



# Exact and heuristic procedures for the Heijunka-flow shop scheduling problem with minimum makespan and job replicas

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## Abstract

In this paper, a new problem of job sequences in a workshop is presented, taking into account non-unit demands for the jobs and whose objective is to minimize the total completion time for all the jobs ( $C_{max}$ ) satisfying a set of restrictions imposed on the problem to preserve the production mix. Two procedures are proposed to solve the new problem: Mixed Integer Linear Programming and a Metaheuristic based on Multistart and Local Search. The two proposed procedures are tested using instance set Nissan-9Eng.I, in both cases giving rise to highly satisfactory performance both in quality of solutions obtained and in the CPU times required. Through a case study of the Nissan engine manufacturing plant in Barcelona, our economic-productive analysis reveals that it is possible to save an average of € 1162.83 per day, manufacturing 270 engines, when we transform the current assembly line into a Heijunka-Flow Shop.

**Keywords** Flow shop scheduling problem · Overall demand · Heijunka · Mixed integer linear programming · Multistart · Local search · Metaheuristic

## 1 Preliminaries

The *Flow Shop Scheduling Problem* (FSP) is a sequencing problem that has received considerable attention from professionals and researchers in recent decades due in part to the wide range of production environments it can model [19].

A recent version of FSP is the  $Fm/\beta/\gamma/d_i$  family of sequencing problems [3] and (2020), which is to establish an application between the elements of a set  $T$  of ordinals ( $T$  elements) corresponding to the positions in the production sequence:  $\pi(T) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T)$ , and the elements of a set  $J$  of jobs or products ( $D$  elements, with  $D = T$ ).

The jobs or products in group  $J$  are classified into exclusive types or classes,  $J_i$ , satisfying the following properties:  $J = \bigcup_{i \in I} J_i$  and  $J_i \cap J_{i'} = \emptyset$ ,  $\forall \{i, i'\} \in I$ , where  $I$  is the set of job types ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ).

In  $Fm/\beta/\gamma/d_i$  problems, the  $\beta$  parameter can take the permutation (prmu) or blocking (block) values, while the  $\gamma$  parameter corresponds the efficiency metrics to

optimize ( $C_{max}$ ,  $C_{med}$ , etc.), vector  $\vec{d} = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  represents the demand plan for the considered job types, and  $d_i$  symbolizes the number of jobs of type  $i \in I$  within  $J$ , that is to say  $d_i = |J_i| \forall i \in I$ , satisfying:  $\sum_{i \in I} d_i = D = T$ .

The units of  $J$  travel in order through a set  $K$  of  $m$  stations on an assembly line arranged in series, and the production of a job of type  $i \in I$  requires a heterogeneous processing time  $p_{i,k}$  in workstation  $k \in K$  ( $k = 1, \dots, m$ ).

The purpose of problems  $Fm/\beta/\gamma/d_i$  is to obtain a sequence of replicated jobs or products ( $d_i$ ), in a line with  $m$  machines, with the possibility of wblocking or not, according to the  $\beta$  parameter, and with the objective of optimizing the efficiency metric represented by the  $\gamma$  parameter ( $C_{max}$ ,  $C_{med}$ , etc.).

Therefore, using the notation proposed by Graham et al. [11], both the  $Fm/prmu/\gamma$  problems [1, 10, 13, 20, 22, 23] as the  $Fm/block/\gamma$  problems [4, 8, 16, 18, 21] are particular cases of the family  $Fm/\beta/\gamma/d_i$ , when  $d_i = 1$  for all  $i \in I$ .

On the other hand, completing all jobs in the shortest time possible ( $\min C_{max}$ ) is not the only desirable objective when establishing a product manufacturing sequence. In production environments that are governed by the Just-in-Time manufacturing ideals [17], the production sequences must have properties that are linked to the *Heijunka* concept

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[9, 12, 14], whose meaning is to achieve regularity of production.

El The Heijunka (regularity) concept can be applied to any constituent element of Just in Time production, the most obvious criteria being the following:

- C1. Regularize the consumption of the parts. The purpose of this criterion is to control the stock levels of the component parts of mixed products (e.g., in the manufacture of engines: block, cylinder head, cylinders and pistons, camshaft, gear change, etc.) throughout the manufacturing process on the assembly line.
- C2. Regularize workloads at line stations. The purpose of this criterion is to avoid or smooth the work overloads that are generated when a manufacturing sequence consecutively contains a series of products rich in process time. This criterion is purely ergonomic and its objective is to avoid or reduce the risk of injury to line operators due to intermittent overloads.
- C3. Regularize the manufacture of mixed products throughout the manufacturing sequence. This criterion tries to collect, in a simple way and to facilitate management, the benefits of criteria C1 and C2, since it encourages, without optimizing, both the regularity of the consumption of the component parts and the regularity of the workloads in the production line.

On the other hand, the incorporation of Heijunka in production sequence problems can be characterized by three methods:

- M1. Constraints: For example, imposing minimum and maximum manufacturing levels on the job types ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) in each manufacturing cycle ( $t = 1, \dots, T$ ) and/or imposing minimum and maximum consumption values on the component parts of mixed products in each manufacturing cycle.
- M2. Objective function: Maximizing the constancy of the product manufacturing rates [15] and/or the component consumption rates [5] and/or the rates of the required processing times in the workstations.
- M3. Mixed characterization: There is also the possibility of establishing a mixed characterization of Heijunka, which incorporates into the sequence models the two previous methods: (a) restrictions and (b) an objective function.

In this work, the third criterion (C3) and the first method (M1) have been added to the genuine  $Fm/prmu/C_{\max}/d_i$  problem to achieve sequences with minimum makespan ( $C_{\max}$ : time that elapses from the start of work to the end) and with some properties that propitiate the regularity of product manufacturing through restrictions.

The main contributions of this work are: (i) description and formulation of a new problem that we call *Heijunka –  $Fm/prmu/C_{\max}/d_i$* ; (ii) design and implementation of a Metaheuristic based on Multistart and Local Search (MS-Q) to solve the new problem; (iii) a computational analysis of MS-Q and MILP (CPLEX solver) performance in CPU time and quality of solutions using real-dimension instances related to case study; and (iv) an economic-productive feasibility study to implement the solutions on a production line.

The remaining text has the following structure. Section 2 is dedicated to presenting the new problem under study which is illustrated with an example in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, the designed MS-Q procedure is described. In Sect. 5, a case study with its data is shown, as well as the procedures used and their results. Finally, Sect. 6 offers some conclusions about this work.

## 2 Heijunka – $Fm/prmu/C_{\max}/d_i$ Problem

To incorporate Heijunka, we will indicate that the sequence  $\pi(T) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T)$ , which is composed of  $T$  units of jobs, has the property of preservation of the production mix if the set of restrictions (1) is satisfied. We also call this property *Quota property*:

$$\lambda_i t \leq X_{i,t} \leq \lambda_i t + 1 \quad \forall i \in I, \quad \forall t \in T; X_{i,T} = d_i \quad \forall i \in I \quad (1)$$

where:

- $I$ : set of product types,  $i = 1, \dots, |I|$ .
- $T$ : set of manufacturing cycles in every demand plan,  $t = 1, \dots, |T|$ ;  $T \equiv |T|$ .
- $d_i$ : demand for units of type  $i \in I$  in an arbitrary demand plan.
- $\lambda_i$ : proportion of units of type  $i \in I$ ;  $\lambda_i = d_i/T \quad \forall i \in I$ .
- $X_{i,t}$ : number of units of type  $i \in I$  in the partial sequence  $\pi(t) \subseteq \pi(T)$ : actual production associated with the partial sequence  $\pi(t)$ .

The *Quota property* (1) imposes that the actual production  $X_{i,t}$ , for every product ( $i \in I$  and every manufacturing cycle  $t \in T$ , must be an integer as close as possible to its ideal production  $\lambda_i t$ . The ideal production ( $\lambda_i t$ ) is defined as the quota of manufacturing time given to a product ( $i \in I$ ) until the end of each production cycle ( $t = 1, \dots, |T|$ ).

Under such conditions, we can present a model for the  $Fm/prmu/C_{\max}/d_i$  that accounts for two types of aspects:

Efficiency: objective function to minimize the makespan  $C_{\max}$ .

Technical-productive: Quota property to enforce preservation of the production mix in the Heijunka manufacturing sequence  $\pi(T)$ .

Effectively, assuming the following data is known:

- The set of job types ( $I : i = 1, \dots, |I|$ ) and the set of stations ( $K : k = 1, \dots, |K|$ ).
- The processing times  $p_{i,k}$  ( $i \in I \wedge k \in K$ ) of the operations.
- The demand vectors  $\vec{d} = (d_1, \dots, d_{|I|})$  and production mix  $\vec{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{|I|})$ .

The problem is finding a *Quota sequence* of  $T$  jobs  $\pi(T) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T)$  with minimum makespan  $C_{\max}$  that satisfies the demand plan represented by the vector  $\vec{d}$ . The formulation of the model is as follows.

### 2.1 Model Q-FSP

$$\min \mathcal{F}(\pi(T)) = C_{\max} \equiv C_{m,T} \tag{2}$$

$$C_{k,t}(\pi_t) = S_{k,t}(\pi_t) + p_{\pi_t,k} \quad \forall k \in K \quad \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{3}$$

$$S_{k,t}(\pi_t) = \max(C_{k,t-1}(\pi_{t-1}), C_{k-1,t}(\pi_t)) \quad \forall k \in K \quad \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{4}$$

$$X_{i,t} = \left| \{ \pi_\tau \in \pi(t) \subseteq \pi(T) : \pi_\tau = i \in I \} \right| \quad \forall i \in I \quad \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{5}$$

$$\lambda_i t \leq X_{i,t} \leq \lambda_i t \quad \forall i \in I \quad \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{6}$$

$$X_{i,T} = d_i \quad \forall i \in I \tag{7}$$

$$C_{k,0} = 0 \quad \forall k \in K \tag{8}$$

$$C_{0,t} = 0 \quad \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{9}$$

In the model Q-FSP, the identity (2) expresses the minimization of the objective function  $\mathcal{F}(\pi(T))$  that attends to the time of completion of the last job or product  $\pi_T$  of the production sequence  $\pi(T)$  in the last machine ( $k = m$ ); that is:  $C_{\max} \equiv C_{m,T}$ . The equality (3) determines the minimum time of completion of the  $t$ -th job  $\pi_t$  in production sequence  $\pi(T)$  in machine  $k \in K : C_{k,t}(\pi_t)$ . Meanwhile, the equality (4) determines the minimum start time  $S_{k,t}$  of the  $t$ -th job  $\pi_t$  in  $\pi(T)$  in machine  $k \in K$ . Formula (5) serves to count the number of jobs of type  $i \in I$  in the partial sequence  $\pi(t) \subseteq \pi(T)$ . The conditions (6) impose the *Quota* property on the manufacturing sequence  $\pi(T)$ . The equalities (7) impose the satisfaction of the demand plan ( $d_i \forall i \in I$ ). Finally, conditions (8) and (9) set the start of completion times.

