# A COMPUTATIONAL STUDY FOR PIECEWISE LINEAR RELAXATIONS OF MIXED-INTEGER NONLINEAR PROGRAMS 

KRISTIN BRAUN ${ }^{1,2, *}$, ROBERT BURLACU ${ }^{1}$<br>${ }^{1}$ Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS, Nordostpark 93, D-90411 Nürnberg, Germany<br>${ }^{2}$ Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Discrete Optimization, Cauerstr. 11, D-91058 Erlangen, Germany<br>*Corresponding author, kristin.braun@fau. de


#### Abstract

Solving mixed-integer nonlinear problems by means of piecewise linear relaxations can be a reasonable alternative to the commonly used spatial branch-and-bound. These relaxations have been modeled by various mixed-integer models in recent decades. The idea is to exploit the availability of mature solvers for mixed-integer problems. In this work, we compare different reformulations in terms of behavior and runtime to determine which method to apply in practice. To this end, we implement eight different mixed-integer representations for piecewise linear relaxations and evaluate them on a benchmark set from the MINLPLIB consisting of over 300 instances. We utilize existing expression trees to reformulate all nonlinearities to one-dimensional functions and afterwards compute a set of interpolation breakpoints for each function based on a given maximum error per segment. Our analysis includes a comprehensive comparison of the number of problems solved, runtimes, and optimality gaps. Overall, the classical incremental method of Markowitz and Manne 1957 has the best performance, leading to a general recommendation of this method for solving nonlinear problems by piecewise linear relaxations.


Area of Review: Optimization
Keywords: Piecewise linear relaxations, mixed-integer nonlinear programming, mixed-integer programming, discrete optimization

## 1. Introduction

To this day, general MINLPs remain very difficult to solve. Spatial branch-and-bound is still at the heart of most state-of-the-art solvers. However, over the last two decades, several methods have been presented that treat nonconvex MINLPs by piecewise convex relaxations without direct branching of continuous variables, see for example Martin et al. 2006; Geißler et al. 2012; Morsi 2013; Lundell et al. 2013; Gugat et al. 2018; Burlacu et al. 2019; Aigner et al. 2023; Link and Volkwein 2023; Beach et al. 2022. While these approaches are sometimes quite different, they all need to tackle the following two problems: The construction of tight relaxations of the nonlinear
functions and the incorporation of these relaxations into a mixed-integer linear program (MIP) or convex nonlinear program (NLP).

One approach to obtain such relaxations is to compute an optimal linearization of a nonlinear function in terms of the number of breakpoints and an a priori given accuracy as in Rebennack and Kallrath 2015b; Rebennack and Kallrath 2015a and Rebennack and Krasko 2020. This is supplemented by the construction of optimal polynomial relaxations of one-dimensional functions in Morsi 2013. Specific approximation techniques for general nonlinear functions with dimensions smaller than three are proposed in Misener and Floudas 2010. The major problem with all these methods is the curse of dimensionality, since the number of simplices in the approximation grows exponentially with the function's dimension. In this regard, we refer to the method of Rovatti et al. 2014, which avoids this problem on the basis that the piecewise linear approximation does not have to interpolate the original function at the vertices of the triangulation.

In the literature, a variety of different approaches exists for modeling PWL functions as a MIP. This article covers all major formulations: the disaggregated (as in Croxton et al. 2003; Sherali 2001) and aggregated convex combination models (as in Lee and Wilson 2001; Padberg 2000) as well as their logarithmic variants presented by Vielma et al. 2010, the classical incremental method of Markowitz and Manne 1957, and the multiple choice model as in Balakrishnan and Graves 1989 and again Croxton et al. 2003, all of which have been known for some time. Moreover, we also consider the very recently introduced binary and integer Zig-Zag formulations, which are also logarithmic versions of the convex combination models; see Huchette and Vielma 2022. For more details on the theoretical foundations of MIP models for PWL functions and general mixed-integer formulation techniques, we refer to the extensive survey by Vielma 2015.

To the best of our knowledge, no comprehensive study has yet been conducted that demonstrates the performance of these MIP models on a wide range of MINLP problems. In most cases, some parts of the mentioned MIP models are compared only on some instances of very specific problems; see for instance the works by Correa-Posada and Sánchez-Martín 2014 and Hasan and Karimi 2010. Therefore, it becomes difficult to decide in general, which MIP modeling is preferable, or if there is such a best modeling at all. This paper aims at filling exactly this remaining gap. To this end, we perform an extensive computational study on over 300 instances from the MINLPLIB. Using expression trees and the results from Bärmann et al. 2022, we reformulate all MINLP instances to equivalent models that consist of only one-dimensional nonlinear functions. Based on these reformulations, we compare various MIP relaxations corresponding to the different PWL models. Overall, our study shows that the incremental method, although the oldest approach of all, generally performs best when MINLPs are solved by PWL relaxations that are modeled as MIPs, while the very recently introduced logarithmic integer Zig-Zag model by Huchette and Vielma 2022 is a reasonable alternative for very high-accuracy PWL relaxations.

This article is structured as follows. We introduce all necessary definitions and basic ideas on how to solve MINLPs by PWL relaxations in Section 2.

Section 3 provides a detailed overview of the various MIP models for PWL relaxations. After describing our framework in Section 4, we present our comprehensive computational study in Section 5 that illustrate the practicability of the various MIP models for PWL relaxations. We discuss the numerical results in Section 6 and conclude this work in Section 7.

## 2. Preliminaries

We define a MINLP as an optimization problem of the following type:

$$
\begin{align*}
\min _{x} & c^{\top} x \\
\text { s.t. } & A x \leq b, \\
& f_{i}(x) \leq 0 \quad \text { for all } i \in\{1, \ldots, k\},  \tag{P}\\
& l \leq x \leq u, \\
& x \in \mathbb{R}^{q} \times \mathbb{Z}^{p},
\end{align*}
$$

where $k, q, p \in \mathbb{N}$. Initially, $A x \leq b$ denotes the linear constraints, while the continuous nonlinear real-valued functions $f_{i}: \mathbb{R}^{q+p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for $i=1, \ldots, k$ describe the nonlinear constraints. The variables $x$ are bounded from below and above by $l, u \in \mathbb{R}^{q+p}$. Additionally, we denote by $\mathcal{F}$ the set of all nonlinear functions $f_{i}(x)$ and by $D_{f} \subset \mathbb{R}^{q+p}$ the domain of a nonlinear function $f \in \mathcal{F}$. Equality constraints, i.e., constraints of type $f_{i}(x)=0$, are inherently contained in the description (P) by simply adding $f_{i}(x) \leq 0$ and $-f_{i}(x) \leq 0$. Please note that we are not restricted to a linear objective function $c^{\top} x$, since we can include any nonlinear objective function $f: \mathbb{R}^{q+p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by substituting $f(x)$ with a variable $y \in \mathbb{R}$ and adding $f(x) \leq y$ as a constraint to the MINLP problem. As max $c^{\top} x=-\min -c^{\top} x$, any maximization problem can be transformed to a minimization problem. Therefore, (P) serves as a comprehensive formal representation of a MINLP problem.

Since each variable in (P) has lower and upper bounds, the domain $D_{f}$ is a $d$-dimensional box with $d \leq q+p$ and its edges parallel to the coordinate axes. Thus, it is a compact set. For low dimensions $d$, the literature shows that using a piecewise linear (PWL) relaxation for $f \in \mathcal{F}$ can be a viable alternative to spatial branching. The most common approach is to first compute a PWL approximation of $f$ by interpolating the function on a $d$-dimensional simplex, and subsequently adding the corresponding approximation error to the interpolation. To this end, a triangulation of $D_{f}$ has to be constructed first. Since the triangulation of a $d$-dimensional box grows exponentially with the dimension $d$, it follows directly why this method is only useful for low dimensions $d$.

For a wide range of practically interesting MINLPs, however, the nonlinear functions are factorable, i.e., they can be represented by a recursive combination of elementary operators contained in the set

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{E}=\{+, \times, /, \widehat{,}, \sin , \cos , \exp , \log ,|\cdot|\} ; \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

as described by Belotti et al. 2010. The excessive use of this leads to an equivalent formulation of the MINLP problem that contains only univariate nonlinearities derived from $\mathcal{E}$ and, if necessary, the coupling bivariate function $f\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)=x_{1} x_{2}$.

Following the results of Bärmann et al. 2022, we can further reformulate $f\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)$ to an one-dimensional representation via

$$
\begin{equation*}
f\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)=\frac{1}{2}\left(p^{2}-x_{1}^{2}-x_{2}^{2}\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
p=x_{1}+x_{2} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

using a new variable $p$. The authors show that in practice it is more favorable to use (2) and (3) instead of a bivariate product when dealing with PWL approximations. This reformulation can be further strengthened by adapting the famous McCormick relaxations from McCormick 1976:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \frac{1}{2}\left(p^{2}-x_{1}^{2}-x_{2}^{2}\right) \geq x_{1}^{-} \cdot x_{2}+x_{1} \cdot x_{2}^{-}-x_{1}^{-} \cdot x_{2}^{-},  \tag{4a}\\
& \frac{1}{2}\left(p^{2}-x_{1}^{2}-x_{2}^{2}\right) \geq x_{1}^{+} \cdot x_{2}+x_{1} \cdot x_{2}^{+}-x_{1}^{+} \cdot x_{2}^{+},  \tag{4b}\\
& \frac{1}{2}\left(p^{2}-x_{1}^{2}-x_{2}^{2}\right) \leq x_{1}^{+} \cdot x_{2}+x_{1} \cdot x_{2}^{-}-x_{1}^{+} \cdot x_{2}^{-},  \tag{4c}\\
& \frac{1}{2}\left(p^{2}-x_{1}^{2}-x_{2}^{2}\right) \leq x_{1}^{-} \cdot x_{2}+x_{1} \cdot x_{2}^{+}-x_{1}^{-} \cdot x_{2}^{+}, \tag{4d}
\end{align*}
$$

where $x_{1}^{-}, x_{1}^{+}, x_{2}^{-}$, and $x_{2}^{+}$are the lower and upper bounds of $x_{1}$ and $x_{2}$, respectively. This facilitates an equivalent reformulation of the MINLP that consists solely of one-dimensional nonlinearities. Hence, in the following, we consider only one-dimensional MIP models for PWL relaxations of nonlinear functions.

Please note that for tackling a MINLP by PWL relaxations an adaptive refinement of the PWL relaxations is usually crucial for the performance of the approach. In this article, we omit this algorithmic overhead since we are primarily interested in comparing various MIP models for PWL relaxations with different approximation errors.

## 3. One-dimensional MIP models for piecewise linear relaxations

In this chapter, we describe in more detail the MIP representations of the piecewise linear models that we use in this work. For all representations, we show the MIP formulation as well as a visual representation.
3.1. Disaggregated convex combination model. The first model that we discuss is the disaggregated convex combination model. Here, each feasible point $(x, \bar{f}(x))$ is represented as a convex combination of its two neighboring breakpoints. Assuming that $x$ lies in the $i$-th segment, i.e., $\bar{x}_{i} \leq x \leq \bar{x}_{i+1}$ holds, then $x$ can be represented by the equality

$$
\begin{equation*}
x=\lambda_{i}^{1} \bar{x}_{i}+\lambda_{i}^{2} \bar{x}_{i+1} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

with $\lambda_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{i}^{2}=1$ and $\lambda_{i}^{1}, \lambda_{i}^{2} \geq 0$. Analogously, $\bar{f}(x)$ is then given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\bar{f}(x)=\lambda_{i}^{1} f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right)+\lambda_{i}^{2} f\left(\bar{x}_{i+1}\right) \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

using the same two variables $\lambda_{i}^{1}, \lambda_{i}^{2}$.
Since a piecewise linear representation consists of multiple segments, we introduce a binary variable $y_{i} \in\{0,1\}$ for each segment $i \in[n]$. Exactly one of these variables must be nonzero, indicating that $x$ lies in segment $i$. The
resulting model consists of $n$ binary and $2 n$ continuous variables. We describe all constraints in (Disag). Further, Figure 1 depicts a visual representation.

Model 1. Disaggregated convex combination model

$$
\begin{array}{rlrl}
\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\lambda_{i}^{1} \bar{x}_{i-1}+\lambda_{i}^{2} \bar{x}_{i}\right) & =x, & \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\lambda_{i}^{1} f\left(\bar{x}_{i-1}\right)+\lambda_{i}^{2} f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right)\right) & =z, & & \\
\lambda_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{i}^{2} & =y_{i}, & & i \in\{1, \ldots, n\}, \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} & =1, & & \\
\lambda_{i}^{1}, \lambda_{i}^{2} & \geq 0, & & i \in\{1, \ldots, n\}, \\
y_{i} & \in\{0,1\}, & i \in\{1, \ldots, n\} .
\end{array}
$$



Figure 1. Representation of (Disag).

