

Exact approaches for multi-objective binary quadratic optimization

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Outline of the talk

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- Basic Definitions
- Challenges in solving MOMINLPs
- Approximating the nondominated set of a MOMINLP: the *enclosure* concept
- Branch-and-bound methods for MOMINLPs:
 - Computation of upper bound sets
 - Computation of lower bound sets
 - Pruning conditions

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- Branch-and-bound methods for MOMINLPs:
 - Computation of upper bound sets
 - Computation of lower bound sets
 - Pruning conditions
- A Branch-and-Bound method for Multiobjective Binary Quadratic Problems (MO-BQPs)
 - Extending the QCR paradigm to the MO setting

Multiobjective MINLPs

A **Multiobjective Mixed Integer Nonlinear** programming problem (MOMINLP) can be formulated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & (f_1(x), \dots, f_p(x))^T \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_k(x) \leq 0 \quad k = 1, \dots, m \\ & x_i \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \forall i \in I, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{MOMINLP})$$

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where

- $f_j, g_k : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; j = 1, \dots, p; k = 1, \dots, m$
- the index set $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ specifies which variables have to take integer values

MOMINLP: a powerful modeling tool!

Multiobjective mixed integer optimization problems arise in **many application fields** such as

- engineering
- finance
- design of water/gas distribution networks
- location or production planning
- emergency management

see e.g.

[Benvenuti et al. MMOR (2025)], [Pecci and Stoianov C&OR (2023)],
[Amorosi et al. EngOpt (2022)], [Liu et al. C&OR (2014)],
[Yenisey et al. Omega (2014)], [Ehrgott et al. INFOR (2009)],...

Basic definitions in multiobjective optimization

- point $x^* \in \mathcal{F}$ is **efficient** for (MOMINLP) if there is no $x \in \mathcal{F}$ with $f(x) \leq f(x^*)$ and $f(x) \neq f(x^*)$

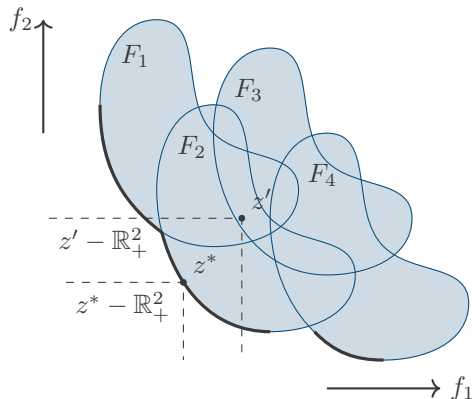
The set of efficient points for (MOMINLP) is the **efficient set** of (MOMINLP)

- point $z^* = f(x^*) \in \mathbb{R}^p$ is **nondominated** for (MOMINLP) if $x^* \in \mathcal{F}$ is an efficient point for (MOMINLP)

The set of all nondominated points of (MOMINLP) is the **nondominated set** of (MOMINLP)

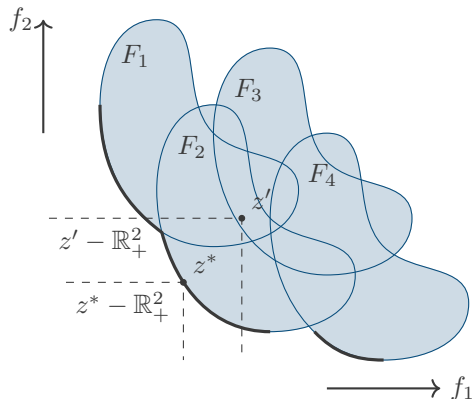
Challenges in solving MOMINLPs

Example: feasible set in the image space of a bi-objective minlp instance



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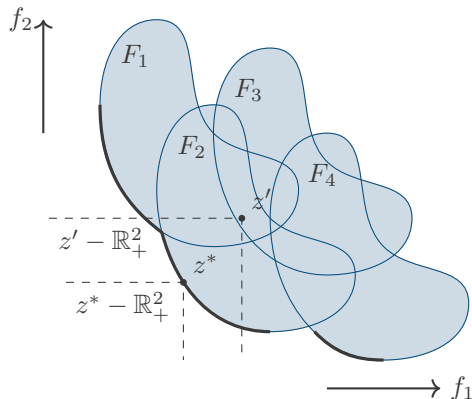
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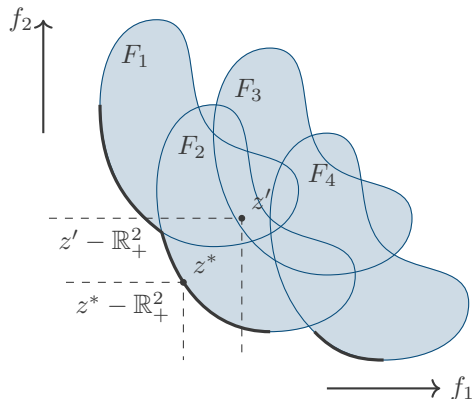
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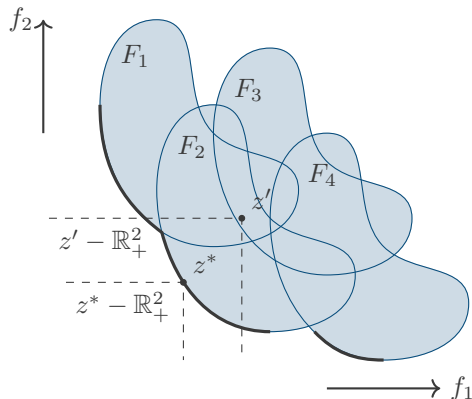
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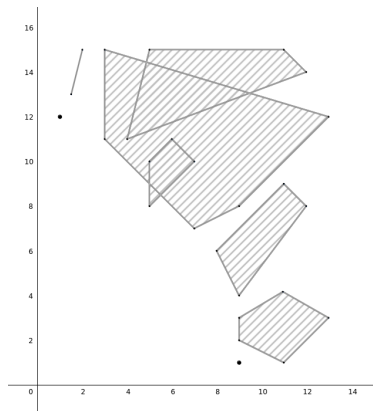


