

① we know, that if the rental ski problem is offline, the optimal cost of the algorithm is $\text{OPT}(\text{ALGO}) = \min\left(\sum_{i=1}^d x_i, p\right)$

here; d is the number of day that the skier went for skiing, and x_i is the rental price of a day. here in the given problem, $\sum_{i=1}^d x_i = d$ as rental price per day is \$1. and in the dynamic pricing, we don't know $\sum_{i=1}^d x_i$.

According to the "better-late-than-never" suggests the adversary rents the ski equipment for t days and then buy on $(t+1)$ th day.

$$\text{cost}(A_t, I_d) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^d x_i & \text{if } d \leq t \\ \sum_{i=0}^t x_i + p & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Now let's examine some cases of dynamic pricing,

case 1: if the skier bought the equipment in the first day he went for skiing, then the competitive ratio,

$$\begin{aligned} c &= \max_{d, x} \frac{p}{\min\left(\sum_{i=1}^d x_i, p\right)} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{as cost} = p \\ \text{and opt} = \min(\sum x_i, p) \end{array} \right] \\ &= \max_{d, x} \frac{p}{1} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{since, day 1, he could simply rent for \$1, so OPT} = 1. \end{array} \right] \\ &= p. \end{aligned}$$

case 2: let's consider the case when the skier rented the ski for $t \geq 1$ days and then bought.

At this scenario,

the competitive ratio,

$$c = \max_{d, x} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^d x_i + p}{\min(\sum_{i=1}^d x_i, p)}$$

as x_i is unbounded, the competitive ratio in this case can be very high/large.

So, as $\min c$ is the best competitive ratio for any deterministic online algorithm, case 1 is considered best dynamic.