

# Décomposition par paire pour l'optimisation combinatoire dans les modèles graphiques

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# Overview

- 1 Frame of study
- 2 Pairwise decomposition : Test and building
- 3 Experimental results

# Formalism

## Graphical Model (GM)

A GM is a triplet  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{F})$ .

- $\mathcal{X} = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  a set of variables,
- $\mathcal{D} = \{D_{X_1}, \dots, D_{X_n}\}$  a set of finite domains
- $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, \dots, f_e\}$ , a set of nonnegative functions, each defined over a subset of variables  $\mathbf{S}_i \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  (i.e. the scope) and  $\top$  forbidden value

### Probabilistic GM

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{X}) \propto \prod_{i=1}^e f_i(\mathbf{S}_i)$$

$$(\top = 0)$$

Non probabilistic GM : WCSP  
[Schiex, Fargier, Verfaillie, IJCAI95]

$$\text{score}(\mathcal{X}) = \sum_{i=1}^e f_i(\mathbf{S}_i)$$

$$(\top = +\infty)$$

# Optimization task

Probabilistic

The *Most Probable Explanation* (MPE)

problem :

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{X}} \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{X})$$

Non probabilistic : WCSP

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mathcal{X}} \operatorname{score}(\mathcal{X})$$

Equivalence between models

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{X}} \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{X}) = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathcal{X}} \sum_{i=1}^e -\log(f_i(\mathbf{S}_i))$$

Exact methods

- Inference (Variable Elimination : VE, Cluster Tree Elimination)
- Depth First Branch and Bound (DFBB)
- Hybrids
  - ▶ DFBB & local reasoning ( bounded VE + soft local consistency)

# Essential Operators for WCSP

Projection :  $f[\mathbf{S}']$

$\mathbf{S}' \subseteq \mathbf{S}$  and  $\forall t' \in D_{\mathbf{S}'}, f[\mathbf{S}'](t') = \min_{t \in D_{\mathbf{S}} \text{ s.t. } t[\mathbf{S}']=t'} f(t)$

X	Y	f
0	0	5
0	1	7
1	0	6
1	1	4

X	f[X]
0	5
1	4

Join :  $f = f_1 + f_2$

$f(t) = f_1(t[\mathbf{S}_1]) + f_2(t[\mathbf{S}_2]), \forall t \in D_{\mathbf{S}_1 \cup \mathbf{S}_2}$

Subtraction :  $f = f_1 - f_2$

$\mathbf{S}_2 \subseteq \mathbf{S}_1$  and  $f(t) = f_1(t) - f_2(t[\mathbf{S}_2]), \forall t \in D_{\mathbf{S}_1}$  with  $\top - \top = \top$

$i$ -bounded Variable Elimination (VE( $i$ )) :

elimination of variable  $X$  if  $\text{degree}(X) \leq i$

creation of new function :  $(\sum_{f_j: X \in \mathbf{s}_j} f_j) [\cup_{f_j: X \in \mathbf{s}_j} \mathbf{s}_j \setminus X]$

soft local consistency :

- Soft Directed Arc Consistency

$$f_1(X) \leftarrow f_1(X) + (f(X, Y) + f_2(Y))[X]$$

$$f(X, Y) \leftarrow (f(X, Y) + f_2(Y)) - (f(X, Y) + f_2(Y))[X]$$

$$f_2(Y) \leftarrow 0$$

# Pairwise decomposition

## Pairwise decomposition

A *pairwise decomposition* of a cost function  $f(\mathbf{S})$  with respect to two variables  $X, Y \in \mathbf{S}$  ( $X \neq Y$ ) is defined by two cost functions  $f_1(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{Y\})$  and  $f_2(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{X\})$  such that :

$$f(\mathbf{S}) = f_1(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{Y\}) + f_2(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{X\})$$

X	Y	f		X	f <sub>1</sub>			Y	f <sub>2</sub>
0	0	5		0	2		+	0	3
0	1	7	=	1	1			1	5
1	0	4							
1	1	6							

**Remark** Equivalence between pairwise decomposition and pairwise independence in a Gibbs distribution parameterized by  $f$

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid \mathbf{Z})_f \iff f(X, \mathbf{Z}, Y) = f_1(X, \mathbf{Z}) + f_2(\mathbf{Z}, Y)$$

## Pairwise decomposition of $f(\mathbf{S})$

Choose  $X, Y \in \mathbf{S}$ ,  $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{S} \setminus \{X, Y\}$

- 1 Is  $f(X, \mathbf{Z}, Y)$  pairwise decomposable w.r.t  $X, Y$ ?
- 2 How can we build  $f_1(X, \mathbf{Z})$  and  $f_2(\mathbf{Z}, Y)$ ?

