How to use the 2DCPackGen?

1 Introduction

A complete description of the generator can be found in the paper "Silva, E., Oliveira, J. F., Wäsher, G. 2013. 2DCPackGen: *A problem generator for two-dimensional rectangular cutting and packing problems.* Submited for publication, 1-18."

The executable version compiled for Windows (2DCPackGen.exe) as well as the source code (2DCPackGen.cpp and 2DCPackGen.h) are available at ESICUP website.

The problem generator was coded in C++ and compiled with Microsoft Visual Studio 2008.

In order to use the beta distribution, the BOOST library for C++ was used. This library is free and can be downloaded in `http://www.boost.org/users/history/version_1_54_0.html`.

2 First Execution of the 2DCPackGen.exe

The first information that should be given by the user is whether the program must create a new empty input parameter file or if an existing one should be used. The program window can be seen in Figure 1.

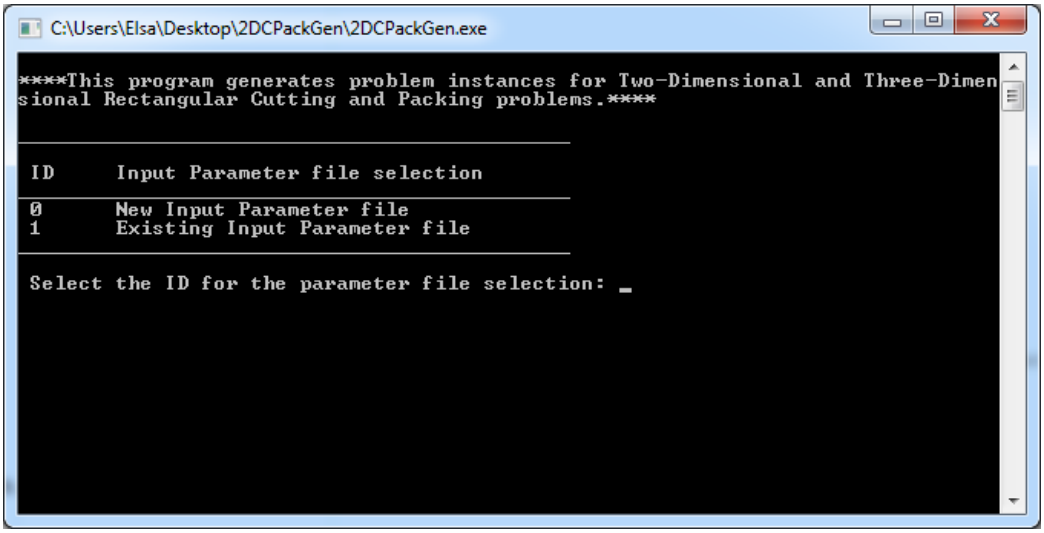

Figure 1: First execution of the program.

2.1 New Input Parameters File

Let us assume that the user is running 2DCPackGen by the first time, thus a new input parameter file should be created as can be seen in Figure 2. Notice that different settings for the parameters may correspond to different input files.

