

# The marriage of Matheuristics and Scheduling

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# Outline

- 1 Matheuristics at a glance
- 2 Matheuristics can be stubborn
- 3 Matheuristics can be curious
- 4 Can Machine Learning be of any help?
- 5 Conclusions

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- MATHEuristics are not METAheuristics but are Metaheuristics,

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- [2] Della Croce, F. (2016). MP or not MP: that is the question, *Journal of Scheduling*, 19:33-42.

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- MATHEuristics are not METAheuristics but are Metaheuristics,
- General definition ([1a, 1b, 1c]):

*"Matheuristic is the hybridization of mathematical programming with metaheuristics. [...] Matheuristic is not a rigid paradigm but rather a concept framework for the design of mathematically sound heuristics."*

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- Take a scheduling problem and its MIP formulation, impose a time limit to the solver ⇒ matheuristic,
- Interest of Matheuristics: to rely on (more and more) efficient blackbox solvers ([2]),

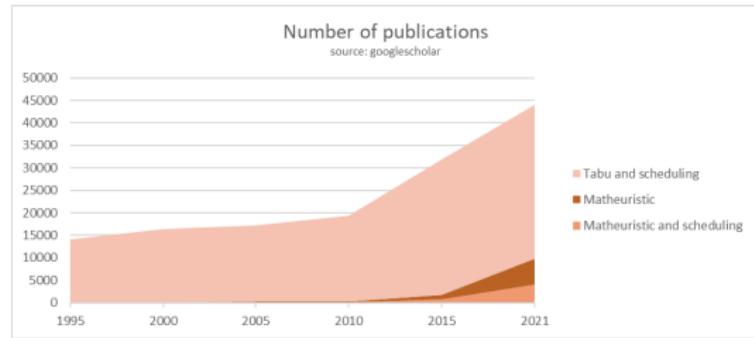
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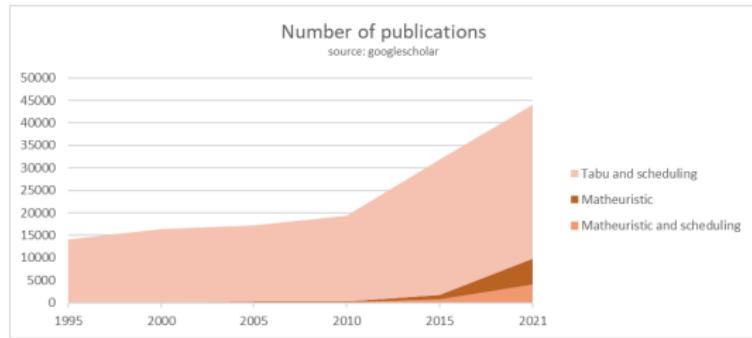
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# A quick look at the literature



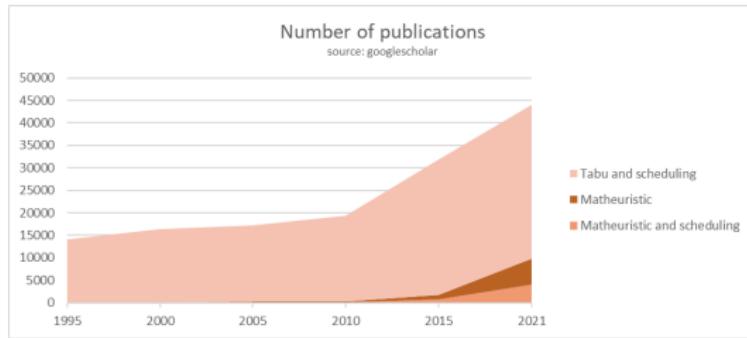
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- Relatively recent,
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- Hard to sketch a general scheme for matheuristics: RINS, Local Branching, VPLS, CMSA, Proximity Search, CRB, Relax-and-fix, POPMUSIC, ...

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- This talk: a personal view based on my own experience of Local Search MH.

# A general scheme (Local Search MH)

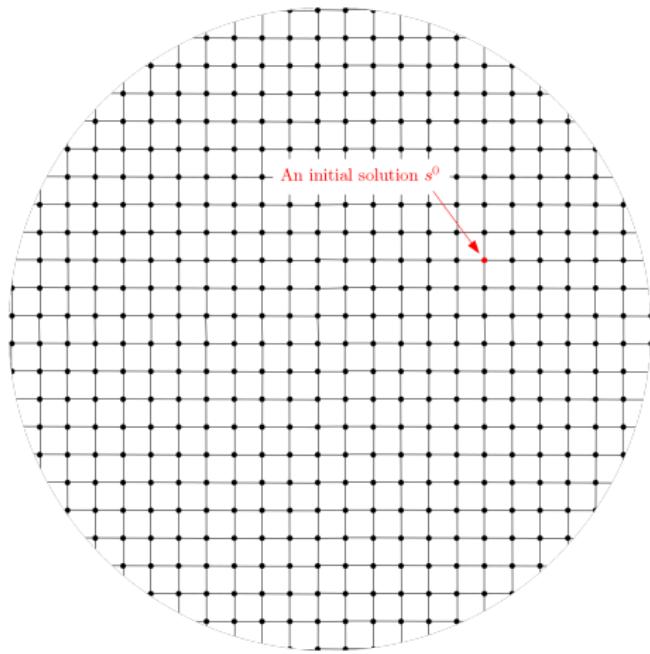
- Matheuristic as *LNS* heuristics ([1,3]),

