SOLVING THE COURSE SCHEDULING PROBLEM BY CONSTRAINT PROGRAMMING AND SIMULATED ANNEALING

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ABSTRACT

SOLVING THE COURSE SCHEDULING PROBLEM BY CONSTRAINT PROGRAMMING AND SIMULATED ANNEALING

In this study it has been tackled the NP-complete problem of academic class scheduling (or timetabling). The aim of this thesis is finding a feasible solution for Computer Engineering Department of İzmir Institute of Technology. Hence, a solution method for course timetabling is presented in this thesis, consisting of two phases: a constraint programming phase to provide an initial solution and a simulated annealing phase with different neighbourhood searching algorithms. When the experimental data are obtained it is noticed that according to problem structure, whether the problem is tightened or loosen constrained, the performance of a hybrid approach can change. These different behaviours of the approach are demonstrated by two different timetabling problem instances. In addition to all these, the neighbourhood searching algorithms used in the simulated annealing technique are tested in different combinations and their performances are presented.

ÖZET

KISITLI PROGRAMLAMA VE BENZETİMLİ TAVLAMA YÖNTEMLERİ İLE DERS PROGRAMI PLANLAMA PROBLEMİNİN ÇÖZÜLMESİ

Bu çalışmada, NP-tam problem sınıfında olan akademik sınıf programı hazırlama konusu ele alınmıştır. Çalışmanın amacı İzmir Yüksek Teknoloji Enstitüsü Bilgisayar Mühendisliği Bölümü'nün ders programı hazırlama konusundaki sorununa bir çözüm bulmaktır. Bu amaç doğrultusunda ele alınan problem için iki aşamalı çözüm yöntemi kullanılmıştır. İlk kısımda, kısıtlı programlama tekniği ile ikinci kısımda iyileştirilmek üzere kullanılacak bir ders programı hazırlanmaktadır. İkinci kısımda ise birinci kısımda elde edilen çözüm, benzetimli tavlama yöntemi ile değişik komşu arama algoritmalarıyla birlikte iyileştirilmektedir. Çalışmanın sonucunda elde edilen deneysel verilerin, uygulanan yöntemin farklı zorluktaki problem yapılarında farklı performanslar sergilediği gözlenmiştir. Bu sonuçlar iki farklı ders programı hazırlama problemleri ele alınarak gösterilmiştir. Bütün bunlara ek olarak benzetimli tavlama yönteminde kullanılan komşu arama yöntemleri için değişik algoritmalar denenip etkinlikleri incelenmiştir.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The University Course Timetabling Problem (UCTP) is a common problem that almost every university has to solve. The basic definition states that UCTP is a task of assigning the events of a university (lectures, activities, etc) to classrooms and timeslots in such a way as to minimize the violations of a predefined set of constraints. In other words, no teacher, no class or no room should appear more than once in any one time period.

There are also other timetabling problems described in the literature such as examination timetabling, school timetabling, employee timetabling, and others. All these problems share similar characteristics and they are similarly difficult to solve. The general university course timetabling problem is known to be NP-complete, as many of the subproblems are associated with additional constraints.

Timetabling problem has been worked on over the years, so that many different solutions have been proposed. Exact and heuristic solution approaches for the school and university timetabling problem have been proposed since the 1960s by several authors, for instance; Almond (1966), Brittan and Farley (1972), Vitanyi (1981), Tripath (1984), de Werra (1985), Abramson (1991), Hertz (1992), Burke et al. (1994), Costa (1994), Jaffar and Maher (1994), Gunadhi et al. (1996), Guéret et al. (1996), Lajos (1996), Deris et al. (1997), Terashima-Marin (1998), Schaerf (1999), Brailsford et al. (1999), Abdennadeher and Marte (2000).

1.1. Thesis Aim and Objectives

In this thesis, it is investigated the solution of the timetabling problem of İzmir Institute of Technology (İYTE) Computer Engineering Department by a hybrid algorithm which is consisted of two solution techniques, namely; the Constraint Satisfaction Programming (CSP) and Simulated Annealing (SA). The objectives of this thesis are:

- To find a solution for timetabling problem of Computer Engineering Department of İYTE.
- To study the feasibility of solving the timetabling problem using a hybrid approach in which CSP and SA algorithms are used.
- To investigate the performances of CSP and SA optimisation approaches in the university timetabling problem.

1.2. Organization of Thesis

The organization of this thesis is as below:

- Chapter 2 presents a general university timetabling problem definition. The problem is defined in a formal format and the solving techniques is explained generally which are used up to now.
- Chapter 3 presents the constraint satisfaction programming. It provides CSP solving techniques such as consistency techniques, searching algorithms and value and variable orderings. It is also argued about the CSP algorithms which suit more to UCTP.
- Chapter 4 presents the Simulated Annealing. Mathematical model of SA is defined. Different SA techniques are discussed.
- Chapter 5 defines the timetabling problem of İYTE Computer Engineering Department. Also it represents the algorithms that are used in the timetabling problem of İYTE Computer Engineering Department. Formerly, the CSP algorithms used in our problem is defined with their reasons. Afterwards, the SA technique used in the same problem is explained.
- Chapter 6 is the conclusion. This chapter represents the experimental results with the advantages and disadvantages of hybrid algorithms. The comparison is done between the Constraint Programming and the Simulated Annealing. More suitable algorithm is explained according to the characteristics of the problem. (i.e. more tightened problems or more loosen problems.)

CHAPTER 2

TIMETABLING

Timetabling is a real life scheduling task. There can be different kinds of timetable models such as, educational, transport, sport, or employee timetabling. Timetabling determines what time and place each course/exam will be given; when train/bus/aeroplane will depart/arrive and from which station/airport; what time, date, and place each match will be played; or designs each employee's work timetable. Anthony Wren (1996) defines timetabling as a special case of scheduling:

Timetabling is the allocation, subject to constraints, of given resources to objects being placed in space-time, in such a way as to satisfy as nearly as possible a set of desirable objectives.

Timetabling has long been known to belong to the class of problems called NP-complete, i.e., no method of solving it in a reasonable (polynomial) amount of time is known (Cooper, et al. 1996).

2.1. Educational Timetabling

Educational timetabling has different models due to different use of educational areas. Each model has its own characteristics. The most known models are listed as below (Schaerf 1999):

- School Timetabling: The week scheduling for all the classes of an elementary or a high school, avoiding teacher meeting two classes in the same time, and vice versa;
- Exam Timetabling: The scheduling for the exams of a set of university courses, avoiding overlapping exams of courses having common students, and spreading the exams for the students as much as possible.
- Course Timetabling: The week scheduling for all the lectures of a set of university courses, minimizing the overlaps of lectures of courses having common students;

The school timetabling describes when each class has a particular lesson and in which room it is to be held. The actual content of the timetable is largely driven by the curriculum; the number of hours of each subject taught per week is often set nationally. Each class consists of a set of students, who must be occupied from the time they arrive until the time they leave school, and a specific teacher being responsible for the class in any one period.

Teachers are usually allocated in advance of the timetabling process, so the problem is to match up meetings of teachers with classes to particular time slots so that each particular teacher meets every class he or she is required to. Obviously each class or teacher may not be involved in more than one meeting at a time.

The examination timetabling problem requires the teaching of a given number of exams (usually one for each course) within a given amount of time. The examination timetabling is similar to the course timetabling, and it is difficult to make a clear distinction between the two problems. In fact, some specific problems can be formulated both as an examination timetabling problem and a course timetabling one. Nevertheless, it is possible to state some broadly-accepted differences between the two problems. Examination timetabling has the following characteristics (different from course timetabling problem) (Schaerf 1999):

- There is only one exam for each subject.
- The conflicts condition is generally strict. In fact, the student is forced to skip a lecture due to overlapping, but not that a student skips an exam.
- There are different types of constraints, e.g., at most one exam per day for each student, and not too many consecutive exams for each student.
- The number of periods may vary, in contrast to course timetabling where it is fixed.
- There can be more than one exam per room.

The (university) course timetabling problem consists in scheduling a set of lectures for each course within a given number of rooms and time periods. It differs from the (high) school problem in some cases. For instance, university courses can have common students, whereas school classes are disjoint sets of students. If two classes have common students then they conflict, and they cannot or should not be scheduled at the same period.

Moreover, in (high) schools the teachers are particular, whereas university teachers can have different level of classes. In addition, in the university problem, availability of rooms (and their size and equipment) plays an important role. On the other hand, in the high school problem they are often neglected because, in most cases, it can be assumed that each class has its own room.

The intention of this thesis is to study course timetabling with special emphasis to just one university department-based timetabling as a classical application area where various types of preferences need to be involved to obtain some acceptable solution. The detailed problem description is in the below Section 2.2.

2.2. Problem Description

Course timetabling problem is the assignment of the slots to a set of different constraints. These constraints are usually divided into two categories, such as; hard constraints and soft constraints (Burke, et al. 1997).

Hard constraints must be satisfied by the solution of the timetable. They physically can not be violated. These can be listed as below:

- Each lecturer can take only one class at a time.
- Allocation of classroom can only have one subject assigned to it at a time.
- Clashes should not occur between the subjects for students of one group.

Soft constraints are those that are desirable but not absolutely indispensable. In real world situations it is usually impossible to satisfy all constraints. Some possible examples of soft constraints are:

- **Time assignment:** A course may need to be assigned in a particular time period.
- **Time constraints between events:** One course may need to be arranged before/after the other.
- **Spreading events out in time:** Students should not have lectures of the same course in consecutive periods or on the same day.

- **Coherence:** Lecturers may demand to have all their lectures in a number of days and to have a number of lecture free days. These constraints can conflict with the constraints on spreading events out in time.
- **Resource assignment:** Lecturers may prefer to teach in a particular room or it may be the case that a particular lecture must be scheduled in a certain room.
- **Continuity:** Any constraints whose main purpose is to ensure that certain features of student timetables are constant or predictable. For instance, lectures for the same course should be scheduled in the same room, or at the same day.

Course timetabling problem can be viewed as a multidimensional assignment problem in which students and teachers are assigned to courses, classes, and those meetings between teachers and students are assigned to classrooms and times. In the below, these particular components are described:

- Course is taught one or more times a week during part of a year. Sometimes, courses can split to multiple course sections due to the large number of students subscribed to a course.
- Teacher is assigned to each course or course section.
- Classroom of suitable size, equipment (laboratory, computer room, classroom with data projector, etc.), and location (part of building, building, campus, etc.) has to be assigned to each course or course section.
- Student attends a set of courses. The selection of a student is usually predefined by subscription either in a class taking an identical set of courses (usually at high schools) or in some program containing compulsory and optional courses (universities). In some universities, students are also allowed to subscribe almost any arbitrary selection of courses within course pre-enrolment process.

Let's formalize the course timetabling problem definition. Schaerf (1999) and Werra (1985) define the problem as the following:

There are q courses K_1, K_2, …K_q, and for each i, course K_i consists of k_i lectures. There are r *curricula* S_1, S_2,…S_r, which are groups of courses that have common students. This means that courses in S_l must be scheduled all at different times. The number of

periods is p, and l_k is the maximum number of lectures that can be scheduled at period k (i.e., the number of rooms available at period k). The formulation is at the below:

Find y_{ik} $(\forall\ i = 1,\ldots q;\ \forall\ k = 1,\ldots p)$, so that;

- $\forall\ i = 1,\ldots q\ \Sigma\ \{\ y_{ik}\ |\ k = 1,\ldots p\} = k_i$
- $\forall\ k = 1,\ldots p\ \Sigma\ \{\ y_{ik}\ |\ i = 1,\ldots q\} \leq l_k$
- $\forall\ k = 1,\ldots p\ \forall\ l = 1,\ldots r\ \Sigma\ \{\ y_{ik}\ |\ i \in S_l\} \leq 1$
- $\forall\ i = 1,\ldots q\ \forall\ k = 1,\ldots p\ y_{ik} \in \{0,1\}$

where $y_{ik} = 1$ if a lecture of course K_i is scheduled at period k, and $y_{ik} = 0$ otherwise.

The first constraint requires that each course is composed of the correct number of lectures. The second constraint enforces that at each time there are not more lectures than rooms. The third constraint prevents conflicting lectures to be scheduled at the same period.

Problem from that defined formally at above can be shown to be NP-complete through a simple reduction from the graph colouring problem (Werra 1985).

The equivalent formulation of this definition based on the *conflict matrix* instead of on the curricula. The conflict matrix $C_{q \times q}$ is a binary matrix such that $c_{ij} = 1$ if courses K_i and K_j have common students, and $c_{ij} = 0$ otherwise.

Schaerf (1999) and Werra (1985) define the course timetabling problem by including the following objective function:

$$f(y) = \sum \{d_{ik}\, y_{ik}\, | i = 1,\ldots,q; k = 1,\ldots, p\}, \tag{2.1}$$

where d_{ik} is the desirability of having a lecture of course K_i at period k.

The conflict matrix $C_{q'q}$ is considered with integer values by Tripathy (1992), such that c_{ij} represents the number of students taking both courses K_i and K_j. In this way c_{ij} represents also a measure of dissatisfaction in case a lecture of K_i and a lecture of K_j are scheduled at the same time. The objective is measured by the global dissatisfaction obtained as the sum of all dissatisfactions of the above type.

Preassignments and unavailabilities can be expressed by adding a set of constraints of the following form:

$$\forall i = 1,\ldots,q \quad \text{and} \quad \forall k = 1,\ldots, p, \quad p_{ik} \leq y_i \leq a_{ik}, \tag{2.2}$$

where $p_{ik} = 0$ if there is no preassignment, and $p_{ik} = 1$ if a lecture of course K_i is scheduled at period k;

- $a_{ik} = 0$ if a lecture of course K_i cannot be scheduled at period k,
- $a_{ik} = 1$ if a lecture of course K_i can be scheduled at period k.

De Werra (1985) shows how to reduce a course timetabling problem to graph colouring: Associate to each lecture l_i of each course K_j a vertex m_{ij}; for each course K_j introduce a clique between vertices m_{ij} (for $i = 1,…q$). Introduce all edges between the clique for K_{j1} and the clique K_{j2} whenever K_{j1} and K_{j2} are conflicting.

If unavailability occurs, introduce a set of p new vertices, each one corresponding to a period. The new generated vertices are all connected each other. This ensures that each one is assigned to a different colour. If a course cannot have lectures at a given period, then all the vertices corresponding to the lectures of the course are connected to a vertex corresponding to the given period. On the other hand, if a lecture should take place at a given time, then the vertex corresponding to that class is connected to all period vertices but the one representing the given period.

2.3. Problem Solving

In the beginning years of timetabling research, direct heuristic methods were applied to timetabling problems. It is focused on ordering the most urgent variables. To this problem, look-ahead techniques (variable and value ordering heuristics) are used which include analysis of time and object constraints. Simple, problem specific heuristic methods can produce desirable timetables, but the size and complexity of university timetabling problems has started a trend towards more general problem solving algorithms.

In recent years, using meta heuristic methods is proved to give better results, such as simulated annealing, tabu search techniques. Constraint Logic Programming is also a popular approach.

The solution approaches for timetabling problems are categorized in the following parts.

2.3.1. Operations Research

It ranges from mathematical programming to heuristics, such as graph colouring and network flow techniques. The graph colouring problem is the most known and a well research method.

Briefly defined, graph colouring problem is to colour the vertices of a graph $G = \{V, E\}$, where $V = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_n\}$ is the set of vertices, and E is the set of edges that connects the vertices to find a colouring $C : V \longrightarrow N$ such that connected vertices always have different colours. Finding the minimum number of K, such that a feasible K colouring exists, is the optimal solution.

To implement this method to the timetabling problems, a simple form can be generated, where each node represents a task, each colour represents a timeslot, and each edge (v_i, v_j) indicates that v_i and v_j should not be placed within the same timeslot.

The graph colouring method gives good results in small scale problems. However, in big scale problems, this method fails. Hence the real timetabling problem is a large scale problem; more effective methods should be used.

2.3.2. Human Machine Interaction

It finds an initial feasible solution; subsequently it improves this initial solution manually. This process iterates until the user satisfy with the result or no further improvement can be obtained. Mulvey (1992) proposes "approximation, evaluation and modification" model for Human Machine Interaction.

The major drawback of this method is its computationally expensiveness for large problems (Gunadhi, et al. 1996).

