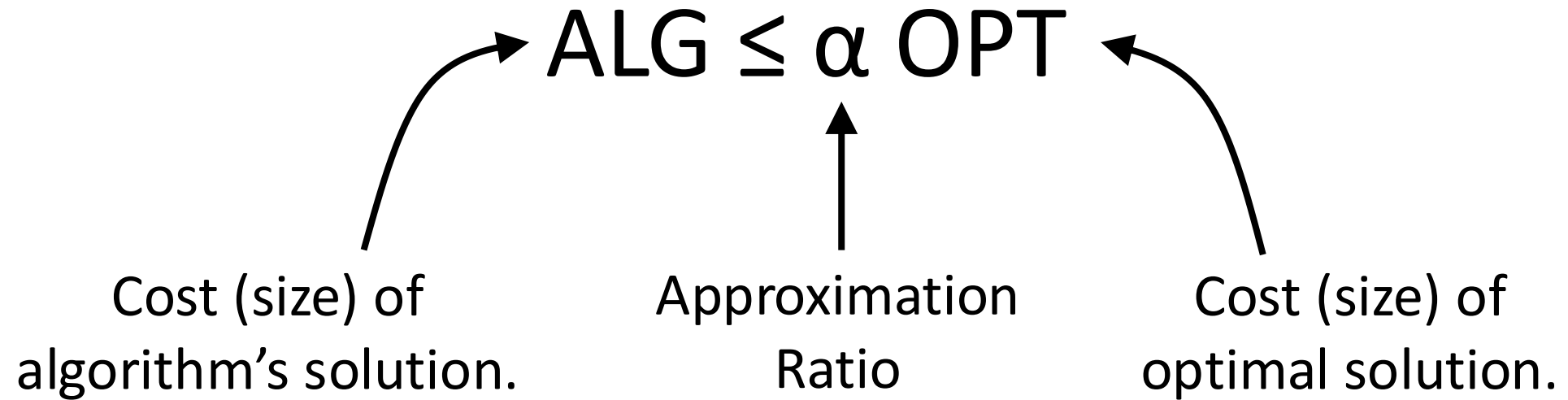


Approximation Algorithms

CSCI 532

Approximation Algorithms



if problem is a maximization problem, $ALG \geq \frac{1}{\alpha} OPT$

Vertex Cover

```
while uncovered edge exists  
    select both of its vertices
```

Consider a set of edges, $E' \subset E$, that do not share vertices. Is there a relationship between the minimum vertex cover and $|E'|$?