Given that it is possible to encode an $n$-digit number using $\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil$ binary variables, the idea to create a binary representation of the segments 1 to $n$ is obvious. To this end, we introduce binary variables $y_{l}$ with $l \in\left\{1, \ldots,\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil\right\}$ and a binary encoding $B:[n] \rightarrow\{0,1\}^{\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil}$. The binary encoding is not fixed; in our case, we simply use the usual conversion from decimal to binary system. Using this encoding, we define a branching scheme

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathscr{P}^{0}(B, l):=\left\{i \in[n] \mid B(i)_{l}=0\right\} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathscr{P}^{+}(B, l):=\left\{i \in[n] \mid B(i)_{l}=1\right\} . \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now, as an arbitrary number of binary variables can be nonzero, the representation has to be changed to ensure that $\lambda_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{i}^{2}=1$ holds for exactly one $i \in[n]$ and $\lambda_{j}^{1}+\lambda_{j}^{2}=0$ holds for all $j \in[n]$ with $i \neq j$. These adjustments
result in (LogDisag) that uses the same number of continuous variables as in (Disag), but now only $\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil$ binary variables.

Model 2. Logarithmic disaggregated convex combination model

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\lambda_{i}^{1} \bar{x}_{i-1}+\lambda_{i}^{2} \bar{x}_{i}\right)=x, \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\lambda_{i}^{1} f\left(\bar{x}_{i-1}\right)+\lambda_{i}^{2} f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right)\right)=z, \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{i}^{2}=1, \\
& \sum_{i \in \mathscr{P}+(B, l)}^{\sum_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{i}^{2} \leq y_{l},} \quad l \in\left\{1, \ldots,\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil\right\}, \\
& \sum_{i \in \mathscr{P}^{0}(B, l)} \lambda_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{i}^{2} \leq 1-y_{l}, l \in\left\{1, \ldots,\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil\right\}, \\
& \lambda_{i}^{1}, \lambda_{i}^{2} \geq 0, i \in\{1, \ldots, n\}, \\
& y_{l} \in\{0,1\}, \\
& l \in\left\{1, \ldots,\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil\right\} .
\end{aligned}
$$

3.2. Aggregated convex combination model. For introducing the aggregated convex combination model, we just need to adjust the previous model slightly.

In (Disag), variables $\lambda_{i-1}^{2}$ and $\lambda_{i}^{1}$ represent the same tuple ( $\left.\bar{x}_{i}, f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right)\right)$ and, thus, we can aggregate them. To this end, we introduce new continuous variables $\lambda_{0}, \ldots, \lambda_{n}$. The new variable $\lambda_{0}$ replaces $\lambda_{1}^{1}, \lambda_{n}$ replaces $\lambda_{n}^{2}$, and, for $i=1, \ldots, n-1, \lambda_{i}$ replaces $\lambda_{i-1}^{2}$ and $\lambda_{i}^{1}$. Finally, we only need $n+1$ instead of $2 n$ continuous variables. Now, a variable $\lambda_{i}$ is allowed to be nonzero if either segment $i$ or segment $i+1$ is used, i.e., $\lambda_{i} \leq y_{i}+y_{i+1}$. The constraints are given in $(\mathrm{Ag})$, and, again, Figure 2 provides a visual representation.

Model 3. Convex combination model

$$
\begin{array}{rlrl}
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} \bar{x}_{i} & =x, \\
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right) & =z, \\
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} & =1, & \\
\lambda_{0} & \leq y_{1}, &  \tag{Ag}\\
\lambda_{i} & \leq y_{i}+y_{i+1}, & i \in\{1, \ldots, n-1\}, \\
\lambda_{n} & \leq y_{n}, & & \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} & =1, & & \\
\lambda_{i} & \geq 0, & & i \in\{0, \ldots, n\}, \\
y_{i} & \in\{0,1\}, & i \in\{1, \ldots, n\} .
\end{array}
$$



Figure 2. Representation of (Ag).

As before, we want to reduce the number of binary variables in our model. To this end, we introduce different approaches: On the one hand, a formulation using a binary branching scheme, and, on the other hand, two new formulations introduced by Huchette and Vielma 2022.

In (Disag) and (LogDisag), each continuous variable $\lambda_{i}$ belongs to two different segments. The binary branching scheme of (Disag) fixes all variables $\lambda_{i}^{1}, \lambda_{i}^{2}$ to zero if segment $i$ is not used. If we use the same branching scheme here in the aggregated version, this would result in fixing all continuous variables to zero and then no segment is usable anymore. Thus, we need to define a branching scheme $L_{s}$ and $R_{s}$ such that for all $i \in\{1, \ldots, n\}$ there exists a series $T^{i}=\left[T_{1}^{1}, \ldots, T_{S}^{i}\right]$ with

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right\}=\bigcap_{s=1}^{S} \bar{X}_{n} \backslash T_{s}^{i}, \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $T_{s}^{i} \in\left\{L_{s}, R_{s}\right\}$ and $\bar{X}_{n}$ abbreviates the set $\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}\right\}$.
We describe a branching scheme $L_{s}, R_{s}$ for $s \in[S]$ with $S:=\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil$ in the following. For $n \leq 2$, i.e., $S=1$, we set

$$
\begin{equation*}
L_{1}:=\left\{\bar{x}_{0}\right\} \cap\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}\right\}, R_{1}:=\left\{\bar{x}_{2}\right\} \cap\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}\right\} . \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

For any $n>2$, the sets $L_{1}, \ldots, L_{S}$ and $R_{1}, \ldots, R_{S}$ are defined recursively by expansion based on mirroring: We assume that $\bar{L}_{1}, \ldots, \bar{L}_{S-1}$ and $\bar{R}_{1}, \ldots, \bar{R}_{S-1}$ are given for $\bar{n}=2^{S-1}$ and define

$$
\begin{align*}
L_{S} & :=\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{2^{S-1}-1}\right\} \\
R_{S} & :=\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S-1}+1}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}\right\}, \tag{11}
\end{align*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{align*}
L_{s} & :=\left(\bar{L}_{s} \cup\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S}-j}: \bar{x}_{j} \in \bar{L}_{s}\right\}\right) \cap\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}\right\} \\
R_{s} & :=\left(\bar{R}_{s} \cup\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S}-j}: \bar{x}_{j} \in \bar{R}_{s}\right\}\right) \cap\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}\right\} \tag{12}
\end{align*}
$$

for all $s \in\{1, \ldots, S-1\}$. Lemma 4 shows that these sets fulfill the necessary conditions.

Lemma 4. Let a partition of $\left[\bar{x}_{0}, \bar{x}_{n}\right]$ into $n$ segments with $n+1$ breakpoints $\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}$ be given. Further, let $L_{s}, R_{s}$ be defined as above for $s \in\left\{1, \ldots,\left\lceil\log _{2}(n)\right\rceil\right\}$. Then, for all segments $\left[\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right]$ with $1 \leq i \leq n$, there exists a series of sets $T^{i}:=\left[T_{1}^{i}, \ldots, T_{\left\lceil\log _{2}(n)\right\rceil-1}^{i}\right]$ with $T_{s}^{i} \in\left\{L_{s}, R_{s}\right\}$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right\}=\bigcup_{s=1}^{\left\lceil\log _{2}(n)\right\rceil} T_{s}^{i} \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

i.e., we can represent the vertices $\bar{x}_{i-1}$ and $\bar{x}_{i}$ of each segment by a disjunction of $\left\lceil\log _{2}(n)\right\rceil$ pre-defined sets.

Proof. We can assume w.l.o.g. that $n$ is a power of two, i.e., there is some $S \in \mathbb{N}^{+}$with $S=\log _{2} n$ and proof the lemma via induction in the following. For $n=2$, i.e., $S=1$, let $T_{1}^{1}:=R_{1}$ and $T_{1}^{2}:=L_{1}$. Then, we have

$$
\bigcup_{s=1}^{S} T_{s}^{i}= \begin{cases}R_{1}=\left\{\bar{x}_{2}\right\}=\bar{X}_{2} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \bar{x}_{1}\right\} & \text { if } i=1  \tag{14}\\ L_{1}=\left\{\bar{x}_{0}\right\}=\bar{X}_{2} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{1}, \bar{x}_{2}\right\} & \text { if } i=2\end{cases}
$$

Now, let $n>2$, i.e., $S>1$ : We assume that for any $i \in\left\{1, \ldots, 2^{S-1}\right\}$, there is a series $\bar{T}^{i}:=\left[\bar{T}_{1}^{i}, \ldots, \bar{T}_{S-1}^{i}\right]$ with $\bar{T}_{s}^{i} \in\left\{\bar{L}_{s}, \bar{R}_{s}\right\}$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\bar{X}_{2^{S-1}} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right\}=\bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} \bar{T}_{s}^{i} \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

It further holds that for any $i \in\left\{1, \ldots, 2^{S-1}\right\}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
\bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} T_{s}^{i} & =\bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1}\left(\bar{T}_{s}^{i} \cup\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S}-j}: \bar{x}_{j} \in \bar{T}_{s}^{i}\right\}\right) \\
& =\bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} \bar{T}_{s}^{i} \cup \bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1}\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S}-j}: \bar{x}_{j} \in \bar{T}_{s}^{i}\right\}  \tag{16}\\
& =\bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} \bar{T}_{s}^{i} \cup\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S}-j}: \bar{x}_{j} \in \bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} \bar{T}_{s}^{i}\right\}
\end{align*}
$$

Using (15), we can reformulate this to

$$
\begin{align*}
\bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} T_{s}^{i} & =\left(\bar{X}_{2^{S-1}} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right\}\right) \cup\left(\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S-j}}: \bar{x}_{j} \in \bar{X}_{2^{S-1}} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right\}\right\}\right) \\
& =\left(\bar{X}_{2^{S-1}} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right\}\right) \cup\left(\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S-1}}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{2^{S}}\right\} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S-i}}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-(i-1)}}\right\}\right) \\
& =\bar{X}_{2^{S}} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-i}}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-(i-1)}}\right\} \\
& =\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-i}}, \bar{x}_{2^{S}-(i-1)}\right\} . \tag{17}
\end{align*}
$$

Now, we need to prove that, using the new sets $L_{S}$ and $R_{S}$, we can find a series of sets $T^{i}:=\left[T_{1}^{i}, \ldots, T_{S}^{i}\right]$ such that (13) holds for all $i \in\{1, \ldots, n\}$.

If $i \leq 2^{S-1}$, we choose $T_{s}^{i}=\bar{T}_{s}^{i}$ for $s \in\{1, \ldots, S-1\}$ and $T_{S}^{i}=R_{S}$. Then,

$$
\begin{align*}
\bigcup_{s=1}^{S} T_{s}^{i} & =T_{S}^{i} \cup \bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} T_{s}^{i}=R_{S} \cup\left(\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}, \bar{x}_{2^{S}-i}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-(i-1)}}\right\}\right) \\
& =\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S-1}+1}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{n}\right\} \cup\left(\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-i}}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-(i-1)}}\right\}\right)  \tag{18}\\
& =\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}\right\}
\end{align*}
$$

For $i>2^{S-1}$, the proof works similarly with $T_{s}^{i}=L_{S}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
\bigcup_{s=1}^{S} T_{s}^{i} & =T_{S}^{i} \cup \bigcup_{s=1}^{S-1} T_{s}^{i}=L_{S} \cup\left(\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-i}}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-(i-1)}}\right\}\right) \\
& =\left\{\bar{x}_{0}, \ldots \bar{x}_{2^{S-1}-1}\right\} \cup\left(\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{i-1}, \bar{x}_{i}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-i}}, \bar{x}_{2^{S}-(i-1)}\right\}\right) \\
& =\bar{X}_{n} \backslash\left\{\bar{x}_{2^{S-i}}, \bar{x}_{2^{S-(i-1)}}\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

Using this branching scheme, (LogAg) gives the first logarithmic version of $(\mathrm{Ag})$.