2.3.3. Artificial Intelligence

It uses various meta-heuristic methods, for instance, simulated annealing (Abramson 1991a), tabu search (Hertz 1992, Costa 1994), genetic algorithms (Abramson and Abela 1991b, Burke, et al. 1994, Terashima and Marin 1998), constraint satisfaction problem (Brittan and Farlet 1971, Jaffar and Maher 1994, Gueret, et al. 1996, Lajos 1996, Deris, et al. 1997, Abdennadher, et al. 2000) that have been used to solve various educational timetabling problems.

2.3.3.1. Genetic Algorithms

The logic beneath the Genetic Algorithms is the principles of evolutionary biology, such as inheritance, mutation and natural selection. Genetic Algorithms mimic the process of natural selection and can be used as technique for solving complex optimization problems, which have very large search spaces.

The definition is taken from (Burke, et al. 1994): A genetic algorithm is starts by generating a set (population) of timetables randomly. These are then evaluated according to some sort of criteria. On the basis of this evaluation population members (timetables) are chosen as parents for the next generation of timetables. By weighting the selection process in favour of the better timetables, the worse are eliminated while at the same time the search is directed towards the most promising areas of the search space.

2.3.3.2. Tabu Search

In global optimization problems based on multi level memory managment and response exploration, tabu search can be applied. Glover (1986) described Tabu Search as "a meta heuristic superimposed on another heuristic method". This method is applied to timetabling problems by Hertz (1992) and Costa (1994). Unfortunately, the tabu search is not a very suitable technique for a big timetabling problem space.

2.3.3.3. Simulated Annealing

The detailed description of Simulated Annealing is mentioned in Chapter 4.

It is hard to compare these mentioned methods at above, because the problem can response differently to different solution techniques. According to the problem characteristics, most appropriate method should be selected. Due to timetabling problem is NP complete problem, the running time grows exponentially as the problems size grows, so it causes a considerable computational costs.

This thesis is concerned with the implementation of meta heuristics techniques including constraint satisfaction problem (CSP) and simulated annealing (SA) techniques. These methods are detailed defined in following chapters.

CHAPTER 3

CONSTRAINT SATISFACTION PROBLEM

3.1. Historical Perspective

Constraint Satisfaction originated in the field of artificial intelligence in the 1970s. During the 1980s and 1990s, constraints were embedded into a programming language. Prolog and C++ are the most used languages for constraint programming.

The CSP was first formalized in line labelling in vision research. Huffman (1971), Clowes (1971), Waltz (1975) and Mackworth (1992) define CSPs with finite domains as finite constraint satisfaction problems, and gives a shape to CSP problems. Haralick (1979) and Shapiro (1980) discuss different views of the CSP from problem formalization, applications to algorithms. Meseguer (1989) and Kumar (1992) both give concise and comprehensive overviews to CSP solving. Guesgen and Hertzberg (1992) introduce the concept of dynamic constraints that are themselves subject to constraints. This idea is very useful in spatial reasoning.

Mittal and Falkenhainer (1990) extend the standard CSP to dynamic CSPs (CSPs in which constraints can be added and relaxed), and proposed the use of assumption based TMS (ATMS) to solve them (de Kleer 1986, de Kleer 1989). Definitions on graphs and networks are mainly done by Carré (1979). CSP was first applied to university timetabling problems (Brittan and Farley 1971).

3.2. Definition of the Constraint Satisfaction Problem

Constraint Satisfaction Problems (CSPs) appear in many parts of the real life, for example, vision, resource allocation in scheduling and temporal reasoning. The CSP is a popular research topic because it is a general problem that has unique features which can be accomplished to arrive at solutions.

Fundamentally, a CSP is a problem composed of a finite set of **variables**, each of which is associated with a finite **domain**, and a set of **constraints** that restricts the values the variables can simultaneously take. The task is to assign a value to each variable satisfying all the constraints (Tsang 1993).

Formally speaking, definition of the CSP taken from Tseng's description is as the following:

A constraint satisfaction problem is a triple *(Z, D, C)* where Z is a finite set of variables $\{x_1, x_2, ..., x_n\}$, D is a function which maps every variable in Z to a set of objects of arbitrary type, D: Z is finite set of objects (of any type). D_{xi} is taken as the set of objects mapped from x_i by D. These objects are called possible values of x_i and the set D_{xi} the domain of x_i. C is a finite (possibly empty) set of constraints on an arbitrary subset of variables in Z. In other words, C is a set of sets of compound labels. CSP (P) is used for the symbolization that P is a constraint satisfaction problem.

Each constraint C_i involves some subset of the variables and specifies the allowable combinations of values for that subset. A state of the problem is defined by an assignment of values to some or all of the variables, $\{x_i = v_i; x_j = v_j,...\}$. An assignment that does not violate any constraints is called a consistent or legal assignment. A complete assignment is one in which every variable is mentioned, and a solution to a CSP is a complete assignment that satisfies all the constraints.

Practically, for many constraint satisfaction problems it is hard or even impossible to find a solution that assigns all the variables without any violation of the constraints of the problem. For example, for over constrained problems, there does not exist any complete solution satisfying all the constraints. Therefore other definitions of problem solution like Partial Constraint Satisfaction were introduced by Freuder et al. (1992). Before mentioning specific solution approaches for over constrained problems, it is worthy to introduce the general solution techniques for constraint satisfaction problems.

3.3. Problem Solving Methods

It is helpful to visualize a CSP as a constraint graph, as shown in Figure 3.2 (Chan 2008). The nodes of the graph correspond to variables of the problem and the arcs correspond to constraints.

Figure 3.1. The principal states and territories of Australia (Source: Chan 2008)
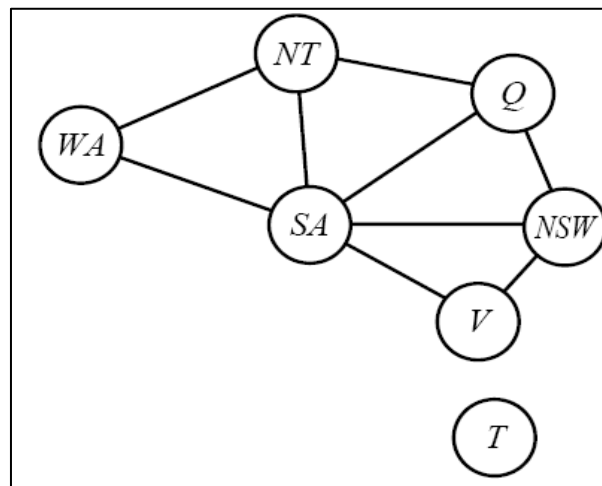
Figure 3.2. The map coloring problem represented as a constraint graph (Source: Chan 2008)

In Figure 3.1 colouring the map can be viewed as a constraint satisfaction problem. The aim is to assign colours to each region so that no neighbouring regions have the same colour.

The goal of the problem is to find Romania at the map of Australia, shown in Figure 3.1. The task is colouring each region red, green, or blue in such a way that no neighbouring regions have the same colour. To formulate this as a CSP, the variables are defined to be the regions: WA, NT, Q, NSW, V, SA, and T. The domain of each variable is the set {red, green, blue}. The constraints require neighbouring regions to have distinct colours; for example, the allowable combinations for WA and NT are the pairs,

{(red, green), (red, blue), (green, red), (green, blue), (blue, red), (blue, green)}.

The constraint can also be represented more concisely as the inequality WA≠NT, provided the constraint satisfaction algorithm has some way to evaluate such expressions. There are many possible solutions, such as,

{WA=red, NT =green, Q=red, NSW =green, V =red, SA=blue, T =red}.

3.3.1. Consistency Techniques

In constraint satisfaction problems there are specific methods related with variables, their domains and the constraints. To understand these relations some special notation should be known. At the below there are some definitions to make easier to understand the solving approaches for CSPs (Tsang 1993).

Definition 3.1: A **label** is a variable-value pair that represents the assignment of the value to the variable. $<x, v>$ is used for denoting the label of assigning the value v to the variable x. $<x, v>$ is only meaningful if v is in the domain of x (i.e. v D_x).

Definition 3.2: A **compound label** is the simultaneous assignment of values to a (possibly empty) set of variables. $(<x_1,v_1><x_2, v_2>...<x_n, v_n>)$ is used for denoting the compound label of assigning v_1, v_2, ..., v_n to x_1, x_2, ..., x_n respectively. A **k-compound label** is a compound label which assigns k values to k variables simultaneously.

There are 3 kinds of consistency techniques. These are:

- **Node Consistency:**

A CSP is node-consistent (NC) if and only if for all variables all values in its domain satisfy the constraints on that variable.

- **Arc Consistency:**

An arc (x, y) in the constraint graph of a CSP (Z, D, C) is arc-consistent (AC) if and only if for every value a in the domain of x which satisfies the constraint on x, there exists a value in the domain of y which is compatible with $<x, a>$.

- **Path Consistency:**

A path $(x_0, x_1,..., x_m)$ in the constraint graph for a CSP is path-consistent (PC) if and only if for any 2-compound label $(<x_0, v_0> <x_m, v_m>)$ that satisfies all the constraints on x_0 and x_m there exists a label for each of the variables x_1 to x_{m-1} such that every binary constraint on the adjacent variables in the path is satisfied.

Let's go back to the sample problem of which constraint graph is shown in Figure 3.2 and see how to apply consistency techniques.
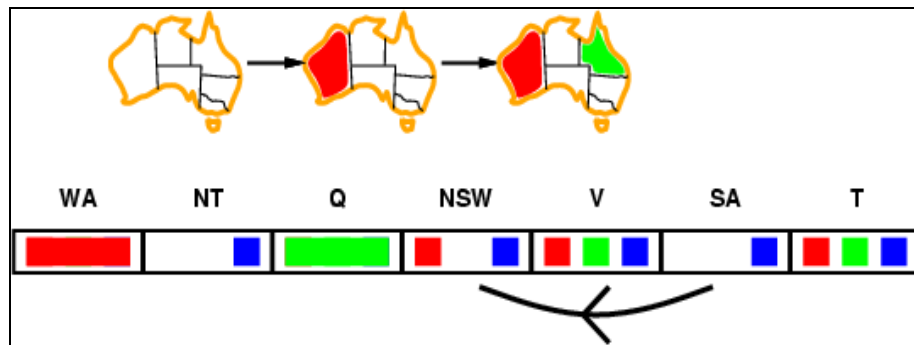
Figure 3.3. Constraint Propagation arc consistency on the graph (Source: Chan 2008)
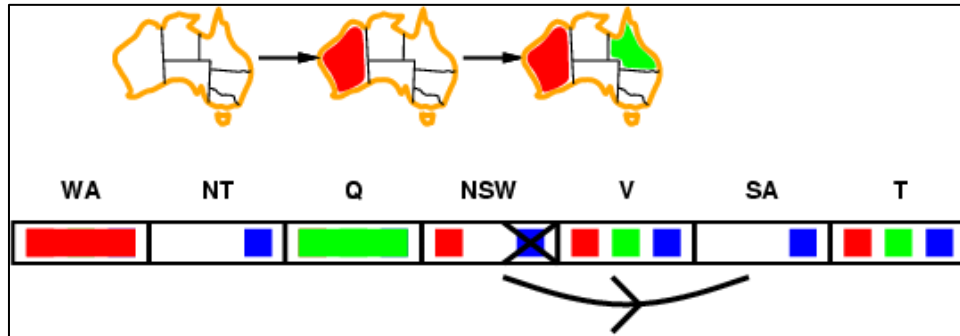
Figure 3.4. Inconsistent Arc (Source: Chan 2008)
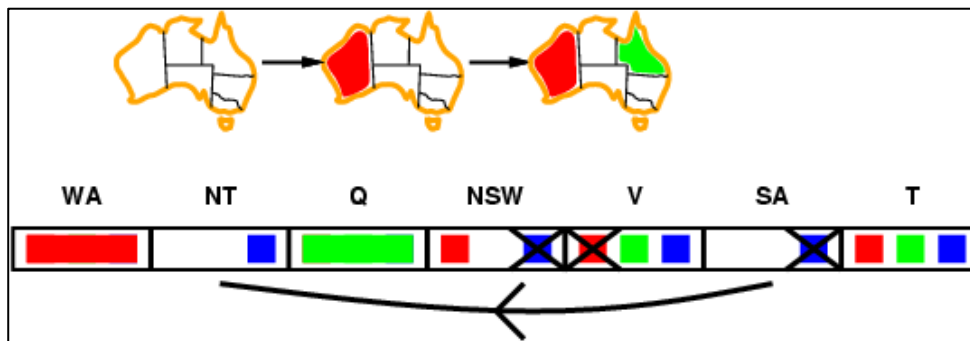
Figure 3.5. Inconsistency (Source: Chan 2008)

Simplest form of propagation makes each arc consistent X →Y is consistent iff for every value x of X there is some allowed y.

If X loses a value, neighbors of X need to be rechecked: i.e. incoming arcs can become inconsistent again (outgoing arcs will stay consistent). Arc consistency detects failure earlier than serching algorithms. It can be run as a preprocessor or after each assignment. It's like sending messages to neighbors on the graph.

Every time a domain changes, all incoming messages need to be resend. This method is repeated until convergence. (No message will change any domains.)

Since only values are removed from domains when they can never be part of a solution, an empty domain means no solution possible at all. (Back out of that branch.)

3.3.2. Basic Search Strategies for the Constraint Satisfaction Problem

Some of the best known search algorithms for CSPs can be classified and summarized as:

- **General Search Strategies;**

This includes the chronological backtracking strategy and the iterative broadening search (IB). These strategies were developed for general applications, and do not make use of the constraints to improve their efficiency. Iterative Broadening (IB) was introduced by Ginsberg and Harvey (1990).

- **Lookahead Strategies;**

The general lookahead strategy is that following the commitment to a label, the problem is reduced through constraint propagation. Such strategies exploit the fact that variables and domains in CSPs are finite (hence can be enumerated in a case analysis), and that constraints can be propagated. Algorithms which use lookahead strategies are forward checking (FC), directional arc-consistency lookahead (DAC-L) and arc consistency lookahead (AC-L).

- **Gather Information While Searching Strategies;**

The strategy is to identify and record the sources of failure whenever backtracking is required during the search, i.e. to gather information and analyse them during the search. Doing so allows one to avoid searching futile branches repeatedly. This strategy exploits the fact that sibling subtrees are very similar to each other in the search space of CSPs. The algorithms that this strategy uses are dependency-directed backtracking (DDBT), learning nogood compound labels (LNCL), backchecking (BC) and backmarking (BM). Prosser (1993) describes a number of jumping back strategies, and illustrates the fact that in some cases backjumping may become less efficient after reduction of the problem. BackJumping was introduced in (Gaschnig 1979a).

All strategies that mentione at the above, it is assumed that the variables and values are ordered randomly. In fact, efficiency of the algorithms could be significantly affected by the order in which the variables and values are picked.

3.3.3. Value and Variable Ordering

The ordering in which the variables are labelled and the values chosen affects the number of backtracks required in a search, which is one of the most important factors affecting the efficiency of an algorithm. In lookahead algorithms, the ordering in which the variables are labelled also affects the amount of search space pruned. Besides, when the compatibility checks are computationally expensive, the efficiency of an algorithm could be significantly affected by the ordering of the compatibility checks.

By appliying ordering variable methods to searching algorithms, in lookahead algorithms, failures could be detected earlier under some orderings than others, larger portions of the search space can be pruned off under some orderings than others. In learning algorithms, smaller nogood sets could be discovered under certain orderings, which could lead to the pruning of larger parts of a search space. When one needs to backtrack, it is only useful to backtrack to the decisions which have caused the failure.

The variable ordering techniques are as listed below (Tsang 1993):

- The minimal width ordering (MWO) heuristic: By exploiting the topology of the nodes in the primal graph of the problem, the MWO heuristic orders the variables before the search starts. The intention is to reduce the need for backtracking.

- The minimal bandwidth ordering (MBO) heuristic: By exploiting the structure of the primal graph of the problem, the MBO heuristic aims at reducing the number of labels that need to be undone when backtracking is required;

- The fail first principle (FFP): The variables may be ordered dynamically during the search, in the hope that failure could be detected as soon as possible;

- The maximum cardinality ordering (MCO) heuristic: MCO can be seen as a crude approximation of MWO.