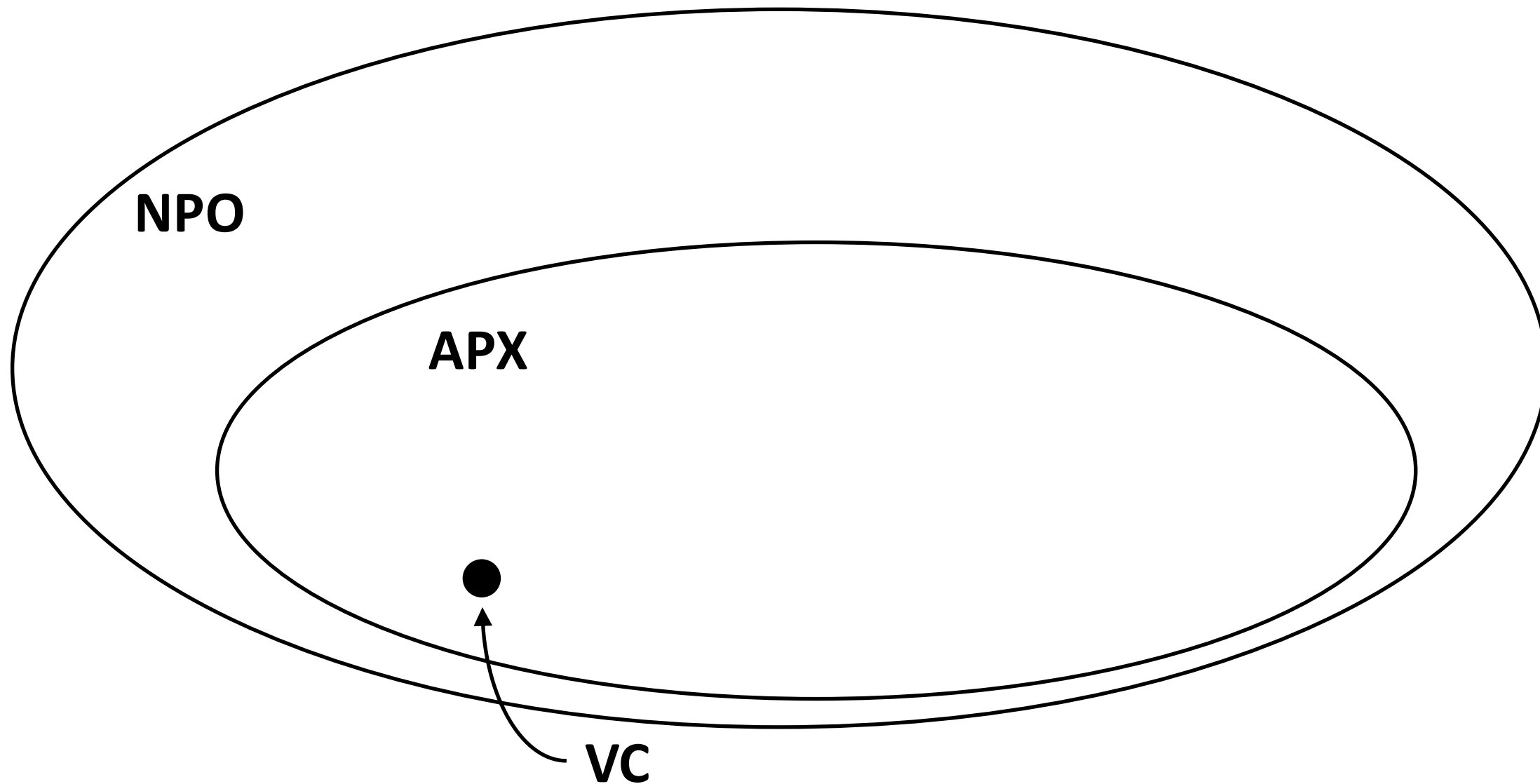
$$|E'| \leq \text{OPT}$$

Does the size of the algorithm's output relate to a set of edges that do not share vertices?

$$\text{ALG} = 2 |E'|$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{ALG} = 2 |E'| \leq 2 \text{OPT} \Rightarrow \text{ALG} \leq 2 \text{OPT}$$

Approximability Hierarchy



Set Cover

Set Cover: Given a set of elements (the universe), and sets containing those elements, find the smallest number of sets so that every element of the universe is included.

Example:

Set Cover

Set Cover: Given a set of elements (the universe), and sets containing those elements, find the smallest number of sets so that every element of the universe is included.

Example:

$$U = \{1, 4, 7, 8, 10\}$$

$$S = \{\{1, 7, 8\}, \{1, 4, 7\}, \{7, 8\}, \{4, 8, 10\}\}$$

$$\{\{1, 7, 8\}, \{4, 8, 10\}\} \quad \{\{1, 4, 7\}, \{7, 8\}\}$$



Set Cover

Set Cover: Given a set of elements (the universe), and sets containing those elements, find the smallest number of sets so that every element of the universe is included.

Greedy Algorithm:

```
while element of universe not included
    select  $S_i$  with largest number of excluded elements.
```

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

$$ALG \leq \alpha OPT$$

Game Plan:

Bound the maximum number of sets in ALG ...

By bounding the maximum number of iterations of the algorithm...

By bounding the size of each set added by the algorithm.

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.


Suppose the universe contains n elements.

