

ANNOUNCING:

2012 Problem Solving Competition

Applying Advanced Analytics to Railroad Problems for Fun and Prizes!



Movement Planner Algorithm Design For Dispatching On Multi-Track Territories

The Movement Planner Problem can be described by the following: Given a dispatching territory, a dispatcher's task is to give track authorities to trains to maximize the overall system efficiency of the trains while abiding by a number of business rules. This is done by deciding which train takes the siding when two trains traveling in opposite directions meet each other, or when a faster train is to overtake the leading slower train. The dispatcher must also decide on the departure and hold times at the terminals where trains originate terminate or stop for work events (picking up cars, setting out cars, inspection, fueling, changing crews, etc.).

Apart from the cash prizes, the first prize winner's contribution will also be considered for publication in Networks. The paper still needs to go through the journal's normal refereeing procedure; however, the paper will receive an expedited refereeing and publication process.

Visit the competition web site (<http://www.informs.org/Community/RAS/Problem-Solving-Competition>) for complete problem details.

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RAS provides a forum for bringing together practitioners, consultants, and academics interested in applying Operations Research and Management Science techniques to the railroad industry. Learn more at <http://www.informs.org/Community/RAS>.