CS 580: Algorithm Design and Analysis

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Announcement: Homework 1 due soon!
Due: January 24th at 11:59PM (Gradescope)

Recap: Graphs

Directed Acyclic Graphs

- Topological Ordering
- Algorithm to Compute Topological Order

Interval Scheduling

- **Goal:** Maximize number of meeting requests scheduled in single conference room
- **Greedy Algorithm:** Sort by earliest finish time
- **Running Time:** $O(n \log n)$

Interval Partitioning

- **Goal:** Minimize number of classrooms needed to assign all lectures
- **Greedy Algorithm:** Sort by earliest start time
- **Running Time:** $O(n \log n)$

Dijkstra's Shortest Path Algorithm

- **Invariant:** minimum distance d(u) to all nodes in explored set S
- **Greedy Choice:** Add node v to S with minimum value $\pi(v)$
- **Running Time:** $O(m + n \log n)$ with Fibonacci Heap

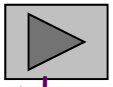
Dijkstra's Algorithm: Implementation

For each unexplored node, explicitly maintain $\pi(v) = \min_{e=(u,v):\, u \in S} d(u) + \ell_e$.

- Next node to explore = node with minimum $\pi(v)$.
- When exploring v, for each incident edge e = (v, w), update

$$\pi(w) = \min \{\ \pi(w),\ \pi(v) + \ell_e \}.$$

Efficient implementation. Maintain a priority queue of unexplored nodes, prioritized by $\pi(v)$.



play

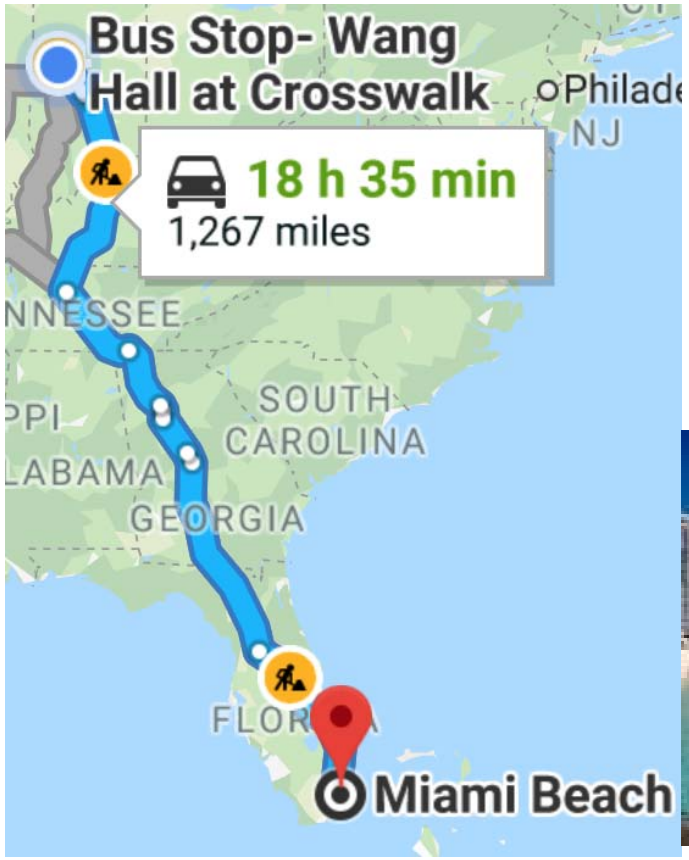
PQ Operation	Dijkstra	Array	Binary heap	d-way Heap	Fib heap †
Insert	n	n	log n	$d \log_d n$	1
ExtractMin	n	n	log n	$d \log_d n$	log n
ChangeKey	m	1	log n	$\log_d n$	1
IsEmpty	n	1	1	1	1
Total		n^2	m log n	$m \log_{m/n} n$	m + n log n

† Individual ops are amortized bounds

Remarks about Dijkstra's Algorithm

Yields shortest path tree from origin s.

- Shortest path *from* s to *every other* node v



shortest route from Wang Hall to Miami Beach

Maximum Capacity Path Problem

Maximum Capacity Path Problem

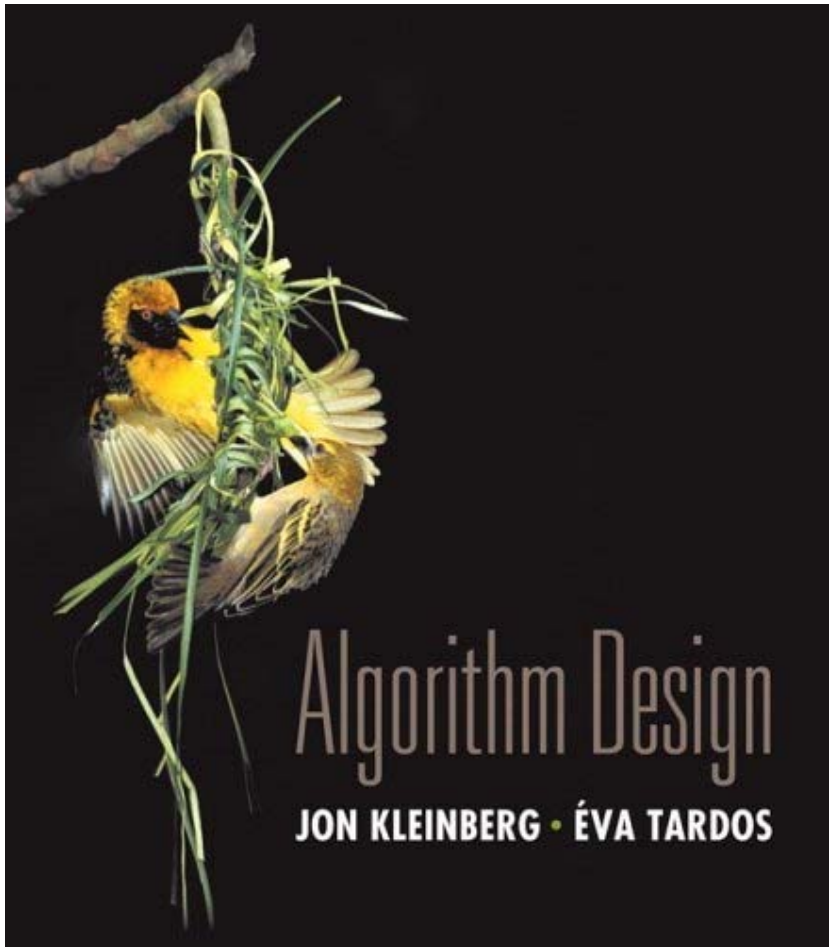
Each edge e has capacity c_e
(e.g., maximum height)

Capacity of a path is
Minimum capacity of any
Edge in path

Goal: Find path from s
to t with maximum capacity

Solution: Use Dijkstra!
With Small Modification

$$\pi(v) = \max_{e=(u,v):u \in S} \min\{\pi(u), c_e\}$$



Greedy Algorithms

4.2 Scheduling to Minimize Lateness

Scheduling to Minimizing Lateness

Minimizing lateness problem.

- Single resource processes one job at a time.
- Job j requires t_j units of processing time and is due at time d_j.
- If j starts at time s_j, it finishes at time $f_j = s_j + t_j$.
- Lateness: $\ell_j = \max \{ 0, f_j - d_j \}$.
- Goal: schedule all jobs to minimize maximum lateness $L = \max \ell_j$.

Ex:

	1	2	3	4	5	6
t_j	3	2	1	4	3	2
d_j	6	8	9	9	14	15

Minimizing Lateness: Greedy Algorithms

Greedy template. Consider jobs in some order.

- [Shortest processing time first] Consider jobs in ascending order of processing time t_j.

- [Earliest deadline first] Consider jobs in ascending order of deadline d_j.

- [Smallest slack] Consider jobs in ascending order of slack $d_j - t_j$.

Minimizing Lateness: Greedy Algorithms

Greedy template. Consider jobs in some order.

- [Shortest processing time first] Consider jobs in ascending order of processing time t_j.

	1	2
t_j	1	10
d_j	100	10

counterexample

- [Smallest slack] Consider jobs in ascending order of slack $d_j - t_j$.

