

ADA ASSIGNMENT - II

2K19/CO/819

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Activity Selection Problem

The Activity Selection Problem is an optimization problem which deals with the selection of non-conflicting activities that needs to be executed by a single person or machine in a given time frame.

Each activity is marked by a start and finish time. Greedy technique is used for finding the solution since this is an optimization problem.

* Steps for Activity Selection Problem

Following are the steps we will be following to solve the activity selection problem.

Step 1: Sort the given activities in ascending order according to their finishing time.

Step 2: Select the first activity from sorted array $act[]$ and add it to $sol[]$ array.

Step 3: Repeat steps 4 and 5 for the remaining activities in $act[]$.

Step 4: If the start time of the currently selected activity is greater than or equal to the finish time of previously selected activity, then add it to the $sol[]$ array.

Step 5: Select the next activity in $act[]$ array.

Step 6: Print the $sol[]$ array.

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* Activity Selection Problem Example

Let's try to trace the steps of above algorithm using an example:

In the table below, we have 6 activities with corresponding start and end time, the objective is to compute an execution schedule having maximum number of non-conflicting activities.

Start Time (s)	Finish Time (s)	Activity Name
5	9	a1
1	2	a2
3	4	a3
0	6	a4
5	7	a5
8	9	a6

Answer Step 1: Sort the given activities in ascending order to their finishing time.

The table after we have sorted it:

start time (s)	Finish Time (f)	Activity Name
1	2	a2
3	4	a3
0	6	a4
5	7	a5
5	9	a1
8	9	a6

Step 2: Select the first activity from sorted array $act[]$ and add it to the $sol[]$ array, thus $sol = \{a_2\}$.

Step 3: Repeat the steps 4 and 5 for the remaining activities in $act[]$.

Step 4: If the start time of the currently selected activity is greater than or equal to the finish time of the previously selected activity, then add it to $sol[]$.

Step 5: Select the next activity in $act[]$

For the data given in the above table,

A. Select activity a_3 . Since the start time of a_3 is greater than the finish time of a_2 . (i.e. $s(a_3) > f(a_2)$) we add a_3 to the solution set. Thus $sol = \{a_2, a_3\}$.

B. Select a_4 . Since $s(a_4) < f(a_3)$, it is not added to the solution set.

C. Select a_5 . Since $s(a_5) > f(a_3)$, a_5 gets added to solution set. Thus $sol = \{a_2, a_3, a_5\}$

D. Select a_1 . Since $s(a_1) < f(a_5)$, a_1 is not added to the solution set.

E. Selected a_6 . a_6 is added to the solution set since $s(a_6) > f(a_5)$. Thus $sol = \{a_2, a_3, a_5, a_6\}$.

Step 6: At last, print the array $sol[]$

Hence, the execution schedule of maximum of non-conflicting activities will be:

OUTPUT:

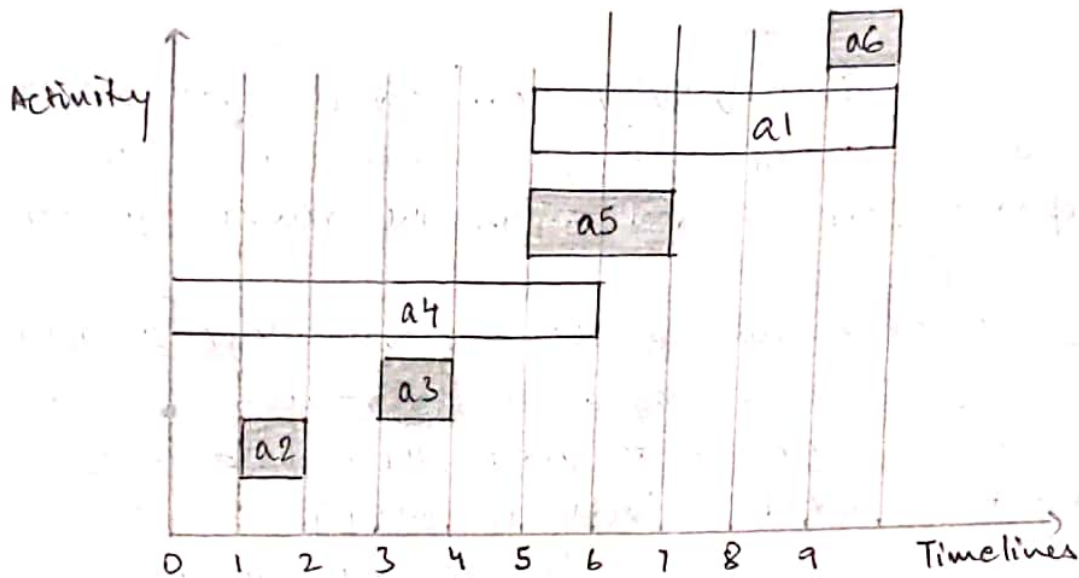
(1, 2)

(3, 4)

(5, 7)

(8, 9)

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In the above diagram, the selected activities have been highlighted in grey.

Time Complexity Analysis

Following are the scenarios for computing the time complexity of Activity Selection Algorithm.

- **Case 1:** When a given set of activities are already sorted according to their finishing time, then there is no sorting mechanism involved, in such a case the complexity of the algorithm will be $O(n)$.
- **Case 2:** When a given set of activities is unsorted, then we will have to use the `sort()` method defined in `bits/stdc++` header file for sorting the activities list. The time complexity of this method will be $O(n \log n)$, which also defines complexity of the algorithm.

* Real-Life Applications of Activity Selection Problem

Following are some of the real-life applications of this problem:

- Scheduling multiple competing events in a room, such that each event has its own start and end time.
- Scheduling manufacturing of multiple products on the same machine, such that each product has its own production time lines.
- Activity selection is one of the most well-known generic problems used in Operations Research for dealing with real life business problems.

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