

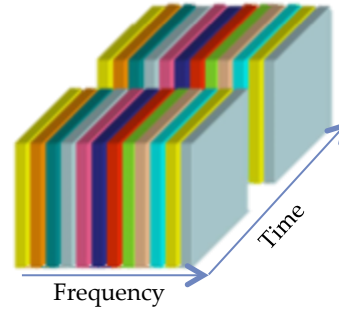
# Performance Evaluation of Fragmented Structures: A Theoretical Study

Ed Coffman<sup>1</sup>, **Robert Margolies**<sup>1</sup>, Peter Winkler<sup>2</sup>, Gil Zussman<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Columbia University, New York, NY

<sup>2</sup>Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

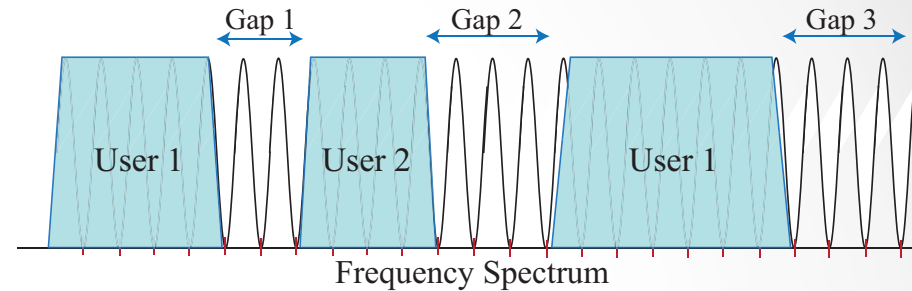
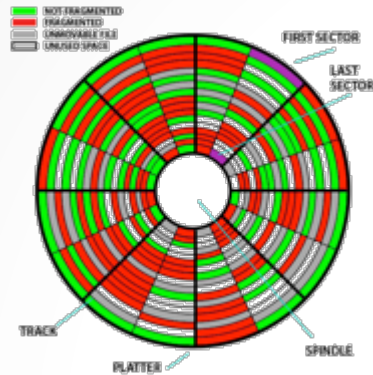
# Motivation



Hard and Solid-state Disk  
Drives

OFDMA, LTE, and Cognitive  
Radio

# Motivation



## Hard and Solid-state Disk Drives

- Provides interleaving of data allowing for faster read times in some cases
- Disk head motion significantly increases write times

## OFDMA, LTE, and Cognitive Radio

- Provides frequency diversity
- Requires complex hardware solutions

# Related Work

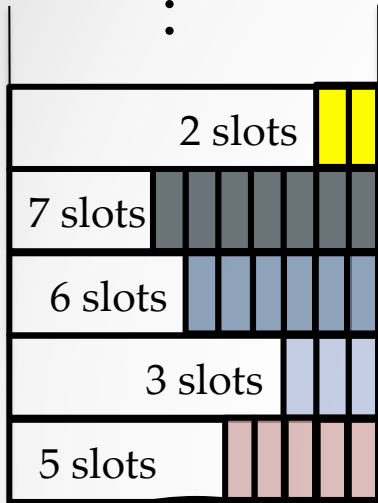
- Solid-state Disk Drives and OFDMA
  - F. Chen, D.A. Koufaty, X. Zhang, "Understanding intrinsic characteristics and system implications of flash memory based solid state drives", SIGMETRICS Perform. Eval. Rev., vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 81–192, 2009.
  - H. Mahmoud, T. Yucek, and H. Arslan, "OFDM for cognitive radio: Merits and challenges," IEEE Wireless Commun., vol. 16, no. 2, pp. 6–15, Apr. 2009.
  - B. Van Houdt, "A mean field model for a class of garbage collection algorithms in flash-based solid state drives", SIGMETRICS Perform. Eval. Rev., vol., no. 1, pp. 191–202, 2013.
  - Y. Li, P.P. Lee, J.C. Lui, "Stochastic modeling of large-scale solid-state storage systems: analysis, design tradeoffs and optimization", SIGMETRICS Perform. Eval. Rev., vol. 41, no. 1, pp. 179–190, 2013.
- Classical Fragmentation Problems
  - E. G. Coffman and F. T. Leighton. "A provably efficient algorithm for dynamic storage allocation." Proceedings of the eighteenth annual ACM symposium on Theory of computing. ACM, 1986.
  - D. E. Knuth, "The Art of Computer Programming, Vol.1 – Fundamental Algorithms", 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1997.
  - E. Coffman, P. Robert, F. Simatos, S. Tarumi, and G. Zussman, "A performance analysis of channel fragmentation in dynamic spectrum access systems," Queuing Systems, special issue of selected papers from ACM SIGMETRICS'10, vol. 71, no. 3, pp. 293–320, Jul. 2012.