	1	2
t_j	1	10
d_j	2	10

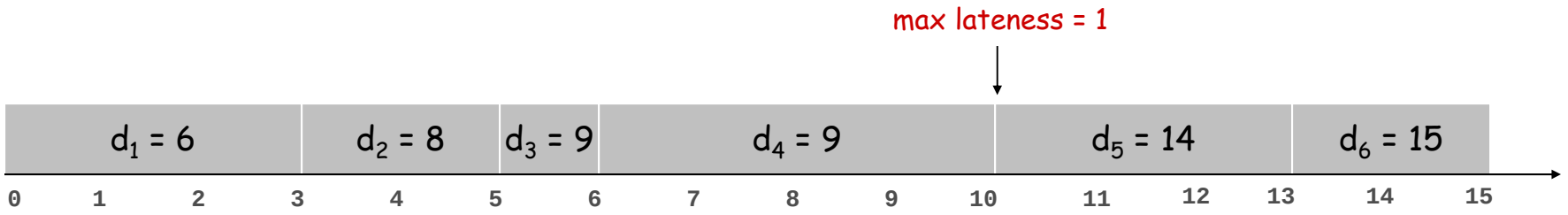
counterexample

Minimizing Lateness: Greedy Algorithm

Greedy algorithm. Earliest deadline first.

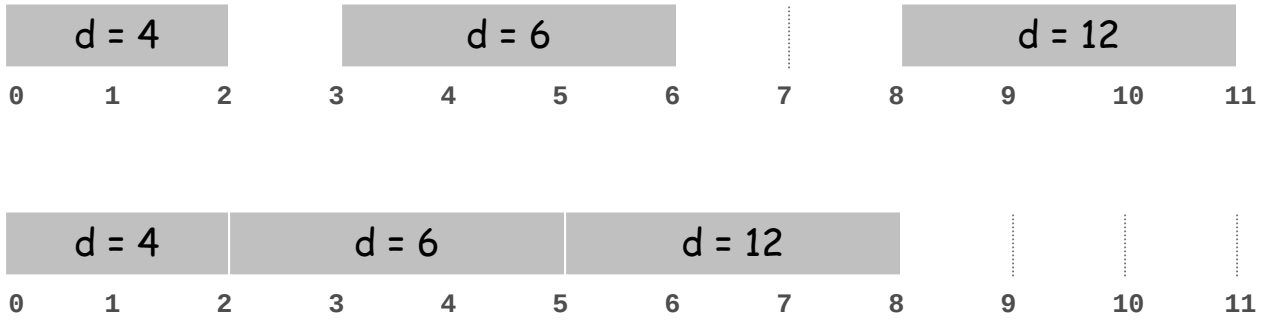
```
Sort n jobs by deadline so that d_1 ≤ d_2 ≤ … ≤ d_n

t ← 0
for j = 1 to n
   Assign job j to interval [t, t + t_j]
   s_j ← t, f_j ← t + t_j
   t ← t + t_j
output intervals [s_j, f_j]
```



Minimizing Lateness: No Idle Time

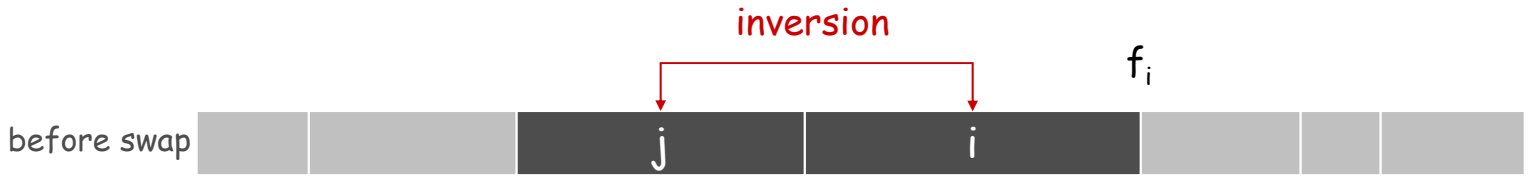
Observation. There exists an optimal schedule with no idle time.



Observation. The greedy schedule has no idle time.

Minimizing Lateness: Inversions

Def. Given a schedule S, an inversion is a pair of jobs i and j such that: i < j (i.e., $d_i < d_i$) but j scheduled before i.



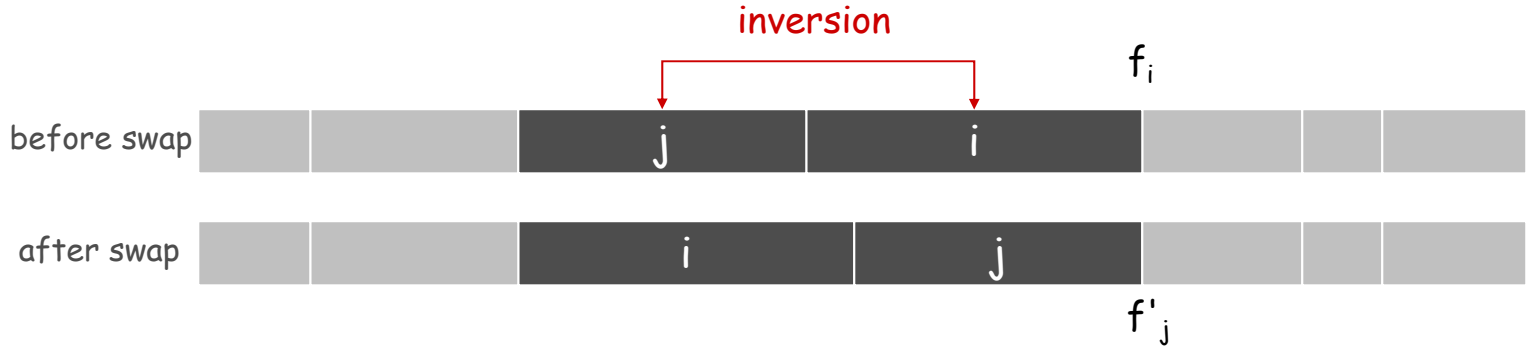
[as before, we assume jobs are numbered so that $d_1 \leq d_2 \leq \ldots \leq d_n$]

Observation. Greedy schedule has no inversions.

Observation. If a schedule (with no idle time) has an inversion, it has one with a pair of inverted jobs scheduled consecutively.

Minimizing Lateness: Inversions

Def. Given a schedule S, an **inversion** is a pair of jobs i and j such that: i < j but j scheduled before i.



Claim. Swapping two consecutive, inverted jobs reduces the number of inversions by one and does not increase the max lateness.

Pf. Let ℓ be the lateness before the swap, and let ℓ' be it afterwards.

- $\ell'_k = \ell_k$ for all $k \neq i, j$
- $\ell'_i \leq \ell_i$
- If job j is late:

$$\begin{aligned} \ell'_j &= f'_j - d_j && \text{(definition)} \\ &= f_i - d_j && (j \text{ finishes at time } f_i) \\ &\leq f_i - d_i && (i < j) \\ &\leq \ell_i && \text{(definition)} \end{aligned}$$

Minimizing Lateness: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

Theorem. Greedy schedule S is optimal.

Pf. Define S* to be an optimal schedule that has the fewest number of inversions, and let's see what happens.

- Can assume S* has no idle time.
- If S* has no inversions, then S = S*.
- If S* has an inversion, let i-j be an adjacent inversion.
  - swapping i and j does not increase the maximum lateness and strictly decreases the number of inversions
  - this contradicts definition of S* ▪

Greedy Analysis Strategies

Greedy algorithm stays ahead. Show that after each step of the greedy algorithm, its solution is at least as good as any other algorithm's.

Structural. Discover a simple "structural" bound asserting that every possible solution must have a certain value. Then show that your algorithm always achieves this bound.

Exchange argument. Gradually transform any solution to the one found by the greedy algorithm without hurting its quality.

Other greedy algorithms. Kruskal, Prim, Dijkstra, Huffman, …

4.3 Optimal Caching

Optimal Offline Caching

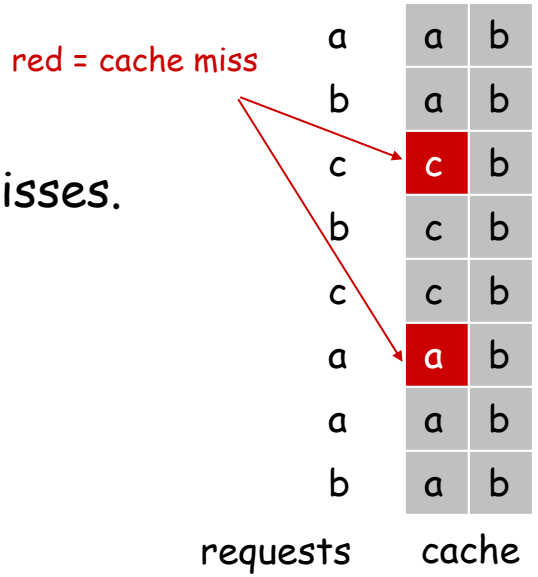
Caching.

