

# Greedy Algorithms

Dr. Zhenyu He

Autumn 2008

---

## 16 Greedy Algorithms

- Similar to dynamic programming. Used for optimization problems.
- Optimization problems typically go through a sequence of steps, with a set of choices at each step.
- For many optimization problems, using dynamic programming to determine <sup>2</sup> the best choices is overkill (过度的杀伤威力).
- Greedy Algorithm: Simpler, more efficient



## 16 Greedy Algorithms

- Greedy algorithms (GA) do not always yield optimal solutions, but for many problems they do.
  - ◆ 16.1, the activity-selection problem (活动安排)<sup>3</sup>
  - ◆ 16.2, basic elements of the GA; knapsack prob. (贪婪算法的基本特征; 背包问题)
  - ◆ 16.3, an important application: the design of data compression (Huffman) codes. (哈夫曼编码)
  - ◆ 16.5, unit-time tasks scheduling (有限期作业调度)

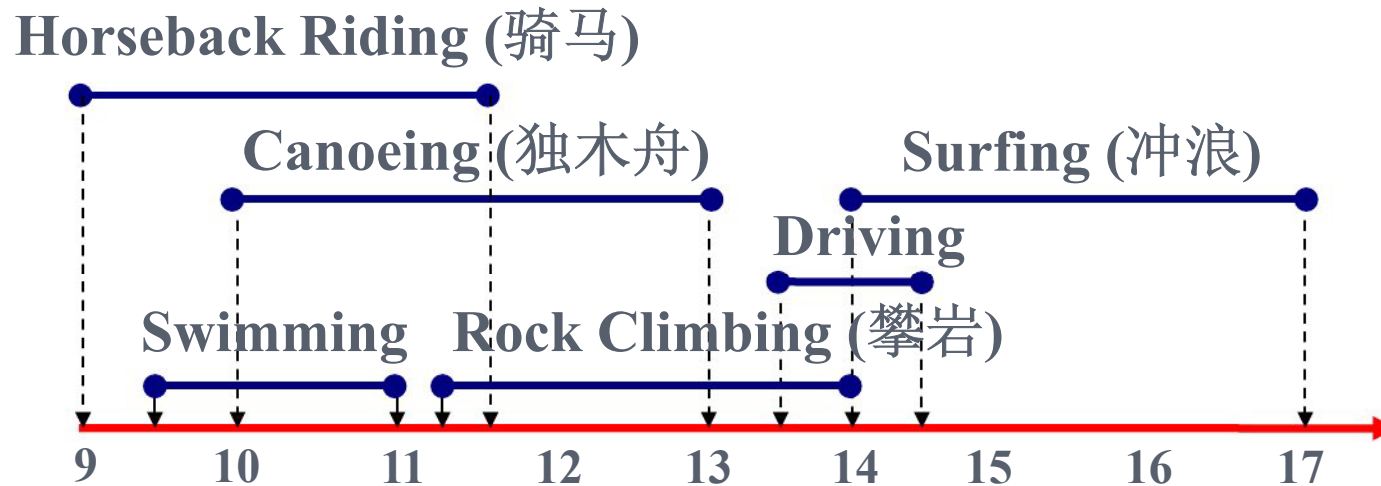


## 16 Greedy Algorithms

- The greedy method is quite powerful and works well for a wide range of problems:
  - ◆ minimum-spanning-tree algorithms (Chap 23)<sup>4</sup>  
(最小生成图)
  - ◆ shortest paths from a single source (Chap 24)  
(最短路径)
  - ◆ set-covering heuristic (Chap 35).  
(集合覆盖)
  - ◆ ...



## First example: Activity Selection



5

- How to make an arrangement to have the more activities?
  - ◆ S1. Shortest activity first (最短活动优先原则)  
Swimming , Driving
  - ◆ S2. First starting activity first (最早开始活动优先原则)  
Horseback Riding , Driving
  - ◆ S3. First finishing activity first (最早结束活动优先原则)  
Swimming , Rock Climbing , Surfing



## 16.1 An activity-selection problem



6

- $n$  activities require *exclusive* use of a common resource.

Example, scheduling the use of a classroom.

( $n$  个活动, 1 项资源, 任一活动进行时需唯一占用该资源)

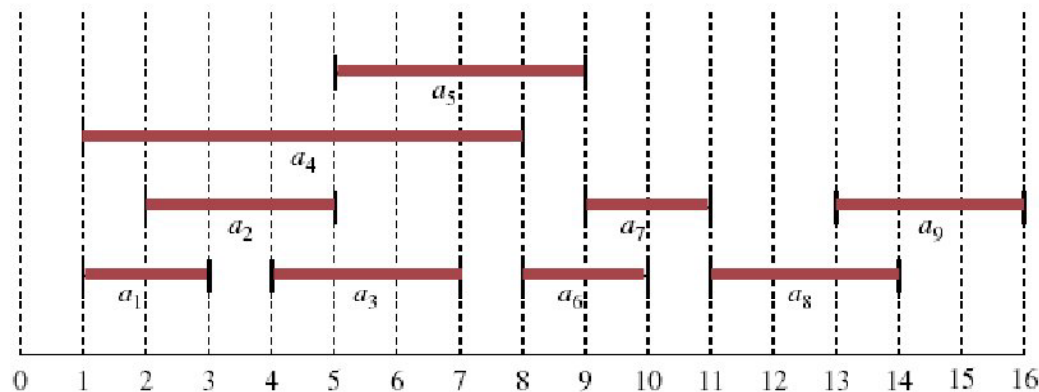
- ◆ Set of activities  $S = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ .
- ◆  $a_i$  needs resource during period  $[s_i, f_i)$ , which is a half-open interval, where  $s_i$  is start time and  $f_i$  is finish time.
- ◆ **Goal:** Select the largest possible set of nonoverlapping (mutually *compatible*) activities. (安排一个活动计划, 使得相容的活动数目最多)
- ◆ Other objectives: Maximize income rental fees , ...



## 16.1 An activity-selection problem

- $n$  activities require *exclusive* use of a common resource.
  - ♦ Set of activities  $S = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$
  - ♦  $a_i$  needs resource during period  $[s_i, f_i)$
- *Example:*  $S$  sorted by finish time:

$i$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$s_i$	1	2	4	1	5	8	9	11	13
$f_i$	3	5	7	8	9	10	11	14	16



Maximum-size mutually compatible set:

$\{a_1, a_3, a_6, a_8\}$ .

Not unique: also

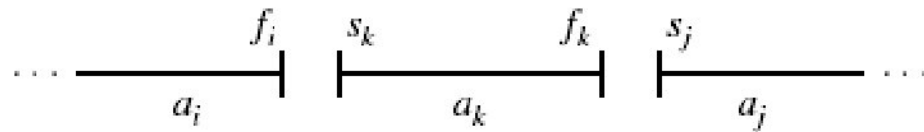
$\{a_2, a_5, a_7, a_9\}$ .



### 16.1.1 Optimal substructure of activity selection

#### Space of subproblems

- $S_{ij} = \{a_k \in S : f_i \leq s_k < f_k \leq s_j\}$   
= activities that start after  $a_i$  finishes & finish before  $a_j$  starts



- Activities in  $S_{ij}$  are compatible with
  - ♦ all activities that finish by  $f_i$  (完成时间早于  $f_i$  的活动), and
  - ♦ all activities that start no earlier than  $s_j$ .
- To represent the entire problem, add fictitious activities:
  - ♦  $a_0 = [-\infty, 0)$ ;  $a_{n+1} = [\infty, \infty+1)$
  - ♦ We don't care about  $-\infty$  in  $a_0$  or  $\infty+1$  in  $a_{n+1}$ .
- Then  $S = S_{0,n+1}$ . Range for  $S_{ij}$  is  $0 \leq i, j \leq n+1$ .



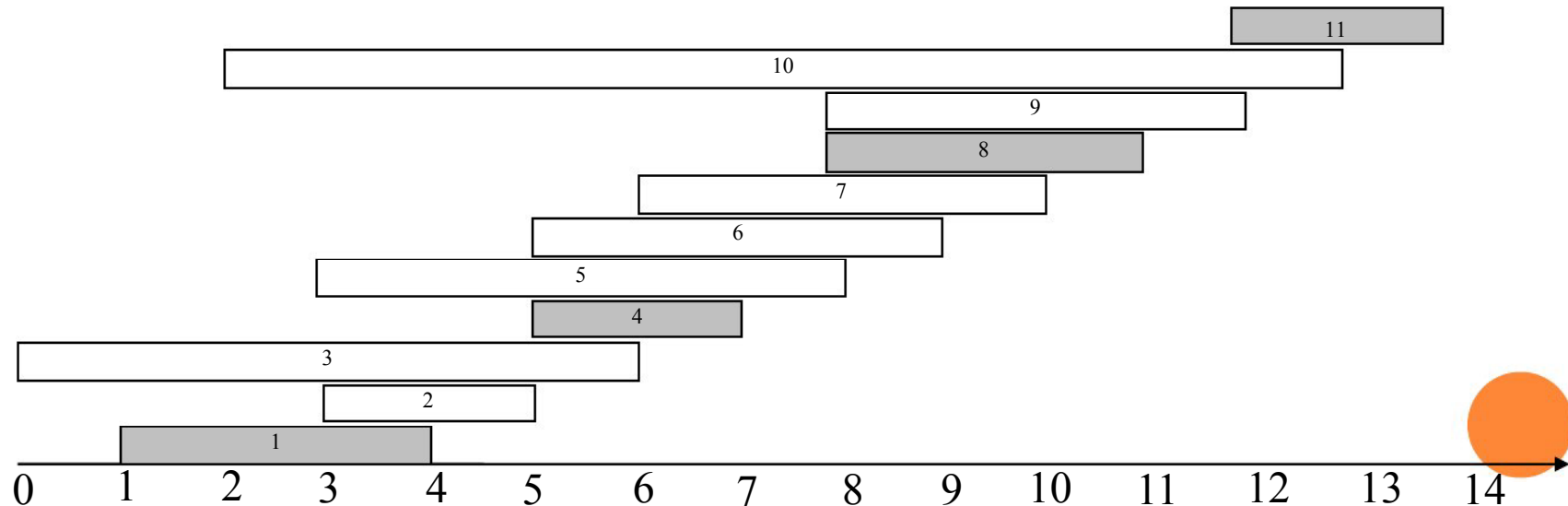


### 16.1.1 Optimal substructure of activity selection

#### Space of subproblems

- $S_{ij} = \{a_k \in S : f_i \leq s_k < f_k \leq s_j\}$
- Assume that activities are sorted by monotonically increasing finish time  
(以结束时间单调增的方式对活动进行排序)

$$f_0 \leq f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n < f_{n+1} \text{ (if } i \leq j, \text{ then } f_i \leq f_j) \quad (16.1)$$



