

BUILT ENVIRONMNET

Solving Rich Vehicle Routing Problem using Adaptive Large Neighborhood Search

LARGE SCALE OPTIMIZATION

Mehrshad Ghorbanisharif (20731137)

Matteo Meloni (2389975)

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Methodology	1
2.1	Operators	1
2.1.1	Random removal	1
2.1.2	Shaw Removal	2
2.1.3	Worst Removal	2
2.1.4	Route removal	2
2.1.5	Random insertion	2
2.1.6	Greedy insertion	3
2.1.7	Regret Insertion	3
2.2	Adaptive	3
2.3	Simulated Annealing	4
2.4	Tuning	4
2.5	More improvements	5
2.5.1	Initial constructor	5
2.5.2	Electric vehicles	6
2.5.3	2-Opt Local Search	6
3	Results	6
3.1	Tuning Results	6
3.2	Comparison of Final Solutions with Initial Solutions	7
3.3	Initial constructor	7
3.4	Single Operators	8
3.5	Simulated Annealing	8
3.6	2-Opt Local Search Results	9
4	Conclusion	9
A	Use of external resources	11
B	Code	12
B.1	Main.py	12
B.2	ALNS.py	12
B.3	Parameters.py	17
B.4	Problem.py	18
B.5	Route.py	22
B.6	Solution.py	26
B.7	experiment.py	35

1 Introduction

In this document we develop a programme to solve the [Rich Vehicle Routing Problem \(RVRP\)](#) with time windows. This problem consists in delivering goods with trucks that start and end the trip from a depot. In each route, the trucks pickup goods at a location and have to deliver them at a different location. A pair of pickup location and delivery location is called a request. An extra layer of complexity is added by the fact that each location only has a limited time window in which it can be visited. We solve the problem using a [Adaptive Large Neighborhood Search \(ALNS\)](#).

[ALNS](#) starts from an existing solution and modifies it trying to get closer to an optimal solution. The following section (§2) discusses how we build our algorithm. The general idea is to run several iterations; at each iteration we remove part of the requests from the solution using a destroy operator and we reinsert them using a repair operator. The amount of requests that we remove is selected at random at each iteration in a predefined range. At each iteration, we check whether the new solution is a new global best, a better solution than the previous one or a worse solution and based on this we reward the operators. At the following iteration, if an operator performed well will be more likely to be selected. This is what makes the algorithm *adaptive*.

To avoid getting stuck in local minima, we make use of simulated annealing (see §2.3): we sometimes accept a worse solution. On top of these, we tried improving our program both implementing new features, like electric vehicles, and applying 2-opt local search.

Section 2 describes all the methods used, both to build the operators and to tune corresponding parameters. Section 3 discusses the effectiveness of our program.

Our codes is quite effective at solving the problem. Our operators are able to consistently produce better results than the initial random operators. 2-Opt is also able to sometimes improve the solution. No single operator stands out of the others. Simulated annealing is sometimes able to provide better results, especially in the larger instances, suggesting that without it, the problem gets stuck in local minima.

2 Methodology

This section presents and explain the functioning of our program. The first part discusses the operators used; the second and the third part explain respectively the functioning of the adaptive functionality and how we included simulated annealing. The fourth section illustrates how each parameter in the program is calibrated. Finally, we discuss some general improvements, as picking a different initial constructor, including electric vehicles and applying 2-Opt local search.

2.1 Operators

We can count a total of seven operators: 4 destroy operators (Random removal (§2.1.1), Shaw removal (§2.1.2), worst removal (§2.1.3) and route removal (§2.1.4)) and 3 repair operators (Random insertion (§2.1.5), greedy insertion (§2.1.6) and regret insertion (§2.1.7)). They each use a different criterion to remove requests from an existing solution and then reinsert them, building a different solution.

2.1.1 Random removal

The Random Removal operator is the simplest of all destruction heuristics, and its main purpose is diversification. It works by randomly selecting a specified number of requests (n) from the current solution and removing them (Ropke & Pisinger (2006)).

2.1.2 Shaw Removal

We include a simplified version of the shaw removal algorithm used by Ropke & Pisinger (2006). The shaw removal operator takes several factors to define a relatedness (R) parameter. This parameter is a measure of how similar two requests are. The Shaw destroy operator works under the assumption that if we remove from a solution requests that are similar, it will be easier later to reinsert them using a repair operator. Unlike Ropke & Pisinger (2006), we only use two factors to define R : distance and demand.

$$R(i, j) = \varphi (d_{A(i), A(j)} + d_{B(i), B(j)}) + (1 - \varphi) |l_i - l_j| \quad (1)$$

In equation 1, d and l are distance and demand. $d_{A(i), A(j)}$ is the distance between pickup location of request i to pickup location for request j , while B represents the delivery location.

This operator sorts all requests in order of relatedness to a random request and removes the n requests with greater R .

φ is a parameter that weights the importance of distance or demand in calculating the relatedness. The higher is φ , the more the relatedness is more related to distance than demand.

2.1.3 Worst Removal

We used the *Worst Removal* operator introduced by Ropke & Pisinger (2006). This operator evaluates how much the objective function improves when a given request i is removed from the solution.

The cost of removing a request is defined as:

$$\text{Cost}(i, s) = f(s) - f_{-i}(s) \quad (2)$$

where $f(s)$ represents the total cost of the current solution, and $f_{-i}(s)$ is the cost of the solution after completely removing request i . A higher value of $\text{Cost}(i, s)$ indicates that request i is poorly placed within the solution and that its removal provides a larger benefit.

Once the cost values for all removable requests are computed, they are sorted in decreasing order of $\text{Cost}(i, s)$, so that the requests offering the greatest improvement upon removal are considered first.

All requests are then sorted in descending order of cost, meaning that requests with the highest $\text{Cost}(i, s)$ values are considered first for removal. To avoid removing the same requests repeatedly, a controlled randomization is applied. The index of the request to remove is determined using the following equation:

$$\text{Index} = \lfloor |L| \times (\text{randomN})^p \rfloor \quad (3)$$

In equation 3, $|L|$ is the number of removable requests, randomN is a random number in $[0, 1)$, and $p \geq 1$ is a parameter that controls the level of randomization. A higher p value makes the removal more deterministic, favoring the requests with the highest cost, while a lower p introduces more randomness in the selection.

2.1.4 Route removal

The route removal operator is a conceptually simple algorithm that consists in removing all requests from a selected number of routes. We allow removing from one to 75% of the total number of existing routes (Demir et al., 2012).

2.1.5 Random insertion

The Random Insertion operator works by reinserting unserved requests into the current solution at randomly selected feasible positions. It selects both the request and the route randomly, ensuring that every insertion opportunity has an equal chance of being chosen.

2.1.6 Greedy insertion

The greedy insertion operator always performs the best possible insertion. For each request not served, it finds the route and the location in that route that has the lowest insertion cost. It checks every request and starts inserting the one with the minimum overall insertion cost (Ropke & Pisinger, 2006).

2.1.7 Regret Insertion

The Regret Insertion operator, specifically implemented as the *Regret- k Heuristic*, is a powerful repair operator that aims to overcome the myopia of the basic Greedy Insertion. It achieves this by introducing a look-ahead mechanism that focuses on requests that would suffer the largest cost penalty if they could not take their best available position. The design of this operator is based on the framework presented by Ropke & Pisinger (2006).

The request chosen for insertion is the one that maximizes the following expression, where U is the set of unserved requests, $\Delta f_{i,x_{ij}}$ is the insertion cost of request i in its j -th best route x_{ij} , and $\Delta f_{i,x_{i1}}$ is the insertion cost in its best route:

$$i^* = \arg \max_{i \in U} \left\{ \sum_{j=2}^k (\Delta f_{i,x_{ij}} - \Delta f_{i,x_{i1}}) \right\} \quad (4)$$

This term measures the regret value as the difference between the best and alternative insertion costs. We calculate the *regret value* by summing the differences between the best insertion cost and the next $k - 1$ best alternative costs. The request i^* that maximizes this regret value is selected and then inserted into its minimum-cost position (the best route). Ties in the maximum regret value are broken by choosing the request with the lowest absolute insertion cost ($\Delta f_{i^*,x_{i1}}$).

The parameter k is the core of the Regret Insertion operator, controlling the extent of the look-ahead mechanism in what is officially termed the Regret- k heuristic. This controls the number of the best possible insertion opportunities that are examined in order to compute the overall regret. Larger k specifically implies that the algorithm examination of insertion costs on the request's k best routes enables it to compare the best single choice with a wider range of possibilities.

