H = the heuristic value for a given schedule, with *n* number of time slots and *m* number of employees

S(i) = the heuristic value for a given time slot *i*

Spn(i) = the preferred number of employees for the time slot *i*

Eta(i, j) = the heuristic value for an employee *j* being assigned to a time slot *i*

Eps(i,j) = time slot *i* is a preferred time slot for an employee *j* to work at

Sa(i) = list of employees being assigned at time slot *i*

E(j) = the overall heuristic value for an employee *j* for the given schedule

Eth(j) = the number of hours employee *j* has in a given schedule

Eamx(j) = employee *j* has an absolute maximum number of hours

Eamn(j) = employee *j* has an absolute minimum number of hours

Emx(j) = the maximum number of hours employee *j* can work

Emn(j) = the minimum number of hours employee *j* can work

Eph(j) = the number of hours employee *j* prefers work

Ctpn = bonus point for having the preferred number of employees assigned at a timeslot

Cecs = bonus point for having an employee to work in continuous time slots

Cecn = penalty point for having an employee to work in a non-continuous time slot

Ceamx = penalty point for an employee to exceed absolute maximum number of hours

Ceamn = penalty point for an employee to fall below absolute minimum number of hours

Cemx = bonus point for an employee to stay below or equal to maximum number of hours

Cemn = bonus point for an employee to have at least the minimum number of hours

Ceph = bonus point for an employee to have exactly the preferred number of hours

Cephxb = the exponent base for calculating an employee’s preferred number of hours bonus