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Construction and reduction of the Pareto set in asymmetric travelling salesman problem with two criteria*

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We consider the bicriteria asymmetric traveling salesman problem (bi-ATSP). The optimal solution to a multicriteria problem is usually supposed to be the Pareto set, which is rather wide in real-world problems. For the first time, we apply to the bi-ATSP the axiomatic approach of the Pareto set reduction proposed by V. Noghin. We identify series of "quanta of information" that guarantee the reduction of the Pareto set for particular cases of the bi-ATSP. An approximation of the Pareto set to the bi-ATSP is constructed by a new multi-objective genetic algorithm. The experimental evaluation carried out in this paper shows the degree of reduction of the Pareto set approximation for various "quanta of information" and various structures of the bi-ATSP instances generated randomly or from TSPLIB problems.

Keywords: reduction of the Pareto set, decision maker preferences, multiobjective genetic algorithm, computational experiment.

1. Introduction. The asymmetric travelling salesman problem (ATSP) is one of the most popular problems in combinatorial optimization [1]. Given a complete directed graph, where each arc is associated with a positive weight, we search for a circuit visiting every vertex of the graph exactly once and minimizing the total weight. In this paper we consider the bicriteria ATSP (bi-ATSP), which is a special case of the multicriteria ATSP [2], where an arc is associated to a couple of weights.

The best possible solution to a multicriteria optimization problem (MOP) is usually supposed to be the Pareto set [2, 3], which is rather wide in real-world problems, and

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difficulties arise in choosing the final variant. For that reason numerous methods introduce some mechanism to treat the MOP: utility function, rule, or binary relation, so that methods are aimed at finding an "optimal" solution with respect to this mechanism. However, some approaches do not guarantee that the obtained solution will be from the Pareto set. State-of-the-art methods are the following [4]: multiattribute utility theory, outranking approaches, verbal decision analysis, various iterative procedures with manmachine interface, etc. We investigate the axiomatic approach of the Pareto set reduction proposed in monograph [5], which has an alternative idea. Here the author introduced an additional information about the decision maker (DM) preferences in terms of the so-called "quantum of information". The method shows how to construct a new bound of the optimal choice, which is narrower than the Pareto set. Practical applications of the approach could be found in works [6, 7].

As far as we know, the axiomatic approach of the Pareto set reduction has not been widely investigated in the case of discrete optimization problems, and an experimental evaluation has not been carried out on real-world instances. Thus, we apply this approach to the bi-ATSP in order to estimate its effectiveness, i. e. the degree of the Pareto set reduction and how it depends on the parameters of the information about DM's preferences. We identify series of "quanta of information" that guarantee the reduction of the Pareto set with particular structures. The bi-ATSP instances with such structures are presented.

Originally the reduction is constructed with respect the Pareto set of the considered problem. Due to the strongly NP-hardness of the bi-ATSP we take an approximation of the Pareto set in computational experiments. The ATSP cannot be approximated with any constant or exponential approximation factor already with a single objective function [1]. Moreover, in [8], the non-approximability bounds were obtained for the multicriteria ATSP with weights 1 and 2. The results are based on the non-existence of a small size approximating set. Therefore, metaheuristics, in particular multiobjective evolutionary algorithms (MOEAs), are appropriate to approximate the Pareto set of the bi-ATSP.

Numerous MOEAs have been proposed to MOPs (see [9–14]). There are three main classes of approaches to develop MOEAs, which are known as Pareto-dominance based (see, e.g. SPEA2 [14], NSGA-II [9, 10], NSGA-III [12]), decomposition based (see, e.g. MOEA/D [11]) and indicator based approaches (see, e.g. SIBEA [13]). NSGA-II [10] has one of the best results in the literature on multiobjective genetic algorithms (MOGAs) for the MOPs with two or three objectives. In article [9] a fast implementation of a steady-state version of NSGA-II is proposed for two dimensions.

In [15, 16] NSGA-II was adopted to the multicriteria symmetric travelling salesman problem, and the experimental evaluation was performed on symmetric instances from TSPLIB library [17]. As far as we know, there is no an adaptation of NSGA-II to the problem, where arc weights are non-symmetric. In this paper we develop a MOGA based on NSGA-II to solve the bi-ATSP using adjacency-based representation of solutions. The previous study was communicated in [18]. The MOGA from [18] applies a problem-specific heuristic to generate the initial population and uses a mutation operator, which performs a random jump within 3-opt neighborhood. In comparison to the MOGA from [18] proposed two new crossover operators, where the Pareto-dominance is involved. A computational experiment is carried out on instances generated randomly or from ATSP-instances of TSPLIB library. The preliminary results of the experiment indicate that our MOGA demonstrates competitive results. The main experimental evaluation shows the degree of

the reduction of the Pareto set approximation for various structures of the ATSP instances in the case of one and two "quanta of information". Note that early we experimentally investigate the reduction of the Pareto set approximation only in the case of one "quantum of information" in [18].

2. Problem statement. In the m-criteria travelling salesman problem [1] (m-TSP), we are given a complete weighted graph G = (V, E), with $V = \{v_1, \ldots, v_n\}$ being the set of vertices (nodes), and set E contains arcs (or edges) between every pair of vertices in V. A weight d(e) assigns to each arc (edge) e a vector $(d_1(e), \ldots, d_m(e))$ of length m, where each element $d_j(e)$, $j = 1, \ldots, m$, corresponds to a certain measure of arc (edge) e like travel distance, travel time, expenses, the number of flight changes between corresponding vertices (nodes). The aim is to find "minimal" Hamiltonian circuit(s) of the graph, i. e. closed tour(s) visiting each of the n vertices of G exactly once. Here "minimal" refers to the notion of Pareto relation. If graph G is undirected, we have Symmetric m-TSP (m-STSP). If G is a directed graph, then we have Asymmetric m-TSP (m-ATSP).

