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Fall 2014

Optimization of Scheduling and Dispatching Cars on Demand

Vu Tran San Jose State University

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Writing Project

Optimization of Scheduling and Dispatching Cars on Demand

Final Report

By

Vu Tran CS 298 12/20/2014

Guided by

Professor

Dr. Chris Tseng

A Writing Project Presented to The Faculty of the Department of Computer Science San Jose State University In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree: Master of Science

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The Designated Committee Approves the Project Titled **Optimization of Scheduling and Dispatching**

Cars on Demand

By

Vu Tran

Approved for the Department of Computer Science San Jose State University December 2014

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ABSTRACT

Taxicab is the most common type of on-demand transportation service in the city because its dispatching system offers better services in terms of shorter wait time. However, the shorter wait time and travel time for multiple passengers and destinations are very considerable. There are recent companies implemented the real-time ridesharing model that expects to reduce the riding cost when passengers are willing to share their rides with the others. This model does not solve the shorter wait time and travel time when there are multiple passengers and destinations. This paper investigates how the ridesharing can be improved by using the genetic algorithm that gives the optimal solution in terms of passengers wait time and routes duration among passengers' start and end locations. The simulator uses the Google digital maps and direction services that allow the simulator to fetch the real-time data based on the current traffic conditions such as accident, peak hours, and weather. The simulation results that are sub-optimal routes are computed using the advanced genetic algorithm and real-time data availability.

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1.1 Introduction and Problem Statement

Uber is one of the most popular on-demand ridesharing car services in the United States and expanding internationally to at least 45 countries. It dominates the entire transportation network marketplace because many passengers realized the benefits of the service, such as conveniently using their mobile phone application to request the service without the need to carry any cash or provide tips at the end of ride. The Uber services provide an estimate of the cost on-the-fly, allows rating the driver, and having payment transaction via emails. The ridesharing service also provides an Online Dispatch System (ODS) that uses communication technologies and geo-location services, such as Global Positioning System (GPS) and digital maps. When a passenger requests for a ride, the system collects passenger's location and finds matching drivers within that location. ODS simply computes the distance between passengers and drivers, and then it shows the passengers the closest proximity of available drivers on the map. This concept may not be ideal for many cars, passengers and destinations in terms of minimizing the passenger wait time and travel time.

In order to optimize process, the ODS first needs software algorithms and data structures to define various scheduling and dispatching policies, *such as First-In-First-Out (FIFO) known as a queue, Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) also known as a stack, processor sharing, priority, shortest service first, preemptive shortest service first, and Shortest Remaining Time First (SRTF)* that can be used when passengers request a ride and drivers provide the service. Secondly, the ODS needs to define model constraints and objectives. The two types of objectives to be considered are: (1) reducing passenger's wait time and (2) travel time. The "cost" function will be used to optimize the scheduling and dispatching algorithms, which can be very complex and interesting.

1.2 Project Goal

The objective of this project is to minimize passengers wait time and travel time using an advanced Genetic Algorithm with Constraints.

1.3 Real-Time Ridesharing Schedule And Dispatch Problem

The first scenario **(scenario 1a),** a passenger requests a ride, and multiple drivers are nearby. It's not problematic to locate the closest driver to the passenger. Because the ODS detects passenger and drivers' locations, it can measure the distance or travel time from the passenger to every nearby driver using Google direction services. If there are 5 nearby drivers, then OSD performs 5 computations. We can solve this scenario using Brute Force algorithm, and it is guaranteed to find the short duration of available driver.

Figure 2: Multiple cars and one passenger Figure 3: Multiple cars and 1 passenger with simulated routes

Another scenario **(scenario 1b),** a passenger requests a ride but multiple drivers are going to different directions. This scenario is more complicated than the previous one because ODS cannot quickly measure the travel time from the passenger to the driver when the driver is moving. For instance, the worst case is that five drivers are delivering 5 passengers to 5 different destinations when a new passenger requests a ride. The task is to predict which driver completes his/her route before heading to pickup the new passenger in the shortest duration. The ODS can solve this case in two steps. First, calculating the travel time from the new passenger to 5 driver's destinations that are 5 computations. Second, calculating the travel time from 5 driver's sources to 5 driver's destinations that are also 5 computations. The total cost for this case is 10 computations. The Brute Force algorithm can be used for this scenario as well.

