

A Branch-and-Price Approach to the Feeder Network Design Problem - DTU Orbit (09/11/2017)

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In this paper we consider the problem of designing a container liner shipping feeder network. The designer has to choose which port to serve during many rotations that start and end at a central hub. Many operational characteristics are considered, such as variable leg-by-leg speeds and cargo transit times. Realistic instances are generated from the LinerLib benchmark suite. The problem is solved with a branch-and-price algorithm, which can solve most instances to optimality within one hour. The results also provide insights on the cost structure and desirable features of optimal routes. These insights were obtained by means of an analysis where scenarios are generated varying internal and external conditions, such as fuel costs and port demands.

General information

State: Published

Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Management Science, Operations Research, Transport DTU, RWTH Aachen University, Maersk Line

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Pages: 607–622

Publication date: 2017

Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences

Publication information

Journal: European Journal of Operational Research

Volume: 264

ISSN (Print): 0377-2217

Ratings:

BFI (2017): BFI-level 1

Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes

BFI (2016): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 3.83 SJR 2.505 SNIP 2.339

Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes

BFI (2015): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2015): SJR 2.334 SNIP 2.412 CiteScore 3.59

Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes

BFI (2014): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2014): SJR 2.186 SNIP 2.485 CiteScore 3.21

Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes

BFI (2013): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2013): SJR 2.346 SNIP 2.735 CiteScore 3.25

ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes

BFI (2012): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2012): SJR 2.418 SNIP 2.588 CiteScore 3.01

ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes

BFI (2011): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2011): SJR 2.401 SNIP 2.441 CiteScore 3.02

ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed yes

Web of Science (2011): Indexed yes

BFI (2010): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2010): SJR 2.477 SNIP 2.435

Web of Science (2010): Indexed yes

BFI (2009): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2009): SJR 2.326 SNIP 2.577

Web of Science (2009): Indexed yes

BFI (2008): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2008): SJR 1.739 SNIP 1.984

Web of Science (2008): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2007): SJR 1.679 SNIP 2.041

Web of Science (2007): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2006): SJR 1.299 SNIP 2.023

Web of Science (2006): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2005): SJR 1.194 SNIP 1.913

Scopus rating (2004): SJR 1.24 SNIP 1.882

Web of Science (2004): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2003): SJR 0.991 SNIP 1.507

Scopus rating (2002): SJR 0.97 SNIP 1.279

Scopus rating (2001): SJR 1.078 SNIP 1.183

Web of Science (2001): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2000): SJR 1.046 SNIP 1.135

Web of Science (2000): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (1999): SJR 1.104 SNIP 1.059

Original language: English

DOIs:

[10.1016/j.ejor.2017.06.063](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejor.2017.06.063)

Publication: Research - peer-review › Journal article – Annual report year: 2017