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https://doi.org/10.1016/S0167-5060(08)70342-X

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Publisher Summary

This chapter reviews several recent developments in the convex analysis approach to integer programming. These developments are based on viewing integer programs as disjunctive programsâ€"that is, linear programs with disjunctive constraints. Apart from the fact that this is the most natural and straightforward way of stating many problems involving logical conditions (dichotomies and implications), the disjunctive programming approach seems to be significant for zero-one programming, both theoretically and practically. On the theoretical side, it provides neat structural characterizations, which offer new insights. On the practical side, it produces a variety of cutting planes with desirable properties and offers several ways of combining cutting planes with branch and bound. The chapter also presents linear (or nonlinear) programs with disjunctive constraints. The main conceptual tool used in studying the structural properties of disjunctive programs is polarity. A linear programming characterization of the convex hull of feasible points of a disjunctive program is also discussed.



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