

WIA1002 DATA STRUCTURES

Technical Report

Group Name: ERROR 404

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Task assigned

Project 2: 'Always On Time' Delivery

Introduction & Problem Statement:

Our friend's delivery company 'Never On Time Sdn Bhd' is receiving tons of complaints from customers as they feel that the delivery process is far too slow. Delivery men in our friend's company are always lost in the middle of their delivery route, don't know where to deliver the parcel and which road they should take to shorten the delivery time. Sometimes they feel angry and exhausted when they lose their direction and they eventually take it out on the parcels which causes more complaints from customers. Our friend tried out many ways to solve the problem but to no avail. Hence, we are the last hope to save his company.

In this assignment, we as professional engineers were assigned to write a program to simulate the delivery process and planning in a country to help our friend shorten their delivery time.

Project requirement

Basic Requirements:

There are a total of 3 outputs you have to generate, we define each output as a simulation:

1. Basic Simulation

In the first simulation, we are requested to find the best tour for a given case with small N using Breadth-First Search / Depth-First Search traversal implementation which we will learn in the class.

2. Greedy Simulation

Secondly, we are requested to implement a Greedy Search that is able to find a good solution given a case with small or large N. Greedy Search means we simply look for the best option in the next move when we travel through the whole graph.

3. MCTS Simulation

We want to search for the best tour that we could search for in a limited computation time. This means that if we are given enough time, then we will provide the best tour, else we will just provide the best tour we could find if we are given a limited time with large N.

For every simulation, we need to show the tour's cost, followed by every used vehicle's information which includes the route taken, vehicle's used capacity and cost of the route taken.

Extra Features

Graphic User Interface (GUI) - Build your simulator with a nice looking GUI. You can either simulate it in a graph or in a graph with a graphic map background. Your program should simulate the process of delivery (movement of vehicles between locations with respect to time).

Random Parcel Pick Up Spawning - During the parcel delivery process, there might be customers requesting parcel pick up from their home to be delivered to other places. Thus, in order to minimize cost, we have to update the path used by couriers (vehicles) whenever there is a new request for parcel pickup from a new location.

Pickup and Delivery - In this case, parcels are not initially located at the depot, instead parcels are on the customer's site. For every customer, you need to send a vehicle to their location to pick up the parcel (demand) and send it to another location specified by the customer (demand is released at the destination).

There are few things you might need to be careful of: first, a delivery point cannot come before its respective pickup point when you find the best route for your couriers. Secondly, all vehicles departing from the depot have 0 used capacity (as parcels are not inside the depot anymore). When a vehicle reaches a pickup point, it decrements the available capacity in the vehicle as it picks up the parcel. When a vehicle reaches a delivery point with its respective parcel, it releases the parcel and thus increments back the available capacity of the vehicle.

Heterogeneous Vehicle Capacity - In basic requirements, we assume that every vehicle shares the same capacity, C. In fact, we might have different types of vehicles that have different capacity (e.g. a lorry can deliver more loads than a van). In order to produce a simulation closer to real life, you might need to consider adding this feature.

Time constraint from customer - In real life, we not only have to minimize the time and fuel (represented by distance) used by couriers, we also have to consider the expected arrival time of every parcel to their owners. We should not deliver the parcel later than its expected arrival time as it would result in bad customer reviews. In your simulation, you might want to add this feature as well.

For every customer, you might need to add a time window [t1, t2] to specify the time range we can deliver a parcel to a customer. If we arrive at the customer location before t1, then we have to wait for it and do nothing else, and if we deliver the parcel after t2, then we will receive a penalty which is undesired. Thus, your tour should strictly follow the time window for every customer and at the same time minimize the cost.

