

# An Exact Symbolic Reduction of Linear Smart Predict+Optimize (SPO) to Mixed Integer Linear Program (MILP)

**Jihwan Jeong**<sup>1, 2</sup>, Parth Jaggi<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Butler<sup>1</sup>, Scott Sanner<sup>1, 2</sup>

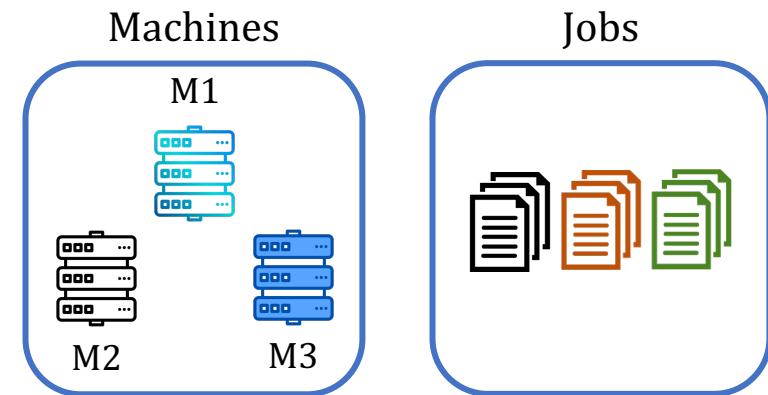
<sup>1</sup>University of Toronto

<sup>2</sup>Vector Institute

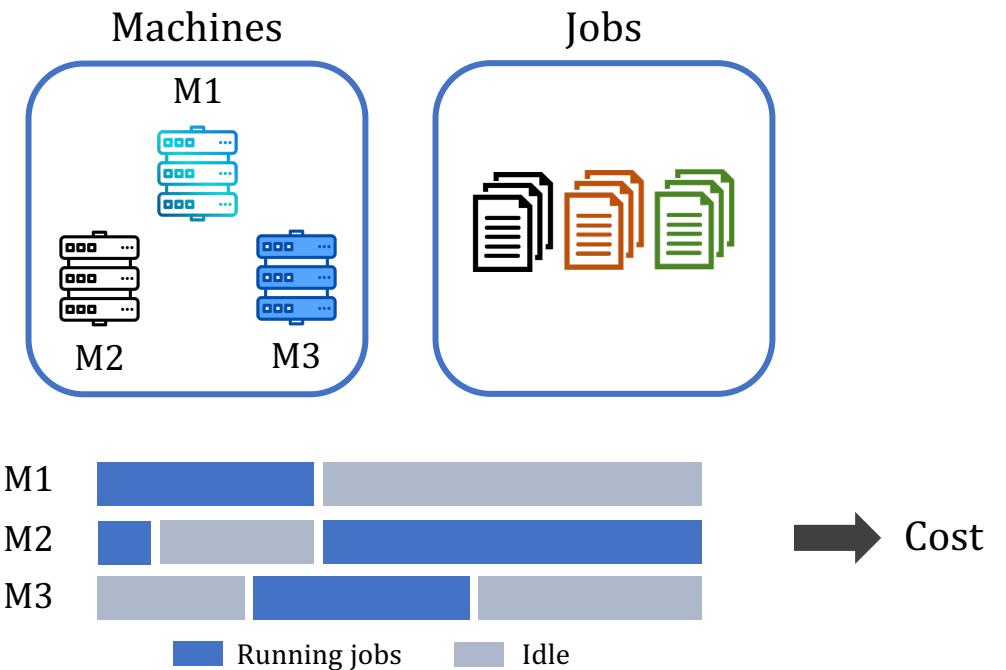
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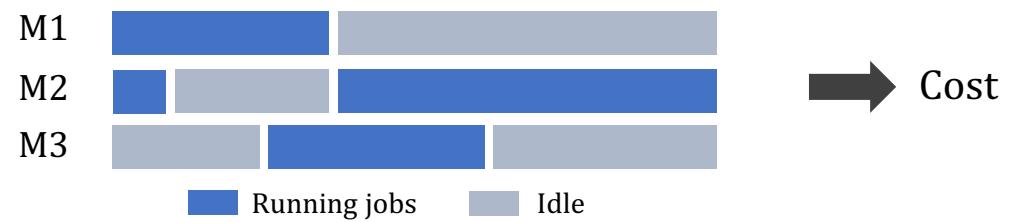
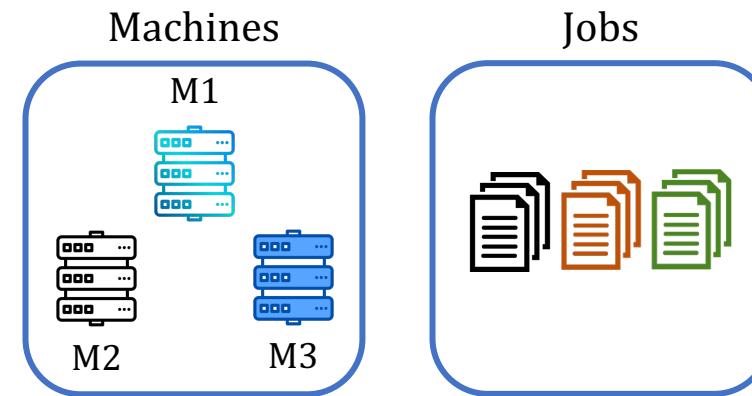
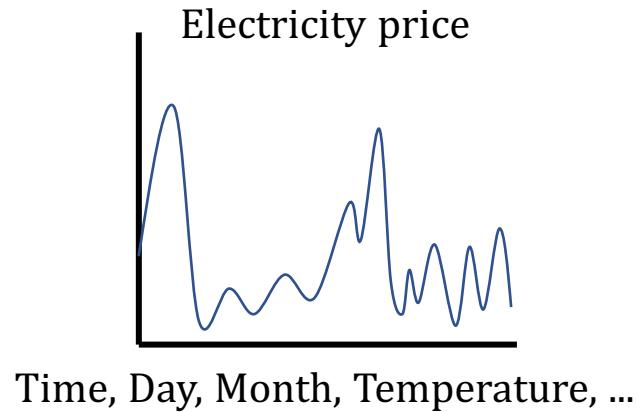
# Motivation – Linear Smart “Predict, then Optimize”



