worth investigating in future research. In addition, it might be relevant to identify and exploit (in integer programming formulations) solution characterizations that address the case of more than one link failure. To this end, we observe that the first and straightforward characterization from Gouveia and Leitner [11] is easy to extend in that manner, while this does not seem to be the case for the other two characterizations.

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A Further results of computational experiments

Table 4: Average running times (t_{avg}^g and t_{avg}^{g+ls}) in seconds and gaps to the best known solution (gap_{avg}^g and gap_{avg}^{g+ls}) in percent for the greedy heuristic (g) and the greedy heuristic with subsequent local search (g+ls). Results are grouped by $(H, H') = (H_{\min} + \Delta_H, H_{\min} + \Delta_H + \Delta_{H'})$.

(a) Instance sets C and D.						(b) Instance sets EU and RE.					
Set	$(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	t_{avg}^g	t_{avg}^{g+ls}	gap_{avg}^g	gap_{avg}^{g+ls}	Set	$(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	t_{avg}^g	t_{avg}^{g+ls}	gap_{avg}^g	gap_{avg}^{g+ls}
C	(0,0)	0	70	19	2	EU	(0,0)	0	53	8	5
	(0,1)	0	220	19	2		(0,1)	0	313	16	9
	(0,2)	0	390	21	4		(0,2)	0	569	12	7
	(1,0)	0	117	20	2		(1,0)	0	131	16	8
	(1,1)	0	279	20	3		(1,1)	0	429	13	7
	(1,2)	0	451	21	4		(1,2)	1	570	10	7
	(2,0)	0	181	20	2		(2,0)	0	204	19	9
	(2,1)	0	355	22	4		(2,1)	0	506	13	9
	(2,2)	1	495	22	5		(2,2)	1	596	10	7
	D	(0,0)	1	211	21		8	RE	(0,0)	0	12
(0,1)		1	381	22	9	(0,1)	0		108	22	9
(0,2)		1	461	19	8	(0,2)	0		328	18	9
(1,0)		1	211	17	6	(1,0)	0		17	22	12
(1,1)		1	348	16	6	(1,1)	0		212	20	8
(1,2)		1	473	15	7	(1,2)	0		475	17	9
(2,0)		1	250	17	7	(2,0)	0		38	26	13
(2,1)		1	400	17	7	(2,1)	0		293	22	11
(2,2)		1	522	16	7	(2,2)	0		547	18	11
Avg			0	301	20	4	Avg			0	300

Table 5: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of branch-and-cut algorithms BCx , $x \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and their variants using the primal heuristic (BCx^H) for instances of test sets C and D. For BC1, we also list results of variants with additional initialization constraints ($BC1_I$, $BC1_I^H$).

Set	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$							t_{avg}							gap_{opt}						
		BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H
C-1	180	60	73	74	136	129	175	174	5128	4453	4438	2171	2491	522	743	38	35	20	12	14	1	1
C-2	180	16	20	19	65	52	121	114	6624	6476	6494	4962	5363	2854	3145	64	66	39	35	35	11	10
C-3	180	68	77	76	131	116	165	161	4732	4281	4309	2362	2824	916	1148	34	30	18	15	15	4	2
C-4	180	17	28	24	51	39	120	112	6563	6253	6357	5436	5748	2746	2982	57	53	32	38	35	12	10
C-5	180	1	3	3	8	8	39	38	7160	7097	7088	6889	6907	5756	5829	81	80	48	70	53	48	25
C-6	180	62	77	73	125	117	164	159	4931	4268	4399	2512	2884	845	1047	32	26	17	12	10	3	2
C-7	180	15	22	20	45	34	108	99	6647	6461	6529	5481	5972	3240	3516	59	54	34	40	32	18	9
C-8	180	6	10	9	15	12	60	57	7035	6815	6850	6677	6757	4951	5108	75	73	42	67	52	43	24
C-9	180	1	4	3	7	7	21	22	7160	7069	7095	6929	6961	6465	6370	87	85	50	80	59	67	54
D-1	90	66	78	79	90	90	90	90	2167	1326	1266	9	64	6	64	10	4	3	0	0	0	0
D-2	90	32	45	49	84	85	90	90	4899	4000	3799	683	883	144	363	40	34	17	3	2	0	0
D-3	90	5	7	9	45	42	50	49	6928	6709	6617	3915	4222	4057	4211	76	83	45	27	25	35	16
D-4	90	0	0	0	28	27	22	22	7200	7200	7200	5360	5401	6087	6093	97	96	60	38	32	70	40
D-5	90	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	7120	7120	7120	6989	7023	7120	7120	98	98	65	76	62	99	90
Ttl/Avg	2070	350	445	439	833	761	1226	1188	5941	5590	5576	4108	4310	3313	3446	61	59	36	35	29	32	22

