

## Chapter 11

### Approximation Algorithms



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## 11.1 Load Balancing

### Approximation Algorithms

- Q. Suppose I need to solve an NP-hard problem. What should I do?  
A. Theory says you're unlikely to find a poly-time algorithm.

#### Must sacrifice one of three desired features.

- Solve problem to optimality.
- Solve problem in poly-time.
- Solve arbitrary instances of the problem.

#### $\rho$ -approximation algorithm.

- Guaranteed to run in poly-time.
- Guaranteed to solve arbitrary instance of the problem
- Guaranteed to find solution within ratio  $\rho$  of true optimum.

**Challenge.** Need to prove a solution's value is close to optimum, without even knowing what optimum value is!

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### Load Balancing

- Input.**  $m$  identical machines;  $n$  jobs, job  $j$  has processing time  $t_j$ .
- Job  $j$  must run contiguously on one machine.
  - A machine can process at most one job at a time.

**Def.** Let  $J(i)$  be the subset of jobs assigned to machine  $i$ . The **load** of machine  $i$  is  $L_i = \sum_{j \in J(i)} t_j$ .

**Def.** The **makespan** is the maximum load on any machine  $L = \max_i L_i$ .

**Load balancing.** Assign each job to a machine to minimize makespan.

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## Load Balancing: List Scheduling

### List-scheduling algorithm.

- Consider  $n$  jobs in some fixed order.
- Assign job  $j$  to machine whose load is smallest so far.



```

List-Scheduling( $m, n, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n$ ) {
  for  $i = 1$  to  $m$  {
     $L_i \leftarrow 0$       ← load on machine  $i$ 
     $J(i) \leftarrow \emptyset$  ← jobs assigned to machine  $i$ 
  }

  for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  {
     $i = \operatorname{argmin}_k L_k$  ← machine  $i$  has smallest load
     $J(i) \leftarrow J(i) \cup \{j\}$  ← assign job  $j$  to machine  $i$ 
     $L_i \leftarrow L_i + t_j$  ← update load of machine  $i$ 
  }
}
    
```

Implementation.  $O(n \log n)$  using a priority queue.

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## Load Balancing: List Scheduling Analysis

**Theorem.** [Graham, 1966] Greedy algorithm is a 2-approximation.

- First worst-case analysis of an approximation algorithm.
- Need to compare resulting solution with optimal makespan  $L^*$ .

**Lemma 1.** The optimal makespan  $L^* \geq \max_j t_j$ .

**Pf.** Some machine must process the most time-consuming job. ■

**Lemma 2.** The optimal makespan  $L^* \geq \frac{1}{m} \sum_j t_j$ .

**Pf.**

- The total processing time is  $\sum_j t_j$ .
- One of  $m$  machines must do at least a  $1/m$  fraction of total work. ■

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## Load Balancing: List Scheduling Analysis

**Theorem.** Greedy algorithm is a 2-approximation.

**Pf.** Consider load  $L_i$  of bottleneck machine  $i$ .

- Let  $j$  be last job scheduled on machine  $i$ .
- When job  $j$  assigned to machine  $i$ ,  $i$  had smallest load. Its load before assignment is  $L_i - t_j \Rightarrow L_i - t_j \leq L_k$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq m$ .

## Load Balancing: List Scheduling Analysis

**Theorem.** Greedy algorithm is a 2-approximation.

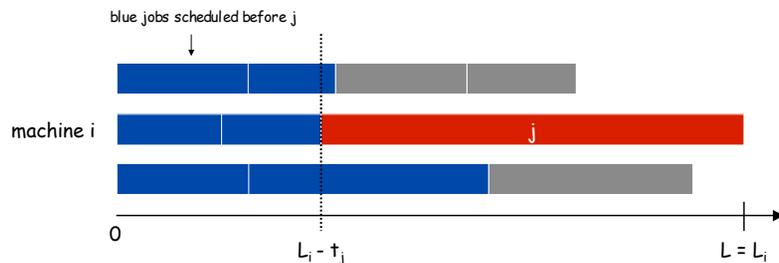
**Pf.** Consider load  $L_i$  of bottleneck machine  $i$ .

- Let  $j$  be last job scheduled on machine  $i$ .
- When job  $j$  assigned to machine  $i$ ,  $i$  had smallest load. Its load before assignment is  $L_i - t_j \Rightarrow L_i - t_j \leq L_k$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq m$ .
- Sum inequalities over all  $k$  and divide by  $m$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_i - t_j &\leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_k L_k \\
 &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_k t_k \\
 \text{Lemma 1} \rightarrow &\leq L^*
 \end{aligned}$$

Now  $L_i = \underbrace{(L_i - t_j)}_{\leq L^*} + \underbrace{t_j}_{\leq L^*} \leq 2L^*$ . ■

↑  
Lemma 2



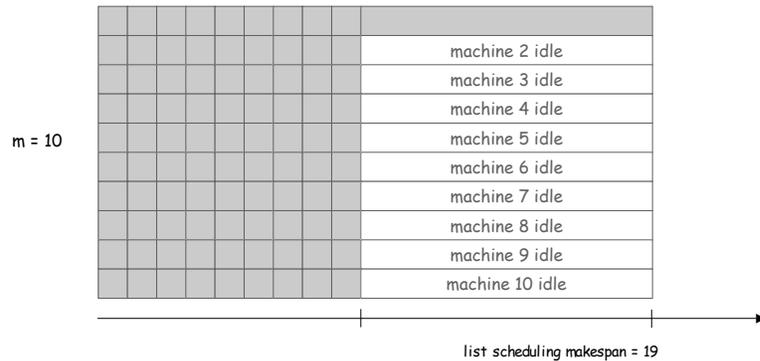
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### Load Balancing: List Scheduling Analysis

- Q. Is our analysis tight?  
 A. Essentially yes.