# Outline

- ✓ Motivation
- Model + Example
- Motivating Numerical Results
- Asymptotic Theory of Complete Fragmentation
  - Case 1: Items of size 1 or 2
  - Case 2: Items up to size  $K$  (size 1 items have positive probability)
  - Case 3: Items up to size  $K$
- Convergence to Complete Fragmentation
- Conclusions

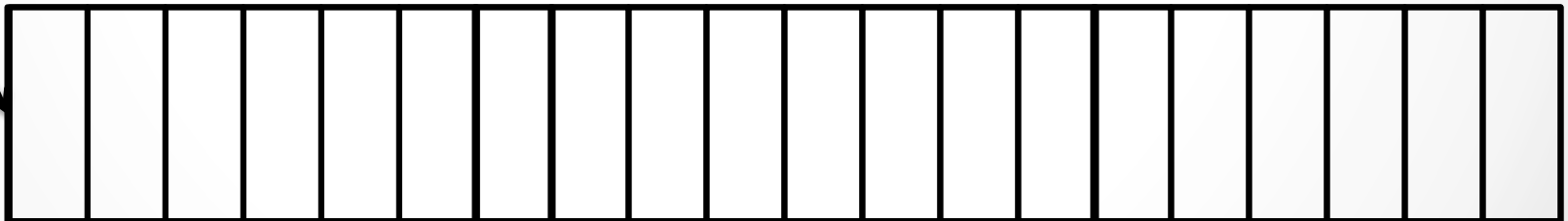
# Model

Unbounded queue  
of waiting requests



- Resource is modeled as a sequence of  $M > 1$  slots
- FIFO queue under full load: there are always waiting items.
- Item sizes are i.i.d. with distribution  $q = \{q_1, \dots, q_K\}$  and have independent i.i.d. exponential residence times.
- An allocation algorithm allocates available gaps in the resource to waiting items

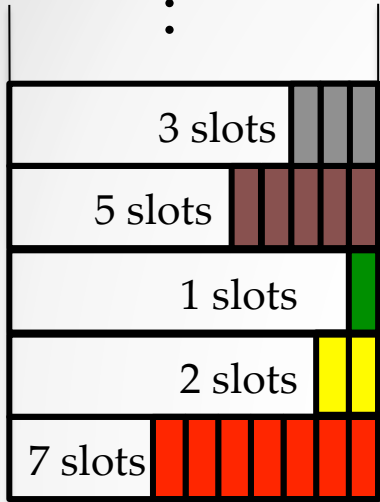
Allocation  
Algorithm



Resource,  $M=20$  slots

# Model

Unbounded queue  
of waiting requests



Allocation  
Algorithm

Next-fit: Requests served in order using left-to-right scans starting where the previous scan left-off



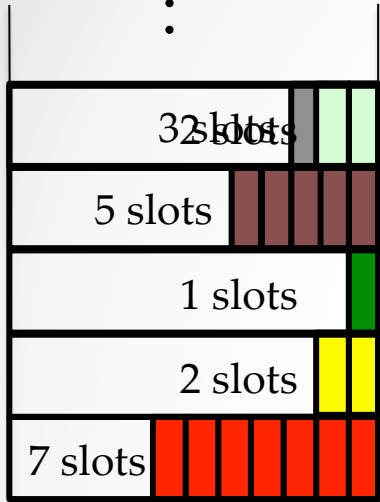
Resource,  $M=20$  slots

6 available slots

# Model

Unbounded queue  
of waiting requests

⋮



Allocation  
Algorithm

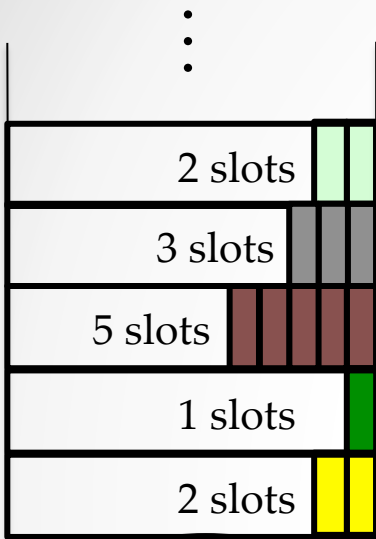
Next-fit: Requests served in order using left-to-right scans starting where the previous scan left-off



Resource,  $M=20$  slots

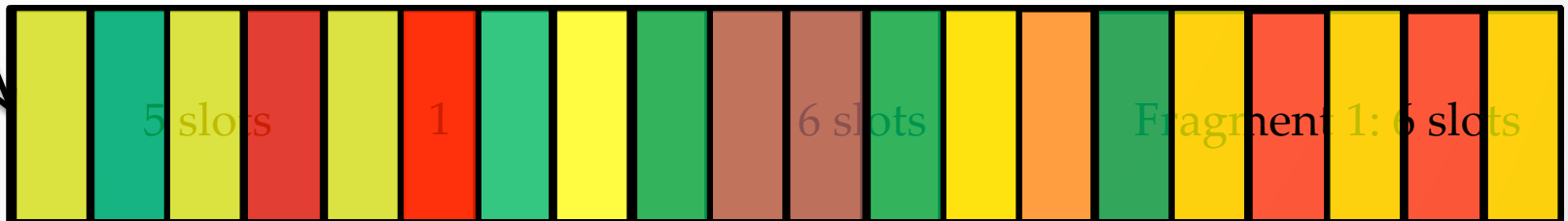


# Complete Fragmentation



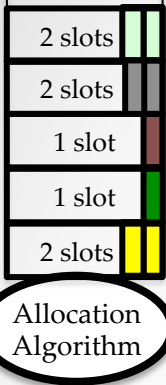
After a *long* time, does fragmentation progress to a point where nearly all items are *completely fragmented*?

Allocation Algorithm



Complete fragmentation: When no two allocated slots of an item are adjacent.

