An EPTAS for Scheduling on Unrelated Machines of Few Different Types

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Abstract

In the classical problem of scheduling on unrelated parallel machines, a set of jobs has to be assigned to a set of machines. The jobs have a processing time depending on the machine and the goal is to minimize the makespan, that is the maximum machine load. It is well known that this problem is NP-hard and does not allow polynomial time approximation algorithms with approximation guarantees smaller than 1.5 unless P=NP. We consider the case that there are only a constant number of machine types. Two machines have the same type if all jobs have the same processing time for them. We present an efficient polynomial time approximation scheme (EPTAS) for this problem, that is for any \( \varepsilon > 0 \) an assignment with makespan of length at most \((1 + \varepsilon)\) times the optimum can be found in polynomial time in the input length and the exponent is independent of \( \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \). In particular we achieve a running time of \( 2^{O(K \log(K)/\varepsilon \log^4 1/\varepsilon)} + \text{poly}(|I|) \), where \(|I|\) denotes the input length. Furthermore we study the case where the minimum machine load has to be maximized and achieve a similar result.

1 Introduction

We consider the problem of scheduling jobs on unrelated parallel machines—or unrelated scheduling for short—in which a set \( J \) of \( n \) jobs has to be assigned to a set \( M \) of \( m \) machines. Each job \( j \) has a processing time \( p_{ij} \) for each machine \( i \) and the goal is to find a schedule \( \sigma : J \rightarrow M \) minimizing the makespan \( C_{\max}(\sigma) = \max_{i \in M} \sum_{j \in \sigma^{-1}(i)} p_{ij} \), i.e. the maximum machine load. The problem is one of the classical scheduling problems studied in approximation. In 1990 Lenstra, Shmoys and Tardos [19] showed that there is no approximation algorithm with an approximation guarantee smaller than 1.5, unless P=NP. Moreover they presented a 2-approximation and closing this gap is a rather famous open problem in scheduling theory and approximation (see e.g. [22]).

In particular we study the special case where there is only a constant number \( K \) of machine types. Two machines \( i \) and \( i' \) have the same type, if \( p_{ij} = p_{i'j} \) holds for each job \( j \). In many application scenarios this scenario is plausible, e.g. when considering computers

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which typically only have a very limited number of different types of processing units. We denote the processing time of a job \(j\) on a machine of type \(t \in [K]\) by \(p_{jt}\) and assume that the input consist of the corresponding \(K \times n\) processing time matrix together with machine multiplicities \(m_t\) for each type \(t\), yielding \(m = \sum_{t \in [K]} m_t\). Note that the case \(K = 1\) is equivalent to the classical scheduling on identical machines.

We will also consider the reverse objective of maximizing the minimum machine load, i.e. \(C_{\min}(\sigma) = \min_{i \in M} \sum_{j \in \sigma^{-1}(i)} p_{ij}\). This problem is also known as max-min fair allocation or the Santa Claus problem. The intuition behind these names is that the jobs are interpreted as goods (e.g. presents), the machines as players (e.g. children), and the processing times as the values of the goods from the perspective of the different players. Finding an assignment that maximizes the minimum machine load, means therefore finding an allocation of the goods that is in some sense fair (making the least happy kid as happy as possible). We will refer to the problem as Santa Claus problem in the following, but otherwise will stick to the scheduling terminology.

We study polynomial time approximation algorithms: Given an instance \(I\) of an optimization problem, an \(\alpha\)-approximation \(A\) for this problem produces a solution in time \(\text{poly}(|I|)\), where \(|I|\) denotes the input length. For the objective function value \(A(I)\) of this solution it is guaranteed that \(A(I) \leq \alpha \text{OPT}(I)\), in the case of a minimization problem, or \(A(I) \geq (1/\alpha) \text{OPT}(I)\), in the case of an maximization problem, where \(\text{OPT}(I)\) is the value of an optimal solution. We call \(\alpha\) the approximation guarantee or rate of the algorithm. In some cases a polynomial time approximation scheme (PTAS) can be achieved, that is for each \(\varepsilon > 0\) an \((1 + \varepsilon)\)-approximation. If for such a family of algorithms the running time can be bounded by \(f(1/\varepsilon)\text{poly}(|I|)\) for some computable function \(f\), the PTAS is called efficient (EPTAS), and if the running time is polynomial in both \(1/\varepsilon\) and \(|I|\) it is called fully polynomial (FPTAS).

**Related work.** It is well known that the unrelated scheduling problem admits an FPTAS in the case that the number of machines is considered constant \([13]\) and we already mentioned the seminal work by Lenstra et al. \([19]\). Furthermore the problem of unrelated scheduling with a constant number of machine types is strongly NP-hard, because it is a generalization of the strongly NP-hard problem of scheduling on identical parallel machines. Therefore an FPTAS can not be hoped for in this case. However, Bonifaci and Wiese \([6]\) showed that there is a PTAS even for the more general vector scheduling case. In the case considered here, their algorithm has to solve \(m^\mathcal{O}(K^{(1/\varepsilon)} \log 1/\varepsilon)\) linear programs. Gehrke et al. \([10]\) presented a PTAS with an improved running time of \(\mathcal{O}(Kn) + m^\mathcal{O}(K^2)(\log(m)/\varepsilon)^\mathcal{O}(K^2)\) for unrelated scheduling with a constant number of machine types. On the other hand, Chen et al. \([?]\) showed that there is no PTAS for scheduling on identical machines with running time \(2^{(1/\varepsilon)^{1-\delta}}\) for any \(\delta > 0\), unless the exponential time hypothesis fails. Furthermore, the case \(K = 2\) has been studied: Imreh \([14]\) designed heuristic algorithms with rates \((m_1 - 1)/m_2\) and \(4 - 2/m_1\), and Bleuse et al. \([5]\) presented an algorithm with rate \(4/3 + 3/m_2\) and moreover a (faster) 3/2-approximation, for the case that for each job the processing time on the second machine type is at most the one on the first. Moreover, Raravi and Nélis \([21]\) designed a PTAS for the case with two machine types.

