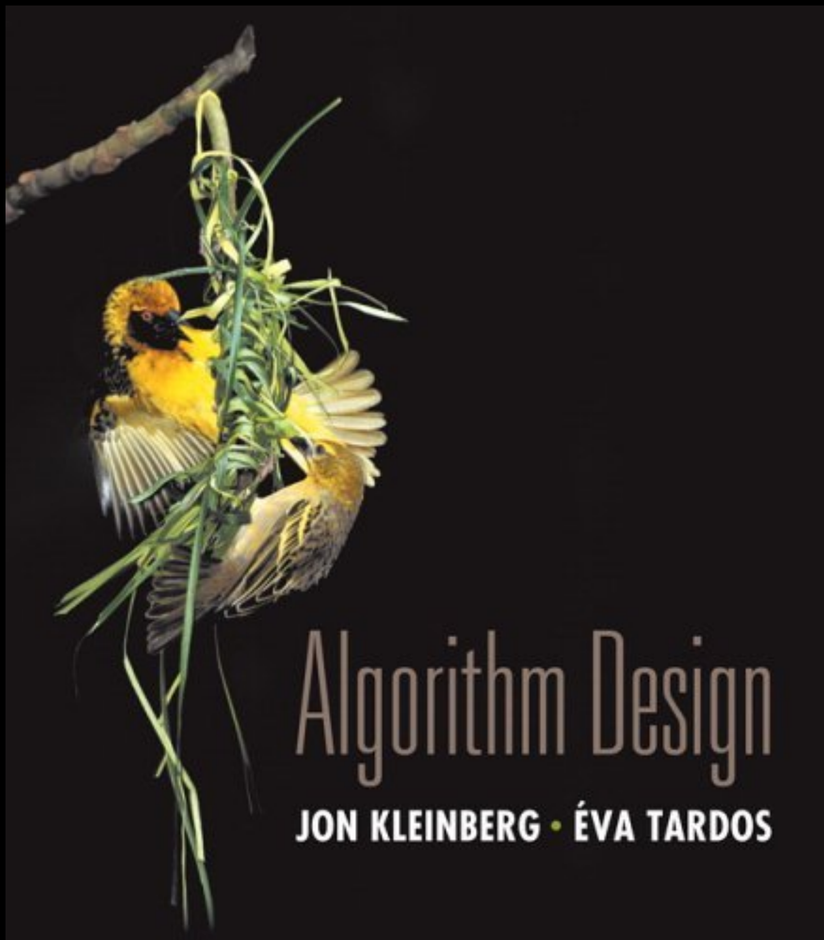


Chapter 11

Approximation Algorithms

Slides by Kevin Wayne.

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.

ρ-approximation algorithm.

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

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

11.8 Knapsack Problem

Polynomial Time Approximation Scheme

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

- 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:

$$\sum_{i \in S} w_i \le W$$
$$\sum_{i \in S} v_i \ge V$$

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 $\le_P$ KNAPSACK.

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

$$v_i = w_i = u_i \qquad \sum_{i \in S} u_i \le U$$
$$V = W = U \qquad \sum_{i \in S} u_i \ge U$$

Knapsack Problem: Dynamic Programming 1

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

- Case 1: OPT does not select item i.
  - OPT selects best of 1, …, 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, …, 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(n W).

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

Knapsack Problem: Dynamic Programming II

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

- Case 1: OPT does not select item i.
  - OPT selects best of 1, …, 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, …, i-1 that achieves exactly value v

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

$V^* \leq n\, v_{max}$

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

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

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: $\bar{v}_i = \left\lceil \frac{v_i}{\theta} \right\rceil \theta, \quad \hat{v}_i = \left\lceil \frac{v_i}{\theta} \right\rceil$

- v_{max} = largest value in original instance
- ε = precision parameter
- θ = scaling factor = $\varepsilon \, v_{max} / n$

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. $O(n^3 / \varepsilon)$.

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

$$\hat{v}_{\max} = \left\lceil \frac{v_{\max}}{\theta} \right\rceil = \left\lceil \frac{n}{\varepsilon} \right\rceil$$

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 $(1+\varepsilon)\sum_{i \in S} v_i \;\geq\; \sum_{i \in S^*} v_i$

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

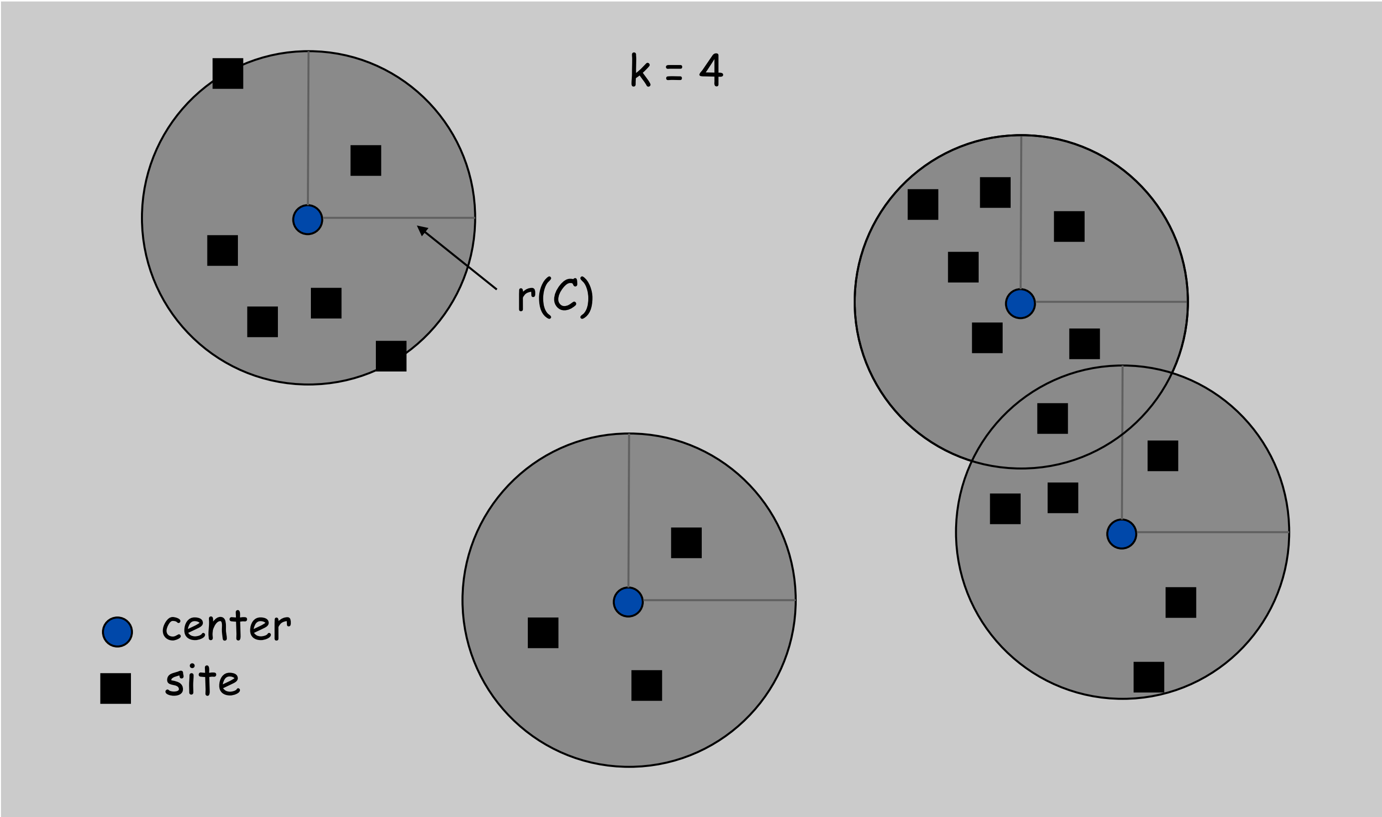
$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i \in S^*} v_i &\leq \sum_{i \in S^*} \bar{v}_i && \text{always round up} \\
&\leq \sum_{i \in S} \bar{v}_i && \text{solve rounded instance optimally} \\
&\leq \sum_{i \in S} (v_i + \theta) && \text{never round up by more than } \theta \\
&\leq \sum_{i \in S} v_i + n\theta &&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

11.2 Center Selection

Center Selection Problem

Input. Set of n sites $s_1, \ldots, s_n$.