### 3 An illustrative example

In order to illustrate the problem under study, the following example is presented: There are 6 jobs or products ( $T = 6$ ), of which 3 are type A, 1 is type B, and 2 are type C. The units of product are processed in 3 workstations ( $|K| = 3$ ) with different processing times. The processing time of each unit of type of product (A, B, C) in each workstation ( $m_1, m_2, m_3$ ) is that set out in Table 1.

The optimal manufacturing sequence for the proposed example, in order to minimize the completion time of all the jobs on the production line ( $C_{\max}$ ), for the problem  $Fm/prmul/C_{\max}/d_i$  is  $\pi_1(6) = (C, C, A, A, A, B)$ . Figure 1 shows the Gantt chart for this sequence.

For its part, Fig. 2 shows the Gantt chart corresponding to an optimal sequence for the problem Heijunka –  $Fm/prmul/C_{\max}/d_i$ , in which the satisfaction of the Quota property of all types of product is imposed in all manufacturing cycles. The sequence  $\pi_2(6) = (C, A, A, C, A, B)$  has a value of the objective function  $C_{\max}(\pi_2) = 34$ .

Considering the sequences  $\pi_1(6)$  y  $\pi_2(6)$ , it can be stated:

- The solution  $\pi_1(6)$  presents a value of  $C_{\max}$  less by one unit of time than that corresponding to the solution  $\pi_2(6)$  (i.e. :  $C_{\max}(\pi_2) - C_{\max}(\pi_1) = 34 - 33 = 1$ ). This means that  $\pi_1(6)$  is more efficient than  $\pi_2(6)$  in terms of completion time for all jobs.
- The solution  $\pi_2(6) = (C, A, A, C, A, B)$  satisfies the Quota property at all positions in the sequence.
- The solution  $\pi_1(6) = (C, C, A, A, A, B)$  violates the Quota property at 3 positions in the sequence, as detailed in Table 2.

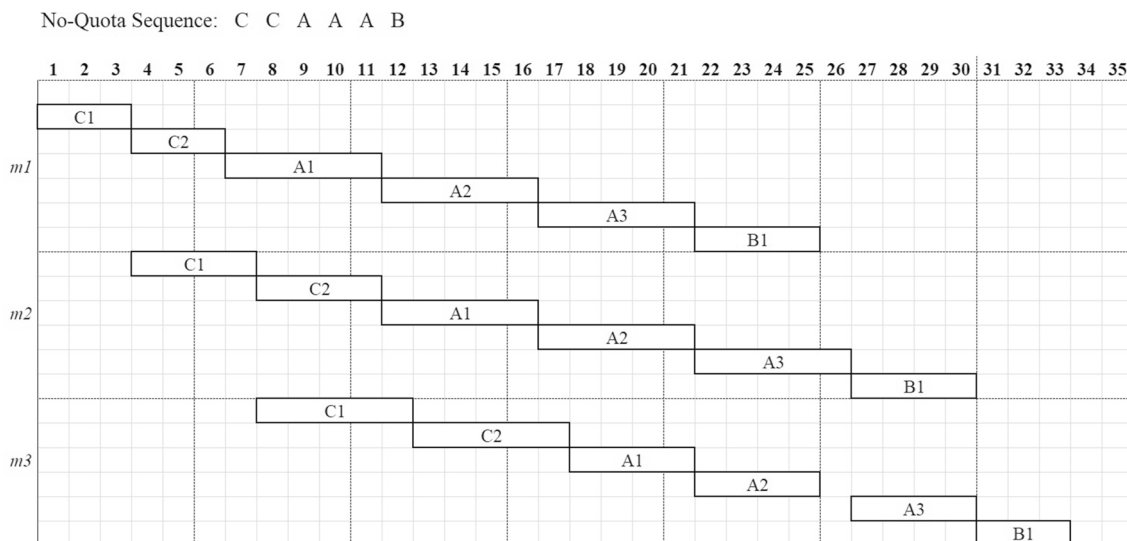
In view of Table 2, we can state that the sequence  $\pi_1(6) = (C, C, A, A, A, B)$  does not satisfy the Quota property for product types A and C in the cycle  $t = 2$  nor for product type C in cycle  $t = 3$ , therefore, the sequence  $\pi_1(6)$  violates the Quota property in 8.33% of the constraints.

In the subsection dedicated to the implementation of solutions in a production line, the advantages offered by planning sequences satisfying the Quota property within the Heijunka ideology are described.

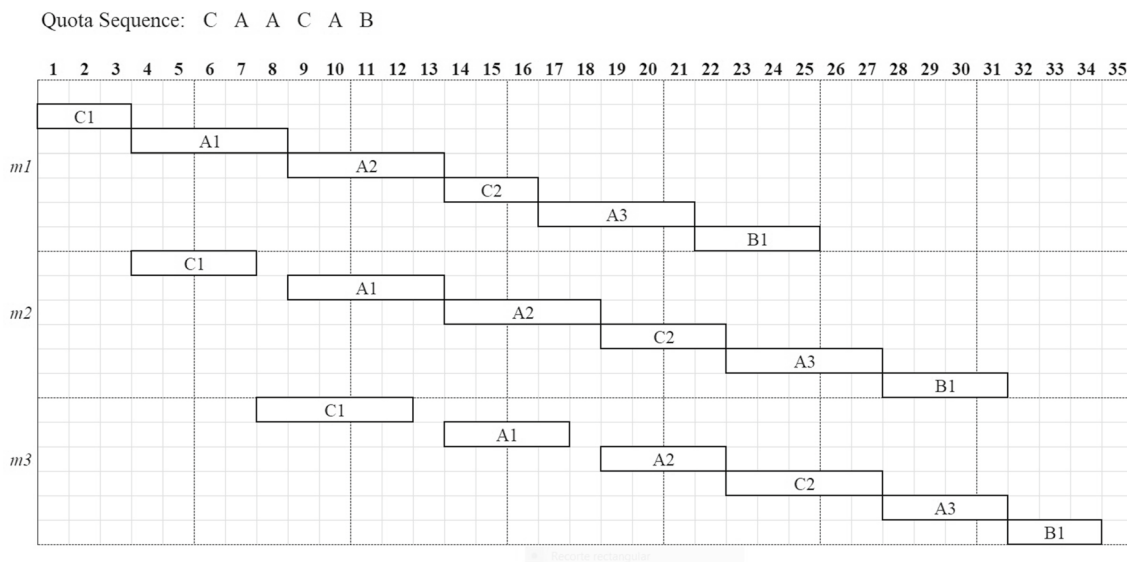
**Table 1** Processing times ( $p_{i,k}$ ) required by the units of product, according to type, in each workstation

	A ( $d_A = 3$ )	B ( $d_B = 1$ )	C ( $d_C = 2$ )	$\sum_{\forall i} d_i \times p_{i,k}$
$m_1$	5	4	3	25
$m_2$	5	4	4	27
$m_3$	4	3	5	25
$\sum_{\forall k} d_i \times p_{i,k}$	42 ( $3 \times 14$ )	11 ( $1 \times 11$ )	24 ( $2 \times 12$ )	$p_{\text{tot}} = 77$

The total processing time required to the production line is  $p_{\text{tot}} = 77$



**Fig. 1** Gantt chart for the sequence  $\pi_1(6) = (C, C, A, A, A, B)$ . The sequence  $\pi_1(6)$  is optimal for the problem  $Fmlprmu/C_{max}/d_i$ , and its value is  $C_{max}(\pi_1) = 33$



**Fig. 2** Gantt chart for the sequence  $\pi_2(6) = (C, A, A, C, A, B)$ . The sequence  $\pi_2(6)$  is optimal for the *Hejunka* –  $Fmlprmu/C_{max}/d_i$  problem, and its value is  $C_{max}(\pi_2) = 34$

**Table 2** Solution  $\pi_1(6) = (C, C, A, A, A, B)$ : the values of the accumulated productions  $X_{i,t}$  and the intervals  $[a, b]$  are shown

$i$	$t = 1$		$t = 2$		$t = 3$		$t = 4$		$t = 5$		$t = 6$	
	$X_{i,t}$	$[a, b]$	$X_{i,t}$	$[a, b]$	$X_{i,t}$	$X_{i,t}$	$X_{i,t}$	$[a, b]$	$X_{i,t}$	$[a, b]$	$X_{i,t}$	$[a, b]$
A	0	[0,1]	0	[1,1]	1	[1,2]	2	[2,2]	3	[2,3]	3	[3,3]
B	0	[0,1]	0	[0,1]	0	[0,1]	0	[0,1]	0	[0,1]	1	[0,1]
C	1	[0,1]	2	[0,1]	2	[1,1]	2	[1,2]	2	[1,2]	2	[2,2]

The values  $a = \lambda_i t$  and  $b = \lambda_i t$  are respectively lower and upper limits that are imposed on the variables  $X_{i,t}$  ( $\forall i \forall t$ ) to achieve a Quota sequence

### 4 Metaheuristic procedure for Heijunka – $Fm/prmu/C_{max}/d_i$

The proposed metaheuristic is based on a Multistart procedure with Local Search similar to Bautista and Alfaro [2]. Indeed, the proposed procedure, MS-Q, consists of a first phase (constructive phase) which provides an initial solution through a randomized greedy procedure, and a second phase (improvement phase) which uses local search procedures to reach the local optima in one or more specific neighborhoods.

After setting a prefixed number of iterations (construction plus improvement), MS-Q metaheuristic obtains in phase-1 manufacturing sequences,  $\pi(T) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T)$ , that satisfy the Quota property, and then, in phase-2, those sequences are subjected to local optimization in order to minimize the completion time of the last job in the last workstation, that is:  $C_{max}$ .

#### 4.1 Phase 1: construction of a Quota sequence

The problem of the construction of a Quota sequence, which we will call *Quota-Product Rate Variation Problem* (Q-PRV), can be formulated as a Binary Linear Programming (BLP) representing maximum constraints satisfaction problem, as follows.

#### 4.2 Model maxsat Q-PRV

$$\min Z_{sum}(\pi(T)) = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,t} \Leftrightarrow \max Z'_{sum}(\pi(T)) = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n (1 - z_{i,t}) \tag{10}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,t} = 1 \quad \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{11}$$

$$\sum_{t=1}^T x_{i,t} = d_i \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n \tag{12}$$

$$X_{i,t} = \sum_{\tau=1}^t x_{i,\tau} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n; \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{13}$$

$$|X_{i,t} - \lambda_{i,t}| < 1 + z_{i,t} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n; \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{14}$$

$$x_{i,t} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n; \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{15}$$

$$z_{i,t} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n; \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{16}$$

$$X_{i,t} \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \cup \{0\} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n; \forall t = 1, \dots, T \tag{17}$$

where  $x_{i,t} (\forall i \forall t)$  is a binary variable that equals 1 if and only if a unit of type of product  $i \in I$  occupies position  $t$  of the manufacturing sequence  $\pi(T)$ , while binary variable  $z_{i,t} (\forall i \forall t)$  takes the value 0 when the type of product  $i \in I$  satisfies the property Quota in the production cycle  $t$  and is equal to 1 otherwise.