Interestingly, Goemans and Rothvoss \([11]\) were able to show that unrelated scheduling is in \(P\), if both the number of machine types and the number of job types is bounded by
a constant. Job types are defined analogously to machine types, i.e. two jobs \( j, j' \) have the same type, if \( p_{ij} = p_{ij'} \) for each machine \( i \). In this case the matrix \((p_{ij})\) has only a constant number of distinct rows and columns. Note that already in the case we study, the rank of this matrix is constant. However the case of unrelated scheduling where the matrix \((p_{ij})\) has constant rank turns out to be much harder: Already for the case with rank 4 there is no approximation algorithm with rate smaller than 3/2 unless \( P=NP \) [8].

In a rather recent work, Knop and Koutecký [18] considered the number of machine types as a parameter from the perspective of fixed parameter tractability. They showed that unrelated scheduling is fixed parameter tractable for the parameters \( K \) and \( \max p_{i,j} \), that is, there is an algorithm with running time \( f(K, \max p_{i,j}) \text{poly}(|I|) \) for some computable function \( f \) that solves the problem to optimality.

For the case that the number of machines is constant, the Santa Claus problem behaves similar to the unrelated scheduling problem: there is an FPTAS that is implied by a result due to Woeginger [23]. In the general case however, so far no approximation algorithm with a constant approximation guarantee has been found. The results by Lenstra et al. [19] can be adapted to show that that there is no approximation algorithm with a rate smaller than 2, unless \( P=NP \), and to get an algorithm that finds a solution with value at least \( \text{OPT}(I) - \max p_{i,j} \), as was done by Bezáková and Dani [4]. Since \( \max p_{i,j} \) could be bigger than \( \text{OPT}(I) \), this does not provide an (multiplicative) approximation guarantee. Bezáková and Dani also presented a simple \((n - m + 1)\)-approximation and an improved approximation guarantee of \( O(\sqrt{n \log^3 n}) \) was achieved by Asadpour and Saberi [2]. The best rate so far is \( O(n^\varepsilon) \) due to Bateni et al. [3] and Chakrabarty et al. [7], with a running time of \( \mathcal{O}(n^{1/\varepsilon}) \) for any \( \varepsilon > 0 \).

### Results and Methodology.

In this paper we show:

**Theorem 1.** There is an EPTAS for both scheduling on unrelated parallel machines and the Santa Claus problem with a constant number of different machine types with running time \( 2^{\mathcal{O}(K \log(K)\varepsilon^{-1} \log^{1/\varepsilon})} + \text{poly}(|I|) \).

First we present a basic version of the EPTAS for unrelated scheduling with a running time doubly exponential in \( 1/\varepsilon \). For this EPTAS we use the dual approximation approach by Hochbaum and Shmoys [12] to get a guess \( T \) of the optimal makespan \( \text{OPT} \). Then we further simplify the problem via geometric rounding of the processing times. Next we formulate a mixed integer linear program (MILP) with a constant number of integral variables that encodes a relaxed version of the problem. We solve it with the algorithm by Lenstra and Kannan. The fractional variables of the MILP have to be rounded and we achieve this with a cleverly designed flow network utilizing flow integrality and causing only a small error. With an additional error the obtained solution can be used to construct a schedule with makespan \( (1 + O(\varepsilon))T \). This procedure is described in detail in Section 2.

Building upon the basic EPTAS we achieve the improved running time using techniques by Jansen [15] and by Jansen, Klein and Verschae [16]. The basic idea of these techniques is to make use of existential results about simple structured solutions of integer linear programs (ILPs). In particular these results can be used to guess the non-zero variables of the MILP, because they sufficiently limit the search space. We show how these techniques can be applied in our case in Section 3. Interestingly, our techniques can be adapted for
the Santa Claus Problem, which typically has a worse approximation behaviour. This is covered in the last section of the paper.

2 Basic EPTAS

In this chapter we describe a basic EPTAS for $R||C_{max}$ with a constant number of machine types with a running time doubly exponential in $1/\varepsilon$. Wlog. we assume $\varepsilon < 1$. Furthermore $\log(\cdot)$ denotes the logarithm with basis 2 and for $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ we write $[k]$ for $\{1, \ldots, k\}$.

First, we simplify the problem via the classical dual approximation concept by Hochbaum and Shmoys [12]. In the simplified version of the problem a target makespan $T$ is given and the goal is to either output a schedule with makespan at most $(1 + \alpha \varepsilon)T$ for some constant $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, or correctly report that there is no schedule with makespan $T$. We can use a polynomial time algorithm for this problem in the design of a PTAS in the following way. First we obtain an upper bound $B$ for the optimal makespan $OPT$ of the instance with $B \leq 2OPT$. This can be done using the 2-approximation by Lenstra et al. [19]. With binary search on the interval $[B/2, B]$ we can find in $O(\log 1/\varepsilon)$ iterations a value $T^*$ for which the mentioned algorithm is successful, while $T^* - \varepsilon B/2$ is rejected. We have $T^* - \varepsilon B/2 \leq OPT$ and therefore $T^* \leq (1 + \varepsilon)OPT$. Hence the schedule we obtained for the target makespan $T^*$ has makespan at most $(1 + \alpha \varepsilon)T^* \leq (1 + \alpha \varepsilon)(1 + \varepsilon)OPT = (1 + O(\varepsilon))OPT$. In the following we will always assume that a target makespan $T$ is given. Next we present a brief overview of the algorithm for the simplified problem followed by a more detailed description and analysis.

Algorithm 2.
(i) Simplify the input via geometric rounding with an error of $\varepsilon T$.
(ii) Build the mixed integer linear program MILP($\bar{T}$) and solve it with the algorithm by Lenstra and Kannan ($\bar{T} = (1 + \varepsilon)T$).
(iii) If there is no solution, report that there is no solution with makespan $T$.
(iv) Generate an integral solution for MILP($\bar{T} + \varepsilon T + \varepsilon^2 T$) via a flow network utilizing flow integrality.
(v) The integral solution is turned into a schedule with an additional error of $\varepsilon^2 T$ due to the small jobs.

