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► **To cite this version:**

Martine Labbé, Miguel Pozo, Justo Puerto. Computational comparisons of different formulations for the Bilevel Minimum Spanning Tree Problem. *International Transactions in Operational Research*, 2021, 10.1111/itor.12680 . hal-01937013

**HAL Id: hal-01937013**

**<https://inria.hal.science/hal-01937013>**

Submitted on 27 Nov 2018

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# Computational comparisons of different formulations for the Bilevel Minimum Spanning Tree Problem

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## Abstract

Let be given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  whose edge set is partitioned into a set  $R$  of red edges and a set  $B$  of blue edges, and assume that red edges are weighted and contain a spanning tree of  $G$ . Then, the Bilevel Minimum Spanning Tree Problem (BMSTP) is that of pricing (i.e., weighting) the blue edges in such a way that the total weight of the blue edges selected in a minimum spanning tree of the resulting graph is maximized. In this paper we present different mathematical formulations for the BMSTP based on the properties of the Minimum Spanning Tree Problem and the bilevel optimization. We establish a theoretical and empirical comparison between these new formulations and we also provide reinforcements that together with a proper formulation are able to solve medium to big size instances random instances. We also test our models in instances already existing in the literature.

*Keywords:* Minimum Spanning Tree; Bilevel optimization; Stackelberg game

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a given a graph whose edge set is partitioned into a set of red edges and a set of blue edges, and assume that red edges are weighted and contain a spanning subgraph of  $G$ . Then, the Bilevel Minimum Spanning Tree Problem (BMSTP) consists in pricing (i.e., weighting) the blue edges in such a way that the total weight of the blue edges selected in a Minimum Spanning Tree (MST) of the resulting graph is maximized.

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7 An example of the BMSTP is the following. Suppose a telecommunications company (TC) owns  
8 several connections (blue edges) between different nodes of a network. A new provider wants to enter  
9 into the market building a network that connects all nodes at minimum cost. It may use the connections  
10 of TC or those of its competitors (red edges). The target is to maximize the profit of the connections that  
11 TC could sell to the new provider.

12 The BMSTP can be seen as a bilevel optimization problem where the second level is a MST and where  
13 the objective functions are bilinear at both levels. Optimization problems related to spanning trees, or  
14 simply Spanning Tree Problems (STP), are among the core problems in combinatorial optimization. On  
15 the one hand, the combinatorial object that represents spanning trees has important structural properties.  
16 On the other hand, from a practitioner point of view, spanning trees are found in a wide range of applica-  
17 tions in many fields (e.g. computer networks design, telecommunications networks, transportation, etc).  
18 Furthermore, they often appear as subproblems of other more complex optimization problems.

19 In game theory, a bilevel optimization problem is known under the name of Stackelberg game (von  
20 Stackelberg, 1934) and it consists in a game between a leader and a follower who play sequentially.  
21 Those players compete with each other: the leader makes the first move, and then the follower reacts  
22 optimally to the leader's action. This kind of hierarchical game is asymmetric in nature, where the leader  
23 and the follower cannot be interchanged. The leader knows *ex ante* that the follower observes its actions  
24 before responding in an optimal manner. Therefore, to optimize its objective, the leader anticipates the  
25 optimal response of the follower. In this setting, the leader's optimization problem contains a nested  
26 optimization task that corresponds to the follower's optimization problem.

27 Several papers have been published covering the problem in which the second level consists in choos-  
28 ing shortest paths between pairs of origins and destinations. The problem was first introduced by Labbé  
29 et al. (1998). Roch et al., 2005 show that the problem is strongly NP-hard even when the second level  
30 consists in one single shortest path. More references regarding that bilevel optimization problem can be  
31 found in the surveys of van Hoesel (2008) and Labbé and Violin (2013).

32 Gassner (2002) studied a discrete variant of the bilevel minimum spanning tree problem where a  
33 partition of the set of edges into leader- and follower-edges is given. The leader's action is to choose a  
34 subset of his edges while the follower's reaction is to build up a spanning tree that includes the edges  
35 chosen by the leader. Hence, the leader's and follower's decision vectors are discrete.

36 Cardinal et al. (2011) proved the APX-hardness of the BMSTP even when the number of red edge  
37 costs is 2, and gave an approximation algorithm with guaranteed worst case performance. They also  
38 give an integer programming formulation for the problem and study its linear programming relaxation.  
39 Further Cardinal et al. (2013) proved that the problem remains NP-hard even if  $G$  is planar, while it can  
40 be solved in polynomial time once that  $G$  has bounded treewidth.

41 Bilò et al. (2015) point out that the hardness in finding an optimal solution for the BMSTP lies in the  
42 selection of the optimal set of blue edges that will be purchased by the follower. Since once a set of blue  
43 edges is part of the final MST, their best possible pricing can be computed in polynomial time, as shown  
44 in Cardinal et al. (2011).

45 Morais et al. (2016) introduce a reformulation and a Branch-and-cut-and-price algorithm for BM-  
46 STP. The reformulation is obtained after applying KKT optimality conditions to a BMSTP non-compact  
47 Bilevel Linear Programming formulation and is strengthened with a partial rank-1 RLT and with valid  
48 inequalities from the literature. They also implemented a Branch-and-cut algorithm for an extended for-  
49 mulation derived from another one in the literature and a preliminary computational study comparing  
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both methods is presented.

In this paper we will present different mathematical formulations for the BMSTP based on the properties of the MSTP and the bilevel optimization paradigm. We establish a theoretical and empirical comparison between these new formulations that are able to solve medium to big size random instances. We also test our models in instances already existing in the literature taken from Morais et al. (2016).

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we formally define BMSTP and provide a new heuristic algorithm. Sections 3 and 4 present the catalogue of formulations that we study for the BMSTP including those corresponding to the MST subproblem. The empirical performance of the resulting BMSTP formulations is analyzed in Section 5, where we present extensive numerical results and a comparison with existing ones. Finally, some conclusions are summarized in Section 6.

## 2. Problem description and preliminary results

The BMSTP can be formally defined as follows. Let be given a graph  $G = (V, E)$  whose edge set  $E$  is partitioned into a set  $B$  of blue edges (controlled by the leader) and a set  $R$  of red edges, and assume that red edges are weighted and contain at least one spanning tree of  $G$ , thus,  $|R| \geq |V| - 1$ . A positive cost  $c_e$  is associated to each red edge  $e \in R$  and a positive price  $T_e$  ( $T = [T_1, \dots, T_{|E|}]$ ) has to be determined for each blue edge  $e \in B$ . We denote by  $x = [x_1, \dots, x_{|E|}]$  the design variables used to describe the spanning tree polytope  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Then, the Bilevel Minimum Spanning Tree Problem (BMSTP) consists in determining  $T_e$  for each  $e \in B$  in such a way that the total weight of the blue edges selected in a minimum spanning tree of the resulting graph is maximized. A very general non-linear model for the BMSTP is then the following:

$$\text{BMSTP : } \max_{T \geq 0} \sum_{e \in B} T_e x_e \tag{1a}$$

$$\text{s.t.: } x = \underset{x \in \mathcal{T}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \sum_{e \in B} T_e x_e + \sum_{e \in R} c_e x_e \right\}. \tag{1b}$$

Objective function (1a) maximizes the total weight of the blue edges selected in the solution. Constraints (1b) return the MST in the graph for a given cost vector  $T$ .

**Example 1.** Let  $G$  be a graph as depicted in Figure 1 left where red edges provide a spanning tree of total cost 20. Blue edges can be priced as in Figure 1 center or Figure 1 right in order to provide a BMSTP solution of value 15.

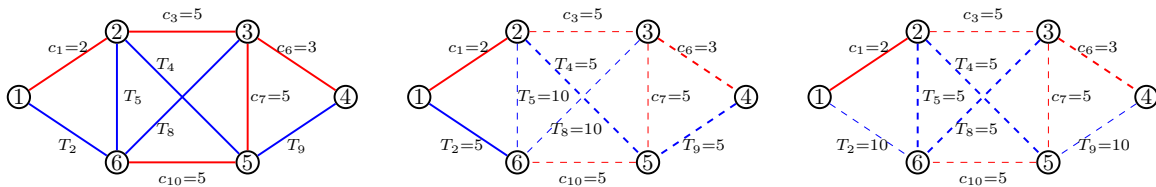


Fig. 1. Graph with edge costs (left) and two BMST optimal solutions for  $|B| = |E| - (|V| - 1)$

### 2.1. Basic results

We first observe (see Cardinal et al., 2013) that in every optimal BMSTP solution the prices  $T_e, e \in B$  take values in the set of red edges cost.

