

# Dynamic Programming III: Knapsack Problem

# Admin

- Exam distributed after class Friday; can be taken in any 24 hour period **ending at 10.00 am Wednesday** (must be submitted by start of Wednesday's class)
  - LaTeX template will be shared if you wish to use it
  - You may write by hand but must *clearly label answers*
    - The expectation is the same in either case: work out problem on scratch paper, write up final (clean) solution
- Friday we will meet upstairs
  - Activity to practice dynamic programming w.r.t. graphs
  - Also use Friday as a chance to ask questions about anything (including hw solutions)

# Knapsack Problem

Further Reading: [Chapter 6.4, KT](#)

# Knapsack Problem

**Problem.** Pack a knapsack to maximize the total item value

- There are  $n$  items, each with weight  $w_i$  and value  $v_i$ :

$$I = \{(v_1, w_1), \dots, (v_n, w_n)\}$$

- Knapsack has total capacity  $C$
- For any set of items  $T$  they fit in the Knapsack iff

$$\sum_{i \in T} w_i \leq C$$

- **Goal:** Find subset  $S$  of items that fit in the knapsack (satisfy the capacity constraint) **and maximize** the total value:

$$\sum_{i \in S} v_i$$

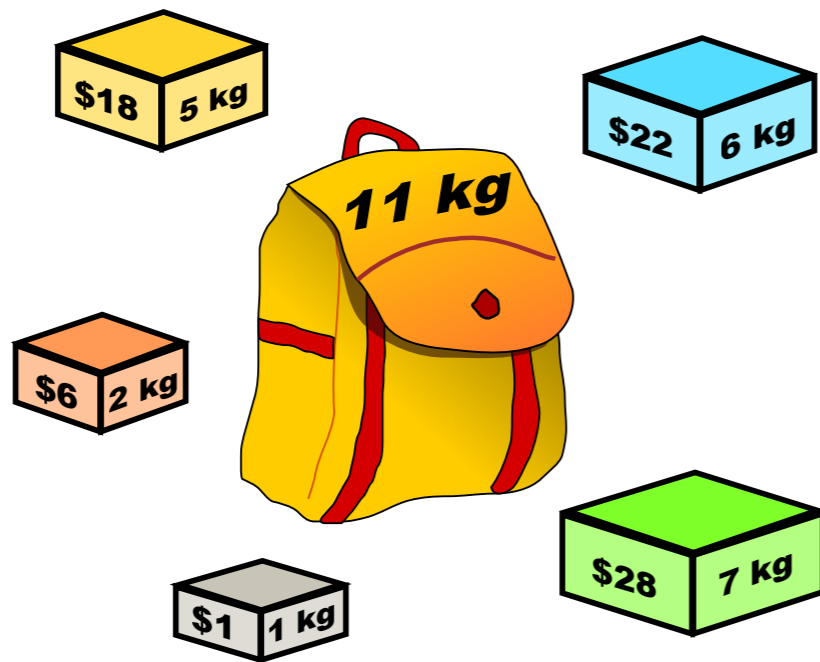
- **Assumption.** All weights and values are non-negative integers

# Knapsack Problem

Let's first explore **greedy** solutions to the problem.

Consider the following problem instance:

- Ideas for what to be greedy about?



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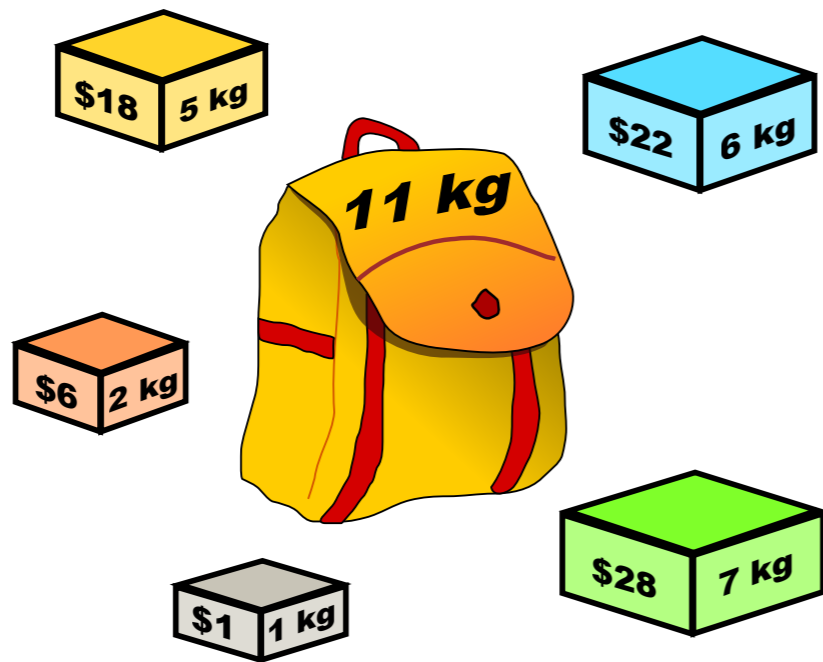
$i$	$v_i$	$w_i$
1	\$1	1 kg
2	\$6	2 kg
3	\$18	5 kg
4	\$22	6 kg
5	\$28	7 kg

