

Domain-Independent Dynamic Programming for Combinatorial Optimization

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This is not a talk about Decision Diagrams

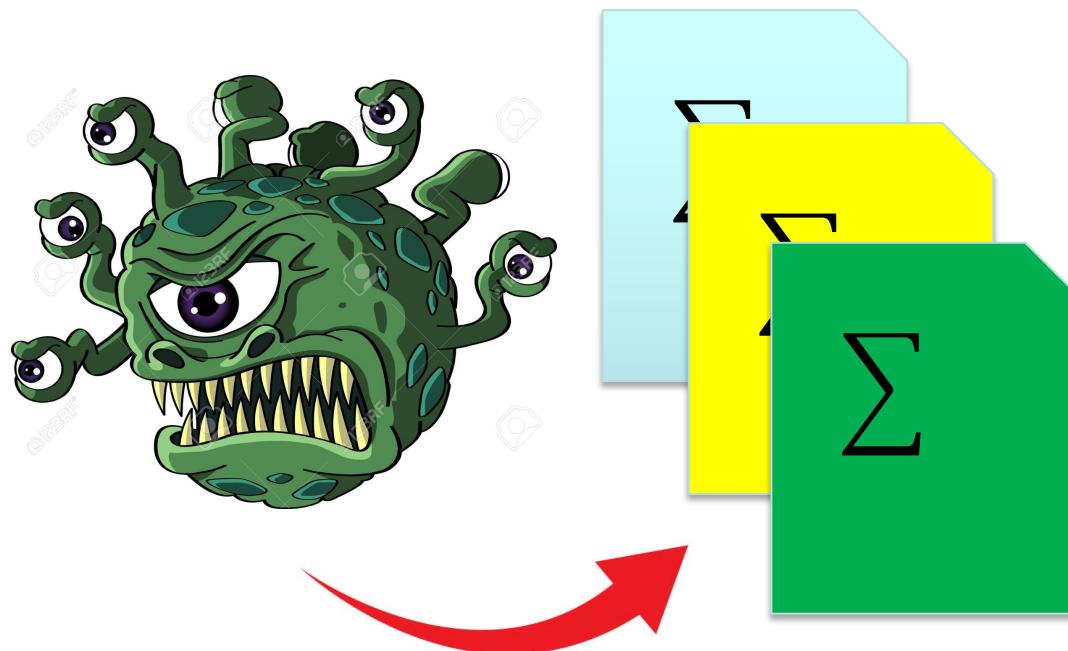
What it is about

1. A language to model combinatorial optimization problems as dynamic programs
2. A solver that solves such problems using heuristic search

Model-and-Solve

Problem

Problem Definition



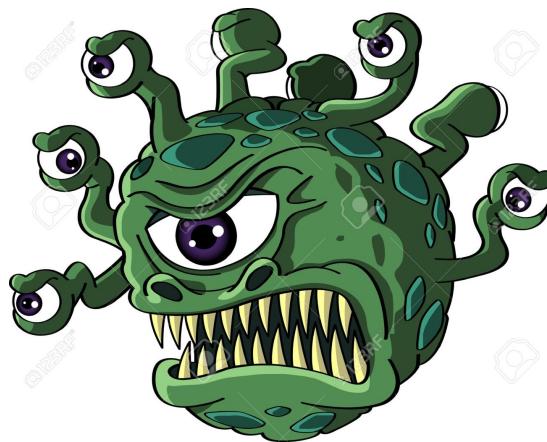
Model-and-Solve

Problem

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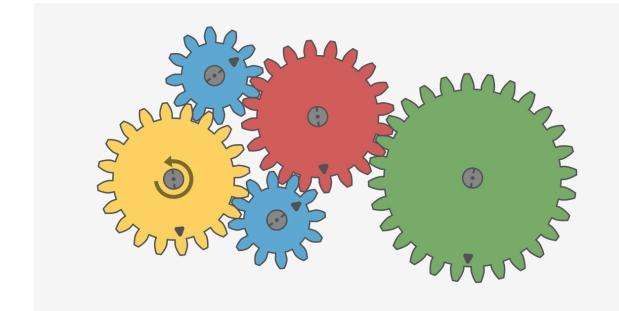
Models

General Purpose
Solver



$$\Sigma$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \min m \\ & \text{s.t. } \text{Pack}(l_{ij} \mid i \in M, l_{ij} \mid j \in N, l_{ij} \mid i \in N) \\ \\ & \min m \\ & \text{s.t. } \text{Pack}(l_{ij} \mid i \in M, l_{ij} \mid j \in N, l_{ij} \mid i \in N) \\ \\ & \min m \\ & \text{s.t. } \text{Pack}(\{y_j \mid j \in M\}, \{x_i \mid i \in N\}, \{t_i \mid i \in N\}) \\ & \quad 0 \leq y_j \leq c \quad \forall j \in M \\ & \quad e_i - 1 \leq x_i \leq m - 1 - l_i \quad \forall i \in N \\ & \quad x_i + d_{ij} \leq x_j \quad \forall j \in N, \forall i \in \tilde{P}_j \\ & \quad \exists k \in \tilde{S}_i \cap \tilde{P}_j : d_{ij} \leq d_{ik} + d_{kj} \\ & \quad m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ & \quad y_j \in \mathbb{Z} \\ & \quad x_i \in \mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$



CP, LP, MIP, MINLP,
AI Planning, ...

A Solution!

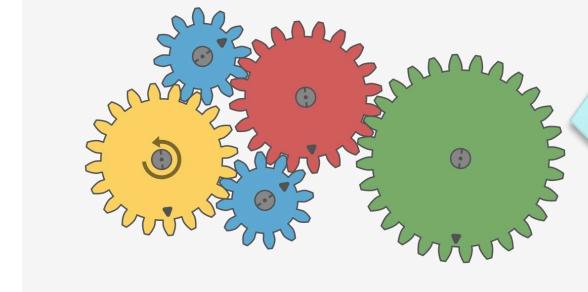
Model-and-Solve for DP

- Domain-independent dynamic programming (DIDP)

Define models
using DP
transition
system

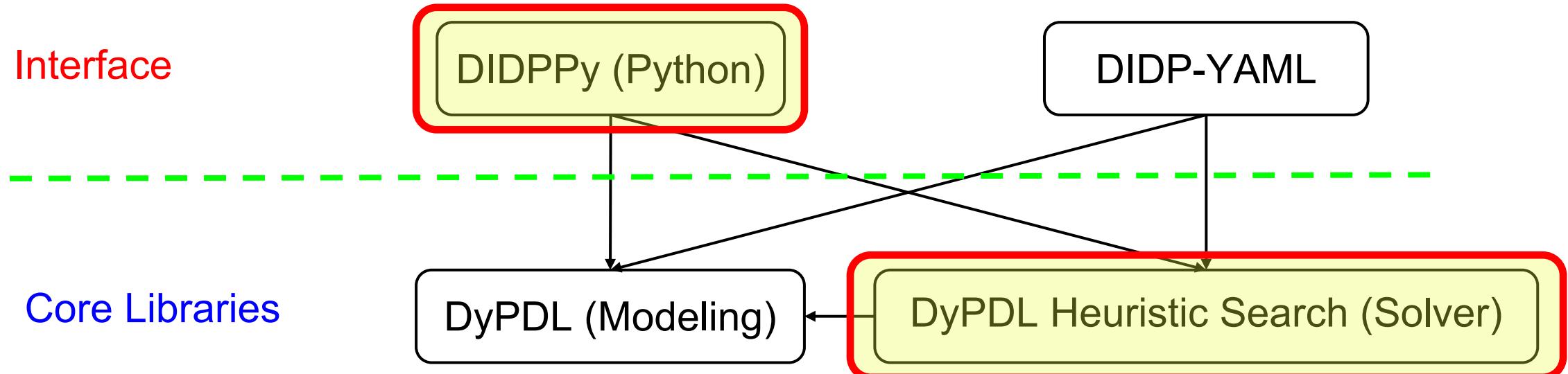
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 \end{aligned}$$

Solve models
using heuristic
state-based
search



Open Source Software: didp-rs

<https://github.com/domain-independent-dp/didp-rs>



Implemented in Rust

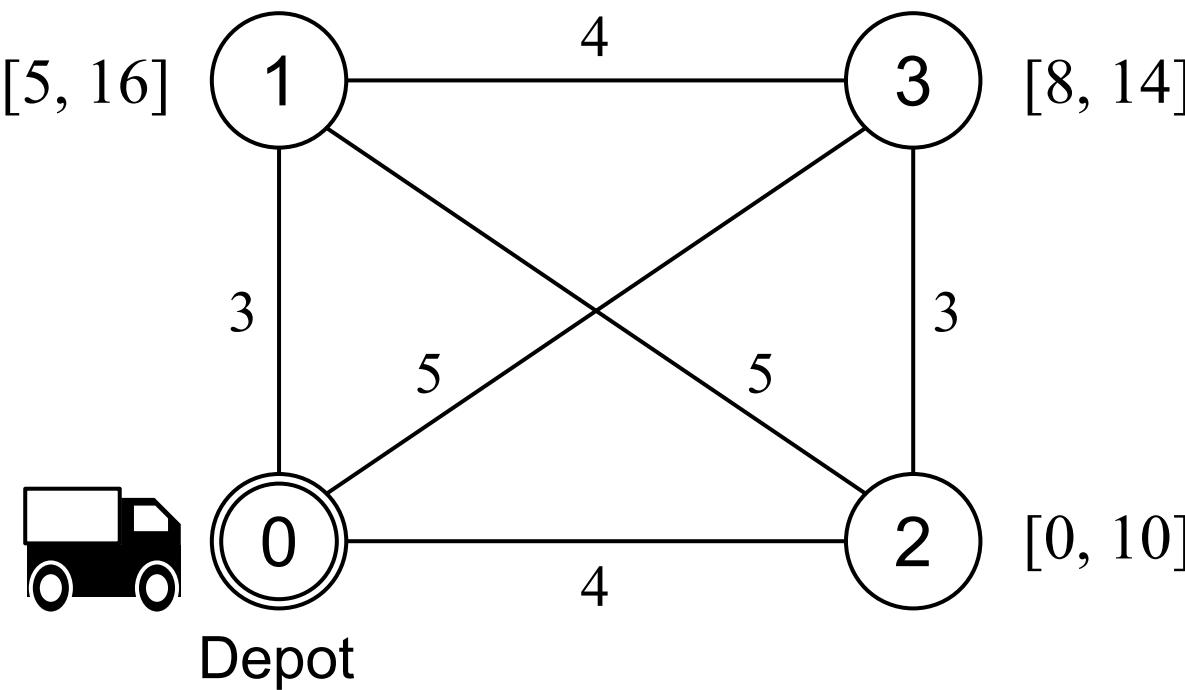


Outline

1. Background
2. Our Modeling Interface: DIDPPy
3. Solving DIDP
4. Anytime DIDP Solvers
5. Ongoing & Future Work

Combinatorial Optimization

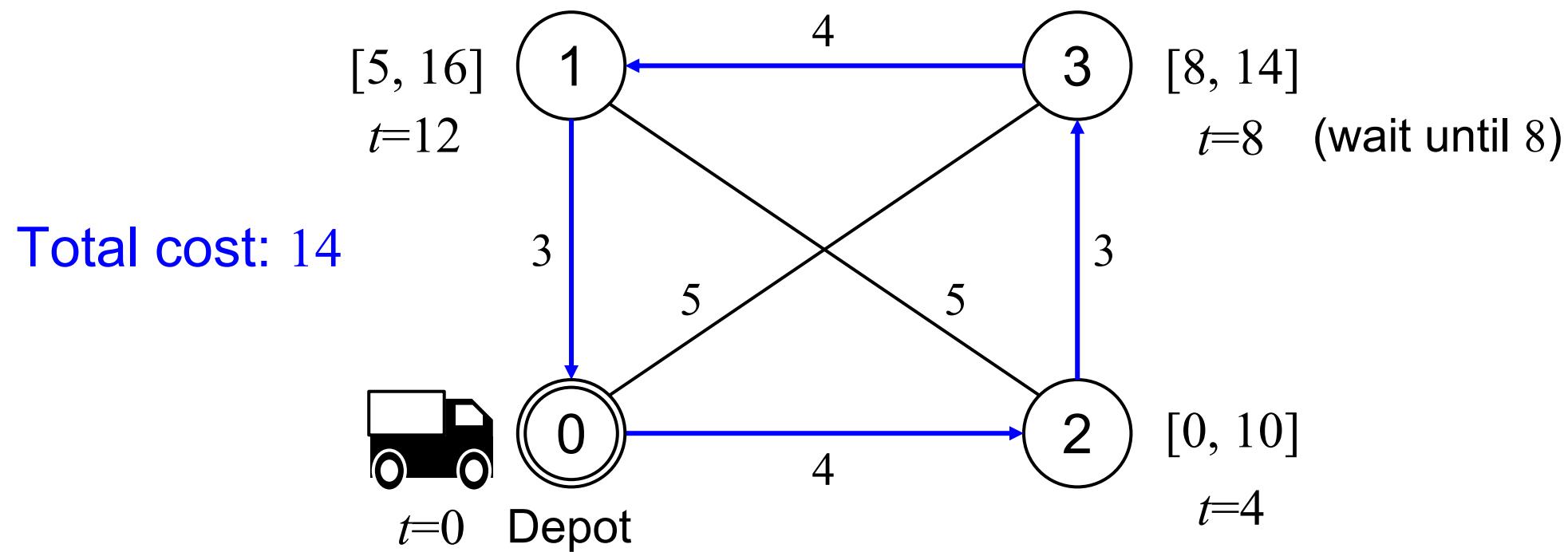
Traveling Salesperson Problem with Time Windows (TSPTW)
Minimize the travel time to visit all customers within time windows



Combinatorial Optimization

Traveling Salesperson Problem with Time Windows (TSPTW)

Minimize the travel time to visit all customers within time windows



DP for Combinatorial Optimization

Recursive equations for the value function of a state (subproblem)

compute $V(N \setminus \{0\}, 0, 0)$

$$V(U, i, t) = \begin{cases} \min_{j \in U: t + c_{ij} \leq b_j} c_{ij} + V(U \setminus \{j\}, j, \max\{t + c_{ij}, a_j\}) & \text{if } U \neq \emptyset \\ c_{i0} + V(\emptyset, 0, t + c_{i0}) & \text{else if } i \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Visit a customer
Return to the depot
Base case

State variables:

- U : unvisited customers
- i : current customer
- t : current time

Constants

- N : all customers (0: depot)
- $[a_i, b_i]$: time window for customer i
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DP usually solved by problem-specific algorithm implementations

Our Modeling Interface: DIDPPy

Constants and State Variables

```
import didppy as dp

model = dp.Model(maximize=False)

customer = model.add_object_type(number=4)
a = [0, 5, 0, 8]
b = [100, 16, 10, 14]
c = model.add_int_table([[0, 3, 4, 5], [3, 0, 5, 4], [4, 5, 0, 3], [5, 4, 3, 0]])

u = model.add_set_var(object_type=customer, target=[1, 2, 3])
i = model.add_element_var(object_type=customer, target=0)
t = model.add_int_var(target=0)
```

Constants and State Variables

```
import didppy as dp    Module

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```

Constants and State Variables

```
import didppy as dp

model = dp.Model(maximize=False)    Model (minimization)

customer = model.add_object_type(number=4)
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Constants and State Variables

```
import didppy as dp

model = dp.Model(maximize=False)

    Constants
customer = model.add_object_type(number=4) Customers       $N = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ 
a = [0, 5, 0, 8] Ready time       $a_i$ 
b = [100, 16, 10, 14] Deadline       $b_i$ 
c = model.add_int_table([[0, 3, 4, 5], [3, 0, 5, 4], [4, 5, 0, 3], [5, 4, 3, 0]])
```

Travel time c_{ij}

```
u = model.add_set_var(object_type=customer, target=[1, 2, 3])
i = model.add_element_var(object_type=customer, target=0)
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```

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To use state variable i for indexing

u = model.add_set_var(object_type=customer, target=[1, 2, 3])
i = model.add_element_var(object_type=customer, target=0)
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```

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```

State variables

```
u = model.add_set_var(object_type=customer, target=[1, 2, 3])
i = model.add_element_var(object_type=customer, target=0)
t = model.add_int_var(target=0)
```

Unvisited	$U \subseteq N$
Current	$i \in N$
Time	$t \in \mathbb{Z}$

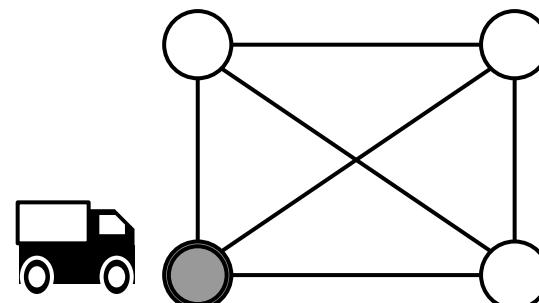
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b = [100, 16, 10, 14]
c = model.add_int_table([[0, 3, 4, 5], [3, 0, 5, 4], [4, 5, 0, 3], [5, 4, 3, 0]])

u = model.add_set_var(object_type=customer, target=[1, 2, 3])      Target state
i = model.add_element_var(object_type=customer, target=0)           compute  $V(N \setminus \{0\}, 0, 0)$ 
t = model.add_int_var(target=0)
```



Questions?

