

Appendix for AAMAS 2026 Rebuttal – Paper #177

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1 Introduction

This appendix consolidates the extended technical material supporting Reviewer EH5s (R3)'s request for enhanced pseudocode clarity, deeper insight into underlying data structures, and transparency of our implementation. While the main paper presents the core logic of VERA in a concise, space-efficient form, the material below provides a more explanatory and reproducible view of the system:

Section 1 elaborates the full pseudocode with line-by-line explanation, along with the associated data structures, memoization strategy, and DP-pruning rules employed by VERA. These details make explicit how intermediate states are stored, how redundant branches are avoided, and how the recursive structure resolves optimal decisions efficiently.

Section 2 presents the complete formulation and implementation of the OPT() routine—our primary recursive operator. We detail its interfaces, termination conditions, internal invariants, and how it integrates with the broader VERA workflow.

Together, these sections provide the expanded algorithmic transparency requested by R3 and directly align with the GitHub resources that will be released publicly.

2 Section 1: Pseudo Code and it's Textual Description

2.1 Function MCKP()

Algorithm 3 MCKP(R , providers)

Require: $R \geq 0$; providers (list of provider-tier lists)

Ensure: allocation list; total_profit

```
1:  $n \leftarrow \text{len}(\text{providers})$ 
2: if  $n = 0$  or  $R \leq 0$  then
3:   return  $([], 0.0)$ 
4: end if
5: // Preprocess tiers
6: proc_tiers  $\leftarrow []$ 
7: for each provider  $p$  in providers do
8:   arr  $\leftarrow []$ 
9:   for each tier in  $p$  do
10:    units  $\leftarrow \text{int}(\text{tier.units})$ 
11:    price  $\leftarrow \text{float}(\text{tier.price})$ 
12:    tid  $\leftarrow \text{int}(\text{tier.tier})$ 
13:    append  $(\text{units}, \text{price}, \text{tid}, \text{tier})$  to arr
14:   end for
15:   append arr to proc_tiers
16: end for
17: IMPOSSIBLE  $\leftarrow -10^{18}$ 
18: memo  $\leftarrow \{\} \text{ map } (j, d) \mapsto (\text{best\_value}, \text{chosen\_idx})$ 
19: best_val  $\leftarrow \text{IMPOSSIBLE}$ 
20: best_d  $\leftarrow \text{None}$ 
21: for  $d = 0$  to  $R$  do
22:   v  $\leftarrow OPT(n, d, \text{proc_tiers}, \text{memo}, \text{IMPOSSIBLE})$ 
23:   if  $v \neq \text{IMPOSSIBLE}$  and  $v > \text{best\_val}$  then
24:     best_val  $\leftarrow v$ 
25:     best_d  $\leftarrow d$ 
26:   end if
27: end for
28: if best_val = IMPOSSIBLE or best_d = None then
29:   memo.clear()
30:    $([], 0.0)$ 
31: end if
32: Reconstruct allocation
33: allocation  $\leftarrow []$ 
34: d  $\leftarrow \text{best\_d}$ 
35: for  $j = n$  to 1 do
36:    $(\text{val}, \text{chosen}) \leftarrow \text{memo}[(j, d)]$ 
37:   if chosen = None then
38:     continue
39:   end if
40:    $(\text{units}, \text{price}, \text{tid}, \text{orig}) \leftarrow \text{proc_tiers}[j - 1][\text{chosen}]$ 
41:   append  $\{\text{mec_index} : j - 1, \text{tier_id} : \text{tid}, \text{units} : \text{units}, \text{price} : \text{price}\}$  to allocation
42:   orig fields are included when forming the final dictionary in code
43:   d  $\leftarrow d - \text{units}$ 
44: end for
45: reverse(allocation)
46: total_profit  $\leftarrow \text{best\_val}$ 
47: memo.clear()
48:  $(\text{allocation}, \text{total\_profit})$ 
```

2.1.1 Function Inputs

- Amount surplus resource in the beginning of the round R
- List of client Operator Platforms (OPs)
-

2.1.2 Output

When triggered by VERA, the function returns both the maximum attainable welfare and the corresponding optimal allocation of the available resources \mathbf{R} across client OPs.

