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Master of Science Thesis

*Implementacja algorytmów dla systemów Monroe i
Chamberlina-Couranta z nieliniową funkcją satysfakcji*
*Implementation of algorithms for Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant
systems under nonlinear satisfaction function*

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1. Introduction

We study the effectiveness of algorithms for approximate winner determination under the Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant multiwinner voting rules using nonlinear satisfaction function. Both of the rules aim to select a group of candidates that best represent the voters. Having good voting rules and algorithms for them is important, as multiwinner elections are used both in human societies (e.g. parliament elections) and software systems (e.g. recommendation systems). Rules studied in this paper are particularly interesting because they have both desired features of multiwinner rules: they provide accountability (there is a connection between the elected candidates and the voters, so each voter has a representative assigned to her and each candidate knows who she represents) and proportional representation of the voters' views.

We assume that candidates participate in the election with multiple winners (a commitee with multiple members is selected) and they are elected by voters, each of whom ranks all the candidates (each voter provides a linear order over the set of candidates expressing her preferences). For each voter the Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant rules assign a single candidate as their representative (with some constraints, which are detailed in the further part of the thesis).

The candidates are selected and assigned to the voters optimally, either by maximizing the total satisfaction of all voters, or by minimizing the total dissatisfaction of all voters. The total satisfaction is calculated as a sum of individual satisfactions of the voters. We assume that there is a satisfaction function that measures how well a voter is represented by the candidate. The function is the same for each voter. It is a decreasing function, so a voter is more satisfied if the candidate assigned to her is ranked higher. The dissatisfaction is calculated in the similar way, except that the function is an increasing one. In this paper we study cases in which the satisfaction function is a nonlinear one.

The main drawback of the aforementioned rules is that election winner determination is NP-hard under each of them [1] which makes them hard to use in practice, as it would force the use of algorithms that do not provide an optimal result for every data set. Therefore, using these systems for real-life elections may rise some difficulties. However, they can be used for the recommendation systems conveniently, as a good but not optimal recommendation is still useful. Skowron et al. [2] provided approximation algorithms for both the rules that return near-optimal results for various test cases (including real-life data and synthetic data), but for linear satisfaction function only.

In this paper we focus on providing several algorithms for the Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant rules using nonlinear satisfaction function and evaluating them empirically against various data sets. For

smaller data, results can be easily assessed by comparing them to the optimal result (calculated with the brute-force algorithm). For bigger data, the upper bound of the optimal result must be used for comparison. We implement and evaluate various heuristic algorithms, as well as the existing approximation algorithms for the linear satisfaction function, but applying them to the nonlinear cases.

2. Motivation and Goals

Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant systems may be potentially very useful, because they are one of the few multiwinner election systems that provide both accountability of candidates to the voters (each voter has one particular representative in the elected commitee) and proportional results. Most of the currently used voting rules lack at least one of these properties. For example, D'Hondt method used to elect members of Polish lower house of parliament lacks accountability (voters are accountable to political parties rather than specific parliament members), while single-member constituency plurality system used for United Kingdom parliament elections lacks proportionality.

As finding optimal solution for both of the aforementioned systems is NP-hard [1], there is a need to provide good algorithms which can compute result which is suboptimal but still as close to optimal as possible. Using such result in real-life elections (e.g. for parliament) is disputable. However, for some software applications, e.g. recommendation systems, it can be used seamlessly.

Skowron et. al [2] have already provided approximation algorithms for these systems, but only under linear satisfaction function. In this thesis we focus on providing algorithms for non-linear satisfaction functions, as they can better reflect real preferences of the voters.

3. Preliminaries

In the first part of the chapter we explain basic notions regarding multiwinner election problem. Next, we present definitions of winner determination problem under the Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant voting rules. Finally, we present some notions regarding approximate solutions to the problem.