**Property 1.** *In every optimal BMSTP solution  $T_e \in C^R = \{c_{e'} : e' \in R\}$  for each  $e \in B$ .*

Second, we observe (see Cardinal et al., 2013) that the cost of each blue edge belonging to an optimal solution is bounded from above by the minimum among the maximum of the red costs of each cycle that contain the blue edge. Let  $\mathcal{C}(e, S)$  be the set of cycles of  $G$  that include edge  $e$  and edges of the set  $S \subseteq E \setminus \{e\}$ . Then,

**Property 2.** (Strong necessary condition for optimal BMSTP solution) *If  $T^*$  is an optimal BMSTP solution and  $\mathcal{T}^*$  the associated tree, then*

$$T_e \leq \min_{\Theta \in \mathcal{C}(e, E)} \max_{e' \in \Theta \cap R} c_{e'}, \quad e \in B \cap \mathcal{T}^*$$

In particular, we observe that each blue edge in an optimal solution verifies that its price is upper bounded by the maximum cost of red edges for which belongs to a path linking the end vertices of the blue edge and containing only red edges. Analogously, the cost of each blue edge of an optimal spanning tree is bounded from below by the minimum cost of a red edge that belongs to a path linking the end vertices of the blue edge and containing only red edges.

**Property 3.** (Weak necessary condition for optimal BMSTP solution) *If  $T$  is an optimal BMSTP solution then*

$$m_e = \min_{\Theta \in \mathcal{C}(e, R), e' \in \Theta} c_{e'} \leq T_e \leq \max_{\Theta \in \mathcal{C}(e, R), e' \in \Theta} c_{e'} = M_e \quad e \in B$$

Property 3 provides upper and lower bounds for each variable  $T_e, e \in B$ .

It is known that a spanning tree  $\mathcal{T}^*$  is an optimal MSTP solution if for each edge  $e \notin \mathcal{T}^*$ , each edge  $e' \in \mathcal{T}^*$  and in the cycle that contains  $e$  has a cost less or equal than  $c_e$ , that is

$$\mathcal{T}^* \text{ is an optimal MSTP solution} \Leftrightarrow c_{e'} \leq c_e, \forall e \in E : e \notin \mathcal{T}^*, e' \in \mathcal{C}(e, \mathcal{T}^*) : e' \neq e$$

Similarly, depending if  $e, e'$  belong to  $R$  or  $B$  we can provide an optimality condition for the BMSTP:

**Property 4.** (BMSTP optimality condition) *If  $\mathcal{T}^*$  is the associated tree of an optimal BMSTP solution then:*

$$c_{e'} \leq c_e \quad e \in R : e \notin \mathcal{T}^*, e' \in R \cap \mathcal{C}(e, \mathcal{T}^*) : e' \neq e \quad (2a)$$

$$T_{e'} \leq c_e \quad e \in R : e \notin \mathcal{T}^*, e' \in B \cap \mathcal{C}(e, \mathcal{T}^*) : e' \neq e \quad (2b)$$

$$c_{e'} \leq T_e \quad e \in B : e \notin \mathcal{T}^*, e' \in R \cap \mathcal{C}(e, \mathcal{T}^*) : e' \neq e \quad (2c)$$

$$T_{e'} \leq T_e \quad e \in B : e \notin \mathcal{T}^*, e' \in B \cap \mathcal{C}(e, \mathcal{T}^*) : e' \neq e \quad (2d)$$

Cardinal et al. (2011) provides a simple approximation algorithm, called *Best-Out-Of-k algorithm*: Let  $c^1 < \dots < c^{|K|}$  be the  $|K|$  different edge costs that appear in the initial red set of edges, where  $k \in K$  is the index of the  $k$ -th cost and  $C^R = \{c^1 < \dots < c^{|K|}\}$  is the set of costs. The Best-Out-Of- $k$  algorithm consists in choosing the best cost  $c^k$  to be assigned to all  $T$  values. We can also rewrite this algorithm as a property in the following way:

**Property 5.** (BMSTP feasibility) *A feasible BMSTP solution (lower bound) is given by:*

$$T = (c^k)_{1 \times |B|} / k = \arg \max_{k \in K} \left\{ \sum_{e \in B} c^k x_e : x = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{T}} \left\{ \sum_{e \in B} c^k x_e + \sum_{e \in R} c_e x_e \right\} \right\}$$

## 2.2. A general framework for providing BMSTP feasible solutions

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### Algorithm 1: BMSTP-H algorithm

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**input :**

- $sol_{best}$ : Current best solution (by default  $T_e = c^{|K|}, \forall e \in B$ ).
- $b$ : Number of blue edges to modify (by default  $b = |B|$ )
- $S$ : Set of edges that has been chosen in previous iterations (by default  $S = \emptyset$ )
- $p_1$ : probability of choosing edges from  $B$  or from  $B \setminus S$  (by default  $p_1 = 0$ )
- $p_2$ : probability of choosing a direction of movement where “moving up” is chosen with probability  $p_2$  and “moving down” with probability  $1 - p_2$  (by default  $p_2 = 0$ )
- $STOP_c$ : STOP condition (by default “repeat  $|K|$  times”)

