Title: Preventing Crane Interferences at Automated Container Terminals

Abstract:

In this research, we focus on a container dispatching and conflict-free yard crane routing problem that arises at a storage yard in an automated, maritime container terminal. A storage yard serves as an intermediate buyer for import/export containers and exchanges containers between water- and landside of a maritime terminal. The considered storage yard is perpendicular to the waterside and employs two rail mounted gantry cranes that have different sizes and have thus the possibility to cross each other.

The problem at hand evaluates in which order and by which crane the import/export containers are transported in order to minimize the makespan and prevent crane interferences. We solve this problem to optimality by a branch-and-cut approach that decomposes the problem into two problem classes and connects them via logic-based Benders constraints. We assess the quality of our solution method in a computational study.