New and Forthcoming Developments in the AMPL Modeling Language & System

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Motivation

Optimization modeling cycle

- Communicate with client
- Build model
- Build datasets
- Generate optimization problems
- Feed problems to solvers
- Run solvers
- Process results for analysis & reporting to client

Goals

- Do this quickly and reliably
- Get results before client loses interest
- Deploy for application

Example: Scheduling Optimization

Cover demands for workers

- Each "shift" requires a certain number of employees
- Each employee works a certain "schedule" of shifts

Satisfy scheduling rules

- Only "valid" schedules from given list may be used
- ***Each schedule that is used at all must be used for at least __ employees***

Minimize total workers needed

- Which schedules should be used?
- How many employees should work each schedule?

AMPL

Algebraic modeling language: symbolic data

```
set SHIFTS;                 # shifts

param Nsched;               # number of schedules;
set SCHEDS = 1..Nsched;     # set of schedules

set SHIFT_LIST {SCHEDS} within SHIFTS;

param rate {SCHEDS} >= 0;        # pay rates
param required {SHIFTS} >= 0;    # staffing requirements

param least_assign >= 0;         # min workers on any schedule used
```

AMPL

Algebraic modeling language: symbolic model

```
var Work {SCHEDS} >= 0 integer;
var Use  {SCHEDS} >= 0 binary;

minimize Total_Cost:
   sum {j in SCHEDS} rate[j] * Work[j];

subject to Shift_Needs {i in SHIFTS}:
   sum {j in SCHEDS: i in SHIFT_LIST[j]} Work[j] >= required[i];

subject to Least_Use1 {j in SCHEDS}:
   least_assign * Use[j] <= Work[j];

subject to Least_Use2 {j in SCHEDS}:
   Work[j] <= (max {i in SHIFT_LIST[j]} required[i]) * Use[j];
```

AMPL

Explicit data independent of symbolic model

```
set SHIFTS := Mon1 Tue1 Wed1 Thu1 Fri1 Sat1
              Mon2 Tue2 Wed2 Thu2 Fri2 Sat2
              Mon3 Tue3 Wed3 Thu3 Fri3 ;

param Nsched := 126 ;

set SHIFT_LIST[1] := Mon1 Tue1 Wed1 Thu1 Fri1 ;
set SHIFT_LIST[2] := Mon1 Tue1 Wed1 Thu1 Fri2 ;
set SHIFT_LIST[3] := Mon1 Tue1 Wed1 Thu1 Fri3 ;
set SHIFT_LIST[4] := Mon1 Tue1 Wed1 Thu1 Sat1 ;
set SHIFT_LIST[5] := Mon1 Tue1 Wed1 Thu1 Sat2 ;  .......

param required :=  Mon1 100  Mon2 78  Mon3 52
                   Tue1 100  Tue2 78  Tue3 52
                   Wed1 100  Wed2 78  Wed3 52
                   Thu1 100  Thu2 78  Thu3 52
                   Fri1 100  Fri2 78  Fri3 52
                   Sat1 100  Sat2 78 ;
```

AMPL

Solver independent of model & data

```
ampl: model sched1.mod;
ampl: data sched.dat;

ampl: let least_assign := 7;

ampl: option solver cplex;
ampl: solve;

CPLEX 12.2.0.2: optimal integer solution; objective 266
1119 MIP simplex iterations
139 branch-and-bound nodes

ampl: option omit_zero_rows 1, display_1col 0;
ampl: display Work;

Work [*] :=
  6 28     20  9     36  7     66 11     82 18      91 25    118 18    122 36
 18 18     31  9     37 18     78 26     89  9     112 27    119  7
;
```

AMPL

Language independent of solver

```
ampl: option solver gurobi;
ampl: solve;

Gurobi 4.0.1: optimal solution; objective 266
857 simplex iterations
29 branch-and-cut nodes

ampl: display Work;

Work [*] :=
  1 21    21 36    52  7    89 29    94  7    109 16    124 36
  3  7    37 29    71 13    91 16    95 13    116 36;
```