# Numerical Examples of Fragmentation



- Unbounded queue restricted to waiting size-1 or size-2 items
- $P(\text{size-1 item}) = q_1 = 1/2$
- $P(\text{size-2 item}) = q_2 = 1/2$

Average # of Unfragmented Items



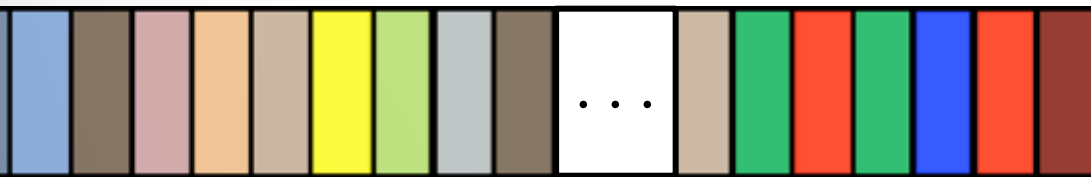
M = 10 slots

0.79



M = 100 slots

0.89



M = 1,000 slots

0.91

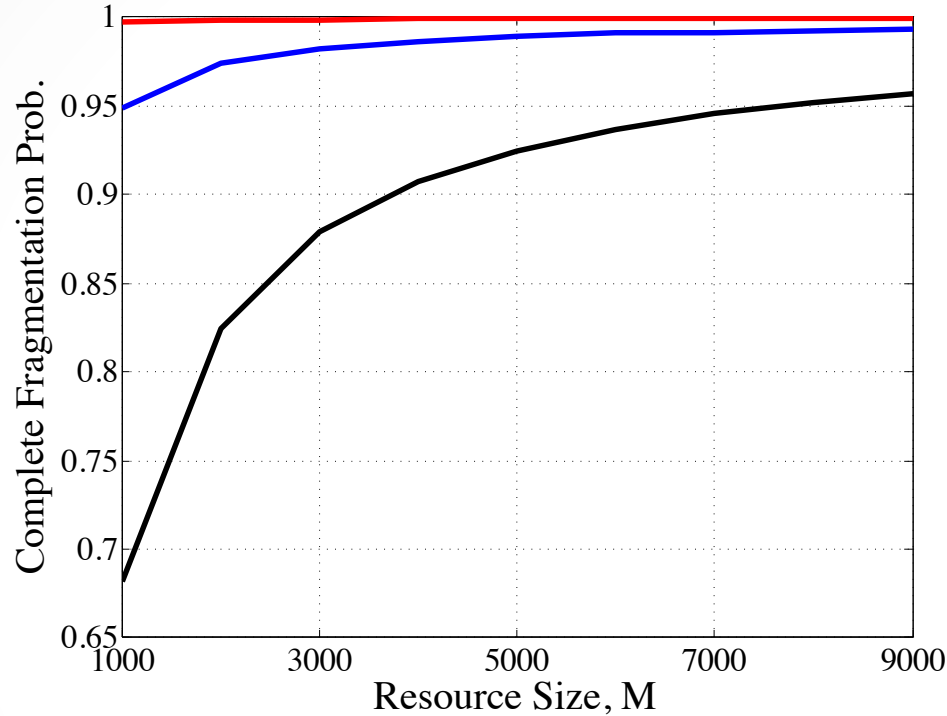


M = 10,000 slots

0.92

# Numerical Examples of Fragmentation

Item sizes Uniform on



Probability of a size- $j$  item allocated  $j$  fragmented slots.

Nearly all items are completely fragmented as  $M \rightarrow \infty$

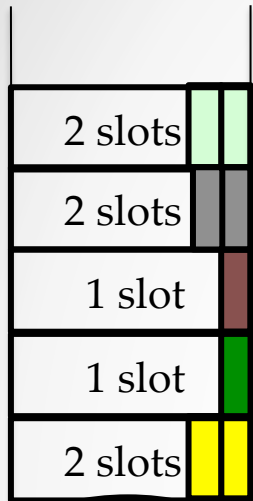
# Outline

- ✓ Motivation
- ✓ Model + Example
- ✓ Motivating Numerical Results
- Asymptotic Theory of Complete Fragmentation
  - Case 1: Items of size 1 or 2
  - Case 2: Items up to size  $K$  (size 1 items have positive probability)
  - Case 3: Items up to size  $K$
- Convergence to Complete Fragmentation
- Conclusions

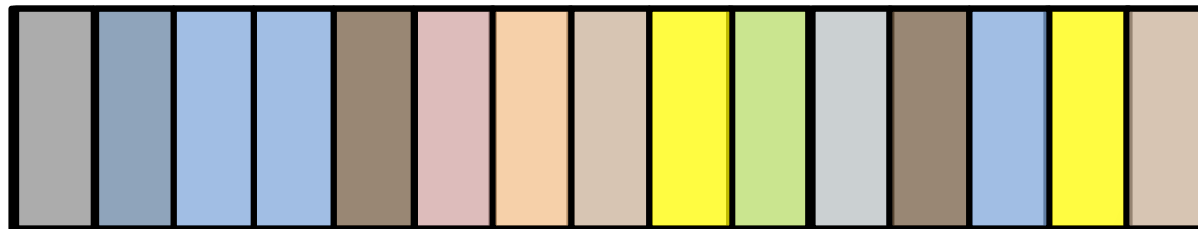
# Complete Fragmentation: Case 1

- Infinite queue restricted to waiting size-1 or size-2 items
- $P(\text{size-1 item}) = q_1 > 0$
- $P(\text{size-2 item}) = q_2 > 0$
- Stable state represented as  $(G, H)$  with  $G < H$ 
  - $G$  is size of available gaps
  - $H$  is size of Head-of-line item

Goal: Show that as the size of the resource ( $M$ ) grows, *nearly* all of the size-2 items are *fragmented*.

