

A photograph of a night sky filled with stars. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a tree's branches reaches across the frame. Below the tree, a white lighthouse stands on a rocky outcrop, its light illuminating the surrounding area. The sky is a deep, dark blue-grey, dotted with numerous stars.

the MILP way

a practical view

Sophie Demassey

planning scheduling packing allocation
assignment routing cover design
sizing

practical decision is combinatorial optimization



fast

based on LP + enumeration
+ advanced features

declarative

create the model,
apply a solver

generic & specific

algorithms

MILP perks

optimality
primal-dual bounds

expressive

logic, nonlinear, discrete
many decision problems

flexible

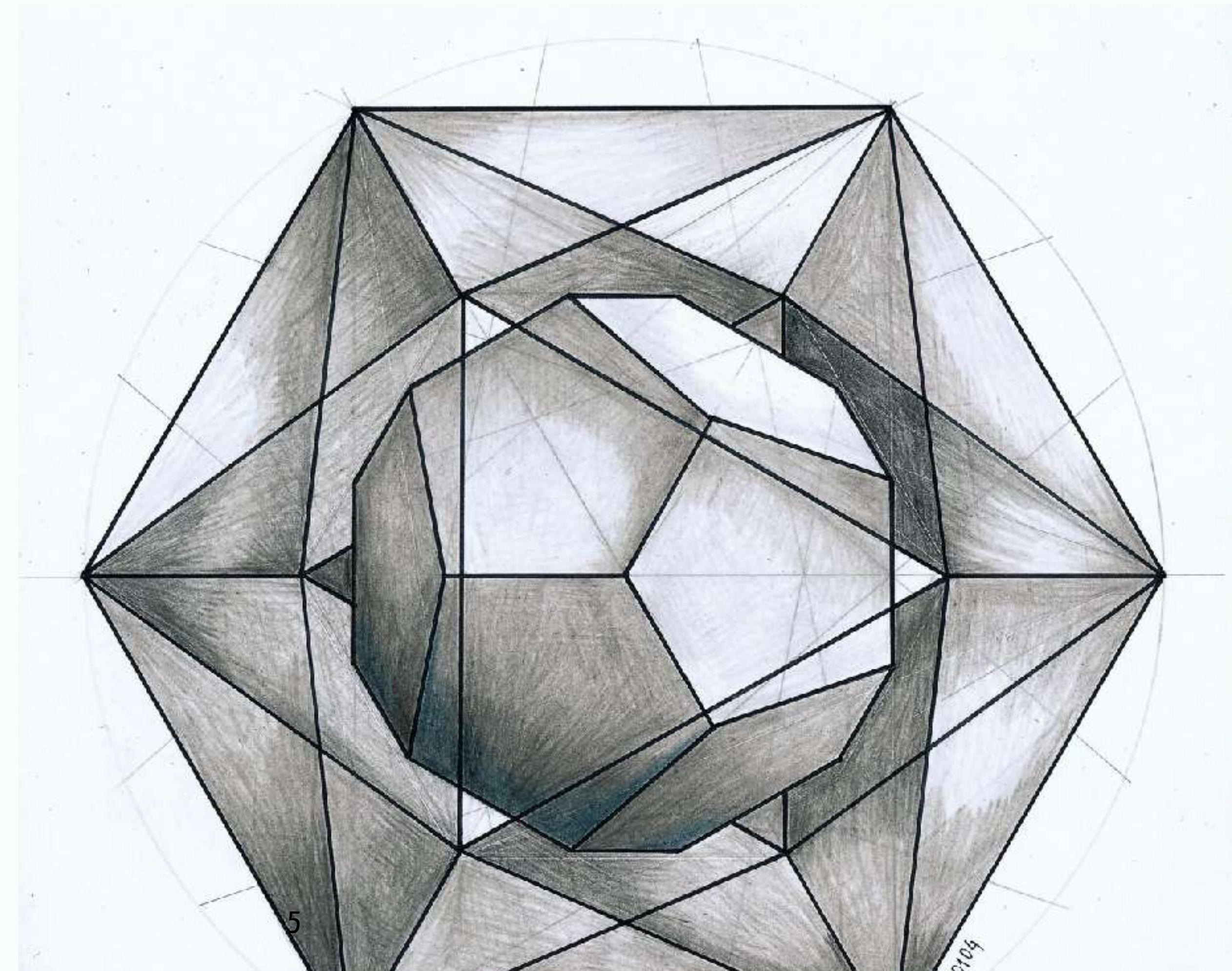
change the model,
not the solver

1 how to model ?
techniques & applications

2 how difficult ?
complexity & distance to LP

3 how to solve ?
main techniques & modern solvers
decomposition methods

1 how to model?



Mixed Integer Linear Program

$$\min cx$$

$$Ax \geq b$$

$$x \in \mathbb{Z}^p \times \mathbb{R}^{n-p}$$

$$c \in \mathbb{R}^n, A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

objective

linear constraints

integrity constraints

right hand side

cost vector

solution space

feasible set

$$cx$$

$$Ax \geq b$$

$$x_j \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$b$$

$$c$$

$$\mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\{x \in \mathbb{Z}^p \times \mathbb{R}^{n-p} \mid Ax \geq b\}$$



~~true¹ or false⁰~~

- select item j $x_j = 1, x_j \in \{0,1\}$
- associate item j to resource i $x_{ij} = 1, x_{ij} \in \{0,1\}$
- variable $y \geq 0$ greater than constant a ? $y \geq ax, x \in \{0,1\}$
- select at most n items $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \{0,1\}$



Integer Knapsack Problem

$$\max \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{j=1}^n w_j x_j \leq K$$

$$x_j \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$j = 1..n$$

Input n items, value c_j and weight w_j for each item j , capacity K .

Output a maximum value subset of items whose total weight does not exceed K .

x_j is item j packed ?

logic with binaries

x,y binary variables; f continuous variable; a, k, n constants

- either x or y
- if x then y
- if x then $f \leq a$
- at most 1 out of n
- at least k out of n

$$x + y = 1$$

$$y \geq x$$

$$f \leq ax + M(1 - x)$$

“big M”

big enough but
keep it tight!

logic with binaries

x,y binary variables; f continuous variable; a, k, n constants

- either x or y

$$x + y = 1$$

- if x then y

$$y \geq x$$

- if x then $f \leq a$

$$f \leq ax + M(1 - x)$$

- at most 1 out of n

$$x_1 + \cdots + x_n \leq 1$$

- at least k out of n

$$x_1 + \cdots + x_n \geq k$$



Uncapacitated Facility Location Problem

$$\min \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j + \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^m d_{ij} y_{ij}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{j=1}^n y_{ij} = 1 \quad i = 1..m$$

$$y_{ij} \leq x_j \quad j = 1..n, i = 1..m$$

$$x_j \in \{0, 1\} \quad j = 1..n$$

$$y_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \quad j = 1..n, i = 1..m$$

Input n facility locations, m customers, cost c_j to open facility j , cost d_{ij} to serve customer i from facility j
Output a minimum (opening and service) cost assignment of customers to facilities.

x_j is location j open ? y_{ij} is customer i served from j ?



K-median clustering

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij} y_{ij}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{j=1}^n y_{ij} = 1 \quad i = 1..n$$

