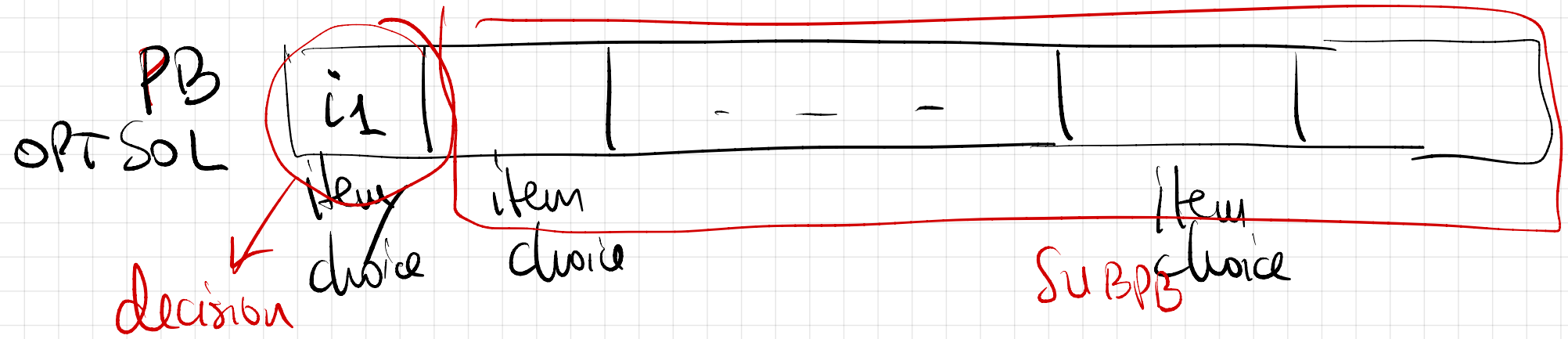


# Lecture 5: Greedy Algorithms (Divide & Conquer)



- Procedure
- 1) understand OPT SOL (SOL)
  - 2) understand PB  $\rightarrow$  SUBPB dependencies
  - 3) Divide & Conquer
    - SPLIT into subpb (make first decision)
    - SOLVE subproblems
    - COMBINE subPB-SOL GLUE
- SUBPB glued  $\Downarrow$  OPT SOL

# Divide & Conquer [PB]

## Greedy

- Divide/decide/split  
without solving subpb

- Greedy criteria  
(math proof OPT SOL)  
- subpb, solve it/then

- Combine/Glue

## DP

- solve many subpb  
(some that we don't need)

- make decision/split/divide  
- based on subpb solution  
("dynamic")

- Combine/Glue

decision/split PB  $\rightarrow$  subpb

OPT SOL = SOL(PB)  $\leftarrow$  SOL(subpb)  
glue

# Greedy I: Fractional Knapsack

total weight =  $Z = 50$

items	coffee	tea	flour	maize
total weight (LB)	25	50	20	70
total val	30	40	15	10
	$\frac{30}{25}$	$\frac{40}{50}$	$\frac{15}{20}$	$\frac{10}{70}$

Task: put items in knapsack (fractional quant ok) and total weight  $\leq Z$ , max value.

OPT SOL

x coffee	y tea	flour	maize*
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Characterization

out decision

OPTIMAL subpb

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} Z' = Z - x \\ \text{items} \quad c \quad t \quad F \quad m \\ \quad \quad 25-x \quad 50 \quad 20 \quad 70 \\ \text{val} \quad 30 - \frac{x}{25} \cdot 30 \quad 40 \quad 15 \quad 10 \end{array} \right)$$

Greedy criteria: (pick) item highest total value

①

feasible = 40

either

• use entire quantity available

OR

• Knapsack full

exercise

counter example

Greedy 2: (pick) item smallest total weight

Greedy (correct): Sort items by quality =  $\frac{\text{value}}{\text{weight}}$

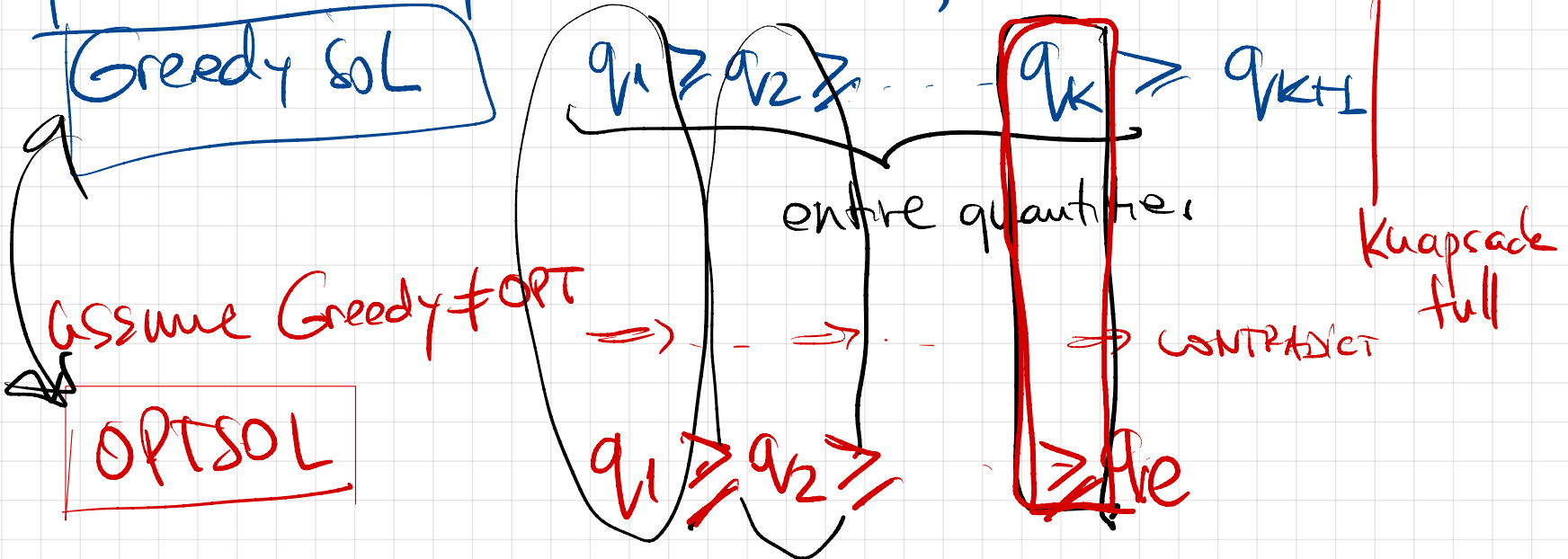
$$q_1 \geq q_2 \geq \dots \geq q_n$$

Coffee first.