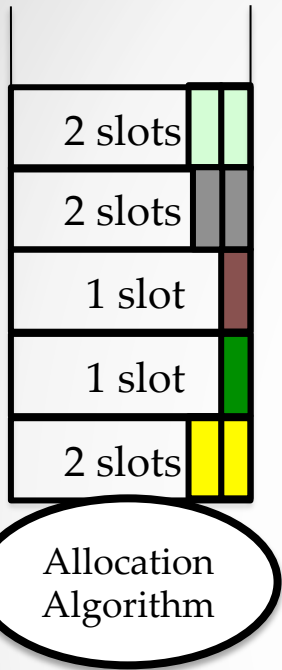


Allocation  
Algorithm



Resource,  $M$  slots

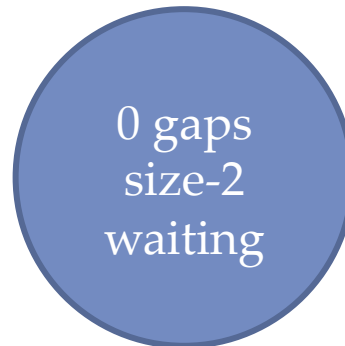
# Complete Fragmentation: Case 1



- Infinite queue restricted to waiting size-1 or size-2 items
- $P(\text{size-1 item}) = q_1 > 0$
- $P(\text{size-2 item}) = q_2 > 0$
- Stable state represented as  $(G, H)$  with  $G < H$ 
  - $G$  is size of available gaps
  - $H$  is size of Head-of-line item



$$\pi_{0,1} = \frac{q_1}{2 - q_1}$$



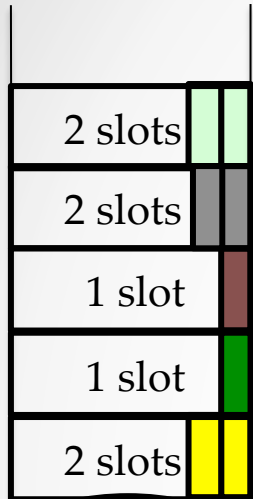
$$\pi_{0,2} = \frac{1 - q_1}{2 - q_1}$$



$$\pi_{1,2} = \frac{1 - q_1}{2 - q_1}$$

Balance the rate of increase/decrease of the number of unfragmented size 2 items, denoted  $N_{2,1}$

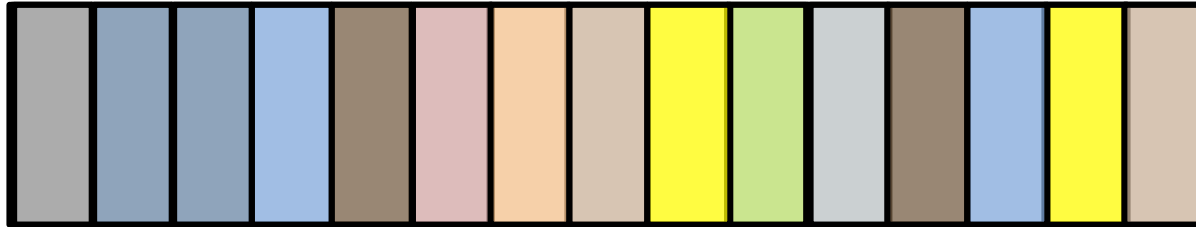
# Complete Fragmentation: Case 1



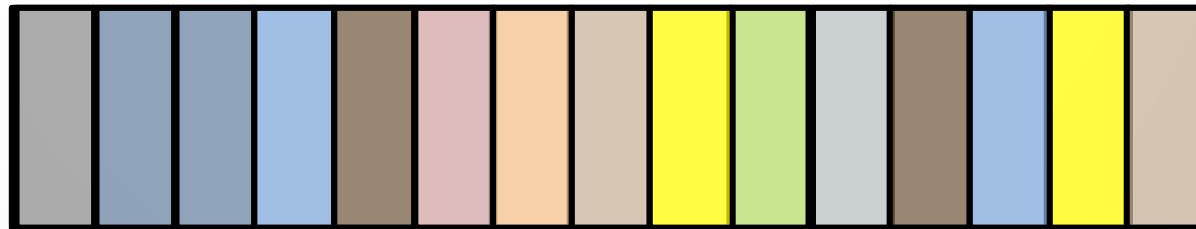
Allocation Algorithm

0 gaps  
size-2  
waiting

Event – size 1 item departs with probability  $q_1$   
Result: No change in  $N_{2,1}$  and move to state (1,2)

