

## REVIEW

# Overview Discourse on Inherent Distinction of Multiobjective Optimization in Routing Heuristics for Multi-Depot Vehicle Instances

Farid Morsidi<sup>1</sup> , Shir Li Wang<sup>2,\*</sup> , Haldi Budiman<sup>3</sup>  and Theam Foo Ng<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Computing and Meta-Technology, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup>Data Intelligent and Knowledge Management, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia

<sup>3</sup>Fakultas Teknologi Informasi, Universitas Islam Kalimantan Muhammad Arsyad Al-Banjar, Indonesia

<sup>4</sup>Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia

**Abstract:** This paper reviews the research methodologies used in earlier years on the benefits and traits reflected by multi-depot vehicle routing problem (MDVRP) instances and assesses the efficacy of various improvised techniques to improve the current recurrent problems in routing procedures. Management of logistics involves moving finished goods from depots to end-user clients. Routing and scheduling systems that are improved will be able to serve a more significant number of customers in a shorter amount of time while also increasing customer satisfaction. To thoroughly discuss the current state of MDVRP implementation in routing heuristics, an analysis of the selected approaches involving multi-depot task distribution under VRP incorporations is further extrapolated. These approaches address the most common routing issues involving constraints like cost optimality, time window impositions, and load capacity flexibility. Recent research focuses on the advantages, proficiency, problem magnitude, and adaptability in MDVRP. The MDVRP framework can still be significantly improved by reducing routing costs with efficient heuristics to generate optimized solutions.

**Keywords:** vehicle routing problem, multi-depot VRP, routing heuristics, scheduling routing, logistics problem

This paper is based on the research related to multi-depot VRP based on the implementation of local search heuristics with computational intelligence for flood-prone relief scheduling. Based on the in-depth study over the past four years, several topic conceptualizations were identified for this particular issue based on the analysis of genetic computation on solution formulation concerning proper planning of efficient routing components for a conventional scheduling system.

## 1. Introduction

The MDVRP is a heuristic optimization problem that draws much attention from researchers because of its applicability in practical settings. The MDVRP variant accounts for service time, time window, vehicle capacity, and travel distance. This study evaluated the limitations and applications of 223 MDVRP-related publications that were published between 2018 and 2023. The multi-depot VRP approach has received extensive study. However, the implementation is not universally applicable to every related routing instance and depends on changes made to the routing model and restrictions placed during the round trip.

Therefore, it is necessary to discuss the applicability of individual MDVRP implementations to formulate and separate the method's advantageous characteristics for other imitation with other proactive computational intelligence applications in developing a strategic transportation network that covers all bases.

This study aims to examine the MDVRP's current state and applications. A thorough search procedure using dependable databases for scientific journals was added as a discussion benchmark. Many important field-related research papers were discovered and theoretically reviewed through the search process. The research papers are screened based on the topicality and conceptual coherence of the full text to extract pertinent information. The chosen studies were grouped based on their restrictions and useful applications. According to the study's findings, the constraints that were most frequently emphasized and those for routing optimization were reducing service time and travel distance. Furthermore, the most common application of MDVRP was in distribution problems in transportation networks. The adaptability and flexibility of the multi-depot deployment strategy are seen as a proactive approach for other nearby purposes, such as distribution planning and successful real-world execution.

## 2. Study Methodology

The multi-depot VRP is a widespread technique utilized for scheduling purposes. Traditional single-depot vs. multi-

\*Corresponding author: Shir Li Wang, Data Intelligent and Knowledge Management, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia. Email: [shirli\\_wang@meta.upsi.edu.my](mailto:shirli_wang@meta.upsi.edu.my)

depot objectives come down to priorities of task distribution, where servicing would gradually converge under a linear or congruent path, respectively, with different routing complexity [1]. MDVRP is a strategy to realize asynchronous goals across multiple targets simultaneously. It maximizes the efficiency of the commodity delivery process but has drawbacks such as time requirements and expensive computational credentials. Heuristic and metaheuristic algorithms are used to address these problem scopes and trial simulations and new methods assimilated with traditional methodology.

**2.1. Information sources and selection of research scope**

The previous papers discussed the use of multi-depot task distribution for solving VRPs, which is primarily applied to instances of problems with multiple commodities, asynchronous time windows, multiple round trips, and accumulated resource distributions across multiple deposition centers. Observations on recent trend exhibits continued overlapping between papers with related conceptualizations, where each connotation is tailored to resolving specific elements based on MDVRP.

*2.1.1. Eligibility criteria*

The previous papers discussed the use of multi-depot task distribution for solving VRPs, which is primarily applied to instances of problems with multiple commodities, asynchronous time windows, multiple round trips, and accumulated resource distributions across multiple deposition centers. Observations on recent trend exhibits continued overlapping between papers with related conceptualizations, where each connotation is tailored to resolving specific elements based on MDVRP.

The most critical details in this text are the criteria for article selection, which focus on the interjection of targeted topics among VRP works. These topics include implementation components that consider route complexity, algorithm optimization, resource allocation, and scheduling automation. Exclusions include redundant issues, industrialization strategies incorporating automation, and single-objective VRPs that do not emphasize resolving MOPs in the context of routing heuristics.

1) Information sources

Including interdisciplinary research databases such as ScienceDirect, IEEE Explore, Web of Science, ACM, and Hindawi provides a broader overview of future progress in the MDVRP perspective. The aim is to solicit an overview of the importance and actual application of MDVRP and the participating elements.

2) Study selection

A review of relevant research material examining MDVRP was conducted and essential facts about multi-site dispatch in heuristic routing methods were presented. The topics include commoditization, disaster logistics planning, heuristic approaches to procurement, mechanization, and other related concepts.