Knapsack instance  
(weight limit  $C = 11$  kg)

# Knapsack Problem

Idea 1: Pick the most expensive stuff we can!

- **Algorithm:** greedily pick the highest value item that fits.



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Total value: \$35  
Utilized capacity: 10 kg

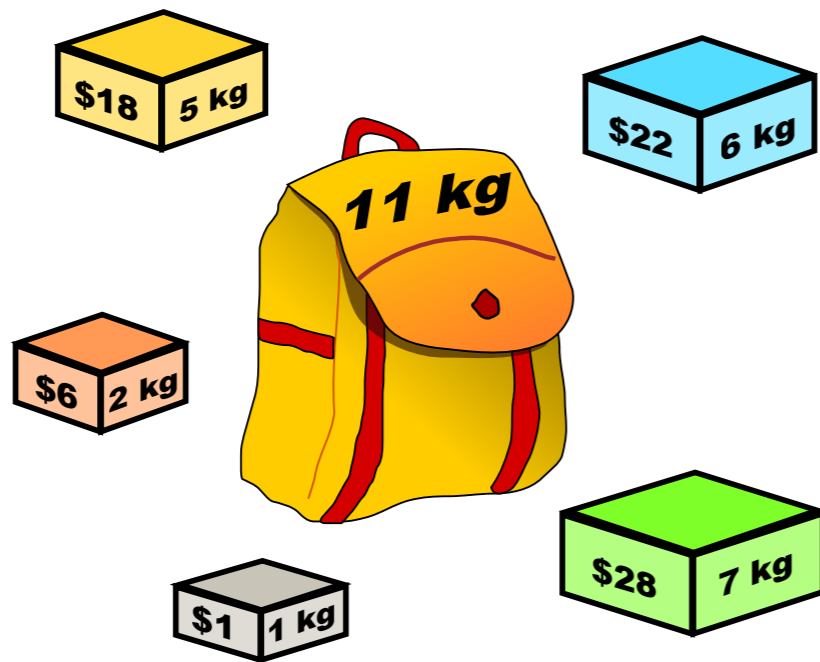
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Knapsack instance  
(weight limit  $C = 11$  kg)

# Knapsack Problem

Idea 2: Pick the lightest stuff we can!

- **Algorithm:** greedily pick the lowest weight item that fits.



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Total value: \$25  
Utilized capacity: 9 kg

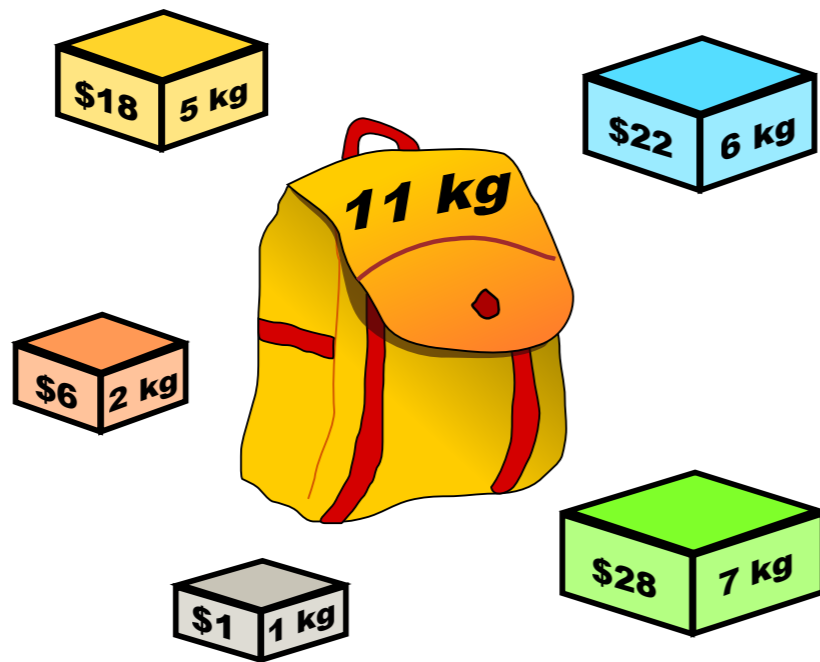
$i$	$v_i$	$w_i$
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Knapsack instance  
(weight limit  $C = 11$  kg)