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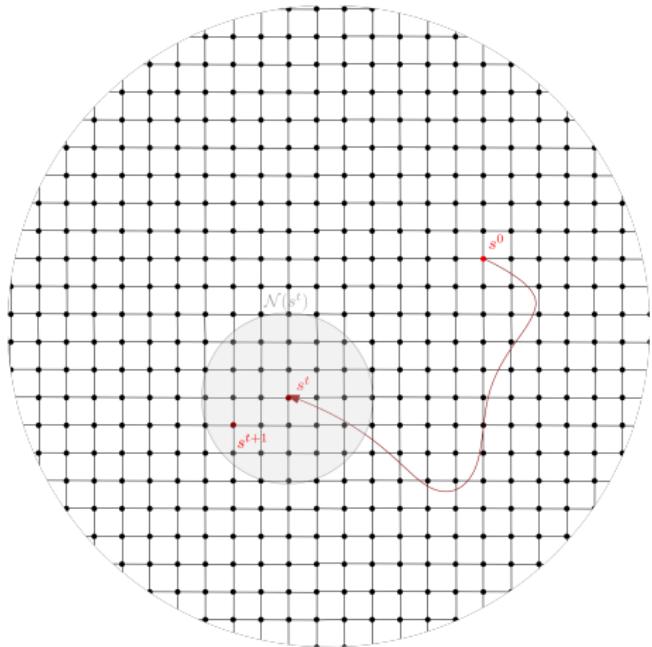


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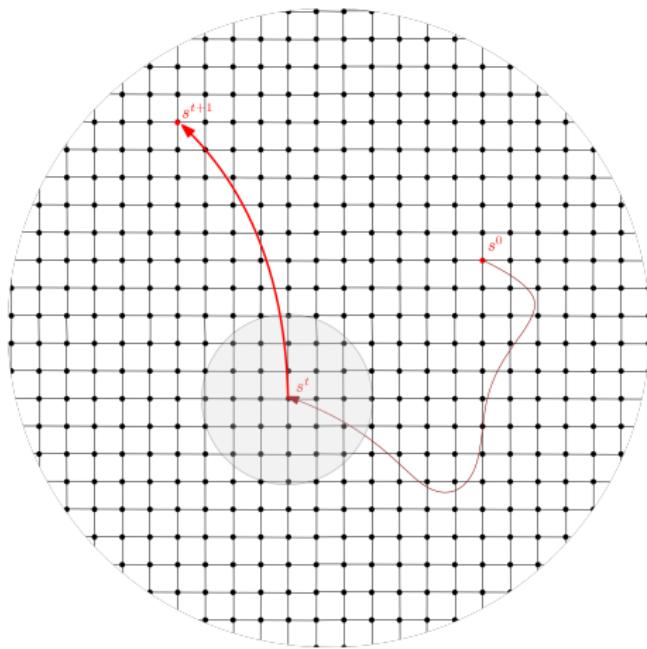


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$$\min \sum_{j=1}^n C_{[j]} \quad (1)$$

subject to

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- Distance based intensification: local branching,
  - ① Determine a subset  $\mathcal{S}^t$  of variables  $x_{ij}$ ,
  - ② Add a “distance measure” constraint, e.g. the Hamming distance:

$$\min \sum_{j=1}^n C_{[j]}$$

subject to

(1-7)

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{S}^t}(x, x^t) = \sum_{(ij) \in \mathcal{S}^t, x_{ij}^t = 0} x_{ij} + \sum_{(ij) \in \mathcal{S}^t, x_{ij}^t = 1} (1 - x_{ij}) \leq k$$

with  $k$  a given parameter.

# VPLS: on which problem?

- We illustrate the Variable Partitioning Local Search (VPLS) on the  $F2||\sum_j C_j$  problem ([4]),

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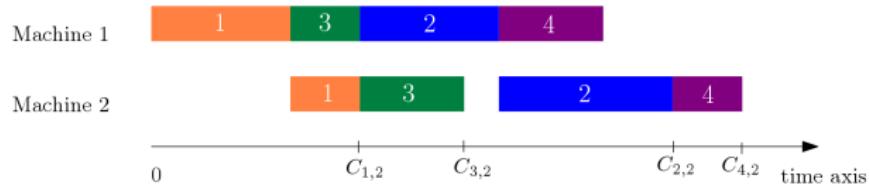
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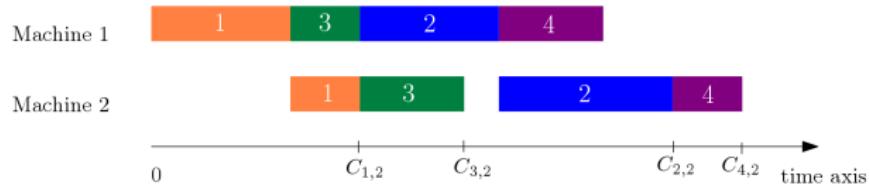


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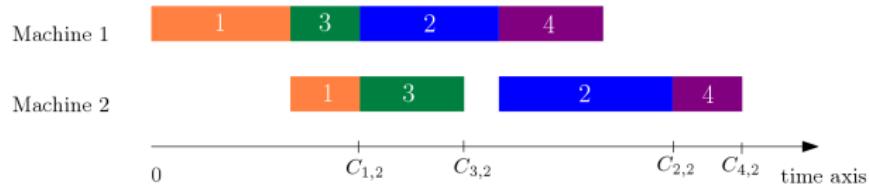
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- Exploit a direct *position-based* IP formulation:  $x_{ij} = 1$  if job  $j$  is in position  $i$ ; 0 otherwise,

