

Change in the State of the Art of (Mixed) Integer Programming

1977–Vancouver–Advanced Research Institute

24 papers

16 reports

- 1 paper computational, 4 small instances
- Report on computational aspects: only instances up to 30 variables can be expected solved

2006–MIP Solution Time to 0.01% of Optimality (CPLEX–Irvin Lustig)

Total		987	
Solved within	1 sec.	521 \	
	10 sec.	209 \	
	1 min.	113 /	(94.2%)
	10 min.	87 /	
	30 min.	33	
	1 hour	9	
Unsolved after	1 hour	15	(1.5%)

Measure of success:

- Problems involving $10^4 - 10^5$ and $10^3 - 10^4$ constraints are **routinely** solved
(Ex. supply chain management, portfolio optimization, combinatorial auctions, etc.)
- Some complex but relatively small problems can be solved **as they arise**, in time for the solution to be used (“**real time IP**”)
(Ex. Optimal Real-Time Traffic Control in Metro Stations)
- But: MIP remains **\mathcal{NP} -complete**
Some small problems remain **unsolved in useful time**

Reasons

- More powerful computers
- Faster and more reliable LP codes
- Progress on cutting planes
 - Stronger cuts
 - Better use of cuts

- Two general approaches to cut generation

1958

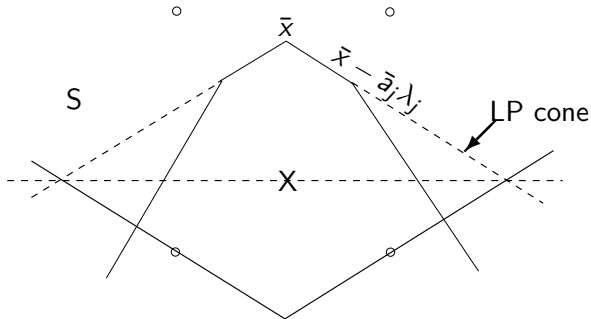
(a) “algebraic” – Gomory-Chvátal, MIG cuts

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 ax \leq b & & \sum_J f_j s_j \geq f_0 \quad (f_j = a_j - (a_j)) \\
 \lfloor a \rfloor x \leq \lfloor b \rfloor & & \sum_{J_1} f_j x_j + \sum_{J_2} \frac{f_0}{1 - f_0} (1 - f_j) x_j \geq f_0 \\
 & & \sum_{j \in J} \min \left\{ \frac{f_j}{f_0}, \frac{1 - f_j}{1 - f_0} \right\} x_j \geq 1
 \end{array}$$

1969

(b) “geometric” – intersection cuts, disjunctive cuts

Intersection cuts (1969)



Convex set S such that

(i) $\bar{x} \in \text{int } S$

(ii) $\text{int } S \cap X \cap \mathbb{Z}^n = \emptyset$

The n points $\bar{x} - \bar{a}_j \bar{\lambda}_j$ where the extreme rays of the LP cone intersect $\text{bd } S$ define a valid cut:

$$\sum_j \bar{\lambda}_j^{-1} x_j \geq 1$$

Possible convex sets $S_1 : \{x : 0 \leq x_k \leq 1\}$

$$x_k = a_0 + \sum_J a_j x_j$$

$$\sum_J \max\left\{\frac{a_j}{a_0}, \frac{-a_j}{1-a_0}\right\} x_j \geq 1 \quad \text{or, after monoidal strengthening,}$$

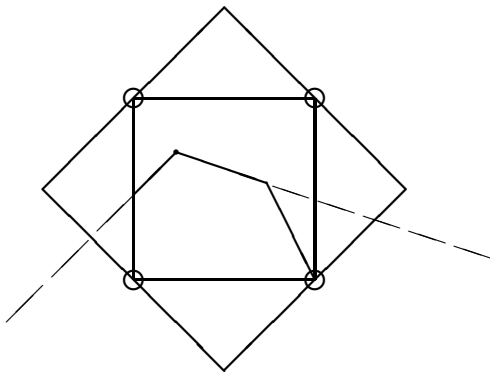
$$\sum_J \min\left\{\frac{f_j}{f_0}, \frac{1-f_j}{1-f_0}\right\} x_j \geq 1 \quad (f_j = a_j - \lfloor a_j \rfloor)$$

- Connection to algebraic approach.

