

A photograph of a lighthouse on a hill at night. The lighthouse is illuminated, and the Milky Way galaxy is visible in the dark sky. A large, leafless tree is in the foreground on the left. The text "the MILP way" is written in large white letters, with "a practical view" in smaller white letters below it.

the MILP way

a practical view

Sophie Demasse



planning

scheduling

packing

allocation

practical decision is
combinatorial optimization

design

assignment

routing

cover

sizing

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

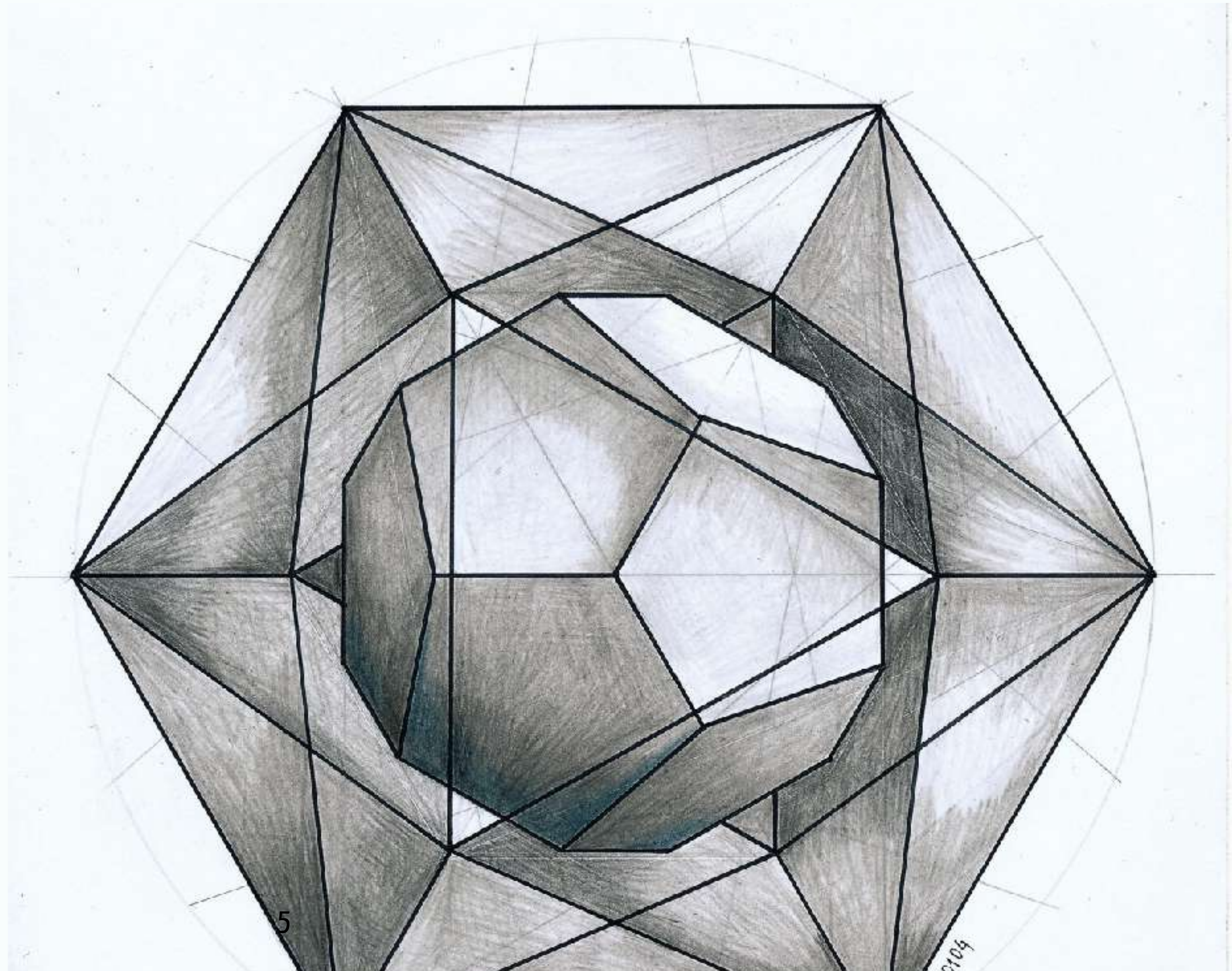
change the model,
not the solver

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

$$cx$$

linear constraints

$$Ax \geq b$$

integrality constraints

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

right hand side

$$b$$

cost vector

$$c$$

solution space

$$\mathbb{R}^n$$

feasible set

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



modeling with \mathbb{B}

~~true~~¹ or ~~false~~⁰

- select item j
- associate item j to resource i
- variable $y \geq 0$ greater than constant a ?
- select at most n items

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

$$x_{ij} = 1, \quad x_{ij} \in \{0,1\}$$

$$y \geq ax, x \in \{0,1\}$$

$$x_1, \dots, x_n \in \{0,1\}$$



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

$$x + y = 1$$

- 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

- at least k out of n

“big M ”
big enough but
keep it tight !

