

Mathematical Foundation of Data Science

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Problem: Crossing the Desert

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- The best strategy under known conditions of the whole weather conditions
- The weather is unknown in general the best strategy
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Overview

- ***In Question One***, the weather conditions are known throughout the journey. The desert map is abstracted and simplified, and the key path is calculated by the shortest circuit algorithm to obtain a directional map. On this basis, a dynamic planning model is constructed, and the optimal strategy in a given initial state is solved by using the memory search implementation algorithm. Through the multi-search algorithm, all the initial states are searched to obtain the global optimal strategy of the specified level. In the optimal strategy of the first and second levels, the final remaining funds are 10470 yuan and 12730 yuan.
- ***In question two***, because of the uncertainty of the environment, the cumulative effect of uncertainty will affect the final decision, so we have established a simplified model based on key nodes, and thus established the user's decision path. At the same time, in order to ensure the player's earnings and best deal with uncertain environment, players should adopt some specific strategies, such as because the next day can still be hot, so in hot weather should also walk as usual. Finally, the planning model can be established with the remaining funds as the target function, time and resources as the constraints, and the connection of parameters can be established, so as to analyze the basic analysis strategies that the user should adopt, such as going to the end point when only a certain amount of resources or time remains, analyzing the relationship between revenue and cost to decide whether ore should be mined, etc.
- ***In question three***, there is a multi-player game. In view of making all the decisions at the starting point, a complete information static game model is established. After simplifying the map, the decision set is calculated using the dynamic planning model, the winning matrix is obtained, and 2 Nash equilibriums are obtained. Then we establish a linear planning model and find out the hybrid strategy. For each step to make a decision and the weather is unknown.

Overview-Question background

- In the Desert Crossing game, players use a map to buy a certain amount of water and food with initial funds and walk through the desert from the starting point. Different weather conditions can be encountered along the way, and additional funds or resources can be restock in mines and villages, with the goal of reaching the end within a specified time frame and retaining as much money as possible.
- Based on the key nodes that the player may make decisions, we will discuss
 - the decision-making process of dynamic planning,
 - the stage decision path in uncertain state,
 - the game under multi-player conditions,
 - and gradually solves the problems in this background after simplifying the map through the network model.

Overview-Target task

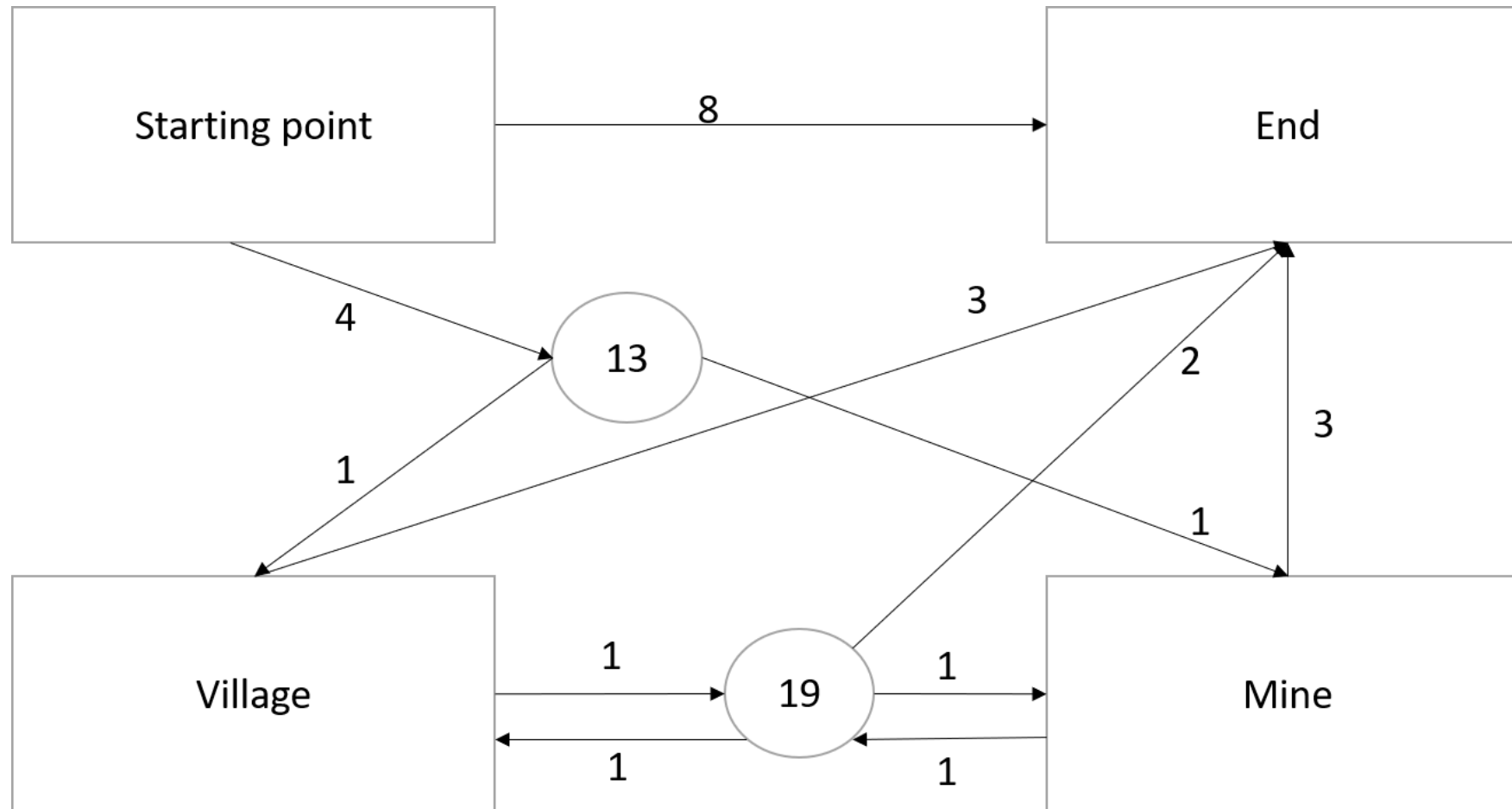
- **Question 1:** There must be a global optimization strategy for a given map when the weather conditions are known throughout the course and only one player is available.
- **Question 2:** How to make the optimal decision in the uncertain state of the environment, so as to maximize profits.
- **Question 3:** How to make a strategy in advance or make the best strategy based on the environment when multiple people are involved and decisions are influenced by each other.