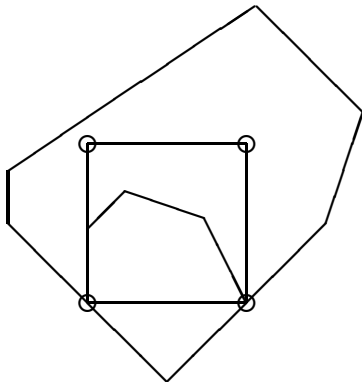
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{MIG cut} \\ \text{from } x_k \text{ row} \end{array} \right\} \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{strengthened} \\ \text{Intersection cut from} \\ \lfloor x_k \rfloor \leq x_k \leq \lceil x_k \rceil \end{array} \right\}$$

Other suitable convex sets:

- Scaled octahedron



- Outer polar (of the feasible set)



Related recent work:

(connection with **lattice-free bodies**)

- Anderson, Louveaux, Weismantel and Wolsey (2007)
- Cornuéjols & Margot (2008)

Lift-and-Project

1974 Disjunctive Programming: Optimization over a Union of Polyhedra

1. Compact linear representation of the convex hull
2. Sequential convexifiability

1975-1990 B., Blair, Jeroslow, Pulleyblank

1990-1991 Sherali-Adams, Lovász-Schrijver

1993,1996 B., Ceria, Cornuéjols

Cut Generating Linear Program (CGLP)

1998-2002 Ceria, Pataki; Ceria, Soares; B., Bockmayr, Pinar, Wolsey; Bienstock, Zuckerberg

2002,2003 B., Perregaard

Solving (CGLP) in the (LP) Tableau

Commercial implementation

2007 B., Bonami

Open source implementation, 3 variants

Disjunctive Programming

A *disjunctive set*, i.e. the constraint set of a disjunctive program, can be expressed in many different forms, of which the following two extreme ones have special significance. Let

$$P_i := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : A^i x \geq b^i\}, \quad i \in Q$$

be convex polyhedra, with Q a finite index set and (A^i, b^i) an $m_i \times (n+1)$ matrix, $i \in Q$, and let

$$P := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b\}$$

be the polyhedron defined by those inequalities (if any) common to all P_i , $i \in Q$. Then the disjunctive set $\bigcup_{i \in Q} P_i$ over which we wish to optimize some linear function can be expressed as

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \bigvee_{i \in Q} (A^i x \geq b^i) \right\}, \quad (1)$$

which is its *disjunctive normal form (DNF)* (a disjunction whose terms do not contain further disjunctions).

The same disjunctive set can also be expressed as

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b, \bigvee_{h \in Q_j} (d^h x \geq d_0^h), j = 1, \dots, t \right\}, \quad (2)$$

which is its *conjunctive normal form (CNF)* (a conjunction whose terms do not contain further conjunctions). Here (d^h, d_0^h) is a $(n+1)$ -vector for $h \in Q_j$, all j , where each set Q_j contains exactly one inequality of each system $A^i x \geq b^i$, $i \in Q$, and t is the number of all sets Q_j with this property.

Thus the connection between (1) and (2) is that each term $A^i x \geq b^i$ of (1) contains $Ax \geq b$ and exactly one inequality $d^h x \geq d_0^h$ of each disjunction of (2) indexed by Q_j for $j = 1, \dots, t$, and that all distinct systems $A^i x \geq b^i$ with this property are present among the terms of (1).

The DNF of a disjunctive set is a **union of polyhedra**.

Disjunctive Programming is **optimization over unions of polyhedra**

The **Lift-and-Project** approach relies on two basic results of **disjunctive programming**.

1. There is a **compact representation** of the convex hull of a union of polyhedra in a higher-dimensional space (**lifting, extended formulation**) which can be **projected** back onto the original space.
2. A large class of disjunctive sets, called **facial**, can be convexified **sequentially**, i.e. their convex hull can be derived by imposing the disjunctions **one at a time**, generating each time the convex hull of the current set.

Result 1 uses the **DNF** (1),
result 2 uses the **CNF** (2).

