

A Capacitated Location-Inventory Model with Stochastic Demand and Coverage Radius Constraint

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Abstract

In this paper we introduce the capacitated warehouse location model with risk pooling and coverage radius (CLMRPCR). The CLMRPCR models a logistic system in which a single plant ships one type of product to a set of retailers, each with an uncertain demand, through the capacitated warehouses. The newly important issue is considered in this model, is considering coverage radius which is extremely important for some pragmatic cases. The CLMRPCR minimizes the sum of the fixed facility location costs, transportation costs and safety stock and working inventory costs. This model simultaneously determines warehouse location, assignment of retailers to warehouses, shipment sizes from the plant to warehouses, working inventory and safety stock levels at the warehouses considering the coverage radius each DC could service a retailer. We show that this problem can be formulated as a nonlinear integer program in which the objective function is neither concave nor convex. Resorting to a recent work, a Lagrangian relaxation solution algorithm is proposed. This algorithm provides near-optimal solutions with reasonable computational requirements for large problem instances.

Keywords Location-inventory, Capacitated EOQ, Lagrangian Relaxation, Integrated Supply Chain Design

1. Introduction

Considering a supply chain network as a whole by means of integrating the three levels of decision included strategic, tactical and operational could be very efficient and lead to high cost saving and large customer service. In reality these decision are dependent to each other for example strategic location decisions have a major effect on shipment and inventory costs (Aliabadi et al. 2013, Bagherpour et al. 2009, and Frenk et al. 2014). Each of these decisions separately has been considered in literature. For example, in seminal books Hopp and Spearman (2011), Daskin (2011), and Axater (2006) focus on inventory control and discuss the inventory policies for filling retailer orders. Alternatively, location models tend to focus on determining the number and the location of facilities, as well as retailer assignments to them. For a complete review on location modeling see Daskin and Owen (2003).

Our paper relates to the extensive literature on deterministic inventory models as well. The Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) models are an important building block of research on supply chain for many years. The EOQ model is the building block of deterministic inventory models. For a complete review of EOQ models, we refer the readers to Choi (2014); For the treatment of EOQ models with general cost functions, Frenk et al. (2014) is a good source; for an application of EOQ model to a distribution network see Sajadifar and Pourghannad (2010) and Pourghannad et al. (2015). Also, although we focus on the deterministic approximation models, we acknowledge that there is a body of inventory literature focusing on stochastic inventory models; Axsater (1996) and Pourghannad (2013) apply the deterministic EOQ formula in stochastic inventory control. Bagherpour et al. (2009) propose a novel approach for an inventory model of a remanufacturing system with stochastic decomposition Process. Shahraki et al. (2015) find optimal locations of electric public charging stations using stochastic real world vehicle travel patterns. Sajadifar and Pourghannad (2012) propose the cost function of an integrated dyadic supply chain with uncertainty in the supply.

One of the early works in incorporating location models and inventory costs is Baumol and Wolf (1958). They state that inventory costs should add a square root term to the objective function of the uncapacitated fixed charge location problem. Shen (2000), Shen and Qi (2007), and Daskin et al. (2002) present a joint location-inventory model in which location, shipment and nonlinear safety stock inventory costs are included in the same model. In fact, Shen et al. (2007) and Daskin et al. (2002) present the location model with risk pooling (LMRP). Shen and Qi (2007) develop a model in supply chain system with uncertainty in demands. They should determine the number and location of the DCs and also the assignment of retailers' demands to the DCs. They apply routing costs instead of direct shipments which is much more realistic and use Lagrangian relaxation as solution algorithm. Sourirajan et al. (2007) and Sourirajan et al. (2009) develop an integrated network design model that simultaneously considers the operational aspects of lead time (based on queueing analysis) and safety stock. In 2007 they use Lagrangian relaxation and in 2009 they utilize Genetic algorithm and then they compare its' results to solutions of Lagrangian relaxation. Ozsen et al. (2008) develop a capacitated location model with risk pooling in which they consider capacity constraints based on maximum inventory accumulation. They use Lagrangian relaxation as a solution algorithm. They also present a recent work called a multi-sourcing capacitated location model with risk pooling (Ozsen et al. 2009). Shen (2000) studies multiproduct extension of LMRP and Ghezavati et al. (2009) present a new model for distribution networks considering service level constraint and coverage radius. Ross and Khajehnezhad (2017) develop an integrated multi-echelon location-inventory model under forward and reverse product flows in the used merchandise retail sector.

