

Special issue on “**Vehicle Routing and Scheduling: Recent Trends and Advances**”

Guest Editors:

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Brief Description of the Topic:

The Vehicle Routing Problem (VRP) has become one of the most studied optimization problems in the transportation and operations research literature, with numerous exciting variants and applications encountered in a large variety of practical contexts. In broad terms, vehicle routing and scheduling problems deal with the optimum assignment of a set of customer orders to a fleet of vehicles and the corresponding service sequences over a time period. Such problems appear in many forms, depending on the type of operation, the time frame for decision making, the objective and the types of constraints that must be adhered to. Furthermore, they intensify in real-life contexts when dynamic and stochastic features are also considered. To this end, the combinatorial nature and the intrinsic complexity of vehicle routing and scheduling problems have given rise to major developments in the fields of both exact and heuristic algorithms. However, despite the progress and the contributions made in recent years, many questions remain unanswered, and new ones are constantly emerging.

The aim of this special issue is to collect original high-quality papers that address recent developments, trends and advances in the theory, practice and application of optimization methods for vehicle routing and scheduling problems. We welcome contributions across the full spectrum from theory to practice that cover issues by means of suitable deterministic and/or stochastic mathematical models, significant methodological advances and/or novel optimization methods, including –among others– mathematical programming techniques, metaheuristic algorithms and combined/collaborative (hybrid) solution approaches. Topics of interest include but are not limited to traditional static and dynamic VRPs, modeling extensions that capture new practical operational realities, combined multi-period problems as well as parameter uncertainty and stochastic VRPs.

Manuscript Preparation & Submission Guidelines:

Submitted papers should not have been published previously or be under consideration for publication elsewhere. The papers should be concise (limited to a total of 10 journal pages). Refereeing and final selection of papers will be carried out according to the standards of *Optimization Letters*. Quality, impact and originality of the contribution are the major acceptance criteria. Please submit your manuscripts through *Optimization Letters'* online submission tool (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/optl>) and choose “SI: Vehicle Routing” in the “Article Type” field.

Important Dates:

Deadline for submission (EXTENDED) is **November 30, 2011**. Early submissions are appreciated.

For any further information, please contact the guest editors:

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