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Greedy randomized adaptive search procedure for joint optimization of unicast and anycast traffic in spectrally-spatially flexible optical networks

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Abstract

The volume of data traffic in backbone networks is increasing at a speed that exceeds the growth rates of capacities offered in currently used wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) networks. As a short term solution to the potential capacity crunch, the concept of flexible-grid elastic optical networks is nowadays implemented in many backbone networks. However, in a longer term the space division multiplexing (SDM) technology is the most promising solution for satisfying the capacity requirements in future optical networks. The combination of both technologies allows for realization of spectrally-spatially flexible optical networks (SS-FONs). In this paper, we focus on a network scenario in which two different types of traffic flows are carried over an SS-FON, namely, unicast and anycast flows. Unicast flows are used for basic one-to-one communication, while any cast flows --- defined as one-to-one-ofmany communication - are related to the network traffic generated in data centers and the fact that data centers placed in different network locations can provide the same service or content to network users. For provisioning of lightpaths for both types of traffic, we address the basic optimization problem in SS-FONs, which is routing, space and spectrum allocation (RSSA). The aim of this study is threefold. First, we propose an effective metaheuristic method based on the greedy randomized adaptive search procedure (GRASP) to solve the RSSA problem. Second, we compare performance of the proposed GRASP method against reference optimization approaches. Finally, we present and discuss a wide range of experiments focused on analysis of SS-FONs with joint unicast and anycast traffic. The main conclusions are: (i) the proposed GRASP algorithm provides results very close to optimal (only 0.5% optimality gap) for smaller problem instances and significantly outperforms other heuristics for larger problem instances (in average around 6.8 % better than the reference simulated annealing

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