Table 6: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of branch-and-cut algorithms BCx , $x \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and their variants using the primal heuristic (BCx^H) for instances of test sets C and D, grouped by $(H, H') = (H_{\min} + \Delta_H, H_{\min} + \Delta_H + \Delta_{H'})$. For BC1, we also list results of variants with additional initialization constraints ($BC1_I, BC1_I^H$).

Set	$(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$							t_{avg}							gap_{opt}						
			BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H
C	(0,0)	180	85	96	94	131	120	151	150	4038	3489	3582	2127	2606	1272	1324	23	17	10	16	13	7	4
	(0,1)	180	45	57	55	88	77	120	115	5630	5085	5135	3883	4305	2687	2927	47	39	24	28	26	17	13
	(0,2)	180	15	23	21	65	51	89	74	6565	6383	6434	4839	5348	4250	4509	66	63	39	40	37	30	20
	(1,0)	180	50	58	55	92	85	141	140	5390	4975	5080	3697	3923	1726	1794	39	36	21	27	22	10	5
	(1,1)	180	15	23	21	62	51	107	101	6661	6379	6426	5004	5341	3283	3519	63	60	36	41	35	23	15
	(1,2)	180	4	8	8	41	33	68	66	6773	6914	6928	5801	6159	4951	4815	75	79	48	52	44	42	24
	(2,0)	180	25	34	32	65	62	136	134	6332	6044	6093	4864	4967	2026	2066	52	49	26	40	31	14	9
	(2,1)	180	7	12	13	27	24	93	90	6952	6783	6732	6387	6405	3750	3933	72	73	41	58	45	27	17
	(2,2)	180	0	3	2	12	11	68	66	6800	7120	7149	6816	6853	5191	5001	79	87	52	67	53	48	28
D	(0,0)	50	25	25	26	41	41	40	38	3032	3610	3587	1434	1614	2734	2115	35	44	23	12	10	29	15
	(0,1)	50	13	18	18	27	24	29	29	4209	4685	4731	3556	3904	4665	3500	48	57	38	31	25	54	26
	(0,2)	50	5	14	15	22	22	22	23	4716	5741	5558	4193	4382	6051	4293	50	68	48	38	31	77	34
	(1,0)	50	19	20	21	37	37	35	34	4117	4404	4342	2026	2059	3133	2636	40	51	24	16	14	34	18
	(1,1)	50	10	15	15	24	24	26	26	4471	5267	5180	3854	4007	5166	3833	46	65	40	34	27	63	28
	(1,2)	50	4	5	6	20	20	22	22	4784	6507	6475	4450	4565	6034	4289	53	77	52	40	35	80	41
	(2,0)	50	17	18	18	37	37	34	34	4281	4740	4704	2336	2270	3528	3051	44	57	25	15	13	39	20
	(2,1)	50	8	12	14	24	23	23	24	4665	5824	5548	3965	4091	5572	3995	47	68	39	33	28	71	35
	(2,2)	50	3	4	5	18	19	22	22	4451	6661	6677	4707	4777	6704	4421	45	80	53	41	34	90	44
Ttl/Avg	2070	350	445	439	833	761	1226	1188	5941	5590	5576	4108	4310	3313	3446	61	59	36	35	29	32	22	

Table 7: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of branch-and-cut algorithms BCx , $x \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and their variants using the primal heuristic (BCx^H) for instances of test sets EU and RE. For BC1, we also list results of variants with additional initialization constraints ($BC1_I$, $BC1_I^H$).