3.1. Basic notions

Preferences. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, by $[n]$ we mean $\{1, \ldots, n\}$. We assume that there is a set $N = [n]$ of *agents* and a set $A = \{a_1, \ldots a_m\}$ of *alternatives*. Each agent i has a strict linear order $\succ_i$ over A, called *preference order* ($a_{\pi(1)} \succ_i a_{\pi(2)} \succ_i \ldots \succ_i a_{\pi(m)}$ for some permutation π of $[m]$). For an alternative a, $pos_i(a)$ represents the position of a in the preference order of agent i. For example, if a is the most preferred alternative for i then $pos_i(a) = 1$, and if a is the least preferred one then $pos_i(a) = m$. A collection $V = (\succ_1, \ldots, \succ_n)$ of agents' preference orders is called a *preference profile*.

If A is the set of all the alternatives and B is a nonempty strict subset of A, then by $B \succ A - B$ we mean that all alternatives in B are preferred to those outside of B for the preference order $\succ$.

Positional scoring function. A *positional scoring function* (PSF) is a function $\alpha^m : [m] \to \mathbb{N}$. It assigns a score to every position in the agent's preference order. If for each $i, j \in [m]$, if $i < j$ then $\alpha^m(i) < \alpha^m(j)$, a PSF α^m is an *increasing positional scoring function* (IPSF). Analogously, if for each $i, j \in [m]$, if $i < j$ then $\alpha^m(i) > \alpha^m(j)$, a PSF α^m is a *decreasing positional scoring function* (DPFS) .

If α^m is an IPSF then $\alpha^m(i)$ can represent the *dissatisfaction* value of an agent if she is assigned to an alternative ranked i'th in her preference order. We assume that for each IPSF $\alpha^m(1) = 0$, so an agent is not dissatisfied with her best alternative. Analogously, if α^m is a DPSF, α^m can represent an agent's *satisfaction* value. We assume that for each DPSF $\alpha^m(m) = 0$, so an agent is not satisfied at all with her worst alternative. In some cases, we will write α instead of α^m to simplify notation.

An IPSF (DPSF) α^m is considered a *linear dissatisfaction (satisfaction) function* if for each $i \in [m-1]$ value $\alpha^m(i+1) - \alpha^m(i)$ is constant. Every IPSF (DPSF) not satisfying that constraint is

considered a *nonlinear dissatisfaction (satisfaction) function.*

We define a family α of IPSFs (DPSFs) of the form $\alpha = (\alpha^m)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$, where α^m is an IPSF (a DPSF) on $[m]$, such that:

1. For a family of IPSFs it holds that $\alpha^{m+1}(i) = \alpha^m(i)$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i \in [m]$.

2. For a family of DPSFs it holds that $\alpha^{m+1}(i+1) = \alpha^m(i)$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i \in [m]$.

We build families of IPSFs (DPSFs) iteratively by appending (prepending) values to functions with smaller domains (smaller m), leaving values from the previous function unchanged. To simplify notation, we will refer to such families of IPSFs (DPSFs) as *normal* IPSFs (DPSFs).

Assignment functions. We define a *K-assignment function* as any function $\Phi : N \to A$ that satisfies $\|\Phi(N)\| \le K$ (it assigns agents to no more than K alternatives). A *Monroe K-assignment function* is a K-assignment function that additionally satisfies the following constraint: For each alternative $a \in A$ we have that either $\left\lfloor \frac{\|N\|}{K} \right\rfloor \le \|\Phi^{-1}(a)\| \le \left\lceil \frac{\|N\|}{K} \right\rceil$ or $\|\Phi^{-1}(a)\| = 0$.

A *partial K-assignment function* is similar to a K-assignment function, with one exception: it may assign a null alternative, $\perp$, to some of the agents. A *partial Monroe K-assignment* is a partial K-assignment that can be extended to a regular Monroe K-assignment by replacing each assignment of a null alternative with one from A. If we have an assignment function Φ, alternative $\Phi(i)$ is called the *representative* of agent i.

Let S be a set of alternatives. By Φ^S we mean a (possibly partial) K-assignment function that assigns agents only to alternatives from S.