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



Center Selection Problem

Input. Set of n sites $s_1, \ldots, s_n$.

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 $|C| = k$.

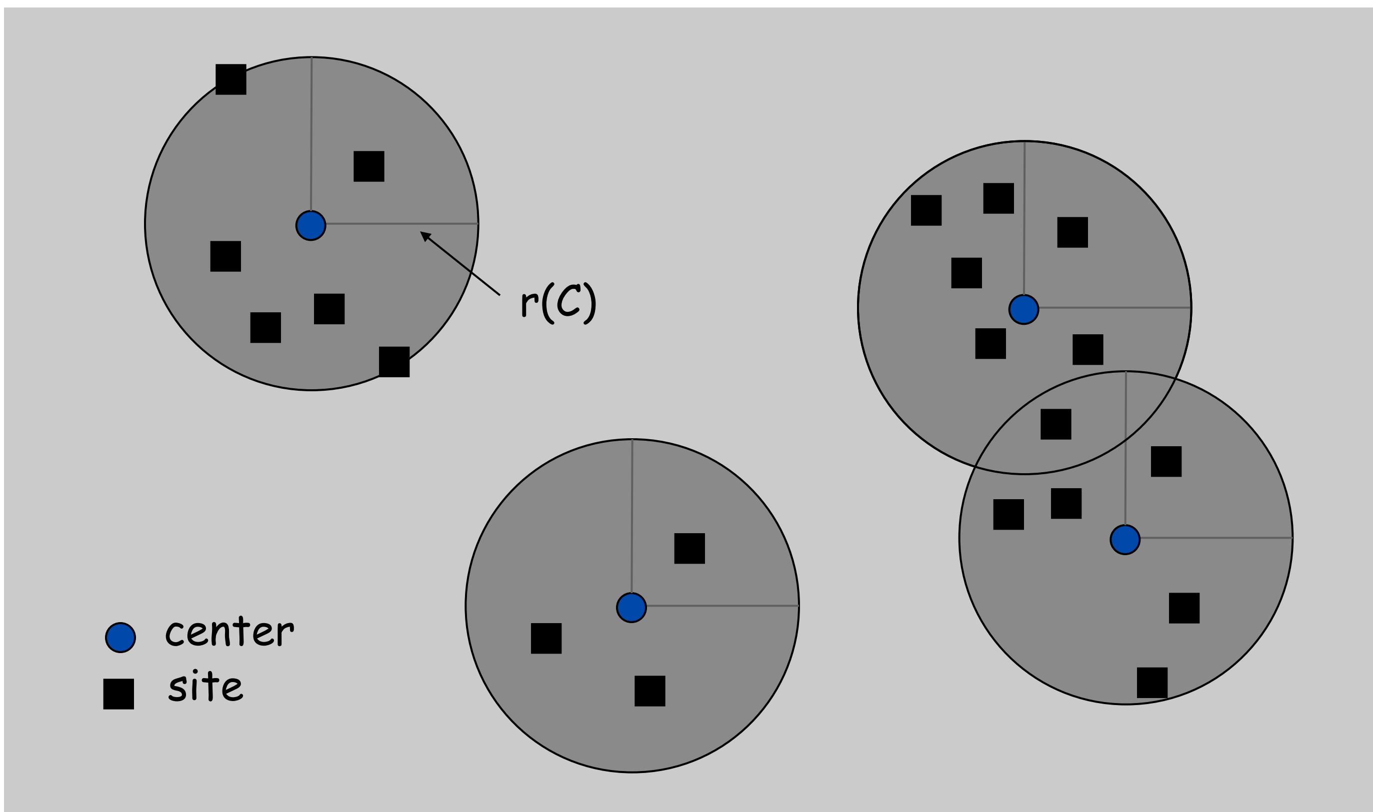
Distance function properties.

- $\text{dist}(x, x) = 0$ (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)

Center Selection Example

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

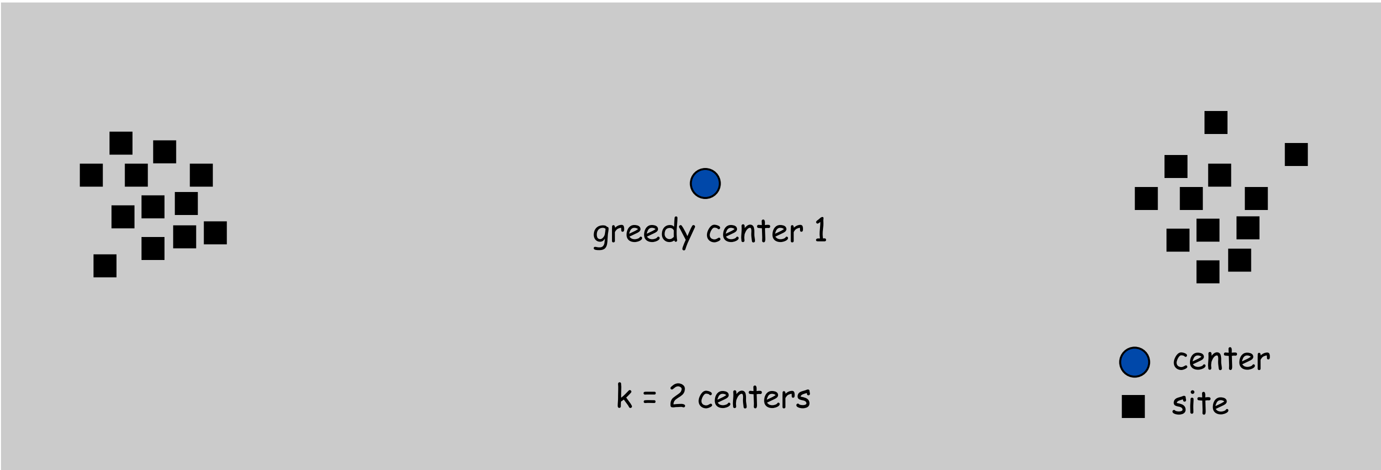
Remark: search can be infinite!



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!



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, s1,s2,…,sn) {

   C = φ
   repeat k times {
      Select a site si with maximum dist(si, C)
      Add si 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.