2.2 Adaptive

In order to make our program adaptive, we added weights to the operators. At the beginning, each operator has the same weight: 5. This means that, at the first iteration, each operator has the same probability of being selected. After each iteration, based on whether the new solution is accepted or rejected, the weights of the operators used get updated. We account for the four following possible scenarios: the new solution is the best solution found so far, the new solution is better than the previous solution, the new solution is worse than the previous one but accepted, the new solution is rejected. Table 1 shows the score for each scenario.

Score Ψ	Description
10	Best global solution
8	Better solution
5	Accepted solution
1	Rejected solution

Table 1: Score adjustment parameters

Let ρ_i be the weight of operator i , Ψ the reward according to table 1 and λ a decay parameter that controls how sensitive the weights are to changes. Then, weights are updated according to the following

formula:

$$\rho_i = \lambda \rho_i + (1 - \lambda) \Psi$$

The decay parameter is calibrated following the procedure in §2.4.

2.3 Simulated Annealing

To improve the exploration capability of the algorithm we integrated a [Simulated Annealing \(SA\)](#) acceptance criterion into the [ALNS](#) framework. The [SA](#) mechanism allows the acceptance of worse solutions with a certain probability, enabling the search to escape local optima and explore new regions of the solution space.

The acceptance probability of a new solution s' compared to the current solution s is defined as:

$$P(\text{accept}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } f(s') \leq f(s) \\ \exp\left(-\frac{f(s') - f(s)}{T}\right), & \text{if } f(s') > f(s) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where $f(s)$ and $f(s')$ represent the total cost of the current and new solutions, respectively, and T is the temperature parameter controlling the acceptance probability of inferior solutions.

Instead of manually setting the initial temperature, T_{start} is calculated dynamically based on the quality of the initial solution. This ensures that the annealing process is appropriately scaled for the specific instance size and cost range.

The starting temperature is chosen such that a solution that is $w\%$ worse than the initial solution has a 50% probability of being accepted. This can be expressed mathematically as:

$$P(\text{accept}) = \exp\left(-\frac{f(s') - f(s)}{T_{\text{start}}}\right) = 0.5 \quad (6)$$

where $f(s') = f(s) \times (1 + w/100)$. Solving for T_{start} gives:

$$T_{\text{start}} = \frac{f(s') - f(s)}{\ln 2} = \frac{f(s) \cdot w/100}{\ln 2}. \quad (7)$$

The temperature T is reduced at every iteration by multiplying it by a constant factor c ($0 < c < 1$), which is the cooling rate parameter. As T decreases, the probability of accepting a worse solution drops, making the search behave more like a deterministic local search toward the end of the process.

$$T_{n+1} = T_n \times c \quad (8)$$

Both the start temperature control parameter w and the cooling rate c are tuned during the parameter tuning phase. The Simulated Annealing implementation in this report is based on the work of Ropke & Pisinger (2006).

2.4 Tuning

To establish an efficient baseline for the parameter calibration experiments, we first analyzed the convergence behavior of the [ALNS](#) algorithm. Using the default parameter settings, the algorithm was run on each instance to generate an iteration-versus-best-cost plot. Visual analysis of these profiles, such as the examples shown for lr205 and lrc104 (figure 1), indicates that the rate of improvement diminishes significantly after an initial period. Based on this observation, we establish an initial limit of 50 iterations for the tuning phase, dedicating the full iteration budget to finding the optimal parameters. After tuning all parameters, another experiment is conducted to study the effect of the number of iterations.

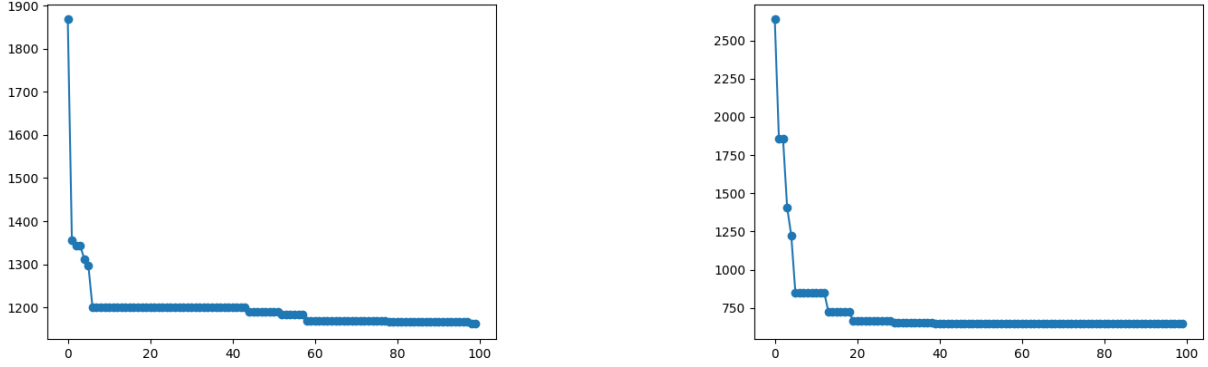


Figure 1: Convergence behavior for instance exploration, comparing two different problem types lc108(right) and lrc104(left). The maximum iteration limit was set at 50.

For tuning the parameters, we first focus on the local parameters of each operator: p for the Worst Removal, k for the Regret Insertion, and α and β for the Shaw Removal. The algorithm is run for each instance using three different random seeds to have broader exploration. We then calculate the average of the best solution costs obtained for each parameter setting. During this process, only one parameter is varied at a time while keeping all others constant. Table 2 shows an example of the parameter tuning results for the Worst Removal operator.

p	Average Best Cost
5	756.40
10	759.50
3	762.04
1	772.12

Table 2: Example of parameter tuning results for the Worst Removal operator.

After tuning the local parameters, we proceed to tune the global variables, such as the minimum size of the neighbourhood, the maximum size of the neighbourhood, and the update speed for the Adaptive mechanism, as well as the cooling rate and the initial temperature control for the Simulated Annealing process. In the case of Simulated Annealing, the cooling rate is tuned first, followed by the initial temperature control parameter. After tuning all parameters, we once again adjust the number of iterations. For each instance, we identify the iteration at which the solution cost decreases by less than 1%. The results of all tuned variables are presented in §3.1.

2.5 More improvements

This section discusses several improvements and adds-on to the program. These include choosing a different operator to construct the initial solution, making each route 2-opt and adding electric vehicles.

2.5.1 Initial constructor

Our program includes three different insertion operators: random insertion (§2.1.5), greedy insertion (§2.1.6) and regret insertion (§2.1.7). We can check, for each instance, which operator is best suited to build an initial solution. In order to do so, we run the program for each instance with each of the repair operators as initial constructor. We then compare the average cost across all instances to see which one leads to better overall results. Results are discussed in §3.

2.5.2 Electric vehicles

An extra layer of complexity in the [RVRP](#) can be added using [Electric Vehicles \(EV\)](#) instead of normal trucks. [EVs](#) in some routes don't have enough charge to complete the route itself. Our implementation stops at including battery charge that is used throughout the route. For each location, we calculate how much battery has been used and subtract it to the total capacity. If there is not enough charge, the route is considered unfeasible and a new route is built. In some instances, there are routes that, even if they only contain one request, cannot be completed in one charge, making the request unserviceable.

2.5.3 2-Opt Local Search

The 2-Opt is a classical local search method that is used to improve routes by eliminating crossovers and reducing overall tour cost. It works by checking if swapping two edges in a route can improve the solution.

In our implementation, we apply 2-Opt to each route to improve its quality. The 2-Opt procedure was tested at different stages of the algorithm: after all iterations are completed, during each iteration following the application of the [ALNS](#) operators, and only when a new global best solution is found. The performance of these strategies is further discussed in §3.6.

It is important to note that even after applying 2-Opt, a route may not be fully 2-optimal. Constraints such as time windows, pickup and delivery requirements, and vehicle capacity can make certain 2-Opt moves infeasible.

3 Results

The following section presents the results of the conducted experiments. It begins with the parameter tuning outcomes, followed by a comparison between the final solutions obtained with the tuned parameters and the initial solutions. Subsequently, the impact of several algorithmic modifications is examined, including the choice of initial constructor, the use of single operators per iteration, and the effects of incorporating Simulated Annealing and the 2-Opt local search. Unless explicitly specified, results are reported without including 2-Opt local search or electric vehicles.

3.1 Tuning Results

The final parameters obtained after the tuning process are shown in [Table 3](#). The number of iterations, $n_{\text{Iterations}}$, was chosen such that none of the instances showed an improvement of more than 1% in the solution cost beyond this point. Although many instances exhibit very little improvement after the first 40 iterations, we selected 80 iterations because the computational cost per iteration is relatively low.