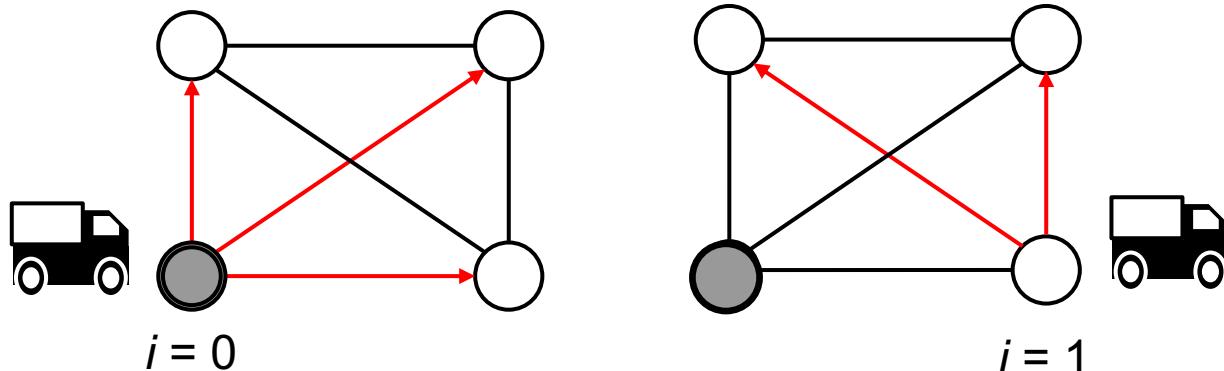
Recursive Equation as Transitions

```
for j in range(1, 4):          
$$V(U, i, t) = \min_{j \in U : t + c_{ij} \leq b_j} c_{ij} + V(U \setminus \{j\}, j, \max\{t + c_{ij}, a_j\})$$

    visit = dp.Transition(
        name="visit {}".format(j),
        cost=c[i, j] + dp.IntExpr.state_cost(),
        effects=[(u, u.remove(j)), (i, j), (t, dp.max(t + c[i, j], a[j]))],
        preconditions=[u.contains(j), t + c[i, j] <= b[j]],
    )
    model.add_transition(visit)
```

Recursive Equation as Transitions

```
for j in range(1, 4):           $V(U, i, t) = \min_{j \in U : t + c_{ij} \leq b_j} c_{ij} + V(U \setminus \{j\}, j, \max\{t + c_{ij}, a_j\})$ 
    visit = dp.Transition(
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        effects=[(u, u.remove(j)), (i, j), (t, dp.max(t + c[i, j], a[j]))],
        preconditions=[u.contains(j), t + c[i, j] <= b[j]],
    )
    model.add_transition(visit)
```



... for each value of $i \in N$

Recursive Equation as Transitions

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for j in range(1, 4):      
$$V(U, i, t) = \min_{j \in U : t + c_{ij} \leq b_j} c_{ij} + V(U \setminus \{j\}, j, \max\{t + c_{ij}, a_j\})$$

    visit = dp.Transition(
        name="visit {}".format(j),
        cost=c[i, j] + dp.IntExpr.state_cost(), How to compute the next state
        effects=[(u, u.remove(j)), (i, j), (t, dp.max(t + c[i, j], a[j]))],
        preconditions=[u.contains(j), t + c[i, j] <= b[j]],
    )
    model.add_transition(visit)
```

Recursive Equation as Transitions

```
for j in range(1, 4):          
$$V(U, i, t) = \min_{j \in U : t + c_{ij} \leq b_j} c_{ij} + V(U \setminus \{j\}, j, \max\{t + c_{ij}, a_j\})$$

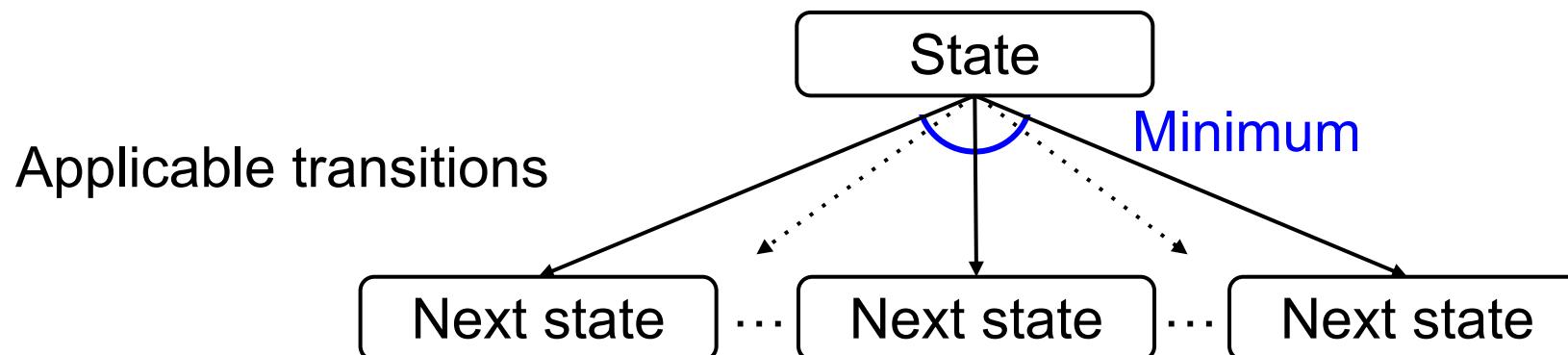
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        preconditions=[u.contains(j), t + c[i, j] <= b[j]],
    )
    model.add_transition(visit)
```

When the transition is applicable

Recursive Equation as Transitions

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for j in range(1, 4):      
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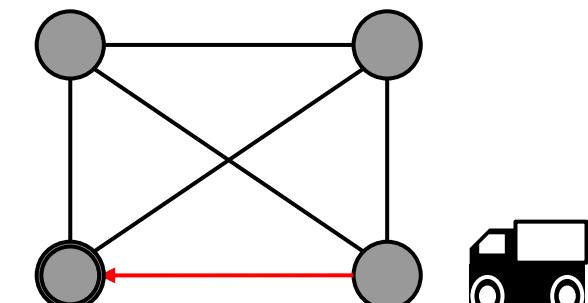
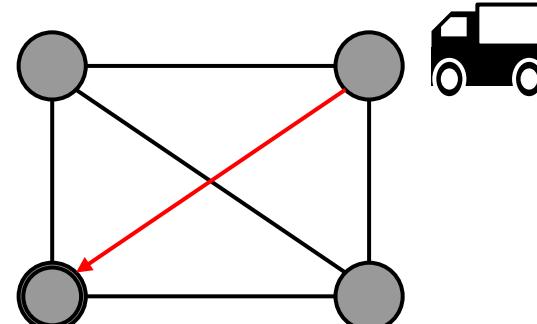
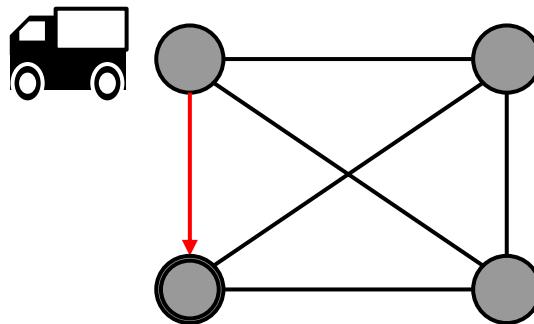
    visit = dp.Transition(
        name="visit {}".format(j),
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        effects=[(u, u.remove(j)), (i, j), (t, dp.max(t + c[i, j], a[j]))],
        preconditions=[u.contains(j), t + c[i, j] <= b[j]],
    )
    model.add_transition(visit)
```



Value of the current state: minimum cost over all applicable transitions
(infinity if no applicable transitions)

Recursive Equation as Transitions

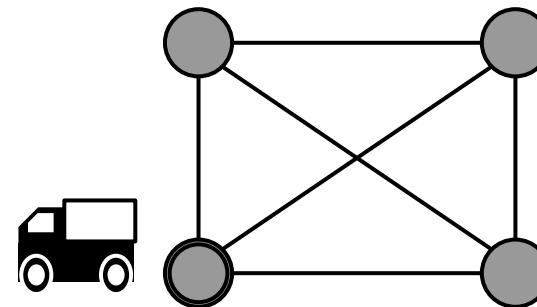
```
return_to_depot = dp.Transition(       $V(U, i, t) = c_{i0} + V(\emptyset, 0, t + c_{i0}) \quad \text{if } U = \emptyset \wedge i \neq 0$ 
    name="return",
    cost=c[i, 0] + dp.IntExpr.state_cost(),
    effects=[(i, 0), (t, t + c[i, 0])],
    preconditions=[u.is_empty(), i != 0],
)
model.add_transition(return_to_depot)
```



Base Cases: When to Stop Recursion

```
model.add_base_case([u.is_empty(), i == 0], cost=0)  $V(U, i, t) = 0 \quad \text{if } U = \emptyset \wedge i = 0$ 
```

End of recursion on V



Better Model with Redundant Information

Explicitly modeling implications of the problem definition
(similar to redundant constraints in MIP)

Dominance based on **resource variables** $V(U, i, t) \leq V(U, i, t')$ if $t \leq t'$

```
t = model.add_int_resource_var(target=0, less_is_better=True)
```

Dual bound function (LB in minimization) $V(U, i, t) \geq 0$

```
model.add_dual_bound(0)
```

A dual bound is defined for a state

Other features not detailed here:

- State constraints: conditions that a state must satisfy
- Forced transitions: sometimes transition can be inferred

Solving DIDP

Solving

```
solver = dp.CABS(model)
solution = solver.search()

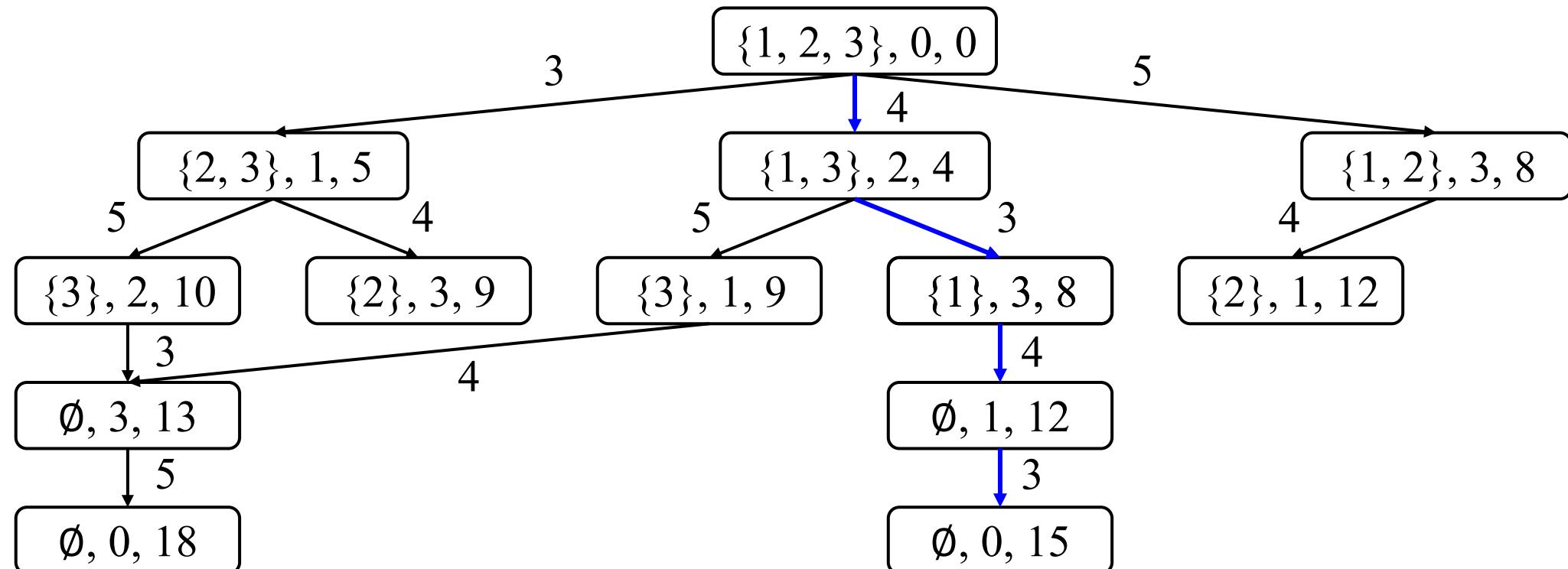
if solution.is_optimal:
    print("Optimal cost: {}".format(solution.cost))
elif solution.is_feasible:
    print("Infeasible")
else:
    print("Best cost: {}".format(solution.cost))
    print("Best bound: {}".format(solution.best_bound))

print("Solution:")

for transition in solution.transitions:
    print(transition.name)
```

DP as a Shortest Path Problem

- Optimal solution: the shortest path in a state space graph
- Nodes: states, edges: transitions, weights: travel times



CAASDy: Prototype Solver for DIDP

- Solves DP as a shortest path problem with A* search
- A* searches in the order of f (path cost + dual bound of a state)