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Figure 4: Multiple cars with multiple directions, and one passenger

Figure 5: Multiple cars with multiple directions, and one passenger with simulated routes

Vu Tran

The second scenario **(scenario 2),** when multiple passengers are willing to share one car to a destination, they can split the rate. Realistically, passengers share a ride to the airport when the wait time and travel time are important due to the flight's schedule. For instance, 4 passengers are going to the same airport. The ODS locates a driver that is near to 4 passengers. The task is to provide the driver the optimal routes in terms of the passenger wait time and travel time. The ODS has to decide which passenger is pickup first and so on. The first passenger requests a ride is the first one to be picked up may be is not an ideal solution (FCFS). If there are 4 passengers, then the distance or duration of 24 possible routes will be computed. The number of routes gets increased when the car has more capacities. If a van has 7 seats, it can hold 7 passengers. Hence, 5040 possible routes are measured. To solve the problem with 4 passengers, Brute Force algorithms can quickly find the best optimal route of 24 possible routes. To solve this problem with 7 passengers, besides Brute Force algorithm, Nearby Neighbor algorithm (NNA) can be applied. NNA may not give the best optimal route, but its computation is inexpensive as needing only 1 computation, but the data structure is required. This problem can be also solved by Standard Genetic Algorithm.

Figure 6: One car, multiple passengers and one destination

Par Marina Del Rey $P3$ Centinela **WESTC** Ingle PLAYA DEL REY Dockweiler State Beach Ler Inte en el 105

CHEVIOT HILLS

187

Culver City

BALDWIN HILLS

Figure 7: One car, multiple passengers and one destination with simulated routes

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The third scenario **(scenario 3)**, multiple passengers are sharing one car to multiple destinations. This problem requires 3 constraints. First, driver must visit all passengers P1, P2, P3, P4 (Pi, $1 \le i \le n$), but only once. Second, driver must visit all destinations D1, D2, D3, D4 (Di, $1 \le i \le n$), but only once. Third, driver cannot visit Dj before visiting Pj, $(1 \le i \le n$. There are 40320 possible routes with 4 passengers and 4 destinations that are permuted, but 2520 possible routes satisfy the third constraint. This scenario is more complicated if it deals with multiple cars when there are multiple passengers and multiple destinations **(scenario 4).** For instance, 7 passengers with 7 destinations require 2 cars. A car can serve up to 4 passengers. In this case, car 1 can serve 4 passengers and car 2 can serve 3 passengers. Furthermore, there are many possible routes for 2 cars with 7 passengers and 7 destinations. Because this problem involves with a lot of computations and arrangements, it is complicated and complex when using Brute Force or Nearby Neighbor algorithms. However, Genetic algorithm is an ideal solution to deal with a problem of great complexity that will be explained in the next section.

Figure 8: One car, multiple passengers and multiple destinations

Figure 9: multiple cars, multiple passengers and multiple destinations

2. Project Design

2.1 Simulation Design

First, we need a lot of data point to simulate the drivers whether are driving or idling in certain locations and passengers are waiting for drivers to pickup. Passengers need to provide their locations whether they can enter or share their current location using GPS or enabling Web Share Location. Based o the passenger's location, the system will randomly generate the drivers' locations with given amount of drivers we want to simulate. System utilizes Google Maps API to produce the longitude and latitude as coordinates of passengers and drivers. The system then uses these coordinates to visually draw locations on Google Maps.

Second, system needs to capture the en-routes of drivers using Google Direction Service. This service will give us real-time data such as distance, duration and each step of drivers taking from point A to point B. The algorithms will use this data to analyze and formulate the model.