Ex:  $m$  machines,  $m(m-1)$  jobs length 1 jobs, one job of length  $m$

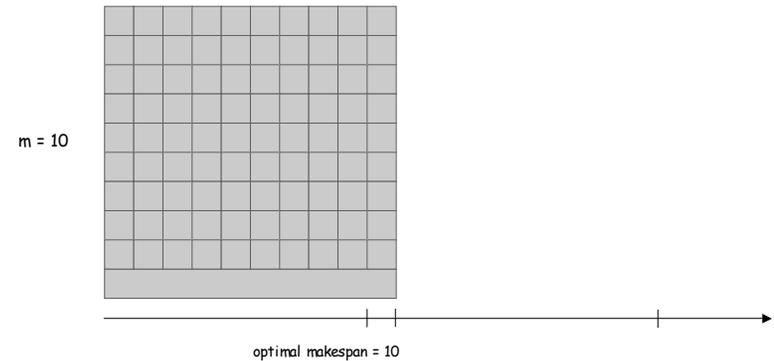


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### Load Balancing: List Scheduling Analysis

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### Load Balancing: LPT Rule

Longest processing time (LPT). Sort  $n$  jobs in descending order of processing time, and then run list scheduling algorithm.

```
LPT-List-Scheduling( $m, n, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n$ ) {
  Sort jobs so that  $t_1 \geq t_2 \geq \dots \geq t_n$ 

  for  $i = 1$  to  $m$  {
     $L_i \leftarrow 0$       ← load on machine  $i$ 
     $J(i) \leftarrow \emptyset$  ← jobs assigned to machine  $i$ 
  }

  for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  {
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     $J(i) \leftarrow J(i) \cup \{j\}$  ← assign job  $j$  to machine  $i$ 
     $L_i \leftarrow L_i + t_j$  ← update load of machine  $i$ 
  }
}
```

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### Load Balancing: LPT Rule

Observation. If at most  $m$  jobs, then list-scheduling is optimal.  
 Pf. Each job put on its own machine. ■

Lemma 3. If there are more than  $m$  jobs,  $L^* \geq 2 t_{m+1}$ .  
 Pf.

- Consider first  $m+1$  jobs  $t_1, \dots, t_{m+1}$ .
- Since the  $t_i$ 's are in descending order, each takes at least  $t_{m+1}$  time.
- There are  $m+1$  jobs and  $m$  machines, so by pigeonhole principle, at least one machine gets two jobs. ■

Theorem. LPT rule is a  $3/2$  approximation algorithm.  
 Pf. Same basic approach as for list scheduling.

$$L_i = \underbrace{(L_i - t_j)}_{\leq L^*} + \underbrace{t_j}_{\leq \frac{1}{2}L^*} \leq \frac{3}{2}L^* \quad \blacksquare$$

$\uparrow$   
 Lemma 3  
 (by observation, can assume number of jobs  $> m$ )

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## Load Balancing: LPT Rule

- Q. Is our 3/2 analysis tight?  
A. No.

**Theorem.** [Graham, 1969] LPT rule is a 4/3-approximation.  
**Pf.** More sophisticated analysis of same algorithm.

- Q. Is Graham's 4/3 analysis tight?  
A. Essentially yes.

**Ex:**  $m$  machines,  $n = 2m+1$  jobs, 2 jobs of length  $m+1$ ,  $m+2$ , ...,  $2m-1$  and one job of length  $m$ .

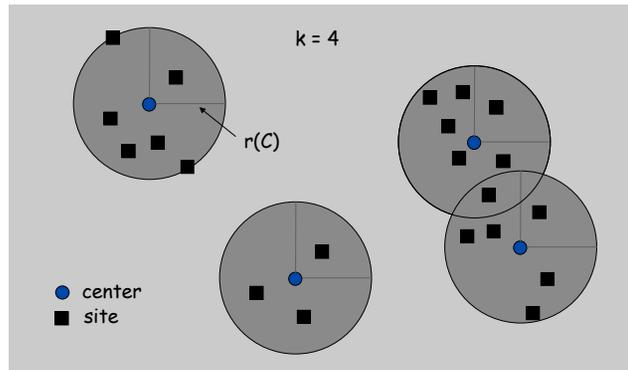
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## 11.2 Center Selection

### Center Selection Problem

**Input.** Set of  $n$  sites  $s_1, \dots, s_n$ .

**Center selection problem.** Select  $k$  centers  $C$  so that maximum distance from a site to nearest center is minimized.



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### Center Selection Problem

**Input.** Set of  $n$  sites  $s_1, \dots, s_n$ .

**Center selection problem.** Select  $k$  centers  $C$  so that maximum distance from a site to nearest center is minimized.

**Notation.**

- $\text{dist}(x, y)$  = distance between  $x$  and  $y$ .
- $\text{dist}(s_i, C) = \min_{c \in C} \text{dist}(s_i, c)$  = distance from  $s_i$  to closest center.
- $r(C) = \max_i \text{dist}(s_i, C)$  = smallest covering radius.