## Testing Pairwise Decomposability (1/3)

$$f(X, \mathbf{Z}, Y) = f_1(X, \mathbf{Z}) + f_2(\mathbf{Z}, Y)$$

$$u, v \in D_X, \mathbf{z} \in D_{\mathbf{Z}}, k, l \in D_Y$$

$$\begin{cases} f_1(u, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_1(v, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_1(u, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, k) \\ f_1(v, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, k) \end{cases}$$

## Testing Pairwise Decomposability (1/3)

$$f(X, \mathbf{Z}, Y) = f_1(X, \mathbf{Z}) + f_2(\mathbf{Z}, Y)$$

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$$\begin{cases} f_1(u, \mathbf{z}) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, l) - f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_1(v, \mathbf{z}) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, l) - f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, k) - f(u, \mathbf{z}, l) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, k) - f(v, \mathbf{z}, l) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \end{cases}$$

## Testing Pairwise Decomposability (1/3)

$$f(X, \mathbf{Z}, Y) = f_1(X, \mathbf{Z}) + f_2(\mathbf{Z}, Y)$$

$$u, v \in D_X, \mathbf{z} \in D_{\mathbf{Z}}, k, l \in D_Y$$

$$\begin{cases} f_1(u, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_1(v, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_1(u, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, k) \\ f_1(v, \mathbf{z}) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, k) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} f_1(u, \mathbf{z}) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, l) - f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_1(v, \mathbf{z}) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, l) - f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(u, \mathbf{z}, k) - f(u, \mathbf{z}, l) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \\ f_2(\mathbf{z}, k) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, k) - f(v, \mathbf{z}, l) + f_2(\mathbf{z}, l) \end{cases}$$

$$f(u, \mathbf{z}, k) - f(u, \mathbf{z}, l) = f(v, \mathbf{z}, k) - f(v, \mathbf{z}, l)$$

## Testing Pairwise Decomposability (2/3)

A cost function  $f(X, Z, Y)$  is pairwise decomposable w.r.t.  $X, Y$  iff  $\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in D_Y (k < l) \forall u, v \in D_X :$

$$f(u, z, k) - f(u, z, l) = f(v, z, k) - f(v, z, l)$$

A	B	C	f
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	4
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	3
1	0	1	2
1	1	0	7
1	1	1	4

f pairwise decompose w.r.t A,C?

$$f(000) - f(001) \stackrel{?}{=} f(100) - f(101)$$

$$1 - 0 \stackrel{?}{=} 3 - 2$$

$$f(010) - f(011) \stackrel{?}{=} f(110) - f(111)$$

$$4 - 1 \stackrel{?}{=} 7 - 4$$

## Testing Pairwise Decomposability (2/3)

A cost function  $f(X, Z, Y)$  is pairwise decomposable w.r.t.  $X, Y$  iff  $\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in D_Y (k < l) \forall u, v \in D_X :$

$$f(u, z, k) - f(u, z, l) = f(v, z, k) - f(v, z, l)$$

A	B	C	f
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	4
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	3
1	0	1	2
1	1	0	7
1	1	1	4

f pairwise decompose w.r.t A,C?

$$\begin{array}{rclcl}
 f(000) - f(001) & \stackrel{?}{=} & f(100) - f(101) & & \\
 1 - 0 & \stackrel{?}{=} & 3 - 2 & & \checkmark \\
 \\ 
 f(010) - f(011) & \stackrel{?}{=} & f(110) - f(111) & & \\
 4 - 1 & \stackrel{?}{=} & 7 - 4 & & \checkmark
 \end{array}$$

## Testing Pairwise Decomposability (2/3)

A cost function  $f(X, Z, Y)$  is pairwise decomposable w.r.t.  $X, Y$  iff  $\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in D_Y (k < l) \forall u, v \in D_X :$

$$f(u, z, k) - f(u, z, l) = f(v, z, k) - f(v, z, l)$$

A	B	C	f
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	4
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	3
1	0	1	2
1	1	0	7
1	1	1	4

A	B	f <sub>1</sub>
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	2
1	1	4

+

B	C	f <sub>2</sub>
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	3
1	1	0

# Pairwise Decomposability : dealing with determinism (3/3)

A cost function  $f(X, Z, Y)$  is pairwise decomposable w.r.t.  $X, Y$  iff  $\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in D_Y (k < l) \forall u, v \in D_X :$

$$f(u, z, k) \boxminus f(u, z, l) \stackrel{\circ}{=} f(v, z, k) \boxminus f(v, z, l)$$

A	B	C	f
0	0	0	5
0	0	1	T
0	1	0	6
0	1	1	5
0	2	0	T
0	2	1	T
1	0	0	4
1	0	1	T
1	1	0	2
1	1	1	1
1	2	0	3
1	2	1	1

pairwise decomposable w.r.t A, C ?

