

IV. 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

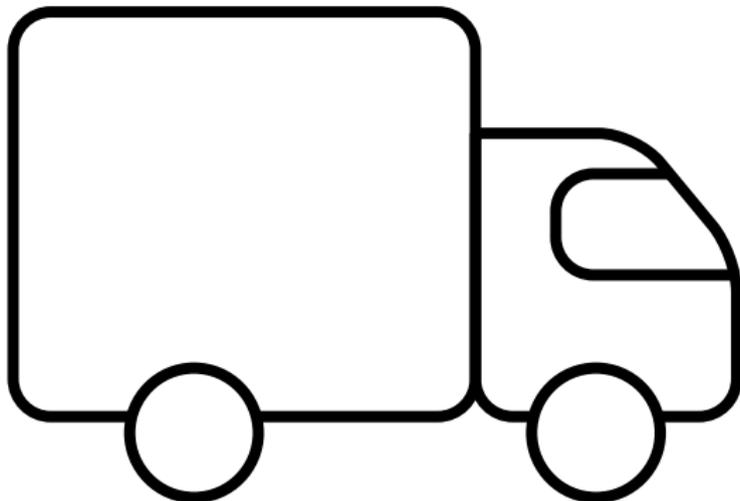
$$x_1 = 10$$

$$x_2 = 4$$

$$x_3 = 5$$

$$x_4 = 6$$

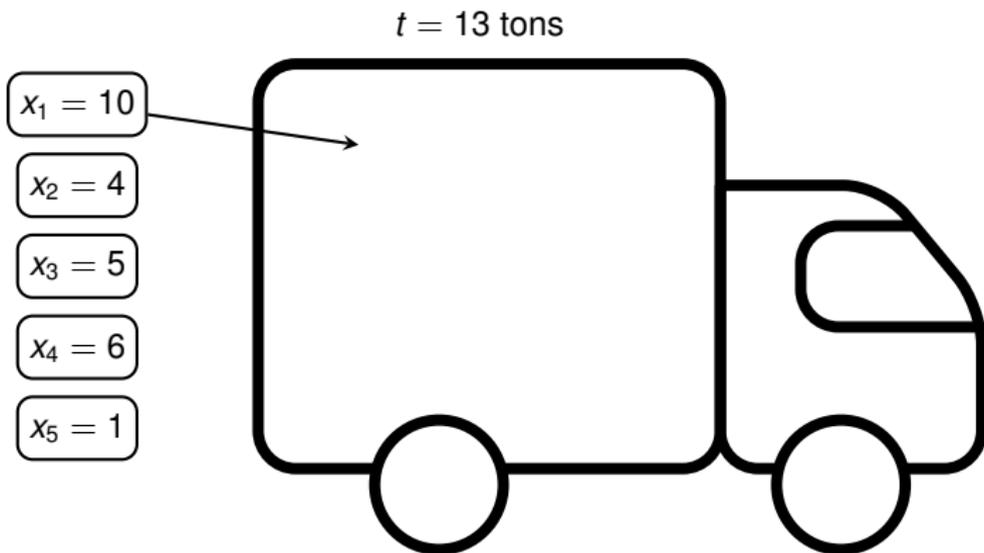
$$x_5 = 1$$



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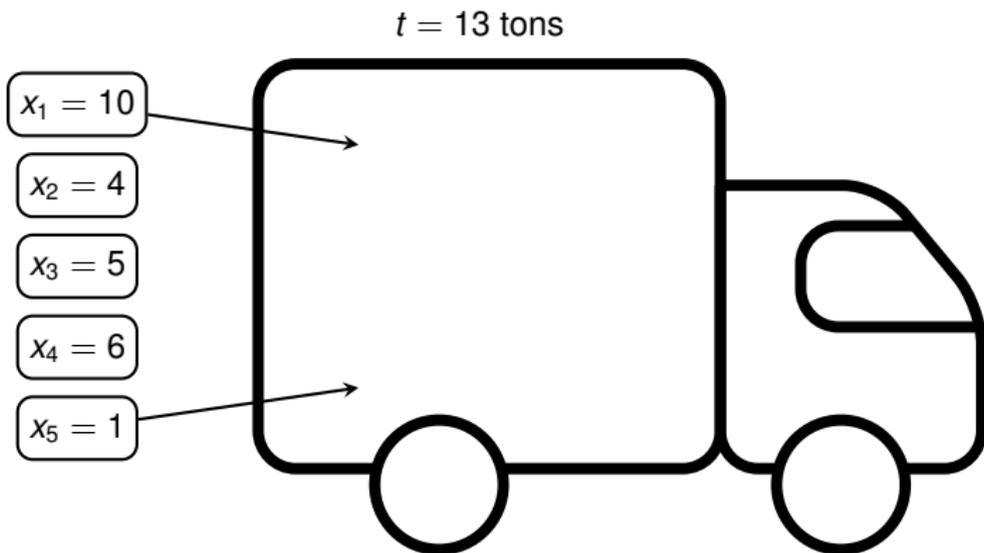
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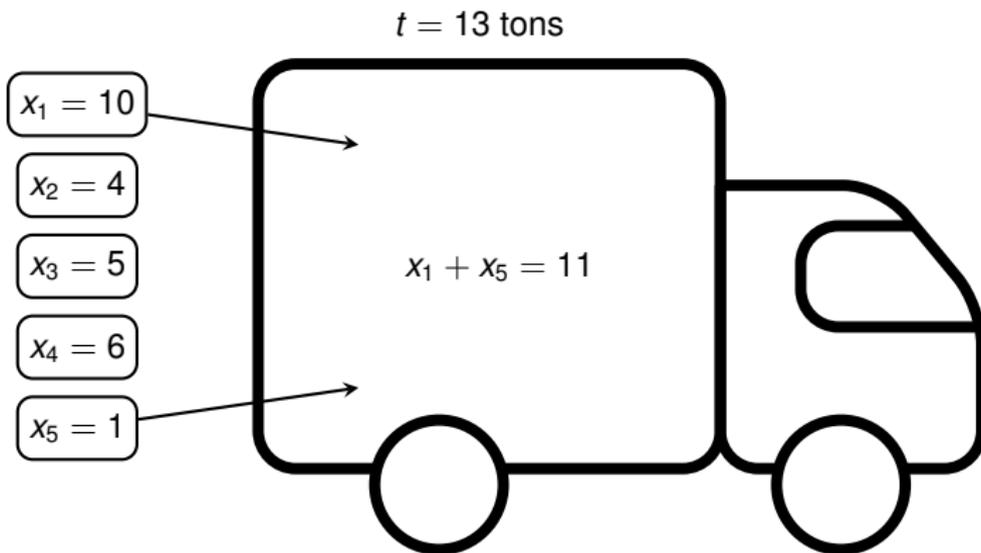
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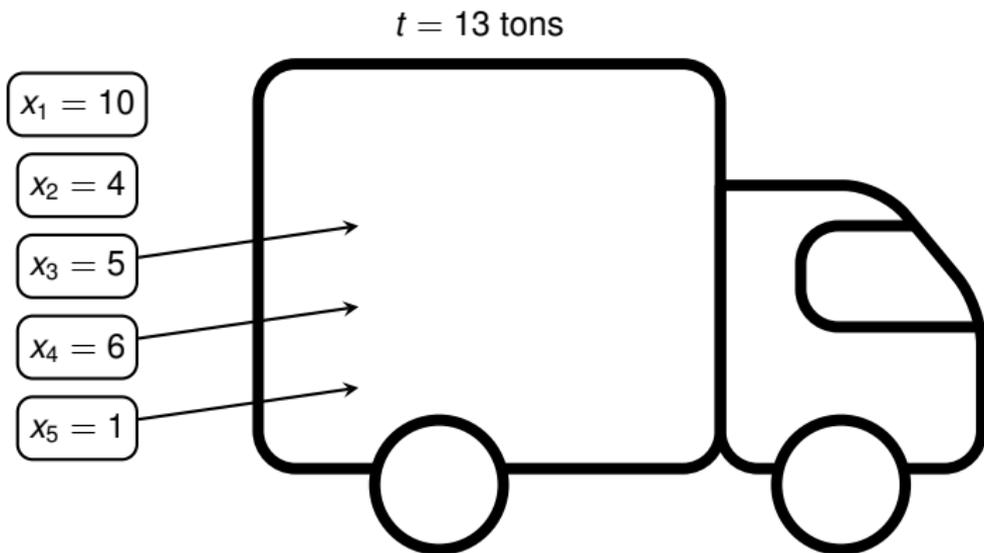
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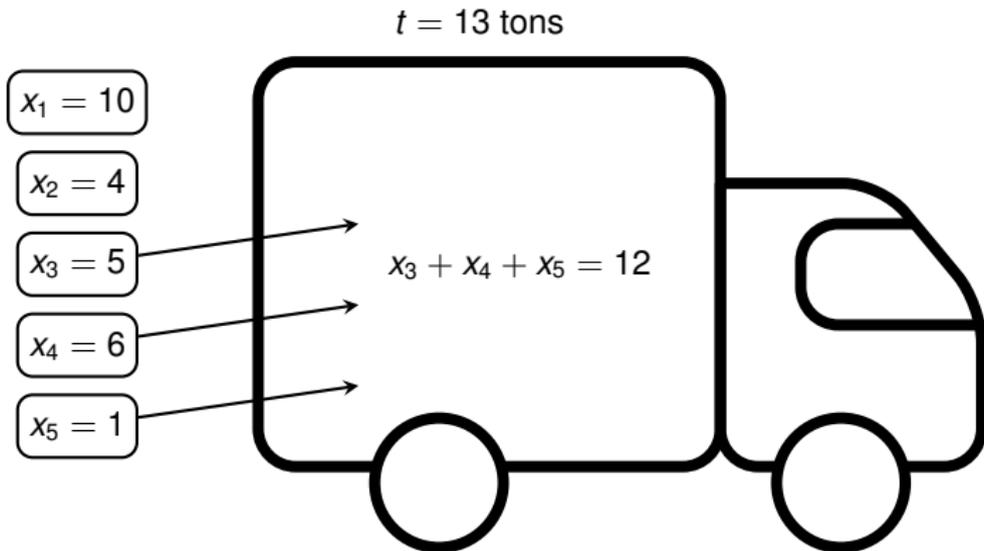
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An Exact (Exponential-Time) Algorithm

Dynamic Programming: Compute bottom-up all possible sums $\leq t$



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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      remove from  $L_i$  every element that is greater than  $t$ 
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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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Better runtime if t and/or $|L_i|$ are small.



