

# Greedy Algorithms

**Greedy algorithm:** one always makes a locally optimal choice. (in the hope that this choice will lead to a globally optimal solution)

(Not always find an optimal solution)

## 16.1 An activity-selection problem

Input:  $n$  activities with start time  $s_i$  and finish time  $f_i$

Output: a maximum set of compatible activities

Step 0: Sort the input according to  $f_i$  increasingly.

Step 1: Schedule the activities one by one.  $O(n)$

**Time:**  $T(n) = \begin{cases} O(n) & \text{if the input is sorted,} \\ O(n \lg n) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

*(according to  $f_i$ 's)*  
*or integer sort can be applied*

**Correctness:**

(Assume that  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  is sorted)

16-1a

(1) There is an optimal solution contains  $a_1$ .

(If  $Y$  is an optimal solution,  $Y - \{\text{first in } Y\} \cup \{a_1\}$  is also an optimal solution.)

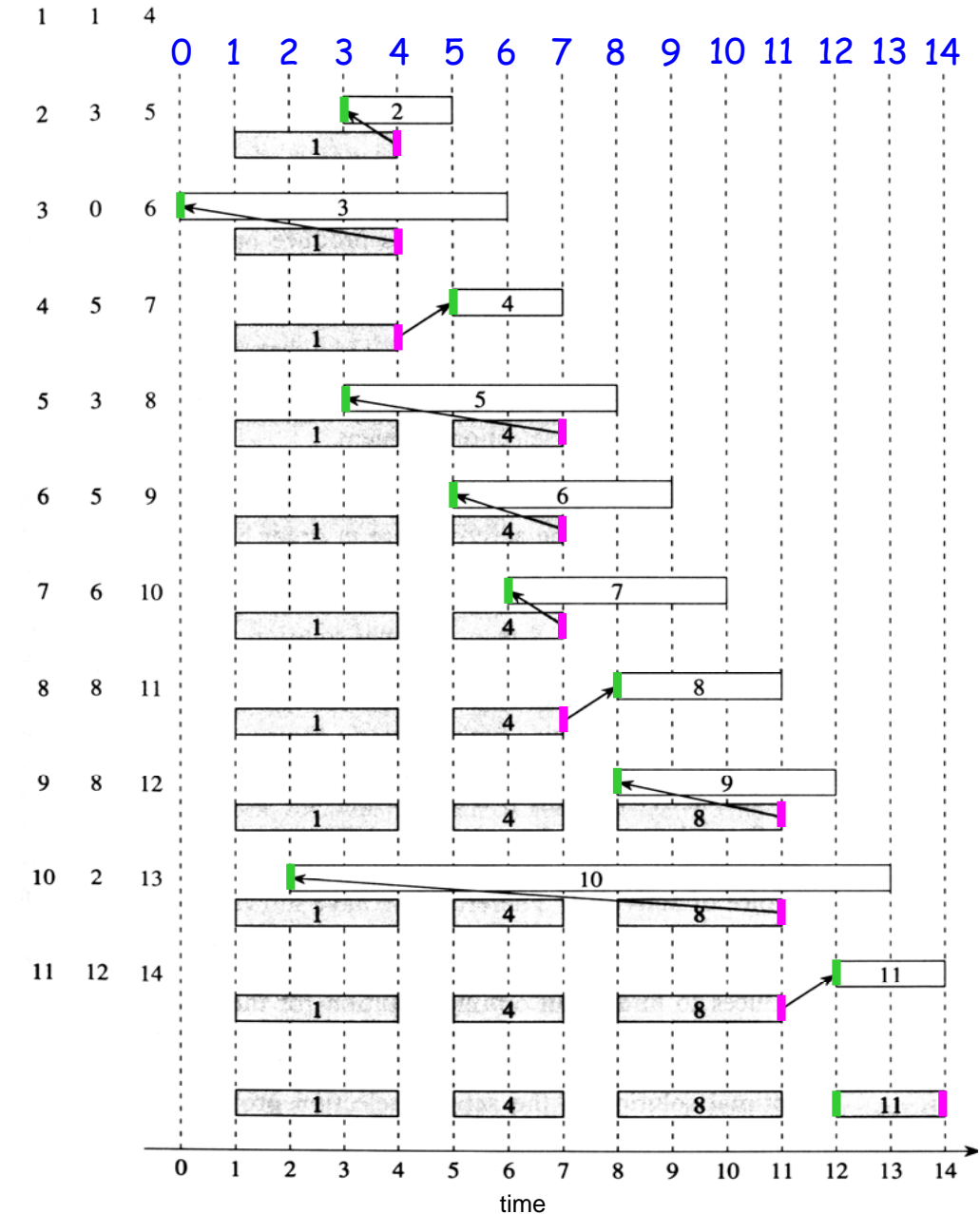
(2) Let  $Y = \{a_1\} \cup Y'$  be an optimal solution to  $A$ .