We assume that α is a normal IPSF (DPSF). Each of the following functions assings a positive integer to a given assignment Φ:

$$l^\alpha_{sum}(\Phi) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha(pos_i(\Phi(i))), \tag{3.1}$$

$$l^\alpha_{max}(\Phi) = max_{i=1}^n \alpha(pos_i(\Phi(i))), \tag{3.2}$$

$$l^\alpha_{min}(\Phi) = min_{i=1}^n \alpha(pos_i(\Phi(i))). \tag{3.3}$$

These functions combine dissatisfaction (satisfaction) of the agents to assess the quality of the assignment for the entire society. In the utilitarian framework (which is used in this thesis), the first function (which simply calculates the sum of individual agents dissatisfaction or satisfaction value) is used as the *total dissatisfaction function* in the IPSF case and as the *total satisfaction function* in the DPSF case. We use the second and the third functions, respectively, as the total dissatisfaction and satisfaction functions

for IPSF and DPSF cases in the egalitarian framework, where the most dissatisfied (the least satisfied) agent is decisive.

For each subset of the alternatives $S \subseteq A$ such that $\|S\| \leq K$, Φ_α^S denotes the partial (Monroe) K-assignment that assigns agents only to the alternatives from S and such that Φ_α^S maximizes the satisfaction $l_{sum}^\alpha(\Phi_\alpha^S)$.

3.2. Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant rules

We will now define the problems of winner determination under the Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant (abbreviated as CC) rules. The goal is to find an optimal assignment function, where by the optimal function we accept one that either maximizes the total satisfaction or minimizes the total dissatisfaction.

DisWinner. Let α be a normal IPSF. An instance of α-*CC-DisWinner* problem is defined as follows: given a set of agents $N = [n]$, a set of alternatives $A = \{a_1, \ldots, a_m\}$, a preference profile V of the agents, and positive integer K representing commitee size, we seek a K-assignment function Φ that minimizes $l_{sum}^\alpha(\Phi)$. The problem α-*Monroe-DisWinner* is defined in the same way but we additionally require Φ to be a Monroe K-assignment function.

SatWinner. Let α be a normal DPSF. The problem α-*CC-SatWinner* is defined in the same way as α-*CC-DisWinner*, except that we seek a K-assignment Φ that maximizes $l_{sum}^\alpha(\Phi)$. The problem α-*Monroe-SatWinner* is defined in the same way but we additionally require Φ to be a Monroe K-assignment function.

In terms of optimal solutions, dissatisfaction-based problems and satisfaction-based ones are equivalent, as a DPSF can always be transformed to an IPSF and vice versa.

These problems' intention is to find a (Monroe) K-assignment function which returns a set of K alternatives, who are viewed as the winners of the given multiwinner election (e.g. elected members of a commitee).

3.3. Approximate solutions

As for many normal IPSFs multiwinner election problems under both Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant rules are NP-hard [1, 3], we seek approximate solutions.

Approximation algorithms. Let r be a real number such that $r \geq 1 (0 < r \leq 1)$, let α be a normal IPSF (DPSF), and let R be either Monroe or CC. An algorithm is an r-approximation algorithm for α-R-DisWinner problem (α-R-SatWinner problem) if on each instance I it returns a feasible assignment Φ such that $l_{sum}^{\alpha}(\Phi) \leq r \cdot OPT$ (such that $l_{sum}^{\alpha}(\Phi) \geq r \cdot OPT$), where OPT is the optimal total dissatisfaction (satisfaction) $l_{sum}^{\alpha}(\Phi_{OPT})$.

4. State of the Art

5. Implemented Algorithms

In this chapter we present implemented algorithms for the utilitarian versions of Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant multiwinner voting rules in the satisfaction-based framework.

Proposition 1 (Implicit in the paper of Betzler et al. [3]). Let α be a normal DPSF, N be a set of agents, A be a set of alternatives, V be a preference profile of N over A, and S a K-element subset of A (where K divides $\|N\|$). Then there is a polynomial-time-algorithm that computes a (possibly partial) optimal K-assignment Φ_α^S (Monroe K-assignment Φ_α^S) of the agents to the alternatives from S.

