A NOVEL META-HEURISTIC ALGORITHM FOR MULTI-OBJECTIVE DYNAMIC FACILITY LAYOUT PROBLEM

Seyed Shamsodin Hosseini¹ and Mehdi Seifbarghy²

Abstract. This paper proposes an integrated approach for dynamic facility layout problem considering the material handling equipment (MHE). The objectives of this problem are minimization of the fixed costs of MHE, minimization of material handling cost (MHC) and minimization of machine rearrangement costs (MRC). To be more realistic, MHE fixed costs, MRC and MHC, which might be of different importance to decision maker, are considered separately in three objective functions. An integrated model is proposed which is able to simultaneously select the MHE along with the arranging and re-arranging facilities. The model belongs to the class of multi-objective nonlinear mathematical programming models. Considering the NP-hard nature of the model and inspiring the existing water flow like algorithm, a novel Pareto-based meta-heuristic algorithm called multi-objective water flow like algorithms utilizing Taguchi method. Finally, the performance of the proposed MOWFA is evaluated against two well-known meta-heuristic algorithms called non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm (NSGA-II) and non-dominated ranking genetic algorithm (NRGA). Computational results indicate the greater efficiency of the algorithm compared to the two addressed algorithms for solving the given multi-objective problem.

Mathematics Subject Classification. 90B50, 90B80.

Received December 4, 2015. Accepted August 30, 2016.

1. INTRODUCTION

Facility layout problem is concerned with determining the efficient layout of machines, cells, or departments. There are several factors which can directly or indirectly affect the efficiency of a layout, among which the most important factors are: variation on demand, adding or removing a product, changing the manufacturing methods and replacing the equipments. All the factors may affect the patterns of material handling between two machines as well as material handling costs (MHC). According to Tompkins *et al.* [1], around 20–50 percent of the total operating costs and 15–70 percent of the total manufacturing costs are concerned with MHC. MHC is known as the most important metric to determine the effectiveness of a layout and is often considered as the single objective of facility layout problems. Due to the variations in product demand and changes in product

Keywords. Multi-objective dynamic facility layout problem, water flow like algorithm, manufacturing facility, material handling, Taguchi method.

¹ Planning Directorate, National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company, Qazvin, Iran.

² Department of Industrial Engineering, Alzahra University, Deh Vank, Tehran, Iran. M.Seifbarghy@alzahra.ac.ir

mix, MHC fluctuates and often increases. This may cause the current layout to lose its efficiency and make re-layout of facilities necessary.

Changes in the current layout should be investigated carefully since these may result in high machinerearrangement costs (MRC). The problem of preparing the layout and re-layout of the machines in such a way as to minimize MHC and MRC is called dynamic facility layout problem (DFLP). In DFLP, a planning horizon divided into a number of periods, is assumed. Any changes which results in changing MHC, gives the signal of beginning a new period. The objective of DFLP is to determine a layout in each period of horizon planning so that the sum of MHC and MRC is minimized. Apart from the layout of the machines, material batch size is another factor which can affect MHC. Material batch size can reduce the number of the required trips to transfer materials between two machines. The batch size depends on the capacity of material handling equipment (MHE). There are different MHEs such as forklifts, trucks and automated guided vehicles (AGVs) with different capacity used to transport materials between machines.

Thus, there is a close relation between layout of machines and the selected transporters. The final solution is highly dependent on the given part of the problem; in other words, by selecting the best MHE based on an existing layout, or determining the optimal layout based on pre-specified MHE, a considerable degree of freedom may be lost in obtaining an overall optimal design (Chittratanawat [2]); thus, it is recommended to study the problem of allocating MHE to machines in order to handle the materials and solve the problem of machine layout as an integrated problem. As a result, this paper proposes an integrated approach for DFLP considering MHE. To be more realistic, the regular costs of material handling, the fixed costs of establishing MHE and MRC are considered in three separate objective functions. The main reason of this segregation is the nature of these costs which are significantly important to decision makers. Since the behavior of these objectives are not monotonic, the problem falls into the class of multi-objective optimization problems (MOOP). The proposed MOOP is mathematically modeled as a non-linear integer programming model. The mathematical model belongs to the class of NP-hard problems. Soft computing techniques, specifically evolutionary computations, are usually employed to find near-optimum solutions. This paper introduces a multi-objective water flow like algorithm (MOWFA) as an efficient multi-objective evolutionary algorithm to solve the problem. The performance of MOWFA is compared with two popular algorithms including non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm (NSGA-II) and non-dominated ranking genetic algorithm (NRGA). The rest of the paper is structured as follows: Section 2 gives a brief review of the previous studies; then, the mathematical formulation of the problem is introduced in Section 3. Thereafter, Section 4 describes the proposed methodologies to solve the multi-objective dynamic facility layout problem (MODFLP). The parameter tuning and computational results for the proposed algorithm are presented in Section 5. Finally, the conclusion and ideas for future research are given in Section 7.

2. A BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

Layout researches can be categorized into two types of static or dynamic. In static layout, material flow between machines is constant and an optimal layout is designed for a single time period. On the contrary, if the layout is evaluated and modified occasionally with respect to material flow changes, it is called dynamic layout. We give a brief review of the researches regarding the dynamic category. Rosenblatt [3] was the first one who addressed the problem of dynamic facility layout. Rosenblatt [3] developed a procedure based on dynamic programming to determine the optimum design which takes into consideration both MHC and MRC, for multiple periods. In recent years, there have been several efforts to address the DFLP and the research in this area typically hires heuristic and meta-heuristics solution techniques. Urban [4] suggested a heuristic steepest-descent pair-wise interchange procedure combined with the concept of forecast windows similar to CRAFT in order to solve the DFLP. Kouvelis and Kiran [5] proposed a developed dynamic programming to consider the dynamic aspects in automated manufacturing systems. A heuristic tabu search was proposed by Kaku and Mazzola [6] for solving the DFLP. Their heuristic technique was based on initializing a solution to obtain the feasible one. The whole method is divided into two stages: 1. diversifying search and 2. intensifying the search to identify the best solution among the promising solutions identified in stage one. The experimental results showed that tabu search is effective in providing high value solutions for DFLP.

The genetic algorithm was first employed by Conway and Venkataramanan [7] to solve DFLP. The developed methodology evaluated the appropriateness of GA to generate feasible layouts. Balakrishnan and Cheng [8] proposed an improvement in application of GA procedures to solve DFLP. They adopted a different crossover and mutation operators and also used a new generational replacement strategy to help increase population diversity. The computational study showed that their proposed GA was quite more effective than GA proposed by [7]. Baykasoglu and Gindy [9] denoted the simulated annealing (SA) method to solve the DFLP. Their approach was a straightforward implementation of SA to solve the DFLP. Using the test problems from [8], Baykasoglu and Gindy [9] showed that the SA is more capable than developed GAs to achieve better solutions.

