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The Fuzzy Optimization Algorithm to Solve Customer's Highest Satisfaction Under Fuzzy Time

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Abstract: The fuzzy completion time and customer request are two main uncertain factors in the process of the actual workshop production. The scheduling model under uncertain situation based on fuzzy mathematics is established in this paper. The average customer satisfaction acts as the objective of the model. Next, a novel hybrid algorithm is obtained through improving the mutation operation of genetic algorithm on the basis of simulated annealing algorithm. The customers can determine the priority through the process time of the process route to evaluate the effectiveness of the process route. The effectiveness and superiority of the proposed algorithm are verified through the contrast experiment with the existing algorithms.

Keywords: Genetic algorithm, membership function, penalty value, priority, simulated annealing algorithm.

1. INTRODUCTION

With the development of the fuzzy theory, fuzzy mathematics has been applied to the Job shop scheduling problems (JSP) under uncertain condition [1, 2]. Chuan He *et al.* [3] tried to solve the fuzzy scheduling problems using the theory of interval number, which may describe the objective function as uncertain parameter through merging the particle swarm optimization (PSO) and genetic algorithm (GA). Jorge Puente *et al.* [4] proposed a novel scheme for fuzzy JSP based on the change of the key block location of the task for searching community structure. Juan José Palacios *et al.* [5] proposed an improved optimization algorithm by mixing the tabu search algorithm and the genetic algorithm. The improved algorithm was applied to solve the problem of fuzzy completion time. From the present study for fuzzy JSP, it can be known that the fuzzy scheduling is mainly concentrated in the delivery and processing time [6, 7], and the number of considering the delivery and the processing time at the same time is very seldom. Therefore, this paper proposed an improved hybrid algorithm to maximize the customer satisfaction under the fuzzy condition based on the existing research results. The effective of proposed algorithm is verified with simulation examples.

2. ANALYSIS OF THE IMPROVED ALGORITHM

2.1. Evaluation Index of Improved Optimization Algorithm

According to the actual job shop scheduling, the average customer satisfaction is selected as the evaluation index of the improved algorithm model, that is shown as eq. 1:

$$F = \max\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n AI_i\right) \quad (1)$$

AI_i represents the customer satisfaction of the workpiece J_i , whose reference point is the matching degree of between

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completion time and delivery time of J_i . So the satisfaction can be calculated [8] as follow:

$$AI_i = \frac{(S_{Ci} \cap S_{Di})}{S_{Ci}} \quad (2)$$

The area S_{Ci} bounded by membership function of fuzzy processing time's central triangular fuzzy number of and horizontal axis represents the completion time of the workpiece N_i , the area S_{Di} bounded by membership function of fuzzy delivery time's symmetrical trapezoidal fuzzy number and horizontal axis represents the delivery time of the workpiece N_i .

2.2. Mathematical Model of Improved Optimization Algorithm

The objective function of this experiment is to maximize the average customer satisfaction, this paper proposed an improved objective function considering the global searching capability of GA-SA, and the objective function is as follows:

$$F = \max\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n AI_i}{n}\right) = \max\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n [(S_{Ci} \cap S_{Di}) / S_{Ci}]}{n}\right)$$

$$s.t. : s_{ilk} + c_{ilk} - s_{i(l+1)q} \leq 0, i \in J, l \in S, k, q \in M \quad (3)$$

$$s_{ilk} \geq 0, i \in J, k \in M$$

$$s_{ilk} + c_{ilk} - s_{jmp} \leq 0, i, j \in J, l, m \in S, k, p \in M$$

J represents the workpiece; M represents machining machine sets; S_{ilk} represents the start time of process l of workpiece i on machining k ; c_{ijk} the completion time of process l of workpiece i on machining k ; C_k represents the time when all the artifacts on the machine K are completed. Because of the goal of this paper is to maximize the customer satisfaction scheduling scheme, the fitness may be described as the average satisfaction of all the workpiece:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n AI_i}{n} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (S_i \cap S_D) / S_i}{n} \quad (4)$$

Each piece comes with a penalty value α_i , it represents the value of this piece is to give up on behalf of the production of the need to pay [9, 10]. Each piece has two weight attributes, its own piece priority JP_i and customer priority CP_i , and each piece has a profit P_i . Therefore, such a rule can be set in this way to calculate the penalty value:

$$\alpha_i = JP_i \times (CP_i \times P_i) \quad (5)$$

Each piece comes with some reward value β_j , which represents the workpiece within a specified time deadlines produce benefits that can be obtained [11]. Punish according to the set value can be set rules as follow for calculating bonus values:

$$\beta_j = JP_j \times (CP_j \times P_j) \quad (6)$$

If $\beta_j \geq \alpha_i$, then the production time of workpiece i may be replaced by workpiece j to meet the customer satisfaction.

3. DESCRIPTION OF IMPROVED OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHM

3.1. Simulated Annealing Algorithm

Simulated Annealing Algorithm (SA) proposed by Kirkpatrick [12] has been applied to many hybrid optimization problem [13]. Its basic idea is that it may start with initial solution s and the initial parameter T_0 of temperature control, iterate the current solution "generate new solutions → calculate the objective function difference → determine whether or not to accept", and gradually decay to the current temperature T , the current solution when the algorithm terminates is the approximate optimal solution which has been obtained.

