

Genetic algorithm for the assembly line balancing problem

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Genetic Algorithms (GAs)

- heuristic methods—do not guarantee optimality
- iterative methods
- simulate biological evolution, which has enabled "nature" to develop species remarkably well adapted to their environment.



6A5

- development & theoretical foundation provided
 by:
 - John Holland, Adaption in Natural and Artificial Systems, The University of Michigan Press, 1975.
- further developed & analyzed by Holland's student:

David Goldberg, *Genetic Algorithms* in Search, Optimization, and Machine Learning, Addison-Wesley, 1989.

GA5

- operate on a population of individuals which represent potential solutions to the problem
- from the population, a set of "good" individuals are selected to mate & form a new generation
- the quality of subsequent generations will (it is hoped!) gradually improve and approach optimality

- Encoding
- Fitness measure
- Selection
- Scaling fitness
- Mutation
- Generic GA Algorithm

ENCODING

Each individual in the population consists of a string, which "resembles" a biological chromosome composed of genes.

These genes may take on values from a finite set of digits or characters, called *alleles*. (Most frequently, the alleles are binary digits.)

Example: from the set of alleles {A,B,C} we might produce the individual ABCABBCABBC

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FITNESS

For each individual i, we define a *fitness* value f(i) to measure how good it is.

Individuals representing good solutions will have a larger fitness value than those which correspond to poor solutions.

Used to determine which individuals *survive*: to produce the next generation.



"Survival of the fittest..."

SELECTION

From the population at each generation, a GA randomly selects the fittest individuals to survive and mate to produce the next generation.

The simplest method for doing this is "stochastic sampling with replacement", in which individual

sampling with replacement", in which individ
$$i \ \ is \ selected \ with \ probability \ \ p_i = \sum_{i=1}^{N} f(i) / \sum_{i=1}^{N} f(j)$$

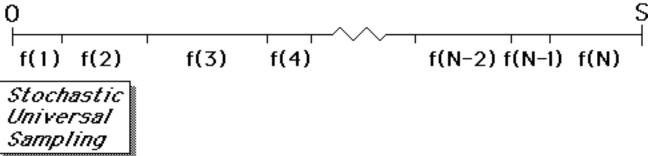
This is repeated until N individuals have been selected.

In sampling with replacement, the more fit individuals are likely to be selected, and may be selected several times. However, there is not guarantee that an individual whose fitness is above the population average will be selected

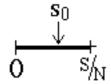
"Stochastic universal sampling" is a scheme which will quarantee this!

J.E. Baker, "Reducing bias and inefficiency in the selection algorithm", in *Genetic Algorithms & Their Applications:*Proceedings of the 2nd Int'l Conf. on Genetic Algorithms, J.J. Grefenstette (ed.), 1987.

- Compute S, the sum of the fitness values for the population.
- Map each fitness value in random order to contiguous segments of the interval [0,S] on the real line, such that each segment has length equal to its corresponding fitness value.



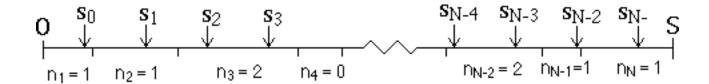
3. Generate a random number s₀ within the interval [0, ^S/_N], the "average" interval.



4. Compute the N equally-spaced numbers

$$\mathbf{s}_i = \mathbf{s}_0 + \mathbf{i} \times \frac{S}{N}$$
 , $\mathbf{i} = 0, 1, 2, \cdots N-1$

5. Let n_k be the number of values in the set {s_i} which fall within interval k.



6. For each k (k=1,2,...N), create n_k copies of individual k and put into the mating pool.

SCALING

The distribution of fitness values may strongly affect premature convergence of a genetic algorithm.

If a few individuals have much larger fitness values than the others, they will generate many more offspring and quickly dominate the generations which follow, and the algorithm will prematurely converge to a population of identical "clones" which are not optimal.



A way to prevent this is to scale the fitness values so as to maintain a constant "best fitness to average fitness" ratio, the scaling factor.

Given scaling factor λ and a set of fitness values $\{f_1, f_2, \dots f_N\}$, we scale them to $F_i = a f_i + b$ where a & b are chosen so that

$$\sum\limits_{i=1}^{N}F_{i}=1$$

and

$$\lambda = \frac{\underset{i}{\underset{i=1}{\max}} \; F_{i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} F_{i} / N}$$

Solution: Choose a & b so that

$$a = \frac{\lambda - 1}{N f_{max} - \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i}$$

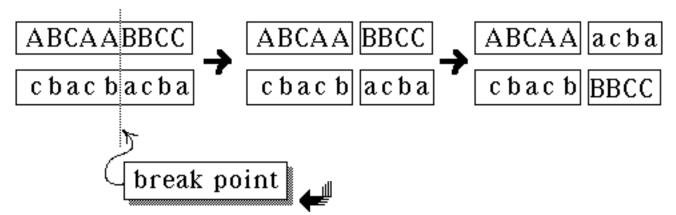
$$b = \frac{\lambda}{N} - a f_{max}$$

where

$$f_{max} \equiv -m_{i}x \ \{ \ f_{i} \ \}$$

CR0SS0VER

Two individuals can mate to generate two offspring, by randomly selecting a break point and exchanging substrings:



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MUTATION

With relatively low probability, a gene on a chromosome might change its value from one allele to another.



ABCAABBCC → ABCAABBCC → ACCAABBCC



A gene is selected at random



New value of gene is selected at random

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The GA is initiated with a random population of N individuals

At each iteration, the GA does the following:

- Evaluates the fitness of each individual in the population
- Based on fitness, chooses individuals from the population based on fitness, to form a mating pool, and pairs these individuals randomly.

