

Dynamic Cellular Manufacturing Systems and Their Solution Using Genetic Algorithm

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Abstract: Production planning and cell formation problems are two important parts of this system, which have mutual effects. In this work, a comprehensive, non-linear mathematical model with integer variables has been proposed for such problems for cell formation and production planning in a dynamic cellular manufacturing system. The proposed model is aimed at reduction of the expenses associated with production planning under dynamic conditions and the costs related to the construction and formation of cells including the costs of cell preparation and activation. The expenses investigated in this research include the costs of buying machinery, machine operation, intercellular material transfer, cell reconfiguration, activation of cells, maintenance of an inventory of assurance, maintenance of an end of the period inventory and part production as well as the unpredictable, variable costs of cell activation and buying machinery. Since the proposed model is an NP-Hard model, an effective genetic algorithm has been used. In order to evaluate and confirm the performance of the algorithms used, the results have been compared with those obtained from GAM software for different problems from the perspectives of response quality and solution time.

Keywords: Dynamic cellular manufacturing systems, Production planning, Cell formation problem, Genetic algorithm

I. INTRODUCTION

Cellular manufacturing system (CMS) is referred to the processing of a set of similar parts on a certain group of machinery or manufacturing processes. The most important objectives of CMS include reduction of progress time, cost of material transfer, activation time and inventory of the manufactured commodities and those being manufactured as well as planning for simpler production and more job satisfaction [1]. CMS implementation steps include cell formation, deployment design, planning and timing production of parts and allocation of resources [2]. Given the importance of cell formation step, it has often been of major interest to the researchers and has been investigated more compared with other design steps although production planning is another important part of the system the objective and results of which affect the formation of other cells. Considering the dynamic nature of the problem of production planning due to the fluctuations in the demand and composition of the products, the integration of this problem with the cell formation problem in CMS is a difficult and complicated tradition. In traditional CMS, any variation in the demand over time from redesigning of the product to other factors, are ignored and the product composition and part demand for the entire planning horizon is considered constant. Therefore, the cells formed in a period may not be optimal and efficient for the next period. Thus, dynamic cell manufacturing system (DSMS) has been

developed to overcome the disadvantages of traditional CMS [3].

In this work, the manufacturing and formation of cells (activation) have been dealt with as two of the most important steps in the implementation of CMS. Therefore, two capital constraints including constraints associated with the initial activation of the cells, and those corresponding to the purchase of equipment and machinery and production balance for prevention of shortages have been included in the proposed model. Not only has the fixed capital constraint for activation of cells and purchase of equipment and machinery been considered, variable costs for activation of cells and purchase of the required machinery and the unpredicted variable costs of activation of cells and purchase of machinery and the equipment have also been taken into account in the proposed model. In general, a comprehensive, non-linear integer mathematical model has been proposed for cell formation and production planning in a dynamic cellular manufacturing system. The proposed model is aimed at reduction of the expenses associated with production planning under dynamic conditions and the costs related to the construction and formation of cells (cell preparation and activation costs) and the costs of purchase of equipment and machinery. The main objective of this research is the development of an applied model to solve the integrated production planning and manufacturing cell formation in DCMS based on the costs corresponding to the construction and formation of cells (cell preparation and

activation). This research focuses on the selection of production planning with minimum total costs, reduction of maintenance of the inventory and inventory of assurance and consideration of the production balance for prevention of shortages for the entire planning horizon. The other objective of this research is providing the possibility of the implementation of the proposed model in industrial media via providing answers to large scale problems, which is a meta-innovative, effective method for the proposed model considering the NP-hardness of the problem. Being NP-hard, a hybrid genetic algorithm is adopted to solve this model, as the genetic algorithms have been proven to be an efficient technique to solve this type of problems. Its applications are apparent in most of the engineering fields. For instance, Genetic Algorithm (GA) as a zeroth order optimization method has been used for the training of the Engineered Neural Networks successfully in civil engineering applications [4].

II. PAGE LAYOUT

Rheault et al. were the first to consider the concept of dynamicity in cellular implementation [3]. Chen and Cao proposed an integrated model for production planning in a DCMS problem with the objectives of minimization of intercellular transfer cost, fixed cost of activation of production cells, cost of storage of final products, machine operation cost and intercellular load balance. They first converted the proposed model to a less complicated problem and then used TS method for optimal solution of the converted problem [2]. Defersha and Chen investigated the effect of production planning on the formation of dynamic cells. Their proposed model consisted of minimization of the costs of machine operation, reintegration, outsourcing of pieces, tool consumption, activation and work load balance of the cells. They developed a non-linear mixed integer model, took linearization steps, and then implemented them in various ways [5].

