

Scheduling Handling Resources: Robotic Flowshops with Circular Layouts and a Practical Railway Problem

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Scheduling: assigning *tasks* to *resources* submitted to *constraints* to optimize a *performance criteria*

Introduction

Physical handling or transportation between resources: connectivity, layout, additional specific handling resources



Scheduling and transportation

Scheduling: assigning *tasks* to *resources* submitted to *constraints* to optimize a *performance criteria*

Physical handling or transportation between resources: connectivity, layout, additional specific handling resources

Two contexts:

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• Manufacturing management

Introduction



Railway management







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- Resource capacity
- Resource compatibility
- Conflict between trains

...







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- Resource capacity
- Resource compatibility
- Conflict between trains

...

Optimize departure coverage and performance costs







Horizon: 14 days 200–2000 departures/arrivals 30–90 resources

- Resource capacity
- Resource compatibility
- Conflict between trains

• ...

Optimize departure coverage and performance costs





Railway management

Joint work with H. Joudrier [Joudrier and T. 17]

- Simplify the station's graph by grouping similar resources
- Sophisticated routing algorithm
- (very) simple assignment algorithm
- Up to 40% covered departures...
- ... And the 1st place in the junior category!





Manufacturing management

Best 1-cycle problem

Flowshop: the parts must be processed on machine M_1 , then M_2 ...

Robotic cells

Introduction





Flowshop: the parts must be processed on machine M_1 , then M_2 ...





Sufficient model?

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Flowshop: the parts must be processed on machine M_1 , then M_2 ...







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Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem

Conclusion





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

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Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





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Best 1-cycle problem



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Robotic cell – Example

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Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

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Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells



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fast robot"



Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

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Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

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Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells















Robotic cell – **Example**





Robotic cell – **Example**





Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

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fast robot"





 M_3

 M_1

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"Long processing times, fast robot"



Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

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Robotic cell – Example

Best 1-cycle problem



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And in-between?

Best 1-cycle problem

That's where the problem is

Balancing

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- Total travel time
- Waiting time

Robotic cells



Given the *processing times* and *travel time between machines*, find a robot programmation which optimizes the *throughput*:





Linear



Circular



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Waiting policy

- No-wait [Agnetis, 00 ; Kats et al ; 09, Che et al, 12]
- Unbounded [Crama et al, 97 ; Rajapakshe et al., 11]
- Time-window (HSP) [Dawande et al, 09; Zhou et al, 12]





Machine and robot capacity

Robotic cells

Classical model (blocking)

Few studies for the circular layout [Rajapakshe et al., 11]

Relaxing the blocking constraint

Dual-gripper

[Sethi et al., 01 ; Jung et al., 15 ; Drobouchevitch et al., 06]

- Swapping [Jolai et al]
- Machine buffers [Drobouchevitch et al., 06]





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[Crama et al, 97]

Activity A_i • Go to M_i • Wait?

- Unload M_i
- Go to *M*_{*i*+1}





[Crama et al, 97]

Activity A; • Go to M; • Wait? • Unload M; • Go to M_{i+1}

• Load M_{i+1}





[Crama et al, 97]



$$A_0, A_1, \ldots, A_m$$



Cycle

- Feasible sequence of activities
- Leaves the cell in the same state



Cycle

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- k-cycle: produces k parts
- 1-cycle: produces 1 part



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1-cycles \Leftrightarrow permutations of the *m* activities $A_1 \dots A_m$



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1-cycles are...

- easy to describe
- easy to implement
- better known and more studied

But not necessarily optimal!



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Finding the best 1-cycle...



But not necessarily optimal!



1-cycles are...

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- easy to describe
- easy to implement
- better known and more studied

Finding the best 1-cycle...

• ...in linear regular cells: P

[Crama *et al.*, 97] (balanced [Brauner *et al.*, 99])

But not necessarily optimal!

• ...in circular regular cells: NP-hard [Rajapakshe *et al*, 11] $(\frac{5}{3} \text{ approx})$.

• ...in circular regular balanced cells: ??



1-cycles dominate all cycles

[Sethi et al., 92]



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Linear layout

• Valid for regular cells, 2- to 3-machine

[Crama et al., 97]



1-cycles dominate all cycles

[Sethi et al., 92]

Linear layout

- Valid for regular cells, 2- to 3-machine
- False for regular cells, 4-machine

[Crama et al., 97]

[Brauner et al., 01]



1-cycles dominate a	all	cycles
---------------------	-----	--------

[Sethi et al., 92]

Linear layout • Valid for regular cells, 2- to 3-machine [Crama et al., 97] • False for regular cells, 4-machine [Brauner et al., 01] • Valid for regular balanced cell up to 15 machines [Brauner, 08]



1-cycles	dominate	all	cycles
----------	----------	-----	--------

[Sethi et al., 92]

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Linear layout

- Valid for regular cells, 2- to 3-machine
- False for regular cells, 4-machine [Brauner et al., 01]
- Valid for regular balanced cell up to 15 machines [Brauner, 08]

Circular layout

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???



