

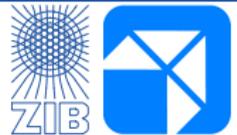


# Primal Heuristics in SCIP

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Zuse Institute Berlin

DFG Research Center MATHEON  
*Mathematics for key technologies*



Berlin, 10/11/2007



## 1 Introduction

- Basics
- Integration Into SCIP

## 2 Available Heuristics

- Rounding Heuristics
- (Objective) Diving
- LNS & Others

## 3 Remarks & Results



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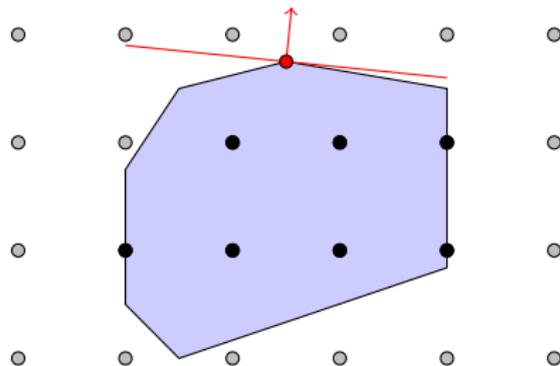
## 3 Remarks & Results



## Exact methods

- ▷ Branch-And-Bound
- ▷ Cutting planes
- ▷ Branch-And-Cut

## Heuristics

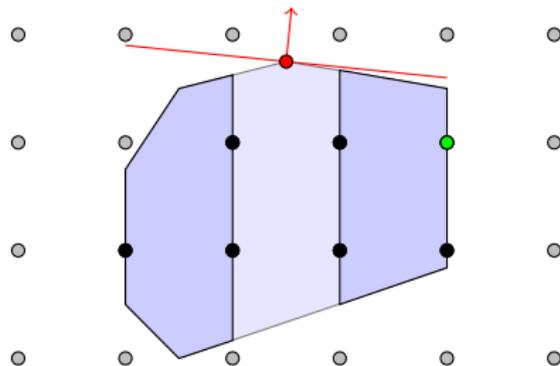




## Exact methods

- ▷ **Branch-And-Bound**
- ▷ Cutting planes
- ▷ Branch-And-Cut

## Heuristics

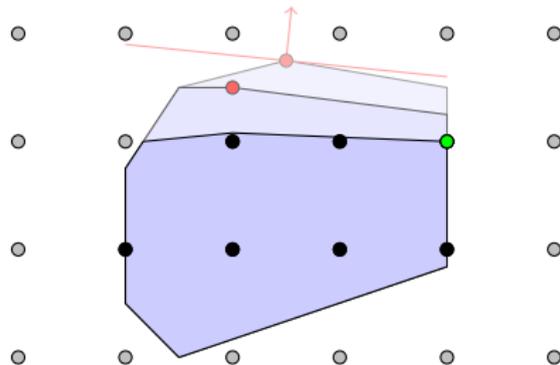




## Exact methods

- ▷ Branch-And-Bound
- ▷ **Cutting planes**
- ▷ Branch-And-Cut

## Heuristics

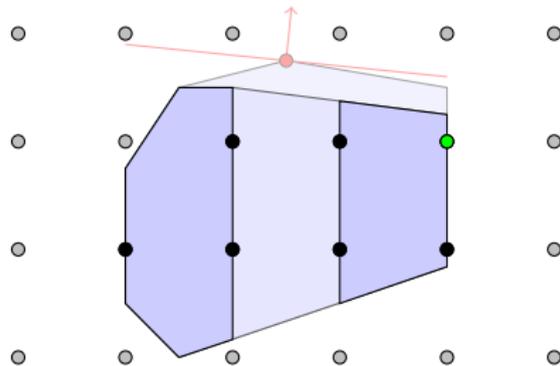




## Exact methods

- ▷ Branch-And-Bound
- ▷ Cutting planes
- ▷ **Branch-And-Cut**

## Heuristics



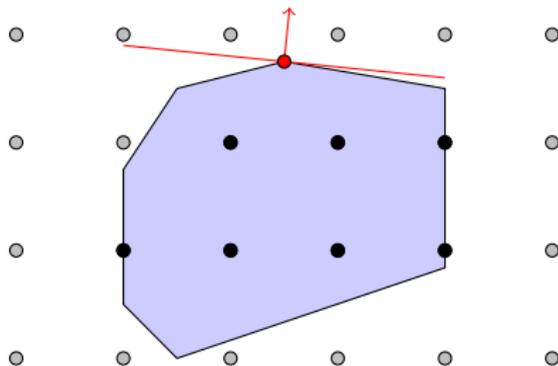


## Exact methods

- ▷ Branch-And-Bound
- ▷ Cutting planes
- ▷ Branch-And-Cut

## Heuristics

- ▷ Often find good solutions



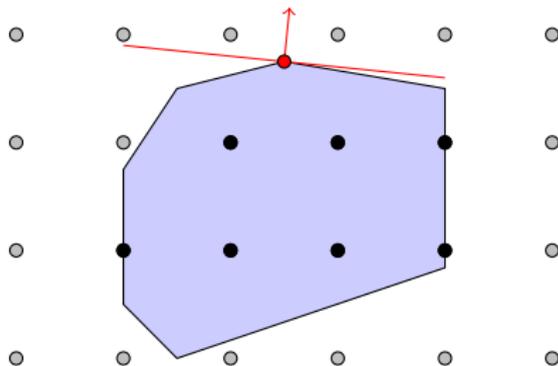


## Exact methods

- ▷ Branch-And-Bound
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## Heuristics

- ▷ Often find good solutions
- ▷ in a reasonable time



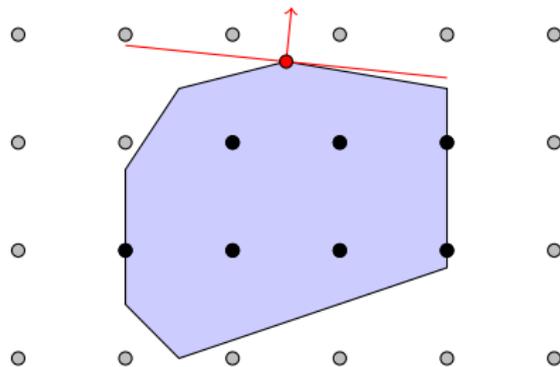


## Exact methods

- ▷ Branch-And-Bound
- ▷ Cutting planes
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## Heuristics

- ▷ Often find good solutions
- ▷ in a reasonable time
- ▷ without any warranty!



