# Imperial College London

# **C**OURSEWORK

## IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING

# **Scheduling and Resource Allocation**

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Date: November 27, 2024

# 1 Question 1

## 1.1 Part 1

## 1.1.1 Explanation of Proof

The Least Cost Last (LCL) algorithm schedules jobs based on the following parameters:

- Input: A set of n jobs  $N = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$  with precedence constraints (if job i must precede job j, i < j).
- A cost function  $g_i(C_i)$  for each job j, where  $g_i$  is non-decreasing.

The goal is to minimize  $g_{max}^* = max_{j \in N} g_j(C_j)$ , where  $g_j(C_j)$  is a non-decreasing cost function of the job completion time  $C_j$ , subject to precedence constraints. The proof shows that, at each step, there exists an optimal schedule where the job in the set L (jobs without successors) with the least cost increase is scheduled last.

**Definitions**: Begin by extracting a subset  $L \subseteq N$ , which represents a set of jobs without successors, these jobs can be scheduled at the end without violating precedence constraints.  $p(S) = \sum_{j \in S} p_j$  represents the sum of the total processing time of the jobs in a subset  $S \subseteq N$ . Therefore  $g_{max} * (S)$  will be the cost of an optimal schedule for the jobs in S.

**Lower bound on optimal cost**: Based on the definitions, the processing times of all jobs on a single machine will be p(N) and the set L contains the job that is executed last, based on this information it is possible to construct the following inequality:  $g_{max} * (N) \ge min_{j \in L} g_j(p(N))$ . This inequality denotes that since the subset L will contain at least one of the jobs that will be scheduled last, it will mean that the optimal cost of completing all the jobs in N is at least the minimum of scheduling a job  $j \in L$  last.

**Effect of Removing a job**: If one were to remove a job from the set N, it would net the following inequality:  $g_{max}*(N) \ge g_{max}*(N-\{j\})$ . This makes sense, as the optimal total cost of scheduling N jobs cannot increase if one were to remove a job, as there are now fewer jobs to schedule.

Optimal Cost with  $J_{l \in L}$  Scheduled Last: Select a job  $J_l$  which is in L, and select it so that it results in the least cost if it were to be selected last, i.e.  $g_l(p(N)) = min_{j \in L}g_j(p(N))$ . It can then be inferred that:

$$g_{max} * (N) \ge max\{g_l(p(N), g_{max} * (N - \{l\})\}$$

Thus confirming that the optimal schedule cost will be at least the maximum between the cost of scheduling  $J_l$  last and the cost of scheduling all remaining jobs. Repeatedly applying this rule leads to the optimal solution, as finding  $J_l$  can be achieved in linear time, O(n), it follows that the optimal solution can be completed proportional to  $O(n^2)$  time.

## 1.1.2 Illustration of proof for maximum tardiness

To illustrate with a smaller Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) where the cost function being minimized is tardiness, consider 5 jobs,  $J_n = \{J_1, J_2, J_3, J_4, J_5\}$ , with the following due dates and completion times:

**Due dates:** [30, 73, 55, 52, 54]

**Completion times:** [17, 26, 20, 14, 12]

1 QUESTION 1 1.2 Part 2

L is defined to be the set of jobs,  $L \in J_n$ , that can be scheduled in the current iteration, in other words, it contains the set of jobs that can be scheduled last, i.e. jobs that have no successors. Tardiness is defined to be the measure of how late a job is in respect to its completion time:

tardiness(j)=max{0, sum(completion\_times)-due\_date(j)}

## Steps:

• Since scheduling starts from the last job, begin by calculating the sum of all completion times, 89. L contains jobs 1 and 5 because they have no successor. The tardiness for these jobs is {59, 35}. Since job 5 has the lowest tardiness, pick this job and add it to the schedule. Since this job has now been scheduled, the completion time reduces by its processing time.

```
schedule: {5}
total_completion_time = 77
```

• In the next iteration, there is no new job that can be scheduled (no new job without successors). Pick 1, add it to the schedule and reduce the completion time.

```
schedule: {1, 5}
total_completion_time = 60
```

• Jobs 2 and 4 can now be scheduled. Repeating the steps above, we have tardiness: {0, 8}. Which means 2 will be scheduled.