Let's continue over the mentioned sample problem in Figure 3.1. To make less tracking to the back in the used search algorithm, the variable and the value selection should be done well. For example, after the assignments for WA=red and NT =green, there is only one possible value for SA, so it makes sense to assign SA=blue next rather than assigning Q. In fact, after SA is assigned, the choices for Q, NSW, and V are all forced. This intuitive idea, choosing the variable with the fewest "legal" values is the fail first

princible. Starting from the most constrained variable causes a failure soon, thereby the search tree is pruned at beginning of the search.

On the other hand, The FFP heuristic may not always help at all in choosing the first region to color in Australia, because in the beginning, every region has three legal colors. In this case, the degree heuristic comes in handy. It attempts to reduce the branching factor on future choices by selecting the variable that is involved in the largest number of constraints on other unassigned variables. In Figure 3.1, SA is the variable with the highest degree, 5; the other variables have degree 2 or 3, except for T, which has 0. In fact, once SA is chosen, applying the degree heuristic (MBO) solves the problem without any false steps. Any consistent color cen be chosen at each choice point and still arrive at a solution with no backtracking. The minimum remaining values (FFP) heuristic is usually a more powerful guide, but the degree heuristic can be useful as a tie-breaker.

Once a variable has been selected, the algorithm should decide on the order in which to examine its values. So that the **least constraining value heuristic** can be effective in some cases. It prefers the value that rules out the fewest choices for the neighboring variables in the constraint graph. For example, suppose that in Figure 3.1 the partial assignment are generated with WA=red and NT =green, and the next choice is for Q. Blue would be a bad choice, because it eliminates the last legal value left for Q's neighbor, SA. The least constraining value heuristic therefore prefers red to blue. In general, the heuristic is trying to leave the maximum flexibility for subsequent variable assignments. Of course, if all the solutions are tried to be found to a problem, not just the first one, then the ordering does not matter because every value should be considered. The same holds if there are no solutions to the problem.

3.4. Optimization Problems

In applications such as industrial scheduling, some solutions are better than others. In other cases, the assignment of different values to the same variable incurs different costs. The task in such problems is to find optimal solutions, where optimality is defined in terms of some application specific functions. These problems are called Constraint Satisfaction Optimization Problems (CSOP) to distinguish them from the standard CSP.

Not every CSP is solvable. In many applications, problems are mostly over constrained. When no solution exists, there are basically two things that one can do. One is to relax the constraints, and the other is to satisfy as many of the requirements as possible. The latter solution could take different meanings. It means labelling as many variables as possible without violating any constraints. It also means labelling all the variables in such a way that as few constraints are violated as possible. Such compound labels are actually useful for constraint relaxation because they indicate the minimum set of constraints which need to be violated. Furthermore, weights could be added to the labelling of each variable or each constraint violation.

In other words, the problems can be for maximizing the number of variables labelled, where the variables are possibly weighted by their importance or for minimizing the number of constraints violated, where the constraints are possibly weighted by their costs.

These are optimization problems, which are different from the standard CSPs defined previouly in this chapter. This class of problems is called the Partial CSP (PCSP).

Definition 3.3: A partial constraint satisfaction problem (PCSP) is a quadruple (Tsang 1993):

$$(Z, D, C, g)$$

where (Z, D, C) is a CSP, and g is a function which maps every compound label to a numerical value, i.e. if cl is a compound label in the CSP then:

$$g : cl \rightarrow \text{numerical value} \tag{3.1}$$

Given a compound label cl, $g(cl)$ is called the g-value of cl.

The task in a PCSP is to find the compound label(s) with the optimal g-value with regard to some (possibly application-dependent) optimization function g. The PCSP can be seen as a generalization of the CSOP defined above, since the set of solution tuples is a subset of the compound labels. In a maximization problem, a PCSP (Z, D, C, f) is equivalent to a CSOP (Z, D, C, g) where:

$$g{:}(cl) = \begin{cases} f(cl) & \text{if cl is a solution tuple} \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise } \left(g{:}(cl) = \infty \text{ in a minimization problem} \right) \end{cases} \tag{3.2}$$

Branch and bound (B&B) is the most used optimization algorithm for solving CSOPs. However, since CSPs are NP-complete in general, complete search algorithms may not be able to solve very large CSOPs. Preliminary research suggests that genetic algorithms (GAs) can be able to tackle large and loosely constrained CSOPs where near optimal solutions are acceptable. Tsang and Warwick (1990) report preliminary but encouraging results on applying GAs to CSOPs.

The CSOP can be seen as an instance of the partial constraint satisfaction problem (PCSP), a more general problem in which every compound label is mapped to a numerical value. Freuder (1989) gives the first formal definition to the PCSP. Two other instances of PCSPs are the **minimal violation problem (MVP)** and the **maximal utility problem (MUP)**, which are motivated by scheduling applications that are normally over constrained (Tsang 1993). Freuder and Wallace (1992) define the problem of "satisfying as many constraints as possible" as the maximal constraint satisfaction problem and tackle it by extending standard constraint satisfaction techniques.

CHAPTER 4

SIMULATED ANNEALING

Simulated Annealing (SA) is a heuristic algorithm for the global optimization problems. Its name and inspiration comes from the physical process of annealing in metallurgy, which involves the collection of many particles in a physical system as it is cooled.

The method was an adaptation of the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm, a Monte Carlo method to generate sample states of a thermodynamic system, invented by Metropolis et al. (1953). The first complete Simulated Annealing optimization method was searched by Kikpatrick et al. (1982).

In 1982 Cérny developed independently an simulation algorithm based on thermodynamics which has been called later Simulated Annealing, too. However he did not publish his work until 1984, two years after Kirkpatrick.

4.1. Physical Background

In the simulated annealing (SA) method, each point s of the search space is analogous to a state of some physical system, and the function $E(s)$ to be minimized is analogous to the internal energy of the system in that state. The task is to bring the system, from an arbitrary initial state, to a state with the minimum possible energy.

Simulated Annealing algorithm is based on the annealing process in the physics of solids. In this physical process, the solid is first heated to a high temperature and then cooled slowly down to the original temperature. The high temperature provides the particle of the solid with a very high mobility. Hence, the particles can reach locations all around the solid. If the temperature is decreased slowly enough, all the particles of the solid arrange themselves such that the system will have minimal bounding energy.

In the physics of the solids, the particles of the solid are characterized by the probability P{E} of being in a state with energy E at the temperature T. The probability is given by the Boltzman distribution:

$$P\{E\} = \left(\frac{1}{Z(T)} \times e^{-\frac{e_s}{k_z T}} \right) \tag{4.1}$$

where k_B is the Boltzmann constant and Z(T) is a temperature dependent normalization factor. It is more reasonable that the particles of the system are in high energy states at high temperatures than at lower temperatures (Metropolis, et al. 1953).

The procedure of repeating the basic step until thermal equilibrium is reached is called a Metropolis loop. In Figure 4.1 the Metropolis loop is embedded in an outer loop, in order to adjust the temperature. One can controll the number of steps that are executed in each Metropolis loop by the adjust function, Adjust and ReAdjust, for the exit variable.

According to the local variation of the total energy of the system, a particle can be moved to a new location. It is more probable that the particle will move to a lower energy state than to a higher energy state. By first travelling over the higher energy states or just by tunneling through the high energy barriers on the way, a new distant lower energy state can be obtained.

```
algorithm Metropolis(s₀,T)
/* s₀ is the initial state */
/* T is the temperature */
        exit := false;
        s := s₀;
        while exit == f alse do
                exit := Adjust;
                s' := Displace(s);
                if random < e^{-(e_s'-e_s)/(k_B T)}  then
                        exit := ReAdjust;
                        s := s';
                endif
        endwhile
endalgorithm
```

Figure 4.1. Pseudocode of the Metropolis Algorithm

4.2. Mathematical Model

Algorithm of an annealing works on a state space, which is a set with a relation. The elements of the set are called states. Each state represents a configuration. S is denoted to state space and its cardinality is shown by |S|. A cost function, $\in: S \rightarrow R_+$, assigns a positive real number to each state. This number is explained as a quality indicator. The lower is chosen this number; the better is the configuration that is encoded in that state. By defining a neighbor relation over S, $\omega \subseteq S \times S$, called a topology, is endowed to the state set S. The elements of ω are called moves, and the states (s, s')$\in \omega$ connected via a single move are called neighbors. Similarly, the states (s, s') $\in \omega^k$ are said to be connected via a set of k moves. Due to it is wanted that any state to be connected to any other state by a finite number of moves, it is required the transitive closure of ω to be the universal relation of S:

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \omega^k = S \times S. \tag{4.2}$$

4.2.1. Transitions

As already mentioned, the annealing algorithm operates on a state space. At the end of the execution of a step exactly one state is the current state. The probability that a given state will be the current state depends only on its cost, the cost of the previous state and the value of the control parameter i.e., the temperature, T. The theoretical model for describing the sequences of current states generated by the annealing algorithm is known as a Markov chain. The essential property of Markov chains is that the next state does not depend on the states that have preceded the current state (Feller 1950, Isaacson and Madsen 1976, Seneta 1981). The probability that s' will be the next state, given that s is the current state is denoted by τ (s, s', T) and is called the transition probability. The transition probabilities for a certain value of T can be conveniently represented by a matrix P(T), the transition matrix. The transition matrix of the Metropolis loop does not change from step to step, because T does not change. Markov chains with constant transition matrices are called

homogeneous. The Metropolis loop can therefore be modeled by a homogeneous Markov chain.

The transition probabilities of the states that are not connected by a move is zero. For other pairs of distinct states, the probability is determined by the probability that, given the first state, the second one is selected, and the probability that, once selected, the second state is accepted as the next state. The probability that the state does not change has to be such that the sum of all transition probabilities with that state as first state is one, because there is always exactly one current state. The complete Markov model for the annealing is therefore;

$$\tau(s,s',T) = \begin{cases} \alpha(\epsilon(s),\epsilon(s'),T)\beta(s,\ s') & \text{if } s \neq s' \\ 1 - \sum_{s''} \alpha(\epsilon(s),\epsilon(s''),T)\beta(s,\ s'') & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \qquad (4.3)$$

where α is the acceptance probability function, and β is the selection probability function. Note that the selection probability is never zero for a pair of states connected by a single move. Another function, called the acceptance function, assigns a positive probability measure to a pair of costs, and a positive real number, the temperature. Therefore, α should be chosen in the values of;

$$\alpha : R_+^3 \longrightarrow (0,1] \subset R. \qquad (4.4)$$

4.2.2. Convergence to Optimum

In the years of 1980s, several researchers independently proved that it is possible to design a simulated annealing algorithm so that the probability to be in a state with the minimum cost approaches one as the temperature approaches zero (S. German and D. German 1984, Gidas 1984, Gelfand and Mitter 1985, Lundy and Mees 1986, Mitra, et al. 1986). This property is called convergence. Briefly, the algorithm is defined to be convergent if the global minimum is found with certainty.

For finite search spaces S, an efficient condition for convergence is detailed balance (Otten, et al. 1989), requiring that the probability flows between any two states s_i, s_j in the state space are equal:

$$\pi_i(T) \bullet \tau_{ij}(T) = \pi_j(T) \bullet \tau_{ji}(T) \tag{4.5}$$

where $\pi_i(T)$ is the stationary probability distribution of the state s_i at temperature T. The stationary probability distribution is a vector $\pi(T) = (\pi_1(T), \pi_2(T), ..., \pi_{|s|}(T))$ which satisfies the equation

$$\pi^T(T) \bullet P(T) = \pi^T(T) \tag{4.6}$$

where P(T) is the transition matrix and π^T is the transpose of π . In other words, the stationary probability distribution is a left eigenvector of the transition matrix, associated with the eigenvalue one.

Neither the existence nor the uniqueness of a stationary probability distribution is guaranteed for a general transition matrix P. However, if the transition matrix P is irreducible and aperiodic, then there exists a unique stationary distribution π (Motwani, et al. 1995). A transition matrix P(T) is irreducible if its underlying search space graph is strongly connected and, for all $s_i \in$ S and $s_j \in \Omega_i$, $P_{ij}(T) > 0$ (Romeo, et al. 1991). The transition matrix is called aperiodic if its underlying search space graph has no state to which the search process will continually return with a fixed time period. A sufficient condition for aperiodicity is that there exist a state $s_i \in$ S such that $P_{ii} \neq 0$ (Romeo, et al. 1991).

- **Proof of Convergence**

If the global minimum is reachable from the initial configuration then the algorithm can be called as convergent. Finding the global minimum requires that;

$$\lim_{i \longrightarrow \infty} \left| x_i \in R_{opt} \right| = 1 \tag{4.7}$$

where x_j can be reachable from a configuration x_i if there exists a path $x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2},... x_{i+n} = x_j$ for some $n \geq 0$.

Let the probability to generate a configuration x be $g(x, s_k)$ at temperature T_k and the probability of not generating the configuration be $1 - g(x, s_k)$. The subscript k denotes the index of the cooling cycle.

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The global minimum is found with certainty if there is a possibility that every possible combination of optimization variables x is generated at each temperature. To be sure that every possible combination of optimization variables is generated at least once requires that the possibility of not generating an arbitrary configuration vanishes. That leads to satisfying equation;

$$\sum_{k=k_o}^{\infty} g(x, s_k) = \infty \tag{4.8}$$

which can be said that every possible combination is visited infinitely often in time. This is the most often used form of the proof of the convergence in Simulated Annealing.

4.3. Simulated Annealing Algorithm

In Figure 4.2, the pseudocode of the simulated annealing algorithm is given. The particles are displaced randomly with a probability function using variance $s = s_k$ at the same temperature $T = T_k$ as in the Monte Carlo method. The subscript k denotes the index of the cooling cycle. Transitions at one temperature are made only until the thermal equilibrium is reached. After reaching the equilibrium, the temperature is lowered. If the system is not frozen nor is the global minimum found, the loop is repeated and the loop index k is incremented. The system is frozen when $T \leq T_f$, where Tf is a user defined final temperature.

In Figure 4.2 the variables k and l are the loop variables. l marks the iteration at temperature T_k. k is increased after the thermal equilibrium at temperature T_k is reached. The temperature T_k and the variance s_k control the randomization process.

There are different kinds of Simulated Annealing algorithms. In this thesis the most basic and the used methods are mentioned.
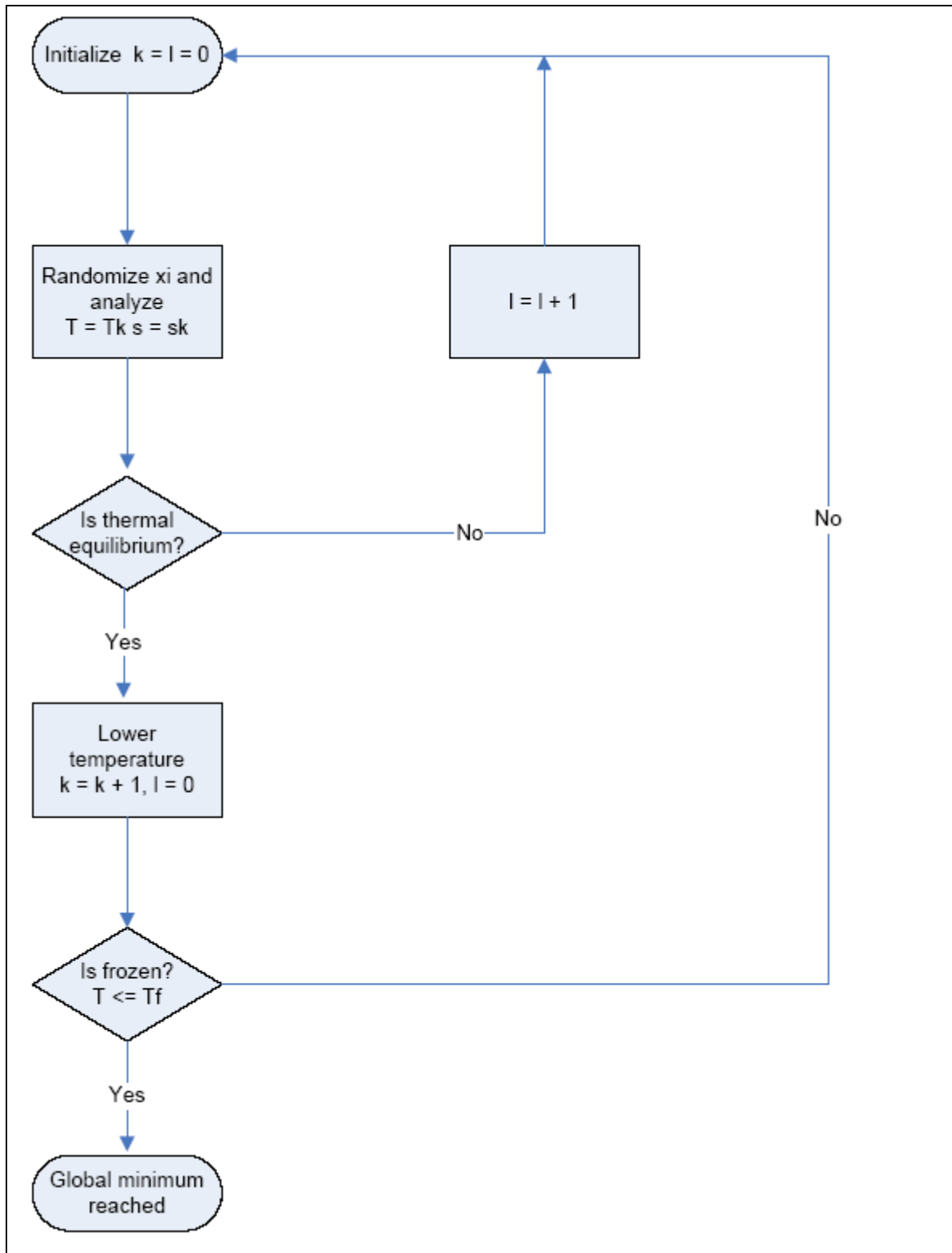
Figure 4.2. The Simulated Annealing   (Source: Starck 1996)

4.3.1. Original Simulated Annealing

This method was dedicated to discrete optimization by Kirkpatrick et al. (1983). It was not proven to be convergent. They used the cooling function as shown as below:

$$T_k = \alpha T_{k-1} = \alpha^k T_0 \qquad (4.9)$$

where $\alpha \in [0,1[$ is a scaling constant. Useful values for α have been claimed to be $0.8 \langle \alpha \langle 0.9$.