Mckendall and Shang [10] proposed three hybrid ant systems (HAS) for solving the DFLPs. In the first system, a HAS with a pair-wise exchange style was used to improve the solution quality. In the second one named modified heuristic HAS, the pair-wise exchange heuristic was replaced by an SA procedure. In the third heuristic system, a look-ahead/look-back strategy was also used. Furthermore, McKendall *et al.* [11] offered two SA methods. The first SA heuristic method called SAI, is a direct adaptation of SA for the DFLP. The second SA heuristic method (SAII) is just like the SAI, except that it has an added look-ahead/look-back strategy. Krishnan *et al.* [12] presented a new tool "Dynamic From Between Chart" to analyze the redesigning layouts. It models the production rate changes using a continuous function.

Rezazadeh *et al.* [13] applied an extended particle swarm algorithm (PSO) for the DFLP. Balakrishnan and Cheng [14] studied the performance of algorithms in static and rolling horizons, under forecast uncertainty for the DFLP. Sahin and Turkbey [15] also suggested a novel hybrid meta-heuristic algorithm based on the SA approach supplemented with a tabu list. Mckendall and Liu [16] proposed three tabu search (TS) heuristics for DFLP. The first heuristic was a simple TS heuristic. The second heuristic added diversification and intensification strategies to the first one, while the third one was a probabilistic TS heuristic. Chen [17] proposed a new encoding and decoding scheme for solution representation within ant colony algorithm framework. It revealed the significant impact of solution representation on the efficiency of heuristics in terms of computational time.

It is only recently that researchers have been proposing multi-objective approaches for DFLP. Chen and Rogers [18] were the first ones who proposed a multi-objective dynamic facility layout model to search about several features of the facility layout problems such as time and distance-based objective as well as the adjacencybased objective. They applied a meta-heuristic optimization algorithm called ant colony optimization to solve the MODFLP. Their results indicated this heuristic technique provides the DFLP with a practical decision support tool.

Jolai *et al.* [19] consider a multi-objective DFLP with unequal fixed size departments and pick up/drop off locations. Their objectives were to minimize the MHC and the MRC and maximize the total adjacency and distance rate between facilities. They implemented a multi-objective PSO algorithm to solve the problem. Emami and Nookabadi [20] proposed a model in which both quantitative and qualitative analyses of dynamic facility layout problems were simultaneously taken into account. In their model, the re-arrangement and material handling costs have been considered as two distinct functions. Similar to the qualitative objective, the adjacency-based objective also aims at maximizing the adjacency scores of the facilities.

Most of the previous studies have focused only on minimizing the sum of MHC and MRC as the most important performance criteria; however, the transporters type used to move the materials between the machines has not been taken into consideration. On the other hand, in the researches available in the literature, the importance of MHC and MRC are identical while they may be of different importance to decision makers. To eliminate these types of shortcomings, this research takes the transporters type into account and proposes a multi-objective model to capture the costs separately. Furthermore, a novel powerful meta-heuristic algorithm is devised to optimize the proposed multi-objective problem. All of these contribute to make our approach more realistic and applicable for solving the layout problem of manufacturing systems.

S. SHAMSODIN HOSSEIN AND M. SEIFBARGHY

3. MATHEMATICAL MODEL

In this section, the integrated problem is formulated as a multi-objective non-linear integer programming model to minimize the sum of MHC, MHE fixed costs and MRC. In order to help a better understanding of the model presented in the paper, the assumptions, parameters and the decision variables are first defined as follows:

The problem is formulated under the following assumptions:

- 1. The material flow between machines is dynamic and predetermined.
- 2. There is a potential set of MHE with predefined fixed costs.
- 3. The sizes of the machines and locations are equal.
- 4. The distances between locations are known in advance.

The parameters and indices are:

N	The number of machines/locations;
T	The number of periods in the planning horizon;
TR	The number of available transporters;
i,j,k,l	Index of machines/locations;
t	Index of time periods;
tr	Index of transporters;
A_{tijl}	The cost of shifting machine i from location j to l in period t ;
$C_{t,i,k}^{tr}$	The material transporting cost between machine i and machine k in period t by transporter tr ;
$m_t^{tr'}$	The maximum number of vehicles tr available in period t ;
cap^{tr}	Transport capacity of transporter tr ;
$R_{t,i,k}$	1 if any material is transported between machine i and machine k in period t 0 otherwise;
FI^{Tr}	Fixed cost of establishing of transporter tr ;
AT_t^{tr}	The available time of transporter tr in period t ;
$Time_{t,i,k}^{tr}$	The time is required to complete a tour from machine i to machine k by transporter tr in period t
$AvgT_{j,l}^{tr}$	The average time is required to complete a tour from location j to location l by transporter tr ;
$F_{t,i,k}$	The material flow from machine i to machine j in period t ;
$D_{t,j,l}$	The distance between location j and location l in period t .

The decision variables are:

$X_{t,i,j}$	1	if facility i is allocated to location j in period t
	0	otherwise;
$Y_{t,i,k}^{tr}$	1	if transporter tr is selected to handle material from machine i to machine k in period t

0 otherwise;

The proposed multi-objective dynamic facility layout problem is now formulated as a non-linear integer programming model. This formulation is an extension of the model presented by McKendall *et al.* [10]:

$$\operatorname{Min} Z_{1} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N} \sum_{l=1}^{N} \sum_{t=1}^{N} \sum_{tr=1}^{TR} \left(\frac{F_{t,i,k}}{\operatorname{cap}^{tr}} \right) \times D_{t,j,l} \times C_{t,i,k}^{tr} \times X_{t,i,j} \times X_{t,k,l} \times Y_{t,i,k}^{tr}$$
(3.1)

$$\operatorname{Min} Z_2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{l=1}^{N} \sum_{t=2}^{T} X_{(t-1)ij} \times X_{til} \times A_{t,i,j,l}$$
(3.2)

872

$$\operatorname{Min} Z_3 = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{k=i+1}^N \sum_{tr=1}^{Tr} Y_{t,i,k}^{tr} \times FI^{tr}$$
(3.3)

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} X_{tij} = 1 \quad , \ \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad \forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$
(3.4)

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} X_{tij} = 1 \quad , \ \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad \forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$
(3.5)

$$\sum_{tr=1}^{TR} Y_{t,i,k}^{tr} = R_{t,i,k} , \ \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1; \ \forall k = i+1, 2, \dots, N; \ \forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$
(3.6)

$$Y_{t,i,k}^{tr} = Y_{t,k,i}^{tr} , \quad \forall i, k = 1, 2, \dots, N; \forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T; \quad \forall tr = 1, 2, \dots, TR$$
(3.7)

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{k=i+1}^{N} Y_{t,i,k}^{tr} \leqslant m_t^{tr} , \quad \forall tr = 1, 2, \dots, TR; \ \forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$
(3.8)

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N} \frac{F_{t,i,k}}{cap^{tr}} \times Y_{t,i,k}^{tr} \times \text{Time}_{t,i,k}^{tr} \leqslant AT_{t}^{tr} , \quad \forall tr = 1, 2, \dots, TR; \ \forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$
(3.9)

$$\operatorname{Time}_{t,i,k}^{tr} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{l=1}^{N} X_{t,i,j} \times X_{t,k,l} \times \operatorname{Avg}T_{j,l}^{tr}, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, N, \ \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, N, \ \forall tr = 1, 2, \dots, TR; \ \forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$
(3.10)

$$X_{t,i,j} \in \{0,1\}$$
, $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, N$, $\forall t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ (3.11)

$$Y_{t,i,k}^{tr} \in \{0,1\} , \quad i,k = 1,2,\dots,N , \qquad \forall tr = 1,2,\dots,TR, \quad \forall t = 2,\dots,T.$$
(3.12)

