

MAXIMUM PRESSURE POLICIES FOR STOCHASTIC PROCESSING NETWORKS

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Joint work with [Wuqin Lin](#) at Kellogg



- Stochastic processing networks
- Maximum pressure policies
- Asymptotic optimality in heavy traffic

- HARRISON, J. M. (1988). Brownian models of queueing networks with heterogeneous customer populations.
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- DAI, J. G. and LIN, W. (2008). Asymptotic optimality of maximum pressure policies in stochastic processing networks. *Annals of Applied Probability*, **18** 2239–2299.
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A Stochastic Processing Network Model

Basic elements:

I + **1** buffers

K processors

J activities

Indexes:

$i \in \mathcal{I} \cup \{0\}$

input and service processors $k \in \mathcal{K}$

input and service activities $j \in \mathcal{J}$

Material consumption:

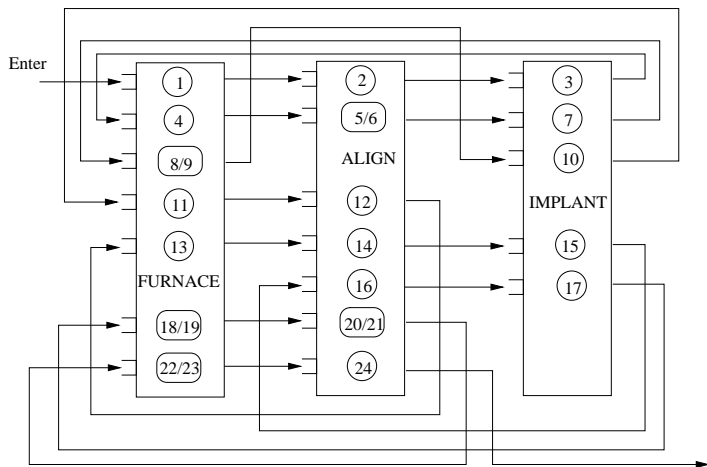
- μ_j : service rate for activity j ;
- $B_{ij} = 1$ if activity j processes jobs in buffer i and $B_{ij} = 0$ otherwise;
- $P_{ii'}^j$ is a fraction of buffer i jobs served by activity j that go next to buffer i' ;

- $A_{kj} = 1$ if activity j requires processor k and 0 otherwise; multiple processors may be needed to activate an activity.
- Allocation space \mathcal{A} is the set of **allocations** $a \in \mathbb{R}_+^J$ satisfying

$$\sum_j A_{kj} a_j \leq 1 \text{ for each service processor,}$$
$$\sum_j A_{kj} a_j = 1 \text{ for each input processor;}$$

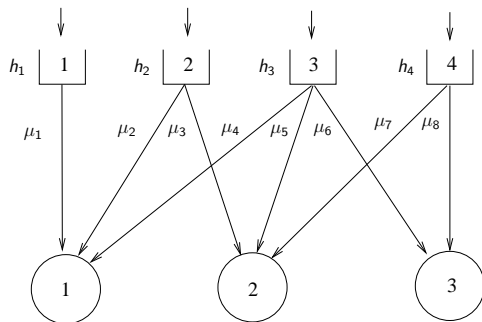
- a_j the level at which activity j is undertaken;
- more constraints on a can be added.

Multiclass queueing networks: a re-entrant line



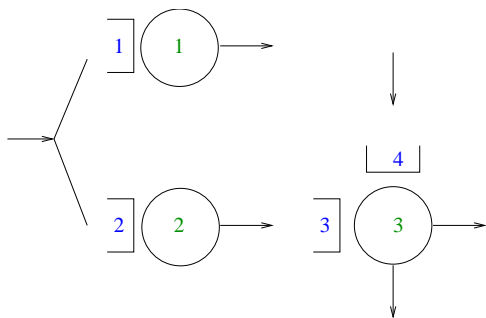
- one input processor, one input activity; the input processor never idles.
- three service processors

Parallel Server Systems



- four input processors, each processes one input activity
- three service processors

