

# Greedy Design Technique

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  - Choose what is the best for the moment
  - Typically works in stages
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    - the choice must lead to the feasible solution
      - ✓ expected to be an optimal solution

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- Feasible solutions: solutions that satisfy the constraints.
- Optimal solution: A feasible solution for which the optimization function has the best possible value.
- Greedy is a way to construct a feasible solution for such optimization problems, and, sometimes, it leads to an optimal one.

# The control abstraction

1. Algorithm Greedy(Type a[], int n)
2. solution = EMPTY
3. i=1;
4. for i = 1 to n
5.   do
6.     Type x = select(a);
7.     if feasible(solution, x)
8.         solution = solution U x;
9.   done
10. return solution

# The Thirsty Baby problem

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- Based on her experience of taste and desire for nutrition, she also assigns certain satisfying factor,  $s_i$ , to the  $i^{th}$  liquid.
- If the baby needs to drink  $t$  ounces of liquid, how much of each liquid should she drink?

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- We notice that if  $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i < t$ , then this instance is not solvable.

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- Every set of  $x_i$  that satisfies the constraints is a feasible solution, and it is optimal if it further maximizes  $\sum_{i=1}^n s_i x_i$



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- Any irrevocability?

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- Let  $x_i \in \{0, 1\}$ . If  $x_i = 1$ , we will load the  $i^{th}$  container, otherwise, we will not load it.
- We wish to assign values to  $x_i$ 's such that  $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i \leq c$ , and  $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i$  is maximized.

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- The thief wants to take as valuable a load as possible, but he can carry at most  $W$  pounds in his knapsack, for some integer  $W$ .
- Which items should he take?

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  - Illustration :
    - $W = 15$
    - $(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5, p_6, p_7) = (10, 5, 15, 7, 6, 18, 3)$
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    - The solution set is  $\left(1, 0, 1, \frac{4}{7}, 0, 1, 0\right)$  and profit = 47 units

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- The solution set is  $\left(1, 1, \frac{4}{5}, 0, 1, 1, 1\right)$  and profit = 54 units

# Fractional Knapsack Problem ...

- **Greedy Criterion III :**

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- The solution set is  $\left(1, \frac{2}{3}, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1\right)$  and profit = 55.33 units

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- Suppose we have a 100,000 - character data file that we wish to store compactly. We observe that the characters in the file occur with the frequencies given by Figure. That is, only 6 different characters appear, and the character  $a$  occurs 45,000 times.

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Figure: Frequency of characters in a 100,000-character data file

	a	b	c	d	e	f
Frequency (in thousands)	45	13	12	16	9	5

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- If we use a **fixed-length code**, we need 3 bits to represent 6 characters:  $a = 000, b = 001, \dots, f = 101$ .

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- This method requires 300,000 bits to code the entire file.

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- Can we optimize the amount of data to transfer?
  - Can we do better?
    - Use shorter strings for more frequent letters?

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    - Use pauses between letters to distinguish
      - Like an extra symbol in encoding

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- here the 1-bit string 0 represents  $a$ , and the 4-bit string 1100 represents  $f$ . This code requires  $(45 \times 1 + 13 \times 3 + 12 \times 3 + 16 \times 3 + 9 \times 4 + 5 \times 4) \times 1000 = 224,000$  bits.

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  - We can simply identify the initial code word, translate it back to the original character and repeat the decoding process on the remainder of the encoded file. In our example, the string  $001011101$  parses uniquely as  $0.0.101.1101$ , which decodes to *aabe*.

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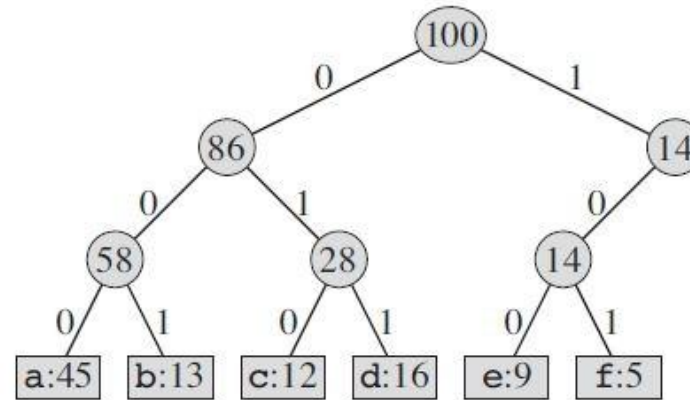
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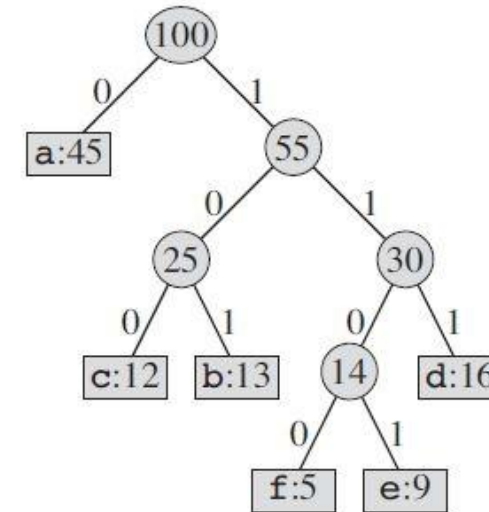
- Prefix code
  - The decoding process needs a convenient representation for the prefix code so that we can easily pick off the initial code word. A binary tree whose leaves are the given characters provides one such representation. We interpret the binary code word for a character as the simple path from the root to that character, where 0 means “go to the left child” and 1 means “go to the right child.” Figure shows the trees for the two codes of our example.

