Title

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Abstract. TBD

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1 Introduction

TBD

2 Knapsack problems

Informally, knapsack problems (KPs) may be described as finding the optimal combination of items from a set. Usually, this decision involves a certain value intrinsic to each item, and the objective is to maximize the total value of the selected items. To complicate this decision, items may have certain limiting values associated with them, which means not all of them may be selected.

The simplest example of a KP is the binary knapsack problem (BKP), also known as 0-1 knapsack problem [1]. It consists of a list of n items, each with a value v_i and a weight w_i associated with them, for $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$. A subset of items must be selected in order to maximize the total value, subject to a maximum weight capacity[1] C. One may thus formulate the BKP as Integer Program (1),

$$
\begin{aligned}
\max & \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i v_i \\
\text{s. t.} & \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i w_i \leq C, \\
& x_i \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, n\},
\end{aligned}
\tag{1}
$$

where x_i are decision variables that specify whether item $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ has been selected or not.

By introducing slight variations to this formulation, it is possible to obtain many different uses for the KP:

- Unbounded knapsack problem (UKP): By letting $x_i \in \mathbb{N}$, the number of units of each item available is unlimited.

- Fractional knapsack problem (FKP): By letting $x_i \in [0, 1]$, a fraction of each item can be selected.

- Subset sum problem (SSP): When $v_i = w_i \, \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, the objective can be interpreted as maximizing the weight of the knapsack. Furthermore, if we demand that $\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i w_i = C$, then the problem becomes finding the combination of items that produces sum C exactly [12].

The KP can be further complicated by taking into account multiple knapsacks and constraints. In this section, we focus on the latter.

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[1]This limiting factor, which can be interpreted as a bag or a container, is what gives the KP its name.

2.1 Simple algorithms for the binary knapsack problem

The selection of subsets implies that an upper bound on the number of solutions to the BKP is 2^n. Therefore, a natural first solution to the problem is a recursive binary tree algorithm [11]. Let $I = \{1, \ldots, n\}$ be the set of items to be put in the knapsack. Then, by representing the values and weights of items as entries in vectors $v, w \in \mathbb{R}^n$, respectively, and the remaining knapsack weight capacity as $c \in \mathbb{R}$, we arrive at Algorithm 1 for an instance $\phi(n, c, X, s)$ of the problem, where $X \subseteq I$ is the set of selected items and s is the sum of said items' values at the node.

Algorithm 1 Recursive binary tree algorithm for the KP: $\phi(n, c, X, s)$

1: **if** $n = 0$ **then**
2: $\quad$ return (X, s)
3: $X_1, s_1 := \phi(n-1, c, X, s)$
4: $X_2, s_2 \leftarrow (\emptyset, \emptyset)$
5: **if** $w_n \leq c$ **then**
6: $\quad$ $X_2, s_2 := \phi(n-1, c - w_n, X \cup \{n\}, s + v_n)$
7: $s := max(s_1, s_2)$
8: $X_3 \leftarrow 0$
9: **if** $v = v_1$ **then**
10: $\quad$ $X_3 := X_1$
11: **else**
12: $\quad$ $X_3 := X_2$
13: return (X_3, s)

The algorithm consists of a top-bottom phase, in which the nodes are generated, and a bottom-top phase, in which the optimal solution is found. The top-bottom phase begins at Line 3, where a new instance of ϕ is called with item n discarded from the solution. Subsequently, if there is enough capacity left in the knapsack, a second node is generated, with n included in the solution.

When $n = 0$ (Line 1), it is impossible to generate a new node. Thus, the only remaining action is to return the solution set at the node and its value sum. Once the whole tree has been generated, Line 7 is reached. From this point on, the bottom-top phase begins, with each node selecting the best solution its children have to offer. Hence, the optimal solution is returned by the root node.

Due to the combinatorial nature of the KP, Algorithm 1 is only efficient at solving small problems [11].

Example 2.1. Suppose we have a knapsack with maximum capacity $C = 5$ and three

items. The weight vector is $w = [1, 2, 3]$ and the value vector is $v = [2, 4, 3]$. By applying Algorithm 1 to this problem, we obtain the tree in Figure 1.

Figure 1: BKP binary tree algorithm example.
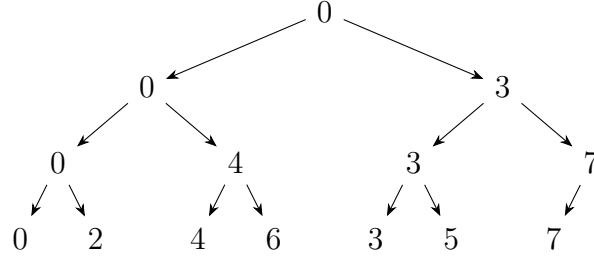
Each node in the tree represents the value sum of a feasible combination of items. It immediately becomes clear that the optimal solution in this case is 7, with the combination of items 2 and 3. However, this is not obvious to the computer, which must solve every recursion and return to the root node first.

Dynamic programming [4, 20] approaches to the KP exist [7, 11, 14]. The idea behind these approaches is to generate a table with solutions to subproblems of the KP, using previous calculations to shorten the path to the optimal solution.

Let $T \in \mathbb{R}^{(n+1) \times (c+1)}$ be the dynamic programming table for the KP. Algorithm 2 exemplifies how T can be constructed and used to arrive at the optimal KP solution.

