

COL702: Backtracking and Dynamic Programming

Thanks to Miles Jones, Russell Impagliazzo, and Sanjoy Dasgupta at UCSD for these slides.

SEARCH AND OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS

Many problems involve finding the best solution from among a large space of possibilities.

- **Instance:** What does the input look like?
- **Solution format:** What does an output look like?
- **Constraints:** What properties must a solution have?
- **Objective function:** What makes a solution better or worse?

GLOBAL SEARCH VS LOCAL SEARCHES

- Like greedy algorithms,
backtracking algorithms break the massive global search for a solution, into a series of simpler local searches.
"Which edge do we take first? Then second? ..."
- Unlike greedy algorithms, which guess the best local choice and only consider this possibility,
backtracking uses exhaustive search to try out all combinations of local decisions.

GLOBAL SEARCH VS LOCAL SEARCHES

- However, we can often use the **constraints** of the problem to **prune** cases that are dead ends. Applying this recursively, we get a substantial savings over exhaustive search.
- This might take a long time to do. What are some other ideas in general?

BACKTRACKING: PROS AND CONS

The good:

Very general, applies to almost any search problem

Can lead to exponential improvement over exhaustive search

Often better as heuristic than worst-case analysis

FIRST STEP TO DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

The bad:

Since it works for very hard problems, usually only improved exponential time, not poly time

Hard to give exact time analysis

MAXIMAL INDEPENDENT SET

Given a graph with nodes representing people, with an edge between any two people who are enemies, find the largest set of people such that no two are enemies. In other words, given an undirected graph, find the largest set of vertices such that no two are joined by an edge.

MAXIMAL INDEPENDENT SET

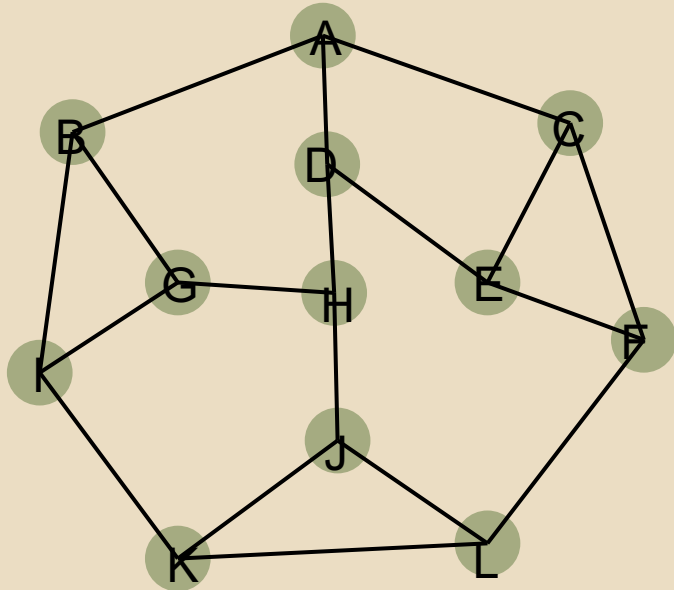
Given a graph with nodes representing people, with an edge between any two people who are enemies, find the largest set of people such that no two are enemies. In other words, given an undirected graph, find the largest set of vertices such that no two are joined by an edge.

- **Instance:**
- **Solution format:**
- **Constraint:**
- **Objective:**

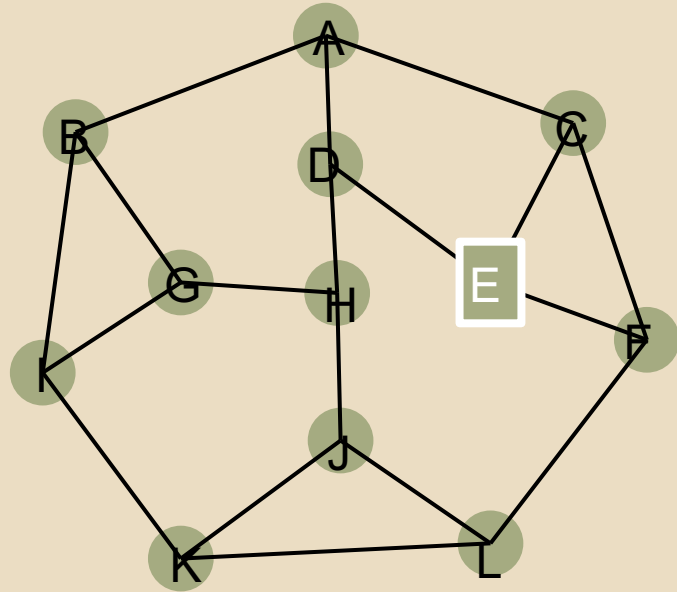
MAXIMAL INDEPENDENT SET

- Greedy approaches?
- One may be tempted to choose the person with the fewest enemies, remove all of his enemies and recurse on the remaining graph.
- This is fast, but does not always find the best solution.

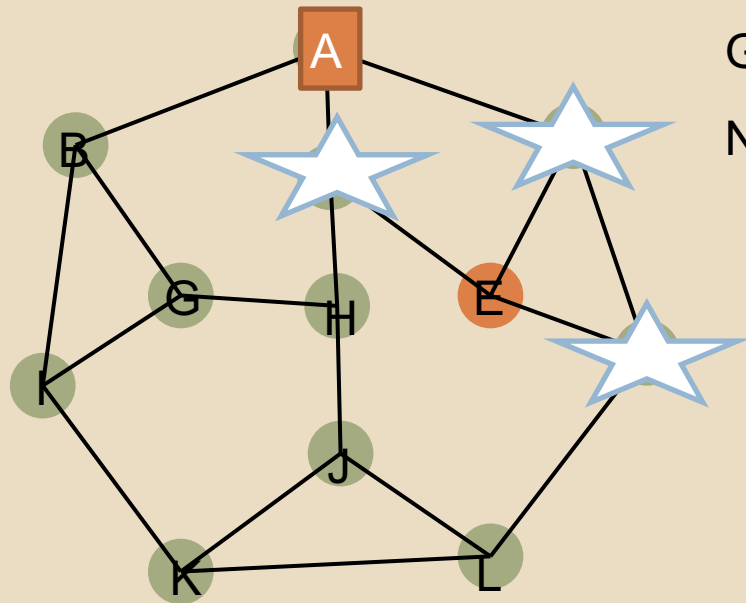
AN EXAMPLE



AN EXAMPLE



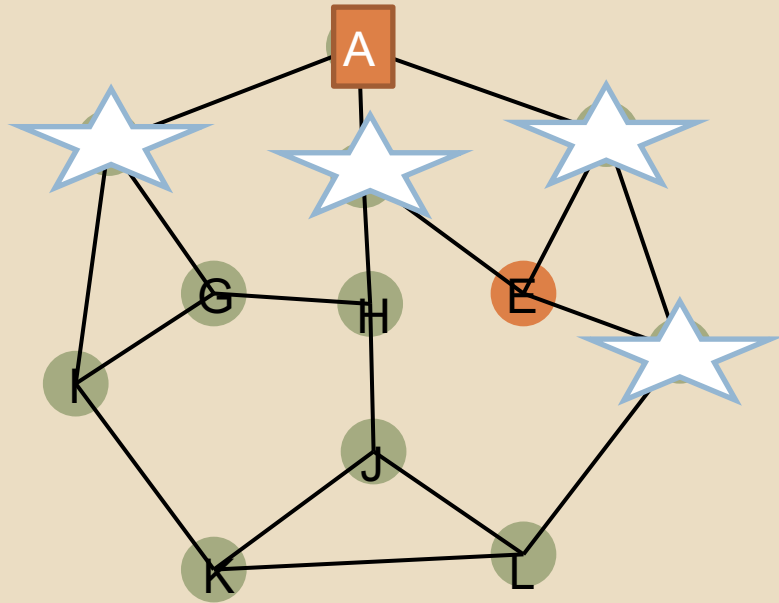
AN EXAMPLE



Greedy: all degree 3, pick any, say E

Neighbors (enemies) of E forced out of set

AN EXAMPLE

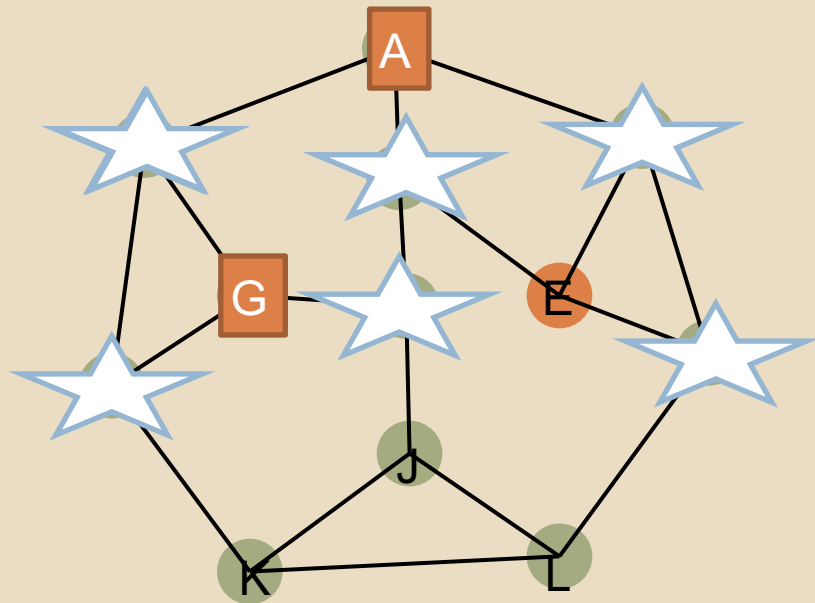


Greedy: all degree 3, pick any, say E

Neighbors (enemies) of E forced out of set

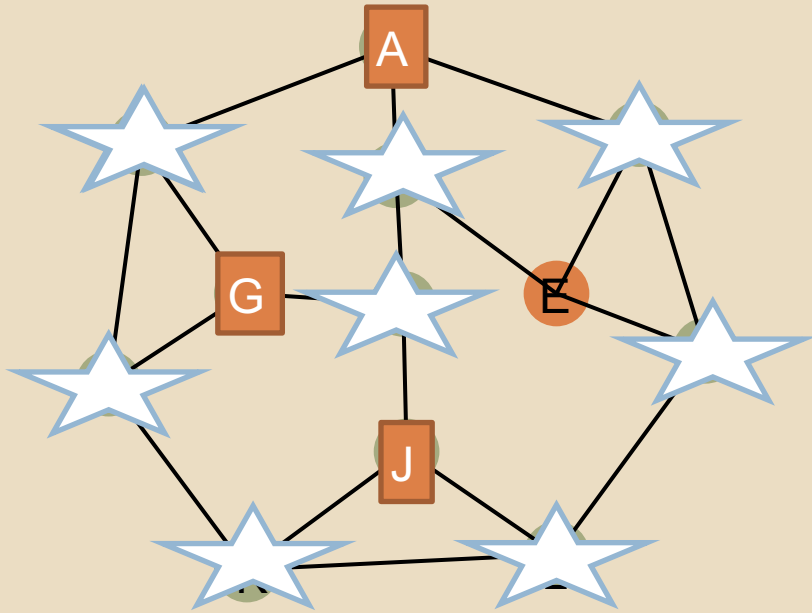
Lowest degree is now A

AN EXAMPLE



Many degree 2 vertices we could choose next, say G

AN EXAMPLE

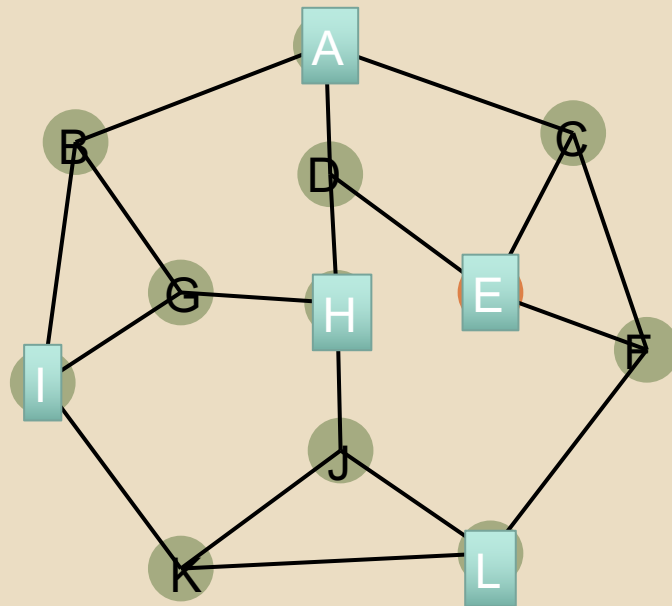


Many degree 2 vertices we could choose next, say G

Can pick any remaining one

Solution found by greedy is size 4

BETTER SOLUTION



MAXIMAL INDEPENDENT SET

- What is the solution space?
- How much is exhaustive search?
- What are the constraints?
- What is the objective?

MAXIMAL INDEPENDENT SET

- What is the solution space?

All subsets S of V

- How much is exhaustive search?

$2^{|V|}$

- What are the constraints?

For each edge $e=\{u,v\}$, cannot have both u and v in S

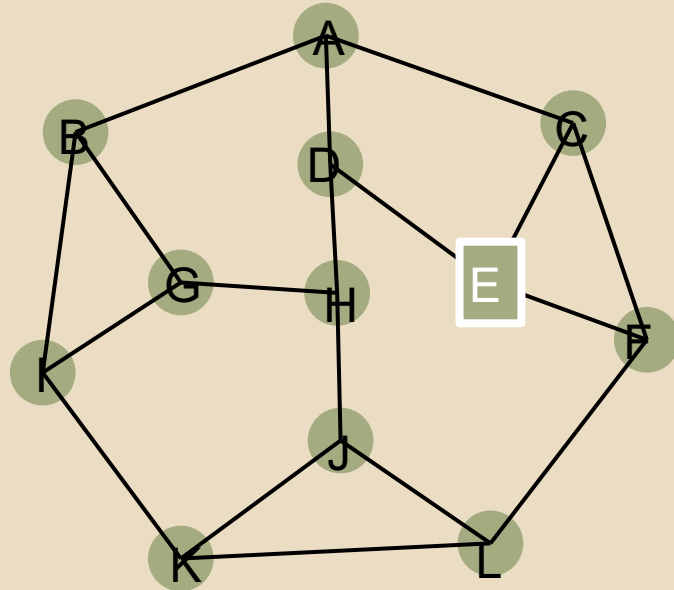
- What is the objective?

$|S|$

MAXIMAL INDEPENDENT SET

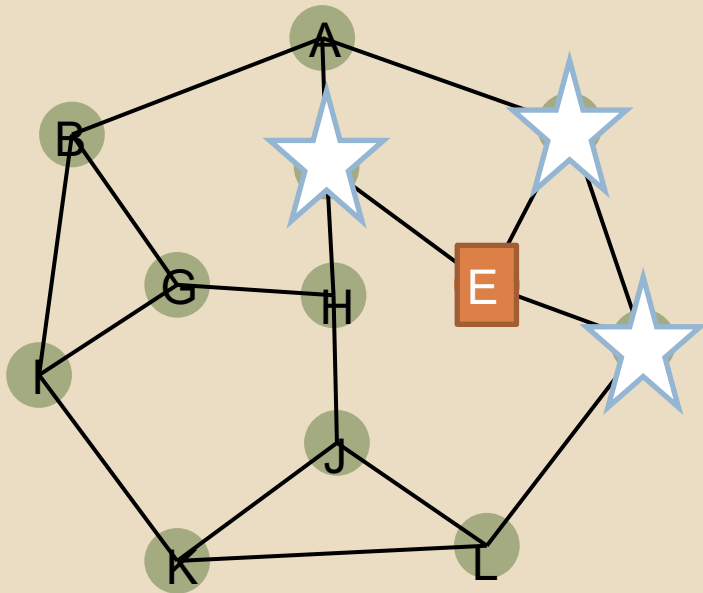
- Backtracking: Do exhaustive search locally. Use constraints to simplify problem along the way.
- What is a local decision? **Do we pick vertex E or not.....**
- What are the possible answers to this decision? **Yes or No**
- How do the answers affect the problem to be solved in the future?
If we pick E : Recurse on subgraph $G - \{E\} - \{E\text{'s neighbors}\}$ (and add 1)
If we don't pick E : Recurse on subgraph $G - \{E\}$.