AMPL Scripts

Multiple solutions

```
param nSols default 0;
param maxSols = 20;

set D {1..nSols} within SCHEDS;

subject to exclude {k in 1..nSols}:
   sum {j in D[k]} (1-Use[j]) +
   sum {j in SCHEDS diff D[k]} Use[j] >= 1;

repeat {

   solve;
   display Work;
   let nSols := nSols + 1;
   let D[nSols] := {j in SCHEDS: Use[j] > .5};

} until nSols = maxSols;
```

AMPL Scripts

Multiple solutions run

```
ampl: include scheds.run

Gurobi 4.0.1: optimal solution; objective 266
857 simplex iterations
29 branch-and-cut nodes

Work [*] :=
  1 21     21 36     52  7     89 29     94  7    109 16    124 36
  3  7     37 29     71 13     91 16     95 13    116 36 ;


Gurobi 4.0.1: optimal solution; objective 266
1368 simplex iterations
59 branch-and-cut nodes

Work [*] :=
  1  9     17  9     38  7     59 21     75 36     94  7    114  8    124 35
  4 20     33 27     56  7     71 27     86  8    107  9    116 36 ;
```

AMPL Scripts

Multiple solutions run (cont'd)

```
Gurobi 4.0.1: optimal solution; objective 266
982 simplex iterations
57 branch-and-cut nodes

Work [*] :=
  2 28     16  8     38 18     75 34     86  8    108  8    115 16    121 36
  7 18     28 10     70 18     85 18     97 18    109 10    116 18 ;

Gurobi 4.0.1: optimal solution; objective 266
144 simplex iterations

Work [*] :=
  2 29     16  7     76 36     88 29    106 16    116  7    123  7
  7 36     70 28     85  7     97  7    109 29    121 21    126  7 ;

Gurobi 4.0.1: optimal solution; objective 266
122 simplex iterations

Work [*] :=
  2 15     16 20     70 15     85 21    106 16    116 21    123 21
  7 36     53 14     76 36     97 21    109 15    121  8    126  7 ;
```

AMPL Solver Control

Multiple solutions

```
option solver cplex;

option cplex_options "poolstub=sched poolcapacity=20 \
   populate=1 poolintensity=4 poolgap=0";

solve;

for {i in 1..Current.npool} {

   solution ("sched" & i & ".sol");
   display Work;

}
```

AMPL Solver Control

Multiple solutions run

```
ampl: include schedsPool.run;

CPLEX 12.2.0.2: poolstub=sched
poolcapacity=20
populate=1
poolintensity=4
poolgap=0

CPLEX 12.2.0.2: optimal integer solution; objective 266
464 MIP simplex iterations
26 branch-and-bound nodes

Wrote 20 solutions in solution pool
to files sched1.sol ... sched20.sol.

Solution pool member 1 (of 20); objective 266

Work [*] :=
  1 15     7 14    27  7    70 29    78 29   103  7   115 14
  5 21    11  7    51  7    71 21    87 21   106 38   121 36 ;
```

AMPL Solver Control

Multiple solutions run (cont'd)

```
Solution pool member 2 (of 20); objective 266

Work [*] :=
  1  7      5  8     18  7     70 29     78 36     87 14    115 14    121 36
  2 28      7 14     65  7     72  7     83 21    106 31    116  7 ;

Solution pool member 3 (of 20); objective 266

Work [*] :=
  5 21     29 13     51  7     71 34     98  7    115 13
  7 15     35  8     64  8     78 16    101 13    116 15
 21  7     40 13     70  8     83  8    106 24    121 36 ;

Solution pool member 4 (of 20); objective 266

Work [*] :=
  2  7     11  7     40  7     71 29     87 15    106 31    121 28
  5 22     23  8     64  7     78 13    101  8    115 14    126  7
  7 14     29 14     70 14     83  7    102  7    116  7 ;
```

AMPL Algorithmic Scheme

Difficult case: `least_assign = 19`

```
ampl: model sched1.mod;
ampl: data sched.dat;

ampl: let least_assign := 19;

ampl: option solver cplex;
ampl: solve;

CPLEX 12.2.0.2: optimal integer solution; objective 269
635574195 MIP simplex iterations
86400919 branch-and-bound nodes

ampl: option omit_zero_rows 1, display_1col 0;
ampl: display Work;

Work [*] :=
  4 22    16 39    55 39    78 39   101 39   106 52   122 39
;
```

. . . ***94.8 minutes***

AMPL Algorithmic Scheme

Alternative, indirect approach

- Step 1: Relax integrality of **`Work`** variables
  Solve for zero-one **`Use`** variables
- Step 2: Fix **`Use`** variables
  Solve for integer **`Work`** variables

. . . ***not necessarily optimal, but*** . . .