In our paper, we propose a supply chain design model in which a single plant ships one type of product to a set of retailers, through the capacitated warehouses. The objective of the CLMRPCR is to minimize the sum of the fixed facility location, transportation safety stock and working inventory costs. This model simultaneously determines warehouse location, assignment of retailers to warehouses, shipment sizes from the plant to warehouses, working inventory and safety stock levels at the warehouses considering the coverage radius each DC could service a retailer. In this model the capacity constraint ensures that the maximum inventory accumulation at a DC does not exceed its capacity. The CLMRPCR is formulated as a nonlinear integer program in which the objective function is neither concave nor convex. According to Ozsen et al. (2009), a Lagrangian relaxation solution algorithm is proposed for CLMRPCR similar to CLMRP. Therefore, we use an efficient algorithm similar to Ozsen et al. (2009). This algorithm provides near-optimal solutions with reasonable computational requirements for large problem instances.

A novel issue that we consider in our paper is coverage radius. This issue is extremely prominent due to many reasons. In many cases we have a deteriorated product cannot be sent to a far place, hence considering coverage radius is inevitable. Also because of increasing in fuel price in recent years, it would be better to reduce the total transportation, so coverage radius would be important. Besides these reasons, the most important matter in considering coverage radius would be environmental conditions, because by coverage radius restriction, we can decrease the transportation and it leads to declining in fuel consumption so naturally, the harmful environmental effects due to air pollution would be less. This phenomenon is much more important than the other reasons.

2. A Capacitated Location-Inventory Model with Stochastic Demand and Coverage Radius Constraint

We make the following assumptions: there is a single product, direct shipments from DCs to retailers, single sourcing, we consider coverage radius, Poisson distribution for all demands. Each DC follows an inventory control policy which is an approximation to the (Q,r) model using two stages. Resorting to Ozsen et al. (2009), to minimize the working inventory costs, where the order quantity is the decision variable, we require to solve the capacitated EOQ problem for DC_j (for a general treatment of EOQ models see Choi (2014) and see Minner and Pourghannad (2010) for an example of application). Before formulation, we define all the parameters in table 1 as below:

Table 1. Notations and parameters

Notation	Parameter
F_j	: Fixed cost of placing an order
h	: Annual holding cost per item
g_j	: Fixed cost of shipping an order DC_j
$G_j(Q_j)$: Expected annual working inventory cost
a_j	: Per-unit shipment cost from the plant to DC_j
β	: Weight factor for transportation costs
θ	: Weight factor for inventory costs

- f_j : Fixed location cost
- d_{ij} : Cost per unit to ship from candidate DC site j to retailer i
- μ_i : The mean of daily demand for each retailer i
- σ_i^2 : The variance of daily demand for each retailer i

β and θ are used in experimental design. Let Q_j and $W_j^*(D_j)$ be order quantity and optimal total working inventory cost for DC _{j} respectively. So we have

$$W_j^*(D_j) = \begin{cases} \text{Minimize } G_j(Q_j) = F_j \frac{D_j}{Q_j} + \beta(g_j \frac{D_j}{Q_j} + a_j D_j) + \theta \frac{hQ_j}{2} \\ \text{subject to } Q_j + z_\alpha \sqrt{L_j D_j / \chi} + L_j \frac{D_j}{\chi} \leq C_j \\ Q_j \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Coverage radius parameter:

$$Z_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{If a DC at site } j \text{ can cover customer } i \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

Decision variables:

$$X_j = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if we locate at candidate site} \\ 0, & \text{if not} \end{cases}$$

$$Y_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if demands at customer } i \text{ are assigned to a DC} \\ & \text{at candidate site } j, \\ 0, & \text{if not} \end{cases}$$

Hence, we can formulate CLMRPCR as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } & \sum_{j \in J} \left[f_j X_j + \beta \chi \sum_{i \in I} d_{ij} \mu_i Y_{ij} + \theta h z_\alpha \sqrt{L_j} \sqrt{\sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}} \right] \\ & + \sum_{j \in J} \left[(F_j + \beta g_j) \frac{\chi \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}}{Q_j} + \beta \chi \sum_{i \in I} a_j \mu_i Y_{ij} + \theta \frac{h Q_j}{2} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Subject to } \sum_{j \in J} Y_{ij} Z_{ij} = 1, \quad \forall i \in I \quad (2)$$

$$Y_{ij} \leq Z_{ij} X_j, \quad \forall i \in I, j \in J \quad (3)$$

$$Q_j + \left(z_\alpha \sqrt{L_j} \sqrt{\sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}} + L_j \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij} \right) \leq C_j, \quad \forall j \in J \quad (4)$$

$$Q_j \geq 0, \quad \forall j \in J \quad (5)$$

$$Y_{ij} \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall i \in I, j \in J \quad (6)$$

$$X_j \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall j \in J \quad (7)$$