The convex hull of a union of polyhedra

Theorem 1. (Balas, 1974) Given polyhedra

$$P_i := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : A^i x \geq b^i\} \neq \emptyset, i \in Q,$$

the convex hull of $\bigcup_{i \in Q} P_i$ is the set of those $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for which there exist vectors $(y^i, y_0^i) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, $i \in Q$, satisfying

$$\begin{aligned}x - \sum(y^i : i \in Q) &= 0 \\A^i y^i - b^i y_0^i &\geq 0 \\y_0^i &\geq 0 \quad i \in Q \\ \sum(y_0^i : i \in Q) &= 1.\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

In particular, denoting by P_Q the convex hull of $\bigcup_{i \in Q} P_i$ and by \mathcal{P} the set of vectors $(x, \{y^i, y_0^i\}_{i \in Q})$ satisfying (3),

- (i) if x^* is an extreme point of P_Q , then $(x^*, \{\bar{y}^i, \bar{y}_0^i\}_{i \in Q})$ is an extreme point of \mathcal{P} , $(\bar{y}^k, \bar{y}_0^k) = (x^*, 1)$ for some $k \in Q$, and $(\bar{y}^i, \bar{y}_0^i) = (0, 0)$ for $i \in Q \setminus \{k\}$.
- (ii) if $(\bar{x}, \{\bar{y}^i, \bar{y}_0^i\}_{i \in Q})$ is an extreme point of \mathcal{P} , then $\bar{y}^k = \bar{x}$ and $\bar{y}_0^k = 1$ for some $k \in Q$, $(\bar{y}^i, \bar{y}_0^i) = (0, 0)$, $i \in Q \setminus \{k\}$, and \bar{x} is an extreme point of P_Q .

- The number of variables and constraints in (3) is **linear in the number $|Q|$ of polyhedra in the union.**
- In any basic solution of the linear system (3), $y_0^i \in \{0, 1\}$, $i \in Q$, automatically, without imposing this condition explicitly.

In the special case of a disjunction of the form $x_j \in \{0, 1\}$, when $|Q| = 2$ and

$$P_{j0} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : Ax \geq b, x_j = 0\},$$

$$P_{j1} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : Ax \geq b, x_j = 1\},$$

$P_Q := \text{conv}(P_{j0} \cup P_{j1})$ is the set of those $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for which there exist vectors $(y, y_0), (z, z_0)$ such that

$$x - y - z = 0$$

$$Ay - by_0 \geq 0$$

$$-y_j = 0$$

$$Az - bz_0 \geq 0$$

$$z_j - z_0 = 0$$

$$y_0 + z_0 = 1$$

$$y_0 \geq 0, z_0 \geq 0$$

(3')

Disjunctive cuts

Projecting out the variables (y^i, y_0^i) , $i \in Q$, we obtain that $\text{conv}(\cup_{i \in Q} P_i)$ is the set of those $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying $\alpha x \geq \beta$ for all α, β such that

$$\alpha \geq u^i A^i$$

$$\beta \leq u^i b^i, \quad \forall i \in Q,$$

$$\text{for some } u^i \geq 0, i \in Q$$

Thus a disjunctive cut $\alpha x \geq \beta$ is of the form

$$\alpha_j = \max_{i \in Q} u^i A_j^i, \quad j \in N$$

$$\beta = \min_{i \in Q} u^i b^i$$

or, with the u^i properly scaled,

$$\beta = u^i b^i, i \in Q.$$

For a 2-term disjunction,

$$\alpha_j = \max\{uA_j^1, vA_j^2\}, \quad j \in N$$

$$\beta = ub^1 = vb^2$$

Projection and polarity

In order to generate the convex hull P_Q , and more generally, to obtain valid inequalities (cutting planes) in the space of the original variables, we project \mathcal{P} onto the x -space:

Theorem

$$\text{Proj}_x(\mathcal{P}) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \alpha x \geq \beta \text{ for all } (\alpha, \beta) \in W_0\},$$

where

$$W_0 := \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \alpha = u^i A^i, \beta \leq u^i b^i \\ \text{for some } u^i \geq 0, i \in Q\}.$$

Note that W_0 is not the standard projection cone of \mathcal{P} , which is (assuming each A^i is $m_i \times n$)

$$W := \{(\alpha, \beta, \{u^i\}_{i \in Q}) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{m_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^{m_{|Q|}} : \\ \alpha - u^i A^i = 0, \beta - u^i b^i \leq 0, u^i \geq 0, i \in Q\}.$$

Instead, $W_0 = \text{Proj}_{(\alpha, \beta)}(W)$, i.e. W_0 is the projection of W onto the (α, β) -space. In fact, W_0 can be shown to be the *reverse polar cone* P_Q^* of P_Q , i.e. the cone of all valid inequalities for P_Q .