Center Selection: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

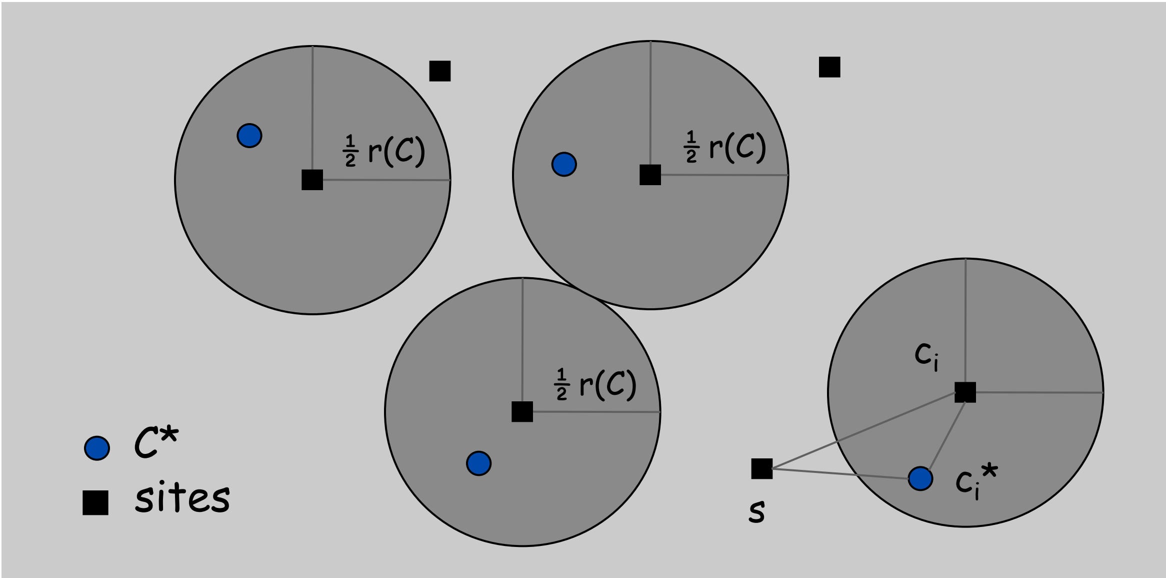
Theorem. Let C^* be an optimal set of centers. Then $r(C) \le 2r(C^*)$.

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^*.
- $\text{dist}(s, C) \le \text{dist}(s, c_i) \le \text{dist}(s, c_i^*) + \text{dist}(c_i^*, c_i) \le 2r(C^*)$.
- Thus $r(C) \le 2r(C^*)$. ▪

Δ-inequality

$\le r(C^*)$ since c_i^* is closest center



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 ρ-approximation for center-selection problem for any $\rho < 2$.

11.1 Load Balancing

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 $L_i = \Sigma_{j \in J(i)} t_j$.

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.

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,...,t_n) {
   for i = 1 to m {
      L_i ← 0                  ← load on machine i
      J(i) ← φ                 ← jobs assigned to machine i
   }

