

The task-scheduling problem

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Introduction

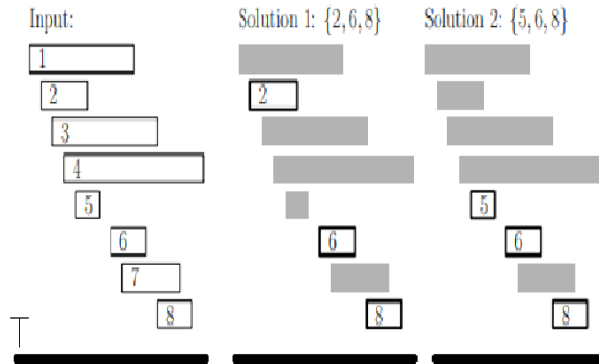
The problem can be solved using 3 sorting methods:

1. Earliest Activity First: Repeatedly select the activity with the earliest start time, provided that it does not overlap any of the previously scheduled activities. Shortest Activity First: Repeatedly select the activity with the smallest duration (fisi), provided that it does not conflict with any previously scheduled activities.
2. Earliest Activity First: Repeatedly select the activity with the earliest start time, provided that it does not overlap any of the previously scheduled activities. Shortest Activity First: Repeatedly select the activity with the smallest duration (fisi), provided that it does not conflict with any previously scheduled activities.
3. Lowest Conflict Activity First: Repeatedly select the activity that conflicts with the smallest number of remaining activities, provided that it does not conflict with any of the previously scheduled activities. (Note that once an activity is selected, all the conflicting activities can be effectively deleted, and this affects the conflict counts for the remaining activities.)

Problem statement

Schedule several competing activities that require exclusive use of a common resource, with a goal of selecting a maximum-size set of mutually compatible activities. Given that an activity has a start time and a finish time two activities are compatible if the intervals between their start and finish times don not overlap. Implement two different algorithms that resolve this problem.

An example of an input and two possible solutions is given in the representation below.



Pseudocode

In the first function we will sort our task from the lowest duration to the highest duration using the bubblesort algorithm. In the second function we will check if the end time of a task overlaps the start time of the next task.

We will use functions which will be called by the main program. Here are the functions used by the program:

```
void bubbleSort( task arr[], int n)
1.
2.   for i <- 0 to n-1 do
3.       for j <- 0 to n-i-1 do
4.           if arr[j].duration > arr[j+1].duration
5.               taskAux.start <- arr[j].start
6.               taskAux.finish <- arr[j].finish
7.               taskAux.duration <- arr[j].duration
8.
9.               arr[j].start <- arr[j+1].start
10.              arr[j].finish <- arr[j+1].finish
11.              arr[j].duration <- arr[j+1].duration
12.
13.              arr[j+1].start = taskAux.start
14.              arr[j+1].finish = taskAux.finish
15.              arr[j+1].duration = taskAux.duration
16.
17.           else if arr[j].duration = arr[j+1].duration
18.
19.               if arr[j].start > arr[j+1].start
20.
21.                   taskAux.start <- arr[j].start
22.                   taskAux.finish <- arr[j].finish
23.                   taskAux.duration <- arr[j].duration
24.
25.                   arr[j].start <- arr[j+1].start;
26.                   arr[j].finish <- arr[j+1].finish
27.                   arr[j].duration <- arr[j+1].duration
28.
29.                   arr[j+1].start <- taskAux.start
30.                   arr[j+1].finish <- taskAux.finish
31.                   arr[j+1].duration <- taskAux.duration
32.
33.
34.
35.
```

```
int sortare( task taskuri[],int n)
1
2   aux <- taskuri[0].finish
3
4   for i <- 0 to n-2 do
5       for j <- i+1 to n-1 do
6
7           if aux <= taskuri[j].start
8
9               k <- k+taskuri[j].duration;
10              aux <- taskuri[j].finish;
11
12              i++;
13
14
15   return k;
```