The total weight of a tour C is a vector $D(C) = (D_1(C), \ldots, D_m(C))$, where $D_j(C) = \sum_{e \in C} d_j(e)$, $j = 1, \ldots, m$. We say that one solution (tour) C^* dominates another solution C if the inequality $D(C^*) \leq D(C)$ holds. The notation $D(C^*) \leq D(C)$ means that $D(C^*) \neq D(C)$ and $D_i(C^*) \leq D_i(C)$ for all $i \in I$, where $I = \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$. This relation \leq is also called the Pareto relation. We denote by C all possible (n-1)! tours of graph C. A set of non-dominated solutions is called the set of Pareto-optimal solutions [2, 3] $P_D(C) = \{C \in C \mid \exists C^* \in C : D(C^*) \leq D(C)\}$. In discrete problems, the set of Pareto-optimal solutions is non-empty if the set of feasible solutions is non-empty, which is true for the C-TSP. If we denote C-The pareto set is defined as C-The pareto is true for the C-TSP. We assume that the Pareto set is specified except for a collection of equivalence classes, generated by equivalence relation C-C'' iff D(C)-D(C'').

In this paper we investigate the issue of the Pareto set reduction for the bi-ATSP.

- **3. Pareto set reduction.** Axiomatic approach of the Pareto set reduction is applied to both discrete and continuous problems. Due to consideration of the multicriteria ATSP we formulate the basic concepts and results of the approach in terms of notations introduced in section 2. Further, we investigate properties of the bi-ATSP in the scope of the Pareto set reduction.
- **3.1.** Main approach. According to [5] we consider the extended multicriteria problem < C, D, <>:
 - a set of all possible (n-1)! tours C;
 - a vector criterion $D = (D_1, D_2, \dots, D_m)$ defined on set C;
- \bullet an asymmetric binary preference relation of the DM < defined on set D.

The notation D(C') < D(C'') means that the DM prefers the solution C' to C''.

Binary relation \prec satisfies some axioms of the so-called "reasonable" choice, according which it is irreflexive, transitive, invariant with respect to a linear positive transformation and compatible with each criteria D_1, D_2, \ldots, D_m . The compatibility means that the DM is interested in decreasing value of each criterion, when values of other criteria are constant. Also, if for some feasible solutions C', $C'' \in C$ the relation $D(C') \prec D(C'')$ holds, then tour C'' does not belong to the optimal choice within the whole set C.

Author [5] established the Edgeworth—Pareto principle: under axioms of "reasonable" choice any set of selected outcomes Ch(D) belongs to the Pareto set P(D). Here the set of selected outcomes is interpreted as some abstract set corresponded to the set of tours, that satisfy all hypothetic preferences of the DM. So, the optimal choice should be done within the Pareto set only if preference relation < fulfills the axioms of "reasonable" choice.

In real-life multicriteria problems the Pareto set is rather wide. For this reason V. Noghin proposed a specific information on the DM's preference relation < to reduce the Pareto set staying within the set of selected outcomes [5, 19].

Definition 1. We say that there exists a "quantum of information" about the DM's preference relation \prec if vector $y' \in \mathbb{R}^m$ such that $y'_i = -w_i < 0$, $y'_j = w_j > 0$, $y'_s = 0$ for all $s \in I \setminus \{i, j\}$ satisfies the expression $y' < 0_m$. In such case we will say, that the component of criteria i is more important than the component j with given positive parameters w_i , w_j .

Thus, "quantum of information" shows, that the DM is ready to compromise by increasing the criterion D_j by amount w_j for decreasing the criterion D_i by amount w_i . The quantity of relative loss is set by the so-called *coefficient of relative importance* $\theta = w_j/(w_i + w_j)$, therefore $\theta \in (0, 1)$.

As mentioned before the relation \prec is invariant with respect to a linear positive transformation. Hence Definition 1 is equivalent to the existence of such vector $y'' \in \mathbb{R}^m$ with components $y_i'' = \theta - 1$, $y_j'' = \theta$, $y_s'' = 0$ for all $s \in I \setminus \{i, j\}$, that the relation $y'' < 0_m$ holds. Further, in experimental study (subsection 5.2) we consider "quantum of information" exactly in terms of coefficient θ .

In [5] the author established the rule of taking into account "quantum of information". This rule consists in constructing a "new" vector criterion using the components of the "old" one and parameters of the information w_i , w_j . Then one should find the Pareto set of "new" multicriteria problem with the same set of feasible solutions and "new" vector criterion. The obtained set will belong to the Pareto set of the initial problem and give a narrower upper bound on the optimal choice as a result the Pareto set will be reduced.

The following theorem states the rule of applying "quantum of information" and specifies how to evaluate "new" vector criterion upon the "old" one.

Theorem 1 (see [5]). Given a "quantum of information" by Definition 1, the inclusions $Ch(D) \subseteq \hat{P}(D) \subseteq P(D)$ are valid for any set of selected outcomes Ch(D). Here $\hat{P}(D) = D(P_{\hat{D}}(C))$ and $P_{\hat{D}}(C)$ is the set of Pareto-optimal solutions with respect to m-dimensional vector criterion $\hat{D} = (\hat{D}_1, \dots, \hat{D}_m)$, where $\hat{D}_j = w_j D_i + w_i D_j$, $\hat{D}_s = D_s$ for all $s \neq j$.

Corollary 1 (see [5]). The result of Theorem 1 holds as well as component j of "new" vector criterion is evaluated by formula $\hat{D}_j = \theta D_i + (1 - \theta)D_j$.

Thus "new" vector criterion \hat{D} differs from the "old" one only by less important component j. In [20–22] one can find results on applying particular collections of "quanta of information" and scheme to arbitrary collection.

Suppose we consider two "quanta of information" simultaneously: the *i*th criterion D_i is more important than the *j*th criterion D_j with coefficient of relative importance θ_{ij} , and the *j*th criterion D_j is more important than the *i*th criterion D_i with coefficient of relative importance θ_{ji} . Such conflicting situation occurs only if the inequality $\theta_{ij} + \theta_{ji} < 1$ holds (see the explanation in [5]). The latter guarantees the existence of two vectors $y^{(1)}, y^{(2)} \in \mathbb{R}^m$:

$$y_i^{(1)} = \theta_{ij} - 1, \ y_j^{(1)} = \theta_{ij}, \ y_s^{(1)} = 0,$$

$$y_i^{(2)} = \theta_{ji}, \ y_j^{(2)} = \theta_{ji} - 1, \ y_s^{(2)} = 0 \quad \forall s \in I \setminus \{i, j\},$$

(1)

such that the relations $y^{(1)} < 0_m$, $y^{(2)} < 0_m$ are valid [5].