(pick)  
highest  
quality



proof: Greedy choice (seq of)  $\implies$  OPT Sol



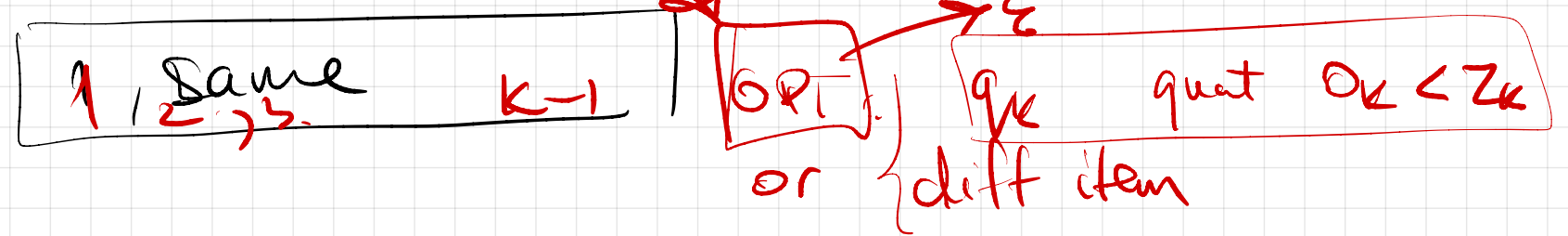
Step-by-step analysis GREEDY vs OPT

First item: is the same? is it same amount?

if yes yes second item: is the same? same quantity?

yes yes more to 3<sup>rd</sup>: is the same? same quantity

GRE<sup>OPT</sup> at some  $k$  ! NO ! Greedy  $q_k$  AMAP quant  $Z_k$



then at this point I am going to improve OPTSol

Exchange:

$\epsilon$ -weight take some item  $k$  in OPTSol  $\rightarrow$  out  
 replace it with  $\epsilon$ -weight of  $q_k$  (Greedy sol)  $\rightarrow$  <sup>better quality</sup> original OPTSol

Weights are  $-\epsilon + \epsilon$ , quality

$$\text{value } \Delta = \sum (q_k - o_k) > 0$$

$\downarrow$  Greedy  $> 0$   $\downarrow$  OPTSol CONTRAD!

				$q_k$	$q_k$
				$q_k$	$o_{k+1}$

*(Note: In the original image, a red arrow points from the top-right cell to the bottom-right cell, labeled with  $-\epsilon$ .)*

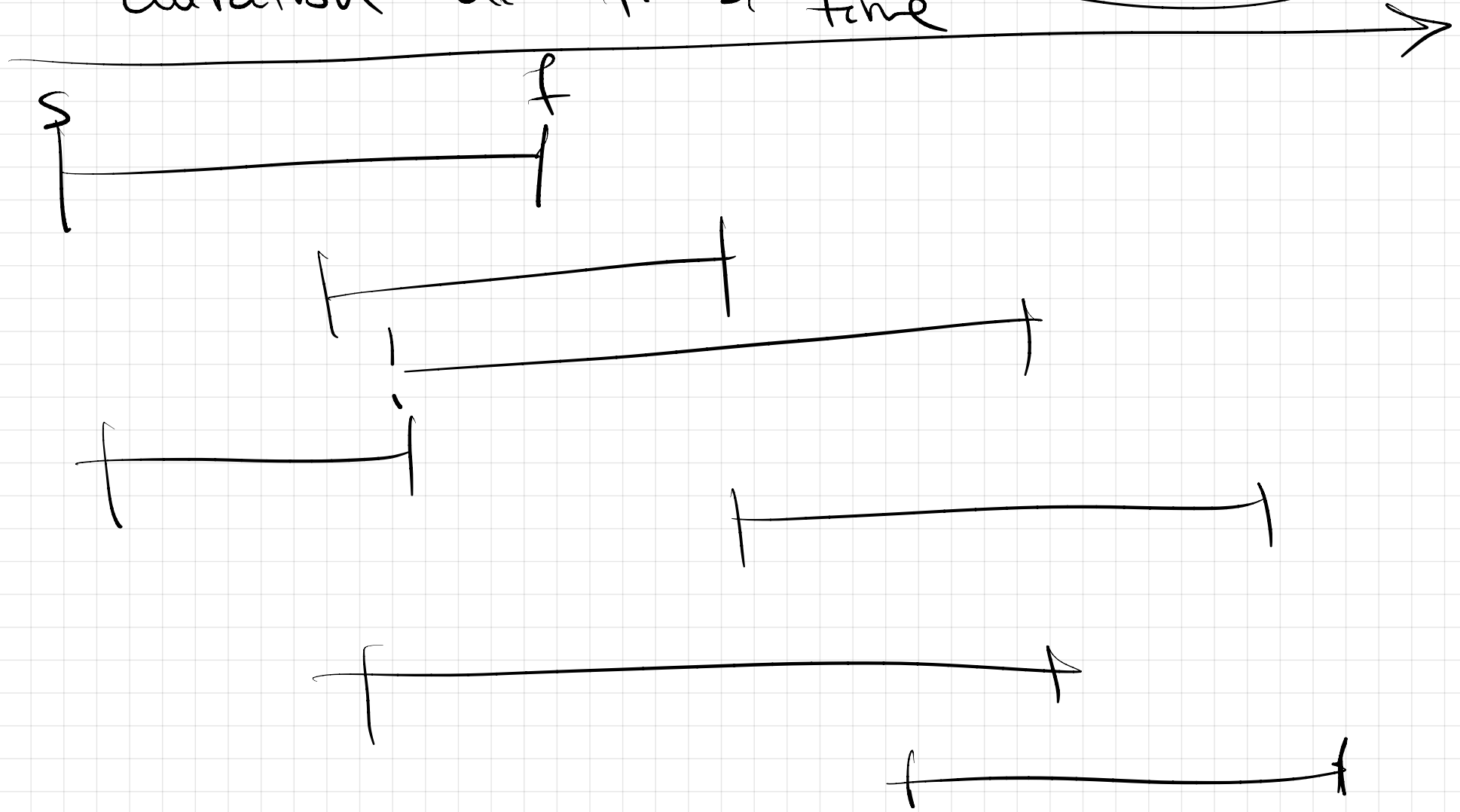
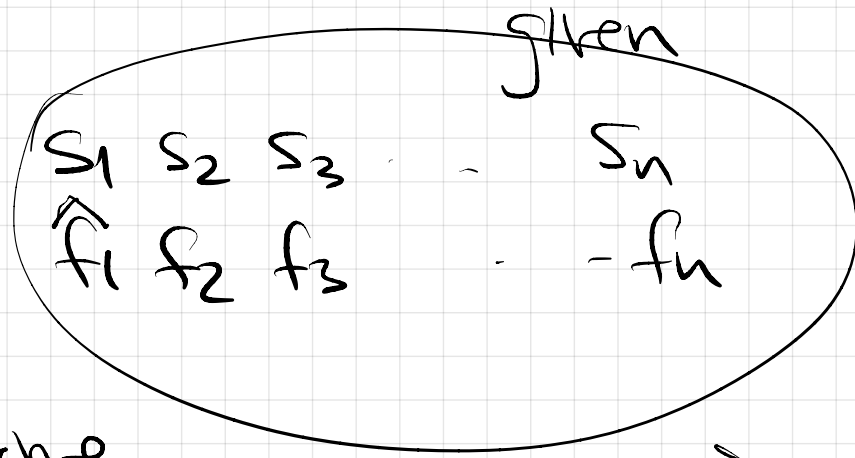
if Greedy  $\neq$  OPT  $\Rightarrow$  OPT is not actually <sup>not best</sup> value CONTRAD!