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(000) \boxminus f(001) &\stackrel{\circ}{=} f(100) \boxminus f(101) \\
 5 \boxminus T &\stackrel{\circ}{=} 4 \boxminus T \\
 f(010) - f(011) &\stackrel{\circ}{=} f(110) - f(111) \\
 6 \boxminus 5 &\stackrel{\circ}{=} 2 \boxminus 1 \\
 f(020) - f(021) &\stackrel{\circ}{=} f(120) - f(121) \\
 T \boxminus T &\stackrel{\circ}{=} 3 \boxminus 1
 \end{aligned}$$

# Pairwise Decomposability : dealing with determinism (3/3)

A cost function  $f(X, Z, Y)$  is pairwise decomposable w.r.t.  $X, Y$  iff  $\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in D_Y (k < l) \forall u, v \in D_X$  :

$$f(u, z, k) \boxminus f(u, z, l) \stackrel{\circ}{=} f(v, z, k) \boxminus f(v, z, l)$$

A	B	C	f
0	0	0	5
0	0	1	T
0	1	0	6
0	1	1	5
0	2	0	T
0	2	1	T
1	0	0	4
1	0	1	T
1	1	0	2
1	1	1	1
1	2	0	3
1	2	1	1

pairwise decomposable w.r.t A, C ?

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(000) \boxminus f(001) &\stackrel{\circ}{=} f(100) \boxminus f(101) \\
 5 \boxminus T &\stackrel{\circ}{=} 4 \boxminus T && \checkmark \\
 f(010) - f(011) &\stackrel{\circ}{=} f(110) - f(111) \\
 6 \boxminus 5 &\stackrel{\circ}{=} 2 \boxminus 1 && \checkmark \\
 f(020) - f(021) &\stackrel{\circ}{=} f(120) - f(121) \\
 T \boxminus T &\stackrel{\circ}{=} 3 \boxminus 1 && \checkmark
 \end{aligned}$$

# Pairwise Decomposability : dealing with determinism (3/3)

A cost function  $f(X, Z, Y)$  is pairwise decomposable w.r.t.  $X, Y$  iff  $\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in D_Y (k < l) \forall u, v \in D_X :$

$$f(u, z, k) \boxplus f(u, z, l) \doteq f(v, z, k) \boxplus f(v, z, l)$$

A	B	C	f
0	0	0	5
0	0	1	T
0	1	0	6
0	1	1	5
0	2	0	T
0	2	1	T
1	0	0	4
1	0	1	T
1	1	0	2
1	1	1	1
1	2	0	3
1	2	1	1

A	B	f <sub>1</sub>
0	0	5
0	1	5
0	2	T
1	0	4
1	1	1
1	2	1

B	C	f <sub>2</sub>
0	0	0
0	1	T
1	0	1
1	1	0
2	0	2
2	1	0

## How to build $f_1$ and $f_2$ ?

- $f_1(X, Z) = f[X, Z]$
- $f_2(Z, Y) = (f - f_1)[Z, Y]$

$A$	$B$	$C$	$f$
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	4
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	3
1	0	1	2
1	1	0	7
1	1	1	4

=

$A$	$B$	$f_1$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	2
1	1	4

$B$	$C$	$f_2$
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	3
1	1	0

## How to build $f_1$ and $f_2$ ?

- $f_1(X, Z) = f[X, Z]$
- $f_2(Z, Y) = (f - f_1)[Z, Y]$

$A$	$B$	$C$	$f$
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	3
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	3
1	1	1	0

=

$A$	$B$	$f_1$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	2
1	1	4

$B$	$C$	$f_2$
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	3
1	1	0

## How to build $f_1$ and $f_2$ ?

- $f_1(X, Z) = f[X, Z]$
- $f_2(Z, Y) = (f - f_1)[Z, Y]$

$A$	$B$	$C$	$f$
0	0	0	5
0	0	1	T
0	1	0	6
0	1	1	5
0	2	0	T
0	2	1	T
1	0	0	4
1	0	1	T
1	1	0	2
1	1	1	1
1	2	0	3
1	2	1	1

=

$A$	$B$	$f_1$
0	0	5
0	1	5
0	2	T
1	0	4
1	1	1
1	2	1

+

$B$	$C$	$f_2$
0	0	0
0	1	T
1	0	1
1	1	0
2	0	2
2	1	0

## New local WCSP property

### Pairwise decomposed (dec)

A WCSP is *pairwise decomposed* if all its cost functions are non pairwise decomposable.