1-cycles of	dominate	all	cycles
-------------	----------	-----	--------

[Sethi et al., 92]

[Crama et al., 97]

Linear layout

- Valid for regular cells, 2- to 3-machine
- False for regular cells, 4-machine [Brauner et al., 01]
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Circular layout

Counter-example for regular balanced cells with 6 machines

[T. et al. MIM 16]



Circular, identical parts, regular, balanced: (m, δ, p)



Small enough to fit in a Shadok's head!

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 A_1





 A_1





 A_1





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17/42





17/42





17/42





 $A_1 A_0 A_4$

17/42





 $A_1 A_0 A_4$





 $A_1 A_0 A_4$





 $A_1A_0A_4$

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 $A_1A_0A_4$





 $A_1A_0A_4$

17/42



Identity cycle π_{id}

$$\pi_{id}$$
: $A_0A_1\ldots A_m$



Cycle time

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$$T(\pi_{id}) = (m+1)\delta + mp$$



Downhill cycle π_d

$$\pi_d$$
: $A_0A_mA_{m-1}\ldots A_1$



Cycle Time

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$$T(\pi_d) = 3(m+1)\delta + \max(0, p - (3m-1)\delta)$$



Odd-Even cycle π_{oe}





Cycle time

$$T(\pi_{oe}) = ??$$



$$T(\pi_{oe}) = 2(m+1)\delta + \max\left(0, \frac{2\alpha-1}{\alpha}(p-(m+1)\delta)\right) \quad \alpha = \lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor$$

$$\leq 2p$$




$$T(\pi_{oe}) = 2(m+1)\delta + \max\left(0, \frac{2\alpha-1}{\alpha}(p-(m+1)\delta)\right) \quad \alpha = \lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor$$

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$$\leq 2p$$





Finding the best 1-cycle

Best 1-cycle problem



Odd-Even

(UT) = (UT) =

Which is the best 1-cycle?

Robotic cells



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Best 1-cycles?





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Robotic cells

Best 1-cycles?





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Best 1-cycles?





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Best 1-cycles?





Best 1-cycles?

Best 1-cycle problem





Best 1-cycles?

Best 1-cycle problem





Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

time



Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells



Best 1-cycle problem





Best 1-cycle problem



time



Exploring the unknown region

Best 1-cycle problem

Best 1-cycles : { π_{id} , π_{oe} , π_d } + ??

Introducing π^*

- π^* is a 1-cycle
- π^* crosses the yellow area (meaning: for some $(m+1)\delta \le p \le (3m-1)\delta$, π^* does strictly better than both π_{oe} and π_d)



Exploring the unknown region

Best 1-cycle problem

Best 1-cycles : { π_{id} , π_{oe} , π_d } + ??

Introducing π^*

- π^* is a 1-cycle
- π^* crosses the yellow area (meaning: for some $(m+1)\delta \le p \le (3m-1)\delta$, π^* does strictly better than both π_{oe} and π_d)

Who is π^* ?

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What can we say about it? Does it exist?

For "Ur" Disney - Pixar



Size of a minimum dominant set within 1-cycles:

т	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
cardinal	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4

proven computed

$$\{\pi_{id}, \pi_{oe}, \pi_d\} \cup ?$$



Size of a minimum dominant set within 1-cycles:

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cardinal	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4

proven computed

 $\{\pi_{id}, \pi_{oe}, \pi_{d}\} \cup ?$ [Brauner, 99]



Size of a minimum dominant set within 1-cycles:

т	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
cardinal	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4

proven computed $\{\pi_{id}, \pi_{oe}, \pi_d\} \cup ?$ Properties on the total travel time



Notations (last ones...)

- $\Delta(\pi)$: total travel time
- $d_i(\pi)$: travel time between the loading and unloading of machine M_i
- $d_{min}(\pi)$: min $d_i(\pi)$ e.g $d_{min}(\pi_{oe}) = (m+1)\delta$

Lower bound $LB_4(\pi)$

 $T(\pi) \ge \Delta(\pi)$

$$+\underbrace{\max(0,p-d_{min}(\pi))}_{min}$$

Total travel time

Minimum waiting time

 d_{min} is the minimum value of p for which waiting is necessary.



If π^* exists:

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• The robot travels between 2 and 3 times the size of the cell:

$$2(m+1)\delta < \Delta(\pi^*) < 3(m+1)\delta$$

• No waiting time if p is "small" relatively to the travel time:

$$d_{min}(\pi^*) > \Delta(\pi^*) - rac{3lpha-2}{2lpha-1}(m+1)\delta$$



Conclusion

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

Introduction



Conclusion

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

Introduction



Conclusion

Best 1-cycle problem



Robotic cells

Introduction



Conclusion

Best 1-cycle problem



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Conclusion

Best 1-cycle problem



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Conclusion

Best 1-cycle problem



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Introduction



Cardinal of a minimum dominant set within 1-cycles:

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Cardinal of a minimum dominant set within 1-cycles:

т	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
cardinal	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4





For m > 8, this guy...