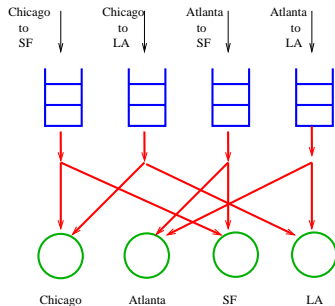
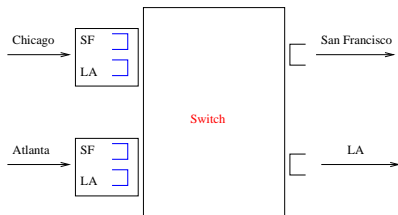
Queueing Networks with Alternate Routes



Laws and Louth (1990)
Kelly and Laws (1993)
Dai, Hasenbein and Kim
(2007)

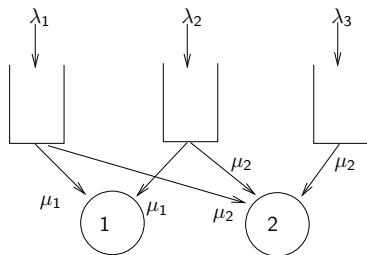
- two input processors; **the left one** processes two input activities and **the right one** processes one input activity.

Input Queued Data Switches



- In each time slot, at most one packet is sent **from** each **input** port
- In each time slot, at most one packet is sent **to** each **output** port
- Multiple packets can be transferred in a single time slot
- A high speed switch needs to maintain thousands of flows

Operational policies



- $\mathcal{A} = \{a \in \mathbb{R}_+^J : Aa \leq e\}$
- $\mathcal{E} = \{a_1, \dots, a_u\}$ – set extreme points of \mathcal{A} .
- $\mathcal{A}(t)$ – set of feasible allocations at time t .
- $\mathcal{E}(t) = \mathcal{A}(t) \cap \mathcal{E}$ – set of feasible, extreme allocations at time t .
- e.g. $a_1 = (1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$, $a_2 = (1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0)$

Maximum Pressure Policies

- Fix an $\alpha = (\alpha_i) \in \mathbb{R}_+^I$ with $\alpha_i > 0$.
- Pressure at time t for activity j ,

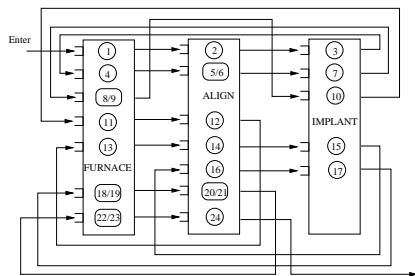
$$p_j(t) = \mu_j \left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{IU}\{0\}} B_{ij} \left(\alpha_i Z_i(t) - \sum_{i'} P_{ii'}^j \alpha_{i'} Z_{i'}(t) \right) \right).$$

- At any time t , choose an allocation a

$$a \in \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{E}(t)} \sum_j a_j p_j(t).$$

- Tassiulas (1995): Adaptive **back-pressure** congestion control based on local information.

Maximum Pressure Policies for Multiclass Queueing Networks

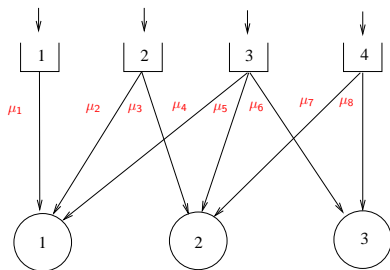


- Server k chooses to work on a buffer that has the highest pressure.
- The pressure at buffer i is

$$p_i(t) = \mu_i \left(Z_i(t) - Z_{i+1}(t) \right).$$

- If all $p_i(t) \leq 0$, idle the server.
- Generalization: change $Z_i(t)$ to $\alpha_i Z_i(t)$