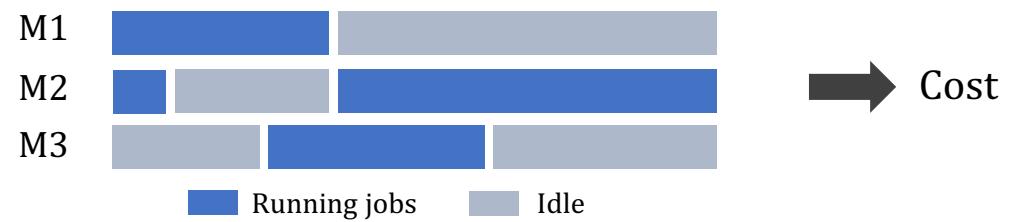
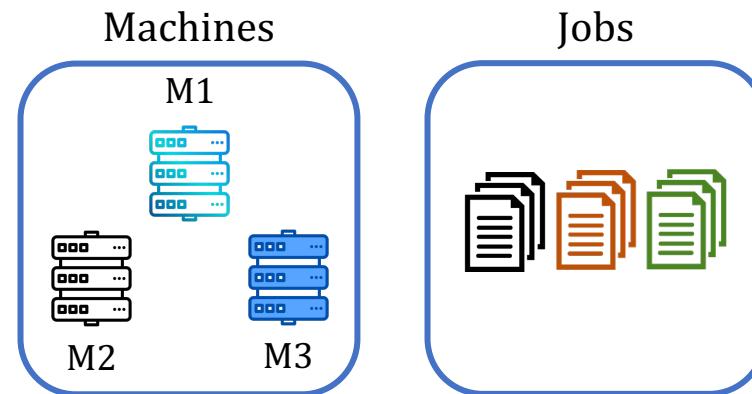
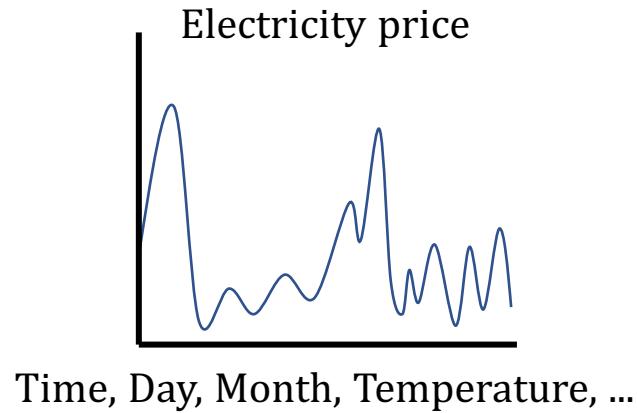
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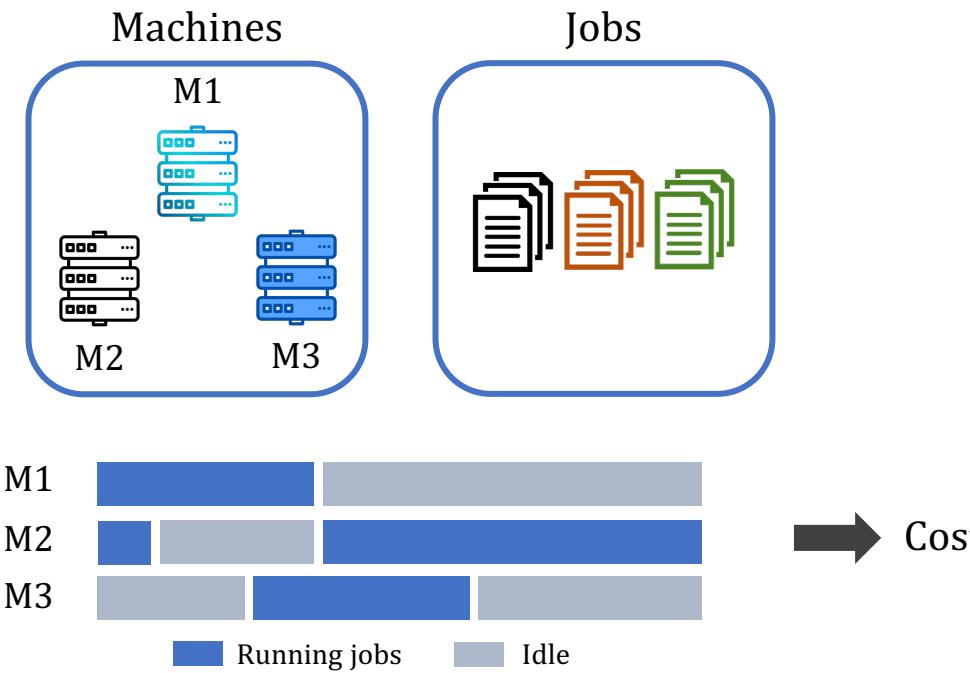
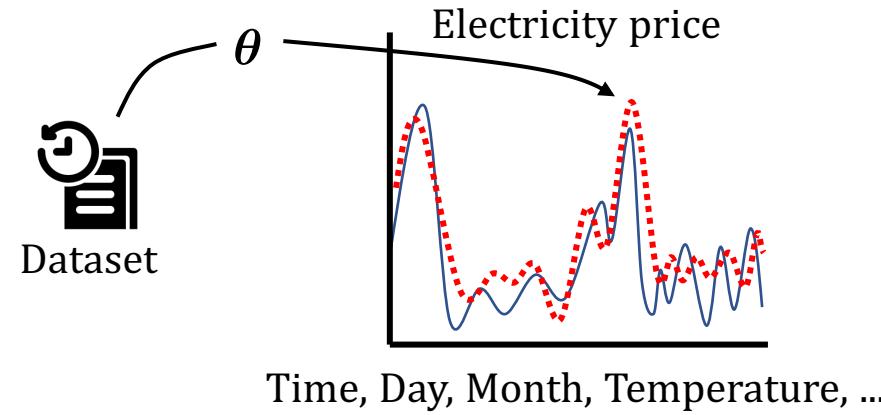