SA has shown successful applications in a wide range of combinatorial optimization problems, and this fact has motivated researchers to use SA in simulation optimization.

4.3.2. Boltzmann Annealing

Boltzmann Annealing or Classical Simulated Annealing was studied by Geman et al. (1984). They first gave an essential condition for the convergence of the annealing method to the global minimum. The Gaussian distribution was used for one variable;

$$g(x, s_k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi s_k}} e^{-(x-x_0)^2 / 2s_k} \qquad (4.10)$$

where x_0 is the current value of the optimization variable x. The temperature was calculated by;

$$T_k = \frac{T_0}{\ln(k+1)}, \quad k = 1, \dots, \infty. \qquad (4.11)$$

If Equation 4.8, the formulation of the proof of convergence, is applied to this algorithm;

$$\sum_{k=k_o}^{\infty} g(x,s_k) = \sum_{k=k_o}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi s_k^i}} e^{-\left(x^i - x_0^i\right)^2 / 2s_k^i}$$

$$= c_0 \left[\sum_{k=k_o}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \sqrt{\ln(k+1)} e^{-\ln(k+1)} \right]$$

$$\geq c_0 \sum_{k=k_o}^{\infty} e^{-\ln(k+1)} \qquad (4.12)$$

$$= c_0 \sum_{k=k_o}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k+1}$$

$$= \infty$$

where c_0 is an arbitrary constant and k_0 is an arbitrary cooling cycle (Ingber, 1989). The superscript of i marks the ith dimension in the set of optimization variables x.

4.3.3. Fast Annealing

This method is a semi local search and consists of occasional long jumps (Szu, et al. 1987). It is the improvement of Boltzmann Annealing method. In the fast annealing, Cauchy distribution is used instead of Gaussian Method which is used of Boltzmann Annealing. It can be formulated as below;

$$g(x,s_k) = \frac{s_k}{\pi[(x-x_0)^2 + s_k^2]}. \qquad (4.13)$$

This distribution has higher probability for values x far from x_0 than the Gaussian distribution. Thus the probability of occasional long jumps is greater and leaving local minima is more likely.

Another difference is the cooling schedule in Cauchy distribution. It has a faster schedule;

$$T_k = \frac{T_0}{1+k}. \qquad (4.14)$$

It is also proved to be convergent as Boltzmann method.

4.3.4. Very Fast Simulated Reannealing

Very Fast Simulated Reanneling algorithm permits a fast exponential cooling schedule rather than the cooling schedules of the Fast Annealing and the Boltzmann Annealing (Ingber, et al. 1989).

As generation probability, they defined a new density function;

$$g\left(x, s_k\right) = \frac{1}{2\pi\left(\left|\Delta x'\right| + s_k\right)\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{s_k}\right)} \tag{4.15}$$

where $\Delta x'$ is a normalized step $(x-x_0)/(x_{max}-x_{min})$. x_{min} is the lower limit of optimization variable x and x_{max} is the upper limit. Both upper and lower limits must be given for every optimization variable. The new generation function was needed in order to satisfy the proof of the convergence.

For the cooling function, this method has a very fast decreasing function;

$$T_k = T_0 \exp\left(-ck^{1/n}\right) \tag{4.16}$$

where c is a scaling constant.

It is also proved to be convergent as the previous methods.

CHAPTER 5

DESCRIPTION OF THE TIMETABLING PROBLEM AND SOLVING METHODS

In this chapter, the timetabling problem of Computer Engineering Department of İzmir Institute of Technology (İYTE) is defined and the solving techniques are explained. Due to the university course timetabling problem is an optimization problem in which a set of events has to be scheduled in timeslots and located in suitable rooms, the most suitable methods are tried to be chosen, such as CSP and SA.

5.1. Problem Representation

As a sample case, 2007-2008 Fall Semester is handled. This problem consists of 5 classes (including postgraduate classes) with 5 classrooms and a laboratory that computer engineering has. In this case, any constraint related with classrooms is ignored such as capacity of the rooms or room availability, because each class has its own classroom in computer engineering department. Totally there are 20 lectures that are given by 8 instructors in this case study as shown in Table 5.2. Lecture durations can change between 3 to 5, but the lectures that take 5 time slots are divided as 3 slots for theoretical and 2 slots for laboratory lectures. Hence, the laboratory lessons are considered as a separate lesson of which duration is 2 time slots and they are taken in the laboratory. There can be maximum 8 time slots for one day in İYTE, which means there are 40 time slots per week.

The aim of this thesis is to fulfill more demands of the instructors and the students than the used course timetable of the mentioned semester. Also all the additional constraints have to be satisfied. They are divided into two categories as mentioned in Chapter 2; hard constraints that must be satisfied and soft constraints expressing the preferences.

The hard constraints that are taken into account are listed as below;

- Each instructor can take only one class at a time.
- Clashes must not occur between the lectures for students of one class.
- If any instructor has some requests that have to be satisfied, their demands must be fulfilled.
- If any class has to take lectures from other departments, the time slots that are given from those departments must be allowed to those lectures.
- All lectures must start and finish in the same day.

The soft constraints that are taken into account are:

- The number of alternatives which students can attend should be maximized.
- The student conflicts between lectures should be minimized.
- Friday should be free for all classes.
- Preferences of instructors should be fulfilled.

All these constraints, hard and soft constraints of all the instructors and classes, are given in detailed form in the Table 5.1 and Table 5.2.

Table 5.1. Hard and Soft Constraints of the Classes

Classes	Hard Constrained Days	Soft Constrained Days
Class 1	Monday, Tuesday morning, Wednesday, Friday evening	Friday
Class 2	Monday morning, Tuesday, Thursday	Friday
Class 3	Thursday	Friday
Class 4	Thursday, Friday evening	Friday
Class 5 (Postgraduate class)		Friday

Table 5.2. Hard and Soft Constraints of the Instructors and the list of their Lectures

Instructor Name	Course Name and Course Code	Hard Constrained Days	Soft Constrained Days
Ahmet Koltuksuz	• Introduction to Computer Algorithmic & Programming CENG 113 • Theory of Computation CENG 213 Asymmetrical Cryptography *(Postgraduate Course)* CENG 543	Monday	All mornings
Belgin Ergenç	• Data Structures II CENG 211 • Systems Theory & Analysis CENG 411	Wednesday	Monday and Friday
Bora Kumova	• Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems CENG 461 • Artificial Intelligence *(Postgraduate Course)* CENG 520		Wednesday
Halis Püskülcü	• Stochastic Processes CENG 315 • Introduction to Statistical Data Processing *(Postgraduate Course)* CENG 510	Monday and Friday	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings
Serap Atay	• Operating Systems CENG 313 • Computational Number Theory *(Postgraduate Course)* CENG 549		
Sıtkı Aytaç	• Introduction to Computer Engineering & Orientation CENG 111 • Senior Design Project & Seminar I CENG 415 • Senior Design Project & Seminar II CENG 416 • Computer Applications in Medicine and Biology *(Postgraduate Course)* CENG 581	Monday evening and Wednesday	
Tolga Ayav	• Communication Techniques and Protocols CENG 321 • Computer Architecture CENG 311		Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Tuğkan Tuğlular	• Network Programming CENG 421 • Object Oriented Programming CENG 352 • Advanced Network Security *(Postgraduate Course)* CENG 547	Wednesday and Thursday	Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings

5.2. Approaches to Solve the Problem

The approach that is taken for solving the timetabling problem of the computer engineering department of İYTE consists of two phases, providing a hybrid method:

- Constraint Programming: It is to obtain an initial feasible timetable.
- Simulated Annealing: It is to improve the quality of the timetable.

The first phase, Constraint Programming, is used primarily to obtain an initial timetable satisfying all the hard constraints. The second phase, Simulated Annealing, aims to improve the quality of the timetable, taking the soft constraints into account. The method used in the second phase is optimization method, which looks for to optimize a given objective function.

The initialization strategy for the SA algorithm has a crucial influence on the performance of the algorithm. So it is good to make the initial solution as good as possible in as little time as possible. Constraint programming is a good choice for this criterion.

5.2.1. Constraint Programming Phase

Constraint Programming techniques have been studied since 1990s. Due to they base on backtracking search, at the beginning they have been developed in Prolog, where backtracking and declarativity had been already implemented. In this way Constraint Logic Programming (CLP) was created as an addition to Logic Programming (LP). The languages from this area, which are still popular, are CHIP, Sicstus, Eclips to name a few. Then CP leaves a Prolog and comes into two branches one of them is C/C++ libraries (e.g. ILOG) and the second is multiparadigm languages (e.g. Mozart/OZ). All of these languages have two common features constraint propagation and distribution (labeling) connected with search.

However, real life problems are generally over constrained and these Prolog based programs can not be enough due to their local search techniques. For tight problems that are normally con not satisfy all constraints, one may want to find compound labels which

are as close to solutions as possible, where closeness may be defined in a number of ways. This approach is mentioned in Chapter 3, which is called Partial Constraint Satisfaction Problems.

For all these reasons, the chosen tool to obtain the initial timetable is based on a partial constraint solver. The constraint solver library (Muller 2005) contains a local search based framework that allows modeling of a problem using constraint programming primitives (variables, values, constraints).

The search is based on an iterative forward search algorithm. This algorithm is similar to local search methods; however, in contrast to classical local search techniques, it operates over feasible, though not necessarily complete, solutions. In these solutions some variables may be left unassigned. All hard constraints on assigned variables must be satisfied however. Such solutions are easier to visualize and more meaningful to human users than complete but infeasible solutions. Because of the iterative character of the algorithm, the solver can also easily start, stop, or continue from any feasible solution, either complete or incomplete.

```
procedure SOLVE(initial)                    //initial solution is the parameter
       iteration = 0;                       // iteration counter
       current = initial;                   // current solution
       best = initial;                      // best solution
       while canContinue(current, iteration) do
               iteration = iteration + 1;
               variable = selectVariable(current);
               value = selectValue(current, variable);
               UNASSIGN(current, CONFLICTING_VARIABLES(current, variable, value));
               ASSIGN(current, variable, value);
               if better(current, best) then
                       best = current;
               endif
       endwhile
       return best
endprocedure
```

Figure 5.1. Pseudocode of Iterative Forward Search

As seen in the Figure 5.1, during each step, a variable X is initially selected. As in backtracking-based searches, an unassigned variable is selected randomly. Sometimes an assigned variable can be selected when all variables are assigned but the solution found so far is not good enough (for example, when there are still many violations of soft constraints). Once a variable X is selected, a value x from its domain D_x is chosen for assignment. Even if the best value is selected, its assignment to the selected variable may cause some hard conflicts with already assigned variables. Such conflicting assignments are removed from the solution and become unassigned. At the end of the search, the selected value is assigned to the selected variable.

The algorithm tries to move from one partial solution s to another via repetitive assignment of a selected value x to a selected variable X. During this search, the feasibility of all hard constraints in each iteration step is enforced by unassigning the conflicting assignments η. The search is terminated when the requested solution is found or when there is a timeout expressed, for example, as a maximal number of iterations or available time being reached. If the best solution is found, it will return (Muller 2005).

The functions used in the above algorithm can be defined as (Muller 2005);

- The termination condition (function **canContinue**).
- The solution comparator (function **better**).
- The variable selection (function **selectVariable**).
- The value selection (function **selectValue**).

Structure of the Problem Modelling can be explained as below:

The model of the case study problem consists of a set of resources, a set of activities and a set of dependencies between the activities. The time slots can be assigned a constraint, either hard or soft; a hard constraint indicates that the slot is forbidden for any activity, a soft constraint indicates that the slot is not preferred. These constraints are called as "time preferences". Time preferences can be assigned to each activity and each resource, which indicate forbidden and not preferred time slots (Muller 2005).

- Activity:

The lectures are called activities in the timetabling model. Every activity is defined by its duration (expressed as a number of time slots), by time preferences, and by a set of resources. Activities require these set of resources. If there is a need of resource sets one can create a resource group that the activity requires. These resource groups can be either conjunctive or disjunctive: the conjunctive group of resources means that the activity needs all the resources from the group, the disjunctive group means that the activity needs one of the resources among the alternatives. For instance, a lecture, which will take place in one of the possible classrooms, will be taught for all of the selected classes.

- Resource:

Resources also can be described by time preferences. Only one activity can use the resource at the same time. Each resource can represent a teacher, a class, a classroom, or another special resource at the lecture timetabling problem.

- Dependencies:

Dependencies define and handle the relations between the activities. It seems sufficient to use binary dependencies only those define the constraints between the activities. There are five operators between the activities that can be used; before; closely before; after; closely after; no conflict; concurrently. If one activity has to start before another activity one can use "Before" constraint in the model.

The solution of the problem defined by the above model is a timetable where every scheduled activity has assigned its start time and a set of reserved resources that are needed for its execution. This timetable must satisfy all the hard constraints, those defined in the beginning of this chapter. If they are defined again according to this structure;

- Every scheduled activity has all the required resources reserved.
- Two scheduled activities cannot use the same resource at the same time.
- No activity is scheduled into a time slot where the activity or some of its reserved resources has a hard constraint in the time preferences.
- All dependencies between the scheduled activities must be satisfied.

Furthermore, the number of violated soft constraints are tried to be minimized.

5.2.2. Simulated Annealing Phase

The timetable produced by the constraint programming algorithm is used as the starting point for the simulated annealing phase of the hybrid method. This phase is used to improve the quality of the timetable.

The application of simulated annealing to the timetabling problem is relatively straight forward. The particles are replaced by elements. The system energy can be defined by the timetable cost for timetable modeling. An initial allocation is made in which elements are placed in a randomly chosen period. The initial cost and an initial temperature are computed. To determine the quality of the solution, the cost has a critical role in the algorithm just as the system energy role in the quality of a particle being annealed. The temperature is used to control the probability of an increase in cost and can be likened by the temperature of a physical particle (Abramson 1991).

The change in cost is the difference of two costs; one of them is the first cost that is before the randomly chosen element is changed and the second one is the cost after the randomly chosen element is changed of an activity. The element is moved if the change in cost is accepted, either because it lowers the system cost, or the increase is allowed at the current temperature. According to the timetabling problem model the cost of removing an element usually consists of a class cost, an instructor cost and a room cost.

Because each class has one room, there is no room constraint in this problem. In addition it is known that which lecture is given by which instructor. According to these properties of the problem, the model of this studied problem is simpler than the usual ones; the only element that can change the cost is the start times of the activities.