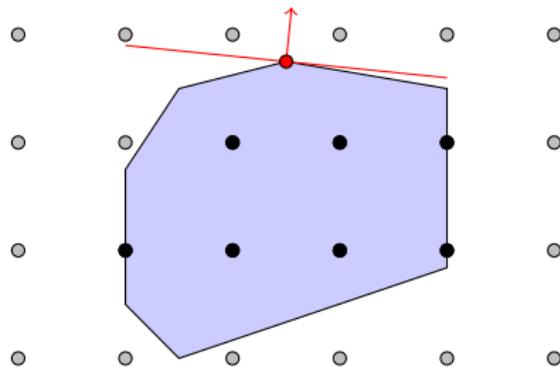


## Exact methods

- ▷ Branch-And-Bound
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## Heuristics

- ▷ Often find good solutions
- ▷ in a reasonable time
- ▷ without any warranty!
- ▷  $\rightsquigarrow$  Integrate into exact solver





## Why use heuristics inside an exact solver?

- ▷ Able to prove feasibility of the model
- ▷ Often nearly optimal solution suffices in practice
- ▷ Feasible solutions guide remaining search process

## Characteristics



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- ▷ Able to prove feasibility of the model
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## Characteristics

- ▷ Highest priority to feasibility
- ▷ Keep control of effort!
- ▷ Use as much information as you can get



## 1 Introduction

- Basics
- Integration Into SCIP

