

# CSE 403

Software Engineering

Winter 2023

**Delta Debugging**

# Today

## Delta Debugging

- Motivating example
- The core algorithm
- Live demo
- A little quiz

# This is a crashing test case

```
<td align=left valign=top>
<SELECT NAME="op sys" MULTIPLE SIZE=7>
<OPTION VALUE="All">All
<OPTION VALUE="Windows 3.1">Windows 3.1
<OPTION VALUE="Windows 95">Windows 95
<OPTION VALUE="Windows 98">Windows 98
<OPTION VALUE="Windows ME">Windows ME
<OPTION VALUE="Windows 2000">Windows 2000
<OPTION VALUE="Windows NT">Windows NT
<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 7">Mac System 7
<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 7.5">Mac System 7.5
<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 7.6.1">Mac System 7.6.1
<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 8.0">Mac System 8.0
<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 8.5">Mac System 8.5
<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 8.6">Mac System 8.6
<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 9.x">Mac System 9.x
<OPTION VALUE="MacOS X">MacOS X
<OPTION VALUE="Linux">Linux
<OPTION VALUE="BSDI">BSDI
<OPTION VALUE="FreeBSD">FreeBSD
<OPTION VALUE="NetBSD">NetBSD
<OPTION VALUE="OpenBSD">OpenBSD
<OPTION VALUE="AIX">AIX
<OPTION VALUE="BeOS">BeOS
<OPTION VALUE="HP-UX">HP-UX
<OPTION VALUE="IRIX">IRIX
<OPTION VALUE="Neutrino">Neutrino
<OPTION VALUE="OpenVMS">OpenVMS
<OPTION VALUE="OS/2">OS/2
<OPTION VALUE="OSF/1">OSF/1
<OPTION VALUE="Solaris">Solaris
<OPTION VALUE="SunOS">SunOS
<OPTION VALUE="other">other</SELECT></td>
<td align=left valign=top>
<SELECT NAME="priority" MULTIPLE SIZE=7>
<OPTION VALUE="-" --><OPTION VALUE="P1">P1<OPTION VALUE="P2">P2<OPTION
VALUE="P3">P3<OPTION VALUE="P4">P4<OPTION
VALUE="P5">P5</SELECT>
</td>
<td align=left valign=top>
<SELECT NAME="bug severity" MULTIPLE SIZE=7>
<OPTION VALUE="blocker">blocker<OPTION VALUE="critical">critical<OPTION
VALUE="major">major<OPTION
VALUE="normal">normal<OPTION VALUE="minor">minor<OPTION
VALUE="trivial">trivial<OPTION VALUE="enhancement">enhancement</SELECT>
</tr>
</table>
```

- Crashed Mozilla
- What content is sufficient to expose the bug?

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</tr>
</table>
```

- Crashed Mozilla
- What content is sufficient to expose the bug?
- A minimal test case is: **<SELECT>**
- Can we automate the process of minimizing test cases?
- What's the naive approach for an **optimal** solution?

# Minimizing test cases

Test case

Test case

Test case

**Think of each test case as an input file with n lines.**

# Minimizing test cases

Test case

**Failing**

Test case

**Passing**

Test case

**Passing**

# Minimizing test cases

Test case

**Failing**

Test case

**Passing**

Test case

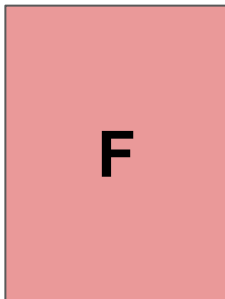
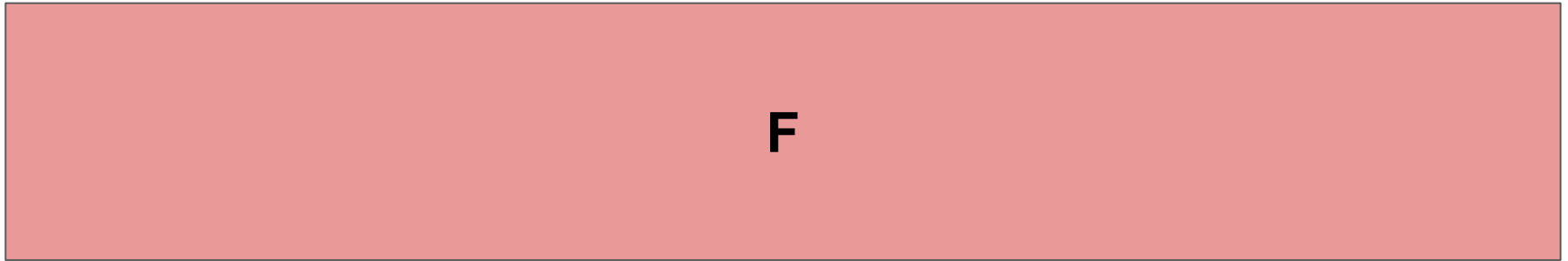
**Passing**

**Goal: Minimize the failing test case**

# The happy path: binary search



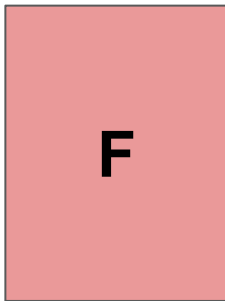
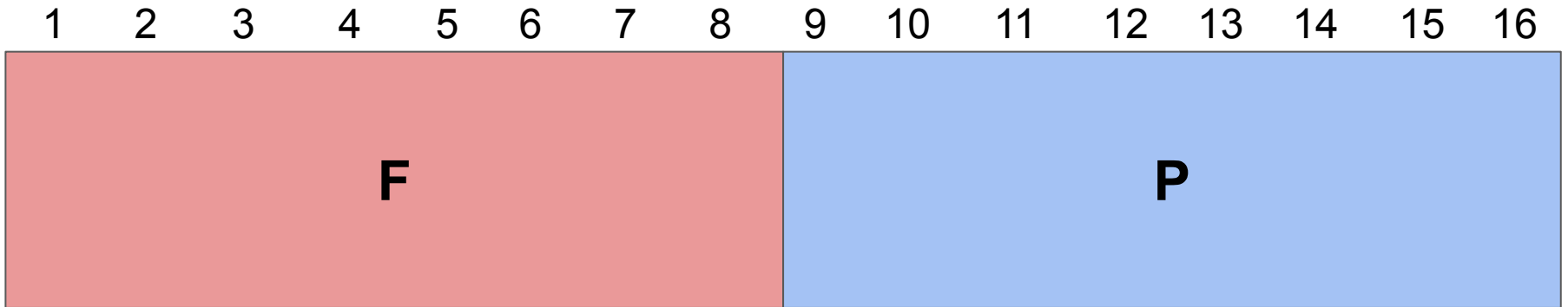
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16