The following theorem shows how to apply two "quanta of information".

Theorem 2 (see [5]). Given two "quanta of information": the ith criterion D_i is more important than the jth criterion D_j with coefficient of relative importance θ_{ij} , and the jth criterion D_j is more important than the ith criterion D_i with coefficient of relative

importance θ_{ji} . The inequality $\theta_{ij} + \theta_{ji} < 1$ is valid. Then the inclusions $Ch(D) \subseteq \hat{P}(D) \subseteq P(D)$ hold for any set of selected outcomes Ch(D). Here $\hat{P}(D) = D(P_{\hat{D}}(C))$, and $P_{\hat{D}}(C)$ is the set of Pareto-optimal solutions with respect to m-dimensional vector criterion $\hat{D} = (\hat{D}_1, \dots, \hat{D}_m)$, where $\hat{D}_i = (1 - \theta_{ji})D_i + \theta_{ji}D_j$, $\hat{D}_j = \theta_{ij}D_i + (1 - \theta_{ij})D_j$, $\hat{D}_s = D_s$ for all $s \neq i, j$.

3.2. Pareto set reduction in bi-ATSP. Here we consider the bi-ATSP and its properties with respect to reduction of the Pareto set.

Obviously, the upper bound on the cardinality of the Pareto set P(D) is (n-1)!, and this bound is tight [23]. Authors [24] established the maximum number of elements in the Pareto set for any multicriteria discrete problem, that in the case of the bi-ATSP gives the following upper bound: $|P(D)| \leq \min\{l_1, l_2\}$, where l_i is the number of different values in the set $D_i = D_i(C)$, i = 1, 2. In the case of the bi-ATSP with integer weights we get $l_i \leq \max\{D_i\} - \min\{D_i\} + 1$, where values $\max\{D_i\}$ and $\min\{D_i\}$ can be replaced by upper and lower bounds on the objective function D_i , i = 1, 2.

Now, we go to establish theoretical results estimating the degree of the Pareto set reduction. Let us consider the case, when all elements of the Pareto set lay on principal diagonal of some rectangle in the criterion space.

Theorem 3. Let $P(D) = \{(y_1, y_2) : y_2 = a - ky_1, y_1 \in D_1, y_2 \in D_2\}$, where a and k are arbitrary positive constants. Suppose the 1st criterion D_1 is more important than the 2nd one D_2 with coefficient of relative importance θ' . If $\theta' \geqslant k/(k+1)$, then the reduction of the Pareto set $\hat{P}(D)$ consists of only one element. In the case of $\theta' < k/(k+1)$ the reduction does not hold, i. e. $\hat{P}(D) = P(D)$.

Proof. The proof is based on geometrical representation of the Pareto set reduction using cone dominance.

Following [5] the domination of some vector $\hat{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ over another vector $\tilde{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ by the Pareto relation \leq , i. e. $\hat{y} \leq \tilde{y}$, means that their difference $\hat{y} - \tilde{y}$ belongs to convex cone $\mathbb{R}^2_- = \operatorname{cone}\{-e^1, -e^2\} \setminus \{0_2\}$ (the non-positive orthant), where e^1 and e^2 are unit vectors of space \mathbb{R}^2 . In other words, vector \hat{y} dominates vector \tilde{y} by cone \mathbb{R}^2_- . Thus, the Pareto set is actually the set of non-dominated vectors with respect to non-positive orthant.

A "quantum of information" 1st criterion D_1 is more important than the 2nd one D_2 in terms of coefficient θ' is defined by vector y' with components $y_1' = \theta' - 1$, $y_2' = \theta'$. Such vector y' extends the non-positive orthant to convex cone $M = \text{cone}\{-e^1, -e^2, y'\} \setminus \{0_2\}$, and set $\hat{P}(D)$ from Theorem 1 is the set of non-dominated vectors with respect to cone M.

Vector $(-1, k)^T$ gives the direction to line $y_2 = a - ky_1$ in the criterion space. If vector $(-1, k)^T$ belongs to a convex cone without $\{0_2\}$, generated by vectors $-e^1$, $-e^2$, and y', then all vectors except one of the Pareto set P(D) will be dominated with respect to that cone. It is easy to check that the inclusion $(-1, k)^T \in \text{cone}\{-e^1, -e^2, y'\} \setminus \{0_2\}$ is valid iff $\theta' \ge k/(k+1)$.

Theorem 4. Let in Theorem 3, otherwise, the 2nd criterion D_2 is more important than the 1st one D_1 with coefficient of relative importance θ'' . Then the reduction of the Pareto set $\hat{P}(D)$ has only one element if $\theta'' \ge 1/(k+1)$, and $\hat{P}(D) = P(D)$, if $\theta'' < 1/(k+1)$.

The proof of Theorem 4 is analogous to the proof of Theorem 3.

Particularly, if the feasible set D lay on the line $y_2 = a - ky_1$, we have P(D) = D, and the conditions of Theorems 3 and 4 hold. In such case we say, that criteria D_1 and D_2 contradict each other with coefficient k.

Obviously, for any bi-ATSP instance there exists the minimum number of parallel lines with a negative slope, that all elements of the Pareto set belong to them. Thus we have

Corollary 2. Let $P(D) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{p} \{(y_1, y_2) : y_2 = a_i - ky_1, y_1 \in D_1, y_2 \in D_2\}$, where a_i , i = 1, ..., p, and k are arbitrary positive constants. And criterion D_1 is more important than criterion D_2 with coefficient of relative importance θ' and $\theta' \ge k/(k+1)$, or criterion D_2 is more important than criterion D_1 with coefficient of relative importance θ'' and $\theta'' \ge 1/(k+1)$, then $|\hat{P}(D)| \le p$.