- Cache with capacity to store k items.
- Sequence of m item requests $d_1, d_2, \ldots, d_m$.
- Cache hit: item already in cache when requested.
- Cache miss: item not already in cache when requested: must bring requested item into cache, and evict some existing item, if full.

Goal. Eviction schedule that minimizes number of cache misses.

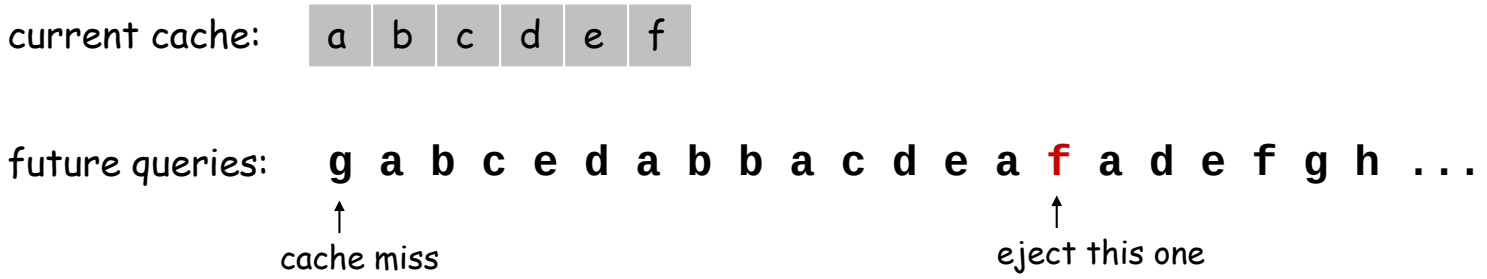
Ex: k = 2, initial cache = ab,
requests: a, b, c, b, c, a, a, b.

Optimal eviction schedule: 2 cache misses.



Optimal Offline Caching: Farthest-In-Future

Farthest-in-future. Evict item in the cache that is not requested until farthest in the future.



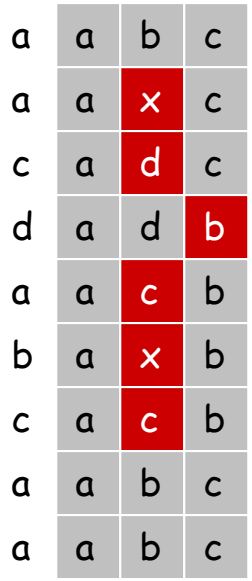
Theorem. [Bellady, 1960s] FF is optimal eviction schedule.

Pf. Algorithm and theorem are intuitive; proof is subtle.

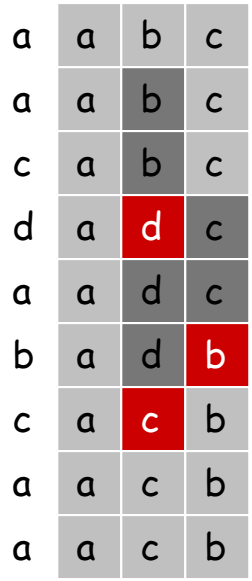
Reduced Eviction Schedules

Def. A reduced schedule is a schedule that only inserts an item into the cache in a step in which that item is requested.

Intuition. Can transform an unreduced schedule into a reduced one with no more cache misses.



an unreduced schedule



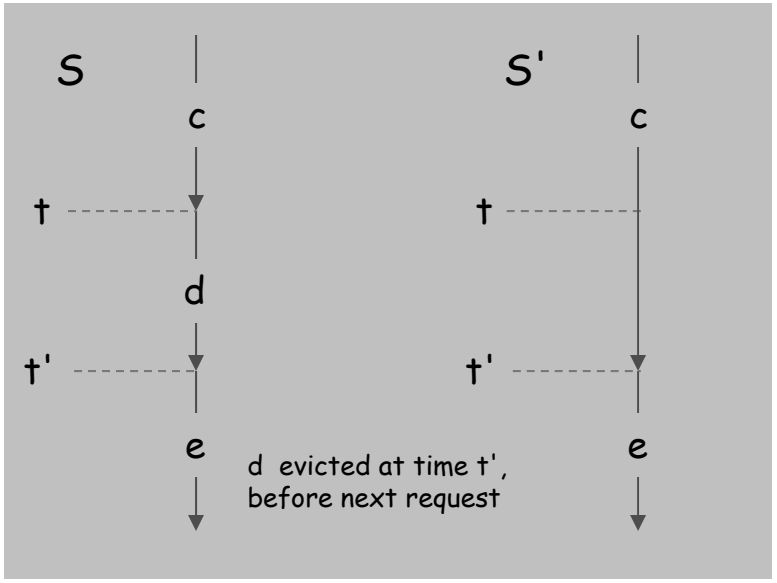
a reduced schedule

Reduced Eviction Schedules

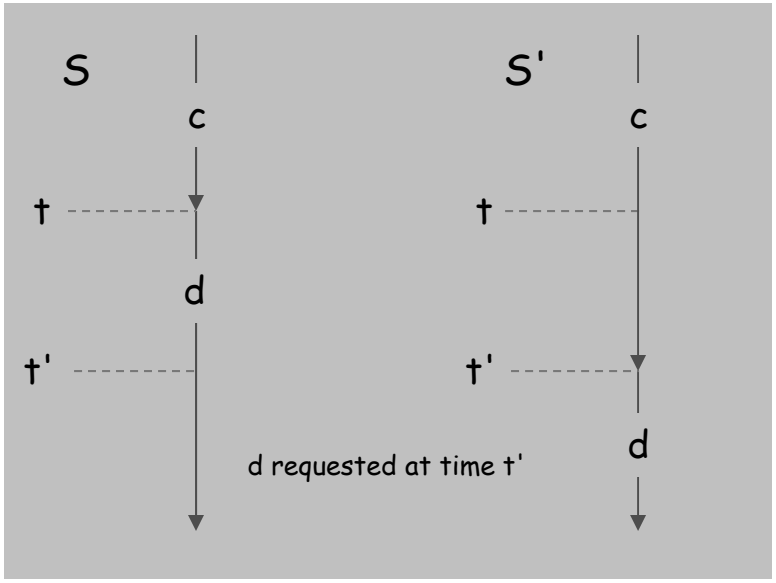
Claim. Given any unreduced schedule S, can transform it into a reduced schedule S' with no more cache misses.

Pf. (by induction on number of unreduced items) ← doesn't enter cache at requested time

- Suppose S brings d into the cache at time t, without a request.
- Let c be the item S evicts when it brings d into the cache.
- Case 1: d evicted at time t', before next request for d.
- Case 2: d requested at time t' before d is evicted. ▪



Case 1



Case 2

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

Theorem. FF is optimal eviction algorithm.

Pf. (by induction on number or requests j)

> Invariant: There exists an optimal reduced schedule S that makes the same eviction schedule as S_{FF} through the first j+1 requests.

Let S be reduced schedule that satisfies invariant through j requests.

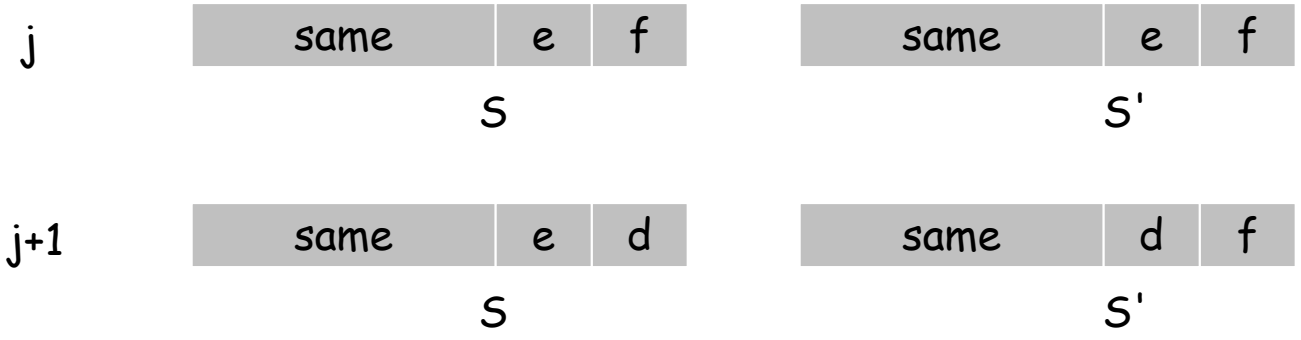
We produce S' that satisfies invariant after j+1 requests.

