

车辆路径优化问题及求解方法研究综述

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摘要: 车辆路径优化问题一直以来是物流研究领域的一个热点和难点. 现实生活的许多问题都可看作是车辆路径问题(VRP), 因此国内外学者近年来不断提出多种车辆路径优化问题及求解方法以解决愈加复杂的问题. 为进一步理清国内外研究现状, 对如半开放式VRP、多级VRP、多目标VRP、绿色VRP等车辆路径优化问题, 进行了总结分析, 然后对车辆路径求解方法进行了介绍, 特别地是对元启发式算法进行了较为详细的综述. 最后, 面向车辆路径优化问题和求解方法在当前形势下面临的新挑战, 展望了一些新研究方向, 如多目标优化、多级配送网络、绿色VRP、新型交通工具VRP和算法的通用性.

关键词: 改进的车辆路径问题; 创新方法; 智能优化算法; 文献综述

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A survey of vehicle routing optimization problems and solution methods

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Abstract: The vehicle routing problem has always been a hotspot and a difficult point in the field of logistics research. Many problems in real life can be regarded as vehicle routing problem. Therefore, domestic and foreign scholars have been proposing various vehicle path optimization problems and solving methods in recent years to solve more complicated problems. In order to further clarify the research status at home and abroad, the vehicle routing problems such as half-open VRP, multi-level VRP, multi-target VRP, green VRP, etc. are summarized and analyzed, and then the vehicle path solving method is introduced, especially the ground is a detailed review of the meta heuristic algorithm. Finally, some new research directions are envisioned for the new challenges faced by vehicle routing problems and solution methods in the current situation, such as multi-objective optimization, multi-level distribution network, green VRP, new vehicle VRP and algorithm versatility.

Key words: improved vehicle routing problem; innovation method; intelligent optimization algorithm; literature review

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1 引言

物流业在国民经济生产总值中占据越来越大的比重, 保障了社会生产和社会生活的供给. 近年来, 物流业发展迅速, 随着供给侧结构性改革的深入推进, 降本增效取得成效, 物流成本占国内生产总值(gross domestic product, GDP)比重有所回落, 但是与发达国家相比仍有较大差距, 降低物流成本仍任重而道远. 在物流成本中, 物流的运输费用是最高的. 车辆路径优化问题(vehicle routing problem, VRP)能最直接地

缩短总行驶距离值、在最大程度满载的前提下减少所使用的车辆数, 这就最大程度地节省了运输成本, 并且有利于减少汽车尾气的排放, 保护环境. 同时, 根据VRP目标和约束条件的不同, 可满足多样的实际需求, 在提升顾客满意度方面也起到了重要作用.

VRP是学者们在交通运输、物流管理和供应链管理现代物流管理研究领域的一个热点问题. 最早由Dantzig和Ramser^[1]提出, 经典的VRP可描述为: 有一个起点和若干个客户点, 已知各点的地理位置和需

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求,在满足各种约束的条件下,如何规划一条最优的路径,使其能服务到每个客户点,最后返回起点.由于要满足实际生活需求,应用到现实场景中,VRP模型也愈加复杂,如多个时间窗的VRP,车辆从起点出发后无需返回原点的开放式VRP及绿色VRP等.本文旨在对近年来国内外文献关于车辆路径优化问题和代表性的创新性求解技术进行较为全面的综述,并在最后指出研究的发展趋势,给予读者以启示.从现实意义的角度来看,反映了社会实际需求,从理论意义角度来说,VRP问题属于NP-难(non-deterministic polynomial, NP)问题,由于约束条件复杂,问题规模较大,求解难度很大.本研究有着较大的学术意义,为VRP更进一步研究提出了发展趋势,有助于推动车辆路径问题及相关优化问题的发展.

根据笔者阅读和总结的文献来看,现有的被学者和行业接受范围较广的普遍的分类方法有两类,其一是根据车辆路径优化案例中问题要素的直接特征来

划分,如带时间窗、容量限制、要求同时取送货等;其二是根据使用的不同算法来划分,如基于精确算法的VRP,基于启发式算法的VRP,基于元启发式算法的VRP等.由于本文重点在于与实际生活中遇到的问题进行呼应,因此本文采取基于问题基本特征和应用场景的分类策略.按照此方法进行分类的优点是使得问题模型和算法的应用性更强,为物流行业人员提供可操作的指导方法.

本文综述研究的逻辑体系包含3个步骤,如图1所示.

Step 1 对改进的VRP进行总结和讨论,重点从应用场景的角度进行阐明.

Step 2 对针对VRP求解算法进行综述,重点从改进的依据,与改进之前的效果比较进行讨论.