- the union of all F_j describes the whole feasible set in the image space
- z^* is a nondominated point and the preimage of z^* is an efficient point
- z' is dominated because $z^* \leq z'$ and $z^* \neq z'$.
- all the points $z \in F_3$ are dominated

...little digression on BOMILPs!

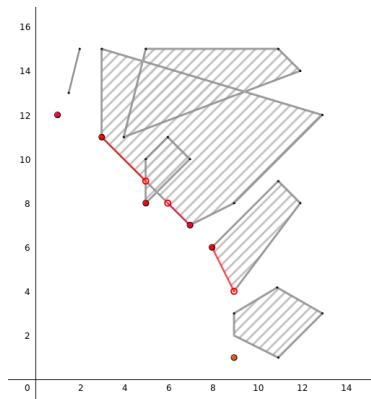
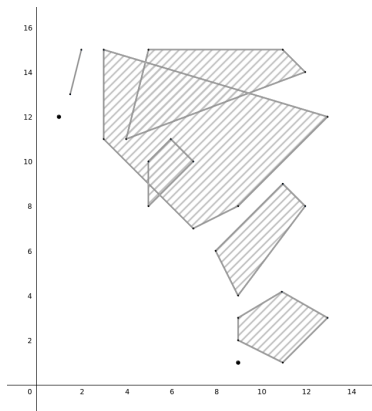
Bi-objective Mixed Integer Linear Programs

Example from [Fattahi and Turkey. *A one direction search method to find the exact nondominated frontier of biobjective mixed-binary linear programming problems.* EJOR, 2018.]



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Solution approaches for MOMINLPs

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Algorithms for multi-objective **mixed-integer** optimization problems compute an **approximation of the efficient or nondominated set**

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- algorithms that compute a **representation**, i.e., a finite subset, of the efficient or nondominated set
- algorithms that compute a **coverage**, i.e., a superset, of the efficient or nondominated set

Approximating the nondominated set

In global approaches for **single objective optimization** the optimal solution $y^* = f(x^*) \in \mathbb{R}$ is approximated by some **lower bound** $l \in \mathbb{R}$ and some **upper bound** $u \in \mathbb{R}$ so that $l \leq y^* \leq u$,

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$$\{y^*\} \subseteq (\{l\} + \mathbb{R}_+) \cap (\{u\} - \mathbb{R}_+)$$

This idea has been generalized to the multiobjective setting as:

$$\mathcal{N} \subseteq (L + \mathbb{R}_+^p) \cap (U - \mathbb{R}_+^p),$$

where $L, U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$ are nonempty sets.

[G. Eichfelder, P. Kirst, L. Meng, and O. Stein. “A general branch-and-bound framework for continuous global multiobjective optimization”. JOGO 80(1) (2021), 195-227]

Definition of Enclosure

From [G. Eichfelder and L. Warnow. “An approximation algorithm for multi-objective optimization problems using a box-coverage”. JOGO 83(2) (2021), 329-357]:

Definition

Let $L, U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$ be two nonempty, finite sets and $N \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$ a nonempty set.

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$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}(L, U) := (L + \mathbb{R}_+^p) \cap (U - \mathbb{R}_+^p) = \bigcup_{l \in L} \bigcup_{u \in U} [l, u]$$

is called **(box) coverage** given L and U .

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If $N \subseteq \mathcal{C}$, we call $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$ an **enclosure** of $N \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$.

Example of enclosure $\mathcal{C}(L, U)$

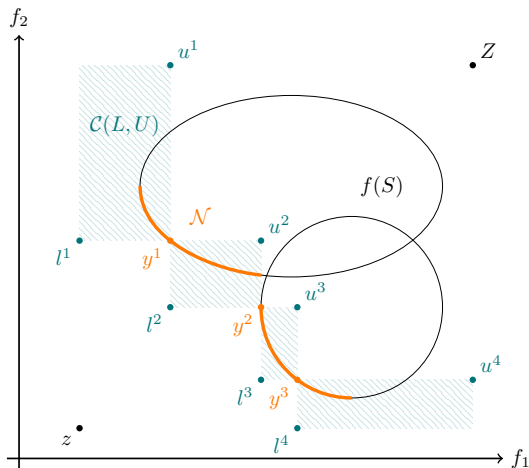


Figure: Enclosure $\mathcal{C}(L, U) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ of $N = \{y^1, y^2, y^3\}$,
with $L = \{l^1, l^2, l^3, l^4\}$ and $U = \{u^1, u^2, u^3, u^4\}$.
(Thanks to Dr. Leo Warnow (TU Ilmenau) for the picture!)