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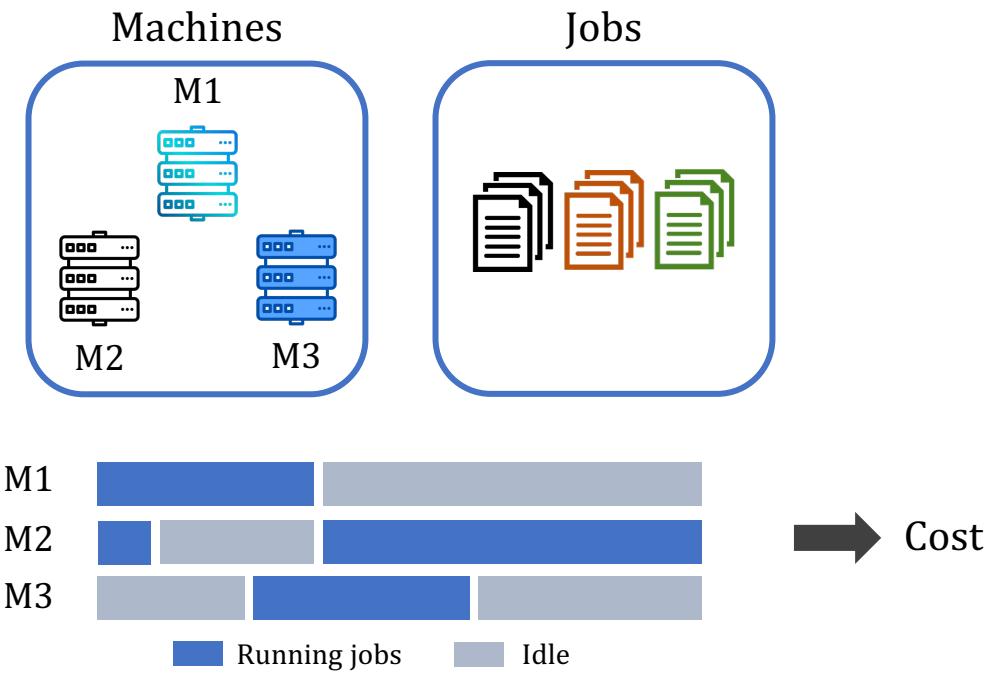
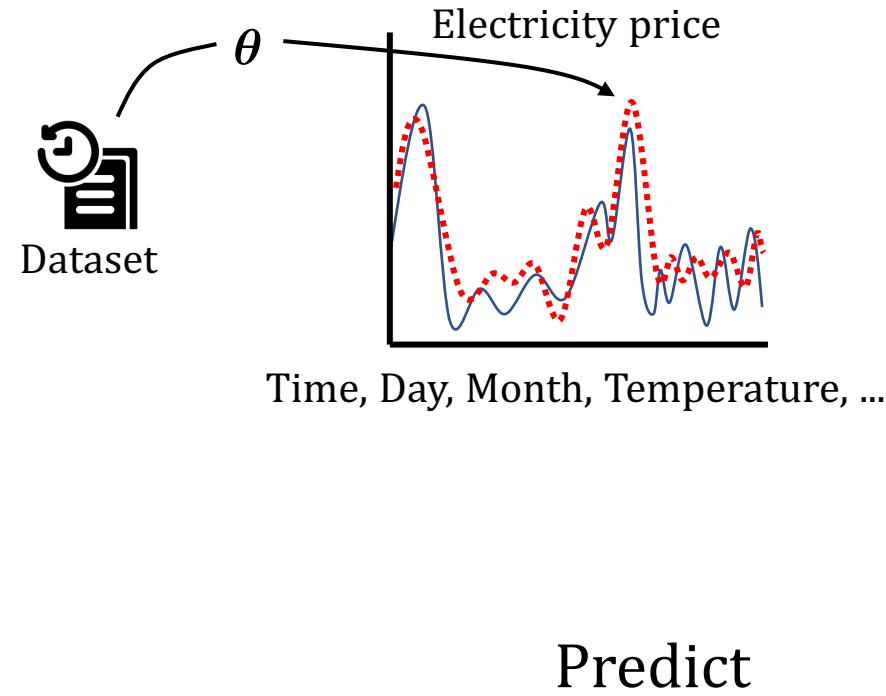
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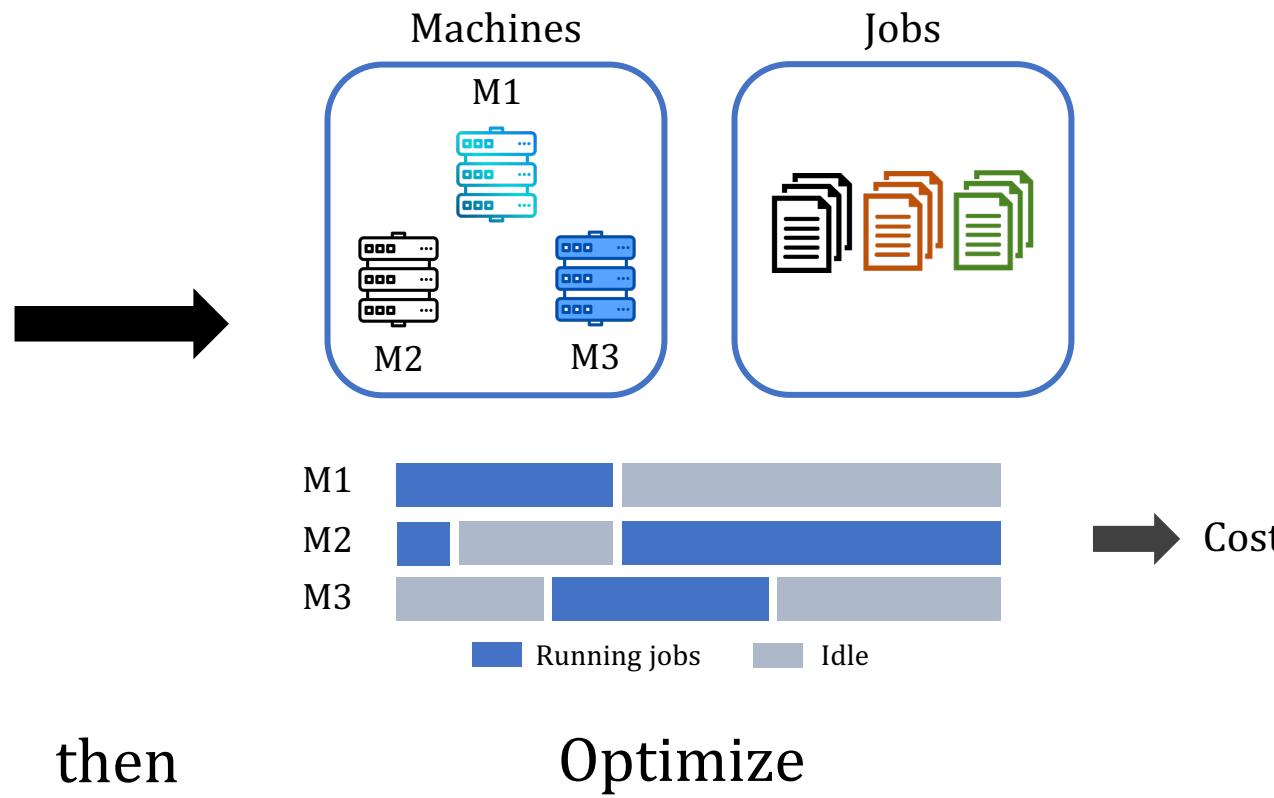
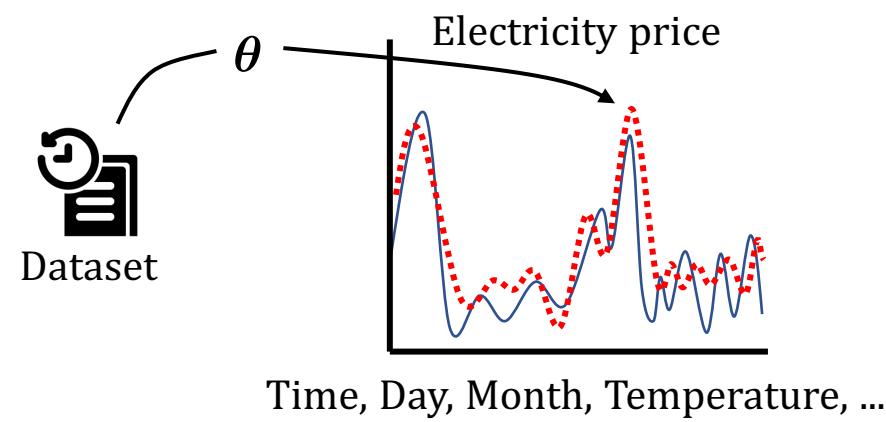