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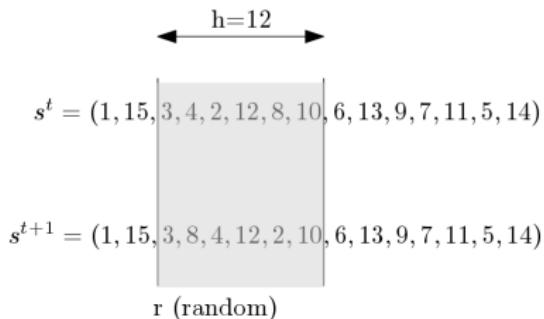
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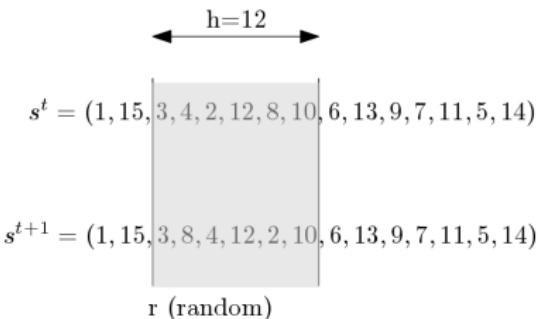


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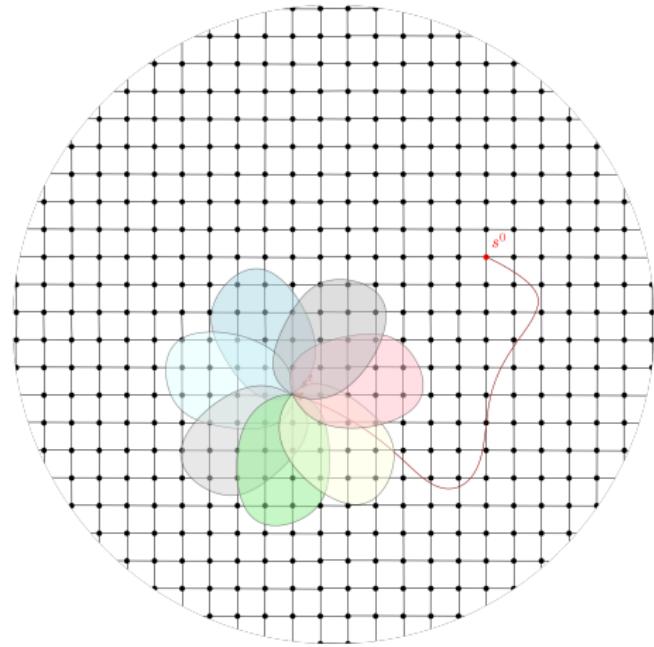
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⇒ well suited for permutation problems.

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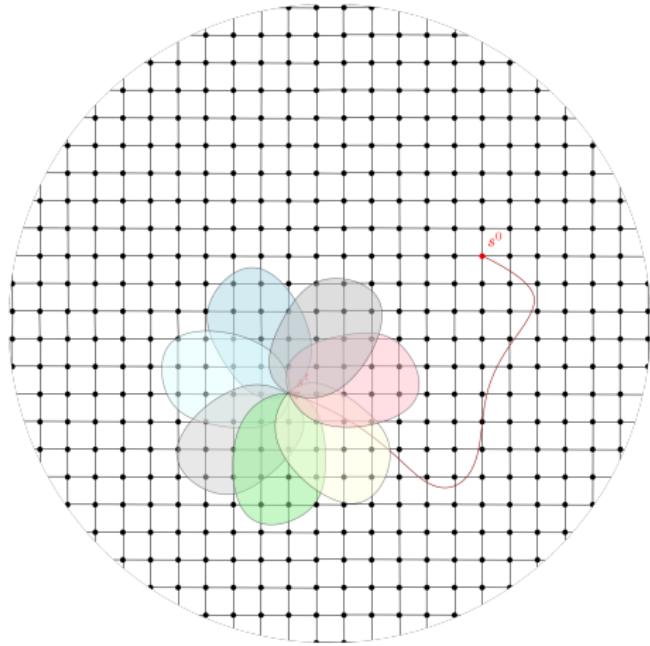
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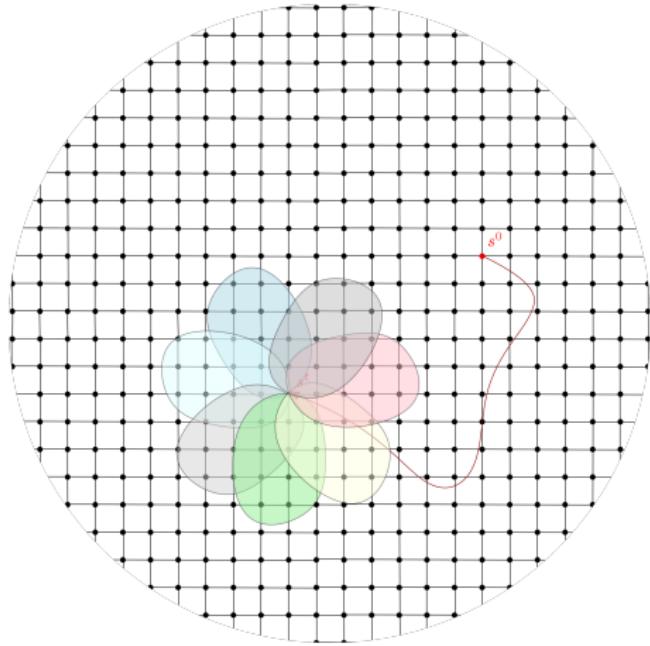
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- Stopping condition: a given time limit  $T_{stop}$  is reached or no improving neighbourhood.



