﻿Dear Editor,

Thank you for taking the time to arrange the reviews of this manuscript. Please find below our responses to the comments made by reviewers. We would like to send our appreciation to them for taking the time to review this manuscript and for making their helpful suggestions for our revised submission. We believe their feedback has strengthened the article.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,

A. L. Hawa, R, Lewis, and J. M. Thompson (3rd January 2022)

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Comments

It has been decided that your paper could be published in the EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF OPERATIONAL RESEARCH after a due revision performed according to the following referees' comments.

Thank you for providing us with comments to improve this paper.

* Your new revision ignores recommendations of Reviewer #2 to improve the literature review with papers on the bin packing problem. None was added. There are many good recent research on the topic and a future reader of your paper should be directed to these works. In summary, the literature review should be greatly improved.

Please accept our apologies. Although additional references were added to the previous revision, we understand that more were needed. We have now improved the literature review to include references for a variety of bin packing and cutting stock problems.

* You also decided to keep your highly underperforming algorithm CMSA in the paper. A heuristic being 36% worse is not worth to be published, even if it required a lot of your work. I suggest to withdraw this heuristic from the paper.

After discussion, we agree that the CMSA algorithm is not yet beneficial to the article. Therefore, we have removed the penultimate section of the paper, which contained the CMSA algorithm and experimental analysis. We endeavour to continue with further research to improve the CMSA algorithm and look forward to submitting a paper containing higher quality results in the near future.

We would like to thank the reviewers again for their useful suggestions for improving this paper. Thank you very much for taking the time to go over the manuscript, and we look forward to hearing your positive responses soon.