# Development of New Hueristics for the Euclidean Traveling Salesman Problem

By Thurman W. Tunnell and Lenwood Heath

TR 89-30

# DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HEURISTICS FOR THE EUCLIDEAN TRAVELING SALESMAN PROBLEM

by

Thurman W. Tunnell

Project submitted to the Faculty of the
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science

in

Computer Science in Applications

APPROVED:

Dr. Lenwood Heath

Dr. Donald Allison

Dr. John Roach

September 1989

Blacksburg, Virginia

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# Thurman W. Tunnell Lenwood Heath, Computer Science (ABSTRACT)

Many heuristics have been developed to approximate optimal tours for the Euclidean Traveling Salesman Problem (ETSP). While much progress has been made, there are few quick heuristics which consistently produce tours within 4% of the optimal solution.

This project examines a few of the well known heuristics and introduces two improvements, *MaxDiff* and *Checks*. Most algorithms, during tour construction, add a city to the subtour because the city best satisfies some criterion. MaxDiff, applied to an algorithm, ranks a city according to its effect (based on the algorithm's criterion) if it is not added to the subtour.

The checks evaluate the subtour during tour construction. After each city is added to the subtour, the subtour is examined to detect inefficiencies in the subtour. If a possible improvement is detected, then a change is made in the tour. Although checks require some time, the goal is to improve the tour with as little cost as possible.

The tests were performed on five 100 city problems and five 500 city problems. The checks consistently decreased the tour length with a 20% to 90% increase in time. MaxDiff was particularly successful in the 500 city problems; all three heuristics to which MaxDiff was applied resulted in a decrease in tour length and a decrease in time for all five problems.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank Dr. Donald Allison and Dr. John Roach for serving on my committee and for their support and helpful suggestions. I owe a special thanks to my advisor, Dr. Lenwood Heath, whose advice has been invaluable throughout the development of this project.

I would also like to thank Jannae Tunnell and Ed Wilson for their comments on my first drafts, and for letting me use their computer during all hours of the night. I thank my mother, Lane Tunnell, for her emotional and financial support. I also thank Matt Zukoski and many other computer science students at Virginia Tech who have given me invaluable Macintosh programming advice.

During the early stages of this project, the encouragement, patience, and love of Christiane Jung inspired many of my ideas, including MaxDiff and Checks. It is to her I dedicate this project.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP) is a well known and well studied problem in the area of combinatorial optimization [Lawler, Lenstra, Rinnooy Kan, and Shmoys, 1985]. The description of the problem is easily stated:

A traveling salesman wants to visit n cities, each city once, and then return home to his starting city. The problem is to find the shortest route. The distance between each pair of cities is given.

This research concentrates on a special case of the TSP, the Euclidean Traveling Salesman Problem (ETSP) where the distance between two cities is calculated from the locations (e.g. the x and y coordinates) of the cities. Thus, the ETSP is also restricted to two dimensional Euclidean space, whereas the TSP is not.

Although the ETSP is very simple to state, finding an optimal tour is difficult. The ETSP is a known NP-hard problem [Garey and Johnson, 1979]; therefore, it has no efficient algorithm unless P = NP. Presently, the only way to be assured that the shortest route has been found is to try all possible tours, which is very expensive. For example, when n is only 20, a 100 mip (million instructions per second) machine would literally take centuries to find all possible tours.

Since it is usually impractical to find the best tour, many heuristics have been developed to approximate the optimal tour lengths. The methods have been quite diverse, each with some successes and failures. In this project, a few of these methods are explored, and new heuristics are developed by modifying some of these existing algorithms.

The distinction between tour construction procedures and tour improvement procedures should be noted. Tour construction heuristics build a tour from a set of points. Tour improvement procedures modify an already constructed tour to obtain, hopefully, a better tour. Thus, one method builds a tour and the other improves it. In this paper, only tour construction heuristics are discussed.

This project proposes two ideas, each applicable to many existing tour construction heuristics. The first idea is MaxDiff, a heuristic that can be used in conjunction with various algorithms including the tour construction heuristics Cheapest Insertion, Convex Hull (CH) Cheapest Insertion, and Stewart's Convex Hull Insertion procedure. MaxDiff is not a complete heuristic by itself but is rather a concept which we can apply to a variety of existing TSP algorithms.

The second idea is the use of **Checks**. Checks are motivated by common problems with the tours constructed by convex hull procedures. There are six checks presented here, where each one attempts to detect a particular problem and resolve it. Checks are made during tour construction after each city is added to the subtour. None of the checks used in this project increase the overall time complexity of the algorithms to which they are applied.

Extensive testing was performed on a suite of five 100 city problems and a suite of five 500 city problems. The results of using MaxDiff and the checks have been encouraging. One of the more successful algorithms used in ETSP tour construction is the convex hull insertion procedure developed by W.R. Stewart [Golden and Stewart, 1985]. Our research has produced many heuristics which perform better than Stewart's algorithm. Although many of these heuristics require more computing time, none of them on the average require double the time of Stewart's algorithm.

MaxDiff performed especially well on the 500 city problems. <u>MaxDiff</u> produced shorter tours, and in less time, than the original algorithms to which MaxDiff was applied. In the 100 city problems, the success of MaxDiff is less certain, but some good results were obtained.

Every check added to an existing heuristic resulted in either the same tour length or in a shorter tour. The checks were particularly successful when used in combination with MaxDiff, or with other checks. The most successful checks were also the most expensive.

This research justifies further research in checks and MaxDiff. If an approximate tour is needed for a large set of cities using Stewart's algorithm or the CH (convex hull) cheapest insertion algorithm, then we can definitely recommend that MaxDiff be applied since a shorter tour and less time is very likely. If distance is more important than time, then checks should also be used. Recommendations of particular heuristics are discussed later.

The existing heuristics used in this research are each separately defined and discussed in section 2.0. Following, MaxDiff and its

applications are discussed in section 3.0. In section 4.0, each check is defined separately, with examples demonstrating their usefulness. The test results are reported and analyzed in section 5.0, and conclusions about MaxDiff and checks are then drawn in section 6.0. The best tours found for each test case in this study are listed in the appendix.

## 2.0 EXISTING HEURISTICS FOR THE ETSP

Many heuristics have been developed for the ETSP with a variety of trade offs between the quality of a tour and time efficiency. In this paper, a few fast heuristics that produce good tours are considered. The nearest neighbor and nearest insertion algorithms are included because they are very fast and certain conclusions can be drawn about the optimal tour length from the length of the tours obtained from these algorithms. The cheapest insertion algorithm is used in combination with MaxDiff. The CH cheapest insertion procedure and Stewart's algorithm are used with MaxDiff and the checks. Stewart's algorithm is also included because it is one of the most successful quick heuristics [Golden, Bodin, Doyle & Stewart, 1980]. In addition the simulated annealing heuristic is used. Although it is much slower than the other heuristics in this paper, it usually produces very good tours. Simulated annealing is especially useful in analyzing the results of the 500 city problems, because the optimal solutions are not known, and because it provides a good comparison measure.

These algorithms (other than simulated annealing) have basic characteristics common to all of them. Tour construction begins with an initial subtour, which could be, for example, the convex hull (explained below), an edge, or just a single city. Two lists are maintained during tour

construction; one list T contains all cities which compose the subtour, and the second list NT contains all the cities not yet placed in the tour (Noga, 1984). Based on some heuristic, one city in NT is chosen to be inserted into T; this step continues until all cities are in T. In other words, cities in T are added to the subtour, one at a time, until all cities in T have been added and the tour is thus complete. Each of the heuristics begins with only a set of coordinates representing the location of the cities.

## 2.1 Terms and Definitions

Before describing each heuristic, certain terms need to be defined. Every algorithm has an insertion criterion and a selection criterion which determine where and what should be added next to the tour. The selection criterion decides which city will be added next to the tour. The insertion criterion determines where the city will be added. The city which satisfies the selection criterion the best is also sometimes said to fit in the best. In some of the heuristics (e.g. cheapest insertion, nearest neighbor), these criteria are the same; but many of the algorithms (e.g. nearest insertion, Stewart's, MaxDiff) have two separate criteria which determine where and what should be added.

Two common measures used in this paper are dist and cost.

dist(a,b) = the Euclidean distance between city a and b.

cost(a,b,c) = dist(a,b) + dist(b,c) - dist(a,c).

Cost is a very intuitive measure for the ETSP. Assuming (a,c) is an edge in the subtour and b is in NT, then cost(a,b,c) is the distance lost in the subtour if b is added to T between edge (a,c).

Most of the algorithms in this study add a city k to the subtour by inserting k between two adjacent cities in T, i and j. These letters i, k, and j are used consistently in this paper in this context. That is, k represents the last city added to the subtour between edge (i,j).

Two functions commonly used are A and B. Assuming c is a city in T, then A(c) is the city in T after c, and B(c) is the city before c.

### 2.1.1 The Convex Hull

Most of the algorithms used in combination with MaxDiff and checks use the convex hull as the initial subtour. The convex hull is the shortest perimeter simple polygon which contains a set of points in a plane [Noga, 1985]. The convex hull can be easily visualized by stretching a rubber band around all points on a graph; the points which the rubber band touches are the vertices of the convex hull.

There are various advantages of using the convex hull as the initial subtour. According to one survey of TSP construction procedures, heuristics which do not employ the convex hull as the initial tour are "hard pressed" to find a TSP tour which is much better than 5% to 7% above the optimal solution [Golden et al, 1980]. One explanation for this is that it has been proven that for any set of cities, the original order of the cities which compose the convex hull remains the same for the optimal tour [Eilon, Watson, and Christofides, 1971]. For this paper, the method used to find the

convex hull is the Graham algorithm [1972]. Two ETSP heuristics that start with the convex hull are used in this project as a basis for applying our new techniques. These two heuristics are Stewart's [1977] algorithm and the Convex Hull Cheapest Insertion Procedure [Golden and Stewart, 1985].

## 2.2 Nearest Neighbor

The nearest neighbor algorithm:

choose an arbitrary city as the initial subtour;

while NT is not empty do begin

{selection and insertion step}

find the city closest to the last city added and add this city to the subtour;

end;

connect the last city to the first city;

The nearest neighbor algorithm [Bellmore and Nemhauser, 1968], [Golden, et al, 1979] is one of the simplest and quickest heuristics for the ETSP. It is also one of the least effective methods at finding a short tour. The nearest neighbor algorithm is of some value because it has been shown that its worst case behavior is:

 $\frac{length\ of\ nearest\ neighbor\ tour}{length\ of\ optimal\ tour}\ <=\ 1/2\ [lg(n)]\ +\ 1/2$ 

where n is the number of cities [Golden, et al, 1979].

