

BAG PACKER PROGRAM
STATUSSEMINAR
GROUP B130
SOFTWARE
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
AALBORG UNIVERSITY
THE 28TH OF MARCH 2012



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Title:

Bag Packing Program

Project period:

P2, spring 2011

Project group:

B130

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Synopsis:



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Finished: 2012

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Problem Analysis

1

1.1 Problem of packing

In the modern society, families or groups of friends tend to go on vacation to other countries to relax and enjoy their vacation or explore the world [Baumgarten, 2012].

When going on a vacation or a business trip packing a suitcase is normally needed. You need all your personal items and clothes with you. The length of the stay, the purpose of the trip, and the number of people traveling together effects the weight and size of the needed luggage. This can be a problem due to the different rules or limits to your luggage when using different means of transportation.

The time spend away affects how much clothes the traveler will need to bring and/or if the traveler will need to wash the cloth while away. A longer stay means of cause that the traveler will need more clothes. This affects the size and weight of the luggage because you will need more or fewer items with you on different trips.

The amount of items to bring also depends on what kind of trip it is and the purpose of the trip. For example if the purpose of the trip is a sport competition, you might need to bring some equipment, you would not normally bring on a holiday trip or other kind of trips. If it is a short business trip all you might need could be a briefcase with your papers and a suit to wear.

The amount of luggage depends on the amount of people on the trip, because everyone needs their own personal items, and their own clothes. This can be a problem if the persons have a lot of shared items that has to be spread in different suitcases and need to be found afterwards and it might also effect the total weight of the luggage.

It can be frustrating, when traveling with many and/or heavy suitcases, if you need to carry the luggage far. It can also be hard to maneuver if where you are suppose to walk is a small space or a narrow passage or if simply filled with a lot of people constantly blocking your way.

There can also be a problem with too large or heavy suitcases if you are traveling by plane since this can result in a fee. The size of the fee varies from airline to airline and

can be found on the airlines website e.g. [SAS, 2012]. One of the reasons that this fee has been introduced is so the airlines bag-handlers do not risk getting injuries by carrying too many, heavy suitcases.

To avoid this fee it can be an advantage to pack the suitcases properly and limit the choice of items to bring so the total weight does not exceed the allowed weight.

1.1.1 Packing

Because of the weight and size restrictions at the airports it can sometimes be difficult to get all the items you want to bring into a suitcase that is small enough and not exceed the allowed weight. It can sometimes be necessary to acquire more suitcases for the trip or leaving some of the items you wanted to bring. Bringing more luggage means you have to pay more to get the extra luggage with you on the plane. A way you might be able to avoid buying and paying for extra suitcases is to pack the suitcases more than the suitcases are meant to contain. This mean that the suitcases packed more compact. This on the other hand increases the bags weight [SAS, 2012]. This should be thought through because too much weight can be unhealthy to carry around.

Fees regarding luggage by flight

The increased weight means the bags might exceed the limit for weight and therefore trigger a fee for overweight luggage. It seems people often pack their luggage more compact instead of taking extra bags with them on vacation. Generally people take a lot with them on vacation and they might not have packed their luggage the most effective way [of Transportation Statistics , RITA].

Airline	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Summery for the three quarters in 2011
Delta	197,971	226,291	232,508	656,770
American	137,210	156,114	152,750	446,074
US Airways	120,925	134,752	128,761	384,439
Continental	76,304	91,332	94,301	261,937
United	66,245	71,111	74,758	212,114

Table 1.1: This table contains the top 5 of the companies that have collected the most fees regarding luggage in 2011. The numbers are from [of Transportation Statistics , RITA] and the fourth quarter is not released yet, therefore missing

An American website for statistics, [of Transportation Statistics , RITA], shows the amount of fees given regarding luggage that have been registered at the U.S. airlines. Table 1.1 is a segment of the statistic table found at [of Transportation Statistics , RITA]. Through this it is possible to see that there are people that exceed the set of limits given by the airline. A note regarding this source is that the size of the fee is a combination of the different rules and related fees. Therefore the statistics do not give an accurate image of the problem with weight limit, but a more general image of the problems with luggage exceeding the given limits.

Different Transport Methods

The problem with packing luggage is mostly the same if it is by train, car, or flights. But flights is the one transport where it plays the biggest role for the traveler because it has

economical consequences. With train and car it is more or less up to the traveler how heavy the luggage is allowed to be. There are restrictions to how big the bags are allowed to be in the train. For train the limits are 100 x 60 x 30 cm [DSB].

When going on vacation, and using the car as transportation, the size of the car sets the limit in size of the luggage, since you cannot just pay to get more luggage with you than fits into your car. The weight might also have a influence on the amount of luggage there can be in the car. Because the car might not be able to drive well if the certain car is over the excess weight, since there are cars that can lift more than others.

Souvenirs on Vacation

There can be many good experiences and memories on a vacations. The memories tend to be bound to photos, items and souvenirs and thereby makes it easier to remember. Souvenirs can have a certain value and can be used to fill the home with memories about the past experiences. With this in the mind, it is important to make room for possible souvenirs or other things that simply had to be bought while away.

These souvenirs can be a problem to bring home. As earlier mentioned the weight and size of the luggage is a problem before the departure, therefore it will normally also be a problem on the trip home. This means that if a family packs just to the limits and then buy things and souvenirs on their vacation they will get into trouble when packing the luggage for the trip home.

Packing as an family

When traveling as a family it is an option to pack clothing, accessories and other relevant item in a more effective way. This is done by using all the bags in the most effective way and thereby not take the ownership of the bags into consideration. This method means that the bags will not be sectioned but the packed item will be packed into different bags despite the ownership of the item to active the most effective way of packing. Original bags tends to be packed so the bags are sectioned by the owner of the items so it is easier to find the desired item. This method is mostly used because it makes it much easier to known were to find the desired item. When this method of packing is used, it will be more effectively packed, but it have to be kept in mind that the weight should be distributed evenly, so none of the luggages are too heavily packed compared to an other.

Round Up

So the problem is packing the luggage in the most effective way and spreading the weight in the available suitcases, without violating the different rules or limits to size and weight. It can also be a problem to pack the suitcases to the trip home due to the bought souvenirs or other items. The reason to the problem could be that people find it difficult to pack the luggage for a trip and therefore pack more than they actually need on the trip.