What can we say about the first set selected?

It's the biggest!

$$? \leq |\text{Biggest Set}| \leq ?$$

 Guarantee we do at least this good.

 Guarantee we don't do better than this.

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

What can we say about the first set selected?

It's the biggest!

Claim: $\frac{n}{OPT} \leq |\text{Biggest Set}|$

Why?

Set Cover

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

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It's the biggest!

Claim: $\frac{n}{OPT} \leq |\text{Biggest Set}|$

Suppose $\frac{n}{OPT} > |\text{Biggest Set}|$

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Suppose $\frac{n}{OPT} > |\text{Biggest Set}| \geq |\text{Every Set}|$

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Suppose $\frac{n}{OPT} > |\text{Biggest Set}| \geq |\text{Every Set}|$

How many sets does the optimal solution S^{OPT} use?

Set Cover

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How many sets does the optimal solution S^{OPT} use? **OPT**



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How many sets does the optimal solution S^{OPT} use? OPT

Then how many elements are covered by those OPT sets?

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How many sets does the optimal solution S^{OPT} use? OPT

Then how many elements are covered by those OPT sets?

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ elements} \\ \text{covered by} \\ S^{OPT} \end{array} \right) \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |S|$$

Elements in S^{OPT}
may be repeated

Set Cover

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

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$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \# \text{ elements} \\ \text{covered by} \\ S^{OPT} \end{array} \right) \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |S| \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |\text{Biggest Set}|$$

Set Cover

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Then how many elements are covered by those OPT sets?

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \# \text{ elements} \\ \text{covered by} \\ S^{OPT} \end{array} \right) \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |S| \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |\text{Biggest Set}| = OPT |\text{Biggest Set}|$$

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Then how many elements are covered by those OPT sets?

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ elements} \\ \text{covered by} \\ S^{OPT} \end{array} \right) \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |S| \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |\text{Biggest Set}| = OPT |\text{Biggest Set}| < OPT \frac{n}{OPT}$$

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

What can we say about the first set selected?

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How many sets does the optimal solution S^{OPT} use? OPT

Then how many elements are covered by those OPT sets?

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \# \text{ elements} \\ \text{covered by} \\ S^{OPT} \end{array} \right) \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |S| \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |\text{Biggest Set}| = OPT |\text{Biggest Set}| < OPT \frac{n}{OPT} = n$$

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

What can we say about the first set selected?

It's the biggest!

Claim: $\frac{n}{OPT} \leq |\text{Biggest Set}|$

Suppose $\frac{n}{OPT} > |\text{Biggest Set}| \geq |\text{Every Set}|$

How many sets does the optimal solution S^{OPT} use? OPT

Then how many elements are covered by those OPT sets?

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{\# elements} \\ \text{covered by} \\ S^{OPT} \end{array} \right) \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |S| \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |\text{Biggest Set}| = OPT |\text{Biggest Set}| < OPT \frac{n}{OPT} = n$$

**S^{OPT} doesn't cover
all n elements**

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

What can we say about the first set selected?

It's the biggest!

Claim: $\frac{n}{OPT} \leq |\text{Biggest Set}|$

Suppose $\frac{n}{OPT} > |\text{Biggest Set}| \geq |\text{Every Set}|$

How many sets does the optimal solution S^{OPT} use? OPT

Then how many elements are covered by those OPT sets?

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{\# elements} \\ \text{covered by} \\ S^{OPT} \end{array} \right] \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |S| \leq \sum_{S \in S^{OPT}} |\text{Biggest Set}| = OPT |\text{Biggest Set}| < OPT \frac{n}{OPT} = n$$

**S^{OPT} doesn't cover
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Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Original \#} & \text{—} & \text{\# elements} \\ \text{elements} & & \text{removed} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ n & & \geq \frac{n}{OPT} \end{array}$$

