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# GENETIC ALGORITHM FOR SOLVING UNCAPACITATED MULTIPLE ALLOCATION HUB LOCATION PROBLEM\*

# Jozef KRATICA

Mathematical Institute Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts Kneza Mihajla 35/I, pp. 367 11001 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro e-mail: jkratica@mi.sanu.ac.yu

## Zorica Stanimirović, Dušan Tošić, Vladimir Filipović

Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade Studentski trg 16/IV 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro e-mail: {zoricast, dtosic, vladaf}@matf.bg.ac.yu

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**Abstract.** Hub location problems are widely used for network designing. Many variations of these problems can be found in the literature. In this paper we deal with the uncapacitated multiple allocation hub location problem (UMAHLP). We propose a genetic algorithm (GA) for solving UMAHLP that uses binary encoding and genetic operators adapted to the problem. Overall performance of GA implementation is improved by caching technique. We present the results of our computational experience on standard ORLIB instances with up to 200 nodes. The results show that GA approach quickly reaches all optimal solutions that are known so far and also gives results on some large-scale instances that were unsolved before.

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**Keywords:** Hub location problem, genetic algorithms, evolutionary computation, discrete location and assignment, network design, combinatorial optimization

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Computer and communication systems, DHL services and postal delivery networks, transportation systems may be observed as hub networks. They include a set of interacting nodes (facilities) with given distance and flow cost between each pair of nodes. The nodes in the network denoted as hub nodes serve as consolidation and connection points between two locations. Each node in the network is assigned to one or more hubs. All of the flow between any pair of nodes can only be realized via specified hubs. Since transportation cost between hubs is lower, consolidating traffic through hub nodes results in lower transportation cost per unit and efficient exploitation of the network.

There are various hub location problems, depending on the imposed constraints in the hub network. For example, number of hubs may be predetermined, capacity restrictions or fixed costs on both hub and/or non-hub nodes may be imposed, etc. Hub location problems can assume one of two allocation schemes:

- single allocation scheme, where each node must be assigned to exactly one hub node. All of flows from/to each node go only via assigned hub;
- multiple allocation scheme, which allows each facility to communicate with more than one hub.

Detailed review of hub location problems and their classification can be found in [5] and [6].

There are several papers in the literature considering UMAHLP. The problem was first formulated in [4]. Dual ascent techniques within a Branch-and-Bound scheme were first applied for solving UMAHLP in [11] on ORLIB ([2]) hub instances with  $n \leq 25$  nodes. Similar approach is used in [14], with tighter lower bounds and improved upper bounds. The results are presented on instances with up to 40 nodes.

A new quadratic integer formulation of the problem, based on the idea of multicommodity network flows was introduced in [1]. This new formulation showed to be suitable for using Branch-and-Bound procedure. The authors present results on their own randomly generated instances with  $n \leq 80$  size.

In [3] the mixed integer linear programming (MILP) formulations for three multiple allocation hub location problems, including UMAHLP, are used. For each problem preprocessing procedure and tightening constraints were developed. This approach was tested on standard hub data set including up to 50 nodes.

The main idea in paper [13] was to tighten MILP formulation and reduce the number of constraints using results from the field of the polyhedral structure of set packing problem. Another idea presented in [7] was to consider the dual problem of a MILP formulation. The authors first construct a heuristic method, based on

a dual-ascent technique, which produces almost 70 % optimal solutions on ORLIB instances with up to 120 nodes. Heuristic was later embedded in Branch-and-Bound algorithm, that provides optimal solutions in all cases.

## **2 MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION**

In this paper we consider the uncapacitated multiple allocation hub location problem. In this case, no capacities on the nodes are imposed, the number of hubs is not fixed and each non-hub node may be assigned to more than one hub (multiple allocation scheme). Traffic between origin and destination node can be routed via one or more hubs (switching points). Every hub node is located with certain expenses (fixed cost hub problem). The objective is to choose set of hubs and allocate non-hub nodes to the chosen set, so that the sum of total transportation cost and fixed costs is minimized.

Various formulations of UMAHLP arise in the literature and one mixed integer linear programming formulation [7] is used in this paper.