There are other heuristics that have significantly better performance guarantees. The minimum spanning tree algorithm  $(O(n^2))$  produces a

tour no more than twice the length of an optimal tour [Johnson and Papadimitriou, 1985]; and Christofides' algorithm  $(O(n^3))$  produces a tour length that is always less than 3/2 times the length of the optimal solution [Johnson and Papadimitriou, 1985].

The relative success of the nearest neighbor heuristic is often dependent on the city chosen as the starting node. In our tests, the nearest neighbor algorithm was run three times, starting with a random initial city each time. The best result (shortest tour) of the three runs is the solution reported.

The nearest neighbor procedure is computationally one of the quickest ETSP algorithms. After each city k is added to the subtour, all cities not yet in the subtour must be evaluated to see which city is the closest to k. Since there are n-1 cities added to the tour (after the initial random city is selected) and there are (n-|subtour|) scans through the cities not yet in the tour after each city is added, the number of computations is proportional to the sum of (n-|subtour|) as |subtour| goes from 1 to n-1. Thus, the nearest neighbor algorithm requires  $O(n^2)$  computations.

### 2.3 Nearest Insertion

The nearest insertion algorithm:

choose an arbitrary city p as the initial subtour; find the city q closest to p and form the subtour p-q-p; while NT is not empty do begin {selection step} find the city k in NT closest to any city in the subtour; {insertion step} insert city k in between adjacent cities (i,j) such that cost(i,k,j) is minimal; end;

This procedure is a little more intricate than the nearest neighbor heuristic but has the same time complexity. After each city k is added to the subtour, each city p not in the subtour must be checked to see if k is closer to p than the city previously closest to p (stored in memory). This check is only one comparison, and thus each check is done in constant time. While each NT city p is checked, it can also be determined if p is the closest city to any subtour city. Thus, to find the NT city which is closest to any T city, only one pass through the NT cities is needed. To insert a city, one pass through T is needed. There is a total of n cities in the two lists NT and T, and n-1 cities must be inserted, resulting in a time complexity of O(n<sup>2</sup>).

Nearest insertion guarantees a tour length which is less than or equal to twice the length of the optimal tour [Johnson and Papadimitriou,1985].

## 2.4 Cheapest Insertion

The cheapest insertion algorithm:

choose an arbitrary city p as the initial subtour; find the city q closest to p and form the subtour p-q-p; while NT is not empty do begin {selection step and insertion step} Minimize cost(i,k,j) for all adjacent cities (i,j) in T and k in NT; Insert city k between i and j; end;

The usual programming steps of this procedure are to find the next city k to be inserted, and then update the NT cities. Of these two steps, the updating is the more costly. Updating is needed to determine which T edge each NT city fits in between the best. If p is in NT and its minimum edge was the (i,j) which k was just inserted between, then all edges in T must be checked to find a new minimum edge for p. In the worst possible case, all cities in NT would have (i,j) as their minimum edge, leading to O(n<sup>3</sup>) [Noga, 1984]. In most cases though, p's minimum edge is not (i,j), and therefore only the new edges (i,k) and (k,j) must be evaluated to update the minimum edge for p. Golden et. al. (1979) state the average time complexity is O(n<sup>2</sup>lgn).

## 2.5 Convex Hull (CH) Cheapest Insertion

The CH cheapest insertion algorithm is the same as the cheapest insertion procedure with the exception that the convex hull is the initial tour. This heuristic is especially significant in this paper because MaxDiff and many of the checks were conceived of with the CH cheapest insertion algorithm in mind.

The CH cheapest insertion algorithm:

T := the convex hull;
while NT is not empty do begin
{insertion and selection step}
Minimize cost(i,k,j) for all adjacent cities (i,j) in T and k in NT;
Insert city k in between i and j;
end;

The computational complexity of this heuristic is identical to that of the cheapest insertion algorithm. For this research, the convex hull was calculated by the Graham algorithm [Graham, 1972] which has a worst case time complexity of O(nlgn) [Noga, 1984]. If most of the cities are on the convex hull, then the complexity is reduced; but in the average case, the complexity of CH cheapest insertion is  $O(n^2lgn)$ .

## 2.6 Stewart's Algorithm

Stewart's algorithm was originally called the Convex hull insertion procedure [Golden and Stewart, 1985], but because this name describes many of the existing heuristics for the ETSP, this paper refers to this algorithm simply as Stewart's algorithm. This heuristic is one of the most successful quick algorithms. In one study [Golden, et al, 1980] of various quick algorithms, Stewart's algorithm, on the average, had the shortest tours.

#### Stewart's algorithm:

```
T := the convex hull

while NT is not empty do begin

for each city k in NT do begin {insertion step}

Find (i,j) in T that minimizes cost(i,k,j);

k.ratio := [dist(i,k) + dist(k,j)] / dist(i,j);

end;

select the k* in NT which minimizes k.ratio;

Insert the selected city k* in between i and j;

end; {while}
```

This procedure is computationally the same as CH cheapest insertion with the exception that Stewart's algorithm must also calculate a ratio for each city. This doesn't effect the overall time complexity; the number of computations is  $O(n^2 lgn)$  [Golden, et al, 1980].

## 2.7 Simulated Annealing

We use the simulated annealing heuristic only to find short tours to compare to our results. For more information and implementation details, see Kirkpatrick, Gelatt, and Vecchi [1984], Skiscim and Golden [1983], and Cerny [1985].

Simulated annealing is analogous to the statistical mechanics process called annealing where a low energy state of a compound can be reached by heating the compound and then slowly lowering the temperature. The lowest energy state is analogous to the optimal solution in the TSP. Simulated annealing allows increases in the tour length with the hope that the increase will avoid a local minimum [Golden and Stewart, 1985].

Simulated annealing is computationally very expensive because it examines many tours to find a good solution.

## 3.0 MAXDIFF

Most of the quick algorithms used in the Euclidean Traveling Salesman Problem are based on a "greedy" approach. That is, based on some local selection criterion, the next city added to the subtour is the city which best satisfies the criterion. For example, in Stewart's algorithm, the next city to be added is the city which minimizes (dist(i,k) + dist(k,j)) / dist(i,j).

MaxDiff can be thought of as a "non-greedy" approach. The basic idea of MaxDiff is to evaluate a city not yet placed in the subtour according to its effect if it is inserted or added at a place in the subtour other than the place which would best satisfy the selection criterion.

MaxDiff is not an algorithm for ETSP but is rather a method for modifying existing ETSP algorithms. Generalizing, though, the basic idea of MaxDiff is as follows:

Find the initial subtour; { e.g. the convex hull } While NT is not empty do begin

Find the two "best" places for city k in NT to be inserted in the subtour according to the algorithm's insertion criterion;

k.1 := best place;

k.2 := second best place; end:

 $k^* :=$ the city k in NT which **Max**imizes the **Diff**erence between k.1 and k.2 according to the selection criterion; Insert city k\* in the subtour according to the selection criterion:

#### Applying MaxDiff to Stewart's algorithm:

```
T := the convex hull
      while NT is not empty do begin
          For each city k in NT do begin
             {insertion step}
             find adjacent cities i1, j1 and adjacent cities i2,j2 in T such that
             cost(i1,k,j1) < cost(i2,k,j2) < cost(im,k,jm), where im,jm are all
             adjacent cities in T except i1, j1 and i2, j2;
             k.ratio1 := [dist(i1,k) + dist(k,j1)] / dist(i1,j1);
             k.ratio2 := [dist(i2,k) + dist(k,j2)] / dist(i2,j2);
             k.i1 := i1;
             k.j1 := j1;
          end:
          k* := the k which maximizes k.ratio2 - k.ratio1; {selection step}
          Insert k* in between k*.i1 and k*.j1;
      end: {while}
Applying MaxDiff to the CH Cheapest Insertion algorithm:
```

```
T := the convex hull
while NT is not empty do begin
   For each city k in NT do begin
       {insertion step}
      find adjacent cities i1, j1 and adjacent cities i2,j2 in T such that
      cost(i1,k,j1) < cost(i2,k,j2) < cost(im,k,jm), where im,jm are all
      adjacent cities in T except i1, j1 and i2, j2;
      k.cost1 := cost(i1,k,j1);
      k.cost2 := cost(i2,k,j2);
      k.i1 := i1;
      k.i1 := i1;
   k* := the k which maximizes k.cost2 - k.cost1; {selection step}
   Insert city k* in between k*.i1 and k*.j1;
end; {while}
```

To clarify how MaxDiff works, and why one would want to employ it, consider a simple example. Figure 3.1 illustrates part of a subtour. In this example, we assume that all cities and edges not shown are inconsequential. Figure 3.1(a) shows the initial state. If the cheapest insertion method or Stewart's algorithm is used, cities e and f will be inserted first, and in that order (Figure 3.1(b)). Finally, city g will be added

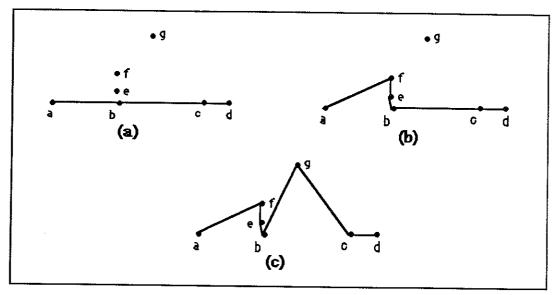


Figure 3.1. One problem with standard insertion heuristics.

(Figure 3.1(c)) between cities b and c according to the insertion criterion. As one can see, this is not the shortest tour possible.

If city g were inserted first, before e and f, then e and f would be inserted between g and b according to the insertion criterion, and a shorter tour would result. This is what MaxDiff does. Cities e and f fit in best between edge (a,b) and second best between edge (b,c). City g fits in best between edge (b,c) and edge (a,b), in that order. As can be seen, cities e and f fit in between b and c almost as well as they do in between a and b; but on the other hand, g fits in much better between b and c then it does between a and b. In other words, city g maximizes the difference between the two places which best satisfy the selection criterion for g. Thus, city g is inserted first (Figure 3.2(b)) and afterward cities e and f are inserted between b and g (Figure 3.2(c)).

MaxDiff is intuitively appealing. If a city k in NT can fit in between two distinct edges almost equally well, then there is little reason to add k now. Only when there is one edge with which k fits in well, should k be added to the subtour.

