

Introduction to Algorithms

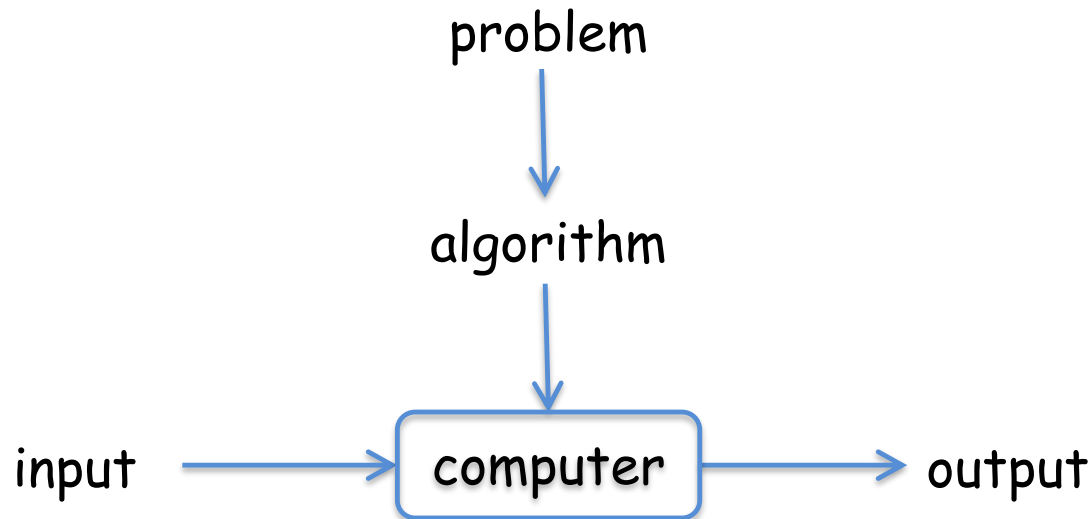
Murat Osmanoglu

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- 'a sequence of **unambiguous** instructions for solving a given problem' (Levitin) - **obtaining a required output for any legitimate input in a finite amount of time**