Consider a set  $I = \{1, ..., n\}$  of n distinct nodes in the network, where each node represents origin/destination or potential hub location. The distance from node i to node j is  $C_{ij}$ , and triangle inequality may be assumed [6]. The demand from location i to j is denoted as  $W_{ij}$ . Decision variables  $y_k$  and  $x_{ijkm}$  are used in the formulation as follows:

$$y_k = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if a hub is located at node } k, \\ 0 & \text{if not.} \end{cases}$$

 $x_{ijkm}$  is the fraction of flow  $W_{ij}$  from node *i* that is collected at hub *k*, and distributed by hub *m* to node *j*.

Each path from demand to destination node consists of three components: transfer from an origin to the first hub, transfer between the hubs and finally distribution from the last hub to the destination location. Parameters  $\chi$  and  $\delta$  denote unit costs for collection and distribution, while  $1 - \alpha$  represents discount factor for transport between hubs. The fixed cost of establishing hub k ( $y_k = 1$ ) is denoted as  $f_k$ . The objective is locating some hub facilities in order to minimize the sum of total flow cost and the total cost of location hubs. Using the notation mentioned above, the problem can be written as:

$$\min \sum_{i,j,k,m} W_{ij} \cdot (\chi \cdot C_{ik} + \alpha \cdot C_{km} + \delta \cdot C_{mj}) \cdot x_{ijkm} + \sum_{k} f_k \cdot y_k \tag{1}$$

subject to

$$\sum_{k,m} x_{ijkm} = 1 \quad for \; every \; i, j \tag{2}$$

$$\sum_{m} x_{ijkm} + \sum_{m,m \neq k} x_{ijmk} \le y_k \quad \text{for every } i, j, k \tag{3}$$

$$y_k \in \{0,1\} \quad for \ every \ k \tag{4}$$

$$x_{ijkm} \ge 0 \quad for \; every \; i, j, k, m. \tag{5}$$

The objective function (1) minimizes the sum of the origin-hub, hub-hub and hub-destination flow costs multiplied with  $\chi$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  factors respectively and the sum of fixed costs for establishing hubs. Constraint (2) specify that all the flow is sent between every pair of nodes, while constraint (3) ensures that flow is only sent via opened hubs. Constraints (4) and (5) reflect binary and/or non-negative representation of decision variables. Note that the fact  $x_{ijkm} \leq 1$  is implied by constraint (2), and is omitted.

UMAHLP is known to be NP-hard, with exception of special cases (for example when matrix of flows  $W_{ij}$  is sparse) that are solvable in polynomial time. If the set of hubs is fixed, the related subproblem can be polynomially solved using shortest-path algorithm in  $O(n^3)$  time ([8]).

## **3 ACCOMPLISHED GA IMPLEMENTATION**

## 3.1 Representation and Objective Function

The binary encoding of the individuals is used in this GA implementation. Each solution is represented by the binary string of length n. Digit 1 in the genetic code denotes that particular hub is established while 0 shows it is not.

Since users can be assigned only to opened hub facilities, only array  $y_k$  is obtained from the genetic code. There are no capacities, so the values of  $x_{ijkm}$  can be calculated during the evaluation of objective function.

For fixed set of hubs  $(y_k)$  the modified version of the well-known Floyd-Warsall shortest path algorithm described in [8] is used. After finding shortest paths between all pair of nodes, it is simple to evaluate objective function. It is done by summing shortest distances multiplied with flows and corresponding  $\chi$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\delta$  parameters, and adding fixed cost  $f_k$  of established hubs  $(y_k = 1)$ .

#### 3.2 Genetic Operators

Selection operator chooses the individuals that will produce offsprings in the next generation, according to their fitness. Low fitness-valued individuals have less chance to be selected than high fittness-valued ones. We use an improved tournament selection operator, known as fine-grained tournament selection (FGTS). This selection scheme showed to be successful in cases when it is desirable that the size of tournament group has rational instead of integer values. This operator uses real (rational) parameter  $F_{tour}$  which denotes desired average tournament size. The first type is held  $k_1$  times and its size is  $[F_{tour} + 1]$ . The second type is performed  $k_2$  times with the  $[F_{tour}]$  individuals participated. Since the value  $F_{tour} = 5.4$  is used in this implementation of FGTS, the corresponding values  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  (for N = 50 non-elitist individuals) are 20 and 30, respectively. Running time for FGTS operator is

 $O(N \times F_{tour})$ . In practice,  $F_{tour}$  is considered to be constant (not depending on N) that gives O(N) time complexity. For detailed information about FGTS see [10].