The typical SA algorithm accepts a new solution if its cost is lower than the cost of the current solution. Even if the cost of the new solution is greater, there is a probability of this solution to be accepted. With this acceptance criterion it is then possible to climb out of local optima. The used algorithm in this study can be seen in the Figure 5.2 (Duong, et al. 2004).

```
Input: Constraint programming solution of the problem s₀
Select an initial temperature t₀ > 0
Select a temperature reduction function a;
Calculate initial cost of s₀
repeat
        repeat
        if nrep mod 3 = 0 then
                Simple Neighborhood /* s is a neighbor solution of s₀ */
                δ = f(s) – f (s₀); /* compute the change in cost function*/
                if δ < 0 then
                        s₀ = s
                else
                        generate random x ∈ [0,1]; /* x is a random number in range 0 to 1 */
                endif
                if x < exp(- δ /t) then
                        s₀ = s
                endif
        endif
        if nrep mod 3 = 1 then
                Swap Neighborhood  /* s is a neighbor solution of s₀ */
                δ = f(s) – f (s₀); /* compute the change in cost function*/
                if δ < 0 then
                        s₀ = s
                else
                        generate random x ∈ [0,1]; /* x is a random number in range 0 to 1 */
                endif
                if x < exp(- δ /t) then
                        s₀ = s
                endif
        endif
        if nrep mod 3 = 2 then
                Random  Swap Neighborhood  /* s is a neighbor solution of s₀ */
                δ = f(s) – f (s₀); /* compute the change in cost function*/
                if δ < 0 then
                        s₀ = s
                else
                        generate random x ∈ [0,1]; /* x is a random number in range 0 to 1 */
                endif
                if x < exp(- δ /t) then
                        s₀ = s
                endif
        endif
        until iteration_count = nrep;
        t = a (t)
until stopping condition = true.
/* s₀ is the approximation to the optimal solution */
```

Figure 5.2. Simulated Annealing Algorithm

From this algorithm, in Figure 5.2, it can be seen there are several aspects of the SA algorithm that are problem oriented. Design of a good annealing algorithm is very important, it generally comprises three components: Neighborhood structure, cost function and cooling schedule.

5.2.2.1. Neighbourhood Structure

In order to apply the SA algorithm a neighborhood structure which defines for each solution a set of neighboring solutions must be included. This is the key component of any simulated annealing method. In this thesis three algorithms are tried and all of them are used one by one. Although they are tried to be used individually in the SA algorithm, the most effective result is obtained when they are used together. In each iteration of SA algorithm indexed by n_{rep}, these three algorithms are executed in turns.

The first one of the neighbor algorithm is simple neighborhood searching. It randomly chooses one activity and one slot. The chosen slot is assigned as the start time of the selected activity.

The second algorithm selects randomly two activities and swaps their start times. It is called swap neighborhood.

The third one of the neighbor algorithms chooses randomly two activities and two slots which are referred as random swap neighborhood in this study. These two slots are assigned as the start times of the randomly selected activities.

5.2.2.2. Cost Calculation

For the case of course scheduling, the cost calculation tries to show the influences of both the hard constraints and soft constraints. Penalty scores of both the hard constraints and soft constraints can be seen in the below. Each constraint is defined by a penalty score function.

The conditions that the timetable has penalties for hard constraints are:

- If the activity slots are hard slots that violates the hard constraints of that activity;

$$F_{C1} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(T_i \times 10^6 \right),$$ (5.1)

where n is the number of activities, T_i is the number of timeslots which are forbidden to the activities, which are also called the hard slots.

- If the same class or same instructor is assigned to two activities at the same time; (This is only to calculate the timetable solution of constraint programming.)

$$F_{C2} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \left(I_{ij} \times 10^6 \right),$$ (5.2)

where n is the number of activities, I_{ij} is the number of instructors who give two lectures, i and j, at the same time.

$$F_{C3} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \left(C_{ij} \times 10^6 \right),$$ (5.3)

where n is the number of activities, C_{ij} is the number of classes which are given to two lectures, i and j, at the same time.

- If the activity slots are separated into two days. (Each activity must start and finish in the same day).

    $X_i = 1$ if course is separated into two days, 0 otherwise.

$$F_{C4} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_i \times 10^6 \right),$$ (5.4)

where n is the number of activities, X_i is the number of timeslots which are given to lectures, i.

The conditions that the timetable has penalties for soft constraints are:

- If the activity slots are soft slots that violates the soft constraints of which activity;

$$F_{C5} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(Y_i \times 10^2 \right),$$ (5.5)

where n is the number of activities, Y_i is the number of timeslots which depends on preferences of instructors. It can be inferred soft slots either.

- If there is any student conflict between the previously failed lectures, which a student has to take, and the regular lectures, which are yet to be taken.

$$F_{C6} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \left(S_{ij} \times 10^2 \right), \tag{5.6}$$

where n is the number of activities, S_{ij} is the number of students who take two lectures of different classes, i and j, at the same time. If a student follows an irregular program, the lecture conflicts are minimized by this constraint. It is taken as a soft constraint, otherwise course scheduling problems would be very strict and had no solution.

To determine the student conflicts, the student and the lecture data are obtained from the university database system, which can be seen in the appendices, and the irregular situations are identified; such as if a student who is in the third class has some other lectures from upper or lower classes and these lectures conflicts with each other, then these kind of conflicts are tried to be minimized.

For hard constraints the given penalty is very high such as 10 to the power 6 and for the soft constraints the given penalty is smaller such as 100.

Thus the cost function F can be calculated as the sum of those hard and soft constraints. It can be seen in the following formula and should be minimized:

$$F = F_{C1} + F_{C2} + F_{C3} + F_{C4} + F_{C5} + F_{C6}. \tag{5.7}$$

5.2.2.3. Cooling Schedule

The used cooling function is called as geometric cooling schedule. In every n_{rep} iterations, the temperature, t, is multiplied by α, where n_{rep} and α are given parameters of the algorithm (see in Figure 5.2).

The parameter of n_{rep} is chosen as 3, which returns the best solution cost within an acceptable run time. To determine n_{rep}, several different values are experimented, namely, 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 5.

To determine starting temperature, a rough start temperature $t_0 = 10000$ is chosen which is hot enough to allow moves to almost neighbourhood state, and the SA algorithm tries to derive the real start temperature T_0 basing on the functional dependence between the starting acceptance probability χ_0 (70% to 80%) and the starting temperature T_0.

The functional dependence between the starting acceptance probability χ_0 and the starting temperature T_0 is given as follows (Poupaert and Deville 2000):

$$\chi_0 = \chi\left(\{\delta_1, \delta_n, \delta_{n+1}, ..., \delta_m\}, T_0\right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\exp\left(-\delta_i/T_0\right)+\left(m-n\right)/m$$

(5.8)

where $\delta_i = f(s_i) - f(s_0)$, s_0 is the initial solution, s_i is a neighbor solution of s_0, f is the cost function, m is the size of neighbor solution space. The solution space is calculated by (n*(n-1)/2) formulation.

For the derivation of the starting temperature T_0 from the starting acceptance probability χ_0 (%70 to %80) using Equation 5.8, a small algorithm is used (Duong, et al. 2004). This algorithm has to be run only once for each execution of the SA algorithm. The algorithm is given in Figure 5.3.

To determine the final temperature T_f, since there are no accurate recommendations or the value in literature, several final temperatures are experimented, namely, 0.5, 0.05, 0.005, 0.0005, and 0.00005. Finally, 0.005 is chosen for T_f which returns the best solution cost.

```
Step 1: m := n(n-1)/2 ; /* n is the number of exams */
        compute $\delta_i$, $1 \le i \le m$;
        $t_0$ := 10000;
        t := $t_0$; j := 0;
        repeat
                j:= j+1; t := t*j;
                compute $\chi = \chi(t_0)$ (using Equation 5.8);
        until $\chi \ge 0.8$;
Step 2: $t_{end}$ := t; exit := false;
        repeat
                t = ($t_0$ + $t_{end}$)/2;
                compute $\chi = \chi(t)$  (using Equation 5.8);
                if $0.7 < \chi < 0.8$ then
                        exit := true
                else if $\chi \le 0.7$  then
                                $t_{end}$ := t
                                else
                                $t_0$ := t
                endif
        until exit;
/* t is the desired starting temperature */
```

Figure 5.3. Algorithm to Determine Starting Temperature

To determine the reduction parameter α for geometric cooling, the formula proposed by Burke et al. (2001) is used which allows defining a value for the parameter α based on the predefined time to run for the simulated annealing.

$$\alpha = 1 - \left(\ln\left(T_0\right) - \ln\left(T_f\right) \right) / N_{move} . \tag{5.9}$$

The time that is wanted the SA algorithm to run for is represented in the number of SA steps, N_{move}. A value can be computed for the parameter α based on the predefined time (N_{move}) that the user wants the SA algorithm to run for with the fixed values for T_0 and T_f, using Equation 5.9. This mechanism is called *time predefined simulated annealing* (Burke, et al. 2001). It not only helps to increase the efficiency of the SA algorithm but also helps to make simulated annealing experiments easier.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the experimental results are evaluated and some comparisons are done between the different initial timetable solutions. In addition, some comments on future works that can be performed are made.

6.1. Experimental Results

The İYTE Computer Engineering Timetabling Problem is implemented with Eclipse SDK Version 3.1.2 with Java Programming Language and experimented on an Intel Core(TM) Duo 2.40 GHz PC.

In the first phase, the initial timetable solution of the timetabling problem is completed in 5 minutes. The constraint solver gives the output folder for any difficulty level of problem (can be loosen or tighten) in the same time duration.

For the second phase, simulated annealing part, the solution can be obtained in different time durations. According to the problem difficulty and the chosen parameter values for the SA algorithm, the execution time can change. For instance run times on the same computer resources with the number of SA steps, N_{move}, changing from 5 to 3000 are given in the Table 6.1. As seen from the table, if the number of SA steps high enough, such as the rate of cooling slow enough, the solution cost will improve a lot, i.e. a good quality solution comes out, but when the number of SA steps is already too high, the solution will not improve much (Duong, et al. 2004). Briefly, the advantage of time predefined search algorithms over traditional local search algorithms can be explained as; in traditional local search algorithms there are a common practice to run the algorithm several times in order to get the best possible value of the cost function. In contrast, in time-predefined algorithms the aim is to use all the time effectively in a single search for a high quality solution (Burke, et al. 2001).

Table 6.1. Run Times

N_{move}	5	10	50	100	500	1000	3000
Run time (second)	0.001	0.8	3	6	29	60	154
Cost	1016200	2018800	4100	3500	3300	3400	3300

In this thesis, the experimental results are obtained with the fixed value of $N_{move} = 500$ which returns the best results in an appropriate time. Because the aim of this thesis is to find a solution timetable to İYTE Computer Science Engineering Department, the parameter of predefined time is not studied deeply.

Due to SA is a heuristic algorithm, several different algorithms are experimented in different combinations. In the below tables the experimental results are given. These results are obtained by taking the average of 8 trials of executions. Table 6.2 shows the costs and the durations of neighborhood searching algorithms independently. Table 6.3 shows the costs and the durations in different combinations of neighborhood searching algorithms. Table 6.4 shows the costs and the durations of these algorithms when they are executed in each iteration of SA algorithm indexed by n_{rep} both in turns and sequentially.

The used values of parameters are listed as below which return the best solution costs within an acceptable run time:

N_{rep}: 3

N_{move}: 500

$T_{initial}$: 10000

T_{final}: 0.005

Stopping Condition: $t > 0.0005E{-}300$

Table 6.2. Costs and the CPU Times of Neighborhood Algorithms Used Independently Form in SA Algorithm

Initial Method	Simple Neighborhood		Swap Neighborhood		Random Swap Neighborhood	
	Cost	CPU(s)	Cost	CPU(s)	Cost	CPU(s)
CPS	3900	29	9300	40	4300	34
Random	5500	28	257000	45	6300	43

Table 6.3. Costs and the CPU Times of Neighborhood Algorithms Used in Several Paired Combinations in SA Algorithm

Initial Method	Simple-Swap Neighborhood		Simple-Random Swap Neighborhood		Swap-Random Swap Neighborhood	
	Cost	CPU(s)	Cost	CPU(s)	Cost	CPU(s)
CPS	3900	28	4900	27	3700	31
Random	3900	28	5400	33	3900	32

Table 6.4. Costs and the CPU times of Neighborhood Algorithms Used in sequentially and in turns in SA Algorithm Indexed by n_{rep}

Initial Method	All sequentially		All in turns	
	Cost	CPU(s)	Cost	CPU(s)
CPS	4400	76	3500	28
Random	4100	87	3600	28

In the Simulated Annealing stage, some different neighborhood searching strategies are experimented. Three different neighborhood searching algorithms are tried in different combinations as seen from the above tables. Because SA is a heuristic method, several experiments should be done and the technique that returns the best result in an appropriate time should be chosen.

Due to some slots remains empty after the scheduling done, trying those slots decreases the cost and improves the result of the timetable solution. On the other hand swapping the slots of the lessons can be useful. Hence, both techniques are tried to be used in an effective way. Among the tables, Table 6.2, Table 6.3, Table 6.4, the best returned result can be seen in the Table 6.4.

In the Figure 6.1 the cost distribution obtained by the two stage method can be seen. In the first phase of the hybrid method the initial cost is 17600 which is obtained by the CSP method. After SA method is implemented the cost is decreased to 3500.

On the other hand the SA algorithm could decreased the cost from 9020200 to 3500 levels without implementing CSP as an initial phase. This result is just same as the two staged method. The reason of this result is the problem is simple. SA method will be enough for Computer Engineering Department of İYTE. The cost distribution of the timetable, which is obtained by implementation of the SA algorithm, can be seen from the Figure 6.2. The Figure 6.3 is the closer look of the Figure 6.2.

Consequently, the aim of the thesis is successfully reached. If the reference timetable used in which the 2007–2008 fall semester is compared with the obtained one by SA algorithm, the difference can be seen obviously. The cost of the reference timetable prepared by hand was 5011800. The reference timetable and the obtained timetable can be seen sequentially in the Table 6.5, Table 6.6 (only after CSP), and Table 6.7 (after both CSP and SA).