Third, we will use the Amazon Cloud Web Service EC2 to host the system and database. We will also use NoSQL database (MongoDB) to store the directions and analyzed data. Due to number of requests that are allowed by Google Services, the database becomes very useful in terms of improving the smoothness of simulation.

2.2 Modeling Ridesharing Schedule And Dispatch Algorithms Design

Brute Force search algorithm for the scenarios 1a, 1b, and 2 performs as follow:

- 1. Make a list of all possible routes
- 2. Calculate the duration of each route by adding up the duration of its edges
- 3. Choose the route with the smallest total duration

Nearest Neighbor search algorithm for the scenario 2 performs as follow:

- 1. Stand on an arbitrary vertex as current vertex.
- 2. Find out the shortest duration connecting current vertex and an unvisited vertex V.
- 3. Set current vertex to V.
- 4. Mark V as visited.
- 5. If all the vertices in domain are visited, then terminate.
- 6. Go to step 2.

$$
Cost = \frac{1}{d(C, P_f) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} d(P_i, P_{i+1}) + d(P_i, D)}
$$

Notation:

- d: Duration from the current coordinate to the next coordinate
- C: Car
- D: Destination
- P_f : The first Passenger in the vehicle's route, where $1 \le f \le n$
- P_l: The last Passenger in the vehicle's route, where $1 \leq l \leq n$
- P_i : Passenger, where $1 \le i \le n$
- n: Number of passengers

Comparison

Standard Genetic Algorithm for scenario 2 performs as follow:

- 1. **[Start]** Generate random population of n chromosomes (suitable solutions for the problem)
- 2. **[Fitness]** Evaluate the fitness $f(x)$ of each chromosome x in the population
- 3. **[New population]** Create a new population by repeating following steps until the new population is complete
	- a. **[Selection]** Select two parent chromosomes from a population according to their fitness (the better fitness, the bigger chance to be selected)
	- b. **[Crossover]** With a crossover probability cross over the parents to form a new offspring (children). If no crossover was performed, offspring is an exact copy of parents.
	- c. **[Mutation]** With a mutation probability mutate new offspring at each locus (position in chromosome).
	- d. **[Accepting]** Place new offspring in a new population
- 4. **[Replace]** Use new generated population for a further run of algorithm
- 5. **[Test]** If the end condition is satisfied, stop, and return the best solution in current population
- 6. **[Loop]** Go to step 2

Figure 10: Standard Genetic Algorithm Process

Genetic algorithm with constraints for scenario 3 performs as follow:

Constraints:

- 1. Driver must visit all passengers P1, P2, P3, P4 (Pi, $1 \le i \le n$), but only once
- 2. Driver must visit all destinations D1, D2, D3, D4 (Di, $1 \le i \le n$), but only once
- 3. Driver cannot visit Dj before visiting Pj, $(1 \le j \le n)$

Algorithm

- **1. [Start]**
	- a. Generate random population of n passengers and random of n destinations.
	- b. Combine population of n passengers with population of n destinations
	- c. Compute population of 2n passengers and destinations named as routes
	- d. Organize routes using multiple points crossover algorithm **(algorithm 1d)** that meet above constraints.
- 2. **[Fitness]** Evaluate the fitness f(x) function of each route x in the population
- 3. **[New population**] Create a new population by repeating following steps until the new population is complete
- 4. **[Selection]** Select two parent routes from a population according to their fitness (the better fitness, the bigger chance to be selected)
- **5. [Crossover]**
- a. Apply single point crossover algorithm **(algorithm 5a**) over the parent routes to form a new offspring (children) route.
- b. Validate the new offspring route with constraints above. If the offspring route is not valid, then mutate its DNAs in step 6. Otherwise, go to step 7.
- 6. **[Mutation]** Change positions in a offspring route that meet constraints above
- 7. **[Accepting]** Place new offspring route in a new population
- 8. **[Replace]** Use new generated population for a further run of algorithm
- 9. **[Test]** If the end condition is satisfied, stop, and return the best solution in current population
- 10. **[Loop]** Go to step 2