# Activity Selection PB

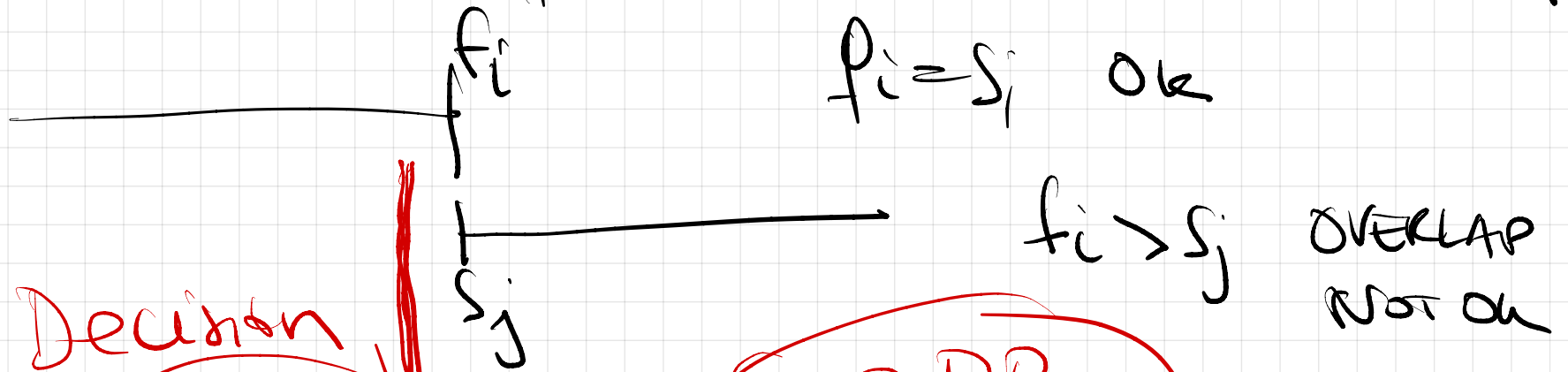
$n$  activities (start, finish time)

