

Condition

	M1	M2	M3
Pro A	a ₁	a ₂	a ₃
Pro B	b ₁	b ₂	b ₃

$$\max\{M2\text{ processtime}\} \leq \min\{M1, M3\text{ process time}\}$$

Proof

Show that under the above condition, we can apply Johnson's algorithm by converting the 3-machine problem into a 2-machine problem using pseudo-machines:

- **F1 = M1 + M2**
- **F2 = M2 + M3**

Total lead time when scheduling A → B

$$T_{A \rightarrow B} = a_1 + b_3 + \max\{(b_1 + b_2), (a_2 + b_2), (a_2 + a_3)\}$$

Since:

$$\max\{M2\text{ process time}\} \leq \min\{M1, M3\text{ process time}\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \min\{(b_1 + b_2), (a_2 + b_2), (a_2 + a_3)\} = (a_2 + b_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_{A \rightarrow B} = a_1 + b_3 + \max\{(b_1 + b_2), (a_2 + a_3)\}$$

Assume $T_{A \rightarrow B}$ is shorter:

Then $T_{A \rightarrow B} \leq T_{B \rightarrow A}$

$$\Rightarrow a_1 + b_3 + \max\{(b_1 + b_2), (a_2 + a_3)\} \leq b_1 + a_3 + \max\{(a_1 + a_2), (b_2 + b_3)\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \max\{-(b_1 + b_2), -(a_2 + a_3)\} \leq \max\{-(a_1 + a_2), -(b_2 + b_3)\}$$

$$\Rightarrow -\min\{(b_1 + b_2), (a_2 + a_3)\} \leq -\min\{(a_1 + a_2), (b_2 + b_3)\}$$

$$\Rightarrow -\min\{(b_1 + b_2), (a_2 + a_3)\} \leq -\min\{(a_1 + a_2), (b_2 + b_3)\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \min\{(b_1 + b_2), (a_2 + a_3)\} \geq \min\{(a_1 + a_2), (b_2 + b_3)\}$$

\Longleftrightarrow Process time of $(a_1 + a_2)$ or $(b_2 + b_3)$ is shortest

Thus, by Johnson's algorithm:

If the front ($F1 = M1+M2$) is smaller \rightarrow place early

If the back ($F2 = M2+M3$) is smaller \rightarrow place later

the 3-machine problem can be reduced to a 2-machine pseudo problem