AN EXAMPLE



Local decision : Is E in S?
Possible answers: Yes, No

AN EXAMPLE

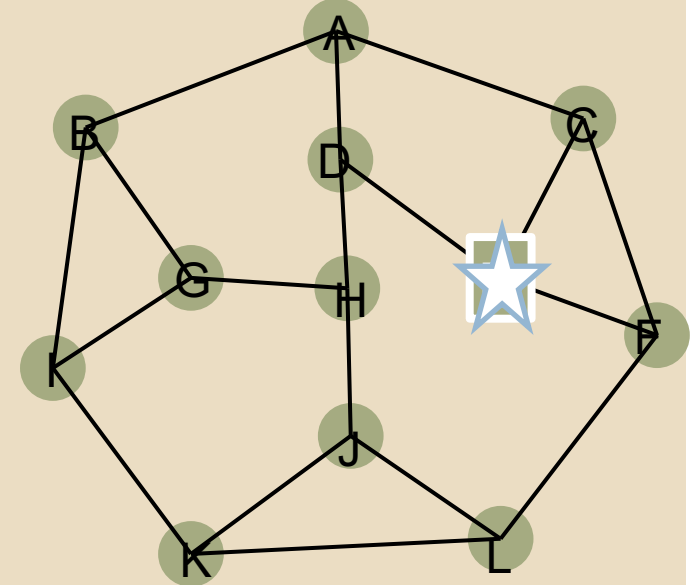


Local decision : Is E in S?
YES OR NO

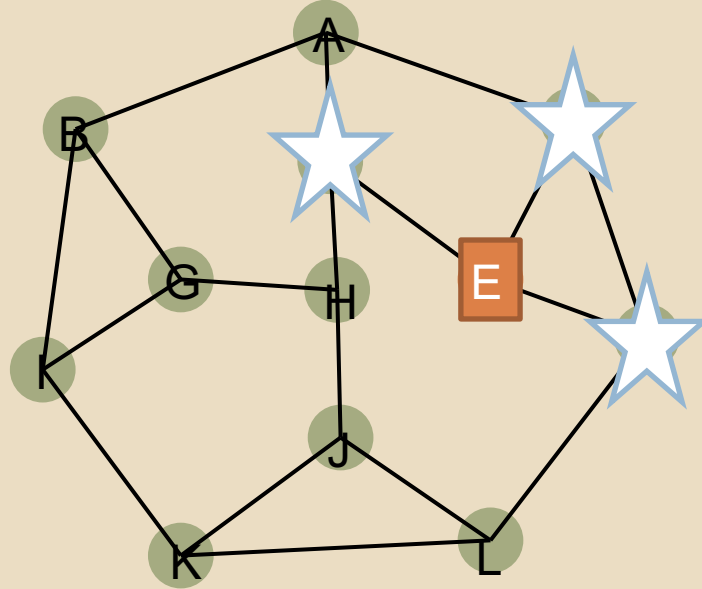
$MIS([A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L]) =$

(YES) $1 + MIS([A,B, \quad G,H,I,J,K,L])$

(NO) $MIS([A,B,C,D, \quad ,F,G,H,I,J,K,L])$



AN EXAMPLE

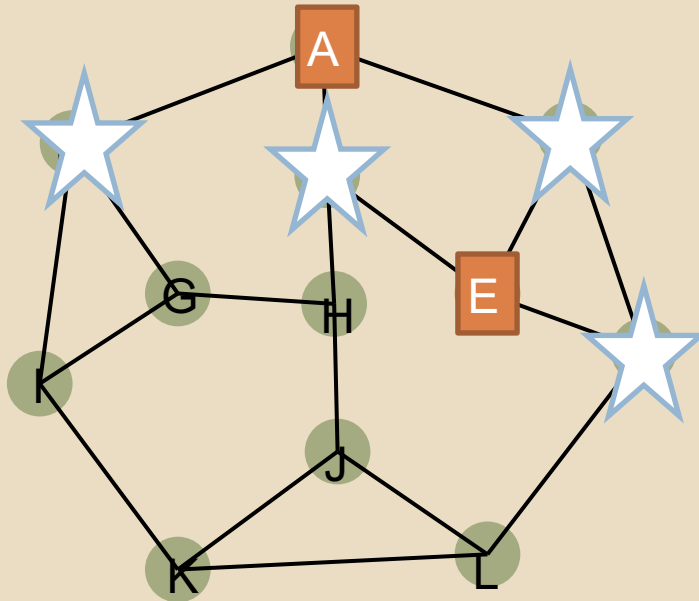


Local decision : Is E in S?

Case 1 : Yes

Consequences: Neighbors not in S

AN EXAMPLE



Local decision : Is E in S?

Case 1 : Yes

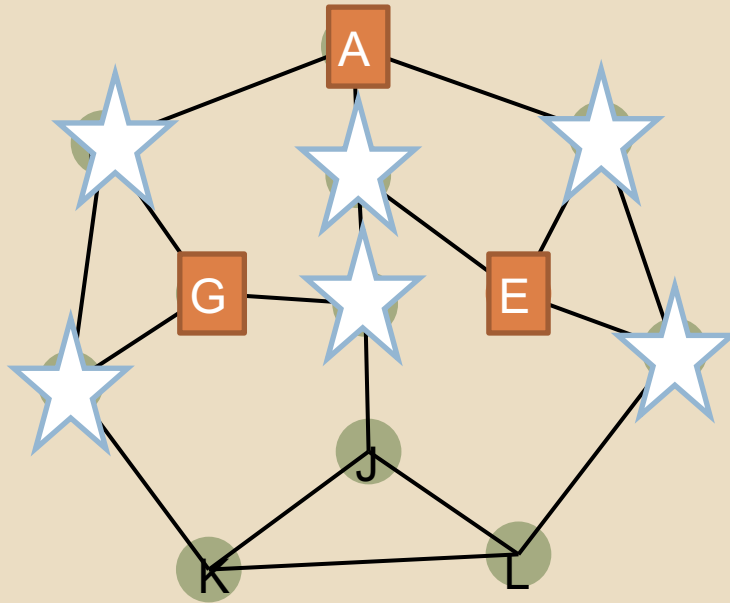
Consequences: Neighbors not in S

Claim: A is now in some largest IS

Go on to next local decision

Is G in S?

AN EXAMPLE



Local decision : Is E in S?

Case 1 : Yes

Consequences: Neighbors not in S

Claim: A is now in some largest IS

Go on to next local decision

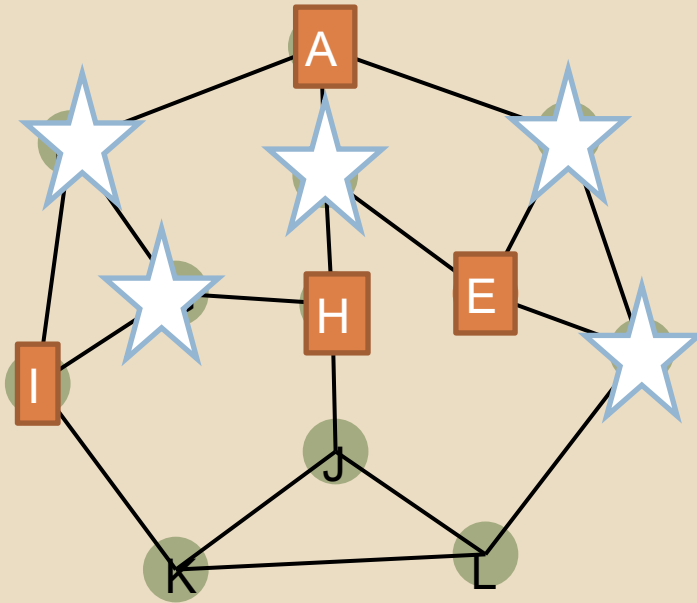
Is G in S?

Case 1a: Yes

Other three symmetrical: Get one more

Best set for Case 1a: 4, e.g, A,G,E,J

BUT NOW WE BACKTRACK



Local decision : Is E in S?

Case 1 : Yes

Consequences: Neighbors not in S

Claim: A is now in some largest IS

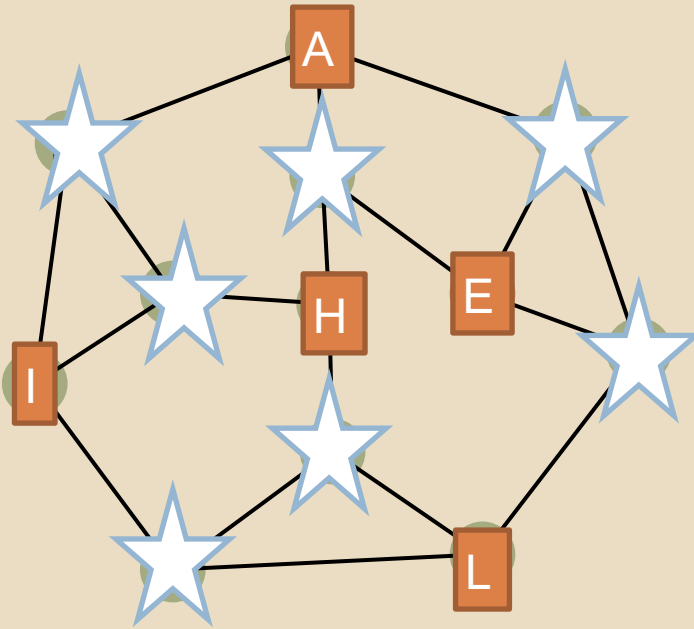
Go on to next local decision

Is G in S?

Case 1b: No

Claim: I, H in some smallest MIS in Case 1b

BUT NOW WE BACKTRACK



Local decision : Is E in S?

Case 1 : Yes

Consequences: Neighbors not in S

Claim: A is now in some largest IS

Go on to next local decision

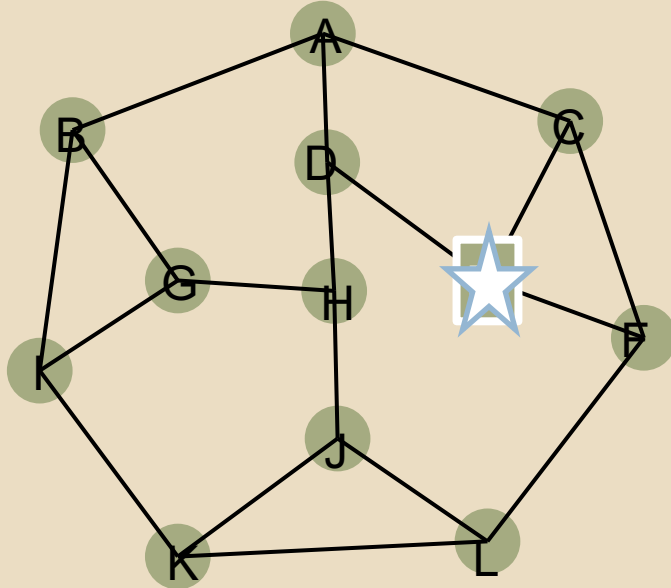
Is G in S?

Case 1b: No

Claim: I, H in some smallest MIS in Case 1b

Case 1 b: Get set of size 5

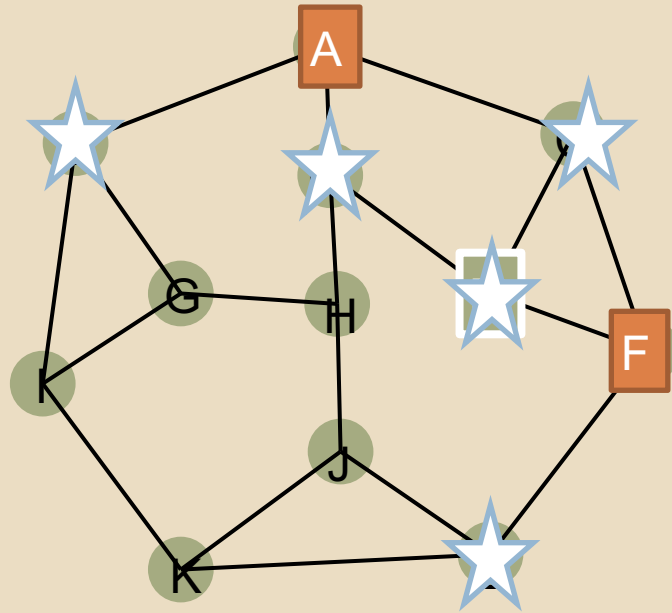
BACKTRACK AGAIN



Case 1b is better than Case 1a, but we still don't know its optimal

Need to consider Case 2: E is not in S

BACKTRACK AGAIN



Case 1b is better than Case 1a, but we still don't know its optimal

Need to consider Case 2: E is not in S

Case 2a: A is in S

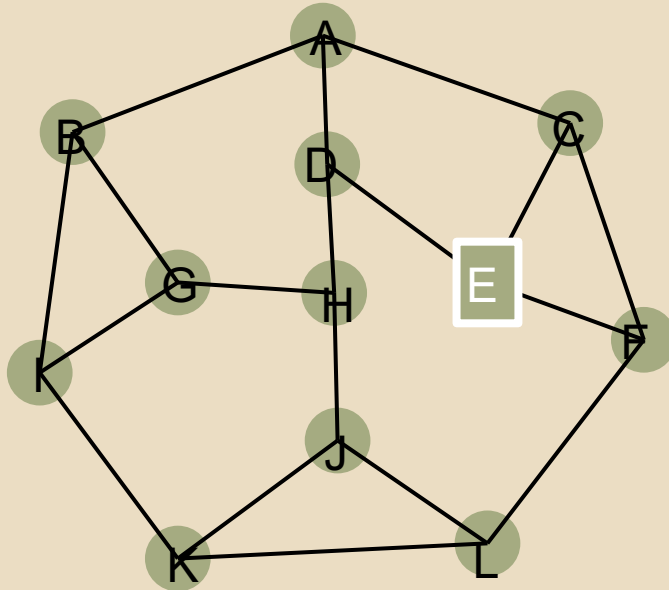
F is in S

Cycle of 5 : get 2

So this case eventually gets 4

Now we KNOW Case 1b is best

AN EXAMPLE



12 vertices means 4096 subsets

But in the end, we only needed 4 cases

(OK, I used some higher principles, e.g. symmetry that our BT algorithm might not have)

CASE ANALYSIS AS RECURSION

MIS1($G = (V, E)$)

- IF $|V|=0$ return the empty set
- Pick vertex v
- $S_1 := v + \text{MIS1}(G - v - N(v))$
- $S_2 := \text{MIS1}(G - v)$
- IF $|S_2| > |S_1|$ return S_2 , else return S_1

CORRECTNESS

MIS1($G = (V, E)$)

- IF $|V|=0$ return the empty set
- Pick vertex v
- $S_1 := v + \text{MIS1}(G - v - N(v))$
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- IF $|S_2| > |S_1|$ return S_2 , else return S_1

Induction on n . Base case $n=0$: MIS1 correctly returns empty set.

Otherwise, use strong induction: S_1 is max ind set containing v ,
 S_2 max ind. set not containing v . Better of two is MIS in G .

TIME ANALYSIS

MIS1($G = (V, E)$)

- IF $|V|=0$ return the empty set
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TIME ANALYSIS

MIS1($G = (V, E)$)

- IF $|V|=0$ return the empty set
- Pick vertex v :
- $S_1 := v + \text{MIS1}(G - v - N(v))$ Worst-case: $T(n-1)$
- $S_2 := \text{MIS1}(G - v)$ $T(n-1)$
- IF $|S_2| > |S_1|$ return S_2 , else return S_1 $\text{poly}(n)$

$T(n) = 2 T(n-1) + \text{poly}(n)$

- Idea: bottom-heavy, so exact $\text{poly}(n)$ doesn't affect asymptotic time
- $T(n) = 2^n$

WHAT IS THE WORST CASE FOR MIS1?

WHAT IS THE WORST CASE FOR MIS1?

- An empty graph with no edges, i.e., the whole graph is an independent set
- But then we should just return all vertices without trying cases
- More generally, if a vertex has no neighbors, the case when we include it $v + \text{MIS}(G-v)$ is always better than the case when we don't include it, $\text{MIS}(G-v)$

GETTING RID OF THAT STUPID WORST CASE

$MIS2(G = (V, E))$

- IF $|V| = 0$ return the empty set
- Pick vertex v
- $S_1 := v + MIS2(G - v - N(v))$
- IF $\deg(v)=0$ return S_1
- $S_2 := MIS2(G - v)$
- IF $|S_2| > |S_1|$ return S_2 , else return S_1

- Correctness: If $\deg(v) = 0$, $|S_2| < |S_1|$ so we'd return S_1 anyway
- So does same thing as MIS1

WHAT IS THE WORST CASE FOR MIS2?

WHAT IS THE WORST CASE FOR MIS2?

If the graph is a line and we always pick the end, we recurse on one line of size $n - 1$ and one of size $n - 2$



$$T(n) = T(n - 1) + T(n - 2) + poly(n)$$

$$T(n) = O(Fib(n)) = O(2^{0.7n})$$

Still exponential but for medium sized n , makes huge difference

$n = 80$: $2^{56} =$ minute of computer time, $2^{80} = 16$ million minutes

CAN WE DO BETTER?

In the example, we actually argued that we should add vertices of degree 1 as well.

Modify-the-solution proof:

- Say v has one neighbor u .
- Let S_1 be the largest independent set with v and let S_2 be the largest ind. set without v .
- Let $S' = S_2 - \{u\} + \{v\}$. S' is an independent set, and is at least as big as S_2 , and contains v . Thus, S_1 is at least as big as S' , which is at least as big as S_2 . So don't bother computing S_2 in this case.