In the Maxsat Q-PRV model, the objective function (10) corresponds to the minimization of the number of Quota constraints violated ( $Z_{sum}$ ). Equalities (11) impose that each position in the sequence has a job assigned, while equalities (12) force compliance with the demand plan  $\vec{d} = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ . The equalities (13) are used to determine the accumulated productions  $X_{i,t} (\forall i \forall t)$  of all types of jobs and up to each manufacturing cycle. The inequalities (14) force the satisfaction of the Quota property by all types of jobs ( $\forall i \in I$ ) in all positions of the sequence ( $\forall t \in T$ ). Finally, conditions (15) and (16) impose that the variables  $x_{i,t}$  and  $z_{i,t}$  are binary, while conditions (17) force the accumulated production ( $X_{i,t}$ ) are integers and not negative.

To generate Quota sequences in accordance with the Maxsat Q-PRV model, an enumerative deterministic procedure can be designed based on the branching and cutting of partial solutions; however, in this work we have chosen to use random to promote the diversity of the initial solutions generated in Phase 1, thus allowing them to belong to different regions of the feasible solutions space.

Another indirect way of constructing sequences that satisfy all or a large part of the Quota constraints (14) is to determine integer values for the real production variables  $X_{i,t}$  as close as possible to their ideal values  $\lambda_{i,t}$  and that, in addition, these values are consistent with the rest of the restrictions of the Maxsat Q-PRV model. To do this, it is enough to change the objective function (10) for a function that measures the discrepancies between the real and ideal accumulated productions. Some examples of discrepancy functions that we refer to are the following:

$$\min \Delta_1(\pi(T)) = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n (X_{i,t} - \lambda_{i,t})^2 \tag{18}$$

$$\min \Delta_2(\pi(T)) = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n |X_{i,t} - \lambda_{i,t}| \tag{19}$$

$$\min \Delta_3(\pi(T)) = \max_{1 \leq t \leq T} \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} (X_{i,t} - \lambda_{i,t})^2 \tag{20}$$

$$\min \Delta_4(\pi(T)) = \max_{1 \leq t \leq T} \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_{i,t} - \lambda_{i,t}| \tag{21}$$

In this work, the function (18), sum of quadratic discrepancies:  $\Delta_1(\pi(T))$ , is fundamental to construct a random generator of Quota sequences.

First, in Phase 1 a sequence of jobs  $\pi(T) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T)$  is constructed satisfying the Upper Quota property ((i.e.  $X_{i,t} \leq \lambda_i t, \forall i \forall t$ )), progressively and assigning at each stage  $t$  ( $t = 1, \dots, T$ ) a job from the  $CL(t)$  list of candidates that can be drawn to occupy the position  $t$  of the manufacturing sequence. Consequently, when stage  $t$  is reached, it is added to the sequence consolidated in the previous stage,  $\pi(t-1) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_{t-1})$ , a job  $i \in CL(t)$ . List  $CL(t)$  is constructed like this:

$$CL(t) = \{i \in I : (n_i < d_i) \wedge (n_i + 1 \leq \lambda_i t)\} \quad (22)$$

where  $n_i$  is the number of jobs of type  $i \in I$  that contains the production sequence  $\pi(t-1) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_{t-1})$ .

Therefore, for a job type  $i \in I$  to enter the list  $CL(t)$  of stage  $t$ , it must meet the following two conditions:

1. The job type does not have its demand fulfilled:  $n_i = X_{i,t-1} < d_i$ .
2. The difference between the upper Quota value  $\lambda_i t$ , corresponding to the ideal production of stage  $t$ , and the consolidate production up to the previous stage must be greater than or equal to one unit:  $\lambda_i t - n_i \geq 1$ .

Note that the candidate list,  $CL(t)$ , only contains jobs or products that satisfy the upper Quota property; this is done like this because if the strict satisfaction of the Quota property is imposed:  $\lambda_i t \leq n_i + 1 \leq \lambda_i t \equiv |n_i + 1 - \lambda_i t| < 1$ , then there is a risk, and this is often the case, that  $CL(t)$  remains empty.

Second, the sum of quadratic discrepancies associated with each candidate job that is contained in the list  $CL(t)$  is evaluated, using the indices  $g_i^{(t)}$ :

$$g_i^{(t)} = \sum_{k=1}^n (n_k + \delta_{i,k} - \lambda_k t)^2 \quad \forall i \in CL(t) \quad (23)$$

where  $n_k$  is the number of jobs of type  $k \in I$  that contains the sequence consolidated in the previous stage,  $\pi(t-1)$ , and  $\delta_{i,k}$  is the Kronecker delta:  $\delta_{i,i} = 1 \wedge \delta_{i,k} = 0$  if  $i \neq k$ .

Third, the jobs in the list  $CL(t)$  are ordered according to the increasing order of the priority indices  $g_i^{(t)}$ , giving rise to the ordered list  $\overline{CL}(t)$ .

Alternatively, the sorting of the list  $CL(t)$  to construct the list  $\overline{CL}(t)$  can be made more efficient by using the priority indices  $f_i^{(t)}$  which are defined as in (24).

$$f_i^{(t)} = \lambda_i t - n_i \quad \forall i \in CL(t) \quad (24)$$

The equivalence between the orderings of the jobs according to the indices  $g_i^{(t)}$  and  $-f_i^{(t)}$  is demonstrated below.

**Theorem 1** Given a partial sequence of jobs  $\pi(t-1) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_{t-1})$  and a list of jobs  $CL(t)$  constructed according to (22), then, the ordering of jobs of  $CL(t)$  according to the indices  $g_i^{(t)}$  (see (23)) is opposite to the ordering according to the indices  $f_i^{(t)}$  (see (24)).

**Proof** Indeed, let  $H_{k,t} = n_k - \lambda_k t$  ( $\forall k \in I, \forall t \in T$ ), then, it can be stated:

$$g_i^{(t)} \leq g_j^{(t)} \Leftrightarrow \sum_{k=1}^n (n_k + \delta_{i,k} - \lambda_k t)^2 \leq \sum_{k=1}^n (n_k + \delta_{j,k} - \lambda_k t)^2 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i,k}^2 + \sum_{k=1}^n H_{k,t}^2 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i,k} H_{k,t} \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{j,k}^2 + \sum_{k=1}^n H_{k,t}^2 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{j,k} H_{k,t} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i,k} H_{k,t} \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{j,k} H_{k,t} \Leftrightarrow H_{i,t}$$

$$\leq H_{j,t} \Leftrightarrow \lambda_i t - n_i \geq \lambda_j t - n_j \Leftrightarrow f_i^{(t)} \geq f_j^{(t)}$$

After this ordering, the list  $\overline{CL}(t)$  is reduced through a mechanism that is a function of the admission factor  $\alpha$  (percentage of candidate jobs), with this operation, the restricted list  $RCL(t, \alpha)$  is obtained, which coincides with  $\overline{CL}(t)$  when  $\alpha = 100\% = 1$ , while if  $\alpha = 1/|I|$ , the best candidate job from such lists is selected at each stage  $t$ .

Taking into account all the above, Algorithm A1 is formalized.



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**A1: Algorithm A1** for the constructive phase of a Upper Quota sequence of jobs:  $\pi(T)$

- 1: // Initialization
- 2: **input**  $\alpha, I, D, d_i \forall i \in I$
- 3: **initialize**  $T = D, t = 0, \pi(t) = \{\emptyset\}, (n_i = 0, \lambda_i = d_i/D) \forall i \in I$
- 4: // Create the candidate set  $CL(t)$  - see formula (22) -
- 5: **while**  $(t \leq T)$  **do**
- 6:     **set**  $t = t + 1$
- 7:     **set**  $CL(t) = \{i \in I: (n_i < d_i) \wedge (n_i + 1 \leq \lceil \lambda_i t \rceil)\}$
- 8:     // Evaluate alternative according to  $f_i^{(t)}$  priority indexes – Theorem 1 and (24) -
- 9:     **for all**  $(i \in CL(t))$  **do**
- 10:         **set**  $f_i^{(t)} \equiv \lambda_i t - n_i$
- 11:     **end for**
- 12:     // Sort alternatives according to the decreasing order of  $f_i^{(t)}$  – Theorem 1 and (24) -
- 13:     **sort**  $CL(t)$ : **set**  $\overline{CL}(t)$  as the ordered list from  $CL(t)$  according the  $f_i^{(t)}$  values.
- 14:     // Select alternative according to the admission factor  $\alpha$
- 15:     **set**  $pos_\alpha = -int(-\alpha \cdot |\overline{CL}(t)| \cdot RND) \equiv -int(-|\overline{RCL}(t, \alpha)| \cdot RND)$
- 16:     **set**  $i_\alpha = i \in \overline{CL}(t): pos_i = pos_\alpha$
- 17:     // Update
- 18:     **set**  $n_{i_\alpha} \leftarrow n_{i_\alpha} + 1$
- 19:     **set**  $\pi(t) = \pi(t - 1) \cup \{i_\alpha\}$
- 20: **end while**
- 21: // End Algorithm A1

---

Note that Algorithm A1 is a general method of generating Upper Quota sequences,  $\pi(T)$ , independently of any other goal. Sometimes, the Algorithm A1 obtains

solutions that also satisfy the Lower Quota property ( $\lambda_i t \leq X_{i,t} \forall i \in I \forall t \in T$ ), when this purpose is not achieved then Algorithm A2 is run.

---

**A2: Algorithm A2** for the constructive phase of the Quota sequence of jobs:  $\hat{\pi}(T)$

---

```

1: // Initialization
2: input  $I, D, d_i \forall i \in I, \pi(T) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T)$  from A1.
3: initialize  $T = D, t = 0, quota = false, \lambda_i = d_i/D \forall i \in I$ 
4: // Quota Property
5: while ( $t \leq T$ ) do
6:   set  $t = t + 1$ 
7:   for all ( $i \in I$ ) do
8:     set  $X_{i,t} = |\{\pi_\tau \in \pi(t) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_t) \subseteq \pi(T) : \pi_\tau = i \in I\}|$  –see formula (5) -
9:     if  $\lfloor \lambda_i t \rfloor \leq X_{i,t} \leq \lceil \lambda_i t \rceil$  then
10:       set  $quota = true$ 
11:     else
12:       set  $quota = false$ 
13:     exit while
14:   end if
15: end for
16: set  $\hat{\pi}(t) = \pi(t)$ 
17: end while
18: if  $quota = false$  then
19:   solve MAXSAT: set  $\hat{\pi}(T) \leftarrow \text{maxsat}(\pi(T), \lfloor \lambda_i t \rfloor \leq X_{i,t} \leq \lceil \lambda_i t \rceil)$ 
20: end if
21: // End Algorithm A2

```

---

The MAXSAT procedure in A2 (Line 19 from A2) is an exchange algorithm, based on Local Search with exhaustive descent, that solves the Maxsat Q-PRV problem satisfying the constraints (14):  $(|X_{i,t} - \lambda_i t| < 1, \forall i \forall t)$ , which provides as a solution a sequence  $\hat{\pi}(T)$  that does satisfy the *Quota property* in all of the manufacturing cycles.