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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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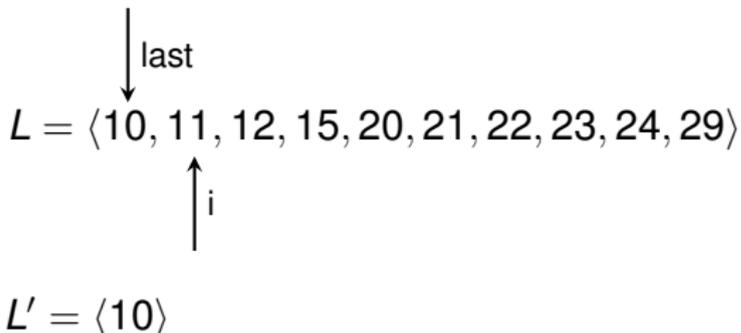


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8 return  $L'$ 
```

$$\delta = 0.1$$

↓ last

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

↑ i

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



Illustration of the Trim Operation

TRIM(L, δ)

```
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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```

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↑ i

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```

$$\delta = 0.1$$

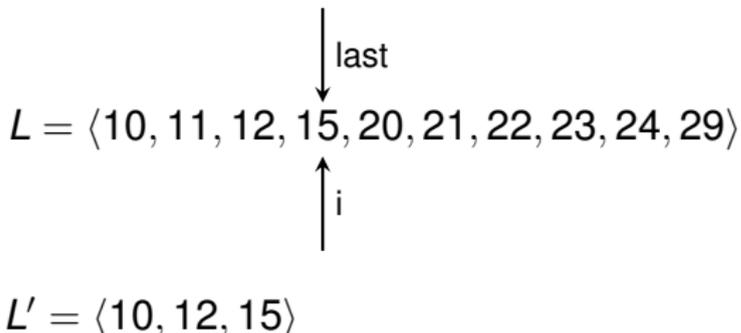


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↑ i

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Illustration of the Trim Operation

TRIM(L, δ)

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↑ i

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


Illustration of the Trim Operation

TRIM(L, δ)

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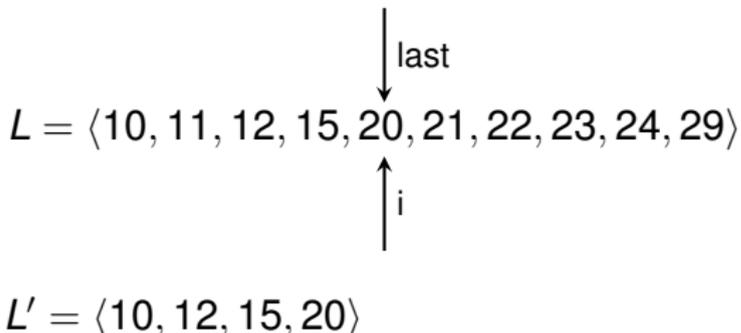


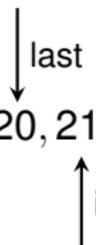
Illustration of the Trim Operation

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



Illustration of the Trim Operation

TRIM(L, δ)

```
1 let  $m$  be the length of  $L$ 
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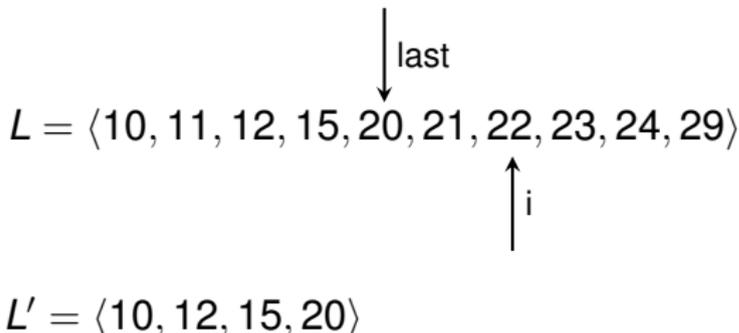


Illustration of the Trim Operation

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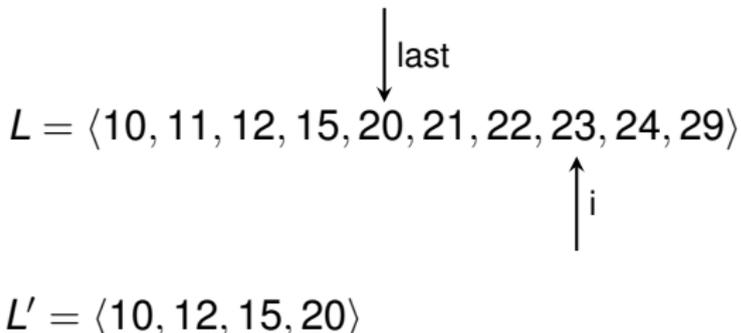


Illustration of the Trim Operation

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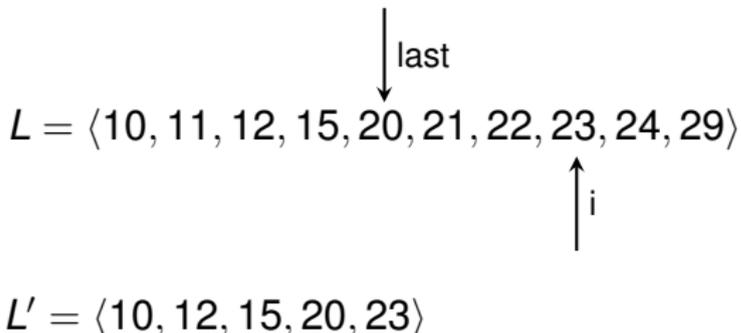


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↓ last
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$$L' = \langle 10, 12, 15, 20, 23 \rangle$$



Illustration of the Trim Operation

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APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

```
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  $z^*$ 
```



The FPTAS

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

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EXACT-SUBSET-SUM(S, t)

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```

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

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```

- We must bound the inaccuracy introduced by repeated trimming



The FPTAS

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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, ϵ)

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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 δ !

EXACT-SUBSET-SUM(S, t)

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```



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

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



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

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



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
2  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
3 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$ 
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6     remove from  $L_i$  every element that is greater than  $t$ 
7 let  $z^*$  be the largest value in  $L_n$ 
8 return  $z^*$ 
```

- **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, ϵ)

```
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:** $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
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3 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$ 
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8 return  $z^*$ 
```

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



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
2  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
3 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$ 
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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, ϵ)

```
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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, ϵ)

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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, ϵ)

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
2  $L_0 = \langle 0 \rangle$ 
3 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$ 
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```

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⇒ **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: $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 104, 206 \rangle$
- line 5: $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 206 \rangle$



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

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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: $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 104, 206 \rangle$
- line 5: $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 206 \rangle$
- line 6: $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 206 \rangle$



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

```
1  $n = |S|$ 
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7 let  $z^*$  be the largest value in  $L_n$ 
8 return  $z^*$ 
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- line 6: $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 206 \rangle$
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- line 6: $L_2 = \langle 0, 102, 206 \rangle$
- line 4: $L_3 = \langle 0, 102, 201, 206, 303, 407 \rangle$
- line 5: $L_3 = \langle 0, 102, 201, 303, 407 \rangle$
- line 6: $L_3 = \langle 0, 102, 201, 303 \rangle$
- line 4: $L_4 = \langle 0, 101, 102, 201, 203, 302, 303, 404 \rangle$



Running through an Example

APPROX-SUBSET-SUM(S, t, ϵ)

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



Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

Theorem 35.8

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

Proof (Approximation Ratio):



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



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$$\frac{y^*}{z} \leq \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2n}\right)^n,$$

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and now using the fact that $\left(1 + \frac{\epsilon/2}{n}\right)^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{\epsilon/2}$ yields



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- For every possible sum $y \leq t$ of x_1, \dots, x_i , there exists an element $z \in L_i'$ s.t.:

$$\frac{y}{(1 + \epsilon/(2n))^i} \leq z \leq y \quad y=y^*, i=n \Rightarrow \frac{y^*}{(1 + \epsilon/(2n))^n} \leq z \leq y^*$$

$$\frac{y^*}{z} \leq \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2n}\right)^n,$$

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Can be shown by induction on i

$$\frac{y^*}{z} \leq \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2n}\right)^n,$$

and now using the fact that $\left(1 + \frac{\epsilon/2}{n}\right)^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{\epsilon/2}$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{y^*}{z} &\leq e^{\epsilon/2} \quad \text{Taylor approximation of } e \\ &\leq 1 + \epsilon/2 + (\epsilon/2)^2 \end{aligned}$$



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Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

Theorem 35.8

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

Proof (Running Time):



Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

Theorem 35.8

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

Proof (Running Time):

- Strategy: Derive a bound on $|L_i|$ (running time is linear in $|L_i|$)



Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

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

Proof (Running Time):

- **Strategy:** Derive a bound on $|L_i|$ (running time is linear in $|L_i|$)
- After trimming, two successive elements z and z' satisfy $z'/z \geq 1 + \epsilon/(2n)$



Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

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- ⇒ Possible Values after trimming are 0, 1, and up to $\lfloor \log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t \rfloor$ additional values.



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Hence,

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



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Hence,

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



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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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Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t + 2 &= \frac{\ln t}{\ln(1 + \epsilon/(2n))} + 2 \\ &\leq \frac{2n(1 + \epsilon/(2n)) \ln t}{\epsilon} + 2 \end{aligned}$$

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



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Hence,

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



Analysis of APPROX-SUBSET-SUM

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Proof (Running Time):

- **Strategy:** Derive a bound on $|L_j|$ (running time is linear in $|L_j|$)
 - After trimming, two successive elements z and z' satisfy $z'/z \geq 1 + \epsilon/(2n)$
- \Rightarrow Possible Values after trimming are 0, 1, and up to $\lfloor \log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t \rfloor$ additional values.
Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t + 2 &= \frac{\ln t}{\ln(1 + \epsilon/(2n))} + 2 \\ &\leq \frac{2n(1 + \epsilon/(2n)) \ln t}{\epsilon} + 2 \\ &< \frac{3n \ln t}{\epsilon} + 2. \end{aligned}$$

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

- This bound on $|L_j|$ is polynomial in the size of the input and in $1/\epsilon$.



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Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \log_{1+\epsilon/(2n)} t + 2 &= \frac{\ln t}{\ln(1 + \epsilon/(2n))} + 2 \\ &\leq \frac{2n(1 + \epsilon/(2n)) \ln t}{\epsilon} + 2 \\ &< \frac{3n \ln t}{\epsilon} + 2. \end{aligned}$$

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

- This bound on $|L_i|$ is polynomial in the size of the input and in $1/\epsilon$. □

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



Concluding Remarks

The Subset-Sum Problem

- **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

Machine Scheduling Problem

- **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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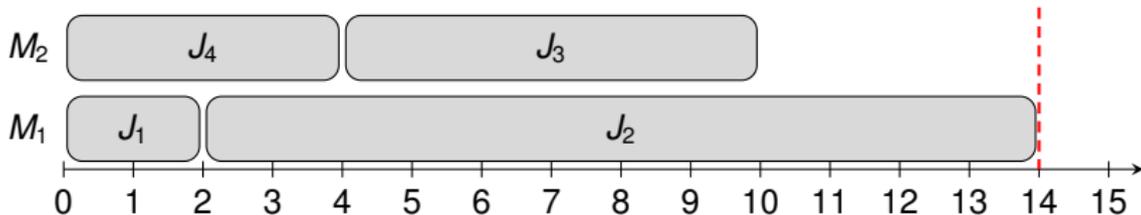


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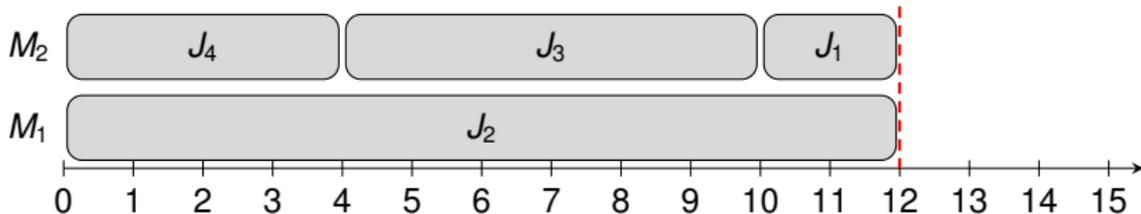


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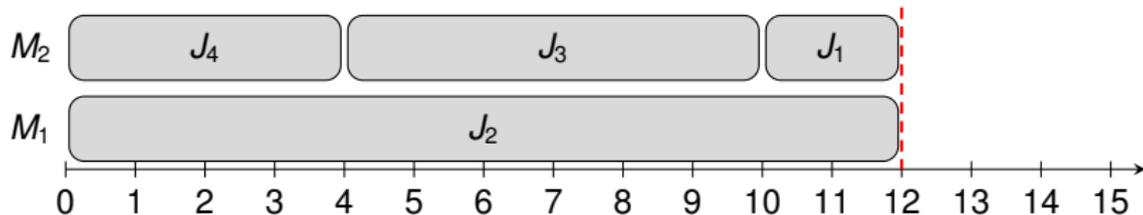
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For the analysis, it will be convenient to denote by C_i the completion time of a machine i .