**Goal.** Find set of centers  $C$  that minimizes  $r(C)$ , subject to  $|C| = k$ .

**Distance function properties.**

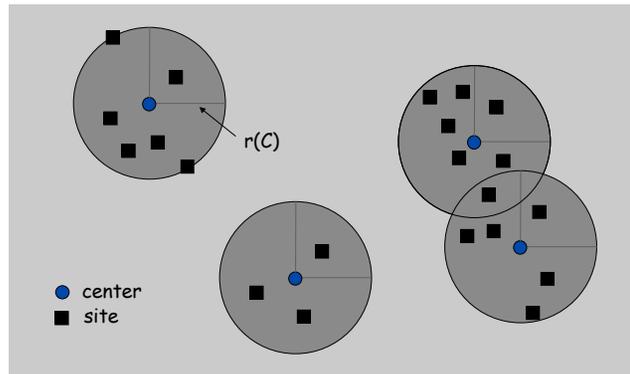
- $\text{dist}(x, x) = 0$  (identity)
- $\text{dist}(x, y) = \text{dist}(y, x)$  (symmetry)
- $\text{dist}(x, y) \leq \text{dist}(x, z) + \text{dist}(z, y)$  (triangle inequality)

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## Center Selection Example

**Ex:** each site is a point in the plane, a center can be any point in the plane,  $\text{dist}(x, y) = \text{Euclidean distance}$ .

**Remark:** search can be infinite!

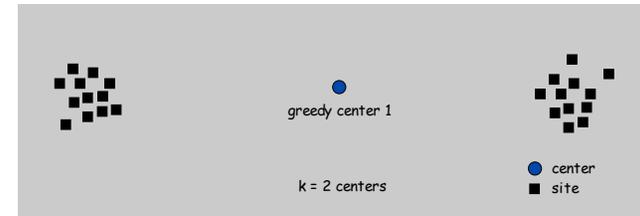


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## Greedy Algorithm: A False Start

**Greedy algorithm.** Put the first center at the best possible location for a single center, and then keep adding centers so as to reduce the covering radius each time by as much as possible.

**Remark:** arbitrarily bad!



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## Center Selection: Greedy Algorithm

**Greedy algorithm.** Repeatedly choose the next center to be the site **farthest** from any existing center.

```

Greedy-Center-Selection( $k, n, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n$ ) {
   $C = \emptyset$ 
  repeat  $k$  times {
    Select a site  $s_i$  with maximum  $\text{dist}(s_i, C)$ 
    Add  $s_i$  to  $C$ 
  }
  return  $C$ 
}
    
```

↑  
site farthest from any center

**Observation.** Upon termination all centers in  $C$  are pairwise at least  $r(C)$  apart.

**Pf.** By construction of algorithm.

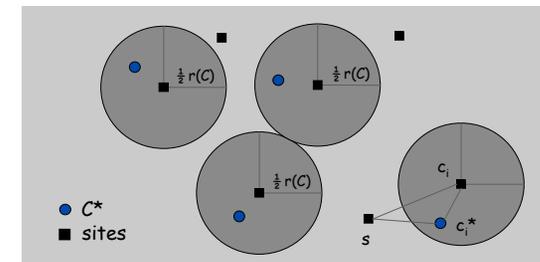
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## Center Selection: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

**Theorem.** Let  $C^*$  be an optimal set of centers. Then  $r(C) \leq 2r(C^*)$ .

**Pf.** (by contradiction) Assume  $r(C^*) < \frac{1}{2} r(C)$ .

- For each site  $c_i$  in  $C$ , consider ball of radius  $\frac{1}{2} r(C)$  around it.
- Exactly one  $c_i^*$  in each ball; let  $c_i$  be the site paired with  $c_i^*$ .
- Consider any site  $s$  and its closest center  $c_i^*$  in  $C^*$ .
- $\text{dist}(s, C) \leq \text{dist}(s, c_i) \leq \text{dist}(s, c_i^*) + \text{dist}(c_i^*, c_i) \leq 2r(C^*)$ .
- Thus  $r(C) \leq 2r(C^*)$ . ↙  $\Delta$ -inequality ↘  $\leq r(C^*)$  since  $c_i^*$  is closest center



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## Center Selection

**Theorem.** Let  $C^*$  be an optimal set of centers. Then  $r(C) \leq 2r(C^*)$ .

**Theorem.** Greedy algorithm is a 2-approximation for center selection problem.

**Remark.** Greedy algorithm always places centers at sites, but is still within a factor of 2 of best solution that is allowed to place centers anywhere.

↑  
e.g., points in the plane

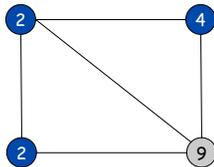
**Question.** Is there hope of a 3/2-approximation? 4/3?

**Theorem.** Unless  $P = NP$ , there no  $\rho$ -approximation for center-selection problem for any  $\rho < 2$ .

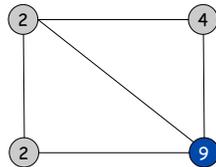
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## Weighted Vertex Cover

**Weighted vertex cover.** Given a graph  $G$  with vertex weights, find a vertex cover of minimum weight.



weight = 2 + 2 + 4



weight = 9

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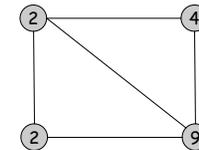
## 11.4 The Pricing Method: Vertex Cover

### Weighted Vertex Cover

**Pricing method.** Each edge must be covered by some vertex  $i$ . Edge  $e$  pays price  $p_e \geq 0$  to use vertex  $i$ .

