CSE 431/531: Algorithm Analysis and Design (Spring 2022) Greedy Algorithms

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Trivial Algorithm for an Optimization Problem

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Goals of algorithm design

- Design efficient algorithms to solve problems
- Design more efficient algorithms to solve problems

Common Paradigms for Algorithm Design

- Greedy Algorithms
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- Divide and Conquer
- Dynamic Programming
- Greedy algorithms are often for optimization problems.
- They often run in polynomial time due to their simplicity.

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- At each step, make an irrevocable decision using a "reasonable" strategy

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Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

- Prove that the reasonable strategy is "safe"
- Show that the remaining task after applying the strategy is to solve a (many) smaller instance(s) of the same problem

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- Prove that the reasonable strategy is "safe" (key)
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Def. A strategy is safe: there is always an optimum solution that agrees with the decision made according to the strategy.

Outline

- Toy Example: Box Packing
- 2 Interval Scheduling
- Offline Caching
 - Heap: Concrete Data Structure for Priority Queue
- Data Compression and Huffman Code
- Summary

Box Packing

Input: n boxes of capacities c_1, c_2, \cdots, c_n m items of sizes s_1, s_2, \cdots, s_m Can put at most 1 item in a box

Item j can be put into box i if $s_j \leq c_i$

Output: A way to put as many items as possible in the boxes.

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Output: A way to put as many items as possible in the boxes.

Example:

• Box capacities: 60, 40, 25, 15, 12

• Item sizes: 45, 42, 20, 19, 16

• Can put 3 items in boxes: $45 \rightarrow 60, 20 \rightarrow 40, 19 \rightarrow 25$

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Designing a Reasonable Strategy for Box Packing

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Designing a Reasonable Strategy for Box Packing

- Q: Take box 1. Which item should we put in box 1?
- A: The item of the largest size that can be put into the box.

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Lemma The strategy that put into box 1 the largest item it can hold is "safe": There is an optimum solution in which box 1 contains the largest item it can hold.

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• Intuition: putting the item gives us the easiest residual problem.

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- Intuition: putting the item gives us the easiest residual problem.
- formal proof via exchanging argument:

Proof.

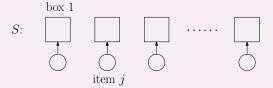
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- ullet Take any optimum solution S. If j is put into Box 1 in S, done.

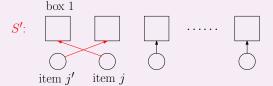
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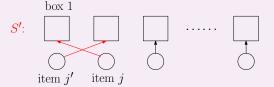
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- $s_{j'} \leq s_j$, and swapping gives another solution S'
- S' is also an optimum solution. In S', j is put into Box 1.

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Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

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- Show that the remaining task after applying the strategy is to solve a (many) smaller instance(s) of the same problem
- Trivial: we decided to put Item j into Box 1, and the remaining instance is obtained by removing Item j and Box 1.

- 1: while the instance is non-trivial do
- 2: make the choice using the greedy strategy
- 3: reduce the instance

Greedy Algorithm for Box Packing

- 1: $T \leftarrow \{1, 2, 3, \cdots, m\}$
- 2: **for** $i \leftarrow 1$ to n **do**
- 3: **if** some item in T can be put into box i **then**
- 4: $j \leftarrow$ the largest item in T that can be put into box i
- 5: print("put item j in box i")
- 6: $T \leftarrow T \setminus \{j\}$

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Lemma Generic algorithm is correct if and only if the greedy strategy is safe.

- Greedy strategy is safe: we will not miss the optimum solution
- Greedy stretegy is not safe: we will miss the optimum solution for some instance, since the choices we made are irrevocable.

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Def. A strategy is "safe" if there is always an optimum solution that is "consistent" with the decision made according to the strategy.

Exchange argument: Proof of Safety of a Strategy

- ullet let S be an arbitrary optimum solution.
- \bullet if S is consistent with the greedy choice, done.
- \bullet otherwise, show that it can be modified to another optimum solution S' that is consistent with the choice.

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Outline

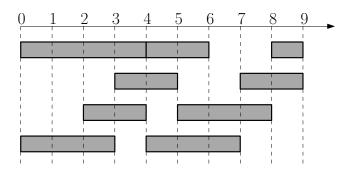
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Interval Scheduling

Input: n jobs, job i with start time s_i and finish time f_i

i and j are compatible if $[s_i, f_i)$ and $[s_j, f_j)$ are disjoint

Output: A maximum-size subset of mutually compatible jobs

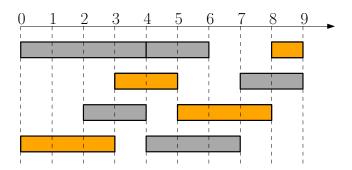


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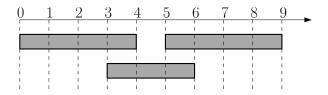


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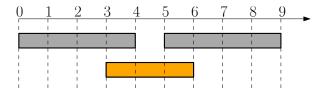
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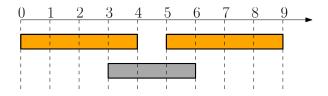
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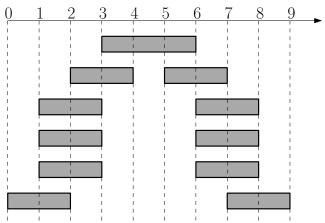


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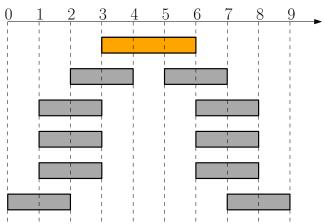
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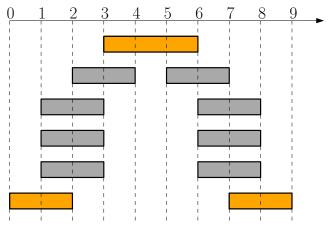
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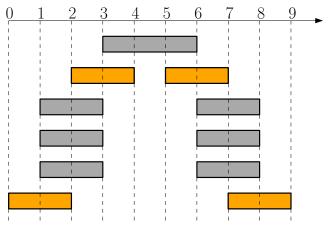
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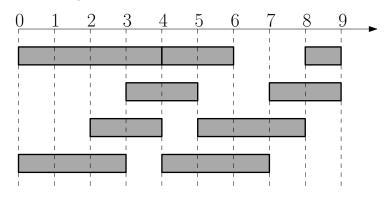


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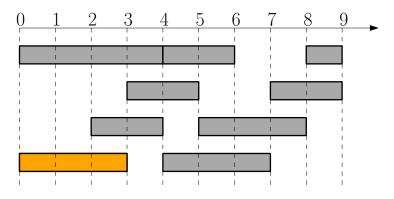
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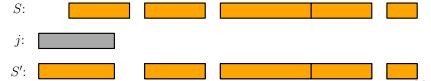




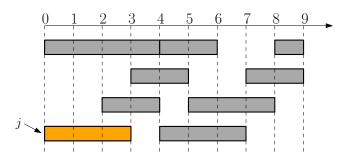


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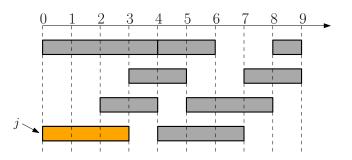
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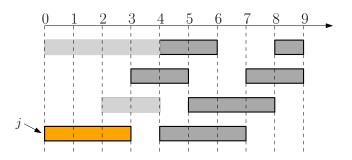
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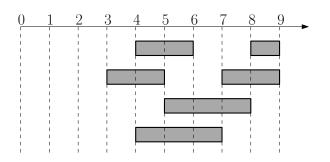
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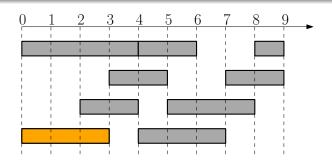


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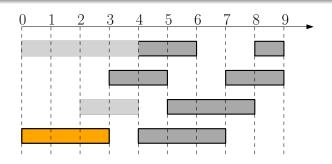


- 1: $A \leftarrow \{1, 2, \cdots, n\}, S \leftarrow \emptyset$
- 2: while $A \neq \emptyset$ do
- 3: $j \leftarrow \arg\min_{j' \in A} f_{j'}$
- 4: $S \leftarrow S \cup \{j\}; A \leftarrow \{j' \in A : s_{j'} \geq f_j\}$
- 5: return S

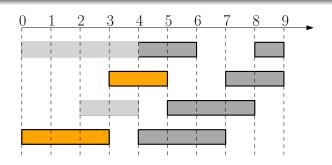
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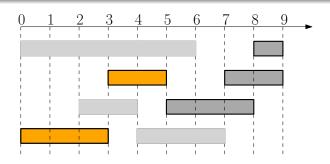
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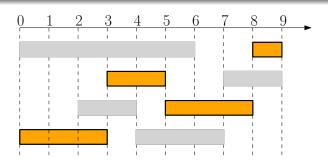
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Running time of algorithm?