3) Search term

A plethora of keywords were used to identify relevant topics, but they were not fully utilized to justify the instruments. Search titles ranged within 10 years of the current time, but some pioneering literature prior to this period was not included. More recent publications were emphasized (2020–2023), but several backdated publications were included as their characteristics as pioneer reference materials. The search engine inclusion only allows publications such as journals and conference papers, but certain exclusion rules were allowed in some book chapters.

**Query**

- a. (“vehicle routing problem” OR “routing heuristics” OR “scheduling” OR “distribution”) AND optimi\* AND disaster
- b. (“vehicle routing problem” OR “logistic plan” OR “scheduling” OR “routing”) AND optimi\* AND distribution
- c. (“VRP” OR “logistic plan” OR “scheduling” OR “routing”) AND optimi\* AND distribution
- d. (“vehicle routing problem” OR “VRP” OR “vehicle schedule”) AND (“multi-depot” OR “multi depot”) AND relief

**Sorting criteria**

The following figure arrangements demonstrate the processes involved during information dissemination; Figure 1 shows the five major database repositories accessed for article collection, whereas Figure 2 shows the branches that determine subject correlation, and Figure 3 describes the analysis design flow during article sorting and information cross-referencing.

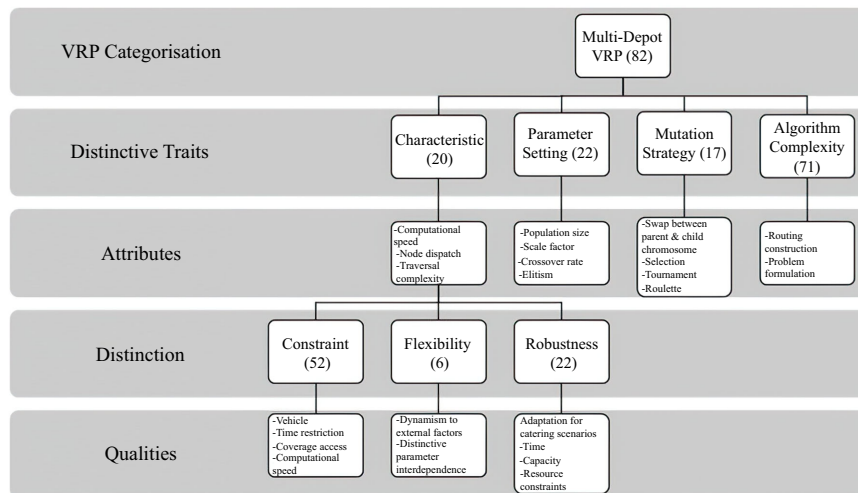
**2.2. Review outcomes**

MDVRP is used to perform simultaneous round-trip deployment, but most studies focus on niche issues surrounding this feature. Common approaches include solving multi-commodity dispatches, transportation tasks involving limited or fixed time windows, and multiple vehicle dispositions simultaneously. A commodity is a unit scheduled to be distributed according to demand and priorities. At the same time, time windows are the timespan that is allowed for the item unit to undergo complete distribution across participating sectors. Vehicle instances are the transportation method for ferrying the demanded item unit to the target distribution point. The overall

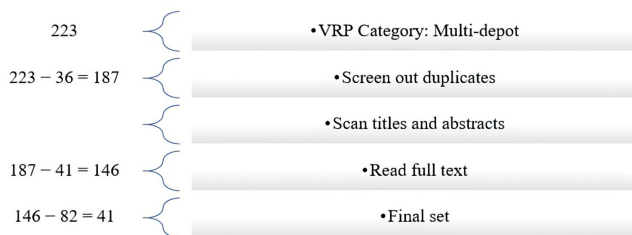
**Figure 1**  
Sorting out relevant publications in regard to multi-depot vehicle dispatches and the corresponding field



**Figure 2**  
**Statistics of corresponding research works examined for summarization**



**Figure 3**  
**Process of formulating analysis for MDVRP and further imposition of admissible works of study selection involving query search and sorting criteria**



contribution representation summarized within the context of this paper includes:

- 1) **Establishing a universally dependable routing mechanism capable of attending multiobjective problems involving routing component designation:** By highlighting the benefits of additional routing heuristic integration built into the MDVRP structural framework for advanced automated planning and deployment of numerous synchronous vehicle transmissions, the discussion seeks to promote a decrease in the reliance on human decision-making processes.
- 2) **Encouraging improvement on routing optimization with simultaneous deployment potentials:** Incorporating multi-depot routing instances addresses routing-specific characteristics, such as maximizing the interdependence of a successful transportation network or increasing the probability of a user-equilibrium traffic assignment model. Additionally, various multi-depot scheduling techniques were applied to dependable routing system infrastructures.

2.2.1. *Commodity*

The load dispatch is determined as dynamic or predefined by the magnitude of distribution and the priority level. This requirement varies

according to the problem scope. A novel approach to the multi-depot vehicle routing problem was inspired by practical e-commerce logistics applications [2]. This multi-depot vehicle routing problem with order split and allocation (MD-CVRP-OSA) algorithm considers the split and allocation issue of online customer orders in the conventional vehicle routing problem. The solution strategy incorporates a diversification mechanism, a powerful variable neighborhood search (VNS) algorithm, and seven intricately designed operators. The proposed VNS approach analyzed and resolved a case study from the domain JD.com. The VNS algorithm was thoroughly tested on both randomly generated and real-life instances. The computational outcomes demonstrated the effectiveness of the VNS approach and various algorithmic elements. Parallel implementation of these solutions is executed under intrinsic restrictions with the conjecture of scaling the generation of solution through multi-facility location along with shortest path problems.

