CSCI 132: Basic Data Structures and Algorithms

Recursion (Part 3)

Reese Pearsall Spring 2025

Announcements

Lab 10 due tomorrow

Lowest Lab Grade gets dropped at the end of the semester

Program 4 posted, due April 21st



Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

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$$K = 37$$

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$$D = [1, 5, 10, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Answer = 4

(Quarter, dime, two pennies)

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$$D = [1, 5, 10, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Answer = 4

(Quarter, dime, two pennies)

Algorithm?

Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

$$D = [1, 5, 10, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Answer = 4

(Quarter, dime, two pennies)

Use as many quarters as possible, then as many dimes as possible, ...

Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

$$D = [1, 5, 10, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Answer = 4

(Quarter, dime, two pennies)

Use as many quarters as possible, then as many dimes as possible, ...

This is known as the **greedy** approach

Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

D = [1, 5, 10, 25]

$$K = 37$$

Greedy Algorithm

Use as many quarters as possible, then as many dimes as possible, ...

Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

Greedy Algorithm

$$D = [1, 5, 10, 18, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Use as many quarters as possible, then as many 18 cent pieces as possible, then dimes, ...

What if there were also an 18-cent coin?

Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

Greedy Algorithm

$$D = [1, 5, 10, 18, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Use as many quarters as possible, then as many 18 cent pieces as possible, then dimes, ...

25, 10, 1, 1 (4 coins)

What if there were also an 18-cent coin?

Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

Greedy Algorithm

$$D = [1, 5, 10, 18, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Use as many quarters as possible, then as many 18 cent pieces as possible, then dimes, ...

25, 10, 1, 1 (4 coins)

What if there were also an 18-cent coin?

Real Answer = 18, 18, 1 (3 coins)

Given a set a coin denominations **D**, how can you represent **K** cents with the smallest number of coins?

Greedy Algorithm

$$D = [1, 5, 10, 18, 25]$$

$$K = 37$$

Use as many quarters as possible, then as many 18 cent pieces as possible, then dimes, ...

25, 10, 1, 1 (4 coins)

What if there were also an 18-cent coin?

Real Answer = 18, 18, 1 (3 coins)

Lesson Learned: The Greedy approach works for the United States denominations, but not for a general set of denominations

Suppose I tell you that 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 3 pennies are the minimum number of coins needed to make **63 cents**

(We will assume we have the standard US denominations [1, 5, 10, 25] (NO 50 CENT PIECE)

$$25 + 25 + 10 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 63$$











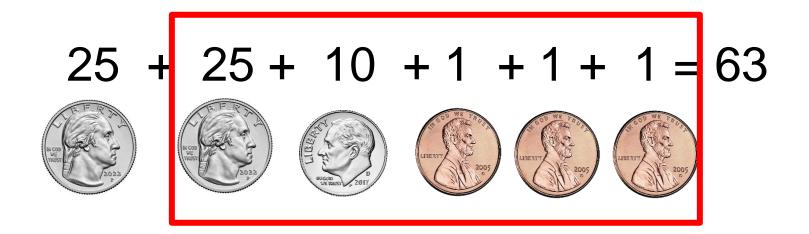


What can you conclude?

Does this provide an answer to any other change making problems?

Suppose I tell you that 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 3 pennies are the minimum number of coins needed to make **63 cents**

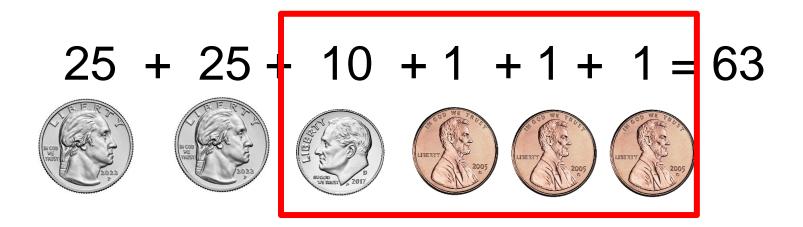
(We will assume we have the standard US denominations [1, 5, 10, 25] (NO 50 CENT PIECE)



This is the minimum coins needed to make 38 cents

Suppose I tell you that 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 3 pennies are the minimum number of coins needed to make **63 cents**

(We will assume we have the standard US denominations [1, 5, 10, 25] (NO 50 CENT PIECE)



This is the minimum coins needed to make 13 cents

Suppose I tell you that 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 3 pennies are the minimum number of coins needed to make **63 cents**

(We will assume we have the standard US denominations [1, 5, 10, 25] (NO 50 CENT PIECE)

This is the minimum coins needed to make 3 cents

Suppose I tell you that 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 3 pennies are the minimum number of coins needed to make **63 cents**