AMPL Algorithmic Scheme

Indirect approach (script)

```
model sched1.mod;
data sched.dat;

let least_assign := 19;

let {j in SCHEDS} Work[j].relax := 1;

solve;

fix {j in SCHEDS} Use[j];
let {j in SCHEDS} Work[j].relax := 0;

solve;
```

AMPL Algorithmic Scheme

Indirect approach (run)

```
ampl: include sched1-fix.run;

CPLEX 12.2.0.2: optimal integer solution; objective 268.5
32630436 MIP simplex iterations
2199508 branch-and-bound nodes

Work [*] :=
  1 24       32 19       80 19.5   107 33      126 19.5
  3 19       66 19       90 19.5   109 19
 10 19       72 19.5   105 19.5   121 19 ;

CPLEX 12.2.0.2: optimal integer solution; objective 269
2 MIP simplex iterations
0 branch-and-bound nodes

Work [*] :=
  1 24     10 19     66 19     80 19    105 20    109 19    126 20
  3 19     32 19     72 19     90 20    107 33    121 19 ;
```

. . . ***2.85 minutes***

AMPL Modeling Alternatives

Linear constraints

```
subject to Least_Use1 {j in SCHEDS}:
   least_assign * Use[j] <= Work[j];

subject to Least_Use2 {j in SCHEDS}:
   Work[j] <= (max {i in SHIFT_LIST[j]} required[i]) * Use[j];
```

Logic constraints

```
subject to Least_Use {j in SCHEDS}:
   Use[j] = 1 ==> Work[j] >= least_assign else Work[j] = 0;
```

Variable domains

```
var Work {j in SCHEDS} integer, in {0} union
   interval [least_assign, (max {i in SHIFT_LIST[j]} required[i])];
```

Topics

The company

- People
- Business developments

The language

- Varied prospective enhancements
- More natural formulations

The solvers

- Conic programming
- Nontraditional alternatives

The system

- APIs & IDEs
- AMPL as a service (in the cloud)

The Company

Background

- AMPL at Bell Labs (1986)
  - Bob Fourer, David Gay, Brian Kernighan
- AMPL commercialization (1993)
- AMPL Optimization LLC (2002)

Developments

- People
- Business

Current Principals

Bob Fourer

- Founder & . . .

Dave Gay

- Founder & . . .

Bill Wells

- Director of business development

Business Developments

AMPL intellectual property

- ❖ Full rights acquired from Alcatel-Lucent USA
  - ∗ corporate parent of Bell Laboratories
- ❖ More flexible licensing terms available

CPLEX with AMPL

- ❖ Sales transferred from IBM to AMPL Optimization
- ❖ Full lineup of licensing arrangements available

AMPL distributors

- ❖ New for Japan: *October Sky Co., Ltd.* →
- ❖ Others continue active
  - ∗ Gurobi, Ziena/Artelys
  - ∗ MOSEK, TOMLAB
  - ∗ OptiRisk

The Language

Versatility

- Power & convenience
  - Linear and nonlinear modeling
  - Extensive indexing and set expressions
- Prototyping & deployment
  - Integrated scripting language
- Business & research
  - Major installations worldwide
  - Hundreds of citations in scientific & engineering literature

Plans . . .

The Language

Plans

- Further set operations
  - arg min/arg max
  - sort set by parameter values
  - arbitrary selection from an unordered set
- Random parameters/variables
  - send as input to stochastic solvers
- Enhanced scripting
  - faster loops
  - functions defined by scripts
- ***More natural formulations*** **. . .**

Common Areas of Confusion

Examples from my e-mail . . .

- I have been trying to write a stepwise function in AMPL but I have not been able to do so:

```
fc[wh] = 100 if x[wh] <=5
         300 if 6 <= x[wh] <=10
         400 if 11 <= x[wh]
```

  where **fc** and **x** are variables.

