



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***HYBRID MULTIOBJECTIVE GENETIC ALGORITHM FOR
INTEGRATED DYNAMIC SCHEDULING AND ROUTING OF JOBS
AND AUTOMATED GUIDED VEHICLES IN FLEXIBLE
MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS***

UMAR ALI UMAR

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MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS**

By

UMAR ALI UMAR

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies,
Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

November 2014

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This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents.



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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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November 2014

Chair: Mohd Khairul Anuar bin Mohd Ariffin PhD
Faculty: Engineering

The dynamic continues trend of adoption and improvement inventive automated technologies is one of the main competing strategies of many manufacturing industries. Effective integrated operations management of Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV) system in Flexible Manufacturing System (FMS) environment results in the overall system performance. Routing AGVs was proved to be NP-Complete and scheduling of jobs was also proved to be NP hard problems. The running time of any deterministic algorithms solving these types of problems increases very rapidly with the size of the problem, which can be many years with any computational resources available presently. Solving AGVs conflict free routing, dispatching and simultaneous scheduling of the jobs and AGVs in FMS in an integrated manner is identified as the only means of safeguarding the feasibility of the solution to each sub-problem. Genetic algorithm has recorded of huge success in solving NP-Complete optimization problems with similar nature to this problem. The objectives of this research are to develop an algorithm for integrated scheduling and conflict-free routing of jobs and AGVs in FMS environment using a hybrid genetic algorithm, ensure the algorithm validity and improvement on the performance of the developed algorithm. The algorithm generates an integrated scheduling and detail paths route while optimizing makespan, AGV travel time, mean flow time and penalty cost due to jobs tardiness and delay as a result of conflict avoidance. The integrated algorithms use two genetic representations for the individual solution entire sub-chromosomes. The first three sub-chromosomes use random keys to represent jobs sequencing, operations allocation on machines and AGV

dispatching, while the remaining sub-chromosomes are representing particular routing paths to be used by each dispatched AGV. The multi-objective fitness function use adaptive weight approach to assign weights to each objective for every generation based on objective improvement performance. Fuzzy expert system is used to control genetic operators using the overall population performance history. The algorithm used weight mapping crossover (WMX) and Insertion Mutation (IM) as genetic operators for sub-chromosomes represented with priority-based representation. Parameterized uniform crossover (PUX) and migration are used as genetic operators for sub-chromosomes represented using random-key based encoding. Computational experiments were conducted on the developed algorithm coded in Matlab to test the effectiveness of the algorithm. First scenario uses static consideration, the second scenario uses dynamic consideration with machine failure recovery. Sensitivity analysis and convergence analysis was also conducted. The results show the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm in generating the integrated scheduling, AGVs dispatching and conflict-free routing. The comparison of the result of the developed integrated algorithm using two benchmark FMS scheduling algorithms datasets is conducted. The comparison shows the improvement of 1.1% and 16% in makespan of the first and the second benchmark production dataset respectively. The major novelty of the algorithm is an integrated approach to the individual sub-problems which ensures the legality, and feasibility of all solutions generated for various sub-problems which in the literature are considered separately.

**Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah**

**HIBRIDALGORITMA PELBAGAI OBJEKTIF UNTUK PENJADUALAN
DAN PENGHALAAN TUGAS BERPANDU SERTA KENDERAAN
AUTOMATIK BERSEPADU DALAM PERSEKITARAN PEMBUATAN**

