

Question 1 (Knapsack, 30 points). Consider the knapsack problem where you are allowed to take items more than once, have a total capacity of 10 and have the following items available:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Value</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>16</i>

What is the best combination of items to take?

Running the dynamic program covered in class we get the following table:

Capacity	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	0	0	4	5	9	10	13	16	18	20	22

Working backwards, we find that 22 can be achieved either as a copy of *A* and items of weight 8 or item *C* plus items of weight 6. We consider the former case. The 18 for items of weight 8 can only be achieved by a copy of item *C* plus items of weight 4, and the optimum there can only be achieved by a single copy of *C*. Thus, the best combination of items is one copy of *A* and two copies of *C*.

Question 2 (Business Plan I, 35 points). *Harold is starting a new business. He begins with \$0 in capital and wants it to be worth as much as possible at the end of n weeks, at which point he plans to sell. In order to get there, he has k different strategies he can use to make money. Each strategy takes one week to implement, and can be used multiple times as needed. If Harold has x dollars at the start of a week and implements the i^{th} strategy that week, he will have $f_i(x)$ dollars at the end of that week for some increasing function f_i (meaning that $f_i(x) \geq f_i(y)$ whenever $x \geq y$).*

Harold has a simple plan for determining which strategies to use in which order. Each week he will note the number of dollars, x , that he has at the start of the week, and implement the plan with $f_i(x)$ as large as possible. Prove that this strategy gets Harold as much money as possible by the end of the n^{th} week.

We prove by induction on t that this strategy has at least as much money at the end of week t as any other strategy. For a base case we use $t = 0$ and note that all strategies have 0 dollars at the start. Assuming that we know that our strategy has the greatest possible amount of money, x , at the end of week t , we will show that it has the greatest amount of money at the end of week $t + 1$. Suppose that Harold's strategy uses the i^{th} strategy on week $t + 1$ to end with $f_i(x)$ dollars. Suppose that another schedule ends with y dollars at the end of week t and uses the j^{th} strategy during week $t + 1$ to end with $f_j(y)$ dollars. We have that $f_i(x) \geq f_j(x)$ by the method that Harold used to select i . We have that $x \geq y$ by the inductive hypothesis. We therefore, have that $f_j(x) \geq f_j(y)$ since f is increasing. Therefore $f_i(x) \geq f_j(x) \geq f_j(y)$, proving our inductive hypothesis.

Question 3 (Business Plan II, 35 points). *The setup of this problem is similar to that in question 2. Please read that question first.*

Harold later realizes that things are not quite as predictable as he had previously thought. He determines that implementing plan i in a given week has a probability $p_{i,j}$ of earning him j dollars (adding j to his current amount of money) over the course of that week for each integer j between 0 and m . Harold starts with 0 dollars and his goal is to maximize the probability that he will have at least m dollars at the end of n weeks.

Give an algorithm that given n, m and all of the $p_{i,j}$ computes the maximum possible probability with which Harold can achieve this goal. For full credit, your algorithm should run in time $O(nm^2k)$ where k is the number of possible strategies available.

We let $B(d, t)$ be the best probability that Harold can achieve if he has d dollars at the end of week t . We note that $B(d, n)$ is 0 if $d < m$ and 1 otherwise (since at this point, he either has enough money or doesn't). We also know that $B(d, t) = 1$ if $d \geq m$. Otherwise, if Harold has d dollars at the end of week t and uses the i^{th} strategy on week $t + 1$ he will have $d + j$ dollars with probability $p_{i,j}$. If he uses the optimal strategy from then onwards, his probability of success will be $B(d + j, t + 1)$. Thus, Harold's overall probability of success will be $\sum_{j=1}^m p_{i,j} B(d + j, t + 1)$.

This means that in order to optimize his probability of success, Harold should use the strategy i that maximizes $\sum_{j=1}^m p_{i,j} B(d + j, t + 1)$. Thus, $B(d, t) = \max_i (\sum_{j=1}^m p_{i,j} B(d + j, t + 1))$. This gives rise to the natural dynamic program

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BestOutcome(n,m,p)
  Create Array B[0..2m,0..n]
  For t = n to 0
    For d = 0 to 2m
      If d >= m
        B[d,t] = 1
      Else if t = n
        B[d,t] = 0
      Else
        B[d,t] = Max{sum_j p_{ij} B[d+j,t+1]}
  Return B[0,0]

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To show correctness, we prove that each time $B[d, t]$ is assigned a value, it is assigned the correct value of $B(d, t)$. This can be proved by induction using the base case and recursion proved above. We note that $d + j$ is always at most $2m$ and since we assign values for larger values of t first, $B[d + j, t + 1]$ will always be assigned before $B[d, t]$ is. Thus, $B[0, 0]$ will eventually be assigned the correct probability of success if Harold has no money at the start of week 0.

To analyze runtime, we note that the main loop has $O(nm)$ iterations. Each iteration takes constant time except for the computation of the maximum. Each term in the max is a sum over $O(m)$ things and we need to consider $O(k)$ many possible values of i . Therefore, this step can be done in $O(mk)$ time. Thus, the total runtime is $O(nm^2k)$.