Step 3 针对VRP的未来挑战和趋势,结合现有文献,展望了一些新的研究方向.

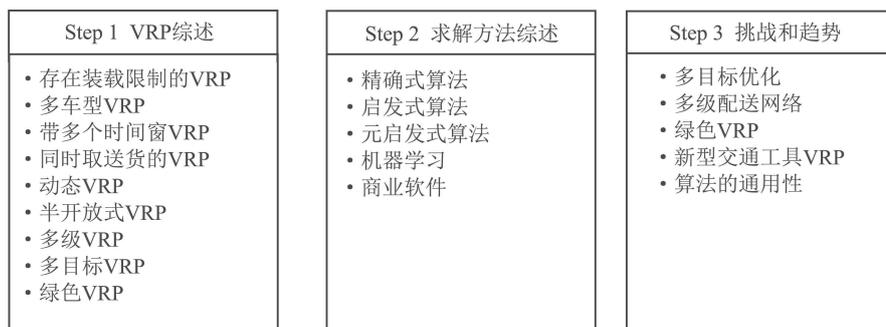


图1 逻辑体系

Fig. 1 Logic system

2 VRP问题综述

VRP自提出后研究成果也很丰富,在本节中将简要从VRP的应用场景、特征和相关经典文献进行综述,从以下9个方面展开.

2.1 存在装载限制的VRP

存在装载限制的VRP (VRP with loading constraints, VRPLC)一般是指在车辆路径问题中,对装载方式和顺序有一定的限制条件,例如“先进先出”、“先进后出”、“重不压轻”.在二维装载(two-dimensional loading capacitated VRP, 2L-CVRP)问题中需要考虑货物的长度和宽度,根据装载情况可以分为有序无方向2L-VRP^[2]、有序有方向2L-VRP^[3]、无序无方向2L-VRP^[4]、无序有方向2L-VRP^[5].在2L-CVRP的基础上,学者们发现在三维装载(three-dimensional loading capacitated VRP, 3L-CVRP)问题中,需要考虑货物的三维形状,在长和宽的基础上还要考虑高度限制.例如,在家具或大型家电等易损易碎物品的配送过程中,顾客的要求往往是“不可堆

叠”,这就要求在配送的过程中,在优化路径的同时需要对装载进行优化. Zhu等^[6]研究了考虑了货物三维形状、卸载顺序、物品性质和车辆装载计划的3L-VRP. 颜瑞等^[7]考虑了货物从车尾部进出,从车厢内左下角开始装货的三维装载车辆路径问题模型. Koch等^[8]采取了将车辆空间分区,分别从车辆侧面和车尾进行取货和装货的方法来解决要求同时取送货的3L-VRP.这也是目前多数大型货运汽车进行装载和卸货的方式.除此之外,还包括在车厢内不允许混装的情况,例如生鲜农产品配送为避免窜味和鲜活度下降采取多隔室同车配送以满足不同温湿度的要求^[9],零售等杂货产品采取单层或多层车厢配送^[10],牲畜饲料之间不能混装^[11],回收垃圾要进行分仓运输的路径优化^[12-13]等.

2.2 多车型VRP

如何确定车辆数的数量和车辆的尺寸大小以便能在满足客户的需求下使得成本最小^[14]是多车型VRP关注的焦点.交通拥堵情况日益严峻,多地均推出分

区域分车型的限行政策, 汽车尾气排放, 环境污染越来越严重, 电动车、天然气等新能源车等逐渐被应用到物流配送中来^[15], 传统的同车型车辆路径问题已无法满足实际需求, 因此多车型车辆路径问题(multi-type vehicle routing problem, MTVRP)的研究^[16]十分必要. Deng等^[17]将MTVRP进行了扩展, 研究了带时间窗的MTVRP问题. Liu等^[18]研究了成品车辆物流中的异构多车型车队问题(heterogeneous multi-type fleet vehicle loading problem in finished vehicle logistics, HVLP-FVL).

2.3 带多个时间窗VRP

经典带时间约束要求的车辆路径问题, 一般包含最早服务时间和最晚服务时间, 具体数值由实际情况而定, 表示为 $[a_i, b_i]$, 分为带硬时间窗的VRP (VRP with hard time windows, VRPHTW)、带软时间窗的VRP (VRP with soft time windows, VRPSTW) 和模糊时间窗的VRP (VRP with fuzzy time windows, VRPFTW). 经典VRP中的时间窗口是单一的, 在多时间窗口VRP (VRP with multiple time windows, VRPMTW) 中, 每个客户点存在多个互相重合或不重合的时间窗口, 配送车辆可选择客户多个时间窗之一进行服务^[19-20]. 如某个客户点的配送时间由上午延续到了下午, 配送工作会中断, 就产生了多时间窗问题^[21]; 如图2所示, 客户A在8点至9点和12点至14点这段时间都可服务, 客户B在13点至14点和15点至16点可接受服务. 李珍萍等^[22]总结了多硬时间窗的VRP模型, 对于服务时间要求柔性化的客户点, Cao等^[23]研究了多模糊时间窗的VRP. 这类问题在实际生活中有着广泛的应用, 最大程度地满足了客户的需求, 提升服务质量.