Algorithm 2 Dynamic programming algorithm for the KP: $\Phi(n, c)$

1: **for** i from 1 to $n + 1$ **do**
2: $\quad T_{i,1} \coloneqq 0$
3: **for** j from 2 to $c + 1$ **do**
4: $\quad T_{1,j} \coloneqq 0$
5: $\quad$ **for** i from 2 to $n + 1$ **do**
6: $\quad\quad T_{i,j} \leftarrow T_{i-1,j}$
7: $\quad\quad$ **if** $w_i \leq j$ **then**
8: $\quad\quad\quad T_{i,j} \leftarrow \max\left(T_{i,j}, v_{i-1} + T_{i-1,j-w_{i-1}}\right)$
9: $n_i, c_i, X \leftarrow (n, c, \emptyset)$
10: **while** $c_i > 0$ **do**
11: $\quad$ **if** $T_{n_i+1,c_i+1} \neq T_{n_i,c_i+1}$ **then**
12: $\quad\quad X \leftarrow X \cup n_i$
13: $\quad\quad c_i \leftarrow c_i - w_n$
14: $\quad n_i \leftarrow n_i - 1$
15: return X

$T_{i,j}$ represents the optimal value for a subproblem of the KP with $i - 1$ items and

knapsack capacity $j - 1$. Consequently, no set of items can satisfy $j = 1$, and so $T_{i,1} = 0 \, \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, n+1\}$. Furthermore, since there are no items to select when $i = 1$, it follows that $T_{1,j} = 0 \, \forall j \in \{1, \ldots, c+1\}$. This explains lines 1 through 4.

Lines 5 through 8 fill the remaining entries in the table. If $w_{i-1} > j - 1$, we simply keep the best solution found so far for capacity $j-1$. Otherwise, we compare said solution with what would be obtained if $i - 1$ was selected. The larger value becomes entry $T_{i,j}$.

Once table T is finished, starting at Line 10, the process of determining what items constitute an optimal solution occurs. Following the logic of lines 5 through 8, if $T_{i,j} = T_{i-1,j}$, then the current item has not been selected and we may move on to the next item. Otherwise, the item is included in the final solution and we move on to the next item with less capacity, $T_{i-1,j-w_i}$.

Though better than the binary tree approach, the dynamic programming algorithm's complexity is exponential as well [11]. In fact, this approach is notably inefficient for large capacity values [14].

Example 2.2. Suppose the following problem suggested by Feofiloff [11]: We have 4 items and a capacity 5. The weights and values of items are, respectively, $w = [4, 2, 1, 3]$ and $v = [500, 400, 300, 450]$. To find the optimal solution to this BKP, we start by applying the part of Algorithm 2 to generate Table 1.

Table 1: BKP dynamic programming table example.

0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	500	500
0	0	400	400	500	500
0	300	400	700	700	800
0	300	400	700	750	850

Next, we start looking for the solution from the table's bottom right entry. We note that $T_{5,6} \neq T_{4,6}$. This means that item $4 \in X$ (the solution set). Next, we investigate item 3. Since $4 \in X$, that means the capacity is now at $5 - w_4 = 2$. So we look at $T_{4,3}$, which is equal to $T_{3,3}$. We conclude that $3 \notin X$. Moving up a row, $T_{3,3} \neq T_{2,3}$, which means $2 \in X$. By repeating this one more time, we conclude that $X = \{2, 4\}$.

Along with these algorithms, an integer programming model of the BKP was implemented in JuMP.

2.2 Models for multidimensional knapsack problems

Since the BKP contains a single capacity constraint (see Integer Program (1)), we can think of each item as a line segment whose length is w_i. It follows that the sum of lengths of the items must not exceed capacity C.

We wish to extrapolate this geometric interpretation of the BKP in a way that allows us to solve problems related to areas and volumes. In other words, we want to formulate two- and three-dimensional knapsack problems. To arrive at such formulations, first consider the multidimensional knapsack problem (MKP) [16], formulated in Integer Program (2).

$$
\begin{aligned}
\max \sum_{i=1}^{n} & v_i x_i \\
\text{s. t.} \sum_{i=1}^{n} & w_{ji} x_i \leq C_j, \quad \forall j \in \{1, \ldots, d\} \\
& x_i \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}.
\end{aligned}
\tag{2}
$$

A number of differences can be spotted in this model, compared to the BKP's. The first is the introduction of parameter $d \in \mathbb{R}$, the number of dimensions that are being taken into account. Capacity $C \in \mathbb{R}$ becomes $C \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and each item $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ now has an associated vector $w_{ji} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ describing its weight across the problem's dimensions.

Specifically in the case of two dimensions, we may rewrite this formulation as Integer Program (3).

$$
\begin{aligned}
\max \sum_{i=1}^{n} & v_i x_i \\
\text{s. t.} \sum_{i=1}^{n} & w_i x_i \leq W, \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n} & h_i x_i \leq H, \\
& x_i \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}.
\end{aligned}
\tag{3}
$$

Here, w_i and h_i represent the width and height of item i, while W and H represent the width and height of the container where we wish to place the items. We assume both the items and the container to be rectangular.