### 16.1.1 Optimal substructure of activity selection

- if  $f_0 \leq f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n < f_{n+1}$  (if  $i \leq j$ , then  $f_i \leq f_j$ ) (16.1)  
Then  $i \geq j \Rightarrow S_{ij} = \mid$

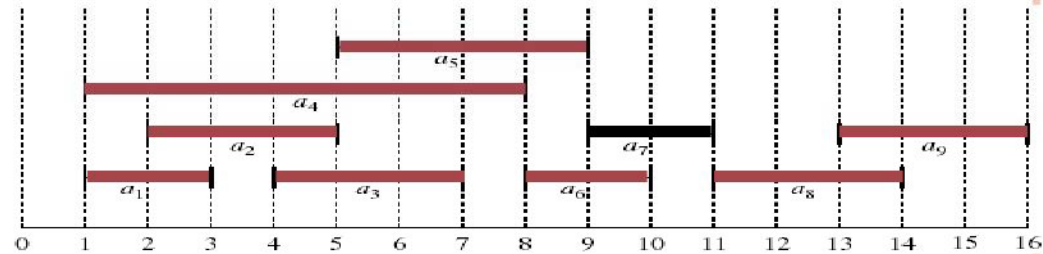
**Proof** If there exists  $a_k \in S_{ij}$ , then  
 $f_i \leq s_k < f_k \leq s_j < f_j \Rightarrow f_i < f_j$ .  
But  $i \geq j \Rightarrow f_i \geq f_j$ . **Contradiction.**

- So only need to worry about  $S_{ij}$  with  $0 \leq i < j \leq n + 1$ .

All other  $S_{ij}$  are  $\emptyset$



### 16.1.1 Optimal substructure of activity selection



11

- Suppose that a solution to  $S_{ij}$  includes  $a_k$ . Have 2 sub-prob
  - ♦  $S_{ik}$  (start after  $a_i$  finishes, finish before  $a_k$  starts)
  - ♦  $S_{kj}$  (start after  $a_k$  finishes, finish before  $a_j$  starts)
- Solution to  $S_{ij} = (\text{solution to } S_{ik}) \cup \{a_k\} \cup (\text{solution to } S_{kj})$   
 Since  $a_k$  is in neither of the subproblems, and the subproblems are disjoint,  $|\text{solution to } S| = |\text{solution to } S_{ik}| + 1 + |\text{solution to } S_{kj}|$ .
- **Optimal substructure:** If an optimal solution to  $S_{ij}$  includes  $a_k$ , then the solutions to  $S_{ik}$  and  $S_{kj}$  used within this solution must be optimal as well. (use usual cut-and-paste argument).
- Let  $A_{ij} = \text{optimal solution to } S_{ij}$ ,  
 so  $A_{ij} = A_{ik} \cup \{a_k\} \cup A_{kj}$ ,  
 assuming:  $S_{ij}$  is nonempty; and we know  $a_k$ .

(16.2)



## 16.1.2 A recursive solution

- Let  $c[i, j]$  = size of maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities in  $S_{ij}$ . ( $c[i, j]$  表示  $S_{ij}$  相容的最大活动数)  
 $i \geq j \Rightarrow S_{ij} = \emptyset \Rightarrow c[i, j] = 0$ .
- If  $S_{ij} \neq \emptyset$ , suppose that  $a_k$  is used in a maximum-size subsets of mutually  $S_{ij}$ .  
Then  $c[i, j] = c[i, k] + 1 + c[k, j]$ .
- But of course we don't know which  $k$  to use, and so

$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } S_{ij} = \emptyset, \\ \max_{\substack{i < k < j \\ a_k \in S_{ij}}} \{c[i, k] + c[k, j] + 1\} & , \text{ if } S_{ij} \neq \emptyset. \end{cases} \quad (16.3)$$

Why this range of  $k$ ? Because  $S_{ij} = \{a_k \in S: f_i \leq s_k < f_k \leq s_j\} \Rightarrow a_k$  can't be  $a_i$  or  $a_j$ .

### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } S_{ij} = |, \\ \max_{\substack{i < k < j \\ ak \in S_{ij}}} \{c[i, k] + c[k, j] + 1\} & , \text{ if } S_{ij} \neq |. \end{cases} \quad (16.3)$$

13

- It may be easy to design an algorithm to the problem based on recurrence (16.3).
  - ◆ Direct recursion algorithm (complexity?)
  - ◆ Dynamic programming algorithm (complexity?)
- Can we simplify our solution?



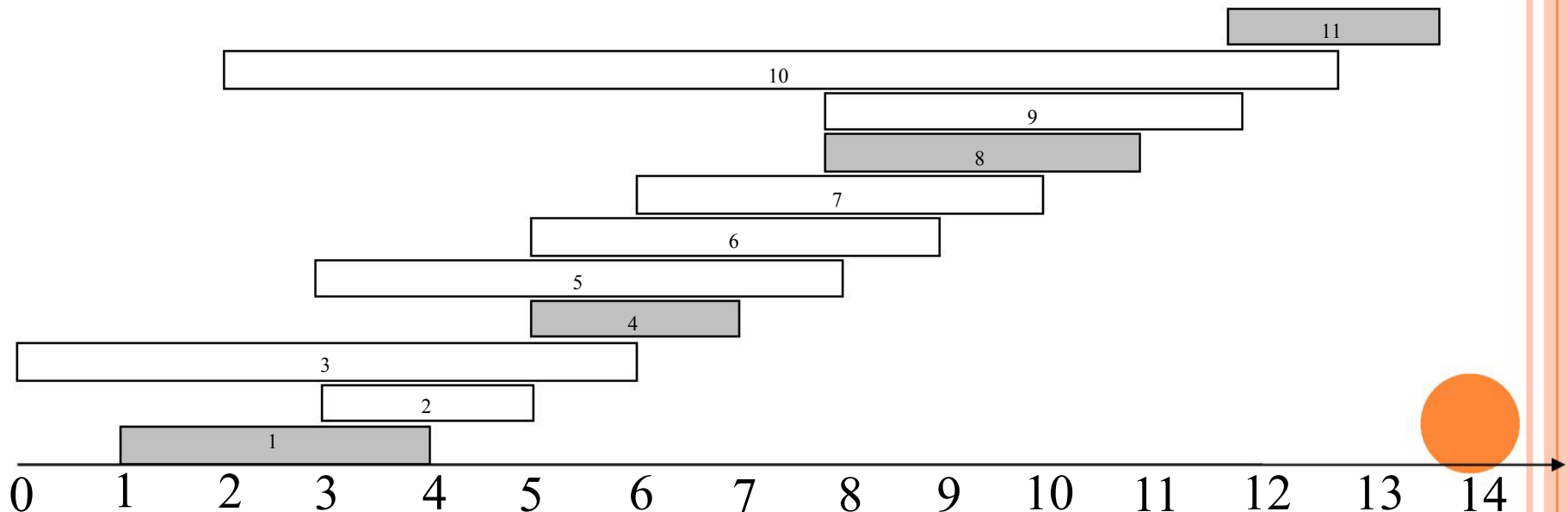
### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

#### □ Theorem 16.1

Let  $S_{ij} \neq \emptyset$ , and let  $a_m$  be the activity in  $S_{ij}$  with the earliest finish time:  $f_m = \min \{f_k : a_k \in S_{ij}\}$ . Then

1.  $a_m$  is used in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of  $S_{ij}$ . (  $a_m$  包含在某个最大相容活动子集中 )
2.  $S_{im} = \emptyset$ , so that choosing  $a_m$  leaves  $S_{mj}$  as the only nonempty subproblem. ( 仅剩下一个非空子问题  $S_{mj}$  )

14



### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

#### □ Theorem 16.1

Let  $S_{ij} \neq \emptyset$ , and let  $a_m$  be the activity in  $S_{ij}$  with the earliest finish time:  $f_m = \min \{f_k : a_k \in S_{ij}\}$ . Then

1.  $a_m$  is used in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of  $S_{ij}$ . (  $a_m$  包含在某个最大相容活动子集中 )
2.  $S_{im} = \emptyset$ , so that choosing  $a_m$  leaves  $S_{mj}$  as the only nonempty subproblem. ( 仅剩下一个非空子问题  $S_{mj}$  )

15

#### Proof

2. Suppose there is some  $a_l \in S_{im}$ . Then  $f_i < s_l < f_l \leq s_m < f_m \Rightarrow f_l < f_m$ . Then  $a_l \in S_{ij}$  and it has an earlier finish time than  $f_m$ , which contradicts our choice of  $a_m$ . Therefore, there is no  $a_l \in S_{im} \Rightarrow S_{im} = \emptyset$ .



### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

- **Theorem 16.1** Let  $S_{ij} \neq \emptyset$ , and let  $a_m$  be the activity in  $S_{ij}$  with the earliest finish time:  $f_m = \min \{f_k : a_k \in S_{ij}\}$ . Then
1.  $a_m$  is used in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of  $S_{ij}$ . ( $a_m$  包含在某个最大相容活动子集中)

16

**Proof** 1. Let  $A_{ij}$  be a maximum-size subset of mutually Compatible activities in  $S_{ij}$ . Order activities in  $A_{ij}$  in monotonically increasing order of finish time. Let  $a_k$  be the first activity in  $A_{ij}$ .

- ♦ If  $a_k = a_m$ , done ( $a_m$  is used in a maximum-size subset).



- ♦ Otherwise, construct  $B_{ij} = A_{ij} - \{a_k\} \cup \{a_m\}$  (replace  $a_k$  by  $a_m$ ).

Activities in  $B_{ij}$  are disjoint. (Activities in  $A_{ij}$  are disjoint,  $a_k$  is the first activity in  $A_{ij}$  to finish.  $f_m \leq f_k \Rightarrow a_m$  doesn't overlap anything else in  $B_{ij}$ ). Since  $|B_{ij}| = |A_{ij}|$  and  $A_{ij}$  is a maximum-size subset, so is  $B_{ij}$ .



### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } S_{ij} = |, \\ \max_{\substack{i < k < j \\ a_k \in S_{ij}}} \{c[i, k] + c[k, j] + 1\} & , \text{ if } S_{ij} \neq |. \end{cases} \quad (16.3)$$

- **Theorem 16.1** Let  $S_{ij} \neq |$ , and let  $a_m$  be the activity in  $S_{ij}$  with the earliest finish time:  $f_m = \min \{f_k : a_k \in S_{ij}\}$ . Then
1.  $a_m$  is used in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of  $S_{ij}$ . ( $a_m$  包含在某个最大相容活动子集中)
  2.  $S_{im} = |$ , so that choosing  $a_m$  leaves  $S_{mj}$  as the only nonempty subproblem. (仅剩下一个非空子问题  $S_{mj}$ )
- This theorem is great:

	before theorem	after theorem
# of sub-prob in optimal solution	2	1
# of choices to consider	$O(j - i - 1)$	1

### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

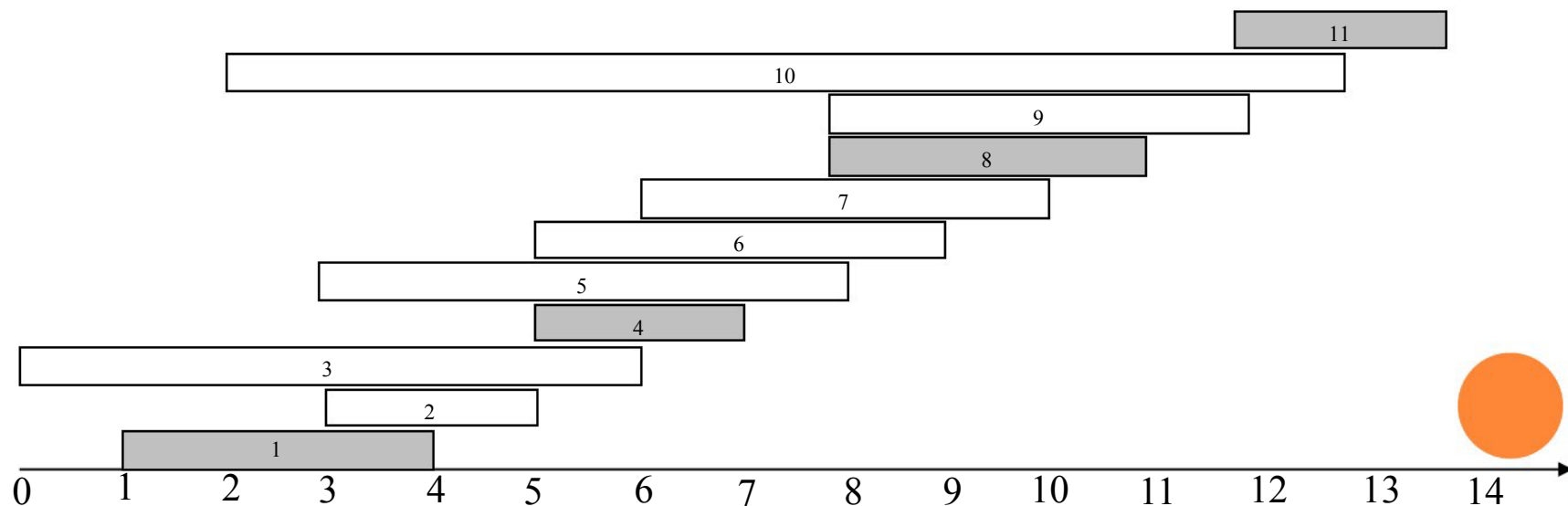
- **Theorem 16.1**      Let  $S_{ij} \neq \emptyset$ , and let  $a_m$  be the activity in  $S_{ij}$  with the earliest finish time:  $f_m = \min \{f_k : a_k \in S_{ij}\}$ . Then
1.  $a_m$  is used in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of  $S_{ij}$ . ( $a_m$  包含在某个最大相容活动子集中)
  2.  $S_{im} = \emptyset$ , so that choosing  $a_m$  leaves  $S_{mj}$  as the only nonempty subproblem. (仅剩下一个非空子问题  $S_{mj}$ )
- 18
- Now we can solve a problem  $S_{ij}$  in a top-down fashion
    - ♦ Choose  $a_m \in S_{ij}$  with earliest finish time: the *greedy choice*. ( it leaves as much opportunity as possible for the remaining activities to be scheduled ) (留下尽可能的时间来安排活动, 贪心选择)
    - ♦ Then solve  $S_{mj}$ .



### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

- What are the subproblems?
  - ◆ Original problem is  $S_{0,n+1}$  ( $a_0 = [-\infty, 0)$ ;  $a_{n+1} = [\infty, \infty+1)$ )
  - ◆ Suppose our first choice is  $a_{m1}$  (in fact, it is  $a_1$ )
  - ◆ Then next subproblem is  $S_{m1,n+1}$
  - ◆ Suppose next choice is  $a_{m2}$  (it must be  $a_2$ ?)
  - ◆ Next subproblem is  $S_{m2,n+1}$
  - ◆ And so on

19



### 16.1.3 Converting a DP solution to a greedy solution

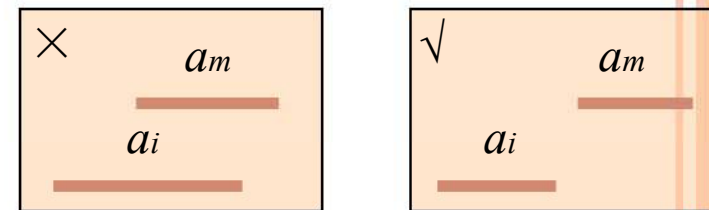
- What are the subproblems?
  - ◆ Original problem is  $S_{0,n+1}$
  - ◆ Suppose our first choice is  $a_{m1}$
  - ◆ Then next subproblem is  $S_{m1,n+1}$
  - ◆ Suppose next choice is  $a_{m2}$
  - ◆ Next subproblem is  $S_{m2,n+1}$
  - ◆ And so on
- Each subproblem is  $S_{mi,n+1}$ .
- And the subproblems chosen have finish times that increase. （所选的子问题，其完成时间是增序排列）
- Therefore, we can consider each activity **just once**, in monotonically increasing order of finish time.



### 16.1.4 A recursive greedy algorithm

- Original problem is  $S_{0,n+1}$
- Each subproblem is  $S_{mi,n+1}$
- Assumes activities already sorted by monotonically increasing finish time. (If not, then sort in  $O(n \lg n)$  time.) Return an optimal solution for  $S_{i,n+1}$ :

21



REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR( $s, f, i, n$ )

```
1  $m \leftarrow i+1$ 
2 while  $m \leq n$  and  $s_m < f_i$  // Find first activity in  $S_{i,n+1}$ .
3   do  $m \leftarrow m+1$ 
4 if  $m \leq n$ 
5   then return  $\{a_m\} \cup \text{REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR}(s, f, m, n)$ 
6 else return |
```

#### 16.1.4 A recursive greedy algorithm

REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR( $s, f, i, n$ )

1  $m \leftarrow i+1$

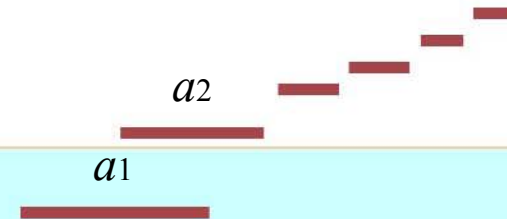
2 **while**  $m \leq n$  and  $s_m < f_i$  // Find first activity in  $S_{i,n+1}$ .

3   **do**  $m \leftarrow m+1$

4 **if**  $m \leq n$

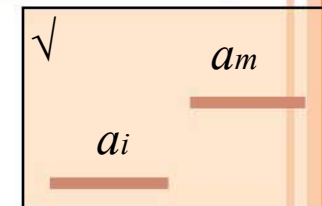
5   **then return**  $\{a_m\} \cup \text{REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR}(s, f, m, n)$

6 **else return** |



22

- **Initial call:** REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR( $s, f, 0, n$ ).
- **Idea:** The **while** loop checks  $a_{i+1}, a_{i+2}, \dots, a_n$  until it finds an activity  $a_m$  that is compatible with  $a_i$  (need  $s_m \geq f_i$ ).
  - ◆ If the loop terminates because  $a_m$  is found ( $m \leq n$ ), then recursively solve  $S_{m,n+1}$ , and return this solution, along with  $a_m$ .
  - ◆ If the loop never finds a compatible  $a_m$  ( $m > n$ ), then just return empty set.