The consequences of luggage exceeding the weight limits at the airlines are that the traveler will have to pay a fee for the extra weight. Train passengers that exceed the size limits might not be allowed to have their luggage with them if the dimensions of the suitcases are to big. There is not a specific program on the marked that specifically helps packing luggage for a trip, but there exist at least one program that can pack a container[SolvingMaze]. This method of packing a container can be compared to packing luggage. A other solution is a smart-phone application that help with packing a suitcases

by making a check-list over what to have with you on the trip [top iphone application, 2011], see section 1.4.

1.2 Luggage rules

This section will focus on the general rules regarding luggage when going abroad, whether by plane, train or cruise ship.

1.2.1 Luggage table

This section will contain a table which displays the various limits for luggage in different public transportations. The table will be used to give a general overview of the different limits for luggage for different types of transportations.

Type of luggage	Dimension limit	Weight limit
Check-in luggage(Airplane)	158 cm *	20-23 kg
Extra luggage(Airplane)	158/277 cm *	20/45 kg
Carry on(Airplane)	50-55 x 40 x 18-25 cm	5-8 kg
Luggage(Train)	100 x 60 x 30 cm	Within reason **
Check-in luggage (Cruise)	75 x 50 x 29 cm	30 kg
Hand Luggage (Cruise)	55 x 35 x 25 cm	Within reason **

Table 1.2: This table displays a summary of the different rules given below.

* The sum of the dimensions; height, weight and depth must not exceed the given value. Depending on how much is paid on extra luggage different dimension and weight limits are given.

** There are no set limits, it just have to be carry able and not be a bother for other passengers

1.2.2 Charter trips on air planes

Given below is the various restrictions when travelling by plane.

Checked-in luggage

Check-in luggage is the luggage that will go in the planes cargo hold.

Items not allowed:

- Explosives, including detonators, fuses, grenades, mines and explosive compounds
- Gasses, propane, butane
- Flammable liquids, including petrol, methanol
- Flammable solid matter and reactive, including magnesium, matches, fireworks, flares
- Oxidising and oxidised compounds and organic peroxides, including bleach, auto repair-kits.
- Toxic or contagious compounds, including rat poison, infected blood.
- Radioactive materials, including medical isotopes and isotopes for industrial use

- Corrosive compounds, including quicksilver, car batteries.
- Compounds from combustible systems, which have contained fuel.

Due to the volatile or dangerous nature of the items listed above they have been deemed unsafe and thus not allowed on the plane without explicit permission from the airport.

Carry on

Carry on luggage is what the passenger is allowed to bring aboard in the cabin.

Approved items:

- Liquids, perfume, gel and spray – max. 100 ml – equal to one deciliter pr. container
- You are only allow to bring these containers (bottles, cans, tubes and, so on), if they are contained in a transparent plastic bag, which have to be closed (1 litre bag per passenger).
- The bag have to be resealable.
- Past security, wares can be purchased (including spirits, perfume and other liquids). Wares are handed out in sealed bags, these bags may only be opened after the final destination have been reached.
- It is now a requirement that you take off your overcoat, take laptops and other larger electronic devices out of the bag before the security check-in.
[Airlines]

1.2.3 Rules on trains

There are different rules depending on which train company you are using.

The Danish train company, DSB, have very few rules regarding the luggage you are allowed to bring with you.

The only rule is that your luggage need to be able to lie on the luggage rack or under the seat and not be bothering or putting any other person on the train in danger [DSB].

Another example could be Indian Railways where the luggage is allowed to have different weight depending on which class you are on. They have no other rules regarding luggage [railways].

1.2.4 Rules on cruise ships

On board a cruise ship the "rules" are not really rules more like guidelines as they encourage the passengers to not exceed the limits. Furthermore the passengers luggage should be kept in their cabin during the trip[MSCcruise].

1.3 Luggage allowance

Due to the hijacking and crashing of the airplanes into the World Trade Center on the 9th of September 2001, the security of airports have increased dramatically. Some of the

hijackers carried knives and box cutters and this led to an immediate restriction of any and all types of sharp objects. The reason the hijackers could get these weapons on board the plane, was lax security around for instance Swiss army knives and blades like a box cutter. Along with stricter rules for items allowed on the plane, a thorough check up of the security personnel hired by the airport have been issued. After the change, airports are no longer allowed to hire their own security personnel due to a lack of discipline and training and in some cases hiring of personnel with a criminal background.[Zielbauer, 2001]

On the 5th of October 2006 more regulations were introduced to prevent passengers from bringing liquids of too large a quantity on board (see section 1.2). To construct a bomb a certain amount of "liquid" is required for it to have enough power to be a threat, and studies have showed that several 100 milliliter containers stored in a 1 liter bag equals around 500 milliliters of liquids which in turn is not enough to make a bomb that can take down a plane. This restriction covers all types of liquids because the screening points at the security can not distinguish one liquid from another without the security personnel manually checking the various liquids, which would severely slowdown the whole process.[EU-Kommisionen]

Due to these restrictions packing a bag is not as simple as it used to be. A lot of items are no longer allowed and thus it can be difficult to know what is allowed and what is not. As the restriction covers all sorts of liquids packing a simple toilet bag is time consuming.

1.4 Solutions on the market

This chapter are used to research the marked and thereby get a image of what solutions there already exist on the marked. Through the research it is also possible to determine, how the existing solution helps the user with the stated problem. By looking at existing solutions it can used to determine what features that would be needed in the program for this project, and from these solutions get inspiration. The amount of lists and guides on the market is huge. These lists and guides offers help and provide tips for packing for traveling. Some of these lists and guides have been developed into applications that are available for the customer to use. An application or in short app, is a program that fulfill different kind of services for the user. Apps are used in the web browser, computer, smart phone, and tablets. The term app is general mentioned in context to smart phones and tablets.

There also exists programs, that have integrated algorithms to handle optimization of the packing, on the marked that can be used. First a look into these lists and guides and the more advance solution thereafter.

1.4.1 App - Packing Pro

Packing pro is an app developed for the Iphone and Ipad that offers templates for check lists to the customer. Packing Pro uses a touch interface which means that the user by using the finger can navigate around.