IMPROVED ALGORITHM

$MIS3(G = (V, E))$

- IF $|V| = 0$ return the empty set
- Pick vertex v
- $S_1 := v + MIS3(G - v - N(v))$
- IF $\deg(v)=0$ or 1 return S_1
- $S_2 := MIS3(G - v)$
- IF $|S_2| > |S_1|$ return S_2 , else return S_1

Correctness: If $\deg(v) = 0$ or 1 $|S_2|$ is at most $|S_1|$, so we'd return S_1 anyway, so does same thing as MIS1

TIME ANALYSIS

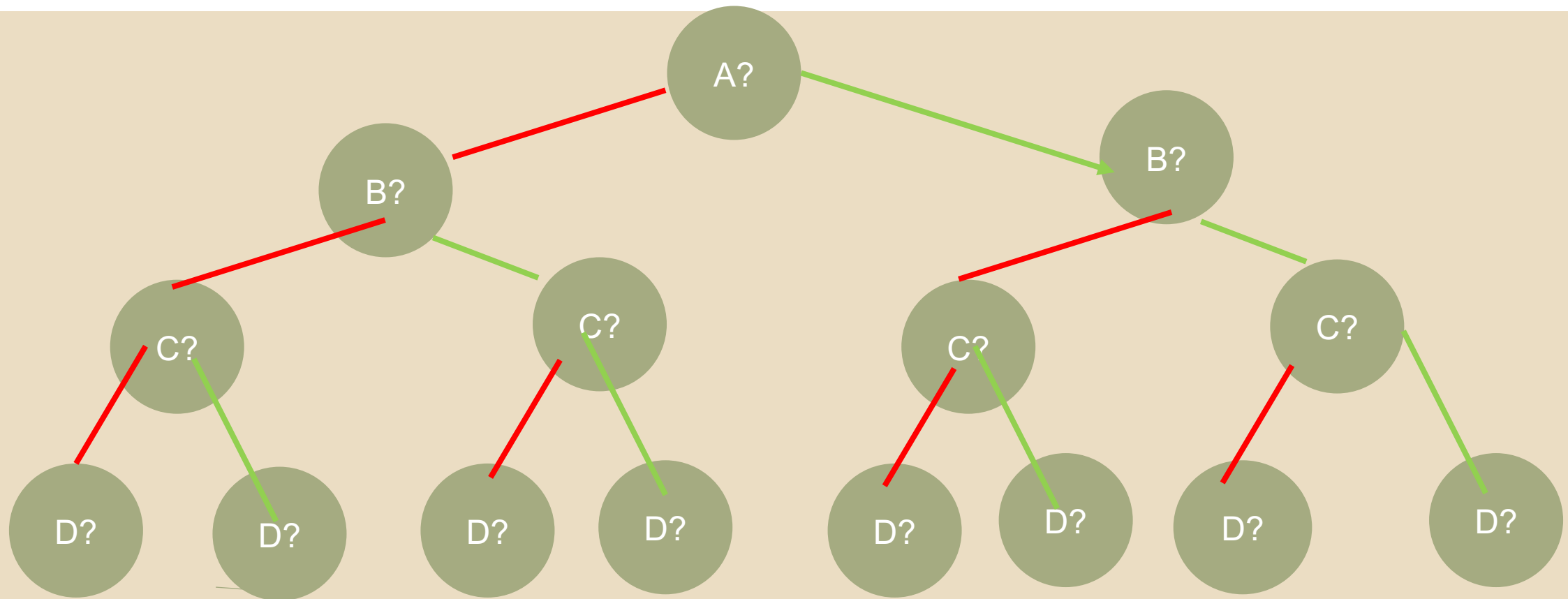
- $T(n)$ is at most $T(n - 1) + T(n - 3) +$ small amount
- Similar to Fibonacci numbers, but a bit better, about
- $2^{0.6n}$ rather than $2^{0.7n}$.
- $n = 80$: $2^{0.6n} = 2^{48}$, less than a second.
- $n = 100$: $2^{60} = 16$ minutes, $2^{70} = 16,000$ minutes
- So while still exponential, big win for moderate n

IS THIS TIGHT?

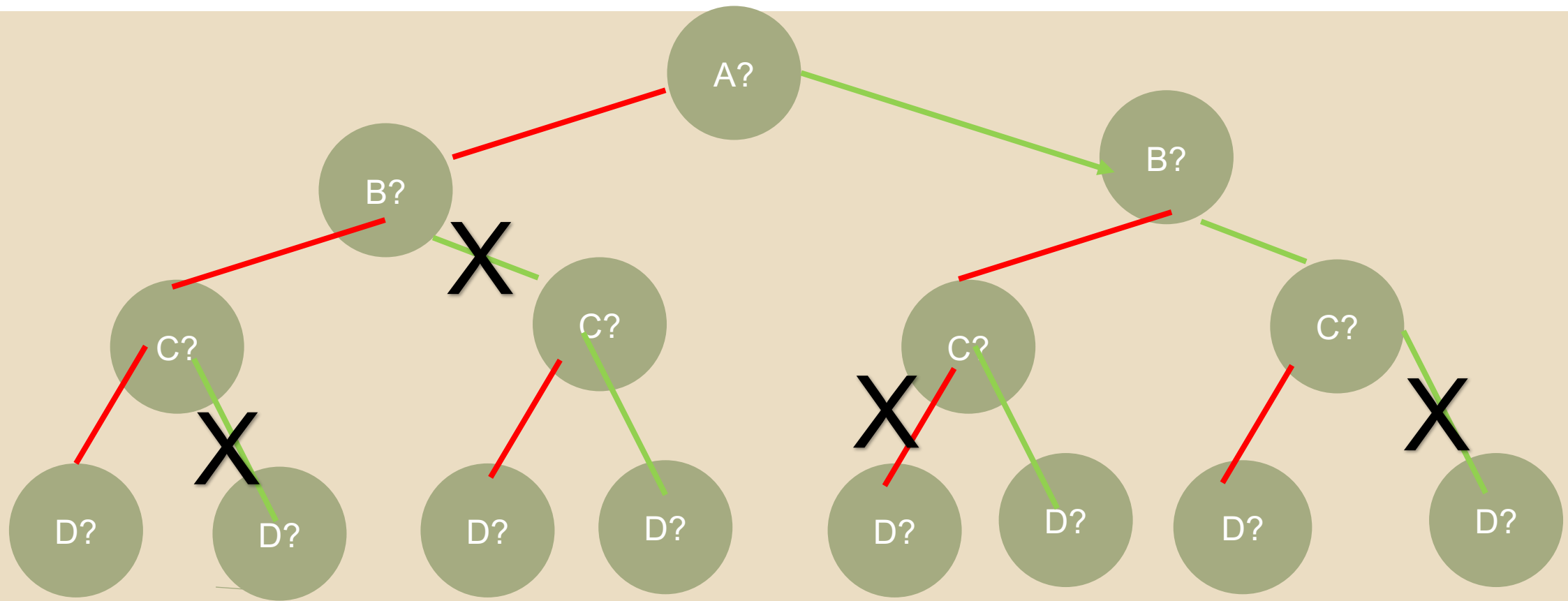
IS THIS TIGHT?

- I don't know whether there is any graph where MIS3 is that bad.
- Best known MIS algorithm around $2^{n/4}$ by Robson, building on Tarjan and Trojanowski. Does much more elaborate case analysis for small degree vertices
- Interesting research question: is there a limit to improvements?
- This question= Exponential Time Hypothesis, has interesting ramifications whether true or false

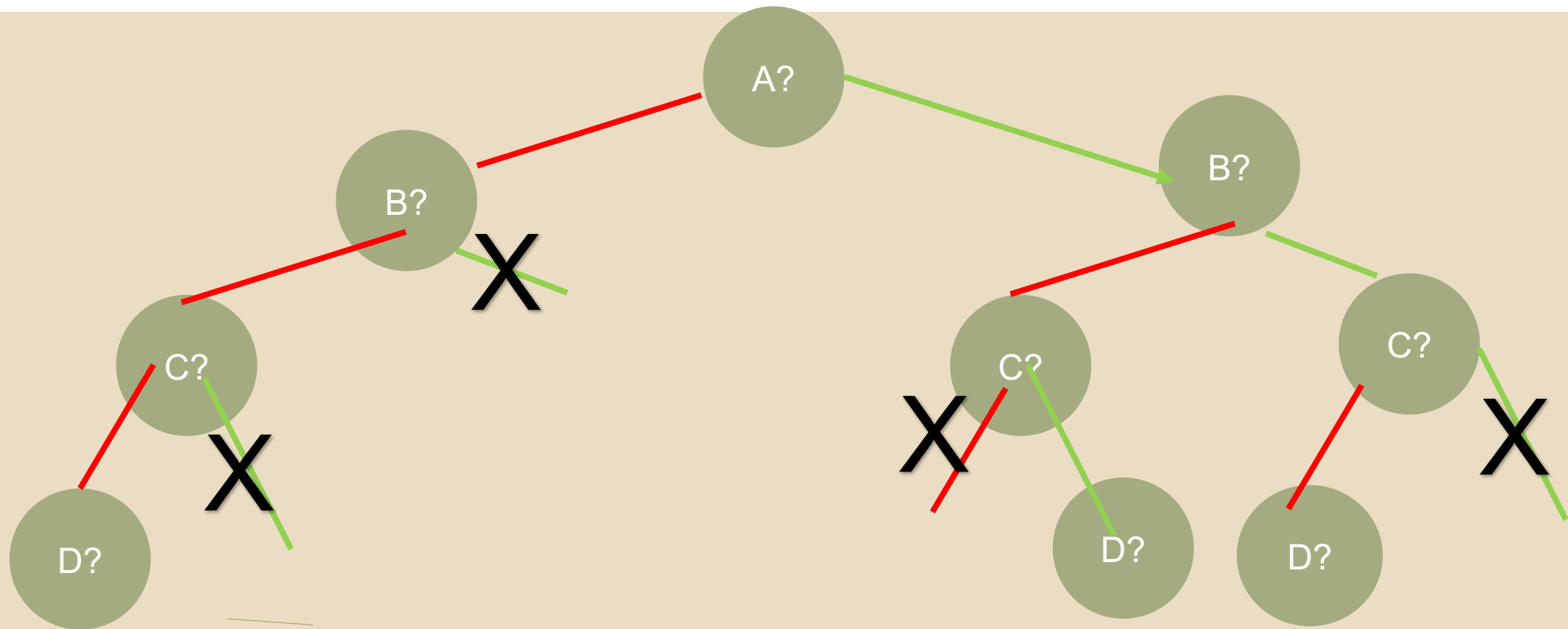
HOW BACKTRACKING HELPS



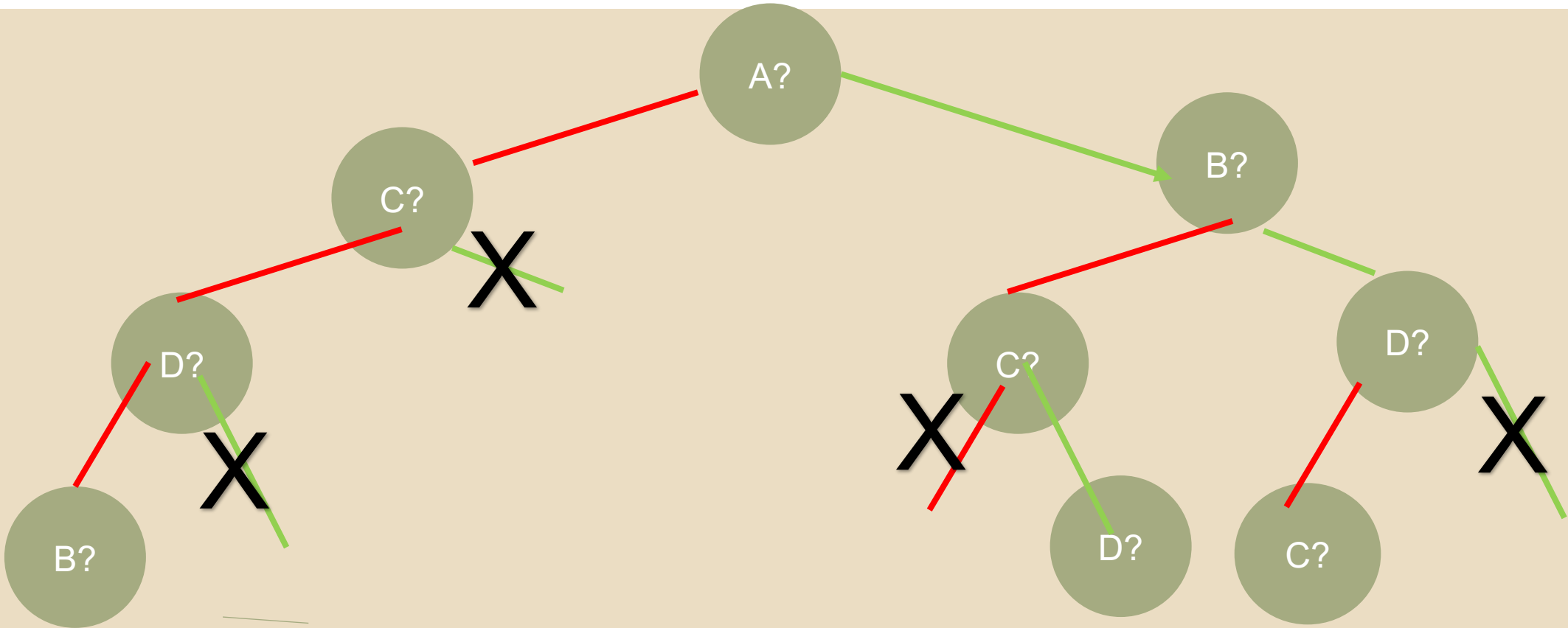
HOW BACKTRACKING HELPS



HOW BACKTRACKING HELPS



ORDER CAN BE ADAPTIVE



WHEN CAN WE PRUNE?

- Basic: when constraints would be violated
- Subtler: when that choice is dominated by another; the other choice is at least as likely to lead to a (good) solution (Need “modify-the-solution” argument)
- Branch-and-bound: dynamically track “best-so-far” solution. If current path cannot do better (using some function that bounds the achievable best), then we can prune our path.

“SELF-SIMILARITY”?

- Self-similarity: Problem+ choice = smaller problem of same type
- If we have self-similarity, it makes recursion in BT (and hence, DP) very clean.
- But if we don't have it, we can still use BT (and hence DP)
- Generalize the problem to keep partial solution
- Generalized problem will have self-similarity, original becomes special case

3-COLORING

- Instance: undirected graph G
- Solution format: Give each vertex v a color $C(v) \in \{R, G, B\}$
- Constraint: If $\{u, v\}$ is an edge, $C(v) \neq C(u)$
- Problem: Existence: is there any 3-coloring of G ? (True, False)
- Originally came up in making maps: vertices=countries, colors must be distinct to show borders. Famous 4-color theorem said all planar graphs (including possible maps) can be colored with 4 colors

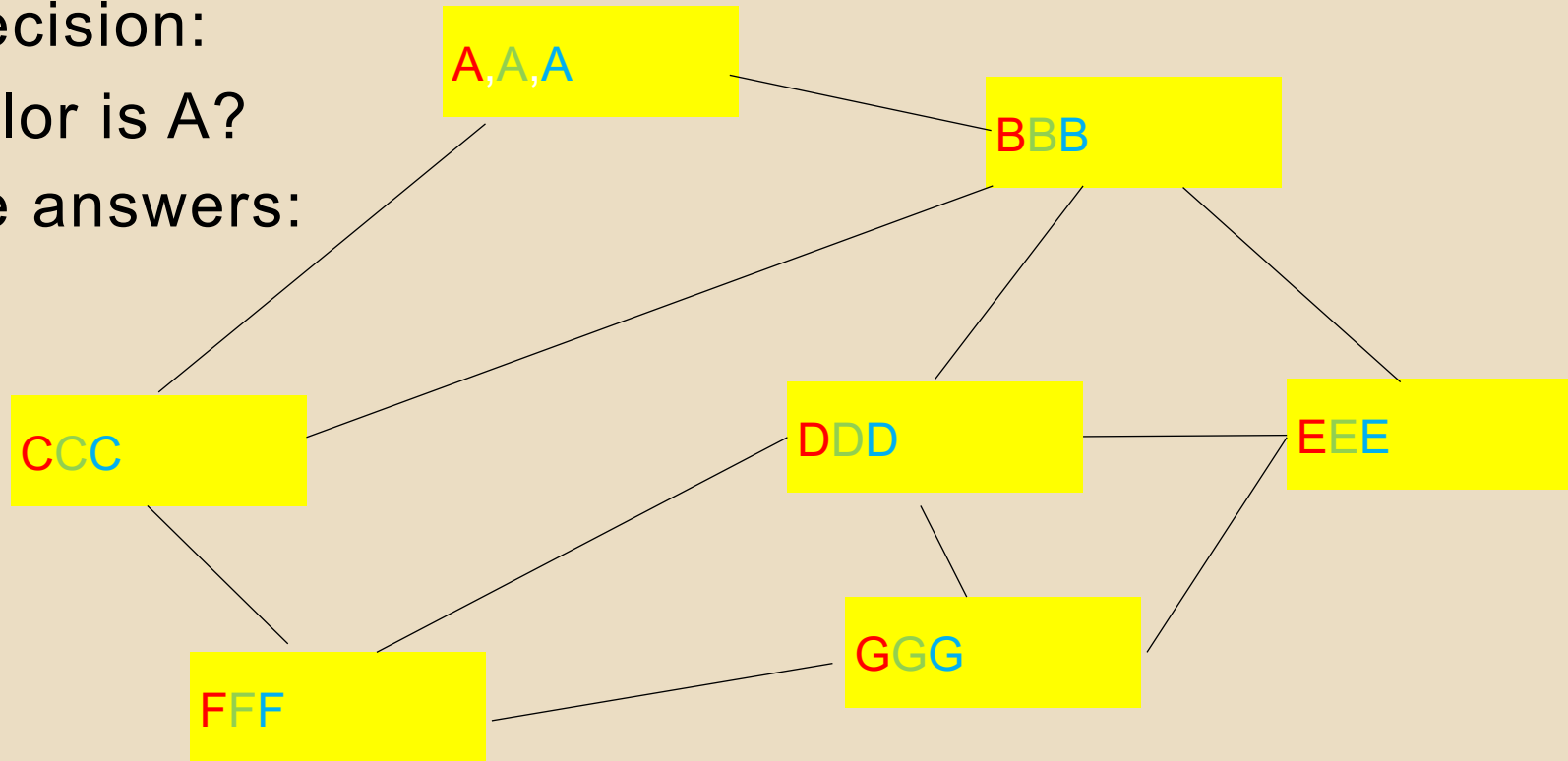
EXAMPLE

Local decision:

What color is A?