Theorem 5. Let $P(D) = \{(y_1, y_2) : y_2 = a - ky_1, y_1 \in D_1, y_2 \in D_2\}$, where a and k are arbitrary positive constants. Suppose the 1st criterion D_1 is more important than the 2nd one D_2 with coefficient of relative importance θ' , and the 2nd criterion D_2 is more important than the 1st one D_1 with coefficient of relative importance θ'' . If at least one inequality $\theta' \ge k/(k+1)$ or $\theta'' \ge 1/(k+1)$ is valid, then the reduction of the Pareto set $\hat{P}(D)$ consists of only one element. If both inequalities $\theta' < k/(k+1)$ and $\theta'' < 1/(k+1)$ hold, then the reduction does not occur, i. e. $\hat{P}(D) = P(D)$.

The proof of Theorem 5 is analogous to the proof of Theorem 3. Here two "quanta of information" are defined by two vectors $y^{(1)}$, $y^{(2)}$ with components (1), where m=2, i=1, and j=2, that extend the non-positive orthant to convex cone $M = \operatorname{cone}\{-e^1, -e^2, y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}\} \setminus \{0_2\}$.

Now we consider the bi-ATSP(1,2), where each arc $e \in E$ has a weight $d(e) = (d_1(e), d_2(e)) \in \{1, 2\}^2$ such that $d_2(e) = 3 - d_1(e)$. Angel e. a. [8] proved that for any $r \ge 1$ and any $k \ge 5$ there exist such instances of the bi-ATSP(1,2) with n = kr vertices that the Pareto set contains at least r+1 elements of the form (2kr, kr), (2kr - n, kr + k), (2kr - 2k, kr + 2k), ..., (kr, 2kr). Thus, criteria D_1 and D_2 contradict each other with coefficient 1. According to Theorems 3 and 4 in this class of the bi-ATSP we could exclude at least r elements from the Pareto set, when using "quantum of information" the 1st criterion D_1 is more important than the 2nd criterion D_2 , or vice versa, with coefficient $\theta = 0.5$.

Emelichev and Perepeliza [23] constructed bi-ATSP instances with integer weights, where criteria contradict each other with coefficient 1 and |P(D)| = (n-1)!. So, for these instances $|\hat{P}(D)| = 1$ if the 1st criterion D_1 is more important than the 2nd criterion D_2 , or vice versa, with coefficient $\theta = 0.5$.

Further, we identify the condition that guarantees excluding at least one element from the Pareto set. Suppose that a "quantum of information" is given: the 1st component of criteria D_1 is more important than the 2nd one D_2 with coefficient of relative importance θ . We suppose, that there exist such tours $C', C'' \in P_D(C)$ satisfying the following inequality:

$$(D_1(C') - D_1(C'')) / (D_2(C'') - D_2(C')) \ge (1 - \theta) / \theta,$$
(2)

then at least one element will be excluded from the Pareto set P(D) after using a "quantum of information". So, $|P(D)| - |\hat{P}(D)| \ge 1$. Analogous result could be obtained, when the 2nd criterion is more important than the 1st one. The difficulty in checking inequality (2) is that we should know two elements of the Pareto set. Meanwhile the tours $C_{\min 1} = \operatorname{argmin}\{D_1(C), C \in C\}$, $C_{\min 2} = \operatorname{argmin}\{D_2(C), C \in C\}$ are Pareto-optimal by definition.

The results of this subsection are true for any discrete bi-criteria problem.

- 4. Multiobjective genetic algorithm. The genetic algorithm is a random search method that models a process of evolution of a population of *individuals* [25]. Each individual is a sample solution to the optimization problem being solved. Individuals of a new population are built by means of reproduction operators (crossover and/or mutation).
- 4.1. NSGA-II scheme. To construct an approximation of the Pareto set to the bi-ATSP we develop a MOGA based on Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II (NSGA-II) [10]. The NSGA-II is initiated by generating N random solutions of the initial

population. Next the population is sorted based on the non-domination relation (the Pareto relation). Each solution C of the population is assigned a rank equal to its non-domination level (1 is the best level, 2 is the next best level, and so on). The first level consists of all non-dominated solutions of the population. Individuals of the next level are the non-dominated solutions of the population, where solutions of the first level are discounted, and so on. Ranks of solutions are calculated in $O(mN^2)$ time by means of the algorithm proposed in [10]. We try to minimize rank of individuals in evolutionary process. To get an estimate of the density of solutions surrounding a solution C in a non-dominated level of the population, two nearest solutions on each side of this solution are identified for each of the objectives. The estimation of solution C is called $crowding\ distance$ and it is computed as a normalized perimeter of the cuboid formed in the criterion space by the nearest neighbors. The crowding distances of individuals in all non-dominated levels are computed in $O(mN\log N)$ time (see, e. g. [10]).

The NSGA-II is characterized by the population management strategy known as generational model [25]. At each iteration of NSGA-II we select N pairs of parent solutions from the current population P_{t-1} . Then we mutate parents, and create offspring, applying a crossover (recombination) to each pair of parents. Offspring compose population Q_{t-1} .

The next population P_t is constructed from the best N solutions of the current population P_{t-1} and the offspring population Q_{t-1} . Population $Q_{t-1} \cup P_{t-1}$ is sorted based on the non-domination relation, and the crowding distances of individuals are calculated. The best N solutions are selected using the rank and the crowding distance. Between two solutions with differing non-domination ranks, we prefer the solution with the lower rank. If both solutions belong to the same level, then we prefer the solution with the bigger crowding distance.

One iteration of the presented NSGA-II is performed in $O(mN^2)$ time as shown in [10]. In our implementation of the NSGA-II four individuals of the initial population are constructed by a problem-specific heuristic presented in [26] for the ATSP with one criterion. The heuristic first solves the Assignment Problem, and then patches the circuits of the optimum assignment together to form a feasible tour in two ways. So, we create two solutions with each of the objectives. All other individuals of the initial population are generated randomly.