Suppose we want to place three items within a 30×20 container. The width, height and value vectors for this problem are $w = [10, 10, 5]$, $h = [5, 10, 15]$ and $v = [10, 15, 5]$. Through the plot on the left in Figure 2, we can see that this is a trivial task. All items are selected and the optimal value is 30.

Our MKP formulation begs to differ: Only items 1 and 2 are selected, for an optimal value of 25. Why? The plot on the right illustrates the issue: The MKP is applying the line segment logic to multiple dimensions, as if each chosen subset of items ended up constituting a larger rectangle of dimensions $\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i \times \sum_{i=1}^{n} h_i$.

Figure 2: Bidimensional items within a 30×20 container.
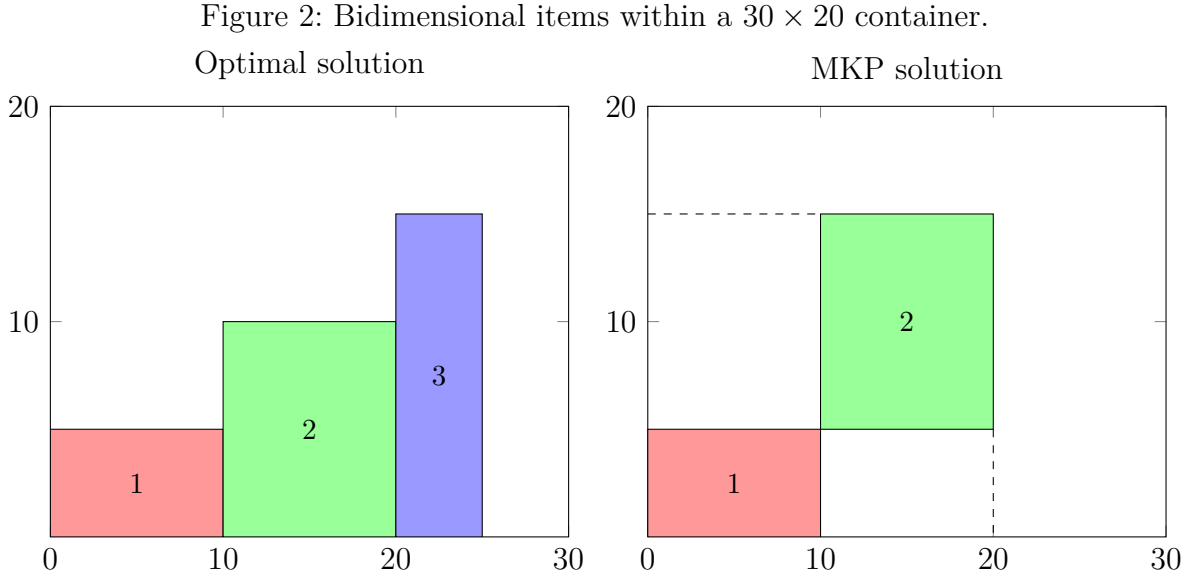
We need to sophisticate our model's constraints in order to solve 2D knapsack problems. We begin by introducing variables $x_i, y_i \in \mathbb{R}$, which describe the position of each item's bottom-left corner. It immediately becomes clear that every selected item $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ must obey Constraint Set (4),

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 &\leq x_i \leq W, \\
0 &\leq x_i + w_i \leq W, \\
0 &\leq y_i \leq H, \\
0 &\leq y_i + h_i \leq H,
\end{aligned}
\tag{4}
$$

where W and H are the width and height of the container, respectively.

Our task is complicated by the need to avoid item overlap. To accomplish this, we adopt the approach described by Kalvelagen [15]. For every selected item $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$

with $i \neq j$, at least one inequality from Constraint Set (5) must hold true.

$$x_i + w_i \leq x_j, \tag{5a}$$

$$x_j + w_j \leq x_i, \tag{5b}$$

$$y_i + h_i \leq y_j, \tag{5c}$$

$$y_j + h_j \leq y_i. \tag{5d}$$

If we force all of these constraints upon the model, that might result in slower solve times. Thus, we need a way to enforce one constraint *or* another. In other words, we have *alternative constraints* [4].

To implement this behavior in a 2DKP model, Kalvelagen [15] resorts to *conditional constraints*, defined by Bradley, Hax, and Magnanti [4] as constraints of the form

$$f_1(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) > b_1 \Rightarrow f_2(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \leq b_2. \tag{6}$$

In our case, the desired relations are given by variables $\delta_{i,j,k} \in \{0, 1\}$, $k \in \{1, \ldots, 4\}$:

$$\delta_{i,j,1} = 1 \Rightarrow x_i + w_i \leq x_j, \tag{7}$$

$$\delta_{i,j,2} = 1 \Rightarrow x_j + w_j \leq x_i, \tag{8}$$

$$\delta_{i,j,3} = 1 \Rightarrow y_i + h_i \leq y_j, \tag{9}$$

$$\delta_{i,j,4} = 1 \Rightarrow y_j + h_j \leq y_i. \tag{10}$$

These constraints can be mathematically implemented as *big M constraints*[2]. The idea is to introduce a constant $M \to +\infty$ and rewrite the constraints as

$$x_i + w_i - M(1 - \delta_{i,j,1}) \leq x_j, \tag{11}$$

$$x_j + w_j - M(1 - \delta_{i,j,2}) \leq x_i, \tag{12}$$

$$y_i + h_i - M(1 - \delta_{i,j,3}) \leq y_j, \tag{13}$$

$$y_j + h_j - M(1 - \delta_{i,j,4}) \leq y_i. \tag{14}$$

Finally, we add the following constraint:

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[2]the concept is similar to the big M method for solving linear programming problems [2, 3]

9

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \delta_{i,j,k} \geq 1. \tag{15}$$

For $M \to +\infty$, if a certain constraint is not selected, it's obvious that the inequations hold. This remains true for any item smaller than the container when $M = \max\{W, H\}$.