2.1.3 Line By Line Explanation

The MCKP() procedure begins by determining the number of participating consumer OPs (Line 1) and immediately returns an empty allocation when either no OPs exist or the available resource capacity is zero (Lines 2–4). It then preprocesses every OP's cumulative bid tiers into a lightweight tuple form (Lines 5–16), normalizing the units, valuations, and tier identifiers so that the subsequent recursion can operate efficiently. After initializing a large negative sentinel to represent infeasible DP states and creating the memoization table that will store optimal subproblem results (Lines 17–18), the procedure prepares to search across all exact capacities from 0 to R (Lines 19–20). For each such capacity d, it invokes the recursive OPT(n,d), which computes the best welfare achievable using all OPs under an exact remaining capacity d (Line 22). Whenever a better feasible welfare is obtained, both the best value and the corresponding capacity are updated (Lines 23–26). If no feasible allocation exists across any capacity, the function clears the memo table and exits (Lines 28–31). Once the best exact-capacity solution is identified, the procedure reconstructs the final welfare-maximizing allocation by tracing backward from provider nnn to 111 (Lines 32–44). At each step, it reads from the memoized records to determine whether the current OP was skipped or which tier was chosen (Lines 36–39), appending the selected tier's information while reducing the remaining capacity accordingly (Lines 40–43). After reversing the reconstructed list to restore natural OP order (Line 45), the procedure assigns the total welfare (Line 46), clears the memo table for safety (Line 47), and returns the final allocation and welfare pair (Line 48). Thus, MCKP() serves as the global welfare maximizer, identifying both the optimal set of tiers and the maximum achievable social welfare.

2.2 Function OPT()

Algorithm 4 $\text{OPT}(j, d, \text{proc_tiers}, \text{memo}, \text{IMPOSSIBLE})$

Require: $0 \leq j \leq n, 0 \leq d \leq R$
Ensure: best_value for first j providers with exact capacity d

```

1: key  $\leftarrow (j, d)$ 
2: if key  $\in \text{memo}$  then
3:   memo[key].value
4: end if
5: if  $j = 0$  then
6:   if  $d = 0$  then
7:     memo[(0,0)]  $\leftarrow (0.0, \text{None})$ 
8:     0.0
9:   else
10:    memo[(0,d)]  $\leftarrow (\text{IMPOSSIBLE}, \text{None})$ 
11:    IMPOSSIBLE
12: end if
13: end if
14: Option A: skip provider  $j - 1$ 
15: best  $\leftarrow \text{OPT}(j - 1, d, \text{proc\_tiers}, \text{memo}, \text{IMPOSSIBLE})$ 
16: chosen  $\leftarrow \text{None}$ 
17: Option B: choose one tier from provider  $j - 1$ 
18: for each  $(t_{\text{idx}}, (\text{units}, \text{price}, \text{tid}, \text{orig}))$  in  $\text{proc\_tiers}[j - 1]$ 
do
19:   if  $\text{units} \leq d$  then
20:     prev  $\leftarrow \text{OPT}(j - 1, d - \text{units}, \text{proc\_tiers}, \text{memo}, \text{IMPOSSIBLE})$ 
21:     if prev  $\neq \text{IMPOSSIBLE}$  then
22:       val  $\leftarrow \text{prev} + \text{price}$ 
23:       if val  $> \text{best}$  or (val = best and (chosen = None or t_idx < chosen)) then
24:         best  $\leftarrow \text{val}$ 
25:         chosen  $\leftarrow t_{\text{idx}}$ 
26:       end if
27:     end if
28:   end if
29: end for
30: memo[key]  $\leftarrow (\text{best}, \text{chosen})$ 
31: best

```

2.2.1 Function Inputs

- $j \rightarrow$ represents the number of consumer Operator Platforms (OPs) considered in the current subproblem. This function computes the maximum welfare achievable using only the first j OPs. This creates the DP structure where:
 - Decreasing j explores smaller prefixes, and
 - Base case $j=0$, corresponds to “no OP available”
Role in DP: It controls which OP is being evaluated at this recursion level, enabling the options:
 - Skip OP $j-1$, or
 - Pick exactly one of OP $j-1$ ’s tiers
- $d \rightarrow$ It denotes the exact amount of resource capacity available in the current subproblem. $\text{OPT}()$ must compute the best welfare achievable while filling exactly d units of resources.
This reflects the exact-fill semantics of classical MCKP, consistent with Equation (4) in the paper.
Role in DP:
 - Determines which tiers are feasible (only those with $\text{units} \leq d$).
 - Guides recursive calls
 - Base case $\text{OPT}(0,d)$ is feasible only if $d=0$, infeasible otherwise

- `proc_tiers` → Preprocesses tier structure. It is a list of lists storing the tiered bids in a normalized, computation-friendly structure.

For each provider I , its entry is: [(units, price, tier_id, orig), ...]

Why needed:

- DP recursion repeatedly access tier units and valuations
- Preprocessing ensures integer units, floating valuations, and deterministic tier IDs
- Avoid heavy dictionary lookups inside the hot loop, improving performance

Role in DP: Used to iterate over all feasible tiers of OP $j-1$, when exploring Option B (choosing tier)

- `memo` → Memoization table. It stores already-computed DP states to avoid exponential recomputation. A typical entry:

$$\text{memo}[(j,d)] = (\text{best_value}, \text{chosen_tier_index})$$

Why necessary:

- Converts exponential recursion into pseudo-polynomial DP ($O(n.R.k)$ complexity).
- Records not only the best value but also the chosen tier, enabling reconstruction in the top-level function.

