

# Evaluating Heuristic Solutions for *NP*-Hard Single Machine Scheduling Problems

Dissertation

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By: Nischal Regmi

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### **Institute of Science and Technology**

#### **Central Department of Computer Science and Information Technology**

We certify that we have read this dissertation work and in our opinion it is satisfactory in the scope and quality as a dissertation as the partial fulfillment of the requirement of Master in Computer Science and Information Technology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

## **Evaluation Committee**

**Dr. Tanka Nath Dhamala** Head of the Department Central Department of Computer Science and Information Technology Tribhuvan University, Nepal Dr. Tanka Nath Dhamala Head of the Department Central Department of Computer Science and Information Technology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (Supervisor)

(External Examiner)

(Internal Examiner)

Date:



**Tribhuvan University** 

## Institute of Science and Technology

**Central Department of Computer Science and Information Technology** 

Date:

#### Recommendation

I hereby recommend that the dissertation prepared under my supervision by **Mr. Nischal Regmi** entitled **"Evaluating Heuristic Solutions for** *NP***-Hard Single Machine Scheduling Problems"** be accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master in Computer Science and Information Technology, from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. To my best knowledge this is an original work in computer science.

#### Dr. Tanka Nath Dhamala

Head of the Department, Central Department of Computer Science and Information Technology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (Supervisor)

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Master's level dissertation is for acquisition of profound knowledge in a certain field. I suspect whether I could attain such a depth during this study, but I have a keen interest in algorithms and the theory of computational complexity. I was willing to do something related to this core area of computer science, nevertheless could not pick some topic for the dissertation. Thanks to Dr. Tanka Nath Dhamala, who suggested me to write something on scheduling algorithms, and kindly accepted to supervise me. Dr. Dhamala, apart from guiding me, also provided plenty of relevant research papers - Every Nepali student knows the difficulty of collecting research materials in Nepal, and thus can appreciate this immense help. Dr. Dhamala, albeit strictly, regularly speculated in my progress and provided me guidelines till the completion of this dissertation.

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## Abstract

Scheduling, though being a classical problem of computer science, is still an evolving area of research. Unfortunately, many scheduling problems having high practical significance belong to the class NP-hard, or in simple words, they are not solved exactly by any efficient algorithm on any computer. In this dissertation, scheduling problems for the case of single machine problem is studied. The schemes of evaluating near-to-exact solutions for NP-hard problems are examined, and an algorithm based on tabu search is devised for the single machine scheduling problem 1 |  $r_j$  |  $\mathcal{Y}C_j$ , where jobs arrive over time, preemption is not allowed, and the objective is to minimize the total completion time.

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