(We will assume we have the standard US denominations [1, 5, 10, 25] (NO 50 CENT PIECE)

This is the minimum coins needed to make 2 cents

Suppose I tell you that 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 3 pennies are the minimum number of coins needed to make **63 cents**

(We will assume we have the standard US denominations [1, 5, 10, 25] (NO 50 CENT PIECE)

This is the minimum coins needed to make 1 cent

Suppose I tell you that 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 3 pennies are the minimum number of coins needed to make **63 cents**

(We will assume we have the standard US denominations [1, 5, 10, 25] (NO 50 CENT PIECE)

$$25 + 25 + 10 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 63$$













The solution to the change making problems consists of solutions to smaller change making problems

We can use **recursion** to solve this problem

In general, suppose a country has coins with denominations:

$$1 = d_1 < d_2 < \dots < d_k$$
 (US coins: $d_1 = 1, d_2 = 5, d_3 = 10, d_4 = 25$)

Algorithm: To make change for p cents, we are going to figure out change for every value x < p. We will build solution for p out of smaller solutions.

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

x – value (e.g. \$0.25) of a coin used in the optimal solution.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 1 + C(12)$$

We used one quarter

Now find the minimum number of coins needed to make 12 cents

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

x – value (e.g. \$0.25) of a coin used in the optimal solution.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 1 + C(12)$$
We used one dime
$$C(12) = 1 + C(2)$$

Now find the minimum number of coins needed to make 2 cents

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 1 + C(12)$$

$$C(12) = 1 + C(2)$$

$$C(2) = 1 + C(1)$$

$$C(1) = 1 + C(0)$$

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 1 + C(12)$$

$$C(12) = 1 + C(2)$$

$$C(2) = 1 + C(1)$$

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$$C(2) = 1 + 1$$

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 1 + C(12)$$

$$C(12) = 1 + C(2)$$

$$C(2) = 2$$

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 1 + C(12)$$

$$C(12) = 1 + 2$$

C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 1 + C(12)$$
 $C(12) = 3$



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$$C(37) = 1 + 3$$



C(p) – minimum number of coins to make p cents.

x – value (e.g. \$0.25) of a coin used in the optimal solution.

$$C(p) = 1 + C(p - x).$$

$$C(37) = 4$$

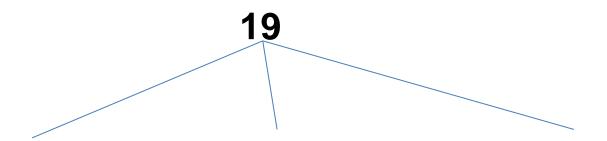
The minimum number of coins needed to make 37 cents is 4

In general, suppose a country has coins with denominations:

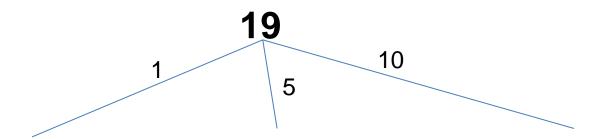
$$1=d_1 < d_2 < \cdots < d_k$$
 (US coins: $d_1=1, d_2=5, d_3=10, d_4=25$) (This algorithm must work for ALL denominations)

Algorithm: To make change for p cents, we are going to figure out change for every value x < p. We will build solution for p out of smaller solutions.

Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

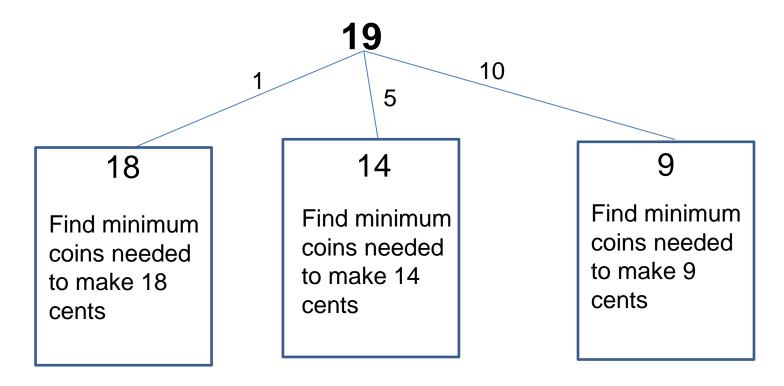


Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10



Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

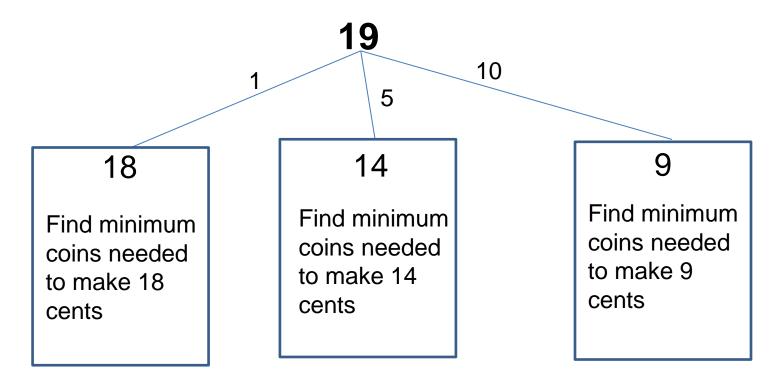
k = # denominations



To find the minimum number of coins needed to create 19 cents, we generate **k** subproblems

Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

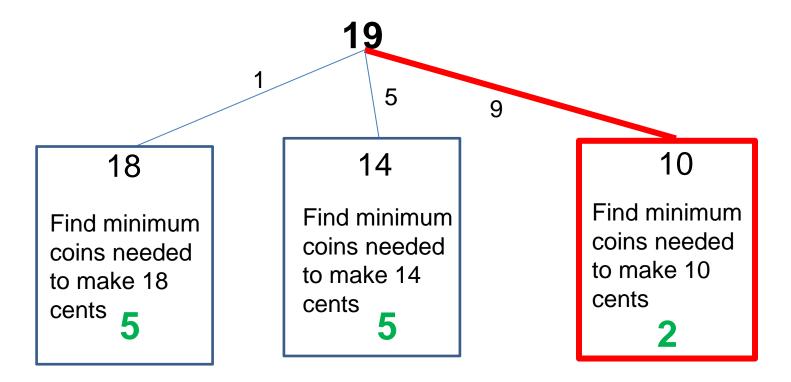
k = # denominations



We want to select the **minimum** solution of these three subproblems

Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, **\$0.09**

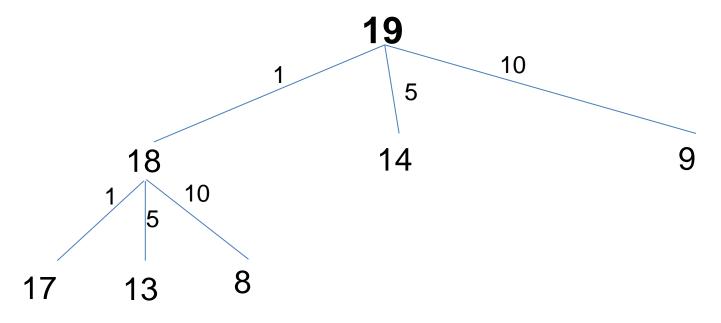
k = # denominations



For the solution of our original problem (19), we want to select this branch (one nine cent used)

Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominations



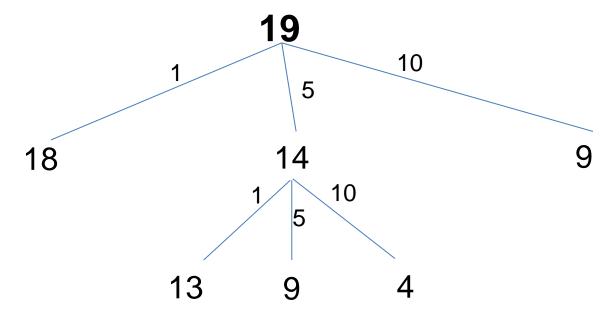
Find minimum coins needed to make 17 cents

Find minimum coins needed to make 13 cents

Find minimum coins needed to make 8 cents

Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominations



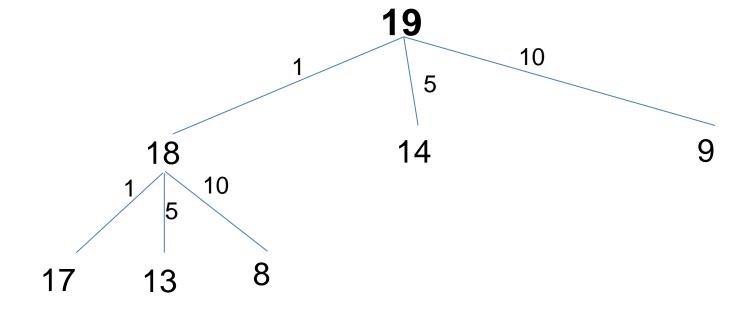
Find minimum coins needed to make 13 cents

