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| Mokum Airways |
| How can we optimize one-day flight schedules? |

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[](https://www.google.nl/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwio0uHaiPPYAhXJBsAKHaVxACgQjRwIBw&url=https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/airplane&psig=AOvVaw0hNnrsaVafFsQBIfYVmob0&ust=1516968049681229)

# Introduction

Algorithms are a way of problem solving by following a specific set of rules. There are many different algorithms that work in all kinds of different ways. A constructive algorithm starts with an empty state and builds it up step by step, thus visiting all possible states. An iterative algorithm starts with a finished state and repeatedly modifies it in an attempt to find a better solution. Where a constructive algorithm might take longer, an iterative algorithm uses less memory. In order to quickly and efficiently solve a given problem, it is important to find (or create) the best algorithm for that problem.

In this report we will be examining the newly created airline Mokum Airways (MAW). We will create flight schedules in such a way that the airline will make the most profit. This is done by using different algorithms and comparing their results and efficiency. This report will look into which algorithm works best, thus produces the best results in the most efficient ways, for creating the optimal flight schedules for MAW.

Besides creating the flight schedules for the aircrafts, we also examine where MAW should have its home base, again by looking at the profits.

## Problem description

The airline Mokum Airways has six Airbus A321 aircrafts. Each aircraft flies at a speed of 800 km/h and has 199 seats available. MAW has landing rights at 28 destinations in Europe. Distances between all destinations are known. In the beginning, we consider Amsterdam the home base for MAW. By doing market research, MAW has checked how many people can potentially by transported at each of the 28 destinations. Every time an aircraft has to un-board and board passengers, it takes 1 hour in total.

It is given that the starting point of a route, thus the city in which an aircraft starts, has to be the same city as the final destination of the route, and aircrafts travel between 06:00 and 02:00. During a day, an aircraft has to land at least once at the home base for crew changes. Furthermore, the average speed of an aircraft equals 800 km/h and the maximal number of kilometres an aircraft can fly on one tank equals 3199 km. Aircrafts can refuel before the tank is empty and refuelling takes 1 hour.

MAW creates profit by flying passengers to their destinations. Passengers pay per travelled kilometre. Thus the distance between starting point of a passenger and his destination is the amount the passenger has to pay. It is possible to transport passengers to their destination via a detour. However, passengers still pay the same amount as flying directly to their destination.

…add size state space -> upper bound 28 possibilities -> 27 possibilities -> etc…   
Indexes + passengers

# Method

First, Amsterdam is taken as the home base for MAW. We know that an aircraft has to land in the home base at least once a day and the city in which an aircraft starts and ends has to be the same.

Initially we start with an empty route, starting form and going to the same city. This means the aircraft doesn’t go anywhere in this situation. Next we will start adding cities to this route by placing them in between the starting and ending point. This way we make sure that the starting and ending city are the same. To make sure an aircraft goes to the home base at least once a day, the first city we add to the route is the home base city. In the case that the route of an aircraft starts in the home base we don’t have to add the home base anymore.

Every time a city could potentially be added, it has to be checked whether this is possible, taking into account the available time, the amount of potential passengers and the capacity of the aircraft, the amount of fuel left in the tank and the distance to the potential city.

We will now use a hill climber with restart and simulated annealing in order to create the one-day flight schedules in such a way that the total profit is maximized.

## Flight schedules

We used four different algorithms in order to try to find the optimal flight schedules: random, hill climber, hill climber with restart and simulated annealing. These algorithms are all iterative algorithms, thus they start with a finished state and try to improve the solution by repeatedly modifying the initial finished state.

### Random Algorithm

The Random algorithm repeatedly generates random states. We generate random flight schedules by starting with some random city, add more random cities at some random index and choose a random number of passengers, taking into account the validity. This way random flight schedules are created.

After generating one random schedule, a new one is generated. If the newly found schedule is better than the previous schedule, the new schedule is stored. If not, we forget the new schedule and keep the previous one. This is repeated a certain number of times. After this time we have the best schedule so far.

### Hill climber Algorithm

The Hill climber algorithm starts with a random initial schedule and, through mutations, tries to improve this schedule. Possible mutations include removing or adding cities, adding passengers, swapping cities and swapping detours. Again, if a mutation improves the schedule, this better schedule is stored. If no improvement is found for a certain number of iterations, the flight schedule is fully optimized and returned. The hill climber algorithm doesn’t guarantee to find the global optimum, the found optimized schedule might be in a local optimum.

### Hill climber Algorithm with restart

This algorithm starts the same as the normal hill climber algorithm. It starts with a random initial schedule and tries to improve it. In this case, however, after the initial schedule has shown to be as good as optimal (no more improvements), we start again with a new randomly generated schedule. Again we try to optimize this schedule with the hill climber algorithm. If it is found that this optimized schedule is better than the previous optimized schedule, we store the new schedule. This restart is done a certain number of times and returns the best optimized schedule.

### Simulated annealing

Where the hill climber algorithm is likely to find a local optimum, simulated annealing is more likely to find the global optimum. In this algorithm we start with setting a high temperature and gradually letting it cool down. In the high temperature the algorithm accepts more solutions, thus also ones worse than the current best solution. By cooling down we let it accept fewer solutions, thus focussing on an area of the state space in which we hopefully find the optimal solution. By starting with a high temperature it allows the algorithm to possibly get out of a local optimum.

If the newly found solution is better than the previous solution we take the new solution and forget the old one. Otherwise, we accept a solution with a certain probability. This probability is given by the acceptance function and is defined as follows:

Difference means the difference between the new and the current profit. The temperature is initially set to some value and then cooled as we accept new solutions. It is cooled by some defined cooling rate. We will continue looking for a better solution until the temperature is equal to or lower than 1.

For the two parameters *Starting temperature* and *Cooling Rate* we will perform a grid search parameter tuning.

## Home base evaluation

In the previous situations, we took Amsterdam as home base. However, taking another city as home base might result in a higher profit. We will now examine whether Amsterdam is the best choice, given the profit.

We will look at the case of each of the 28 cities as home base and compare the best found flight schedules. The best schedules are found using the hill climber with restart.

# Results

Using the algorithms, we found different optimal solutions. Displayed are the timeline, map and profit in the optimal solutions for each situation and algorithm.

To equally compare different algorithms we need equal an equal evaluation budget. In other words, we want an equal amount of evaluations per algorithm. An evaluation is defined as retrieving the profit of a schedule, equal to deriving to a new state of the schedule.

For the results we ran each algorithm 50 times, where each run had an evaluation budget of XXXXXXXX. In the table below we can see the time needed to compute and the profit of the best schedule generated.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Algorithm | RUNTIME (SEconds) | Best Profit | Average Profit |
| Random |  |  |  |
| Hill Climber |  |  |  |
| Hill Climber Restart |  |  |  |
| Simulated Annealing |  |  |  |

## Flight schedules

### Random

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### Hill climber

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### Hill climber with restart

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### Simulated annealing

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## Home base evaluation

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# Discussion

Answer research question

Discuss results?

Discuss process?

Flaws/difficulties algorithm?

# References

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# Appendix

Not for grade.