The basis of MaxDiff can possibly be seen more clearly from the stand point of the cities in NT. Imagine each city in NT competing with each other over which city will be added next to the subtour. Assume city p in NT fits in very well with edge1, and almost equally well with edge2 in the subtour. City q, on the other hand, fits in edge3 well, but fits in all other edges very poorly. It is the hypothesis of MaxDiff that q will have to be added eventually between edge3, and that if q is added now, then tour

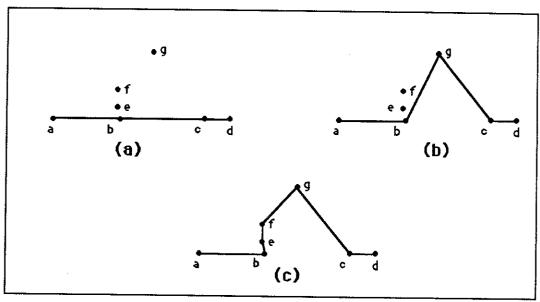


Figure 3.2. MaxDiff solution inserts city g first, which results in an optimal subtour.

construction is enhanced because the edges created by inserting q are used in the construction process.

In this project, MaxDiff is used only in combination with algorithms that determine the next city k to be added according to how well k fits in between two adjacent cities (an edge) in the tour. However, the concept of MaxDiff may be be used in conjunction with other algorithms.

As can be seen by comparing the above MaxDiff algorithms with the original algorithms, the time complexities remain the same. MaxDiff only adds a few computations; that is, instead of having a pointer for every city in NT to the best insertion locations, MaxDiff requires two pointers. The most costly part of MaxDiff is the updating of NT after every city k is added to T. When k is added between i and j, the chances are doubled that city p in NT is pointing to edge (i,j), thus increasing the update time. This issue was discussed previously in the description of the cheapest insertion algorithm.

#### 4.0 CHECKS

Checks are heuristics that determine whether small changes made in the tour reduce the present length of the tour. Checks are made during tour construction, as opposed to tour improvement heuristics that make improvements on a completed tour. Checks are made after each city, other than a city in the initial subtour, is added to the tour. Typically, the number of checks made is equal to the total number of cities minus the number of cities in the initial tour. An exception occurs with *check1* because cities can be removed from T (discussed below), increasing the number of checks.

Although checks obviously increase the computing time of the ETSP, none of the checks described in this paper actually increases the asymptotic time complexity of the algorithms with which they are used in this project. Below, the complexities of each check are described individually.

It should be noted that there are other checks which could easily be developed but are not covered by this project. The goal of this part of the project is to determine whether further research of checks might be promising.

#### 4.1 Check1

Check1 has the greatest time complexity of the checks but is also one of the more successful checks. After each city k is added between two cities i and j, check1 searches for a city p in the tour such that p fits in better between i and k or k and j than between A(p) and B(p).

#### The algorithm is:

After k is inserted in T between cities i and j do for each city p in T (besides i,k, and j) do if (cost(i,p,k) < cost(B(p), p, A(p))) or (cost(k,p,j) < cost(B(p), p, A(p))) then remove p from T.

The appeal of check1 is that cities in the tour can be removed (and reinserted later) if the city fits in better with a new edge than with its present position in the tour. For example, Figure 4.1 shows a situation when check1 would succeed. Figure 4.1(a) is the tour after city k is added to the tour. Check1 examines all cities in the tour; when city p is evaluated, the condition in the above algorithm succeeds. That is, cost(i,p,k) is less than cost(B(p),p,A(p)); and thus, p is removed, as seen in Figure 4.1(b).

The time complexity of all executions of check1 is  $O(n^2)$ , assuming no more than n total cities are removed. A question of termination arises here since a city is removed and must be added later. If a city p were removed from T every time a city k was added to T, then the program would terminate. Although no proof is given here, by observation, it appears that

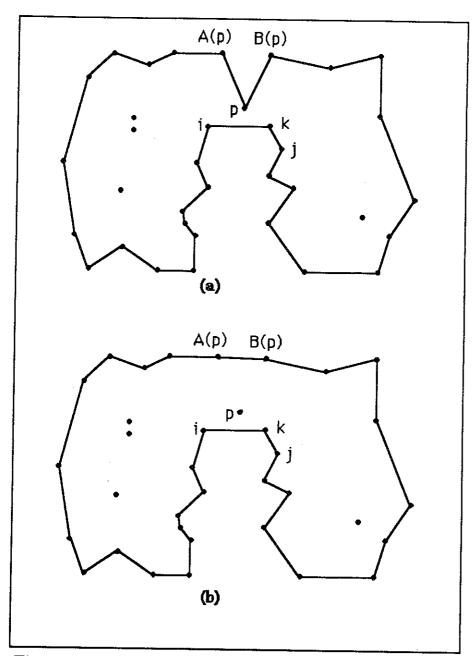


Figure 4.1. Check1 removes city p from subtour.

check1 rarely removes a city more than 5% of the time. Assuming this is true, the computing time of the algorithm (used with check1) is increased but the overall time complexity remains the same.

#### 4.2 Check2

In check1, efficiency suffers whenever a city is removed from the subtour. This means that for every successful check in check1, a city is added twice to the tour, which obviously increases the computing time of the tour construction. Check2 differs from check1 only in that, instead of removing a city from the subtour, the city is put back in the tour between either i and k or k and j. Figure 4.2 illustrates the previous example before (Figure 4.2(a)) and after (Figure 4.2(b)) check2.

The algorithm of check2:

```
After each k is inserted in the tour between cities i and j do
for each city p in the tour (besides i,k, and j) do
if (cost(i,p,k) < cost(B(p), p, A(p))) then begin
remove p from T;
insert p between i and k;
end
else if (cost(k,p,j) < cost(B(p), p, A(p))) then begin
remove p from T;
insert p between k and j;
end;
```

The time complexity of check2 is also  $O(n^2)$ . Check2 is a little more efficient than check1, because city p is repositioned in T, not added to NT.

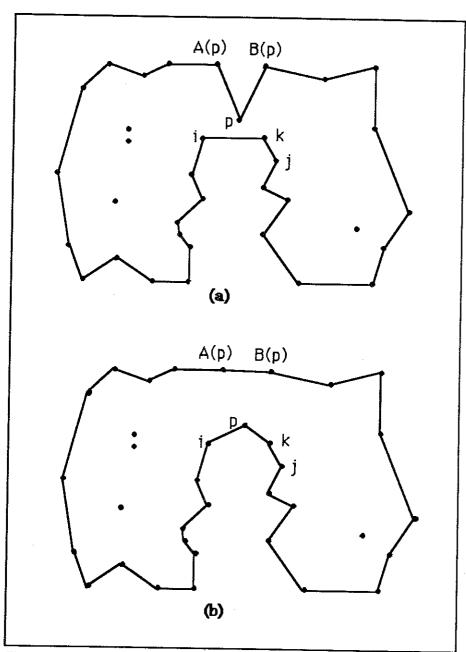


Figure 4.2. Check2 reinserts city p.

#### 4.3 Check3

Because of the nature of most convex hull algorithms (e.g. cheapest cost, Stewart's), certain problems repeatedly arise. One common problem results when, during tour construction, part of the tour forms an hourglass shape. Figure 4.3(b) is an example of this shape. Figure 4.3(a) and 4.3(b) shows a tour as it is being constructed, to illustrate how this problem arises. The purpose of check3 is to find this type of situation and correct it. The result of using check3 on the problem in Figure 4.3(b) is shown in 4.3(c), which can easily be seen to be shorter than 4.3(b).

There are various ways that check3 could be programmed. The algorithm for check3 used in this project is very simple, but can miss some hourglass problems as described above. Two terms used in this check are present cost and local. The present cost of i is defined by the cost of i between the two cities adjacent to i in the tour; that is, the present cost of i equals cost(A(i),i,B(i)). Local means that only a certain number of edges are checked. Letting k be the last city inserted (between i and j), the basic approach of check3 is to see if there is any edge (p,q) local to i,k,j, where cost(p,i,q) is less than the present cost of i or cost(p,j,q) is less than the present cost of j.

The reason for only checking local edges is to avoid checking all edges in the tour. For this project, 12 edges were checked, 6 on each side of i and j respectively. This restriction is one way in which check3 could miss

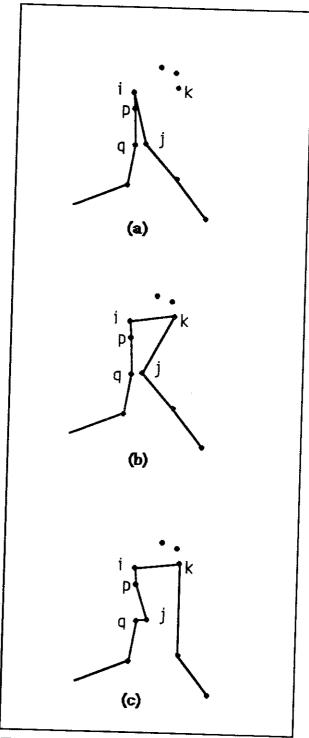


Figure 4.3. Check3 detects the hour glass shape in (b).

possible improvements. For example, in Figure 4.3, if there were seven cities between i and p, the edge (p,q) would have never been evaluated. In more detail, the algorithm is:

```
After each k is inserted in T between i and j do begin
    for each of the six edges(p,q) in T before i do
       if cost(p,j,q) < cost(k,j,A(j)) then begin
           p^* := p:
           q^* := q:
           found_j := true;
       end:
    if not found_j then
       for the \overrightarrow{six} edges(p,q) in the tour after j do
           if cost(p,i,q) < cost(B(i),i,k) then begin
              p^* := p;
              q^* := q:
              found_i := true;
           end:
end:
if found_i then begin
   remove j from between k and A(j);
   insert j between p* and q*;
end
else if found_i then begin
   remove i from between B(i) and k;
   insert i between p* and q*;
end:
```

The problem with check3 is with respect to the restriction of evaluating only 12 edges. This does not seem to be a major concern, because by a study of different sets of random cities, one can observe that looking at six edges on either side of i or j is adequate for most cases. As the sets of cities increase, it is likely that the number of edges checked locally should also increase; although, by observation, most possible improvements of the nature of check3 appear to be detectable at an early stage.

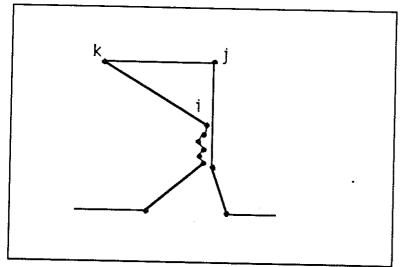


Figure 4.4. Check3 does not detect the improvement here because it only looks at one city at a time.