Branch-and-Bound methods for MOMINLPs

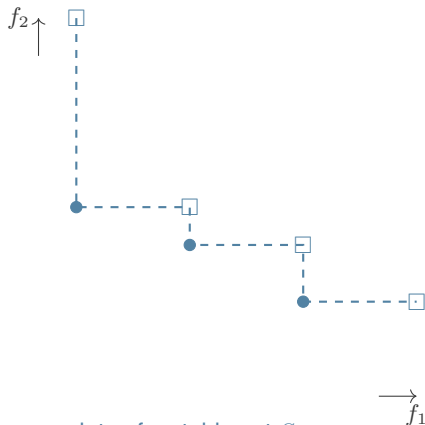
main ingredients

- Computation of upper bound sets
- Computation of lower bound sets
- Pruning rules
- Branching rules

MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

Computation of upper bound sets

Let $S \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ be a finite stable set of images of feasible points of (MO-BQP).

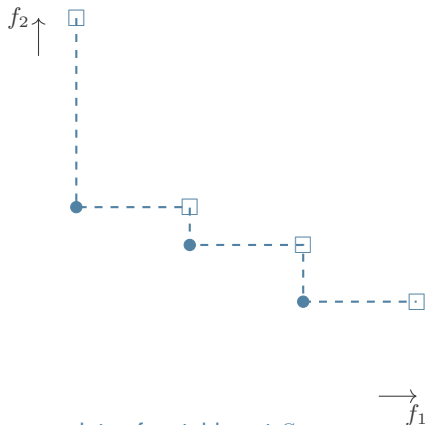


● points of a stable set S

□ local upper bounds defining the upper bound set $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$

MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

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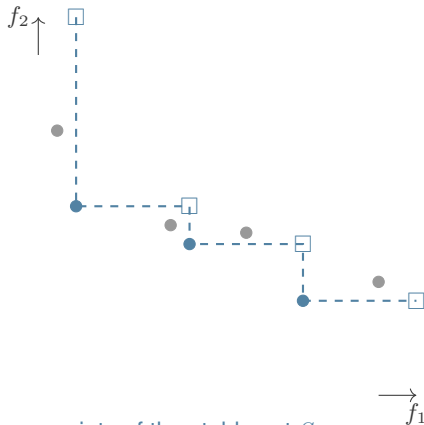


Let $S \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ be a finite stable set of images of feasible points of (MO-BQP).

An upper bound set $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$ is obtained computing the local upper bounds using the algorithm proposed in [K. Klamroth et al. “On the representation of the search region in multi-objective optimization”. EJOR 245(3), (2015), 767-778]

MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

Computation of upper bound sets

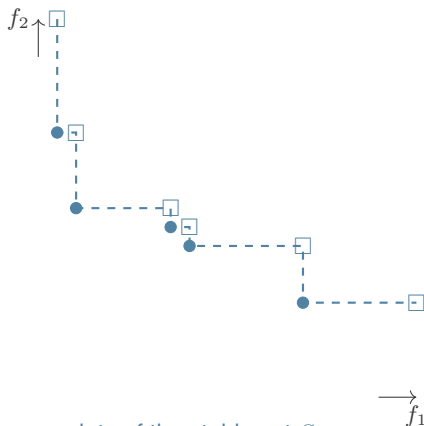


As soon as new feasible points are found we try to include their images within the stable set S to improve the upper bound set $\mathcal{U}$

- points of the stable set S
- local upper bounds defining the upper bound set $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$
- images of new feasible points found

MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

Computation of upper bound sets



● points of the stable set S

□ updated local upper bounds defining the upper bound set $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$

- S is kept as a stable set
- the upper bound set $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$ is updated with the algorithm in [K. Klamroth et al. “On the representation of the search region in multi-objective optimization”. EJOR 245(3), (2015), 767-778]
- $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathcal{U} - \mathbb{R}_+^p$,

MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

Computation of lower bound sets

Given (MOMINLP), the **upper image set** of its continuous relaxation is defined as

$$\mathcal{P} := \{f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid g(x) \leq 0 \ x \in \mathbb{R}^n\} + \mathbb{R}_+^p$$

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We say that $LB \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$ is a **lower bound set** for (MOMINLP) if

$$\mathcal{P} \subseteq LB + \mathbb{R}_+^p$$

Computation of lower bound sets

Linear supporting hyperplanes [M.Ehrgott and X. Gandibleux. "Bound sets for biobjective combinatorial optimization problems." C&OR 34(9) (2007), 2674-2694]

Let $W \subseteq \{w \in \mathbb{R}_+^p \mid \|w\|_1 = 1\}$ be a **finite set of nonnegative vectors** which includes all p unit vectors.