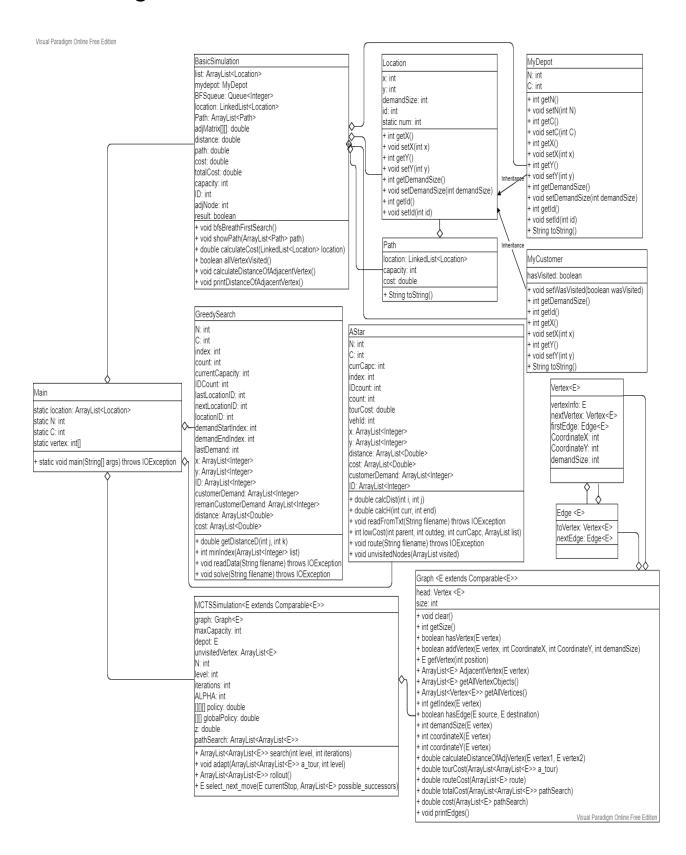
After considering all the extra features provided, our team finally have chosen to implement an extra searching algorithm, **A star searching method** and also a **Graphical User Interface (GUI)** to simulate and display the delivery process.

Project approach

We start by defining all the terms we are going to use in this problem context. A customer is an entity that has a certain demand and therefore requires the presence of a vehicle, a unit that can move between customers and the depot, a unit that initially possesses the demands of the customers. All vehicles are capacitated that they can only contain goods (the customer's demands) up to a certain maximum capacity. Moving a vehicle between the depot and the customers comes with a certain cost. A route is a sequence of visited customers by a certain vehicle, starting and ending at a depot while a tour is a list of routes of all vehicles to fulfil all customers' demands. We can imagine the underlying structure of this problem as a complete undirected graph G(V, E).

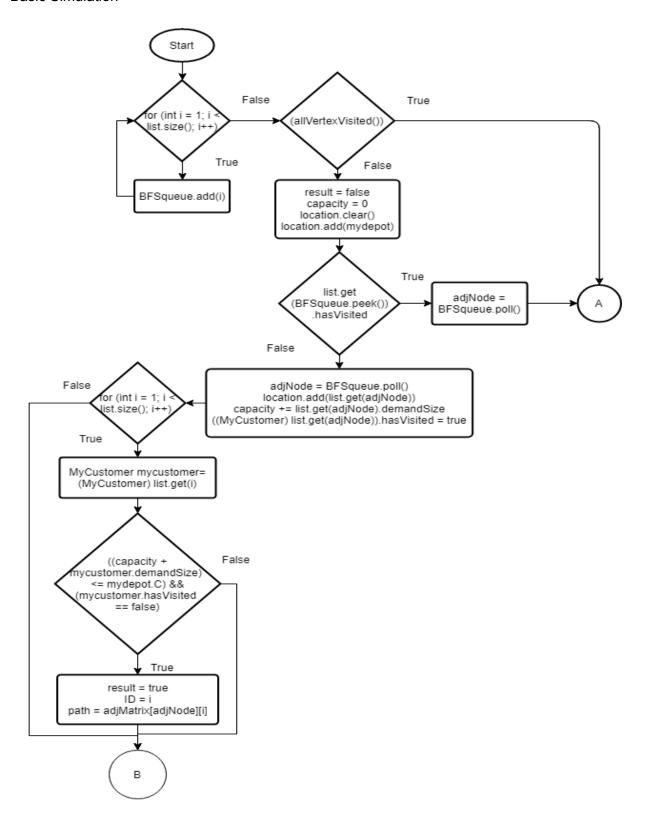
Given a text file, where the first row indicates the number of customers (including depot), N and maximum capacity of all vehicles, C. After this, starting from the second row onwards are the N rows of information. In particular, every row of information contains 3 data, which are x-coordinate, y-coordinate and lastly demand size of a customer. The second row represents the depot and its demand size is always 0 while the rest of the rows show customer information. Three searching simulation outputs are generated, which include **basic simulation**, **greedy simulation** and **MCTS simulation**.

