Local Search Algorithms for Multi-Criteria Single Machine Scheduling Problem

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Abstract

 Real life scheduling problems require the decision maker to consider a number of criteria before arriving at any decision. In this paper, we consider the multi-criteria scheduling problem of n jobs on single machine to minimize a function of five criteria denoted by total completion times ($\sum C_i$), total tardiness ($\sum T_i$), total earliness ($\sum E_i$), maximum tardiness (T_{max}) and maximum earliness (E_{max}) . The single machine total tardiness problem and total earliness problem are already NP-hard, so the considered problem is strongly NP-hard. We apply two local search algorithms (LSAs) descent method (DM) and simulated annealing method (SM) for the $1/(\sum C_i + \sum T_i + \sum E_i + T_{max} + E_{max})$ problem (SP) to find near optimal solutions. The local search methods are used to speed up the process of finding a good enough solution, where an exhaustive search is impractical for the exact solution. The two heuristic (DM and SM) were compared with the branch and bound (BAB) algorithm in order to evaluate effectiveness of the solution methods.

 Some experimental results are presented to show the applicability of the (BAB) algorithm and (LSAs). With a reasonable time, (LSAs) may solve the problem (SP) up to 5000 jobs.

Keywords: Multicriteria; Scheduling; Single machine; Earliness-tardiness; local search methods.

1. Introduction

Scheduling is allocation of resources (machines) over time to perform a collection of tasks (jobs).

Generally speaking, Scheduling means to assign machines to jobs in order to complete all jobs under the imposed constraints. The problem of scheduling a set $N = \{1, \ldots, n\}$ of n jobs on a single machine. Each job i∈N has processing time p_i and a due date d_i . If a given schedule σ = (1,...,n), then the completion time $C_i = \sum_{j=1}^{i} p_j$, the tardiness of job i $T_i = max\{c_i - d_i, 0\}$ and earliness of job i $E_i = max\{d_i - c_i, 0\}$, consequently we have total completion time $\sum_{i\in N} C_i$, total tardiness $\sum_{i\in N} T_i$, maximum tardiness $T_{max} = \max_{i\in N} \{T_i\}$, total

earliness $\sum_{i \in N} E_i$ and maximum earliness $E_{max} = \max_{i \in N} \{E_i\}.$

For the maximum tardiness for $1/T_{max}$ problem is minimized by EDD (earliest due date) rule to Jackson 1955[9]. The $1/\sqrt{\sum} C_i$ problem, the (SPT) (shortest processing time) rule is optimal to Smith 1956[13]. The maximum earliness for I/E_{max} problem is minimized by MST (minimum Slack time) rule [3], where the two problems $1/\sum T_i$ and $1/\sum E_i$ are NPhard ([6],[11]) and [3] respectively. Any problem including such cost functions as subproblem is NP-hard.

The first bi-criteria scheduling problem was already solved by Smith (1956) [13] the $1/(\sum C_i, T_{max})$ problem subject to $T_{max} = 0$ is imposed by using back ward algorithm, only a few bi-criteria scheduling problem have been investigated since then. Van Wassenhove & Gelder (1980) [16] studied the $1/(\sum C_i, T_{max})$ problem. The set of efficient points is characterized and a pseudo-polynomial algorithm to enumerate all these points is given.

Hoogveen and Van de velde (1995)[8] provided an algorithm for finding all efficient schedules for the problem $1//(\sum C_i, f_{max})$. Tadie et al. (2002) [15] proposed a procedure that takes advantage of an algorithm for finding the Pareto optima set by applying specially developed constraints to a branch and bound (BAB) algorithm for the $1/(\Sigma T_i, T_{max})$ problem to find the set of efficient point. For the $1//(\Sigma C_i, E_{max})$ problem, Kurz and Canterbury (2005) [10] used genetic algorithm, Al-Assaf (2007)[5] proposed BAB algorithm to find the optimal solution for $1/\sum C_i + E_{max}$ problem and proposed an algorithm with a special range for the problem $1/(2C_i, E_{max})$ to find the set of efficient solutions.