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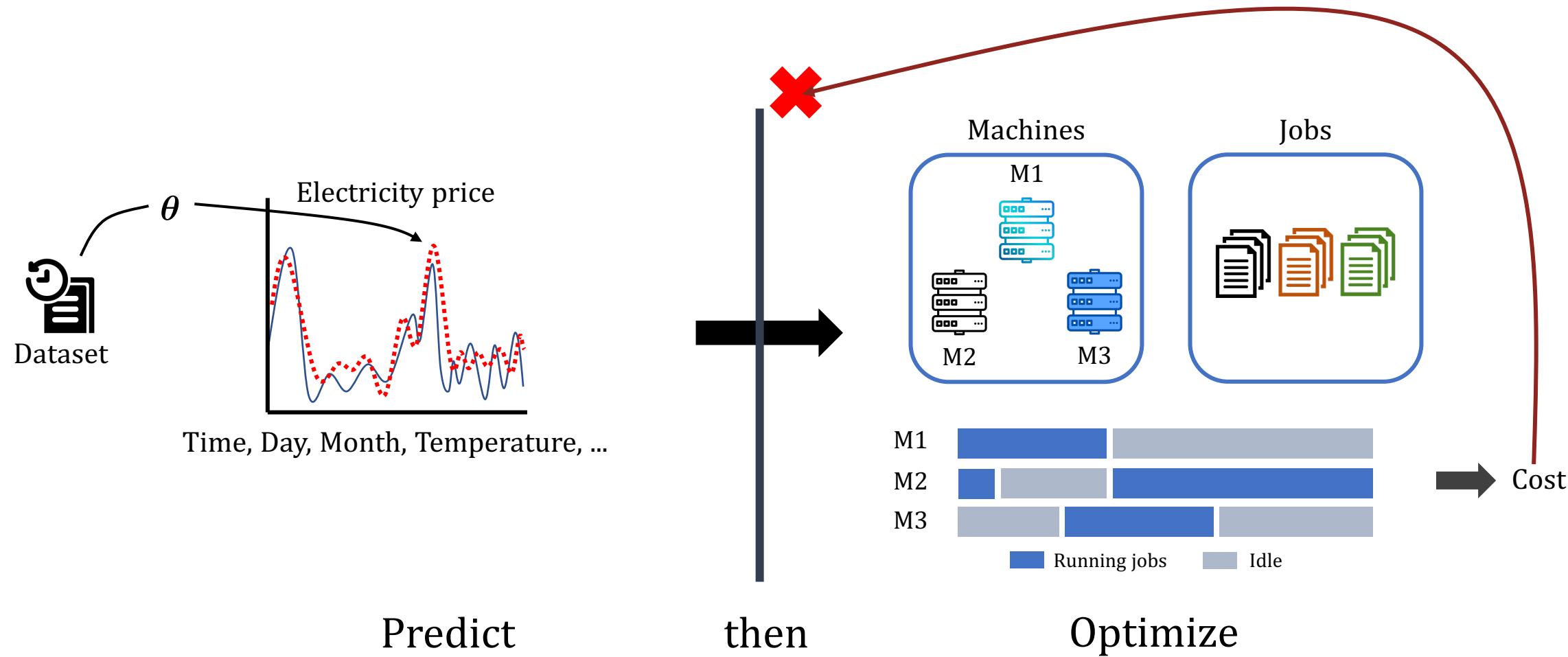
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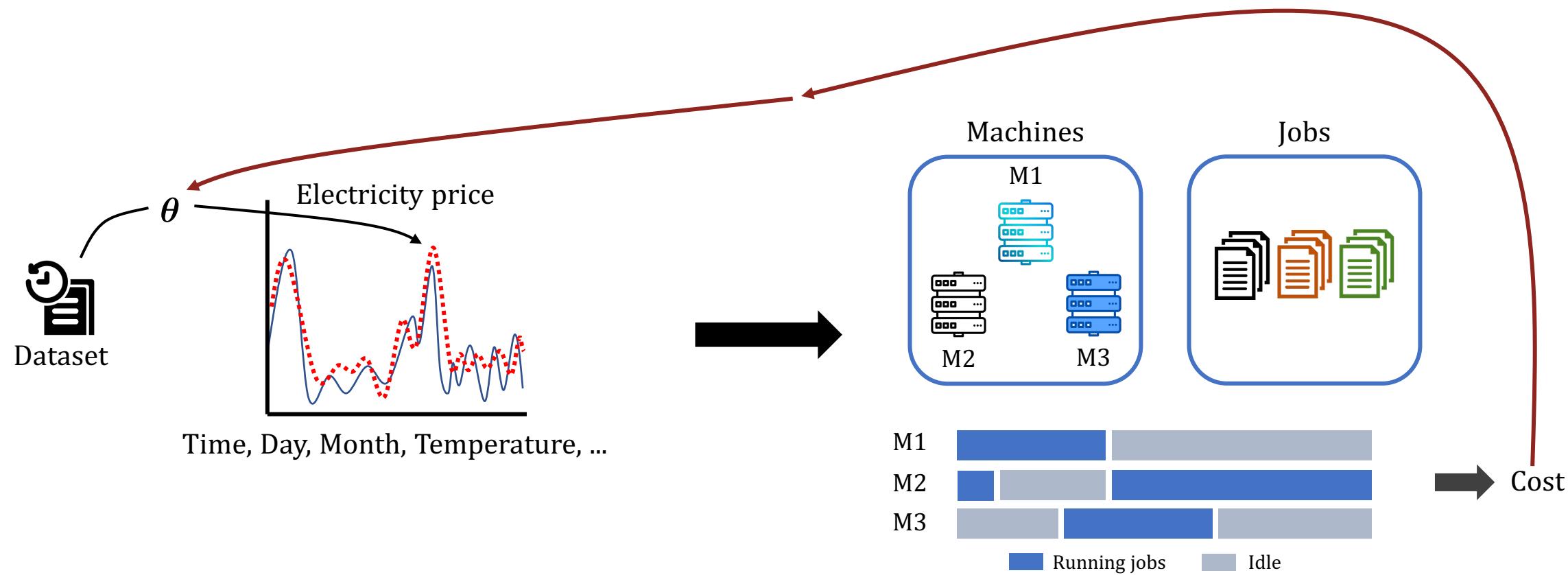
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Smart “Predict then Optimize” (SPO)

