

(54) Title of the invention : MATHEMATICAL HYPER-HEURISTIC OPTIMIZATION FRAMEWORK FOR SCHEDULING PROBLEMS

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(57) Abstract :

The present invention relates to the development of the Mathematical Hyper-Heuristic Optimization Framework for Scheduling Problems presents a flexible, advanced, and 5 effective means of solving complex scheduling problems across many different application areas. Traditional metaheuristics often require significant tuning of parameters and customizations for specific applications, both of which limit their scalability and the ability to deliver optimal solutions. The proposed hyper-heuristic framework is able to overcome these limitations by operating at a higher level compared to conventional metaheuristics. Instead of 10 relying on user-defined parameters for the selection, combination, and evolution of low-level heuristics, this concept applies mathematically grounded decision models to accomplish these tasks. The framework combines ideas from reinforcement learning, statistical learning, and combinatorial optimization to allow for dynamic evaluation of the performance of the selected heuristic and facilitate the search for the globally optimal schedule. Feature-driven 15 rankings of heuristics, adaptive acceptance criteria, and multi-objective performance metrics are used to substantially improve solution quality, convergence speed, and computational stability of the resulting system. This new methodology offers a unified and flexible model that minimizes reliance upon individual algorithms and maximizes the ability to produce efficient scheduling solutions in highly constrained, uncertain and large systems. 20 FIG.1

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