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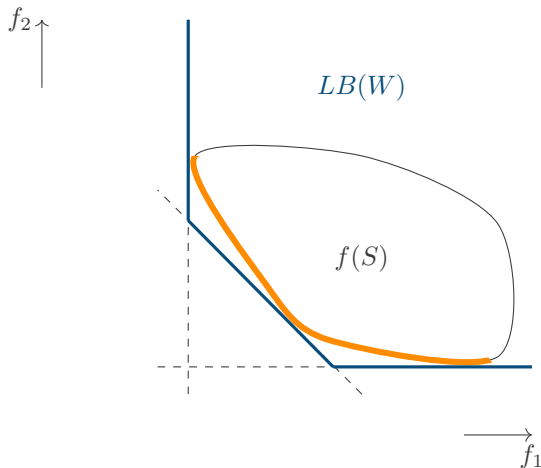
$$\theta(w) := \min\{w^\top f(x) \mid g(x) \leq 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$$

A **lower bound set** can then be defined as

$$LB(W) := \bigcap_{w \in W} \{y \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid w^\top y \geq \theta(w)\}$$

Computation of lower bound sets

$$W = \{(1, 0), (0, 1), (0.5, 0.5)\}$$



$$S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid g(x) \leq 0\}$$

MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

Pruning condition: comparing $\mathcal{U}$ with LB

$$\forall u \in \mathcal{U} : u \notin LB + \mathbb{R}_+^p. \quad (\text{Cond})$$

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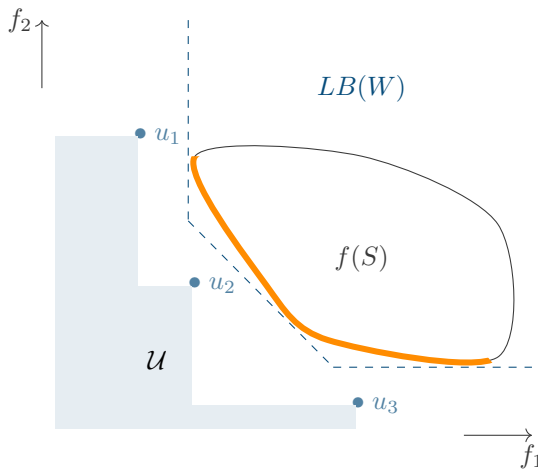
Lemma

Assume that $S \neq \emptyset$. If (Cond) holds then for the nondominated set $\mathcal{N}$ of (MOMINLP) we have $\mathcal{N} \cap (LB + \mathbb{R}_+^p) = \emptyset$

MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

Pruning condition: comparing $\mathcal{U}$ with LB

$$S \neq \emptyset$$



MO Branch-and-Bound ingredients

Branching rules

- ※ Spatial branch-and-bound methods:

intervals are partitioned for each variable

[G. Eichfelder, O. Stein, L. Warnow; “A solver for multiobjective mixed-integer convex and nonconvex optimization”, JOTA, (2024)]

[M. De Santis, G. Eichfelder, J. Niebling, S. Rocktäschel; “Solving multiobjective mixed integer convex optimization problems”, SIOPT, (2020)]

- ※ Look for efficient integer assignments:

branching on integer variables

[M. De Santis, G. Eichfelder, D. Patria, L. Warnow, “Using dual relaxations in multiobjective mixed-integer convex quadratic programming”, JOGO, (2025)]

[M. De Santis, G. Eichfelder, “A decision space algorithm for multiobjective convex quadratic integer optimization”, C & OR, (2021)]

...

MOBBQ: a branch-and-bound method for multi-objective binary quadratic programs

Marianna De Santis, Lucas Létocart, Yue Zhang



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M. De Santis, L. Létocart, Y. Zhang. *Quadratic Convex Reformulations for Multi-Objective Binary Quadratic Programming*. Optimization Online, 2025.

Multi-objective binary quadratic programs

problem formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & (q_1(x), \dots, q_p(x))^\top \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i \in [n], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{MO-BQP})$$

where

$$q_j(x) = x^\top Q_j x + (c^j)^\top x, \quad j \in [p]$$

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with

- $Q_j \in \mathcal{S}^n, j \in [p]$ **not necessarily positive semidefinite**,
- $c^j \in \mathbb{R}^n, j \in [p]$,
- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

Examples of MO-BQPs

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Unconstrained MO-BQP

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- **Multi-objective Max-Cut problem** (MO-MCP)

Unconstrained MO-BQP

- **Multi-objective Quadratic Knapsack**

in our numerical results, we consider the **MultiObjective k -item Quadratic Knapsack problem** (MO-kQKP)

MO-bBQ scheme

Compute a starting stable set $S \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ and an upper bound set $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$

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Set $d = 0$, $r_d = \emptyset$, $\mathcal{L} := \{N^{r_d}\}$

While $\mathcal{L} \neq \emptyset$ **do**

 Choose $N^{r_d} \in \mathcal{L}$, Update $\mathcal{L} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} \setminus \{N^{r_d}\}$

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If (not $\text{Prune}(N^{r_d})$) **then**

If ($\text{CheckInt}(N^{r_d})$) **then**

 Update S including $f(\bar{x})$ and keeping S a stable set

 Update $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$

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If ($\text{CheckInt}(N^{r_d})$) **then**

 Update S including $f(\bar{x})$ and keeping S a stable set

 Update $\mathcal{U} = U(S)$

Else

 Set $r_{d+1}^0 = (r_d, 0)$, $r_{d+1}^1 = (r_d, 1)$

 Update $\mathcal{L} \leftarrow \mathcal{L} \cup \{N^{r_{d+1}^0}, N^{r_{d+1}^1}\}$

End If

End While

Given a node N^{r_d} , we define the boolean function $\text{Prune}(N^{r_d})$ as

$$\text{Prune}(N^{r_d}) := (\mathcal{F}^{r_d} = \emptyset) \vee (\forall u \in \mathcal{U} : u \notin LB^{r_d}).$$

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Proposition

If $\text{Prune}(N^{r_d}) = 1$ then no efficient point $\bar{x} \in \{0, 1\}^n$ of (MO-BQP) is such that $(\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_d) = (r_1, \dots, r_d)$.

