

# V. Approximation Algorithms via Exact Algorithms

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UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

The Subset-Sum Problem

Parallel Machine Scheduling



## The Subset-Sum Problem

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- **Given:** Set of positive integers  $S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  and positive integer  $t$
- **Goal:** Find a subset  $S' \subseteq S$  which maximizes  $\sum_{i: x_i \in S'} x_i \leq t$ .



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This problem is NP-hard



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$t = 13$  tons

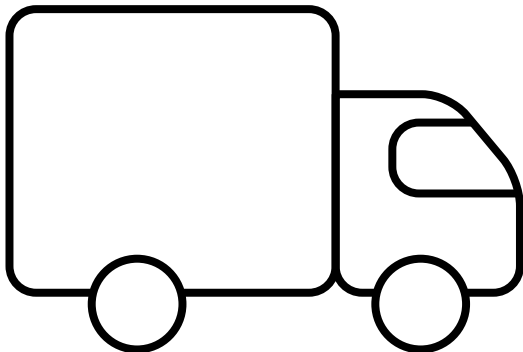
$$x_1 = 10$$

$$x_2 = 4$$

$$x_3 = 5$$

$$x_4 = 6$$

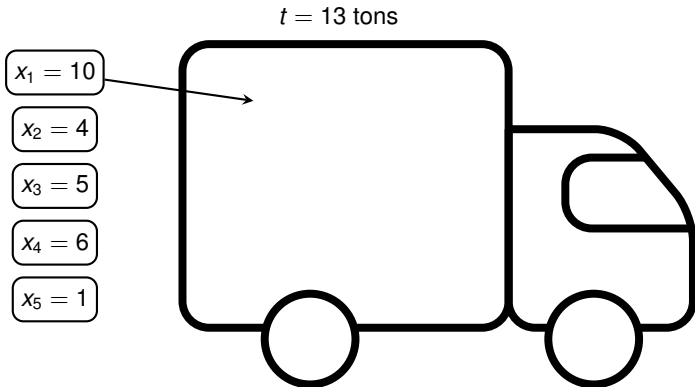
$$x_5 = 1$$



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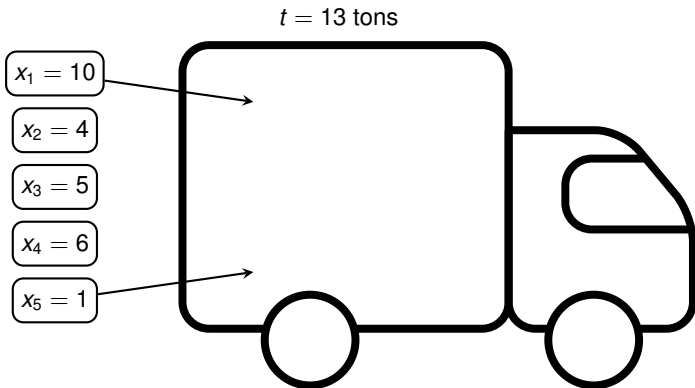
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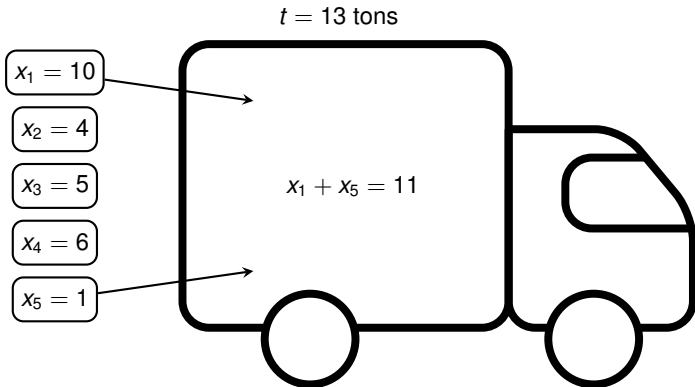
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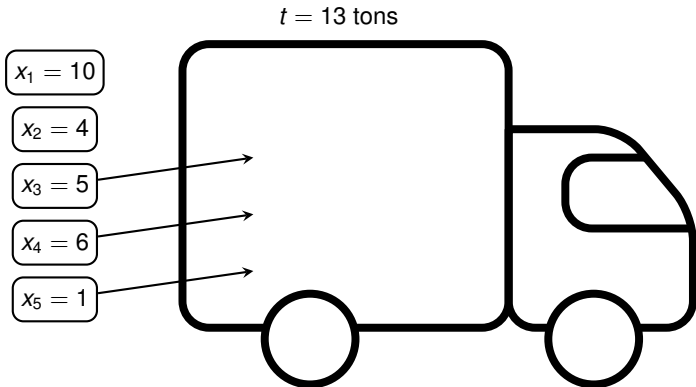




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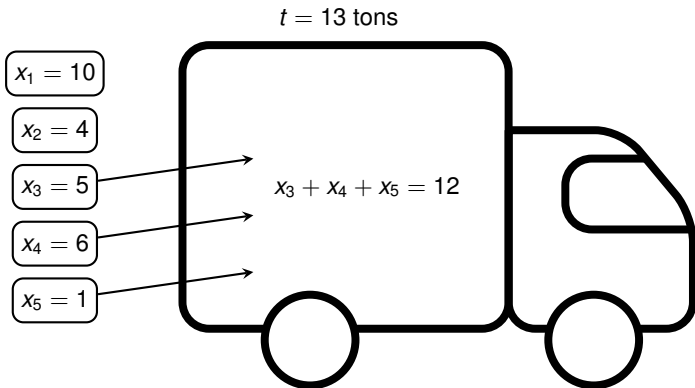
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## An Exact (Exponential-Time) Algorithm

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Returns the merged list (in sorted order and without duplicates)



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implementable in time  $O(|L_{i-1}|)$  (like Merge-Sort)

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Example:





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▪ **Correctness:**  $L_n$  contains all sums of  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$



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can be shown by induction on  $n$

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- **Runtime:**  $O(2^1 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^n) = O(2^n)$



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Better runtime if  $t$  and/or  $|L_i|$  are small.



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TRIM( $L, \delta$ )

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1 let  $m$  be the length of  $L$ 
2  $L' = \langle y_1 \rangle$ 
3  $last = y_1$ 
4 for  $i = 2$  to  $m$ 
5     if  $y_i > last \cdot (1 + \delta)$  //  $y_i \geq last$  because  $L$  is sorted
6         append  $y_i$  onto the end of  $L'$ 
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TRIM works in time  $\Theta(m)$ , if  $L$  is given in sorted order.