Maximum Pressure Policies: Parallel Server Systems

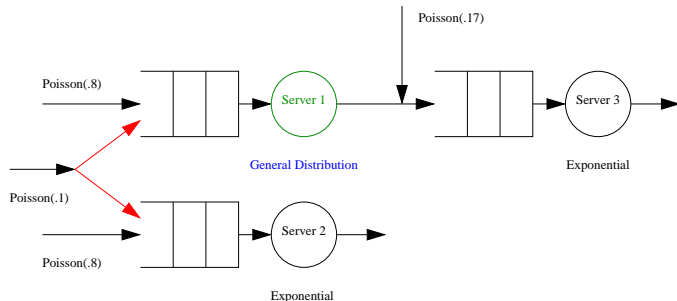


For example, processor 1 chooses to work on buffer i that attains

$$\max\{\mu_1 Z_1(t), \mu_2 Z_2(t), \mu_4 Z_3(t)\}.$$

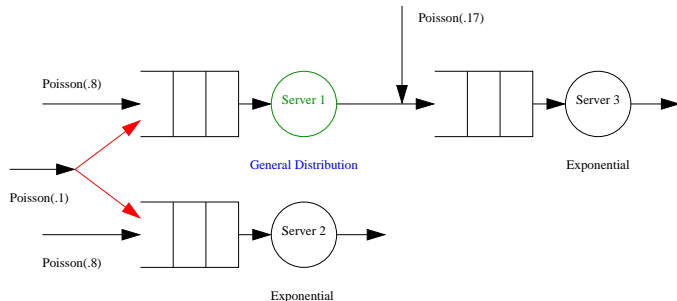
- Mandelbaum-Stolyar (04): generalized $c\mu$ -rule; van Mieghem (95)
- Stolyar (04): MaxWeight policies

Maximum Pressure Policies: Alternate Routing



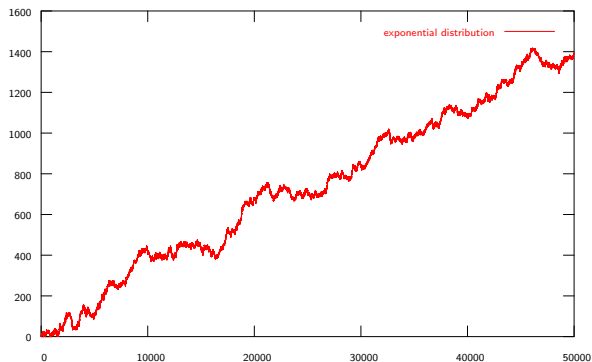
- An MPP translates into: **Join-the-shortest-queue** and **server 1 idles** when $Z_3(t) > Z_1(t)$.

Maximum Pressure Policies: Alternate Routing



- An MPP translates into: **Join-the-shortest-queue** and **server 1 idles** when $Z_3(t) > Z_1(t)$.
- MPPs can be idling policies.

Non-Idling Server 1



Number of jobs in queue 3

Quadratic Holding Cost

- Each buffer i , the holding cost rate is $h_i(Z_i(t))^2$.
- The network cost rate is

$$h(Z(t)) = \sum_i h_i(Z_i(t))^2.$$

- Under a policy π , the expected total discounted holding cost

$$J_\pi \equiv \mathbb{E} \left(\int_0^\infty e^{-\gamma t} h(Z^\pi(t)) dt \right).$$

Asymptotic Optimality on Quadratic Holding Cost

- Consider a sequence of networks indexed by r in heavy traffic.
- Diffusion Scaling: $\widehat{Z}^r(t) = Z^r(rt)/\sqrt{r}$ and

$$\widehat{J}_\pi^r \equiv \mathbb{E} \left(\int_0^\infty e^{-\gamma t} h(\widehat{Z}^r(t)) dt \right).$$

THEOREM (DAI-LIN 08)

For a sequence of networks that satisfies a *heavy traffic condition* and a *complete resource pooling condition*, the maximum pressure policy with $\alpha = h$ is asymptotically optimal to minimize the quadratic holding cost, i.e.,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{J}_{\text{MPP}}^r \leq \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{J}_\pi^r \quad \text{for any policy } \pi.$$

The Heavy Traffic Assumption

The static planning problem (Harrison 00):

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \rho \\ & \text{subject to} && Rx = 0 \\ & && \sum_j A_{kj}x_j = 1 \text{ for each input processor } k \\ & && \sum_j A_{kj}x_j \leq \rho \text{ for each service processor } k \\ & && x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- x_j : fraction of time for activity j is employed;
- ρ : utilization of bottleneck servers.