The objective function (3.1) of this model is to minimize the total MHC. Objective function (3.2) minimizes the MRC and objective function (3.3) minimizes the fixed cost of the MHE. Constraints (3.4) ensure that each facility should be located in one position while constraints (3.5) ensure that in each position only one facility should be allocated. Set of constraints (3.6) state that for any pair of machines, if the materials are handled, a transporter must be assigned. Set of constraints (3.7) guarantee that one type of transporter is assigned to each pair of machines. Set of constraints (3.8) control the number of available vehicles in each period. Constraints (3.9) restrict the functions allocated a transporter to its available time. Constraints (3.10) control the time required to complete a tour between two machines. Constraints (3.11) and (3.12) restrict decision variables. This integer binary programming model is an extension to the classic DFLP and correspondingly is a complex combinatorial optimization problem. Next section presents an efficient algorithm to solve the proposed problem.

S. SHAMSODIN HOSSEIN AND M. SEIFBARGHY

4. Solution methodology

On the earth's surface, gravitation force drives water flows to constantly move to lower altitudes. A flow will split into multiple sub-flows while moving from higher altitudes to lower ones on a rugged terrain. The mass and velocity are two main characteristics of a flow which determine the flow's momentum. When a number of water flows move to the same position, they will be merged into a single water flow with higher momentum. Governed by gravity and driven by fluid momentum, flows can run to higher levels or run over bumps to navigate various terrains. Water flowing will cease and stagnate at lowest local or global depression, when the momentum left cannot drive out the water out of the hollow.

Inspiring this behavior of water flow, Yang and Wang [21] proposed a new meta-heuristic optimization algorithm, called water flow-like algorithm (WFA), for solving NP-hard combinational optimization problems. Tran and Ng [22] proposed a water-flow algorithm to solve scheduling problem. They applied the algorithm to a maltose syrup production problem, and illustrated it's ability for solving problems in practical applications. Wu *et al.* [23] and Chang and Wu [24] used the WFA logic and developed a heuristic algorithm for solving the cell formation problem. Their computational results showed that the proposed algorithm has performed better than other benchmarking approaches in terms of both solution effectiveness and efficiency. Recently, Tran and Ng [25] used a hybrid WFA for solving multi-objective flexible flow shop scheduling problem with limited buffers. The performance of the proposed algorithm was investigated by randomly generated test problems. The computational results proved the effectiveness and efficiency of the WFA.

In WFA, the solution space of a problem is mapped as a geographical terrain and the objective function value is considered as the altitude of a water flow while each water flow represent a solution agent. Water splitting and moving to a lower position can be considered as a process of searching for the optimum status. A flow with larger momentum will generate more sub-flows and its surrounding space will be better explored. The mass and velocity of each flow are distributed to its sub-flows so that high quality sub-flows are of higher proportion of the mass and velocity of the addressed flow. When more than two flows move to the same location, they will merge into a single flow. Mass and velocity are then amassed to create an aggregated flow. The new aggregated flow is able to reinforce the searching process around its location. Furthermore, to escape local optima, some water flows may evaporate and return to the terrain by precipitation.

4.1. Multi-objective water flow-like algorithm

In this paper, we have developed a multi-objective version of WFA for discrete optimization problems. Our multi-objective water flow like algorithm (MOWFA) is based on the Pareto approach. The MOWFA consists of five main operations: (3.1) flow splitting and moving; (3.2) flow ranking; (3.3) flow merging based on similarity coefficient method; (3.4) flow evaporation; and (3.5) heuristic precipitation. Physics quantities such as mass, velocity, fluid momentum, energy, and gravitational acceleration are also used as basic parameters to construct this algorithm. In the proposed MOWFA, the flows are ranked based on the two key concepts of non-dominated sorting and crowding distance.

In MOWFA, solution agents are considered as water flows, solution space is mapped to the geographical terrain and the objective function value is considered by the altitude of a water flow. Searching the solution space is modeled as the terrain traversed by the flows. Initially, a cloud, representing an iteration, randomly produces a set of flows into different positions of the ground. The flows are ranked based on non-dominated sorting and crowding distance metrics. Then, based on the rank, each flow is given a momentum. The flows with higher momentums are allowed to generate more sub-flows. Then any tow flows at the same location (sub-flows), are merged into a single flow with higher momentum. In each iteration, the momentum of all flows is decreasing. The flows with zeros momentum will be evaporated and then are returned to the ground by precipitation. The way of encoding the flows, flow splitting and moving, flow merging operation, flow evaporation operation and

```
Initialize the parameters of WFA algorithms ()
Generate random initial flows (POP)
Perform non dominated sorting
Compute crowding distance
Ranking flows based on non-dominated sorting and crowding distance
While stop criterion is false
{
    For each flow i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\} Do
    Flow splitting and moving
    Searching to find the optimum solution based on neighborhood structures of WFA.
    End For
    Flow merging.
    Water evaporation.
    If rainfall required Do
    Precipitation.
    End If
    Perform non dominated sorting
    Compute crowding distance
    Rank flows based on non-dominated sorting and crowding distance
    Select the flows for next iteration by eliminating the extra flows.
}
```

FIGURE 1	1.	Pseudo-code	of	MO	WFA.
----------	----	-------------	----	----	------

precipitation used in the MOWFA are described later. To give a better understanding of MOWFA, Figure 1 shows its Pseudo-code.

4.2. A fast non-dominated sorting approach

First, the flows are sorted based on non-domination relationship. The non-domination is an individual factor and is said to dominate the other one if its objective function is not worse than the other and at least, one of its objective functions is better than the other one. Figure 2 shows a graphical representation of the fast non-dominated sorting when minimizing the both objectives is desired. Individuals such as x_1 , x_4 , x_6 and x_7 are assigned ranks as rank 1 since there is no individual superiority to them with respect to $f_1(x)$ and $f_2(x)$. After elimination of the individuals classified as rank 1, individuals with rank 2 are selected, and this process is repeated until all individuals are classified. The non-dominated sorting approach will require at most $O(MN^2)$ computations, where M is the number of objectives and N is the number of solutions in the population [26].

A set of front-1 individuals is called Pareto-optimal front.

If two solutions (flows) fall into a same front, a new metric called "crowding distance" is used to evaluate the individuals. The crowding distance is a measure of how close an individual is to its neighbors. The basic idea behind the crowding distance is finding the Euclidean distance between each individual in a front based on their m objectives in m-dimensional hyperspace.

Then, the standard operators of the WFA are performed on the flows to enhance the current flows and generate new flows as the next generation. Furthermore, we include a heuristic precipitation process in the algorithm to raise the solution exploitation capability of the search process. The details of the other operations of the MOWFA for the MODFLP are described in the following subsections.



FIGURE 2. Schematic representation of the non-dominated sorting for two objectives [27].