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Smart “Predict then Optimize” (SPO) Loss  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{SPO}}(\theta)$

- Non-differentiable
- Non-convex

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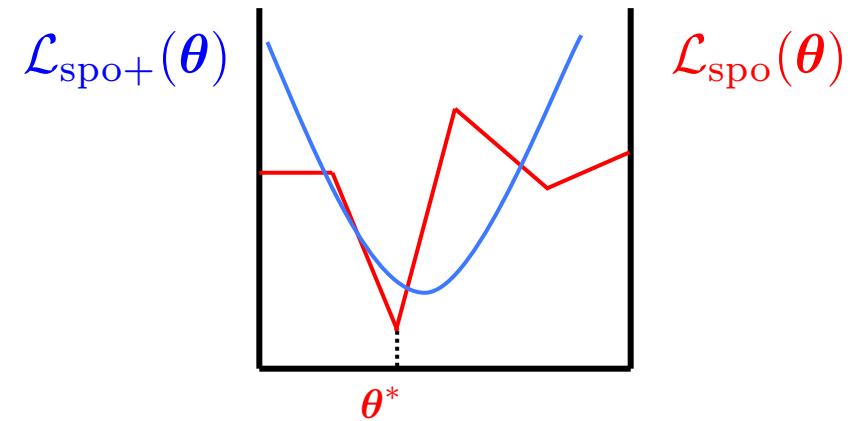
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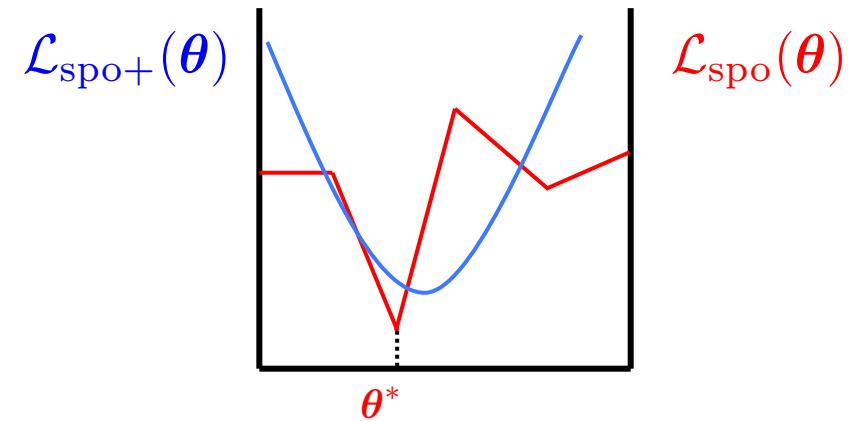


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- ⇒ None of prior methods “optimally” minimizes  
⇒ How good are the existing local solvers?



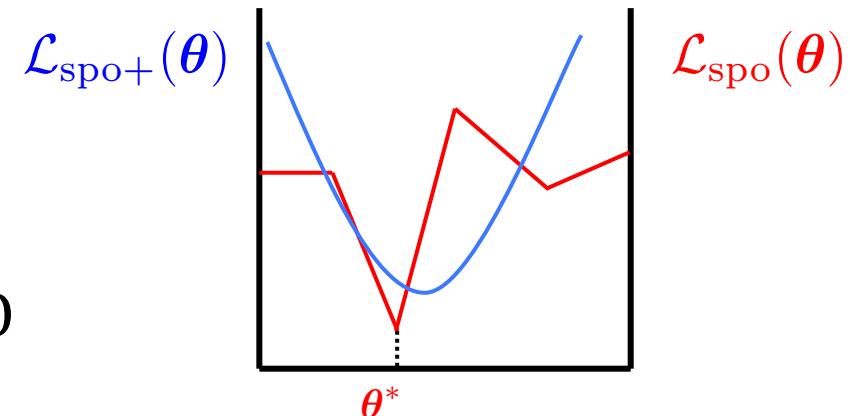
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- ⇒ How good are the existing local solvers?

- ✓ The first globally optimal solution to the linear SPO
- ✓ Exact reduction of linear SPO to MILP



# EMSPO – Exact MILP Reduction of Linear SPO

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SPO}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{c}, \varphi) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}^*(\bar{\mathbf{c}}) - \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}^*(\mathbf{c}) \right] \\ \text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}^*(\bar{\mathbf{c}}) &= \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{X}} \underbrace{(\boldsymbol{\theta} \varphi)^\top}_{\bar{\mathbf{c}}} \bar{\mathbf{x}} \end{aligned}$$

- Bi-level formulation

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$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}^*(\bar{\mathbf{c}}) = \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{X}} \underbrace{(\boldsymbol{\theta} \varphi)^\top}_{\bar{\mathbf{c}}} \bar{\mathbf{x}} \quad \mathbf{x}^* \text{ with true costs}$$

- Bi-level formulation
- SPO loss: decision regret compared to the oracle cost

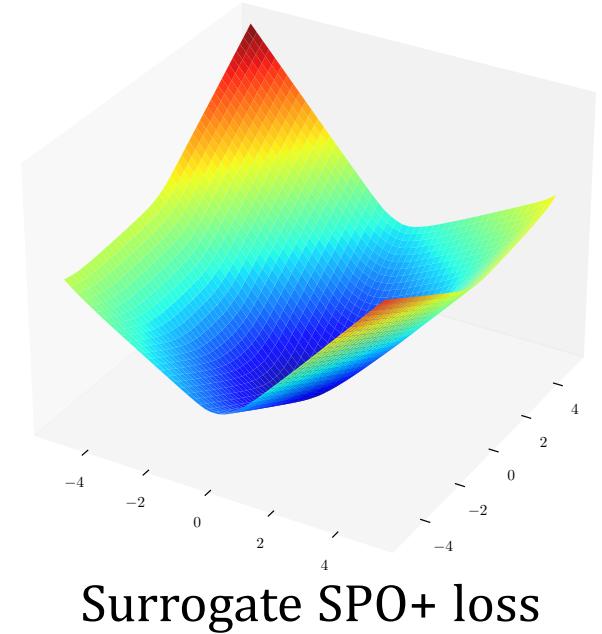
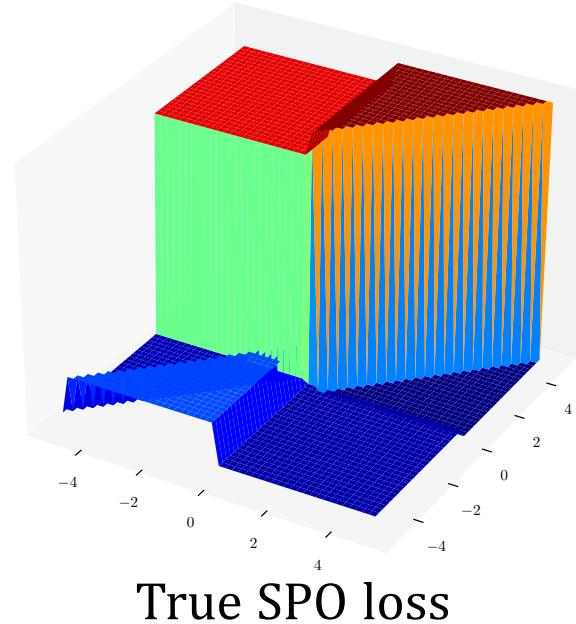
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cost with predicted  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}$