**output:**  $sol_{best}$ : Current best solution.

```

1 while  $STOP_c = false$  do
2   According to  $p_1$ , a subset  $B_S$  of  $b$  blue edges is chosen from  $B \cup S$  or from  $B \setminus S$ .
3    $S \leftarrow S \cup B_S$ .
4   Edges  $e \in B_S$  verifying  $T_e > M_e$  or  $T_e < m_e$  are removed from  $B_S$ .
5   According to  $p_2$ , for each  $e \in B_S$  increase/decrease by one unit  $k$  in  $c_e^k$ .
6   Evaluate the BMSTP solution updating  $c_e^k$  for all  $e \in B_S$ .
7   if  $sol_{best}$  is outperformed then
8     Update  $sol_{best}$ 
9   else
10    reset values  $c_e^k$  for all  $e \in B_S$ 

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In this subsection we generalize the Best-Out-Of- $k$  algorithm by means of a local search algorithm that we denote BMSTP-H. Basically, this algorithm starts fixing the prices of the blue edges with a given value (current best solution) and iteratively, a subset of blue edges is chosen and their associated prices are increased/decreased. The BMSTP solution is then evaluated fixing the new prices of the blue edges. If an improvement is achieved, the current best known solution is updated. Otherwise, we reset the modified

blue edges prices and we iterate until a stop condition is fulfilled. For a particular value of the search parameters, this algorithm has as a particular case the Best-Out-Of- $k$  algorithm. However, BMSTP-H allows one to intensify the search by varying (1) the number of blue edges prices to modify, (2) increasing or decreasing the prices, (3) choosing or not blue edges already chosen in previous iterations and (4) modifying the stop condition. Additionally the algorithm can be run several times in a row for different values of the search parameters.

Note that the Best-Out-Of- $k$  algorithm is equivalent to BMSTP-H( $b = |B|, p1 = 1, p2 = 0, sol_{best} = \emptyset, STOP_c = \text{“repeat } |K| \text{ times”}$ ).

In our experiments we apply three runs of BMSTP-H sequentially. The current best solution achieved on each module is used as an input in the following:

1. BMSTP-H( $b = |B|; p1 = 1; p2 = 0; STOP_c = \text{“repeat } |K| \text{ times”}$ )  $\rightarrow sol_1$ .
2. BMSTP-H( $b = 1; p1 = 0; p2 = 0; sol_{best} = sol_1; STOP_c = \text{“repeat until the set of chosen edges have size } |B| \text{”}$ )  $\rightarrow sol_2$ .
3. BMSTP-H( $b = 1, p1 = 0, p2 = 1, sol_{best} = sol_2; STOP_c = \text{“repeat until the set of chosen edges have size } |B| \text{”}$ )  $\rightarrow sol_3$ .

We report on the performance of solutions found by the heuristic in Section 5. As an indicator Table 4 in Section 5 shows the number of times (in %) that the BMSTP-H algorithm reached the best lower bound for each BMSTP formulation.

### 3. Primal-dual BMSTP formulations

Let  $\min_{x \geq 0} \{cx : x \in \mathcal{T}\}$  be a continuous linear MSTP formulation and  $\max_{\mu \geq 0} \{d\mu : \mu \in \mathcal{T}^D(c)\}$  its dual form. We also denote by  $\mathcal{T}^D(c, T)$  the polyhedron resulting by replacing  $c_e$  by  $T_e$  for each  $e \in B$  of  $\mathcal{T}^D$ . We therefore can express the BMSTP as

$$F^0 : \quad \max_{T \geq 0} \sum_{e \in B} T_e x_e \quad (3a)$$

$$\text{s.t.:} \quad x \in \mathcal{T} \quad (3b)$$

$$\mu \in \mathcal{T}^D(c, T) \quad (3c)$$

$$\sum_{e \in B} T_e x_e + \sum_{e \in R} c_e x_e = d\mu. \quad (3d)$$

Since  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{T}^D(c, T)$  define linear domains, the strong duality theorem holds and the primal and dual solutions can be forced to take the same value as in (3d). Therefore, the revenue (3a) can be optimized ensuring that an optimal minimum spanning tree is chosen by the follower. In addition, if  $c_e$  are integers, at least one optimal solution has integers variables  $T_e$  as well (as previously mentioned) and, therefore, integrality constraints are not needed for variables  $x$ .

Note that the product of  $T$  and  $x$  variables makes  $F^0$  non-linear. In this section, we firstly propose two linearizations of  $F^0$ . Second we develop a polyhedral description of the Spanning Trees (ST) of  $G$  (coming from the one given by Martin, 1991) and its dual form. Finally we propose different alternatives to describe the spanning tree polyhedron  $\mathcal{T}$  within  $F^0$ .



### 3.1. Linear BMSTP formulations

The product of variables  $Tx$  can be linearized defining a new set of variables  $p_e = x_e T_e$ ,  $e \in B$  as the profit of edge  $e$ . In the following we denote by  $F_p$  the linearization of (3a)–(3d) using variables  $p$ , that is

$$F_p : \max_{T \geq 0} \sum_{e \in B} p_e \quad (4a)$$

$$s.t. \quad x \in \mathcal{T} \quad (4b)$$

$$\mu \in \mathcal{T}^D(c, T) \quad (4c)$$

$$\sum_{e \in B} p_e + \sum_{e \in R} c_e x_e = d\mu. \quad (4d)$$

$$m_e x_e \leq p_e \leq M_e x_e \quad e \in B \quad (4e)$$

$$p_e \leq T_e \quad e \in B \quad (4f)$$

$$T_e \leq p_e + M_e(1 - x_e) \quad e \in B \quad (4g)$$

$$m_e \leq T_e \leq M_e \quad e \in B \quad (4h)$$

$$x_e \in \{0, 1\} \quad e \in E \quad (4i)$$

Constraints (4e)–(4g) provide a linearization of the bilinear terms  $p_e = x_e T_e$ ,  $e \in B$  by means of the standard McCormick linearization (McCormick, 1976).

Note that once  $Tx$  is linearized, the integrality property of the problem is lost and integrality conditions (4i) are required.

We observe that variables  $T_e$  and  $p_e$  can be discretized, thus obtaining alternative formulations. Indeed, let  $\{0, c^2, \dots, c^{|K|}\}$  be the set made up of the zero value and the  $|K| - 1$  different edge costs that appear in the initial red tree, where  $k \in K$  is the index of the  $k$ -th cost and  $K$  is a sorted set in non-decreasing order. More precisely, we can also define the set  $K$  for each edge as  $K_e = \{k \in K : m_e \leq c^k \leq M_e\}$ . Let  $z_e^k$  be a binary variable equal to one if and only if the price of edge  $e$  is equal to the  $k$ -th cost, that is,

$$T_e = \sum_{k \in K_e} z_e^k c^k \quad e \in B. \quad (5)$$

Analogously, the values of  $p$  can be also discretized by using the binary variable  $\bar{z}_e^k$  equal to one if and only if edge  $e$  is priced with the  $k$ -th cost, that is,

$$p_e = \sum_{k \in K_e} \bar{z}_e^k c^k, \quad e \in B. \quad (6)$$

Therefore  $F_p$  can be rewritten as follows:



$$F_z : \max \sum_{e \in B} \sum_{k \in K_e} \bar{z}_e^k c^k \quad (7a)$$

$$s.t. \quad x \in \mathcal{T} \quad (7b)$$

$$\mu \in \mathcal{T}^D(c, z) \quad (7c)$$

$$\sum_{e \in B} \sum_{k \in K_e} \bar{z}_e^k c^k + \sum_{e \in R} c_e x_e = d\mu \quad (7d)$$

$$\sum_{k \in K_e} z_e^k = 1 \quad e \in B \quad (7e)$$

$$\sum_{k \in K_e} \bar{z}_e^k = x_e, \quad e \in B \quad (7f)$$

$$\bar{z}_e^k \leq z_e^k, \quad e \in B, k \in K_e \quad (7g)$$

$$z_e^k \leq \bar{z}_e^k + (1 - x_e), \quad e \in B, k \in K_e \quad (7h)$$

$$z_e^k, \bar{z}_e^k \in \{0, 1\} \quad e \in E, k \in K_e \quad (7i)$$

$$x_e \in \{0, 1\} \quad e \in E \quad (7j)$$

Constraint (7e) ensures that each edge is priced with one of the costs. Constraint (7f) ensures that each edge leaves a profit coming from one of the costs if the edge is chosen by the follower and a null profit otherwise. Constraint (7g) ensures that the benefit of a blue edge is lower or equal than the profit of the edge. Constraint (7h) together with (7g) ensures that if a blue edge is chosen, its profit is equal to its price.

In addition, we note in constraints (7c) by  $\mathcal{T}^D(c, z)$  the polyhedron coming from  $\mathcal{T}^D(c, T)$  when variables  $T_e$ ,  $e \in B$  are replaced by the values given in (5).

Therefore, note that (4e)–(4h) are implied by (7e)–(7j) as we show in the following property.

