

CompSci 161  
Winter 2023 Lecture 23:  
Greedy Algorithms

# Interval Coloring

- ▶  $n$  groups requested to use a study room
- ▶ group  $i$  would like to use it from  $s_i$  to  $f_i$ .
- ▶ Cannot put overlapping in same room
- ▶ Cannot reject a group.
- ▶ Minimize number of distinct rooms assigned
- ▶ Why is your algorithm correct?

# Interval Coloring Solution

**Algorithm:** When a group arrives, give lowest numbered room currently free.

- ▶ How many rooms will this use?
- ▶ Could any solution use fewer? Why or why not?

# Approximate TSP *Traveling Salesperson Problem*

Let's look at TSP with:

- ▶ A *complete* graph : all pairs of vertices,  $\exists$  edge.
- ▶ Triangle inequality;  $c_{uv} + c_{vw} \geq c_{uw}$ .

Goals:

- ▶ Fast algorithm (polynomial time)
- ▶ Provide some correctness guarantee.

In this case, I will show:

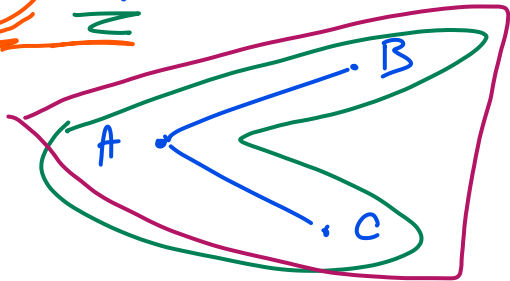
$$\frac{\text{our cost}}{\text{optimal cost}} \leq 2$$

# Approximate Metric TSP

1. Find MST  $T$  of  $G$
2. Do depth-first walk  $W$  of  $T$
3. Output vertices in order seen on  $W$

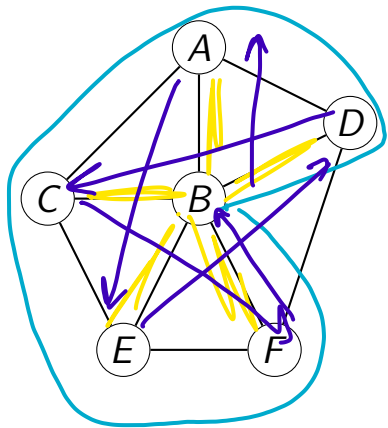
$$2 \cdot \text{cost}(T) \leq 2 \cdot \text{OPT}$$

$$\underbrace{2}_{\text{cost}(T)} \cdot \underbrace{W}_{\text{cost}(T)} = 2 \cdot \text{cost}(T) \leq \underline{2 \cdot \text{OPT}}$$



$A B A C$   
 $A B - C$

# How accurate is that bound?



► Shown edges: cost 1

► Others : cost 2

► Optimal journey?

► What is MST?

Depth First  
Journey

$$1 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 1 = 10$$

# How to Measure

- ▶ Given a fast-but-wrong algorithm for TSP
- ▶ How do you measure its accuracy?
- ▶ Proofs are fine
- ▶ Can you do something experimental?