Simplification of the Input. We construct a simplified instance $\bar{I}$ with modified processing times $\bar{p}_{ij}$. If a job $j$ has a processing time bigger than $T$ for a machine type $t$ we set $\bar{p}_{ij} = \infty$. Let $t \in [K]$. We call a job big (for machine type $t$), if $p_{ij} > \varepsilon^2 T$, and small otherwise. We perform a geometric rounding step for each job $j$ with $p_{ij} < \infty$, that is we set $\bar{p}_{ij} = (1 + \varepsilon)^x \varepsilon^2 T$ with $x = \lceil \log_{1+\varepsilon}(p_{ij} / (\varepsilon^2 T)) \rceil$.

Lemma 3. If there is a schedule with makespan at most $T$ for $I$, the same schedule has makespan at most $(1 + \varepsilon)T$ for instance $\bar{I}$ and any schedule for instance $\bar{I}$ can be turned into a schedule for $I$ without increase in the makespan.

We will search for a schedule with makespan $\bar{T} = (1 + \varepsilon)T$ for the rounded instance $\bar{I}$.

We establish some notation for the rounded instance. For any rounded processing time $p$ we denote the set of jobs $j$ with $\bar{p}_{ij} = p$ by $J_t(p)$. Moreover, for each machine
type \( t \) let \( S_t \) and \( B_t \) be the set of small and big rounded processing times. Obviously we have \(|S_t| + |B_t| \leq n\). Furthermore \(|B_t|\) is bounded by a constant: Let \( N \) be such that \((1 + \varepsilon)^N \varepsilon^2 T\) is the biggest rounded processing time for all machine type. Then we have \((1 + \varepsilon)^{N-1} \varepsilon^2 T \leq T\) and therefore \(|B_t| \leq N \leq \log(1/\varepsilon^2)/\log(1 + \varepsilon) + 1 \leq 1/\varepsilon \log(1/\varepsilon^2) + 1\) (using \( \varepsilon \leq 1 \)).

**MILP.** For any set of processing times \( P \) we call the \( P \)-indexed vectors of non-negative integers \( Z_{\geq 0}^P \) configurations (for \( P \)). The size size\((C)\) of configuration \( C \) is given by \( \sum_{p \in P} C_p p \). For each \( t \in [K] \) we consider the set \( C_t(\bar{T}) \) of configurations \( C \) for the big processing times \( B_t \) and with size\((C) \leq \bar{T} \). Given a schedule \( \sigma \), we say that a machine \( i \) of type \( t \) obeys a configuration \( C \), if the number of big jobs with processing time \( p \) that \( \sigma \) assigns to \( i \) is exactly \( C_p \) for each \( p \in B_t \). Since the processing times in \( B_t \) are bigger then \( \varepsilon^2 T \) we have \( \sum_{p \in B_t} C_p \leq 1/\varepsilon^2 \) for each \( C \in C_t(\bar{T}) \). Therefore the number of distinct configurations in \( C_t(\bar{T}) \) can be bounded by \((1/\varepsilon^2 + 1)^N < (1/\varepsilon^2 + 1)^{1/\varepsilon \log(1/\varepsilon^2) + 1} = 2^{\log(1/\varepsilon^2 + 1)\varepsilon \log(1/\varepsilon^2) + 1} \in 2^{O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)} \).

We define a mixed integer linear program \( \text{MILP}(\bar{T}) \) in which configurations are assigned integrally and jobs are assigned fractionally to machine types. Note that we will call a solution of a MILP integral if both the integral and fractional variables have integral values. To this amount we introduce variables \( z_{C,t} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \) for each machine type \( t \in [K] \) and configuration \( C \in C_t(\bar{T}) \), and \( x_{j,t} \geq 0 \) for each machine type \( t \in [K] \) and job \( j \in J \). For \( \bar{m}_j = \infty \) we set \( x_{j,t} = 0 \). Besides this, the MILP has the following constraints:

\[
\sum_{C \in C_t(\bar{T})} z_{C,t} = m_t \quad \forall t \in [K] \quad (1)
\]

\[
\sum_{t \in [K]} x_{j,t} = 1 \quad \forall j \in J \quad (2)
\]

\[
\sum_{j \in J_t(p)} x_{j,t} \leq \sum_{C \in C_t(\bar{T})} C_p z_{C,t} \quad \forall t \in [K], p \in B_t \quad (3)
\]

\[
\sum_{C \in C_t(\bar{T})} \text{size}(C) z_{C,t} + \sum_{p \in S_t} p \sum_{j \in J_t(p)} x_{j,t} \leq m_t \bar{T} \quad \forall t \in [K] \quad (4)
\]

With constraint \((1)\) the number of chosen configurations for each machine type equals the number of machines of this type. Due to constraint \((2)\) the variables \( x_{j,t} \) encode the fractional assignment of jobs to machine types. Moreover for each machine type it is ensured with constraint \((3)\) that the summed up number of big jobs of each size is at most the number of big jobs that are used in the chosen configurations for the respective machine type. Lastly, \((4)\) guarantees that the overall processing time of the configurations and small jobs assigned to a machine type does not exceed the area \( m_t \bar{T} \). It is easy to see that the MILP models a relaxed version of the problem:

**Lemma 4.** *If there is schedule with makespan \( \bar{T} \) there is a feasible (integral) solution of MILP(\( \bar{T} \)), and if there is a feasible integral solution for MILP(\( \bar{T} \)) there is a schedule with makespan at most \( \bar{T} + \varepsilon^2 T \).*

**Proof.** Let \( \sigma \) be a schedule with makespan \( \bar{T} \). Each machine of type \( t \) obeys exactly one configuration from \( C_t(\bar{T}) \), and we set \( z_{C,t} \) to be the number of machines of type \( t \) that obey
C with respect to \( \sigma \). Furthermore for a job \( j^* \) let \( t^* \) be the type of machine \( \sigma(j^*) \). We set \( x_{j^*,t^*} = 1 \) and \( x_{j^*,t} = 0 \) for \( t \neq t^* \). It is easy to check that all conditions are fulfilled.

