

## A GRASP model in network design for two-stage supply chain

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 1 August 2010  
Received in revised form  
10 November 2010  
Accepted 20 November 2010  
Available online  
21 November 2010

#### Keywords:

Network design  
Lead time  
Safety stock  
Inventory lost  
GRASP

### ABSTRACT

We consider a capacitated facility location problem (CFLP) which contains a production facility and distribution centers (DCs) supplying retailers' demand. The primary purpose is to locate distribution centres in the network and the objective is the minimization of the sum of fixed facility location, pipeline inventory, safety stock and lost sales. We use Greedy randomized adaptive search procedures (GRASP) to solve the model. The preliminary results indicate that the proposed method of this paper could provide competitive results in reasonable amount time.

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## 1. Introduction

Supply chain management (SCM) is the management of material, information and financial flows through a network of organizations that aims to produce and deliver products or services for the consumers. The supply chain is faced with some risks such as inherent uncertainties and natural risks. There are different issues on managing the risk associated with supply chain such as supply management, demand, product and information management. Supply network design is one of the strategic plans of supply management (Tang, 2006). The distribution networks' design is one of the most important decisions in supply chain (SC) where the primary objective is to determine the appropriate distribution centers (DCs) to supply retailers' demand (Sourirajan et al., 2007). The safety stock in cases where customer's demands are stochastic is influenced by lead time (Eppen & Martin, 1988; Karmarkar, 1993; Yang & Geunes, 2007). Sourirajan et al. (2007) consider a single product network design model that contains fixed facility location, the pipeline inventory and safety stock costs. The objective is to locate distribution centers at certain sites to serve groups of retailers. Each DC has limited capacity and could hold safety stock to satisfy retailers' demands. This is a single product network design model lead time and safety stock consideration (SPNDLS) which consists of lead time and safety stock. SPNDLS is a non-linear integer programming problem which is

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recognized as NP-hard and Sourirajan et al. (2007) propose heuristic method to find near-optimal solutions using Lagrangian heuristic. Sourirajan et al. (2009) discuss the use of genetic algorithms (GA) for solving the SPNDLS problem.

In this paper, we present a network design model with lead time, safety stock and inventory lost. The objective is to locate distribution centers at some sites to minimize fixed facility location, the pipeline inventory, safety stock and lost sales expenditures. The costumers' demands must be equal or more than service level and the unmet demand is assumed to be lost at DCs. Furthermore, when the safety stock cost to satisfy service level increases, the cost associated with lost sales decreases. Consequently, we present a model to serve the retailers in which the total costs are minimum. We discuss the use of greedy randomized adaptive search procedures (GRASP) to solve the resulted model and compare the performance the proposed model with another existing model without considering lost sales cost. It is interesting to note that the total cost of the proposed model is computed to be less than the compared model where the lost sales cost is not considered. The implementation of GRASP finds a feasible solution in construction phase and during the local search phase it improves the first solution. The CPU time for GRASP for large-scale problems is considered to be reasonable.

This paper is organized as follows. we first present the literature review section 2. In section 3, we describe the proposed model and the problem formulation. In section 4 we explore GRASP and the algorithm to solve the model and the computational experiments and the results are presented in section 5. Finally in section 6 we explain the conclusion and some future directions.

## 2. Literature Review

The uncapacitated facility location problem (UFLP) and the capacitated facility location problem (CFLP) locate DCs to serve the demands while minimizing the sum of fixed location and transportation costs. Both UFLP and CFLP are classified as NP-hard problems. CFLP has the capacity constraints that limit the demand which can be served by each candidate location ( Sourirajan et al., 2007; Sourirajan et al., 2009). Geoffrion and Graves (1974) and Van Roy (1986) present models for the CFLP and propose Bender's decomposition approach and Lagrangian to solve the resulted problems. Mazzola and Neebe (1999) develop Lagrangian heuristics to solve CFLPs under different assumptions without considering lead times and service levels. Berman and Larson (1985), Crainic and Laporte (1997), Owen and Daskin (1998), Jamil et al. (1999) and Eskigun et al. (2005) study lead times in network design. Eskigun et al. (2005) consider an outbound supply chain network design with lead time consideration. The model involves location of distribution facilities and transporting finished vehicles from the assembly plants to dealers.