Oleh

UMAR ALI UMAR

November 2014

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Fakulti: Kejuruteraan**

Trend penggunaan dan peningkatan rekacipta teknologi automatik yang dinamik dan berterusan adalah salah satu strategi utama dalam persaingan industri pembuatan. Pengurusan sistem operasi Kenderaan Automatik Berpandu (AGV) bersepadu yang berkesan dalam persekitaran Sistem Pembuatan Fleksibel (FMS) memberi impak terhadap keseluruhan prestasi sistem. Penghalan AGVs telah terbukti menjadi NP yang lengkap dan penjadualan kerja juga terbukti menjadi masalah utama NP. Masa operasi yang diambil oleh algoritma terhadap masalah jenis ini meningkat, selari dengan saiz masalah yang mana boleh memakan masa bertahun-tahun jika menggunakan sumber pengkomputeran yang ada pada masa ini. Dengan menyelesaikan AGVs penghalan bebas konflik, penghantaran dan penjadualan serentak daripada pekerjaan dan AGVs dalam FMS secara bersepadu, telah dikenalpasti sebagai satu-satunya cara untuk melindungi penyelesaian untuk setiap sub-masalah. Algoritma genetik telah mencatatkan kejayaan besar dalam menyelesaikan masalah pengoptimuman NP lengkap yang mana sifatnya hampir serupa dengan masalah ini. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan satu algoritma untuk penjadualan bersepadu dan tugas routing bebas konflik dan AGV dalam persekitaran FMS dengan menggunakan algoritma genetik hibrid, serta memastikan kesahihan algoritma dan peningkatan kepada prestasi algoritma yang dibina. Algoritma ini menjana laluan dan penjadualan laluan terperinci yang bersepadu serta mengoptimumkan makespan, masa perjalanan AGV, aliran masa dan kos penalti kelewatan pekerjaan akibat daripada mengelakkan konflik. Algoritma bersepadu menggunakan dua representasi genetik bagi

penyelesaian secara individu untuk keseluruhan sub-kromosom. Untuk tiga sub-kromosom yang pertama, ia menggunakan kunci rawak untuk mewakili kerja-kerja penjujukan, pembahagian operasi pada mesin dan AGV penghantar, manakala sub-kromosom yang selebihnya mewakili laluan-laluan tertentu yang akan digunakan oleh setiap AGV penghantar. Fungsi berbilang objektif menggunakan pendekatan pemberat untuk menetapkan nilai pemberat kepada setiap objektif bagi setiap generasi berdasarkan objektif peningkatan prestasi. Sistem pakar yang fuzzy digunakan untuk mengawal pengendali genetik menggunakan rekod prestasi keseluruhan populasi. Algoritma yang menggunakan Pemetaan Pemberat Crossover (WMX) dan Pemasukan Mutasi (IM) sebagai pengendali genetik untuk sub-kromosom diwakili mengikut kaedah keutamaan. Parameterized Crossover yang seragam (PUX) dan pemindahan digunakan sebagai operator genetik untuk sub-kromosom diwakili dengan menggunakan berasaskan rekod secara rawak. Kajian berkomputer telah dijalankan terhadap algoritma yang dibina dan telah dikodkan dalam program Matlab untuk menguji keberkesanan algoritma. Senario pertama menggunakan pertimbangan statik manakala senario kedua menggunakan pertimbangan dinamik dengan pemulihan kegagalan mesin. Analisis kepekaan dan analisis penumpuan juga telah dijalankan. Keputusan menunjukkan keberkesanan algoritma yang dicadangkan dalam menjana penjadualan bersepadu, AGVs penghantaran dan penghalaan bebas konflik. Perbandingan hasil daripada algoritma bersepadu yang dibangunkan dengan menggunakan dua set data algoritma penjadualan FMS sebagai penanda aras telah dijalankan. Keputusan perbandingan menunjukkan peningkatan sebanyak terhadap makespan untuk set data penanda aras pengeluaran pertama dan kedua masing-masing sebanyak 1.1% dan 16%. Pembaharuan utama algoritma yang dibina adalah ianya satu pendekatan sub-masalah individu bersepadu yang memastikan kesahihan, dan penyelesaian yang dihasilkan untuk pelbagai sub-masalah secara berasingan.

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APPROVAL

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 26th November, 2014 to conduct the final examination of Umar Ali Umar on his thesis entitled “Hybrid Multiobjective Genetic Algorithm for Integrated Dynamic Scheduling and Routing of Jobs and Automated Guided Vehicles in Flexible Manufacturing Systems”. In accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FMS	Flexible Manufacturing System
AGV	Automated Guided Vehicle
GA	Genetic Algorithms
WMX	Weight Mapping Crossover
PUX	Parameterized Uniform Crossover
IM	Insertion Mutation
MOGA	Multi-objective Genetic Algorithms
MOP	Multi-objective Optimization Problems
GT	Group Technology
ASRS	Automated Storage and Retrieval System
LSH	Local Search Heuristics
CIM	Computer Integrated Manufacturing
CNC	Computer Numerical Control
CAD	Computer Aided Design
CAM	Computer Aided Manufacturing

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The attention toward automated control of system components to achieve the desired functionality is rapidly increasing in all application domains. This is due to the enormous benefits offered by proper implementation of automated technologies to any system. Increasing system efficiency, reducing operational cost and increasing task precision are some of the proven pledge of deployment of automation techniques. This results in very rapid and continuous application of automation technologies in public amenities, agriculture, and ever-growing industrial automation.