2.4 同时取送货的VRP

在经典的VRP中, 车辆在配送之后直接返回出发地即可, 然而现实生活在有很多需要同时送取货的问题, 如快递员不仅需要派发快件, 还要从客户手中取走寄出的快递^[25], 送奶员不仅要给客户送鲜牛奶, 还要取走空奶瓶等, 还有针对电商退换货的逆向物流. 这一类需要对客户需求点进行同时取送货的问题称为要求同时取送货的车辆路径问题 (VRP with simultaneous pickup and delivery, VRPSPD). LIU等^[24]建立了家庭医药健康物流的同时取送货. 倪霖等^[25]研究了城市快递共同配送VRPSPD. Majidi等^[26]、Wang等^[27]和Keçeci等^[28]建立了硬时间窗约束条件下的VRPSPD, Montero等^[29]和Kalayci等^[30]从求解算法的角度进行研究, 分别采取整数线性规划方法和混合算法来求解.

2.5 动态VRP

经典VRP模型中的信息是静态不变的, 而就目前的研究来看, 动态车辆路径问题(dynamic vehicle

routing problem, DVRP)主要分为4个方面: 1) 客户需求动态性. Sarasola等^[31]考虑了当配送车辆到达客户位置时产生需求, 并可随时接受未知的需求信息的DVRP. 文献[32-35]研究了客户需求在配送过程中动态可知的DVRP模型. 2) 周期的动态性, 经典的VRP模型中的周期 $T = 1$, 而在周期性车辆路径问题中, 周期 $T > 1$. 周期性车辆路径问题(period vehicle routing problem, PVRP)的最优路径不是一个周期内的路径, 而是由多个周期内的不同线路组合而成, 信件投递服务、自动售货机、便利店补货问题、按周期回收的废纸箱问题和对某些固定地点的客户进行周期性访问^[36], 这一类的问题都属于周期动态的VRP. 3) 交通环境的动态性. 在交通拥堵不可预测的地区, 路况信息实时变化, 受到交通事故、天气状况和车辆故障的情况, 配送车辆的路线受到限制, 产生了动态交通信息的VRP模型^[37]. 4) 动态客户需求和动态交通环境信息混合. 在这一类型的动态VRP中, 同时包含了客户信息的实时更新和交通环境的变化, 求解最为复杂, 例如外卖配送车辆路径优化问题^[38], 配送员在服务的过程中, 客户订单实时更新信息, 同时交通环境也是动态的.

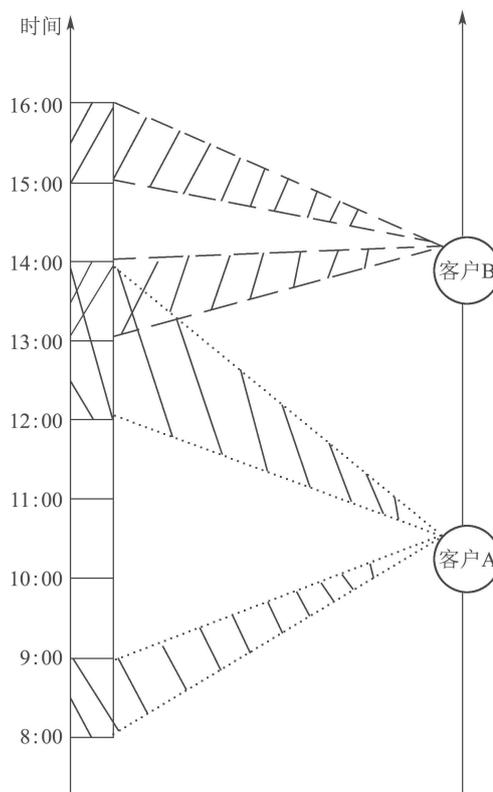


图 2 多时间窗示意图

Fig. 2 Multiple time windows

2.6 半开放式VRP

半开放式VRP(half-open vehicle routing problem, HOVRP)是指一类同时包含开放式VRP和闭合式VRP

两种特点的改进型的车辆路径问题. 在闭合式的VRP中, 车辆出发后必须要返回原点, 在开放式VRP(open vehicle routing problem, OVRP)中, 车辆无需返回或若返回必须按照原始路线. 一般, 自营物流模式是闭合式VRP, 第三方物流则是OVRP, 然而从学者们研究成果和现实情况来看, 采取半开放式联合运输模式能带来更大的经济效益, 在这种运输模式下的车辆路径问题就属于HOVRP. 在HOVRP中, 有 M 个配送点, N 个需要服务的客户点, K 数目的车辆, 车辆从一个配送点出发, 服务完成后, 可返回任何一个配送点进行补货或者终止服务, 而无需返回最初的起始点^[39-40]. 如图3所示.