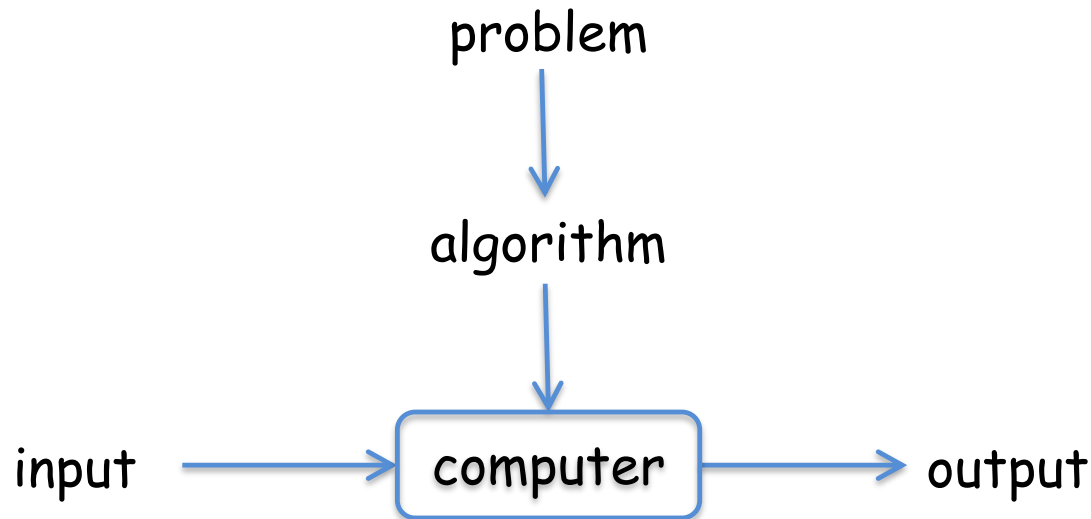
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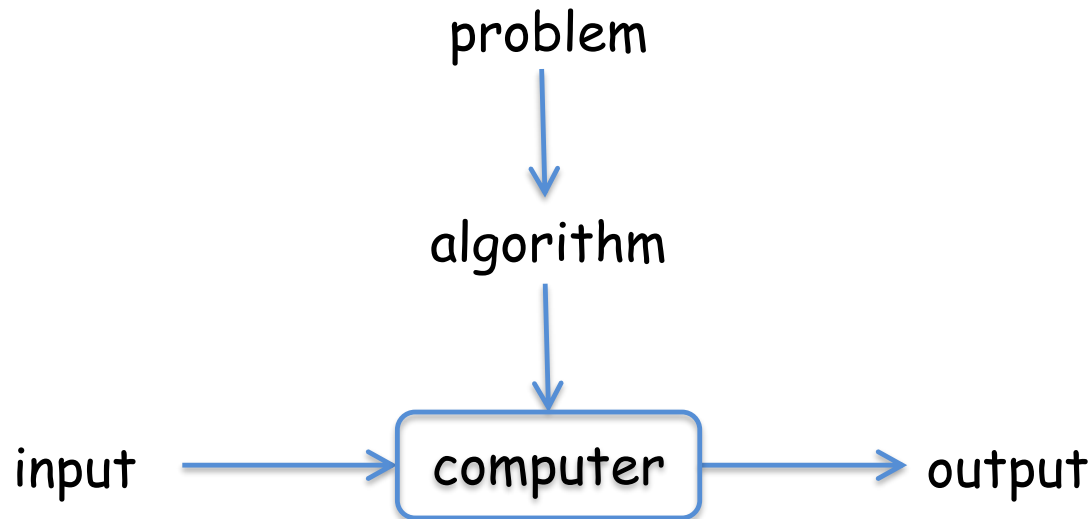
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- each step should be expressed in a clear way
- the nature of the input should be specified carefully

Fundamentals of Algorithmic Problem Solving

Understanding the Problem

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- approximation algorithm can be a sub-procedure of a more sophisticated algorithm

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- Brute-Force, Decrease-and-Conquer, Divide-and-Conquer, Transform-and-Conquer, Dynamic Programming, Greedy Techniques

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Choosing an appropriate data structure to implement the algorithm

