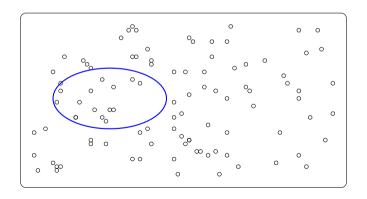
# Weight reduction in distributed protocols: new algorithms and analysis

Tolik Zinovyev

Boston University

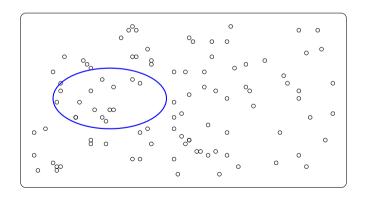
#### Committee selection

- ► Have *n* parties, want to select a small subset and delegate work to them (e.g., in consensus)
- ► The protocol should remain reliable / secure



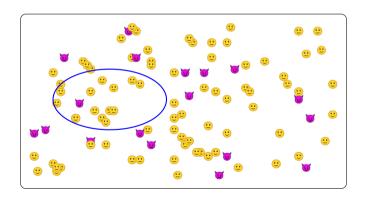
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- ▶ 20% of parties are malicious, need to elect a committee with  $< \frac{1}{3}$  parties malicious
- ▶ some security is lost:  $\frac{1}{5} \rightarrow \frac{1}{3}$

$$t_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if party } i \text{ is chosen} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for all 
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 with  $|A| \le \frac{n}{5}$ :
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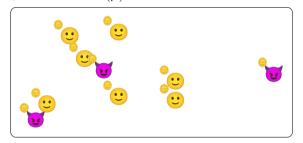
$$A \subseteq [n]$$
 – adversary set, want

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select each party with probability p:  $t_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ 



- ▶ about 20% of selected parties will be malicious;
- ightharpoonup security error  $2^{-\lambda}$  requires committee size

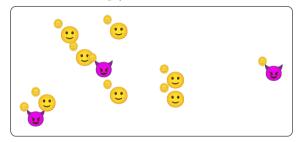
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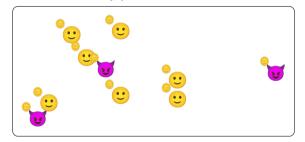
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### Introducing weights

- ▶ the *n* parties have weights  $w_1, w_2, ..., w_n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$
- ▶ need to assign new weights  $t_1, t_2, ..., t_n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ▶ sav "party i gets  $t_i$  tickets"
- ▶ new problem statement: adversary has weight at most 20%; he must have  $<\frac{1}{3}$  tickets

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# Introducing weights (cont.)

- what Algorand uses
- their solution: select each unit of weight with probability p
  - ightharpoonup equivalently,  $t_i \sim \text{Binomial}(w_i, p)$ ;
- often want security against adaptive corruptions
  - ▶ the adversary is allowed to corrupt parties throughout the protocol execution



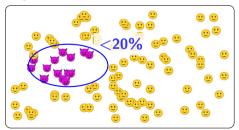
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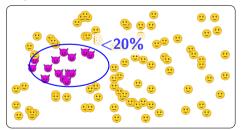


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- ► Fait Accompli [GKR23]:
  - > selects biggest parties deterministically and everyone else randomly as in Algorand
  - big players selected almost certainly anyway
  - ► randomly sample from less weight ⇒ less variance
  - improves committee size vs. error tradeoff
- ► Swiper [TF23] + others [BHS23, FMT24, DPTX25]:
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#### Minimize the size of the committee $(t_1, t_2, ..., t_n)$ : how to quantify?

- option (1): number of distinct parties on the committee: the number of  $i \in [n]$  with  $t_i > 0$ 
  - useful in e.g. Algorand
- ▶ option (2) : the total new weight:  $\sum_{i=1}^{n} t_i$ 
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#### Problem statement

Assume  $0 < \alpha < \beta < 1$ . Given  $w_1, ..., w_n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , find  $t_1, ..., t_n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that

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This work extends Swiper (Tonkikh, Freitas '24). Adopt terminology: party i gets  $t_i$  "tickets".