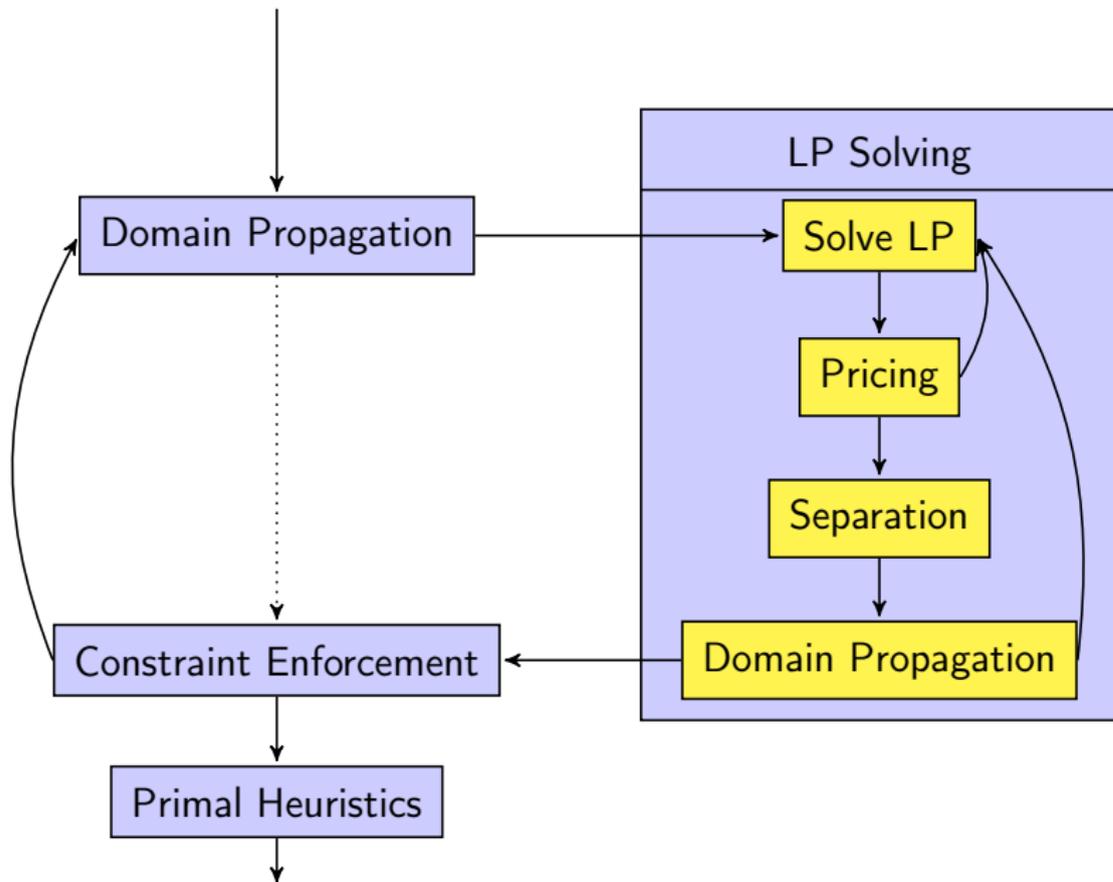
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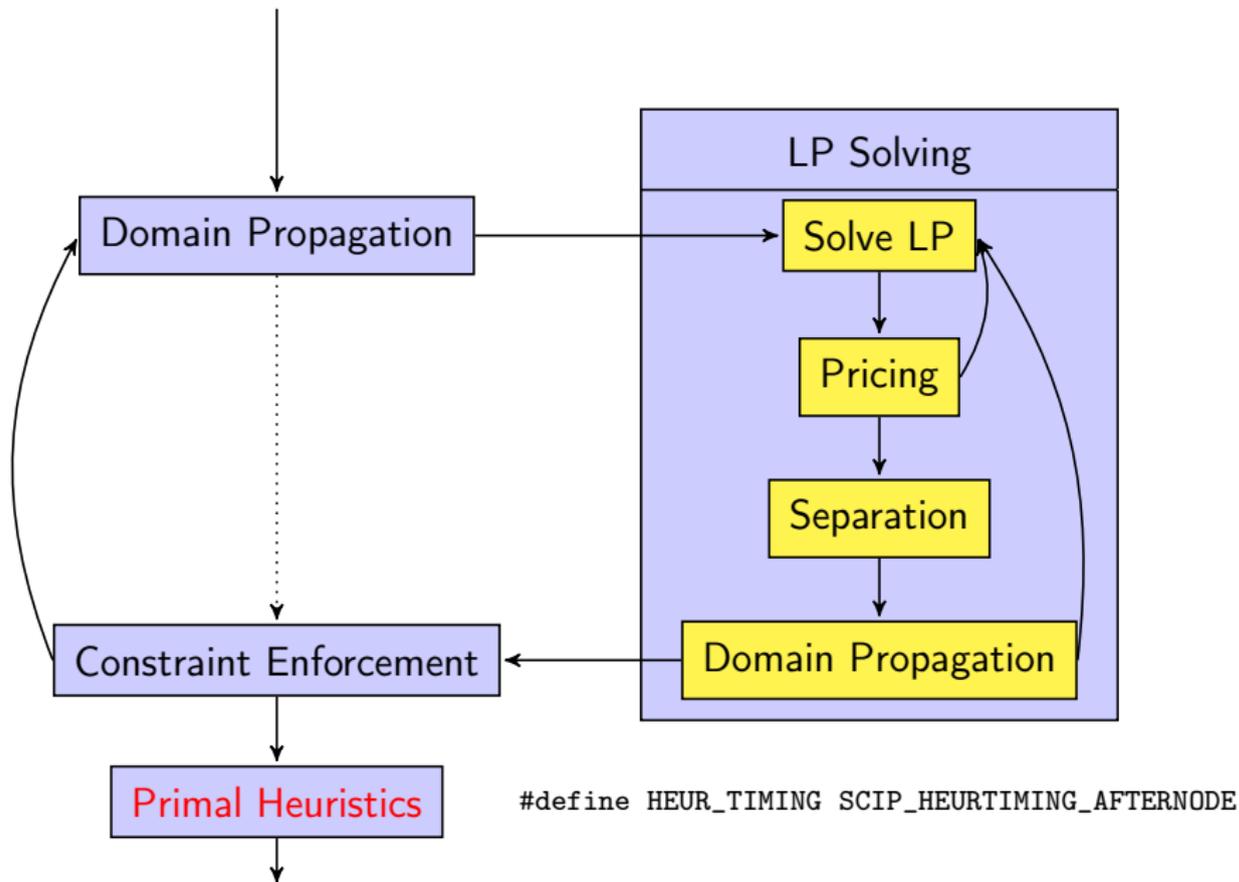
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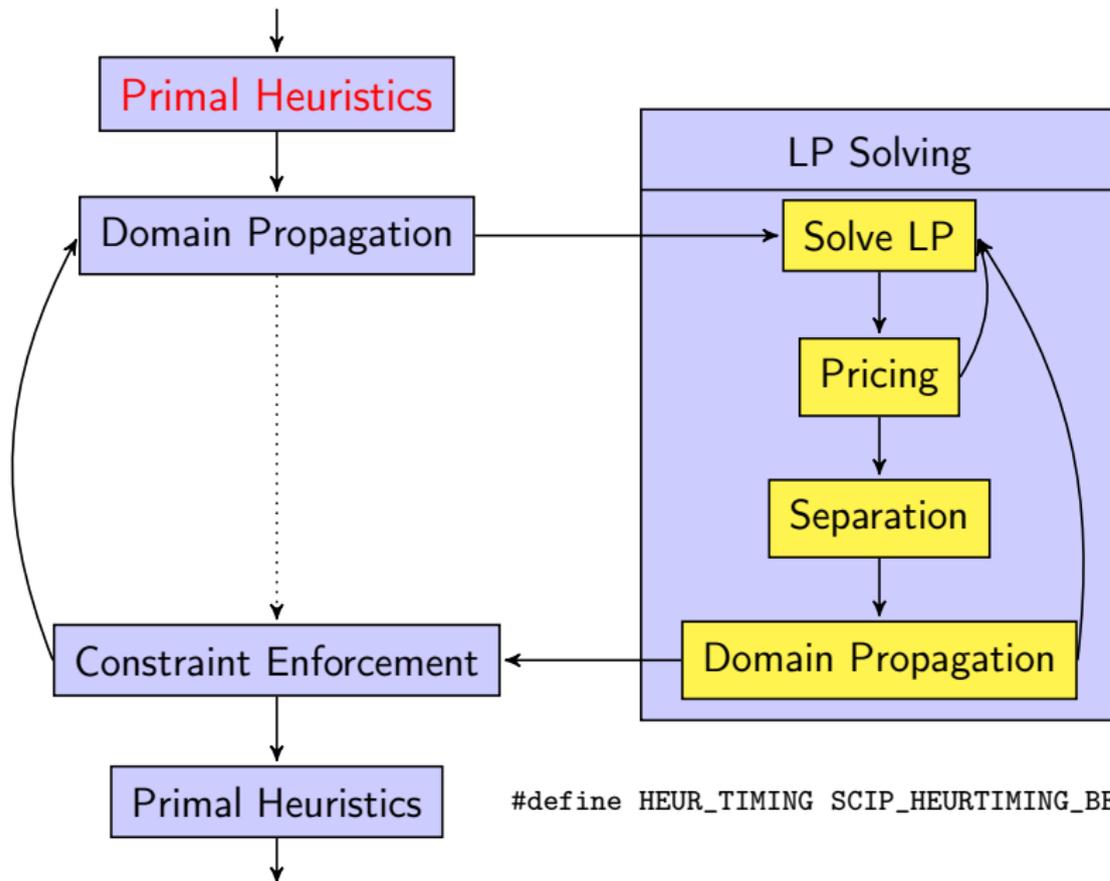
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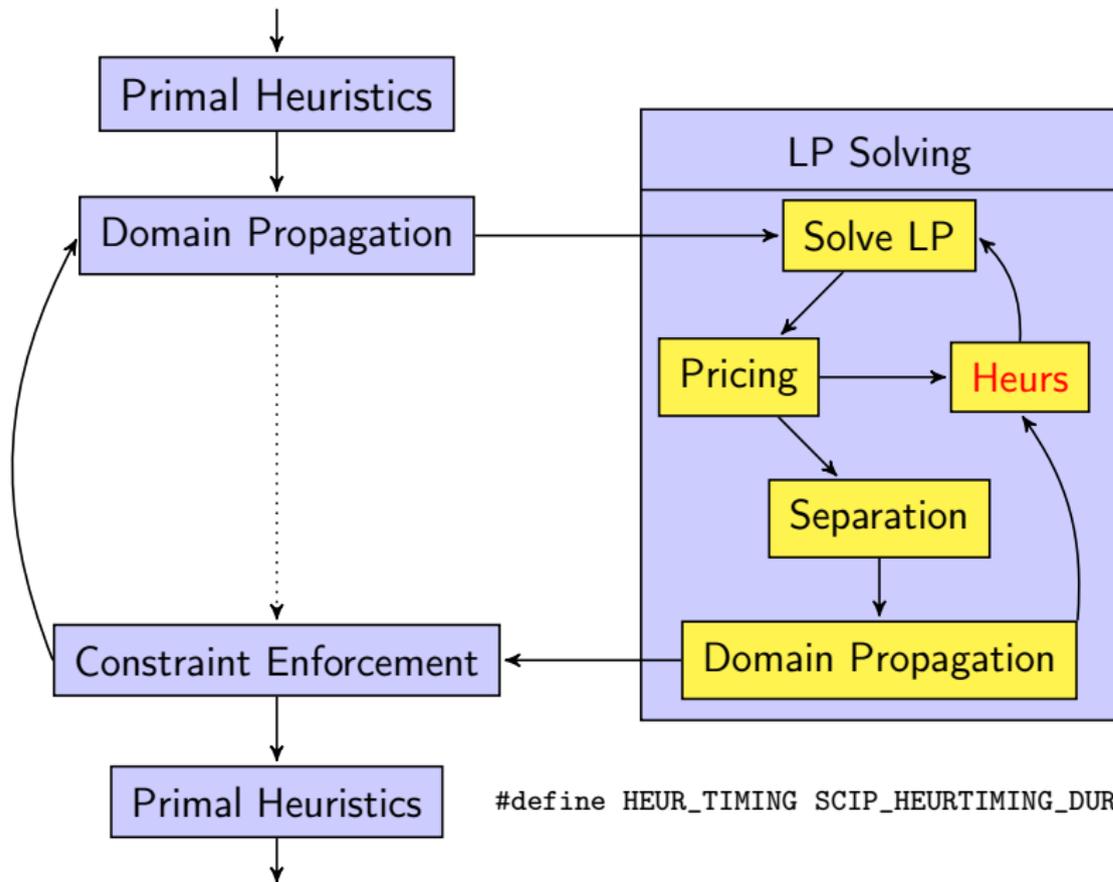
```
SCIPincludeHeur(  
    scip,                // scip  
    "Christofides",     // HEUR_NAME  
    "Start_heuristic_for_TSP", // HEUR_DESC  
    'X',                // HEUR_DISPCHAR  
    -15000,             // HEUR_PRIORITY  
    0,                  // HEUR_FREQ  
    0,                  // HEUR_FREQOFS  
    0,                  // HEUR_MAXDEPTH  
    SCIP_HEURTIMING_BEFORENODE // HEUR_TIMING  
);
```







```
#define HEUR_TIMING SCIP_HEURTIMING_BEFORENODE
```



```
#define HEUR_TIMING SCIP_HEURTIMING_DURINGLPLLOOP
```



