

## Scenario

A new startup airline is needing help with creating and optimizing a flight schedule. They have hired you as a data scientist to create and optimize a flight schedule. The airlines will be all business class and cater to business travel. All aircraft are configured exactly the same and can fly any route in the system interchangeably. The airline will serve Dallas Love Field (DAL), Austin Bergstrom (AUS), and Houston Hobby (HOU).

## Aircraft and Tail Numbers

We have leased 6 aircraft. For sake of simplicity, we will assume all aircraft are configured exactly the same and can fly any route in the system and we will assume the “tail numbers” are as follows:

Aircraft “Tail Numbers”
T1
T2
T3
T4
T5
T6

## Military Time and Minutes Since Midnight Calculations

All of the airports are on the same time zone. We will use a 4 digit military time format to represent times, with examples as shown below. Hint: for calculations involving time, it will be helpful to use an epoch of midnight and calculate the minutes since midnight = (hour \* 60) + minutes, but the flight schedule should be printed in military time. To convert minutes since midnight to military time, hour = minutes since midnight div 60, minutes = minutes since midnight mod 60.

Civilian Time	Military Time	Minutes Since Midnight
6:00 am	0600	$(6 * 60) + 0 = 360$
7:21 am	0721	$(7 * 60) + 21 = 441$
11:59 am	1159	$(11 * 60) + 59 = 719$
12:00 noon	1200	$(12 * 60) + 0 = 720$
1:28 pm	1338	$(13 * 60) + 38 = 818$
2:24 pm	1424	$(14 * 60) + 24 = 864$
10:00 pm	2200	$(22 * 60) + 0 = 1320$

## Noise Restrictions on First Departure and Last Arrival Times

Due to noise restrictions:

- flights cannot have a departure time of 0559 or earlier
- flights can have a departure time of exactly 0600
- flights can have an arrival time of exactly 2200
- flights cannot have an arrival time of 2201 or later

## Flight Times (must be exact)

Flight Times are as follows (assume same flight time either direction, presented in “half alpha” order). Flights must be scheduled for exactly their flight time (no more, no less).

Airport	Airport	Flight Time in Minutes
AUS	DAL	50
AUS	HOU	45
DAL	HOU	65

## Calculating Arrival Times

To calculate an arrival time for the schedule, use the following formula:

arrival time (minutes since midnight) = departure time (minutes since midnight) + flight time (minutes)

Example:

T1,DAL,AUS,0721,**0811**

departure time = 0721 =  $(7 * 60) + 21 = 441$  minutes since midnight

arrival time = 441 minutes since midnight + 50 minutes = 491 minutes since midnight

$491 \div 60 = 8$

$491 \bmod 60 = 11$

arrival time = **0811** military time

## Number of Gates and Minimum Ground Time at Airports

We have secured gates at all airports. Each airport has a minimum ground time as follows. These are minimum times. Aircraft may be on the ground longer if designed.

Airport	Number of Gates	Minimum Ground Time in Minutes
AUS	1	25
DAL	2	30
HOU	3	35

### Calculating Minimum Departure Times (respecting the minimum ground times)

To calculate minimum departure time, use the following formula:

minimum departure time = arrival time (minutes since midnight) + minimum ground time (minutes)

example:

T1,DAL,AUS,0721,0811

T1,AUS,HOU,0836,0921

Arrival time = 0811 =  $(8 * 60) + 11 = 491$  minutes since midnight

minimum departure time =  $491 + 25$  minutes = 516 minutes since midnight

$516 \div 60 = 8$

$516 \bmod 60 = 36$

minimum departure time = 0836

### Aircraft Repositioning for the Next Day

The schedule must start and end with the number of aircraft at an airport equal to the number of gates. It does not matter which specific tail number as all aircraft are configured the same, interchangeable, and may fly any route.

### Restrictions on the Number of Aircraft on the Ground at an Airport at the Same Time

No airport may ever have more aircraft on the ground than the number of gates. An aircraft is considered on the ground from the arrival time (inclusive) until departure time (inclusive).

example:

T1,DAL,AUS,0721,0811

T1,AUS,HOU,0836,0921

In this example, T1 is on the ground in AUS from 0811 (inclusive) until 0836 (inclusive)

Since AUS has 1 gate, no aircraft can land with an arrival time during this period

A prior flight with a departure time of 0810 is permitted

A prior flight with a departure time of 0811 is not permitted

Another flight with an arrival time of 0836 is not permitted

Another flight with an arrival time of 0837 is permitted

### Optimization Goals

Our optimization goals are to maximize the number of flights, utilize aircraft as evenly as possible, and utilize gates at airports as evenly as possible, and distribute flights among all 6 markets

### Python Program

You will write a single file Python program. The input data from the charts above may be hard coded into Python data structures. No input files will be required. The program must run successfully and create an output file `flight_schedule.csv`.

### Format of the `flight_schedule.csv` output file

The `flight_schedule.csv` file should be created in the local directory. Do not use any directory path.

Below is an example of a snippet of a `flight_schedule.csv` file. Note there are no spaces and no enclosure quotation marks. All tail numbers and airport codes should be in upper case only. Times should be printed in military time and always 4 digits. It should be sorted in the following order: `tail_number`, then within `tail_number` by `departure_time`.

```
tail_number,origin,destination,departure_time,arrival_time
T1,DAL,AUS,0600,0650
T1,AUS,HOU,0715,0800
T2,DAL,HOU,0600,0705
T2,HOU,DAL,0740,0845
```