Fitness Function (scenario 3: one car, many passengers, and many destinations)

$$
fitness_{travelTime} = \frac{1}{d(C, P_f) + \sum_{i=1}^{2n} d(G_i, G_{i+1})}
$$

Notation

d: Duration from current coordinate to next coordinate

C: Car

- P_f : The first Passenger in the vehicle's route, where $1 \le f \le n$
- P_i : Passenger i, where $1 \le i \le n$
- D_i: Destination i, where $1 \le i \le m$
- ${P_i, D_i} \in G_i$, where $1 \le i \le 2n$
- n: Number of passengers, where $n = m$
- m: Number of destinations, where $m = n$

Fitness Function (scenario 4b: many cars, many passengers, and many destinations)

a. Travel Time

$$
fitness_{travelTime} = \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^{k} d(c_j, P_j^j) + \sum_{i=1}^{2n} d(c_i^j, G_{i+1}^j)}
$$

Notation

- d: Duration from current coordinate to next coordinate
- C: Car, where $1 \le j \le k$
- P_f : The first Passenger in the vehicle's route, where $1 \le f \le n$
- P_i : Passenger i, where $1 \le i \le n$
- D_i: Destination i, where $1 \le i \le m$
- ${P_i, D_i} \in G_i$, where $1 \le i \le 2n$
- k: Number of cars
- n: Number of passengers, where $n = m$
- m: Number of destinations, where $m = n$

b. Average Wait Time

$$
fitness_{avgWaitTime} = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} WaitTime_i}
$$

Notation

WaitTime: Wait Time of a passenger from Car to P_i and/or D_i , where $1 \le i \le n$, but do not include durations within the passenger's destination and unvisited

passengers and their destinations

n: Number of passengers

Algorithm

- 1. Set the index I to 0
- 2. Process the first D in Gene 2
- 3. Find the corresponding P in Gene 1.
- 4. If the index of corresponding P less than I, then insert current D after the previous D in Gene 2 and mark current D as visited. Go to step 8
- 5. Mark current D as visited
- 6. Insert current D after the corresponding P in Gene 1
- 7. Set I to index of P
- 8. If all Ds in Gene 2 are visited, then terminate.
- 9. Process the next D in Gene 2, go to step 3

Single point crossover algorithm in 5a

Parent 1	P2	P ₃	D ₃	D2	P ₁	P4	D4	D1
Parent 2	P ₂	D ₂	P ₃	P ₁	P ₄	D ₃	D1	D ₄
Parent 2			X	PI	P ₄		D1	D4
Offspring	P ₂	P ₃	D ₃	D2	P1	P4	D ₁	D4

Algorithm

- 1. Copy the first half gene of Parent 1 and form a new offspring
- 2. Mark all DNAs in Parent 2 that are matching with DNAs in the offspring
- 3. Copy all unmarked DNAs in Parent 2 and keep their orders.
- 4. Add DNAs to the offspring to form a complete gene.

Mutation Operation

Algorithm

- 1. Find D in the gene and record its index
- 2. Find corresponding P in the gene
- 3. [Test] If the index of corresponding P is greater than index of D, then swap their position.
	- 4. [Test] If visit all D in the gene, then terminate
	- 5. [Loop] Go to step 1

3. Project Implementation

3.1 Server Setup with Amazon Cloud Infrastructure EC2

To setup an Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2), first we need to create Amazon Web Service (AWS) account by following step by step as shown in figure below.

Figure 11: Creating AWS account

After signing into AWS console, we see a lot of services. We will only need EC2 to host our application.