Find minimum coins needed to make 9 cents

Find minimum coins needed to make 4 cents

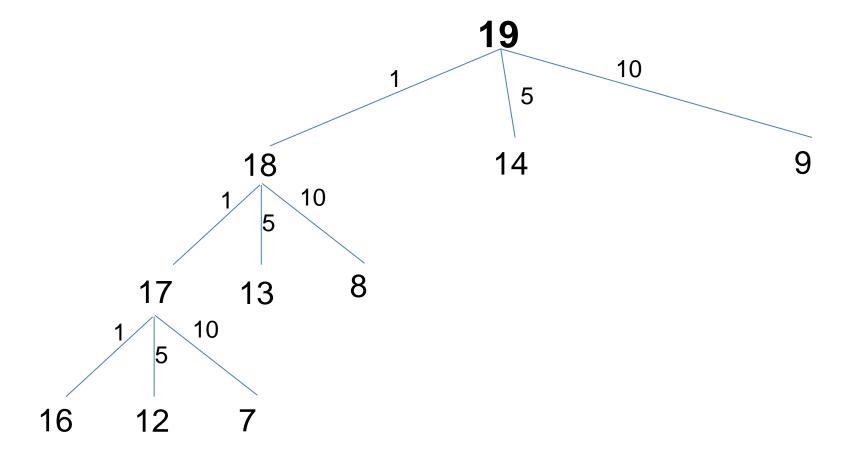
Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominations



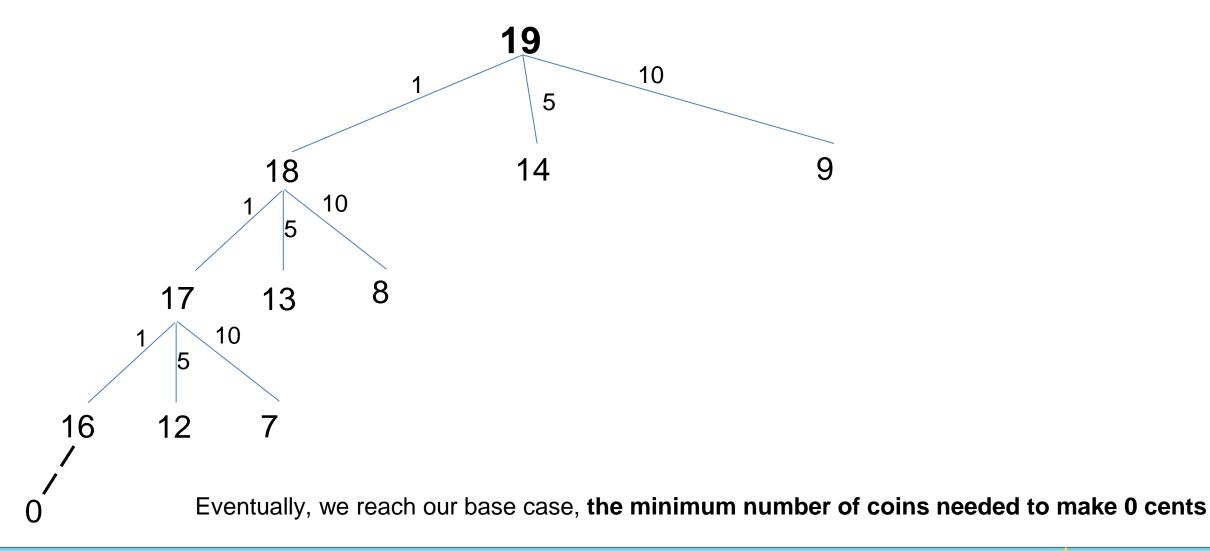
Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominations



Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominations

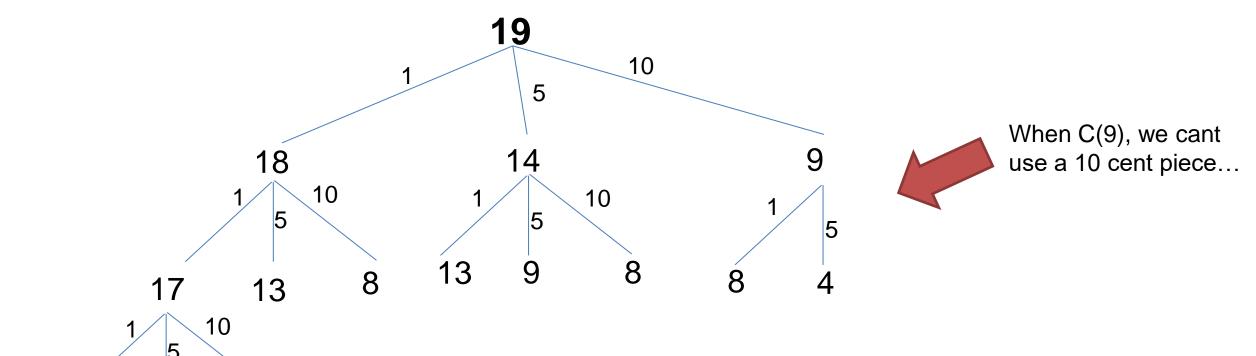


12

16

Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominations



For each change making problem we solve, we must solve at most 3 smaller change making problems