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$$\uparrow i$$

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5     if  $y_i > last \cdot (1 + \delta)$       //  $y_i \geq last$  because  $L$  is sorted
6         append  $y_i$  onto the end of  $L'$ 
7          $last = y_i$ 
8 return  $L'$ 
```

$$\delta = 0.1$$

$$L = \langle 10, 11, 12, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29 \rangle$$

↑  
 $i$

$$L' = \langle 10, 12 \rangle$$



## Illustration of the Trim Operation

TRIM( $L, \delta$ )

```
1 let  $m$  be the length of  $L$ 
2  $L' = \langle y_1 \rangle$ 
3  $last = y_1$ 
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↓ last

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↓ last

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↑ i

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## Illustration of the Trim Operation

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## Illustration of the Trim Operation

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```

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$L = \langle 10, 11, 12, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29 \rangle$

$\uparrow$   
 $i$

$L' = \langle 10, 12, 15, 20 \rangle$





## Illustration of the Trim Operation

TRIM( $L, \delta$ )

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↑ i

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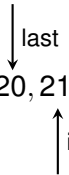
## Illustration of the Trim Operation

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## Illustration of the Trim Operation

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## Illustration of the Trim Operation

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APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
2  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
3 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$ 
4    $L_i = \text{MERGE-LISTS}(L_{i-1}, L_{i-1} + x_i)$ 
5    $L_i = \text{TRIM}(L_i, \epsilon/2n)$ 
6   remove from  $L_i$  every element that is greater than  $t$ 
7 let  $z^*$  be the largest value in  $L_n$ 
8 return  $z^*$ 
```



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EXACT-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t$ )

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```



# The FPTAS

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

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7 let  $z^*$  be the largest value in  $L_n$ 
8 return  $z^*$ 
```

Repeated application of TRIM  
to make sure  $L_i$ 's remain short.

EXACT-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t$ )

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
2  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
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APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

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```

- We must bound the inaccuracy introduced by repeated trimming



APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

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Repeated application of TRIM  
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- We must bound the inaccuracy introduced by repeated trimming
- We must show that the algorithm is polynomial time



APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

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```

Repeated application of TRIM  
to make sure  $L_i$ 's remain short.

- We must bound the inaccuracy introduced by repeated trimming
- We must show that the algorithm is polynomial time

Solution is a careful choice of  $\delta$ !

EXACT-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t$ )

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```





## Running through an Example

---

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

```
1   $n = |S|$ 
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## Running through an Example

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7 let  $z^*$  be the largest value in  $L_n$ 
8 return  $z^*$ 
```

- Input:  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$



## Running through an Example

---

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
2  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
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7 let  $z^*$  be the largest value in  $L_n$ 
8 return  $z^*$ 
```

- **Input:**  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$
- ⇒ **Trimming parameter:**  $\delta = \epsilon / (2 \cdot n) = \epsilon / 8 = 0.05$



## Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

```
1   $n = |S|$ 
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- **Input:**  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$
- ⇒ **Trimming parameter:**  $\delta = \epsilon / (2 \cdot n) = \epsilon / 8 = 0.05$
- **line 2:**  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$



## Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
2  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
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```

- **Input:**  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$
- ⇒ **Trimming parameter:**  $\delta = \epsilon / (2 \cdot n) = \epsilon / 8 = 0.05$ 
  - line 2:  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$
  - line 4:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$



## Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

```
1   $n = |S|$ 
2   $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
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- **Input:**  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$
- ⇒ **Trimming parameter:**  $\delta = \epsilon / (2 \cdot n) = \epsilon / 8 = 0.05$
- line 2:  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$
- line 4:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 5:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$



## Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

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▪ **Input:**  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$   
⇒ **Trimming parameter:**  $\delta = \epsilon / (2 \cdot n) = \epsilon / 8 = 0.05$

- line 2:  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$
- line 4:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 5:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 6:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$



## Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

```
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- **Input:**  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$
- ⇒ **Trimming parameter:**  $\delta = \epsilon / (2 \cdot n) = \epsilon / 8 = 0.05$
- line 2:  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$
- line 4:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 5:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 6:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 4:  $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 104, 206 \rangle$





## Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM( $S, t, \epsilon$ )

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1   $n = |S|$ 
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```

▪ **Input:**  $S = \langle 104, 102, 201, 101 \rangle$ ,  $t = 308$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.4$   
⇒ **Trimming parameter:**  $\delta = \epsilon / (2 \cdot n) = \epsilon / 8 = 0.05$

- line 2:  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$
- line 4:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 5:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
- line 6:  $L_1 = \langle 0, 104 \rangle$
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- line 6:  $L_3 = \langle 0, 102, 201, 303 \rangle$
- line 4:  $L_4 = \langle 0, 101, 102, 201, 203, 302, 303, 404 \rangle$



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Returned solution  $z^* = 302$ , which is 2% within the optimum  $307 = 104 + 102 + 101$



## Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

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### Theorem 35.8

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM is a FPTAS for the subset-sum problem.

Proof (Approximation Ratio):



## Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

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$$\frac{y}{(1 + \epsilon/(2n))^i} \leq z \leq y$$



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Can be shown by induction on  $i$



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- After trimming, two successive elements  $z$  and  $z'$  satisfy  $z'/z \geq 1 + \epsilon/(2n)$



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Hence,

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Hence,

$$\log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t + 2 = \frac{\ln t}{\ln(1 + \epsilon/(2n))} + 2$$



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  - After trimming, two successive elements  $z$  and  $z'$  satisfy  $z'/z \geq 1 + \epsilon/(2n)$
- ⇒ Possible Values after trimming are 0, 1, and up to  $\lfloor \log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t \rfloor$  additional values.  
Hence,

$$\log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t + 2 = \frac{\ln t}{\ln(1 + \epsilon/(2n))} + 2$$

For  $x > -1$ ,  $\ln(1 + x) \geq \frac{x}{1+x}$



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Need  $\log(t)$  bits to represent  $t$  and  $n$  bits to represent  $S$



## Concluding Remarks

---

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- **Given:** Set of positive integers  $S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  and positive integer  $t$
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Algorithm very similar to APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

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The Subset-Sum Problem

Parallel Machine Scheduling



## Parallel Machine Scheduling

---

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- **Given:**  $n$  jobs  $J_1, J_2, \dots, J_n$  with processing times  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$ , and  $m$  identical machines  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_m$