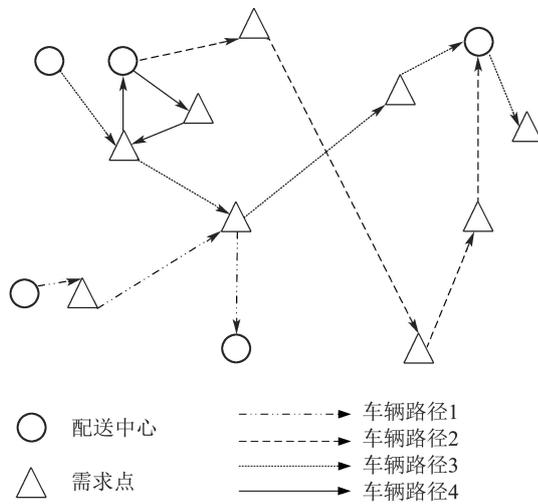


图3 半开放式车辆路径示意图
Fig. 3 Half-open vehicle paths

2.7 多级VRP

随着交通的便利和经济的快速发展, 企业市场范围逐渐扩展, 客户数量庞大且分布较广, 如果按照原配送网络系统, 车辆在企业和客户之间往返频繁, 多次小批量的商品运输, 造成企业运输成本上升. 而采用多级配送系统, 则能有效地解决该问题. 多级VRP(multi-echelon vehicle routing problem, MEVRP)是指在企业和客户之间建立一个或多个物流中心, 其目标是通过优化车辆路径, 减少整个配送系统的总运输成本和使用的车辆数. 如图4所示. 例如, 在报纸和杂志配送、电商货品配送、送货上门、邮政特运服务等中应用广泛. 一部分学者对两级VRP(two-echelon vehicle routing problem, TEVRP)进行研究. Chen等^[41]针对大型医院组织药物使用安全性和效率共存的问题, 设计了一个多级配送网络, 使用多级粒子群优化方法对药物配送的路径进行多层次优化. 在二级VRP的基础上, Dai等^[42]进行了三级和四级MEVRP的拓展研究.

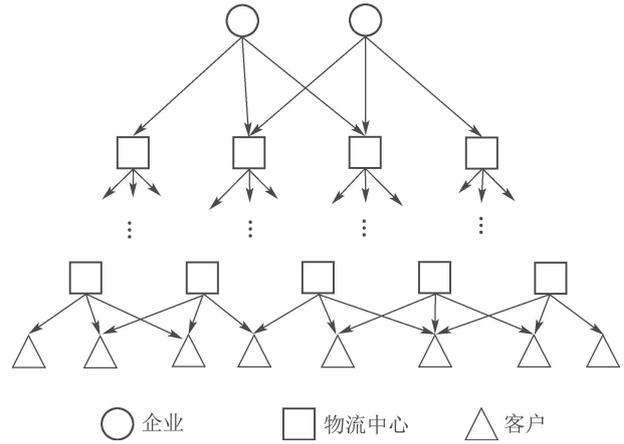


图4 多级VRP网络
Fig. 4 Multi-echelon VRP networks

2.8 多目标VRP

经典VRP仅存在一个目标, 即车辆总行驶距离最短或者使用的车辆数最少等. 但是随着现实情况的愈加复杂, 多目标VRP(multi-objective vehicle routing problem, MOVRP)更能满足需求. 例如, 如果仅以最短路径为目标, 在遇到交通拥堵情况时, 最短路径会成为运输时间耗费最长的路径^[43], 服务质量也会下降. 因此, 除了考虑最短路径, 还需要考虑运输时间、使用车辆数、客户满意度、各车辆的工作平衡量、环境保护因素等. 学者们往往考虑较多的是双目标的车辆路径问题^[44], 如同时考虑运输成本和各路径间的平衡^[45-46], 最大化客户满意度和最小化配送成本^[47], 同时考虑车队规模和碳排放问题^[48]. 在双目标的基础上, 郭森等^[49]研究了配送中距离最短、时间最少和费用最省的3个目标的MOV RP. Wang等^[50]则研究了同时考虑车辆数最少、总行驶距离最短、总行驶时间最短、等待时间最短和客户满意度最大5个目标的MOV RP. 随着时代的发展, 多目标组合问题可能会更加丰富.