Symbol Description and model foundation

Table 1 symbols and meaning

Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
$cost$	spend	m_{init}	Initial capital	w_{cost}	Benchmark price of water
Cap_{basic}	Basic income	C_{total}	Total cost	f_{cost}	Base price of food
w_{sun}	Basic water	w_{hot}	High temperature basic water consumption	w_{dust}	Basic water consumption of sandstorm
f_{sun}	Consumption on sunny days	f_{hot}	High temperature basic food consumption	f_{dust}	Basic food consumption in sandstorms
m_{left}	Clear basic food consumption	f_{left}	Surplus food	w_{left}	Remaining water
f_{buy}	Remaining money	w_{buy}	Purchased water	d_{total}	Total days
d_{cur}	Food purchased	$Point$	Player position	K	Number of stages
S	Current day State	X	Decision making	D	Decision set
d_{min}	Detour the mine to the end	cap_{total}	All benefits	$cost_{total}$	All spent
c_{sun}	Clear basic consumption	C_{hot}	Hot basic consumption	C_{dust}	Basic consumption of sand and dust

The network model is simplified



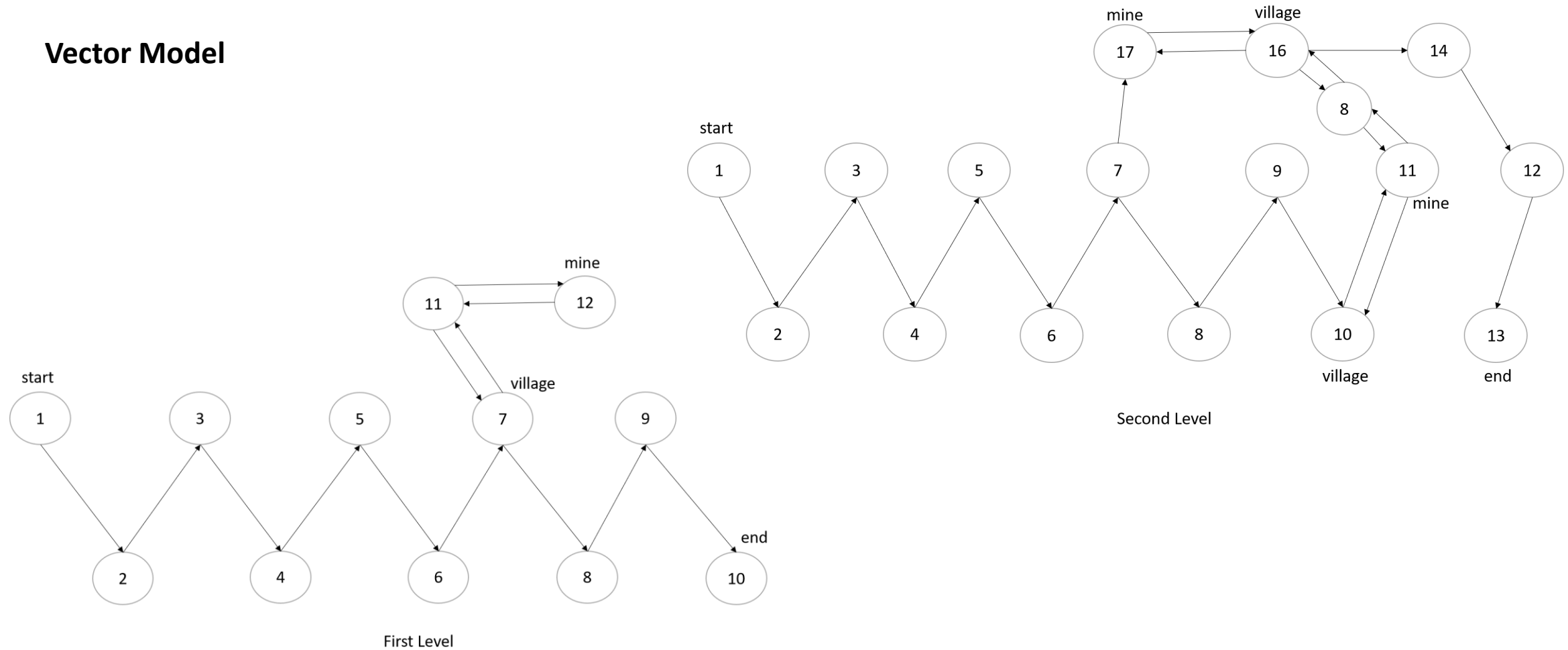
The network model simplifies the indication

The best strategy under known conditions of the whole weather conditions

- Analysis
 - In this question, the weather conditions are known in advance for each day throughout the game window, and the game has a limited time limit, i.e. the game ends in a limited step.

Model Building

Vector Model



Dynamic planning model

- Stage variables

$k = d_{cur} \dots\dots\dots(1)$

(2) The state variable

$sk = g(\text{point}, w_{left}, f_{left}) \dots\dots\dots(2)$

(3) Behavioral decision-making

Table 2 A set of decisions made when a player is in a mine in the first pass

Decision number	Weather	Path	Weather to mine	Decision number	Weather	Path	Weather to mine
A ₁	Sunny	Move to point 11	No	E	High temperature	Stay	Yes
B	Sunny	Stay	Yes	F	High temperature	Stay	No
C	Sunny	Stay	No	G	Sandstorm	Stay	Yes
D ₁	High temperature	Move to point 11	No	H	Sandstorm	Stay	No

State transfer function

$$w_{left} = \begin{cases} w_{left} - n * w_{sun} & s_k \in \text{ sunny} \\ w_{left} - n * w_{hot} & s_k \in \text{ High temperature} \\ w_{left} - w_{dust} & s_k \in \text{ sandstorm} \end{cases} \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

$$f_{left} = \begin{cases} f_{left} - n * f_{sun} & s_k \in \text{ sunny} \\ f_{left} - n * f_{hot} & s_k \in \text{ High temperature} \\ f_{left} - f_{dust} & s_k \in \text{ sandstorm} \end{cases} \dots\dots\dots(4)$$

$$s_{k+1} = g(point_{k+1}, w_{left}, f_{left}) \dots\dots\dots(5)$$

In (3)-(5),

$$n = \begin{cases} 3 & s_k \in \text{ mining} \\ 2 & s_k \in \text{ move} \\ 1 & s_k \in \text{ stay} \cap \text{ No mining} \end{cases} \dots\dots\dots(6)$$