Table 6.5. Used Timetable of İYTE in Winter Semester 2007-2008 (Cost is 5011800)

Days / Hours	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
08.45–09.30	Ceng 311 (3 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)** Ceng 411 (3 crdt.) **(Belgin Ergenç)**	Ceng 321 (3 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)** Ceng 581 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)**	Ceng 315 (3 crdt.) **(Halis Püskülcü)**	Ceng 111 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)** Ceng 461(3 crdt.) **(Bora Kumova)** Ceng 510 **(Halis Püskülcü)**	Ceng 520 (3 crdt.) **(Bora Kumova)**
09.45–10.30	Ceng 311 Ceng 411	Ceng 321 Ceng 581	Ceng 211 (3 crdt.) **(Belgin Ergenç)** Ceng 315	Ceng 111 Ceng 461 Ceng 510	Ceng 520
10.45–11.30	Ceng 311 Ceng 411	Ceng 321 Ceng 581	Ceng 211 Ceng 315	Ceng 111 Ceng 461 Ceng 510	Ceng 520
11.45–12.30			Ceng 211		
13.30–14.15	Ceng 213 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)** Ceng 421 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)**	Ceng 313 (3 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)** Ceng 416 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)** Ceng 543 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)**	Ceng 352 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)** Ceng 311 LAB (2 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)**	Ceng 415 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)** Ceng 549 (3 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)**	Ceng 113 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)** Ceng 547 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)**
14.30–15.15	Ceng 213 Ceng 421	Ceng 313 Ceng 416 Ceng 543	Ceng 352 Ceng 311 LAB	Ceng 415 Ceng 549	Ceng 113 Ceng 547
15.30–16.15	Ceng 213 Ceng 421	Ceng 313 Ceng 416 Ceng 543	Ceng 352 Ceng 313 LAB (2 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)**	Ceng 415 Ceng 549	Ceng 113 Ceng 547
16.30–17.15			Ceng 313 LAB		

Table 6.6. Obtained Timetable of İYTE for Winter Semester 2007-2008 by Constraint Programming (Cost is 17600)

Days / Hours	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
08.45–09.30		Ceng 411 (3 crdt.) **(Belgin Ergenç)** Ceng 311 LAB (2 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)**	Ceng 213 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)** Ceng 315 (3 crdt.) **(Halis Püskülcü)**	Ceng 111 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)**	
09.45–10.30	Ceng 415 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)** Ceng 520 (3 crdt.) **(Bora Kumova)**	Ceng 411 Ceng 311 LAB	Ceng 213 Ceng 315	Ceng 111 Ceng 510 (3 crdt.) **(Halis Püskülcü)**	
10.45–11.30	Ceng 352 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)** Ceng 415 Ceng 520	Ceng 321 (3 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)** Ceng 411	Ceng 213 Ceng 315	Ceng 111 Ceng 510	
11.45–12.30	Ceng 352 Ceng 415 Ceng 520	Ceng 321 Ceng 581 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)**		Ceng 416 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)** Ceng 510	
13.30–14.15	Ceng 352 Ceng 461(3 crdt.) **(Bora Kumova)**	Ceng 321 Ceng 581		Ceng 113 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)** Ceng 416	Ceng 211 (3 crdt.) **(Belgin Ergenç)**
14.30–15.15	Ceng 311 (3 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)** Ceng 461 Ceng 547 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)**	Ceng 421 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)** Ceng 581 Ceng 313 LAB (2 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)**	Ceng 313 (3 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)** Ceng 543 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)**	Ceng 113 Ceng 416 Ceng 549 (3 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)**	Ceng 211
15.30–16.15	Ceng 311 Ceng 461 Ceng 547	Ceng 421 Ceng 313 LAB	Ceng 313 Ceng 543	Ceng 113 Ceng 549	Ceng 211
16.30–17.15	Ceng 311 Ceng 547	Ceng 421	Ceng 313 Ceng 543	Ceng 549	

Table 6.7. Obtained Timetable of İYTE for the Winter Semester 2007–2008 after both Constraint Programming and Simulated Annealing (Cost is 3400)

Days / Hours	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
08.45–09.30	Ceng 415 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)** Ceng 321 (3 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)** Ceng 520 (3 crdt.) **(Bora Kumova)**		Ceng 213 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)**	Ceng 510 (3 crdt.) **(Halis Püskülcü)** Ceng 111 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)**	Ceng 211 (3 crdt.) **(Belgin Ergenç)**
09.45–10.30	Ceng 415 Ceng 321 Ceng 520	Ceng 416 (3 crdt.) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)** Ceng 311 LAB (2 crdt.) **(Tolga Ayav)**	Ceng 315 (3 crdt.) **(Halis Püskülcü)** Ceng 549 (3 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)** Ceng 213	Ceng 510 Ceng 111	Ceng 211 Ceng 311 (3 crd) **(Tolga Ayav)**
10.45–11.30	Ceng 415 Ceng 321 Ceng 520	Ceng 416 Ceng 311 LAB	Ceng 213 Ceng 315 Ceng 549	Ceng 510 Ceng 111	Ceng 211 Ceng 311
11.45–12.30	Ceng 313 LAB (2 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)**	Ceng 416	Ceng 315 Ceng 549		Ceng 311 Ceng 581 (3 crd) **(Sıtkı Aytaç)**
13.30–14.15	Ceng 313 LAB	Ceng 421 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)**	Ceng 543 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)**		Ceng 113 (3 crdt.) **(Ahmet Koltuksuz)** Ceng 581
14.30–15.15	Ceng 461(3 crdt.) **(Bora Kumova)** Ceng 547 (3 crdt.) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)**	Ceng 421	Ceng 313 (3 crdt.) **(Serap Atay)** Ceng 543	Ceng 411 (3 crdt.) **(Belgin Ergenç)**	Ceng 113 Ceng 352 (3 crd) **(Tuğkan Tuğlular)** Ceng 581
15.30–16.15	Ceng 461 Ceng 547	Ceng 421	Ceng 543 Ceng 313	Ceng 411	Ceng 113 Ceng 352
16.30–17.15	Ceng 461 Ceng 547		Ceng 313	Ceng 411	Ceng 352

53
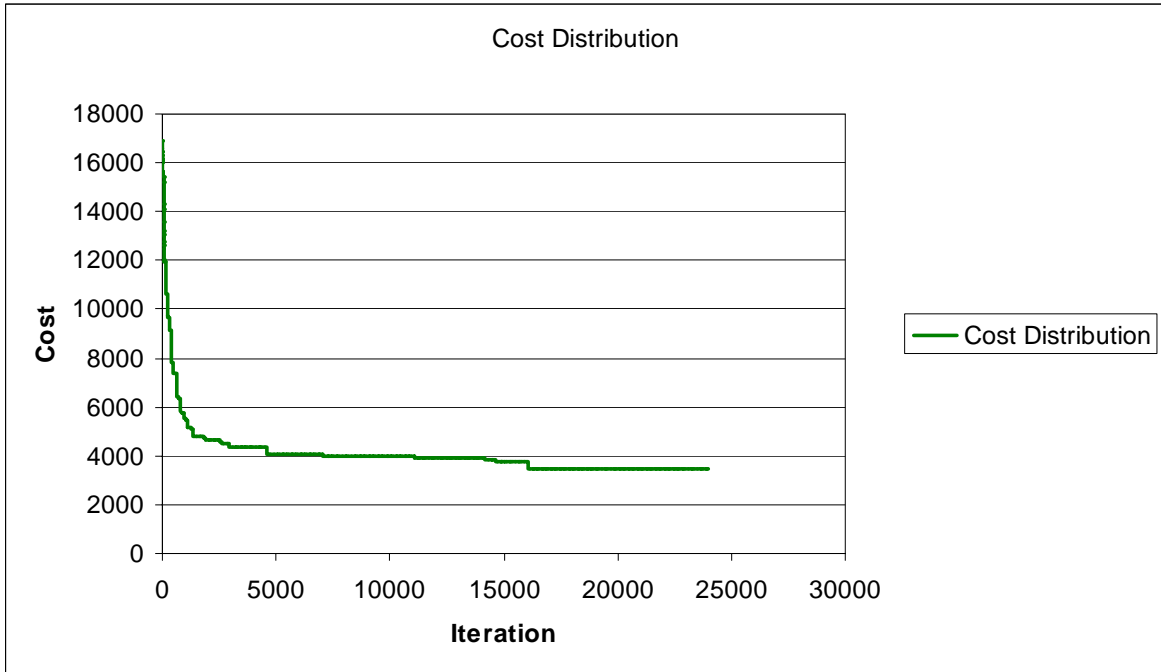
Figure 6.1. Cost Distribution of a Timetable obtained by first CSP and then improved by
SA method
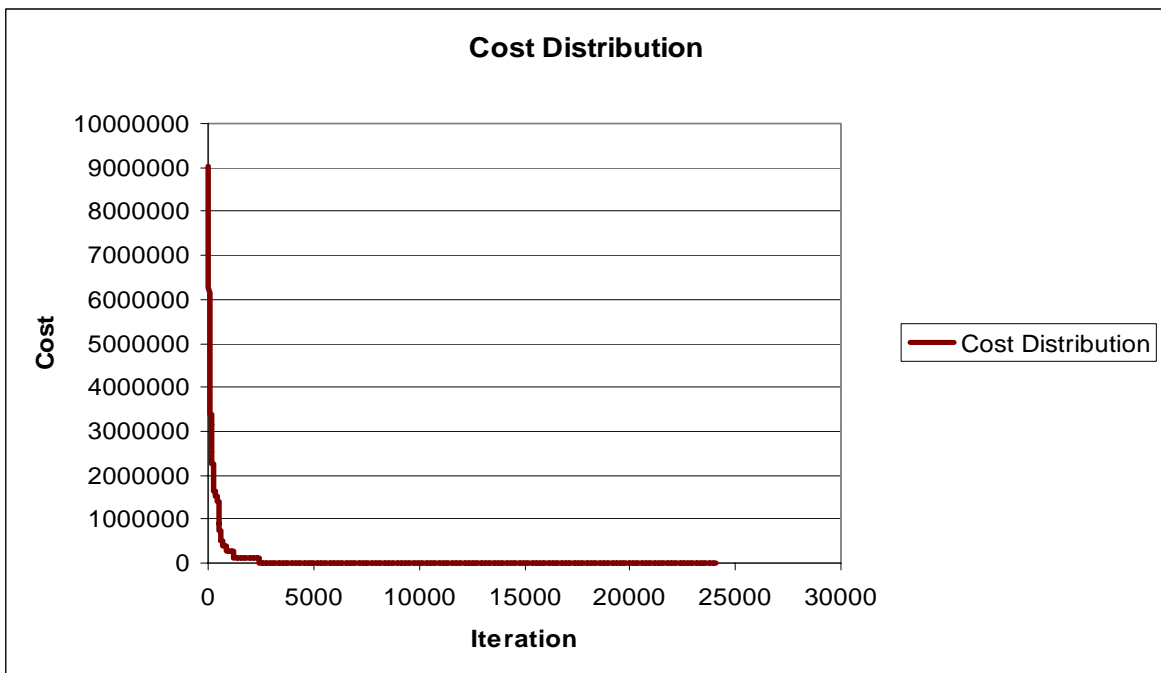
Figure 6.2. Cost Distribution of a Random Timetable improved by SA method
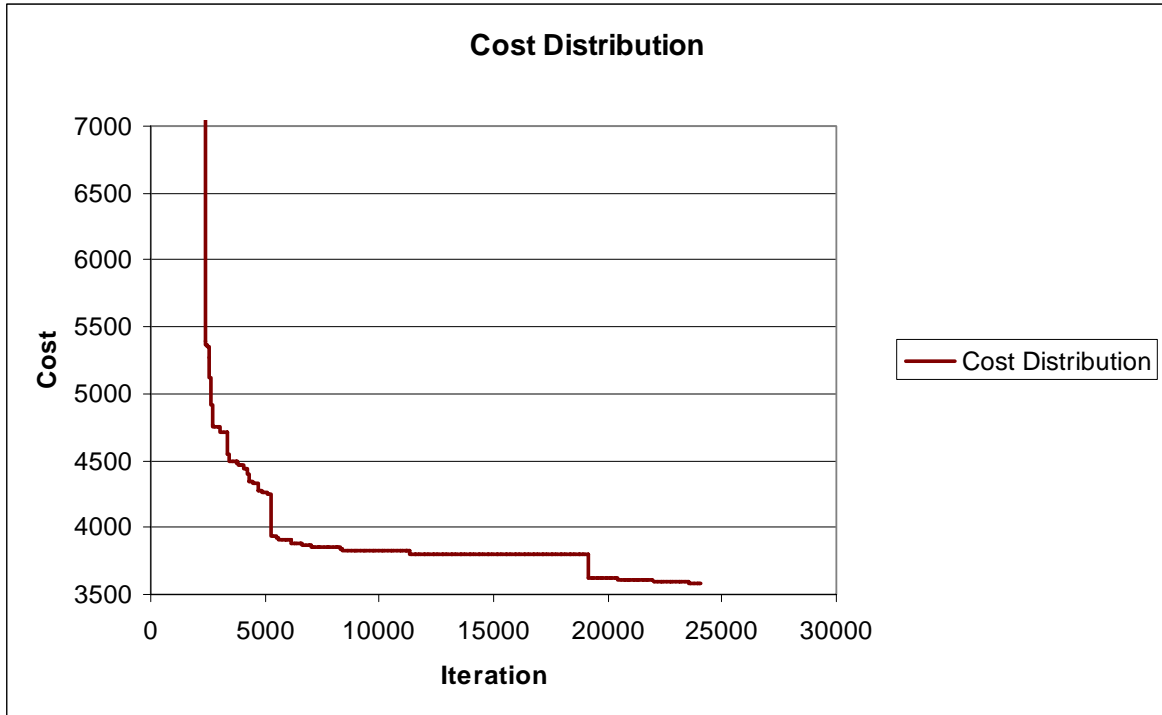
Cost Distribution

Figure 6.3. Cost Distribution of a Random Timetable improved by SA method (a closer
look to Figure 6.2)

For the second evaluation, using hybrid approach to this case study has not a very
critical role because of this problem is not a much tightened problem. Utilizing any random
timetable for the initial point instead of Constraint Programming in the SA algorithm can
give reasonable results for the Computer Engineering Department of İYTE.

On the other hand, this hybrid approach is tested on a much more tightened
problem. That problem has 200 activities with 20 instructors, 20 classrooms and 20 classes.

Table 6.8. More Tightened Timetable Problem than the Case Problem

Simulated Annealing	Random Initial	Constraint Programming
	Cost	Cost
Before SA	2.082161E8	2073100.0
After SA	9571100.0	1639700.0
Total CPU Time (min)	52	43

As seen in the Table 6.8, the initialization strategy for the SA algorithm has very crucial influence on the performance of the algorithm. The constraint programming stage provides a fast way to the first feasible solution.

The reason of this difference between two problems is the problem structure. In the first case (the problem of Computer Engineering Department of İYTE) the problem is very loosen. There are 22 lessons in a week, so using 40 timeslots appropriate solution can be obtained. However in the second case there are 300 lessons which have to be scheduled for 50 timeslots. This is a tightly constrained problem.

Evaluations on the following elements can be inferred using these tables:

- The most effective way of using neighborhood searching algorithms,
- The effect of the first phase of the hybrid approach to the SA algorithm.

6.2. Future Works

Finding a feasible timetable solution for the Computer Engineering Department of İYTE is successfully realized in this study. While trying to find a solution effective methods for optimization problems are tried in a hybrid way. In spite of the shortcomings of the comparisons, the hybrid method still prove as a promising algorithm, among the best currently is used for course timetabling. The constraint programming stage provides a fast

way to the first feasible solution. This solution is improved by the simulated annealing stage.

For a future work the results of the experiments demonstrated in the previous section can be improved by some modifications in the implementation of the SA algorithm. The stage of the hybrid approach may be integrated more fully, to yield a more powerful and robust algorithm.

Another method for obtaining more quality results can be performing reheating techniques in simulated annealing method in a more effective way. By reheating one can get rid of from local minimal points and can reach to the global minimal point. Due to performing reheating method can cause high costs for wider range of problem instances, working on reheating worth to obtain more qualified solutions.

The other future studies about optimization problem searching methods can be planned such as trying the hybrid two stage methods consisting of constraint programming and tabu search for course timetabling problem, and to compare results between the two different hybrid methods on the same data set.