Specifically, MAXSAT algorithm starts from the solution  $\pi(T)$  generated by Algorithm A1 and performs in each iteration the exchange of the jobs of every pair of positions of the current sequence  $\hat{\pi}(T)$ , consolidating, in each iteration, the Last sequence that minimizes the number of Quota constraints violated. The execution of the MAXSAT algorithm ends when  $Z_{\text{sum}}(\hat{\pi}(T)) = 0$  or  $Z'_{\text{sum}}(\hat{\pi}(T)) = |I| \times T$  (see formula (10)).

Obviously, the CPU time efficiency of the MAXSAT procedure is higher the lower the number of Quota constraints violated by the initial sequence  $\pi(T)$ ; for this reason, the sequences provided by the A1 algorithm are used, since they comply with the Upper Quota property and tend to comply with the Lower Quota property when the values of the admission factor  $\alpha$  are small.



**Fig. 3** Nissan Pathfinder Engine. Characteristics: (i) 747 parts and 330 references, (ii) 378 elemental assembly tasks grouped in 140 production line tasks



**Table 3** Daily demands by product type and plan ( $d_{i,\epsilon}$ ) for the 23 instances Nissan-9Eng.I ( $\epsilon \in E$ )

$\epsilon \in E$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	SUV	Van	Truck	Total
1	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	90	60	120	270
2	30	30	30	45	45	23	23	22	22	90	90	90	270
3	10	10	10	60	60	30	30	30	30	30	120	120	270
4	40	40	40	15	15	30	30	30	30	120	30	120	270
5	40	40	40	60	60	8	8	7	7	120	120	30	270
6	50	50	50	30	30	15	15	15	15	150	60	60	270
7	20	20	20	75	75	15	15	15	15	60	150	60	270
8	20	20	20	30	30	38	38	37	37	60	60	150	270
9	70	70	70	15	15	8	8	7	7	210	30	30	270
10	10	10	10	105	105	8	8	7	7	30	210	30	270
11	10	10	10	15	15	53	53	52	52	30	30	210	270
12	24	23	23	45	45	28	28	27	27	70	90	110	270
13	37	37	36	35	35	23	23	22	22	110	70	90	270
14	37	37	36	45	45	18	18	17	17	110	90	70	270
15	24	23	23	55	55	23	23	22	22	70	110	90	270
16	30	30	30	35	35	28	28	27	27	90	70	110	270
17	30	30	30	55	55	18	18	17	17	90	110	70	270
18	60	60	60	30	30	8	8	7	7	180	60	30	270
19	10	10	10	90	90	15	15	15	15	30	180	60	270
20	20	20	20	15	15	45	45	45	45	60	30	180	270
21	60	60	60	15	15	15	15	15	15	180	30	60	270
22	20	20	20	90	90	8	8	7	7	60	180	30	270
23	10	10	10	30	30	45	45	45	45	30	60	180	270

**Table 4** Grouping of the 23 instances Nissan-9Eng.I into 7 categories of demand plans

Category	Plans	Type of demand plan
01	#1	Balanced demand for products
02	#2	Balanced demand for families
03	#3 to #5	Very low demand for a family
04	#6 to #8	High demand for a family
05	#9 to #11	Very high demand for a family
06	#12 to 17	Family demand in arithmetic progression
07	#18 to 23	Family demand in hypergeometric progression

### 4.3 Phase 2: improvement $C_{max}$ of the quota sequences through local search

The improvement phase starts with a *Quota* sequence  $\hat{\pi}(T)$  in which five descent algorithms are run consecutively and repetitively in five neighborhoods (three exchange and two insertion) until none of them improves the best solution that is achieved during the iteration. From two arbitrary *Quota* sequences, the one that offers the least total completion time ( $C_{max}$ ) is selected. The descent algorithms are based on the exchange and insertion of jobs, and they are oriented

to the exploration of sequence cycles in both increasing and decreasing order. The five descent algorithms are:

- LS1. *Forward exchange for ranges of job types*: For all  $t$  position of the current sequence,  $\hat{\pi}(T)$ , the job type is determined that is in that position and the next closest locus is searched,  $t' > t$ , that is occupied by the same type (i.e.,  $\hat{\pi}_t = \hat{\pi}_{t'}$ ); if no such locus exists, then its value is set by making  $t' = T + 1$ . Just after, the tentative exchange between  $\hat{\pi}_t$  and the jobs located in the range  $[t + 1, t' - 1]$  of the sequence is made. The first exchange that reduces the total completion time  $C_{max} \equiv C_{m,T}$  (see (2)) is consolidated as long as the resulting sequence satisfies the Quota property.
- LS2. *Backward exchange for ranges of job types*: This procedure is similar to the previous one, but in this case the search is performed for  $t = T$  to 1 step -1. Obviously, if the previous closest locus,  $t' (t' < t)$ , with the same job type ( $\hat{\pi}_t = \hat{\pi}_{t'}$ ) does not exist, it is considered  $t' = 0$ . The first exchange that reduces  $C_{max}$  is consolidated as long as the resulting sequence satisfies the Quota property.
- LS3. *Complete exchange between pairs of positions*: This procedure is used to reinforce the previous two and uses a larger neighborhood. At each iteration, for all position  $t$  of the current sequence  $\hat{\pi}(T)$ , the job

**Table 5** Processing time under normal operation ( $p_{i,k}$ ) in seconds of the 9 types of engines ( $i \in I$ ) in the 21 workstations ( $k \in K$ ) of the set of Nissan-9Ing.I

$k \setminus i$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	$A_v$
1	104	100	97	92	100	94	103	109	101	100.0
2	103	103	105	107	101	108	106	102	110	105.0
3	165	156	164	161	148	156	154	164	155	158.1
4	166	175	172	167	168	167	168	156	173	168.0
5	111	114	114	115	117	117	115	111	111	113.9
6	126	121	122	124	127	130	120	121	134	125.0
7	97	96	96	93	96	89	94	101	92	94.9
8	100	97	95	106	94	102	103	102	100	99.9
9	179	174	173	178	178	171	177	171	174	175.0
10	178	172	172	177	178	177	175	173	175	175.2
11	161	152	168	167	167	166	172	157	177	165.2
12	96	106	105	97	101	100	96	104	96	100.1
13	99	101	102	101	99	101	96	102	99	100.0
14	147	155	142	154	146	143	154	153	155	149.9
15	163	152	156	152	153	152	154	156	156	154.9
16	163	185	183	178	169	173	172	182	171	175.1
17	173	179	178	169	173	178	174	175	175	174.9
18	176	167	181	180	172	173	173	168	184	174.9
19	162	150	152	152	160	151	155	148	167	155.2
20	164	161	157	159	162	160	162	158	157	160.0
21	177	161	154	168	172	170	167	149	169	165.2

of the locus  $t$  is exchanged with the job of the locus  $t' \in [t+1, T]$ , if  $\hat{\pi}_t \neq \hat{\pi}_{t'}$ . The last job exchange that minimizes  $C_{\max} \equiv C_{m,T}$  is consolidated, provided the Quota property is satisfied.

LS4. *Forward insertion for ranges of job types:* For all  $t$  position of the current sequence,  $\hat{\pi}(T)$ , the job type in the  $t$  position is detected and the next closest locus  $t'$  ( $t' > t$ ) is searched that is occupied by the same type ( $\hat{\pi}_t = \hat{\pi}_{t'}$ ); if these locus does not exist, it is considered  $t' = T + 1$ . Following, the  $\hat{\pi}_t$  job is inserted in the range of sequence positions  $[t+1, t'-1]$ . Then, the first insertion that leads to reduce  $C_{\max} \equiv C_{m,T}$  is done as long as the resulting sequence satisfies the Quota property.

LS5. *Backward insertion for ranges of job types:* This insertion procedure is similar to LS4 with respect to the neighborhood, and analogous in the search for types of jobs to LS2.

While there is improvement, the above five algorithms are repeated.

## 5 A case study in an engine plant

### 5.1 Data set

The computational experience proposed here is focused on comparing the MS-Q and MILP (Mixed Integer Linear Programming) procedures in terms of the quality of the solutions and the CPU times. As in Bautista-Valhondo and Alfaro-Pozo [7], the analysis is related to a case study of the Nissan plant in Barcelona: an assembly line of nine types of engines grouped into three families: SUVs, Vans and Trucks (see an engine example in Fig. 3). The production line under study employs 42 operators work in shifts of 8 h, and the significant data of this case are the following:

- There are 9 job types ( $|I| = 9$ ) so that each job type corresponds to a type of engine.
- The workshop (line) has 21 workstations ( $|K| = 21$ ) arranged in series.
- In this work, we consider 23 engine demand plans  $|E| = 23$  (see Table 3).
- The daily demand is 270 jobs for all demand plans  $T \equiv D_\varepsilon = 270$  jobs ( $\forall \varepsilon \in E$ ).
- The demand plans have been grouped into 7 categories (see Table 4).
- The values of the processing times at normal work pace  $p_{i,k}$  ( $\forall i \in I, \forall k \in K$ ) are between 89s and 185s (see Table 5).

**Table 6** Results for  $C_{max}$  (seconds) and  $Gap$  (in millionths) for Nissan-9Eng.I instances using MILP-1, MILP-2 and MS-Q

$\epsilon \in E$	MILP-1		MILP-2				MS-Q		
	$C_{max}^1$	CPU	$LB$	$C_{max}^2$	Gap	CPU	$C_{max}^3$	Gap	CPU
1	50,091	45.8	50,100	50,101	20	3600.6	50,101	20	176.8
2	50,174	15.2	50,180	50,180	0	366.7	50,180	0	130.8
3	50,301	10.3	50,303	50,303	0	37.9	50,303	0	15.5
4	50,167	13.6	50,170	50,170	0	38.6	50,170	0	213.0
5	50,379	9.9	50,385	50,385	0	45.7	50,385	0	73.6
6	50,202	14.3	50,202	50,202	0	14.1	50,204	40	2.9
7	50,395	8.3	50,397	50,397	0	33.4	50,397	0	180.1
8	50,123	12.4	50,126	50,128	40	3600.3	50,130	80	233.5
9	50,378	10.4	50,378	50,378	0	17.0	50,378	0	5.3
10	50,619	7.6	50,625	50,625	0	9.0	50,625	0	15.9
11	50,078	25.3	50,084	50,084	0	162.4	50,086	40	48.7
12	50,192	17.4	50,196	50,196	0	102.4	50,196	0	176.0
13	50,123	14.8	50,126	50,136	199	3600.3	50,136	199	12.7
14	50,218	10.1	50,223	50,223	0	134.7	50,224	20	48.7
15	50,242	10.5	50,242	50,242	0	105.0	50,242	0	175.7
16	50,118	55.8	50,123	50,123	0	160.3	50,128	100	129.0
17	50,269	10.6	50,273	50,273	0	74.0	50,275	40	4.3
18	50,273	14.3	50,273	50,273	0	15.1	50,275	40	8.3
19	50,475	8.1	50,481	50,481	0	7.8	50,481	0	15.0
20	50,089	96.1	50,100	50,100	0	65.2	50,100	0	48.1
21	50,307	13.8	50,307	50,307	0	10.5	50,307	0	5.4
22	50,539	7.3	50,545	50,545	0	9.3	50,545	0	31.9
23	50,151	11.0	50,157	50,157	0	44.0	50,158	20	24.3
<i>Av</i>	50,256.7	19.3	50,260.7	50,261.3	11.3	532.8	50,262.0	26.0	77.2
<i>Max</i>	50,619	96.1	50,625	50,625	199	3600.6	50,625	199	233.5
<i>Min</i>	50,078	7.3	50,084	50,084	0	7.8	50,086	0	2.9

Columns *CPU* show the CPU time (seconds) spent solving each instance

All the production plans shown in Table 1 have been used to carry out the computational experimentation developed in this work. As said, the total number of engines assembled in a working day is 270 in two shifts. The 7 categories that allow the grouping of demand plans are summarized in Table 4.