Model 5. Logarithmic branching convex combination model

$$
\begin{align*}
& \sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} \bar{x}_{i}=x, \\
& \sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right)=z, \\
& \sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i}=1,  \tag{LogAg}\\
& \sum_{i \in L_{s}} \lambda_{i} \leq y_{s}, \quad s \in S, \\
& \sum_{i \in R_{s}} \lambda_{i} \leq 1-y_{s}, \quad s \in S, \\
& \lambda_{i} \geq 0, \quad i \in\{0, \ldots, n\}, \\
& y_{s} \in\{0,1\}, \quad s \in S .
\end{align*}
$$

Additionally, two new reformulations are provided by Huchette and Vielma 2022. Therein, a new encoding $C^{r}$ is used. It is defined recursively as

$$
\begin{align*}
C^{1} & =\binom{0}{1} \\
C^{k+1} & =\left(\begin{array}{cc}
C^{k} & 0^{d} \\
C^{k}+1^{d} \times C_{d}^{k} & 1^{d}
\end{array}\right) \text { for } k=1, \ldots, r-1 \tag{19}
\end{align*}
$$

where $d=2^{k}$. Further, for the sake of simplicity, they set $C_{0}^{k}=C_{1}^{k}$ and $C_{d+1}^{k}=C_{d}^{k}$. This encoding helps to provide the following equations:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v, k}^{r} \lambda_{v} \leq y_{k}+\sum_{l=k+1}^{r} 2^{l-k-1} y_{l} \leq \sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v+1, k}^{r} \lambda_{v} \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v, k}^{r} \lambda_{v} \leq y_{k} \leq \sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v+1, k}^{r} \lambda_{v} \tag{21}
\end{equation*}
$$

Using each of these two equations, one can then define two new models, a binary formulation in (BinZigZag) and an integer one in (IntZigZag). They are called Zig-Zag formulations as that describes the behavior of the single vectors. A proof for the correctness of these equations is given by Huchette and Vielma 2022.

Model 6. Binary Zig-Zag Formulation

$$
\begin{array}{rlr}
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} \bar{x}_{i} & =x \\
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right) & =z \\
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} & =1 \\
\sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v, k}^{r} \lambda_{v} & \leq y_{k}+\sum_{l=k+1}^{r} 2^{l-k-1} y_{l}, & k \in\{1, \ldots, r\} \\
y_{k}+\sum_{l=k+1}^{r} 2^{l-k-1} y_{l} & \leq \sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v+1, k}^{r} \lambda_{v}, & \\
\lambda_{i} & \geq 0, & \\
y_{k} & \in\{0,1\}, & \\
& & \\
& k \in\{1, \ldots, r\} \\
& k \in\{1, \ldots, r\}
\end{array}
$$

(BinZigZag)
with $r=\left\lceil\log _{2}(n-1)\right\rceil$.
Model 7. General Integer Zig-Zag Formulation

$$
\begin{array}{rlrl}
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} \bar{x}_{i} & =x, \\
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right) & =z, & \\
\sum_{i=0}^{n} \lambda_{i} & =1, & \\
\sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v, k}^{r} \lambda_{v} & \leq y_{k}, & & \\
y_{k} & \leq \sum_{v=0}^{n} C_{v+1, k}^{r} \lambda_{v}, & k \in\{1, \ldots, r\} \\
\lambda_{i} & \geq 0, & & \\
y_{k} & \in \mathbb{Z}, & & k \in\{0, \ldots, n\}
\end{array}
$$

with $r=\left\lceil\log _{2}(n-1)\right\rceil$.
The big difference between $(\operatorname{LogAg})$ and the Zig-Zag methods (BinZigZag) and (IntZigZag) is their branching behavior. For an efficient solving of MIPs, it is important to quickly find tight dual bounds that are obtained by solving

(3A) Initial segments

(3B) Branching for (LogAg)

LP relaxations. Each of these LP relaxation contains all feasible points, or, better said, the convex hull of all feasible points. If the LP relaxations are tight, we can find better dual bounds. In Huchette and Vielma 2022, the authors mention different metrics to evaluate the branching behavior. Besides that, we exemplarily investigate this using an example with $n=8$ uniformly sized segments in the following.
In Figure 3a, one can see the breakpoints $\bar{x}_{0}, \bar{x}_{1}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{8}$. These breakpoints create eight segments that are, initially, all feasible, as there was no branching up to now. Feasible segments are displayed in light blue. Further, the convex hull of the feasible set is outlined by a thick rectangle. Here, the convex hull is equivalent to the full domain.

In Figure 3b, all possible branchings for (LogAg) are shown. As we have eight segments, there are 3 binary variables $y_{1}, y_{2}$ and $y_{3}$ that can be either zero or one, resulting in six different branches. All possibilities are displayed where the red parts mean that segments are excluded due to the chosen branch, blue segments are still feasible. There are three cases, where the convex hull also contains infeasible regions as they lie between feasible ones. Thus, a solution of the LP relaxation can also lie inside these infeasible regions. The ZigZag reformulations try to overcome this problem.

We visualize the branching for (IntZigZag) in Figure 3c, but the behavior of (BinZigZag) is similar. In theory, there are more possible branching steps than the displayed ones, because in this reformulation the variables $y_{1}, y_{2}$ and $y_{3}$ are integral instead of binary. However, all other branchings would result in a combination of one infeasible branch and one branch that still contains the full domain, and, therefore, no progress at all. As one can see, all branchings lead to subdomains that are connected what means that their

(3c) Branching for (IntZigZag)
Figure 3. All possible branching steps for $n=8$ segments. Branching results in segments being feasible or infeasible, what is represented by shading: The light blue areas represent feasible regions, while the red areas represent the infeasible segments. The bold rectangle outlines the convex hull.
convex hulls are exactly the feasible set. Thus, it is not possible to have LP solutions that lie outside the feasible regions what should increase their quality and, thus, the dual bounds.

The following two equations show the inequalities we used to create the visualizations in Figures 3b and 3c. The continuous variables in (LogAg) are constrained by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda_{0}+\lambda_{1}+\lambda_{2}+\lambda_{3} \leq y_{3}, \tag{22a}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
\lambda_{5}+\lambda_{6}+\lambda_{7}+\lambda_{8} & \leq 1-y_{3},  \tag{22b}\\
\lambda_{0}+\lambda_{1}+\lambda_{7}+\lambda_{8} & \leq y_{2},  \tag{22c}\\
\lambda_{3}+\lambda_{4}+\lambda_{5} & \leq 1-y_{2},  \tag{22d}\\
\lambda_{0}+\lambda_{4}+\lambda_{8} & \leq y_{1},  \tag{22e}\\
\lambda_{2}+\lambda_{6} & \leq 1-y_{1} . \tag{22f}
\end{align*}
$$

When a binary variable is fixed, there is a subset of continuous variables that also need to be zero then. For example, when setting $y_{1}=0$, we obtain $\lambda_{0}+\lambda_{4}+\lambda_{8}=0$, i.e., $\lambda_{0}=\lambda_{4}=\lambda_{8}=0$ from (22e) and, thus, the feasible regions shown in the left upper plot of Figure 3b. For $y_{1}=1$, we, complementary, obtain $\lambda_{2}=\lambda_{6}=0$ from (22f) what is visualized in the right upper plot.

In contrast, the inequalities in (IntZigZag) and (BinZigZag) have the form

$$
\begin{align*}
& \lambda_{2}+\lambda_{3}+2 \lambda_{4}+2 \lambda_{5}+3 \lambda_{6}+3 \lambda_{7}+4 \lambda_{8} \\
& \quad \leq y_{1}+y_{2}+2 y_{3} \\
& \quad \leq \lambda_{1}+\lambda_{2}+2 \lambda_{3}+2 \lambda_{4}+3 \lambda_{5}+3 \lambda_{6}+4 \lambda_{7}+4 \lambda_{8}  \tag{23a}\\
& \lambda_{3}+\lambda_{4}+\lambda_{5}+\lambda_{6}+2 \lambda_{7}+2 \lambda_{8} \\
& \leq y_{2}+y_{3} \\
& \leq \lambda_{2}+\lambda_{3}+\lambda_{4}+\lambda_{5}+2 \lambda_{6}+2 \lambda_{7}+2 \lambda_{8}  \tag{23b}\\
& \lambda_{5}+\lambda_{6}+\lambda_{7}+\lambda_{8} \\
& \leq y_{3} \\
& \leq \lambda_{4}+\lambda_{5}+\lambda_{6}+\lambda_{7}+\lambda_{8} \tag{23c}
\end{align*}
$$

whereas the blue parts are the addends that are only present in (BinZigZag). It directly stands out that all inequalities only use adjacent variables.

Let us exemplarily assume that we branch on $y_{1}$, using the branches $y_{1} \leq 2$ and $y_{1} \geq 3$, given in the third line of Figure 3c. From (23a), we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda_{1}+\lambda_{2}+2 \lambda_{3}+2 \lambda_{4}+3 \lambda_{5}+3 \lambda_{6}+4 \lambda_{7}+4 \lambda_{8} \leq 2 \tag{24}
\end{equation*}
$$

for the left branch with $y_{1} \leq 2$. Using one of the variables $\lambda_{6}, \lambda_{7}$ or $\lambda_{8}$ would result in a sum greater than two, as the sum of exactly two neighboring variables $\lambda_{i}$ and $\lambda_{i+1}$ has to be one. Thus, we cannot use the three rightmost segments. In contrast,

$$
\begin{equation*}
3 \leq \lambda_{2}+\lambda_{3}+2 \lambda_{4}+2 \lambda_{5}+3 \lambda_{6}+3 \lambda_{7}+4 \lambda_{8} \tag{25}
\end{equation*}
$$

emerges for $y_{1} \geq 3$. Here, using any variable of $\lambda_{0}, \lambda_{1}, \ldots, \lambda_{5}$ would yield a sum less than three with the same argument as before. Thus, we can use exactly the three rightmost segments that were cut off in the other branch.
3.3. Incremental model. The incremental method was introduced by Markowitz and Manne 1957. It uses a linear number of binary variables, but a different behavior compared to the convex combination formulations. There are $n-1$ binary variables $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n-1}$ and a value $y_{j}=1$ enforces that any segment $i$ with $i \geq j$ is used. The other way around, we can say that if segment $i$ is used, we have $y_{j}=1$ for all $j<i$ and $y_{j}=0$ for all $j>i$. Further, we have $y_{i}=1$. The idea behind setting all leftmost binary


Figure 4. Representation of (Inc)
variables to 1 is again to solve the branching issues described for (LogAg). In this formulation, there are $n$ continuous variables $\delta_{i}, \ldots, \delta_{n}$. They are used similarly to the binary ones, i.e., $\delta_{j}=1$ for all $j<i$ and $\delta_{j}=0$ for all $j>i$. Moreover, the variable $\delta_{i}$ determines the exact position of $x$ that is calculated by

$$
\begin{equation*}
x=\bar{x}_{0}+\sum_{i=1}^{n} \delta_{i}\left(\bar{x}_{i}-\bar{x}_{i-1}\right) . \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

The calculation of $f(x)$ works equivalently. The following constraint is introduced to ensure that the continuous variables behave as expected:

$$
\begin{equation*}
1 \geq \delta_{1} \geq y_{1} \geq \cdots \geq \delta_{n-1} \geq y_{n-1} \geq \delta_{n} \geq 0 \tag{27}
\end{equation*}
$$

Due to the variable names, the incremental method is also known as the $\delta$-method. The convex combination formulations, on the other hand, are frequently referred to as the $\lambda$-methods. Again, one can find the model in (Inc) and a visual representation in Figure 4.
Model 8. Classical Incremental Method

$$
\begin{array}{rlrl}
\bar{x}_{0}+\sum_{i=1}^{n} \delta_{i}\left(\bar{x}_{i}-\bar{x}_{i-1}\right) & =x, &  \tag{Inc}\\
f\left(\bar{x}_{0}\right)+\sum_{i=1}^{n} \delta_{i}\left(f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right)-f\left(\bar{x}_{i-1}\right)\right) & =z, & & \\
\delta_{1} & \leq 1, & & \\
\delta_{i+1} & \leq y_{i}, & i \in\{1, \ldots, n-1\}, \\
y_{i} & \leq \delta_{i}, & i \in\{1, \ldots, n-1\}, \\
\delta_{n} & \geq 0, & & \\
y_{i} & \in\{0,1\}, & i \in\{1, \ldots, n-1\} .
\end{array}
$$

3.4. Multiple choice model. Another reformulation that employs a linear number of binary variables is the multiple choice model. As in the convex combination models, each variable $y_{i}$ represents one segment $i$, and the variables are one-hot encoded. The main idea here is that there is also exactly one nonzero continuous variable. So, for each segment $i$, there is a variable $x_{i}$ that represents the exact value on the $x$-axis. For each variable $x_{i}$, we have one constraint of the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
y_{i} \bar{x}_{i-1} \leq x_{i} \leq y_{i} \bar{x}_{i} \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

If we use segment $i$, we have $\bar{x}_{i-1} \leq x_{i} \leq \bar{x}_{i}$, and, thus, $x_{i}$ is forced to lie exactly in the segment; otherwise, $x_{i}$ is fixed to zero. Given the values of all variables $x_{i}$, we can calculate the approximation value using the parameters $m_{i}$ and $t_{i}$ and linear equations

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{i=1}^{n} m_{i} x_{i}+t_{i} y_{i} \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

Putting everything together, we obtain (MC) and the visual representation in Figure 5.