It is possible to introduce rotations to this model. For this purpose, we create new variables σ_i. When item i is rotated, $\sigma_i = 1$. Otherwise, $\sigma_i = 0$. Then, the following constraints must be introduced:

$$x_i' = x_i + (1 - \sigma_i)w_i + \sigma_i h_i, \tag{16}$$

$$y_i' = y_i + (1 - \sigma_i)h_i + \sigma_i w_i. \tag{17}$$

Having made all of these considerations, we can finally produce our continuous 2DKP model. Here, s_i are the decision variables. For brevity, consider $N = \{1, \ldots, n\}$.

$$\max \sum_{i \in N} v_i s_i \tag{18a}$$

$$\text{s. t.} \quad 0 \leq x_i \leq W, \quad \forall i \in N, \tag{18b}$$

$$0 \leq x_i' \leq W, \quad \forall i \in N, \tag{18c}$$

$$0 \leq y_i \leq H, \quad \forall i \in N, \tag{18d}$$

$$0 \leq y_i' \leq H, \quad \forall i \in N, \tag{18e}$$

$$x_i' = x_i + (1 - \sigma_i)w_i + \sigma_i h_i, \quad \forall i \in N, \tag{18f}$$

$$y_i' = y_i + \sigma_i w_i + (1 - \sigma_i)h_i, \quad \forall i \in N, \tag{18g}$$

$$x_i' - M(3 - \delta_{i,j,1} - s_i - s_j) \leq x_j, \quad \forall i \in N, \forall j \in N, i < j, \tag{18h}$$

$$x_j' - M(3 - \delta_{i,j,2} - s_i - s_j) \leq x_i, \quad \forall i \in N, \forall j \in N, i < j, \tag{18i}$$

$$y_i' - M(3 - \delta_{i,j,3} - s_i - s_j) \leq y_j, \quad \forall i \in N, \forall j \in N, i < j, \tag{18j}$$

$$y_j' - M(3 - \delta_{i,j,4} - s_i - s_j) \leq y_i, \quad \forall i \in N, \forall j \in N, i < j, \tag{18k}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{4} \delta_{i,j,k} \geq 1, \quad \forall i \in N, j \in N, \tag{18l}$$

$$\delta_{i,j,k} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i \in N, j \in N, k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \tag{18m}$$

$$\sigma_i \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i \in N, \tag{18n}$$

$$s_i \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i \in N. \tag{18o}$$

Note that we have made a few changes to Constraints (18h) to (18k). To make them even stronger, we require both items to have been selected for the constraints to take effect. Moreover, since these constraints go both ways, it is only necessary to evaluate them for $i < j$.

We have written an implementation of the model proposed by Kalvelagen [15], which is an equivalent to Mixed-Integer Program (18) that is more geared towards computational work, making heavy use of matrices for conciseness.

Kalvelagen [15] also made a discrete 2DKP model, referred to as *covering model*. Say each item's width and height is represented by continuous variables $\tilde{w}_i$ and $\tilde{h}_i$. We begin by discretizing these quantities as $w_i = \lceil \tilde{w}_i \rceil$ and $h_i = \lceil \tilde{h}_i \rceil$. The container is discretized with $W = \lfloor \tilde{W} \rfloor$ and $H = \lfloor \tilde{H} \rfloor$.

This initial process allows for the interpretation of items as collections of cells. As shown in Figure 3, a 7.23×5.55 item (darker blue) takes 8×6 cells (lighter blue).

Figure 3: Discretization of an item for the 2DKP covering model.
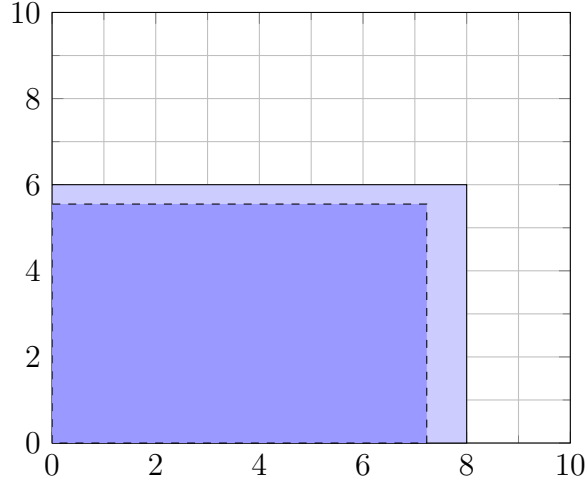
In the covering model, we introduce binary matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 2 \times W \times H}$. If item k can be placed at cell (i, j) with rotation r without leaving the boundaries of the container, then $A_{k,i,j,r} = 1$. Otherwise, $A_{k,r,i,j} = 0$. By convention,

$$r = 1 \Rightarrow \text{item is not rotated,}$$
$$r = 2 \Rightarrow \text{item is rotated.}$$

Next, we introduce binary matrix $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 2 \times W \times H \times W \times H}$. If cells (i', j') are covered as a result of item k being placed at cell (i, j) with rotation r, then $C_{k,r,i,j,i',j'} = 1$. Otherwise,

$C_{k,r,i,j,i',j'} = 0$.