**Property 6.** Let  $\Omega_{LR}^{p,T;x}$  be the projection of the polyhedron defined by constraints (4b)–(4g) over the  $x$  variables and  $\Omega_{LR}^{z,\bar{z};x}$  the projection of the polyhedron given by (7b)–(7h) over the  $x$  variables. Then

$$\Omega_{LR}^{z,\bar{z};x} \subseteq \Omega_{LR}^{p,T;x}.$$

*Proof.*

$\subseteq$ ) Let  $(x, z, \bar{z}) \in \Omega_{LR}^{z,\bar{z};x}$ , we prove that  $(x, z, \bar{z})$  verifies (4e)–(4h).

First, by replacing relations (5) and (6) in (7c) and (7d) we obtain (4c) and (4d).

Now, we prove that  $(x, z, \bar{z})$  verifies (4e), (4f) and (4g):

- For each  $e \in B$ , (6)  $\Rightarrow p_e = \sum_{k \in K_e} c^k \bar{z}_e^k \leq M_e \sum_{k \in K_e} \bar{z}_e^k \stackrel{(7e)}{=} M_e x_e \Rightarrow$  (4e).
- For each  $e \in B, k \in K_e$ , (7g)  $\Rightarrow \bar{z}_e^k \leq z_e^k \Rightarrow c^k \bar{z}_e^k \leq c^k z_e^k \Rightarrow \sum_{k \in K_e} c^k \bar{z}_e^k \leq \sum_{k \in K_e} c^k z_e^k \Rightarrow p_e \leq T_e \Rightarrow$  (4f).
- For each  $e \in B, k \in K_e$ , (7h)  $\Rightarrow 0 \leq z_e^k - \bar{z}_e^k \leq \sum_{k \in K_e} c^k (z_e^k - \bar{z}_e^k) \leq M_e \sum_{k \in K_e} (z_e^k - \bar{z}_e^k) = M_e(1 - x_e) \Rightarrow$  (4g).

□

### 3.2. KM-MST formulation and dual form

We recall that the general schemes proposed in the previous section require a linear STP formulation,  $\mathcal{T}$ , and its dual form,  $\mathcal{T}^D$ . For that aim, we present next the Kipp Martim MSTP formulation and its dual form.

Martin (1991) proposes a TDI formulation for the MST problem with a number of variables and constraints which are polynomial in the input size. For this, an arborescence rooted at each vertex  $k \in V$  is modeled. The arcs of such arborescences are then related to the design variables  $x$  defined above. For  $k \in V, (u, v) \in E$ , let us denote by  $q_{kuv}$  and  $q_{kvu}$  to the decision variables that respectively indicate whether or not arc  $(u, v)$  and  $(v, u)$  belong to the arborescence rooted at  $k$ , where  $A$  stands for the set of arcs. Then, the formulation is as follows:

$$\min \sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e \quad (8a)$$

$$s.t. \sum_{e \in E} x_e = n - 1 \quad (8b)$$

$$\sum_{s \in V: (k,s) \in A} q_{kks} \leq 0 \quad k \in V \quad (8c)$$

$$\sum_{v \in V: (u,v) \in A} q_{kuv} \leq 1 \quad k, u \in V : u \neq k \quad (8d)$$

$$q_{kuv} + q_{kvu} = x_{uv} \quad k \in V, (u, v) \in E \quad (8e)$$

$$x_{uv} \geq 0 \quad (u, v) \in E \quad (8f)$$

$$q_{kuv} \geq 0 \quad k \in V, (u, v) \in A \quad (8g)$$

Constraint (8a) ensures that the tree has  $n - 1$  edges. Constraints (8b)-(8d) break cycles that could be generated by the  $n - 1$  edges. Note that if there is a cycle of undirected edges containing vertex  $k$ , then by (8b) there is a corresponding cycle of directed edges defined by  $q_{kij}$  which also contains vertex  $k$  (refer to this set of directed arcs as the  $k$ -arcs). However, there cannot be a cycle of  $k$ -arcs which contains vertex  $k$ . This is impossible by (8d) and the cycle cannot be directed. If the cycle is not directed, then there is at least one vertex  $i$  with two  $k$ -arcs directed out of it. This is impossible by (8c). Thus, there are no cycles in the solution and we have by (8a) a spanning tree.

Formulation (8a)-(8f) can be simplified removing variables  $q_{kkv} = 0, k \in V, (k, v) \in A$  as follows:

$$\min \sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e \quad (9a)$$

$$\sum_{e \in E} x_e = n - 1 \quad (9b)$$

$$\sum_{(u',v) \in E: \substack{(u'=k \wedge v=u) \vee \\ (u'=u \wedge v=k)}} x_{u'v} + \sum_{(u,v) \in A: v \neq k} q_{kuv} \leq 1 \quad k, u \in V : u \neq k \quad (9c)$$

$$q_{kuv} + q_{kvu} = x_{uv} \quad k \in V, (u, v) \in E : u, v \neq k \quad (9d)$$

$$x_{uv} \geq 0 \quad (u, v) \in E \quad (9e)$$

$$q_{kuv} \geq 0 \quad k \in V, (u, v) \in A : v \neq k \quad (9f)$$

In the following, we denote by  $\mathcal{T}^{km}$  to the polyhedron associated to the KM-MSTP formulation, that is, equations (9b)–(9f). In addition, the dual of (9a)–(9f) can be written as:

$$\max \alpha(n - 1) - \sum_{k \in V} \sum_{u \in V: v \neq k} \beta_{ku} \quad (10a)$$

$$\alpha - \beta_{uv} - \beta_{vu} - \sum_{k' \in V: k' \neq u, v} \gamma_{uv}^{k'} \leq c_{uv} \quad (u, v) \in E \quad (10b)$$

$$- \beta_{ku} + \sum_{(u',v') \in E: \substack{(u'=u \wedge v'=v) \vee \\ (u'=v \wedge v'=u)}} \gamma_{u'v'}^k \leq 0 \quad k \in V, (u, v) \in A : u, v \neq k \quad (10c)$$

$$\beta_{ku} \geq 0 \quad k, u \in V : u \neq k \quad (10d)$$

$$\gamma_{uv}^k \geq 0 \quad k \in V, (u, v) \in E : u, v \neq k \quad (10e)$$

Finally, we denote by  $\mathcal{T}^D$  to the polyhedron associated to the KM-MSTP dual formulation, that is, equations (10b)–(10e). Note that now, both  $\mathcal{T}^{km}$  and  $\mathcal{T}^D$  can be implemented in previous BMSTP formulations to set effective valid representations.

### 3.3. Other primal-dual BMSTP formulations

Previous BMSTP formulations assume constraint  $x \in \mathcal{T}^{km}$ . Note that this constraint can be replaced by any other STP polyhedron, namely *subtour elimination*, *Miller-Tucker-Zemlin (MTZ)*, *flow*, etc (see Magnanti and Wolsey, 1995; Fernández et al., 2017). For example, the Miller-Tucker-Zemlin formulation (Miller et al., 1960) uses variables  $y_{uv}$  which take the value 1 if and only if arc  $(u, v)$  belong to the arborescence and continuous variables  $l_u$ , denoting the position that node  $u$  occupies in the arborescence with respect to the root node.

It is well-known that STP formulations exist with the integrality property. Unfortunately, when they are embedded within the BMSTP framework the integrality property is lost. Then, alternative STP formulations without such property may now be superior (in computational terms) and this explains why

some of the formulations we have used lack the integrality property. In Table 0 we resume the main properties of the STP formulations that we have considered. The criteria that have guided the selection of the formulations are either their good theoretical properties or some characteristic that seemed useful as, for instance, a small number of variables or constraints.

Table 0  
Main properties of the MST formulations considered

Formulation	notation	main constraints	root	# vars	# const.	int
<b>Subtour</b> Edmonds (1970)	$\mathcal{T}^{sub}$	$\sum_{e \in E(S)} x_e \leq  S  - 1, \emptyset \neq S \subset V$		$O( E )$	$Exp(n)$	Yes
<b>Kipp Martin</b> Martin (1991)	$\mathcal{T}^{km}$	$\sum_{(u,v) \in \delta^+(u)} q_{kuv} \leq \begin{cases} 1, & k \in V, u \in V : u \neq k \\ 0, & k \in V, u = k \end{cases}$	$\forall k$	$O(n E )$	$O(n E )$	Yes
<b>Miller-Tucker-Zemlin</b> Miller et al. (1960)	$\mathcal{T}^{mtz}$	$l_v \geq l_u + 1 - n(1 - y_{uv}), (u, v) \in A$	$r$	$O( E )$	$O( E )$	No
<b>Flow</b> Gavish (1983)	$\mathcal{T}^{flow}$	$\sum_{(u,v) \in \delta^+(u)} \varphi_{uv} - \sum_{(v,u) \in \delta^-(u)} \varphi_{vu} = \begin{cases} n-1, & u = r \\ -1, & u \in V \setminus \{r\} \end{cases}$	$r$	$O( E )$	$O( E )$	No
<b>KM extended</b> Fernández et al. (2017)	$\mathcal{T}^{km2}$	$\sum_{(u,v) \in \delta^+(u)} q_{uv} \leq \begin{cases} 1, & u \in V : u \neq r \\ 0, & u = r \end{cases}$	$r$	$O( E )$	$Exp(n)$	Yes

In particular, the subtour and Kipp Martin formulations present the advantage of the integrality property (as you see in the last column) but they exhibit the inconvenience of an exponential number of constraints in the case of the subtour, or a cubic number of variables and constraints as it is the case of Kipp Martin. As an alternative, the MTZ and FLOW formulations present lower dimensions and are, therefore, easier to handle.

We propose as an alternative STP formulation a relaxation of Kipp Martin that instead of building an arborescence at each node, it builds only one of them (see Fernández et al., 2017). Therefore cut-set inequalities will be required to be included dynamically in a Branch&Cut algorithm. The separation of this inequalities can be carried out in polynomial time by finding the cut Gomory-Hu tree.