- data structure, a systematic way of organizing and accessing data

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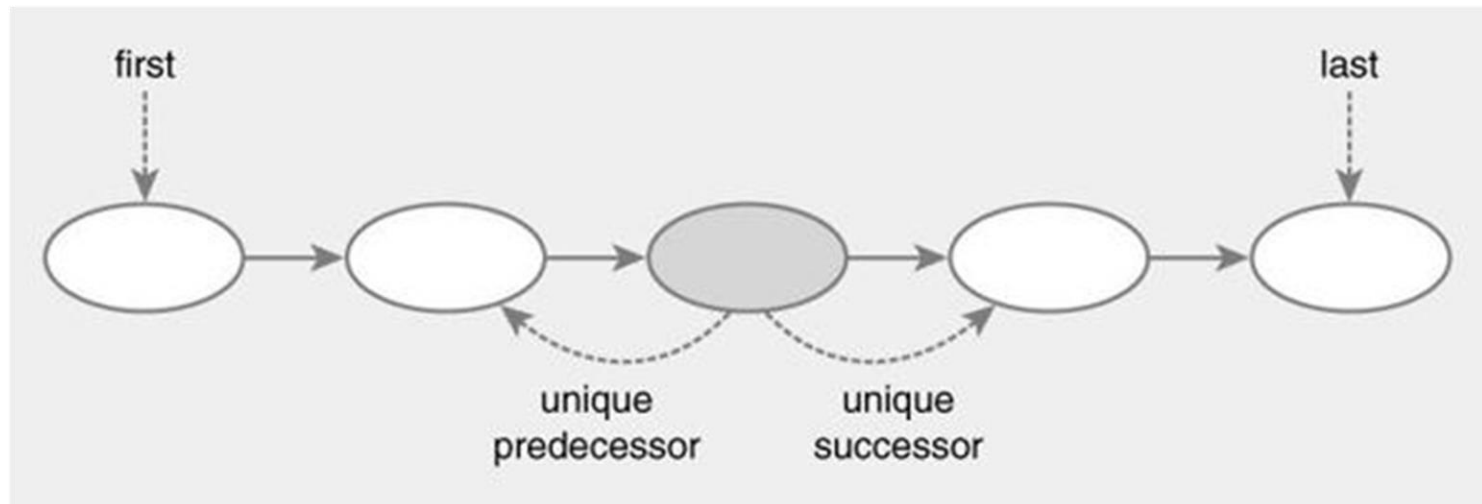
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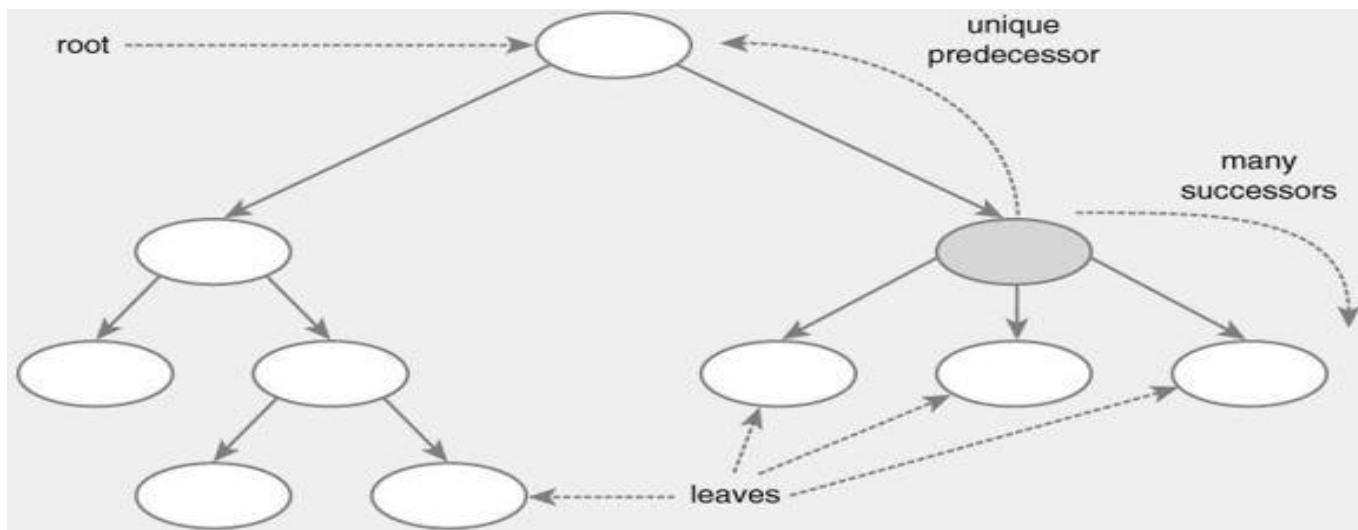
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- Linear Data Structures
 - one-to-one relationship between elements in the collection
 - Arrays, Linked Lists, Stacks, Queues