Wang et al. (2002), Daskin et al. (2002) present the facility location models with stochastic customer demand. Ramasesh et al. (1991), Sedarage et al. (1999) and Anupindi and Akella (1993) consider uncertain lead times in supply chain. Hayya et al. (2009) consider inventory model when both demand and lead time are stochastic. The objective of their model is to find optimal order quantities and reorder levels to minimize ordering, holding with the consideration of safety stock and shortage costs. Andersson and Marklund (2000) consider a two-level distribution system with one central warehouse and  $N$  non-identical retailers. They present a model to minimize holding which also contains safety stock and backorder costs. In their model, lead time is considered to be stochastic but warehouse capacity is not incorporated into the problem statement.

Absi et al. (2009) address a multi-item capacitated lot-sizing problem with setup times, safety stock and demand shortages without considering lead time. Song (2009) considers an integrated ordering and production control in a supply chain where the objective is to minimize the holding costs and the backordering costs and the capacity of warehouse is assumed to be finite. Thus the service rate is uncontrollable and the proposed model does not consider safety stock. Ghezavati et al. (2009) present a new mathematical model for designing distribution networks in a supply chain system. The

objective of the model is to minimize different cost components associated with the opening DCs, shipments, holding inventory and inventory lost subject to service level constraint. They also consider some constraint for the probability of occurring loss of inventory in each scenario for any opened DC and the capacity of the DC is not captured in their model.

Sourirajan et al. (2007), Liu and Zhang (2009) and Park et al. (2010) consider lead times and safety stocks in network design. They study the effects of resource allocation on lead times and safety stock risk pooling benefits. In these cases Lagrangian heuristics used to obtain near-optimal solutions in reasonable computational time. The proposed model by Sourirajan explore the use of GAs based on binary vector and random keys encoding to solve the SPNDLS and illustrate the advantages of GAs over the Lagrangian heuristic for such problems. In this paper, we present a network design model with lead time, safety stock and inventory lost consideration where the retailers' demand is stochastic and present a greedy randomized adaptive search procedures (GRASP). The problem description and formulation of the model is presented in the next section.

### 3. Problem Statement

We propose a distribution network design model with lead time, safety stock and inventory lost. The objective is to locate DCs to serve the retailers such that the sum of fixed location, inventory (pipeline and safety stock) and inventory lost costs are minimized. The costumers' demands must be equal or more than service level and the unsatisfied demand is assumed to be lost at DCs.

The assumptions used for the proposed model are follows:

- The retailers' demands are independent and follow a Poisson process (Ozsen, 2004; Daskin, 2002; Shen, 2003; Ozsen, 2008).
- The products are shipped from the production facility to a DC in full truckloads (Sourirajan, 2007).
- For such a replenishment process, the replenishment lead time at a DC like the one considered by Sourirajan et al. (2007) has three components:
  1. Load make-up time: The amount of time spent in the waiting area of the production equipments before the products are sent to the DC.
  2. Constant DC replenishment time (time/unit): The replenishment lead time between the production facility and the DC due to the physical locations of facilities.
  3. Congestion time: The amount of time which is spent in the unloading zone.

The retailer' demand is stochastic and the lead time is invariable. Due to this assumption the safety stock at a DC given by,  $(z_\alpha \sqrt{L \sum_{k \in K} \sigma_k^2})$ , where  $P(z \leq z_\alpha) = \alpha$  and  $\alpha$  is the service level that has to be achieved at the retailers. Therefore the retailers' demands follow Poisson process, the variance is equal to the mean. Consequently the amount of safety stock is  $(z_\alpha \sqrt{L \sum_{k \in K} D_k})$ , (Sourirajan, 2007).

#### 3.1. Formulation

In order to present the formulation of our model, we adopt the notation and definition used by Sourirajan et al. (2007) and Ghezavati et al. (2009):

Sets:

$k$  set of retailers ( $k = 1, \dots, N$ )

$j$  set of possible DC locations ( $j = 1, \dots, N$ ), the same as the set of possible retailer locations

Parameters:

$f_j$  fixed cost of locating a DC at location  $j$

$C_j$  capacity of the DC at location  $j$

$\theta_j$  unit cost of pipeline inventory for the DC at location  $j$

$H_j$  unit cost of safety stock at a DC at location  $j$

$p_j$  load make-up time parameter of lead time for a DC at location  $j$

$q_j$  constant lead time component per unit for a DC at location  $j$

$r_j$  congestion parameter of lead time for a DC at location  $j$

$u_j$  unit cost of lost

$D_k$  mean demand at retailer  $k$

$\beta_j$  adjusted holding cost per unit for a DC at location  $j$

$\alpha$  service level that has to be achieved at the retailers

$z_\alpha$  inverse of the Standard Normal for a probability of  $\alpha$

Decision variables:

$Y_j = 1$  if a DC is built at location  $j$ , 0 otherwise

$X_{jk} = 1$  if retailer  $k$  is assigned to DC at location  $j$ , 0 otherwise

$S_j$  probability of occurring inventory lost in DC at site  $j$

We consider the replenishment lead time ( $L_j$ ) at a DC at location  $j$  as it is given by Sourirajan et al. (2007) which is as follows,

$$L_j = \frac{p_j}{W_j} + q_j + \frac{r_j}{C_j - W_j}, \quad (1)$$

where

$$W_j = \begin{cases} \sum_k D_k X_{jk} & \text{if } \sum_k D_k X_{jk} \leq C_j \\ C_j & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

and  $W_j$  denotes the total amount of product assigned to the DC at location  $j$ . The pipeline inventory between the production facility and DC at location  $j$  is then given by

$$PI_j = L_j W_j \quad (3)$$

The pipeline cost can be obtained as follows,

$$Cost_{Lj} = \theta_j PI_j. \quad (4)$$

The expected safety stock inventory and its cost at a DC at location  $j$  can be expressed as follows,

$$SS_j = z_\alpha \sqrt{L_j \sum_k D_k X_{jk}}, \quad (5)$$

$$Cost_{SSj} = H_j SS_j. \quad (6)$$

Let  $\beta_j = H_j z_\alpha$ , then the inventory lost cost at a DC at location  $j$  can be stated as follows,

$$Cost_{ILj} = \left( B_j + S_j \sum_k D_k X_{jk} \right) u_j, \quad (7)$$

where

$$B_j = \sum_k D_k X_{jk} - W_j, \quad (8)$$

$$S_j = 1 - \sum_{v=0}^{C_j} \frac{e^{-\sum_k D_k X_{jk}} * (\sum_k D_k X_{jk})^v}{v!}, \quad (9)$$

where  $B_j$  and  $S_j$  denote the the amount of lost and the probability of occurring loss of inventory in opened DC at location  $j$ . Therefore, the proposed problem model is formulated as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Min } & \sum_j f_j Y_j + \sum_j \theta_j \left( p_j + q_j W_j + \frac{r_j W_j}{c_j - W_j} \right) + \sum_j \beta_j \sqrt{\left( \frac{p_j}{W_j} + q_j W_j + \frac{r_j}{c_j - W_j} \right) * \sum_k D_k X_{jk}} \\ & + \sum_j u_j (\sum_k D_k X_{jk} - W_j + S_j \sum_k D_k X_{jk}) \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

subject to

$$X_{jk} \leq Y_j \quad \forall j, k, \quad (11)$$

$$\sum_j X_{jk} = 1 \quad \forall k, \quad (12)$$

$$S_j = 1 - \sum_{v=0}^{C_j} \frac{e^{-\sum_k D_j X_{jk}} * (\sum_k D_j X_{jk})^v}{v!} \quad \forall j, \quad (13)$$

$$W_j = \begin{cases} \sum_k D_k X_{jk} & \text{if } \sum_k D_k X_{jk} \leq C_j \\ C_j & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \forall j \quad (14)$$

$$X_{jk} : \{0,1\} \quad \forall j, k, \quad (15)$$

$$Y_j : \{0,1\} \quad \forall j. \quad (16)$$

The objective function (10) has four terms: the fixed facility location costs, the pipeline inventory costs between the production facility and the DCs, the safety stock costs at the DCs, the total and the expected costs of inventory lost in any opened DC. Constraint set (11) specifies that we can assign a retailer to a DC location whenever we locate a DC at  $j$ . Constraint set (12) states that each retailers can be assigned to exactly one DC. Constraint set (13) presents the probability of occurring loss of inventory in each opened DC. This occurrence happens when the retailers' demands at opened DC are more than DC's capacity. Let  $X_j$  be the retailers' demands at DC  $j$ . Therefore the probability of occurring loss of inventory in this opened DC is equal to  $X_j \geq C_j$ . constraint (13) specifies the retailers' demands which follows a Poisson process. Constraint set (14) states the total amount of product assigned to the DC at location  $j$  and finally constraint set (15) and (16) are the binary constraints.