ASSUMPTION

The optimal solution (ρ^*, x^*) is unique and $\rho^* = 1$.

The Complete Resource Pooling Assumption

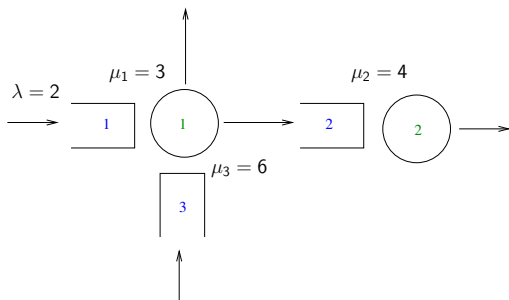
The dual LP:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}_I} z_k \\ & \text{subject to} && \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_i R_{ij} \leq - \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}_I} z_k A_{kj} \text{ for each input activity } j \\ & && \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_i R_{ij} \leq \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}_S} z_k A_{kj} \text{ for each service activity } j \\ & && \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}_S} z_k = 1, \\ & && z_k \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

ASSUMPTION

The dual LP has a nonnegative, unique optimal solution (y^*, z^*) .

Multiclass queueing networks

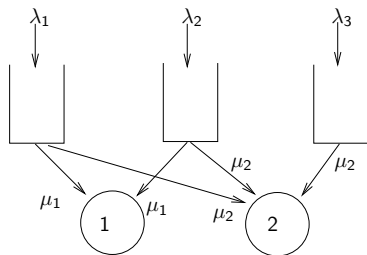


Unique solution (ρ^*, x^*)

- $x_j^* = \lambda m_j, j = 1, 2, 3$
- $\rho_1 = x_1^* + x_3^*,$
 $\rho_2 = x_2^*$
- $\rho^* = \max(\rho_1, \rho_2).$

- Heavy traffic assumption: $\rho^* = 1$
- Complete resource pooling condition: either $\rho_1^* = 1$ and $\rho_2^* < 1$ or $\rho_1^* < 1$ and $\rho_2^* = 1$.
- In the former case, $y^* = (m_1 + m_3, m_3, m_3)$; in the latter case, $y^* = (m_2, m_2, 0)$.
- Ata-Kumar (05) does not cover this class of networks

Parallel server queues: complete resource pooling



- Assume $\rho^* = 1$ and x^* is unique.
- Complete resource pooling: all servers communicate through basic activities.
- Harrison-Lopez (99), and Bell-Williams (05)

Asymptotic Optimality on Workload Process

- Assume the complete resource pooling condition and (y, z) is the unique solution to the dual LP.
- Let $W(t) = y \cdot Z(t)$ and $\widehat{W}^r(t) = W(rt)/\sqrt{r} = y \cdot \widehat{Z}^r(t)$.

THEOREM (WORKLOAD OPTIMALITY (DAI-LIN 08))

For a sequence of networks that satisfies the heavy traffic condition and the complete resource pooling condition, any the maximum pressure policy is asymptotically optimal for workload in that for each $t \geq 0$ and $w > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{W}_{\text{MPP}}^r(t) > w\right) \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{W}_{\pi}^r(t) > w\right).$$

Proof: A Lower Bound on Workload Process

We can write $\widehat{W}^r(t)$ as

$$\widehat{W}^r(t) = \widehat{X}^r(t) + \widehat{Y}^r(t),$$

where $\widehat{Y}^r(t) \geq 0$ and nondecreasing. This implies

$$\widehat{W}^r(t) \geq \widehat{W}^{*,r}(t) \equiv \widehat{X}^r(t) - \inf_{0 \leq s \leq t} \widehat{X}^r(s).$$

Letting $\widehat{W}^*(t) \equiv \widehat{X}^*(t) - \inf_{0 \leq s \leq t} \widehat{X}^*(s)$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{W}^r(t) > w\right) \geq \mathbb{P}\left(\widehat{W}^*(t) > w\right).$$

Proof: A Heavy Traffic Limit Theorem

THEOREM

For a sequence of networks that satisfies the heavy traffic condition and a complete resource pooling condition, under the maximum pressure policy with $\alpha = e$,

$$(\widehat{W}^r, \widehat{Z}^r) \Rightarrow (\widehat{W}^*, \widehat{Z}^*),$$

where $\widehat{Z}^* = y\widehat{W}^* / \|y\|^2$.