Global Parameters		
$n_{\text{Iterations}}$	80	Number of ALNS iterations
minSizeNBH	10	Minimum neighborhood size
maxSizeNBH	45	Maximum neighborhood size
updateSpeed	0.8	Weight update speed for adaptive mechanism
startTempControl	0.1	Initial temperature control (w)
coolingRate	0.7	Cooling rate for Simulated Annealing (c)
Operator-specific Parameters		
p	5	Parameter for Worst Removal operator
Regretk	2	Parameter k for Regret Insertion operator
α	0.25	Shaw Removal weight for distance

Table 3: Tuned parameters for the ALNS algorithm.

3.2 Comparison of Final Solutions with Initial Solutions

As shown in Table 4, our solutions improved the cost for all instances. The improvements are particularly significant for the larger instances.

Instance	Initial Solution	Our Results
c202C16	468.7	431.0
lc102	2120.7	679.1
lc108	2443.3	638.5
lc207	2254.3	588.1
lr112	1640.0	1043.0
lr205	2032.7	1240.1
lrc104	1858.2	1137.6
lrc206	2830.9	1380.9
r102C18	264.0	250.4
rc204C16	298.5	298.5

Table 4: Comparison of the initial solution and our results.

3.3 Initial constructor

Instance	Random Insertion	Greedy Insertion	Regret Insertion
c202C16	431.01	431.01	431.01
lc102	667.58	650.00	630.77
lc108	638.54	638.54	594.97
lc207	629.44	629.44	545.24
lr112	1021.38	1042.99	974.29
lr205	1207.62	1218.99	1111.99
lrc104	1183.06	1142.63	1018.42
lrc206	1380.86	1340.84	1317.59
r102C18	250.43	250.43	249.02
rc204C16	317.03	348.60	317.03
	772.70	769.35	719.03

Table 5: Comparison of initialization methods: Random, Greedy, and Regret Insertion.

Table 5 shows that initialising the solution using the regret insertion method consistently produces the best results on all instances, making it the preferred construction method.

3.4 Single Operators

In it's basic configuration, each iteration picks a pair of destroy and repair operators. It is interesting to also evaluate the performance of each operator taken by itself. In order to do so, we tested all combinations of destroy/repair operator (using the same operator for each iteration)¹.

Instance	Best Combination	Cost	CPU Time	Norm cost	Norm CPU Time
c202C16	(4, 1)	428.1	0	431.0	0
lc102	(3, 2)	570.0	20	679.1	5
lc108	(4, 2)	573.0	5	638.5	9
lc207*	(4, 1)	545.2	5	588.1	27
lr112	(1, 3)	940.6	19	1043.0	6
lr205	(3, 3)	1161.5	54	1240.1	21
lrc104	(1, 3)	1019.9	17	1137.6	5
lrc206	(3, 3)	1235.3	51	1380.9	12
r102C18*	(4, 1)	249.0	0	250.4	0
rc204C16*	(1, 1)	298.5	0	298.5	0

Table 6: Best operator combination for each instance. *These instances have also other combinations of operators with the same cost and equal or greater computation time.

Table 6 shows the best combination of parameters² for each instance. The test does not suggest any clear pattern in terms of which combination or which operator has the best performance. It also compares the best combination found to the results of the basic configuration.

Using the best combination consistently produces better results across all instances albeit, it almost always takes significantly more time. It is hard to identify any operator that stands out. All we can say though is that shaw removal never appears in the best combination, suggesting it may not be a very effective way of destroying the solution. We can speculate that this is because, given the little variation in solution it creates due to its nature, it doesn't allow to escape local minima.

Given that no combination stands out over the others, we conclude it is more effective to use a range of operators to solve the problem. There is no effective way of finding the best combination apriori (without testing all of them, which takes significant time) and when this combination finds a better solution it usually comes with a significant increase in computation time.

3.5 Simulated Annealing

Table 7 shows that the [Simulated Annealing \(SA\)](#) algorithm does not always improve the final solution. In several instances, the algorithm without [SA](#) achieved slightly better costs. This may occur because [ALNS](#) already provides strong diversification through its destroy and repair operators, making the probabilistic acceptance of worse solutions in [SA](#) sometimes move the search away from a better solution. [SA](#) tends to be more beneficial for larger or more complex instances, as these are more likely to become trapped in local optima.

¹These tests were run without applying 2-Opt local search to save time.

²The first number in parenthesis is the destroy operator (1 = random, 2 = shaw, 3 = worst, 4 = route) and the second one is the repair (1 = random, 2 = greedy, 3 = regret)

Instance	With SA	Without SA
c202C16	431.0	424.9
lc102	679.1	652.4
lc108	638.5	668.7
lc207	588.1	592.1
lr112	1043.0	1028.3
lr205	1240.1	1254.4
lrc104	1137.6	1139.2
lrc206	1380.9	1339.1
r102C18	250.4	250.4
rc204C16	298.5	298.5

Table 7: Comparison of solution costs for ALNS with and without Simulated Annealing (SA).

3.6 2-Opt Local Search Results

Instance	No 2-Opt	After Global Best	Every Iteration	After All Iterations
c202C16	431.0	431.0	431.0	431.0
lc102	679.1	679.1	679.1	679.1
lc108	638.5	638.5	657.3	634.3
lc207	588.1	629.4	589.8	588.1
lr112	1043.0	1028.7	1020.8	1013.1
lr205	1240.1	1207.6	1195.3	1196.8
lrc104	1137.6	1114.0	1143.0	1114.0
lrc206	1380.9	1380.9	1300.9	1340.8
r102C18	250.4	250.4	250.4	250.4
rc204C16	298.5	348.6	298.5	298.5

Table 8: Comparison of solution costs with different applications of 2-Opt.

Table 8 shows that applying 2-Opt after all iterations generally improves the solution slightly or leaves it unchanged. Applying 2-Opt after the global best solution or in every iteration carries the risk of the search getting stuck in a local optimum. In the case of **lrc206**, applying 2-Opt in every iteration produced a lower cost, but for other instances, intermediate applications either had no effect or slightly worsened the solution. Overall, it makes sense to apply 2-Opt only after all iterations to avoid being trapped in a local optimum. Larger routes benefit more from 2-Opt, as longer routes have more opportunities for edge crossings, while short routes with only a few requests are often already nearly 2-optimal.

4 Conclusion

In this project we successfully developed and implemented an Adaptive Large Neighborhood Search (ALNS) heuristic to solve the Pickup and Delivery Problem with Time Windows (PDPTW). The heuristic was constructed using a comprehensive set of seven operators (four destruction and three repair operators), an adaptive weighting mechanism, and a Simulated Annealing (SA). Through rigorous parameter tuning, the algorithm was configured with values in Table 3, this configuration achieved a significant improvement in total route cost over the initial solutions across all tested instances.

No single pair of destruction/repair operators consistently produced the best solution, confirming the need for a diverse and adaptive operator pool to explore complex solution spaces efficiently. This adaptive approach proved to be effective in driving continuous improvement across problem sets. However, changing the initial constructor showed a noticeable improvement, with the Regret Insertion operator producing the best results in all cases. This highlights the importance of starting from a high-quality initial solution, as it can significantly influence the final outcome of the algorithm.

Integration of SA provided additional diversification, although the results showed that it did not always enhance the quality of the final solution. This behaviour suggests that ALNS, by design, already includes sufficient diversification, and SA may introduce excessive randomness when not finely tuned. The experiments with 2-Opt proved valuable as a final post-processing step. Applying 2-Opt after all 80 iterations consistently improved or maintained the solution quality across all instances. Importantly, testing showed that applying 2-Opt during intermediate iterations risked prematurely trapping the search in a local optimum, confirming that it is best used as a final local intensification step.

A major limitation of this work lies in the parameter tuning process, meaning that the calibrated parameters may not generalize well across different datasets or problem structures. The interaction between global parameters (e.g., cooling rate, iteration count) and local parameters (e.g., operator-specific settings) was not fully explored. This simplified approach to tuning may have prevented the algorithm from reaching its best possible configuration. Future work could address this limitation by implementing dynamic tuning, where parameters such as temperature, neighborhood size, or adaptive weights are continuously adjusted during the search based on algorithmic performance. Automated approaches such as reinforcement learning could further improve robustness and adaptability across instances.

The existing Shaw Removal operator is currently limited in design: it employs a simplified relatedness parameter (R) incorporating only the elements of distance and demand. This restricted computation is an simplification of the complete methodology introduced by Ropke & Pisinger (2006). Future developmental work must therefore focus on expanding the Shaw Removal heuristic to incorporate the missing factors present in the established literature, namely temporal relatedness (based on analyzing time window differences) and a full calculation of load differences of the two requests. On the other hand this should come with additional testing, ensuring this actually improves the algorithm leading to better solutions.