### Complexities

$e$  number of functions,  $r$  max arity,  $d$  max domain size

Time  $O(er^3d^{r+1})$

Space  $O(ed^r)$ , linear in problem size

## Pairwise decomposable

- ▷ pairwise independent functions

$$(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z)_f$$

$$f(X, Z, Y) = f_1(X, Z) + f_2(Z, Y)$$

- ▷ linear functions

$$f(X, Y, Z) = f_1(X) + f_2(Y) + f_3(Z)$$

- ▷ constraint trees [Meiri et al, 90]

$$f(X, Y, Z, T) = f_1(X, Y) + f_2(Y, Z) + f_3(Z, T)$$

(function allequal)

## Non pairwise decomposable

- ▷ decomposition with extra variables

(functions soft regular, noisy-or)

- ▷  $f(X, Y, Z) =$

$$f_1(X, Y) + f_2(Y, Z) + f_3(Z, X)$$

(function soft alldiff)

# What can we do with a non decomposable function? ( $r \geq 3$ )

X	Y	Z	f
1	1	1	5
1	1	2	3
1	2	1	5
1	2	2	T
2	1	1	4
2	1	2	2
2	2	1	1
2	2	2	1

pairwise decomposable w.r.t X,Z?

$$f(000) \boxplus f(001) \stackrel{\circ}{=} f(100) \boxplus f(101)$$

$$5 \boxplus T \quad \neq \quad 4 \boxplus 2$$

pairwise decomposable w.r.t X,Y?

$$f(000) \boxplus f(010) \stackrel{\circ}{=} f(100) \boxplus f(110)$$

$$5 \boxplus 5 \quad \neq \quad 4 \boxplus 1$$

pairwise decomposable w.r.t Z,Y?

$$f(000) \boxplus f(010) \stackrel{\circ}{=} f(001) \boxplus f(011)$$

$$5 \boxplus 5 \quad \neq \quad 3 \boxplus 4$$

What can we do with a non decomposable function? ( $r \geq 3$ )

Project&Subtract on all pairs of variables (ps)

$\forall X, Y f_i(X, Y) = f[X, Y]$  and  $f \leftarrow f - f_i$

$X$	$Y$	$Z$	$f$
1	1	1	5
1	1	2	3
1	2	1	5
1	2	2	7
2	1	1	4
2	1	2	2
2	2	1	1
2	2	2	1

What can we do with a non decomposable function? ( $r \geq 3$ )

Project&Subtract on all pairs of variables (ps)

$\forall X, Y f_i(X, Y) = f[X, Y]$  and  $f \leftarrow f - f_i$

$$f(X, Y, Z) = b_1(X, Y) + b_2(Y, Z) + f_3(X, Y, Z)$$

X	Y	Z	f
1	1	1	5
1	1	2	3
1	2	1	5
1	2	2	⊥
2	1	1	4
2	1	2	2
2	2	1	1
2	2	2	1

$$=$$

X	Y	$b_1$
1	1	3
1	2	5
2	1	2
2	2	1

$$+$$

Y	Z	$b_2$
1	1	2
1	2	0
2	1	0
2	2	0

$$+$$

X	Y	Z	$f_3$
1	1	1	0
1	1	2	0
1	2	1	0
1	2	2	⊥
2	1	1	0
2	1	2	0
2	2	1	0
2	2	2	0

# Experimental settings

## Preprocessing (in toulbar2 solver)

- *i*-bounded variable elimination (VE(*i*))
- local consistency
- pairwise decomposition (dec)
- project&subtract (ps)

## Search

- DFBB+VE(*i*) (toulbar2 solver)
  - ▶ local consistency
  - ▶ 2-bounded variable elimination
- AOBB (aolibWCSP solver)
  - ▶ AND/OR graph with static mini buckets (SMB(*j*))  
[Marinescu and Dechter, AAAI 2006]

# Number of solved instances in 1 hour

	$i=2$	$i=3$	$i=4$	$i=5$	$i=6$	$i=7$
<b>linkage (22)</b>						
DFBB-VE( $i$ )	14	14	15	13	12	10
DFBB-VE( $i$ )+dec	16	<b>19</b>	17	13	14	13
DFBB-VE( $i$ )+ps	<b>17</b>	16	17	18	16	16
DFBB-VE( $i$ )+dec+ps	16	18	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>grids (32)</b>						
DFBB-VE( $i$ )	28	28	25	24	17	18
DFBB-VE( $i$ )+dec	29	29	29	28	28	31
DFBB-VE( $i$ )+ps	28	28	28	23	25	24
DFBB-VE( $i$ )+dec+ps	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>