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- Experimental results on randomly generated instances ([4]):

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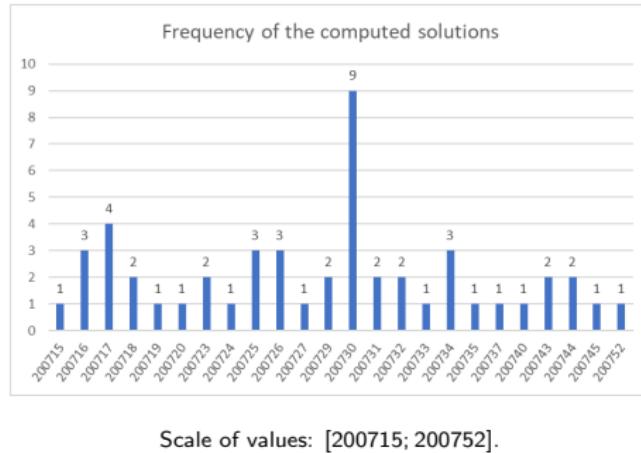
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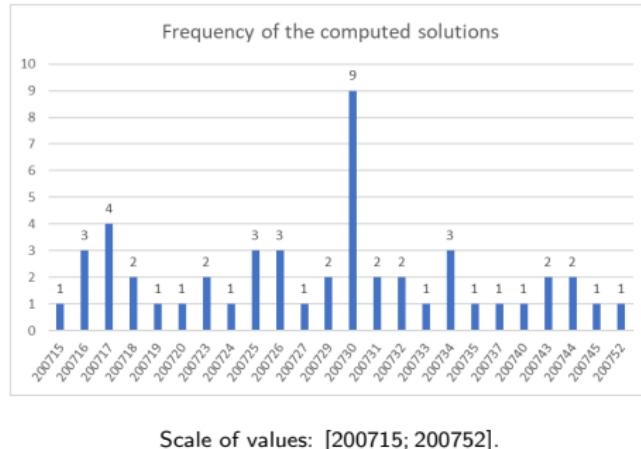
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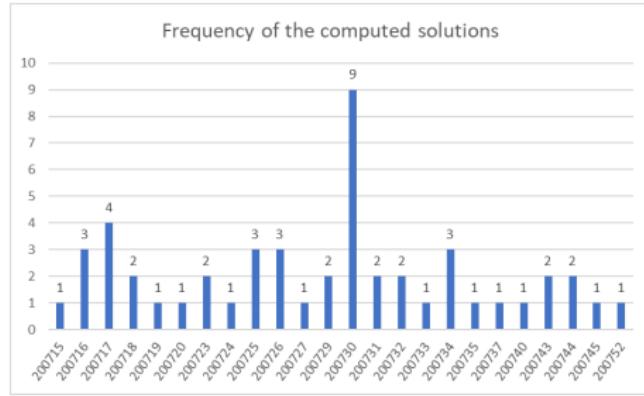
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Scale of values: [200715; 200752].

- Time to best: 36s (avg) and 52s (max),
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- Considering windows of positions makes sense for permutation problems,
- Can be extended to problems with assignment... but is it the best choice?

# VPLS: Conclusions

- Use of distance based neighbourhood (case of the Hamming distance),

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{S}^t}(x, x^t) = \sum_{(ij) \in \mathcal{S}^t, x_{ij}^t=0} x_{ij} + \sum_{(ij) \in \mathcal{S}^t, x_{ij}^t=1} (1 - x_{ij})$$

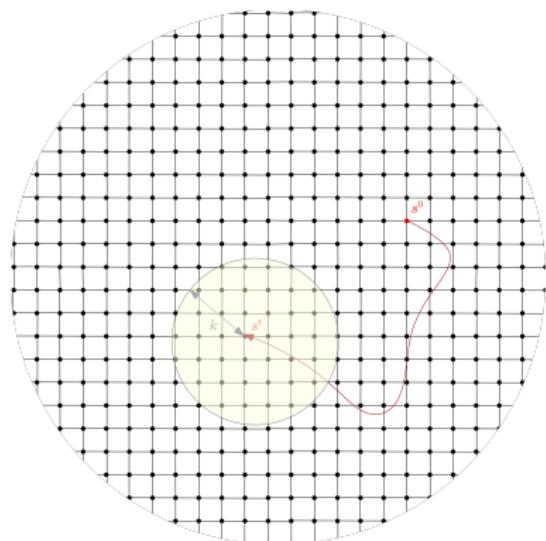
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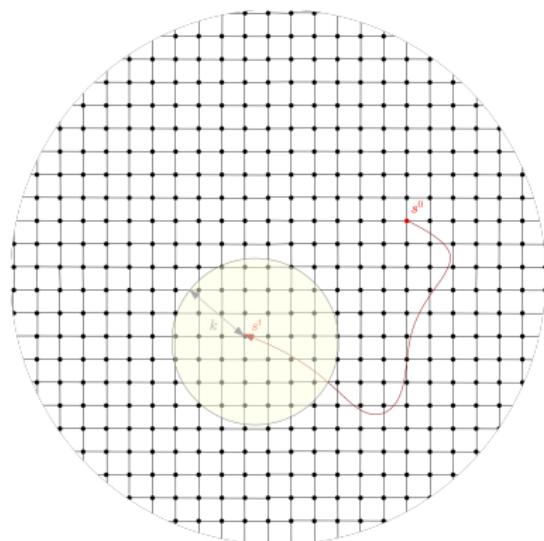
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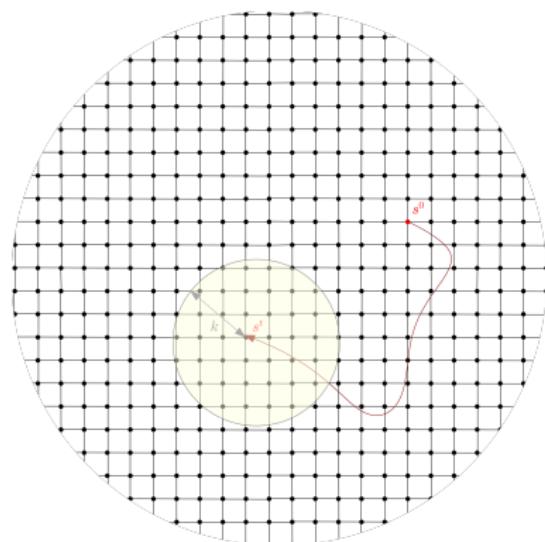
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# Outline