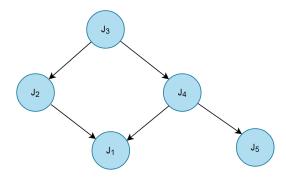
```
schedule: {2, 1, 5}
total_completion_time = 34
```

• Job 4 has to be scheduled before 3.

```
schedule: {4, 2, 1, 5}
total_completion_time = 20
```

Since only one job is remaining, the final schedule is schedule: {3, 4, 2, 1, 5} with a maximum tardiness of 47 when scheduling job 2.

Figure 1: Diagram of the Directed Acyclic Graph



The algorithm outlined above is implemented in the code for the provided DAG. Further explanation of the structure can be found below.

### 1.2 Part 2

A general graph with edges (precedences), weights and jobs as its nodes can be found at src/graph.py. Precedences are defined as an adjacency matrix. The least cost rule (lcl) algorithm is defined in src/lcl.py. The LCLGraph data structure inherits from the base Graph, overrriding the schedule\_jobs() with an lcl based schedule. This minimizes the maximum tardiness (based on the

formula presented above) resulting from scheduling all of the jobs, while respecting the precedence constraints defined.

Iteration	Job Sched-	Minimum	Schedule	
Iteration	uled	Tardiness	Schedule	
1	31	0	[31]	
2	1	0	[1, 31]	
5	2	65	[2, 15, 11, 1, 31]	
6	5	44	[5, 2, 15, 11, 1, 31]	
16	16	46	[16, 14, 29, 13, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, 12, 5, 2, 15, 11, 1, 31]	
25	7	0	[7, 23, 22, 6, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 14, 29, 13, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24,	
			12, 5, 2, 15, 11, 1, 31]	
Final (30)	30	0	[30, 10, 9, 4, 3, 8, 7, 23, 22, 6, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 14, 29, 13, 28,	
			27, 26, 25, 24, 12, 5, 2, 15, 11, 1, 31]	

Table 1: Least Cost Rule Schedule

The overall maximum tardiness achieved from this schedule is 65, from scheduling job 2.

# 2 Question 2

The cost function being considered for this question is  $\Sigma T_j$  which is the sum of the tardiness of each job in the schedule. The lcl algorithm is greedy, and does not take intermediate deviations from a local optimum that may lead to a global optimum in account. The tabu search algorithm is a heuristic which provides some tolerance to solutions that are worse than the current local optimum with the hope that they lead to a global optimum.

### 2.1 Part 1

The algorithm can be found in src/tabu.py. It is structured in a similar way to the lcl algorithm, where the TabuGraph algorithm inherits from Graph, and implements its own  $schedule_jobs()$ . Table 2 shows the first 4 iterations. Although rather large, this is in line with the detail presented in the notes, and the requirements to illustrate steps where the cost function  $(\Sigma T_j)$  decreases. The  $\Sigma T_j$  for the initial schedule

[30, 29, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31] is 341. Note that the code expects the initial schedule to be 0-indexed, but it is presented as 1-indexed in the output.

- For L = 20, K = 10 and  $\gamma = 10$ , the only improvement is found at iteration 10, where  $\Sigma T_j$  becomes 335.  $x_{10} =$ 
  - [30, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 29, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]
- For L = 20, K = 100 and  $\gamma = 10$ , there are several improvements detailed in table 2. The final lowest  $\Sigma T_i$  is 226 at iteration 99.

```
x_{100} = [30, 14, 4, 20, 23, 3, 13, 29, 28, 10, 9, 19, 8, 22, 21, 18, 17, 15, 7, 6, 16, 27, 11, 26, 25, 24, 12, 5, 2, 1, 31]
```

• Similarly, for L = 20, K = 1000 and  $\gamma = 10$ , the lowest  $\Sigma T_j$  obtained is 196 at iteration 451.  $x_{1000} = [30, 4, 23, 3, 22, 10, 14, 13, 9, 8, 7, 29, 6, 21, 27, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 28, 26, 25, 15, 11, 24, 12, 5, 2, 1, 31]$ 

3 LIST OF FIGURES 2.2 Part 2

There are instructions in the accompanying code and README.md to reproduce these results for each case.