Role in DP:

- On entering a state, OPT first checks if (j,d) is memorized
- On exiting a state, OPT writes the computed results before returning

- `IMPOSSIBLE` – Sentinel for Infeasible States. This variable represents the DP states that cannot be satisfied under exact-fill rules. Typically set to a large negative constant (e.g.. -10^{18}).

Why needed:

- Avoids the use of negative infinity, which is slower in Python float comparisons
- Prevents accidental acceptance of infeasible paths during max-comparisons
- Ensures base conditions match the MCKP recurrence:
 - $\text{OPT}(0,0)=0$
 - $\text{OPT}(0,d>0)=\text{IMPOSSIBLE}$

Role in DP: It is used to:

- Flag subproblems with insufficient capacities
- Exclude invalid choices from max comparisons
- Maintain correctness of recurrence.

2.2.2 Output

The `OPT` function returns the maximum welfare achievable using the first jjj OPs under exact capacity ddd

2.2.3 Line By Line Explanation

Complementing `MCKP()`, the recursive `OPT(j, d)` function embodies the dynamic-programming core of the Multiple-Choice Knapsack formulation. It begins by forming the DP state key (Line 1) and immediately returns a memoized value if the state has been previously computed (Lines 2–4). The base case occurs when no OPs remain; here the function returns a feasible zero only when the remaining capacity is also zero, and an infeasible sentinel otherwise (Lines 5–12). For non-base cases, `OPT` first evaluates the option of skipping OP $j-1$, recursively inheriting the best welfare obtainable for the same capacity (Lines 13–16). It then considers the alternative of selecting exactly one of OP $j-1$'s feasible tiers (Lines 17–18). For each tier whose demand does not exceed the remaining capacity (Line 19), the function computes the welfare achievable by combining that tier's valuation with the optimal welfare of the reduced subproblem `OPT(j-1, d - ajj)` (Lines 20–21). Any feasible choice improves the running best value, and ties are broken deterministically to ensure reproducibility (Lines 22–27). After exploring all candidate tiers, the function stores the optimal value along with the chosen tier index in the memo table (Line 29), ensuring that the

driver can later reconstruct the allocation without recomputation, and finally returns the best welfare obtained for state (j, d) (Lines 30–31). In doing so, OPT directly implements the recursive structure of the MCKP recurrence, faithfully capturing the optimal social welfare obtainable from the first j OPs under an exact remaining capacity of d .

3 Section 2: CAMARA compliant VERA API's Endpoints

| Path | Verb | Purpose | Request | Response | Role |
|------------------------------------|--------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| /mechs | POST | Register MEC with capability profile | {name, location, capacityProfile} | {mecId, status} | FRA |
| /mechs | GET | List registered MECs | - | {mecId, name, capacityProfile} | FRA |
| /mechs/{mecId} | GET | Inspect MEC profile | - | {mecId, profile} | FRA/MEC |
| /mechs/{mecId} | DELETE | Deregister MEC (if no commitments) | - | {status} | FRA/MEC |
| /rounds | POST | Create an allocation round (params) | {capacity, policy, start, end} | {roundId, status} | FRA |
| /rounds | GET | List rounds / statuses | - | {roundId, status, policy} | FRA/MEC |
| /rounds/{roundId} | GET | Get round metadata | - | {roundId, status, capacity} | FRA/MEC |
| /rounds/{roundId}:lock | POST | Deterministic close of bidding | - | {roundId, status=LOCKED} | FRA |
| /rounds/{roundId}:run | POST | Trigger allocation solver (async op) | - | {opId} | FRA |
| /bids | POST | Submit a tiered bid for a round | {mecId, roundId, tiers:[{tier, units, price}]} | {bidId, status} | FRA |
| /bids?roundId={id} | GET | List bids filtered by round | - | {bidId, mecId, tiers} | FRA/MEC (filtered) |
| /bids/{bidId} | PATCH | Update bid while round OPEN | partial bid | {bidId, status} | MEC |
| /bids/{bidId} | DELETE | Withdraw bid while OPEN | - | {status} | MEC |
| /allocations | POST | List allocations (FRA:all; MEC:filtered) | - | {allocationId, assignments, payouts} | FRA/MEC |
| /allocations/{allocationId} | GET | Inspect allocation details | - | {assignment, payouts, totalValue} | FRA/MEC |
| /allocations/{allocationId}:settle | POST | Finalize settlement for allocation | - | {allocationId, settled} | FRA |

The table given above contains the details of the 16 end points of the VERA API, that we have been made keeping in mind that it is CAMARA compliant. We have used FsatAPI, OpenAPI 3.1.1, and other standardization techniques that are used for the development of any CAMARA compliant API. From security perspective we have implemented OAuth 2.0 authorization along with JWT authentication.