$\{1, 2, 3\}, 0, 0$

CAASDy: Prototype Solver for DIDP

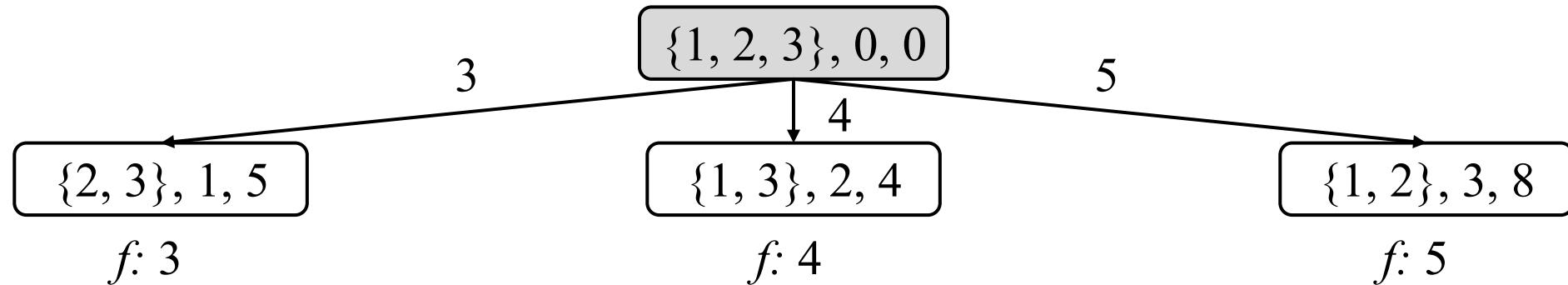
- Solves DP as a shortest path problem with A* search
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$\{1, 2, 3\}, 0, 0$

$$V(U, i, t) \geq 0 \quad f: 0$$

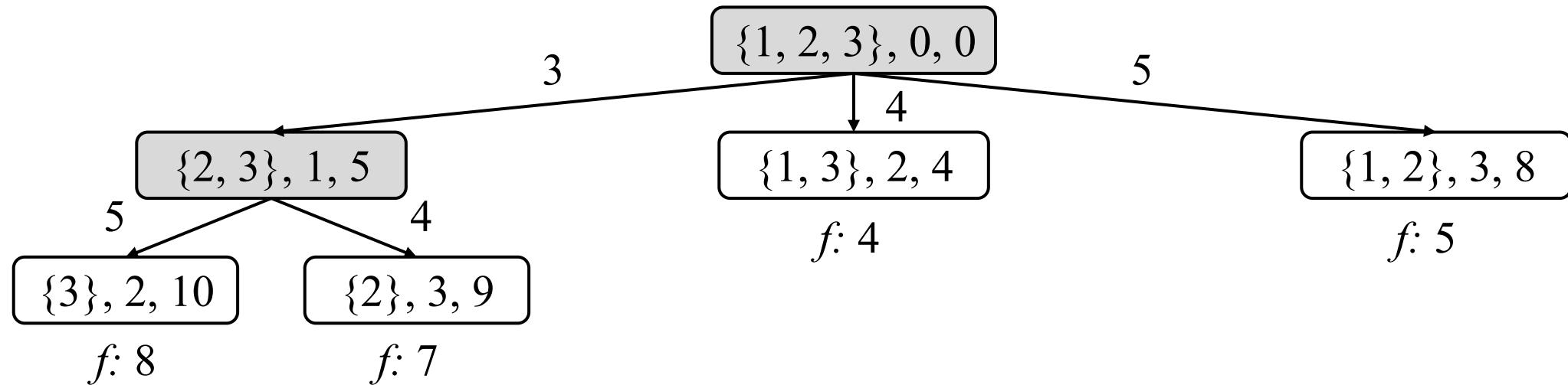
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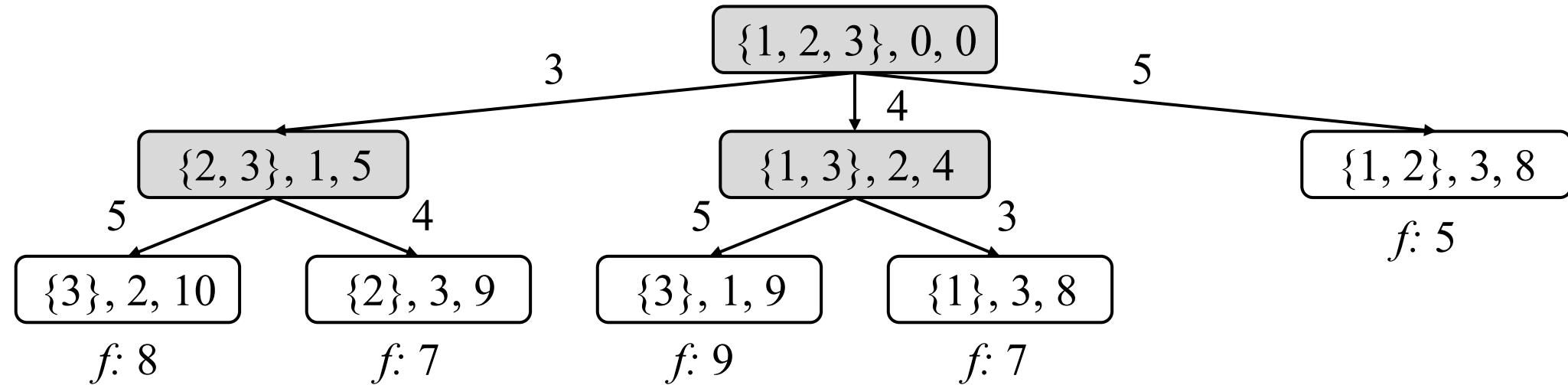
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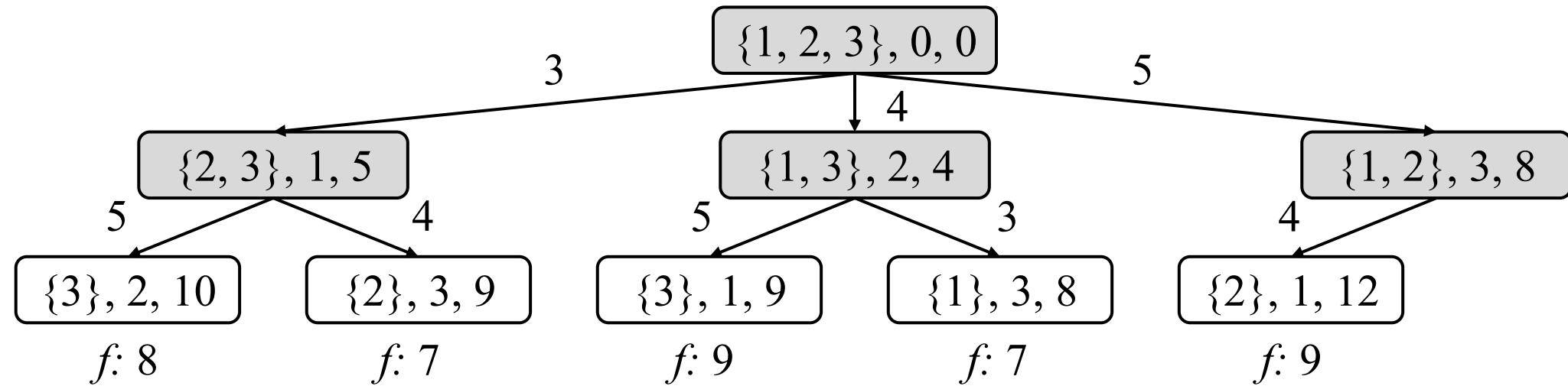
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- A* searches in the order of f (path cost + dual bound of a state)