#### 4. A path-based BMSTP formulation

In this section we present an alternative BMSTP formulation that does not require the strong duality property. Instead, we impose minimum cost optimality constraints to a path-based STP formulation. In this way, we can impose in the objective function a maximization of the benefits of the blue edges which in turns ensures the validity of this approach.

First, we propose the announced path-based formulation for the STP. Let  $P$  denote the set of pairs of nodes such that  $i < j$ . We define now  $\varphi_{uv}^{ij}$  as the flow through edge  $(u, v)$  going from origin  $i$  to

destination  $j$  with  $(i, j) \in P$ . The following set of constraints define a polyhedral description of the spanning trees of  $G$ .

$$\mathcal{T}^{path} : \sum_{v \in V: (i,v) \in A} \varphi_{iv}^{ij} = 1 \quad (i, j) \in P \quad (11a)$$

$$\sum_{(u,v) \in A} \varphi_{uv}^{ij} - \sum_{(v,u) \in A} \varphi_{vu}^{ij} = 0 \quad (i, j) \in P, v \in V : v \neq i, j \quad (11b)$$

$$\sum_{(u,j) \in A} \varphi_{uj}^{ij} = 1 \quad (i, j) \in P \quad (11c)$$

$$\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij'} \leq x_{uv} \quad (i, j) \in P, (i, j') \in P, (u, v) \in E : u, v \neq i, j \quad (11d)$$

$$\sum_{(u,v) \in E} x_{uv} = n - 1 \quad (11e)$$

$$\varphi_{uv}^{ij} \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in A : v \neq i, u \neq j \quad (11f)$$

$$0 \leq x_e \leq 1 \quad e \in E \quad (11g)$$

Formulation (11a)-(11g) defines a tree on the graph  $G$ . Constraints (11a)-(11c) guarantee that the flow subnetwork is connected. Constraints (11d) ensure that an edge is selected if there is a positive flow traversing any of its arcs.

Note that we do not define variables  $\varphi_{ui}^{ij}$  and  $\varphi_{jv}^{ij}$  in  $\mathcal{T}^{path}$  since flow that is sent from  $i$  to  $j$  does not arrive to  $i$  or depart from  $j$ . In addition, constraints (11d) can alternatively be defined as

$$\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij} \leq x_{uv} \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in E : u, v \neq i, j. \quad (12)$$

Replacing (11d) by (12) reduces significantly the number of variables and constraints in  $\mathcal{T}^{path}$ . However, with this enhancement the integrality property of variables  $x$  in  $\mathcal{T}^{path}$  is lost.

Next, we can add an additional constraint to  $\mathcal{T}^{path}$  in order to guarantee this tree to be optimal (minimal cost):

$$(\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij})c_{uv} \leq c_{ij}(1 - x_{ij}) \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in E : (u, v) \neq (i, j) \quad (13a)$$

Constraint (13a) impose that if there is flow sent from  $i$  to  $j$  along arcs  $(u, v)$  or  $(v, u)$  (that is  $\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij} \neq 0$ , what implies  $x_{ij} = 0$ ) then  $c_{uv} \leq c_{ij}$ . This let us formulate the BMSTP as follows:

$$F^{path} : \quad \max \sum_{e \in B} T_e x_e \quad (14a)$$

$$s.t. \quad (x, \varphi) \in \mathcal{T}^{path} \quad (14b)$$

$$(\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij})(c_{uv} + T_{uv}) \leq (T_{ij} + c_{ij})(1 - x_{ij}) \quad (i, j) \in E, (u, v) \in E : (u, v) \neq (i, j) \quad (14c)$$

$$\text{vars:} \quad x_e \in \{0, 1\} \quad e \in E \quad (14d)$$

$$\varphi_{uv}^{ij} \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in A \quad (14e)$$

$$T_e \geq 0 \quad e \in B \quad (14f)$$

Note that for each  $(u, v) \in E$  constraints (14c) are well defined because we assume  $c_e = 0, e \in B$  and  $T_e$  only defined in  $B$ .

The linear formulation that removes the non-linearity of the product of  $p$  and  $T$  variables and the product of  $\varphi$  and  $T$  variables can be obtained by standard techniques. However, adding the new required inequalities destroys the integrality property of the tree polytope. Therefore, to have a valid formulation, constraint (15m) must be augmented.

$$F_p^{path} : \max \sum_{e \in B} p_e \quad (15a)$$

$$s.t. (x, \varphi) \in \mathcal{T}^{path} \quad (15b)$$

$$p_e \leq M_e x_e \quad e \in B \quad (15c)$$

$$p_e \leq T_e \quad e \in B \quad (15d)$$

$$T_e \leq p_e + M_e(1 - x_e) \quad e \in B \quad (15e)$$

$$t_{uv}^{ij} \leq (\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij})M_e \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in B \quad (15f)$$

$$t_{uv}^{ij} \leq T_{uv} \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in B \quad (15g)$$

$$T_{uv} \leq t_{uv}^{ij} + M_e(1 - \varphi_{uv}^{ij} - \varphi_{vu}^{ij}) \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in B \quad (15h)$$

$$(\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij})c_{uv} \leq c_{ij}(1 - x_{ij}) \quad (i, j) \in R, (u, v) \in R : (u, v) \neq (i, j) \quad (15i)$$

$$t_{uv}^{ij} \leq c_{ij}(1 - x_{ij}) \quad (i, j) \in R, (u, v) \in B : (u, v) \neq (i, j) \quad (15j)$$

$$(\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij})c_{uv} \leq T_{ij} - p_{ij} \quad (i, j) \in B, (u, v) \in R : (u, v) \neq (i, j) \quad (15k)$$

$$t_{uv}^{ij} \leq T_{ij} - p_{ij} \quad (i, j) \in B, (u, v) \in B : (u, v) \neq (i, j) \quad (15l)$$

$$x_e \in \{0, 1\} \quad e \in E \quad (15m)$$

$$\varphi_{uv}^{ij} \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in A \quad (15n)$$

$$T_e \geq 0 \quad e \in B \quad (15o)$$

$$t_{uv}^{ij} \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in A \quad (15p)$$

$$p_e \geq 0 \quad e \in B \quad (15q)$$

Constraints (15c)–(15e) provide a linearization of the product  $p_e = x_e T_e$ ,  $e \in B$  by means of the standard McCormick linearization. Constraints (15f)–(15h) provide a linearization of the product  $\varphi T$  by means of variable  $t$  defined as

$$t_{uv}^{ij} = (\varphi_{uv}^{ij} + \varphi_{vu}^{ij})T_{uv} \quad (i, j) \in P, (u, v) \in B \quad (16)$$

and by means of the standard McCormick linearization. Constraints (15i)–(15l) provide a linearization of (14c) by means of variable  $t$  and distinguishing the different cases where  $(i, j) \in R$  or  $B$  and  $(u, v) \in R$  or  $B$ .

There exists a similar formulation translating variables  $T$  and  $p$  into variables  $z$  and  $\bar{z}$ . Given that such formulation has not provided good results in computational terms, we skip its description for the sake of readability.



## 5. Computational results

Next, we report on the results of some computational experiments that we have run, in order to compare empirically the proposed formulations. We have studied the BMSTP combining the different formulations proposed for the STP.

Instances  $G = (V, E)$  are generated as in Morais et al. (2016). We first generate a complete graph  $G = (V, E^c)$  according to different values of  $|V|$  and the components of the cost vectors are randomly chosen from a set  $K$  of  $|K|$  random integers drawn from a uniform distribution on  $[1, c_{max}]$ . We then compute a MST solution  $(V, \hat{E})$  and we initialize  $E \leftarrow \hat{E}$ ,  $R \leftarrow \hat{E}$ ,  $B \leftarrow \emptyset$ . Additional edges are then randomly picked from  $E_c \setminus \hat{E}$ , until a desired graph density  $d$  is obtained. If a given edge  $e \in E_c \setminus \hat{E}$  is added to  $E$ , we choose with a probability  $p$  if  $R \leftarrow R \cup \{e\}$  otherwise,  $B \leftarrow B \cup \{e\}$ . If  $e$  is added to  $R$ , the cost assigned to  $e$  ( $c_e$ ) is randomly chosen from a set  $K$  of  $|K|$  random integers. In particular, we choose  $|V| \in \{20, 30, 50, 70\}$ ,  $c_{max} = 150$ ,  $d \in \{10\%, 20\%, 30\%, 50\%\}$ ,  $p = 0.5$ , and  $|K| = \{3, 5, 7\}$ . Note that in this case the mean value of  $|B|$  is  $\frac{|V|(|V|-2)}{2}$ .