NP-Completeness of Parallel Machine Scheduling

Lemma

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

Proof Idea: Polynomial time reduction from NUMBER-PARTITIONING.

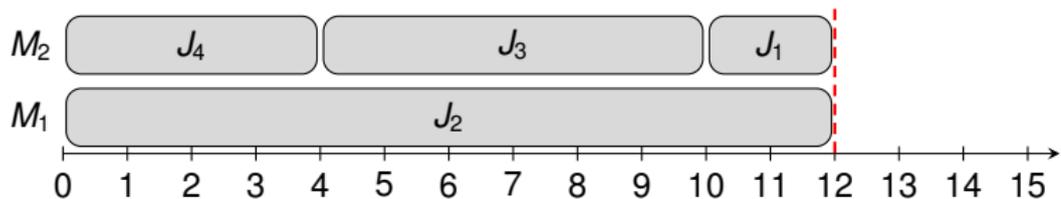


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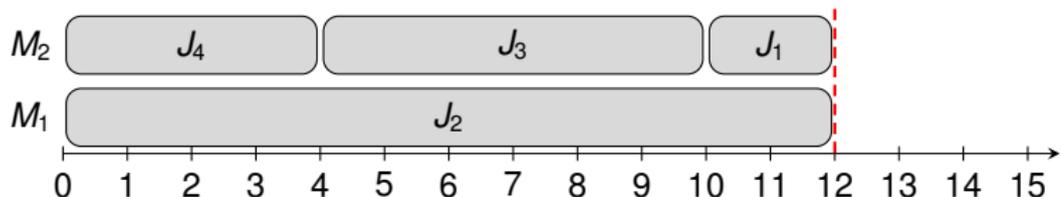


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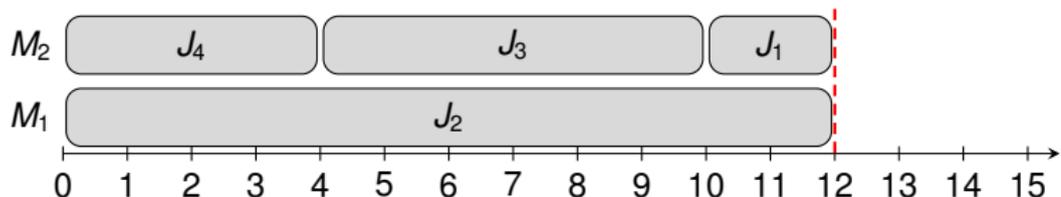


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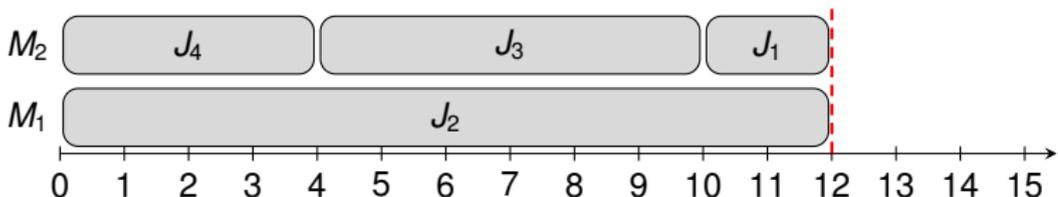


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How good is this most basic Greedy Approach?



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,

$$C_{\max}^* \geq \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} p_k.$$



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- 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

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

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



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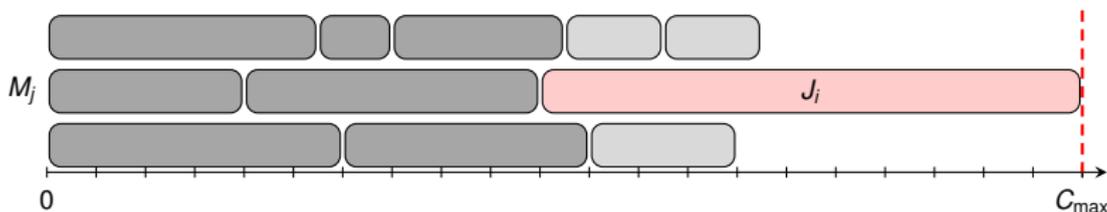
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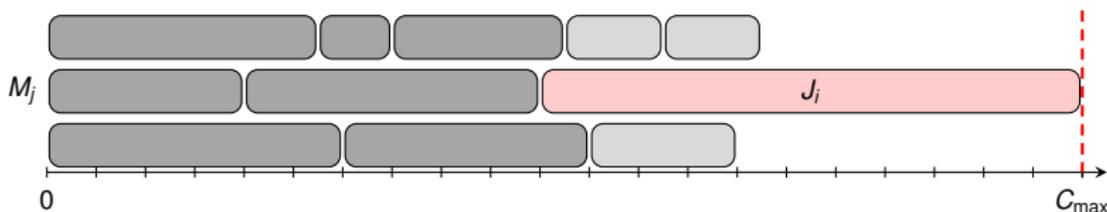
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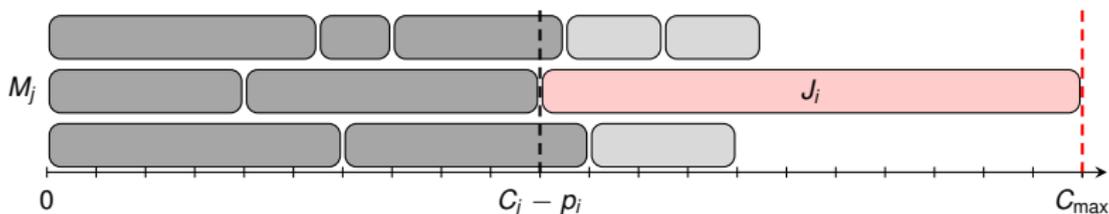
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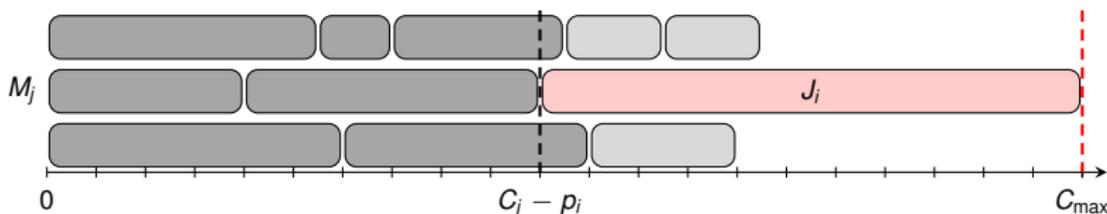
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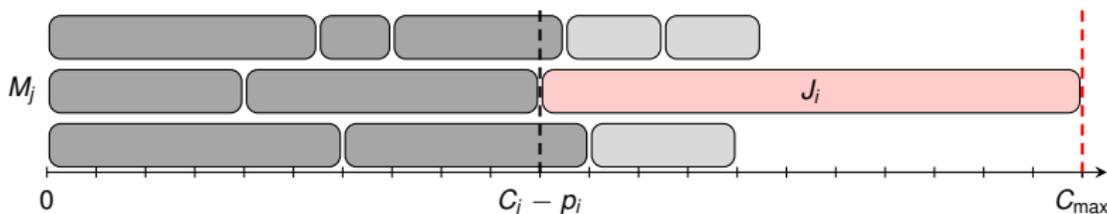
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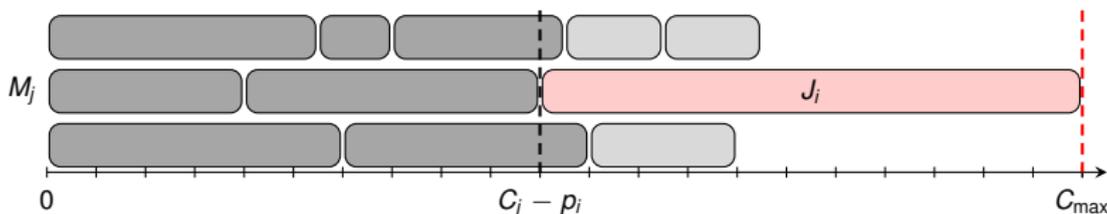
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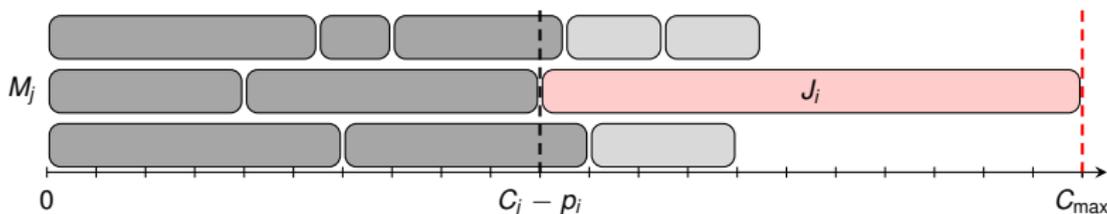
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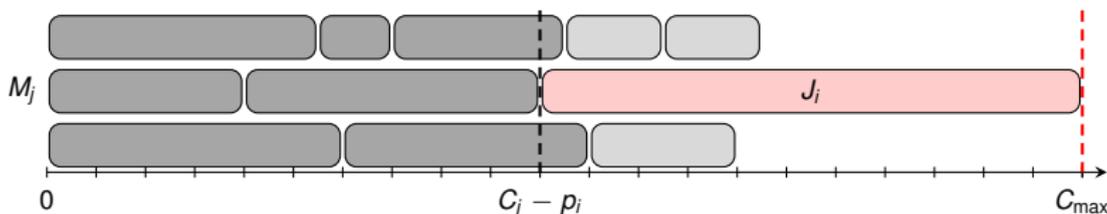
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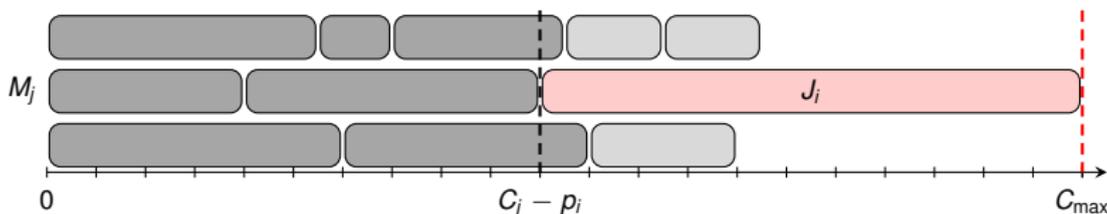
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Improving Greedy

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



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- $O(n \log n)$ for sorting



Improving Greedy

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

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

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
- 3: $C_i = 0$
- 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: $S_i = S_i \cup \{j\}, C_i = C_i + p_j$
- 9: **end for**
- 10: **return** S_1, \dots, S_m