5.1. Algorithm A

Algorithm A was first presented by Skowron et al. [2] and tries to solve α-Monroe-SatWinner. It builds a solution iteratively (greedily). In each step we pick some not-yet-assigned alternative a_i and assign it to those $\frac{N}{K}$ agents that are not assigned to any other alternative yet and whose satisfaction of being matched with a_i is maximal (criterion for picking an alternative in each step is a sum of satisfaction of agents selected this way). This algorithm runs in polynomial time [2]. Pseudocode is presented in Algorithm 1.

5.2. Algorithm B

Algorithm B is an extension to Algorithm A and was presented in the same paper. The idea is to run Algorithm A first and then optimally reassign the alternatives to the voters (using Proposition 1). It should noticeably improve the results of the algorithm and it still runs in polynomial time.

5.3. Algorithm C

Algorithm C is a further extension to Algorithm B, also presented by Skowron et al. [2]. While Algorithm B only keeps one partial assignment function Φ that is extended in each step until it becomes a full assignment, Algorithm C stores a list of d functions (d is provided as an algorithm parameter). At each step, for each alternative a with no agent assigned and for each Φ of the d functions stored, we

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Algorithm 1 Algorithm A

1: **procedure** COMPUTEMONROESATWINNER

2: $\quad \Phi \leftarrow$ a map defining a partial assignment, iteratively built by the algorithm

3: $\quad \Phi^{\leftarrow} \leftarrow$ the set of agents for which the assignment is already defined

4: $\quad \Phi^{\rightarrow} \leftarrow$ the set of alternatives already used in the assignment

5: $\quad$ **if** $K \leq 2$ **then**

6: $\qquad$ compute the optimal solution using an algorithm of Betzler et al. [2] and return

7: $\quad \Phi = \{\}$

8: $\quad$ **for** $i \leftarrow 1$ to K **do**

9: $\qquad score \leftarrow \{\}$

10: $\qquad bests \leftarrow \{\}$

11: $\qquad$ **for all** $a_i \in A \setminus \Phi^{\rightarrow}$ **do**

12: $\qquad\quad agents \leftarrow$ sort $N \setminus \Phi^{\leftarrow}$ so that if agent j preceeds agent j' then $pos_j(a_i) \leq pos_{j'}(a_i)$

13: $\qquad\quad bests[a_i] \leftarrow$ choose first $\frac{N}{K}$ elements from $agents$

14: $\qquad\quad score[a_i] \leftarrow \sum_{j \in bests[a_i]} (m - pos_j(a_i))$

15: $\qquad a_{best} \leftarrow argmax_{a \in A \setminus \Phi^{\rightarrow}} score[a]$

16: $\qquad$ **for all** $j \in bests[a_{best}]$ **do**

17: $\qquad\quad \Phi[j] \leftarrow a_{best}$

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compute an extension to Φ that assigns $\frac{N}{K}$ agents (that are not assigned to any other alternative yet) to a (the same way as in Algorithm A). For the next step, d functions that give the highest satisfaction are kept. If we take $d = 1$, we obtain Algorithm B. Pseudocode is presented in Algorithm 3.

Unlike previous algorithms, Algorithm C can be used for both Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant rules. To adapt it to the Chamberlin-Courant rule, we have to replace the contents of the first for all loop with the appropriate code, presented in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2 Algorithm C - CC for all code replacement

1: **for all** $a_i \in A \setminus \Phi^{\rightarrow}$ **do**

2: $\quad \Phi' \leftarrow \Phi$

3: $\quad$ **for all** $j \in N$ **do**

4: $\qquad$ **if** agent j prefers a_i to $\Phi'(j)$ **then**

5: $\qquad\quad \Phi'(j) \leftarrow a_i$

6: $\quad newPar.push(\Phi')$

Algorithm 3 Algorithm C

1: **procedure** COMPUTEMONROESATWINNER

2:     $\Phi \leftarrow$ a map defining a partial assignment, iteratively built by the algorithm

3:     $\Phi^{\leftarrow} \leftarrow$ the set of agents for which the assignment is already defined

4:     $\Phi^{\rightarrow} \leftarrow$ the set of alternatives already used in the assignment