• Naive implementation: $O(n^2)$ time

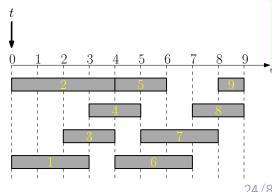
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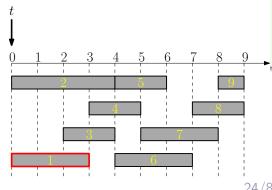
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- Naive implementation: $O(n^2)$ time
- Clever implementation: $O(n \lg n)$ time

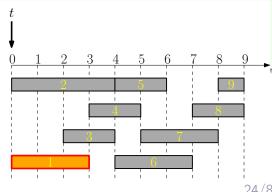
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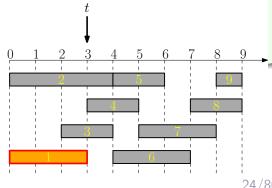
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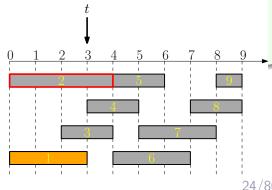
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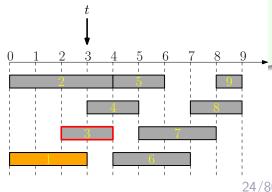
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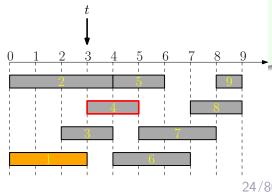
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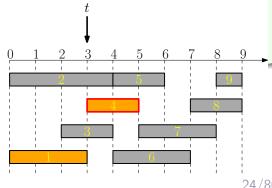
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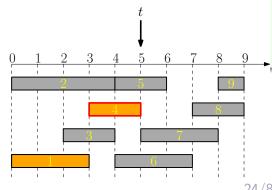
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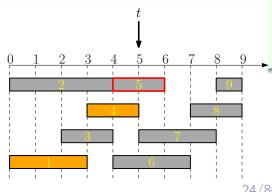
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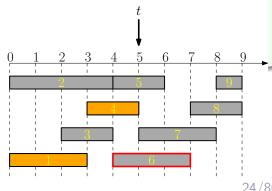
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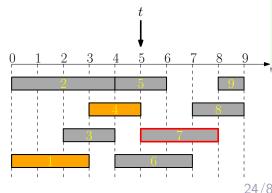
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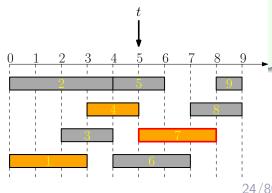
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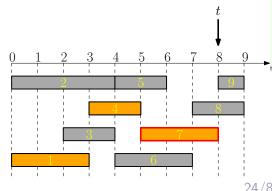
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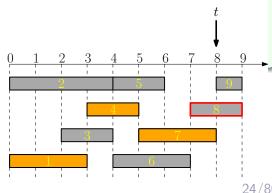
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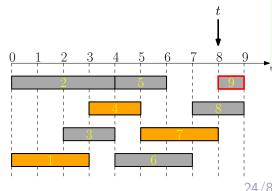
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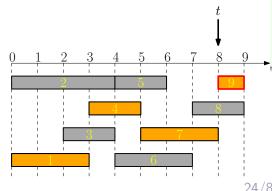
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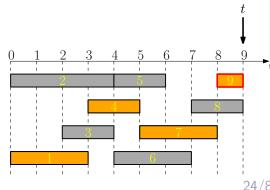
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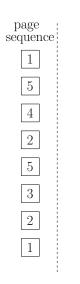


Outline

- 1) Toy Example: Box Packing
- 2 Interval Scheduling
- Offline Caching
 - Heap: Concrete Data Structure for Priority Queue
- Data Compression and Huffman Code
- Summary

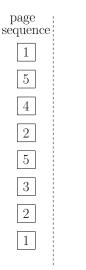
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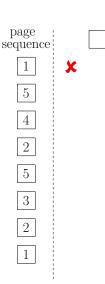


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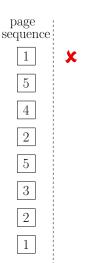
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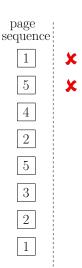
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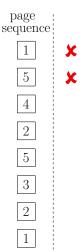


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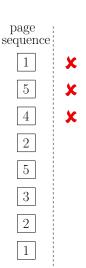


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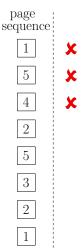


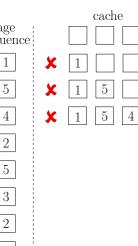
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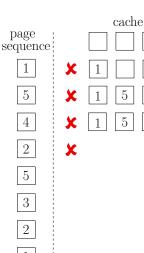


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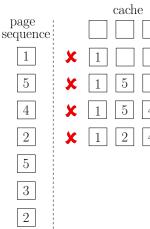




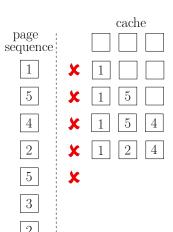
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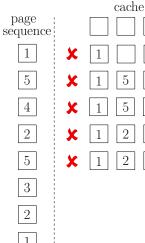
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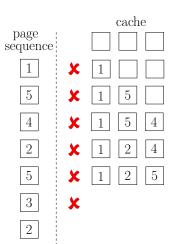
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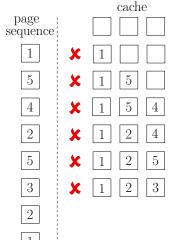
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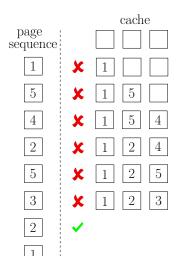
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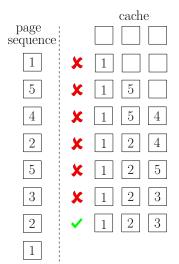
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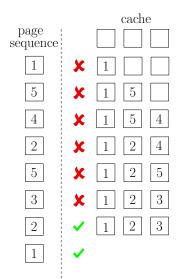
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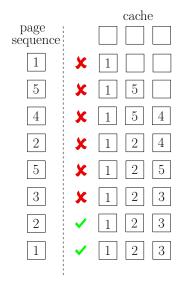
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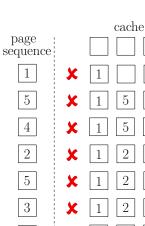








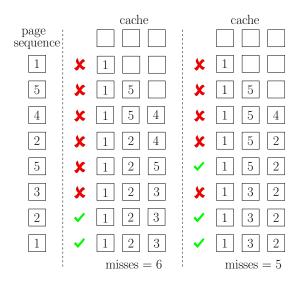
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- Goal: minimize the number of cache misses.



2

misses = 6

A Better Solution for Example



Input: k: the size of cache

 $n: \mathsf{number} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{pages}$

 $\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \cdots, \rho_T \in [n]$: sequence of requests

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Output: $i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_T \in \{\text{hit}, \text{empty}\} \cup [n]$: indices of pages to

evict ("hit" means evicting no page, "empty" means

We use [n] for $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$.

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- Online Caching: we have to make decisions on the fly, before seeing future requests.