### 16.1.4 A recursive greedy algorithm

REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR( $s, f, i, n$ )

1  $m \leftarrow i+1$

2 **while**  $m \leq n$  and  $s_m < f_i$  // Find first activity in  $S_{i,n+1}$ .

3   **do**  $m \leftarrow m+1$

4 **if**  $m \leq n$

5   **then return**  $\{a_m\} \cup \text{REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR}(s, f, m, n)$

6 **else return**  $\emptyset$

- **Time:  $\Theta(n)$** —each activity examined exactly once.

$$T(n) = m_1 + T(n \downarrow m_1) = m_1 + m_2 + T(n \downarrow m_1 \downarrow m_2)$$

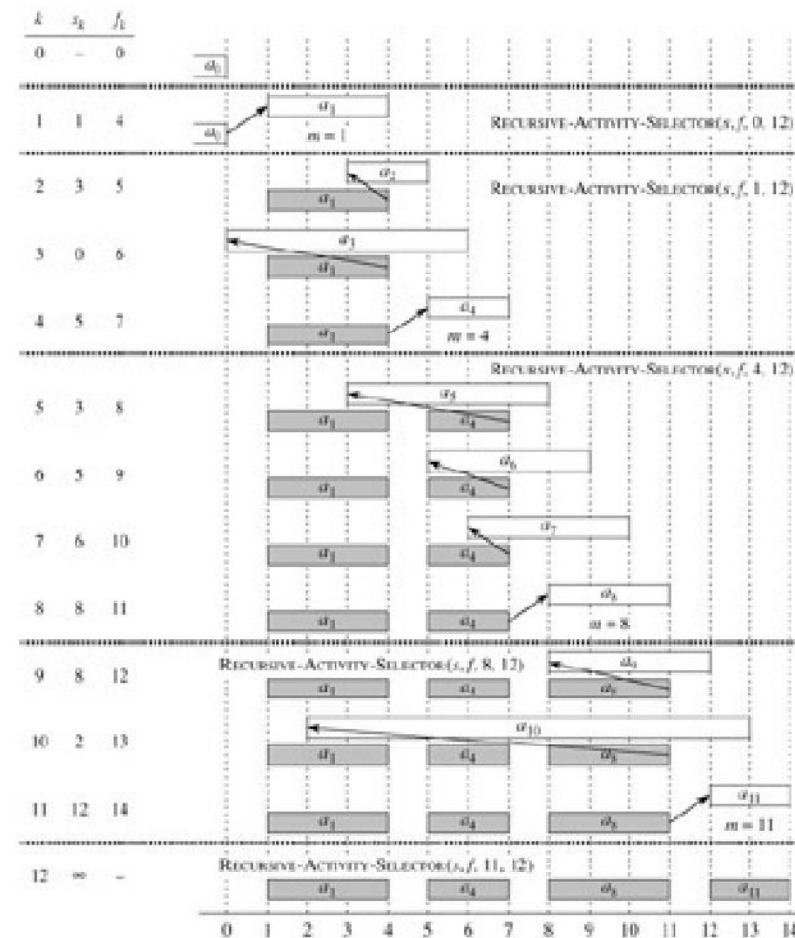
$$= m_1 + m_2 + m_3 + T(n \downarrow m_1 \downarrow m_2 \downarrow m_3) = \dots$$

$$= m_k + T(n \downarrow m_k)$$

$$\text{because: } n \downarrow m_k = 1, \text{ then } m_k = n - 1, \sum m_k + T(1) = \Theta(n)$$

### 16.1.4 A recursive greedy algorithm

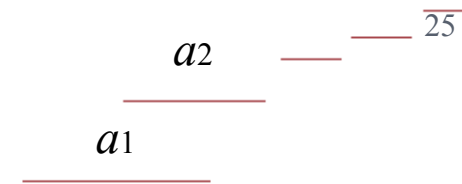
- **Initial call:** REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR( $s, f, 0, n$ ).
- **Idea:** The **while** loop checks  $a_{i+1}, a_{i+2}, \dots, a_n$  until it finds an activity  $a_m$  that is compatible with  $a_i$  (need  $s_m \geq f_i$ ).
  - ◆ If the loop terminates because  $a_m$  is found ( $m \leq n$ ), then recursively solve  $S_{m,n+1}$ , and return this solution, along with  $a_m$ .
  - ◆ If the loop never finds a compatible  $a_m$  ( $m > n$ ), then just return empty set.





### 16.1.5 An iterative greedy algorithm

- **REC-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR** is almost "tail recursive".
- We easily can convert the recursive procedure to an iterative one. (Some compilers perform this task automatically)



**GREEDY-ACTIVITY-SELECTOR**( $s, f, n$ )

1  $A \leftarrow \{a_1\}$

2  $i \leftarrow 1$

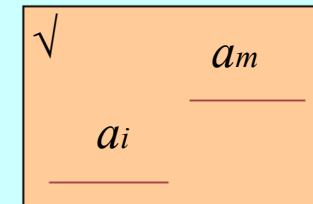
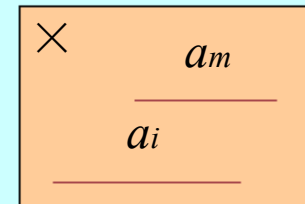
3 **for**  $m \leftarrow 2$  **to**  $n$

4   **do if**  $s_m \geq f_i$

5       **then**  $A \leftarrow A \cup \{a_m\}$

6        $i \leftarrow m$  //  $a_i$  is most recent addition to  $A$

7 **return**  $A$



# Review

- **Greedy Algorithm Idea:** When we have a choice to make, make the one that looks best *right now*. Make a *locally optimal choice* in hope of getting a *globally optimal solution*.  
(希望当前选择是最好的，每一个局部最优选择能产生全局最优选择)
- **Greedy Algorithm:** Simpler, more efficient



## 16 Greedy Algorithms

- 16.1, the activity-selection problem (活动安排)
- **16.2, basic elements of the GA; knapsack prob**  
(贪婪算法的基本特征; 背包问题)
- 16.3, an important application: the design of data compression (Huffman) codes (哈夫曼编码)

27



## 16.2 Elements of the greedy strategy

- The choice that seems best at the moment is chosen  
(每次决策时, 当前所做的选择看起来是“最好”的)
- What did we do for activity selection?
  1. Determine the optimal substructure.
  2. Develop a recursive solution.
  3. Prove that at any stage of recursion, one of the optimal choices is the greedy choice.
  4. Show that all **but one of the subproblems resulting from the greedy choice** are empty. (通过贪婪选择, 只有一个子问题非空)
  5. Develop a recursive greedy algorithm.
  6. Convert it to an iterative algorithm.



## 16.2 Elements of the greedy strategy

- These steps looked like dynamic programming.
- Typically, we streamline these steps (简化这些步骤)
- Develop the substructure with an eye toward
  - ◆ making the greedy choice,
  - ◆ leaving just one subproblem.
- For activity selection, we showed that the greedy choice implied that in  $S_{ij}$ , only  $i$  varied, and  $j$  was fixed at  $n+1$ ,
- So, we could have started out with a greedy algorithm in mind:
  - ◆ define  $S_i = \{a_k \in S : f_i \leq s_k\}$ , (所有在  $a_i$  结束之后开始的活动)
  - ◆ show the greedy choice, first  $a_m$  to finish in  $S_i$   
combined with optimal solution to  $S_m$  }

$\Rightarrow$  optimal solution to  $S_i$ .



## 16.2 Elements of the greedy strategy

- **Typical streamlined steps** （简化这些步骤）
  - 1. Cast the optimization problem as one in which we make a choice and are left with one subproblem to solve.**  
（最优问题为：做一个选择，留下一个待解的子问题）
  - 2. Prove that there's always an optimal solution that makes the greedy choice, so that the greedy choice is always safe.**  
（证明存在一个基于贪婪选择的最优解，因此贪婪选择是安全的）
  - 3. Show that greedy choice and optimal solution to subproblem  $\Rightarrow$  optimal solution to the problem.**  
（说明由贪婪选择和子问题的最优解  $\Rightarrow$  原问题的最优解）

30



## 16.2 Elements of the greedy strategy

- **No general way to tell if a greedy algorithm is optimal, but two key ingredients are**

(没有一般化的规则来说明贪婪算法是否最优，但有两个基本要点)

31

**1. greedy-choice property** (贪婪选择属性)

**2. optimal substructure**

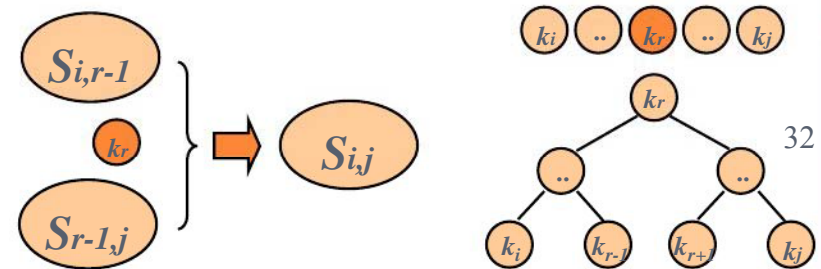


## 16.2.1 Greedy-choice property

- A globally optimal solution can be arrived at by making a locally optimal (greedy) choice. (通过局部最优解可导出全局最优解)

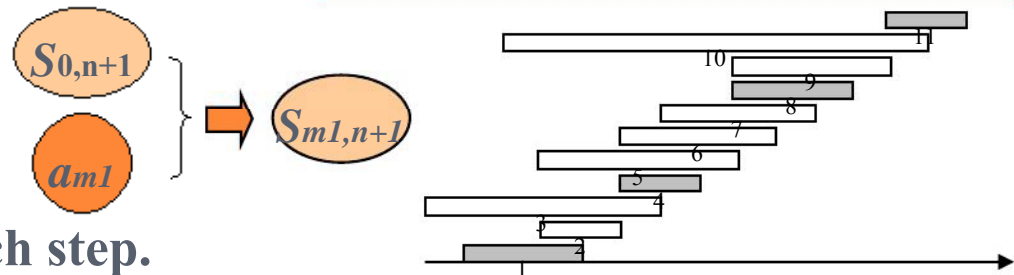
- *Dynamic programming*

- ◆ Make a choice at each step.
- ◆ Choice depends on knowing optimal solutions to subproblems. Solve subproblems *first*. (依赖于已知子问题的最优解再作出选择)
- ◆ Solve *bottom-up*.



