

# Approximation Algorithms

## Lecture 9

Last Time:

Uncapacitated  
Facility Location

Today:

Bin packing

## Bin Packing

- $n$  items ;  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in (0, 1]$  denote their sizes
- Pack items into as few bins of size 1 as possible

[Karmarkar & Karp '78]



Today :  $OPT + O(\log^2 OPT)$  approx. algo.  
based on deterministic rounding

Assumption : Each piece has size  $\geq \frac{1}{\text{SIZE}(I)}$

- Let  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  be the distinct item sizes in input  $I$ .

$$s_m \geq \frac{1}{\text{SIZE}(I)}$$

- $b_i^o \triangleq \# \text{items of size } s_i \text{ for } i \in [m]$
- Configuration:  $m$ -tuple  $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$  denoting packing of a bin  
i.e, this bin has  $t_i^o$  items of size  $s_i^o$   
 $\forall i \in [m]$

$$\sum t_i s_i^o \leq 1$$

- # possible configurations ?
- Let  $T_1, \dots, T_N$  denote the configurations.
- Variable  $x_j^*$  for  $T_j^*$ ,  $j \in [N]$   
denotes # bins packed with config  $T_j^*$ .
- $t_{ij}^* \triangleq \# \text{items of size } s_i^* \text{ in config } T_j^*$   
 $i \in [m], j \in [N]$

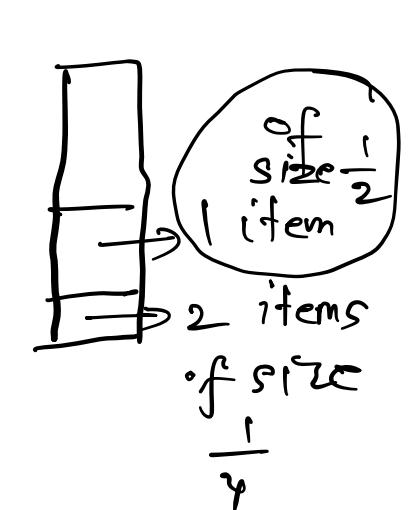
## IP formulation for bin packing

$$\text{minimize } \sum_{j=1}^n x_j$$

$$\text{a.t. } \sum t_{ij} x_j \geq b_i \quad \forall i \in [m]$$

$$x_j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$$

$T_j$        $t_{ij}$   
 $\downarrow$   
 #items of  
 Size  $s_i$  in  $T_j$



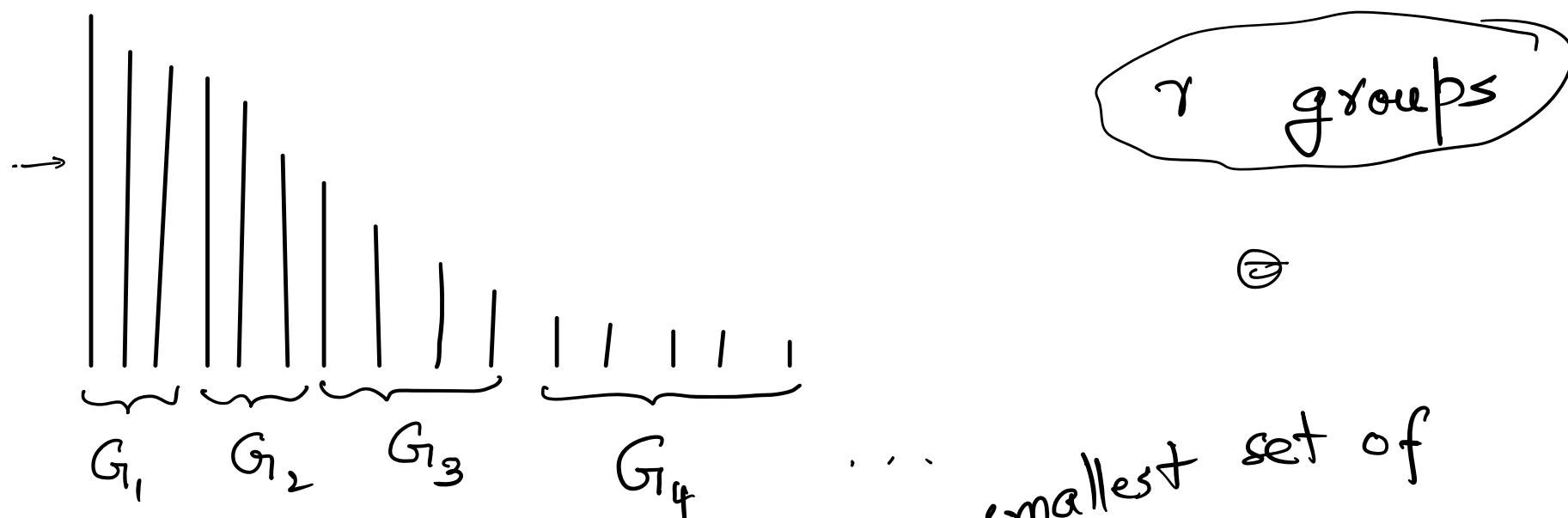
- Clearly,  $\sum s_i b_i = \text{SIZE}(I) \leq \underbrace{Z_{LP}^*(I)}_{\text{bin packing instance}} \leq \text{OPT}(I)$