$$y_{ij} \leq x_j \quad i, j = 1..n$$

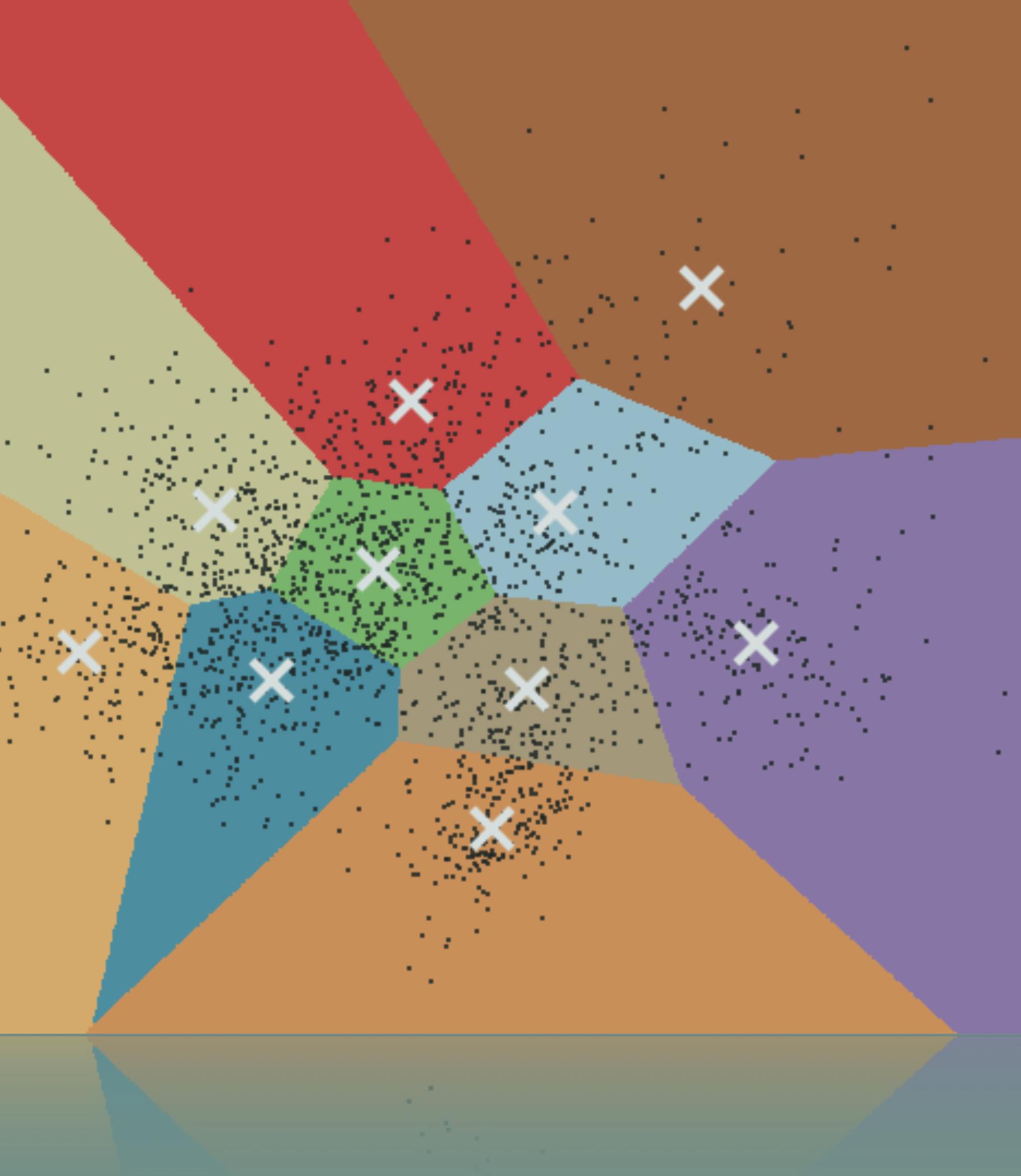
$$\sum_{j=1}^n x_j = k$$

$$y_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, x_j \in \{0, 1\} \quad i, j = 1..n$$

Input n data points, distance d_{ij} between each two points i, j , number k of clusters.

Output k centers minimizing the sum of distances between each point and its nearest center.

x_j is j a center ? y_{ij} is j the nearest center of i ?



Input n data points $m_j \in \mathbb{R}^p$, a number K of clusters. Euclidean distance.

K-median clustering

Output define K points as centers so as to minimize the sum of the distances between each point and its nearest center.

K-mean clustering

Output partition the points into K sets so as to minimize the sum of the distances between each point and the mean of points in its cluster.

K-mean clustering

cannot precompute the distance to the centers anymore: modeled with nonlinear constraints

x_{jk} is j assigned to cluster k ?

y_k coordinates of the center of k ?

d_{jk} distance from j to the center of k ?

$$\min \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^n x_{jk} d_{jk}$$

$$s.t. \boxed{d_{jk} = \sum_{i=1}^p (m_j^i - y_k^i)^2 \quad \forall j, k}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^K x_{jk} = 1 \quad \forall j$$

$$x_{jk} \in \{0,1\}, y_k^i \in \mathbb{R}, d_{jk} \geq 0$$

non
convex

K-mean clustering

x_{jk} is j assigned to cluster k ?

y_k coordinates of the center of k ?

d_{jk} distance from j to the center of its cluster k ?

$$\min \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^n d_{jk}$$

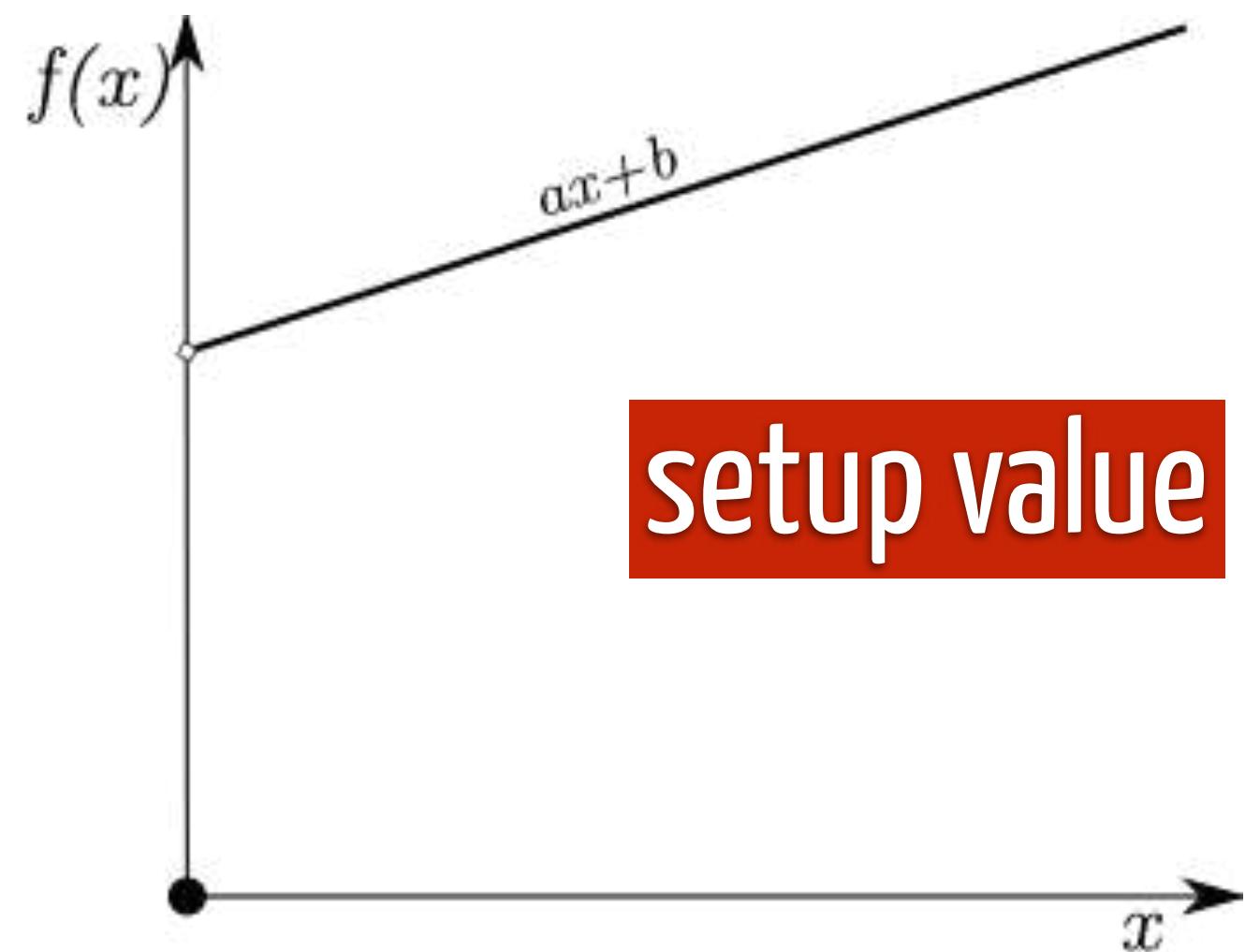
$$s.t. \boxed{d_{jk} \geq \sum_{i=1}^p (m_j^i - y_k^i)^2 - \bar{d}_{jk}(1 - x_{jk}) \quad \forall j, k}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^K x_{jk} = 1 \quad \forall j$$