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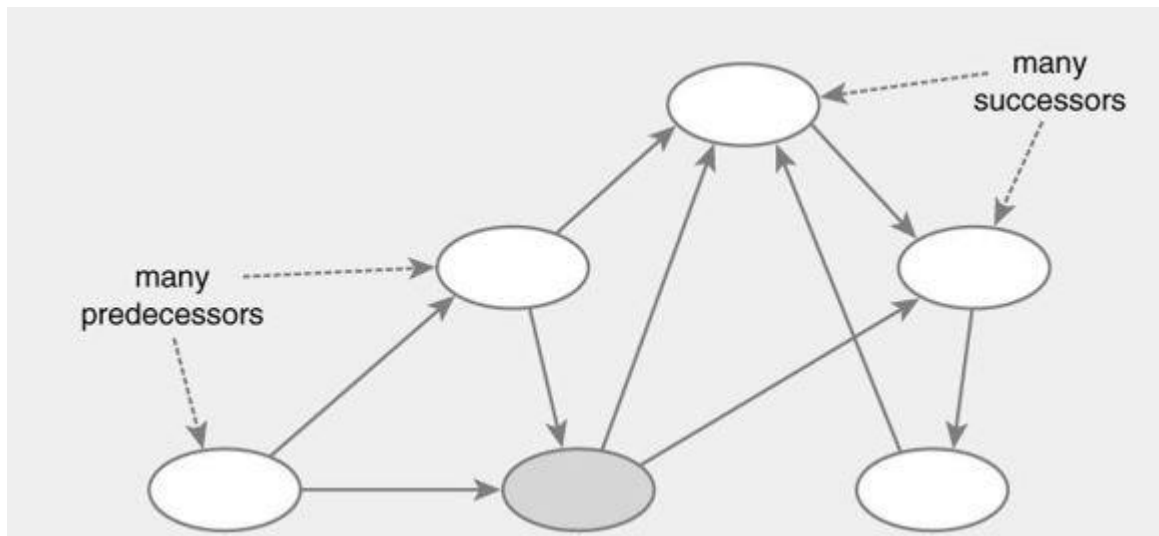
- data structure, a systematic way of organizing and accessing data
- structuring data in an effective way will improve the algorithms
- Hierarchical Data Structures
 - one-to-many relationship between elements in the collection
 - Binary Trees, AVL Trees, Splay Trees, B Trees



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Choosing an appropriate data structure to implement the algorithm

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- Graph Data Structures
 - many-to-many relationship between elements in the collection



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- **Euclid's Algorithm for the integers m, n**
 - Step 1** : if $n = 0$, return m ; otherwise go to Step 2
 - Step 2** : divide m by n and set the variable r to the remainder
 - Step 3** : set m as n and n as r , go to Step 1

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- **Euclid(m, n)**

input : two non-negative, not-both-zero integers m and n

output: the greatest common divisor of m and n

while $n \neq 0$

$r \leftarrow m \pmod{n}$

$m \leftarrow n$

$n \leftarrow r$

return m

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- high-level description of algorithms that combines a natural language and familiar structures from a programming language

- use ' \leftarrow ' for the assignments and ' $//$ ' for the comments

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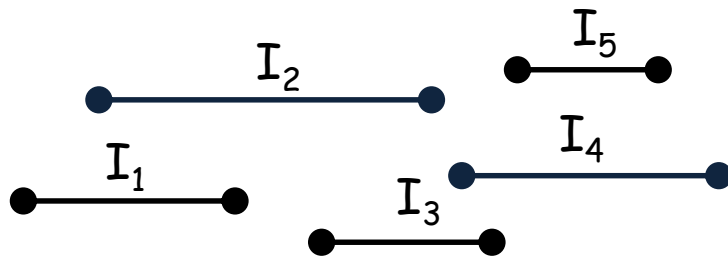
Proving the correctness of the Algorithm

- prove that the algorithm always returns the desired output for every legitimate input in a finite amount of time **in a formal way**
- use mathematical proof techniques such as proof by contradiction, induction, etc.
- suppose there are n meetings requests for a meeting room. Each meeting i has a starting time s_i and an ending time t_i . We have a constraint : no two meetings can be scheduled at same time. Design an algorithm that schedules as many meetings as possible to the room

