

The problem is in NP since, given a set of k intervals, we can check that none overlap.

Suppose we had such an algorithm \mathcal{A} ; here is how we would solve an instance of *3-Dimensional Matching*.

We are given a collection C of ordered triples (x_i, y_j, z_k) , drawn from sets X , Y , and Z of size n each. We create an instance of *Multiple Interval Scheduling* in which we conceptually divide time into $3n$ disjoint *slices*, labeled s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{3n} . For each triple (x_i, y_j, z_k) , we define a job that requires the slices s_i, s_{n+j} , and s_{2n+k} .

Now, if there is a perfect tripartite matching, then this corresponds to a set of n jobs whose slices are completely disjoint; thus, this is a set of n jobs that can all be accepted, since they have no overlap in time. Conversely, if there is a set of jobs that can all be accepted, then because they must not overlap in time, the corresponding set of n triples consists of completely disjoint elements; this is a perfect tripartite matching.

Hence, there is a perfect tripartite matching among the triples in C if and only if our algorithm \mathcal{A} reports that the constructed instance of *Multiple Interval Scheduling* contains a set of n jobs that can be accepted to run on the processor. The size of the *Multiple Interval Scheduling* instance that we construct is polynomial in n (the parameter of the underlying *3-Dimensional Matching* instance).

Another way to solve this problem is via *Independent Set*: here is how we could use an algorithm \mathcal{A} for *Multiple Interval Scheduling* to decide whether a graph $G = (V, E)$ has an independent set of size at least k . Let m denote the number of edges in G , and label them e_1, \dots, e_m . As before, we divide time into m disjoint *slices*, s_1, \dots, s_m , with slice s_i intuitively corresponding to edge e_i . For each vertex v , we define a job that requires precisely the slices s_i for which the edge e_i has an endpoint equal to v . Now, two jobs can both be accepted if and only if they have no time slices in common; that is, if and only if they aren't the two endpoints of some edge. Thus one can check that a set of jobs that can be simultaneously accepted corresponds precisely to an independent set in the graph G .

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