

**Static Routing in Stochastic Scheduling:
Performance Guarantees and Asymptotic Optimality**
(Online Appendix)

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B Additional Proofs and Derivations

B.1 Performance Bound on Static Routing With Dependent Jobs

Theorem B.1 (Extension of Theorem 4.1). *If $\frac{\text{Var}[p_{jm}]}{\mathbb{E}[p_{jm}]^2} \leq \Delta$ holds for all jobs $j \in \mathcal{J}$ and machines $m \in \mathcal{M}$, then any static routing policy obtained from an optimal solution of (2) satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} V^* \leq V^R \leq V^* &+ \left(\frac{M-1}{2M} + \frac{\Delta}{2} \right) \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} w_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j w_j \\ &+ \left(2 + \sqrt{\Delta M} \right) \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] \right) \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \beta_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm}. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Proof. In the proof we use similar penalties as in Section 4.2 with the same parameters λ_{jm} and γ_{jm} as in Proposition 4.5. We first state and prove Lemma B.2, which bounds the parameters λ_{jm} in the routing penalty.

Lemma B.2. *Let $\lambda_{jm} = \nu_j^* / \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] + \frac{1}{2} w_j$ with ν_j^* being an optimal Lagrange multiplier of the assignment constraint $\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm} = 1$ in (2). We have the following inequalities*

$$0 \leq \lambda_{jm} \leq w_j + r_{jm} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}} \mathbb{E}[p_{im}]. \quad (2)$$

Proof. It suffices to show any optimal Lagrange multiplier ν_j^* of the assignment constraint $\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm} = 1$ satisfies

$$0 \leq \nu_j^* \leq \frac{1}{2} w_j \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] + r_{jm} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}} \mathbb{E}[p_{im}], \quad \forall m \in \mathcal{M}.$$

To show this, let $\mathbf{x}^* = (x_{jm}^*)_{j \in \mathcal{J}, m \in \mathcal{M}} \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times M}$ be an optimal solution and $\mu_{jm}^* \geq 0$ be an optimal Lagrange multiplier of the non-negativity constraint $x_{jm} \geq 0$ in (2). By the KKT conditions, for all jobs $j \in \mathcal{J}$ and machines $m \in \mathcal{M}$ we have

$$\frac{1}{2} w_j \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}} d_{ji}^m x_{im}^* = \nu_j^* + \mu_{jm}^*, \quad (3)$$

where $d_{ji}^m = \min(r_{im}, r_{jm}) \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] \mathbb{E}[p_{im}]$ is the (j, i) -th element in \mathbf{D}_m as is defined in Lemma 3.1.

We first show $\nu_j^* \geq 0$. If not, from (3) we have $\mu_{jm}^* > 0$ for all $m \in \mathcal{M}$. Then according to the complementary slackness we have $x_{jm}^* = 0$ for all $m \in \mathcal{M}$. This contradicts the assignment constraint, which requires $\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm}^* = 1$.

Next, since $\mu_{jm}^* \geq 0$ for all $m \in \mathcal{M}$, from (3) we have for all $m \in \mathcal{M}$,

$$\nu_j^* \leq \frac{1}{2} w_j \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}} d_{ji}^m x_{im}^* \leq \frac{1}{2} w_j \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] + r_{jm} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}} \mathbb{E}[p_{im}],$$

because $x_{im}^* \leq 1$ and $d_{ji}^m \leq r_{jm} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] \mathbb{E}[p_{im}]$. The result follows. \square

We now prove Theorem B.1. We will restrict attention to non-anticipative policies where idling all machines at the same time is not allowed. This idling constraint is trivially satisfied by the optimal non-anticipative policy, and it allows us to bound the starting times of each job in the perfect information problem.

First, note that for the upper bound on V^R , Proposition 4.3 still holds. To derive a lower bound on V^* using a penalized perfect information relaxation, we define the sequencing penalty Y_S to be

$$Y_S \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} S_{jm}^\pi (p_{jm} - \mathbb{E}[p_{jm} | \mathcal{F}_{S_{jm}^\pi}^\pi]), \quad (4)$$

and the routing penalty Y_R to be

$$Y_R \triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm}^\pi \left[\lambda_{jm} (\mathbb{E}[p_{jm} | \mathcal{F}_{S_{jm}^\pi}^\pi] - p_{jm}) + \gamma_{jm} (\mathbb{E}[p_{jm}^2 | \mathcal{F}_{S_{jm}^\pi}^\pi] - p_{jm}^2) \right]. \quad (5)$$