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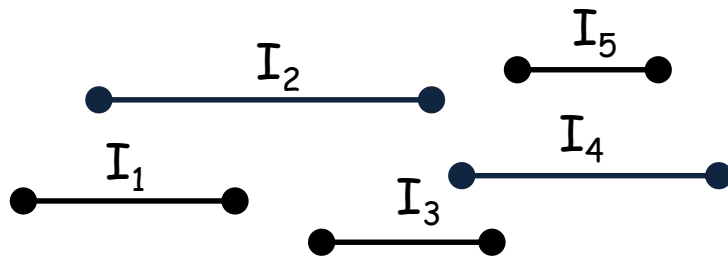
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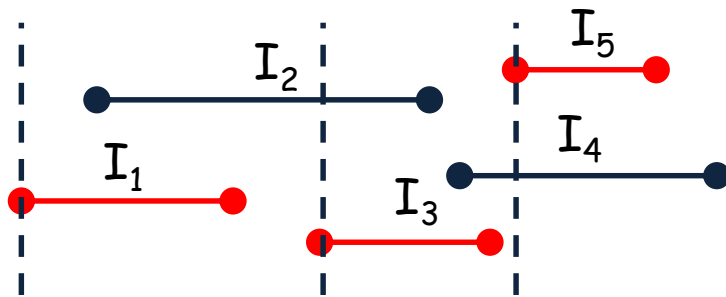


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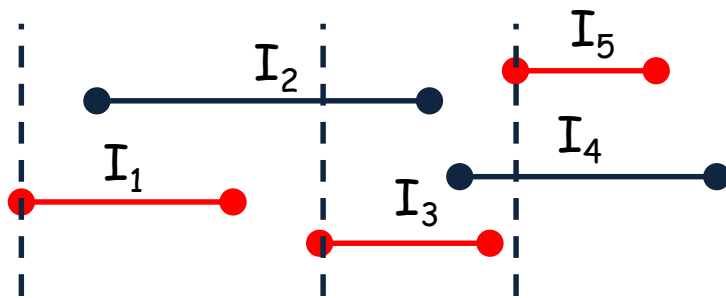


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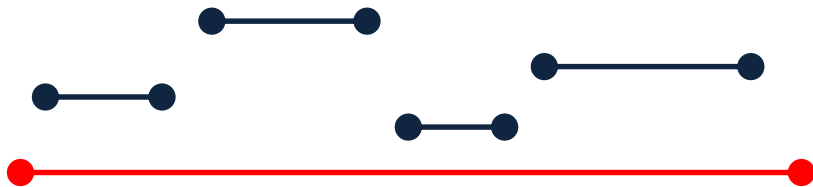


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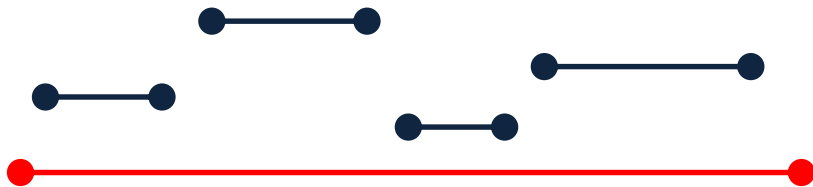


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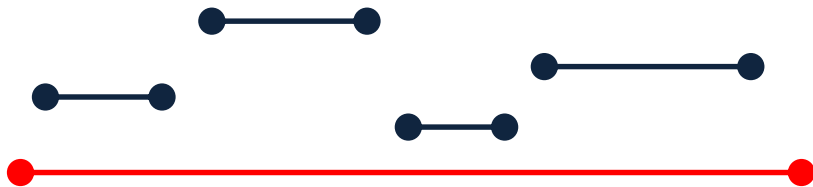


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- choose the first interval as the one having the earliest start time
- remove all intervals not compatible with the chosen one
- one instance of inputs for which the algorithm fails would be enough to show the algorithm is incorrect
(however, failure to find such instance does not mean 'it is obvious' that the algorithm is correct)

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Evaluating the efficiency of the Algorithm

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- how long does the algorithm take to generate a desired output as a function of input size ?
- how much working memory (typically RAM) required for the algorithm to terminate as a function of input size ?