- A key to the proof of this theorem is to show a **state space collapse** result:

$$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left| \widehat{Z}^r(t) - \frac{y\widehat{W}^r(t)}{\|y\|^2} \right| \rightarrow 0 \text{ in probability as } r \rightarrow \infty.$$

- Use framework of Bramson (98)
- Unlike Chen and Mandelbaum (90), non-bottleneck stations do not disappear.

Asymptotic Optimality Proof (for $h = e$)

Consider the optimization problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \sum_{i=1}^I q_i^2 \\ \text{s.t.} & y \cdot q = w \\ & q \geq 0. \end{array}$$

- The optimal solution is given by $q^* = yw/\|y\|^2$.
- For any given w , it is optimal to distribute the workload to the buffers in proportion to y .
- MPP not only minimizes the workload process $W(t)$, but also distributes it in the optimal way.

Extension: Linear holding cost

- Dai-Lin (08): for each $\epsilon > 0$, one can find an MPP policy with parameter α that is asymptotically ϵ -optimal; choice of α is **data heavy**.
- Ata and Kumar (05) uses Harrison's BIGSTEP method; rules out multiclass networks
- Bell and Williams (05) parallel-server queues; Ghamami and Ward (09)
- Lin (09): *β -Maximum Pressure Policies in Stochastic Processing Networks: Heavy Traffic Analysis*. Fix a $\beta > 0$ and $(\alpha_i) > 0$

$$p_i(t) = \mu_i \left(\alpha_i (Z_i(t))^\beta - \alpha_{i+1} (Z_{i+1}(t))^\beta \right)$$

Extension: More than one bottleneck

- Let $\{(y^\ell, z^\ell) : \ell = 1, \dots, L\}$ denote the set of basic optimal solutions to the dual LP.
- Let $\widehat{W}_\ell^r(t) = y^\ell \cdot \widehat{Z}^r(t)$.

THEOREM (ATA-LIN 08)

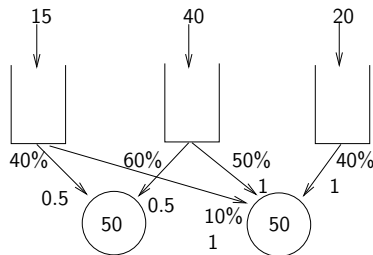
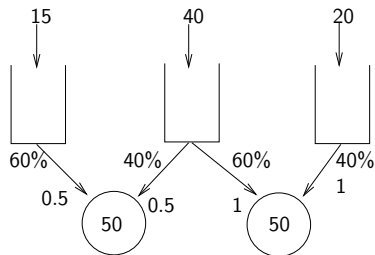
Consider a sequence of networks that satisfies the heavy traffic condition. Assume that $y^\ell \geq 0$ for each ℓ and y^1, \dots, y^L are linearly independent. Under a maximum pressure policy with parameter α ,

$$(\widehat{W}^r, \widehat{Z}^r) \Rightarrow (\widehat{W}^*, \widehat{Z}^*),$$

where \widehat{W} is an L -dimensional SRBM, and $\widehat{Z}^ = \Delta \widehat{W}^*$.*

- Rajagopalan, Shah and Shin (09): random-access algorithm to approximate a maximum pressure policy for single-hop networks
- Shah and Wischik (09): optimal scheduling algorithms for switched networks under light load, critical load, and overload; performance of MaxWeight policies in overloaded fluid networks.

Parallel server queues: multiple LP Solutions



- $\rho^* = 1$, but x^* is not unique

Assumption 3

ASSUMPTION

For any vector $z \in \mathbb{R}_+^I$, there exists an $a \in \arg \max_{a \in \mathcal{E}} \sum_i v(a, i) z_i$ such that $v(a, i) = 0$ if $z_i = 0$, where $v(a, i) = \sum_j a_j R_{ij}$ is the consumption rate of buffer i under allocation a .

The assumption holds when each activity is associated with one buffer (in Leontief networks).