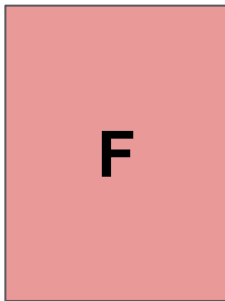
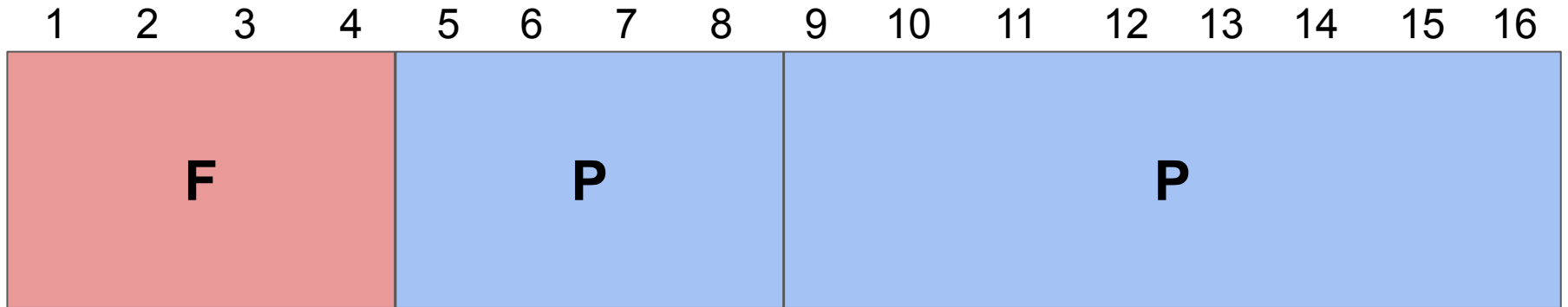
**Failing test with 16 lines.  
The minimal test has 2 lines.**



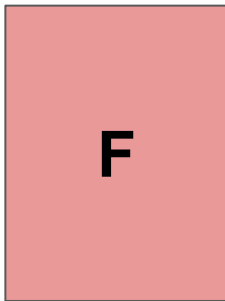
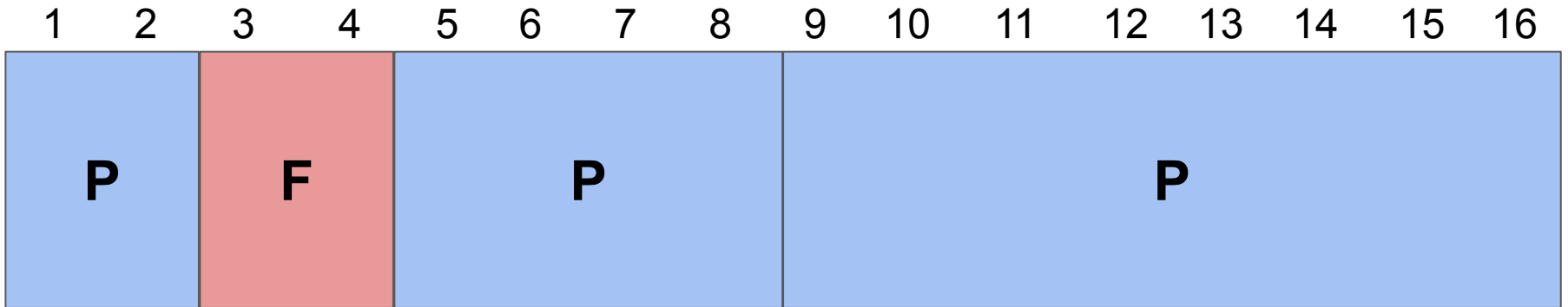
# The happy path: binary search



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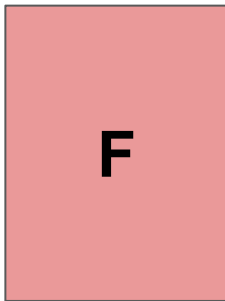
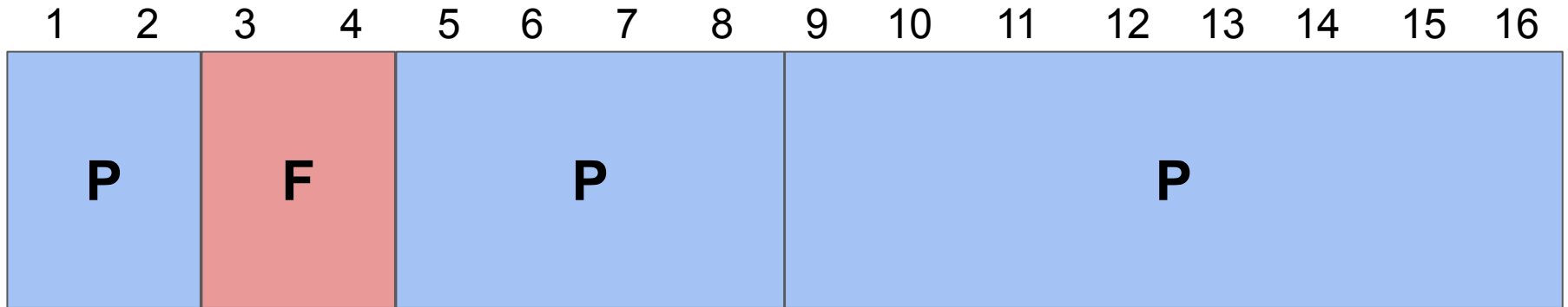


# The happy path: binary search



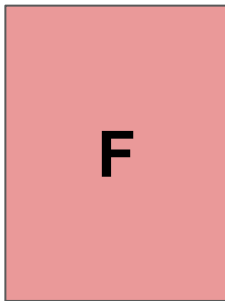
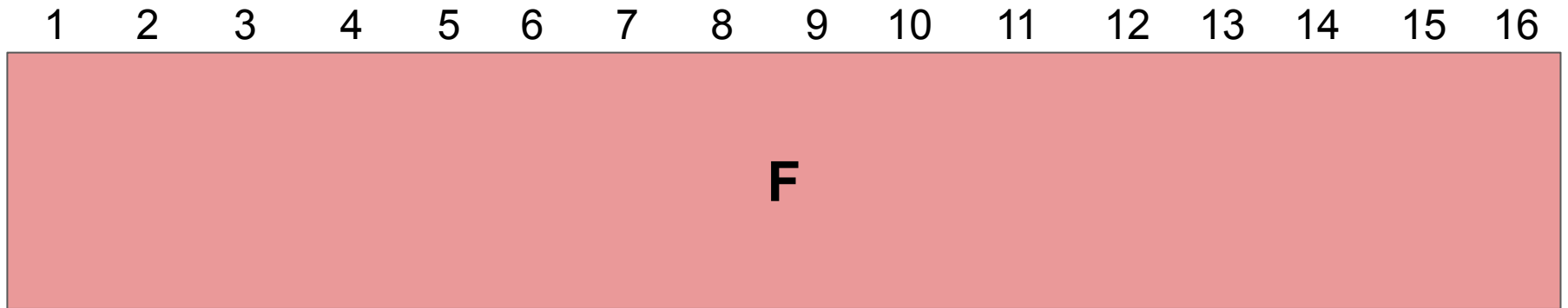


# The happy path: binary search



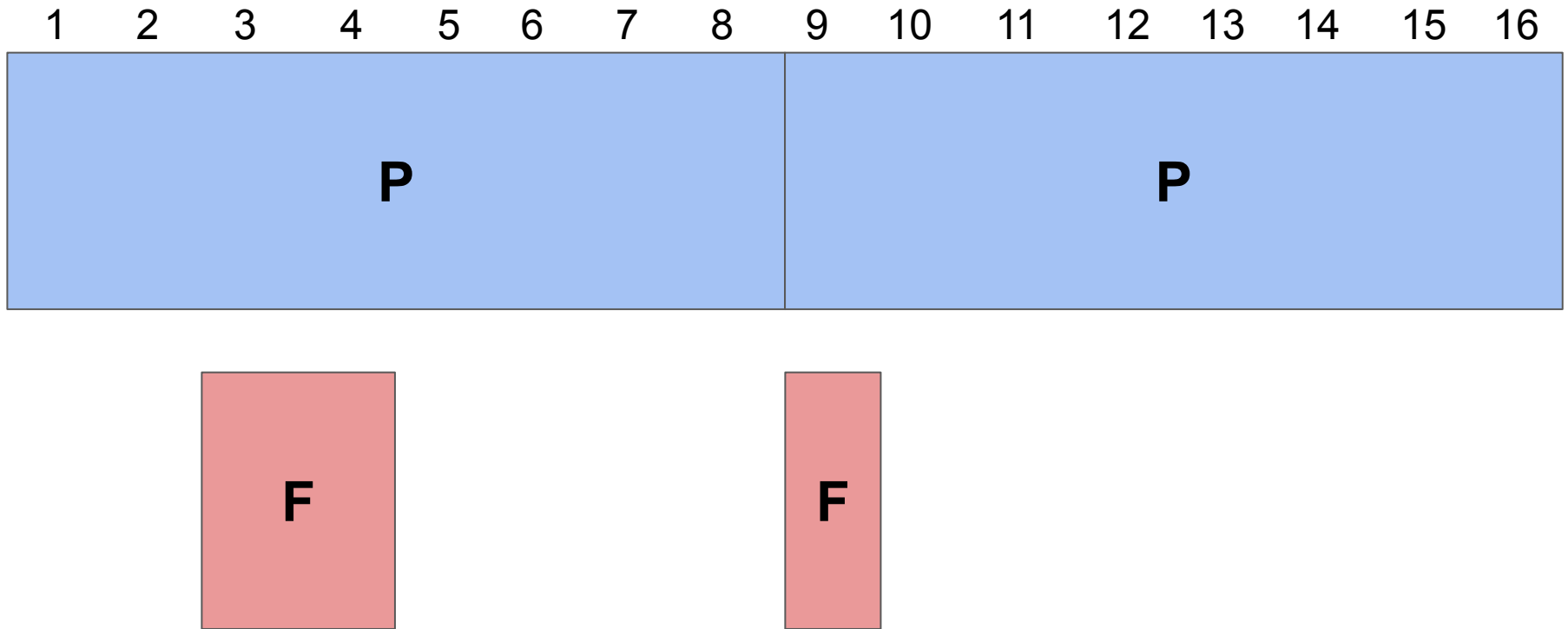
**Successfully minimized the failing test to 2 lines**

The not so happy path...



**Suppose the failure pattern is more complex  
(all three lines must exist in a failing test case).**

# The not so happy path...



**Binary search does not give optimal results.**

**Delta debugging: binary search + X**



# The DD algorithm

## Minimizing Delta Debugging Algorithm

Let  $test$  and  $c_{\mathbf{x}}$  be given such that  $test(\emptyset) = \checkmark \wedge test(c_{\mathbf{x}}) = \mathbf{X}$  hold.