Set	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$							t_{avg}							gap_{opt}						
		BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H
EU-1	45	17	22	22	45	45	45	45	4538	4073	4115	49	384	110	426	28	25	18	0	0	0	0
EU-2	45	21	21	21	42	42	40	42	3859	3842	3840	731	989	1599	1615	44	41	24	1	1	4	1
EU-3	45	12	14	14	34	32	44	45	5330	5059	5049	2408	2794	470	622	48	49	29	9	9	0	0
EU-4	45	4	4	4	13	13	21	23	6560	6560	6560	5589	5487	4383	4301	79	85	51	37	32	24	14
EU-5	45	14	17	18	26	28	41	42	5068	4676	4653	3167	3069	1315	1438	48	48	29	18	16	2	1
EU-6	45	4	4	4	11	9	10	11	6643	6563	6565	5838	5872	5759	5740	85	86	57	39	38	67	42
EU-7	45	4	5	6	14	15	32	31	6629	6410	6380	5207	5288	2894	3009	71	75	43	36	36	21	10
EU-8	45	1	1	1	6	6	15	14	7040	7040	7040	6332	6364	5211	5243	87	93	58	57	42	57	34
EU-9	45	8	8	9	20	20	36	37	5929	5924	5900	4205	4195	2227	2219	64	66	38	30	29	10	4
EU-10	45	4	4	4	6	6	9	9	6595	6561	6560	6289	6291	6028	5987	88	89	60	53	42	76	57
EU-11	45	5	7	7	12	13	23	23	6403	6097	6090	5397	5321	4074	4168	73	77	47	47	35	39	19
EU-12	45	3	3	3	5	5	9	7	6739	6725	6720	6517	6430	6050	6171	87	91	65	71	52	75	63
RE-1	45	19	26	24	45	45	45	45	4521	3275	3432	129	396	64	247	33	21	14	0	0	0	0
RE-2	45	6	12	11	26	26	38	40	6245	5593	5621	3618	3734	1969	1819	65	56	31	11	7	2	2
RE-3	45	20	24	27	41	40	45	45	4274	3425	3194	1151	1124	92	238	36	24	12	4	4	0	0
RE-4	45	4	8	9	15	15	27	29	6716	6090	5966	4908	4858	3404	3330	67	62	36	38	35	12	8
RE-5	45	16	23	23	35	36	45	45	5097	3748	4050	2239	1995	173	440	42	34	18	13	8	0	0
RE-6	45	4	5	5	10	10	22	23	6560	6425	6499	5659	5670	4172	4063	76	77	43	46	39	22	14
RE-7	45	13	19	19	27	26	42	43	5138	4345	4256	3379	3280	935	1034	51	43	22	22	18	3	1
RE-8	45	3	7	7	13	15	20	20	6720	6100	6100	5245	4994	4557	4574	75	75	43	51	34	35	21
RE-9	45	14	18	21	25	27	40	42	5115	4379	4127	3292	3175	1314	1243	50	44	20	28	19	8	2
RE-10	45	3	3	3	6	6	14	13	6720	6720	6720	6294	6276	5296	5287	80	86	48	53	38	46	22
RE-11	45	17	24	25	32	34	42	44	4488	3494	3254	2366	2131	1027	956	43	26	16	16	11	3	1
RE-12	45	0	4	4	7	10	12	13	7200	6772	6711	6305	6032	5508	5374	85	87	49	56	37	52	38
Ttl/Avg	1080	216	283	291	516	524	717	731	5839	5412	5392	4013	4006	2860	2898	63	61	36	31	24	23	15

Table 8: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of branch-and-cut algorithms BCx , $x \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and their variants using the primal heuristic (BCx^H) for instances of test sets EU and RE, grouped by $(H, H') = (H_{\min} + \Delta_H, H_{\min} + \Delta_H + \Delta_{H'})$. For BC1, we also list results of variants with additional initialization constraints ($BC1_I, BC1_I^H$).