- For each pair of individuals in the mating pool,

 either mates them & puts the two
 offspring into the new population

 or copies them directly into the new
 population
- 4. Carries out mutation on the new population
- 5. Checks whether to terminate.

Usually a genetic algorithm will terminate after a given number of iterations, or when nearly all of the individuals in the population are identical.

There are numerous decisions which much be made in the design of a genetic algorithm:

- population size
- probability of crossover
- · probability of mutation
- whether to "seed" the initial population with "good" solutions
- scaling factor (best to average ratio) for fitness

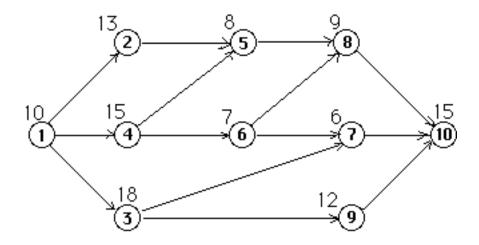
See sample Pascal code in Chapter 3: "Computer Implementation of a Genetic Algorithm", in book by D. Goldberg.



GENETIC ALGORITHM FOR LINE BALANCING

Consider the Assembly Line Balancing (ALB) Problem in which the number of stations n is fixed, and the tasks are to be assigned to the stations so as to minimize the cycle time.



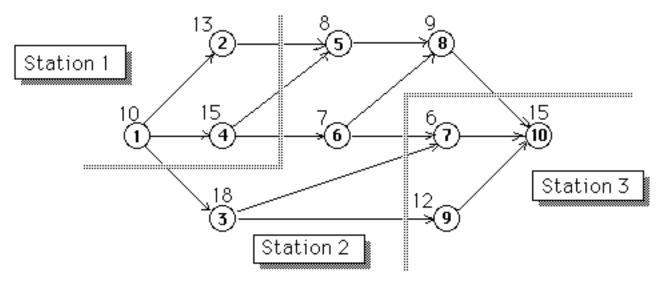




n = 3 stations 10 tasks

ENCODING

For the ALB problem, a natural encoding would be, using the station numbers as alleles, to identify the station to which task i is assigned by the number in the ith position on the string.



The assignment shown above would be coded by the string: 112122323



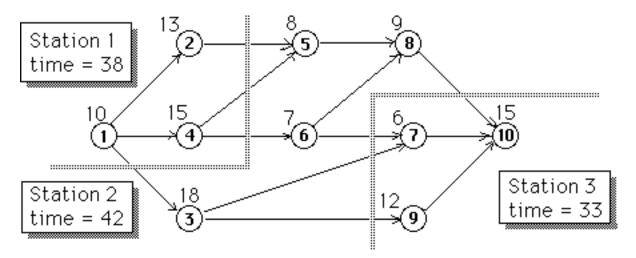
FITNESS

Our objective is to

- minimize the cycle time, while
- satisfy the precedence restrictions

The "fitness" measure of a solution should be a positive value which reflects both of these considerations,

with a larger value for those solutions which better satisfy the objective & restrictions.



The assignment of the ten tasks to the three stations shown above results in a cycle time equal to $T_{max} = max\{38, 42, 33\} = 42$.

The cycle time is to be minimized, and so is an indication of "unfitness", i.e., the larger the cycle time, the more unfit the solution is.

If T(i) is the cycle time of individual i, then the fitness could be measured by

$$f(i) = k \times M - T(i)$$

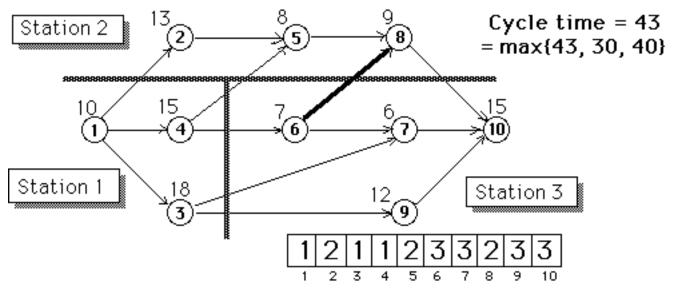
where

$$M = \underset{i}{maximum} \{T(i)\}$$

and k>1. With this definition, f(i)>0 for all i.

However, because individuals which violate one or more precedence restrictions might appear in the population, we will include a penalty P times the number V of such violations:

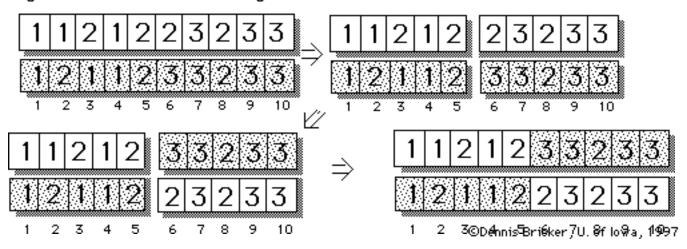
$$T(i) = T_{max} + P \times V$$

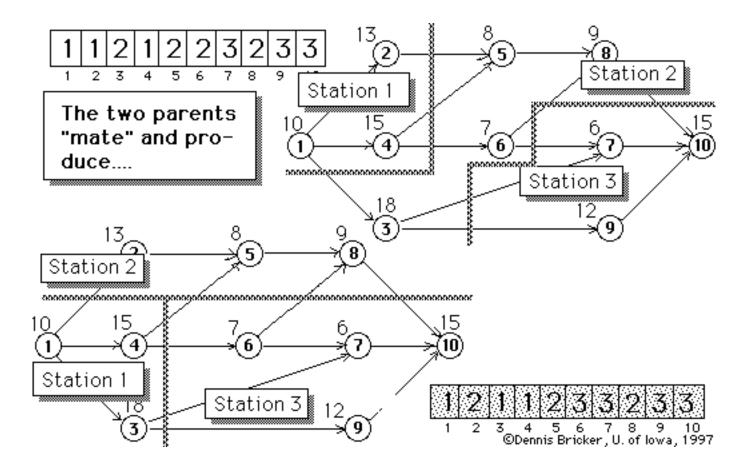


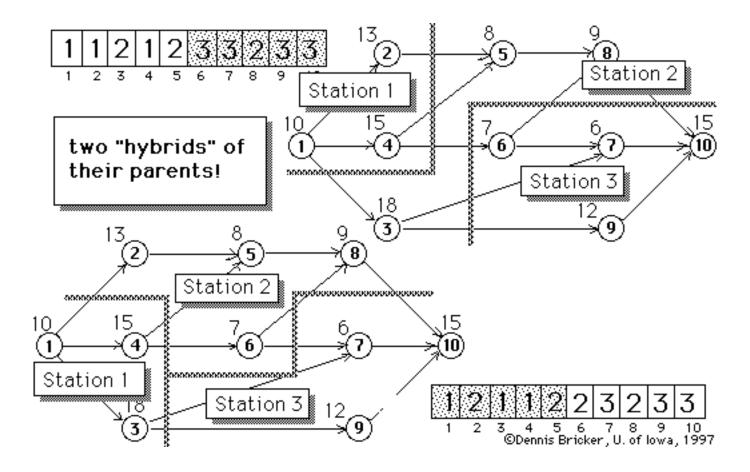
In the assignment shown, task 6 does not precede task 8 as required, and so we reduce the fitness by a penalty P=10:

CR0SS0VER

Suppose that the two individuals below have been paired for "mating", and the "break point" has been randomly chosen to be after the 5 "gene" in the string:



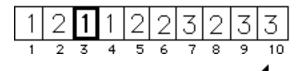




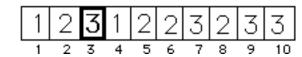
MUTATION

Mutation will be performed on each "gene" with some probability P_{mutate}, which is relatively small.

If a gene is randomly selected for mutation, it is assigned an allele selected uniformly from the set of alleles.









Consider the ALB problem used as an example earlier....