After a pair of parents is selected, crossover operator is applied to them producing two offsprings. The operator we use in this GA implementation is one-point crossover. This operator is performed by exchanging segments of two parents' genetic codes after randomly chosen crossover point. One-point crossover is realized with probability  $p_{cross} = 0.85$ . It means that approximately 85% pairs of individuals exchange their genetic material.

Modified simple mutation operator used in this GA concept is performed by changing a randomly selected gene in the genetic code of the individual, with certain mutation rate. It may happen during the GA execution that (almost) all individuals in the population have the same gene on certain position. These genes are called frozen. If the number of frozen genes is l, the search space becomes  $2^l$  times smaller and the possibility of premature convergence increases rapidly. The selection and crossover operators cannot change the bit value of any frozen gene and basic mutation rate is often too small to restore lost subregions of search space. If the basic mutation rate is increased significantly, genetic algorithm becomes random search. For this reason, the mutation rate is increased only on frozen genes. Therefore, in this implementation mutation rate for frozen genes is 2.5 times higher (1.0/n), compared to non-frozen ones (0.4/n).

#### 3.3 Generation Replacement Strategy

The population size is 150 individuals. Steady-state generation replacement with elitist strategy is used. Initial population is randomly generated, providing maximal diversity of genetic material. Since the number of hubs to be located is significantly smaller compared to total number of nodes, the probability of generating them in the genetic codes of individuals in the initial population is set to 3.0/n. This way we obtain "better" individuals for starting GA.

Two thirds of the population are directly passing in the next generation (elite individuals). Genetic operators are applied on the rest of the population, so that only one third of the population is replaced in every generation. Objective value of every elite individual is calculated only once, and this provides significant time savings.

Duplicated individuals are removed in every generation. Their fitness values are set to zero so that selection operator avoids them to enter the next generation. This is very effective method for saving the diversity of genetic material and keeping the algorithm away from premature convergence. Individuals with the same objective function, but in some cases different genetic codes may dominate in the population. If their codes are similar, GA can lead to local optimum. For that reason, it is useful to limit their appearance to some constant  $N_{rv}$  (it is set to 40 in this GA application).

## 3.4 Caching GA

Run-time performance of GA is optimized by caching technique. The main idea is to avoid computing the same objective function value every time when genetic operators produce an individual with same genetic code. The evaluated function values are stored in hash-queue data structure using Least Recently Used (LRU) caching technique. When the same code is obtained again its objective value is taken from the caching table, that provides time-savings. In this implementation the number of individuals stored in the caching table is limited to constant 5 000. For detailed information about caching GA see [12].

Inst.	$Opt_{sol}$	$GA_{best}$	t	$t_{tot}$	gen	$gap_{avg}$	$\sigma_{avg}$	eval	cache
			(sec)	(sec)		(%)	(%)		(%)
10L	221032.734	opt	0.003	0.113	503	0.000	0.000	664	97.4
10T	257558.086	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.001	0.114	501	0.000	0.000	709	97.2
20L	230385.454	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.007	0.206	504	0.000	0.000	2547	89.9
20T	266877.485	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.010	0.204	506	0.000	0.000	2585	89.8
25L	232406.746	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.015	0.313	505	0.000	0.000	3401	86.6
25T	292032.080	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.014	0.295	506	0.000	0.000	3483	86.3
40L	237114.749	opt	0.065	0.833	517	0.000	0.000	5302	79.6
40T	293164.836	opt	0.017	0.792	501	0.000	0.000	5217	79.3
50L	233905.303	opt	0.072	1.434	510	0.000	0.000	6650	74.1
50T	296024.896	opt	0.072	1.339	512	0.000	0.000	6626	74.3
60L	225042.310	opt	0.075	2.149	506	0.000	0.000	7 2 4 8	71.5
60T	243416.450	opt	0.130	2.417	516	0.000	0.000	7568	70.8
70L	229874.500	opt	0.309	3.691	531	0.000	0.000	8 980	66.3
70T	249602.845	opt	0.152	3.629	513	0.000	0.000	8 100	68.6
80L	225166.922	opt	0.809	5.119	565	0.000	0.000	9613	66.1
80T	268209.406	opt	0.515	4.992	539	0.000	0.000	9488	65.0
90L	226857.465	opt	0.368	6.693	518	0.000	0.000	10266	60.5
90T	277417.972	opt	0.424	6.619	522	0.000	0.000	10017	61.9
100L	235097.228	opt	1.205	8.381	561	0.000	0.000	10930	61.2
100T	305097.949	opt	0.155	7.946	505	0.000	0.000	9746	61.6
110L	218661.965	opt	0.557	9.695	517	0.000	0.000	10022	61.5
110T	223891.822	opt	1.103	10.731	539	0.000	0.000	10877	59.8
120L	222238.922	opt	0.885	12.609	524	0.000	0.000	10443	60.4
120T	229581.755	opt	2.343	15.077	564	0.000	0.000	12188	57.0
130L	-	223814.109	3.117	21.566	563	0.000	0.000	12198	56.9
130T	-	230865.451	2.789	22.765	552	0.000	0.000	12651	54.4
200L	-	230204.343	25.202	81.456	667	0.696	1.239	16374	51.2
200T	-	268787.633	28.688	93.926	701	0.000	0.000	18778	46.5

