

0-1 Knapsack problem¹

- ▶ Given n items $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
- ▶ Item i is worth v_i , and weight w_i
- ▶ Find a most valuable subset of items with total weight $\leq W$

0-1 knapsack problem can be expressed as

Find a subset $S \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & \sum_{i \in S} v_i \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{i \in S} w_i \leq W \end{array}$$

¹Have to either take an item or not take it – can't take part of it.

Greedy solution strategies

Three possible greedy approaches:

1. Greedy by highest value v_i
2. Greedy by least weight w_i
3. Greedy by largest value density $\frac{v_i}{w_i}$

*All three approaches generate feasible solutions. However, we **cannot guarantee** that any of them will always generate an optimal solution!*

Example

i	v_i	w_i	v_i/w_i
1	6	1	6
2	10	2	5
3	12	3	4

Total weight $W = 5$

Greedy by value density v_i/w_i :

- ▶ take items 1 and 2.
- ▶ value = 16, weight = 3
- ▶ Leftover capacity = 2

Optimal solution

- ▶ take items 2 and 3.
- ▶ value = 22, weight = 5
- ▶ no leftover capacity

Question: how about greedy by highest value? by least weight?