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Genetic Algorithm Parameters
```

At the 100th iteration, the algorithm converged:

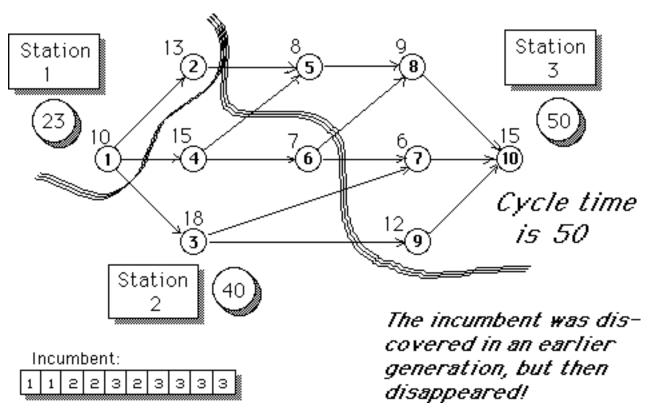
the population is completely uniform!

			#										
	Fit	Cycle	viola	Population									
#	ness	time	tions										
1	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
2	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
3	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
4	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
5	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
6	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
7	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
8	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
9	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
10	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
11	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
12	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
13	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
14	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
15	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
16	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
17	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
18	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	
19	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
50	105	50	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3

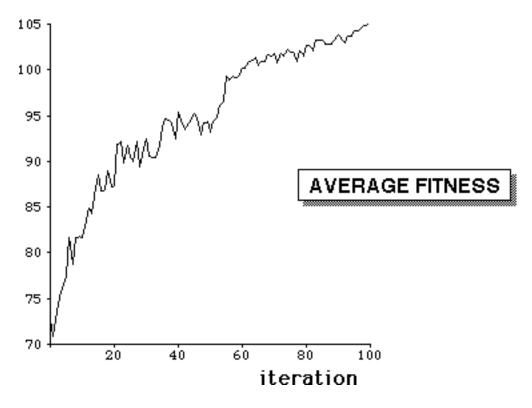
Incumbent:

1 1 2 2 3 2 3 3 3 3

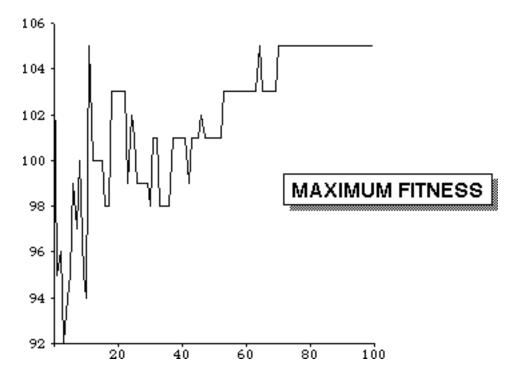
None in final generation is feasible!



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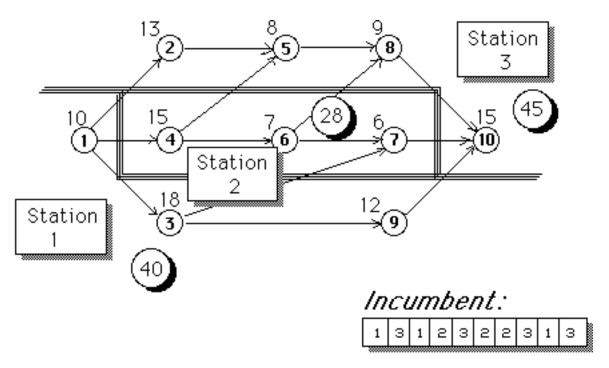
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Running again, with a higher probability of crossover (90%)

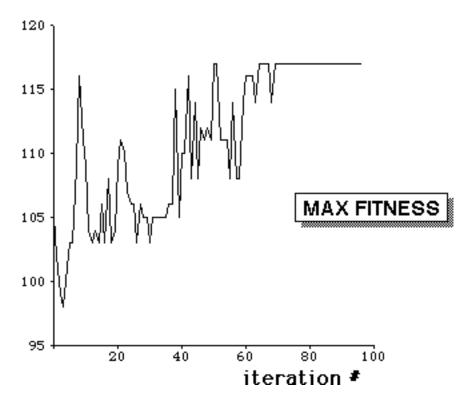
Again, the algorithm converged

(population is not uniform, but has uniform fitness!)

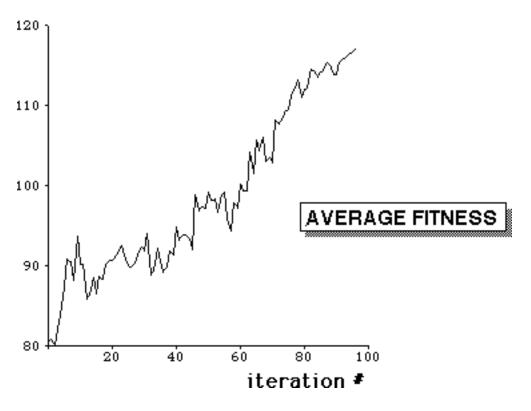
		time	tions	Population
1	117	45	Ø	1312322313
2	117	45	1	ANNA COLOR MARKAN
3	117	45	1	TO A CONTRACT OF MARKET AND THE
4	117	45	1	250, 250,000
5	117	45	Ø	1312322313
6	117	45	Ø	1312322313
7	117	45	1	the telephone of the analysis and an array of the
8	117	45	Ø	1 3 1 2 3 2 2 3 1 3
9	117	45	Ø	1312322313
10	117	45	Ø	1312322313
11	117	45	1	and the second of the second
12	117	45	1	Tanan Alian Parker Ali Mil
13	117	45	1	and the company of the American
14	117	45	1	A - AwY
15	117	45	1	Managapapapapapapapapapapapapapapapapapap
16	117	45	1	121,485.87
17	117	45	Ø	1 3 1 2 3 2 2 3 1 3
18	117	45	Ø	1 3 1 2 3 2 2 3 1 3
19	117	45	Ø	1 3 1 2 3 2 2 3 1 3
20	117	45	1	erengerengeriggeringen (dittelleriste



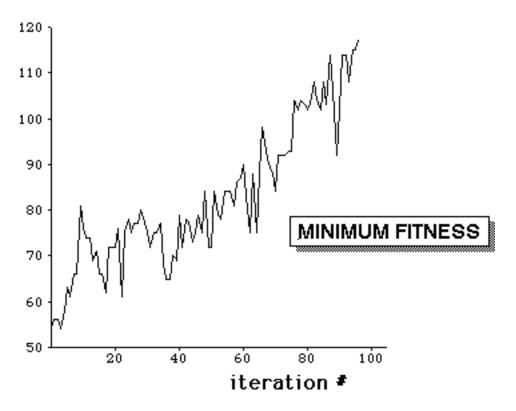
Cycle time is 45



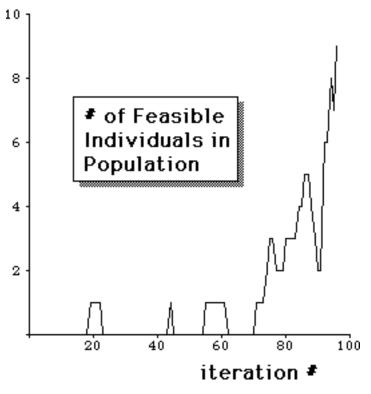
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Running the GA again with Pcross=90%, it converged in 88th generation:

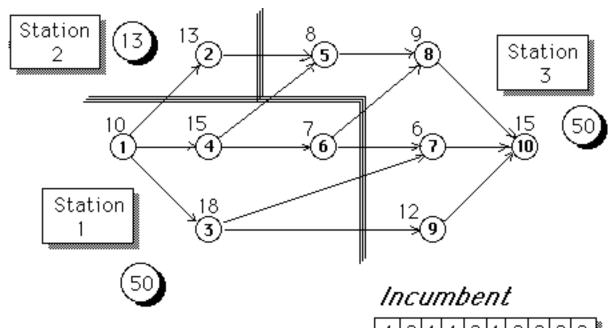
		Fitness		
generation	min	max	average	≠ feasible

commence and the commence of t	r			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
72	91	110	101.90	1
73	92	111	101.15	0
74	86	111	102.20	0
75	92	111	101.75	0
76	88	111	103.70	0
77	92	111	104.90	0
78	92	111	105.45	1
79	89	111	104.95	1
80	99	111	107.40	0
81	101	111	108.75	0
82	102	111	108.70	0
83	102	111	109.05	0
84	103	111	109.40	0
85	91	111	109.20	0
86	106	111	110.20	0
87	108	111	110.60	0
88	110	111	110.95	Ø

*** Converged!***

#	Fit ness	Cycle time	# viola tions			Po	pu'	lat	ior	ì			
1	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
2	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
3	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
4	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
5	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