Lastly, we make the decision variables $s_{k,r,i,j}$, since item placement is based on the top-left cell of each item. This is enough to formulate Integer Program (19).

$$\max \sum_{n,r,i,j|A_{n,r,i,j}=1} v_i s_{k,r,i,j} \tag{19a}$$

$$\text{s. t.} \sum_{k,r,i,j|C_{k,r,i,j,i',j'}=1} s_{k,r,i,j} \leq 1, \quad \forall i' \in \{1,\dots,W\}, \ j' \in \{1,\dots,H\}, \tag{19b}$$

$$\sum_{r,i,j|A_{k,r,i,j}=1} s_{k,r,i,j} \leq 1, \quad \forall k \in \{1,\dots,n\} \tag{19c}$$

$$s_{k,r,i,j} \in \{0,1\}. \tag{19d}$$

We have also written an implementation of this model. The model we implemented is the one presented by Kalvelagen [15], which is more memory-efficient than Integer Program (19), since it groups items of the same type together in the matrices.

*Example* 2.3. Say we wish to place as many items as possible in a 30×20 container, from the following list:

type	width	height	quantity
1	9	6	4
2	7	7	3
3	5	10	4
4	14	14	2
5	6	5	6
6	3	8	5

Since the idea is to maximize the number of items in the container, we consider all the items to be of equal value. By applying these data to Integer Program (19), we obtain the packing in Figure 4.

With similar ideas to those behind Mixed-Integer Program (18) and Integer Program (19), a tridimensional model is possible. Mixed-Integer Program (20) is one such model, presented by Egeblad and Pisinger [9].

The container in this problem has volume $W \times H \times D$ (width, height and depth). Similarly, each item has associated dimensions (w_i, h_i, d_i) and is positioned at coordinates (x_i, y_i, z_i).

Figure 4: Covering solution to a 2D knapsack example.
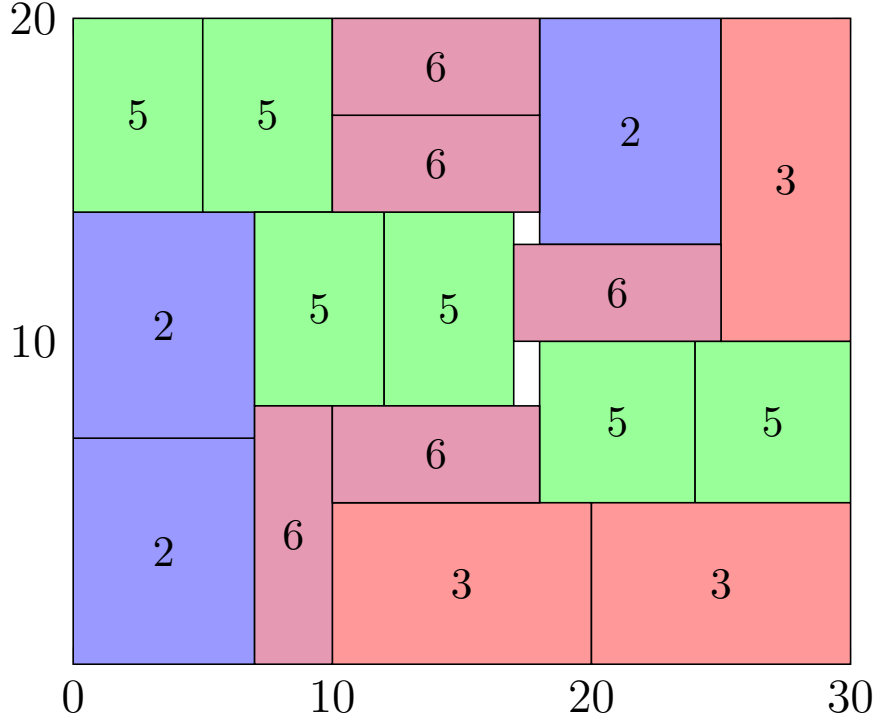
To handle no-overlap, this model has six binary variables that state where item i is in regards to item j: ℓ_{ij} (left), r_{ij} (right), u_{ij} (under), o_{ij} (over), b_{ij} (behind), f_{ij} (in front of).

Positioning constraints in this model are similar to Mixed-Integer Program (18). For example, if $\ell_{ij} = 1$, then Constraints (20c) may be rewritten as $x_i + w_i \leq x_j$.

It should be noted that Constraint (20b) does *not* work in an actual implementation. This constraint only makes sense if at least i or j is selected, and will result in an unfeasible model if $s_i + s_j = 0$. This is why we rewrite this constraint as $\ell_{ij} + r_{ij} + u_{ij} + o_{ij} + b_{ij} + f_{ij} = s_i s_j$ in our implementation of this model.