Beyond optimizing the current configuration, significant further research can focus on expanding the realism and constraints of the problem model. This involves tackling the currently simplified assumption of a non-restrictive number of available vehicles, necessitating changes to the objective function to prioritize vehicle minimization. Moreover, the implementation of the Electric Vehicle (EV) model can be completed.

References

- Demir, E., Bektaş, T., & Laporte, G. (2012, December). An adaptive large neighborhood search heuristic for the Pollution-Routing Problem. *European Journal of Operational Research*, 223(2), 346–359. Retrieved 2025-10-11, from <https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0377221712004997> doi: 10.1016/j.ejor.2012.06.044
- Ropke, S., & Pisinger, D. (2006, November). An Adaptive Large Neighborhood Search Heuristic for the Pickup and Delivery Problem with Time Windows. *Transportation Science*, 40(4), 455–472. Retrieved 2025-10-12, from <https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/trsc.1050.0135> doi: 10.1287/trsc.1050.0135

A Use of external resources

In the coding process, a number of external resources were used. In this appendix, the type of use will be described. These include ChatGPT, Copilot, Stack Overflow and modules documentation. The main principle that drove the use of these resources was to "not ask about the logic or flow of an algorithm". I always developed the algorithms independently. On the other hand, given this was my first time using Python, and my limited knowledge of programming overall, AI was used mainly as a shortcut to python's documentation.

Prompt examples:

- How do I define a list in python?
- How do I get the last element of a list?
- What's the best module to create a plot?
- How can I save a data frame to a csv?

Examples of what was **not** asked or even looked up on the internet:

- How can I write the Outlier Insertion algorithm in python?
- Can you write a function to test whether a tour is two optimal?

There was one instance where I had ChatGPT check why *getTour_OutlierInsertion* was taking so long to run, and it recommended to not compute and compare the cost of the full tour but rather just of the insertion. I took on this recommendation and found implemented it myself.

B Code

B.1 Main.py

```
1  # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
2  """
3  Created on Mon Aug  1 14:34:48 2022
4
5  @author: Original template by Rolf van Lieshout
6  """
7
8  import Problem, Solution, Route
9  from ALNS import ALNS
10
11
12  testI = "instances/lc207.txt"
13  problem = Problem.PDPTW.readInstance(testI)
14  print(problem)
15  nDestroyOps = 4
16  nRepairOps = 3
17  alns = ALNS(problem,nDestroyOps,nRepairOps)
18  alns.execute()
```

B.2 ALNS.py

```
1  # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
2  """
3  Created on Tue Jul 26 16:28:19 2022
4
5  @author: Original template by Rolf van Lieshout
6  """
7  from Solution import Solution
8  import random, time
9  import math
10  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
11  import pandas as pd
12  import os
13  from Parameters import Parameters
14
15  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
16  import matplotlib.cm as cm
17  import numpy as np
18
19
20
21  class ALNS:
22      """
23      Class that models the ALNS algorithm.
24
25      Parameters
26      -----
27      problem : PDPTW
28          The problem instance that we want to solve.
```

```

29     nDestroyOps : int
30         number of destroy operators.
31     nRepairOps : int
32         number of repair operators.
33     randomGen : Random
34         random number generator
35     currentSolution : Solution
36         The current solution in the ALNS algorithm
37     bestSolution : Solution
38         The best solution currently found
39     bestDistance : int
40         Distance of the best solution
41
42     """
43     def __init__(self, problem, nDestroyOps, nRepairOps):
44         self.problem = problem
45         self.nDestroyOps = nDestroyOps
46         self.nRepairOps = nRepairOps
47         self.destroyOpsWeights = [(i, 5) for i in range(1, self.nDestroyOps + 1)]
48         self.repairOpsWeights = [(i, 5) for i in range(1, self.nRepairOps + 1)]
49         self.randomGen = random.Random(Parameters.randomSeed) #used for reproducibility
50
51
52     def constructInitialSolution(self):
53         """
54         Method that constructs an initial solution using random insertion
55         """
56         self.currentSolution =
57             ↳ Solution(self.problem, list(), list(), list(self.problem.requests.copy()))
58             #self.currentSolution.executeRandomInsertion(self.randomGen)
59             self.currentSolution.executeGreedyInsertion(self.randomGen)
60             #self.currentSolution.executeRegretInsertion(self.randomGen)
61             self.currentSolution.computeDistance()
62             self.bestSolution = self.currentSolution.copy()
63             self.bestDistance = self.currentSolution.distance
64             ###
65             w = Parameters.startTempControl
66             z = self.bestDistance
67             self.temperature = - (w * z) / math.log(0.5) #  $P = e^{(-w \cdot z)/t_{start}}$  so  $t_{start} =$ 
68             ↳  $-(w \cdot z) / \ln(0.5)$ 
69
70             print(self.temperature)
71
72             ###
73             print("Created initial solution with distance: "+str(self.bestDistance))
74
75     def execute(self):
76         """
77         Method that executes the ALNS
78         """
79         cost = []
80         costcu = []
81         starttime = time.time() # get the start time
82         self.constructInitialSolution()
83         for i in range(Parameters.nIterations):

```

```

82         #copy the current solution
83         self.tempSolution = self.currentSolution.copy()
84         #decide on the size of the neighbourhood
85         sizeNBH = self.randomGen.randint(Parameters.minSizeNBH,Parameters.maxSizeNBH)
86         #decide on the destroy and repair operator numbers
87         if not Parameters.overrideOpr:
88             destroyOpNr = self.determineDestroyOpNr()
89             repairOpNr = self.determineRepairOpNr()
90         elif Parameters.overrideOpr:
91             destroyOpNr = Parameters.destroy
92             repairOpNr = Parameters.repair
93         #execute the destroy and the repair and evaluate the result
94         self.destroyAndRepair(destroyOpNr, repairOpNr, sizeNBH);
95         self.tempSolution.computeDistance()
96         self.iterationPrint(i, destroyOpNr, repairOpNr, sizeNBH)
97         #print("Iteration "+str(i)+": (destroy: " + str(destroyOpNr) + ", repair: " +
98         ↪ str(repairOpNr) + ", NHB size: " + str(sizeNBH) + ") Found solution with
99         ↪ distance: "+str(self.tempSolution.distance))
100        #self.tempSolution.print()
101        #determine if the new solution is accepted
102        state = self.checkIfAcceptNewSol()
103        #update the ALNS weights
104        cost.append((i,self.tempSolution.distance))
105        costcu.append((i,self.bestSolution.distance))
106        self.updateWeights(state, destroyOpNr, repairOpNr)
107        endtime = time.time() # get the end time
108        self.cpuTime = round(endtime-starttime)
109        print("Terminated. Final distance: "+str(self.bestSolution.distance)+" , cpuTime:
110        ↪ "+str(self.cpuTime)+" seconds")
111        #self.plot_routes()
112
113        # self.drawGraph(cost)
114        # self.drawGraph(costcu)
115
116
117
118    def drawGraph(self,data):
119        x = [item[0] for item in data]
120        y = [item[1] for item in data]
121
122        results = pd.DataFrame({
123            'Iter': x,
124            'Cost': y
125        })
126        fileName = "log/" + str(self.problem.name)
127        print(fileName)
128        results.to_csv(fileName, index = False)
129        figureName = fileName + ".png"
130        plt.plot(x,y,marker='o')
131        plt.show()
132        plt.savefig(figureName)
133        plt.close('all')

```



```

134 def iterationPrint(self, iterationNr, destroyOpNr, repairOpNr, sizeNBH):
135     i = str(iterationNr)
136     destroyOp = str(destroyOpNr)
137     destroyW = str(round(self.destroyOpsWeights[destroyOpNr-1][1], 2))
138     reperiOp = str(repairOpNr)
139     repairW = str(round(self.repairOpsWeights[repairOpNr-1][1], 2))
140     sizeNBH = str(sizeNBH)
141     distance = str(self.tempSolution.distance)
142
143
144     message = "Iteration " + i + ": (destroy: " + destroyOp + " (" + destroyW + "),
145     ↪ repair: " + reperiOp + " (" + repairW + "), NBH size: " + sizeNBH + "). Found
146     ↪ solution with distance: " + distance
147     print(message)
148
149 def checkIfAcceptNewSol(self):
150     """
151     Method that checks if we accept the newly found solution
152     """
153
154
155     state = "Rejected"
156     #if we found a global best solution, we always accept
157
158     if self.tempSolution.distance < self.bestDistance:
159         if Parameters.maketwoOpt:
160             self.currentSolution.ApplyTwoOpt()
161             self.bestDistance = self.tempSolution.distance
162             self.bestSolution = self.tempSolution.copy()
163             self.currentSolution = self.tempSolution.copy()
164             state = "Global Best"
165             #self.tempSolution.ApplyTwoOpt()
166             print("Found new global best solution.\n")
167
168
169     #currently, we accept better solution
170     if self.tempSolution.distance < self.currentSolution.distance:
171
172         self.currentSolution = self.tempSolution.copy()
173         state = "Better Sol"
174
175     # simulated annealing
176     elif random.random() < math.e ** -((self.tempSolution.distance -
177     ↪ self.currentSolution.distance) / self.temperature):
178         self.currentSolution = self.tempSolution.copy()
179         state = "Accepted"
180         print("Accepeted the worse soulution")
181         #print(self.temperature)
182
183     self.temperature = self.temperature * Parameters.coolingRate
184
185     return state