## Two main categories

- ▷ Start heuristics
  - ▶ Often already at root node
  - ▶ Mostly start from LP optimum
- ▷ Improvement heuristics
  - ▶ Require feasible solution
  - ▶ Normally at most once for each incumbent



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```
#define HEUR_FREQOFS 0
```



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```
if( SCIPgetLPSolstat(scip) != SCIP_LPSOLSTAT_OPTIMAL )  
    return SCIP_OKAY;
```



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```
if( SCIPgetNSols(scip) <= 0 )  
    return SCIP_OKAY;
```



## Two main categories

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```
struct SCIP_HeurData
{
    SCIP_SOL* lastsol;
}
```



## Five main approaches

- ▷ **Rounding** assign integer values to fractional variables
- ▷ **Diving**: DFS in the Branch-And-Bound-tree
- ▷ **Objective diving**: manipulate objective function
- ▷ **LargeNeighborhoodSearch**: solve some subMIP
- ▷ **Pivoting**: manipulate simplex algorithm



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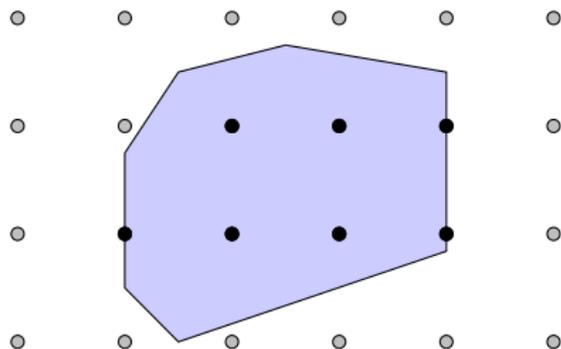
## Implemented into SCIP

- ▷ 5 Rounding heuristics
- ▷ 8 Diving heuristics
- ▷ 3 Objective divers
- ▷ 4 LNS improvement heuristics
- ▷ 3 Others



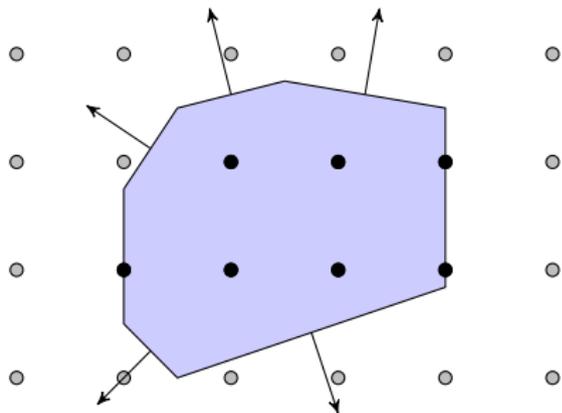
## Statistics & points

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Potentially violated rows
- ▷ **Variables' pseudocosts:**  
Average objective change
- ▷ **Special points:**
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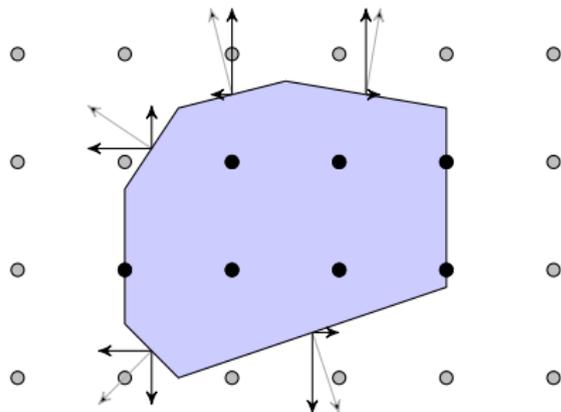
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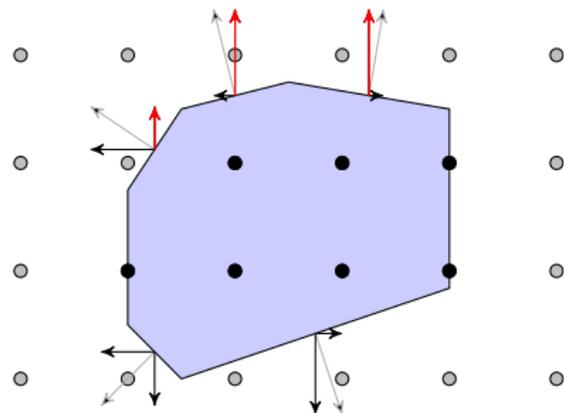
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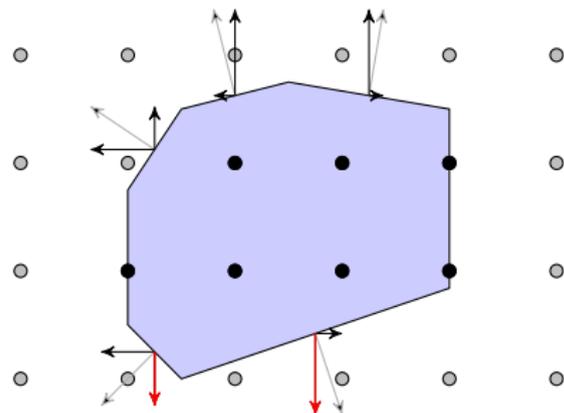


```
int nlocks = SCIPvarGetNLocksUp(var);
```



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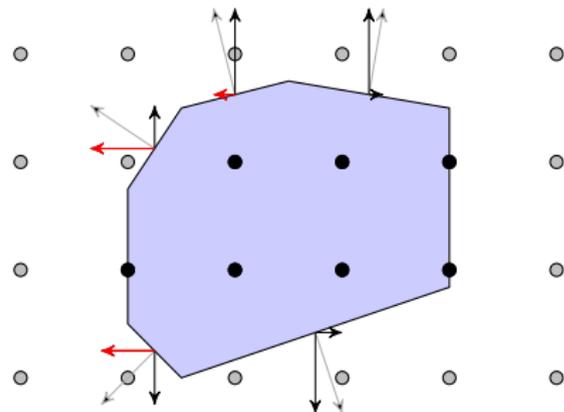


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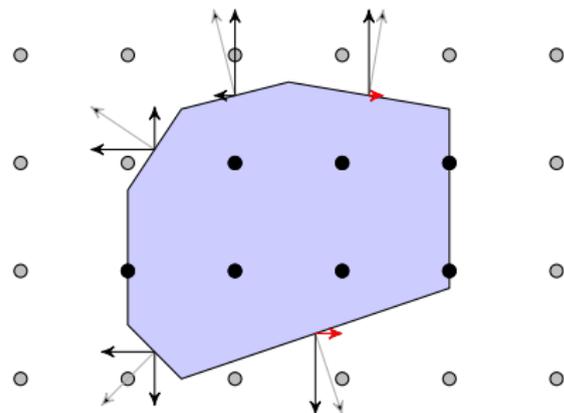


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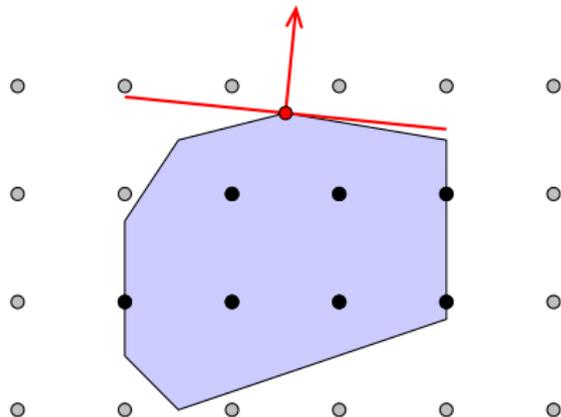


