Foundations of Algorithms

Interval Scheduling and Partitioning

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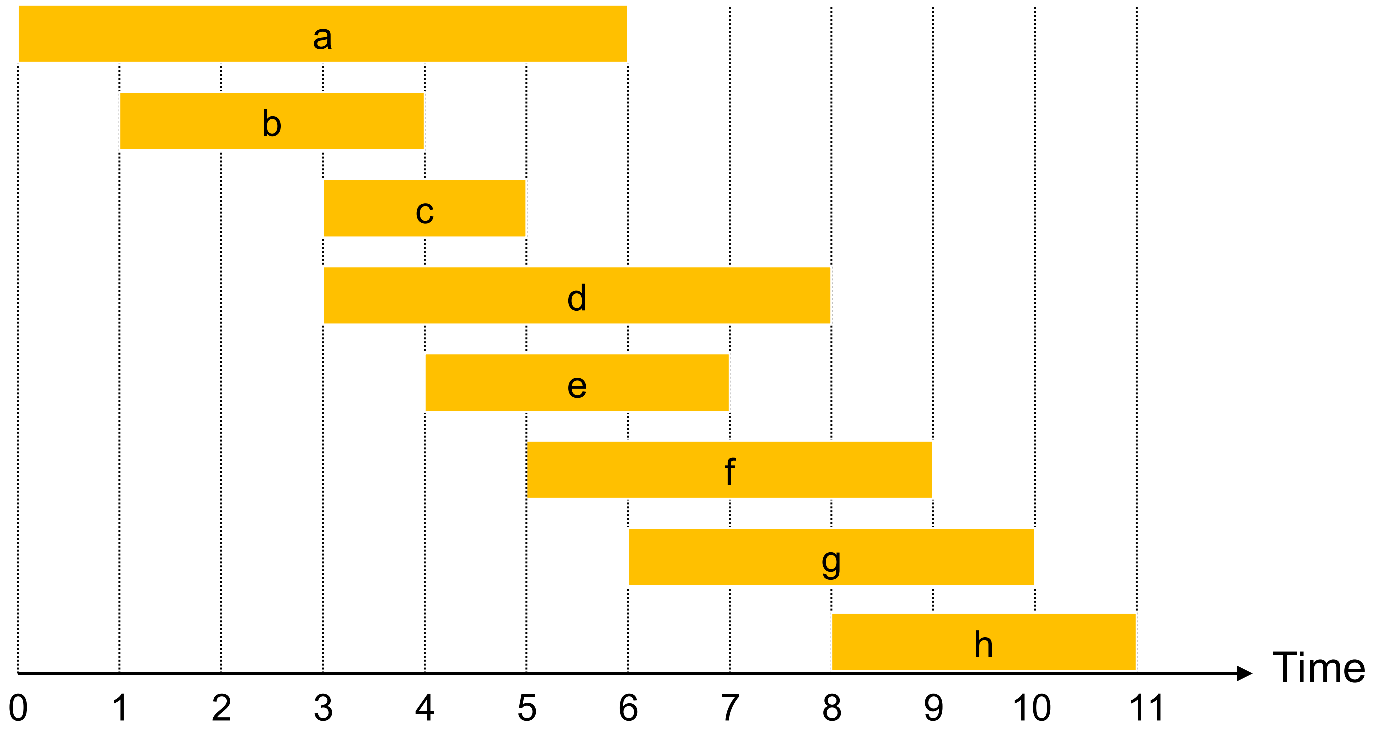
Interval Scheduling

Interval scheduling

- Job j starts at s_j and finishes at f_j.
- Two jobs are compatible if they don't overlap.
- Goal: find maximum subset of mutually compatible jobs.



Interval Scheduling: Greedy Algorithms

Greedy template. Consider jobs in some order. Take each job provided it's compatible with the ones already taken.

- [Earliest start time] Consider jobs in ascending order of start time s_j.
- [Earliest finish time] Consider jobs in ascending order of finish time f_j.
- [Shortest interval] Consider jobs in ascending order of interval length $f_j - s_j$.
- [Fewest conflicts] For each job, count the number of conflicting jobs c_j. Schedule in ascending order of conflicts c_j.

Interval Scheduling: Greedy Algorithms

Greedy template. Consider jobs in some order. Take each job provided it's compatible with the ones already taken.

breaks earliest start time

breaks shortest interval

breaks fewest conflicts

Interval Scheduling: Greedy Algorithm

Greedy algorithm. Consider jobs in increasing order of finish time. Take each job provided it's compatible with the ones already taken.

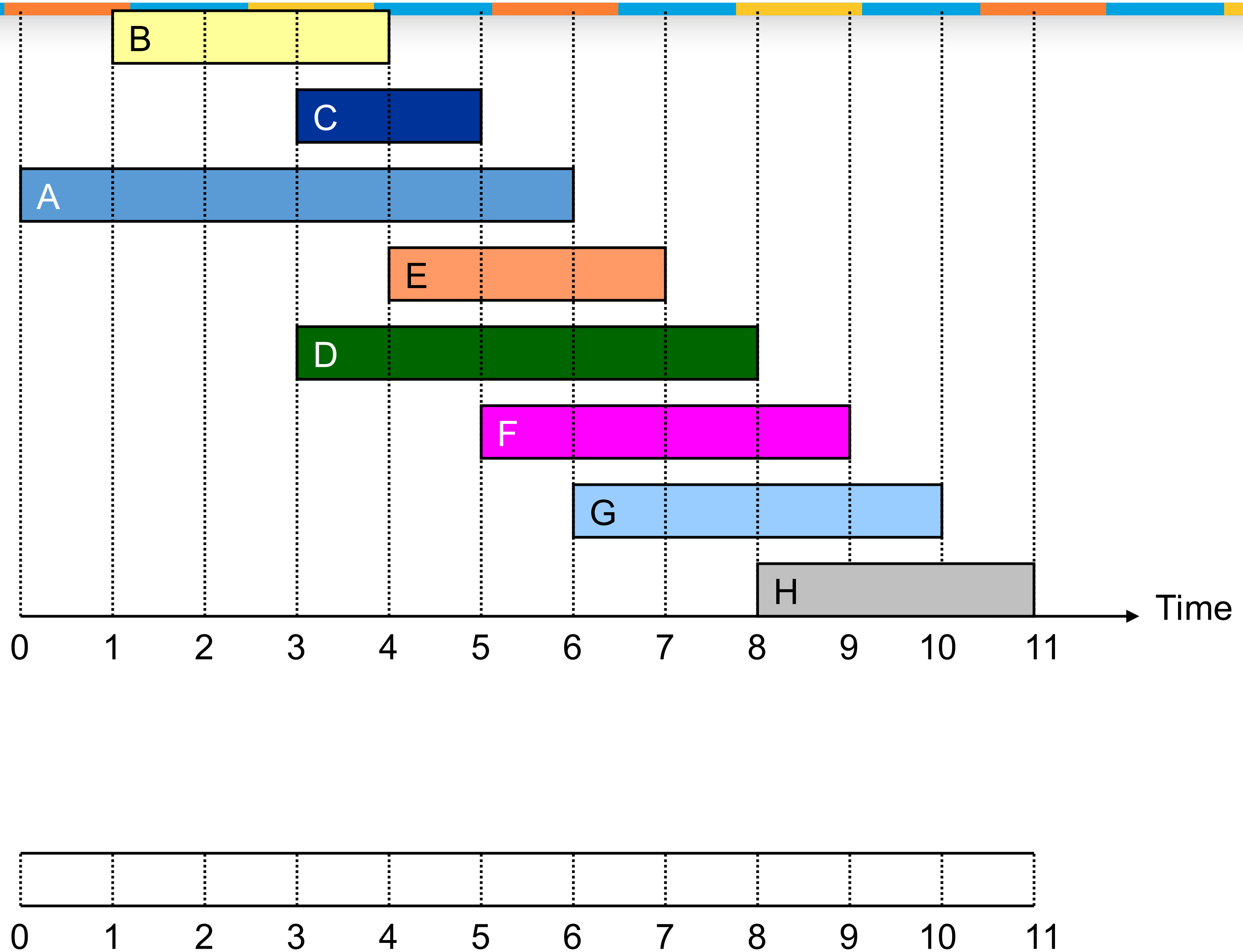
```
Sort jobs by finish times so that f1 ≤ f2 ≤ ... ≤ fn.

  jobs selected
A ← φ
for j = 1 to n {
   if (job j compatible with A)
      A ← A ∪ {j}
}
return A
```

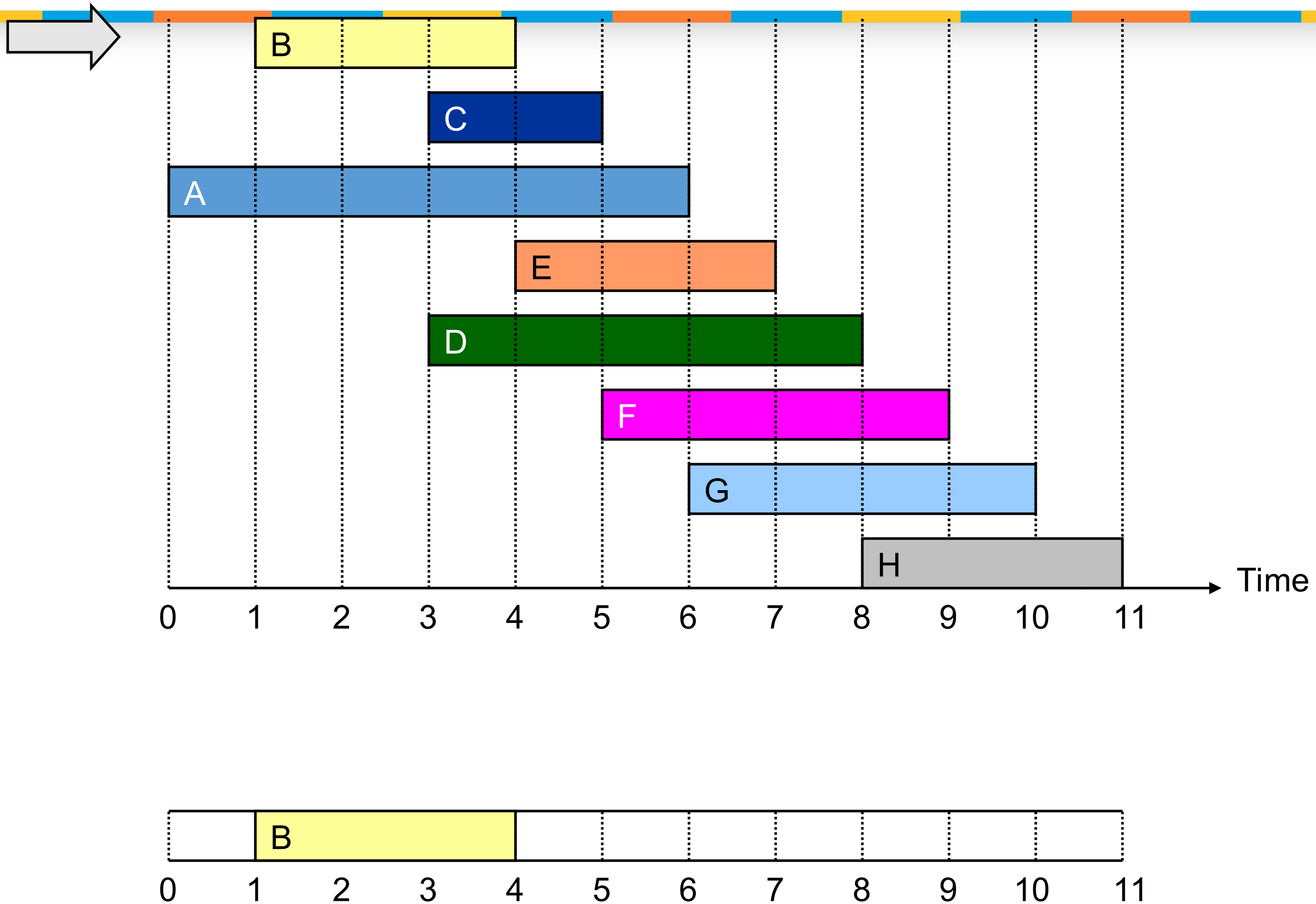
Implementation. O(n log n).

- Remember job j* that was added last to A.
- Job j is compatible with A if $s_j \geq f_{j^*}$.

