

## CSCI 332, Fall 2025

### Homework 6

Due Tuesday, October 14 Anywhere on Earth (6am Wednesday)

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#### Submission Requirements

- Type or clearly hand-write your solutions into a PDF format so that they are legible and professional. Submit your PDF on Gradescope.
- Do not submit your first draft. Type or clearly re-write your solutions for your final submission. If your submission is not legible, we will ask you to resubmit.
- Use Gradescope to assign problems to the correct page(s) in your solution. If you do not do this correctly, we will ask you to resubmit.

#### Academic Integrity

Remember, you may access **any** resource in preparing your solution to the homework. However, you **must**

- write your solutions in your own words, and
- credit every resource you use (for example: “Bob Smith helped me on this problem. He took this course at UM in Fall 2020”; “I found a solution to a problem similar to this one in the lecture notes for a different course, found at this link: [www.profzeno.com/agreatclass/lecture10](http://www.profzeno.com/agreatclass/lecture10)”; “I asked ChatGPT how to solve part (c)”; “I put my solution for part (c) into ChatGPT to check that it was correct and it caught a missing case.”) If you use the provided LaTeX template, you can use the `sources` environment for this. Ask if you need help!

1. Every fall, your family harvests apples at the old family orchard. You have many varied sizes of bins that you harvest the apples into, and a large fleet of identical carts that can all take a total weight of  $W$ . Your family has always done it exactly this way:
  - Park a cart at the orchard.
  - As bins of apples are finished, pack them onto the cart in exactly the order they arrive.
  - Once a bin arrives that would put the cart over its maximum weight, send the cart off and start loading the next cart.

According to this system, we could index the bins with the variable  $i$  and write the weight of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  bin  $w_i$ . Because your family members pick apples at different speeds and fill the bins to different levels, the  $w_i$  values are varied and unpredictable, and because the apple orchard produces at different levels every year, the total number of bins that will be loaded varies year to year as well.

Since your family knows that you are taking advanced algorithms, they wonder if you could help them decide whether they might be using too many carts. Maybe they could decrease the number of carts needed by sometimes sending off a cart that was less full, and in this way allow the next few carts to be better packed. However, note that your family is not willing to change the order that the bins are packed into the carts, since that would require a large loading area and extra work to rearrange the bins.

- (a) (1 point) Give an example set of weights  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{10}$  and a maximum cart weight  $W$  where your family's greedy algorithm does not fill any cart to capacity.
- (b) (1 point) If the loading area was large, and you could rearrange the bins in any order you wanted before loading them onto the carts, would that help your family use fewer carts? Why or why not?
- (c) (7 points) Prove that, for any set of apple bins with specified weights and any maximum cart weight  $W$ , the greedy algorithm currently in use actually minimizes the number of carts that are needed. Use a proof by exchange argument by induction. See the proof of the optimality of the interval scheduling greedy algorithm in class and the proof of the optimality of the advertiser slot greedy algorithm on PrairieLearn as examples, and consider focusing on the last bin added to each cart.
- (d) (1 point) What outside resources did you use to help with this problem?