Figure 1.1: Picture of 2 of Packing Pros menus from [top iphone application, 2011]

Packing pro is designed with a panel in the bottom of the screen that allows the user navigate through the menus. Packing Pro provides the user with a help menu that contain information on how to use the app. On figure: 1.1 can an example of how a check list could look like.

These templates are designed to different purposes regarding the customer, gender, type of trip, and purpose of the trip. The customer can then load the wanted template for the purpose. The user also have the possibility to create their own lists by adding things that should be remembered for the trip by them self. And to select an existing list and delete the objects that were found irrelevant by the user. The user can then check object on the lists off as it get packed. Packing Pro is a management tool that helps the customer get an overview of all the things to remember. As the name implies(pro) the app have to be bought before it can be used [top iphone application, 2011].

Packing Pro works as check list and help the user remember what to pack, but it does not preform any organization of luggages content itself. So Packing Pro itself does not solve the described problem but helps the user remembering what to pack. So a feature to consider from this program is the check list function that gives the user an overview of things to pack. A function that would not be needed is the compatible with Iphone/Ipad operating system. It would be nice if the program made work cross platforms but it is still not required to solve the problem.

1.4.2 App - Checkmark Packlist

Checkmark Packlist is an free app for the smart phones running the Android system. Checkmark Packlist offers different templates for check lists that the customer can use. One of these templates is the list for packing for a trip. That way the customer can select and use this template for remembering what they will need to pack for the trip. Checkmark

Packlist uses touch to navigated in the program. This means that the customer with their fingers can navigated through the check list and check off things that have been packed.



Figure 1.2: Picture of the Checkmark Packlist in action from [GreenbeanSoft, 2010]

On figure: 1.2 there can be seen an example of the product and how Pheckmark Packlist looks like for the user. Checkmark Packlist does not provide customization tool that let the customer add more categories to the check list. This is only a featured provided in the paid version of Checkmark Packlist [GreenbeanSoft, 2010].

This app does not provide a solid solution for luggage packing but helps the user remembering what there should be packed for trip. This check list feature give a guiding effect and this is a useful feature and can be used in the product design to solve the problem. A feature to consider is the mobility by designing the program for hand held devices.

1.4.3 Online check/tip list

The online check list works as a reminder when packing luggage. It also give tips and tricks that could be considered when packing for the trip. There exists a lot of different websites offering this service for free. Some are posted by an organization and others by a person on a forum. This means that all electronic devices as computers, tablets, and smart phones that have access to the Internet can open the website address.

An example of this kind of website is the following source [Foster]. This website offers a list of 10 tips that can be helpful for the customer when they are packing for a trip. The website is purely text based and helps the user packing through the tips on the website. The site does not help with the actual packing, instead it helps with the planing of materials that the user might want to have on the trip. The website is designed with a menu left that let the user navigate through the different content of the website.

The online check/tip list in itself does not give the customer a solution to the packing

problem. The websites instead help the customer planing the trip. The type of check/tip list used on [Foster] does not apply as a useful feature that could be used in the final program. Instead it would more be focus on helping the user with the packing.

1.4.4 The e-Commerce shipping calculator

The e-Commerce shipping calculator is an advanced program that helps the customer pack large containers and calculates the price of the shipment. By typing the size, weight, location, and destination of the items that should be shipped, the program can calculate what the prize is going to be and generates a 3D(3 dimensional) model of the container where the given items are placed in the best possible way so there are a minimum of wasted space. On their website [SolvingMaze] they offer a demo(demonstration) of their program. Their demo runs through the web browser and thereby should be accessible from computers connected to the internet. The demo is design to have the containers dimension variables and weight limit as input fields. Under the container is there are list of item where each item can have different dimensions and weights. To right of these field is the 3d model placed that will be generated.

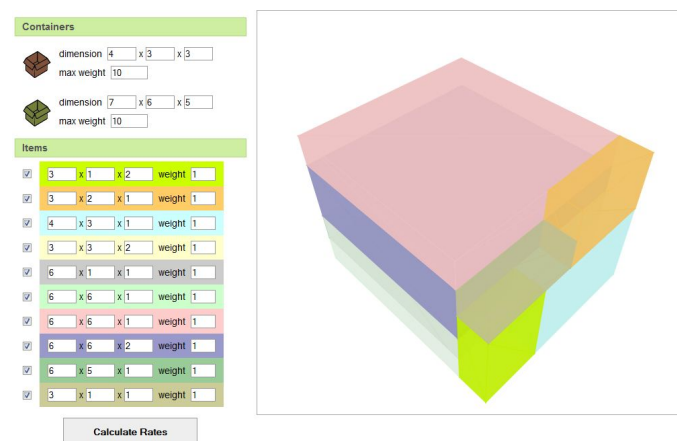


Figure 1.3: Screen shot of the program running taken from [SolvingMaze]

The customer have to type all known data in and press "Calculate Rates" and the program will then form a 3d model, this can be seen on figure: 1.3. This product have a number of useful features that can be used in the final product. This solution can take items dimensions and weight and calculate the most optimal placement in the container. This can be related to packing your luggage for a trip.

1.4.5 Recapitulation

This sections main object is to look at the wanted features and recap them. Packing Pro and Checkmark Packlist is similar in the way that they help the user. They both provide the user with a sort of check list that can be check off and thereby help the customer remember what have not been packed yet. One of the differences is that Packing Pro have a price while Checkmark Packlist is free. But this difference means that Packing Pro allows the user to edit the check list while that are not possible in Checkmark Packlist. These two apps do not help the user arrange the luggage content or take in consideration of size and weight of it. Thereby is two apps do not help people with the packing itself but more what should be remembered for the trip. The online check/tip list provide the

user with advices for the trip and what to pack. Advices are great to get a general idea of what to take pack but it still does not give a more effective way to pack. The e-Commerce shipping calculator is the one solution with the most wanted features. One of the strong feature that can be used is the ability to calculate the most effective that a container should be packed. A important side note is that the intentions is not to pack bags but the feature can be related to packing content of a bag.

Included in product	Solutions			
		App - Packing / Packing Pro	App - Checkmark Packlist	Online check/tip list
Guide the user*		x	x	x
Distribute weight				x
Distribute space				x
On the road		x	x	x
Where in the suitcase				x
Packing list		x	x	x

Table 1.3: Table for the different products on the market and their features. *The program should be able to guide the user through the different steps of the program.