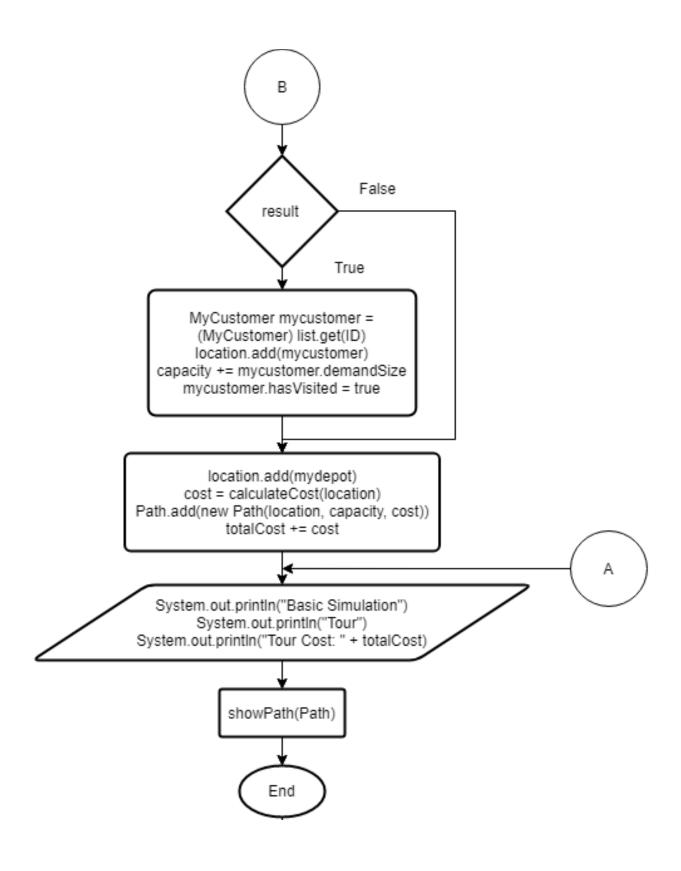
UML Diagram



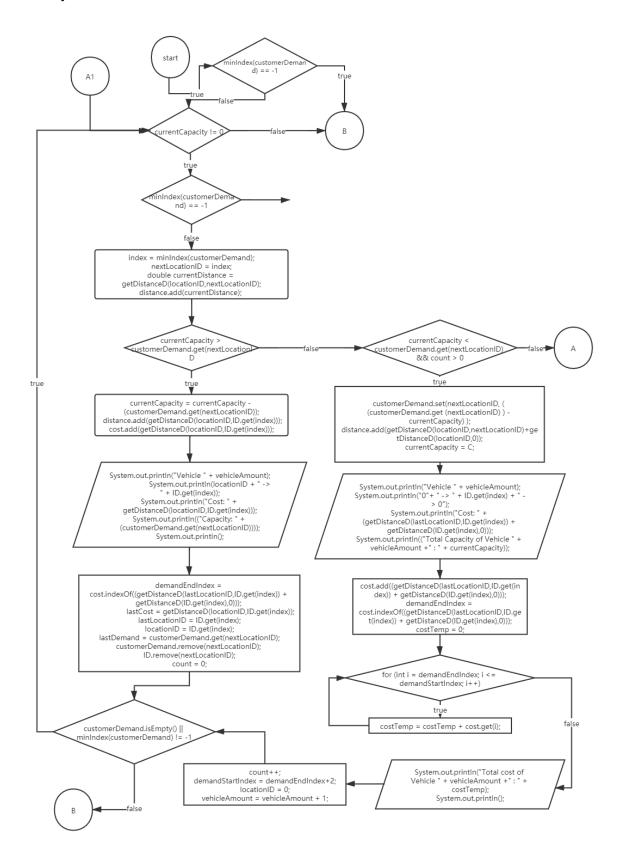
Flowchart

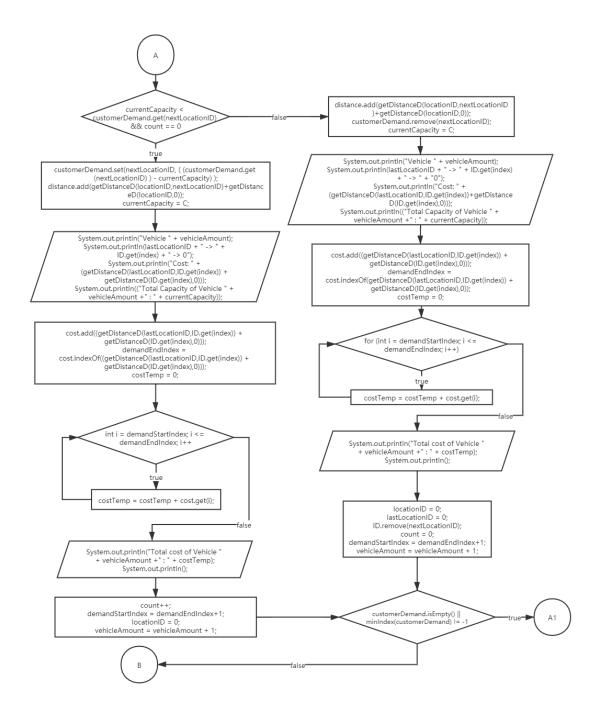