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- $J_1: p_1 = 2$
- $J_2: p_2 = 12$
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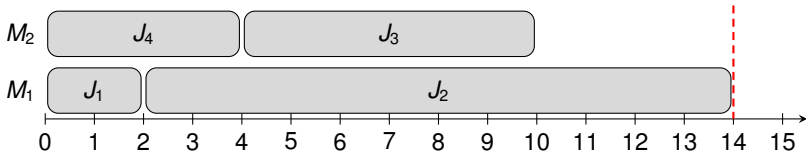


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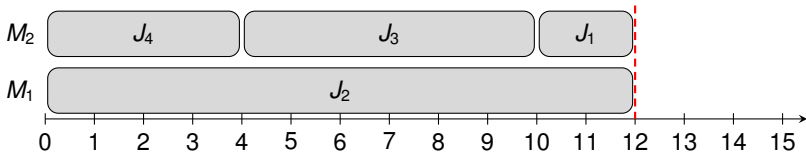


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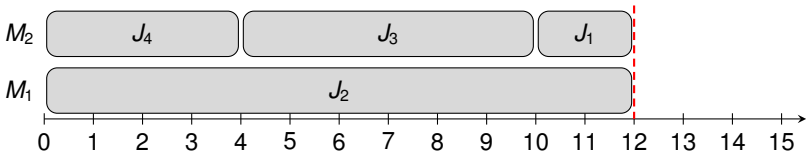
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For the analysis, it will be convenient to denote by  $C_i$  the completion time of a machine  $i$ .



## NP-Completeness of Parallel Machine Scheduling

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### Lemma

Parallel Machine Scheduling is NP-complete even if there are only two machines.

**Proof Idea:** Polynomial time reduction from NUMBER-PARTITIONING.

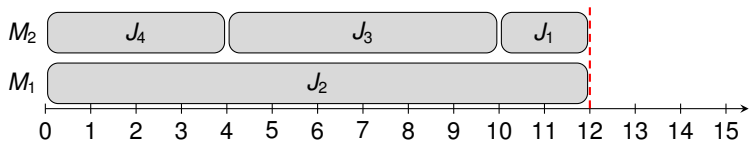


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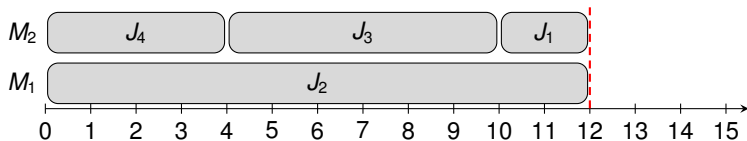


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LIST SCHEDULING( $J_1, J_2, \dots, J_n, m$ )

- 1: **while** there exists an unassigned job
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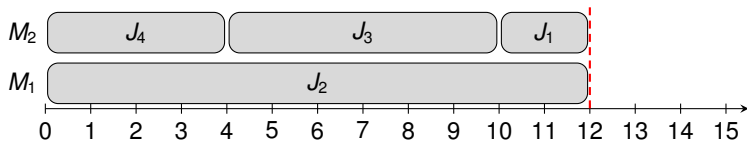


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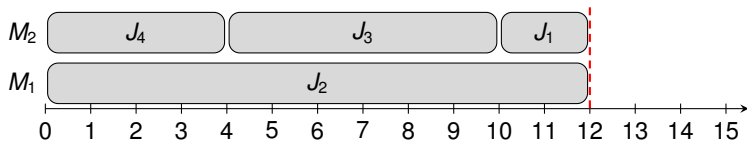


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How good is this most basic Greedy Approach?



## List Scheduling Analysis (Observations)

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Ex 35-5 a.&b.

- a. The optimal makespan is at least as large as the greatest processing time, that is,

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Proof:

- b. The total processing times of all  $n$  jobs equals  $\sum_{k=1}^n p_k$   
 $\Rightarrow$  One machine must have a load of at least  $\frac{1}{m} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n p_k$  □



## List Scheduling Analysis (Final Step)

Ex 35-5 d. (Graham 1966)

For the schedule returned by the greedy algorithm it holds that

$$C_{\max} \leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^n p_k + \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} p_k.$$

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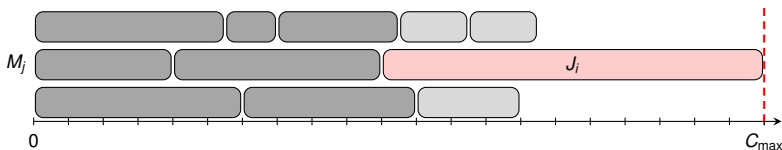
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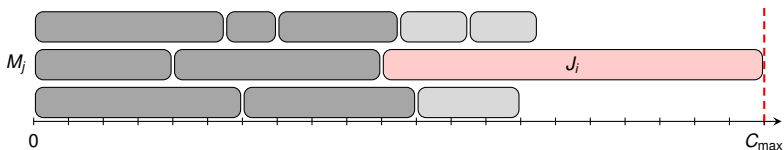
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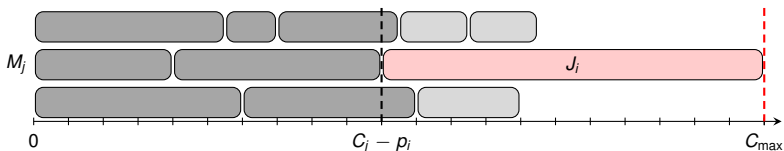
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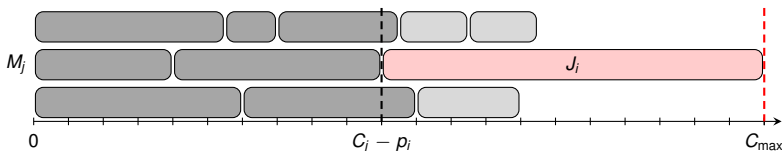
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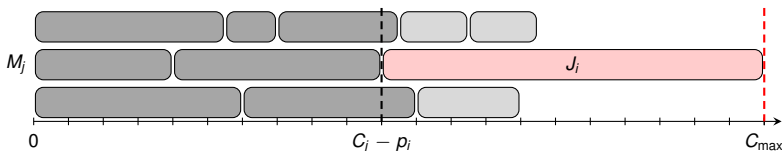
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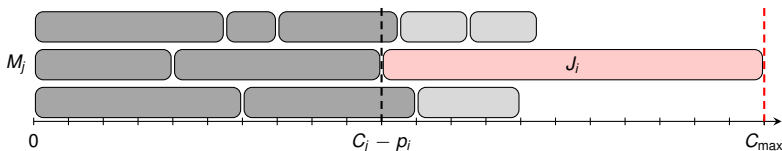
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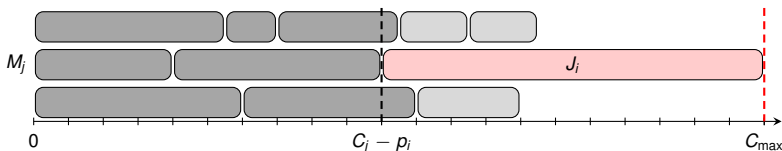
$$C_{\max} \leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^n p_k + \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} p_k.$$

Hence list scheduling is a **poly-time 2-approximation algorithm**.