- Consider $(j+1)^{st}$ request $d = d_{j+1}$.
- Since S and S_{FF} have agreed up until now, they have the same cache contents before request j+1.
- Case 1: (d is already in the cache). S' = S satisfies invariant.
- Case 2: (d is not in the cache and S and S_{FF} evict the same element). S' = S satisfies invariant.

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

Pf. (continued)

- Case 3: (d is not in the cache; S_{FF} evicts e; S evicts $f \neq e$).
  - begin construction of S' from S by evicting e instead of f

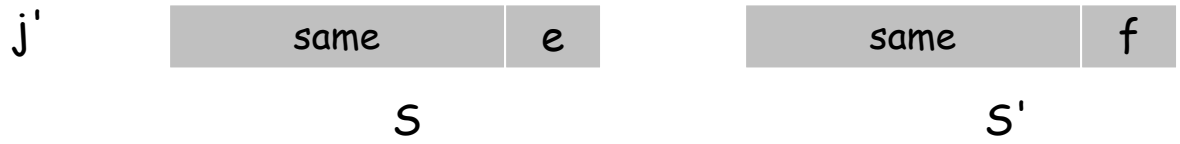


  - now S' agrees with S_{FF} on first j+1 requests; we show that having element f in cache is no worse than having element e

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

Let j' be the first time after j+1 that S and S' take a different action, and let g be item requested at time j'.

must involve e or f (or both)



- Case 3a: g = e. Can't happen with Farthest-In-Future since there must be a request for f before e.

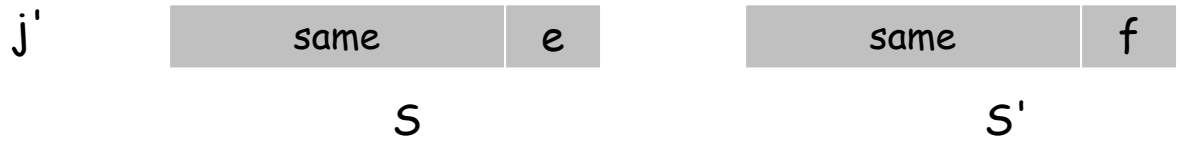
- Case 3b: g = f. Element f can't be in cache of S, so let e' be the element that S evicts.
  - if e' = e, S' accesses f from cache; now S and S' have same cache
  - if e' ≠ e, S' evicts e' and brings e into the cache; now S and S' have the same cache

Note: S' is no longer reduced, but can be transformed into a reduced schedule that agrees with S_{FF} through step j+1

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

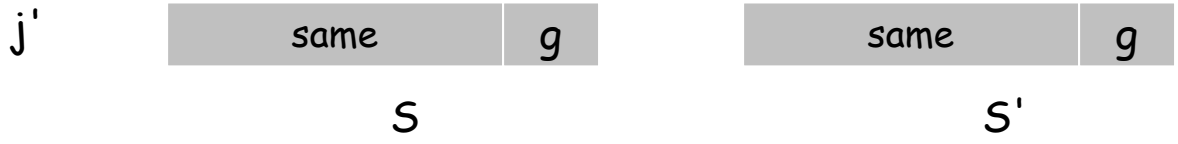
Let j' be the first time after j+1 that S and S' take a different action, and let g be item requested at time j'.

must involve e or f (or both)



otherwise S' would take the same action

- Case 3c: $g \neq e$, f. S must evict e.
  Make S' evict f; now S and S' have the same cache. ▪



Caching Perspective

Online vs. offline algorithms.

- Offline: full sequence of requests is known a priori.
- Online (reality): requests are not known in advance.
- Caching is among most fundamental online problems in CS.

LIFO. Evict page brought in most recently.

LRU. Evict page whose most recent access was earliest.

FF with direction of time reversed!

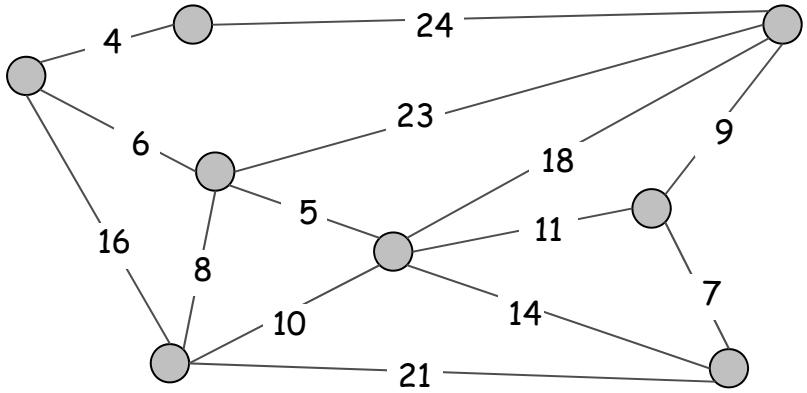
Theorem. FF is optimal offline eviction algorithm.

- Provides basis for understanding and analyzing online algorithms.
- LRU is k-competitive. [Section 13.8]
- LIFO is arbitrarily bad.

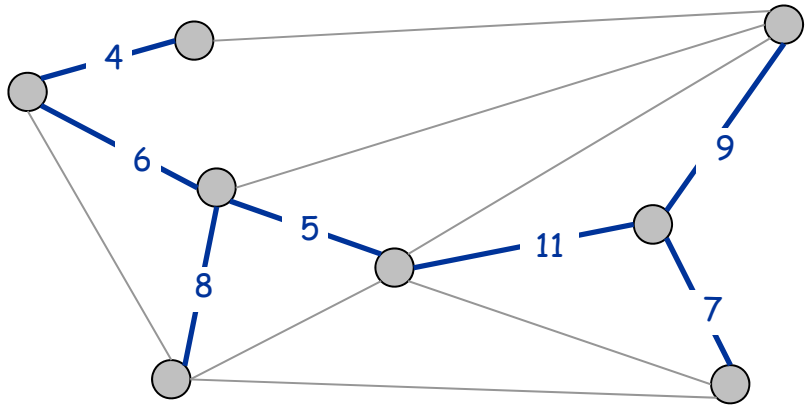
4.5 Minimum Spanning Tree

Minimum Spanning Tree

Minimum spanning tree. Given a connected graph $G = (V, E)$ with real-valued edge weights c_e, an MST is a subset of the edges $T \subseteq E$ such that T is a spanning tree whose sum of edge weights is minimized.



$G = (V, E)$



T, $\sum_{e \in T} c_e = 50$

Cayley's Theorem. There are n^{n-2} spanning trees of K_n.

↑

can't solve by brute force

Applications

MST is fundamental problem with diverse applications.

- Network design.
  - telephone, electrical, hydraulic, TV cable, computer, road
- Approximation algorithms for NP-hard problems.
  - traveling salesperson problem, Steiner tree
- Indirect applications.
  - max bottleneck paths
  - LDPC codes for error correction
  - image registration with Renyi entropy
  - learning salient features for real-time face verification
  - reducing data storage in sequencing amino acids in a protein
  - model locality of particle interactions in turbulent fluid flows
  - autoconfig protocol for Ethernet bridging to avoid cycles in a network
- Cluster analysis.

Greedy Algorithms

Kruskal's algorithm. Start with $T = \phi$. Consider edges in ascending order of cost. Insert edge e in T unless doing so would create a cycle.

Reverse-Delete algorithm. Start with T = E. Consider edges in descending order of cost. Delete edge e from T unless doing so would disconnect T.

Prim's algorithm. Start with some root node s and greedily grow a tree T from s outward. At each step, add the cheapest edge e to T that has exactly one endpoint in T.

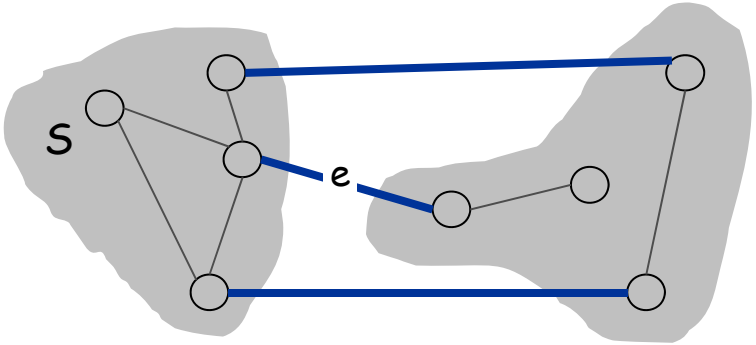
Remark. All three algorithms produce an MST.