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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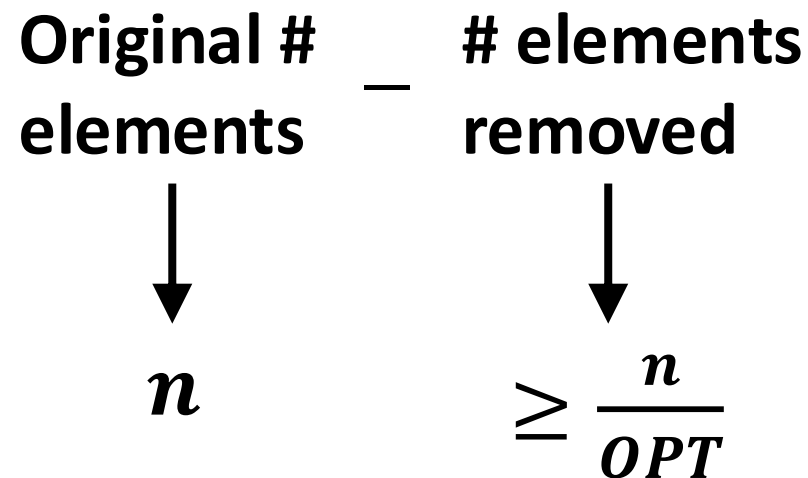
Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT}$$

The first set could be $> \frac{n}{OPT}$ which would leave fewer elements remaining.



Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

What can we say about the second set selected?

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

What can we say about the second set selected?

← **It covers the most uncovered elements.**

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

What can we say about the second set selected?

Suppose the first set was in the optimal solution.

Suppose the first set was not in the optimal solution.

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

What can we say about the second set selected?

Suppose the first set was in the optimal solution.

Then, a remaining set must have at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT-1}$ uncovered elements.

Suppose the first set was not in the optimal solution.

If not, how do the remaining $OPT - 1$ optimal sets cover the remaining n_1 elements?

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

What can we say about the second set selected?

Suppose the first set was in the optimal solution.

Then, a remaining set must have at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT-1}$ uncovered elements.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n_1}{OPT-1} \leq |\text{Second Set}|$$

Suppose the first set was not in the optimal solution.

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

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$$\Rightarrow \frac{n_1}{OPT-1} \leq |\text{Second Set}|$$

Suppose the first set was not in the optimal solution.

Then, the n_1 elements must still be covered by OPT .

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

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$$\Rightarrow \frac{n_1}{OPT} \leq |\text{Second Set}|$$

If not, how do the OPT optimal sets cover the remaining n_1 elements?

Set Cover

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

What can we say about the second set selected?

Suppose the first set was in the optimal solution.

Then, a remaining set must have at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT-1}$ uncovered elements.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n_1}{OPT} < \frac{n_1}{OPT-1} \leq |\text{Second Set}|$$

Suppose the first set was not in the optimal solution.

Then, the n_1 elements must still be covered by OPT .

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n_1}{OPT} \leq |\text{Second Set}|$$

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Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

Some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT}$ uncovered elements.

Suppose the first set was in the optimal solution.

Then, a remaining set must have at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT-1}$ uncovered elements.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n_1}{OPT} < \frac{n_1}{OPT-1} \leq |\text{Second Set}|$$

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Some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT}$ uncovered elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the second iteration is:

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

Some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT}$ uncovered elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the second iteration is:

$$n_2 \leq n_1 - \frac{n_1}{OPT}$$

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

The first set selected will have $\geq \frac{n}{OPT}$ elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

$$n_1 \leq n - \frac{n}{OPT} = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

Some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT}$ uncovered elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the second iteration is:

$$n_2 \leq n_1 - \frac{n_1}{OPT} = n_1 \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)$$

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Then, the number of elements remaining after the first iteration is:

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Some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_1}{OPT}$ uncovered elements.

