

Exercise 3

for a set of real numbers $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$
Greedy solution:

- 1) Sort set in ascending order $x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \dots \leq x_n$
- 2) Allow x_{\min} be the smallest number in the set.
- 3) Place the closed interval at $[x, x+1]$
- 4) Remove all numbers that are not w/in $[x, x+1]$ from the sorted set.
- 5) Repeat steps 2-4 until the set is empty.

Running Time Analysis:

Step	Run Time
(1)	$O(n \log n)$
(2) & (3)	$O(1)$ // returning a number in the set.
(4)	$O(n)$ // list is sorted so it will take $O(n)$ as a whole and $O(1)$ for each element.
Total	$O(n \log n) + O(n) \Rightarrow O(n \log n)$

Proof:

Greedy Choice: One of the optimal solutions will have the first unit-interval that starts at x_{\min} in the set.

Proof: x_{\min} // smallest number

x_{\min} should be covered by at least one of the unit intervals. For example x_{\min} can be covered by $[y, y+1]$ in which $y < x_{\min}$. Since there are clearly no numbers less than x_{\min} , the interval $[y, y+1]$ can be moved to $[x_{\min}, x_{\min}+1]$ without increasing the number of intervals.