Model 9. Multiple Choice Model

$$
\begin{align*}
\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i} & =x \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(m_{i} x_{i}+t_{i} y_{i}\right) & =z \\
y_{i} \bar{x}_{i-1} & \leq x_{i},  \tag{MC}\\
x_{i} & \leq y_{i} \bar{x}_{i}, \quad i \in\{1, \ldots, n\} \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} & =1, \\
y_{i} & \in\{0,1\}, \quad i \in\{1, \ldots, n\}
\end{align*}
$$

Finally, we provide an overview of the number of variables that are needed to model the MIP representations of this section in Table 1. For relaxations, we need another variable for each segment, i.e., $n$ additional variables. This is the same for each representation

## 4. Implementation

After introducing the different possibilities to represent MIP relaxations of MINLPs, we go more into detail about how we implemented our computational study. For that, we firstly describe how the input instances look like before heading over to the reformulation and solving process.
4.1. Input. All of our input problems are in the Optimization Services Instance Language, or OSIL, format. This format employs an XML vocabulary, which provides several advantages, the most notable of which is that nonlinearities are stored in a tree-based structure. In an OSIL file, each variable, constraint, etc. is saved along with various attributes such as coefficients, a


Figure 5. Visual representation of (MC)

Table 1. Sizes of all one-dimensional representations assuming that we have $n$ segments and $n+1$ breakpoints

| Model | Constraints | Variables <br> binary |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (Disag) | $n+3$ | $2 n$ | $n$ | integer |
| (LogDisag) | $2\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil+3$ | $2 n$ | $\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil$ | 0 |
| (Ag) | $n+5$ | $n+1$ | $n$ | 0 |
| (LogAg) | $2\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil+3$ | $n+1$ | $\left\lceil\log _{2} n\right\rceil$ | 0 |
| (Inc) | $2 n+1$ | $n$ | $n-1$ | 0 |
| (MC) | $2 n+3$ | $n$ | $n$ | 0 |
| (BinZigZag) | $2\left\lceil\log _{2}(n-1)\right\rceil+3$ | $n+1$ | $\left\lceil\log _{2}(n-1)\right\rceil$ | 0 |
| (IntZigZag) | $2\left\lceil\log _{2}(n-1)\right\rceil+3$ | $n+1$ | 0 | $\left\lceil\log _{2}(n-1)\right\rceil$ |

name, or an index. These indices are then used as a reference, for instance to determine where a nonlinearity is used.

A nonlinearity is stored as an expression tree that includes tags for functions like power, products, and sums. An example for the nested expression $-\frac{10^{6} \cdot i_{1} \cdot i_{2}}{i_{3} i_{4}}$ is given in Figure 6a, the corresponding expression tree is given in Figure 6b. For variable $i_{1}$ with index 0 , there is an additional parameter, its coefficient of $10^{6}$. The nonlinear term is used in the constraint with index 0 , what is stated in line 7 . In line 2 , one can see how properties of the variables are stored: In the provided example, variable $i_{1}$ is an integer variable with $12 \leq i_{1} \leq 60$. The index of 0 is implicitly given by the order in which the variables are defined. In line 11, variable $i_{1}$ is then used in the nonlinear expression. It would have also been possible to store parts of this nonlinearity as quadratic equations: Therin, only two variable indices are stored together with a coefficient. More information about the OSIL format is provided by Fourer et al. 2010.

```
<variables numberOfVariables=" 6">
    <var name="i1 " type=" I" lb=" 12" ub="60" />
    [...]
</variables>
[...]
<nonlinearExpressions numberOfNonlinearExpressions=" 1">
        <nl idx="0">
            <negate>
            <divide>
                <product>
                    <variable idx="0" coef="1e6" />
                    <variable idx="1" />
                </product>
                <product>
                    <variable idx="2" />
                    <variable idx=" 3" />
                </product>
            </divide>
        </negate>
        </nl>
</nonlinearExpressions>
```

(6A) Parts of the OSIL code from instance gear4.osil.

(6B) Expression tree for the nonlinear term
Figure 6. Representations for the expression $-\frac{10^{6} \cdot i_{1} \cdot i_{2}}{i_{3} \cdot i_{1}}$. This expression is a part of an instance from the MINLPLib.

Our benchmark set consists of 306 instances. We use a subset of the problems provided in the MINLPLIB (Bussieck et al. 2003), depending on different selection criteria. On the one hand, all variables need to have a lower and upper bound, as, otherwise, we are not able to establish a piecewise linear approximation or relaxation. On the other hand, as mentioned in Section 2, a large subset of the instances from the MINLPLIB can be represented by a recursive combination of elementary operators from (1). Based on this, we only consider the following nonlinear functions:

$$
\begin{align*}
& f\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)=\prod_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}, f(x)=e^{x}, f(x)=\ln x, \\
& f(x)=\log _{10} x, f(x)=x^{2}, f(x)=\sqrt{x}, f(x)=\sin x,  \tag{30}\\
& f(x)=\cos x, f(x)=\tanh x, f\left(x_{1}, x_{2}\right)=\frac{x_{1}}{x_{2}}, f(x)=x^{-1} .
\end{align*}
$$

Furthermore, we include only problems where the optimal solution is known. In our numerical study in Section 5, we provide additional statistics about our benchmark instances.
4.2. Reformulation. Each input problem is now reformulated using a selfdefined data format, first to a MINLP containing only one-dimensional nonlinearities and nonlinearities of the form $z=x_{1} x_{2}$. Subsequently, the univariate transformation of bivariate products from Section 2 is performed. The resulting MINLP then serves as the basis for the various MIP relaxations.

Our data format is called OSILData and contains data structures for variables, objective(s), constraints, linear, quadratic, and nonlinear expressions. Each object of OSILData can later be solved in the same way, independently of the type of nonlinearities, what makes the results easily comparable. All nonlinear expressions are stored in a tree structure that can be easily modified. This structure is based on the expression trees of the original OSIL format. At the start of each solving process, an object of OSILData containing all given information is created from the initial MINLP.
4.2.1. Creating one-dimensional nonlinearities. The first reformulation step is to remove all more-dimensional nonlinearities. To this end, we investigate all nonlinearities recursively and reformulate each type one by one. We initially use two-dimensional multiplications, which we reformulate at the end. The first more-dimensional nonlinearities that we want to remove are products with more than two multiplicands, i.e., expressions of the form product $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)$. This is reformulated such that each product has two multiplicands, resulting in the form product $\left(x_{1}\right.$, product $\left(x_{2}\right.$, product $\left.\left(\ldots, \operatorname{product}\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)\right)\right)$ ). Next, each division of the form $z=\frac{x_{1}}{x_{2}}$ is reformulated by $z=x_{1} \cdot \frac{1}{x_{2}}$, which is again a product of one-dimensional nonlinearities.

After dealing with these special cases, we need to consider nested nonlinear equations with multiple variables. The OSIL expression tree format is useful in this regard: We go through the tree recursively, replacing each nonlinearity $\mathrm{nl}_{i}(x)$ with a newly introduced variable $z_{i}$. In addition, we insert a new constraint $z_{i}=\operatorname{nl}_{i}(x)$, which creates a new expression tree. As we begin to replace the leafs, each newly created tree has a depth of at most one.
4.2.2. Reformulation from one-dimensional MINLPs to MIP relaxations. We now relax the MINLP based on the one-dimensional formulation using the MIP representations described in Section 3. Our implementation allows one to choose between relaxations and approximations, but for this study we only consider piecewise linear relaxations. The following approach is essentially the same for each PWL model. Since we reformulated all nonlinearities to one-dimensional nonlinear functions, each expression has the form $z=f(x)$ with a bounded variable $x$, i.e., $x^{-} \leq x \leq x^{+}$. Therefore, we can create a piecewise linear approximation function $\bar{f}:\left[x^{-}, x^{+}\right] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for each nonlinear expression and extend it to a relaxation afterwards. We use an adjustable value $\epsilon$ that bounds the maximum error in each segment, i.e., we enforce

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\bar{f}(x)-f(x)| \leq \epsilon \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

for all $x$ with $x^{-} \leq x \leq x^{+}$. The size of $\epsilon$ controls the number of breakpoints and, thus, segments we use. A smaller error bound leads to an increasing number of breakpoints and vice versa. The set of breakpoints $x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}$ is created as follows: Beginning with the lower bound $x^{-}$, we set $x_{0}=x^{-}$ and calculate the next point $x_{1}$ that fulfills (31) for $x_{0} \leq x \leq x_{1}$ when setting $\bar{f}(x)=m_{0} x+t_{0}$ where $m_{0}$ and $t_{0}$ describe the linear function that connects ( $\left.x_{0}, f\left(x_{0}\right)\right)$ and ( $\left.x_{1}, f\left(x_{1}\right)\right)$. This procedure uses binary search and it is repeated until we reach a breakpoint $x_{n}$ with $x_{n} \geq x^{+}$. The value of this point is then set to $x^{+}$. Finally, using all linear approximations, we obtain the PWL approximation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\bar{f}(x)=m_{i} x+t_{i}, \tag{32}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $m_{i}$ and $t_{i}$ are chosen depending on $x$, i.e., such that $\bar{x}_{i-1} \leq x \leq \bar{x}_{i}$. We enforce continuous piecewise linear approximations by interpolation, i.e., we have $m_{i} \bar{x}_{i-1}+t_{i}=f\left(\bar{x}_{i-1}\right)$ and $m_{i} \bar{x}_{i}+t_{i}=f\left(\bar{x}_{i}\right)$ for $i=1, \ldots, n$. To create relaxations, we just add another variable, bounded by $-\epsilon \leq e \leq \epsilon$ that controls the maximum error and add it to the piecewise linear function $\bar{f}(x)$, i.e., we replace each nonlinearity by $\bar{f}(x)+e$.

In our implementation, we can choose which representation from Section 3 to use for the relaxation. Then, the respective constraints replace the occurring nonlinearities in the input problem.
4.3. Solving. Finally, we have a MIP model for each different representation that can be solved using state-of-the-art MIP solution methods. To accomplish this, we first convert the MIPs from our own data structure to Pyomo models, cf. Bynum et al. 2021; Hart et al. 2011. We use Pyomo because it allows us to easily switch between different solvers. Gurobi cannot be used for general MINLPs, but we want to use it later to solve the MIPs and compare the results with the original solution. We use Gurobi Optimizer version 9.1.2 (Gurobi Optimization, LLC 2023) to solve the MIPs using a time limit of four hours. Each problem is optimized on the NHR@FAU clusters using Intel Xeon Gold 6326 CPUs with four cores, a total of 32 GB RAM, and a base frequency of 2.9 GHz .

We store different information in each run. On the one hand, we examine the optimization result, which tells us whether a problem was solved to optimality, reached its time limit, or ran into an error. Infeasibility can only occur when we use approximations instead of relaxations.

On the other hand, we are interested to understand more about how problems are solved: We store the primal and dual bounds on a regular basis and therefore can monitor the gap over time. Furthermore, we store the time it took until the first feasible solution was found. In the following section 5 , we present the numerical results and discuss it afterwards in Section 6.

## 5. Numerical Results

In this section, we first present the benchmark set from the MINLPLIB and then numerically analyze how the different MIP models for PWL relaxations from Section 3 perform in practice.
5.1. Benchmark instances. As mentioned previously, our benchmark set is a subset of the MINLPLIB that consists of 306 different instances. In Figure 7, one can see the numbers of constraints and variables for each instance. Figure 7a shows the entire benchmark set, whereas Figure 7b describes all instances with less than 1000 constraints and variables. In both plots, each blue square represents the total number of constraints and variables in one benchmark instance. We have around 169 variables and 225 constraints on average per instance. The median numbers are 42.5 and 30.5 , respectively.

On the left hand side, we further plotted red circles that consider only the nonlinear constraints. Similarly, on the right hand side, the green circles show only the number of binary and integer variables. There are, on average, around 91 binary/integer variables, as well as 56 nonlinear constraints per instance. The median number of binary/integer variables is 4.5.

Table 2 contains statistics about the benchmark instances. To make a conclusive comparison, we consider the set of instances for which a model could be created for all error bounds. The number of segments per instance and nonlinearity, as well as the segment length per nonlinearity, are calculated for each error bound. The mean and median number and length of segments per nonlinearity are calculated for the entire set of nonlinearities instead of averaging over each instance separately.

A full list of the benchmark set and the exact numbers of variables and constraints per instance is provided in Appendix B.
5.2. Comparison of the MIP models for PWL relaxations. We now present the computational results where we test all PWL MIP models from Section 3 on the previously explained benchmark set. First, we evaluate how many problems can be solved to optimality, and how long the solving process takes before moving on to evaluate the solution quality over time.