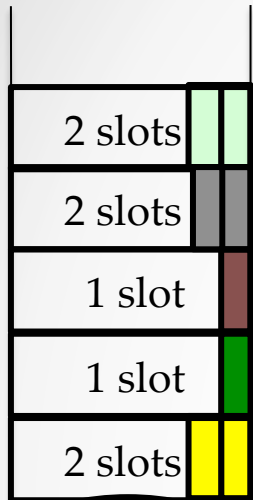


Event – size 2 item departs with probability  $q_2$   
Result: Waiting size-2 item will occupy departed size 2 item and no change in  $N_{2,1}$



Conclusion:  $N_{2,1}$  does not change in state (0,2)

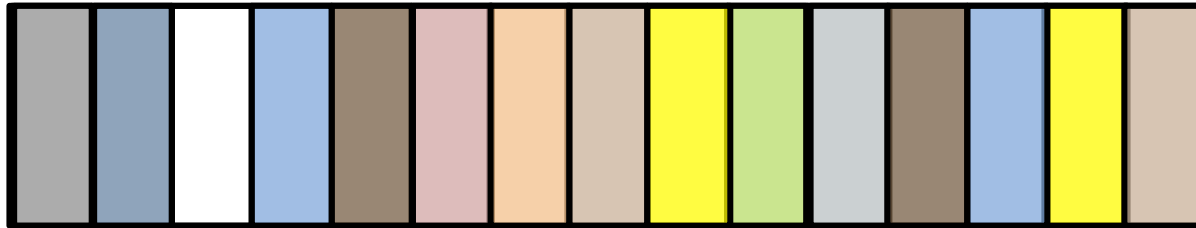
# Complete Fragmentation: Case 1



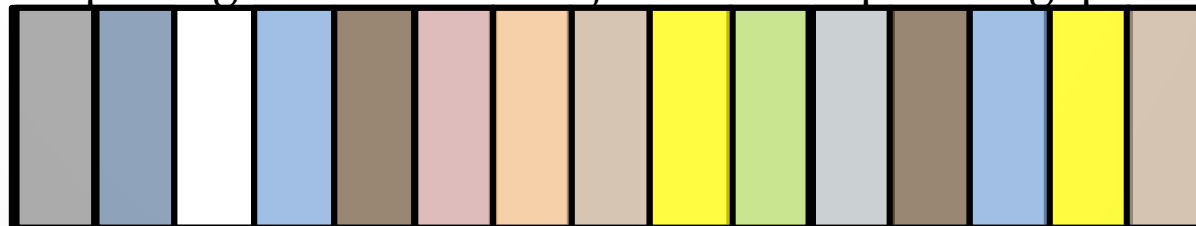
Allocation Algorithm

1 gap  
size-2  
waiting

Event – size 1 item departs with probability  $q_1$   
 Result:  $N_{2,1}$  increases at rate 1 if a size-1 item departs adjacent to the present gap



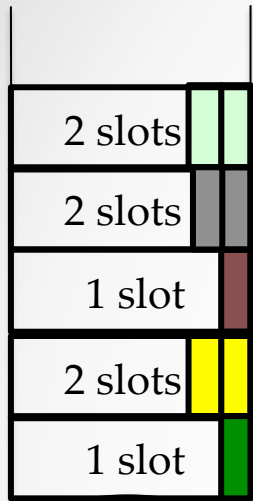
Event – size 2 item departs with probability  $q_2$   
 Result:  $N_{2,1}$  increases at rate at most 2 if one of the 2 slots in the departing size-2 item is adjacent to the present gap.



Conclusion:  $N_{2,1}$  increases at rate at most 2 when in state (1,2)



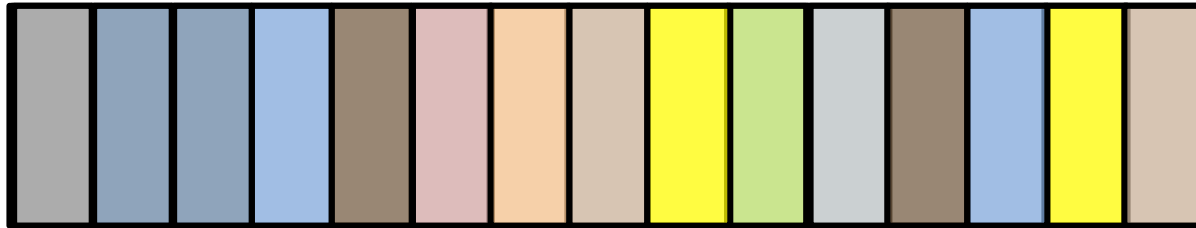
# Complete Fragmentation: Case 1



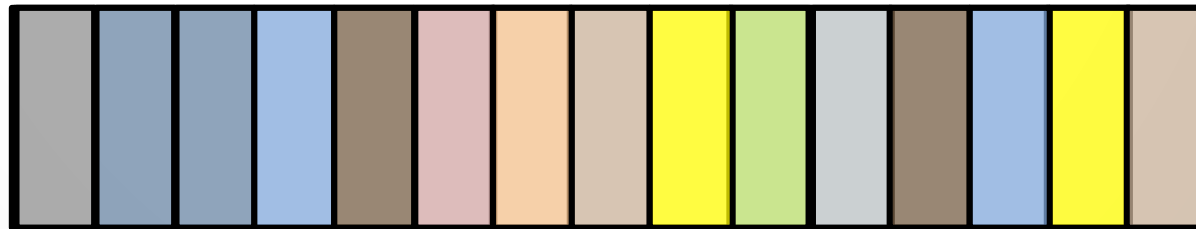
Allocation Algorithm

0 gaps  
size-1  
waiting

Event – size 1 item departs with probability  $q_1$   
Result: No change in  $N_{21}$  and move to state (0,1) or (0,2)