5:     $Par \leftarrow$ a list of partial representation functions

6:     $Par = []$

7:     $Par.push(//)$

8:     **for** $i \leftarrow 1$ to K **do**

9:         $newPar = []$

10:         **for** $\Phi \in Par$ **do**

11:             $bests \leftarrow \{\}$

12:             **for all** $a_i \in A \setminus \Phi^{\rightarrow}$ **do**

13:                 $agents \leftarrow$ sort $N \setminus \Phi^{\leftarrow}$ (agent j preceeds agent j' implies that $pos_j(a_i) \leq pos_{j'}(a_i)$

14:                 $bests[a_i] \leftarrow$ choose first $\frac{N}{K}$ elements of $agents$

15:                 $\Phi' \leftarrow \Phi$

16:                 **for all** $j \in bests[a_i]$ **do**

17:                     $\Phi'[j] \leftarrow a_i$

18:                 $newPar.push(\Phi')$

19:         sort $newPar$ according to descending order of the total satisfaction of the assigned agents

20:         $Par \leftarrow$ choose first d elements of $newPar$

21:     **for** $\Phi \in Par$ **do**

22:         $\Phi \leftarrow$ compute the optimal representative function using an algorithm of Betzler et al. [3] for the set of winners $\Phi^{\rightarrow}$

23:     **return** the best representative function from Par

5.4. Algorithm R

As shown by Skowron et al. [2], algorithms A, B and C achieve very high approximations ratios under linear satisfaction function for the cases where K is small relative to m. For the other cases, we can use a sampling-based randomized algorithm (called Algorithm R). We expect that under nonlinear satisfaction function algorithms should behave similarly in relation to each other as under a linear one.

Algorithm R randomly picks K alternatives and then, using Proposition 1, assigns them to agents optimally. As such an algorithm may be simply unlucky and pick alternatives that are ranked low, random assignment should be computed a given number of times (which is provided as a parameter), so there is a greater probability to attain a high quality solution. If K is comparable to m then it is likely that generated results would include a solution that is at least close to optimal. Algorithm can naturally be used for both Monroe and Chamberlin-Courant systems.

5.5. Algorithm AR

Algorithm family A-C and algorithm R are naturally suitable for different cases. Therefore, Skowron et al. [2] proposed to combine algorithms A and R into Algorithm AR. They also showed that under linear satisfaction function, Algorithm AR can achieve approximation ratio of $0.715 - \epsilon$ with probability λ. Both ϵ and λ are provided as algorithm parameters. Naturally, for different satisfaction functions approximation ratio may vary, but we decided to test the algorithm in an unchanged version for comparison. Pseudocode is presented in Algorithm 4.

Algorithm 4 Algorithm AR

1: **procedure** COMPUTEMONROESATWINNER
2:     H_j is the j'th *harmonicnumber* $H_j = \sum_{i=1}^{j}(\frac{1}{i})$
3:     $\lambda \leftarrow$ probability of achieving the approximation ratio $0.715 - \epsilon$ under linear satisfaction function
4:     **if** $\frac{H_K}{K} \geq \frac{e}{2}$ **then**
5:         compute the optimal solution using an algorithm of Betzler et al. [3] and return
6:     **if** $m \leq 1 + \frac{2}{e}$ **then**
7:         compute the optimal solution using a simple brute force algorithm and return
8:     $\Phi_1 \leftarrow$ solution computed by Algorithm A
9:     $\Phi_2 \leftarrow$ solution computed by Algorithm R (sampled $\log(1 - \lambda) \cdot \frac{2+e}{e}$ times)
10:     **return** the better assignment among Φ_1 and Φ_2

5.6. Algorithm GM

Algorithm GM (greedy marginal improvement) is an algorithm that was introduced by Lu and Boutilier [4] for the Chamberlin-Courant rule only. However, it was later generalized by Skowron et al. [2], so it can be applied to the Monroe rule as well. In the Monroe case, it can be considered as the Algorithm B improvement.

We start with an empty set S. In each iteration of the algorithm we select an alternative a that is not assigned to agents yet, and that maximizes the satisfaction value $l^{\alpha}_{sum}(\Phi^{S \cup \{a\}}_{\alpha})$. Iterations are executed until a complete committee is selected, so K iterations are required. For Monroe case, computing Φ^{S}_{α} is slow (it is achieved by using min-cost/max-flow algorithm [3]), which makes the algorithm execute for a relatively long time. Pseudocode is presented in Algorithm 5.