Then, the number of elements remaining after the second iteration is:

$$n_2 \leq n_1 - \frac{n_1}{OPT} = n_1 \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)^2$$

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$$n_2 \leq n_1 - \frac{n_1}{OPT} = n_1 \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)^2$$

In general, after t iterations:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right) \leq \dots \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT} \right)^t$$

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

Before the t^{th} iteration, some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT}$ uncovered elements and the number of elements remaining after the t^{th} iteration is:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t$$

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Big picture:

How many sets are added each iteration?

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

Before the t^{th} iteration, some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT}$ uncovered elements and the number of elements remaining after the t^{th} iteration is:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t$$

Big picture:

How many sets are added each iteration? **1**

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

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Suppose the universe contains n elements.

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Big picture:

How many sets are added each iteration? **1**

ALG = **# iterations**

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

Before the t^{th} iteration, some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT}$ uncovered elements and the number of elements remaining after the t^{th} iteration is:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t$$

Big picture:

How many sets are added each iteration? **1**

ALG = **# iterations**

When does the algorithm terminate?

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

Before the t^{th} iteration, some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT}$ uncovered elements and the number of elements remaining after the t^{th} iteration is:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t$$

Big picture:

How many sets are added each iteration? **1**

ALG = **# iterations**

When does the algorithm terminate? **When $n_t < 1$**

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

Before the t^{th} iteration, some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT}$ uncovered elements and the number of elements remaining after the t^{th} iteration is:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t$$

Big picture:

How many sets are added each iteration? **1**

ALG = # iterations

When does the algorithm terminate? **When $n_t < 1$**

What value of t makes $n_t < 1$?

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

Before the t^{th} iteration, some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT}$ uncovered elements and the number of elements remaining after the t^{th} iteration is:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t$$

Trust that: $1 - x < e^{-x}$ for all $x \neq 0$

What value of t makes $n_t < 1$?

Set Cover

ALG = # sets selected by the algorithm to cover all n elements.

OPT = # sets in an optimal solution to cover all n elements.

Suppose the universe contains n elements.

Before the t^{th} iteration, some remaining set has at least $\frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT}$ uncovered elements and the number of elements remaining after the t^{th} iteration is:

$$n_t \leq n_{t-1} - \frac{n_{t-1}}{OPT} = n_{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right) \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t$$

Trust that: $1 - x < e^{-x}$ for all $x \neq 0$

$$n_t \leq n \left(1 - \frac{1}{OPT}\right)^t < n \left(e^{-\frac{1}{OPT}}\right)^t$$

What value of t makes $n_t < 1$?

Set Cover

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It could take fewer iterations, we just know that it can't take more.

$$n e^{-\frac{t}{OPT}} \leq 1 \Rightarrow t \geq OPT \ln n$$

So, when $t = OPT \ln n$, $n_t < 1$ (i.e., no elements remain). Thus, the universe is covered after at most $t = OPT \ln n$ iterations.

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It turns out that Set Cover cannot be approximated within the bound of $(1 - o(1)) \ln n$, unless $P = NP$.

