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# A bilevel framework for decision-making under uncertainty with contextual information

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# Presentation outline

- Cooking a data-driven decision under uncertainty
- Taming the wild bilevel decision framework
- Case Study: Energy producer *à la Cournot*
- Some numerical results
- Conclusions

# Cooking a data-driven decision (I)

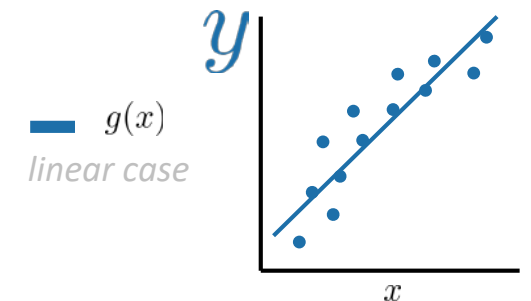
$$\min_{z \in Z} \mathbb{E}[f_0(z; y) | X = x]$$

$x$  contextual info  
 $y$  uncertain parameter  
 $z$  decision

A **P**redict **O**ptimize (**PO**) recipe...

1. Select an uncertain **parameter model**
2. Train the model with a **data set**
3. Issue a **point forecast** for the unseen period  $\tilde{t}$
4. Solve the deterministic optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{y} &= g(x; w) \\
 w^* &= \phi(g(x_t; w), y_t) \\
 \hat{y}_{\tilde{t}} &= g(x_{\tilde{t}}; w^*) \\
 z_{\tilde{t}} &= \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; \hat{y}_{\tilde{t}})
 \end{aligned}$$



... another **D**ecision **L**earning (**DL**) recipe:

1. Select a **decision model**
2. Train the model with a **data set**
3. Compute the **decision** for the unseen period  $\tilde{t}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{z} &= g'(x; w') \\
 w'^* &= \phi_{f_0}(g'(x_t; w'), y_t) \\
 \hat{z}'_{\tilde{t}} &= g'(x_{\tilde{t}}; w'^*)
 \end{aligned}$$



$g(x), g'(x)$  are not necessarily a linear regression of  $\{(x_t, y_t)\}, \{(x_t, z_t)\}$

# Cooking a data-driven decision (II)

Predict **O**ptimize (**PO**) recipe

**Predictive approach (FO)**

$$w^{\text{FO}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} l^{\text{FO}}(\underbrace{g^{\text{FO}}(x_t; w)}_{y_t^{\text{FO}}}, y_t)$$

$$z_t^{\text{FO}} = \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; g^{\text{FO}}(x_t; w^{\text{FO}}))$$

**Bilevel prescriptive approach (BL)**

$$w^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} f_0(\hat{z}_t; y_t) \quad \underbrace{y_t}_{y_t^{\text{BL}}}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \hat{z}_t = \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; \underbrace{g^{\text{BL}}(x_t; w)}_{y_t^{\text{BL}}}) \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

$$z_t^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; g^{\text{BL}}(x_t; w^{\text{BL}}))$$

Decision **L**earning (**DL**) recipe

**Decision Rule approach (DR<sup>1</sup>)**

$$w^{\text{DR}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} f_0(g^{\text{DR}}(x_t; w); y_t)$$

$$\text{s.t. } g^{\text{DR}}(x_t; w) \in Z \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

$$z_t^{\text{DR}} = g^{\text{DR}}(x_t; w^{\text{DR}})$$

**Benchmark method (BN)**

$$z_t^{\text{BN}} = \arg \min_z f_0(z; y_t)$$

Benchmark  
with perfect info. of  $y_t$

<sup>1</sup> BAN, Gah-Yi; RUDIN, Cynthia. The big data newsvendor: Practical insights from machine learning. *Operations Research*, 2019, vol. 67, no 1, p. 90-108.