- *Greedy*

- ◆ Make a choice at each step.
- ◆ Make the choice *before* solving the subproblems. (先作选择, 再解子问题)
- ◆ Solve *top-down*.





### 16.2.1 Greedy-choice property

- We must **prove** that a greedy choice at each step yields a globally optimal solution. **Difficulty! Cleverness** may be required!
- Typically, Theorem 16.1, shows that the solution ( $A_{ij}$ ) can be modified to use the greedy choice ( $a_m$ ), resulting in one similar but smaller subproblem ( $A_{mj}$ ).<sub>33</sub>
- We can **get efficiency gains** from greedy-choice property. (*For example, in activity-selection, **sorted** the activities in monotonically increasing order of finish times, needed to examine each activity **just once**.*)
  - ◆ **Preprocess** input to put it into greedy order



### 16.2.2 Optimal substructure

- *optimal substructure*: an optimal solution to the problem contains within it optimal solutions to subproblems.

34

■ Just show that **optimal solution to subproblem** and **greedy choice**  $\Rightarrow$  **optimal solution to problem**.

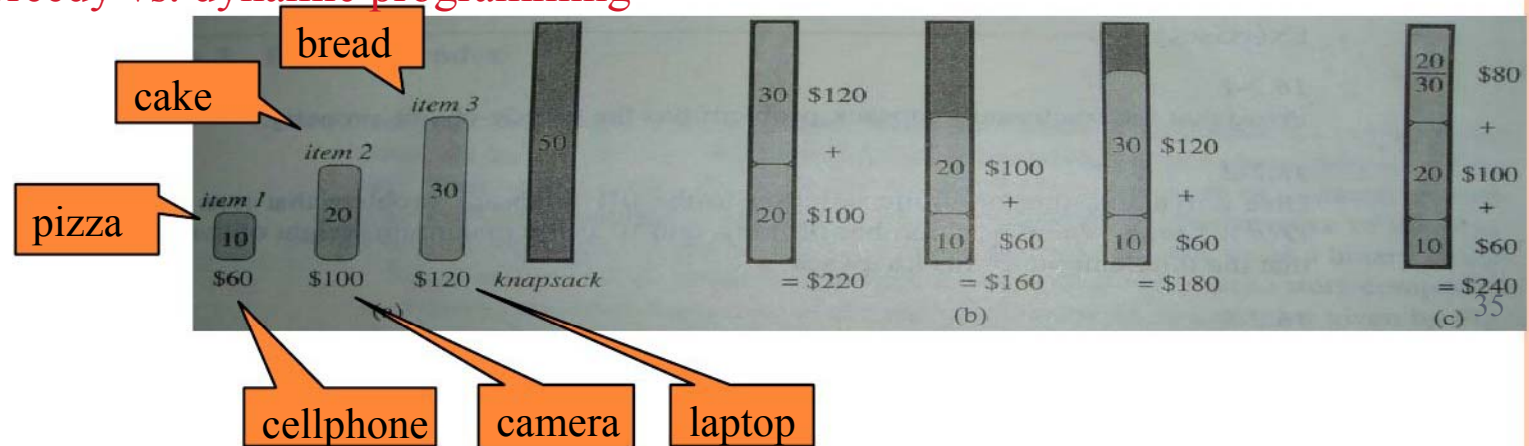
(说明子问题的最优解和贪婪选择)

$\Rightarrow$

原问题的最优解



### 16.2.3 Greedy vs. dynamic programming



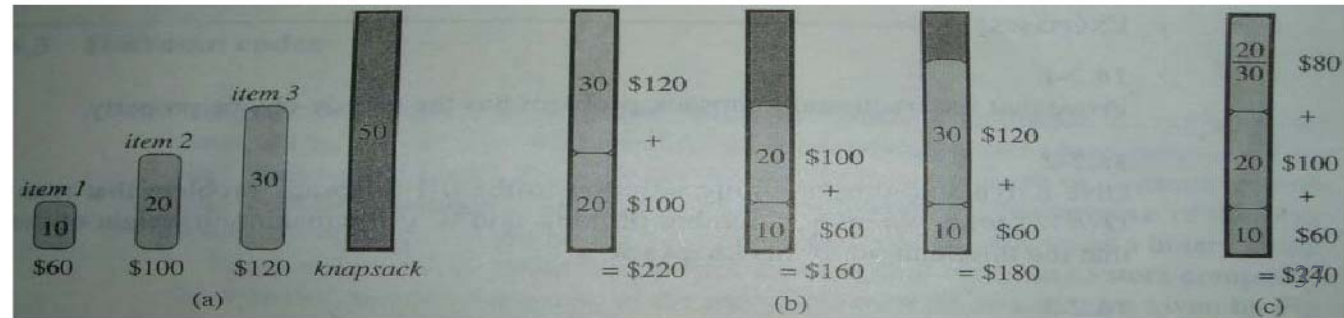
- **0-1 knapsack problem** (0-1背包问题, 小偷问题)
  - ◆  $n$  items ( $n$  个物品)
  - ◆ Item  $i$  is worth  $\$v_i$ , weighs  $w_i$  P (物品 $i$  价值 $v_i$ , 重 $w_i$ )
  - ◆ Find a most valuable subset of items with total weight  $\leq W$ .  
(背包的最大负载量为 $W$ , 如何选取物品, 使得背包装的物品价值最大)
  - ◆ Have to either take an item or not take it—can't take part of it.  
(每个物品是一个整体, 不能分割, 因此, 要么选取该物品, 要么不选取)
- **Fractional knapsack problem** (分数背包问题, 小偷问题)
  - ◆ Like the 0-1 knapsack problem, but can take fraction of an item.

### 16.2.3 Greedy vs. dynamic programming

- *0-1 knapsack problem* (0-1背包问题, 小偷问题)
- *Fractional knapsack problem* (分数背包问题, 小偷问题)
- Both have optimal substructure property.
  - ◆ **0-1** : choose the most valuable load  $j$  that weighs  $w_j \leq W$ ,  
remove  $j$ , choose the most valuable load  $i$  that weighs  $w_i \leq W - w_j$
  - ◆ **fractional**: choose a weight  $w$  from item  $j$  ( part of  $j$  ), then  
remove the part, the remaining load is the most valuable  
load weighing at most  $W - w$  that the thief can take from the  
 $n-1$  original items plus  $w_j - w$  pounds from item  $j$ .  
(若先选 item  $j$  的一部分, 其重  $w$ , 则接下来的最优挑选方案为从余  
下的  $n-1$  个物品 (除  $j$  外) 和  $j$  的另外重  $w_j - w$  的部分中挑选, 其重量不  
超过  $W - w$  )
- But the fractional problem has the greedy-choice property, and the 0-1  
problem does not.



### 16.2.3 Greedy vs. dynamic programming



- Fractional knapsack problem has the greedy-choice property, and the 0-1 knapsack problem does not.
- To solve the fractional problem, **rank decreasingly items by  $v_i/w_i$**
- Let  $v_i/w_i \geq v_{i+1}/w_{i+1}$  for all  $i$
- Time:  $O(n \lg n)$  to sort,  $O(n)$  to greedy choice thereafter.

