



Efficient metaheuristic algorithms to solve the resource-constrained project scheduling problem with different sizes

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Introduction

- A project is a set of activities that are aimed to achieve a particular goal or objective and must be carried out at certain times with predetermined costs and with a certain quality.
- One of the problems with rich theoretical fundamentals in the field of operational research and project management is the resource-constrained project scheduling problem (RCPSP).



Research questions

- How is the suitable structure of the mathematical model for the RCPSP?
- How the GA can be used for solving the RCPSP?
- How the DE algorithm can be used for solving the RCPSP?
- How the PSO algorithm can be used for solving the RCPSP?
- How is the performance of the abovementioned algorithms in small-scale, medium-scale, and large-scale projects?



The mathematical model for RCPSP

Variables

- X_{it} : If the activity i is done on day t , then it will take a value of 1, otherwise 0.

Parameters

- A_i : the set of prerequisites of activity i
- d_i : the duration of activity i
- r_{ik} : the required amount of resource k for activity i
- r_{tk} : the required amount of resource k on day t
- a_k : the available amount of resource k on each day
- EFT_n : the earliest finish time of the last activity
- LFT_n : the latest finish time of the last activity
- EST_i : the earliest start time of activity i
- LFT_i : the latest finish time of activity i
- EFT_i : the earliest finish time of activity i
- C_k : the cost of using each unit of resource of type k



The mathematical model for RCPSP

$$z_1 = \text{Min} \sum_{t=EFT_n}^{LFT_n} tx_{nt}$$

$$z_2 = \text{Min}(\text{Max}(\sum_{t=1}^T (\sum_{k=1}^K C_k \times \sum_{i=1}^N r_{tk} \times X_{it})))$$

$$\sum_{t=EST_i}^{LFT_i} x_{it} = d_i \quad \forall i$$

$$\sum_{t=EFT_i}^{LFT_i} tx_{jt} \leq \sum_{t=EFT_i}^{LFT_i} tx_{it} - d_i \quad \forall i, j \in A_i$$

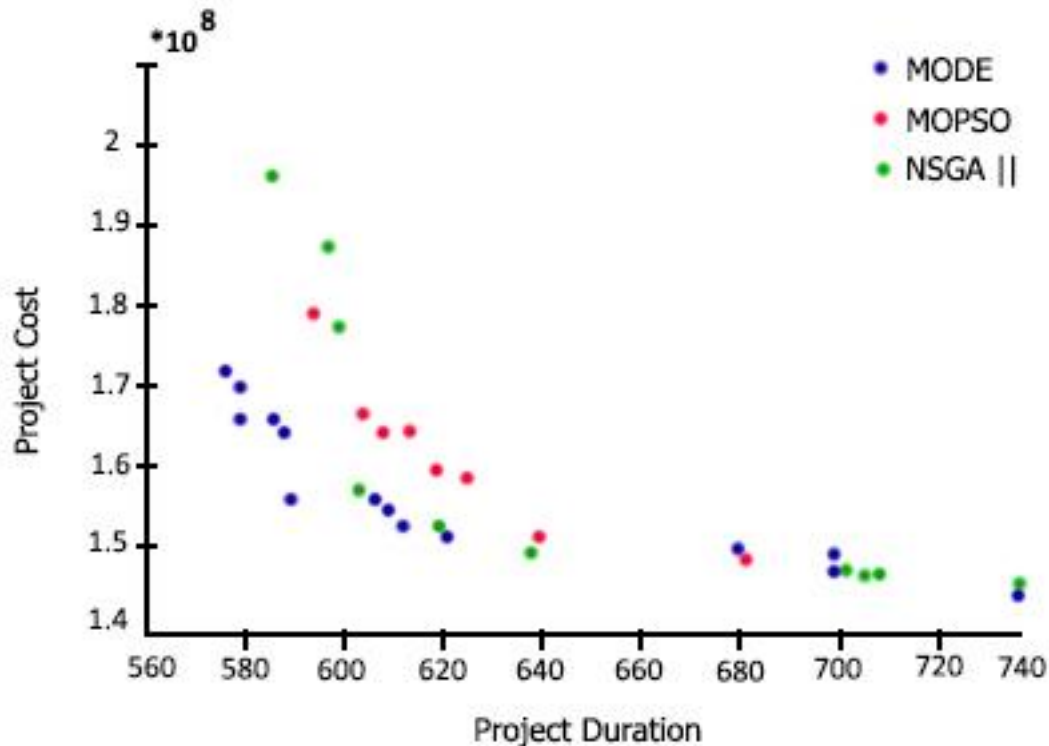
$$\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=\max\{t, EFT_i\}}^{\min\{t+d-1, LFT_i\}} r_{ik} \times x_{it} \leq a_k \quad \forall k$$