- *I have a set of nonlinear equations to be solved, and variables are binary. Even I have an xor operator in the equations. How can I implement it and which solver is suitable for it?*

- I'm a recent IE grad with just one grad level IE course under my belt. . . .

```
minimize Moves: sum{emp in GROUPA}
   (if Sqrt((XEmpA[emp] - XGrpA)^2 +
           (YEmpA[emp] - YGrpA)^2) > Ra then 1 else 0)
```

  Is there some documentation on when you can and cannot use the if-then statements in AMPL (looked through the related forum posts but still a bit confused on this)?

Common Areas of Confusion

Examples from my e-mail (cont'd)

- I have a problem need to add a such kind of constraint:

  Max[sum(Pi * Hi)]; i is from 1 to 24;

  in which Pi are constant and Hi need to be optimized.
  Bound is −180 <= Hi <= 270. One of the constraints is

  sum(Ci) = 0; here Ci = Hi if Hi > 0 and Ci = Hi/1.38 if Hi < 0

  Is it possiable to solve this kind of problem with lp_solve?
  and how to setup the constraint?
- *. . . is there a way to write a simple "or" statement in AMPL like in Java or C++?*
- I need to solve the following optimization problem:

  Minimize − |x1| − |x2|

  subject to

  x1 − x2 = 3

  Do you know how to transform it to standard linear program?

Currently Implemented

Extension to mixed-integer solver

- CPLEX indicator constraints
  - `Use[j] = 1 ==> Work[j] >= least_assign;`

Translation to mixed-integer programs

- General variable domains
  - ```
    var Work {j in SCHEDS} integer,
        in {0} union interval[lo_assign, hi_assign];
    ```
- Separable piecewise-linear terms
  - `<<avail_min[t]; 0,time_penalty[t]>> Use[t]`

Translation to general nonlinear programs

- Complementarity conditions
  - ```
    0 <= ct[cr,u] complements
        ctcost[cr,u] + cv[cr] >= p["C",u];
    ```

Prospective Extensions

Existing operators allowed on variables

- Nonsmooth terms
- Conditional expressions

New forms

- Operators on constraints
- New aggregate operators
- Generalized indexing: variables in subscripts
- New types of variables: object-valued, set-valued

Solution strategies

- Transform to standard MIPs
- ***Send to alternative solvers*** *(will return to this)*

Logical Operators

Flow shop scheduling

```
subj to NoConflict {i1 in JOBS, i2 in JOBS: ord(i1) < ord(i2)}:

   Start[i2] >= Start[i1] + setTime[i1,i2] or
   Start[i1] >= Start[i2] + setTime[i2,i1];
```

Balanced assignment

```
subj to NoIso {(i1,i2) in TYPE, j in ROOM}:

  not (Assign[i1,i2,j] = 1 and
     sum {ii1 in ADJ[i1]: (ii1,i2) in TYPE} Assign[ii1,i2,j] = 0);
```

Counting Operators

Transportation

```
subj to MaxServe {i in ORIG}:
   card {j in DEST: sum {p in PRD} Trans[i,j,p] > 0} <= mxsrv;
```

```
subj to MaxServe {i in ORIG}:
   count {j in DEST} (sum {p in PRD} Trans[i,j,p] > 0) <= mxsrv;
```

```
subj to MaxServe {i in ORIG}:
   atmost mxsrv {j in DEST} (sum {p in PRD} Trans[i,j,p] > 0);
```

"Structure" Operators

Assignment

```
subj to OneJobPerMachine:
   alldiff {j in JOBS} (MachineForJob[j]);
```

```
subj to CapacityOfMachine {k in MACHINES}:
   numberof k {j in JOBS} (MachineForJob[j]) <= cap[k];
```

. . . argument in ( ) may be a more general list

Variables in Subscripts

Assignment

```
minimize TotalCost:
  sum {j in JOBS} cost[j,MachineForJob[j]];
```