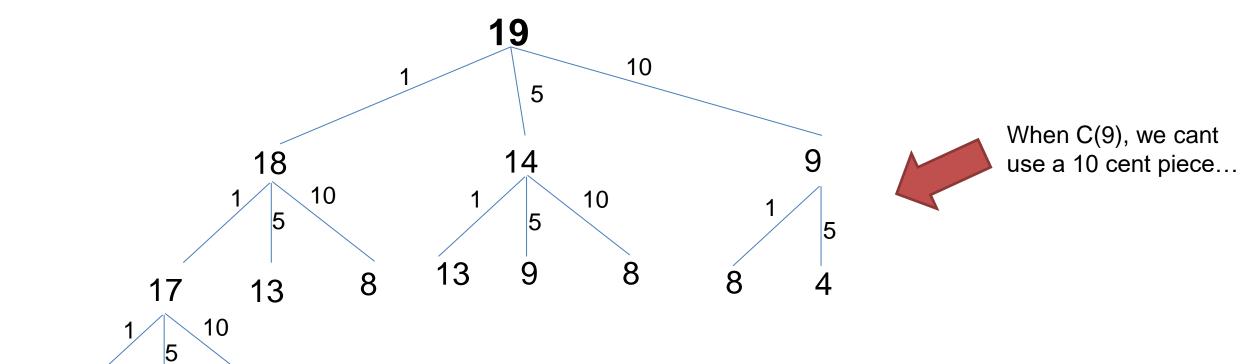
Once we solve the smaller problems, we must select the branch that has the minimum value

12

16

Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominations



For each change making problem we solve, we must solve at most 3 smaller change making problems

Once we solve the smaller problems, we must select the branch that has the minimum value



$$C(p) = \begin{cases} \min_{i:d_i \le p} C(p - d_i) + 1, p > 0 \\ 0, p = 0 \end{cases}$$

Least change for 19 cents = minimum of:

- least change for 19-10 = 9 cents
- least change for 19-5 = 14 cents
- least change for 19-1 = 18 cents

For each problem P, we will solve the problem for (P – d), where d represents each possible denomination

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We want to select only the branch the yields the minimum value

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If we ever need to make change for 0 cents, return 0

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Base Case

```
D = array of denominations [1, 5, 10, 18, 25]
p = desired change (37)
```

Base Case

```
int min = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
int a = Integer.MAX_VALUE;;
```

```
min coins(D, p)
    if p == 0
                                       Base Case
         return 0;
    else
        min = \infty
                                     int min = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
                                     int a = Integer.MAX_VALUE;;
        a = \infty
        for each d; in D
                                                        Recurse, and find the
                                                        minimum number of coins
            if (p - d_i) >= 0
                                                        needed using each valid
                a = min coins(D, p - d_i)
                                                        denomination
```

```
min coins(D, p)
    if p == 0
                                       Base Case
         return 0;
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                                      int min = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
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                                                        Recurse, and find the
                                                         minimum number of coins
            if (p - d_i) >= 0
                                                        needed using each valid
                a = min coins(D, p - d_i)
                                                        denomination
            if a < min
                                                         Select the branch that has
                min = a
                                                        the minimum value
```

```
min coins(D, p)
    if p == 0
                                Base Case
         return 0;
    else
                                    int min = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
        min = \infty
                                    int a = Integer.MAX_VALUE;;
        a =
             00
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                                                        Recurse, and find the
                                                        minimum number of coins
            if (p - d_i) >= 0
                                                        needed using each valid
                a = min coins(D, p - d_i)
                                                        denomination
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                                                      the minimum value
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                               Base Case
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             00
        for each d; in D
                                                       Recurse, and find the
                                                       minimum number of coins
            if (p - d_i) >= 0
                                                       needed using each valid
                a = min coins(D, p - d_i)
                                                       denomination
            if a < min
```

Select the branch that has the minimum value

return 1 + min

min = a

Once, our for loop finishes, we should know the branch that had the minimum, so return (1 + min), 1 because one coin was used in the current method call

```
min coins(D, p)
   if p == 0
       return 0;
   else
      min = \infty
      a = ∞
      for each d; in D
         if (p - d_i) >= 0
             a = min coins(D, p - d_i)
          if a < min
             min = a
     return 1 + min
```