The objective function (1) sums the fixed cost of locating DCs, the DC-retailer transportation cost, the safety stock cost, and the working inventory cost. Constraints (2) guarantees that all customers allocated to exactly one DC with

considering coverage radius. Constraints (3) say that a customer can be allocated to a DC if that customer is in the coverage radius of DC and DC is opened. (4) and (5) are constraints of the capacitated EOQ problem discussed before. (6) and (7) are standard binary constraints.

To simplify, instead of representing the working inventory cost and the order quantity, we include $W_j^*(D_j)$ in the formulation above. As you know $D_j = \sum_{i \in I} \chi \mu_i Y_{ij}$. In addition, for further simplicity, we have:

$$\bar{W}_j^* (\chi \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}) = W_j^* (\chi \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}) + \theta h z_\alpha \sqrt{L_j} \sqrt{\sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}}$$

So CLMRPCR formulation is converted to:

$$(CLMRPCR) \text{ Minimize } \sum_{j \in J} \left[f_j X_j + \beta \chi \sum_{i \in I} d_{ij} \mu_i Y_{ij} + \bar{W}_j^* (\chi \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}) \right] \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Subject to } \sum_{j \in J} Y_{ij} Z_{ij} = 1, \quad \forall i \in I \quad (9)$$

$$Y_{ij} \leq X_j Z_{ij}, \quad \forall i \in I, j \in J \quad (10)$$

$$Y_{ij} \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall i \in I, j \in J \quad (11)$$

$$X_j \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall j \in J \quad (12)$$

□

3. Solution Algorithm

3.1. Obtaining a Lower Bound

Because CLMRPCR model is very close to CLMRP model, so we can corroborate this matter that Lagrangian relaxation would be efficient for CLMRPCR. Now, by relaxing the assignment constraints, we obtain the following Lagrangian Dual problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}_\pi \text{ Min}_{X,Y} & \sum_{j \in J} \left[f_j X_j + \beta \chi \sum_{i \in I} d_{ij} \mu_i Y_{ij} + \bar{W}_j^* (\chi \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}) \right] + \sum_{i \in I} \pi_i (1 - \sum_{j \in J} Y_{ij} Z_{ij}) \\ & = \sum_{j \in J} \left[f_j X_j + \sum_{i \in I} (\beta \chi d_{ij} \mu_i - \pi_i Z_{ij}) Y_{ij} + \bar{W}_j^* (\chi \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i Y_{ij}) \right] + \sum_{i \in I} \pi_i \quad (13) \end{aligned}$$

$$Y_{ij} \leq X_j Z_{ij}, \quad \forall i \in I, j \in J \quad (14)$$

$$Y_{ij} \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall i \in I, j \in J \quad (15)$$

$$X_j \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall j \in J \quad (16)$$

For fixed values of the Lagrangian multipliers, π , the aim is minimizing (13) over the location variables, X_j , and the assignment variables, Y_{ij} . For a given π vector, the problem decreases to the following subproblem for each distribution center j :

Table 2. Parameters for numerical studies

F_j	g_j	a_j	h	z_α	χ	L	β	θ
10	10	5	1	1.96	1	1	0.0004	0.01

We tested our algorithm for the CLMRPCR on a 15-node data set consists of the 15 capitals with the highest demand from the 49 capitals of USA. We use the data which is described in Daskin (2011). Each of nodes represents a retail location and each retail location is a candidate DC location. The mean demand for each node (capital) was obtained by dividing the population of that capital by 1000. Fixed facility location costs were obtained by dividing the facility location costs of those capitals defined in Daskin (2011) by 100. Also, d_{ij} was set to the great circle distance between these locations. other parameters were set as below:

Table 3. Results for 15-node data set (R=500)

Prob no.	No. rets	DCs opened	DCs closed	No. of Open DC	Last capacitated DC	Open DCs with limited capacity	Total cost	Lag iter
1	15	1,2,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,15	N/A	10	N/A	N/A	8594	12
2	15	None	None	10	2	2	9486	13
3	15	None	None	10	6	2,6	10124	13
4	15	None	None	10	8	2,6,8	10593	15
5	15	None	None	10	11	2,6,8,11	10894	11
6	15	None	None	10	7	2,6,8,11,7	11045	14
7	15	None	None	10	12	2,6,8,11,7,12	11110	12
8	15	None	None	10	10	2,6,8,11,7,12,10	11453	13
9	15	None	13	9	13	2,6,8,11,7,12,10	11873	17
10	15	None	None	9	15	2,6,8,11,7,12,10,15	12040	14

