

4. Given a set of n binary integers $S = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ and a target binary integer t , find the subset $R \subseteq S$ that sums up to t . Given, a black box that tells us if there is a subset $R \subseteq S$ that sums up to t .

Intuition: We can remove items from S until its sum eventually equals the subset that sums to t .

Proof by construction:

TM $M = \text{"on input } \langle S, t \rangle \text{ where } S \text{ is a set of binary integers and } t \text{ is an integer target}$

0. Run oracle on $\langle S, t \rangle$. If oracle rejects, reject.

1. repeat for every number in S :

2. remove the number from S , write to tape 2.

3. run the black box on updated S .

4. If oracle accepts, erase tape 2 and move to next number on tape 1. If oracle rejects, write the number back to the tape 1 from tape 2, and erase tape 2, move to next number on tape 1.

Validation:

Our machine works because we remove numbers that are unnecessary to sum to integer t . Since we go through every number on tape 1 and remove every one that is unnecessary to achieve the target sum, we will eventually end with a set where every number is necessary to sum to t .

This machine clearly runs in polynomial time:

step 0 is only based on Oracle which runs in polynomial time.

step 1 runs in $O(n)$ since does something once for every item in the list.

step 2. removing a single number should be $O(1)$

step 3. runs in polynomial time given by the problem

step 4. runs in $O(1)$ as we are using the results of oracle and checking the results.

Step 3 runs based on step 1. So we have $O(n) * O(n^k)$ which is $O(n^{k+1})$ therefore is still polynomial.

Since our highest degree is $O(n^{k+1})$ which is polynomial we know that this algorithm is *in* P.