Over recent years, the population-based sampling approach is also being raved upon for multi-depot dispatch methodology. An example of a newly developed population-based algorithm is the Harris Hawks optimization algorithm in solving conventional urban VRP problems [3]. The experimental results demonstrated that it was significantly more capable of locating and confirming the best route than other metaheuristic algorithms. Three factors formed the basis of the comparison: the minimum objective function attained, the least amount of iterations necessary, and the fulfillment of capacity constraints. With only a few iterations, Harris Hawk optimization found the best solution.

Additionally, in every scenario, the algorithm could meet the capacity constraints. The proposed method highlights approximating cost-based solutions when applying a multiobjective approach for collaboration-based cases instead of relying on cost-value standardization between cost-efficient solutions when applying non-collaborative approaches to generate a desirable outcome. A multi-facility dispersal heuristic approach has been used to resolve problems with waste collection [4]. Using this method, each facility solves the MDVRP-model single vehicle routing problem by dividing waste disposal facilities into waste collection points based on which is closest. The sector

combination optimization (SCO) algorithm is used to generate several preliminary solutions, which are then enhanced by the merge-head and drop-tail (MHD) technique. It was discovered that the SCO algorithm's initial solutions were superior and more plentiful than those obtained by other iterative algorithms using only one solution as initialization.

The application of savings heuristics, prominently the Clarke–Wright algorithm, is an acceptable alternative to produce preferable solution steps when approximating passive solution qualities, mainly involved in multiobjective optimization-based problem instances for routing complexity. CW is a popular heuristic algorithm in the form of an iterative improvement approach devised to locate global optima solutions. It has been proven to be rapid in producing feasible solutions for further improvisation via local search procedures. A mixed-integer programming model was suggested to lower all transportation-related expenses while accounting for the effects of time-varying speed, loading, and waiting times on expenses [5]. This method's inner and outer layers suggest using a genetic algorithm in conjunction with simulated annealing to address the issues of optimal waiting time and path planning in multi-depot green VRP with time windows. This study provides an alternative approach for dealing with evolving networks by extending the path distribution problem.

### 2.2.2. Time windows

In generating and forecasting workable solution steps for vehicle returns, the routing heuristic emphasizes quick execution. Problem cases with planned route plans are subject to strict time restrictions to ensure safety. In order to give priority to the defined parameters, time window variables are used to resolve the presumption that vehicles will leave or arrive at the targeted depot within the predicted speed range.

Optimizing time allotment is a significant determinant for assessing resource allocation, task distribution success rate, and route complexity. For problem instances involving capacity and time restrictions, every service must be deployed parallel and arrive within a predicted time range. A mixed-integer programming model uses a genetic algorithm and simulated annealing to address the issues of path planning and ideal waiting time in the inner and outer layers, respectively [5]. The reason is to decrease all costs related to the multi-depot problem while taking into account the effects of time-varying speed, loading, and waiting time. The vehicle routing problem, also known as the path distribution problem, is expanded in this study, along with a new approach for solving time-varying networks.

Real-time scheduling must be realistic in advancing simultaneous optimization for each objective function. The possibility for vehicle deployment to achieve the fixated time limitation would often result in unacceptable results with the participation of affluent conflicts, such as route cancellations. Uncertainty in scheduling optimization can lead to increased traversed routes, restriction zone participation, and elapsing departure times. In real-life problems, single-objective optimization often produces unpredictable outcomes considering other objectives. Investigating the multiobjective vehicle routing problem to reduce logistics costs is more useful in multiple distribution stations [6].

Uncertainty is a significant challenge in managing unpredictable logistic scheduling, especially involving multi-depot deployments. Results for tardiness minimization are lacking due to difficulty in tracking response times. A novel multistep algorithm for successfully solving logistical VRPs that is entirely feasible and an adaptive approach for modifying and establishing the parameters and constants was proposed to solve real-world logistic problems.

The technique uses a predictive model to adapt these constants and control parameters based on historical data [7]. For some input datasets, the suggested algorithm produced better results, up to 6.5%. The multi-depot model had slightly less successful outcomes for other routings. The execution time was satisfactory despite the low cost. The control parameters can be adjusted automatically, which allows the algorithm to be more adaptable.

The ambiguity of allocation for emergency relief commodities can affect the credibility of assumption for routing scenarios due to unknown influence. Based on secondary data gathered from SAP and distributor operation data divided into 25 demand points, a multi-depot strategy was created for the Colombo and Gampaha regions [8]. The three ideal locations for the new depots were found using the Improved K-Means Clustering Method with Gravity Model. A novel heuristic algorithm was used to find the best path between clusters on each depot. The computational analysis shows that the proposed method can lead to cost savings of up to 21.3% compared to current methods. An additional study by a related researcher uses a multi-depot novel model to lower overall warehouse, transportation, and administrative costs for the new central warehouse on the western side of Peliyagoda, Sri Lanka [9]. The Colombo and Gampaha District contains six significant clusters, one inside each demand point and composed of an ideal path. All of the most effective routes involve the redistribution of goods using trucks.