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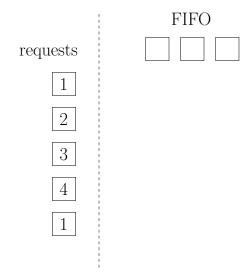
A: Use the offline solution as a benchmark to measure the "competitive ratio" of online algorithms

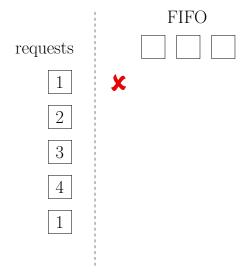
• FIFO(First-In-First-Out): always evict the first page in cache

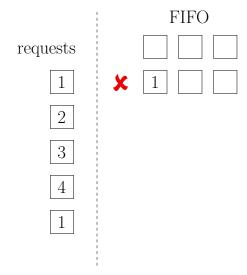
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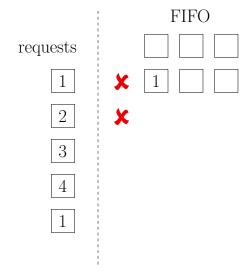
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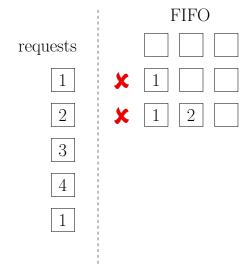
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- All the above algorithms are not optimum!
- Indeed all the algorithms are "online", i.e, the decisions can be made without knowing future requests. Online algorithms can not be optimum.

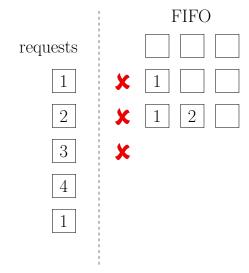


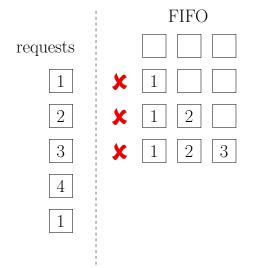


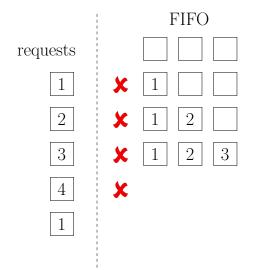


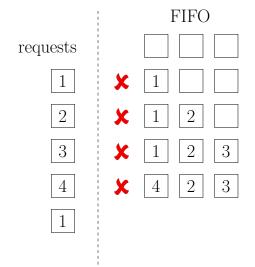


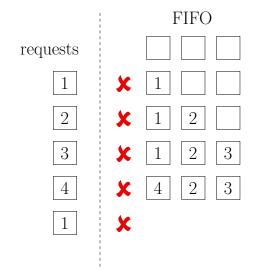


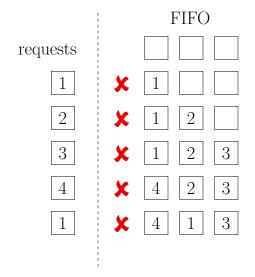


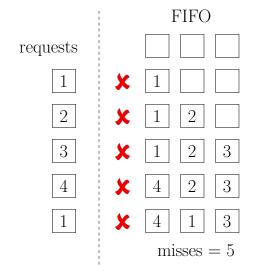


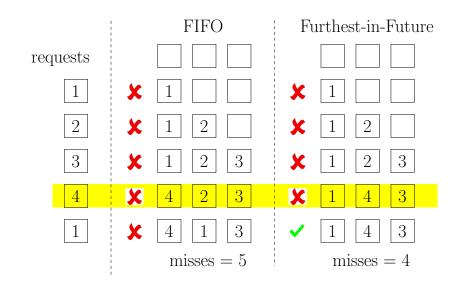










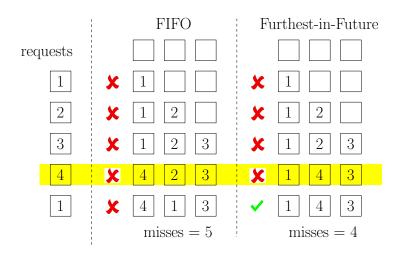


Optimum Offline Caching

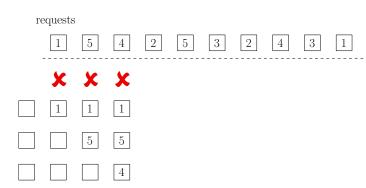
Furthest-in-Future (FF)

- Algorithm: every time, evict the page that is not requested until furthest in the future, if we need to evict one.
- The algorithm is **not** an online algorithm, since the decision at a step depends on the request sequence in the future.

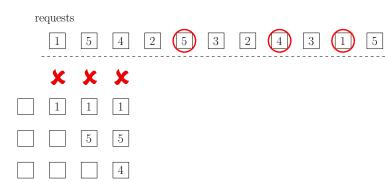
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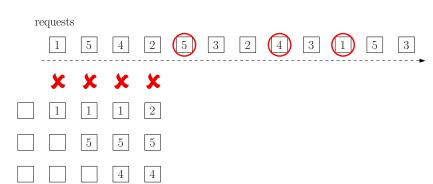




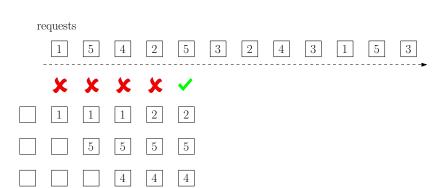


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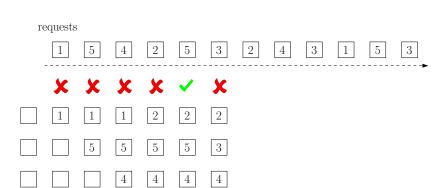


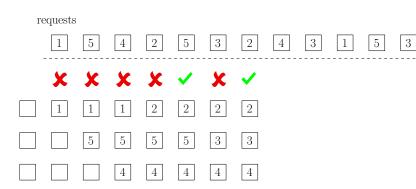


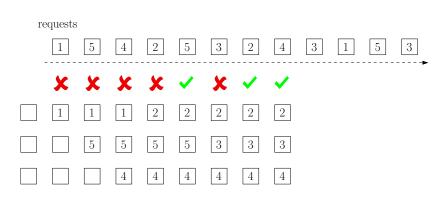


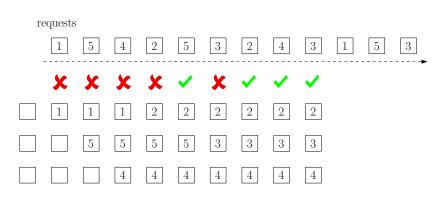


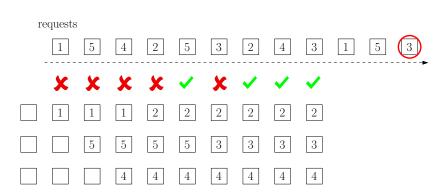


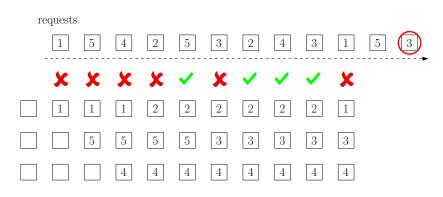


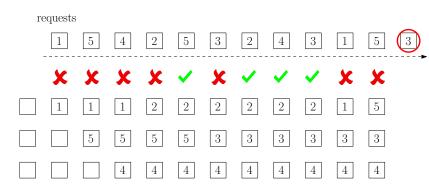


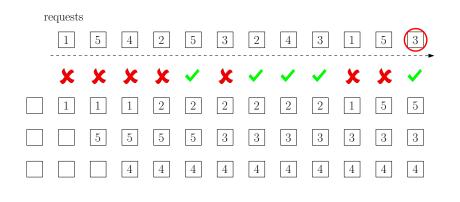












Recall: Designing and Analyzing Greedy Algorithms

Greedy Algorithm

- Build up the solutions in steps
- At each step, make an irrevocable decision using a "reasonable" strategy

Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

- Prove that the reasonable strategy is "safe" (key)
- Show that the remaining task after applying the strategy is to solve a (many) smaller instance(s) of the same problem (usually easy)

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Offline Caching Problem

Input: k: the size of cache

n: number of pages

 $\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \cdots, \rho_T \in [n]$: sequence of requests

Output: $i_1, i_2, i_3, \cdots, i_t \in \{\text{hit}, \text{empty}\} \cup [n]$

- empty stands for an empty page
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Offline Caching Problem

```
Input: k: the size of cache n: number of pages  \rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \cdots, \rho_T \in [n] \text{: sequence of requests}   p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_k \in \{\text{empty}\} \cup [n] \text{: initial set of pages in cache}
```

- **Output:** $i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_t \in \{\text{hit}, \text{empty}\} \cup [n]$
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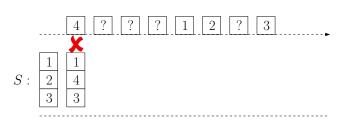
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4 ? ? ? 1 2 ? 3

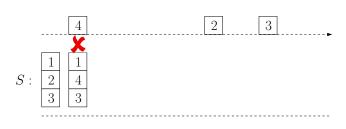
 $S: \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

Proof.