Sequencing

```
minimize CostPlusPenalty:
  sum {k in 1..nSlots} setupCost[JobForSlot[k-1],JobForSlot[k]] +
  sum {j in 1..nJobs} duePen[j] * (dueTime[j] - ComplTime[j]);

subj to TimeNeeded {k in 0..nSlots-1}:
  ComplTime[JobForSlot[k]] =
    min( dueTime[JobForSlot[k]],
         ComplTime[JobForSlot[k+1]]
           - setupTime[JobForSlot[k],JobForSlot[k+1]]
           - procTime[JobForSlot[k+1]] );
```

The Solvers

Communication while solver is active

- Speed up multiple solves
- Support callbacks

Conic programming

- Barrier solvers available
- Stronger modeling support needed

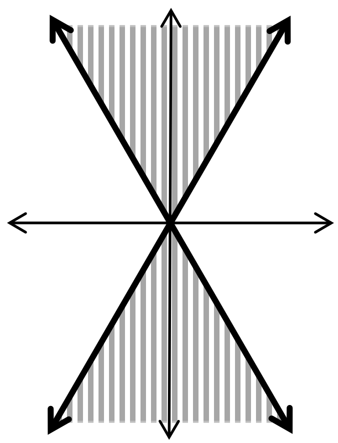
Nontraditional alternatives

- Global optimization
- Constraint programming
- Varied hybrids

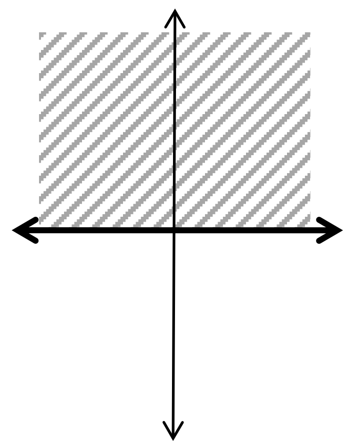
Conic Programming

Standard cone

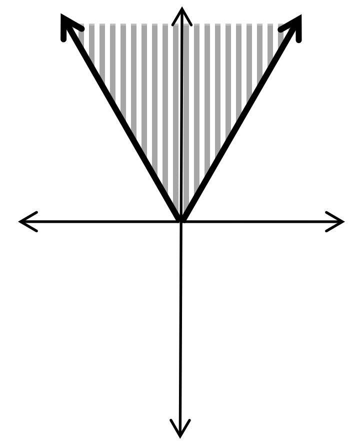
$x^2 \leq y^2$



$y \geq 0$



$x^2 \leq y^2, \;\; y \geq 0$



. . . convex region, nonsmooth boundary

Rotated cone

$$x^2 \leq yz, \;\; y \geq 0, \;\; z \geq 0$$

Conic vs. Ordinary Quadratic

Convex quadratic constraint regions

- Ball: $x_1^2 + \ldots + x_n^2 \le b$
- Cone: $x_1^2 + \ldots + x_n^2 \le y^2, \;\; y \ge 0$
- Cone: $x_1^2 + \ldots + x_n^2 \le yz, \;\; y \ge 0, \;\; z \ge 0$

. . . ***second-order cone programs (SOCPs)***

Similarities

- Describe by lists of coefficients
- Solve by extensions of LP barrier methods; extend to MIP

Differences

- Quadratic part not positive semi-definite
- Nonnegativity is essential
- ***Many convex problems can be reduced to these . . .***

Equivalent Problems: Minimize

Sums of . . .

- norms or squared norms
  - $\sum_i \left\| F_i x + g_i \right\|$
  - $\sum_i \left(F_i x + g_i \right)^2$
- quadratic-linear fractions
  - $\sum_i \frac{\left(F_i x + g_i \right)^2}{a_i x + b_i}$

Max of . . .

- norms
  - $\max_i \left\| F_i x + g_i \right\|$
- logarithmic Chebychev terms
  - $\max_i \left| \log(F_i x) - \log(g_i) \right|$

Equivalent Problems: Objective

Products of . . .

- negative powers
  - $\min \prod_i (F_i x + g_i)^{-\alpha_i}$ for rational $\alpha_i > 0$
- positive powers
  - $\max \prod_i (F_i x + g_i)^{\alpha_i}$ for rational $\alpha_i > 0$

Combinations by . . .