$$s_i < f_i$$

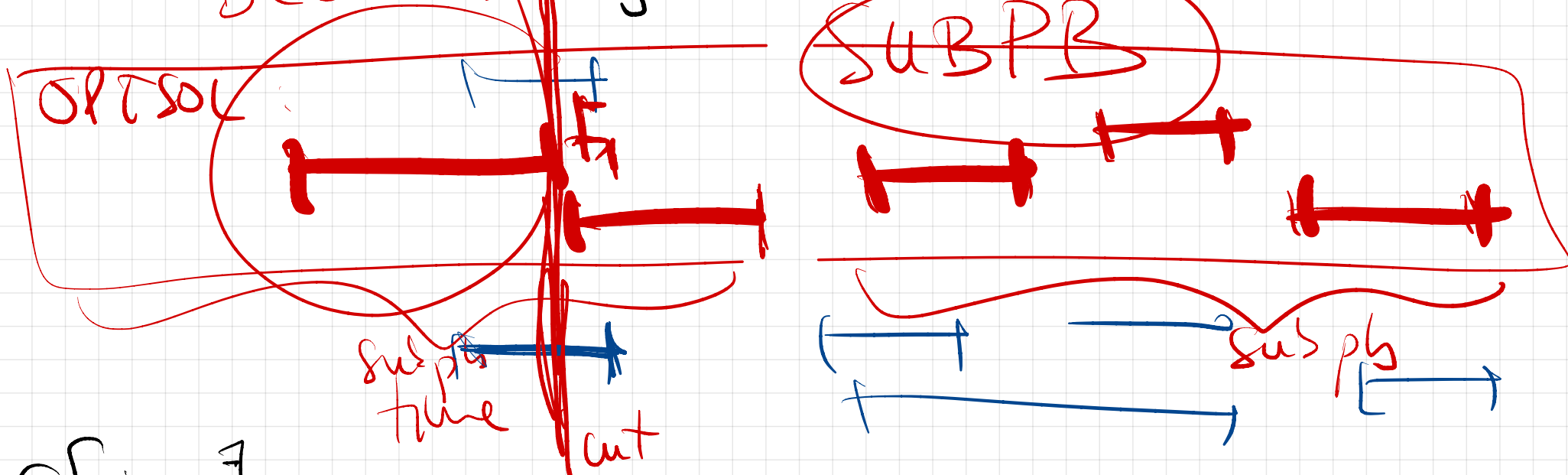
duration  $d_i = f_i - s_i$  time



Task/Select max # of activities that do not overlap



Decision

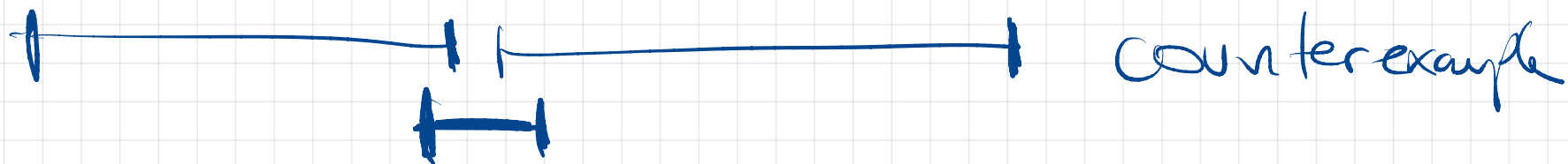


$C[\text{wout}] = \text{OBJ value}$

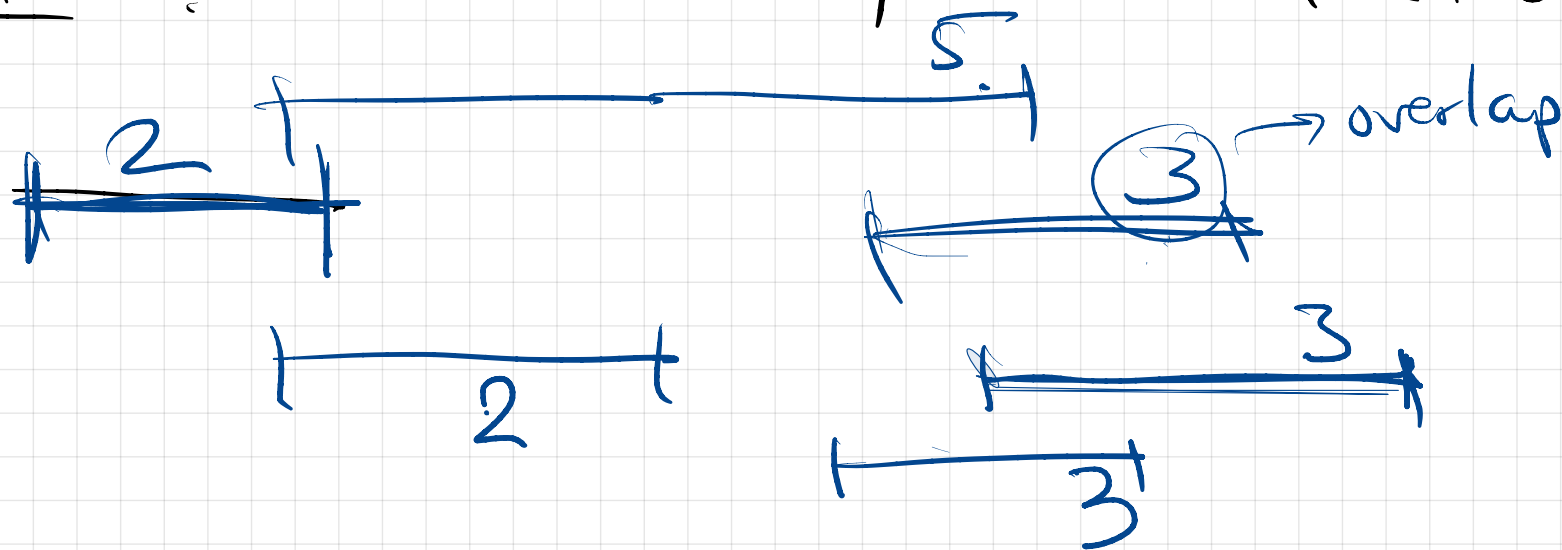
$C[(s_1, f_1), (s_2, f_2), \dots, (s_n, f_n)] = \# \text{ select}^{\text{max}}$

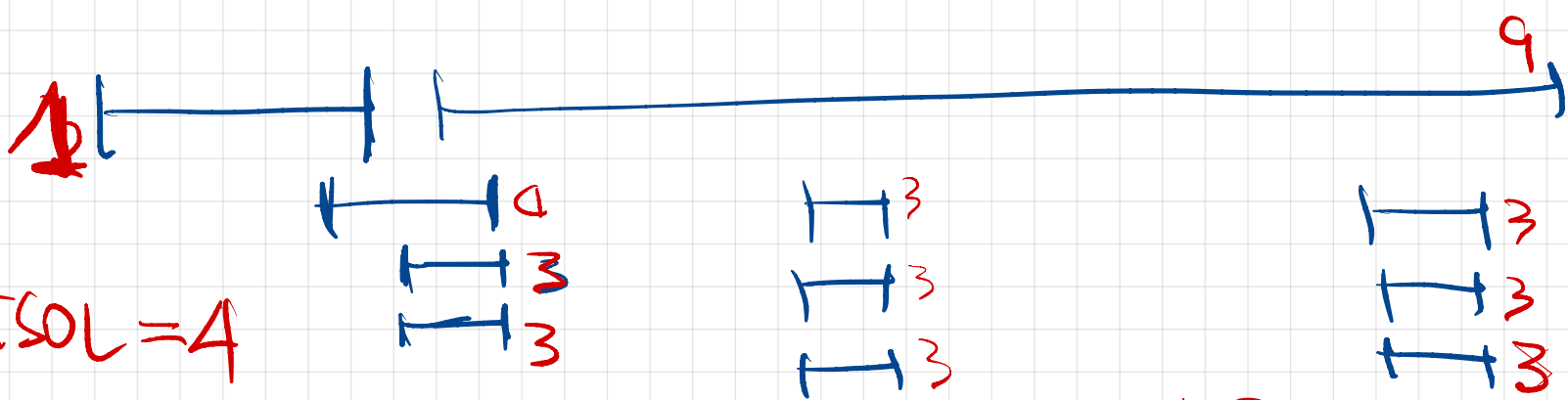
$= 1 + C[\text{all activities } j \text{ s.t. } s_j > f_1]$

