

Problem 1. Fractional Knapsack (greedy algorithm). There are n items I_1, \dots, I_n . Item I_i has weight w_i and worth v_i . All these items can be broken into smaller pieces. We have a knapsack with capacity S and want to pack this knapsack with the maximum value. So we may decide to carry only a fraction x_i of item I_i where $0 \leq x_i \leq 1$. Example: if $S = 10$, $w_1 = 5$, $v_1 = 2$, $w_2 = 6$, $v_2 = 1$, $w_3 = 4$, $v_3 = 3$, then the optimal value we can get occurs when we take 4 units of the item 3 (worth 3), 5 units of item 1 (worth 2), and 1 unit of item 2 (worth 1/6) for a total value of 31/6.

Solution. Sort according to decreasing unit value: $\frac{v_1}{w_1} \geq \frac{v_2}{w_2} \geq \dots \geq \frac{v_n}{w_n}$

Optimality: The optimality is trivial. There are two factors we should consider.

- There is an optimal solution that begins with the item that has the maximum unit value. To prove this, let the item I' has the maximum ratio $\frac{v'}{w'}$. Thus for all items I we have $\frac{v'}{w'} \geq \frac{v}{w}$. Thus, $v' \geq \frac{v \times w'}{w}$. Now assume there is an optimal solution that does not use the full w' weight of I' . Then if we replace any amount of any other item I in the solution with I' , the total value will not decrease.
- Let O be the optimal solution for the original problem P . Moreover, let I be the first greedy choice we make in O . Then $O - I$ is the optimal solution for the subproblem P' after the first greedy choice has been made.

Problem 2. Knapsack with repetition (dynamic programming): page 167, the DPV textbook (in Section 6.4). Note the difference with the classic knapsack problem (knapsack without repetition).

Problem 3. The traveling salesman problem (dynamic programming): pages 173-175, the DPV textbook (in Section 6.6).