In all tables, reported results correspond to groups of 10 instances with the same triplet  $(|V|, d, |C|)$ . We present average results (and some maximum values) for each group. This way, in total, we have a set of 240 benchmark instances. All instances were solved with the MIP Xpress 7.7 optimizer, under a Windows 10 environment in an Intel(R) Core(TM)i7 CPU 2.93 GHz processor and 16 GB RAM. Default values were initially used for all parameters of Xpress solver and a CPU time limit of 1800 seconds was set. We have also tested different combinations of parameters for the solver cut strategy and intensity of heuristics but, unless it is specified, the best results were obtained with the parameters of the solver set to the default values. An initial solution was given to the problem by the three modules of BMSTP-H described in Section 2.2. The separation of the cutset inequalities in formulation  $\mathcal{T}^{km2}$  was implemented using a max-flow based algorithm (Gusfield, 1990).

Tables are grouped in blocks. The first block contains three columns with the values of the instances parameters. Then, we give a block of 7 columns for each tested formulation. The columns of each block are the following:

1. Columns  $gR\bar{L}$  give the percentage relative gap, computed as  $100 \frac{obj_R - obj_{\bar{L}}}{obj_{\bar{L}}}$ , where  $obj_R$  denotes the optimal value of the linear relaxation at the root node and  $obj_{\bar{L}}$  denotes the best known lower bound obtained in all our experiments.
2. Columns  $gU\bar{L}$  give the percentage relative gap, computed as  $100 \frac{obj_U - obj_{\bar{L}}}{obj_U}$ , where now  $obj_U$  denotes the upper bound at termination.
3. Columns  $g\bar{U}L$  give the percentage relative gap, computed as  $100 \frac{obj_{\bar{U}} - obj_L}{obj_{\bar{U}}}$ , where now  $obj_{\bar{U}}$  denotes the best known upper bound obtained in all our experiments and  $obj_L$  denotes the lower bound at termination.
4. Columns  $gUL$  give the percentage relative gap, computed as  $100 \frac{obj_U - obj_L}{obj_U}$ .
5. Columns  $gUL^*$  give the maximum of the  $gUL$  values among the 10 instances of the row.
6. Columns  $|\#|$  indicate the number of instances in the group that could be solved to optimality within the CPU time limit.
7. Columns  $nod$  indicate the average number of nodes explored in the branch-and-bound tree.

Note that, while  $gR\bar{L}$  and  $gU\bar{L}$  provide quality measures of the upper bounds (at the root node and at

termination, respectively), and  $g\overline{UL}$  provides a quality measure of the lower bounds. In addition,  $gUL$  and  $gUL^*$  provide measures of both upper and lower bounds for average and worst case performance respectively. Entries with the symbol “-” indicates that the average/maximum gaps are 0, or in other words, that all instances were solved to optimality.

The caption just below each block gives the formulation the block refers to. Throughout the section,  $F_{mor}$  denotes the formulation with the best results reported in Morais et al. (2016) for the BMSTP. Otherwise, we denote by  $F_p^{(\cdot)}$  the combination of the BMSTP  $F_p$  formulation together with a spanning tree polyhedron  $\mathcal{T}^{(\cdot)}$  (idem with  $F_z^{(\cdot)}$ ). In this way, we report results of formulations  $F_p^{flow}$ ,  $F_p^{km}$ ,  $F_p^{mtz}$ ,  $F_p^{km2}$  and  $F_z^{flow}$ ,  $F_z^{km}$ ,  $F_z^{mtz}$ ,  $F_z^{km2}$  that have shown the best performance in preliminary tests. Note that we do not report results of the path formulations  $F_p^{path}$  since those results were clearly outperformed by  $F_p^{(\cdot)}$  and  $F_z^{(\cdot)}$  in preliminary tests. Then, we have summarized the results in five tables.

1. Table 1 shows results for  $F_p^{(\cdot)}$  formulations, namely  $F_p^{flow}$ ,  $F_p^{km}$ ,  $F_p^{mtz}$  and  $F_p^{km2}$ .
2. Table 2 shows results for  $F_z^{(\cdot)}$  formulations, namely  $F_z^{flow}$ ,  $F_z^{km}$ ,  $F_z^{mtz}$  and  $F_z^{km2}$ .
3. Table 3 shows the number of times (in %) that the BMSTP-H algorithm reached the best lower bound for each formulation.
4. Table 4 choses the best blocks so far, and extends the time limit of some rows of these blocks from 1800 seconds to 5 hours.
5. Table 5 displays a comparison between the results reported in Morais et al. (2016) and the results obtained with our best formulation, with the same set of instances.

In order to facilitate the comparison among tables, best results in each table are marked in bold. In this sense, Tables 1 and 2 are treated as a single one, so as to highlight the best values among the eight proposed formulations, namely  $F_p^{flow}$ ,  $F_p^{km}$ ,  $F_p^{mtz}$ ,  $F_p^{km2}$ ,  $F_z^{flow}$ ,  $F_z^{km}$ ,  $F_z^{mtz}$  and  $F_z^{km2}$ .

In Table 1, the results of block  $F_p^{flow}$  exhibit the worst values of  $g\overline{RL}$  in the group. However, most of these instances have similar values in terms of  $g\overline{UL}$  than the other formulations of the group. As column *nod* shows, the number of required nodes to reach the optimal values in instances  $(20, 30, |C|)$  is the biggest in the group and consequently, gaps are bigger than in other blocks. On the contrary, the results of block  $F_p^{km}$  exhibit the best values of  $g\overline{RL}$ . However, in many cases these gaps only improve slightly (or not improved at all) other  $g\overline{RL}$  values of the group. In addition, gaps  $gUL$  and  $gUL^*$  remain far from the best values of the group. Note that according to the low average number of explored nodes in the B&B tree, in particular for sizes  $(|V|, d) = (70, 20)$ , solving the LP relaxation of the problem becomes quite hard so the corresponding gaps at termination remain quite large in comparison with other formulations. We recall that  $F_p^{km}$  uses the largest number of variables and constraints, which can be too high in larger graphs. Block  $F_p^{mtz}$  shows good average gaps  $g\overline{RL}$  and  $g\overline{UL}$ , and it also provides some best values of the group for gaps  $gUL^*$  in the largest instances. Block  $F_p^{km2}$  shows a similar performance than  $F_p^{mtz}$  in gaps  $g\overline{RL}$  and  $g\overline{UL}$ , and it also provides the best values of the group for gaps  $g\overline{UL}$ ,  $gUL$  and  $gUL^*$  in instances  $|V| < 70$ . Since many of the constraints in this formulation are added on the fly within the B&B search tree, we can observe that consequently, the number of explored nodes is the largest of the group. From this table, we conclude that the most promising formulation is  $F_p^{km2}$  for medium to large size instances.

In Table 2, the results of block  $F_z^{flow}$  exhibit the worst values of  $g\overline{RL}$  in the group. However, most of these instances do not remain far, in terms of  $g\overline{UL}$ , from the other formulations of the group. As in the  $F_p^{(\cdot)}$  case, we observe that  $F_z^{flow}$  shows the worst gap values in general terms. The results of block  $F_z^{km}$  exhibit the best values of  $g\overline{RL}$  and in some cases, these gaps are improved giving rise to best values of gaps  $gUL$  and  $gUL^*$  in medium size instances. As in  $F_p^{km}$  solving the LP relaxation in sizes  $(|V|, d) = (70, 10)$  becomes quite hard giving rise to no more than three explored nodes in the B&B tree for these cases. Block  $F_p^{mtz}$  shows good average gaps  $g\overline{RL}$ ,  $g\overline{UL}$  and  $gUL^*$  but it is outperformed in general by block  $F_z^{km2}$  that shows the best performance of this group. From this table, we conclude that the most promising formulation is  $F_z^{km2}$  for medium to small size instances.