Measuring success and performance in time restraint routing sectors, such as humanitarian relief and supply chain networks, is difficult due to the distinct characteristics of humanitarian operations. Lowering proprietary traits for capacity, variations, and elapsing period is essential to achieve low average and variance. Accruing precise statistics about vague factors involved in distribution sectors is also vital for multi-dispatch deployment objectives. Multiobjective procurement and distribution models have been used to resolve uncertainty in distribution chains [10]. A distribution path planning model with multiple distribution stations and a hybrid genetic algorithm has been proposed, integrating the sharing economy and open-loop distribution reality hotspots and considering optimizing carbon emissions in contactless distribution [6]. The principle of elite crossing is used to prevent the solution from falling into a local optimum. The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed model and optimization algorithm can obtain a trade-off between the logistics cost and carbon emissions.

Hybridization is a potential approach to producing desirable optimization results, particularly considering time restrictions. An instance of hybridization for multi-depot VRP had been imposed for low-carbon problem instances with time constraints [11]. A hybrid picking mode with multiple picking tables and a new reinforcement learning algorithm embedding mechanism (PRL) with placeholder control was proposed [12]. The model addresses the high volume of real-time item orders being picked up by the warehouse center system on promotional holidays and in erratic quantities. The experimental findings demonstrate that the PRL algorithm can efficiently increase picking efficiency while handling a large number of orders at once. A bi-objective mathematical programming model is used to design a two-stage hybrid algorithm [13]. The model combines the K-means clustering algorithm, the Clark–Wright algorithm, and NSGA-II to resolve a resource-sharing instance for optimizing multi-depot pickup and delivery in a logistics network. The benchmark tests and optimization results for the Chongqing real-world logistics network attest to the applicability of the developed solution algorithm and the mathematical model. Solving the MDPDRS provides a management tool for logistics businesses

to improve resource configuration and increase the efficiency of logistics operations.

### 2.2.3. Vehicle instances

The steps for solving a VRP instance, which serves as a transition between single-objective and multiobjective problems, are presented as the logical conclusion of the single-objective problem. Subsequent research has expanded the basic VRP steps, which start with deploying a single vehicle, to include multiple vehicle instances to hasten deployment and increase deployment success rates. The right vehicle instance is selected depending on the type of problem; some problems can be effectively supplemented by one or more vehicles but not by others.

Considering fleet management, in addition to tweaking certain quarter aspects of computational optimization according to the demand of problem instances, research works incorporated the majority of prediction and simulation means. Demand allocation for priority-level sectors is generally obtained from operational phases of commodity scheduling [14, 15]. Previous works had proposed improvisation on indirect freight dispatch via sheltered clustering categorization as a preparation phase for any immediate deployment. Dynamic availability and allocation of commodities stationed across potential depots along a unified echelon allow better servicing and shorten deployment time. A multi-depot algorithm variant has been suggested to solve the new agricultural product distribution issue using green logistics that consider low-carbon and environmental protection [11]. The approach considers the fixed costs of delivery vehicles, transportation expenses, fresh agricultural product damage expenses, cooling expenses, carbon emission expenses, and penalty expenses related to service time windows. The genetic algorithm is improved using a chaotic perturbation technique, and a new genetic algorithm is used to resolve the distribution location-routing optimization problem. According to experimental findings, the proposed algorithm produces a distribution plan with a total distance and cost of 128.96 km and 12,593 Yuan, respectively. These figures are superior to other comparison algorithms and can be used as a benchmark for logistics companies when making distribution decisions.

Studies have shown that the susceptibility rate for routing scheduling states can help in total cost reduction for relative problem instances. Modification of the MDVRP can stretch conventional utilization for the problem instance, mainly if route traversal time across its domain is imposed. The first bi-objective integer programming model for the two-echelon collaborative multi-depot pickup and delivery problem with time windows is produced by integrating a customer clustering algorithm, a greedy algorithm, and an improved non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm [16]. A flexible data-subjected innovative modular technique was innovated for actual VRP implementation on logistics distribution for the sizeable feed data of a Bosnia-based distribution chain containing 200 to 400 customers [7]. A hybrid picking mode with multiple picking tables and a new reinforcement learning algorithm embedding mechanism with placeholder control were used to address the issue of numerous real-time item orders showing up at the picking center system on promotional holidays and in various quantities [12]. Modifying routing heuristics based on a multi-agents approach subjected to a directionally steered genetic algorithm in terms of local search and planning distribution trips had also been attempted to solve using the three-stage approach [17].

Based on commodity dispatch, vehicle transmission plays a considerable role in maintaining routing objectivism for strict time management and deliberation of prioritized coverage

areas. The VRP solution for maintaining and repairing medical equipment in Thailand was presented with the simulation performed on an actual case study instance of 316 health-promoting hospitals in 25 districts in Ubon Ratchathani. In the case study, several variations, such as transition, exchange, insertion, and mix, were implemented on the proposed improved differential evolution algorithm considering vectorization [18].

## 3. Discussion

Researchers take a similar approach to develop solutions for situations involving multiple depots by basing their framework functions on parameter settings. The steps for developed solutions are put into action in accordance with the issues at hand, despite constraints like time constraints, travel distances, deployment capacities, or participating customers. It is intended that a comprehensive gap array problem can be solved even with more sophisticated methods.

### 3.1. Motivations

#### 3.1.1. Generating a solution based on various population-based evolutionary searches for solving MOP

NP-hard MOPs in VRPs require a challenging simulation scale due to the wide range of depot numbers for multi-depot instances. Routing and scheduling phases involve objective functions to provide computationally efficient solutions, such as minimizing total costs, aggregating vehicle fleet for a round trip, and attempting to cover a total distance achievable under resource impediment [13, 16, 19].

