

CSE 421 Winter 2025

Lecture 12: Dynamic Programming

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Algorithmic Paradigms

Greedy: Build up a solution incrementally, myopically optimizing some local criterion.

Divide-and-conquer: Break up a problem into sub-problems (each typically a constant factor smaller), solve each sub-problem *independently*, and combine solution to sub-problems to form solution to original problem.

Dynamic programming: Break up a problem into a series of overlapping sub-problems, and build up solutions to larger and larger sub-problems.

Algorithm Design Techniques

Dynamic Programming:

- Technique for making building solution to a problem based on solutions to smaller subproblems (recursive ideas).
- The subproblems just have to be smaller, but don't need to be a constant-factor smaller like divide and conquer.
- *Useful when the same subproblems show up over and over again*
- The final solution is simple iterative code when the following holds:
 - *The parameters to all the subproblems are predictable in advance*

Dynamic Programming History

Bellman. [1950s] Pioneered the systematic study of dynamic programming.

Etymology

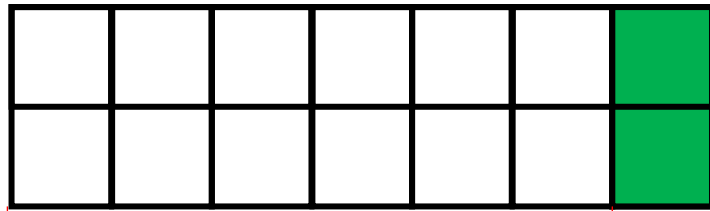
- Dynamic programming = planning over time.
- Secretary of Defense was hostile to mathematical research.
- Bellman sought an impressive name to avoid confrontation.

"it's impossible to use dynamic in a pejorative sense"
"something not even a Congressman could object to"

Reference: Bellman, R. E. Eye of the Hurricane, An Autobiography.

How many ways are there to tile a $2 \times n$ board with dominoes?

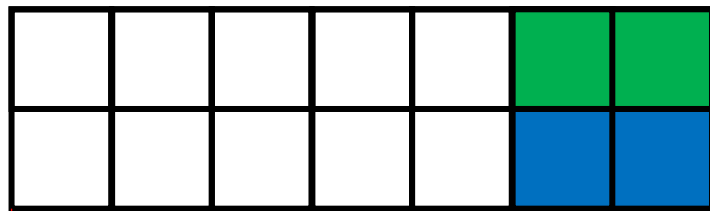
Two ways to fill the final column:



$$Tile(n) = Tile(n-1) + Tile(n-2)$$

$n-1$

$$Tile(0) = Tile(1) = 1$$



$n-2$

How to compute $Tile(n)$?

Tile(n):

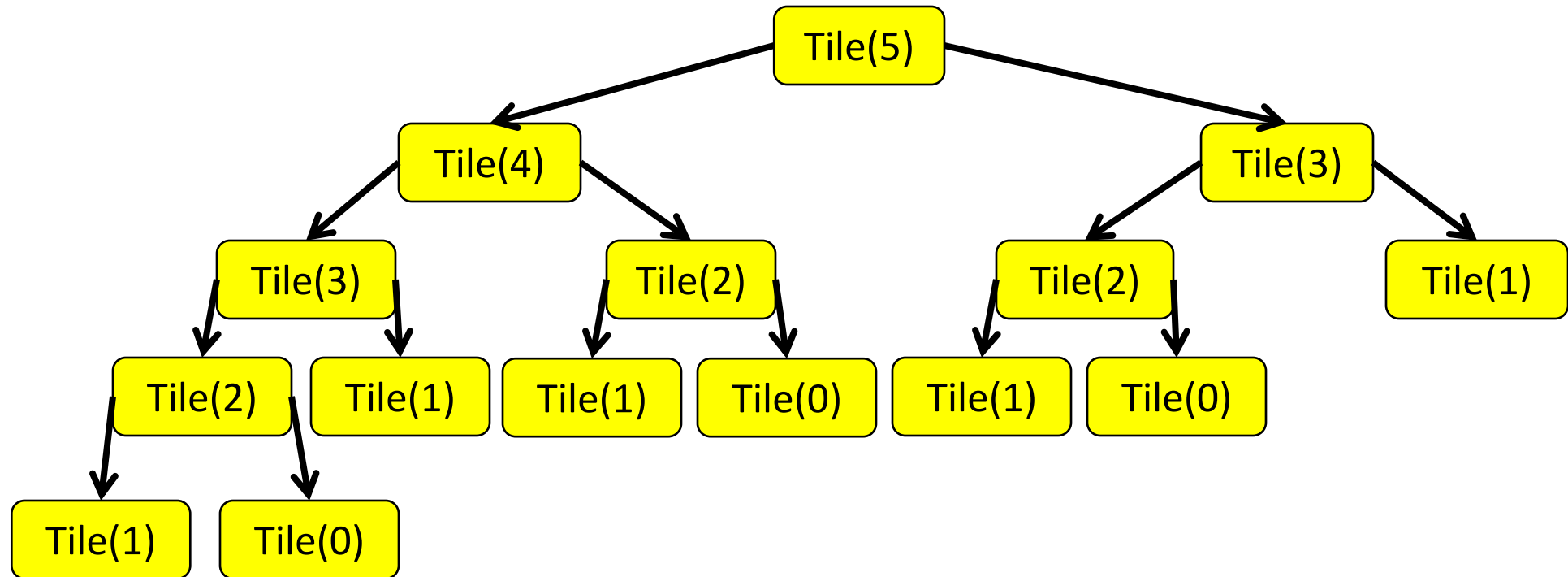
if $n < 2$:

return 1

return $Tile(n-1)+Tile(n-2)$

Running Time?

Recursion Tree

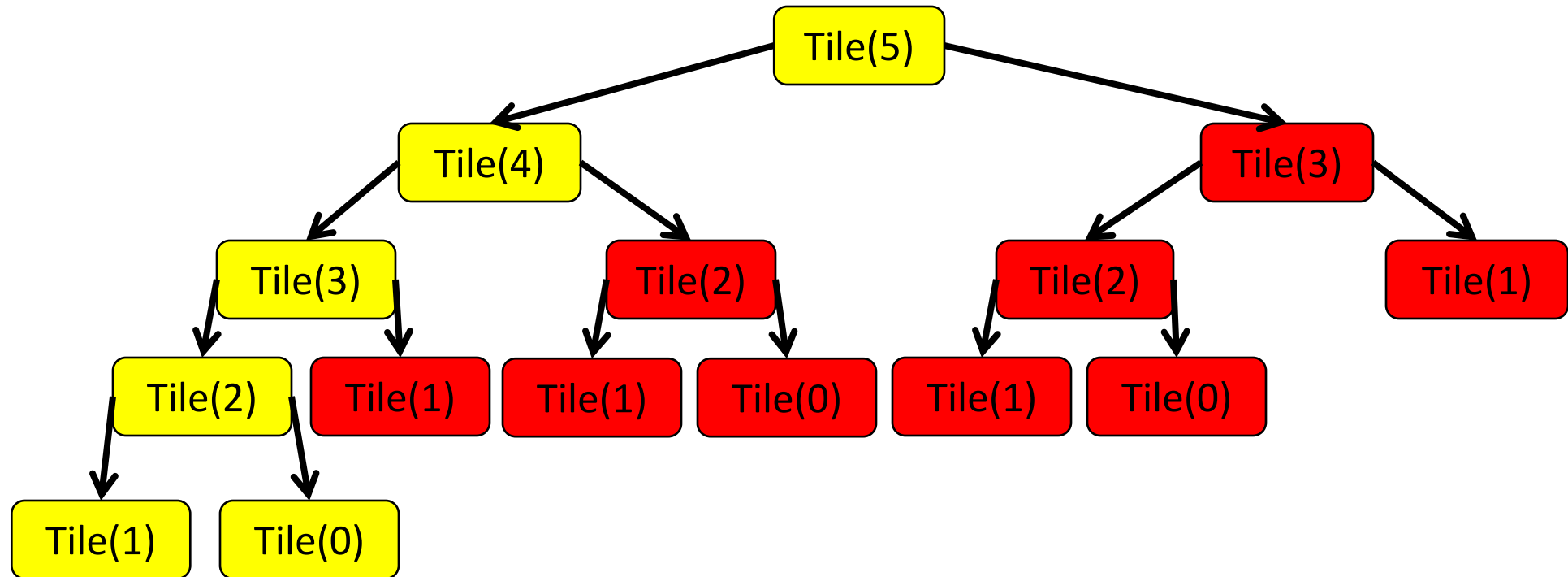


Many redundant calls!

Run time: $\Omega(2^n)$

Better way: Use Memory!

Recursion Tree



Many redundant calls!

Run time: $\Omega(2^n)$

Better way: Use Memory!

Computing $Tile(n)$ with Memory

Initialize Memory M

Tile(n):

if $n < 2$:

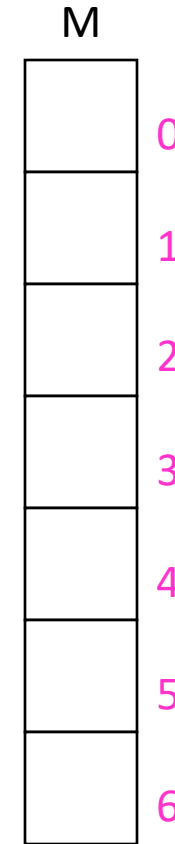
return 1

if M[n] is filled:

return M[n]

M[n] = Tile(n-1)+Tile(n-2)

return M[n]



Technique: “memoization” (note no “r”)

Computing $Tile(n)$ with Memory - “Top Down”

Initialize Memory M

Tile(n):

if $n < 2$:

return 1

if M[n] is filled:

return M[n]

M[n] = Tile(n-1)+Tile(n-2)

return M[n]

M	
1	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
5	4
8	5
13	6

Computing $Tile(n)$ with Memory - “Top Down”

Initialize Memory M

Tile(n):

if $n < 2$:

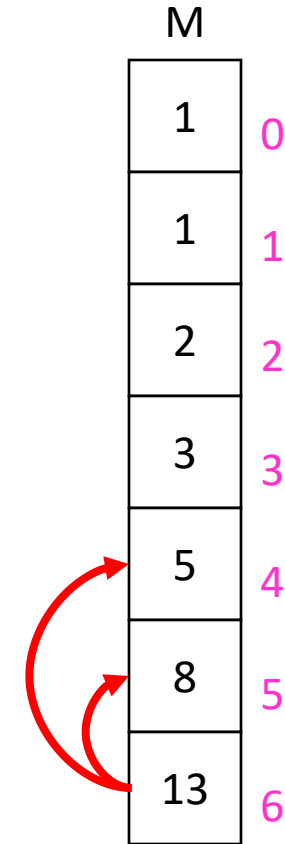
return 1

if M[n] is filled:

return M[n]

M[n] = Tile(n-1)+Tile(n-2)

return M[n]



Recursive calls happen in a predictable order

Tile(n) with Memory - “Bottom Up”

Tile(n):

Initialize Memory M

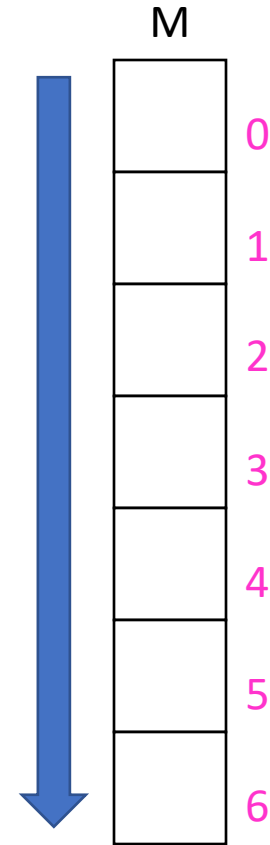
$M[0] = 1$

$M[1] = 1$

for $i = 2$ to n :

$M[i] = M[i-1] + M[i-2]$

return $M[n]$



Better $Tile(n)$ with Memory - “Bottom Up”

Tile(n):

$M[0] = 1$

$M[1] = 1$

answer = -1

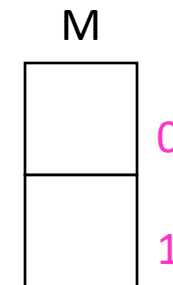
for i = 2 to n:

 answer = $M[0] + M[1]$

$M[0] = M[1]$

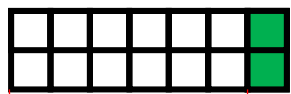
$M[1] = \text{answer}$

return $M[1]$

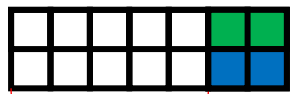


Observation: We only need to remember the last two subproblems!

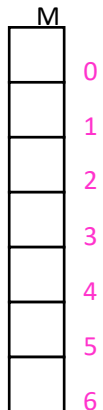
Four Steps to Dynamic Programming



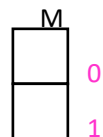
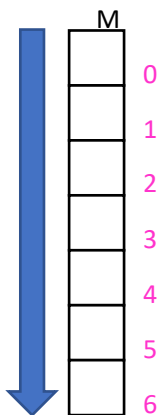
$n-1$



$n-2$



Conclusion: a 1-dimensional memory of size n



1. Formulate the answer with a recursive structure
 - What are the options for the last choice?
 - For each such option, what does the subproblem look like? How do we use it?
2. Choose a memory structure.
 - Figure out the possible values of all parameters in the recursive calls.
 - How many subproblems (options for last choice) are there?
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3. Specify an order of evaluation.
 - Want to guarantee that the necessary subproblem solutions are in memory when you need them.
 - With this step: a “Bottom-up” (iterative) algorithm
 - Without this step: a “Top-down” (recursive) algorithm
4. See if there’s a way to save space
 - Is it possible to reuse some memory locations?

