Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
Combination Problems Mathematical, Probability and Decision Trees

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Exercise

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There are two ways I go to work, both involve a two part journey.

- I can cycle to the bus stop; it usually takes 5 minutes, or 15 minutes if the railroad crossing is closed on the road, which happens on 10% of occasions.

- A bus takes an average of 5 minutes to arrive. I took the first bus, which may have been a slow bus that took 30 minutes or a fast bus that took 15 minutes. Chances of I get a slow bus is 20%

- Or, I could drive to the Park and Ride parking lot

- Driving normally takes 15 minutes, but about half the time there is a traffic jam and it taks 20 minutes.

- When I get to the Park and Ride, sometimes I get the bus right away, but there's a 60% chance I'll have to wait 10 minutes for the next bus.

- The bus took 10 minutes to take me to work.

Questions

1. What is my shortest time to start to work?

   From the statements above, we can gather up these informations:

   (a) The First Route

     - Cycle: 5 minutes
     - Bus: 0 minutes
     - Fast Bus: 15 minutes
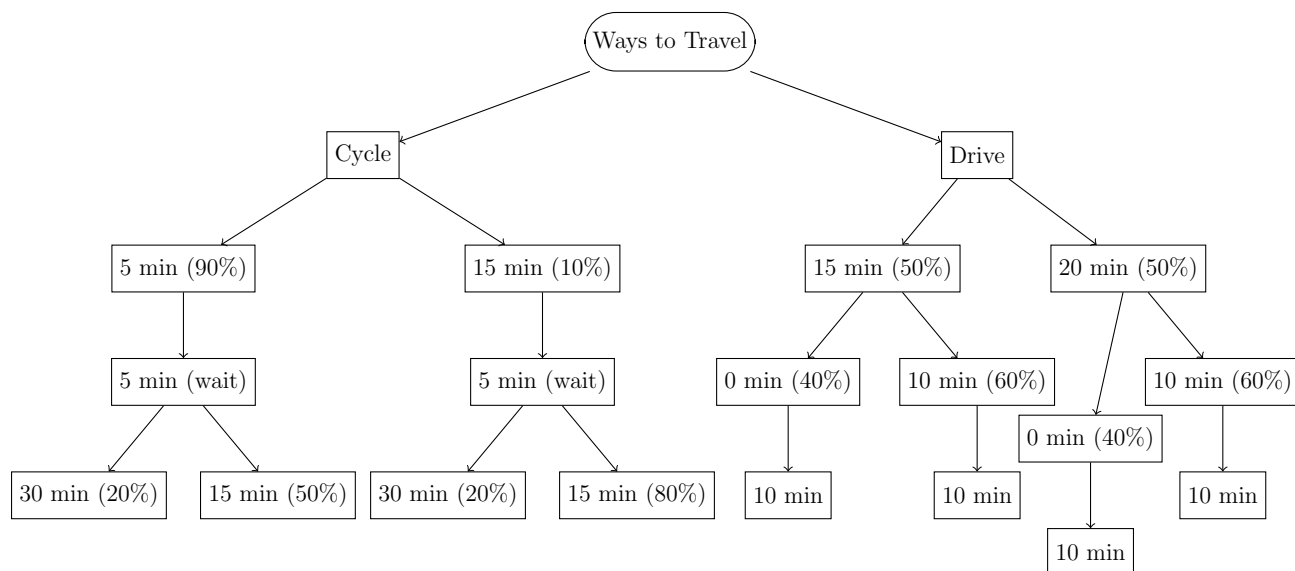
     Total: 20 minutes

   (b) The Second Route

     - Drive: 15 minutes
     - Wait for a Bus: 0 minutes
     - Riding the Bus: 10 minutes

     Total: 25 minutes

   Based on the data that we've summarised, the shorted path would be the first one because it only takes 20 minutes to travel.

2. On average, what is my best option for going to work and how much time do I need?

To find the most efficient option, we need to try each path and then multiply the number of minutes with the number of the percentages. We can then list them as such:

- **Cycle**
  (a) First Path
      – $90\% \times 5 = 4.5\ minutes$
      – $5\ minutes$
      – $20\% \times 30 = 6\ minutes$
      – **Total:** 15.5 minutes
  (b) Second Path
      – $90\% \times 5 = 4.5\ minutes$
      – $5\ minutes$
      – $50\% \times 15 = 7.5\ minutes$
      – **Total:** 17 minutes
- **Drive**
  (a) First Path
      – $50\% \times 15 = 7.5\ minutes$
      – $40\% \times 0 = 0$
      – 10 minutes
      – **Total:** 17.5 minutes
  (b) Second Path
      – $50\% \times 15 = 7.5\ minutes$
      – $60\% \times 10 = 6\ minutes$
      – 10 minutes
      – **Total:** 23.5 minutes

(c) Third Path
- $50\% \times 20 = 10\ minutes$
- $40\% \times 0 = 0\ minutes$
- 10 minutes
- **Total:** 20 minutes

(d) Fourth Path
- $50\% \times 20 = 10\ minutes$
- $60\% \times 10 = 6\ minutes$
- 10 minutes
- **Total:** 26 minutes

From the list above, we can conclude that using the bicycle is the fastest and it took 15.5 minutes.

3. What is the probability that the first trip option takes 40 minutes or more?

To calculate this, we can look at the branches where the total time is 40 minutes or more and add the probabilities. There are:

- 18% (for 40 minutes)
- 2% (for 50 minutes)
- **Total:** 20%.

In conclusion, the probability of the first trip option taking 40 minutes or more is 20%