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APPENDIX A

STUDENT DATA

Table A.1. Student Data

STUDENT NUMBER	CLASS	REAL SEMESTER	STUDENT NUMBER	CLASS	REAL SEMESTER
100201003	4	9	130201045	2	3
100201005	4	9	130201046	2	3
100201006	4	9	130202020	2	3
100201012	4	9	132001001	2	3
100201013	4	9	132001001	2	3
100201015	4	9	132001004	3	5
100201016	4	9	132001007	3	5
100201018	4	9	132001009	3	5
100201021	4	9	132001011	3	5
100201025	4	9	132001013	3	5
100201027	4	9	132001016	1	1
100201028	4	9	132001016	1	1
100201029	4	9	132001017	2	4
100201030	4	9	132001018	2	4
100201035	4	8	132001023	2	4
100202025	4	7	140201001	1	1
102001007	3	6	140201002	1	1
102001007	3	6	140201003	2	3
102001013	3	5	140201004	1	1
102001013	3	5	140201005	1	1
110201002	3	5	140201006	1	1
110201003	4	7	140201007	1	1
110201004	4	7	140201008	Prep S.	0
110201005	4	7	140201009	1	1
110201006	4	7	140201010	1	1
110201007	4	7	140201011	1	1
110201008	4	7	140201012	Prep S.	0
110201009	3	5	140201013	1	1
110201010	4	7	140201014	1	3
110201011	4	7	140201015	1	1
110201012	4	7	140201016	1	1

Table A.1. (cont.) Student Data

110201013	4	7		140201017	2	3
110201015	4	7		140201018	2	3
110201016	4	7		140201019	1	1
110201017	4	7		140201020	1	1
110201018	3	6		140201021	2	3
110201019	4	7		140201022	1	1
110201021	3	6		140201023	1	1
110201023	4	7		140201024	1	1
110201026	4	9		140201025	1	1
110201027	4	7		140201026	1	1
110201029	4	7		140201027	1	1
110201031	4	7		140201028	2	3
110201032	4	7		140201029	1	1
110201033	4	7		140201030	1	1
110201034	4	7		140201031	1	1
110201036	4	7		140201032	1	1
110201037	4	9		140201033	1	1
110201038	4	7		140201034	1	1
110201039	4	9		140201035	1	1
110201042	4	7		140201036	1	1
110201043	3	5		140201038	1	1
110201045	1	5		140201039	Prep School	0
110201050	4	8		140201040	1	1
110201051	4	8		140201041	1	1
112001011	3	6		140201042	1	1
120201001	3	5		140201043	Prep School	0
120201002	3	5		140201046	Prep School	0
120201003	3	5		140201048	3	3
120201004	4	7		140201049	1	1
120201005	3	5		142001004	2	3
120201006	3	5		142001007	Prep School	0
120201007	4	7		142001011	1	1
120201008	3	5		142001011	1	1
120201009	3	5		142001012	2	3
120201011	3	5		150201001	Prep School	0
120201012	3	5		150201002	1	1
120201013	3	5		150201003	1	1
120201014	3	5		150201004	Prep School	0
120201015	3	5		150201005	Prep School	0

Table A.1. (cont.) Student Data

120201016	3	5	150201006	Prep School	0
120201017	3	5	150201007	Prep School	0
120201018	3	5	150201008	1	1
120201019	3	5	150201009	Prep School	0
120201021	3	5	150201010	Prep School	0
120201022	3	5	150201011	Prep School	0
120201023	3	5	150201012	Prep School	0
120201024	3	5	150201013	Prep School	0
120201025	3	5	150201014	Prep School	0
120201026	3	5	150201015	Prep School	0
120201027	2	5	150201016	1	1
120201028	1	5	150201017	Prep School	0
120201030	3	5	150201018	Prep School	0
120201031	3	5	150201019	Prep School	0
120201033	3	5	150201020	Prep School	0
120201034	4	7	150201021	1	1
120201035	1	3	150201022	Prep School	0
120201036	2	3	150201023	Prep School	0
120201038	2	3	150201024	Prep School	0
120201039	3	5	150201025	Prep School	0
120201040	3	5	150201026	1	1
120201041	4	7	150201027	1	1
120201042	3	5	150201028	Prep School	0
120201043	1	3	150201029	Prep School	0
120201044	2	4	150201030	Prep School	0
120201045	1	5	150201031	Prep School	0
120201047	4	7	150201032	1	1

Table A.1. (cont.) Student Data

120201048	4	7	150201033	Prep School	0
122001006	3	6	150201034	Prep School	0
122001007	3	5	150201035	Prep School	0
130201001	2	3	150201036	Prep School	0
130201002	2	3	150201037	1	1
130201004	1	1	150201038	1	1
130201005	2	3	150201039	Prep School	0
130201006	3	5	150201040	Prep School	0
130201007	2	5	150201041	Prep School	0
130201008	1	3	150201042	Prep School	0
130201009	2	3	150201043	Prep School	0
130201010	2	3	150201044	Prep School	0
130201011	1	1	150201045	Prep School	0
130201012	2	3	150201046	2	1
130201013	2	3	150201047	3	1
130201015	2	3	150201049	Prep School	0
130201016	1	3	152001001	1	1
130201017	2	3	152001002	1	1
130201018	2	3	152001003	1	1
130201019	2	3	152001004	1	1
130201020	2	3	152001005	1	1
130201021	2	3	152001006	1	1
130201022	2	3	152001007	1	1
130201023	2	3	152001008	1	1
130201024	2	3	152001010	1	1
130201025	1	3	152001011	1	1
130201026	2	3	152001012	Prep School	0
130201027	1	1	152001013	1	1
130201028	2	5	70201003	4	9
130201029	3	5	70201032	4	9
130201030	3	5	80201007	4	9
130201031	2	3	80201030	4	9
130201032	2	3	80201033	4	9
130201033	2	3	90201004	4	9

Table A.1. (cont.) Student Data

130201034	2	3	90201006	4	9
130201035	2	3	90201007	4	9
130201036	2	3	90201010	4	9
130201037	2	3	90201019	4	9
130201038	2	3	90201020	4	9
130201039	1	3	90201021	4	9
130201040	3	5	90201024	4	9
130201041	1	3	90201027	4	9
130201042	2	3	90201032	4	9
130201043	1	3	90201033	4	9
130201044	1	1			

APPENDIX B

LECTURE DATA

Table B.1. CENG 111 Introduction to Computer Engineering & Orientation

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
140201038	İSMAİL	KARACAN	140201011	OZAN	ALTUNDAĞ
140201022	GÖKÇEN	ÇİMEN	140201049	LALA	ALİZADA
130201008	ERCAN	DOĞAN	140201006	MUSTAFA	ALİOĞLU
140201040	MESUT	CAN	130201039	ARZU	AYTAR
150201047	ESİN	BOYACIOĞLU	140201031	SEMİH	KOLU
140201020	ONUR	AKSOY	150201027	ESRA	YILDIZ
140201023	DENİZ	DAMARSARDI	150201016	DUYGU	ŞAHİN
140201030	HÜSEYİN	KIZILBULAK	140201014	OĞUZ	KAYRAL
140201009	MEHMET ALİ	ATEŞ	130201043	BEHÇET	MUTLU
140201019	HASAN EMRE	ABAT	140201005	OĞUZ	AKPINAR
140201002	SEMA	TABAK	130201025	EMRE	ŞAHİN
120201043	OSMAN	TİTİZ	150201032	ERDİ	OKATAR
140201007	TUĞÇE HİLAL	ÇİL	140201035	YASİN	KOCAER
140201036	ALİ ERCAN	KONUŞ	120201035	ESER İNAN	ARSLAN
130201004	MERİÇ	UZUN	140201010	UĞUR	GÖĞEBAKAN
140201026	ADEM SAMET	GAGAR	140201041	GÖKHAN	SUNA
120201028	CEVAHİR	ALTINTOP	140201016	HABİB	ADIBELLİ
150201037	YAVUZ SELİM	ÖZTÜRK	140201042	ARZUM	KARATAŞ
130201011	METİN	UĞUR	140201032	ÖMER	YAĞCI
150201026	EMRE	ÇELİKTEN	140201034	ZAFER	ÖZDOĞRU
150201008	MUSTAFA	TOPRAK	140201013	OSMAN ERTEM	UNAT
140201027	YAĞMUR UMUT	KUŞ	130201027	MEHMET	ÖZDEMİR
150201021	DENİZ	KUT	130201041	TUBA	ALPOĞLU
140201025	GÖRKEM	DEMİRAY	130201044	NAZMİ	MERT
150201038	CEM	HACIHASANOĞLU	140201001	ÇAĞKAN	DÖKMEN
140201024	SEYHAN	UÇAR	150201003	ONURCAN	ANIL
150201002	FULYA	YURTSEVER	140201033	SAMET	ERENTÜRK
140201015	ŞEYMA	AYDIN	140201004	SERDAR	SARIGÜL

Table B.2. CENG 113 Introduction to Computer Algorithmics & Programming

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME		STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
140201033	SAMET	ERENTÜRK		140201001	ÇAĞKAN	DÖKMEN
140201016	HABİB	ADIBELLİ		140201049	LALA	ALİZADA
140201034	ZAFER	ÖZDOĞRU		140201004	SERDAR	SARIGÜL
140201026	ADEM SAMET	GAGAR		130201026	ŞERİFE	İDİKUT
150201021	DENİZ	KUT		130201027	MEHMET	ÖZDEMİR
130201023	CENK	TÜZÜN		110201045	MOUSTAFA	CHATZIMPEKIR
140201025	GÖRKEM	DEMİRAY		140201006	MUSTAFA	ALİOĞLU
130201034	ŞEVKET	ÇETİN		130201037	BENGÜ BANU	DÖNMEZ
150201002	FULYA	YURTSEVER		140201015	ŞEYMA	AYDIN
130201009	İSLAM	İPEKYÜZ		130201008	ERCAN	DOĞAN
140201024	SEYHAN	UÇAR		120201027	TUNAY	TUNA
140201020	ONUR	AKSOY		140201002	SEMA	TABAK
130201025	EMRE	ŞAHİN		140201018	ECE NESLİ	GÜRBÜZ
140201031	SEMİH	KOLU		140201040	MESUT	CAN
150201038	CEM	HACIHASANOĞLU		140201022	GÖKÇEN	ÇİMEN
130201041	TUBA	ALPOĞLU		150201003	ONURCAN	ANIL
130201007	UĞUR	AYDIN		140201019	HASAN EMRE	ABAT
130201044	NAZMİ	MERT		140201005	OĞUZ	AKPINAR
130201022	GÖZDE	ŞENCOŞKUN		152019002	MEHMET VOLKAN	ÇAKIR
140201023	DENİZ	DAMARSARDI		140201021	NERMİN	ÖZMEN
150201016	DUYGU	ŞAHİN		130201013	GÜLTEN ANIL	DENGİZ
140201042	ARZUM	KARATAŞ		140201041	GÖKHAN	SUNA
140201007	TUĞÇE HİLAL	ÇİL		130201002	MERİÇ	DÖNMEZER
130201039	ARZU	AYTAR		150201026	EMRE	ÇELİKTEN
130201019	ZÜLEYHA	AKUSTA		130201005	BURAK	YILMAZTÜRK
150201027	ESRA	YILDIZ		140201011	OZAN	ALTUNDAĞ
130202020	ALPKAN	KOCA		150201037	YAVUZ SELİM	ÖZTÜRK
140201036	ALİ ERCAN	KONUŞ		130201016	YUNUS	DUMLU
130201032	FEVZİ	KAHRAMAN		120201035	ESER İNAN	ARSLAN
130201004	MERİÇ	UZUN		150201032	ERDİ	OKATAR
140201032	ÖMER	YAĞCI		120201045	RAMAZAN	AKMAN
140201038	İSMAİL	KARACAN		140201010	UĞUR	GÖĞEBAKAN
130201038	MUSTAFA	İNAÇ		130201011	METİN	UĞUR
130201028	BATUHAN	GÜNDOĞDU		140201030	HÜSEYİN	KIZILBULAK
140201009	MEHMET ALİ	ATEŞ		140201013	OSMAN ERTEM	UNAT
140201035	YASİN	KOCAER		140201027	YAĞMUR UMUT	KUŞ
140201014	OĞUZ	KAYRAL		150201008	MUSTAFA	TOPRAK

Table B.3. CENG 211 Data Structures II

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME		STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
130201018	DİLEK	AVCI		140201003	GÖKHAN	TUNCER
130201020	ÇİĞDEM	TÜRKMENDAĞ		140201028	EVRİM	FURUNCU
120201027	TUNAY	TUNA		90201007	ÖZGÜR	ÖZEL
130201035	YİĞİT	KARAKAŞ		130201001	NECATİ	BATUR
140201048	FİKRET SOMAY	PİDECİ		120201038	FIRAT	ŞAHİNDAL
120201013	MUSTAFA	KESKİN		130201024	MELEK	YAVUZ
120201018	BORA	YALÇIN		130201021	SEMA	ÇAM
130201013	GÜLTEN ANIL	DENGİZ		130201045	ASİYE	KILIÇ
120201005	CİHAT	TOMBAK		130201031	SEDA	KASAP
130201030	FATİH	TEKİN		130201006	ERDEM	SARILI
90201032	İBRAHİM	GENÇ		110201033	HİDAYET	ÇELEN
140201017	EMRE CAN	GEÇER		130201026	ŞERİFE	İDİKUT
130201010	İPEK	YAĞCAN		140201018	ECE NESLİ	GÜRBÜZ
130201007	UĞUR	AYDIN		130201015	BANU	ŞAHİN
100201018	MEHMET	KOÇA		130201017	BATIKAN	URCAN
120201036	BASRİ	MUMCU		130201034	ŞEVKET	ÇETİN
90201019	KENAN	İNCE		100202025	İ.GÖKHAN	AKSAKALLI
130201033	NATAN	ABOLAFYA		130201012	DENİZ	EYLİKSEVER
80201030	BERCA	EKİM		130201036	ENGİN	LELOĞLU
130201046	CÜNEYT	ÇALIŞKAN				

Table B.4. CENG 213 Theory of Computation

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME		STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
110201038	UFUK NOYAN	ÜSTE		100202025	İ.GÖKHAN	AKSAKALLI
130201021	SEMA	ÇAM		130201023	CENK	TÜZÜN
120201027	TUNAY	TUNA		130201036	ENGİN	LELOĞLU
130201006	ERDEM	SARILI		130201020	ÇİĞDEM	TÜRKMENDAĞ
130201015	BANU	ŞAHİN		130201017	BATIKAN	URCAN
120201018	BORA	YALÇIN		130201013	GÜLTEN ANIL	DENGİZ
130201009	İSLAM	İPEKYÜZ		130201031	SEDA	KASAP
130201034	ŞEVKET	ÇETİN		130201024	MELEK	YAVUZ
140201028	EVRİM	FURUNCU		150201047	ESİN	BOYACIOĞLU
130201033	NATAN	ABOLAFYA		130201012	DENİZ	EYLİKSEVER
130201038	MUSTAFA	İNAÇ		130201010	İPEK	YAĞCAN
130201001	NECATİ	BATUR		120201038	FIRAT	ŞAHİNDAL
130201037	BENGÜ BANU	DÖNMEZ		150201046	NUMAN	GÖÇERİ
130201035	YİĞİT	KARAKAŞ		130201042	LEYLA	PUNAR
120201033	BARAN	AYTAŞ		130201019	ZÜLEYHA	AKUSTA
130201005	BURAK	YILMAZTÜRK		130201032	FEVZİ	KAHRAMAN
140201018	ECE NESLİ	GÜRBÜZ		120201036	BASRİ	MUMCU
130201022	GÖZDE	ŞENCOŞKUN		140201003	GÖKHAN	TUNCER
130201018	DİLEK	AVCI		130201002	MERİÇ	DÖNMEZER
120201013	MUSTAFA	KESKİN		120201005	CİHAT	TOMBAK
130201007	UĞUR	AYDIN		130201026	ŞERİFE	İDİKUT
130201045	ASİYE	KILIÇ		130201030	FATİH	TEKİN
140201017	EMRE CAN	GEÇER		140201021	NERMİN	ÖZMEN
130201046	CÜNEYT	ÇALIŞKAN				

Table B.5. CENG 311 Computer Architecture

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
110201016	HASAN	KINAY	120201011	ŞERİF	GİRGİN
120201016	SALİH	ÖZKUL	110201007	İBRAHİM	SÜRME_GÖZLÜER
120201040	GÜLTEN	KANAT	120201022	ÖZGÜR	TABAN
110201042	DORUK S	TÜRKOĞLU	110201011	MUSTAFA	ŞENOĞLU
110201032	ALİ	KARAOĞLU	120201033	BARAN	AYTAŞ
120201008	MİTAT	POYRAZ	120201031	SONER	KARAPAPAK
110201031	KAZIM	SUNAR	120201002	HANDAN	YARICI
120201024	GÜRCAN	GERÇEK	120201019	ZEHRA MERVE	KARAMAN
120201012	FATİH	ÖZTÜRK	110201029	İHSAN FATİH	YAZICI
120201025	GİZEM	YAMASAN	120201006	ONUR	FİDAN
120201023	SERDAR	GÖKÇEN	120201026	GÖRKEM	KILINÇ
90201019	KENAN	İNCE	120201001	SEÇKİN	AKIN
150201047	ESİN	BOYACIOĞLU	100202025	İ.GÖKHAN	AKSAKALLI
120201030	MEHMET EMRAH	KALA	100201018	MEHMET	KOÇA
140201048	FİKRET SOMAY	PİDECİ	110201017	YUSUF EMRE	ALKAN
110201043	SAVAŞ	TAKAN	120201042	BUKET	OLÇAY
130201040	ÇAĞATAY	YÜCEL	110201002	TUFAN	KÜPELİ
110201009	ÖZGÜR	AKCASOY	130201029	İZAY	İZGİNOĞLU
110201006	MUSTAFA	YILMAZ	120201015	YAŞAR	YAŞA
120201003	ERHAN	ARGIN	120201009	BURAK	EKİCİ
110201038	UFUK NOYAN	ÜSTE	120201017	OĞUZHAN	ACARGİL
90201007	ÖZGÜR	ÖZEL	120201014	YUSUF ZİYA	BAŞBUĞ
120201039	AHMET ARDA	ALBAYRAK	110201010	BAHADIR	ÖZCAN
120201021	ERDEM	ÇAĞLAYAN	100201025	EMRE CAN	ERDİNÇ