We set the parameters $(\lambda_{jm})_{j \in \mathcal{J}, m \in \mathcal{M}}$ and $(\gamma_{jm})_{j \in \mathcal{J}, m \in \mathcal{M}}$ as in the statement of Proposition 4.5. Since S_{jm}^π is measurable with respect to $\mathcal{F}_{S_{jm}^\pi}^\pi$ for all non-anticipative policies, we obtain by the law of total expectation that the sequencing penalty Y_S is dual feasible. An analogous argument shows the routing penalty Y_R is also dual feasible, as x_{jm}^π is measurable with respect to $\mathcal{F}_{S_{jm}^\pi}^\pi$ for all non-anticipative policies. Let

$$V^H(\mathbf{p}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \left\{ \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} w_j C_j + Y_S + Y_R \right\},$$

be the penalized perfect information relaxation problem for sample path $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times M}$. We have

$$V^H \triangleq \mathbb{E}[V^H(\mathbf{p})] \leq V^*, \quad (6)$$

is a lower bound on V^* , because the penalty $Y_S + Y_R$ is dual feasible.

Next, define the penalties as in Section 4:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Y}_S &\triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} S_{jm}^\pi (p_{jm} - \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}]), \\ \tilde{Y}_R &\triangleq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm}^\pi \left[\lambda_{jm} (\mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] - p_{jm}) + \gamma_{jm} (\mathbb{E}[p_{jm}^2] - p_{jm}^2) \right], \end{aligned}$$

and let $\tilde{V}^H(\mathbf{p})$ be the perfect information problem with these penalties:

$$\tilde{V}^H(\mathbf{p}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \left\{ \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} w_j C_j + \tilde{Y}_S + \tilde{Y}_R \right\}.$$

We have that

$$V^H(\mathbf{p}) \geq \tilde{V}^H(\mathbf{p}) + \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \left\{ Y_S + Y_R - \tilde{Y}_S - \tilde{Y}_R \right\}. \quad (7)$$

Using the assumption of limited dependence (10) and (11), we can bound the difference in penalties as follows:

$$Y_S + Y_R - \tilde{Y}_S - \tilde{Y}_R \geq - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} S_{jm} - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm} |\lambda_{jm}| - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \beta_j \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm} |\gamma_{jm}|.$$

We next bound each of these terms. For the first term, we use the fact that the start time of every job $j \in \mathcal{J}$ must satisfy $S_j \leq C_j \leq \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}} \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} p_{im}$ because idling all machines at the same time is not allowed. Moreover, because each job is processed by one machine we have that

$\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} S_{jm} \leq (\max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm}) S_j$. Therefore,

$$\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} S_{jm} \leq \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} p_{jm} \right) \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} \right).$$

For the second term, the assignment constraint and Lemma B.2 imply that

$$\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm} |\lambda_{jm}| \leq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j w_j + \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] \right) \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} \right).$$

For the third term, we use $\gamma_{jm} = -\frac{1}{2} r_{jm}$ and the assignment constraint to obtain that

$$\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \beta_j \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} x_{jm} |\gamma_{jm}| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \beta_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm}.$$

Taking expectations on both sides of (7) gives

$$\begin{aligned} V^{\text{H}} &\geq \mathbb{E} \left[\tilde{V}^{\text{H}}(\mathbf{p}) \right] - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j w_j - \left(2 + \sqrt{\Delta M} \right) \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] \right) \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \alpha_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \beta_j \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} r_{jm}, \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

because

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} p_{jm} \right] \leq \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] + M^{1/2} \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} (\text{Var}[p_{jm}])^{1/2} \leq \left(1 + \sqrt{\Delta M} \right) \max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}],$$

due to Devroye (1979) and $\text{Var}[p_{jm}] \leq \Delta \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}]^2$ for all jobs $j \in \mathcal{J}$ and machines $m \in \mathcal{M}$. The result follows from using Proposition 4.3 to bound V^{R} from above, Proposition 4.5 to bound $\tilde{V}^{\text{H}}(\mathbf{p})$ from below, (6), and (8). \square

B.2 Additional Details on Example 6.1

Because weights are one, we can express V^{A} as

$$V^{\text{A}} = \mathbb{E} \left[\underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{J/2} C_{2i-1}}_{(a)} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{J/2} C_{2i} \mathbf{1}_{\{p_{2i-1}=0\}}}_{(b)} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{J/2} C_{2i} \mathbf{1}_{\{p_{2i-1}=1\}}}_{(c)} \right],$$

where (a) represents the completion time of odd-numbered jobs, (b) represents the completion time of even-numbered jobs processed immediately, and (c) represents the completion time of even-numbered jobs delayed to the end of sequence. The odd-numbered job $2i-1$ has to wait for all jobs with $j < 2i-1$ to either complete processing on the machine or transfer towards the end of the sequence. Let t_i be the total processing time of job pair (p_{2i-1}, p_{2i}) excluding the time to process job $2i$ if delayed. We have

$$\mathbb{E}[t_i] = \mathbb{E}[p_{2i-1}] + \mathbb{E}[p_{2i} \mathbf{1}_{\{p_{2i-1}=0\}}] = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (1 - 2q_i) = 1 - q_i.$$