```

```

186 def updateWeights(self, state, chosenDestroyOp, chosenRepOp):
187     """
188     Method that updates the weights of the destroy and repair operators
189     """
190     reward = Parameters.reward[state]
191     updateSpeed = Parameters.updateSpeed
192
193     # Update destroy weights
194     oldWeight_d = self.destroyOpsWeights[chosenDestroyOp-1][1]
195     newWeight_d = updateSpeed*oldWeight_d + (1-updateSpeed)*reward
196
197     self.destroyOpsWeights[chosenDestroyOp-1] =
198     ↪ (self.destroyOpsWeights[chosenDestroyOp-1][0], newWeight_d)
199
200     # Update repair weights
201     oldWeight_r = self.repairOpsWeights[chosenRepOp-1][1]
202     newWeight_r = updateSpeed*oldWeight_r + (1-updateSpeed)*reward
203
204     self.repairOpsWeights[chosenRepOp-1] = (self.repairOpsWeights[chosenRepOp-1][0],
205     ↪ newWeight_r)
206
207 def determineDestroyOpNr(self):
208     """
209     Method that determines the destroy operator that will be applied.
210     Currently we just pick a random one with equal probabilities.
211     Could be extended with weights
212     """
213     selectedOpNr = self.randomGen.choices([t[0] for t in self.destroyOpsWeights],
214     ↪ weights=[t[1] for t in self.destroyOpsWeights], k = 1 )[0]
215     return selectedOpNr #self.randomGen.randint(1, self.nDestroyOps)
216
217 def determineRepairOpNr(self):
218     """
219     Method that determines the repair operator that will be applied.
220     Currently we just pick a random one with equal probabilities.
221     Could be extended with weights
222     """
223     selectedOpNr = self.randomGen.choices([t[0] for t in self.repairOpsWeights],
224     ↪ weights=[t[1] for t in self.repairOpsWeights], k = 1 )[0]
225     return selectedOpNr
226
227 def destroyAndRepair(self, destroyHeuristicNr, repairHeuristicNr, sizeNBH):
228     """
229     Method that performs the destroy and repair. More destroy and/or
230     repair methods can be added
231
232     Parameters
233     -----
234     destroyHeuristicNr : int
235         number of the destroy operator.
236     repairHeuristicNr : int
237         number of the repair operator.
238     sizeNBH : int

```

```

237         size of the neighborhood.
238
239         """
240         #perform the destroy
241         if destroyHeuristicNr == 1:
242             self.tempSolution.executeRandomRemoval(sizeNBH, self.randomGen)
243         elif destroyHeuristicNr == 2:
244             self.tempSolution.executeShawRemoval(sizeNBH, self.randomGen)
245         elif destroyHeuristicNr == 3:
246             self.tempSolution.executeWorstReomval(sizeNBH, self.randomGen)
247         elif destroyHeuristicNr == 4:
248             self.tempSolution.executeRouteRemoval(self.randomGen)
249         #perform the repair
250         if repairHeuristicNr == 1:
251             self.tempSolution.executeRandomInsertion(self.randomGen)
252         elif repairHeuristicNr == 2:
253             self.tempSolution.executeGreedyInsertion(self.randomGen)
254         elif repairHeuristicNr == 3:
255             self.tempSolution.executeRegretInsertion(self.randomGen)
256
257     def plot_routes(self):
258         """
259         Plots the routes
260         """
261         plt.figure(figsize=(12, 12))
262
263         num_routes = len(self.bestSolution.routes) # using rainbow is the suggestion by
264         ↪ AI, before that the colors was repated sometimes
265         colors = cm.rainbow(np.linspace(0, 1, num_routes))
266
267         for route, color in zip(self.bestSolution.routes, colors):
268             x_coords = [loc.xLoc for loc in route.locations]
269             y_coords = [loc.yLoc for loc in route.locations]
270             plt.plot(x_coords, y_coords, marker='o', color = color)
271
272         plt.plot(self.problem.depot.xLoc, self.problem.depot.yLoc, 'p', markersize=15)
273
274
275
276
277         plot_filename = f"log/{os.path.basename(self.problem.name)}_routes.png"
278         plt.savefig(plot_filename)
279         print(f"Route plot saved to {plot_filename}")
280         plt.close('all')
281         #plt.show()
282
283
284

```

B.3 Parameters.py

```

1 import random
2 class Parameters:

```

```

3      """
4      Class that holds all the parameters for ALNS
5      """
6
7      maketwoOpt = False
8
9
10     nIterations = 80  #number of iterations of the ALNS
11
12     minSizeNBH = 10      #minimum neighborhood size CALIBRATED
13     maxSizeNBH = 45      #maximum neighborhood size CALIBRATED
14
15     randomSeed = 1       #value of the random seed
16     reward = {
17         "Global Best": 10,
18         "Better Sol": 8,
19         "Accepted": 5,
20         "Rejected": 1
21     }
22     updateSpeed = 0.8 # For adaptive CALIBRATED
23
24     #can add parameters such as cooling rate etc.
25     startTempControl = 0.1 # Calibrated # this means if will accept the solotions with 10%
26     ↪ highes cost with 50% Prob
27     coolingRate = 0.7 # updateSpeed = 0.8 # For adaptive
28
29     useBattery = True
30     # ----- #
31
32     p = 5 # Calibrated
33     Regretnk = 2 # Calibrated
34
35     # For shaw removal
36     alpha = 0.25 # Calibrated
37
38     # To override operators:
39     overrideOpr = False
40     destroy = 2
41     repair = 2

```

B.4 Problem.py

```

1  # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
2  """
3  Created on Tue Jul 26 12:41:37 2022
4
5  @author: Original template by Rolf van Lieshout
6  """
7
8  import numpy as np
9  import math
10
11  class Request:
12      """

```

```

13     Class that represents a request
14
15     Attributes
16     -----
17     pickUpLoc : Location
18         The pick-up location.
19     deliveryLoc : Location
20         The delivery location.
21     ID : int
22         id of request.
23
24     """
25     def __init__(self,pickUpLoc,deliveryLoc,ID):
26
27         self.pickUpLoc = pickUpLoc
28         self.deliveryLoc = deliveryLoc
29         self.ID = ID
30
31 class Location:
32     """
33     Class that represents either (i) a location where a request should be picked up
34     or delivered or (ii) the depot
35     Attributes
36     -----
37     requestID : int
38         id of request.
39     xLoc : int
40         x-coordinate.
41     yLoc : int
42         y-coordinate.
43     demand : int
44         demand quantity, positive if pick-up, negative if delivery
45     startTW : int
46         start time of time window.
47     endTW : int
48         end time of time window.
49     servTime : int
50         service time.
51     typeLoc : int
52         1 if pick-up, -1 if delivery, 0 if depot
53     nodeID : int
54         id of the node, used for the distance matrix
55     """
56     def __init__(self,requestID,xLoc,yLoc,demand,startTW,endTW,servTime,typeLoc,nodeID):
57
58         self.requestID = requestID
59         self.xLoc = xLoc
60         self.yLoc = yLoc
61         self.demand = demand
62         self.startTW = startTW # start Time Window
63         self.endTW = endTW
64         self.servTime = servTime
65         self.typeLoc = typeLoc
66         self.nodeID = nodeID
67