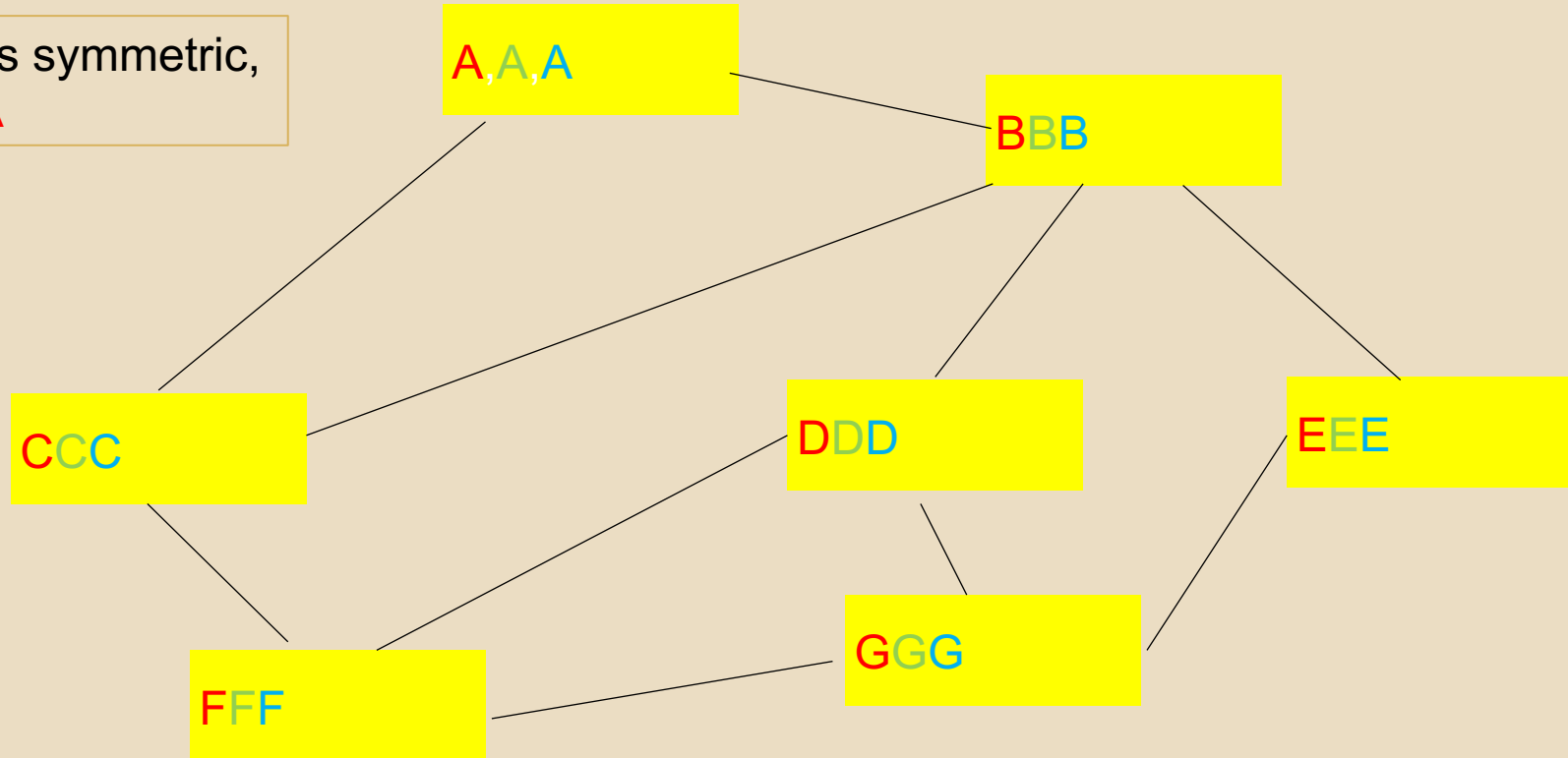
Possible answers:

AAA



EXAMPLE

All answers symmetric,
Just pick **A**

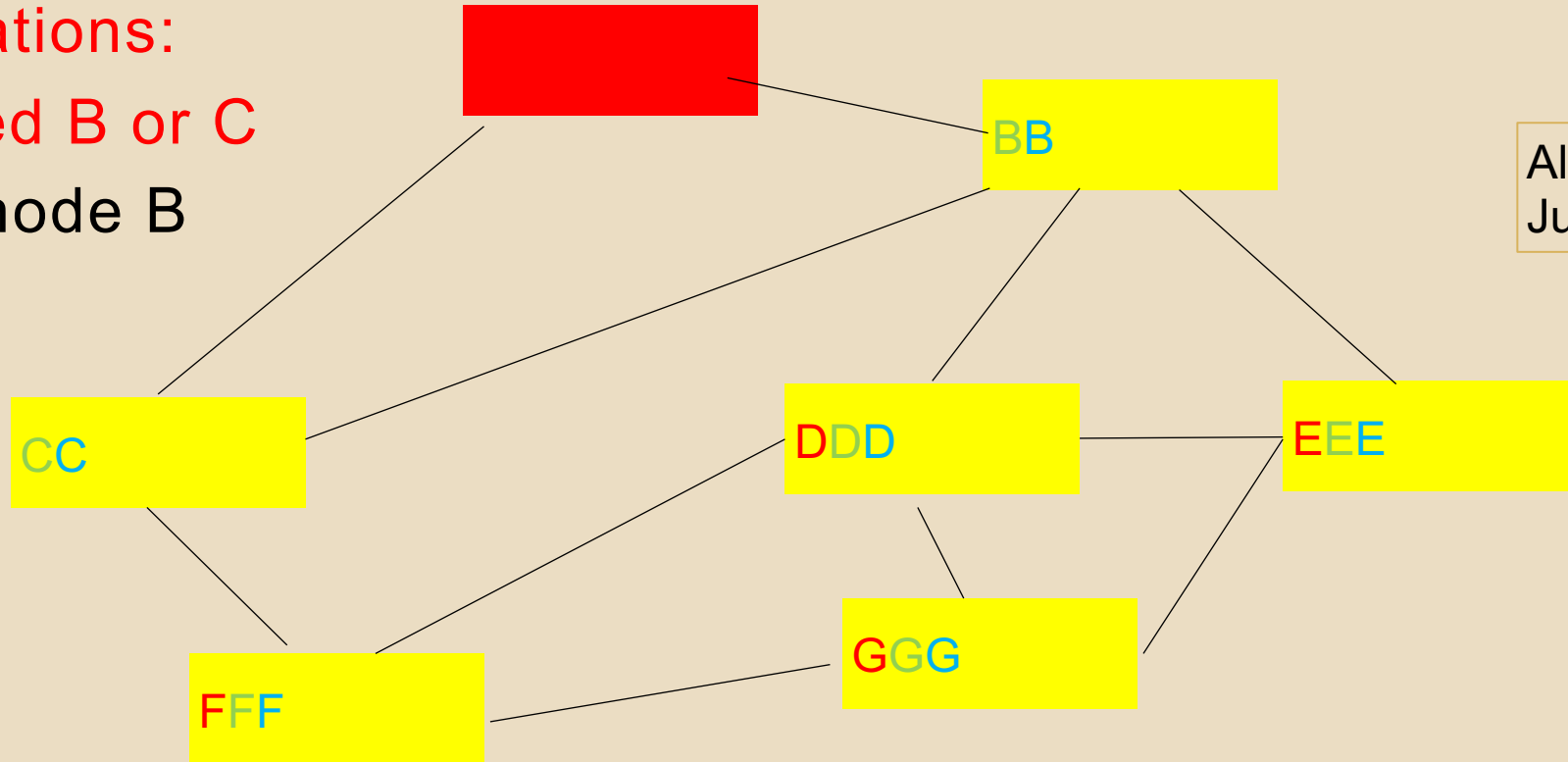


EXAMPLE

Implications:

■ No red B or C

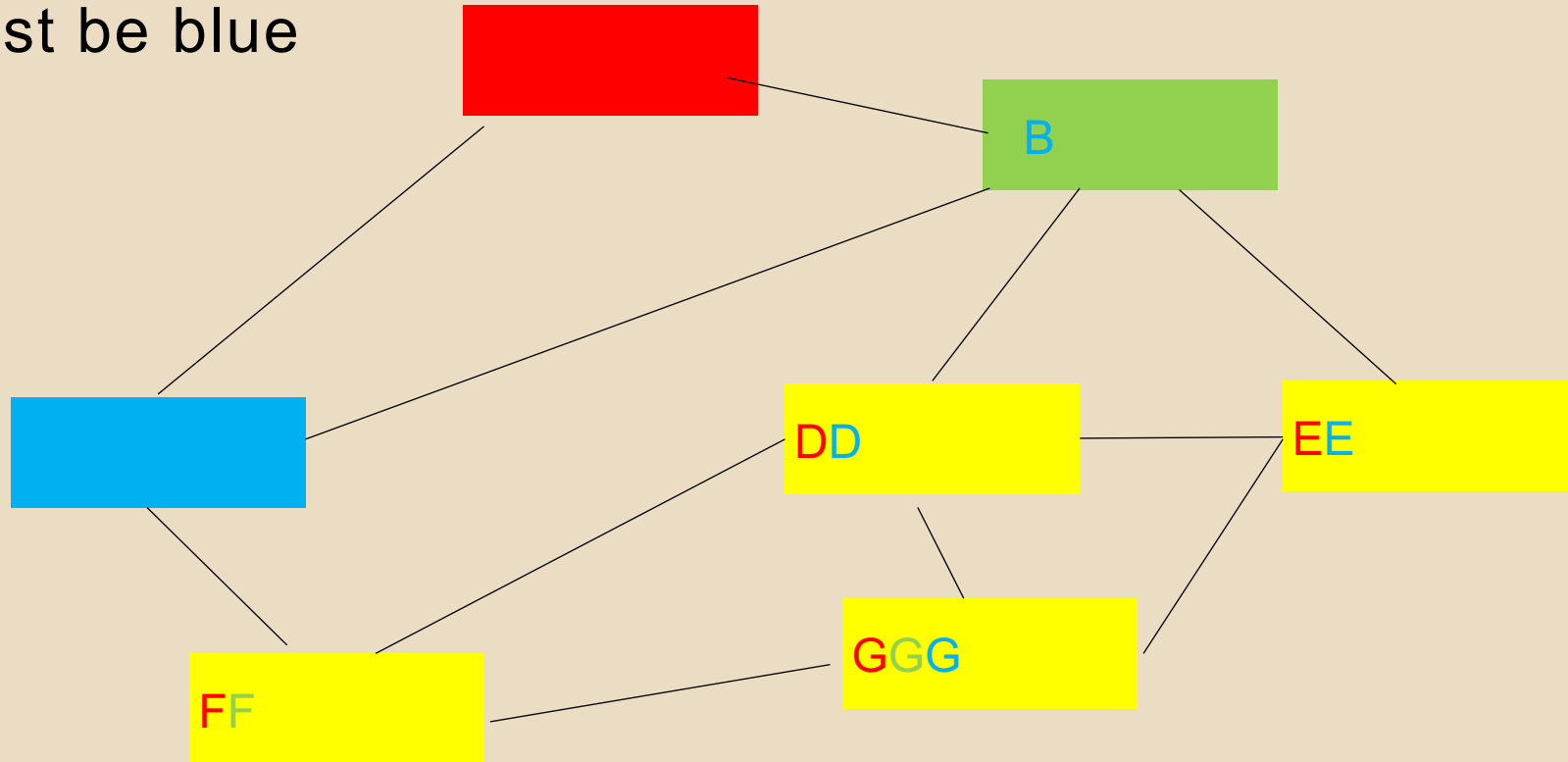
Next: node B



All answers symmetric,
Just pick B

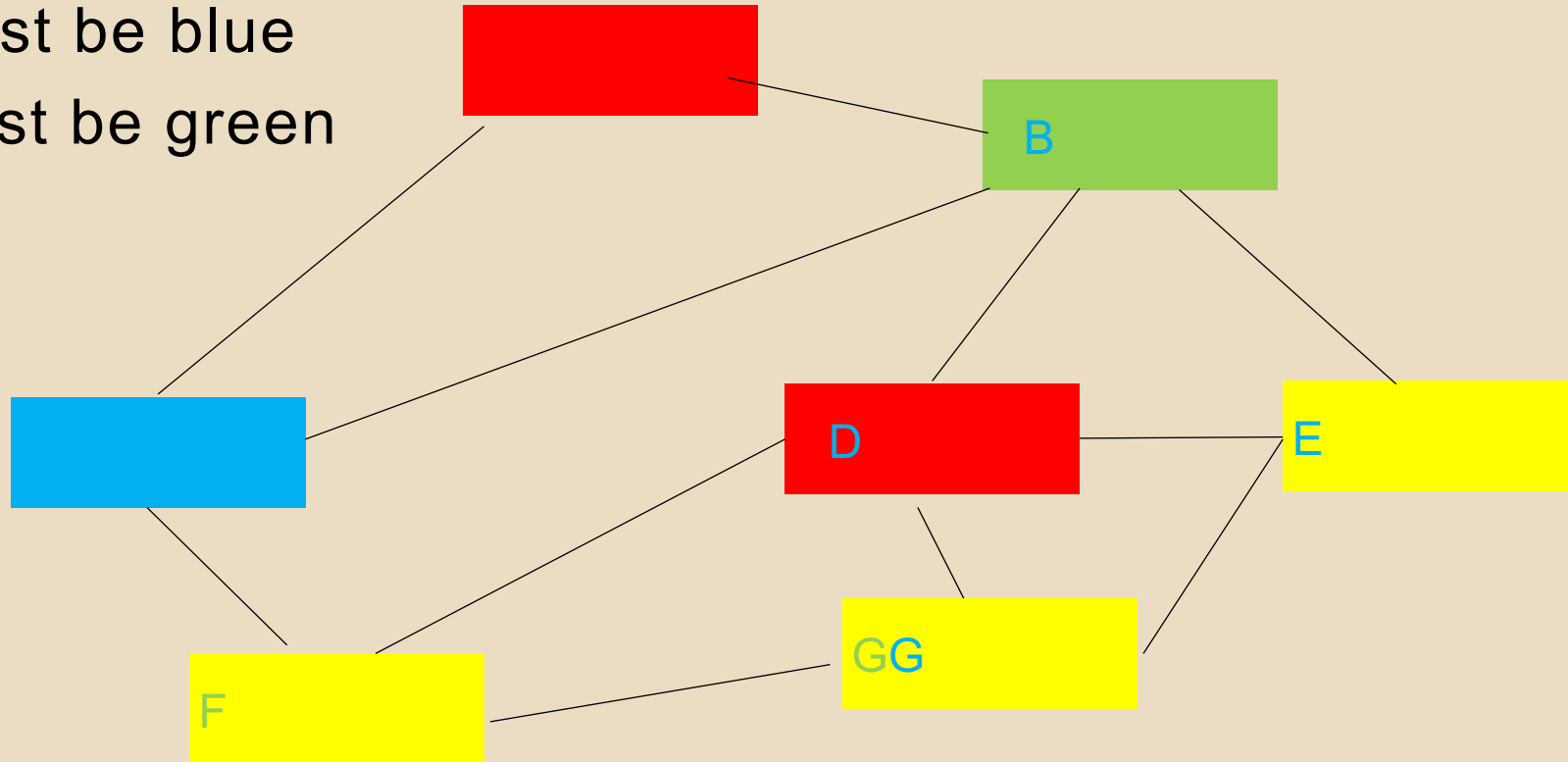
EXAMPLE

- C must be blue



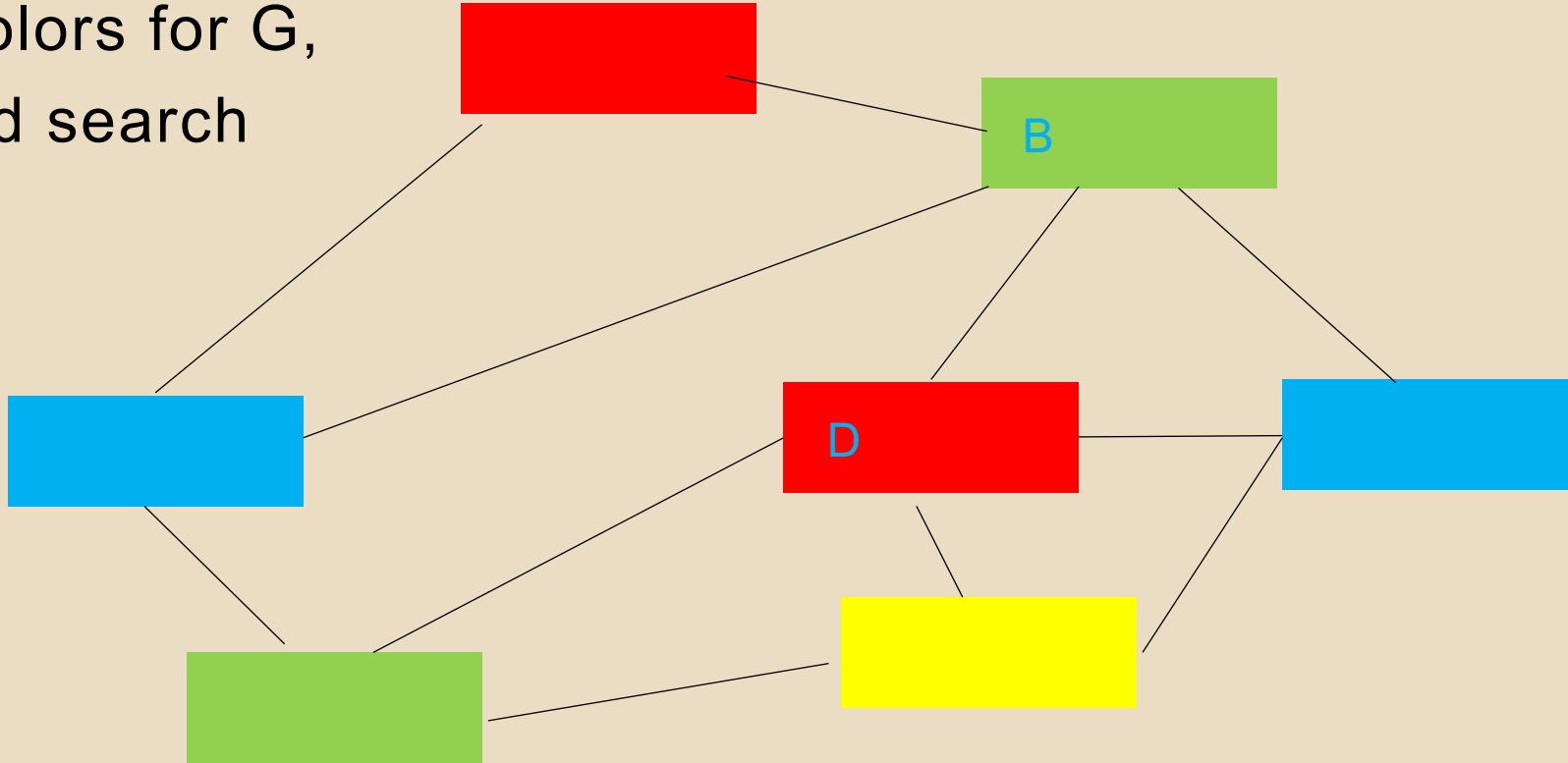
CASE 1: D (CASE 2: D)