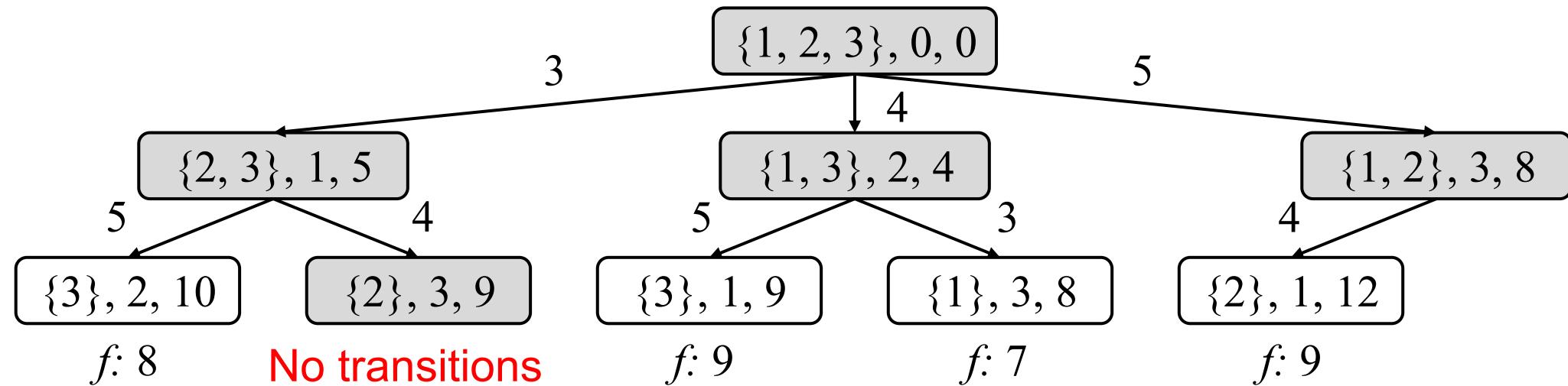
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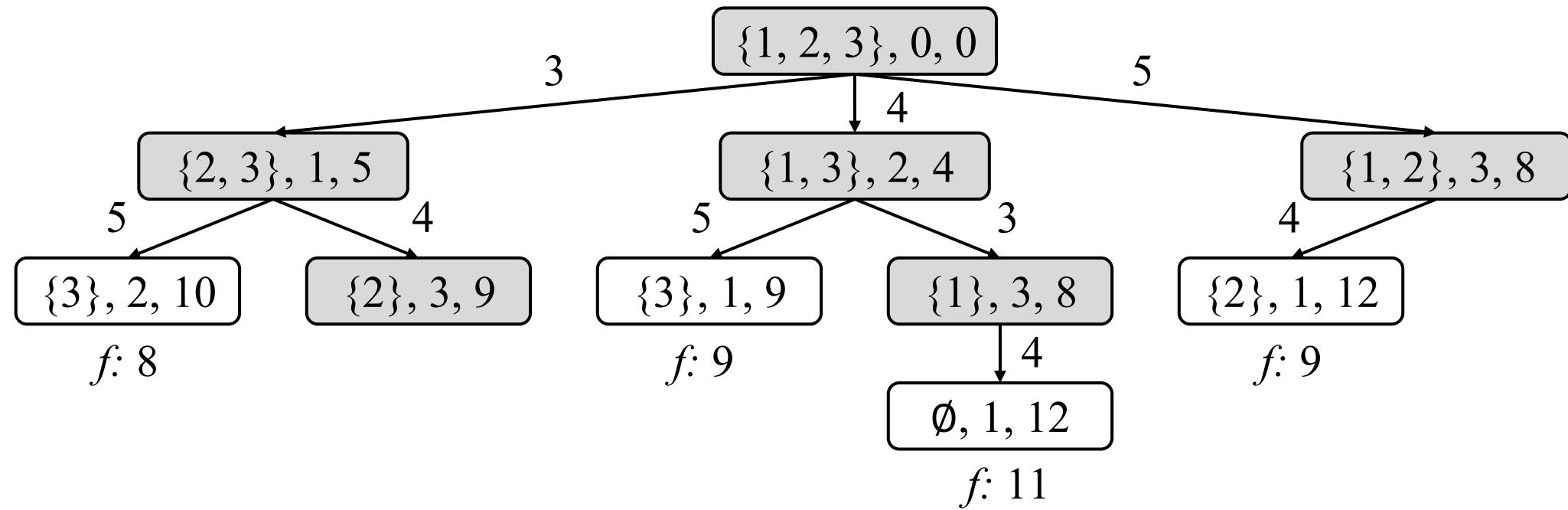
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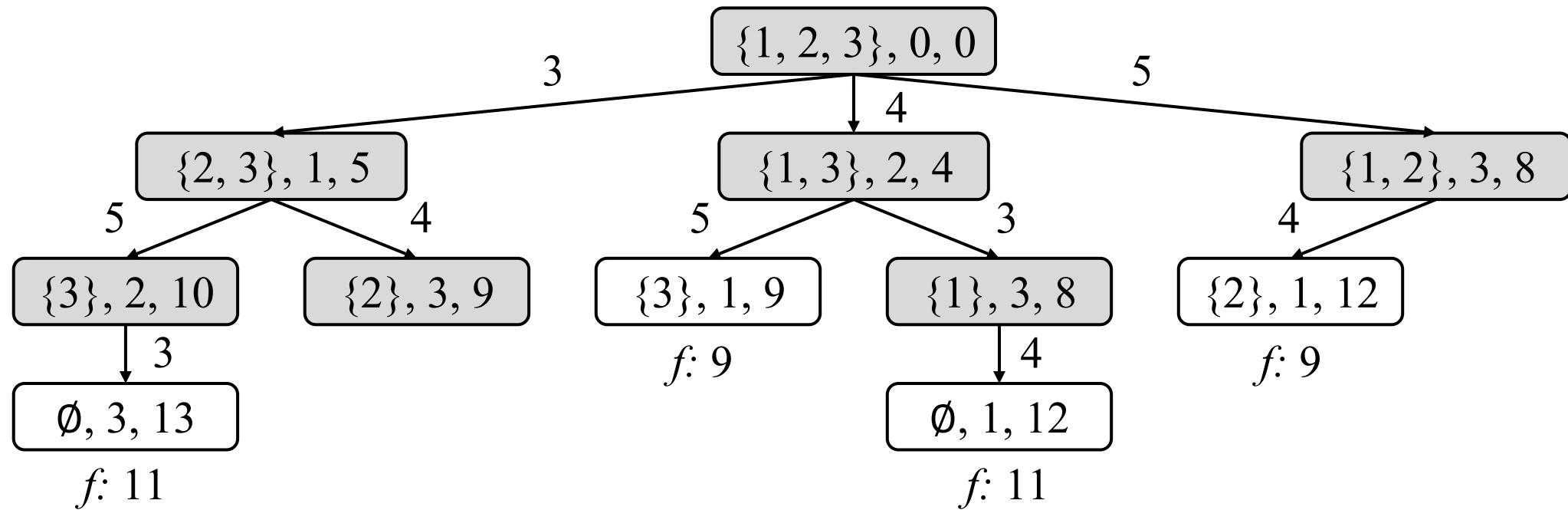
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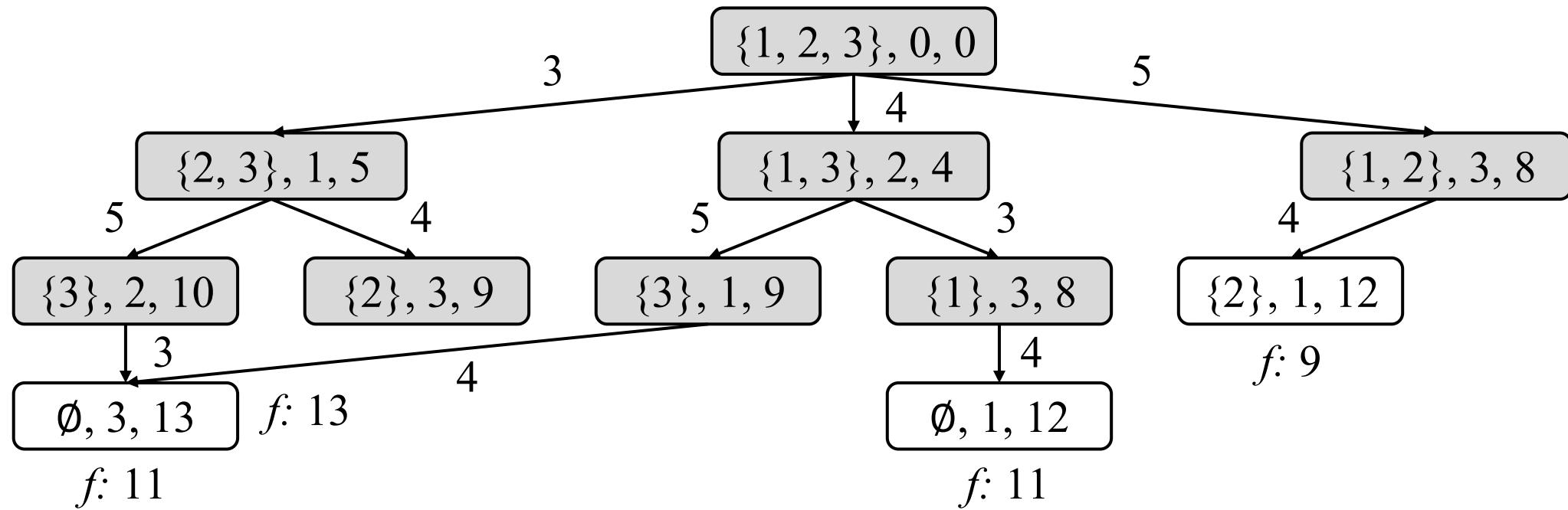
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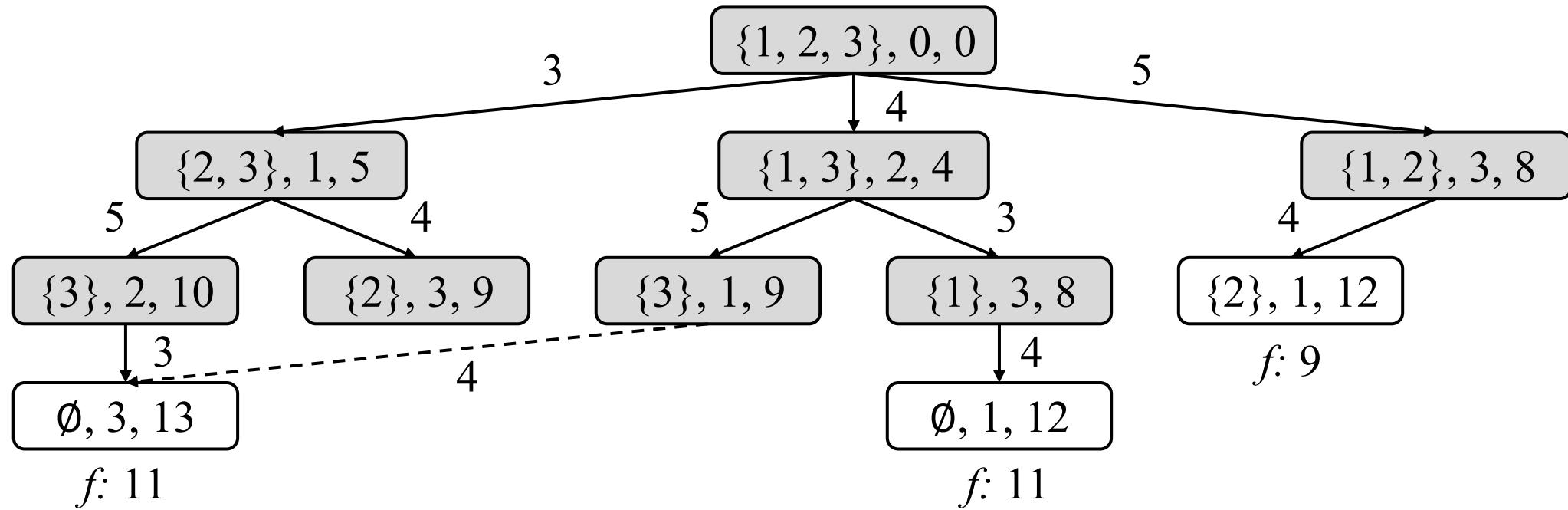
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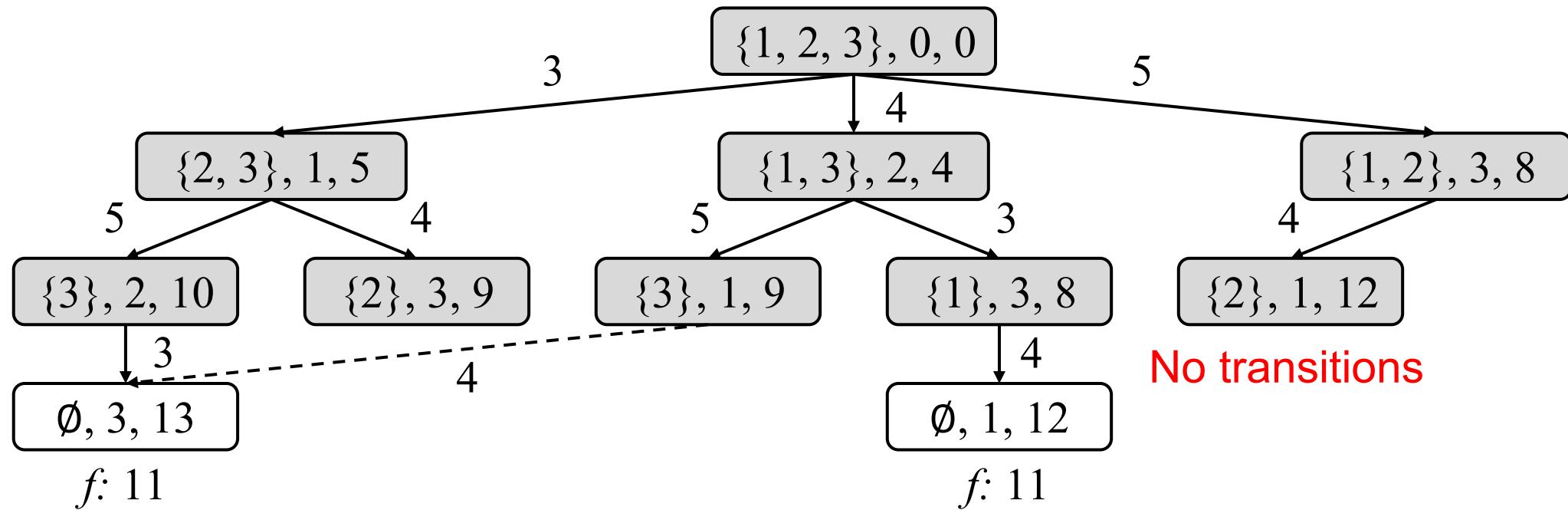
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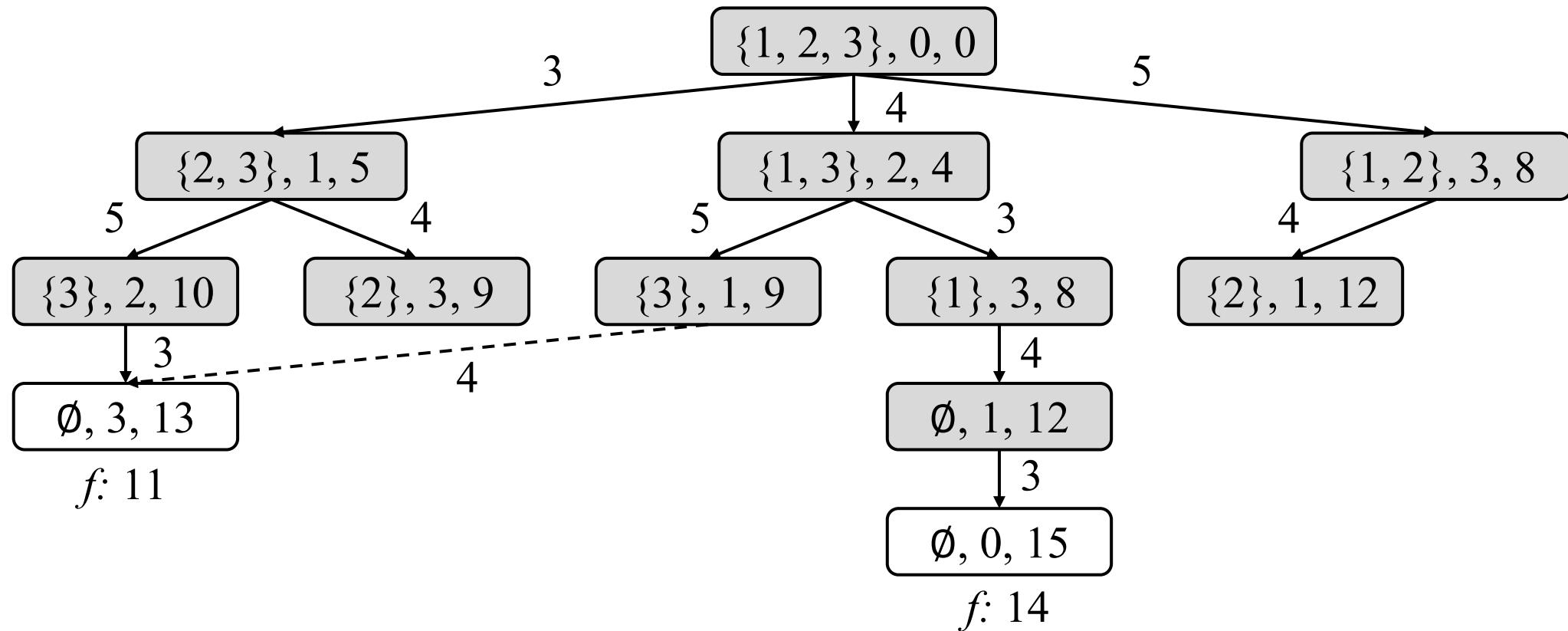
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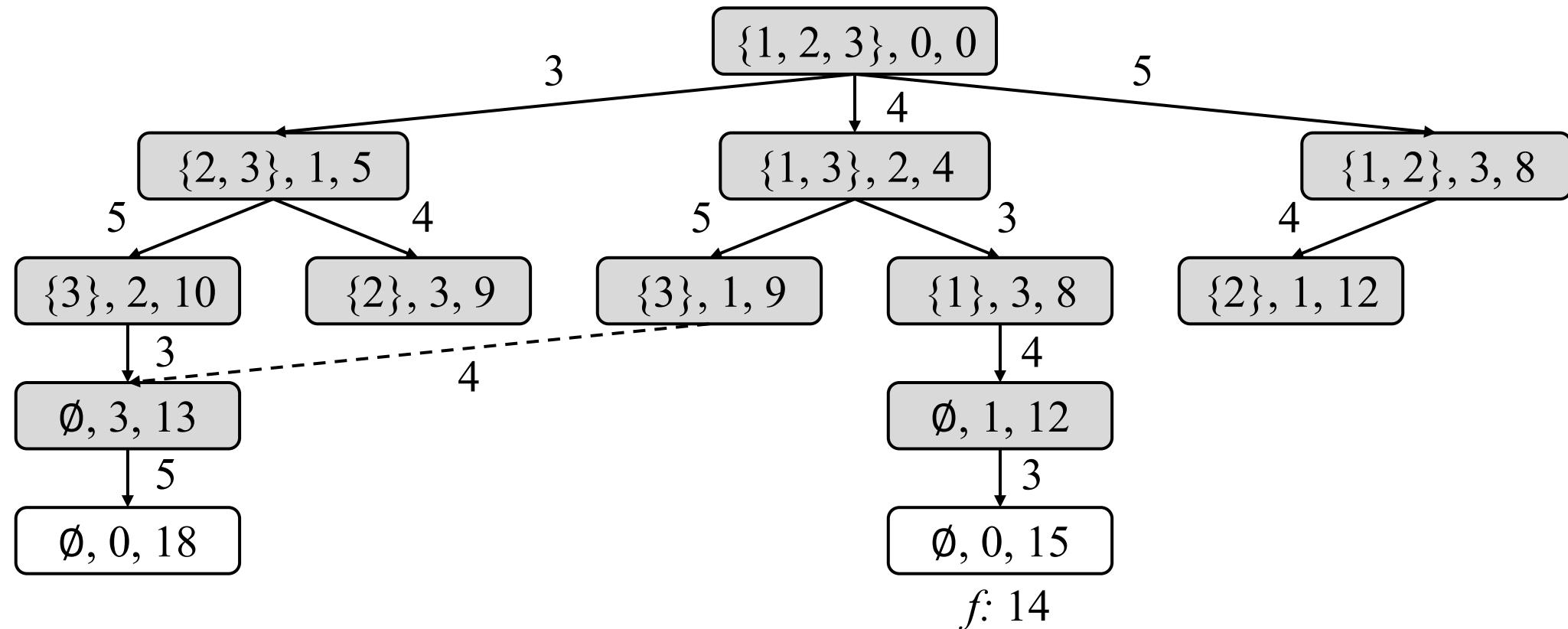
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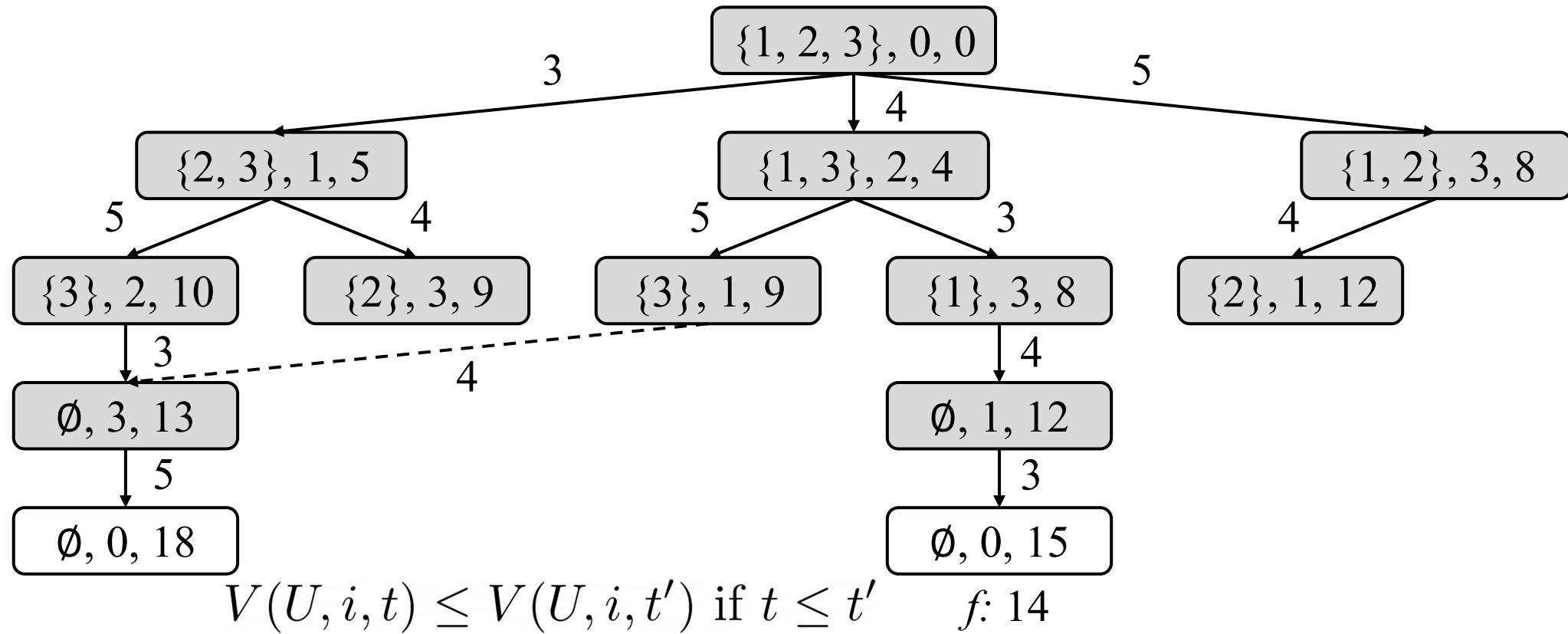
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$f: 14$