```

```

68     def __str__(self):
69         """
70         Method that prints the location
71         """
72         return f"({self.requestID},{self.typeLoc})"
73
74
75     def getDistance(l1,l2):
76         """
77         Method that computes the euclidian distance between two locations
78         """
79         dx = l1.xLoc-l2.xLoc
80         dy = l1.yLoc-l2.yLoc
81         return math.sqrt(dx**2+dy**2)
82
83 class PDPTW:
84     """
85     Class that represents a pick-up and delivery problem with time windows
86     Attributes
87     -----
88     name : string
89         name of the instance.
90     requests : List of Requests
91         The set containing all requests.
92     depot : Location
93         the depot where all vehicles must start and end.
94     locations : Set of Locations
95         The set containing all locations
96     distMatrix : 2D array
97         matrix with all distances between cities
98     capacity : int
99         capacity of the vehicles
100
101     """
102     def __init__(self,name,requests,depot,vehicleCapacity, vehicleBattery):
103         self.name = name
104         self.requests = requests
105         self.depot = depot
106         self.capacity = vehicleCapacity
107         self.battery = vehicleBattery
108         ##construct the set with all locations
109         self.locations = set()
110         self.locations.add(depot)
111         for r in self.requests:
112             self.locations.add(r.pickUpLoc)
113             self.locations.add(r.deliveryLoc)
114
115         #compute the distance matrix
116         self.distMatrix = np.zeros((len(self.locations),len(self.locations))) #init as n*n
117         ↪ matrix
118         for i in self.locations:
119             for j in self.locations:
120                 distItoJ = Location.getDistance(i,j)
121                 self.distMatrix[i.nodeID,j.nodeID] = distItoJ
122         self.distMatrix_Max = np.max(self.distMatrix)

```

```

122         self.distMatrix_Min = np.min(self.distMatrix)
123
124     def __str__(self):
125         return f" PDPTW problem {self.name} with {len(self.requests)} requests and a vehicle
        ↪ capacity of {self.capacity}"
126
127
128     def readInstance(fileName):
129         """
130         Method that reads an instance from a file and returns the instancesf
131         """
132         f = open(fileName)
133         requests = list()
134         unmatchedPickups = dict()
135         unmatchedDeliveries = dict()
136         nodeCount = 0
137         requestCount = 1
138         for line in f.readlines()[1:-6]:
139             asList = []
140             n = 13 #columns start every 13 characters
141             for index in range(0, len(line), n):
142                 asList.append(line[index : index + n].strip())
143
144
145             lID = asList[0]
146             x = int(asList[2][:-2]) #need to remove ".0" from the string
147             y = int(asList[3][:-2])
148             if lID.startswith("D"):
149                 #it is the depot
150                 depot = Location(0,x,y,0,0,0,0,nodeCount)
151                 nodeCount += 1
152             elif lID.startswith("C"):
153                 # it is a location
154                 lType = asList[1]
155                 demand = int(asList[4][:-2])
156                 startTW = int(asList[5][:-2])
157                 endTW = int(asList[6][:-2])
158                 servTime = int(asList[7][:-2])
159                 partnerID = asList[8]
160                 if lType == "cp":
161                     #it is a pick-up
162                     if partnerID in unmatchedDeliveries:
163                         deliv = unmatchedDeliveries.pop(partnerID)
164                         pickup = Location(deliv.requestID, x, y, demand, startTW, endTW,
                            ↪ servTime, 1, nodeCount)
165                         nodeCount += 1
166                         req = Request(pickup,deliv,deliv.requestID)
167                         requests.append(req)
168                     else:
169                         pickup = Location(requestCount, x, y, demand, startTW, endTW,
                            ↪ servTime, 1, nodeCount)
170                         nodeCount += 1
171                         requestCount += 1
172                         unmatchedPickups[lID] = pickup
173                 elif lType == "cd":

```

```

174         #it is a delivery
175         if partnerID in unmatchedPickups:
176             pickup = unmatchedPickups.pop(partnerID)
177             deliv = Location(pickup.requestID, x, y, demand, startTW, endTW,
178                             ↪ servTime, -1, nodeCount)
178             nodeCount += 1
179             req = Request(pickup,deliv,pickup.requestID)
180             requests.append(req)
181         else:
182             deliv = Location(requestCount, x, y, demand, startTW, endTW,
183                             ↪ servTime, -1, nodeCount)
183             nodeCount += 1
184             requestCount += 1
185             unmatchedDeliveries[lID] = deliv
186
187         #sanity check: all pickups and deliveries should be matched
188         if len(unmatchedDeliveries)+len(unmatchedPickups)>0:
189             raise Exception("Not all matched")
190
191         # read the vehicle capacity
192         f = open(fileName)
193         print("hello")
194         print(f)
195         capLine = f.readlines()[-4]
196         capacity = int(capLine[-7:-3].strip())
197
198         f = open(fileName)
199         batLine = f.readlines()[-5]
200         battery = float(batLine[-7:-1].strip())
201         print(battery)
202         return PDPTW(fileName,requests,depot,capacity, battery)

```

B.5 Route.py

```

1  # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
2  """
3  Created on Thu Jul 28 17:10:03 2022
4
5  @author: Original template by Rolf van Lieshout
6  """
7  import sys
8  from Problem import Location
9  from Parameters import Parameters
10
11 class Route:
12     """
13     Class used to represent a route
14
15     Parameters
16     -----
17     locations : list of locations
18     the route sequence of locations.
19     requests : list of requests
20     the requests served by the route

```



```

21     problem : PDPTW
22         the problem instance, used to compute distances.
23     feasible : boolean
24         true if route respects time windows, capacity and precedence
25     distance : int
26         total distance driven, extremely large number if infeasible
27     """
28     def __init__(self, locations, requests, problem):
29         self.locations = locations
30         self.requests = requests
31         self.problem = problem
32         #check the feasibility and compute the distance
33         self.feasible = self.isFeasible()
34         if self.feasible:
35             self.distance = self.computeDistance()
36         else:
37             self.distance = sys.maxsize #extremely large number
38
39     def computeDistance(self):
40         """
41         Method that computes and returns the distance of the route
42         """
43         totDist = 0
44         for i in range(1, len(self.locations)-1):
45             prevNode = self.locations[i-1]
46             curNode = self.locations[i]
47             dist = self.problem.distMatrix[prevNode.nodeID][curNode.nodeID]
48             totDist += dist
49         return totDist
50
51     def __str__(self):
52         """
53         Method that prints the route
54         """
55         toPrint = "Route "
56         for loc in self.locations:
57             toPrint += loc.__str__()
58         toPrint += f" dist={self.distance}"
59         return toPrint
60
61     def isFeasible(self):
62         """
63         Method that checks feasibility. Returns True if feasible, else False
64         """
65         #route should start and end at the depot
66         if self.locations[0] != self.problem.depot or self.locations[-1] != self.problem.depot:
67             return False
68
69         curTime = 0 #current time
70         curLoad = 0 #current load in vehicle
71         curNode = self.locations[0] #current node
72         pickedUp = set() #set with all requests that we picked up, used to check precedence
73
74         #totDistance = 0
75         curCharge = self.problem.battery

```

```

76         #iterate over route and check feasibility of time windows, capacity and precedence
77         for i in range(1,len(self.locations)-1):
78             prevNode = self.locations[i-1]
79             curNode = self.locations[i]
80             dist = self.problem.distMatrix[prevNode.nodeID][curNode.nodeID]
81             curTime = max(curNode.startTW, curTime + prevNode.servTime + dist)
82             #totDistance += dist
83             #check if time window is respected
84             if curTime>curNode.endTW:
85                 return False
86             #check if capacity not exceeded
87
88             curLoad += curNode.demand
89             if curLoad>self.problem.capacity:
90                 return False
91             #check if vehicle has enough charge
92             if Parameters.useBattery:
93                 curCharge = curCharge - dist
94                 if curCharge < 0:
95                     return False
96             #check if we don't do a delivery before a pickup
97             if curNode.typeLoc == 1:
98                 #it is a pickup
99                 pickedUp.add(curNode.requestID)
100             else:
101                 #it is a delivery
102                 #check if we picked up the request
103                 if curNode.requestID not in pickedUp:
104                     return False
105                 pickedUp.remove(curNode.requestID)
106
107             #finally, check if all pickups have been delivered
108             if len(pickedUp)>0:
109                 return False
110             return True
111
112     def removeRequest(self,request):
113         """
114         Method that removes a request from the route.
115         """
116         #remove the request, the pickup and the delivery
117         self.requests.remove(request)
118         self.locations.remove(request.pickUpLoc)
119         self.locations.remove(request.deliveryLoc)
120         #the distance changes, so update
121         self.distance = self.computeDistance()
122
123     def copy(self):
124         """
125         Method that returns a copy of the route
126         """
127         locationsCopy = self.locations.copy()
128         requestsCopy = self.requests.copy()
129         return Route(locationsCopy,requestsCopy,self.problem)
130