Now let \((z_{C,t}, x_{j,t})\) be an integral solution of \( \text{MILP}(\bar{T}) \). Using (2) we can assign the jobs to distinct machine types based on the \( x_{j,t} \) variables. The \( z_{C,t} \) variables can be used to assign configurations to machines such that each machine receives exactly one configuration using [1]. Based on these configurations we can create slots for the big jobs and for each type \( t \) we can successively assign all of the big jobs assigned to this type to slots of the size of their processing time because of [3]. Now we can for each type iterate through the machines and greedily assign small jobs. When the makespan \( \bar{T} \) is exceeded due to some job, we stop assigning to the current machine and continue with the next. Because of [4], all small jobs can be assigned in this fashion. Since the small jobs have size at most \( \varepsilon^2 T \) we get a schedule with makespan at most \( \bar{T} + \varepsilon^2 T \).

We have \( K2^{O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)} \) integral variables, i.e. a constant number. Therefore \( \text{MILP}(T) \) can be solved in polynomial time, with the following classical result due to Lenstra [20] and Kannan [17]:

**Theorem 5.** A mixed integer linear program with \( d \) integral variables and encoding size \( s \) can be solved in time \( d^{O(d)}\text{poly}(s) \).

**Rounding.** In this paragraph we describe how a feasible solution \((z_{C,t}, x_{j,t})\) for \( \text{MILP}(\bar{T}) \) can be transformed into an integral feasible solution \((\bar{z}_{C,t}, \bar{x}_{j,t})\) of \( \text{MILP}(\bar{T} + \varepsilon T + \varepsilon^2 T) \). This is achieved via a flow network utilizing flow integrality.

For any (small or big) processing time \( p \) let \( \eta_{t,p} = \left\lceil \sum_{j \in J_t(p)} x_{j,t} \right\rceil \) be the rounded up (fractional) number of jobs with processing time \( p \) that are assigned to machine type \( t \). Note that for big job sizes \( p \in B_t \) we have \( \eta_{t,p} = \sum_{C \in C(T)} C_t z_{C,t} \) because of [3] and because the right hand side is an integer.

Now we describe the flow network \( G = (V, E) \) with source \( \alpha \) and sink \( \omega \). For each job \( j \in J \) there is a job node \( v_j \) and an edge \((\alpha, v_j)\) with capacity 1 connecting the source and the job node. Moreover, for each machine type \( t \) we have processing time nodes \( u_{t,p} \) for each processing time \( p \in B_t \cup S_t \). The processing time nodes are connected to the sink via edges \((u_{t,p}, \omega)\) with capacity \( \eta_{t,p} \). Lastly, for each job \( j \) and machine type \( t \) with
We improvetheringtime of the algorithm using techniques that utilizeresultsconcerning integer cones. Let \( \lambda \). We outline the construction in figure [1] Obviously we have \( |V| \leq (K + 1)n + 2 \) and \( |E| \leq (2K + 1)n \).

**Lemma 6.** \( G \) has a maximum flow with value \( n \).

**Proof.** Obviously \( n \) is an upper bound for the maximum flow, because the outgoing edges from \( \alpha \) have summed up capacity \( n \). The solution \( (z_{C,t}, x_{j,t}) \) for MILP(\( T \)) can be used to design a flow \( f \) with value \( n \), by setting \( f((v_j, u_{t,\tilde p_{t,j}})) = 1 \), \( f((u_{t,y}, \omega)) = \sum_{j \in J, y} x_{j,t} \). It is easy to check that \( f \) is indeed a feasible flow with value \( n \).

Using the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm, an integral maximum flow \( f^* \) can be found in time \( \mathcal{O}(|E|f^*) = \mathcal{O}(Kn^2) \). Due to flow conservation, for each job \( j \) there is exactly one machine type \( t^* \) such that \( f((v_j, u_{t^*,y^*})) = 1 \), and we set \( \bar x_{j,t^*} = 1 \) and \( \bar x_{j,t} = 0 \) for \( t \neq t^* \). Moreover we set \( z_{C,t} = z_{C,t} \). Obviously \( (\bar z_{C,t}, \bar x_{j,t}) \) fulfills [1] and [2]. Furthermore [3] is fulfilled, because of the capacities and because \( \eta_{t,p} \leq \sum_{C \in C(T)} \lambda_p C \). For big job sizes \( p \)

Utilizing the geometric rounding and the convergence of the geometric series, as well as

\[
\sum_{j \in J, t} x_{j,t} + \sum_{p \in S_t} \bar x_{j,t} < m_t (\bar T + \varepsilon T + \varepsilon^2 T) \quad \text{and therefore (4) is fulfilled as well.}
\]

**Analysis.** The solution found for MILP(\( \bar T \)) can be turned into an integral solution for MILP(\( T + \varepsilon T + \varepsilon^2 T \)). Like described in the proof of Lemma [4] this can easily be turned into a schedule with makespan \( \bar T + \varepsilon T + \varepsilon^2 T + \varepsilon^2 T \leq (1 + 4\varepsilon)T \). It is easy to see that the running time of the algorithm by Lenstra and Kannan dominates the overall running time. Since MILP(\( \bar T \)) has \( \mathcal{O}(K/\varepsilon \log 1/\varepsilon + n) \) many constraints, \( Kn \) fractional and \( K^2 \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log 2 \log 1/\varepsilon) \) integral variables, the running time of the algorithm can be bounded by:

\[
(K^2 \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log 2 \log 1/\varepsilon))^{\mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log 2 \log 1/\varepsilon)} = 2^{K^2 \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log 2 \log 1/\varepsilon)} n \]

**3 Better running time**

We improve the running time of the algorithm using techniques that utilize results concerning the existence of solutions for integer linear programs (ILPs) with a certain simple structure. In a first step we can reduce the running time to be only singly exponential in \( 1/\varepsilon \) with a technique by Jansen [15]. Then we further improve the running time to the one claimed in Theorem [4] with a very recent result by Jansen, Klein and Verschae [16]. Both techniques rely upon the following result about integer cones by Eisenbrandt and Shmonin [9].