Correctness of MO**b**BQ

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Proposition

*MO**b**BQ stops after a finite number of iterations returning the stable set S , that is the nondominated set of (MO-BQP).*

Computation of lower bound sets at the nodes

Restricted continuous relaxation

$$\min \quad (q_1(x), \dots, q_p(x))^T$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad x_1 = r_1$$

$$x_2 = r_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x_d = r_d$$

$$Ax \leq b$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

Computation of lower bound sets at the nodes

Restricted continuous relaxation

$$\min \quad (q_1(x), \dots, q_p(x))^T$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad x_1 = r_1$$

$$x_2 = r_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x_d = r_d$$

$$Ax \leq b$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$= \begin{array}{ll} \min & (q_1^r(x), \dots, q_p^r(x))^T \\ \text{s.t.} & A^d x \leq b^r \end{array}$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^{n-d}$$

Quadratic Convex Reformulation¹

single objective case

Consider the following single-objective binary quadratic problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & q(x) = x^\top Qx + c^\top x \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax \leq b \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n\}, \end{array} \quad (\text{BQP})$$

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For any feasible point $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$ it holds:

- $x_i^2 = x_i, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$
- $(A_{=}x - b_{=})^2 = (A_{=}x - b_{=})^T (A_{=}x - b_{=}) = 0$

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single objective case

Introducing the parameters $\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ problem BQP can be reformulated as

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & q_{\delta,\beta}(x) = q(x) + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i (x_i^2 - x_i) + \beta (Ax - b)^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n\}. \end{aligned} \tag{QCR}_{(\delta,\beta)}$$

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Note that $q_{\delta,\beta}(x)$ is a **quadratic function** depending on the matrix

$$Q_{\delta,\beta} = Q + \text{diag}(\delta) + \beta A_{=}^{\top} A_{=},$$

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Any LB on $(\text{QCR}_{(\delta,\beta)})$ is a valid LB on (BQP), for any $(\delta, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

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single objective case



look for the *best* $(\delta, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, **keeping** $q_{\delta, \beta}$ **convex**:

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$$\max_{\substack{(\delta, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \\ Q_{\delta, \beta} \succeq 0}} \theta(\delta, \beta) = \max_{\substack{(\delta, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \\ Q_{\delta, \beta} \succeq 0}} \min\{q_{\delta, \beta}(x) \mid Ax \leq b, x \in [0, 1]^n\},$$

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single objective case



look for the *best* $(\delta, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, **keeping** $q_{\delta, \beta}$ **convex**:

$$\theta(\delta^*, \beta^*) = \max_{\substack{(\delta, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \\ Q_{\delta, \beta} \succeq 0}} \theta(\delta, \beta),$$

(δ^*, β^*) are obtained as the **optimal dual variables of an SDP**

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Quadratic Convex Reformulation¹

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{SDP}_{QCR}) \quad & \min_x \quad c^\top x + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n Q_{ij} X_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X_{ii} = x_i, \quad i \in [n] \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

$$\langle A = A^\top, X \rangle - 2b^\top A = x = -b^2 \tag{2}$$

$$Ax \leq b$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & x^\top \\ x & X \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad X \in \mathcal{S}^n.$$

The optimal δ^* and β^* are the optimal dual variables associated with constraints (1) and (2).

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Ignoring the constraints

The Unconstrained Quadratic Convex Reformulation (UQCR)

Ignoring $Ax = b$, we obtain:

$$\min_x \quad q_\delta(x) = q(x) + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_i (x_i^2 - x_i)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad Ax \leq b \quad (\text{UQCR}_\delta)$$

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The optimal $\delta^{u,*} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is such that

$$\theta(\delta^{u,*}) = \max_{\substack{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ Q_\delta \succeq 0}} \theta(\delta) = \max_{\substack{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ Q_\delta \succeq 0}} \min_{\substack{Ax \leq b \\ x \in [0,1]^n}} q_\delta(x),$$

where $Q_\delta = Q + \text{diag}(\delta)$.

$$\theta(\delta^{u,*}) \leq \theta(\delta^*, \beta^*)$$

Multi-objective Quadratic Convex Reformulation

We can compute $\delta_{0,j}^{u,*} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $(\delta_{0,j}^*, \beta_{0,j}^*) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ for each objective function and reformulate (MO-BQP) as:

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$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & ((q_1)_{\delta_{0,1}^{u,*}}(x), \dots, (q_p)_{\delta_{0,p}^{u,*}}(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i \in [n] \end{aligned}$$

(MO-UQCR)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & ((q_1)_{(\delta_{0,1}^*, \beta_{0,1}^*)}(x), \dots, (q_p)_{(\delta_{0,p}^*, \beta_{0,p}^*)}(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ax \leq b \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i \in [n] \end{aligned}$$

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Proposition

Let $\mathcal{N}$, $\mathcal{N}_{UQCR}$ and $\mathcal{N}_{QCR}$ be the nondominated sets of (MO-BQP), (MO-UQCR) and (MO-QCR), respectively.