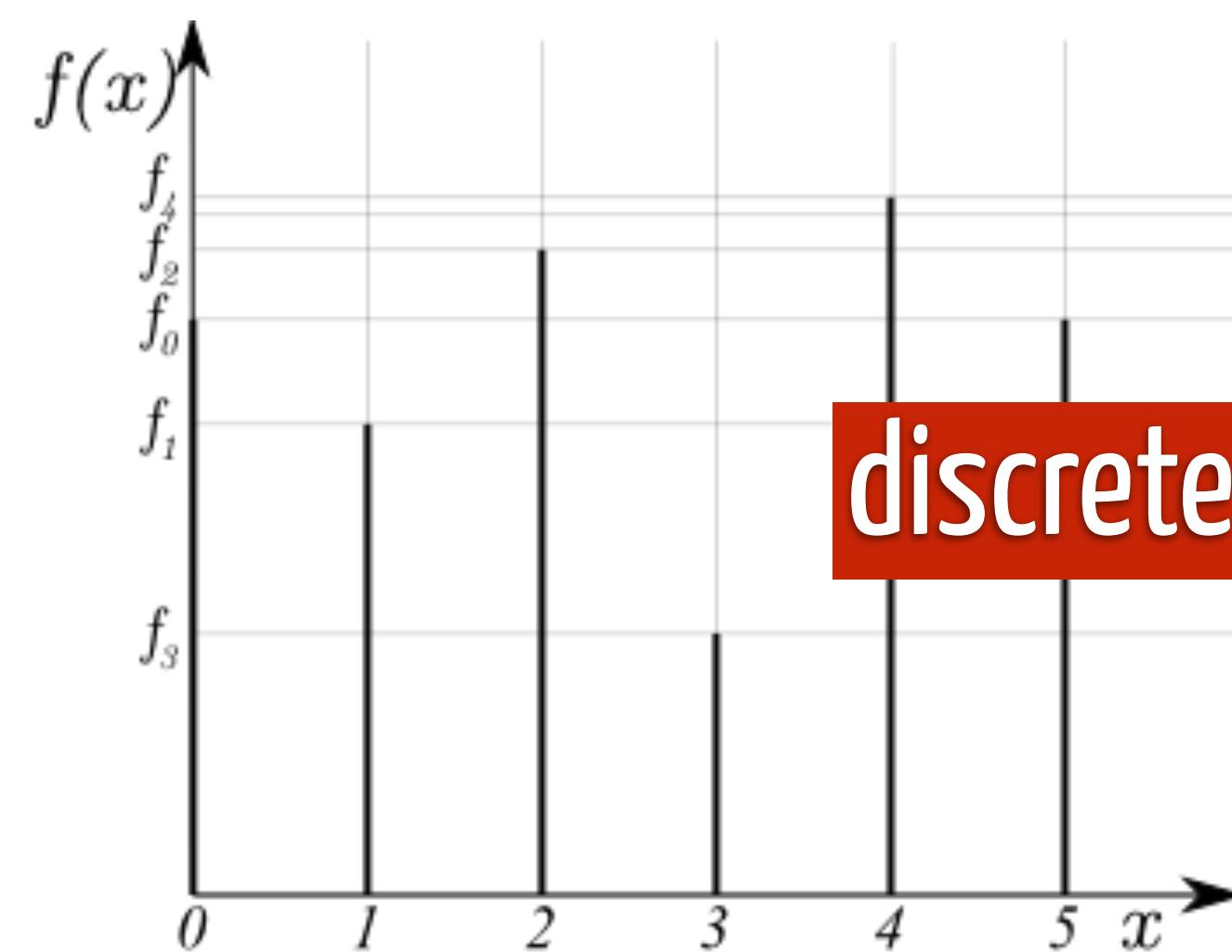
$$x_{jk} \in \{0,1\}, y_k^i \in \mathbb{R}, d_{jk} \geq 0$$

convexify the nonlinear constraints using big-M (optimization is still nonconvex because of integrality)

non-linear functions

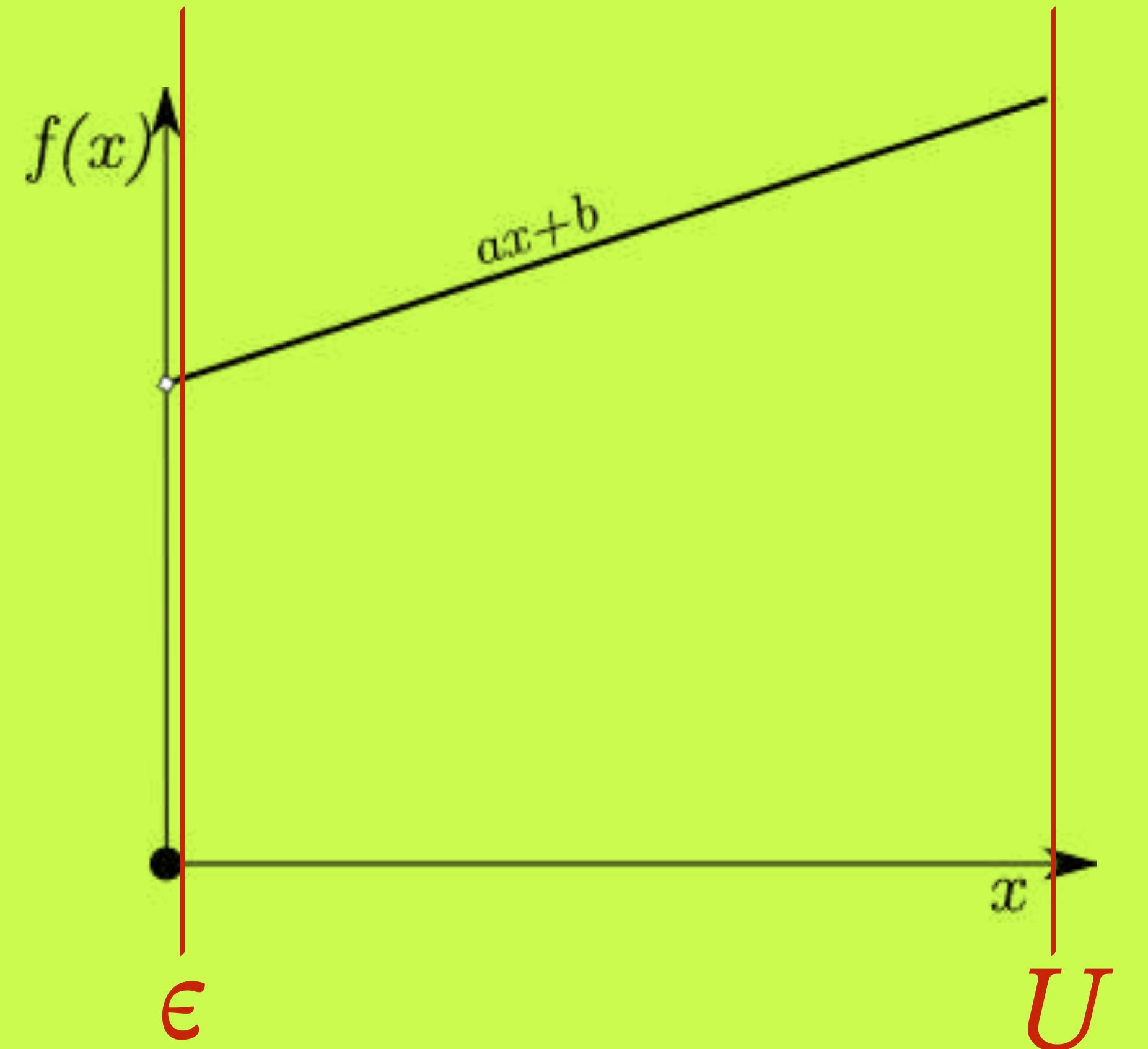


setup value



discrete values





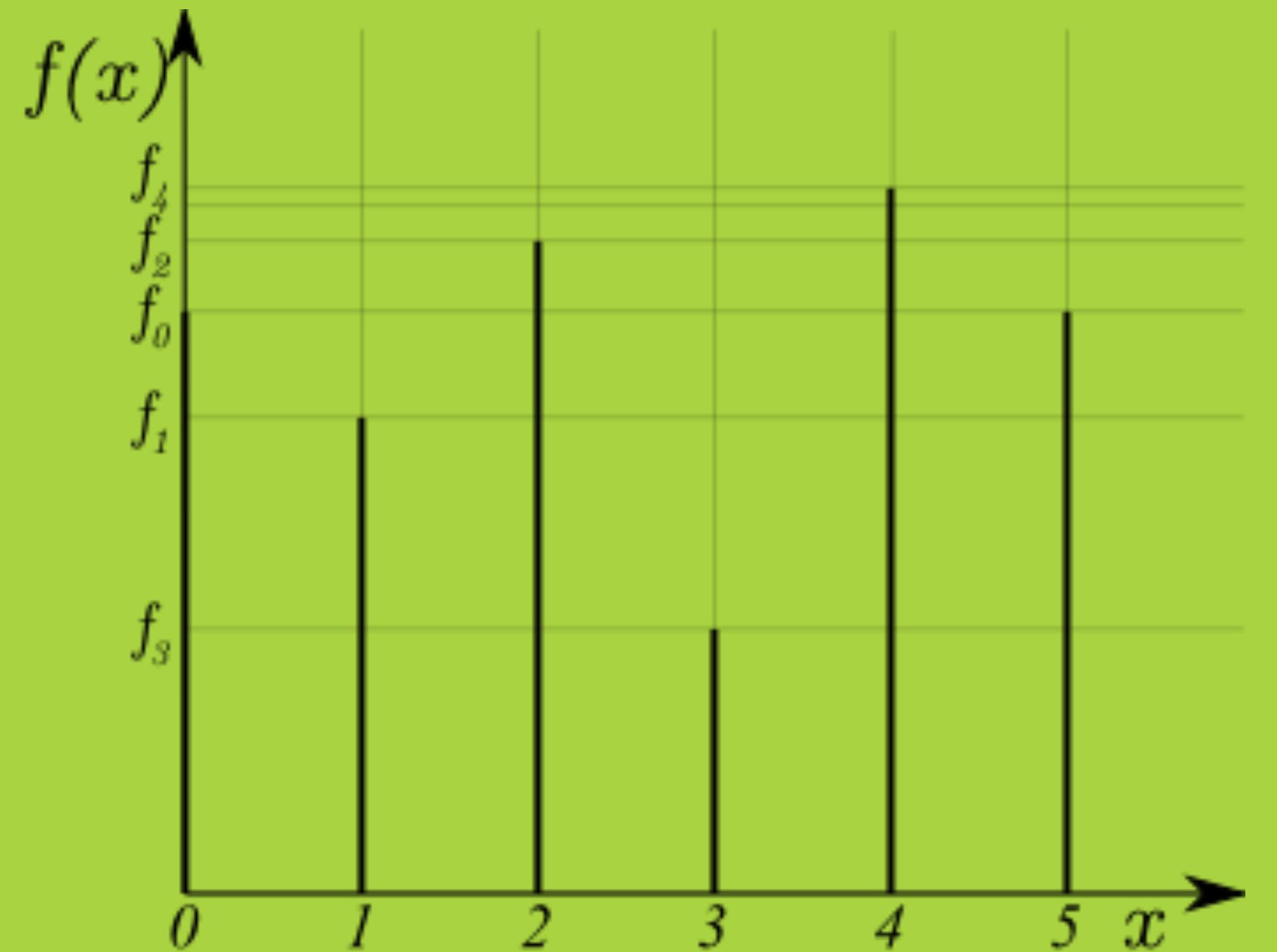
δ is x positive ?