Table 1. GA results on AP instances with  $\chi=3,\,\alpha=0.75$  and  $\delta=2$ 

### **4 COMPUTATIONAL RESULTS**

In this section we present results of our GA, tested on a AMD Athlon K7/1.33 GHz with 256 MB of internal memory. The code was written in C programming language. The tests are based on standard ORLIB ([2]) data set AP (Australian Post) which is used for testing larger problems. It is obtained from Australian Post delivery system, containing up to 200 nodes representing post code districts. Smaller size AP instances are generated by aggregating basic AP data set. The distances between cities satisfy triangle inequality, but the traffic (flow) between ordered pair of origin-destination nodes is not symmetric. Fixed costs are included in AP data set, as in [9]. The coefficients  $\chi$ ,  $\delta$  and  $\alpha$  that correspond to flow collection, distribution and transportation between hubs take same values as in [7].

Inst.	$Opt_{sol}$	$GA_{best}$	t	$t_{tot}$	gen	$gap_{avg}$	$\sigma_{avg}$	eval	cache
			(sec)	(sec)		(%)	(%)		(%)
10L	221032.734	opt	0.003	0.113	503	0.000	0.000	664	97.4
10T	257558.086	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.001	0.114	501	0.000	0.000	709	97.2
20L	230385.454	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.007	0.206	504	0.000	0.000	2547	89.9
20T	266877.485	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.010	0.204	506	0.000	0.000	2585	89.8
25L	232406.746	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.015	0.313	505	0.000	0.000	3401	86.6
25T	292032.080	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.014	0.295	506	0.000	0.000	3483	86.3
40L	237114.749	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.065	0.833	517	0.000	0.000	5302	79.6
40T	293164.836	opt	0.017	0.792	501	0.000	0.000	5217	79.3
50L	233905.303	opt	0.072	1.434	510	0.000	0.000	6650	74.1
50T	296024.896	opt	0.072	1.339	512	0.000	0.000	6626	74.3
60L	225042.310	opt	0.075	2.149	506	0.000	0.000	7 2 4 8	71.5
60T	243416.450	opt	0.130	2.417	516	0.000	0.000	7568	70.8
70L	229874.500	opt	0.309	3.691	531	0.000	0.000	8 980	66.3
70T	249602.845	opt	0.152	3.629	513	0.000	0.000	8 100	68.6
80L	225166.922	opt	0.809	5.119	565	0.000	0.000	9613	66.1
80T	268209.406	opt	0.515	4.992	539	0.000	0.000	9488	65.0
90L	226857.465	opt	0.368	6.693	518	0.000	0.000	10266	60.5
90T	277417.972	opt	0.424	6.619	522	0.000	0.000	10017	61.9
100L	235097.228	opt	1.205	8.381	561	0.000	0.000	10930	61.2
100T	305097.949	opt	0.155	7.946	505	0.000	0.000	9746	61.6
110L	218661.965	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.557	9.695	517	0.000	0.000	10022	61.5
110T	223891.822	opt	1.103	10.731	539	0.000	0.000	10877	59.8
120L	222238.922	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.885	12.609	524	0.000	0.000	10443	60.4
120T	229581.755	$\operatorname{opt}$	2.343	15.077	564	0.000	0.000	12188	57.0
130L	-	223814.109	3.117	21.566	563	0.000	0.000	12198	56.9
130T	-	230865.451	2.789	22.765	552	0.000	0.000	12651	54.4
200L	-	230204.343	25.202	81.456	667	0.696	1.239	16374	51.2
200T	-	268787.633	28.688	93.926	701	0.000	0.000	18778	46.5