logic with binaries

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

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$$y \geq x$$

- 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

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

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

$$y_{ij} \leq x_j$$

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

$$y_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$i = 1..m$$

$$j = 1..n, i = 1..m$$

$$j = 1..n$$

$$j = 1..n, i = 1..m$$

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

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

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

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

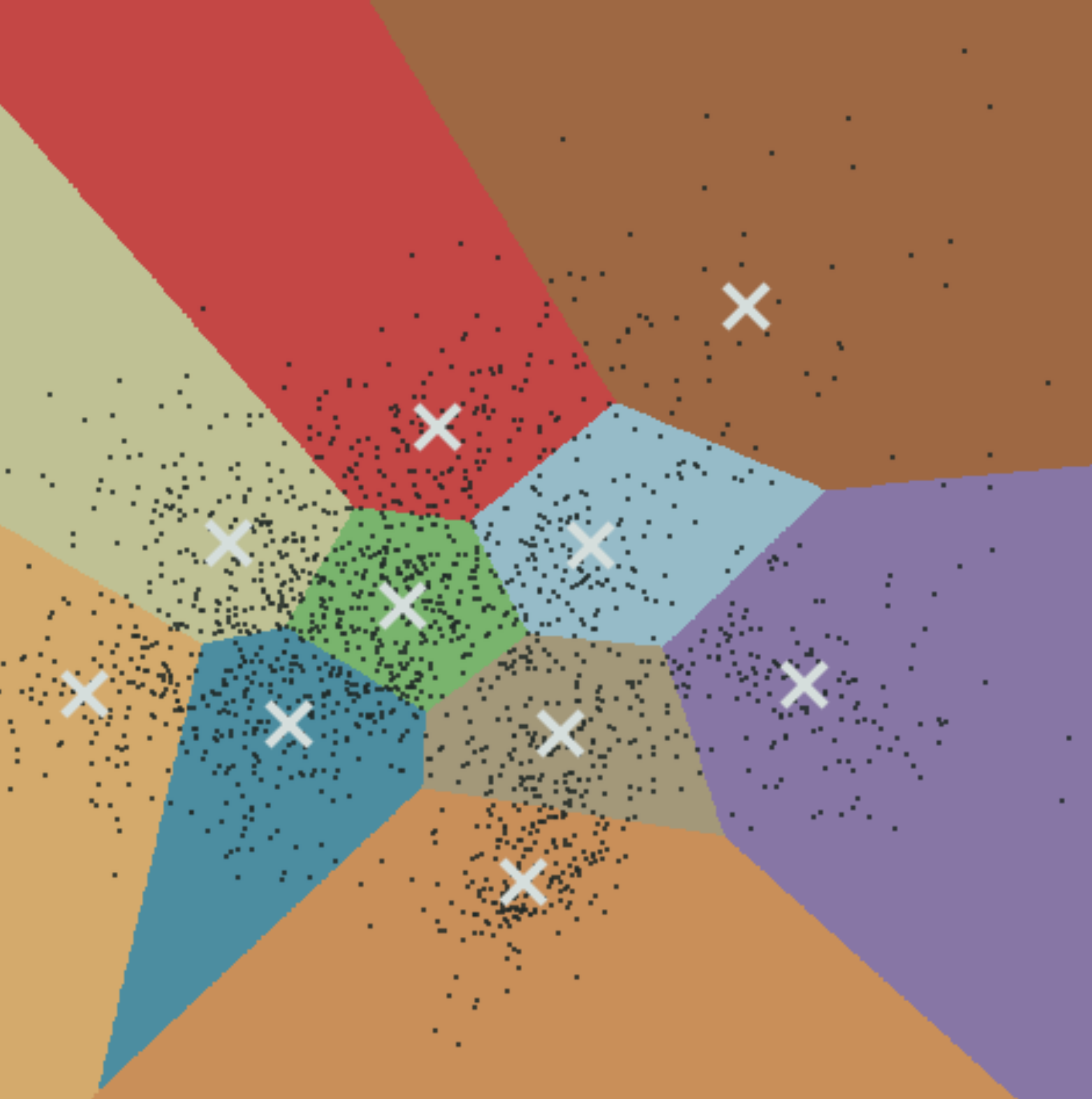
$$\sum_{j=1}^n x_j = k$$

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

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 ?

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

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

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

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

**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 ?

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

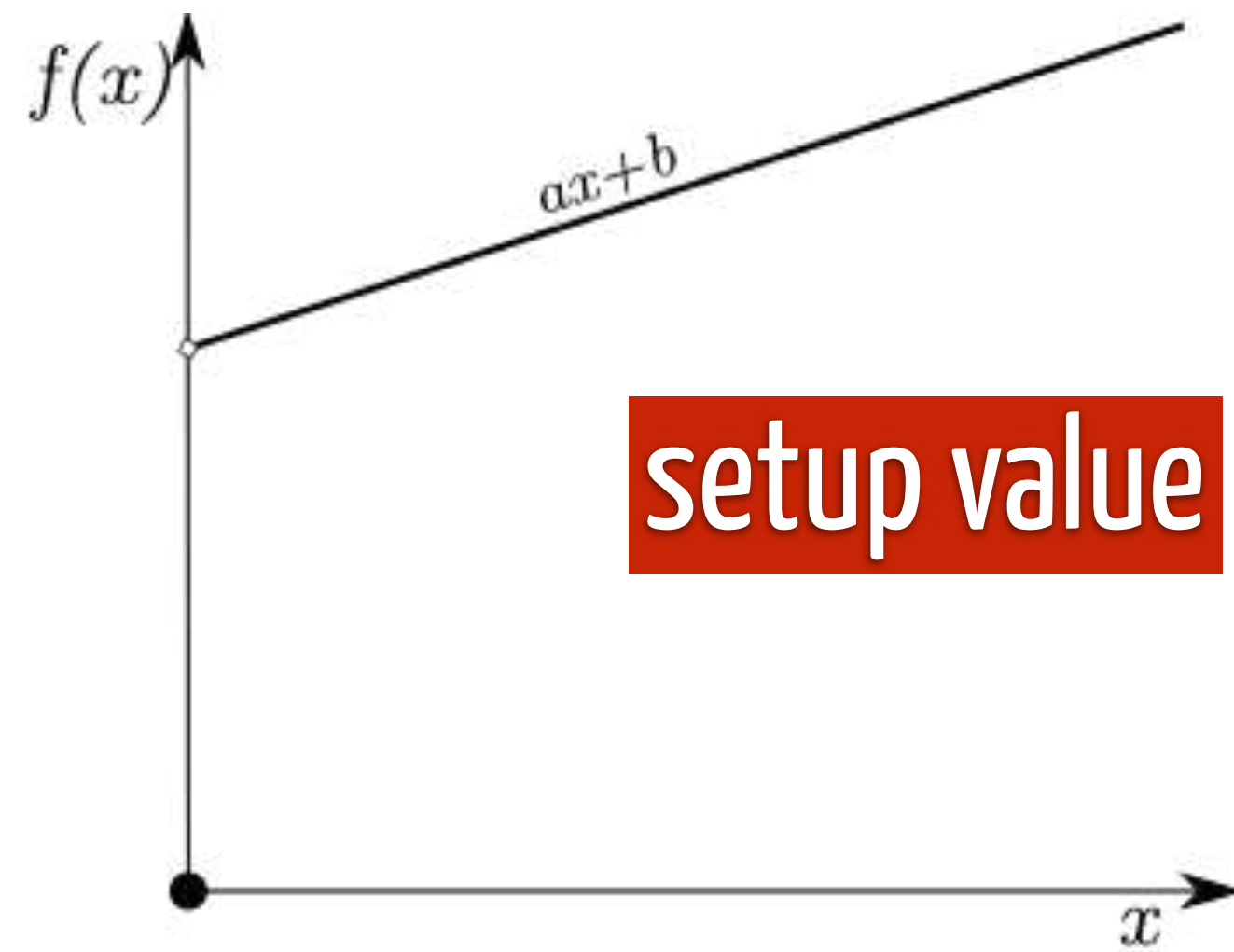
$$s.t. \quad d_{jk} \geq \sum_{i=1}^p (m_j^i - y_k^i)^2 - \bar{d}_{jk}(1 - x_{jk}) \quad \forall j, k$$