Meanwhile, the values of the processing times  $p_{i,k} (\forall i \in I, \forall k \in K)$  for each job type and for each workstation are shown in Table 5.

### 5.2 Procedures and computational analysis

The compiled codes of the procedures that we have selected in this work are MILP (1 and 2) and MS-Q (running in Intel(R) Core (TM) i7-8750H CPU @ 2.21 GHz, 16 GB RAM, x64 Windows 10 Pro). Table 6 shows the best results with respect to  $C_{max}$  and CPU Time from MILP (1 and 2) and MS-Q procedures for the 23 datasets of the problem  $\epsilon \in E$ .

In "Appendix I", the 46 best Quota-sequences obtained by MILP-2 and MS-Q are published.

In Table 6, the column headings represent the following characteristics:

$\epsilon \in E$	Identification number of the instances for Plan#1 to Plan#23
$C_{max}^1$	Optimal value of makespan for the $Fml/prmu/C_{max}/d_i$ problem obtained for MILP-1
$C_{max}^2$	Best makespan value for the Heijunka – $Fml/prmu/C_{max}/d_i$ problem obtained for procedure MILP-2
$C_{max}^3$	Best makespan value for the Heijunka – $Fml/prmu/C_{max}/d_i$ problem obtained for procedure MS-Q
$LB$	$C_{max}$ lower limit for the Heijunka – $Fml/block/C_{max}/d_i$ problem obtained for MILP-1 or MILP-2 using the CPLEX solver
Gap	Relative gap between $C_{max}^h (h \in \{2, 3\})$ and $LB$ measured in millionths

The relative gap values (measured in millionths) between  $C_{max}^k$  and  $LB$  is calculated using formula (25).

**Table 7** Some properties of the performance of MS-Q with the set of instances Nissan-9Engine-I

$\epsilon \in E$	PHASE 1			PHASE 2			
	$\alpha^*(\epsilon)$	$r_{max}^*(\epsilon)$	$\%r_{no\_Q}(\epsilon)$	iter <sup>*</sup> ( $\epsilon$ )	sol <sup>*</sup> ( $\epsilon$ )	$n\_Sol(\epsilon)$	CPU <sub>1</sub> ( $\epsilon$ )
1	0.50	0	0	13	114	171	13.28
2	0.33	0.83	0.171	12	90	161	11.64
3	0.11	1.00	6.638	1	2	2	15.50
4	1.00	0.89	4.432	9	97	206	23.08
5	0.50	1.00	2.858	7	48	142	10.54
6	0.11	0	0	1	2	2	2.86
7	0.33	0.94	0.597	16	123	159	11.46
8	0.33	0.94	0.362	20	156	156	11.68
9	0.11	1.00	0.006	1	2	2	5.28
10	1.00	1.00	12.442	2	8	129	11.94
11	0.50	1.00	2.372	3	36	195	14.83
12	1.00	0.90	6.798	10	75	161	18.74
13	0.11	0	0	1	8	8	12.69
14	0.50	0.75	1.409	4	32	164	12.88
15	0.50	0.90	1.488	10	128	285	18.31
16	0.20	0	0	12	115	176	10.04
17	0.11	0	0	1	2	2	4.34
18	0.11	1.00	0.796	1	3	3	8.30
19	0.33	1.00	1.529	2	9	128	9.07
20	0.33	1.00	0.434	3	30	208	16.93
21	0.11	1.00	0.541	1	3	3	5.39
22	0.33	1.00	1.996	4	20	109	8.83
23	0.33	1.00	0.422	2	15	250	14.87
Average	–	0.75	1.969	6	49	123	11.85
Maximum	–	1.00	12.442	20	156	285	23.08
Minimum	–	0	0	1	2	2	2.86

$$Gap(h, \epsilon) = 10^6 \times \frac{C_{max}^h(\epsilon) - LB(\epsilon)}{LB(\epsilon)} \quad \forall h \in \{2, 3\}, \forall \epsilon \in E \tag{25}$$

The characteristics of the procedures are:

- MILP-1: Model  $Fm/prmulC_{max}/d_i$ : (i) Objective function for minimizing the  $C_{max}$  value of the production sequence; (ii) implementation for IBM ILOG CPLEX solver (Optimization Studio v.12.2, win- $\times$ 86–64); (iii) maximum CPU time of 180 s allowed for solving each instance (23 instances). The average CPU time used by each demand plan to find the optimal solution is equal to 19.3 s. This procedure is used to determine adjusted lower bounds for the problem under study.
- MILP-2: Model  $Hejunka - Fm/prmulC_{max}/d_i$  (this work): (i) Objective function for minimizing the  $C_{max}$  value of the Quota production sequence; (ii) implementation for IBM ILOG CPLEX solver (Optimization Studio v.12.2, win- $\times$ 86–64); (iii) maximum CPU time of 3600 s allowed for solving each instance (23 instances). The

average CPU time used by each demand plan to find the best solution is equal to 532.8 s.

- MS-Q: Is the Multistart algorithm presented in this work, which is focused on minimizing the total completion time  $C_{max}$  in Quota manufacturing sequences. The maximum number of iterations for each demand plan from Nissan-9Eng.I instances is equal to 20 with five candidate admission factors  $\alpha = (0.11, 0.20, 0.33, 0.50, 1)$ , which generates in the constructive phase 1863 solutions and 14,110 improved solutions (improvement phase) in 115 executions. MS-Q uses on average a CPU time equal to 77.2 s to find the best solution for each demand plan and each admission factor  $\alpha$ .

On the other hand, an analysis of Table 6 reveals the following:

- Procedure MILP-1 obtains and ensures optimal solutions in all instances with 270 jobs (23 instances Nissan-9Eng.I) when the  $Fm/prmulC_{max}/d_i$  problem is solved (see column  $C_{max}^1$  in Table 6). The solutions obtained by MILP-1 do not necessarily satisfy the Quota property:

- MILP-1 violates the Quota property in 18 of 23 demand plans.
- Procedure MILP-2 obtains and ensures optimal solutions in 20 of the 23 instances with 270 jobs when the *Heijunka – Fm/prmu/C<sub>max</sub>/d<sub>i</sub>* problem is solved (see column  $C_{max}^2$  in Table 6). All the solutions obtained by MILP-2 satisfy the Quota property.
- Procedure MS-Q obtains optimal solutions in 13 of the 23 instances with 270 jobs when the *Heijunka – Fm/prmu/C<sub>max</sub>/d<sub>i</sub>* problem is solved (see column  $C_{max}^3$  in Table 6). All the solutions obtained by MS-Q satisfy the Quota property.
- Regarding the value of objective  $C_{max}$ , on average, MS-Q solutions differ by 0.7 s from MILP-2, in a range of values between 0 and 5 s (see columns  $C_{max}^2$  and  $C_{max}^3$  in Table 6), when considering a 50,770 s workday to build 270 engines. Consequently, MS-Q solutions can be considered equivalent to MILP-2 from the perspective of the management of productive operations.
- The average value of the relative gap between  $C_{max}^2$  and  $LB$  achieved by MILP-2 is 1.13E-05 in a range of values between 0 and 1.99E-04.
- The average value of the relative gap between  $C_{max}^3$  and  $LB$  achieved by MS-Q is 2.60E-05 in a range of values between 0 and 1.99E-04.
- The average CPU times used by MILP-1 (to determine lower bounds for the problem under study) are approximately 19.3 s for each instance of 270 jobs in a range of values between 7.3 and 96.1 s, when a maximum CPU time equal to 180 s is imposed on CPLEX to solve each instance for *Fm/prmu/C<sub>max</sub>/d<sub>i</sub>* problem.
- The average CPU times used by MILP-2 are approximately 532.8 s for each instance of 270 jobs in a range of values between 7.8 and 3600.6 s, when a maximum CPU time equal to 3600 s is imposed on CPLEX to solve each instance of the problem under study.
- The average CPU time used by MS-Q is equal to 77.2 s within a range of values between 2.9 and 233.5 s, when 20 iterations are performed with the algorithm.
- In average CPU times, MS-Q is 6.902 times faster than MILP-2.

**Table 8** Results corresponding to the savings in euros  $G(\cdot)$  and the increase in engine production  $\Delta P(\cdot)$  for Nissan-9Eng.I instances using procedures MILP-1, MILP-2 and MS-Q

$\epsilon \in E$	MILP-1		MILP-2		MS-Q	
	$G(1, \epsilon)$	$\Delta P(1, \epsilon)$	$G(2, \epsilon)$	$\Delta P(2, \epsilon)$	$G(3, \epsilon)$	$\Delta P(3, \epsilon)$
1	1552.00	3.88	1529.14	3.82	1529.14	3.82
2	1362.29	3.41	1348.57	3.37	1348.57	3.37
3	1072.00	2.68	1067.43	2.67	1067.43	2.67
4	1378.29	3.45	1371.43	3.43	1371.43	3.43
5	893.71	2.23	880.00	2.20	880.00	2.20
6	1298.29	3.25	1298.29	3.25	1293.71	3.23
7	857.14	2.14	852.57	2.13	852.57	2.13
8	1478.86	3.70	1467.43	3.67	1462.86	3.66
9	896.00	2.24	896.00	2.24	896.00	2.24
10	345.14	0.86	331.43	0.83	331.43	0.83
11	1581.71	3.95	1568.00	3.92	1563.43	3.91
12	1321.14	3.30	1312.00	3.28	1312.00	3.28
13	1478.86	3.70	1449.14	3.62	1449.14	3.62
14	1261.71	3.15	1250.29	3.13	1248.00	3.12
15	1206.86	3.02	1206.86	3.02	1206.86	3.02
16	1490.29	3.73	1478.86	3.70	1467.43	3.67
17	1145.14	2.86	1136.00	2.84	1131.43	2.83
18	1136.00	2.84	1136.00	2.84	1131.43	2.83
19	674.29	1.69	660.57	1.65	660.57	1.65
20	1556.57	3.89	1531.43	3.83	1531.43	3.83
21	1058.29	2.65	1058.29	2.65	1058.29	2.65
22	528.00	1.32	514.29	1.29	514.29	1.29
23	1414.86	3.54	1401.14	3.50	1398.86	3.50
Average	1173.37	2.93	1162.83	2.91	1161.14	2.90
Maximum	1581.71	3.95	1568.00	3.92	1563.43	3.91
Minimum	345.14	0.86	331.43	0.83	331.43	0.83

- In average relative gap, MILP-2 solutions are at 1.13E-05 of the lower bound while MS-Q solutions are at 2.60E-05 of that bound, which constitutes a technical tie.