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# Coming next...

✓ Problem statement□ Swiper overview□□□

# Swiper [TF23] overview: verifying a solution

Input:  $(w_1, t_1), ..., (w_n, t_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2_{\geq 0}$ 

Output: True/False – test if the solution  $(t_1, ..., t_n)$  is valid; need to check

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Swiper: knapsack problem, dynamic programming solution in time  $O(n \cdot T)$ , where  $T = \sum_{i=1}^{n} t_i$ .

for  $k \in [n]$  do for  $t \in \{0, 1, ..., T\}$  do compute min weight

impute min weight the adversary has to corrupt hom [k] to get t tienet

$$dp[t] = \min_{S} \sum_{i \in S} w_i$$
 subject to  $S \subseteq [k]$  and  $\sum_{i \in S} t_i = \sum_{i \in S} c_i$ 

return  $\neg \exists t \text{ s.t. } t \geq \beta \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \wedge \text{dp}[t] \leq \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n w_i$ 

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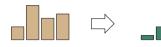
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$$\begin{array}{c|c} \textbf{for } k \in [n] \ \textbf{do} \\ \hline \textbf{for } t \in \{0,1,...,T\} \ \textbf{do} \\ \hline & \text{compute min weight the adversary has to corrupt from } [k] \ \textbf{to get } t \ \textbf{tickets total:} \\ \hline & \texttt{dp}[t] = \min_{S} \sum_{i \in S} w_i \ \text{subject to } S \subseteq [k] \ \text{and } \sum_{i \in S} t_i = t \end{array}$$

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#### Linear scaling:

- assignment  $(t_1, ..., t_n) = (w_1, ..., w_n)$  works,  $(t_1, ..., t_n) = 0^n$  doesn't
- ▶ set in-between:  $t_i = \lfloor sw_i + c \rfloor$  (c = const)
- run binary search to find locally minimal s that generates a valid ticket assignment
  - validity testing described in previous slide



#### Equivalently

- $lackbox{lack}$  define potential solutions  $\overrightarrow{t_1}, \overrightarrow{t_2}, ...$  with  $\operatorname{size}(\overrightarrow{t_j}) = j$  tickets
- ightharpoonup find locally minimal j such that  $\overrightarrow{t_j}$  is valid but  $\overrightarrow{t_{j-1}}$  is not

Swiper paper proves that when  $c = \alpha$ , all  $t_M, t_{M+1}, ...$  are valid, where

$$M = \left\lfloor \frac{\alpha(1-\alpha)}{\beta-\alpha}n + 1 \right\rfloor = O(n).$$

#### Running time analysis

- ▶ each search iteration: validity testing in time  $O(n \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} t_i) \leq O(n \cdot M) = O(n^2)$
- ightharpoonup total:  $O(n^2 \log n)$

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# Coming next...

- ✓ Problem statement
- ✓ Swiper overview
- □ Contribution 1: improving Swiper

# Improving Swiper: super Swiper







- Replaces binary search with linear search
  - $j \leftarrow 1$ ; while  $\vec{t_i}$  is not valid do  $\downarrow j \leftarrow j + 1;$ return  $\vec{t}_i$ :
  - binary search can get stuck in a "local minimum"
  - linear search improves output
- reduces running time from  $O(n^2 \log n)$  to  $O(n + R^2 \log R)$ ,
  - not worse than before
  - ightharpoonup normally,  $R \ll n \Longrightarrow n + R^2 \log R \ll n^2 \log n$

#### Improving Swiper: super Swiper





- ▶ Replaces binary search with linear search

  - binary search can get stuck in a "local minimum"
  - linear search improves output
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- ► Challenge: how to compute  $\overrightarrow{t_1}, ..., \overrightarrow{t_R}$ ?
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- $lackbox{ observation: } \overrightarrow{t_{j+1}} = \overrightarrow{t_j} + (...,0,0,1,0,0,...) -$
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  - computing  $\overrightarrow{t_1}$   $\overrightarrow{t_R}$  takes time  $O(R \log R)$



weights  $\vec{w}$ :



t = 1/9 xt s:

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tickets 
$$\vec{t}$$
:  $0$   $0$ 

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weights  $\vec{w}$ :



tickets t: 0

$$\vec{t} = \lfloor s\vec{w} + c \rfloor$$

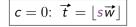
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- ightharpoonup computing  $\overrightarrow{t_1}, ..., \overrightarrow{t_R}$  takes time  $O(R \log R)$





tickets  $\vec{t}$ : 0

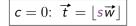
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weights  $\vec{w}$ :



tickets  $\vec{t}$ :



0 0

next s:

$$\vec{t} = \lfloor s\vec{w} + c \rfloor$$

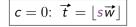
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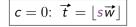
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tickets  $\overrightarrow{t}$ :  $\underline{1}$  0



2/9 1/5

next s:



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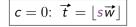
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tickets  $\vec{t}$ : 1





2/9 1/5

next s:



$$\vec{t} = \lfloor s\vec{w} + c \rfloor$$

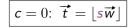
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weights  $\vec{w}$ :



tickets  $\vec{t}$ :  $\frac{1}{t}$   $\frac{1}{t}$   $\frac{1}{t}$ 



$$\vec{t} = \lfloor s\vec{w} + c \rfloor$$

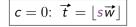
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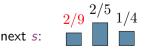


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tickets  $\vec{t}$ :  $\underline{1}$   $\underline{1}$  0



15 / 40

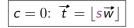
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tickets  $\overrightarrow{t}$ :  $\frac{2}{1}$  1 0



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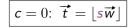
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tickets  $\vec{t}$ :  $\frac{2}{1}$  0





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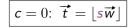
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tickets  $\vec{t}$ :  $\frac{2}{1}$  0





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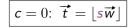
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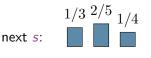
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weights  $\vec{w}$ :



tickets  $\vec{t}$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 



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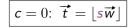
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weights  $\vec{w}$ :



tickets  $\vec{t}$ :  $\frac{2}{1}$   $\frac{1}{1}$ 



 $1/3 \ \frac{2/5}{1}$ next s:

$$\vec{t} = \lfloor s\vec{w} + c \rfloor$$

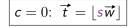
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tickets  $\vec{t}$ :  $\frac{2}{t}$  1 1



 $1/3 \ 2/5 \frac{1}{1}$ next s:

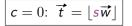
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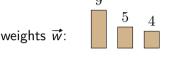
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#### Improving Swiper: super Swiper (cont.)

```
j \leftarrow 1; while \overrightarrow{t_j} is not valid do \downarrow j \leftarrow j+1; return \overrightarrow{t_j}; \downarrow Challenge 1: compu
```

- ▶ Challenge 1: compute  $\vec{t_j}$  time  $O(R \log R)$ 
  - ►  $O(n + R \log R)$  if  $\vec{w}$  is unordered
- ► Challenge 2: test  $\vec{t_j}$  ?

- ▶ Reuse dynamic programming computations for testing ticket assignments
- generalized data structure DP:

method	mutable?	parameters	output
.apply(w,t)	mutable	party's weight $w_i$ , # tickets $t_i$	none
.get()	immutable	none	integer

- ightharpoonup guarantee: want to test  $\vec{t}$ 
  - ▶ call DP.apply $(w_i, (\overrightarrow{t})_i)$  once for all  $i \in [n]$  with  $(\overrightarrow{t})_i \neq 0$  in any order
  - ightharpoonup then DP.get() returns max # tickets the adversary gets in  $\overrightarrow{t}$
- ightharpoonup example: want to test  $\overrightarrow{t}=(4,3,3,0)$  for  $\overrightarrow{w}=(90,60,50,10)$

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$$dp = \boxed{---}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline ---- \\ \hline \\ \mathtt{dp} = \boxed{ \begin{array}{c} \mathtt{4} \\ --- \end{array} } \end{array} \qquad \text{dp.apply} (90,4)$$