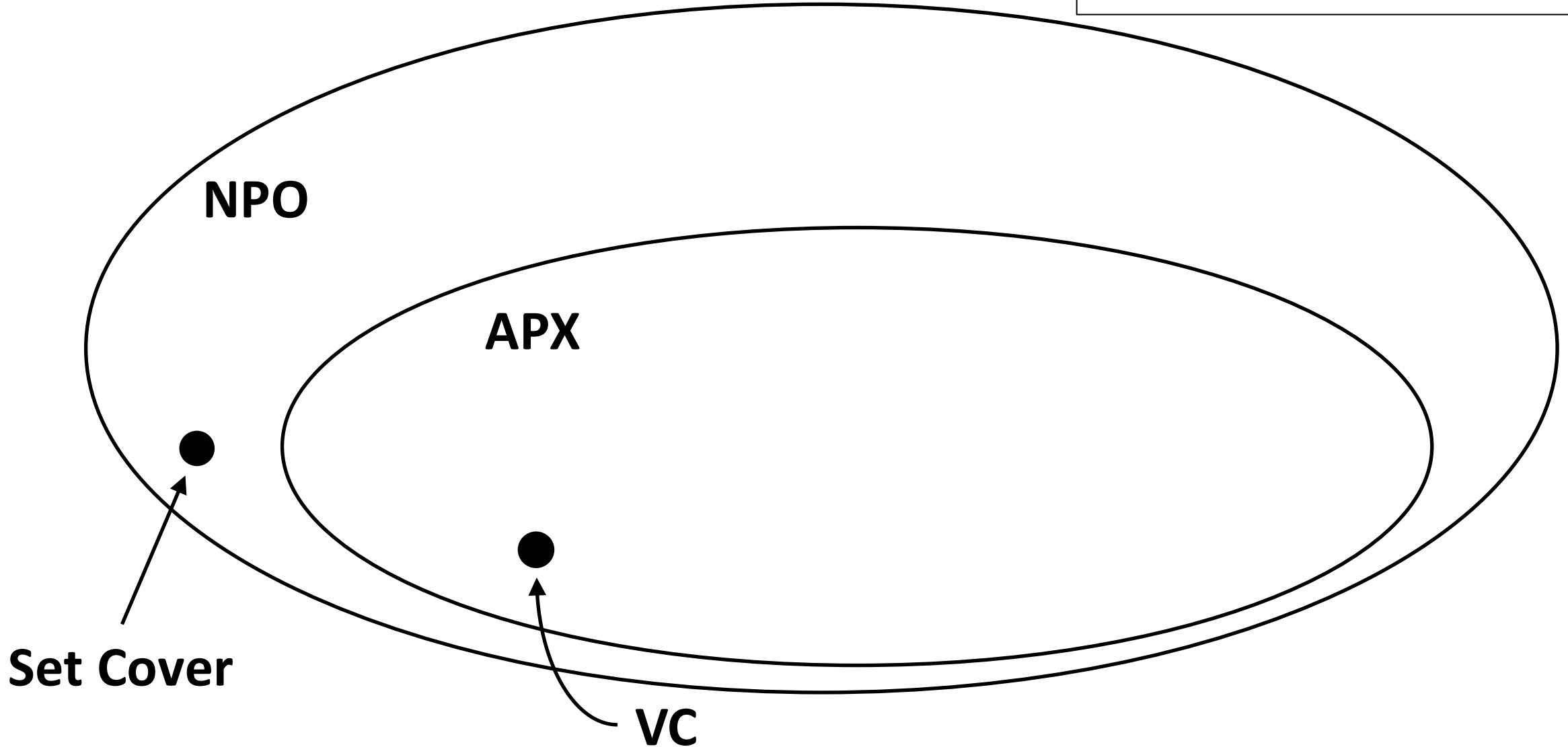
$$ne^{-\frac{t}{OPT}} \leq 1 \Rightarrow t \geq OPT \ln n$$

So, when $t = OPT \ln n$, $n_t < 1$ (i.e., no elements remain). Thus, the universe is covered after at most $t = OPT \ln n$ iterations.