#### 4. The GRASP Implementation

Hart and Shogan (1987) proposed a multi-start approach based on greedy randomized constructions called semi-greedy heuristic where no local search is used. GRASP was first introduced by Feo and Bard (1989a, 1989b). GRASP metaheuristic is a multi-start or iterative process, where each iteration consists of two phases: construction and local search (Feo & Resende, 1989, 1995). The construction phase builds a feasible solution and local search phase investigates the neighborhoods to find local minimum. At each iteration of construction phase we select candidate elements and the candidate set  $C$  is defined for each problem. The incremental costs,  $c(e)$  for all  $e \in C$  (the candidate elements) are evaluated (greedy evaluation function) and then the restricted candidate list (RCL) is built. For making RCL, let  $c^{\min}$  and  $c^{\max}$  be the smallest and the largest incremental costs, respectively. The threshold value for elements in RCL is  $(c^{\min} + \alpha(c^{\max} - c^{\min}))$   $\alpha \in [0,1]$ . If the value of  $c(e)$  is lower than or equal to the threshold value, the candidate element can be inserted to RCL. After making RCL, an element from the RCL is selected, randomly. Finally the candidate set  $C$  is updated and the incremental costs  $c(e)$  for all  $e \in C$  are reevaluated. The local search replaces current solution with better solution which is in the neighborhood of current solution. For local search the neighborhood investigates in two ways: best-improving or first-improving strategy. In the best-improving strategy we consider all neighbors for finding best solution. In the case of first-improving strategy we consider the neighbors till find the first solution where the cost function value is smaller than the current solution (Resende & Ribeiro, 2002). In this paper we use the first-improving strategy since the computation times is smaller than the best-improving strategy.

##### 4.1. Steps of GRASP for the proposed model

In this paper we present GRASP to find the near optimal solution for the proposed model. Sourirajan et al. (2007) developed the Lagrangian heuristic to find near optimal solution for the SPNDLS which is similar to our model. In this case they explain the necessary steps to find lower and upper bound for the proposed problem. The structure of GRASP to solve the problem in some steps, is similar to Lagrangian heuristic. It uses both greedy heuristic and randomize algorithm in making construction

phase. Then it searches the neighbors to find first-improved solution. At each iteration the necessary steps of the algorithm are as follows,

Construction phase:

Step 1: Index the list retailers as  $k = 1, \dots, N$ . Set  $k = 1$

Step 2: For  $k$ th retailer compare the mean demand of retailer and capacity of DC location  $j$ , then compute the total amount of product assigned to the DC at location  $j$ ,  $W_j$ , which is constraint set (14) and compute the probability of occurring loss of inventory in DC at location  $j$  (9)

Step 3: For  $k$ th retailer which is assigned to a DC at location  $j$ , compute the greedy evaluation function  $c(e)$  which is the objective function of the proposed model (11)

Step 4: Let  $c^{\min}$  and  $c^{\max}$  be the smallest and the largest incremental costs, respectively, If the value of  $c(e)$  is lower than or equal to  $(c^{\min} + \alpha(c^{\max} - c^{\min}))$  then insert the DC location  $j$  to RCL

Step 5: Select a DC location  $j$  randomly and set  $X_{jk} = 1$  and  $Y_j = 1$

Step 6: Let  $k = k + 1$ , If  $k > N$  then STOP and compute objective function value  $f$  (11), Else go to step 1

Local search phase

Step 7: While the first solution with the objective function value of  $f'$  is less  $f$  repeat step 1 to 6.

## 5. Computational Results

The problem data for GRASP in this model is the same as that one used for testing Lagrangian heuristic and GA algorithm (Sourirajan, 2007; Sourirajan, 2009) for SPNDLS. The data was derived using the 1990 census in Daskin (1995). The problem sizes are 15-node, 49-node, 88-node and 150-node which show the number of retailers. Each retailer locations are candidate for locating DCs. The capacity of DC is multiple of mean demand of retailer. We set the multiple equal to 1.25, 1.5, 1.75 and 2. The mean demand is equal to population for cities divided by 1,000,000. In this case we use 97.75% service level and  $z_\alpha = 2$ . The fixed cost for locating DCs is derived by Daskin (1995) and divided by 1,000,000. The constant lead time component per unit for a DC at location  $j$ ,  $q_j$ , is equal to 10. The load make-up time  $p_j$  and congestion parameter of lead time  $r_j$  derived from the results of Eskigun' work (Eskigun, 2002). Let  $M$  denote the shipment size from plant to the DCs. We set  $M$  to the lowest mean demand among all retailers. Eskigun (2002) set  $p = (M - 1)/2$  and  $r = C$  where  $C$  is the capacity of DCs. The problem data for unit cost of pipeline inventory  $\theta_j$  and adjusted holding cost  $\beta_j$  were given in Ozsen (2004). The unit cost of lost  $u_j$  is equal to 0.08. The iteration for GRASP in this experiment is set to 50 for 15-node and 49-node and 100 for 88-node and 150-node. We use the following notations in our comparison,