**Theorem 7.** Let \( X \subset \mathbb{Z}^d \) be a finite set of integer vectors and let \( b \in \text{int-cone}(X) = \{ \sum_{x \in X} \lambda_x x \mid \lambda_x \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \} \). Then there is a subset \( \bar X \subseteq X \), such that \( b \in \text{int-cone}(\bar X) \) and \( |\bar X| \leq 2d \log(4dM) \), with \( M = \max_{x \in X} ||x||_\infty \).

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For the first improvement of the running time this Theorem is used to show:

**Corollary 8.** MILP($\bar{T}$) has a feasible solution where for each machine type at most $O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ of the corresponding integer variables are non-zero.

We get the better running time by guessing the non-zero variables and removing all the others from the MILP. The number of possibilities of choosing $O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ elements out of a set of $2^{O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}$ elements can be bounded by $2^{O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}$. Considering all the machine types we can bound the number of guesses by $2^{O(K/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}$. The running time of the algorithm by Lenstra and Kannan with $O(K/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ integer variables can be bounded by $O(K/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)^{O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}\text{poly}(|I|) = 2^{O(K/\varepsilon \log^2 K/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}\text{poly}(|I|)$. This yields a running time of $2^{O(K \log(K)/\varepsilon \log^4 1/\varepsilon)}\text{poly}(|I|)$.

In the following we first proof Corollary 8 and then introduce the technique from [16] to further reduce the running time.

**Proof of Corollary 8.** We consider the so called configuration ILP for scheduling on identical machines. Let $m'$ be a given number of machines, $P$ be a set of processing times with multiplicities $k_p \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ for each $p \in P$ and let $C \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^P$ be some finite set of configurations for $P$. The configuration ILP for $m'$, $P$, $k$, and $C$ is given by:

\[
\sum_{C \in C} C_p y_C = k_p \quad \forall p \in P \\
\sum_{C \in C} y_C = m' \\
y_C \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \quad \forall C \in C
\]

The default case that we will consider most of the time is that $C$ is given by a target makespan $T$ that upper bounds the size of the configurations.

Let $X$ be the set of column vectors corresponding to the left hand side of the ILP and $b$ be the vector corresponding to the right hand side. Then $b \in \text{int-cone}(X)$ holds and Theorem 7 yields that there is a subset $\tilde{X}$ of $X$ with cardinality at most $2(|B_t| + 1) \log(4(|B_t| + 1)/\varepsilon^2) \in O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ and $b \in \text{int-cone}(\tilde{X})$. Therefore there is a solution $(\tilde{y}_C)$ for the ILP with $O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ many non-zero variables. If we set $\tilde{z}_{C,t} = \tilde{y}_C$ and perform corresponding steps for each machine type, we get a solution $(\tilde{z}_{C,t}, \tilde{x}_{j,t})$ that obviously satisfies constraints (1), (2), and (3) of MILP($\bar{T}$). The last constraint is also satisfied, because the number of covered big job of each size does not change and therefore the overall size of the configurations does not change either for each machine type. This completes the proof of Corollary 8.

**Further Improvement of the Running Time.** The main ingredient of the technique by Jansen et al. [16] is a result about the configuration ILP, for the case that there is a target makespan $T'$ upper bounding the configuration sizes. Let $C(T')$ be the set of configurations with size at most $T'$. We need some further notation. The **support** of any
vector of numbers $v$ is the set of indices with non-zero entries, i.e. $\text{supp}(v) = \{ i \mid v_i \neq 0 \}$. A configuration is called simple, if the size of its support is at most $\log(T' + 1)$, and complex otherwise. The set of complex configurations from $\mathcal{C}(T')$ is denoted by $\mathcal{C}^c(T')$.

**Theorem 9.** Let the configuration ILP for $m'$, $P$, $k$, and $\mathcal{C}(T')$ have a feasible solution and let both the makespan $T'$ and the processing times from $P$ be integral. Then there is a solution $(y_C)$ for the ILP that satisfies the following conditions:

(i) $|\text{supp}(y|_{\mathcal{C}^c(T')})| \leq 2(|P| + 1)\log(4(|P| + 1)T')$ and $y_C \leq 1$ for $C \in \mathcal{C}^c(T')$.

(ii) $|\text{supp}(y)| \leq 4(|P| + 1)\log(4(|P| + 1)T')$.

We will call such a solution thin. Furthermore they argue:

**Remark 10.** The total number of simple configurations is bounded by $2^{\Omega(\log^2(T') + \log^2(|P|))}$.

The better running time can be achieved by determining configurations that are equivalent to the complex configurations (via guessing and dynamic programming), guessing the support of the simple configurations, and solving the MILP with few integral variables. The approach is a direct adaptation of the one in [10] for our case. In the following we explain the additional steps of the modified algorithm in more detail, analyse the running time and present an outline of the complete algorithm.

We have to ensure that the makespan and the processing times are integral and that the makespan is small. After the geometric rounding step we scale the makespan and the processing times such that $T = 1/e^3$ and $T = (1 + \varepsilon)/e^3$ holds and the processing times have the form $(1 + \varepsilon)x^2T = (1 + \varepsilon)\bar{p}/\varepsilon$. Next we apply a second rounding step for the big processing times, setting $\bar{p}_{t,j} = \lceil \bar{p}_{t,j} \rceil$ for $\bar{p}_{t,j} \in \bar{B}_t$ and denote the set of these processing times by $\bar{B}_t$. Obviously we have $|\bar{B}_t| \leq |B_t| \leq 1/\varepsilon \log(1/\varepsilon^2) + 1$. We denote the corresponding instance by $\hat{I}$. Since for a schedule with makespan $T$ for instance $I$ there are at most $1/\varepsilon^2$ big jobs on any machine, we get:

**Lemma 11.** If there is a schedule with makespan at most $T$ for $I$, the same schedule has makespan at most $(1 + 2\varepsilon)T$ for instance $\hat{I}$ and any schedule for instance $\hat{I}$ can be turned into a schedule for $I$ without increase in the makespan.