Theorem

$$P_Q^* := \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \alpha x \geq \beta \text{ for all } x \in P_Q\} \\ = \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \alpha = u^i A^i, \beta \leq u^i b^i \\ \text{for some } u^i \geq 0, i \in Q\}.$$

Polars and Reverse Polars

Polar of $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$: $P^0 := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : xy \leq 1, \forall x \in P\}$

Reverse polar of P : $P^\# := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : xy \geq 1, \forall x \in P\}$

Reverse cone polar of P :

$P^* := \{(y, y_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : xy - y_0 \geq 0, \forall x \in P\}$

Theorem.

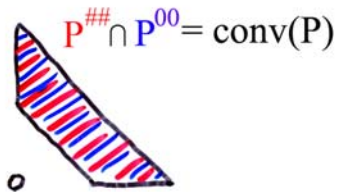
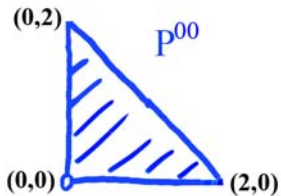
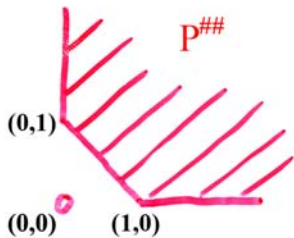
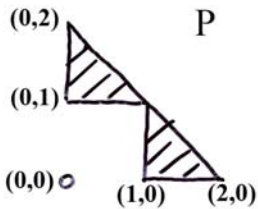
$$P^{00} = \text{conv}(P \cup \{0\})$$

$$P^{\#\#} = \text{conv}(P) + \text{cone}(P)$$

Corollary.

$$\text{conv}(P) = P^{00} \cap P^{\#\#}$$

Example.



The reverse cone polar of

$$P_Q := \text{conv}(P_{j^0} \cup P_{j^1})$$

is

$$\begin{aligned} P_Q^* &= \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \alpha x \geq \beta \text{ for all } x \in P_Q\} \\ &= \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : \alpha \geq uA - u_0 e_j \\ &\quad \alpha \geq vA + v_0 e_j \\ &\quad \beta \leq ub \\ &\quad \beta \leq vb + v_0 \\ &\quad u, v \geq 0\} \end{aligned}$$

(where e_j is the j -th unit vector).

Theorem. Assume P_Q is full dimensional. The inequality $\alpha x \geq \beta$ defines a facet of P_Q if and only if (α, β) is an extreme ray of the cone P_Q^* .

Sequential convexification

A disjunctive set is called *facial* if every one of its inequalities induces a *face* of the polyhedron defined by the inequalities $Ax \geq b$ common to all terms of the disjunction.

Zero-one programs (pure or mixed) are *facial* disjunctive programs, general integer programs are *not*.

Sequential convexifiability is one of the basic properties that distinguish 0-1 programs from general integer programs.

Theorem. (Balas, 1974) Let

$$D := \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b, \bigvee_{h \in Q_j} (d^h x \geq d_0^h), j = 1, \dots, t \right\},$$

where $|Q_j| \geq 1$ for $j = 1, \dots, t$, and D is facial. Let $P_D := \text{conv}(D)$.

Define

$$P^0 := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b\},$$

and for $j = 1, \dots, t$,

$$P^j := \text{conv} \left(P^{j-1} \cap \left\{ x : \bigvee_{h \in Q_j} (d^h x \geq d_0^h) \right\} \right).$$

Then

$$P^t = P_D.$$

For Mixed 0-1 Programs, the Theorem asserts that if we denote

$$P_D := \text{conv} \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : Ax \geq b, x_j \in \{0, 1\}, j = 1, \dots, p\},$$

$$P^0 := \{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n : Ax \geq b, 0 \leq x \leq 1\},$$

and define recursively for $j = 1, \dots, p$

$$P^j := \text{conv} (P^{j-1} \cap \{x : x_j \in \{0, 1\}\}),$$

then

$$P^p = P_D.$$

Thus, a 0-1 program with p 0-1 variables can be solved in p steps. Here each step consists of imposing the 0-1 condition on one new variable and generating all the inequalities that define the convex hull of the set defined in this way.