Gap: estimate the optimality gap for any problem instance given by  $((\text{objective value} - \text{the best objective value}) / \text{the best objective value}) * 100$ . For the objective value we use average and worst-case results.

CPU: average CPU requirement per replication per instance (seconds)

In this paper, we code the GRASP with Visual Basic software and the results are present in the following section.

### 5.1. Computational results

In this section, we present the average and the worst case gaps for different capacity multiple, CPU time and the average and the best solution results for 15-node, 49-node, 88-node and 150-node problem size where the results are obtained by running GRASP. Table 1 summarizes the the computational results.

**Table 1**

The Average and the worst-case gap for the various capacity multiple

GRASP gap	Cap Mult: 1.25		Cap Mult: 1.5		Cap Mult: 1.75		Cap Mult: 2:00	
	Average	Worst-case	Average	Worst-case	Average	Worst-case	Average	Worst-case
15-Node	0.139	0.242	0.000	0.000	0.011	0.053	0.030	0.040
49-Node	0.578	0.968	0.211	0.414	0.193	0.497	0.130	0.238
88-Node	0.080	0.401	0.253	0.484	0.780	1.662	0.133	0.302
150- Node	0.003	0.006	0.112	0.225	0.062	0.124	0.032	0.064
Overall (Avg/Max)	0.200	0.968	0.144	0.484	0.261	1.662	0.081	0.302

According to Table 1, as the proposed model is solved with GRASP for different problem sizes, the average and the worst case gaps are less than 1% (except one result). The overall average and the worst case gap for different capacity are between 0.081% to 0.261% and 0.302% to 1.662%, respectively. Table 2 presents the CPU time for various capacity and problem size. Table 2 shows that for one of the problem, as the capacity multiple changes, the CPU times do not change greatly. The reason could be because the algorithm at primary steps checks the capacity constraint and then it makes the greedy evaluation function  $c(e)$ . Consequently the capacity multiples do not affect the CPU time in GRASP.

**Table 2**

CPU time for the various capacity multiple

GRASP CPU	Cap Mult: 1.25		Cap Mult: 1.5		Cap Mult: 1.75		Cap Mult: 2:00	
	Average	Worst-case	Average	Worst-case	Average	Worst-case	Average	Worst-case
15-Node	12	14	14	15	15	15	10	10
49-Node	64	64	64	65	66	66	70	71
88-Node	393	410	386	388	461	611	470	609
150-Node	1167	1169	1129	1133	1120	1136	1148	1161

Table 3 shows that if the capacity of the DCs increase, the cost of model would generally decrease.

**Table 3**

The average and the best solutions for the various capacity multiple solved with GRASP

	Cap Mult: 1.25		Cap Mult: 1.50		Cap Mult: 1.75		Cap Mult: 2:00	
	Average	Best Solution						
15-Node	24.692	24.658	23.680	23.680	22.155	22.153	21.480	21.474
49-Node	40.922	40.687	39.278	39.195	38.038	37.965	35.984	35.937
88-Node	29.489	29.466	30.529	30.452	31.193	30.952	29.971	29.931
150- Node	68.645	68.643	68.763	68.686	69.269	69.226	66.103	66.082

## 6. Conclusion

In this paper, we have proposed a network design model with the consideration of lead time, safety stock and inventory lost. In this model, we consider lead time for supplying the retailers, service level and unmet demands. We have solved the resulted model with GRASP and the performance of the proposed model was examined using some numerical test problems and the results are also analyzed. The results show that the average and the worst case gaps are less than 1% and the CPU times are almost the same for different capacities.

As a the future, we could consider the stochastic lead time as an additional design parameter for the proposed model. CFLP model can be also extended using stochastic lead time and demand by considering safety stock and inventory lost.

## Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank the anonymous referees for their valuable comment on earlier version of this work.

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