One notable limitation of this model is that it does not support item rotations.

$$\max \sum_{i=1}^{n} v_i s_i \tag{20a}$$

$$\text{s. t.} \ell_{ij} + r_{ij} + u_{ij} + o_{ij} + b_{ij} + f_{ij} = s_i + s_j - 1, \, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20b}$$

$$x_i - x_j + W \ell_{ij} \leq W - w_i, \, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20c}$$

$$x_j - x_i + W r_{ij} \leq W - w_i, \, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20d}$$

$$y_i - y_j + Hu_{ij} \leq H - h_i, \, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20e}$$

$$y_j - y_i + Ho_{ij} \leq H - h_i, \, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20f}$$

$$z_i - z_j + Db_{ij} \leq D - d_i, \, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20g}$$

$$z_j - z_i + Df_{ij} \leq D - d_i, \, i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20h}$$

$$0 \leq x_i \leq W - w_i, \, i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20i}$$

$$0 \leq y_i \leq H - h_i, \, i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20j}$$

$$0 \leq z_i \leq Z - d_i, \, i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20k}$$

$$\ell_{ij}, r_{ij}, u_{ij}, o_{ij}, b_{ij}, f_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, \, i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20l}$$

$$s_i \in \{0, 1\}, \, i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}, \tag{20m}$$

$$x_i, y_i, z_i \geq 0, \, i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}. \tag{20n}$$

Testing this model with a method developed to visualize solutions to this formulation of the 3D knapsack, we obtain results such as the one in Figure 5 for a $20 \times 20 \times 20$ container and the items in Table 2. The best solution includes everything, except for the black item.

Table 2: Set of items for the 3DKP.

color	length	width	height	quantity	value
red	2	4	5	6	10
green	6	8	4	2	12
blue	5	10	7	2	15
gray	2	2	2	4	5
white	8	9	10	6	13
black	12	12	12	1	20
olive	3	7	10	2	15
teal	4	8	6	3	11

2.3 Complexity of knapsack problems

The BKP is an NP-hard problem [18], which means that no algorithm is known that can solve it in polynomial time, and that if such an algorithm can be found, then all other problems in the NP category can also be solved in polynomial time (P = NP) [10].

The dynamic programming solution to the BKP (Algorithm 2) might elicit doubt about this affirmation. Recall that this algorithm creates a table that grows according to nC, and then updates each entry once. Then, the algorithm performs even fewer steps

Figure 5: Solution example to a 3D knapsack problem.
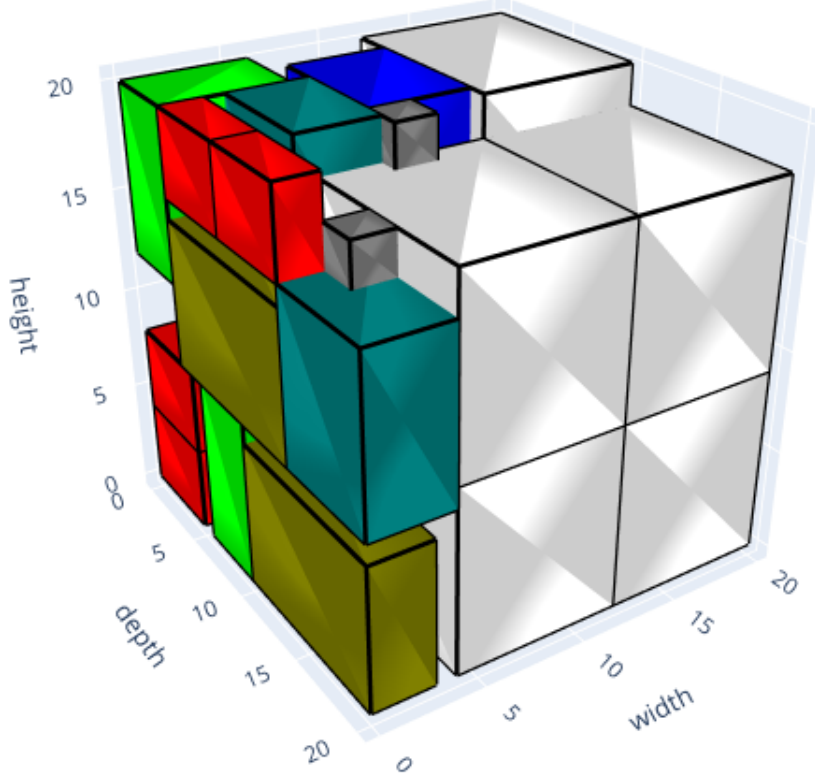
of backtracking to determine which items constitute the optimal solution. Hence, the algorithm's time complexity is $\mathcal{O}(nC)$.

However, for an algorithm to be *truly* polynomial, it must also be polynomial when the *length in bits* of the input is used as a metric. Otherwise, we have only a *pseudo-polinomial* algorithm [21], bounded above by a unary representation of the problem's values [10, 19]. As this is the case for dynamic programming approaches to the BKP, no true polynomial time algorithm is known for it [8, 18].

Example 2.4. We will show that the dynamic programming approach is pseudo-polynomial. Consider a BKP with $n > 0$ (the specific value is unimportant), and let us vary the value of C in powers of 2, as shown in Table 3.

