

## Approximation Algorithms



1

## Approximation Algorithms

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

Must sacrifice one of three desired features.

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

$\rho$ -approximation algorithm.

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

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

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

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

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

**Decision Version.** Is the makespan bound by a number  $K$ ?

4

### Load Balancing on 2 Machines

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

**Pf.**  $\text{NUMBER-PARTITION} \leq_p \text{LOAD-BALANCE}$ .

NP-complete



5

### Load Balancing: Greedy Scheduling

**Greedy-scheduling algorithm.**

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

```

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

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

```

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

6

### $\rho$ -approximation

An algorithm for an optimization problem is a  $\rho$ -approximation if the solution found by the algorithm is always within a factor  $\rho$  of the optimal solution.

**Minimization Problem:**  $\rho = \text{approximate-solution/optimal-solution}$

**Maximization Problem:**  $\rho = \text{optimal-solution/approximate-solution}$

In general,  $1 \leq \rho$ . If  $\rho = 1$ , then the solution is optimal.

7

### Load Balancing: Greedy Scheduling Analysis

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

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

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

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

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

**Pf.**

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

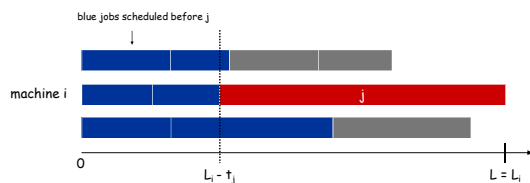
8

### Load Balancing: Greedy Scheduling Analysis

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

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

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



9

### Load Balancing: Greedy Scheduling Analysis

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

$$\begin{aligned} L_i - t_j &\leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_k L_k \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_k t_k \\ \text{Lemma 2} \quad &\leq L^* \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } L_i &= \underbrace{(L_i - t_j)}_{\leq L^*} + \underbrace{t_j}_{\leq L^*} \leq 2L^* \quad \bullet \\ &\quad \uparrow \\ &\quad \text{Lemma 1} \end{aligned}$$

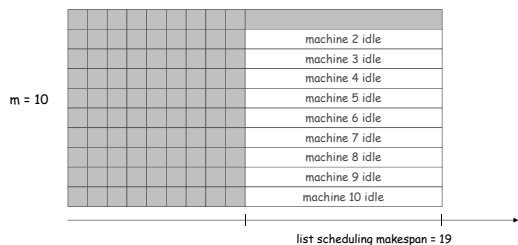
10

### Load Balancing: Greedy Scheduling Analysis

**Q.** Is our analysis tight?

**A.** Essentially yes.

**Ex:**  $m$  machines,  $m(m-1)$  jobs length 1 jobs, one job of length  $m$   
Greedy solution =  $2m-1$ ;



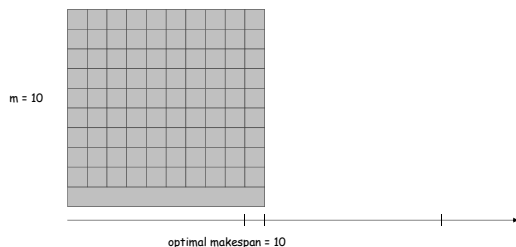
11

### 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  $m$   
• Greedy solution =  $2m-1$ ; Optimal makespan =  $m$ ;  $\rho = 2-1/m$ .