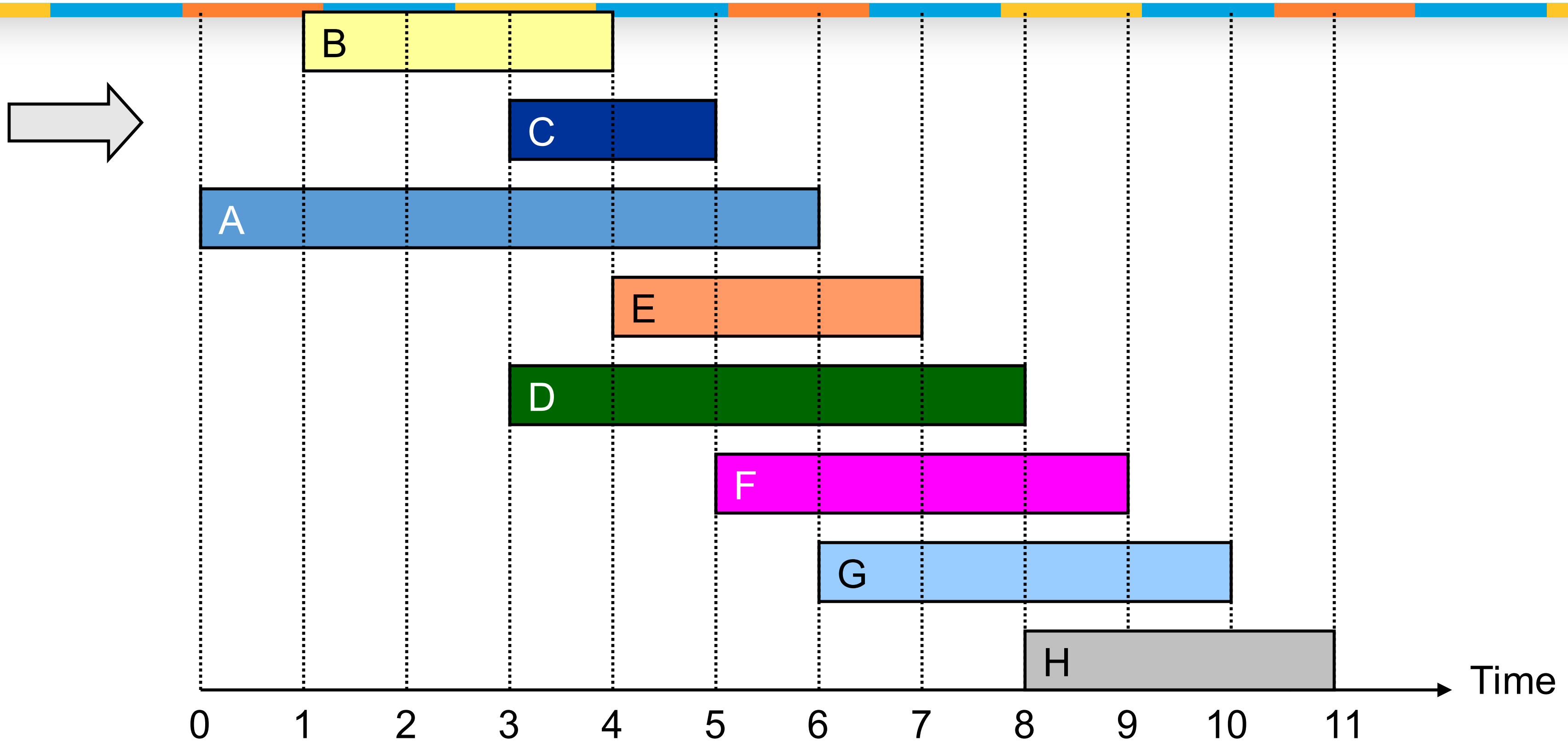
Interval Scheduling Demo

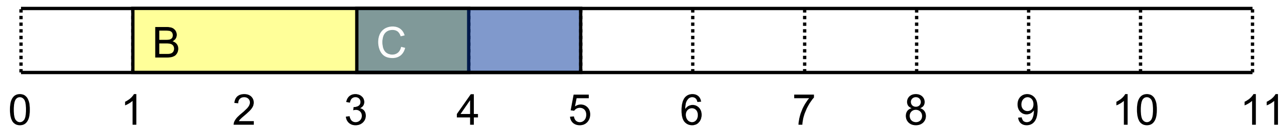


Interval Scheduling Demo

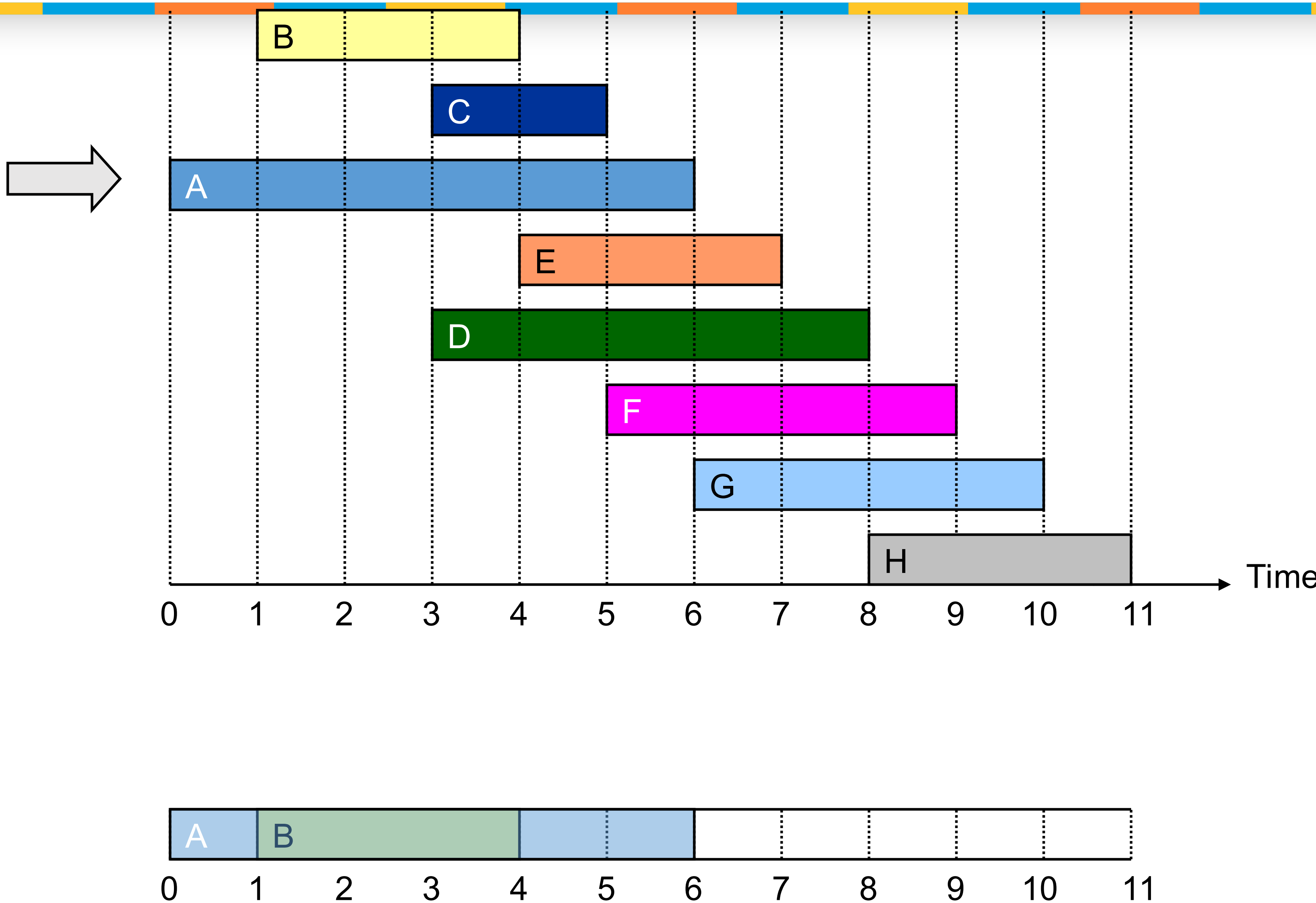


Interval Scheduling Demo

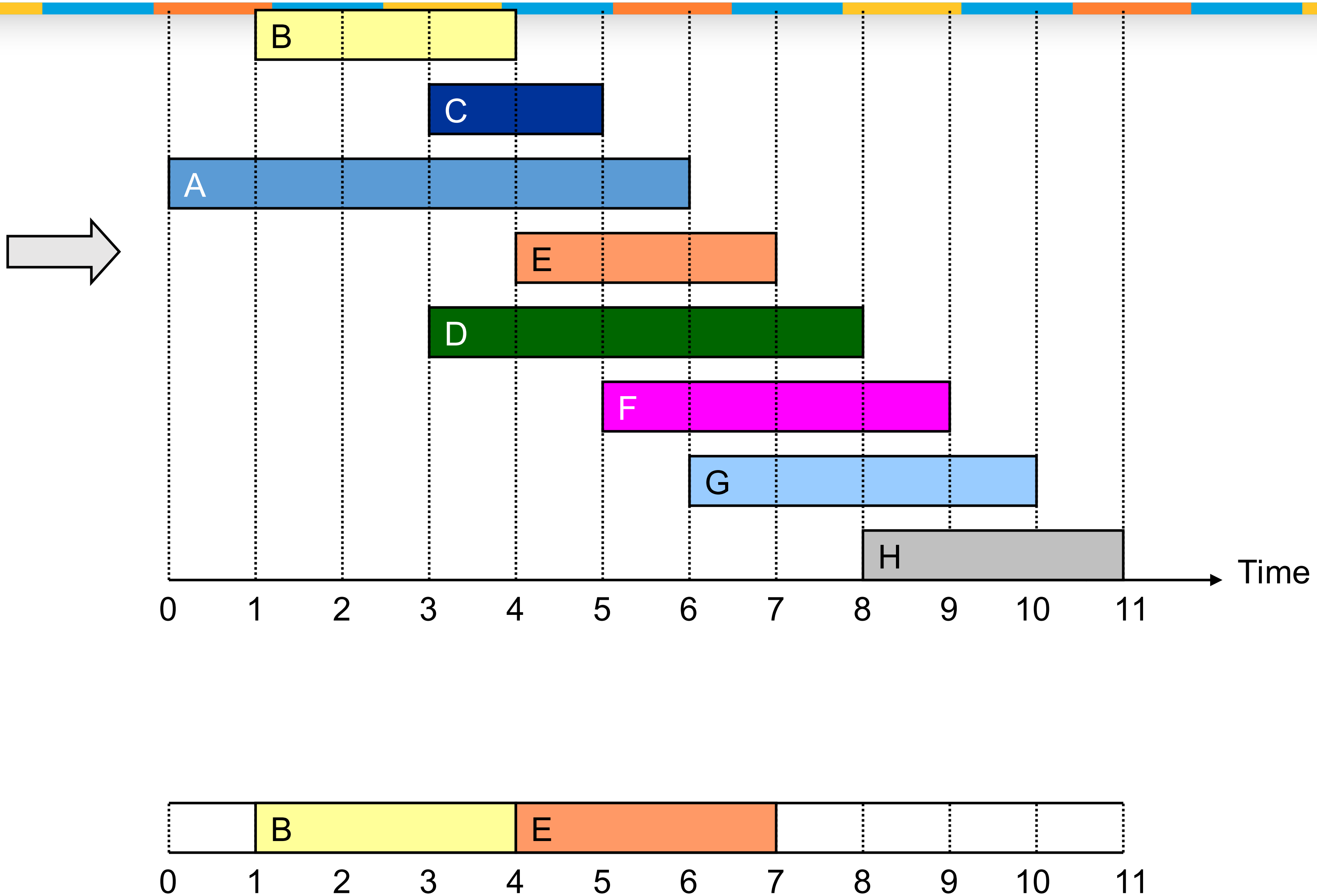




Interval Scheduling Demo



Interval Scheduling Demo



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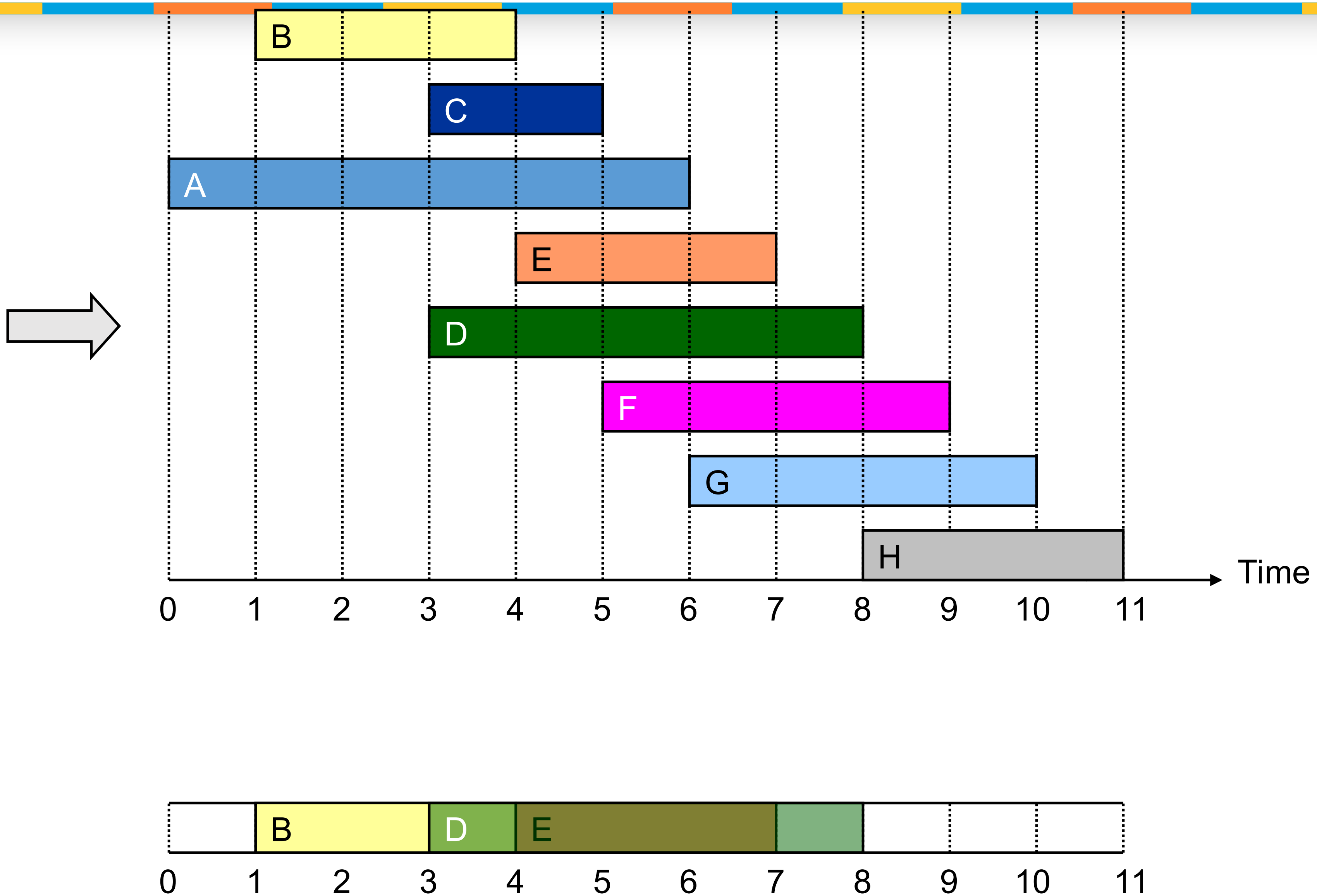