Stage profit and loss function

$$cost(s_k, x_k) = -p * w_{cost} * w_{buy} - p * f_{cost} * f_{buy} + q * cap_{basic} \quad \dots\dots\dots(7)$$

$$p = \begin{cases} 2 & s_k \in \text{Supply \& k not equal 0} \\ 1 & k = 0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad \dots\dots\dots(8)$$

Based on the above instructions, the dynamic planning model can be summarized as:

$$\begin{cases} cost_{total}(s_0) = m_{init} - m_{left}(s_0) \\ cost_{total}(s_{k+1}) = cost(s_k, x_k) + cost_{total}(s_k) \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, d_{total} - 1 \end{cases} \quad \dots\dots(9)(10)$$

Model Solution

- Algorithm

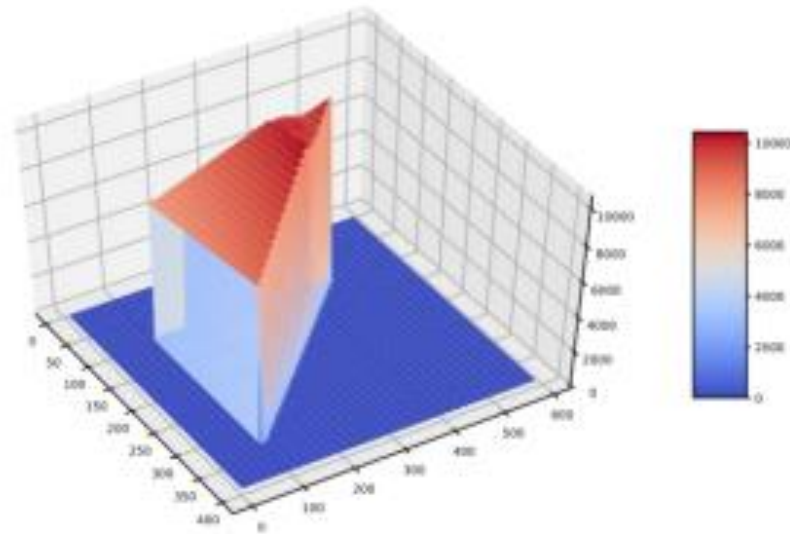


Figure 3 Level 1: The final remaining funds for optimal strategies under different initial replenishment conditions

The Weather is Unknown

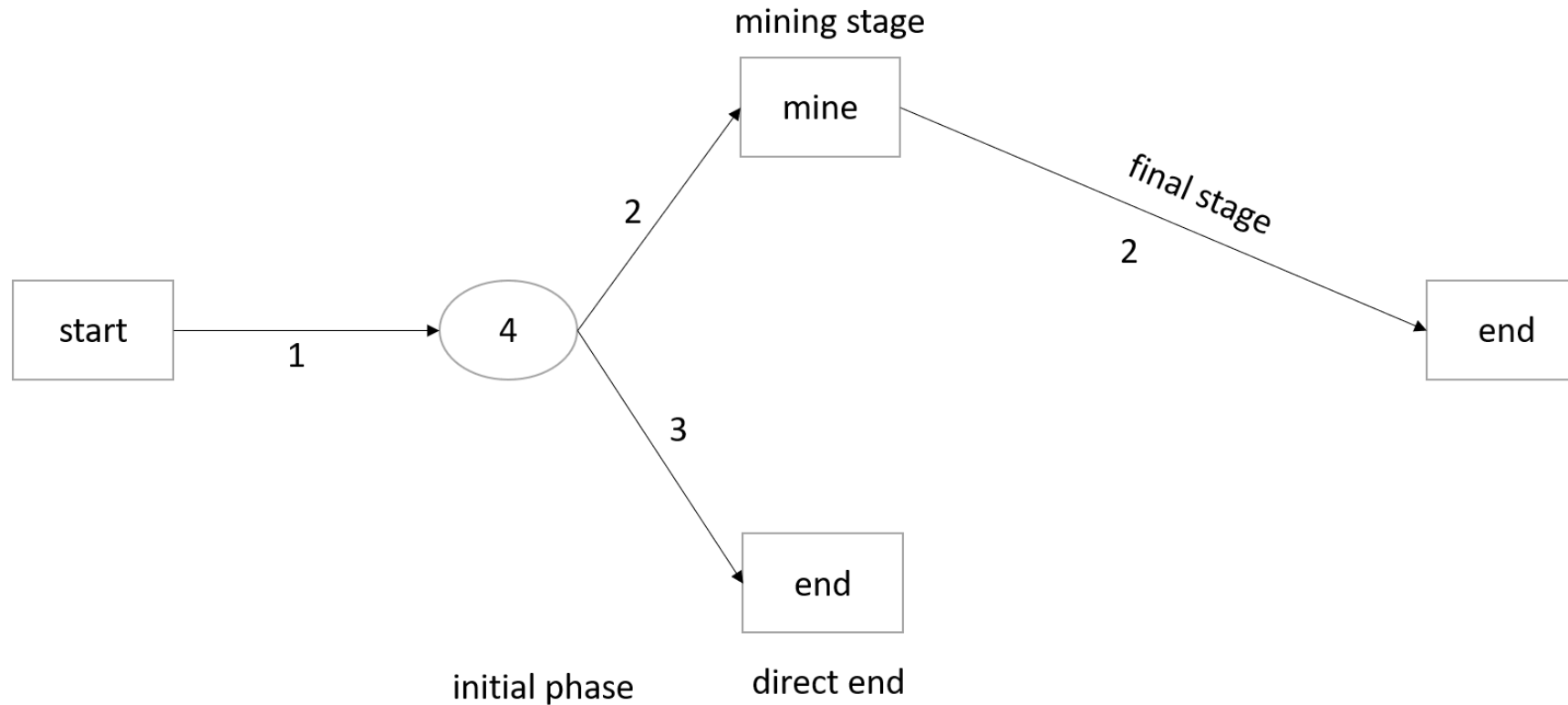
- Problem Analysis
- Decision Model
- Influencing Factors
- The Decision Path Analysis
- Solution Model (Level 3)
- Solution Model (Level 4)

Problem Analysis

- Must reach the End Point within a specified time
- Must not run out of Food or Water
- The probability of weather is important decision making factor.