The goal is to find  $c'_{\mathbf{x}} = dmin(c_{\mathbf{x}})$  such that  $c'_{\mathbf{x}} \subseteq c_{\mathbf{x}}$ ,  $test(c'_{\mathbf{x}}) = \mathbf{X}$ , and  $c'_{\mathbf{x}}$  is 1-minimal.

The *minimizing Delta Debugging algorithm*  $dmin(c)$  is

$dmin(c_{\mathbf{x}}) = dmin_2(c_{\mathbf{x}}, 2)$  where

$$dmin_2(c'_{\mathbf{x}}, n) = \begin{cases} dmin_2(\Delta_i, 2) & \text{if } \exists i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \cdot test(\Delta_i) = \mathbf{X} \text{ (“reduce to subset”)} \\ dmin_2(\nabla_i, \max(n-1, 2)) & \text{else if } \exists i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \cdot test(\nabla_i) = \mathbf{X} \text{ (“reduce to complement”)} \\ dmin_2(c'_{\mathbf{x}}, \min(|c'_{\mathbf{x}}|, 2n)) & \text{else if } n < |c'_{\mathbf{x}}| \text{ (“increase granularity”)} \\ c'_{\mathbf{x}} & \text{otherwise (“done”).} \end{cases}$$

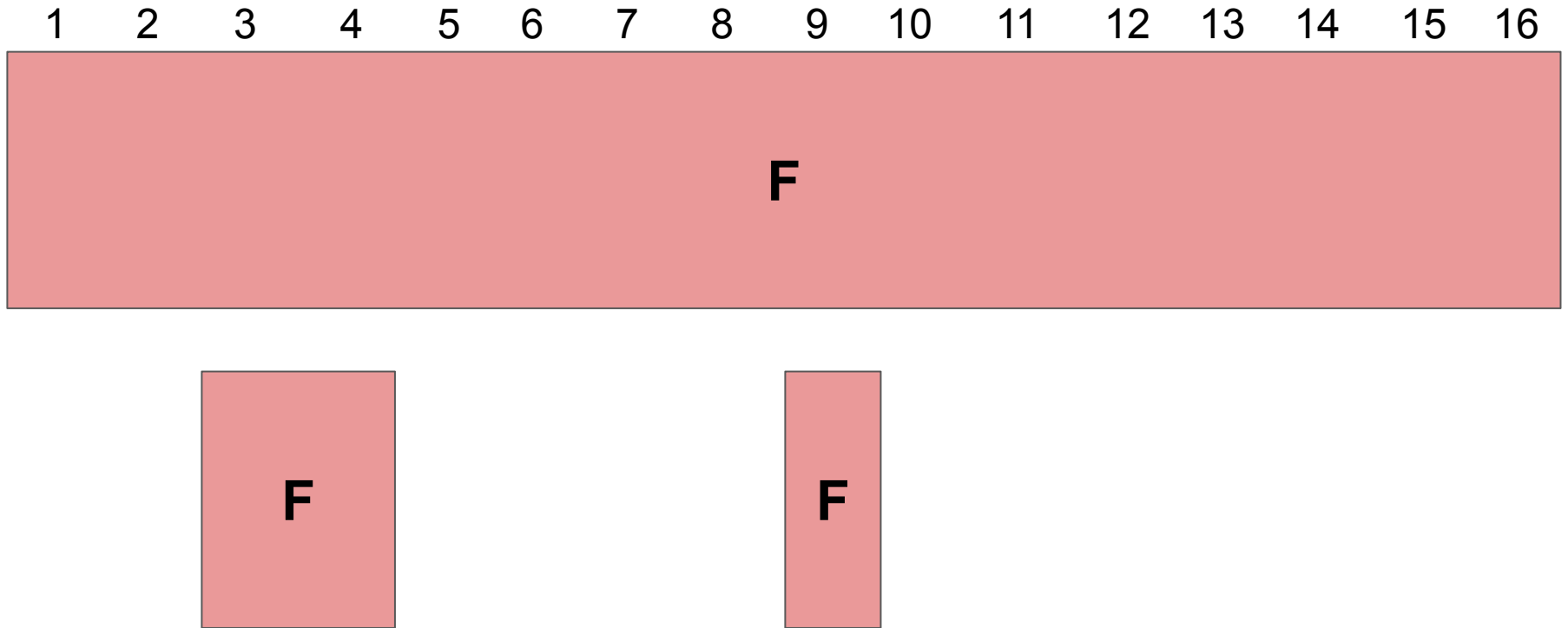
where  $\nabla_i = c'_{\mathbf{x}} - \Delta_i$ ,  $c'_{\mathbf{x}} = \Delta_1 \cup \Delta_2 \cup \dots \cup \Delta_n$ , all  $\Delta_i$  are pairwise disjoint, and  $\forall \Delta_i \cdot |\Delta_i| \approx |c'_{\mathbf{x}}|/n$  holds.