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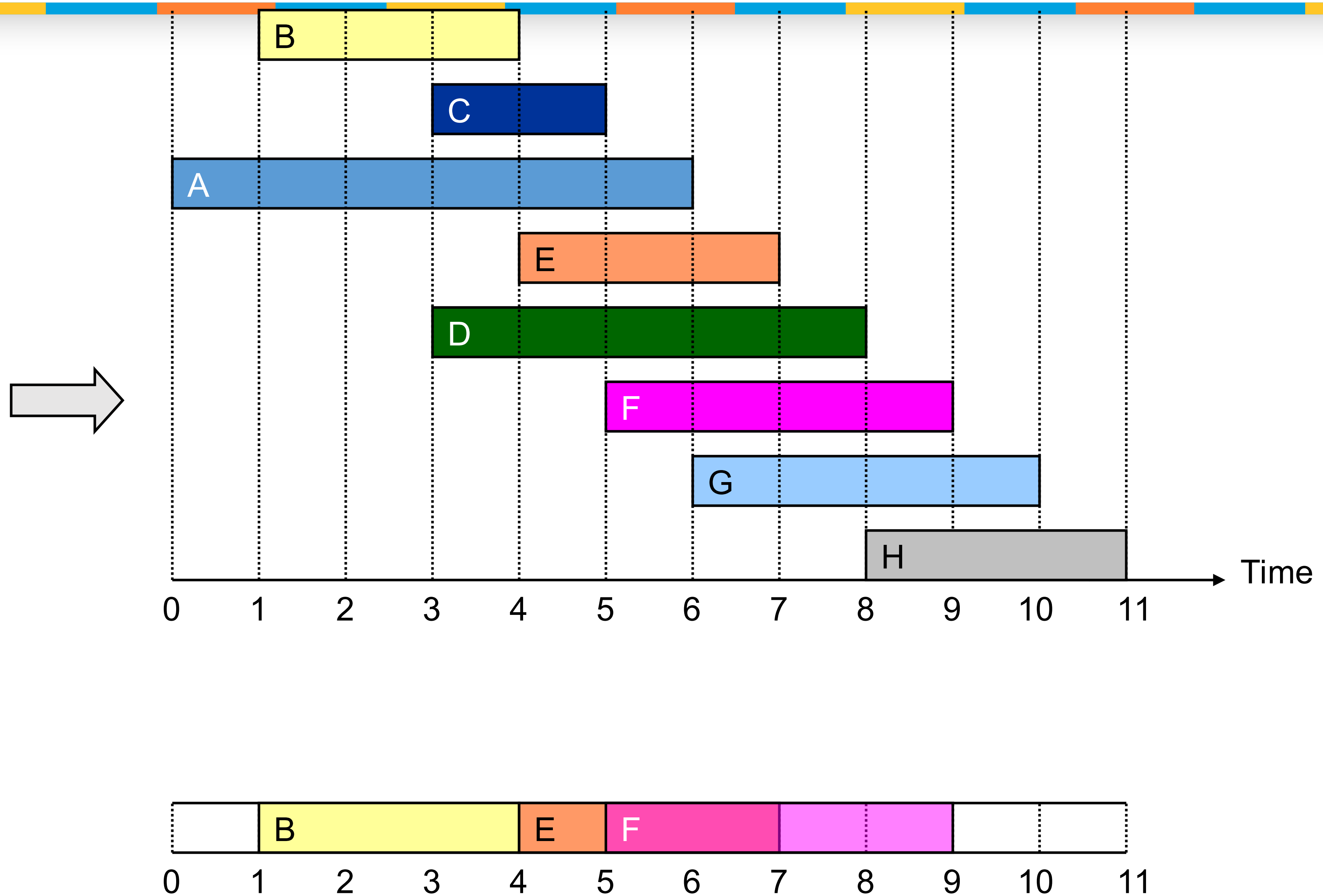

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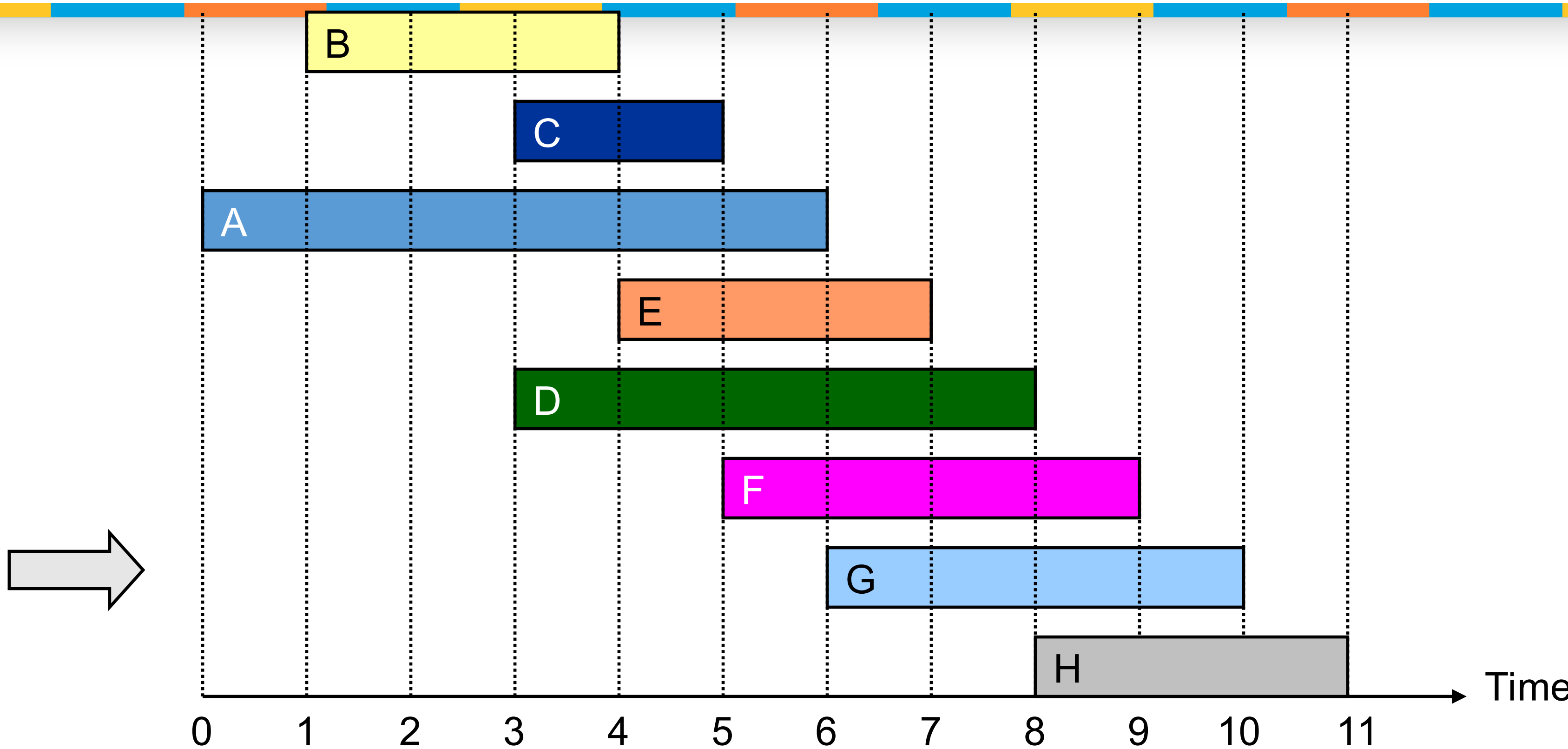
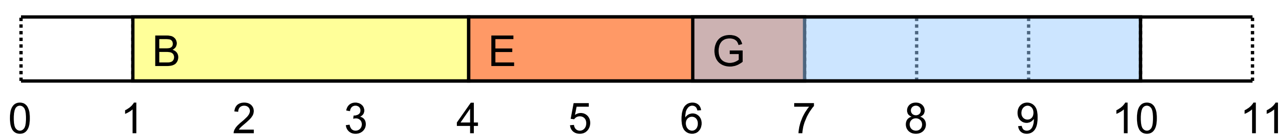
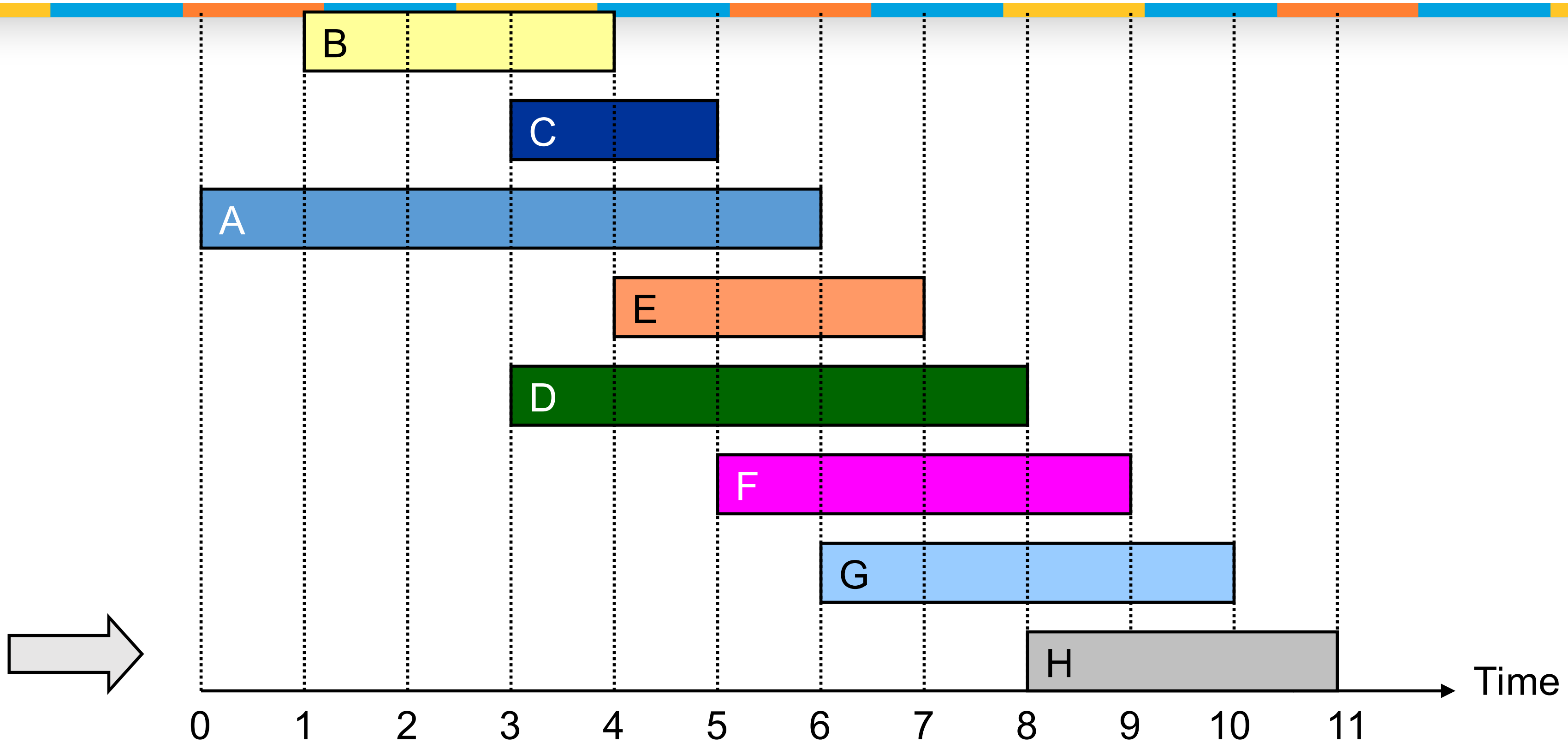
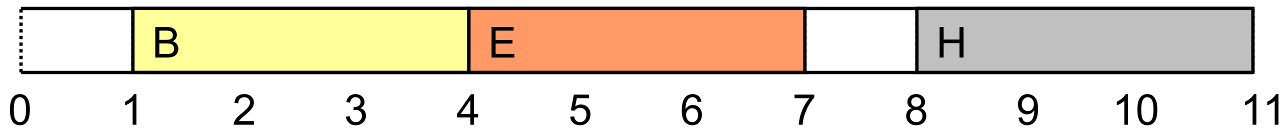




Interval Scheduling Demo



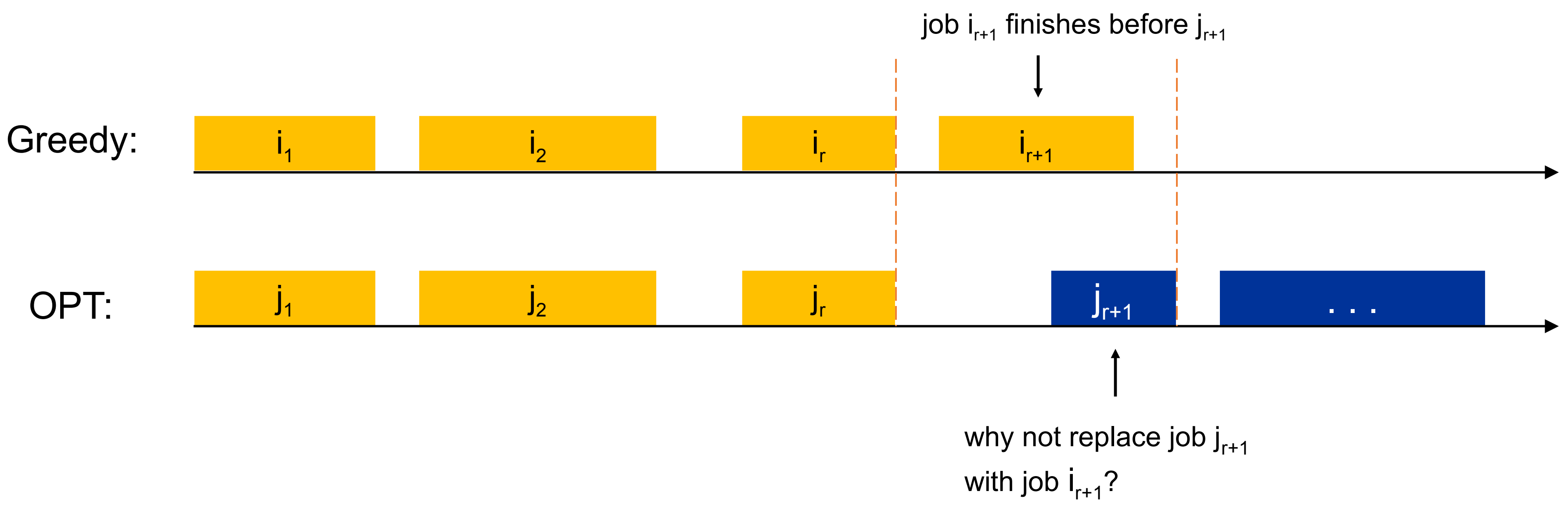


Interval Scheduling: Analysis

Theorem. Greedy algorithm is optimal.