Each parent is chosen by s-tournament selection: sample randomly s individuals from the current population and select the best one by means of the rank and the crowding distance.

4.2. Recombination and mutation operators. The experimental results of papers [26, 27] for the m-TSP indicate that reproduction operators with the adjacency-based representation of solutions have an advantage over operators, which emphasize the order or position of the vertices in parent solutions. We suppose that a feasible solution to the bi-ATSP is encoded as a list of arcs.

In the recombination operator we use one of new crossovers DEC_{PR} or DPX_{PR} proposed here. The operator DEC_{PR} (Directed Edge Crossover with Pareto Relation) may be considered as a "direct descendant" of the well-known EX operator (Edge Crossover), and the operator DPX_{PR} (Distance Preserving Crossover with Pareto Relation) is a "direct descendant" of the well-known DPX operator (Distance Preserving Crossover). EX and DPX were originally developed for the 1-STSP with single-objective [27].

Both operators DEC_{PR} and DPX_{PR} are respectful [28], i. e. all arcs shared by both parents are copied into the offspring. Moreover, we try to construct an offspring of good quality, taking into account the Pareto relation. To this end, the tour fragments are

reconnected using a modification of the nearest neighborhood heuristic, where at each step we choose a non-dominated feasible arc. The Pareto relation on the set of arcs is defined similar to the Pareto relation on the set of solutions. Feasible arcs in $\mathrm{DEC_{PR}}$ are the ones, that are contained in at least one of the parents. However, in $\mathrm{DPX_{PR}}$ the feasible set consists of the arcs, that are absent in parents. Note that new arcs are inserted taking into account the non-violation of sub-tour elimination constraints.

DEC_{PR} operator is exploitive, but it can never generate new arcs (transmitting requirement [28]). So, we use mutation operators to introduce new arcs and therefore diversity into the MOGA populations. By contrast, DPX_{PR} operator is explorative because it not only inherits common arcs from parents, but also introduces new arcs.

If the offspring obtained by DEC_{PR} or DPX_{PR} is equal to one of the parents, then the result of the recombination is calculated by applying the well-known *shift mutation* [28] to one of the two parents with equal probability. This approach allows us to avoid creating a clone of parents and to maintain a diverse set of solutions in the population.

The mutation is also applied to each parent with probability $p_{\rm mut}$, which is a tunable parameter of the MOGA. We use a mutation operator proposed in [26] for the one-criteria ATSP. It performs a random jump within 3-opt neighborhood, trying to improve a parent solution in terms of one of the criteria. Each time one of two objectives is used in mutation with equal probability.

5. Computational experiment. This section presents the results of the computational experiment on the bi-ATSP instances. Our MOGA was programmed in C++ and tested on a computer with Intel Core i5 3470 3.20 GHz processor, 4 Gb RAM. We set the tournament size s=10 and the mutation probability $p_{\rm mut}=0.1$. We use the notation NSGA-II-DPX (NSGA-II-DEC) for the MOGA employing the DPX_{PR} (DEC_{PR}) crossover.

Various meta-heuristics and heuristics have been developed for the m-STSP, such as Pareto local search algorithms, MOEAs, multiobjective ant colony optimization methods, memetic algorithms and others (see, e. g. [15, 16, 29–31]). However, we have not found in the literature any multiobjective metaheuristic proposed specifically to the m-ATSP and experimentally tested on instances with non-symmetric weights of arcs. In [18], we proposed new MOGA based on NSGA-II to solve the bi-ATSP, but no a crossover taking into account bi-criteria nature of the problem was used, and a detailed experimental evaluation of the MOGA was not performed in [18]. Note that the performance of MOGAs depends significantly upon the choice of the crossover operator.

So, the computational experiment consists of two stages. At the first stage estimated the performance of NSGA-II-DPX and NSGA-II-DEC on instances of small sizes, for which the Pareto sets are found by an exact algorithm. At the second stage the degree of reduction of the Pareto set approximation is evaluated.

We note that there exists MOOLIBRARY library [32], which contains test instances of some discrete multicriteria problems. However, the *m*-TSP is not presented in this library, so we generate the bi-ATSP test instances randomly and construct them from the ATSP instances of TSPLIB library [17], as well.

5.1. Pareto set approximation. NSGA-II-DPX and NSGA-II-DEC were tested using small-size problem instances of four series with n = 12: S12[1,10][1,10], S12[1,20][1,20], S12[1,10][1,20], S12contr[1,2][1,2]. Each series consists of five problems with integer weights $d_1(\cdot)$ and $d_2(\cdot)$ of arcs randomly generated from intervals specified at the ending of the series name. In series S12contr[1,2][1,2] the criteria contradict each other with coefficient 1, i. e. weights are generated so that $d_2(e) = 3 - d_1(e)$ for all $e \in E$. The Pareto sets to the

considered bi-ATSP instances were found by complete enumeration of (n-1)! possible Hamiltonian circuits. The population size N was set to 50 on the basis of the preliminary experiments. Our MOGAs were run 30 times for each instance and each run continued for 1000 iterations.

Let $P^* := P(D)$ be the Pareto set, and A be its approximation obtained by NSGA-II-DPX or NSGA-II-DEC. In order to evaluate the performance of the proposed algorithms and compare them, the generational distance (GD) [12] and the inverted generational distance (IGD) [12] are involved as performance metrics:

$$\mathrm{GD}(A,P^*) = \frac{1}{|A|} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{|A|} \mu_i^2}, \quad \mathrm{IGD}(A,P^*) = \frac{1}{|P^*|} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{|P^*|} \tilde{\mu}_i^2},$$

where μ_i ($\tilde{\mu}_i$) is the Euclidean distance between the *i*-th member (two-dimensional point) in the set A (P^*) and its nearest member in the set P^* (A). GD can only reflect the convergence of an algorithm, while IGD could measure both convergence and diversity. Smaller value of the metrics means better quality.

The results of experiment are presented in Table 1. Here index In corresponds to the values at the initial population and index Fin corresponds to the values at the final population in average over 30 runs. N^{P^*} represents the number of elements in the Pareto set.