2.9 绿色VRP

关于绿色VRP的研究主要可分两部分: 1) 关于污染路径问题的研究, 其目的在于设计一个产生污染较少的调度方案, 特别是要降低碳排放量. 根据碳排放影响因素的不同, 建立不同的碳排放测算模型, 进而降低碳排放. 影响碳排放的因素有很多, 运输方式、动力车燃料的类型、油耗效率、车辆类型和运输距离等, 要考虑全部的因素来建立模型十分困难也没有必要, 因此学者通过假设某些因素不变从而简化模型^[51]. Guo等^[52]仅考虑了车辆的载荷和行驶距离, 建立了相应的碳排放模型. Li等^[53]提出了一个碳排放测算方法, 考虑了燃料转化为有害气体的效率和影响油耗更精确的因素: 车辆的平均行驶速度、车载量、车辆自重以及道路因素. 而Shen等^[54]和Qin等^[55]都通过碳排放

交易机制来计算碳排放的成本, 根据碳排放的影响因素建立成本模型. Saka等^[56]以燃料和排放成本、驾驶员成本最小为多目标, 建立了成本变动估算模型. 2) 关于新能源车路径问题的研究. 随着电动车和替代传统燃料车的兴起与流行, 在运输任务中使用的车辆类别多样化, 混合配送车队的情形十分普遍. 部分学者研究了混合车队路径中需要进行充电^[57-58]或者进行燃料补给^[59-61]的新能源车路径问题. 前述学者研究的都是全路段的补给, 而Bruglieri等^[62]采取了分路段

分车型配送的两阶段方法, 在第1阶段先生成所有的可行路径, 在第2阶段, 考虑客户需求和部分车辆需要在替代燃料站补给的要求, 再选择路径进行组合.

3 VRP求解方法综述

VRP属于NP-Hard问题, 学者们一直寻求高效的方法来寻求最优解或近似最优解, 主要有精确式算法、启发式算法、元启发式算法、机器学习算法和一些较成熟的商业软件. 如图5所示.

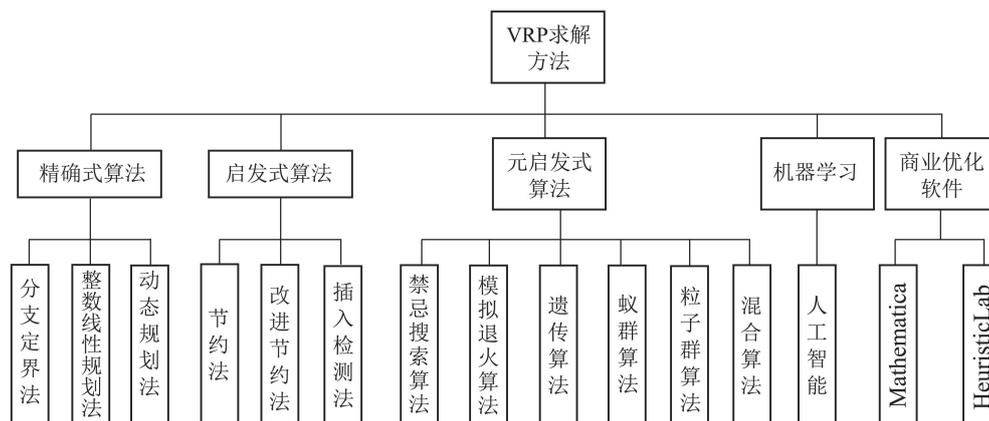


图 5 VRP求解方法分类

Fig. 5 Classification diagram of VRP solving methods

3.1 精确式算法

用于求解VRP的精确式算法主要有: 分支定界法^[63-64]、整数线性规划法^[65]和动态规划法^[66-67]. 精确式算法主要适用问题结构简单的小规模VRP, 如谢涛等^[68]在求解背包问题时, 分支决策深度受限制, 求解效率不高, 最大求解规模为250. 对于大多数不具有明确良性结构的VRP, 精确式算法无法求得最优解, 且在实际计算中存在耗时巨大的情况. 为了提高求解效率和质量, 近年来, 学者们在应用其求解问题时, 一般会与其他算法进行混合. 张鹏乐等^[69]基于动态规划的理论, 建立了快速动态规划算法, 能满足大规模CVRP的需求. 王晓琨等^[70]在求解绿色VRP时, 利用混合整数线性规划法建立模型, 运用元启发式算法进行求解.