We set $\hat{T} = (1 + 2\varepsilon)T$ and for each machine type $t$ we consider the set of configurations $\mathcal{C}_t(\hat{T})$ for $\hat{B}_t$ with size at most $|\hat{T}|$. Rounding down $\hat{T}$ ensures integrality and causes no problems, because all big processing times are integral. Furthermore let $\mathcal{C}^c(\hat{T})$ and $\mathcal{C}^s(\hat{T})$ be the subsets of complex and simple configurations. Due to Remark 10 we have:

$$|\mathcal{C}^s(\hat{T})| \leq 2^{\Omega(\log^2(\hat{T}) + \log^2(|\hat{B}_t|))} = 2^{\Omega(\log^2 / \varepsilon)}$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

Due to Theorem 9 (using the same considerations concerning configuration ILPs like in the last paragraph) we get that there is a solution $(\hat{z}_C, \hat{x}_{j,t})$ for MILP($\hat{T}$) (adjusted to this case) that uses for each machine type $t$ at most $4(|\hat{B}_t| + 1)\log(4(|\hat{B}_t| + 1)|\hat{T}|) \in \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ many configurations from $\mathcal{C}^s(\hat{T})$. Moreover at most $2(|\hat{B}_t| + 1)\log(4(|\hat{B}_t| + 1)|\hat{T}|) \in \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ complex configurations are used and each of them is used only once. Since each configuration corresponds to at most $1/\varepsilon^2$ jobs, there are at most $\mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon^3 \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ many jobs for each type corresponding to complex configurations. Hence, we can determine the number of complex configurations $m^c_t$ for machine type $t$ along with the number of jobs $k_{t,p}$ with processing time $p$ that are covered by a simple configuration for each $p \in \hat{B}_t$. 


in $2^{\mathcal{O}(K/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}$ steps via guessing. Now we can use a dynamic program to determine configurations (with multiplicities) that are equivalent to the complex configurations in the sense that their size is bounded by $\lceil \bar{T} \rceil$, their summed up number is $m_t^c$ and they cover exactly $k_{t,p}^c$ jobs with processing time $p$. The dynamic program iterates through $[m_t]$ determining $B_t$-indexed vectors $y$ of non-negative integers with $y_p \leq k_{t,p}^c$. A vector $y$ computed at step $i$ encodes that $y_p$ jobs of size $p$ can be covered by $i$ configurations from $\mathcal{C}_t(\lceil \bar{T} \rceil)$. Denote the set of configurations the program computes with $\mathcal{C}_t$ and the multiplicities with $z_C$ for $C \in \mathcal{C}_t$. It is easy to see that the running time of such a program can be bounded by $\mathcal{O}(m_t^c(\prod_{p \in B_t}(k_{t,p}^c + 1))^2)$. Using $m_t^c \in \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ and $k_{t,p}^c \in \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon^3 \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$ this yields a running time of $K^2 \mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$, when considering all the machine types.

Having determined configurations that are equivalent to the complex configurations, we may just guess the simple configurations. For each machine type, there are at most $2^{\mathcal{O}(\log^2 1/\varepsilon)}$ simple configurations and the number of configurations we need is bounded by $\mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)$. Therefore the number of needed guesses is bounded by $2^{\mathcal{O}(K/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}$. Now we can solve a modified version of MILP($\bar{T}$) in which $z_C$ is fixed to $z_{C_t}$ for $C \in \mathcal{C}_t$ and only variables $z_{C_t'}$ corresponding to the guessed simple configurations are used. The running time for the algorithm by Lenstra and Kannan can again be bounded by $2^{\mathcal{O}(K \log K/\varepsilon \log^3 1/\varepsilon)} \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I})$. Thus we get an overall running time of $2^{\mathcal{O}(K \log K/\varepsilon \log^4 1/\varepsilon)} \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I})$. Considering the two cases $2^{\mathcal{O}(K \log K/\varepsilon \log^4 1/\varepsilon)} < \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I})$ and $2^{\mathcal{O}(K \log K/\varepsilon \log^4 1/\varepsilon)} \geq \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I})$ yields the claimed running time of $2^{\mathcal{O}(K \log K/\varepsilon \log^4 1/\varepsilon)} + \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{I})$ completing the proof of the part of Theorem 1 concerning unrelated scheduling. We conclude this section with a summary of the complete algorithm.

**Algorithm 12.**

(i) Simplify the input via scaling, geometric rounding and a second rounding step for the big jobs with an error of $2\varepsilon T$. We now have $T = 1/\varepsilon^3$.

(ii) Guess the number of machines $m_t^c$ with a complex configuration for each machine type $t$ along with the number $k_{t,p}^c$ of jobs with processing time $p$ covered by complex configurations for each big processing time $p \in B_t$.

(iii) For each machine type $t$ determine via dynamic programming configurations that are equivalent to the complex configurations.

(iv) Guess the simple configurations used in a thin solution.

(v) Build the simplified mixed integer linear program MILP($\bar{T}$) in which the variables for configurations from step (iii) are fixed and only integral variables for configurations guessed in step (iv) are used. Solve it with the algorithm by Lenstra and Kannan.

(vi) If there is no solution for each of the guesses, report that there is no solution with makespan $T$.

(vii) Generate an integral solution for MILP($\bar{T} + \varepsilon T + \varepsilon^2 T$) via a flow network utilizing flow integrality.

