

Scheduling Multiclass Queueing Networks via Fluid Models

John Hasenbein – OR/IE, UT-Austin

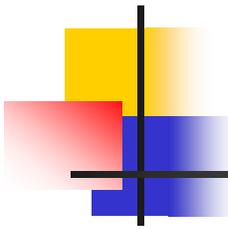
Ron Billings – OR/IE, UT-Austin

Leon Lasdon – MSIS, UT-Austin

Gideon Weiss – Statistics, Univ of Haifa

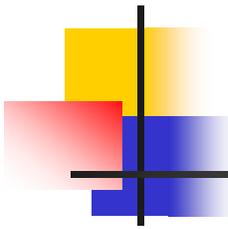
www.me.utexas.edu/~has

Support provided by NSF CAREER and NSF SBIR Grants



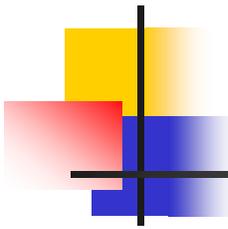
Tutorial Outline

- John – Motivating examples, background
- Ron – Solving fluid model problems, fluid model schedules, simulations
- Current literature – many theoretical results, some applications



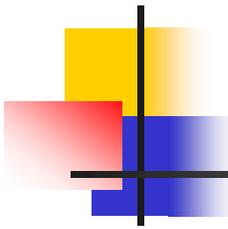
Tutorial Outline

- Our focus
 - Develop a practical, scalable method for solving complex factory scheduling/dispatching problems
 - Provide an engine for solving general large scale fluid model problems
 - Provide a simulation tool for testing translation methods
 - Test the methodology on detailed, realistic wafer fab models



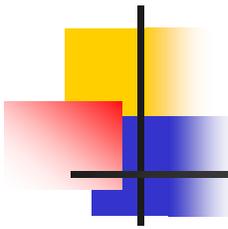
Stochastic Processing Networks - Features

- Network of workstations containing parallel tool groups
- Jobs move from station to station, different service type during subsequent visits
- Jobs divided into *classes* when waiting at a station
- Setups – machine setup required when switching processing tasks



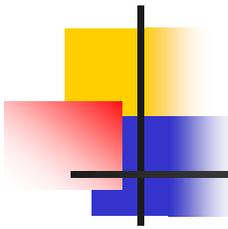
Stochastic Processing Networks (SPN) – Features

- Batching – can form batches of jobs to be processed simultaneously
- Probabilistic/deterministic routing
- *Important:* how do we handle the transient nature of the system



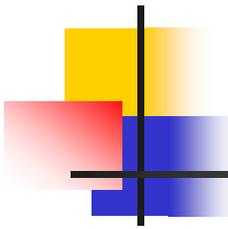
Future Modelling Extensions

- Input control
- Assembly/disassembly
- Dynamic routing decisions



Goals and Performance Measures

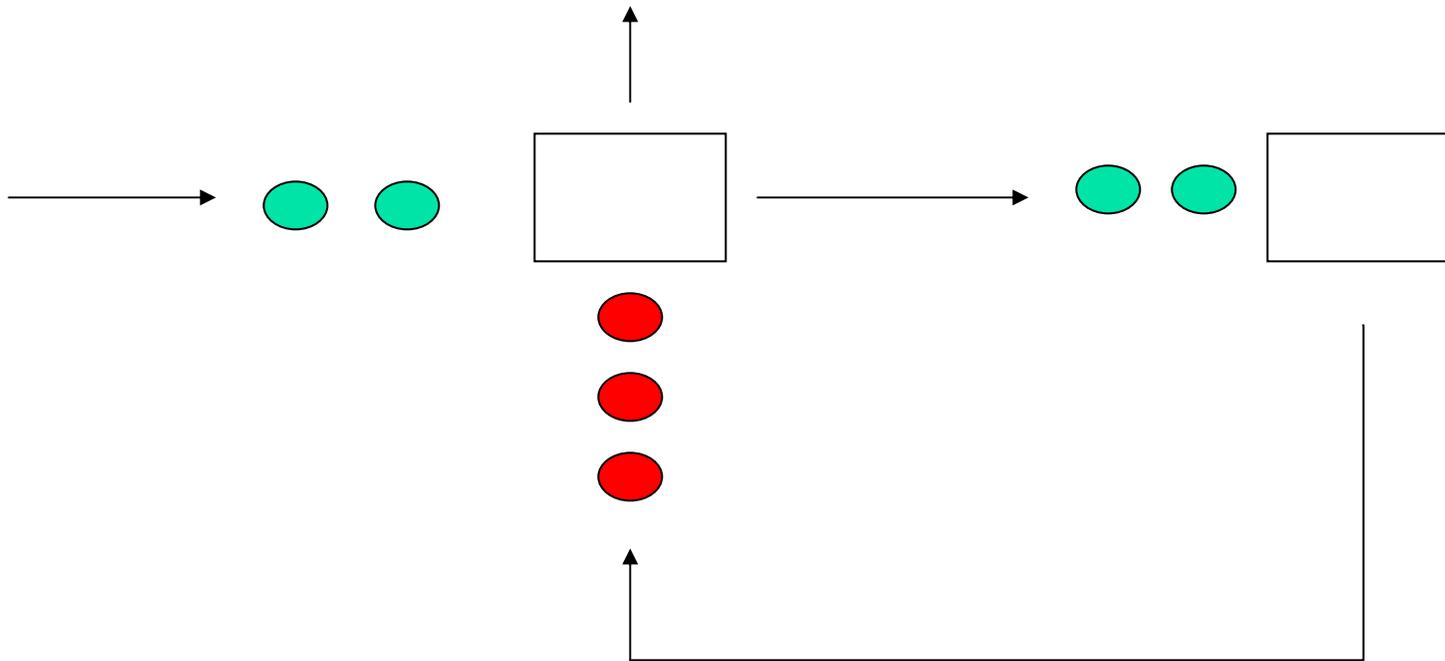
- Minimize expected makespan – not useful for dynamic systems
- Minimize average WIP
- Minimize average cycle time
- Minimize average holding costs
 - Linear objective function
 - Convex objective function



Goals and Performance Measures

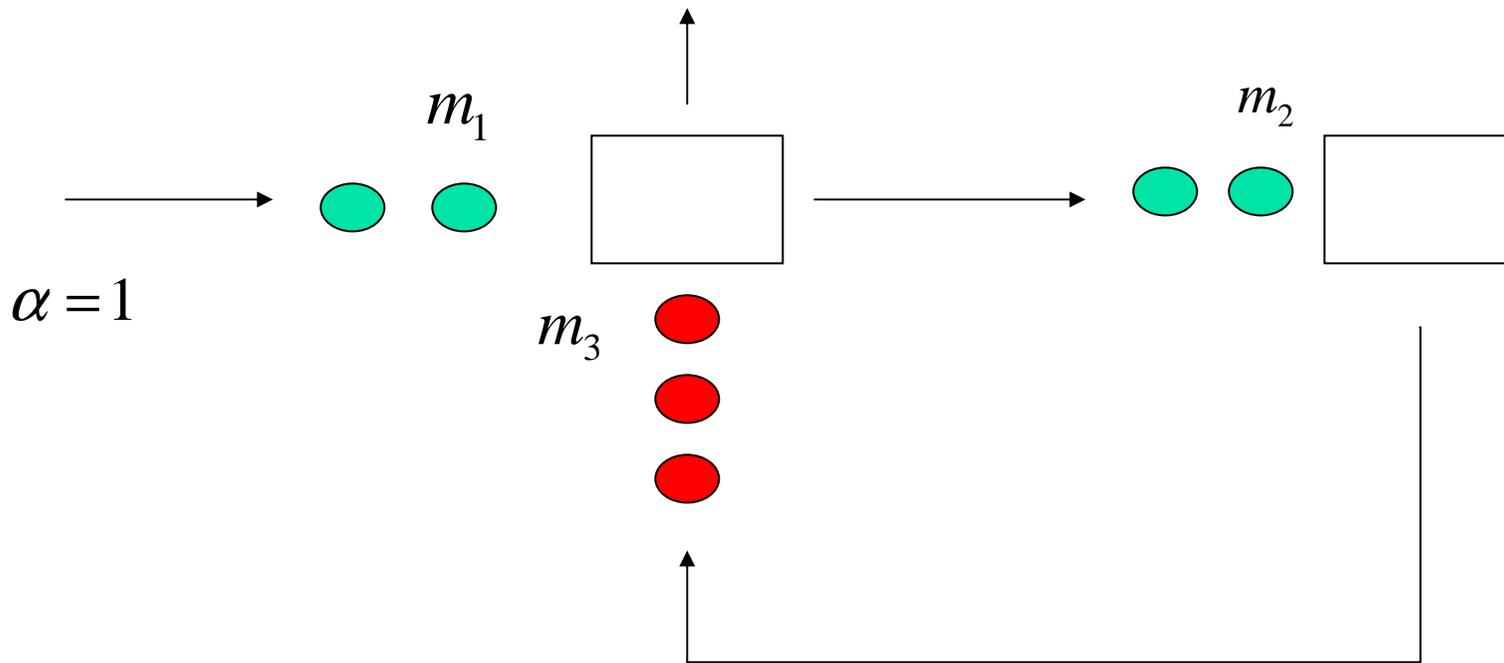
- Methods to produce “good” schedules for a general SPN
- Fast, implementable, adaptive

Scheduling Reentrant Systems



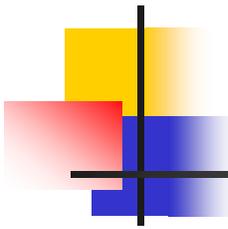
- Three class "reentrant line"
- Minimize long-run average WIP

Scheduling Reentrant Systems



$$m = (0.2, 0.9, 0.7)$$

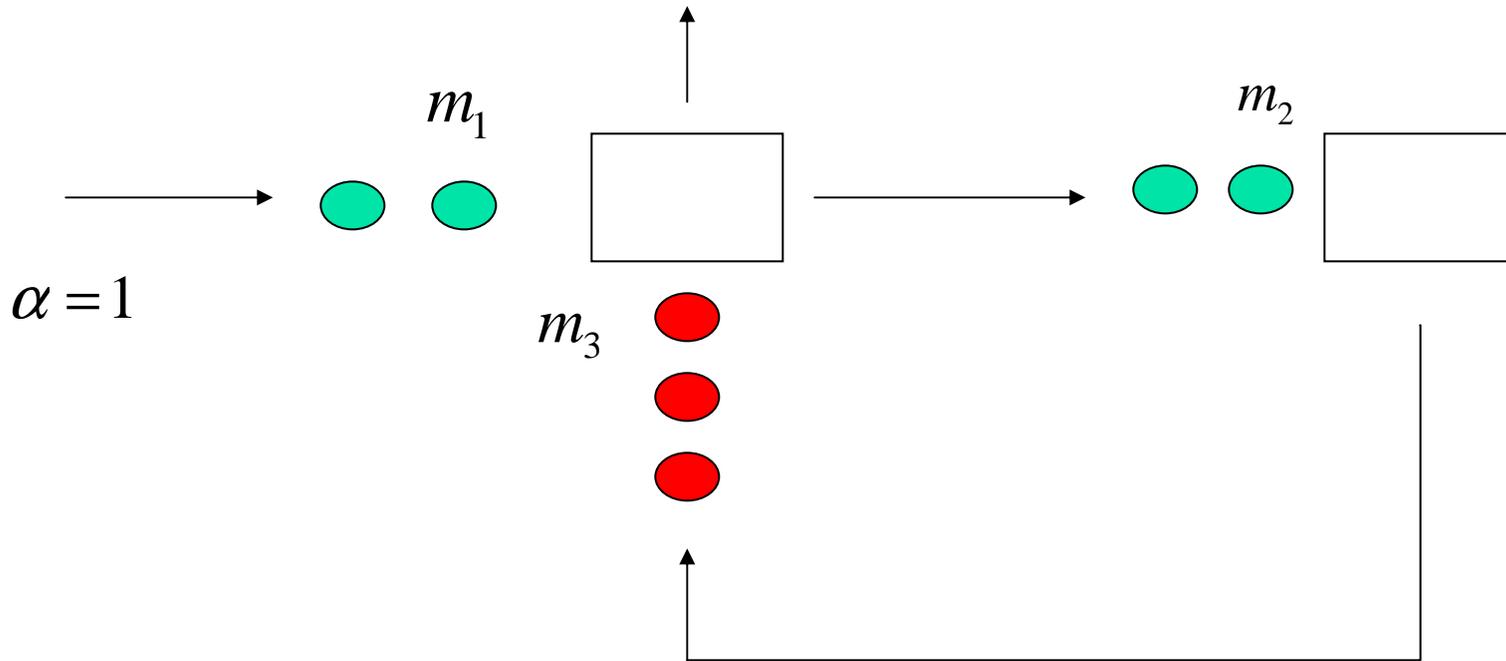
Note $m_1 + m_3 < 1$ and $m_2 < 1$.



Scheduling Observations

- For simplicity, suppose all service and interarrival times are exponential.
- Problem can be modeled as an infinite state Markov decision process (MDP).
- Can truncate state space and solve MDP.

Scheduling Reentrant Systems



$$m = (0.2, 0.9, 0.7)$$

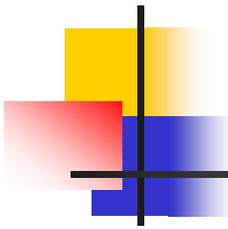
Note $m_1 + m_3 < 1$ and $m_2 < 1$.

Performance of Scheduling Heuristics

Heuristic Idea	Scheduling Policy	Avg WIP
<i>Greedy Draining</i>	<i>Last Buffer FS</i>	28.94
<i>MDP</i>	<i>MDP</i>	20.68
<i>Customer Fairness</i>	<i>FIFO</i>	20.11
<i>Pursue Target WIP</i>	<i>Fluctuation Smoothing</i>	18.40
<i>Starvation Avoidance</i>	<i>First Buffer FS</i>	17.42

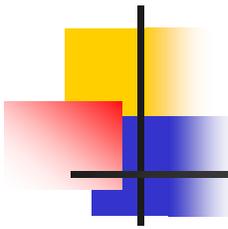
Performance of Scheduling Heuristics

Heuristic Idea	Scheduling Policy	Avg WIP
<i>Greedy Draining</i>	<i>Last Buffer FS</i>	28.94
<i>MDP</i>	<i>MDP</i>	20.68
<i>Customer Fairness</i>	<i>FIFO</i>	20.11
<i>Pursue Target WIP</i>	<i>Fluctuation Smoothing</i>	18.40
<i>Starvation Avoidance</i>	<i>First Buffer FS</i>	17.42
<i>Balance LBFS/FBFS</i>	<i>Threshold (5)</i>	16.68



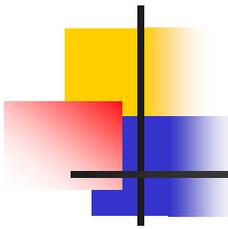
Scheduling Results

- Theshold(5) policy – Avg WIP is 16.68
- Provable lower bounds on Avg WIP:
 - Bertsimas, et al.(polyhedral method): 9.88
 - JH (M/M/1 bound) : 11.58
 - MDP Bound: 12.18
- Optimal policy for this network is not known!



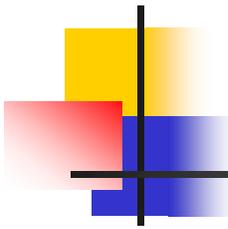
Fluid Model Approach

- Replace discrete jobs with fluid flow
- Replace workstation with “pumps”
- Fluid model is a continuous, deterministic approximation
- Fluid models are more tractable
- Require only mean value info



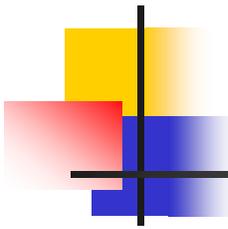
Fluid Models and Queueing Theory

- Some early applied papers in the 70's and 80's.
- Most theoretical advances achieved in the late 80's and 90's.
- Many papers in the last 2-3 years on fluid scheduling.
- Similar models in telecom literature.



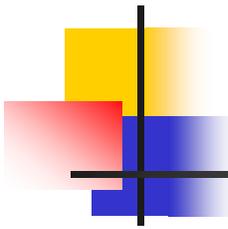
The Fluid Bureaucracy

- Fluid Flow Model of Networks of Queues, James Vandergraft, *Management Science* 1983
- “A new technique is presented for modeling flow through a network of queues.”
- “An example of claims processing in a Social Security Administration’s District Office is given.”



