A Comparison of Approaches to Combinatorial Optimisation for Multi-Day Route Planning

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April 2025

Abstract

Write abstract

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation

Write about reasoning for this project, can copy a little bit over from presentation slides. Explain problem informally. Link into aims and objectives.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

Explin goals of the project, link in to methodology.

1.3 Methodology

Briefly explain how the project will be carried out. A more thorough description can be provided later on, i.e., when describing algorithms.

1.4 Summary

Explain what is in the rest of the report. "In this report I shall...", cover each section, etc.

2 Problem Formulation

2.1 Problem Description

Given a positive integer d and a graph $G = (V, E)$, where V is set of locations including a designated starting point s and E is a set of weighted edges linking every location to every other location, find a route that:

1. Visits all nodes $V \setminus s$ once.

2. Starts and finishes at s, having visited it d times, without ever visiting consecutively.

3. Minimises both the cumulative edge weights in the route and the variance in cumulative weight between each visit to s.

2.2 Inputs, Outputs and Design Variables

Inputs:

- d: The number of times s should be visited in a route. Contextually, d represents the number of days a tourist will spend on their trip. $d \in \mathbb{Z}, d > 0$

- $G = (V, E)$: A pair comprising:

  - V: A set of nodes representing locations the tourist would like to visit. $v \in V, v = (x, y, t)$, a triple comprising:

    - x: Longitude, indicating the location's geographic east-west position on the earth[1].
      $x \in \mathbb{Q}, -180 \leq x \leq 180$.
    - y: Latitude, indicating the location's geographic north-south position on the earth[2].
      $y \in \mathbb{Q}, -90 \leq y \leq 90$.
    - t: Duration, in minutes, indicating how much time to spend at this location.
      $t \in \mathbb{Z}, t > 0$.

  - E: A set of edges $e \in E$ that connects every node to every other node, bidirectionally. $e = (v_1, v_2, w)$, a triple comprising:

[1] While the coordinates of our locations are included in V, they are not directly tied to the weight of our edges E, which are based on time and not distance.

[2] See footnote 1

- v_1: A location representing the origin of the edge.
  $v_1 \in V$.
- v_2: A location representing the destination of the edge.
  $v_2 \in V$.
- w: A weight indicating the sum of the time it takes to travel from v_1 to v_2 and the time the tourist wishes to spent at v_2.
  $w \in Z, w > 0$.

- s: Starting point that should be visited d times. Contextually, s represents where the tourist is staying and will return to at the end of each day.
  $s \in V$.

Outputs:

- R: A valid route satisfying all constraints, represented as an ordered sequence of locations.
  $R = [r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_n], r_i \in V$.

2.3 Objective Function

As previously mentioned in the Problem Description, our goal is to find a route that minimises the cumulative weight and the variance in route weight between each visit to s. To accomplish this the following cost function is applied to each route:

Update equation for cost, talk to leandro about how to handle changing this.

$$Cost(R) = W \times (1 + \sigma) \tag{1}$$

Where W is the sum of the weights of all edges traversed in the route and σ is the standard deviation of the sum of weights between each visit to s:

$$W = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} w(r_i, r_{i+1}), r_i \in R \tag{2}$$

Where $w(r_i, r_{i+1})$ is the weight of the edge between r_i and r_{i+1}.

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=0}^{d}(x_i - \mu)}{d}}, x_i \in X \tag{3}$$

Where R is divided into sections between each visit to s and X is a list of the sum of weights within these sections.
μ is the mean cumulative weight of each x_i.

2.4 Constraints

A valid solution must satisfy the following constraints:

- The route must visit every node $v \in \{V \setminus s\}$ exactly once:
  $\forall_{v \in \{V \setminus s\}}, |\{i \in \{1, \ldots, n\} : r_i = v\}| = 1$
- The route must visit s exactly d times:
  $|\{i \in \{1, \ldots, n\} : r_i = s\}| = d$
- The route must not visit s consecutively:
  $\forall_{i \in \{1, \ldots, n-1\}}, r_i \neq r_{i+1}$
- The route must end at s:
  $r_n = s$

3 Literature Review

Plan (and write) literature review

Remember to write about the strengths and weaknesses of existing work. At the end of this chapter you can then give a summary of the gaps that you'll be trying to improve with your work, and on the strengths that you will be maintaining in your work.