### 2.2 Part 2

In the subsequent experiements, when  $\gamma$  is being varied, L is set to 20, and when L is being varied,  $\gamma$  is set to 10. As shown in figure 2, on increasing L it was found that the  $\Sigma T_j$  trended downwards, with occasional spikes in either direction. A local optimum solution of 163 was achieved for L equal to 120, 125, 130.

The reason for the decrease in  $\Sigma T_j$  is likely because with longer tabu lists, the search has a lower chance of getting stuck in a cycle (and if it does get stuck, the cycle's length is L). Short tabu lists allow quick returns to recently explored solutions This can create short cycling patterns, trapping the search in a suboptimal region. There is a sweet spot beyond which there are no returns from subsequent increases in the tabu list size. This is likely because the search becomes more prohibitive as the size of the tabu list increases. The main job of the tabu list in this algorithm is balancing cycle prevention and providing some leeway to re-explore avenues that may lead to a better solution after some iterations have passed. In the case of  $\gamma$ ,  $\Sigma T_j$  showed a general steep increase (with occasional deviations downwards), and after a point  $\Sigma T_i$  stagnated at 210. This is illustrated in figure 3.

Tolerance is responsible for ensuring solutions that may look sub-optimal at this stage are explored in hopes of reaching the global optimum. This helps the algorithm escape local optima by occasionally accepting worse solutions. For the given constraints, it is apparent that being stricter about accepting better solutions leads to the global optimum, while being more lenient tends to lead to a haphazard exploration of the search space which takes longer to converge (or never converges) on the global optimum. The best schedule found for this part is:

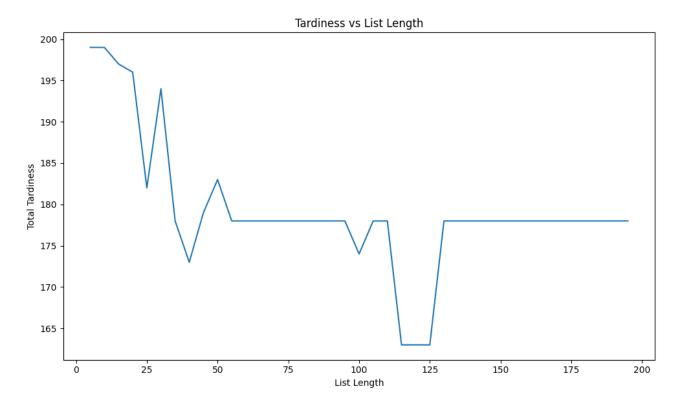
 $x_{TS} = [30, 10, 4, 3, 23, 20, 19, 14, 9, 8, 7, 6, 22, 21, 18, 17, 16, 29, 13, 12, 27, 28, 26, 25, 24, 5, 2, 15, 11, 1, 31]$  with a total tardiness  $\Sigma T_i = 158$ . This was achieved with L = 20 and  $\gamma = 1$ .