Greedy criteria : choose activity smallest duration  
 $f_i - s_i$



Greedy 2 : choose activity smallest #act overlap

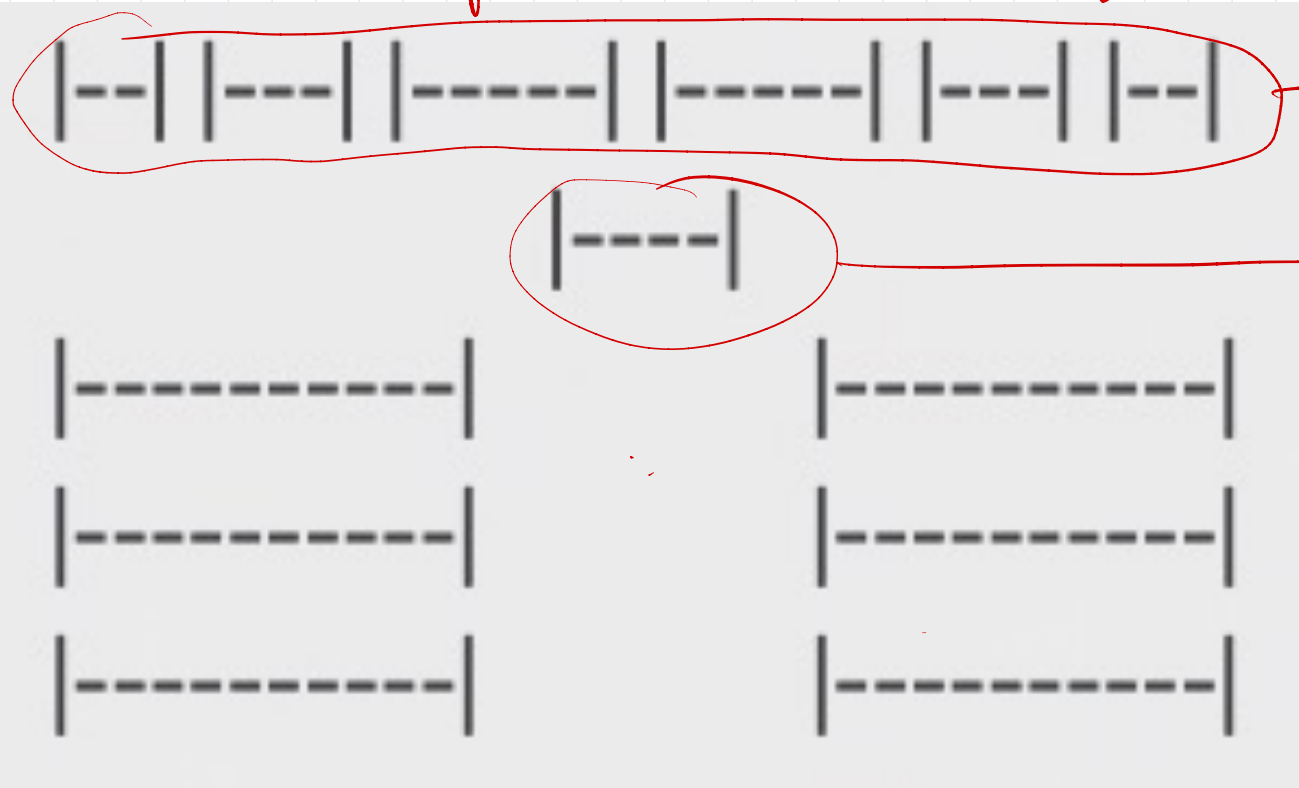




OPT SOL = 4

Greedy by "min overlap": counterexample? INCORRECT!

Counterexample - take two (by students)



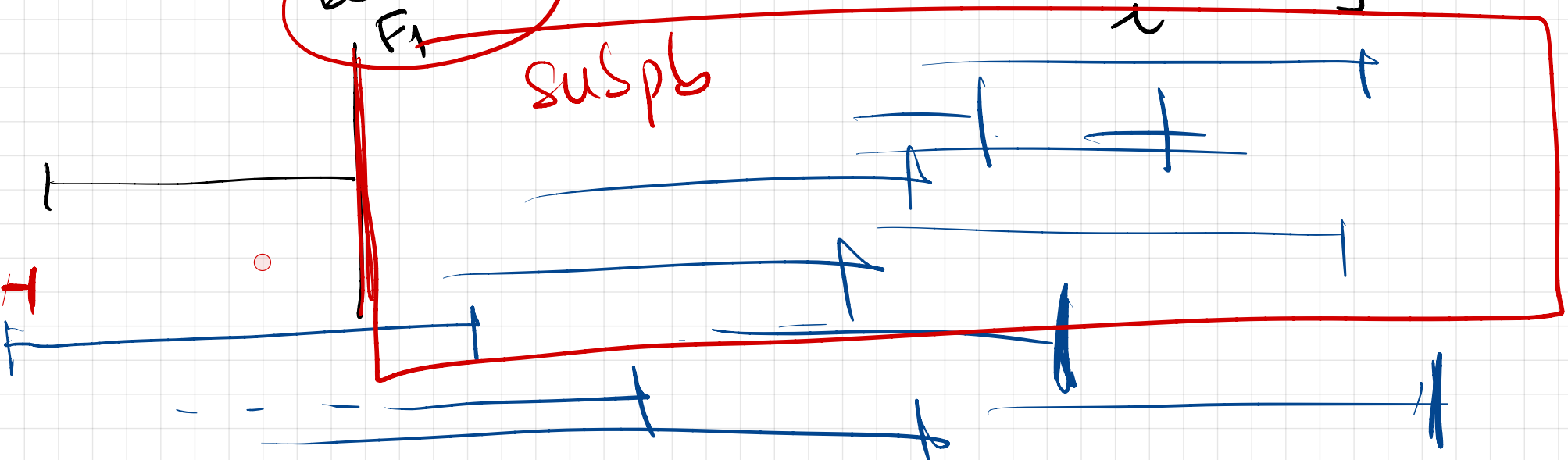
→ OPT SOL

→ greedy choice prevents OPT SOL

Greedy Correct: choose/pick activity finishes first  
(first)  $\min f_i$  earliest

best = min  $F_i$

subpb



Alg: sort ad by  $f_i$

Loop - pick first (available)  $(s_i - f_i) a_i$   
- delete/invalidate all ad overlapping  $a_i$   
 $\forall j \quad s_j < f_i$   
while you can