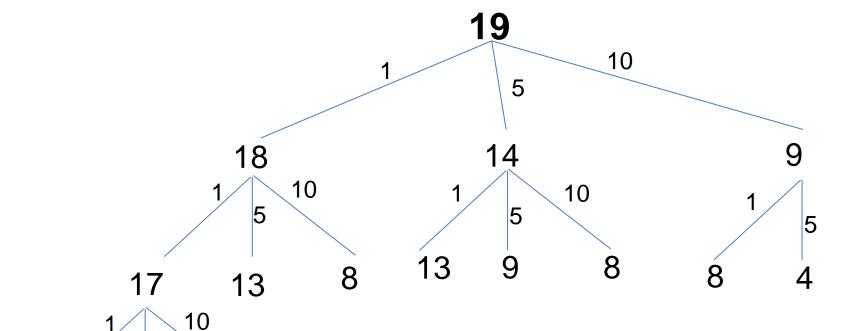
```
min coins(D, p)
   if p == 0
       return 0;
                                       Running time?
   else
      min = \infty
      a = \infty
      for each d; in D
          if (p - d_i) >= 0
             a = min coins(D, p - d_i)
          if a < min
             min = a
     return 1 + min
```

16

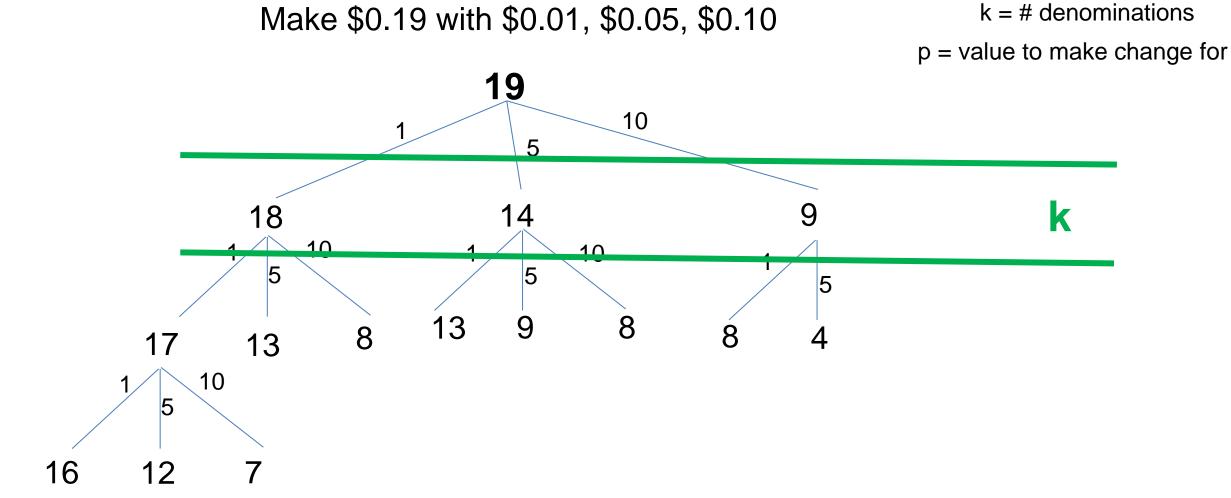
12

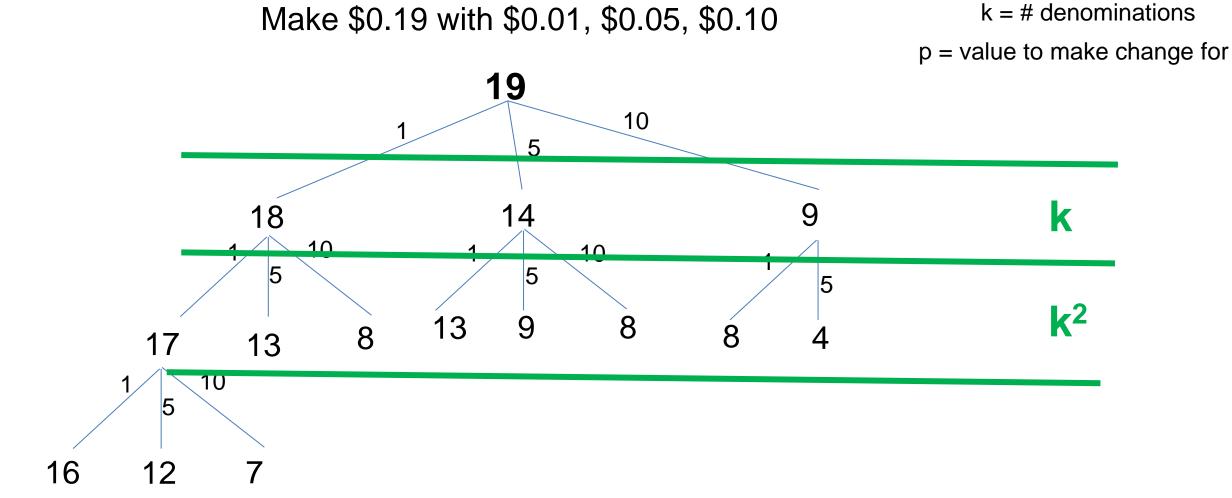
Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