An Honorable Start in Garbage

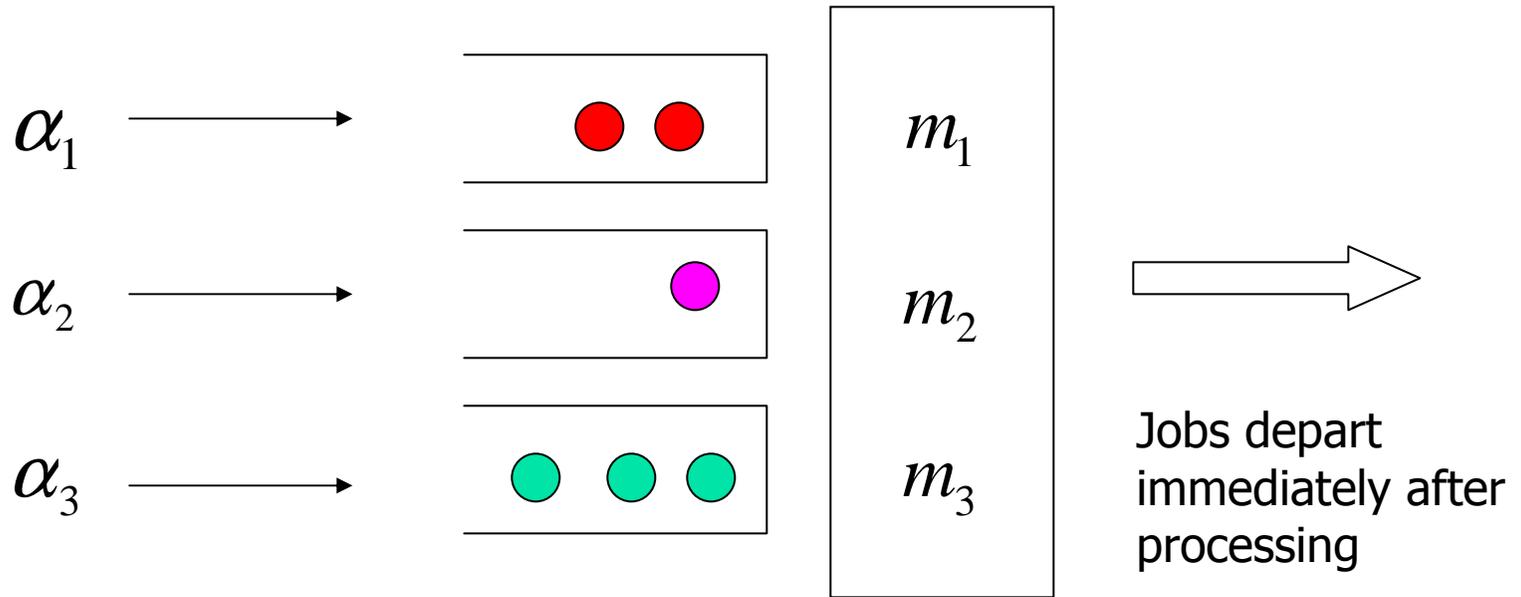
- Model for Optimal Operation and Design of Solid Waste Transfer Stations, Harold Yaffe (UC-Berkeley), *Transportation Science*, 1974.
- “A deterministic queueing model is formulated ... arrivals and departures of vehicles are treated as fluid flows.”
- “The model takes into account a time-dependent arrival rate of refuse”



Why Fluid Models Might Work, Part I - Stability Analysis

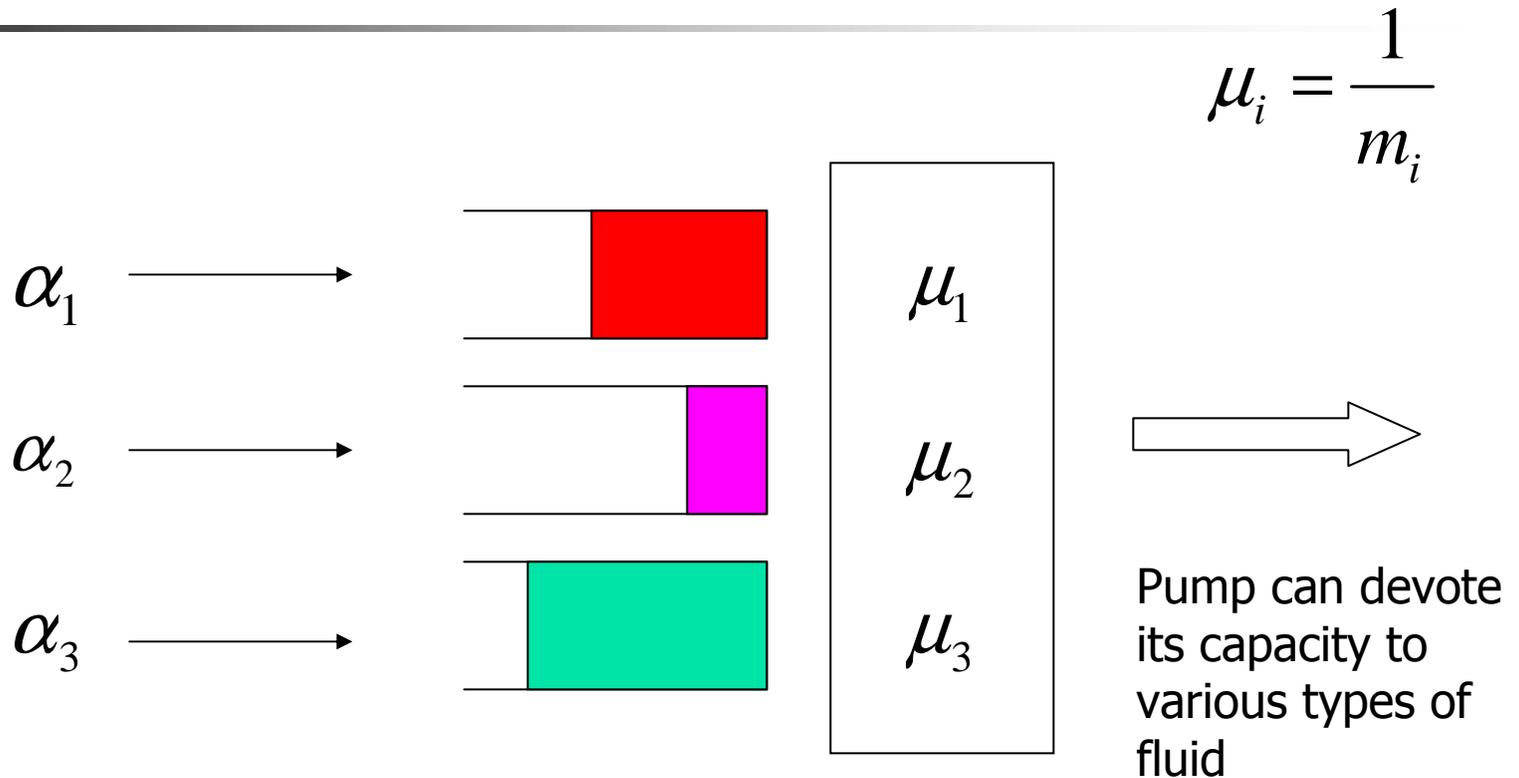
- Theorem (Dai 95): if the fluid model is stable, then any associated queueing network is stable (positive recurrent).
- Fluid model is “stable” if starting with any initial buffer levels, network will drain in finite time.
- Converse does not hold in general.

Why Fluid Models Might Work, Part II – Feedforward Station

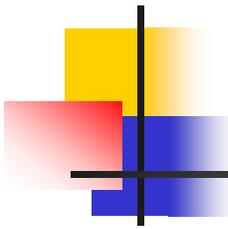


Single server can process one
job at a time

Single Station Case – The Fluid Model

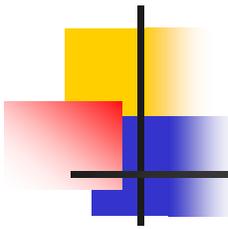


Continuous fluid mass arrives from the outside



Optimal Fluid Model Solution Linear Holding Costs

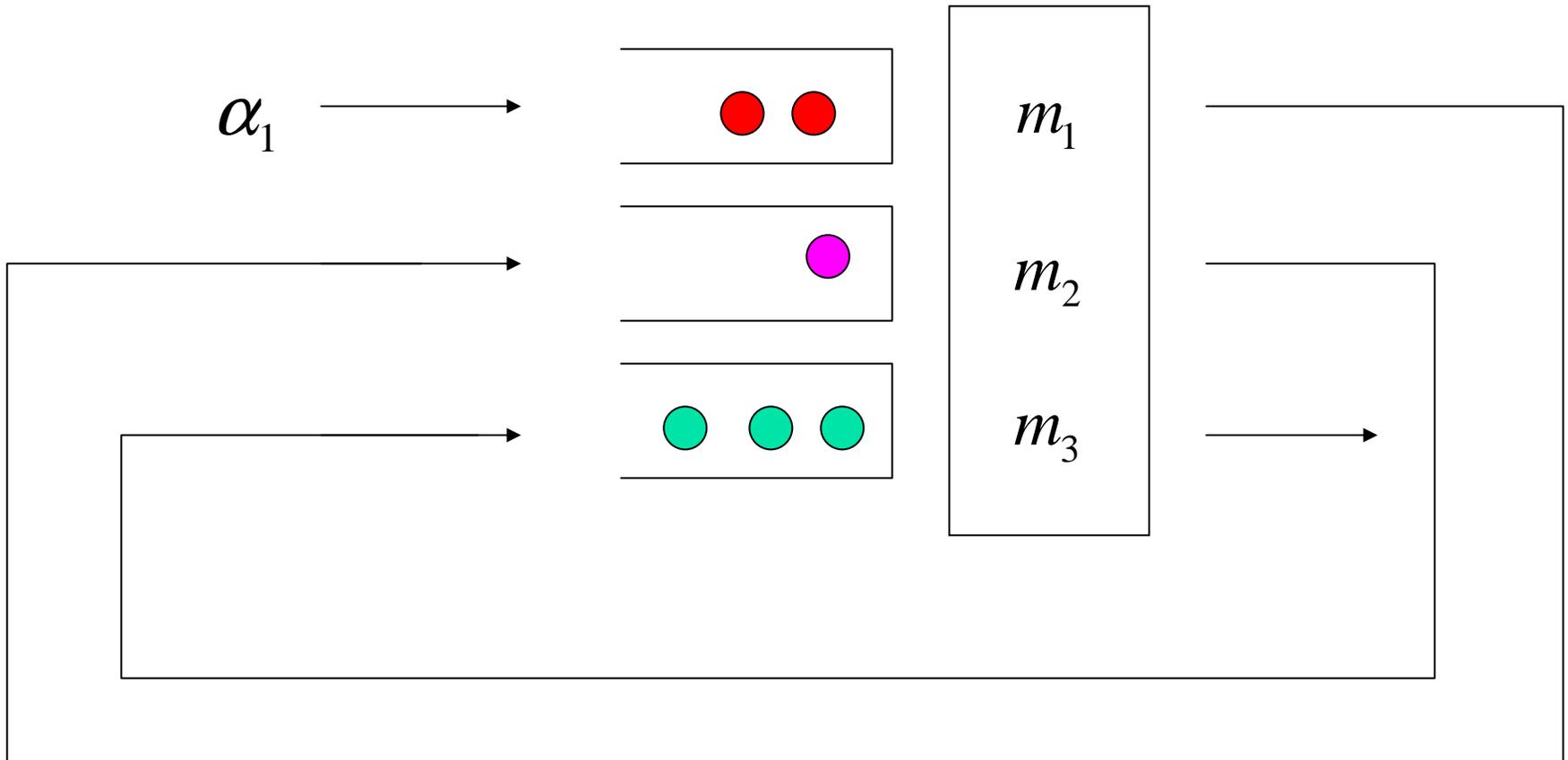
- Suppose each type i fluid costs c_i dollars per unit time
- Optimal control (Avram, et al. 95):
 - prioritize fluid according to the " $c-\mu$ rule"
 - high priority fluid has absolute priority over lower priority fluid
 - processor sharing may occur
- This optimal control is *pathwise optimal*, it minimizes the cost at all time points.

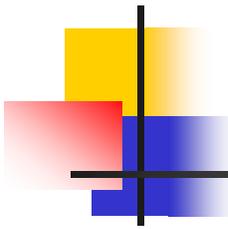


Optimal Scheduling Rule – Single Station Queueing Model

- Cox and Smith 1961
- $c - \mu$ rule minimizes long-run average holding costs over all non-preemptive scheduling rules.
- Assumptions
 - Arbitrary service distributions
 - Poisson arrivals

Why Fluid Models Might Work, Part III – Reentrant Lines

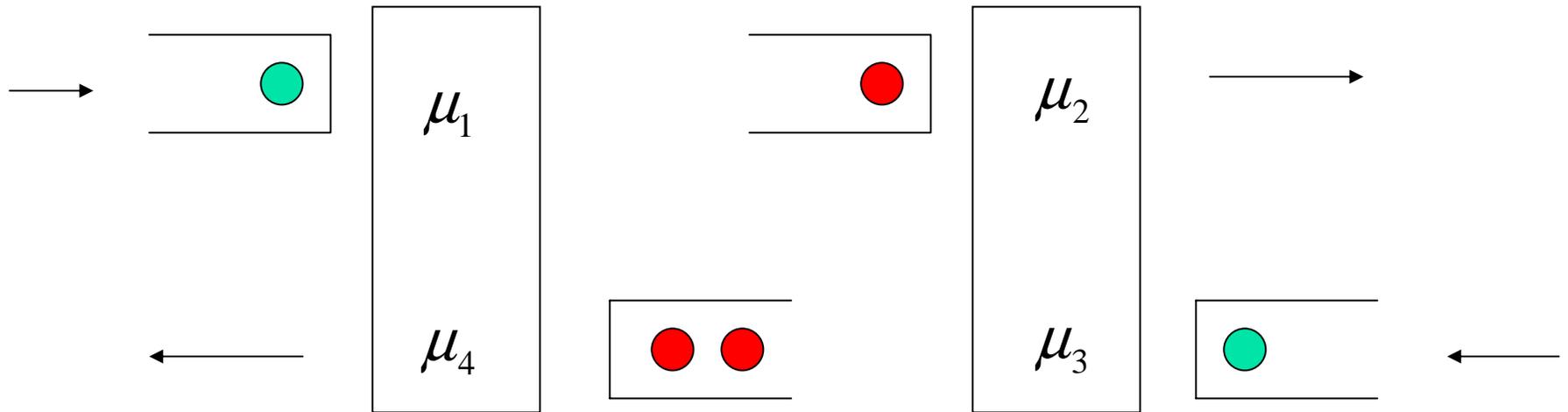




Optimal Policies for Fluid and Queueing Networks

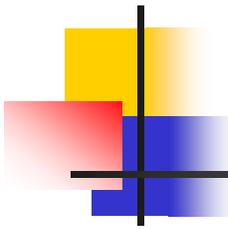
- Klimov's rule is pathwise optimal for the fluid model (Chen and Yao 93, Weiss 95).
- "Klimov's Model" 1974.
- Klimov's rule is optimal for the queueing model among all non-preemptive policies.
- Results hold for single-station multiclass fluid and queueing networks with arbitrary routing.

