

Greedy

Consider a set of requests for a room. Only one person can reserve the room at a time, and you want to allow the maximum number of requests.

The requests for periods (s_i, f_i) are:

$(1, 4), (3, 5), (0, 6), (5, 7), (3, 8), (5, 9), (6, 10), (8, 11), (8, 12), (2, 13), (12, 14)$

Which ones should we schedule?

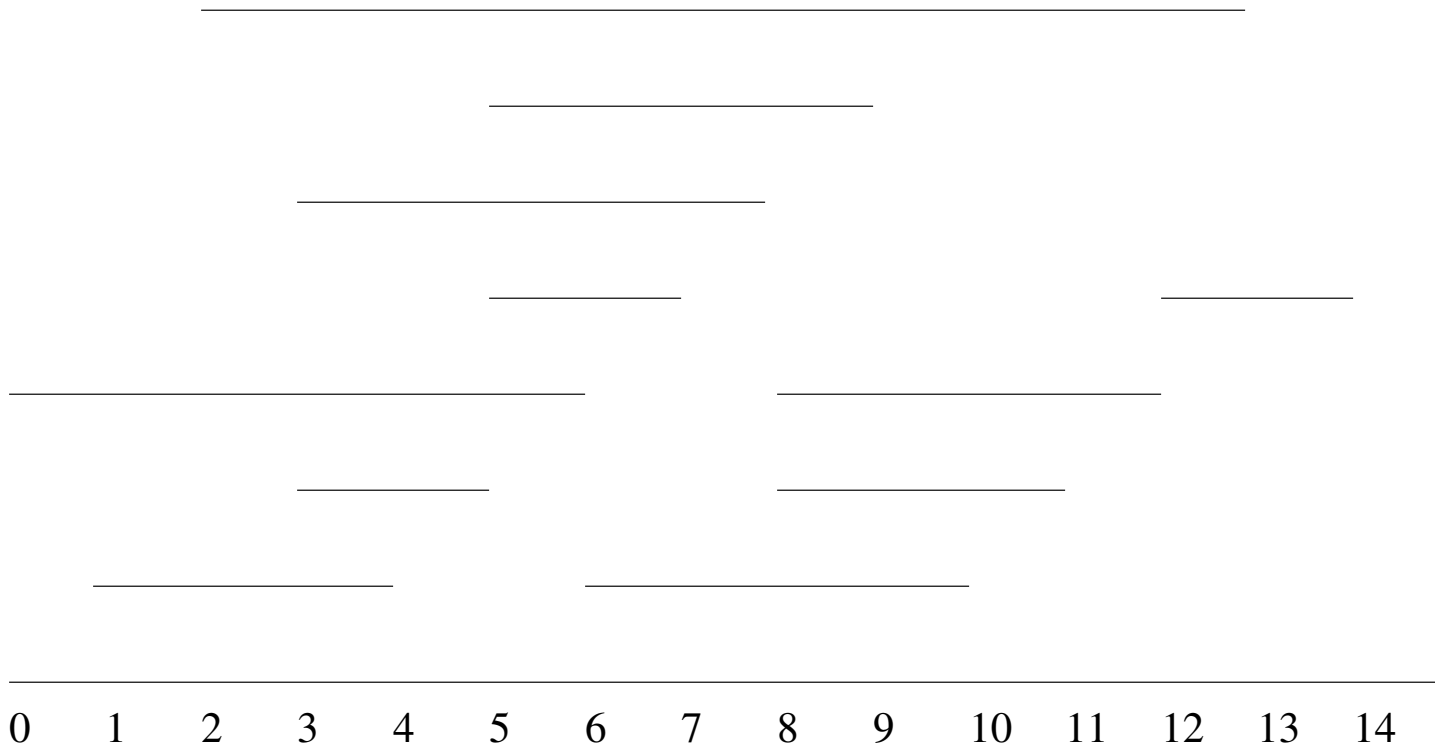
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Code

```
1  Sort by finishing time, renumber with 1 having earliest finishing time
2  Output 1
3   $last = f_1$ 
4  for  $i = 2$  to  $n$ 
5      if ( $s_i \leq last$ )
6          Output  $i$ 
7           $last = f_i$ 
```

Proving a Greedy Algorithm is Optimal

Two components:

1. Optimal substructure
2. **Greedy Choice Property:** There exists an optimal solution that is consistent with the greedy choice made in the first step of the algorithm.

Optimal Substructure

- Let $c[i, j]$ be the number of activities scheduled from time i to time j

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

Greedy Choice

Greedy Choice Property

1. Let S_k be a nonempty subproblem containing the set of activities that finish after activity a_k .
2. Let a_m be an activity in S_k with the earliest finish time.
3. Then a_m is included in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of S_k .

Proof

- Let A_k be a maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities in S_k ,
- let a_j be the activity in A_k with the earliest finish time.
- If $a_j = a_m$, we are done, since we have shown that a_m is in some maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of S_k .
- If $a_j \neq a_m$, let the set $A'_k = A_k - \{a_j\} \cup \{a_m\}$
- The activities in A'_k are disjoint, because
 - the activities in A_k are disjoint,
 - a_j is the first activity in A_k to finish,
 - $f_m \leq f_j$.
- Since $|A'_k| = |A_k|$, we conclude that A'_k is a maximum-size subset of mutually compatible activities of S_k , and it includes a_m .

Procedure for Designing a Greedy Algorithm

1. Identify optimal substructure
2. Cast the problem as a greedy algorithm with the greedy choice property
3. Write a simple iterative algorithm

Robbery

- I want to rob a house and I have a knapsack which holds B pounds of stuff
- I want to fill the knapsack with the most profitable items

item	1	2	3
weight	10	20	30
value	60	100	120
value/weight	6	5	4

Two variants

- **integral knapsack**: Take an item or leave it
- **fractional knapsack**: Can take a fraction of an item (infinitely divisible)

Fractional vs. Integral Knapsack

- Both fractional and integral knapsack have optimal substructure.
- Only fractional knapsack has the greedy choice property.

Fractional Knapsack

Greedy Choice Property: Let j be the item with maximum v_i/w_i . Then there exists an optimal solution in which you take as much of item j as possible.

Proof

- Suppose fpoc, that there exists an optimal solution in you didn't take as much of item j as possible.
- If the knapsack is not full, add some more of item j , and you have a higher value solution. **Contradiction**
- We thus assume the knapsack is full.
- There must exist some item $k \neq j$ with $\frac{v_k}{w_k} < \frac{v_j}{w_j}$ that is in the knapsack.
- We also must have that not all of j is in the knapsack.
- We can therefore take a piece of k , with ϵ weight, out of the knapsack, and put a piece of j with ϵ weight in.
- This increases the knapsacks value by

$$\epsilon \frac{v_j}{w_j} - \epsilon \frac{v_k}{w_k} = \epsilon \left(\frac{v_j}{w_j} - \frac{v_k}{w_k} \right) > 0$$

Contradiction to the original solution being optimal.

Algorithm

1. Sort items by v_j/w_j , renumber.
2. For $i = 1$ to n
 - Add as much of item i as possible

Question Why does this fail for integer knapsack.