Basic Simulation

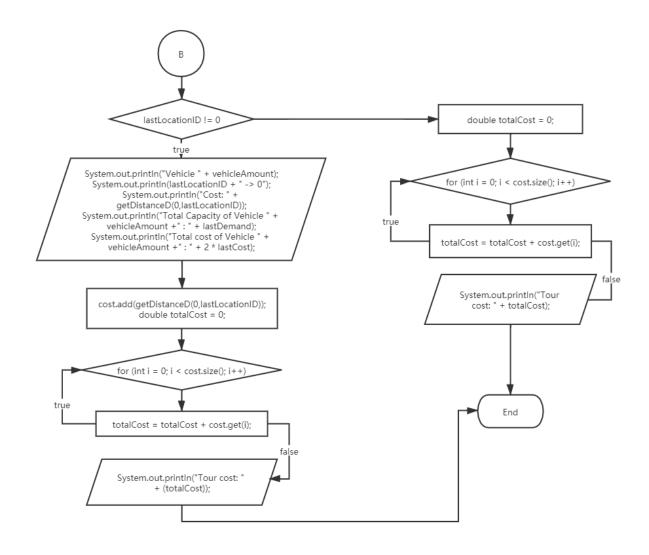




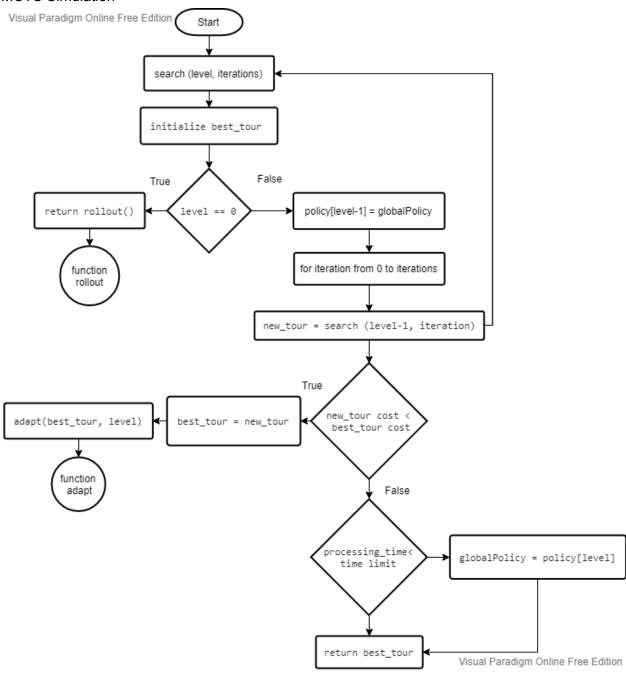
Greedy Simulation

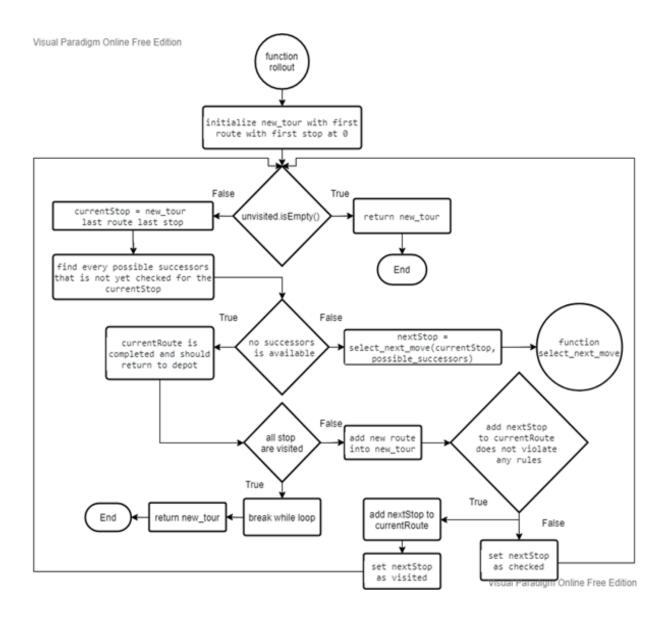