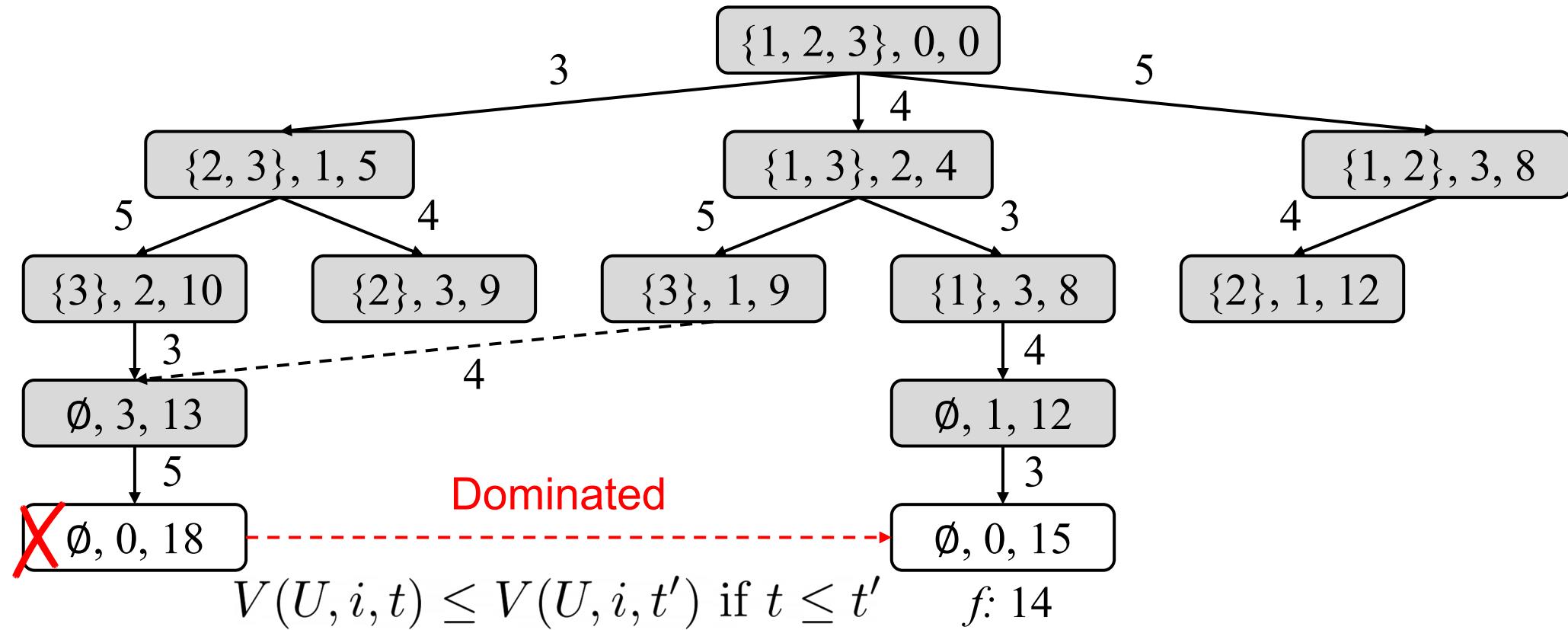
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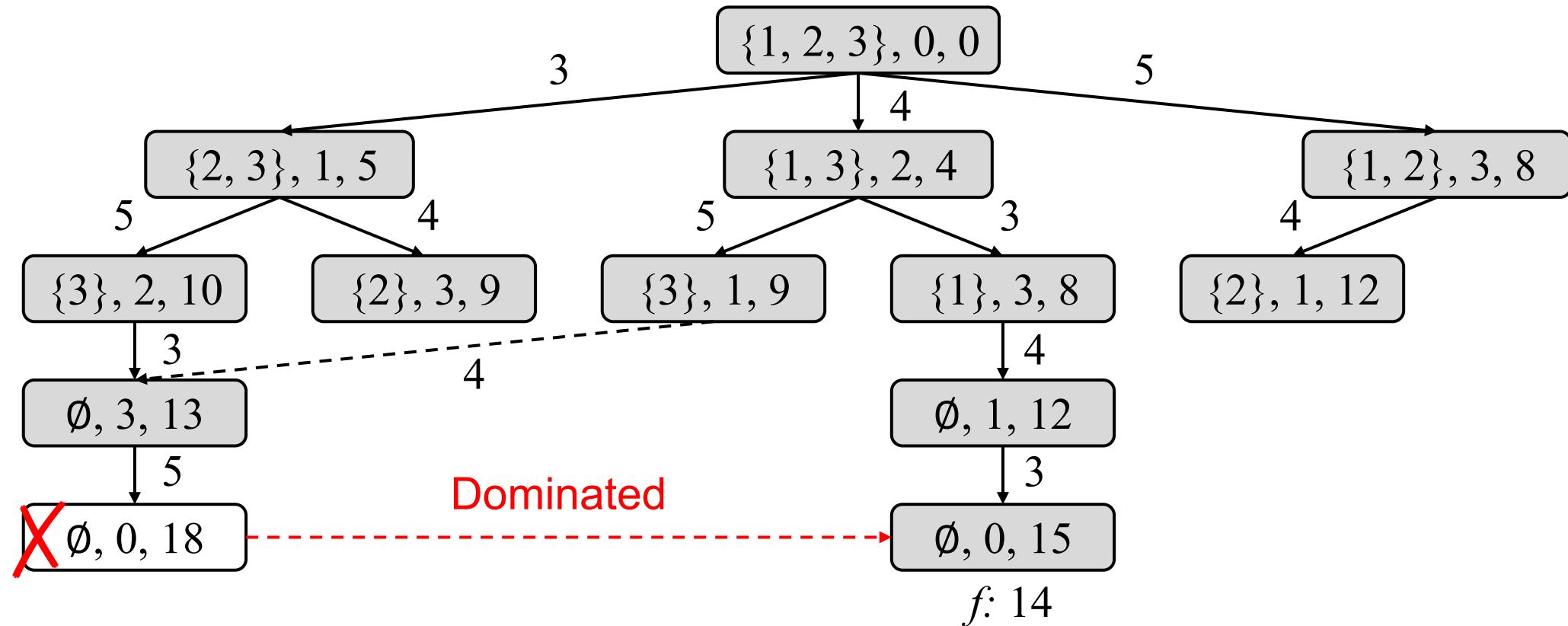
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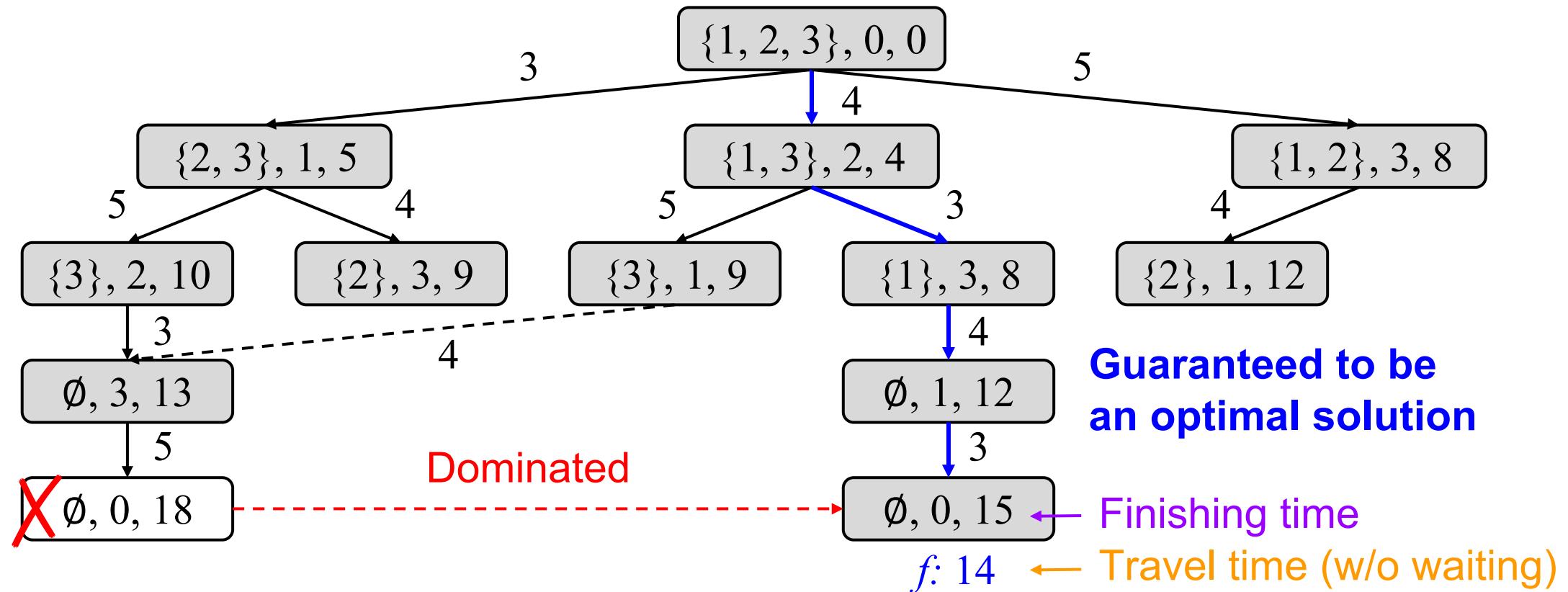
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Comparison of MIP, CP, and DIDP

Problem	Description	MIP (Gurobi)	CP (CP Optimizer)	DIDP
TSPTW (340)	TSP with time	227	47	257
CVRP (207)	vehicle routing	26	0	5
SALBP-1 (2100)	assembly line	1357	1584	1653
Bin Packing (1615)	bin packing	1157	1234	922
MOSP (570)	manufacturing	225	437	483
Graph-Clear (135)	building security	24	4	76

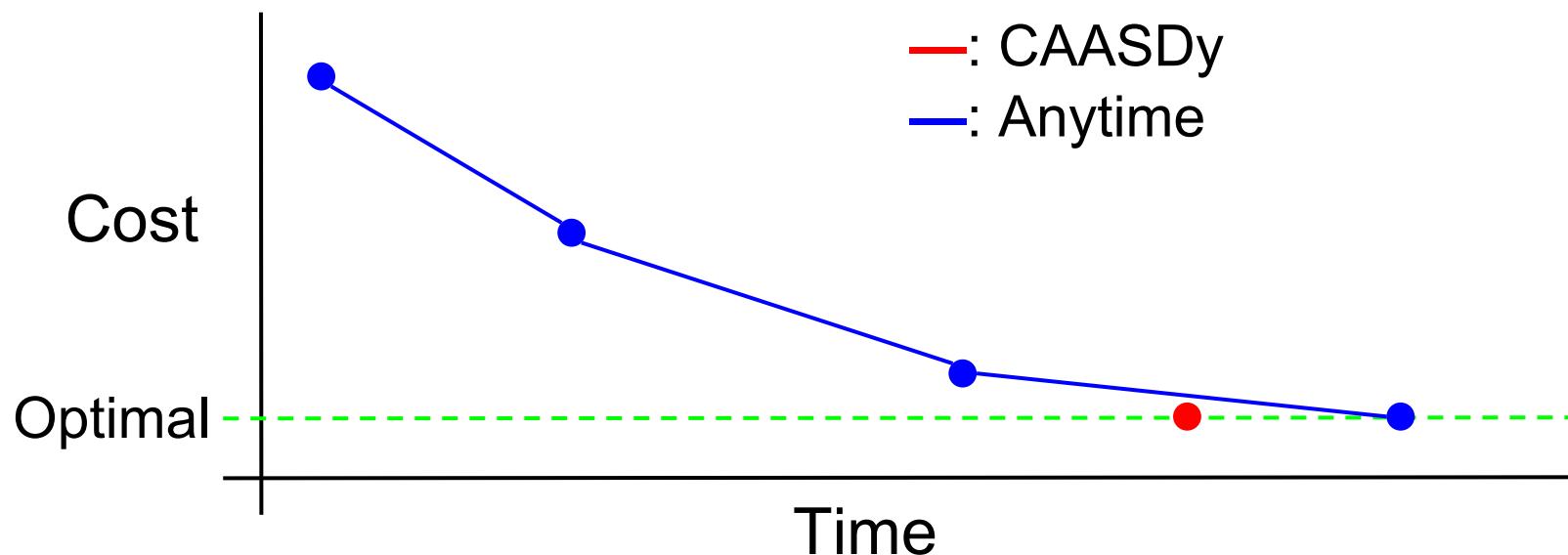
of optimally solved instances with 8 GB and 30 minutes

Anytime DIDP Solvers

Anytime Solvers

- Quickly find a solution and continuously improve it
- Standard in OR (e.g., MIP and CP)

Can we develop **anytime solvers** for DIDP?



Anytime State Space Search Algorithms

Algorithm	Description	Reference
Depth First Branch-and-Bound (DFBnB)	DFS	
Cyclic Best-First Search (CBFS)	Hybrid of DFS and best-first search	Kao et al. 2009
Anytime Column Progressive Search (ACPS)	Hybrid of DFS and beam search	Vadlamudi et al. 2012
Anytime Pack Progressive Search (APPS)	Hybrid of DFS and beam search	Vadlamudi et al. 2016
Discrepancy-Bounded DFS (DBDFS)	Discrepancy-based	Beck and Perron 2000
Complete Anytime Beam Search (CABS)	Iterative beam search	Zhang 1998

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Beam Search

- Keep b best states using the f -value at each layer
- No guarantee of completeness nor optimality