Top-Down DP Idea

```
def myDPalgo(problem):  
    if mem[problem] not blank: // Check if we've solved this already  
        return mem[problem]  
    if baseCase(problem): // Check if this is a base case  
        solution = solve(problem)  
        mem[problem] = solution // Always save your solution before returning  
        return solution  
    for subproblem of problem:  
        subsolutions.append(myDPalgo(subproblem)) // solve each subproblem  
    solution = selectAndExtend(subsolutions) // Pick the subproblem to use  
    mem[problem] = solution // Always save your solution before returning  
    return solution
```

Bottom-Up DP Idea

```
def myDPalgo(problem):  
    for each baseCase: // Identify which subproblems are base cases  
        solution = solve(baseCase)  
        mem[baseCase] = solution // Save the solution for reuse  
    for each subproblem in bottom-up order:  
        // The order should be chosen so that every subsolution is  
        // guaranteed to already be in memory when it's needed  
        solution = selectAndExtend(subsolutions)  
        mem[subproblem] = solution // Save the solution for reuse  
    return mem[problem]
```


Weighted Interval Scheduling

Input: Like interval scheduling each request i has start and finish times s_i and f_i .
Each request i also has an associated **value** or **weight** v_i

v_i might be

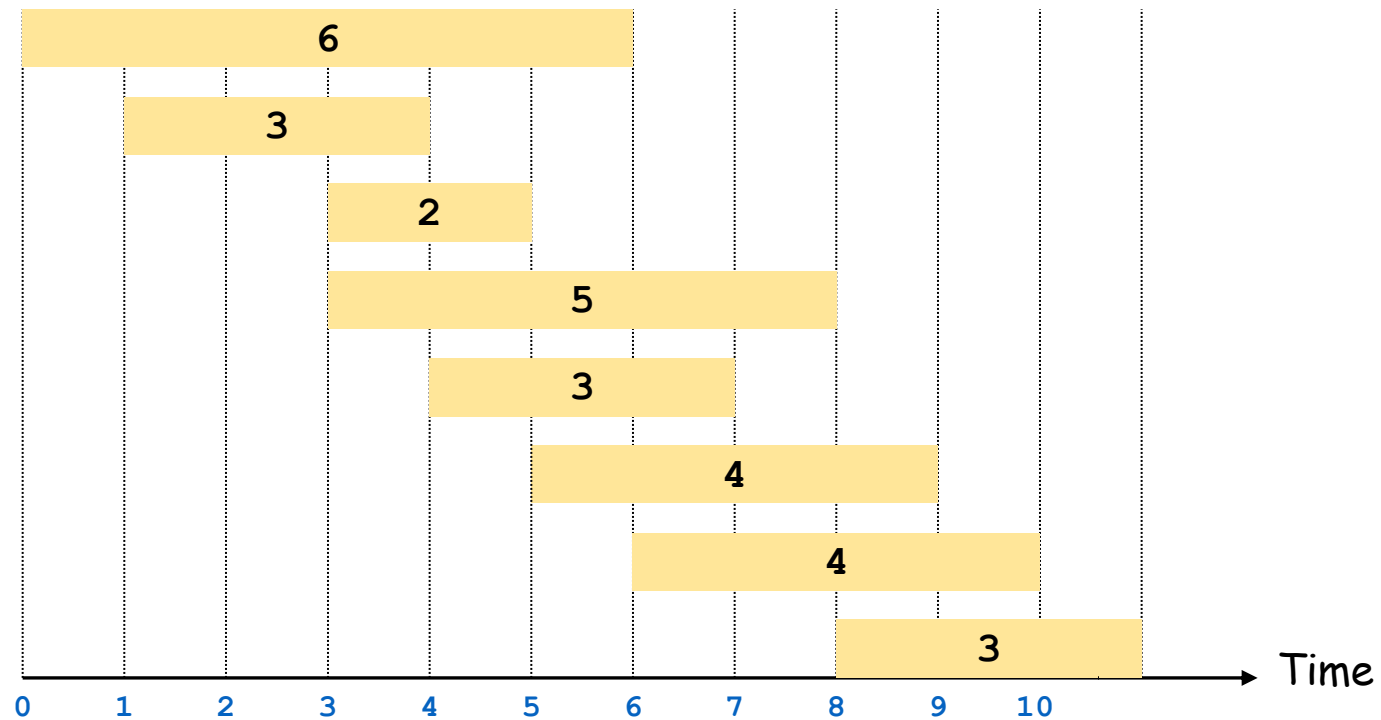
- the amount of money we get from renting out the resource
- the amount of time the resource is being used ($v_i = f_i - s_i$)

Find: A maximum-weight compatible subset of requests.

Weighted Interval Scheduling

Input: Set of jobs with start times, finish times, and **weights**

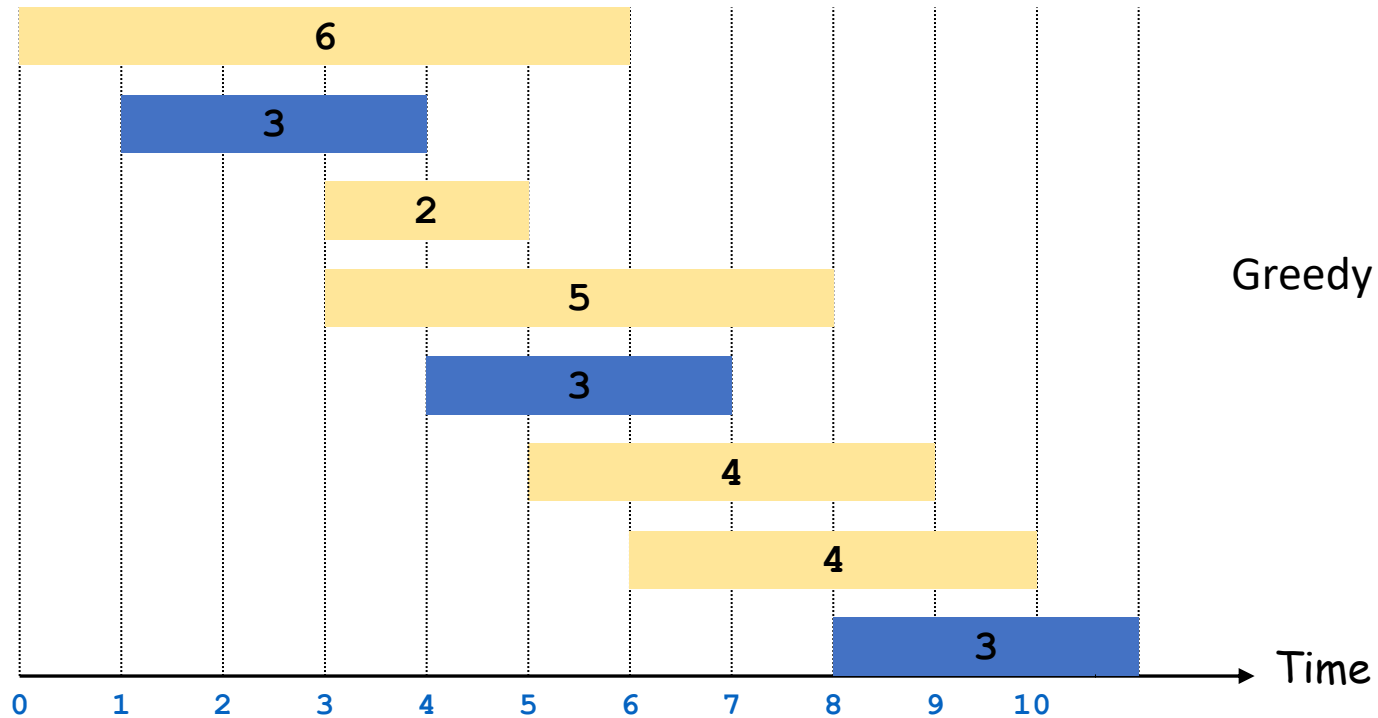
Goal: Find **maximum weight** subset of mutually compatible jobs.



Weighted Interval Scheduling

Input: Set of jobs with start times, finish times, and **weights**

Goal: Find **maximum weight** subset of mutually compatible jobs.

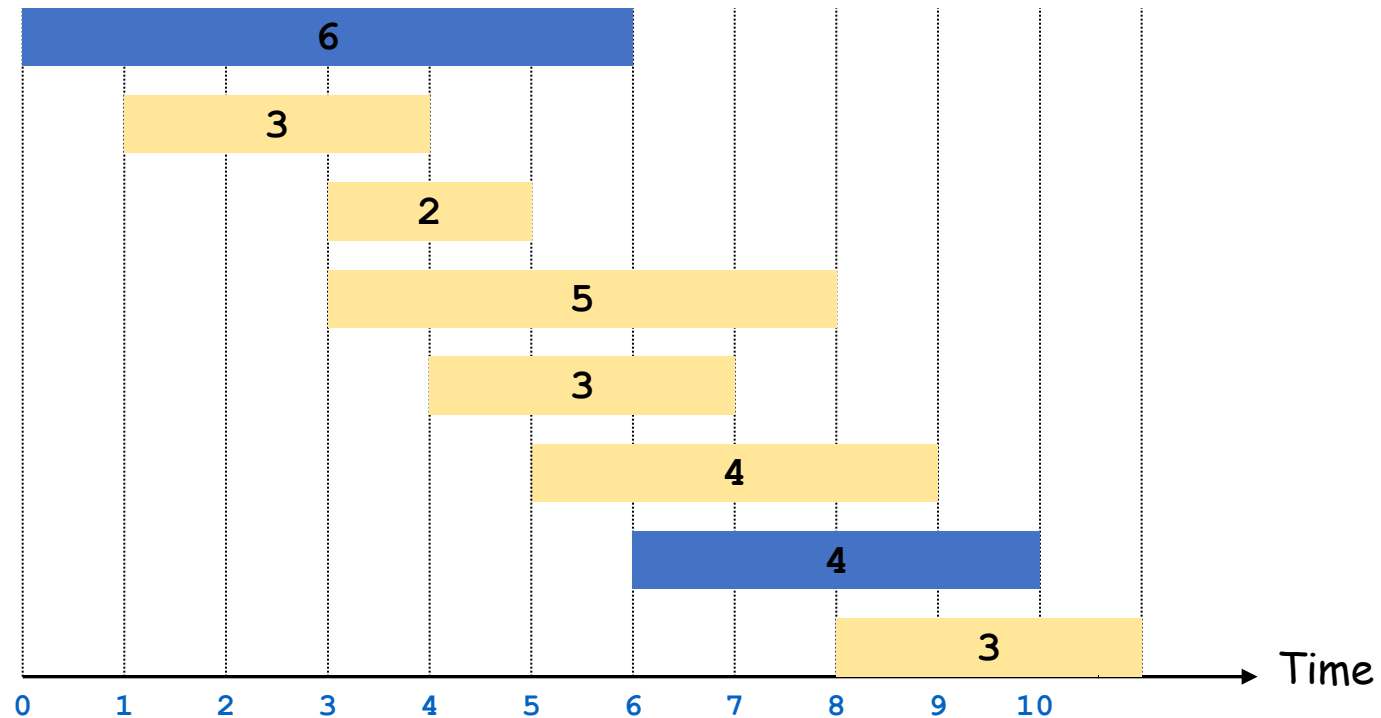


Greedy by finish times would give 9

Weighted Interval Scheduling

Input: Set of jobs with start times, finish times, and **weights**

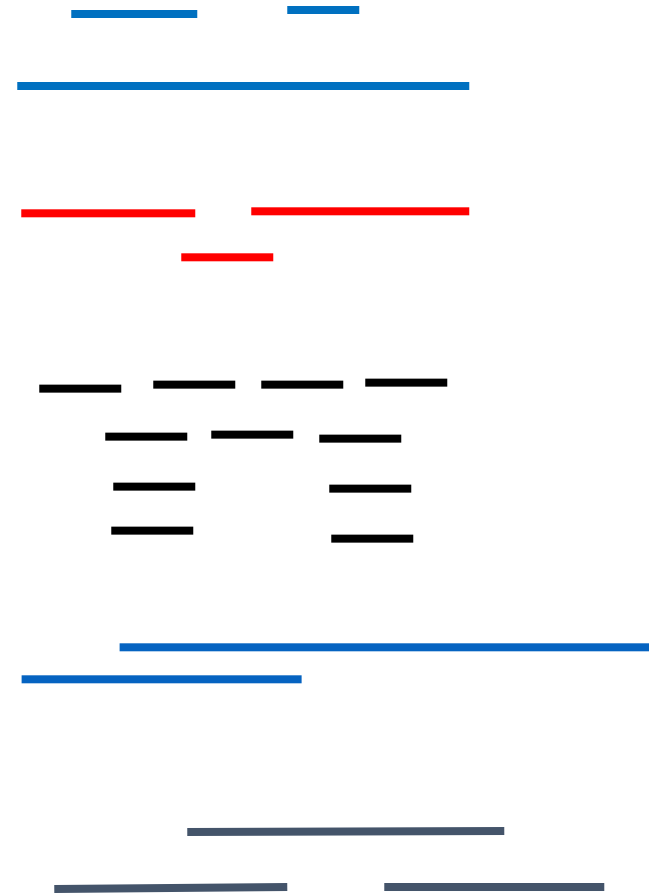
Goal: Find **maximum weight** subset of mutually compatible jobs.