- E must be blue
- F must be green



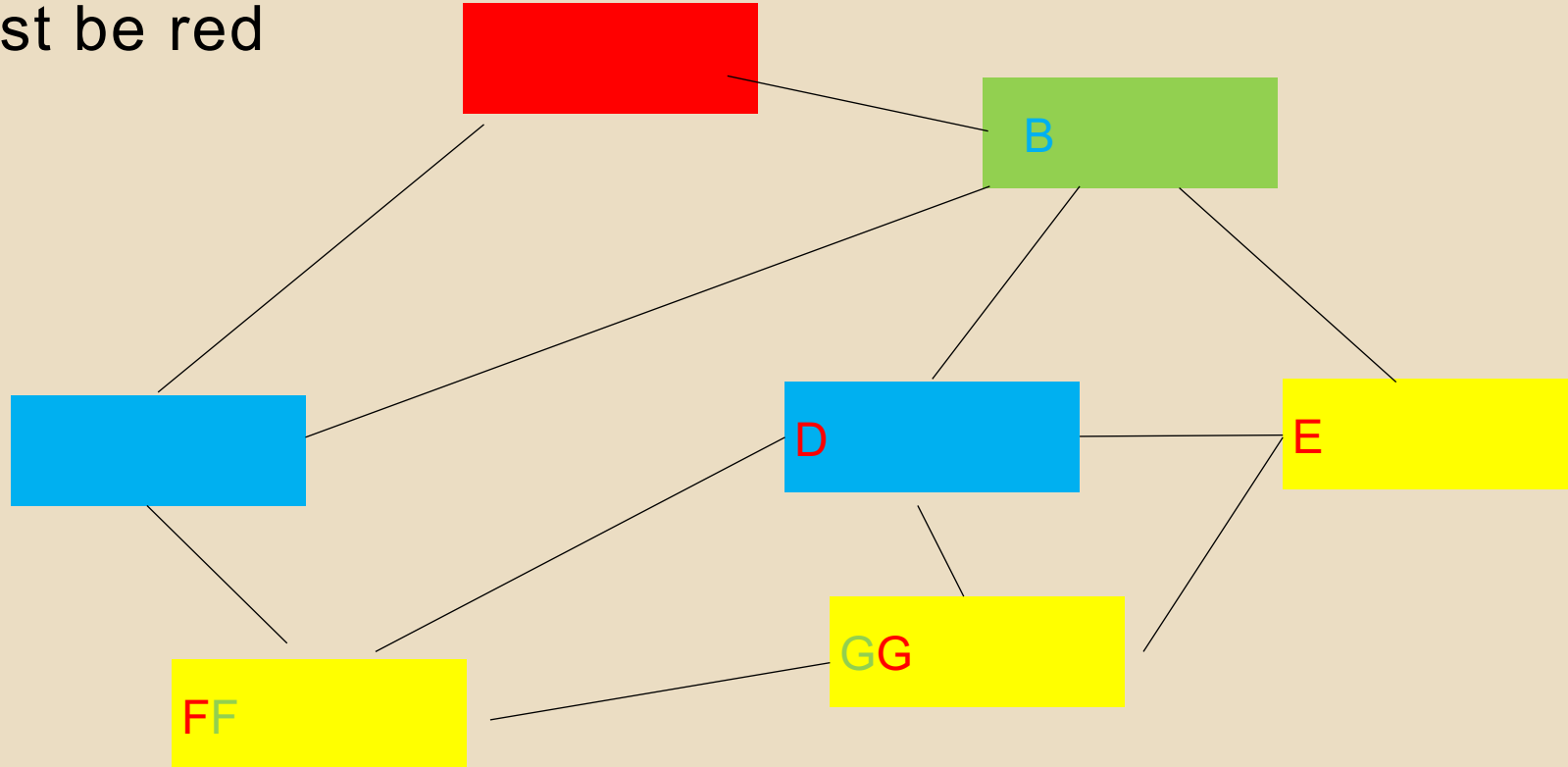
CASE 1: D (CASE 2: D)

- No colors for G,
- Failed search



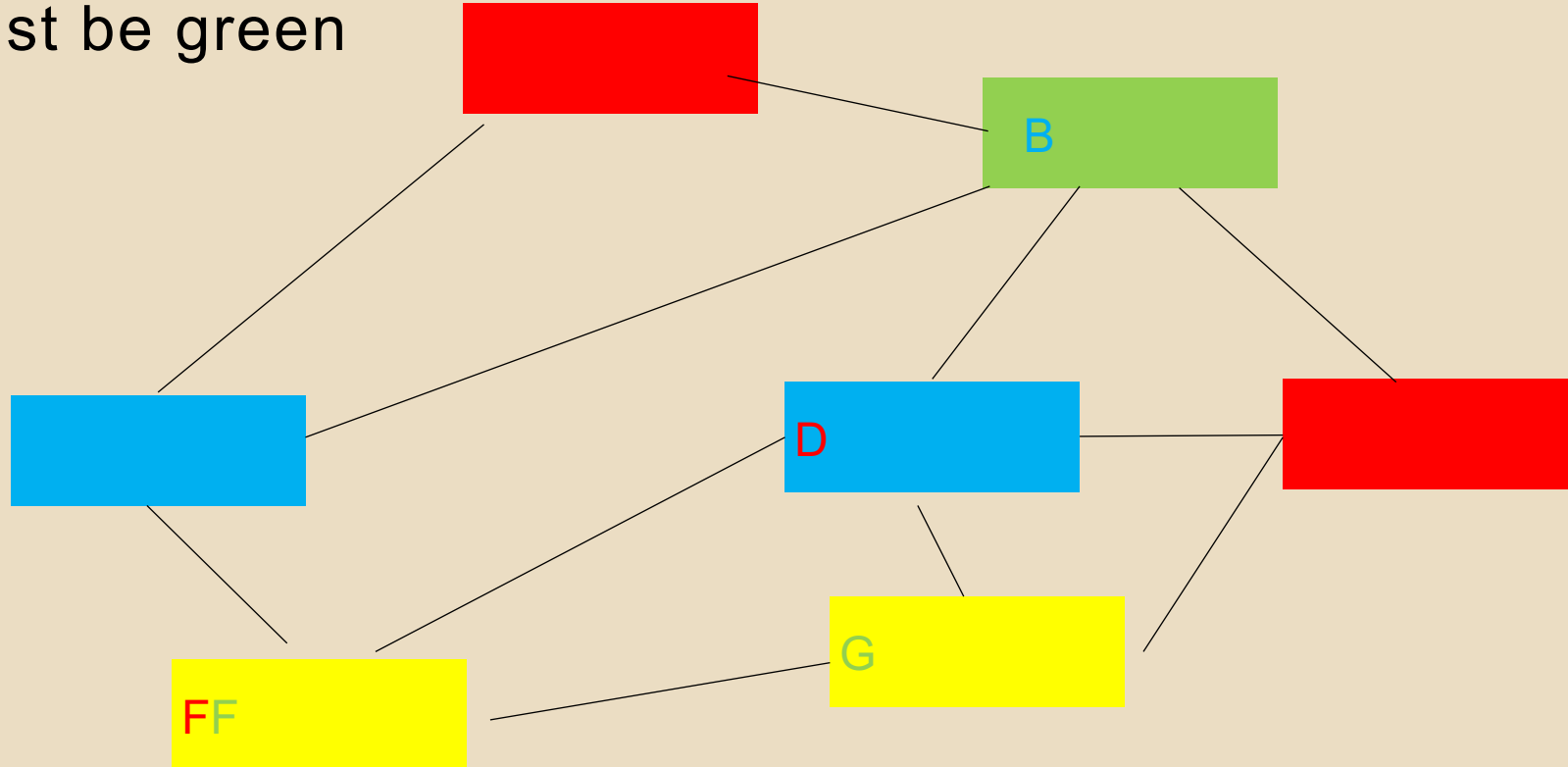
CASE 2: D

- E must be red



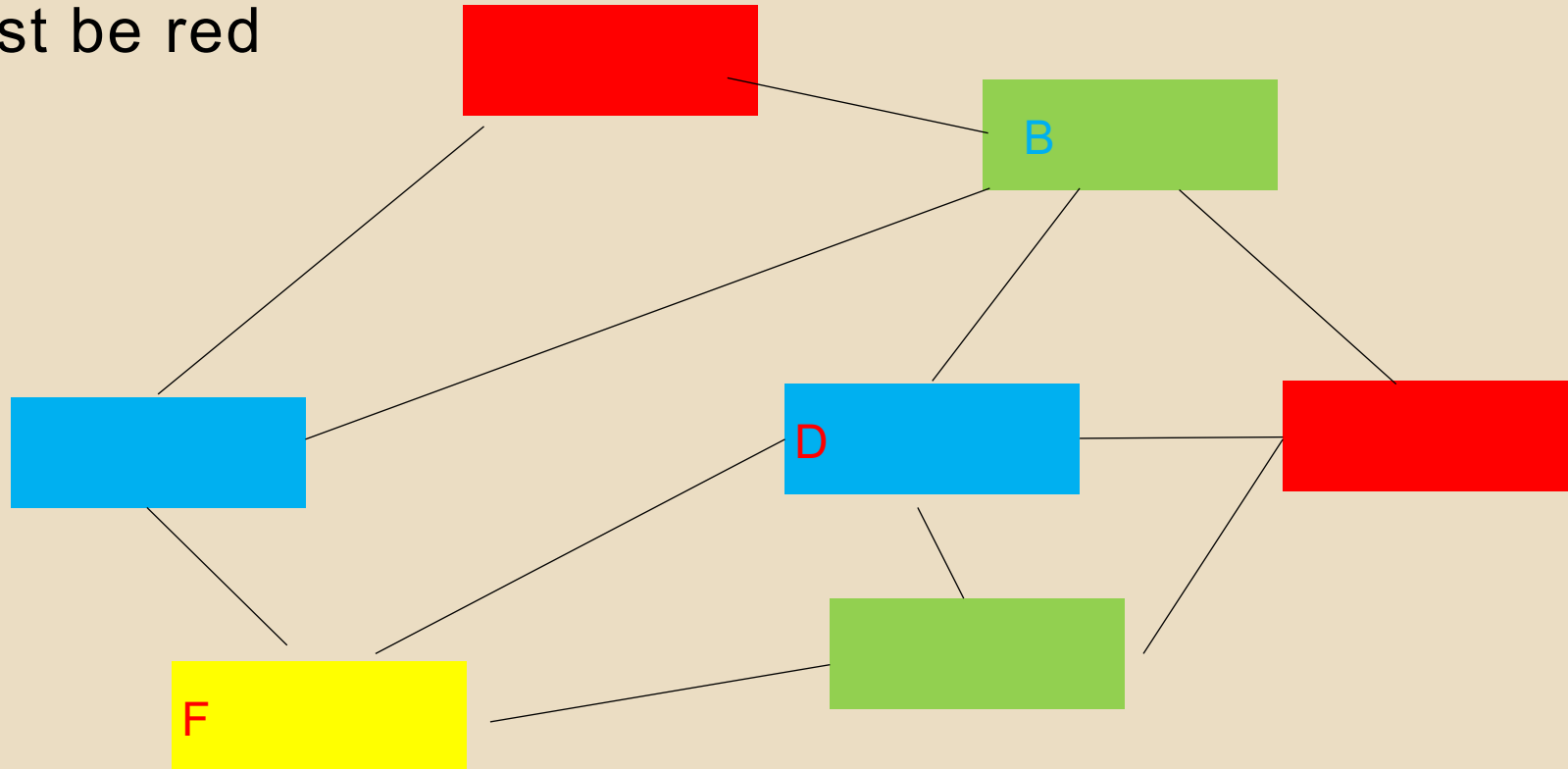
CASE 2: D

- G must be green



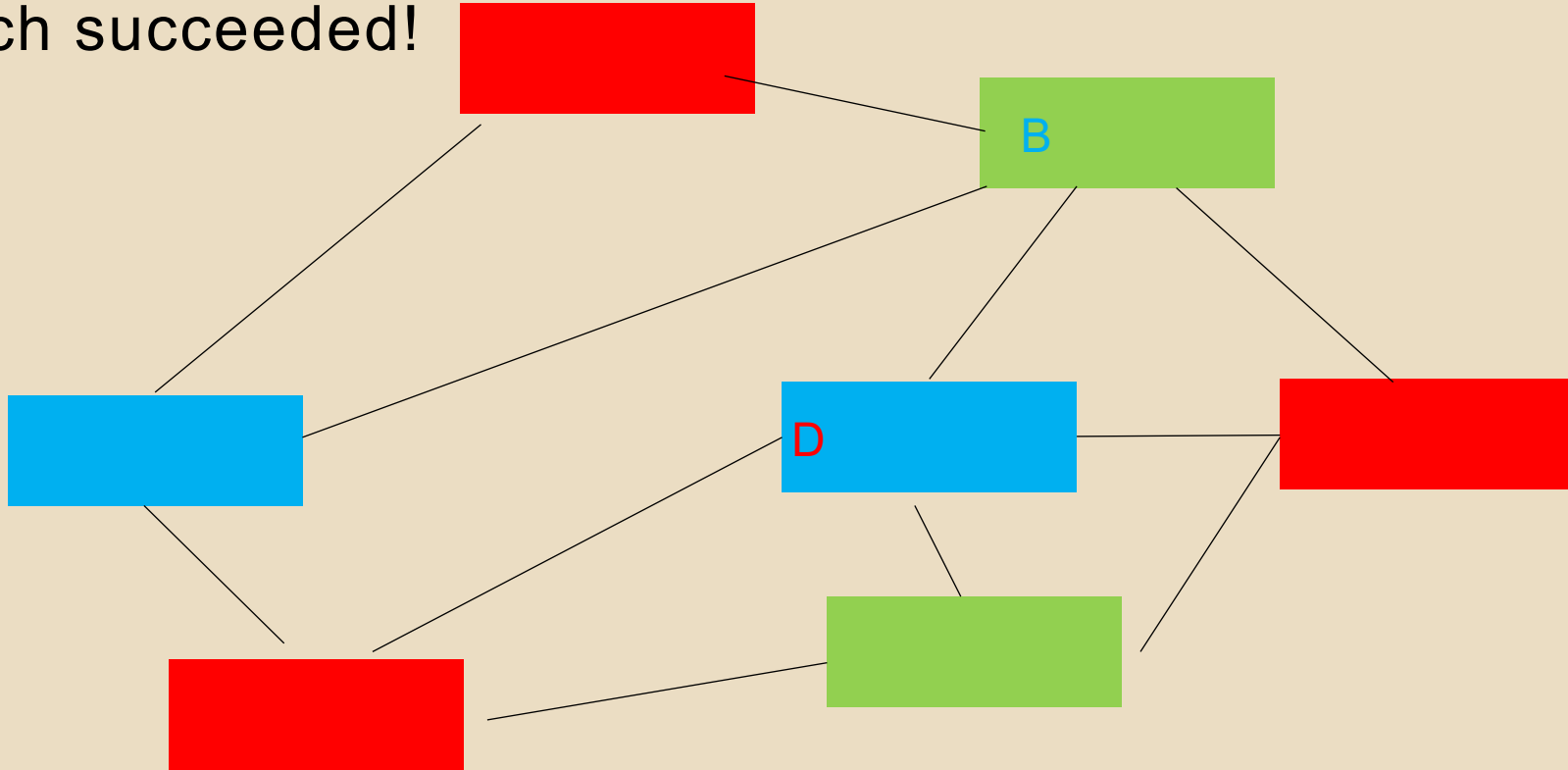
CASE 2: D

- F must be red



CASE 2: D

- Search succeeded!