# Cooking a data-driven decision (II)

Predict **O**ptimize (**PO**) recipe

## Predictive approach (**FO**)

$$w^{\text{FO}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \underbrace{l^{\text{FO}}(g^{\text{FO}}(x_t; w), y_t)}_{y_t^{\text{FO}}}$$

$$z_t^{\text{FO}} = \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; g^{\text{FO}}(x_t; w^{\text{FO}}))$$

- ✓ Perform well in most tasks
- ✓ Simpler
- ✗ Suboptimal for decision-making

## Bilevel prescriptive approach (**BL**)

$$w^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} f_0(\hat{z}_t; y_t) \quad \underbrace{y_t}_{y_t^{\text{BL}}}$$

s.t.  $\hat{z}_t = \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; g^{\text{BL}}(x_t; w)) \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$

$$z_t^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; g^{\text{BL}}(x_t; w^{\text{BL}}))$$

- ✓ Yields better decisions
- ✗ More complex
- ✗ Issues for linear  $f_0$

Decision **L**earning (**DL**) recipe

## Decision Rule approach (**DR**<sup>1</sup>)

$$w^{\text{DR}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} f_0(g^{\text{DR}}(x_t; w); y_t)$$

s.t.  $g^{\text{DR}}(x_t; w) \in Z \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$

$$z_t^{\text{DR}} = g^{\text{DR}}(x_t; w^{\text{DR}})$$

<sup>1</sup> BAN, Gah-Yi; RUDIN, Cynthia. The big data newsvendor: Practical insights from machine learning. *Operations Research*, 2019, vol. 67, no 1, p. 90-108.

# Cooking a data-driven decision (II)

Predict **O**ptimize (**PO**) recipe

**Predictive approach (FO)**

$$w^{\text{FO}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \underbrace{l^{\text{FO}}(g^{\text{FO}}(x_t; w), y_t)}_{y_t^{\text{FO}}}$$

$$z_t^{\text{FO}} = \arg \min_{z \in Z} f_0(z; g^{\text{FO}}(x_t; w^{\text{FO}}))$$

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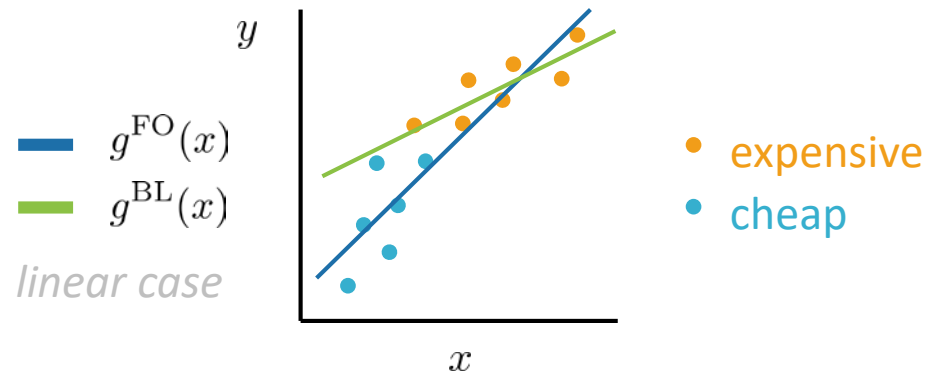
Decision **L**earning (**DL**) recipe

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$$z_t^{\text{DR}} = g^{\text{DR}}(x_t; w^{\text{DR}})$$



<sup>1</sup> BAN, Gah-Yi; RUDIN, Cynthia. The big data newsvendor: Practical insights from machine learning. *Operations Research*, 2019, vol. 67, no 1, p. 90-108.

# Taming the wild bilevel (I)

**Lower  
Level**

$$w^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} f_0(\hat{z}_t; y_t)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \left. \begin{aligned} \hat{z}_t &= \arg \min_z f_0(z; g^{\text{BL}}(x_t; w)) \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T} \\ f_i(z_t) &\leq 0, \quad \forall i \\ h_j(z_t) &= 0, \quad \forall j \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

} Feasible set  $Z$



**KKT**  
optimality  
conditions

$$w^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{w, \hat{z}_t, \lambda_{it}, v_{jt}} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} f_0(\hat{z}_t; y_t)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \nabla f_0(\hat{z}_t, g^{\text{BL}}(x_t, w)) + \sum_{i=1}^I \lambda_{it} \nabla f_i(\hat{z}_t) + \sum_{j=1}^J v_{jt} \nabla h_j(\hat{z}_t) = 0, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

(stationarity)

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f_i(\hat{z}_t) &\leq 0, \quad \forall i \\ h_j(\hat{z}_t) &= 0, \quad \forall j \\ \lambda_{it} &\geq 0, \quad \forall i \\ \lambda_{it} f_i(\hat{z}_t) &= 0, \quad \forall i \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

