## Algorithms with Predictions Learning-Augmented Algorithms for Scheduling Problems

#### **Nicole Megow**

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#### Different models for uncertain input



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**Different optimization frameworks**: online optimization, stochastic optimization, robust optimization, etc.

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Can imperfect predictions improve rigorous performance guarantees?

8	11	14	16	18	25	30	36	40	43	46	49	50	53	54	56	59	60	63



	8	11	14	16	18	25	30	36	40	43	46	49	50	53	54	56	59	60	63
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	q = 16																		







n elements



• Binary search: worst-case # queries is  $\Theta(\log n)$ 

6	1	1	14	16	18	25	30	36	40	43	46	49	50	53	54	56	59	60	63



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- Prediction: position h(q) of target q



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- ▶ Binary search: worst-case # queries is Θ(log n)
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## Learning-Augmented Algorithms

- Assume access to predictions (e.g. ML)
- Prediction is imperfect
- No information about their quality



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#### Desired algorithm properties

- Consistency: better than worst case if the prediction errors are small
- Robustness: bounded worst case for arbitrary predictions
- Error-dependency: graceful degradation with the error



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Line of research (re)initiated by [Lykouris, Vassilvitskii (ICML 2018)], [Kraska et al. (SIGMOD 2018)] – became an extremely vibrant area

#### Paper Repository https://algorithms-with-predictions.github.io/

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hosted by Alex Lindermayr and M.

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Goal: schedule jobs (preemptively) on a single machine



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#### **Optimal Schedule:**

[Smith 1956]

Shortest Processing Time first (SPT)

**Input:** set of jobs with processing requirements  $p_i$ 

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**Unrelated machines**  $(R|r_j, pmtn|\sum w_j C_j)$ : 1.99-approximation [Im, Li 2016]

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Suppose processing times are unknown! (non-clairvoyant scheduling)
Processing times are unknown.

We cannot expect to find the optimal solution.

## Competitive analysis (worst-case analysis)

An online algorithm is  $\rho$ -competitive if it achieves, for any input instance, a solution of cost within a factor  $\rho$  of the optimal cost:

 $ALG(I) \le \rho \cdot OPT(I)$ , for any input *I*.





Round-Robin (RR) is 2-competitive for minimizing  $\sum_j C_j$  on a singlemachine, and this is best-possible.[Motwani, Phillips, Torng 1994]



**Proof.** Let  $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \ldots \leq p_n$ .





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**Proof.** Let  $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \ldots \leq p_n$ .

$$C_{1} = n \cdot p_{1}$$

$$C_{2} = n \cdot p_{1} + (n-1) \cdot (p_{2} - p_{1}) = p_{1} + (n-1) \cdot p_{2}$$

$$C_{3} = n \cdot p_{1} + (n-1) \cdot (p_{2} - p_{1}) + (n-2) \cdot (p_{3} - p_{2} - p_{1}) \le p_{1} + p_{2} + (n-2) \cdot p_{3}$$

$$C_{c} \qquad C_{e} \qquad C_{a} \qquad C_{b} \qquad C_{d}$$
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...  
 $\sum_{j=1}^{n} C_{j} \leq \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} p_{\ell} + (n-j+1) \cdot p_{j} \right)$ 

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Further **Time-Sharing** algorithms for more general problems:

- Individual job weights: Weighted Round-Robin (2-competitive)
   [Kim, Chwa 2003]
- Identical machines: Weighted Dynamic Equipartition (2-comp.)

[Beaumont, Bonichon, Eyraud-Dubois, Marchal 2012]

Unrelated machines: Proportional Fairness (128-comp., 4.62-comp.) [Im, Kulkarni, Munagala 2018], [Lindermayr, M., Jäger 2024]

Predict job lengths y<sub>j</sub>

#### [Kumar, Purohit, Svitkina, NIPS 2018]



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**Error**:  $\ell_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |p_i - y_i|$ 

## Predict job lengths y<sub>j</sub>

#### [Kumar, Purohit, Svitkina, NIPS 2018]

P1
 P2
 P3
 P4
 P5

 Y1
 Y2
 Y2
 Y4
 Y5
 
$$\ell_1$$
-error

**Error**:  $\ell_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |p_i - y_j|$ 

**Natural algorithm**: run shortest predicted job first (SPF). ("Follow the prediction")

## Predict job lengths y<sub>j</sub>

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## Lemma

 $\mathrm{SPF}$  achieves scheduling cost  $\mathrm{SPF}(y_j, p_j) \leq \mathrm{OPT}(p_j) + n \cdot \ell_1$ 

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## Lemma

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Consistent but not robust (against bad predictions).

