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# Algorithms & Problem Solving Level 6

## Greedy Algorithms

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# Greedy Algorithms

- Greedy algorithms are a class of algorithms that make the locally optimal choice at each stage with the hope of finding the global optimum.
- Example: Shortest Path Algorithms such as Dijkstra's algorithm.
- In simpler terms, they choose the best option available at the moment without considering the broader consequences.
- This approach can be very efficient for certain problems where choosing locally optimal also leads to global solution.

# How Do Greedy Algorithms Work?

1. Start with an Empty Solution: The algorithm starts with an empty solution and builds it step by step.
2. Choose the Optimal Item: At each step, it chooses the best available option.
3. Update the Solution: The choices are added to the solution and are not reconsidered.
4. Repeat Until Complete: The process continues until the solution is fully formed.

# Advantages of Greedy Algorithms

- **Simplicity of Implementation:** They are generally easy to understand and implement.
- **Time Efficiency:** They make fast, straightforward decisions, making them time-efficient.

# Disadvantages of Greedy Algorithms:

- **Shortsightedness:** They may not guarantee an optimal global solution because they do not consider the long-term outcomes of current decisions.
- **Dependence on Initial Conditions:** They can lead to poor results if the initial data is not representative of the overall problem.

# Common Applications

- Dijkstra's algorithm for shortest paths
- Activity Selection
- Huffman Coding
- Prim's and Kruskal's algorithm for Minimum Spanning Tree



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