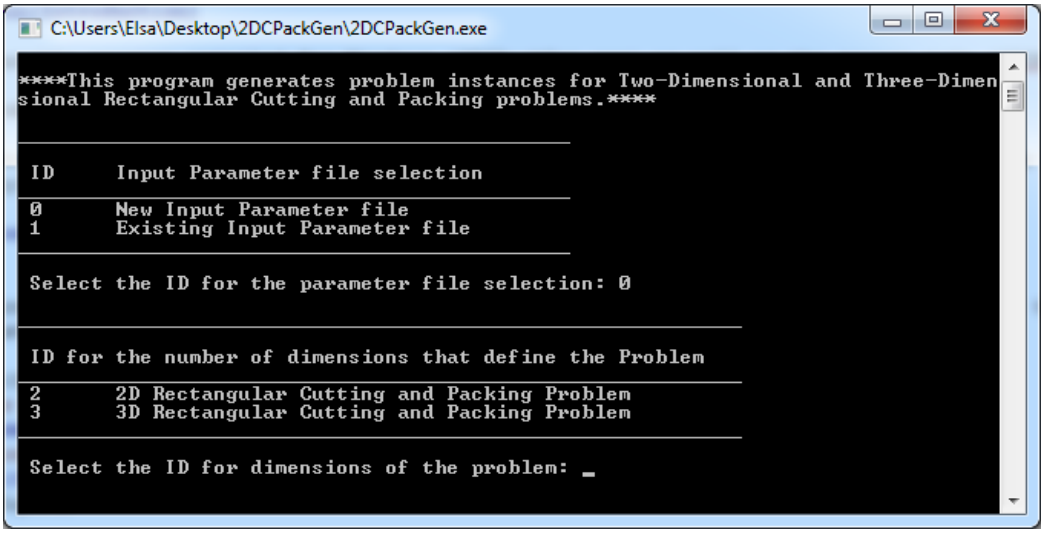

Figure 2: New input parameter file.

2.1.1 Number of dimensions of the problem

If a new input parameters file is created, the user have to choose between two- and three-dimensional problems. In this example we considered the two-dimensional problem, as can be seen in figure 3.

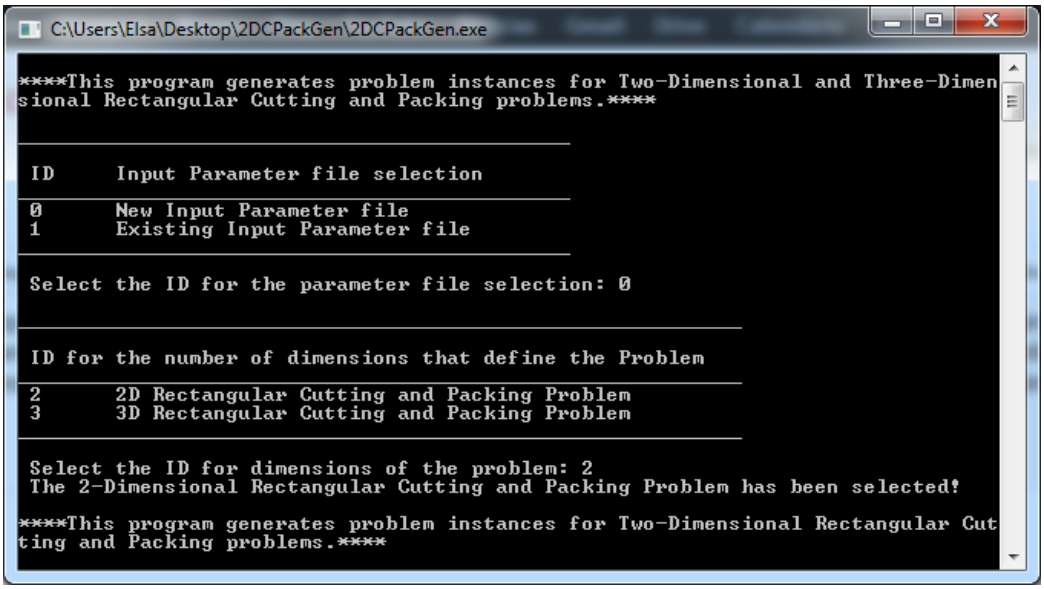

Figure 3: Number of dimensions of the problem.

2.1.2 Intermediate Problem Type Selection

After deciding the number of dimensions of the problem, i.e. two- or three-dimensions, the user will select one of the seventeen rectangular intermediate problem types. In this example we have decided to create problem instances for the problem with ID 10, i.e. is the Single Stock Size Cutting Stock Problem (SSSCSP). This step can be seen in figure 4.