PARTIAL INFORMATION

- This approach used partial information about the previous solution to generalize the problem so we could solve it recursively
- $CL(u)$ = list of possible colors for vertex u . Initially, $CL(u)$ is all three colors, but we'll delete colors as we make recursive calls

The list 3-coloring problem, $L3C(G, CL)$, adds the constraints that $C(u)$ must be in $CL(u)$

BACKTRACKING ALGORITHM

L3C(G,CL)

- If $|V|=0$ return True
- If there is any v with $|CL(v)|=0$ return False
- If there is a v with $CL(v)=\{c\}$, then :
 - Delete c from $CL(u)$ for each neighbor u of v
 - Return L3C($G-\{v\}$,CL)
- If all vertices v have $|CL(v)|=3$, then pick some v and
 - Delete R from $CL(u)$ for each neighbor u of v
 - Return L3C($G-\{v\}$,CL)

BACKTRACKING ALGORITHM CONTINUED

- Remaining case: the smallest size of $CL(u)$ is 2
- Pick v with $CL(v)=\{c_1, c_2\}$
- Let CL_1 be $CL(u)$,
except that we delete c_1 from $CL(u)$ for neighbors u of v
- Let CL_2 be $CL(u)$,
except that we delete c_2 from $CL(u)$ for neighbors u of v
- IF $L3C(G-\{v\}, CL_1) = \text{True}$: return True
- Return $L3C(G-\{v\}, CL_2)$

BACKTRACKING TIME ANALYSIS

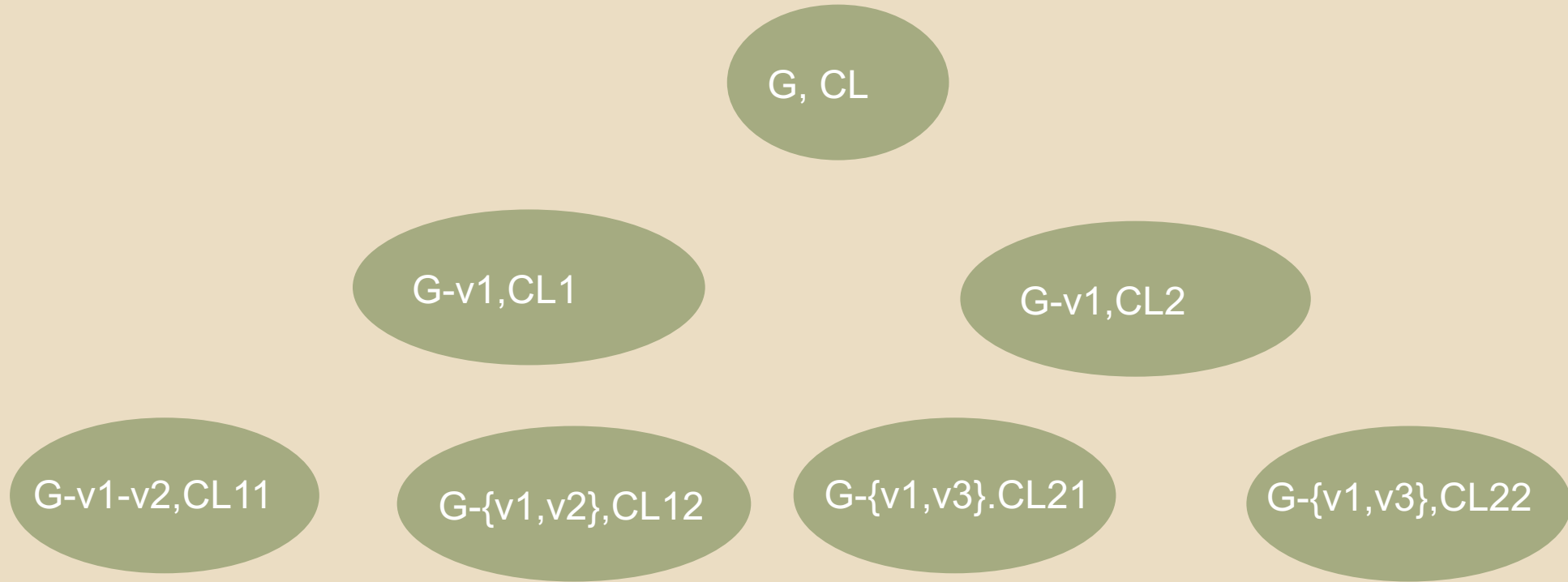
- Here, exhaustive search is $O(3^n)$ time, because there are three possible colors per vertex
- General way to bound BT algorithms: View recursions as forming tree based on sub-calls

Time = number of leaves

If every node in tree makes at most f = fan-out recursive calls, then

The number of leaves = $O(f^{\text{depth}})$

THIS ALGORITHM



TIME ANALYSIS CONT

- Depth $\leq n-1$, because graph decreases every rec. call
- Fan-out = 2, because at most two rec. calls
- So time is $O(2^n)$
- Still exponential, but much better than 3^n for moderate sized
- inputs

TOWARDS DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

- Dynamic Programming = Backtracking + Memoization
- Memoization = store and re-use, like the Fibonacci algorithm from first class

Two simple ideas, but easy to get confused if you rush:

1. Where is the recursion?

(It disappears into the memoization, like the Fib. example did.)

2. Have I made a decision?

(Only temporarily, like BT)

If you don't rush, a surprisingly powerful and simple algorithm technique.

One of the most useful ideas around

COL702: Backtracking and Dynamic Programming

Thanks to Miles Jones, Russell Impagliazzo, and Sanjoy Dasgupta at UCSD for these slides.

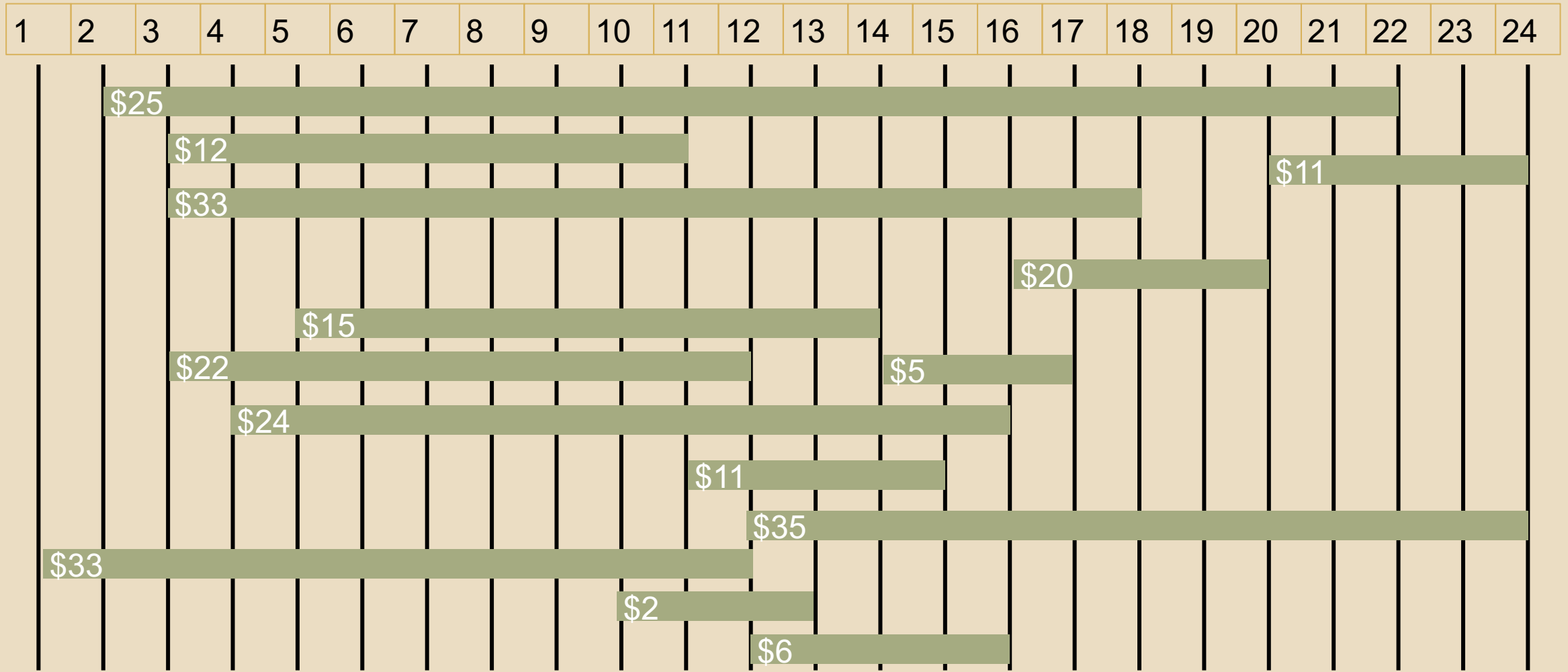
FROM BACKTRACKING TO DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

- Backtracking = recursive exhaustive local searches
- **Dynamic Programming = Backtracking + Memoization**

Memoization = store and re-use, like Fibonacci algorithm from intro

Basic principle: “If an algorithm is *recomputing* the same thing many times, we should *store and re-use* instead of recomputing.”

WEIGHTED EVENT SCHEDULING



FORMAL SPECIFICATION

- Instance:
- Solution:
- Constraints:
- Objective:

FORMAL SPECIFICATION

- Instance: List of n intervals $I = (s, f, v)$, with values $v > 0$
- Solution: subset of intervals $S = \{(s_1, f_1, v_1), (s_2, f_2, v_2) \dots (s_k, f_k, v_k)\}$
- Constraints: cannot pick intersecting intervals: $s_1 < f_1 \leq s_2 < f_2 \leq \dots \cdot s_k \leq f_k$
- Objective: maximize total value of intervals chosen: Σv_i

NO KNOWN GREEDY ALGORITHM

In fact, some people (Borodin, Nielsen, and Rackoff) have proved that no greedy algorithm even approximates the optimal solution.

Let's try back-tracking (as warm-up to dynamic programming)...

BACKTRACKING

- Sort events by start time. Call them $I_1 \dots I_n$.
- Pick first of these: I_1 .
- Should we include I_1 or not? Try both possibilities.

BTWES ($I_1 \dots I_n$):

 If $n=0$ return 0

 If $n=1$ return V_1

 Exclude := BTWES($I_2 \dots I_n$)

$J:=2$

 Until ($J > n$ or $s_J > f_1$) do:

$J++$

 Include := $V_1 +$ BTWES($I_J \dots I_n$)

 Return Max(Include, Exclude)

TIME IS HORRIBLE

$O(2^n)$ worst-case time, same as exhaustive search.

We could try to improve it, like we did for Maximum Independent Set.

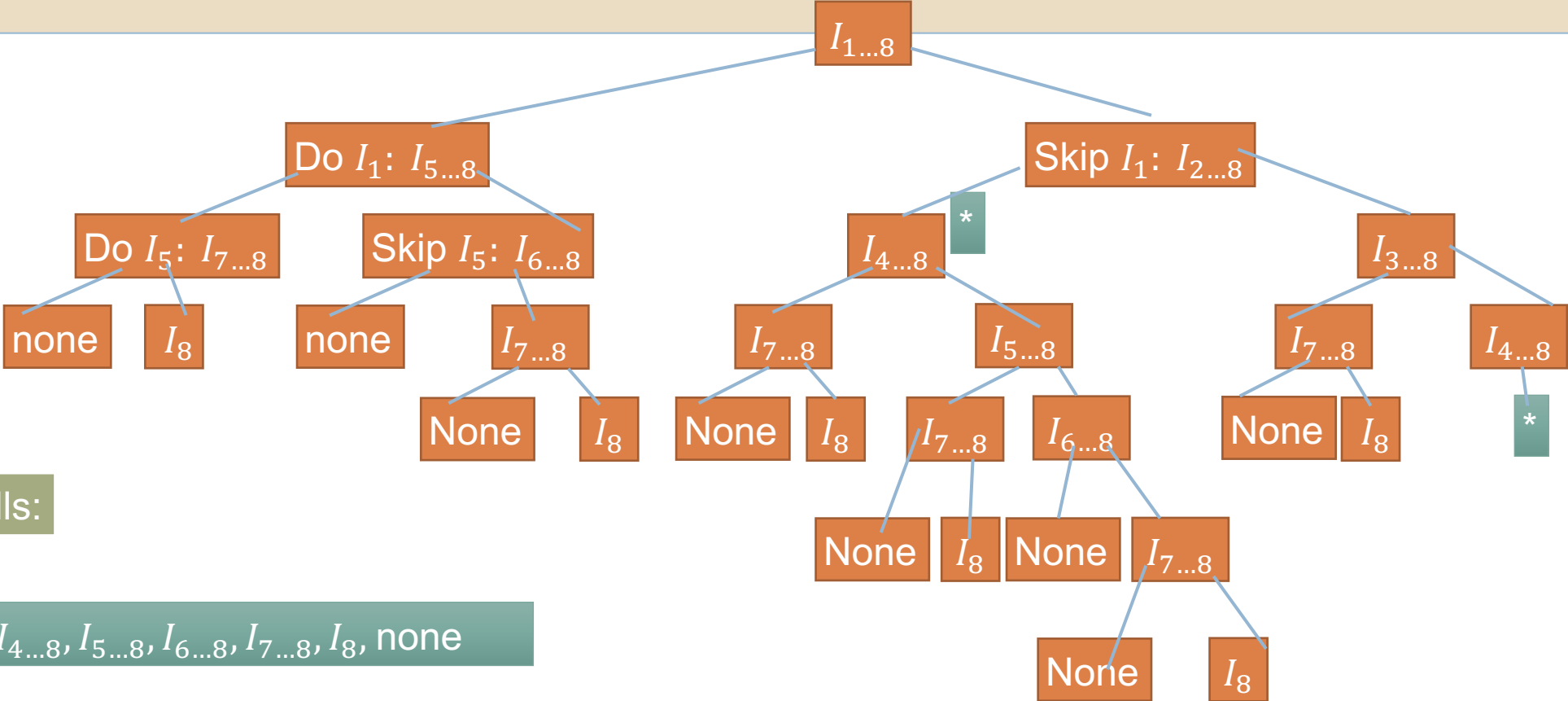
But our goal is a dynamic programming algorithm, so improving the backtracking time is irrelevant.

EXAMPLE

- $I_1 = (1,5), V_1 = 4$
- $I_2 = (2,4), V_2 = 3$
- $I_3 = (3,7), V_3 = 5$
- $I_4 = (4,9), V_4 = 6$
- $I_5 = (5,8), V_5 = 3$
- $I_6 = (6,11), V_6 = 4$
- $I_7 = (9,13), V_7 = 5$
- $I_8 = (10,12), V_8 = 3$

EXAMPLE

- I1 = (1,5), V1=4
- I2 = (2,4), V2=3
- I3 = (3,7), V3=5
- I4 = (4,9), V4=6
- I5 = (5,8), V5=3
- I6 = (6,11), V6=4
- I7 = (9,13), V7=5
- I8 = (10,12), V8=3



Distinct calls:

$I_{1...8}, I_{2...8}, I_{3...8}, I_{4...8}, I_{5...8}, I_{6...8}, I_{7...8}, I_8, \text{none}$

CHARACTERIZE CALLS MADE

All of the recursive calls BTWES makes are to arrays of the form

$I_{K\dots n}$, with $K=1\dots n$, or empty

So of the 2^n recursive calls we might make, most are duplicates... there are only $n+1$ distinct possibilities!

- Just like Fibonacci numbers: many calls made exponentially often.
- Solution same: Create array to store and re-use answers, rather than repeatedly solving them.

DEFINE SUBPROBLEMS

The values needed are the solutions to the subproblems $(I_K..I_n)$ for all $K = 1 \dots n$ and the empty set. There are $n + 1$ subproblems of this form so we need an array of size $n + 1$.

- Let $MV[1\dots n+1]$ be this array
- Let $MV[K]$ hold the total weight of the maximum weight non-intersecting set of events from the sub-problem $(I_K..I_n)$
- We'll use $MV[n+1]$ to hold the best weight for the empty list, 0.
- So K ranges from 1 to $n+1$.