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

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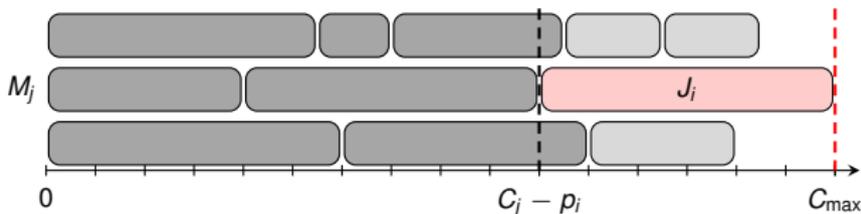
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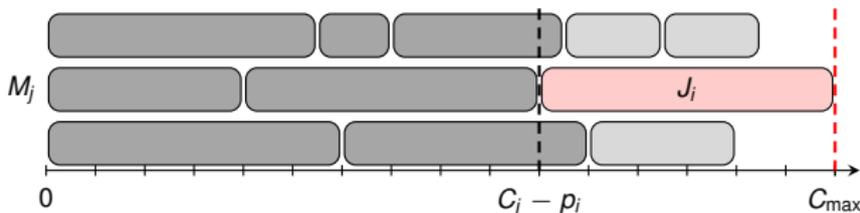
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$$C_{\max} = C_j = (C_j - p_i) + p_i$$



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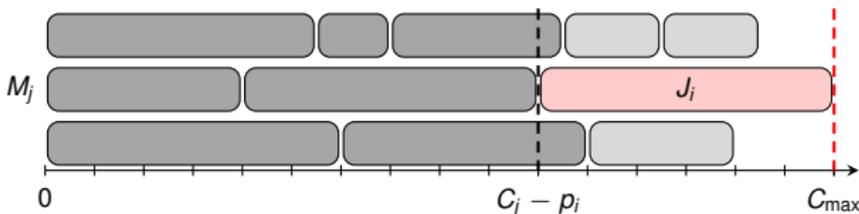
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$$C_{\max} = C_j = (C_j - p_i) + p_i \leq C_{\max}^* + \frac{1}{2} C_{\max}^*$$

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



Analysis of Improved Greedy

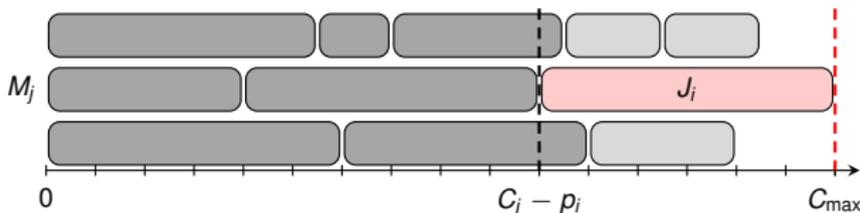
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Tightness of the Bound for LPT

