

Both families of constraints (1.8) and (1.12) have a cardinality growing exponentially with n . This means that it is practically impossible to solve directly the linear programming relaxation of problem (1.3)–(1.9). A possible way to partially overcome this drawback is to consider only a limited subset of these constraints and to add the remaining ones only if needed, by using appropriate *separation procedures*. The considered constraints can be relaxed in a Lagrangian fashion, as done by Fisher [18] and Miller [39] (see Chapter 2), or they can be explicitly included in the linear programming relaxation, as done in branch-and-cut approaches (see Chapter 3). Alternatively, a family of constraints equivalent to (1.8) and (1.12) and having a polynomial cardinality may be obtained by considering the subtour elimination constraints proposed for the TSP by Miller, Tucker, and Zemlin in [38] and extending them to ACVRP (see, e.g., Christofides, Mingozzi, and Toth [7] and Desrochers and Laporte [12]):

$$(1.13) \quad u_i - u_j + Cx_{ij} \leq C - d_j \quad \forall i, j \in V \setminus \{0\}, i \neq j, \\ \text{such that } d_i + d_j \leq C,$$

$$(1.14) \quad d_i \leq u_i \leq C \quad \forall i \in V \setminus \{0\},$$

where u_i , $i \in V \setminus \{0\}$, is an additional continuous variable representing the load of the vehicle after visiting customer i . It is easy to see that constraints (1.13)–(1.14) impose both the capacity and the connectivity requirements of ACVRP. Indeed, when $x_{ij} = 0$, constraint (1.13) is not binding since $u_i \leq C$ and $u_j \geq d_j$, whereas when $x_{ij} = 1$, they impose that $u_j \geq u_i + d_j$. (Note that isolated subtours are eliminated as well.)