Combinatorial Optimisation and Constraint Programming (1DL442) Uppsala University – Autumn 2023 Assignment 6: The Circuit, Cumulative, Disjunctive Constraints and Black-Box Search

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— Deadline: 13:00 on Friday 12 January 2024 —

It is strongly recommended to read the *Grading Rules* below and the *Submission Instructions* at the end of this document even ***before*** attempting to tackle its tasks. It is also strongly recommended to prepare and attend the help sessions, as huge time savings may ensue.

Questions and Grading Rules

Assignment 6 is graded 0..5 and covers **Modules 6 to 9** (*not* Module 10) of the MiniCP teaching materials [1]. The tasks are as follows (solo teams or designated sub-teams may skip in Tasks B to D everything about the problems starred there), a report being only needed if you take on Task C and possibly also Task D (those tasks are mandatory for PhD students):

A. Individually: Pass *all* the **Theoretical Questions** at INGInious of *all* those modules.

B. As a team:

- Pass *all* the unit tests at INGInious for `Circuit` (Module 6), `TSP` (Module 6, with both custom search and * LNS), `VRP` (Module 6), `CumulativeDecomposition` (Module 7), `Cumulative` (Module 7), `RCPSP` (Module 7), `DisjunctiveBinary` (Module 8), `JobShop` (Module 8, both the model and * first-fail branching), `LastConflictSearch` (Module 9), `ConflictOrderingSearch` (*, Module 9), and *optionally* `Disjunctive` (Module 8, the propagator, the implementation of edge-finding being optional and * solo teams implementing at least one of the detectable-precedences and not-first-not-last filtering rules).
- Upload *also* at Studium *all* `*.java` (except the `*Test.java`) mentioned in the questions, for a local archive at UU.

C. As a team or designated sub-team: Write a report on the problems *LNS applied to TSP* (*, Module 6), *From TSP to VRP* (Module 6), and *RCPSP* (Module 7):

- Evaluate (in the style of Section D of the MiniZinc demo report) each of the models under a suitable time-out (of at least 10 minutes per instance) in terms of:
  - the objective value;

  - the runtime in seconds, with 1 decimal place, to proven optimality;
  - the number of failures;

  for 10 instances you create from the first 17..26 nodes of `data/tsp/tsp_26.txt` for both *TSP/LNS* and *VRP*, and for *all* the instances in `data/rcpsp` for *RCPSP*.
- Answer *all* the questions of the *LNS applied to TSP* programming problem.

D. As a team or designated sub-team, if you wrote the optional propagator of Task B for `Disjunctive` (Module 8) and it passes at INGInious.org *all* your actually targeted unit tests, then add to your report:

- a high-level description of your design choices;
- a high-level argument for the correctness of your propagator.

Advice will be offered at the help sessions.

If you pass only Tasks A and B, then your score is 3 points. If you pass only Tasks A to C, then your score is 4 points. If you pass Tasks A to D, then your score is 5 points. In all other cases, your score is 0 points and there is no grading session. The solution session will be questions & answers on the **Theoretical Questions** of Modules 6 to 9.

References

[1] Laurent Michel, Pierre Schaus, and Pascal Van Hentenryck. MiniCP: A lightweight solver for constraint programming. *Mathematical Programming Computation*, 13(1):133–184, 2021. The source code is available at `http://minicp.org` and the teaching materials are available at `https://www.edx.org/course/constraint-programming`.

Submission Instructions

In order to protect yourself against an unnecessary loss of points, use the following to-do list before submitting:

- There is no demo report, but remember best practice on comments for code and on experimental evaluation from Sections C and D of the MiniZinc demo report (`https://user.it.uu.se/~pierref/courses/COCP/demoReport`) and use your best judgement.
- Write in the report (if you write one) a paragraph, which will not be graded, describing your experience with this assignment: Which aspects were too difficult or too easy? Which aspects were interesting or boring? This will help us improve the course in the coming years.
- ***Thoroughly*** proofread, spellcheck, and grammar-check the report, at least once per teammate, including the comments in ***all*** source code. In case you are curious about technical writing: the *English Style Guide* of UU at `https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/stod/kommunikation-riktlinjer/sprak/eng-skrivregler` and the technical-writing *Checklist & Style Manual* of the Optimisation group at `https://optimisation.research.it.uu.se/checkList.pdf` offer many pieces of advice; common errors in English usage are discussed at `https://brians.wsu.edu/common-errors`; in particular, common errors in English usage by native Swedish speakers are listed at `https://www.crisluengo.net/english-language`.

- Produce the report as a ***single*** file in ***PDF*** format; all other formats will be rejected.
- Remember that when submitting you implicitly certify (a) that your files were produced solely by your team, except where explicitly stated otherwise and clearly referenced, (b) that each teammate can individually explain any part starting from the moment of submitting your files, and (c) that your files are not freely accessible on a public repository.
- Submit (by only ***one*** of the teammates) the files (all `*.java` mentioned in the questions, except the `*Test.java`, and possibly a report) ***without*** folder structure and ***without*** compression via *Studium*, whose clock may differ from yours, by the given ***hard*** deadline.