Table 1.3 consists of features listed vertical and existing solution on the market listed horizontal. The crosses indicates when the particular product have the particular feature. The purpose of the table is to give a overview of the products and their features that was found essential to the problem. Table 1.3 shows tha there are a lot of help regarding what to bring but when it comes to packing it is only one of the selected solution that had this feature.

1.5 Thesis Statement

In this section a thesis statement will be formulated which will be used to develop a method to the problem of this project and to get a more precise problem to work with. The method is used to try and solve the problem stated in the thesis statement.

The problem analyses shows that there are two general types of programs on the market. One type is a form of a packing list that tells the user what they might want to pack, the other type of program is a packing program which packs containers for the user and calculates the shipping cost to a designated location. These two types of programs only fulfill parts of the criteria this project have put forward. With this in mind a thesis statement have been formulated to help shape the solution for this projects problem.

- How can a program be developed which helps the customer through the progress of packing one or more suitcases the most effective way by size and weight?

The meaning of this thesis statement is to research and develop a program that in some way could handle the problem, but the consumer also plays a role in the problem. Therefore the consumer must also be taken into account when it is being developed. The reason for this is to make the program as user friendly as possible.

Sub Statements

The sub statements have been made to help find a solution to the thesis statement. These sub statements describe some of the steps that need to be made in order to find the solution for the thesis statement.

- **How can it be checked that the weight in the suitcases are evenly distributed and it does not exceed the allowed weight or the volume in the bag?**

The program will need to handle and solve calculations with weight and volume. Through these algorithms the program should find the most effective solution for the given data. It will also have to check that the solutions weight does not exceed the given limits or the volume of the luggage.

- **Which functions are needed to get the program to compute the most effective way to fit the items into the suitcases?**

Some functions are needed for the program to find the most effective solution. The functions will use an algorithm for optimising and thereby the program will fulfil its purpose.

- **How should the program communicate with the user and inform where the items are placed, and tell how much space is left?**

The program will have to be developed and tested so the customer can use the program to its full extent. Therefore it is important not to use advanced technical language or unexplained abbreviations.

- **How can a program be developed so it takes the length of the journey into account, and enable the user to update the program on the go?**

The program should also be developed so it is possible for the user to update the programs database while on vacation thereby get a packing order for the new content of the bags.

From this thesis statement there will be developed a list of requirements for the program, which it will need, to solve the given problem and be user friendly. The system requirements can be seen on section 3.1

1.6 Method

This project structure will be based on Aalborg PBL (problem based learning). The Aalborg PBL is a method whereby the learning process lies in the work with a problem and try to develop a solution for the given problem. The Aalborg PBL method also trains the students ability to work together in a project group and give them tools to handle the processes that goes with working in a group.

The first stage of the project is the problem analysis in chapter 1, which purpose is to find and document that there is a problem to begin with. From the problem analysis a thesis statement is formed and is used to produce a list of product requirements. The requirements are then used to design and develop a product that should solve the problem stated in the thesis statement. The design will be describe in chapter 3. The development will also have it own chapter were the program will be describe and how the different functions are made. This can be seen in chapter 4. The program are then tested on the target group of the problem. The testing phase will be described in chapter 5. The result of the testing will lead to improvements and a conclusion of the project. The conclusion will sum up the project and try to answer the thesis statement, the conclusion can be seen in chapter ???. This is the main course of the project, when using the Aalborg PBL model. This project form is used because it finds and document a problem and then through the work with the problem gives an estimated solution to the problem.

To document the problem, a lot of information is needed. The information is found through different sources such as; books, article, websites, etc. When using information found through the internet or other sources it is important to evaluate the used sources. This is done to filter out unreliable sources and thereby achieve a better and more trust-worthy project. This process of evaluation is also known as source criticism and are general used when using others materials as documentation. Therefore it is also a relevant method to use when using sources in the project work.

Theory 2

In this chapter there will be taken a closer look on the theoretical aspect of writing a sorting program. First off is a quick description the NP-problem followed by a look on different ways to pack different objects. With a good grasp on the different algorithms and the most effective way to pack items, the process of developing a program should be easier.

2.1 Knapsack Problems

The knapsack problem is basically creating an algorithm which packs a list of items into a knapsack. Each item is assigned a weight and a value. The total weight of the items must not exceed the maximum weight capacity. At the same time, the knapsack must be packed so the summarized values of the items are as high as possible. There exists a vast amount of derivatives of the knapsack problem. For example the 0-1 knapsack problem[Kellerer, 2004], which dictates that each item can only have the status 1 or 0, which equals packed or unpacked. This means that each item can only be packed once, where in the regular knapsack problem, items can be packed multiple times to maximize the total value of the knapsack. A knapsack problem can be formulated as the solution to the following linear integer programming formulation:

$$\text{maximize } \sum_{j=1}^n p_j x_j$$

Meaning: Maximizes the total value (p) of items (j) in knapsack

$$\text{subject to } \sum_{j=1}^n w_j x_j \leq c,$$

$$x_j \in \{0, 1\}, j = 1, \dots, n.$$

Meaning: Total weight (w) of items(x) may not exceed the knapsacks capacity (c)

[Kellerer, 2004]

Another derivative is the bin packing problem, which will be described in the following section.

2.2 Bin packing problem

The bin packing problem is a combinatorial NP-hard problem [Korte and Vygen, 2002]. This means that the problem is at least as hard as an existing NP-complete problem. NP-complete means, in simple terms, that every combination must be examined, and then the best combination must be chosen. An example is the Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP), where a list of cities and distances between the cities is given. The problem is then to find the shortest route to visit all cities, and to end at the starting point. The problem consists of fitting objects of different sizes into bins of identical sizes [Rosen, 1991]. This could for example be fitting various packages into shipping containers. There are various approaches to solve the bin packing problem. Bin packing problem is focusing on bins instead of suitcases but they are basically the same, the only difference is the size. Some of the popular methods will be described in the following section. To describe these packing algorithms, illustrations will be used. The illustrations shows how the packing algorithms works in one dimension - but it gives a nice basic understanding of the algorithms. Figure 2.1 is an illustration of the unpacked elements:

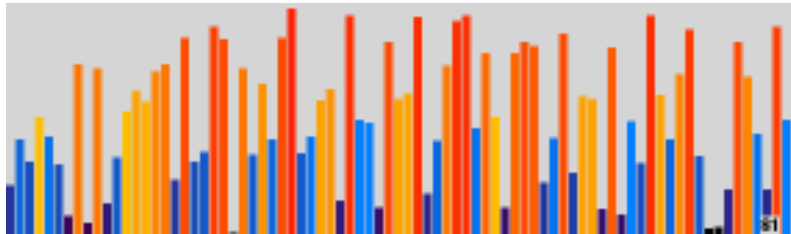


Figure 2.1: Initial elements (source: [bin])

Given below are examples of different fitting methods used when packing bins.