Table 3 shows the number of times (in %) that the B&B search returned the same lower bound as the one given by the BMSTP-H algorithm. We observe that the percentages are smaller for the  $F_p^{(\cdot)}$  formulations compared to the  $F_z^{(\cdot)}$  formulations. This means that  $F_z^{(\cdot)}$  formulations are harder to tackle in order to find feasible solutions (lower bounds) because the number of binary variables is highly superior to the one of the  $F_p^{(\cdot)}$  formulations. Besides, we conclude from this table the BMSTP-H algorithm provides a reasonably good feasible initial lower bound that in many cases is no able to be outperformed by the solver after 1800 seconds of running time.

Table 4 shows a comparison of the best blocks so far, namely  $F_p^{km2}$  and  $F_z^{km2}$ , with a time limit of 1800 seconds and a time limit of 5 hours. In this case, we display results for only some rows of instances that correspond to the same combinations of  $(|V|, d, |C|)$  that were studied in Morais et al. (2016). Obviously, mostly all gaps are improved when the time limit is extended to 5 hours but we observe a bigger improvement for  $F_z^{km2}$  in small-medium instances and a bigger improvement for  $F_p^{km2}$  in medium-big instances.

Table 5 shows a comparison between the results provided in Morais et al. (2016) and the results with our best formulations  $F_p^{km2}$  and  $F_z^{km2}$ . Note that in this case, we have used the same set of instances as in Morais et al. (2016) and only results for a single instance per row are provided. Block  $F_{mor}$  shows the best results reported by Morais et al. (2016) implemented in C++ and tested with a 2.4GHz Intel XEON E5645 machine, with 32 GB of RAM, under Linux Operating System. From this table, we observe first that both  $F_p^{km2}$  and  $F_z^{km2}$  are able to provide better lower bounds  $objL$  and upper bounds  $objU$  than those in  $F_{mor}$ . Consequently, gaps  $gUL$  are smaller in mostly all cases showing also that 11 out of 16 instances were able to be solved to optimality. In addition, running times (displayed in column  $t$ ) show that 6 out of 16 instances were solved to optimality for  $F_p^{km2}$  in less than 10 minutes. In general terms, we conclude that blocks  $F_p^{km2}$  and  $F_z^{km2}$  outperform significantly block  $F_{mor}$ .

## 6. Conclusions

In this paper we have presented different mathematical programming formulations for the BMSTP based on the properties of the MSTP and the bilevel optimization paradigm. We have established theoretical and empirical comparisons between these new formulations that have shown to be effective for efficiently solving medium to big size instances. In addition we are able to outperform previous existing computational results in the literature.

## Acknowledgements

The research of the first author has been partially supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS under Grant(s) no PDR T0098.18. The second author was partially supported by the V Plan Propio de Investigación (Universidad de Sevilla). The second and third authors were partially supported by project MTM2016-74983-C02-01 (MINECO/FEDER). This support is gratefully acknowledged.

We also would like to acknowledge Vinicius Morais, Alexandre Salles da Cunha and Philippe Mahey for providing us their set of instances presented in Morais et al. (2016) that we have used in the present paper.

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Table 1  
BMSTP results for the  $F_p^{(\cdot)}$  formulations.

$ V $	$d$	$ C $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $																				
20	30	3	13.5	-	-	-	-	10	1e3	3.9	-	-	-	-	10	76	4.8	-	-	-	-	10	1e2	4.9	-	-	-	-	10	1e2
20	30	5	18.2	-	-	-	-	10	4e4	9.5	-	-	-	-	10	8e3	9.5	-	-	-	-	10	1e4	9.5	-	-	-	-	10	2e4
20	30	7	17.4	-	-	-	-	10	1e4	8.5	-	-	-	-	10	5e3	9.2	-	-	-	-	10	9e3	9.2	-	-	-	-	10	1e4
20	50	3	4.8	1.6	-	1.6	8.8	7	2e5	3.4	1.4	-	1.4	8.6	8	5e4	3.4	1.8	-	1.8	8.1	6	1e5	3.4	0.8	-	0.8	7.8	9	1e5
20	50	5	7.1	5.8	-	5.8	12	0	4e5	7.1	5.2	-	5.2	10.6	1	2e5	7.1	5.2	-	5.2	11.1	1	3e5	7.1	5.2	-	5.2	11.4	1	4e5
20	50	7	8.9	7.8	1.7	7.9	16	1	3e5	8.9	7.9	1.6	7.9	16	1	2e5	8.9	8	1.7	8	16	1	3e5	8.9	8	1.7	8	16	1	4e5
30	30	3	6.9	3.4	0.3	3.4	14.5	6	1e4	4.4	3.3	0.3	3.3	14.8	5	1e4	4.4	3.2	0.3	3.2	15	5	2e4	4.4	2.8	0.3	2.8	13.3	6	2e4
30	30	5	9.8	6	3.1	6.1	14.1	2	3e4	7.2	6	2.9	6	14	2	2e4	7.2	6	2.9	6	14	1	5e4	7.2	6.4	2.9	6.4	14	1	6e4
30	30	7	13.4	9.4	6.8	9.5	16.2	0	6e4	10.1	9.4	6.8	9.4	15.2	0	2e4	10.1	9.4	6.9	9.5	15.2	0	5e4	10.1	9	6.8	9	13.3	0	7e4
30	50	3	0.4	0.2	-	0.2	1.6	9	3e3	0.2	0.2	-	0.2	1.6	9	1e3	0.2	0.2	-	0.2	1.6	9	4e3	0.2	0.2	-	0.2	1.6	9	4e3
30	50	5	4.1	3.8	0.8	4.1	10.3	1	3e4	3.8	3.8	0.5	3.8	7.4	1	1e4	3.8	3.8	0.5	3.8	7.6	1	3e4	3.8	3.8	0.5	3.8	7.4	1	5e4
30	50	7	5.9	5.7	4.4	6.5	21	0	3e4	5.7	5.7	4.3	6.3	19.5	0	1e4	5.7	5.7	4.5	6.5	21	0	3e4	5.7	5.7	4.2	6.2	18.5	0	6e4
50	10	3	16.2	4.1	1	4.4	13	2	1e4	3.7	1.9	0.6	1.9	10.9	7	2e3	4.4	2	0.6	2	10.4	7	2e3	4.8	1.8	0.6	1.8	9.6	6	5e3
50	10	5	19.3	5.3	1.5	6.3	9.7	1	1e4	5.5	2.4	0.5	2.5	7	5	3e3	6.3	2.9	0.5	2.9	7.2	4	7e3	6.8	2.3	0.6	2.4	7.3	5	1e4
50	10	7	22.5	6.3	2.8	7.4	18.2	2	1e4	8	3.7	1.9	4	14.9	5	2e3	8.6	4.7	1.7	4.8	13.2	4	7e3	8.6	3.4	1.6	3.4	10.5	5	9e3
50	20	3	4.1	2.6	0.6	2.6	6.6	1	5e3	2.8	2.4	0.6	2.4	6.6	2	1e3	2.8	2.5	0.6	2.5	6.6	1	4e3	3	2.7	0.6	2.7	6.6	0	8e3
50	20	5	9.4	8.2	14.4	14.8	25.1	0	5e3	8.2	8.2	9.7	10.2	17.3	0	1e3	8.2	8.2	9.9	10.3	16.6	0	5e3	8.2	8.2	8.7	9.1	14.5	0	8e3
50	20	7	13.8	12.1	20.1	20.4	30.8	0	5e3	12.1	12.1	15.7	16	25.9	0	1e3	12.1	12.1	15.5	15.8	24.1	0	5e3	12.1	12.1	14.3	14.7	26.6	0	9e3
70	10	3	16.3	7.6	7.3	11.2	21.3	0	1e3	7.3	6.8	6	9.2	19.2	1	5e2	7.5	6.5	6.4	9.3	19.1	1	9e2	7.5	6.7	6	9.1	19.5	1	1e3
70	10	5	18.7	13.1	15.7	16.4	26.6	0	9e2	13	12.4	15.8	16	26.7	0	1e2	13.1	12.8	15.4	15.9	27.3	0	8e2	13.1	12.5	14.4	14.6	23.7	0	9e2
70	10	7	21	14.8	22.7	23.4	33.2	0	9e2	15.1	14.4	22	22.3	33.2	0	1e2	15.2	14.5	22	22.3	30.4	0	7e2	15.2	14.6	19.9	20.4	32.7	0	1e3
70	20	3	1.1	1.1	4.7	5.1	18.6	0	1e3	1.1	1.1	5.7	6.1	24.6	0	2e5	1.1	1.1	1	1.4	3.8	0	7e2	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.3	3.8	0	5e2
70	20	5	4.7	4.6	7.7	7.7	23.9	0	2e2	4.6	4.6	7.7	7.8	24.3	0	3	4.6	4.6	5.4	5.4	13.2	0	4e2	4.6	4.6	5.2	5.3	13.8	0	6e2
70	20	7	8.1	8	11.9	11.9	23.7	0	2e2	8	8	11.9	11.9	23.7	0	0	8	8	10.1	10.1	21.8	0	4e2	8	8	10.8	10.8	21.8	0	8e2

$F_p^{flow}$

$F_p^{km}$

$F_p^{mtz}$

$F_p^{km2}$

Table 2  
BMSTP results for the  $F_z^{(\cdot)}$  formulations.

$ V $	$d$	$ C $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $	$ g\overline{RL} g\overline{UL} g\overline{UL} gUL gUL^* $	$\# nod $																				
20	30	3	13.5	-	-	-	-	10	1e3	3.9	-	-	-	-	10	52	4.8	-	-	-	-	10	2e2	4.9	-	-	-	-	10	5e2
20	30	5	18.2	-	-	-	-	10	1e4	9.5	-	-	-	-	10	5e3	9.5	-	-	-	-	10	7e3	9.5	-	-	-	-	10	1e4
20	30	7	17.4	-	-	-	-	10	8e4	8.5	-	-	-	-	10	1e4	9.2	-	-	-	-	10	2e4	9.2	-	-	-	-	10	1e5
20	50	3	4.8	0.7	-	0.7	6.8	9	5e4	3.4	0.8	-	0.8	8.1	9	1e4	3.4	0.7	-	0.7	6.7	9	3e4	3.4	-	-	-	-	10	2e4
20	50	5	7.1	2.5	0.1	2.6	8	1	5e5	7.1	0.8	0.6	1.4	8.1	5	7e4	7.1	0.7	-	0.7	6.2	7	2e5	7.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	4.2	6	2e5
20	50	7	8.9	4.2	2.6	5.1	10.5	0	5e5	8.9	3.9	2	4.2	10.1	3	1e5	8.9	2.3	1.7	2.4	5.8	3	2e5	8.9	2.4	1.8	2.5	5.5	3	3e5
30	30	3	6.9	2.1	1.1	2.9	12	6	5e4	4.4	1	0.3	1	7.2	8	3e3	4.4	1.1	0.3	1.1	5.7	7	5e4	4.4	0.7	0.4	0.8	4.8	8	2e4
30	30	5	9.8	5	4.2	6.3	21.8	1	8e4	7.2	5.7	4	6.7	22.1	2	1e4	7.2	4.7	3.5	5.3	14	2	4e4	7.2	3.6	3.1	3.8	11.8	3	6e4
30	30	7	13.4	8.2	11.9	13.3	24.9	0	9e4	10.1	9.4	10.3	12.9	24.9	0	1e4	10.1	8.5	9.1	10.8	19	0	6e4	10.1	7.5	10.5	11.2	23.9	0	1e5
30	50	3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	3.1	9	1e4	0.2	-	-	-	-	10	1e3	0.2	-	-	-	-	10	6e2	0.2	-	-	-	-	10	2e2
30	50	5	4.1	3.8	6.1	9.1	29.5	1	7e4	3.8	3.6	5.4	8.3	29.5	2	1e4	3.8	2.4	2.3	4.1	18.5	5	2e4	3.8	1.5	0.5	1.6	4.6	4	8e4
30	50	7	5.9	5.7	9.1	11	21	0	8e4	5.7	5.7	6.4	8.4	21	0	1e4	5.7	5.7	7.2	9	21	0	6e4	5.7	4.7	7.3	8.3	20	0	1e5
50	10	3	16.2	2.7	1.1	3.2	13.5	3	1e4	3.7	1.9	0.6	1.9	10	6	1e3	4.4	1	0.8	1.2	12.2	9	1e3	4.8	1.2	0.8	1.4	8.6	6	6e3