[Kumar, Purohit, Svitkina 2018], [Lindermayr, M. 2022]

## Input:

- prediction-clairvoyant alg.  $\mathcal{A}^{C}$  ("follow the prediction") with some error-dependent competitive ratio
- non-clairvoyant alg.  $\mathcal{A}^N$  with error-independent competitive ratio
- confidence parameter  $\lambda \in (0,1)$

**Preferential Time Sharing (** $\lambda$ ,  $\mathcal{A}^{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}^{N}$ **)**: run both  $\mathcal{A}^{C}$  and  $\mathcal{A}^{N}$ 

$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{C}} & \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{N}} & \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{C}} & \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{N}} & \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{C}} & \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{N}} & \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{C}} & \mathcal{A}^{\mathsf{N}} \\ (1-\lambda) & \lambda \end{array} }_{(1-\lambda) \lambda}$$

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**Motivation:**  $\mathcal{A}^{C}$  gives consistency,  $\mathcal{A}^{N}$  gives robustness, trade-off by  $\lambda$ 

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**Motivation:**  $\mathcal{A}^{C}$  gives consistency,  $\mathcal{A}^{N}$  gives robustness, trade-off by  $\lambda$ **Analysis:** slowed down execution by factors  $\frac{1}{1-\lambda}$  resp.  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ 

[Kumar, Purohit, Svitkina 2018] [Lindermayr, M. 2022]

## Theorem

 $\mathsf{PTS}(\lambda, \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{C}}, \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{N}})$  has competitive ratio min  $\left\{\frac{1}{1-\lambda}\left(\alpha + \frac{\eta}{OPT}\right), \frac{\beta}{\lambda}\right\}$ , if

•  $\mathcal{A}^{C}$  is monotone and  $\left(\alpha + \frac{\eta}{\text{OPT}}\right)$ -competitive and

•  $\mathcal{A}^{N}$  is monotone and  $\beta$ -competitive.

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**Corollary.** PTS with 2-competitive RR and SPF achieves a competitive ratio of min $\{\frac{1}{1-\lambda}(1+\frac{n\cdot\ell_1}{\Omega_{\rm PT}}), \frac{2}{\lambda}\}$ , for  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ .

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#### Theorem

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Yes, works for more general scheduling problems

[Lindermayr, M. 2022]

## Roadmap

- 1. develop monotone prediction-clairvoyant alg.  $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{C}}$  and error-dependent competitive ratio
- 2. select a monotone non-clairvoyant algorithm  $\mathcal{A}^{N}$

Yes, works for more general scheduling problems

[Lindermayr, M. 2022]

# Roadmap 1. develop monotone prediction-clairvoyant alg. A<sup>C</sup> and error-dependent competitive ratio

2. select a monotone non-clairvoyant algorithm  $\mathcal{A}^N$ 

Proving error-dependent bounds seems difficult with l<sub>1</sub>-error (linear error vs. quadratic objective)

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- Proving error-dependent bounds seems difficult with l<sub>1</sub>-error (linear error vs. quadratic objective)
  - $\rightarrow$  alternative error measures [Im et al. 2021], [Lindermayr, M. 2022]
- Do we really need to predict all the job lengths?

## Permutation Predictions

**Permutation predictions:** predict an order of jobs:  $\hat{\sigma} : [n] \rightarrow [n]$ 

Motivation: knowing WSPT order is often sufficient for good approximations:

- optimal for  $1|(pmtn)| \sum w_j C_j$  [Smith 1956]
- 2-competitive for  $P|r_j, pmtn|\sum w_j C_j$
- 5.83-competitive for  $R|r_j, pmtn|\sum w_j C_j$

[M. & Schulz 2004]

[Lindermayr & M. 2022]

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$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} p_1 & p_2 & p_3 & (W) \text{SPT order } p_3 \leq p_1 \leq p_2 \\ \hline y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \\ \hline y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \end{array} \right\} \text{Indicate correct order } y_3 \leq y_1 \leq y_2, \text{ but } \ell_1, \nu > 0 \\ \end{array}$$