- 1 Matheuristics at a glance
- 2 Matheuristics can be stubborn
- 3 Matheuristics can be curious
- 4 Can Machine Learning be of any help?
- 5 Conclusions

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- Local Branching is a perfect example of a matheuristic using both *intensification* and *diversification*.

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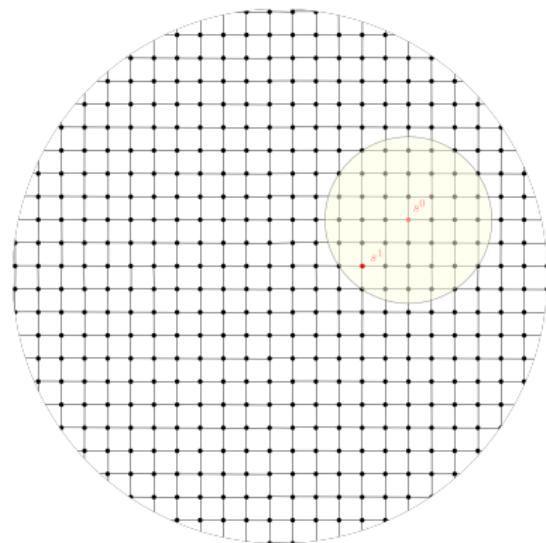
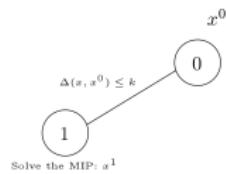
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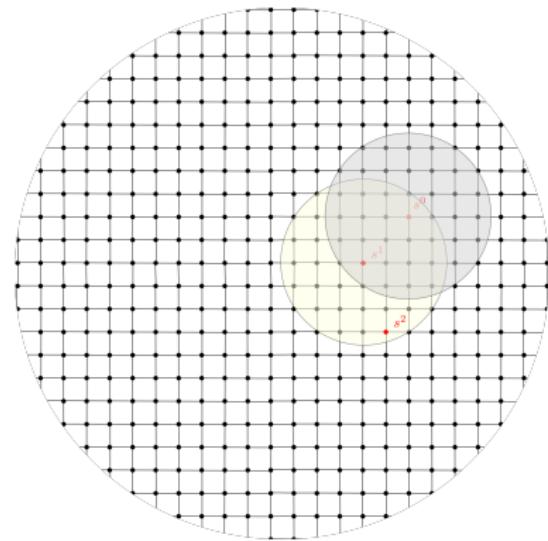
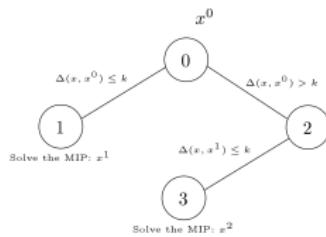
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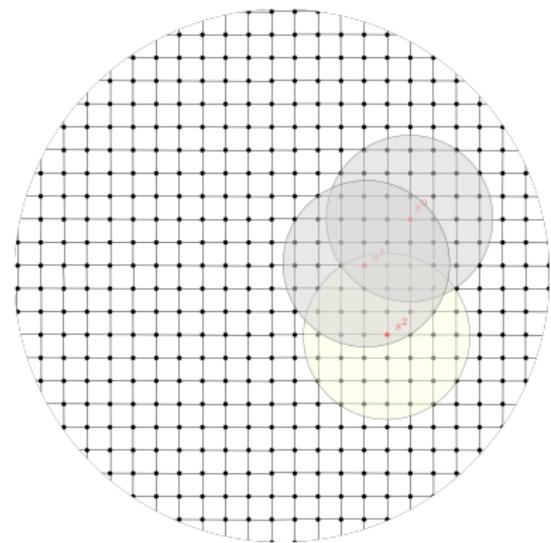
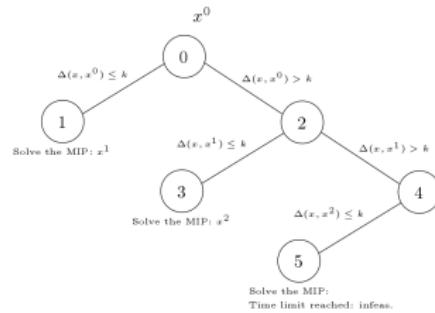
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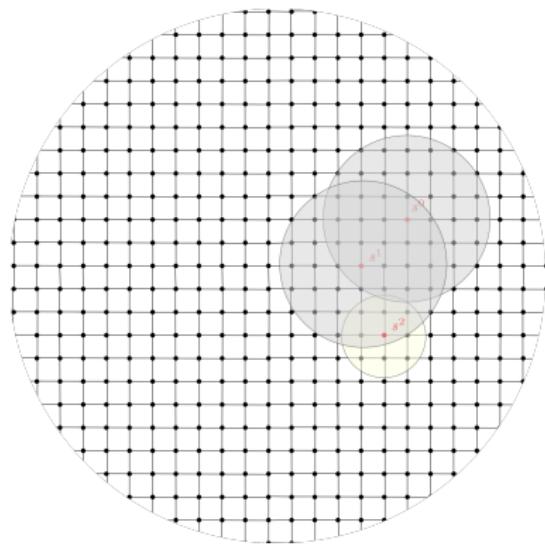