Next, choose EC2 service to begin launching an instance

Figure 13: Launching EC2 Instance

Step 1: Choose Ubuntu Server

1. Choose AMI 2. Choose Instance Type			3. Configure Instance	4. Add Storage	5. Tag Instance	
		Step 1: Choose an Amazon Machine Image (AMI) SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 (HVM), EBS General Purpose (SSD) Volume Type. Public Cloud, Advanced Systems Management, Web and Scripting, and Legacy modules enabled. Root device type: ebs Virtualization type: hym				Cancel and Exit
		⊙ Ubuntu Free tier eligible	Volume Type - ami-3d50120d /services). Root device type: ebs		Ubuntu Server 14.04 LTS (HVM), SSD Ubuntu Server 14.04 LTS (HVM), EBS General Purpose (SSD) Volume Type. Support available from Canonical (http://www.ubuntu.com/cloud Virtualization type: hvm	Select 64-bit

Figure 14: Amazon Machine Image, Ubuntu Server

Step 2: Choose an Instance Type

Because our application requires a lot of computations, we need a high performance instance such as: m3.xlarge (13 ECUs, 4 vCPUs, 2.5 GHz, Intel Xeon E5- 2670v2, 15 GiB memory, 2 x 40 GiB Storage Capacity)

Family	Type	v CPUs (i)	Memory (GiB) -	Instance Storage (GB) (i)	EBS-Optimized Available (i)	Network Performance (i)
General purpose	t _{2.} micro Free tier eligible			EBS only	۰	Low to Moderate
General purpose	t2.small		2	EBS only	$\overline{}$	Low to Moderate
General purpose	t2.medium	$\overline{2}$	4	EBS only	۰	Low to Moderate
General purpose	m3.medium		3.75	1×4 (SSD)	٠	Moderate
General purpose	m3.large	2	7.5	1 x 32 (SSD)	$\overline{}$	Moderate
General purpose	m3.xlarge	4	15	2 x 40 (SSD)	Yes	High

Figure 15: EC2 Instance Type

Step 3: Configure Instance Details

We use default configurations and finally launch the instance

Configure the instance to suit your requirements. You can launch multiple instances from the same AMI, request Spot Instances to take advantage of the lower
pricing, assign an access management role to the instance, and mo

Figure 16: EC2 Configuration

3.2 Simulation Implementation

a. Randomizing Passengers and Drivers Coordinates

In order to calculate the random coordinates, we will use the geometry and math functions such as *sin, cos, asin, atan2* in the snippet code below.

```
var lat = deg(asin(sinstartlat * cos(dist) + cosstartlat * sin(dist) * cos(brg[0])));
       var lon = deg(normalizeLongitude(startlon * 1 + atan2(sin(brg[0]) * sin(dist) *
cosstartlat, cos(dist) - sinstartlat * sin(lat))));
```


Figure 17: Driver's Locations based on the Passenger Location

b. Randomizing Passenger's Destination and Driver's Destinations

For each driver's start coordinate, generating the driver's end coordinate with the direction that driver is heading to.

Figure 18: Many Cars and One Passenger

Figure 19: Many Cars, Many Passengers and One Destination

c. Integrating Google Direction Service

3.3 Genetic Algorithm Implementation

We attempt to solve a problem with 2 cars, 4 passengers, and 4 destinations

Figure 20: Advanced Genetic Algorithm Process with Constraints

GA 1 Process

a. Initialize Passenger and Destination Population

First, we randomly generate 5 passenger's genes (P genes), and 5 destination's genes (D genes). Second, we combine P genes with D genes to make 25 genes. Third, we re-arrange among P genes and D genes. So, they satisfy 3 constraints that we defined in the design section.

Figure 21: Genes Preparation

b. Proceed GA 2 Processes

For each combined passengers and destinations gene (P1,P3,D1,D3,P2,D2,P4,D4), proceed the second GA process.

1. Initialize Car Population

2. Evaluation

$$
fitness = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{1}{d(C_j, P_f) + \sum_{i=1}^{2n} d(E_i, E_{i+1})}
$$

Example

 $CAR1 = d(C1, P1) + d(P1, D1) + d(D1, P2) + d(P2, D2) + d(D2, P4) + d(P4, D4)$ $CAR2 = d(C2, P3) + d(P3, D3)$

$$
fitness = \frac{1}{CAR1 + CAR2}
$$

3. Selection

Select two genes from the population in which the shorter durations have

more chances to get selected. For instance:

PARENT 1: **1,2,**1,1 PARENT 2: 2,1,**1,2**

4. Crossover

Apply One Point Crossover to PARENT 1

Child: 1,2,1,2

5. Mutation

Because this GA 2 has a small population, do not need to apply mutation.