Another and more serious problem with check3 lies in the fact that only one city, (i.e. i or j) is examined to be repositioned in the tour. In the example in Figure 4.3, if there were an additional city very close to j, the algorithm above would not detect the obvious improvement. If the algorithm checked for two cities to be repositioned in addition to checking for just one city, the improvement would then be detected; but the problem still remains because there could be any number of cities very close to j (or i) which would all have to be repositioned in the tour for an improvement (see Figure 4.4).

Check3 does 12 checks after every city is added to the subtour. Therefore, the number of computations required is O(n).

#### 4.4 Check4

Check4 is a very simple and quick check. As stated earlier, certain tour construction inefficiencies occur because of the nature of most convex hull algorithms. One situation which is easily improved is illustrated in Figure 4.5(b). Check4 examines two cities in the tour, the city before i and the city after j. If improvement is possible, check4 will reposition either one or both of these cities. Figure 4.5 illustrates an example where city A(j) is repositioned for tour length improvement.

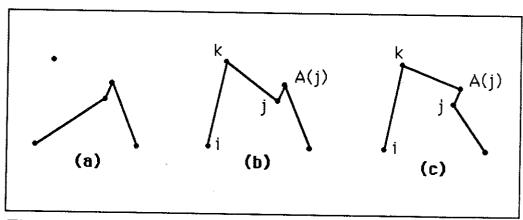


Figure 4.5. Check4 detects the problem in (b) and changes the subtour to (c).

The algorithm for check4:

After each k is inserted in T between i and j do begin if  $cost(i, B(i), k) < present\_cost(B(i))$  then place B(i) in T between i and k; if  $cost(k,A(j),j) < present\_cost(A(j))$  then place A(j) in T between k and j; end;

All cases similar to the example in Figure 4.5 are not detected by check4 for improvement. The weakness of check4 is analogous to the last problem mentioned for check3. That is, only one city (i.e. A(j) or B(i)) is evaluated to be repositioned in the tour. Thus, in Figure 4.5, if there were an additional city very close to A(j), the possible improvement would not be detected.

Check4 is computed in a constant amount of time and is called after every city is added to the subtour, resulting in a time complexity of O(n).

#### 4.5 Check5

Check5 detects the same possible improvements that check4 does and detects some of the situations that check4 misses as discussed above. The algorithm of check5 is more complicated and involved than the previously mentioned checks and, therefore, a longer explanation is needed.

Before discussing check5, the weakness of check4 discussed in the previous section should be further detailed so that the reason for check5 is clear. Figure 4.6(a) illustrates a situation where improvement is possible but is not detected by check4, because there is more than one city between i and B(c).

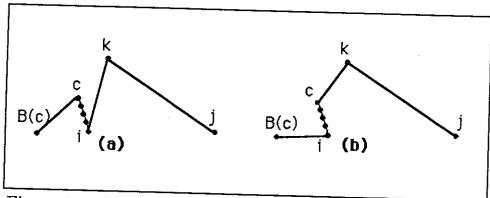


Figure 4.6. Check5 finds city c and improves the tour.

To improve on part of a tour such as in Figure 4.6(a), the city B(c) must be detected. One way to locate B(c) is to evaluate a certain number of cities on each side of i and j. There are two problems with this approach. One is that the number of cities to check is unsure; for example, in Figure 4.6, there could be a very large number of cities between i and c. The other problem is that excessive checking is done because, in most cases (i.e. after every city is added to the tour), no improvement is possible.

Check5 alleviates both of these problems but does not detect all cases similar to the example in Figure 4.6. This check is different from the previous checks in that some of the information used is stored information attained earlier as the tour was being built. When each city k is added to the tour between i and j, the cost(i,k,j) is stored in association with k (e.g. usually the cost is stored in a record representing city k). This cost to add k is referenced by k.oldcost.

## The algorithm of check5:

```
After each k is inserted in the tour between i and j do begin
     while cost(i,B(c),k) < c.oldcost do
         c := B(c);
    \textbf{if} \ (c <> i) \ and \ (dist(B(c),i) + dist(c,k) < dist(B(c),c) + dist(i,k) \ \textbf{then}
     begin
        insert all edges from city i to city c between B(c)and k such that
        the new order in the tour is ... B(c), i, ... c, k...
    end:
    { now check for the edges after j }
    while cost(j,A(c),k) < c.oldcost do
        c := A(c);
   \textbf{if} \ (c <> i) \ and \ (dist(k,c) + dist(j,A(c)) < dist(A(c),c) + dist(k,j) \ \textbf{then} \\
    begin
       insert all edges from city j to city c between A(c)and k such that
       the new order in the tour is \dots k, c, \dots j, A(c)...
    end:
end:
```

In the worst case, the 'while' loops terminate when a convex hull city is encountered since convex hull points have no 'oldcost'. This situation leads to a time complexity  $O(n^2)$ . In most cases, however, one can observe that the while statement will fail immediately. We speculate that check5 is usually done in constant time resulting in a time complexity of O(n).

### 4.6 Check6

Like check5, check6 is more complicated than the previous checks, and the algorithm also uses previously stored information. Check6 looks for situations for improvement similar to the nature of check1 and check2 with the exception that check6 looks at many cities instead of only one city at a time to be moved in the tour. For example, in Figure 4.7(a), the obvious improvement is to insert all cities between and including p and q in between i and k.

The difficulty is in determining the existence and location of cities p and q. One approach is to try every combination of adjacent cities in T. This, of course, would result in a very costly algorithm. Check6, however, discovers most possible improvements of this nature in a much quicker time by employing an edge list which lists all edges that once existed but no longer do. For example, when k is inserted between cities i and j, the now missing edge (i,j) is added to the edge list. Thus, when the last city is added to the tour, the number of edges in the edge list will equal [total number of cities - number of cities in the initial tour].

This edge list is used to find p and q. It is hypothesized that in most cases, if there is a group of cities between cities c1 and c2 that fit in between two other adjacent cities in the tour better, then (c1,c2) was once an edge; and therefore edge (c1,c2) would be in the edge list. In the example in Figure 4.7, using CH cheapest cost or Stewart's algorithm, it is easily seen that c1 and c2 must have formed an edge earlier during tour construction. This hypothesis is not proven here, but is only supported by the observation of many examples.

The edge list contains specific information for each edge: the two cities which make the edge (e.g. c1,c2), the cost of the edge (explained below in the algorithm), and a pointer to the next edge in the list.

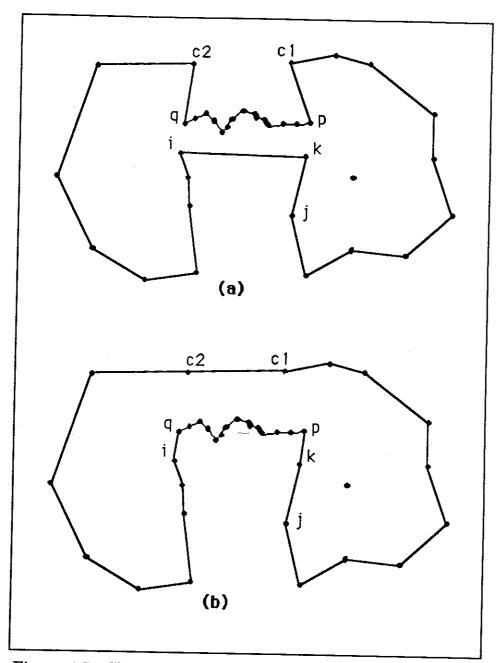


Figure 4.7. Check6 detects this improvement by employing an edge list, in which (c1,c2) belongs.

In check6, we are looking for improvement only when i, k, j are not in the sequence c1, p, ..., q, c2. Otherwise, check6 can find a p, q (as described above) and make a change in the tour which does not improve the tour length. The function NotInSameTourPart in the algorithm below checks to see if i, k, j are in the above sequence.

The algorithm for check6:

```
After each k is inserted in the subtour between i and j do begin
      for each edge (c1,c2) in the edge list do begin
           p := A(c1):
           q := B(c2):
           edge.cost := dist(c1,p) + dist(c2,q) -
                     dist(c1,c2):
           {check for improvement between edge (i,j) }
           distance := dist(i,q) + dist(k,p) - dist(i,k);
           if distance < edge.cost then begin
                if NotInSameTourPart then
                     if this is the best improvement found so far then
                          save edge;
           end
           else begin (now check for improvement between edge (k,j))
                distance := dist(k,q) + dist(j,p) - dist(k,j);
                if distance < edge.cost then begin
                     if NotInSameTourPart then
                         if this is the best improvement found so far
                              then save edge;
               end; (if)
          end; [else begin]
     end; (for each edge (c1,c2)...)
end; (After each k ...)
if an improvement was found then begin
      reposition cities p to q in between i and k [or k and j];
      remove saved edge from edge list;
      insert edge (i,k) [or edge (k,j)] into the edge list;
end:
add edge (i,j) to the edge list;
```

To search through the edge list after every city is added to the subtour requires  $O(n^2)$  computations.

# 5.0 RESULTS and ANALYSIS

All heuristics (except simulated annealing) were coded in Turbo Pascal and tested on the Macintosh SE/30. Five 100 city problems and five 500 city problems were the test data. The 100 city problems, reported as problems 24 to 28, were first presented by Krolak, Felts, and Marble [1971]. Optimal tours for these problems were proven by Crowder & Padberg [1980]. (There is a discrepancy for problem 25 concerning the optimal solution. The simulated annealing heuristic found a tour which is slightly shorter than the optimal tour reported by Crowder and Padberg.) This set of test problems has been the test data for numerous articles [Golden et al, 1980; Golden and Stewart, 1985; Norback & Love, 1977].

The 500 city problems were created especially for this project. A scale of 0 to 4000 for the x-axis and 0 to 2000 for the y-axis was used in keeping with the boundary of the 100 city problems. The five 500 city problems are reported as large1 - large5. The random number generator used was the RandomX function in Macintosh's Turbo Pascal; the algorithm for RandomX is:

 $NewX = (75 * OldX) \mod (2^{31} - 1)$ ,

which is, according to a recent article, a good random number generator [Park & Miller, 1988].