Pf. (by contradiction)

- Assume greedy is not optimal, and let's see what happens.
- Let $i_1, i_2, \ldots i_k$ denote set of jobs selected by greedy.
- Let $j_1, j_2, \ldots j_m$ denote set of jobs in an optimal solution with $i_1 = j_1, i_2 = j_2, \ldots, i_r = j_r$ for the *largest possible value of r*.



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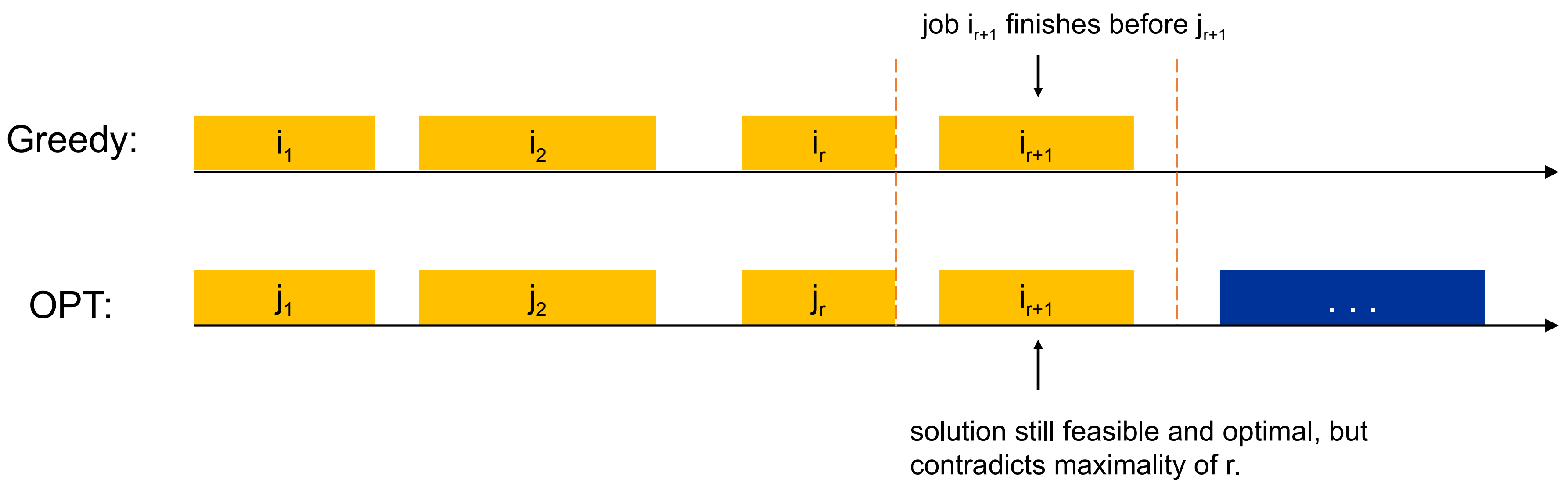
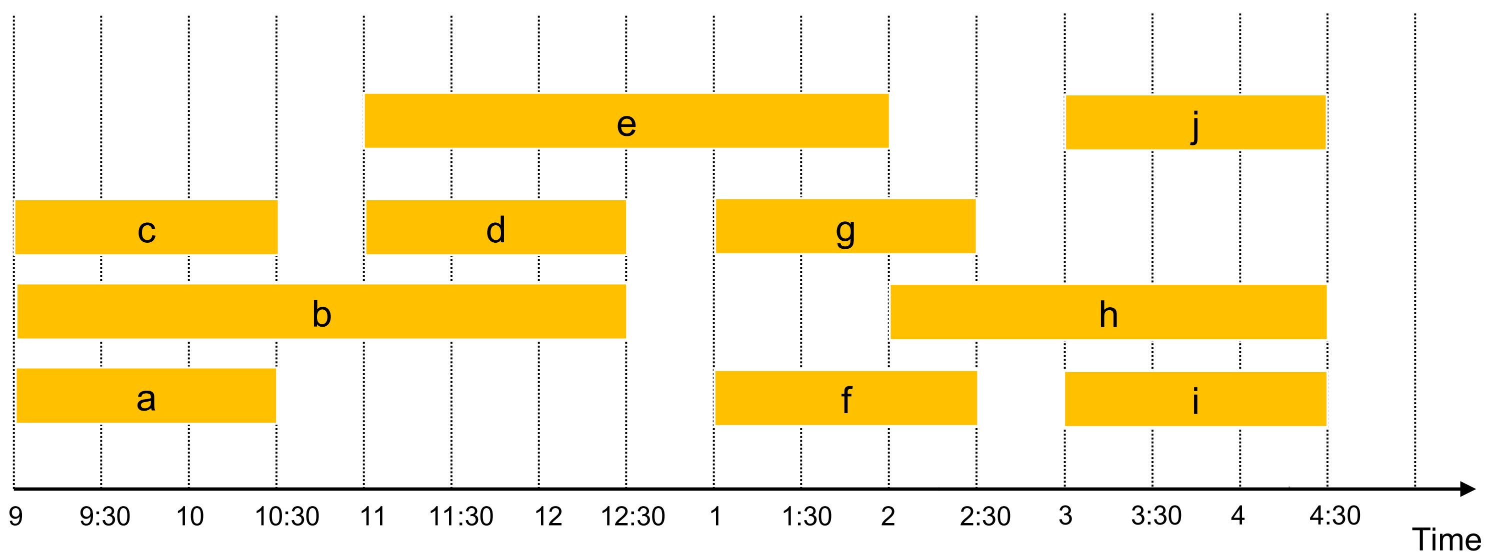


Interval Partitioning

Interval partitioning.

- Lecture j starts at s_j and finishes at f_j.
- Goal: find minimum number of classrooms to schedule all lectures so that no two occur at the same time in the same room.

Ex: This schedule uses 4 classrooms to schedule 10 lectures.

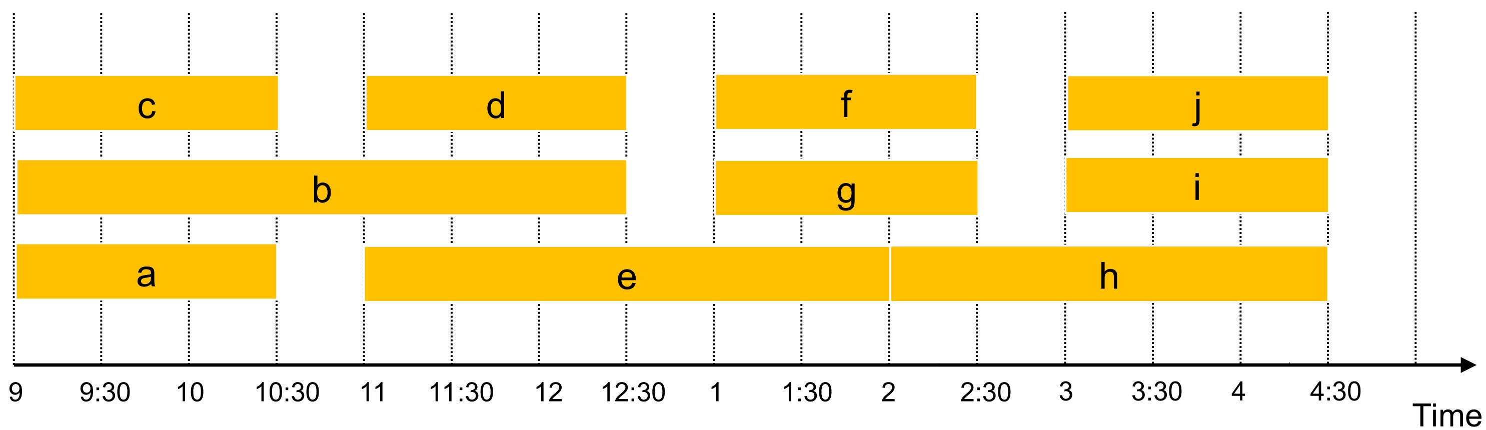


Interval Partitioning

Interval partitioning.

- Lecture j starts at s_j and finishes at f_j.
- Goal: find minimum number of classrooms to schedule all lectures so that no two occur at the same time in the same room.

Ex: This schedule uses only 3.



Interval Partitioning: Lower Bound on Optimal Solution

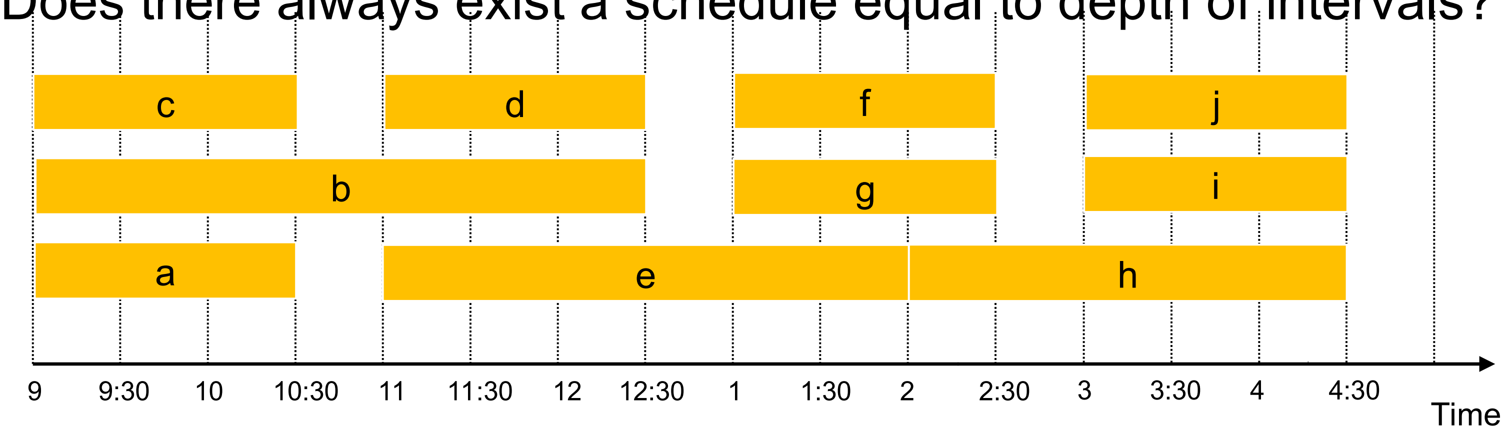
Def. The depth of a set of open intervals is the maximum number that contain any given time.

Key observation. Number of classrooms needed $\geq$ depth.

Ex: Depth of schedule below = 3 $\Rightarrow$ schedule below is optimal.

a, b, c all contain 9:30

Q. Does there always exist a schedule equal to depth of intervals?



Interval Partitioning: Greedy Algorithm

Greedy algorithm. Consider lectures in increasing order of start time: assign lecture to any compatible classroom.

```
Sort intervals by starting time so that s1 ≤ s2 ≤ ... ≤ sn.
d ← 0    ← number of allocated classrooms

for j = 1 to n {
   if (lecture j is compatible with some classroom k)
      schedule lecture j in classroom k
   else
      allocate a new classroom d + 1
      schedule lecture j in classroom d + 1
      d ← d + 1
}
```

Implementation. O(n log n).

- For each classroom k, maintain the finish time of the last job added.
- Keep the classrooms in a priority queue.

Interval Partitioning: Greedy Analyses

Observation. Greedy algorithm never schedules two incompatible lectures in the same classroom.

Theorem. Greedy algorithm is optimal.

Pf.

- Let d = number of classrooms that the greedy algorithm allocates.
- Classroom d is opened because we needed to schedule a job, say j, that is incompatible with all d-1 other classrooms.
- Since we sorted by start time, all these incompatibilities are caused by lectures that start no later than s_j.
- Thus, we have d lectures overlapping at time $s_j + \varepsilon$.
- Key observation $\Rightarrow$ all schedules use $\geq$ d classrooms. ▪

Foundations of Algorithms

Scheduling to Minimize Lateness

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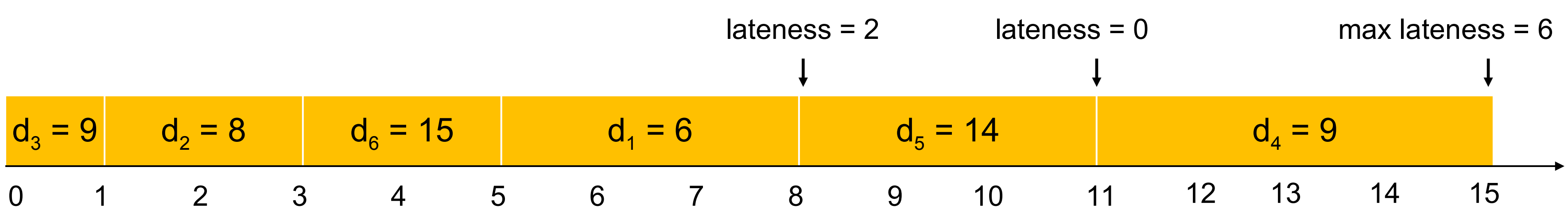
Scheduling to Minimize Lateness

- Single resource processes one job at a time.
- Job j requires t_j units of processing time and is due at time d_j.
- If j starts at time s_j, it finishes at time $f_j = s_j + t_j$.
- Lateness: $\ell_j = \max \{ 0, \ f_j - d_j \}$.
- Goal: schedule all jobs to minimize maximum lateness $L = \max \ell_j$.

