# CS 7800: Advanced Algorithms

## Class 5: Dynamic Programming II

- Finish Weighted Interval Scheduling
- Segmented Least Squares

Jonathan Ullman September 19, 2025

# Weighted Interval Scheduling

- Input: n intervals  $(s_i, f_i)$  each with value  $v_i$ 
  - Assume intervals are sorted so  $f_1 < f_2 < \cdots < f_n$
- Output: a compatible schedule S maximizing the total value of all intervals
  - A **schedule** is a subset of intervals  $S \subseteq \{1, ..., n\}$
  - A schedule S is **compatible** if no  $i, j \in S$  overlap
  - The **total value** of S is  $\sum_{i \in S} v_i$

```
Index

v_1 = 2

v_2 = 4

v_3 = 4

v_4 = 7

v_5 = 2

v_6 = 1
```

# Finding the Recurrence

```
Index

v_1 = 2

v_2 = 4

v_3 = 4

v_4 = 7

v_5 = 2

v_6 = 1
```

# Finding the Optimal Solution

### But we want a schedule, not a value!

Index  $v_1 = 2$   $v_2 = 4$   $v_3 = 4$   $v_4 = 7$   $v_5 = 2$   $v_6 = 1$ 

M[0]	M[1]	M[2]	M[3]	M[4]	M[5]	M[6]
0	2	4	6	7	8	8

## Weighted Interval Scheduling Recap

- There is an  $O(n \log n)$  algorithm for the weighted interval scheduling problem
  - Generalizes the greedy alg for the unweighted version
  - Our first example of dynamic programming

### Dynamic Programming Recipe:

- (1) identify a set of **subproblems**
- (2) relate the subproblems via a recurrence
- (3) design an algorithm to **efficiently solve** the recurrence
- (4) recover the actual solution at the end

# (Ordinary) Least Squares

- Input: n data points  $P = \{(x_1, y_1), ..., (x_n, y_n)\}$
- Output: the line L (i.e. y = ax + b) that fits **best** 
  - **best** = minimizes  $error(L, P) = \sum_{i} (y_i ax_i b)^2$

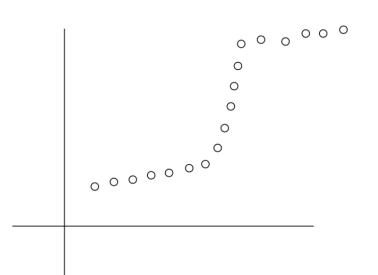
$$a = \frac{n\sum x_i y_i - (\sum x_i)(\sum y_i)}{n\sum x_i^2 - (\sum x_i)^2}$$

$$b = \frac{\sum y_i - a\sum x_i}{n}$$

• There is an O(n) time algorithm for finding the line of best fit

# Segmented Least Squares

- Input: n data points  $P = \{(x_1, y_1), ..., (x_n, y_n)\}$
- What if the data does not look like a line?



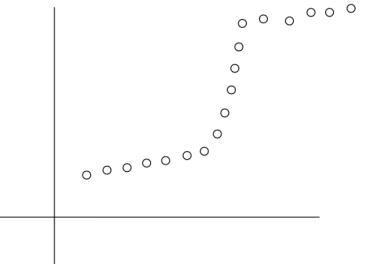
- Some data can be described better by more than one line segment
- But, using  $\geq n/2$  segments defeats the purpose!

# Segmented Least Squares

- Input: n data points  $P = \{(x_1, y_1), ..., (x_n, y_n)\},$  cost parameter C > 0
  - Assume  $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n$
- Output: a partition of P into contiguous (disjoint) segments  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m$ , lines  $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_m$ , minimizing total "cost"

# Segmented Least Squares

- First observation: for every segment  $S_j$ ,  $L_j$  must be the (single) line of best fit for  $S_j$ 
  - Let  $L_{i,j}^*$  be the optimal line for  $\{p_i, \dots, p_j\}$
  - Let  $\varepsilon_{i,j} = error(L_{i,j}^*, \{p_i, \dots, p_j\})$



Can compute  $\varepsilon_{i,j}$  for all i,j in  $O(n^3)$  time straightforwardly,

...or  $O(n^2)$  time with more cleverness

# Writing the Recurrence

Let  $L_{i,j}^*$  be the optimal line for  $\{p_i,...,p_j\}$ Let  $\varepsilon_{i,j}=errorig(L_{i,j}^*,ig\{p_i,...,p_jig\}ig)$ 

#### SLS: Take I

#### **Runtime:**

# SLS: Take III ("Bottom-Up")

#### **Runtime:**

# Finding Segments

Let  $L_{i,j}^*$  be the optimal line for  $\{p_i,\dots,p_j\}$ Let  $\varepsilon_{i,j}=errorig(L_{i,j}^*,ig\{p_i,\dots,p_j\}ig)$ 

## **Finding Segments**

```
// All inputs are global vars
// M[0:n] contains solutions to subproblems
FindSol(M,n):
    if (n = 0): return \emptyset
    elseif (n = 1): return {1}
    elseif (n = 2): return {1,2}
    else:
        Let \mathbf{x} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmin}_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left( \varepsilon_{i,n} + C + M[i-1] \right):
    return {\mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{n}} + FindSol(M,\mathbf{x}-1)
```

#### **Runtime:**

# Weighted Interval Scheduling Recap

- There is an  $O(n^2)$  time algorithm for the weighted interval scheduling problem
  - Second example of dynamic programming
  - Canonical example of partitioning a line into segments

### Dynamic Programming Recipe:

- (1) identify a set of **subproblems**
- (2) relate the subproblems via a recurrence
- (3) design an algorithm to **efficiently solve** the recurrence
- (4) recover the actual solution at the end