12

### Load Balancing: LPT Rule

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

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

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

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

13

### Load Balancing: LPT Rule

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

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

**Pf.**

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

**Theorem.** LPT rule is a  $3/2$  approximation algorithm.

**Pf.** Same basic approach as for the first greedy scheduling.

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

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

14

### 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 the same algorithm.

**Q.** Is Graham's  $4/3$  analysis tight?

**A.** Essentially yes.

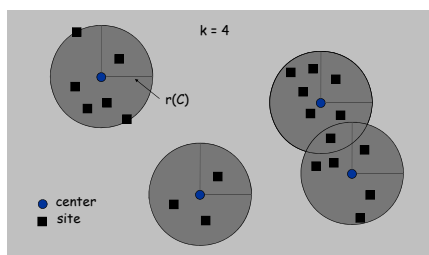
15

## 11.2 Center Selection

### Center Selection Problem

**Input.** Set of  $n$  sites  $s_1, \dots, s_n$  and integer  $k > 0$ .

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



17

### Center Selection Problem

**Input.** Set of  $n$  sites  $s_1, \dots, s_n$  and integer  $k > 0$ .

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

**Notation.**

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

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

**Distance function properties.**

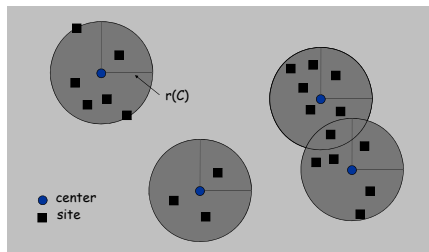
- $\operatorname{dist}(x, x) = 0$  (identity)
- $\operatorname{dist}(x, y) = \operatorname{dist}(y, x)$  (symmetry)
- $\operatorname{dist}(x, y) \leq \operatorname{dist}(x, z) + \operatorname{dist}(z, y)$  (triangle inequality)

18

### Center Selection Example

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

**Remark:** search can be infinite!

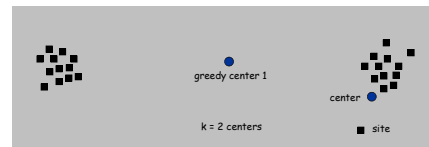


19

### 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!



20

### 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 = { s1 }
    repeat k-1 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.

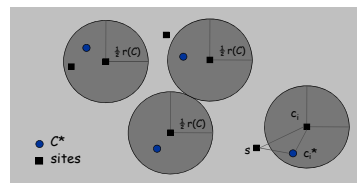
21

### Center Selection: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

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

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

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



22

### Center Selection

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

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

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

e.g., points in the plane

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

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

23

### Center Selection: Hardness of Approximation

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

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

Let  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $k$  be an instance of DOMINATING-SET. — see Exercise 8.29

Construct instance  $G'$  of  $k$ -center with sites  $V$  and distances

- $d(u, v) = 1$  if  $(u, v) \in E$
- $d(u, v) = 2$  if  $(u, v) \notin E$

Note that  $G'$  satisfies the triangle inequality.

**Claim:**  $G$  has dominating set of size  $k$  iff there exists  $k$  centers  $C^*$  with  $r(C^*) = 1$ .

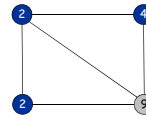
Thus, if  $G$  has a dominating set of size  $k$ , a  $(2 - \epsilon)$ -approximation algorithm on  $G'$  must find a solution  $C^*$  with  $r(C^*) = 1$  since it cannot use any edge of distance 2.

24

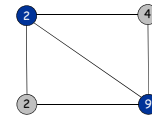
## 11.4 The Pricing Method: Weighted Vertex Cover

### Weighted Vertex Cover

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



weight =  $2 + 2 + 4$



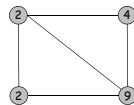
weight = 11

### Pricing Method

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

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

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



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

**Pf.**

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

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

### Pricing Method

**Pricing method.** Set prices and find vertex cover simultaneously.

```

Weighted-Vertex-Cover-Approx( $G, w$ ) {
  foreach  $e$  in  $E$ 
     $p_e = 0$ 
  while ( $\exists$  edge  $i-j$  such that neither  $i$  nor  $j$  are tight)
    select such an edge  $e$ 
    increase  $p_e$  as much as possible until  $i$  or  $j$  tight
  }
   $S \leftarrow$  set of all tight nodes
  return  $S$ 
}

```

### Pricing Method

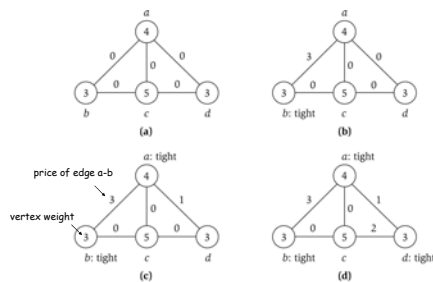


Figure 11.8

### 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  $w(S) \leq 2w(S^*)$ .

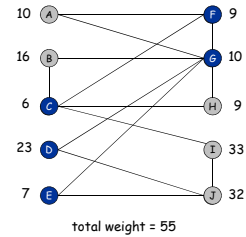
$$w(S) = \sum_{i \in S} w_i = \sum_{i \in S} \sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e \leq \sum_{i \in V} \sum_{e=(i,j)} p_e = 2 \sum_{e \in E} p_e \leq 2w(S^*).$$

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

## 11.6 LP Rounding: Weighted Vertex Cover

### Weighted Vertex Cover

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



### Weighted Vertex Cover: IP Formulation

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

**Integer programming formulation.**

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

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

Vertex covers in 1-1 correspondence with 0/1 assignments:  
 $S = \{i \in V : x_i = 1\}$

- Objective function: minimize  $\sum_i w_i x_i$ .
- For each edge  $(i, j)$ , must take either  $i$  or  $j$ :  $x_i + x_j \geq 1$ .

