

MOPGP 2021									
20/12 MONDAY Main					21/12 TUESDAY				
start*									start*
08:00	Opening Session								
08:15	Prof. Davide La Torre (SKEMA Business School), Prof. Hatem Masri (University of Bahrain), Prof Fouad Ben-Abdelaziz (NEOMA Business School)								
08:30	Key note 1				Track 1				Track 2
08:45	"Multi-criteria sorting methods for AHP"								
09:00	Prof. Alessio Ishizaka, Neoma Business School, France (chair: La Torre)								
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* Please be aware that times are CET.									
** titles have been abbreviated for enhanced overview.									

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GENERAL		FBA: Fouad-Ben Abdelaziz	
KEY NOTE		JB: Jan Broekaert	
MOPGP & Industry processes		FH: Faizal Hafiz	
MOPGP & Fundamentals		AJ : Aida Jebali	
MOPGP & Machine Learning		HK: Herb Kunze	
MOPGP & Economics, Finance and Management		DLT: Davide La Torre	
		HM: Hatem Masri	
		BPG: Blanca Pérez Gladish	
		DR: David Rey	

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4	Liguo Jiao	On the existence of Pareto solutions to vector polynomial optimization problems with constraints
5	Hamiden Abd El Wahed Khalifa, Pavan Kumar and Seyedali Mirjalili	Multi-Objective Programming Approach for Solving Fully Fuzzy Pentagonal Linear Fractional Programming Problem
6	Hamiden Abd El Wahed Khalifa and Pavan Kumar	A new method for optimizing fuzzy multi-objective linear fractional programming problem
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# A PARALLEL TWO-PHASE METHOD FOR THE MUTIOBJECTIVE KNAPSACK PROBLEM

KHADIDJA CHAABANE<sup>1</sup>, NEDJMEDDINE KANTOUR<sup>2</sup>, SADEK BOUROUBI<sup>3</sup>

**ABSTRACT.** Recently, there has been a noticeable tendency in research for combinatorial optimization issues toward the hybridization of metaheuristics with other optimization techniques. On the other hand, parallel conception of multiobjective evolutionary algorithms (MOEAs) provides a significant enhancements in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. In this work, we propose a hybrid parallel multiobjective evolutionary algorithm for to the multiobjective Knapsack Problem (MOKP). The suggested approach can be considered as an enhanced parallel variant of Two-phase method with an intermediate step for reducing the problem' size using solutions found in the first phase.

**Key words.** Two-phase method, Parallel Multiobjective Evolutionary Algorithms, Reduction Strategy, Multiobjective Knapsack Problem, Integer Linear Programming, Combinatorial Optimization.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Multiobjective Problems consists of optimizing  $p$  objective functions simultaneously. The general form of MOP is stated as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \text{"max"} & Z(x) = (Z^1(x), Z^2(x), \dots, Z^p(x)), \\ \text{s.t.}, & x \in \Omega. \end{cases}$$

where  $\Omega$  is the decision space,  $x \in \Omega$  is a decision vector, and the vector  $Z(x)$  consists of  $p$  objective functions  $Z^i(x) : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_i$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ . The dominance relation, used to define optimality in MOPs is as follows: for any couple of feasible solutions  $x$  and  $x'$  in  $\Omega$ , the vector  $Z(x) = (Z^1(x), \dots, Z^p(x))$  dominates the vector  $Z(x') = (Z^1(x'), \dots, Z^p(x'))$ , written as  $Z(x) \succ Z(x')$ , if and only if,  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ ,  $Z^i(x) \leq Z^i(x')$  and  $Z(x) \neq Z(x')$ . A feasible solution  $x^* \in \Omega$  is called a Pareto optimal solution or an efficient solution, if and only if,  $\nexists y \in \Omega$  such that  $Z(y) \succ Z(x^*)$ . The set of Pareto optimal solutions is called the Pareto-optimal Set (PS):  $PS = \{x \in \Omega \mid \nexists y \in \Omega, Z(y) \succ Z(x^*)\}$ . The evaluation of solutions in  $PS$  is called the Pareto Front ( $PF$ ):  $PF = \{Z(x) \mid x \in PS\}$ .