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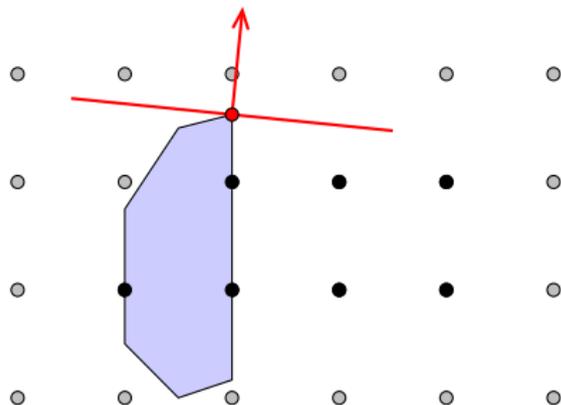
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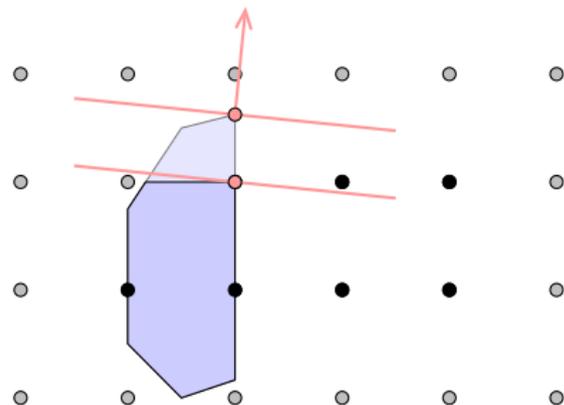
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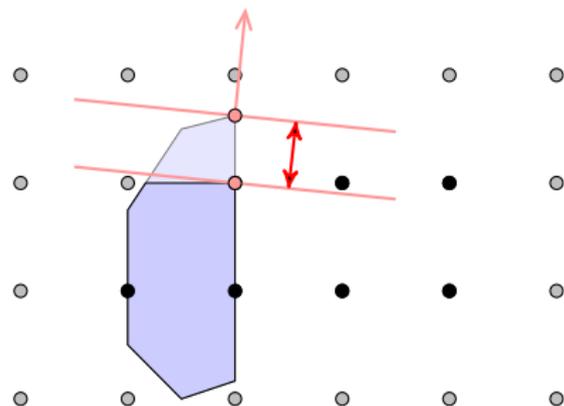
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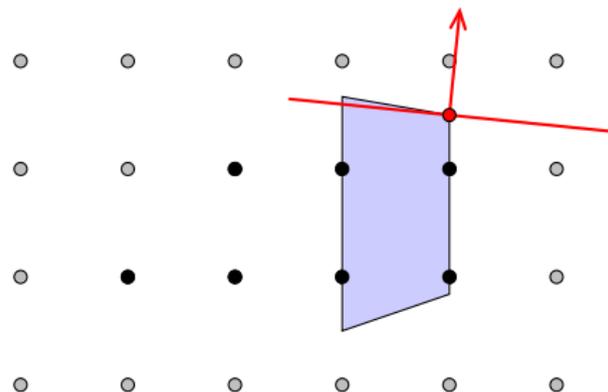


```
SCIP_Real pscost = SCIPgetVarPseudocost(scip, var, delta);
```



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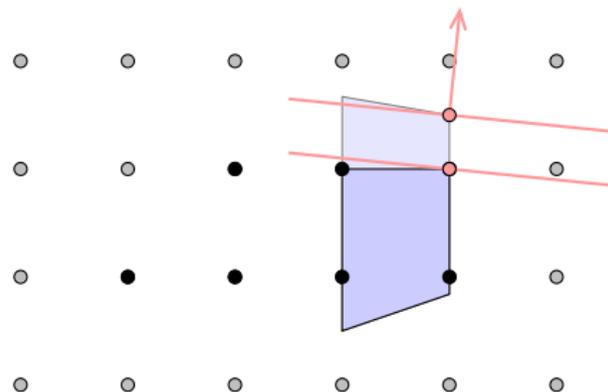


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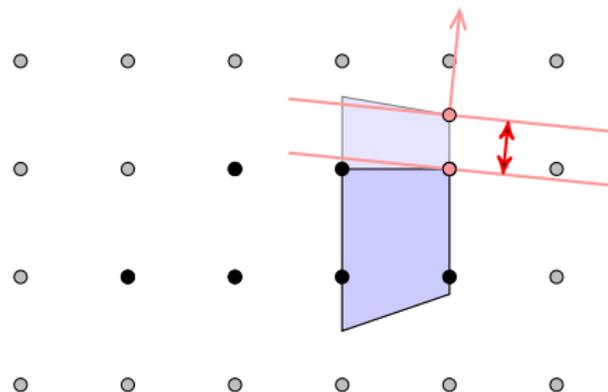


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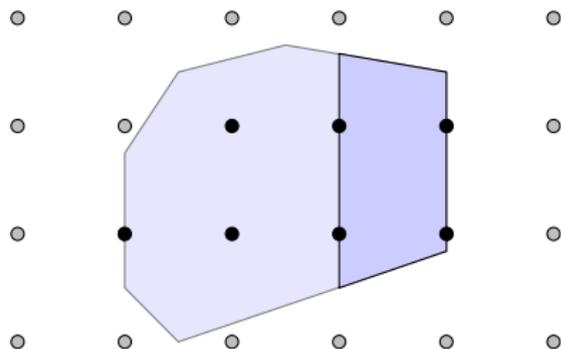


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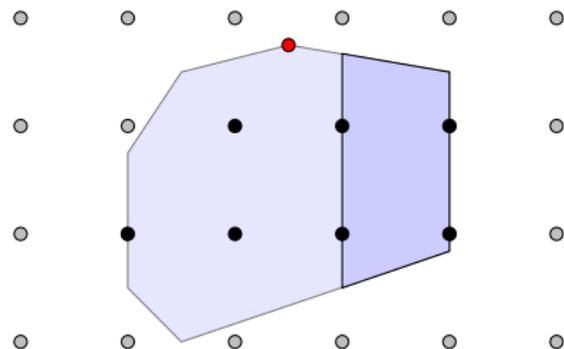
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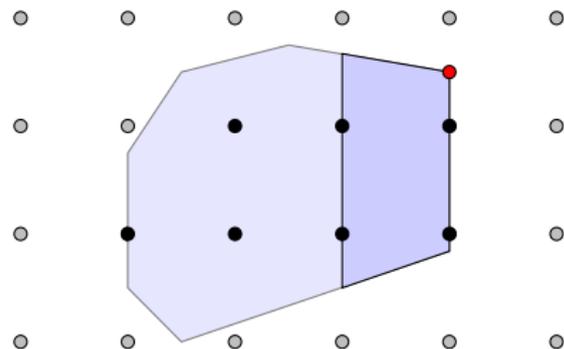


```
SCIP_Real rootsolval = SCIPvarGetRootSol(var);
```



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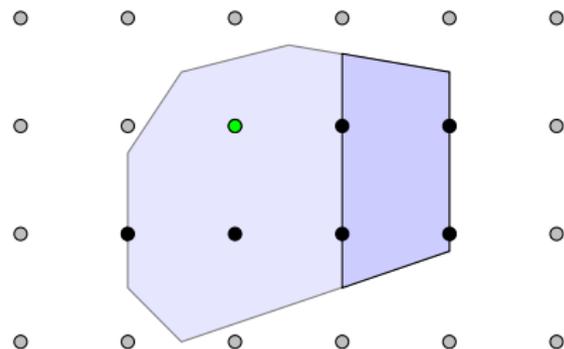


```
SCIP_Real solval = SCIPgetSolVal(scip, NULL, var);
```



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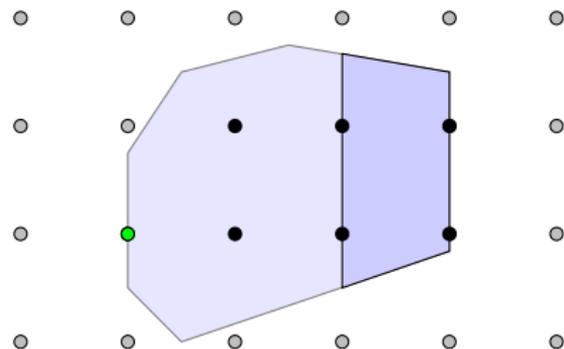


```
SCIP_Sol* bestsol = SCIPgetBestSol(scip);  
SCIP_Real solval = SCIPgetSolVal(scip, bestsol, var);
```