Not as easy as it looks - Kumar-Seidman Network



Exit classes are the slow classes

$$\mu_1 = \mu_3 = 6 \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_2 = \mu_4 = 1.5$$

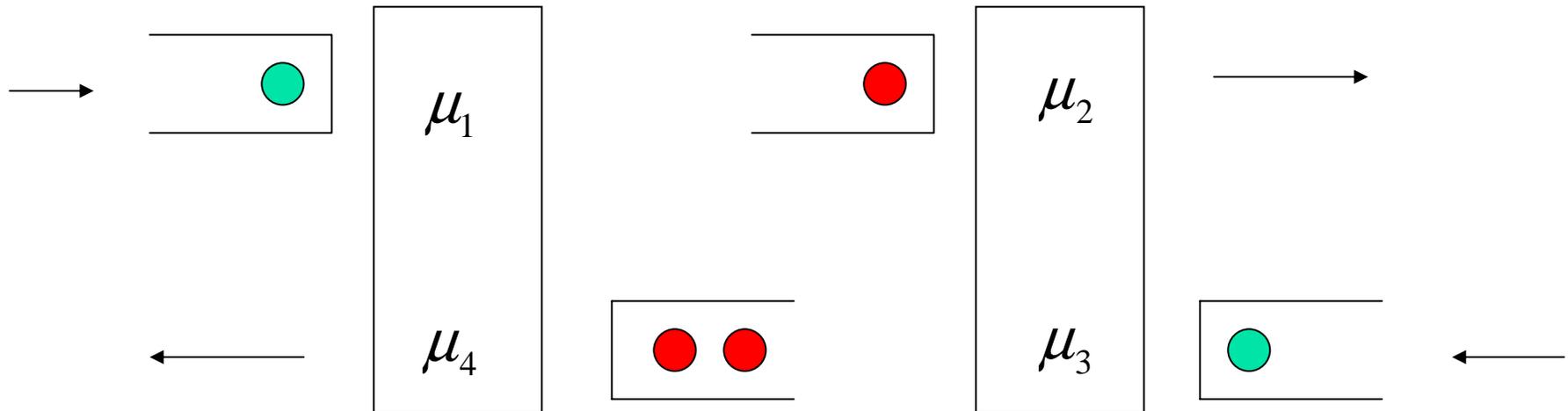


Kumar-Seidman Network Optimal Fluid Policy

- Last-Buffer-First Served is Optimal
- Give fluids 2 and 4 high priority
- If buffers 2 and 4 are empty, buffers 1 and 3 may be worked on
- Split server effort to keep 2 and 4 empty

Naïve translation of fluid policy

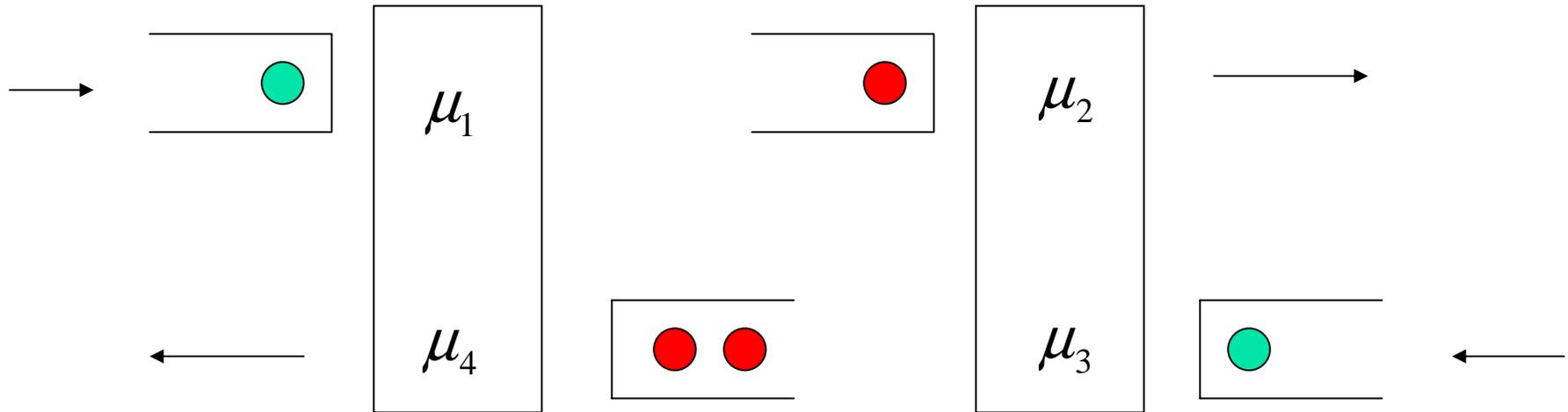
Give exit classes high priority.



This policy is unstable in the queueing model – queue lengths will explode with probability 1!

Less Naïve translation of fluid policy

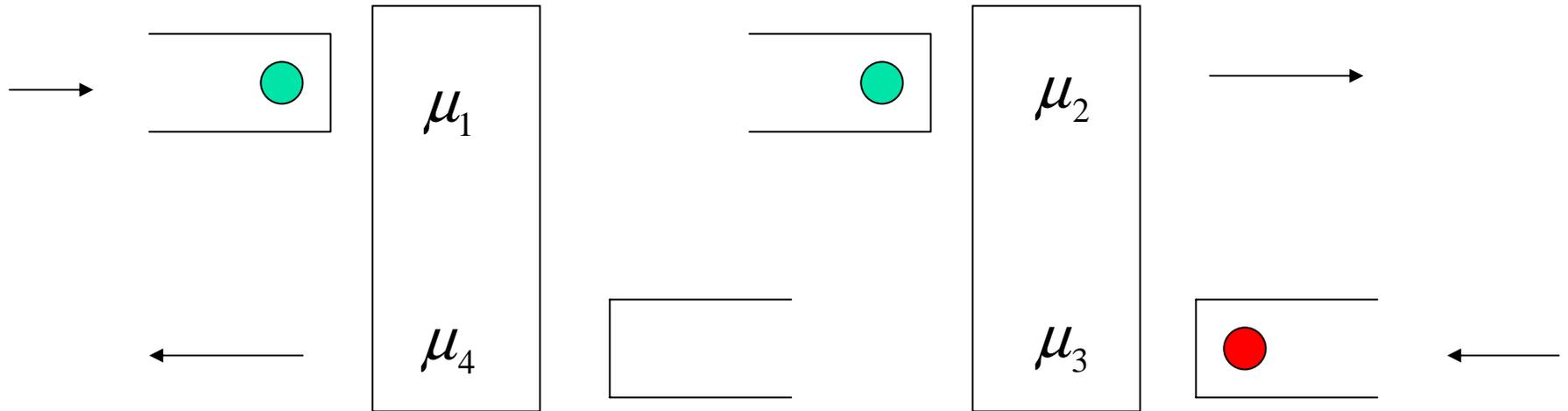
LBFS with priority reversal.



Reverse priorities when an exit buffer becomes empty – avoid starvation.

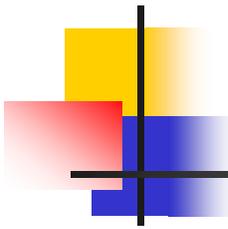
Less Naïve translation of fluid policy

LBFS with priority reversal.

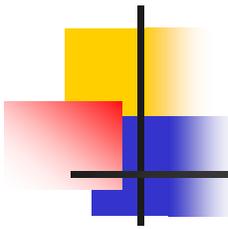


This policy is stable but still performs poorly.
Depending on parameters, need to switch sooner!

Translation Methods – A Sampling



- Bertsimas, Sethuraman, "*From fluid relaxations to practical algorithms for job shop scheduling: the makespan objective,*" Math Programming, Series A, 2002.
- Meyn, "*Sequencing and Routing in Multiclass Queueing Networks I: Feedback Regulation,*" SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization, 2001.



A Sampling of Recent Work

- Veatch, "*Using Fluid Solutions in Dynamic Scheduling*," To appear, Proc. of the 2001 Tinos Workshop on Manufacturing Systems.
- Dai and Weiss, "*A fluid heuristic for minimizing makespan in job shops*," OR 2002.
- Maglaras, "Discrete-review policies for scheduling stochastic networks: trajectory tracking and fluid-scale asymptotic optimality," AAP 2000.

Fluid Model Constraints (all Linear)

- Conserve flow

$$\left(\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T\right) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t) + \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t)$$
- Non-decreasing number of units processed

$$= \left(\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T\right) \mathbf{u}(t_0) \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

$$+ \mathbf{q}(t_0) + \boldsymbol{\alpha}(t - t_0)$$
- Limited machine capacity

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t') - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t) \geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall t, t' : t_0 \leq t < t'$$

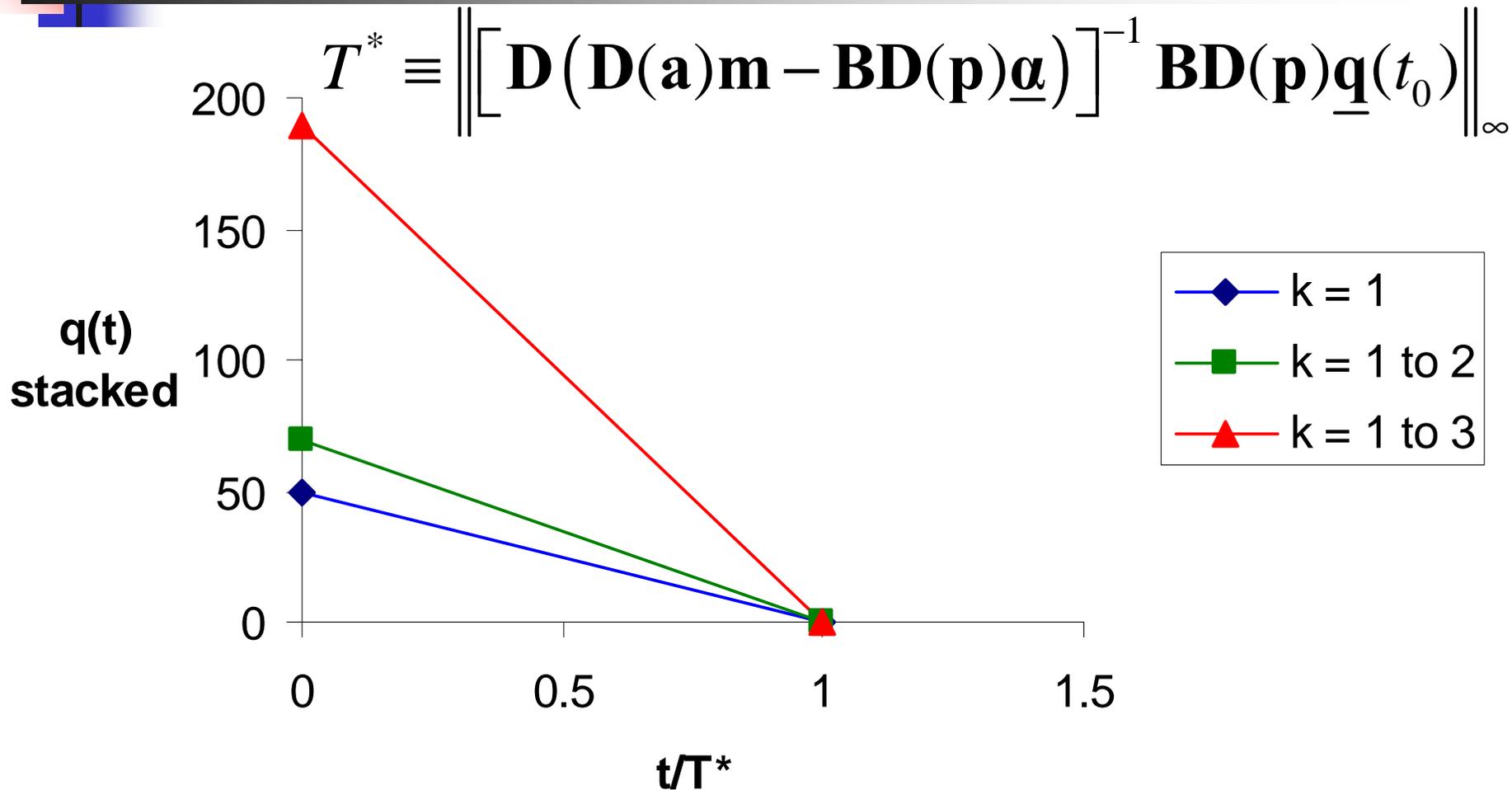
$$\mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) [\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t') - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t)] \leq \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{a}) \mathbf{m}(t' - t) \quad \forall t, t' : t_0 \leq t < t'$$
- Non-negative queue lengths

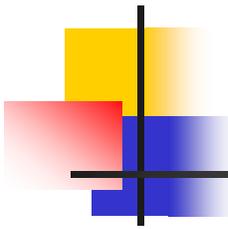
$$\tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t) \geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

Objective Functions: Minimize Integral Over...

- Makespan $\min_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}} \tilde{C}_{\max}(\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}} | T) = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} \text{sgn}(\|\tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t)\|_1) dt$
- Weighted Holding Cost $\min_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}} \tilde{C}_h(\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}} | T) = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} \mathbf{c}^T \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t) dt$
- Maximum Workload $\min_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}} \tilde{C}_w(\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}} | T) = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} \|\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(t)\|_{\infty} dt$
- Combination of Last Two $\tilde{\mathbf{w}}(t) \equiv [\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{a})\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{m})]^{-1} \mathbf{B}\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{p})\tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t)$

An Optimal Makespan Solution





Continuous Linear Program (CLP): Weighted Holding Cost

$$\min_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}} \tilde{C}_h(\tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{u}} | T) = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} \mathbf{c}^T \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t) dt$$

$$\left(\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T \right) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t) + \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad = \left(\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T \right) \mathbf{u}(t_0) \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

$$+ \mathbf{q}(t_0) + \boldsymbol{\alpha}(t - t_0)$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t') - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t) \geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall t, t' : t_0 \leq t < t'$$

$$\mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) [\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t') - \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t)] \leq \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{a}) \mathbf{m}(t' - t) \quad \forall t, t' : t_0 \leq t < t'$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t) \geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

Separated Continuous Linear Program (SCLP)

$$\max_{\dot{\mathbf{u}}} \tilde{C}'_h(\dot{\mathbf{u}}, \tilde{\mathbf{q}}, \dot{\mathbf{y}} | T) = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} (t_0 + T - t) \underline{\mathbf{c}}^T \dot{\mathbf{u}}(t) dt$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \int_{t_0}^t (\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T) \dot{\mathbf{u}}(s) ds + \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t) = \mathbf{q}(t_0) + \boldsymbol{\alpha}(t - t_0) \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

$$\mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) \dot{\mathbf{u}}(t) + \dot{\mathbf{y}}(t) = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{a}) \mathbf{m} \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

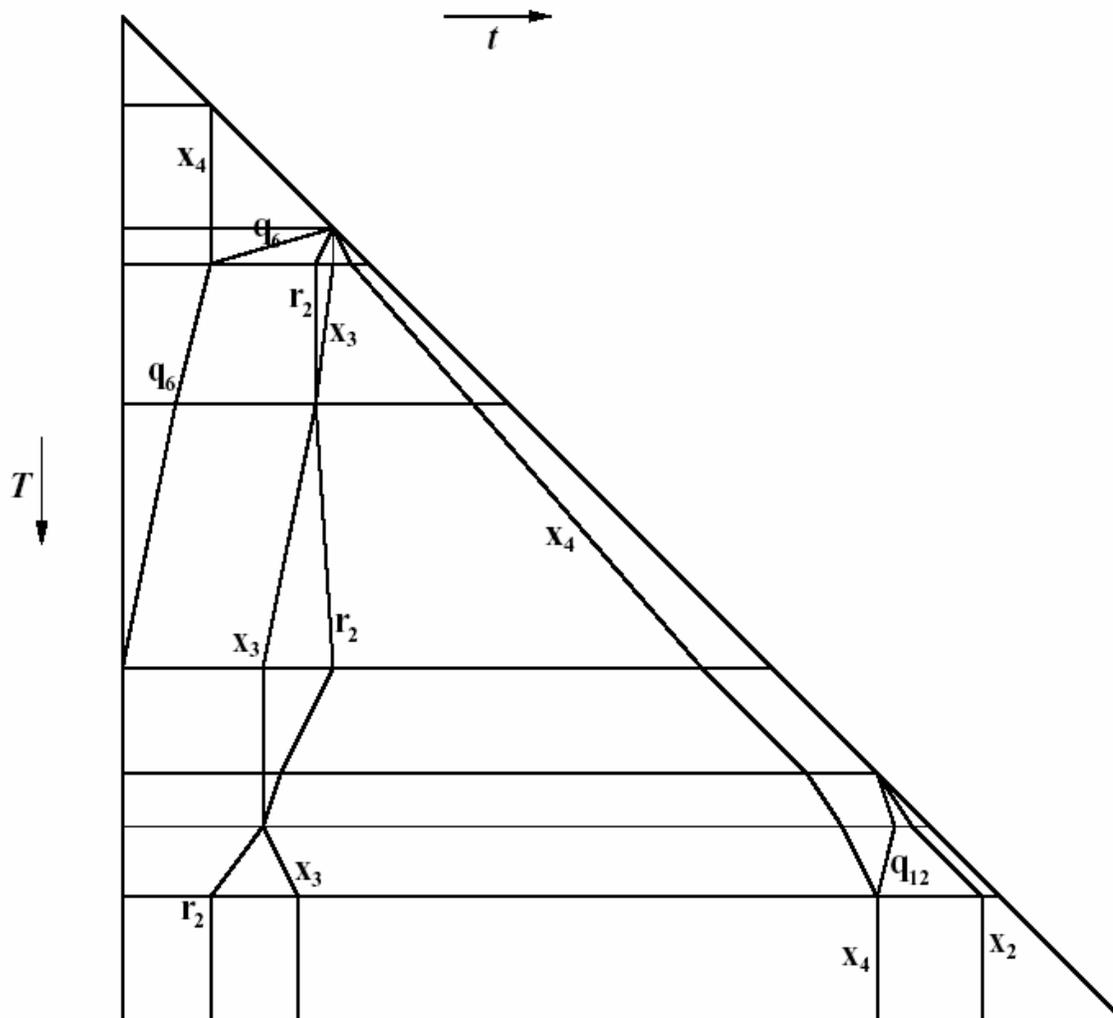
$$\dot{\mathbf{u}}(t) \geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t) \geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{y}}(t) \geq \mathbf{0}_{I,1} \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