Ex:

	1	2	3	4	5	6
t_j	3	2	1	4	3	2
d_j	6	8	9	9	14	15



Minimizing Lateness: Greedy Algorithm

Greedy template. Consider jobs in some order.

- [Shortest processing time first] Consider jobs in ascending order of processing time t_j.

- [Earliest deadline first] Consider jobs in ascending order of deadline d_j.

- [Smallest slack] Consider jobs in ascending order of slack $d_j - t_j$.

Minimizing Lateness: Greedy Algorithm

Greedy template. Consider jobs in some order.

- [Shortest processing time first] Consider jobs in ascending order of processing time t_j.

	1	2
t_j	1	10
d_j	100	10

counterexample

- [Smallest slack] Consider jobs in ascending order of slack $d_j - t_j$.

	1	2
t_j	1	10
d_j	2	10

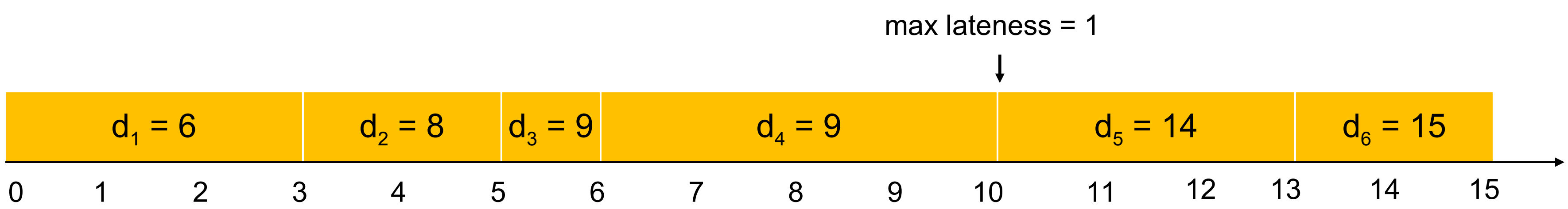
counterexample

Minimizing Lateness: Greedy Algorithm

Greedy algorithm. Earliest deadline first.

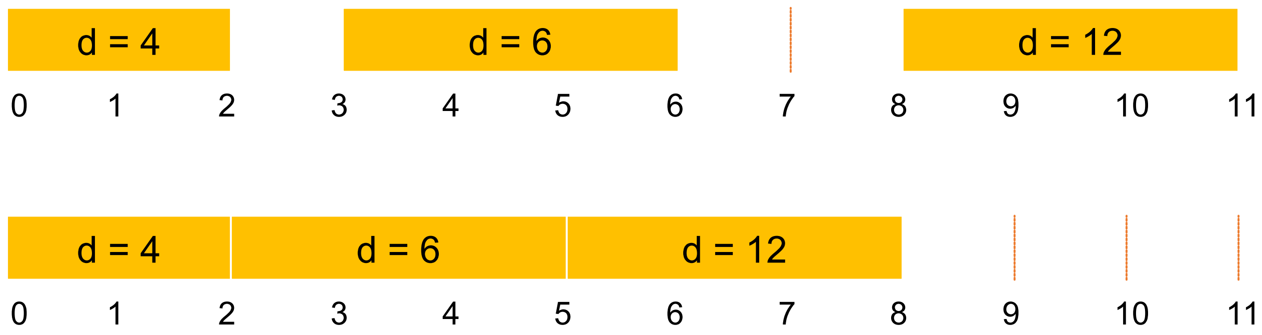
```
Sort n jobs by deadline so that d1 ≤ d2 ≤ … ≤ dn

t ← 0
for j = 1 to n
   Assign job j to interval [t, t + tj]
   sj ← t, fj ← t + tj
   t ← t + tj
output intervals [sj, fj]
```



Minimizing Lateness: No Idle Time

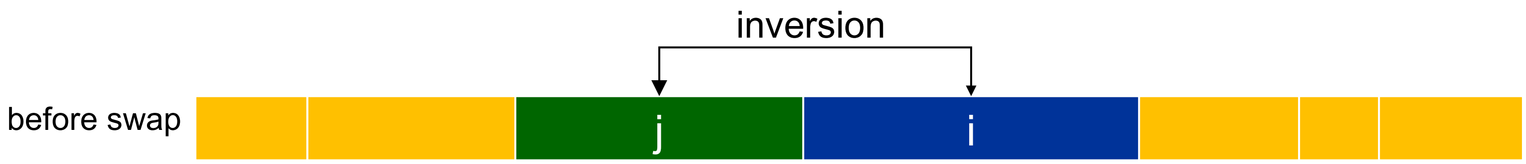
Observation. There exists an optimal schedule with no idle time.



Observation. The greedy schedule has no idle time.

Minimizing Lateness: Inversions

Def. An inversion in schedule S is a pair of jobs i and j such that: (deadline of i) < (deadline of j) but j scheduled before i.

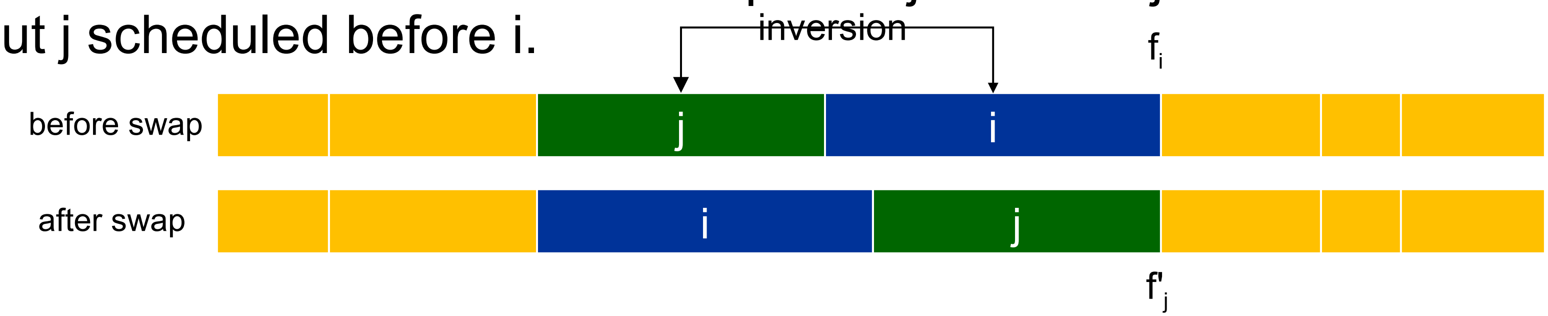


Observation. Greedy schedule has no inversions.

Observation. If a schedule (with no idle time) has an inversion, it has one with a pair of inverted jobs scheduled consecutively.

Minimizing Lateness: Inversions

Def. An inversion in schedule S is a pair of jobs i and j such that: i < j but j scheduled before i.



Claim. Swapping two adjacent, inverted jobs reduces the number of inversions by one and does not increase the max lateness.

Pf. Let ℓ be the lateness before the swap, and let ℓ' be it afterwards.

- $\ell'_k = \ell_k$ for all $k \neq i, j$
- $\ell'_i \leq \ell_i$
- If job j is late:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\ell'_j &= f'_j - d_j && \text{(definition)} \\
&= f_i - d_j && (j \text{ finishes at time } f_i) \\
&\leq f_i - d_i && (i < j) \\
&\leq \ell_i && \text{(definition)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Minimizing Lateness: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

Theorem. Greedy schedule S is optimal.

Pf. (by contradiction)

Define S* to be an optimal schedule that has the fewest number of inversions, and let's see what happens.

- Can assume S* has no idle time.
- If S* has no inversions, then S = S*.
- If S* has an inversion, let i-j be an adjacent inversion.
  - swapping i and j does not increase the maximum lateness and strictly decreases the number of inversions
  - this contradicts definition of S* ▪

Minimizing Lateness: Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

Theorem. Greedy schedule S is optimal.

Pf. **(alternative proof, as presented in class)**

Define S* to be an optimal schedule. Assume that all deadlines are distinct; then there exists only one schedule without inversions (which is also the S schedule output by greedy algorithm).

- Can assume S* has no idle time.
- If S* has no inversions, then S = S*.
- If S* has an inversion, let i-j be an adjacent inversion.
  - swapping i and j does not increase the maximum lateness and strictly decreases the number of inversions
  - Apply these swaps until S* has no inversions, i.e., S*= S

Note: If there are jobs with the same deadline, the max lateness for these jobs is always going to be given by the job that is scheduled the latest, so the order in which they appear in S* after we eliminated all inversions is irrelevant (the same deadline jobs will be scheduled in consecutive order in both S and S*, since no inversions) and you can always swap jobs with the same deadline until we get S*=S*.* ▪

Greedy Analysis Strategies

- **Greedy algorithm stays ahead.** Show that after each step of the greedy algorithm, its solution is at least as good as any other algorithm's.

- **Exchange argument.** Gradually transform any solution to the one found by the greedy algorithm without hurting its quality.

- **Structural.** Discover a simple "structural" bound asserting that every possible solution must have a certain value. Then show that your algorithm always achieves this bound.

Foundations of Algorithms

Optimal Offline Caching

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Optimal Offline Caching

Caching.

- Cache with capacity to store k items.
- Sequence of m item requests $d_1, d_2, \ldots, d_m$.
- Cache hit: item already in cache when requested.
- Cache miss: item not already in cache when requested: must bring requested item into cache, and evict some existing item, if full.

Goal. Eviction schedule that minimizes number of cache misses.

Ex: k = 2, initial cache = ab,
requests: a, b, c, b, c, a, a, b.

Optimal eviction schedule: 2 cache misses.

requests	cache	
a	a	b
b	a	b
c	c	b
b	c	b
c	c	b
a	a	b
a	a	b
b	a	b

Optimal Offline Caching: Farthest-In-Future

Farthest-in-future. Evict item in the cache that is not requested until farthest in the future.

current cache: | a | b | c | d | e | f |

future queries: `g a b c e d a b b a c d e a f a d e f g h ...`

↑ cache miss (at g)

↑ eject this one (at f)

Theorem. [Bellady, 1960s] FF is optimal eviction schedule.

Pf. Algorithm and theorem are intuitive; proof is subtle.

Reduced Eviction Schedules

Def. A reduced schedule is a schedule that only inserts an item into the cache in a step in which that item is requested.

Intuition. Can transform an unreduced schedule into a reduced one with no more cache misses.

a	a	b	c
a	a	x	c
c	a	d	c
d	a	d	b
a	a	x	b
b	a	c	b
c	a	c	b
a	a	c	b
a	a	c	b

an unreduced schedule

a	a	b	c
a	a	b	c
c	a	b	c
d	a	d	c
a	a	d	c
b	a	d	b
c	a	c	b
a	a	c	b
a	a	c	b

a reduced schedule

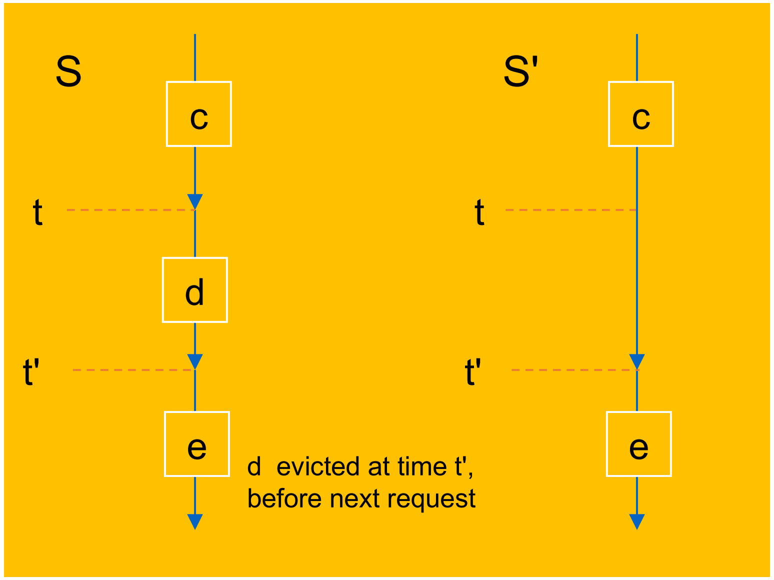
Reduced Eviction Schedules

Claim. Given any unreduced schedule S, can transform it into a reduced schedule S' with no more cache misses.

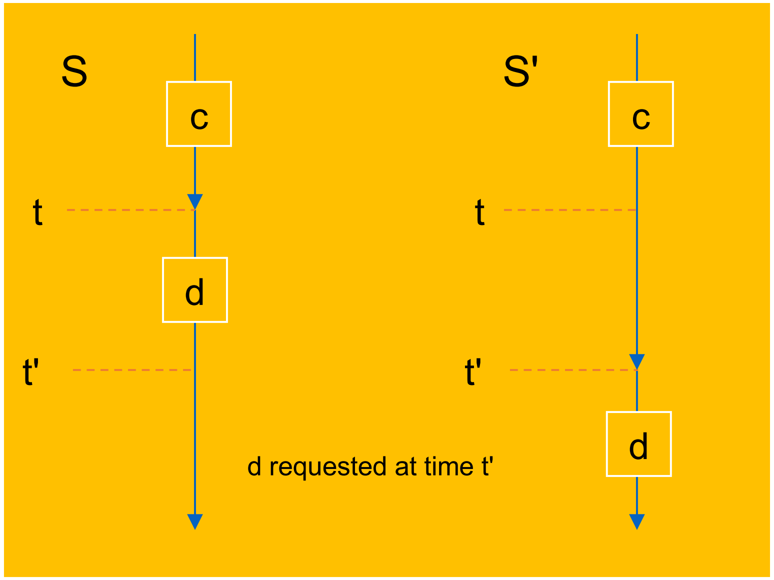
doesn't enter cache at requested time

Pf. (by induction on number of unreduced items)

- Suppose S brings d into the cache at time t, without a request.
- Let c be the item S evicts when it brings d into the cache.
- Case 1: d evicted at time t', before next request for d.
- Case 2: d requested at time t' before d is evicted. ▪



Case 1



Case 2

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

Theorem. FF is optimal eviction algorithm.