The five principal algorithms used were nearest neighbor, nearest insertion, cheapest insertion, CH cheapest insertion, and Stewart's algorithm. Nearest neighbor and nearest insertion, both very quick algorithms, were used as a basis for comparison. Cheapest insertion is easily converted to a MaxDiff algorithm, but because of its nature, does not fit the style of most of the checks. For this reason, cheapest insertion was only combined with MaxDiff. All three of these algorithms reported the best of 3 runs, each run with a randomly generated starting point. The two convex hull algorithms, CH cheapest insertion and Stewart's algorithm, were used in conjunction with MaxDiff and all of the checks.

Certain combinations of the checks were also tried. The combinations reported were chosen by some pre-testing and according to which combinations appeared intuitively promising.

When checks are combined, certain programming problems arise. For example, assume a combination of checks 3, 5, and 6 are used. If check3 is successful and makes an improvement in the tour, then it has also consequently changed the ordering of i,k,j (where k is the last city inserted between tour edge (i,j)). Therefore, check5 and check6 can no longer look at both edges (i,k) and (k,j) because at least one of these edges no longer exists. In order to simplify the program, if one check is successful, then no more checks are attempted for that particular i, k, j.

The results are shown in Tables 5.1 - 5.4. Table 5.1 shows the solutions to the 100 city problems. The algorithms, which at least once, resulted in the best tour (the best tours are highlighted) of the tested problems were: Stewart's algorithm with check1 and with checks 3 and 6 combined; CH

Table 5.1 Solutions to the 100 city problems.

Algorithm	prob 24	prob 25	prob 26	prob 27	n-ab 00
Optimal	21282			21294	prob 28
			20143	21294	22068
Simulated Annealing	21285	22139	20770	21294	00400
			20770	21294	22163
Nearest Neighbor	26800	25997	24154	27820	20000
Nearest Insertion	25405				
Cheapest Insertion	24419	25522			26722
+ MaxDiff	21527	22650		21751	25361
				21/31	22290
CH Cheapest Insertion	23050	23247	21632	21712	00070
+ Check1	21877	23147		21646	22870
+ Check2	22124	23147			22827
+ Check3	22286	22794		21664	22827
+ Check4	22389	23114	21667	21712	22611
+ Check5	22131	23114	21526	21657	22787
+ Check6	21634	23037	21526		22837
+ Checks 1 & 3	21836	22716	21128	21598	22827
+ Checks 3 & 6	21580	22716	21176	21609	22768
+ Checks 3, 5, & 6	21528	22716	21132	21598	22768
- MaxDiff	21579	23049	20922	22395	22768
- MaxDiff + Check1	21579	22437	20922	21898	22680
- MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3	21579	22437	21021	21886	22550
			21021	21886	22493
Stewart's Algorithm	22055	22700	21275	21794	22830
Check1	21481	22676	21016	21729	22809
Check2	21727	22676	21100	21729	22809
Check3	21848	22526	21023	21794	22528
Check4	21957	22689	21224	21794	22780
Check5	21589	22689	21014	21739	22830
Check6	21520	22576	21271	21729	22780
Checks 1 & 3	21481	22513	20923	21728	22528
Checks 3 & 6	21605	22395	20923	21728	
Checks 3, 5, & 6	21605	22395	20923	21739	22519 22519
MaxDiff	22657	23178	21233	22205	23556
			41200	44400	200001
MaxDiff + Check1 MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3	21798	23098	20871	21919	22845

Table 5.2 Solutions as a percentage over the optimal solution.

	F	omege c	ACT OTTE	ohmma	r sormito	n.
Algorithm	prob24	prob25	prob26	prob27	prob28	974
Optimal	21282	22141	20749	21294	22068	avg
					22000	
Simulated Annealing	0.01%	-0.01%	0.10%	0.00%	0.43%	0.110/
				0.0070	0.4378	0.11%
Nearest Neighbor	25.93%	17.42%	16.41%	30.65%	21.94%	20 470/
Nearest Insertion	19.37%	21.38%	24.78%	17 44%	21 000/	20 040/
Cheapest Insertion	14.74%	15.27%	21.75%	17 30%	14.92%	10.01%
+ MaxDiff	1.15%	2.30%	0.34%	2.15%	1 010	1.39%
			<u> </u>	2.13/6	1.0176	1.39%
CH Cheapest Insertion	8.31%	5.00%	4 26%	1 06%	3.63%	4.000
+ Check1	2.80%			1.65%	3.44%	
+ Check2	3.96%	4.54%				
+ Check3	4.72%	2.95%				
+ Check4	5.20%	4.39%	4.42%			
+ Check5	3.99%	4.39%	3.74%		3.26%	-
+ Check6	1.65%	4.05%	3.74%	1.65%		3.46%
+ Checks 1 & 3	2.60%	2.60%	1.83%	1.43%	3.44%	2.91%
+ Checks 3 & 6	1.40%	2.60%	2.06%	1.48%	3.17%	2.33%
+ Checks 3, 5, & 6	1.16%	2.60%	1.85%		3.17%	2.14%
+ MaxDiff		4.10%	0.83%	1.43% 5.17%	3.17%	2.04%
+ MaxDiff + Check1	1.40%	1.34%		2.84%	2.77%	2.85%
+ MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3	1.40%	1.34%	1.31%	2.78%		1.72%
		7.0 770	1.01.78	2.70%	1.93%	1.75%
Stewart's Algorithm	3.63%	2.52%	2 5/10/	2.35%	0.450	
+ Check1	0.94%	2.42%	1 20%		3.45%	
+ Check2	2.09%	2.42%	1 609/	2.04%	3.36%	2.01%
+ Check3	2.66%		1.32%	2.04%	3.36%	2.32%
+ Check4		2.48%	2.29%	2.35%	2.08%	2.03%
+ Check5	1.44%		1.28%	2.35%	3.23%	2.70%
+ Check6	1.12%		2.52%	2.09%	3.45%	2.15%
+ Checks 1 & 3	0.94%	1.68%		2.04%	3.23%	2.17%
+ Checks 3 & 6	1.52%		0.84%	2.04%	2.08%	1.52%
+ Checks 3, 5, & 6	1.52%			2.04%		1.52%
→ MaxDiff	6.46%		0.84%	2.09%	2.04%	1.53%
+ MaxDiff + Check1	2.42%	4.32%	2.33%	4.28%	6.74%	4.90%
MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3	1.97%				3.52%	2.76%
	1.3/70	4.75%	0.59%	3.83%	1.19%	2.46%

cheapest insertion with the combination check1 and check3 and the combination check3, check5, and check6; and Cheapest insertion with MaxDiff. The only ETSP heuristic to produce the best tour twice was MaxDiff applied to cheapest insertion. With the exception of simulated annealing, there was no one heuristic that performed exceptionally well for all five problems.

Table 5.2 gives the result of each heuristic for problems 24-28 as a percentage over the optimal. Cheapest Insertion with MaxDiff performed the best with an average of 1.39% over the optimal solutions; and Stewart's algorithm with checks 1 and 3 and checks 3 and 6, performed almost equally well with 1.52% over the optimal. Even though MaxDiff applied to cheapest insertion resulted in the shortest tours for the 100 city problems, these results are not guaranteed since for every starting point, a different tour could develop. Thus to guarantee the best tour produced by cheapest insertion plus MaxDiff, a problem must be executed n times, each time with a unique starting point.

Table 5.3 and 5.4 show the results of all five 500 city problems. Simulated annealing produced the best tours and its results were used as an approximation of the optimal solution. Although most of the ETSP heuristics using the convex hull as the initial tour produced tours within 3-7% above the optimal (best known tour length), none of the heuristics performed as well as they did with the 100 city problems. The methods tested which performed the best were Stewart's algorithm with MaxDiff and check1, and CH cheapest insertion with MaxDiff, check1, and check3. Stewart's algorithm with MaxDiff plus check1 had the best average

Table 5.3 Solutions to the 500 city problems.

Algorithm	large1	large2	large3	large4	large5
Best Known - S. Annealing	49253	47992	46412	48003	48080
				+0003	40080
Nearest Neighbor	61023	54897	58466	58741	57894
Nearest Insertion	59895			58620	58440
Cheapest insertion	56462				56898
+ MaxDiff	51681	50315	48868	49650	49335
CH Ob				,,,,,,,,,,	49333
CH Cheapest Insertion	55110	53185	52976	53934	54229
+ Check1	53717	52403	50751	51880	52863
+ Check2	53786	52720	51151	51878	53100
+ Check3	53144	51092	49967	50065	51426
+ Check4	54184	52665	51339	52298	53492
+ Check5	54070	52323	51094	52225	53204
+ Check6	53648	52392	51015	51843	52097
+ Checks 1 & 3	52356	51043	50050	49998	50413
+ Checks 3 & 6	52225	51411	50006	49715	51024
+ Checks 3, 5, & 6	52225	51411	50007	49747	51024
+ MaxDiff	51829	49569	48802	49693	50825
+ MaxDiff + Check1	51343	49382	48627	48839	50809
+ MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3	51194	49259	48582	48768	50389
21					30003
Stewart's Algorithm	53674	51712	49549	51208	51719
+ Check1	52063	49867	48366	50234	49830
+ Check2	52585	50184	48781	50337	50220
+ Check3	51951	50299	48794	50106	50188
Check4	52466	50894	49044	50767	50638
Check5	52676	50607	48852	50709	50576
Check6	52154	49502	48202	50140	49571
Checks 1 & 3	51547	49801	48358	49363	49697
Checks 3 & 6	51751	49408	47957	49719	50535
Checks 3, 5, & 6	51665	49352	47820	49368	50535
MaxDiff	52793	50920	49509	50335	49972
MaxDiff + Check1	50806	49264	48537	49498	49091
MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3	50843	49527	48628	49775	49701

Table 5.4 Solutions as a percentage over the best known tour.