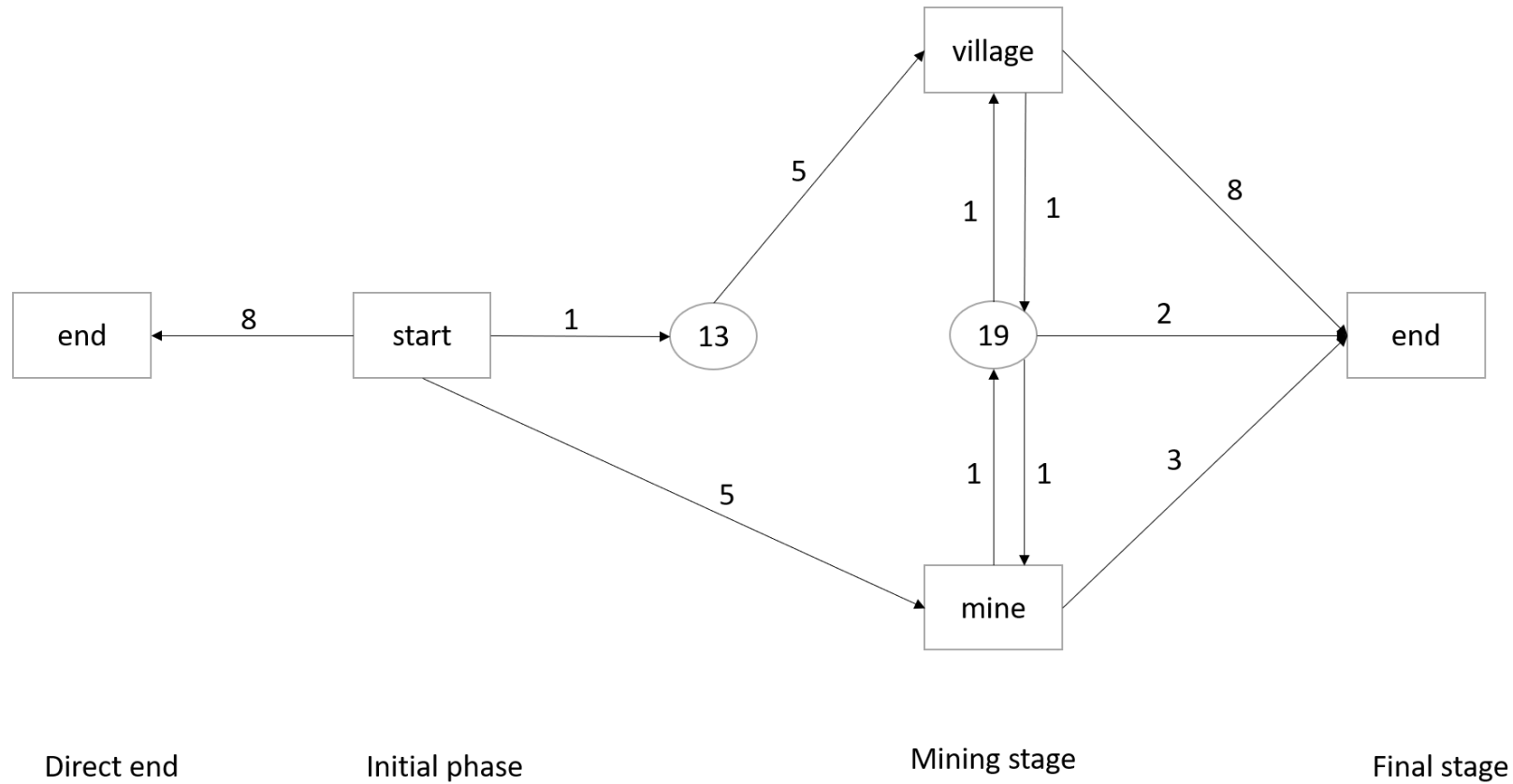
Decision Modeling

Simplified Decision Path (Level 3):



Decision Path Analysis

Decision Path (Level 4):



Influencing Factors.

- Village Presence
- High Temperature
- Sandstorm

$$\max m_{\text{left}} = m_{\text{init}} - \text{cost}_{\text{total}} + \text{cap}_{\text{total}},$$

$$\text{s.t. } \text{cost}_{\text{total}} = (w_{\text{buy}} + w_{\text{village}} * 2) * w_{\text{cost}} + (f_{\text{buy}} + f_{\text{village}} * 2) * f_{\text{cost}},$$

$$\text{cap}_{\text{total}} = d_{\text{mine}} * \text{cap}_{\text{basic}},$$

$$d_{\text{total}} \geq \text{dis} + \text{detour} + d_{\text{dust}} + d_{\text{mine}},$$

$$w_{\text{buy}} + w_{\text{village}} \geq w_{\text{hot}} * (d_{\text{mine}} * 3 + \text{dis}_{\text{cur}} * 2 + \text{detour} * 2) + w_{\text{dust}} * d_{\text{dust}},$$

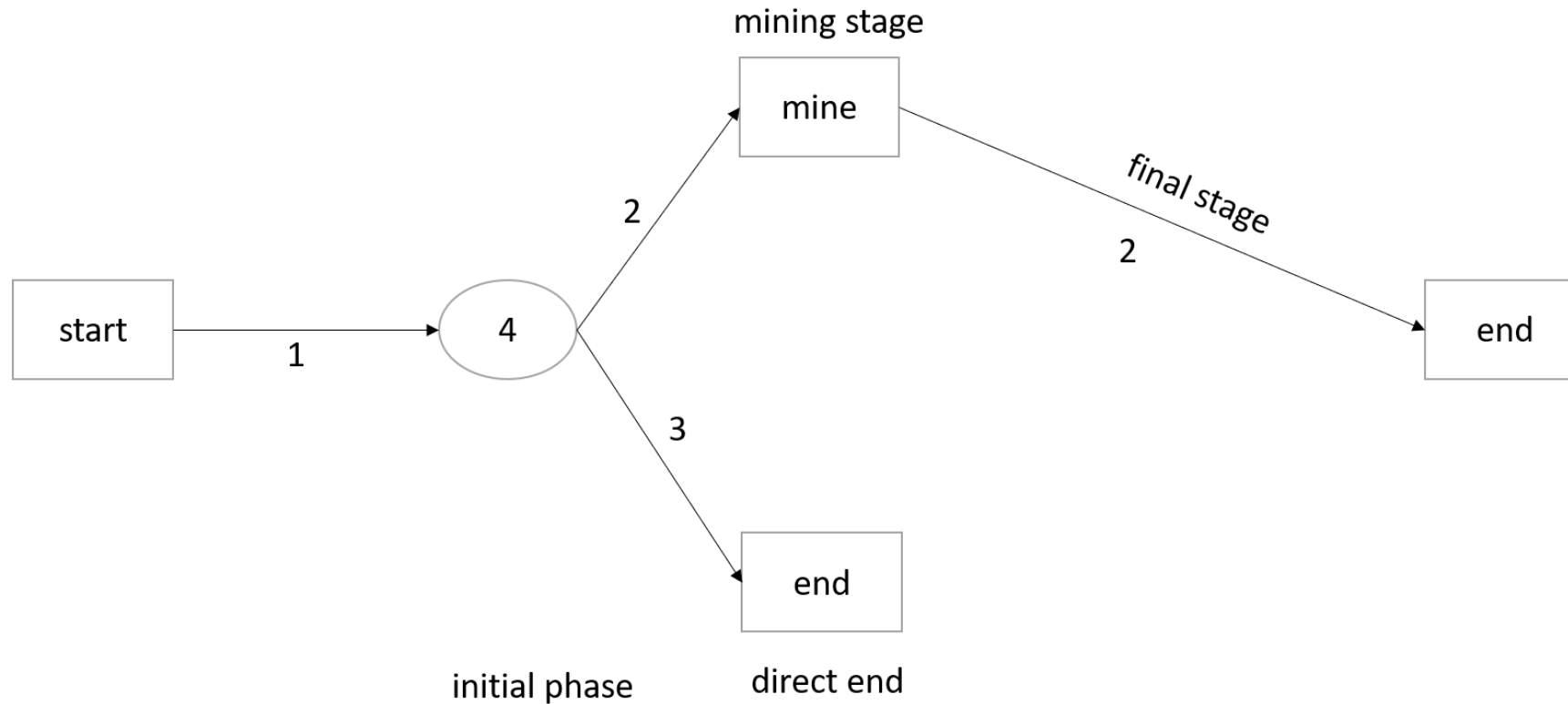
$$f_{\text{buy}} + f_{\text{village}} \geq f_{\text{hot}} * (d_{\text{mine}} * 3 + \text{dis}_{\text{cur}} * 2 + \text{detour} * 2) + f_{\text{dust}} * d_{\text{dust}}$$