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- ▶ Reuse dynamic programming computations for testing ticket assignments
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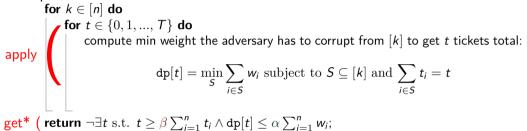


► To implement DP:

```
for k \in [n] do for t \in \{0, 1, ..., T\} do compute min weight the adversary has to corrupt from [k] to get t tickets total: \mathrm{dp}[t] = \min_{S} \sum_{i \in S} w_i \text{ subject to } S \subseteq [k] \text{ and } \sum_{i \in S} t_i = t get* (return \neg \exists t \text{ s.t. } t \geq \beta \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \wedge \mathrm{dp}[t] \leq \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n w_i;
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- time complexity
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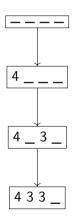
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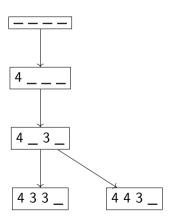
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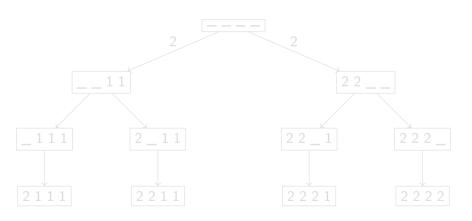
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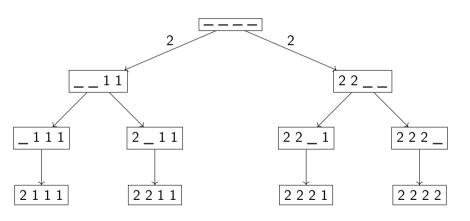
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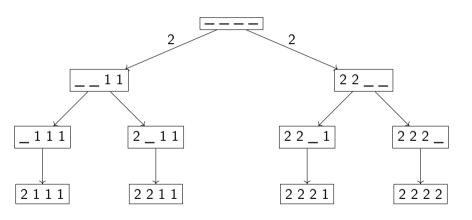
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#### Coming next...

- ✓ Problem statement
- ✓ Swiper overview
- ✓ Contribution 1: super Swiper linear search in time  $O(n + R^2 \log R)$
- ☐ Contribution 2: lower bounds
- П

#### Lower bounds

- super Swiper works great in practice, what about in theory?
- want to know worst case approximation factor
  - how big is output compared to optimal solution?
- ightharpoonup our result: *super Swiper*, Swiper [TF23] + others [BHS23, FMT24, DPTX25] all have approximation factor  $\Omega(n)$ 
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- □ Contribution 3: algorithms with better guarantees

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- ☐ Contribution 4: LP based algorithm

Weight reduction can be formulated as an integer linear program

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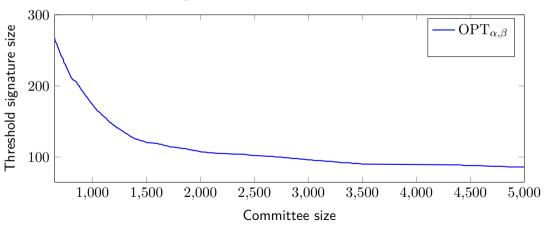
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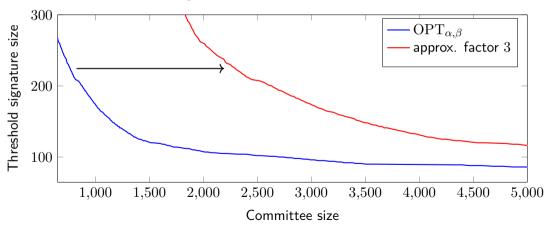
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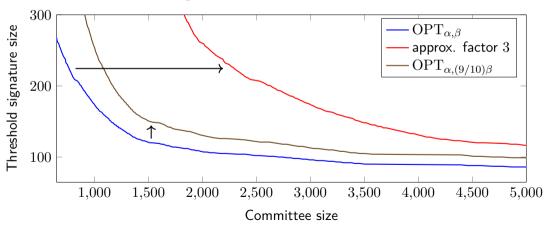
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- ► LP algorithm is impractical
- ightharpoonup time complexity  $\Omega(\mathit{n}^{10})$  for reasonable parameters

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- Numerical evaluation

#### Numerical evaluation

- sub-exponential time exact algorithm can be practical!
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#### Additional slides