In a similar research, Defersha and Chen proposed a comprehensive mathematical model for DCMS design, based on the tool requirements of pieces and availability of tools on the machinery. This model minimizes the costs of machine operation, reintegration, intercellular transfer, tool consumption, outsourcing of pieces, and intercellular work load balance [6]. Kioon et al. have proposed an integrated production planning and dynamic cell manufacturing model with the aims of minimization of costs of intercellular and intracellular transfer, material storage, domestic production, reintegration and variable and overhead costs of machinery. They solved the proposed model using several small and medium random problems using CPLEX software [7]. Deljoo et al. solved a cellular manufacturing problem under dynamic conditions using genetic algorithm. The shortcomings of the models reviewed have been improved in the model proposed in this work. The results of solving the model using genetic algorithm and LINGO software have

then been shown. Finally, it has been concluded that LINGO software is not capable of solving large size problems. However, such problems can be solved by genetic algorithm within a reasonable time in comparison with LINGO software [8]. Another metaheuristic algorithm has been applied to solve a scheduling and production planning mathematical optimization problems in [9], in which a multi objective Invasive Weed is adopted to solve a no-wait two-stage flow-shop and the results are satisfactory in terms of the objective value and running time comparing to the LINGO software. Rafiei et al. have proposed a comprehensive mathematical model for cell formation problems in which the reduction of cell formation costs including those corresponding to manufacturing costs under dynamic conditions and the costs of machine capacity limitations, operation sequences, cell size restrictions, and machine disabilities have been considered. The model proposed has then been solved using PSO algorithm [10]. Rafiei and Ghodsi have proposed a comprehensive mathematical model for cell formation problem in which the first objective function deals with the reduction of the costs of machinery, locating, machinery variable, intercellular and intracellular transport, overtime and work force transport between the cells while the second objective function deals with increasing the productivity of the work force. An ACO metaheuristic algorithm has been developed to solve the model [11]. Finally, it has been concluded that LINGO 8 software is not very effective for large size problems.

III. MODEL ASSUMPTION

1. The demand for each type of part in the beginning of each period is known.
2. Relocation of machinery from one cell to another is carried out between periods and the required time is zero.
3. The fixed cost for the manufacture and formation of cells (activation of cells) in the beginning of each period is known for each cell.
4. Inventory reserve and maintenance costs in the beginning of each period are known and fixed for all the pieces.
5. The cells have been designed such that they are capable of performing the corresponding functions. However, the costs of activation of the cells are different.
6. Each type of machine may perform one or more operations and each operation may be carried out on different machines at different times.
7. The operation cost per hour for each type of machine is known.
8. Deficiency is not allowed.
9. Operation times for all the operations of different parts on different machines are known.
10. The size of the group is constant for all the products throughout the periods.

A. Decision parameters and variables

- P= Number of different parts
- H= Number of periods
- M= Number of machines
- C= Number of cells
- OP_(P)= Number of operations performed on part P
- T_{jPm} = Time required for operation j on part P in machine m
- D_{ph} = Demand for production of part p during period h
- FN_{mc} = Number of m type machines originally present in cell C
- B= Group size for intercellular transfer of materials
- α_m = Cost of purchasing machinery m
- β_m = Operation cost per hour for an m type machine
- γ = Cost of intercellular material location in each group
- INS_m = Installation cost of type m machine
- uNS_m = Elimination cost of type m machine
- T_m = Time capacity of each type m machine
- uB= Maximum cell size
- C_{ph} = Maintenance cost of part P inventory during period h
- E_{phc} = Production cost of part P during period h in cell C
- G_{0h} = Available capital for formation of cells during period h
- G_{0h} = Available capital for purchase of equipment during period h
- Th= Total available time during each period for production of customer demands for all cells
- L = A large positive number
- K_{ch} = Fixed cost for formation of cell C during period h
- W_{ph}= Cost of maintaining an inventory of assurance of part P during period h
- I_{max} = Maximum allowable inventory during a period
- $$a_{jpm} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{If operation } j \text{ can be carried out for each part } P \text{ on type } m \text{ machin} \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$
- $$w_{ph} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{If one decides to produce part } P \text{ during period } h \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
- $$Z_{chP} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{If cell is formed for the production of part } P \text{ during period } h \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

B. Decision variables

- N_{mch}= Number of m type machines used in cell C during period h
- K_{mch}⁺= Number of m type machines added to cell C during period h
- K_{mch}⁻= Number of m type machines removed from cell C during period h
- I_{ph}= Inventory of part P at the end of period h

