

## Correctness

(\*) Claim: (assume we're given a sequence  $C_n$  of <sup>positive</sup> integers.)  
For any  $X \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f$  returns the minimal number of coins we can use from  $C_n$  to pay the amount  $X$ .

Proof (by induction on  $X$ ):

base cases:

Assume  $X=0$ .

$f$  returns 0, as required

Assume  $X=1$

if  $\exists c_i \in C_n$  s.t.  $X - c_i = 0$  then  $f(X - c_i) = f(0) = 0$

therefore  $f$  returns  $1 + f(0) = 1$  as required

else  $\forall c_i \in C_n$   $1 \leq c_i$  and  $X - c_i < 0$

therefore  $f$  returns  $1 + f(X - c_i) = 1 + \infty = \infty$  as required.

Let  $X \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.  $1 < |X|$

(\*\*) Assume (\*) for any  $k < X$

We start with the third condition of  $f$ .

$f$  computes all  $n$  possibilities of the first <sup>(therefore)</sup>  $n$  coins act of payment.

Let  $c_i \in C_n$   $1 \leq c_i$ . Therefore  $X - c_i < X$ .

From (\*\*)  $f(X - c_i)$  returns the correct result,

that is, the minimal number of coins we can pay

(an amount) of  $X - c_i$  (given that the first coin we used for payment

is  $c_i$ ) therefore, the minimum between all the

results that  $f$  returns for the first coin we used

is the correct answer. Assuming that for some

$1 \leq k \leq n$   $f(X - c_k) \leq f(X - c_i) \quad \forall 1 \leq k \neq i \leq n$

we only need to add 1 to that result, for using

the coin  $c_k$ , that's exactly the final result that  $f$  returns.

We assumed (\*\*) for any  $k < X$  and showed for  $X$ , as required.