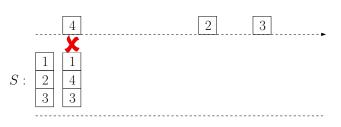
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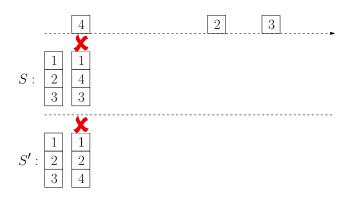
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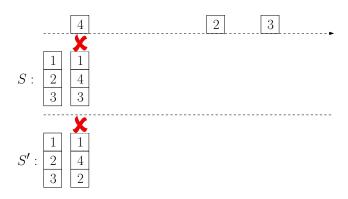
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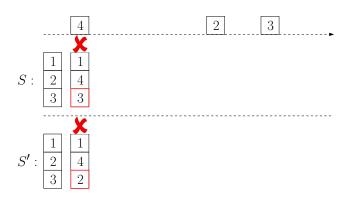
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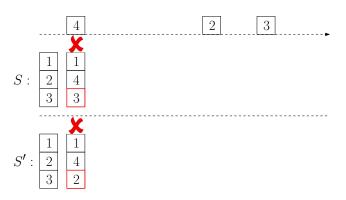
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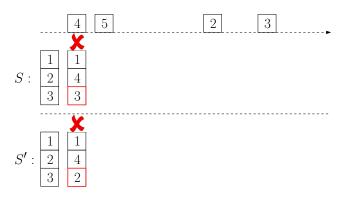
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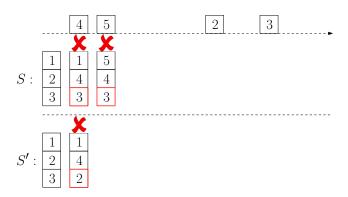
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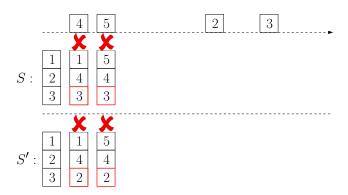
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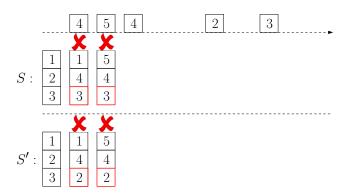
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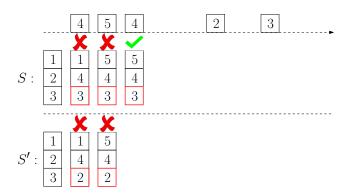
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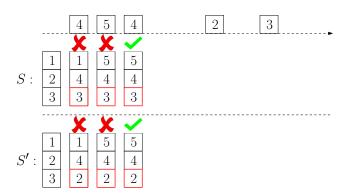
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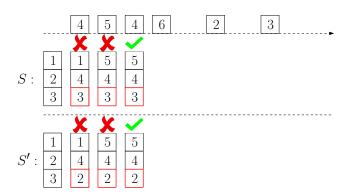
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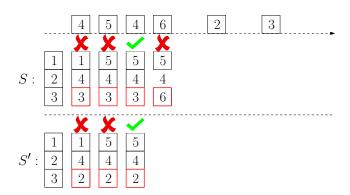
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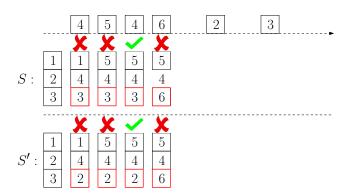
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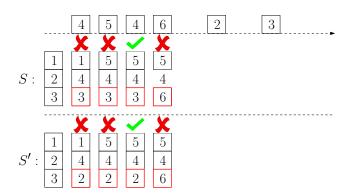
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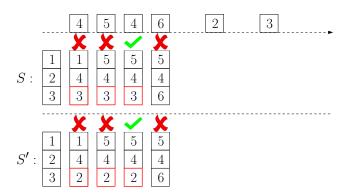


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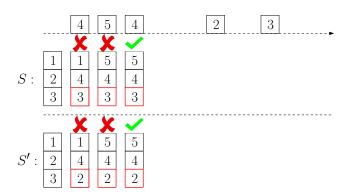


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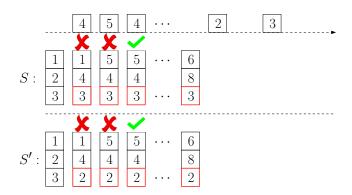




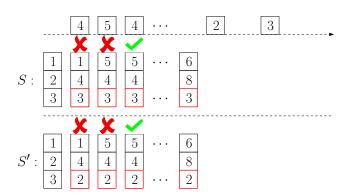
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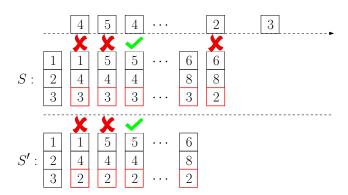


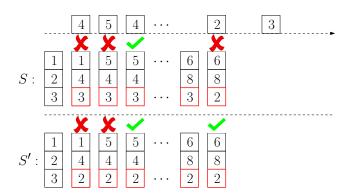
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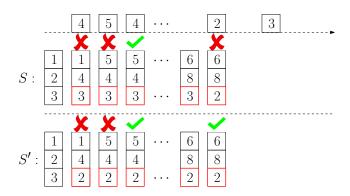


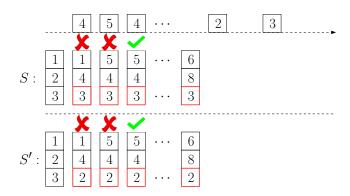
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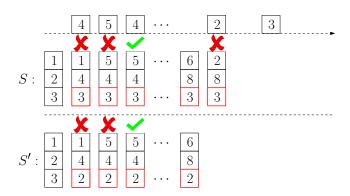


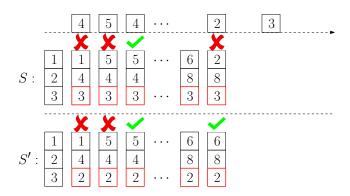


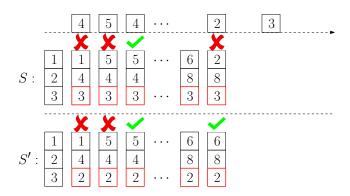




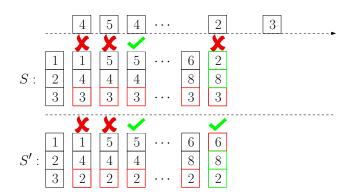




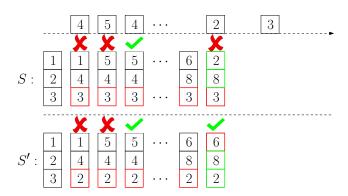


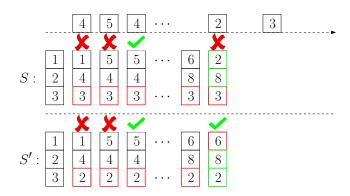


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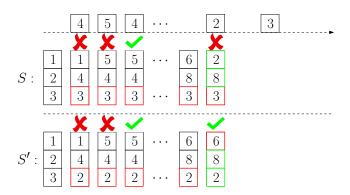


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- $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{Q}}$ We can then guarantee that S' make at most the same number of page-misses as S does.
 - Idea: if S has a page-hit and S' has a page-miss, we use the opportunity to make the status of S' the same as that of S.