**Fairness.** Edges incident to vertex  $i$  should pay  $\leq w_i$  in total.

for each vertex  $i$ :  $\sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e \leq w_i$



**Claim.** For any vertex cover  $S$  and any fair prices  $p_e$ :  $\sum_e p_e \leq w(S)$ .

**Proof.** 
$$\sum_{e \in E} p_e \leq \sum_{i \in S} \sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e \leq \sum_{i \in S} w_i = w(S). \quad \blacksquare$$

↑
↑  
 each edge  $e$  covered by at least one node in  $S$ 
sum fairness inequalities for each node in  $S$

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## Pricing Method

Pricing method. Set prices and find vertex cover simultaneously.

```

Weighted-Vertex-Cover-Approx(G, w) {
  foreach e in E
    p_e = 0
    while (∃ edge i-j such that neither i nor j are tight)
      select such an edge e
      increase p_e without violating fairness
  S ← set of all tight nodes
  return S
}

```

$$\sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e = w_i$$

## Pricing Method

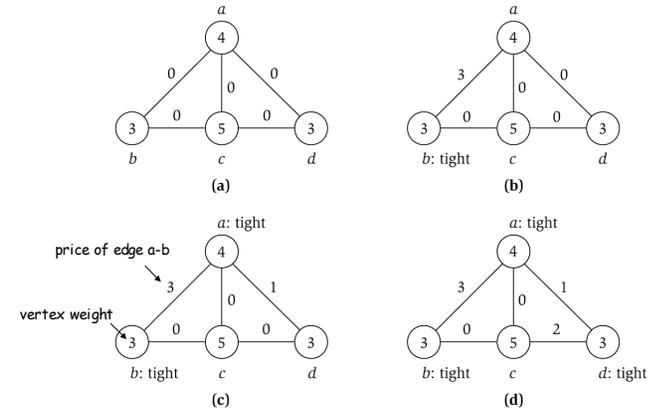


Figure 11.8

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## Pricing Method: Analysis

**Theorem.** Pricing method is a 2-approximation.

**Pf.**

- Algorithm terminates since at least one new node becomes tight after each iteration of while loop.
- Let  $S$  = set of all tight nodes upon termination of algorithm.  $S$  is a vertex cover: if some edge  $i$ - $j$  is uncovered, then neither  $i$  nor  $j$  is tight. But then while loop would not terminate.
- Let  $S^*$  be optimal vertex cover. We show  $w(S) \leq 2w(S^*)$ .

$$w(S) = \sum_{i \in S} w_i = \sum_{i \in S} \sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e \leq \sum_{i \in V} \sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e = 2 \sum_{e \in E} p_e \leq 2w(S^*) \quad \blacksquare$$

↑
↑
↑
↑

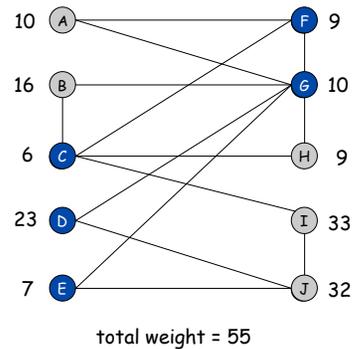
all nodes in S are tight
 $S \subseteq V$ , prices  $\geq 0$ 
each edge counted twice
fairness lemma

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## 11.6 LP Rounding: Vertex Cover

## Weighted Vertex Cover

**Weighted vertex cover.** Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  with vertex weights  $w_i \geq 0$ , find a minimum weight subset of nodes  $S$  such that every edge is incident to at least one vertex in  $S$ .



## Weighted Vertex Cover: IP Formulation

**Weighted vertex cover.** Given an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  with vertex weights  $w_i \geq 0$ , find a minimum weight subset of nodes  $S$  such that every edge is incident to at least one vertex in  $S$ .

**Integer programming formulation.**

- Model inclusion of each vertex  $i$  using a 0/1 variable  $x_i$ .

$$x_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if vertex } i \text{ is not in vertex cover} \\ 1 & \text{if vertex } i \text{ is in vertex cover} \end{cases}$$

Vertex covers in 1-1 correspondence with 0/1 assignments:

$$S = \{i \in V : x_i = 1\}$$

- Objective function: maximize  $\sum_i w_i x_i$ .
- Must take either  $i$  or  $j$ :  $x_i + x_j \geq 1$ .

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## Weighted Vertex Cover: IP Formulation

**Weighted vertex cover.** Integer programming formulation.

$$\begin{aligned} (ILP) \min & \sum_{i \in V} w_i x_i \\ \text{s. t. } & x_i + x_j \geq 1 \quad (i, j) \in E \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i \in V \end{aligned}$$

**Observation.** If  $x^*$  is optimal solution to (ILP), then  $S = \{i \in V : x_i^* = 1\}$  is a min weight vertex cover.

