

One way to do this works as follows: When each job arrives, we put it on the machine that currently ends the soonest. (Note that this determination involves taking into account the speeds of the machines.)

To give a bound on this algorithm, we first give some lower bounds on the optimum makespan  $T^*$ . The total time of all jobs is  $\sum_j t_j$ . Let

$$t = \frac{\sum_j t_j}{m + 2k}.$$

If jobs could be assigned to machines so that each slow machine had a set of jobs summing to less than  $t$ , and each fast machine had a set of jobs summing to less than  $2t$ , then we would have

$$\sum_j t_j < mt + 2kt = \sum_j t_j,$$

a contradiction. Thus, some machine runs for at least  $t$  time units, and hence

$$T^* \geq \frac{\sum_j t_j}{m + 2k}.$$

Also, we have

$$T^* \geq \frac{1}{2}t_j,$$

for every job  $j$ , since at best it runs on one of the fast machines.

Let  $M(r)$  denote the set of jobs assigned to machine  $r$ . Consider a machine  $i$  that achieves the makespan, and let  $j$  be the last job to go on it. Let  $x$  denote the time it uses for all jobs before  $j$ . (This means that  $\sum_{j \in M(i)} t_j$  is equal to  $x$  if it's a slow machine, and it is equal to  $2x$  if it's a fast machine.) Then at the moment  $j$  is added, every slow machine  $s$  has  $\sum_{j \in M(s)} t_j \geq x$ , and every fast machine  $f$  has  $\sum_{j \in M(f)} t_j \geq 2x$ . Thus we have  $\sum_j t_j \geq mx + 2kx$ , and hence  $T^* \geq x$ . Also,  $2T^* \geq t_j$ .

Since the makespan is achieved by  $i$ , it is at most  $x + t_j \leq T^* + 2T^* = 3T^*$ .

An alternate solution is to simply sort the jobs in decreasing order of size, and then run the Greedy-Balance algorithm as though all machines were slow. We know from the chapter that this would give a  $\frac{3}{2}$ -approximation if all machines really were slow. However, we are comparing to the optimum as though all its machines are slow; in reality, the optimum's makespan might be half as large as we think, since some of its machines are fast. Thus, this gives a 3-approximation.

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<sup>1</sup>ex829.220.704