   for j = 1 to n {
      i = argmin_k L_k         ← machine i has smallest load
      J(i) ← J(i) ∪ {j}        ← assign job j to machine i
      L_i ← L_i + t_j          ← update load of machine i
   }
}
```

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

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.

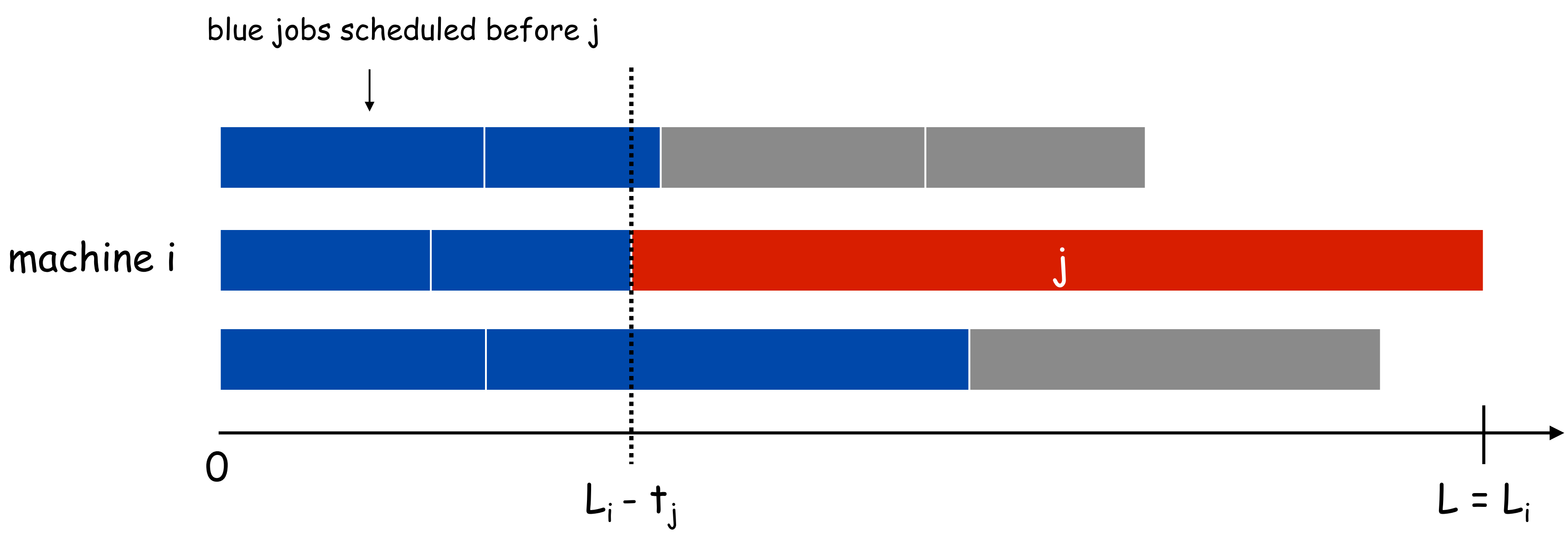
- The total processing time is $\Sigma_j t_j$.
- One of m machines must do at least a 1/m fraction of total work. ▪

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 $L_i - t_j \Rightarrow L_i - t_j \le L_k$ for all $1 \le k \le m$.



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 $L_i - t_j \Rightarrow L_i - t_j \le L_k$ for all $1 \le k \le m$.
- Sum inequalities over all k and divide by m:

$$\begin{aligned} L_i - t_j &\le \tfrac{1}{m} \sum_k L_k \\ &= \tfrac{1}{m} \sum_k t_k \\ \text{Lemma 1} \longrightarrow \quad &\le L^* \end{aligned}$$

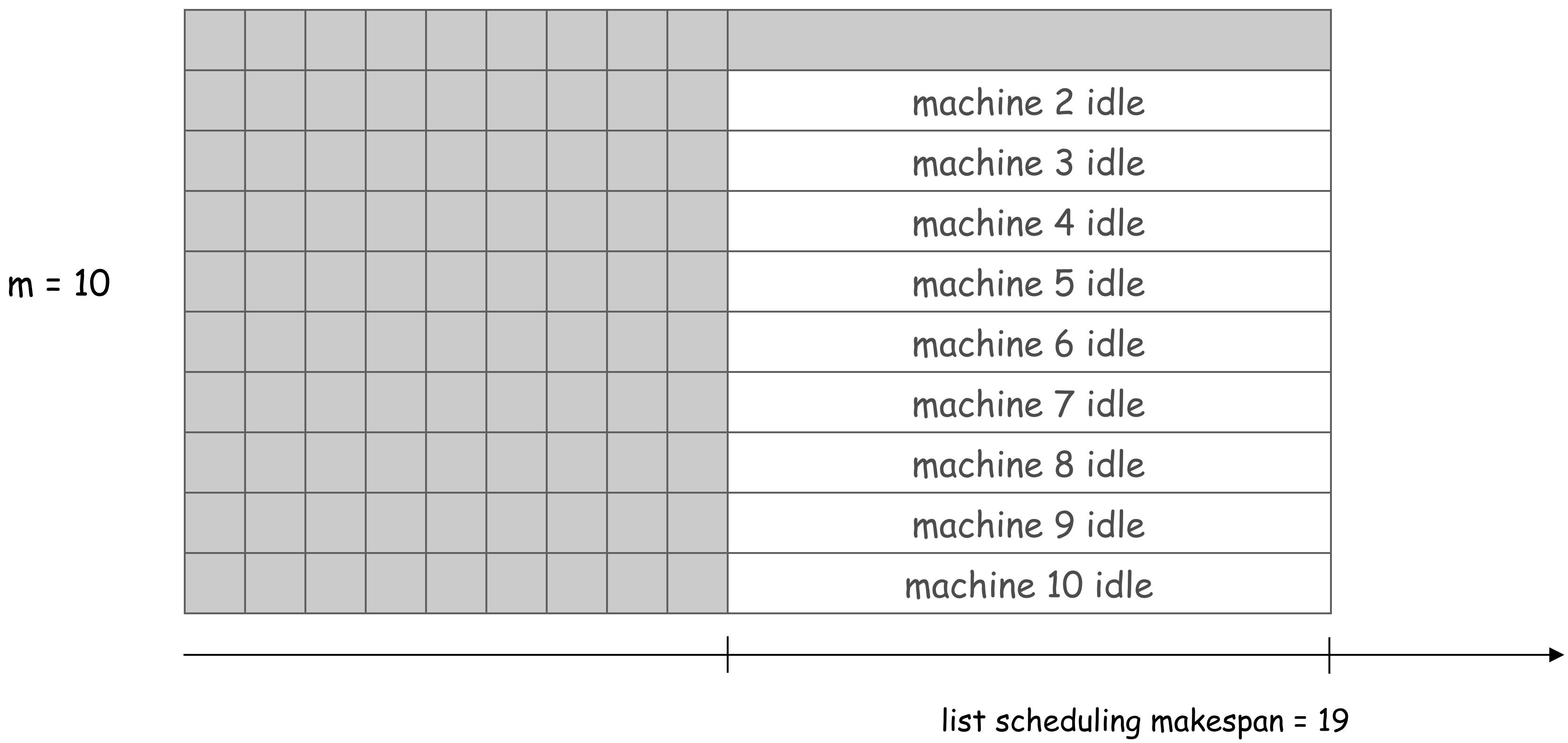
- Now $L_i = \underbrace{(L_i - t_j)}_{\le L^*} + \underbrace{t_j}_{\le L^*} \le 2L^*.$ ▪

Lemma 2

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



Load Balancing: List Scheduling Analysis

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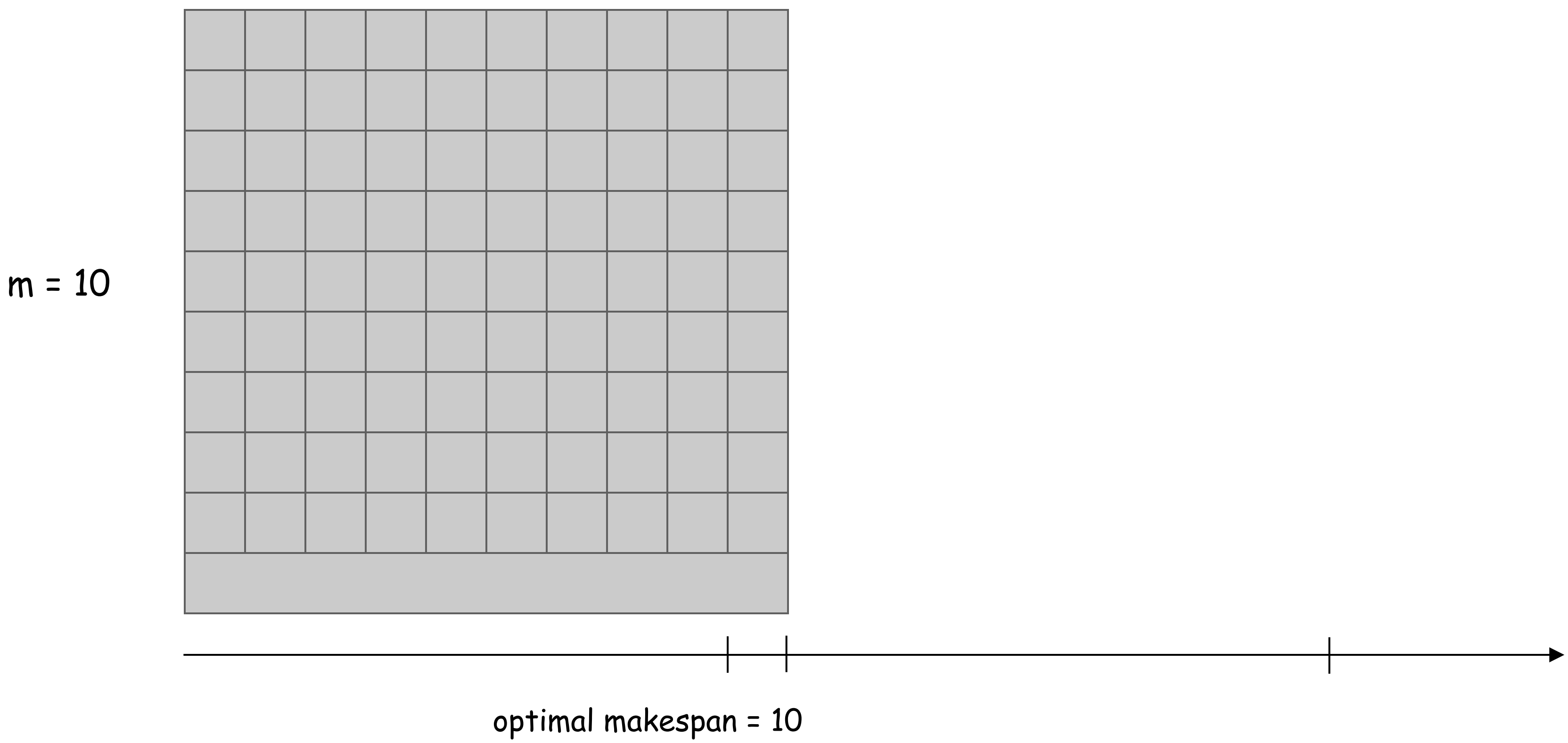


Load Balancing: LPT Rule

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

```
LPT-List-Scheduling(m, n, t1,t2,...,tn) {
   Sort jobs so that t1 ≥ t2 ≥ ... ≥ tn

   for i = 1 to m {
      Li ← 0               ← load on machine i
      J(i) ← φ             ← jobs assigned to machine i
   }

   for j = 1 to n {
      i = argmink Lk            ← machine i has smallest load
      J(i) ← J(i) ∪ {j}         ← assign job j to machine i
      Li ← Li + tj              ← update load of machine i
   }
}
```

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 $t_1, \ldots, t_{m+1}$.
- 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.

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

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

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.

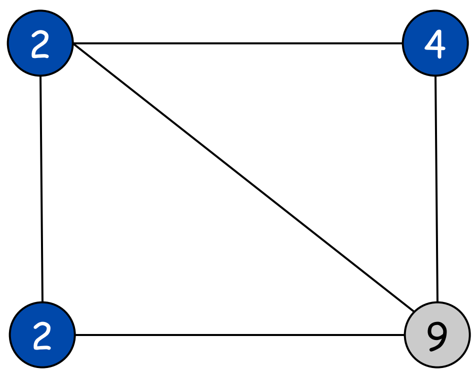
Q. Is Graham's 4/3 analysis tight?
A. Essentially yes.

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

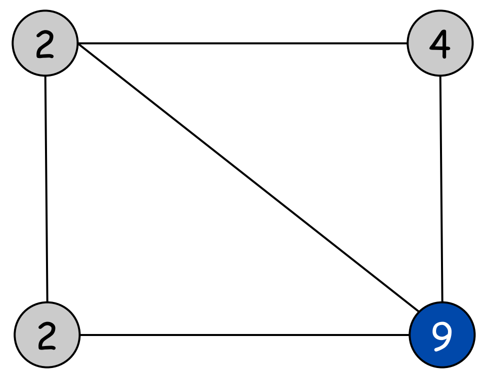
11.4 The Pricing Method: Vertex Cover

Weighted Vertex Cover

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



weight = 2 + 2 + 4



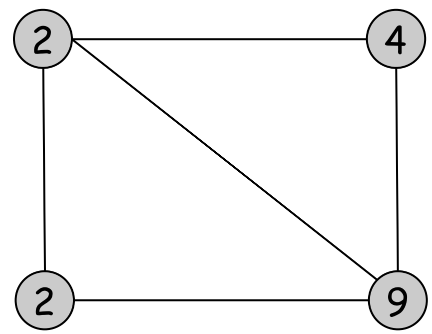
weight = 9

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.

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



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

Proof. ▪

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

each edge e covered by at least one node in S

sum fairness inequalities for each node in S

Pricing Method

Pricing method. Set prices and find vertex cover simultaneously.

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