Problem	DFBB-VE( <i>i</i> )		DFBB-VE( <i>i</i> ) +dec+ps		AOBB-C+SMB( <i>j</i> )+VE( <i>i</i> ) +dec+ps			
	time (s)	<i>i</i>	time (s)	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>i</i>	time (s)	time (s)
<b>Linkage</b>								
ped7	4.04	2	1.18	4	20	4	-	131.40
ped9	-		3.36	6	20	6	2225.40	94.20
ped18	149.71	4	3.19	5	20	5	30.96	16.00
ped19	-		-		20	6	-	-
ped20	3.46	4	0.39	6	16	6	771.90	66.31
ped23	0.09	4	0.05	3	12	3	5.1	1.50
ped25	1207.97	4	0.65	6	20	6	47.72	7.31
ped30	543.20	2	5.44	5	20	5	20.42	3.34
ped34	1.13	2	0.36	5	20	5	-	25.00
ped37	0.21	5	0.11	4	10	4	264.92	138.07
ped39	16.68	4	0.24	5	18	5	14.88	2.57
ped41	-		302.05	4	20	4	-	1651.23
ped42	1.94	4	0.34	6	16	6	-	154.96
ped44	-		505.46	5	20	5	-	83.74
ped50	0.90	4	0.18	4	12	4	316.92	521.92
<b>Grids</b>								
90-24-1	0.07	3	0.04	3	18	3	2323.01	0.01
90-26-1	0.29	3	0.07	3	16	3	2821.66	0.18
90-30-1	5.50	2	0.26	4	18	4	-	1.60
90-34-1	328.42	2	0.48	5	20	5	-	0.15
90-38-1	-		1.96	6	20	6	-	0.25

# Conclusion and perspectives

## Conclusion

- Determinism favours pairwise decomposition
- Synergy between Variable Elimination, Pairwise Decomposition and Project&Subtract

## Perspectives

- Pairwise decomposition during search
- Approximated pairwise decomposition
- Use of pairwise decomposition for probabilistic inference

# Approximated pairwise decomposition

## Approximated pairwise decomposition

A *pairwise  $\varepsilon$ -decomposition* of a cost function  $f(\mathbf{S})$  with respect to two variables  $X, Y \in \mathbf{S}$  ( $X \neq Y$ ) is defined by two cost functions  $f_1(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{Y\})$  and  $f_2(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{X\})$  and  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$  such that :

$$\frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon} f(\mathbf{S}) \leq f_1(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{Y\}) + f_2(\mathbf{S} \setminus \{X\}) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) f(\mathbf{S})$$

**Remark** Exist a pairwise decomposable cost function between  $\frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon} f(\mathbf{S})$  and  $(1 + \varepsilon) f(\mathbf{S})$ .

An example with  $\varepsilon = 0.1$

$X$	$Y$	$f$
0	0	503
0	1	869
1	0	420
1	1	827

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 f(0,0) - f(0,1) & \stackrel{?}{=} & f(1,0) - f(1,1) \\
 503 - 869 & \neq & 420 - 827 \\
 -366 & & -407
 \end{array}$$

$X$	$f_1(X)$
0	370
1	282

$Y$	$f_2(Y)$
0	138
1	470

$X$	$Y$	$\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon} f \leq f_1 + f_2 \leq (1+\varepsilon) f$
0	0	457 $\leq$ 508 $\leq$ 553
0	1	790 $\leq$ 840 $\leq$ 955
1	0	381 $\leq$ 420 $\leq$ 462
1	1	751 $\leq$ 752 $\leq$ 909

## Property

If a cost function  $f(X, Z, Y)$  is pairwise  $\varepsilon$ -decomposable w.r.t  $X, Y$  then  
 $\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in Y, \forall u, v \in D_X :$

$$\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon} f(u, z, k) \boxplus (1+\varepsilon) f(u, z, l) \leq (1+\varepsilon) f(u, z, k) \boxplus \frac{1}{1+\varepsilon} f(u, z, l)$$

In other words :

$\forall z \in D_Z, \forall k, l \in Y :$

$$\max_{u \in D_X} \frac{1}{1+\varepsilon} f(u, z, k) \boxplus (1+\varepsilon) f(u, z, l) \leq \min_{u \in D_X} (1+\varepsilon) f(u, z, k) \boxplus \frac{1}{1+\varepsilon} f(u, z, l)$$