

In recent years, decision makers give more importance to the maintenance function, viewing its substantial contribution to business productivity. However, most literature on scheduling studies does not take into account maintenance planning when implementing production schedules. The achievement of production plan without taking into account maintenance activities increases the probability of machine breakdowns, and inversely, considering maintenance actions in production planning elongates the achievement dates of orders and affects deadlines. In this paper, we propose a bi-objective model to deal with production scheduling and maintenance planning problems simultaneously. The performance criteria considered for production and maintenance are, respectively, the total tardiness and the unavailability of the production system. The start times of preventive maintenance actions and their number are not fixed in advance but considered, with the execution dates of production tasks, as decision variables of the problem. The solution of the integrated model is based on multi-objective ant colony optimization approach. The proposed algorithm (Pareto ant colony optimization) is compared, on the basis of several metrics, with well-known multi-objective genetic algorithms, namely NSGA-II and SPEA 2, and a hybrid particle swarm optimization algorithm. Interesting results are obtained via empirical study