Industrial automation is the biggest and the most prosperous area of application of automated technology. As a powerful tool toward operational process innovation, automation is a competing strength to many manufacturing and service industries globally. This makes adoption and continuously improving it as one of the success determining task in any industrial competing arena. Automating a production system always innovatively reduce significantly, the overall production cost, product lead time and significantly increase the production system output (Maffei, 2012). Currently, the area of industrial automation is witnessing a great attention in order to meet up with the adoption and improvement of automated systems design, management and maintenance.

Automated guided vehicle (AGV) system is a flexible material handling device that is automatically guided to perform its task. Barrett Electronics first invented AGVs in the year 1953 (Ullrich, 2015). Since then, there are tremendous improvements in both hardware and associated control system software. As application domain and operational needs keep changing with time, the operational control system of AGVs became more and more complicated. AGVs can be designed to travel on the guide path marked with magnetic tape or hidden wire on the floor. AGVs can also be designed to guide its movement by identifying a preferred path while detecting and avoiding an obstacle, the AGV designed with this capability is termed free ranging AGV.

The control system of AGV can either be centrally controlled or linked distributed controlled. Whenever a material handling request is generated an AGV dispatching decision is made and a schedule is generated for the AGVs, a corresponding detail routing is generated for the whole travel duration. AGVs are currently very widely used in automated warehouses, container terminals and production systems. Diverse production industries are using AGVs to serve their material handling requirements, ranging from automotive, semiconductor fabrication, foods and beverages, electronics and many more. Automating a production system will always be incomplete

without automating the movement of work-in-process and complete product or parts. In many automated production systems where there is demand for a very flexible means of automated material movement, the usage AGVs remains the only appropriate option.

Flexible Manufacturing System (FMS) is an automated manufacturing system which is automatically adaptable to some variety of changes in products, routing and schedule (Groover, 2014). The components of FMS are automated workstations, automated material handling system and associated control system. The necessary condition for an automated manufacturing system to qualify as a flexible manufacturing system are capability of producing a variety of products simultaneously, and adaptability to schedule changes in terms of addition of new jobs or operation sequence.

FMS is considered as an automated group technology (GT) cell, where a group of products or parts are produced simultaneously at the workstations of the manufacturing cell (Groover, 2014). In compliance with the GT manufacturing principle, workstations in FMS are capable of executing different operations on the work-in-process jobs. FMS attribute of variable pattern of material movement between workstations need automated material handling that is easily adaptable to the system operations requirement. Flexibility and adaptability to schedule change of AGVs system makes its usage in FMS environment a reality.

Meta-heuristics prove to be an efficient tool of solving tough optimization problems that practically cannot be solved using exhaustive deterministic optimization techniques due to large computational time. This is realized by systematic searching of the solution space to get an acceptably better solution to a problem under consideration, rather than searching all the solution space which is infeasible for many optimization problems. Nature inspired meta-heuristics with learning capability such as genetic algorithm has been applied and effectively solved a variety of hard optimization problems.

Genetic algorithm (GA) is a meta-heuristic that is searching the solution space based on the concept of natural selection in genetics. GA is a powerful solver of many search and optimization problems (Jones et al., 2002; Talbi et al., 2012). Representing a problem appropriately in a genetic form is the first and the most important stage toward providing a precise solution to a particular problem. The algorithm work with populations of candidate solution that runs generation by generation until the termination criteria is satisfied. At each generation a group of eligible candidate solutions is selected for genetic operations of crossover and mutation. The candidate solutions are evaluated based on the fitness measures of the problem being

solved. The algorithms can be hybridized with other heuristics or other optimization techniques to improve the performance. Currently, the genetic algorithm was successfully applied in many operations, design and maintenance problems. The past research is very helpful in meeting the objectives of this research in the area of identifying the gap that exist currently in the literature and in area of algorithm validation by comparing the results of the algorithm in the literature with the result of the developed algorithm.