Pullan ('95): optimal piecewise constant solution

Gideon Weiss' SCLP Solution Method



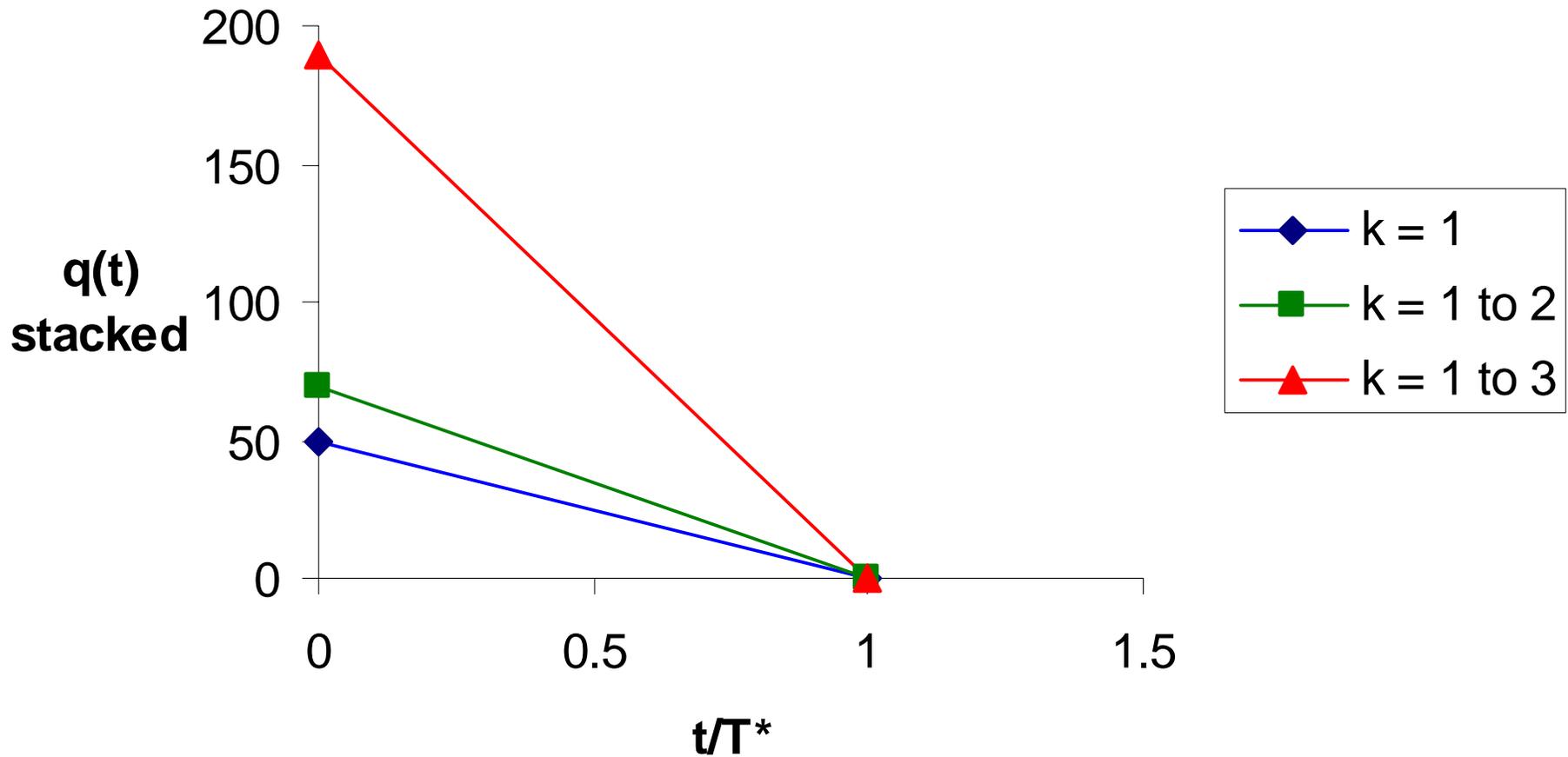
Non-Convex (Bilinear) Quadratic Program (QP)

$$\min_{\Delta t, \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}, \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{U}}} \tilde{C}_h(\Delta t, \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}, \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{U}}, \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{Y}} | N) = \frac{\mathbf{c}^T}{2} \left[\mathbf{q}(t_0) \Delta t_1 + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t_n) (\Delta t_n + \Delta t_{n+1}) \right]$$

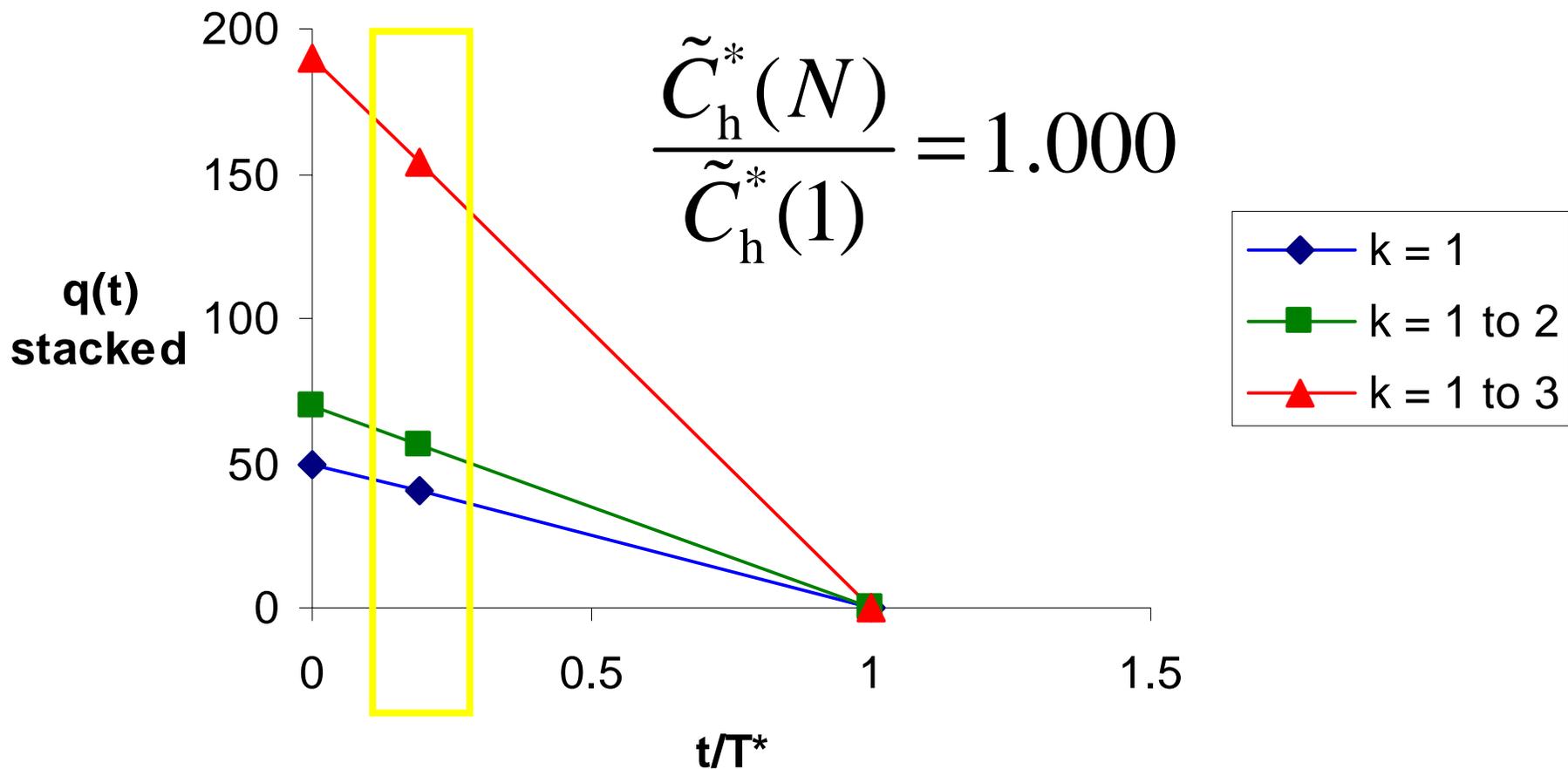
s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T) \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t_1) + \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t_1) - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \Delta t_1 &= \mathbf{q}(t_0) \\ (\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T) \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t_n) + \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t_n) - \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t_{n-1}) - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \Delta t_n &= \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall n \in \{2, 3, \dots, N-1\} \\ (\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T) \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t_N) - \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t_{N-1}) - \boldsymbol{\alpha} \Delta t_N &= \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \\ \mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t_n) - \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{a}) \mathbf{m} \Delta t_n &\leq \mathbf{0}_{I,1} \quad \forall n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\} \\ \Delta t_n &\geq 0 \quad \forall n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{q}}(t_n) &\geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N-1\} \\ \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(t_n) &\geq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\} \end{aligned}$$