# Knapsack Problem

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Knapsack instance  
(weight limit  $C = 11$  kg)



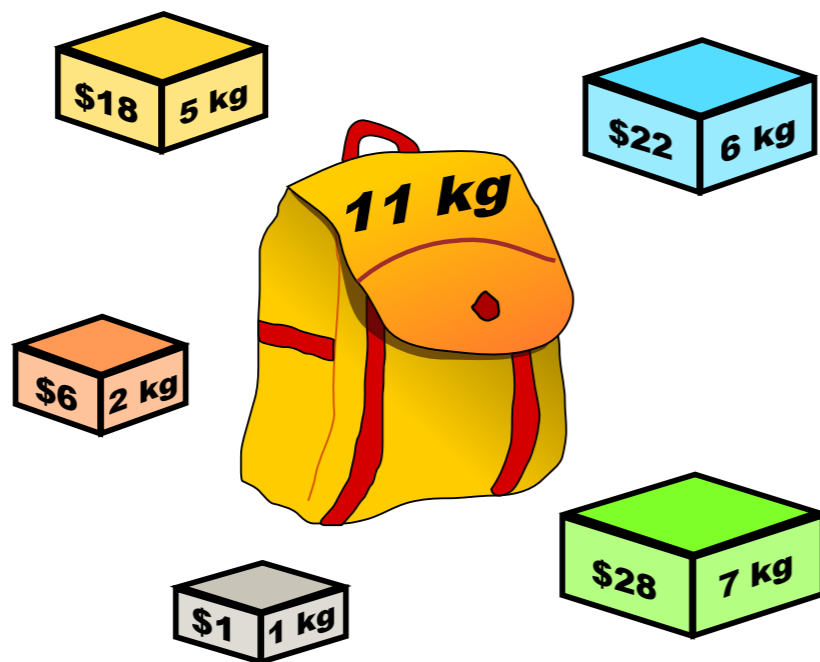
# Knapsack Problem

Other ideas?

**Spoiler: Greedy doesn't work!** What is optimal in this instance?

- Optimal packing is  $\{i_3, i_4\}$ : value \$40 (and weight 11)

How many packings must we consider in an **exhaustive** search?



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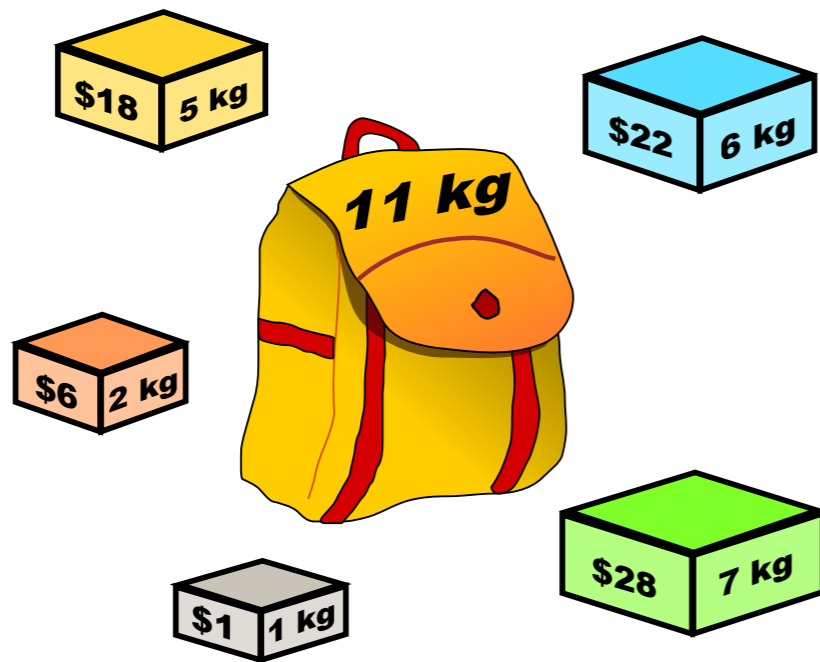
$i$	$v_i$	$w_i$
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5	\$28	7 kg

knapsack instance  
(weight limit  $W = 11$ )

# Exponential Possibilities

Given  $S$  items, how many subsets of items are there in total?