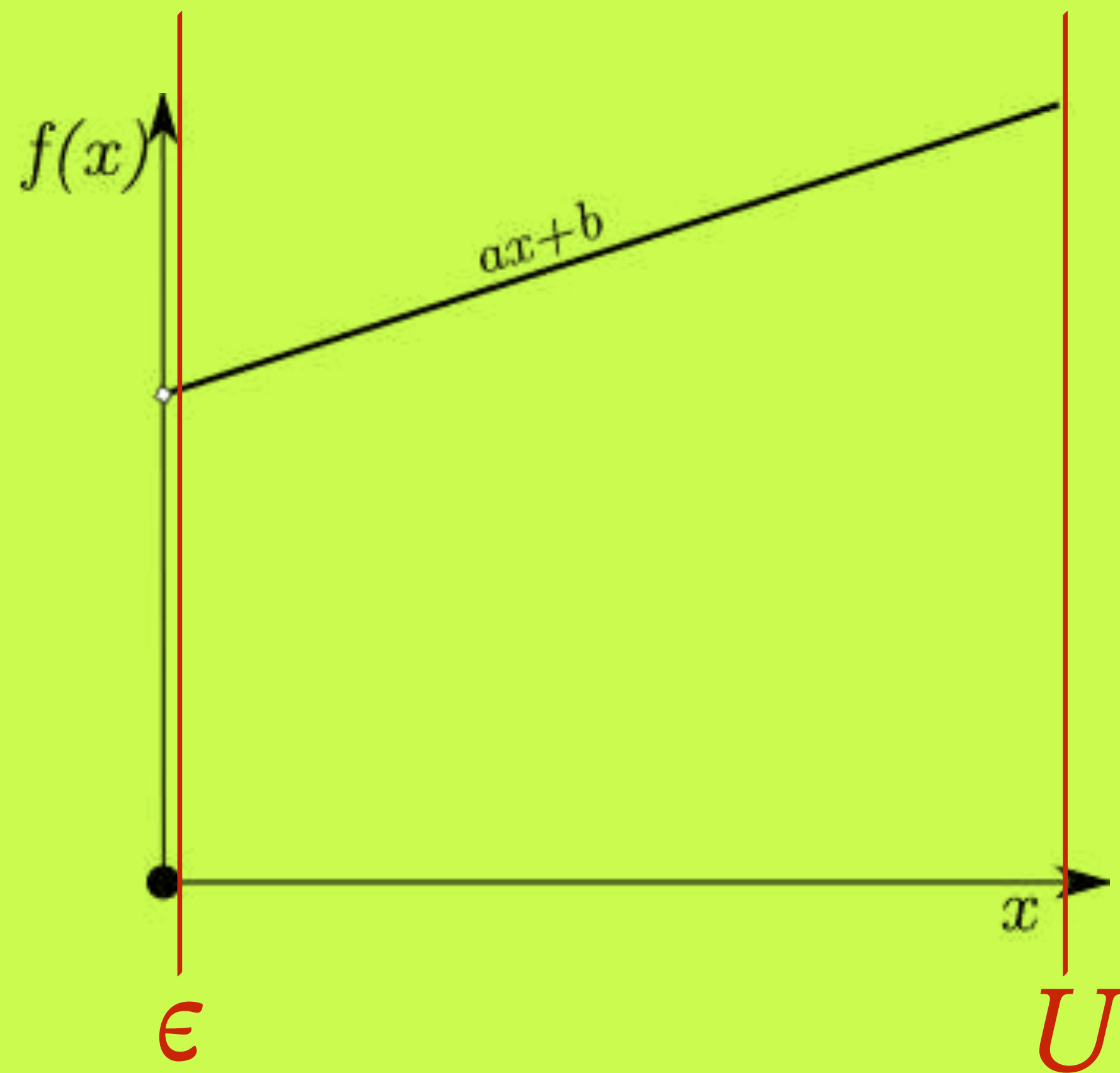
$$\sum_{k=1}^K x_{jk} = 1 \quad \forall j$$

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

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

non-linear functions





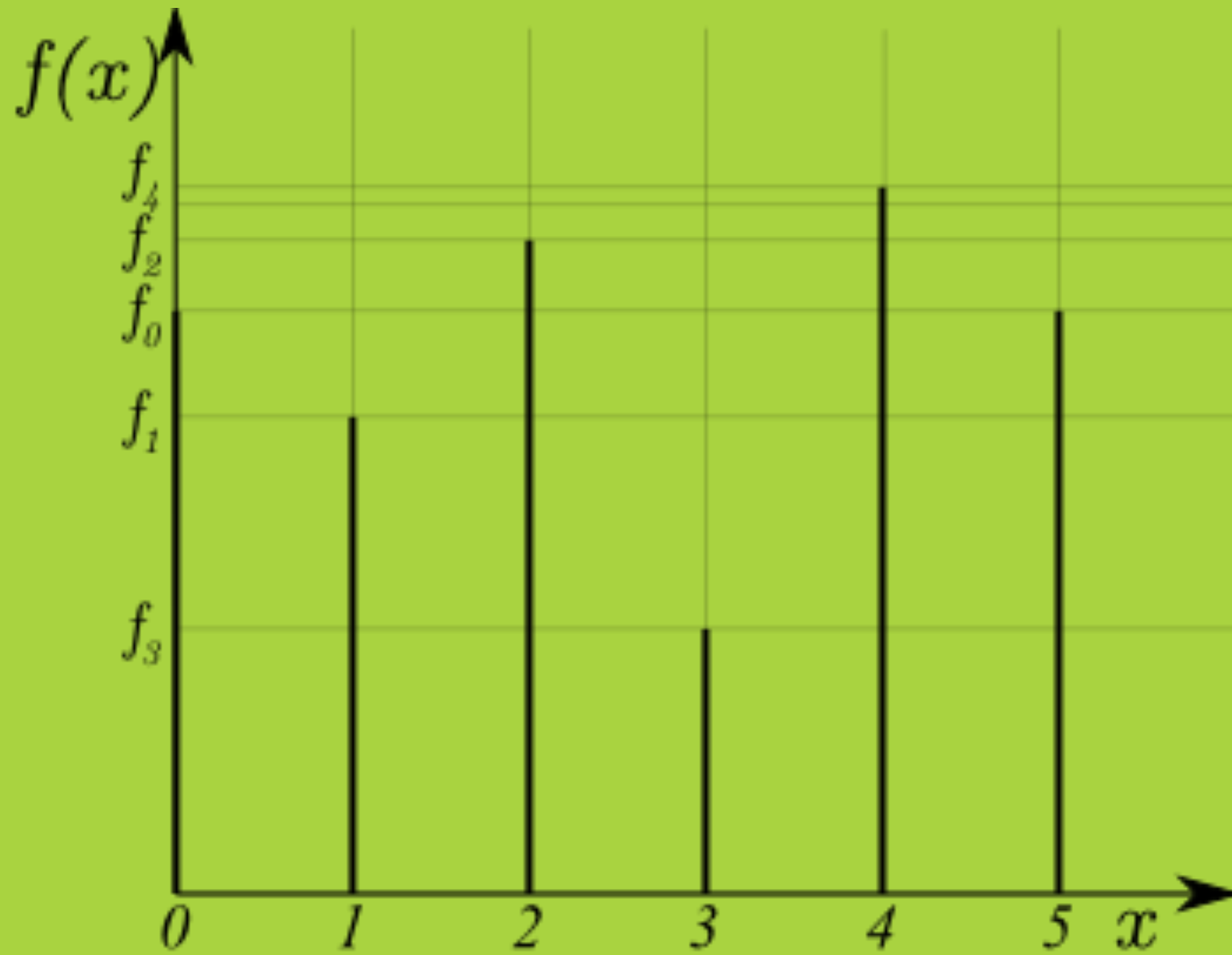
setup value

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

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

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

δ is x positive ?