Greedy sol as good  
as any other

I can follow any subseq choices

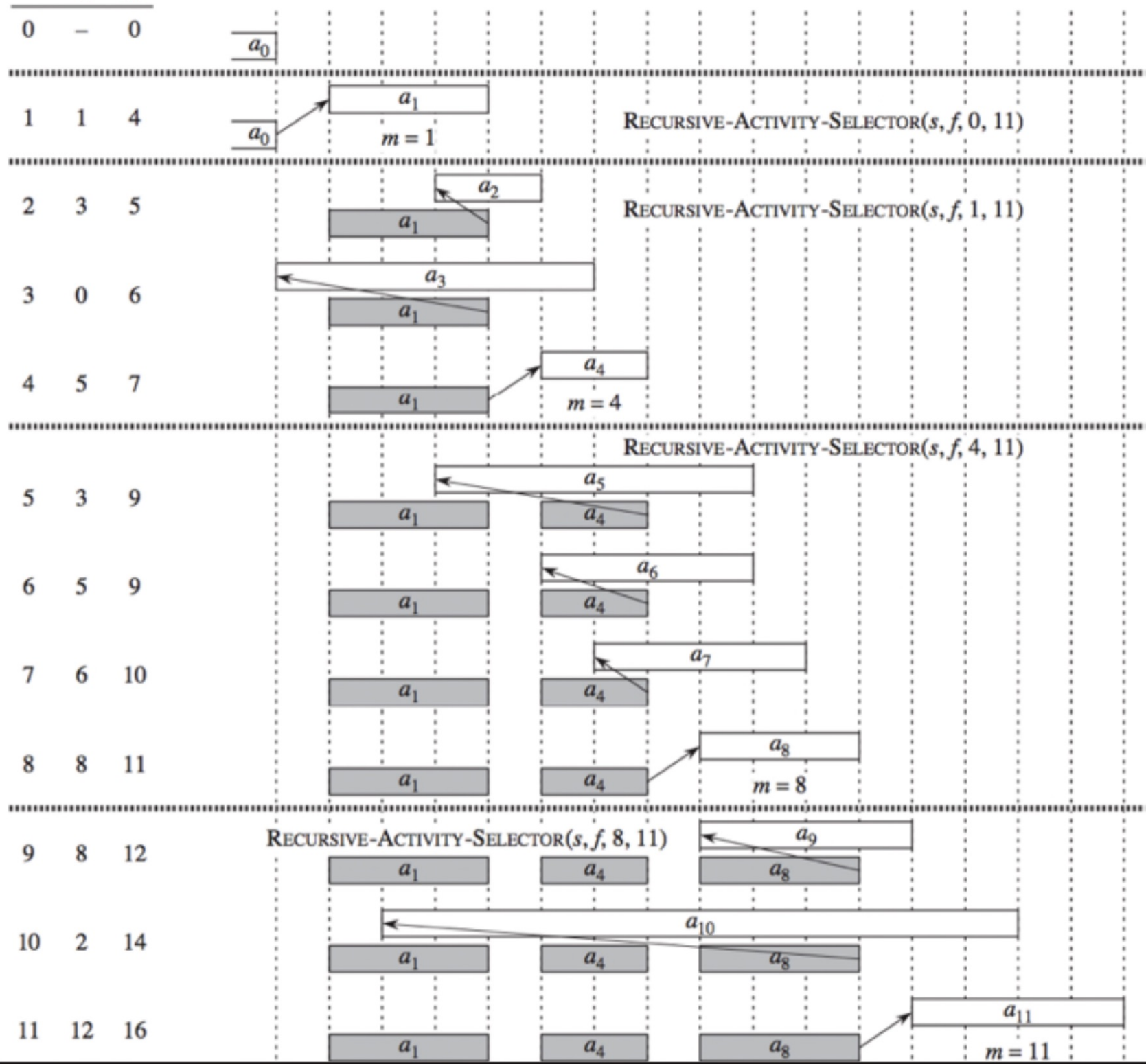
proof Stay ahead argument ( $\approx$  exchange)

after greedy choice  $\Rightarrow$  SUBG (act available,  $s_j > G_1$   
time available)  $\text{time} > G_1$

different  
first choice T

$\Rightarrow$  SUBT (act avail  $s_j > T_1$   
time  $> T_1$ )  
 $C[\text{SUBG}] \geq C[\text{SUBT}]$

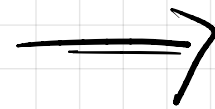




type of arguments: - stay ahead  
- exchange  
- contradict  
- induction

ind step  
greedy  
proof

if first  $n$  greedy choices  
are part of some  
OPT SOL



the first  $n+1$   
greedy choices  
are part of  
some OPT SOL

Coin Change Denominations example U.S.  
 $\{d_1, d_2, d_3, \dots, d_k\} = \{1, 5, 10, 25, \cancel{50}, \cancel{100}\}$

$n$  cents give change  $n = d_{i_1} + d_{i_2} + d_{i_3} \dots$   
min # of coins

Greedy: largest coin that fits. yes for US.

$$30 = 25 + 5$$

$$29 = 25 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$$

$$22 = 10 + 10 + 1 + 1$$

exercise: proof greedy works for U.S. denominations

Greedy does not work

denom =  $\{1, 2, 7, 10\}$

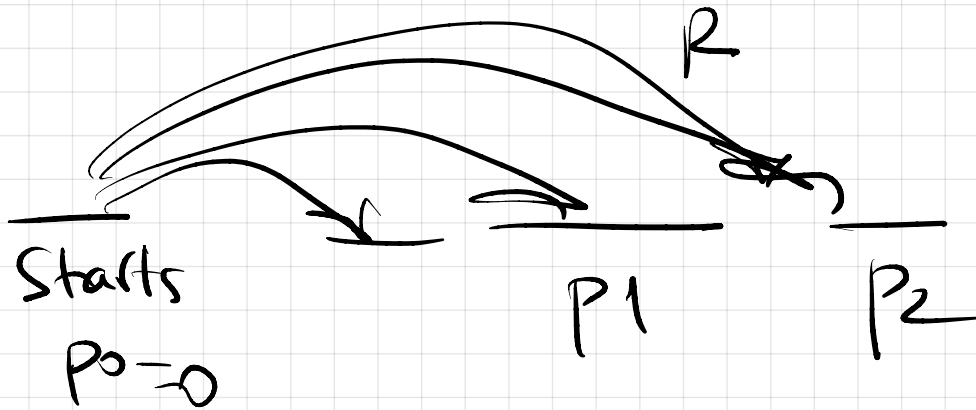
$$n = 14 = 10 + 2 + 2 \text{ not optimal}$$

\*\* What denom set makes greedy work?