Path Selection

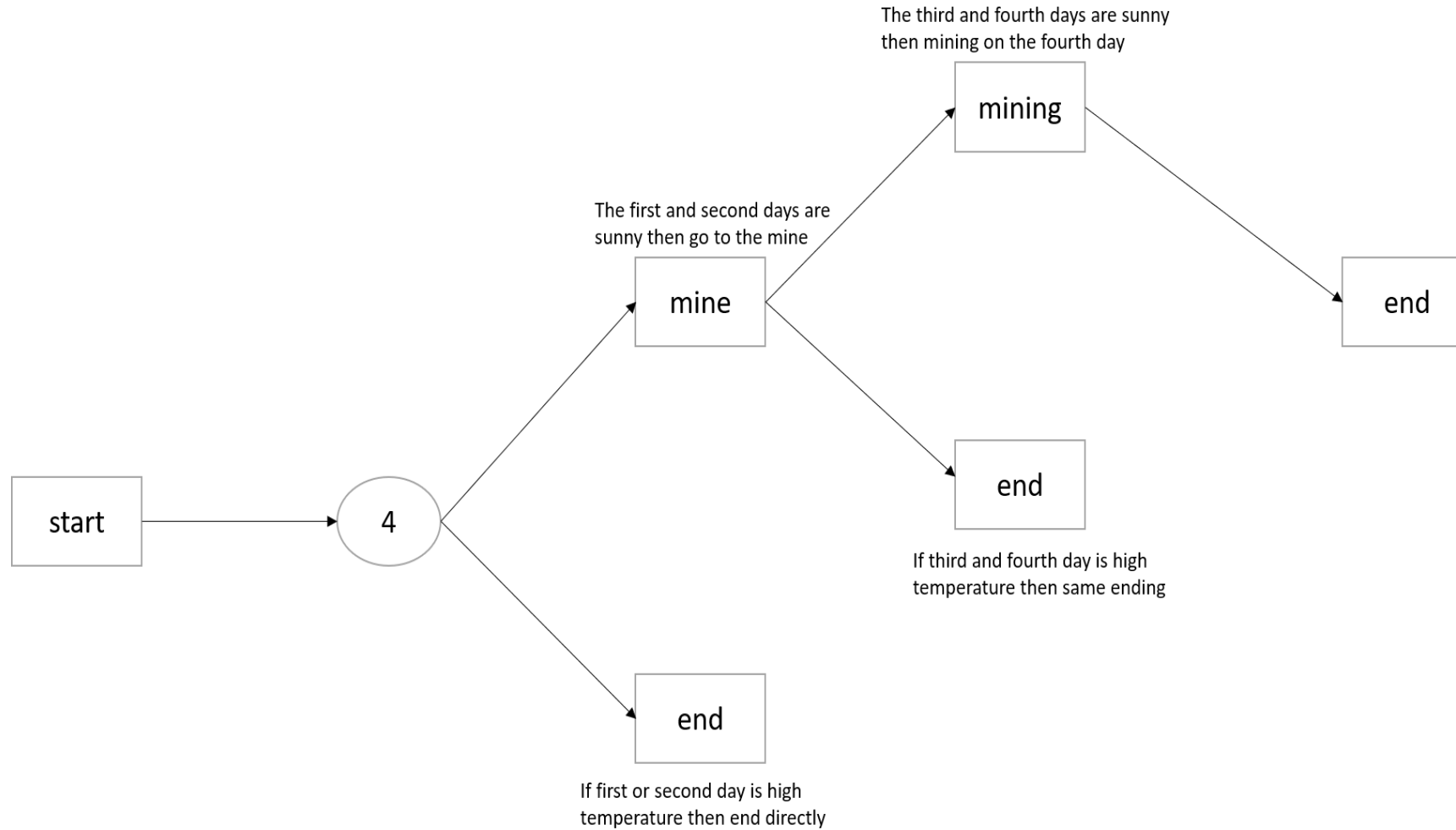
- Does the income from the mine cover the cost of going to the mine?
- Is the presence of the village, is it cost effective to mine given both the cost of making the detour and also the cost of buying necessary resources at the village?
- If resource being carried is just enough to reach the end point even with adverse weather conditions and there is no chance of buying more, immediately head to exit.
- In the event of sandstorm, assume the deadline has also reduced as you can't move in sandstorm.

Solution Model (Level 3)

Simplified Path Model for level 3



Path Selection (decision) model for level 3:



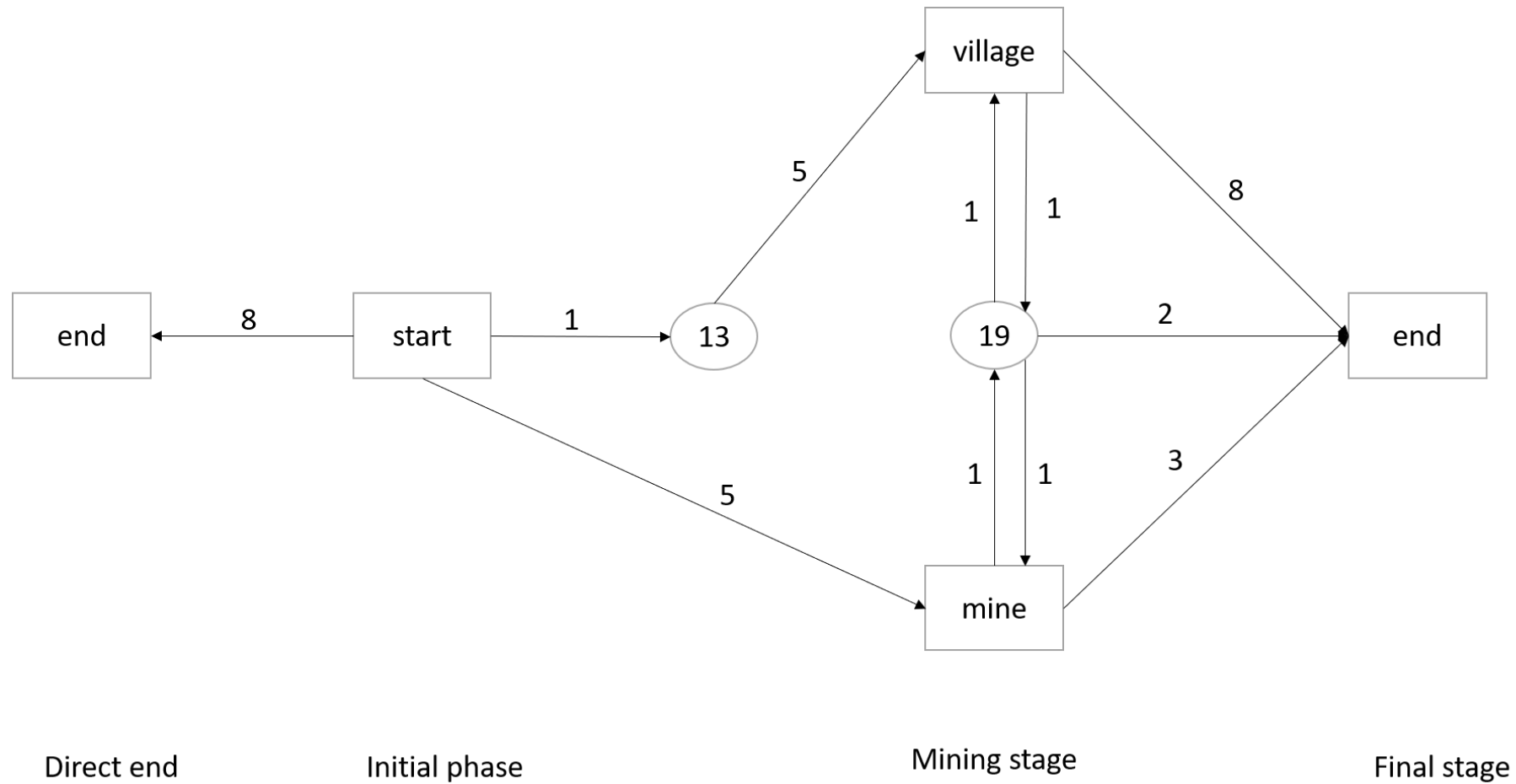
Summary of decision making policy (Level 3)

Table 3 Best strategy for the third level

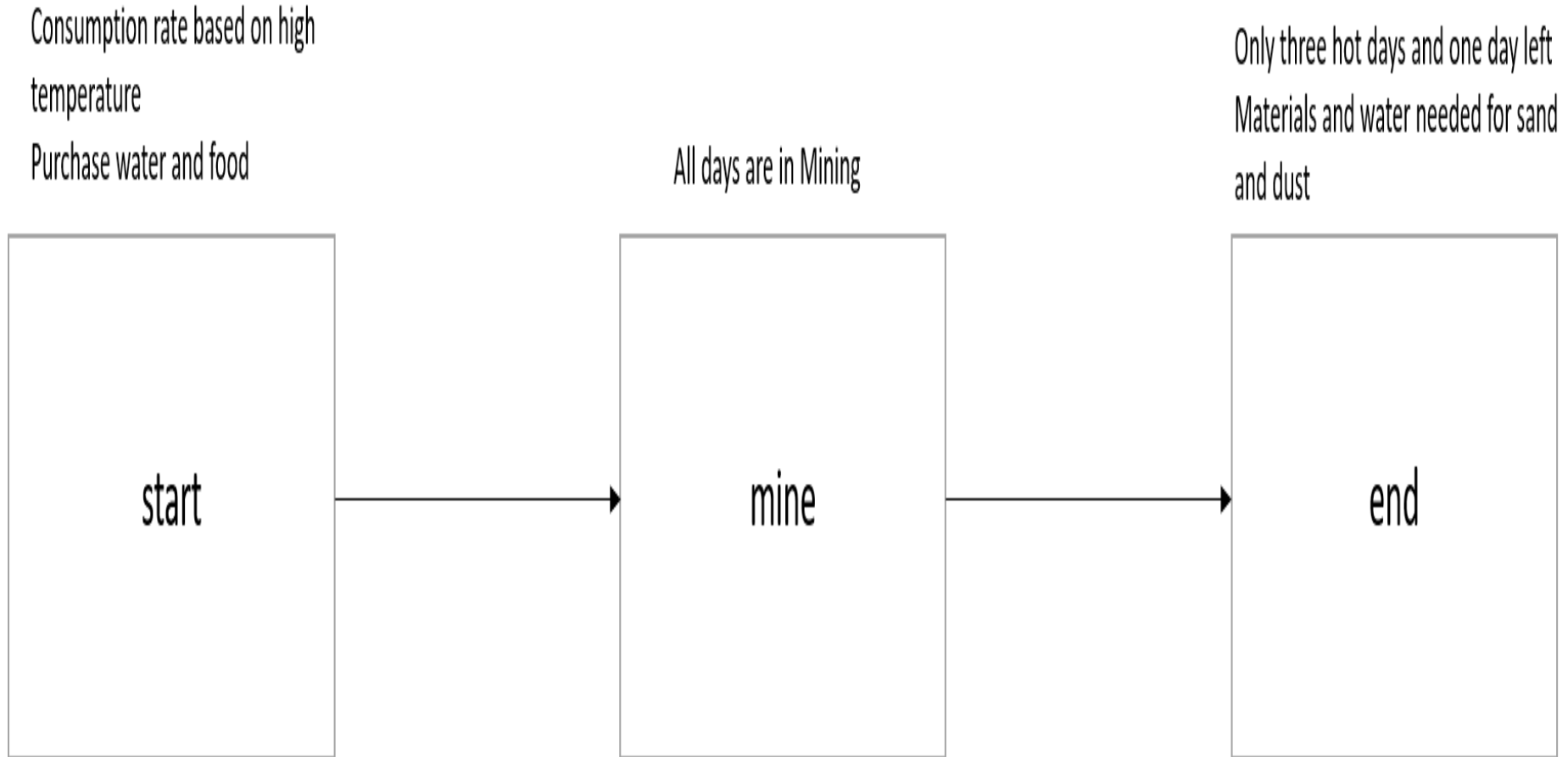
Initial purchase	$4 * w_{hot} = 216kg$ water and $4 * f_{hot} = 144kg$ food, spend 2520 yuan
Basic strategy	Go to position 4 on Day 1, follow 4-6-13 to the end if the next day is hot, and follow 4-3-9-11-13 to the end if the next day is not hot, where mining is mining early on the fourth day if the 3/4th day is all sunny.
The remaining funds	if there is no mining, remains $m_{init} - 216kg * w_{cost} - 144kg * f_{cost} = 7480$ yuan; If you can mine, remains $7480 + 200 = 7680$ yuan.