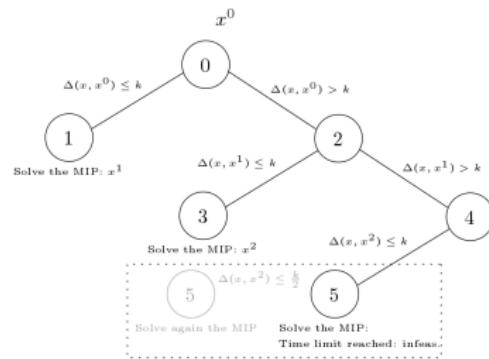
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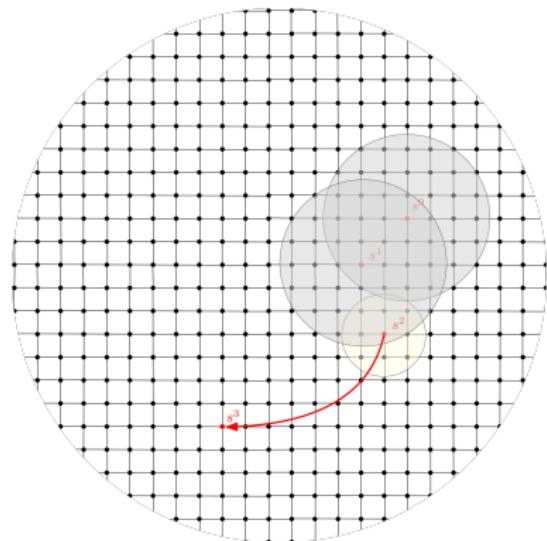
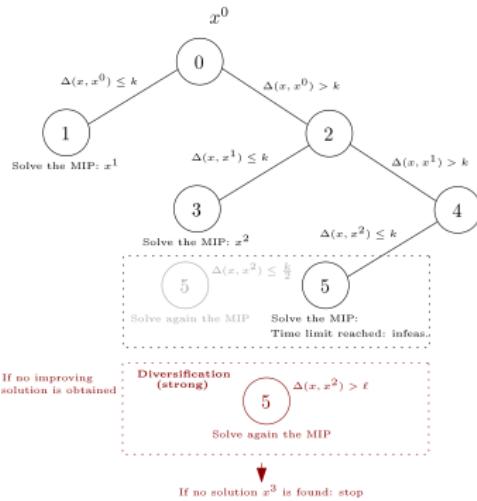
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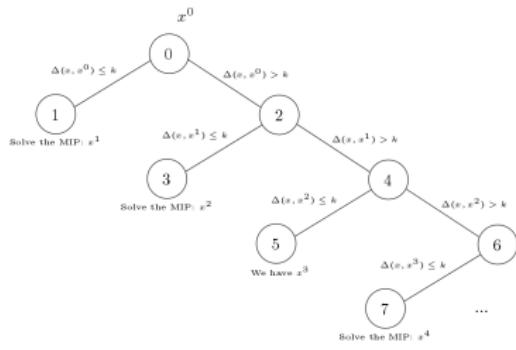
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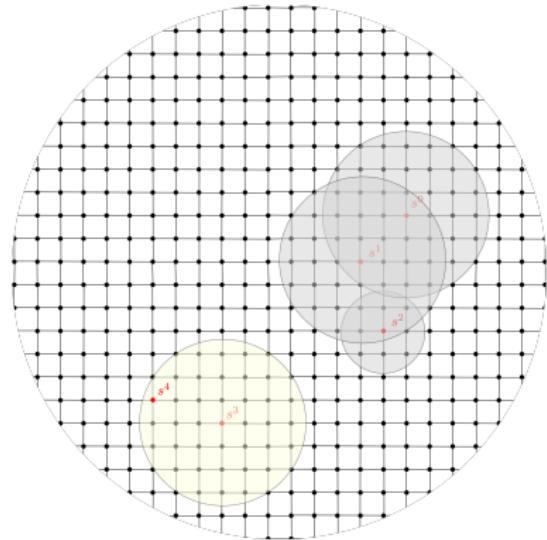
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Stop after reaching a given time limit



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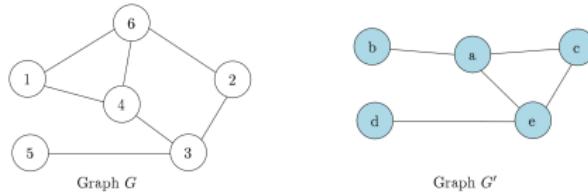
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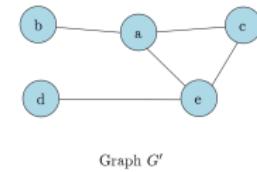
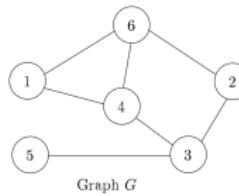
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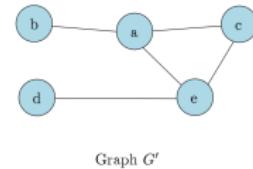
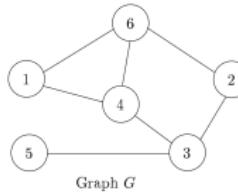


