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Solving TSP through the integration of OR and CP techniques. (English) Zbl 0990.90553

Wallace, Mark (ed.) et al., CP98. Workshop on large scale combinatorial optimisation and constraints. Pisa, Italy, October 30, 1998. Amsterdam: Elsevier, Electron. Notes Discrete Math. 1, 13-25, electronic only (1999).

Summary: Constraint programming techniques have been successfully applied to several combinatorial optimization problems. One of their advantages is the availability of complex global constraints performing efficient propagation and interacting with each other through shared variables. However, Constraint Programming techniques have shown their limitations in dealing with objective functions, since they are usually able to prune only few levels of the search tree when most decision variables have been already instantiated. In this paper, we integrate well known Operations Research (OR) techniques within global constraints, thus obtaining optimization oriented constraints. The idea is to prune the search space using reduction rules based on lower bound and reduced costs calculation. The interest of integrating efficient well-known OR algorithms into CP is mainly due to the CP domain reduction mechanism which can be seen as a communication channel among different constraints.

We have applied this technique to symmetric and asymmetric Travelling Salesman Problem (TSP) instances both because the TSP is an interesting problem arising in many real life applications, and because pure CP techniques lead to disappointing results for this problem. We have tested the proposed optimization constraints using the ILOG Solver library. Computational results on benchmarks available from literature, and comparison with related approaches will also be described in the paper.

For the entire collection see [[Zbl 0968.90003](#)].

MSC:

[90C27](#) Combinatorial optimization
[90C35](#) Programming involving graphs or networks
[90C10](#) Integer programming

Cited in **9** Documents

Keywords:

[constraint programming](#); [combinatorial optimization](#); [symmetric and asymmetric traveling salesman problem](#); [benchmarks](#)

Software:

[CPLEX](#)

Full Text: [DOI](#)

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