Lindsey Bieda and Joe Frambach
Dynamic Programming Problems
10.14.2011

24. Give a polynomial time algorithm for the following problem. The input consists of a sequence $R = R_0, \ldots, R_n$ of non-negative integers, and an integer k. The number R_i represents the number of users requesting some particular piece of information at time i (say from a www server. If the server broadcasts this information at some time t, the the requests of all the users who requested the information strictly before time t are satisfied. The server can broadcast this information at most k times. The goal is to pick the k times to broadcast in order to minimize the total time (over all requests) that requests/users have to wait in order to have their requests satisfied.

25. Assume that you are given a collection $B_1, \ldots, B_n$ of boxes. You are told that the weight in kilograms of each box is an integer between 1 and some constant L, inclusive. However, you do not know the specific weight of any box, and you do not know the specific value of L. You are also given a pan balance. A pan balance functions in the following manner. You can give the pan balance any two disjoint sub-collections, say S_1 and S_2, of the boxes. Let $|S_1|$ and $|S_2|$ be the cumulative weight of the boxes in S_1 and S_2, respectively. The pan balance then determines whether $|S_1| < |S_2|$, $|S_1| = |S_2|$, or $|S_1| > |S_2|$. You have nothing else at your disposal other than these n boxes and the pan balance. The problem is to determine if one can partition the boxes into two disjoint sub-collections of equal weight. Give an algorithm for this problem that makes at most $O(n^2L)$ uses of the pan balance. For partial credit, find an algorithm where the number of uses is polynomial in n and L.

2. Show that if there is an $O(n^k)$, $k \geq 2$, time algorithm for inverting a nonsingular n by n matrix C then there is an $O(n^k)$ time algorithm for multiply two arbitrary n by n matrices A and B.