Proof:

- Let  $J_j$  be the **last job** scheduled on machine  $M_j$  with  $C_{\max} = C_j$
- When  $J_j$  was scheduled to machine  $M_j$ ,  $C_j - p_i \leq C_k$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq m$
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## List Scheduling Analysis (Final Step)

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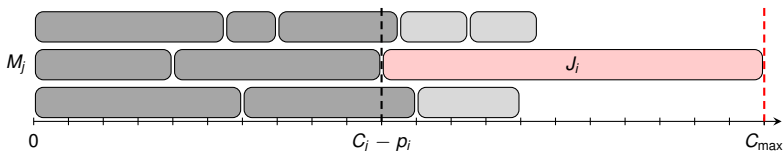
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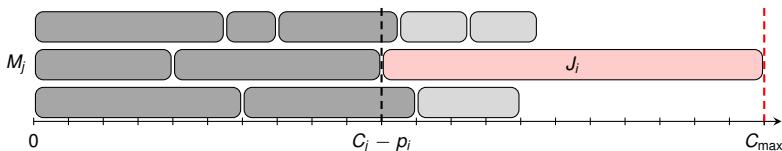
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Analysis can be shown to be almost tight. Is there a better algorithm?



## Improving Greedy

---

The problem of the List-Scheduling Approach were the large jobs

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LEAST PROCESSING TIME( $J_1, J_2, \dots, J_n, m$ )

- 1: Sort jobs decreasingly in their processing times
- 2: **for**  $i = 1$  to  $m$
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- 4:      $S_i = \emptyset$
- 5: **end for**
- 6: **for**  $j = 1$  to  $n$
- 7:      $i = \operatorname{argmin}_{1 \leq k \leq m} C_k$
- 8:      $S_i = S_i \cup \{j\}, C_i = C_i + p_j$
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Runtime:

- $O(n \log n)$  for sorting
- $O(n \log m)$  for extracting (and re-inserting) the minimum (use priority queue).



## Analysis of Improved Greedy

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Graham 1966

The LPT algorithm has an approximation ratio of  $4/3 - 1/(3m)$ .

This can be shown to be **tight** (see next slide).



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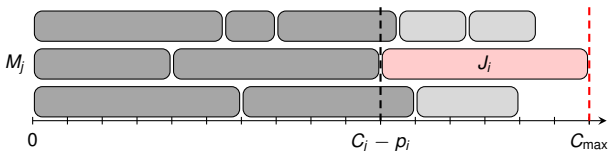
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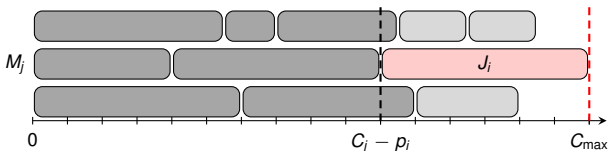
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$$C_{\max} = C_j = (C_j - p_i) + p_i$$



## Analysis of Improved Greedy

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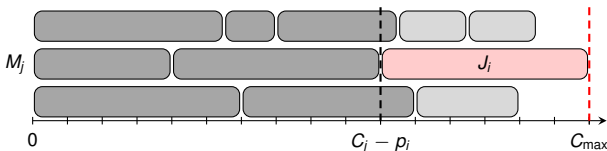
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This is for the case  $i \geq m + 1$  (otherwise, an even stronger inequality holds)



## Analysis of Improved Greedy

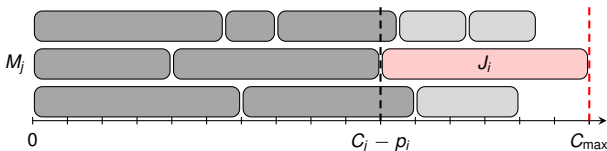
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## Tightness of the Bound for LPT

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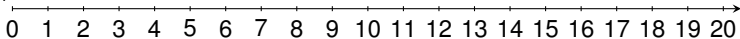
$M_5$

