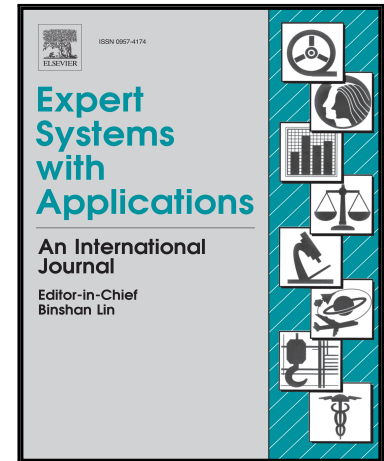


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Harmony search for the layout design of an unequal area facility

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**Highlights**

- We consider a layout design of unequal area facilities.
- Harmony search method is applied with modification to improve its performance
- An effective slicing tree representation for layout configuration is presented
- New penalty scheme for solution selection is introduced
- The proposed approach generates the favorable solutions for well-known problem set

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