Algorithm GM is an $1 - \frac{1}{e}$-approximation algorithm for any normal IPSF [2, 5].

Algorithm 5 Algorithm GM

1: **procedure** COMPUTESATWINNER

2:     Φ^{S}_{α} - the partial assignment that assigns a single alternative to at most $\frac{n}{K}$ agents, that assigns to the agents only the alternatives from S, and that maximizes the utilitarian satisfaction $l^{\alpha}_{sum}(\Phi^{S}_{\alpha})$

3:     $S \leftarrow \emptyset$

4:     **for** $i \leftarrow 1$ to K **do**

5:         $a \leftarrow argmax_{a \in A \setminus S} l^{\alpha}_{sum}(\Phi^{S \cup \{a\}}_{\alpha})$

6:         $S \leftarrow S \cup \{a\}$

7:     **return** Φ^{S}_{α}

5.7. Algorithm P

Algorithm P can only be applied to Chamberlin-Courant problem. It was first introduced by Skowron et al. [2]. In the beginning, it computes x (a non-negative integer). Next, it computes an assignment that should maximize the number of agents that have an alternative from the first x spots in their preferences assigned to them. This process is executed greedily. Afterwards, if there are still agents with no alternative assigned, the best alternative is picked from the ones already selected for at least one other agent.

$w(x)$ used in the algorithm is a Lambert's W-function, defined to be the solution of the equation $x = w(x)e^{w(x)}$. Algorithm runs in polynomial time. Pseudocode of Algorithm P is presented in Algorithm 6.

Algorithm 6 Algorithm P

1: **procedure** COMPUTECCSATWINNER
2:     $\Phi \leftarrow$ a map defining a partial assignment, iteratively built by the algorithm
3:     $\Phi^{\leftarrow} \leftarrow$ the set of agents for which the assignment is already defined
4:     $\Phi^{\rightarrow} \leftarrow$ the set of alternatives already used in the assignment
5:     $num\_pos_x(a) \leftarrow \|\{i \in [n] \setminus \Phi^{\leftarrow} : pos_i(a) \leq x\}\|$ - the number of not-yet assigned agents that rank alternative a in one of their first x positions
6:     $w(\cdot)$ - Lambert's W-function
7:     $\Phi = \{\}$
8:     $x = \left\lceil \frac{mw(K)}{K} \right\rceil$
9:     **for** $i \leftarrow 1$ to **K do**
10:         $a_i \leftarrow argmax_{a \in A \setminus \Phi^{\rightarrow}} num\_pos_x(a)$
11:         **for all** $j \in [n] \setminus \Phi^{\leftarrow}$ **do**
12:             **if** $pos_j(a_i) < x$ **then**
13:                 $\Phi[j] \leftarrow a_i$
14:     **for all** $j \in A \setminus \Phi^{\leftarrow}$ **do**
15:         $a \leftarrow$ such alternative from $\Phi^{\rightarrow}$ that $\forall_{a' \in \Phi^{\rightarrow}} pos_j(a) \leq pos_j(a')$
16:         $\Phi[j] \leftarrow a$
17:     **return** Φ

5.8. Genetic Algorithm

The idea of our algorithm is loosely based on metaheuristic genetic algorithms, such as the firefly algorithm [6].

Our Genetic Algorithm starts with an initial set of creatures (each of them presenting a possible solution under Chamberlin-Courant rule) which are later mutated and crossed over with each other. The best creatures (ones with the highest total satisfaction) are preferred for further mutation and crossover in order to better investigate the neighbourhood of local maxima, but on the other hand algorithm also produces new creatures by crossing over random existing ones to better explore entire solution space, not limiting to local extrema.