6	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
7	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
8	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
9	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
10	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
1 1	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
12	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
13	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
14	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
15	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
16	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
17	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
18	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
19	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3
20	111	50	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ თ

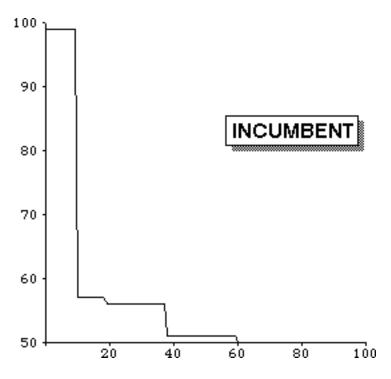
Converged to nonfeasible solution!



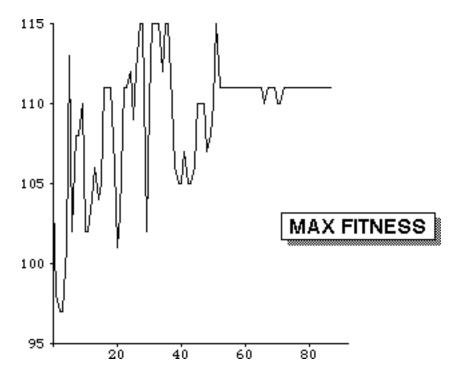
The incumbent was discovered in an earlier generation, and then disappeared! 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

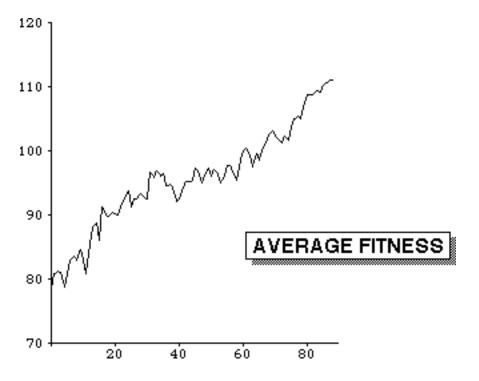
Cycle time is 50

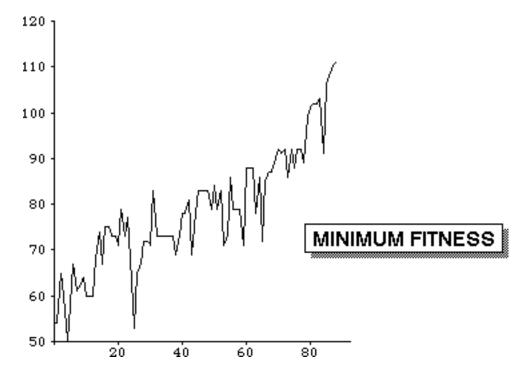
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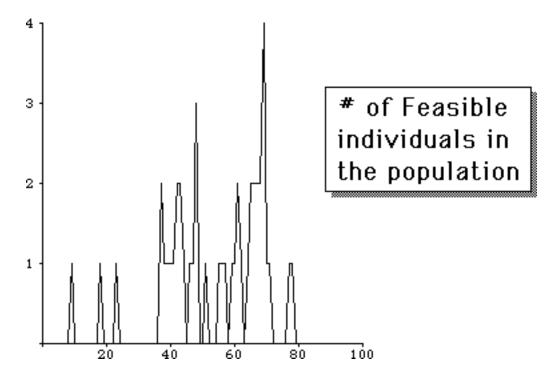
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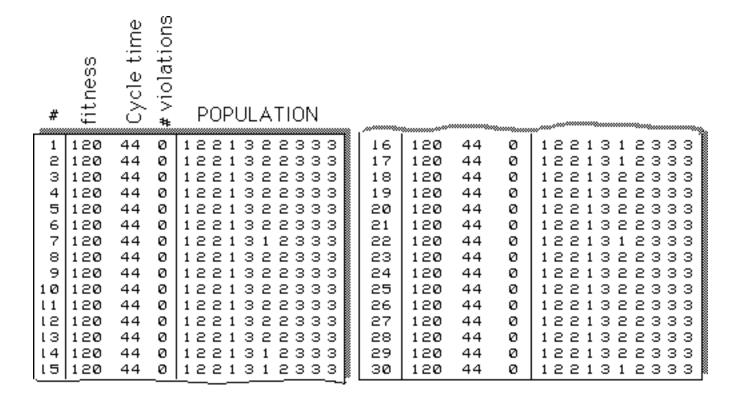
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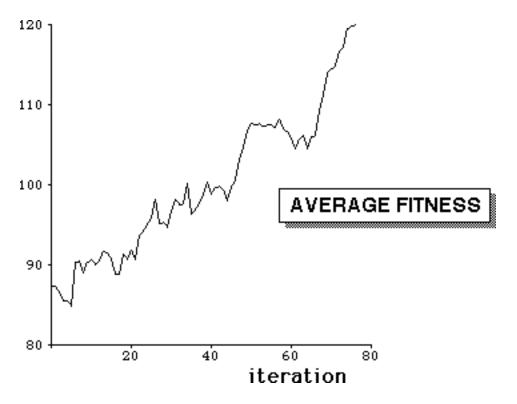


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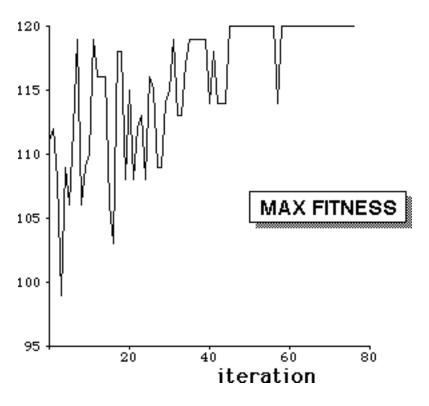
Citesos.

			Fitness		
ger	eration	min	max	average	≠ feasible
					A.
Dunning the	Canada de la casa de l				***************************************
Running the	60	83	120	106.63	4
	61	83	120	105.60	6
GA again,but	62	83	120	104.47	5
•	63	90	120	105.63	7
with popula-	64	81	120	106.20	7
	65	75	120	104.50	7
tion size =	66	84	120	106.03	7
	67	83	120	106.10	8
30, not 20	68	86	120	109.17	9
•	69	97	120	111.10	11
	70	93	120	113.90	9
	71	98	120	114.47	9
	72	98	120	114.83	13
A	73	98	120	116.63	17
Converges in	74	102	120	117.17	19
_	75	115	120	119.50	20
76th genera-	76	119	120	119.80	24
tion	Converged	! * * *			

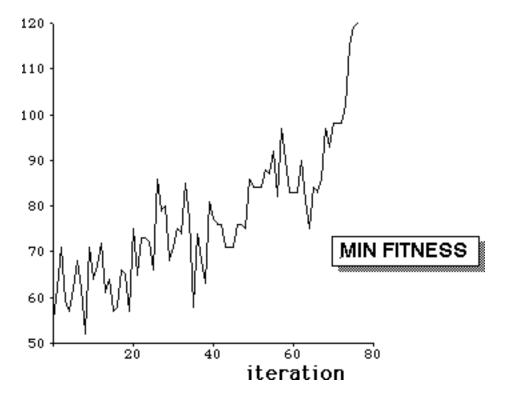




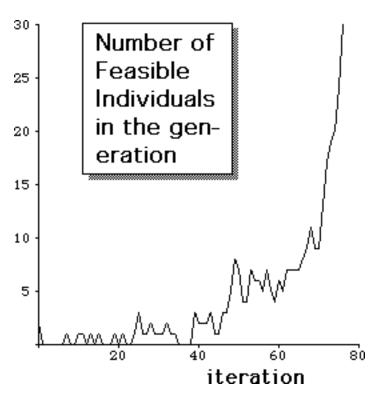
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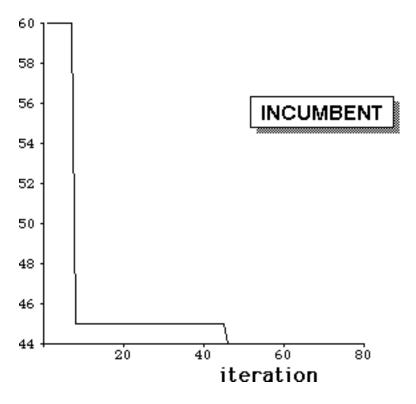
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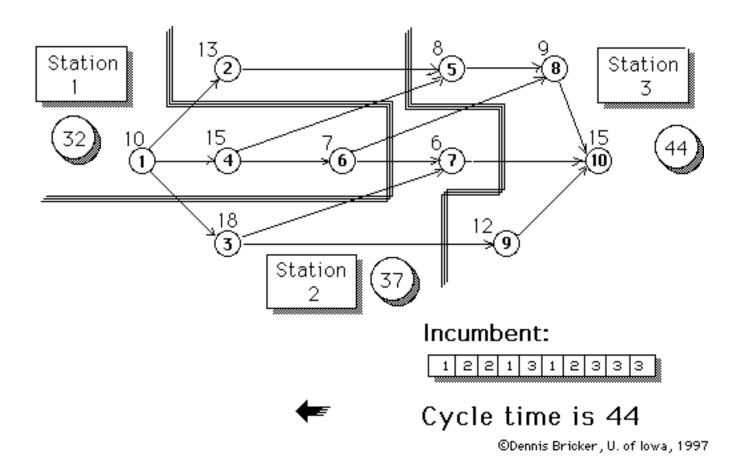
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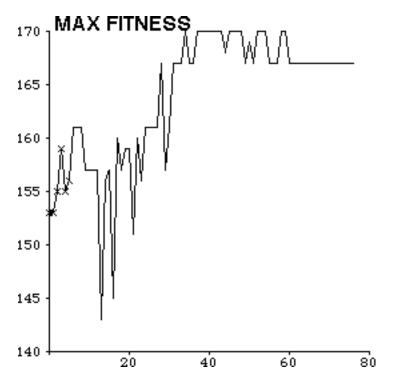


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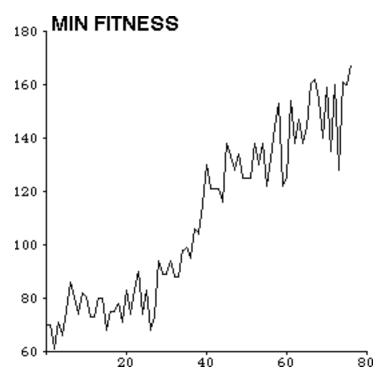


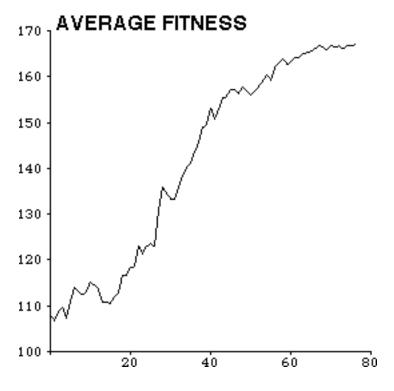
Finally, the GA was run with a population size of 50, and a probability of crossover equal to 75%.

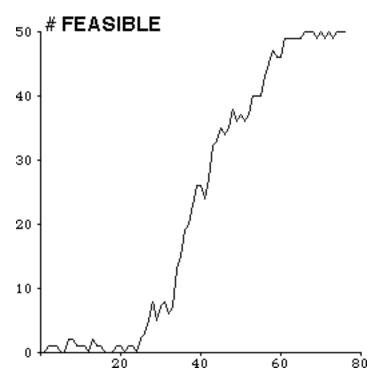
Convergence occurred on the 77th iteration.



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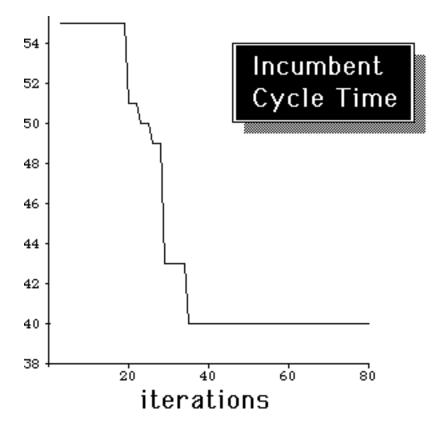


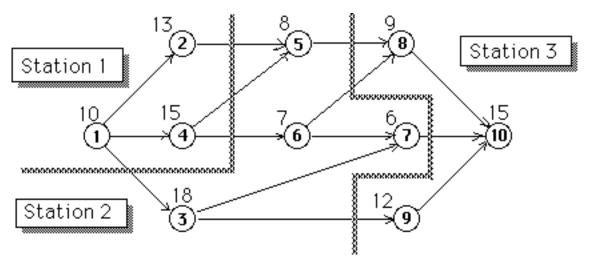
All solutions in the final population are feasible, with fitness = 167 and cycle time = 43

There are four distinct solutions in the population:

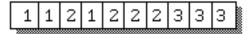
1	2	1	1	3	2	3	3	2	3
1	2	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	3
1	2	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3
1	2	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	3

The best solution was found in the 35th generation, with a cycle time equal to 40.





Cycle time = $Minimum{38, 39, 37} = 39$



Optimal Solution

The optimal cycle time is 39





The following screens contain listings of some APL functions written to implement GA for the Assembly Line Balancing problem.