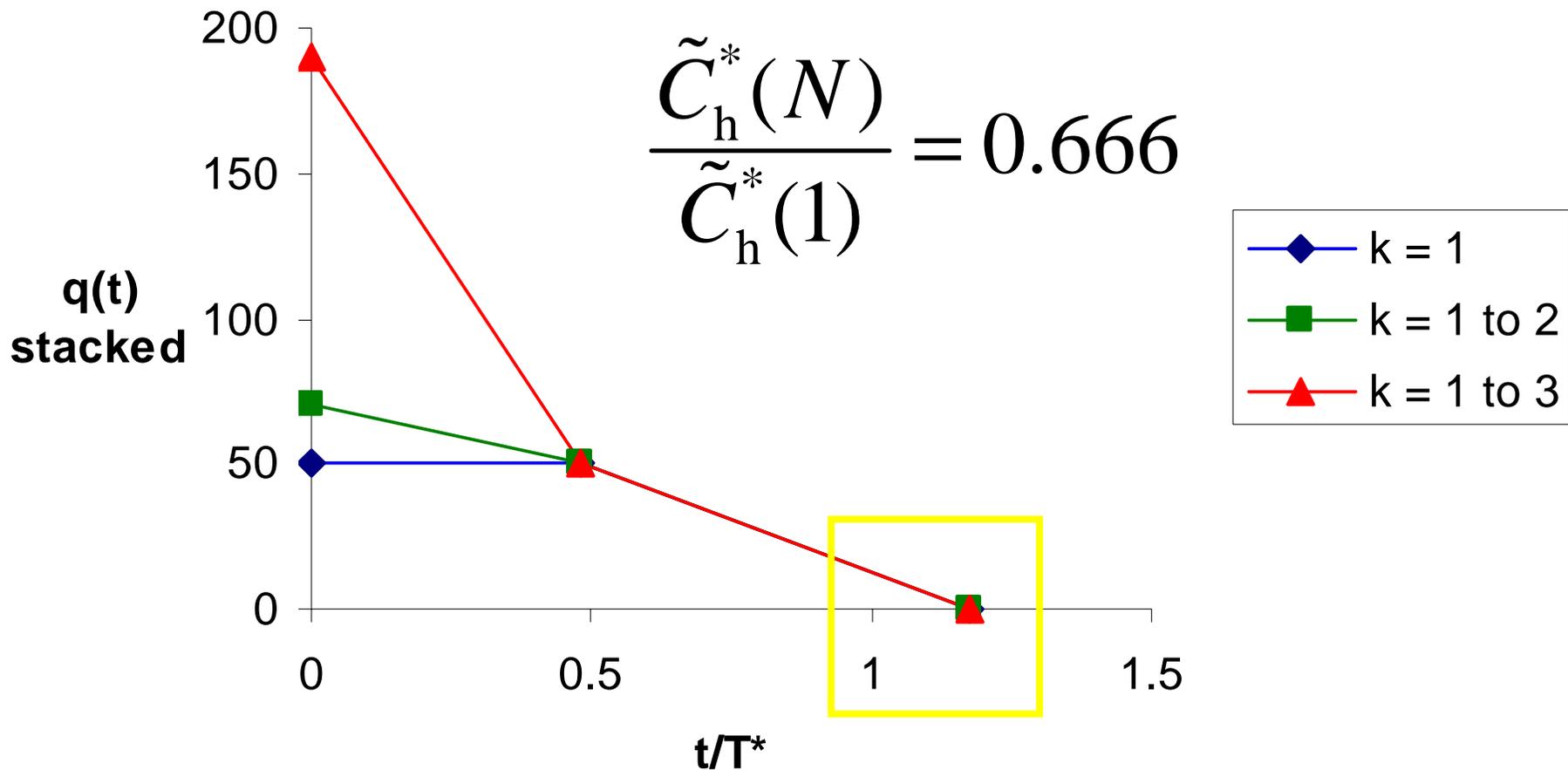
Optimal QP Solution for $N = 1$



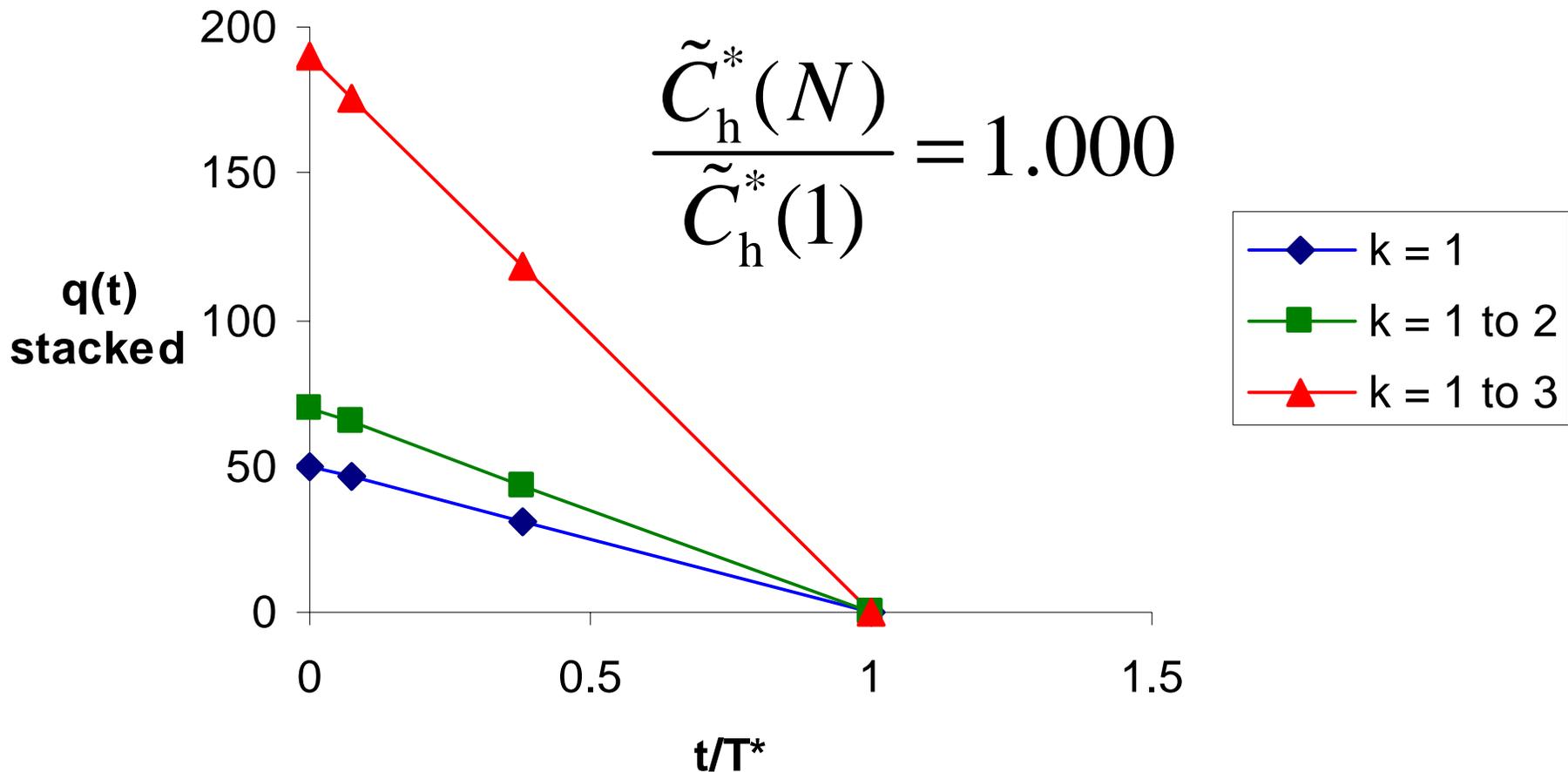
Feasible QP Solution for $N = 2$



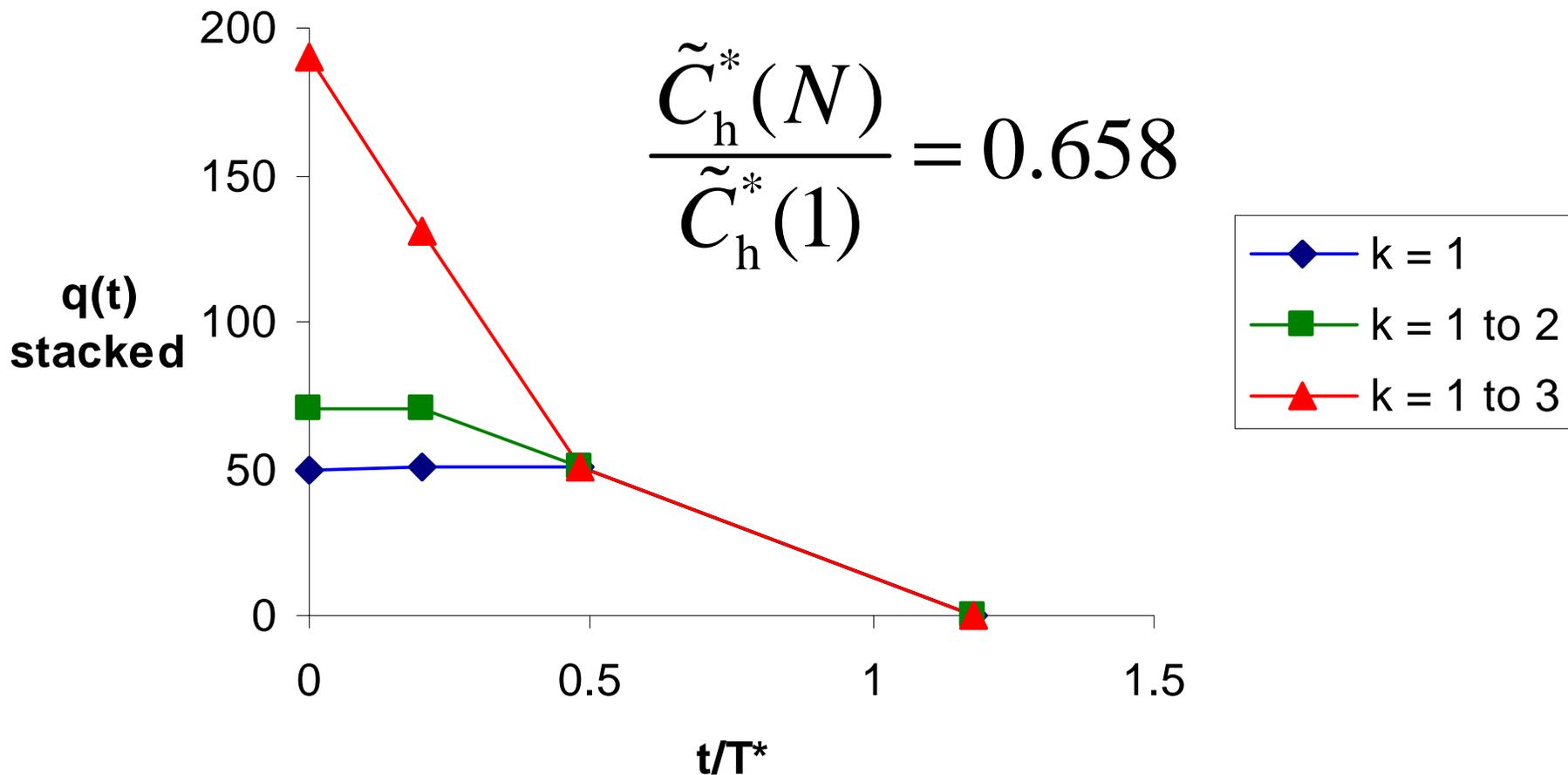
Optimal QP Solution for $N = 2$



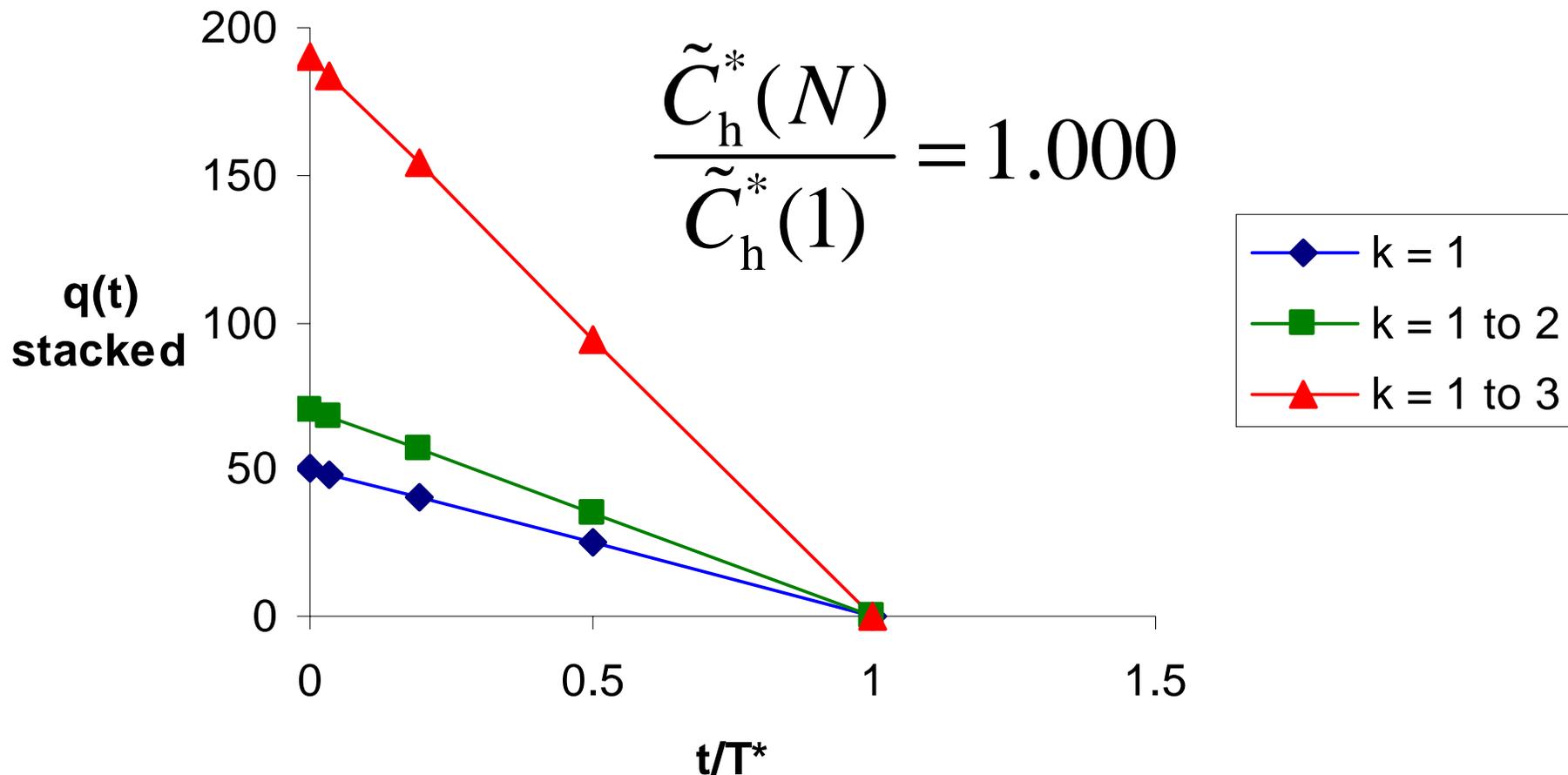
Feasible QP Solution for $N = 3$



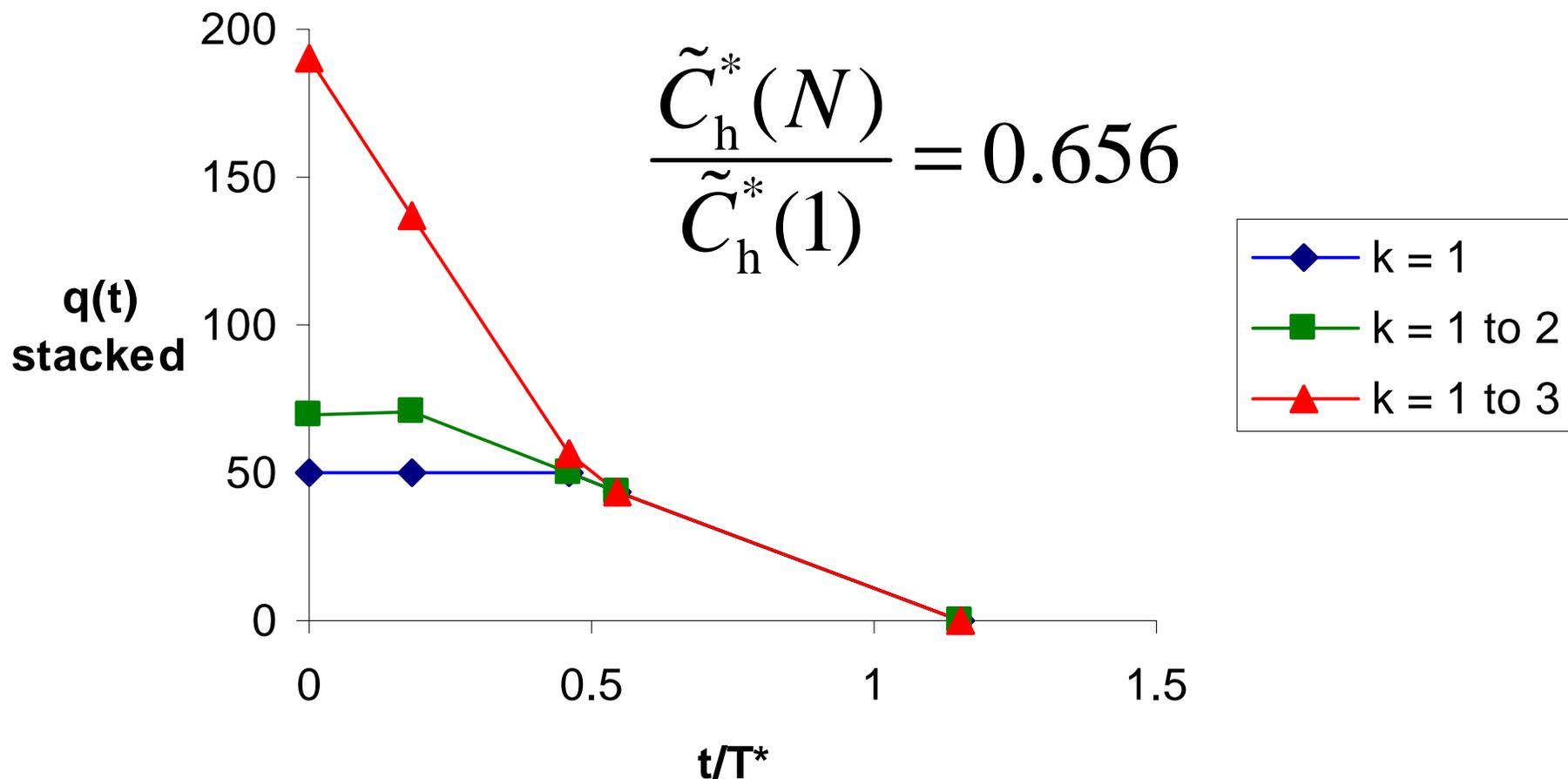
Optimal QP Solution for $N = 3$



Feasible QP Solution for $N = 4$



Optimal QP Solution for $N \geq 4$

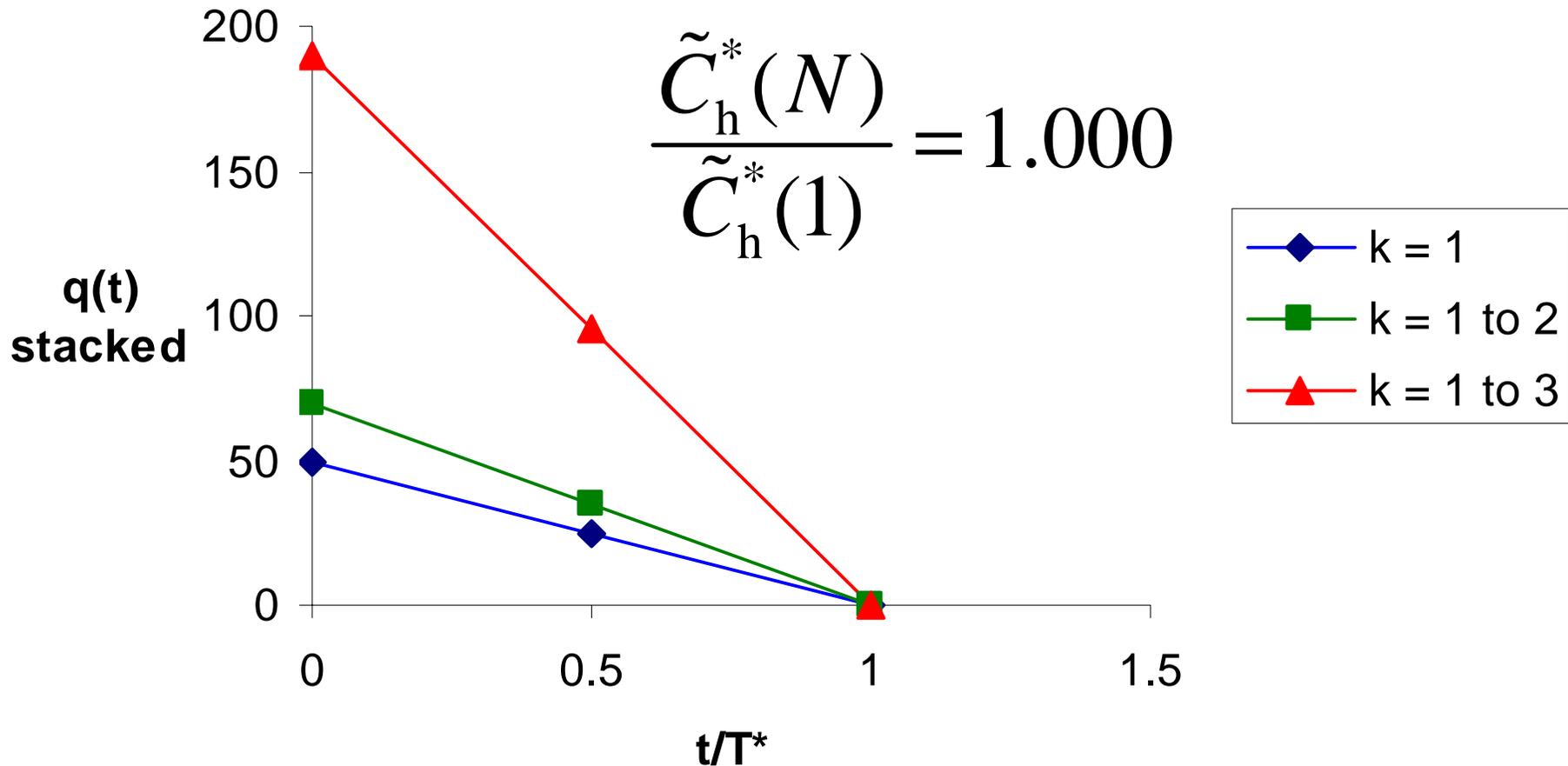


Linear Program (LP) with Fixed Time Intervals

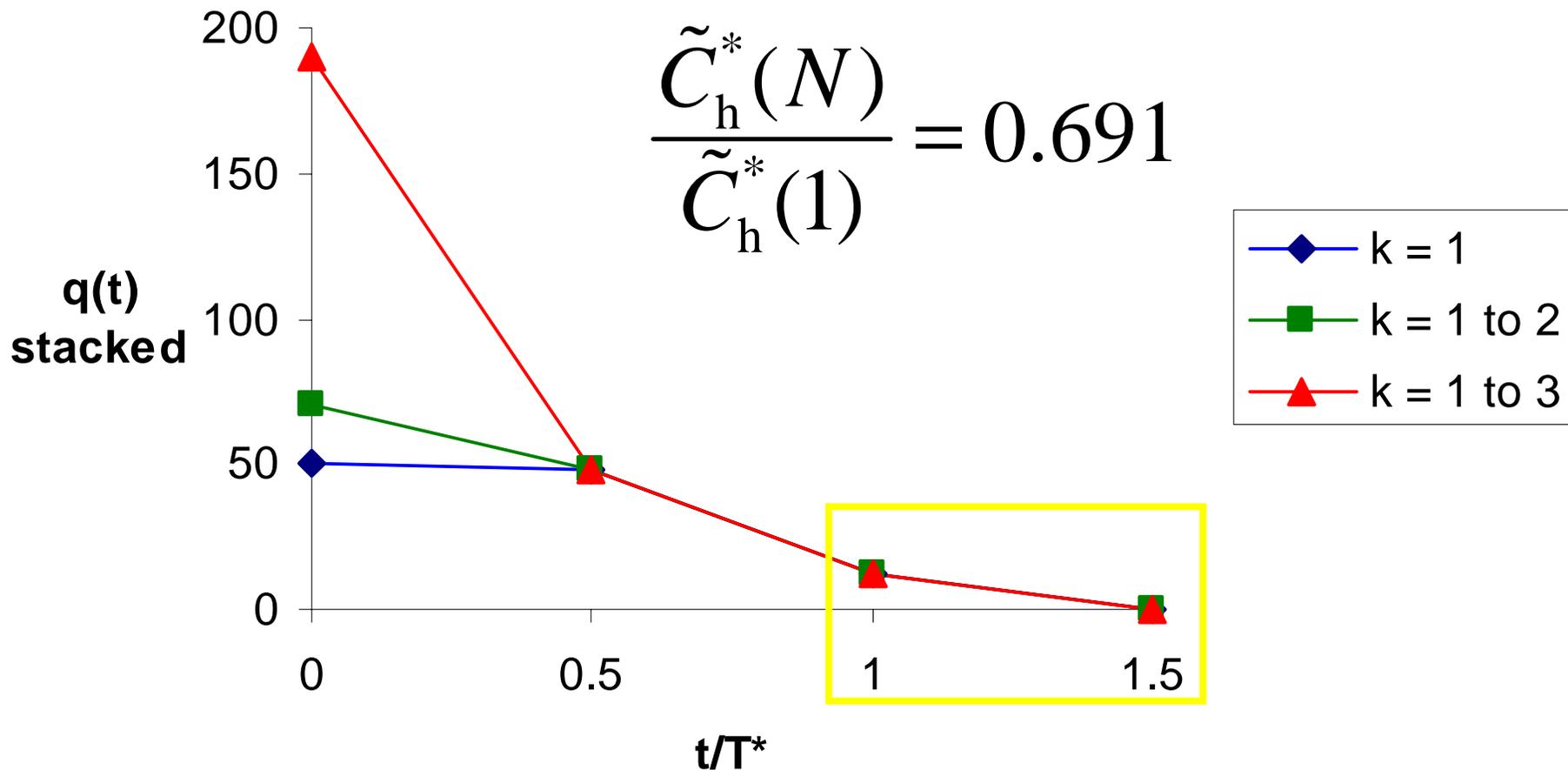
$$\min_{\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}}} \tilde{C}_h(\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}}, \Delta\tilde{\mathbf{U}}, \Delta\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}, \tilde{\mathbf{Q}} | N, \Delta\mathbf{t}) = \frac{\mathbf{c}^T}{2} \left[\underline{\mathbf{q}}(t_0)\Delta t_1 + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_n)(\Delta t_n + \Delta t_{n+1}) \right]$$

$$\text{s.t. } \begin{aligned} & \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_1) \leq \underline{\mathbf{q}}(t_0) + \underline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\Delta t_1 \\ & -\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n-1}) + \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_n) \leq \underline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\Delta t_n \quad \forall n \in \{2, 3, \dots, N-1\} \\ & -\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{N-1}) \leq \underline{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}\Delta t_N \\ & -\mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p})\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_1) \leq -\mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p})\underline{\mathbf{q}}(t_0) + \boldsymbol{\chi}\Delta t_1 \\ & \mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) \left[\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n-1}) - \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_n) \right] \leq \boldsymbol{\chi}\Delta t_n \quad \forall n \in \{2, 3, \dots, N-1\} \\ & \mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p})\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{N-1}) \leq \boldsymbol{\chi}\Delta t_N \\ & -(\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T)\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_n) \leq \mathbf{0}_{K,1} \quad \forall n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N-1\} \end{aligned}$$

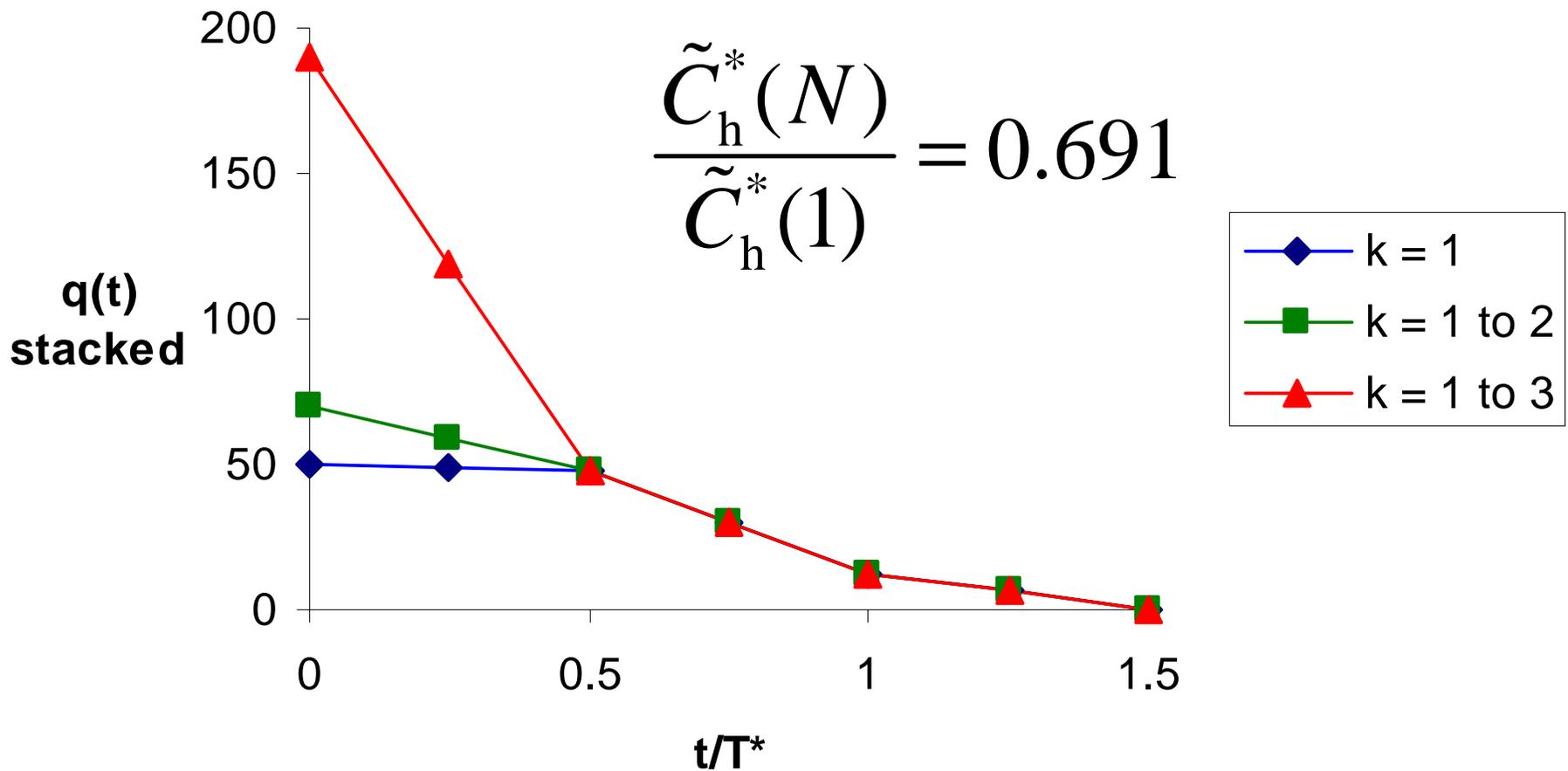
Feasible LP Solution for $N = 2$



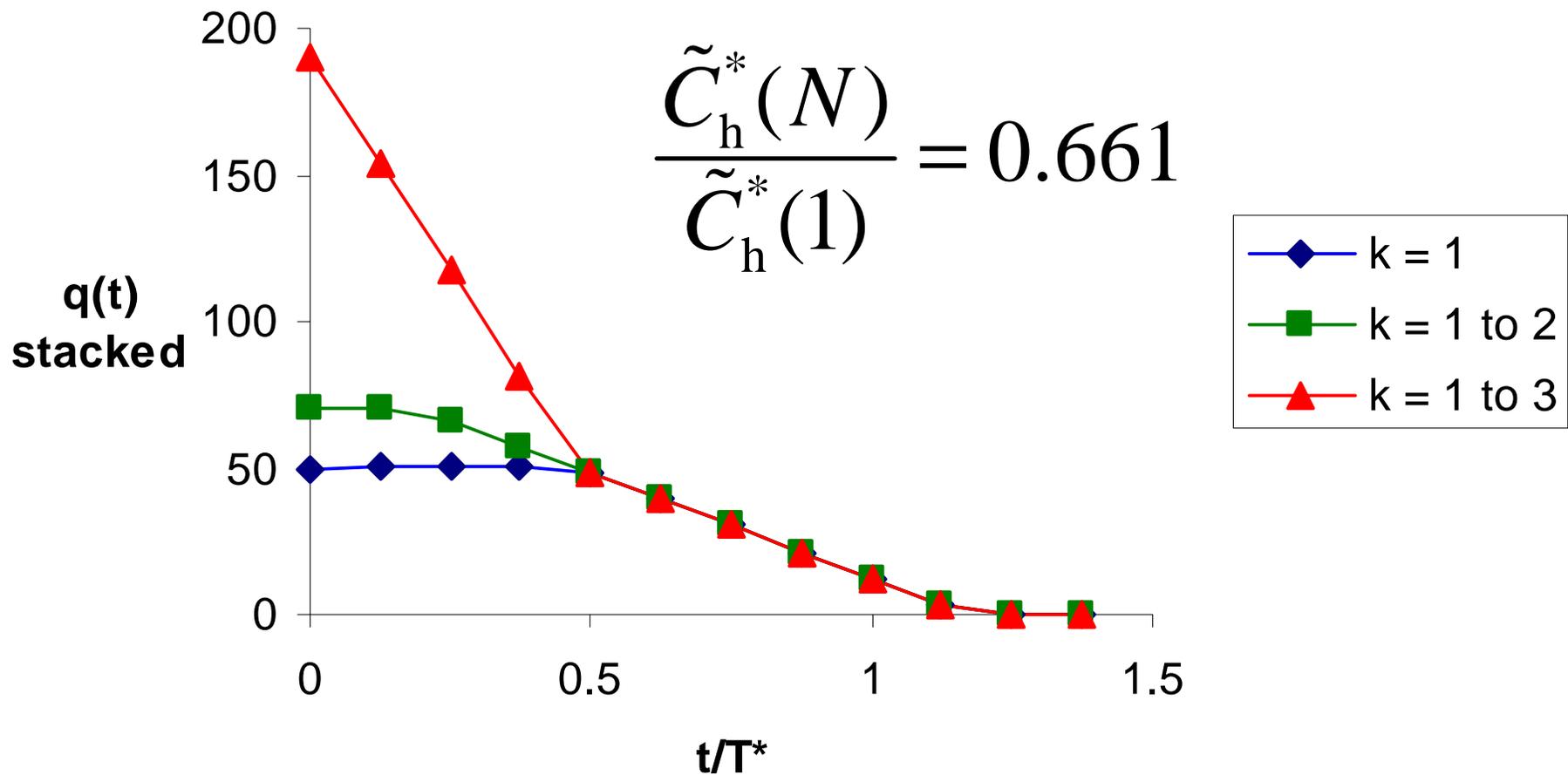
Optimal LP Solution for $N = 3$



Feasible LP Solution for $N = 6$



Optimal LP Solution for $N = 10$



LP with All Variables Fixed Except at 1 Time Break Point

$$\min_{\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'}), \Delta t_{n'}} \tilde{C}_h \left(\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'}), \Delta t_{n'}, \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{U}}, \Delta \tilde{\mathbf{Y}}, \tilde{\mathbf{Q}} \mid N, \{\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_n)\}_{n \neq n'}, \{\Delta t_n\}_{n \neq n'}, T' \right)$$

$$= \frac{\underline{\mathbf{c}}^T}{2} \left[\underline{\mathbf{q}}(t_0) \Delta t_1 + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_n) (\Delta t_n + \Delta t_{n+1}) \right]$$

s.t.

