

Management Science Seminar

University Timetabling Problems: The Case of the University of Dar es salaam

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Time: 3pm to 4pm
Room: Lecture Theatre 8

Timetabling involves scheduling of resources such as lecturers, courses, classes and rooms to a number of timeslots on daily basis while satisfying a set of constraints. The constraints are categorized into hard and soft depending on their importance. Hard constraints must be satisfied, while soft constraints have to be satisfied as much as possible. Timetabling problems are of much interest because of their difficulty (NP-Hard) and the fact that they vary considerably from one University to another.

We investigate the case of the University of Dar-as-salaam (UDSM). Two types of problems are involved in the case of University timetabling i.e. course timetabling and examinations timetabling. In this presentation, a specific case of course timetabling at UDSM using Simulated Annealing technique is discussed. We conclude that, the approach gives good results given a careful selection of parameters. Lastly, suggestions on future research directions are presented.