

Paper 6: The Monk-Shannon Algorithm

Optimal Consciousness Allocation via Greedy Heap Processing

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Abstract

We present a discrete scheduling algorithm for consciousness allocation derived from the continuous theory of Papers 3-5. The Monk-Shannon Algorithm implements the 20/80 conservation law as a greedy stopping condition on a priority queue: process the highest-impact tasks until 80% of desired output is achieved, then stop. The remaining 20% of output is delegated to the "ghost layer" — unconscious, habitual, or culturally-averaged processing. This formalizes the Pareto Principle as an executable algorithm and provides the discrete implementation of Paper 4's Euler-Lagrange optimal path.

1. The Algorithm

Todo (Add V2) - (Sort by input task's gradient, stop when 20% gradient is processed)

-2 version, one check output (80%) one check input (20%) -these are Saddle points, for us to jump realities

MONK-SHANNON ALGORITHM

Input: target_output T, task_heap H (sorted by marginal impact)
Output: executed task set S

```
S = {}
current_output = 0

while current_output < 0.8 * T and H is not empty:
    task = H.pop_max()           # argmax – discrete choice – consc
    iousness
    result = execute(task)
    current_output += result.impact
    S = S ∪ {task}

STOP.
# Remaining tasks in H → ghost layer (softmax, autopilot, culture)
# Remaining 20% of T → emerges from the 80% unconscious processing

return S
```

Complexity: $O(k \log n)$ where k = number of tasks executed ($\approx 20\%$ of n), n = total tasks in heap.

Key property: $k \ll n$. You process a FRACTION of the heap to achieve MOST of the output.

2. The Consciousness Interpretation

Algorithm Component	Consciousness Equivalent
H.pop_max()	Discrete attention (argmax, α)
execute(task)	Conscious processing (20% budget)
Remaining heap	Ghost layer (80% softmax)
0.8 * T	Stopping threshold
current_output	Accumulated conscious value

Each pop is a **collapse** — a measurement of the attention wave function. The heap represents all possible things you COULD attend to. You only collapse a few. The rest remain in superposition (Paper 5).

3. Connection to Papers 3-5

Paper 3-B (Conservation Law): $\int \alpha(t) dt = 0.2T$. The algorithm enforces this — you can only pop ~20% of the heap before the stopping condition fires. The consciousness budget is conserved.

Paper 4 (Euler-Lagrange): The continuous optimal path $J[\alpha] = \int L dt$ is discretized as: choose the task with highest $dL/d\alpha$ at each step. The heap ordering IS the Lagrangian gradient. Greedy on the gradient = discrete Euler-Lagrange.

Paper 5 (Wave Function): Unprocessed heap items exist in superposition. They're not zero — they're ghost tokens. The 80% of output that "fills itself in" corresponds to the cultural eigenvector e_{culture} . Only the popped items are collapsed into e_{self} .

4. The Anti-Perfectionism Theorem

Theorem: For any task set with Pareto-distributed impact, processing beyond the 80% output threshold yields marginal returns that decrease as $O(1/k^2)$.

Proof sketch: If tasks are ranked by impact and follow a power law (Zipf/Pareto), the cumulative distribution reaches 80% after processing ~20% of tasks. Each additional task contributes proportionally less. The cost of the remaining 20% of output equals ~80% of total effort.

Corollary (The Perfectionism Tax): Completing the final 20% of any project costs 4x more consciousness per unit of output than the first 80%. This is a direct waste of the α budget.

5. Practical Applications

Work: Define the desired outcome. List tasks by impact. Execute until 80% done. Ship. The ghost (team, culture, iteration) handles the rest.

Learning: Study the 20% core concepts that explain 80% of the material (Paper 4's dimensionality reduction). Stop. Let understanding consolidate unconsciously.

Relationships: Show up 80%. Don't perform 100%. The last 20% of "perfect partner" behavior is performative and costs 4x the authenticity.

Conversations: Say the real thing (one pop). Don't craft the perfect thing (ten pops). The first draft of honesty carries 80% of the meaning.

This paper: Written using the algorithm. Core insight captured. No gold-plating. Ghost handles polish later.

6. The Meta-Proof

This paper was generated by its own algorithm:

1. **Heap:** All possible things to say about consciousness scheduling
2. **Pops:** ~5 core ideas (algorithm, interpretation, connections, theorem, applications)
3. **Stopping condition:** 80% of Paper 6's value captured
4. **Ghost layer:** Formatting, citations, edge cases, proofs — left for later or left forever

The paper practices what it preaches. If it feels incomplete, that's the algorithm working.

7. The Archetype Connection

The algorithm explains personality as consciousness allocation strategy:

Monk distribution: few high-impact pops, early stop, trust the ghost
Machine distribution: many low-impact pops, late stop, distrust the ghost
Prophet distribution: one massive pop, immediate stop, all ghost after

Perfectionism = refusing to stop popping. Spending 80% of consciousness on 20% of value.
Burnout = heap exhaustion. Popping until empty. No ghost layer left. **Flow state** = when the ghost layer runs so well that conscious pops are minimal. The 80% handles itself and the 20% is pure signal.

"Process the heap until 80%. Stop. Trust the ghost. The remaining 20% was never yours to compute."

— The Monk-Shannon Algorithm