Optimal yields 10

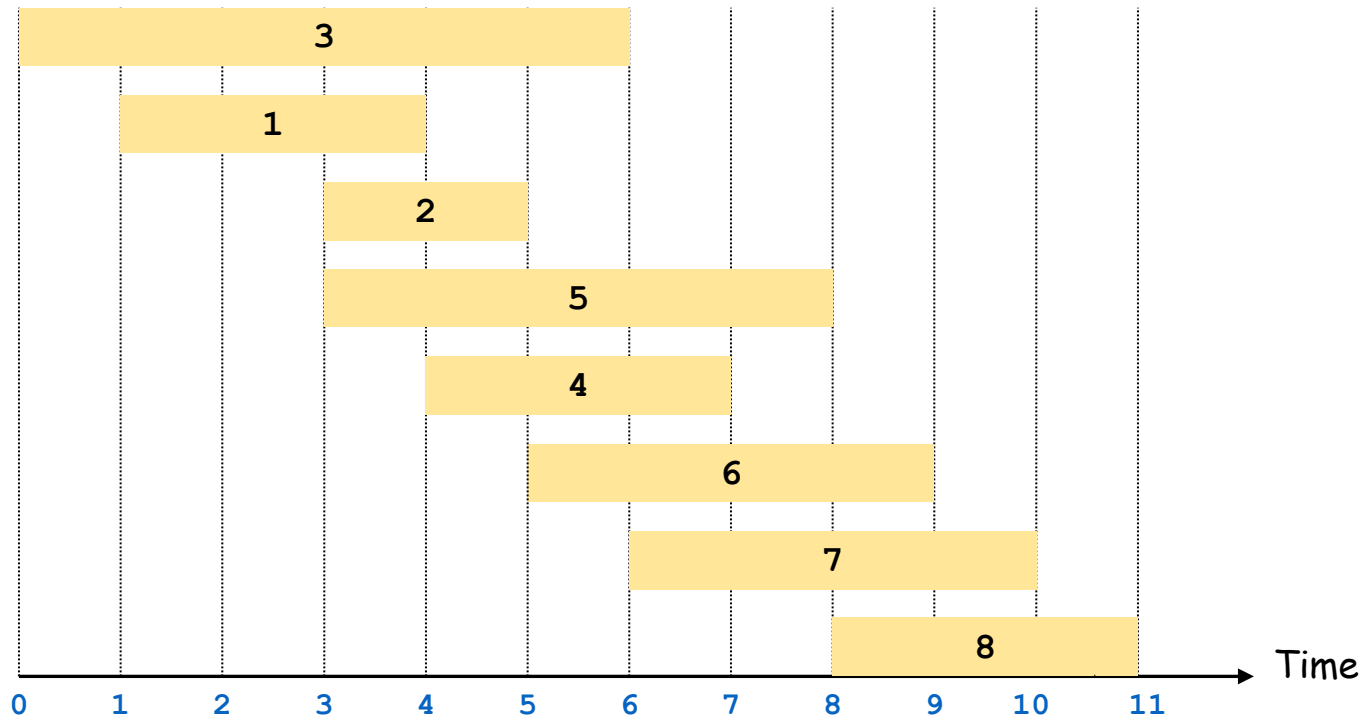
Greedy Algorithms for Weighted Interval Scheduling?

- What criterion should we try?
 - Earliest start time s_i
 - Doesn't work
 - Shortest request time $f_i - s_i$
 - Doesn't work
 - Fewest conflicts
 - Doesn't work
 - Earliest finish time f_i
 - Doesn't work
 - Largest value/weight v_i
 - Doesn't work



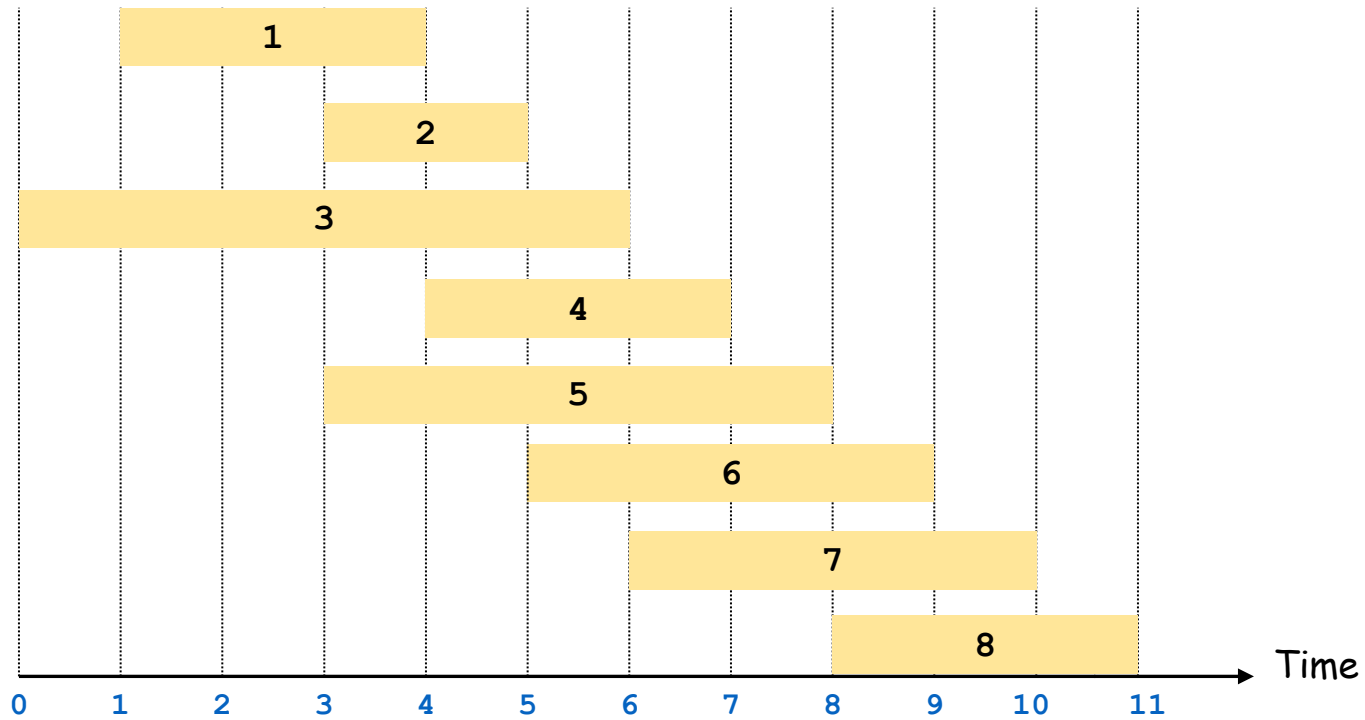
Weighted Interval Scheduling

Notation: Label jobs by finishing time: $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.



Weighted Interval Scheduling

Notation: Label jobs by finishing time: $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.



Weighted Interval Scheduling – Four Steps

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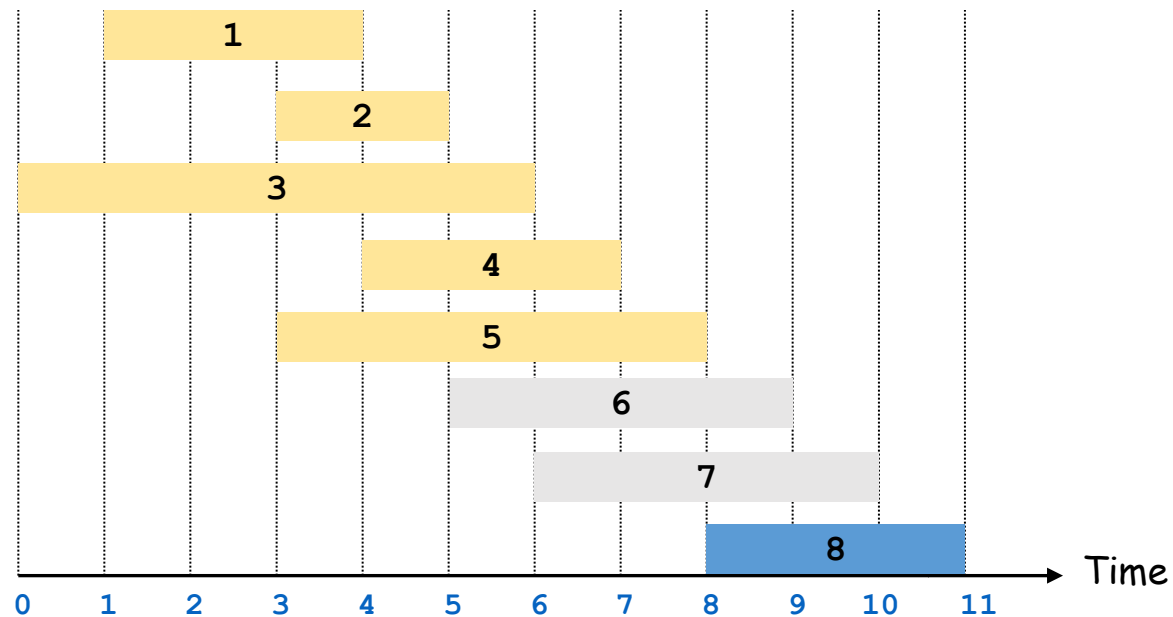
Towards Dynamic Programming: Step 1 – Recursive Algorithm

Suppose that we first sort the requests by finish time f_i so $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.

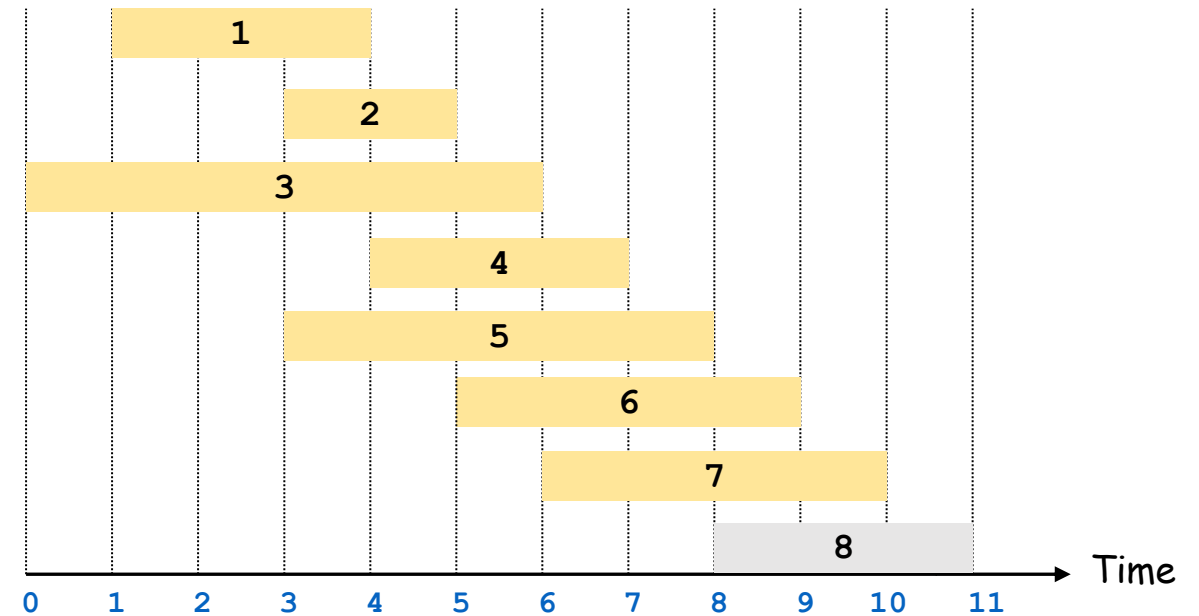
We now want

- a recursive solution that makes calls to smaller problems and
- the indices for those smaller problems to be convenient, so we first focus on the options for the *last* request, request n .

Option 1: Include the last request

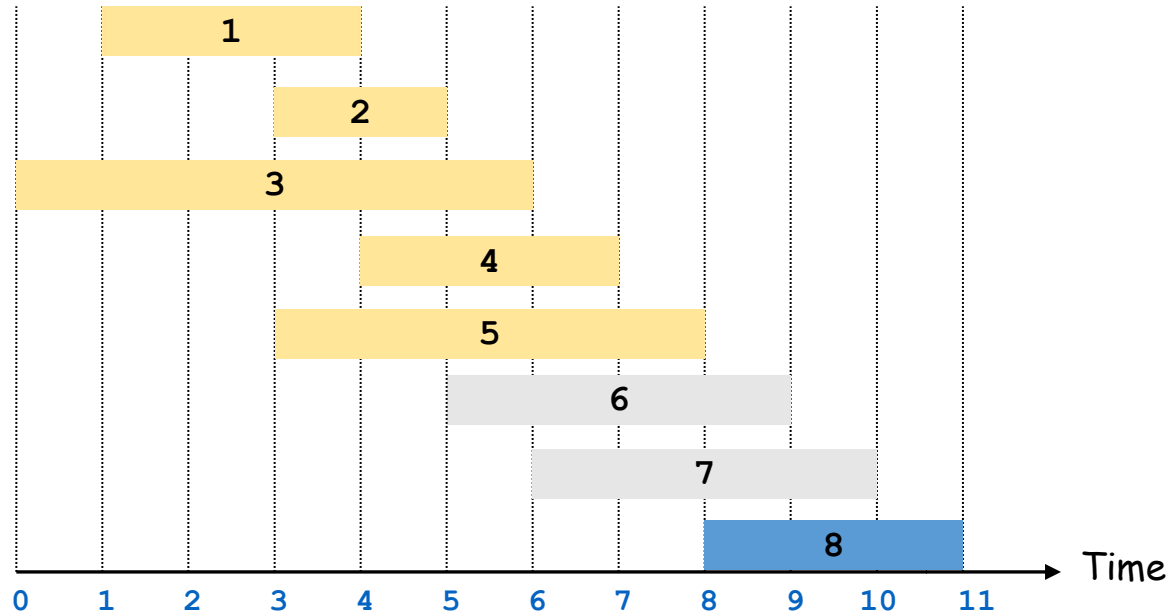


Option 2: Exclude the last request



Towards Dynamic Programming: Step 1 – Recursive Algorithm

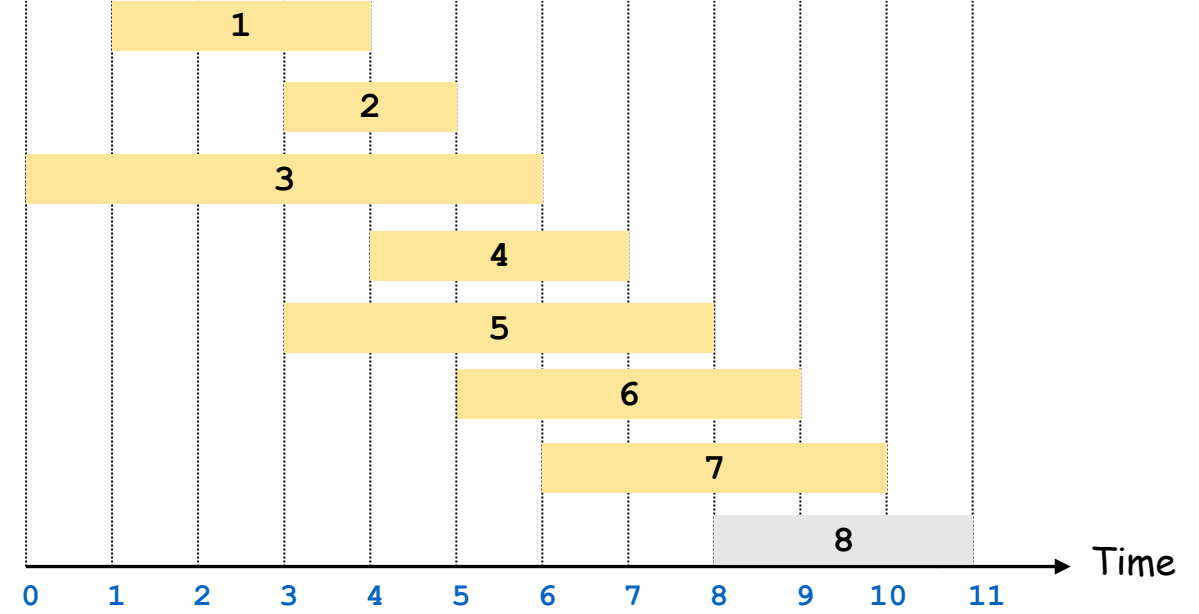
Option 1: Include the last request



After making this choice, the best solution possible is given by:

- The value of the solution to subproblem consisting of everything compatible
- Plus the value of the last request

Option 2: Exclude the last request



After making this choice, the best solution possible is given by:

- The value of the solution to subproblem consisting of everything except the last request

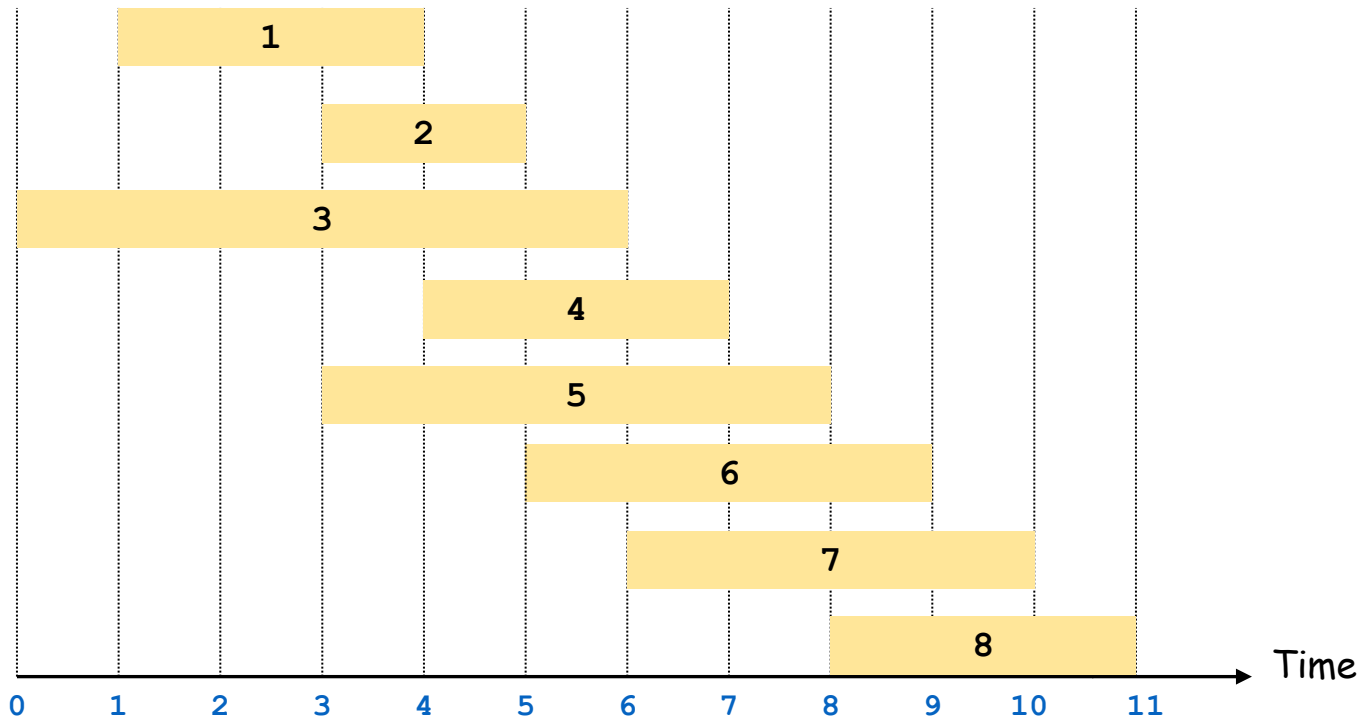
It will be convenient to be able to prune incompatible requests quickly...

Weighted Interval Scheduling

Notation: Label jobs by finishing time: $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.

Defn: $p(j)$ = largest index $i < j$ s.t. job i is compatible with j .

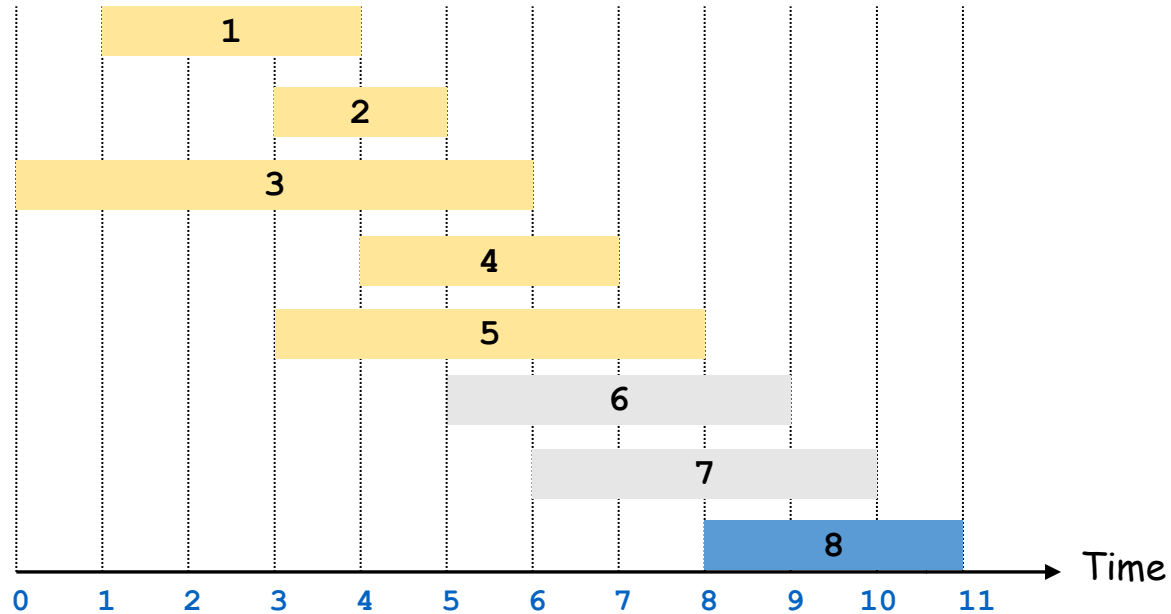
Example: $p(8) = 5$, $p(7) = 3$, $p(2) = 0$



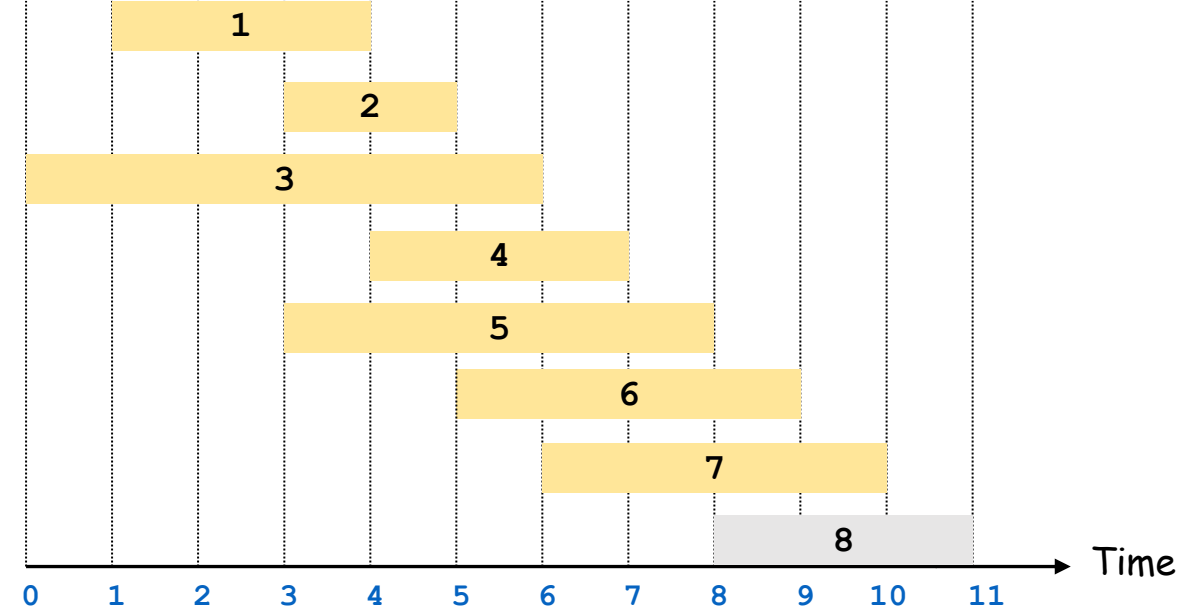
j	$p(j)$
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	1
5	0
6	2
7	3
8	5

Towards Dynamic Programming: Step 1 – Recursive Algorithm

Option 1: Include the last request



Option 2: Exclude the last request



After making this choice, the best solution possible is given by:

- The value of the solution to subproblem consisting of everything compatible
- Plus the value of the last request

$$OPT(p(j)) + v_j$$

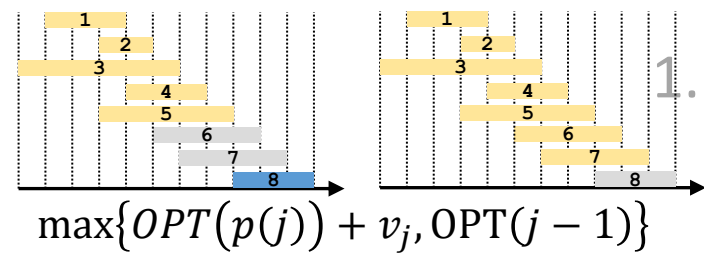
After making this choice, the best solution possible is given by:

- The value of the solution to subproblem consisting of everything except the last request

$$OPT(j - 1)$$

$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$

Weighted Interval Scheduling – Four Steps



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Towards Dynamic Programming: Step 2 – Memory Structure

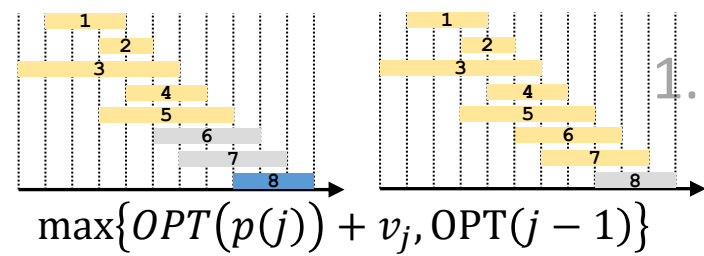
$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$

Subproblems are identified by a single parameter
1-dimensional array

That parameter is the last-ending compatible request
length is the number of requests

<i>j</i>	OPT[<i>j</i>]
0	0
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

Weighted Interval Scheduling – Four Steps



j	$OPT[j]$
0	0
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

1. Formulate the answer with a recursive structure
 - What are the options for the last choice?
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Top-Down DP Idea

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def myDPalgo(problem):  
    if mem[problem] not blank: // Check if we've solved this already  
        return mem[problem]  
    if baseCase(problem): // Check if this is a base case  
        solution = solve(problem)  
        mem[problem] = solution // Always save your solution before returning  
        return solution  
    for subproblem of problem:  
        subsolutions.append(myDPalgo(subproblem)) // solve each subproblem  
    solution = selectAndExtend(subsolutions) // Pick the subproblem to use  
    mem[problem] = solution // Always save your solution before returning  
    return solution
```


Weighted Interval Scheduling Top-Down DP

WIS(j):

if OPT[j] not blank: // Check if we've solved this already

return OPT[j]

if j==0: // Check if this is a base case

mem[j] = 0 // Always save your solution before returning

return mem[j]

includej = WIS(p(j)) // Solve each subproblem

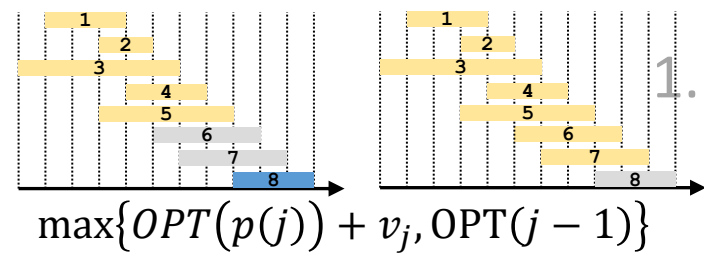
excludej = WIS(j - 1) // Solve each subproblem

solution = max(includej+value[j], excludej) // Pick the subproblem to use

mem[j] = solution // Always save your solution before returning

return solution

Weighted Interval Scheduling – Four Steps



j	$OPT[j]$
0	0
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

1. Formulate the answer with a recursive structure
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Towards Dynamic Programming: Step 3 – Order of Evaluation

$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$


For any given cell j , which other cells might I need?

- $j - 1$
- $p(j)$

It's hard to know in advance what $p(j)$ might be, but certainly $p(j) < j$

Order: increasing order of j will work

j	$OPT[j]$
0	0
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	



Bottom-Up DP Idea