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- Bi-level formulation

Piece-wise linear surface  
⇒ MILP

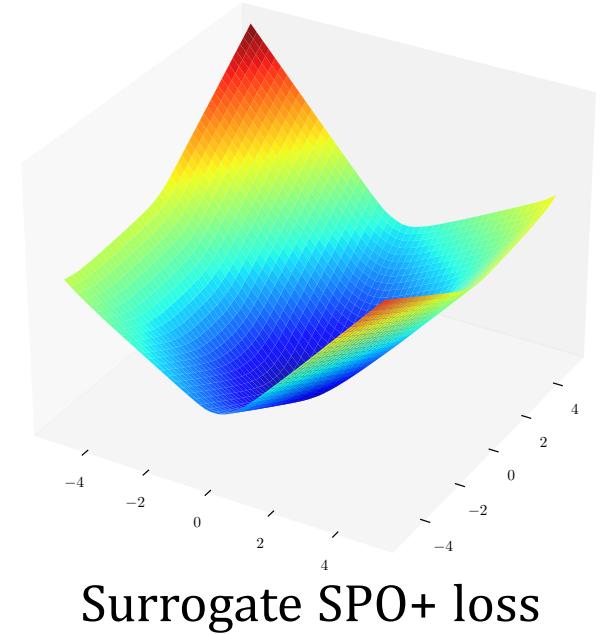
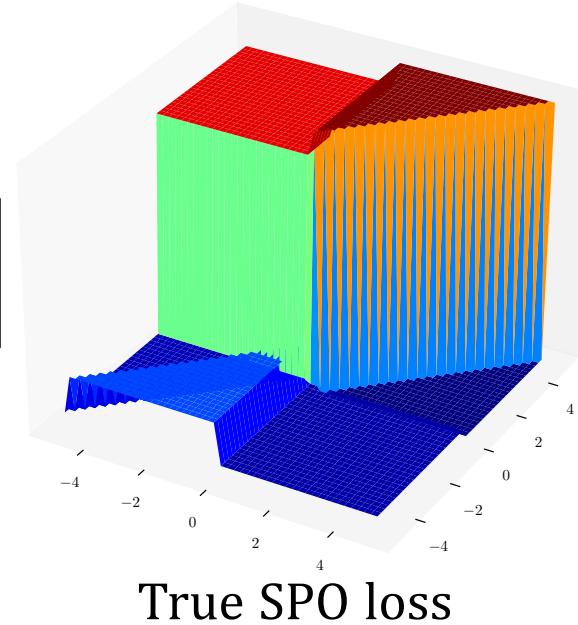
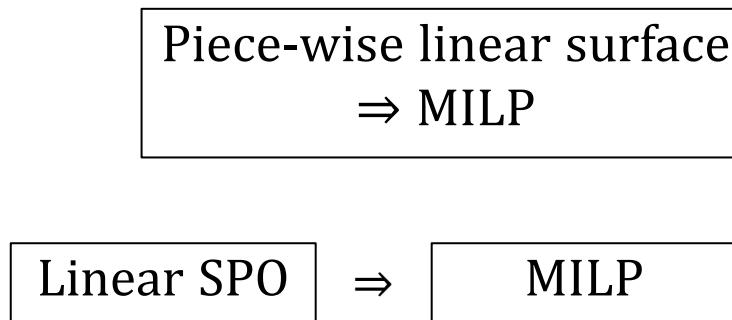


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SPO loss in bi-level form

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SPO loss in bi-level form



SPO loss in single-level form

$$\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{c}, \varphi) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \mathbf{c}^\top \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{X}} \bar{\mathbf{c}}^\top \bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}^*(\mathbf{c}) \right]$$

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$$\mathbf{x}^*(\bar{\mathbf{c}}) = \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{X}} \bar{\mathbf{c}}^\top \bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

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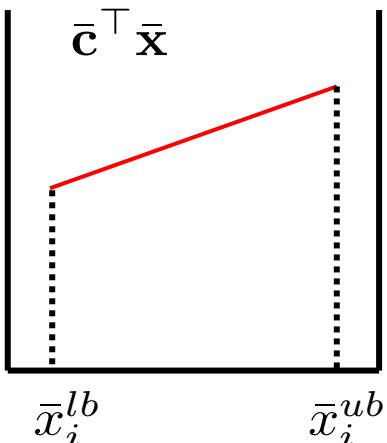
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$$\bar{\mathbf{c}}^\top \bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

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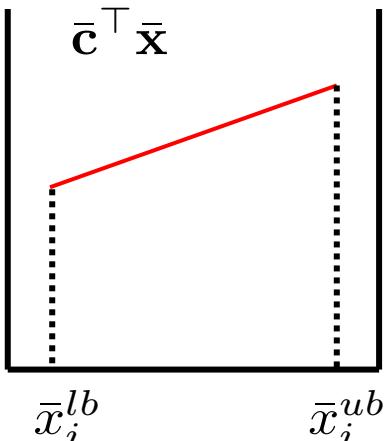


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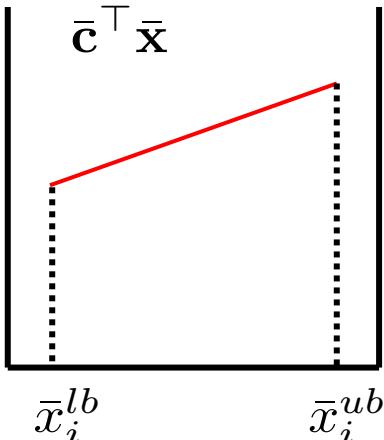
$$\bar{\mathbf{c}}^\top \bar{\mathbf{x}} = \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j$$



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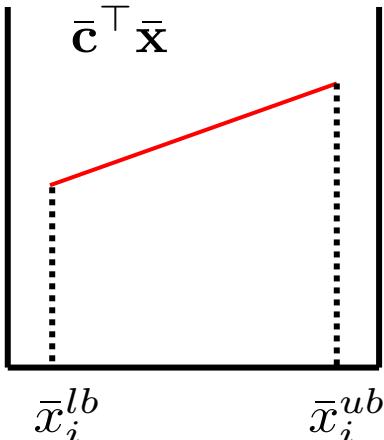
$\downarrow$                              $\downarrow$

$$\bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{lb} + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j$$
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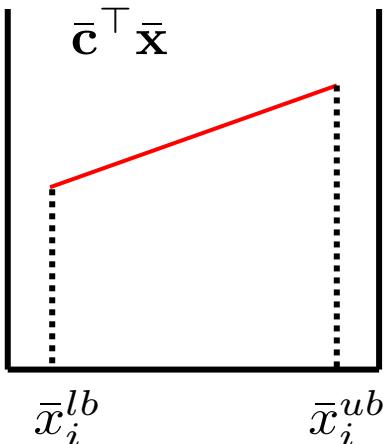
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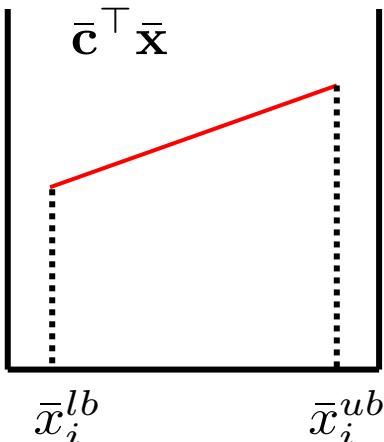


$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathbf{c}}^\top \bar{\mathbf{x}} &= \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j \\ \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{lb} + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j &\quad \text{---} \quad \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{ub} + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j \\ \min \left( \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{lb}, \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{ub} \right) &\quad \text{---} \quad \end{aligned}$$

