

# Carpool Fairness

Person	Days				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	X	X	X		
2	X		X		
3	X	X	X	X	X
4		X	X	X	X

What is a fair division of driving?

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What is a fair division of driving?

Person	Days					Total responsibility $r_i$
	1	2	3	4	5	
1	1/3	1/3	1/4			11/12
2	1/3		1/4			7/12
3	1/3	1/3	1/4	1/2	1/2	23/12
4		1/3	1/4	1/2	1/2	19/12

**Proposal:** Person  $i$  should drive no more than  $\lceil r_i \rceil$  times.

## Formaulation as a flow problem

Person	Days					Total responsibility $r_i$
	1	2	3	4	5	
1	1/3	1/3	1/4			11/12
2	1/3		1/4			7/12
3	1/3	1/3	1/4	1/2	1/2	23/12
4		1/3	1/4	1/2	1/2	19/12

- Bipartite graph, nodes for each person and day.
- Think of  $r_i$  as **supply** for each person
- Think of **1** as **demand** for each day
- Edges between person and day if they can drive on that day..

Does a flow of value 5 exist?

## Fractional/Integral flow

- A fractional flow of value 5 exists in graph with source-incident capacities  $\lceil r_i \rceil$  and flow of  $r_i$
- **Theorem** If capacities are integral a fractional flow of value  $x$  exists, then an integral flow for value  $\lceil x \rceil$  exists.
- Use the integral flow to solve the carpool problem.

# Baseball Elimination

(SportsWriters end of Season Problem)

Team	Wins $w_i$	Games left $g_i$	Games against $g_{ij}$			
			NY	Bos	Tor	Bal
NY Yankees	93	8	-	1	6	1
Boston Red Sox	89	4	1	-	0	3
Toronto Blue Jays	88	7	6	0	-	1
Baltimore Orioles	86	5	1	3	1	-

**Question:** Which teams are eliminated and which are not?

# Formalism

- $w_i$  - wins for team  $i$
- $g_i$  - games left for team  $i$
- $g_{ij}$  - games left between  $i$  and  $j$

For any subset  $R$  of teams  $T$  :

- wins in  $R$ ,  $w(R) = \sum_{i \in R} w_i$
- games left in  $R$ ,  $g(R) = \sum_{i, j \in R, i < j} g_{ij}$

**A lower bound on a number of games that some team must win**

$$a(R) = \frac{w(R) + g(R)}{|R|}$$

**Claim:** For  $i \in T$ ,  $R \subseteq T - \{i\}$ , and  $a(R) > w_i + g_i$ , then  $i$  is eliminated.

**Justification:** Some team must win the average.

## A stronger condition?

Let  $x_{ij}$  be the number of times that  $i$  beats  $j$ .

Team  $k$  is not eliminated if there exist  $x_{ij}$  s.t. it is possible for team  $k$  to come in first. That is,

$$x_{ij} + x_j = g_{ij} \quad \forall i, j \in T \quad (1)$$

$$w_k + g_k \geq w_i + \sum_{j \in T - \{k\}} x_{ij} \quad \forall i \in T \quad (2)$$

$$x_{ij} \geq 0 \quad x_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} \quad (3)$$

Can also use flow problem.

# Proof that flow problem solves the problem

Claims:

- If a flow  $f$  of value  $\sum_{i < j} g_{ij}$  exists, then team  $k$  is not eliminated.
- If no flow of value  $\sum_{i < j} g_{ij}$  exists then team  $k$  is eliminated.