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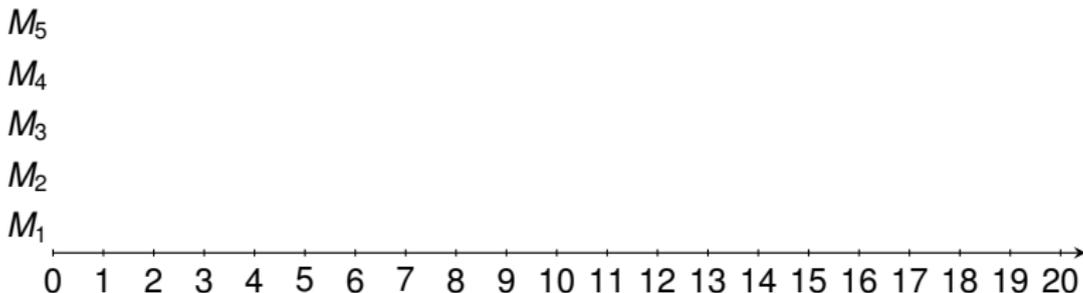
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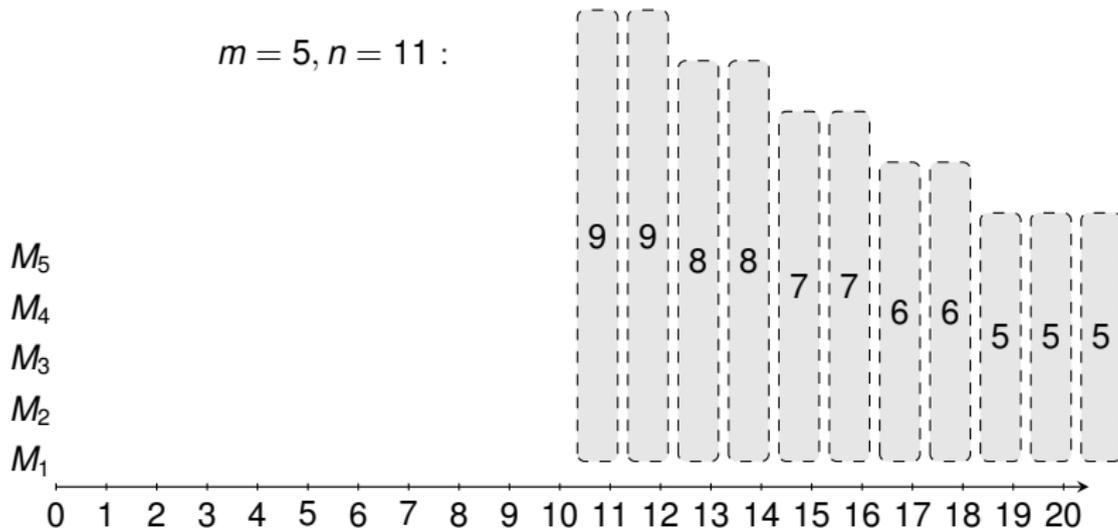
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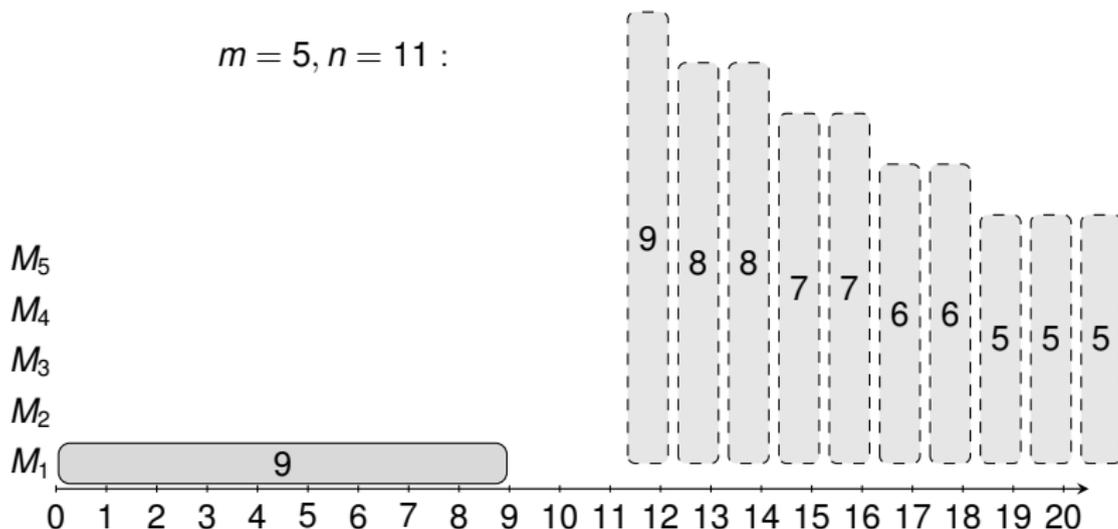
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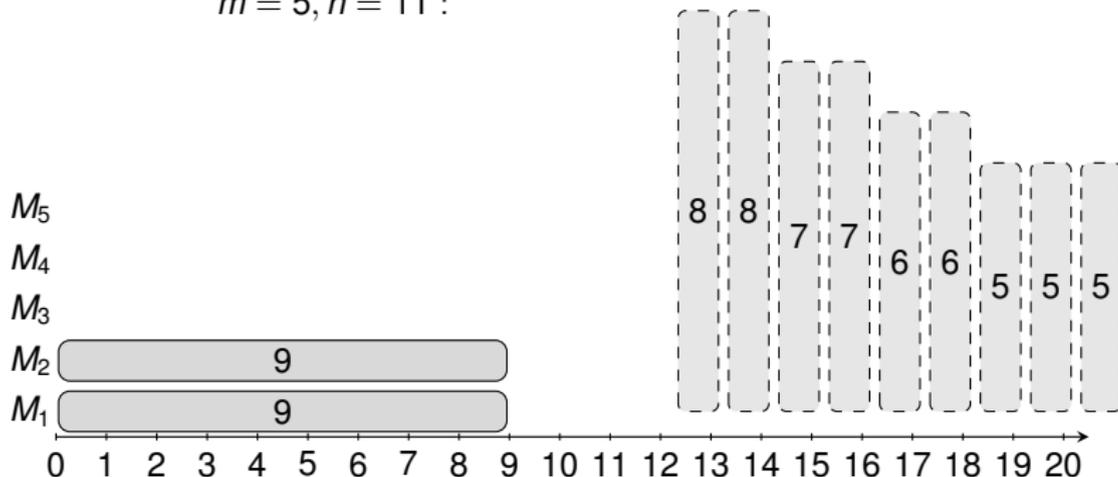
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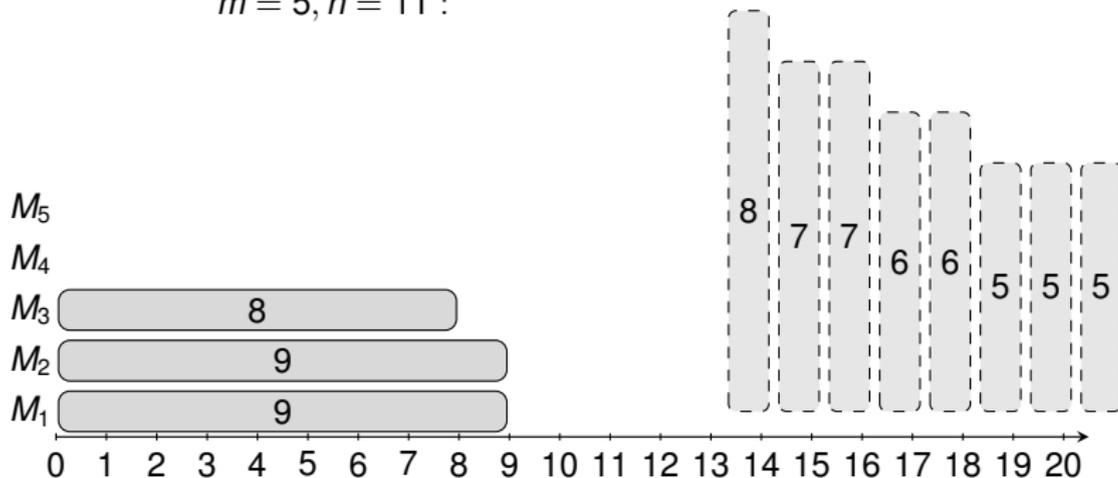
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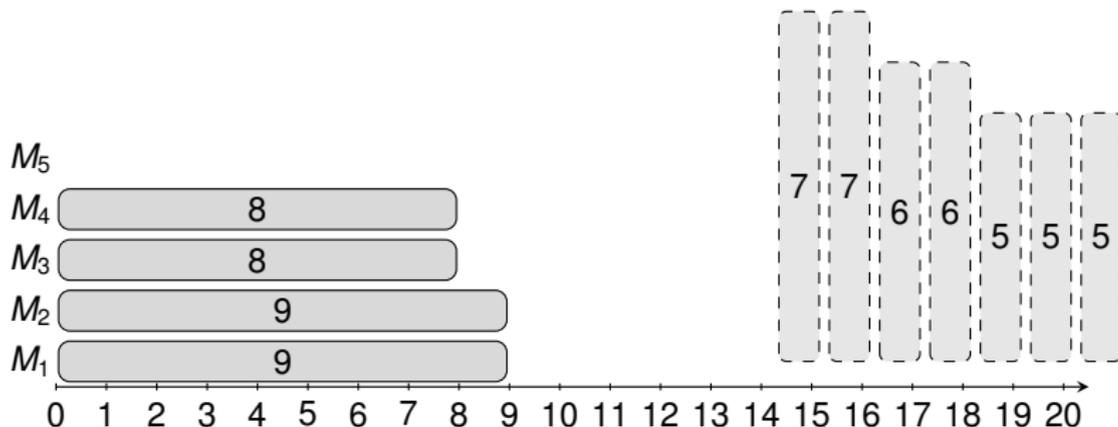
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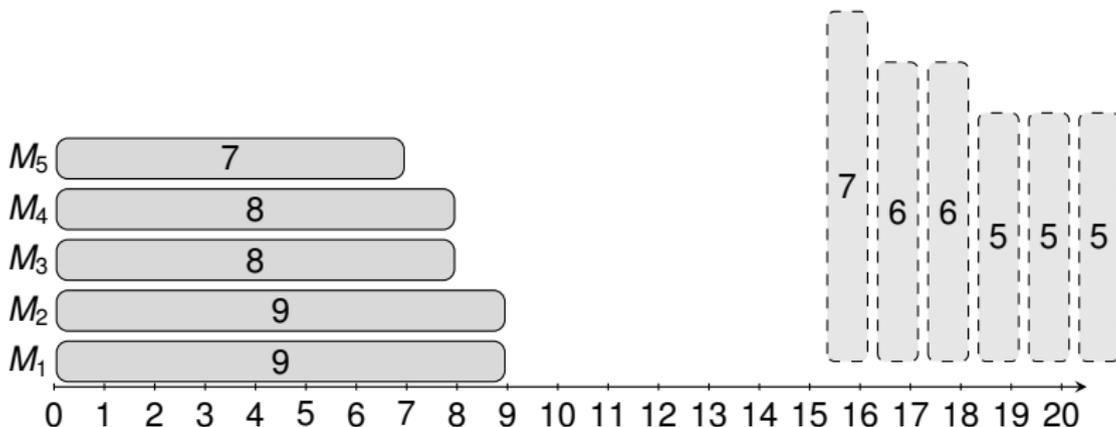
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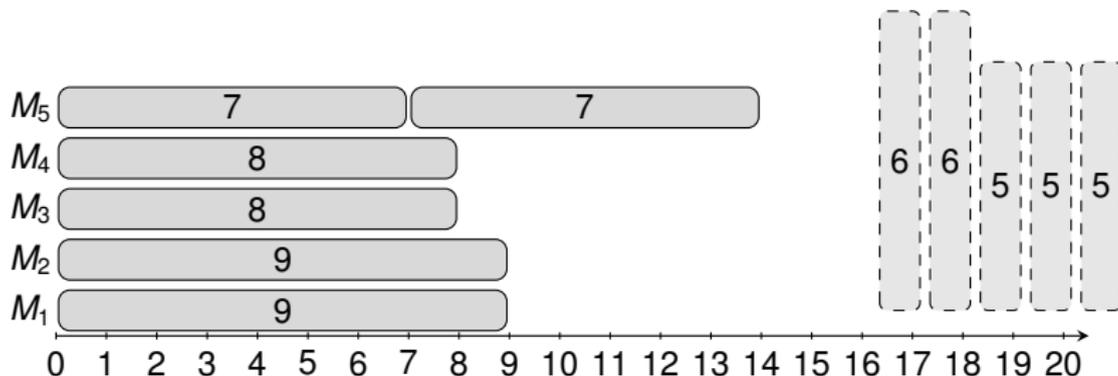
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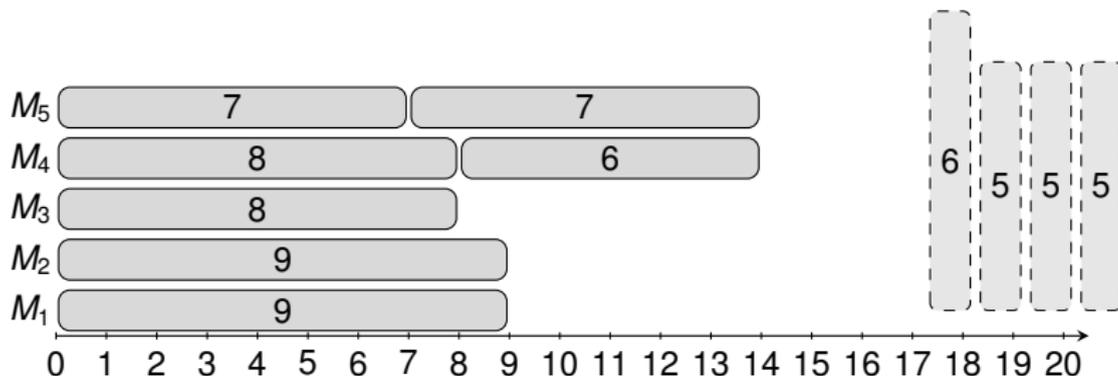
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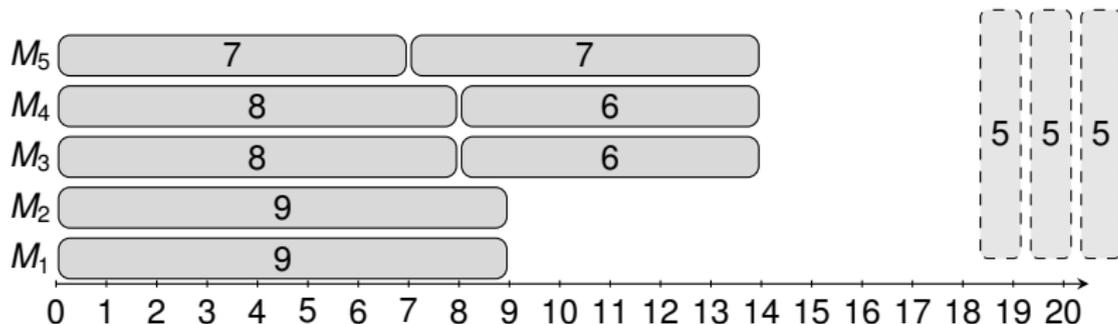