**Error measure:** quantifies effect of inversions  $\mathcal{I}$  between  $\hat{\sigma}$  and true WSPT order on list scheduling according to predicted order:

$$\eta^{S} = \sum_{(i,j)\in\mathcal{I}} (w_i p_j - w_j p_i)$$

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**Error measure:** quantifies effect of inversions  $\mathcal{I}$  between  $\hat{\sigma}$  and true WSPT order on list scheduling according to predicted order:

$$\eta^{S} = \sum_{(i,j)\in\mathcal{I}} (w_i p_j - w_j p_i)$$

• For  $1|\sum w_j C_j$  this is exactly  $\eta^S = OPT(\hat{\sigma}) - OPT(\sigma)$ .

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For 1||∑ w<sub>j</sub>C<sub>j</sub> this is exactly η<sup>S</sup> = OPT(σ̂) - OPT(σ).
 η<sup>S</sup> captures structure instead of irrelevant numerical values.

**PTS** for weighted jobs on a single machine  $1|pmtn| \sum w_j C_j$ 

1. prediction-clairvoyant  $\mathcal{A}^{C}$ : WSPT (optimal) [Smith56]



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## Scheduling on a Single Machine

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 3
 4
 2
 1

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$$\min\left\{\frac{1}{1-\lambda}\left(1+\frac{\eta^{S}}{\text{OPT}}\right),\frac{2}{\lambda}\right\}$$

WSPT order also useful for more general scheduling settings.

**PTS** for multiple machines and release dates  $P|r_j, pmtn| \sum w_j C_j$ 

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**PTS** on unrelated machines  $R|r_j, pmtn| \sum w_j C_j$ 

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2. non-clairvoyant  $\mathcal{A}^N$ : Proportional Fairness (4.62-competitive)

[Lindermayr, M., Jäger 2024]

#### Sensitivity Experiments

- Single machine, unweighted jobs
- Synthetic instances sampled from Pareto-distribution with shape 1.1 Many small jobs and few very large jobs! (common)



 We "see" only jobs without unfinished predecessors

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- We "see" only jobs without unfinished predecessors
- Jobs are revealed once their predecessors have completed



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$$n-2$$
  $n$   $1$   $2$   $n-1$   $3$   $\bullet \bullet \bullet$ 

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$$n-2$$
  $n$  1 2  $n-1$  3 •••  $\sum_{j=1}^{n} w_j C_j = 2$ 

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Any online algorithm has a competitive ratio  $\Omega(n)!$ 



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[Lassota, Lindermayr, M., Schlöter, ICML 2023]

Predict the full instance or a permutation of jobs

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1. "Follow-the-Prediction" is  $(1 + \eta)$ -competitive ( $\eta$  permutation error)

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Initial front jobs

[Lassota, Lindermayr, M., Schlöter, ICML 2023]

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**Theorem**. Preferential Time Sharing is  $\mathcal{O}(\min\{1 + \eta, \omega\})$ -competitive.

What additional information is needed to improve upon lower bound?

 $\rightarrow$  exact information!



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Full input

What additional information is needed to improve upon lower bound?

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What additional information is needed to improve upon lower bound?

Total successor weight

Weight order

 $\rightarrow$  exact information!


# Minimalistic Input Prediction

What additional information is needed to improve upon lower bound?

 $\rightarrow$  exact information!

Static

Static

Weight order

Adaptive



### Minimalistic Input Prediction

What additional information is needed to improve upon lower bound?

 $\rightarrow$  exact information!

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... results for different topologies - not today.

[Jäger & Warode, 2024]



initial front jobs

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Decompose DAG G into out-trees rooted at the front jobs



[Jäger & Warode, 2024]

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  Algorithm: run front jobs v at a rate proportional to the total
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Theorem (Jäger & Warode 2024). This algorithm is 2-competitive.



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▶ Prediction: the total weight w(T(v)) of successors of job v in T

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▶ Prediction: the total weight w(T(v)) of successors of job v in T**Theorem**. The time sharing framework is  $\mathcal{O}(\min\{2 + \eta, \omega\}$ -competitive.

#### This talk

Algorithms with predictions

binary search, scheduling with unknown job sizes, precedences (online)

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Powerful time-sharing framework

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More sophisticated techniqies to leverage imperfect predictions

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- Minimalistic, parsimonious predictions