For its part, Table 7 shows some properties on the performance of the MS-Q procedure, both in its construction phase and in its improvement phase, when the set of Nissan-9Eng.I instances is solved.

In Table 7, the column headings represent the following characteristics:

$\epsilon \in E$	Identification number of the instances for Plan#1 to Plan#23
$\alpha^*(\epsilon)$	Best admission factor in A1, $\alpha \in \{0.11, 0.20, 0.33, 0.50, 1\}$ , for each $\epsilon \in E$
$r_{ms}^*(\epsilon)$	Utilization rate of MAXSAT procedure in A2 for the best solutions of each demand plan $\epsilon \in E$
$r_{no\_Q}(\epsilon)$	Rate dissatisfaction of the Quota constraints (from A1) for the best solutions of each demand plan $\epsilon \in E$ . It is measured as a percentage: $\%r_{no\_Q}(\epsilon)$ . The maximum number of Quota constraints is: $ I  \times T \equiv  I  \times D$
$iter^*(\epsilon)$	Iteration corresponding to the best solution of each demand plan $\epsilon \in E$
$sol^*(\epsilon)$	Number of solutions improved by Local Search (BL1 to BL5) to get the best solution locally optimal of each demand plan $\epsilon \in E$
$n\_Sol(\epsilon)$	Number of solutions improved by Local Search (BL1 to BL5) limiting the MS-Q procedure to a maximum 20 iterations, for each demand plan $\epsilon \in E$

$\epsilon \in E$	Identification number of the instances for Plan#1 to Plan#23
$CPU_1(\epsilon)$	CPU time (seconds) per iteration, limiting the MS-Q procedure to a maximum 20 iterations, for each demand plan $\epsilon \in E$

### 5.3 Economic-productive feasibility study

In this subsection, we carry out an analysis of the results considering two aspects: economic and productive.

The first aspect aims to evaluate the economic savings in euros that result from transforming the original assembly line with a cycle time  $c = 175 s$  into a regular flow workshop in the context of the  $Fm/prmu/C_{max}/d_i$  problem.

The second aspect of the productive type is intended to measure the drop in engine production generated by the use of Heijunka concept, used in Just in Time production systems, when imposed on manufacturing sequences that satisfy the Quota property; in this case, we will use the *Heijunka – Fm/prmu/C<sub>max</sub>/d<sub>i</sub>* model.

To carry out this analysis, the following hypotheses are taken into account:

- h1. The current engine assembly line is made up of 21 workstations arranged in series. At each workstation, a team consisting of two operators operates (42 operators in total).

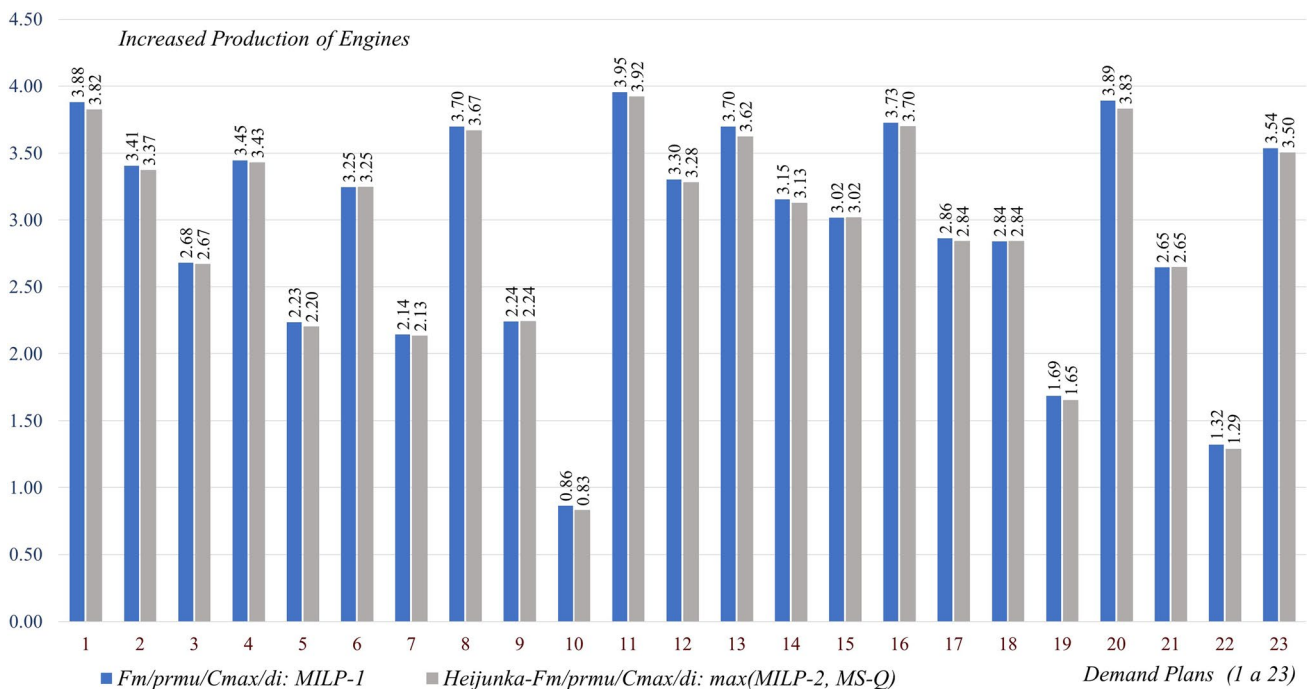


Fig. 4 Daily increased in engine production, over that of the current assembly line, obtained with procedures MILP-1 and MILP-2 or MS-Q for the Nissan-9Eng.I instance set



- h2. The current assembly line has a daily production capacity equal to 270 engines. Each production day is divided into two work shifts and each work shift has a productive time equal to 7.05 h, after subtracting the scheduled rest times during the work day, the full duration of which is equal to 8 h per shift.
- h3. The cost of loss engine production [6] has been valued at  $\varphi = 2.28757$  euros per productive second. The cost  $\varphi$  is calculated taking into account three factors: (i) the average value of a motor that is equal to € 4,000, (ii) the value added to the product by the assembly line that is equal to 10% of the value of the motor, and (iii) the cycle time of the line that is equal to 175 s, that is,  $c = 175$  s and the temporary window is  $l_k = 175$  s.
- h4. Assuming a cycle time  $c = 175$  s and that the assembly line is made up of 21 stations arranged in series, the manufacture of the 270 engines requires a time equal to  $C_{\max}^0 = 50770$  seconds to complete the 270 jobs when there is no work in progress on the line (no-WIP). Therefore, the direct benefit provided by the line is equivalent to € 108,000 per day.

Under these conditions, the daily savings in euros  $G(\cdot)$  and the daily increases in the production of  $\Delta P(\cdot)$  motors, achieved with the transformation of the current assembly line into a regular flow workshop, are shown in Table 8.

In Table 8, the  $G(\cdot)$  and  $\Delta P(\cdot)$  values are determined according to (26) and (27).

$$G(h, \epsilon) = \varphi \times (C_{\max}^0 - C_{\max}^h(\epsilon)) \quad \forall h \in \{1, 2, 3\}, \forall \epsilon \in E \tag{26}$$

$$\Delta P(h, \epsilon) = \frac{C_{\max}^0 - C_{\max}^h(\epsilon)}{c} \quad \forall h \in \{1, 2, 3\}, \forall \epsilon \in E \tag{27}$$

The analysis of Table 8 allows to obtain the following conclusions:

- The daily saving in euros,  $G(1, \epsilon)$ , achieved with the transformation of the current line in a flow shop  $Fm/prmul/C_{\max}/d_i$ , manufacturing 270 engines per day, is equal to € 1173.37 on average. Such savings are included in the interval [345.14, 1581.71], and their values depend on the demand plan used ( $\epsilon \in E$ ).
- In case of having the same time to produce as the current one (i.e.,  $C_{\max}^0 = 50770$  s), the estimate of the average daily increase in engine production is  $\Delta P(1, \epsilon) = 2.93$ , by transforming the line into a flow shop and assuming that the demand plans ( $\epsilon \in E$ ) do not vary. These increases are included in the interval [0.86, 3.95], and their values depend on the demand plan used (see Fig. 4).
- The transformation of the current line into a regular flow shop subject to Heijunka concept ( $Heijunka - Fm/prmu/C_{\max}/d_i$ ) leads to a maximum average saving equal to

€ 1162.83 per day (see average maximum between the columns  $G(2, \epsilon)$  and  $G(3, \epsilon)$  in Table 8) when 270 engines are manufactured per day. In this case, said savings are included in the interval [331.43, 1568.00] and their values depend on the demand plan used.

- In the case of the Heijunka-flow shop, the estimate of the daily increase in engine production with respect to the current line is equal to 2.91 engines on average (see average maximum between columns  $\Delta P(2, \epsilon)$  and  $\Delta P(3, \epsilon)$  in Table 8), provided that the original production mix does not vary in the demand plans. Here, these increases (engines per day) are included in the interval [0.83, 3.92] (see Fig. 4).

Figure 4 reveals similar performance between the two types of flow shops analyzed, with respect to increased productivity on the assembly line.

In fact, for all demand plans, MILP-1 solutions (18 of which do not satisfy the Quota property) correspond to increases in productivity, since the values of  $\Delta P(1, \epsilon)$  are all positive. Taking into account that the average daily increase is equal to  $\Delta P(1) = 2.93$  engines, it turns out that the average increase in productivity is 1.09% when the current assembly line becomes a regular flow shop ( $Fm/prmul/C_{\max}/d_i$ ).

For its part, if it is imposed in the previous flow shop that also conforms to some requests of the Heijunka concept ( $Heijunka - Fm/prmul/C_{\max}/d_i$ ), it also turns out that all the solutions obtained with MILP-2 and MS-Q correspond to positive values  $\Delta P(2, \epsilon)$  y  $\Delta P(3, \epsilon)$  for all demand plans. Therefore, the Heijunka-flow shop also promotes an increase in productivity with respect to the current assembly line, with an average increase in the order of 1.08%, considering the value  $\Delta P(2) = 2.91$  engines per day corresponding to MILP-2, or  $\Delta P(3) = 2.90$  engines per day corresponding to MS-Q.

Note that the solutions offered by MS-Q and MILP-2 (see Tables 6 and 8) are equivalent from a technical-productive point of view, since on average the difference between their respective times required to manufacture a total of 270 engines is equal to 0.7 s (i.e., 50,262.0–50,261.3) using sequences that satisfy the Quota property, this value is negligible compared to the current available time ( $C_{\max}^0 = 50770$  s) to manufacture 270 engines, which corresponds to a working day with just over 14 operating hours equally distributed between two work shifts.