The recursion invariant (and thus precondition) for  $dmin_2$  is  $test(c'_{\mathbf{x}}) = \mathbf{X} \wedge n \leq |c'_{\mathbf{x}}|$ .

## Four basic steps:

1. Test each subset
2. Test each complement
3. Increase granularity
4. Reduce

# Delta Debugging: mostly binary search



# Delta Debugging: mostly binary search

$\Delta_1$

$\Delta_2$

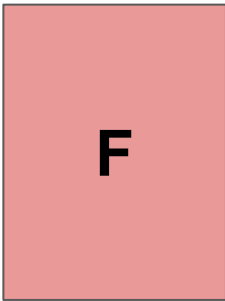
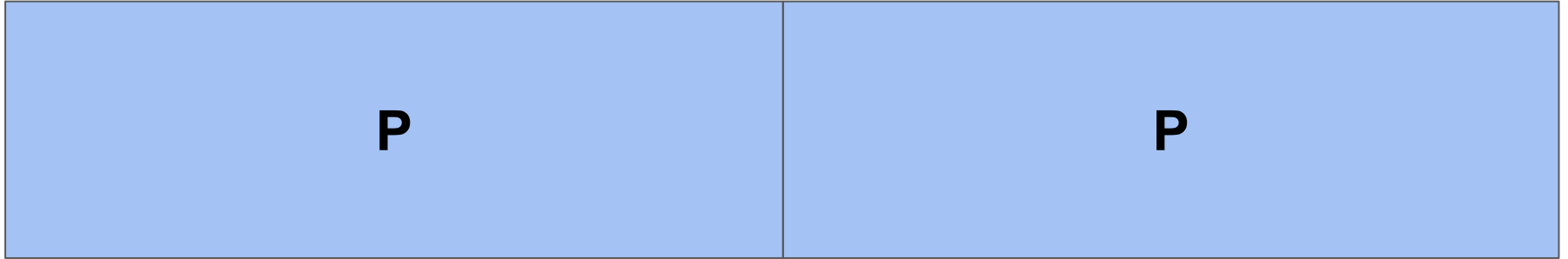
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

**P**

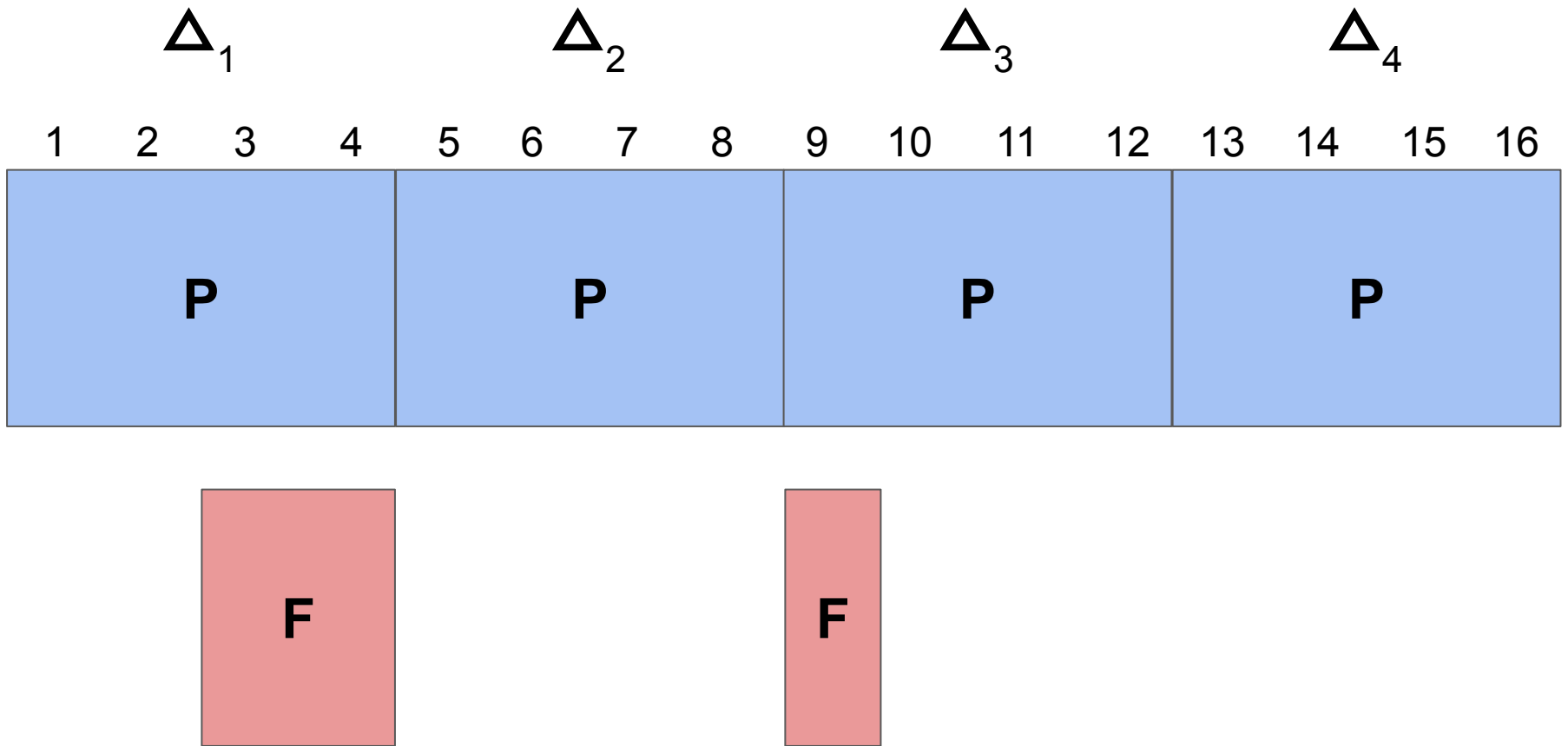
**P**

**F**

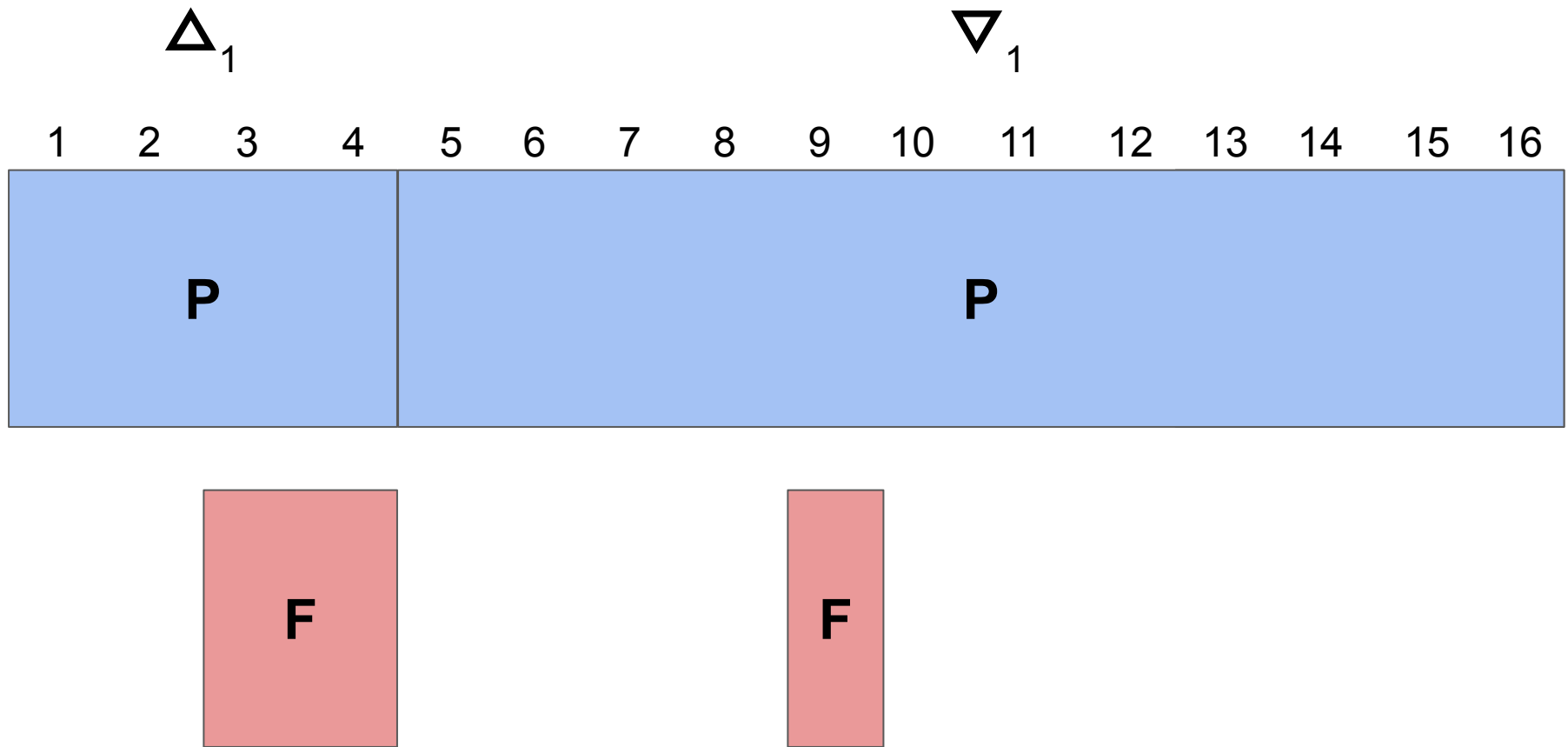
