

Revisions Made to the Manuscript

The authors would like to thank the reviewers for their helpful suggestions to resolve the problem with the difference in constraint implementation and performance comparison for the Beligiannis problem set.

In order to resolve this issue, we propose to the authors to remove the fourth quality factor from their own algorithm and introduce the corresponding results of their algorithm based only in the three quality factors. This way, they follow the commonly acceptable practice in the literature as far as these instances are concerned and a fair comparison of their algorithm against GA of Beligiannis et.al. would be possible. Of course we suggest to maintain the tables referred to the four quality factors, too.

The results obtained by the GASPHH on the version of the problem with the three quality factors has been included in addition to the results with the four quality factors (Table 9, pg. 17).

The second point we would like to stress is the one mentioned at comment 7 of second reviewer. The state of the art on the year 2014 concerning the instances of Beligiannis et.al is no more the results presented in their paper. To the best of our knowledge there are at least two papers referred to these instances, namely the "A simulated Annealing with a new neighborhood structure based algorithm for high school timetabling problems", European Journal of Operational Research, by D. Zhang, Y. Liu et.al. and the "A hybrid particle swarm optimization based algorithm for high school timetabling problems", by I.X. Tassopoulos, G.N. Beligiannis, Applied Soft Computing. Both of them present results that are better of those presented by Beligiannis et.al. at the paper that the authors are compared with. So, the authors might keep the initial comparison with Beligiannis GA, (preserving that they follow the remarks of the first paragraph of this report), but they should definitely compare their results with those published in these two papers, following the same practice, i.e. make use of the three quality factors, only. To assist the authors in their task, we mention that there is a link where new updated results are published for these instances concerning the paper "A hybrid particle swarm optimization based algorithm for high school timetabling problems", by I.X. Tassopoulos, G.N. Beligiannis, Applied Soft Computing. The link is : http://www.deapt.upatras.gr/psa_timetabling/school-timetabling.html At the above link there is plenty of material concerning this paper.

The suggested comparison has been added (last paragraph, pg. 16 and Table 9, pg. 17).

In addition, we would like to mention that there has been running an international school timetabling competition (<http://www.utwente.nl/ctit/hstt/itc2011/welcome/>) with many instances to solve. Three of them are the ones used by I.X. Tassopoulos and G.N. Beligiannis.

A comment stating this has been included (section 4.2, pg. 11).

Finally, there is a misspelling of I.X. Tassopoulos at the References section, i.e. reference [36] and [37]. The name is Tassopoulos and not Tassopoulous.

This has been corrected (pg. 20).