Frog can jump  $R$  feet

River with stones in pos  $(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) \in \mathbb{R}^+$

$$p_{k+1} - p_k < R$$



min #jumps

Greedy: jump as far as possible

Stay ahead arg  
(exercise)

Egyptian Fractions  $x \in \mathbb{Q}^* \setminus \{\frac{a}{b}\}$

$$x = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n_k}$$

Yes  
— is this always possible?  
if yes,  $a_k$  = greedy

ex

$$\frac{5}{6} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\frac{7}{5} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{120}$$

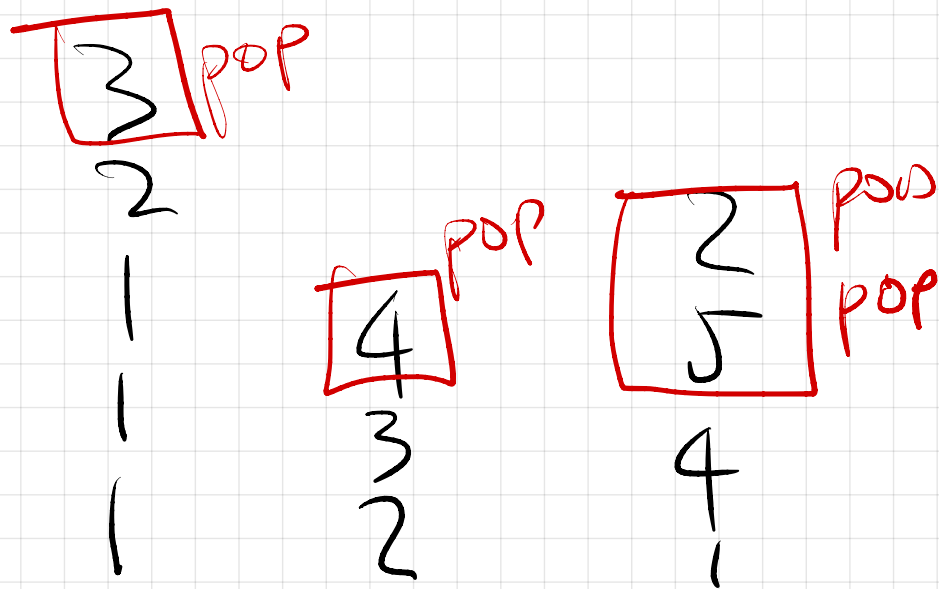
$$\frac{5}{121} = \frac{1}{33} + \frac{1}{121} + \frac{1}{363} \quad \text{not greedy}$$

Greedy: take fraction with smallest denom. poss.,

$$\frac{5}{121} = \frac{1}{25} + \frac{1}{757} + \frac{1}{763309} + \frac{1}{\text{big}} + \frac{1}{\text{big}}$$

(Th) process is not infinite because the numerator of subph keep decreasing (exercise)

3 Stacks get them to have same sum (by pops)  
(if possible)



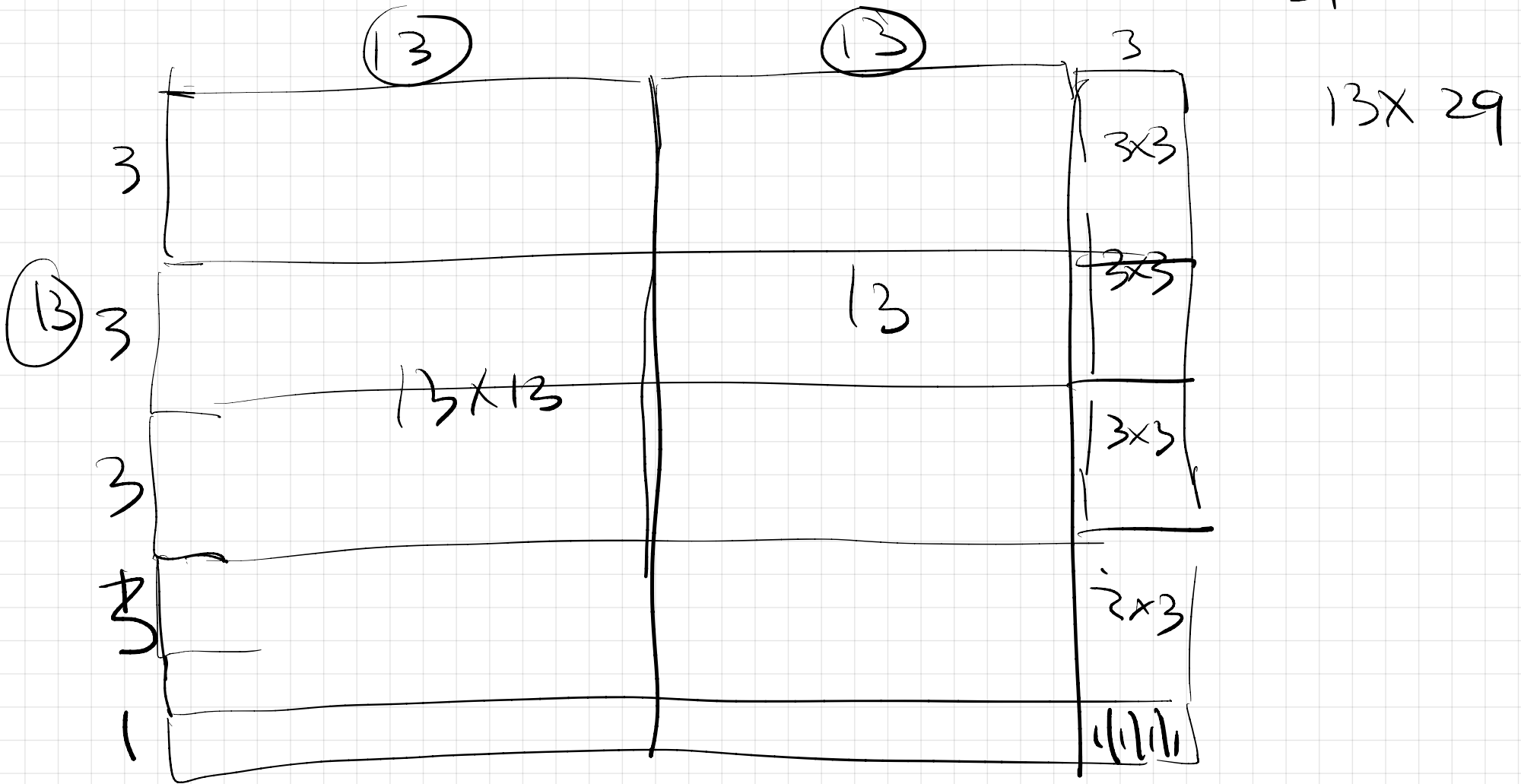
Greedy: pop from the stack with highest sum  
 $\Theta(\sum \text{sizes})$