2.2.1 First fit (FF)

The first fit algorithm creates a list of the objects needed to be fitted into bins. It then runs through the list, checking if an item can fit in each bin. If it cannot fit in the first bin, it will check if it can fit in the second bin and so on. If it does not fit in any bins, it opens a new bin, and fits the object there. Figure 2.2 is an illustration of the elements packed with the First fit algorithm.

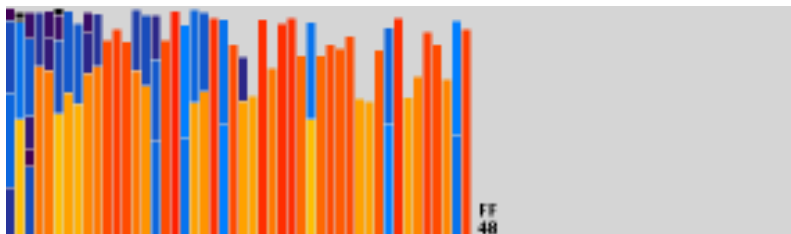


Figure 2.2: Elements after FF has been applied (source: [bin])

2.2.2 Best fit (BF)

The best fit algorithm is much the same as the first fit algorithm, except it does not fit the object into the first bin that can contain it, the algorithm compares it to each open

bin, where the object fit. It will then place the object in the bin which will have the least space left when the object is packed. Figure 2.3 is an illustration of the elements packed with the Best fit algorithm.

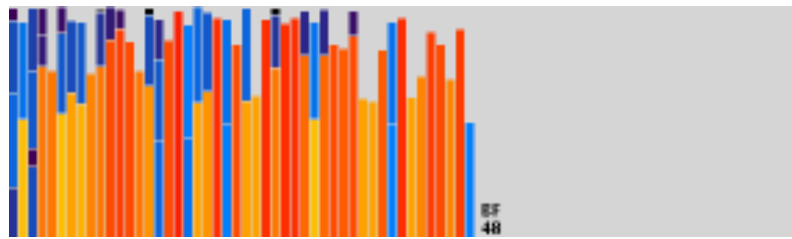


Figure 2.3: Elements after BF has been applied (source: [bin])

2.2.3 Last fit (LF)

This algorithm packs the object in the last open bin which has room for it. This algorithm is thereby the opposite of the first fit algorithm. Figure 2.4 is an illustration of the elements packed with the Last fit algorithm.

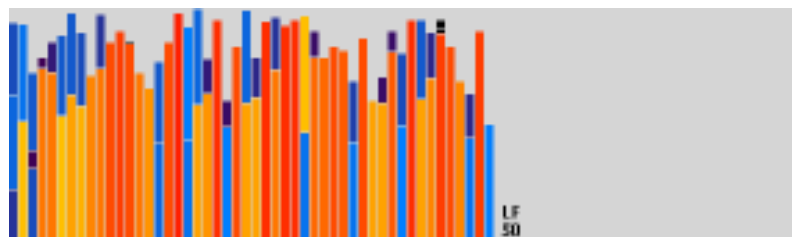


Figure 2.4: Elements after LF has been applied (source: [bin])

2.2.4 Worst fit (WF)

The algorithm checks all the bins, and packs the object in the bin which has most empty space. As its name suggest, this algorithm is the opposite of the Best fit algorithm. Figure 2.5 is an illustration of the elements packed with the Worst fit algorithm. As the figure shows, the worst fit algorithm is in fact more effective than its name might suggest.

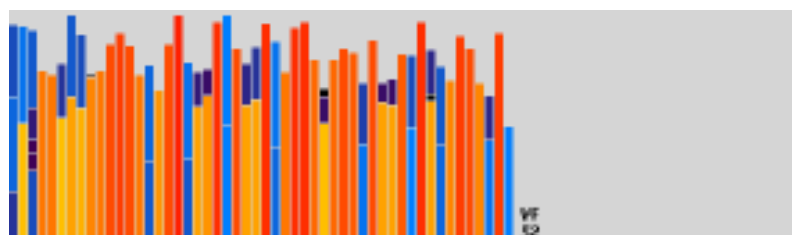


Figure 2.5: Elements after WF has been applied (source: [bin])

2.2.5 Almost worst fit (AWF)

Similar to the worst fit algorithm, but the almost worst fit algorithm packs the object in the second most empty bin. Figure 2.6 is an illustration of the elements packed with the almost worst fit algorithm.

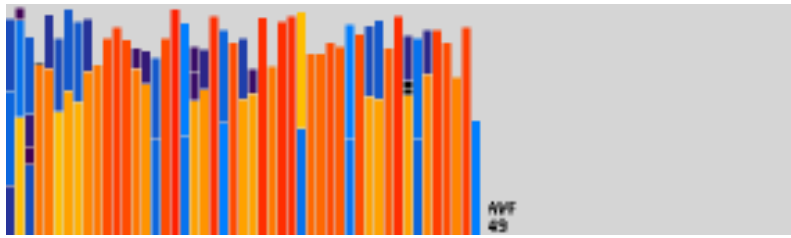


Figure 2.6: Elements after AWF has been applied (source: [bin])

2.2.6 First fit decreasing(FFD)

The above algorithms are very ineffective because the biggest objects might be placed at the end of the list, and thus be packed in the end, where it is more effective to first pack these large objects. The first fit decreasing algorithm takes this into account and sorts the list before attempting to pack the items. This way the biggest items will be packed first.

2.2.7 Best fit decreasing(BFD)

Again this is the same as the best fit algorithm, but with the list being sorted before attempting to pack the objects.