- sum, max, positive multiple
  - except log Chebychev and some positive powers

$$\text{minimize } \max\{\sum_{i=1}^{p}(a_i x + b_i)^2, \sum_{j=1}^{q}\frac{\|F_j x + g_j\|^2}{y_j}\} + \prod_{k=1}^{r}(c_k x)^{-\pi_k}$$

Equivalent Problems: Constraints

Sums of . . .

- norms or squared norms
  - $\sum_i \|F_i x + g_i\| \le F_0 x + g_0$
  - $\sum_i (F_i x + g_i)^2 \le (F_0 x + g_0)^2$
- quadratic-linear fractions
  - $\sum_i \frac{(F_i x + g_i)^2}{a_i x + b_i} \le F_0 x + g_0$

Max of . . .

- norms
  - $\max_i \|F_i x + g_i\| \le F_0 x + g_0$

Equivalent Problems: Constraints

Products of . . .

- negative powers
  - $\sum_j \prod_i (F_{ji}x + g_{ji})^{-\alpha_{ji}} \leq F_0 x + g_0$ for rational $\alpha_{ji} > 0$
- positive powers
  - $\sum_j - \prod_i (F_{ji}x + g_{ji})^{\alpha_{ji}} \leq F_0 x + g_0$ for rational $\alpha_{ji} > 0, \sum_i \alpha_{ji} \leq 1$

Combinations by . . .

- sum, max, positive multiple

Applications

Portfolio optimization with loss risk constraints

Traffic flow optimization

Engineering design of many kinds

- Lobo, Vandenberghe, Boyd, Lebret, Applications of Second-Order Cone Programming. *Linear Algebra and Its Applications* 284 (1998) 193-228.

Example: Sum of Norms

```
param p integer > 0;
param m {1..p} integer > 0;
param n integer > 0;

param F {i in 1..p, 1..m[i], 1..n};
param g {i in 1..p, 1..m[i]};
```

```
param p := 2 ;
param m := 1 5  2 4 ;
param n := 3 ;

param g (tr): 1   2 :=
          1  12   2
          2   7  11
          3   7   1
          4   8   0
          5   4   . ;

param F := ...
```

Example: Original Formulation

```
var x {1..n};

minimize SumOfNorms:
   sum {i in 1..p} sqrt(
      sum {k in 1..m[i]} (sum {j in 1..n} F[i,k,j] * x[j] + g[i,k])^2 );
```

```
3 variables, all nonlinear
0 constraints
1 nonlinear objective; 3 nonzeros.

CPLEX 12.2.0.0: at12228.nl contains a nonlinear objective.
```

Example: Converted to Quadratic

```
var x {1..n};
var Max {1..p} >= 0;

minimize SumOfNorms: sum {i in 1..p} Max[i];

subj to MaxDefinition {i in 1..p}:
   sum {k in 1..m[i]} (sum {j in 1..n} F[i,k,j] * x[j] + g[i,k])^2
      <= Max[i]^2;
```

```
5 variables, all nonlinear
2 constraints, all nonlinear; 8 nonzeros
1 linear objective; 2 nonzeros.

CPLEX 12.2.0.0: QP Hessian is not positive semi-definite.
```

Example: Simpler Quadratic

```
var x {1..n};
var Max {1..p} >= 0;
var Fxplusg {i in 1..p, 1..m[i]};

minimize SumOfNorms: sum {i in 1..p} Max[i];

subj to MaxDefinition {i in 1..p}:
   sum {k in 1..m[i]} Fxplusg[i,k]^2 <= Max[i]^2;

subj to FxplusgDefinition {i in 1..p, k in 1..m[i]}:
   Fxplusg[i,k] = sum {j in 1..n} F[i,k,j] * x[j] + g[i,k];
```

```
14 variables:
      11 nonlinear variables
      3 linear variables
11 constraints; 41 nonzeros
      2 nonlinear constraints
      9 linear constraints
1 linear objective; 2 nonzeros.

CPLEX 12.2.0.0: primal optimal; objective 11.03323293
11 barrier iterations
```