Table 4. Results for 15-node data set (R=3000)

Prob no.	No. rets	DCs opened	DCs closed	No. of Open DC	Last capacitated DC	Open DCs with limited capacity	Total cost	Lag iter
1	15	1,5,11	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	8003	14
2	15	None	None	3	11	11	9104	16
3	15	2	None	4	5	11,5	9673	12
4	15	None	None	4	1	11,5,1	9986	17
5	15	6	2	4	2	11,5,1	10012	14
6	15	12	None	5	6	11,5,1,6	10473	12
7	15	9	12	5	12	11,5,1,6	10783	15
8*	15	None	None	5	9	11,5,1,6,9	10994	11

The reason for being $\chi=L=1$ is due to β and θ so as transportation and inventory costs should be logical compared to each other and fixed location costs. For Lagrangian relaxation, the parameters of maximum number of iterations and number of iterations in which the objective function not improved are set to 200 and 10 respectively. Also the initial value of “ a ” is set to 2 in which “ a ” is scalar used in computing the step size. The initial value of π_i is set to $10 \bar{\mu} + 10 f_i$. The notation $\bar{\mu}$ stands for the average mean demand across all retailers. We terminated the Lagrangian procedure based on the maximum number of iterations at each node or number of iterations in which the objective function of CLMRPCR not improved, whichever occurred first. Although in none of our experiments, the procedure reaches the maximum number of iterations. The program was written in MATLAB 2008. We have tested different values of the DC capacities to vary the difficulty of the instances. (See Ozsen et al., 2008). Now according to the parameters, we set two tables; the first considers coverage radius (R=500), and the second one does not consider it. (R=3000). The column of “Last capacitated DC” refers to Additional DC assigned a limited capacity.

As seen, in the case with coverage radius (R=500), the number of DCs are more than in the case without coverage radius (R=3000). One reason for that is due to the concept of coverage radius. It means that when we consider coverage radius, a number of retailers cannot be allocated to some candidate DCs, hence the number of open DCs increases to serve the total demand of retailers. In this sense, the fixed location costs increase but the transportation costs decrease. Another matter to comparing these two tables is due to the total costs. In the case with coverage radius, because of considering a parameter as coverage radius in CLMRPCR which is a restricting parameter, the total costs are more than the other case without coverage radius. But as you observe, the difference between these costs are not a large value due to the parameters we have set for fixed location, inventory and transportation costs. None of the problem

instances reaches the maximum of Lagrangian iterations, and in all of them the condition about the Number of iterations in which the objective function of CLMRPCR not improved, satisfied. These two tables were set for $(\beta, \theta) = (0.0004, 0.01)$ but for more investigation on the network design and its costs, we can vary these values and then compare the results to previous. Another important issue in this section is related to capacity. In both tables, when we limited the capacity of a DC, in most of the time, it remained open in optimal solution. It means that restricting capacity could not be a main factor for opening or closing a DC.

4. Conclusion and Future Research

CLMRPCR is a more practical model than CLMRP, because besides all of the properties of CLMRP, it considers coverage radius which is a real factor in the business world. There are some reasons for that we mentioned before. In addition, the CLMRPCR has the properties of CLMRP. For example, ordering more in smaller quantities, developing the CFLP and providing a more reasonable measure of capacity for warehouses are some of them.

We want to talk about some extensions for CLMRPCR. A natural extension to the CLMRPCR would be to consider multi products. Another extension would be to incorporate the CLMRPCR with stock-out costs. Also considering multi-sourcing instead of one-sourcing would be a logical extension that would lead to lower logistics costs. Also, in our model we assumed direct shipments from DCs to the assigned retailers. But in reality, the shipments are a traveling-salesman-like tour. Hence considering routing costs instead of direct shipment costs would be more realistic.

As one part of future research, one can focus on developing algorithms to solve the problem we study in this paper for large scale supply chains with thousands of nodes. Examples of such algorithms in supply chain settings are a two-level GA algorithm by Aliabadi *et al.*, 2013, Neural network algorithm by Avsar and Aliabadi, 2015, or agent-based algorithms by Aliabadi *et al.*, 2017.

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Biography

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