Thus,

$$\mathbb{E}[(a)] = \sum_{i=1}^{J/2} \left(\mathbb{E}[p_{2i-1}] + \sum_{j<i} \mathbb{E}[t_j] \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{J/2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \sum_{j<i} (1 - q_j) \right) = \frac{1}{8} J^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \sum_{j<i} q_j.$$

Similar, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(b)] &= \sum_{i=1}^{J/2} \mathbb{P}(p_{2i-1} = 0) \left(\mathbb{E}[p_{2i}|p_{2i-1} = 0] + \sum_{j<i} \mathbb{E}[t_j] \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{J/2} \frac{1}{2} \left((1 - 2q_i) + \sum_{j<i} (1 - q_j) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{16} J^2 + \frac{1}{8} J - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \sum_{j<i} q_j - \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} q_i. \end{aligned}$$

To calculate (c), we first calculate the expectation conditioning on the realized processing times of all odd-numbered jobs $\{p_{2i-1}\}_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}}$, then we take expectation over these processing times. We let $N = \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} p_{2i-1}$ be the number of odd-numbered jobs with realized processing times of one. Altogether N even-numbered jobs will be moved towards the end of the sequence, because job $2i$ is delayed if $p_{2i-1} = 1$. Because the machine begins processing these jobs at time $N + \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} (1 - p_{2i-1}) \mathbb{E}[p_{2i}|p_{2i-1} = 0]$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[(c) \mid \{p_{2i-1}\}_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \right] &= N \left(N + \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} (1 - p_{2i-1}) \mathbb{E}[p_{2i}|p_{2i-1} = 0] \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \sum_{j \leq i} p_{2i-1} p_{2j-1} \mathbb{E}[p_{2j}|p_{2j-1} = 1] \\ &= N \left(N + \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} (1 - p_{2i-1}) (1 - 2q_i) \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \sum_{j \leq i} p_{2i-1} p_{2j-1} 2q_j. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we obtain by taking expectations over $\{p_{2i-1}\}_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(c)] &= \frac{1}{8} J^2 - \left(\frac{J}{2} - 2 \right) \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} q_i + \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \sum_{j<i} q_j + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \sum_{j>i} q_j \\ &\leq \frac{1}{8} J^2 - \left(\frac{J}{2} - 2 \right) \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} q_i + \frac{3}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} \sum_{j<i} q_j, \end{aligned}$$

where the inequality is because q_i are sequenced in decreasing order.

Combining (a), (b), and (c) yields

$$V^A \leq \frac{5}{16} J^2 + \frac{1}{8} J + \left(1 - \frac{J}{2} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{\frac{J}{2}} q_i.$$

C Dynamic Programming Formulation

The optimal policy of the scheduling problem described in Section 2 can be obtained by solving Bellman's Equation, using backward induction. For sake of simplicity of presentation, we assume all random variables p_{jm} take only positive integral values, that is, $\mathbb{P}\{p_{jm} \in \mathbb{N}\} = 1$. Then we can further assume without loss of generality that jobs can only be started at integral points in time $t \in \mathbb{N}$.

We define the state to be (W, P, ℓ) , where $W \subseteq \mathcal{J}$ is the subset of jobs waiting for service, and $P \subseteq \mathcal{J} \times \mathcal{M}$ is the subset of job-machine pairs under process. $\ell = (\ell_j)_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \in \mathbb{R}^J$ is defined as follows: if job j is currently under process on some machine, then ℓ_j is the elapsed processing time of job j ; if job j is waiting for service, then $\ell_j = 0$; otherwise if job j is completed, ℓ_j can take an arbitrary value.

To describe Bellman's Equation, we introduce some helpful notation. Suppose $P \subseteq \mathcal{J} \times \mathcal{M}$ is a subset of job-machine pairs. We define two operations $\mathcal{J}(\cdot)$ and $\mathcal{M}(\cdot)$ on P such that $\mathcal{J}(P)$ and $\mathcal{M}(P)$ give the jobs and machines under process in the job-machine pairs in P , respectively. Also, for each set $A \subseteq \mathcal{J}$, we define the vector $\mathbf{I}_A = (\mathbf{I}_A^j)_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \in \{0, 1\}^J$ to be $\mathbf{I}_A^j = 1$ if $j \in A$, and $\mathbf{I}_A^j = 0$ otherwise.