```

```

131 def greedyInsert(self,request):
132     """
133     Method that inserts the pickup and delivery of a request at the positions
134     that give the shortest total distance. Returns best route.
135
136     Parameters
137     -----
138     request : Request
139         the request that should be inserted.
140
141     Returns
142     -----
143     bestInsert : Route
144         Route with the best insertion.
145
146     """
147     requestsCopy = self.requests.copy()
148     requestsCopy.append(request)
149
150     minDist = sys.maxsize #initialize as extremely large number
151     bestInsert = None
152     #iterate over all possible insertion positions for pickup and delivery
153     for i in range(1,len(self.locations)):
154         for j in range(i+1,len(self.locations)+1): #delivery after pickup
155             locationsCopy = self.locations.copy()
156             locationsCopy.insert(i,request.pickUpLoc)
157             locationsCopy.insert(j,request.deliveryLoc)
158             afterInsertion = Route(locationsCopy,requestsCopy,self.problem)
159             #check if insertion is feasible
160             if afterInsertion.feasible:
161                 #check if cheapest
162                 if afterInsertion.distance<minDist:
163                     bestInsert = afterInsertion
164                     minDist = afterInsertion.distance
165
166     return bestInsert, minDist
167
168
169 def twoOpt(self):
170     """
171     applies the 2-opt heuristic to the route.
172     """
173     improved = True
174     current_route = self
175     while improved:
176         improved = False
177         best_distance = current_route.distance
178         for i in range(1, len(current_route.locations) - 2):
179             for j in range(i + 1, len(current_route.locations) - 1):
180
181                 new_locations = current_route.locations[:i] +
182                 ↪ current_route.locations[i:j+1][::-1] + current_route.locations[j+1:]
183                 new_route = Route(new_locations, current_route.requests,
184                 ↪ current_route.problem)

```

```

184         # If the new route is feasible and better
185         if new_route.isFeasible() and new_route.distance < best_distance: # This
            ↪ may resaults to some routes which are not two opt because the two
            ↪ opt version of them are not feasible
186             current_route = new_route
187             best_distance = new_route.distance
188             improved = True
189
190
191             break
192         if improved:
193             break
194     return current_route

```

B.6 Solution.py

```

1  # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
2  """
3  Created on Tue Jul 26 13:54:49 2022
4
5  @author: Original template by Rolf van Lieshout
6  """
7  import numpy as np
8  import sys
9  from Route import Route
10 from Problem import Location, PDPTW
11 from Parameters import Parameters
12
13
14
15
16 class Solution:
17     """
18     Method that represents a solution tot the PDPTW
19
20     Attributes
21     -----
22     problem : PDPTW
23         the problem that corresponds to this solution
24     routes : List of Routes
25         Routes in the current solution
26     served : List of Requests
27         Requests served in the current solution
28     notServed : List of Requests
29         Requests not served in the current solution
30     distance : int
31         total distance of the current solution
32     """
33     def __init__(self, problem, routes, served, notServed):
34         self.problem = problem
35         self.routes = routes
36         self.served = served
37         self.notServed = notServed
38

```

```

39 def computeDistance(self):
40     """
41     Method that computes the distance of the solution
42     """
43     self.distance = 0
44     for route in self.routes:
45         self.distance += route.distance
46
47 def __str__(self):
48     """
49     Method that prints the solution
50     """
51     nRoutes = len(self.routes)
52     nNotServed = len(self.notServed)
53     toPrint = f"Solution with {nRoutes} routes and {nNotServed} unserved requests: "
54     for route in self.routes:
55         toPrint+= route.__str__()
56
57 def executeRandomRemoval(self, nRemove, random):
58     """
59     Method that executes a random removal of requests
60
61     This is destroy method number 1 in the ALNS
62
63     Parameters
64     -----
65     nRemove : int
66         number of requests that is removed.
67
68     Parameters
69     -----
70     randomGen : Random
71         Used to generate random numbers
72
73     """
74
75
76     for i in range(nRemove):
77         #terminate if no more requests are served
78         if len(self.served)==0:
79             break
80         #pick a random request and remove it from the solutoin
81         req = random.choice(self.served)
82         self.removeRequest(req)
83
84
85
86 def executeShawRemoval(self, nRemove, random):
87     """
88     Method that executes Shaw Removal Heuristic: it removes requests that are somewhat
89     ↪ similar. This is a variation of the method proposed by Ropke et al. (2006).
90     It only considers distance and demand as parameters to evaluate relatedness.
91
92     It's destroy method number 2 in the ALNS

```

```

93     Parameters
94     -----
95     nRemove : int
96         number of requests that are removed.
97     randomGen : random
98         Used to generate random numbers
99
100     """
101
102     if len(self.served) == 0:
103         return
104     # Pick a random request (then find similar ones)
105     req = random.choice(self.served)
106     candidates = self.evaluateRelatedness(req)
107     # print(candidates[0][1])
108     # print(candidates[1][1])
109     for i in range(nRemove):
110         if len(self.served) == 0:
111             break
112         self.removeRequest(candidates[i][1])
113
114 def evaluateRelatedness(self, req):
115     """
116     Method taht calculates a relatedness parameter between a reference request (req) and
117     ↪ all other requests in the problem, returning a list of requests ordered from
118     ↪ greatest to lowest relatedness.
119
120     It uses only 2 parameters: distance and demand
121     """
122
123     # Pick a random request (then find similar ones)
124
125     self.removeRequest(req)
126
127     relatedness = []
128
129     for request in self.served:
130         # Distance component
131         pickUpDist = Location.getDistance(req.pickUpLoc, request.pickUpLoc)
132         requestDist = Location.getDistance(req.deliveryLoc, request.deliveryLoc)
133         R_dist = (pickUpDist+requestDist) / self.problem.distMatrix_Max
134
135         # Demand component (normalized)
136         req_demand = req.pickUpLoc.demand
137         request_demand = request.pickUpLoc.demand
138
139         R_demand = abs(req_demand - request_demand) / self.problem.capacity # Assumes no
140         ↪ loc has demand greater than vehicle capacity. Should not matter, since we
141         ↪ are using difference between demands anyway, so this should always be
142         ↪ between 0 and 1.
143
144         alpha = Parameters.alpha
145         beta = 1-alpha
146         # Calculate R (relatedness)
147         R = alpha*R_dist + beta*R_demand # relatedness parameter
148         relatedness.append((req, request, R))

```

```

143         # print("Printing relatedness")
144         # print(relatedness[request])
145     relatedness.sort(key=lambda x: x[2], reverse = True) # Sort all requests based on
    ↪ relatedness
146     return relatedness
147
148
149 def executeWorstReomval(self,nReomve, random):
150     """
151     Method that executes Worst Removal Heuristic: it removes the requests that appear to
    ↪ be placed in the wrong position in the solution. This is a variation of the
    ↪ method proposed by Ropke et al. (2006).
152
153
154     It's destroy method number 3 in the ALNS
155
156     Parameters
157     -----
158     nRemove : int
159         number of requests that are removed.
160     randomGen : random
161         Used to generate random numbers
162
163     """
164
165     if len(self.served) == 0:
166         return
167
168
169     while nReomve > 0:
170         cost = []
171         if len(self.served) == 0:
172             break
173         for req in self.served: # to find which route is now serving this request
174             routefound = None
175             for route in self.routes:
176                 if req in route.requests:
177                     routefound = route
178                     break
179             if routefound is None: # Code should not reach here
180                 continue
181             # This can be improved for efficiency
182             # insted of calcualting the whole tour, it is possible to calculate the two
    ↪ new line and minus it from the orginal
183
184             orginalCost = routefound.distance
185             temp = routefound.copy()
186             temp.removeRequest(req)
187             newCost =temp.distance
188             deltaCost = orginalCost - newCost
189             cost.append((req,deltaCost))
190
191
192     # randomization controlled by the parameter p
193     p = Parameters.p

```

```

194
195         cost.sort(key=lambda x: x[1] , reverse=True)    # sort by form worst based on the
        ↪ delta cost
196         # The random removal
197         randomN = random.random()
198         reqNumber = int(len(cost) * (randomN ** p))
199
200         self.removeRequest(cost[reqNumber][0])
201         nReomve -= 1
202
203     def executeRouteRemoval(self, random):
204         """
205         Method that removes a number of routes from the solution: it removes all requests
206         ↪ part of that route
207         It will remove a random number between 1 and 75% of the number of routes currentlty
208         ↪ in the solutions. This is to avoid it destroying the whole solution
209
210         It's destroy method number 4 in the ALNS
211
212         Parameters
213         -----
214         nRemove : int
215             number of requests that are removed.
216         randomGen : random
217             Used to generate random numbers
218         """
219
220         removeRange = int(0.75*len(self.routes))
221         removeRange = max(2, removeRange)
222         n = random.choice(range(1,removeRange))
223
224         chosenRoutes = random.sample(self.routes, n)
225         for route in chosenRoutes:
226             for request in route.requests:
227                 self.removeRequest(request)
228
229     def removeRequest(self,request):
230         """
231         Method that removes a request from the solution
232         """
233         #iterate over routes to find in which route the request is served
234         for route in self.routes:
235             if request in route.requests:
236                 #remove the request from the route and break from loop
237                 route.removeRequest(request)
238                 break
239         #update lists with served and unserved requests
240         self.served.remove(request)
241         self.notServed.append(request)
242
243     def copy(self):
244         """
245         Method that creates a copy of the solution and returns it