```
∇GA;detail;toprinter;Max_iterations;I;detail;sho
[1]
[2]
         Genetic Algorithm
[3]
         for Assembly Line Balancing Problem
[4]
         namely, minimize Cycle Time, s.t. #stations
[5]
[6]
         Global variables used:
[7]
            Nstations = # of stations to be used
[8]
                      = vector of task times
[9]
                      = adjacency matrix of precedenc
[10] A
           Popsize
                      = population size
[11] A
           kkk = scalar > 1
[12] A
      Pcross = probability of crossover
[13] A
           Pmutate
                      = probability of mutation
[14] A
```

```
[15]
      show_pop+detail+ASKYN 'Show details?'
[16]
      _detail/'show_pop+ASKYN ''Show pools?'' '
      Max_iterations+Request_Box 'max # iterations'
[17]
[18]
     toprinter+AskPrint ◊ PrSelect
[19]
      Proloque
[20] A
[21]
      POP←Initial_Pool(Popsize,Nstations,pP)
      CycleTime+Evaluate Pool POP
[22]
[23]
      Fitness+(FkkkxUB+F/CycleTime)-CycleTime
[24]
      Incumbent+10 ♦ MinCycleTime+BIG
[25]
      MaxVals+MinVals+AvgVals+NumFeas+10 ♦ iteration+0
[26]
      Record Status
[27] 'Random Seed: ', \( \) Set_Random_Seed
```