## Integer Programming

**INTEGER-PROGRAMMING.** Given integers  $a_{ij}$  and  $b_i$ , find integers  $x_j$  that satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} \max & c'x \\ \text{s. t. } & Ax \geq b \\ & x \text{ integral} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j & \geq b_i & 1 \leq i \leq m \\ x_j & \geq 0 & 1 \leq j \leq n \\ x_j & \text{ integral} & 1 \leq j \leq n \end{aligned}$$

**Observation.** Vertex cover formulation proves that integer programming is NP-hard search problem.

even if all coefficients are 0/1 and at most two variables per inequality

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## Linear Programming

Linear programming. Max/min linear objective function subject to linear inequalities.

- Input: integers  $c_j, b_i, a_{ij}$ .
- Output: **real numbers**  $x_j$ .

$$(P) \max c^T x$$

$$\text{s. t. } Ax \geq b$$

$$x \geq 0$$

$$(P) \max \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j$$

$$\text{s. t. } \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \geq b_i \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

$$x_j \geq 0 \quad 1 \leq j \leq n$$

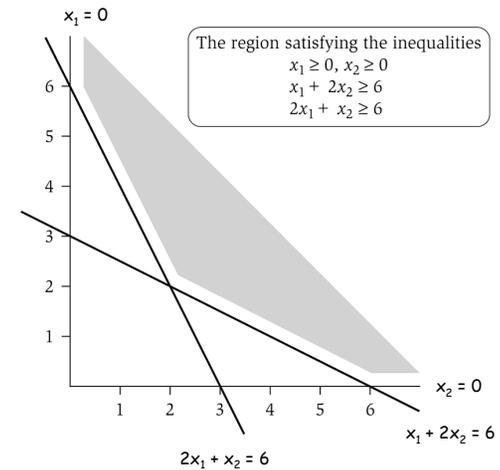
Linear. No  $x^2, xy, \arccos(x), x(1-x)$ , etc.

Simplex algorithm. [Dantzig 1947] Can solve LP in practice.

Ellipsoid algorithm. [Khachian 1979] Can solve LP in poly-time.

## LP Feasible Region

LP geometry in 2D.



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## Weighted Vertex Cover: LP Relaxation

Weighted vertex cover. Linear programming formulation.

$$(LP) \min \sum_{i \in V} w_i x_i$$

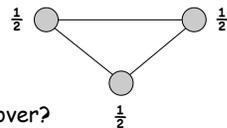
$$\text{s. t. } x_i + x_j \geq 1 \quad (i, j) \in E$$

$$x_i \geq 0 \quad i \in V$$

Observation. Optimal value of (LP) is  $\leq$  optimal value of (ILP).

Pf. LP has fewer constraints.

Note. LP is not equivalent to vertex cover.



Q. How can solving LP help us find a small vertex cover?

A. Solve LP and **round** fractional values.

## Weighted Vertex Cover

Theorem. If  $x^*$  is optimal solution to (LP), then  $S = \{i \in V : x_i^* \geq \frac{1}{2}\}$  is a vertex cover whose weight is at most twice the min possible weight.

Pf. [S is a vertex cover]

- Consider an edge  $(i, j) \in E$ .
- Since  $x_i^* + x_j^* \geq 1$ , either  $x_i^* \geq \frac{1}{2}$  or  $x_j^* \geq \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow (i, j)$  covered.

Pf. [S has desired cost]

- Let  $S^*$  be optimal vertex cover. Then

$$\sum_{i \in S^*} w_i \geq \sum_{i \in S} w_i x_i^* \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in S} w_i$$

$\uparrow$  LP is a relaxation       $\uparrow$   $x_i^* \geq \frac{1}{2}$

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## Weighted Vertex Cover

**Theorem.** 2-approximation algorithm for weighted vertex cover.

**Theorem.** [Dinur-Safra 2001] If  $P \neq NP$ , then no  $\rho$ -approximation for  $\rho < 1.3607$ , even with unit weights.

$\uparrow$   
 $10\sqrt{5} - 21$

**Open research problem.** Close the gap.

## \* 11.7 Load Balancing Reloaded

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### Generalized Load Balancing

**Input.** Set of  $m$  machines  $M$ ; set of  $n$  jobs  $J$ .

- Job  $j$  must run contiguously on an **authorized machine** in  $M_j \subseteq M$ .
- Job  $j$  has processing time  $t_j$ .
- Each machine can process at most one job at a time.

**Def.** Let  $J(i)$  be the subset of jobs assigned to machine  $i$ . The load of machine  $i$  is  $L_i = \sum_{j \in J(i)} t_j$ .

**Def.** The makespan is the maximum load on any machine =  $\max_i L_i$ .

**Generalized load balancing.** Assign each job to an authorized machine to minimize makespan.

### Generalized Load Balancing: Integer Linear Program and Relaxation

**ILP formulation.**  $x_{ij}$  = time machine  $i$  spends processing job  $j$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 (IP) \quad & \min \quad L \\
 \text{s. t.} \quad & \sum_i x_{ij} = t_j \quad \text{for all } j \in J \\
 & \sum_j x_{ij} \leq L \quad \text{for all } i \in M \\
 & x_{ij} \in \{0, t_j\} \quad \text{for all } j \in J \text{ and } i \in M_j \\
 & x_{ij} = 0 \quad \text{for all } j \in J \text{ and } i \notin M_j
 \end{aligned}$$