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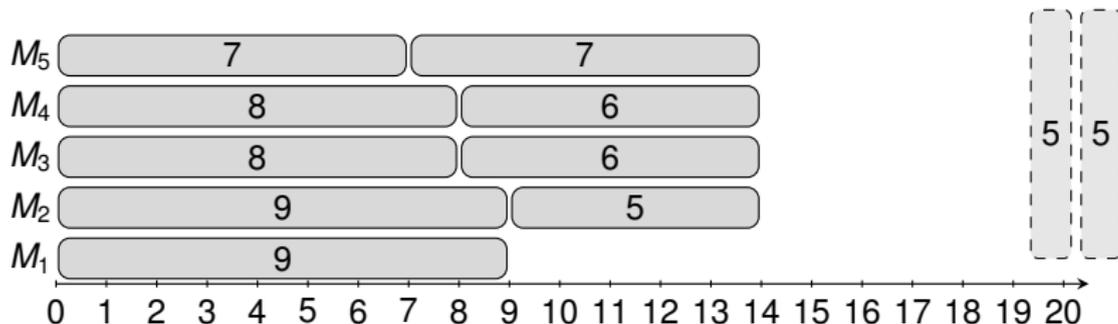
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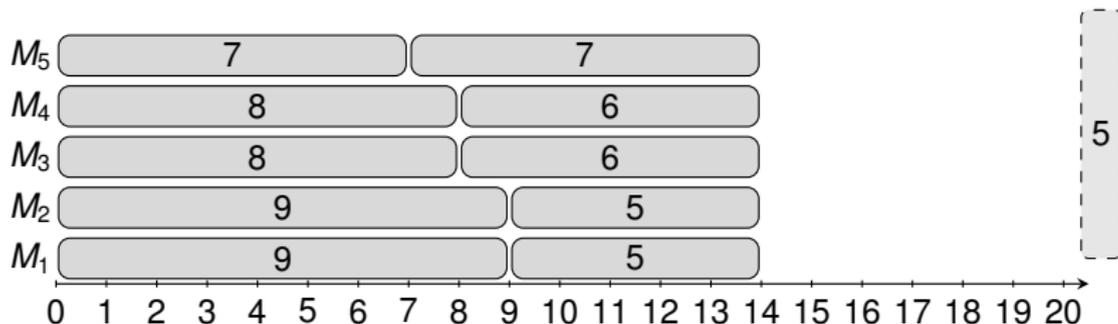
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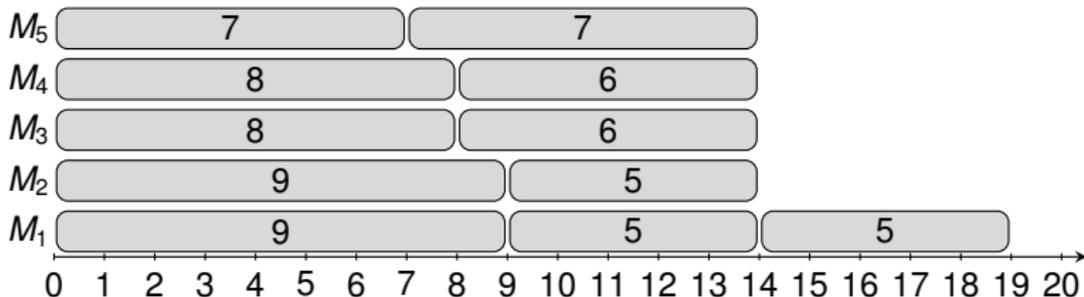
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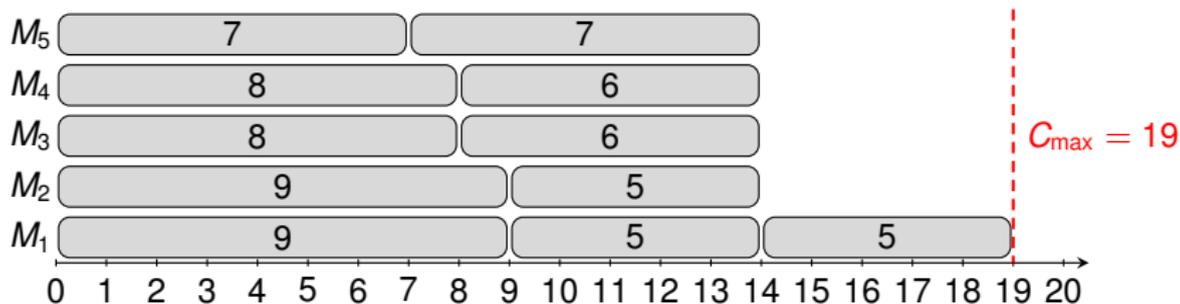
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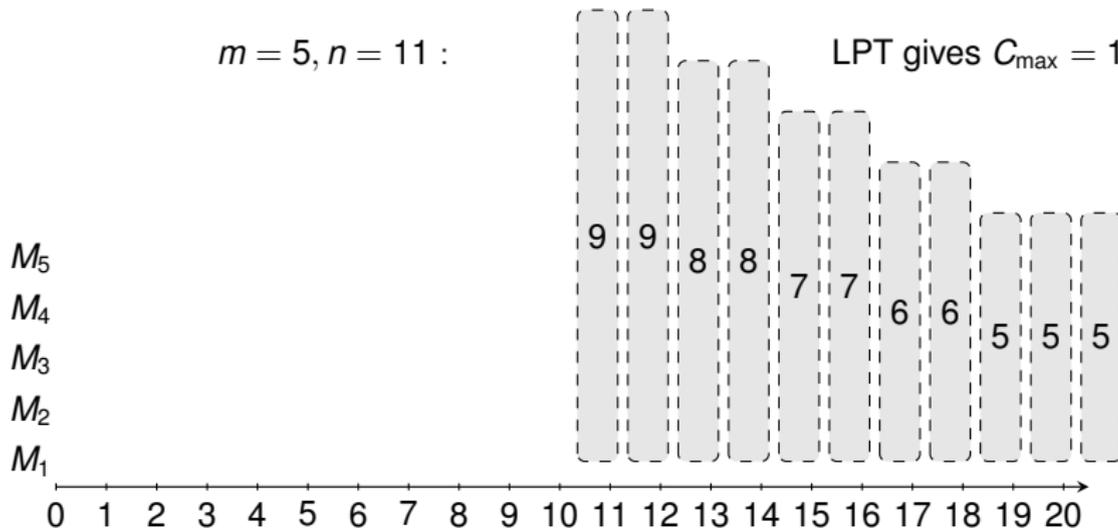
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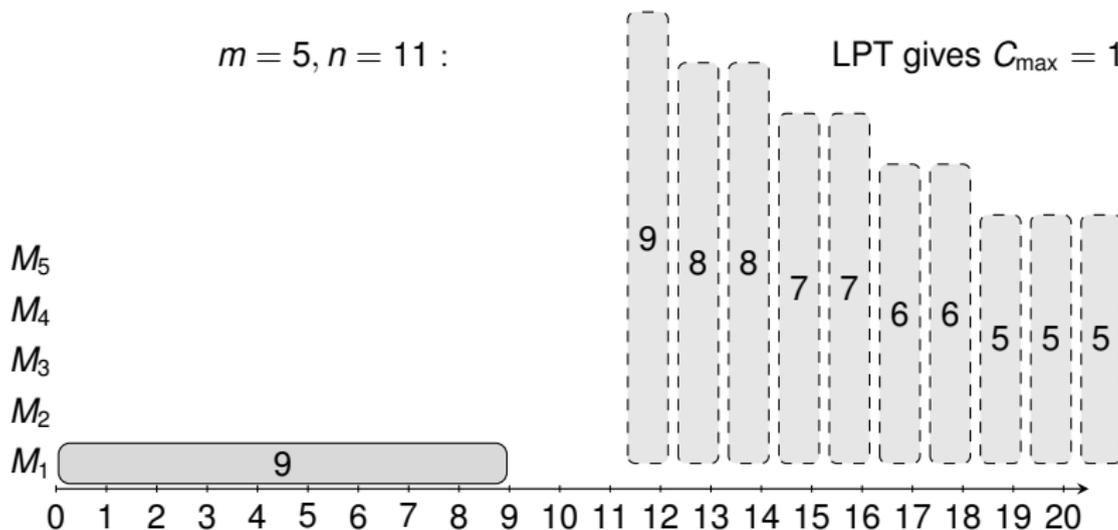
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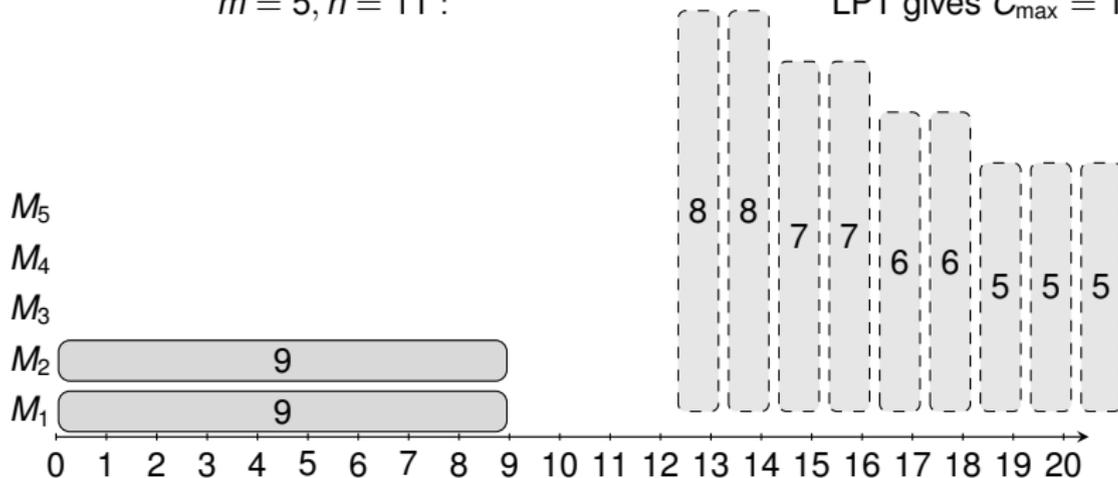
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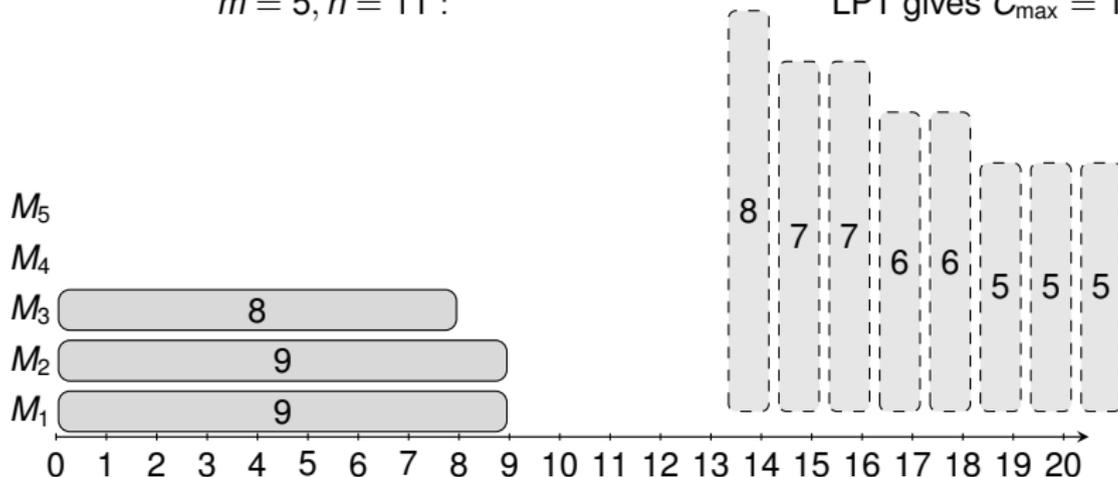
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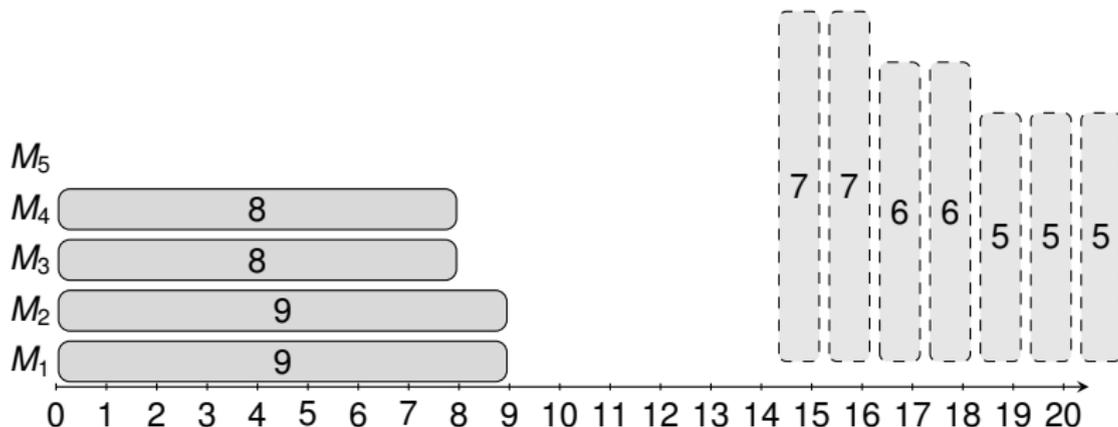
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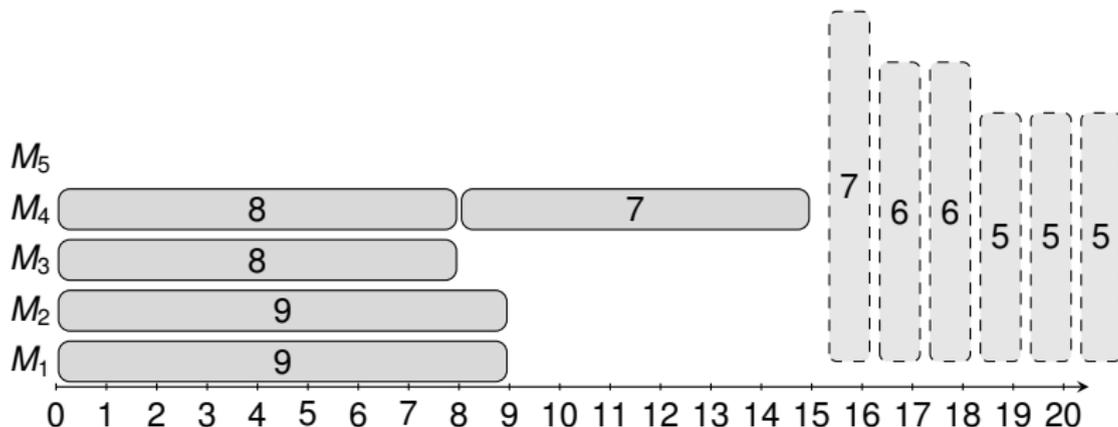