setup value

$$f(x) = ax + b\delta$$

$$\epsilon\delta \leq x \leq U\delta$$

$$\delta \in \{0, 1\}$$



δ_i is $x=i$ (and $f(x)=f_i$) ?

discrete values

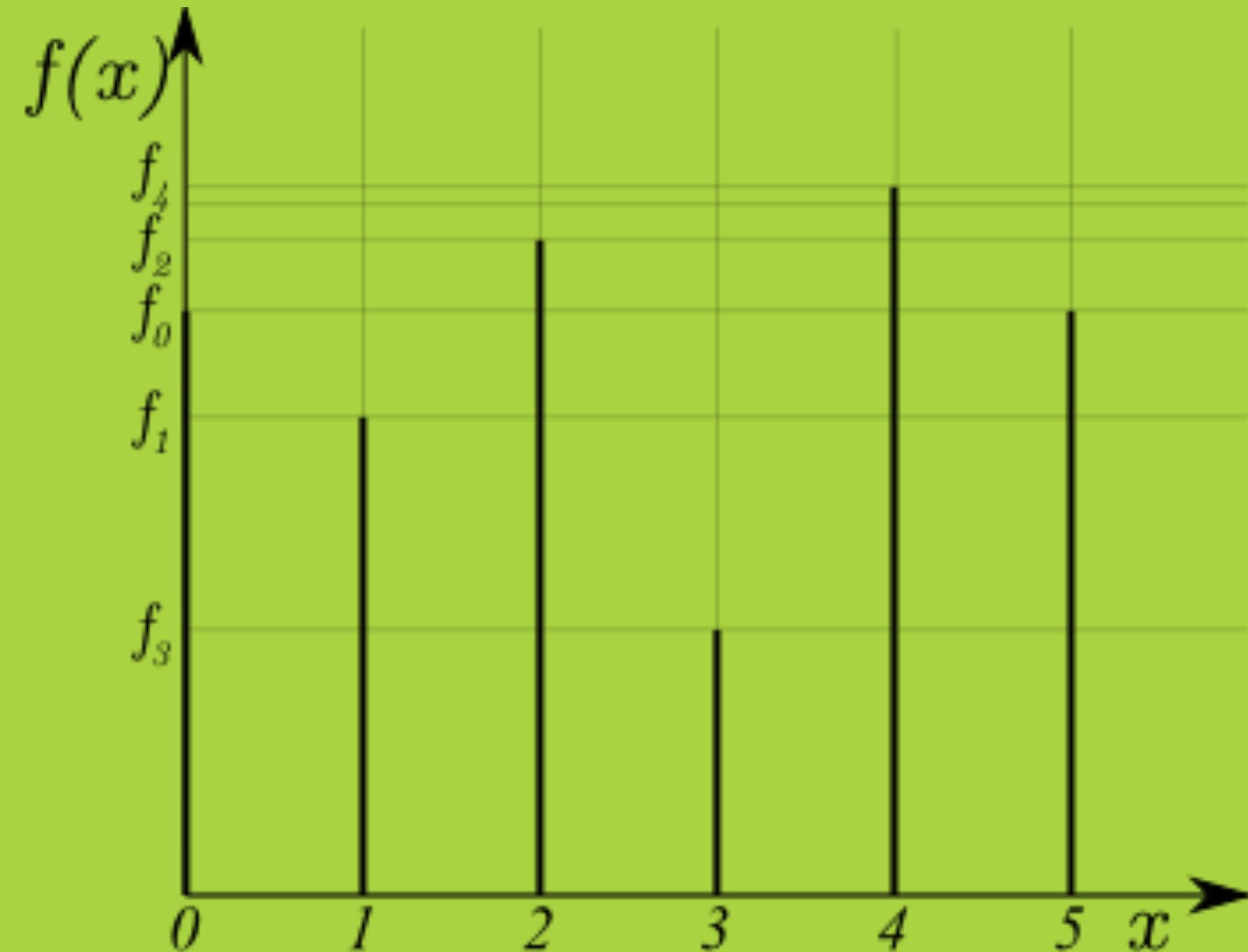
$$f(x) = \sum_i \delta_i f_i$$

$$\sum_i i \delta_i = x$$

$$\sum_i \delta_i = 1$$

$$\delta_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i = 0..n$$

Special Ordered Set of type 1:
ordered set of variables, all zero except at most one



discrete values

$$f(x) = \sum_i \delta_i f_i$$

$$\sum_i i \delta_i = x$$

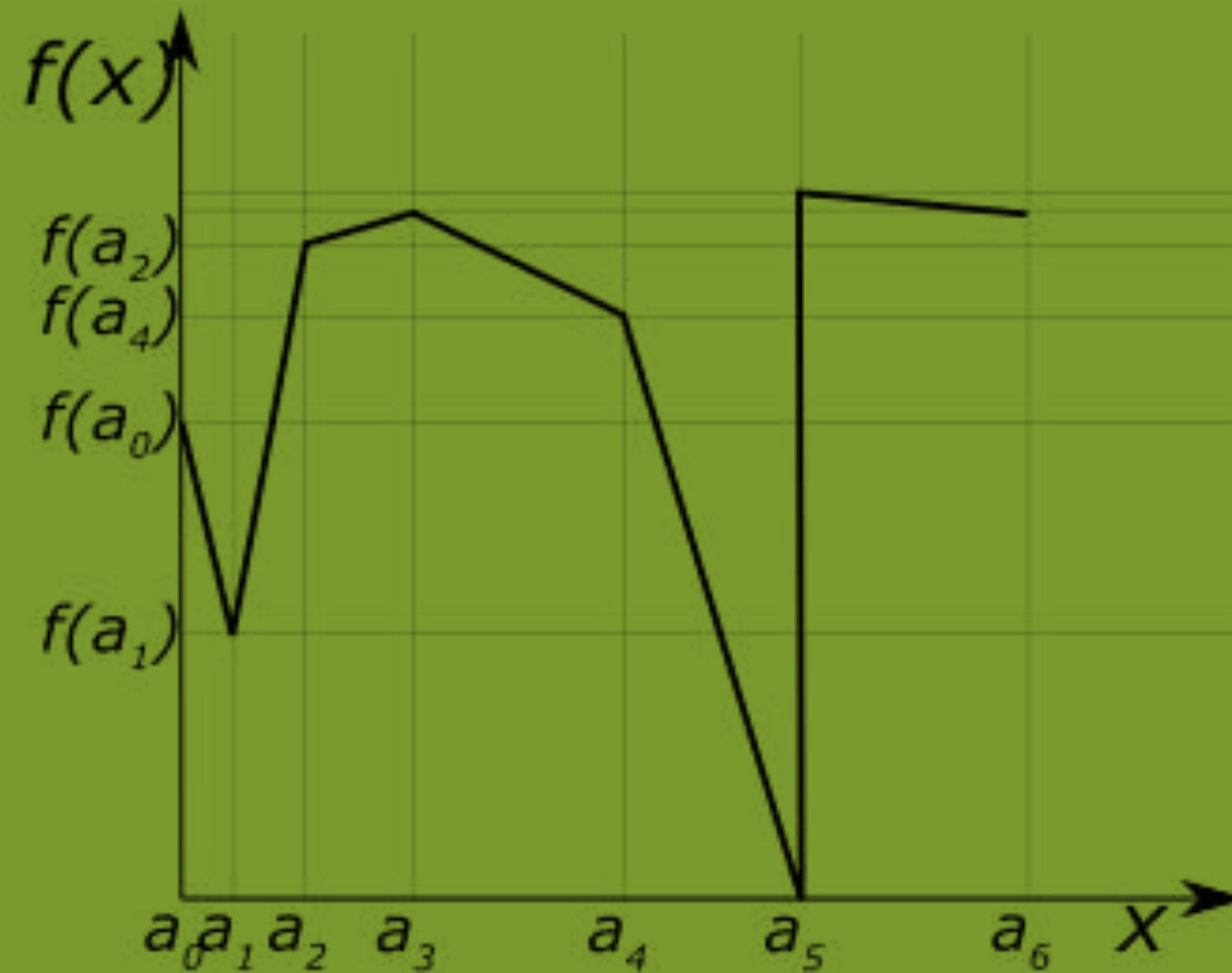
$$\sum_i \delta_i \geq 1$$

$$\delta_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i = 0..n$$

SOS1(δ)

δ_i is $x=i$ (and $f(x)=f_i$) ?