#### 3.1.2. Investigating the benefits of modified optimization criterion on improving capabilities of neighborhood-based metaheuristics on routing heuristics

Respective routing works had placed considerable emphasis on parameter setting when predicting the performance of algorithm heuristics. VRP constraints and restrictions are nonstandard depending on the problem scope, allowing intrinsic investigations on local optima, population scale, and execution speed. The neighborhood-based metaheuristic evaluates each solution's viability before selecting one of the possible solutions [8]. The nature of routing heuristics in generating solution steps depends on the dynamic all-changing prediction model, which constantly alters parameters accordingly, complementing the archived data [7].

#### 3.1.3. Formulating a proficient logistics distribution practice by applying intrinsic niche of parameter settings for improvising optimization capabilities on maximizing simultaneous task distribution approaches

Designing appropriate distribution networks is essential for reducing costs and improving the service quality. Logistics operations involving demand management involve annotating factors of uncertainties with the assistance of geography-based demand information [16, 20]. Simulation data applied for the model formulation of routing heuristics remain under a strain of uncertainties and limited parameter adaptation [21]. Routing logistics in a business context varies with information diversity and rigidity of demand information. Achieving equilibrium in the trade-off for a distribution plan involving cost allocation and resource delegation requires effective resource network management while fulfilling customer demands [13, 22].

## 3.2. Challenges in adaptation

### 3.2.1. Causal effect of certain parameter adaptations on fulfilling objective functions in routing heuristics

The effects of constraint-based scheduling heuristic frameworks, as well as the complexity of routing, are addressed using computational optimization applications like genetic algorithms [10, 19, 23]. Genetic operators are augmented on a computational estimation of fitness functions from genetic computation, which determines the flexibility of optimal solution steps constructed from adhering to specific objective functions. An intrinsic study on the effects of varying parameter settings on the outcome of simulating different routing complexities is becoming increasingly popular as a beneficial alternative to resolve VRP problems. Machine learning approaches impose a function approximation, population-based heuristics focus on algorithm-specific parameters, and there is a propensity to look for operational solutions as soon as possible in uncertain situations. The effects of various neighborhood topologies on crossovers and mutation strategies can also vary [14, 15]. Multi-depot heuristic constraints require careful consideration of variables needed to perform adequate generation numbers for the execution of scheduling steps, such as time, capacity, and path routes [6, 24, 25]. Exploration and exploitation are essential for minimizing adverse optimization function outcomes, but exploration is less useful when search space is limited [2, 8]. This situation worsens when decision-making includes the selection of inferior benchmark algorithms. Heuristic approaches need improvisations to resolve constraint-based problems due to uncertainty's complexity. Robust problems frequently include budgeted uncertainty to reduce estimated costs, but accuracy and inefficiency can persist throughout each simulation [3, 10, 26]. Increasing customer numbers can decrease solution optimality, but it is crucial to maintain the priority of generating effective solution cost that adheres to the provided constraint [7].

### 3.2.2. Constraint trade-offs considering coverage, speed and resource allocation

In order to address fundamental issues like time constraints, the overall amount of load distributable under a given deployment, the number of participating customers, and the subsequent coverage areas according to priority state, objective functions that are specifically designed for doing this must be added. When organizing operations within a constrained timeframe, it is critical to understand the modeling parameters and consider customer-based characteristics. Any modifications to the optimization plan may improve the instance's utility [12, 13, 27]. Heuristic methods, such as genetic algorithms, are proficient in producing slightly improved performance from the outcome but require significant computational time to execute [12, 16].

Path optimization is a complex problem that requires in-depth research due to its ambiguous nature and complexity. Multi-facility location and shortest path problems are executed with the prohibition of relying entirely on parallelism. For large instances, domain reduction is considered a solution, but it is not possible to predict and allocate optimal round trips strictly based on computing speed [26]. When comparing the predicted performance of cost-optimal solutions, estimating the effects of trade-offs under a selective solution measure on the associated cost for collaboration cases within a multiobjective focus is important.

The adaptability and flexibility of the problem instance optimization trait may be unfair when applied to general problem categories. Using only historical data is impossible to choose hub locations in important nodes, such as disaster zones. Time constraint-

related distribution strategies may not consider the priority level between the pivotal areas [13, 22]. Unpredictability becomes a crutch for constructing a proficient routing plan catering under precarious time constraints. Establishing an integrated environment under coexisting volatility and obscurity during the forecast of impact for unknown scheduling factors may need to be embraced when dealing with the vulnerability of the transportation system. Determining the trade-offs between computational speed and solution quality [5, 7] is necessary. The ability to arbitrarily choose between computational effectiveness and solution quality should be encouraged when making decisions.

### 3.2.3. Determine between minimizing coverage and maximizing task distribution with a simultaneous vehicle deployment

The modeling metric derives each trait from these component objectives, aiming to achieve an equilibrium between minimizing coverage and maximizing service for all critical distribution points. Logisticians prioritize routing issuance, collocating distribution, and round-trip dissemination, while automation procedures involve decision-making [12, 13]. A high level of unpredictability is correlated to external factors such as pathway tolerance and vehicle availability. Tensile-based exploration, a global domain with mutation and crossover trait strategy, and a prediction model with an affluent baseline for routing schematics integrated with genetic computation should be promoted for algorithm execution [12, 22]. It is difficult to compare solutions because there are several different goals, and ineffective resource allocation strategies can significantly increase the overall priority costs [13, 16]. Intelligent decision-making efforts should be modeled as autonomous routing with varied complexity, and a long duration of the elapsed time can reduce the sensitivity of the time factor [5, 27, 28].

