List-graph colouring for multiple depot vehicle scheduling

Submitted by Emmanuel Lemoine on Mon, 10/06/2014 - 17:48

Titre List-graph colouring for multiple depot vehicle scheduling

Type de publication Article de revue

Auteur Laurent, Benoit [1], Hao, Jin-Kao [2]

Editeur Inderscience

Type Article scientifique dans une revue à comité de lecture

Année 2009

Langue Anglais

Date 2009

Numéro 1

Pagination 228 - 245

Volume 1

Titre de la revue International Journal of Mathematics in Operational Research

ISSN 1757-5850 / 1757-5869

Mots-clés ILS [3], iterated local search [4], list colouring [5], multiple depot vehicle scheduling [6], public transport [7], tabu search [8], vehicle assignment [9]

Résumé en anglais This article addresses a multiple depot vehicle scheduling problem (MDVSP) arising in public transportation. The general problem consists in assigning vehicles to trips while minimising the number of scheduled vehicles and the operational costs. The MDVSP considered here takes into account heterogeneous types of vehicles with complex relations among them. This special feature matches well situations encountered in practice, but makes the problem particularly difficult. We introduce a new formulation based on list-graph colouring, from which an iterative tabu search is developed for vehicle minimisation. The approach is assessed on seven real-world benchmarks and yields highly satisfactory results in terms of solution quality and computation time.

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