Special Ordered Set of type 2: ordered set of variables, all zero except at most two consecutive



piecewise linear

$$f(x) = \sum_i \lambda_i f(a_i)$$

$$\sum_i a_i \lambda_i = x$$

$$\sum_i \lambda_i = 1$$

$$\lambda_i \in [0, 1] \quad i = 0..n$$

SOS2(λ)

λ_i is $x=a_i$? (then $\lambda_i a_i + \lambda_{i+1} a_{i+1}$ in $[a_i, a_{i+1}]$ if $\lambda_i + \lambda_{i+1} = 1$)



modeling with Z

$$x_i = 5$$

to order i is the 5th item

to count 5 items are selected

to measure time task i starts at time 5

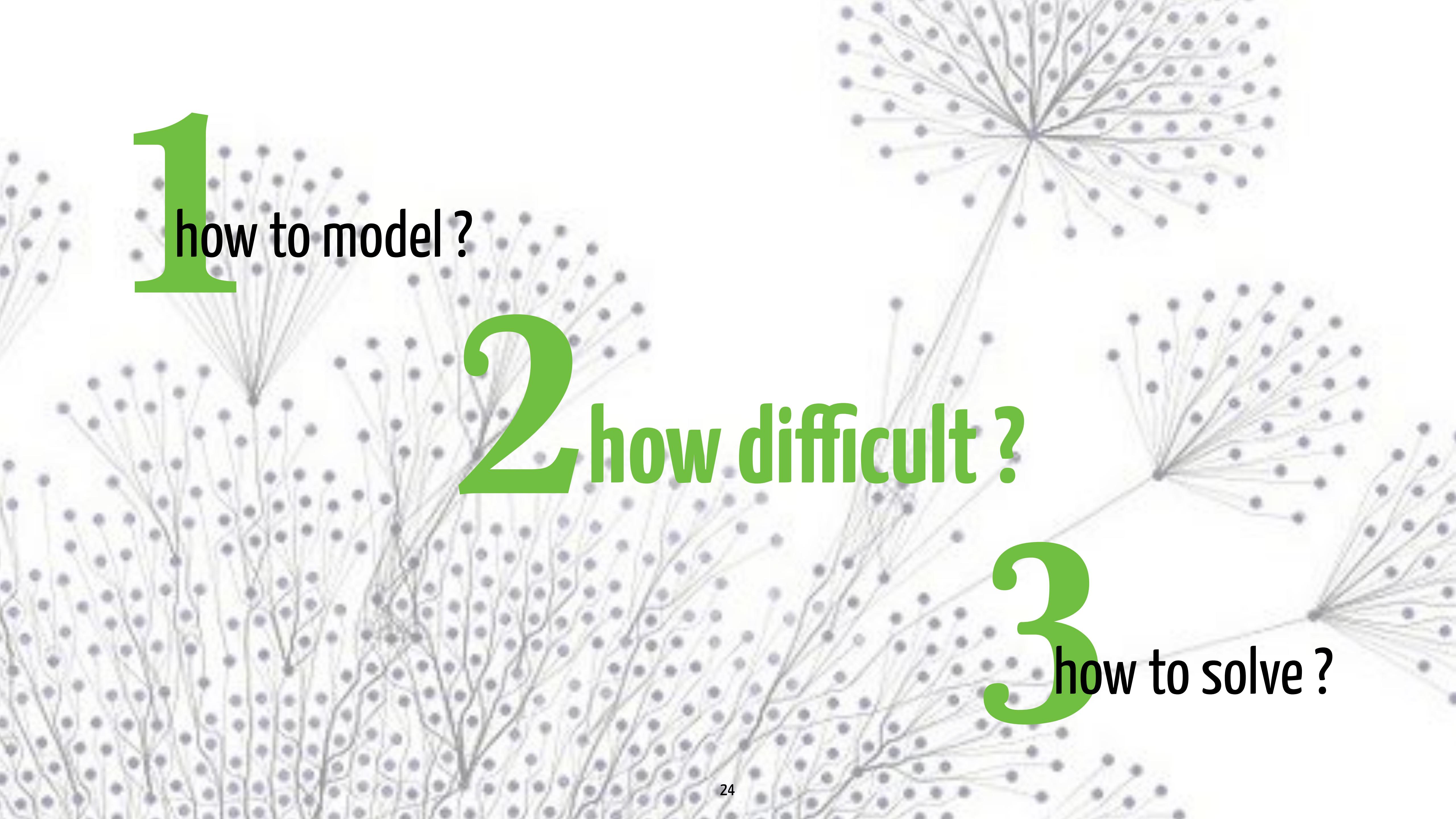
to measure space item i is located on floor 5

$$\simeq \delta_{i5} = 1$$

Binary Integer Linear Program (BIP) $\{0,1\}^n$

Integer Linear Program (IP) \mathbb{Z}^n

Mixed Integer Linear Program (MIP) $\mathbb{Z}^n \cup \mathbb{Q}^n$



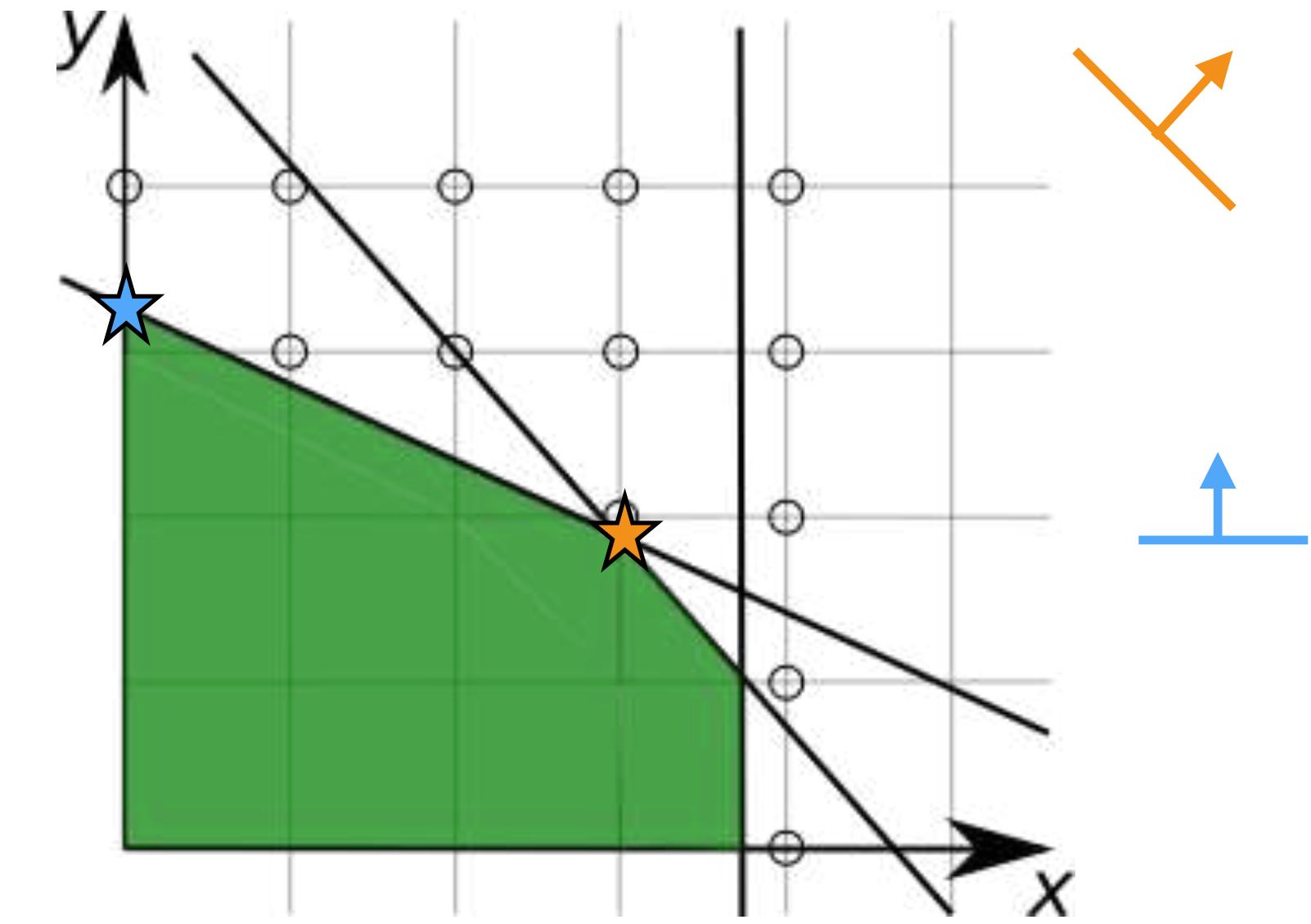
1 how to model ?

2 how difficult ?

3 how to solve ?