It holds

$$\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{N}_{UQCR} = \mathcal{N}_{QCR}.$$

Multi-objective Quadratic Convex Reformulation

At a generic node of the branch-and-bound tree, we have a vector of fixings $r_d \in \{0, 1\}^d$ and $(\text{MO-BQP})^{r_d}$ can be reformulated as:

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$$\begin{array}{ll}\min_x & ((q_1^{r_d})_{\delta_1^{u,*}}(x), \dots, (q_p^{r_d})_{\delta_p^{u,*}}(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & A^d x \leq b^{r_d} \\ & x \in \{0, 1\}^{n-d}\end{array} \quad (\text{MO-UQCR}^{r_d})$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min_x & ((q_1^{r_d})_{(\delta_1^*, \beta_1^*)}(x), \dots, (q_p^{r_d})_{(\delta_p^*, \beta_p^*)}(x)) \\ \text{s.t.} & A^d x \leq b^{r_d} \\ & x \in \{0, 1\}^{n-d}\end{array} \quad (\text{MO-QCR}^{r_d})$$

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Each multi-objective quadratic convex reformulation comes at the price of solving p semidefinite programs

Computation of lower bound sets

Outer approximations of the upper image sets of the relaxations of MO-QCRrd and MO-UQCRrd

Let $W \subseteq \{w \in \mathbb{R}_+^p \mid \|w\|_1 = 1\}$ be a **finite set of nonnegative vectors** which includes all p unit vectors.

Computation of lower bound sets

Outer approximations of the upper image sets of the relaxations of MO-QCRrd and MO-UQCRrd

Let $W \subseteq \{w \in \mathbb{R}_+^p \mid \|w\|_1 = 1\}$ be a **finite set of nonnegative vectors** which includes all p unit vectors.

The supporting hyperplanes of the upper image sets at the node are **obtained by solving single-objective subproblems with $w \in W$:**

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$$\theta^{rd}(w) := \min\{w^\top (q^{rd})_{(\delta^*, \beta^*)}(x) \mid A^d x \leq b^{rd}, x \in [0, 1]^{n-d}\}$$

$$\theta_u^{rd}(w) := \min\{w^\top (q^{rd})_{\delta u, *}(x) \mid A^d x \leq b^{rd}, x \in [0, 1]^{n-d}\}$$

Computation of lower bound sets

Outer approximations of the upper image sets of the relaxations of MO-QCR^{*rd*} and MO-UQCR^{*rd*}

Let $W \subseteq \{w \in \mathbb{R}_+^p \mid \|w\|_1 = 1\}$ be a **finite set of nonnegative vectors** which includes all p unit vectors.

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Note each subproblem is a **continuous convex quadratic program**

Computation of lower bound sets

Outer approximations of the upper image sets of the relaxations of MO-QCRrd and MO-UQCRrd

Once the $|W|$ continuous single-objective convex quadratic subproblems are solved, the **lower bound sets** are then defined as:

Computation of lower bound sets

Outer approximations of the upper image sets of the relaxations of MO-QCR^{r_d} and MO-UQCR^{r_d}

Once the $|W|$ continuous single-objective convex quadratic subproblems are solved, the **lower bound sets** are then defined as:

$$LB_{QC R^{r_d}}^{r_d}(W) := \bigcap_{w \in W} \{y \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid w^\top y \geq \theta^{r_d}(w)\}$$

$$LB_{UQCR^{r_d}}^{r_d}(W) := \bigcap_{w \in W} \{y \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid w^\top y \geq \theta_u^{r_d}(w)\}$$

Computation of lower bound sets

Outer approximations of the upper image sets of the relaxations of MO-QCR^{*r*_{*d*}} and MO-UQCR^{*r*_{*d*}}

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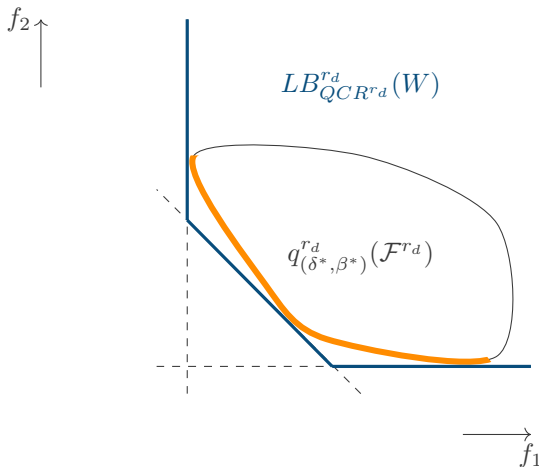
$$LB_{QC R^{r_d}}^{r_d}(W) := \bigcap_{w \in W} \{y \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid w^\top y \geq \theta^{r_d}(w)\}$$

$$LB_{UQ C R^{r_d}}^{r_d}(W) := \bigcap_{w \in W} \{y \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid w^\top y \geq \theta_u^{r_d}(w)\}$$

The computation of a lower bound set at a node comes at the price of **solving p semidefinite programs and $|W|$ single-objective convex quadratic programs**

Lower bound sets as linear outer approximations

$$W = \{(1, 0), (0, 1), (0.5, 0.5)\}$$



$\mathcal{F}^{r_d} = \{x \in [0, 1]^{n-d} \mid A^d x \leq b^{r_d}\}$ is the **restricted feasible set at** N^{r_d}