- $2^S$ : there are an exponential number of possibilities
- Dynamic programming trades off space for time, and through memoization, we get an (interestingly) efficient solution!



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$i$	$v_i$	$w_i$
1	\$1	1 kg
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3	\$18	5 kg
4	\$22	6 kg
5	\$28	7 kg

**knapsack instance**  
**(weight limit  $W = 11$ )**

# Recipe for a Dynamic Program

- **Formulate the right subproblem.** The subproblem must have an optimal substructure
- **Formulate the recurrence.** Identify how the result of the smaller subproblems can lead to that of a larger subproblem
- **State the base case(s).** The subproblem that's so small we know the answer to it immediately!
- **State the final answer.** (In terms of the subproblem)
- **Choose a memoization data structure.** Where are you going to store already computed results? (Usually a table)
- **Identify evaluation order.** Identify the dependencies: which subproblems depend on which ones? Using these dependencies, identify an evaluation order
- **Analyze space and running time.** As always!

# Towards a Subproblem

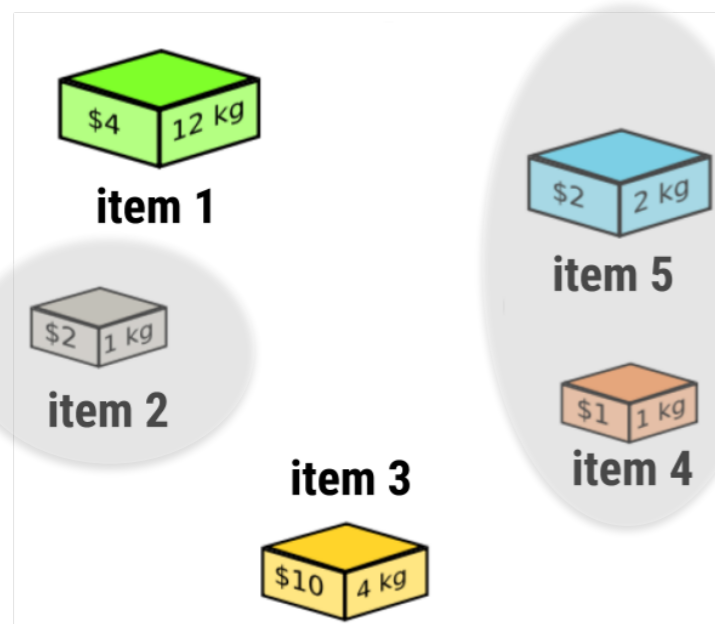
Previously, our DP has tracked a **value** instead of a **set**.

- **Idea 1**: Keep track of **current capacity**
- **Subproblem**. Let  $T[c]$  denote the **value** of the optimal solution that uses capacity  $\leq c$ .
- **Optimal solution**:  $T[C]$
- **Recurrence**: Not obvious with just capacities.
  - Why is this a challenge?

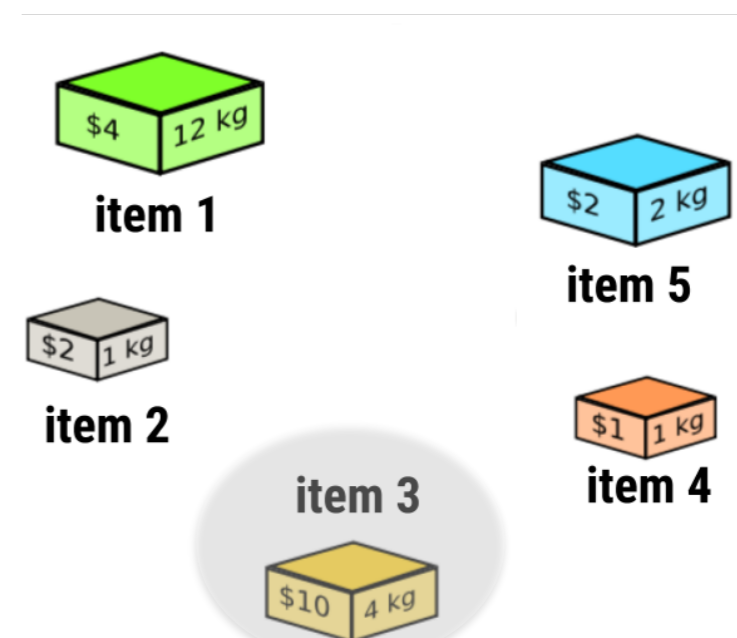
# Subproblems and Optimality

When items are selected, we need to fill the remaining capacity optimally

- **Challenge:** the subproblem associated with a given remaining capacity can be solved in different ways



Partial Selection #1



Partial Selection #2

- In both cases, remaining capacity: 11 kg, but items left are different
  - Using just capacity might not be enough. Perhaps a 2D table can capture capacity *AND* items?