			Period 2							
Machine layout	2	4	1	5	3	2	4	5	3	1
	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	2
Transmortant		0	3	2	1		0	1	3	2
11ansporters			0	1	1			0	1	1
allocation				0	1				0	3
					0					0

FIGURE 3. An example of the proposed solution representation (a water flow).

4.3. Encoding the flows

Initially, a set of flows as initial random solutions are randomly distributed on some positions on the ground. As mentioned earlier, flows are mapped as solutions and must be a representative of decision variables. We present each flow by two sub-matrixes each of which corresponds to a special area of decision making. The first sub-matrix, which is related to the way machines are placed in positions, is presented by a $1 \times NT$ vector in which N is the number of machines and T is the number of periods. The cells 1-T of sub-matrix 1 correspond to machine layout in period one, cells T+1-2T correspond to machine layout in period two and so on. The value inside each cell denotes the machine number and the cell's rank represents the location of the machine. For example, Figure 3 shows a solution with two periods of time in which during period one, machine 2 is placed in location 1, machine 4 is placed in position 2, machine 1 is placed in position 3, machine 5 is placed in position 4 and machine 3 is placed in position 5. The second sub-matrix is related to assigning the transporters to machines in which the type of selected transporter is pointed to. For instance, in typical solution of Figure 3, the transporter type 3 is responsible for handling the materials between machines 1 and 2 in period 1.

4.4. Flow splitting and moving

Driven by flow momentum, the flows start to move to new locations and explore the solution space for better solutions. A flow with higher momentum generates more streams of sub-flows than one with less momentum.

	Neighborhood type 1							Pe	riod	1		Period 2					Neighborhood type 2					
	140	Igno	omoc	u typ	<i>i i</i>	- 1	2	4	1	5	3	2	4	5	3	1	1 _	1,0	gnot	Jinoc	d of p	
							0	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	2					
								0	3	2	1		0	1	3	2	2					
									0	1	1			0	1	1	L					
										0	1				0	3	3					
											0					()					
		ł													/		-		_			
										_				- 1		\checkmark				74		
	P	eriod	1			P	erio	12						Per	riod	1			P	eriod	12	
2	5	1	4	3	2	4	5	3	1				2	4	5	3	1	2	4	1	5	3
0	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	2				0	1	1	2	2	0	3	2	1	1
	0	1	2	3		0	1	3	2					0	1	3	2		0	3	2	1
		0	1	1			0	1	1						0	1	1			0	1	1
			0	1				0	3							0	3				0	1
				0					0						-		0					0

FIGURE 4. An example of neighborhood strategies.

The number of sub-flows split from a flow can be computed by equation (4.1),

$$n_i = \min\left\{\overline{n}, \operatorname{int} \frac{M_i V_i}{T}\right\}$$
(4.1)

where \bar{n} is an upper bound imposed on the number of sub-flows, M_i represent the mass and V_i represent the velocity of the flow "i". When the momentum of a flow is lower than a predefined base momentum T, no splitting happens and the flow moves as a single stream to the neighboring location. Furthermore, if a flow has a zero velocity, it will stagnate at its location. The locations of the split sub-flows are derived from the neighboring location to a neighboring one. The design of the flow-moving operation is problem-dependent. For more efficiency of proposed MOWFA, we have designed two neighborhood strategies which are capable of keeping the feasibility of solutions.

In neighborhood strategy type 1, after randomly selecting a period, two different cells of sub-matrix 1 and two different cells of sub-matrix 2 are selected and swapped (as is depicted in Fig. 4). In neighborhood strategy type 2, two periods are randomly selected and all the data related to the machine layout and transporter allocation of these periods are exchanged.

As previously mentioned, the mass of flow i is distributed to its sub-flows. For this purpose, the sub-flows of flow i are ranked based on non-dominated sorting and crowding distance metric. The mass of sub-flow j distributed by flow i, U_{ij} , can be obtained from equation (4.2).

$$U_{ij} = \left(\frac{n_i + 1 - \operatorname{rank}_j}{\sum_{r=1}^{n_i} r}\right) \times M_i \tag{4.2}$$

where $rank_j$ represents the rank of sub-flow j with respect to the other sub-flows. For instance, if flow i splits to 5 sub-flows, the mass of rank 1 sub-flow is obtained from equation (4.3).

$$U_{ij} = \left(\frac{5+1-1}{15}\right) \times M_i = \frac{5}{15} \times M_i.$$
(4.3)

Also, velocity of sub-flow j is computed by equation (4.4).

$$\mu_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{V_i^2 + 2g\overline{\delta_{i,j}}} & \text{if } V_i^2 + 2g\delta_{i,j} > 0\\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(4.4)
$$\overline{\delta_{i,j}} = \text{mean} \lim_k \delta_{i,j}^k$$

where "g" is the gravitational acceleration and $\delta_{i,j}^k \delta_{i,j}^k$ represents the altitude drop from flow *i* to its sub-flow *j* in objective function *k* which means the improvement of *k*th objective function when moving from current solution *i* to neighborhood solution *j*. The value of $\delta_{i,j}^k \delta_{i,j}^k$ for each of minimization and maximization objective functions is computed separately (using Eq. (4.5)) and then is averaged,

$$\delta_{i,j}^{k} = \begin{cases} f_i^k - f_{i,j}^k, & \text{for minimization} \\ f_{i,j}^k - f_i^k, & \text{for maximization} \end{cases}$$
(4.5)

where $f_i^k f_i^k$ represents the value of objective function k of flow i and $f_{i,j}^k f_{i,j}^k$ represents the value of kth objective function of sub-flow j distributed by flow i.

4.5. Flow-merging operation

When more than two flows arrive at the same location, they will merge into a single flow with bigger momentum. Whether the location of two flows are the same or not is investigated by our proposed criterion called similarity coefficient (SC). If the SC between two flows is greater than a predefined threshold, their locations are supposed to be identical and the merging takes place. Figure 5 is proposed to find the SC between two flows a and b:

$$SL_{ab} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \partial (X_{tia}, X_{tib})}{N \times T}$$

If $SL_{ab} = 1$

$$SC_{ab} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \partial (Y_{tika}, Y_{tikb})}{N^2 \times T}$$

Else

$$SC_{ab} = 0$$

End If

/ SL_{ab} is the rate of similarity in terms of layout of machines /

/ X_{tia} and X_{tib} are the location of machine *i* in period *t* in the flows *a* and *b* respectively /

/ N is the number of machines /

/T is the number of periods /

/ SC_{ab} is the rate of similarity coefficient /

/ Y_{tika} , Y_{tikb} are selected transporter between machine *i* and *k* in the period *t* in the flows *a* and *b* respectively /

FIGURE 5. Determining the similarity coefficient between two flows a and b.