$$b = 2$$

$\{1, 2, 3\}, 0, 0$

$$f: 0$$

Beam Search

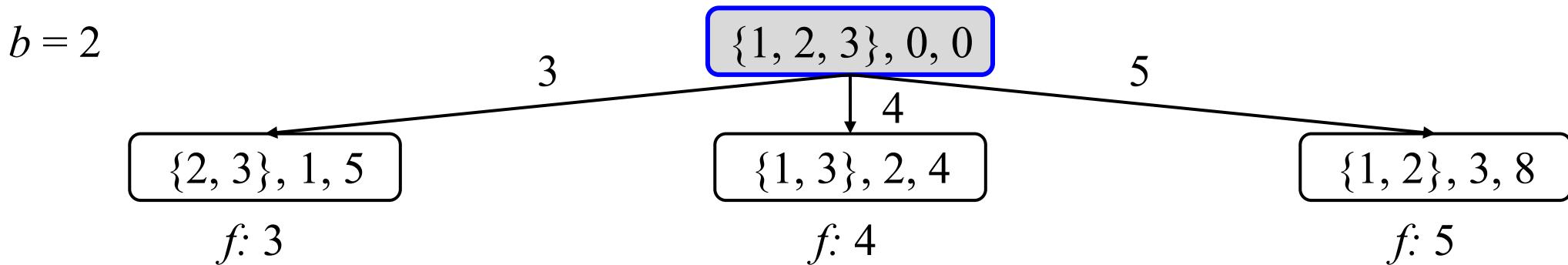
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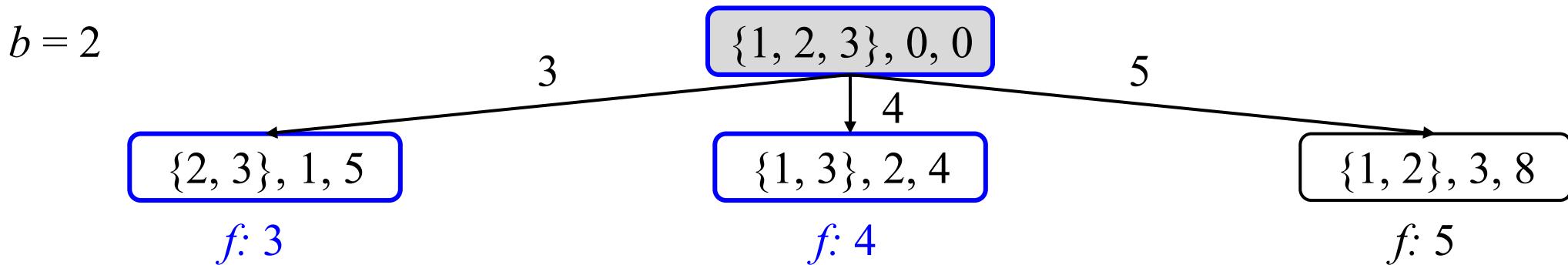
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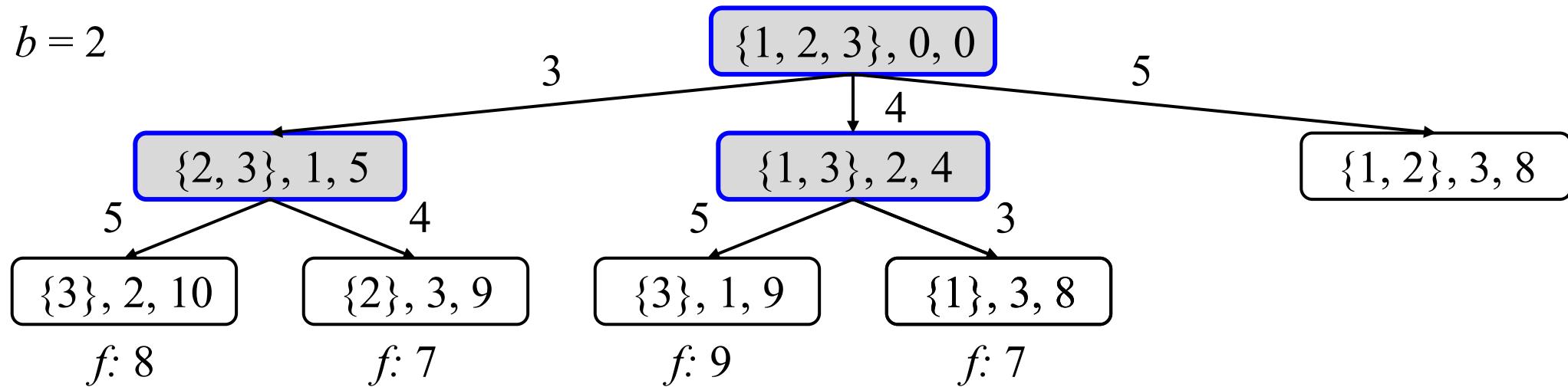
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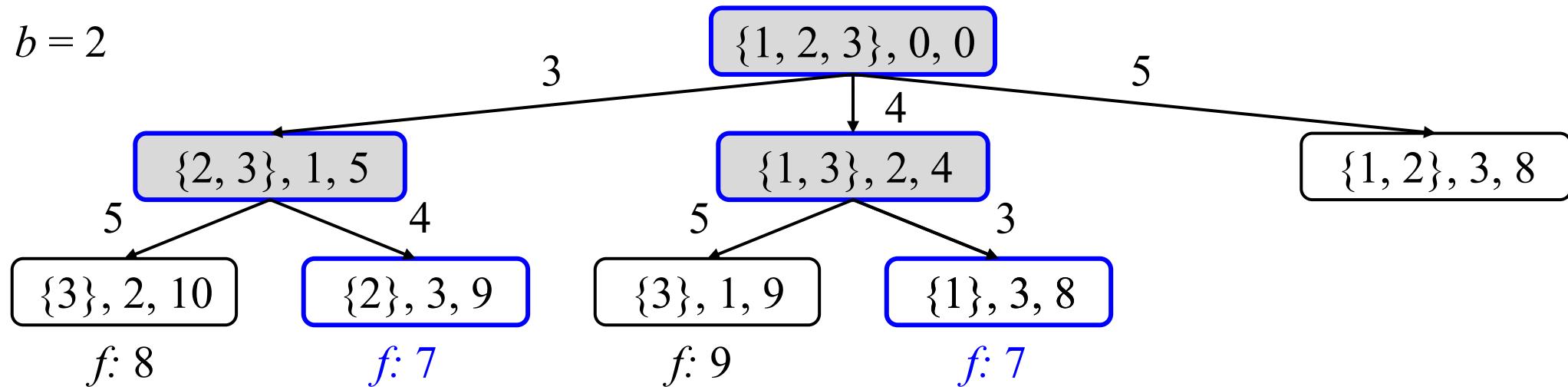
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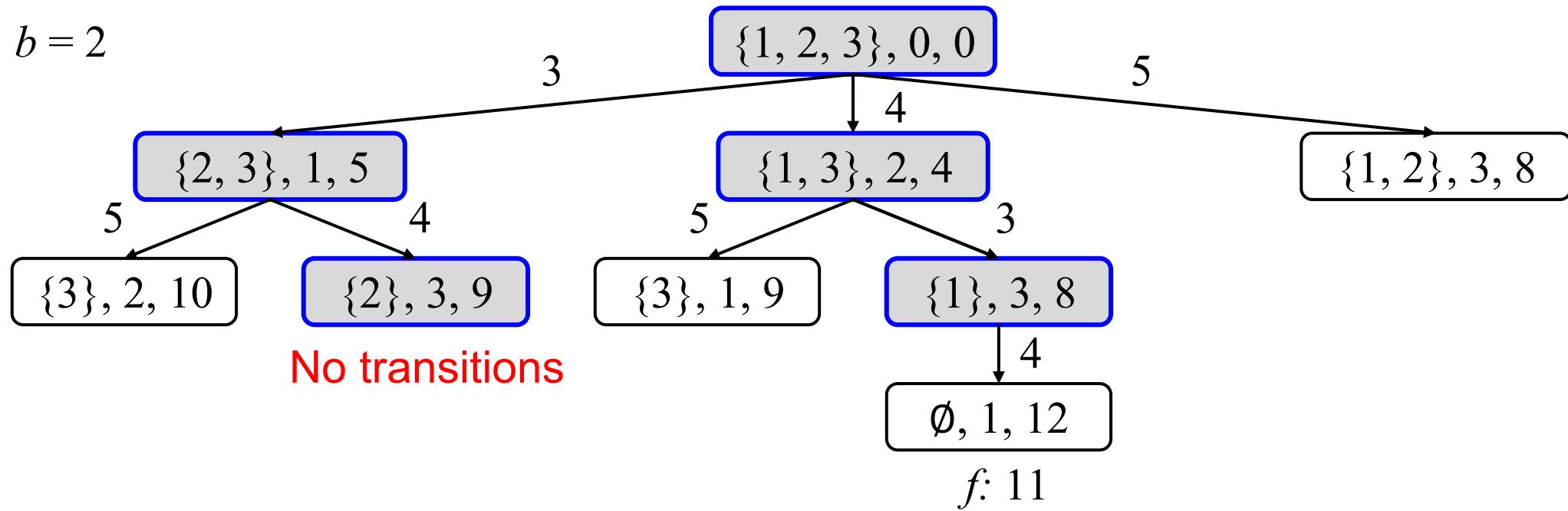
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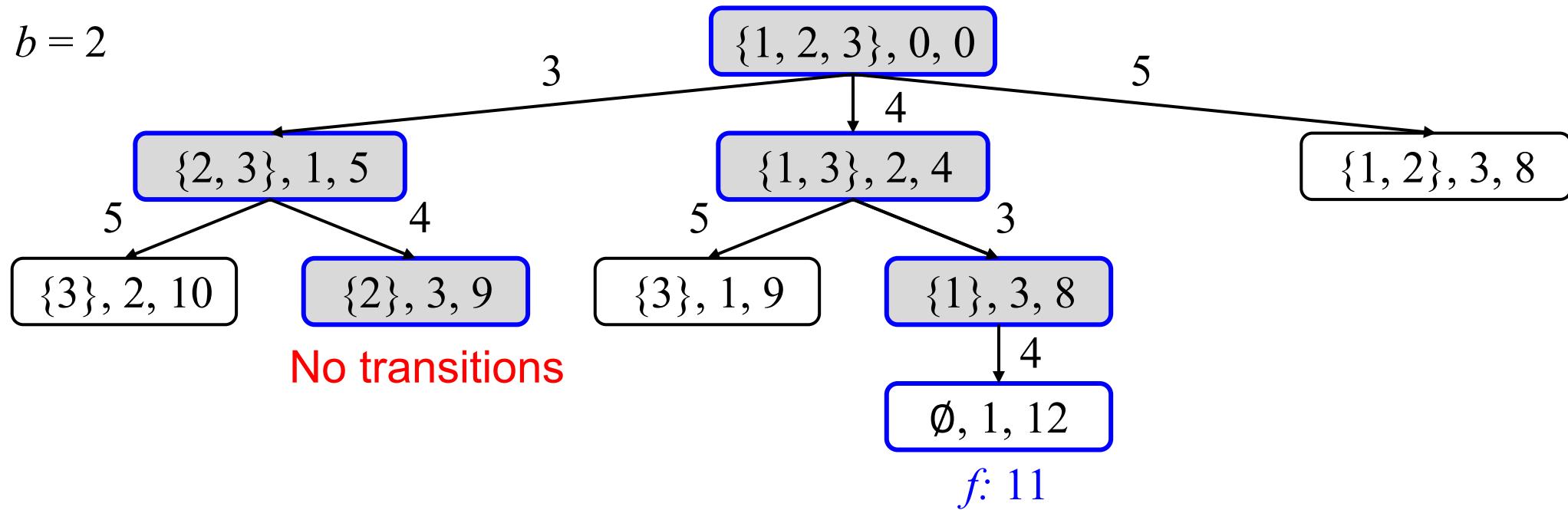
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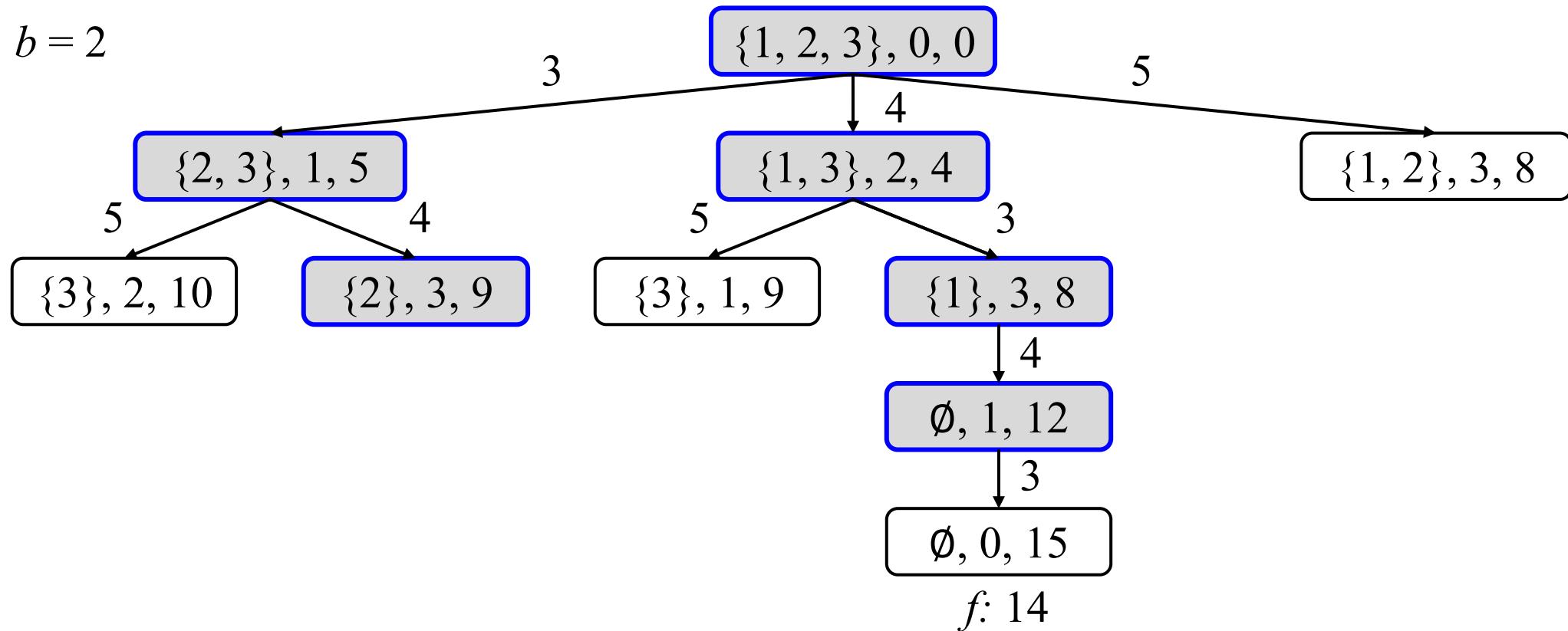
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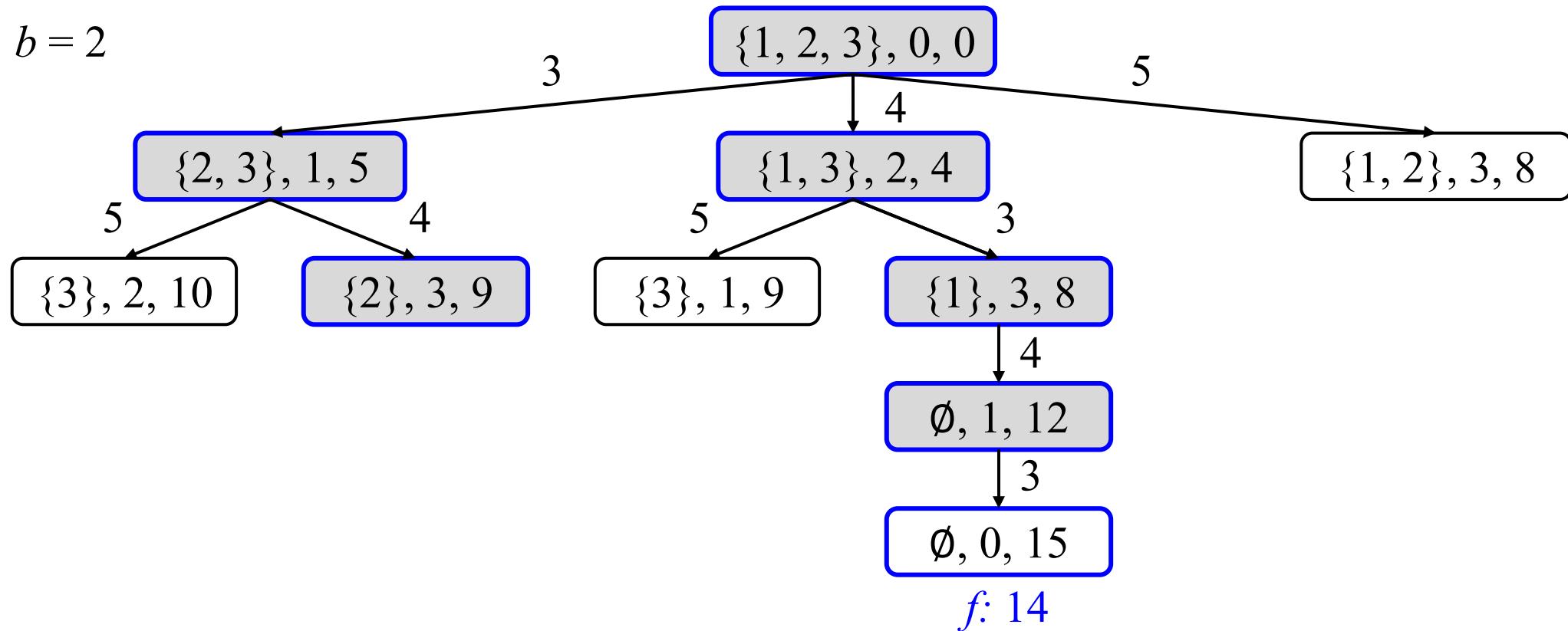
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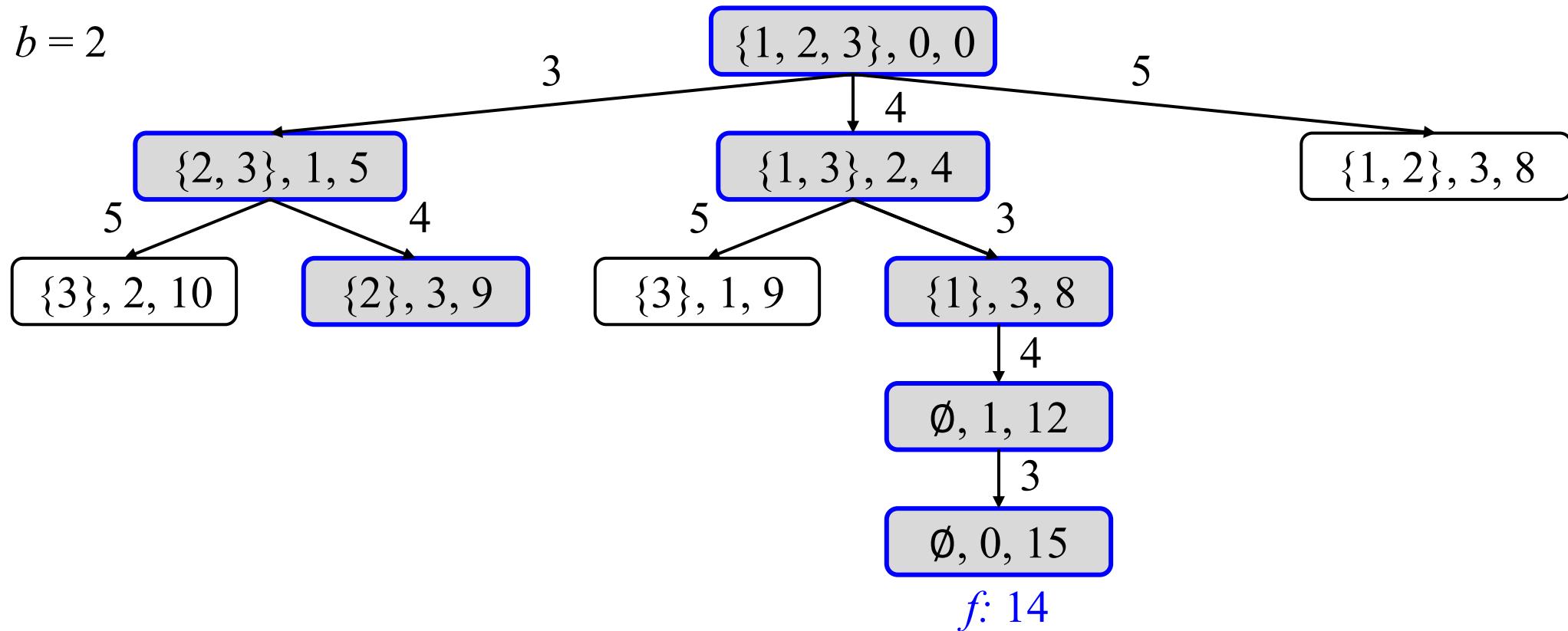
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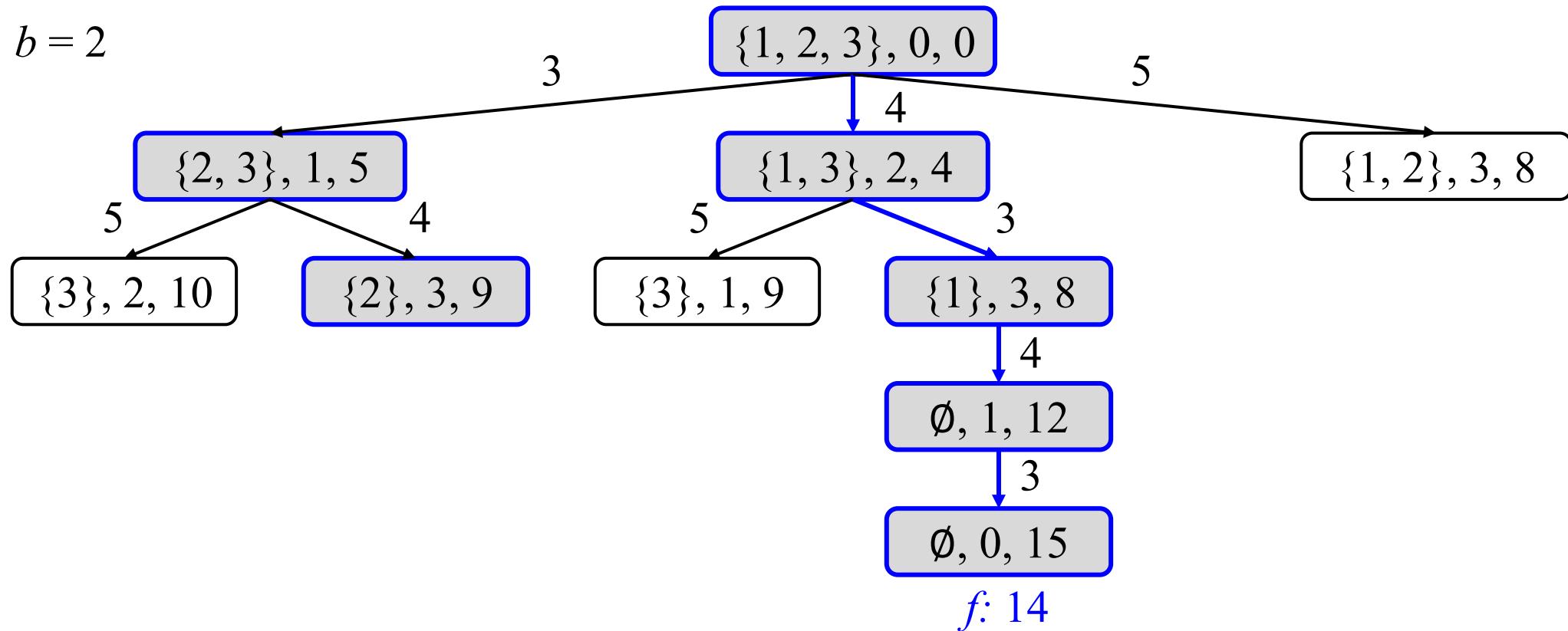
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Complete Anytime Beam Search (CABS)