**LP relaxation.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 (LP) \quad & \min \quad L \\
 \text{s. t.} \quad & \sum_i x_{ij} = t_j \quad \text{for all } j \in J \\
 & \sum_j x_{ij} \leq L \quad \text{for all } i \in M \\
 & x_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } j \in J \text{ and } i \in M_j \\
 & x_{ij} = 0 \quad \text{for all } j \in J \text{ and } i \notin M_j
 \end{aligned}$$

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## Generalized Load Balancing: Lower Bounds

**Lemma 1.** Let  $L$  be the optimal value to the LP. Then, the optimal makespan  $L^* \geq L$ .

**Pf.** LP has fewer constraints than IP formulation.

**Lemma 2.** The optimal makespan  $L^* \geq \max_j t_j$ .

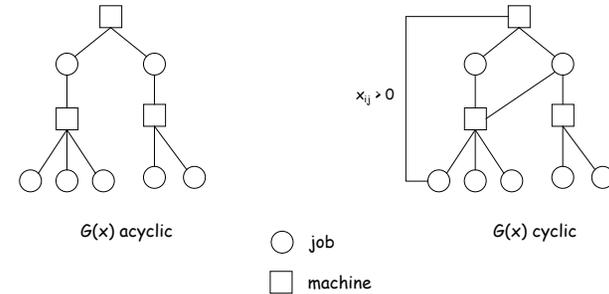
**Pf.** Some machine must process the most time-consuming job. ■

## Generalized Load Balancing: Structure of LP Solution

**Lemma 3.** Let  $x$  be solution to LP. Let  $G(x)$  be the graph with an edge from machine  $i$  to job  $j$  if  $x_{ij} > 0$ . Then  $G(x)$  is **acyclic**.

**Pf.** (deferred)

can transform  $x$  into another LP solution where  $G(x)$  is acyclic if LP solver doesn't return such an  $x$



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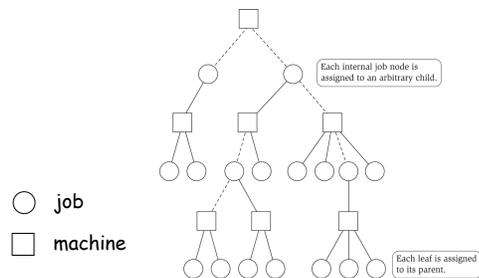
## Generalized Load Balancing: Rounding

**Rounded solution.** Find LP solution  $x$  where  $G(x)$  is a forest. Root forest  $G(x)$  at some arbitrary machine node  $r$ .

- If job  $j$  is a leaf node, assign  $j$  to its parent machine  $i$ .
- If job  $j$  is not a leaf node, assign  $j$  to one of its children.

**Lemma 4.** Rounded solution only assigns jobs to authorized machines.

**Pf.** If job  $j$  is assigned to machine  $i$ , then  $x_{ij} > 0$ . LP solution can only assign positive value to authorized machines. ■



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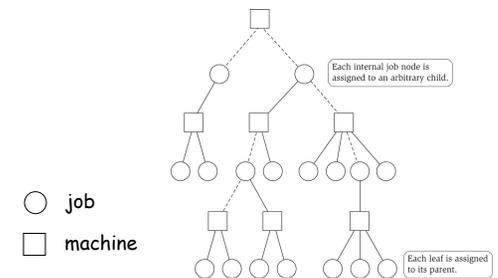
## Generalized Load Balancing: Analysis

**Lemma 5.** If job  $j$  is a leaf node and machine  $i = \text{parent}(j)$ , then  $x_{ij} = t_j$ .

**Pf.** Since  $i$  is a leaf,  $x_{ij} = 0$  for all  $j \neq \text{parent}(i)$ . LP constraint guarantees  $\sum_i x_{ij} = t_j$ . ■

**Lemma 6.** At most one non-leaf job is assigned to a machine.

**Pf.** The only possible non-leaf job assigned to machine  $i$  is  $\text{parent}(i)$ . ■



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## Generalized Load Balancing: Analysis

**Theorem.** Rounded solution is a 2-approximation.  
**Pf.**

- Let  $J(i)$  be the jobs assigned to machine  $i$ .
- By Lemma 6, the load  $L_i$  on machine  $i$  has two components:

- leaf nodes

$$\sum_{\substack{j \in J(i) \\ j \text{ is a leaf}}} t_j = \sum_{\substack{j \in J(i) \\ j \text{ is a leaf}}} x_{ij} \leq \sum_{j \in J} x_{ij} \leq L \leq L^*$$

$\xrightarrow{\text{Lemma 5}}$        $\xrightarrow{\text{LP}}$        $\xrightarrow{\text{Lemma 1 (LP is a relaxation)}}$   
 optimal value of LP

- parent(i)

$$t_{\text{parent}(i)} \leq L^*$$

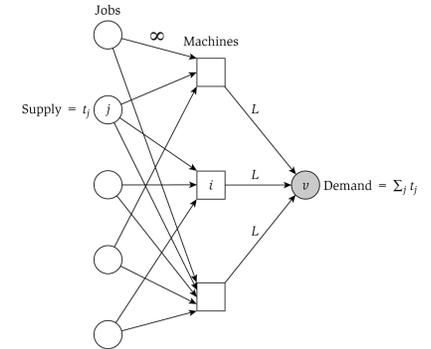
$\xrightarrow{\text{Lemma 2}}$

- Thus, the overall load  $L_i \leq 2L^*$ . ■

## Generalized Load Balancing: Flow Formulation

Flow formulation of LP.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i x_{ij} &= t_j && \text{for all } j \in J \\ \sum_j x_{ij} &\leq L && \text{for all } i \in M \\ x_{ij} &\geq 0 && \text{for all } j \in J \text{ and } i \in M_j \\ x_{ij} &= 0 && \text{for all } j \in J \text{ and } i \notin M_j \end{aligned}$$