878

In Figure 5, $\partial(A, B)$ is the similarity between two especial bits given by equation (4.6).

$$\partial(A,B) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A = B \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(4.6)

According to Figure 5, the SC between two flows is zero if there is only a small difference in machine layout design. This is because the layout of machines has a great impact on the objective functions. If SC_{ab} exceeds a predefined threshold, the flows *a* and *b* are recognized as identical flows and merged. Suppose that the flows *a* and *b* are sharing the same location, then both flows *a* and *b* will be removed and the new flow will be generated based on the characteristics presented in equations (4.7)–(4.8).

$$M_{new} = M_a + M_b \tag{4.7}$$

$$V_{new} = \frac{V_a M_a + V_b M_b}{M_a + M_b}.$$
(4.8)

The new generated flow is quite similar to flow a and b in terms of sub-matrix 1. But, since sub-matrix 2 (transporter allocation) of flows a and b may be different, the structure of the merged flow in sub-matrix 2 (transporter allocation) is followed by the flow with higher rank. Therefore, by reducing the number of agents which are representative of similar positions, MOWFA avoids doing redundant searches.

4.6. Flow evaporation operation

It is natural that flows of water evaporate after possible movement and return to the ground through precipitation. In MOWFA, water evaporation and precipitation mechanism help the algorithm to escape from local optima. If a flow falls into a local optimum, it will be stagnated and so loss the capability of moving, merging or splitting. To overcome this problem and release the flow from the local optima, the trapped flow is forced to evaporate into the atmosphere.

The proposed MOWFA establishes a velocity-based evaporation according to the flows with smaller velocities so that they will evaporate more speedily than flows with larger velocities. The formulation of the velocity-based evaporation proposed by [28], is presented in equations (4.9)-(4.10).

$$M_i = (1 - \rho_i) M_i \tag{4.9}$$

$$\rho_{i} = \begin{cases}
1, & \text{if} & \mu_{i,j} = 0 \\
0, & \text{if} & \frac{\mu_{i,j}}{V_{i}} \geqslant 1 \\
1 - \frac{\mu_{i,j}}{V_{i}} & \text{if} & 0 \leqslant \frac{\mu_{i,j}}{V_{i}} \leqslant 1.
\end{cases}$$
(4.10)

4.7. Heuristic precipitation

After a number of iterations, the evaporated water will return to the ground by precipitation operator. In this paper, a seasonal rainfall is applied periodically in which the precipitation takes place when the number of evaporated flows reaches to a predefined level. In order to enhance the algorithm's diversity, the location of returned flow is deviated far away from the location of flow before evaporation. In this way, the bits of flow are arranged inversely (Fig. 6).

Finally, all the initial flows, all the generated sub-flows and the flows generated *via* precipitation are gathered and form a new population. Then in this population, the members are ranked by non-dominated sorting and crowding distance criteria. By eliminating the overflow members, a population is constructed as initial population of next generation. The process continues to be performed until the stopping criteria are satisfied.

		Pe	eriod	1			Р	eriod	2			
	2	4	1	5	3	2	4	5	3	1		
	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	2		
Evaporated water		0	3	2	1		0	1	3	2		
•			0	1	1			0	1	1		
				0	1				0	3		
					0					0		
	Period 1 Period 2											
	3	5	1	4	2	1	3	5	4	2		
	0	1	1	2	3	0	2	2	1	1		
Returned water		0	1	2	3		0	2	3	1		
			0	1	1			0	1	1		
				0	1				0	3		
					0					0		

FIGURE 6. An example of generated solution based on heuristic precipitation.

4.8. Stopping criterion of the algorithms

For stopping MOWFA, first we define the set of m iterations as a round. Then, in every iteration, the best value of every objective function is determined. If, the mean change of all the objective functions between two successive rounds remains constant within 0.95% confidence interval, the algorithm is terminated.

5. Computational experiments

In order to verify and evaluate the results obtained by MOWFA some computational experiments are conducted and the performance of MOWFA is compared with one of the NSGA-II and NRGA algorithms. To do this, a set of test problems are randomly generated. There are 4 different problem sizes. The first contains problems with 6 machines in 5 periods, second contains problems with 6 machines in 10 periods, third contains problems with 15 machines in 5 periods and the fourth contains problems with 15 machines in 10 periods. For each problem size, we generate eight instances. Note that throughout this paper all calculations were performed a PC with Intel Core2 Duo 2.26 GHz CPU and 2 GB RAM. Moreover, algorithms were coded in MATLAB software (Version 7.10.0.499, R2010a).

5.1. Multi-objective performance metrics

In multi-objective optimization algorithms, convergence to the Pareto optimal front and the maintenance of a diverse set of solutions are two objectives. There is no single metric to evaluate the performance of the algorithms to satisfy these objectives. In this paper, five metrics of spacing, mean ideal distance, diversity, number of found solutions in Pareto front and number of function evaluations have been used to measure the algorithms' convergence and diversity.

5.1.1. Spacing metric

Zitzler [29] suggested spacing metric that calculates the relative distance between consecutive solutions in the non-dominated set obtained as equation (5.1).

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{1}{nos - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{nos} \left(d_i - \overline{d}\right)^2}$$
(5.1)

where d_i is the sum of the differences in objective function values between solution *i* and it's two nearest neighbors for each objective and \bar{d} is the average of all d_i 's. When the solutions are nearly uniformly spaced, the spacing measure will be small. Thus, an algorithm with a smaller spacing is preferred.

5.1.2. Mean ideal distance (MID)

This metric proposed by Zitzler and Thiele [30] measures the convergence rate of Pareto fronts to an ideal point (0, 0),

$$MID = \frac{1}{NOS} \sum_{i=1}^{NOS} c_i \tag{5.2}$$

where $c_i = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{J} f_{ji}^2}$ and f_{ji} is the *j*th objective function of *i*th solution. The low value of MID means that the solutions in Pareto front are high-quality solutions.

5.1.3. Diversity metric

This metric, proposed by Zitzler Thiele [30], evaluate scatter of solutions in the Pareto front. As a rule, whatever the scale is bigger, better.

$$D = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{J} \left(\max_{i} f_{ji} - \min_{i} f_{ji}\right)^{2}}.$$
(5.3)

5.1.4. Number of found solutions in Pareto front (NOS)

Count the number of the solutions in Pareto optimal front. Thus, more solutions in Pareto frontier imply better performance of the algorithm [31].

5.1.5. Number of function evaluations (NOF)

In order to give a general perspective to the readers about the algorithms' speed, the number of function evaluations is considered as a performance metric. The speed of running the algorithms to find near optimum solutions is one of the most important indexes in order to evaluate the algorithms.

5.2. Tuning algorithm's parameters

The value of the parameters significantly affects the quality of the algorithms. Algorithms cannot reach to the appropriate final solutions if their parameters are not adjusted properly. In this section, we investigate the behavior of proposed MOWFA in different levels of parameters and determine the best level of the parameters. The full factorial design of experiment is a conventional statistical method used for tuning the parameters, but this method is not always well-organized because its calculations are increasingly complex when the number of parameters is high. Therefore, in this paper, to limit the number of the experiments, a practical experimental design technique, known as Taguchi method, is used. Taguchi method is a fractional factorial experiment that is proposed by Taguchi as an efficient alternative for full factorial experiments.

In order to apply the Taguchi method, the levels of the factors should first be determined. The initial levels of factors are shown in Table 1. The presented factors include the actual names along with their brief names.