- I_{ph}⁺ = Inventory of assurance of part P at the end of period h
- Φ_{phc}= Amount of production of part P by cell C during period h
- D_{1h} = Amount of unpredicted variable capital for purchase of equipment during period h
- D_{2h}= Amount of unpredicted variable capital for cell formation during period h

IV. PROPOSED MODEL

$$\begin{aligned} \min Z = & \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m \cdot \max \left\{ 0, \max \left\{ \sum_{c=1}^C N_{mch} - \sum_{c=1}^C FN_{mc} \right\} \right\} + \\ & \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{p=1}^P D_{Ph} \times T_{jPm} x_{jPmch} \times \beta_m + \\ & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^{OP(p)-1} \sum_{p=1}^P \left[\frac{D_{Ph}}{B_P^{inter}} \right] \gamma^{inter} \left| \sum_{m=1}^M x_{(j+1)Pmch} \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{m=1}^M x_{jPmch} \right| + \\ & \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{c=1}^C K_{mch}^+ INS_m + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{c=1}^C K_{mch}^- UNS_m + \\ & \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{p=1}^P Z_{chP} K_{ch} + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{P=1}^P I_{Ph}^+ W_{Ph} + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{P=1}^P C_{Ph} I_{Ph} \\ & + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{p=1}^P \Phi_{Phc} E_{Phc} + \sum_{h=1}^H D_1 h + D_2 h \end{aligned}$$

s.t.

$$\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{m=1}^M a_{jPm} x_{jPmch} = W_{ph} \forall j, P, h(1)$$

$$x_{jPmch} \leq a_{jPm} \forall j, P, m, c, h(2)$$

$$\sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^{OP(p)} D_{Ph} T_{jPm} x_{jPmch} \leq T_m N_{mch} \forall m, c, h(3)$$

$$\sum_{m=1}^M N_{mch} \leq u_B \forall h, c(4)$$

$$FN_{m,c} + K_{m,c,1}^+ - K_{m,c,1}^- = N_{m,c,1} \forall m, c(5)$$

$$N_{m,c,h-1} + K_{m,c,h}^+ - K_{m,c,h}^- = N_{m,c,h} \forall m, c, h(6)$$

$$I_{Ph} = I_{P(h-1)} + \sum_{c=1}^C \Phi_{Phc} - D_{Ph} + I_{Ph}^+$$

$$\forall P, h > 1(7)$$

$$I_{Ph} \geq I_{Ph}^+ \forall P, h(8)$$

$$I_{Ph} \leq I_{max} \quad \forall P, h(9)$$

$$\sum_{c=1}^C Z_{chP} \times K_{ch} \leq G_{0h} + D_2 h \forall h, P(10)$$

$$\sum_{P=1}^P \sum_{c=1}^C Z_{chP} t_{chP} \leq Th \forall h(11)$$

$$\Phi_{Phc} \leq L \times Z_{chP} \forall c, h, P(12)$$

$$N_{mch}, K_{mch}^+, K_{mch}^-, D_{Ph}, I_{Ph}, I_{Ph}^+, D_1 h, D_2 h \geq 0$$

(13)

$$x_{jPmch}, z_{chP}, a_{jPm} \in \{0,1\} \quad (14)$$

The proposed objective function is aimed at reducing the costs corresponding to production planning under dynamic conditions and those related to the production and formation of cells. Constraints 1 and 2 ensure that if there is a demand for the production of a part within a specified period, each operation is limited to one machine and one cell. Constraint 3 ensures the provision of the demand and not exceeding the machine capacity. Constraint 4 shows the maximum cell capacity. Constraints 5 and 6 show the number of the machines in all the periods. Constraint 7 is the balance of production to prevent shortages throughout the planning horizon. Constraints 8 and 9 show that the inventory at the end of the period is greater than or equal to the inventory of assurance and does not exceed or equal the maximum allowable inventory throughout all the periods. Constraint 10 shows the production and formation of cells considering the fixed capital and variable costs throughout all the periods. Constraint 11 shows that the production time of the parts in the manufactured cells does not exceed the available time throughout all the periods. Constraint 12 ensures that if a cell is activated, the production of the part in that cell will be definitely carried out and constraints 13 and 14 show the type of decision variables.