**Subproblem:  
Optimal Substructure**

# Subproblem

## Subproblem

$\text{OPT}(i, c)$ : value of optimal solution using items  $\{1, 2, \dots, i\}$  with total capacity  $\leq c$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq n, 0 \leq c \leq C$

## Final answer

$\text{OPT}(n, C)$

**Consider all n items,  
consider full capacity C**

# Base Cases

$n \times C$ : Are there any rows/columns can we fill immediately?

- What about the first column corresponding to item 1?

$\text{OPT}(1, c)$ : Value of optimal solution that uses item 1 and has total capacity at most  $c$

- For  $i = 1; c \in \{1, 2, \dots, C\}$  we can fill out the first column as:

$$\text{OPT}(1, c) = v_1 \text{ if } c \geq w_1$$

**Item 1 fits, add its value  $v_1$**

$$\text{OPT}(1, c) = 0 \text{ if } c < w_1$$

**Item 1 does not fit, value of empty knapsack is 0**



# Base Cases

Are there any rows/columns can we fill immediately?

- What about the first row corresponding to capacity  $0$ ?
- $\text{OPT}(i, 0)$ : Value of optimal solution that uses first  $i$  items and has total capacity at most  $0$
- For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  we can fill out the first row as:

$$\text{OPT}(i, 0) = 0$$

**Items  $1 \dots i$  do not fit, value of empty knapsack is  $0$**

# Optimal Substructure

- $\text{OPT}(i, c)$ : Let us try to construct the optimal solution that uses items  $\{1, 2, \dots, i\}$  and capacity at most  $c$
- What are the possibilities for the last  $i^{\text{th}}$  item:
  - Either item  $i$  is in the optimal solution or not
  - We must consider both cases
- **Case 1.** Suppose item  $i$  is **not** in the optimal solution, what is the optimal way to solve the remaining problem?
  - $\text{OPT}(i, c) = \text{OPT}(i - 1, c)$

**Item  $i$  is left out, use best solution that considers items  $1 \dots (i - 1)$  for the same capacity**

# Optimal Substructure

- $\text{OPT}(i, c)$ : Let us try to construct the optimal solution that uses items  $\{1, 2, \dots, i\}$  and capacity at most  $c$
- What are the possibilities for the last  $i^{\text{th}}$  item:
  - Either item  $i$  is in the optimal solution or not
  - We must consider both cases
- **Case 2.** Suppose item  $i$  **is** in the optimal solution, what is the recurrence of the optimal solution?
  - $\text{OPT}(i, c) = v_i + \text{OPT}(i - 1, c - w_i)$ 
    - This case only possible if  $c \geq w_i$

# Final Recurrence

For  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and  $1 \leq c \leq C$ , we have:

$$\text{OPT}(i, c) = \max\{\text{OPT}(i-1, c), v_i + \text{OPT}(i-1, c - w_i)\}$$

- **Memoization structure:** We store  $\text{OPT}[i, c]$  values in a 2-D array or table using space  $O(nC)$
- **Evaluation order:** In what order should we fill in the table?
  - Row-major order (row-by-row)

# Running Time

- Time to fill out a single table cell?  $O(1)$
- How many cells are there in our table?  $O(nC)$
- Total cost?  $O(nC)$

# Running Time

- Is  $O(nC)$  polynomial? By which I mean polynomial in the *size of the input*
- What is the *input*?  $n$  items, plus  $C$ 
  - We need  $O(n)$  size to store  $n$  items
  - How much space to store  $C$ ?  $\log_2 C$  bits
- Is  $O(nC)$  polynomial?
  - Not polynomial in  $C$ , but polynomial in  $n$
  - “Pseudopolynomial” - polynomial in the *value* of the input
- To think about: does this work if the weights are not integers?

**One table dimension depends on value of input, not input size**

# Recipe for a Dynamic Program

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# Acknowledgments

- Some of the material in these slides are taken from
  - Kleinberg Tardos Slides by Kevin Wayne (<https://www.cs.princeton.edu/~wayne/kleinberg-tardos/pdf/04GreedyAlgorithmsI.pdf>)
  - Jeff Erickson's Algorithms Book (<http://jeffe.cs.illinois.edu/teaching/algorithms/book/Algorithms-JeffE.pdf>)
  - Shikha Singh