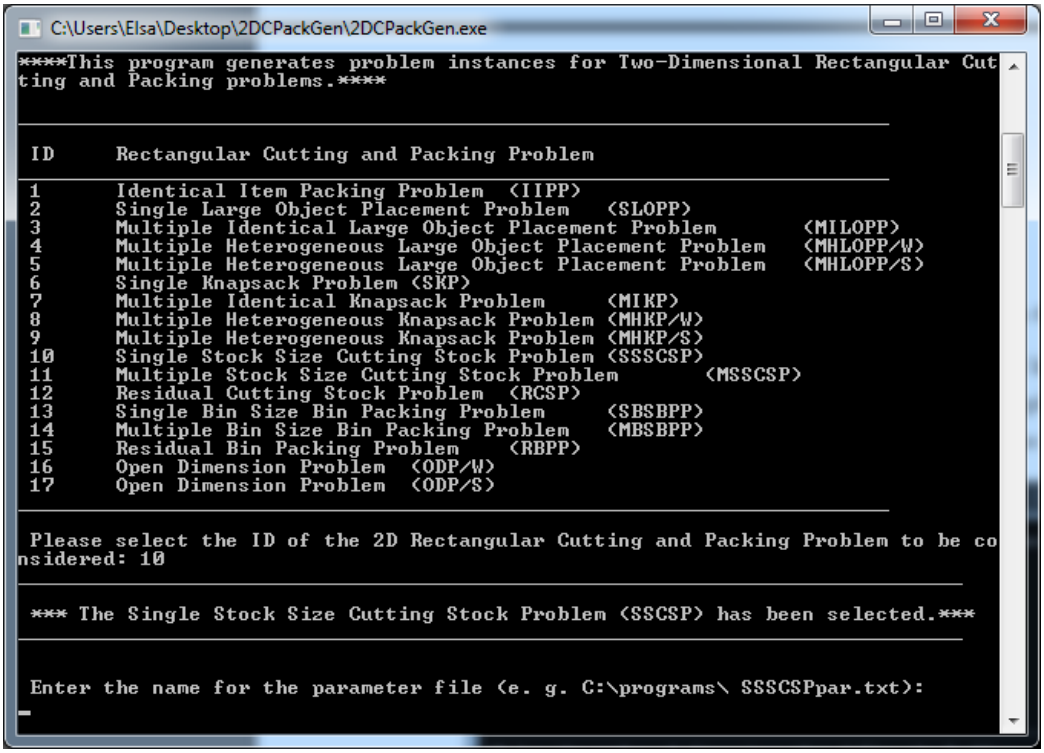

Figure 4: Problem Type Selection.

2.1.3 Name of the input parameters file

After the user has decided the type of problem, the program will require a name for the input parameters file. This file should be a text file with .txt extension. If only the name of the file is given by the user, the file will be saved in the same folder where the program is. However, if the user wants to save it in another location, he only has to give the path together with the name of the input file, as it is shown in figure 5.

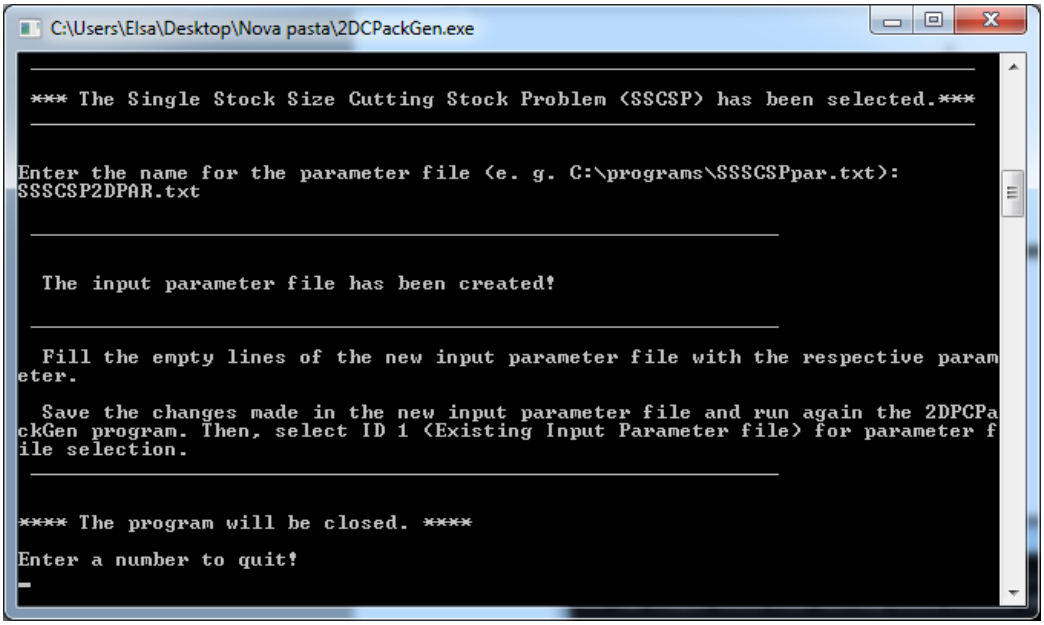

Figure 5: Name of the input file.

