# Job sequencing and layout optimization in virtual production line

Zahari Taha<sup>a</sup>; Farzad Tahriri<sup>b</sup>; Aliq Zuhdi<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Manufacturing Engineering, University Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia

<sup>b</sup>Center for Product Design and Manufacturing, Industrial and Manufacturing Department,

Faculty of Engineering, University Malaya (UM), Malaysia

## **ABSTRACT**

Most of the problems involving the design and planning of manufacturing systems are combinatorial and NP-hard. It covers all aspect of creating and operating a manufacturing system before it is implemented. The main activities in creating and operating a manufacturing system are determining the job size, resources needed, equipment layout, routing sequence, and process scheduling. This problem must be solved before it is implemented in real factory. A new trend is using virtual factory approach for testing and validating the proposed design and planning. Designer will have feel at the factory while doing layout planning and design. The contribution of this paper is the integration of two optimization models such as: layout and sequence (job) optimization to those factories who want to produce the various kinds of products with fixed and changeable machine locations as integrated approach for designing a virtual production line. Due to the combinatorial nature of the solution spaces, genetic algorithm is applied for both sequencing and layout. A case study is also reported to demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed approach.

### **KEYWORDS:**

Genetic Algorithm; Multi-Part Multi-Machine Sequencing; Virtual Factory Layout

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The authors wish to thank the University of Malaya for providing the research grants throw TECHNOFUND- TF004/2007A project.

#### REFERENCES

- 1. Azadivar, F. and Wang, J., 2000, Facility layout optimization using simulation and genetic algorithm, International Journal of Production Research, 38 (17), 4369-4383.
- 2. Becker, C. and Scholl, A., 2006, A survey on problems and methods in generalized assembly line balancing, European Journal of Operational Research, 168(3), 694-715.
- 3. Beham, A., Kofler, M., Wagner, S. and Affenzeller, M., 2009, Coupling simulation with heuristic lab to solve facility layout problems, Proceedings of Winter Simulation Conference, 13(16), 2205-2217.
- 4. Boysen, N., Fliedner, M. and Scholl, A., 2007, A classification of assembly line balancing problems, European Journal of Operational Research, 183(2), 674-693.
- 5. Bu, W., Liu, Z. and Tan, J., 2009, Industrial robot layout based on operation sequence optimization, International Journal of Production Research, 47(15), 4125-4145.