$$\Rightarrow ALG \leq \ln n OPT$$

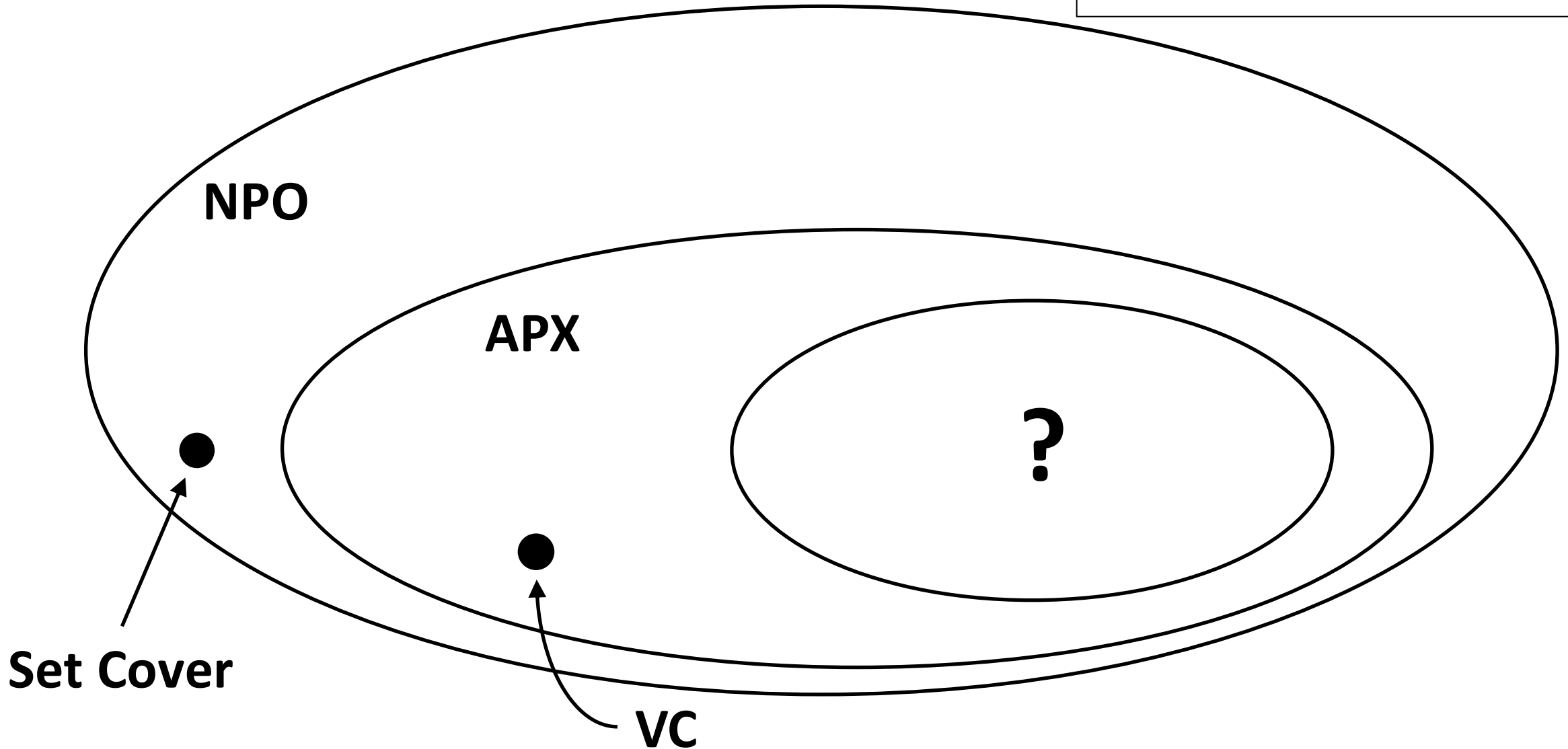
Approximability Hierarchy

APX: Optimization problems that can be approximated within a constant ratio.