...always (slightly) crosses the yellow area



For m > 8, this guy...



...always (slightly) crosses the yellow area



For m > 8, this guy...



...always (slightly) crosses the yellow area


For m > 8, this guy...





For m > 8, this guy...





For m > 8, this guy...





For m > 8, this guy...





For m > 8, this guy...





For m > 8, this guy...

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 $d_{min}(\pi_{2w}) = (m+5)\delta$ (One turn and one wave)











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For
$$m = 12$$
 and $m = 13...$

 $d_{min}(\pi_{2w}) = (m+9)\delta$ (One turn and two waves)







 $d_{min}(\pi_{2w}) = (m+9)\delta$ (One turn and two waves)





(here for *n* even)

 $d_{min}(\pi_{nw}) = (m + 2n + 1)\delta$ (One turn and *n* waves)



GSCOP $m \ge 8$: A proposition and a conjecture

Best 1-cycle problem

Proposition: best cycles within $\{\pi_{id}, \pi_d, \pi_{oe}\} \cup (\pi_{nw})_n$

- Three classical 1-cycles $\pi_{id}, \pi_d, \pi_{oe}$
- +One π_{nw} with the highest even value of *n* possible And/or
- +One π_{nw} with the highest odd value of *n* possible

Conjecture: best 1-cycle

These also dominate all 1-cycles

Proven for $m \leq 11$



• 2 "turns"

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 $T(\pi^*) < 2p$ (otherwise, dominated by π_{oe}) $T(\pi^*) < 3(m+1)\delta$ (otherwise, dominated by π_d)





2 "turns"

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• A_i and A_{i+1} can't be on the same turn in that order



Best 1-cycle problem

 $T(\pi^*) < 2p$ (otherwise, dominated by π_{oe}) $T(\pi^*) < 3(m+1)\delta$ (otherwise, dominated by π_d)



Proof ideas

2 "turns"

36/42

- A_i and A_{i+1} can't be on the same turn in that order
- no subsequence A_iA_{i-2} (rules out bigger alterations up to 11 machines)



 $T(\pi^*) < 2p$ (otherwise, dominated by π_{oe}) $T(\pi^*) < 3(m+1)\delta$ (otherwise, dominated by π_d)



Cardinal of a minimum dominant set within 1-cycles:

т	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
cardinal	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	4

$$\begin{aligned} & 6 \le m \le 8: \; \{\pi_{id}, \pi_{oe}, \pi_d\} \\ & 9 \le m \le 11: \; \{\pi_{id}, \pi_{oe}, \pi_d, \pi_{2w}\} \end{aligned}$$





(tight for p_{nw} cycles)

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Best 1-cycle problem

Not proven Regular disposition of the waves in the "turbulence" areas: seems intuitive but...

Proven Wavelets preferable to big waves:





Best 1-cycle problem

Not proven Regular disposition of the waves in the "turbulence" areas: seems intuitive but...

Proven Wavelets preferable to big waves:





- The best 1-cycle problem in circular, regular balanced cell would be **polynomial**
- Performance ratio of the usual cycles:





• The best 1-cycle problem in circular, regular balanced cell

- would be **polynomial**
- Performance ratio of the usual cycles:



 $\frac{\min(T(\pi_{oe}), T(\pi_d))}{\min_n(T(\pi_{oe}), T(\pi_d), T(\pi_{nw}))}$

(as a function of m)



Conclusion

Throughput optimization in robotic cells with **circular layout** was less studied and poorly understood so far. We:

- proposed new tools and specific cycle structures...
- ... leading to a conjecture on the best 1-cycle problem.

	Best 1-cycle	1-cycle conjecture
Linear	Р	$m \leq 3$: valid
		m = 4: false
balanced	Р	$m \leq 15$: valid
Circular	NP-hard	
balanced	$m \leq 11$: P	m = 6: false
	$m \ge 12$: also P?	



... and perspectives

Conclusion

(Well, aside from settling the conjecture)

Other types of production constraints:

- Non-balanced case: Improving existing approximation...
- Proportionate flow-shop Open questions for regular balanced cells:
 - Best 1-cycle for m > 11...
 - 1-cycle conjecture for $m \leq 5$
 - Cycle function for $m \ge 6$

Relationships with other layouts:

- Comparisons of layouts
- Generalization of the circular layout:







Third party content

Conclusion

- This presentation features some tributes to the following works (short excerpts):
 - Wall-E (Pixar Animation Studios, 2008), slides 1, 4, 8 and 43;
 - *Up* (Pixar Animation Studios & Walt Disney Pictures, 2009), slides 25 and 43;
 - Les Shadoks (Jacques Rouxel), slides 16 and 43.
- The picture of a toy train featured on slides 1, 2, 3 and 43 is extracted from a Brio commercial.
- Other clipart images (slides 4 and 10) are either public domain or released under a CC0 license.
- The template and backgrounds belong to G-SCOP laboratory.