Pf. (by induction on number or requests j)

> Invariant: There exists an optimal reduced schedule S that makes the same eviction schedule as S_{FF} through the first j+1 requests.

Let S be reduced schedule that satisfies invariant through j requests.
We produce S' that satisfies invariant after j+1 requests.

- Consider $(j+1)^{st}$ request $d = d_{j+1}$.
- Since S and S_{FF} have agreed up until now, they have the same cache contents before request j+1.
- **Case 1:** (d is already in the cache). S' = S satisfies invariant.
- **Case 2:** (d is not in the cache and S and S_{FF} evict the same element).
  S' = S satisfies invariant.

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

Pf. (continued)

- **Case 3:** (d is not in the cache; S_{FF} evicts e; S evicts f $\neq$ e).
  - begin construction of S' from S by evicting e instead of f

j	same	e	f	same	e	f
		S			S'	
j+1	same	e	d	same	d	f
		S			S'	

  - now S' agrees with S_{FF} on first j+1 requests; we show that having element f in cache is no worse than having element e

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

Let j' be the first time after j+1 that S and S' take a different action, and let g be item requested at time j'.

must involve e or f (or both)

j' | same | e | | same | f

S | S'

- **Case 3a:** g = e. Can't happen with Farthest-In-Future since there must be a request for f before e.

- **Case 3b:** g = f. Element f can't be in cache of S, so let e' be the element that S evicts.
- if e' = e, S' accesses f from cache; now S and S' have same cache
- if e' $\neq$ e, S' evicts e' and brings e into the cache; now S and S' have the same cache

Note: S' is no longer reduced, but can be transformed into a reduced schedule that agrees with S_{FF} through step j+1

Farthest-In-Future: Analysis

Let j' be the first time after j+1 that S and S' take a different action, and let g be item requested at time j'.

must involve e or f (or both)

	S		S'	
j'	same	e	same	f

otherwise S' would take the same action

- **Case 3c:** $g \neq e, f$. S must evict e.
  Make S' evict f; now S and S' have the same cache. ▪

	S		S'	
j' + 1	same	g	same	g

Caching Perspective

Online vs. offline algorithms.

- Offline: full sequence of requests is known a priori.
- Online (reality): requests are not known in advance.
- Caching is among most fundamental online problems in CS.

LIFO. Evict page brought in most recently.

LRU. Evict page whose most recent access was earliest.

FF with direction of time reversed!

Theorem. FF is optimal offline eviction algorithm.

- Provides basis for understanding and analyzing online algorithms.
- LRU is k-competitive. [Section 13.8]
- LIFO is arbitrarily bad.

Foundations of Algorithms

Further Examples of Greedy Algorithms

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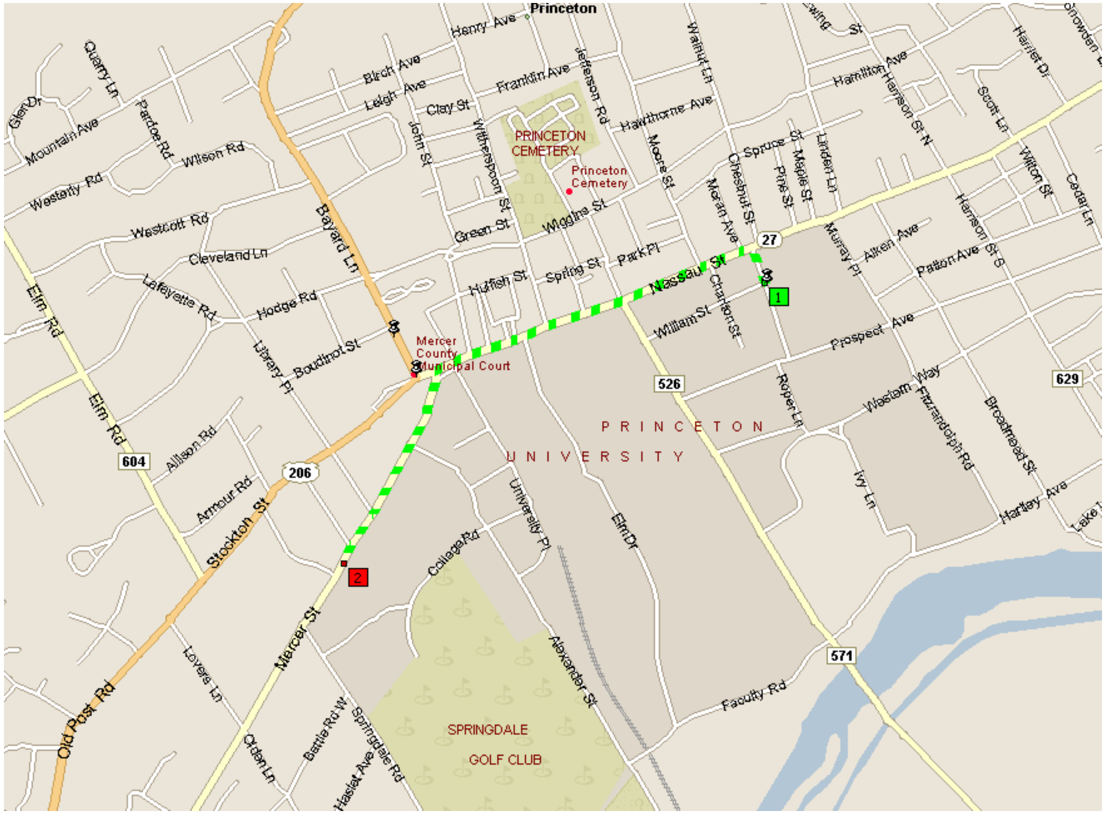
Shortest Path Problem



Shortest path from Princeton University CS department to Einstein's house

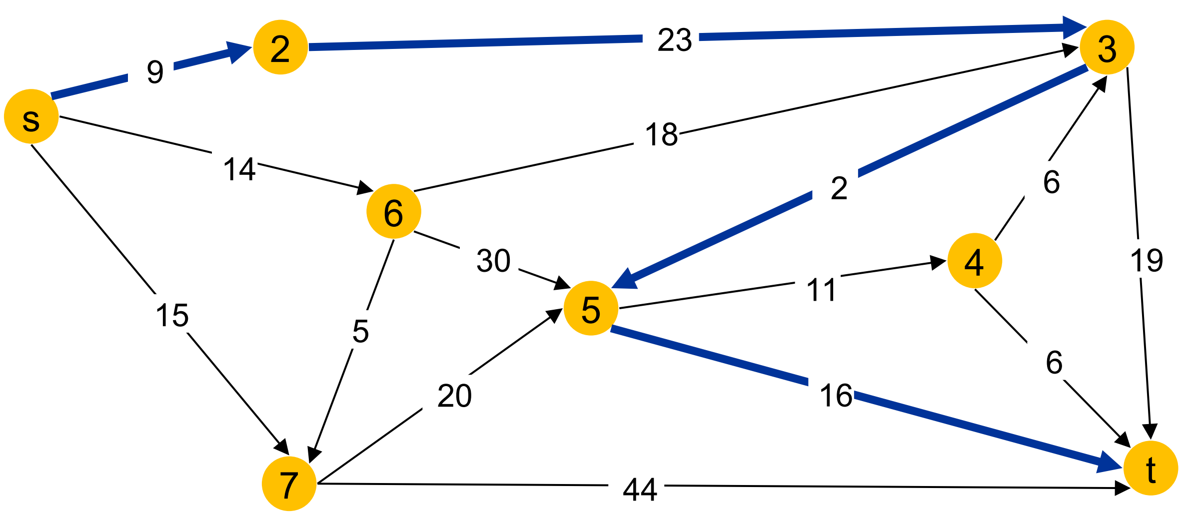
Shortest Path Problem

Shortest path network.

- Directed graph G = (V, E).
- Source s, destination t.
- Length ℓ_e = length of edge e.

Shortest path problem: find shortest directed path from s to t.

cost of path = sum of edge costs in path



Cost of path s-2-3-5-t
= 9 + 23 + 2 + 16
= 50.

Dijkstra's Algorithm

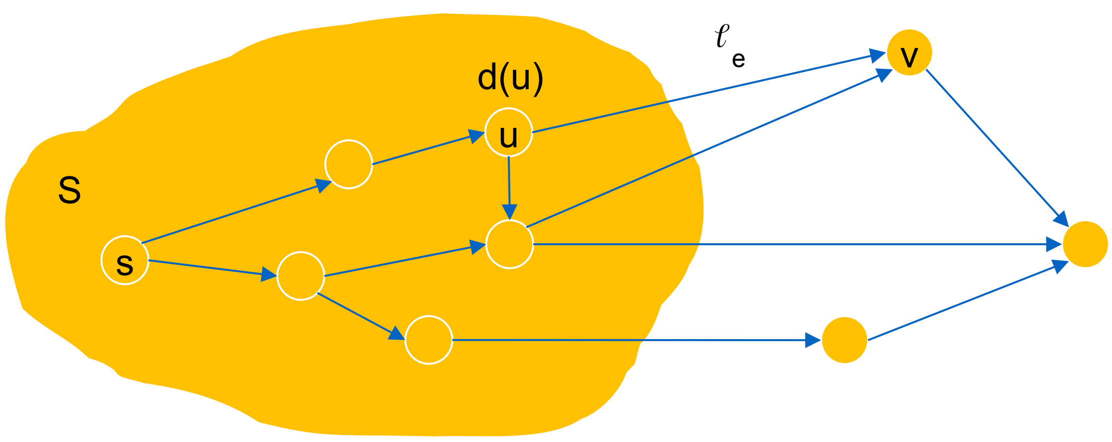
Dijkstra's algorithm.

- Maintain a set of explored nodes S for which we have determined the shortest path distance d(u) from s to u.
- Initialize S = { s }, d(s) = 0.
- Repeatedly choose unexplored node v which minimizes

$$\pi(v) = \min_{e = (u,v) : u \in S} d(u) + \ell_e ,$$

shortest path to some u in explored part, followed by a single edge (u, v)

add v to S, and set d(v) = π(v).



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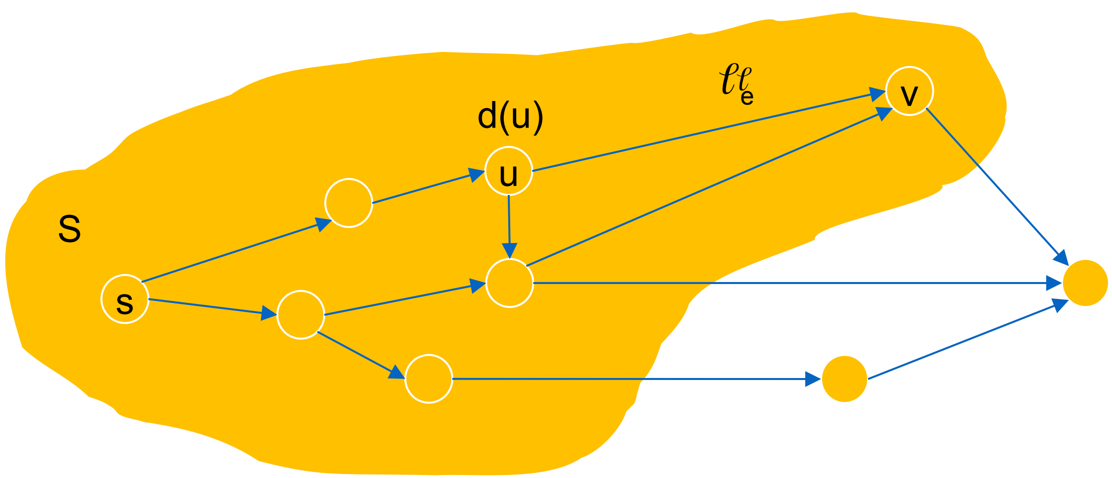


Dijkstra's Algorithm: Proof of Correctness

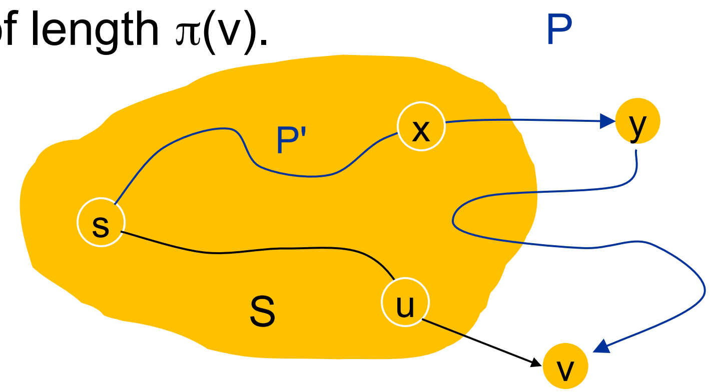
Invariant. For each node $u \in S$, $d(u)$ is the length of the shortest s-u path.

Pf. (by induction on $|S|$)

Base case: $|S| = 1$ is trivial.

Inductive hypothesis: Assume true for $|S| = k \geq 1$.

- Let v be next node added to S, and let u-v be the chosen edge.
- The shortest s-u path plus (u, v) is an s-v path of length $\pi(v)$.
- Consider any s-v path P. We'll see that it's no shorter than $\pi(v)$.
- Let x-y be the first edge in P that leaves S, and let P' be the subpath to x.
- P is already too long as soon as it leaves S.



$$\ell(P) \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{nonnegative} \\ \text{weights}}}{\geq} \ell(P') + \ell(x,y) \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{inductive} \\ \text{hypothesis}}}{\geq} d(x) + \ell(x, y) \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{defn of } \pi(y)}}{\geq} \pi(y) \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Dijkstra chose v} \\ \text{instead of y}}}{\geq} \pi(v)$$

Dijkstra's Algorithm: Implementation

For each unexplored node, explicitly maintain $\pi(v) = \min_{e=(u,v):\, u \in S} d(u) + \ell_e$.