The single machine $1/\sum C_i + \sum T_i + T_{max}$ problem is NP-hard, the (BAB) algorithm is used to find optimal solution (2015)[1]. For $1/\sqrt{\sum C_i} + \sum E_i + E_{max}$ problem is NP-hard, local search algorithms are used to find near optimal solution and compared their results with CEM for small n (2016) [2]. There are mainly three classes of approaches that are applicable to multicriteria scheduling problem.

: Hierarchical (lexographical) optimization the hierarchical approach, one of the criteria (more important) regards as constraint (primary) criterion which must be satisfied, (see [7] and [14]).

: Priority optimization

In this approach minimizing a weighted sum of the multicriteria (objectives) and convert the multicriteria to a single criterion problem, several multicriteria scheduling problems studied in this class (see [8]and [12]).

: Interactive optimization

In this approach one generates all efficient (Pareto optimal) schedules and select the one that yield the best composite objective function value of the multicriteria. Several multicriteria scheduling problems studied in this class (see [8] and [16]).

2. Problem Formulation and Analysis

We consider the following performance criteria: $\sum_{i \in N} C_i$, $\sum_{i \in N} T_i$, $\sum_{i \in N} E_i$, T_{max} and E_{max} hence the problem is denoted by $1/F$ ($\sum C_i$, $\sum T_i$, $\sum E_i$, T_{max} , E_{max}) (P). We consider multicriteria problem of scheduling n jobs on a single machine. All jobs are available at time zero and characterized by their processing time p_i and due date d_i . In this problem, the total completion times (total flow times), the total tardiness, the total earliness, maximum tardiness and maximum earliness are used as multicriteria. The first object is to minimize flow time (a measure for average in processing inventory). The other objectives deal with service to customers. These objective functions force jobs not be early and/or tardy.

For this problem, we will try to find efficient solutions for the $1/(F \sum C_i) \sum T_i$, $\sum E_i$, T_{max} , E_{max}) problem (P), which can be written for a given schedule s= (1,...,n) as:

$$
\begin{aligned}\n&\lim_{s \in S} \left\{ \begin{array}{l}\n\sum T_i(s) \\
\sum F_i(s) \\
\sum E_i(s) \\
T_{max}(s) \\
F_{max}(s)\n\end{array}\right\} \\
&\text{s.t} \\
&\begin{array}{l}\nC_i \ge P_i \\
C_i = C_{(i-1)} + P_i \\
&\begin{array}{l}\ni = 1, ..., n \\
i = 2, ..., n \\
T_i \ge 0 \\
&\begin{array}{l}\n1 = 1, ..., n \\
T_i \ge 0 \\
&\begin{array}{l}\ni = 1, ..., n \\
i = 1, ..., n \\
E_i \ge d_i - C_i \\
&\begin{array}{l}\ni = 1, ..., n \\
i = 1, ..., n \\
E_i \ge 0\n\end{array}\n\end{array}\n\end{aligned}
$$

Where **S** is the set of all schedules.

 This problem (P) is difficult to solve and find the set of all efficient solutions (SE). This problem of five objects has not been considered by any researcher yet. We propose efficient algorithm to find approximate set of efficient solutions (SA) for this problem.

1- Some results for the $1//F$ ($\sum C_i$, $\sum T_i$, $\sum E_i$, T_{max} , E_{max}) problem (P):

Proposition (1): The SPT sequence is efficient for the problem (P).

Proof: First, suppose that all processing times are different the unique SPT sequence (SPT^{*}) gives the absolute minimum of $\sum C_i$. Hence there is no sequence $\sigma \neq SPT^*$ such that

$$
\sum C_i(\sigma) \leq \sum C_i(SPT^*), \sum T_i(\sigma) \leq \sum T_i(SPT^*), \sum E_i(\sigma) \leq \sum E_i(SPT^*),
$$

\n
$$
T_{max}(\sigma) \leq T_{max}(SPT^*) \text{ and } E_{max}(\sigma) \leq E_{max}(SPT^*) \qquad \dots (3.1)
$$

With at least one strict inequality.