discrete values

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

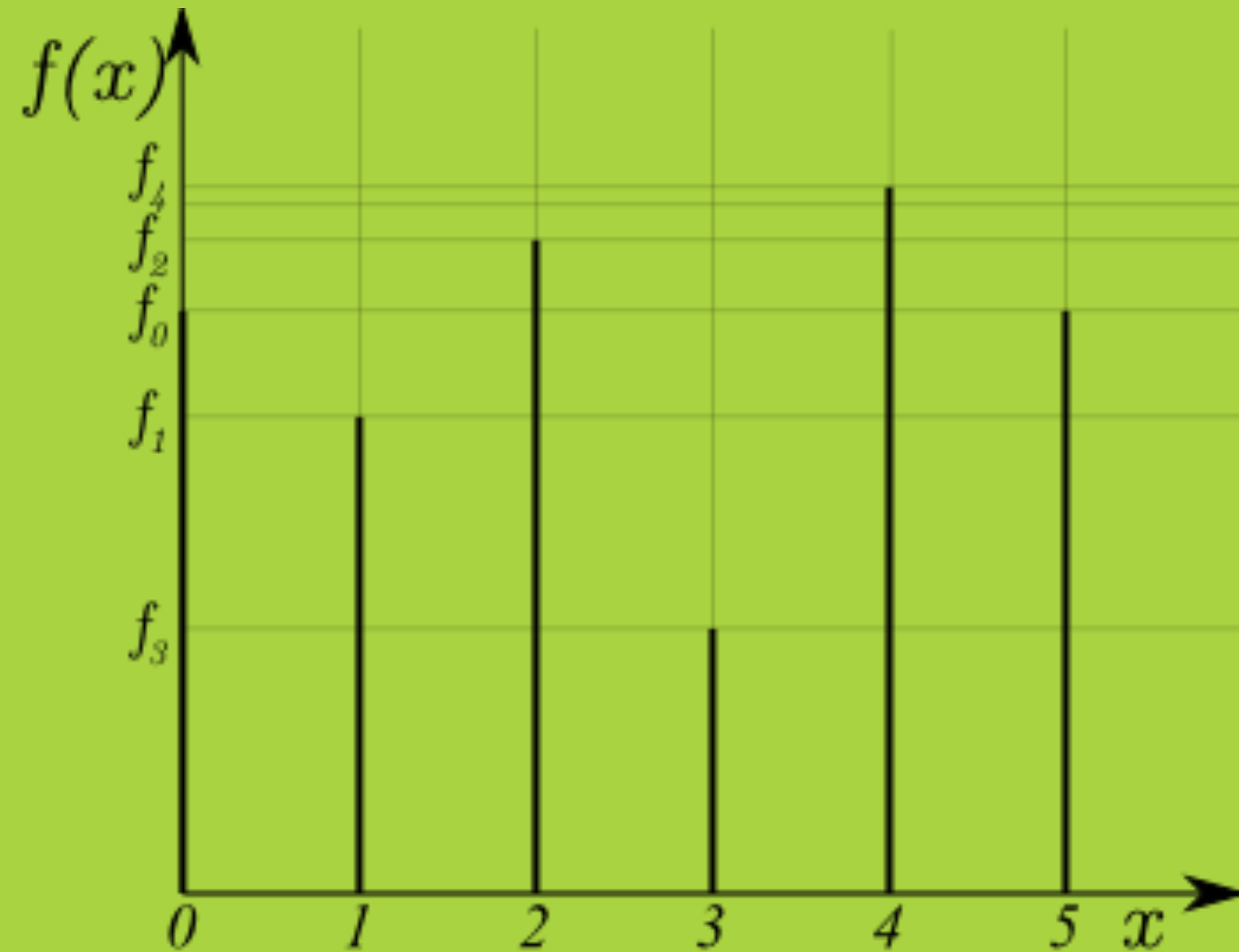
$$\sum_i i \delta_i = x$$

$$\sum_i \delta_i = 1$$

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

δ_i is $x=i$ (and $f(x)=f_i$) ?