Disjunctive rank

The **Chvátal rank** of a valid inequality $\alpha x \geq \beta$ derived by the rounding operation $\lfloor \lambda A \rfloor x \geq \lfloor \lambda b \rfloor$, $\lambda \geq 0$, is the minimum number of times the operation has to be iterated to obtain $\alpha x \geq \beta$.

The **disjunctive rank** of $\alpha x \geq \beta$ for a mixed 0-1 program is **the smallest integer k such that $\alpha x \geq \beta$ is valid for P^k** .

In other words, $\alpha x \geq \beta$ is of **disjunctive rank k** if it can be derived by **k , but not fewer than k , iterations** of the sequential convexification procedure.

Clearly, the disjunctive rank of a cutting plane for 0-1 programs is **bounded by the number of 0-1 variables**. It is known that the number of 0-1 variables is not a valid bound for the Chvatal rank of an inequality.

Another derivation of the basic result

(Balas, Ceria and Cornuejols, 1993)

Define

$$\begin{aligned} P &:= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b, 0 \leq x \leq 1\} \\ &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \tilde{A}x \geq \tilde{b}\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \end{aligned}$$

and

$$P_D := \text{conv} (\{x \in P : x_j \in \{0, 1\}, j = 1, \dots, p\})$$

1. Select an index $j \in \{1, \dots, p\}$. Multiply $\tilde{A}x \geq \tilde{b}$ with $1 - x_j$ and x_j to obtain the nonlinear system

$$\begin{aligned}(1 - x_j)(\tilde{A}x - \tilde{b}) &\geq 0 \\ x_j(\tilde{A}x - \tilde{b}) &\geq 0.\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

2. Linearize (1) by substituting y_i for $x_i x_j$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, $i \neq j$, and $y_j = x_j$ for x_j^2 .
3. Project the resulting polyhedron onto the x -space.

Theorem. (Balas, Ceria, and Cornuéjols, 1993) The outcome of steps 1, 2, 3 is

$$\text{conv} (P \cap \{x : x_j \in \{0, 1\}\}).$$

Corollary. (Balas, Ceria, and Cornuéjols, 1993) Repeating steps 1, 2, 3 for each $j \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ yields P_D .

We will illustrate this on an example.

Example. Consider the mixed integer program whose constraint set is

$$x_1 = 0.2 + 0.4(-x_3) + 1.3(-x_4) - 0.01(-x_5) + 0.07(-x_6)$$

$$x_2 = 0.9 - 0.3(-x_3) + 0.4(-x_4) - 0.04(-x_5) + 0.1(-x_6)$$

$$x_j \geq 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, 6, \quad x_j \text{ integer}, \quad j = 1, \dots, 4.$$

This problem is taken from the paper [29], which also lists six cutting planes derived from the associated group problem:

$$0.75x_3 + 0.875x_4 + 0.0125x_5 + 0.35x_6 \geq 1,$$

$$0.778x_3 + 0.444x_4 + 0.40x_5 + 0.111x_6 \geq 1,$$

$$0.333x_3 + 0.667x_4 + 0.033x_5 + 0.35x_6 \geq 1,$$

$$0.50x_3 + x_4 + 0.40x_5 + 0.25x_6 \geq 1,$$

$$0.444x_3 + 0.333x_4 + 0.055x_5 + 0.478x_6 \geq 1,$$

$$0.394x_3 + 0.636x_4 + 0.346x_5 + 0.155x_6 \geq 1.$$

The first two of these inequalities are the mixed-integer Gomory cuts derived from the row of x_1 and x_2 respectively. To show how they can be improved, we first derive them as they are. To do this, for a row of the form

$$x_i = a_{i0} + \sum_{j \in J} a_{ij}(-x_j),$$

with x_j integer-constrained for $j \in J_1 := \{1, \dots, 4\}$, continuous for $j \in J_2 := \{5, 6\}$, one defines $f_{ij} = a_{ij} - [a_{ij}]$, $j \in J \cup \{0\}$, $\varphi_{i0} = f_{i0}$, and

$$\varphi_{ij} = \begin{cases} f_{ij}, & j \in J_1^+ = \{j \in J_1 | f_{ij} \geq f_{ij}\}, \\ f_{ij} - 1, & j \in J_1^- = \{j \in J_1 | f_{i0} < f_{ij}\}, \\ a_{ij}, & j \in J_2. \end{cases}$$