$M_4$

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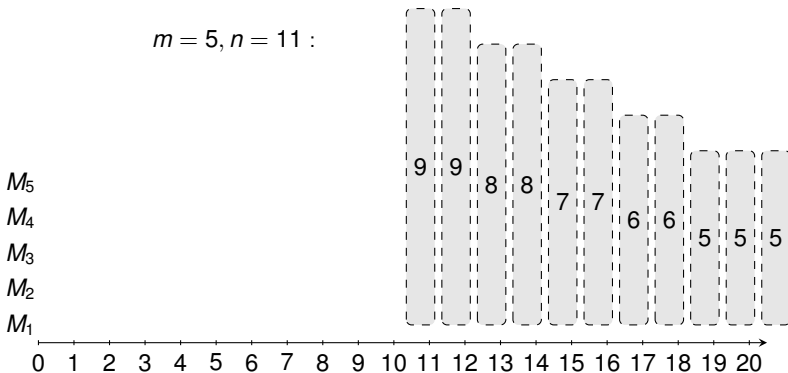
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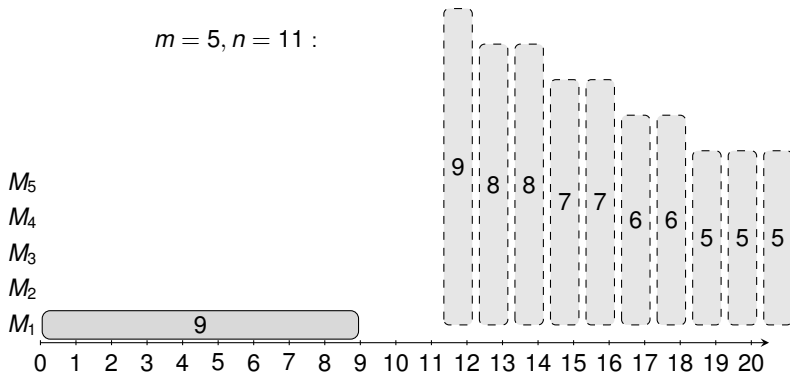
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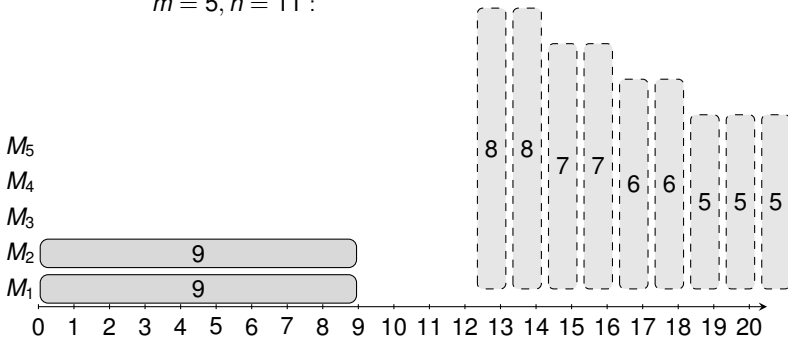
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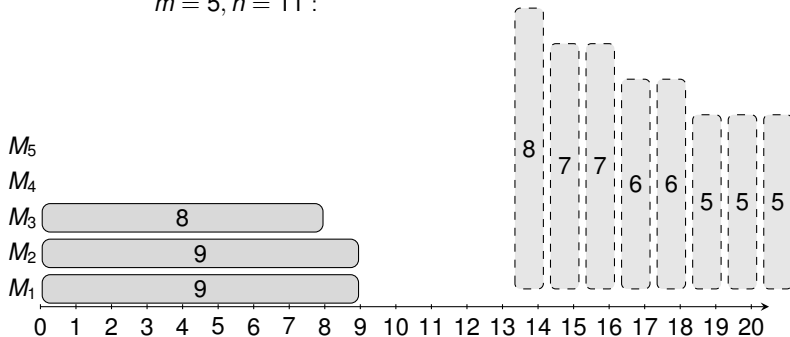
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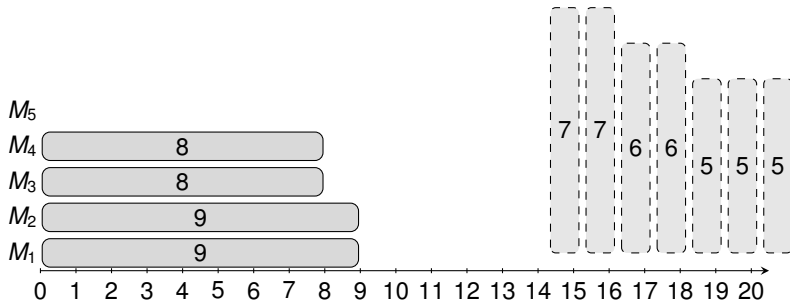
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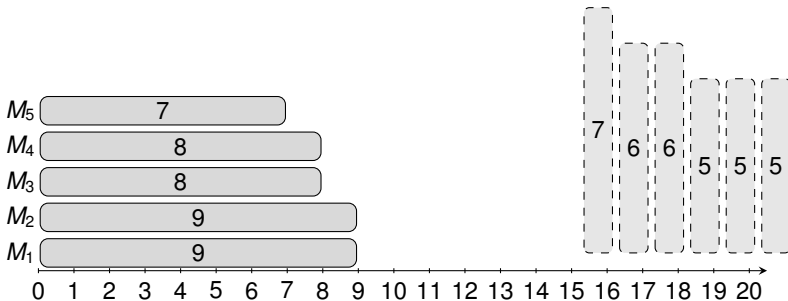
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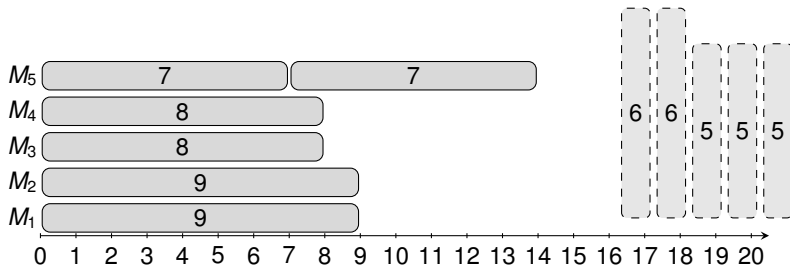
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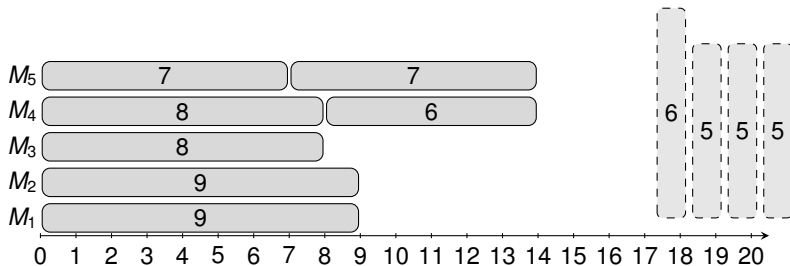
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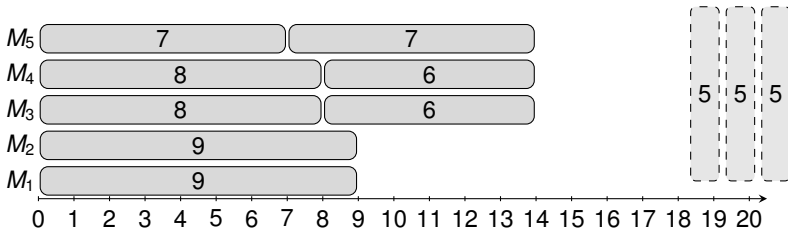
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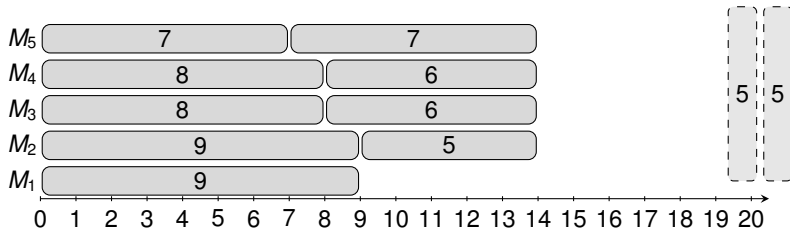