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



discrete values

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

$$\sum_i i \delta_i = x$$

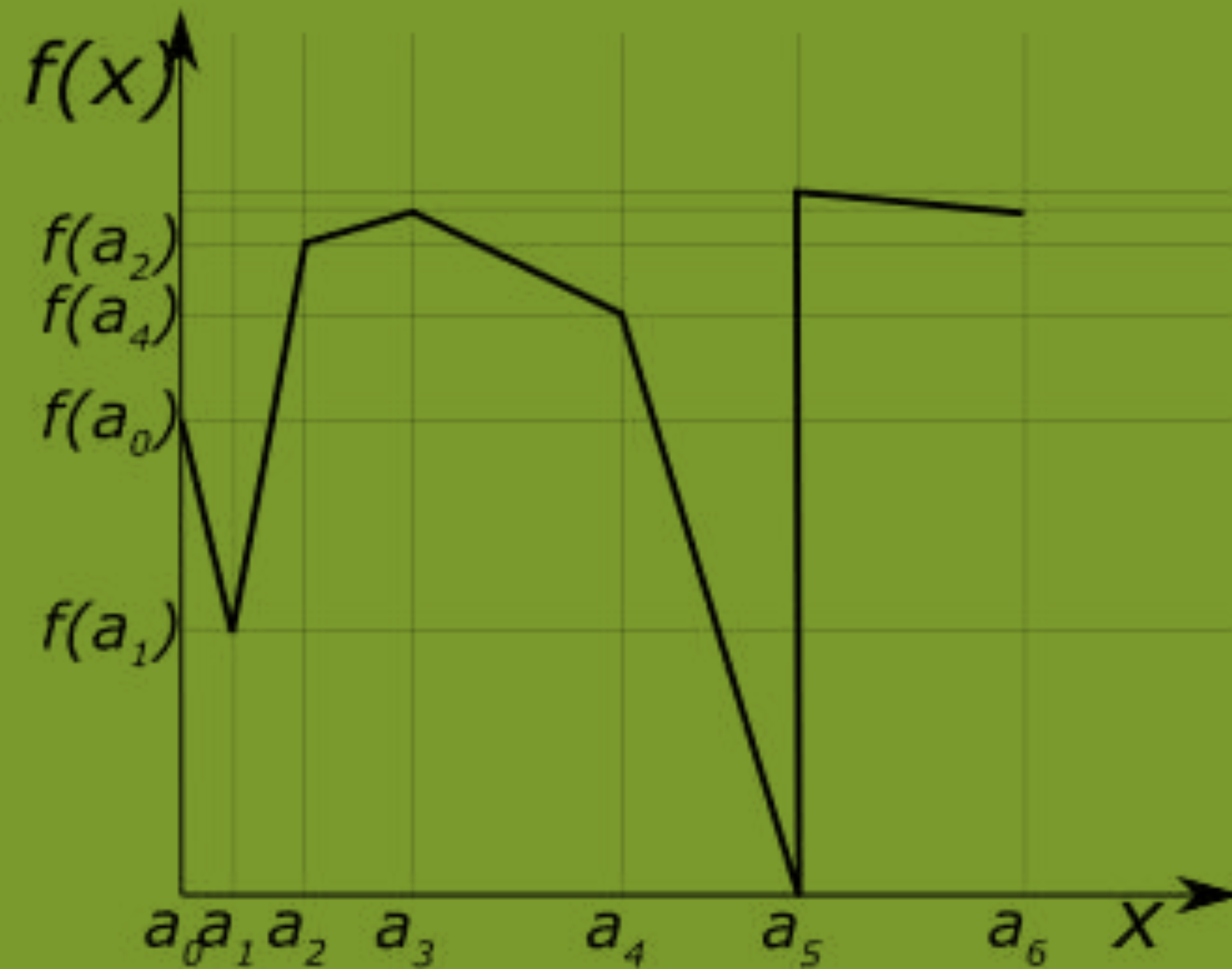
$$\sum_i \delta_i \geq 1$$

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_i \lambda_i f(a_i) \\ \sum_i a_i \lambda_i &= x \\ \sum_i \lambda_i &= 1 \\ \lambda_i &\in [0, 1] \quad i = 0..n \end{aligned}$$

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 \mathbb{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) $\mathbb{Z}^n \cup \mathbb{Q}^n$

A background network diagram consisting of numerous small, dark grey circular nodes connected by thin, light grey lines. The nodes are arranged in a complex, branching pattern that resembles a biological structure like a dendritic tree or a neural network. The overall layout is sparse, with clusters of nodes connected by longer lines, creating a hierarchical or radial appearance.

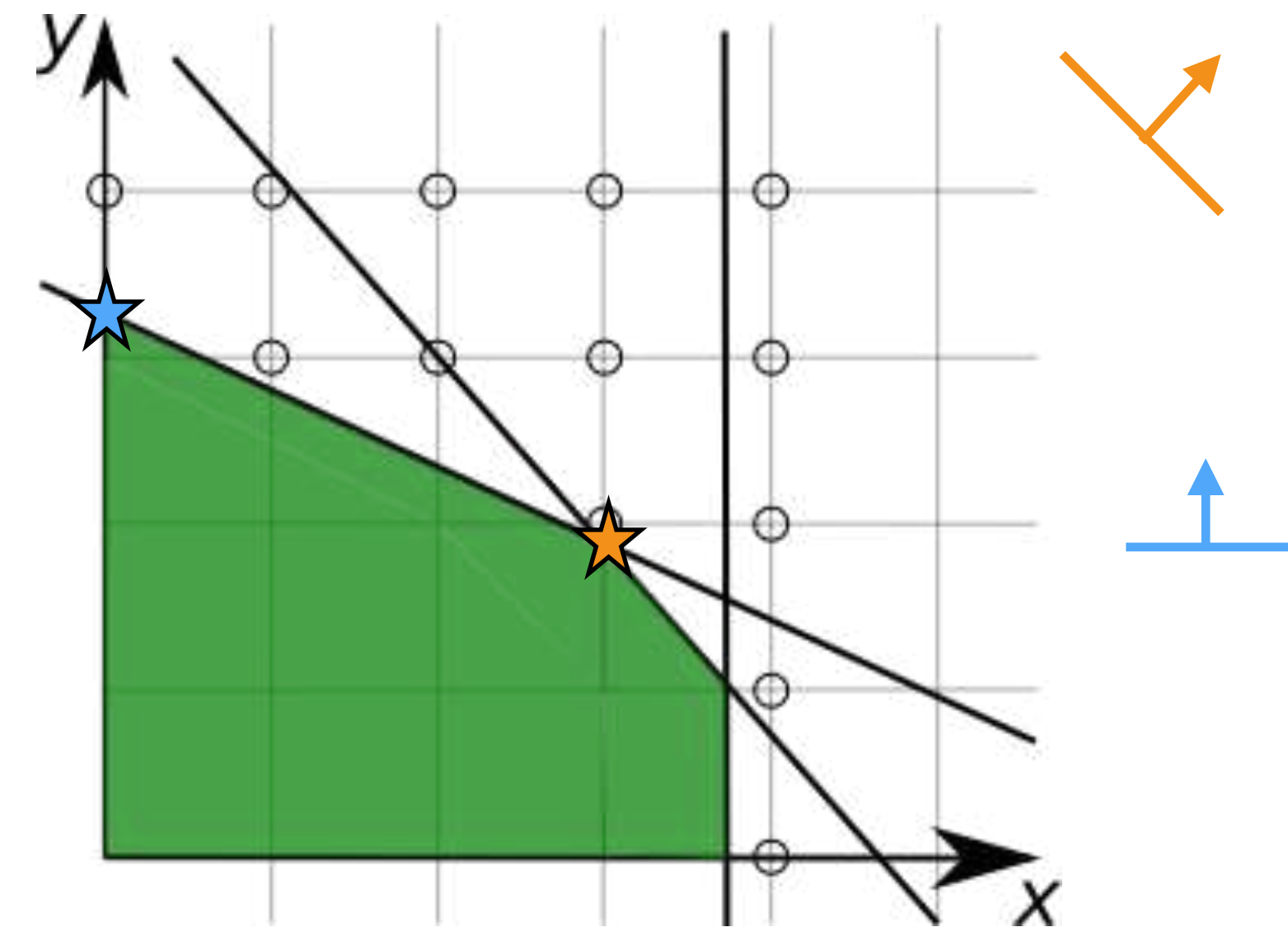
1 how to model ?

2 how difficult ?


3 how to solve ?