2.2.8 Round up

It seems that it is more effective to sort the lists before attempting to pack objects into bins. This way bigger objects are packed first, and the smaller objects can then be fitted around the bigger objects. However in some situations it is necessary to use unsorted lists. For example in a factory with continuous production, it is never possible to have the complete list of objects, and thus never possible to sort the list. This theory can be used to form the algorithm of this project, and use the others mathematical experiences as a benefit.

Design 3

In the design chapter a look will be taken on the specification requirements and why those features are needed or wanted in the program. There are also a section detailing some features that will be nice to have if there is enough time to implement them in the program.

3.1 Specification Requirements

Through the problem analysis it has been documented that there are some strict rules regarding some forms of public transportation when going on vacation. Based on this research a list of features have been composed, that the program must fulfil to meet the base requirements. Furthermore another list have also been made composed of some additional features that would make the program better and more user friendly. They are not needed for the base requirements, but rather as improvements to further make the program ideal for the user.

For the user to better get started on the program there will be a guide that come with the program. The guide gives an explanation on how to use the program. The guide will be short and well formulated so the user with ease can read and understand the guide. The project description states that the program language must be written in C#. The program itself needs to have a few features for it to solve the problem that is the focus of this project. The program needs to make sure that the weight is evenly distributed in the bags and that it does not exceed the bags weight limits. The program also needs to distribute the space of the bags to make sure that the program does not fill a bag more than there is physical room for. When the user is on the trip the program needs to have a function that allows the user to edit the list over items that are in the bag so if the user buys some souvenirs or throws something away, the list of items will be updated and thereby a new way to pack the luggage. The program will need a function to help the user see where the items are placed in the luggage. The program will also have to check that the suitcases are below the limits set for weight and size.

There are some features that not are essential for the program to work but will improve the program. One of these features is to handle changeable shape of items e.g. a T-shirt or other forms of clothing. This makes the program able to pack more efficient. This means that to program can handle like solid, liquid and bendable shapes. But this may not be in the program at the start since this will be hard to develop and implement. To better help packing and planing ahead the program needs a list of different trip types that can help the user with packing the luggage for a given type of trip. Another nice feature to have is

to save space for possible souvenirs the user might buy on the trip. These features mean that the user does not need to check if there is room for the souvenirs before buying it.

3.1.1 Targeted Features

These are the essential features that the program will have.

Program language is C#: The program needs to be written in C# since the requirements for this project are that the program needs to be written in C#.

Guide the user: The program will have a little "readme" file, or other form of guide, that will tell the customer how to use the program.

Distribute weight: The program must be able to distribute weight of items between multiple suitcases if there are more than one suitcase.

Distribute space: The program also needs to distribute the items by space. The whole idea of the program, is that it should be able to tell the user how to pack the suitcase, and be able to tell if there is enough space for eventual souvenirs. Lastly it should inform the user how much space, if any, is left.

On the road: The program will be able to tell you, while you are on the trip, if there is enough space for a souvenir, if you input the dimensions and weight of that item. And if you want to remove an item from your luggage then it can do this as well.

Baggage rules: The program will need to know basic baggage rules. For example the luggage must not weigh too much, and it must be below certain dimensions.

Structure of packing: When the user asks the program if an item will fit in the suitcase, the program will show exactly where in the suitcase the item will fit.

Packing list: To make it easier for the user to know what will be packed an editable list will be included depending on the type of trip.

3.1.2 Optional Features

These features as mentioned above, are additional features that might be able to be implemented later if possible.

Solid/liquid/bendable shapes: The program will also take into account that items might be bendable, and therefore fit in other ways than solid items. For instance a T-shirt can be folded in many ways and thus can be considered a liquid form as it can fit almost everywhere.

Type of trip Depending on the nature of the trip different packing lists will be nec-

essary because each trip might require different items.

3.2 Solution suggestions

This section will focus on different solutions to the problem about packing a suitcase. Each solutions difficulties and benefits will be explained. At the last subsection a solution will be selected and the choice explained. The solutions have been chosen from the mind map that can be seen in appendix B.

3.2.1 Application for smartphones

This idea is to make an application that helps the user pack one or more suitcases. The user will need to put in the height, length, depth, weight and a name of the items to pack. The application will then calculate if all the items can be packed. All of these calculations means the application will need a server to make the calculations. This requires the customer to have access to the internet on the phone to be able to use the program. At the last step the application will show the user where to place each item. This means that the customer will have easy access to the program everywhere the user might bring the smartphone as long as it has access to the internet. On the other hand people without a smartphone would not be able to use the program. This solution requires learning how to write applications for smartphones and therefore this solution requires modification to the time schedule. This solution is easy to bring everywhere because you rarely leave your phone. On the other hand people without a smartphone would not be able to use the program.

3.2.2 Extension for an existing program

A second solution could be to make an extension for another program that already exists. This extension should add the missing functions of the original program. It could either be an extension to the many packing lists. In that case the program should be able to use the information from the lists to calculate how to most efficiently pack all the items and afterwards show how to pack them. Another solution could be an extension to the e-Commerce Shipping calculator. This extension should be able to also pack smaller items like a suitcase and not a container. A problem with making an extension for another program is if the other program is written in a programming language not able to work with a program written in C#. Another problem is testing the program if the other program is not open source and therefore the company's permission is needed before the testing can begin. If the existing program is not open source the company's permission and co-operation will be needed in the making of an extension of their product. The testing is important to be sure that the programs are able to work together as planned. On the other hand it is possible to make a program that focus more specifically on what is missing in the other program and therefore cover more of the important features. So this solution would need the company's permission to make use of their code for testing if it is not open source, and it would have to be determined if the program would be able to work together with an extension written in C#. The solution would be able to cover more of the problem since the existing program would already have some of the features needed and the extension could cover even more.

3.2.3 Program for the computer

A third solution could be a program for the computer. The user will need to supply the program with the height, length, depth, weight and a name of the items to pack, and the program will then calculate if all the items can be packed and where in the suitcase. After the calculation the program will show where to put all the items. This will be by showing where the individual items need to be on a 2D or 3D figure of the suitcase. Making a program for the computer means the customer will need to bring his computer on the trip if he wants to use it on-the-road, but it will not need internet since the computer is strong enough to make all the calculation on its own. This solution requires some time to learn 3D editing if the display figure of the suitcase should be in 3D and this should be taken into account in the time schedule. This solution makes it is easy to test as the code will be self written and it does not need internet to work, but on the other hand the customer needs to bring the computer if the user wants to use it on-the-road.