6. Termination: If No, go to step 2.

c. Selection

Select two genes from the population in which the shorter durations have more

chances to get selected. For instance:

Parent 1: P1,P3,D1,D3,P2,D2,P4,D4 Parent 2: P1,P3,D3,D4,P4,D1,P2,D2

d. Crossover

Apply One Point Crossover to PARENT 1

Child: P1,P3,D1,D3,D4,P4,P2,D2

e. Mutation

[The Child is not valid because D2 and D3 are assigned before P3 and P2. The car should not visit a destination before visiting a passenger. To fix this, we need to change the position of the DNA.]* Child: P1,P3,D1,D3,D4,P4,P2,D2 Mutated CHILD: P1,P3,P2,D3,D4,P4, D1,D2

f. Termination: If No, go to step 2b.

g. Solution

4. Results

Simulation Result for Scenario 1a:

Simulation Result for Scenario 1b:

Simulation Result for Scenario 2:

Simulation Result for Scenario 3:

Simulation Result for Scenario 4:

5. Analysis and fine-tuning of planned system

Experiment with 2 Cars, 4 Passengers, 4 Destinations Optimizing: Travel Time and Average Wait Time

- A. Compare the Performance Brute Force Algorithm with Genetic Algorithm
- B. Proceed 10 GA processes with 2 configurations to form the initial population
	- 1. Random Initial Passengers and Random Initial Destinations
	- 2. Fixed Initial Passengers and Fixed Initial Destinations

In order to benchmark the algorithm, we need to use a faster server in terms of faster CPUs and larger memories. For this experiment, we use Amazon Cloud EC2 (m3.xlarge) with 4 CPUs and 15 GiB memories.

Fixed Initial Passengers & Fixed Initial Destinations

Experiment with 2 Cars, 4 Passengers, 4 Destinations: Average Wait Time

10 GA Processes

x axis: Number of Processes y axis: Time in Minutes

Experiment with 2 Cars, 4 Passengers, 4 Destinations: Average Wait Time

10 GA Generations

x axis: Number of Generations y axis: Time in Minutes

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is guaranteed to get a sub-optimal result that is better than the medium result.

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6. Conclusion

The Brute Force Algorithm takes years to process a complex problem such as 2 cars, 7 passengers and 7 destinations. The factorial of combination of 7 passenger and 7 destinations (14!) is 87,178,291,200 solutions (passengers and destinations orders). The exponential of 2 cars with 7 passengers (2^7) is 128 (cars orders). The total candidate solutions for 2 car, 7 passengers and 7 destinations (87,178,291,200 * 128) are 11,158,821,273,600.

The online dispatch system is improved when using the Genetic Algorithm for NP-Hard problem. With a small initial population of the dataset, the system can quickly produce a sub-optimal result in less than a second. However, it's not guaranteed to get a global optimal solution rather than a local optimal solution.

The Genetic Algorithm with Constraints is an advanced implementation that proceeds 2 GA processes for each gene from generation to generation using revolutionary concepts. Hence, the ODS can approximately provide sub-optimal solutions in terms of minimizing the passenger wait time and travel time.

7. Future Work

In order to improve the result of Genetic Algorithm process, first we need to form a better initial population. In theory, better parents should produce better children. This work will take a lot of time to research a heuristic methodology. Second, we need to improve the fitness function by combining the travel time with average wait time.

When we deal with more complex problem such as 5 cars, 20 passengers, and 20 destinations, the small population and less number of generations will not produce optimal results. However, the large population and many generations will require a lot of resources in terms of CPUs and Memories. To improve the performance of GA procedure for this problem, we will need distributed and advanced computers or use parallel computing method to speed up the process.

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