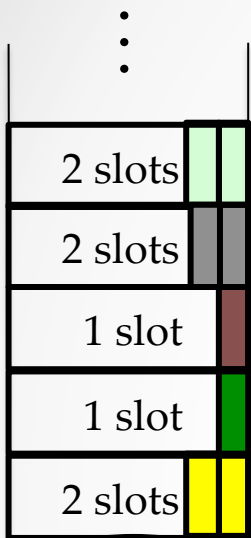


Event – size 2 item departs with probability  $q_2$   
Result:  $N_{21}$  decreases by 1 if an unfragmented size-2 item departs which occurs with rate  $N_{21}(t)$



Conclusion:  $N_{21}$  decreases at rate  $N_{21}(t)$  when in state (0,1)

# Complete Fragmentation: Case 1



0 gaps  
size-1  
waiting

$$\pi_{0,1} = \frac{q_1}{2 - q_1}$$

Decreases at  
rate  $N_{21}(t)$

0 gaps  
size-2  
waiting

$$\pi_{0,2} = \frac{1 - q_1}{2 - q_1}$$

No Change in  $N_{21}$

$$\mathbb{E}[N_{21}] \leq 2 \frac{1 - q_1}{q_1}$$

1 gaps  
size-2  
waiting

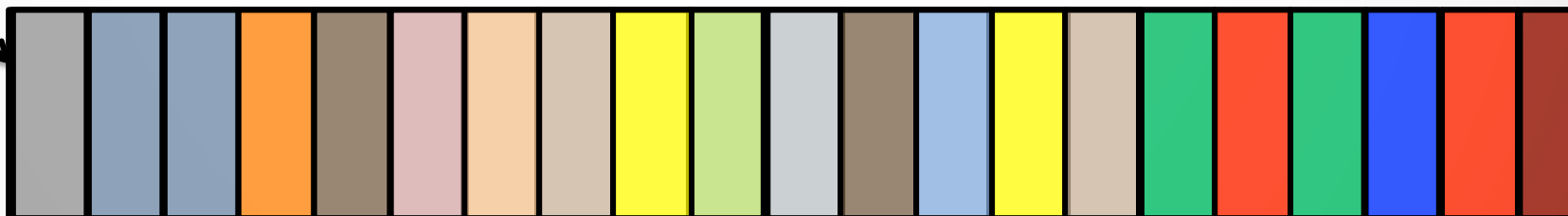
$$\pi_{1,2} = \frac{1 - q_1}{2 - q_1}$$

$N_{21}$  Increases at  
rate at most 2

Allocation  
Algorithm

All but a constant number of size-2 items become completely fragmented

Resource-size grows to infinity

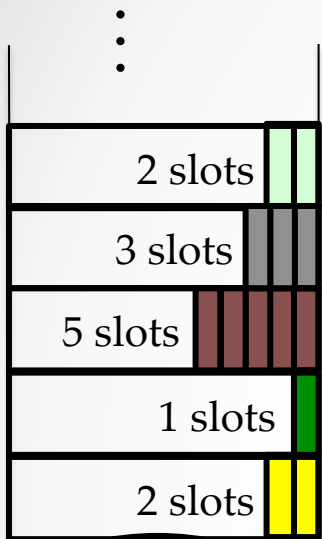


$$\leq 2(1 - q_1)/q_1$$

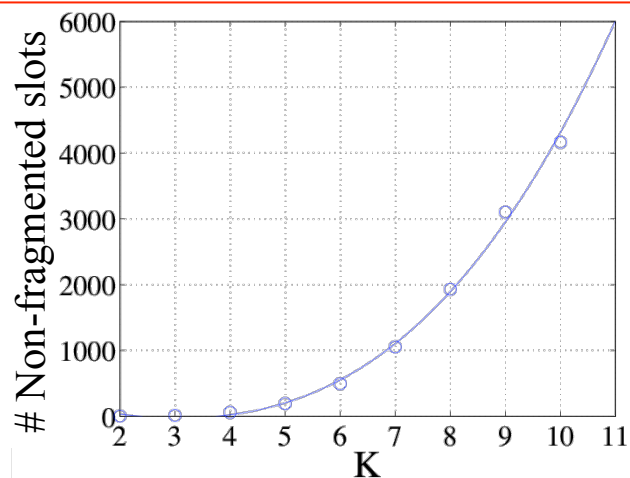
# Complete Fragmentation: Case 2

- Infinite queue of waiting items up to size- $K$
- $P(\text{item of size } j) = q_j$
- Positive probability of size-1 items:  $q_1 > 0$