Table 2. GA results on AP instances with  $\chi = 3$ ,  $\alpha = 0.75$  and  $\delta = 2$ 

The columns in Tables 1–4 contain the following data (in the presented order):

- dimension of the current AP instance, with L denoting "loose" and T "tight" fixed cost;
- optimal solution  $(Opt_{sol})$ , if it is known in advance, otherwise "-" is written;
- the best GA solution  $(GA_{best})$ , with mark "opt" in cases when GA reaches optimum for the current instance;
- average time t (in seconds) needed to obtain the best GA value;
- average total time  $t_{tot}$  (in seconds) for finishing GA;
- average total number of generations;
- average percentage gap of GA solution with respect to  $Opt_{sol}$  or  $GA_{best}$ ;

Inst.	$Opt_{sol}$	$GA_{best}$	t	$t_{tot}$	gen	$gap_{avg}$	$\sigma_{avg}$	eval	cache
			(sec)	(sec)		(%)	(%)		(%)
10L	122038.940	opt	0.002	0.107	501	0.000	0.000	649	97.4
10T	127425.939	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.005	0.109	503	0.000	0.000	633	97.5
20L	125309.816	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.009	0.182	506	0.000	0.000	2465	90.3
20T	129079.794	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.004	0.182	501	0.000	0.000	2431	90.3
25L	126821.800	opt	0.012	0.254	506	0.000	0.000	3252	87.2
25T	143422.390	opt	0.016	0.254	509	0.000	0.000	3157	87.7
40L	124994.499	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.075	0.689	527	0.000	0.000	5097	80.8
40T	140962.910	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.017	0.674	501	0.000	0.000	4841	80.8
50L	120871.926	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.054	1.143	508	0.000	0.000	6155	75.9
50T	152294.536	opt	0.024	1.114	501	0.000	0.000	6021	76.1
60L	112991.944	opt	0.086	1.708	510	0.000	0.000	6 7 9 8	73.5
60T	124961.384	opt	0.092	2.076	511	0.000	0.000	7395	71.2
70L	114595.951	opt	0.238	2.702	527	0.000	0.000	7950	70.0
70T	134324.296	opt	0.168	3.162	516	0.000	0.000	8279	68.1
80L	116505.953	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.553	3.985	554	0.000	0.000	9225	66.9
80T	138970.736	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.300	4.295	523	0.000	0.000	9041	65.6
90L	115225.601	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.195	5.149	509	0.000	0.000	9465	63.0
90T	130558.600	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.428	5.958	526	0.000	0.000	10153	61.6
100L	123822.587	opt	0.714	7.028	540	0.000	0.000	10595	60.9
100T	143119.855	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.152	7.351	505	0.000	0.000	9826	61.3
110L	110192.705	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.989	8.662	544	0.000	0.000	10686	60.9
110T	114895.505	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.642	9.162	524	0.000	0.000	10511	60.1
120L	111758.347	$\operatorname{opt}$	2.845	12.624	620	0.000	0.000	12749	59.0
120T	118376.769	$\operatorname{opt}$	1.011	11.567	531	0.000	0.000	11425	57.2
130L	-	115286.957	1.863	18.069	543	0.000	0.000	11938	56.3
130T	-	119538.946	0.688	17.641	511	0.000	0.000	11525	55.1
200L	-	120377.895	15.616	69.237	625	0.000	0.000	15578	50.4
200T	-	133716.442	9.944	67.294	573	0.000	0.000	14964	48.0

Table 3. GA results on AP instances with  $\chi = 1$ ,  $\alpha = 0.1$  and  $\delta = 1$ 

- standard deviation  $\sigma$  of the average gap;
- average number of objective function evaluation (*eval*);
- average percentage of savings (cache) obtained by using the caching technique.