In each iteration of the algorithm creatures are evaluated (satisfaction is computed). Best creature in terms of total satisfaction is compared with currently best found creature and takes its place if it is better. Half of the evaluated creatures (the best ones) are chosen for further propagation. Each of them is then mutated randomly. Remaining creatures are created by crossing over random creatures from the "better" half with each other. Resulting set of creatures is used for the next iteration. Number of iterations and number of creatures are the algorithm parameters. Pseudocode is presented in Algorithm 7.

Algorithm 7 Genetic Algorithm

1: **procedure** COMPUTECCSATWINNER

2:      I - number of iterations

3:      c - number of creatures

4:      Φ_{best} - best creature (preference profile)

5:      $creatures \leftarrow$ generate initial random set of c creatures

6:      **for** $i \leftarrow 1$ to I **do**

7:          $creaturesSorted \leftarrow$ sort $creatures$ by total satisfaction

8:          **if** $satisfaction(creaturesSorted[1]) > satisfaction(\Phi_{best})$ **then**

9:              $\Phi_{best} = creaturesSorted[1]$

10:          $bestCreatures \leftarrow$ choose first $c/2$ elements from $creaturesSorted$

11:          $mutated \leftarrow$ mutate all creatures from $bestCreatures$ randomly

12:          $crossed \leftarrow$ crossover random creatures from $bestCreatures$ to produce $c/2$-element set

13:          $newCreatures \leftarrow mutated \cup crossed$

14:          $creatures \leftarrow newCreatures$

15:      **return** Φ_{best}

5.9. Simulated Annealing

The Simulated Annealing algorithm is inspired by physical annealing process, used in metallurgy. It involves heating and cooling a material to make it attain specific physical properties. Using simulated annealing for optimization of a complex function depending on many parameters was proposed by Kirkpatrick et al. [7]. We adapt it to the Chamberlin-Courant problem.

In simulated annealing we use a temperature variable, which has a high value at the beginning and gets lower ('cools') during the execution. When the temperature is high, algorithm can accept solutions worse than the current one more frequently, so it is possible to leave a local optimum (the global one may be in totally different area of the search space). When the temperature gets lower, algorithm focuses on the area where solution close to the optimum may lie.

To decide if the new solution should be accepted, the *acceptance function* is used. If the new solution is better, it is always accepted. If it is worse, acceptance function accepts the new solution with probability p, which is calculated as follows:

$$p = \exp(\frac{E_c - E_n}{T}) \tag{5.1}$$

E_c is the current solution energy, E_n is the new solution energy and T is the temperature. Energy represents quality of the solution and, in our case, is proportional to the total satisfaction value of the solution.

The algorithm proceeds as follows. First, it generates a random initial solution. Initial temperature is given as a parameter. Then, in each iteration, a new solution is generated by replacing one of the winners in the current solution with a random alternative that is not a winner in the current solution. The newly created solution is then evaluated by the acceptance function. If it is accepted, it replaces the current solution. Otherwise, the current solution is kept. For the next iteration, temperature is decreased:

$$T \leftarrow T \cdot (1 - c) \tag{5.2}$$

c is the cooling rate, provided as a parameter. The algorithm stops when $T \leq 1$. Pseudocode is presented in Algorithm 8.

Algorithm 8 Simulated Annealing

1: **procedure** COMPUTECCSATWINNER
2:     T_{start} - initial temperature
3:     c - cooling rate
4:     Φ_{curr} - current solution
5:     T - current temperature
6:     $E(\Phi)$ - energy of solution Φ
7:     $\Phi_{curr} \leftarrow$ generate initial random solution
8:     $T \leftarrow T_{start}$
9:     **while** $T > 1$ **do**
10:         $\Phi_{new} \leftarrow$ perform random replacement on Φ_{curr}
11:         $p \leftarrow \exp(\frac{E(\Phi_{curr}) - E(\Phi_{new})}{T})$
12:         $r \leftarrow$ generate random number in range $[0; 1)$
13:         **if** $E(\Phi_{new}) > E(\Phi_{curr})$ or $p > r$ **then**
14:             $\Phi_{curr} \leftarrow \Phi_{new}$
15:         $T \leftarrow T \cdot (1 - c)$
16:     **return** Φ_{curr}

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6. Evaluation Results

7. Summary

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