Algorithm						
Reet Knows C 4	large1	large2	large3	large4	large5	ava
Best Known - S. Annealing	49253	47992	46412	48003	48080	
Negreet Notethan	1	1		į .		
Nearest Neighbor Nearest Insertion	23.90%	14.39%	25.97%	22.37%	20.41%	21 41%
Cheapest Insertion	141.01/0	4.30%	124.38%	122 120/	21 550/	00 0=0
+ MaxDiff	7.04/0	10.9/%	19.86%	18.01%	18.34%	17.96%
T MICKOTT	4.93%	4.84%	5.29%	3.43%	2.61%	4.22%
CH Cheapest Insertion					-	
+ Check1	11.89%	10.82%	14.14%	12.36%	12.79%	12.40%
+ Check2	3.00%	9.19%	9.35%	8 08%	9.95%	9.13%
+ Check3	9.20%	9.85%	10.21%		10.44%	9.56%
+ Check4	7.90%	6.46%		4.30%	6.96%	6.65%
+ Check5	10.01%		10.62%		11.26%	10.11%
+ Check6	9.78%		10.09%	8.80%	10.66%	9.67%
+ Checks 1 & 3	8.92%	9.17%	9.92%			8.87%
+ Checks 3 & 6	6.30%	6.36%			4.85%	5.90%
+ Checks 3, 5, & 6	6.03%	7.12%	7.74%		6.12%	6.12%
+ MaxDiff	6.03%	7.12%	7.75%		6.12%	6.13%
+ MaxDiff + Check1	5.23%	3.29%			5.71%	4.58%
+ MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3	4.24% 3.94%	2.90%		1.74%	5.68%	3.87%
3,100,100,100	3.94%	2.64%	4.68%	1.59%	4.80%	3.53%
Stewart's Algorithm	8.98%	7 750				
+ Check1	5.71%	7.75%		6.68%	7.57%	7.55%
+ Check2	6.77%	3.91%		4.65%	3.64%	
+ Check3	5.48%	4.57% 4.81%		4.86%	4.45%	5.15%
+ Check4	6.52%	6.05%	5.13%	4.38%	4.38%	4.84%
+ Check5	6.95%	5.45%	5.67%	5.76%	5.32%	5.86%
+ Check6	5.89%	3.15%	5.26% 3.86%	5.64%	5.19%	
+ Checks 1 & 3	4.66%	3.77%	4.19%	4.45%	3.10%	4.09%
+ Checks 3 & 6		2.95%	3.33%	2.83%	3.36%	
+ Checks 3, 5, & 6		2.83%	3.03%	3.57%	5.11%	4.01%
+ MaxDiff				2.84%	5.11%	3.74%
+ MaxDiff + Check1				4.86%	3.94%	5.75%
+ MaxDiff + Checks 1 & 3				3.11%	2.10% 3	3.12%
		J.EU/0	T. / /0	3.69%	3.37% 3	3.65%

percentage. It should be observed that the cheapest insertion and CH cheapest insertion algorithms performed especially badly with the larger sets of cities. However, cheapest insertion with MaxDiff is still competitive.

#### 5.1 Analysis of Checks

For all checks tested, the tour lengths either improved or remained the same.

Check1 usually resulted in a noticeable improvement when employed with MaxDiff or any of the existing algorithms. It performed slightly better when used with Stewart's algorithm than with the CH cheapest insertion heuristic.

The algorithm for **check2** is the same as check1 with the exception that a city marked for improvement is reinserted back into the tour instead of removed from the tour (explained in the chapter on checks). The hope is that check2 will result in tour lengths comparable to check1 and also find the tours quicker. Although check2 performed as well as check1 in some of the problems, on the average, check1 resulted in shorter tours.

Check3 performed well with a consistent improvement in tour length with little additional computing time.

Check4 and check5 were both designed to catch similar problems. Check4 is much simpler but check5 found more possible improvements. On the average, check5 usually performed 0.1 - 0.5% better than check4. Check6, like checks 1 and 3, consistently produced good tours.

Some combinations of checks are more effective than others, and the success of these combinations depends on the algorithm with which they are used (i.e. Stewart's or CH cheapest insertion). The three combinations used in this project were checks 1 and 3, checks 3 and 6, and checks 3, 5, and 6.

All three combinations were successful to some extent. These combinations produced better results when used with Stewart's algorithm rather than with CH cheapest insertion. The combination of checks 3, 5, and 6 performed better than just the combination of checks 3 and 6 when used with Stewart's algorithm; but only a marginal difference between these two combinations occurred when used with CH cheapest insertion. On the average, all three combinations performed about the same. Combinations of checks 1 and 3, and checks 3, 5, and 6 each produce a tour which is approximately half the percentage over the optimal as is the percentage over the optimal for an algorithm without checks.

The behavior of check3 added to check1 together with MaxDiff is interesting. In problems large1 - large5, there is a noticeable improvement (an average of 3.5% to 3.2% above the optimal) when check3 is added to check1 and MaxDiff, used with the CH cheapest insertion heuristic. On the other hand, the addition of check3 with Stewart's algorithm resulted in worse tour lengths (3.0% to 3.5%). In problems 24 - 28, the reverse is true, with an improvement using Stewart's algorithm and a reduction in tour length with CH cheapest insertion, though the differences in percentages here are not as great as in problems large1 - large5.

## 5.2 Analysis of MaxDiff

The most noticeable improvement occurs when MaxDiff is applied to the cheapest insertion algorithm; cheapest insertion improved from an average of 16.3% above the optimal to 1.4% above the optimal for problems 24 - 28. Besides this case, MaxDiff performed much better on the average with the large (500 cities) problems than with the 100 city problems. In the 100 city problems, MaxDiff applied to cheapest insertion produced much better solutions than cheapest insertion (without MaxDiff). Besides cheapest insertion, MaxDiff showed little or no improvement as compared to the original algorithm it was being applied to. Only when MaxDiff was used in combination with check1 were good tours consistently found.

In the larger problems, the application of MaxDiff made a marked improvement over the original algorithms (Stewart's, cheapest insertion, and CH cheapest insertion). This improvement increased when the checks were used with MaxDiff, especially check1 and the combination of checks 1 and 3.

MaxDiff doesn't apply to Stewart's algorithm as well as it does to the cheapest cost algorithms; although in the 500 city problems, MaxDiff applied to Stewart's algorithm resulted in a shorter tour and a more efficient algorithm than Stewart's algorithm in all five problems.

## 5.3 Analysis of Computation Times

Table 5.5 and Table 5.6 list the computing times (in seconds) for all 10 problems. The times marked by an asterisk were estimated. Nearest neighbor and nearest insertion were by far the fastest of the algorithms tested, with nearest neighbor usually taking a little less than a third of the time required by nearest insertion. Nearest neighbor took 6 seconds to find a solution for the 100 city problems and approximately 2 minutes for the 500 city problems.

The rest of the heuristics took a much longer time, with times of one to two minutes for the 100 city problems and times of 32 to 58 minutes for the 500 city problems. Most of the time results are not surprising with the checks consistently increasing the computation time. Although the checks did increase the computation time, on the average the time was never doubled.

Although check2 performed faster than check1 as expected (discussed in the analysis of checks), the difference in time was not significant. Thus, when check1 removed a city from the subtour, the cost to reinsert the city was minor. There was also no sign of a termination problem as discussed in section 4.1. The difference in time between check4 and check5 was very minor and as detailed above, check5 consistently produced shorter tours than check4.

An algorithm with MaxDiff applied to it is longer than the same algorithm without MaxDiff, because instead of calculating and updating the one edge which satisfies the insertion criterion the best for each city not

Table 5.5 Time in seconds for the 100 city problems.

Algorithm	prob 24	prob 25	problems.	prob 27	prob 28
Nearest Neighbor	6				7
Nearest Insertion	19		<del> </del>	<del></del>	
Cheapest Insertion	92	80			101
+ MaxDiff	57			63	
				- 00	63
CH Cheapest Insertion	45	50	50	53	4 9
+ check1	93	8 9	17.	86	84
+ check2	82	87	85	85	80
+ check3	5 7	63	61	59	57
+ check4	52	5 6		54	50
+ check5	5 2	57	53	53	50
+ check6	78	8 0		78	74
+ checks 1 & 3	98	97	106*	92	92
+ checks 3 & 6	87	8 9	90	84	79
+ checks 3, 5, &6	87	9.0	91	85	79
+ MaxDiff	51	5 5	52	50	5 4
+ MaxDiff + check1	8 5	95	9.5	87	9 0
+ MaxDiff + checks 1 & 3	9 0	99	104	93	97
Stewart's Algorithm	5 6	5 8	7 6	59	4 9
+ check1	97	98	129	92	83
+ check2	8 7	9 5	123	91	82
+ check3	63	6 9	88	65	5 6
+ check4	57	64	79	60	5 0
+ check5	5 7	6.5	79	59	49
+ check6	8.5	8 8	92	8.5	74
+ checks 1 & 3	101	104	140	99	89
+ checks 3 & 6	92	96*	101	91	79
+ checks 3, 5, &6	93	97*	102	92	80
+ MaxDiff	7 4	7.9	90	78	58
+ MaxDiff + check1	114	114	138	125	101
+ MaxDiff + checks 1 & 3	121	121	143	130	107

Table 5.6 Time in seconds for the 500 city problems.

Algorithm	large1		problems.		
Nearest Neighbor	121		large3	large4	large5
Nearest Insertion	447	127			
Cheapest Insertion	5340				
+ MaxDiff	1537				
	1337	1573	1597	1524	1560
CH Cheapest Insertion	1929	2003	1020	1010	
+ check1	3105	3145		1913	
+ check2	2958	3040		3048	3140
+ check3	2275	2380		2981	2933
+ check4	2120	2221	2317	2512	2486
+ check5	2140	2203	2366	2273	2095
+ check6	2896	2957	3059	2298	2103
+ checks 1 & 3	3277	3413		2905	2964
+ checks 3 & 6	2931	2817	3421 3114	3405	3479
+ checks 3, 5, &6	2931	2826		3170	3143
+ MaxDiff	1466	1587	3123 1541	3135	3150
+ MaxDiff + check1	2448	3279	2482	1570	1569
+ MaxDiff + checks 1 & 3	2476	2422	2516	2639	2502
			2516	2649	2540
Stewart's Algorithm	1906	1954	2147	2127	2260
+ check1	3108	3238	3432	3290	3506
+ check2	3027	3121	3206	3287	3325
+ check3	2212	2275	2512	2508	
+ check4	2153	2204	2341	2373	2599 2513
+ check5	2180	2238	2355	2390	
+ check6	2941	2985	3195	3182	2527
+ checks 1 & 3	3168	3305	3549	3440	3351
+ checks 3 & 6	2804	3031	3057	3262	3291
+ checks 3, 5, &6	2822	3038	3061	3273	2883
+ MaxDiff	1566	1652	1665	1619	2890
+ MaxDiff + check1	2708	2762	2849	2771	2199
+ MaxDiff + checks 1 & 3	2679	2777	2841	2779	3540
		-111	2041		3123

in the subtour, MaxDiff requires that two edges must be maintained. However in this study, MaxDiff applied to a particular algorithm actually often decreased the computing time. In the 500 city problems where MaxDiff was applied to cheapest insertion, CH cheapest insertion, and Stewart's algorithm, the time was reduced in <u>all</u> cases.