1.2 Problem Statement

Material handling cost was estimated to account for between 15 to 70% of the total production cost (Tompkins et al., 2010). Flexibility and adaptability to schedule change of AGVs system makes its usage in FMS environment a reality due to the FMS operational requirements of high flexibility and automated operations. In order to effectively run a manufacturing system consisting of an automated guided vehicle system, there must be an efficient means of managing AGVs conflict-free routing through the guide path network, scheduling simultaneously the machines and AGVs, and dispatching an AGV to a task. Initially, the schedule of the jobs and machine are determined, at each instant the material handling request is generated and AGV is dispatched to the request. The detail paths segment to be used for AGV routing of each request at each instant of time is allocated in the guide path network.

Firstly, routing of AGV system through the guide path network in manufacturing facility was proved to be Non-deterministic polynomial time (NP)-Complete problem (De Guzman et al., 1997). NP-complete is type of decision problem where the running time of any algorithms solving it increases very rapidly with the size of the problem, which can be many years with any computational resources available presently. Satisfying the demand for the shortest path to be used by AGV to deliver the material handling request, while avoiding conflict and deadlock at the fastest possible time is an essential quality of any production control system consisting of AGV. Due to the obvious limitations of the exhaustive search algorithms in solving NP-Complete problems, an approximate algorithm is used to find an optimal solution to the problem under consideration. Previous approximate algorithms attempts to solve AGV routing problem includes lagrangian relaxation approach (Nishi et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2008), dynamic programming approach (Langevin et al., 1996), hybrid mixed integer programming approach (Corréa et al., 2007; Nishi et al., 2011), and Q-learning approach (Jeon et al., 2011). The common attribute of all the approximate algorithms based AGVs routing are finding optimal solutions toward a single objective and unable to integrate, dispatching and

scheduling of jobs and AGVs which are system parameters of interest that can render the optimality of the solution ineffectual.

Secondly, scheduling of jobs to machines either in job shop or FMS environment is proved to be NP-Hard problem (Soukhal et al., 2005). NP-Hard problem is a problem that is at least as hard as hardest NP problem which is not solvable in polynomial time. Simultaneously scheduling of machines and AGV is the only means of ensuring the validity of all the individual schedules (Vis, 2006). Algorithms in the literature that simultaneously schedule jobs and AGVs includes single objective approach (Blazewicz et al., 1991; Chaudhry et al., 2011; Deroussi et al., 2008; Lacomme et al., 2013) and multiple objective approach (Jerald et al., 2006; Reddy & Rao, 2006).

Thirdly, due to the complexity of AGV routing and scheduling, the approach to the problems using approximate algorithms is necessary for realizing the desired integrated system functionality. However, according to survey of this research, significant studies consider only dispatching in isolation to scheduling and routing. Studies that present approximate algorithms for only AGV dispatching include (Kim & Hwang, 2001, 1999; Lin et al., 2006; Naso & Turchiano, 2005). Desaulniers et al., (2003) present an algorithm that combine dispatching and conflict-free routing. The only study that attempt to a little extend integrate scheduling, routing and dispatching of AGV is by (Langevin et al., 1996). However the study considers only two AGVs in a simple production system layout and did not include scheduling of jobs.

Fourthly, majority of real life optimization problem comprise of parameters of interest that require multiple objectives to get the appropriate optimal solution to the problem. Currently, all the studies of AGV conflict-free routing and dispatching are in single objective, like minimizing travel time (Jeon et al., 2011; Sarker & Gurav, 2005; Wu & Zhou, 2007), total job tardiness (Buyurgan et al., 2007; Corr ea et al., 2007; Nishi et al., 2011), shortest travel distance (Sarker & Gurav, 2005; Wu & Zhou, 2007), and jobs completion time (Lin et al., 2006). Multi objective genetic algorithm is one of the most powerful stochastic solution domain searching algorithms that superbly solve similar problems. Aytug et al., (2003) present detail prospects of genetic algorithm for solving similar operations problem. Multi-objective genetic algorithm (MOGA) constitute majority of meta-heuristics approach for solving multi-objective optimization problems (Jones et al., 2002; Talbi et al., 2012). In search for a means to solve problems in the best possible means meta-heuristic algorithms like genetic algorithms is hybridized with other meta-heuristics, heuristic or an exact algorithm. This provide a means of combining constituent algorithms strength in solving problem (Blum et al., 2011).