FRACTIONAL-KNAPSACK( $v, w, W$ )

1  $load \leftarrow 0$

2  $i \leftarrow 1$

3 **while**  $load < W$  and  $i \leq n$

4     **do if**  $w_i \leq W - load$

5         **then** take all of item  $i$

6         **else** take  $W - load$  of  $w_i$  from item  $i$

7     add what was taken to  $load$

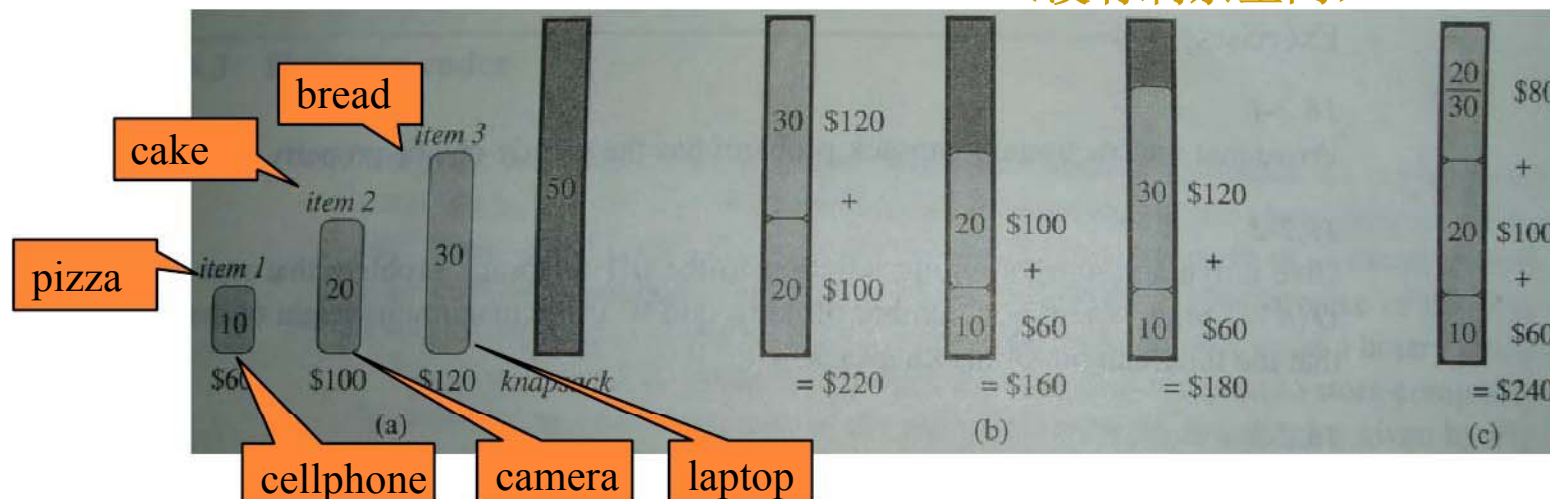
8  $i \leftarrow i + 1$

### 16.2.3 Greedy vs. dynamic programming

- 0-1 knapsack problem  
has not the greedy-choice property
- $W = 50$ .
- Greedy solution:
  - ◆ take items 1 and 2
  - ◆ value = 160, weight = 3020 pounds of capacity leftover.

$i$	1	2	3
$v_i$	60	100	120
$w_i$	10	20	30
$v_i/w_i$	6	5	4

- Optimal solution: 38
  - ◆ Take items 2 and 3
  - ◆ value=220, weight=50No leftover capacity.  
(没有剩余空间)



## 16 Greedy Algorithms

- 16.1, the activity-selection problem (活动安排)
- 16.2, basic elements of the GA; knapsack prob  
(贪婪算法的基本特征; 背包问题)
- **16.3, an important application: the design of data  
compression (Huffman) codes** (哈夫曼编码)

39



## 16.3 Huffman codes

- **Huffman codes: widely used and very effective technique for compressing data.**
  - ◆ savings of 20% to 90%
- **Consider the data to be a sequence of characters**
  - ◆ Abaaaabbbdcffeaiaeec

40

- **Huffman's greedy algorithm:**  
uses a table of the frequencies of occurrence of the characters to build up an optimal way of representing each character as a binary string.

（依据字符出现的频率表，使用二进串来建立一种表示字符的最佳方法）





## 16.3 Huffman codes

- Wish to store compactly 100,000-character data file

only six different characters appear. frequency table

	a	b	c	d	e	f
Frequency (in thousands)	45	13	12	16	9	5
<b>Fixed-length codeword</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>001</b>	<b>010</b>	<b>011</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>
Variable-length codeword	0	101	100	111	1101	1100

41

- Many ways (encodes) to represent such a file of information
- *binary character code* (or *code* for short): each character is represented by a unique binary string.
  - ◆ ***fixed-length code***: if use 3-bit codeword, the file can be encoded in 300,000 bits. Can we do better?



## 16.3 Huffman codes

- 100,000-character data file

	a	b	c	d	e	f
Frequency (in thousands)	45	13	12	16	9	5
Fixed-length codeword	000	001	010	011	100	101
Variable-length codeword	0	101	100	111	1101	1100

42

- *binary character code* (or *code* for short)
  - ◆ **variable-length code**: by giving frequent characters short codewords and infrequent characters long codewords, here the 1-bit string 0 represents a, and the 4-bit string 1100 represents f. (高频出现的字符以短字码表示; 低频→长字码)

$$(45 \cdot 1 + 13 \cdot 3 + 12 \cdot 3 + 16 \cdot 3 + 9 \cdot 4 + 5 \cdot 4) \cdot 1,000 = 224,000 \text{ bits}$$



## 16.3 Huffman codes

- 100,000-character data file

	a	b	c	d	e	f
Frequency (in thousands)	45	13	12	16	9	5
Fixed-length codeword	000	001	010	011	100	101
Variable-length codeword	0	101	100	111	1101	1100

43

- *binary character code* (or *code* for short)
  - ◆ *fixed-length code*: **300,000** bits
  - ◆ *variable-length code*: **224,000** bits, a savings of approximately 25%. In fact, this is an optimal character code for this file.



### 16.3.1 Prefix codes

- *prefix codes* (prefix-free codes): no codeword is a prefix of some other codeword. (字首码, 前缀代码, 前置代码 (前缀无关码) : 没有字码是其他字码的前缀)

44

	a	b	c	d	e	f
Frequency (in thousands)	45	13	12	16	9	5
Fixed-length codeword	000	001	010	011	100	101
Variable-length codeword	0	101	100	111	1101	1100

- Encoding (编码) is always simple for any binary character code
  - ◆ Concatenate (连接) the codewords representing each character. For example, “abc”, with the variable-length prefix code as  $0 \cdot 101 \cdot 100 = 0101100$ , where we use ‘.’ to denote concatenation.
- Prefix codes simplify decoding (解码)



### 16.3.1 Prefix codes

- **prefix codes (prefix-free codes):** no codeword is a prefix of some other codeword. (字首码, 前缀代码, 前置代码 (前缀无关码): 没有字码是其他字码的前缀)

	a	b	c	d	e	f
Variable-length codeword	0	101	100	111	1101	1100

45

- Encoding is always simple for any binary character code
- Prefix codes **simplify decoding**
  - ◆ Since no codeword is a prefix of any other, the codeword that begins an encoded file is unambiguous (明确的).
  - ◆ We can simply identify the initial codeword, translate it back to the original character, and repeat the decoding process on the remainder of the encoded file.
  - ◆ Exam: 001011101 uniquely as 0·0·101·1101, which decodes to “aabe”.



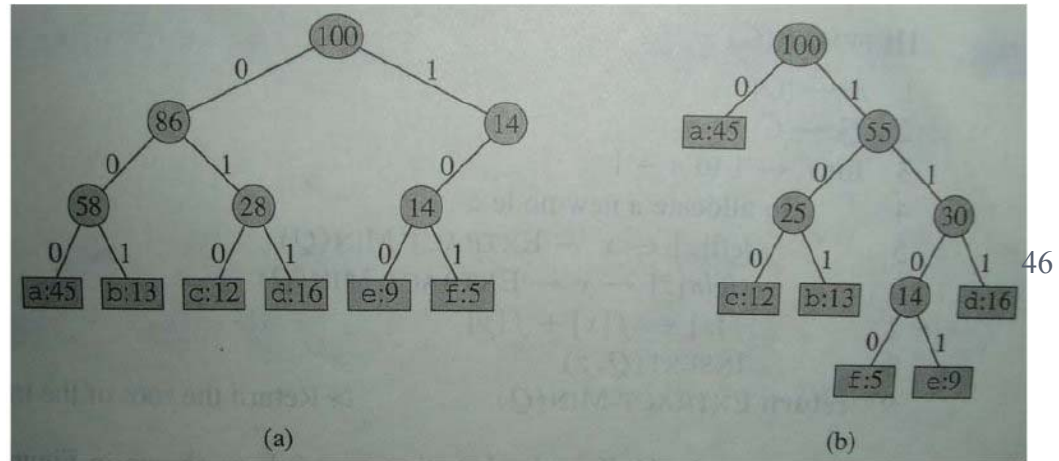
### 16.3.1 Prefix codes

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

001011101

uniquely as 0·0·101·1101,  
which decodes to “aabe”.

- **Decoding**
  - ◆ the process needs a convenient representation for the prefix code so that the initial codeword can be easily picked off.  
(为了使初始字码容易识别, 解码过程需要一种前置无关码的方便表示)
  - ◆ A binary tree whose leaves are the given characters provides one such representation.  
(二叉树是一种方便的表示方法, 树叶为给定字符)