### Weighted Vertex Cover: IP Formulation

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

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

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

### Integer Programming

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

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & c^T x \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax \geq b \\ & x \text{ integral} \end{aligned}$$

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

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

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.

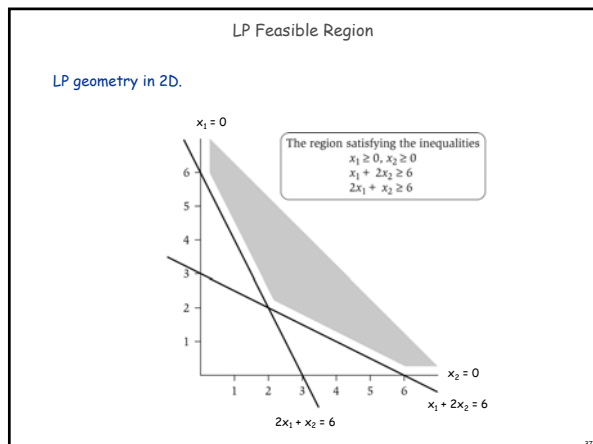
- Input: integers  $c_j, b_i, a_{ij}$ .
- Output: **real numbers**  $x_j$ .

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

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

**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.



Weighted Vertex Cover: LP Relaxation

Weighted vertex cover. Linear programming formulation.

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

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.

38

Weighted Vertex Cover

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

Pf. [S is a vertex cover]

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

Pf. [S has desired cost]

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

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

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

39

Weighted Vertex Cover

Theorem. 2-approximation algorithm for weighted vertex cover.

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

Open research problem. Close the gap.

40

## 11.8 Knapsack Problem

Polynomial Time Approximation Scheme

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

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

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

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

42

## 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

43

## Knapsack is NP-Complete

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

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

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

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

**Claim.** SUBSET-SUM  $\leq_p$  KNAPSACK.

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

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

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

44

## Knapsack Problem: Dynamic Programming I

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

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

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

**Running time.**  $O(nW)$ .

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

45

## Knapsack Problem: Dynamic Programming II

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

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

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

46

## Knapsack: PTAS

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

$i = 0$  or  $v = 0$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	0															
2	0															
3	0															
4	0															
5	0															

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	3	5
4	4	6
5	6	7

W = 11

47

## Knapsack: PTAS

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

$i = 1, v = \dots$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	0															
3	0															
4	0															
5	0															

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	3	5
4	4	6
5	6	7

W = 11

48



Knapsack: PTAS

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

$i = 2, v = \dots$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	0	1	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	0															
4	0															
5	0															

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	3	5
4	4	6
5	6	7

W = 11

Knapsack: PTAS

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

$i = 3, v = \dots$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	0	1	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	0	1	3	5	6	8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	0															
5	0															

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	3	5
4	4	6
5	6	7

W = 11

Knapsack: PTAS

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

$i = 4, v = \dots$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	0	1	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	0	1	3	5	6	8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	0	1	3	5	6	7	9	11	12	14	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	0															

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	3	5
4	4	6
5	6	7

W = 11

Knapsack: PTAS

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

$i = 5, v = \dots$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1	0	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	0	1	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	0	1	3	5	6	8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	0	1	3	5	6	7	9	11	12	14	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	0	1	3	5	6	7	7	8	10	12	13	14	16	18	19	21

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	3	5
4	4	6
5	6	7

W = 11

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

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

$V^* \leq n \cdot V_{\max}$

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

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

Knapsack: PTAS

**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	934,221	1
2	5,956,342	2
3	17,810,013	5
4	21,217,800	6
5	27,343,199	7

W = 11

original instance

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

W = 11

rounded instance

# Knapsack: PTAS

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

- $v_{\max}$  = largest value in original instance
- $\varepsilon$  = precision parameter
- $\theta$  = 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

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

55

# Knapsack: PTAS

**Knapsack PTAS.** 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 an optimal solution of the original problem, then  $(1+\varepsilon) \sum_{i \in S} v_i \geq \sum_{i \in S^*} v_i$

**Pf.** Let  $S^*$  be an optimal solution satisfying weight constraint.

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

56