Let $V(W, P, \ell)$ be the cost-to-go function when the state is (W, P, ℓ) . If $W = \emptyset$, set $V(W, P, \ell) = \sum_{(j,m) \in P} w_j \mathbb{E}[p_{jm} - \ell_j | p_{jm} > \ell_j]$. If $W \neq \emptyset$, then the action set is

$$\mathcal{A}(W, P) = \{\hat{P} \subseteq W \times \mathcal{M} \setminus \mathcal{M}(P) : \text{if } (j, m), (j', m') \in \hat{P}, \text{ then } j \neq j' \text{ and } m \neq m'\}.$$

That is, $\mathcal{A}(W, P)$ is the set of all possible job-machine pairs that can be assigned when jobs in W are waiting and job-machine pairs in P are under process. Thus, if $\hat{P} \in \mathcal{A}(W, P)$ is chosen, the decision maker will assign job j to currently idle machine m for each job-machine pair $(j, m) \in \hat{P}$.

In addition, define $\mathcal{F} \subseteq P$ to be the random set of job-machine pairs that are currently under process and will be completed by the beginning of next stage, i.e., for each set $F \subseteq P$,

$$\mathbb{P}\{\mathcal{F} = F | P, \ell\} = \prod_{(j,m) \in P \setminus F} \mathbb{P}\{p_{jm} > \ell_j + 1 | p_{jm} > \ell_j\} \prod_{(j,m) \in F} \mathbb{P}\{p_{jm} = \ell_j + 1 | p_{jm} > \ell_j\}.$$

Then the Bellman Equation can be written as:

$$V(W, P, \ell) = \min_{\hat{P} \in \mathcal{A}(W, P)} \left\{ \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}(P) \cup W} w_j + \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{F} | P \cup \hat{P}, \ell} \left[V \left(W \setminus \mathcal{J}(\hat{P}), \{P \cup \hat{P}\} \setminus \mathcal{F}, \ell + \mathbf{I}_{\mathcal{J}(\{P \cup \hat{P}\} \setminus \mathcal{F})} \right) \right] \right\}.$$

The optimal performance is given by $V^* = V(\mathcal{J}, \emptyset, \mathbf{0})$.

D Binary Linear Programming Formulation for Optimal Static Routing

In this section, we provide an approach to calculating an exact solution to optimization problem (1) using 0-1 integer programming. The approach may be viable when the number of jobs is not large.

We can write problem (1) in matrix form as

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbf{c}'_m \mathbf{x}_m + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}'_m \tilde{\mathbf{D}}_m \mathbf{x}_m, \quad (9)$$

where $\mathbf{c}_m = (w_j \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}])_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \in \mathbb{R}^J$, and $\tilde{\mathbf{D}}_m = (\tilde{d}_{ij}^m) \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times J}$ is the matrix such that

$$\tilde{d}_{ij}^m = \begin{cases} 0 & i = j, \\ w_i \mathbb{E}[p_{jm}] & j \prec_m i, \\ w_j \mathbb{E}[p_{im}] & i \prec_m j. \end{cases}$$

We claim that the optimal value of problem (9) does not change if we replace the non-negative constraint $x_{jm} \geq 0$ with the binary constraint $x_{jm} \in \{0, 1\}$ for each job-machine pair. To see this, suppose \mathbf{x} is an optimal solution for (9), then using the method of conditional probabilities we can derandomize \mathbf{x} to a feasible binary solution whose performance cannot be any worse. On the other hand, every feasible binary solution can not be any better than \mathbf{x} , because \mathbf{x} is an optimal solution to (9).

Define new binary variables $y_{ij}^m \triangleq x_{im}x_{jm}$. Then the objective of problem (9) is equivalent to

$$\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} c_{jm} x_{jm} + \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \sum_{i < j \in \mathcal{J}} y_{ij}^m \tilde{d}_{ij}^m.$$

We can guarantee that $y_{ij}^m = x_{im}x_{jm}$ using the following constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} y_{ij}^m &\leq x_{jm}, \\ y_{ij}^m &\leq x_{im}, \\ y_{ij}^m &\geq x_{jm} + x_{im} - 1, \\ y_{ij}^m &\in \{0, 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

As a result, problem (9) is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} &\underset{x_{jm}, y_{ij}^m}{\text{minimize}} && \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} c_{jm} x_{jm} + \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \sum_{i < j \in \mathcal{J}} y_{ij}^m \tilde{d}_{ij}^m \\ &\text{subject to} && \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbf{x}_m = \mathbf{1}, \\ &&& y_{ij}^m \leq x_{jm}, \\ &&& y_{ij}^m \leq x_{im}, \\ &&& y_{ij}^m \geq x_{jm} + x_{im} - 1, \\ &&& x_{jm} \in \{0, 1\}, \\ &&& y_{ij}^m \in \{0, 1\}, \end{aligned}$$

which is a 0-1 integer programming problem.

References

Devroye, L. P. (1979), 'Inequalities for the completion times of stochastic pert networks', *Mathematics of Operations Research* 4(4), 441–447.