Table B.6. CENG 313 Operating Systems

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
100201018	MEHMET	KOÇA	120201021	ERDEM	ÇAĞLAYAN
120201016	SALİH	ÖZKUL	120201017	OĞUZHAN	ACARGİL
120201006	ONUR	FİDAN	110201006	MUSTAFA	YILMAZ
120201009	BURAK	EKİCİ	90201032	İBRAHİM	GENÇ
120201023	SERDAR	GÖKÇEN	70201003	ÖZGÜR	KARAÇİZMELİ
70201032	MEHMET	ÇEKİM	120201025	GİZEM	YAMASAN
110201036	DERYA	SARICA	100201005	SÜHEYLA	ŞEN
120201024	GÜRCAN	GERÇEK	100201012	ZEKAİ İMRAN	ÜREGEN
100202025	İ.GÖKHAN	AKSAKALLI	140201048	FİKRET SOMAY	PİDECİ
120201004	ALPEREN YUSUF	AYBAR	110201042	DORUK S	TÜRKOĞLU
110201051	SEMİH	MADEN	110201043	SAVAŞ	TAKAN
120201015	YAŞAR	YAŞA	110201031	KAZIM	SUNAR
100201027	ŞENER	BARIŞ	110201016	HASAN	KINAY
120201003	ERHAN	ARGIN	120201031	SONER	KARAPAPAK
120201012	FATİH	ÖZTÜRK	110201019	ÇAĞDAŞ	ÖZERŞAHİN
130201040	ÇAĞATAY	YÜCEL	90201006	EMİN	İZGİ
110201013	ADNAN	YALÇIN	120201022	ÖZGÜR	TABAN
120201033	BARAN	AYTAŞ	110201011	MUSTAFA O A	ŞENOĞLU
110201009	ÖZGÜR	AKCASOY	100201025	EMRE CAN	ERDİNÇ
110201029	İHSAN FATİH	YAZICI	120201001	SEÇKİN	AKIN
90201019	KENAN	İNCE	120201030	MEHMET EMRAH	KALA
120201002	HANDAN	YARICI	110201007	İBRAHİM	SÜRMEGÖZLÜER
120201039	HACI AHMET ARDA	ALBAYRAK	120201019	ZEHRA MERVE	KARAMAN
120201042	BUKET	OLÇAY	110201027	SÜLEYMAN	ISSIZ
110201002	TUFAN	KÜPELİ	110201017	YUSUF EMRE	ALKAN
120201040	GÜLTEN	KANAT	120201026	GÖRKEM	KILINÇ
120201011	ŞERİF	GİRGİN	120201014	YUSUF ZİYA	BAŞBUĞ
120201008	MİTAT	POYRAZ	110201023	TAYFUN	BULUTLAR
90201033	GÖKMEN	KATİPOĞLU	130201029	İZAY	İZGİNOĞLU

Table B.7. CENG 315 Stochastic Processes

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
120201039	HACI AHMET ARDA	ALBAYRAK	120201033	BARAN	AYTAŞ
120201026	GÖRKEM	KILINÇ	120201040	GÜLTEN	KANAT
110201038	UFUK NOYAN	ÜSTE	110201042	DORUK S	TÜRKOĞLU
120201011	ŞERİF	GİRGİN	120201003	ERHAN	ARGIN
100201025	EMRE CAN	ERDİNÇ	120201047	ERDEM	AYDINSOY
120201002	HANDAN	YARICI	120201001	SEÇKİN	AKIN
110201051	SEMİH	MADEN	120201021	ERDEM	ÇAĞLAYAN
110201037	MEHMET EMRE	TİRYAKİ	120201017	OĞUZHAN	ACARGİL
120201016	SALİH	ÖZKUL	120201022	ÖZGÜR	TABAN
110201009	ÖZGÜR	AKCASOY	120201030	MEHMET EMRAH	KALA
120201031	SONER	KARAPAPAK	120201009	BURAK	EKİCİ
130201029	İZAY	İZGİNOĞLU	110201050	FATİH	ACAR 4.sınıf
110201002	TUFAN	KÜPELİ	110201032	ALİ	KARAOĞLU 4.sınıf
130201040	ÇAĞATAY	YÜCEL	110201015	SERKAN	CAN
110201007	İBRAHİM	SÜRMEGÖZLÜER	120201025	GİZEM	YAMASAN
120201024	GÜRCAN	GERÇEK	110201023	TAYFUN	BULUTLAR
120201008	MİTAT	POYRAZ	130201028	BATUHAN	GÜNDOĞDU
120201014	YUSUF ZİYA	BAŞBUĞ	120201015	YAŞAR	YAŞA
120201042	BUKET	OLÇAY	110201016	HASAN	KINAY
120201023	SERDAR	GÖKÇEN	120201006	ONUR	FİDAN
120201012	FATİH	ÖZTÜRK	120201019	ZEHRA MERVE	KARAMAN

Table B.8. CENG 321 Communication Techniques and Protocols

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
120201021	ERDEM	ÇAĞLAYAN	130201029	İZAY	İZGİNOĞLU
110201042	DORUK S	TÜRKOĞLU	110201043	SAVAŞ	TAKAN
120201003	ERHAN	ARGIN	120201031	SONER	KARAPAPAK
120201025	GİZEM	YAMASAN	120201016	SALİH	ÖZKUL
110201002	TUFAN	KÜPELİ	120201026	GÖRKEM	KILINÇ
120201039	HACI AHMET ARDA	ALBAYRAK	120201024	GÜRCAN	GERÇEK
100202025	İ.GÖKHAN	AKSAKALLI	120201001	SEÇKİN	AKIN
120201033	BARAN	AYTAŞ	120201008	MİTAT	POYRAZ
120201023	SERDAR	GÖKÇEN	110201006	MUSTAFA	YILMAZ
100201025	EMRE CAN	ERDİNÇ	120201019	ZEHRA MERVE	KARAMAN
120201017	OĞUZHAN	ACARGİL	120201012	FATİH	ÖZTÜRK
120201030	MEHMET EMRAH	KALA	120201005	CİHAT	TOMBAK
140201048	FİKRET SOMAY	PİDECİ	120201015	YAŞAR	YAŞA
130201040	ÇAĞATAY	YÜCEL	130201028	BATUHAN	GÜNDOĞDU
120201040	GÜLTEN	KANAT	120201002	HANDAN	YARICI
110201009	ÖZGÜR	AKCASOY	120201022	ÖZGÜR	TABAN
120201009	BURAK	EKİCİ	120201013	MUSTAFA	KESKİN
100201016	ERKAN	ARGIN	120201006	ONUR	FİDAN
120201014	YUSUF ZİYA	BAŞBUĞ	150201047	ESİN	BOYACIOĞLU
120201011	ŞERİF	GİRGİN	110201023	TAYFUN	BULUTLAR
120201042	BUKET	OLÇAY	130201030	FATİH	TEKİN

Table B.9. CENG 352 Object Oriented Programming

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
100201015	CENGİZ	AKUR	120201041	ÖZMEN	ADIBELLİ
110201008	MEHMET CAVİT	İLKER	110201027	SÜLEYMAN	ISSIZ
110201003	İLKER	ÖZEN	110201013	ADNAN	YALÇIN
110201012	ÖNDER	SEZGİN	110201034	BURCU	CANİK
110201019	ÇAĞDAŞ	ÖZERŞAHİN	100201028	İSMAİL	YAZAR
110201004	DAMLA	YAPAR	90201010	SEÇKİN	SALMANOĞLU
110201037	MEHMET EMRE	TİRYAKİ	110201036	DERYA	SARICA
100201013	MUSTAFA UMUR	BEYDEŞ	120201004	ALPEREN YUSUF	AYBAR
110201015	SERKAN	CAN	120201007	BURHAN	ÇİMEN
120201034	ESRA	RÜZGAR	100201003	EMRAH	ÖNDER
100201021	BELMA	BOYRAZ	90201033	GÖKMEN	KATİPOĞLU
120201048	DUYGU	TAYLAN	110201005	ÜMİT	KARA
100201027	ŞENER	BARIŞ			

Table B.10. CENG 411 Systems Theory & Analysis

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
70201003	ÖZGÜR	KARAÇİZMELİ	110201031	KAZIM	SUNAR
110201051	SEMİH	MADEN	110201027	SÜLEYMAN	ISSIZ
110201029	İHSAN FATİH	YAZICI	110201017	YUSUF EMRE	ALKAN
120201048	DUYGU	TAYLAN	120201007	BURHAN	ÇİMEN
100201018	MEHMET	KOÇA	90201006	EMİN	İZGİ
100201006	UĞUR	SEVER	110201004	DAMLA	YAPAR
100201013	MUSTAFA UMUR	BEYDEŞ	110201037	MEHMET EMRE	TİRYAKİ
110201019	ÇAĞDAŞ	ÖZERŞAHİN	100201003	EMRAH	ÖNDER
110201036	DERYA	SARICA	152001001	OĞUZ	YARIMTEPE
110201038	UFUK NOYAN	ÜSTE	110201008	MEHMET CAVİT	İLKER
110201005	ÜMİT	KARA	110201034	BURCU	CANİK
110201011	MUSTAFA OA	ŞENOĞLU	120201004	ALPEREN YUSUF	AYBAR
110201012	ÖNDER	SEZGİN	100201016	ERKAN	ARGIN
100201005	SÜHEYLA	ŞEN	110201033	HİDAYET	ÇELEN
110201010	BAHADIR	ÖZCAN	100201012	ZEKAİ İMRAN	ÜREGEN
110201013	ADNAN	YALÇIN	70201032	MEHMET	ÇEKİM
80201033	ŞÜKRÜ KEMAL	KAYALI	110201007	İBRAHİM	SÜRME_ GÖZLÜER
110201032	ALİ	KARAOĞLU	90201019	KENAN	İNCE
110201023	TAYFUN	BULUTLAR	120201041	ÖZMEN	ADIBELLİ
90201032	İBRAHİM	GENÇ	110201009	ÖZGÜR	AKCASOY
90201033	GÖKMEN	KATİPOĞLU	110201016	HASAN	KINAY
110201003	İLKER	ÖZEN	110201015	SERKAN	CAN
80201030	BERCA	EKİM	100201025	EMRE CAN	ERDİNÇ
120201034	ESRA	RÜZGAR			

Table B.11. CENG 415 Senior Design Project & Seminar I

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
90201020	BEKİR	AHMETOĞLU	80201033	ŞÜKRÜ KEMAL	KAYALI
100201003	EMRAH	ÖNDER	110201019	ÇAĞDAŞ	ÖZERŞAHİN
100201006	UĞUR	SEVER	110201003	İLKER	ÖZEN
120201041	ÖZMEN	ADIBELLİ	110201005	ÜMİT	KARA
110201050	FATİH	ACAR	100201028	İSMAİL	YAZAR
80201030	BERCA	EKİM	110201051	SEMİH	MADEN
110201011	MUSTAFA O A	ŞENOĞLU	110201008	MEHMET CAVİT	İLKER
90201027	CEREN	TEKİN	110201038	UFUK NOYAN	ÜSTE
100201029	NİGAR	KALE	100201016	ERKAN	ARGIN
110201037	MEHMET EMRE	TİRYAKİ	100201030	ÜMRAN	KAMAR
110201004	DAMLA	YAPAR	110201032	ALİ	KARAOĞLU
110201026	GÖKHAN	ADIGÜZEL	90201010	SEÇKİN	SALMA_NOĞLU
110201036	DERYA	SARICA	110201012	ÖNDER	SEZGİN
100201013	MUSTAFA UMUR	BEYDEŞ	110201013	ADNAN	YALÇIN
120201007	BURHAN	ÇİMEN	120201034	ESRA	RÜZGAR
110201010	BAHADIR	ÖZCAN	110201015	SERKAN	CAN
110201034	BURCU	CANİK	100201012	ZEKAİ İMRAN	ÜREGEN
110201027	SÜLEYMAN	ISSIZ	90201033	GÖKMEN	KATİPOĞ_LU
120201048	DUYGU	TAYLAN	120201004	ALPEREN YUSUF	AYBAR
100201005	SÜHEYLA	ŞEN	70201032	MEHMET	ÇEKİM

Table B.12. CENG 416 Senior Design Project & Seminar II

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
80201007	ARİF	AKYOL	100201006	UĞUR	SEVER
80201033	ŞÜKRÜ KEMAL	KAYALI	90201020	BEKİR	AHMETOĞLU
120201047	ERDEM	AYDINSOY	90201010	SEÇKİN	SALMANOĞ_LU

Table B.13. CENG 421 Network Programming

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
110201003	İLKER	ÖZEN	110201036	DERYA	SARICA
100201021	BELMA	BOYRAZ	110201008	MEHMET CAVİT	İLKER
110201034	BURCU	CANİK	120201048	DUYGU	TAYLAN
100201005	SÜHEYLA	ŞEN	100201029	NİGAR	KALE
110201019	ÇAĞDAŞ	ÖZERŞAHİN	100201016	ERKAN	ARGIN
110201013	ADNAN	YALÇIN	100201027	ŞENER	BARIŞ
110201033	HİDAYET	ÇELEN	110201032	ALİ	KARAOĞLU
100201013	MUSTAFA UMUR	BEYDEŞ	110201011	MUSTAFA O A	ŞENOĞLU
110201027	SÜLEYMAN	ISSIZ	110201029	İHSAN FATİH	YAZICI
120201047	ERDEM	AYDINSOY	110201051	SEMİH	MADEN
100201003	EMRAH	ÖNDER	120201034	ESRA	RÜZGAR
100201012	ZEKAİ İMRAN	ÜREGEN	110201039	ÜSAME F	ESENDİR
90201004	YAŞAR CENK	YALIM	110201017	YUSUF EMRE	ALKAN
110201007	İBRAHİM	SÜRMEGÖZLÜ_ER	110201004	DAMLA	YAPAR
110201012	ÖNDER	SEZGİN	120201041	ÖZMEN	ADIBELLİ
120201004	ALPEREN YUSUF	AYBAR	110201016	HASAN	KINAY
70201003	ÖZGÜR	KARAÇİZMELİ	110201015	SERKAN	CAN
90201010	SEÇKİN	SALMANOĞLU	100201028	İSMAİL	YAZAR
110201026	GÖKHAN	ADIGÜZEL	90201006	EMİN	İZGİ
110201010	BAHADIR	ÖZCAN	152001001	OĞUZ	YARIMTE_PE
110201037	MEHMET EMRE	TİRYAKİ	110201005	ÜMİT	KARA
100201006	UĞUR	SEVER	120201007	BURHAN	ÇİMEN
90201033	GÖKMEN	KATİPOĞLU			

Table B.14. CENG 461 Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems

STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME	STUDENT NO	STUDENT NAME	STUDENT SURNAME
100201005	SÜHEYLA	ŞEN	100201030	ÜMRAN	KAMAR
110201029	İHSAN FATİH	YAZICI	100201006	UĞUR	SEVER
100202025	İ.GÖKHAN	AKSAKALLI	100201013	MUSTAFA UMUR	BEYDEŞ
110201043	SAVAŞ	TAKAN	110201009	ÖZGÜR	AKCASOY
110201038	UFUK NOYAN	ÜSTE	90201032	İBRAHİM	GENÇ
90201006	EMİN	İZGİ	100201012	ZEKAİ İMRAN	ÜREGEN
90201010	SEÇKİN	SALMANOĞLU	110201017	YUSUF EMRE	ALKAN
70201032	MEHMET	ÇEKİM	80201030	BERCA	EKİM
110201039	ÜSAME F	ESENDİR	110201033	HİDAYET	ÇELEN
90201033	GÖKMEN	KATİPOĞLU	110201007	İBRAHİM	SÜRMEGÖZLÜER
110201023	TAYFUN	BULUTLAR	110201011	MUSTAFA O A	ŞENOĞLU
110201026	GÖKHAN	ADIGÜZEL			

Table B.15. CENG 5XX Graduate Students

STUDENT N0	STUDENT N0
112001011	142001007
122001006	142001011
122001007	142001011
132001001	142001012
132001001	152001001
132001004	152001002
132001007	152001003
132001009	152001004
132001011	152001005
132001013	152001006
132001016	152001007
132001016	152001008
132001017	152001010
132001018	152001011
132001023	152001012
142001004	152001013