



ISBN: 978-1-5323-5948-4

ISSN: 2169-8767

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M. M. Manyuchi, BioEnergy and Environmental Technology Centre, Department of Operations and Quality Management, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Department of Chemical and Processing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences, Zimbabwe

C. Mbohwa, BioEnergy and Environmental Technology Centre, Department of Operations and Quality Management, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

M. Mpeta, Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe

E. Muzenda, BioEnergy and Environmental Technology Centre, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Department of Chemical, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, P Bag 16, Palapye, Botswana

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Inês Azevedo, Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, Rua Dr. Roberto Frias, s/n 4200-465 Porto, Portugal

Vera L. Migueis and Americo Azevedo, Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, Rua Dr. Roberto Frias, s/n 4200-465 Porto, Portugal

INESC TEC, Rua Dr. Roberto Frias, Campus da FEUP, 4200-465 Porto, Portugal

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Mercy Manyuchi, Department of Operations and Quality Management, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Department of Chemical and Processing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences, Zimbabwe

C. Mbohwa, Department of Operations and Quality Management, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

M. Mpeta, Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe

E. Muzenda, Department of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Department of Chemical, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, P Bag 16, Palapye, Botswana

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M. M. Manyuchi, BioEnergy and Environmental Technology Centre, Department of Operations and Quality Management, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Department of Chemical and Processing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences, Zimbabwe

Anissa Frini, Department of management science, University of Quebec at Rimouski, Campus of Lévis, 1595, boulevard Alphonse-Desjardins, Lévis (Québec) Canada

Dominique Diouf, Centre d'Étude en Responsabilité Sociale et Écocitoyenneté (CERSÉ), Collège Rosemont, Montréal, Canada
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Aezeden Mohamed, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Memorial University, Canada St. John's
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John Pumwa, Mechanical Engineering Department, PNG University of Technology, Lae, MP 411, Papua New Guinea

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Yuki Satoh, Advanced Course in Production Systems Engineering, Salesian Polytechnic Machida, Tokyo 194-0215, Japan
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Rahmat Nurcahyo, Setio Agung Wibowo, Amar Rachman, Industrial Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Indonesia, Kampus UI Depok, 16424, Indonesia
Alan Dwi Wibowo, Agroindustrial Technology Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, Jl A Yani KM 36, Banjarbaru, Kalimantan Selatan, Indonesia

Modeling a Bi-Objective Multi-Skill Resource-Constrained Project Scheduling Problem to Minimize Project Makespan and Skill Divergence Span

Dheeraj Joshi

Associate Professor, Deptt. of Mechanical Engineering,
Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Management & Gramothan, Jaipur
dheerajjoshi25@gmail.com

M.L. Mittal

Professor, Deptt. of Mechanical Engineering,
Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur
mlmittal.mech@mnit.ac.in

Manish Kumar

Research Scholar, Deptt. of Mechanical Engineering,
Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur
m81manishkumar@gmail.com

Abstract

In most of the multi-objective multi-skill resource-constrained project scheduling (MO-MSRCPSP) research works, it has been assumed that a staff member is able to exhibit different skills with the same proficiency or expertise. However, this is not true in real life. Usually, a person possessing various skills may be expert in one (or two) skill(s) but may only be moderately trained for performing other skills. The assignments of persons with less-skilled levels have to be kept as low as possible to achieve satisfactory quality targets. Under this motivation, this paper develops a mathematical model for a MSRCPSP with two objectives. In addition to the regular objective of minimizing the makespan, the second objective aims at minimizing the total time elapsed with the less-skilled resource assignments defined as 'skill divergence span'. A weighted sum teaching-learning-based optimization (TLBO) algorithm is employed to solve this complex problem. In addition to the TLBO, a multi-objective genetic algorithm (GA) is also developed as an alternative metaheuristic for the comparison purposes. The computational results are performed on 36 test instances with varying level of skill factors, resource strength and network complexity. The average % deviation from critical path based lower bound obtained is comparatively lower for the MO-TLBO as compared to the MO-GA. It is 62.17% for the proposed MO-TLBO while for MO-GA its value is 75.11% which shows that TLBO is an effective metaheuristic for solving such problems.

Keywords

Teaching-learning-based algorithm (TLBO), multi-objective multi-skill resource-constrained project scheduling (MO-MSRCPSP)