(primal feasibility)

(dual feasibility)

(complementary slackness)

# Taming the wild bilevel (II)

$$\lambda_{it} f_i(\hat{z}_t) = 0, \quad \forall i, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T} \quad (\text{complementary slackness})$$

Approach 1: **Regularization**

$$-\sum_{\forall it} \lambda_{it} f_i(\hat{z}_t) \leq \epsilon \quad \epsilon \geq 0, \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0$$

Approach 2: **Big-M**

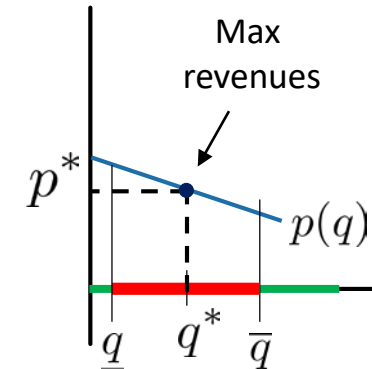
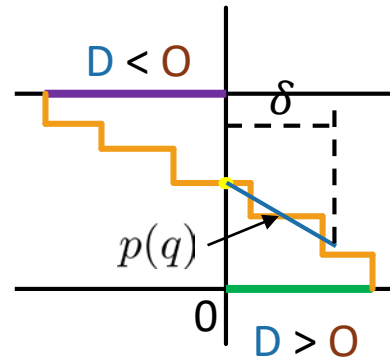
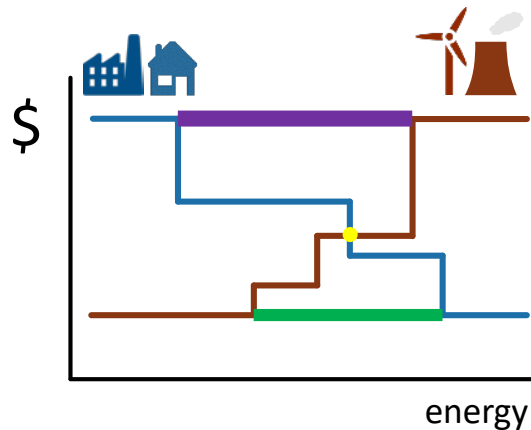
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \lambda_{it} \leq u_{it} M^D, \\ f_i(\hat{z}_t) \geq (u_{it} - 1) M^P, \\ u_{it} \in \{0, 1\}, \end{array} \right\} \quad \forall i, \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$



# Case study à la Cournot (I)

$$q^* = \arg \max_{\underline{q} \leq q \leq \bar{q}} p(q)q - c(q) \quad \begin{cases} p(q) = \alpha - \beta q \\ c(q) = c_2 q^2 + c_1 q + c_0 \end{cases}$$

$$q^* = \arg \min_{\underline{q} \leq q \leq \bar{q}} \beta' q^2 - \alpha' q \quad \begin{cases} \beta' = \beta + c_2 \\ \alpha' = \alpha - c_1 \end{cases}$$



## Some assumptions:

- Our behaviour does not influence the rest of the competitors.
- Our offer is just a single quantity.
- The transmission grid is neglected.
- A linear function can approximate the residual demand.

# Case study à la Cournot (II)

## Approach BN

$$q_t^{BN} = \arg \min_{\underline{q} \leq q_t \leq \bar{q}} \beta'_t q_t^2 - \alpha'_t q_t \quad \begin{cases} q_t^{BN} &= \arg \min_{\underline{q} \leq q_t \leq \bar{q}} q_t^2 - \gamma_t q_t \\ \gamma_t &= \alpha'_t / \beta'_t, \quad \beta'_t > 0 \end{cases} \quad g(x; w) = w^T x$$

## Approach FO

$$w^{FO} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} (\gamma_t - \underbrace{w^T x_t}_{\gamma_t^{FO}})^2$$

$$q_t^{FO} = \arg \min_{\underline{q} \leq q \leq \bar{q}} q^2 - \underbrace{(w^{FO})^T x_t}_{\gamma_t^{FO}} q$$