Greedy Algorithms

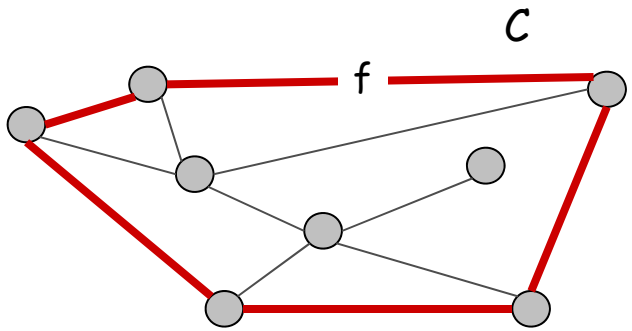
Simplifying assumption. All edge costs c_e are distinct.

Cut property. Let S be any subset of nodes, and let e be the min cost edge with exactly one endpoint in S. Then the MST contains e.

Cycle property. Let C be any cycle, and let f be the max cost edge belonging to C. Then the MST does not contain f.



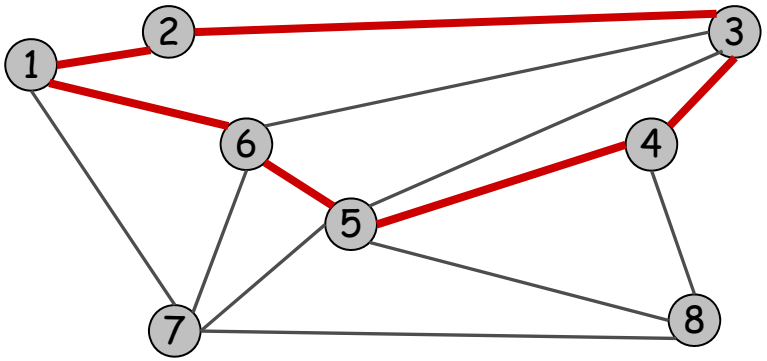
e is in the MST



f is not in the MST

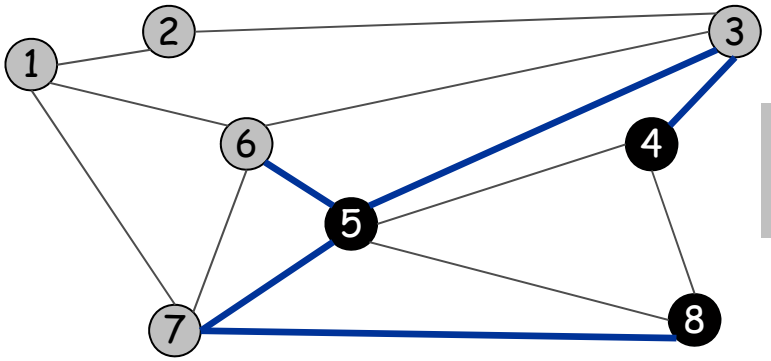
Cycles and Cuts

Cycle. Set of edges the form a-b, b-c, c-d, …, y-z, z-a.



Cycle C = 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-1

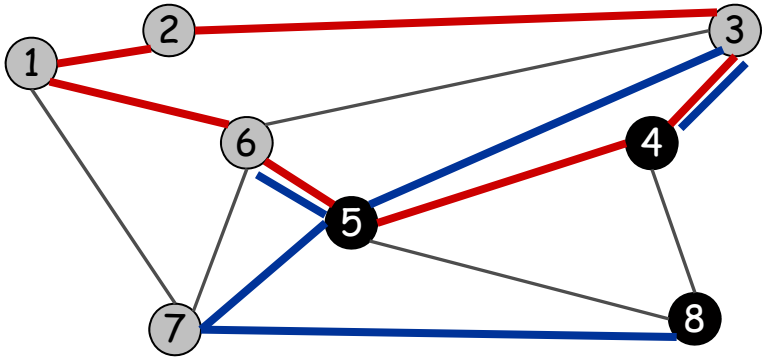
Cutset. A cut is a subset of nodes S. The corresponding cutset D is the subset of edges with exactly one endpoint in S.



Cut S = { 4, 5, 8 }
Cutset D = 5-6, 5-7, 3-4, 3-5, 7-8

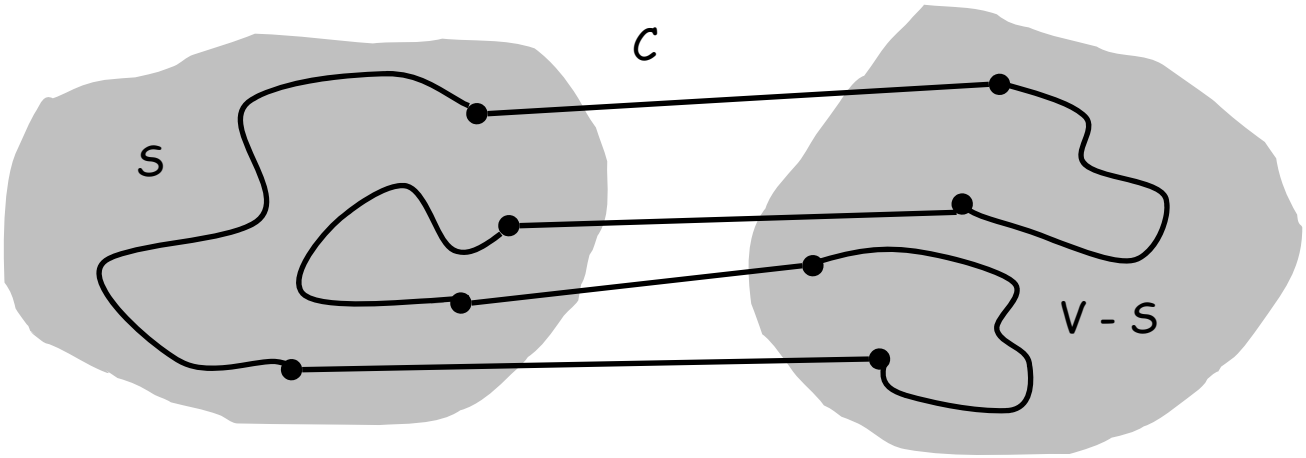
Cycle-Cut Intersection

Claim. A cycle and a cutset intersect in an even number of edges.



Cycle C = 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-1
Cutset D = 3-4, 3-5, 5-6, 5-7, 7-8
Intersection = 3-4, 5-6

Pf. (by picture)

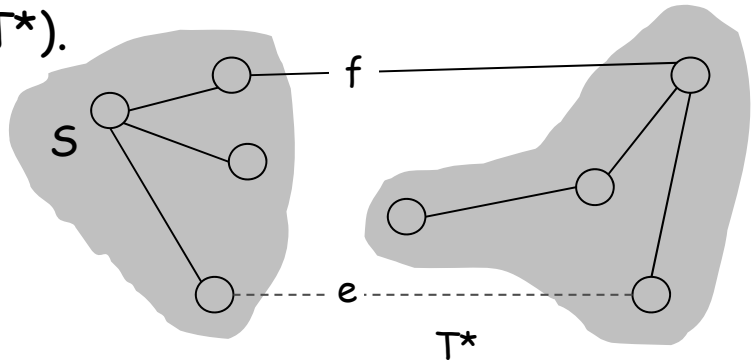


Simplifying assumption. All edge costs c_e are distinct.

Cut property. Let S be any subset of nodes, and let e be the min cost edge with exactly one endpoint in S. Then the MST T* contains e.