 \bullet Thus, we have shown how to create another solution S' with the same number of page-misses as that of the optimum solution S. Thus, we proved

Lemma Assume at time 1 a page fault happens and there are no empty pages in the cache. Let p^* be the page in cache that is not requested until furthest in the future. There is an optimum solution in which p^* is evicted at time 1.

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Theorem The furthest-in-future strategy is optimum.

```
1: for t \leftarrow 1 to T do
2: if \rho_t is in cache then do nothing
3: else if there is an empty page in cache then
4: evict the empty page and load \rho_t in cache
5: else
6: p^* \leftarrow page in cache that is not used furthest in the future
7: evict p^* and load \rho_t in cache
```

A:

• The running time can be made to be $O(n + T \log k)$.

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 - We can find the next time a page is requested easily.
- Use a priority queue data structure to hold all the pages in cache, so that we can easily find the page that is requested furthest in the future.

time	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
pages		P1	P5	P4	P2	P5	Р3	P2	P4	Р3	P1	P5	Р3	

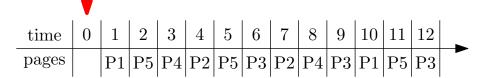
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values



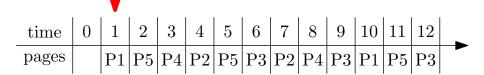
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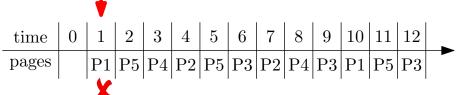
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pages	priority values





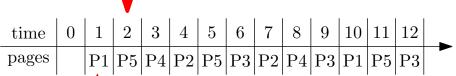
P2: 4 7

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P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
P1	10





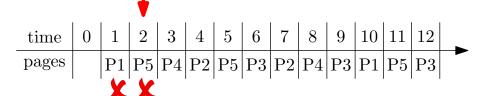
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pages	priority values		
P1	10		



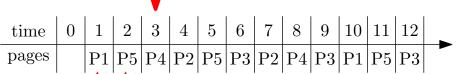
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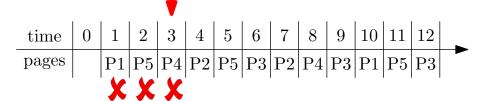
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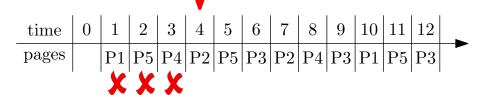
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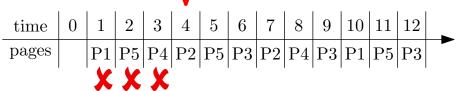
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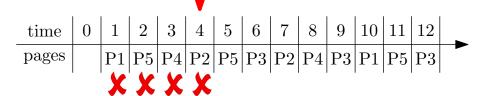
P2:

P3:

P4:

P5:

pages	priority values
P5	5
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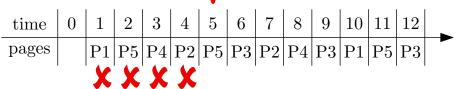
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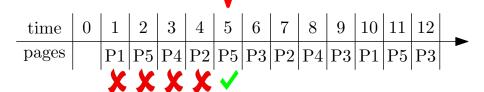
P2:

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P4:

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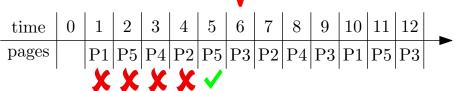
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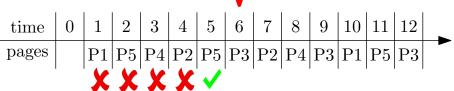
P2:

P3:

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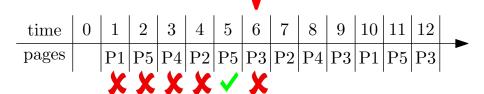
P2:

P3:

P4:

P5:

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P4	8



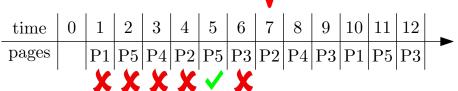
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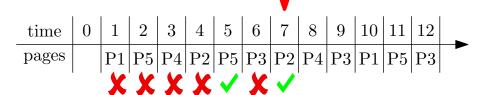
P2:

P3:

P4:

P5:

pages	priority values
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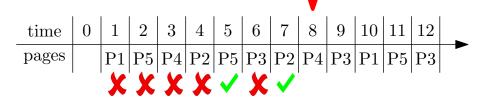
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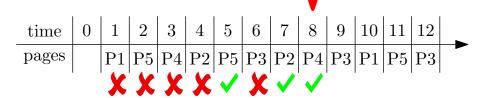
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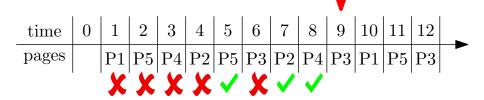
P2: 4 7

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pages	priority values
P2	∞
Р3	9
P4	∞



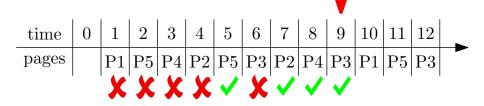
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
P2	∞
Р3	9
P4	∞



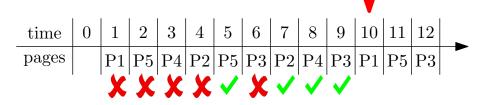
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

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pages	priority values
P2	∞
Р3	12
P4	∞



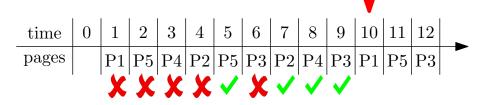
P2: 4 7

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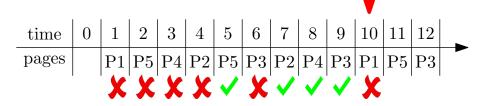
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

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P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
Р3	12
P4	∞



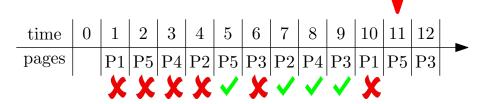
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
P1	∞
Р3	12
P4	∞



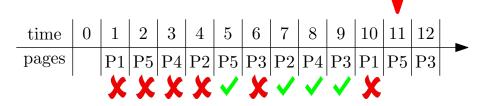
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

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pages	priority values
P1	∞
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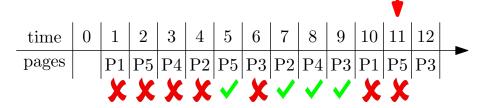
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
Р3	12
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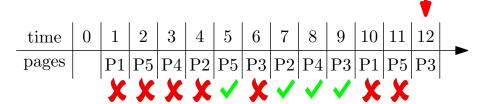
P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
P5	∞
Р3	12
P4	∞



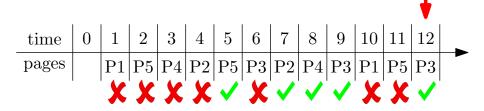
P2: 4 7

P3: | 6 | 9 | 12

P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
P5	∞
Р3	12
P4	∞



P2: 4 7

P3: 6 9 12

P4: 3 8

P5: 2 5 11

pages	priority values
P5	∞
Р3	∞
P4	∞

```
1: for every p \leftarrow 1 to n do
```

2: $times[p] \leftarrow \text{array of times in which } p \text{ is requested, in } \\ \text{increasing order} \qquad \qquad \rhd \text{ put } \infty \text{ at the end of array}$

3:
$$pointer[p] \leftarrow 1$$

4: $Q \leftarrow$ empty priority queue

5: **for** every $t \leftarrow 1$ to T **do**

6:
$$pointer[\rho_t] \leftarrow pointer[\rho_t] + 1$$

7: if $\rho_t \in Q$ then

8: $Q.increase-key(\rho_t, times[\rho_t, pointer[\rho_t]])$, **print** "hit",

continue

9: **if** Q.size() < k **then**

10: **print** "load ρ_t to an empty page"

11: **else**

12: $p \leftarrow Q.\text{extract-max}(), \text{ print "evict } p \text{ and load } \rho_t$ "

13: $Q.\mathsf{insert}(\rho_t, times[\rho_t, pointer[\rho_t]])
ightharpoonup \mathsf{add} \ \rho_t \ \mathsf{to} \ Q \ \mathsf{with} \ \mathsf{key}$ value $times[\rho_t, pointer[\rho_t]]$

Outline

- 1) Toy Example: Box Packing
- 2 Interval Scheduling
- Offline Caching
 - Heap: Concrete Data Structure for Priority Queue
- Data Compression and Huffman Code
- Summary

• Let V be a ground set of size n.