- Next node to explore = node with minimum $\pi(v)$.
- When exploring v, for each incident edge e = (v, w), update

$$\pi(w) = \min \{ \pi(w),\ \pi(v) + \ell_e \}.$$

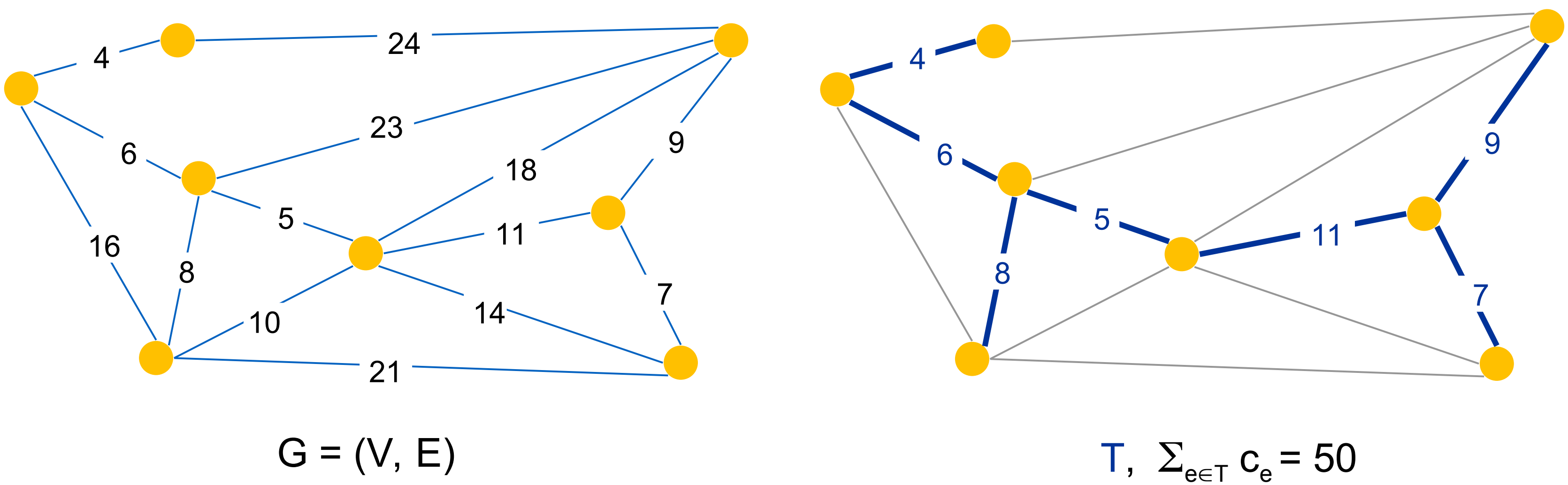
Efficient implementation. Maintain a priority queue of unexplored nodes, prioritized by $\pi(v)$.

PQ Operation	Dijkstra	Array	Binary heap	d-way Heap	Fib heap †
Insert	n	n	log n	$\log_d n$	1
ExtractMin	n	n	log n	$d \log_d n$	log n
ChangeKey	m	1	log n	$\log_d n$	1
IsEmpty	n	1	1	1	1
Total		n^2	m log n	$m \log_{m/n} n$, for d=m/n	m + n log n

† Individual ops are amortized bounds

Minimum Spanning Tree

Minimum spanning tree. Given a connected graph G = (V, E) with real-valued edge weights c_e, an MST is a subset of the edges $T \subseteq E$ such that T is a spanning tree whose sum of edge weights is minimized.



Cayley's Theorem. There are n^{n-2} spanning trees of K_n.

can't solve by brute force

Applications

MST is fundamental problem with diverse applications.

- Network design.
  - telephone, electrical, hydraulic, TV cable, computer, road
- Approximation algorithms for NP-hard problems.
  - traveling salesperson problem, Steiner tree
- Indirect applications.
  - max bottleneck paths
  - LDPC codes for error correction
  - image registration with Renyi entropy
  - learning salient features for real-time face verification
  - reducing data storage in sequencing amino acids in a protein
  - model locality of particle interactions in turbulent fluid flows
  - autoconfig protocol for Ethernet bridging to avoid cycles in a network
- Cluster analysis.

Greedy Algorithms

Kruskal's algorithm. Start with $T = \phi$. Consider edges in ascending order of cost. Insert edge e in T unless doing so would create a cycle.

Reverse-Delete algorithm. Start with T = E. Consider edges in descending order of cost. Delete edge e from T unless doing so would disconnect T.

Prim's algorithm. Start with some root node s and greedily grow a tree T from s outward. At each step, add the cheapest edge e to T that has exactly one endpoint in T.

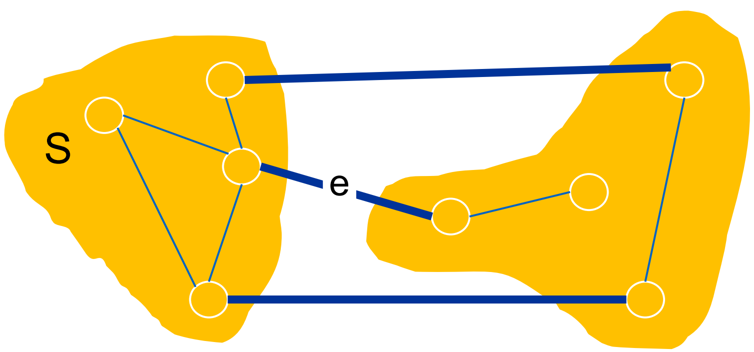
Remark. All three algorithms produce an MST.

Greedy Algorithms

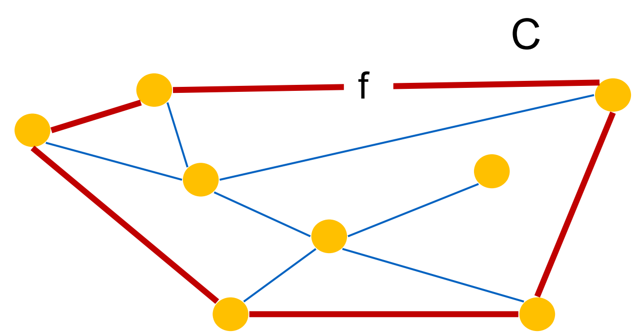
Simplifying assumption. All edge costs c_e are distinct.

Cut property. Let S be any subset of nodes, and let e be the min cost edge with exactly one endpoint in S. Then the MST contains e.

Cycle property. Let C be any cycle, and let f be the max cost edge belonging to C. Then the MST does not contain f.



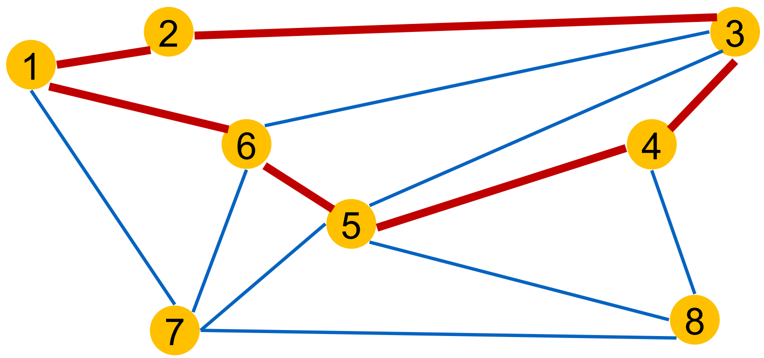
e is in the MST



f is not in the MST

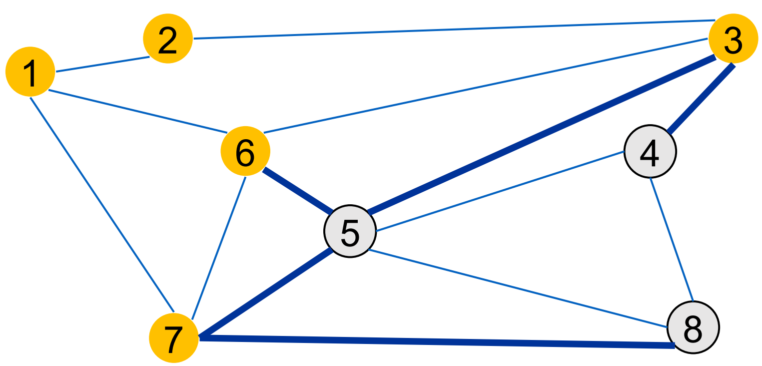
Cycles and Cuts

Cycle. Set of edges of the form a-b, b-c, c-d, …, y-z, z-a.



Cycle C = 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-1

Cutset. A cut is a subset of nodes S. The corresponding cutset D is the subset of edges with exactly one endpoint in S.

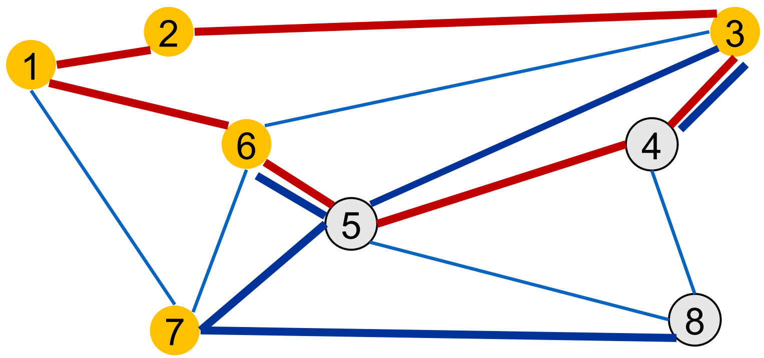


Cut S = { 4, 5, 8 }

Cutset D = 5-6, 5-7, 3-4, 3-5, 7-8

Cycle-Cut Intersection

Claim. A cycle and a cutset intersect in an even number of edges.

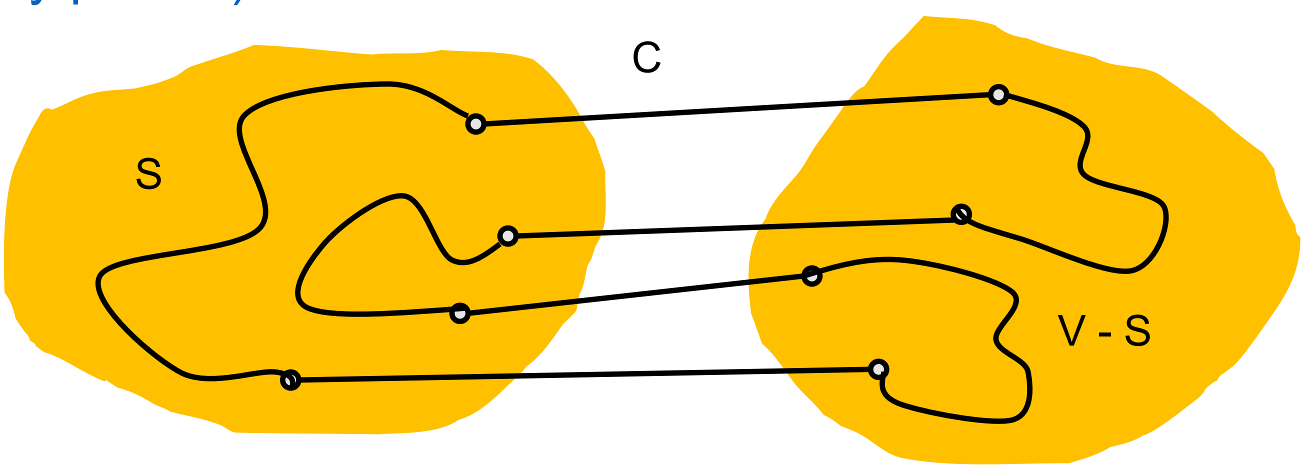


Cycle C = 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-1

Cutset D = 3-4, 3-5, 5-6, 5-7, 7-8

Intersection = 3-4, 5-6

Pf. (by picture)



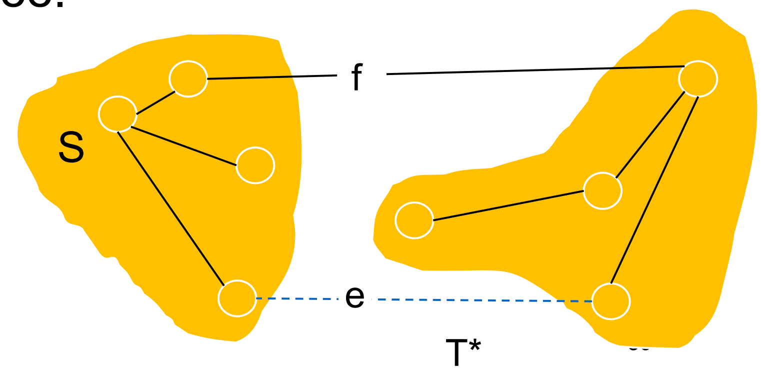
Greedy Algorithms

Simplifying assumption. All edge costs c_e are distinct.

Cut property. Let S be any subset of nodes, and let e be the min cost edge with exactly one endpoint in S. Then the MST T* contains e.

Pf. (exchange argument)

- Suppose e does not belong to T*, and let's see what happens.
- Adding e to T* creates a cycle C in T*.
- Edge e is both in the cycle C and in the cutset D corresponding to S $\Rightarrow$ there exists another edge, say f, that is in both C and D.
- $T' = T^* \cup \{e\} - \{f\}$ is also a spanning tree.
- Since $c_e < c_f$, cost(T') < cost(T*).
- This is a contradiction. ▪



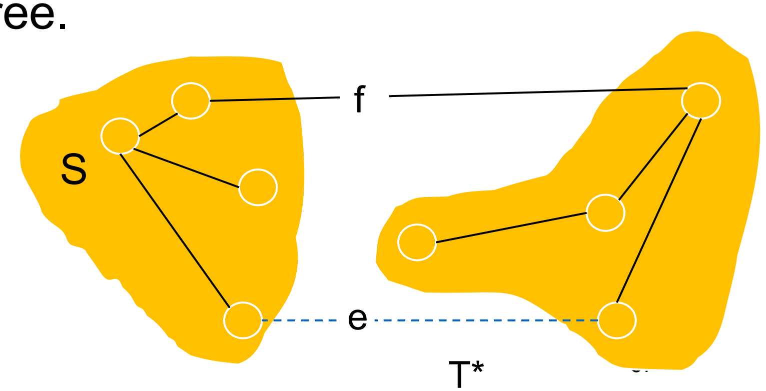
Greedy Algorithms

Simplifying assumption. All edge costs c_e are distinct.

