

CSC 301: Analysis of Algorithms

Lecture 11: Greedy Algorithms

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Reminders

- Homework 1 grades have been released. A 4 is required for an S
- Homework 2 is due Tonight
- Homework 3 has been released on gradescope, it is due next Wednesday
- Quiz 2 grades have been released, a 7 is required for an S

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1 Activity Selection

Activity Selection

- Given: Set $S = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ of proposed activities. Each activity a_i has a start time s_i and an finish time f_i . Two activities are compatible if $f_i \leq s_j$.
- Goal: Select a maximum size subset of mutually compatible activities.
- Assumption: Activities are sorted in monotonically increasing order of finish time
- (2-3min) Think about how to show the optimal substructure

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Activity Selection: Optimal Substructure

- Suppose you have a maximum set of mutually compatible activities A_{ij} .
- Assume it includes some activity a_k
- By including a_k in the optimal solution, we have two subproblems:
 - ① Finding mutually compatible activities in the Set S_{ik} (end before activity a_k starts)
 - ② Finding mutually compatible activities in the Set S_{kj} (start after activity a_k ends)
- Thus $A_{ij} = A_{ik} \cup a_k \cup A_{kj}$
- (Cut and paste argument). The optimal solution to A_{ij} must include optimal solutions to the two subproblems. If you could find a set of solutions to a subproblem that is larger than the current solution, then our assumed optimal solution is not optimal which is a contradiction. (See page 345-346 on online version)

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Activity Selection: Greedy Choice

- What would the greedy choice be in this problem?

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Activity Selection: Theorem 15.1

Consider any nonempty subproblem S_k and let A_m be an activity in S_k with the earliest finish time. Then a_m is included in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of S_k

Proof (sketch):

- Let A_k be a maximum size subset of mutually compatible activities in S_k . let a_j be the activity in A_k with the earliest finish time.
- If $a_j = a_m$, then we are done.
- If $a_j \neq a_m$, then consider the set A'_k which is the set A_k minus activity a_j plus activity a_k . Then A'_k is a set of mutually compatible activities since $f_m \leq f_j$ by definition. Since the sizes of A_k and A'_k are the same, we conclude that A'_k is a maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of S_k that includes a_m .

Designing Algorithms

With the time remaining in class, do the following:

- Sketch a recursive, greedy, solution to the activity selection problem
- Sketch an iterative, greedy, solution to the activity selection problem