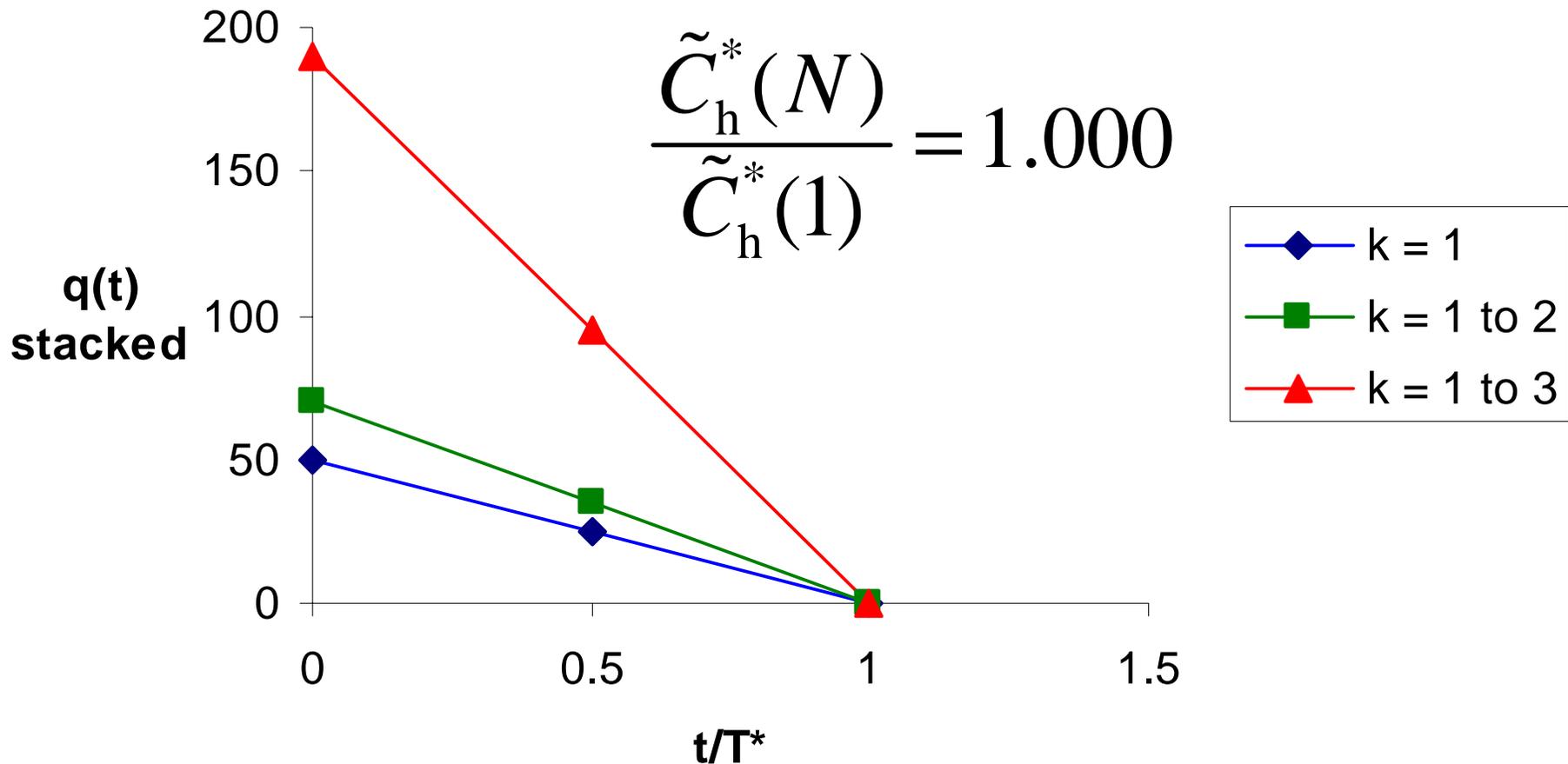
$$\underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'+1}) - \underline{\alpha} T' \leq -\underline{\alpha} \Delta t_{n'} + \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'}) \leq \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'-1})$$

$$\mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'-1}) \leq \chi \Delta t_{n'} + \mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'}) \leq \mathbf{BD}(\mathbf{p}) \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'+1}) + \chi T'$$

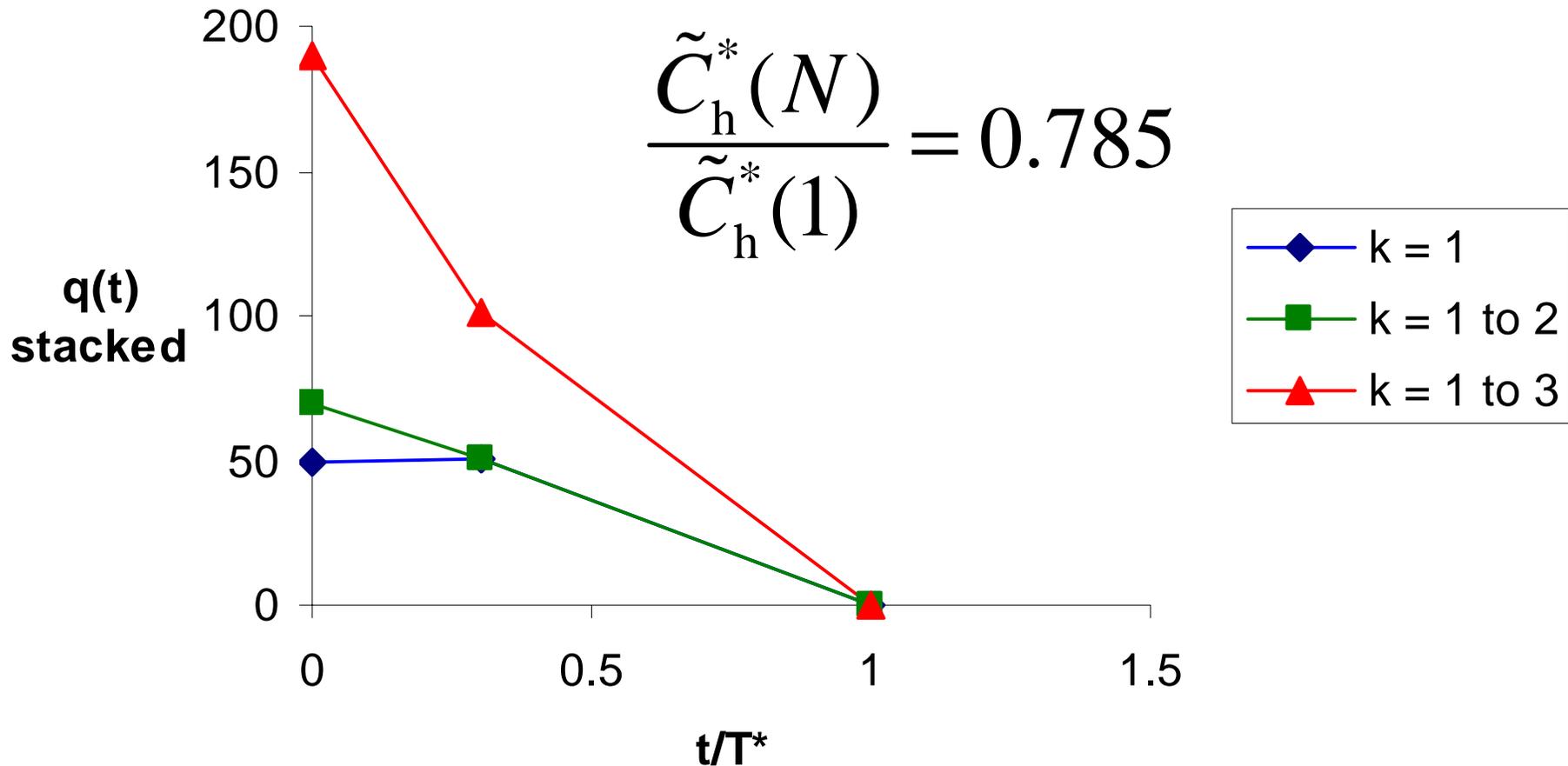
$$-(\mathbf{I}_K - \mathbf{P}^T) \underline{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}}(t_{n'}) \leq \mathbf{0}_{K,1}$$