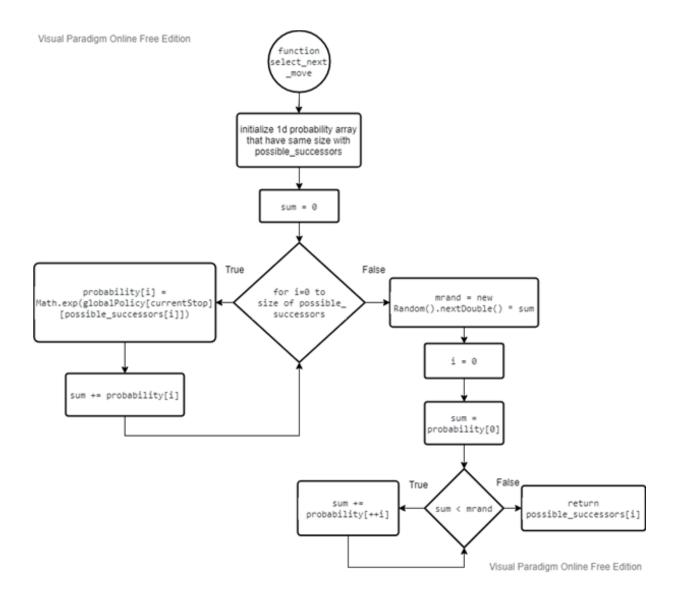


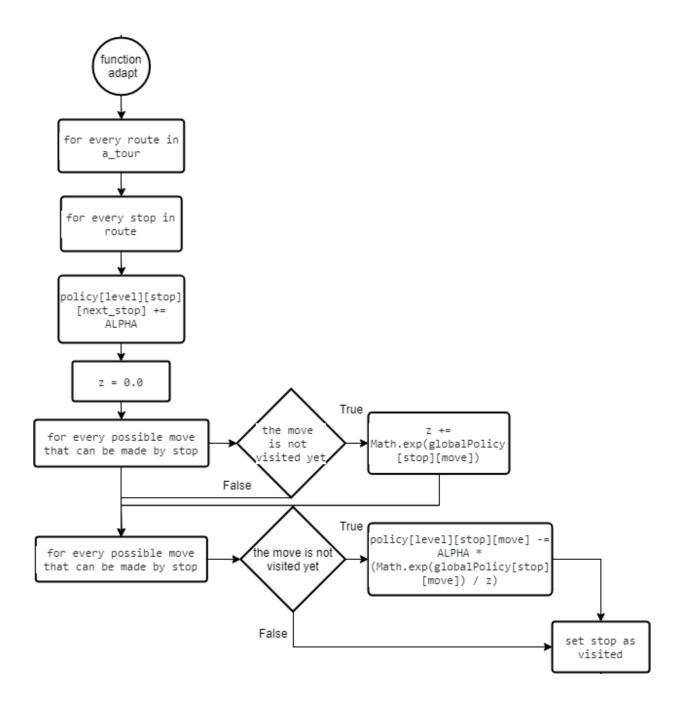


MCTS Simulation

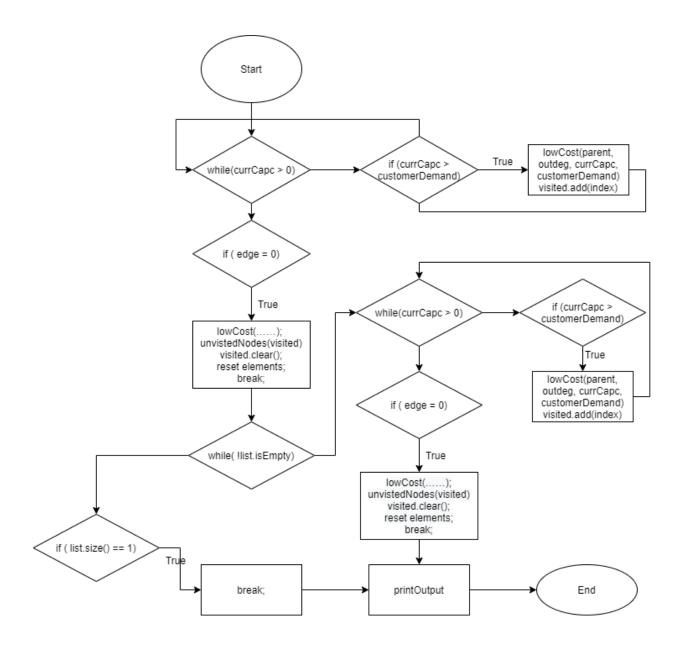