bin packing  
instance

### Theorem (Karmarkar & Karp)

LP can be solved up to additive error of 1 in time  $\text{poly}(m, \log(\frac{n}{S_m}))$

## Next ingredient: Harmonic grouping scheme



- $G_1$  consists of the <sup>smallest set of</sup> largest items whose sizes sum up to  $\geq 2$
- $\dots$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma \leq \frac{\text{SIZE}(I)}{2}$$

$$n_i^o - \# \text{items in } G_i^o$$

- $n_i^o \geq n_{i-1}^o \quad \forall i^o = 2, \dots, r-1$

- Discard  $G_1$  &  $G_r$

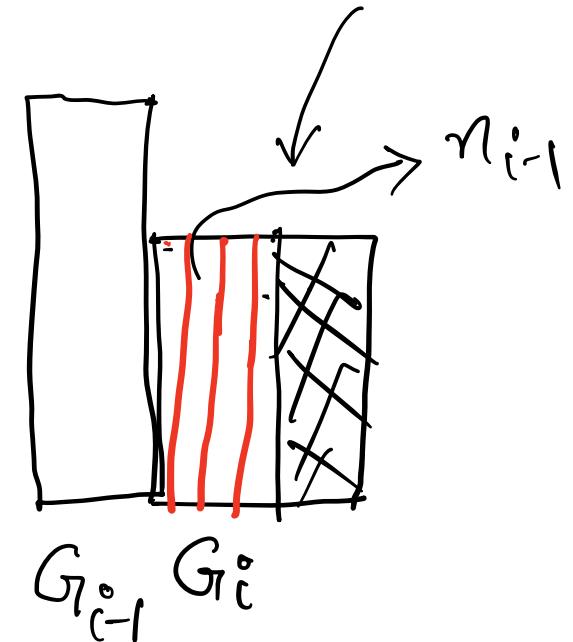
→ = retain largest  $n_{i-1}^o$  items in  $G_i^o$

- for each  $i \in \{2, \dots, r-1\}$

} • discard the smallest  $n_i^o - n_{i-1}^o$  items

in  $G_i^o$

• equalize sizes of remaining items to the largest size in  $G_i^o$



Rounded instance -  $I'$

Claim A: # distinct item sizes in  $I' \leq \frac{\text{SIZE}(I)}{2}$

Claim B: Total size of all discarded pieces is  $O(\log(\text{SIZE}(I)))$

Pf: Consider items removed from  $G_i^*$   
We removed  $k = n_i^* - n_{i-1}^*$  smallest items

$$\leq \frac{3k}{n_i^*}$$

Total Size of items in  $G_i^0 \leq 3$

- Consider  $k$  smallest elements in  $G_i^0$ .

- Suppose their total size  $> \frac{3k}{n_i^0}$

$\Rightarrow \exists$  an item with size  $> \frac{3}{n_i^0}$

$\Rightarrow$  Total size of  $n_i^0 - k$  largest items  $\left\{ > \frac{3(n_i^0 - k)}{n_i^0} \right\}$

$\Rightarrow$  Total size in  $G_i^0 > 3\left(\frac{n_i^0 - k}{n_i^0}\right) + \frac{3k}{n_i^0} = 3$

Total size of  $G_i^0 \leq 3$

$$n_y \leq 3 \cdot \text{SIZE}(I)$$

$\therefore$  Size of removed items from  $G_i^0 \leq 3 \left( \frac{n_i - n_{i-1}}{n_i} \right)$

$$\frac{1}{j^0} \geq \frac{1}{n_i^0} \quad \forall j^0 \leq n_i^0 \quad \leq 3 \cdot \sum_{j=n_{i-1}+1}^{n_i} \frac{1}{j}$$

$H_{n_i}$

$\therefore$  Total size of all items removed

$$\leq 3 \sum_{j=1}^{n_y} \frac{1}{j} + b \\ = O(\log(\text{SIZE}(I)))$$

## Algorithm

for instance  $I^*$ , first fit

uses  $\leq 2 \cdot \text{SIZE}(I^*) + 1$  bins

BINPACK( $I$ )

if  $\text{SIZE}(I) < 10$  :