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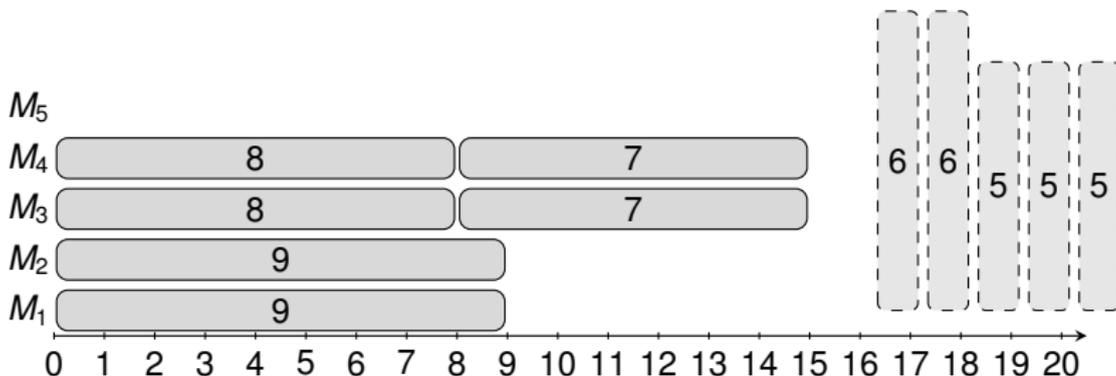
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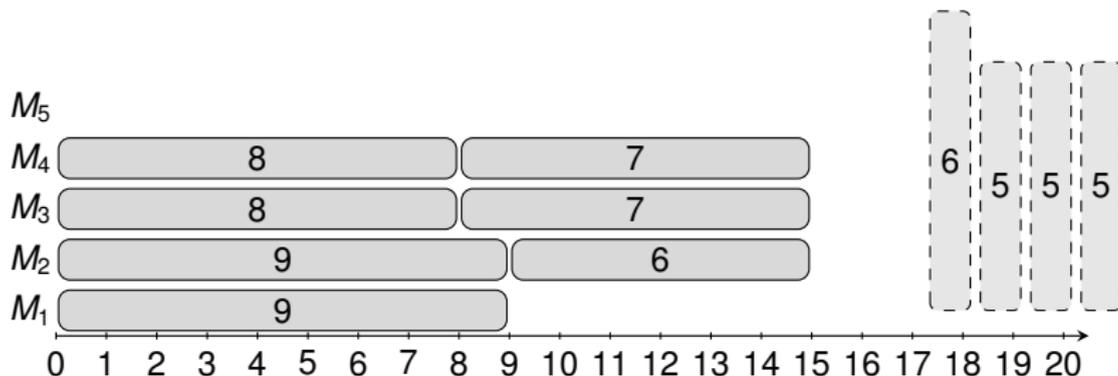
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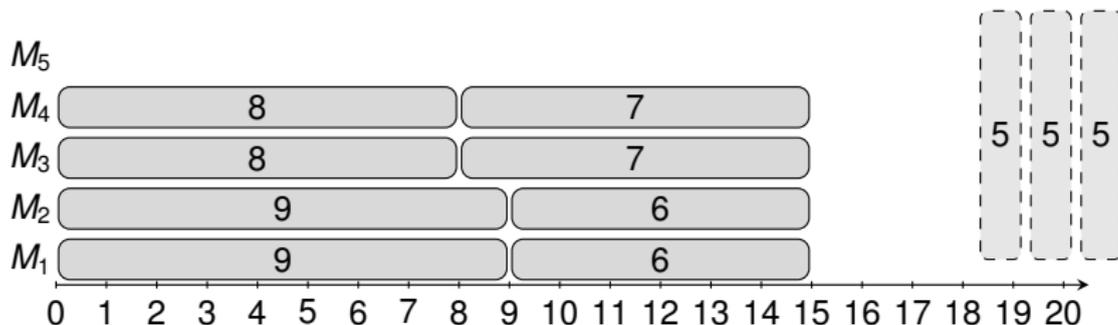
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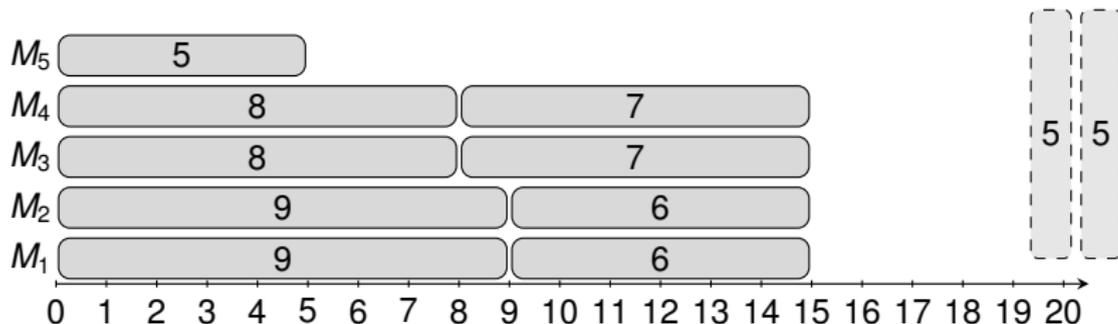
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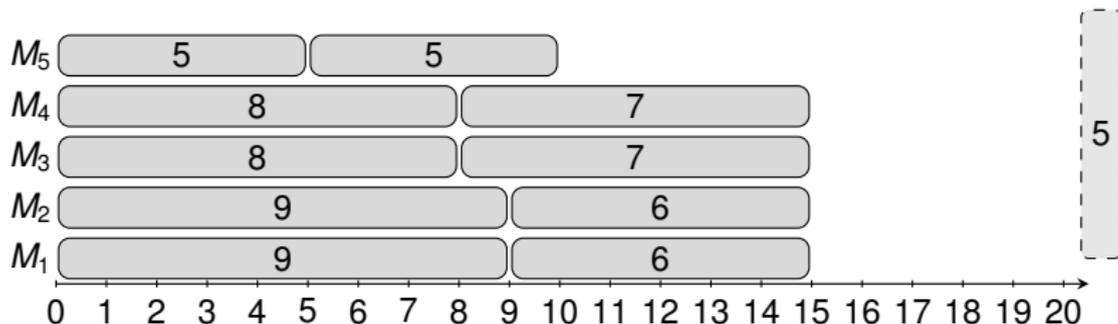
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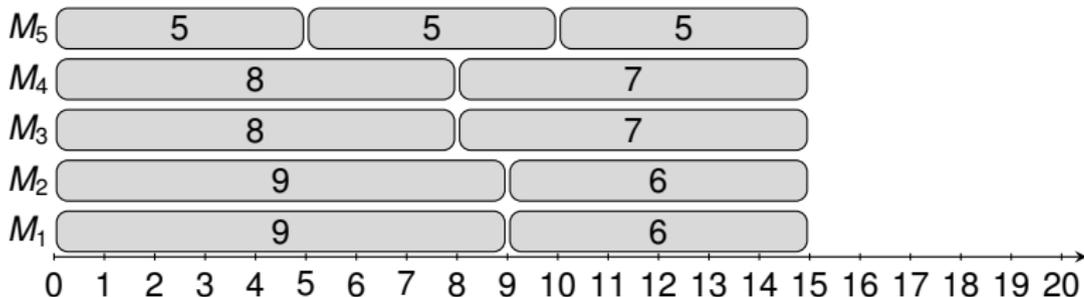
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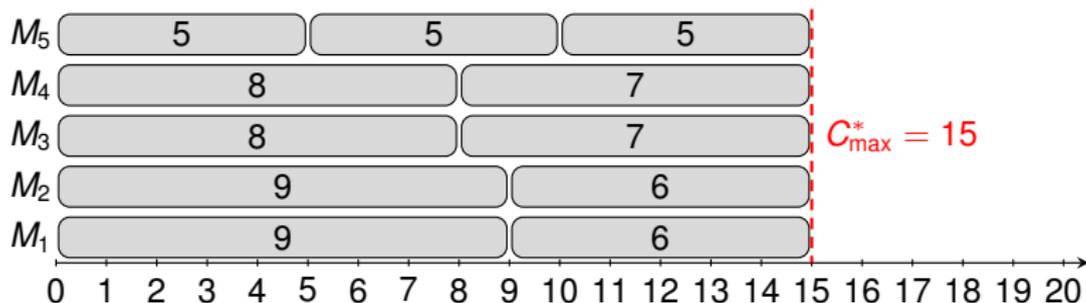
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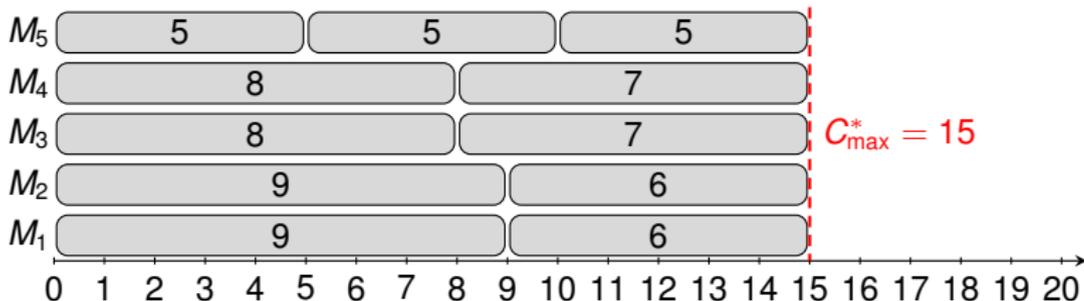
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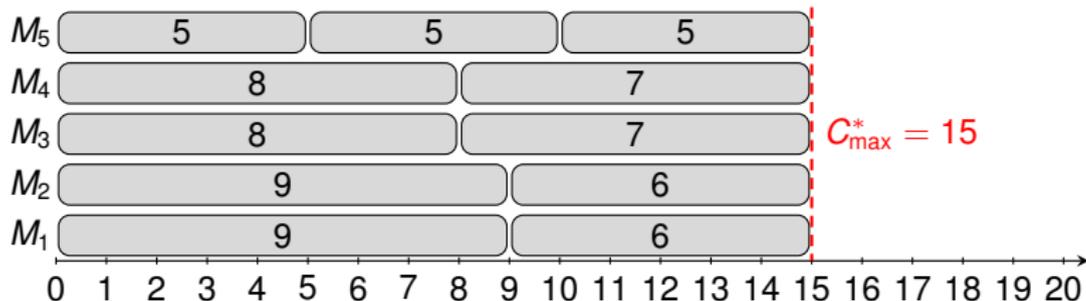
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A PTAS for Parallel Machine Scheduling