Def. A priority queue is an abstract data structure that maintains a set $U \subseteq V$ of elements, each with an associated key value, and supports the following operations:

- insert (v, key_value) : insert an element $v \in V \setminus U$, with associated key value key_value .
- ullet decrease_key (v, new_key_value) : decrease the key value of an element $v \in U$ to new_key_value
- \bullet extract_min(): return and remove the element in U with the smallest key value
- · · ·

Simple Implementations for Priority Queue

ullet n= size of ground set V

data structures	insert	extract_min	decrease_key
array			
sorted array			

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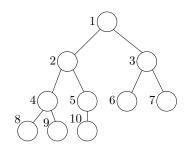
Simple Implementations for Priority Queue

 $\bullet \ n = {\rm size} \ {\rm of} \ {\rm ground} \ {\rm set} \ V$

data structures	insert	extract_min	decrease_key
array	O(1)	O(n)	O(1)
sorted array	O(n)	O(1)	O(n)
heap	$O(\lg n)$	$O(\lg n)$	$O(\lg n)$

Heap

The elements in a heap is organized using a complete binary tree:

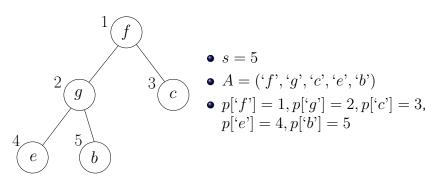


- Nodes are indexed as $\{1, 2, 3, \cdots, s\}$
- Parent of node i: $\lfloor i/2 \rfloor$
- Left child of node i: 2i
- Right child of node i: 2i + 1

Heap

A heap H contains the following fields

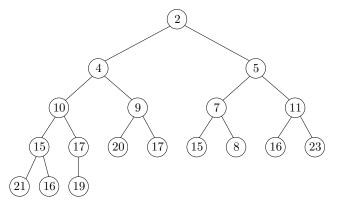
- s: size of U (number of elements in the heap)
- $A[i], 1 \le i \le s$: the element at node i of the tree
- ullet $p[v], v \in U$: the index of node containing v
- \bullet $key[v], v \in U$: the key value of element v



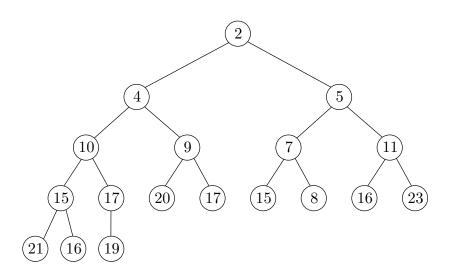
Heap

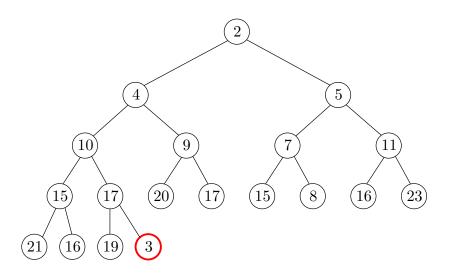
The following heap property is satisfied:

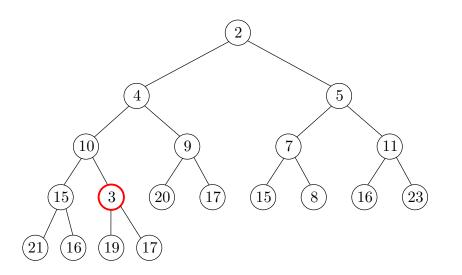
• for any two nodes i, j such that i is the parent of j, we have $key[A[i]] \leq key[A[j]]$.

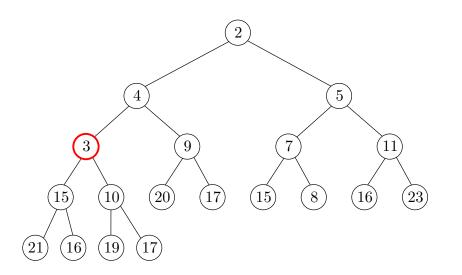


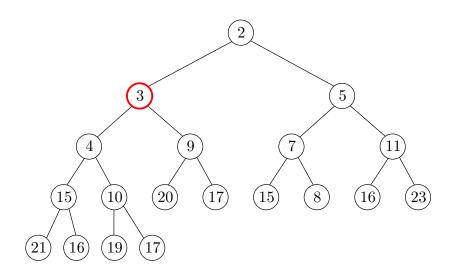
A heap. Numbers in the circles denote key values of elements.







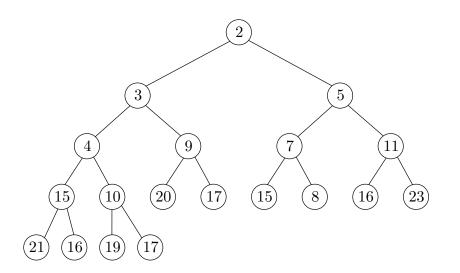


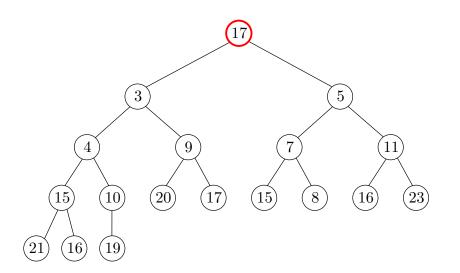


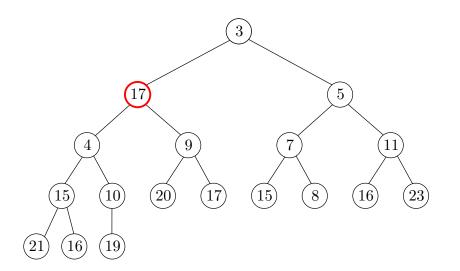
- 1: $s \leftarrow s + 1$ 2: $A[s] \leftarrow v$
- 3: $p[v] \leftarrow s$
- 4: $key[v] \leftarrow key_value$
- 5: $heapify_up(s)$

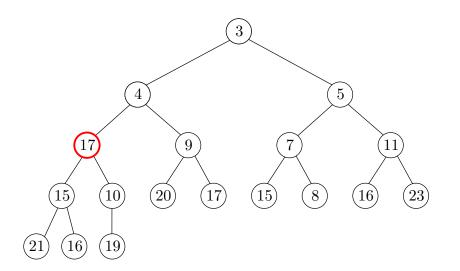
heapify-up(i)

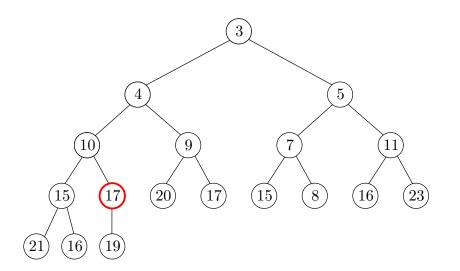
- 1: **while** i > 1 **do**
- 2: $j \leftarrow \lfloor i/2 \rfloor$
- 3: if key[A[i]] < key[A[j]] then
- 4: swap A[i] and A[j]
- 5: $p[A[i]] \leftarrow i, p[A[j]] \leftarrow j$
- 6: $i \leftarrow j$
- 7: **else** break

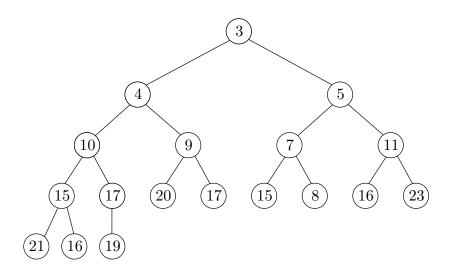












- 1: $ret \leftarrow A[1]$
- 2: $A[1] \leftarrow A[s]$
- $p[A[1]] \leftarrow 1$
- 4: $s \leftarrow s 1$
- 5: **if** s > 1 **then**
- 6: heapify_down(1)
- 7: return ret