Relaxations at the nodes

Comparing the lower bound sets

Proposition

$$LB_{QCR^d}^{r_d}(W) \subseteq LB_{UQCR^d}^{r_d}(W)$$

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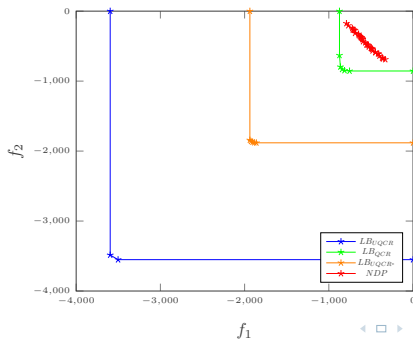
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Advantage of static branching

Avoiding to solve p SDPs at each node

In our implementation of MObbQ, the order in which binary variables are fixed is **predetermined**

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at a generic level $d \in [n] \cup \{0\}$ of the search tree, the variables $x_1, \dots, x_d$ are fixed.

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at a generic level $d \in [n] \cup \{0\}$ of the search tree, the variables $x_1, \dots, x_d$ are fixed.



The subproblems at the nodes belonging to **the same level** $d \in [n]$ share the **same matrices** $Q_j^d, j \in [p]$.

Computation of $\delta_j^{u,*}$, $j \in [p]$ in pre-processing

$p \times n$ SDPs to be solved in total

For each level $d = 0, \dots, n-1$ and each $j \in [p]$ we address:

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{SDP}_{UQCR})_j^d \quad & \min_x \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n-d} \sum_{\ell=1}^{n-d} (Q_j^d)_{i\ell} X_{i\ell} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X_{ii} = x_i, \quad i \in [n-d] \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x^\top \\ x & X \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^{n-d}, \quad X \in \mathcal{S}^{n-d} \end{aligned}$$

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N.B. the linear term of the objective functions cannot be considered

Improved $\delta_j^{u,*}$

How to take into account $Ax \leq b$

If A and b have nonnegative entries

$$\{x \in [0, 1]^{n-d} \mid A_{=}^d x = b_{=}^{r_d}\} \subseteq \{x \in [0, 1]^{n-d} \mid A_{=}^d x \leq b_{=}^d\}.$$

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$$A^d x \leq b$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & x^\top \\ x & X \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^{n-d}, \quad X \in \mathcal{S}^{n-d}.$$

Numerical results

We compared five different versions of MObBQ algorithms:

- ◇ MObBQ_{UQCR} : $(\text{MO-UQCR})^{rd}$ is adopted at every node
- ◇ MObBQ_{UQCR^*} : the *improved* UQCR is adopted at every node
- ◇ $\text{MObBQ}_{QCR+UQCR}$: (MO-QCR) is adopted at the root node and $(\text{MO-UQCR})^{rd}$ is adopted at every other node
- ◇ $\text{MObBQ}_{QCR+UQCR^*}$: (MO-QCR) is adopted at the root node and the *improved* UQCR is adopted at every other node
- ◇ MObBQ_{QCR^0} (or MObBQ_{UQCR^0}): (MO-QCR) (or (MO-UQCR)) is adopted to reformulate (MO-QCR)

Implementation details

- ◇ All versions of MO-bBQ are implemented in JULIA v.1.11.2.
The implementation is available at
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...hopefully soon part of:



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MultiObjectiveAlgorithms.jl

CI passing codecov 100%

[MultiObjectiveAlgorithms.jl](#) (MOA) is a collection of algorithms for multi-objective optimization.

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- ◇ The time limit (CPU) is set to 1800 seconds.
- ◇ We compare with the ε -constraint method on BO instances.

Results on bi-objective max-cut instances

comparison with the ϵ -constraint method available in JuMP at

<https://jump.dev/JuMP.jl/stable/packages/MultiObjectiveAlgorithms>

n	density%	[#NDP]	ϵ -constraint		MObbBQ _{UQCR} ⁰			MObbBQ _{UQCR}		
			solved	time(s)	solved	time(s)	#nodes	solved	time(s)	#nodes
15	25	3	3	0.10	3	1.71	1568	3	1.15	675
	50	8	3	0.29	3	1.55	1581	3	1.32	889
	75	14	3	1.77	3	4.22	3909	3	2.29	1747
	100	54	3	29.35	3	20.26	20124	3	11.11	9459
20	25	14	3	0.73	3	7.69	6389	3	4.11	2773
	50	15	3	1.66	3	19.38	14960	3	6.78	4605
	75	20	3	10.68	3	35.97	26222	3	11.01	7870
	100	72	3	438.18	3	363.64	263236	3	105.49	68350
25	25	13	3	1.01	3	50.16	35445	3	14.25	8582
	50	19	3	3.83	3	63.81	40101	3	15.11	8984
	75	22	3	55.75	3	160.67	96333	3	34.73	20567
	100	88	0	-	0	-	-	3	1526.79	847327
30	25	18	3	3.19	3	353.29	186759	3	51.72	26214
	50	26	3	16.29	3	484.07	244246	3	60.02	29255
	75	32	3	234.22	2	1350.45	675664	3	172.10	83560
	100	-	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