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



A PTAS for Parallel Machine Scheduling

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SUBROUTINE($J_1, J_2, \dots, J_n, m, T$)

- 1: Either: **Return** a solution with $C_{\max} \leq (1 + \epsilon) \cdot \max\{T, C_{\max}^*\}$
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SUBROUTINE can be implemented in time $n^{O(1/\epsilon^2)}$.



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Theorem (Hochbaum, Shmoys'87)

There exists a PTAS for Parallel Machine Scheduling which runs in time $O(n^{O(1/\epsilon^2)} \cdot \log P)$, where $P := \sum_{k=1}^n p_k$.



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

Theorem (Hochbaum, Shmoys'87)

There exists a PTAS for Parallel Machine Scheduling which runs in time $O(n^{O(1/\epsilon^2)} \cdot \log P)$, where $P := \sum_{k=1}^n p_k$.

Proof (using Key Lemma):

PTAS(J_1, J_2, \dots, J_n, m)

- 1: Do binary search to find smallest T s.t. $C_{\max} \leq (1 + \epsilon) \cdot \max\{T, C_{\max}^*\}$.
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A PTAS for Parallel Machine Scheduling

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

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Proof of Key Lemma (non-examinable)

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



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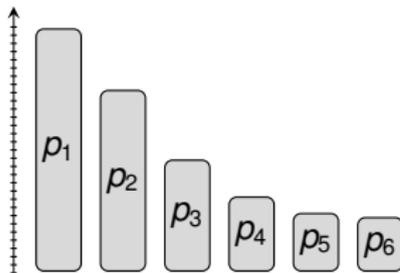
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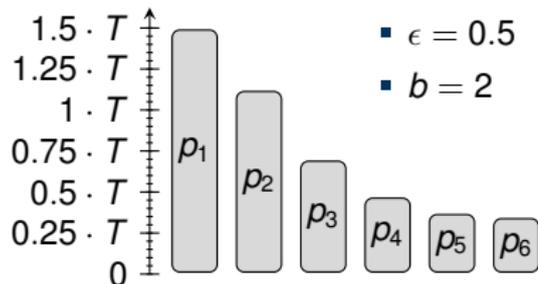
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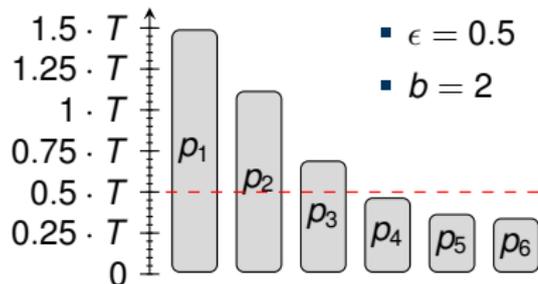
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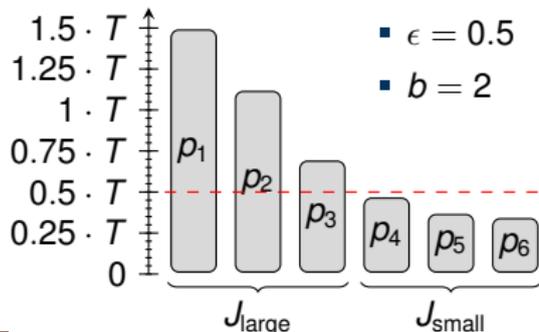
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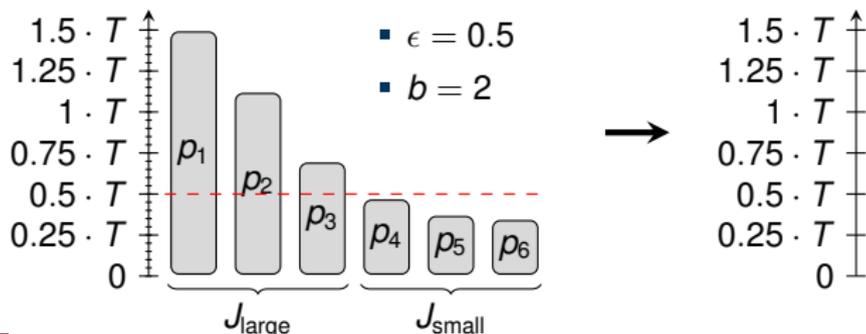
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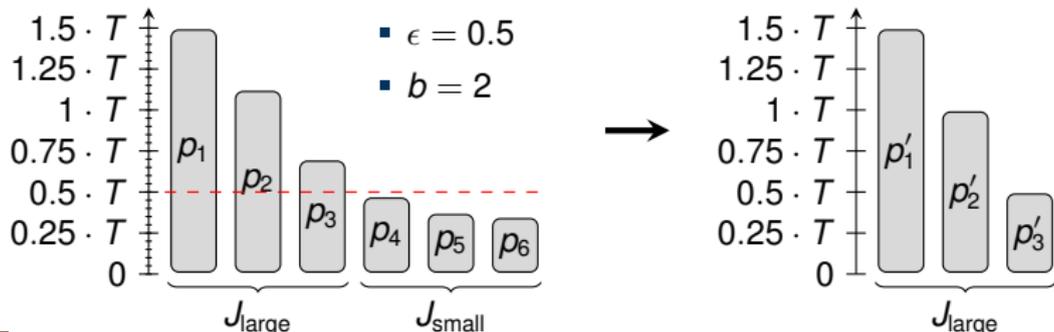
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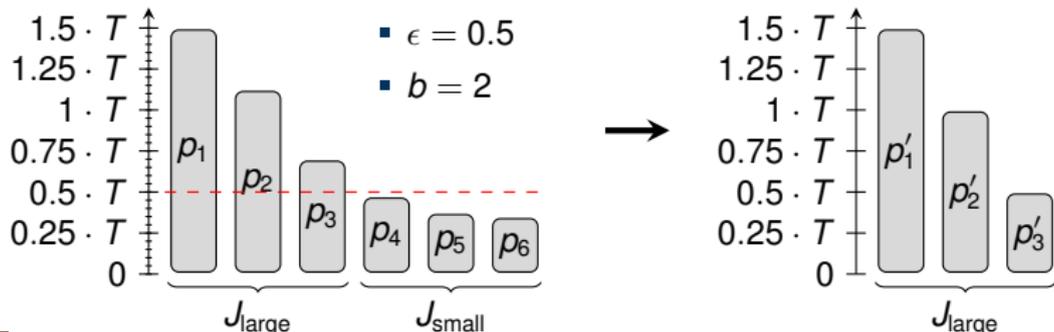
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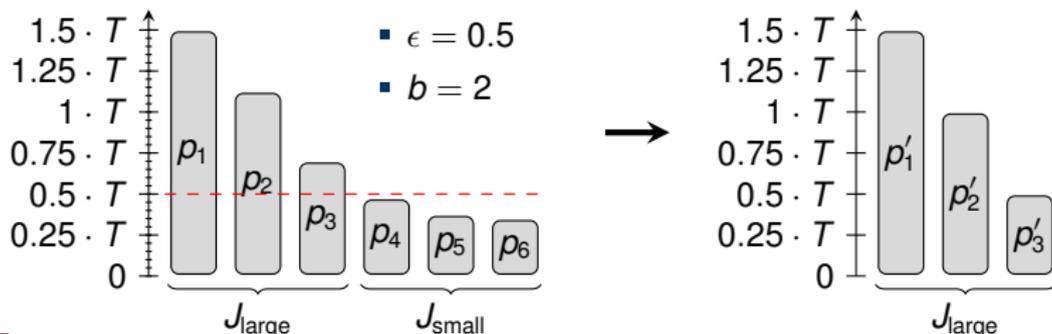
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- \Rightarrow Every $p'_i = \alpha \cdot \frac{T}{b^2}$ for $\alpha = b, b+1, \dots, b^2$ Can assume there are no jobs with $p_j \geq T$!



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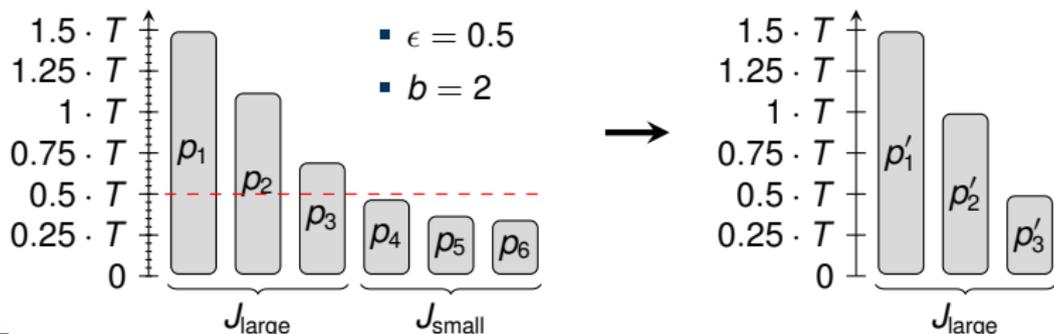
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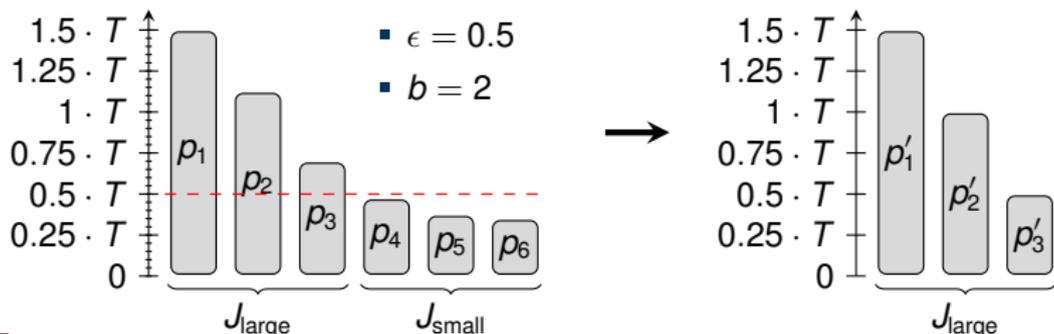
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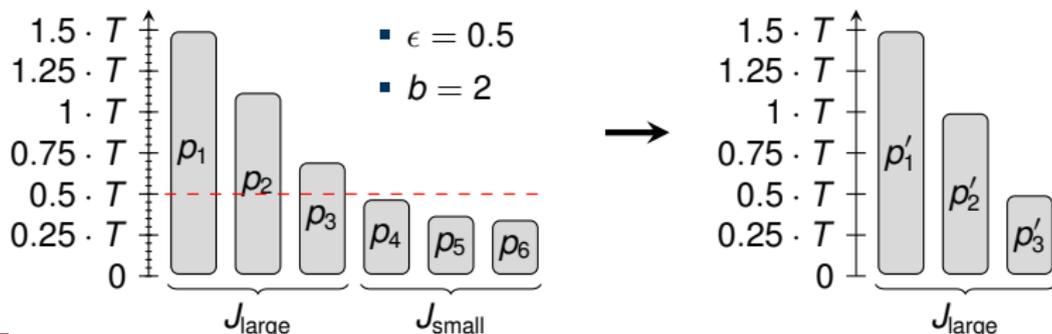


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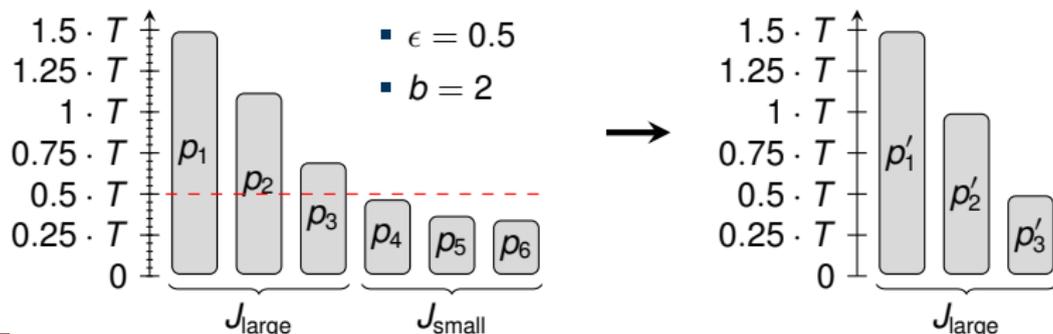
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$$f(n_b, n_{b+1}, \dots, n_{b^2}) = 1 + \min_{(s_b, s_{b+1}, \dots, s_{b^2}) \in \mathcal{C}} f(n_b - s_b, n_{b+1} - s_{b+1}, \dots, n_{b^2} - s_{b^2}).$$



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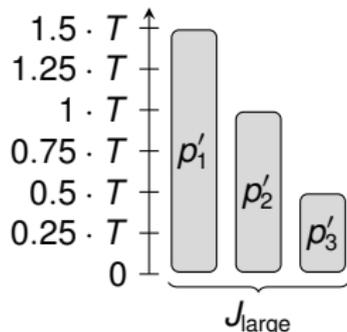
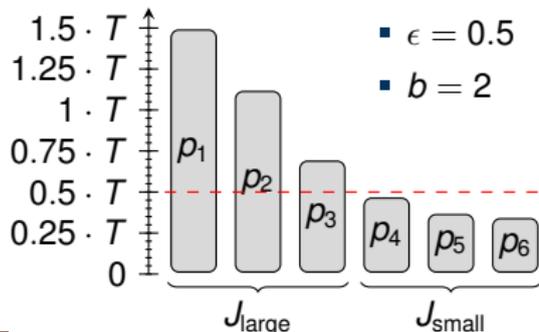
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Assign some jobs to one machine, and then use as few machines as possible for the rest.

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

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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.