Solution Model (Level 4)

Simplified Path Model (Level 4):



Path Selection (decision) Model for Level 4:



Summary of Decision making policy (Level 4)

4 The best strategy for the fourth level

Initial purchase	720kg of water and 480kg of food, or in proportion to consumption in clear weather
Basic strategy	Go directly to the mine, keep moving forward in addition to sandstorms, and choose to mine no matter what the weather is like when you arrive at the mine
End condition	If the remaining water during mining will be less than 192kg or less than 128kg, choose to follow the shortest path to the end.

Multi-player game under the condition of the strategy

- Problem Analysis

In this problem, there are many decision makers in the game, each decision maker maintains its own decision variables and objective functions, and the behavior of decision makers affect each other, so we use the game model to study.

At level 5, the number of players is 2, each player has full information on day 0, and each player's course of action needs to be determined on day 0 and cannot be changed thereafter, resulting in a completely static game of information. Under the analysis framework of static model, we need to determine the game's people, decision sets, utility functions, and winning matrix, so as to calculate the game's Nash equilibrium and formulate the optimal game strategy.

In the sixth level, the number of players is 3, and each player knows the action plan and the number of resources left for the rest of the player's day after the action ends, and then determines their action plan for the next day. Similar to level five, each player wants to take the optimal path from the starting point to the end.

The fifth pass model is established and solved

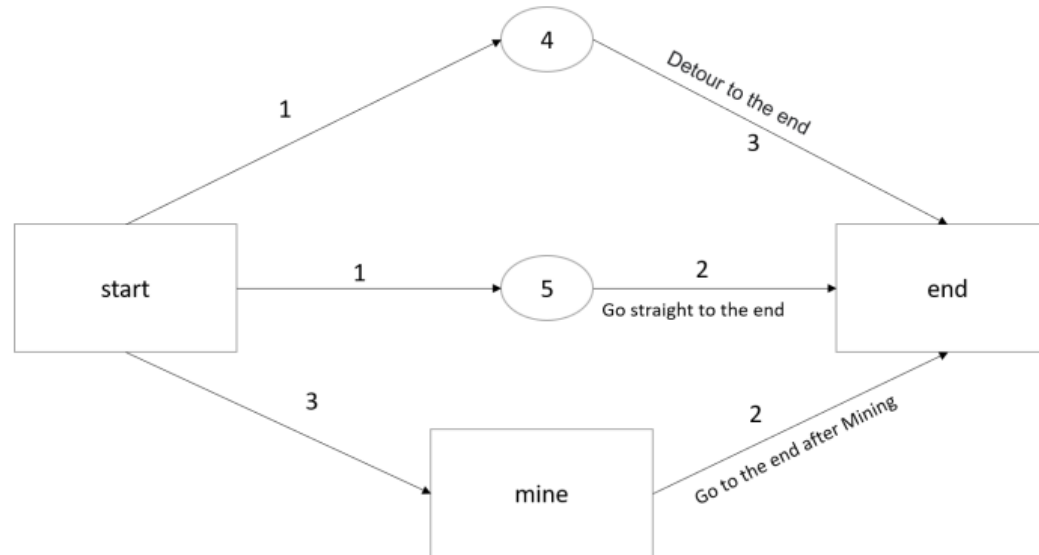
Modeling

First of all, we set up a complete information static game model for the fifth level. (1) People in the bureau. In a response, the participants who have the right to decide on their own course of action are referred to as the in-office persons. In this model, the person is the player. We use I to represent a collection of people in the bureau. 2) Decision collection In a game of countermeasures, a practical and complete course of action available to the people in the bureau is called a strategy. Each person in each game participating in the countermeasure, $i, i \in I$, has its own decision set D_i (3) Win the matrix Each of the two sides meets the $x_1 \in D_1, x_2 \in D_2$ decision (x_1, x_2) , using $u(x_1, x_2)$ to represent the effectiveness of the game in the game. Use the winning matrix $M = |u(i, j)|$ to represent the benefits of all game possibilities. (4) Nash equalizer Both sides of the game strive to maximize their effectiveness in the game through decision-making, with the player represented separately 1 and player 2 will select the strategy

$$\begin{cases} u_1(x_1^*, x_2^*) \geq u_1(x_1, x_2^*) \\ u_2(x_1^*, x_2^*) \geq u_2(x_1^*, x_2) \\ x_1 \in D_1 \\ x_2 \in D_2 \end{cases}$$

The fifth pass model is established and solved

Solution



Decision path selection

The fifth pass model is established and solved

Table 5 One player's strategy

1. One player's strategy:

Policy Number	Strategy description	Final amount
Strategy 1	Mining first and then heading to the end	¥ 9325
Strategy 2	Go straight to the end without mining	¥ 9535
Strategy 3	Go straight to the end without mining	¥ 9425