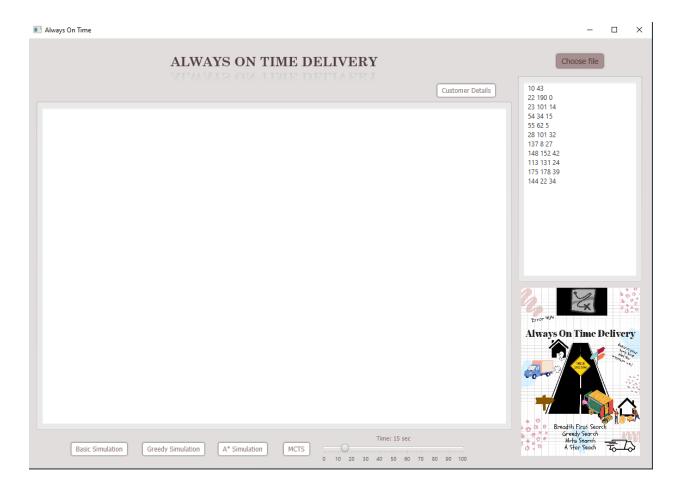


A* Algorithm

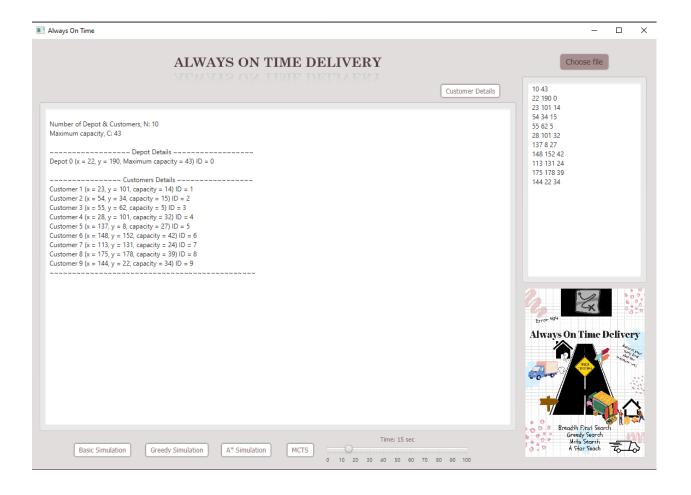


Sample output

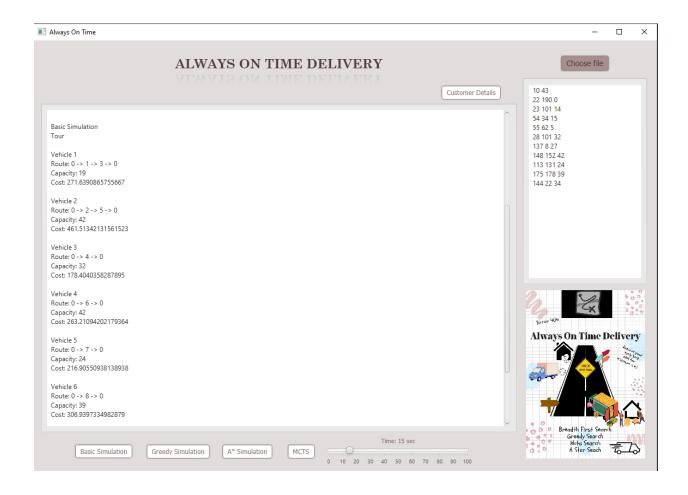
File Input:



Customer Details:



Basic Simulation:





Greedy Simulation:

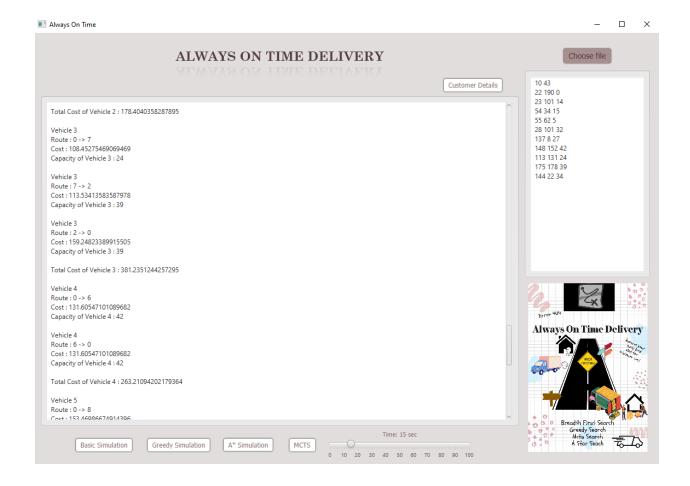






A* Simulation:







MCTS Simulation:



