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Greedy Algorithm

— How to justify your greed?

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Outline

MST Revisited

Lecture-Selection Problem and Huffman Encoding Problem

Lecture-Selection Problem

Huffman Encoding Problem

Waiting Customers Problem

Matroid

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MST Revisited

MST revisited:

- ▶ to unify Prim and Kruskal algs
- ▶ to prove greedy algorithm using *loop invariant*

Prim and Kruskal in common:

- ▶ growing the MST one edge at a time
- ▶ adding a *safe* edge each time

Generic MST Algorithm

GENERIC-MST($G = (V, E), w$)

- 1: $X \leftarrow \emptyset$
- 2: **while** $|X| < |V| - 1$ **do**
- 3: find a *safe* edge e
- 4: $X \leftarrow X \cup e$
- 5: **end while**
- 6: **return** X

Correctness Proof

Definition (Loop Invariant)

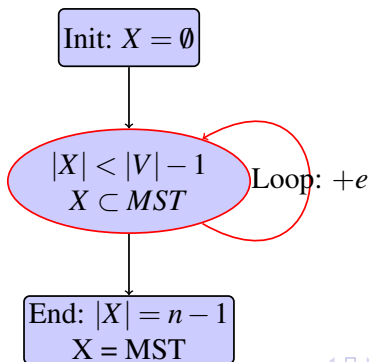
X is always a subset of some MST of G .

Correctness Proof

Definition (Loop Invariant)

X is always a subset of some MST of G .

Correctness of MST.



Cut Property

Theorem (Cut Property)

If X is a subset of some MST T of $G = (V, E)$,

then, $X \cup e$ is a subset of some MST T' of G .

Cut Property

Theorem (Cut Property)

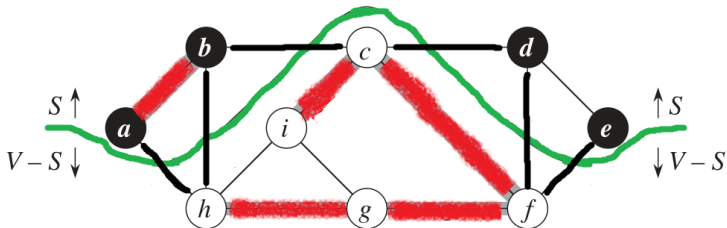
If X is a subset of some MST T of $G = (V, E)$,

choice of e :

- ▶ partition V into a cut $(S, V - S)$ such that no edge in X crosses $(S, V - S)$
- ▶ e is the lightest edge across $(S, V - S)$

then, $X \cup e$ is a subset of some MST T' of G .

Cut Property



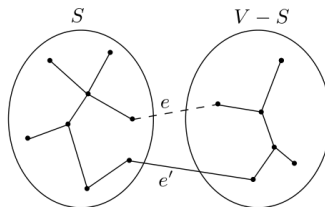
Cut Property

Correctness of Cut Property.

Given $X \subset T$ (T is some MST), $+e$

► $e \in T$, done.

► $e \notin T$, Exchange Argument: $T' = T \cup \{e\} - \{e'\}$



- T' is a tree (connected, $n - 1$ edges)
- $w(T') = w(T) - w(e) + w(e') \leq w(T) \Rightarrow w(T') = w(T)$

MST Revisited

Unify Prim & Kruskal algorithms:

Prim: partition between growing tree and other trivial trees

Kruskal: partition between trees in forest

MST Revisited

Unify Prim & Kruskal algorithms:

Prim: partition between growing tree and other trivial trees

Kruskal: partition between trees in forest

Summary: Using **loop invariant** to prove the correctness of greedy algorithms.

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Outline

MST Revisited

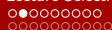
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Lecture-Selection

Problem (Lecture-Selection)

n lectures $L = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n\}$ in one day:

- ▶ $L_i : (s_i, f_i)$
- ▶ L_i, L_j are compatible (o.w., conflicting) if:

$$s_j > f_i \vee s_i > f_j$$

- ▶ Goal: To listen to as many *mutually compatible* lectures as possible.



Heuristic Lecture-Selection

Trial & Error:

- ▶ earliest-started lecture first





Heuristic Lecture-Selection

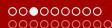
Trial & Error:

- ▶ earliest-started lecture first



- ▶ shortest lecture first





Heuristic Lecture-Selection

Trial & Error:

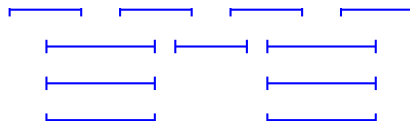
- ▶ earliest-started lecture first



- ▶ shortest lecture first

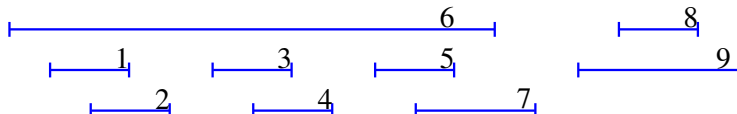


- ▶ fewest conflict lecture first



Earliest-Finished Lecture First

Example (Earliest-Finished Lecture First)



It is recursive:

$$L = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n\} \text{ sorted by } f_i$$

choose $f = L_1$

$$L' = \{L'_1, L'_2, \dots\}$$



Correctness Proof

Induction on n :

- ▶ B.S.: $n = 1$, trivial.
- ▶ I.H.: $< n$ (*strong induction*)
- ▶ I.S.: $= n$



Correctness Proof

Induction on n :

- ▶ B.S.: $n = 1$, trivial.
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Lemma (I.S.)

$$L = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n\} \text{ sorted by } f_i,$$

choose $f = L_1$

$$L' = \{L'_1, L'_2, \dots\}.$$

Given (I.H.): X' is optimal to L' ,

To prove: $X = X' \cup \{f\}$ is optimal to L .



Correctness Proof

I.S.: Proof by Contradiction.

$L = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n\}$ sorted by f_i , $\boxed{f = L_1}$ $L' = \{L'_1, L'_2, \dots\}$.

$$(X, L) \xrightarrow{\text{choose } f = L_1} (X', L')$$

(X'', L)

(X''', L')



Correctness Proof

I.S.: Proof by Contradiction.

$L = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n\}$ sorted by f_i , $\boxed{f = L_1}$ $L' = \{L'_1, L'_2, \dots\}$.

$$(X, L) \xleftrightarrow[\text{choose } f = L_1]{X \leftarrow_{+f} X'} (X', L')$$

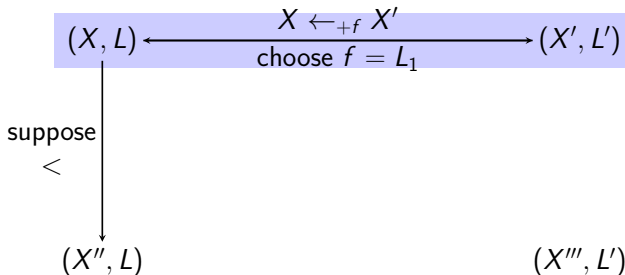
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Correctness Proof

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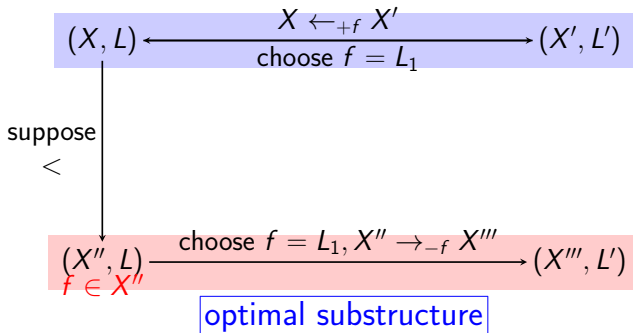
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Correctness Proof

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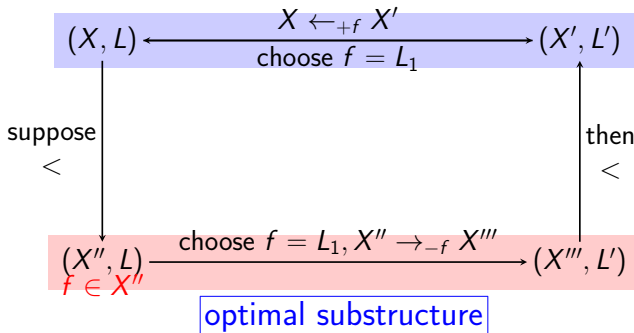
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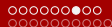


Correctness Proof

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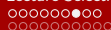




Correctness Proof

Lemma (Optimal Substructure)

Suppose X is optimal to L , $f \in X$, L 's subproblem is L' ,
then, X contains X' which is *optimal* to L' .