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```
SCIP_Sol** sols = SCIPgetSols(scip);  
SCIP_Real solval = SCIPgetSolVal(scip, sols[i], var);
```



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**Guideline:** Stay feasible!

## Features

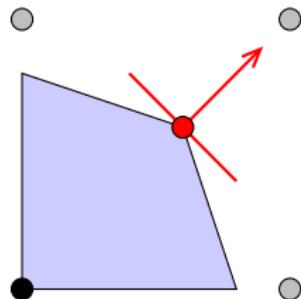
- ▷ **Simple Rounding** always stays feasible,
- ▷ **Rounding** may violate constraints,
- ▷ **Shifting** may unfix integers,
- ▷ **Integer Shifting** finally solves an LP.



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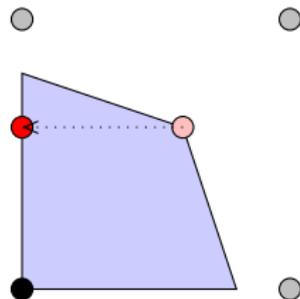




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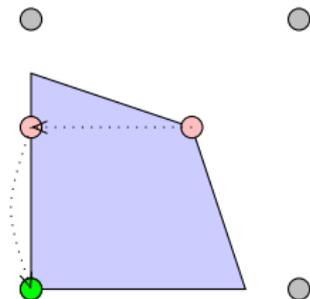




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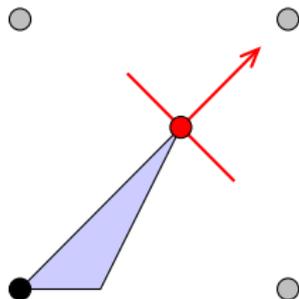




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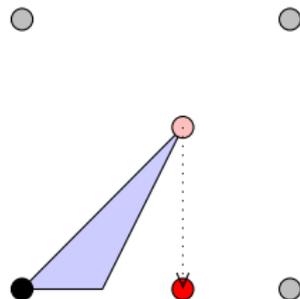




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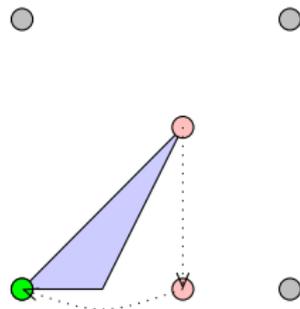




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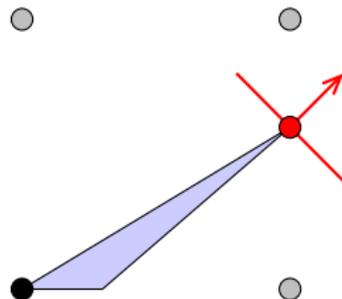




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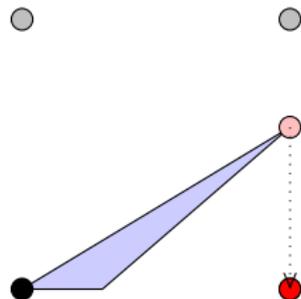




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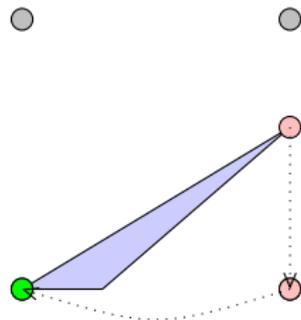




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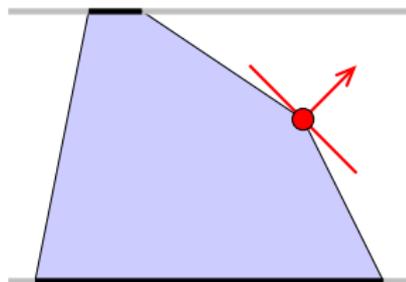




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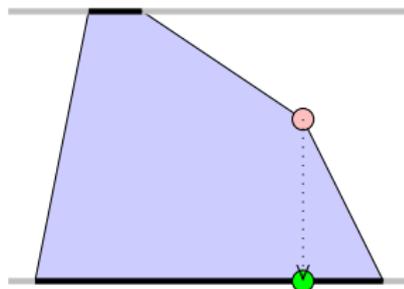




Guideline: Stay feasible!

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- ▷ Simple Rounding always stays feasible,
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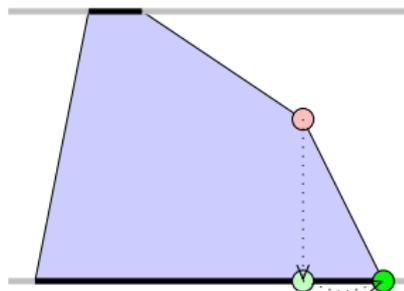




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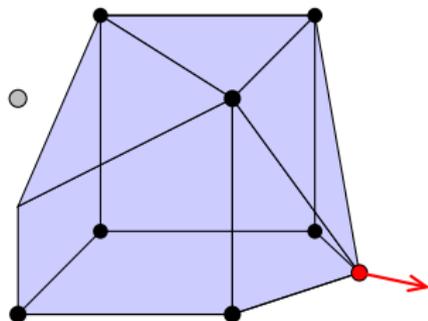
## Algorithm

1.  $\bar{x} \leftarrow$  LP optimum;
2. Fix all integral variables:  
 $x_i := \bar{x}_i \quad \forall i : \bar{x}_i \in \mathbb{Z};$
3. Reduce domain of fractional variables:  $x_i \in \{\lfloor \bar{x}_i \rfloor; \lceil \bar{x}_i \rceil\};$
4. Solve the resulting subMIP



## Algorithm

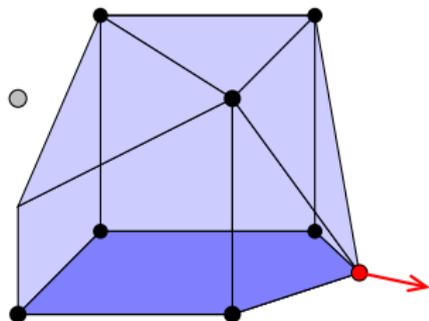
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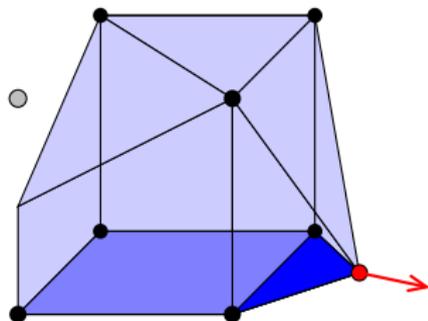
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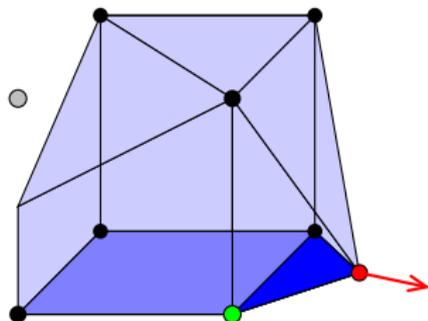
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## Observations

- ▷ Solutions found by Rens are roundings of  $\bar{x}$
- ▷ Yields best possible rounding
- ▷ Yields certificate, if no rounding exists

## Results



## Observations

- ▷ Solutions found by Rens are roundings of  $\bar{x}$
- ▷ Yields best possible rounding
- ▷ Yields certificate, if no rounding exists

## Results

- ▷ 82 of 129 test instances are roundable
- ▷ Rens finds a global optimum for 23 instances!
- ▷ Dominates all other rounding heuristics



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## Idea

- ▷ Alternately solve the LP and round a variable
- ▷ Simulates DFS in Branch-And-Bound-tree
- ▷ Complementary target for branching
- ▷ Backtracking possible



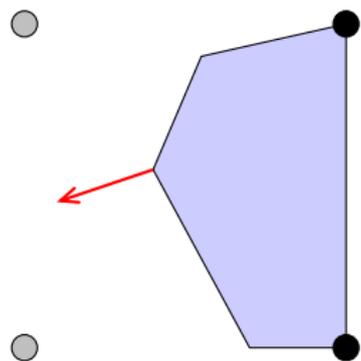
## Applied branching rules

- ▷ **Fractional Diving:** lowest fractionality
- ▷ **Coefficient Diving:** lowest locking number
