Abstract

This paper deals with the socio-technical potential of multi-agent systems to rationalize procedures of cooperative transportation planning and dispatching. Compared to conventional software systems operating with optimization procedures (e.g. operations research) multi-agent technology - as part of the research on Distributed Artificial Intelligence (DAI) - is better suited to meet real-world requirements of planning and dispatching processes in the transportation and logistic domain. From a sociological perspective, some weaknesses of simulation and social modelling approaches will be analysed and - against the background of these problems - the opportunities for multi-agent technology in the transportation domain will be discussed in this paper.