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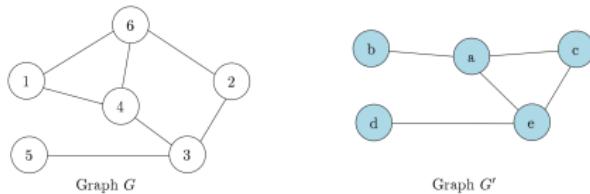


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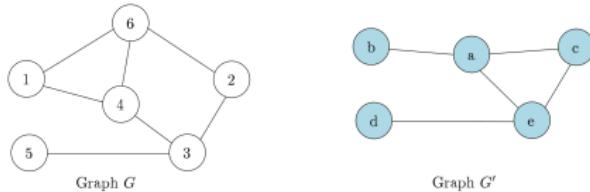


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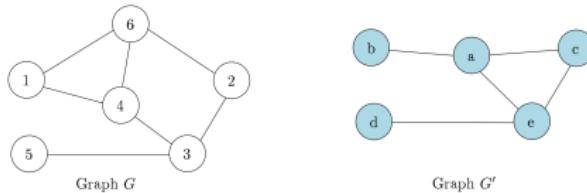
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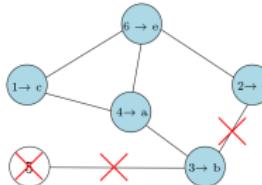
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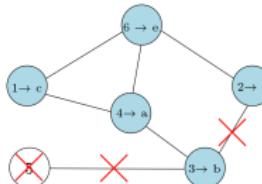
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- Find the matching of  $G$  and  $G'$  which minimizes the total matching cost,
- This problem is strongly  $\mathcal{NP}$ -hard.

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# Local Branching on the GED: the ingredients

- This is an assignment problem for which we use the following IP formulation ([11]),

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 & && \sum_{i=1}^N x_{ik} = \sum_{j=1}^N x_{kj} = 1 \quad \forall k = 1..N
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- ➎  $S_i^t$  contains the variables  $x_{ij}$  associated to the high standard deviation vertices  $i \in V$ ,
- ➏ To diversify with solve the IP with the constraint:

$$\Delta_{S_i^t}(x, x^t) \geq \ell.$$

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  - MUTA: 80 graphs from 10 to 70 vertices (6400 instances).
    - $k = 20, \ell = 30,$
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  - On MUTA instances:
    - Average CPU time: 750s on the largest instances,
    - Gap to the best known solution<sup>1</sup>: < 0.78%.
- ⇒ Outperforms all the known heuristics (in 2021) on the GED problem.

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  - ⑤ Diversification seems to be really useful.

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  - ③ Adjust the neighbourhood size dynamically.

# Outline

- 1 Matheuristics at a glance
- 2 Matheuristics can be stubborn
- 3 Matheuristics can be curious
- 4 Can Machine Learning be of any help?
- 5 Conclusions

# Matheuristics and Machine Learning

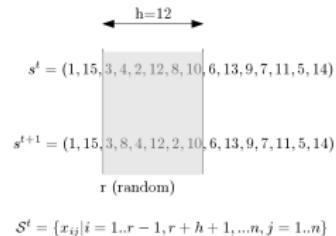
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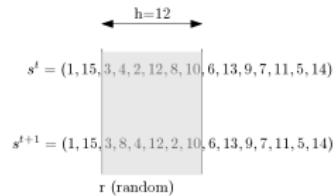
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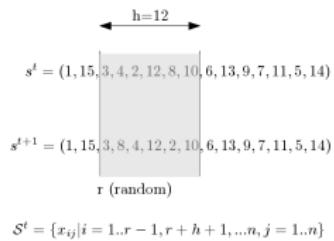


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- The neighbourhoods to explore are defined by  $r$  and  $h$ ,
- Can we use Machine Learning to predict the best  $r$  and  $h$  for a given  $s^t$ ?

## The ml-VPLS heuristic

- Ideal goal: to have an oracle (predictor) capable of predicting the values of  $r$  and  $h$  for a given  $s^t$ ,

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- Use of structured machine learning to solve this classification problem (features based approach, [40]),

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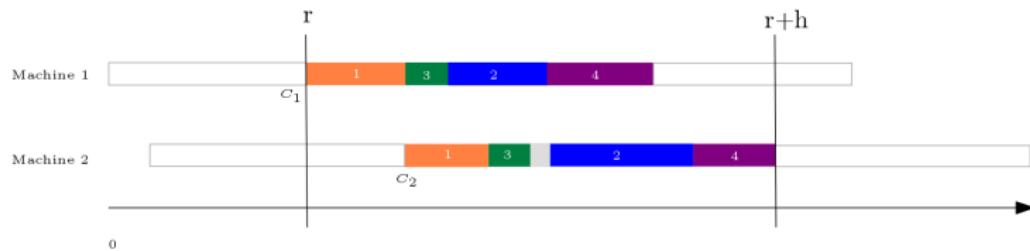
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- Predictor  $p()$  is a neural network and the  $\theta$  are weights (Deep Learning).