Given the name of the input parameters file, the program gives a message informing that the input parameters file was created and requesting the user to fill the blank lines in the input file and to save the changes. Once the input parameter file has been created the program will close, after the insertion of any number by the user.

The problem instances can be generated after the definition of the parameters by running the 2DCPackGen.exe again and choosing ID 1 for the input parameter file selection.

In figure 6 can be seen the input parameter file created by 2DCPackGen program. The first lines do not need to be filled in by the user since they give information about the number of dimensions needed to describe the problem and define the problem type. The first parameter which should be introduced by the user is the seed.

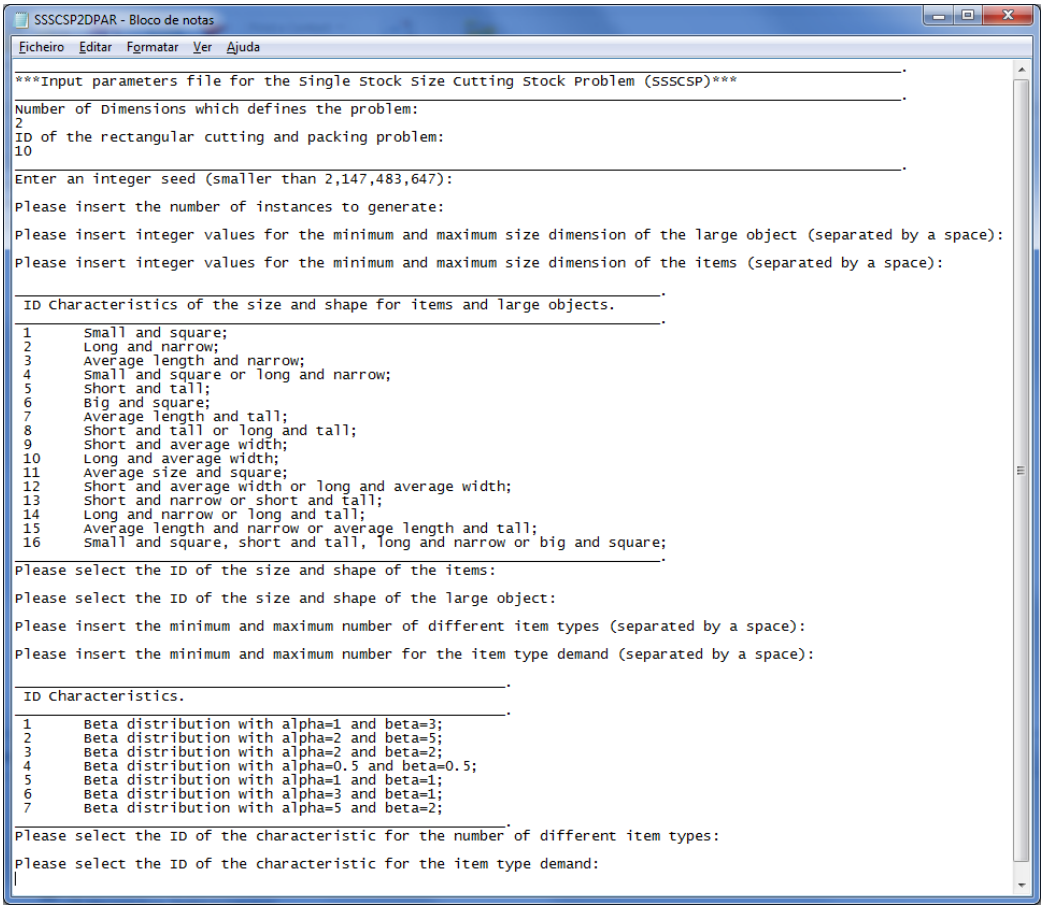

Figure 6: SSSCSP2DPAR.txt input file - empty.

2.2 Existing Input Parameters File

In order to use the same example presented in the paper "Silva, E., Oliveira, J. F., Wäsher, G. 2013. 2DCPackGen: *A problem generator for two-dimensional rectangular cutting and packing problems.* Submited for publication, 1-18.", the input file was filled in with the same data presented in table 4 of the paper. The resulting file is presented in figure 7.