```
def myDPalgo(problem):  
    for each baseCase: // Identify which subproblems are base cases  
        solution = solve(baseCase)  
        mem[baseCase] = solution // Save the solution for reuse  
    for each subproblem in bottom-up order:  
        // The order should be chosen so that every subsolution is  
        // guaranteed to already be in memory when it's needed  
        solution = selectAndExtend(subsolutions)  
        mem[subproblem] = solution // Save the solution for reuse  
    return mem[problem]
```

Weighted Interval Scheduling Bottom-Up DP

WIS(*j*):

OPT[0] = 0 // Save the solution for the base case

for each *i* = 1 up to *j*:

// The order should be chosen so that every subsolution is

// guaranteed to already be in memory when it's needed

solution = max(OPT[*p*(*i*)]+value[*i*], OPT[*i* - 1])

mem[*i*] = solution // Save the solution for reuse

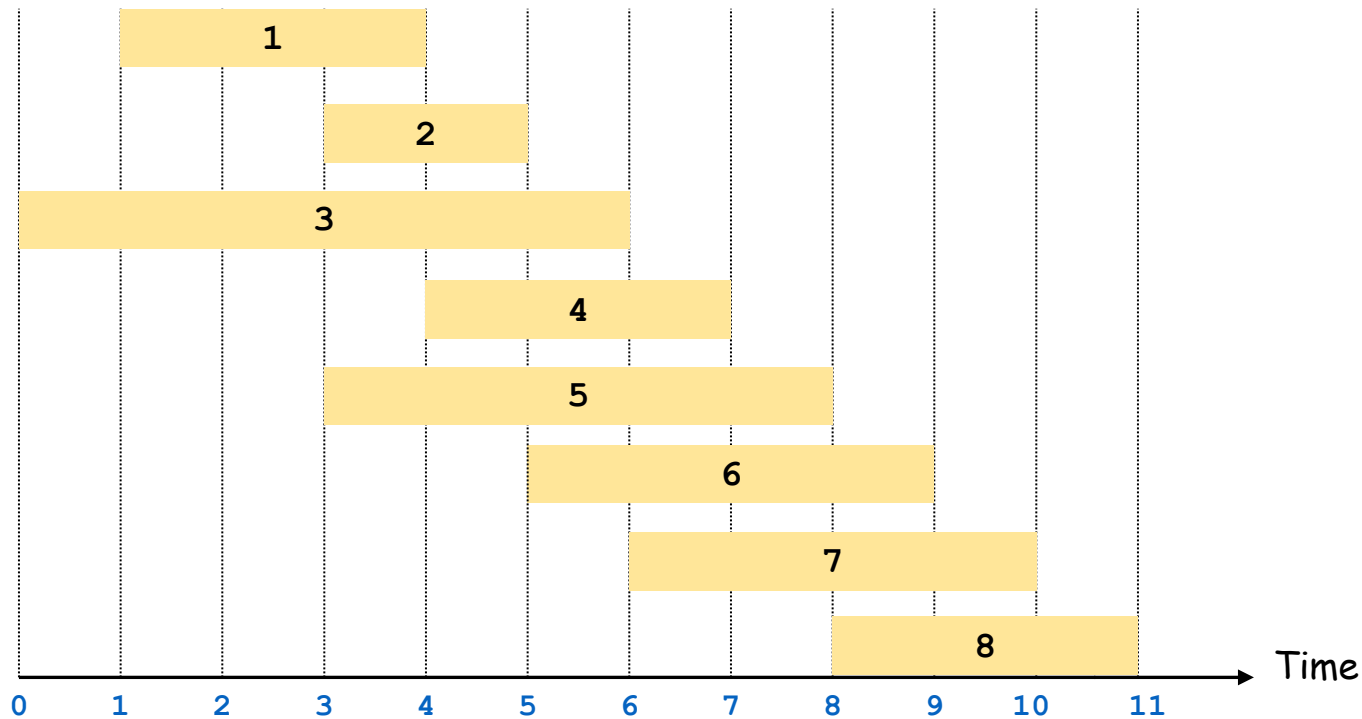
return OPT[*j*]

Example Execution (iterative)

Notation: Label jobs by finishing time: $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.

Defn: $p(j)$ = largest index $i < j$ s.t. job i is compatible with j .

$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$



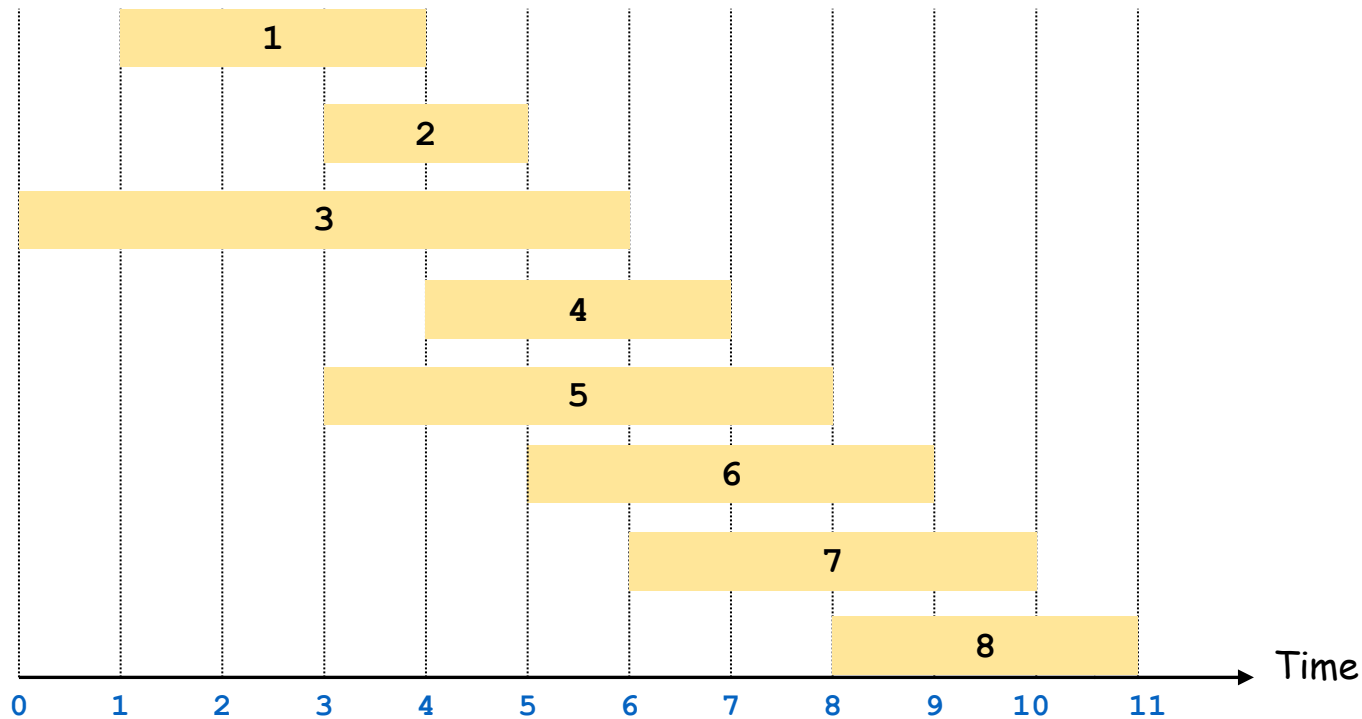
j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$
0	-	-	0
1	3	0	
2	2	0	
3	6	0	
4	3	1	
5	5	0	
6	4	2	
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

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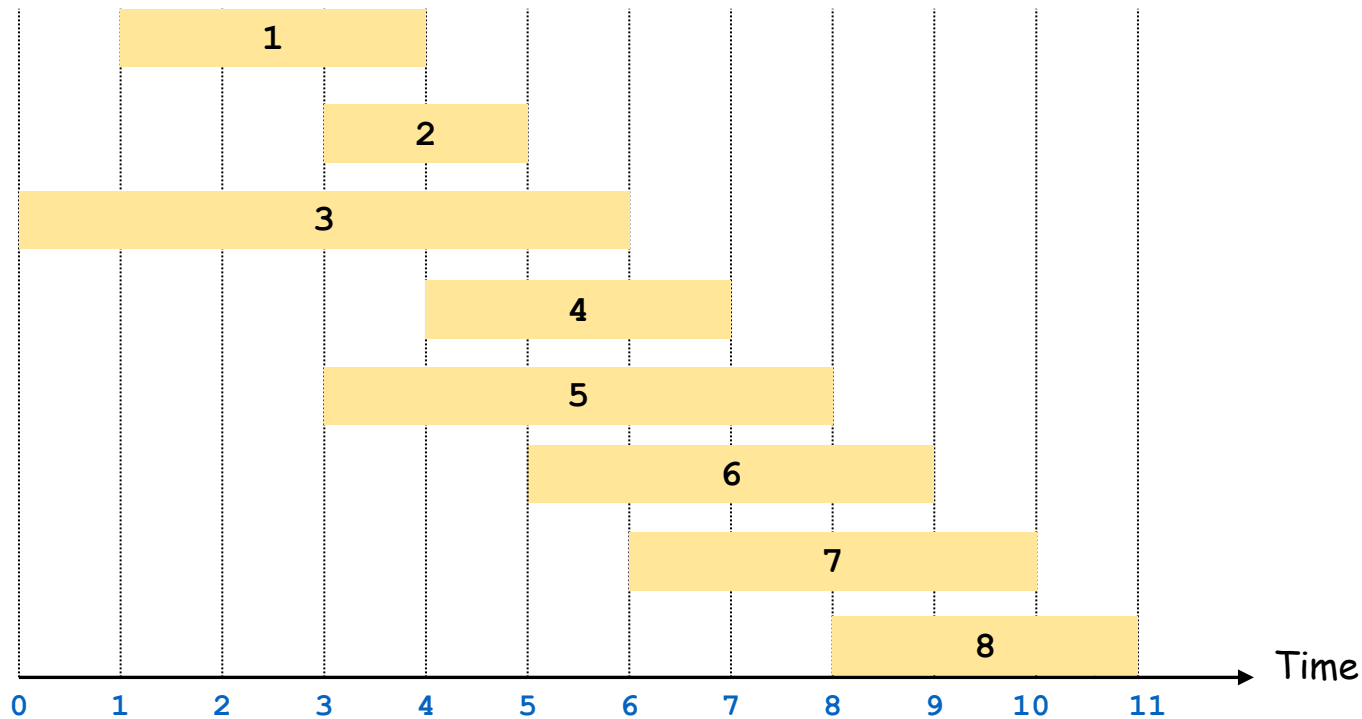
j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$
0	-	-	0
1	3	0	3
2	2	0	
3	6	0	
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5	5	0	
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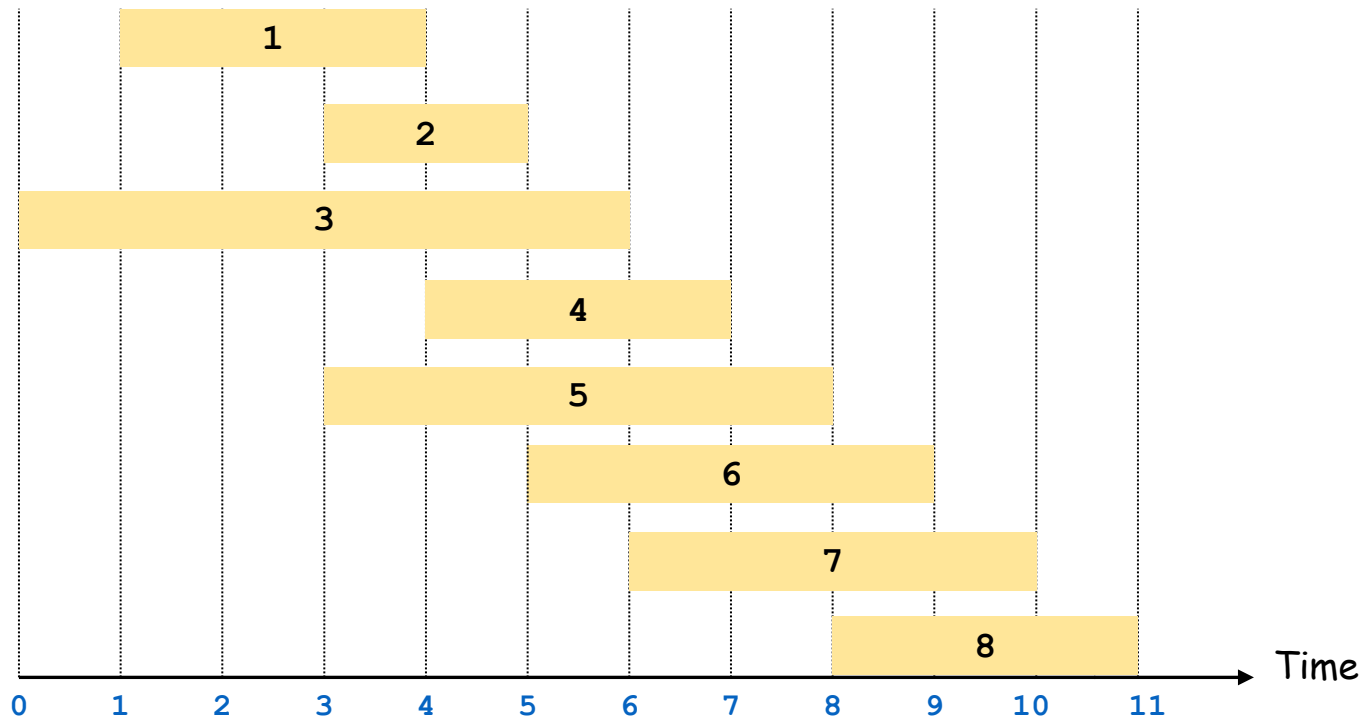
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1	3	0	3
2	2	0	
3	6	0	
4	3	1	
5	5	0	
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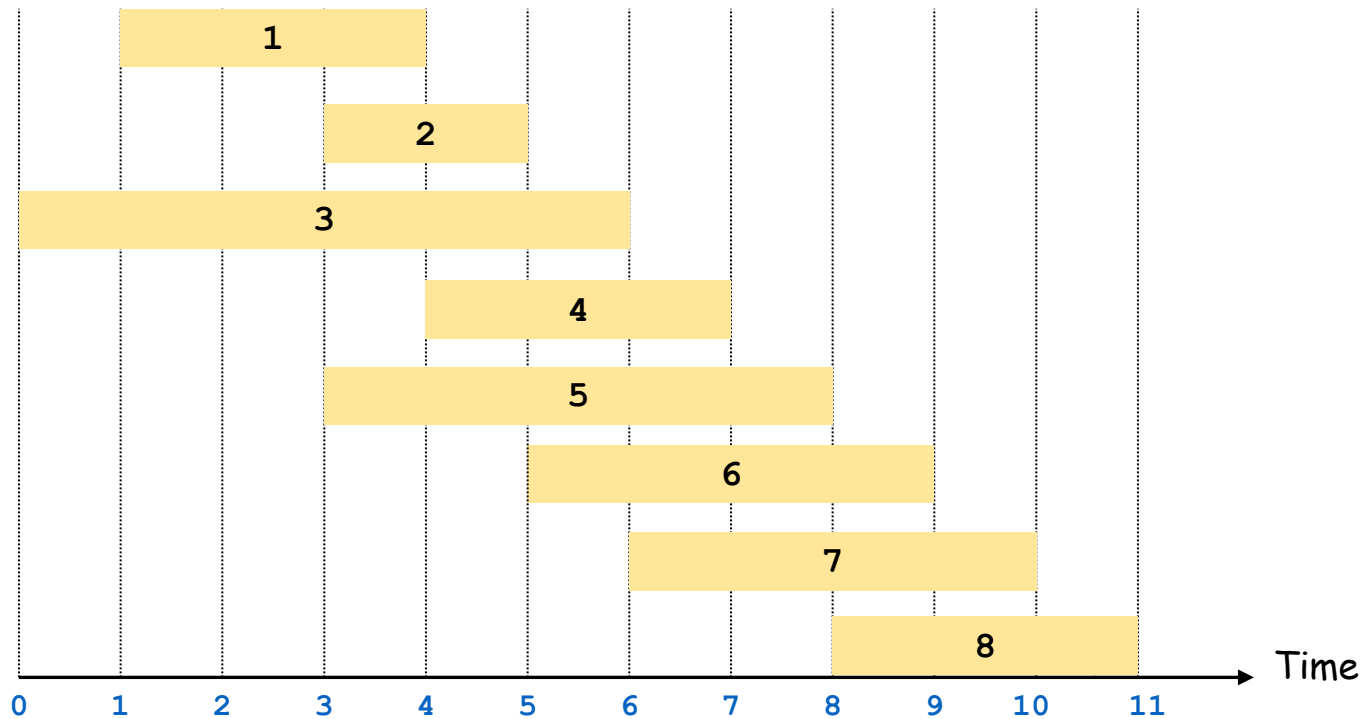
j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$
0	-	-	0
1	3	0	3
2	2	0	3
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5	5	0	