```
Weighted-Vertex-Cover-Approx(G, w) {
   foreach e in E
      pe = 0

   while (∃ edge i-j such that neither i nor j are tight)
      select such an edge e
      increase pe without violating fairness
   }

   S ← set of all tight nodes
   return S
}
```

Pricing Method

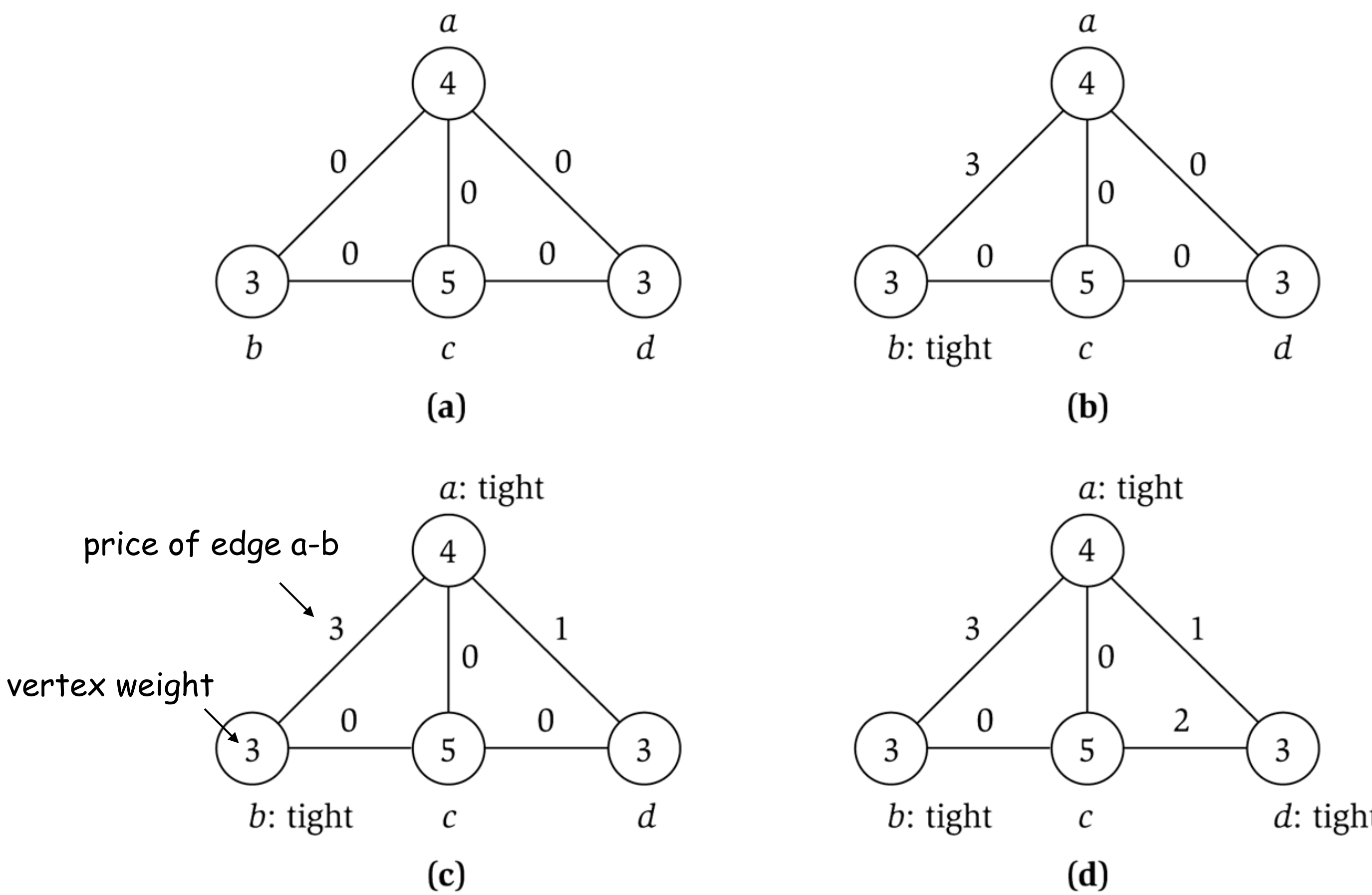


Figure 11.8

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.

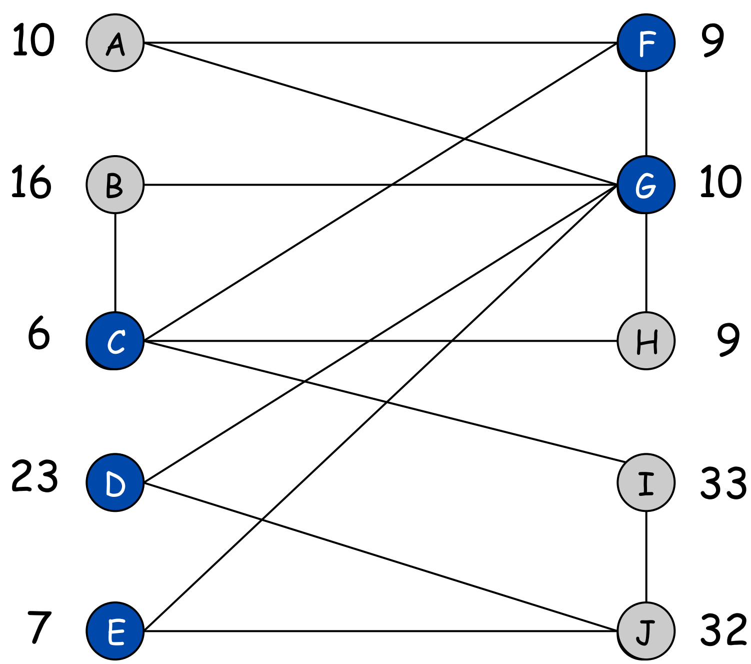
- Let S* be optimal vertex cover. We show w(S) ≤ 2w(S*).

$$w(S) = \sum_{i \in S} w_i \underset{\uparrow \text{ all nodes in S are tight}}{=} \sum_{i \in S} \sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e \underset{\uparrow\, S \subseteq V,\ \text{prices} \geq 0}{\leq} \sum_{i \in V} \sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e \underset{\uparrow \text{ each edge counted twice}}{=} 2 \sum_{e \in E} p_e \underset{\uparrow \text{ fairness lemma}}{\leq} 2w(S^*). \quad \blacksquare$$

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.



total weight = 55

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 $\Sigma_i w_i x_i$.

- Must take either i or j: $x_i + x_j \geq 1$.

Weighted Vertex Cover: IP Formulation

Weighted vertex cover. Integer programming formulation.

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

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:

$$\begin{array}{lccl} \max & c^t x & & \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax & \geq & b \\ & x & & \text{integral} \end{array}$$

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

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

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.

$$
\begin{array}{llrcl}
(P) & \max & c^t x & & \\
 & \text{s. t.} & Ax & \geq & b \\
 & & x & \geq & 0
\end{array}
$$

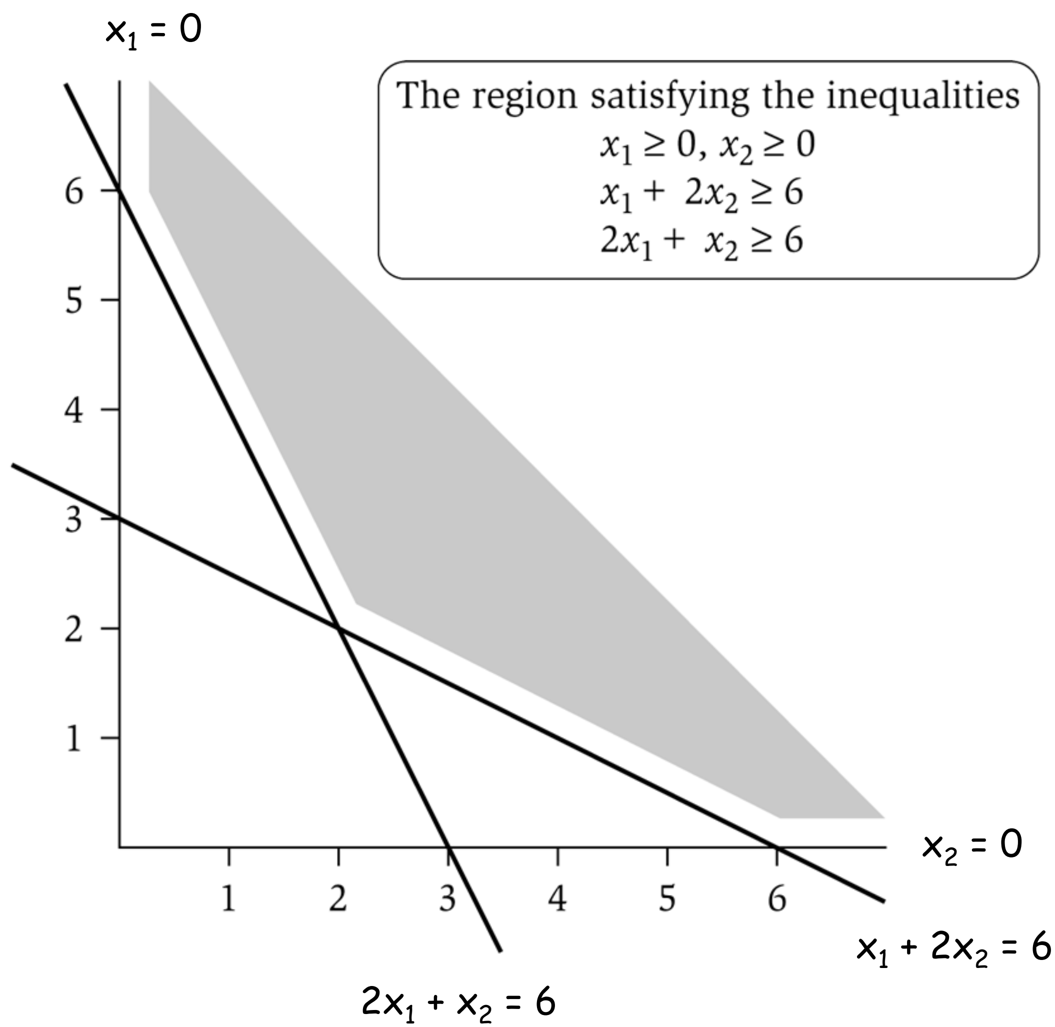
$$
\begin{array}{llrclc}
(P) & \max & \sum_{j=1}^{n} c_j x_j & & & \\
 & \text{s. t.} & \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} x_j & \geq & b_i & 1 \leq i \leq m \\
 & & x_j & \geq & 0 & 1 \leq j \leq n
\end{array}
$$

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.



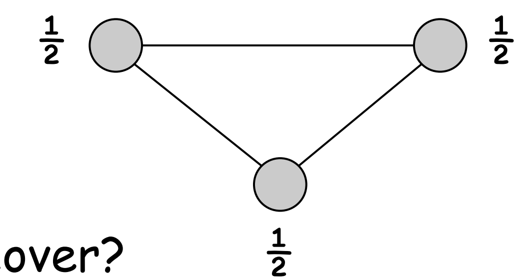
Weighted Vertex Cover: LP Relaxation

Weighted vertex cover. Linear programming formulation.

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

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

$$\sum_{i \in S^*} w_i \underbrace{\geq}_{\text{LP is a relaxation}} \sum_{i \in S} w_i x_i^* \underbrace{\geq}_{x^*_i \geq \frac{1}{2}} \tfrac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in S} w_i$$

Weighted Vertex Cover

Theorem. 2-approximation algorithm for weighted vertex cover.

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

$10\sqrt{5} - 21$

Open research problem. Close the gap.