SA is an enhanced local search algorithm or the cycle of improvement algorithm, it can avoid the algorithm falling into local optimization through repeating the small and local improvement for the initial solution, and accept a lower solution with Blotzmann probability, so as to achieve a better solution.

3.2. Genetic Algorithm

Genetic algorithm was proposed by Professor Holland from the university of Michigan based on Darwin's theory of evolution and Mendel's theory of genetics. The algorithm is essentially a parallel global optimization algorithm [9]. There are three base factors in genetic algorithm such as: encoding, genetic operators and fitness function. The genetic algorithm is appropriate for the solving global optimization problems because of its global search ability, it is widely used in path planning [10, 11].

3.2.1. Population Initialization

The specific steps of initial population generated randomly are as follows:

- a. Generated chromosomes randomly;
- b. If the chromosomes meet the requirements of preserving the node, go to c, else go to a;
- c. Repeat a and b until generate more than enough chromosome meeting the requirements to form initial population

3.2.2. Operator Design

Operators of genetic algorithms generally includes three basic forms: selection, crossover and mutation, operators of a new generation through the group to achieve group evolution.

3.2.3. Fitness Function

The fitness function related to the genetic algorithm convergence speed and ability to find the global optimum. Let the initial population is $P = \{P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots, P_k\}$, the size of the individual objective function value $L(P_k)$, is the path length between each node.

3.3. Improved Optimization Algorithm

Since the customer satisfaction is the main objective function of this paper, the evaluation function is designed to meet the request of the customers. Considering the dynamic characteristics of customer request, the main steps shown in Fig. (1) of the improved optimization algorithm are as follows:

Step 1: Initialize the population of P_{size} , annealing rate of λ , enter the machine sequence of M , fuzzy processing time matrix of T , fuzzy delivery time matrix of D , profit workpiece of P , the customer priority of CP , priority for workpiece itself of JP , calculate the initial temperature of t_0 , end temperature of t_{end} .

Step 2: Calculate the individual fitness value.

Step 3: Divide the population into five parts with different ways.

Step 4: Improved Genetic mutation simulated annealing algorithm, while using a large variation in rates.

Step 5: Genetic manipulation.

Step 6: If the temperature is keeping constant or less than the termination of a given temperature for 30 times, terminate searching: go to step 9; otherwise, go to step 7.

Step 7: Increase the number of iterations of genetic operators.

Step 8: Make annealing temperature lower, then go to step 2.

Step 9: Output optimal strategy and the corresponding routing.

Step 10: Judge the average satisfaction whether the process route to achieve the highest value of 1:yes, adopt a new strategy to recalculate routing; otherwise, go to step 11.

Step 11: Judge whether reach the highest satisfaction process route meets customer demand, that the optimal strategy corresponding output routings; otherwise, go to step 12.