## Super Swiper

- $\blacktriangleright$  test  $\vec{t_1}, \vec{t_2}, \vec{t_3}, ...$  in batches
- ▶ batch  $k \ge 0$  tests  $\overrightarrow{t_j}$  for  $j \in (j_k, j_{k+1}]$
- $j_0 = 0, j_{k+1} = j_k + 2^k$  (batches grow)
- ▶ batch k takes time  $O(k \cdot 2^{2k})$
- ▶ total time dominated by last batch:  $O(R^2 \log R)$

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- lacktriangle goal: test  $\vec{t_j}$  for  $j \in (I, r]$ ,  $I = 2^k 1$ ,  $r = 2^{k+1} 1$ , in time  $O(k \cdot 2^{2k})$
- ▶ create array deltas: indices to increment (in  $\overrightarrow{t_l}$ ) that generate  $\overrightarrow{t_{l+1}}, \overrightarrow{t_{l+2}}, ..., \overrightarrow{t_r}$ ▶  $|\text{deltas}| = 2^k$
- lacktriangledown create dp\_head: DP and call dp\_head.apply $\left(w_i,(\overrightarrow{t_I})_i\right)$  for  $i\notin$  deltas
  - ightharpoonup takes time  $O(2^{2k})$
- ▶ observation: could test  $\overrightarrow{t_{l+1}},...,\overrightarrow{t_r}$  and save  $\approx 50\%$  of CPU cycles
  - ightharpoonup for each  $\overrightarrow{t_j}$  only apply indices  $i \in \text{deltas}$
- ▶ invoke ProcessBatchRecursive( $\vec{t_l}$ , deltas, dp\_head)
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#### Divide and conquer

Base case. If |deltas| = 1:

- ▶ call dp\_head.apply $(w_i, (\overrightarrow{t_{j+1}})_i)$  where  $i \in \text{deltas}$
- check dp\_head.get()

- ► Input:
  - ightharpoonup: a ticket assignment
  - deltas: an array of indices that generate  $\overrightarrow{t_{j+1}}, \overrightarrow{t_{j+2}}, ..., \overrightarrow{t_{j+|\text{deltas}|}}$
  - ▶ dp\_head: DP data structure where  $(w_i, (\overrightarrow{t_j})_i)$  are applied exactly for  $i \notin deltas$
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#### Recursive case. If |deltas| > 1:

- ► split deltas into two halves
  - deltas\_l, deltas\_r
- to test left half:

  - ▶ call dp\_l.apply $(w_i, (\vec{t_j})_i)$  for  $i \in \text{deltas}\_r \setminus \text{deltas}\_1$
  - ► call PROCESSBATCHRECURSIVE( $\vec{t_j}$ , deltas\_1, dp\_1)
- to test right half:
  - $m \leftarrow j + |\text{deltas}\_1|$
  - $ightharpoonup dp_r \leftarrow dp_head$
  - ▶ call dp\_r.apply $(w_i, (\overrightarrow{t_m})_i)$  for  $i \in \text{deltas}\_1 \setminus \text{deltas}\_r$
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Back to batch algorithm

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Running time analysis

- ▶ DP.apply always called on  $\vec{t}$  with size( $\vec{t}$ ) <  $2^{k+1}$ ; takes time  $O(2^k)$
- m = |deltas|:
   PROCESSBATCHRECURSIVE(⋅,
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- ► T(m) total # calls to DP.apply ► T(1) = 1
  - T(m) < 2T(m/2) + m
- ▶ solving:  $T(2^k) = O(k \cdot 2^k)$ ; total time  $O(k \cdot 2^{2k})$

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