Cycle property. Let C be any cycle in G, and let f be the max cost edge belonging to C. Then the MST T* does not contain f.

Pf. (exchange argument)

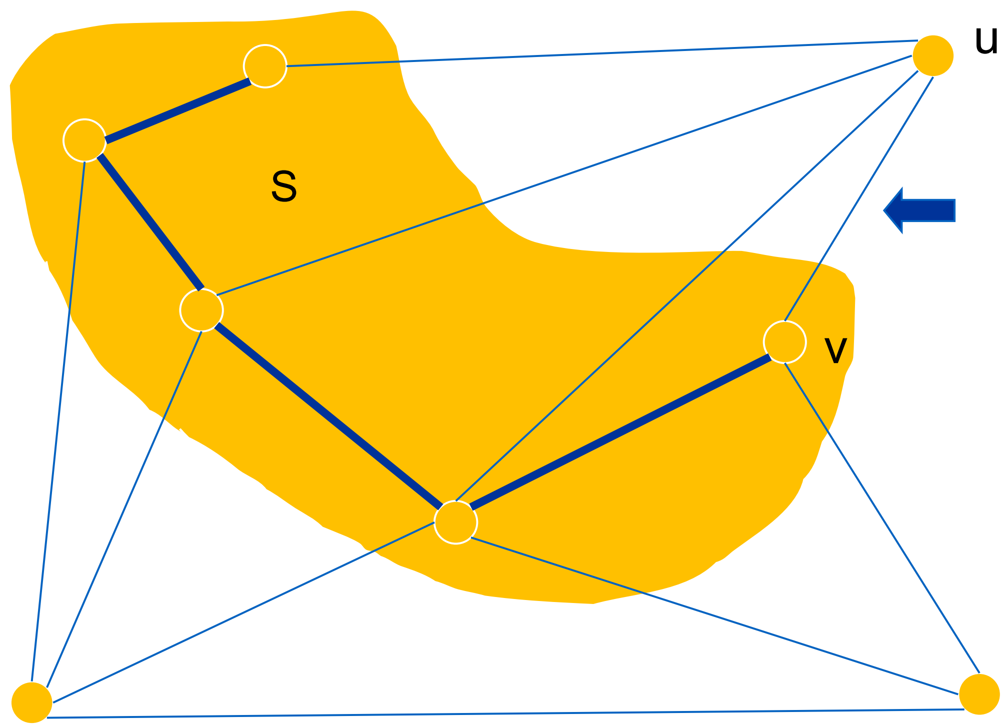
- Suppose f belongs to T*, and let's see what happens.
- Deleting f from T* creates a cut S in T*.
- Edge f is both in the cycle C and in the cutset D corresponding to S $\Rightarrow$ there exists another edge, say e, that is in both C and D.
- $T' = T^* \cup \{e\} - \{f\}$ is also a spanning tree.
- Since $c_e < c_f$, cost(T') < cost(T*).
- This is a contradiction.



Prim's Algorithm: Proof of Correctness

Prim's algorithm. [Jarník 1930, Dijkstra 1957, Prim 1959]

- Initialize S = {any node}.
- Apply cut property to S.
- Add min cost edge e = (v,u) in cutset corresponding to S to T, and add newly explored node u to S.



Implementation: Prim's Algorithm

Implementation. Use a priority queue ala Dijkstra.

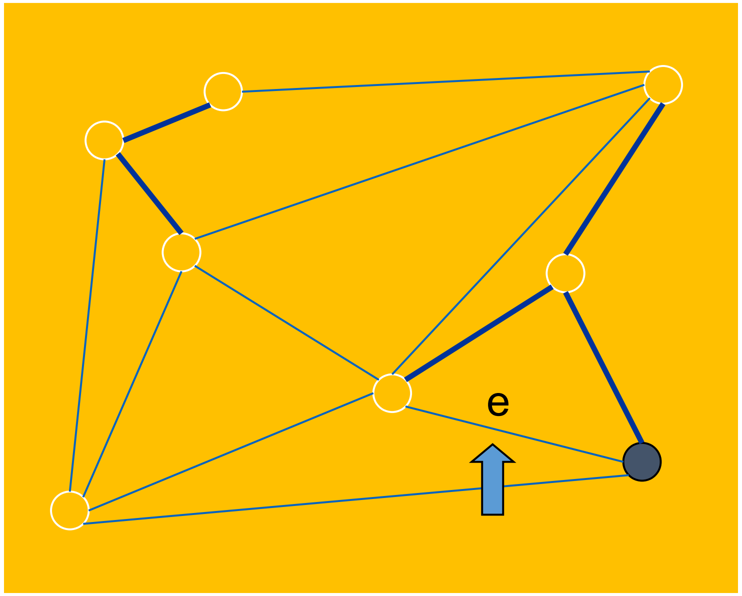
- Maintain set of explored nodes S.
- For each unexplored node v, maintain attachment cost a[v] = cost of cheapest edge from v to a node in S.
- $O(n^2)$ with an array; $O(m \log n)$ with a binary heap.

```
Prim(G, c) {
   foreach (v ∈ V) a[v] ← ∞
   Initialize an empty priority queue Q
   foreach (v ∈ V) insert v onto Q
   Initialize set of explored nodes S ← φ

   while (Q is not empty) {
      u ← delete min element from Q
      S ← S ∪ { u }
      foreach (edge e = (u, v) incident to u)
          if ((v ∉ S) and (c_e < a[v]))
             decrease priority a[v] to c_e
}
```

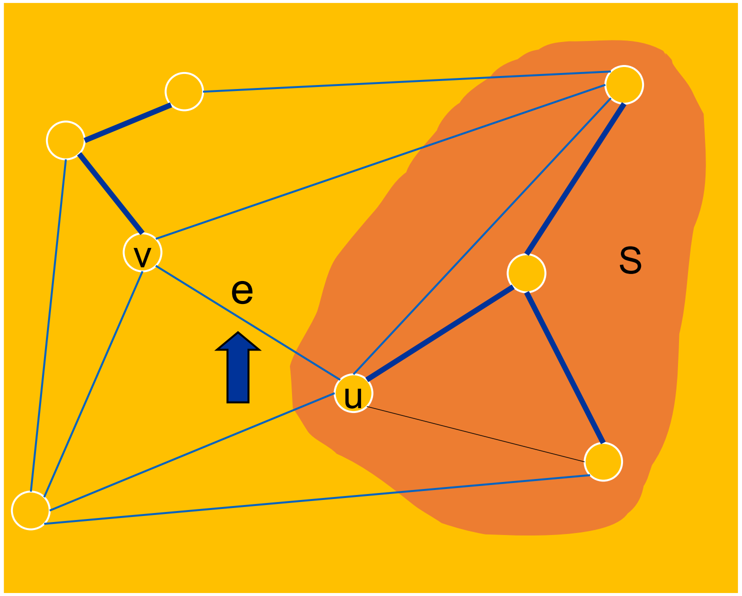
Kruskal's Algorithm: Proof of Correctness

Kruskal's algorithm. [Kruskal, 1956]

- Consider edges in ascending order of weight.
- **Case 1:** If adding e to T creates a cycle, discard e according to cycle property.
- **Case 2:** Otherwise, insert e = (u, v) into T according to cut property where S = set of nodes in u's connected component.



Case 1



Case 2

Implementation: Kruskal's Algorithm

Implementation. Use the union-find data structure.

- Build set T of edges in the MST.
- Maintain set for each connected component.
- $O(m \log n)$ for sorting and $O(m\, \underbrace{\alpha\,(m, n)}_{\text{essentially a constant}})$ for union-find.

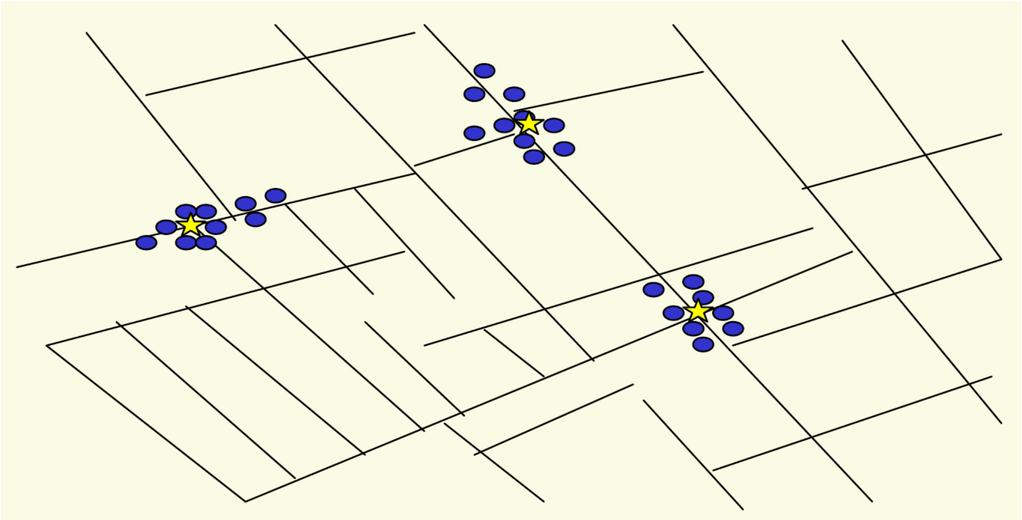
$m \le n^2 \Rightarrow \log m$ is $O(\log n)$

```
Kruskal(G, c) {
   Sort edges weights so that c₁ ≤ c₂ ≤ ... ≤ cₘ.
   T ← φ

   foreach (u ∈ V) make a set containing singleton u

   for i = 1 to m
      (u,v) = eᵢ
      if (u and v are in different sets) {
         T ← T ∪ {eᵢ}
         merge the sets containing u and v
      }
   return T
}
```

are u and v in different connected components?

merge two components

Clustering



Outbreak of cholera deaths in London in 1850s.
Reference: Nina Mishra, HP Labs

Clustering

Clustering. Given a set U of n objects labeled $p_1, \ldots, p_n$, classify into coherent groups.

photos, documents. micro-organisms

Distance function. Numeric value specifying "closeness" of two objects.

number of corresponding pixels whose intensities differ by some threshold

Fundamental problem. Divide into clusters so that points in different clusters are far apart.

- Routing in mobile ad hoc networks.
- Identify patterns in gene expression.
- Document categorization for web search.
- Similarity searching in medical image databases
- Skycat: cluster 10^9 sky objects into stars, quasars, galaxies.

Clustering of Maximum Spacing

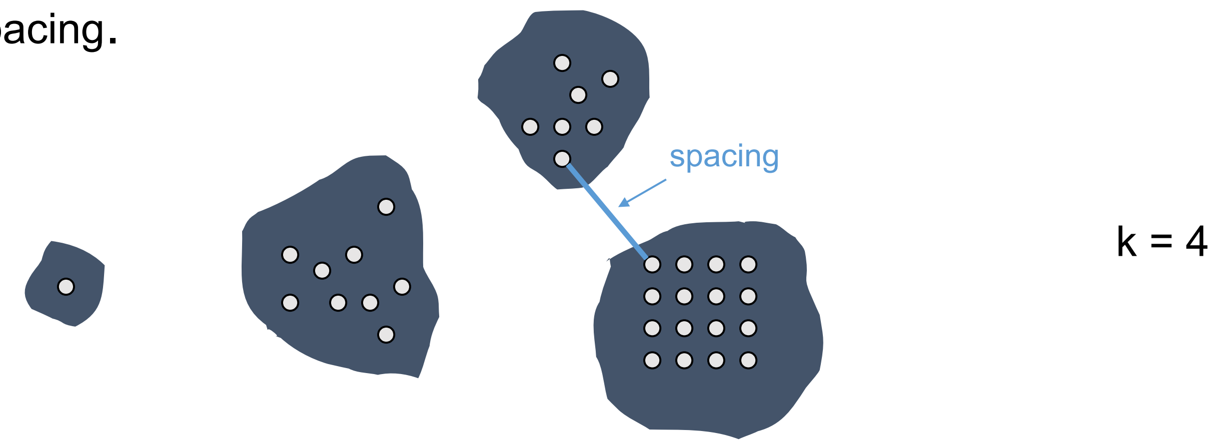
k-clustering. Divide objects into k non-empty groups.

Distance function. Assume it satisfies several natural properties.

- $d(p_i, p_j) = 0$ iff $p_i = p_j$ (identity of indiscernibles)
- $d(p_i, p_j) \geq 0$ (nonnegativity)
- $d(p_i, p_j) = d(p_j, p_i)$ (symmetry)

Spacing. Min distance between any pair of points in different clusters.

Clustering of maximum spacing. Given an integer k, find a k-clustering of maximum spacing.



Greedy Clustering Algorithm

Single-link k-clustering algorithm.

- Form a graph on the vertex set U, corresponding to n clusters.
- Find the closest pair of objects such that each object is in a different cluster, and add an edge between them.
- Repeat n-k times until there are exactly k clusters.

Key observation. This procedure is precisely Kruskal's algorithm (except we stop when there are k connected components).

Remark. Equivalent to finding an MST and deleting the k-1 most expensive edges.

Greedy Clustering Algorithm: Analysis

Theorem. Let C^* denote the clustering $C^*_1, \ldots, C^*_k$ formed by deleting the
k-1 most expensive edges of a MST. C^* is a k-clustering of max spacing.

Pf. Let C denote some other clustering $C_1, \ldots, C_k$.

- The spacing of C^* is the length d^* of the $(k-1)^{st}$ most expensive edge.
- Let p_i, p_j be in the same cluster in C^*, say C^*_r, but different clusters in C, say C_s and C_t.
- Some edge (p, q) on p_i-p_j path in C^*_r spans two different clusters in C.
- All edges on p_i-p_j path have length $\leq d^*$ since Kruskal chose them.
- Spacing of C is $\leq d^*$ since p and q are in different clusters.