- Beam search with $b = 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots$ until states are exhausted
- Prune a state s if $f(s) \geq$ the incumbent solution cost

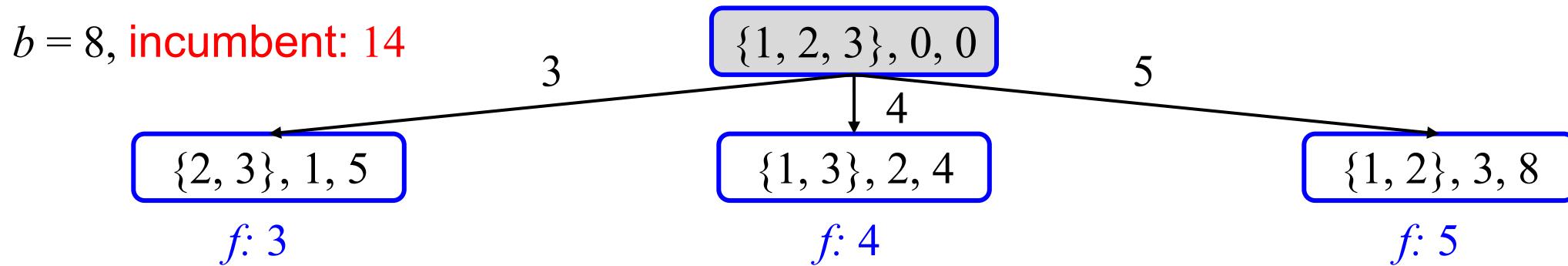
$b = 8$, **incumbent:** 14

$\{1, 2, 3\}, 0, 0$

$f: 0$

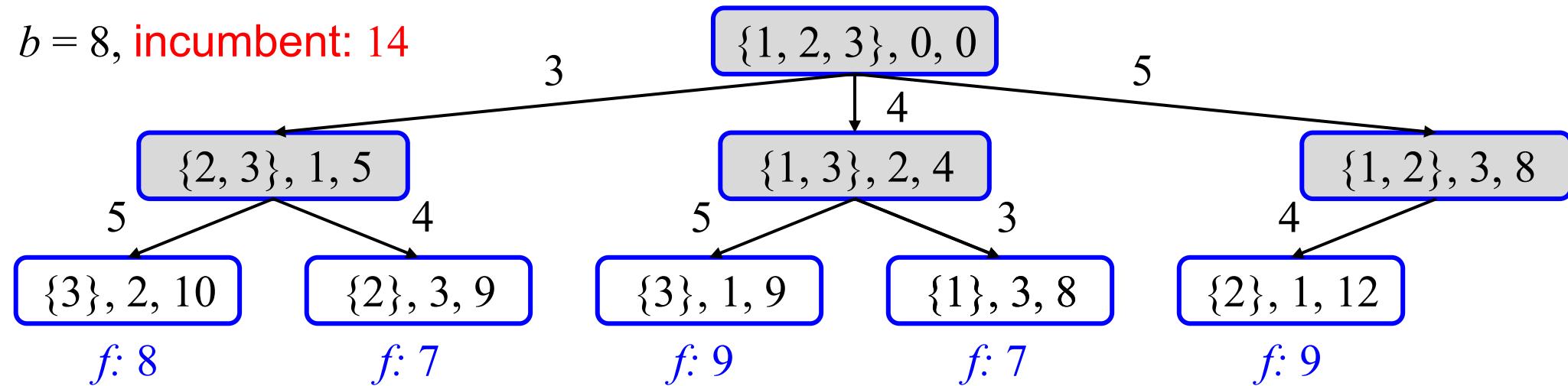
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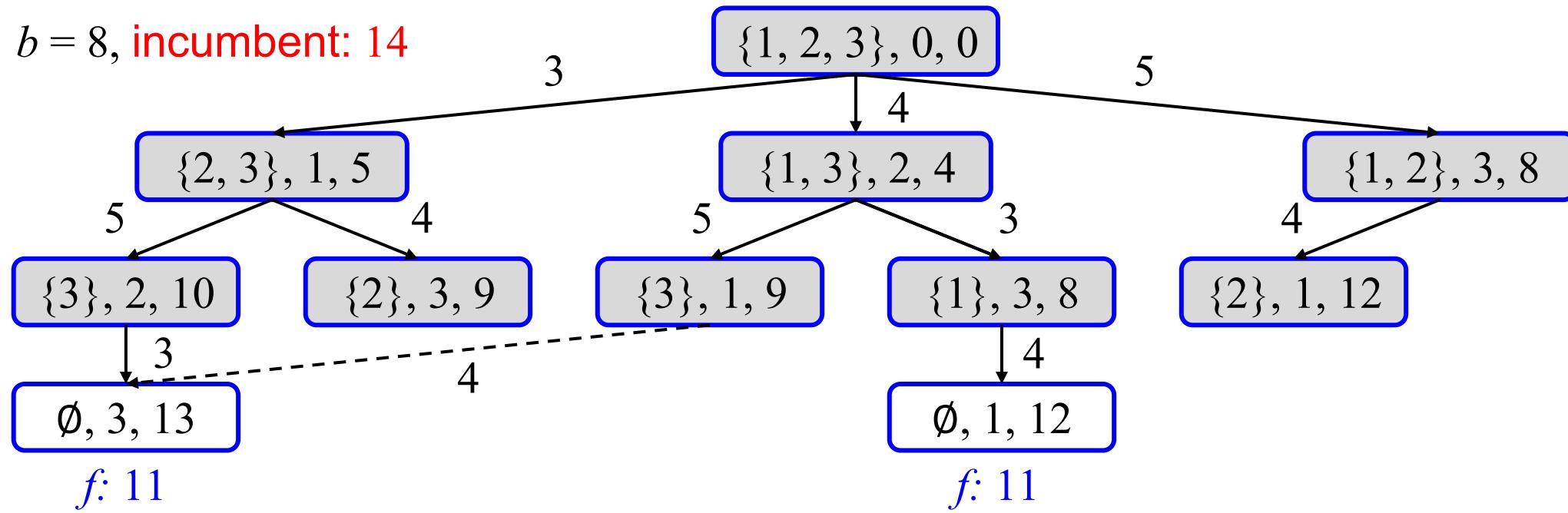
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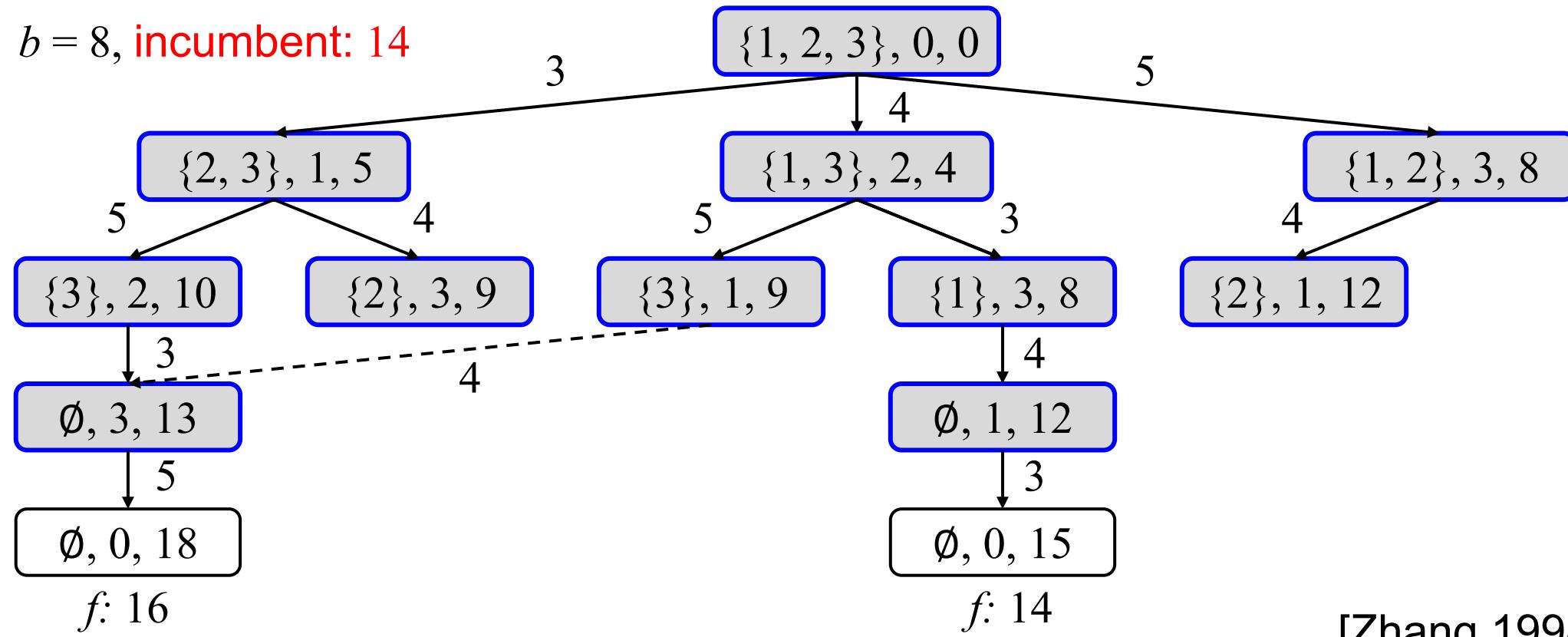
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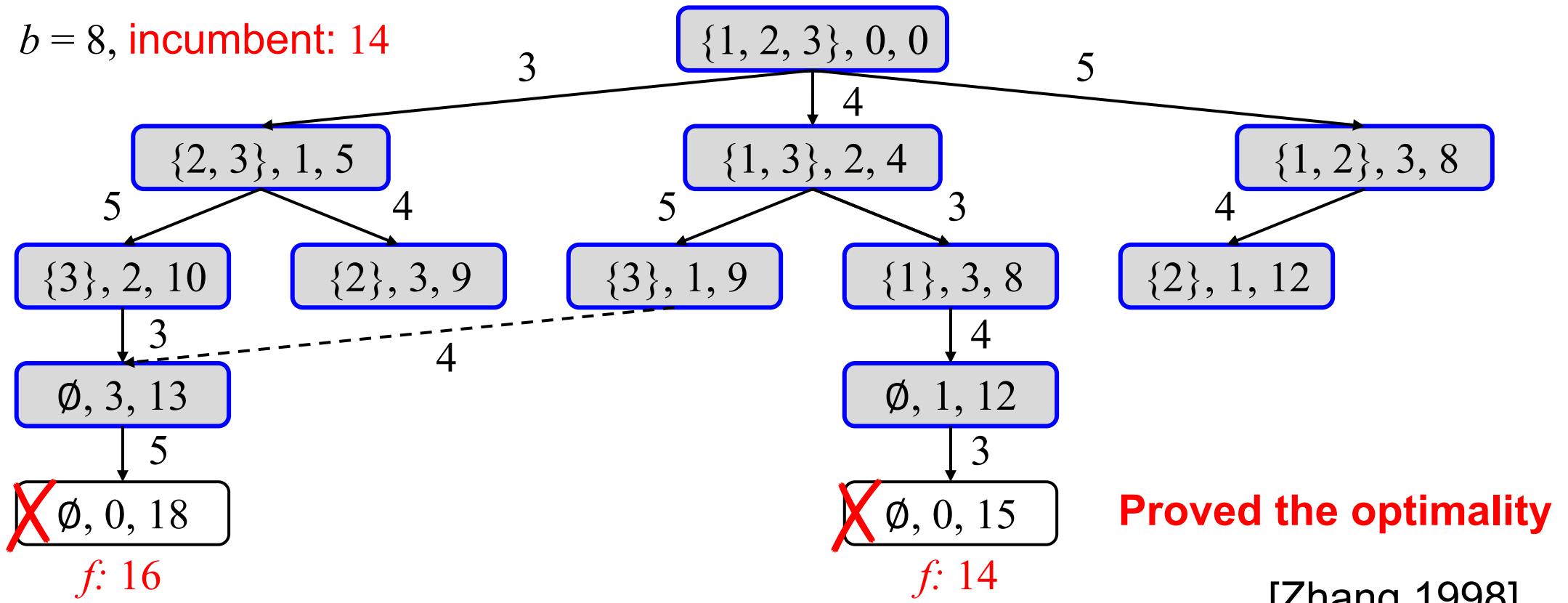
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Experimental Evaluation of CABS