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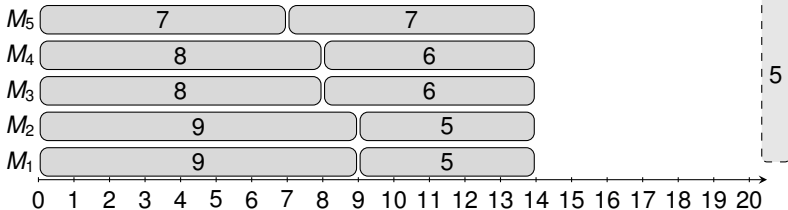
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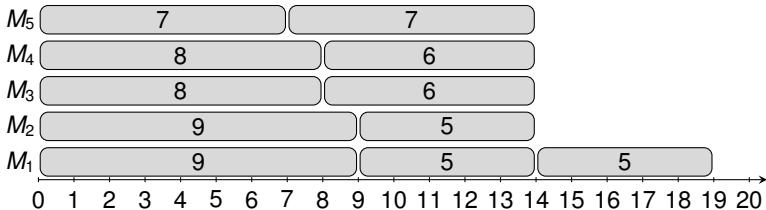
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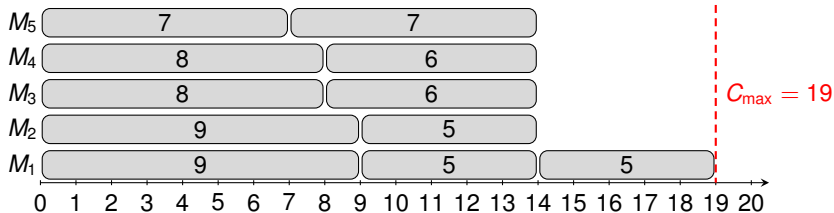
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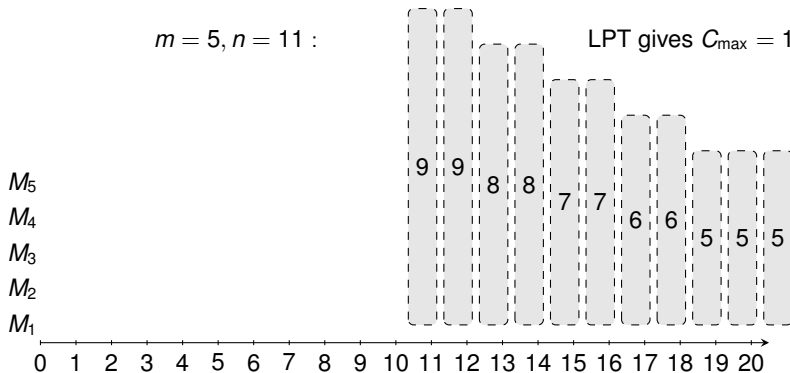
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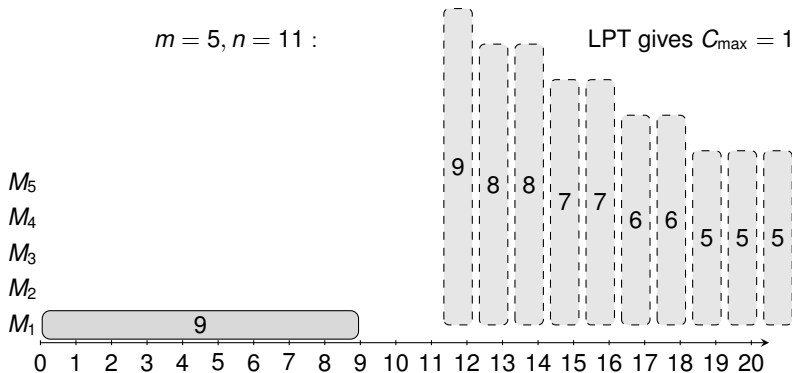
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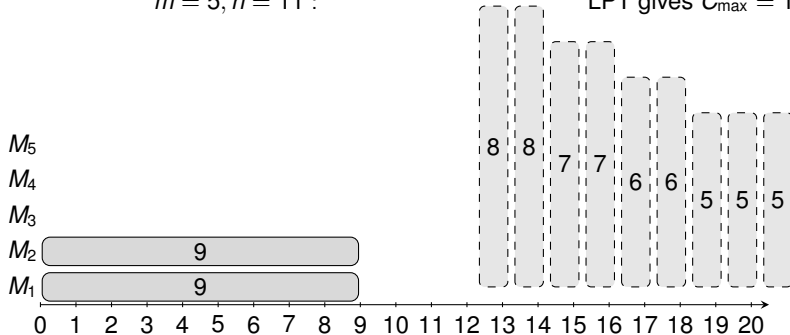
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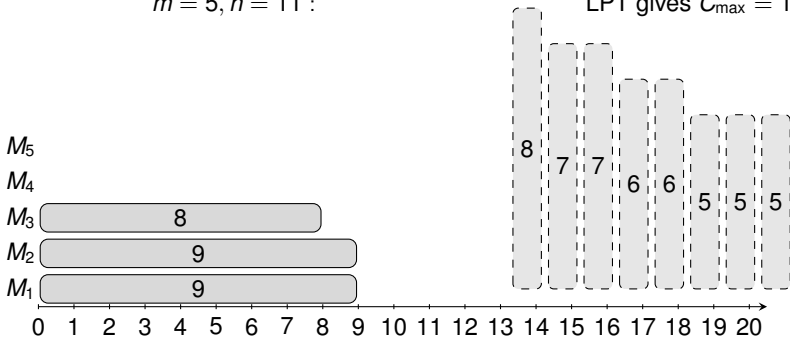
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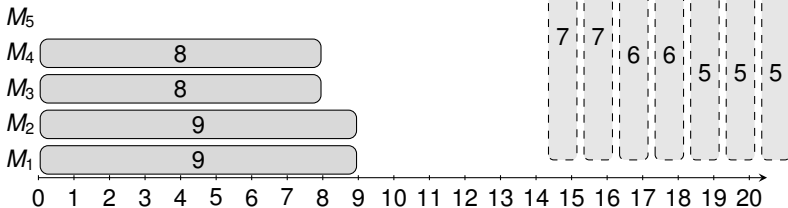
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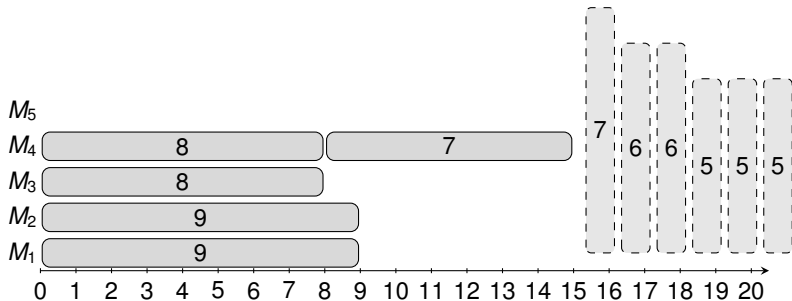
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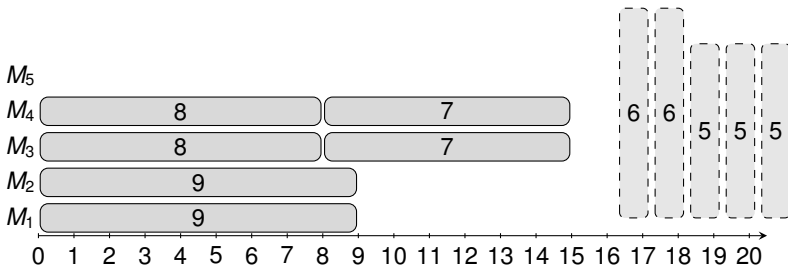
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Graham 1966

