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Scheduling with Communication Delays via LP Hierarchies and Clustering

We study scheduling with precedence constraints and communication delays. Here, if two dependent jobs are scheduled on different machines, then c time units must pass between their executions. Previously, the best known approximation ratio was $O(c)$, though an open problem in the top-10 list by Schuurman and Woeginger asks whether there exists a constant-factor approximation algorithm. We give a polynomial-time $O(\log c \cdot \log m)$ -approximation algorithm when given m identical machines and delay c for minimizing makespan. Our approach uses a Sherali-Adams lift of an LP relaxation and a clustering of the semimetric space induced by the lift.