On each AP instance GA was run 20 times. The maximal number of generations is set to  $N_{gen} = 1\,000$  in this GA implementation. The repetition of best objective function value is limited to constant  $N_{rep} = 500$ .

As can be seen from Tables 1–4, the proposed GA quickly reaches all known optimal solutions ( $n \leq 120$ ) in  $t \leq 3.5$  seconds. For other large-scale instances, for which the optimum is not known, GA obtains solutions in  $t \leq 28.7$  seconds. The GA concept cannot prove optimality and adequate finishing criterion that will fine-tune the solution quality does not exist. Therefore, as column  $t_{tot}$  in Tables 1–4 shows,

Inst.	$Opt_{sol}$	$GA_{best}$	t	$t_{tot}$	gen	$gap_{avg}$	$\sigma_{avg}$	eval	cache
			(sec)	(sec)		(%)	(%)		(%)
10L	125591.591	opt	0.003	0.107	501	0.000	0.000	628	97.5
10T	127425.939	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.002	0.106	503	0.000	0.000	624	97.5
20L	126058.465	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.004	0.176	501	0.000	0.000	2307	90.8
20T	129079.794	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.005	0.184	501	0.000	0.000	2379	90.6
25L	126900.890	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.020	0.247	514	0.000	0.000	2958	88.6
25T	143422.390	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.016	0.261	509	0.000	0.000	3132	87.8
40L	125199.814	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.015	0.630	501	0.000	0.000	4522	82.1
40T	140962.910	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.016	0.686	501	0.000	0.000	4781	81.0
50L	124917.187	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.024	1.108	501	0.000	0.000	5851	76.8
50T	152294.536	opt	0.025	1.132	501	0.000	0.000	5943	76.4
60L	116799.121	opt	0.073	1.623	507	0.000	0.000	6 3 3 0	75.2
60T	124961.384	opt	0.090	2.124	510	0.000	0.000	7368	71.3
70L	120503.243	opt	0.340	2.742	543	0.000	0.000	7995	70.7
70T	135016.621	opt	0.138	3.148	512	0.000	0.000	8085	68.6
80L	119405.594	opt	0.100	3.623	504	0.000	0.000	8290	67.3
80T	138970.736	opt	0.249	4.374	518	0.000	0.000	8 989	65.5
90L	118611.695	opt	0.554	5.270	539	0.000	0.000	9579	64.7
90T	130558.600	opt	0.410	6.035	524	0.000	0.000	10061	61.8
100L	125484.484	opt	0.888	6.890	554	0.005	0.023	10448	62.4
100T	143119.855	opt	0.161	7.485	505	0.000	0.000	9795	61.4
110L	116255.117	opt	0.906	8.330	541	0.000	0.000	10338	62.0
110T	121484.974	$\operatorname{opt}$	1.252	9.516	553	0.000	0.000	11092	60.1
120L	118048.051	$\operatorname{opt}$	3.500	12.866	651	0.000	0.000	12985	60.3
120T	122850.043	$\operatorname{opt}$	1.274	11.522	541	0.000	0.000	11377	58.2
130L	-	120773.444	0.922	16.714	519	0.000	0.000	11094	57.5
130T	-	126138.979	0.561	17.268	508	0.000	0.000	11269	55.9
200L	-	122401.965	13.764	65.355	614	0.201	0.412	14873	51.7
200T	-	133772.797	0.637	58.482	501	0.000	0.000	12889	48.9

Table 4. GA results on AP instances with  $\chi = 1$ ,  $\alpha = 0.5$  and  $\delta = 1$ 

our algorithm runs through additional  $t_{tot} - t$  time (until the finishing criterion is satisfied), although it already reached the optimal solution.

The proposed GA approach cannot verify optimality of obtained solutions, but represents significant contribution to existing methods for solving UMAHLP, because it is able to solve large-scale instances unsolved before.