LP is linear Programming cheat sheet

- MILP without integrality = LP relaxation
- LP feasible set = polyhedron
- convex optimization
- if LP is feasible and bounded, at least one vertex is optimal
- primal simplex algorithm: visit adjacent vertices as cost decreases
- strong duality: $\min\{cx \mid Ax \geq b, x \geq 0\} = \max\{ub \mid uA \leq c, u \geq 0\}$
- interior point method runs in polynomial time (simplex can be better in practice)





$$\begin{aligned} & \min \sum_{j=1}^m s_j^+ + s_j^- \\ \text{s.t. } & \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} x_i + s_j^+ - s_j^- = \frac{d_j}{2} \quad j = 1..m \\ & x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad i = 1..n \\ & s_j^+ \geq 0, s_j^- \geq 0 \quad j = 1..m \end{aligned}$$

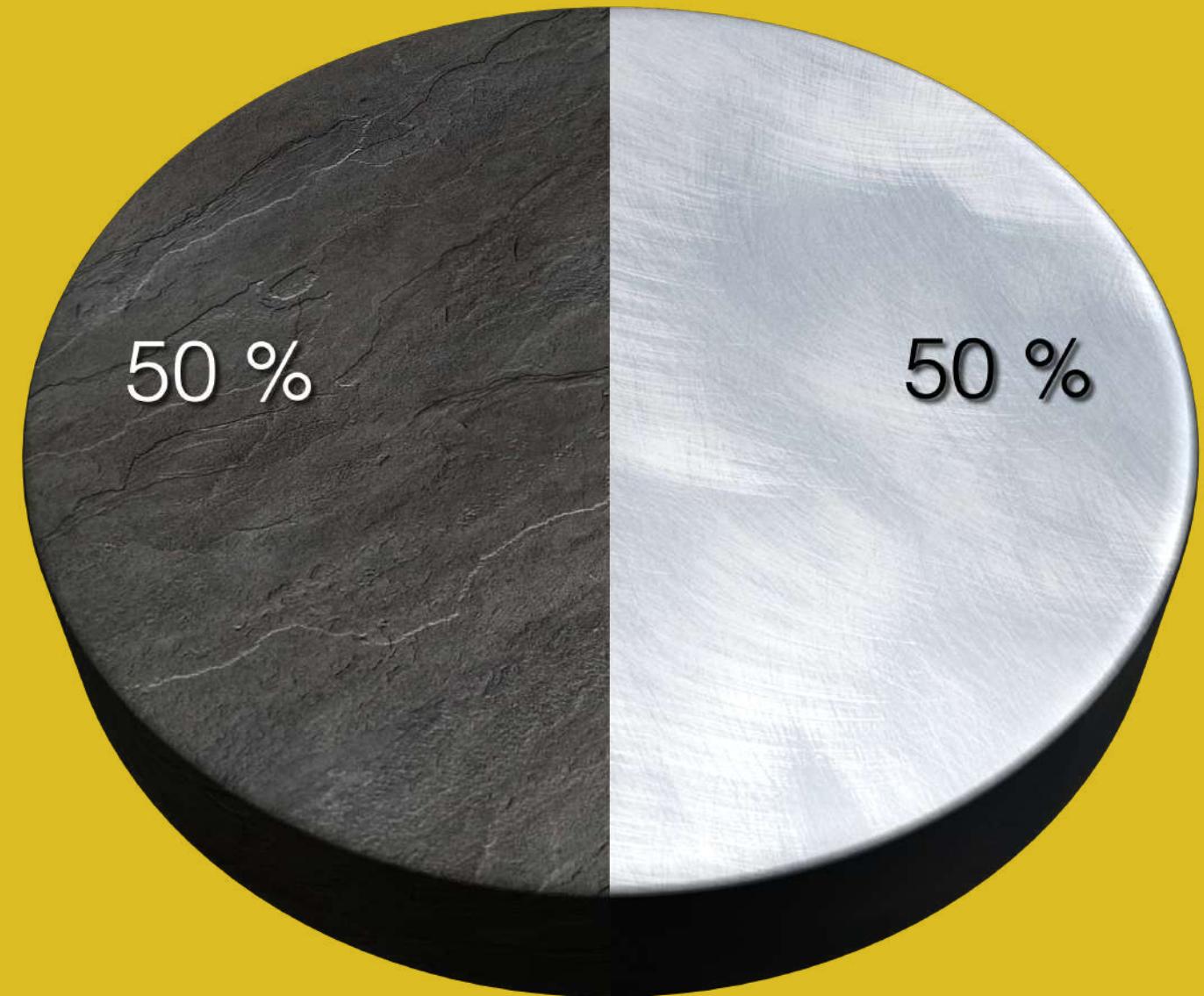
Market Split Problem

Input 1 company, 2 divisions, m products with availabilities d_j , n retailers with demands a_{ij} in each product j .

Output an assignment of the retailers to the divisions approaching a 50/50 production split.

x_i is retailer i assigned to division 1 ?