50	10	5	19.3	5.7	2.4	7.5	10.5	0	2e4	5.5	2.6	0.6	2.7	6.6	4	2e3	6.3	2.5	1.1	3.1	12.8	3	9e3	6.8	3	1.2	3.7	12.2	2	2e4
50	10	7	22.5	7.1	3.7	9	24.2	1	1e4	8	4.8	2	5.2	13.3	3	3e3	8.6	5.2	2.4	5.9	13.5	3	8e3	8.6	4.5	2.3	5.2	14	3	1e4
50	20	3	4.1	2.4	6.5	8	25.2	2	1e4	2.8	2.3	4	5.5	25.2	3	7e2	2.8	2.4	2.3	4	13.9	2	4e3	3	1.6	1.3	2.3	6.6	2	2e4
50	20	5	9.4	8.2	16.1	16.5	26.4	0	1e4	8.2	8.2	16	16.4	26.4	0	1e3	8.2	8.2	15.1	15.6	26.4	0	8e3	8.2	8.2	15.3	15.7	26.4	0	1e4
50	20	7	13.8	12.1	20.8	21.1	30.8	0	1e4	12.1	12.1	20.6	20.9	30.8	0	9e2	12.1	12.1	20.7	21	30.8	0	8e3	12.1	12.1	21	21.3	30.8	0	1e4
70	10	3	16.3	5.8	7.7	9.9	21.2	1	1e3	7.3	6.1	7.8	10.3	19.7	1	1e2	7.5	6.4	7.8	10.5	19.7	1	6e2	7.5	6.4	7.1	10	19.3	1	8e2
70	10	5	18.7	13.2	16.6	17.5	28.1	0	1e3	13	12.6	16.3	16.6	25.5	0	1e2	13.1	12.5	16.5	16.6	26	0	6e2	13.1	12.7	16.6	17	28.1	0	1e3
70	10	7	21	14.9	22.8	23.6	33.2	0	1e3	15.1	14.2	22.7	22.8	33.2	0	1e2	15.2	14.7	22.8	23.3	33.2	0	7e2	15.2	14.6	22.8	23.3	33.2	0	1e3
70	20	3	1.1	1.1	9.3	9.7	28.4	0	2e3	1.1	1.1	9.2	9.6	28.4	0	3	1.1	1.1	4.3	4.6	28.4	0	1e3	1.1	0.9	8.3	8.5	28.4	2	2e3
70	20	5	4.7	4.6	7.7	7.8	24.3	0	3e3	4.6	4.6	7.7	7.8	24.3	0	3	4.6	4.6	7.7	7.8	24.3	0	2e3	4.6	4.6	7.7	7.8	24.3	0	5e3
70	20	7	8.1	8	12.1	12.1	24.8	0	2e3	8	8	12.1	12.1	24.8	0	3	8	8	12.1	12.1	24.8	0	1e3	8	8	12.1	12.1	24.8	0	4e3

$F_z^{flow}$

$F_z^{km}$

$F_z^{mtz}$ </

Table 3

BMSTP-H results for  $F_p^{(-)}$  and  $F_z^{(-)}$  formulations: % of times BMSTP-H algorithm returned the lower bound of the B&B search

$ V $	$d$	$F_p^{flow}$	$F_p^{km}$	$F_p^{mtz}$	$F_p^{km2}$	$F_z^{flow}$	$F_z^{km}$	$F_z^{mtz}$	$F_z^{km2}$
20	30	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.3
20	50	23.3	23.3	23.3	23.3	26.7	26.7	26.7	26.7
30	30	30.0	30.0	33.3	26.7	66.7	50.0	50.0	33.3
30	50	33.3	30.0	33.3	30.0	73.3	60.0	50.0	43.3
50	10	30.0	20.0	16.7	16.7	46.7	16.7	20.0	30.0
50	20	43.3	16.7	20.0	16.7	80.0	70.0	70.0	70.0
70	10	60.0	50.0	50.0	43.3	93.3	86.7	90.0	90.0
70	20	63.3	66.7	43.3	50.0	100.0	96.7	76.7	83.3
total		39.6	33.8	31.7	30.0	65.0	55.0	52.1	51.3

Table 4

BMSTP results comparison for the best formulations with time limits of 0.5h and 5h.

$ V $	$d$	$ C $	$ gRL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL^*$	$\# nod $	$ gRL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL^*$	$\# nod $	$ gRL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL^*$	$\# nod $	$ gRL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL\ gUL^*$	$\# nod $																					
20	30	7	<b>9.2</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	1e4	<b>9.2</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	1e5	<b>9.2</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	1e4	<b>9.2</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	1e5	
20	50	3	<b>3.4</b>	0.8	-	0.8	7.8	9	1e5	<b>3.4</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	2e4	<b>3.4</b>	0.3	-	0.3	3.4	9	<b>3e5</b>	<b>3.4</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	2e4	
20	50	5	<b>7.1</b>	5.2	-	5.2	11.4	1	4e5	<b>7.1</b>	0.2	0.4	0.6	4.2	6	2e5	<b>7.1</b>	4.2	-	4.2	10.2	3	<b>3e6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	-	-	-	<b>0.2</b>	<b>9</b>	3e6	
30	30	3	<b>4.4</b>	2.8	<b>0.3</b>	2.8	13.3	6	2e4	<b>4.4</b>	0.7	0.4	0.8	4.8	8	2e4	<b>4.4</b>	2.2	<b>0.3</b>	2.2	9.7	6	<b>2e5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>9</b>	1e5	
30	50	3	<b>0.2</b>	0.2	-	0.2	1.6	9	4e3	<b>0.2</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	2e2	<b>0.2</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	<b>1e4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	2e2
30	50	5	<b>3.8</b>	3.8	<b>0.6</b>	3.8	7.4	1	5e4	<b>3.8</b>	1.5	0.7	1.6	4.6	4	8e4	<b>3.8</b>	3.5	<b>0.6</b>	3.5	7.4	2	5e5	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	0.7	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7</b>	7e5	
30	50	7	<b>5.7</b>	5.7	4.2	6.2	18.5	0	6e4	<b>5.7</b>	4.7	7.3	8.3	20	0	1e5	<b>5.7</b>	5.7	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>16.1</b>	0	6e5	<b>5.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	6.2	6.2	16.8	0	1e6	
50	10	5	<b>6.8</b>	2.3	1.1	2.4	7.3	5	1e4	<b>6.8</b>	3	1.7	3.7	12.2	2	2e4	<b>6.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	1	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	7	6e4	<b>6.8</b>	2.1	1.6	2.7	12.2	6	1e5	
50	10	7	<b>8.6</b>	3.4	<b>2.2</b>	3.4	10.5	5	9e3	<b>8.6</b>	4.5	2.9	5.2	14	3	1e4	<b>8.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>9</b>	6	8e4	<b>8.6</b>	3.2	2.3	3.3	11	4	1e5	
50	20	3	<b>3</b>	2.7	<b>0.8</b>	2.7	6.6	0	8e3	<b>3</b>	1.6	1.5	2.3	6.6	2	2e4	<b>3</b>	2.5	<b>0.8</b>	2.5	6.6	2	6e4	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	1	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4</b>	2e5	
50	20	7	<b>12.1</b>	12.1	14.3	14.7	26.6	0	9e3	<b>12.1</b>	12.1	21	21.3	30.8	0	1e4	<b>12.1</b>	12.1	<b>11.9</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>	0	9e4	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	18.1	18.1	30.3	0	9e4	
70	10	3	<b>7.5</b>	6.7	7.9	9.1	19.5	1	1e3	<b>7.5</b>	6.4	9.1	10	19.3	1	8e2	<b>7.5</b>	6.6	<b>6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	19.3	1	1e4	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	7.1	<b>7.1</b>	<b>18.8</b>	2	7e3	
70	10	7	<b>15.2</b>	14.6	20.1	20.4	32.7	0	1e3	<b>15.2</b>	14.6	23	23.3	33.2	0	1e3	<b>15.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>26.9</b>	0	1e4	<b>15.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>	21.2	21.3	33.2	0	1e4	
70	20	3	<b>1.1</b>	1.1	0.9	1.3	3.8	0	5e2	<b>1.1</b>	0.9	8.3	8.5	28.4	2	2e3	<b>1.1</b>	1	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	1	5e3	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	6.3	6.3	28.4	4	3e4	
70	20	5	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	5.2	5.3	13.8	0	6e2	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	7.7	7.8	24.3	0	5e3	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	0	7e3	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	6.5	6.5	24.3	0	5e4	

 $F_p^{km2}$  0.5h $F_z^{km2}$  0.5h $F_p^{km2}$  5h $F_z^{km2}$  5h

Table 5

BMSTP results comparison for the best formulations.

$ V $	$d$	$ C $	$objL\ objU\ gUL$	$t$	$objL\ objU\ gUL$	$t$	$objL\ objU\ gUL$	$t$						
20	30	7	<b>541</b>	597	9.38	-	<b>541</b>	<b>541</b>	-	<b>101.6</b>	<b>541</b>	556	2.7	-
20	50	3	<b>190</b>	<b>190</b>	-	<b>0</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>190</b>	-	<b>0</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>190</b>	-	<b>0</b>
20	50	5	395	467	15.42	-	<b>407</b>	467	12.85	-	<b>407</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>1.69</b>	-
30	30	3	<b>413</b>	425	2.82	-	<b>413</b>	<b>413</b>	-	947.1	<b>413</b>	<b>413</b>	-	<b>150.1</b>
30	50	3	<b>1830</b>	1862	1.72	-	<b>1830</b>	<b>1830</b>	-	19.7	<b>1830</b>	<b>1830</b>	-	<b>9.9</b>
30	50	5	1254	<b>1320</b>	5	-	<b>1320</b>	<b>1320</b>	-	<b>31.3</b>	1188	<b>1320</b>	10	-
30	50	7	497	524	5.15	-	<b>506</b>	524	3.44	-	<b>506</b>	<b>506</b>	-	<b>1511.9</b>
50	10	5	<b>1470</b>	1588	7.43	-	<b>1470</b>	1528.6	3.83	-	<b>1470</b>	<b>1470</b>	-	<b>3686.1</b>
50	10	7	732	828	11.59	-	<b>734</b>	<b>769.2</b>	<b>4.58</b>	-	<b>734</b>	778.6	5.73	-
50	20	3	<b>2239</b>	2301	2.69	-	<b>2239</b>	2301	2.69	-	<b>2239</b>	<b>2239</b>	-	<b>2068.3</b>
50	20	7	582	<b>760</b>	23.42	-	<b>683</b>	799	<b>14.52</b>	-	641	795	19.37	-
70	10	3	4599	4694	2.02	-	<b>4641</b>	<b>4641</b>	-	6409.9	<b>4641</b>	<b>4641</b>	-	<b>5878.6</b>
70	10	7	1604	<b>2002</b>	19.88	-	<b>1787</b>	2023	<b>11.67</b>	-	1646	2023	18.64	-
70	20	3	759	<b>763</b>	0.52	-	<b>763</b>	<b>763</b>	-	<b>245.6</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>763</b>	-	388.6
70	20	5	934	<b>1173</b>	20.38	-	<b>1086</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>7.42</b>	-	1019	<b>1173</b>	13.13	-
70	30	5	1167	<b>1227</b>	4.89	-	<b>1227</b>	<b>1227</b>	-	<b>500.7</b>	1083	<b>1227</b>	11.74	-

 $F_{mor}$  5h $F_p^{km2}$  5h $F_z^{km2}$  5h