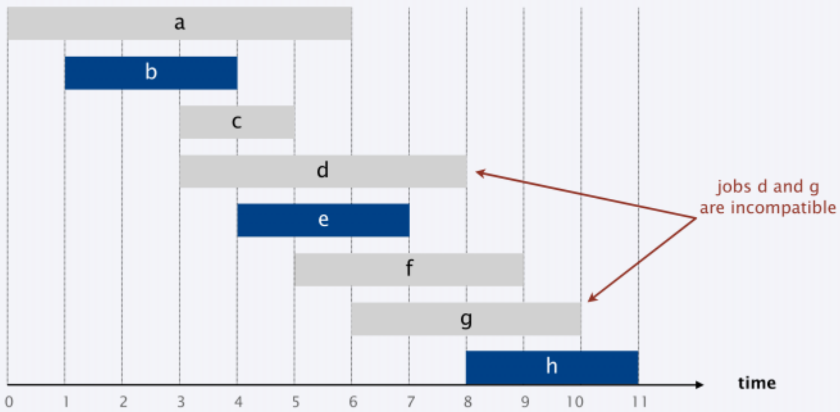
Lecture 7

Wednesday, May 31, 2017 2:53 PM

Interval scheduling

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



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Interval scheduling: greedy algorithms

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

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

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Interval scheduling: greedy algorithms

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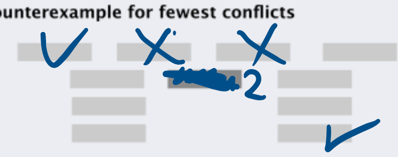
counterexample for earliest start time

counterexample for shortest interval

counterexample for fewest conflicts



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Interval scheduling: earliest-finish-time-first algorithm

EARLIEST-FINISH-TIME-FIRST $(n, s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_n, f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_n)$

$O(n \cdot \log n)$ SORT jobs by finish time so that $f_1 \le f_2 \le \ldots \le f_n$

$A \leftarrow \phi$ ⟵ set of jobs selected

FOR $j = 1$ TO n

  IF job j is compatible with A

    $A \leftarrow A \cup \{ j \}$

RETURN A

Proposition. Can implement earliest-finish-time first in $O(n \log n)$ time.

- Keep track of job j^* that was added last to A.
- Job j is compatible with A iff $s_j \ge f_{j^*}$.
- Sorting by finish time takes $O(n \log n)$ time.

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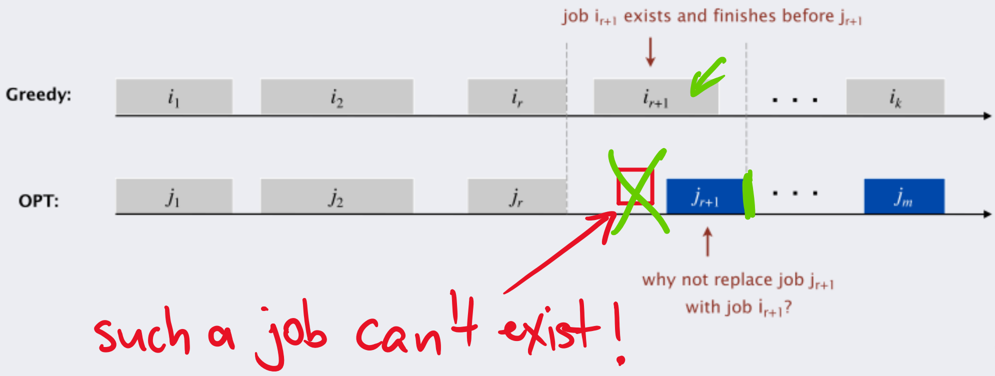
Interval scheduling: analysis of earliest-finish-time-first algorithm

Theorem. The earliest-finish-time-first 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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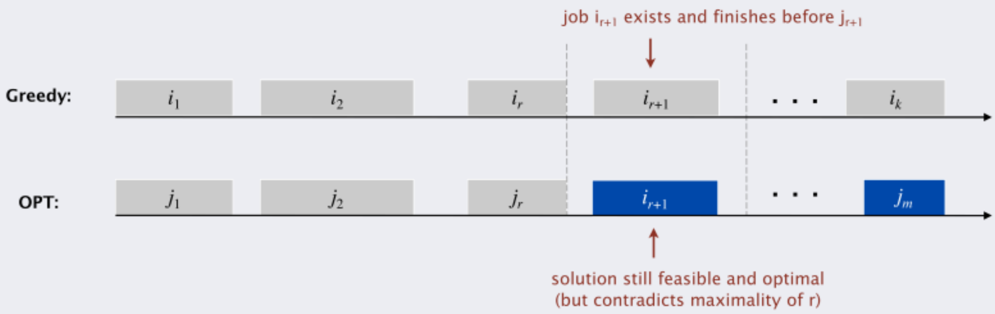

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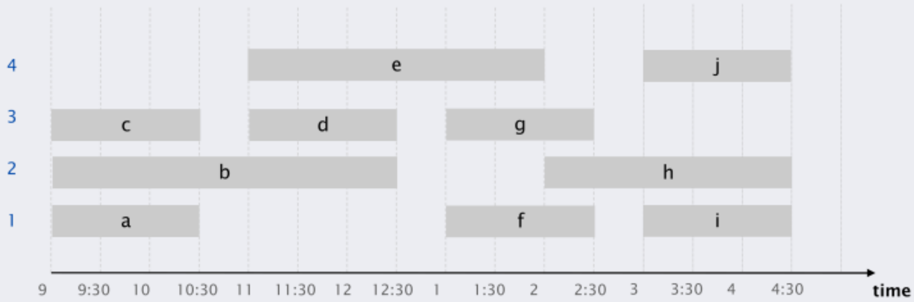
Interval partitioning

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 lectures occur at the same time in the same room.