# 3 List of Figures

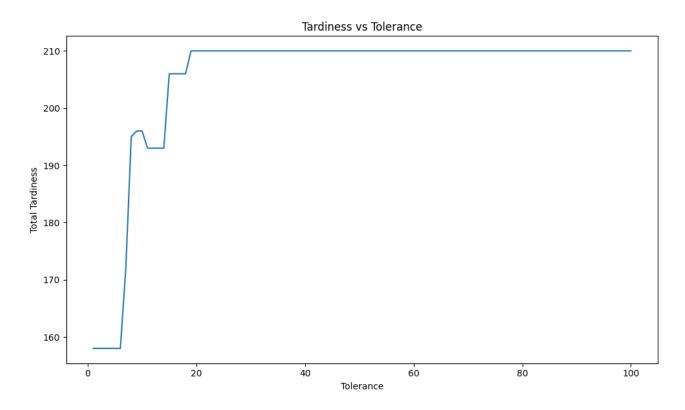
Solution	<b>Lowest</b> $\Sigma T_j$ ( $g_{best}$ )	Current Iteration Schedule	Tabu List (T)
0	341	[30, 29, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[]
1	341	[30, 29, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29)]
2	341	[30, 29, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29)]
3	341	[30, 29, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29), (9, 29)]
4	341	[30, 29, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29), (9, 29), (14, 29)]