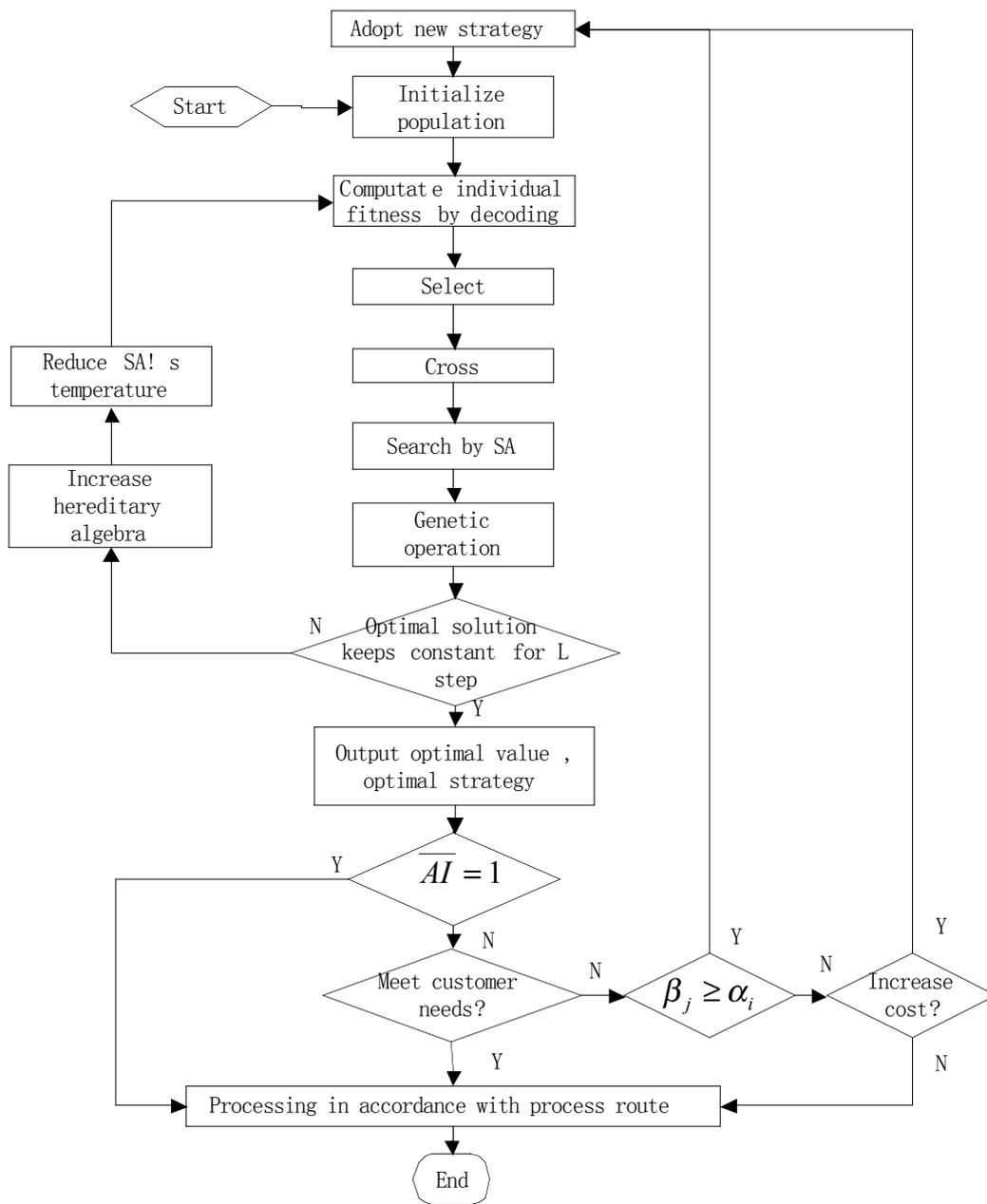


Fig. (1). Improved algorithm model flow chart.

Step 12: Judge whether the conditions of the process route in advance to meet the production or not. If yes, uses a new strategy to recalculate routing; otherwise, go to step 13.

Step 13: Judge whether customers' cost increasing or not. If yes, uses a new strategy to recalculate routing; otherwise, output the process route.

Step 14: Produce in accordance with the process route processing.

Step 15: End of the calculation and output the optimal value.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE SIMULATION EXPERIMENT

4.1. The Comparison of the Datas

In order to verify the effectiveness of the algorithm, the example of 3 (workpiece)3 (machines) in literature [14] and the example of 6 (workpiece) 6 (machines) in literature [15] are used as the simulation data. Take the workpiece 2 as an example. The data of the second column of (4.5,5,5.5), since the value is in the second row, so its corresponding processing machine is No. 2 machine. Value 3 (4.5,5,5.5) said: The earliest completion time of a job the first three steps of 2 which is 4.5 minutes; the most likely completion time of five minutes, the latest completion time of 5.5 minutes. Take the workpiece 2 as an example similarly, its fuzzy delivery (4.5,6,7.5,9) means: the user can accept the earliest completion time: 4.5 minutes; user most satisfactory completion time of 6-7 minutes; users of the latest acceptable completion time of 9 minutes.

Table 1. 3 × 3 Comparison on fuzzy completion time and satisfaction.

Workpiece No.	The CompletionTimes /min in this Research	The CompletionTimes /min in the Literature 9	The Degree of Satisfaction in this Research	The Degree of Satisfaction in the Literature 9
1	(11.5,14.0,16.5)	(11.5,14.0,16.5)	1.0	1.0
2	(7.9,9.0,10.2)	(7.5,9.0,10.5)	0.4784	0.2500
3	(7.8,9.0,10.7)	(7.5,9.0,11.0)	0.5403	0.3265

Considering the calculation speed and optimization capabilities of improved optimization algorithms, genetic algorithm’s parameters are set as: population size $N_a = 500$, evolution generation is 50 generations, crossover probability is 0.8, mutation probability is 0.6, simulated annealing parameter is set as: $P_{size} = 20$, $P_c = 0.8$, $\lambda = 0.95$, terminate the temperature is 0.0001 °C, also running 20 times.

4.2. Analysis of the Experimental Result

It can be seen from the Table 1 that the range of the fuzzy completion time with the improved algorithm is less than that with the algorithm in literature [9] and the satisfaction is higher than that in literature [9]. The result can verify the progressiveness of the propose method. Comparative experiments mainly for customers do not adjust the process route, namely the first time to obtain the optimal process route meet all customer and put them directly to the production and processing: visible when the customer requirements to shorten the construction period, average satisfaction will more high, which can be further confirmed the superiority and practicality of the vehicle improvement scheduling model.

For the problem of 3×3, the maximum average degree of satisfaction is 0.6729 after 20 calculations, which is more than the value of 0.5225 in literature [9]. The scheduling scheme with the highest satisfaction is : 2-3-1-2-3-2-1-3-1.

CONCLUSION

Aiming at the fuzzy scheduling problem under uncertain condition in actual production, this paper proposed a hybrid method based on genetic algorithm and simulation annealing algorithm to search the process route which can maximize the customer satisfaction. The effectiveness and progressiveness of the proposed algorithm are verified with comparison with the existing algorithms.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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