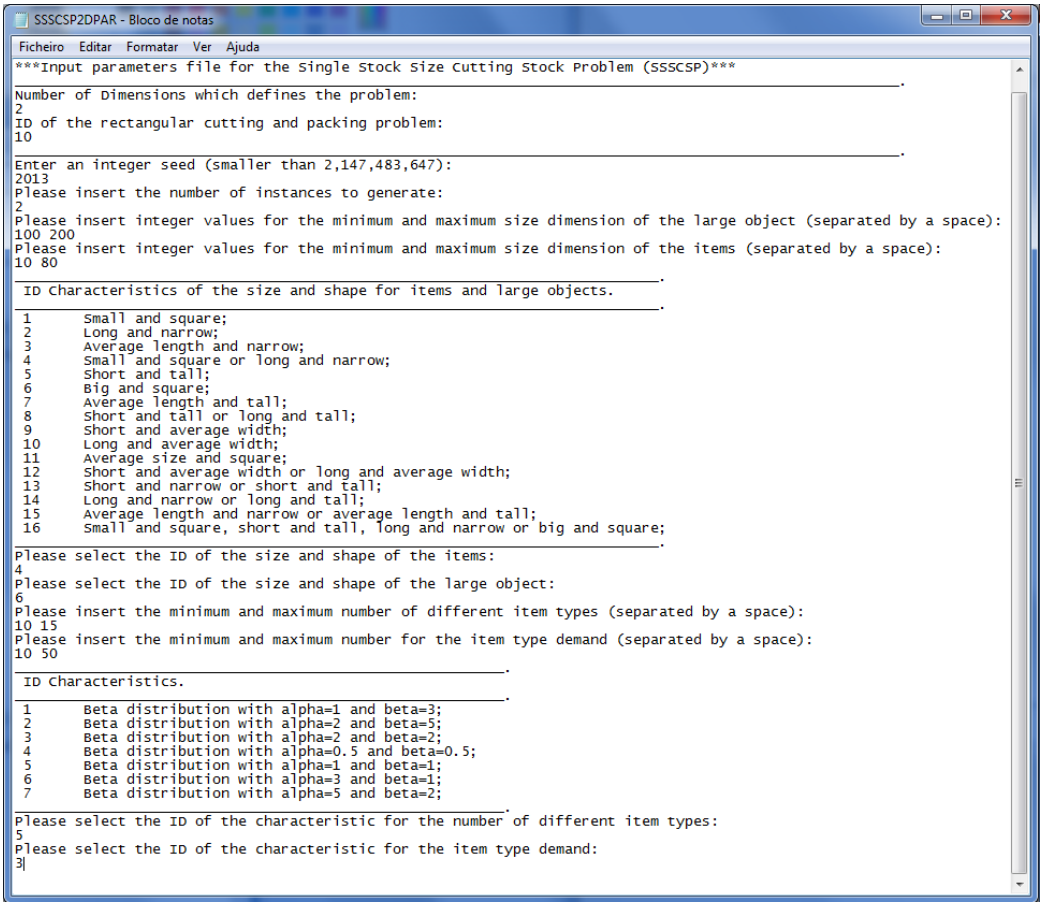

Figure 7: SSSCSP2DPAR.txt input file - filled.

Since the user already has a parameter file when the 2DCPackGen.exe is run, in the input parameter file selection, the user should choose ID 1 (Existing Input Parameter File).

After this step, the program will require the name or the complete location of the existing input parameter file. In figure 8 can be seen that the name of the input parameter file which will be considered is the SSSCSP2DPAR.txt and it is located in the same folder as the program.

The program will read the input parameter file and if the parameters are not properly defined a message of the error will appear and the program will be closed. If the parameters are well defined the program will continue and will require a name for the file where the problem instances will be written.

Referring to figure 8, the output file will be the SSSCSP_1.txt.

Once the program finishes the generation, a message saying that the problem instances were generated will appear in the program window.

The program closes by asking the user a number to quit.