3.2 启发式算法

与精确式算法相比, 启发式算法发展于仿生学, 以寻求最优的可行解为目标, 能够解决大规模的VRP问题, 主要有节约法^[71]、改进节约法^[72-73]和插入检测法^[74]. 李兵等^[75]采取节约法, 求解了规模数为20的DVRP问题. 李妍峰等^[76]在节约法的基础上进行了改进, 采取了两阶段的求解方法: 第1阶段采用节约法对客户进行聚类; 第2阶段进行搜索求解. 潘立军等^[74]在Solomon设计的前推值插入检测法的基础上, 提出时间插入检测, 有效求解了VRPMTW. 这一阶段的启

发式算法及其改进都是以缩短计算时间提高效率和减少计算机占用内存为目标, 这对于问题目标的求解的作用比较微弱.

3.3 元启发式算法

元启发式算法相较于启发式算法, 通过更加全面和彻底的搜索过程, 使得解的优良性有了较大的提高, 学者在该领域的研究成果很丰富, 主要有禁忌搜索算法、模拟退火算法、遗传算法、蚁群算法、粒子群搜索算法和混合算法. 下面对该类方法进行较为详细的综述.

3.3.1 禁忌搜索算法

禁忌搜索是对于局部搜索的扩展, 是一种全局逐步寻优的算法. 其搜索路径主要是初始解的生成、邻域结构的构造和禁忌表的设计, 好的初始解能够使得算法的搜索空间更好, 邻域结构则可增强算法的搜索能力, 而禁忌表可以避免算法较早陷入局部最优, 增强寻优能力, 所以在求解VRP时, 可以通过以下3个方面进行创新改进. 1) 初始解构造. Wang等^[77]在求解DVRP时, 提出一种考虑时间随机性的可行路径初始化禁忌搜索算法来求得初始解, 产生了更好的优化方案. 2) 邻域结构设计. Berbotto等^[78]设计了一个基于粒度邻域结构的禁忌搜索算法, 改进了许多基准算例的已知解. 3) 禁忌表. Li等^[79]提出了一种多阶段自适

应的记忆规划禁忌表,通过记忆搜索,每一次都能对禁忌做进一步的改进。

3.3.2 模拟退火算法

模拟退火算法首先设置合适的状态来产生函数,然后采取高效的退火策略^[58]来避免迂回搜索,为避免陷入局部最优,改进对温度的控制方式,最后得到最优解,可以从初始解构造和邻域搜索两个方面来进行算法改进。1) 初始解构造。Li等^[80]通过贪婪启发式算法生成初始解。穆东等^[81]在求解VRPMTW时,采用了前向插入启发式算法形成了初始解。陈妍等^[82]在求解MTVRP时,综合考虑不同车型费用不同,考虑车辆的固定成本和变动成本,建立了最小插入费用算法设计了初始可行解。2) 邻域搜索。Yu等^[83]在求解VRP-SPD时,将爬坡策略应用到模拟退火算法中,增强了搜索能力。Goodson等^[84]扩展了循环顺序邻域更新过程,增强了局部搜索能力。李想等^[85]在两级选址-路径问题中,采用大规模邻域搜索的方法,从而进一步提高了解空间的邻域搜索范围。

3.3.3 遗传算法

遗传算法模拟生物进化过程,从一个种群也就是染色体出发,逐步进化,为了使种群丰富,借助了遗传算子进行组合交叉和变异,产生新的种群,最终得到最优解。那么改进的遗传算法可以从个体及种群、选择算子、交叉算子和变异算子4个方面进行创新,优化种群和避免算法早熟,陷入局部最优的缺陷。1) 个体及种群。Cinar等^[86]将局部搜索应用于染色体重构以得到更好解。Miabi等^[87]应用改进的遗传算法来产生初始染色体群,然后利用迭代交换来改进初始解。2) 选择算子。罗勇等^[88]在求解VRP时,提出了一种基于序的评价函数来使个体之间的适应度指加大,从而优劣个体之间的适应度值被拉大,优秀个体就能被快速选中,提高了算法的收敛速度。3) 交叉算子。Mohammed等^[89]在求解校车VRP时,设计了一种混合交叉算子,加快了种群的寻优速度。Xu等^[90]在求解VRP-MTW时,在交叉算子中结合了粒子群优化,避免了过早收敛的问题。4) 变异算子。鲁延京等^[91]基于粒子进化策略提出3种新变异算子,分别是边界搜索粒子进化变异算子、区域搜索粒子进化变异算子和全局搜索粒子进化变异算子。Jia等^[92]在求解无人机路径规划问题时,通过改变染色体中不稳定部分实现变异,避免了早熟现象。