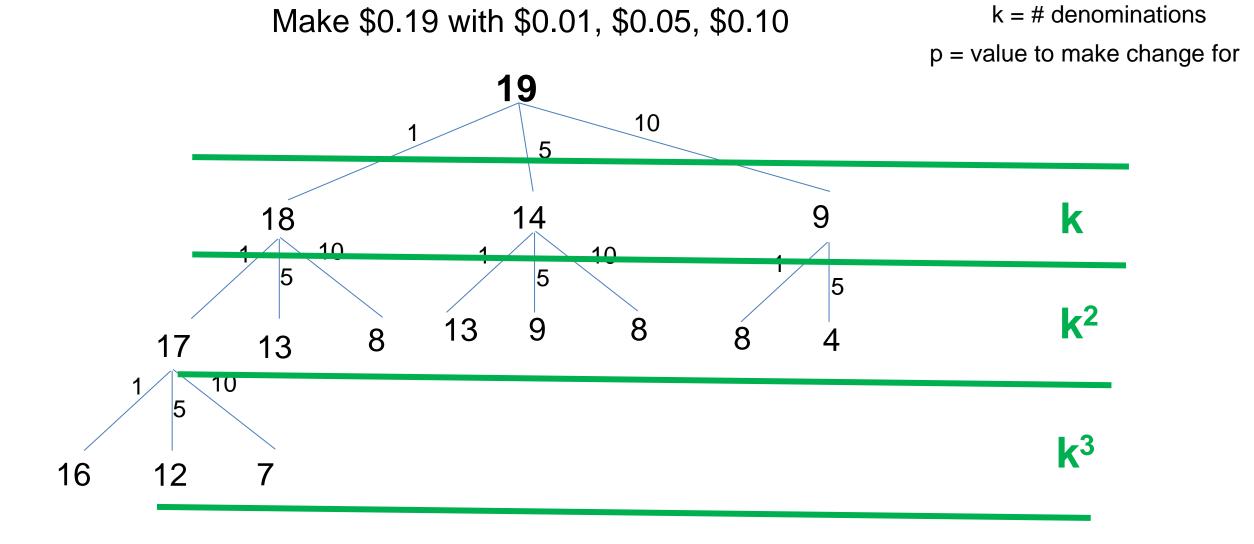
k = # denominationsp = value to make change for

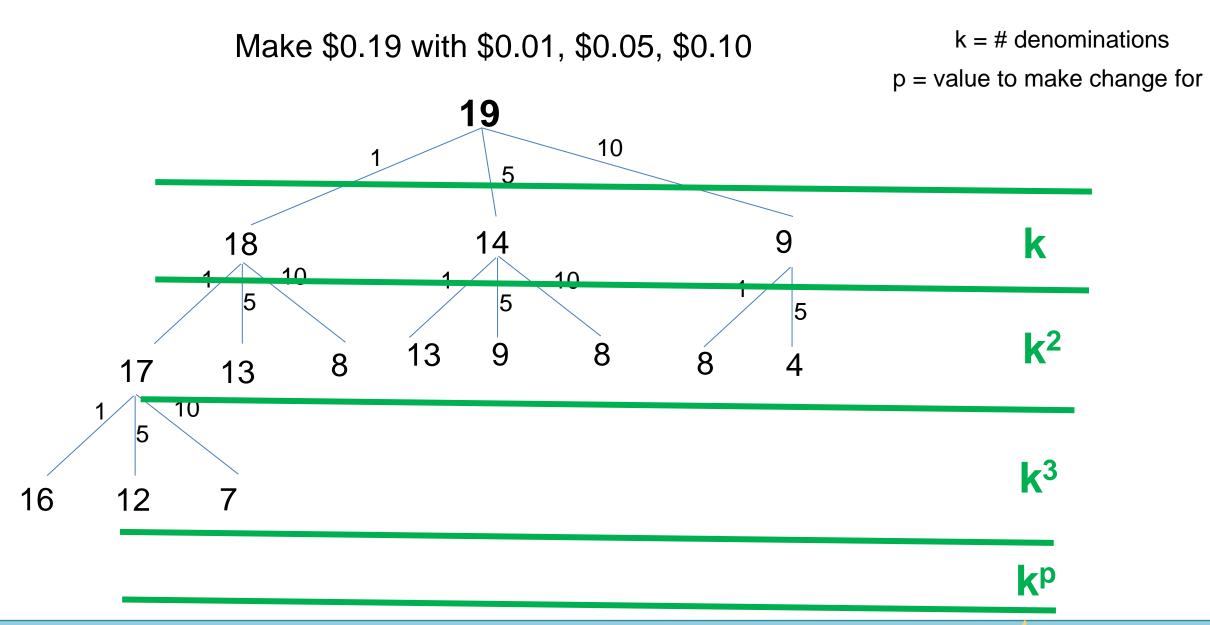


For sufficiently large p, every permutation of denominations is included.