Then,  $Y'$  is an optimal solution to  $A' = \{a_i \mid s_i \geq f_1\}$ .  
 after a choice  $\rightarrow$  same problem of smaller size

**Example:**

$i \quad s_i \quad f_i$  ← sorted

check  $s$  of the next one  
 $f$  of the last one



## 16.2 Elements of Greedy strategy optimization problems 16-3

1. **Greedy-choice property**: a globally optimal solution can be arrived by making a locally optimal (greedy) choice. (top-down, usually)
2. **Optimal substructure**: an optimal solution to the problem contains optimal solutions to sub-problems. after a choice  
→ same subproblem of smaller size !

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### 0-1 knapsack problem (integer): weight

Input:  $n$  items with weight  $w_i$  and value  $v_i$   
 capacity  $C$  ( $w_i$ ,  $v_i$ , and  $C$  are integers)

Output: a subset of items with  $\text{weight} \leq C$  and maximum value  
 (each item must be taken or left behind)

**Fractional knapsack problem**: Same as above.  
 But fractions of items can be taken.

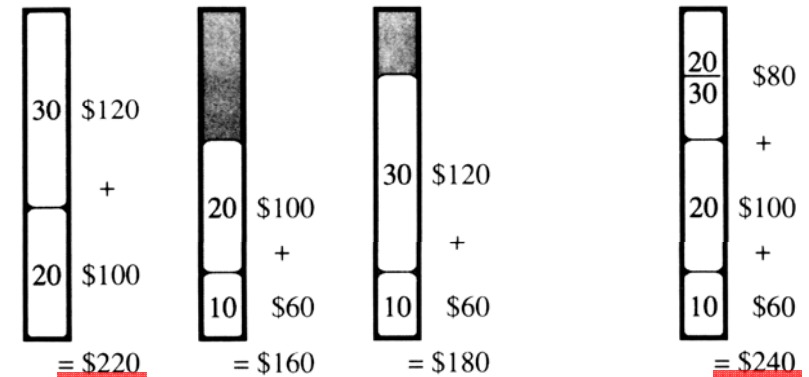
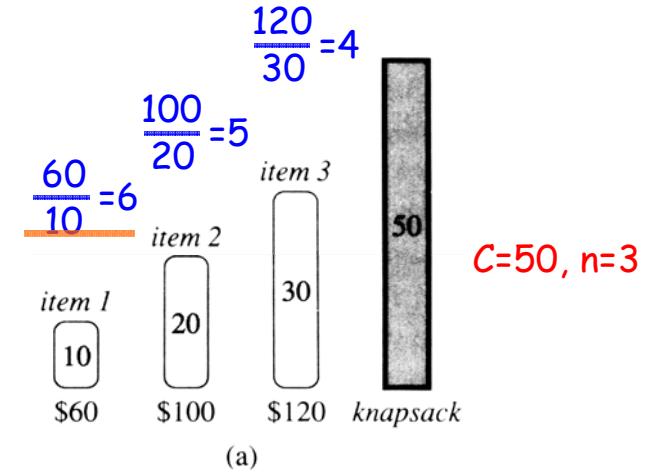
- The fractional problem has both properties. (Greedy according to  $v_i/w_i$ ,  $O(n \lg n)$  time)

16-3x

16-3a

- The 0/1 problem only has the optimal-substructure property. (dynamic programming) 16-3b  
(integer weights) See Ex. 16.2-2

## Example:



(c) fractional

## 16.3 Huffman codes (for compression)

(total=100) 2 possible code tables

	a	b	c	d	e	f
frequency	45	13	12	16	9	5
fixed-length	000	001	010	011	100	101
variable-length	0	101	100	111	1101	1100