# The ml-VPLS heuristic

- A set of 90 features,



### Descriptive features:

- $C_1, C_2, \sum_{j=r}^{r+h} p_{s[j],1}, \sum_{j=r}^{r+h} p_{s[j],2},$
- In  $[r; r + h]$ : ratios  $\frac{p_{j,1}}{p_{j,2}}$ , idle times on  $M_2$ , number of jobs not in SPT order on  $M_2$ , ...
- In  $[r + h + 1; n]$ : idle times on  $M_2$ .

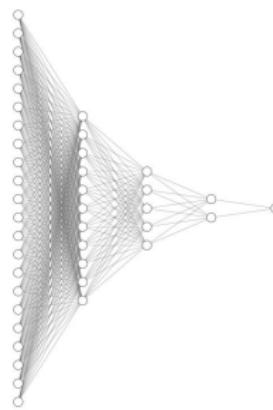
### Informative features:

- Upper bound on the gain (on  $\sum_{j=r+h+1}^n C_j$ ) in rescheduling  $[r; r + h]$ ,
- Lower bounds on the gain (on  $\sum_{j=r}^{r+h} C_j$ ) in rescheduling  $[r; r + h]$ ,
- Upper bounds on the gain (on  $\sum_{j=r}^{r+h} C_j$ ) in rescheduling  $[r; r + h]$ ,

- Features are normalized and standardized.

# The ml-VPLS heuristic

- Predictor ( $p$ ) is a fully connected neural network:
  - It operates in a vector space ( $\in \mathbb{R}^{90}$ ).
  - Fast inference (prediction time).
  - Other models were put to the test such as 1-dimensional CNNs but inference was too slow.
  - Number of parameters : 14 0000
  - Number of layers : 7
  - Overfitting breakers : Dropout, L1 regularization.



# The ml-VPLS heuristic: Building the predictor

- To generate the *training*, *validation* and *test* databases, the same protocol has been used:

	Train	Validation	Test
#vectors	182 590	184 680	186 086
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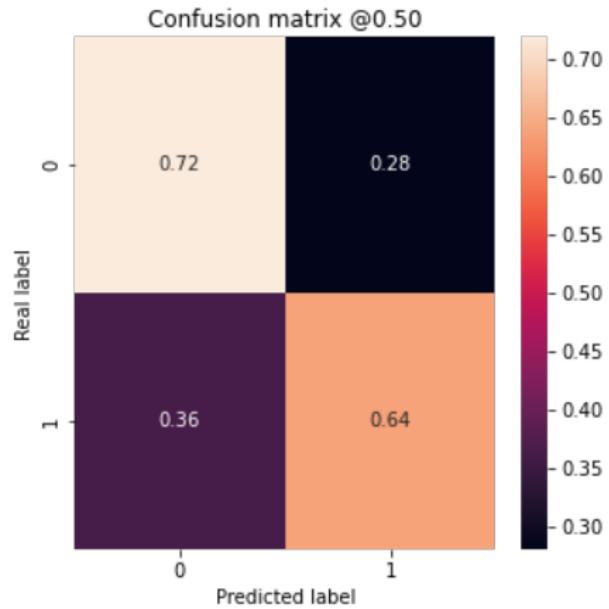
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  - ② Run MATH in which all windows  $[r; r + h]$  are tested. For each  $x = [r; h; s]$  record  $\phi(x)$  and the result  $y = 1/0$ ,

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# The ml-VPLS heuristic: After training



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- On each instance, VPLS, r-VPLS and ml-VPLS are ran 10 times and the average solution value is used to compute statistics,
- A total time limit of 60s per instance for VPLS, r-VPLS and ml-VPLS.

# Efficiency of ml-VPLS

	$\delta_{avg}(\%)$	$\delta_{max}(\%)$	$T_{avg}(s)$	$T_{max}(s)$	$T2best_{avg}(s)$	$T2best_{max}(s)$
VPLS	0.0031	0.046	61.13	61.36	5.62	22.18
r-VPLS	0.0034	0.060	61.14	61.39	5.88	24.58
ml-VPLS	0.0187	0.083	61.13	61.43	2.55	14.24
ml-VPLS+	0.0055	0.048	7.38	22.87	3.36	15.13

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- Results for  $n = 50$  jobs -

- The trained predictor generalizes well for  $n > 50$ ,
- Machine Learning seems interesting to make VPLS converging faster.

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- To drive the search (choice of relevant neighbourhoods to explore),
- Not enough efficient in the above example but improvement is on-going!
- What is a “good” neighbourhood?
- We can also imagine other possible use of Machine Learning: selection of variables (set  $\mathcal{S}^t$ ), value of parameters (like  $k$  and  $\ell$  in local branching), ...

# Outline

- 1 Matheuristics at a glance
- 2 Matheuristics can be stubborn
- 3 Matheuristics can be curious
- 4 Can Machine Learning be of any help?
- 5 Conclusions

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Dist. based MH Local Branch.	VNS-MH	Var. fixing based MH			
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[9] [14]	[9] [12] [31] [35]	[4] [13] [16] [21] [34]	[18]	[19] [25] [27] [29] [30]	

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- Matheuristics can be also *constructive heuristics* or can result from the hybridization of *evolutionary algorithms* and MIP....

Constructive MH	Evol. Alg. MH	Others
[14] [17] [23] [25] [26] [27] [32] [35] [38]	[20] [22] [24] [33] [36]	[15] [22] [28] [37] [39]

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⇒ Recommendation of the day: if you have a MIP, set up a matheuristic!

# Thank you for your attention!

Dist. based MH		VNS-MH	Var. fixing based MH			
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