s_j gap to the 50% split goal for product j



MIPLIB

markshare_5_0

Input 5 products, 40 retailers

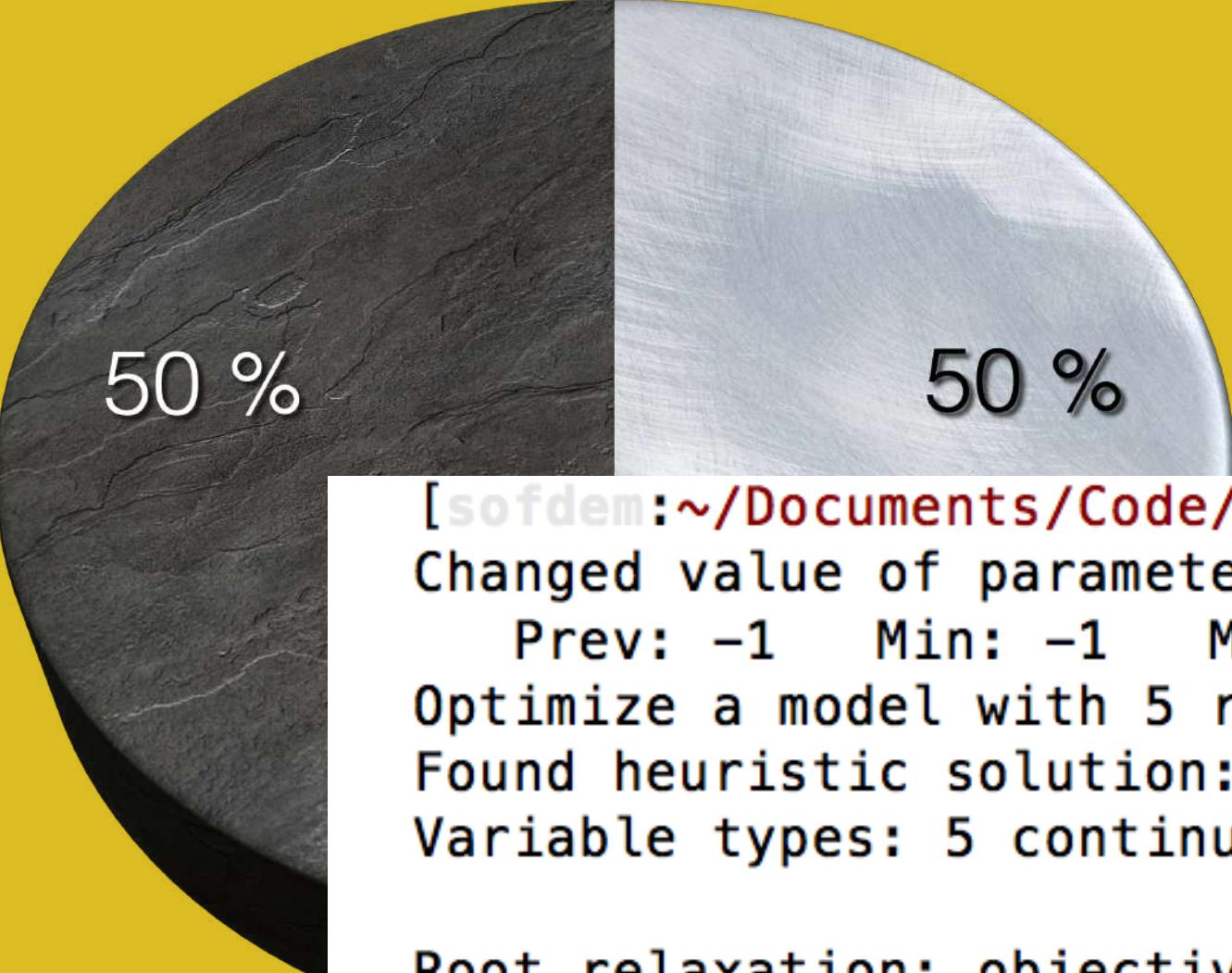
Output

· · · · · (hold the line
please) · · ·

Int Opt = 1

Solution time = 20 minutes

Proof time = > 1 hour



MIPLIB

markshare_5_0

```
[sofdem:~/Documents/Code/gurobi]$ gurobi.sh mymip.py markshare_5_0.mps.gz
Changed value of parameter Presolve to 0
  Prev: -1  Min: -1  Max: 2  Default: -1
Optimize a model with 5 rows, 45 columns and 203 nonzeros
Found heuristic solution: objective 5335
Variable types: 5 continuous, 40 integer (40 binary)

Root relaxation: objective 0.000000e+00, 15 iterations 0.00 seconds

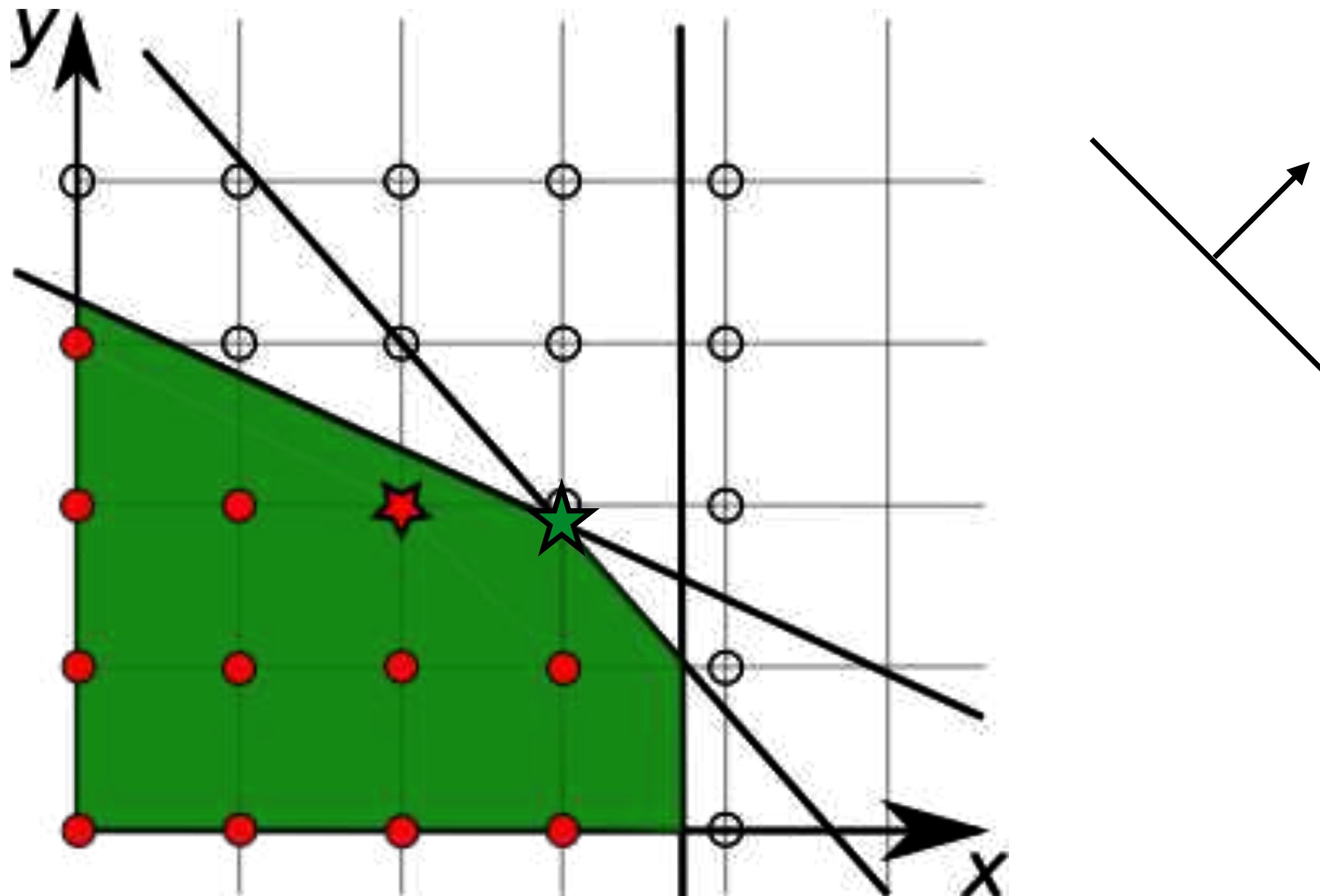
      Nodes          Current Node  Objective Bounds           Work
      Expl Unexpl   Obj  Depth IntInf  Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
          0            0  0.00000      0      5 5335.00000    0.00000 100% -    0s

*62706364 28044                      38        1.0000000    0.00000 100% 2.1 1241s

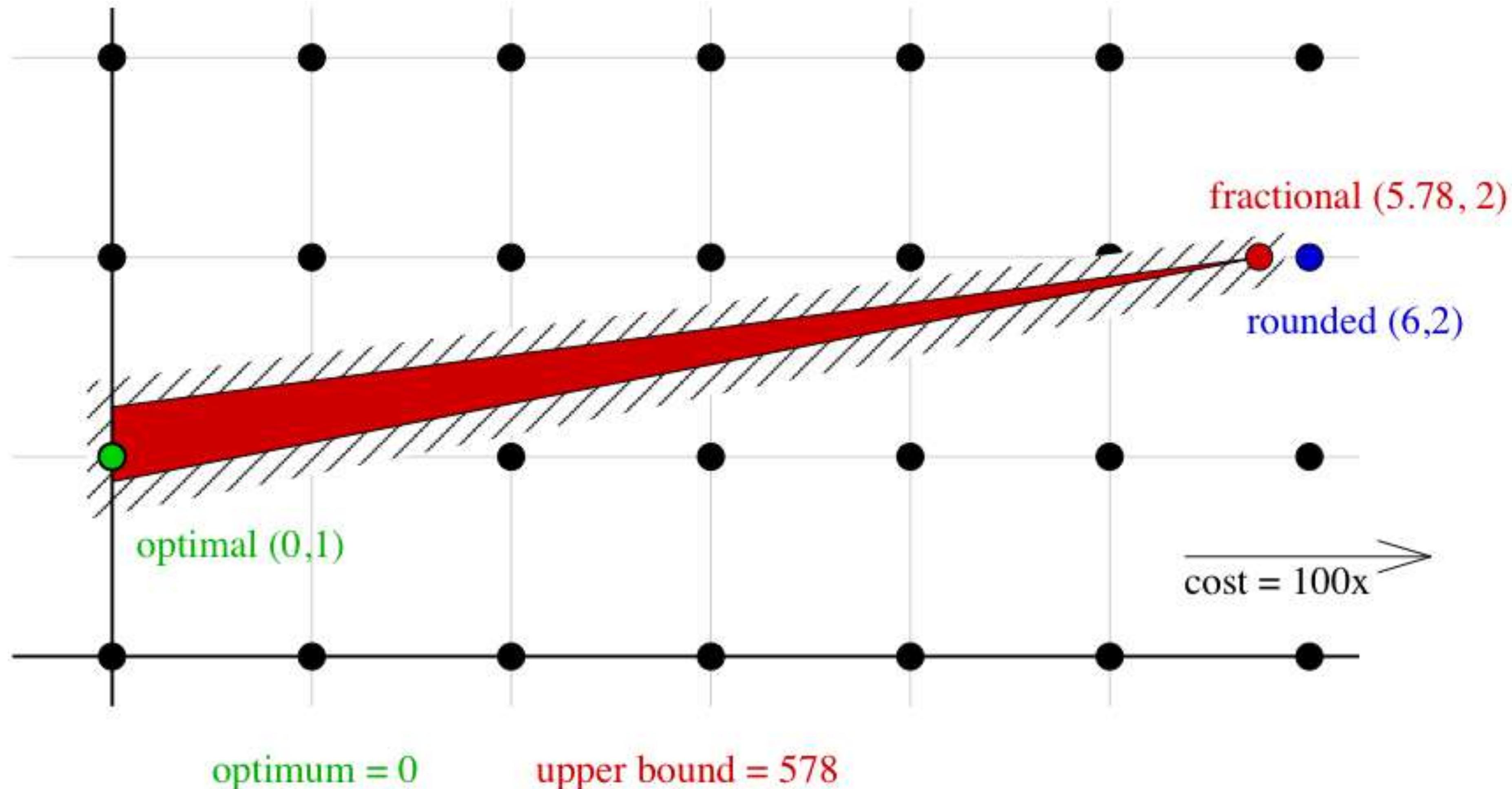
Explored 233848403 nodes (460515864 simplex iterations) in 3883.56 seconds
Thread count was 4 (of 4 available processors)

Optimal solution found (tolerance 1.00e-04)
Best objective 1.000000000000e+00, best bound 1.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
Optimal objective: 1
```

ILP \neq LP relaxation



ILP \neq round LP relaxation



general ILP is NP-hard

small problems are easy
some specific problems are easy



1||C_{max} Scheduling Problem

$$\min s_{n+1} = p_1 + \dots + p_n$$

$$\text{s.t. } s_{n+1} \geq s_j + p_j \quad j = 1..n$$

$$s_j - s_i \geq Mx_{ij} + (p_i - M) \quad i, j = 1..n$$

$$x_{ij} + x_{ji} = 1 \quad i, j = 1..n; i < j$$

$$s_j \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \geq 0 \quad j = 1..n+1$$