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8	3	5	

Example Execution (iterative)

Notation: Label jobs by finishing time: $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.

Defn: $p(j)$ = largest index $i < j$ s.t. job i is compatible with j .

$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$



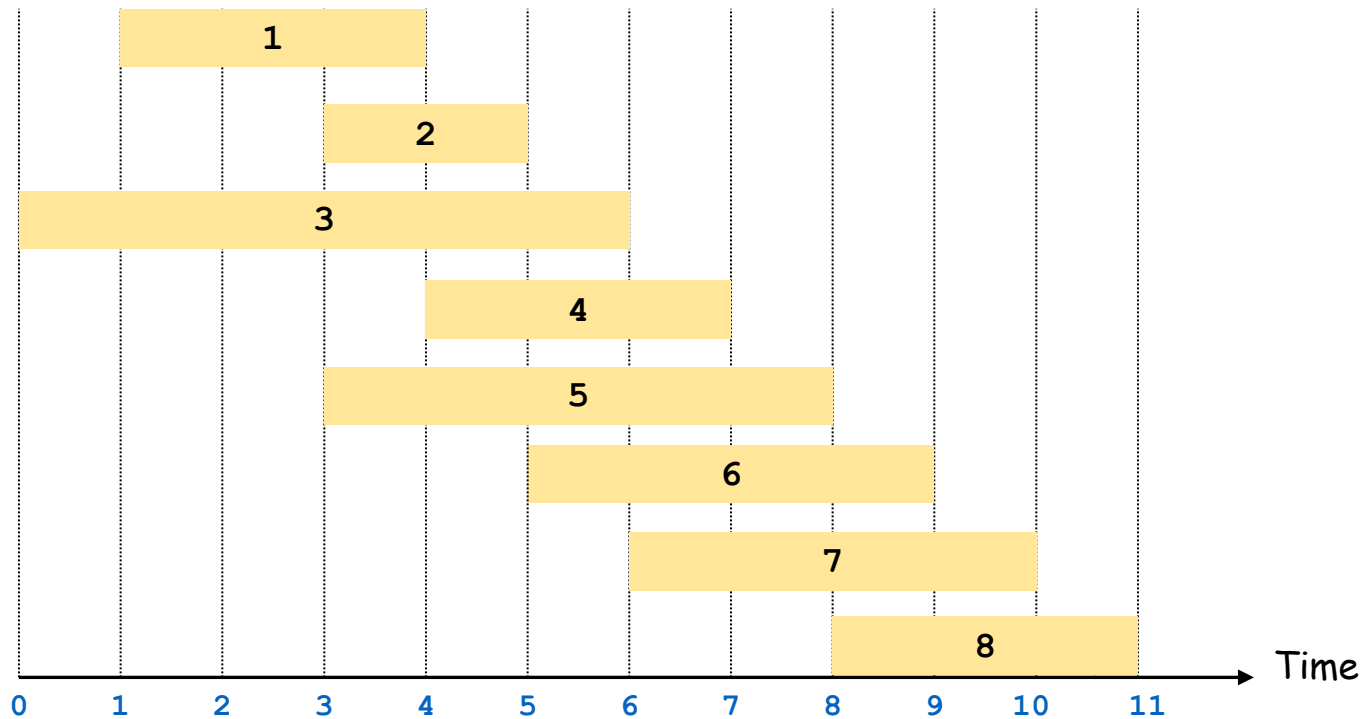
j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$
0	-	-	0
1	3	0	3
2	2	0	3
3	6	0	
4	3	1	
5	5	0	
6	4	2	
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

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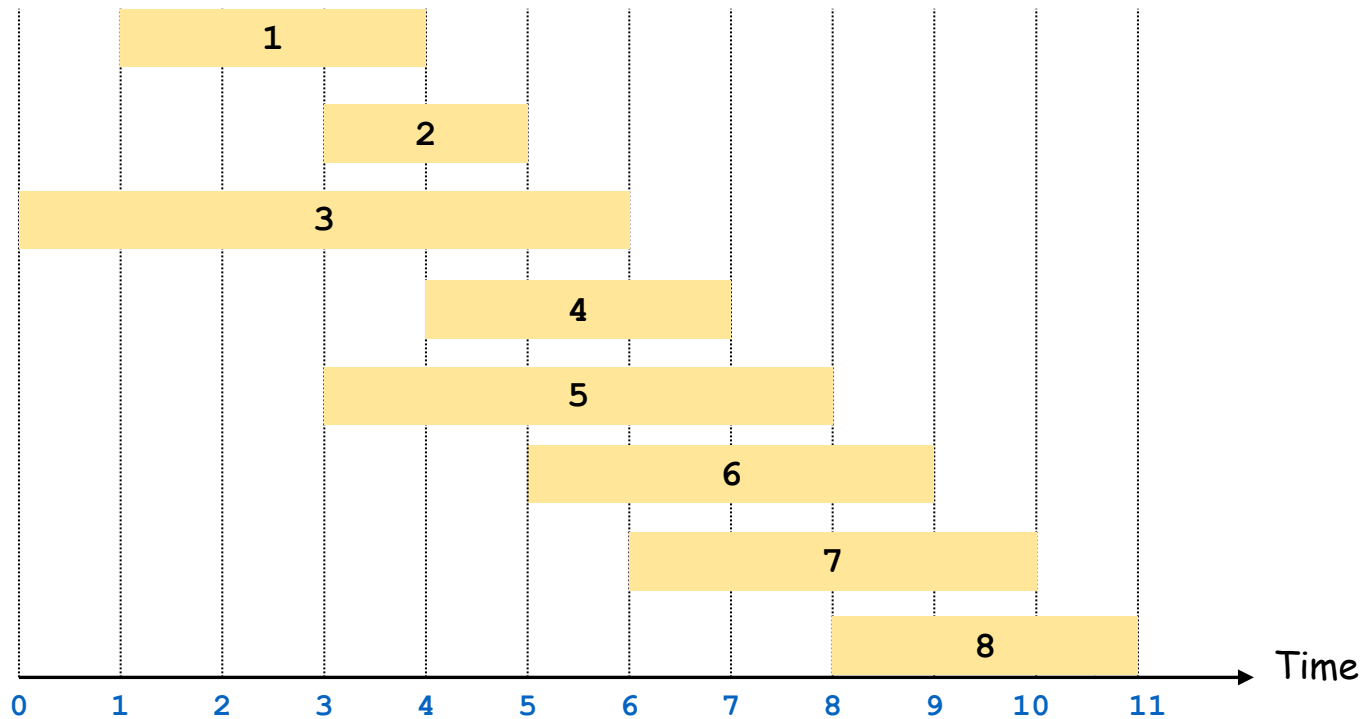
j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$
0	-	-	0
1	3	0	3
2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	
5	5	0	
6	4	2	
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

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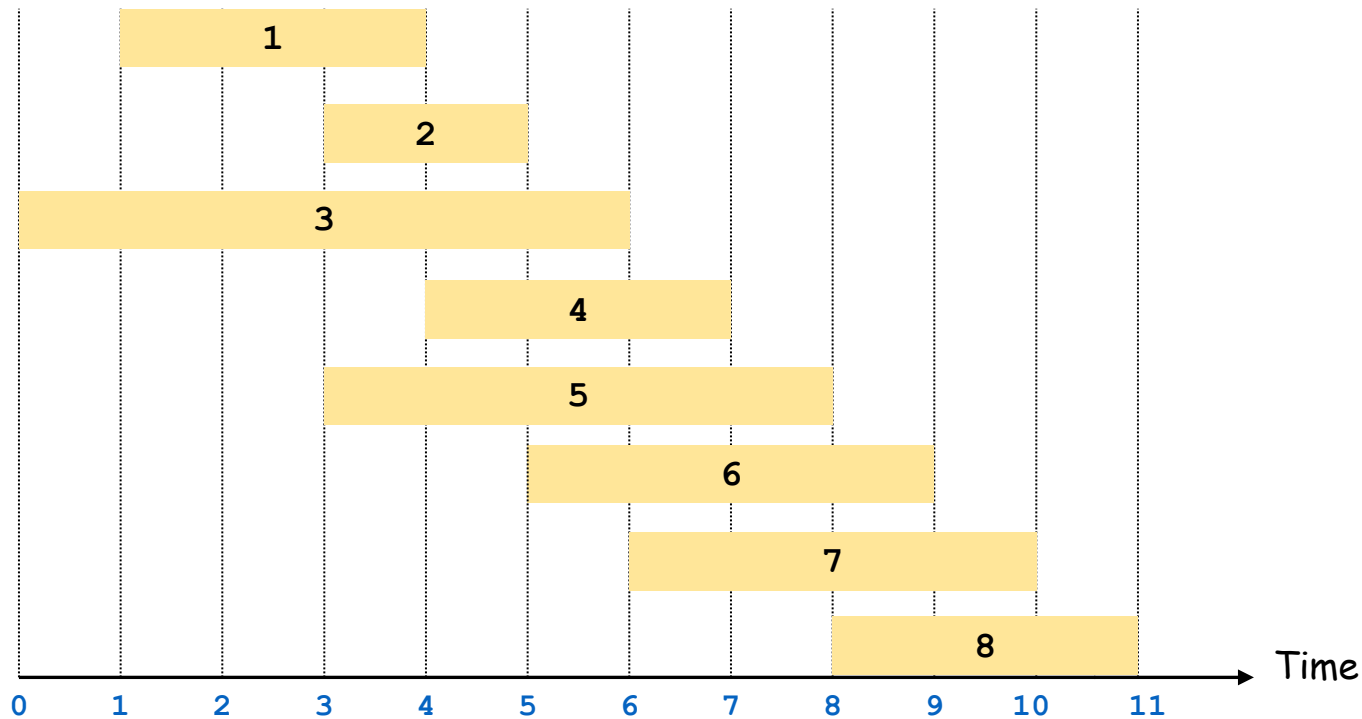
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0	-	-	0
1	3	0	3
2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	
5	5	0	
6	4	2	
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

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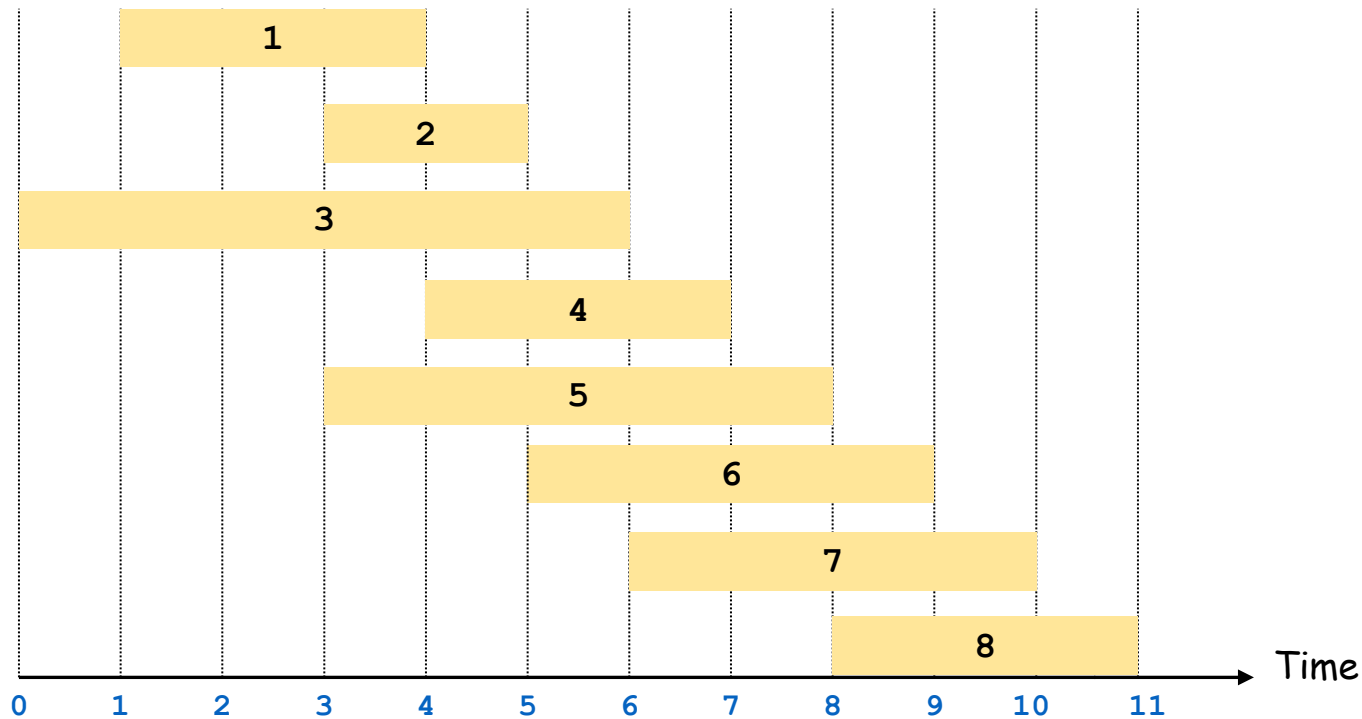
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2	2	0	3
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4	3	1	6
5	5	0	
6	4	2	
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

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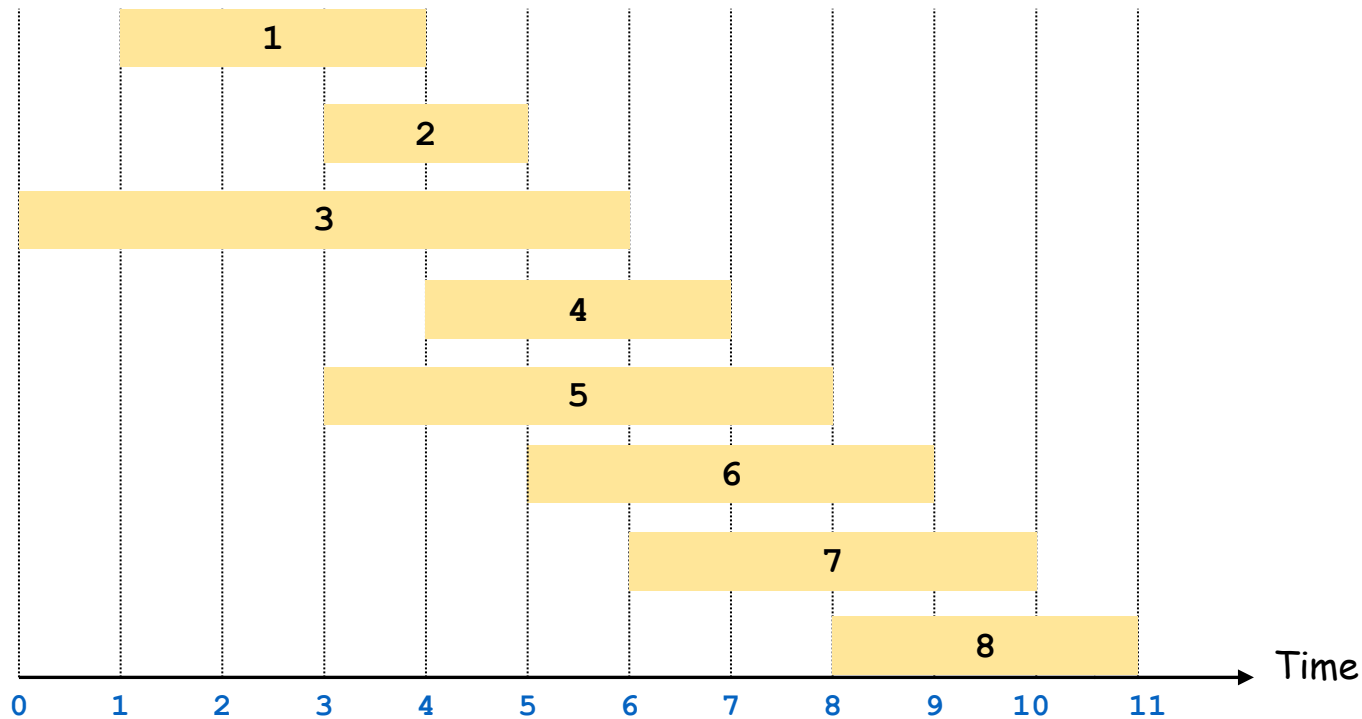
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2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	6
5	5	0	5
6	4	2	
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

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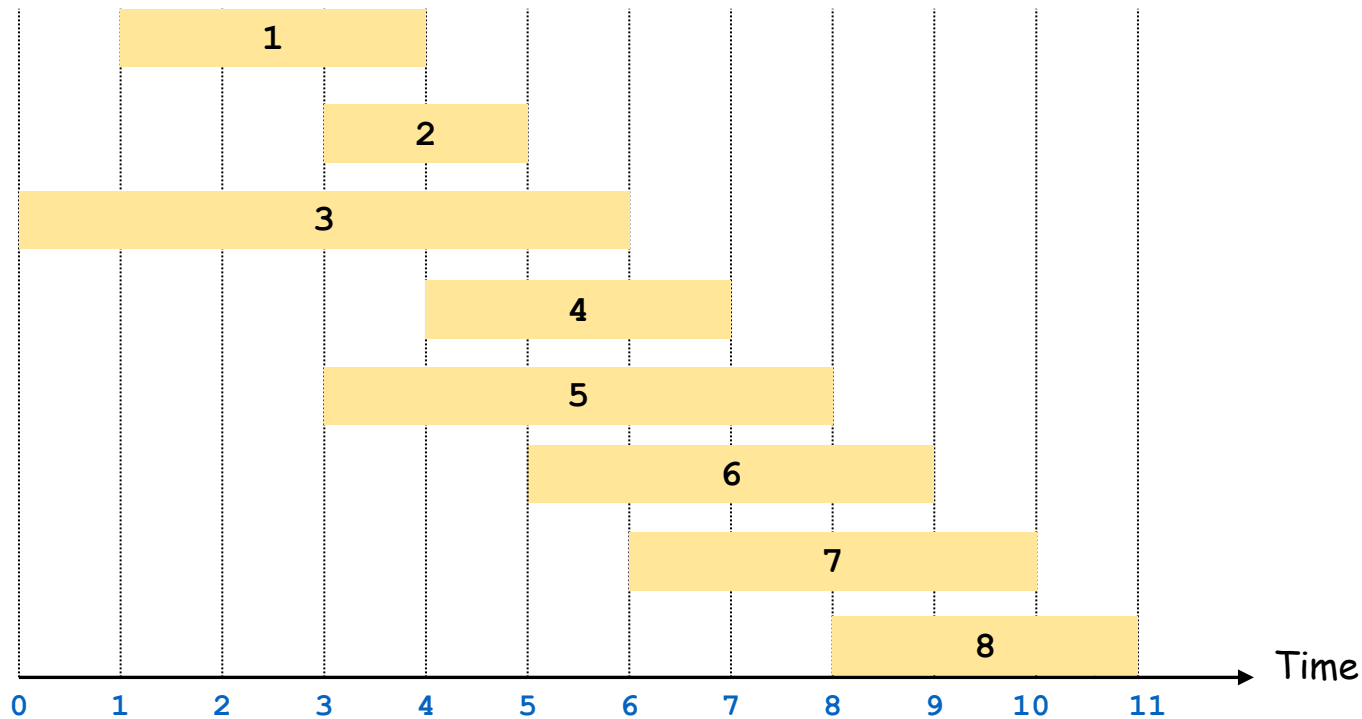
j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$
0	-	-	0
1	3	0	3
2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	6
5	5	0	6
6	4	2	7
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

Example Execution (iterative)

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Defn: $p(j)$ = largest index $i < j$ s.t. job i is compatible with j .