3.3.4 蚁群算法

蚁群算法求解VRP时主要是通过确定参数、构建解空间、更新信息素和判断终止条件等步骤来实现的,针对其容易陷入局部最优的缺陷,学者在个体及种群、可行解构造和信息素更新方面提出了改进方法。

1) 个体及种群。Pintea等^[93]在求解VRP时,应用敏感蚂蚁来提升蚁群系统的灵敏度,敏感蚂蚁个体对信息素有一定的敏感性并且对于可变的信息素会潜在加强搜索能力。2) 可行解构造。Fernandez-Vargas等^[94]利用类似蚂蚁搜索食物的过程来搜索解空间,并选择可行区域来优化搜索,从而提高了可行解的质量。Wang等^[95]设计的算法允许蚂蚁多次进出,直至访问所有的客户,简化了构造可行解的过程。柯良军等^[96]在求解带时间窗VRP时,为避免过早收敛,在算法中先使用贪婪法,若在一定次数后仍未更新最优解,则利用串行法来构造可行解。3) 信息素更新。柯良军等^[97]将信息素分为几个级别,基于信息素级别更新来实现信息素的更新。在Kao等^[98]求解CVRP的研究中,并不是所有的蚂蚁都能更新信息素,只有精英蚂蚁才能根据自己的最佳解决方案来更新信息素,较好地提高了解的质量。Kuo等^[99]在求解DVRP时,设计了模糊聚类插入算法来获得更好的信息素。

3.3.5 粒子群算法

粒子群算法基于种群和进化两种思想,通过个体间的协作与竞争,实现复杂空间搜索最优解,主要是通过以下两方面进行改进。1) 粒子种群。贾会群等^[100]针对粒子群停滞的问题,采取了非线性变化的加速因子对种群进行扰动,有利于提高种群的多样性。针对求解DVRP, Jia等^[101]在求解DVRP时,定义了一个基于集合和概率的新的种群编码方案,加快了算法的收敛速度。2) 粒子的搜索策略。粒子群的搜索分为全局搜索和局部搜索,如何确定两种搜索的比例对问题的求解过程非常重要^[102]。在求解不确定同时取送货车辆路径问题时,马艳芳等^[103]在求解VRPSPD时,采取全局-局部邻域粒子,局部粒子的惯性权重 ω 范围在 $[0.9, 0.4]$,与迭代次数成反比,全局最优粒子值由距离值比率决定,这种变化策略能够使粒子群在不同阶段具有不同的优化能力,有效避免粒子群陷入局部最优。针对MTWVRP, Zhang等^[104]引入了散点搜索,更新粒子的速度和位置,数值实验表明了有效性。

3.3.6 混合算法

在对各种类型的VRP进行求解时,学者发现单纯地利用某一种算法进行求解时,会存在早熟、局部最优的问题,而将算法结合起来时,可取长补短,解决日益复杂的VRP问题。邢立宁等^[105]设计了一种知识型的蚁群算法,提高了求解效率。De la Cruz等^[106]在求解带时间窗的多产品配送VRP时,提出了一种连续蚁群系统禁忌搜索算法,先使用双信息素跟踪策略来加速蚂蚁的学习过程,产生路径,然后记忆形式的禁忌搜索,进一步提高了解的质量。Moghadam等^[107]在求解订单可分的VRP时,将蚁群系统和模拟退火进行结合,实验证明了该混合算法的优化性能更好。

3.4 机器学习

除了以上常用的几种元启发式算法以外, 还有一些文献也提到了机器学习算法, 学者们将人工智能的方法应用到VRP问题中, 取得了较好的效果. Mokhtarinejad等^[108]设计了一种基于机器学习的启发式方法, 借助过滤器的学习方法, 通过不断学习对客户和制造商进行路径服务的聚类分组. 而王珂等^[109]提出的一种基于深度学习的机器人训练方法, 路径规划更加合理, 速度也更快. 随着环境的动态性和信息的未知性, 通过机器学习的方式, 对未知环境进行训练式探索, 是一种较好的求解方法.

3.5 商业软件

随着计算机技术的日益成熟, 求解VRP的方法不仅局限于智能算法, 一些比较成熟的商业优化软件也逐渐得到广泛的应用. 例如Mathematica和HeuristicLab^[110]. Saidi等^[111]应用Mathematica求解了铁路网络VRP. Silva等^[112]指出利用HeuristicLab中的分析框架与元启发式算法进行交互, 可为优化过程提供支持. 但是, 目前关于软件与元启发式算法的结合研究暂且不足, 还需要填补一些空白, 学者们可继续深入.