Furthermore, there exists an important classification of efficient solutions: supported efficient solutions  $X_{SE}$  that are solutions of the parametric single-objective problems,  $P_\lambda$ , obtained by optimizing a linear aggregation of the criteria :

$$(P_\lambda) \begin{cases} \text{max} & \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i Z^i(x), \\ \text{s.t.}, & x \in \Omega, \end{cases}$$

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where,  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_p) \in \mathbb{R}_+^p$  is a weight vector with all positive components (necessary condition of the Geoffrion's theorem [3]) and non-supported efficient solutions that are difficult to find. The corresponding set is denoted by  $X_{NS}$ . The image of the unsupported solutions are not located on the boundary of the convex envelope.

In the last three decades, 0-1 knapsack problem (0-1 KP) received a considerable attention from researchers, in term of applications, variants and dedicated methods. In a multiple objective framework, the knapsack problem can be written as follows:

$$(MOKP) \begin{cases} \text{"min"} Z^k(x) &= c^k x, \quad k \in \{1, 2, \dots, p\}, \\ \text{s.t.} & x \in X, \end{cases}$$

where  $X = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax \leq W, x \in \{0, 1\}^n\}$ ,  $c^k \in \mathbb{N}^{1 \times n}, \forall k \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{N}^{1 \times n}$  and  $W \in \mathbb{N}$ .

In order to avoid the trivial case, we suppose that  $\omega_j \leq W, \forall j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i > W$ .

This problem is a mutiobjective variant of the Knapsack Problem (i.e., called the Multiobjective Knapsack Problem, MOKP), which is known to be NP-hard [2].

In this paper, we propose a parallel hybrid multiobjective evolutionary algorithm for the MOKP, designed in a master/salve model. The suggested algorithm is an enhanced two-phase type algorithm, where the first phase consists of finding the supported solutions set using an exact method. In the second phase, the decision space is structurally decomposed and allocated to multiple MOEAs operating in parallel. Each MOEA is dedicated to a specific region of the decision space that is initially characterized by a subset of the supported solutions found in the first phase. We designed the suggested method for tackling the Multiobjective Knapsack Problem (MOKP). That is, by introducing an intermediate pretreatment procedure to reduce the dimension of the KP in hand using the supported solutions found in the first phase. That is, by using the reduction strategy introduced in [1].

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SUGGESTED ALGORITHM

In this section, we present a resumed description of the suggested algorithm, which is, as we already mentioned, an enhanced variant of the two-phase method.

**Phase I (generating  $X_{SE}$ ).** The first phase of the suggested algorithm method remains unchanged, as it is the case for all two-phase algorithms. It consists in the construction of the set of efficient solutions supported by the dichotomy method proposed by J. Teghem and al. [4], based on Geoffrion's theorem [3]. This algorithm generates all the supported efficient solutions, including extreme and non-extreme ones, using a single objective problem whose objective function is a linear aggregation of two objectives (see,  $P_\lambda$  in the introduction).

**Intermediate procedure (reduction of the KP size).** The set of efficient supported solutions, gathered in the first phase, provides further understanding of the Pareto solutions. Hence, we apply an efficient reduction strategy for the Knapsack problem proposed in [1]. This procedure uses supported efficient solutions combined with the dominance relationship between items' efficiency (i.e., profit over weight ratio), to determine regular variable within the true Pareto set. Consequently, it reduces the KP instance size, and we, henceforth, address in the second phase a reduced MOKP.

**Phase II (approximation of  $X_{NS}$ ).** Once the supported efficient solutions set is obtained, the second phase consists of approximating the set of non-supported solutions using multiple asynchronous parallel MOEAs. Each one of the parallel search entity is designed to target a specific region of the Pareto optimal front. This is by initializing its archive solutions set using a subset of the supported efficient solutions set gathered from the same region. Furthermore, the selection operator is defined according to the following order relation : let  $P_t$  be the current population of a search entity,  $PS_t$  be the set of Pareto solutions obtained at iteration  $t$  (i.e.,  $PS_t = \{x \in P_t | \nexists y \in P_t : y \succ x\}$ ), and  $R \subset Z(X_{SE})$  the extreme points enclosing the predefined region for the search entity,  $|R| = k$  the number of objective functions. The order relation is defined as follows:

$$\forall x, y \in P_t, x \succeq y \iff (x \succeq y) \vee (\phi(x) \geq \phi(y)),$$

where, the function  $\phi(x)$  verifies the following :

$$\max_{x \in X} \phi(x) \in R, \text{ and } \phi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i Z^i(x).$$

In other words, the function  $\phi$  is obtained by a linear aggregation of the objective functions, and its optimal solution is in the specified region enclosed by the extreme points  $R$ . That is, to define a selection operator that guides the search towards the predefined region. The adequate direction of optimization  $\lambda$  with regards to its target region in the decision space.