3.2.4 Choise of solution

When understanding the three solutions it is possible to determine, which of the solutions best solve the described problem. To determine the best solution it is needed to look at the pros and cons of each solution. The pro about the first solution is that it is easy for the user to bring the program. The cons are that you will need internet to use the program and this can be expensive on a vacation. Another con is that this solution requires time to learn of how to write an application for a smartphone. The pro about the extension for another program is that since some code is already written there is more time to be more specific in what the original program is missing. On the other hand it can be a problem if the original program is written in a programming language that is not good at working together with a program written in C#. It is also a problem if the original program is not open source, because the company who own the program then needs to give permission to use their code. If the original program is not open source can it be a problem to get this permission without long negotiation with the company. The last solution is a program for the computer. A pro about this solution is that it does not need internet to run since the computer is strong enough to make the calculation on its own. Another pro is that since no code from others is needed there is no problem about different programming languages needing to work together. It is also easier to make the program exactly as needed since it is being made from scratch. A con is that some people do not want to bring their computer on a trip and can therefore not use the program while away. So when looking at all the solutions the choice is going to be the last solution about a program for the computer since it is the solution with the most pros and fewest cons. Also more time is not needed, which means there are more time to make the program and thereby more time to finish the program before the deadline.

3.3 Program planing

This section is to plan how the program should work and describe the flow of the program. The program will be described in a flowchart to give an overview of the whole program. A flowchart is a useful tool when programming because it explains the structure of the program.

To give a more precise explanation of a program the flowchart can be formed into a pseudocode which is a level above real code. Pseudocode is used as a schematic for the

program and thereby give some foresight into any problems that can be encountered when writing the actual code. Thus planing ahead and designing the program so a minimum amount of code errors and unexpected problems occurs. The program planing will be used to make it easier to develop the program and help make a better product in terms of structure.

When the program starts, it should first ask for the bags dimensions. The user then have to decide whether to use a pre made list, reuse a list from earlier use or create a new list containing objects that should be packed. If the user decide to a make new list the program will ask the user for items that should be stored in the new list. Should the new list be empty the program will inform the user that the list that were just made is empty and ask if the user still wishes to saved it in the database. If the user chooses to use a pre made settings the program will fetched the list from the database and ask if the list contains the desired items, if not then it will allow the user to add or remove items from that list.

The program then preforms the algorithms to place the items in the most efficient way regarding volume and weight. The program will also check that the bags does not exceed the weight and volume limits when travelling by flight. When the program successfully place an item, the item will be marked as packed. If the program can not fit the item in any of the accessible bags the item will be marked as not packable. If the program reach the point where all items have gone through the process, it should then inform the user that the process is done and inform how the user have to pack the bags and report if there were any items that could not be packed. At the end of the program the user can choose to add more items, see the existing item, see the order of packing and close the program.

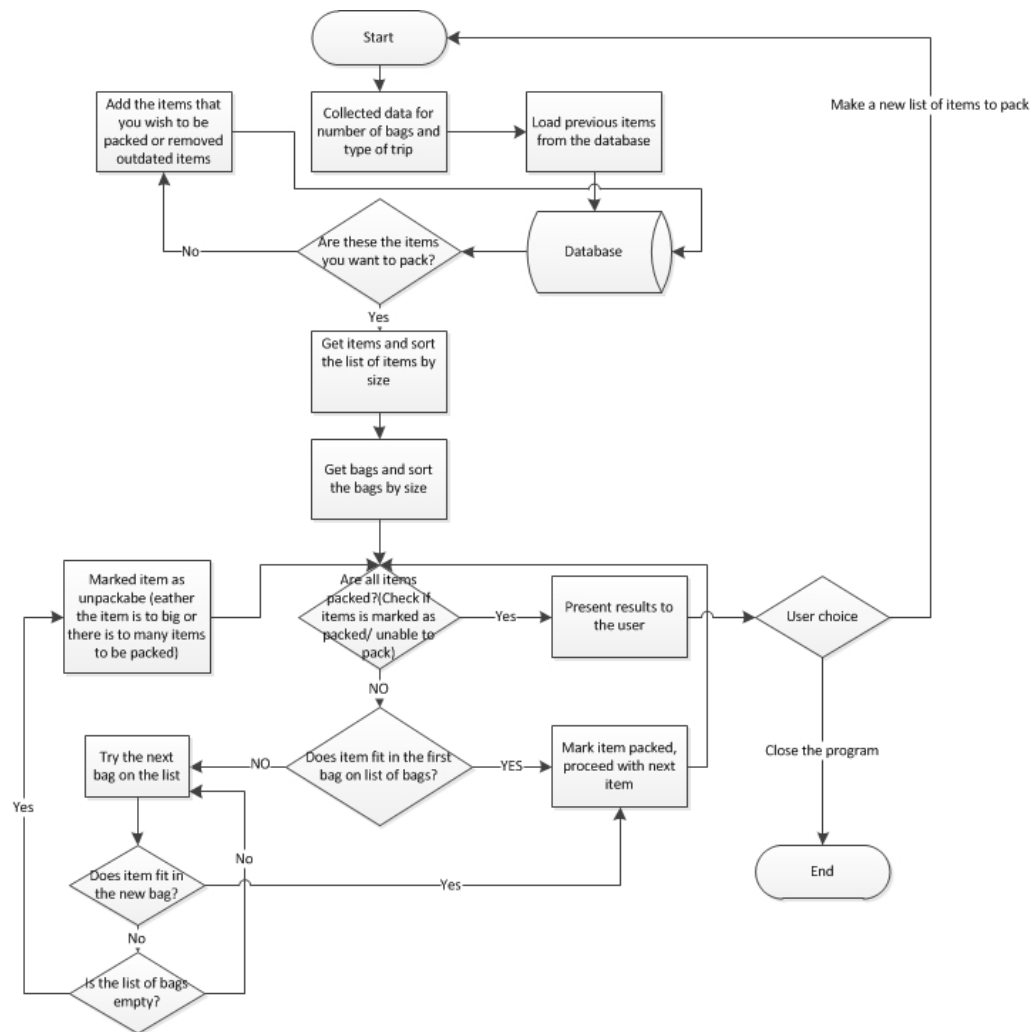


Figure 3.1: This is the flowchart of the program (not quiet finished yet)

Thereby the general structure of the program have been formed and can be describe by a flowchart, seen on figure: 3.1. The arrows shows the direction of the flow in the program. Some of the arrows also have small labels indicating what answer there were to the decision. This flowchart can then be used as a schematic for the developing of the program and thereby a better structure of the program can be archived.