SIMULATE RECURSION ON SUBPROBLEM

What happens when we run BTWES ($I_K \dots I_n$)?

```
BTWES ( $I_K \dots I_n$ )
  If  $K=n+1$  return 0
  If  $K=n$  return  $V_n$ 
  Exclude:= BTWES( $I_{K+1} \dots I_n$ )
  J:=K+1
  Until ( $J > n$  or  $s_J > f_K$ ) do:
    J++
  Include:=  $V_K + \text{BTWES}(I_J \dots I_n)$ 
  Return Max(Include, Exclude)
```

REPLACE RECURSION WITH ARRAY/MATRIX

$MV[n+1] := 0$

$MV[n] := V_n$

For K in the range 1 to $n-1$:

$Exclude := MV[K+1]$

$J := K+1$

 Until ($J > n$ or $s_J > f_K$) do:

$J++$

$Include := V_K + MV[J]$

$MV[K] := \text{Max}(Include, Exclude)$

Recall: $MV[K]$ is the solution to the subproblem $(I_K \dots I_n)$

INVERT TOP-DOWN RECURSION ORDER TO GET BOTTOM UP ORDER

```
BTWES ( $I_K \dots I_n$ )  
  If  $K=n+1$  return 0  
  If  $K=n$  return  $V_n$   
  Exclude:= BTWES( $I_{K+1} \dots I_n$ )  
  J:=K+1  
  Until ( $J > n$  or  $s_J > f_K$ ) do:  
    J++  
  Include:=  $V_K + \text{BTWES}(I_J \dots I_n)$   
  Return Max(Include, Exclude)
```

Top-down: recursive calls increase K , go from $K=1$ to $K=n+1$

Bottom-up: Need to fill in array from $K=n+1$ to $K=1$

ASSEMBLE INTO FINAL DP ALGORITHM

Fill in base cases of array. Fill in rest of array in bottom up order.

```
DPWES[ $I_1 \dots I_n$ ]  
  MV[n+1]:=0  
  MV[n]:=  $V_n$   
  FOR K=n-1 down to 1 do:  
    Exclude:=MV[K+1]  
    J:=K+1  
    Until (J > n or  $s_J > f_K$ ) do:  
      J++  
    Include:=  $V_K + MV[J]$   
    MV[K]:= Max(Include, Exclude)  
  Return MV[1]
```

Along with your pseudocode, must include a description in words of what your array holds:
MV[K] is the maximum weight of all non-intersecting subsets of the events (I_K, \dots, I_n)
And MV[n+1]=0

EXAMPLE

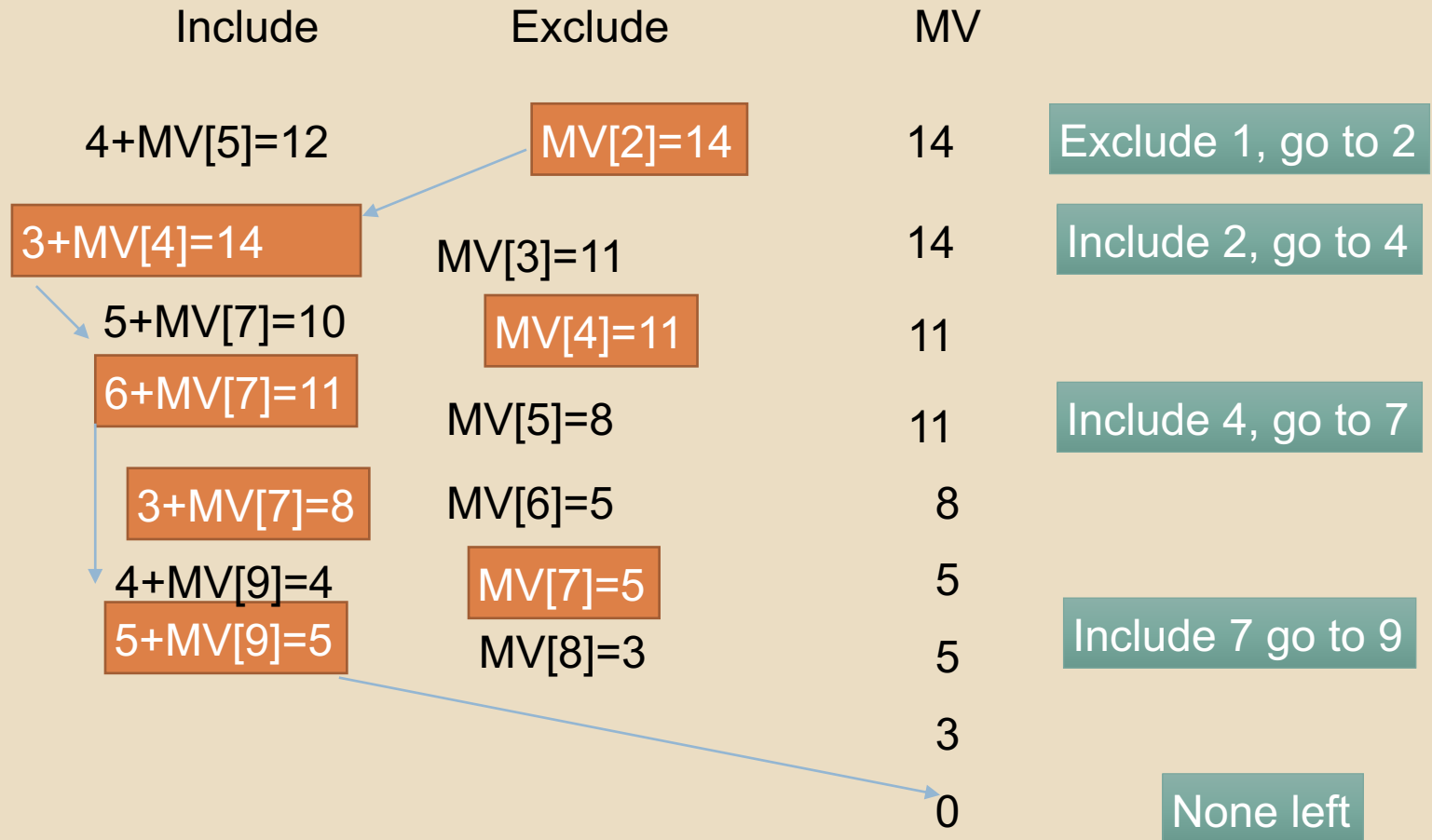
	Include	Exclude	MV
■ I1 = (1,5), V1=4.			
■ I2 = (2,4), V2=3			
■ I3 = (3, 7), V3=5			
■ I4 = (4,9), V4=6			
■ I5 = (5,8), V5=3	3+MV[7]=8	MV[6]=5	8
■ I6 = (6,11), V6=4	4+MV[9]=4	MV[7]=5	5
■ I7 = (9,13), V7=5	5+MV[9]=5	MV[8]=3	5
■ I8 = (10,12), V8=3			3
			0

EXAMPLE

	Include	Exclude	MV
■ I1 = (1,5), V1=4.	4+MV[5]=12	MV[2]=14	14
■ I2 = (2,4), V2=3	3+MV[4]=14	MV[3]=11	14
■ I3 = (3, 7), V3=5	5+MV[7]=10	MV[4]=11	11
■ I4 = (4,9), V4=6	6+MV[7]=11	MV[5]=8	11
■ I5 = (5,8), V5=3	3+MV[7]=8	MV[6]=5	8
■ I6 = (6,11), V6=4	4+MV[9]=4	MV[7]=5	5
■ I7 = (9,13), V7=5	5+MV[9]=5	MV[8]=3	5
■ I8 = (10,12), V8=3			3
			0

TRACING FORWARDS

- I1 = (1,5), V1=4.
- I2 = (2,4), V2=3
- I3 = (3,7), V3=5
- I4 = (4,9), V4=6
- I5 = (5,8), V5=3
- I6 = (6,11), V6=4
- I7 = (9,13), V7=5
- I8 = (10,12), V8=3



Best set: 2,4,7, Total value: 3+6+5=14

CORRECTNESS

Prove BT algorithm correct, and explain translation, to show $DP=BT$.

TIME ANALYSIS

DP: Fill in base cases of array. Fill in rest of array in bottom up order
Time = size of array/matrix times time per entry

```
DPWES[ $I_1 \dots I_n$ ]  
  MV[n+1]:=0  
  MV[n]:=  $V_n$   
  FOR K=n-1 down to 1 do:  
    Exclude:=MV[K+1]  
    J:=K+1  
    Until (J > n or  $s_J > f_K$ ) do:  
      J++  
    Include:=  $V_K + MV[J]$   
    MV[K]:= Max(Include, Exclude)  
  Return MV[1]
```


TIME ANALYSIS

DP: Fill in base cases of array. Fill in rest of array in bottom up order
Time = size of array/matrix. $O(n)$ times time per entry $O(n) = O(n^2)$
(Can you think of ways to speed this up for this example?)

```
DPWES[ $I_1 \dots I_n$ ]  
  MV[n+1]:=0  
  MV[n]:=  $V_n$   
  FOR K=n-1 down to 1 do:  
    Exclude:=MV[K+1]  
    J:=K+1  
    Until (J > n or  $s_J > f_K$ ) do:  
      J++  
    Include:=  $V_K + MV[J]$   
    MV[K]:= Max(Include, Exclude)  
  Return MV[1]
```

DP = BT + MEMOIZE

Two simple ideas, but easy to get confused if you rush:

Where is the recursion? (Final algorithm is iterative, but based on recursion)

Have I made a decision? (Only conditionally, like BT, not fixed, like greedy)

If you don't rush, a surprisingly powerful and simple algorithm technique

One of the most useful ideas around

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is an algorithmic paradigm in which a problem is solved by:

- identifying a collection of subproblems
- tackling them one by one, smallest first, using the answers to small problems to help figure out larger ones, until they are all solved.

COL702: Backtracking and Dynamic Programming

Thanks to Miles Jones, Russell Impagliazzo, and Sanjoy Dasgupta at UCSD for these slides.

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is an algorithmic paradigm in which a problem is solved by:

Identifying a collection of subproblems.

Tackling them one by one, smallest first, using the answers to small problems to help figure out larger ones, until they are all solved.

DP STEPS (BEGINNER)

1. Design simple backtracking algorithm
2. Characterize subproblems that can arise in backtracking
3. Simulate backtracking algorithm on subproblems
4. Define array/matrix to hold different subproblems
5. Translate recursion from step 3 in terms of matrix positions: Recursive call becomes array position; return becomes write to array position
6. Invert top-down recursion order to get bottom up order
- 7: Assemble: Fill in base cases
 - In bottom-up order do:
 - Use step 5 to fill in each array position
 - Return array position corresponding to whole input

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING STEPS (EXPERT)

Step 1: Define the subproblems

Step 2: Define the base cases

Step 3: Express subproblems recursively

Step 4: Order the subproblems

EITHER WAY

1. You MUST explain what each cell of the table/matrix means AS a solution to a subproblem.

That is, clearly define the subproblems.

2. You MUST explain what the recursion is in terms of a LOCAL, COMPLETE case analysis.

That is, explain how subproblems are solved using other, “smaller”, subproblems.

Undocumented dynamic programming is indistinguishable from nonsense. Assumptions about optimal solution almost always wrong.

LONGEST INCREASING SUBSEQUENCE

Given a sequence of distinct positive integers $a[1], \dots, a[n]$

An increasing subsequence is a sequence $a[i_1], \dots, a[i_k]$ such that $i_1 < \dots < i_k$ and $a[i_1] < \dots < a[i_k]$.

For example: 15, 18, 8, 11, 5, 12, 16, 2, 20, 9, 10, 4

5, 16, 20 is an increasing subsequence.

How long is the longest increasing subsequence?

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING: EXPERT MODE

What is a suitable notion of subproblem?

For example: 15, 18, 8, 11, 5, 12, 16, 2, 20, 9, 10, 4

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING: EXPERT MODE

Step 1: Define the subproblems

$L(k)$ = length of the longest increasing subsequence ending exactly at position k

Step 2: Base Case

$L(1)=1$

Step 3: Express subproblems recursively

$L(k) = 1 + \max(\{L(i) : i < k, a_i < a_k\})$

Step 4: Order the subproblems

Solve them in the order $L(1), L(2), L(3), \dots$

Try it out! $a = [15, 18, 8, 11, 5, 12, 16, 2, 20, 9, 10, 4].$

LONGEST INCREASING SUBSEQUENCE

Subproblem: $L[k]$ = length of LIS ending exactly at position k

$L[1] = 1$

For $k = 2$ to n :

$Len = 1$

 For $i = 1$ to $k-1$:

 If $a[i] < a[k]$ and $Len < 1+L[i]$:

$Len = 1+L[i]$

$L[k] = Len$

return $\max(L[1], L[2], \dots, L[n])$

LONGEST INCREASING SUBSEQUENCE

Given a sequence of distinct positive integers $a[1], \dots, a[n]$

An increasing subsequence is a sequence $a[i_1], \dots, a[i_k]$ such that $i_1 < \dots < i_k$ and $a[i_1] < \dots < a[i_k]$.

For example: 15, 18, 8, 11, 5, 12, 16, 2, 20, 9, 10, 4

5, 16, 20 is an increasing subsequence.

How long is the longest increasing subsequence?

THE LONG WAY

1. Come up with simple backtracking algorithm
2. Characterize subproblems
3. Define matrix to store answers to the above
4. Simulate BT algorithm on subproblem
5. Replace recursive calls with matrix elements
6. Invert "top-down" order of BT to get "bottom-up" order
7. Assemble into DP algorithm:
 - Fill in base cases into matrix in bottom-up order
 - Use translated recurrence to fill in each matrix element
 - Return "main problem" answer
 - (Trace-back to get corresponding solution)

LONGEST INCREASING SUBSEQUENCE

What is a **local decision**?

More than one possible answer...

LONGEST INCREASING SUBSEQUENCE

What is a local decision?

Version 1: For each element, is it in the subsequence?

Possible answers: Yes, No

Version 2: What is the first element in the subsequence? The second?

Possible answers: $1 \dots n$.

Either way, we need to generalize the problem a bit to solve recursively.

FIRST CHOICE, RECURSION

Assume we're only allowed to use entries bigger than V .

(Initially, set $V=-1$, and branch on whether or not to include $A[1]$.)

We'll just return the length of the LIS.

BTLIS1($V, A[1..n]$)

If $n=0$ then return 0

If $n=1$ then if $A[1] > V$ then return 1 else return 0

OUT:= BTLIS($V, A[2..n]$) {if we do not include $A[1]$ }

IF $A[1] > V$ then IN:= 1+BTLIS($A[1], A[2..n]$) else IN:= 0

Return max (IN, OUT)

EXAMPLE

$A[1:12] = [15, 18, 8, 11, 5, 12, 16, 2, 20, 9, 10, 4]$

WHAT DO SUBPROBLEMS LOOK LIKE?

Arrays in subcalls are:

V in subcalls are:

Total number of distinct subcalls:

SUBPROBLEMS

Array $A[J..n]$, where J ranges from 1 to n
 V is either -1 or of the form $A[K]$

To simplify things, define $A[0] = -1$

Define

$L[K,J] = (\text{length of})$ LIS of $A[J..n]$, with elements $> A[K]$

SIMULATING RECURRENCE

BTLIS(A[K], A[J...n])

If J=n then if A[K] < A[n] return 1 else return 0

OUT:= BTLIS(A[K], A[J+1..n])

IF A[J] > A[K] then IN:= 1 + BTLIS(A[J], A[J+1..n]) else IN:= 0

Return max (IN, OUT)

TRANSLATE RECURRENCE IN TERMS OF MATRIX

BTLIS(A[K], A[J...n])

If $J=n$ then if $A[K] < A[n]$ return 1 else return 0

OUT:= BTLIS(A[K], A[J+1..n])

IF $A[J] > A[K]$ then IN:= 1 + BTLIS(A[J], A[J+1..n]) else IN:= 0

Return max (IN, OUT)

Recall: $L[K,J] =$ (length of) LIS of $A[J..n]$, with elements $> A[K]$

If $A[K] < A[n]$ then $L[K,n] := 1$ else $L[K,n]:=0$

OUT: = $L[K,J+1]$

IF $A[J] > A[K]$ then IN:= 1 + $L[J,J+1]$ else IN: = 0

$L[K,J]:=$ max (IN, OUT)

INVERT TOP-DOWN ORDER TO GET BOTTOM-UP ORDER

Recall: $L[K,J] = (\text{length of}) \text{ LIS of } A[J..n], \text{ with elements } > A[K]$

As we recurse, J gets incremented, K sometimes increases

Bottom-up: J gets decremented, K any order

FILL IN MATRIX IN BOTTOM UP ORDER

$A[0] := -1$

For $K=0$ to $n-1$ do:

 IF $A[n] > A[K]$ then $L[K,n] := 1$ else $L[K,n] := 0$

For $J=n-1$ downto 1 do:

 For $K=0$ to $J-1$ do:

$OUT := L[K, J+1]$

 IF $A[J] > A[K]$ then $IN := 1 + L[J, J+1]$ else $IN := 0$

$L[K, J] := \max(IN, OUT)$

Return $L[0, 1]$

Recall: $L[K, J] =$ (length of) LIS of $A[J..n]$, with elements $> A[K]$

EXAMPLE

$A[0:4] = [-1, 15, 8, 11, 2]$

	1	2	3	4
0				
1				
2				
3				

Recall: $L[K,J] =$ (length of) LIS of $A[J..n]$, with elements $> A[K]$

TIME ANALYSIS

$A[0] := -1$

For $K=0$ to $n-1$ do:

 IF $A[n] > A[K]$ then $L[K,n] := 1$ else $L[K,n] := 0$

For $J=n-1$ downto 1 do:

 For $K=0$ to $J-1$ do:

$OUT := L[K, J+1]$

 IF $A[J] > A[K]$ then $IN := 1 + L[J, J+1]$ else $IN := 0$

$L[K, J] := \max(IN, OUT)$

Return $L[0, 1]$

LONGEST INCREASING SUBSEQUENCE

What is a local decision?

Version 1: For each element, is it in the subsequence?

Possible answers: Yes, No

Version 2: What is the first element in the subsequence? The second?

Possible answers: $1 \dots n$.

Either way, we need to generalize the problem a bit to solve recursively.

ANOTHER VIEW OF LONGEST INCREASING SUBSEQUENCE

Let's make a DAG out of our example...

15

18

8

11

5

12

16

2

20

9

10

4

WHY DAGS ARE CANONICAL FOR DP

Consider a graph whose vertices are the distinct recursive calls an algorithm makes, and where calls are edges from the subproblem to the main problem.

This graph had better be a DAG or we're in deep trouble!

This graph should be small or DP won't help much.

Bottom-up order = topological sort

BT TO DP: TREES TO DAGS

BT:

Create a tree of possible subproblems, where branching is based on all consistent next choices for local searches

DP:

Make this tree into a DAG by identifying paths that lead to same problems.

Array indices = names for vertices in this DAG

Expert's method: Skip directly to DAG.

VERSION 2, BACKTRACKING

If the current position we've chosen is $A[J]$, what is the next choice?

Possibilities: $J+1, \dots, n$, none (need to check greater than $A[J]$)

Again, set $A[0]=-1$ and start $J=0$

Only counting choices after $A[J]$

$BTLIS2(A[J\dots n])$ {LIS of $A[J+1..n]$, assuming we've taken $A[J]$ }

IF $n=J$ return 0

Max := 0

FOR $K=J+1$ TO n do:

 IF $A[K] > A[J]$ THEN:

$L := BTLIS2(A[K..n])$

 IF $Max < 1+L$ THEN $Max := 1+L$

Return Max

WHAT ARE THE SUB-PROBLEMS?