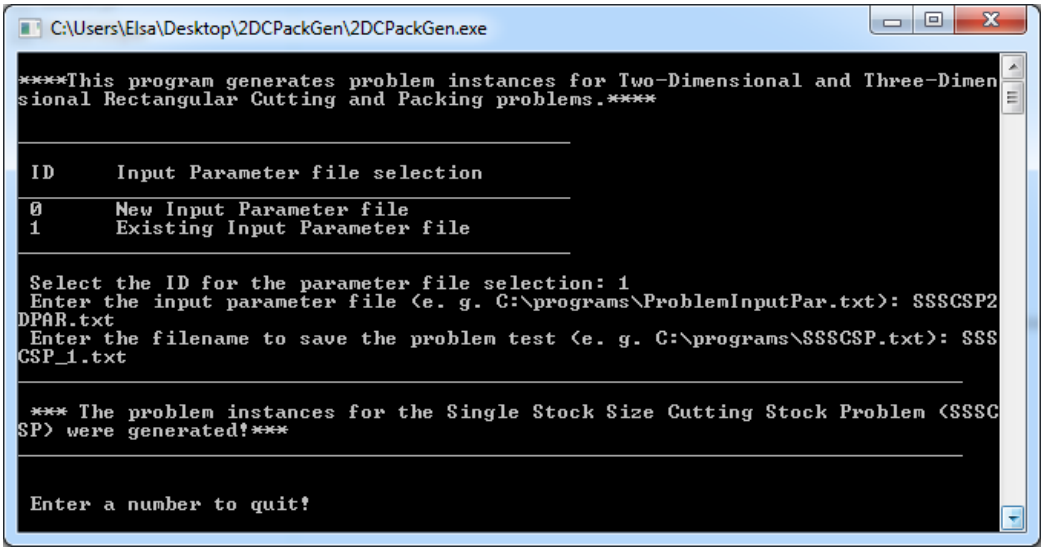

Figure 8: Problem instances generation.

2.2.1 Output File

The resulting output file is presented in figure 9. The first lines give information about the problem type for which the problem instances were generated, the number of relevante dimensions of the problem and the name of the input parameter file. The following lines give information about the structure of the file.

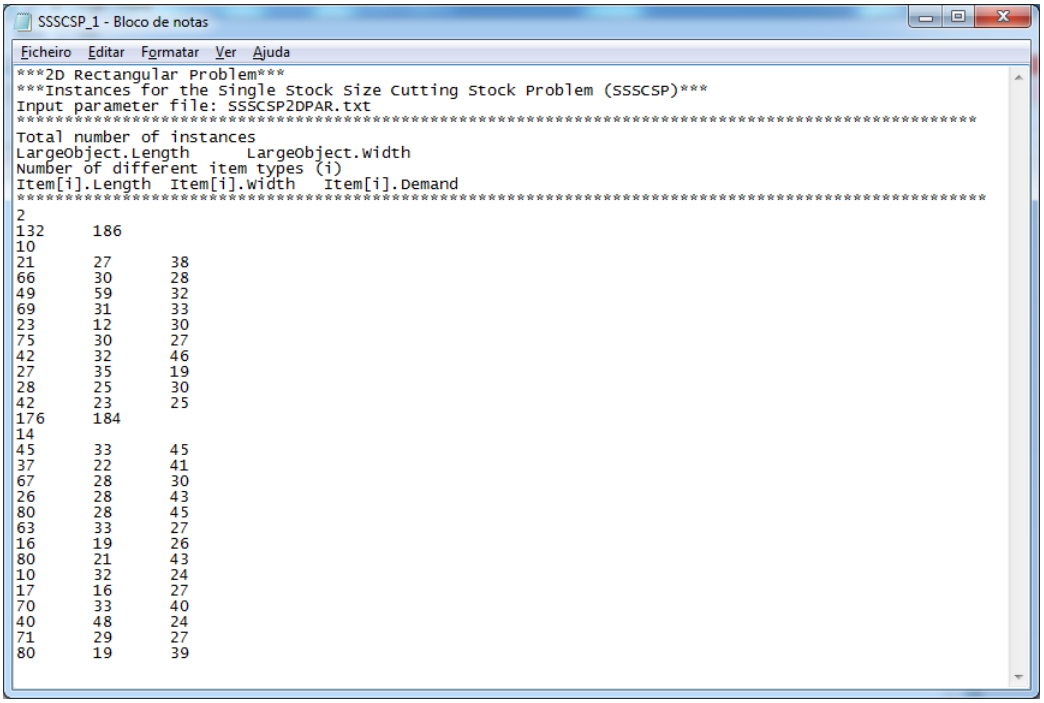

Figure 9: Problem instances generation.