$\mathsf{decrease_key}(v, key_val)$

- 1: $key[v] \leftarrow key_value$
- 2: heapify-up(p[v])

heapify-down(i)

- 1: while $2i \leq s$ do
 - 2: **if** 2i = s or

 $key[A[2i]] \le key[A[2i+1]]$ then

- $j \leftarrow 2i$
- 4: **else**
- 5: $j \leftarrow 2i + 1$
- 6: if key[A[j]] < key[A[i]] then
- 7: swap A[i] and A[j]
- 8: $p[A[i]] \leftarrow i, p[A[j]] \leftarrow j$
- 9: $i \leftarrow j$
- 10: **else** break

ullet Running time of heapify_up and heapify_down: $O(\lg n)$

- Running time of heapify_up and heapify_down: $O(\lg n)$
- Running time of insert, exact_min and decrease_key: $O(\lg n)$

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data structures	insert	extract_min	decrease_key
array	O(1)	O(n)	O(1)
sorted array	O(n)	O(1)	O(n)
heap	$O(\lg n)$	$O(\lg n)$	$O(\lg n)$

Two Definitions Needed to Prove that the Procedures Maintain Heap Property

Def. We say that H is almost a heap except that key[A[i]] is too small if we can increase key[A[i]] to make H a heap.

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Encoding Letters Using Bits

- ullet 8 letters a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h in a language
- need to encode a message using bits
- idea: use 3 bits per letter

$$deacfg \rightarrow 0111000000101011110$$

Q: Can we have a better encoding scheme?

Seems unlikely: must use 3 bits per letter

Q: What if some letters appear more frequently than the others?

Q: If some letters appear more frequently than the others, can we have a better encoding scheme?

A: Using variable-length encoding scheme might be more efficient.

Idea

• using fewer bits for letters that are more frequently used, and more bits for letters that are less frequently used.

Q: What is the issue with the following encoding scheme?

• a: 0 b: 1 c: 00

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A: Can not guarantee a unique decoding. For example, 00 can be decoded to aa or c.

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A: Can not guarantee a unique decoding. For example, 00 can be decoded to aa or c.

Solution

Use prefix codes to guarantee a unique decoding.

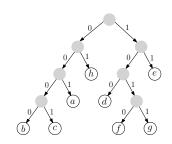
Prefix Codes

Def. A prefix code for a set S of letters is a function $\gamma: S \to \{0,1\}^*$ such that for two distinct $x,y \in S$, $\gamma(x)$ is not a prefix of $\gamma(y)$.

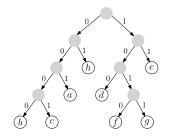
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a	b	c	d
001	0000	0001	100
\overline{e}	f	g	h
11	1010	1011	01

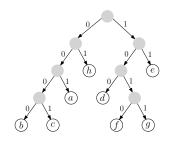


a	b	c	d
001	0000	0001	100
\overline{e}	f	g	h



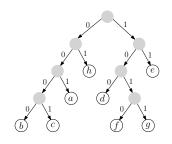
• Reason: there is only one way to cut the first code.

a	b	c	d
001	0000	0001	100
\overline{e}	f	g	h



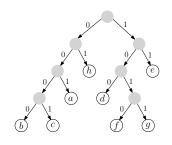
• 0001001100000001011110100001001

a	b	c	$\mid d \mid$
001	0000	0001	100
e	f	g	h



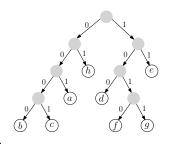
- 0001/001100000001011110100001001
- (

a	b	c	d
001	0000	0001	100
e	f	g	h



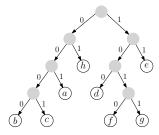
- 0001/001/100000001011110100001001
- ca

a	b	c	d
001	0000	0001	100
\overline{e}	f	g	h



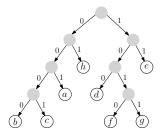
- 0001/001/100/000001011110100001001
- cad

a	b	c	d
001	0000	0001	100
e	$\mid f \mid$	g	h



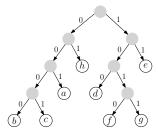
- 0001/001/100/0000/01011110100001001
- cadb

a	$\mid b \mid$	c	d	
001	0000	0001	100	
\overline{e}	f	g	h	



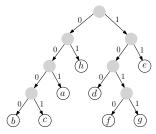
- 0001/001/100/0000/<mark>01</mark>/011110100001001
- cadbh

a	b	c	d	
001	0000	0001	100	
		ı		
e	$\mid f \mid$	g	$\mid h \mid$	



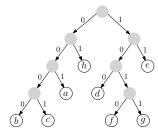
- 0001/001/100/0000/01/<mark>01</mark>/1110100001001
- cadbhh

a	b	c	d
001	01 0000 0001		100
\overline{e}	f	q	h
	J	9	



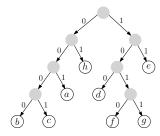
- 0001/001/100/0000/01/01/11/10100001001
- cadbhhe

a	b	c	d	
001	0000	0001	100	
		ı		
e	$\mid f \mid$	g	$\mid h \mid$	



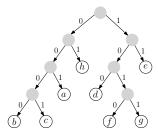
- 0001/001/100/0000/01/01/11/1010/0001001
- cadbhhef

a	b	c	d	
001	0000	0001	100	
\overline{e}	f	g	h	

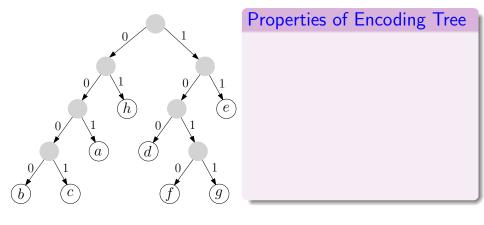


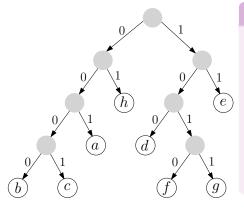
- 0001/001/100/0000/01/01/11/1010/0001/001
- cadbhhefc

a	b	c	$\mid d \mid$
001	0000	0001	100
\overline{e}	f	g	h
11	1010	1011	01

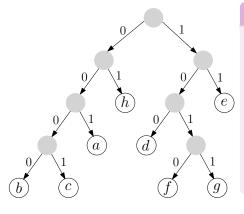


- 0001/001/100/0000/01/01/11/1010/0001/<mark>001</mark>/
- cadbhhefca

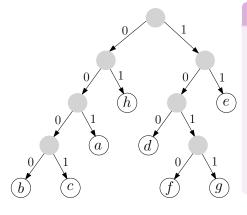




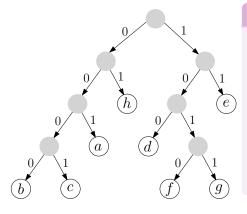
Rooted binary tree



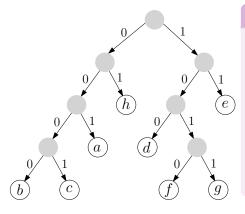
- Rooted binary tree
- Left edges labelled 0 and right edges labelled 1



- Rooted binary tree
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- A leaf corresponds to a code for some letter



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- If coding scheme is not wasteful: a non-leaf has exactly two children



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Best Prefix Codes

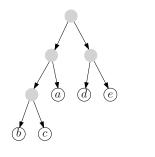
Input: frequencies of letters in a message

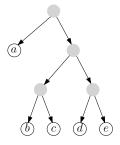
Output: prefix coding scheme with the shortest encoding for the

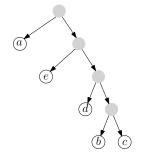
message

example

letters	$\mid a \mid$	b	c	$\mid d$	$\mid e \mid$	
frequencies	18	3	4	6	10	





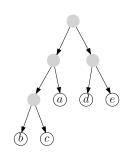


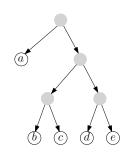
scheme 1

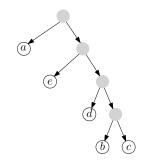
scheme 2

example

letters	$\mid a \mid$	$\mid b \mid$	c	d	$\mid e \mid$	
frequencies	18	3	4	6	10	
scheme 1 length	2	3	3	2	2	total = 89
scheme 2 length	1	3	3	3	3	total = 87
scheme 3 length	1	4	4	3	2	total = 84







scheme 3

scheme 1 scheme 2

Q: What types of decisions should we make?