## Approach BL

$$w^{BL} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \beta'_t \hat{q}_t^2 - \alpha'_t \hat{q}_t$$

s.t.  $\hat{q}_t = \arg \min_{\underline{q} \leq q \leq \bar{q}} q^2 - \underbrace{w^T x_t q}_{\gamma_t^{BL}}, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$

$$q_t^{BL} = \arg \min_{\underline{q} \leq q \leq \bar{q}} q^2 - \underbrace{(w^{BL})^T x_t}_{\gamma_t^{BL}} q$$

## Approach DR

$$w^{DR} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \beta'_t (w^T x_t)^2 - \alpha'_t w^T x_t$$

s.t.  $\underline{q} \leq \underbrace{w^T x_t}_{q_t^{DR}} \leq \bar{q}, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$

$$q_t^{DR} = (w^{DR})^T x_t$$

# Case study *à la Cournot* (III)

$$w^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^q} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \beta'_t \hat{q}_t^2 - \alpha'_t \hat{q}_t$$

$$\text{s.t. } \hat{q}_t = \arg \min_{\underline{q} \leq q_t \leq \bar{q}} q_t^2 - w^T x_t q_t, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

$$w^{\text{BL}} = \arg \min_{w, \hat{q}_t, \lambda_{1t}, \lambda_{2t}} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \beta'_t \hat{q}_t^2 - \alpha'_t \hat{q}_t$$

$$\text{s.t. } \left. \begin{array}{l} 2\hat{q}_t - w^T x_t - \lambda_{1t} + \lambda_{2t} = 0, \\ \underline{q} \leq \hat{q}_t \leq \bar{q} \\ \lambda_{1t}, \lambda_{2t} \geq 0 \end{array} \right\} \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

BL-R approach

BL-M approach

NLP  
CONOPT

$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \lambda_{1t}(\hat{q}_t - \underline{q}) + \lambda_{2t}(\bar{q} - \hat{q}_t) \leq \epsilon$$

Iterative solved for  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$

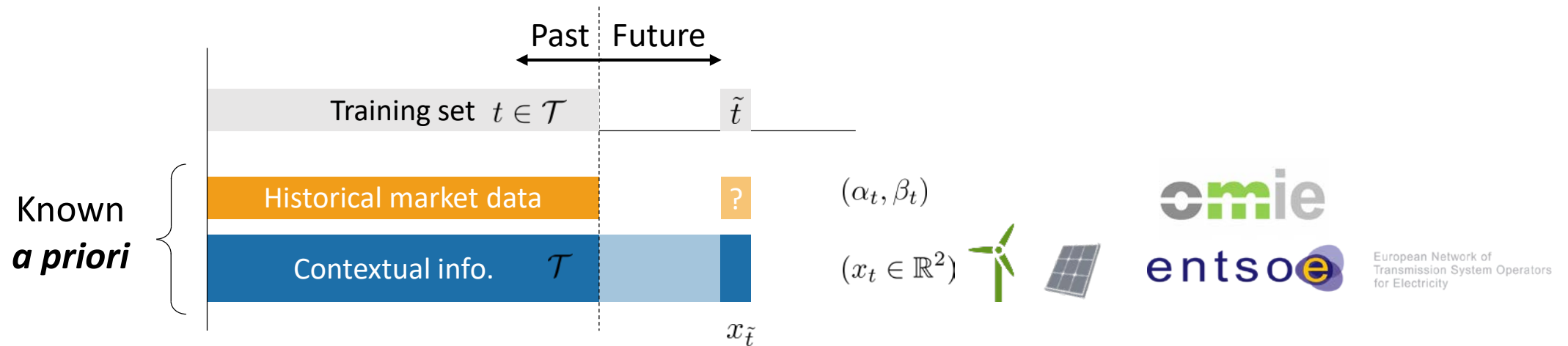
↑ fast, ↓ non-optimal

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \lambda_{kt} \leq u_{kt} M^D, \quad k = 1, 2 \\ \hat{q}_t - \underline{q} \leq (1 - u_{1t}) M^P \\ \bar{q} - \hat{q}_t \leq (1 - u_{2t}) M^P \\ u_{1t}, u_{2t} \in \{0, 1\} \end{array} \right\} \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