Proof: if there is a solution, and currently the highest-sum stack "S" is not equal with the others, then "S" top element has to be popped. So doing it is not a waste of time!

cut paper  $m \times n$  into squares

$27 \times 7$

Want: min # squares



Greedy, cut  $\square = \text{side}$ ? exercise

# Huffman Codes

symbols set	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
probab of occ	.05	.05	.1	.2	.3	.2	.1

want encode symbol  $\rightarrow$  string of bits  
ex  $b \rightarrow 0101$ ?

1) could be able to decode "prefix free property"

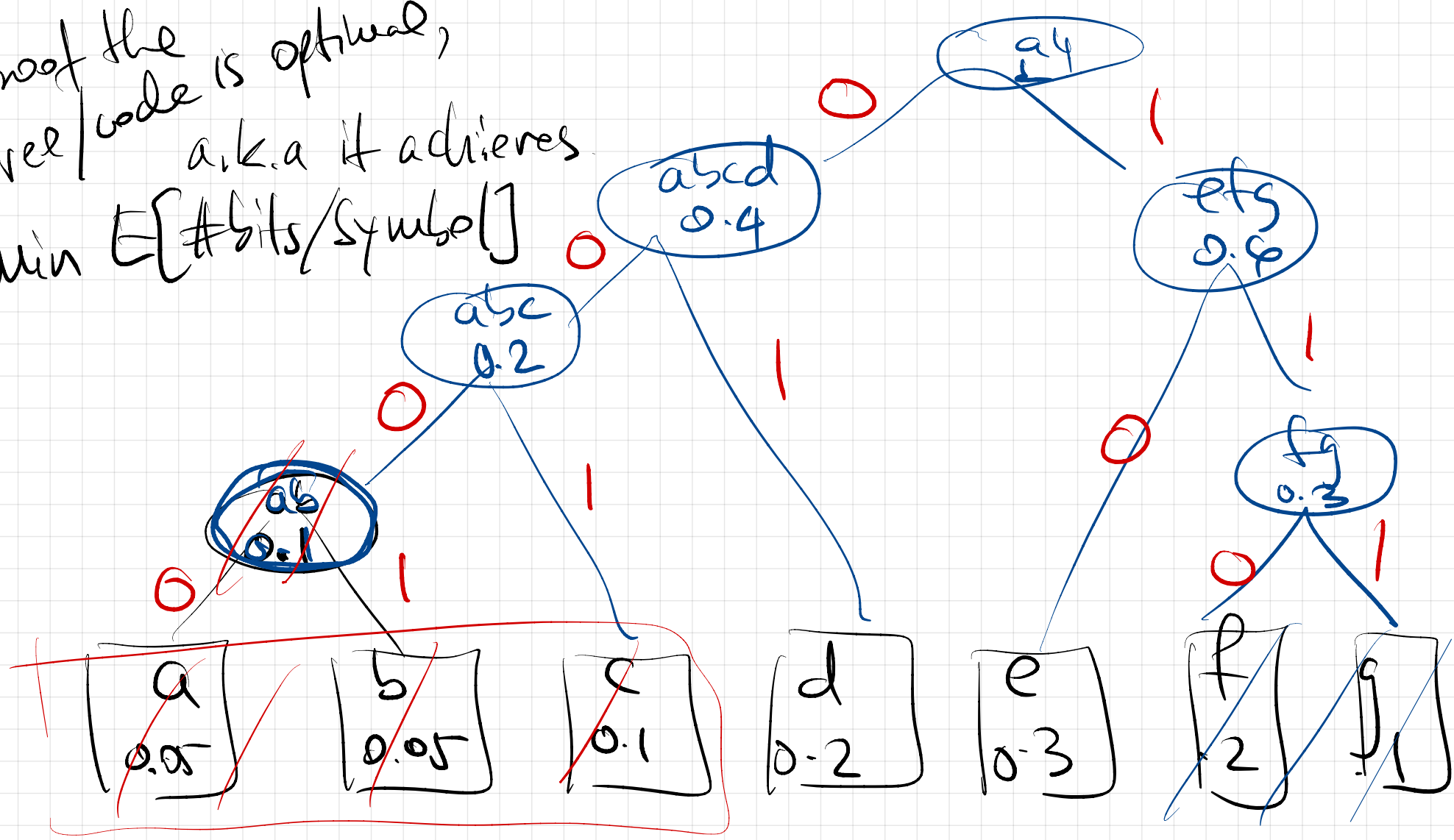
010 code  $\Rightarrow$  010 any  
not a code

2) obs minimize  $E[\# \text{bits/symbol}]$

exercice



Proof the tree code is optimal,  
 a.k.a it achieves  
 $\min E[\text{\#bits/symbol}]$



Greedy: join the two smallest ones  $\rightarrow$  tree

Huffman code:



$b = 0001$   
 $e = 10$   
 $d = 01$

clearly: prefix-free  $\checkmark$