Set	$(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$								t_{avg}				gap_{opt}								
			BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H	BC1	BC1 _I	BC1 _I ^H	BC2	BC2 ^H	BC3	BC3 ^H
EU	(0,0)	60	46	48	49	55	55	58	58	1458	1466	1441	725	725	709	353	14	15	7	3	4	7	1
	(0,1)	60	12	16	15	27	26	42	41	4574	5500	5505	4423	4596	4094	2964	49	58	37	29	26	38	14
	(0,2)	60	3	5	5	16	15	25	24	5048	6614	6669	5419	5611	6537	5028	58	81	57	44	40	70	31
	(1,0)	60	18	19	20	43	45	50	50	4553	4985	4935	2225	2119	2060	1484	41	50	25	14	10	21	5
	(1,1)	60	4	5	5	18	18	34	35	5529	6613	6620	5200	5321	4873	3717	59	79	50	39	33	48	19
	(1,2)	60	2	2	2	13	12	20	23	5282	6960	6960	5791	5958	6980	5273	62	90	63	49	42	75	35
	(2,0)	60	10	12	14	39	38	49	49	5336	5959	5913	3087	3017	2555	1886	46	65	30	18	13	27	10
	(2,1)	60	2	2	2	13	15	30	31	5881	6960	6960	5773	5779	5258	4274	64	87	54	46	37	55	25
	(2,2)	60	0	1	1	10	10	17	18	5760	7089	7103	6156	6237	7104	5724	67	94	66	56	45	80	44
RE	(0,0)	60	46	57	57	56	56	55	55	1804	569	628	593	594	748	731	13	1	1	2	2	2	3
	(0,1)	60	14	31	29	33	33	41	39	5753	3759	3862	3366	3476	2676	2706	54	38	20	27	23	15	11
	(0,2)	60	1	5	6	15	15	29	34	6480	6696	6632	5590	5698	4698	3783	73	66	41	46	36	37	15
	(1,0)	60	28	34	34	47	50	58	59	4255	3290	3285	1794	1553	409	326	32	26	13	7	6	0	0
	(1,1)	60	4	8	11	30	30	39	41	6887	6320	6131	4108	3911	2826	2852	70	61	34	33	23	18	9
	(1,2)	60	1	2	2	14	14	29	33	6728	6991	7025	6020	5920	4420	4150	78	87	51	51	37	37	19
	(2,0)	60	22	30	31	52	53	60	60	4606	3835	3835	1277	1169	114	127	36	35	15	2	3	0	0
	(2,1)	60	2	5	7	26	29	47	48	6905	6733	6471	4440	4178	2367	2331	73	76	36	31	20	10	5
	(2,2)	60	1	1	1	9	10	34	33	6617	7081	7081	6250	6250	4684	4448	76	88	54	54	39	39	19
Ttl/Avg	1080	216	283	291	516	524	717	731	5839	5412	5392	4013	4006	2860	2898	63	61	36	31	24	23	15	

Table 9: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of best performing methods from Gouveia and Leitner [11] (H_2^{AS} , H_3) and best performing variants of branch-and-cut algorithms proposed in this work ($BC1_1^{\text{H}}$, $BC2^{\text{H}}$, $BC3^{\text{H}}$) for instances of test sets C and D.