3.1 Introduction

This literature review aims to explore existing research and approached to other combinatorial optimization problems. We can draw parallels between these problems and our own

3.2 Related Optimization Problems

- Vehicle Routing Problems (VRP), particularly Multiple-Trip VRP
- Traveling Salesman Problem variants
- Tourist Trip Design Problem (TTDP)
- Orienteering Problems with time constraints

3.3 Algorithms for Multi-Visit Routing

- Exact methods (Branch and Bound, Dynamic Programming, Integer Linear Programming)
- Heuristic approaches applicable to multi-visit scenarios
- Metaheuristics (Genetic Algorithms, Simulated Annealing, Ant Colony Optimization)
- Focus on approaches handling returning to a depot multiple times

3.4 Multi-Objective Optimization Approaches

- Survey of approaches for handling multiple objectives
  - Weighted sum methods (similar to the cost function in Section 2.3)
  - Pareto optimization approaches

    - Constraint-based methods

- Specific focus on techniques for minimizing variance/balancing workloads

3.5 Time-Constrained Route Optimization

- Handling time windows and duration constraints
- Techniques for time-dependent weights
- Applications to tourist trip planning with time budgets

3.6 Real-World Applications

- Implementation considerations for tourist route planning systems
- Personalized itinerary systems and their algorithms
- Case studies of similar optimization problems in practice

3.7 Gap Analysis and Research Directions

- Identify how existing approaches fall short for this specific combination of constraints
- How methods might be adapted or combined to address the problem
- Novel aspects requiring new algorithmic development

3.8 Conclusion

- Summarize the key algorithmic approaches most relevant to this problem
- Identify the most promising directions based on the literature
- Transition to the approach taken in the current research

4 Algorithms Investigated

Paragraph describing different types of algorithm used (Routing then cluster, Cluster then Routing, Genetic, etc.)

Remember to justify the choice of algorithms. You may also need to explain how to adopt these algorithms in your work. A figure showing the ralationship between different components of your work may also help.

4.1 Routing

Explain purpose of routing/goal of algorithms.

4.1.1 Brute Force

Write brute force explanation

4.1.2 Greedy Routing/Insertion

Explain greedy routing algorithm

Explain greedy insertion algorithm

4.1.3 Gift Wrapping

Explain gift wrapping algorithm

Something like: "Once gift wrapping has found a convex hull, a greedy insertion algorithm is used to find the optimal route within the convex hull."

4.2 Clustering

Explain purpose of clustering, how it is used in route planning and the goal of our algorithms.

4.2.1 K-Means

Explain k-means algorithm

4.3 Trip Generation

Explain trip generation, how it is used in route planning and the goal of our algorithms.

4.3.1 Brute Force

Explain how brute force algorithm can be modified for trip generation.

4.4 Genetic Algorithms

Explain basics of genetic algorithms, include how by considering different genomes, the algorithm can be used for routing, clustering or trip generation.

4.4.1 General Clustering

Explain genetic clustering

4.4.2 Centroid-based Clustering

Explain genetic centroid-based clustering and how it differs from general clustering.

4.4.3 Routing

Explain genetic routing

4.4.4 Trip Generation

Explain genetic trip generation

5 Implementation

5.1 Constraints

6 Evaluation and Comparison

Write paragraph about experiment process. Comparison based on computation time and route evaluation. Describe how route is evaluated. Describe data being tested on.

Present comparison of different combinations of algorithms on different inputs.

Reflect about the questionns you are trying to answer with your evaluation. You can have onne subsection for each question that you are trying to answer. It's also important to justify your choices when it comes to the methodology used for evaluation.

7 Conclusion and Future Work

Write conclusion, discuss results, comparison of algorithms, etc.

7.1 Project Reflection

Reflect on the project, what went well, what didn't go well, what I would do differently. This should lead into future work.

7.2 Future work

Discuss further work, what I will be doing to improve the project

8 Bibliography

Fill in bibliography