By counting, we see that there is a one-to-one relation between runtime and the number of ones in a unary representation of C. Hence, the dynamic programming solution is polynomial in this sense. For b binary digits, though, runtime is 2^{b-1}, which is exponential behavior. Figure 6 illustrates both behaviors for larger values of C.

Table 3: Comparison between unary and binary input lengths with regards to runtime.

	C		Runtime
Decimal	Unary	Binary	
2	11	10	2
4	1111	100	4
8	11111111	1000	8
16	1111111111111111	10000	16

Figure 6: Unary vs binary time for the dynamic programming solution to the BKP
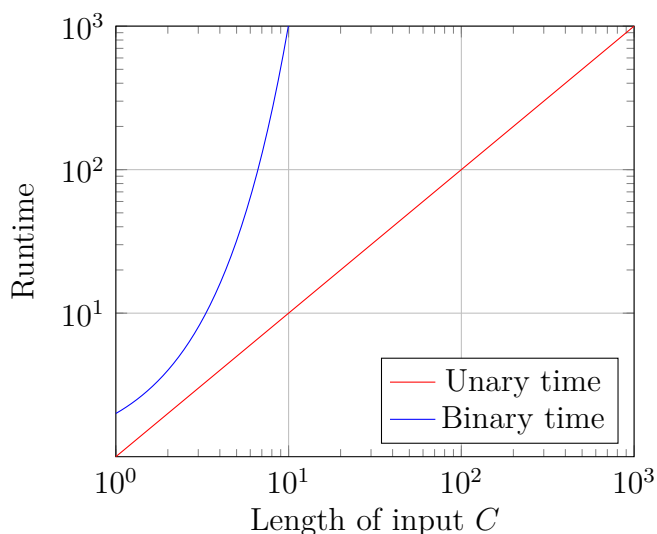
The 2D, 3D and any multidimensional KP are *strongly* NP-hard [5, 17], which means that not even a pseudo-polynomial algorithm is known for them.

So how do integer and mixed-integer formulations of these problems fare? Typically, solvers approach such problems with branch-and-bound algorithms, at least. These algorithms usually attempt to *tighten*[3] the problem with cutting planes that only remove fractional solutions from feasibility [13]. The problem is then *relaxed*[4] and solved, usually via an implementation of the simplex method. The solver then repeats this process, generating a tree of subproblems to be solved the same way, until it can determine that the solution to one such subproblem is the optimal solution to the original problem.

How quickly the simplex method can solve each node in the branch-and-bound tree depends on factors such as the chosen pivoting method and the geometry of the problem.

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[3]The smaller the gap between the optimal solutions for a relaxation of a problem and its integer solution, the *tighter* the problem is.

[4]That is, all constraints of the form $x \in N \subseteq \mathbb{N}_0$ become $x \geq 0$.

In fact, as shown by Bertsimas and Tsitsiklis [3], under certain circumstances, the simplex method visits every vertex in the solution set.

3 Container loading problems

When the KP is generalized to multiple containers of varying volumes, it becomes a multi-container loading problem[5] (CLP). A model for solving such problems has been proposed by Chen, Lee, and Shen [6]. The model concerns m containers and N items. To each item are assigned positioning variables (x_i, y_i, z_i) and dimensions (p_i, q_i, r_i) representing length, width and height, respectively. Much like Mixed-Integer Program (20), this model uses binary variables to represent the placement of item i relative to item k: a_{ik} (left), b_{ik} (right), c_{ik} (behind), d_{ik} (front), e_{ik} (below), f_{ik} (above).

If item i is assigned to container j, then $s_{ij} = 1$; otherwise, $s_{ij} = 0$. Rotations are introduced to the model through nine binary variables: $l_{xi}, l_{yi}, l_{zi}, w_{xi}, w_{yi}, w_{zi}, h_{xi}, h_{yi}, h_{zi}$. These variables determine which axis an item's length, width or height is parallel to. For example, if $l_{xi} = 1$, then item i has its length parallel to the X axis. Evidently, the rotation variables must obey Constraint Set (21).

$$l_{xi} + l_{yi} + l_{zi} = 1, \tag{21a}$$

$$w_{xi} + w_{yi} + w_{zi} = 1, \tag{21b}$$

$$h_{xi} + h_{yi} + h_{zi} = 1, \tag{21c}$$

$$l_{xi} + w_{xi} + h_{xi} = 1, \tag{21d}$$

$$l_{yi} + w_{yi} + h_{yi} = 1, \tag{21e}$$

$$l_{zi} + w_{zi} + h_{zi} = 1. \tag{21f}$$

From this set of equations, Chen, Lee, and Shen [6] obtain the following equalities:

$$l_{yi} = 1 - l_{xi} - l_{zi}, \tag{22a}$$

$$w_{xi} = l_{zi} - w_{yi} + h_{zi}, \tag{22b}$$

$$w_{zi} = 1 - l_{zi} - h_{zi}, \tag{22c}$$

$$h_{xi} = 1 - l_{xi} - l_{zi} + w_{yi} - h_{zi}, \tag{22d}$$

$$h_{yi} = l_{xi} + l_{zi} - w_{yi}. \tag{22e}$$

The model that Chen, Lee, and Shen [6] propose is Equation (23). By replacing the rotation variables with the equations in Equation Set (22), this model becomes simpler

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[5]When these dimensions are the same for all containers, the KP becomes a bin-packing problem.

to solve.