 Second if more than one SPT sequence exists, jobs with equal processing times are order in EDD rule, if SPT and EDD are identical then order these jobs in MST and let the resulting SPT sequence (SPT^*). Note if σ is an SPT but not SPT^* sequence it can not dominate SPT^* sequence since:

$$
\sum C_i(\sigma) = \sum C_i (SPT^*), \sum T_i (SPT^*) \le \sum T_i(\sigma), \sum E_i (SPT^*) \le \sum E_i(\sigma),
$$

$$
T_{max}(SPT^*) \le T_{max}(\sigma) \text{ and } E_{max}(SPT^*) \le E_{max}(\sigma) \qquad \qquad \dots (3.2)
$$

Hence SPT^* sequence is efficient.

Proposition (2): If SPT rule, EDD rule and MST rule are identical, then there is one or more than one efficient solution for the problem (P).

Proof: It is clear that this identical sequence (s) is efficient by proposition (1). Now since $\sum E_i$ is non regular criteria, there may be another sequence (s') with value of $\sum E_i(s') \leq$ $\sum E_i(s)$. Hence the sequence s' is also efficient solution■.

Example (1): consider the problem (P) with the following data: $Pi=(2,3,3,5)$, $di=(3,6,8,10)$ and $Si=(1,3,5,5)$. The sequence $(1,2,3,4)$ is SPT, EDD and MST give the only one efficient. $(\sum C_i, \sum T_i, \sum E_i, T_{max}, E_{max}) = (28, 3, 2, 3, 1)$, which is obtained by (CEM).

Proposition (3): If SPT rule and MST rule are identical then there is one or more than one efficient solution.

Proof: The sequence $s=(1,...,n)$ obtained from the identical SPT rule and MST rule respectively.

Hence we have:

 $P_1 \le P_2 \le ... \le P_n$ (3.3) $d_1 - P_1 \leq d_2 - P_2 \leq \ldots \leq d_n - P_n$...(3.4)

The EDD rule $d_1 \leq d_2 \leq ... \leq d_n$ is obtained by adding (3.3) & (3.4)

Hence the SPT, EDD and MST are identical, and we have one or more than one efficient solution by proposition $(2) \blacksquare$.

2- Algorithm (AP) for Determination of Approximate Set of Efficient Solutions for the Problem (P).

 We propose algorithm (AP) to determine the set of approximate solutions (SA) for the problem (P).

This algorithm consists of two parts, the first part deals with calculation of tardiness and total completion times, the second part deals with calculation of earliness and total completion times.