Pack pieces using First Fit

$\leq 20 \cdot PT + 1$   
guaranteed

else

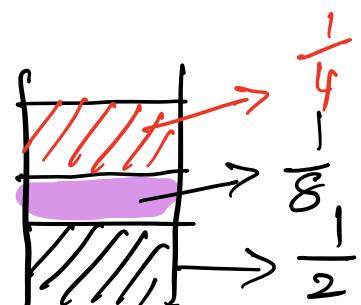
- Apply grouping to create  $I'$
- Pack discards using FirstFit in

$O(\log \text{SIZE}(I))$  bins

Why is this possible?

- Solve LP on  $\mathcal{I}'$
- Let  $x$  be optimal soln.
- $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{integer part of solution} \\ \text{of solution} \end{array} \right\}$ 
  - Pack  $\lfloor x_j^* \rfloor$  bins in configuration  $T_j^*$  for  $j^* = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ; call the packed pieces  $\mathcal{I}_1$ .
  - Pack the remaining pieces,  $\mathcal{I}_2$ , via BINPACK ( $\mathcal{I}_2$ ).

2.3 bins packed like



Lemma

$$z_{LP}^*(I_1) + z_{LP}^*(I_2) \stackrel{(2)}{\leq} z_{LP}^*(I') \stackrel{(1)}{\leq} z_{LP}^*(I)$$

Proof:

(1) is straightforward.

(2) Optimal soln. for  $I'$  is  $x$

$\rightarrow x - \lfloor x \rfloor = (\dots, x - \lfloor x_j^* \rfloor, \dots)$  is a feasible  
soln. for LP on  $I_2$

$\rightarrow \lfloor x \rfloor$  is a feasible solution for  $I_1$ .