The reason for the decreased time is that MaxDiff has a tendency to reduce the complexity of updating NT (the list of cities not yet in the subtour). As discussed in the existing algorithms section, the worst case performance can arise during the updating of NT. A brief review is given here: After every city k is inserted into T (the list of cities in the subtour) between cities i and j, each city p in NT must determine the edge with which p fits in the best. If p previously fit in edge (i,j) the best, then p must look at all edges in the subtour; otherwise p needs to look only at edges (i,k) and (k,j). The first of these two cases leads to the worse case time complexity.

Figure 5.1 and 5.2 illustrates tour construction by an algorithm not using and using MaxDiff, respectively. In Figure 5.1(a) and 5.2(a), there are 11 cities for which edge (i,j) is the edge where the city fits in the best. After the first city is inserted, all remaining 10 cities must look at all edges in the subtour because each on of the 10 cities pointed to the edge which was just lost. In the non-MaxDiff algorithm, this process continues where the remaining cities must look at all possible edges. In the MaxDiff algorithm, when the second city is added (Figure 5.2(c)), only four cities must look at all edges in the subtour, while the other 5 cities only need to examine the two new edges (e.g. (i,k) and (k,j)). When the third city is added (Figure

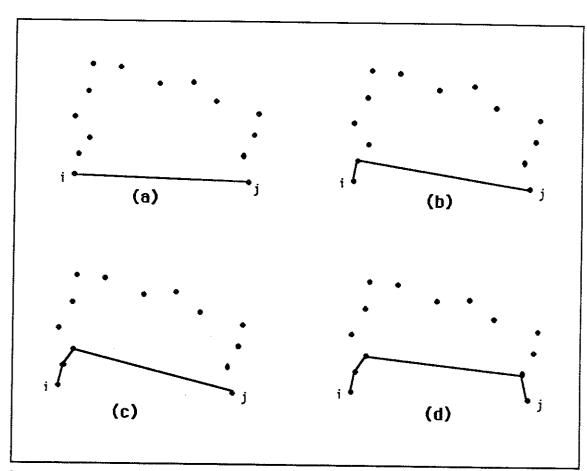


Figure 5.1. Worst case complexity when updating NT.

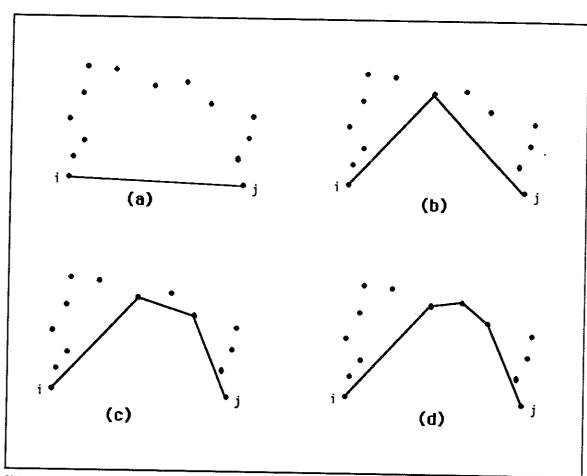


Figure 5.2. MaxDiff solution reduces complexity of updating NT.

5.2(d)), all eight cities will only look at the two edges added last. Thus after 3 cities are added to the subtour in these examples, the MaxDiff inspects all cities in T 15 times (10 + 5 + 0) while the non-MaxDiff algorithm does 27 times (10 + 9 + 8).

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

Certain conclusions can be drawn from the results. Nearest neighbor and nearest insertion should only be used when a lower bound on the optimal tour is desired. Although these algorithms are fast, neither one of them produces good solutions.

Cheapest insertion should probably never be used as an ETSP heuristic. The computation time was similar to that of the other O(n<sup>2</sup>lgn) algorithms studied in this research, but the tour lengths were much worse. If cheapest insertion is to be used, it should definitely be used with MaxDiff applied.

With and without checks, the Stewart algorithm overall performed better than the convex hull cheapest insertion algorithm. Only in one case (problem 27) did CH cheapest insertion, without checks, produce a very good tour. Thus CH cheapest insertion alone is not recommended as a good tour heuristic. CH cheapest insertion becomes a valuable heuristic when MaxDiff is applied to it and checks 1 and 3 are added. Although check1 and check3 used in combination can add 25% to 75% to the computing time, on the average the additional time results in a 2% to 7% shorter tour.

Table 6.1 lists the most successful algorithms tested in this research (the best solutions are highlighted). The first column lists the average

Table 6.1 Summary of the best heuristics.

ALGORITHMS	DIS	TANCES	TIME			
	% over	avg absolute	Rela	ative values	% of orig	
	optimal	value		24 -28	algorithm	
Cheapest Insertion	17.39%	5.85	0.0013	0.0740		
+ MaxDiff	2.80%					
CH Cheapest Insertion	8.52%	17.46	0.0042	0.5321	100.00%	
+ MaxDiff	3.72%					
+ MaxDiff + check1	2.79%		0.0115			
+ MaxDiff + checks 1 & 3	2.64%	47.88	0.0113	0.6606	174.28%	
Stewart	5.22%	24.52	0.0095	0.6013	100.00%	
+ checks 1 & 3	2.64%	51.96	0.0086	0.7035	166.08%	
+ checks 3 & 6	2.76%	50.15	0.0087	0.7927	150.37%	
+ checks 3, 5 & 6	2.64%	51.25	0.0094	0.7816	151.46%	
+ MaxDiff	5.33%	20.92	0.0104	0.3022	105.50%	
+ MaxDiff + check1	2.94%	46.79	0.0116	0.4698	170.45%	

percentage over the optimal for all ten problems. The next column contains the average absolute values. The absolute value is the inverse of the percentage over the optimal (although note that the algorithm with the best absolute value is not the same as the algorithm with the lowest percentage over the optimal). The relative value, in the next two columns, is the absolute value divided by the time it took to compute the tour. The relative value describes the quality of the tour as the length per computing time. The average computing time of a modified algorithm (i.e. with checks or MaxDiff) as a percentage of the original algorithm is also listed.

The shortest tours were found by Stewart's algorithm using a combination of checks 3, 5, and 6, checks 1 and 3, and CH cheapest insertion with MaxDiff applied and checks 1 and 3 added. The average increases in time for these heuristics were between 50% and 75%, which is reasonable for the better solution.

Some of the checks were more successful (i.e. improved tour construction more) than others. Check1 and check6 were the most costly and the most successful. Check3 and check5 detected some improvements in the tour that check1 and check6 did not, and did this very quickly. Check2 and check4 were not as successful. Check2 was slightly faster than check1, but did not detect many of the improvements that check1 did. Similarly, check4 was slightly quicker than check5, but also missed many of the improvements that check5 detected.

It is recommended that either check1 or check6 should be used when an increase in time is not critical. Check3 and check5 should be used with these checks since they are efficient and usually result in a shorter tour.

The algorithms that produced the shortest tours were discussed above. Table 6.1 also indicates that MaxDiff applied to cheapest insertion is worth discussion, rating the best in four of the five categories. As mentioned before, the tables report the best of three runs for cheapest insertion. MaxDiff applied to cheapest insertion is not recommended unless a number of runs are made.

In summary, if only one algorithm is to be used, then Stewart's algorithm with checks 3, 5, and 6 should be used since it is the quickest of the three best heuristics. It is recommended though, that at least two algorithms are used, two of them being Stewart's with checks 3, 5, and 6, and MaxDiff applied to CH cheapest insertion with checks 1 and 3. One reason for choosing these two algorithms is that when a modified Stewart algorithm produced a bad tour, a modified CH cheapest insertion algorithm did well; and when CH cheapest insertion performed poorly, Stewart's algorithm usually produced a good tour. If a heuristic is needed which often produces a tour within 4% above the optimal, then MaxDiff applied to CH cheapest insertion is the best choice because of its speed. This heuristic was the fastest (along with cheapest insertion plus MaxDiff) of all of the algorithms tested in this research.

## 6.1 Further Research

One goal of this project was to determine if further research in MaxDiff and the use of checks is warranted. MaxDiff can be applied to more algorithms than the ones listed here. It is not always easy to determine which algorithms are compatible with MaxDiff and then how to apply MaxDiff to the algorithm; but we feel that applying MaxDiff to an algorithm is worth the effort.

The checks in this research could be easily improved. For example, in section 5.0, it was explained that if one check were successful for any particular i, k, j, then no other checks would be attempted. This is because most of the checks modify the edges (i,k) or (k,j) when successful, and thus the edges (i,k) and (k,j) might no longer exist for other checks to examine. More possible improvements would probably be detected if after any check c has changed the tour, then all other checks and c itself, are each called using the new edges just created (instead of using the edges (i,k) and (k,j) as usual).

Another possible check is to modify check6 so that the cities to be repositioned in the subtour are instead removed from the subtour as is done in check1. As stated above, check1 performed consistently better than check2 because it removed the cities instead of repositioning them.

Only some of a variety of possible checks are covered in this research. There are many more checks which could be developed. A good check detects many improvements while adding very little computation time to the original algorithm. Through continued research in this area, hopefully, good checks will develop and thus improve the performance of existing algorithms.