46

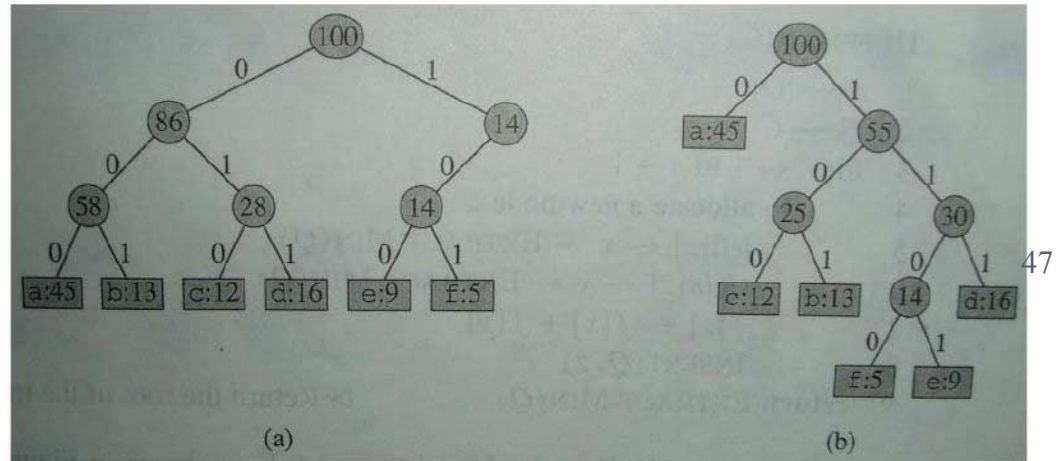


### 16.3.1 Prefix codes

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

001011101

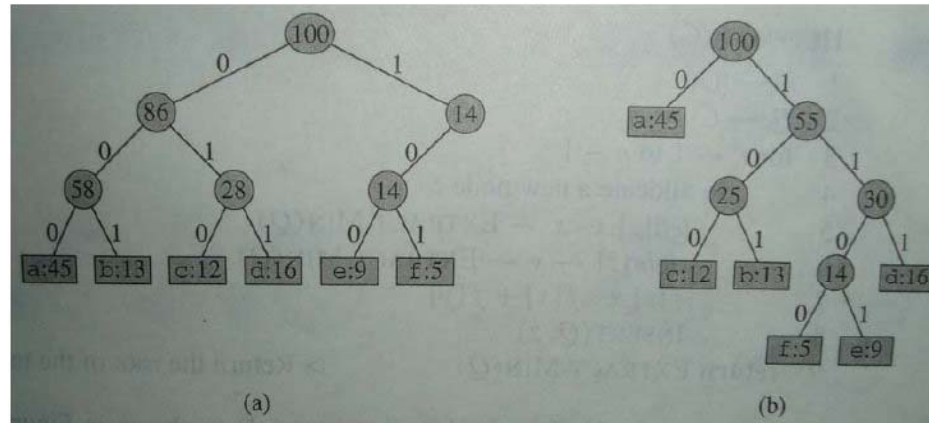
uniquely as 0·0·101·1101,  
which decodes to “aabe”.



- **Decoding**
  - ◆ We interpret the binary codeword for a character as the path from the root to that character.  
(将字符的二叉码表示解释为一条路径：从树根到树叶)
  - ◆ not binary search trees, since the leaves need not appear in sorted order and internal nodes do not contain character keys.  
(不是二叉搜索树)



### 16.3.1 Prefix codes

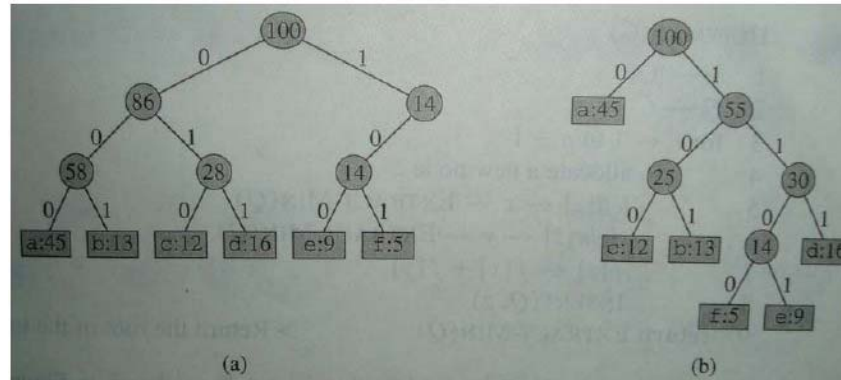


48

- An optimal code for a file is always represented by a **full** binary tree, every nonleaf node has two children (Ex16.3-1). The fixed-length code in our example is not optimal.
- We can restrict our attention to full binary trees
  - ◆  $C$  is the alphabet,
  - ◆ all character frequencies  $> 0$
  - ◆ the tree for an optimal prefix code has  $|C|$  leaves, one for each letter of  $C$ , and exactly  $|C|-1$  internal nodes.



### 16.3.1 Prefix codes



49

Compute # of bits required to encode a file

- Given a tree  $T$  corresponding to a prefix code, for each character  $c$  in the alphabet  $C$ ,
  - ◆  $f(c)$ : frequency of  $c$  in the file
  - ◆  $d_T(c)$ : depth of  $c$ 's leaf in the tree (length of the codeword for character  $c$ ). Then, # of bits required to encode a file

which we define as the *cost* of the tree  $T$ .



### 16.3.2 Constructing a Huffman code

*Huffman code:*  
a greedy algorithm  
that constructs an  
optimal prefix code

```
HUFFMAN(C)
1  $n \leftarrow |C|$ 
2  $Q \leftarrow C$ 
3 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n - 1$ 
4   do allocate(分配) a new node  $z$ 
5      $left[z] \leftarrow x \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ 
6      $right[z] \leftarrow y \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ 
7      $f[z] \leftarrow f[x] + f[y]$ 
8     INSERT( $Q, z$ )
9 return EXTRACT-MIN( $Q$ ) //return the root of the tree.
```

50

- $C$ : set of  $n$  characters,  $c \in C$ : an object with frequency  $f[c]$ .
  - ◆ Build the tree  $T$  corresponding to the optimal code.
  - ◆ Begin with  $|C|$  leaves, perform  $|C|-1$  “merging” operations.
  - ◆ A min-priority queue  $Q$ , keyed on  $f$ , is used to identify the two least-frequent objects to merge together. Result of the merger is a new object whose frequency is the sum of the frequencies of the two objects that were merged.

### 16.3.2 Constructing a Huffman code

**Example:**  
**Huffman's algorithm**  
**proceeds. 6 letters,**  
**5 merge steps.**  
**The final tree**  
**represents the**  
**optimal prefix code.**

HUFFMAN(C)

1  $n \leftarrow |C|$

2  $Q \leftarrow C$

3 **for**  $i \leftarrow 1$  **to**  $n - 1$

4     **do** allocate (分配) a new node  $z$

5          $left[z] \leftarrow x \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$

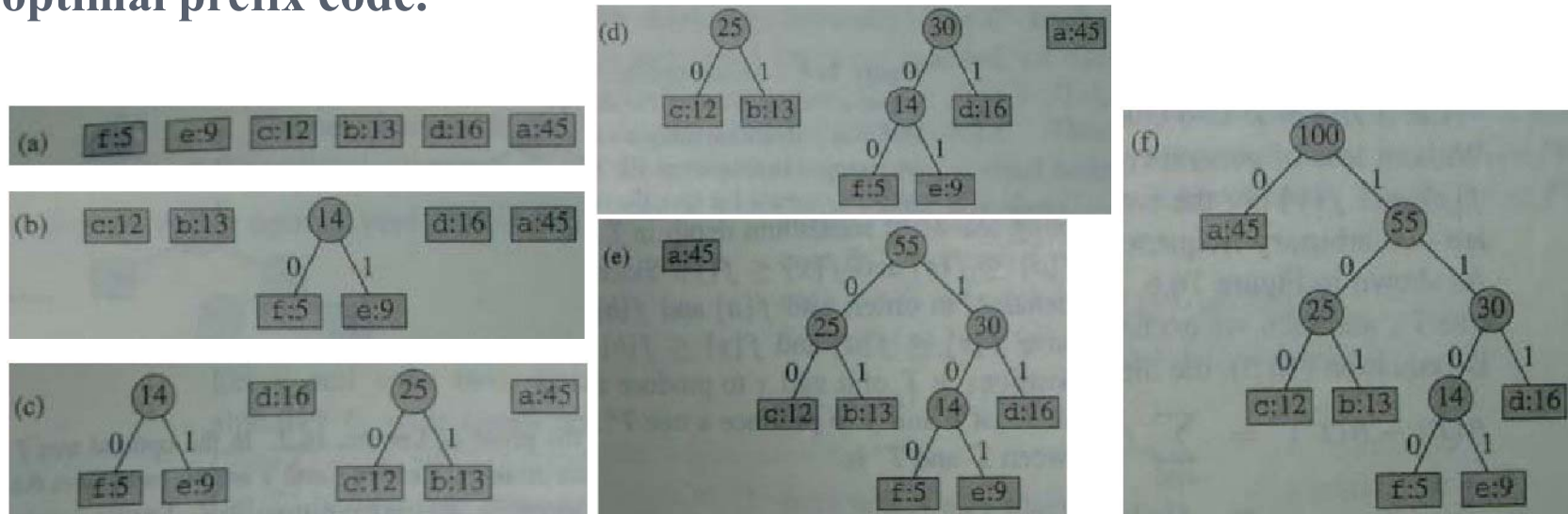
6          $right[z] \leftarrow y \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$

7          $f[z] \leftarrow f[x] + f[y]$

8         INSERT( $Q, z$ )

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

51

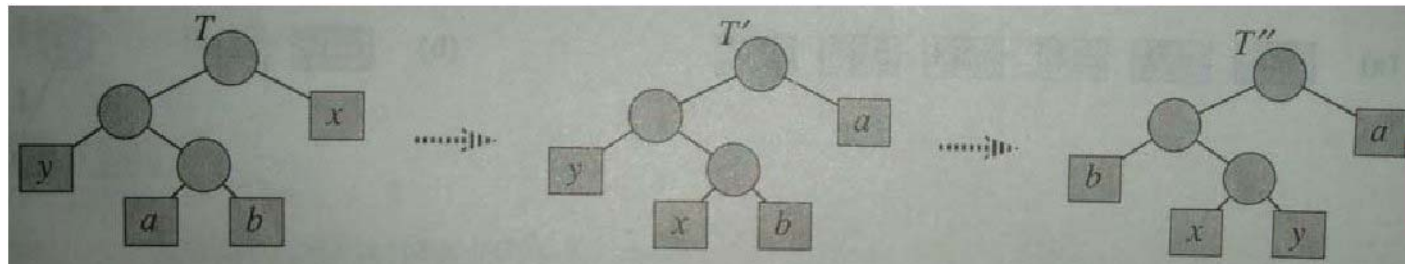


### 16.3.3 Correctness of Huffman's algorithm

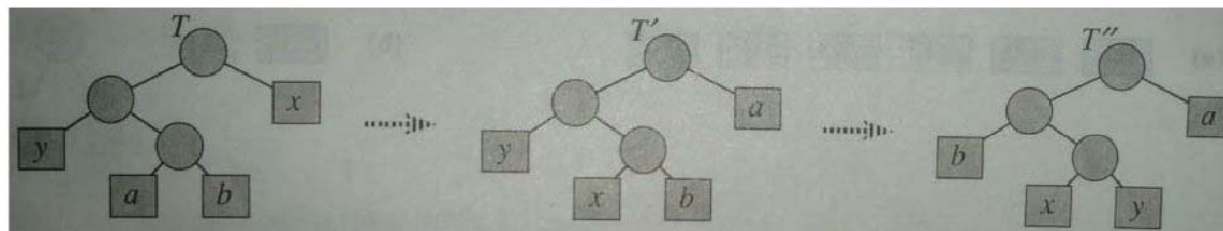
- Problem of determining an optimal prefix code exhibits the **greedy-choice** and **optimal-substructure** properties.
- Lemma 16.2 (greedy-choice property)

