Project V: Transportation and Logistics

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Solution Strategy

Break problem into 2 parts:

- Find initial feasible solution
- Optimize

Initial Solution

- No concern for optimality → so basically, a binpacking problem
- Easy to model using CP

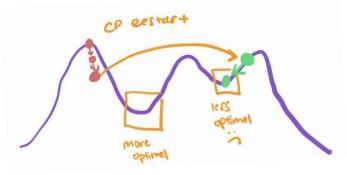
Optimization

Local search

Initial Local Search Strategy (Not Ideal)

- Define multiple moving strategies
- Get large neighborhood from each moving strategy and pick the most optimal solution that is feasible
- Exploration
 - If no new incumbent found within time limit, resolve with CP and continue LS from there
- Exploitation
 - Large neighborhood due to considering many candidate solutions enables exploitation

<u>Problem</u>: Not enough exploitation using work done so far!



Improved Local Search Strategy

- Define multiple moving strategies
- Get a single neighbor from each moving strategy and pick the most optimal solution that is feasible

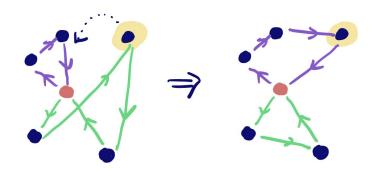
Tolerance

- Allow moves to less optimal solutions within tolerance
- If no new incumbent found within time limit, move back to incumbent solution (to continue optimizing from there) and decrease tolerance
- Exploration
 - Early on, high tolerance + smaller neighborhood enables exploration of search space
- Exploitation
 - Later on, low tolerance forces movement towards (local) minima

Neighborhood Definition

Strategy 1:

Move a random customer from current route to a random position in a different (randomly picked) route



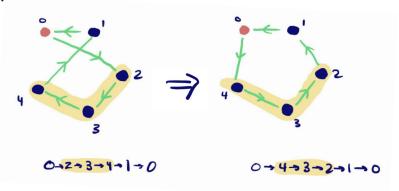
Strategy 2:

Move random customer to a random location in a randomly picked route (could be within the same route)

Neighborhood Definition (cont'd)

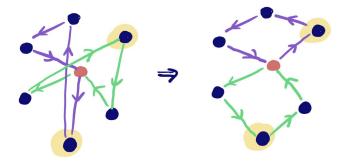
Strategy 3 (Two-Opt):

Reverse the order of a random subpath in a route



Strategy 4:

Randomly swaps two customers in different routes



Implementation Techniques

Speed up candidate solution evaluation by using diff (vs previous solution) to compute feasibility, total distance

 Moves in solution space only impact 1-2 routes; therefore, feasibility and distance change computations can be limited to an analysis of those changes

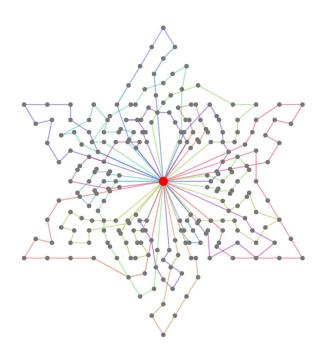
Other Things We Tried (that didn't work)

Multithreading

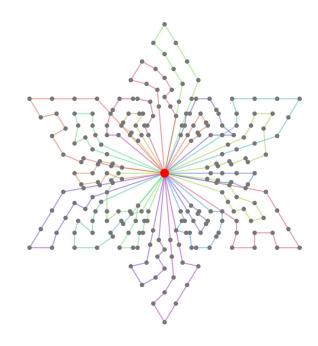
- Helped with large neighborhoods
- Smaller neighborhoods along with optimized feasibility and distance checking for candidate solutions rendered this useless

Experimental Observations (241_22_1.vrp)

OR Tools (after 30 seconds):



Our Solution (after 295 seconds):



Experimental Observations (Verification)

- Comparable to or better than OR tools on every instance
- Verified feasibility and total distance for solutions separately

	OR Tools (after 10 seconds)	Our Solution (after 295 seconds)	Percentage Difference
16_5_1.vrp	337	334.96	-0.61%
51_5_1.vrp	555.5	524.61	-5.56%
151_15_1.vrp	3167.5	3103.27	-2.03%
262_25_1.vrp	6231	5704.01	-8.46%
386_47_1.vrp	28319	25940.84	-8.40%

Time Spent:

>50 hours

Thank you! Questions?