### 5.4 Advantages and disadvantages of using MILP and MS-Q procedures

The solutions offered by MILP-2 and MS-Q, for the set of Nissan-9Eng.I instances, can be considered technically equivalent in terms of the value of  $C_{\max}$  (see "Appendix I"); therefore, we can conclude that both procedures are equally

valid to solve the problem  $Hejunka - Fm/prmulC_{max}/d_i$ . However, since these procedures are of a different nature, it is necessary to highlight some advantages and disadvantages in relation to the application of each of them.

- In the specialized literature, most articles on the  $Fm/prmulC_{max}$  use heuristic and metaheuristic methods. The new problem proposed in this paper is more complex than the  $Fm/prmulC_{max}$ , so there is no reason to rule out the use of heuristics to solve the  $Hejunka - Fm/prmulC_{max}/d_i$  problem (*Laplace's principle of insufficient reason*). The use of Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) for flow shop problems is less widespread for both reference instances and realistic cases.
- MILP-2 uses the IBM CPLEX solver, which is commercial software that requires a license in its professional version. CPLEX incorporates the most efficient optimization techniques related to MILP, and its efficiency is widely recognized in the scientific field, requiring knowledge of modeling techniques. In contrast, MQ-S is simple and easy to implement.
- MILP-2 is an application based on an exact procedure (MILP), while MS-Q is an approximation algorithm.
- MS-Q is on average about 7 times faster than MILP-2 for the Nissan-9Eng.I instance set with 270 jobs and 21 machines.
- MS-Q operates on the set of feasible solutions, and the CPU time to converge to a local optimum is predictable based on neighborhoods. For its part, the MILP technique, as a branch and bound procedure, operates with non-feasible solutions (non-integer solutions) and, therefore, the CPU time used to reach a local (or global) optimum is much less predictable. In fact, in this work, the standard deviation of the CPU time spent by MILP-2 is  $\sigma_{MILP-2}^{CPU} = 1190.63$ , while for MS-Q it is  $\sigma_{MS-Q}^{CPU} = 77.24$ .

## 5.5 Implementation of solutions in a production line

Taking into account the previous results, our proposal is to transform the current assembly line, with fixed cycle time and closed stations, into a regular flow workshop with open workstations within the framework of the Heijunka concept; this proposal is based on two evidences: one of an economic nature and the other of an organizational and management nature.

The first evidence is the possibility of saving an average of € 1162.83 per day by manufacturing 270 engines of various types or, alternatively, the possibility of producing on average 272.91 engines per day (instead of 270) while maintaining the current working hours (14.103 h).

The second evidence is in the organizational advantages for the management offered by the level production both in the plans and in the sequences of mixed models.

The level production concept is inherent in Heijunka's ideology, and we have applied it here by enforcing the conformity of the Quota property with manufacturing sequences. Among the productive and administrative advantages offered by Heijunka are the following:

- (1) Reduction of the stock level of the types of engines and engine components (Parts).
- (2) Adjustment of production capacity to the demand for engines.
- (3) Reduction of delivery times in all phases of the production system.
- (4) Reduction of the volume of information to direct the operations of the production system.
- (5) Ability to react to fluctuations in demand, since the preservation of the production mix means keeping the manufacturing system at its center of gravity from the production-demand point of view.

Having seen the advantages that a Heijunka-flow shop offers compared to a mixed model assembly line from a productive point of view, it is worth asking how to implement a solution ( $\pi(T) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T)$ ) when the virtual barrier of setting the manufacturing rate by cycle time  $c$  is removed.

This seemingly harmless fact involves converting current workstations to open stations, leading to a release such that both the start and end of jobs on each workstation do not occur periodically according to the value of the cycle time  $c$  (v.gr. 175 s), but they occur at irregular intervals that will depend on the duration of each job and the times of completion of the jobs in the current station and in the previous one.

To implement a  $\pi(T)$  solution in the workshop, it is necessary that at least the following conditions are met:

- c1. The manufacturing sequence must comply with the standards established in the collective agreement between the employee and the company. Compliance with this condition is guaranteed because all processing times (see Table 5) have been calculated at normal work pace and the productive time to manufacturing 270 engines (14.103 h using two shifts) takes into account the scheduled rest and forced stop times within the law.
- c2. Workshop operators must be kept informed about the rhythm and the progress of production at their workstations: every operator should know the following data at the all times: (i) the engine type that reaches your workstation; (ii) the subset of tasks that makes up the job in progress; (iii) the start instant of the job in progress; (iv); the processing time required to complete

the job in progress at normal work pace; and (v) the time available to carry out the job in progress.

Condition c2 can be easily achieved using technologies of Internet of Things (IoT) within the framework of Industry 4.0, implementing an information system assisted by wireless connection between the central computer from production management and a set of customized tablets (42 tablets to cover the 21 workstations).

In this way, the set of tablets will visually and acoustically report on production progress at all times and on all workstations. Consequently, all operators will automatically receive the following personalized signals:

1. Audible and visual warning that indicates the beginning of a job.
2. Accelerated audible and visual warning when the time available to complete a job is ending.
3. Visual warning of the dynamic list of pending tasks on a job with the possibility that operator validates the concluded tasks and actualizes the list of tasks.

Updating activities are possible in our case, since a job is made up of 6 tasks on average and the processing times of the jobs are between 89 and 185 s (see Table 5), these times are sufficiently large to update the information in each workstation.

## 6 Conclusions

In this work, a new manufacturing sequence model is presented which incorporates some Heijunka properties from Just-in-Time into the  $Fm/prmulC_{max}/d_i$  problem. This extension (*Heijunka – Fm/prmulC<sub>max</sub>/d<sub>i</sub>*) arises from our concern to adapt academic problems to problems closest to industrial reality in the automotive sector.

The dimension of the mathematical model corresponding to the problem presented depends on the number of types of jobs, the number of workstations and the total demand for products (engines) in a sequencing horizon. For example, the

MILP formulation requires at least 13,770 variables (2430 of them binary) and 25,682 constraints, for 9 types of jobs, 21 workstations and 270 products to be manufactured.

Two methods have been used to solve the new problem applied to a case study based on an engine assembly line. The first of them is based on Mixed Integer Linear Programming, and the CPLEX solver has been used solving all 23 realistic instances from the Nissan-9Eng.I set. The second method, with which the same instances have been solved, is a multistart procedure in whose constructive phase initial solutions are generated satisfying the Quota property, while in the second phase the solutions are improved using five neighborhood (three exchange and two insertion) and attending to the criterion of minimum total completion time ( $C_{max}$ ).

Both procedures have been highly competitive with the new problem, since they have been able to optimally solve a high percentage of the instances using reasonable CPU times. Specifically, procedure MILP-2 obtains and ensures optimal solutions in 20 of the 23 instances with 270 engines using an average CPU time equal to 532.8 s for each instance with an average value of the relative gap between  $C_{max}$  and the best lower bound equal to 11.3 millionths. For its part, MS-Q has been able to obtain 13 optimum within 23 instances using an average CPU time equal to 77.2 s for each instance with an average *Gap* equal to 26.0 millionths. Therefore, it can be concluded that both procedures are valid to solve the *Heijunka – Fm/prmulC<sub>max</sub>/d<sub>i</sub>* problem with a dimension adjusted to the automotive industry. However, although the solutions offered by MILP-2 and MS-Q can be considered equivalent in terms of the value of the objective function, it can be stated that MS-Q beats MILP computationally, being 6.902 times faster in CPU time in the experimental framework of the present case study.

Regarding the transformation of the current assembly line into a Heijunka-flow shop, the economic-productive feasibility study reveals that it is possible to save an average of € 1162.83 per day by manufacturing 270 engines or, alternatively, that it is possible to produce 3 more engines per day with the current working hours.

Finally, for future lines of work, we propose to incorporate in the presented model other productive concepts such as the activity factor of the operators and the possibility of blocking the productive flow between the workstations, as well as the incorporation of some desirable properties in the workloads of the manufacturing sequence.

## Appendix I: Best sequences for Heijunka— $Fm/prmu/C_{max}/d_i$ with the set of instances Nissan-9Eng.I

*Best Quota sequences from MILP-2. Headers (Plan#n, Cmax, Lower Bound, CPU Time in seconds)*

PLAN#1Q 50101 50100 3600.586

581423679789513642781632495871269453189726345327184956  
937815246218763495275318964827135946817294365318792456  
317258649128967354983274561238741956317298546853974621  
259834176236845791127358964279385164813297546296437851  
436972815739126485735849126397684125374912685913457628

PLAN#2Q 50180 50180 366.68

521849734656527143539824871154635294129534876254137854  
365964721845135264395492781456321854375426197945451236  
828145753496521834347652195843574621395194726524453819  
273654541812587364395412576384941295764835521349761245  
358491276854312458749653124539781254463759412135524768

PLAN#3Q 50303 50303 37.851

526847549758453649785644159478519546287545469857446593  
589147546847529456785645943578941654785452946843759546  
284574569738456954184756954876454951387454569872545694  
584756914875429654987544365578461954547852946893547654  
572849546978454365984571456358746495249857456491554768

PLAN#4Q 50170 50170 38.569

526391278934716281361238795891327164623851739972136824  
987123516378622491593816723178932146793528162391728364  
521839167673221894573193286871936234512718639792168324  
157693218873924163253719286174962318237518963291723648  
187396215279318246673183592671932814569233781962471328

PLAN#5Q 50385 50385 45.693

512845324413515349723455124546324153542812594315345214  
134525346745125274531342154128543145524632541543129543  
531452421835412534754256341625344151359245143282543541  
123457745512439534521243451253145864153422543915341542  
135452342756413245513245461245314351249537425413512548

PLAN#6Q 50202 50202 14.106

284531236123974125834136521273412359813452613412329571  
235814369217213425538143621213743952124583912635173214  
825731243614923125836112354475321239124713526531389124  
471232561325389412593113724382162534614592313452173128  
524361129538314723519217324654123138721539624513214328

PLAN#7Q 50397 50397 33.399

524937545458114465384525497542564451854532645443951547  
584452349651454357725458149455645241583413549456524547  
543149584552415467384525644543524597845512435449156547  
354418955445216457945835246454352547185414545254964537  
384551246455945247965445341358544527965413544512454578

## PLAN#8Q 50128 50126 3600.312

563972884167913845297678459661784952897635284146797835  
 613978456972895264173846957162963845987728546971389564  
 127496385978617245689758346369784592791846725168795483  
 631978564276983254796845791368456279487913566298784159  
 639476725898416375789624915273568496478916375891257468

## PLAN#9Q 50378 50378 16.981

283123134123512291433172123632123115321735231212931234  
 123138526312137214321321532132219431523132316231721234  
 512331289123361214323512321731263214312832153211321324  
 523114321232139162345231312138213232171536291321321324  
 134215323127123831421263312312123513251432193212731328

## PLAN#10Q 50625 50625 9.044

545844515456459445544325457544554745545845345425445541  
 544565449255474545354545481545445435514545244654559445  
 345645452545495454454515447545465425548544545345451594  
 534547455645425454545148454355442545545474546545451549  
 543454255458445754545645415344525454495545474515454548

