

Math 343, lecture 18

① The Knapsack problem

Suppose you have

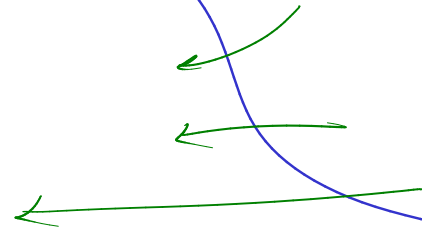
Here are some problems you might want to solve

Knapsack decision problem

Given

and

Does there exist



This problem is just asking for

You might also want

## Knapsack search problem

Given profits  $p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}$   
weights  $w_0, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}$   
max capacity  $M$   
and target profit  $P$

Find

But why choose a target profit in advance - lets find  
the optimal profit

## Knapsack optimal value problem

Given profits  $p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}$   
weights  $w_0, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}$   
and max capacity  $M$

Find

subject to

Again you might actually want the  $n$ -tuple which gives the max

## Knapsack optimization problem

Given profits  $p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}$   
weights  $w_0, w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}$   
and max capacity  $M$

Find

maximizing

and subject to

This is a prototypical optimization problem

Optimization vocabulary

constraint

feasible solution

objective function

## ② Backtracking algorithms

But how do we solve the Knapsack problem?  
Let's focus on the optimization problem.

The most naive thing we could do is

How do we want to do that

The one we want in order to lead into  
what comes next is to **traverse the generating tree**

Generating tree for binary strings  
 $\epsilon$

A depth first traversal of this tree will give

The tree also makes a recursive implementation very natural

Optimization vocabulary

state space tree

state space (for the problem of size  $n$ )

# Algorithm Naive Knapsack

global  $n, (w_0, \dots, w_{n-1}), (p_0, \dots, p_{n-1})$  input to the overall problem

$x = (x_0, \dots, x_{l-1})$  current feasible solution

opt  $x$  best  $x$  so far

opt  $P$  best profit so far

input  $l$  current length

if  $l = n$

else



This is not so good

How do we do better?

Call this **pruning** the state space tree



# Algorithm Pruned Knapsack

global  $n, (w_0, \dots, w_{n-1}), (p_0, \dots, p_{n-1})$

$x = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1})$

opt  $x$

opt  $P$

input  $l, curW$

if  $l = n$

else

Every backtracking algorithm has this same basic shape

Metaalgorithm      Backtrack

global  $x = (x_0, x_1, \dots)$

input  $l$

if  $(x_0, \dots, x_{l-1})$  is feasible

then process it

Compute  $C_l$

for  $x_l \in C_l$

Backtrack  $(l+1)$

where  $P_l$  is

and  $C_l \subseteq P_l$  is

possibility set  
choice set

③ Next time

Backtracking for maximal cliques