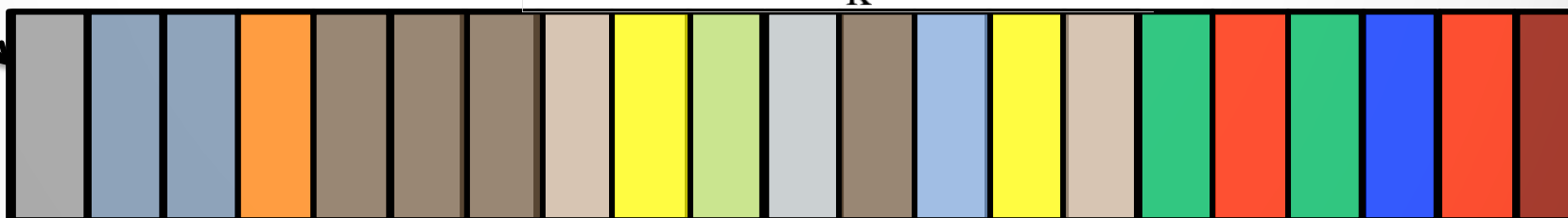
All but a constant number of items become completely fragmented



Allocation Algorithm



Resource-size grows to infinity



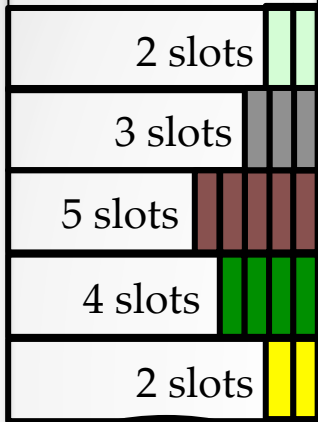
non-completely fragmented items

# Complete Fragmentation: Case 3

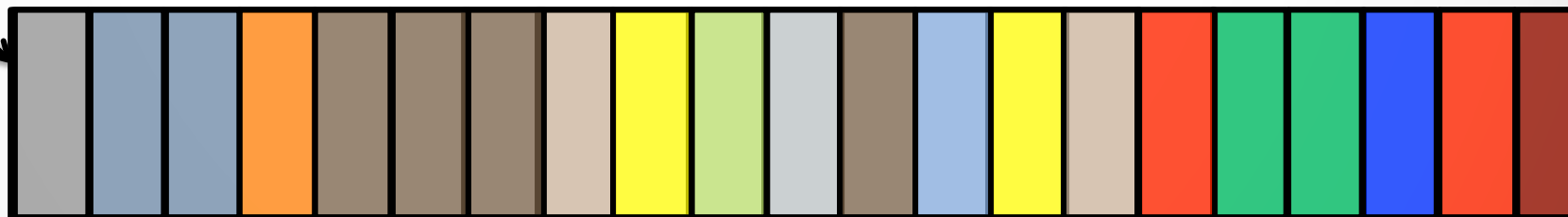
⋮

- Infinite queue of waiting items up to size-K
- $P(\text{item of size } j) = q_j$
- ~~Positive probability of size 1 items:  $q_1 > 0$~~
- Item sizes with positive probability have a non-trivial common divisor

The fraction of completely fragmented items tends to 1 as resource size grows to infinity.



Allocation Algorithm



non-completely fragmented items

# of non-completely fragmented grows with resource size

# Complete Fragmentation

	Number of unfragmented items:
Case 1: Items of Size 1 and 2	Bounded by $\mathbb{E}[N_{21}] \leq 2 \frac{1 - q_1}{q_1}$
Case 2: Items up to size K (size 1 items have positive probability)	Bounded by a constant C
Case 3: Items up to size K	Grow at a rate $o(M)$

Implication: For all cases, complete fragmentation is approached as

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# \text{ of Unfragmented Items}}{M} = 0$$

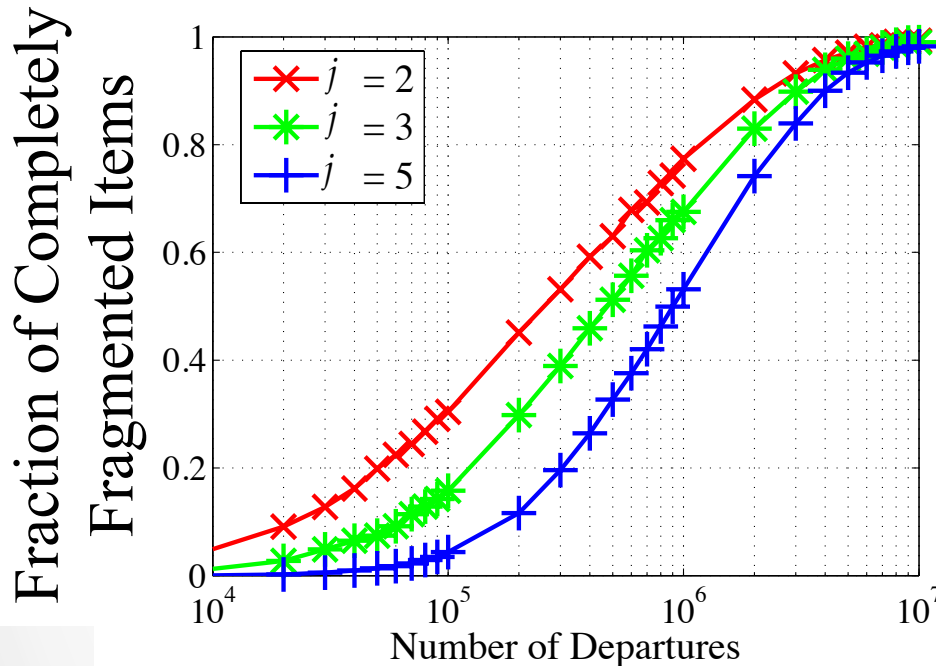
where  $M$  is the size of the resource.