$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$



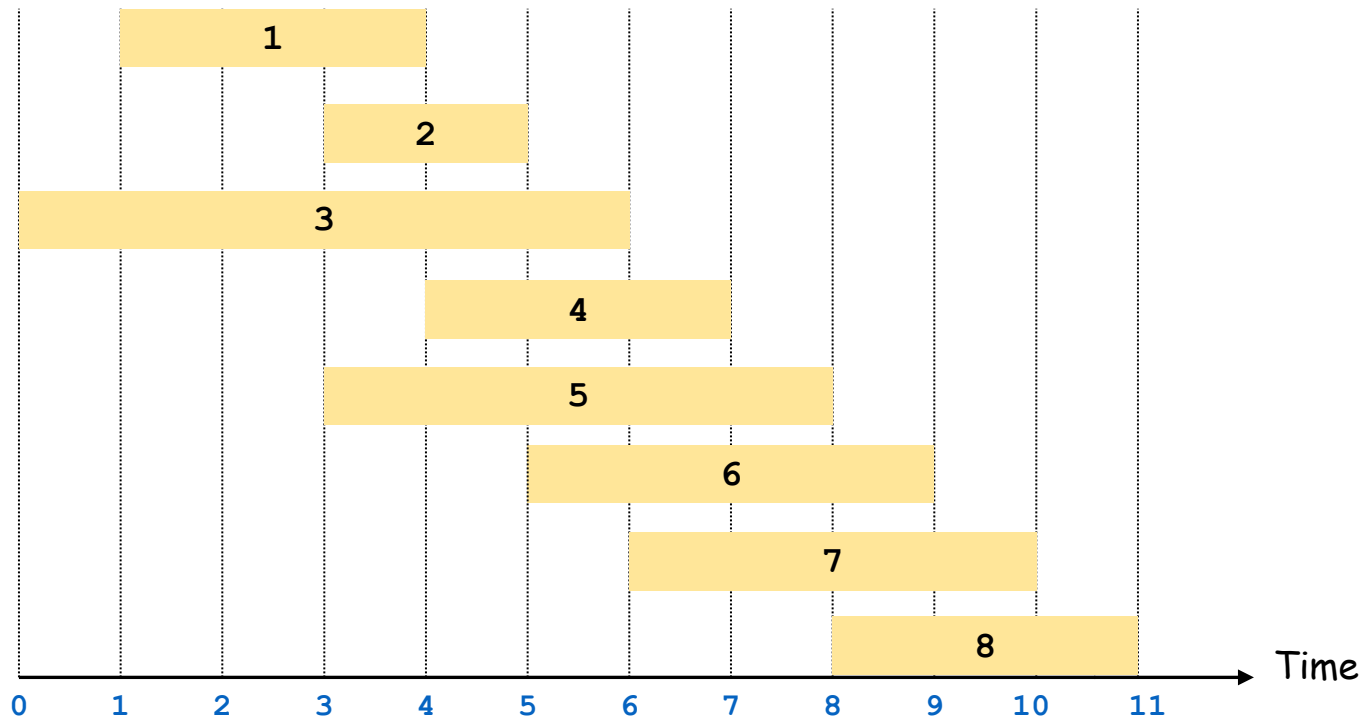
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2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	6
5	5	0	6
6	4	2	7
7	4	3	
8	3	5	

Example Execution (iterative)

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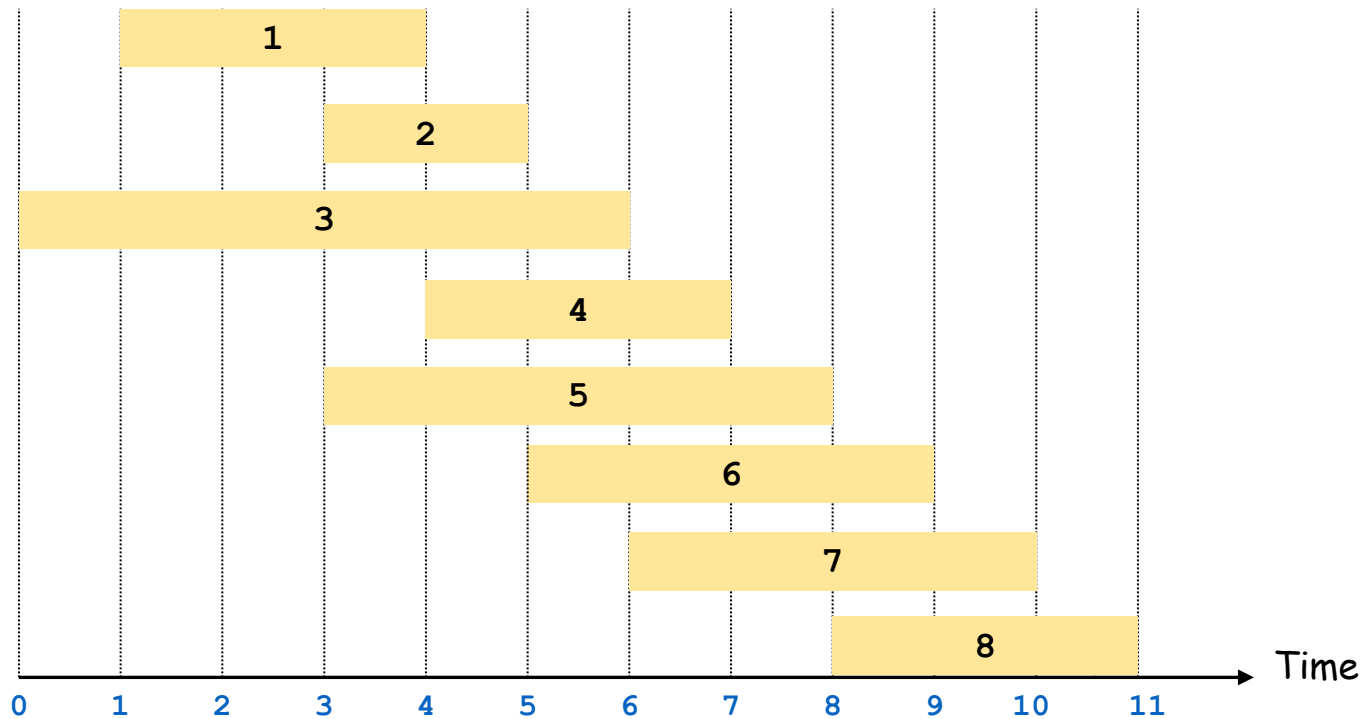
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1	3	0	3
2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	6
5	5	0	6
6	4	2	7
7	4	3	10
8	3	5	

Example Execution (iterative)

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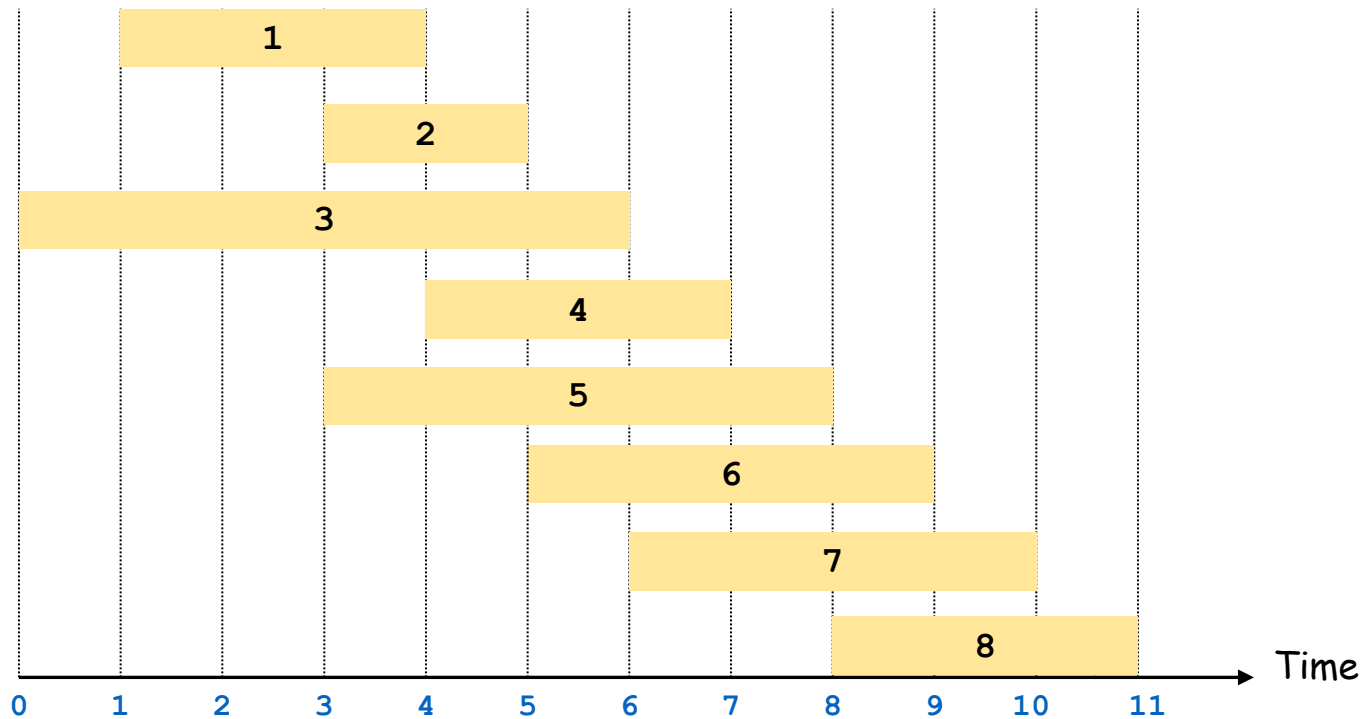
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2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	6
5	5	0	6
6	4	2	7
7	4	3	10
8	3	5	

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1	3	0	3
2	2	0	3
3	6	0	6
4	3	1	6
5	5	0	6
6	4	2	7
7	4	3	10
8	3	5	10

Weighted Interval Scheduling: Finding the Solution

So far we have computed the value $\text{OPT}(n)$ but we probably want to know what that solution OPT actually is!

We can do this, too, by keeping track of which option was better at each step.

Define $\text{Used}[j] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{solution with value } \text{OPT}(j) \text{ includes request } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

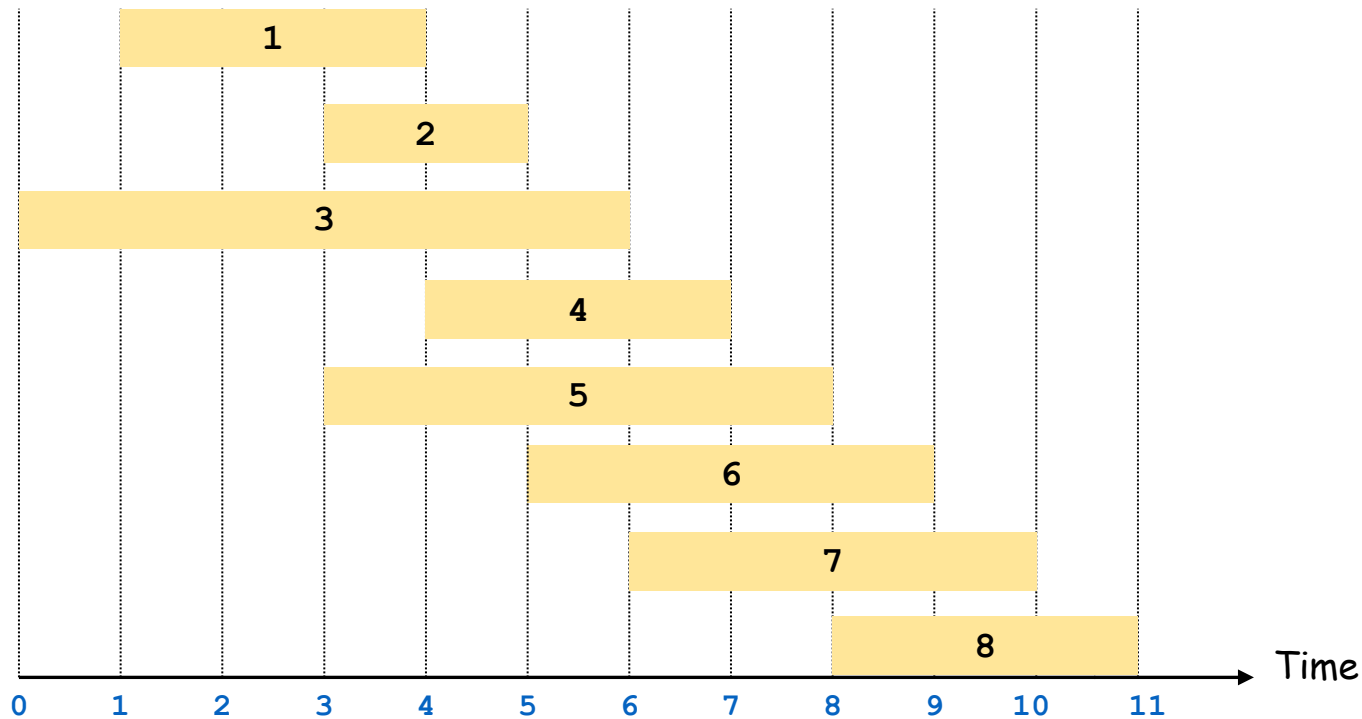
This gives a “pointer” that leads the way along a path to the optimal solution...

Weighted Interval Scheduling: Finding the Solution

Notation: Label jobs by finishing time: $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.

Defn: $p(j)$ = largest index $i < j$ s.t. job i is compatible with j .

$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$



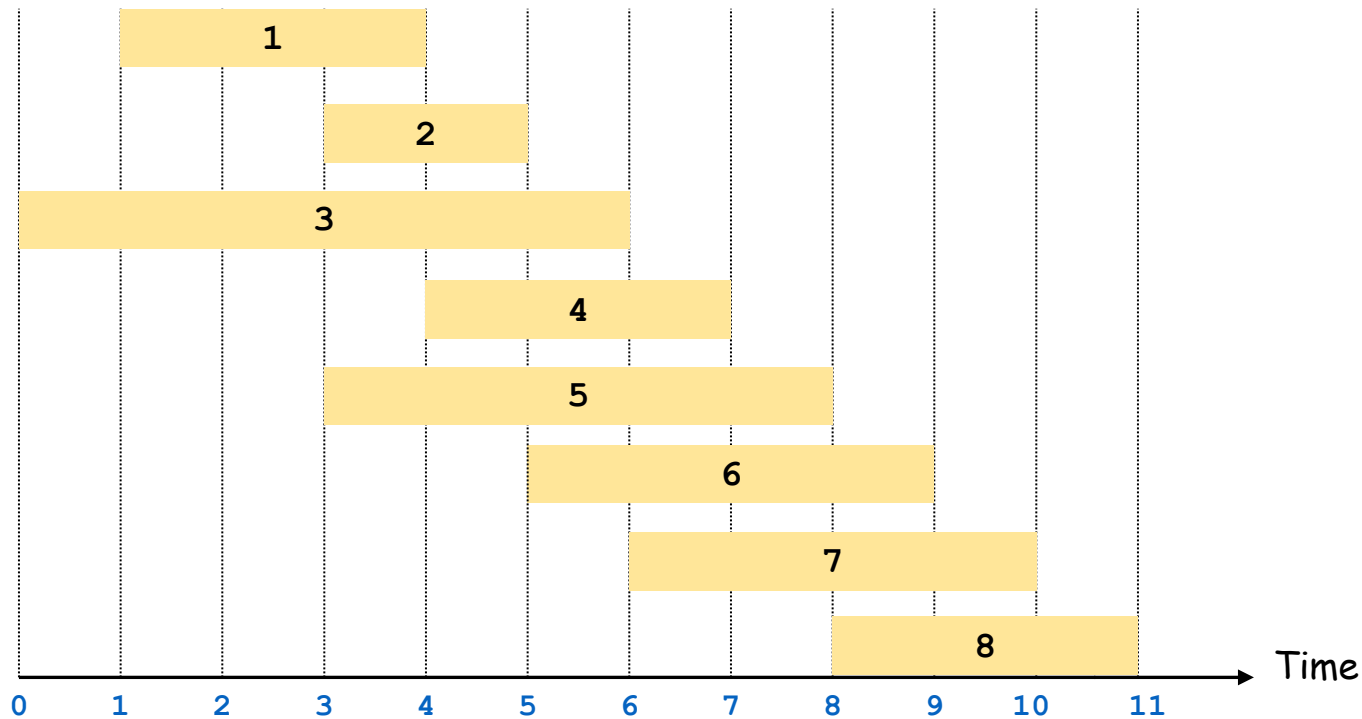
j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$	Used[j]
0	-	-	0	-
1	3	0	3	1
2	2	0	3	0
3	6	0	6	1
4	3	1	6	1
5	5	0	6	0
6	4	2	7	1
7	4	3	10	1
8	3	5	10	0

Weighted Interval Scheduling: Iterative Solution

Notation: Label jobs by finishing time: $f_1 \leq f_2 \leq \dots \leq f_n$.