Algorithm (AP)for finding efficient solutions for the problem $1/(C_{i}C_{i})\sum T_{i}$, $\sum E_i$, T_{max} , E_{max}) (P) : Step(0): Set $\Delta = \sum P_i$ and $\sigma = (\emptyset)$. Step(1): Set *N={1,…,n} ,K=n ,t=∑.* Step(2): Calculate $T_i \forall i \in \mathbb{N}$ (by lawler algorithm). Step(3): Find a job j∈N such that $T_i \leq \Delta$, $P_i \geq P_i \forall j, i \in \mathbb{N}$ and $T_i \leq \Delta$ assign job j in position K of σ if no job j with $T_i \leq \Delta$, set $\mathbf{E}_{max}(\sigma) = \mathbf{E}_{max}(\text{spt})$ go to step(7). Step(4): Set $t=t-P_i$, $N=N_{i}$; $K=K-1$, if $K>1$ go to step (2). Step(5): for the resulting sequence job $\sigma = (\sigma(1), \ldots, \sigma(n))$ calculate $\langle \sum C_i(\sigma), \sum T_i(\sigma), \sum E_i(\sigma), T_{max}(\sigma), E_{max}(\sigma) \rangle$. Step(6): Put $\Delta = T_{max}(\sigma) - 1$, go to step(2). Step(7): Put $\Delta = E_{max}(\sigma) - 1$, $N = \{1, ..., n\}$, $K = 1$, $t = \sum P_i$ and $\sigma = (\emptyset)$ if $\Delta < E_{max}$ (MST) go to step(11). Step(8): Calculate $r_i = max\{s_i - \Delta, 0\}$ \forall i \in N. Step(9): Find a job j ∈N with min r_j , $r_j \leq C_{K-1}$ and $P_j \leq P_i$ $\forall j$, i ∈N, $C_0=0$ (break tie with small s_i) assign j in position K of σ . Step(10): Set N=N-{j}, $K=K+1$, if $K \le n$ go to step(9) for the ruslting Sequence $\sigma = (\sigma(1), \ldots \sigma(n))$ calculate $(\sum C_i(\sigma), \sum T_i(\sigma), \sum E_i(\sigma), T_{max}(\sigma), E_{max}(\sigma))$ and go to step(7). Step(11): Stop with a set of efficient solutions (SA).

Example (2): consider the problem (P) with the following data: $Pi=(3,4,8,7)$, $di=(12,4,10,7)$.

The result of efficient solutions for example (2) by CEM and algorithm AP.

In this example we find all efficient schedules, and sum is the optimal sum of $\sum C_i(\sigma)$, $\sum T_i(\sigma)$, $\sum E_i(\sigma)$, $T_{max}(\sigma)$, $E_{max}(\sigma)$) =81

3- Sub-Problems of the Multicriteria Problem (P)

Decomposition of the problem (P) is a general approach for solving a problem by breaking it up into smaller ones. It is clear that this decomposition has the following properties:

First all the subproblems have simpler structure than the multicriteria problem (P). Second all the subproblems are NP-hard (except (P2) and (P3) are solved by pseudo algorithms) and some of them are studied by some researchers, such as (P4, p7, P8, P12, P13, P18, P19)

From the problem P we can get the following subproblems:

 $1)1$ // $(\sum E_i, T_{max}, E_{max})...P1$ $2)$ *1*//($\sum C_i$, T_{max}) ... P2 $3)1$ //($\sum C_i$, E_{max})...P3 *4*) 1 //(∑ C_i , ∑ T_i) ...*P4 5)1* $\sqrt{\sum} C_i$, $\sum E_i$)…P5 $6)1/(\sum T_i, \sum E_i)...P6$ $7)1/(T_{max}, E_{max})...P7$ $8)1$ // $(\sum T_i, T_{max})...P8$ *9)1*//(∑ E_i , E_{max})...P9 *10)1*//($\sum E_i$, T_{max}) ...P10 11 *)1*//($\sum T_i$, E_{max})...P11 $12)$ *1//*($\sum T_i$, $\sum E_i$, T_{max} , E_{max})...P12 13 *]* 1 //($\sum C_i$, $\sum T_i$, T_{max} , E_{max})...P13 $14)$ *1//*($\sum C_i$, $\sum E_i$, T_{max})...P14 $15)$ *1//*($\sum C_i$, $\sum T_i$, E_{max})...P15 *16)1*//(∑ C_i , ∑ T_i , ∑ E_i)…P16 $17)$ *1//*($\sum C_i$, T_{max} , E_{max})...P17 $18)$ *1//*($\sum C_i$, $\sum T_i$, T_{max})...P18 *19)1*//(∑ C_i , ∑ E_i , E_{max})…P19 $20)$ *1//(* $\sum T_i$, T_{max} , E_{max})...P20

For the sub-problems from (P13 to P17) we can use (AP) to find approximate set of efficient solutions.