# Outline

- ✓ Motivation
- ✓ Model + Example
- ✓ Initial Experimental Results
- ✓ Asymptotic Theory of Complete Fragmentation
  - ✓ Case 1: Items of size 1 or 2
  - ✓ Case 2: Items up to size  $K$  (size 1 items w.p.p)
  - ✓ Case 3: Items up to size  $K$
- Convergence to Complete Fragmentation
- Conclusions

# Convergence to Nearly Complete Fragmentation: Time

Fragmentation growth is most logarithmic in the number of departures.



When items are of size 1 or 2, the number of departures until the fraction of fragmented requests increase by  $\Upsilon$  is

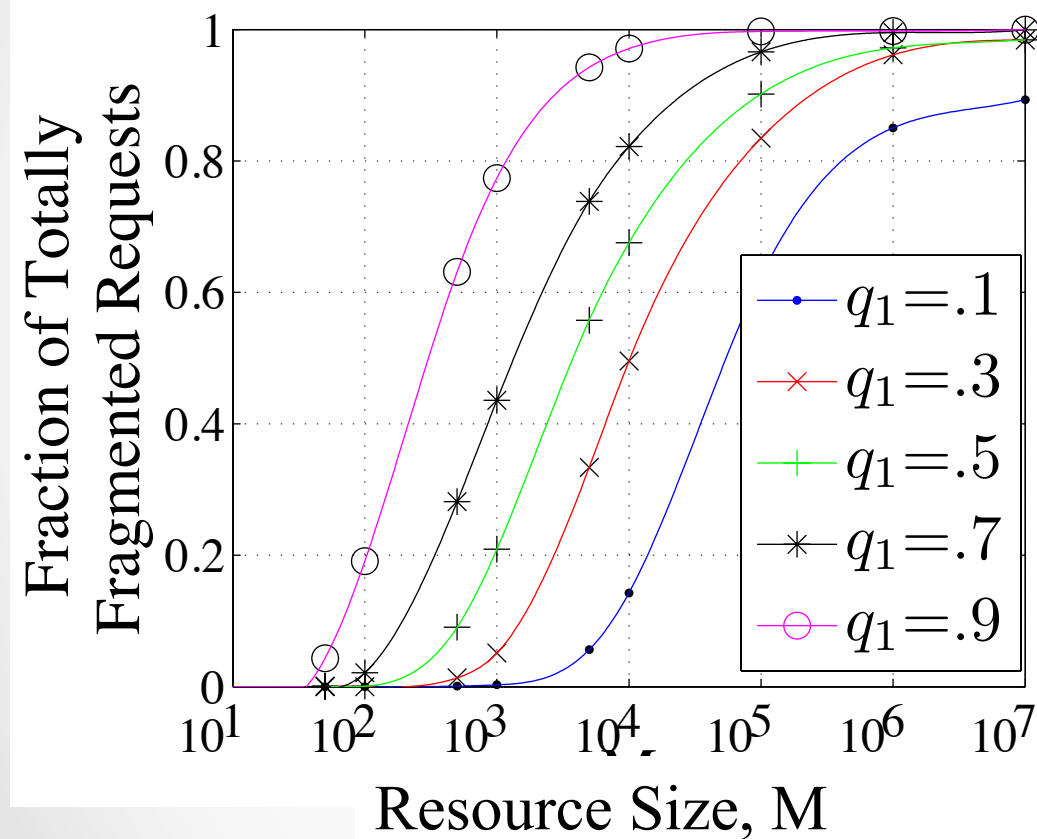
$$\approx M \frac{1 - q_1}{2 - q_1} \ln \frac{1}{1 - \gamma}$$

$M = 100,000$  slots

Item size distribution  $\sim$  uniform on  $\{1, \dots, 5\}$

# Convergence to Nearly Complete Fragmentation: Space

Recall that:  $\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# \text{ of Unfragmented Items}}{M} = 0$



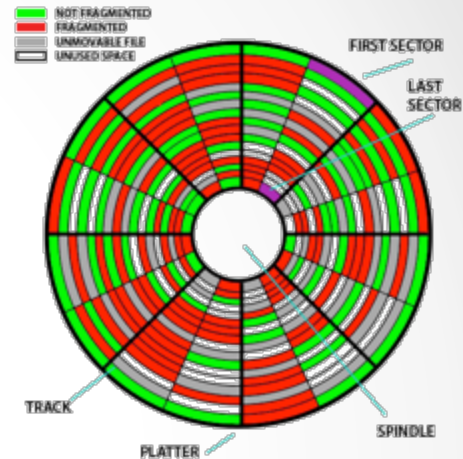
The size of the resource ( $M$ ) required to approach complete fragmentation can be enormous even for simple item size distributions

Item size distribution  $\sim \{1,9\}$  with probabilities  $q_1$  and  $q_9=(1-q_1)$



# Conclusions

- Nearly all items become *completely fragmented* in statistical equilibrium when the resource size grows to infinity
  - Proofs for cases 1 and 2 balance the rates at which the number of non-fragmented items increases and decreases in equilibrium
  - Good news: frequency diversity in OFDMA, defragmentation software
  - Bad news: requires complex hardware solutions
- Convergence rates can be surprisingly slow in the limits of time and resource size



- Robert Margolies
- [robm@ee.columbia.edu](mailto:robm@ee.columbia.edu)