LP is easy 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)



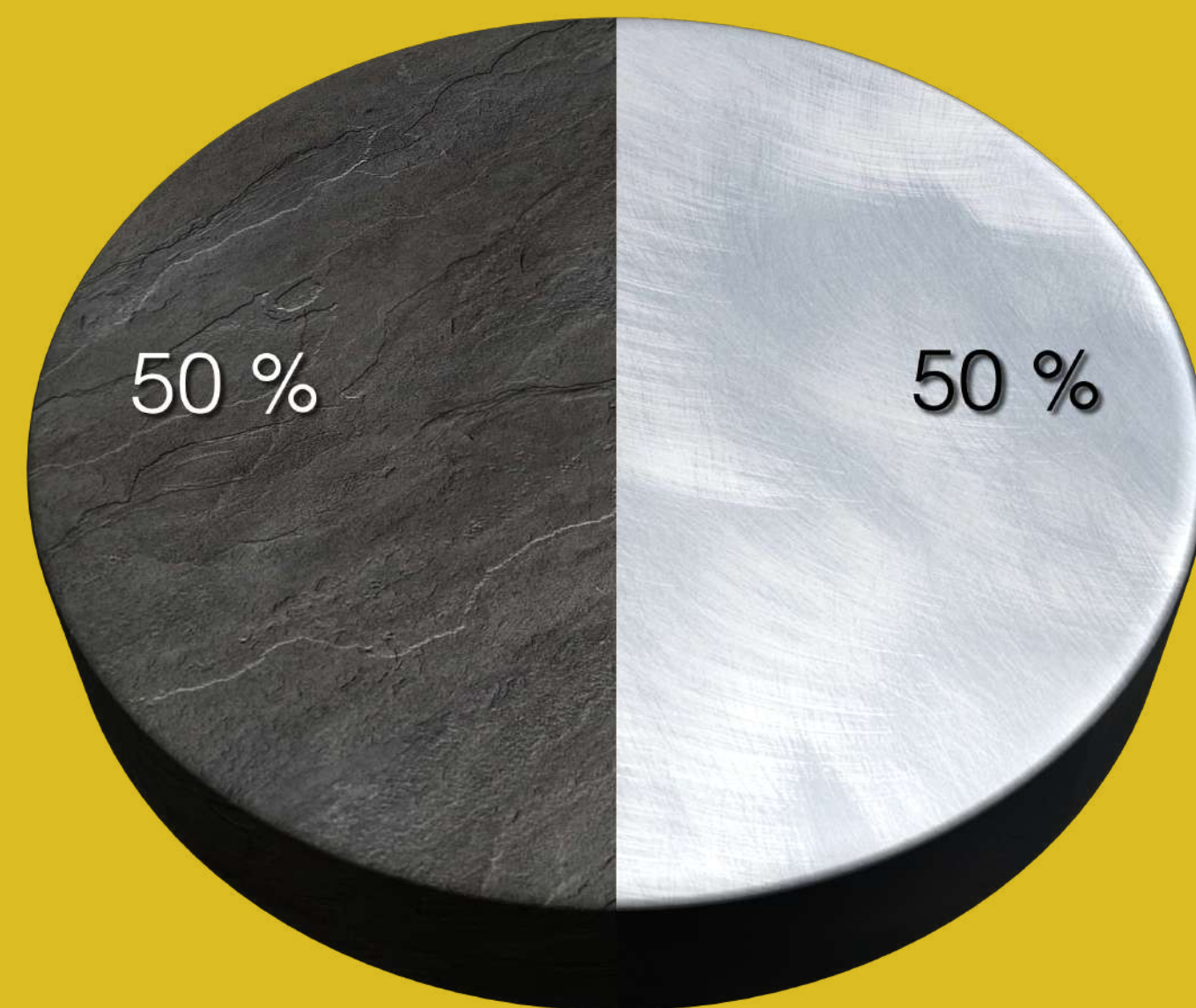
Market Split Problem


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

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



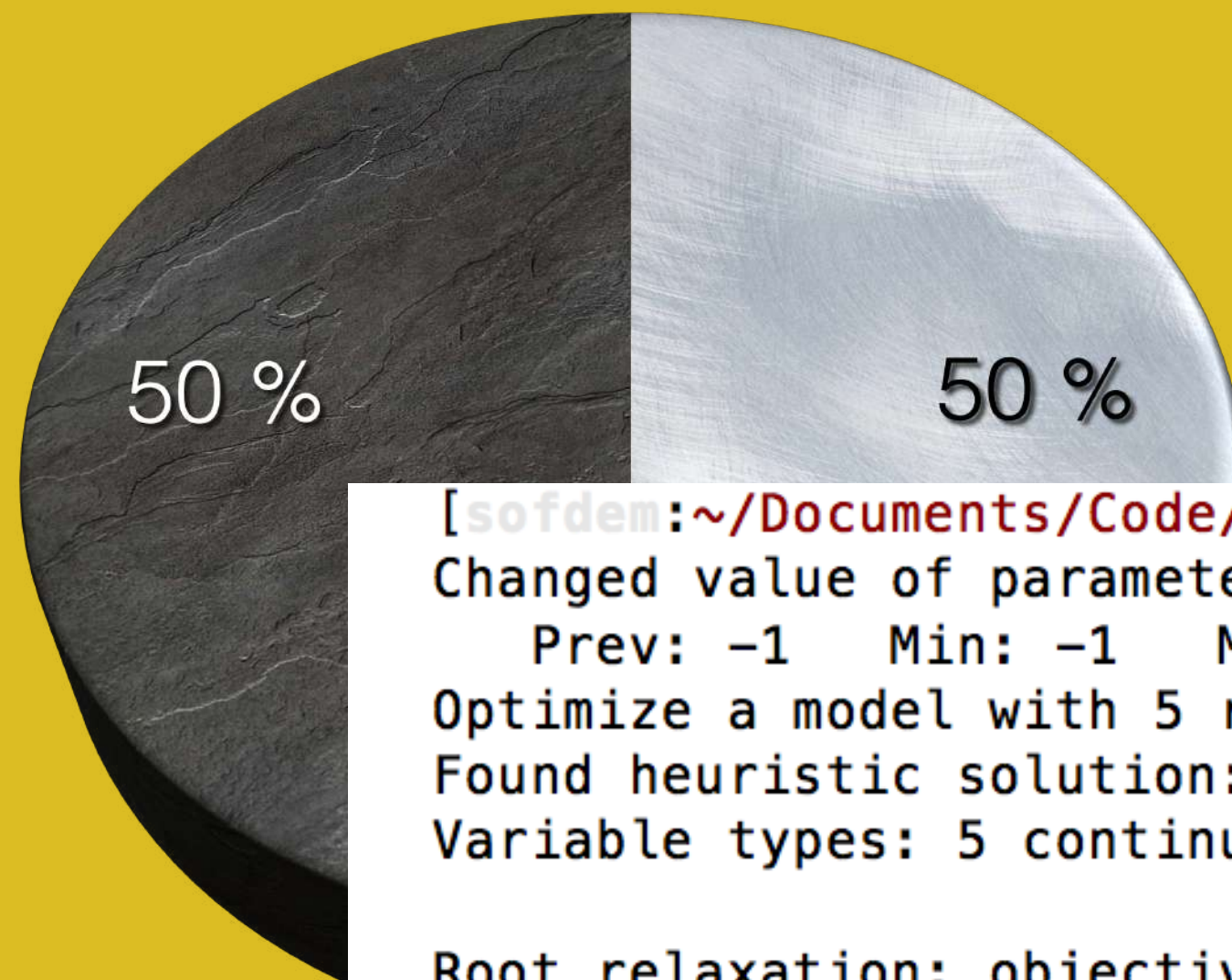
MIPLIB

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

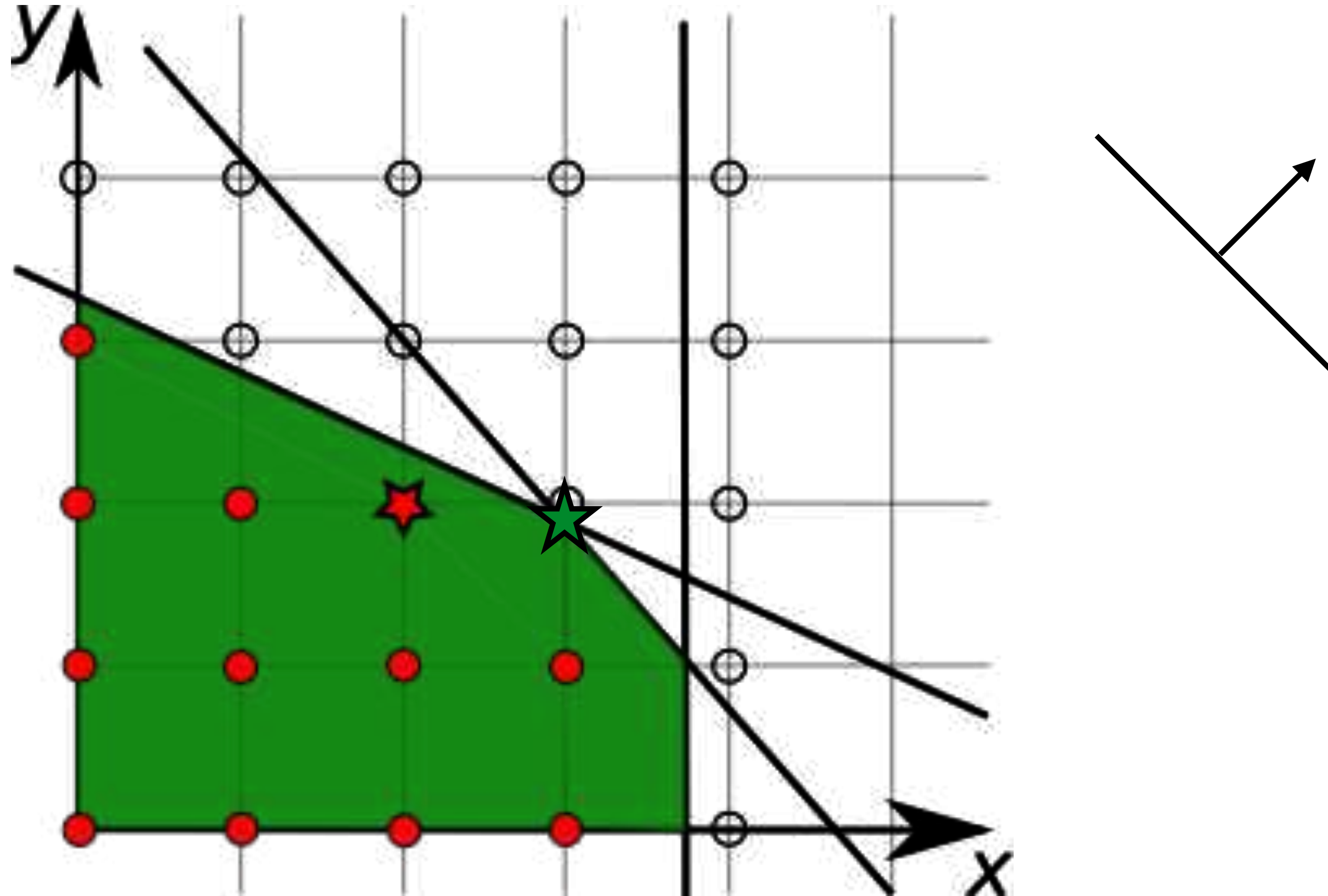


```