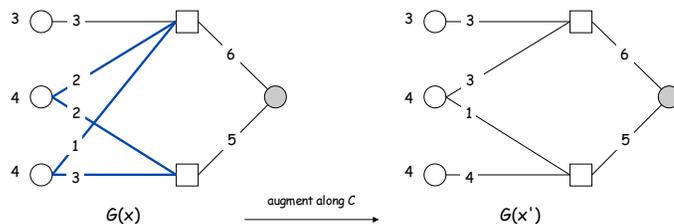
**Observation.** Solution to feasible flow problem with value  $L$  are in one-to-one correspondence with LP solutions of value  $L$ .

## Generalized Load Balancing: Structure of Solution

**Lemma 3.** Let  $(x, L)$  be solution to LP. Let  $G(x)$  be the graph with an edge from machine  $i$  to job  $j$  if  $x_{ij} > 0$ . We can find another solution  $(x', L)$  such that  $G(x')$  is acyclic.

**Pf.** Let  $C$  be a cycle in  $G(x)$ .

- Augment flow along the cycle  $C$ . ← flow conservation maintained
- At least one edge from  $C$  is removed (and none are added).
- Repeat until  $G(x')$  is acyclic.



## Conclusions

**Running time.** The bottleneck operation in our 2-approximation is solving one LP with  $mn + 1$  variables.

**Remark.** Can solve LP using flow techniques on a graph with  $m+n+1$  nodes: given  $L$ , find feasible flow if it exists. Binary search to find  $L^*$ .

**Extensions: unrelated parallel machines.** [Lenstra-Shmoys-Tardos 1990]

- Job  $j$  takes  $t_{ij}$  time if processed on machine  $i$ .
- 2-approximation algorithm via LP rounding.
- No 3/2-approximation algorithm unless  $P = NP$ .

# 11.8 Knapsack Problem

PTAS.  $(1 + \epsilon)$ -approximation algorithm for any constant  $\epsilon > 0$ .

- Load balancing. [Hochbaum-Shmoys 1987]
- Euclidean TSP. [Arora 1996]

Consequence. PTAS produces arbitrarily high quality solution, but trades off accuracy for time.

This section. PTAS for knapsack problem via rounding and scaling.

## Knapsack Problem

Knapsack problem.

- Given  $n$  objects and a "knapsack."
- Item  $i$  has value  $v_i > 0$  and weighs  $w_i > 0$ . ← we'll assume  $w_i \leq W$
- Knapsack can carry weight up to  $W$ .
- Goal: fill knapsack so as to maximize total value.

Ex: { 3, 4 } has value 40.

W = 11

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	6	2
3	18	5
4	22	6
5	28	7

## Knapsack is NP-Complete

KNAPSACK: Given a finite set  $X$ , nonnegative weights  $w_i$ , nonnegative values  $v_i$ , a weight limit  $W$ , and a target value  $V$ , is there a subset  $S \subseteq X$  such that:

$$\sum_{i \in S} w_i \leq W$$

$$\sum_{i \in S} v_i \geq V$$

SUBSET-SUM: Given a finite set  $X$ , nonnegative values  $u_i$ , and an integer  $U$ , is there a subset  $S \subseteq X$  whose elements sum to exactly  $U$ ?

Claim. SUBSET-SUM  $\leq_p$  KNAPSACK.

Pf. Given instance  $(u_1, \dots, u_n, U)$  of SUBSET-SUM, create KNAPSACK instance:

$$v_i = w_i = u_i \quad \sum_{i \in S} u_i \leq U$$

$$V = W = U \quad \sum_{i \in S} u_i \geq U$$

## Knapsack Problem: Dynamic Programming 1

Def.  $OPT(i, w)$  = max value subset of items  $1, \dots, i$  with weight limit  $w$ .

- Case 1: OPT does not select item  $i$ .
  - OPT selects best of  $1, \dots, i-1$  using up to weight limit  $w$
- Case 2: OPT selects item  $i$ .
  - new weight limit =  $w - w_i$
  - OPT selects best of  $1, \dots, i-1$  using up to weight limit  $w - w_i$

$$OPT(i, w) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \\ OPT(i-1, w) & \text{if } w_i > w \\ \max\{OPT(i-1, w), v_i + OPT(i-1, w - w_i)\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Running time.  $O(nW)$ .

- $W$  = weight limit.
- Not polynomial in input size!

## Knapsack Problem: Dynamic Programming II

Def.  $OPT(i, v)$  = min weight subset of items  $1, \dots, i$  that yields value exactly  $v$ .

- Case 1: OPT does not select item  $i$ .
  - OPT selects best of  $1, \dots, i-1$  that achieves exactly value  $v$
- Case 2: OPT selects item  $i$ .
  - consumes weight  $w_i$ , new value needed =  $v - v_i$
  - OPT selects best of  $1, \dots, i-1$  that achieves exactly value  $v$

$$OPT(i, v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v = 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } i = 0, v > 0 \\ OPT(i-1, v) & \text{if } v_i > v \\ \min\{OPT(i-1, v), w_i + OPT(i-1, v - v_i)\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Running time.  $O(nV^*) = O(n^2 v_{\max})$ .

