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A Comparative Study of Metaheuristics in VRPSD

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Abstract: The Vehicle Routing Problem (VRP) is one of the most studied problems about combinatorial optimization. In order to solve this issue, several methods have been proposed. VRP turns into a difficult problem when constraints are added. Nevertheless, VRP might be only focused when we know and are able to fix the customer demand. On the other hand, when demands are uncertain, this problem becomes even more complicated. For instance we can mention: visiting all clients in the same order (a priori route), visiting clients who require certain services, catering or skipping those clients that do not have any kind of demand. In both cases, penalty is applied. For this reason, this paper is about comparing the Genetic Algorithm (GA) and classical Simulated Annealing (SA) with the purpose of solving VRP with Stochastic Demand. It is important to point out that exchange mutation was applied for generating new solutions into Genetic Algorithm and a real case study was applied for comparing the algorithms performance.

Keywords: Vehicle Routing Problem, Metaheuristics, Optimization.