[sofdem:~/Documents/Code/gurobi]$ gurobi.sh mymip.py markshare_5_0.mps.gz
Changed value of parameter Presolve to 0
  Prev: -1   Min: -1   Max: 2   Default: -1
Optimize a model with 5 rows, 45 columns and 203 nonzeros
Found heuristic solution: objective 5335
Variable types: 5 continuous, 40 integer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

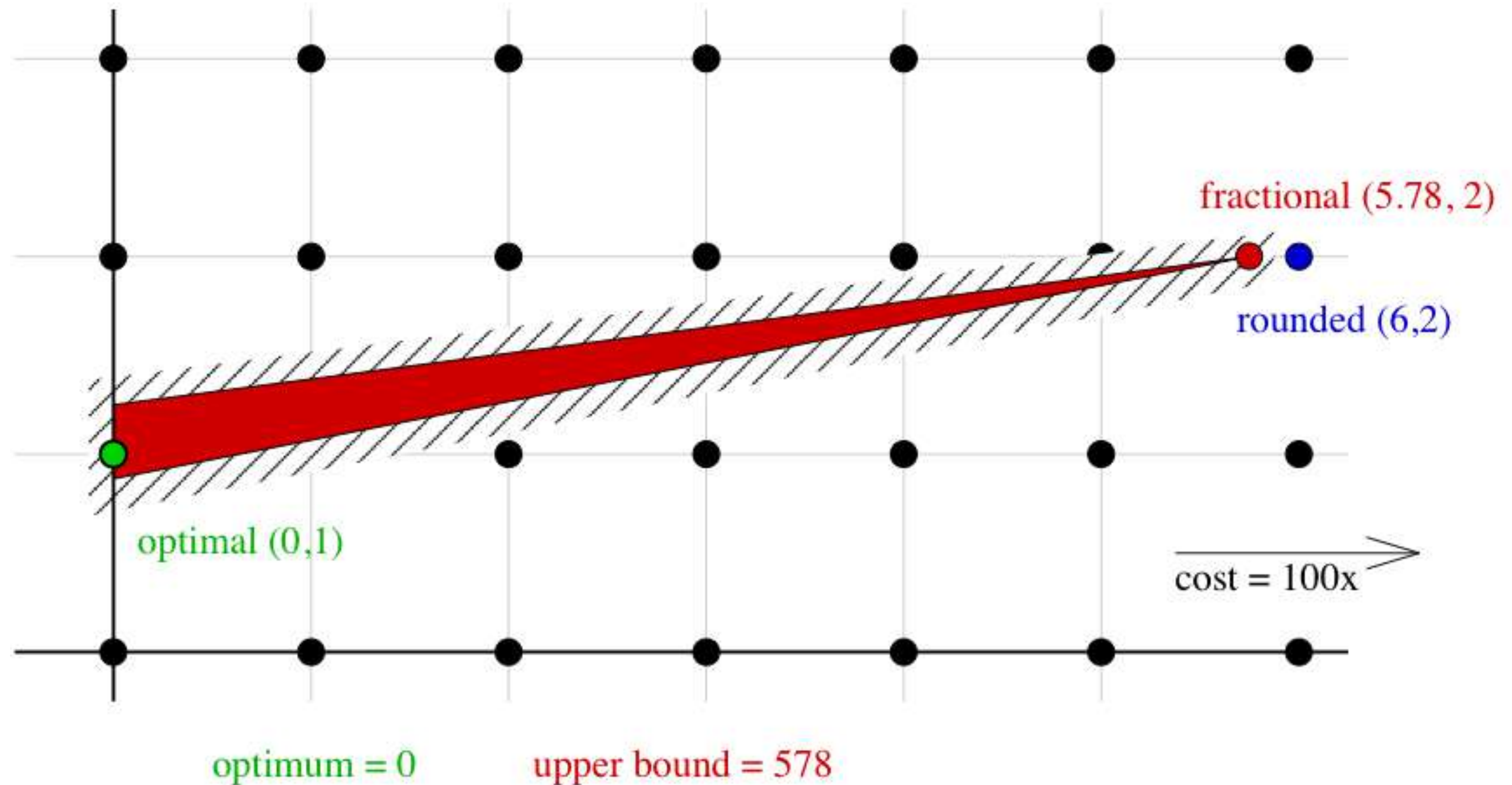
Root relaxation: objective 0.000000e+00, 15 iterations 0.00 seconds
```

