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01

Introduction

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Problem

There are K trucks 1,2,...,K for transporting N packages of 1, 2, ..., N. Trucks have a container size of Wk * Lk. Each package I has size wi * li.

Packages that are placed in same container must not overlap. Assume that the number K can be large, leading to a large number of trucks that are not being used. The cost of using truck k is ck.

Find a way to put these package in the trucks so that the total cost is minimal.









Denotation

N_items is the number of items given Item i has width w_i and height h_i

N_bins is the number of bins given Bin j has width W_i , height H_i and cost C_i

Decision variable



* $X_{ij} = 1$: item i packed in bin j

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\text{N_items}} X_{ij} \ge 1 \iff Z_j = 1$$
: bin j has been used

* $R_i = 1$: item i rotated 90 degree







Item's Coordinate

 l_i, r_i, b_i, t_i : left, right, bottom and top coordinates of item i

- * First way to approach:
- if item i not rotated: $R_i = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{r}_i = l_i + w_i \\ \mathbf{t}_i = b_i + h_i \end{cases}$$

- if item i rotated: $R_i = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{r}_i = l_i + h_i \\ \mathbf{t}_i = b_i + w_i \end{cases}$$

- * Another way to approach:
- if item i not rotated: $R_i = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{w}_i = w_i \\ \mathbf{h}_i = h_i \end{cases}$$

- if item i rotated: $R_i = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{w}_i = h_i \\ \mathbf{h}_i = w_i \end{cases}$$















CP model - Constraints

Each item has to be packed in exactly 1 bin

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\text{N_bins}} X_{ij} = 1 \text{ for } i \text{ in N_items}$$

No two items overlap

if
$$X_{i_1j} = X_{i_2j} = 1$$

$$r_{i_1} \le l_{i_2} \text{ or } r_{i_2} \le l_{i_1} \text{ or } t_{i_1} \le b_{i_2} \text{ or } t_{i_2} \le b_{i_1}$$

Items cannot exceed the bin

if
$$X_{ij} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{w}_i \leq r_i \leq \mathbf{W}_j \\ \mathbf{h}_i \leq t_i \leq \mathbf{H}_j \end{cases}$$

MIP model - Constraints



Each item has to be packed in exactly 1 bin

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\text{N_bins}} X_{ij} = 1 \text{ for } i \text{ in N_items}$$

No two items overlap

Items cannot exceed the bin

$$\begin{split} \text{if } X_{ij} &= 1 \\ \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{w}_i \leq r_i \leq & \mathbf{W}_j \\ \mathbf{h}_i \leq t_i \leq & \mathbf{H}_j \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow \textbf{To MIP:} \\ \begin{cases} \mathbf{r}_i \leq (1 - \mathbf{X}_{ij}) * \mathbf{M} + W_j \\ \mathbf{t}_i \leq (1 - \mathbf{X}_{ij}) * \mathbf{M} + H_j \end{cases} \end{split}$$







Sorting

Bins by "density" (cost/area), in descending order

Items by longer side in descending order

Destination Bin

Bin First Fit rule – pack the item into the bin with the lowest index (after the process of sorting bins from I); in other words, pack in the first bin that the item fits

Destination Free Rectangle of a Bin

Best Short Side Fit rule – choose a free rectangle where the shorter remainder side after insertion is minimized; in other words, minimize the length of the shorter leftover side, ties broken with best longer side (longer leftover side is minimized)

Packing process

Concept of free rectangles: A list of free rectangles represents the free space of the bin. In the Guillotine algorithm, these rectangles are pairwise disjoint

Heuristic algorithms: Combine two algorithms, including Guillotine and Maximal Rectangles

Guilotine

- ×
- Pack the item into the first free rectangle of the bin, which means the bin itself, starting with its bottom- \times left corner.
- For each insertion, split the initial free rectangle into smaller free rectangle(s), which are tracked in a list.
- Whenever a new item is inserted into the bin, choose a free rectangle (with rule II.2) and place the item into its bottom-left corner, then split the chosen rectangle using the Guillotine split rule to produce at most two new rectangles.
- Merge some free rectangles into larger ones if possible.
- * Splitting rule: Best Short Side rule split by horizontal axis if the free rectangle's width is less than its height; otherwise, split by vertical axis.
- * Rectangle merging: if there exists a pair of neighboring rectangles F_i and F_j such that $F_{i \cup j}$ can be exactly represented by a single bigger rectangle, merge these two into one.





- Rather than choosing one of the two split axes like in the Guillotine algorithm, the Maximal Rectangles algorithm picks both split axes at the same time to ensure that the largest possible rectangular areas are present in the list of free rectangles.
- Because the free rectangles are no longer pairwise disjoint like in the Guillotine algorithm, any free rectangle that intersects the area occupied by the newly inserted item is split to remove the intersection.
- Delete every free rectangle which is fully overlapped by others in the list.



Statistics

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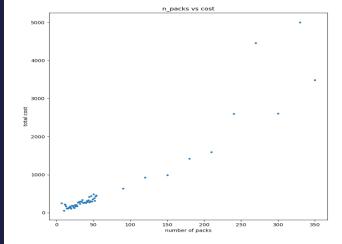


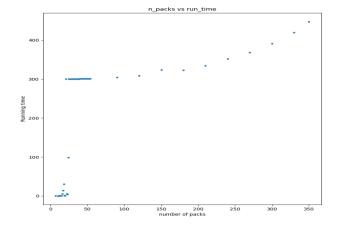


CP model

Out of 58 tests, the model can solve 56, with a 300-second time limitation

The objective values (costs) of solved instances are excellent in general





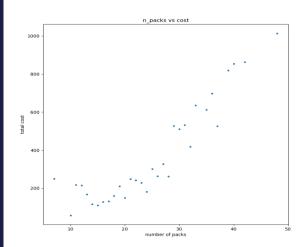


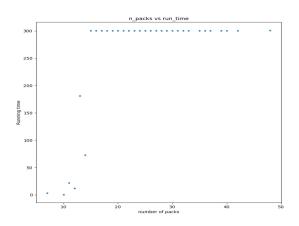


MIP model

Out of 58 tests, the model can solve 32, with a 300-second time limitation

The objective values (costs) of solved instances are quite good in general







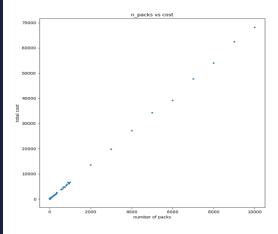


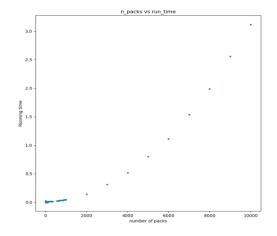
Heuristic

It can solve all 75 tests without a time limitation

The objective values (costs) of instances are good

The running time form an exponential curve with the number of rectangles (test size)







MEET THE TEAM



Phan Dinh Nhat



Nguyen Huu Duan



Chu Minh Ha



Do Quang Minh













Thanks for attention!

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