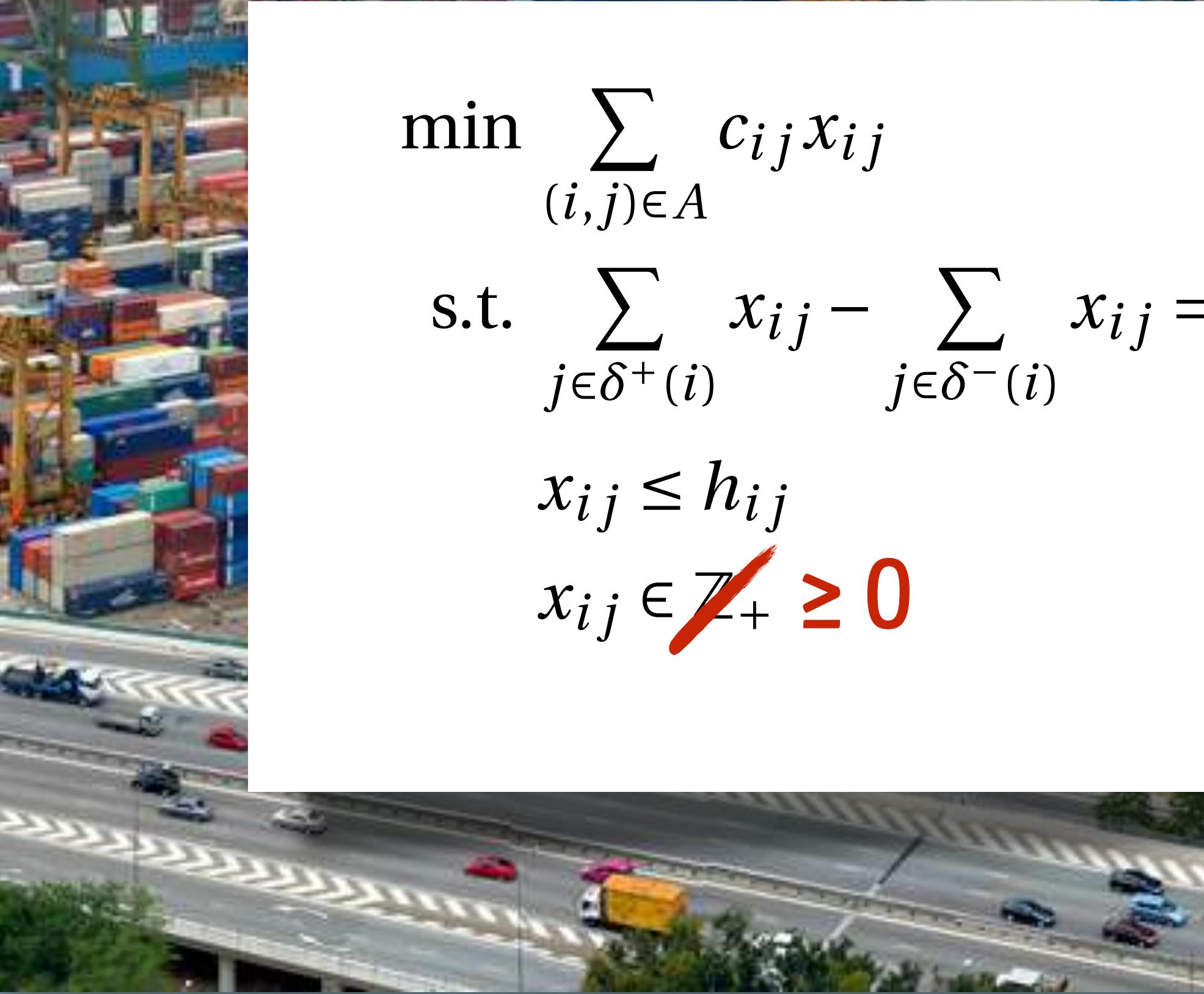
$$x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \quad i, j = 1..n$$

Input n tasks, duration p_i for each task i , 1 machine
Output a minimal makespan schedule of the tasks on the machine without overlap



Capacitated Transhipment Problem

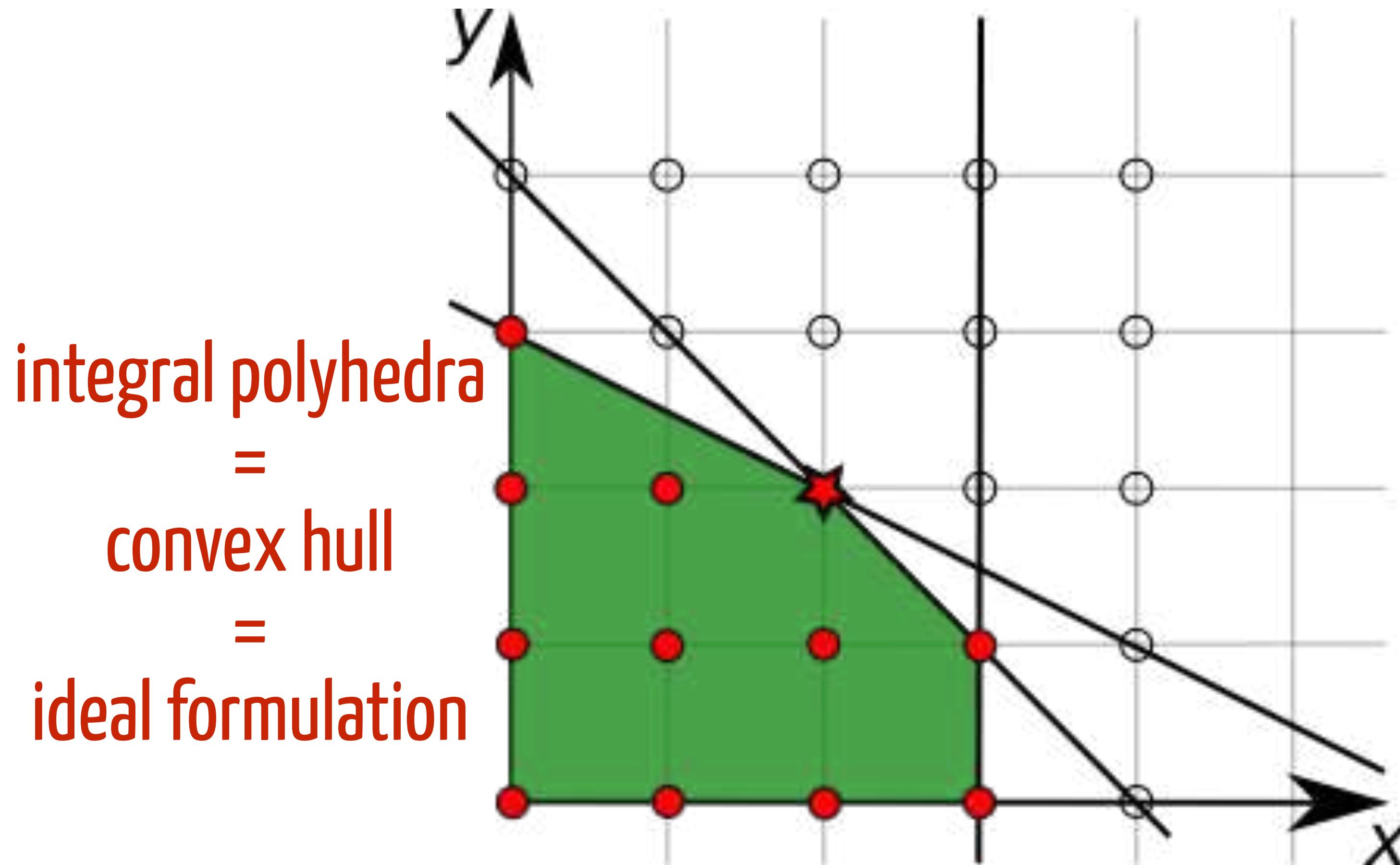
$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{(i,j) \in A} c_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j \in \delta^+(i)} x_{ij} - \sum_{j \in \delta^-(i)} x_{ij} = b_i \quad i \in V \\ & x_{ij} \leq h_{ij} \quad (i, j) \in A \\ & x_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \geq 0 \quad (i, j) \in A \end{aligned}$$



Input digraph (V, A) , demand or supply b_i at each node i , capacity h_{ij} and unit flow cost c_{ij} for each arc (i, j)
Output a minimum cost integer flow to satisfy the demand

x_{ij} flow on arc (i, j)

LP = ILP sometimes



totally unimodular matrix (theory)

$$(P) = \max\{ cx \mid Ax \leq b, x \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n \}$$

- basic feasible solutions of the LP relaxation (\bar{P}) take the form:
 $\bar{x} = (\bar{x}_B, \bar{x}_N) = (B^{-1}b, 0)$ where B is a square submatrix of (A, I_m)
- Cramer's rule: $B^{-1} = B^*/\det(B)$ where B^* is the adjoint matrix
(made of products of terms of B)
- Proposition: if (P) has integral data (A, b) and if $\det(B) = \pm 1$ then \bar{x} is integral

Definition

A matrix A is **totally unimodular (TU)** if every square submatrix has determinant $+1, -1$ or 0 .

Proposition

If A is TU and b is integral then any optimal solution of (\bar{P}) is integral.

totally unimodular matrix (practice)

How to recognize TU ?

Sufficient condition

A matrix A is TU if

- all the coefficients are $+1, -1$ or 0
- each column contains at most 2 non-zero coefficient
- there exists a partition (M_1, M_2) of the set M of rows such that each column j containing two non zero coefficients satisfies
$$\sum_{i \in M_1} a_{ij} - \sum_{i \in M_2} a_{ij} = 0.$$

Proposition

A is TU $\iff A^t$ is TU $\iff (A, I_m)$ is TU

where A^t is the transpose matrix, I_m the identitiy matrix

Interlude

Show that the **Transhipment ILP** is ideal
Show that the **Scheduling ILP** is NOT ideal