BTLIS2(A[J...n]) {LIS of A[J+1..n], assuming we've taken A[J]}

IF n=J return 0

Max := 0

FOR K=J+1 TO n do:

 IF A[K] > A[J] THEN:

 L:= BTLIS2(A[K..n])

 IF Max < 1+L THEN Max := 1+L

Return Max

Again, set A[0]=-1 and start J=0

What are the distinct recursive calls we make throughout this algorithm?

DEFINE ARRAY AND TRANSLATE

Let $M[J] = \text{BTLIS2}(A[J..n])$, $J=0\dots n$

REPLACE RECURSION WITH ARRAY

BTLIS2(A[J...n]) {LIS of A[J+1..n], assuming we've taken A[J]}

IF n=J return 0

Max := 0

FOR K=J+1 TO n do:

 IF A[K] > A[J] THEN:

 L:= BTLIS2(A[K..n])

 IF Max < 1+L THEN Max := 1+L

Return Max

M[n] := 0

For J in 0 to n-1:

 Max:=0

 FOR K=J+1 TO n do:

 IF A[K] > A[J] THEN:

 L:= M[K]

 IF Max < 1+L THEN Max:= 1+L

 M[J]:= Max

IDENTIFY TOP DOWN ORDER

When we make recursive calls, J is:

So bottom up order means J is:

FILL IN ARRAY IN BOTTOM-UP ORDER

```
DPLIS2(A[1..n])
  A[0] := -1
  M[n] := 0
  FOR J=n-1 downto 0 do:
    Max := 0
    FOR K=J+1 TO n do:
      IF A[K] > A[J] THEN:
        L:= M[K]
        IF Max < 1+L THEN Max:= 1+L
    M[J] := Max
  Return M[0]
```

Recall: $M[J] = (\text{length of}) \text{ LIS of } A[J+1..n]$, assuming we've taken $A[J]$

EXAMPLE

A: -1, 15, 18, 8, 11, 5, 12, 16, 2, 20, 9, 10, 4

Recall: $M[J] = (\text{length of}) \text{ LIS of } A[J+1..n]$, assuming we've taken $A[J]$

TIME ANALYSIS

```
DPLIS2(A[1..n])
  A[0] := -1
  M[n] := 0
  FOR J=n-1 downto 0 do:
    Max := 0
    FOR K=J+1 TO n do:
      IF A[K] > A[J] THEN:
        L:= M[K]
        IF Max < 1+L THEN Max:= 1+L
    M[J] := Max
  Return M[0]
```

CORRECTNESS

Invariant:

$M[J]$ is length of increasing sequence from $A[J+1 \dots n]$ with elements greater than $A[J]$

Strong induction on $n-J$

Base case: When $J=n$, no choices possible, $M[n] = 0$

Induction step: We try all possible values for first element.

COL702: Backtracking and Dynamic Programming

Thanks to Miles Jones, Russell Impagliazzo, and Sanjoy Dasgupta at UCSD for these slides.

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

- DP = BT + memoization
- Memoization = store and re-use, like the Fibonacci algorithm (from first week lectures)
- Two simple ideas, but easy to get confused if you rush:
 - Where is the recursion? (It disappears into the memoization, like the Fib. Example did). Have I made a decision? (only temporarily, like BT)
- If you don't rush, a surprisingly powerful and simple algorithm technique
- One of the most useful ideas around

THE LONG WAY

1. Come up with simple back-tracking algorithm
2. Characterize sub-problems
3. Define matrix to store answers to the above
4. Simulate BT algorithm on sub-problem
5. Replace recursive calls with matrix elements
6. Invert "top-down" order of BT to get "bottom-up" order

FINAL ALGORITHM

1. Come up with simple back-tracking algorithm
 2. Characterize sub-problems
 3. Define matrix to store answers to the above
 4. Simulate BT algorithm on sub-problem
 5. Replace recursive calls with matrix elements
 6. Invert "top-down" order of BT to get "bottom-up" order
7. Assemble into DP algorithm:
 - Fill in **base cases** into matrix
 - In **bottom-up order** do: Use **translated recurrence** to fill in each matrix element
 - Return "main problem" answer
 - (Trace-back to get corresponding solution)

THE EXPERT'S WAY

- Define sub-problems and corresponding matrix
- Give recursion for sub-problems
- Find bottom-up order
- Assemble as in the long way:
 - Fill in **base cases** of the recursion
 - In **bottom-up order** do:
 - Fill in each cell of the matrix according to **recursion**
 - Return main case
 - (Traceback to find corresponding solution)

EITHER WAY, A MUST

- You MUST explain what each cell of the matrix means AS a solution to a sub-problem
- You MUST explain what the recursion is in terms of a LOCAL, COMPLETE case analysis
- *Undocumented dynamic programming is indistinguishable from nonsense. Assumptions about optimal solution almost always wrong.*

LONGEST COMMON SUBSEQUENCE

- General issue: Comparing strings
- Applications: Comparing versions of documents to highlight recent edits (diff), copyright infringement, plagiarism detection, genomics (comparing strands of DNA)
- Many variants for particular applications, but use same general idea.
- We'll look at one of the simplest, longest common subsequence

WHY HAMMING DISTANCE IS INADEQUATE

- Hamming distance: Line the two strings up and compare them character by character. Count the number of identical symbols (distance= number of different symbols).
- Example:
 - ALOHA
 - HALLOA
 - No matches!!
- Hamming distance is not robust under small shifts, spacing, insertions
 - ALOHA
 - HALLOA
 - 3 matches

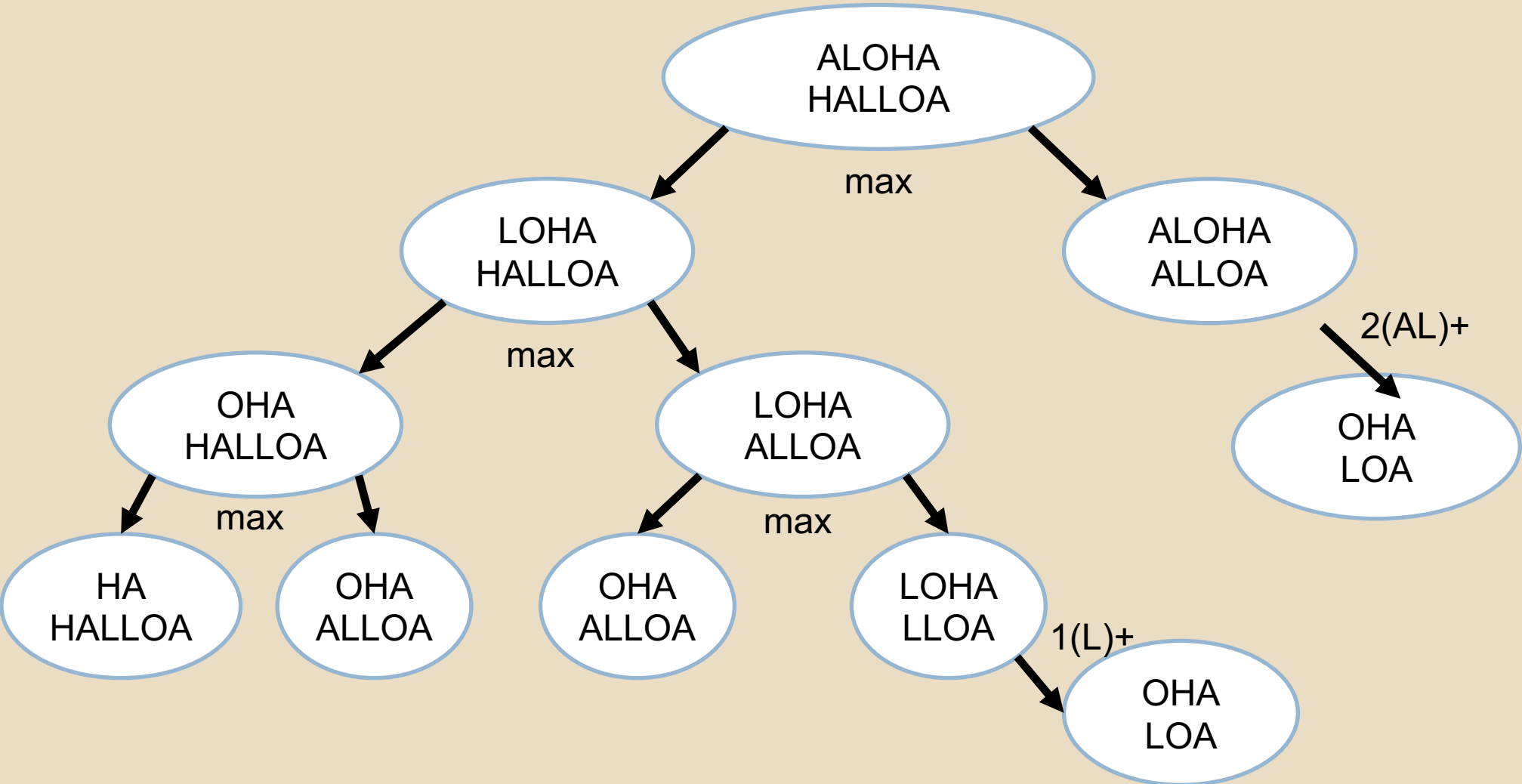
LONGEST COMMON SUBSEQUENCE

- A subsequence of a string is a string that appears left to right within the word, but not necessarily consecutively
- The longest common subsequence (LCS) of two words is the largest string that is a subsequence of both words
- **ALOHA**
- **HALLOA**
- ALOA is a subsequence of both.

BT ALGORITHM

- $\text{LCS}(u_1, \dots, u_n; v_1, \dots, v_m)$
- IF $n = 0$ or $m = 0$ return 0
- IF $u_1 = v_1$ return $1 + \text{LCS}(u_2, \dots, u_n; v_2, \dots, v_m)$
- ELSE return $\max(\text{LCS}(u_2, \dots, u_n; v_1, \dots, v_m), \text{LCS}(u_1, \dots, u_n; v_2, \dots, v_m))$

EXAMPLE



SUBPROBLEMS

- Say we start with words $u_1 \dots, u_n$
 v_1, \dots, v_m
- In recursive calls, we recursively compute the LCS
- between one word of the form:
- and another word of the form:

SUBPROBLEMS

- Say we start with words u_1, \dots, u_n
 v_1, \dots, v_m
- In recursive calls, we recurse on: $u_I, \dots, u_n, I = 1 \dots n + 1$
to: $v_J, \dots, v_m, J = 1 \dots m + 1$
- ($I = n + 1$: first word empty, $J = m + 1$: second word empty)
- Use matrix $L[I, J] := \text{LCS}(u_I, \dots, u_n; v_J, \dots, v_m)$

BT ALGORITHM

- $LCS(u_1, \dots, u_n; v_1, \dots, v_m)$
- $LCS(u_I, \dots, u_n; v_J, \dots, v_m)$
- IF $n = 0$ or $m = 0$ return 0
- IF $u_1 = v_1$ or $u_n = v_m$ return 0
- IF $u_1 = v_1$ return $1 + LCS(u_2, \dots, u_n; v_2, \dots, v_m)$
- IF $u_n = v_m$ return $1 + LCS(u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}; v_1, \dots, v_{m-1})$
- ELSE return $\max(LCS(u_2, \dots, u_n; v_1, \dots, v_m), LCS(u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}; v_2, \dots, v_m))$
- ELSE return $\max(LCS(u_1, \dots, u_n; v_2, \dots, v_m), LCS(u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}; v_1, \dots, v_m))$

BT ALGORITHM

- $LCS(u_1, \dots, u_n; v_1, \dots, v_m)$
- To fill in $L[I, J]$
- IF $I = n + 1$ or $J = m + 1$ return 0
- Base cases: $L[,] = L[,] = 0$
- IF $u_I = v_J$ return $1 + LCS(u_{I+1}, \dots, u_n; v_{J+1}, \dots, v_m)$
- IF $u_I = v_J$ THEN $L[I, J] := 1 +$
- ELSE return $\max(LCS(u_{I+1}, \dots, u_n; v_J, \dots, v_m),$
- $LCS(u_I, \dots, u_n; v_{J+1}, \dots, v_m)$
- ELSE $L[I, J] := \max(L[,], L[,])$

FINAL RECURRENCES

- $L[I, J] \equiv$ max length of common subsequence between $u_I, \dots, u_n,$
 v_J, \dots, v_m
- Base cases: $L[m + 1, J] = 0, L[I, n + 1] = 0$
- Recurrence: IF $u_I = v_J$ THEN $L[I, J] := 1 + L[I + 1, J + 1]$
ELSE $L[I, J] := \max (L[I + 1, J], L[I, J + 1])$

BOTTOM UP ORDER

- Top down: I increases OR J increases
- Bottom up: Both I and J decrease

DP-VERSION

- $\text{DPLCS}(u_1, \dots, u_n; v_1, \dots, v_m)$
- Initialize $L[1 \dots n + 1, 1 \dots m + 1]$
- FOR $I = 1$ to $n + 1$ do: $L[I, m + 1] := 0$
- FOR $J = 1$ to m do: $L[n + 1, J] := 0$
- FOR $I = n$ down to 1 do:
- FOR $J = m$ down to 1 do:
- IF $u_I = v_J$ THEN $L[I, J] := 1 + L[I + 1, J + 1]$
- ELSE $L[I, J] := \max(L[I + 1, J], L[I, J + 1])$
- Return $L[1, 1]$

EXAMPLE

	H	A	L	L	O	A	
A							0
L							0
O							0
H							0
A							0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

EXAMPLE

	H	A	L	L	O	A	
A	4	→ 4	↘ 3	→ 3	↓ 2	↓ 1	↘ 0
L	3	→ 3	→ 3	↘ 3	↓ 2	↓ 1	↘ 0
O	2	→ 2	→ 2	→ 2	→ 2	↘ 1	↓ 0
H	2	↘ 1	→ 1	→ 1	→ 1	→ 1	↓ 0
A	1	→ 1	↘ 1	→ 1	→ 1	→ 1	↘ 0
	0	0	↘ 0	0	0	0	↘ 0

SURPRISING RELATIONSHIP

- [ABW, 2015]: *“If a conjecture by Impagliazzo-Paturi about the worst-case complexity of SAT (famous NP-complete problem) is true, then there is no substantial improvement in this algorithm for LCS possible”*

SECONDARY STRUCTURE IS “OUTER PLANAR”

- If we view the protein as a string, the secondary bonds form a matching on the characters of the string with a restriction: bonded pairs are either entirely inside or entirely outside other bonded pairs

■ ACGTAAAGCATGCAAGCATTAAACCTGG

Strength of a bond between I and J depends on the two amino acids,
 $\text{Strength}(w_I, w_J)$ (given as a table with 10 numbers, for the 10 pairs possible)

MAX STRENGTH SECONDARY STRUCTURE

- Given $w_1 \dots w_n$, find the maximum possible strength of a secondary structure meeting the constraints of no intersecting bonds.
- Cases:
 - w_1 not matched
 - w_1 bonded to w_I
- Combines DP with divide and conquer

BACKTRACKING VERSION

- Either w_1 bonds to some w_I , $I > 1$ or remains unbonded.
- If it bonds to w_I , can only bond within $2 \dots I - 1$ and $I + 1 \dots n$
- BTSS($w_1 \dots w_n$)
- IF $n = 0$ or $n = 1$ return 0
- Max:= BTSS[w_2, \dots, w_n] *//(case when w_1 unbonded)*
- FOR $I = 2$ to n do:
- THISCASE:= strength(w_1, w_I) + BTSS(w_2, \dots, w_{I-1}) +
 BTSS(w_{I+1}, \dots, w_n)
- IF THISCASE > Max THEN Max:=THISCASE
- Return Max

SUBPROBLEMS

- Subproblems all have the form w_I, \dots, w_J , consecutive subsequences
- As we recur, size = $J - I + 1$ gets smaller.
- Bottom up: size gets larger
- Size=1, 0 : no bonds possible (Use $J = I - 1$ for size 0)
- $MS[I, J] := \max$ strength of secondary structure for w_I, \dots, w_J

DP ALGORITHM

- DPSS($w_1 \dots w_n$)
- Initialize MS[1 ... n , 0 ... n]
- For $I = 1$ to n do:
- MS[$I, I - 1$] = 0; MS[I, I] = 0
- For $K = 1$ to $n - 1$ do:
- FOR $I = 1$ to $n - K$ do:
- MS[$I, I + K$] := MS[$I + 1, I + K$]
- FOR $L = I + 1$ to $I + K$ do:
- MS[$I, I + K$] := max(MS[$I, I + K$], Strength(w_I, w_L) + MS[$I, L - 1$] + MS[$L + 1, I + K$])
- Return MS[1, n]

TIME ANALYSIS

- DPSS($w_1 \dots w_n$)
- Initialize MS[1 ... n , 0 ... n]
- For $I = 1$ to n do:
- MS[$I, I - 1$] = 0; MS[I, I] = 0
- For $K = 1$ to $n - 1$ do:
- FOR $I = 1$ to $n - K$ do:
- MS[$I, I + K$] := MS[$I + 1, I + K$]
- FOR $L = I + 1$ to $I + K$ do:
- MS[$I, I + K$] := max(MS[$I, I + K$], Strength(w_I, w_L) + MS[$I, L - 1$] + MS[$L + 1, I + K$])
- Return MS[1, n]

BEST ALGORITHM

- Bringman, Grandoni, Saha, Vassilevska-Williams [FOCS, 2016]:
 *$O(n^{2.86\dots})$ time algorithm for RNA secondary structure, using
speeded-up min-plus product and improved matrix multiply algorithms*