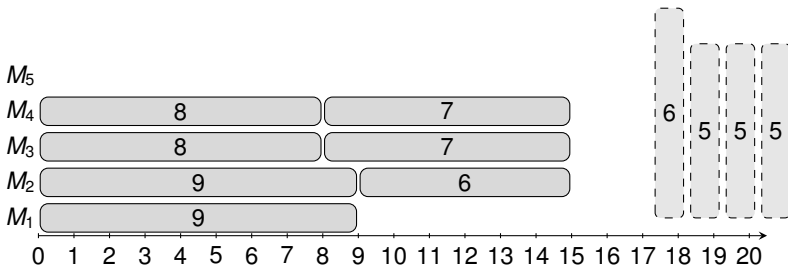
The LPT algorithm has an approximation ratio of  $4/3 - 1/(3m)$ .

Proof of an instance which shows tightness:

- $m$  machines
- $n = 2m + 1$  jobs of length  $2m - 1, 2m - 2, \dots, m$  and one job of length  $m$

$m = 5, n = 11$  :

LPT gives  $C_{\max} = 19$





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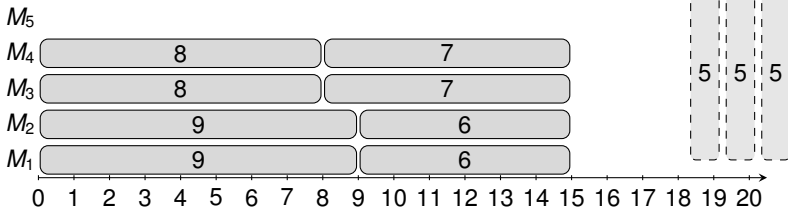
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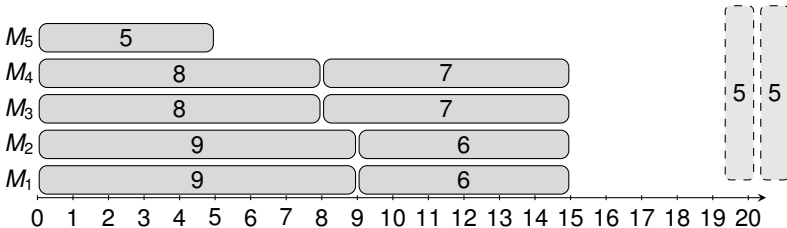
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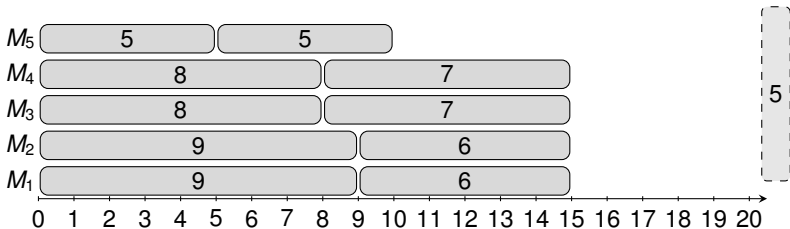
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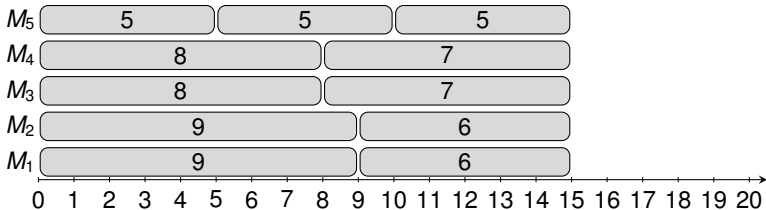
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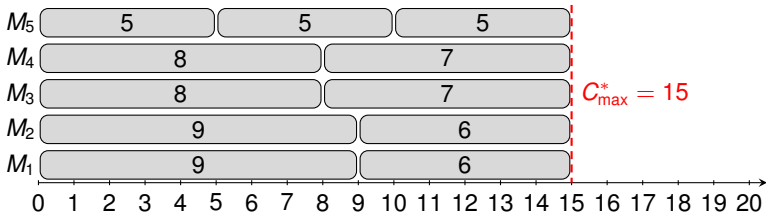
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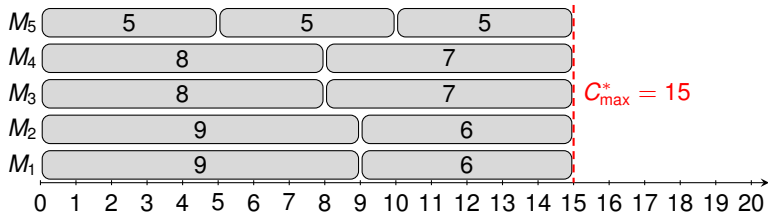
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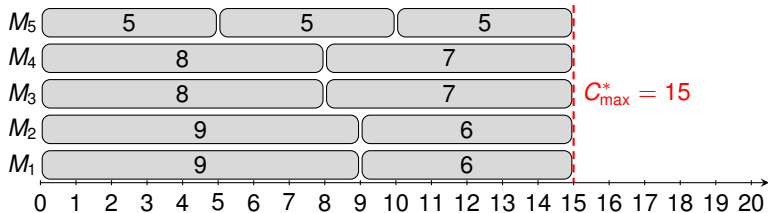
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## A PTAS for Parallel Machine Scheduling

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Basic Idea: For  $(1 + \epsilon)$ -approximation, don't have to work with exact  $p_k$ 's.





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SUBROUTINE can be implemented in time  $n^{O(1/\epsilon^2)}$ .



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Use **Dynamic Programming** to schedule  $J_{\text{large}}$  with makespan  $(1 + \epsilon) \cdot T$ .



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- Let  $b$  be the smallest integer with  $1/b \leq \epsilon$ .