Fifthly, according to the review of the relevant literature conducted in this study, all studies on AGV management consider either only one or two of the highly interrelated problems of scheduling, routing, dispatching or traffic control (Le-Anh & De Koster, 2006; Qiu et al., 2002; Vis, 2006). In reality an excellent solution of one or some of the problems may result in a very poor, infeasible or illegal solution to another related problem. Integrating and solving the problems together is the only appropriate means of getting the desired functionality traits of the overall system. Gen et al., (2009) presents a detail study of significance of integrating manufacturing system elements and the prospects of evolutionary algorithms, which includes genetic algorithms in solving integrated systems similar to this problem.

This research developed an algorithm for conflict-free AGVs routing that integrate dispatching and simultaneous scheduling of jobs and AGVs using multi objective genetic algorithms (MOGA). In order to obtain the desired searching balance between exploration and exploitation of solution domain, the algorithms was hybridized with fuzzy logic control systems. Numerical experimentation shows the effectiveness of the algorithms.

1.3 Objectives of the Thesis

The main objective of this research is to develop an algorithm for integrated scheduling and conflict-free routing of jobs and AGVs in FMS environment. The individual sub-objectives set for the thesis are:

1. To develop a multi-objective genetic algorithm for integrated AGVs conflict-free routing, dispatching and simultaneous dynamic scheduling of Jobs and AGVs that will consider time and make span while predicting and avoiding routes conflict.
2. To hybridize the developed algorithm with local search and fuzzy logic controller for improvement of the algorithm performance in the exploration and exploitation of solutions space.
3. To evaluate and validate the performance of the developed algorithm using computational experimentation.

1.4 Scope of the Thesis

The scope of the thesis is development of conflict-free routing and dispatching of AGVs, and also simultaneous scheduling of jobs and AGVs in the flexible manufacturing system (FMS) environment. The study considers an AGVs guided throughout the travel time along the bidirectional guide path network. The algorithm validation is carried out using hypothetical production data in the literature used by two researchers in the flexible manufacturing systems scheduling.

1.5 Thesis Contributions

The main contribution of the thesis is the integration and synchronization of jobs dynamic schedules with AGVs schedules, AGVs conflict-free routes and

AGVs dispatching decisions in FMS environment, which in the literature are considered separately. The need for an integrated approach that provide solutions to each sub-problem in synchrony with the other sub problems has been identified in the literature as the only means of safeguarding the legality and feasibility of all sub-problems. The proposed multi-objective genetic algorithm first schedule the jobs, then in synchrony generates for every dispatched AGVs a schedule and a detail routing path free from dispatching and routes conflict for serving the material handling request related to the scheduled jobs. The integrated algorithm is optimizing the system objectives of makespan, AGV travel time, and penalty cost due to jobs tardiness and delay as a result of conflict avoidance. The hybridization of the developed algorithms with fuzzy logic controller for adaptive control of crossover and mutation rates, local search heuristics to improve the algorithm promising region exploitation further contributes to the effectiveness of the algorithm in providing better solutions to the problem. The algorithm adoption of a convergence model for determining algorithm termination point indicates that the algorithm will terminate with a good degree of certainty of providing an acceptably good solution to the integrated problem.

1.6 Thesis Outline

The thesis contains five chapters. The first chapter describes the background of the study. The problem statement in the context of gap identified in the literature and how to fill it is presented. The objectives of which the study is intended to achieve is also discussed in this section. Followed by the scope demarcated for the study. The main contributions of the study were also highlighted.

The second chapter contains the review of relevant literature. This includes flexible manufacturing system scheduling and AGVs management functions of dispatching, scheduling, routing and traffic control techniques. The chapter also reviews the relevant literature on multi objective genetic algorithms, the needs for algorithms hybridization and techniques to achieve them, complexity and material handling cost associated with automated guided vehicle usage.

The third chapter presents problem formulation, assumptions and limitation of the study. A detailed description of the proposed hybrid multi-objective genetic algorithms was explained, this includes the genetic representation used in this study, the genetic operators applied on the individual solutions, selection scheme, fitness evaluations and the mechanism used in the algorithm hybridization.

The fourth chapter describes the numerical experimentation conducted on

the developed algorithm. Firstly, the FMS system components used in the experimentation is presented. The first experimentation used static data sets from the literature while the second experimentation used dynamic data sets modified from the literature. Each section is followed by a discussion of the presented results of the numerical experimentation conducted. Algorithm validation with the existing algorithm is presented, followed by a detail algorithm convergence discussion.

The last chapter presents the summary of the thesis, the study conclusion in-line with the research established objectives and identified fertile ground for future research.



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