31 May 2012

The Editor-in-Chief: ORiON
Prof SE Visagie
Department of Logistics
Stellenbosch University
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Dear Prof. Visagie

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT TO ORiON

I hereby wish to submit the manuscript titled Application of the multi-objective cross-entropy method to the vehicle routing problem with soft time windows. Would you please consider it for publication in ORiON?

In this research, we consider the vehicle routing problem with soft time windows (VRPSTW), and we focus on the multi-objective optimisation (MOO) aspects of the VRPSTW. We investigate the application of the multi-objective cross-entropy method (CEM) for the optimisation, and provide results for a newly designed test suite found in literature.

Our work makes two contributions:

1. We illustrate that the multi-objective cross-entropy method can be applied to the MOO version of the VRPSTW. To our knowledge, this has not been done before. The single objective optimisation of the VRP has been done with the cross-entropy method before.
2. The test suite is a well-designed, recent contribution we found in the literature. We provide our results as a first reference for other researchers to compare and improve upon.

May I also ask that you do not consider Dr Johan Joubert of the University of Pretoria as a reviewer.

The manuscript was edited by Ms Marlene Rose, and we can provide a letter of declaration from her. We used the ORiON LaTeX template for typesetting, and there are layout issues which we shall improve should our manuscript be accepted for publication.

Thank you for considering our manuscript.

Yours sincerely

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