As seen from Table 1, on all series except for S12contr[1,2][1,2], for NSGA-II-DPX the distance GD decreases in approximately 5 times and the distance IGD — in approximately 3.5 times on average from the initial population to the final one. At the same time, for NSGA-II-DEC the average distance GD decreases in approximately 6.5 times and the average distance IGD — in approximately 4.5 times. Moreover, the average number of elements in the Pareto set approximation increases approximately 3 times during 1000 iterations for both algorithms. The values of performance metrics at the final population show the convergence of the approximation obtained by NSGA-II-DEC or NSGA-II-DPX to the Pareto set. The average CPU time of one trial for both MOGAs is approximately 2 minutes on all instances.

In instances of series S12contr[1,2][1,2] any feasible solution is Pareto-optimal. So, the main purpose of the MOGA is to obtain all elements of the Pareto set, and the Pareto dominance is not important. Both considered MOGAs find the Pareto set on all trials and on all instances in less than 100 iterations.

The statistical analysis of experimental data was carried out using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test [12] at a 5% significance level. We test for each instance the difference between values of metric $\mathrm{GD_{Fin}}$ (or $\mathrm{IGD_{Fin}}$) for algorithms NSGA-II-DEC and NSGA-II-DPX over 30 trials. The average final result for a metric that is significantly better than the other is marked in bold in Table 1. In 15 out of 20 considered instances, NSGA-II-DEC outperforms NSGA-II-DPX (in 14 of 15 cases the differences between values of metrics are statistically significant). So, we can conclude that our MOGAs demonstrate competitive results, but DEC_{PR} crossover has an advantage over DPX_{PR} crossover. Therefore, in subsection 5.2 we use only NSGA-II-DEC to find an approximation of the Pareto set. Further research may include construction of a MOGA, where crossovers DEC_{PR} and DPX_{PR} complement each other and are used together in some way. In particular, DPX_{PR} can be used to find improvements when DEC_{PR} fails.

We note that the points of the Pareto set and its approximations obtained by MOGAs are appeared to be "almost uniformly" distributed along principal diagonal of a rectangle in all test problems (see, e. g. one result of our MOGA for series S12[1,10][1,20] on Figure).

Table 1. Approximation of the Pareto set for series

Inst		NSGA-	-II-DPX			N^{P^*}					
	GD_{In}	IGD_{In}	$\mathrm{GD}_{\mathrm{Fin}}$	IGD_{Fin}	GD_{In}	IGD_{In}	$\mathrm{GD}_{\mathrm{Fin}}$	$\mathrm{IGD}_{\mathrm{Fin}}$	IV 1		
Series $S12[1,10][1,10]$											
1	8.109	4.89	1.214	1.205	7.515	4.686	1.003	1.045	13		
2	4.188	4.481	1.693	1.3	3.944	4.543	1.17	0.929	10		
3	2.614	4.224	1.519	1.489	3.791	4.243	1.24	1.224	10		
4	8.511	5.289	1.724	1.375	8.114	5.115	1.426	1.001	16		
5	7.405	3.768	1.263	1.093	7.864	3.911	1.171	1.092	18		
Aver	6.165	4.53	1.483	1.293	6.245	4.499	1.202	1.058	13.4		
Series S12[1,20][1,20]											
1	17.843	7.82	1.685	1.511	16.42	7.45	1.404	1.337	22		
2	16.049	7.857	3.063	2.246	15.619	7.64	1.987	1.524	26		
3	15.483	7.114	2.86	2.452	15.888	7.272	1.973	1.832	24		
4	16.531	7.39	2.296	1.676	16.129	7.165	1.259	1.072	27		
5	14.468	7.152	2.643	2.484	15.294	7.485	1.855	1.824	23		
Aver	16.075	7.467	2.509	2.074	15.87	7.402	1.696	1.518	24.4		
				Series S12	[1,10][1,20	1					
1	10.732	8.427	2.835	2.2	10.76	8.343	2.488	1.882	11		
2	1.994	4.802	1.686	1.478	1.143	4.935	0.63	0.915	14		
3	0	4.17	1.405	1.729	0	4.17	0.441	1.659	6		
4	10.621	6.17	1.965	1.714	10.508	6.2	1.075	1.092	21		
5	9.444	6.034	2.455	1.942	9.448	6.098	1.814	1.428	17		
Aver	6.558	3.787	2.069	1.813	6.372	5.949	1.289	1.395	13.8		
Series $S12contr[1,2][1,2]$											
1	0	0.201	0	0	0	0.202	0	0	13		
2	0	0.199	0	0	0	0.199	0	0	13		
3	0	0.202	0	0	0	0.208	0	0	13		
4	0	0.249	0	0	0	0.221	0	0	13		
5	0	0.217	0	0	0	0.201	0	0	13		
Aver	0	0.213	0	0	0	0.206	0	0	13		

Note. The average final result that is significantly better than the other is marked in bold (according the Wilcoxon signed-rank test).

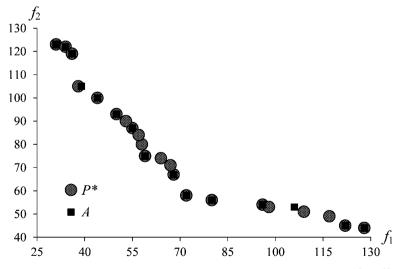


Figure. Approximation of the Pareto set on one instance of series S12[1,10][1,20] (GD = 0.249, IGD = 0.566)

5.2. Pareto set reduction. The reduction of the Pareto set approximation was tested on the following series with n = 50: S50[1,10][1,10], S50[1,20][1,20], S50[1,10][1,20], S50contr[1,2][1,2]. The series are constructed randomly in the same way as series with n = 12 from subsection 5.1. Each series consists of five instances. We also took seven ATSP instances of series ftv from TSPLIB library [17]: ftv33, ftv35, ftv38, ftv44, ftv47, ftv55, ftv64. The ftv collection includes instances from vehicle routing applications. These instances compose series denoted by SftvRand, and their arc weights are used for the first criterion. The arc weights for the second criterion are generated randomly from interval $[1, d_1^{\max}]$, where d_1^{\max} is the maximum arc weight on the first criterion. The population size N was set to 100. To construct an approximation of the Pareto set A for each instance we run NSGA-II-DEC once and the run continued for 5000 iterations. The only exception is that for series S50contr[1,2][1,2] the run continued for 500 iterations, and it was sufficient to find all 51 points of the Pareto set.

