

(a) Let  $\{w_1, w_2, w_3\} = \{1, 2, 1\}$ , and  $K = 2$ . Then the greedy algorithm here will use three trucks, whereas there is a way to use just two.

(b) Let  $W = \sum_i w_i$ . Note that in *any* solution, each truck holds at most  $K$  units of weight, so  $W/K$  is a lower bound on the number of trucks needed.

Suppose the number of trucks used by our greedy algorithm is an odd number  $m = 2q + 1$ . (The case when  $m$  is even is essentially the same, but a little easier.) Divide the trucks used into consecutive groups of two, for a total of  $q + 1$  groups. In each group but the last, the total weight of containers must be *strictly* greater than  $K$  (else, the second truck in the group would not have been started then) — thus,  $W > qK$ , and so  $W/K > q$ . It follows by our argument above that the optimum solution uses at least  $q + 1$  trucks, which is within a factor of 2 of  $m = 2q + 1$ .