## PLAN#11Q 50084 50084 162.42

563897781968967894678672997856723864919678987678967854  
 629739687895689467976879861678259478967638597896489761  
 738697289678566948976874197626958879786496739678968185  
 724967739856869798798674168967856297967386597897869841  
 736789689672469589784761896379576896784976891876975628

## PLAN#12Q 50196 50196 102.445

591864725394613845279845725463184752165974983154625984  
 761354827594567438169354248759316245785634912584715634  
 979854467252591864735184346259745219684351857642795694  
 173854126845379254196854354263797485135864796524185346  
 729584541293764985132546977845135648479125369645125748

## PLAN#13Q 50136 50126 3600.349

524387196123587412965334918245413627795851263432518412  
 953674139852647123147852963526413852174973523841295614  
 326845917234351895764126312854976312453827549132514836  
 792134152879364556312425478139612387514634295241379625  
 412859873612451733986524137249518365124743915624125738

## PLAN#14Q 50223 50223 134.718

523849516214753842143523951467283456151294327458731954  
 523614125841363524927453186954351247124358132654975436  
 122845153147523649583214791452263458915437624152133845  
 527412659431485937213654234158917542361254378514293524  
 162547354312469531287495124365431852479135624135125478

## PLAN#15Q 50242 50242 105.037

561845239476254457148953589146742553943264175481583524  
 647557498952614534152467983154746853524173945645842591  
 463251784524395856454791234875649521453764852157349854  
 654713495462951827543451683546754299543612475851424953  
 548145763129456875244935584174639512547849635415254768

## PLAN#16Q 50123 50123 160.264

562847913381754952631824597634219876545789123436142895  
 647352971285647318369452741638547291583126975341289654  
 237846541927586413379256184357968142532759641349785218  
 467356291296734581239854571268449317325469817352465891  
 236475891345629781345724961237584691735624189531752468

## PLAN#17Q 50273 50273 74.047

523847514694253841535926415437584921135456427358445219  
 325467541289354516447612583945531247215438454659715342  
 365849214517645243589215473453542198645247351612545834  
 725453174653984215451436249285957341563454127935645412  
 341254887594352641355472961254384514357965241315245478

## PLAN#18Q 50273 50273 15.122

238121345623123145253134127234123915238131524274311235  
 356212431312932154324121835534213721623114523531221634  
 315429312573213214523112394315224137253136124852311324  
 521334218751324132156231324912315324235114326751324132  
 513239124512313824351216324314923512152371324513213428

## PLAN#19Q 50481 50481 7.811

524854354954457654584145459354564475457845254456415594  
 485549543245564547854145954456547541584457546254954435  
 154854945456543547584425594654543457954845564542451547  
 584345549645754452945845154564435547654457549245854145  
 543854564524475549584645415354954457245645945574154548

## PLAN#20Q 50100 50100 65.203

526897789631738964795628718629769841789631623987758694  
 967281738695497816287369684597789263759816684279739186  
 378196782946935786785926417896981672789326781596347896  
 495786138796821769473698729682187569489376571896789632  
 457896781396927816785496723896781693487296517896967328

## PLAN#21Q 50307 50307 10.545

238612341723913521523183721623913124581232931312617234  
 523113782931623124521731823132912634573128132316921324  
 571236132123913824573124312931623218571231932632181324  
 753216312231913824562311327123912834153217362912323184  
 417326123183921325523197312416323812196321423153721328

## PLAN#22Q 50545 50545 9.294

524854574453415534524495541254534645451854594453524541  
 524453546754154452547541453548543154524415549546425435  
 654534485542415254534145457534564452541594543425415549  
 543475465245154354425514854452345549154745645254345514  
 435452854415435245574456514354524594451534524475514548

## PLAN#23Q 50157 50157 43.954

592876784961876549769834857169789456397856784596978624  
 581796794826784596756849783956879146279568784936789546  
 547896297568873946785964817936789546876149586749987256  
 687539964874789265746859189763879546289764576849985761  
 736849725986746958784965917386497586649587918746975628



*Best Quota-sequences from MS-Q. Headers (Plan#n, Cmax, Lower Bound, CPU Time in seconds)*

PLAN#1Q 50101 50100 176.758

562891347652934817823764195321487569418579263278459136  
795861432295386417536487192294873165139678542296317458  
861425739632984175943512687538164729856321974418762539  
876132954954213768935742618938124675983456127849172365  
349652781346129875934187652953721468931247568913547628

PLAN#2Q 50180 50180 130.824

547216843259654831529347851493417256524936154378561428  
754912739465842153584173924562536714835427919456342851  
325148647517693254941235785846315294753614245698152834  
574972361453295184574631246853219457835794152624934815  
736549125834641275384195624537489152476359125364125748

PLAN#3Q 50303 50303 15.496

546834975861455497754968542458945367756425984659457184  
685454379814597465564952748184575496978456452487543956  
748524695386544759645751489256445897745639485489546157  
736549845265487945891544657279544568453794856614557894  
745245869347584695458174956357496854784952456495157468

PLAN#4Q 50170 50170 212.965

526398137891267341273152689639124378971522681731389624  
672193831269571384293615827689732141693722318752138649  
692817351792314386972625831417936238197268213573861942  
781936231865427192631273958312987146695328273168721943  
614973218392615782733986412691852373912615784923176328

PLAN#5Q 50385 50385 73.626

541234517534621543423154852125453341294534175942152543  
142654353128451254473531452348152451356429354152245431  
214534253164951425352347514215745314243652854313545421  
314255462851342495143251453724354151482356254413155423  
345274152934152541533145429542345162534132154453152748

PLAN#6Q 50204 50202 2.855

523812413523469713862141235214373915296835124213724315  
376412352158249312317248153429631513286324159321145372  
265137324112483952813231645715231943291683425712331425  
123851243451237619239143852415237162391763425812331425  
231592437125864311325419632124357138923514271254316328

PLAN#7Q 50397 50397 180.110

534895445712453654245175458463459452815435454647529145  
459715454283451645354254745846594513524438547545695214  
458521445374954625415473546554184395854224545694751543  
458351447556245493541249548554612754534548647534259145  
548569414545327453954581424535645247945136454524514578

## PLAN#8Q 50130 50126 233.543

576913894267857461259873964851263748976489785641359278  
 369529746684917258985174673895676894324615273586981749  
 176348957596264887367929415516874289358467197863259486  
 796324597718546318429678695397815764852973461297688495  
 745362178996734589652647818937469685412735796819756248

## PLAN#9Q 50378 50378 5.281

231281363512431239123412321521327133213214321532183216  
 321732153219123143214321325321763213211234312532713281  
 321321954213932163211232153721342132133512381234216231  
 321392153216423123152312831421321321353712432131262371  
 321532114923238131213526132312379124321512313231241328

## PLAN#10Q 50625 50625 15.883

544654541545345745455425454954485465547454534545124545  
 454954541584545425455465453454954415542545437545445475  
 544584545254615445345549544554754524545844541534564545  
 549544573454515454245456548545454453145454542584594545  
 745546544514545425455439454545145435254654544554574548

## PLAN#11Q 50086 50084 48.682

589637794867916828769984769367689517889677896785296894  
 736279468976786957889469167628597783966858779916486876  
 798972859668497791866398765397768874698627959788661794  
 936788695297868764199778496268975768976489586877369971  
 368796896874928675746981896375698779687491869687957628

## PLAN#12Q 50196 50196 175.992

572684354961319542877645598214596374812564459837578423  
 196145752649581437638954752946235481648527961745145393  
 825846577394512864561994852741354687369415824759746295  
 431852453767819425639458175284669574533412648579417526  
 895439413857526849316145274895534678941257346915256748

## PLAN#13Q 50136 50126 12.691

523714651392874129563184342651297583124675823945147312  
 345968359142712568631425834172935496127623138548715249  
 548137342679128543625614329791528314573268549132741635  
 512894645837123671392451246728513994256338174255413962  
 871395245137624813579426131842546931258471395621245738

## PLAN#14Q 50224 50223 48.688

561374529148342925365114853247496715232435518134945223  
 561417354862957314225634481815957234542311463925527634  
 814925471253543716283145259874145136428352374125439815  
 126645542137948253941365714285453312914652274853619254  
 135734512894456321537249125346531487129354652413125748

## PLAN#15Q 50242 50242 175.659

564957418324615273548496548513542974781562453436594152  
 478525698434157491654753952484785139546253146547249865  
 123545784164259358947417562415534395248469751563748425  
 841359456297544618753412554396587494528176425318452456  
 975434192581457349654351267548493581452479635512454768

## PLAN#16Q 50128 50123 129.008

579834621417865523932484519766127853496128354793729514  
 216748539245867138915264453239876741856453219739815462  
 213549766284583917167453824375691952642835179462418357  
 298673451289345417532694517836741298539645218361729458  
 563477291362584541896372416538497129563871249153547628

## PLAN#17Q 50275 50273 4.336

583427541456391295426584315743546712542318945356442815  
 354274591681754432524679513454213554829571483526451347  
 654935421518439542752134569347521848546519432561453924  
 735485214416537482543215497654315254829563714195342457  
 584163425396547241553814452963548127549316245315245748

## PLAN#18Q 50275 50273 8.297

524316231348213251124933125734213152241323591523143218  
 371421352325612134523412361234151327413823125124313259  
 145233281154237312142536312154239312142537312142539312  
 146233512142537312142536312812435312423123615142538312  
 374123512194235312932412531317523241321453621154321328

## PLAN#19Q 50481 50481 15.000

594458574254645345514845945456451475745425654845594345  
 745546854145345549458456254459354547425514745645594845  
 458465754354245945845745145546415945954645854745534245  
 854475456354145945254456457459514485245453945854754645  
 584547645345245945451548654345945754459645145745524548

## PLAN#20Q 50100 50100 48.132

526897739864916287186397968735976824916782793681947586  
 269783491876758936796285178639896274897164839167975268  
 784962618793578629136978496587723896768913719486679825  
 674598127698632798178639568179376894958726874196632987  
 957368721698814796297836487961873659894726891576967328

## PLAN#21Q 50307 50307 5.385

283123914231635721823412391321732156631213824175329312  
 312812395164327312823123516431273129823123516431273129  
 823123516431273129823123516431273129312812395164327312  
 312912385167324312312912358167233142312912386371425312  
 295132341182631273731293621241531823591231324712631328

## PLAN#22Q 50545 50545 31.922

514453459245854451524435475534645452154453145549425547  
 543564542415854425543547541543954546452154845145543452  
 451456524475534354154542549542458145534534542457541459  
 345564854415524574542415435354254415546541453546425547  
 954415548435245453415564425345145549425453154254754548

## PLAN#23Q 50158 50157 24.340

589726647918945678647398567894679538246879658791564789  
 867492735698945678168974576985486917478962567893465789  
 798456768419259678368794567983687594467892657859417689  
 689475679485296378176894695875378469426789651897468957  
 736958847496678592987645187936956487912678495768957648

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