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

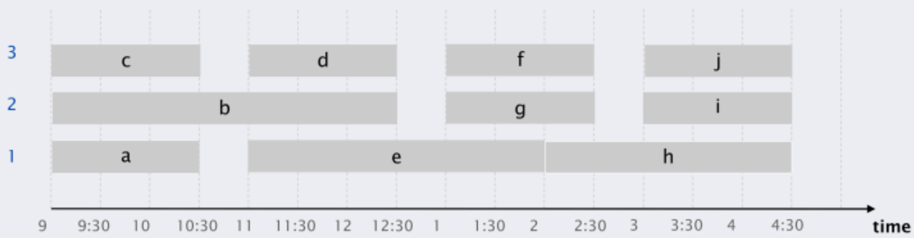


Interval partitioning

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 lectures occur at the same time in the same room.

Ex. This schedule uses 3 classrooms to schedule 10 lectures.



Interval partitioning: greedy algorithms

Greedy template. Consider lectures in some natural order.
Assign each lecture to an available classroom (which one?);
allocate a new classroom if none are available.

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

Interval partitioning: greedy algorithms

Greedy template. Consider lectures in some natural order.
Assign each lecture to an available classroom (which one?);
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Interval partitioning: earliest-start-time-first algorithm

EARLIEST-START-TIME-FIRST $(n, s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_n, f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_n)$

SORT lectures by start time so that $s_1 \le s_2 \le \ldots \le s_n$.

$d \leftarrow 0$ ⟵ number of allocated classrooms

FOR $j = 1$ TO n

  IF lecture j is compatible with some classroom

    Schedule lecture j in any such classroom k.

  ELSE

    Allocate a new classroom $d + 1$.

    Schedule lecture j in classroom $d + 1$.

    $d \leftarrow d + 1$

RETURN schedule.

Interval partitioning: earliest-start-time-first algorithm

Proposition. The earliest-start-time-first algorithm can be implemented in $O(n \log n)$ time.

Pf. Store classrooms in a priority queue (key = finish time of its last lecture).

- To determine whether lecture j is compatible with some classroom, compare s_j to key of min classroom k in priority queue.
- To add lecture j to classroom k, increase key of classroom k to f_j.
- Total number of priority queue operations is $O(n)$.
- Sorting by start time takes $O(n \log n)$ time. ▪

Remark. This implementation chooses the classroom k whose finish time of its last lecture is the earliest.

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.

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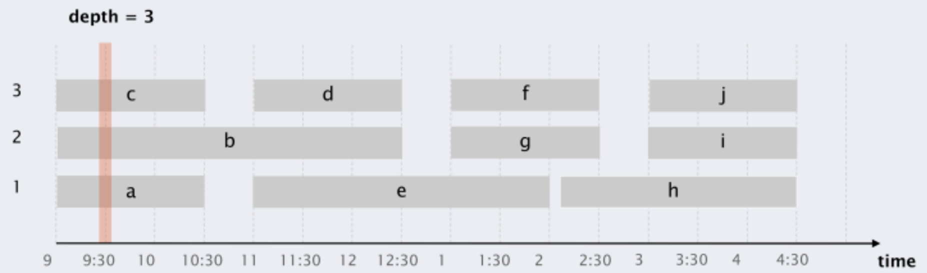
Key observation. Number of classrooms needed $\geq$ depth.

Q. Does number of classrooms needed always equal depth?
A. Yes! Moreover, earliest-start-time-first algorithm finds one. $\Rightarrow$



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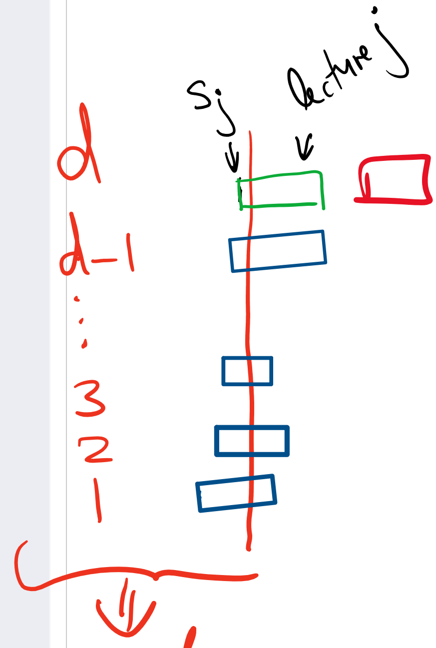
Interval partitioning: analysis of earliest-start-time-first algorithm

Observation. The earliest-start-time first algorithm never schedules two incompatible lectures in the same classroom.

Theorem. Earliest-start-time-first algorithm is optimal.
Pf.

- Let d = number of classrooms that the algorithm allocates.
- Classroom d is opened because we needed to schedule a lecture, say j, that is incompatible with all $d-1$ other classrooms.
- These d lectures each end after s_j.
- 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. ▪



depth $\geq d$

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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.

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.

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.

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

Other greedy algorithms. Gale-Shapley, Kruskal, Prim, Dijkstra, Huffman, ...