```
[38] A
[39] A
           Mate pairs in the selected pool
[40] POP+Crossover POP[I;]
[41] A
[42] A
           Mutate individuals in the pool
[43] POP+Mutate POP[I:]
[44] A
[45] Fitness+(FkkkxUB)-CycleTime+Evaluate_Pool POP
[46] Record_Status
[47] A
           End of iteration
[48] →Ne×t
[49] '*** Maximum # of iterations performed! ***'
[50] →Stop
[51] Converged: '*** Converged!***
[52] A
[53] Stop: '*** terminated ***'
      \Box
```

```
∇POOL←Initial_Pool X:msq:rl
[1]
     А
[2]
            Get initial population for genetic algorith
[3]
[4]
            X[1]= population size
[5]
            X[2] = # of stations
[6]
            X[3] = # of tasks
[7]
     →Random △if ASKYN 'Random initial genetic pool?'
[8]
[9]
     Enter:POOL+$30 Alpha_Request_Box 'name of initial
[10] \rightarrowOK \triangleif^/(X[1]=1\uparrowpPOOL),(X[3]=\uparrow1\uparrowpPOOL),,POOL\iniX
[11] Message Box '. Error! Please try again'
[12] →Enter
[13] Random:rl+Set_Random_Seed
[14] POOL←?X[1 3]pX[2]
[15] OK:
      \Box
```

```
▽Report GA;table;M;output
[1] A
[2] A
            Report results in iteration of
[3]
            Genetic Algorithm for ALB problem
[4]
[5]
    !detail/'SHIFT^CTR UNDERLINE ''Generation #''.viteration
[6] M+1↑pPOP
[7] →(~show pop)/Summary
[8] table \leftarrow \overline{12}, \langle | \rangle, 16, \langle | \rangle' \cap FMT(q(2,M)p(1M), Fitness)
[9] table+table,'I2' OFMT POP
[10] OL, # Fitness ---mating pool----'
[11] table ◊ PAUSE ◊ →End
[12] Summary:
[13] output←(iteration,(T1↑MinVals),(T1↑MaxVals),(T1↑AvgVals)
[14] 'I7,2I10,F10.2,I10' OFMT 1 5poutput
[15] End:
```