Example: Integer Quadratic

```
var xint {1..n} integer;
var x {j in 1..n} = xint[j] / 10;
.......
```

```
Substitution eliminates 3 variables.
14 variables:
      11 nonlinear variables
      3 integer variables
11 constraints; 41 nonzeros
      2 nonlinear constraints
      9 linear constraints
1 linear objective; 2 nonzeros.
CPLEX 12.2.0.0: optimal integer solution; objective 11.12932573
88 MIP simplex iterations
19 branch-and-bound nodes
```

Example: Traffic Network

Nonlinear objective due to congestion effects

```
var Flow {(i,j) in ROADS} >= 0, <= .9999 * cap[i,j];
var Time {ROADS} >= 0;

minimize Avg_Time:
  (sum {(i,j) in ROADS} Time[i,j] * Flow[i,j]) / through;

subject to Travel_Time {(i,j) in ROADS}:
  Time[i,j] = base[i,j] + (sens[i,j]*Flow[i,j]) / (1-Flow[i,j]/cap[i,j]);

subject to Balance_Node {i in INTERS}:
  sum{(i,j) in ROADS} Flow[i,j] = sum{(j,i) in ROADS} Flow[j,i];

subject to Balance_Enter:
  sum{(EN,j) in ROADS} Flow[EN,j] = through;
```

. . . sum of squares / linear

AMPL Design for SOCPs

Current situation

- Each solver recognizes some elementary forms
- Modeler must convert to these forms

Goal

- Recognize many equivalent forms
- Automatically convert to a canonical form
- Further convert as necessary for each solver

Nontraditional Solvers

Global nonlinear

- BARON *
- LINDO Global *
- LGO

Constraint programming

- IBM ILOG CP
- ECLiPSe
- SCIP *

** combined with mixed-integer*

Implementation Challenges

Requirements

- Full description of functions
- Hints to algorithm
  - convexity, search strategy

Variability

- Range of expressions recognized
  - hence range of conversions needed
- Design of interface

The System

APIs & IDEs

- Current options
- Alternatives under consideration

AMPL in the cloud

- AMPL & solver software as a service
- Issues to be resolved

APIs (Programming Interfaces)

Current options

- AMPL scripting language
- put/get C interface
- OptiRisk Systems COM objects

Alternatives under consideration

- multiplatform C interface
- object-oriented interfaces in C++, Java, Python, . . .

Scripting Language

Programming extensions of AMPL syntax

```
for {i in WIDTHS} {
   let nPAT := nPAT + 1;
   let nbr[i,nPAT] := floor (roll_width/i);
   let {i2 in WIDTHS: i2 <> i} nbr[i2,nPAT] := 0;
};

repeat {

   solve Cutting_Opt;
   let {i in WIDTHS} price[i] := Fill[i].dual;

   solve Pattern_Gen;
   printf "\n%7.2f%11.2e  ", Number, Reduced_Cost;

   if Reduced_Cost < -0.00001 then {
      let nPAT := nPAT + 1;
      let {i in WIDTHS} nbr[i,nPAT] := Use[i];
   }
   else break;

   for {i in WIDTHS} printf "%3i", Use[i];
};
```

put/get C Interface

Send AMPL commands & receive output

- `Ulong put(GetputInfo *g, char *s)`
- `int get(GetputInfo *g, char **kind, char **msg, Ulong *len)`

Limitations

- Low-level unstructured interface
- Communication via strings

OptiRisk COM Objects

Object-oriented API

- Model management
- Data handling
- Solving

Limitations

- Windows only
- Older technology
- Built on put/get interface

API Development Directions

Multiplatform C interface

- Native to AMPL code
- Similar scope to COM objects

Object-oriented interfaces

- Built on C interface

IDEs (Development Environments)