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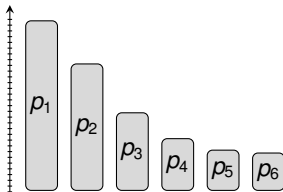
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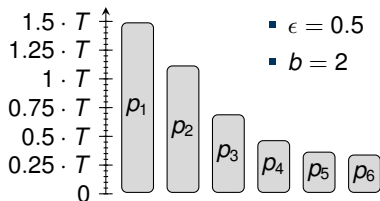




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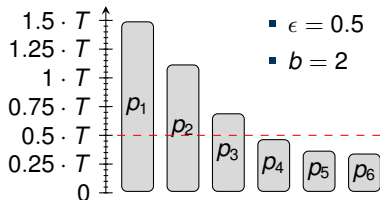
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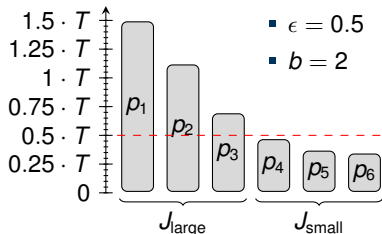
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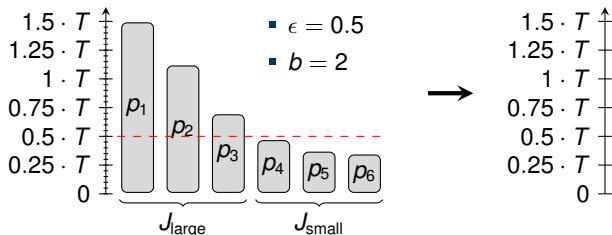
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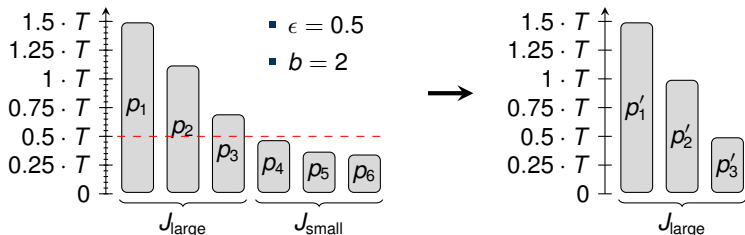
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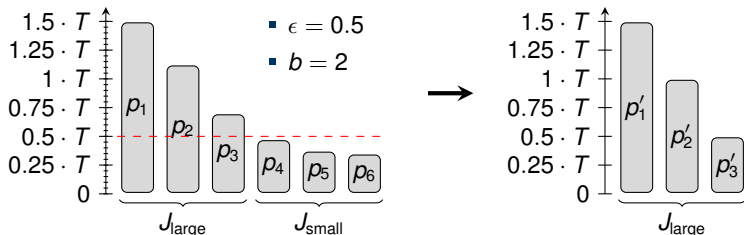
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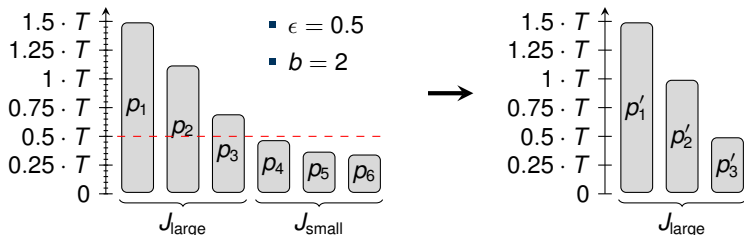
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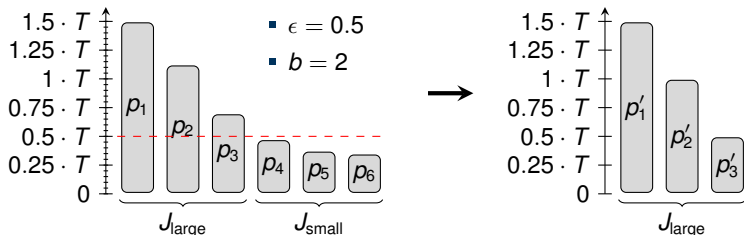
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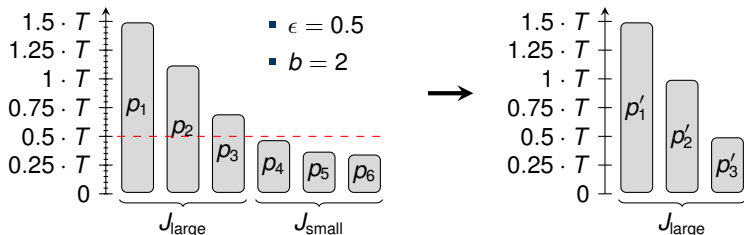




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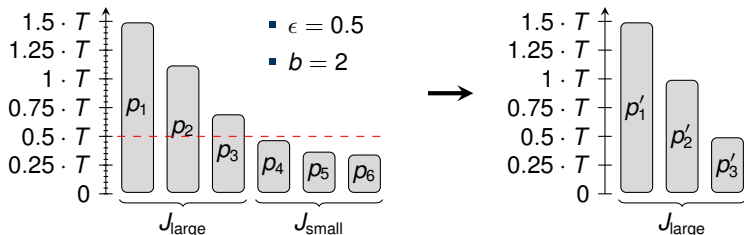


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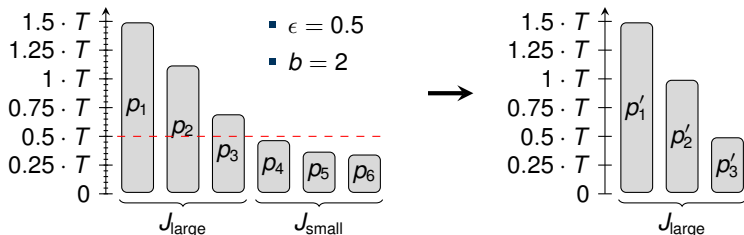
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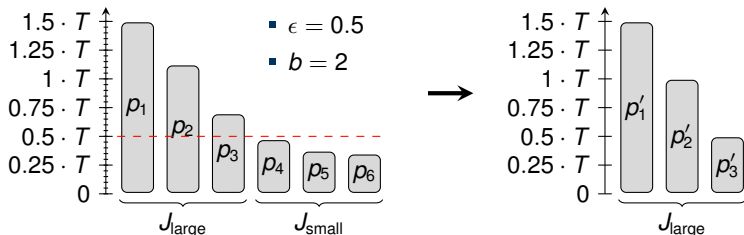
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Because for sufficiently small approximation ratio  $1 + \epsilon$ , the computed solution has to be optimal, and Parallel Machine Scheduling is strongly NP-hard.