* 11.7 Load Balancing Reloaded

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 $L_i = \Sigma_{j \in J(i)} t_j$.

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.

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

LP relaxation.

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

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 $L^* \geq \max_j t_j$.

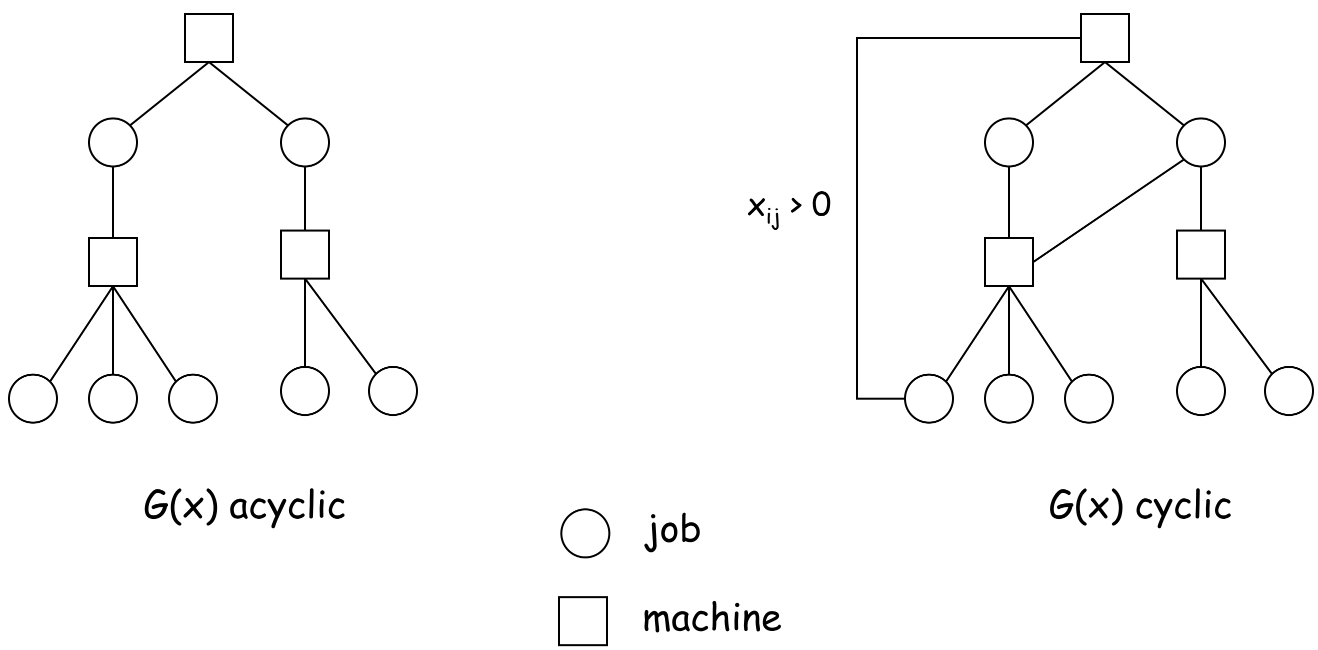
Pf. Some machine must process the most time-consuming job. ▪

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.

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

Pf. (deferred)

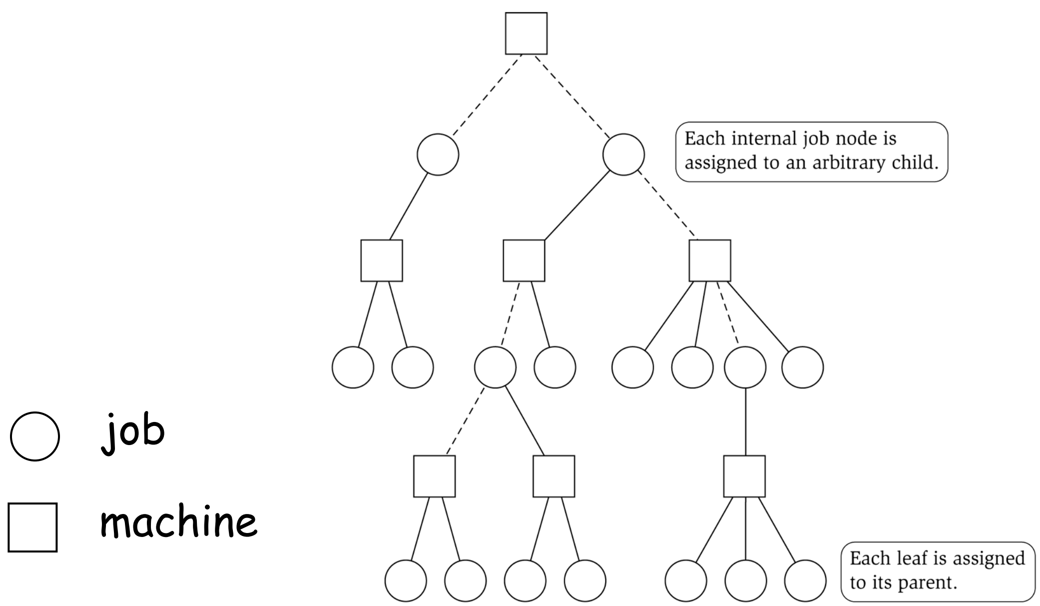


Generalized Load Balancing: Rounding

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.

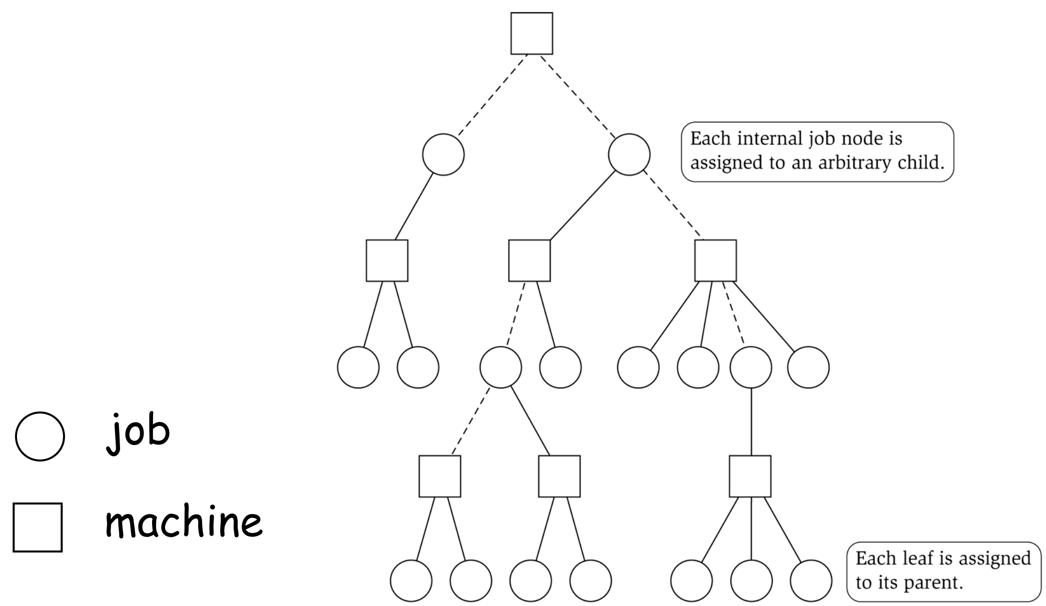
Lemma 4. Rounded solution only assigns jobs to authorized machines.
Pf. If job j is assigned to machine i, then $x_{ij} > 0$. LP solution can only assign positive value to authorized machines. ▪



Generalized Load Balancing: Analysis

Lemma 5. If job j is a leaf node and machine i = parent(j), then $x_{ij} = t_j$.
Pf. Since i is a leaf, $x_{ij} = 0$ for all $j \neq$ parent(i). LP constraint guarantees $\Sigma_i\, x_{ij} = t_j$. ▪

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 parent(i). ▪



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