Then every x which satisfies the above equation and the integrality constraints on x_j , $j \in J_1 \cup \{i\}$, also satisfies the condition

$$y_i = \varphi_{i0} + \sum_{j \in J} \varphi_{ij}(-x_j), \quad y_i \text{ integer.}$$

For the two equations of the example, the resulting conditions are

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= 0.2 - 0.6(-x_3) - 0.7(-x_4) - 0.01(-x_5) + 0.07(-x_6), & y_1 \text{ integer,} \\ y_2 &= 0.9 + 0.7(-x_3) + 0.4(-x_4) - 0.04(-x_5) + 0.1(-x_6), & y_2 \text{ integer.} \end{aligned}$$

Since each y_i is integer-constrained, they have to satisfy the disjunction $y_i \leq 0 \vee y_i \geq 1$. Substituting $\varphi_{i0} + \sum_{j \in J} \varphi_{ij}(-x_j)$ for each y_i and applying the formula

(11) with multipliers $u_0^i = 1/\varphi_{i0}$ in the first term, and $u_0^i = 1/(1 - \varphi_{i0})$ in the second term of each disjunction we obtain for $i = 1$ and $i = 2$ the two cuts

$$\frac{0.6}{0.8}x_3 + \frac{0.7}{0.8}x_4 + \frac{0.01}{0.8}x_5 + \frac{0.07}{0.2}x_6 \geq 1,$$

and

$$\frac{0.7}{0.9}x_3 + \frac{0.4}{0.9}x_4 + \frac{0.04}{0.1}x_5 + \frac{0.1}{0.9}x_6 \geq 1.$$

These are precisely the first two inequalities of the above list. Since all cuts discussed here are stated in the form ≥ 1 , the smaller the j -th coefficient, the stronger is the cut in the direction j . We would thus like to reduce the size of the coefficients as much as possible.

Now suppose that instead of $y_1 \leq 0 \vee y_1 \geq 1$, we use the disjunction

$$\{y_1 \leq 0\} \vee \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_1 \geq 1 \\ x_1 \geq 0 \end{array} \right\},$$

which of course is also satisfied by every feasible x .

Then, applying formula (11) with multipliers 5, 5 and 15 for $y_1 \leq 0$, $y_1 \geq 1$ and $x_1 \geq 0$ respectively, we obtain the cut whose coefficients are

$$\max \left\{ \frac{5 \times (-0.6)}{5 \times 0.2}, \frac{5 \times 0.6 + 15 \times (-0.4)}{5 \times 0.8 + 15 \times (-0.2)} \right\} = -3,$$

$$\max \left\{ \frac{5 \times (-0.7)}{5 \times 0.2}, \frac{5 \times 0.7 + 15 \times (-1.3)}{5 \times 0.8 + 15 \times (-0.2)} \right\} = -3.5,$$

$$\max \left\{ \frac{5 \times (-0.01)}{5 \times 0.2}, \frac{5 \times 0.01 + 15 \times 0.01}{5 \times 0.8 + 15 \times (-0.2)} \right\} = 0.2,$$

$$\max \left\{ \frac{5 \times 0.07}{5 \times 0.2}, \frac{5 \times (-0.07) + 15 \times (-0.07)}{5 \times 0.8 + 15 \times (-0.2)} \right\} = 0.35$$

that is

$$-3x_3 - 3.5x_4 + 0.2x_5 + 0.35x_6 \geq 1.$$

The sum of coefficients on the left hand side has been reduced from 1.9875 to -5.95. This strengthening has been obtained by assigning a positive multiplier in (11) to the inequality $x_1 \geq 0$, which had a zero multiplier in the previous derivation.

Similarly, for the second cut, if instead of $y_2 \leq 0 \vee y_2 \geq 1$ we use the disjunction

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_2 \leq 0 \\ x_1 \geq 0 \end{array} \right\} \vee \{y_2 \geq 1\},$$

with multipliers 10, 40 and 10 for $y_2 \leq 0$, $x_1 \geq 0$ and $y_2 \geq 1$ respectively, we obtain the cut

$$-7x_2 - 4x_4 + 0.4x_5 - x_6 \geq 1.$$

Here the sum of left hand side coefficients has been reduced from 1.733 to -11.6. Again, the effect is obtained by assigning a positive multiplier to $x_1 \geq 0$, this time on the other side of the disjunction.