Results on tri-objective max cut instances

applying UQCR at every node works better than a one-time reformulation

n	density%	[#NDP]	MObbQ _{UQCR} ⁰			MObbQ _{UQCR}		
			solved	time(s)	#nodes	solved	time(s)	#nodes
10	25	73	3	1.83	1273	3	1.23	862
	50	103	3	2.30	1457	3	1.48	953
	75	103	3	2.80	1629	3	2.04	1275
	100	64	3	2.02	1499	3	1.67	1253
15	25	898	2	1623.31	37437	3	576.34	20894
	50	922	0	-	-	3	984.11	27176
	75	750	3	1494.57	42079	3	880.20	28209
	100	323	3	264.96	33507	3	184.23	27976
20	25	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
	50	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
	75	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
	100	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

Results on multi-objective k-item quadratic knapsack

problem formulation

$$\max_x \quad (f_1(x), \dots, f_p(x))^\top$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i \leq b$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = k$$

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

$$i \in \{1, \dots, n\},$$

(MO-kQKP)

$$\text{where } f_j(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\ell=1}^n (Q_j)_{i\ell} x_i x_\ell.$$

Results on bi-objective kQKP

We employ the single-objective instance generator described in [Ceselli et al., MPC (2022)]

n	density%	[#NDP]	MObbBQ _{QCR} ^a			MObbBQ _{UQCR}			MObbBQ _{QCR+UQCR}			MObbBQ _{UQCR} [*]			MObbBQ _{QCR+UQCR} [*]		
			sol	time(s)	#nodes	sol	time(s)	#nodes	sol	time(s)	#nodes	sol	time(s)	#nodes	sol	time(s)	#nodes
20	25	46	3	15.28	12569	3	10.58	12685	3	13.85	12692	3	10.49	12684	3	10.89	12691
	50	26	3	3.55	2814	3	2.87	2943	3	3.85	2945	3	3.42	2940	3	3.37	2942
	75	29	3	7.76	6586	3	6.11	6981	3	7.47	7049	3	6.66	6073	3	7.20	7044
	100	27	3	2.58	1874	3	2.34	1917	3	2.68	1919	3	2.54	1911	3	2.86	1911
25	25	39	3	77.11	57986	3	236.50	70366	3	81.50	70375	3	69.24	70320	3	70.22	70329
	50	36	3	7.82	5579	3	6.11	6119	3	8.90	6123	3	6.82	6118	3	7.28	6122
	75	54	3	38.02	28010	3	30.81	28587	3	37.15	28596	3	34.17	28356	3	34.50	28365
	100	29	3	2.91	1721	3	2.57	1734	3	4.17	1734	3	2.75	1725	3	3.69	1725
30	25	37	3	102.27	66127	3	79.44	72409	3	91.04	72409	3	82.60	72283	3	83.17	72283
	50	58	2	29.84	19899	2	22.98	20033	2	29.25	20033	2	27.04	19740	2	25.34	19740
	75	34	3	23.48	15398	3	19.22	16241	3	26.79	16640	3	21.13	15854	3	22.84	16378
	100	30	3	6.68	3484	3	6.30	3529	3	8.03	3529	3	6.69	3507	3	7.61	3507
35	25	31	3	48.00	27566	3	37.07	27769	3	44.06	27769	3	39.91	27703	3	41.81	27703
	50	71	2	88.21	52597	2	73.51	53943	2	88.14	53943	2	76.26	53800	2	77.17	53800
	75	55	3	238.94	140667	3	194.27	152734	3	234.87	152734	3	203.16	151863	3	203.50	151863
	100	31	3	8.90	3848	3	7.88	3881	3	13.78	3881	3	10.21	3875	3	11.48	3875
40	25	43	3	444.06	226818	3	331.12	235557	3	391.68	235557	3	340.79	235377	3	342.21	235377
	50	57	3	293.61	140495	3	241.28	155633	3	271.17	157365	3	247.49	148392	3	269.34	152065
	75	65	2	114.15	56598	2	85.61	57303	2	117.77	57306	2	92.68	57115	2	98.05	57118
	100	74	2	705.46	351445	2	602.865	393893	2	712.47	393893	2	659.09	369361	2	678.43	369361

Results on bi-objective kQKP

Comparison with the ϵ -constraint method available in JuMP at

<https://jump.dev/JuMP.jl/stable/packages/MultiObjectiveAlgorithms>

n	density%	[#NDP]	ϵ -constraint		MOBBQ _{UQCR}	
			sol	time(s)	sol	time(s)
20	25	46	3	7.40	3	10.58
	50	26	3	3.69	3	2.87
	75	29	3	3.94	3	6.11
	100	27	3	6.26	3	2.34
25	25	39	3	11.09	3	236.50
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	100	29	3	6.26	3	2.57
30	25	37	3	13.03	3	79.44
	50	58	3	47.89	2	22.98
	75	34	3	19.03	3	19.22
	100	30	3	8.26	3	6.30
35	25	31	3	19.46	3	37.07
	50	71	3	76.61	2	73.51
	75	55	3	47.67	3	194.27
	100	31	3	12.94	3	7.88
40	25	43	3	45.82	3	331.12
	50	57	3	82.65	3	241.28
	75	65	3	110.90	2	85.61
	100	74	3	217.96	2	602.865

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Thanks for your attention!