- $V^*$  = optimal value = maximum  $v$  such that  $OPT(n, v) \leq W$ .
- Not polynomial in input size!

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## Knapsack: FPTAS

Intuition for approximation algorithm.

- Round all values up to lie in smaller range.
- Run dynamic programming algorithm on rounded instance.
- Return optimal items in rounded instance.

Item	Value	Weight
1	134,221	1
2	656,342	2
3	1,810,013	5
4	22,217,800	6
5	28,343,199	7

$W = 11$

original instance



Item	Value	Weight
1	2	1
2	7	2
3	19	5
4	23	6
5	29	7

$W = 11$

rounded instance

## Knapsack: FPTAS

Knapsack FPTAS. Round up all values:  $\bar{v}_i = \left\lceil \frac{v_i}{\theta} \right\rceil$ ,  $\hat{v}_i = \left\lfloor \frac{v_i}{\theta} \right\rfloor$

- $v_{\max}$  = largest value in original instance
- $\epsilon$  = precision parameter
- $\theta$  = scaling factor =  $\epsilon v_{\max} / n$

Observation. Optimal solution to problems with  $\bar{v}$  or  $\hat{v}$  are equivalent.

Intuition.  $\bar{v}$  close to  $v$  so optimal solution using  $\bar{v}$  is nearly optimal;  $\hat{v}$  small and integral so dynamic programming algorithm is fast.

Running time.  $O(n^3 / \epsilon)$ .

- Dynamic program II running time is  $O(n^2 \hat{v}_{\max})$ , where

$$\hat{v}_{\max} = \left\lfloor \frac{v_{\max}}{\theta} \right\rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{\epsilon} \right\rfloor$$

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## Knapsack: FPTAS

Knapsack FPTAS. Round up all values:  $\bar{v}_i = \left\lceil \frac{v_i}{\theta} \right\rceil \theta$

**Theorem.** If  $S$  is solution found by our algorithm and  $S^*$  is any other feasible solution then  $(1+\epsilon) \sum_{i \in S} v_i \geq \sum_{i \in S^*} v_i$

**Pf.** Let  $S^*$  be any feasible solution satisfying weight constraint.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i \in S^*} v_i &\leq \sum_{i \in S^*} \bar{v}_i && \text{always round up} \\
 &\leq \sum_{i \in S} \bar{v}_i && \text{solve rounded instance optimally} \\
 &\leq \sum_{i \in S} (v_i + \theta) && \text{never round up by more than } \theta \\
 &\leq \sum_{i \in S} v_i + n\theta && |S| \leq n \\
 &\leq (1+\epsilon) \sum_{i \in S} v_i && n\theta = \epsilon v_{\max}, v_{\max} \leq \sum_{i \in S} v_i
 \end{aligned}$$

$\downarrow$   
 DP alg can take  $v_{\max}$

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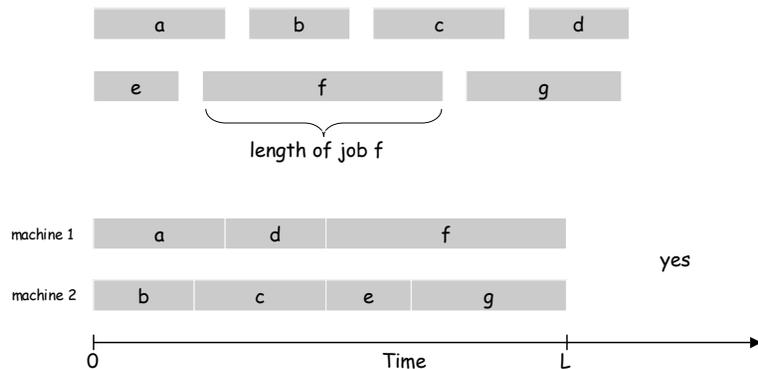
## Extra Slides

### Load Balancing on 2 Machines

**Claim.** Load balancing is hard even if only 2 machines.

**Pf.** NUMBER-PARTITIONING  $\leq_p$  LOAD-BALANCE.

NP-complete by Exercise 8.26



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### Center Selection: Hardness of Approximation

**Theorem.** Unless  $P = NP$ , there is no  $\rho$ -approximation algorithm for metric  $k$ -center problem for any  $\rho < 2$ .

**Pf.** We show how we could use a  $(2 - \epsilon)$  approximation algorithm for  $k$ -center to solve DOMINATING-SET in poly-time.

- Let  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $k$  be an instance of DOMINATING-SET.  $\leftarrow$  see Exercise 8.29
- Construct instance  $G'$  of  $k$ -center with sites  $V$  and distances
  - $d(u, v) = 2$  if  $(u, v) \in E$
  - $d(u, v) = 1$  if  $(u, v) \notin E$
- Note that  $G'$  satisfies the triangle inequality.
- Claim:  $G$  has dominating set of size  $k$  iff there exists  $k$  centers  $C^*$  with  $r(C^*) = 1$ .
- Thus, if  $G$  has a dominating set of size  $k$ , a  $(2 - \epsilon)$ -approximation algorithm on  $G'$  must find a solution  $C^*$  with  $r(C^*) = 1$  since it cannot use any edge of distance 2.

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