In the Taguchi method, the values of quality characteristics obtained through the experiments are transferred into a measure called signal to noise (S/N) ratio. The frame of this ratio is different for each response type. equation (5.4) formulates S/N for a larger-the-better response type, where y_i is the *i*th observed value of the response (quality characteristic) and *n* is the number of observations in a trial.

$$\frac{S}{N} = -10\log\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}y_i^2\right).$$
(5.4)

Multi-objective coefficient of variation (MOCV), proposed by Rahmati *et al.* (2013), is considered as the response for the experiments.

$$MOCV = \frac{MID}{Diversity}.$$
(5.5)

Solving methodology	Parameter	Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	Popsize	Initial pop size	30	70	140	200
NCCAIL	P_c	Percent of cross over	0.7	0.8	0.85	0.9
NSGA-II	P_m	Percent of mutation	0.1	0.15	0.17	0.2
	Round	Number of generations	200	300	400	500
	Popsize	Initial pop size	50	100	150	200
NDCA	P_c	Percent of cross over	0.7	0.8	0.85	0.9
NRGA	P_m	Percent of mutation	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.3
	Round	Number of generations	200	350	500	600
	Popsize	Number of initial flows	30	50	70	90
	M_0	Initial mass of original low	20	30	40	50
MOWFA	V_0	Initial velocity of original flow	10	20	30	30
	Round	Number of Iterations	100	200	300	400

TABLE 1. Algorithm parameter ranges along with their levels.

TABLE 2. The orthogonal array and computational results to tune NSGA-II and NRGA.

Erro No			NS	GA-II		NRC	ĞΑ					
Exp No.	Popsize	P_c	P_m	Iteration	$MOCV_1$	$MOCV_2$	$MOCV_3$	S/N	$MOCV_1$	$MOCV_2$	$MOCV_3 S/N$	
1	1	1	1	1	1.02	1.29	1.69	-2.68	1.27	1.55	2.06	-4.41
2	1	2	2	2	0.66	0.49	0.42	5.47	0.99	0.85	0.74	1.25
3	1	3	3	3	0.72	0.84	0.77	2.15	0.90	1.03	0.96	0.33
4	1	4	4	4	0.87	0.98	0.82	0.99	1.05	1.20	1.00	-0.71
5	2	1	2	3	0.55	0.58	0.60	4.75	0.67	0.71	0.77	2.86
6	2	2	1	4	1.11	0.69	0.60	1.62	1.33	0.86	0.74	-0.10
7	2	3	4	1	0.89	0.82	0.71	1.83	1.08	1.00	0.90	0.03
8	2	4	3	2	1.11	0.85	0.95	0.21	0.79	0.89	0.74	1.84
9	3	1	3	4	0.39	0.41	0.43	7.79	0.49	0.50	0.55	5.78
10	3	2	4	3	0.52	0.74	0.60	4.07	0.63	0.89	0.73	2.42
11	3	3	1	2	0.68	0.59	0.71	3.58	0.83	0.74	0.89	1.66
12	3	4	2	1	0.68	0.52	0.84	3.17	0.84	0.64	1.01	1.43
13	4	1	4	2	0.68	0.62	0.59	4.00	0.86	0.75	0.75	2.08
14	4	2	3	1	0.35	0.47	0.52	6.89	0.47	0.52	0.65	5.17
15	4	3	2	4	0.57	0.59	0.66	4.32	0.71	0.71	0.80	2.60
16	4	4	1	3	0.61	0.62	0.72	3.70	0.72	0.77	0.92	1.87

As mentioned earlier, in Pareto-based algorithms, two main goals including acceptable convergence and diversity are considered. Since, MID measures the convergence rate of the algorithm and diversity measures, the diversification in Pareto front. MOCV is a comprehensive combination of major metrics which is used as a single response in the Taguchi method. Tables 2 and 3 summarize the experimental results of NSGA-II, NRGA and MOWFA. Regarding equations (5.4) and (5.5) these tables present S/N and MOCV as well.

Figures 7 and 9 shows how the index values of S/N are changing at different levels of the algorithms. Levels where the index S/N has reached the maximum are selected as the optimal levels. Optimal parameter levels of the algorithms are highlighted in Table 1.

5.3. Algorithm's evaluation

In this section, we present results of numerical experiments for the proposed algorithm, compared to those for NSGA-II and NRGA using random generated test problems. Since the meta-heuristic algorithms are naturally stochastic, each instance of the problem is replicated 45 times and the averaged results are reported. The results

Evp No	_				MOWFA						
Exp No.	Popsize	M_0	V_0	Round	$MOCV_1$	$MOCV_2$	$MOCV_3$	S/N			
1	1	1	1	1	1.35	0.99	1.15	-1.38			
2	1	2	2	2	1.13	1.08	0.90	-0.36			
3	1	3	3	3	0.44	0.29	0.16	10.03			
4	1	4	4	4	1.24	1.07	0.91	-0.69			
5	2	1	2	3	0.55	0.59	0.74	3.99			
6	2	2	1	4	0.44	0.57	0.41	6.40			
7	2	3	4	1	1.11	1.33	0.98	-1.21			
8	2	4	3	2	0.30	0.19	0.13	13.23			
9	3	1	3	4	0.22	0.21	0.04	15.04			
10	3	2	4	3	0.34	0.25	0.17	11.69			
11	3	3	1	2	0.89	0.98	1.01	0.35			
12	3	4	2	1	1.02	1.09	1.12	-0.64			
13	4	1	4	2	0.50	0.52	0.58	5.46			
14	4	2	3	1	0.09	0.16	0.17	16.80			
15	4	3	2	4	0.50	0.49	0.65	5.15			
16	4	4	1	3	0.95	1.04	1.06	-0.15			

TABLE 3. The orthogonal array and computational results to tune MOWFA.



Main Effects Plot for SN ratios for NRGA

FIGURE 7. The mean S/N ratio plot for each level of the factors for NRGA.

are shown in Appendix A where obtained values of five performance measures are given. Figure 10 shows these results graphically. Figure 10a shows the algorithms' performances using the spacing metric. Since the standard spacing is less, it can be concluded that the NRGA algorithm has the worst performance among the algorithms. MOWFA and NSGA-II are approximately performing similarly.

Figure 10b compares MID metric of the algorithms. It is clear that in almost all instances the MOWFA algorithm performs better in finding high quality solutions. As shown in Figure 10c, in terms of Diversity metric, MOWFA gives better values compared with the two other algorithms for the most of the test problems. Also, it is clear that the performance of NSGA-II and NRGA is at the same level. As shown in Figure 10d, based on NOS metric, the performances of all the algorithm are approximately equivalent; however, as the problem size increases, the quality of NRGA is decreasing.



Main Effects Plot for SN ratios for NSGA-II

FIGURE 8. The mean S/N ratio plot for each level of the factors for NSGA-II.



Main Effects Plot for SN ratios for MOWFA

FIGURE 9. The mean S/N ratio plot for each level of the factors for MOWFA.

Figure 10e illustrates the superiority of the proposed MOWFA algorithm in comparison with NSGA-II and NRGA in terms of NOF. According to Figure 10e, for small-sized problems, the MOWFA performs similar to other algorithms, while for the large-sized problems, MOWFA considerably outperforms than the two other algorithms, especially than NSGA-II.