Development 4

Testing 5

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Group Contract A

B130 - 3/2/12

Rules

- § 1 If anyone breaks rule 2-9 the rulebreaking person has to buy cake/sandwich/pizza or the like to the other group members.
- § 2 Keep appointments - also meeting time.
 - a You need to notice the other group members if you are unable to come or are late.
- § 3 A normal workday is from 9:10-16:15, unless there is a class in the morning - Then the meeting time is when the class starts.
- § 4 Everybody need to be ready to work at 9:10.
- § 5 Lunch is from 12.00-12.30.
- § 6 Be professionally dedicated about work, the classes and the solving of group work.
- § 7 All appointments about deadlines on parts of the project must be kept.
- § 8 For all work related documents or other things L^AT_EX and SVN is used.
- § 9 If a groupmember does not participate in the groupwork, or are doing something unserious, the other groupmembers can shout "Chicken" at the person. If a person gets 3 "Chickens", they must be punished according to §1.
- § 10 There are high ambitions about the project.
- § 11 When the group is making important decisions a minimum of 5 group members have to be present
 - a All decisions will be put in the folder "Beslutninger" - Group members not present are notified by sms.
- § 12 2 group members work on the worksheet. If the work is not satisfying 2 new group members will be assigned the work.
- § 13 There will be a morning-meeting from 9:10-9:20 every work day, where we do not have classes. In that case the meeting will be right after the class.

- § 14 If the workload is too much for a group member the rest of the group need to be notified as fast as possible.
- § 15 The group coordinator has the responsibility that this problem is solved.
- § 16 The group coordinator has the responsibility that the time schedule is followed.
- § 17 It is a common responsibility in the group that all the group members are serious about the work.
- § 18 Friday meeting is every Friday morning unless the group have to go to class - in this case the meeting is Thursday morning.
- a On this meeting the work of the day and the week's work will be discussed
 - b It will be checked if the time schedule is being followed
 - c Common thread (Where do we want to go? What happens now?)
 - d The worksheets are to be sent before 12.00 Friday. The worksheet is made just after the meeting. The structure of the worksheet is discussed on the meeting. The worksheets are sent to the contact person.
 - e If any group member knowingly, repeatedly breaks the rules, CET is responsible that it is discussed on a group meeting.

Also see "Nøglesamarbejdsaftalen" - (The contract about keys to the group room)

Group roles

Coordinator: Christian (If not present Mette)

Moderator: Dag (If not present Aleksander)

Reporter: Mette (If not present Dag)

Contactperson: Christian

Postman: Rasmus

Writers of the worksheet: Aleksander and Niels

CET - Conflict Emergency Team: Mette or Kasper or Christian (Only one person needs to solve the conflict but if she/he is in the conflict another member of CET has to solve the conflict)

Mindmap B

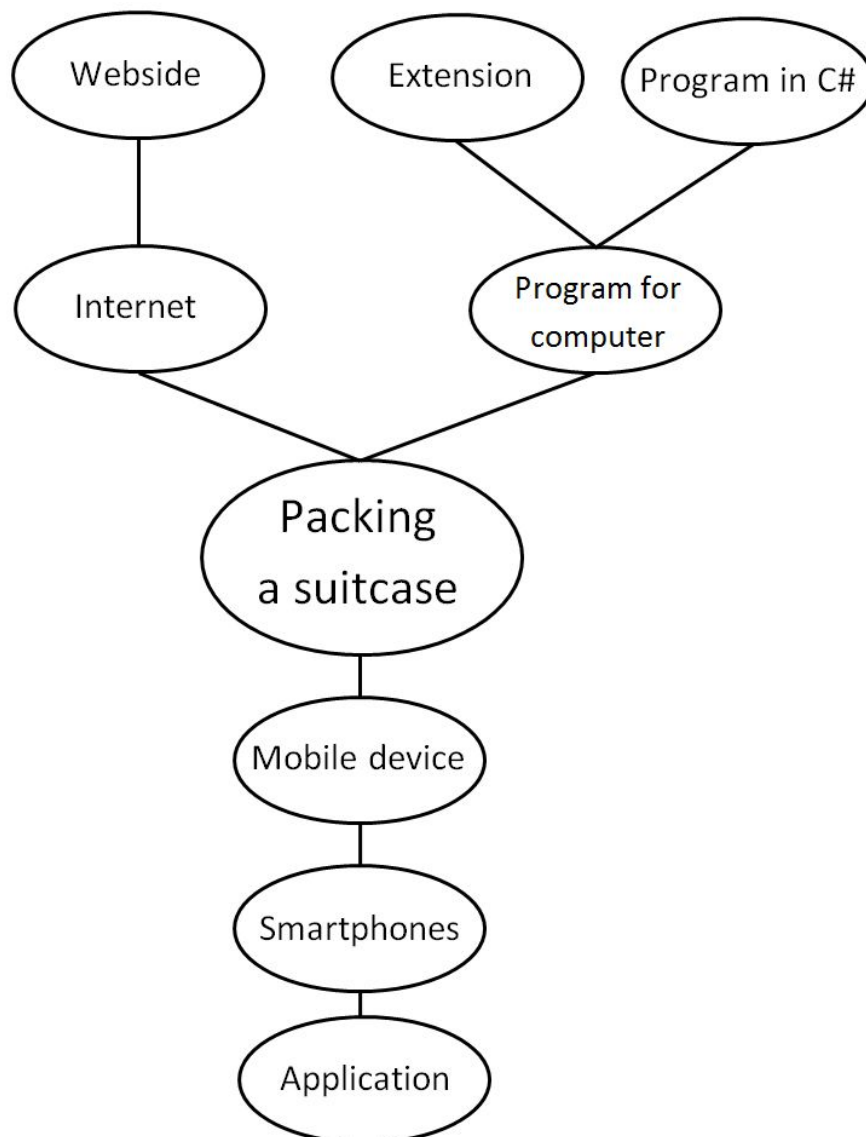


Figure B.1: Mindmap containing solution suggestions