(viii) With an additional error of $\varepsilon^2 T$ due to the small jobs the integral solution is turned into a schedule.
4 The Santa Claus Problem

Adapting the result for unrelated scheduling we achieve an EPTAS for the Santa Claus problem. It is based on the basic EPTAS together with the second running time improvement. In the following we show the needed adjustments.

Preliminaries. Wlog. we present a \((1 - \varepsilon)^{-1}\)-approximation instead of a \((1 + \varepsilon)\)-approximation. Moreover, we assume \(\varepsilon < 1\) and that \(m \leq n\), because otherwise the problem is trivial.

The dual approximation method can be applied in this case as well. However, since we have no approximation algorithm with a constant rate, the binary search is more expensive. Still we can use for example the algorithm by Bezáková and Dani [4] to find a bound \(B\) for the optimal makespan with \(B \leq OPT \leq (n - m + 1)B\). In \(O((n - m)/\varepsilon)\) many steps we can find a guess for the optimal minimum machine load \(T^*\) such that \(T^* \leq OPT < T^* + \varepsilon B\) and therefore \(T^* > (1 - \varepsilon)OPT\). It suffices to find a procedure that given an instance and a guess \(T\) outputs a solution with objective value at least \((1 - \alpha \varepsilon)T\) for some constant \(\alpha\).

Concerning the simplification of the input, we first scale the makespan and the running times such that \(T = 1/\varepsilon^3\). Then we set the processing times that are bigger than \(T\) equal to \(T\). Next we round the processing times down via geometric rounding: We set \(\tilde{p}_{t,j} = (1 - \varepsilon)^2 \varepsilon T\) with \(x = \lfloor \log_{1 - \varepsilon} p_{t,j}/(\varepsilon^2 T) \rfloor\). The number of big jobs for any machine type is again bounded by \(1/\varepsilon \log((1/\varepsilon^2)/\varepsilon) \in O(1/\varepsilon \log 1/\varepsilon)\). For the big jobs we apply the second rounding step setting \(\tilde{p}_{t,j} = \lfloor \tilde{p}_{t,j} \rfloor\) and denote the resulting big processing times with \(\tilde{B}_t\), the corresponding instance by \(\tilde{I}\) and the occurring small processing times by \(S_t\).

The analogue of Lemma 11 holds, i.e. at the cost of \(2\varepsilon T\) we may search for a solution for the rounded instance \(\tilde{I}\). We set \(\tilde{T} = (1 - 2\varepsilon)T\).

MILP. In the Santa Claus problem it makes sense to use configurations of size bigger than \(\tilde{T}\). Let \(P = [\tilde{T}] + \max\{\tilde{p}_{t,j} \mid t \in [K], j \in \tilde{B}_t\}\). It suffices to consider configurations with size at most \(P\) and for each machine type \(t\) we denote the corresponding set of configurations by \(\tilde{C}_t(P)\). Again we can bound \(\tilde{C}_t(P)\) by \(2^{O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)}\). The MILP has integral variables \(z_{C,t}\) for each such configuration and fractional ones like before. The constraint (1) and (2) are adapted changing only the set of configurations and for constraint (3) additionally in this case the left-hand side has to be at least as big as the right hand side. The last constraint (4) has to be changed more. For this we partition \(\tilde{C}_t(P)\) into the set \(\tilde{C}_t(P)\) of big configurations with size bigger than \([\tilde{T}]\) and the set \(\tilde{C}_t(P)\) of small configurations with size at most \([\tilde{T}]\). The changed constraint has the following form:

\[ \sum_{C \in \tilde{C}_t(P)} \text{size}(C) z_{C,t} + \sum_{p \in S_t} \sum_{j \in \tilde{J}_t(p)} x_{j,t} \geq (m_t - \sum_{C \in \tilde{C}_t(P)} z_{C,t}) \tilde{T} \quad \forall t \in [K] \quad (9) \]

We denote the resulting MILP by \(\text{MILP}(\tilde{T},P)\) and get the analogue of Lemma 4.

Lemma 13. If there is schedule with minimum machine load \(\tilde{T}\) there is a feasible (integral) solution of \(\text{MILP}(\tilde{T},P)\), and if there is a feasible integral solution for \(\text{MILP}(\tilde{T},P)\) there is a schedule with minimum machine load at least \(\tilde{T} - \varepsilon^2 T\).

Proof. Let \(\sigma\) be a schedule with minimum machine load \(\tilde{T}\). We first consider only the machines for which the received load due to big jobs is at most \(P\). These machines obey
When the makespan theorem 9 given in [16], it becomes apparent that the result can easily be adapted. For Theorem 9 can not be applied directly. Note that considering the set of configurations we can cover all of the machines by this. Since the small jobs have size at most m, restrict its use to big configuration. Moreover, the Sparsification Lemma is used to exchange Lemma. Theorem 7 actually works with any set of configurations and therefore we can going into details we give the outline how the proof can be adjusted to this case:

Now let \((z_{C,t}, x_{j,t})\) be an integral solution of MILP(\(\hat{T}\)). Again we can assign the jobs to distinct machine types based on the \(x_{j,t}\) variables and the configurations to machines based on the \(z_{C,t}\) variables such that each machine receives at most one configuration. Based on these configurations we can create slots for the big jobs and for each type \(t\) we can successively assign big jobs until all slots are filled. Now we can, for each type, iterate through the machines that received small configurations and greedily assign small jobs. When the makespan \(\hat{T}\) would be exceeded due to some job, we stop assigning to the current machine (not adding the current job) and continue with the next machine. Because of [9] we can cover all of the machines by this. Since the small jobs have size at most \(\varepsilon^2 T\) we get a schedule with makespan at least \(\hat{T} - \varepsilon^2 T\). There may be some remaining jobs that can be assigned arbitrarily.