Previous & current options

- AMPL Plus
- AMPL Studio

Alternatives under consideration

- Multiplatform graphical interface
- Spreadsheet interface

AMPL Plus

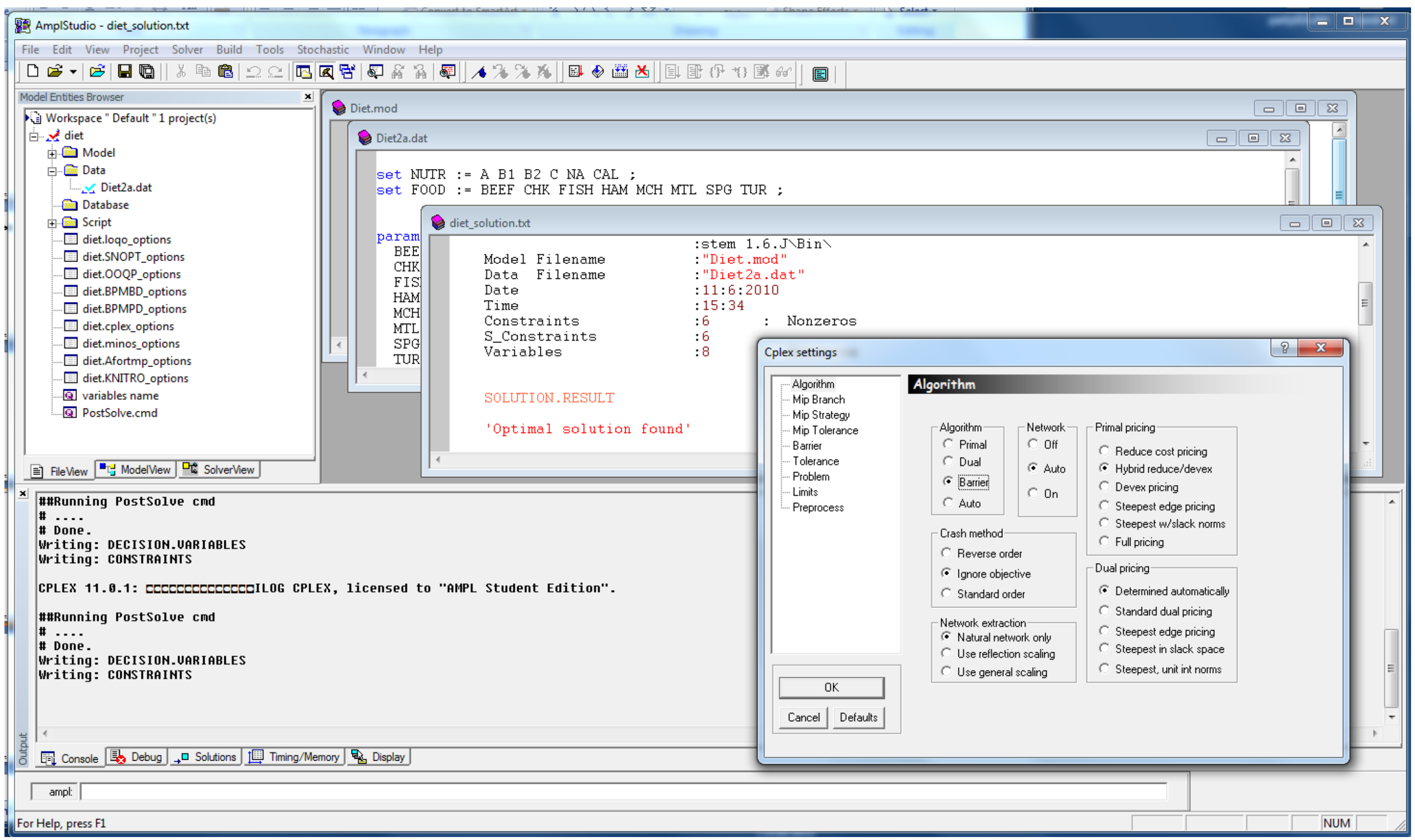
Menu-based GUI (1990s)

- Created by Compass Modeling Solutions
- Discontinued by ILOG

AMPL Studio

Menu-based GUI (2000s)

- Created by OptiRisk Systems
- Windows-based



IDE Development Directions

Multiplatform graphical interface

- Focused on command-line window
  - Same rationale as MATLAB
- Implemented using new API
- Tools for debugging, scripting, option selection . . .

Spreadsheet interface

- Data in spreadsheet tables (like Excel solver)
- AMPL model in embedded application

AMPL in the Cloud

AMPL as a service

- Solvers included
  - optional automated solver choice
- Charges per elapsed minute
- Latest versions available

Issues to be resolved

- Licensing arrangements with solvers
- Uploading & security of data
- Limitations of cloud services