4- The $1/\sqrt{C}C_i + \sum T_i + \sum E_i + T_{max} + E_{max}$ **Problem (SP)**

 It is clear that the problem (SP) is a special case of the problem (P). The aim of this problem is to find the minimum value of the objective function $\sum C_i + \sum T_i + \sum E_i + T_{max} +$ E_{max} . This problem is NP-hard and local search algorithms are used to find its optimal solution. This problem can formally be written for a given schedule $s=(1,...,n)$ as:

The aim for problem (SP) is to find a processing order $\sigma=(\sigma(1),...,\sigma(2))$ of the jobs on a single machine to minimize the sum of the total completion time, total tardiness, total earliness, the maximum tardiness and the maximum earliness $(\sum C_{\sigma(i)} + \sum T_{\sigma(i)} + \sum E_{\sigma(i)} + \sum T_{\sigma(i)} + \sum T_{\sigma(i)}$ $T_{max}(\sigma) + E_{max}(\sigma)$, for a particular schedule $\sigma \in S$ where S is the set of all feasible solutions.

3. Computational Experiments

3.1 Test problems

Performance of the algorithm (AP) for the problem (P) is compared on 5 problem instances for each n with the complete enumeration method (CEM). For each job j, the processing time p_i was uniformly generated from uniform distribution [1,10]. Also, for each job j, an integer due date d_i is generated from the uniform distribution $[(1-TF-RDD/2)TP,(1-$ TF+RDD/2)TP], where TP is the total processing times of all the jobs, TF is the tardiness factor, and RDD is the relative range of the due dates. For the two parameters TF and RDD, the values 0.2,0.4,0.6,0.8,1.0 for TF and the values 0.9,1.0 for RDD are considered. For each selected value of n, one problem is generated for each of the five values of parameter producing 5 test problems.

3.2 Computational results for the problem (P)

In the Table (1) and Table (2) we have:

n: Number of jobs

EX: Example number

|CEM|: The cardinal number (exact number) of efficient solutions obtained by Complete Enumeration method (CEM).

|Alg AP|: The cardinal number (approximate number) of efficient solutions obtained by algorithm (AP).

Optimal: The optimal value of sum of $\left(\sum C_i, \sum T_i, \sum E_i, T_{max}, E_{max}\right)$ obtained by (CEM). Best: The optimal or near optimal of sum of $\sum C_i$, $\sum T_i$, $\sum E_i$, T_{max} , E_{max}) obtained by algorithm (AP), for $n \le 10$ and $11 \le n \le 100$ respectively.

Note from the Table (1) the results show that:

For $4 \le n \le 10$ the algorithm (AP) gives 22 exact optimal solutions for the problem (SP) from 35 test problems.

 From the results of Tables (1) and (2) it is clear that the algorithm (AP) does not give good results for problems with large n. This is because the Multicriteria scheduling problems are generally affected by a number of costs functions, and in our problems (P) and (SP) the number of cost function is five.

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Basic Structure of Local Search

For a Machine Scheduling problem

Given:

- Finite set S of feasible solutions
- Objective function $f: S \rightarrow R$

The goal is to find a solution with a minimal objective value, i.e. a solution $s^* \in S$ with f(s^{*})= $\min_{s \in S} \{f(s)\}$

Basic structure of Local Search Algorithm (LSA)

- Choose an initial solution:
- Repeat

Choose a solution from the neighborhood of the current solution and move to this solution

Until stopping criteria

Variable Neighborhood Search (VNS) Algorithms

The (VNS) algorithms (DM and SM algorithms) depend on the selection of neighborhoods and the selection of the initial solution. In these(VNS) algorithms, we use three initial solutions s_1, s_2 and s_3 are obtained by solving the three single objective problems $1/\sum C_i$, $1/\frac{T_{max}}{T_{max}}$ and $1/\frac{F_{max}}{T_{max}}$ respectively.

