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Volume 50, 2012 - [Issue 9: Industrial logistics systems: theory and applications](#)

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# A simulated annealing algorithm to the multi-period fixed charge distribution problem associated with backorder and inventory

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Pages 2533-2554 | Received 01 Apr 2011, Published online: 15 Sep 2011

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/00207543.2011.581013>

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## Abstract

This paper addresses a multi-period fixed charge distribution problem associated with backorder and inventory. The objective is to determine the size of the shipments, backorder and inventory at each period, so that the total cost incurred during the entire period towards transportation, backorder and inventory is minimised. A pure integer non-linear programming problem is formulated. A simulated annealing based heuristic is proposed to solve and is illustrated. The proposed methodology is evaluated by comparing its solutions with the lower bound and equivalent variable cost solutions. The comparisons reveal that the simulated annealing generates better solutions than the equivalent variable cost solutions and is capable of providing solutions closer to the lower bound solutions of the problems.

Keywords:

transportation

logistics

multi-period fixed charge distribution problem

heuristics

simulated annealing

## Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the valuable comments and remarks of two anonymous referees. They thank the management of the Thiagarajar College of Engineering and the Sri Krishna College of Engineering for the co-operation and encouragement extended with all facilities to complete this work. They also thank the English professors for their valuable guidance to improve the writing style and the grammar.

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