Pf. (exchange argument)

- Suppose e does not belong to T*, and let's see what happens.
- Adding e to T* creates a cycle C in T*.
- Edge e is both in the cycle C and in the cutset D corresponding to S $\Rightarrow$ there exists another edge, say f, that is in both C and D.
- T' = T* $\cup$ { e } - { f } is also a spanning tree.
- Since $c_e < c_f$, cost(T') < cost(T*).
- This is a contradiction. ▪



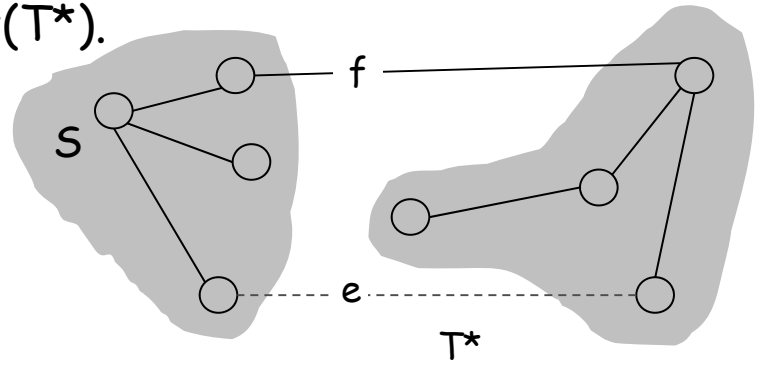
Greedy Algorithms

Simplifying assumption. All edge costs c_e are distinct.

Cycle property. Let C be any cycle in G, and let f be the max cost edge belonging to C. Then the MST T^* does not contain f.

Pf. (exchange argument)

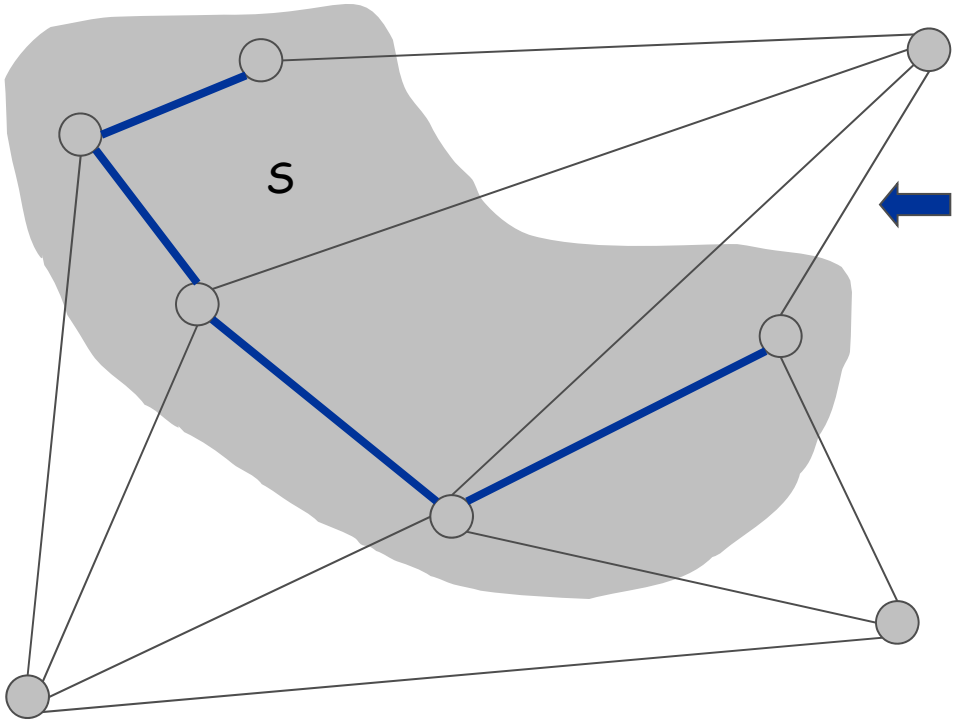
- Suppose f belongs to T^*, and let's see what happens.
- Deleting f from T^* creates a cut S in T^*.
- Edge f is both in the cycle C and in the cutset D corresponding to $S \Rightarrow$ there exists another edge, say e, that is in both C and D.
- $T' = T^* \cup \{ e \} - \{ f \}$ is also a spanning tree.
- Since $c_e < c_f$, $cost(T') < cost(T^*)$.
- This is a contradiction. ▪



Prim's Algorithm: Proof of Correctness

Prim's algorithm. [Jarník 1930, Dijkstra 1959, Prim 1957]

- Initialize S = any node.
- Apply cut property to S.
- Add min cost edge in cutset corresponding to S to T, and add one new explored node u to S.



Implementation: Prim's Algorithm

Implementation. Use a priority queue ala Dijkstra.

- Maintain set of explored nodes S.
- For each unexplored node v, maintain attachment cost a[v] = cost of cheapest edge v to a node in S.
- $O(n^2)$ with an array; $O(m \log n)$ with a binary heap;
- $O(m + n \log n)$ with Fibonacci Heap

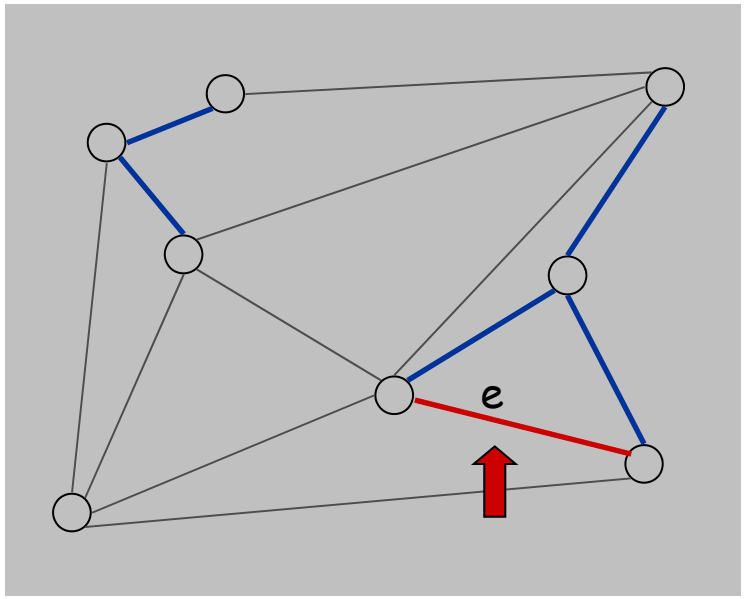
```
Prim(G, c) {
   foreach (v ∈ V) a[v] ← ∞
   Initialize an empty priority queue Q
   foreach (v ∈ V) insert v onto Q
   Initialize set of explored nodes S ← ϕ

   while (Q is not empty) {
      u ← delete min element from Q
      S ← S ∪ { u }
      foreach (edge e = (u, v) incident to u)
          if ((v ∉ S) and (c_e < a[v]))
             decrease priority a[v] to c_e
}
```

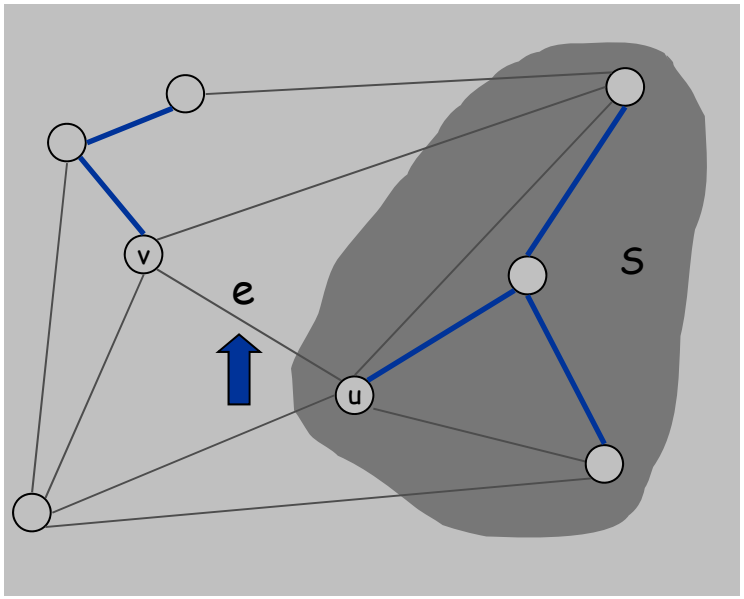
Kruskal's Algorithm: Proof of Correctness

Kruskal's algorithm. [Kruskal, 1956]

- Consider edges in ascending order of weight.
- Case 1: If adding e to T creates a cycle, discard e according to cycle property.
- Case 2: Otherwise, insert e = (u, v) into T according to cut property where S = set of nodes in u's connected component.



Case 1



Case 2

Implementation: Kruskal's Algorithm

Implementation. Use the union-find data structure.

- Build set T of edges in the MST.
- Maintain set for each connected component.
- $O(m \log n)$ for sorting and $O(m \alpha(m, n))$ for union-find.