- ▷ **Line search Diving:** highest increase since root
- ▷ **Guided Diving:** lowest difference to best known solution
- ▷ **Pseudocost Diving:** highest ratio of pseudocosts
- ▷ **Vectorlength Diving:** lowest ratio of objective change and number of rows containing the variable



## Algorithm

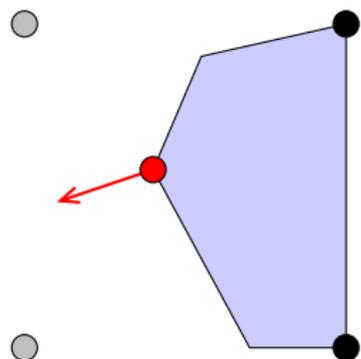
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## Algorithm

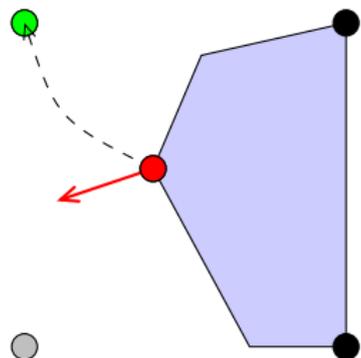
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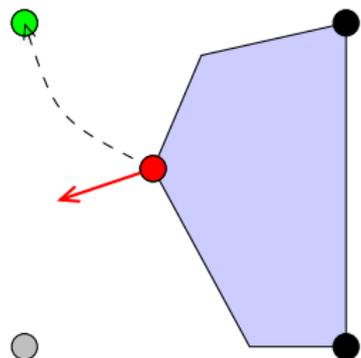
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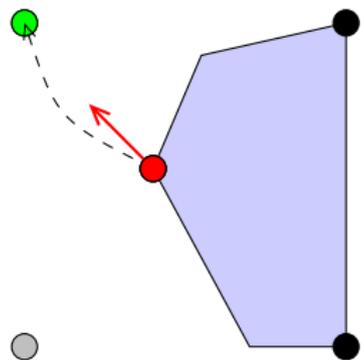




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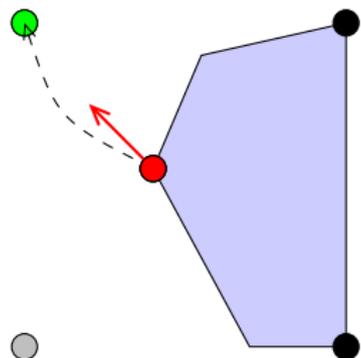




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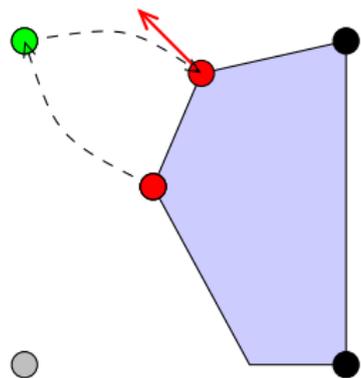




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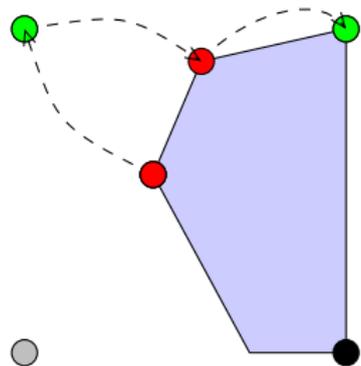
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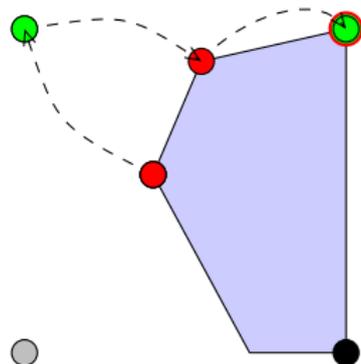
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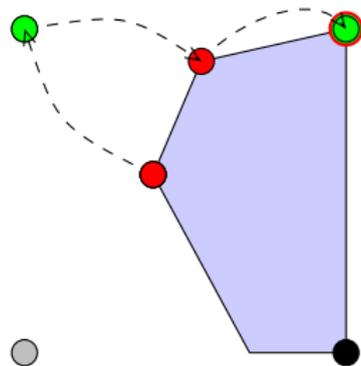
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## Improvements

- ▷ Objective  $c^T x$  regarded at each step:  
 $\tilde{\Delta} := (1 - \alpha)\Delta(x) + \alpha c^T x$ , with  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$
- ▷ Algorithm able to resolve from cycling
- ▷ Quality of solutions much better

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## Results

- ▷ Finds a solution for 74% of the test instances
- ▷ On average 5.5 seconds running time
- ▷ Optimality gap decreased from 107% to 38%



## Other objective divers

- ▷ Objective Pseudocost Diving
  - ▶ analogon to Pseudocost Diving
  - ▶ Punishment by high objective coefficients
- ▷ Rootsolution Diving
  - ▶ analogon to Linesearch Diving
  - ▶ Objective function faded out



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**Idea:** Create subMIP by fixing variables or adding constraints

## Approaches

- ▷ **Rins:** fix variables equal in LP optimum and incumbent
- ▷ **Crossover:** fix variables equal in different feasible solutions
- ▷ **Mutation:** fix variables randomly
- ▷ **Local Branching:** add distance constraint wrt. incumbent



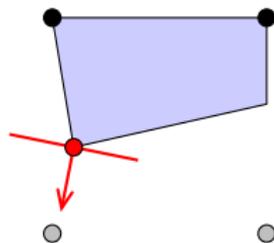
## Combinatorial heuristics

- ▷ 1-Opt
  - ▶ Shifts value of integer variable
  - ▶ Solves LP afterwards



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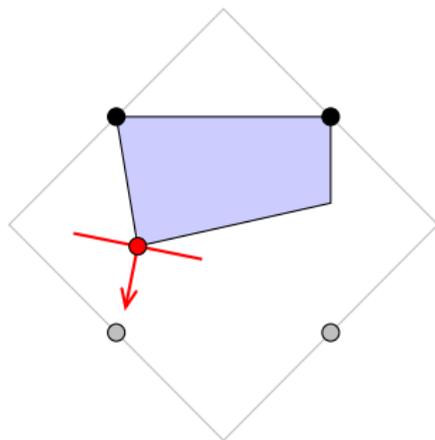
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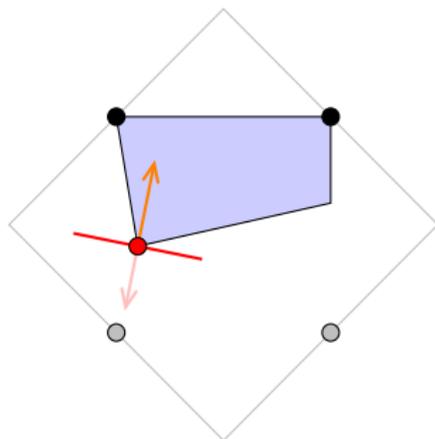
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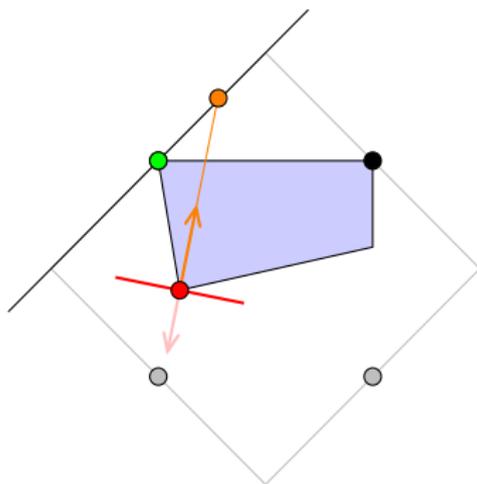
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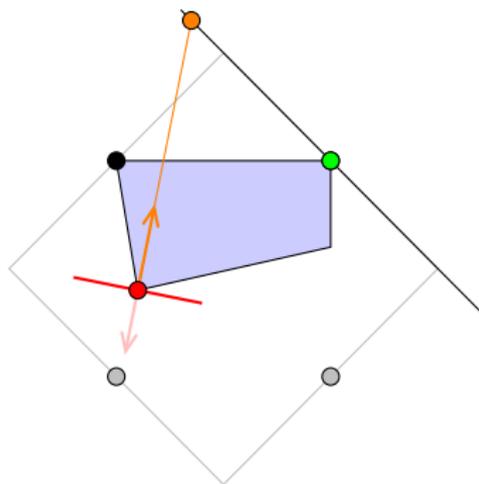
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## Some tips and tricks

- ▷ Use limits which respect the problem size
- ▷ LNS: stalling node limit
- ▷ Diving: try simple rounding on the fly
- ▷ Favor binaries over general integers
- ▷ Avoid cycling without randomness



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```
int nlpiterations = SCIPgetNNodeLPIterations(scip);  
int maxlpiterations = heurdata->maxlpiterquot * nlpiterations;
```



