

# An evolutionary algorithm for the Multi-Period Facility Location Problem

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## SUMMARY

Facility Location problems study the optimal allocation of a set of facilities so as to supply some demand nodes while minimizing the allocation and maintenance costs. Much of the available literature on facility location is focused on single-period assignments, and this is unrealistic for many use cases.

A model belonging to the class of facility location problems which addresses those issues is the multi-period incremental service facility location problem (MISFLP). The MISFLP was first presented in [1] and considers a multi-period setting where the minimum number of facilities to open is fixed for each period. This allows for a more gradual deployment of a service, suitable for private sectors and non-essential necessities.

The goal of this study is to devise the first heuristic procedure to obtain optimal or near-optimal solutions for the MISFLP through the use of a specially tailored evolutionary algorithm. A computational study is carried out to assess the performance of the algorithm.

**Keywords:** Evolutionary algorithm, Multi-period, Location, MISFLP

**AMS Classification:** 90B80, 90C59, 90C05

## References

- [1] M. ALBAREDA-SAMBOLA, E. FERNÁNDEZ, Y. HINOJOSA AND J. PUERTO. The multi-period incremental service facility location problem. *Computers & Operations Research* **36**(5), 1356–1375, 2009.

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