To solve the MILP we adapt the techniques by Jansen et al. [16], which is slightly more complicated for the modified MILP. Unlike in the previous section in order to get a thin solution that still fulfills [9], we have to consider big and small configurations separately for each machine type. Note that for a changed solution of the MILP [9] is fulfilled, if the summed-up size of the small and the summed up number of the big configurations is not changed. Given a solution \((\tilde{z}_{C,t}, \tilde{x}_{j,t})\) for the MILP and a machine type \(t\), we set \(\tilde{m}_t = \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_t(P)} \tilde{z}_{C,t}\) and \(\tilde{\mu}_t = \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_t(P)} \tilde{z}_{C,t}\), and furthermore \(\tilde{k}_{t,p} = \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_t(P)} C_p \tilde{z}_{C,t}\) and \(\tilde{k}_{t,p} = \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_t(P)} C_p \tilde{z}_{C,t}\) for \(p \in \hat{B}_t\). We get two configuration ILPs: The first is given by \(\tilde{m}_t, \tilde{\mu}_t, \tilde{k}_t\) and \(\hat{C}_t(P)\) and we call it the small ILP. The second is given by \(\tilde{m}_t, \tilde{\mu}_t, \tilde{k}_t\) and \(\hat{C}_t(P)\) and we call it the big ILP. For the small ILP the set of configurations is given by the upper bound \([\hat{T}]\) on the configuration size and we define the simple and complex configurations accordingly denoting them by \(\tilde{\mathcal{C}}(P)\) and \(\hat{\mathcal{C}}(P)\) respectively. We can directly apply Theorem [9] to the small ILP like before without changing the summed-up size of the small configurations. This is not the case for the big ILP because in this case the set of configurations is defined by an upper and lower bound for the configuration size and hence Theorem [9] can not be applied directly. Note that considering the set of configurations given just by the upper bound \(P\) is not an option, since this could change the number of big configurations that are used. However, when looking more closely into the proof of Theorem [9] given in [16], it becomes apparent that the result can easily be adapted. For this we call a configuration \(C\) in this case simple if \(|\text{supp}(C)| \leq \log(P + 1)\) and complex otherwise and denote the corresponding sets by \(\tilde{\mathcal{C}}(P)\) and \(\hat{\mathcal{C}}(P)\) respectively. Without going into details we give the outline how the proof can be adjusted to this case:

The main tools in the proof are variations of Theorem [7] and the so called Sparsification Lemma. Theorem [7] actually works with any set of configurations and therefore we can restrict its use to big configuration. Moreover, the Sparsification Lemma is used to exchange complex configurations that are used multiple times with configurations that have a smaller support but the same size. Therefore big configurations are exchanged only with other big
configurations. Moreover, the Sparsification Lemma still holds when considering a set of configurations with a lower and upper bound for the size.

Hence, there is a thin solution for the big ILP and obviously the summed-up number of configurations stays the same. Summarizing we get:

**Corollary 14.** If MILP(\(\bar{T}\)) has a solution, there is also a solution \((z_{C,t}, x_{j,t})\) such that for each machine type \(t\):

(i) \(|\text{supp}(y|_{\bar{C}_t}(P))| \leq 2(|\bar{B}_t|+1)\log(4(|\bar{B}_t|+1)\lfloor \bar{T} \rfloor), |\text{supp}(y|_{\hat{C}_t}(P))| \leq 2(|\bar{B}_t|+1)\log(4(|\bar{B}_t|+1)\lfloor \bar{T} \rfloor + 1)P\) and \(z_{C,t} \leq 1\) for \(C \in \bar{C}_t(P) \cup \hat{C}_t(P)\).

(ii) \(|\text{supp}(z_t)| \leq 4(|\bar{B}_t|+1)(\log(4(|\bar{B}_t|+1)\lfloor \bar{T} \rfloor) + \log(4(|\bar{B}_t|+1)P)).\)

Note that like before the terms above can be bounded by \(O(1/\varepsilon \log^2 1/\varepsilon)\).

Utilizing this corollary we can again solve the MILP rather efficiently. For this we have to guess the numbers \(\bar{m}_t\) and \(\hat{m}_t\) of machines that are covered by small and big complex configurations respectively. In addition we guess like before the numbers of big jobs corresponding to the complex configurations. With this we can determine via dynamic programming suitable configurations. For the small configurations we can use the same dynamic program as before and for the second one we can use a similar one that guarantees that we find big configurations. In the MILP we fix the big configurations we have determined and guess the non-zero variables corresponding to the simple configurations. Although this procedure is a little bit more complicated than in the unrelated machine case, the bound for the running time remains the same.

**Rounding** To get an integral solution of the MILP we build a similar flow network. However in this case \(\eta_{t,p} = |\sum_{j \in J_t(p)} x_{j,t}|\) is set to be the rounded down (fractional) number of jobs with processing time \(p\) that are assigned to machine type \(t\). We get \(\eta_{t,p} \geq \sum_{C \in \tilde{C}(T)} C_t z_{C,t}\) for big processing times \(p\). The flow network looks basically the same, with one important difference: The \((u_t, \omega)\) have a lower bound of \(\eta_{t,p}\) and an capacity of \(\infty\). We may introduce lower bounds of 0 for all the other edges. The analogue of Lemma 6 holds, that is, the flow network has a (feasible) maximum flow with value \(n\). Given such a flow we can build a new solution for the MILP changing the \(x_{j,t}\) variables based on the flow decreasing the load due to small jobs by at most \(\varepsilon T + \varepsilon^2 T\).

Flow networks with lower bounds can be solved with a two-phase approach that first finds a feasible flow and then augments the flow until a max flow is reached. The first problem can be reduced to a max flow problem without lower bounds in a flow network that is rather similar to the original one with at most two additional nodes and \(O(|V|)\) additional edges. Flow integrality still can be used. For details we refer to [1]. The running time again can be bounded by \(O(Kn^2)\). Hence the overall running time of the algorithm is \(2^O(K \log(K)\varepsilon^{-1} \log^4 1/\varepsilon) + poly(|I|)\), which concludes the proof of Theorem 1.

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