**F**



# Delta Debugging: granularity

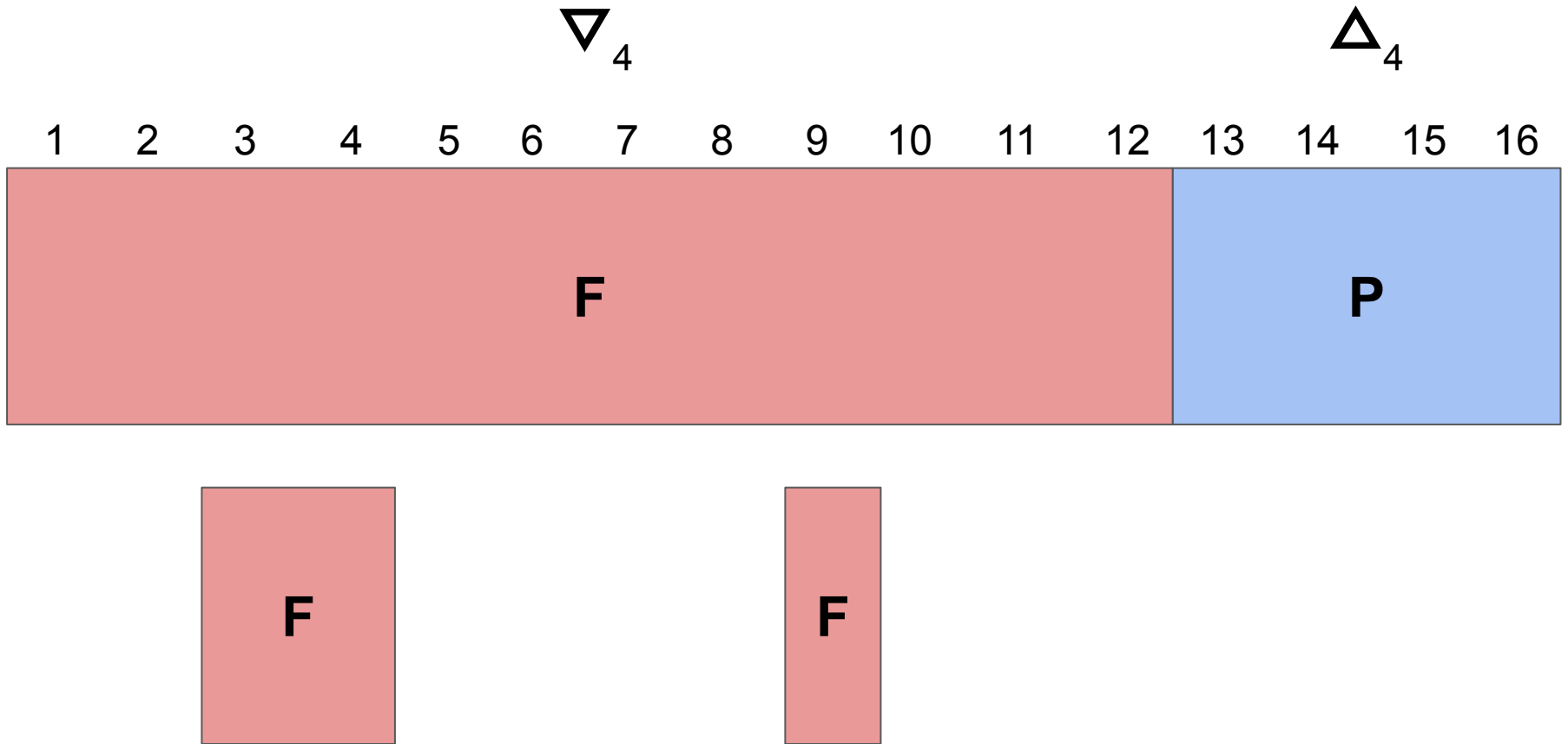


# Delta Debugging: complements

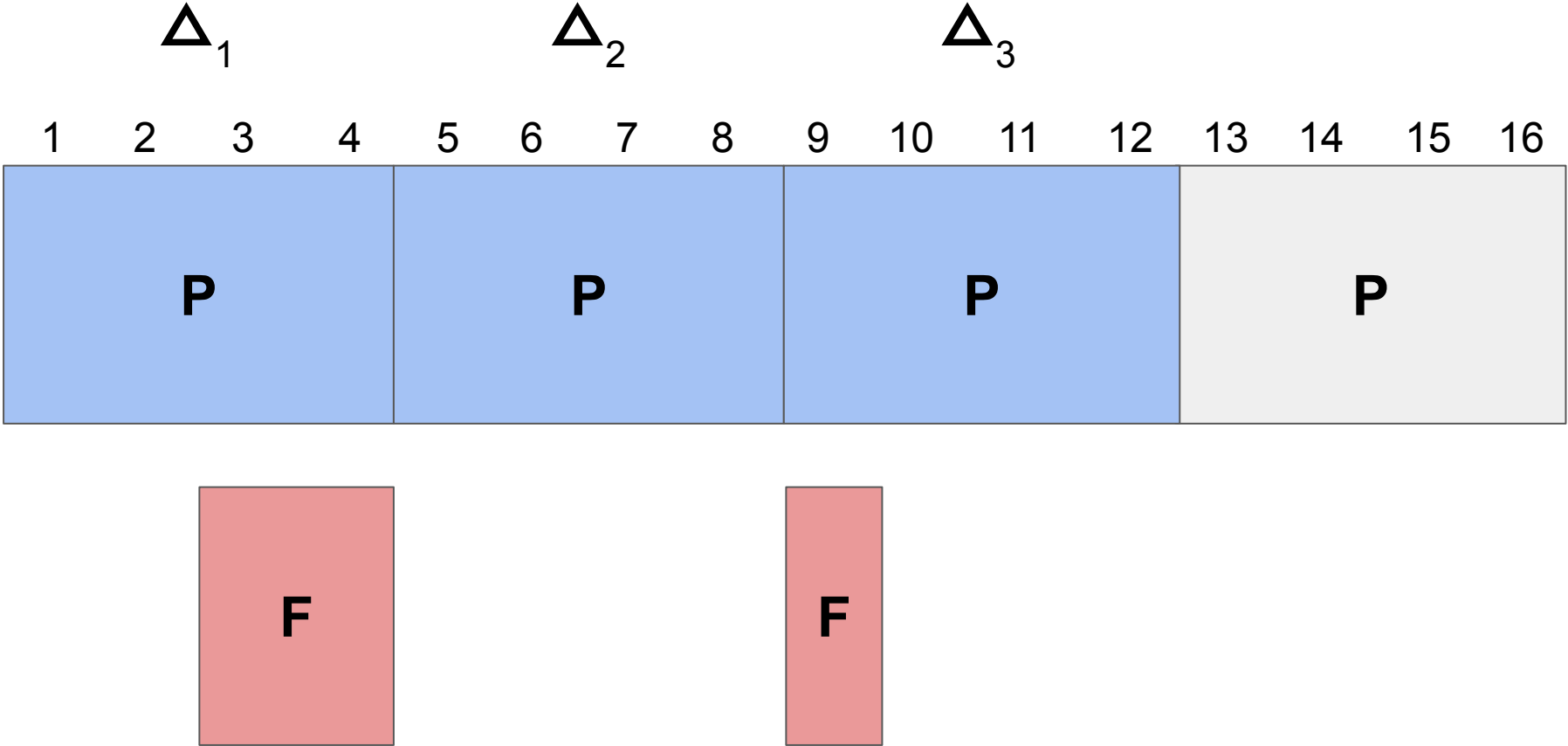


**The order in which deltas and complements are evaluated may differ between implementations of the algorithm.**

# Delta Debugging: complements



# Delta Debugging: reduce



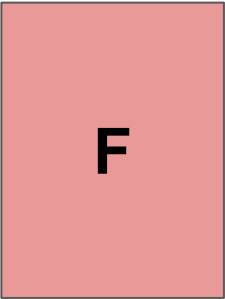
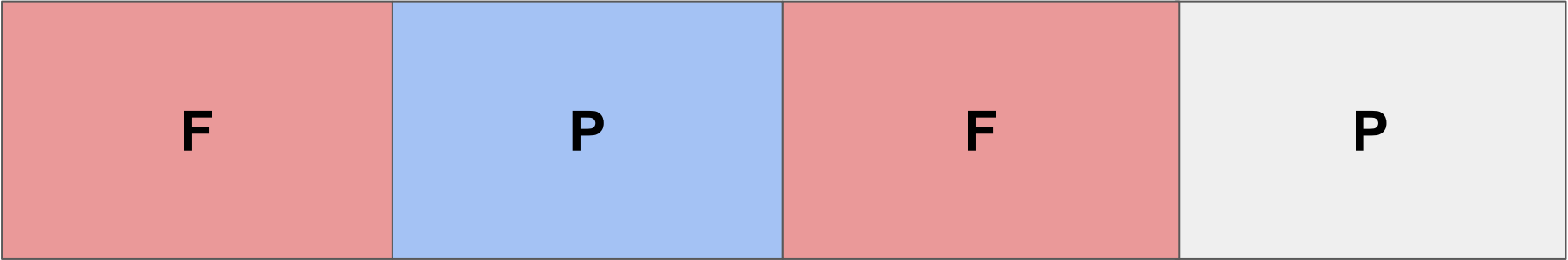
# Delta Debugging: complements

$\nabla_2$

$\Delta_2$

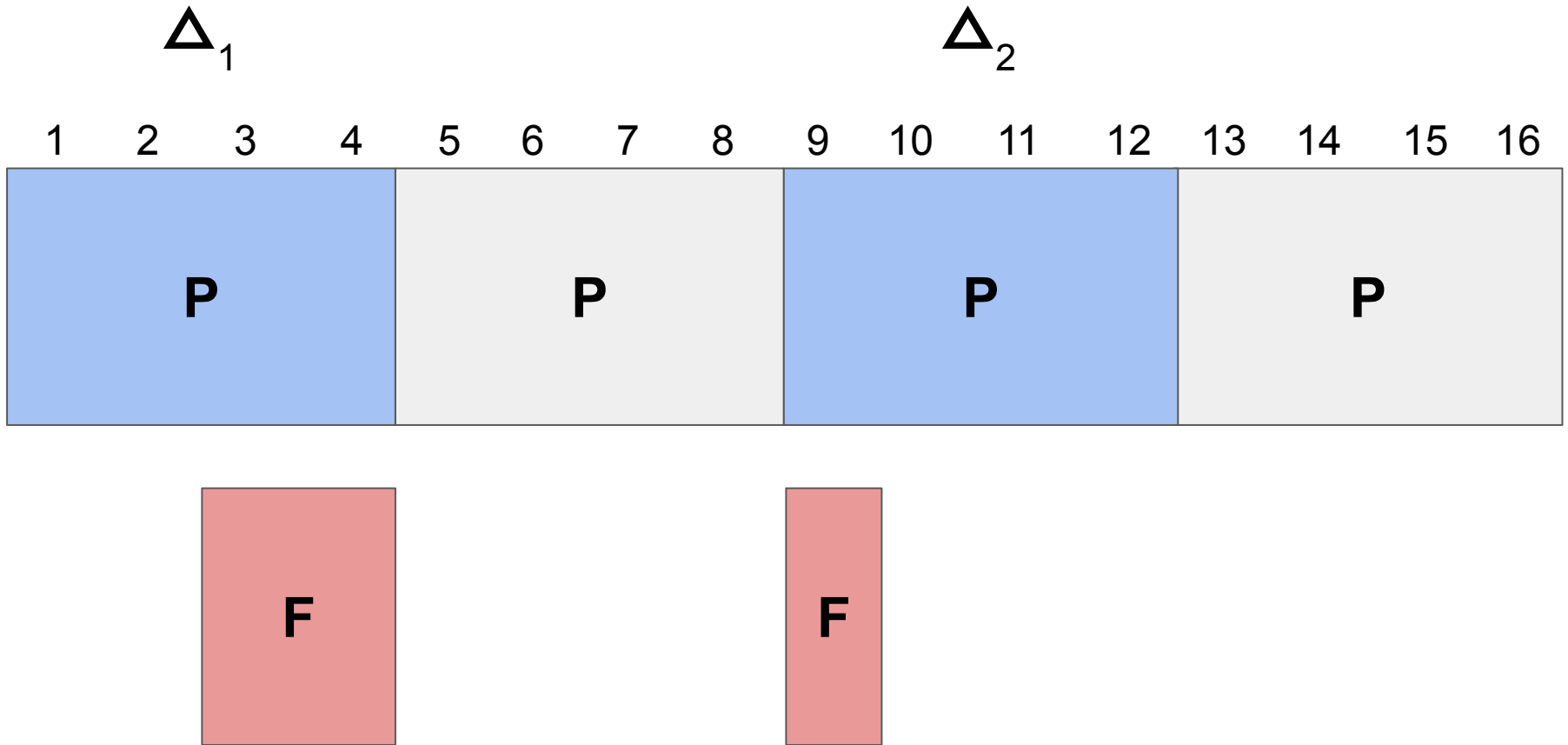
$\nabla_2$