$$\min \sum_{j=1}^{m} L_j W_j H_j n_j - \sum_{i=1}^{N} p_i q_i r_i \tag{23a}$$

$$\text{s. t.} x_i + p_i l_{xi} + q_i w_{xi} + r_i h_{xi} \leq x_k + (1 - a_{ik})M, \ \forall i, k, \ i < k, \tag{23b}$$

$$x_k + p_k l_{xk} + q_k w_{xk} + r_k h_{xk} \leq x_i + (1 - b_{ik})M, \ \forall i, k, \ i < k, \tag{23c}$$

$$y_i + q_i w_{yi} + p_i l_{yi} + r_i h_{yi} \leq y_k + (1 - c_{ik})M, \ \forall i, k, \ i < k, \tag{23d}$$

$$y_k + q_k w_{yk} + p_k l_{yk} + r_k h_{yk} \leq y_i + (1 - d_{ik})M, \ \forall i, k, \ i < k, \tag{23e}$$

$$z_i + r_i h_{zi} + q_i w_{zi} + p_i l_{zi} \leq z_k + (1 - e_{ik})M, \ \forall i, k, \ i < k, \tag{23f}$$

$$z_k + r_k h_{zk} + q_k w_{zk} + p_k l_{zk} \leq z_i + (1 - f_{ik})M, \ \forall i, k, \ i < k, \tag{23g}$$

$$a_{ik} + b_{ik} + c_{ik} + d_{ik} + e_{ik} + f_{ik} \geq s_{ij} + s_{kj} - 1, \ \forall i, k, j, \ i < k \tag{23h}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{m} s_{ij} = 1, \ \forall i, \tag{23i}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} s_{ij} \leq M n_j, \ \forall j, \tag{23j}$$

$$x_i + p_i l_{xi} + q_i w_{xi} + r_i h_{xi} \leq L_j + (1 - s_{ij})M, \ \forall i, j, \tag{23k}$$

$$y_i + q_i w_{yi} + p_i l_{yi} + r_i h_{yi} \leq W_j + (1 - s_{ij})M, \ \forall i, j, \tag{23l}$$

$$z_i + r_i h_{zi} + q_i w_{zi} + p_i l_{zi} \leq H_j + (1 - s_{ij})M, \ \forall i, j, \tag{23m}$$

$$l_{xi}, l_{yi}, l_{zi}, w_{xi}, w_{yi}, w_{zi}, h_{xi}, h_{yi}, h_{zi} \in \{0, 1\}, \ \forall i \tag{23n}$$

$$a_{ik}, b_{ik}, c_{ik}, d_{ik}, e_{ik}, f_{ik}, s_{ij}, n_j \in \{0, 1\}, \ \forall i \tag{23o}$$

$$x_i, y_i, z_i \geq 0. \tag{23p}$$

Expression (23a) defines the CLP's objective to minimize the container volume that goes unused. Decision variables n_j indicate whether a container has been selected or not. Constraints (23b) to (23g) establish the relative placements of items in container j, in the same vein as Mixed-Integer Program (20). To guarantee that these alternative constraints work, Constraints (23h) force at least one of the positional variables to equal one, whenever two items share the same container.

Constraints (23i) make it so every item is assigned to exactly one container. Constraints (23j) ensure that items are only assigned to selected containers. Finally, Constraints (23k) to (23m) make it impossible for items to breach their container's boundaries.

Our implementation of this model and a visualization method allows us to verify

that this CLP model works when tested with the item set in Table 2 and two $20 \times 20 \times 20$ containers. Figure 7 shows the solution to this problem.

Figure 7: Containers in an example solution to the CLP.

(a) Container 1   (b) Container 2
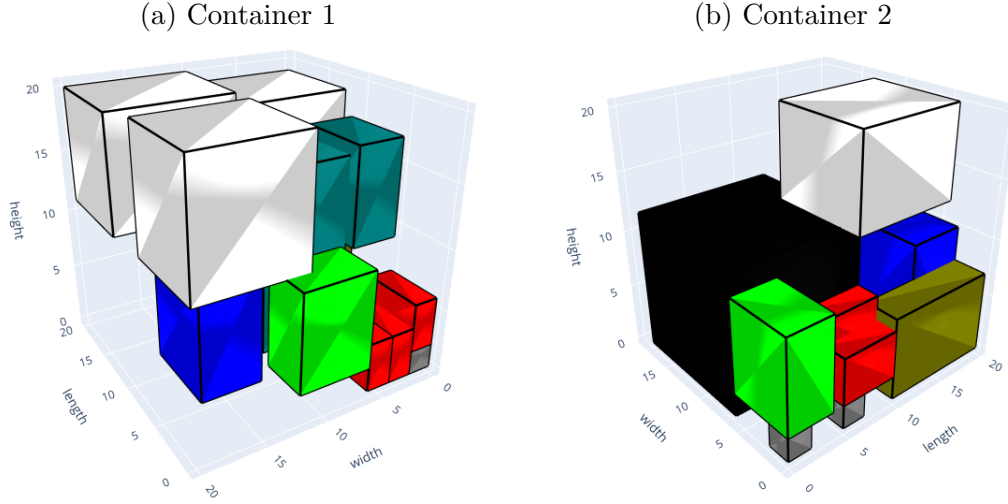
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