For many results, we use the so-called shifted geometric mean (SGM). The SGM of $n$ numbers $t_{1}, \ldots, t_{n}$ is determined using the formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^{n}\left(t_{i}+s\right)}-s \tag{33}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here, $s$ represents an arbitrary shift applied to each term. This shift factor introduces a level of flexibility into the calculation, allowing us to adjust the significance of each term in the dataset. In our case, we want to decrease the impact of small runtimes. To improve the numerical stability of the computation, we employ an alternative formulation, namely

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sqrt[n]{\exp \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \ln \left(t_{i}+s\right)\right)}-s=\exp \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \ln \left(t_{i}+s\right)}{n}\right)-s \tag{34}
\end{equation*}
$$

In each MIP relaxation, we fix a maximal error bound $\epsilon$. The break points are created depending on this error bound. To allow the model to use the maximal error bound, we add the variables $\epsilon^{+}, \epsilon^{-} \in[0, \epsilon]$ every time, a non-linearity is replaced.

Table 2. Sizes of the MIP reformulations. The instances have between 2 and 12540 nonlinearities with a mean of 482.85 and a median of 48 .

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | min | max | mean | median |
| Segments per instance | 3 | 25079 | 1005.52 | 192 |
| Segments per NL | 1 | 173 | 1.08 | 1 |
| Segment length per NL | 0.0066 | 109669.00 | 7.97 | 1.00 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  |  |  |
|  | min | max | mean | median |
| Segments per instance | 3 | 25079 | 1534.06 | 669 |
| Segments per NL | 1 | 1729 | 2.18 | 1 |
| Segment length per NL | 0.0066 | 8436.08 | 1.94 | 1.00 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  |  |  |
|  | min | max | mean | median |
| Segments per instance | 13 | 45343 | 9366.03 | 4589 |
| Segments per NL | 1 | 17281 | 18.40 | 5 |
| Segment length per NL | 0.0066 | 3456.00 | 0.34 | 0.20 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  |  |  |
|  | min | max | mean | median |
| Segments per instance | 121 | 407098 | 88924.89 | 41414 |
| Segments per NL | 1 | 172801 | 183.17 | 50 |
| Segment length per NL | 0.0022 | 493.71 | 0.039 | 0.02 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |  |  |  |
|  | min | max | mean | median |
| Segments per instance | 1077 | 4029797 | 885031.81 | 413119.0 |
| Segments per NL | 4 | 1728349 | 1831.94 | 501 |
| Segment length per NL | 0.00022 | 51.58 | 0.0040 | 0.002 |

5.2.1. Number of solved problems and runtimes. First, we consider how many problems the various methods can solve. Figure 8 depicts the number of problems solved by each PWL model over time. We plot the number of optimally solved problems for each point in time between 0 and 14400 seconds (the time limit of 4 hours) and each method. The time is plotted on a logarithmic scale for better visibility. Each subfigure represents a different error bound (From now on, we will consider error bounds $\epsilon \in\left\{10^{2}, 10^{0}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-4}, 10^{-6}\right\}$ in all cases). All eight methods are plotted, and a legend is provided in Figure 8 b . The bottom plots show more differences as the problems become larger and thus more difficult with increasing error bounds.

In Table 3, we compare the runtimes until an optimal solution is found. If an instance is not solved during the time limit, the time limit is used as

(7A) Full benchmark set

(7B) Instances with less than 1000 variables and constraints
Figure 7. Total amount of variables and constraints for our selected benchmark instances. The blue squares represent the total number of constraints and variables, whereas the red and green circles represent nonlinear constraint and binary/integer variable subsets, respectively.
a runtime. Additional to the mean and median values, we use the shifted geometric mean (SGM) with $s=10$, as proposed in (33).

Table 4 distinguishes the instances according to whether they were solved within the time limit or not. As expected, the number of problems solved to optimality decreases as the error bounds become smaller. In some cases,

we do not have information about the solution process for every method because of errors that occur during the steps of our framework as described in Section 4: On the one hand, the model creation time may be too long, and the solution process may not begin at all; on the other hand, when models become too large, some out-of-memory errors occur. These cases are omitted from our statistics. Figure 9 displays how many instances of each MIP model progressed how far in the solution process. For every model, we plot a bar for each of the five error bounds. The different shades of blue represent the stages of the solution process, where the different checkpoints are the following: The whole process has started (STARTED), the MIP reformulation has been created (MIP CREATED), the MIP reformulation solution process has ended without errors (MIP SOLVED), and a primal or optimal solution of the relaxation has been found (PRIMAL/OPTIMAL SOLUTION FOUND), respectively.

Table 3. Mean, median, and shifted geometric mean of the runtimes, depending on the error bound $\epsilon$.

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM | mean | median | SGM |
| (Disag) | 781.88 | 0.05 | 12.74 | 1933.86 | 3.33 | 56.06 |
| (LogDisag) | 593.31 | 0.07 | 11.34 | 1596.81 | 5.90 | 46.98 |
| (Ag) | 732.12 | 0.06 | 11.59 | 2327.03 | 3.38 | 62.05 |
| (LogAg) | 577.94 | 0.05 | 10.05 | 1409.95 | 2.81 | 37.23 |
| (Inc) | 478.16 | 0.04 | 9.46 | 1197.74 | 2.07 | 34.34 |
| (MC) | 751.85 | 0.06 | 11.73 | 1760.72 | 3.11 | 47.99 |
| (BinZigZag) | 594.41 | 0.05 | 10.01 | 1335.04 | 2.96 | 33.49 |
| (IntZigZag) | 607.02 | 0.04 | 10.19 | 1251.36 | 2.93 | 32.52 |
| Error bound |  | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM | mean | median | SGM |
| (Disag) | 6523.66 | 924.23 | 620.00 | 7703.17 | 14400.00 | 1004.48 |
| (LogDisag) | 5091.59 | 222.42 | 402.49 | 6258.89 | 1238.93 | 761.39 |
| (Ag) | 6444.64 | 1209.32 | 604.09 | 7533.72 | 9718.85 | 1170.59 |
| (LogAg) | 4623.80 | 93.69 | 281.33 | 4758.82 | 556.63 | 462.13 |
| (Inc) | 3778.40 | 98.03 | 235.87 | 4640.37 | 383.14 | 331.88 |
| (MC) | 5611.26 | 193.02 | 393.24 | 5249.12 | 104.08 | 361.25 |
| (BinZigZag) | 4494.56 | 136.44 | 277.48 | 5038.51 | 824.10 | 482.58 |
| (IntZigZag) | 4408.71 | 118.55 | 270.26 | 4950.96 | 427.57 | 416.71 |
| Error bound |  | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM |  |  |  |
| (Disag) | 7914.52 | 14400.00 | 1672.63 |  |  |  |
| (LogDisag) | 7403.85 | 9675.72 | 1227.49 |  |  |  |
| (Ag) | 7866.40 | 14400.00 | 1941.72 |  |  |  |
| (LogAg) | 5839.51 | 500.07 | 569.06 |  |  |  |
| (Inc) | 3783.14 | 59.33 | 227.57 |  |  |  |
| (MC) | 3467.61 | 152.07 | 306.00 |  |  |  |
| (BinZigZag) | 5995.32 | 453.34 | 574.04 |  |  |  |
| (IntZigZag) | 5842.74 | 250.83 | 507.88 |  |  |  |

TABLE 4. Solver results for the full benchmark set.

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Solver result | opt. | tl. | opt. | tl. | opt. | tl. | opt. | tl. | opt. | tl. |
| (Disag) | 263 | 13 | 239 | 32 | 146 | 107 | 97 | 101 | 59 | 63 |
| (LogDisag) | 267 | 9 | 246 | 25 | 172 | 81 | 117 | 81 | 61 | 61 |
| (Ag) | 263 | 13 | 231 | 40 | 147 | 106 | 103 | 95 | 60 | 62 |
| (LogAg) | 266 | 10 | 251 | 20 | 181 | 72 | 141 | 57 | 74 | 48 |
| (Inc) | 269 | 7 | 254 | 17 | 201 | 52 | 145 | 53 | 95 | 27 |
| (MC) | 263 | 13 | 242 | 29 | 169 | 84 | 132 | 66 | 96 | 26 |
| (BinZigZag) | 266 | 10 | 250 | 21 | 183 | 70 | 137 | 61 | 74 | 48 |
| (IntZigZag) | 266 | 10 | 252 | 19 | 185 | 68 | 138 | 60 | 74 | 48 |


(8D) $\epsilon=10^{-6}$
Figure 8. Number of solved problems over time. The remaining error bounds are given in Figure 11.

(9) Solving progress of the different MIP methods. For each method, the bars represent the error bounds of $10^{2}, 10^{0}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-4}$, and $10^{-6}$, from left to right.

More benchmarks for smaller subsets, i.e., on the one hand, all problems for which a feasible solution was found, and on the other hand, all problems that are solved to optimality by all PWL models are given in Appendix C. Additionally, we present performance profiles in Appendix C.4.

TABLE 5. Solution qualities of MIP relaxations, depending on the error bound $\epsilon$, calculated by (35).

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Solved instances | 262 | 228 | 131 | 87 | 48 |
| Mean | $1517.84 \%$ | $35.14 \%$ | $7.85 \%$ | $1.29 \%$ | $2.25 \%$ |
| Median gap | $9.60 \%$ | $1.35 \%$ | $0.01 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ |
| SGM | $5.13 \%$ | $1.83 \%$ | $0.31 \%$ | $0.03 \%$ | $0.03 \%$ |

5.2.2. Solution qualities. We can further evaluate the gap between the optimal solution of the MINLP and the MIP relaxations' solution for the instances that all PWL models solved to global optimality. Table 5 presents the corresponding results. Therein, additionally to the number of solved problems, we provide the mean, median, and shifted geometric mean for the gaps between the optimal MINLP and MIP solutions $x^{*}$ and $x^{\text {relax }}$, given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\left|c^{\top} x^{*}-c^{\top} x^{\mathrm{relax}}\right|}{\left|c^{\top} x^{*}\right|+10^{-10}} \tag{35}
\end{equation*}
$$

Adding $10^{-10}$ to the denominator prevents problems with instances that have an objective value of 0 . As one can see, the gap is already very small for $\epsilon=10^{-4}$, which means that using MIP relaxations, one can find fairly good dual bounds.

Further, in Figure 10, we plot how the MIP solution improves over time. Therefore, we take the shifted geometric mean of all primal and dual gaps, i.e., the gaps between the primal/dual bounds and the optimal MIP solution. The primal gap is calculated using

$$
p:= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } \bar{z}=\infty \text { or } \bar{z} \cdot z^{*}<0  \tag{36}\\ 0 & \text { if } \bar{z}=z^{*} \\ \frac{\left|\bar{z}-z^{*}\right|}{\max \left\{|\bar{z}|,\left|z^{*}\right|\right\}} & \text { else }\end{cases}
$$

and, equivalently, the dual gap is calculated by

$$
d:= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } \underline{z}=-\infty \text { or } \underline{z} \cdot z^{*}<0  \tag{37}\\ 0 & \text { if } \underline{z}=z^{*} \\ \frac{\left|\underline{z}-z^{*}\right|}{\max \left\{|\underline{z}|,\left|z^{*}\right|\right\}} & \text { else }\end{cases}
$$

where $\bar{z}$ and $\underline{z}$ are the current primal and dual bounds and $z^{*}=c^{\top} x^{\text {relax }}$ is the optimal solution of the MIP relaxation. The upper graphs in each subplot show how the primal gap shrinks, while the lower graphs show how the dual gap shrinks.

## 6. Discussion

We will now investigate the presented results in order to draw some conclusions from our study. For larger error bounds (Figure 11a), the number of solved problems is quite similar, while already for $\epsilon=1$ (Figure 8a), we can see some differences. For smaller error bounds, i.e., larger models, the

$(10 \mathrm{~A}) \epsilon=10^{-2}$

(10в) $\epsilon=10^{-4}$


Figure 10. SGM of primal and dual gap to optimal MIP solution over time. The remaining error bounds are given in Figure 12
differences become more visible: For $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ (Figure 8c), we see that (Inc), (BinZigZag), (IntZigZag), and (LogAg) show similar performances during the first 1000 seconds, but with more runtime, (Inc) solves significantly more problems. For $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ (Figure 8d) it stands further out that (MC) also yields a good performance, catching up to (Inc) after around 1000 seconds and solving nearly the same number of problems after a time limit of 4 hours.