We compare the following cases: a) when the 1st criterion is more important than the 2nd criterion (1st-2nd case) with θ_{12} ; b) vice versa situation with θ_{21} (2nd-1st case); c) 1st-2nd and 2nd-1st cases simultaneously (1st-2nd & 2nd-1st case). The degree of the reduction of the Pareto set approximation was investigated with respect to coefficient of relative importance varying from 0.1 to 0.9 by step 0.1. On all instances and in all cases for each value of θ_{12} and θ_{21} we re-evaluate the obtained approximation in terms of "new" vector criterion \hat{D} upon the formulae from Corollary 1 and Theorem 2. Then by the complete enumeration we find the Pareto set approximation in "new" criterion space that gives us the reduction of the Pareto set approximation in the initial criterion space.

The number N^A of elements of the Pareto set approximation A and the percentage of the excluded elements from set A with various values of θ_{12} and θ_{21} are presented on average over series in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2. Reduction of the Pareto set approximation for S50[1,10][1,10] and S50[1,20][1,20]

$S50[1,10][1,10], N^A = 42.4$												
θ_{21}	$ heta_{12}$											
	2nd-1st	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9		
1st-2nd		7.8	22.8	42.3	51	64.3	70.6	77.1	88.1	96.7		
0.1	10.7	18	33.1	51.4	59.3	72	77.1	82	91		95.8	0.9
0.2	28.4	35.2	49.8	67.8	74.7	85.9	89.2	90.7		95.3	92.3	0.8
0.3	40.3	46.6	60.3	77.5	83.5	93.9	96.6		93.7	89.5	86	0.7
0.4	50.4	56.8	69.6	84.7	89.4	95.3		94.6	85.6	78.4	73.5	0.6
0.5	63.3	69.6	81	93.5	95.9		96.6	90.9	80.5	72.2	66.1	0.5
0.6	69.4	75.3	85.1	95.6		96.5	93.6	87.1	73.3	63.1	56.2	0.4
0.7	77.8	82.8	89.6		95.1	92.1	87.7	80.2	65.7	52.2	45	0.3
0.8	90.9	94.9		94.9	91.1	86.7	81.1	71.4	56.2	41.7	33.9	0.2
0.9	95.6		94.6	87.1	80.9	75.3	67.8	57	38.5	22.2	14.1	0.1
		97	91.8	81.9	72.2	65.1	55.2	43.6	24.8	8.08		1st-2nd
		0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	2nd-1st	θ_{21}
		θ_{12}										021
	$S50[1,20][1,20], N^A = 52.6$											

Each table contains data for two series, one is upper secondary diagonal, another is lower secondary diagonal. The first column stands for the values of θ_{21} , and the second column represents the percentage of the excluded elements for 2nd-1st case with corresponding values of coefficient. The third line stands for the values of θ_{12} , and the fourth line represents the percentage of the excluded elements for 1st-2nd case with

Table 3. Reduction of the Pareto set approximation for S50[1,10][1,20] and SftvRand

$S50[1,10][1,20], N^A = 54.4$											1	
θ_{21}	$ heta_{12}$											
	2nd-1st	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9		
1st-2nd		10.9	24	38.2	45.5	56.4	60	74.6	85.5	96.4		
0.1	21.1	26.6	36.6	50.1	60.2	70.7	75.1	83.8	90.8		97.8	0.9
0.2	42.3	47.4	57.5	69.9	77.8	87.2	90.1	95.6		97.6	97.1	0.8
0.3	55.1	59.9	68.8	80	85.9	92.3	94.5		94.9	92.5	91.6	0.7
0.4	68	72	78.3	86.7	91.3	96.3		96.4	92.3	88.3	87.2	0.6
0.5	81.1	82.9	87.3	93.8	96.3		95.1	92.4	87.5	83.2	81.4	0.5
0.6	86.9	88	91.7	96.7		96.4	91	86.9	80.6	75.4	72.2	0.4
0.7	94.1	94.5	96.3		94.8	89.6	82	77.3	70	63.6	59.2	0.3
0.8	97.4	97.4		93.7	87.1	78.5	68	61.8	52.2	44.3	39.3	0.2
0.9	98.2		92	81.7	74.2	62.3	50.4	42.2	31.8	22.7	17	0.1
		96	89.3	75.2	65.5	52.2	38.1	28.2	16	6.1		1st-2nd
		0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	2nd-1st	θ_{21}
θ_{12}											021	
SftvRand, $N^A = 59$												

corresponding values of coefficient. Another data of the upper table show the percentage of the excluded elements for 1st-2nd & 2nd-1st cases (cell at the intersection of corresponding values of θ_{12} and θ_{21} varying from 0.1 to 0.9). Interpretation of data of lower table is symmetric to the upper table.

Firstly considered the results of 1st-2nd and 2nd-1st cases. As seen from Table 2, for series S50[1,10][1,10] and S50[1,20][1,20], when $\theta_{12}=0.5$ or $\theta_{21}=0.5$ approximately 65% of elements of the set A are excluded, and when $\theta_{12}=0.8$ or $\theta_{21}=0.8$ approximately 10% of elements are remained. On these series the results for $\theta_{12}=\theta_{21}$ are similar for both 1st-2nd and 2nd-1st cases. Note that here the difference between the maximum and minimum values of set A on the 1st criterion is almost identical to the difference on the 2nd criterion for all instances.