MIQP  
CPLEX

↑ optimality, ↓ slow, big-M tuning

# Some numerical results (I)



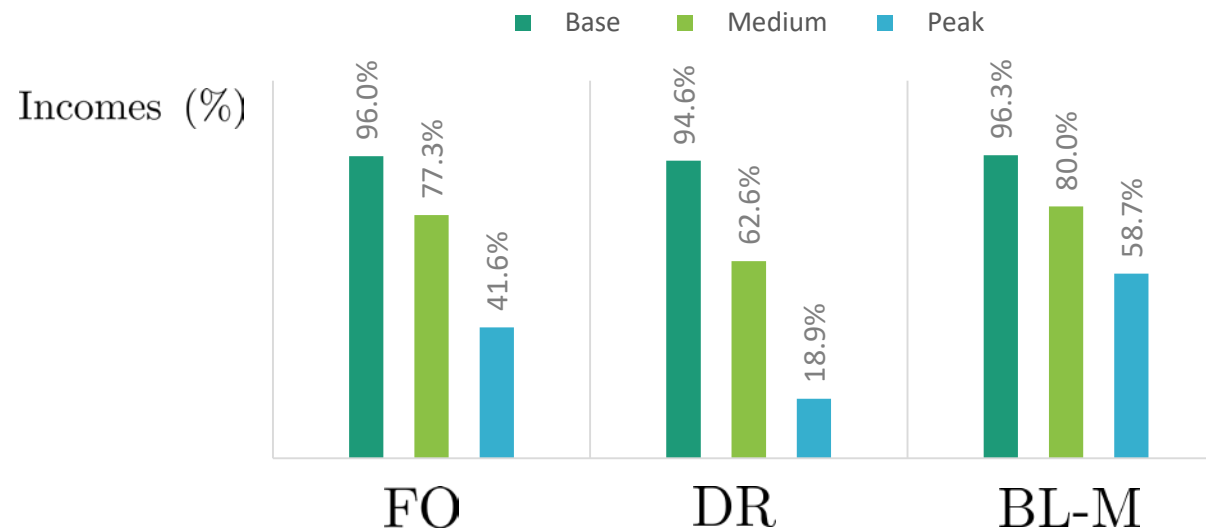
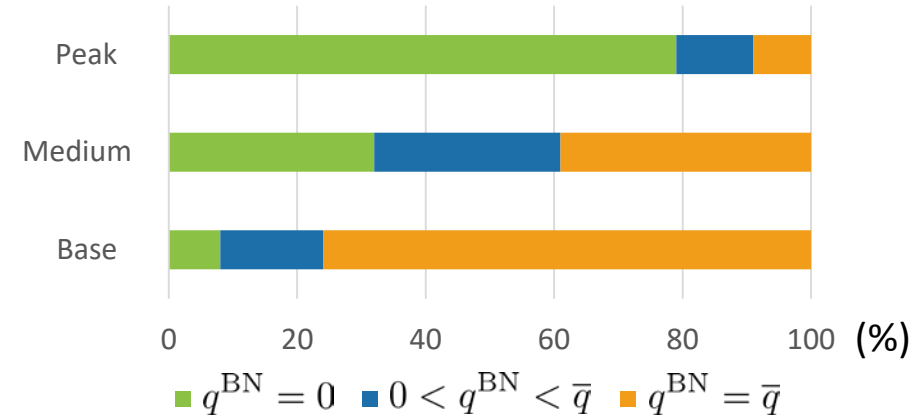
## Experimental setup

- Data set of 8600 hours (data points).
- Bins of 200 points, 80% training, 20% test.
- Reshuffle training test assignment 5 times.
- Contextual info: Wind and Solar power production forecast ( $x_{\tilde{t}} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ )

# Some numerical results (II)

	$c_1$ (€/MWh)	$\bar{q}$ (MW)
Base	10	1000
Medium	35	500
Peak	50	250

$$c_2 = 0.005 \text{ €/MWh}^2$$



	Infeasibility (DR)
Base	4.9%
Medium	1.7%
Peak	0.1%

# Conclusions

- Novel data-driven framework for conditional stochastic optimization, where parameters are formulated as a function of some covariates.
- Application to the problem of a Cournot producer supplying to the residual demand.
- Numerical experiments show our proposal can significantly increase the competitive edge of the Cournot producer.



# THANKS!

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Checkout **more at:**

**M. A. Muñoz**, S. Pineda, J. M. Morales, [A bilevel framework for decision-making under uncertainty with contextual information](#). *arXiv preprint arXiv:2008.01500*, 2020.