# Communication and compression ...

- Prefix code



(a)



(b)

**Figure** Trees corresponding to the coding schemes in Figure . Each leaf is labeled with a character and its frequency of occurrence. Each internal node is labeled with the sum of the frequencies of the leaves in its subtree. (a) The tree corresponding to the fixed-length code  $\mathbf{a} = 000, \dots, \mathbf{f} = 101$ . (b) The tree corresponding to the optimal prefix code  $\mathbf{a} = 0, \mathbf{b} = 101, \dots, \mathbf{f} = 1100$ .

# Communication and compression ...

- Prefix code
  - Given a tree  $T$  corresponding to a prefix code, we can easily compute the number of bits required to encode a file. For each character  $c$  in the alphabet  $C$ , let the attribute  $c.freq$  denote the frequency of  $c$  in the file and let  $d_T(c)$  denote the depth of  $c$ 's leaf in the tree. Note that  $d_T(c)$  is also the length of the code word for character  $c$ . The number of bits required to encode a file is thus
$$B(T) = \sum_{c \in C} c.freq \cdot d_T(c),$$
 which we define as the cost of tree  $T$ .
  - But, How to construct optimal prefix code?

# Communication and compression ...

- Huffman code



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  - Huffman invented a greedy algorithm that constructs an optimal prefix code called a ***Huffman code***.

# Communication and compression ...

- Huffman code
  - In the pseudo code that follows, we assume that  $C$  is a set of  $n$  characters and that each character  $c \in C$  is an object with an attribute  $c.freq$  giving its frequency. The algorithm builds the tree  $T$  corresponding to the optimal code in a bottom-up manner. It begins with a set of  $|C|$  leaves and performs a sequence of  $|C| - 1$  “merging” operations to create the final tree. The algorithm uses a min-priority queue  $Q$ , keyed on the  $freq$  attribute, to identify the two least-frequent objects to merge together. When we merge two objects, the result is a new object whose frequency is the sum of the frequencies of the two objects that were merged.

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- Huffman code

HUFFMAN( $C$ )

1  $n = |C|$

2  $Q = C$

3 **for**  $i = 1$  **to**  $n - 1$

4     allocate a new node  $z$

5      $z.left = x = \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$

6      $z.right = y = \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$

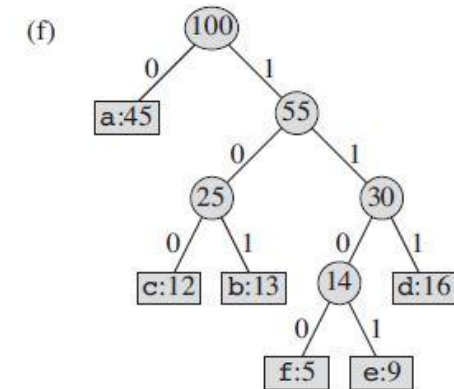
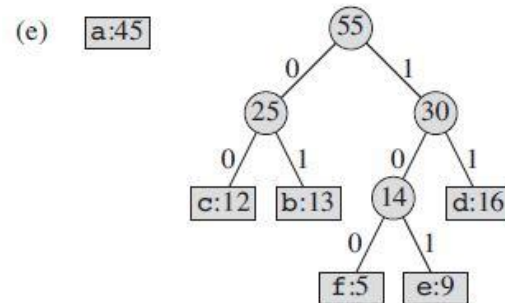
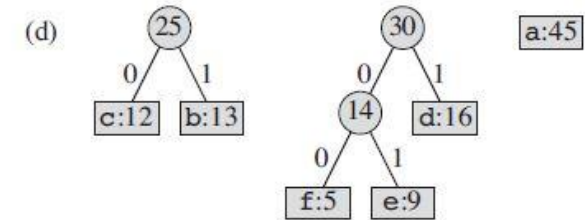
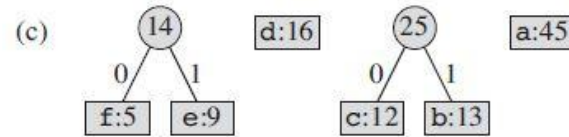
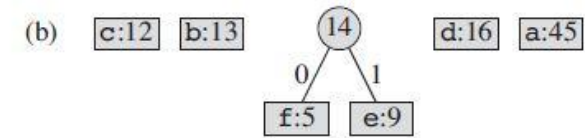
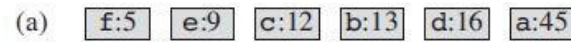
7      $z.freq = x.freq + y.freq$

8     INSERT( $Q, z$ )

9 **return** EXTRACT-MIN( $Q$ )     // return the root of the tree

# Communication and compression ...

- Huffman code



# Communication and compression ...

- Huffman's Algorithm Analysis
  - we assume that  $Q$  is implemented as a binary min-heap.
  - For a set  $C$  of  $n$  characters, we can initialize  $Q$  in line 2 in  $O(n)$  time using the BUILD-MIN-HEAP procedure.
  - The for loop in lines 3–8 executes exactly  $n - 1$  times, and since each heap operation requires time  $O(\lg n)$ , the loop contributes  $O(n \lg n)$  to the running time.
  - Thus, the total running time of HUFFMAN on a set of  $n$  characters is  $O(n \lg n)$ .