2. Two player's strategy:

Strategy number	Strategy description	The final amount for each player
Strategy 4	Both players mine first and then head to the end	¥ 8515
Strategy 5	Neither player mine directly to the end point	¥ 9070
Strategy 6	Neither player digs a mine to make the detour to the end	¥ 8850

Game decision and its issues:

- The participants in the game (people in the game) are 2 players;
- There are three strategies for the game: go directly to the end, make a detour to the end, dig and then go to the end;
- The decision set of the 2 players in the game is the same;
- The purpose of both sides of the game is to successfully reach the end and make the remaining amount the largest;

Utility function of the player 1 matrix:

$$M_1 = | u_1(i, j) |_{3 \times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} 9070 & 9425 & 9325 \\ 9535 & 8850 & 9325 \\ 9535 & 9425 & 8515 \end{pmatrix}$$

Utility function of the player 2 matrix:

$$M_2 = | u_2(i, j) |_{3 \times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} 9070 & 9535 & 9535 \\ 9425 & 8850 & 9425 \\ 9325 & 9325 & 8515 \end{pmatrix}$$

The fifth pass model is established and solved

Final amount under the two player's game:

Player 2 / Player 1	Go directly to the end	Take a detour to the end	After mining, go to the end
Go directly to the end	9070, 9070	9425, 9535	9325, 9535
Take a detour to the end	9535, 9425	8850, 8850	9325, 9425
After mining, go to the end point	9535, 9325	9425, 9325	8515, 8515

The sixth pass model is established and solved

Modeling:

Players are rational players; the goal is to maximize the remaining amount to win the game;

- Players do not communicate before making decisions, cannot produce collusion, cooperation;
- All players make decisions at the same time;
- Regardless of malicious competition between players, they deliberately follow the same path as other players to consume each other's resource's purpose.

We will mark Markov's decision-making process as follows: $M = \langle S, X, P_s, x, R \rangle$

The sixth pass model is established and solved

- (1) State collection
- (2) Action collection
- (3) The probability of state transfer
- (4) Return

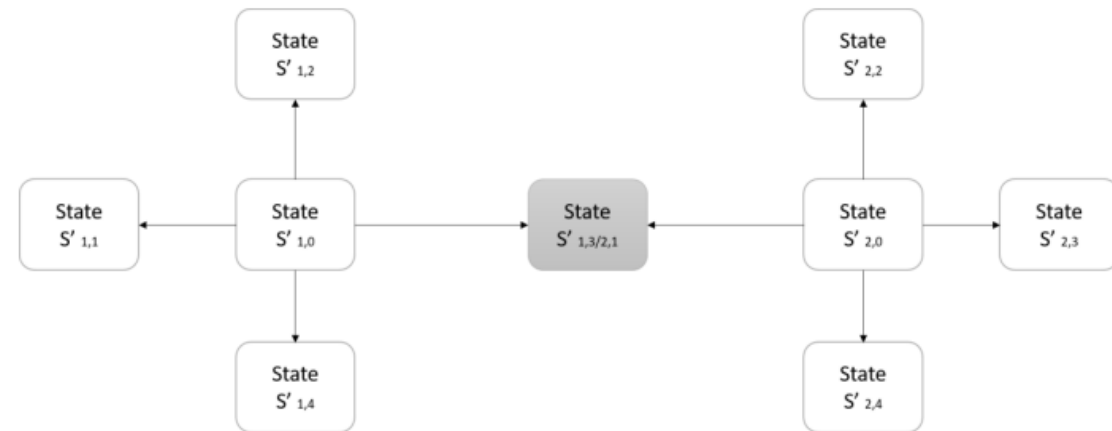


Figure 12 Level 6: Action Set and Game Diagram

The sixth pass model is established and solved

Status information contained in the status collection

Serial Number	Serial Information	Serial Number	Serial Information
A	Personal money	G	Player 3 money
B	My remaining resources	H	Player 3 remaining resources
C	My backpack capacity	I	Player 3 strategy of the day
D	Player 2 money	J	Weather
E	Player 2 remaining resources	K	Basic game parameters
F	Player 2 strategy of the day	L	Basic map of the game

Risk Factor:

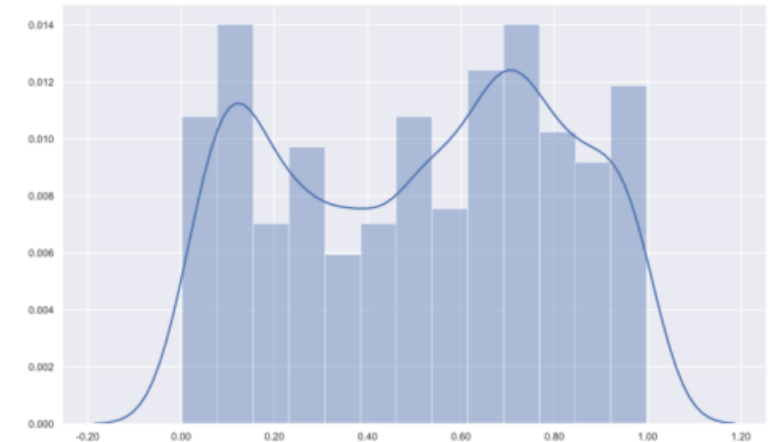


Figure 14 An estimate of the degree of risk acceptance for all failed gamers

Model evaluation and promotion

- ***Question one***

- For question one, after simplifying the original map into a directional graph model, a complete dynamic planning model, including state variables, decision variables, state transfer functions, profit and loss functions, etc., is established by analyzing the decision-making scheme and constraints in the rules of the game. In the implementation of the algorithm, combined with multiple searches, memory search, pruning and other optimization means, significantly improve the computational speed.

- ***Question two***

- In the context of environmental uncertainty, the model establishes the player's decision path by analyzing the accumulation of uncertainties, by adjusting the Dijkstra algorithm, creating a simplified network with key locations as the core. At the same time, the relationship between the player's earnings and individual behaviors is established, thus establishing several basic decision-making bases, in the specific environment, only need to carry out cost analysis and environmental analysis, you can get the player's general best strategy.

Model evaluation and promotion

- ***Question three***

- For question three, based on the idea of static game and dynamic game, the basic model of player's behavior strategy is established based on the conclusions of the first two questions, under the circumstances of multi-player participation and the decision-making results will affect each other.
- For the static full information game at level five, it is assumed that there is no exchange of information between players. The model abstracts out three decision-making choices, and calculating the probability of the strategy from the perspective of hybrid strategy can guarantee the maximum amount mean from the game of large number of disks, but the guiding significance of the decision-making of a game is limited.

Summary