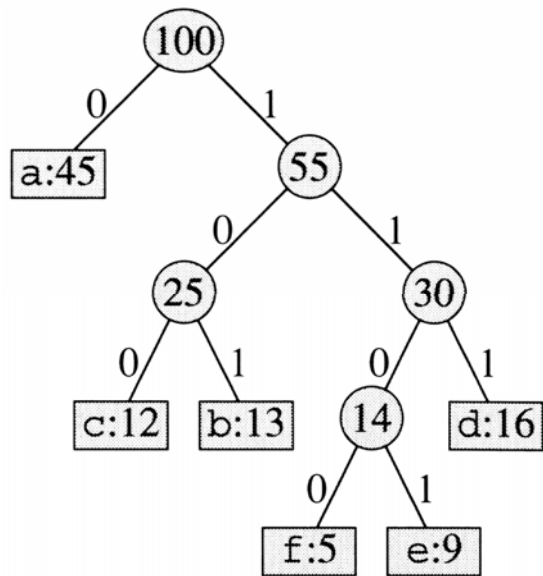
Cost: (fixed)  $3 \times (45 + 13 + 12 + 16 + 9 + 5) = 300$  16-5  
 (var)  $1 \times 45 + 3 \times (13 + 12 + 16) + 4 \times (9 + 5) = 224$

**Coding:**  $abc \Rightarrow 0.101.100 \Rightarrow 0101100$

**Decoding:**  $001011101 \Rightarrow 0.0.101.1101 \Rightarrow aabe$   
 字首  $\rightarrow$  prefix-free: easy for decoding

**Prefix codes:** no codeword is a prefix of other  
 (<a:00, b:0, c:10, d:1> are not prefix codes)  
 $000 \Rightarrow ab, ba, bbb$

Representing prefix codes by a tree:



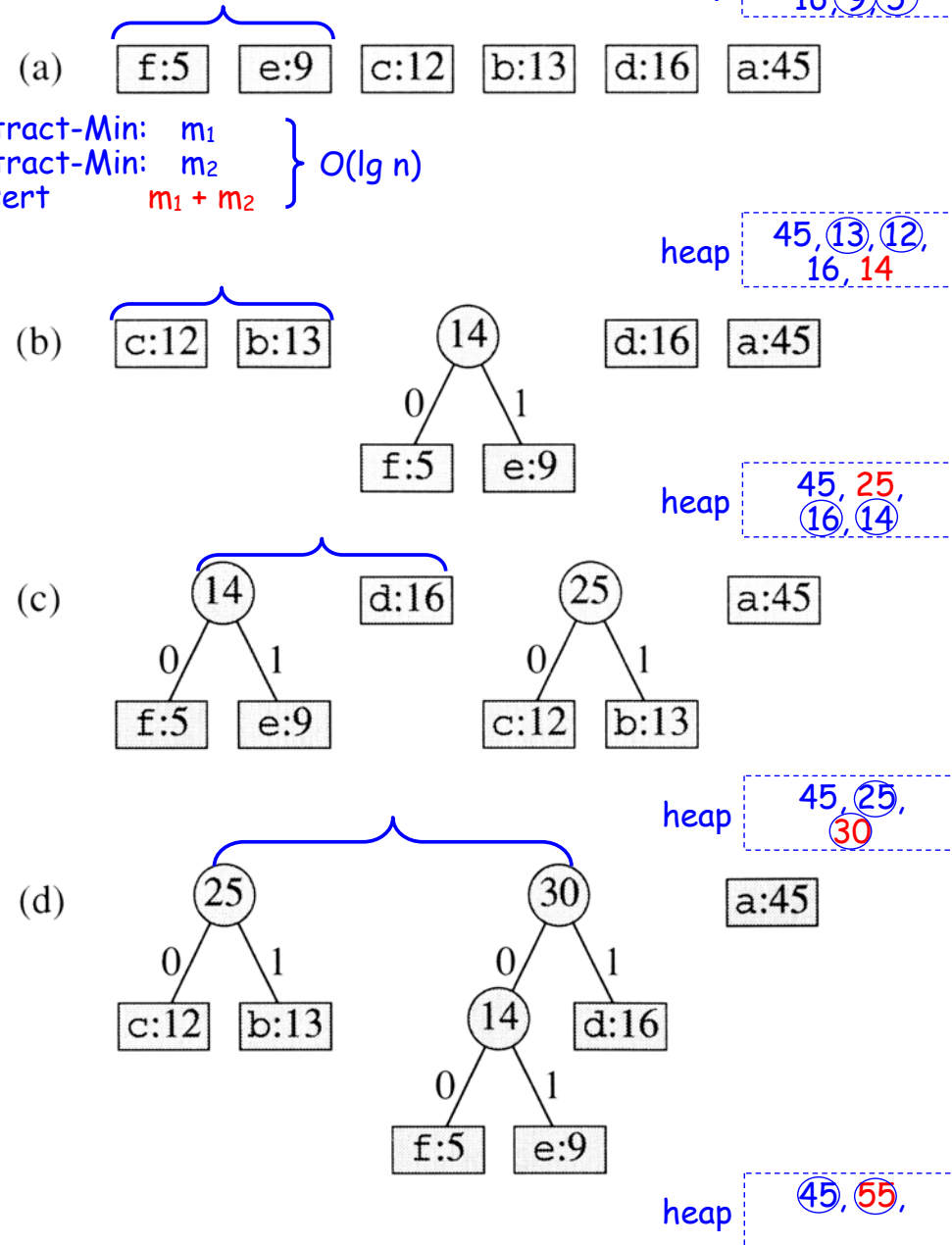
• a:0, b:101, c:100, d:111, e:1101, f:1100