• Can we directly give a code for some letter?

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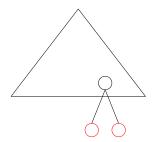
- Can we directly give a code for some letter?
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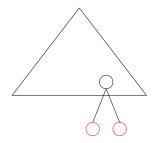
- Can we directly give a code for some letter?
- Hard to design a strategy; residual problem is complicated.
- Can we partition the letters into left and right sub-trees?
- Not clear how to design the greedy algorithm

A: We can choose two letters and make them brothers in the tree.

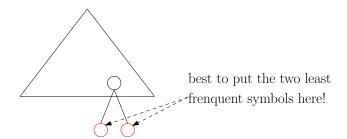
• Focus on the "structure" of the optimum encoding tree



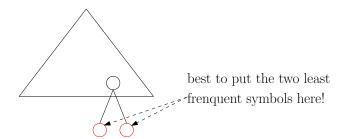
- Focus on the "structure" of the optimum encoding tree
- There are two deepest leaves that are brothers



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- Focus on the "structure" of the optimum encoding tree
- There are two deepest leaves that are brothers



Lemma It is safe to make the two least frequent letters brothers.

 So we can irrevocably decide to make the two least frequent letters brothers.

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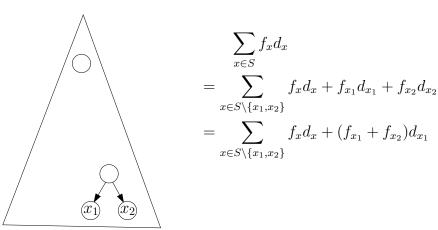
Q: Is the residual problem another instance of the best prefix codes problem?

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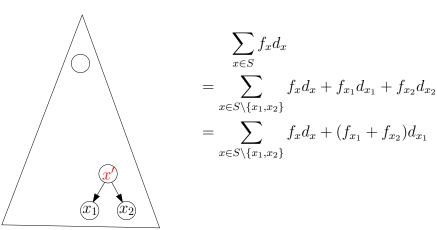
Q: Is the residual problem another instance of the best prefix codes problem?

A: Yes, though it is not immediate to see why.

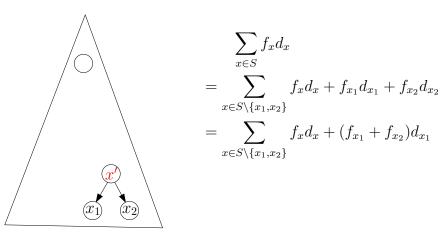
- f_x : the frequency of the letter x in the support.
- x_1 and x_2 : the two letters we decided to put together.
- ullet d_x the depth of letter x in our output encoding tree.



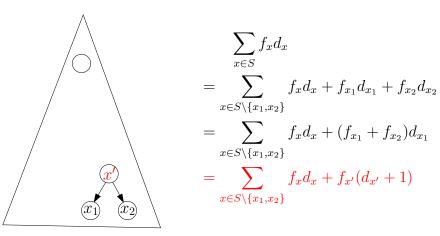
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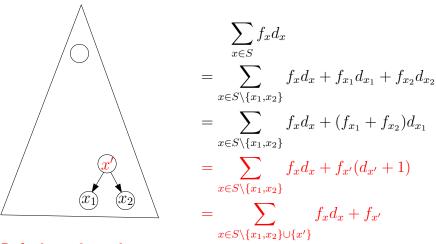
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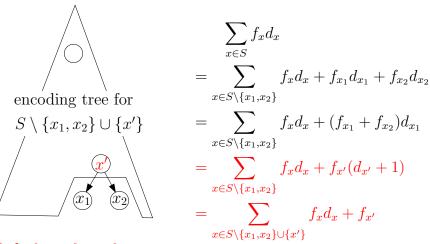
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In order to minimize

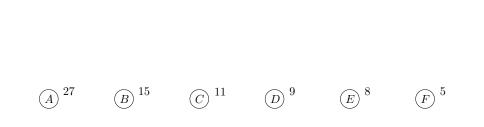
$$\sum_{x \in S} f_x d_x,$$

we need to minimize

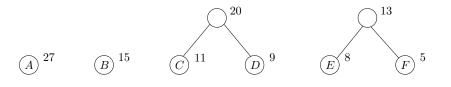
$$\sum_{x \in S \setminus \{x_1, x_2\} \cup \{x'\}} f_x d_x,$$

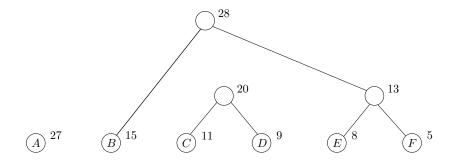
subject to that d is the depth function for an encoding tree of $S \setminus \{x_1, x_2\}$.

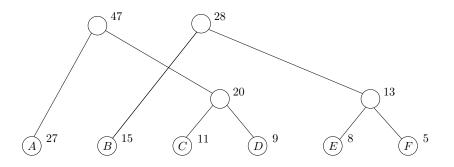
• This is exactly the best prefix codes problem, with letters $S \setminus \{x_1, x_2\} \cup \{x'\}$ and frequency vector f!

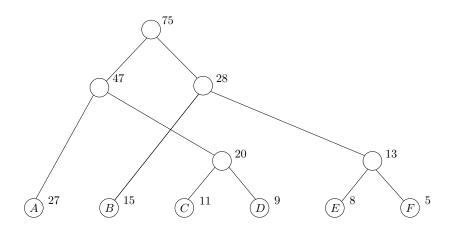


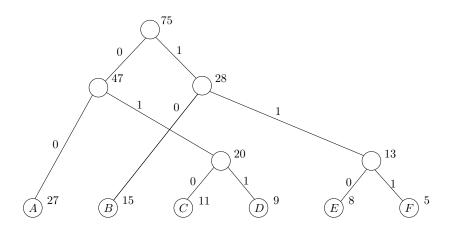


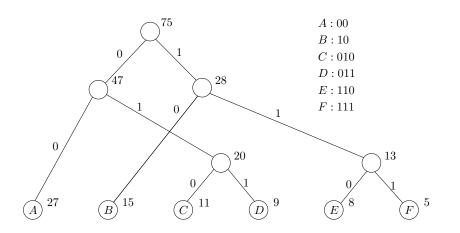












Def. The codes given the greedy algorithm is called the Huffman codes.

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$\mathsf{Huffman}(S,f)$

- 1: while |S| > 1 do
- 2: let x_1, x_2 be the two letters with the smallest f values
- 3: introduce a new letter x' and let $f_{x'} = f_{x_1} + f_{x_2}$
- 4: let x_1 and x_2 be the two children of x'
- 5: $S \leftarrow S \setminus \{x_1, x_2\} \cup \{x'\}$
- 6: return the tree constructed

Algorithm using Priority Queue

```
\mathsf{Huffman}(S,f)
 1: Q \leftarrow \text{build-priority-queue}(S)
 2: while Q.size > 1 do
         x_1 \leftarrow Q.\text{extract-min}()
 3:
         x_2 \leftarrow Q.\text{extract-min}()
 4:
         introduce a new letter x' and let f_{x'} = f_{x_1} + f_{x_2}
 5:
         let x_1 and x_2 be the two children of x'
 6:
         Q.insert(x', f_{x'})
 7:
 8: return the tree constructed
```

Outline

- 1) Toy Example: Box Packing
- 2 Interval Scheduling
- Offline Caching
 - Heap: Concrete Data Structure for Priority Queue
- 4 Data Compression and Huffman Code
- Summary

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- At each step, make an irrevocable decision using a "reasonable" strategy

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- Show that the remaining task after applying the strategy is to solve a (many) smaller instance(s) of the same problem (usually easy)

Analysis of Greedy Algorithm

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Def. A strategy is "safe" if there is always an optimum solution that "agrees with" the decision made according to the strategy.

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- Offline caching: trivial
- Huffman codes: merge two letters into one