Set	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$					t_{avg}					gap_{opt}				
		H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$
C-1	180	84	123	74	129	174	4266	2647	4438	2491	743	9	5	20	14	1
C-2	180	21	45	19	52	114	6450	5745	6494	5363	3145	21	24	39	35	10
C-3	180	101	131	76	116	161	3413	2336	4309	2824	1148	8	4	18	15	2
C-4	180	27	63	24	39	112	6257	4902	6357	5748	2982	18	11	32	35	10
C-5	180	1	7	3	8	38	7160	6975	7088	6907	5829	31	46	48	53	25
C-6	180	109	142	73	117	159	3099	1798	4399	2884	1047	7	3	17	10	2
C-7	180	33	73	20	34	99	5974	4685	6529	5972	3516	18	11	34	32	9
C-8	180	9	27	9	12	57	6888	6244	6850	6757	5108	24	30	42	52	24
C-9	180	2	8	3	7	22	7122	6950	7095	6961	6370	35	55	50	59	54
D-1	90	90	90	79	90	90	394	364	1266	64	64	0	0	3	0	0
D-2	90	62	59	49	85	90	3046	3096	3799	883	363	6	10	17	2	0
D-3	90	9	9	9	42	49	6610	6599	6617	4222	4211	27	63	45	25	16
D-4	90	0	0	0	27	22	7200	7200	7200	5401	6093	69	97	60	32	40
D-5	90	1	1	1	3	1	7120	7120	7120	7023	7120	73	99	65	62	90
Ttl/Avg	2070	549	778	439	761	1188	5250	4787	5576	4310	3446	27	37	36	29	22

Table 10: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of best performing methods from Gouveia and Leitner [11] (H_2^{AS} , H_3) and best performing variants of branch-and-cut algorithms proposed in this work ($BC1_1^{\text{H}}$, $BC2^{\text{H}}$, $BC3^{\text{H}}$) for instances of test sets C and D, grouped by $(H, H') = (H_{\min} + \Delta_H, H_{\min} + \Delta_H + \Delta_{H'})$

Set	$(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$					t_{avg}					gap_{opt}				
			H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$
C	(0,0)	180	92	125	94	120	150	3712	2605	3582	2606	1324	8	3	10	13	4
	(0,1)	180	48	69	55	77	115	5392	4674	5135	4305	2927	17	14	24	26	13
	(0,2)	180	25	39	21	51	74	6348	5874	6434	5348	4509	25	26	39	37	20
	(1,0)	180	71	108	55	85	140	4563	3261	5080	3923	1794	11	6	21	22	5
	(1,1)	180	35	63	21	51	101	5944	4922	6426	5341	3519	19	21	36	35	15
	(1,2)	180	14	34	8	33	66	6672	6127	6928	6159	4815	27	34	48	44	24
	(2,0)	180	58	99	32	62	134	5009	3639	6093	4967	2066	13	13	26	31	9
	(2,1)	180	29	58	13	24	90	6272	5266	6732	6405	3933	22	26	41	45	17
	(2,2)	180	15	24	2	11	66	6716	6465	7149	6853	5001	29	44	52	53	28
D	(0,0)	50	24	23	26	41	38	3781	3955	3587	1614	2115	19	37	23	10	15
	(0,1)	50	17	19	18	24	29	5085	4872	4731	3904	3500	34	51	38	25	26
	(0,2)	50	14	13	15	22	23	5662	5769	5558	4382	4293	44	59	48	31	34
	(1,0)	50	23	24	21	37	34	3971	3894	4342	2059	2636	24	42	24	14	18
	(1,1)	50	17	18	15	24	26	4928	4865	5180	4007	3833	36	55	40	27	28
	(1,2)	50	14	11	6	20	22	5659	5945	6475	4565	4289	47	64	52	35	41
	(2,0)	50	22	22	18	37	34	4245	4183	4704	2270	3051	28	49	25	13	20
	(2,1)	50	18	17	14	23	24	4845	5167	5548	4091	3995	37	59	39	28	35
	(2,2)	50	13	12	5	19	22	5690	5815	6677	4777	4421	47	68	53	34	44
Ttl/Avg	2070	549	778	439	761	1188	5250	4787	5576	4310	3446	27	37	36	29	22	

Table 11: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of best performing methods from Gouveia and Leitner [11] (H_2^{AS} , H_3) and best performing variants of branch-and-cut algorithms proposed in this work ($BC1_1^{\text{H}}$, $BC2^{\text{H}}$, $BC3^{\text{H}}$) for instances of test sets EU and RE.