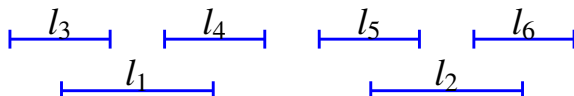


Correctness Proof

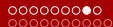
Lemma (Optimal Substructure)

Suppose X is optimal to L , $f \in X$, L 's subproblem is L' ,
 then, X contains X' which is optimal to L' .

Condition: $f \in X$ is optimal



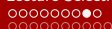
- ▶ $l_1 \in X = \{l_1, l_2\}$ is not optimal.
- ▶ X does not contain the optimal solution to (l_2, l_5, l_6) .



Correctness Proof

Lemma (Greedy Choice)

*There exists optimal solution **containing** f to L .*



Correctness Proof

Lemma (Greedy Choice)

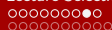
*There exists optimal solution **containing** f to L .*

Proof.

Let O be any optimal solution to L .

- ▶ $f \in O$, done.
- ▶ $f \notin O$.
 - ▶ $g \leftarrow$ the earliest-finished lecture in O





Correctness Proof

Lemma (Greedy Choice)

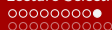
There exists optimal solution *containing* f to L .

Proof.

Let O be any optimal solution to L .

- ▶ $f \in O$, done.
- ▶ $f \notin O$.
 - ▶ $g \leftarrow$ the earliest-finished lecture in O
 - ▶ Exchange Argument: $O' = O - \{g\} \cup \{f\}$





Lecture-Selection

Prove the correctness of greedy algorithms:

- ▶ apply **Greedy Choice** and **Optimal Substructure** in mathematical induction;
- ▶ apply **Exchange Argument** in **Greedy Choice**



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Huffman Encoding

Problem (Huffman 01 Encoding (1))

- ▶ *characters* $C[1 \dots n]$; *frequencies* $F[1 \dots n]$



Huffman Encoding

Problem (Huffman 01 Encoding (1))

- *characters* $C[1 \dots n]$; *frequencies* $F[1 \dots n]$

This sentence contains three a's, three c's, two d's, twenty-six e's, five f's, three g's, eight h's, thirteen i's, two l's, sixteen n's, nine o's, six r's, twenty-seven s's, twenty-two t's, two u's, five v's, eight w's, four x's, five y's, and only one z.

Huffman Encoding

Problem (Huffman 01 Encoding (1))

- *characters* $C[1 \dots n]$; *frequencies* $F[1 \dots n]$

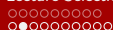
a	b	c	d	e	f
45	13	12	16	9	5

Huffman Encoding

Problem (Huffman 01 Encoding (1))

- ▶ *characters $C[1 \dots n]$; frequencies $F[1 \dots n]$*
- ▶ *fixed length code*

a	b	c	d	e	f
45	13	12	16	9	5
000	001	010	011	100	101



Huffman Encoding

Problem (Huffman 01 Encoding (1))

- ▶ characters $C[1 \dots n]$; frequencies $F[1 \dots n]$
- ▶ fixed length code
- ▶ variable length code
 - ▶ Morse code (e.g., SOS)
 - ▶ **prefix code**: no code is a prefix of some other code

a	b	c	d	e	f
45	13	12	16	9	5
000	001	010	011	100	101

Huffman Encoding

Problem (Huffman 01 Encoding (1))

- ▶ characters $C[1 \dots n]$; frequencies $F[1 \dots n]$
- ▶ fixed length code
- ▶ variable length code
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 - ▶ **prefix code**: no code is a prefix of some other code

a	b	c	d	e	f
45	13	12	16	9	5
000	001	010	011	100	101
0	101	100	111	1101	1100



Huffman Encoding

Problem (Huffman 01 Encoding (2))

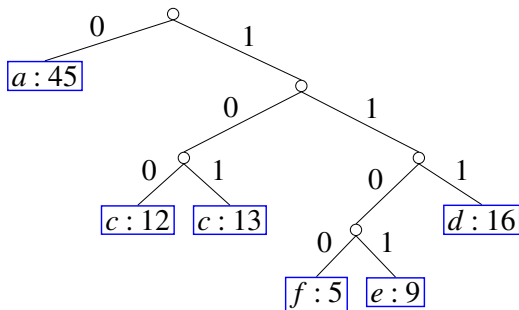
E : *binary prefix code*

$$L(E) = \sum_{c \in C} f_c \cdot l_E(c), \quad L = \min_E L(E)$$

Binary Prefix Code

Representation of binary prefix code by *full* binary tree

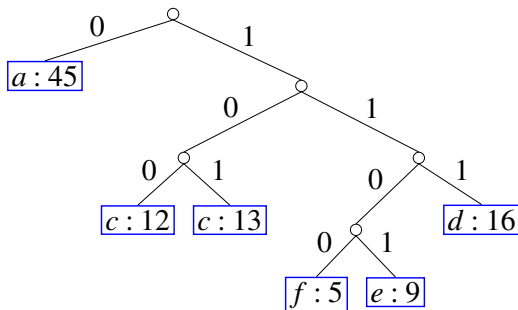
a	0
b	101
c	100
d	111
e	1101
f	1100



Binary Prefix Code

Representation of binary prefix code by *full* binary tree

a	0
b	101
c	100
d	111
e	1101
f	1100



$$L(T) = \sum_{c \in C} f(c) \cdot d_T(c) \quad L = \min_T L(T)$$



Huffman Encoding Algorithm

It is recursive:

$$C[1 \dots n], F[1 \dots n],$$

$$f_{n+1} = f_1 + f_2 \text{ as lowest siblings}$$

$$C'[3 \dots n+1], F'[3, \dots n+1]$$



Correctness Proof

Induction on $n = |C|$:

- ▶ B.S.: $n = 1, 2$, trivial.
- ▶ I.H.: $< n$
- ▶ I.S.: $= n$

Lemma (I.S.)

$C[1 \dots n], F[1 \dots n], \boxed{f_{n+1} = f_1 + f_2}, C'[3 \dots n+1], F'[3, \dots n+1]$.

Given (I.H.): T' is optimal for C', F' ,

To prove: $T' + \{f_1, f_2\}$ is optimal for C, F .



Correctness Proof

I.S.: Proof by Contradiction.

$C[1 \dots n], F[1 \dots n], \boxed{f_{n+1} = f_1 + f_2}, C'[3 \dots n+1], F'[3, \dots n+1].$

$$(T, C, F) \xrightarrow{\text{choose } f = f_1 + f_2} (T', C', F')$$

(T'', C, F)

(T''', C', F')



Correctness Proof

I.S.: Proof by Contradiction.

$C[1 \dots n], F[1 \dots n], \boxed{f_{n+1} = f_1 + f_2}, C'[3 \dots n+1], F'[3, \dots n+1].$

$$(T, C, F) \xleftrightarrow[\text{unfold } T \leftarrow_{f_1, f_2} T']{\text{choose } f = f_1 + f_2} (T', C', F')$$

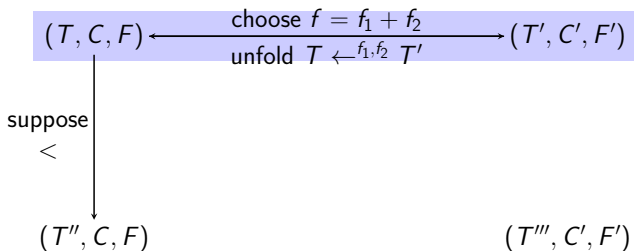
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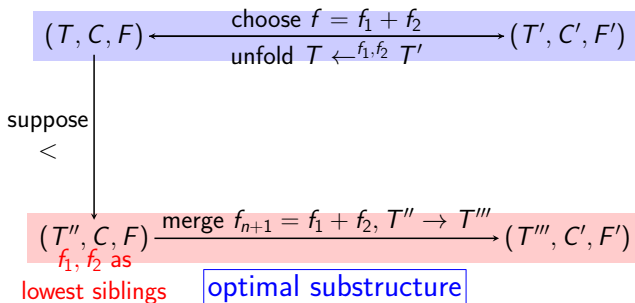
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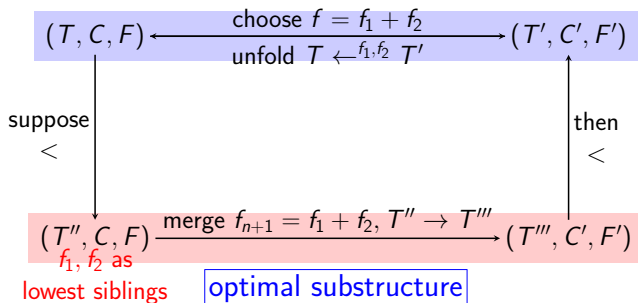
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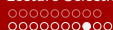