$m \le n^2 \Rightarrow \log m$ is $O(\log n)$

essentially a constant

```
Kruskal(G, c) {
   Sort edges weights so that c_1 ≤ c_2 ≤ ... ≤ c_m.
   T ← φ

   foreach (u ∈ V) make a set containing singleton u

   for i = 1 to m
      (u,v) = e_i
      if (u and v are in different sets) {
         T ← T ∪ {e_i}
         merge the sets containing u and v
      }
   return T
}
```

are u and v in different connected components?

merge two components

Lexicographic Tiebreaking

To remove the assumption that all edge costs are distinct: perturb all edge costs by tiny amounts to break any ties.

Impact. Kruskal and Prim only interact with costs via pairwise comparisons. If perturbations are sufficiently small, MST with perturbed costs is MST with original costs.

e.g., if all edge costs are integers, perturbing cost of edge e_i by i / n^2

Implementation. Can handle arbitrarily small perturbations implicitly by breaking ties lexicographically, according to index.

```
boolean less(i, j) {
   if      (cost(e_i) < cost(e_j)) return true
   else if (cost(e_i) > cost(e_j)) return false
   else if (i < j)                 return true
   else                            return false
}
```

MST Algorithms: Theory

Deterministic comparison based algorithms.

- $O(m \log n)$ [Jarník, Prim, Dijkstra, Kruskal, Boruvka]
- $O(m \log \log n)$. [Cheriton-Tarjan 1976, Yao 1975]
- $O(m \beta(m, n))$. [Fredman-Tarjan 1987]
- $O(m \log \beta(m, n))$. [Gabow-Galil-Spencer-Tarjan 1986]
- $O(m \alpha(m, n))$. [Chazelle 2000]

Holy grail. $O(m)$.

Notable.

- $O(m)$ randomized. [Karger-Klein-Tarjan 1995]
- $O(m)$ verification. [Dixon-Rauch-Tarjan 1992]

Euclidean.

- 2-d: $O(n \log n)$. compute MST of edges in Delaunay
- k-d: $O(k n^2)$. dense Prim

4.7 Clustering

Clustering

Clustering. Given a set U of n objects labeled $p_1, \ldots, p_n$, classify into coherent groups.

photos, documents. micro-organisms

Distance function. Numeric value specifying "closeness" of two objects.

number of corresponding pixels whose intensities differ by some threshold

Fundamental problem. Divide into clusters so that points in different clusters are far apart.

- Routing in mobile ad hoc networks.
- Identify patterns in gene expression.
- Document categorization for web search.
- Similarity searching in medical image databases
- Skycat: cluster 10^9 sky objects into stars, quasars, galaxies.

Clustering of Maximum Spacing

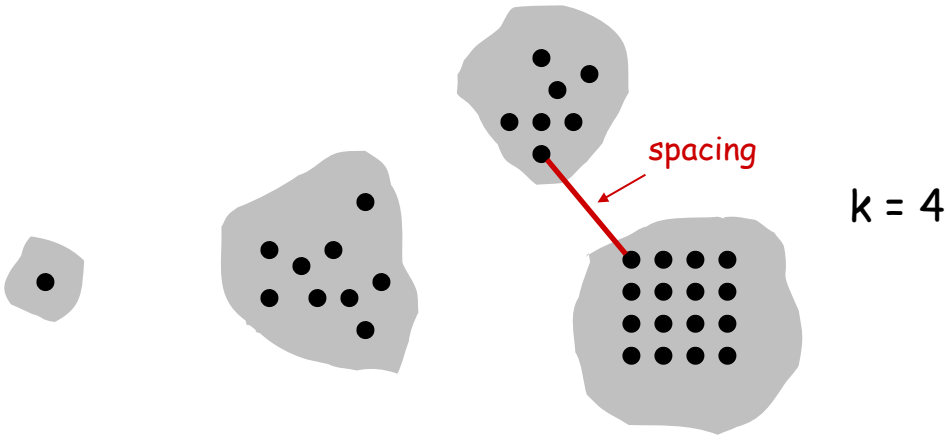
k-clustering. Divide objects into k non-empty groups.

Distance function. Assume it satisfies several natural properties.

- $d(p_i, p_j) = 0$ iff $p_i = p_j$ (identity of indiscernibles)
- $d(p_i, p_j) \geq 0$ (nonnegativity)
- $d(p_i, p_j) = d(p_j, p_i)$ (symmetry)

Spacing. Min distance between any pair of points in different clusters.

Clustering of maximum spacing. Given an integer k, find a k-clustering of maximum spacing.



Greedy Clustering Algorithm

Single-link k-clustering algorithm.

- Form a graph on the vertex set U, corresponding to n clusters.
- Find the closest pair of objects such that each object is in a different cluster, and add an edge between them.
- Repeat n-k times until there are exactly k clusters.

Key observation. This procedure is precisely Kruskal's algorithm (except we stop when there are k connected components).

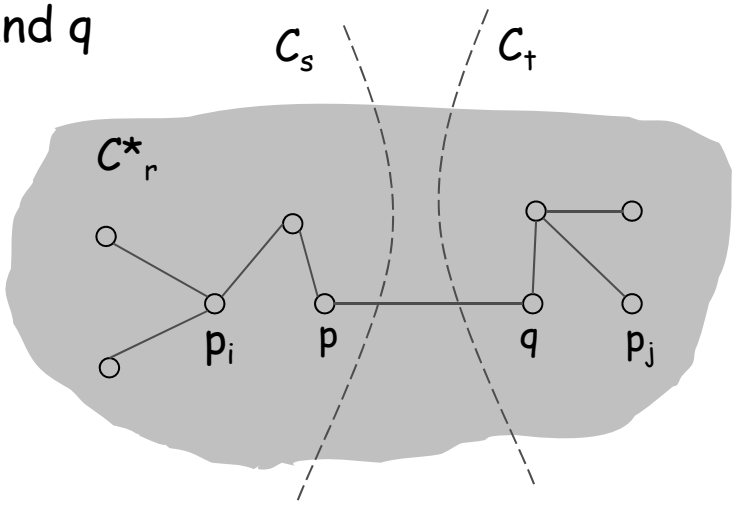
Remark. Equivalent to finding an MST and deleting the k-1 most expensive edges.

Greedy Clustering Algorithm: Analysis

Theorem. Let C^* denote the clustering $C^*_1, \ldots, C^*_k$ formed by deleting the k-1 most expensive edges of a MST. C^* is a k-clustering of max spacing.

Pf. Let C denote some other clustering $C_1, \ldots, C_k$.

- The spacing of C^* is the length d^* of the $(k-1)^{st}$ most expensive edge.
- Let p_i, p_j be in the same cluster in C^*, say C^*_r, but different clusters in C, say C_s and C_t.
- Some edge (p, q) on p_i-p_j path in C^*_r spans two different clusters in C.
- All edges on p_i-p_j path have length $\leq d^*$ since Kruskal chose them.
- Spacing of C is $\leq d^*$ since p and q are in different clusters. ▪

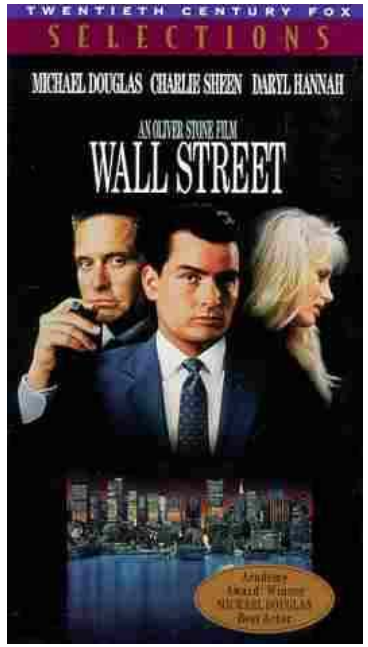


Extra Slides

Coin Changing

Greed is good. Greed is right. Greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit.

- Gordon Gecko (Michael Douglas)



Coin Changing

Goal. Given currency denominations: 1, 5, 10, 25, 100, devise a method to pay amount to customer using fewest number of coins.

Ex: 34¢.

Cashier's algorithm. At each iteration, add coin of the largest value that does not take us past the amount to be paid.

Ex: $2.89.