10	335	[30, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 29, 27, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29), (9, 29), (14, 29), (13, 29), (12, 29), (4, 29), (20, 29), (22, 29), (3, 29)]
15	333	[30, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 29, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 27, 26, 18, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29), (9, 29), (14, 29), (13, 29), (12, 29), (4, 29), (20, 29), (22, 29), (3, 29), (27, 28), (8, 27), (7, 27), (19, 27), (21, 27)]
16	323	[30, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 29, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 27, 18, 26, 25, 17, 15, 6, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29), (9, 29), (14, 29), (13, 29), (12, 29), (4, 29), (20, 29), (22, 29), (3, 29), (27, 28), (8, 27), (7, 27), (19, 27), (21, 27), (18, 26)]
19	305	[30, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 29, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 27, 18, 26, 17, 15, 6, 25, 24, 16, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29), (9, 29), (14, 29), (13, 29), (12, 29), (4, 29), (20, 29), (22, 29), (3, 29), (27, 28), (8, 27), (7, 27), (19, 27), (21, 27), (18, 26), (17, 25), (15, 25), (6, 25)]
20	300	[30, 23, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 22, 3, 29, 28, 8, 7, 19, 21, 27, 18, 26, 17, 15, 6, 25, 16, 24, 5, 11, 2, 1, 31]	[(23, 29), (10, 29), (9, 29), (14, 29), (13, 29), (12, 29), (4, 29), (20, 29), (22, 29), (3, 29), (27, 28), (8, 27), (7, 27), (19, 27), (21, 27), (18, 26), (17, 25), (15, 25), (6, 25), (16, 24)]
38	290	[30, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 8, 7, 19, 22, 21, 18, 27, 17, 15, 6, 26, 25, 16, 24, 11, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(6, 25), (16, 24), (5, 11), (10, 23), (9, 23), (14, 23), (13, 23), (12, 23), (4, 23), (20, 23), (3, 22), (22, 29), (22, 28), (8, 22), (7, 22), (19, 22), (18, 27), (17, 26), (15, 26), (6, 26)]
39	272	[30, 10, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 8, 7, 19, 22, 21, 18, 27, 17, 15, 6, 26, 16, 25, 24, 11, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(16, 24), (5, 11), (10, 23), (9, 23), (14, 23), (13, 23), (12, 23), (4, 23), (20, 23), (3, 22), (22, 29), (22, 28), (8, 22), (7, 22), (19, 22), (18, 27), (17, 26), (15, 26), (6, 26), (16, 25)]
47	267	[30, 10, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 9, 29, 28, 8, 7, 19, 22, 21, 18, 27, 17, 15, 6, 26, 16, 25, 11, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(20, 23), (3, 22), (22, 29), (22, 28), (8, 22), (7, 22), (19, 22), (18, 27), (17, 26), (15, 26), (6, 26), (16, 25), (11, 24), (9, 14), (9, 13), (9, 12), (4, 9), (9, 20), (9, 23), (3, 9)]
53	265	[30, 10, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 9, 8, 19, 7, 22, 21, 18, 17, 15, 6, 27, 26, 16, 25, 11, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(19, 22), (18, 27), (17, 26), (15, 26), (6, 26), (16, 25), (11, 24), (9, 14), (9, 13), (9, 12), (4, 9), (9, 20), (9, 23), (3, 9), (9, 29), (9, 28), (7, 19), (17, 27), (15, 27), (6, 27)]
54	255	[30, 10, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 9, 8, 19, 7, 22, 21, 18, 17, 15, 6, 27, 16, 26, 25, 11, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(18, 27), (17, 26), (15, 26), (6, 26), (16, 25), (11, 24), (9, 14), (9, 13), (9, 12), (4, 9), (9, 20), (9, 23), (3, 9), (9, 29), (9, 28), (7, 19), (17, 27), (15, 27), (6, 27), (16, 26)]
62	250	[30, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 10, 29, 28, 9, 8, 19, 7, 22, 21, 18, 17, 15, 6, 27, 16, 26, 11, 25, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(9, 12), (4, 9), (9, 20), (9, 23), (3, 9), (9, 29), (9, 28), (7, 19), (17, 27), (15, 27), (6, 27), (16, 26), (11, 25), (10, 14), (10, 13), (10, 12), (4, 10), (10, 20), (10, 23), (3, 10)]
67	244	[30, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 10, 9, 19, 8, 22, 21, 7, 18, 17, 15, 6, 27, 16, 26, 11, 25, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(9, 29), (9, 28), (7, 19), (17, 27), (15, 27), (6, 27), (16, 26), (11, 25), (10, 14), (10, 13), (10, 12), (4, 10), (10, 20), (10, 23), (3, 10), (10, 29), (10, 28), (8, 19), (7, 22), (7, 21)]
68	238	[30, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 10, 9, 19, 8, 22, 21, 18, 7, 17, 15, 6, 27, 16, 26, 11, 25, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(9, 28), (7, 19), (17, 27), (15, 27), (6, 27), (16, 26), (11, 25), (10, 14), (10, 13), (10, 12), (4, 10), (10, 20), (10, 23), (3, 10), (10, 29), (10, 28), (8, 19), (7, 22), (7, 21), (7, 18)]
71	236	[30, 14, 13, 12, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 10, 9, 19, 8, 22, 21, 18, 17, 15, 7, 6, 16, 27, 26, 11, 25, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(15, 27), (6, 27), (16, 26), (11, 25), (10, 14), (10, 13), (10, 12), (4, 10), (10, 20), (10, 23), (3, 10), (10, 29), (10, 28), (8, 19), (7, 22), (7, 21), (7, 18), (7, 17), (7, 15), (16, 27)]
76	234	[30, 14, 13, 4, 20, 23, 3, 12, 29, 28, 10, 9, 19, 8, 22, 21, 18, 17, 15, 7, 6, 16, 27, 11, 26, 25, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(10, 13), (10, 12), (4, 10), (10, 20), (10, 23), (3, 10), (10, 29), (10, 28), (8, 19), (7, 22), (7, 21), (7, 18), (7, 17), (7, 15), (16, 27), (11, 26), (4, 12), (12, 20), (12, 23), (3, 12)]
89	232	[30, 14, 13, 4, 20, 23, 3, 29, 28, 10, 9, 19, 8, 22, 21, 18, 17, 15, 7, 6, 12, 16, 27, 11, 26, 25, 24, 5, 2, 1, 31]	[(7, 15), (16, 27), (11, 26), (4, 12), (12, 20), (12, 23), (3, 12), (12, 29), (12, 28), (10, 12), (9, 12), (12, 19), (8, 12), (12, 22), (12, 21), (12, 18), (12, 17), (12, 15), (7, 12), (6, 12)]

**Table 2:** Tabu search for 3.2.1 with tolerance 10, list length 20 up to a 1000 iterations



**Figure 2:** Effect of L on  $\Sigma T_j$ 



**Figure 3:** Effect of  $\gamma$  on  $\Sigma T_j$