## 4. Recommendations for Future Work

### 4.1. Exploring other compatible algorithm variants for improving available benchmarks

A potential area for improvement in optimizing the generation of high-quality solution steps was identified to compare the relative contributions of algorithms to create a flexible and dependable multi-depot logistics modeling. The utility of the MDVRP-related problem instances can be modified if the difference in average traversal speed during a deployment schedule impacts the coverage range for potential vehicles reciprocated with elapsing time across their respective pathways. Prior works have focused on formulating rapidly obtainable but high-quality solutions representing traveling salesman problem using many heuristic techniques. Soft computing methods provide excellent optimization strategies catering to highly complex mathematical equations while competently responsive to constraint-heavy applications such as emergency response, e-commerce logistics, and resource sharing [2, 11, 16, 23]. An optimization algorithm could coalesce with scheduling modules to contribute to managers with better issuance of premeditated traversal routines adhering to a better execution time [29]. Metamorphic computation strategies such as ant colony and swarm optimization techniques are beneficial for resolving high-priority resource management. Studies on modeling theories related to evolutionary computation have suggested that mutation strategies regarding multi-depot routing optimization should be altered to improvise the current best solution [2, 13, 16]. Metaheuristic

algorithms and comparisons between them can be used to investigate the distribution of commodities in multiple periods via divergent vehicle involvement [17].

Most metaheuristic algorithms are population-based and structured as direct stochastic search, with simple yet effective and direct features that add to their appeal for numerical optimization [23, 30]. Methods for path optimization can be developed to encourage a low-cost method of obtaining propagation routes [23, 31]. Moreover, rectifying the revolutionary parallelism for search-based strategy based on collaborative approaches could be formulated to predict satisfactory outcomes. The influence of flexible assortment on control mechanisms relative to various problem classes has been proposed as an appropriate field to be explored, along with the performance validation using a theoretical framework, which could be studied. Metaheuristics that take advantage of the amplitude of exploration have been suggested to support the initiative to diversify search management of population variety concerning population-based transformative foraging [18]. A flexible assortment of control mechanisms concerning different problem classes has been proposed to intercept modular VRP problem instances and their real-world applications to predict satisfactory results [7]. Another suggestion is to formulate a non-segregated VRP model among neighboring instances, such as hybridizing multi-echelon and multiple depot VRPs [2, 16].

#### **4.2. Emphasis on parameter selection optimizations for fulfilling prerequisite objective criteria**

The selection of optimizing variables involves a priori assignments of customers to a designated depot and subsequent insertion among deployment schedules for obtaining feasible visit combinations. Appropriate parameter augmentations are determined, and allocation to more than one distribution center in each period is essential [32]. The capability of new algorithms in population-based optimization should be explored and investigated to solve ongoing problems [10, 26]. A significant value of cooling rate after execution is beneficial for large-sized problems. Deterioration of appealing optimal solutions for sizeable problems within an estimated elapsing time encouraged further usage of stochastic-based solution measures.

Heuristic algorithms optimize routing schematics and heuristic approaches to provide good or acceptable solutions within a short time. The superiority exhibited by metaheuristic algorithms over its contemporary parts lies in the execution that is robust, minuscule, flexible, and resilient [7, 10]. The enhancement considers computational time and iterative computation of the tour cost function, parallelism in optimization strategies, and heuristic resolution to represent model complexity with significant instances of serving points. Various consensus is also found on the testing of scalabilities in parallel and distributed environments [33]. Horizontal collaboration for freight transportation with economy-based approaches has seen the budding of a quantitative model, but still not widely used. Evaluating the impact of the quality solution chosen on the required cost to resolve the issue under the guise of multiple objectives in the context of dissension is crucial because the sensitivity of using heterogeneous vectors, such as transportation capacity, or changing modeling parameters must result in a positive outcome. Robust post-improvement procedures, which can be adapted to improve existing algorithms and simultaneously extend the algorithm to deal with other problem variants, such as time windows and simultaneous

delivery and pickup, could be explored [23, 34]. Hybridization, or combining several techniques, is becoming increasingly popular to address specific issues like time constraints, routing costs, and autonomous decision-making that would work well with the vehicle round trip. Multi-facility locality and shortest path problems could solve the current problem despite their restriction in parallel with the assumptions. The inclusion of multi-facility location is also applicable for complex combinatorial optimization instances with various levels of sorting intelligence capability. Developing robust optimization schemes in the environment of demand uncertainties is also suggested [7, 13].

The single or weighted sum of objectives is limited in real-world situations and does not provide detailed routing schedules. Optimizing uncertainties during planning scheduling models are constantly highlighted as necessary in resolving prominent issues, especially when new approaches with different magnitudes of parameter fixation are adopted as an alternative to improve the baseline approaches further. Besides reducing transportation costs, this problem could also be mitigated by reducing unnecessary asset expenditures during a single trip by selecting the shortest path [23, 25]. Proposed algorithm variant structures also include traffic-related information. Dynamic calculations are limited to small transportation scales, as their effect on the overall delivery cycle may be negligible [25, 31]. Functional objectives should be used to optimize deployment time to maximize task distribution among the distribution hub grid.

#### **4.3. Establishing distribution modeling that promotes homogeneity between the provisioning and procurement phases involving uncertainty to further improve performance metrics**

Congruity traits based on desirable locations should be developed, trade-off limitations should be given priority, and VRP instances should implement round-trip leniency to reduce unmet demand. Distribution of supplies and drafting of acquisitions must be combined for long-term gains. Analysis of the delivery model is crucial to maximizing commuter trips while minimizing the demand for new ones. Clustering measures are highly promoted to partition the sample based on sorting affinity traits and raise the credibility of the scheduling model [35]. Historical data can be used to improve the performance of integrated models, especially during parameter configuration. Rigorous experimentation for multiprocessing is complicated and requires huge instances allocation [36]. Experimental data can be enhanced by applying a priori data, and real-world data, such as real-time traffic condition updates, can be included in the long run.