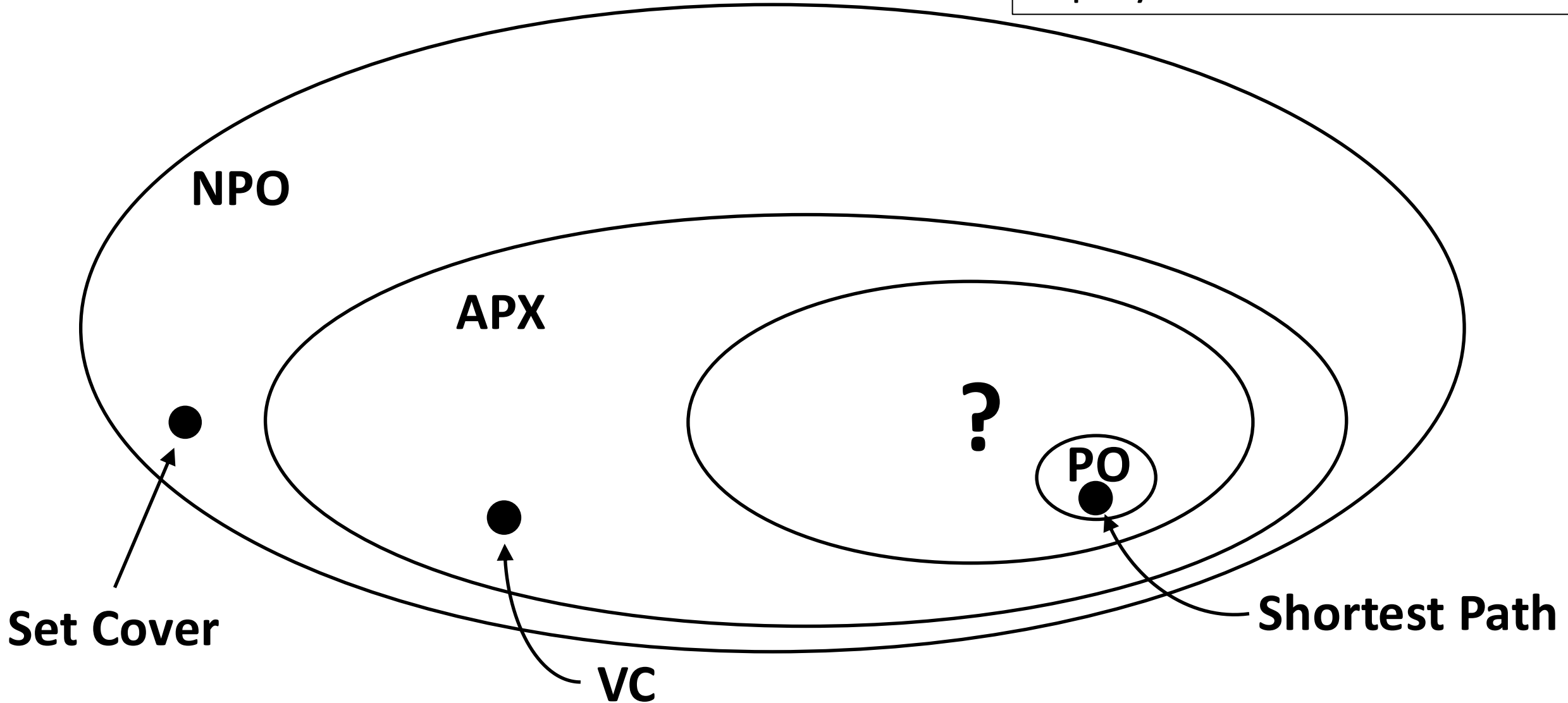
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Approximability Hierarchy

PO: Optimization problems that can be optimally solved in polynomial time.



Knapsack

Knapsack: Given a set of n items with values v_1, \dots, v_n and weights w_1, \dots, w_n , select the most valuable combination with total weight $\leq W$.

Example:

$$W = 11$$

Item	Value	Weight
1	1	1
2	6	2
3	18	5
4	22	6
5	28	7

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3	18	5
4	22	6
5	28	7

{1, 2, 5}: weight = 10, value = 35

{3, 4}: weight = 11, value = 40

{4, 5}: weight = 13, value = 50



Knapsack

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Algorithm:

How could we approach this?

Greedy?

ILP?

Flow Network?

Dynamic Program?

Item	Value	Weight
1	11	6
2	11	6
3	20	10

$$W = 12$$

Knapsack – Dynamic Programming

Knapsack: Given a set of n items with values v_1, \dots, v_n and weights w_1, \dots, w_n , select the most valuable combination with total weight $\leq W$.

Algorithm:

Is there optimal substructure?

I.e. If I have an optimal solution to some instance, does that imply an optimal solution to a different instance?