As a first result, we can say that the incremental method shows, overall, the best performance regarding the number of solved problems while, as we can see in all graphs of Figure 8 and in Table 4, the non-logarithmic convex combinations, (Ag) and (Disag), solve the fewest instances. In general, the logarithmic methods outperform their non-logarithmic counterparts, while the (IntZigZag) model is slightly superior to the other logarithmic models. The runtimes in Table 3 also strengthen our conclusions.

As mentioned in the previous section, we also considered two smaller subsets of instances: All problems for which a feasible solution was found by all methods and all instances that are solved to optimality by all models. For the first subset (Tables 8 and 9 ), we see similar results as before: (Inc) solves the most instances, followed by the logarithmic models. For error bounds $\epsilon \geq 10^{-4}$, (Inc) again shows superior runtimes. This changes with $\epsilon=10^{-6}$, as now, (LogAg), (BinZigZag), and (IntZigZag) have shorter runtimes, while (IntZigZag) again performs best among the logarithmic methods. We can
see the same results for the optimality subset, presented in Table 10, where (Inc) is also superior only up to $\epsilon=10^{-4}$.

One reason for this seems to be that logarithmic methods are much less suitable for some of the more difficult instances (with very high accuracies), while for other problems they provide the best models overall. Therefore, depending on the specific instance, the logarithmic models can be a very valuable alternative to the incremental method for very small error bounds.

In Tables 11 to 13 , smaller time limits are investigated, but the results coincide with our previous findings. As before, (Inc) solves the instances fastest, while the other methods catch up only for the easier subsets and very small error bounds.

Complementary to the runtimes, we also analyzed the solution process itself, i.e., how the optimality gaps decrease over time. However, before doing so, we investigated the extent to which our solution framework as described in Section 4 worked (Figure 9), where it stands out that (MC) is able to find primal solutions, i.e., solve feasibility problems quite fast. For larger error bounds (Figures 12a and 12b), the gaps evolve quite similar for all methods, while, for smaller error bounds (Figures 10a to 10c) the differences become greater. Only the non-logarithmic convex combinations again show worse results than the remaining methods. For all error bounds, the logarithmic versions of the aggregated convex combination, i.e., (LogAg), (BinZigZag), and (IntZigZag) show a similar behavior. This is not surprising, as these methods only differ in how the branching scheme is defined, see Section 3.2. Besides the fact, that (Inc) is again superior, we can further see that (MC) has also a good behavior for the very small bound $\epsilon=10^{-6}$. Overall, our results lead to a recommendation to favor (Inc) as a general PWL method in practice over the other models that we considered in this paper.

Finally, to emphasize the relevance of PWL relaxations in the context of solving MINLPs, we discuss how good the MIP relaxation's solutions are in general. Since we know the optimal solution for each MINLP as we restricted ourselves to these instances, we can calculate the gap between the optimal MIP and MINLP solutions, as described in (35). Please note that the optimal solution of a MIP relaxation is in fact a valid dual bound for the corresponding MINLP. Thus, the results in Table 5, which shows the mean and median values of all gaps as well as the shifted geometric mean using a shift value of $s=10^{-3}$, can be considered as relative optimality gaps for the MINLP problems. As we can see, the median gap is negligible already for $\epsilon=10^{-2}$, which means that more than half of the MIP relaxation' solutions are similar to the corresponding optimal MINLP solution in terms of objective values. For $\epsilon \leq 10^{-4}$, also the mean and SGM values are fairly small. Obtaining such small gaps is a promising result, which suggests that tackling MINLPs by MIP relaxations can be a reasonable alternative to spatial branch-and-bound in practice. This becomes even more impressive if we consider that we have an expression tree structure with separate equations for each nonlinearity, which means that each nonlinearity can have errors up to $\epsilon$ that propagate further.

## 7. Conclusion

In this paper, we compared various MIP models for PWL relaxations of nonlinear functions that are known in the literature. Using over 300 instances of the MINLPLIB data set, we conducted a comprehensive computational study to determine a general performance of these models. Our results demonstrate the advantages of the incremental method as presented by Markowitz and Manne 1957 and are accompanied by a general recommendation of this method for practical applications.

Since our primary focus in this study was to evaluate different PWL models rather than assessing the overall performance of the solver, there are some points where our implementation could have been improved. For instance, a more sophisticated method for determining breakpoints or avoiding duplicates in variables and constraints would be desirable. It is important to note, however, that the inefficiencies in our framework remain consistent across all MIP models and do not affect the conclusions drawn from our research.

Future work may focus on different topics. First, this research only considers the maximum error for each segment, while overlooking factors such as the number of breakpoints and the specific characteristics of nonlinearities. Moreover, approaches that use PWL relaxations to solve MINLPs can benefit significantly from adaptivity by refining the PWL relaxations only locally in an iterative manner. Depending on the stages of the solution process, in this setting, PWL relaxations must thus be solved with both small and large numbers of segments. Consequently, the combination of different PWL models might be the best starting point for adaptive approaches, which is also supported by our results. One promising idea is to combine methods that are capable of finding primal solutions quickly, like the multiple choice method, with methods that are better suited for closing the optimality gap with high-accuracy PWL relaxations, like the incremental method or the integer Zig-Zag formulation by Huchette and Vielma 2022. Furthermore, when multiple kernels are available, the most suitable MIP model for a specific problem can be chosen during runtime.

## Appendix A. Branching scheme for the logarithmic branching CONVEX COMbINATION MODEL

The following Table 6 gives a visualization of our branching scheme from Section 3.2.

Table 6. Example for the iterative creation of $L_{s}, R_{s}$ for $n=16$.

|  | $\bar{x}_{0}$ | $\bar{x}_{1}$ | $\bar{x}_{2}$ | $\bar{x}_{3}$ | $\bar{x}_{4}$ | $\bar{x}_{5}$ | $\bar{x}_{6}$ | $\bar{x}_{7}$ | $\bar{x}_{8}$ | $\bar{x}_{9}$ | $\bar{x}_{10}$ | $\bar{x}_{11}$ | $\bar{x}_{12}$ | $\bar{x}_{13}$ | $\bar{x}_{14}$ | $\bar{x}_{15}$ | $\bar{x}_{16}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $T_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | $L_{4}$ | - | $R_{4}$ | $R_{4}$ | $R_{4}$ | $R_{4}$ | $R_{4}$ | $R_{4}$ | $R_{4}$ | $R_{4}$ |
| $T_{3}$ | $L_{3}$ | $L_{3}$ | $L_{3}$ | $L_{3}$ | - | $R_{3}$ | $R_{3}$ | $R_{3}$ | $R_{3}$ | $R_{3}$ | $R_{3}$ | $R_{3}$ | - | $L_{3}$ | $L_{3}$ | $L_{3}$ | $L_{3}$ |
| $T_{2}$ | $L_{2}$ | $L_{2}$ | - | $R_{2}$ | $R_{2}$ | $R_{2}$ | - | $L_{2}$ | $L_{2}$ | $L_{2}$ | - | $R_{2}$ | $R_{2}$ | $R_{2}$ | - | $L_{2}$ | $L_{2}$ |
| $T_{1}$ | $L_{1}$ | - | $R_{1}$ | - | $L_{1}$ | - | $R_{1}$ | - | $L_{1}$ | - | $R_{1}$ | - | $L_{1}$ | - | $R_{1}$ | - | $L_{1}$ |

## Appendix B. Benchmark set

In the following, our benchmark set from the MINLPLIB is presented.

| Instance | objective | Number of  <br> constraints $\mid$ nonlinear equations  |  | Number of variables |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | continuous | binary | integer |
| alkyl | -1.765 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| arki0005 | 372.6047 | 5152 | 2353 | 2370 | 0 | 0 |
| batch | 285506.5082 | 73 | 2 | 22 | 24 | 0 |
| batch0812 | 2687026.784 | 217 | 2 | 40 | 60 | 0 |
| batchdes | 167427.6571 | 19 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 0 |
| blend029 | 13.3594 | 213 | 12 | 66 | 36 | 0 |
| blend146 | 45.2966 | 624 | 24 | 135 | 87 | 0 |
| blend480 | 9.2266 | 884 | 32 | 188 | 124 | 0 |
| blend531 | 20.039 | 736 | 32 | 168 | 104 | 0 |
| blend718 | 7.3936 | 606 | 24 | 135 | 87 | 0 |
| blend721 | 13.5268 | 627 | 24 | 135 | 87 | 0 |
| blend852 | 53.9627 | 860 | 32 | 184 | 120 | 0 |
| cardqp_inlp | 3760.7151 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 50 | 0 |
| cardqp_iqp | 3760.7151 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 50 | 0 |
| celar6-sub0 | 159.0 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 640 | 0 |
| chimera_k64ising-01 | 24.3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1192 | 0 |
| chimera_k64ising-02 | 24.3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1225 | 0 |
| chimera_k64maxcut-01 | 23.6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1101 | 0 |
| chimera_k64maxcut-02 | 23.6 | 0 | , | 0 | 1145 | 0 |
| chimera_lga-01 | 143.5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1120 | 0 |
| chimera_mgw-c8-439-onc8-001 | 405.0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 440 | 0 |
| chimera_mgw-c8-439-onc8-002 | 397.0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 440 | 0 |
| chimera_mis-01 | 389.4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2032 | 0 |
| chimera_mis-02 | 398.6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2032 | 0 |
| chp_shorttermplan2a | 245800.4121 | 3896 | 768 | 1344 | 240 | 0 |
| crossdock_15x7 | 14409.0 | 44 | 1 | 0 | 210 | 0 |
| crossdock_15x8 | 15595.0 | 46 | , | 0 | 240 | 0 |
| cvxnonsep_normcon20 | -21.7491 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| cvxnonsep_normcon30 | -34.244 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| cvxnonsep_normcon40 | -32.6297 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| du-opt | 3.5563 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 13 |
| ex1222 | 1.0765 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| ex1223 | 4.5796 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| ex1223a | 4.5796 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| ex1223b | 4.5796 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| ex1224 | -0.9435 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 0 |
| ex1263 | 19.6 | 55 | 4 | 20 | 72 | 0 |
| ex1263a | 19.6 | 35 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 20 |
| ex1264 | 8.6 | 55 | 4 | 20 | 68 | 0 |
| ex1264a | 8.6 | 35 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 20 |
| ex1265 | 10.3 | 74 | 5 | 30 | 100 | 0 |
| ex1265a | 10.3 | 44 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 30 |
| ex1266 | 16.3 | 95 | 6 | 42 | 138 | 0 |
| ex1266a | 16.3 | 53 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 42 |
| ex2_1_1 | -17.0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| ex2_1_5 | -268.0146 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| ex2_1_6 | -39.0 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| ex2_1_8 | 15639.0 | 10 | 1 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| ex3_1_1 | 7049.248 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| ex3_1_2 | -30665.5387 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| ex5_2_2_case1 | -400.0 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| ex5_2_2_case2 | -600.0 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| ex5-2_2_case3 | -750.0 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| ex5_2_4 | -450.0 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| ex5_3_2 | 1.8642 | 16 | 9 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| ex5_4_2 | 7512.2301 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| ex6_2_14 | -0.6954 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| ex7_2_1 | 1227.2261 | 14 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| ex8_1_1 | -2.0218 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| ex8_4_1 | 0.6186 | 10 | 11 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| fac3 | 31982309.85 | 33 | 1 | 54 | 12 | 0 |
| flay 02 m | 37.9473 | 11 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 0 |
| flay 03 m | 48.9898 | 24 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 0 |
| flay 04 m | 54.4059 | 42 | 4 | 18 | 24 | 0 |
| flay05m | 64.4981 | 65 | 5 | 22 | 40 | 0 |
| gabriel01 | 45.2444 | 467 | 48 | 143 | 72 | 0 |
| gabriel04 | 9.2266 | 943 | 128 | 260 | 101 | 0 |
| gbd | 2.2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| gear | 0.0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| gear2 | 0.0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 24 | 0 |
| gear3 | 0.0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| genpooling_lee1 | -4640.0824 | 82 | 20 | 40 | 9 | 0 |
| genpooling_lee2 | $-3849.2654$ | 92 | 30 | 44 | 9 55 | 0 |
| genpooling_meyer04 | 1086187.137 | 141 | 15 | 63 | 55 | 0 |