Figure 11 is a graphical representation of the obtained Pareto front for problems 1, 9, 17 and 25. As shown in Figure 11, the solutions from MOWFA are of the best values of all objective functions which in turn is a good evidence for the effectiveness MOWFA in terms of MID.

In order to statistically verify the results shown in Figure 10, we used the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test and statistically compared algorithms according to each of metrics separately. In this case, the value of each metric is transformed to a normalized performance measure named relative percentage deviation (RPD),

Metric's name	F-value	P-value	Test results
Spacing	22.82	8.63e-09	Null hypothesis is rejected
MID	86.28	$6.47\mathrm{e}{-22}$	Null hypothesis is rejected
Diversity	13.45	7.37e-05	Null hypothesis is rejected
NOS	29.97	$8.98e{-11}$	Null hypothesis is rejected
NOF	38.58	$6.30\mathrm{e}{-13}$	Null hypothesis is rejected

TABLE 4. ANOVA test.



FIGURE 10. Comparison of the proposed algorithm according to spacing metric MID metric, diversity metric, metric NOS and NOF metric.

obtained by the following formula:

$$RPD(i, j, k) = \frac{\operatorname{Alg}_{\operatorname{sol}}(i, j, k) - \min_{\operatorname{sol}}(j, k)}{\min_{\operatorname{sol}}(j, k)} \times 100.$$
(5.6)

In equation (28), $Alg_{sol}(i, j, k)$ shows the value of performance measure j in problem number k that has been obtained by algorithm i and $\min_{sol}(j, k)$ is the best value of performance measure j between all algorithms for



FIGURE 11. Visual presentation of obtained Pareto-front four test problem 1, 9, 17 and 25.

problem number k. The ANOVA results are shown in Table 4, in which rejecting the Null hypothesis indicates that there is significant difference between algorithms.

Based on the outputs of ANOVA test, it is clear that the algorithms have significant differences in terms of all performance metrics which necessitate the use of Tukey test to statistically rank algorithms. The results of the 95% Tukey simultaneous confidence intervals are shown in Figure 12. The results prove well performance of the algorithms based on the mean and Tukey intervals. As Figure 12, we can say that NRGA has the lowest spacing performance among all the algorithms. But, the efficiency of the MOWFA and NSGA-II is at the same quality. In terms of MID metric, the MOWFA algorithm is dramatically better than two other algorithms. Also NSGA-II can perform better than NRGA. Better performance of the MOWFA in terms of Diversity metric can be shown in Figure 12. Based on NOS index the MOWFA and NSGA-II are statistically at the same level. Based on Figure 12 we can prove that MOWFA is the most preferable technique in terms of the required NOF.



FIGURE 12. The 95% Tukey simultaneous confidence intervals for the metrics.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper explained how to develop a more realistic mathematical model for dynamic facility layout problem. Such models can be applied in manufacturing systems with a variety of MHE. In addition to minimizing MHC and MRC, reducing the fixed/fixing cost of the MHE by selecting a safer MHE was also considered as the other objective of the proposed model. To solve the problem, a new meta-heuristic algorithm inspired from the existing water flow like algorithm called MOWFA was proposed. Various test problems were designed to evaluate the performance of the algorithm in comparison with two well-known multi-objective evolutionary algorithms called NSGA-II and NRGA. The experimental results indicated that our proposed algorithm outperforms both NSGA-II and NRGA and it is also able to improve the quality of the solutions. The MID measure showed that the MOWFA could achieve better the objective-function values, especially in large-sized problems. Also, the MOWFA was so faster than the two other algorithms; this can show its applicability for the large-sized real-world problems. The presented model was still open for incorporating other features, such as transporter failure, machine breakdown and random processing time. Another clue for a future research is to consider the proposed algorithm on other types of combinatorial optimization problems. As another direction, it could be interesting to work on some other meta-heuristics and compare them with the given algorithms.

APPENDIX A.

		Spacing			MID		Diversity			
	MOWFA	NRGA	NSGA-II	MOWFA	NRGA	NSGA-II	MOWFA	NRGA	NSGA-II	
$\mathbf{P1}$	4364	4311	2517	89170	107245	85 720	102056	93258	102825	
P2	2928	3125	2985	63720	99720	70301	92867	95507	65781	
P3	2778	3874	3223	68162	84268	82671	92266	92721	57835	
P4	2660	4712	3135	77740	99636	97115	89727	47798	97404	
P5	4184	4282	3536	88359	112199	78194	33551	91797	77049	
P6	3600	3768	3087	64243	96525	82667	62843	67231	58281	
P7	2659	5385	3829	56215	82645	57337	37288	66708	101320	
$\mathbf{P8}$	2780	3240	3817	76389	99850	91132	108879	88495	65230	
P9	2969	3539	3150	108094	164423	108605	102685	85674	55295	
P10	3016	4193	2081	111321	171307	149924	133687	68388	81 878	
P11	2679	4327	2245	128346	154520	125884	120610	50642	64082	
P12	3092	4056	3164	114660	137378	162938	68065	73147	72590	
P13	2675	3846	3386	111383	165054	147971	146458	136729	122052	
P14	3241	4713	2785	105834	146264	151001	123827	112637	63483	
P15	2832	3749	2221	128319	178727	171941	99148	80979	86176	
P16	2979	3782	4342	123021	183561	136524	107005	85610	79217	
P17	5074	6149	5935	15901	190025	176880	75429	96786	90547	
P18	5118	8359	7322	151633	221223	221693	86343	105678	105563	
P19	5180	7611	5524	205728	236400	196257	98305	83073	53921	
P20	6250	6197	6741	179172	235829	198488	121580	88626	81865	
P21	7035	8531	7195	178895	251686	218866	113301	76071	88 086	
P22	6201	8311	6767	189820	251138	231416	158760	102014	90023	
P23	6792	6251	5966	186711	211750	179490	156124	117459	96406	
P24	7787	8538	5369	179168	236281	204928	165063	84770	146450	
P25	8693	9971	8774	235733	347238	300 896	164189	145473	90855	
P26	10368	10928	9718	230223	354887	311530	179110	99619	147893	
P27	8966	11440	9838	253287	416590	307895	184045	132195	116752	
P28	8391	11718	9819	239873	364283	340194	185933	132107	123084	
P29	9207	11063	8729	254977	394400	352149	184908	164806	93441	
P30	9209	10271	8087	263560	395843	304959	195043	126198	134747	
P31	10641	12461	9246	269918	359465	328036	195429	136831	124167	
P32	9729	11624	7705	273595	357401	396082	200425	140932	146759	

TABLE A.1. Multi-objective performance measures obtained for each algorithm.