### **5. Conclusion**

This paper discusses the characteristics of multi-depot dispatch instances applied in conventional VRP routines. MDVRP is a method for finding the best routes for distributor vehicles that optimize the use of vehicles and routes and minimizes operational cost, subject to vehicle travel-time restrictions and capacity conditions. It provides more benefits to both user and operator than VRP, such as more organized distribution channels, shorter lead time, less stress on drivers and planners, and reduced lead time. Opinions from research works were used as the reference point to illustrate the intersection of ideas encompassed by other works, which may be applied to solve different problems. The implementation of preparedness and rapid response is required

for routing scheduling systems to ensure the deployment of services. MDVRP, a revolutionary branch for logistics scheduling, is serviceable and promising to be further explored for sectors such as automation and exploited to resolve niche endeavors. New concepts were proposed to enforce effective quality solutions in a global domain while considering multi-objectivism and flexibility. Future research should emphasize the profitability of maintaining one warehouse vehicle routing arrangement or multiple depot vehicle routing systems.

### Acknowledgement

The Fundamental Research Grant Scheme funded this research with grant number FRGS/1/2022/ICT02/UPSI/02/1 provided by the Ministry of Higher Education. The authors would like to extend their gratitude to Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), who helped manage the grant. The co-authors acknowledge the first author's contribution in performing the background studies and drafting the initial manuscript.

### Ethical Statement

This study does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

### Data Availability Statement

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study.

### Author Contribution Statement

**Farid Morsidi:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Resources, Writing – original draft. **Shir Li Wang:** Validation, Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Project administration, Funding acquisition. **Haldi Budiman:** Investigation, Resources. **Theam Foo Ng:** Writing – review & editing.

### References

- [1] Corona-Gutiérrez, K., Nucamendi-Guillén, S., & Lalla-Ruiz, E. (2022). Vehicle routing with cumulative objectives: A state of the art and analysis. *Computers & Industrial Engineering*, 169, 108054. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cie.2022.108054>
- [2] Tao, Y., Lin, C., & Wei, L. (2022). Metaheuristics for a large-scale vehicle routing problem of same-day delivery in e-commerce logistics system. *Journal of Advanced Transportation*, 2022(1), 8253175. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/8253175>
- [3] Alweshah, M., Almiani, M., Almansour, N., Al Khalailah, S., Aldabbas, H., Alomoush, W., & Alshareef, A. (2022). Vehicle routing problems based on Harris Hawks optimization. *Journal of Big Data*, 9(1), 42. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40537-022-00593-4>
- [4] Shi, Y., Lv, L., Hu, F., & Han, Q. (2020). A heuristic solution method for multi-depot vehicle routing-based waste collection problems. *Applied Sciences*, 10(7), 2403. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app10072403>
- [5] Chen, C. M., Lv, S., Ning, J., & Wu, J. M. T. (2023). A genetic algorithm for the waitable time-varying multi-depot green vehicle routing problem. *Symmetry*, 15(1), 124. <https://doi.org/10.3390/sym15010124>
- [6] Li, H., Xiong, K., & Xie, X. (2021). Multiobjective contactless delivery on medical supplies under open-loop distribution. *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, 2021(1), 9986490. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/9986490>
- [7] Žunić, E., Đonko, D., & Buza, E. (2020). An adaptive data-driven approach to solve real-world vehicle routing problems in logistics. *Complexity*, 2020(1), 7386701. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/7386701>
- [8] Jayarathna, N. D., Lanel, G. H. J., & Juman, Z. A. M. S. (2021). An intelligent cost-optimized warehouse and redistribution root plan with truck allocation system; evidence from Sri Lanka. *Journal of Business and Social Science Review*, 2(11), 22–39.
- [9] Jayarathna, D. G. N. D., Lanel, G. H. J., & Juman, Z. A. M. S. (2022). Industrial vehicle routing problem: A case study. *Journal of Shipping and Trade*, 7(1), 6. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41072-022-00108-7>
- [10] Nura, A., & Abdullahi, S. (2022). A systematic review of multi-depot vehicle routing problems. *Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis Journal*, 3(2), 51–60. <https://doi.org/10.54480/slr.m.v3i2.37>
- [11] Fu, Q., Li, J., & Chen, H. (2022). Resource scheduling method for optimizing the distribution path of fresh agricultural products under low-carbon environmental constraints. *Scientific Programming*, 2022(1), 7692135. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/7692135>
- [12] Wang, D., Jiang, J., Ma, R., & Shen, G. (2022). Research on hybrid real-time picking routing optimization based on multiple picking stations. *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, 2022(1), 5510749. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/5510749>
- [13] Wang, Y., Ran, L., Guan, X., & Zou, Y. (2021). Multi-depot pickup and delivery problem with resource sharing. *Journal of Advanced Transportation*, 2021(1), 5182989. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/5182989>
- [14] Ochelska-Mierzejewska, J., Poniszewska-Marañda, A., & Marañda, W. (2021). Selected genetic algorithms for vehicle routing problem solving. *Electronics*, 10(24), 3147. <https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics10243147>
- [15] Zhang, L., Liu, Z., Yu, L., Fang, K., Yao, B., & Yu, B. (2022). Routing optimization of shared autonomous electric vehicles under uncertain travel time and uncertain service time. *Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review*, 157, 102548. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tre.2021.102548>
- [16] Luo, S., Wang, Y., Tang, J., Guan, X., & Xu, M. (2021). Two-echelon multidepot logistics network design with resource sharing. *Journal of Advanced Transportation*, 2021(1), 6619539. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/6619539>
- [17] Gharib, Z., Bozorgi-Amiri, A., Tavakkoli-Moghaddam, R., & Najafi, E. (2018). A cluster-based emergency vehicle routing problem in disaster with reliability. *Scientia Iranica*, 25(4), 2312–2330. <https://doi.org/10.24200/sci.2017.4450>
- [18] Akararungruangkul, R., Chokanat, P., Pitakaso, R., Supakdee, K., & Sethanan, K. (2018). Solving vehicle routing problem for maintaining and repairing medical equipment using differential evolution algorithm: A case study in Ubon Ratchathani Public Health Office. *International Journal of Applied Engineering Research*, 13(10), 8035–8045.
- [19] Kocaoglu, Y., Cakmak, E., Kocaoglu, B., & Taskin Gumus, A. (2020). A novel approach for optimizing the supply chain: A Heuristic-Based Hybrid algorithm. *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, 2020(1), 3943798. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/3943798>