$$0 \leq \Delta t_{n'} \leq T'$$

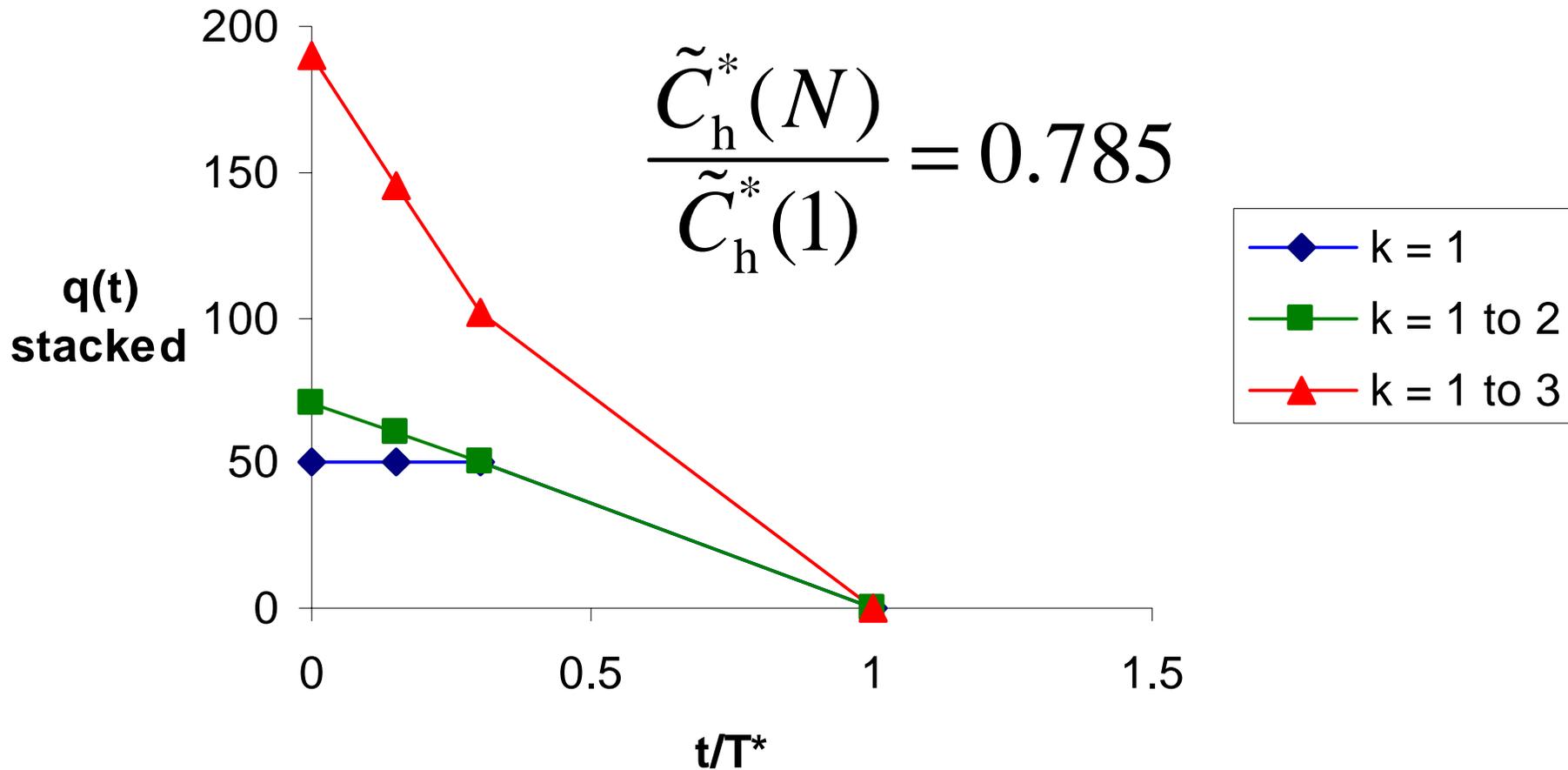
Feasible LP Solution for $N = 2$



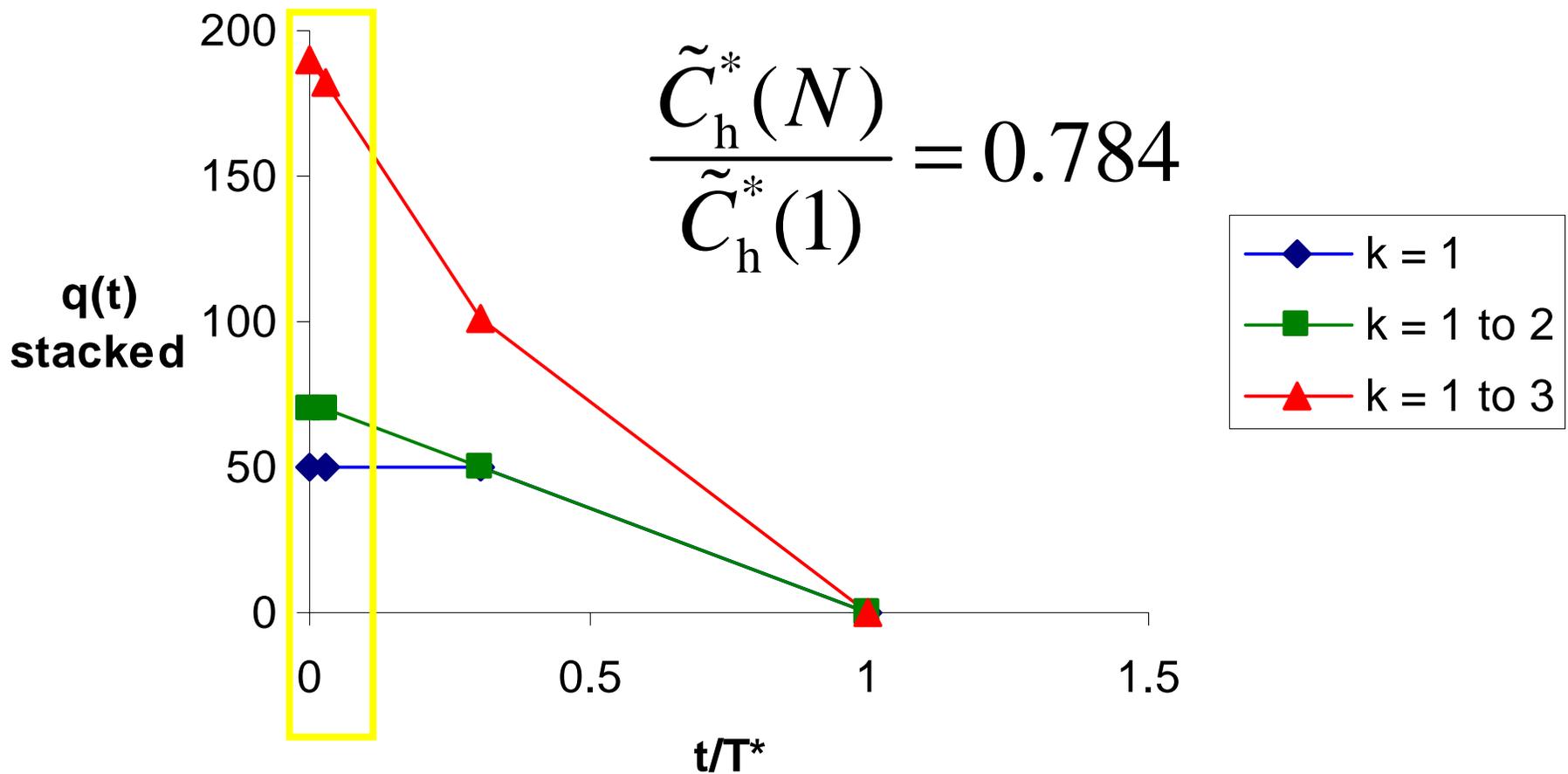
Optimal LP Solution for $N = 2$



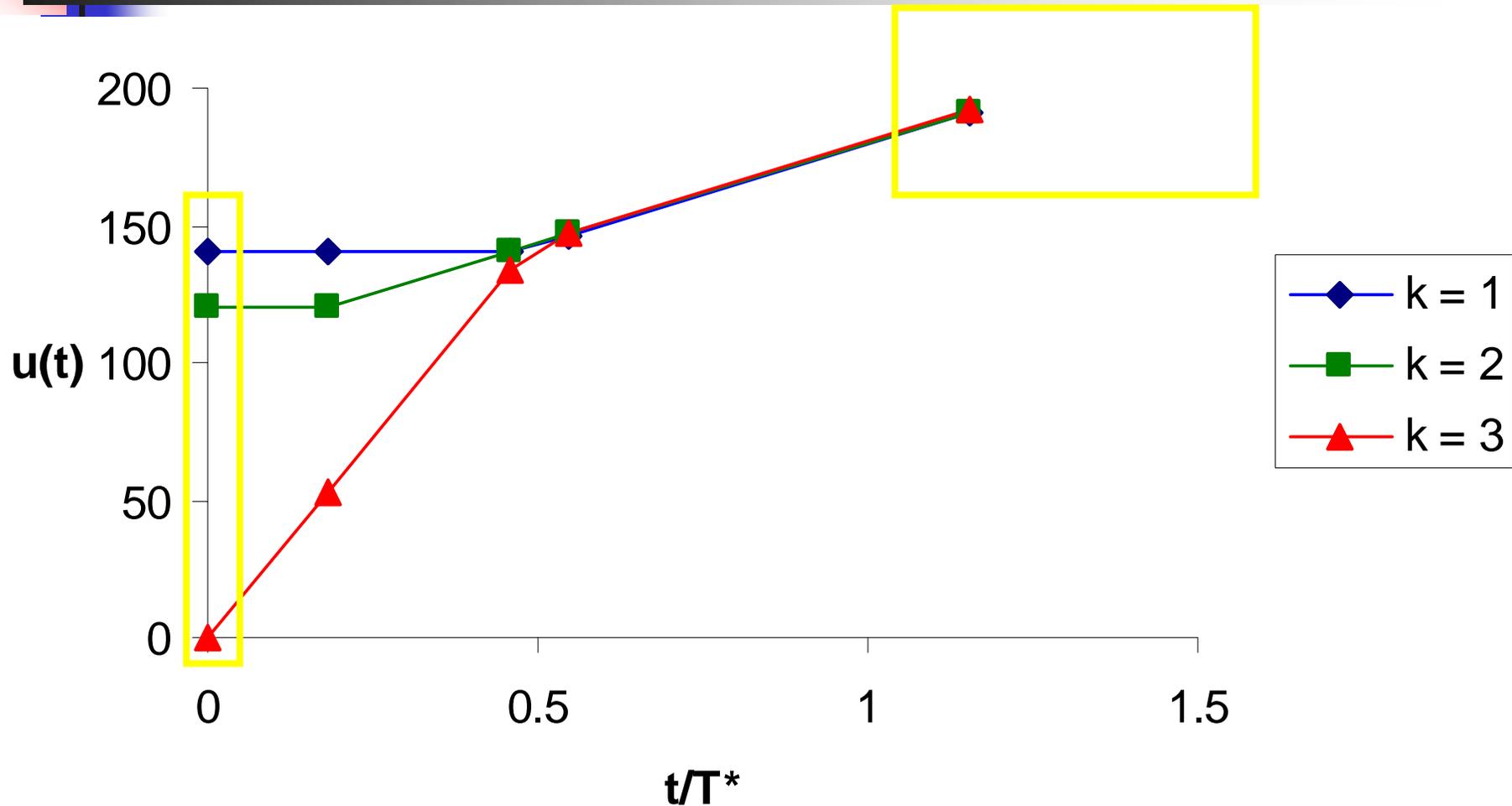
Feasible LP Solution for $N = 3$



Optimal LP Solution for $N = 3$



Optimal QP (& SCLP) Solution: Cumulative Units Processed

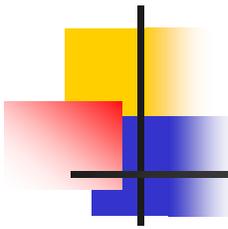


Mixed Integer LP for Schedule Initialization

$$\min_{\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t_0^+)} \left\| \hat{\mathbf{v}}(t_0^+) - \tilde{\mathbf{v}}^*(t_1) \right\| \quad \square$$

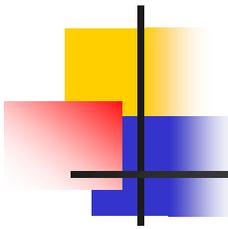
$$\text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t_0^+) \begin{cases} \leq \hat{\mathbf{m}} & \text{if idling is allowed} \\ \text{or} \\ = \min \{ \hat{\mathbf{m}}, \mathbf{B}\mathbf{q}(t_0) \} & \text{if idling is not allowed} \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}}(t_0^+) \begin{cases} \leq \mathbf{q}(t_0) \\ \text{and} \\ \in \square_+^K \end{cases}$$



Issues with Adapting a Fluid Solution to a Real Factory

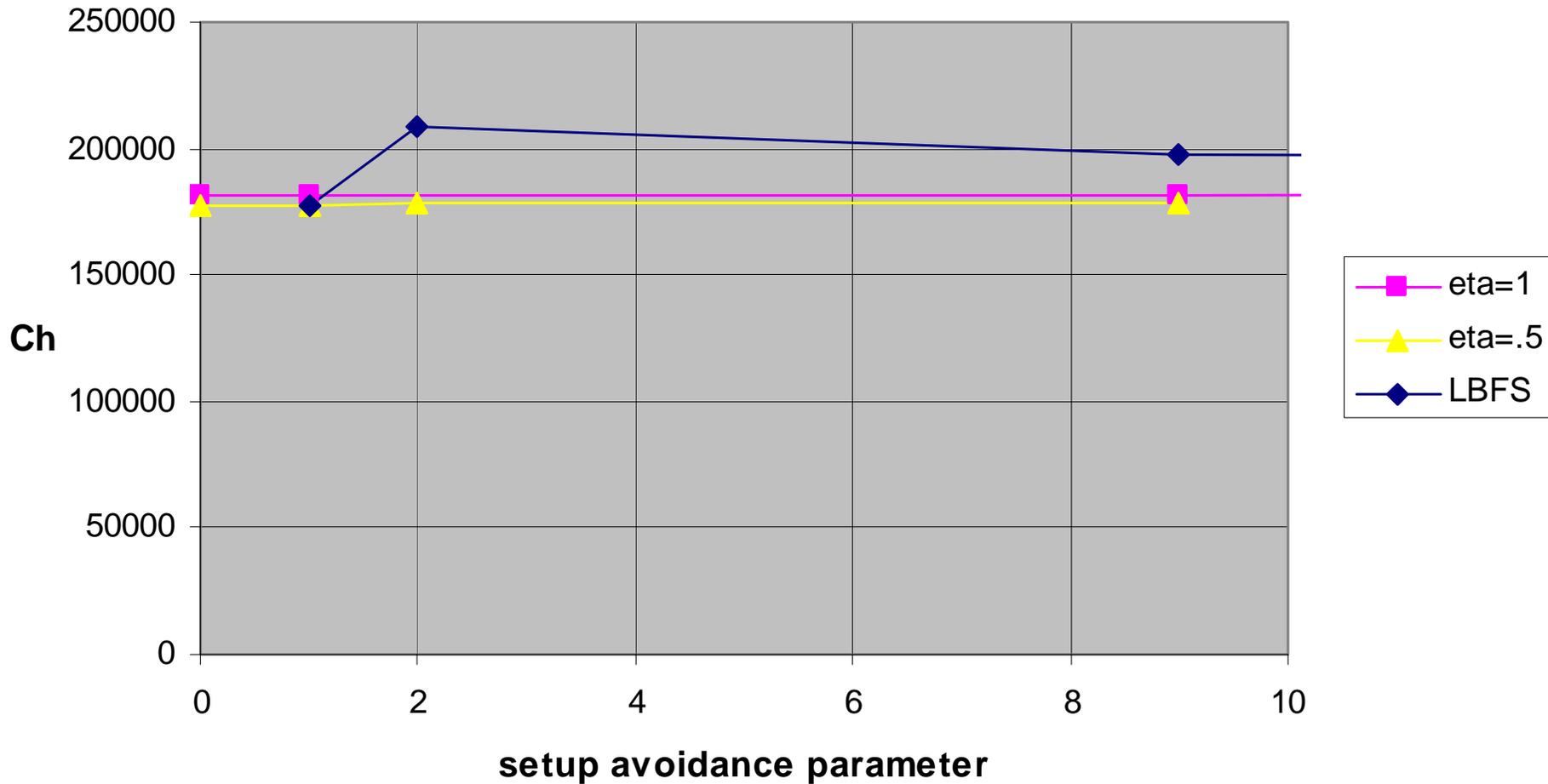
<i>Fluid Analogy</i>	<i>Factory Equivalent</i>
Bottlenecks	Limited machine capacity
Viscosity	Discrete (process batches, transport lots, ...)
Turbulence	Stochastic (random failures, service times, ...)
Bubbling	Sequence-dependent setups

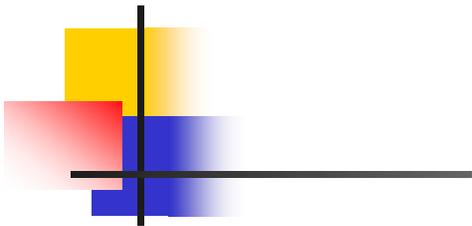


A Setup Avoidance Method

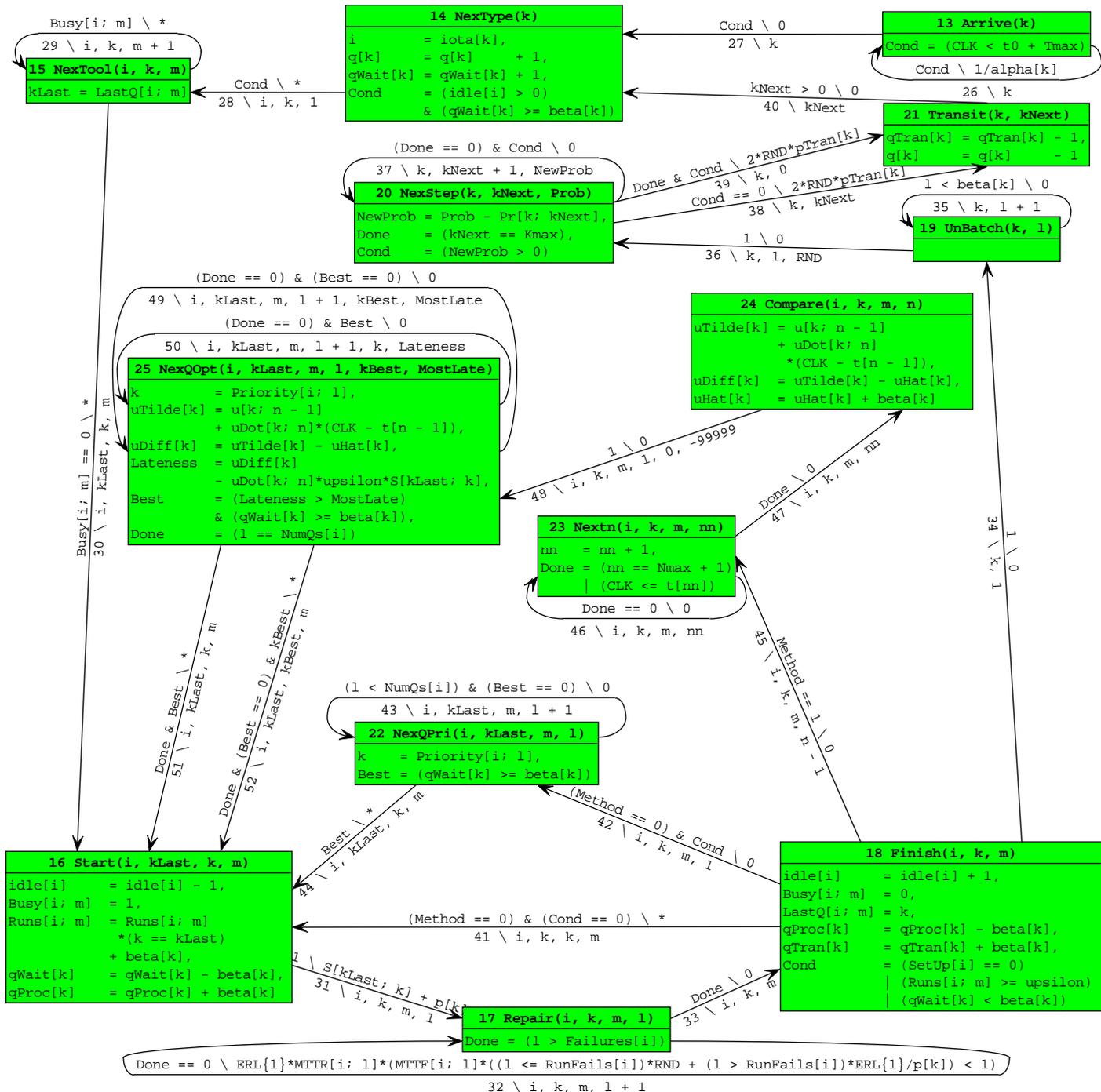
If the machine last processed jobs in queue k and the setup time required to next process jobs from any queue k' is $s_{k,k'}$ then the machine should process jobs from queue k' for which $\tilde{u}_k(t - \underline{v}s_{k,k'}) - \hat{u}_k(t)$ is largest.

Simulation Results

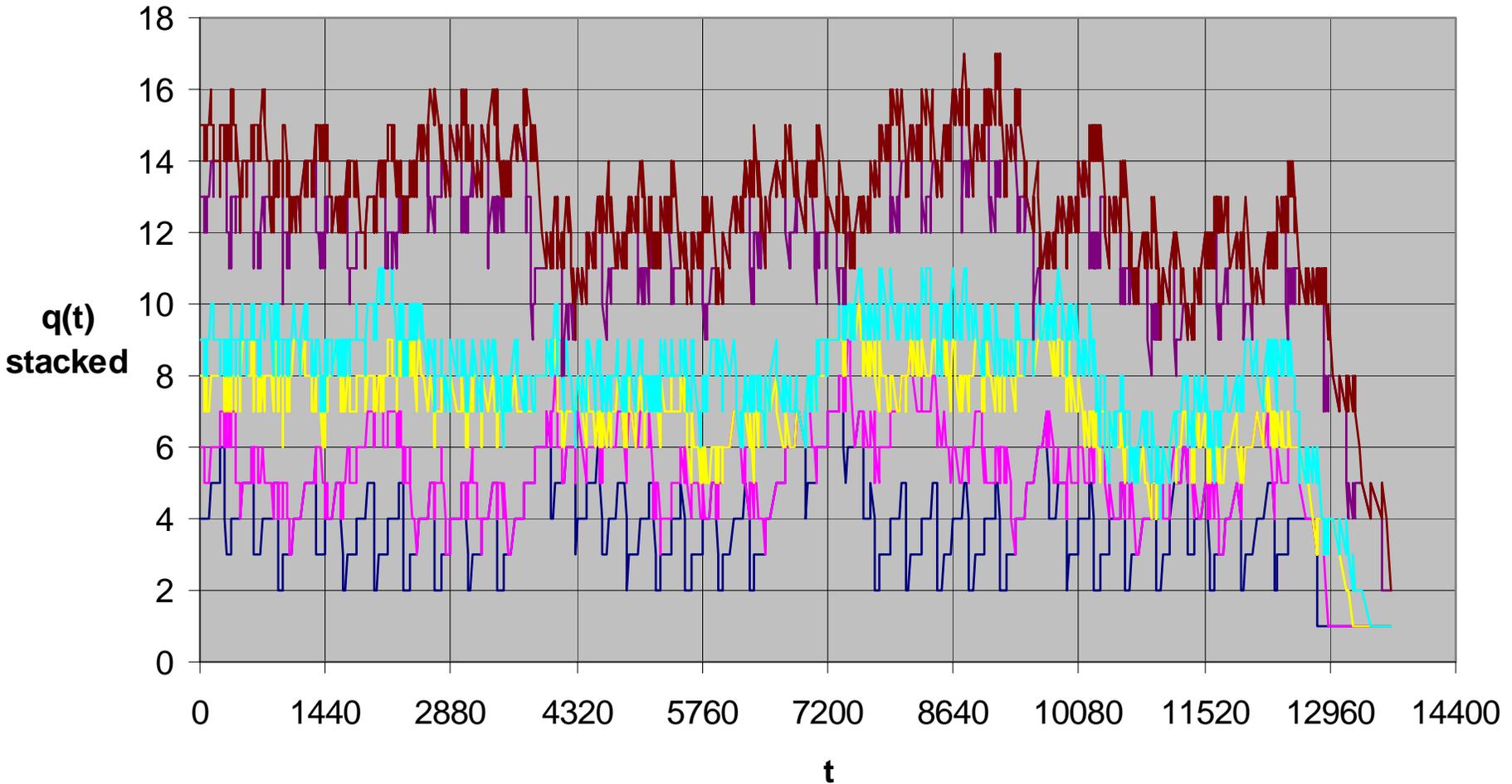


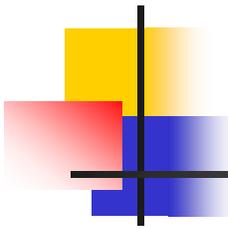


Simulation Event Graph



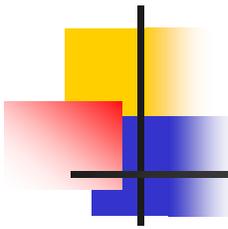
Simulation of Fluid Solution Adaptation





How Often to Recalculate Fluid Solution

- Daily or shiftly?
- Each time a lot arrives at an idle machine or a machine becomes available?
- Somewhere in between?



Conclusions

- Fluid models are potentially useful for finding good schedules for complex manufacturing systems.
- Large scale fluid model problems can be solved quickly.
- Translation issues are tricky but not insurmountable.