 The adjacent pair interchange (API) neighborhood (N) is used to generate new solutions. For the (VNS) algorithms, in each iteration initial solution s is selected, neighbor solutions are generated using $N(s)$. The two algorithms (DM) and (SM) are run with stopping criterion at a known number of iterations depends on the number of jobs. Hence, we assign more iterations to large instances which are obviously more time consuming to solve.

Problem Instances

The performance of the DM and SM algorithms are compared on 5 problems instances. To compare the solutions that the sizes of these instances are: for small size $n=4,...,15$ for middle size n=20,…, 150 for large size $n=200,...5000$

3.3 Computational Results for the Problem (SP)

Computational results of local search algorithms (LSAs) DM and SM is given in the following tables. We implement LSAs as follows: Since we know the optimal solutions for small size problems, which are obtained by BAB algorithm for $n \leq 15[4]$, LSAs use large number of iterations, hence each algorithm stop when it catches the optimal solution (termination condition), but may be for large size problems we used 100000 iterations as termination condition. In these LSAs the neighborhoods generated using the API. The initial solution for the tested problems is generated using the minimum of (s_1, s_2, s_3) .

 The results obtained by LSAs is given in table (3). The results show which local search algorithm gives solution closed to optimal solution obtained by BAB and the corresponding time it needs to reach this solution for $n \leq 15$.

 In table (4) we give the results of comparison between LSAs themselves, for each algorithm, we find the best values and computation time. In Table (3), Table (4) and Table (5) we have:

n: Number of jobs EX: Example number Node: The number of nodes. Optimal: The optimal value obtained by BAB algorithm [4]. No. of opt.:Number of examples that catch the optimal value. No. of best: Number of examples that catch the best value. SM:The value obtained by Simulation Annealing method. DM:The value obtained by Decent Method. Time: Time in seconds.

Table (3): The comparison between the optimal solutions obtained by BAB and the results of LSAs for small size problems

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Note: for the results of the table (3) for the problem (SP), the exact method (BAB) guarantee a global optimum for NP-hard problem, but the time required that grows exponentially with size of the problem, and often only small or medium sized instances can be solved almost demonstrable optimality. In this case, the only possibility for large causes is to use LSAs.

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	3	10128	10128	17.7782	10128	18.4321
	$\overline{4}$	7423	7423	18.5639	7423	18.4112
	5	6570	6571	18.3700	6570	18.5121
		No. of best	$\overline{4}$		5	
	$\mathbf{1}$	12294	12294	17.8408	12294	18.6126
	$\overline{2}$	12235	12235	18.3901	12235	18.7420
50	$\overline{3}$	12943	12943	18.1681	12943	18.7678
	$\overline{4}$	9427	9427	17.9928	9427	18.6223
	5	11453	11453	17.9824	11453	18.7382
		No. of best	5		5	
	1	26660	26660	18.1376	26660	19.1078
75	$\overline{2}$	24708	24708	18.8023	24708	19.3242
	3	25066	25066	18.8975	25066	19.2128
	$\overline{4}$	24067	24067	18.9234	24067	19.1542
	5	23517	23517	18.2172	23517	19.2733
		No. of best	5		5	
100	1	47533	47533	19.5215	47533	20.2826
	$\overline{2}$	44798	44798	19.2866	44798	20.2693
	3	51191	51191	19.5268	51191	20.1367
	$\overline{4}$	45303	45303	18.9843	45303	20.4310
	5	42456	42456	19.8174	42456	20.1911
		No. of best	5		5	

Table (5): The results of (LSAs) for large size problems (SP).

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4. Conclusion

In this thesis, the problems of scheduling jobs on one machine for a variety of multicriteria are considered.

We propose algorithm, which gave set of efficient solutions for the problem (P) $1/(\sum C_i, \sum T_i, \sum E_i, T_{max}, E_{max})$. A local search algorithm (DM and SM) are used to find near optimal solution for problem (SP) of size (5000) jobs.

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