- [20] Dong, B., Christiansen, M., Fagerholt, K., & Chandra, S. (2020). Design of a sustainable maritime multi-modal distribution network – Case study from automotive logistics. *Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review*, 143, 102086. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tre.2020.102086>
- [21] Sun, H., Li, J., Wang, T., & Xue, Y. (2022). A novel scenario-based robust bi-objective optimization model for humanitarian logistics network under risk of disruptions. *Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review*, 157, 102578. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tre.2021.102578>
- [22] Zhang, Y., Liu, Y., Li, C., Liu, Y., & Zhou, J. (2022). The optimization of path planning for express delivery based on clone adaptive ant colony optimization. *Journal of Advanced Transportation*, 2022(1), 4825018. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/4825018>
- [23] Morsidi, F. (2022). Multi-depot dispatch deployment analysis on classifying preparedness phase for flood-prone coastal demography in Sarawak. *Journal of ICT in Education*, 9(2), 175–190. <https://doi.org/10.37134/jictie.vol9.2.13.2022>
- [24] Indriyono, B. V., & Widyatmoko. (2021). Optimization of Breadth-First Search algorithm for path solutions in Mazyin Games. *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence & Robotics*, 3(2), 58–66. <https://doi.org/10.25139/ijair.v3i2.4256>
- [25] Rachmawati, D., & Gustin, L. (2020). Analysis of Dijkstra's algorithm and A\* algorithm in shortest path problem. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1566(1), 012061. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1566/1/012061>
- [26] Jayarathna, D. G. N. D., Lanel, G. H. J., & Juman, Z. A. M. S. (2021). Survey on ten years of multi-depot vehicle routing problems: Mathematical models, solution methods and real-life applications. *Sustainable Development Research*, 3(1), 36–47. <https://doi.org/10.30560/sdr.v3n1p36>
- [27] Nura, A., Abdullahi, S., Jayarathna, N. D., Juman, Z. A. M. S., Jayarathna, D. G. N. D., Lanel, G. H. J., . . . , & Xie, X. (2022). Research on hybrid real-time picking routing optimization based on multiple picking stations. *Journal of Advanced Transportation*, 2022, 124.
- [28] Guo, Y., Zhang, S., Zhang, Z., & Meng, Q. (2018). Estimating added values of the integrated emergency response system for airport accident: Improved responsiveness and increased service capacity. *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, 2018(1), 3960242. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/3960242>
- [29] De Giovanni, L., Gastaldon, N., Losego, M., & Sottovia, F. (2018). Algorithms for a vehicle routing tool supporting express freight delivery in small trucking companies. *Transportation Research Procedia*, 30, 197–206. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trpro.2018.09.022>
- [30] Stodola, P. (2018). Using metaheuristics on the multi-depot vehicle routing problem with modified optimization criterion. *Algorithms*, 11(5), 74. <https://doi.org/10.3390/a11050074>
- [31] Zhan, S., Wang, P., Wong, S. C., & Lo, S. M. (2022). Energy-efficient high-speed train rescheduling during a major disruption. *Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review*, 157, 102492. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tre.2021.102492>
- [32] Bruni, M. E., Beraldi, P., & Khodaparasti, S. (2018). A fast heuristic for routing in post-disaster humanitarian relief logistics. *Transportation Research Procedia*, 30, 304–313. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trpro.2018.09.033>
- [33] Ezugwu, A. E. (2020). Nature-inspired metaheuristic techniques for automatic clustering: A survey and performance study. *SN Applied Sciences*, 2, 273. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42452-020-2073-0>
- [34] Wahyuningsih, S., & Satyananda, D. (2020). Improvement of solution using local search method by perturbation on VRPTW variants. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1581(1), 012004. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1581/1/012004>
- [35] Serafini, S., Nigro, M., Gatta, V., & Marcucci, E. (2018). Sustainable crowdshipping using public transport: A case study evaluation in Rome. *Transportation Research Procedia*, 30, 101–110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trpro.2018.09.012>
- [36] Lombard, A., Tamayo-Giraldo, S., & Fontane, F. (2018). Vehicle routing problem with roaming delivery locations and stochastic travel times (VRPRDL-S). *Transportation Research Procedia*, 30, 167–177. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trpro.2018.09.019>

**How to Cite:** Morsidi, F., Wang, S. L., Budiman, H., & Ng, T. F. (2024). Overview Discourse on Inherent Distinction of Multiobjective Optimization in Routing Heuristics for Multi-Depot Vehicle Instances. *Artificial Intelligence and Applications*, 2(3), 179–187. <https://doi.org/10.47852/bonviewAIA3202806>