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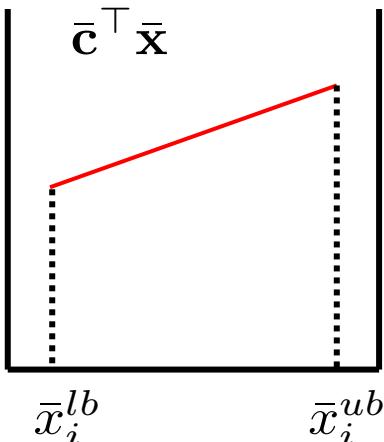
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 \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{ub} + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j &\quad \text{---} \rightarrow \\
 \min \left( \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{lb}, \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{ub} \right) &\quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \bar{c}_i \leq 0 : \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{ub} \\ \bar{c}_i \geq 0 : \bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{lb} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

The diagram illustrates the symbolic variable elimination (SVE) process. It starts with the expression  $\bar{\mathbf{c}}^\top \bar{\mathbf{x}}$  and shows its decomposition into  $\bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j$ . This is then simplified by eliminating variable  $\bar{x}_i$ , resulting in two terms:  $\bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{lb} + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j$  and  $\bar{c}_i \bar{x}_i^{ub} + \sum_{j \neq i} \bar{c}_j \bar{x}_j$ . These are then minimized to produce the final result, which is annotated with conditions based on the sign of  $\bar{c}_i$ .

# EMSPO – Exact MILP Reduction of Linear SPO

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Can be generalized... See our paper ☺

- Symbolic variable elimination (SVE) of  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$
- *Eliminate*  $\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \dots$  sequentially with annotations
- To generalize
  - Need efficient data structure since cases will blow up quickly

“Bi-level SPO Loss”  $\Rightarrow$  “Mixed-Integer Linear Program”

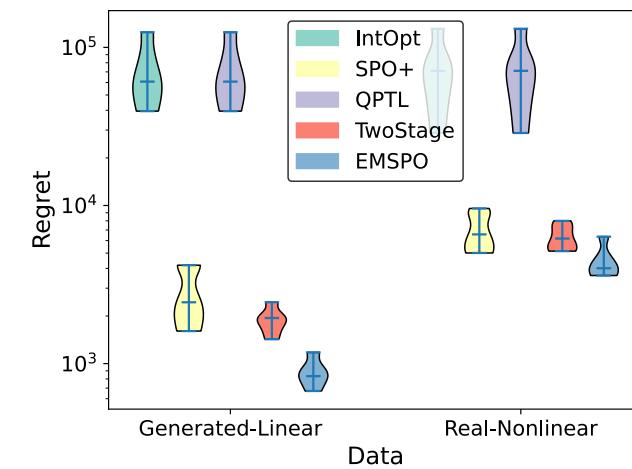
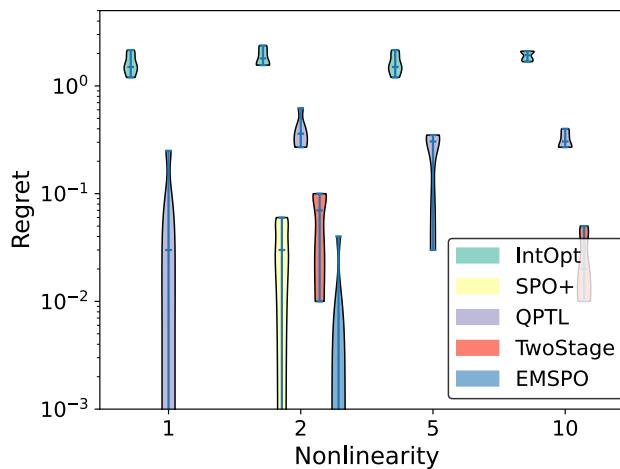
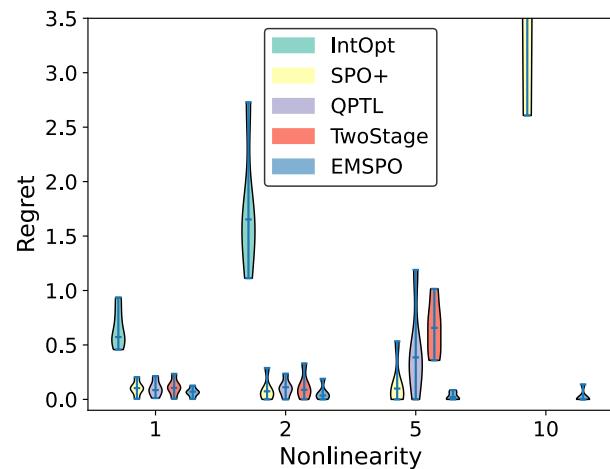
# Experiments

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  - Decision regret
- Compared methods
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- Nonlinearity
- Dataset size

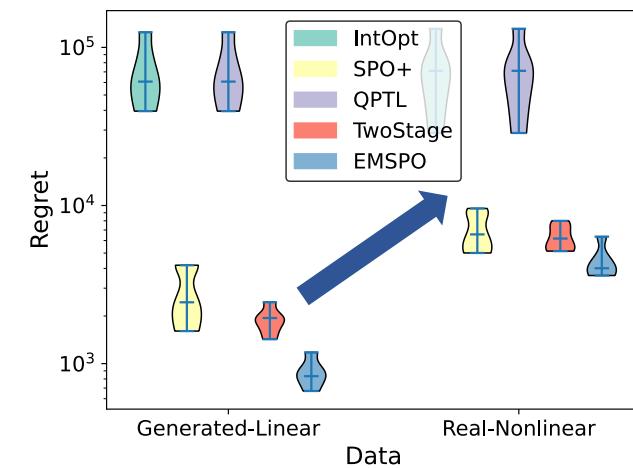
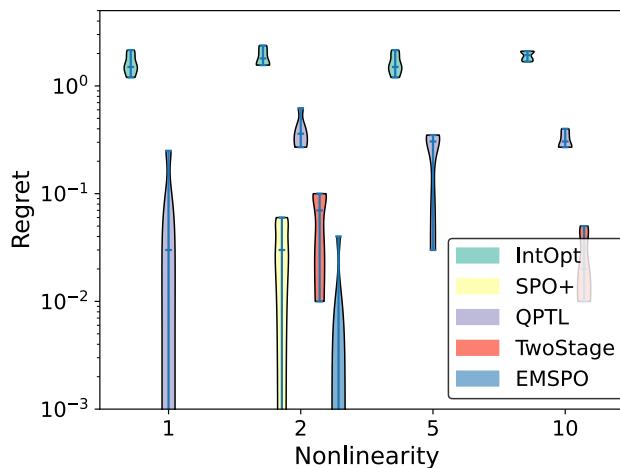
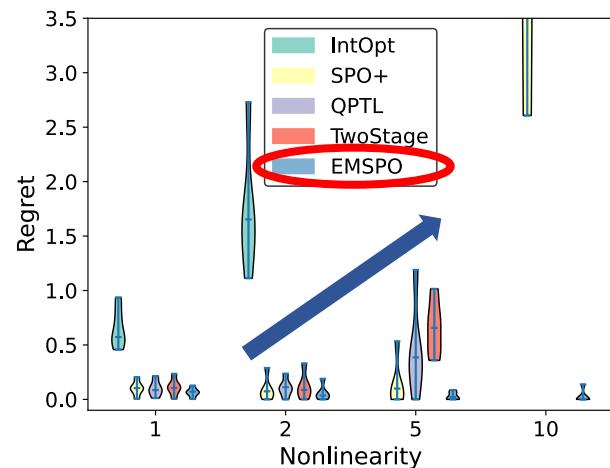
# Experiments