Series SftvRand and S50[1,10][1,20] show different results: in the 1st-2nd case the reduction occurs "almost uniformly", i. e. the value of θ_{12} is almost proportional to the degree of the reduction, in the 2nd-1st case the condition $\theta_{21} = 0.5$ gives approximately 80% of the excluded elements. Also, we note that the percentage of the excluded elements in the 2nd-1st case for $\theta_{21} = 0.5$ is approximately 1.5 times greater than the percentage of the excluded elements in the 1st-2nd case for $\theta_{12} = 0.5$. We suppose that this is due to the difference between the maximum and minimum values of set A on the 1st criterion is at least 1.5 times smaller than the difference on the 2nd criterion for all instances.

Secondly we study the results of 1st-2nd & 2nd-1st cases. Let us fix some value of θ_{12} , when the 1st criterion is more important than the 2nd one, and consider the values of percentage of the excluded elements varying θ_{21} in the feasible interval, when the 2nd criterion is more important than the 1st one. For example, if we put $\theta_{12} = 0.4$ for series S50[1,10][1,10], then varying θ_{21} from 0.1 till 0.5 we get the column 59.3, 74.7, 83.5, 89.4, 95.9. Also we investigate vice versa situation, when we fix some value of θ_{21} , change values of θ_{12} , and get the corresponding line. According Table 2 for both series S50[1,10][1,10] and S50[1,20][1,20] we conclude, that the ratio between percentage of the excluded elements for some fixed value of θ_{12} and percentage, when we fix θ_{21} with the same value, is approximately equal to 1. Thus the reduction occurs "almost uniformly".

From Table 3 we see, that for series S50[1,10][1,20] the ratio of percentage of the excluded elements at the column with fixed $\theta_{12} = 0.1$ over percentage at the line with fixed $\theta_{21} = 0.1$ changes from 1.29 till 1.07. When we fix $\theta_{12} = 0.6$ and $\theta_{21} = 0.6$, the ratio changes

from 0.85 till 0.98. In total, the average ratio is greater than 1 for fixed $0.1 \le \theta_{12} = \theta_{21} \le 0.2$, and the average ratio is smaller than 1 for fixed $0.3 \le \theta_{12} = \theta_{21} \le 0.8$.

For series SftvRand we conclude that the ratio of percentage of the excluded elements when we fix $\theta_{12} = 0.1$ to percentage when $\theta_{21} = 0.1$ changes from 1.39 till 1.06. When we fix $\theta_{12} = 0.6$ and $\theta_{21} = 0.6$, the ratio changes from 0.84 till 0.98. The average ratio for various fixed $\theta_{12} = \theta_{21}$ has the same tendency as for the series S50[1,10][1,20].

Thus, we investigate symmetric situations: a) when the 1st criterion is more important than the 2nd one with fixed θ_{12} and the 2nd criterion is more important than the 1st one with varied θ_{21} ; b) when the 2nd criterion is more important than the 1st one with fixed θ_{21} and the 1st criterion is more important than the 2nd one with varied θ_{12} . We can state that more elements of the Pareto set are excluded with a small fixed coefficient of relative importance (no more than 0.2), when we analyze situation a) in comparison with situation a) for both series S50[1,10][1,20] and SftvRand. Otherwise, more elements of the Pareto set are eliminated, when we fix coefficient of relative importance at a medium or a high value (at least 0.3) in situation a) compared to situation a).

As a result we conclude that in the 1st-2nd & 2nd-1st cases the difference between the maximum and minimum values of set A on criteria also influences on the degree of reduction.

The results of the experiment on series S50contr[1,2][1,2] confirm the theoretical results of subsection 3.2 (Theorems 3–5). In 1st-2nd and 2nd-1st cases we do not have a reduction, when coefficient of relative importance is lower than 0.5, and the reduction up to one element takes place if the otherwise inequality occurs. In 1st-2nd & 2nd-1st cases, if $\theta_{12} \ge 0.5$ or $\theta_{21} \ge 0.5$, is valid, then the reduction of the Pareto set approximation consists of only one element. If both inequalities $\theta_{12} < 0.5$ and $\theta_{21} < 0.5$ hold, then the reduction does not occur.

The results for series with n=12 from the previous subsection are analogous. Based on the results of the experiment we suppose that the degree of the reduction of the Pareto set approximation will be similar for the large-size problems with the same structure as the considered instances.

6. Conclusion. We applied to the bi-ATSP the axiomatic approach of the Pareto set reduction proposed by V. Noghin. For particular cases the series of "quanta of information" that guarantee the reduction of the Pareto set were identified. An approximation of the Pareto set to the bi-ATSP was found by a generational multiobjective genetic algorithm with new crossovers involving the Pareto relation. The experimental evaluation indicated the degree of reduction of the Pareto set approximation for various problem structures in the case of one and two "quanta of information".

Further research may include construction and analysis of new classes of multicriteria ATSP instances with complex structures of the Pareto set. In particular, bi-ATSP with objectives of different type (for example, the first criterion is the sum of arc weights, and the second one is the maximum arc weight). It is also important to consider real-life ATSP instances with real-life decision maker and investigate effectiveness of the axiomatic approach for them. Moreover, developing a faster implementation of the multiobjective genetic algorithm using more effective non-domination sorting, combination of exploitive and explorative crossovers, and local search procedures has great interest.

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Построение и сужение множества Парето в асимметричной задаче коммивояжера с двумя критериями

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В статье рассматривается асимметричная задача коммивояжера с двумя критериями. Как правило, оптимальным решением многокритериальной задачи считается множество Парето, которое на практике оказывается довольно широким. К задаче коммивояжера с двумя критериями впервые применяется аксиоматический подход к сужению множества Парето, предложенный В. Д. Ногиным. Для частных случаев задачи устанавливаются наборы «квантов информации», гарантирующие сужение множества Парето. Аппроксимация множества Парето вычисляется с помощью нового многокритериального генетического алгоритма. Результаты эксперимента показывают степень сужения аппроксимации множества Парето для различных «квантов информации» и структур исходных данных задач, которые генерируются случайным образом или строятся на основе задач библиотеки TSPLIB.

Ключевые слова: сужение множества Парето, предпочтения ЛПР, многокритериальный генетический алгоритм, вычислительный эксперимент.

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