```



```

246         """
247         #need a deep copy of routes because routes are modifiable
248         routesCopy = list()
249         for route in self.routes:
250             routesCopy.append(route.copy())
251         copy = Solution(self.problem,routesCopy,self.served.copy(),self.notServed.copy())
252         copy.computeDistance()
253         return copy
254
255     def executeRandomInsertion(self,randomGen):
256         """
257         Method that randomly inserts the unserved requests in the solution
258
259         This is repair method number 1 in the ALNS
260
261         Parameters
262         -----
263         randomGen : Random
264             Used to generate random numbers
265
266         """
267
268         #iterate over the list with unserved requests
269         while len(self.notServed)>0:
270             #pick a random request
271             req = randomGen.choice(self.notServed)
272
273             #keep track of routes in which req could be inserted
274             potentialRoutes = self.routes.copy()
275             inserted = False
276             while len(potentialRoutes)>0:
277                 #pick a random route
278
279                 randomRoute = randomGen.choice(potentialRoutes)
280
281                 afterInsertion, _ = randomRoute.greedyInsert(req)
282                 if afterInsertion==None:
283                     #insertion not feasible, remove route from potential routes
284                     potentialRoutes.remove(randomRoute)
285                 else:
286                     #insertion feasible, update routes and break from while loop
287                     inserted = True
288                     #print("Possible")
289                     self.routes.remove(randomRoute)
290                     self.routes.append(afterInsertion)
291                     break
292
293             # if we were not able to insert, create a new route
294             if not inserted:
295                 #create a new route with the request
296                 locList =
297                 ↪ [self.problem.depot,req.pickUpLoc,req.deliveryLoc,self.problem.depot]
298                 newRoute = Route(locList,[req],self.problem)
299                 self.routes.append(newRoute)
300
301             #update the lists with served and notServed requests

```

```

300         self.served.append(req)
301         self.notServed.remove(req)
302
303     def executeGreedyInsertion(self, randomGen):
304         """
305         Method that inserts unserved requests in the solution using a basic greedy
306         ↪ heuristic.
307         It looks for the best overall position to insert each requests.
308
309         This is repair method number 2 in the ANLS.
310
311         Parameters
312         -----
313         randomGen : Random
314             Used to generate random numbers
315         """
316         while len(self.notServed) > 0:
317             reqBank = []
318             bestRequest = None
319             bestRoute = None
320             bestDist = sys.maxsize
321             inserted = False
322             for route in self.routes:
323                 candidateRequest = None
324                 candidateRoute = None
325                 candidateDist = sys.maxsize
326                 for req in self.notServed:
327
328                     newRoute, dist = route.greedyInsert(req)
329
330                     if newRoute == None:
331                         reqBank.append(req)
332
333                     continue
334                     elif dist < candidateDist:
335                         candidateRequest = req
336                         candidateRoute = newRoute
337                         candidateDist = dist
338             if candidateRoute == None:
339                 continue
340             if candidateDist < bestDist:
341                 inserted = True
342                 routeToRemove = route
343                 bestRequest = candidateRequest
344                 bestRoute = candidateRoute
345                 bestDist = candidateDist
346             if inserted == True:
347                 self.routes.remove(routeToRemove)
348                 self.routes.append(bestRoute)
349                 self.served.append(bestRequest)
350                 self.notServed.remove(bestRequest)
351             if bestRequest == None:
352                 #Impossible to insert in existing routes, create new route:
353                 #print(reqBank)

```

```

354         req = randomGen.choice(self.notServed)
355
356         locList =
357             ↪ [self.problem.depot, req.pickUpLoc, req.deliveryLoc, self.problem.depot]
358         newRoute = Route(locList, [req], self.problem)
359         self.routes.append(newRoute)
360         self.served.append(req) #
361         self.notServed.remove(req)
362         #update the lists with served and notServed requests
363         # I think we should also apend to served and remove from not serves here
364
365     def executeRegretInsertion(self, randomG):
366         """
367         Method that inserts unserved requests in the solution using the Regret-k heuristic.
368         The regret heuristic tries to improve upon the basic greedy heuristic by
369         ↪ incorporating a kind of look ahead
370         information when selecting the request to insert.
371         k is set to 2 right now.
372
373         This is repair method number 3 in the ANLS.
374
375         Parameters
376         -----
377
378         randomGen : Random
379         Used to generate random numbers
380
381         """
382         k = Parameters.Regretk # we can change this,
383         while len(self.notServed) > 0:
384             bestRequest = None
385             bestRoute = None
386             bestRegret = -sys.maxsize # to keep track of the largest Regret
387             bestCost = sys.maxsize
388             routeToRemove = None
389
390             for req in self.notServed:
391                 costs = []
392
393                 for route in self.routes:
394                     newRoute, dist = route.greedyInsert(req)
395                     if newRoute is not None:
396                         costs.append((dist, newRoute, route))
397                         # newRoute is after insertion
398                         # roure is before
399
400                 if len(costs) == 0:
401                     continue
402
403                 costs.sort(key=lambda x:x[0]) # sort based on dist
404
405             regretCost = 0
406

```

```

407
408     for j in range(1,min(k,len(costs))):
409         regretCost = regretCost + costs[j][0] - costs[0][0] # regret cost
410         ↪ between best and second option
411     if regretCost > bestRegret or (regretCost == bestRegret and costs[0][0] <
412         ↪ bestCost): # Ties are broken by selecting the request with best
413         ↪ insertion cost
414         bestRegret = regretCost
415         bestRequest = req
416         bestRoute = costs[0][1] # best route to insert
417         routeToRemove = costs[0][2]
418         #print(cost[0])
419         bestCost = costs[0][0] # we need this for tie breaks
420
421     if bestRequest is None:
422         req = randomG.choice(self.notServed)
423         locList = [self.problem.depot, req.pickUpLoc, req.deliveryLoc,
424             ↪ self.problem.depot]
425         newRoute = Route(locList, [req], self.problem)
426         self.routes.append(newRoute)
427         self.served.append(req)
428         self.notServed.remove(req)
429     else:
430         self.routes.remove(routeToRemove)
431         self.routes.append(bestRoute)
432         self.served.append(bestRequest)
433         self.notServed.remove(bestRequest)
434     #break
435     #print(cost)
436     #print(costs[0])
437
438 def ApplyTwoOpt(self):
439
440     routes = []
441
442     for route in self.routes:
443         twoOpt = route.twoOpt()
444
445         if twoOpt.distance < route.distance:
446             print("Two Opt Made")
447
448         routes.append(twoOpt)
449
450     self.routes = routes
451     self.computeDistance()
452
453
454
455

```

B.7 experiment.py

```
1 import Problem, Solution, Route
2 from ALNS import ALNS
3 from Parameters import Parameters
4 import numpy as np
5 import os
6 import time
7 import pandas as pd
8
9
10 a = 0
11 b = 45
12 s = 5
13
14 values = np.arange(a, b, s).tolist()
15
16 #tempControl = [0.05 ,0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 0.8]
17 #colling_rate = [0.1,0.3,0.5,0.6,0.7,0.8,0.9]
18 instance_dir = "Instances"
19
20 # Get a list of all files in the Instances directory
21 instance_files = os.listdir(instance_dir)
22
23
24
25
26
27 FinalResulats = []
28 for instance_file in instance_files: # this is AI genrated
29     # Construct the full path to the instance file
30     for i in values:
31         results = []
32
33         for randomSeed in range(3):
34             testI = os.path.join(instance_dir, instance_file)
35
36             Parameters.randomSeed = randomSeed
37             Parameters.minSizeNBH = i
38
39             problem = Problem.PDPTW.readInstance(testI)
40             print(problem)
41             nDestroyOps = 4
42             nDestroyOps = 4
43             nRepairOps = 3
44             alns = ALNS(problem,nDestroyOps,nRepairOps)
45             starttime = time.time()
46             alns.execute()
47             #print(alns.bestSolution.distance)
48
49
50
51
52             results.append({'distance': alns.bestSolution.distance})
53
```

```

54         break
55
56     #print(results)
57     avg_distance = np.mean([res['distance'] for res in results])
58     #avg_time = np.mean([res['time'] for res in results])
59
60     FinalResulats.append({
61         'instance' : os.path.basename(alns.problem.name),
62         'minNBH': i,
63         'average best distance': alns.bestSolution.distance,
64         #'average time': avg_time
65     })
66
67 #print(FinalResulats)
68
69 df = pd.DataFrame(FinalResulats)
70 df.to_csv("minNBHsize.csv")
71 #print(df)

```