V. MODEL LINEARIZATION

The first sentence in the objective function of the proposed model is a non-linear expression. Therefore, the original model has been converted into a linear expression by adding two new variables (Pur_m and $Maxim_mh$) and constraint 16 [7]:

$Maxim_mh$ = Maximum number of m type machines added to the production system during period h

Pur_m = Total number of m type machines added to a model during a period

$$Pur_m \geq Maxim_mh \quad \forall m, h$$

$$Maxim_mh \geq \sum_{c=1}^C (N_{mch} - FN_{mc}) \quad \forall m, h$$

$$Pur_m \geq \sum_{c=1}^C (N_{mch} - FN_{mc}) \quad \forall m, h \quad (16)$$

Linearized expression corresponding to the first sentence in the objective function

$$\text{Original objective} \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m \cdot Pur_m$$

Thus, variable Pur_m and constraint 16 are added to the original model.

The third sentence in the objective function, which includes the absolute value and a non-linear expression, has been linearized by adding (Z_{jPch}^2, Z_{jPch}^1) and constraint 17.

$$Z_{jPch}^1 - Z_{jPch}^2 = \sum_{m=1}^M x_{(j+1)Pmch} - \sum_{m=1}^M x_{jPmch} \quad \forall j, P, c, h \quad (17)$$

Linearized expression corresponding to the third sentence in the objective function

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^{OP(p)-1} \sum_{p=1}^P \left[\frac{D_{Ph}}{B_P^{inter}} \right] \gamma^{inter} (Z_{jPch}^1 + Z_{jPch}^2)$$

Therefore, variables Z_{jPch}^2, Z_{jPch}^1 and constraint 17 are added to the original model.

Constraints 16 and 17 correspond to the constraints added to the original model to linearize it. Constraint 18 shows the purchase of machinery considering the fixed capital and variable costs throughout all the periods and constraint 19 shows the variables added to the linear model.

VI. LINEARIZED MATHEMATICAL MODEL

$$\begin{aligned} \min Z = & \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m \cdot Pur_m \\ & + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{p=1}^P D_{Ph} T_{jPm} x_{jPmch} \beta_m + \\ & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^{OP(p)-1} \sum_{p=1}^P \left[\frac{D_{Ph}}{B_P^{inter}} \right] \gamma^{inter} (Z_{jPch}^1 + Z_{jPch}^2) + \\ & \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{c=1}^C K_{mch}^+ INS_m + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{c=1}^C K_{mch}^- UNS_m + \\ & \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{p=1}^P Z_{chP} K_{ch} + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{p=1}^P I_{Ph}^+ W_{Ph} \\ & + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{p=1}^P C_{Ph} I_{Ph} + \sum_{h=1}^H \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{p=1}^P \phi_{Phc} E_{Phc} + \\ & \sum_{h=1}^H D_1 h + D_2 h \end{aligned}$$

Constraints added to the linear model

s.t
 $Pur_m \geq \sum_{c=1}^C (N_{mch} - FN_{mc}) \quad \forall m, h \quad (16)$

$$Z_{jPch}^1 - Z_{jPch}^2 = \sum_{m=1}^M x_{(j+1)Pmch} - \sum_{m=1}^M x_{jPmch} \quad \forall j, P, c, h \quad (17)$$

$$\sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_m \times Pur_m \leq G_h + D_1 h \quad \forall h \quad (18)$$

$$Pur_m, Z_{jPch}^1, Z_{jPch}^2 \geq 0 \quad (19)$$

VII. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

To improve the performance of the designed genetic algorithm we promoted it with a swift path planning algorithm called SPP [12] which has a close to zero running time and is suitable for a problems with big dimensions.

In order to validate the model developed, it has been used to solve small and large size problems using LINGO 8 software and genetic meta-heuristic method and the results obtained are shown in Table 1.

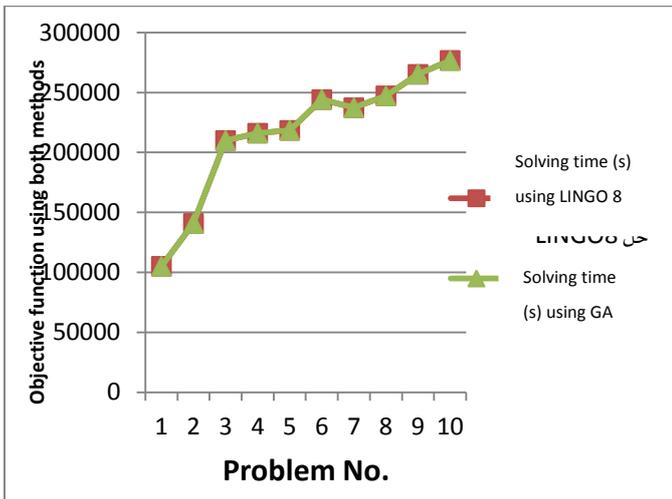


Figure 1- Comparison of the results of solving objective functions of problems of different sizes using LINGO 8 and GA method