Inst.	$Opt_{sol}$	$GA_{best}$	t	$t_{tot}$	gen	$gap_{avg}$	$\sigma_{avg}$	eval	cache
			(sec)	(sec)		(%)	(%)		(%)
10L	125591.591	opt	0.001	0.105	501	0.000	0.000	621	97.5
10T	127425.939	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.001	0.108	503	0.000	0.000	625	97.5
20L	126058.465	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.003	0.179	501	0.000	0.000	2300	90.9
20T	129079.794	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.004	0.184	501	0.000	0.000	2325	90.8
25L	126900.890	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.021	0.252	513	0.000	0.000	2942	88.6
25T	143422.390	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.017	0.266	508	0.000	0.000	3115	87.8
40L	125199.814	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.018	0.642	501	0.000	0.000	4455	82.3
40T	140962.910	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.018	0.704	501	0.000	0.000	4767	81.1
50L	124917.187	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.023	1.134	501	0.000	0.000	5820	76.9
50T	152294.536	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.025	1.154	501	0.000	0.000	5891	76.6
60L	116799.121	opt	0.088	1.645	510	0.000	0.000	6251	75.6
60T	124961.384	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.090	2.178	509	0.000	0.000	7313	71.5
70L	121858.663	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.236	2.683	527	0.000	0.000	7657	71.1
70T	135016.621	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.194	3.295	518	0.000	0.000	8216	68.5
80L	119405.594	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.101	3.710	504	0.000	0.000	8303	67.2
80T	138970.736	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.280	4.540	520	0.000	0.000	9028	65.5
90L	118611.695	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.520	5.245	536	0.000	0.000	9369	65.2
90T	130558.600	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.323	6.085	517	0.000	0.000	9887	62.0
100L	125484.484	opt	1.025	7.044	563	0.000	0.000	10519	62.8
100T	143119.855	opt	0.186	7.701	506	0.000	0.000	9850	61.3
110L	119007.810	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.864	8.363	538	0.000	0.000	10221	62.2
110T	122257.504	$\operatorname{opt}$	0.309	8.712	509	0.000	0.000	10188	60.2
120L	119561.474	$\operatorname{opt}$	2.130	11.762	588	0.000	0.000	11699	60.4
120T	122850.043	$\operatorname{opt}$	1.188	11.610	537	0.000	0.000	11243	58.4
130L	-	120773.444	0.907	16.659	519	0.000	0.000	10980	57.9
130T	-	126138.979	0.642	17.569	510	0.000	0.000	11290	55.9
200L	-	122401.965	20.330	71.403	675	0.050	0.225	16167	52.2
200T	-	133772.797	0.647	59.471	501	0.000	0.000	12896	48.8

Table 5. GA results on AP instances with  $\chi=1,\,\alpha=0.9$  and  $\delta=1$ 

## **5** CONCLUSIONS

An efficient evolutionary meta-heuristic for solving UMAHLP is presented. Binary representation, mutation with frozen genes, limited number of different individuals with same objective value and caching technique were used. The proposed GA quickly obtains solutions that match optimal ones known in literature. It is also able to solve practical size problems that were out of reach for exact methods.

Further research should be directed to parallelization of genetic algorithm and implementation to multiprocessor systems and applying presented approach to similar hub and other location problems.

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**Jozef KRATICA** received his B. Sc. degrees in mathematics (1988) and computer science (1988), M. Sc. in mathematics (1994) and Ph. D. in computer science (2000) from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mathematics. In 2002 he joined the Mathematical Institute as a researcher. As a delegation leader he participated on the International Olympiads in Informatics (IOI '90 Minsk – Belarus, IOI '93 Mendoza – Argentina). His research interests include genetic algorithms (evolutionary computation), parallel and distributed computing and location problems.



**Zorica STANIMIROVIĆ** received her B. Sc. degree in mathematics (2000) from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mathematics. In 2001 she received a graduate students' award from Serbian Ministry of Science. Since 2000 she is a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Mathematics. In 2004 she received her M. Sc. degree in mathematics. Her M. Sc. thesis is concerning hub and other facility location problems. Her research interests also include genetic algorithms, hub and other location problems and combinatorial optimization.



**Dušan Tošić** received his B. Sc. degree in mathematics (1972), M. Sc. in mathematics (1977) and Ph. D. in mathematics (1984) from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mathematics. Since 1985 he has been professor of computer science at the Faculty of Mathematics His research interests include parallel algorithms, optimization and evolutionary computation, numerical solving of differential equations and teaching computer science.



Vladimir FILIPOVIĆ received his B.Sc. degree in computer science (1993) and M.Sc. in computer science (1998) from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mathematics. Since 1994 he has been a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Mathematics. His research interests include genetic algorithms, parallel algorithms and operational research.