| 109.8032 | 450 | 70 | 294 | 70 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 109.8032 | 219 | 70 | 84 | 70 |
| 6.5999 | 299 | 75 | 180 | 75 |
| 6.5999 | 139 | 75 | 30 | 75 |
| 2.4372 | 379 | 100 | 230 | 100 |
| 2.4372 | 169 | 100 | 30 | 100 |
| 19.7365 | 504 | 100 | 345 | 100 |
| 19.7365 | 189 | 100 | 45 | 100 |
| 0.2916 | 229 | 150 | 30 | 150 |
| 8.2183 | 249 | 150 | 45 | 150 |
| 13.9338 | 337 | 210 | 56 | 210 |
| 9.7772 | 309 | 200 | 45 | 200 |
| 30.1327 | 1149 | 200 | 860 | 200 |
| 30.1327 | 329 | 200 | 60 | 200 |
| -549.8031 | 49 | 20 | 33 | 0 |
| -549.8031 | 71 | 40 | 46 | 0 |
| -549.8031 | 49 | 20 | 33 | 0 |
| -549.8031 | 57 | 20 | 33 | 0 |
| -549.8031 | 79 | 40 | 46 | 0 |
| -549.8031 | 57 | 20 | 33 | 0 |
| -561.0447 | 74 | 32 | 52 | 0 |
| -561.0447 | 109 | 64 | 72 | 0 |
| -561.0447 | 74 | 32 | 52 | 0 |
| -877.6457 | 77 | 40 | 58 | 0 |
| -877.6457 | 119 | 80 | 76 | 0 |
| -877.6457 | 77 | 40 | 58 | 0 |
| -450.0 | 16 | 6 | 13 | 0 |
| -450.0 | 23 | 12 | 18 | 0 |
| -450.0 | 16 | 6 | 13 | 0 |
| -3500.0 | 86 | 60 | 92 | 0 |
| -3500.0 | 149 | 120 | 119 | 0 |
| -3500.0 | 86 | 60 | 92 | 0 |
| -1100.0 | 34 | 16 | 36 | 0 |
| -1100.0 | 52 | 32 | 48 | 0 |
| -1100.0 | 34 | 16 | 36 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 571 | 512 | 672 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 1091 | 1024 | 832 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 571 | 512 | 672 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 571 | 512 | 672 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 1091 | 1024 | 832 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 571 | 512 | 672 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 563 | 512 | 608 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 1079 | 1024 | 704 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 563 | 512 | 608 | 0 |
| -400.0 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| -400.0 | 18 | 8 | 14 | 0 |
| -400.0 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| -600.0 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| -600.0 | 18 | 8 | 14 | 0 |
| -600.0 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| -750.0 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| -750.0 | 18 | 8 | 14 | 0 |
| -750.0 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| -4391.8259 | 52 | 18 | 34 | 0 |
| -4391.8259 | 72 | 36 | 46 | 0 |
| -4391.8259 | 52 | 18 | 34 | 0 |
| -21933.994 | 2407 | 1992 | 2399 | 0 |
| 112235.0 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 10.0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1.1771 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 3.4455 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| -1161.3366 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| 0.0008 | 52 | 1 | 100 | 0 |
| 621.0 | 100 | 1 | 0 | 180 |
| 813.0 | 121 | 1 | 0 | 220 |
| 959.0 | 144 | 1 | 0 | 264 |
| 0.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| -510.081 | 31 | 6 | 27 | 2 |
| 13.2795 | 2165 | 30 | 154 | 92 |
| 18.5941 | 393 | 30 | 154 | 60 |
| 19.5776 | 239 | 30 | 147 | 39 |
| 11.0585 | 2268 | 45 | 216 | 107 |
| 15.0945 | 496 | 45 | 216 | 75 |
| 16.1511 | 342 | 45 | 209 | 54 |
| 9.9531 | 2371 | 60 | 278 | 122 |
| 13.4115 | 599 | 60 | 278 | 90 |
| 14.2992 | 445 | 60 | 271 | 69 |
| 1182604.5 | 2057 | 17 | 0 | 136 |



| sonet18v6 <br> sonet19v5 |
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| st_bpaf1a |
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| st_iqpbk1 |
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| st_jcbpaf2 |
| st_miqp1 |
| st_miqp2 |
| st_miqp3 |
| st_miqp4 |
| st_miqp5 |
| st_test2 |
| st_test 3 |
| st_test4 |
| st_test5 |
| st_test 6 |
| st_test8 |
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| wastewater02m1 |
| wastewater02m2 |
| wastewater04m1 |
| wastewater04m2 |
| wastewater05m1 |
| wastewater05m2 |
| wastewater11m1 |
| wastewater12m1 |
| wastewater13m1 |
| wastewater15m1 |
| wastewater15m2 |
| waterund08 waterund11 |
|  |  |


| 3389110.0 | 2466 | 18 | 0 | 153 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2528144.0 | 2926 | 19 | 0 | 171 | 0 |
| 3311060.0 | 3440 | 20 | 0 | 190 | 0 |
| 3312579.0 | 6096 | 24 | 0 | 276 | 0 |
| -9594.0 | 152 | 17 | 0 | 152 | 0 |
| -45.3797 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| -42.9626 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 10.0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| -8.0 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| -86768.55 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| -70262.05 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| -6.6667 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 201.1593 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| -1161.3366 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 7049.2493 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| -400.0 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 0.7418 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| -0.5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 4.5796 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| -2.8284 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| -85.0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| -1.0833 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 3.0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| -185.7792 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.0 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| -0.9435 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 0 |
| -1.5811 | 15 | 5 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| -400.0 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| 0.0156 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| -1.6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| -621.4878 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| -1195.2256 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| -794.8559 | 13 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 281.0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 2.0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| -6.0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| -4574.0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| -333.8889 | 13 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 |
| -9.25 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| -7.0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| -7.0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| -110.0 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 471.0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| -29605.0 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| -12.8116 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| -20.59 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| -80.5 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2260.2566 | 30 | 6 | 24 | 3 | 0 |
| 437551.6764 | 255 | 1 | 123 | 27 | 0 |
| 860440.9195 | 835 | 1 | 375 | 70 | 0 |
| 68.0097 | 23 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 0 |
| 310340.0 | 2940 | 882 | 42 | 3528 | 0 |
| 5.3 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 8.3 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 20 |
| 10.3 | 30 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 30 |
| 15.3 | 36 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 42 |
| 15.0 | 42 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 56 |
| 16.3 | 53 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 42 |
| 48.0667 | 54 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 36 |
| 24838942.0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 400 | 0 |
| 33611981.0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 343 | 0 |
| -3.7625 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 130.7025 | 14 | 3 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| 130.7025 | 44 | 12 | 41 | 0 | 0 |
| 89.8361 | 21 | 6 | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| 89.8361 | 65 | 18 | 55 | 0 | 0 |
| 229.7008 | 40 | 12 | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| 229.7008 | 151 | 48 | 133 | 0 | 0 |
| 2127.1154 | 42 | 8 | 118 | 0 | 0 |
| 1201.0385 | 57 | 11 | 196 | 0 | 0 |
| 1564.958 | 83 | 16 | 382 | 0 | 0 |
| 2446.4286 | 40 | 12 | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| 2446.4286 | 151 | 48 | 133 | 0 | 0 |
| 164.4898 | 95 | 40 | 90 | 0 | 0 |
| 104.8861 | 64 | 28 | 64 | 0 | 0 |



Figure 11. Number of solved problems over time for all considered error bounds.

## Appendix C. Full Results

In this section, we present the remaining figures and tables that were omitted in Section 5 and further present performance profiles in Appendix C.4.
C.1. Number of solved problems and runtimes. This section contains the remaining plots from Section 5.2.1. In Figures 11a and 11c the remaining plots for Figure 8 are given.

Further, we consider instances where any method finds at least one feasible solution, as this creates a subset of easier instances for each error bound. The solving results for this subset can be seen in Table 8. Further, in Table 9, we again provide the runtimes as in Table 3. Finally, we want to consider

TABLE 8. Solver result for the subset of benchmark instances, where all reformulations found a feasible solution.

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Solver result | opt. |  | tl. | opt. | tl. | opt. | tl. | opt. | tl. | opt. | tl. |
| (Disag) | 263 | 8 | 238 | 13 | 143 | 21 | 93 | 7 | 51 | 2 |  |
| (LogDisag) | 265 | 6 | 242 | 9 | 145 | 19 | 98 | 2 | 53 | 0 |  |
| (Ag) | 263 | 8 | 229 | 22 | 134 | 30 | 92 | 8 | 49 | 4 |  |
| (LogAg) | 265 | 6 | 246 | 5 | 150 | 14 | 98 | 2 | 53 | 0 |  |
| (Inc) | 266 | 5 | 246 | 5 | 152 | 12 | 99 | 1 | 53 | 0 |  |
| (MC) | 263 | 8 | 240 | 11 | 151 | 13 | 94 | 6 | 53 | 0 |  |
| (BinZigZag) | 265 | 6 | 244 | 7 | 148 | 16 | 98 | 2 | 53 | 0 |  |
| (IntZigZag) | 265 | 6 | 245 | 6 | 148 | 16 | 98 | 2 | 53 | 0 |  |


$(12 \mathrm{~A}) \epsilon=10^{2}$
the subset of instances that were solved to optimality by all methods. The runtimes for this subset are given in Table 10.
C.2. Solution qualities. This section contains the remaining plots of Section 5.2.2. In Figures 12a and 12b the remaining plots for Figure 10 are given.
C.3. Solving time for smaller time limits. If we consider shorter time limits, we also provide statistics about the runtime. Tables 11 to 13 show the shifted geometric mean if the runtimes are limited to 100, 1000, and 10000 seconds, respectively. Every runtime that exceeds this time limit is then

Table 9. Mean, median, and shifted geometric mean of the runtimes, depending on the error bound $\epsilon$, for the subset of benchmark instances, where all reformulations found a feasible solution.

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM | mean | median | SGM |
| (Disag) | 530.63 | 0.05 | 10.19 | 982.15 | 2.30 | 33.23 |
| (LogDisag) | 431.57 | 0.07 | 9.40 | 793.57 | 3.62 | 28.47 |
| (Ag) | 479.94 | 0.05 | 9.15 | 1461.47 | 2.00 | 37.94 |
| (LogAg) | 375.95 | 0.05 | 8.15 | 651.16 | 1.99 | 22.11 |
| (Inc) | 351.85 | 0.03 | 7.64 | 460.96 | 1.40 | 19.48 |
| (MC) | 500.03 | 0.05 | 9.28 | 852.25 | 1.63 | 28.01 |
| (BinZigZag) | 392.72 | 0.04 | 8.11 | 607.16 | 2.22 | 19.61 |
| (IntZigZag) | 405.56 | 0.04 | 8.28 | 570.27 | 1.68 | 19.08 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  |  |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM | mean | median | SGM |
| (Disag) | 2410.16 | 27.36 | 108.68 | 1493.42 | 19.31 | 69.30 |
| (LogDisag) | 2001.03 | 32.05 | 80.60 | 626.46 | 17.98 | 56.60 |
| (Ag) | 2927.06 | 34.08 | 114.78 | 1803.96 | 27.65 | 107.08 |
| (LogAg) | 1648.93 | 15.32 | 53.89 | 425.42 | 12.72 | 35.13 |
| (Inc) | 1412.24 | 7.86 | 42.16 | 385.24 | 3.20 | 17.93 |
| (MC) | 1827.02 | 14.84 | 60.48 | 1019.52 | 6.45 | 27.62 |
| (BinZigZag) | 1733.46 | 12.30 | 54.37 | 581.44 | 4.21 | 34.84 |
| (IntZigZag) | 1737.36 | 11.55 | 54.29 | 571.71 | 5.20 | 31.59 |
| Error bound |  | $=10^{-6}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM |  |  |  |
| (Disag) | 1394.11 | 158.20 | 156.44 |  |  |  |
| (LogDisag) | 180.86 | 63.86 | 65.88 |  |  |  |
| ( Ag ) | 1949.63 | 133.73 | 232.07 |  |  |  |
| (LogAg) | 60.56 | 9.63 | 22.83 |  |  |  |
| (Inc) | 133.47 | 24.26 | 33.19 |  |  |  |
| (MC) | 555.43 | 26.68 | 77.53 |  |  |  |
| (BinZigZag) | 72.50 | 5.03 | 22.40 |  |  |  |
| (IntZigZag) | 46.12 | 10.69 | 20.10 |  |  |  |

limited to the time limit. Table 11 considers the full instance that, while Table 12 and Table 13 are limited to our easier subsets.
C.4. Performance profiles. Additionally, we provide performance profile plots as proposed by Dolan and Moré 2002 to illustrate the scaling of the runtimes, see Figures 13 and 14. The intention here is to obtain a more sophisticated picture of how the various methods perform if we allow the runtime to lie within a given factor of the best overall runtime. The performance profiles work as follows: Let $t_{p, s}$ be the runtime needed by MIP relaxation $\bar{s}$ to solve instance $p$. With the performance ratio $r_{p, \bar{s}}:=t_{p, \bar{s}} / \min _{s} t_{p, s}$, the

Table 10. Mean, median, and shifted geometric mean of the runtimes, depending on the error bound $\epsilon$, for the subset of benchmark instances, where all reformulations found an optimal solution.