Defn: $p(j)$ = largest index $i < j$ s.t. job i is compatible with j .

$$OPT(j) = \max\{OPT(p(j)) + v_j, OPT(j - 1)\}$$



j	v_j	$p(j)$	$OPT[j]$	Used $[j]$
0	-	-	0	-
1	3	0	3	1
2	2	0	3	0
3	6	0	6	1
4	3	1	6	1
5	5	0	6	0
6	4	2	7	1
7	4	3	10	1
8	3	5	10	0

Weighted Interval Scheduling - Complete

Sort requests by finish time

Compute each $p(i)$

WIS(j):

OPT[0] = 0

for each $i = 1$ up to j :

include $_i$ = OPT[$p(i)$] + value[i]

exclude $_i$ = OPT[$i - 1$]

if include $_i$ > exclude $_i$:

OPT[i] = include $_i$

used[i] = 1

else:

OPT[i] = exclude $_i$

used[i] = 0

return find_opt(used);

find_opt(used):

$j = n$

intervals = {}

while $j > 0$:

if used[j] == 0:

$j = j - 1$

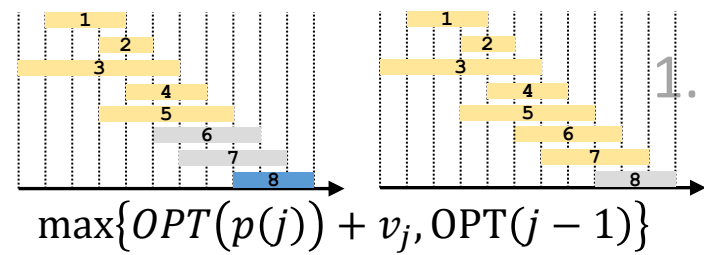
else:

intervals.add(j)

$j = p(j)$

return intervals

Weighted Interval Scheduling – Four Steps



j	$OPT[j]$
0	0
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

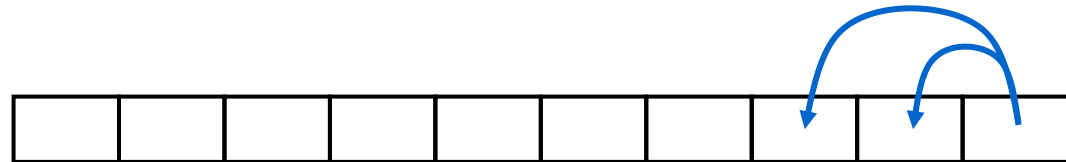
j	$OPT[j]$
0	0
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

1. Formulate the answer with a recursive structure
 - What are the options for the last choice?
 - For each such option, what does the subproblem look like? How do we use it?
2. Choose a memory structure.
 - Figure out the possible values of all parameters in the recursive calls.
 - How many subproblems (options for last choice) are there?
 - What are the parameters needed to identify each?
 - How many different values could there be per parameter?
3. Specify an order of evaluation.
 - Want to guarantee that the necessary subproblem solutions are in memory when you need them.
 - With this step: a “Bottom-up” (iterative) algorithm
 - Without this step: a “Top-down” (recursive) algorithm
4. See if there’s a way to save space
 - Is it possible to reuse some memory locations?

Dynamic Programming Patterns

Fibonacci pattern:

- 1-dimensional, $O(1)$ values immediately prior
- Space saving possible



Weighted interval scheduling pattern:

- 1-dimensional, $O(1)$ values arbitrarily far back
- No space saving possible