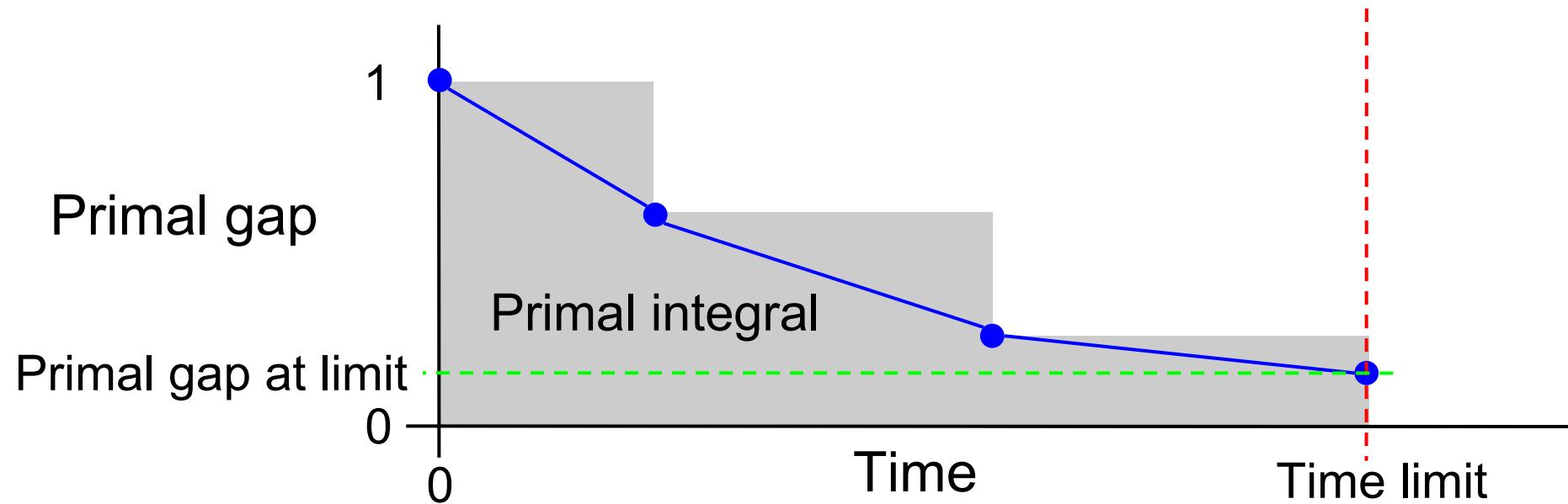
of Optimally Solved by CABS

	Description	MIP	CP	CAASDy	CABS
TSPTW (340)	TSP with time	227	47	257	259
CVRP (207)	vehicle routing	26	0	5	6
SALBP-1 (2100)	assembly line	1357	1584	1653	1801
Bin Packing (1615)	bin packing	1157	1234	922	1163
MOSP (570)	manufacturing	225	437	483	527
Graph-Clear (135)	building security	24	4	76	103
Talent Scheduling (1000)	scheduling actors	6	7	224	253
m-PDTSP (1117)	pick up & delivery	945	1049	947	1035
$1 \parallel \sum w_i T_i$ (375)	job scheduling	109	150	270	285

of optimally solved instances with 8 GB and 30 minutes

Primal Integral

Primal gap: $\frac{\text{solution cost} - \text{best known cost}}{\text{solution cost}}$ (1 if no solution found)



Mean Primal Gap/Primal Integral

	Description	MIP	CP	CABS
TSPTW (340)	TSP with time	0.227/484.1	0.026/49.0	0.003/9.0
CVRP (207)	vehicle routing	0.585/1157.4	0.317/601.2	0.185/351.2
SALBP-1 (2100)	assembly line	0.345/634.6	0.005/28.5	0.000/1.9
Bin Packing (1615)	bin packing	0.039/86.2	0.002/8.0	0.002/5.3
MOSP (570)	manufacturing	0.039/100.4	0.004/13.0	0.000/0.4
Graph-Clear (135)	building security	0.110/311.8	0.015/44.3	0.000/0.5
Talent Scheduling (1000)	scheduling actors	0.051/142.7	0.002/18.1	0.011/26.4
m-PDTSP (1178)	pick up & delivery	0.078/180.0	0.013/26.0	0.002/5.3
$1 \parallel \sum w_i T_i$ (375)	job scheduling	0.018/74.6	0.000/2.3	0.034/73.6

Current & Future Work

DIDP Papers at CP

Tuesday, August 29th

16:00-16:50 Session 14B

Applications 3

16:00 [Arnoosh Golestanian, Giovanni Lo Bianco, Chengyu Tao and J. Christopher Beck](#)

Optimization models for pickup and delivery problems with reconfigurable capacities ([abstract](#))

Thursday, August 31st

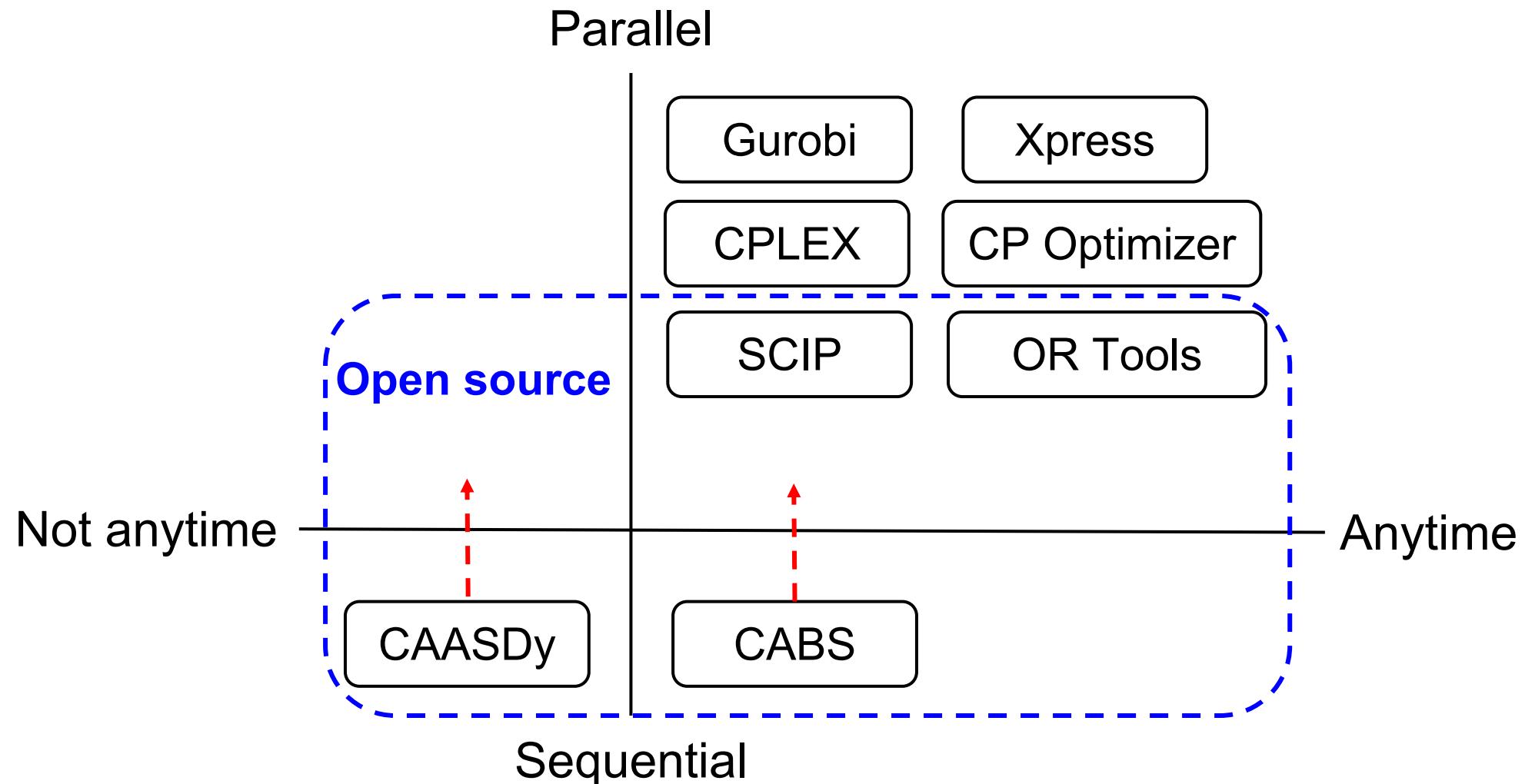
13:20-14:20 Session 27A

Search 3

13:50 [Ryo Kuroiwa and J. Christopher Beck](#)

Large Neighborhood Beam Search for Domain-Independent Dynamic Programming ([abstract](#))

Building a Parallel Solver



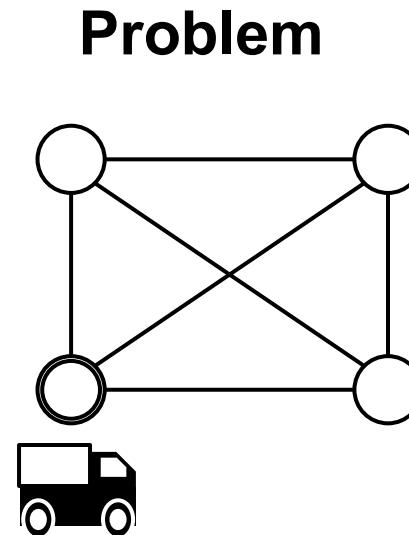
Comparison of Solvers with 32 Threads

Problem	Description	Gurobi	CP	CABS	Prototype
			Optimizer		
TSPTW (340)	TSP with time vehicle routing	239/4.2 29 /5.3	27/0.1 0/-	235/- 5/-	262/13.3 8/9.3
SALBP-1 (2100)	assembly line	1351/1.3	1581/1.4	1714/-	1824/18.8
Bin Packing (1615)	bin packing	1192/6.4	1251 /9.2	1110/-	1239/ 39.6
MOSP (570)	manufacturing	238/3.1	397/0.3	507/-	531/9.0
Graph-Clear (135)	building security	16/2.0	3/3.2	92/-	113/10.3

of optimally solved instances/speedup with 32 threads, 19 2GB, and 5 minutes

What Makes a Good Model?

What DP models are good/bad?



Model

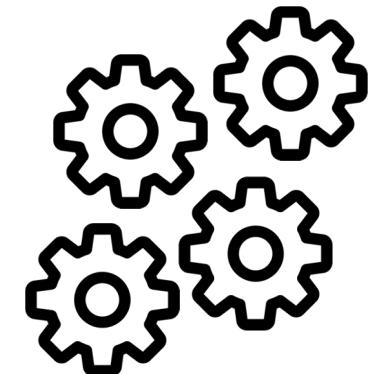
DP Model 1

compute $V(N \setminus \{0\}, 0)$
 $V(U, i) = \min_{j \in U} c_{ij} + V(U \setminus \{i\}, j)$
 $V(\emptyset, i) = c_{i0}.$

DP Model 2

compute $V(\emptyset, 0)$
 $V(U, i) = \min_{j \notin U} c_{ji} + V(U \cup \{i\}, j)$
 $V(N \setminus \{0\}, i) = c_{0i}$

DIDP solver

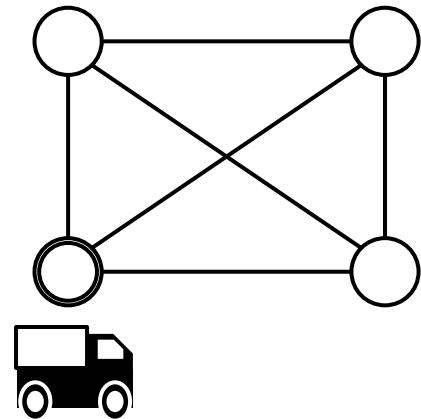


Solve

Domain-Independent Dual Bound Function

Can we automatically derive a dual bound function from a model?

Problem



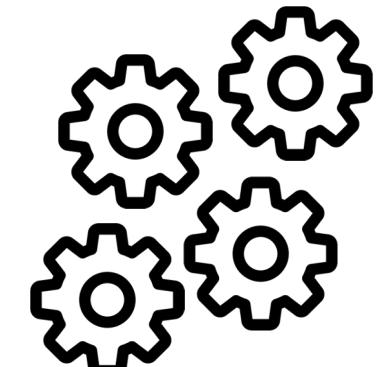
Model

DP Model

```
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 $V(U, i) = \min_{j \in U} c_{ij} + V(U \setminus \{i\}, j)$ 
 $V(\emptyset, i) = c_{i0}.$ 
```

DIDP solver

Solve



Derive

$$V(U, i) \geq h(U, i)$$

Dual bound function

Empirical Analysis of DIDP Search

- What properties of a problem do make DP efficient/inefficient?
- Apply empirical analysis conducted in SAT and CSP
- E.g., does randomized restart help?

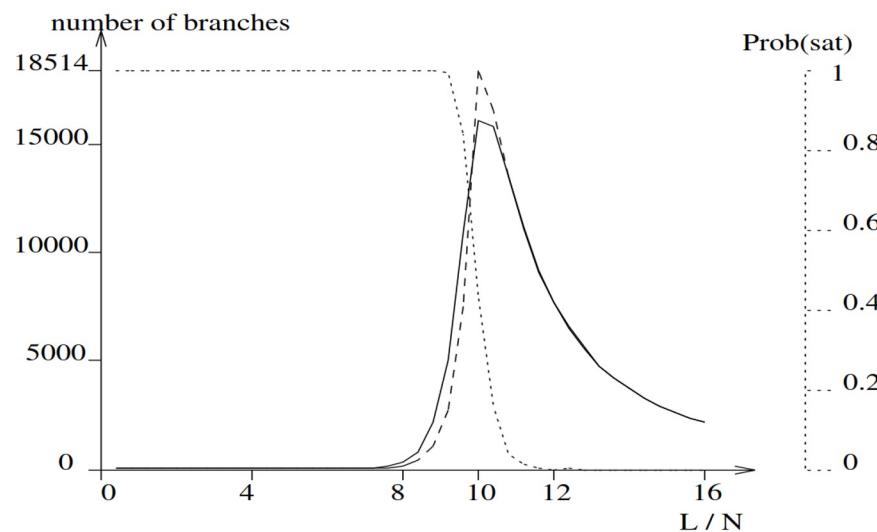


Figure 1. Random 4-SAT problems, tested using ASAT,
mean (solid), median (dashed) branches, $N = 75$

[Gent and Walsh 1994]

Please Use DIDP on Your Problems!

- Visit our website: <https://didp.ai>
- Start DIDP with Python: `pip install didppy`
Tutorials and API Reference: <https://didppy.rtfd.io>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the [DIDPPy documentation](https://didppy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/). The page includes sections for Installation, Introduction, User Guide, and API Reference. A yellow button on the right side contains the text "Questions?".

Installation

`didppy` can be installed from PyPI using `pip`. Python 3.7 or higher is required.

```
pip install didppy
```

Introduction

- Quick Start
- Tutorial
- Advanced Tutorials
- Examples
- DIDP Papers
- References

User Guide

- Solver Selection
- Debugging Guide

API Reference

- DIDPPy API Reference

Questions?