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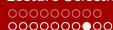


Correctness Proof

Merge $(T \rightarrow T'; T'' \rightarrow T''')$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(T) &= \sum_{i=1}^n f(i) d_T(c_i) \\
 &= L(T') - f_{n+1} \cdot d_{T'}(c_{n+1}) + f_1 \cdot d_T(c_1) + f_1 \cdot d_T(c_1) \\
 &= L(T') - (f_1 + f_2) \cdot (d_T(c_1) - 1) + (f_1 + f_2) \cdot d_T(c_1) \\
 &= L(T') + f_1 + f_2.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$L(T'') = L(T''') + f_1 + f_2$$



Correctness Proof

Merge $(T \rightarrow T'; T'' \rightarrow T''')$:

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 \end{aligned}$$

$$L(T'') = L(T''') + f_1 + f_2$$

$$L(T''') = L(T'') - f_1 - f_2 < L(T) - f_1 - f_2 = L(T')$$



Correctness Proof

Lemma (Greedy Choice)

Let x, y be two least frequent characters of (C, F) ,
There **exists** optimal code tree *with x, y as lowest siblings*.

Proof.

Let T be **any** optimal code tree.

- ▶ with x, y as lowest siblings, done.



Correctness Proof

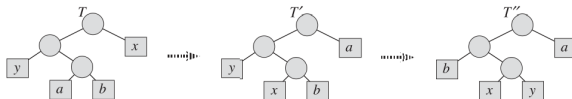
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 There **exists** optimal code tree *with x, y as lowest siblings*.

Proof.

Let T be **any** optimal code tree.

- ▶ with x, y as lowest siblings, done.
- ▶ o.w., **Exchange Argument: $T \Rightarrow T' \Rightarrow T'' (a \Leftrightarrow x, b \Leftrightarrow y)$**



$$f(x) \leq f(a), f(y) \leq f(b) \Rightarrow L(T'') \leq L(T') \leq L(T)$$

T'' is optimal to (C, F) with x, y as lowest siblings.



Huffman Encoding

Prove the correctness of greedy algorithms:

- ▶ apply **Greedy Choice** and **Optimal Substructure** in mathematical induction;
- ▶ apply **Exchange Argument** in **Greedy Choice**

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Waiting Customers

Problem (Waiting Customers (P10))

- ▶ n waiting customers $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k \dots t_n$
- ▶ for k^{th} : $T(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k t_i$
- ▶ to minimize $T = \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^k t_i$

Claim: T is minimized iff t_1, \dots, t_n are in non-decreasing order.

Waiting Customers

Problem (Waiting Customers (P10))

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Claim: T is minimized iff t_1, \dots, t_n are in non-decreasing order.

Prove by Contradiction:

Otherwise, there are, in T two *neighbouring pair* $t_i > t_{i+1}$ and t_i is before t_{i+1} ,

Exchange Argument: swap $t_i \Leftrightarrow t_{i+1}$ to get T' .

Waiting Customers

Problem (Waiting Customers (P10))

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Exchange Argument: swap $t_i \Leftrightarrow t_{i+1}$ to get T' .

$$T' - T = (t_{i+1} + (t_i + t_{i+1})) - (t_i + (t_{i+1} + t_i)) = t_{i+1} - t_i < 0.$$

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Matroid

Matroid: characterize **mathematically** the problems which can be solved by greedy algorithm **in many cases**.

With Matroid:

- ▶ cast your problem in terms of Matroid language
- ▶ Matroid has the **Greedy Choice Property** and the **Optimal Substructure Property**
- ▶ Matroid problem can be solved by greedy algorithm mechanically

[\[Section 16.4 @CLRS\]](#)

Summary

Greedy algorithm — How to justify your greediness?

- ▶ loop invariant
 - ▶ MST, Dijkstra
- ▶ greedy choice + optimal substructure
 - ▶ lecture-selection, Huffman encoding
- ▶ exchange argument
 - ▶ waiting customers
- ▶ Matroid theory