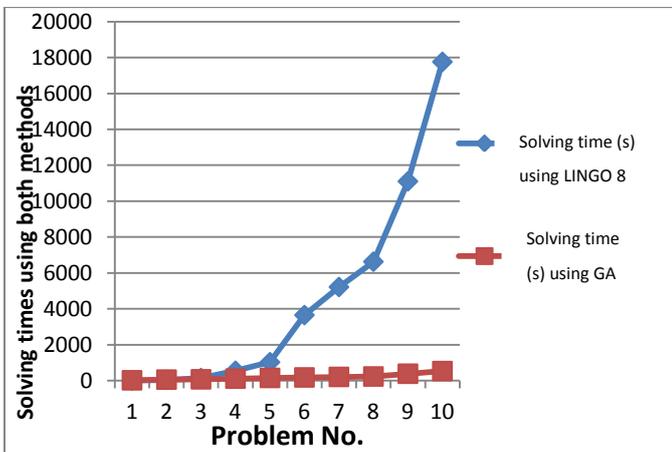


Figure 2- Comparison of solving times of problems of different sizes using LINGO 8 and GA method

A comprehensive, non-linear, single objective, numerical programming model has been proposed for the integrated problem of production planning and the formation of cells

under dynamic conditions by the development of the models reported in the literature. The cellular manufacturing system proposed consists of several types of pieces each requiring some operations with a specific sequence on different limited capacity machines.

As observed in Table 1, ten problems of different sizes (six small to medium and four large problems) have been solved using LINGO 8 software and the genetic algorithm developed. The results obtained using both methods have been compared from the solving time and response quality aspects. According to figures 1 and 2 and Table 1, the following observations can be made: The genetic algorithm used in this work is comparable to LINGO 8 software from the response quality aspect. The results indicate that LINGO 8 software is not very effective for large size problems.

In addition, the solving time using the genetic algorithm used in this research is longer only in the cases of the first two problems compared with LINGO 8 software, but is shorter in other cases. Therefore, the genetic algorithm used in this research is capable of solving different size problems within a reasonable period of time. As observed in Table 1, ten problems of different sizes (six small to medium and four large problems) have been solved using LINGO 8 software and the genetic algorithm developed. The results obtained using both methods have been compared from the solving time and response quality aspects. According to figures 1 and 2 and Table 1, the following observations can be made: The genetic algorithm used in this work is comparable to LINGO 8 software from the response quality aspect. The results indicate that LINGO 8 software is not very effective for large size problems. In addition, the solving time using the genetic algorithm used in this research is longer only in the cases of the first two problems compared with LINGO 8 software, but is shorter in other cases. Therefore, the genetic algorithm used in this research is capable of solving different size problems within a reasonable period of time.

TABLE 1- COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF SOLVING PROBLEMS OF DIFFERENT SIZES USING LINGO 8 AND GA METHOD

Problem No.	Problem dimensions	Objective function using LINGO 8	Response type using LINGO 8	Solving time (s) using LINGO 8	Objective function using GA	Solving time (s) using GA
1	2*3*3*3*3	105157	Global	2	105157	14
2	2*4*4*3*4	140860	Global	41	140865	53
3	3*4*4*3*4	210060	Global	142	210073	69
4	3*5*4*3*4	216148	Global	546	216204	106
5	3*6*5*3*4	218452	Global	1024	218581	146
6	4*6*4*4*3	244130	Global	3649	244321	173
7	4*7*4*3*4	237380	Local	5214	237426	203
8	4*6*5*3*4	247295	Local	6624	247212	226
9	4*8*5*3*3	265177	Local	11100	265426	381
10	4*10*5*3*4	276860	Local	17760	276643	529

VIII. CONCLUSION

A single objective planning model has been proposed in this work for the integrated problem of cell manufacture and formation in a dynamic cellular manufacturing system. The proposed model included the costs of buying machinery, machine operation, intercellular material transfer, cell reconfiguration, activation of cells, maintenance of an inventory of assurance, maintenance of an end of the period inventory and part production as well as the unpredicted, variable costs of activation of cells and purchase of machinery. In addition, two types of capital constraints including those for the initial activation of cells and purchase of equipment and machinery as well as one constraint associated with the balance of the production amount to prevent shortages have been considered in the model. The fixed and unpredicted variable capital constraints for activation of cells and purchase of equipment and machinery have been both considered in the proposed model. Effective genetic algorithm was then used to solve the proposed model. To study and validate the efficiency of the genetic algorithm used, the results obtained were compared to those of LINGO 8 software from the response quality and solving time perspectives.

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