$$x_{it} \in \{0,1\} \quad \forall i, t$$



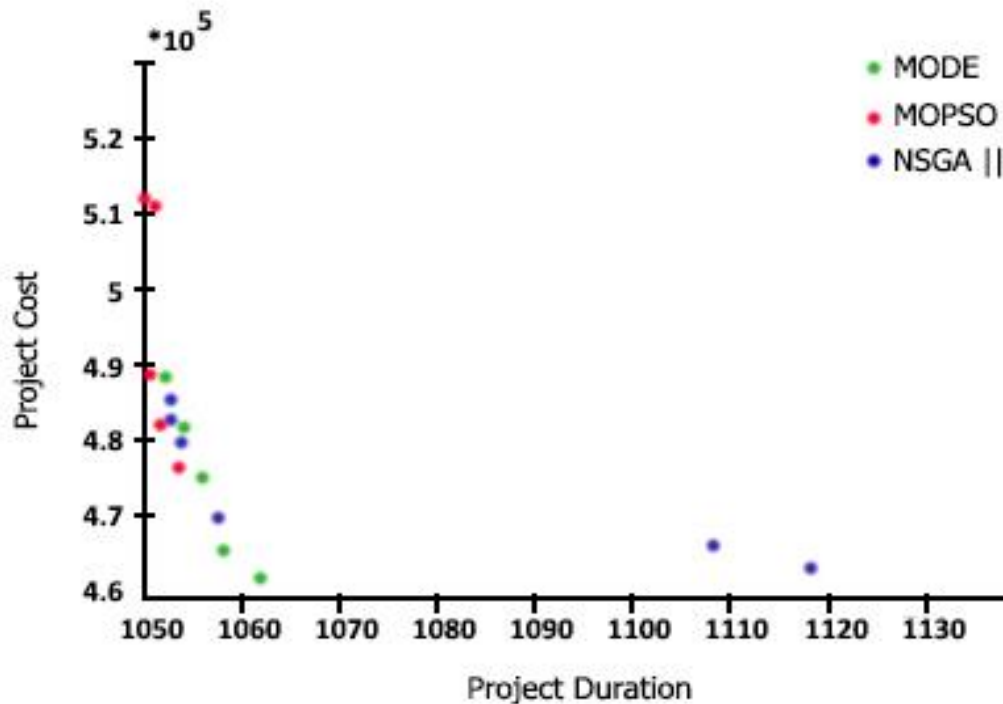
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The Pareto graph obtained from different algorithms in the large-scale project.





The Pareto graph obtained from different algorithms in the medium-scale project.





Conclusion and suggestions

- In the small-scale projects, the application of metaheuristic algorithms is an inefficient and inappropriate approach.
- The superiority of the DE algorithm over the other two algorithms in large-scale projects and also the superiority of the PSO algorithm over the other two algorithms in medium-scale projects can be observed considering the four criteria, including the comparison of the number of Pareto solutions, quality, diversity, and distance from the ideal solution.
- It is suggested to investigate this problem considering multi-mode activities, and considering multiple projects at the same time.