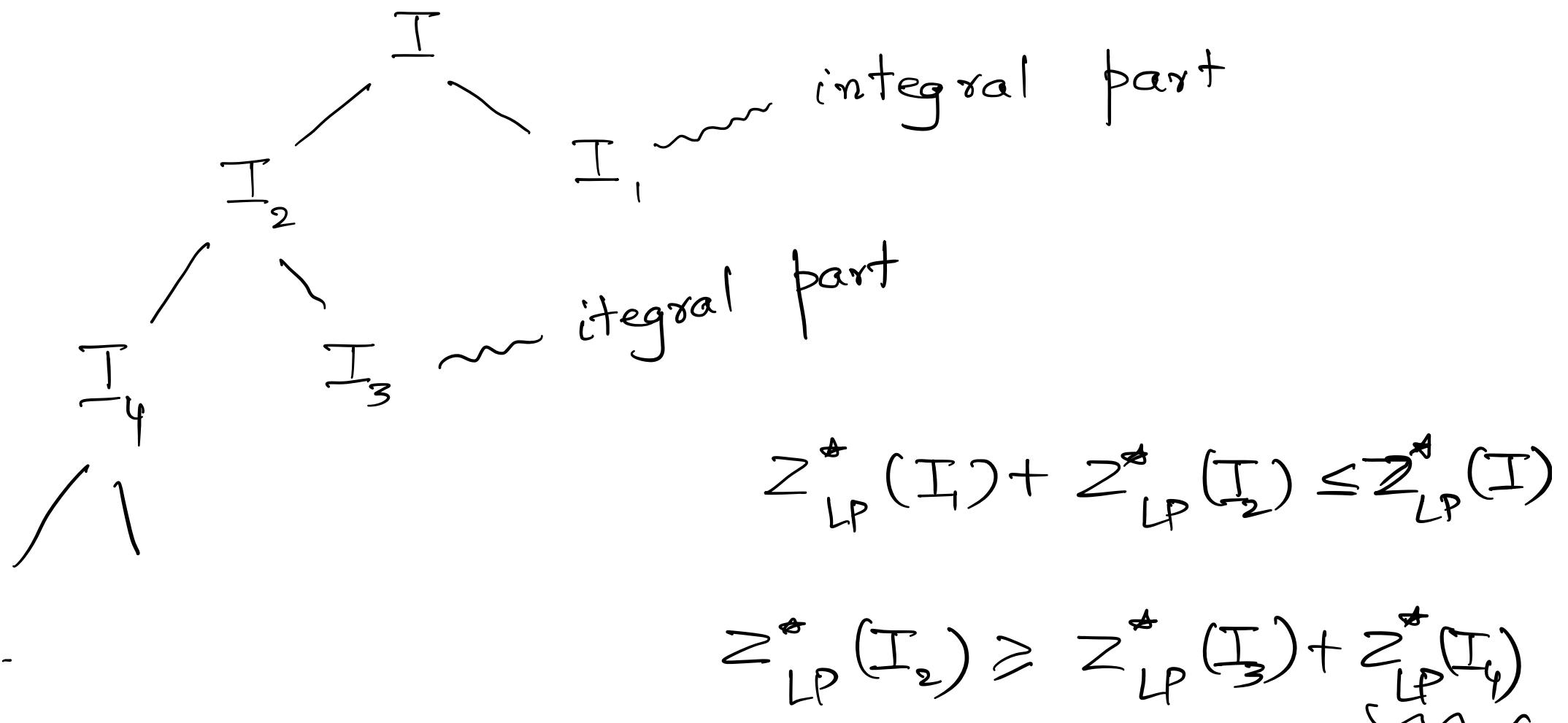
- o Each recursion level

*first part*

← { \* pieces packed by integer part of  
LP solution → need to account for  
{ \* pieces packed after being discarded  
by grouping

\* pieces packed by recursive call.

o Total #bins occupied by }  
pieces in first part }  $\leq Z_{LP}^*(I)$   
over all recursion }  
levels



$I_\ell \dots \text{SIZE}(I_\ell) \leq 10$

$$Z_{LP}^*(I) \geq Z_{LP}^*(I_1) + Z_{LP}^*(I_3) + Z_{LP}^*(I_5) + \dots +$$

- Only error in each recursion level caused by discarded pieces

- Need to bound # recursion levels

$$\text{SIZE}(I_2) \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{SIZE}(I)$$

- Total size of input in recursive call is  $\leq \frac{1}{2}$  . Size of original input

$$\text{SIZE}(I_2) \leq \sum_{j=1}^N x_j - \lfloor x_j \rfloor$$

o RHS above  $\leq$  # non-zeroes in the  
optimal LP soln.  $\alpha$

basic  
optimal solution  $\leftarrow$   $\leq$  # constraints in LP  
(Reading  
exercise)  $\leq$  # distinct item sizes  
after grouping  
 $\leq \frac{\text{SIZE}(I)}{2}$



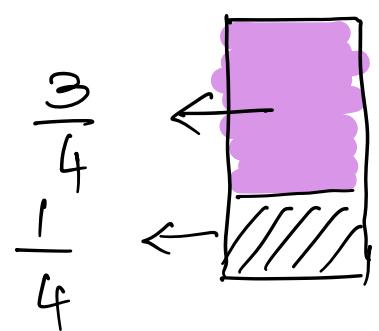
Total #bins used by }  
alg o .

$\leq$  Total #bins used to + Total #bins used  
pack the integral to pack the  
part discarded pieces

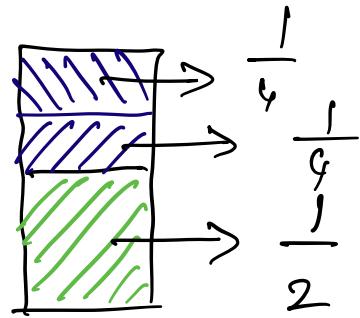
$\leq Z_{LP}^*(I) + O(\log^2 \text{SIZE}(I))$

$\leq \text{OPT}(I) + O(\log^2 \text{OPT}(I))$

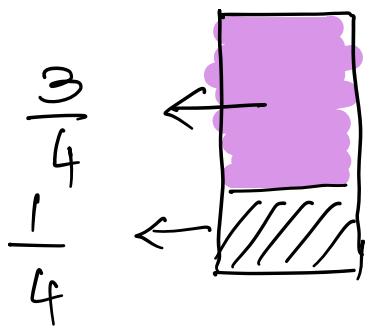
✓



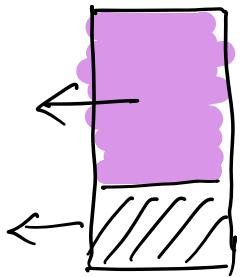
2.5



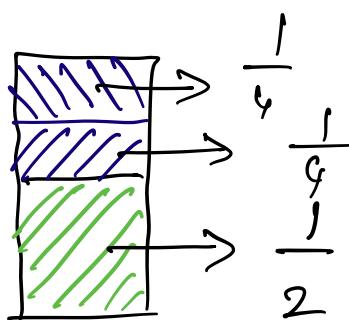
1.5



$\frac{3}{4}$



$\frac{3}{4}$



0 0 0 0 0

2 items of size  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 1 item of size  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 4 items of size  $\frac{1}{4}$