4 结语与展望

车辆路径问题是一个涉及容量约束、时间窗口、取送货、车型不一、信息动态等的复杂路径规划问题, 受约束条件、附加条件和现实条件的影响, 新的运输需求被提出, 相应的VRP改进问题和算法需要被研究以满足相应需求, 因此建议未来的研究与发展可在以下5个方面.

1) 多目标优化.

物流运输问题在本质上是一种多目标问题, 几乎没有一种情况是仅有一个目标的. 部分文献将多个目标按优先权进行分级, 分为第一级目标和第二级目标等等. 但是, 多目标的优化是与解决方案的生成有关的^[113], 将目标进行分级之后, 那么第一优先级目标的优势必会在牺牲其他目标的条件下来完成. 由于资源的有限性和稀缺性, 在方案执行时, 较多的资源, 甚至包含原预计用来优化第二、第三级目标的资源, 都会全部优先来完成第一级目标, 以至于排列在其之后的目标无法完成, 这并不符合多目标优化的要求^[114-115]. Bahri等^[116]和Wang等^[117]指出决策者通常会遇到相互冲突的几个目标, 这些目标应该同时优化. 那么, 在多目标环境的情况下, 研究者们必须要着眼于提出更加有效和高效的决策工具, 不确定各个目标的优先级, 将多个目标进行同等优化.

2) 多级配送网络.

随着城市规模和地域的扩展, 一级配送与大范围物流配送不匹配, 存在运输往来次数增多、回程空载、过度使用道路网络、交通堵塞等问题, 增加企业成

本和社会成本. 电子商务的迅速发展, 企业客户地域的扩展, 那么多级配送网络能够提供更好的物流配送服务. Cuda等^[118]对二级配送网络进行了文献综述, 指出尽管TEVRP已经引起了很多学者的关注, 但该问题相比其他VRP来说, 仍然是一个相对未被探索的领域. 在TEVRP的基础上, 仅有少数学者对三级及MEVRP进行了研究^[42, 119-120]. MEVRP对于大范围物流配送有十分重要的作用, 对于减低企业成本和缓解社会交通压力也十分有利, 而这方面的研究却较少, 因此学者们将研究方向和重点转向于此.

3) 绿色VRP.

随着对生态环境保护的重视和对资源稀缺的关注, 绿色VRP是未来发展的方向与重点^[121]. 目前已有部分文献在VRP研究中加入了碳排放的约束条件^[122], 在运输车辆的选择上, 考虑能耗小、对环境无污染的电动车, 在经典VRP上进行扩展^[125], 同时考虑车辆行驶范围有限的约束和车辆充电位置的约束. 在路径的选择上, 加入城市郊区路线的约束条件, 将有危害性、污染性的货物边缘化. 在总目标的建立上, 更多的文献研究了燃油消耗最小^[123], 以保护环境. 绿色VRP未来发展研究以车辆路径的优化问题为基础, 同时将能源的利用情况、对环境的影响和政府的公共政策等^[124]因素加入路线的设计中.

4) 新型交通工具VRP.

汽车技术的发展对物流运输产生了巨大的影响, 如在绿色VRP中提到的可替代燃料车^[57]、电动车^[59], 还有无人驾驶车、无人机和配送机器人的出现, 这些新型的交通工具应用到物流配送中, 则产生了改进VRP问题. 可替代燃料车和电动车在应用时需要考虑路径中补给的问题, 那么除了客户点、配送中心的位置之外, 还需要考虑燃料补给站和充电桩的位置, 情况更加复杂. 无人驾驶车、无人机和配送机器人因其便利性受到了非常多的关注. 但无人驾驶车和配送机器人由于其自主性较强, 在VRP中需要考虑交通情况和装载情况等不可控因素, 因此存在系统协调的问题^[125-126]. 随着技术发展的日新月异, 交通工具的发展使得VRP有了新的研究方向.

5) 算法的通用性.

目前研究VRP的求解算法是根据文献中描述的条件和总体目标而设计出来的, 每一个问题都设计了相对应的算法, 一旦其中某个因素发生变化, 该算法即不适用, 算法应用过于狭窄. 通过分析问题的性质, 总结其共通的特点, 融汇新知识^[127], 吸收新成果^[128], 设计编写更通用的算法. 在减少算法计算时间和提升算法优化效果之间进行平衡, 一方面, 避免进行多余的无用搜索; 另一方面, 增强算法跳出局部最优的能力和寻优能力, 从而既提高的算法的搜索效率, 又使得优化效果更好, 算法的适用性和通用性更强.

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