Let  $C$  be an alphabet, each character  $c \in C$  has frequency  $f[c]$ .<sup>52</sup>  **$x$  and  $y \in C$ , and having the lowest frequencies.** Then there exists an optimal prefix code for  $C$  in which the **codewords for  $x$  and  $y$  have the same length and differ only in the last bit.**

**Proof idea:** take the tree  $T$  representing an arbitrary optimal prefix code, and modify it to make a tree representing another optimal prefix code such that  $x$  and  $y$  appear as sibling leaves (姐妹叶) of maximum depth in the new tree.



### 16.3.3 Correctness of Huffman's algorithm



- **Lemma 16.2**

$c \in C$  has frequency  $f[c]$ .  $x, y \in C$ , having the lowest frequencies. Then, <sub>53</sub> exist an optimal prefix code for  $C$  in which the **codewords for  $x$  and  $y$  have the same length and differ only in the last bit.**

**Proof :** Let  $a$  and  $b$  are sibling leaves of maximum depth in  $T$ . Assume that  $f[a] \leq f[b]$ ,  $f[x] \leq f[y]$ .  $f[x]$  and  $f[y]$  are the two lowest leaf frequencies,  $f[a], f[b]$  are two arbitrary frequencies, in order,  $\Rightarrow f[x] \leq f[a], f[y] \leq f[b]$ . Exchange the positions in  $T$  of  $a$  and  $x$  to produce a tree  $T'$ , and then exchange the positions in  $T'$  of  $b$  and  $y$  to produce a tree  $T''$ . By (16.5),

we have

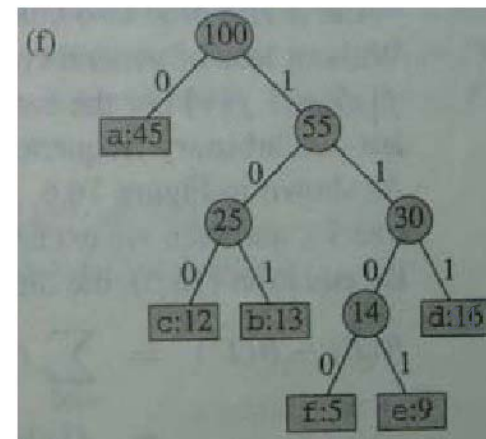
$$\begin{aligned} B(T) - B(T') &= \sum_{c \in C} f(c) d_T(c) - \sum_{c \in C} f(c) d_{T'}(c) \\ &= f[x] d_T(x) + f[a] d_T(a) - f[x] d_{T'}(x) - f[a] d_{T'}(a) \\ &= f[x] d_T(x) + f[a] d_T(a) - f[x] d_T(a) - f[a] d_T(x) \\ &= (f[x] - f[a]) d_T(x) + (f[a] - f[x]) d_T(a) \\ &= (f[a] - f[x]) (d_T(a) - d_T(x)) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $B(T') - B(T'') \geq 0$ ,  
therefore,  $B(T'') \leq B(T)$ .

Since  $T$  is optimal,  $B(T) \leq B(T'')$ .  
Then  $B(T'') = B(T)$ .

Thus,  $T''$  is an optimal tree.

### 16.3.3 Correctness of Huffman's algorithm



- Lemma 16.3 (optimal-substructure property)

Alphabet  $C$ , each character  $c \in C$  has frequency  $f[c]$ .  **$x$  and  $y \in C$ , and having the lowest frequencies.**  $C' = C - \{x, y\} \cup \{z\}$ . Define  $f$  for  $C'$  as for  $C$ , except that  $f[z] = f[x] + f[y]$ . Let  $T'$  be any tree representing an optimal prefix code for the alphabet  $C'$ . Then the tree  $T$ , obtained from  $T'$  by replacing the leaf node for  $z$  with an internal node having  $x$  and  $y$  as children, represents an optimal prefix code for  $C$ .

(给定字母表集 $C$ ，每一个字符 $c \in C$ 的频率为 $f[c]$ 。 $x$ 和 $y \in C$ 有最小频率。从 $C$ 中抽取字符 $x$ 和 $y$ ，但增加新字符 $z$ 到 $C$ 中，得到新的字符集 $C'$ ，即 $C' = C - \{x, y\} \cup \{z\}$ 。除 $f[z] = f[x] + f[y]$ 以外， $f$ 在 $C'$ 中的定义与在 $C$ 中相同。若 $T'$ 为 $C'$ 的最优前缀无关编码，则 $T$ 为关于 $C$ 的最优前缀无关编码，其中， $T$ 为把 $T'$ 的叶节点 $z$ 代替为以 $x$ 和 $y$ 作为叶节点的内点变换而来。)

### 16.3.3 Correctness of Huffman's algorithm

- **Lemma 16.3 (optimal-substructure property)**

**Proof** : For each  $c \in C - \{x, y\}$ , we have  $d_T(c) = d_{T'}(c)$ , then  $f[c]d_T(c) = f[c]d_{T'}(c)$ . Since  $d_T(x) = d_T(y) = d_{T'}(z) + 1$ , we have

$f[x]d_T(x) + f[y]d_T(y) = (f[x] + f[y])(d_{T'}(z) + 1) = f[z]d_{T'}(z) + (f[x] + f[y])$ ,  
from which we conclude that  $B(T) = B(T') + f[x] + f[y]$ .

Suppose that  $T$  does not represent an optimal prefix code for  $C$ . Then there exists a tree  $T''$  such that  $B(T'') < B(T)$ . Without loss of generality (by Lemma 16.2),  $T''$  has  $x$  and  $y$  as siblings. Let  $T'''$  be the tree  $T''$  with the common parent of  $x$  and  $y$  replaced by a leaf  $z$  with frequency  $f[z] = f[x] + f[y]$ . Then

$$B(T''') = B(T'') - f[x] - f[y] < B(T) - f[x] - f[y] = B(T'),$$

yielding a contradiction to the assumption that  $T'$  represents an optimal prefix code for  $C'$ . Thus,  $T$  must represent an optimal prefix code for the alphabet  $C$ .



### 16.3.3 Correctness of Huffman's algorithm

□ **Theorem 16.4**

**Procedure HUFFMAN produces an optimal prefix code.**

*Proof* Immediate from Lemmas 16.2（每一次选择是贪婪的、是正确的）<sup>56</sup>  
and Lemmas 16.3（确保由子问题的最优解能导出原问题的最优解）。





## Solution 16.2-2

- **Optimal substructure:** 背包的最大负荷  $W$ ，有  $n$  件物品，最优解  $S$  中的最大项数为  $i$ ，则  $S' = S - \{i\}$  必定是最大负荷为  $W - w_i$ ，物品项为  $1, \dots, i-1$  的最优解，且  $v(S) = v(S') + v_i$
- $c[i, w]$ : 物品项  $1, \dots, i$ ，最大负荷  $w$  时的最优值

57

$$c[i, w] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \text{ or } w = 0, \\ c[i \downarrow 1, w] & \text{if } w_i > w, \\ \max(v_i + c[i \downarrow 1, w \downarrow w_i], c[i \downarrow 1, w]) & \text{if } i > 0 \text{ and } w \in w_i. \end{cases}$$



## Solution 16.2-2

- 输入:  $W, n, v = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \rangle, w = \langle w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n \rangle$
- 储存  $c[i, j]$  在表  $c[0..n, 0..W]$  中 (行优先),  $c[n, W]$  为原始最大值

```
DYNAMIC-0-1-KNAPSACK( $v, w, n, W$ )  
  for  $w \leftarrow 0$  to  $W$   
    do  $c[0, w] \leftarrow 0$   
  for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$   
    do  $c[i, 0] \leftarrow 0$   
      for  $w \leftarrow 1$  to  $W$   
        do if  $w_i \leq w$   
          then if  $v_i + c[i-1, w-w_i] > c[i-1, w]$   
            then  $c[i, w] \leftarrow v_i + c[i-1, w-w_i]$   
            else  $c[i, w] \leftarrow c[i-1, w]$   
          else  $c[i, w] \leftarrow c[i-1, w]$ 
```

58

- Tracing 最优解: If  $c[i, w] = c[i-1, w]$ , item  $i$  is  $\notin$  最优解, 继续 tracing with  $c[i-1, w]$ , else item  $i \in$  最优解, 继续 tracing with  $c[i-1, w-w_i]$ .

## Solution 16.2-4

**The optimal strategy is the obvious greedy one. Starting with a full tank of gas, Professor Midas should go to the farthest gas station he can get to within  $n$  miles of Newark. Fill up there. Then go to the farthest gas station he can get to within  $n$  miles of where he filled up, and fill up there, and so on.**

59