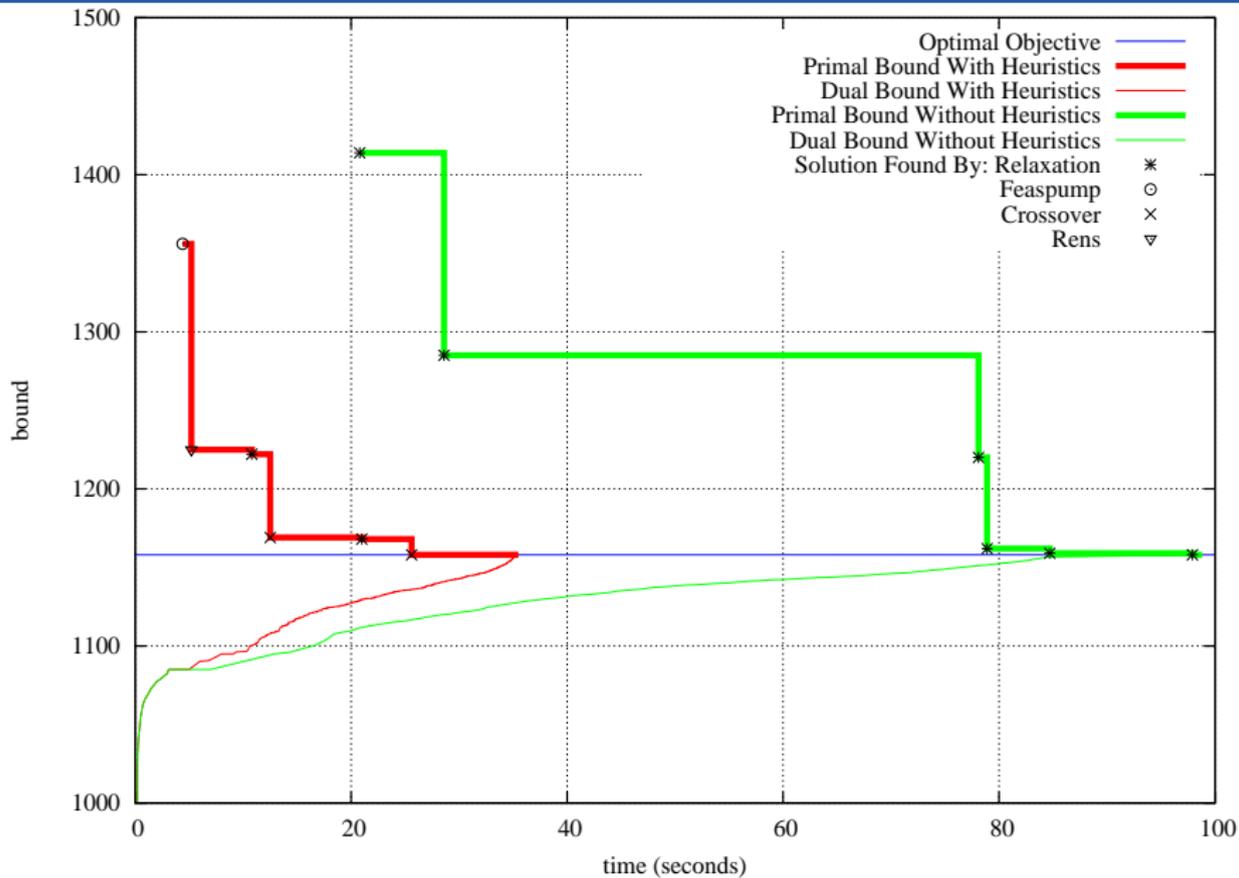
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```
SCIP_CALL(  
    SCIPsetLongintParam(subscip, "limits/stallnodes", nstallnodes)  
);
```



# An Example





## Single heuristics

- ▷ Deactivating a single heuristic yields 1%-6% degradation
- ▷ No heuristic dominates the others
- ▷ Coordination important

## Overall effect (SCIP 0.82b)



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## Overall effect (SCIP 0.82b)

- ▷ Better pruning, earlier fixing
- ▷ 7% less instances without any solution
- ▷ 5% more instances solved within one hour
- ▷ only half of the branch-and-bound-nodes
- ▷ only half of the solving time



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- ▷ only half of the branch-and-bound-nodes  $\rightsquigarrow$  Not this much
- ▷ only half of the solving time  $\rightsquigarrow$  in SCIP 1.00



## To be implemented

- ▷ DINS heuristic
- ▷ k-opt for  $k > 1$
- ▷ probing heuristics

## Known problems

- ▷ Coordination could be strengthened
- ▷ Often poor for pure combinatorial problems



# Primal Heuristics in SCIP

Timo Berthold

Zuse Institute Berlin

DFG Research Center MATHEON  
*Mathematics for key technologies*



Berlin, 10/11/2007