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM | mean | median | SGM |
| (Disag) | 83.073 | 0.045 | 6.156 | 192.855 | 1.316 | 17.978 |
| (LogDisag) | 70.015 | 0.049 | 5.927 | 181.314 | 1.694 | 15.474 |
| (Ag) | 51.969 | 0.044 | 5.392 | 216.877 | 1.076 | 17.345 |
| (LogAg) | 52.550 | 0.042 | 5.095 | 151.047 | 1.087 | 11.760 |
| (Inc) | 50.911 | 0.029 | 4.661 | 143.833 | 0.865 | 11.596 |
| (MC) | 64.007 | 0.043 | 5.441 | 184.090 | 0.906 | 14.981 |
| (BinZigZag) | 53.929 | 0.040 | 4.925 | 149.091 | 0.955 | 10.933 |
| (IntZigZag) | 51.300 | 0.040 | 4.968 | 138.258 | 0.996 | 10.766 |
| Error bound |  | $=10^{-2}$ |  |  | $=10^{-4}$ |  |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM | mean | median | SGM |
| (Disag) | 390.092 | 4.558 | 35.233 | 447.796 | 14.443 | 36.856 |
| (LogDisag) | 293.017 | 7.382 | 28.307 | 214.715 | 12.882 | 34.803 |
| ( Ag ) | 292.547 | 3.850 | 29.684 | 497.514 | 16.996 | 52.234 |
| (LogAg) | 145.863 | 3.804 | 18.455 | 104.550 | 5.002 | 22.205 |
| (Inc) | 61.531 | 1.816 | 12.808 | 40.322 | 1.877 | 7.845 |
| (MC) | 120.356 | 3.195 | 15.681 | 84.181 | 4.186 | 11.059 |
| (BinZigZag) | 150.772 | 2.825 | 18.779 | 283.115 | 2.309 | 22.721 |
| (IntZigZag) | 207.481 | 2.409 | 18.428 | 193.467 | 3.342 | 19.981 |
| Error bound |  | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Runtime [s] | mean | median | SGM |  |  |  |
| (Disag) | 889.824 | 107.748 | 119.516 |  |  |  |
| (LogDisag) | 176.487 | 61.299 | 62.140 |  |  |  |
| ( Ag ) | 947.495 | 109.116 | 161.965 |  |  |  |
| (LogAg) | 61.106 | 6.942 | 21.705 |  |  |  |
| (Inc) | 124.841 | 18.438 | 27.190 |  |  |  |
| (MC) | 439.842 | 23.224 | 60.710 |  |  |  |
| (BinZigZag) | 73.554 | 3.753 | 21.333 |  |  |  |
| (IntZigZag) | 44.949 | 6.897 | 18.321 |  |  |  |

performance profile function value $P(\tau)$ is the percentage of problems solved by approach $\bar{s}$ such that the ratios $r_{p, \bar{s}}$ are within a factor $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ of the best possible ratios. Figure 13 considers the time until a first feasible solution was found while Figure 14 considers the overall runtime until an instance was solved to optimality. All performance profiles are generated with the help of perprof-py (Siqueira et al. 2016).


Figure 12. SGM of primal and dual gap to optimal MIP solution over time.

$(13 \mathrm{~A}) \epsilon=10^{2}$
Performance Profile


| - | Ag |
| :---: | :---: |
| - | BinZigZag |
| - | Disag |
| - | Inc |
| - | IntZigZag |
| - | LogAg |
| --- | LogDisag |
| --- | MC |

(13B) $\epsilon=10^{0}$

(13C) $\epsilon=10^{-2}$
Performance Profile


$$
(13 \mathrm{D}) \epsilon=10^{-4}
$$



Figure 13. Performance profiles considering the time until a primal solution is found.

$(14 \mathrm{~A}) \epsilon=100$

Performance Profile


| - | Ag |
| :---: | :---: |
| - | BinZigZag |
| - | Disag |
| - | Inc |
| - | IntZigZag |
| - | LogAg |
| --- | LogDisag |
| --- | MC |

(14B) $\epsilon=1$

$(14 \mathrm{C}) \epsilon=10^{-2}$

Performance Profile

(14D) $\epsilon=10^{-4}$

Table 11. Shifted geometric mean of the runtimes when the time limit is smaller.

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time limit | 100s | 1000s | 10000s | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |
| (Disag) | 5.80 | 9.59 | 12.35 | 16.51 | 35.89 | 53.28 |
| (LogDisag) | 5.50 | 9.00 | 11.09 | 16.20 | 32.13 | 45.08 |
| (Ag) | 5.32 | 8.91 | 11.22 | 16.57 | 36.60 | 58.28 |
| (LogAg) | 4.92 | 8.05 | 9.78 | 13.42 | 25.98 | 35.87 |
| (Inc) | 4.66 | 7.68 | 9.28 | 13.38 | 25.05 | 33.34 |
| (MC) | 5.18 | 8.87 | 11.36 | 15.45 | 31.58 | 45.77 |
| (BinZigZag) | 4.80 | 7.90 | 9.75 | 12.84 | 23.68 | 32.27 |
| (IntZigZag) | 4.92 | 8.01 | 9.93 | 12.75 | 23.53 | 31.42 |
| Error bound Time limit | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  |  |
|  | 100s | 1000s | 10000s | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |
| (Disag) | 43.23 | 174.32 | 530.03 | 52.12 | 231.03 | 830.62 |
| (LogDisag) | 43.61 | 147.96 | 356.86 | 51.78 | 227.33 | 654.58 |
| (Ag) | 42.24 | 171.69 | 517.11 | 55.48 | 272.14 | 980.37 |
| (LogAg) | 37.77 | 111.15 | 251.99 | 46.55 | 181.88 | 413.56 |
| (Inc) | 34.51 | 106.69 | 217.44 | 35.43 | 127.19 | 299.46 |
| (MC) | 36.60 | 127.29 | 344.90 | 37.03 | 124.62 | 318.77 |
| (BinZigZag) | 36.91 | 113.34 | 248.81 | 42.79 | 178.65 | 429.61 |
| (IntZigZag) | 36.92 | 112.13 | 243.39 | 42.15 | 157.64 | 371.29 |
| Error bound |  | $\epsilon=10^{-}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Time limit | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |  |  |  |
| (Disag) | 70.91 | 370.48 | 1382.15 |  |  |  |
| (LogDisag) | 66.32 | 305.45 | 1021.40 |  |  |  |
| (Ag) | 73.83 | 427.68 | 1611.82 |  |  |  |
| (LogAg) | 51.06 | 189.23 | 491.73 |  |  |  |
| (Inc) | 39.67 | 105.94 | 207.93 |  |  |  |
| (MC) | 53.22 | 154.46 | 282.39 |  |  |  |
| (BinZigZag) | 49.11 | 179.97 | 496.05 |  |  |  |
| (IntZigZag) | 49.09 | 166.62 | 438.72 |  |  |  |

Table 12. Shifted geometric mean of the runtimes when the time limit is smaller, considering the subset of benchmark instances, where all reformulations found a feasible solution.

| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time limit | 100s | 1000s | 10000s | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |
| (Disag) | 5.24 | 8.21 | 9.97 | 13.67 | 25.87 | 32.43 |
| (LogDisag) | 4.98 | 7.83 | 9.24 | 13.37 | 22.93 | 27.96 |
| ( Ag ) | 4.77 | 7.57 | 8.94 | 13.73 | 26.47 | 36.44 |
| (LogAg) | 4.43 | 6.97 | 8.00 | 10.71 | 18.06 | 21.79 |
| (Inc) | 4.13 | 6.48 | 7.52 | 10.67 | 16.95 | 19.27 |
| (MC) | 4.63 | 7.53 | 9.07 | 12.65 | 22.25 | 27.41 |
| (BinZigZag) | 4.32 | 6.81 | 7.97 | 10.17 | 16.24 | 19.31 |
| (IntZigZag) | 4.43 | 6.92 | 8.13 | 10.06 | 16.01 | 18.82 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  |  |
| Time limit | 100s | 1000s | 10000s | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |
| (Disag) | 25.90 | 63.69 | 103.27 | 25.48 | 49.19 | 67.16 |
| (LogDisag) | 26.31 | 52.05 | 76.86 | 25.10 | 48.53 | 56.12 |
| (Ag) | 24.88 | 61.90 | 106.73 | 29.38 | 70.97 | 103.53 |
| (LogAg) | 20.66 | 36.24 | 51.78 | 19.46 | 32.35 | 34.80 |
| (Inc) | 17.27 | 29.73 | 40.72 | 9.99 | 15.91 | 17.83 |
| (MC) | 19.50 | 38.55 | 58.16 | 12.77 | 20.81 | 26.81 |
| (BinZigZag) | 19.86 | 36.52 | 51.87 | 15.71 | 30.42 | 34.52 |
| (IntZigZag) | 19.80 | 36.27 | 51.96 | 15.91 | 27.26 | 31.29 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time limit | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |  |  |  |
| (Disag) | 45.02 | 114.37 | 153.65 |  |  |  |
| (LogDisag) | 37.43 | 65.88 | 65.88 |  |  |  |
| ( Ag ) | 48.86 | 149.92 | 225.51 |  |  |  |
| (LogAg) | 18.77 | 22.83 | 22.83 |  |  |  |
| (Inc) | 23.48 | 32.31 | 33.19 |  |  |  |
| (MC) | 32.27 | 65.67 | 77.53 |  |  |  |
| (BinZigZag) | 17.63 | 22.40 | 22.40 |  |  |  |
| (IntZigZag) | 17.90 | 20.10 | 20.10 |  |  |  |

Table 13. Shifted geometric mean of the runtimes when the time limit is smaller, considering the subset of benchmark instances, where all reformulations found an optimal solution.

| Error bound Time limit | $\epsilon=10^{2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{0}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 100s | 1000s | 10000s | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |
| (Disag) | 4.24 | 5.87 | 6.16 | 10.40 | 16.95 | 17.98 |
| (LogDisag) | 4.02 | 5.69 | 5.93 | 10.14 | 14.58 | 15.47 |
| ( Ag ) | 3.79 | 5.29 | 5.39 | 10.33 | 16.15 | 17.35 |
| (LogAg) | 3.52 | 4.97 | 5.10 | 7.78 | 11.09 | 11.76 |
| (Inc) | 3.18 | 4.54 | 4.66 | 7.71 | 10.95 | 11.60 |
| (MC) | 3.65 | 5.25 | 5.44 | 9.48 | 14.06 | 14.98 |
| (BinZigZag) | 3.39 | 4.78 | 4.93 | 7.34 | 10.32 | 10.93 |
| (IntZigZag) | 3.47 | 4.84 | 4.97 | 7.31 | 10.22 | 10.77 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-2}$ |  |  | $\epsilon=10^{-4}$ |  |  |
| Time limit | 100s | 1000s | 10000s | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |
| (Disag) | 17.39 | 31.24 | 35.23 | 20.75 | 32.43 | 36.76 |
| (LogDisag) | 17.96 | 26.00 | 28.31 | 20.45 | 33.05 | 34.80 |
| ( Ag ) | 16.11 | 27.18 | 29.68 | 23.78 | 45.53 | 52.14 |
| (LogAg) | 13.22 | 17.44 | 18.46 | 15.03 | 21.98 | 22.21 |
| (Inc) | 10.27 | 12.69 | 12.81 | 6.24 | 7.84 | 7.84 |
| (MC) | 11.55 | 15.06 | 15.68 | 8.73 | 10.68 | 11.06 |
| (BinZigZag) | 12.87 | 17.90 | 18.78 | 11.54 | 21.12 | 22.72 |
| (IntZigZag) | 12.58 | 17.23 | 18.43 | 11.83 | 18.81 | 19.98 |
| Error bound | $\epsilon=10^{-6}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Time limit | 100s | 1000s | 10000s |  |  |  |
| (Disag) | 41.19 | 96.32 | 119.07 |  |  |  |
| (LogDisag) | 35.70 | 62.14 | 62.14 |  |  |  |
| ( Ag ) | 45.15 | 125.78 | 161.97 |  |  |  |
| (LogAg) | 17.57 | 21.70 | 21.70 |  |  |  |
| (Inc) | 20.02 | 26.35 | 27.19 |  |  |  |
| (MC) | 28.27 | 53.41 | 60.71 |  |  |  |
| (BinZigZag) | 16.59 | 21.33 | 21.33 |  |  |  |
| (IntZigZag) | 16.04 | 18.32 | 18.32 |  |  |  |

Performance Profile


Figure 14. Performance profiles considering the time until an optimal solution is found.

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