Application design

Source Code

```
//-----functions.h-----

#ifndef MAIN_H_INCLUDED
#define MAIN_H_INCLUDED

#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

typedef struct{
    int start;
    int finish;
    int duration;
}task;

void bubbleSort( task arr[], int n);
int sortare(task taskuri[],int n);

#endif
```

```
//-----functions.c-----

#include "function.h"
int aux=0;
task taskuri[20],taskAux;
void bubbleSort( task arr[], int n)
{
    int i, j;
    for (i = 0; i < n-1; i++)
        for (j = 0; j < n-i-1; j++)
            if (arr[j].duration > arr[j+1].duration)
            {
                taskAux.start = arr[j].start;
                taskAux.finish=arr[j].finish;
                taskAux.duration=arr[j].duration;

                arr[j].start = arr[j+1].start;
                arr[j].finish = arr[j+1].finish;
                arr[j].duration = arr[j+1].duration;

                arr[j+1].start= taskAux.start;
                arr[j+1].finish= taskAux.finish;
                arr[j+1].duration= taskAux.duration;
            }
            else if(arr[j].duration == arr[j+1].duration)
            {
```

```

        if(arr[j].start > arr[j+1].start)
        {
            taskAux.start = arr[j].start;
            taskAux.finish=arr[j].finish;
            taskAux.duration=arr[j].duration;

            arr[j].start = arr[j+1].start;
            arr[j].finish = arr[j+1].finish;
            arr[j].duration = arr[j+1].duration;

            arr[j+1].start= taskAux.start;
            arr[j+1].finish= taskAux.finish;
            arr[j+1].duration= taskAux.duration;

        }

    }

}

int sortare( task taskuri[],int n)
{
    int i;
    int j;
    int k;

    aux=taskuri[0].finish;
    for(i=0; i<=n-2; i++)
    {
        for(j=i+1; j<=n-1; j++)
        {
            if(aux<=taskuri[j].start)
            {
                k=k+taskuri[j].duration;

                aux=taskuri[j].finish;
                i++;
            }
        }
    }

    return k;
}

```

```

//-----main.c-----

#include "function.h"

int k=1;
int i;
int j;
int number_of_tasks;
int p;
task taskuri[20];

int main()
{
    FILE *myFile;
    myFile = fopen("in.txt", "r");
    int numberArray[1000];
    int i,j;
    int n;
    int t;
    printf("time=");
    scanf("%d",&t);

    if (myFile == NULL)
    {
        printf("Error Reading File\n");
        exit (0);
    }

    fscanf(myFile, "%d,", &numberArray[0]);
    n=numberArray[0];
    j=0;

    for (i = 1; i <= n*2; i++)
    {
        fscanf(myFile, "%d,", &numberArray[i] );
        if(i%2!=0)
        {
            taskuri[j].start=numberArray[i];
        }
        if(i%2==0)
        {
            taskuri[j].finish=numberArray[i];
            j++;
        }
    }

    for (i = 0; i < n; i++)

```

```

    {
        taskuri[i].duration=taskuri[i].finish-taskuri[i].start;
    }

    bubbleSort(taskuri,n);

    for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
    {
        printf("task_%d: start_%d, finish_%d , duration_%d\n\n",
            i,taskuri[i].start,taskuri[i].finish,taskuri[i].duration );
    }

    k=sortare(taskuri,n);
    printf("The maximum duration is:");
    printf("k=%d",k);
    fclose(myFile);

    return 0;
}

```

Experiments and results

Number of tasks is: 8

The first row represents the total number of tasks.

The first column represents the start time of a task.

The second column represents the end time of a task.

```
8
5 10
1 2
1 3
2 4
4 7
6 7
2 5
9 22
```

The duration of each task is calculated by subtracting the end time of the task from the start time of the task

(the duration of each task is represented in the third column)

```
5 10 5
1 2 1
1 3 2
2 4 2
4 7 3
6 7 1
2 5 3
9 22 13
```

The algorithm will start ordering all the tasks by the duration of each task.

```
1 2 1
6 7 1
1 3 2
2 4 2
4 7 3   *
2 5 3   *
5 10 5
9 22 13
```

Now, the algorithm will start ordering each task keeping in mind the duration and the start time of a task

```
1 2 1
6 7 1
1 3 2
2 4 2
2 5 3  *
4 7 3  *
5 10 5
9 22 13
```

Finally the algorithm will print the maximum duration(k):

```
1 2 1
6 7 1
9 22 13
```

$k=1+1+13=15$

References

1) <http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/fall2017/cmsc451-0101/Lects/lect07-greedy-sched.pdf>

2) <https://www.sharelatex.com>

3) <https://stackoverflow.com/questions>

4) <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org>