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 1.0000000000000000e+00, best bound 1.0000000000000000e+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 | Cmax Scheduling Problem

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

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

$$s_j - s_i \geq Mx_{ij} + (p_i - M)$$

$$x_{ij} + x_{ji} = 1$$

$$s_j \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \geq 0$$

$$x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$j = 1..n$$

$$i, j = 1..n$$

$$i, j = 1..n; i < j$$

$$j = 1..n + 1$$

$$i, j = 1..n$$

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

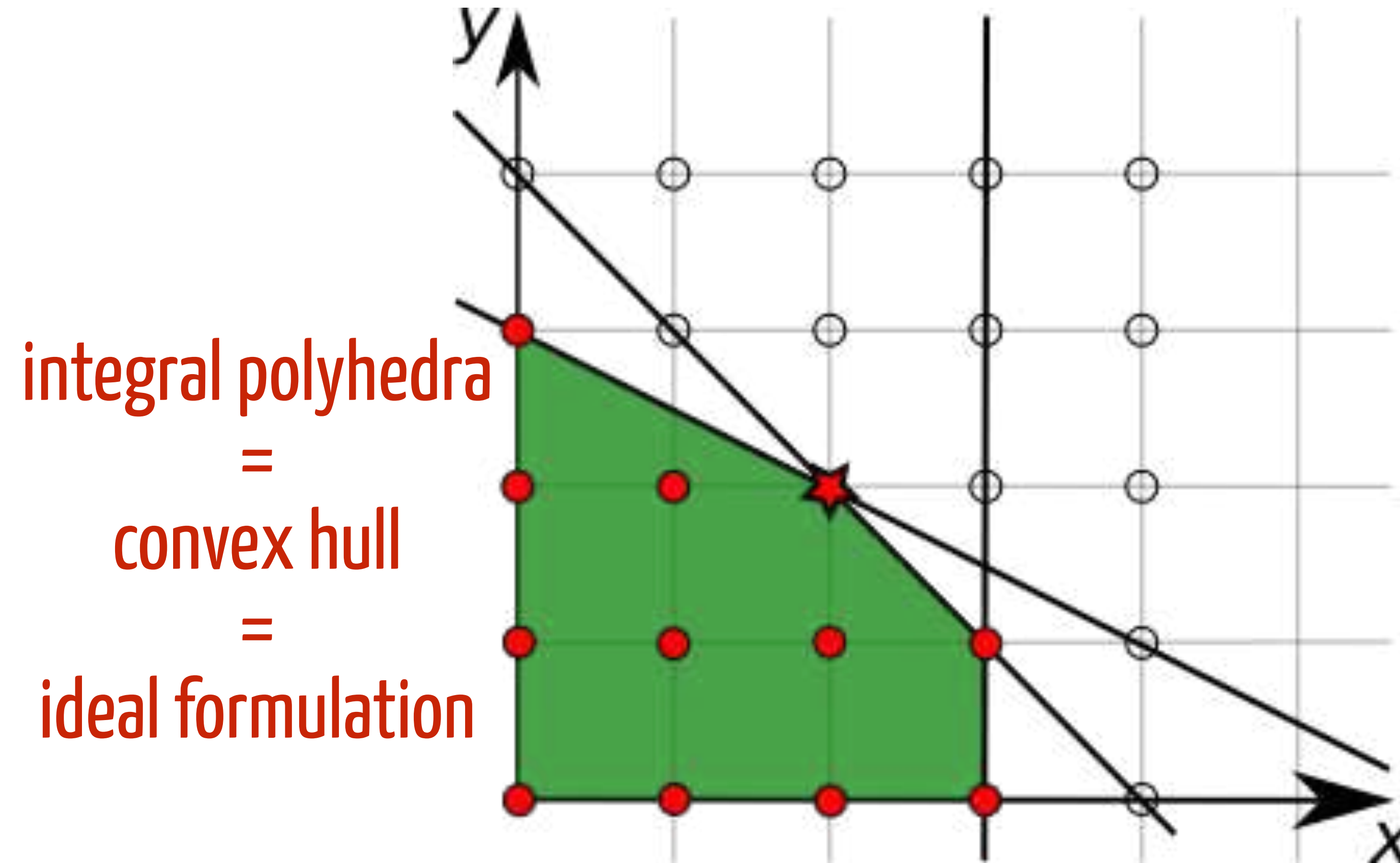
Capacitated Transshipment Problem

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

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 identity matrix

Interlude

Show that the **Transshipment** ILP is **ideal**

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