

*To compare the effectiveness of the heuristic rules for selecting the set to be added to cover a point having no covering set, a randomly generated problem with 25 points and 100 sets was generated.*



This Hypercard stack was prepared by:  
Dennis L. Bricker,  
Dept. of Industrial Engineering,  
University of Iowa,  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
e-mail: dennis-bricker@uiowa.edu

*50 iterations of subgradient optimization were performed, and after each iteration, the heuristic algorithm was applied 3 times:*

- the least-cost set covering the point was added
- the reduced costs of the 4 least-cost sets were computed, and the set having the smallest reduced cost was added.
- like the second rule, but with zero used as the multiplier of any point already covered.

Best solution found
---------------------

Random SCP (seed= 29155467)

Total cost = 44

Greatest Lower Bound = 42.81

Gap = 2.694 %

# of points with  
multiple covers: 11

# sets in the solution: 8

Set	Cost	# pts covered
1	3	6
2	3	3
3	4	8
4	4	3
6	5	6
7	5	3
18	9	3
22	11	5

Pt	# times covered	multiplier
2	2	0.0000
6	2	0.0000
7	2	0.0000
14	2	0.0000
15	2	0.0000
17	2	0.2410
19	2	0.0000
20	3	0.0000
23	2	0.0000
24	2	0.8565
25	2	0.0000

©D.L.Bricker, U. of IA, 1998

### *Analysis of the Results*

LUB= 44

# sets in best cover: 8

(sets are 1 2 3 4 6 7 18 22)

# sets eliminated by penalty: 87

<i>Heuristic set selection rule for add</i>	Option	Frequency UB=LUB	Mean error	1st found LUB
<i>original cost</i>	(1)	14	3.50	13
<i>reduced cost</i>	(4,1)	28	2.12	6
<i>recomputed reduced cost</i>	(4,2)	24	1.90	13

Frequency of <

0	6	1
20	0	8
13	8	0

Frequency of =

0	24	36
24	0	34
36	34	0

*i.e., the second rule outperformed  
the first in 20 instances, and the  
third in 8 instances!*

©D.L.Bricker, U. of IA, 1998