Coin-Changing: Greedy Algorithm

Cashier's algorithm. At each iteration, add coin of the largest value that does not take us past the amount to be paid.

```
Sort coins denominations by value: c_1 < c_2 < … < c_n.

S ← φ        (coins selected)
while (x ≠ 0) {
   let k be largest integer such that c_k ≤ x
   if (k = 0)
      return "no solution found"
   x ← x - c_k
   S ← S ∪ {k}
}
return S
```

Q. Is cashier's algorithm optimal?

Coin-Changing: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

Theorem. Greed is optimal for U.S. coinage: 1, 5, 10, 25, 100.

Pf. (by induction on x)

- Consider optimal way to change $c_k \le x < c_{k+1}$: greedy takes coin k.
- We claim that any optimal solution must also take coin k.
  - if not, it needs enough coins of type $c_1, \ldots, c_{k-1}$ to add up to x
  - table below indicates no optimal solution can do this
- Problem reduces to coin-changing x - c_k cents, which, by induction, is optimally solved by greedy algorithm. ▪

k	c_k	All optimal solutions must satisfy	Max value of coins 1, 2, …, k-1 in any OPT
1	1	$P \le 4$	-
2	5	$N \le 1$	4
3	10	$N + D \le 2$	4 + 5 = 9
4	25	$Q \le 3$	20 + 4 = 24
5	100	no limit	75 + 24 = 99

Coin-Changing: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

Observation. Greedy algorithm is sub-optimal for US postal denominations: 1, 10, 21, 34, 70, 100, 350, 1225, 1500.

Counterexample. 140¢.

- Greedy: 100, 34, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1.
- Optimal: 70, 70.

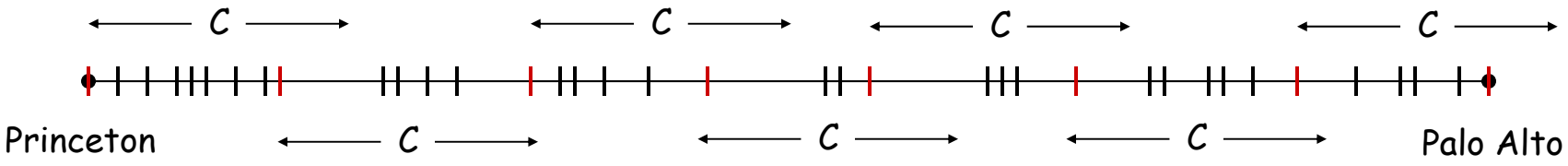
Selecting Breakpoints

Selecting Breakpoints

Selecting breakpoints.

- Road trip from Princeton to Palo Alto along fixed route.
- Refueling stations at certain points along the way.
- Fuel capacity = C.
- Goal: makes as few refueling stops as possible.

Greedy algorithm. Go as far as you can before refueling.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Selecting Breakpoints: Greedy Algorithm

Truck driver's algorithm.

```
Sort breakpoints so that: 0 = b_0 < b_1 < b_2 < ... < b_n = L

S ← {0}   ←—  breakpoints selected
x ← 0     ←—  current location

while (x ≠ b_n)
   let p be largest integer such that b_p ≤ x + C
   if (b_p = x)
      return "no solution"
   x ← b_p
   S ← S ∪ {p}
return S
```

Implementation. $O(n \log n)$

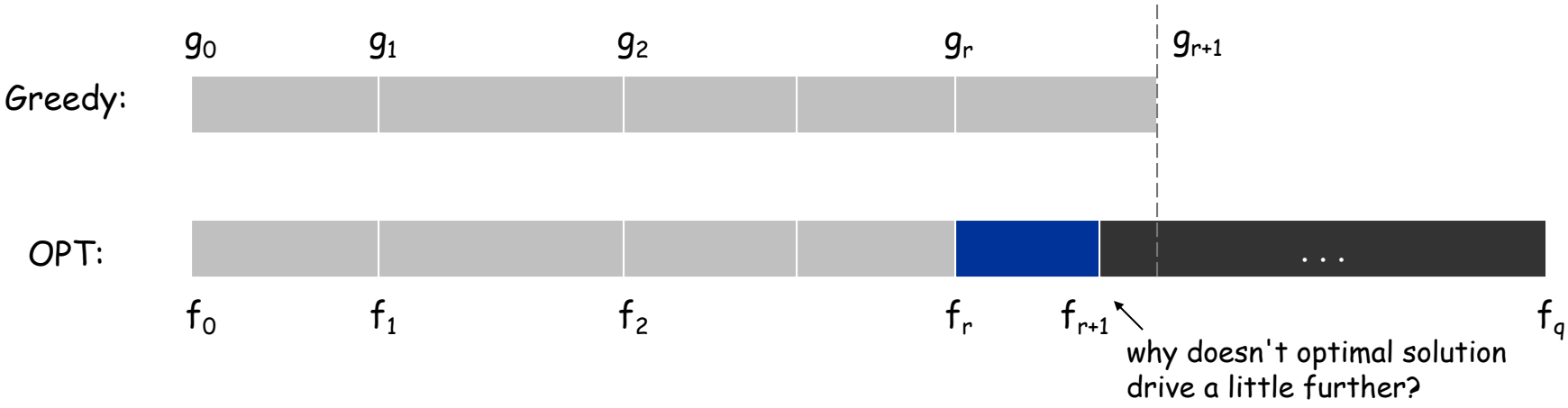
- Use binary search to select each breakpoint p.

Selecting Breakpoints: Correctness

Theorem. Greedy algorithm is optimal.

Pf. (by contradiction)

- Assume greedy is not optimal, and let's see what happens.
- Let $0 = g_0 < g_1 < \ldots < g_p = L$ denote set of breakpoints chosen by greedy.
- Let $0 = f_0 < f_1 < \ldots < f_q = L$ denote set of breakpoints in an optimal solution with $f_0 = g_0, f_1 = g_1, \ldots, f_r = g_r$ for largest possible value of r.
- Note: $g_{r+1} > f_{r+1}$ by greedy choice of algorithm.



Selecting Breakpoints: Correctness

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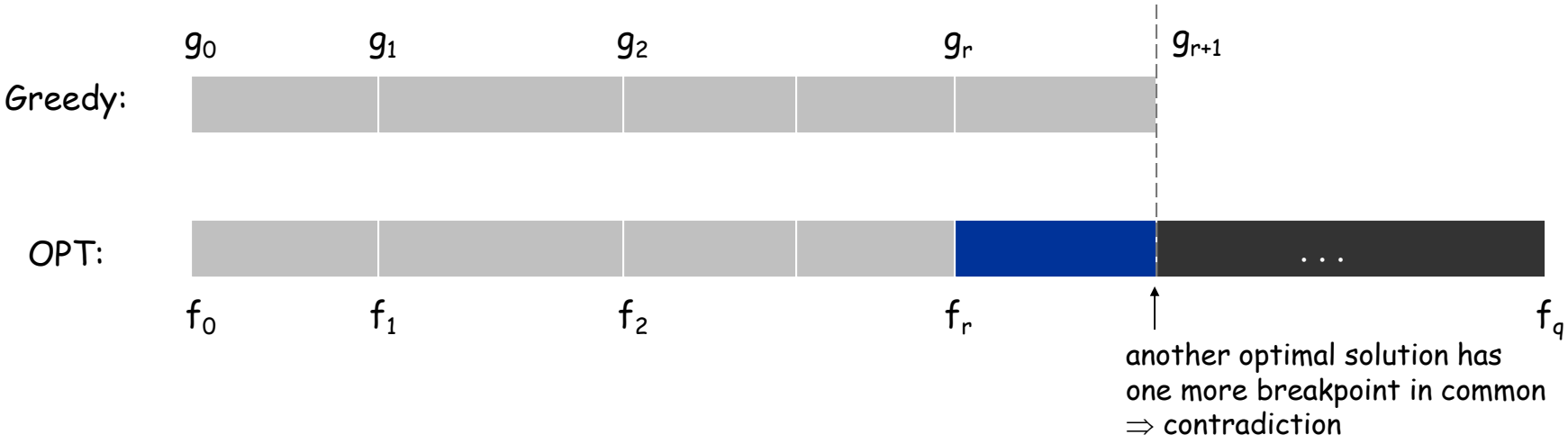

Edsger W. Dijkstra

The question of whether computers can think is like the question of whether submarines can swim.

Do only what only you can do.

In their capacity as a tool, computers will be but a ripple on the surface of our culture. In their capacity as intellectual challenge, they are without precedent in the cultural history of mankind.

The use of COBOL cripples the mind; its teaching should, therefore, be regarded as a criminal offence.

APL is a mistake, carried through to perfection. It is the language of the future for the programming techniques of the past: it creates a new generation of coding bums.