```
⊽Record_Status:b:i
[1]
     А
[2]
           Record status of the population
[3]
           at the end of each generation
Г4Л
[5]
     MinVals+MinVals,L/Fitness
[6]
     MaxVals←MaxVals,Γ/Fitness
     AvgVals+AvgVals,AVERAGE Fitness
[7]
[8]
     NumFeas+NumFeas,+/0=nv+Number_Violations POP
     →End △if~Y/b+(nv=0)^CycleTime(T1↑MinCycleTime
[9]
[10] MinCycleTime+MinCycleTime,CycleTime[i+11b/lPopsize
[11] Incumbent+POP[i:]
[12] | CC 35 ♦ →Ø
[13] End:MinCycleTime+MinCycleTime, T11MinCycleTime
      \nabla
```

```
∇z+Evaluate_Pool POP;i;M

[1] A

[2] A Evaluate the individuals in the pool

[3] A (cycle time of assignment)

[4] A

[5] i+Ø ◊ M+(pPOP)[1] ◊ z+MpØ

[6] Next:→End Δif M⟨i+i+1

[7] z[i]+Ctime POP[i;]

[8] →Next

[9] End:
```

```
7t+Ctime pop
[1]
     А
[2]
           Compute Cycle time for solution "pop"
[3]
           where pop[i]= station to which task i is
[4]
           assigned. Include penalty times number
[5]
           of precedence violations.
[6]
[7]
           Global variable: Penalty
[8]
                              P = vector of task times
[9]
[10] t \leftarrow \Gamma / ((1Nstations) \cdot .= pop) + .xP A Cycle time
[11] t+t++/Penaltyx,A>pop...\pop A Violation penalty
      \Box
```

```
▽z+Number_Violations pop;i
[ 1 ]
     А
[2]
           Compute number of violations of
[3]
           precedence restrictions
[4]
[5]
           Global variable: A = precedence matrix
[6] →Single △if 1=pppop
      z+(1↑ppop)pØ ♦ i+Ø
[7]
[8]
   Next:→End Δif(ρpop)[1]<i+i+1
      z[i]++/,A>pop[i;]...\pop[i;]
[9]
[10] →Ne×t
[11] Single:z++/,A>pop . . \( \text{pop} \)
[12] End:
      \triangle
```

```
VI+Select Pool F:S:N:s0:s:f:n:a:b
[1]
      А
[2]
             Select individuals from pool according
[3]
           to their fitness values F
[4]
              Fitness values are scaled so as
[5]
                     to sum to 1.0 and
E63
                         Max Fitness = scalefactor + N
[7]
              Global variable: GA Scale Factor
[8]
        a+(GA_Scale_Factor-1)+((PopsizexΓ/F)-+/F)
[9]
        b \leftarrow (-a \times L/F) \Gamma (GA\_Scale\_Factor \div Popsize) - a \times \Gamma/F
[10]
       F+b+axF
[11] A
[12] S←+/F ◊ f←+\F
[13] =0 + (S + N + \rho F) \times 0.001 \times ?1000
[14] s+s0+(S÷N)x0,iN-1
[15] n \leftarrow n - 0, 1 \downarrow n \leftarrow + / (f \cdot . \geq s)
        \rightarrow0 △if Popsize=\rhoI\leftarrow((n>0)/n)\setminus(n>0)/1N
[16]
        \nabla
```

```
VQ+Sample Fitness;N;S;s0;s;F
[2]
           Select individuals from the population,
[3]
           who will survive to the next generation.
[4]
          Argument: Fitness = vector of fitness values
              of the individuals in the population,
[5]
[6]
          Result: Q = \text{vector of number of copies of}
[7]
              individuals to be included in the next ge
[8]
[9]
          Method used is "stochastic universal samplin
              due to J.E. Baker
[10]
[11] A
[12] S++/Fitness ♦ N+pFitness ♦ F++\Fitness
[13] ≤0+(?1000)xN÷1000xS
[14] s+s0+(S÷N)×0,iN-1
[15]
      Q \leftarrow (+/F \cdot . 2s) - (+/(0, -1 \downarrow F) \cdot . 2s)
      \nabla
```

```
∇Q+Crossover Pop;M;N;PAIR;I
[1]
            For each pair of individuals
[2]
            in the mating pool, either mate
[3]
     A them & put the 2 offspring into
[4]
            the pool, or else copy them into
[5]
         the new pool directly
[6] N \leftarrow (\rho Pop)[1] \diamond M \leftarrow (\rho Pop)[2]
[7] Q←(Ø, T1↑pPop)pØ
[8] A
            Randomly shuffle the pool
[9] Pop+Pop[N?N;]
[10] Next:→End △if 2>(pPop)[1]
[11] A
            Remove pair from the pool
    PAIR←(2,M)↑Pop ♦ Pop←2 Ø√Pop
[12]
[13] A
[14] →Copy Δif Pcross((?1000)÷1000
[15] A
            Choose crossover point
[16] Q+Q,[1]((2,I)^{PAIR}),^{C1}(0,I+1+^{PM}-2)^{PAIR}
[17] →Next
[18] Copy:Q+Q,[1]PAIR ◊ →Next
[19] End:Q \leftarrow Q,[1]Pop
      \triangle
```

```
∇Q←Mutate Pop;I

[1] A

[2] A Perform mutation of the individuals in pool

[3] A

[4] Q←,Pop

[5] I←(Pmutate≥(?(ρQ)ρ10000)÷10000)/ιρQ

[6] Q[]+?(ρI)ρNstations

[7] Q←(ρPop)ρQ
```