		NOS		NOF* 10^2					
	MOWFA	NRGA	NSGA-II	MOWFA	NRGA	NSGA-II			
P1	12	7	14	23075	20833	22916			
P2	13	10	19	24491	19287	23747			
P3	12	9	16	18743	20912	26011			
P4	9	15	11	18335	23206	24098			
P5	9	10	14	24308	24101	19158			
P6	10	13	15	25613	18224	21047			
$\mathbf{P7}$	14	12	14	20355	21585	25784			
P8	11	11	10	21191	19215	21807			
P9	15	9	19	35907	62173	61021			
P10	18	16	11	32382	59457	68730			
P11	14	8	14	30102	37164	66658			
P12	10	13	17	39461	65003	59471			
P13	16	8	16	47504	41041	50179			
P14	17	13	23	39940	36675	46817			
P15	11	13	12	33215	60239	46830			
P16	14	11	16	36061	33964	68700			
P17	18	16	16	90888	102456	130278			
P18	11	14	19	107114	128744	155434			
P19	12	9	17	104367	114636	131606			
P20	14	9	19	89 960	100856	148224			
P21	22	9	16	92478	116691	172430			
P22	14	17	22	91947	127904	158870			
P23	19	17	20	91275	105495	156189			
P24	13	17	19	103861	110974	145701			
P25	22	20	28	448618	541867	757899			
P26	20	18	24	384950	545010	739484			
P27	21	22	32	439349	483017	719259			
P28	23	18	29	402728	489441	655397			
P29	22	17	27	395391	478866	716287			
P30	20	19	27	383603	416241	735609			
P31	22	17	33	400575	411374	843477			
P32	25	21	31	414777	482183	862108			

References

- J.A. Tompkins, J.A. White, Y.A. Bozer, E.H. Frazelle, J.M. Tanchoco and J. Trevino, *Facilities planning*. Wiley, New York (1996).
- [2] S. Chittratanawat, An integrated approach for facility layout, P/D locations and material handling system design. Int. J. Prod. Res. 37 (1999) 683–706.
- [3] M.J. Rosenblatt, The dynamics of plant layout. Manage. Sci. 321 (1986) 76-86.
- [4] T.L. Urban, A heuristic for the dynamic facility layout problem. IIE Trans. 25 (1993) 57-63.
- [5] P. Kouvelis and A.S. Kiran, Single and Multiple Period Layout Models for Automated Manufacturing Systems. Eur. J. Oper. Res. 52 (1991) 300–314.
- [6] B. Kaku and J.B. Mazzola, A tabu search heuristic for the plant layout problem. INFORMS J. Comput. 94 (1997) 374-384.

S. SHAMSODIN HOSSEIN AND M. SEIFBARGHY

- [7] D.G. Conway and M.A. Venkataramanan, Genetic search and the dynamic facility layout problem. Comput. Oper. Res. 21 (1994) 955–960.
- [8] J. Balakrishnan and C.H. Cheng, Genetic search and the dynamic layout problem. Comput. Oper. Res. 27 (2000) 587-593.
- [9] A. Baykasoglu and N.N.Z. Gindy, A simulated annealing algorithm for dynamic layout problem. Comput. Oper. Res. 28 (2001) 1403–1426.
- [10] A.R. McKendall and J. Shang, Hybrid ant systems for the dynamic facility layout problem. Comput. Oper. Res. 33 (2006) 790–803.
- [11] A.R. McKendall, J. Shang and S. Kuppusamy, Simulated annealing heuristics for the dynamic facility layout problem. Comput. Oper. Res. 33 (2006) 2431–2444.
- [12] K.K. Krishnan, S.H. Cheraghi and C.N. Nayak, Dynamic From-Between Chart: a new tool for solving dynamic facility layout problems. Int. J. Ind. Syst. Eng. 1 (2006) 182–200.
- [13] H. Rezazadeh, M. Ghazanfari, M. Saidi-Mehrabad and S.J. Sadjadi, An extended discrete particle swarm optimization algorithm for the dynamic facility layout problem. J. Zhejiang. Univ. Sci. A. 10 (2009) 520–529.
- [14] J. Balakrishnan and C.H. Cheng, The dynamic plant layout problem: Incorporating rolling horizons and forecast uncertainty. Omega 37 (2009) 165–177.
- [15] R. Şahin and O. Türkbey, A new hybrid tabu-simulated annealing heuristic for the dynamic facility layout problem. Int. J. Prod. Res. 47 (2009) 6855–6873.
- [16] A.R. McKendall and W.H. Liu, New Tabu search heuristics for the dynamic facility layout problem. Int. J. Prod. Res. 50 (2012) 867–878.
- [17] G.Y.H Chen, A new data structure of solution representation in hybrid ant colony optimization for large dynamic facility layout problems. Int. J. Prod. Econ. 142 (2013) 362–371
- [18] G.Y. Chen and K.J. Rogers, Proposition of Two Multiple Criteria Models Applied to Dynamic Multi-objective Facility Layout Problem Based On Ant Colony Optimization. 2009. IEEE International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management. Hong Kong (2009) 1553–1557.
- [19] F. Jolai, R. Tavakkoli-Moghaddam and M. Taghipour, A multi-objective particle swarm optimization algorithm for unequal sized dynamic facility layout problem with pickup/drop-off locations. Int. J. Prod. Res. 50 (2012) 4279–4293.
- [20] S. Emami and A.S. Nookabadi, Managing a new multi-objective model for the dynamic facility layout problem. Int. J. Adv. Manuf. Technol. 68 (2013) 2215–2228.
- [21] F.C. Yang and Y.P. Wang, Water flow-like algorithm for object grouping problems. J. Chin. Inst. Ind. Eng. 24 (2007) 475–488.
- [22] T.H. Tran and K.M. Ng, A water-flow algorithm for flexible flow shop scheduling with intermediate buffers. J. Sched. 14 (2011) 483–500.
- [23] T.H. Wu, S.H. Chung and C.C. Chang, A water flow-like algorithm for manufacturing cell formation problems. Eur. J. Oper. Res. 205 (2010) 346–360.
- [24] C.C. Chang and T.H Wu, A novel approach to determine cell formation, cell layout, and intracellular machine layout. In Information Science and Service Science and Data Mining (ISSDM), 2012 6th International Conference on New Trends (2012) 717–721.
- [25] T.H. Tran and K.M. Ng, A hybrid water flow algorithm for multi-objective flexible flow shop scheduling problems. Eng. Optim. 45 (2013), 483–502
- [26] K. Deb, Multi-objective optimization using evolutionary algorithms. Wiley and Sons Limited, New York (2001).
- [27] S. Honda, T. Igarashi and Y. Narita, Multi-objective optimization of curvilinear fiber shapes for laminated composite plates by using NSGA-II. Composites Part B: Engineering 45 (2013) 1071–1078.
- [28] H. Wu, S.H. Chung and C.C. Chang, A water flow-like algorithm for manufacturing cell formation problems. Eur. J. Oper. Res. 205 (2010) 346–360
- [29] E. Zitzler, Evolutionary algorithms for multi objective optimization: Methods and Applications. Ph.D. thesis, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland, Germany (1999).
- [30] E. Zitzler and L. Thiele, Multi-objective optimization using evolutionary algorithms a comparative case study. In Fifth International Conference on Parallel Problem Solving. Berlin, Germany (1998) 292–301.
- [31] J.D. Schaffer, Multiple Objective Optimization with Vector Evaluated Genetic Algorithms. In Genetic algorithms and their applications: In Proc. of the first international conference on genetic algorithms. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum (1985) 93–100.

890