$$\sum_{\substack{j \in J(i) \\ j \text{ is a leaf}}} t_j \overset{\text{Lemma 5}}{=} \sum_{\substack{j \in J(i) \\ j \text{ is a leaf}}} x_{ij} \le \sum_{j \in J} x_{ij} \overset{\text{LP}}{\le} \underbrace{L}_{\text{optimal value of LP}} \overset{\text{Lemma 1 (LP is a relaxation)}}{\le} L^*$$

  - parent(i)

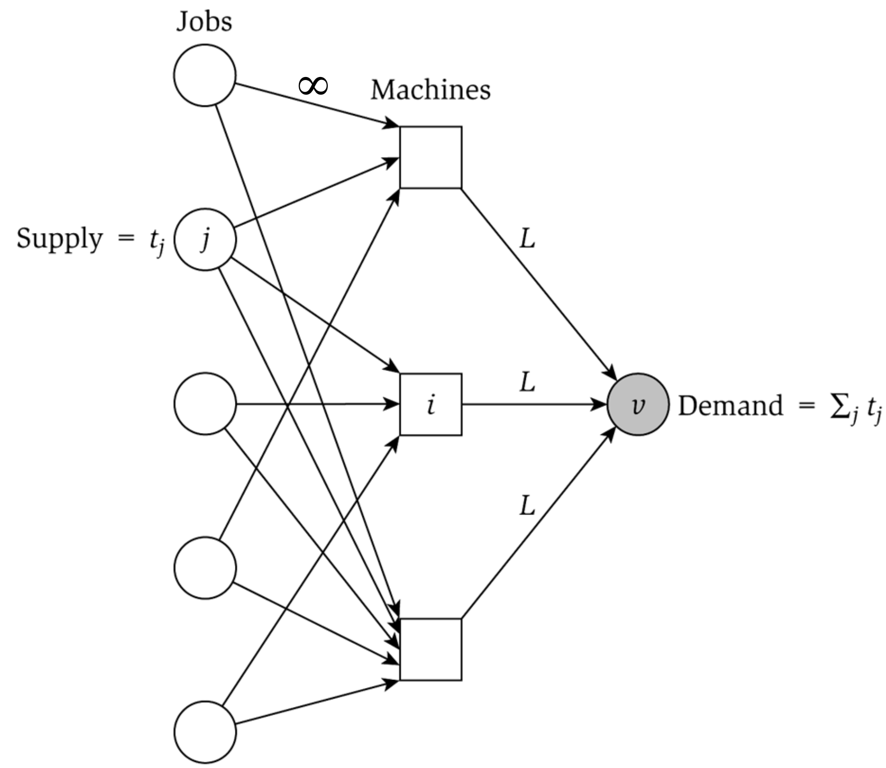
$$t_{\text{parent}(i)} \overset{\text{Lemma 2}}{\le} L^*$$

- Thus, the overall load $L_i \le 2L^*$. ▪

Generalized Load Balancing: Flow Formulation

Flow formulation of LP.

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



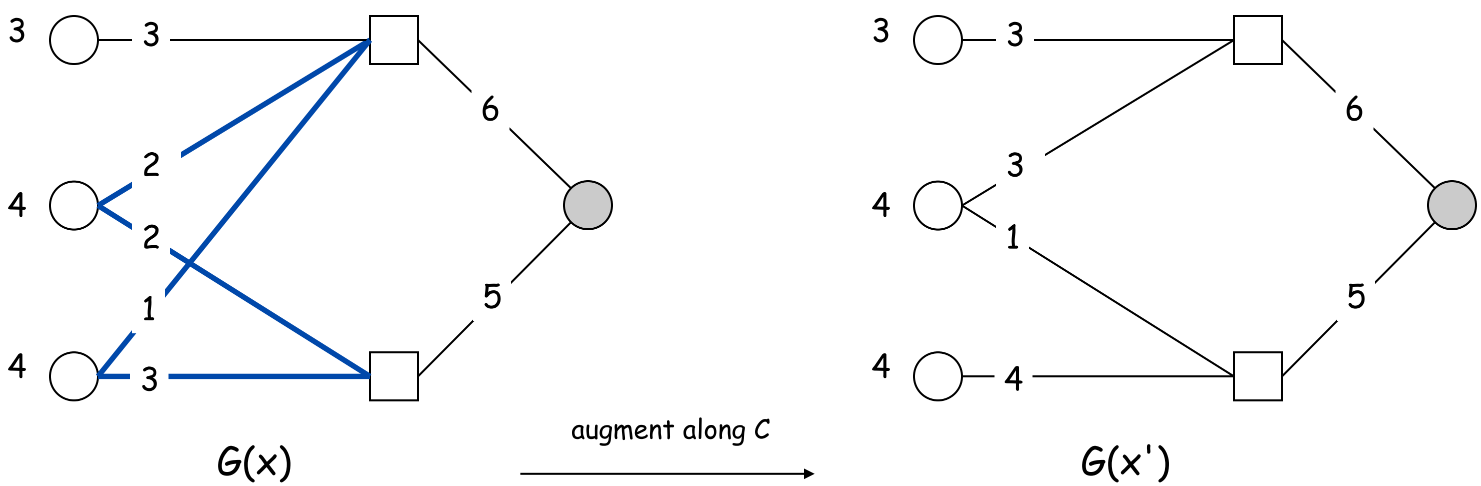
Observation. Solution to feasible flow problem with value L are in one-to-one correspondence with LP solutions of value L.

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.

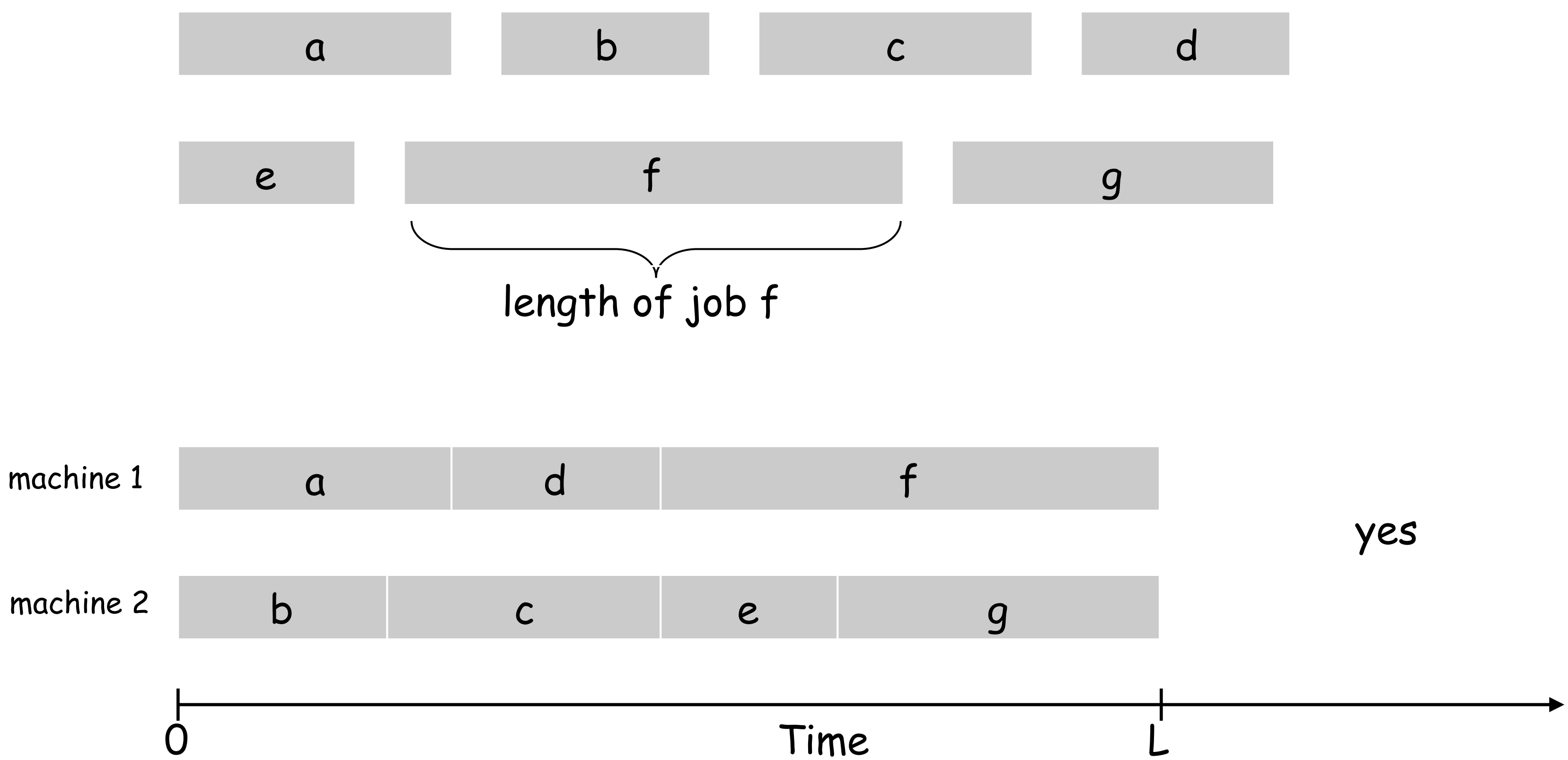
Extra Slides

Load Balancing on 2 Machines

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

Pf. NUMBER-PARTITIONING $\le_P$ LOAD-BALANCE.

NP-complete by Exercise 8.26



Center Selection: Hardness of Approximation

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

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

- Let $G = (V, E)$, k be an instance of DOMINATING-SET. ← 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 $(2 - \varepsilon)$-approximation algorithm on G' must find a solution C^* with $r(C^*) = 1$ since it cannot use any edge of distance 2.