Nonlinearity ↑

- Decision regret vs. nonlinearity in the data

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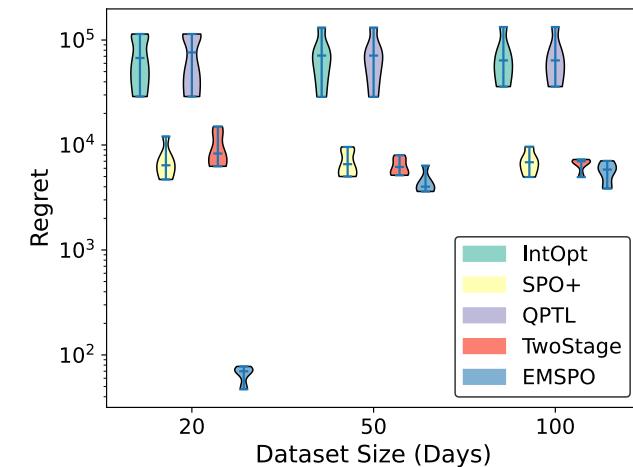
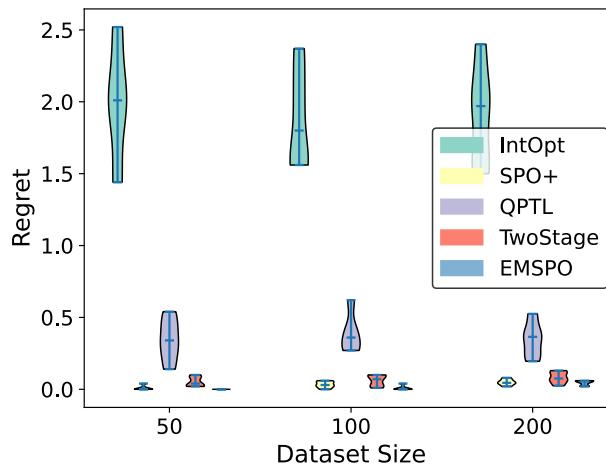
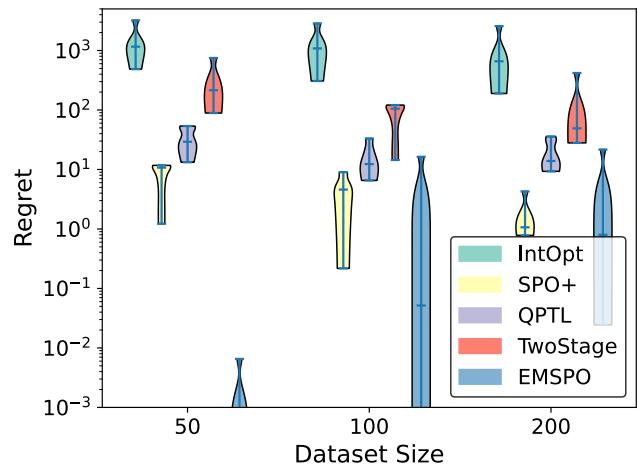


Nonlinearity ↑

- Decision regret vs. nonlinearity in the data

Nonlinearity ↑ ⇒ Decision regret ↑

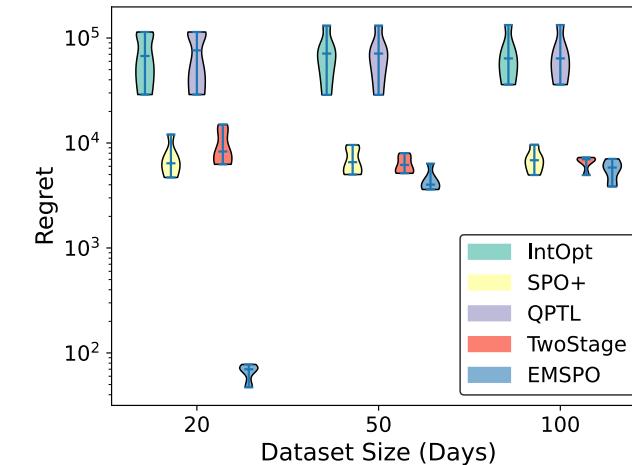
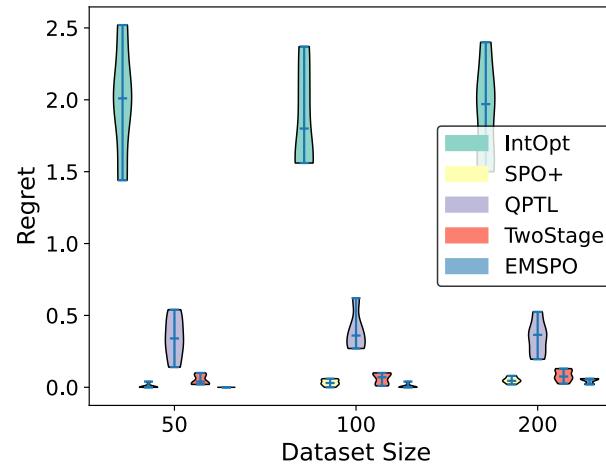
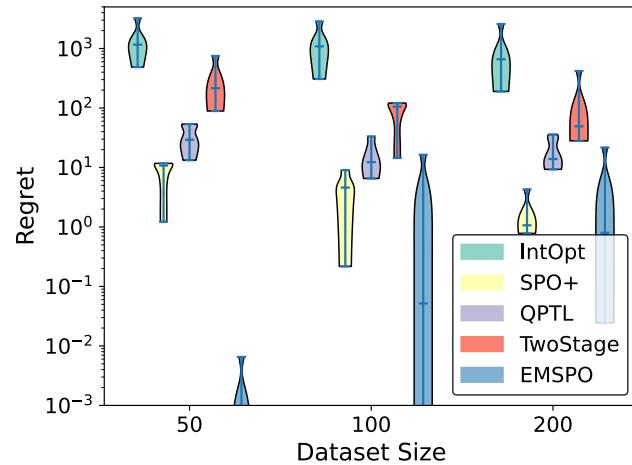
# Experiments



Dataset size ↑

- Decision regret vs. Dataset size

# Experiments



Dataset size  $\uparrow$

- Decision regret vs. Dataset size

Dataset size  $\uparrow \Rightarrow$  Decision regret  $\downarrow$

SPO+ performs robustly across the board

# Conclusion

- First globally optimal solver of linear SPO problems subject to mild assumptions
  - Symbolic bilinear argmin solver that solves the lower optimization
  - Overall problem reduces to MILP

# Conclusion

- First globally optimal solver of linear SPO problems subject to mild assumptions
  - Symbolic bilinear argmin solver that solves the lower optimization
  - Overall problem reduces to MILP
- Benchmarked existing approximate solvers
  - Found that there is big room for improvement