Set	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$					t_{avg}					gap_{opt}				
		H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$
EU-1	45	30	23	22	45	45	3383	3921	4115	384	426	4	14	18	0	0
EU-2	45	22	21	21	42	42	3695	3917	3840	989	1615	19	53	24	1	1
EU-3	45	16	20	14	32	45	4820	4359	5049	2794	622	16	19	29	9	0
EU-4	45	4	4	4	13	23	6560	6560	6560	5487	4301	53	80	51	32	14
EU-5	45	18	20	18	28	42	4678	4242	4653	3069	1438	17	28	29	16	1
EU-6	45	3	3	4	9	11	6720	6720	6565	5872	5740	70	90	57	38	42
EU-7	45	6	11	6	15	31	6379	5608	6380	5288	3009	34	52	43	36	10
EU-8	45	1	1	1	6	14	7040	7040	7040	6364	5243	75	92	58	42	34
EU-9	45	9	12	9	20	37	5915	5523	5900	4195	2219	26	39	38	29	4
EU-10	45	4	4	4	6	9	6560	6560	6560	6291	5987	80	91	60	42	57
EU-11	45	5	8	7	13	23	6403	5928	6090	5321	4168	41	61	47	35	19
EU-12	45	3	3	3	5	7	6720	6720	6720	6430	6171	87	90	65	52	63
RE-1	45	31	32	24	45	45	2645	2553	3432	396	247	4	5	14	0	0
RE-2	45	11	10	11	26	40	5643	5772	5621	3734	1819	25	52	31	7	2
RE-3	45	30	34	27	40	45	3404	2518	3194	1124	238	9	5	12	4	0
RE-4	45	9	12	9	15	29	6210	5982	5966	4858	3330	39	53	36	35	8
RE-5	45	22	27	23	36	45	3973	3269	4050	1995	440	13	8	18	8	0
RE-6	45	6	4	5	10	23	6443	6560	6499	5670	4063	46	68	43	39	14
RE-7	45	22	24	19	26	43	4481	3763	4256	3280	1034	19	17	22	18	1
RE-8	45	3	8	7	15	20	6720	6106	6100	4994	4574	57	65	43	34	21
RE-9	45	19	24	21	27	42	4458	3757	4127	3175	1243	18	24	20	19	2
RE-10	45	3	3	3	6	13	6720	6720	6720	6276	5287	65	81	48	38	22
RE-11	45	22	32	25	34	44	3940	2525	3254	2131	956	17	10	16	11	1
RE-12	45	0	2	4	10	13	7200	6970	6711	6032	5374	74	77	49	37	38
Ttl/Avg	1080	299	342	291	524	731	5446	5150	5392	4006	2898	38	49	36	24	15

Table 12: Numbers of instances solved to optimality ($\#_{\text{solved}}$), average running times (t_{avg}) in seconds, and average optimality gaps (gap_{opt}) in percent of best performing methods from Gouveia and Leitner [11] (H_2^{AS} , H_3) and best performing variants of branch-and-cut algorithms proposed in this work ($BC1_1^{\text{H}}$, $BC2^{\text{H}}$, $BC3^{\text{H}}$) for instances of test sets EU and RE, grouped by $(H, H') = (H_{\min} + \Delta_H, H_{\min} + \Delta_H + \Delta_{H'})$.