• cost of  $T$ :  $\sum_{c \in C} f(c) \times \text{depth}(T, c)$   
 $\leftarrow$  leaves

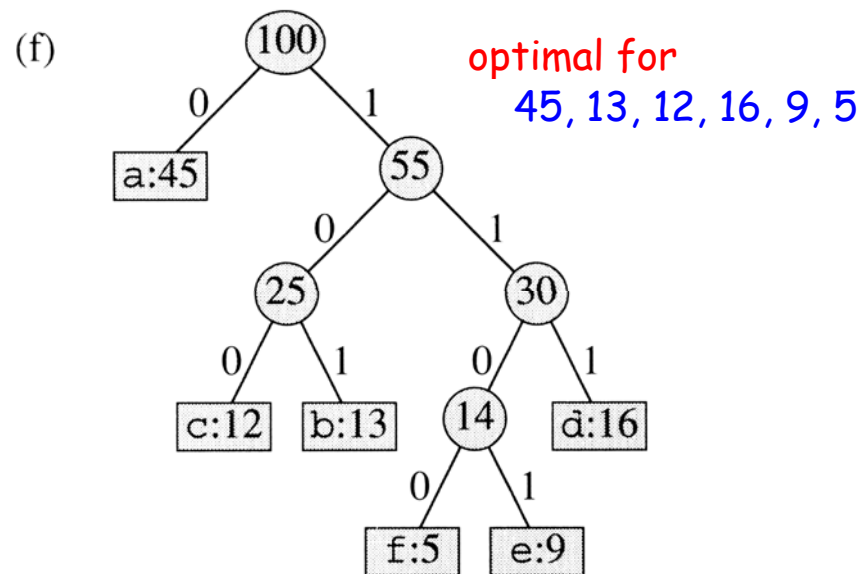
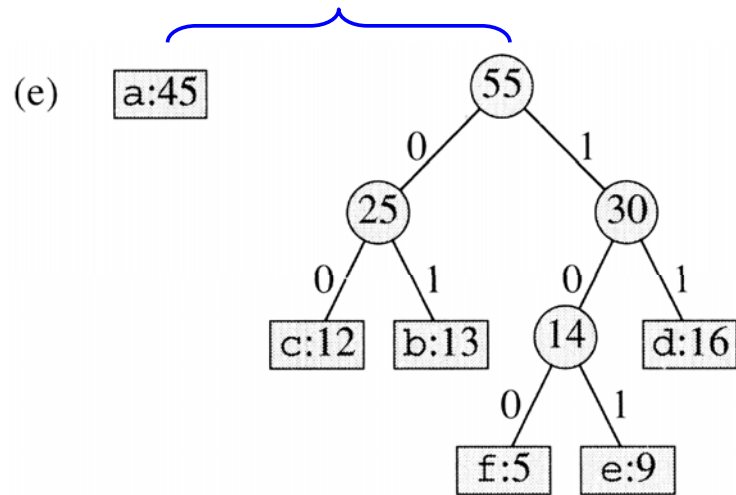
## Huffman code

Build-Heap:  $O(n)$

Extract-Min:  $m_1$   
 Extract-Min:  $m_2$   
 Insert  $m_1 + m_2$  }  $O(\lg n)$



16-7



- Time:  $O(n \lg n)$  /\*  $(n - 1) \times 3 \lg n$   
(using a heap as a priority queue)
- Correctness: omitted

16-7x

16-7y

**Homework:** Ex. 16.1-4, 16.2-2, 16.2-3, 16.2-4, 16.2-5, 16.2-7, 16.3-6  
proof → 0-1 knapsack (DP)

(proof: greedy-choice & optimal substructure)