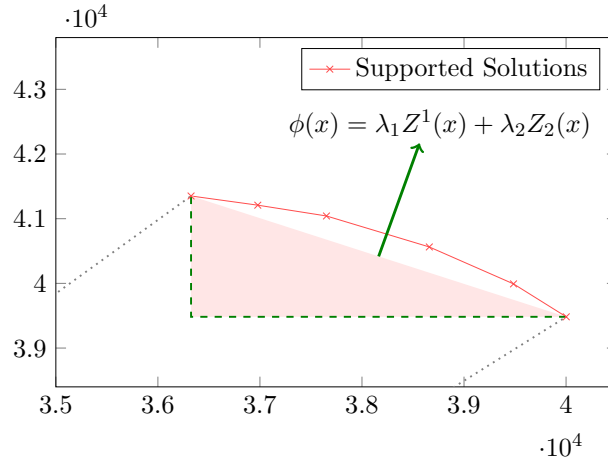


FIGURE 1. Illustrative example of the guidance vector for one target-region (Bazgan KP instance [5], 2KP100-TA-0)

Hence, the process of selecting individuals that pass to the next generation  $P_{t+1}$  is given explicitly as follows:

$$P_{t+1} = \{x \in P_t | (x \in PS_t) \vee (rank(x, P_t \setminus PS_t) \leq N)\},$$

where,  $rank(x, P)$  is the order of a solution  $x$  compared to elements of a set  $P$  according to the function  $\phi$ , and  $N$  is the parameter fixing the size of the current directing population.

The suggested pMOEA can be classified as an algorithmic level parallel model designed in a master/worker paradigm, handling: (1) a master entity in charge of initializing, gathering, and computing the global approximated Pareto solutions, (2) multiple MOEAs with directed the search to specific regions of the true Pareto front, with the help of a specific selection

operator described above defined with a subset of supported efficient solutions. Regarding the decomposition procedure, this occurs over the decision space using the supported efficient solutions set found in the first phase. This is by partitioning this set into  $p$  equally sized sets, according to one of the objective functions (i.e., using successive quantiles). As we mentioned earlier, the extreme solutions of each subset is used to construct the selection operator of each parallel MOEAs. Figure 2 presents an example of the decomposition procedure applied to a bi-objective Knapsack instance: 2KP100-TA-0 [5]. The decision space is decomposed into  $p = 4$  regions.

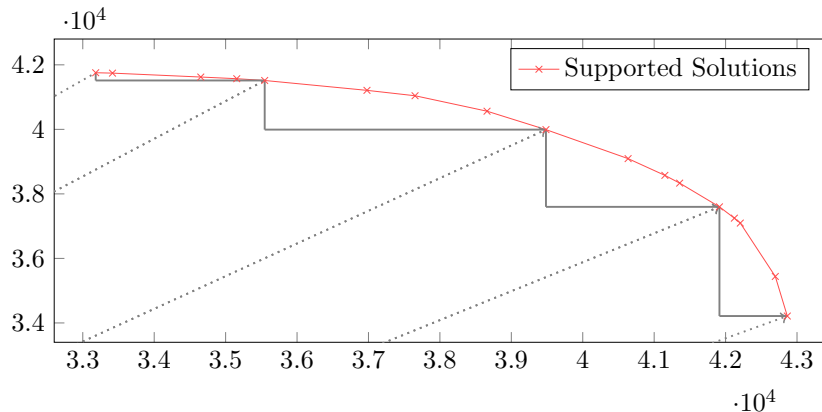


FIGURE 2. Illustrative example of the used decision space decomposition (Bazgan KP instance [5], 2KP100-TA-0)

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we have presented a parallel two-phase type algorithm with an application to the multiobjective knapsack Problem. The suggested algorithm is a hybrid algorithm, combining an exact method for finding the set of supported solutions, and a parallel MOEA with weighted-criteria selection operator, designed in a master/worker paradigm, as to target specific regions of the true Pareto set. An intermediate step is included to reduce the problem' size using information provided by the supported efficient solutions set.

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