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

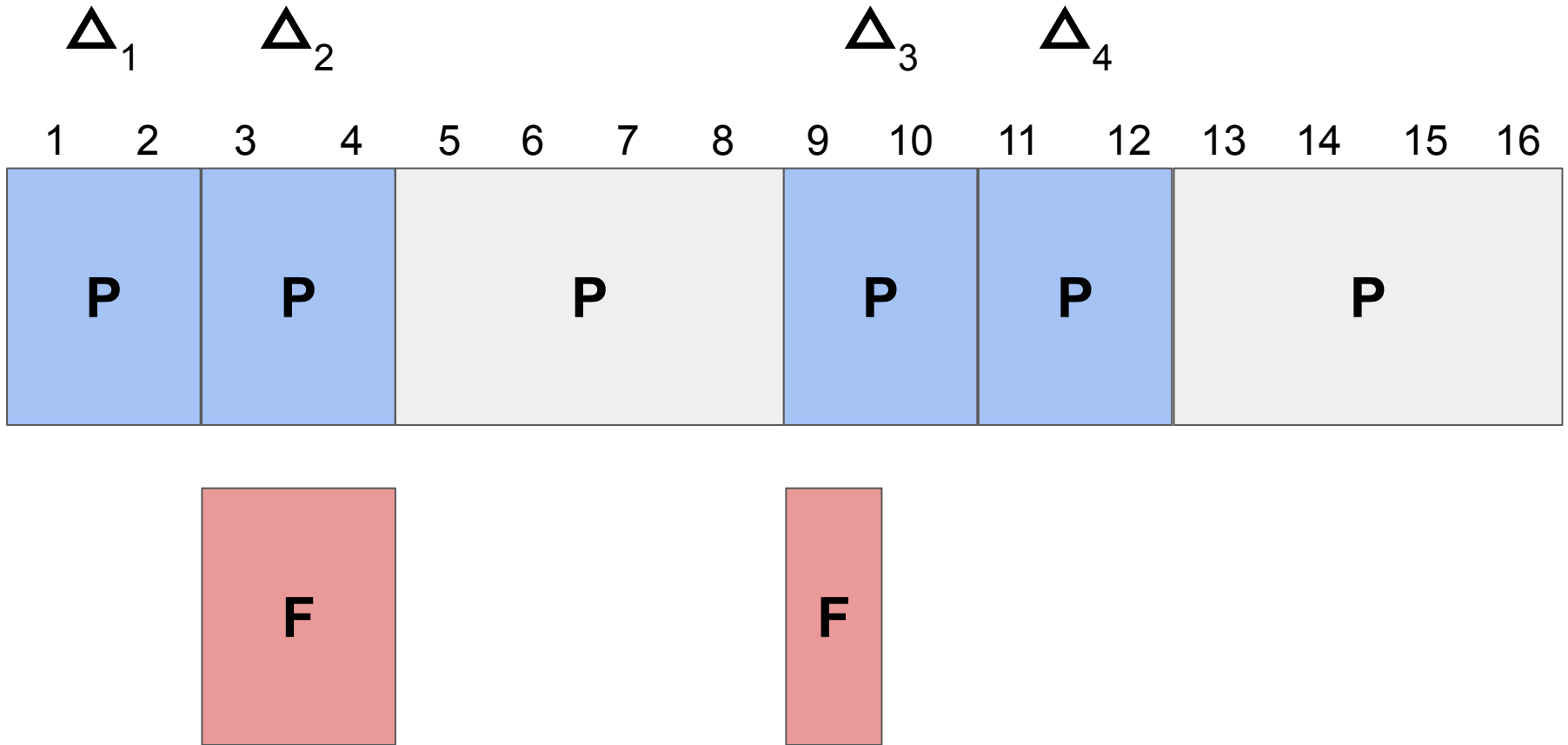




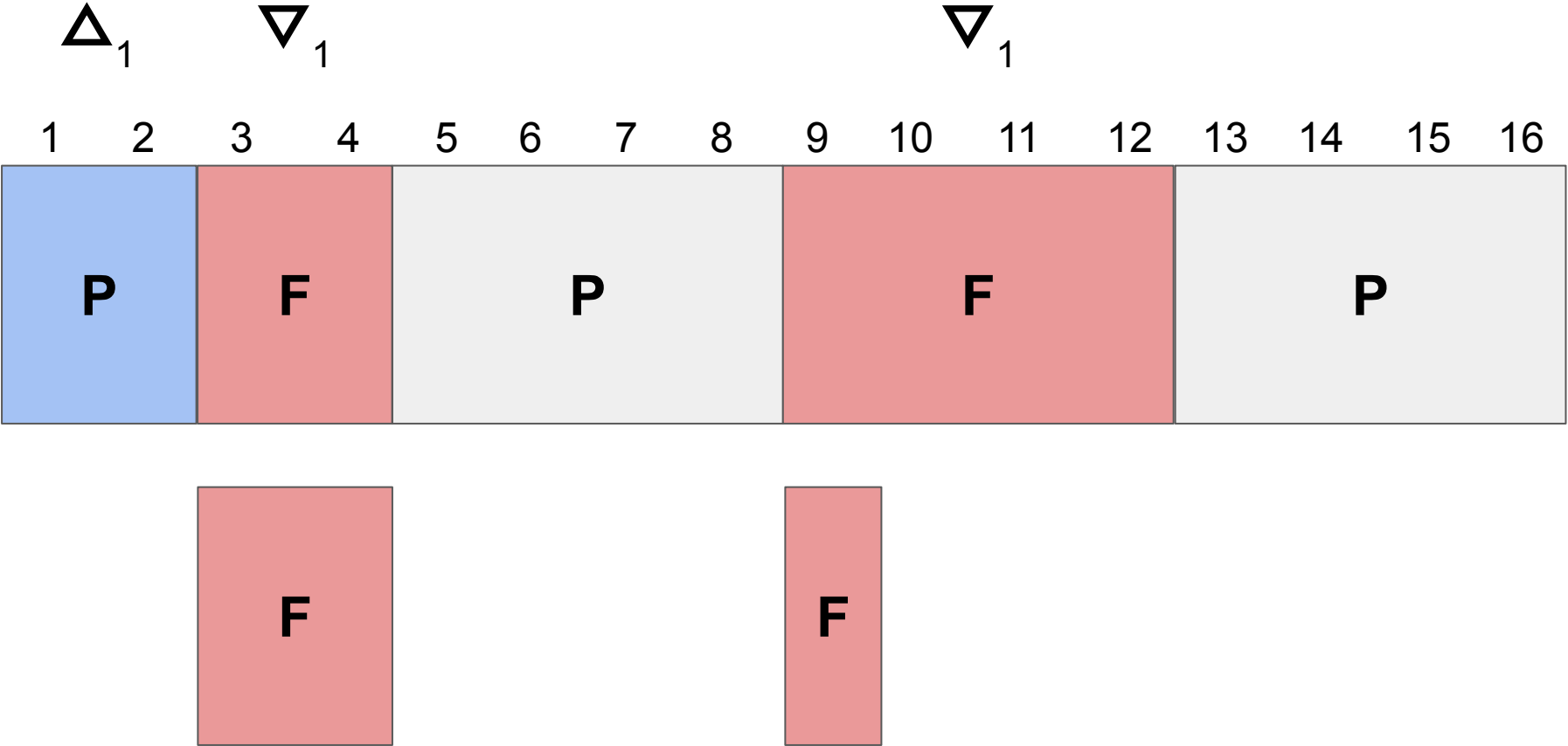
# Delta Debugging: reduce



# Delta Debugging: granularity

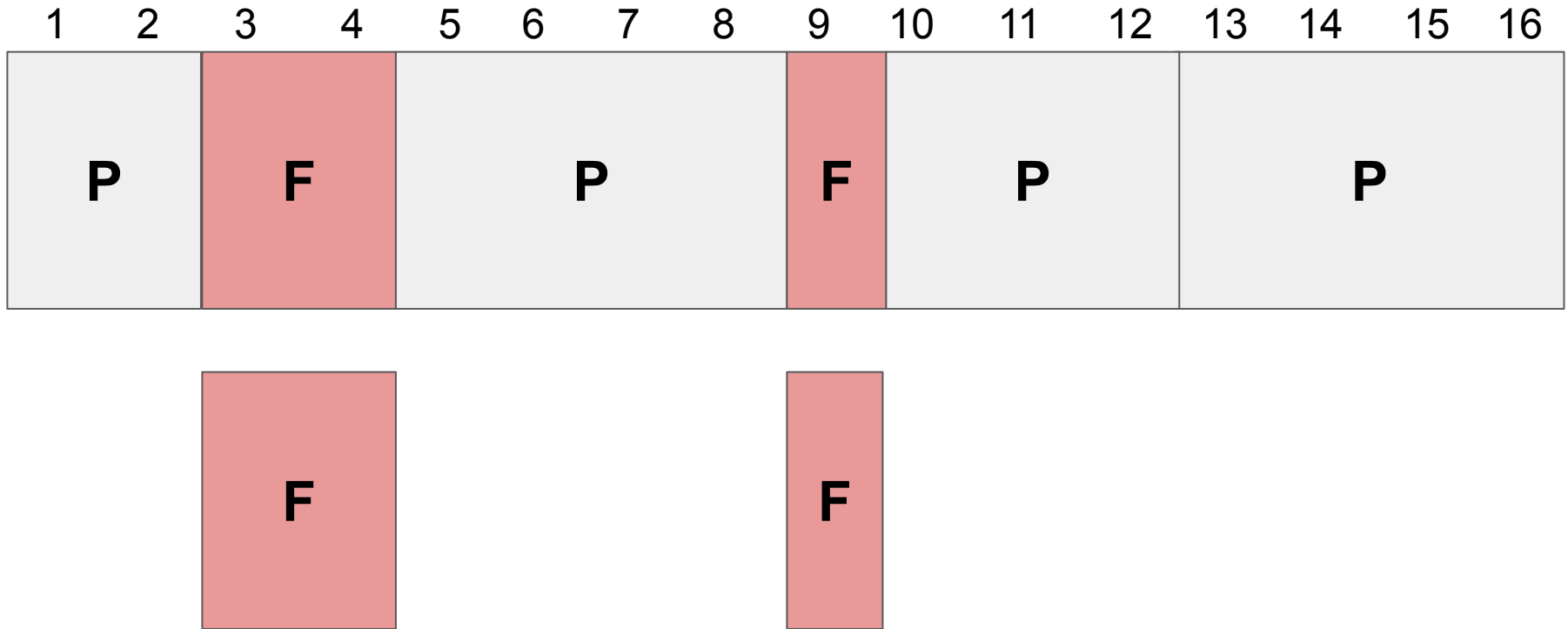


# Delta Debugging: complements



And so on...

# Delta Debugging: 1-minimality



**Failing test cases must be deterministic and monotone.**

# **Delta debugging: live example**

# Delta Debugging: live example

## Program and initial test case

- Program ***P*** **crashes** whenever the input contains **1 7 8**
- **Initial crashing test case** is: **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8**

## Recall the basic approach:

1. Test each subset
2. Test each complement
3. Increase granularity
4. Reduce

**Example taken from this week's reading.**

# **Delta debugging: exercise**

# A little exercise



## Program and initial test case

- Program  $P$  takes as **input a list of integers  $L$** .
- $P$  **crashes** whenever  $L$  contains **4,2**.
- **Initial crashing test case** is: **2,4,2,4**

## Complete the following table

Iteration	$n$	input	$\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_n$ $\nabla_1, \dots, \nabla_n$
1	2	2424	...
2	...	...	...



# A little exercise



## Program and initial test case

- Program  $P$  takes as input a list of integers  $L$ .
- $P$  crashes whenever  $L$  contains 4,2.
- Initial crashing test case is: 2,4,2,4

## Complete the following table

Iteration	n	input	$\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_n$ $\nabla_1, \dots, \nabla_n$
1	2	2424	24, (24)
2	4	2424	2, 4, (2), (4), <b>424</b> , (224), (244), (242)
3	3	424	(4), (2), (4), (24), 44, <b>42</b>
4	2	42	(4),( 2)