Set $(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	#	$\#_{\text{solved}}$					t_{avg}					gap_{opt}					
		H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	H_2^{AS}	H_3	$BC1_1^{\text{H}}$	$BC2^{\text{H}}$	$BC3^{\text{H}}$	
EU	(0,0)	60	45	47	49	55	58	1874	1603	1441	725	353	9	10	7	4	1
	(0,1)	60	13	14	15	26	41	5750	5681	5505	4596	2964	42	50	37	26	14
	(0,2)	60	5	3	5	15	24	6665	6973	6669	5611	5028	57	73	57	40	31
	(1,0)	60	24	28	20	45	50	4631	4090	4935	2119	1484	27	39	25	10	5
	(1,1)	60	7	8	5	18	35	6544	6542	6620	5321	3717	47	64	50	33	19
	(1,2)	60	3	2	2	12	23	6930	7060	6960	5958	5273	62	83	63	42	35
	(2,0)	60	17	22	14	38	49	5388	4929	5913	3017	1886	29	49	30	13	10
	(2,1)	60	6	6	2	15	31	6710	6829	6960	5779	4274	52	74	54	37	25
	(2,2)	60	1	0	1	10	18	7164	7300	7103	6237	5724	66	90	66	45	44
RE	(0,0)	60	44	53	57	56	55	1928	1028	628	594	731	4	1	1	2	3
	(0,1)	60	21	30	29	33	39	5373	4113	3862	3476	2706	28	31	20	23	11
	(0,2)	60	3	7	6	15	34	6904	6685	6632	5698	3783	54	57	41	36	15
	(1,0)	60	37	39	34	50	59	3053	3038	3285	1553	326	7	9	13	6	0
	(1,1)	60	14	22	11	30	41	6037	5099	6131	3911	2852	33	42	34	23	9
	(1,2)	60	3	3	2	14	33	6944	6959	7025	5920	4150	56	62	51	37	19
	(2,0)	60	37	36	31	53	60	3168	3271	3835	1169	127	9	24	15	3	0
	(2,1)	60	16	19	7	29	48	6011	5727	6471	4178	2331	40	51	36	20	5
	(2,2)	60	3	3	1	10	33	6960	7000	7081	6250	4448	57	72	54	39	19
Ttl/Avg	1080	299	342	291	524	731	5446	5150	5392	4006	2898	38	49	36	24	15	

Table 13: Overall number of cases from instance sets C and D in which solution to NDPVC is provably better (bt) and provably equal (eq) compared to the k HSNDP, and number of cases where k HSNDP is provably infeasible and NDPVC feasible (feas), grouped by $(H, H') = (H_{\min} + \Delta_H, H_{\min} + \Delta_H + \Delta_{H'})$. Remaining cases could not be decided.

(a) Instance sets C and D.						(b) Instance sets EU and RE.					
Set	$(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	#	bt	feas	eq	Set	$(\Delta_H, \Delta_{H'})$	#	bt	feas	eq
C	(0,0)	180	16	0	161	EU	(0,0)	45	3	0	53
	(0,1)	180	91	0	82		(0,1)	45	39	1	12
	(0,2)	180	98	0	75		(0,2)	45	37	0	9
	(1,0)	180	5	0	159		(1,0)	45	20	0	24
	(1,1)	180	36	0	128		(1,1)	45	16	0	18
	(1,2)	180	53	0	102		(1,2)	45	14	0	16
	(2,0)	180	4	0	146		(2,0)	45	7	0	20
	(2,1)	180	19	0	130		(2,1)	45	8	0	17
	(2,2)	180	21	0	120		(2,2)	45	7	0	15
D	(0,0)	90	13	0	34	RE	(0,0)	45	1	0	56
	(0,1)	90	45	0	2		(0,1)	45	26	0	29
	(0,2)	90	44	0	4		(0,2)	45	27	0	28
	(1,0)	90	26	0	15		(1,0)	45	4	0	39
	(1,1)	90	29	0	8		(1,1)	45	13	0	22
	(1,2)	90	28	0	9		(1,2)	45	11	0	24
	(2,0)	90	14	0	22		(2,0)	45	7	0	24
	(2,1)	90	19	0	17		(2,1)	45	4	0	26
	(2,2)	90	13	0	20		(2,2)	45	5	0	24
Total		2070	574	0	1234	Total		1080	249	1	456