

Greedy algorithms

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Correctness:

Theorem

If we have that

- ① *greedy choice is part of an **OPT** solution*
- ② *$SOL = g \cup SOL_{sub}$ is a **feasible** solution*

*then SOL is an **optimal solution** (i.e., greedy alg is correct).*

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- $n = 1$: From (1), **SOL** = g = **OPT**.

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Proof: By induction on the input size:

- $n = k$: Up to size k , GREEDY computes **OPT**.

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Proof: By induction on the input size:

- $n = k + 1$: Because of inductive step, SOL_{sub} is *optimal solution* of the *subproblem* in GREEDY.

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- Condition 2 implies that **OPT** \leq **SOL**

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Observations:

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- Here are two approaches to prove (1):
 - ① Show that GREEDY is always **ahead** (i.e., partial solution built with greedy choices is better than *any* other partial solution, up to the end).
 - ② Show that from *any* OPT solution (where greedy choice g may not be the first one), we can derive another optimal solution OPT' where g is its first choice, performing a series of **exchanges**.