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# **Appendix**

The following lists are the test data used in this project. The coordinates given are actually the tours of the most successful algorithm (not including simulated annealing) for each problem. The last tour listed is of problem 25 produced by simulated annealing, which resulted in a better tour length than the optimal length reported by Crowder and Padberg [1980].

pr	oblem	24	3447	1830						
	ngth=21		3510			117	_	00	380	478
toı	ur found	d by	3683			953		68	468	
St	ewart's	- 3	3911			776	_	92	347	
	gorithm	+	3955	1743		457	_	34	387	
	eck1 an		3950	1558		327	2	65	61	81
+	checks	3,5,&6.	3874	1318					171	
178		-,-,,	3520	1079					298	
241			3113	885		-			399	
19	674		2991	792			blem		749	
53	857		3479	821		len	gth=	22394.		
22	987		3756	882		Tou		und by	376	1018
123	862		3822	899		Ste	wart	S	193	1210
161	906		3854	923			orithi		71	1323
376	825		3888	666		chec		& 6.	177	1390
378	1048		3875	598		2630			3	1817
252	1240		3913	192		2614			563	1513
274	1420		3893	102		2372			627	1261
298	1513		3815	169		2503			839	1355
198	1810		3640	43		2310			782	1462
463	1670		3416	143		2330			731	1741
611	1384		3022	474		2830			706	1925
738	1325		2863	558		2801	695		962	1895
872	1559		2936	337		2800			1182	
928	1700		2848	96		2929			1090	
929	1766		519	135		2938	543		1423	
890	1846		542	236		3084 3084	748		1490	1123
1234	1946		588	302		3370	774		1526	1612
1247	1945		573	599		3438	791		1697	1924
1251	1832		599	901		3133	901		1794	1589
1424	1728		574	946		3220	1143		1729	1498
1621	1830		586	1286		140	1454		2132	1432
1625	1651		484	1183		058	1401		2191	1579
1724	1642		421	1007		698	1276		2426	1851
1807	1711			981		639	1221		2408	1747
2178	1619	19		687		642	1239 1269		2489	1520
2139	1806	17		962		312	1209		2741	1583
2290	1810	17		1009		030	1186		2937	1568
2573	1969	13		1368		009	1163		3114	1629
2597	1830	13	80	939		000	1110		3245	1828
2678	1825		15	1052		782	995		3317	1966
2728	1698	98	_	965		329	812		3453	1998
2576	1676	93		955		512	328		3417	1808
2628	1479	74:	2 ;	1025		38	224		3507	1851
2716	1432	61	1 6	573		17	266		3515	1892
2721	1482	839	9 6	520		86	550		3611	1968
2945	1622	118	87 7	706		13	910		3782	1865
2961	1605	128	36 5	25	89		705		3834	1827
3085	1528	132		80	84		520		3675	1522
3384	1498	142		34	69		552		3858	1472
3373	1646	125	6 6	51	42		542		3904	1444
						- ,	- 14		3876	1165

3918 1088	1500 4-00		
3896 742	1533 1780	2576 189	1009 1001
3938 516	1357 1905	2781 478	1021 962
3829 513	1327 1893	2990 214	997 942
3684 445	1362 1526	3099 173	981 848
3821 147	1183 1391	3124 408	
	1544 863	3249 378	
<del>_</del>	1307 964	3297 491	
	1027 1041	3278 799	
_	826 1226	3174 1064	
	737 1285	3213 1085	1699 1294
3060 155	693 1383	3394 1028	1768 1578
3017 108	901 1552	3564 676	1623 1723
	705 1812	3806 746	1632 1742
	554 1825	3939 640	1646 1817
	457 1607	3835 963	1787 1902
problem 26	323 1714	3646 1018	1994 1852
length=20820.4	43 1957	3704 1082	2028 1736
Tour found by	22 1617	3635 1174	2050 1833
Cheapest	138 1610	3729 1188	2214 1977
Insertion +	185 1542	3/25 1100	2374 1944
MaxDiff.	482 1337		2221 1578
3808 1375	234 1118		2356 1568
3736 1542	86 1065	problem 27	2834 1512
3853 1712	192 1004	problem 27	3007 1524
3586 1909	219 898	length=21598.1 Tour found by	2927 1777
3499 1885	396 828		3220 1945
3409 1917	242 584	incomting	3248 1906
3314 1881	99 536	_	3373 1902
3092 1668	40 462		3786 1862
3078 1541	14 454	and also +	3805 1619
2933 1459	29 6	checks 3,5,&6.	3918 1217
2687 1353	213 220	547 25	3535 1112
2773 1286	721 186	264 36	3332 1049
2650 802	805 272	278 165	2740 1101
2636 727	812 351	202 233	2901 920
2499 658	913 317	47 363	2982 949
2361 640	960 303	240 619	3023 871
2178 978	1058 372	235 1059	3060 781
2302 1127	1031 428	241 1069	2944 632
2232 1374	1000 457	401 980	2993 624
2433 1538	834 629	555 1121	3452 637
2513 1572	781 671	464 1302	3600 459
2365 1649	· -	80 1533	3599 514
2469 1838		149 1629	3642 699
2552 1909	· <del></del>	386 1616	3868 697
2312 1949		394 1944	3935 540
2318 1925		571 1982	3946 459
2082 1753		555 1753	3766 154
2048 1628	1779 90	1082 1561	3538 125
1838 1732	1868 197	811 1295	3503 301
1660 1556	2049 417	778 1282	3062 329
1000	2221 291	1109 1196	2995 264

2656 128	2243 1332	_	
2581 121		2186 766	3515 1892
2592 248		2502 146	3611 1968
2658 360		2753 283	3782 1865
2597 349	<del></del>	2779 435	3834 1827
2347 388		2823 376	3675 1522
2334 523		3019 189	3858 1472
2223 990		3035 152	3904 1444
2067 694	<del>_</del>	2977 39	3876 1165
1962 389	- <del>-</del>	3048 1	3918 1088
1828 456	1419 872	3232 324	3896 742
1766 678	1086 868	3230 380	3938 516
1766 692	878 715	3431 78	3829 513
1819 814	765 833	3527 41	3684 445
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1017 333	678 1599	3502 1067	2630 20
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634 294	53 1657	3796 1401	2503 352
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20, 177	285 1029	3548 1999	2801 695
	397 1217	3359 1693	2800 653
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Problem 28	382 872	3104 1931	2938 543
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Tour found by	96 691	3105 1823	3084 774
Cheapest	48 267	2916 1724	3370 791
insertion +	48 154	3098 1594	3438 901
MaxDiff.	217 38		3133 1143
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71 1323	1395 342	1101 1173	604 209
177 1390	1344 515	1076 1196	585 220
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706 1925	1588 302	769 1239	771 589
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	1461 1187	1191 449	170 1037
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250 1663	1366 1946	·	3643 1274
249 1687	1407 1996		3619 1217
256 1730	1457 1941	2874 1457	3597 1137
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65 1795		3101 1289	3467 984
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335 1930	1803 1712	3305 1131	3584 747
334 1859	1768 1567	3303 1288	
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	2078 1059	2410 251	MaxDiff +
3258 239	1990 1043	2296 279	checks 1&3.
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3411 279	2045 829		2175 101
3481 248	2151 726		2095 39
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3517 74	2227 605		2030 41
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3398 111	2374 604	2138 27	1893 124
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3059 272	2300 764	2079 144	1622 45
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'	2516 947	2130 307	1827 362
2777 722	2565 1073	2300 400	1814 464
2865 749	2609 1030	2226 422	1771 524
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3106 983	2533 572	1807 522	2169 267
3080 940		1843 392	2195 278
2998 896		1710 384	2327 187
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	2622 362	1867 303	
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	2677 458	1869 51	2179 455
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2363 1095	2817 252		2354 743
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2820 480	3540 1052	2285 1194	
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2500 861	3563 1300	2027 1345	
2430 913	3491 1316	2091 1340	
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2376 1037	3485 1502	2025 1424	1804 772 1823 694
2576 1057	3425 1543	1989 1396	1680 627
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2663 975	3219 1266	1907 1333	1520 467
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2868 932	2724 1409	1558 1174	1355 710
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3024 881	2775 1601	1538 1207	1310 748
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1005 375	206		
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	541 784	1005 1671	,-
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3668 414	C. Touring Dy	2233 832	1540 580
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3853 1777	3378 989		1776 344
3861 1708	3348 921		1738 271
3886 1662	3262 932		1687 271
3984 1605	3267 951	3481 309	1639 393
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3058 1381	3717 836		946 552
3081 1230	3698 831		930 487
3010 1216	3621 778		982 431
2967 1216	3681 686		= -
			1024 328

10.	رم مم <i>ه</i>			
100		501 652	337 1301	1316 1420
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116		528 548	550 1301	1253 1215
117		521 482	576 1341	1165 1324
121	-	633 609	611 1350	1163 1324
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117		784 564	615 1460	1050 1307
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100		657 717	607 1609	951 1303
989		755 741	522 1725	972 1206
910		753 823	599 1711	1087 1166
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701		836 1087	628 1818	1266 1056
748		891 1191	632 1894	1252 915
803		740 1296	803 1986	1176 858
813		710 1206	880 1786	1165 835
870		748 1138	914 1758	1040 841
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544	297	425 978	1354 1689	1599 756
392	289	342 1074	1269 1753	1626 652
405	228	223 1126	1209 1905	1658 630
329	.99	129 1055	1259 1906	1713 875
356	69 53	18 1218	1397 1993	1846 857
305	53	16 1309	1451 1957	1882 585
248	8	57 1368	1436 1934	1839 552
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62	302	90 1609	1623 1581	2071 410
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346 425	616 667	354 1520	1481 1585	2688 758
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269	0 821	2003 1921	0.674	
262		2215 1890	3654 1491	2660 1319
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1909	1357	3898 1577 3953 1534	2986 1363	3314 847
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1875	1578	· ·	2899 1597	3599 833
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1990	1929		2555 1455	3972 950
	/	3739 1410	2645 1409	3946 913

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3585		1226 169	562 550	289 1571
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3781	271	916 66	889 640	108 1680
3891	61	885 9	878 973	110 1764
3714	55	845 91	716 915	67 1881
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		125 586	22 1322	789 1413
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975 1325	2317 1288	2022	
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1935 1438	3449 590	3205 1950	3895 392
2020 1447	3431 740	3262 1925	3974 203
2027 1544	3412 797	3307 1900	3964 191
1888 1672	3388 806	3320 1826	3809 229
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1949 1892	3147 984	3636 1897	3742 18
1967 1921	3231 1024	3804 1980	3695 92
1942 1945	3211 1133	3944 1925	3652 213
2018 1977	3181 1222	3996 1748	3542 107
2172 1879	3161 1217		3518 115
2374 1986	3095 1192		3426 21
2402 1857	3101 1151	- · · · ·	3331 53
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2263 1649	2978 1172		3457 289
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		3897 1530	3439 371

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	1992 692	1004 1065
3174 434	2064 662	1011 1070
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2928 534	2170 752	1073 784
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2849 476	2294 814	
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2689 510	2553 723	995 618
2737 523	2687 701	1089 476
2800 467	2587 776	1154 413
2872 343	2580 909	1147 379
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2484 300	2070 836	1624 433
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2419 245	1962 934	1635 401
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	1737 1184	1625 209
	1708 1178	1705 124
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2333 392	1479 885	1601 116
2158 420	1554 865	1513 226
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2084 331	1755 740	1477 126
2010 181	1576 721	1439 68
2022 91	1498 689	1477 14
1940 99	1367 741	1420 35
1924 124	1387 778	1120 33
1749 180	1366 829	
1746 187	1296 867	
1849 311	1292 933	

## **VITA**

T.W. Tunnell was born in Dallas, Texas, January 13, 1961. graduated from the University of North Texas with a B.A. in Psychology in 1984 and received a B.A. in Computer Science for the University of North Texas in 1986. JW Turnell

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