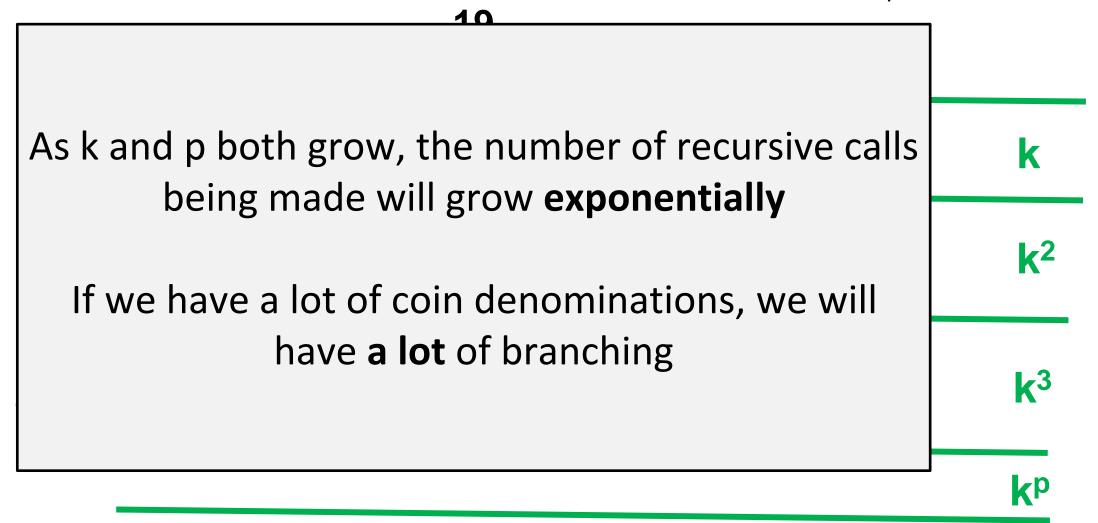






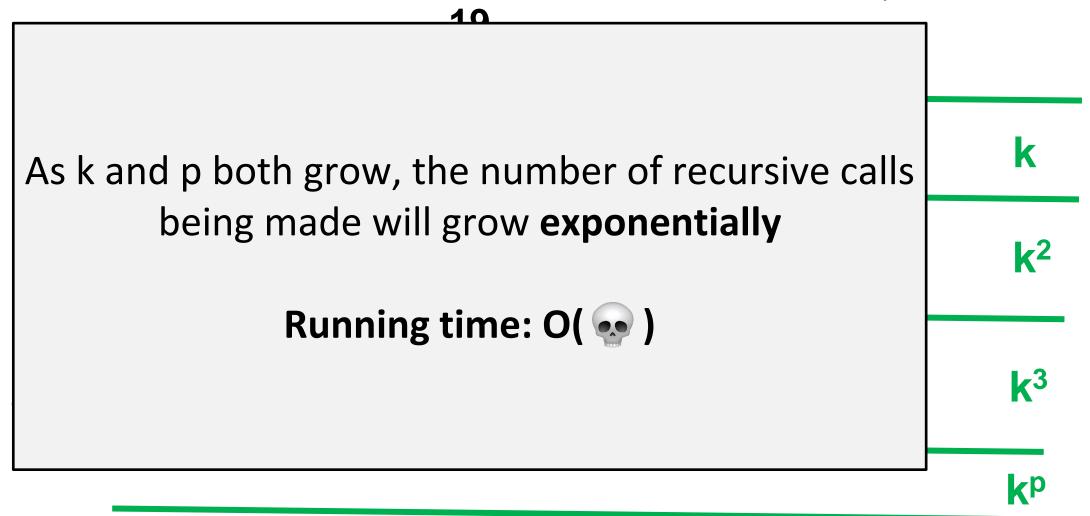
Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

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Make \$0.19 with \$0.01, \$0.05, \$0.10

k = # denominationsp = value to make change for

As k and p both grow, the number of recursive calls being made will grow **exponentially**Branching Factor: O(K)

Running time: O(k^p)

For a large set of denominations, or a large p, this algorithm will take a long time to run

k²
k³

Combinations for 7 cents Using D = [1, 5, 10]

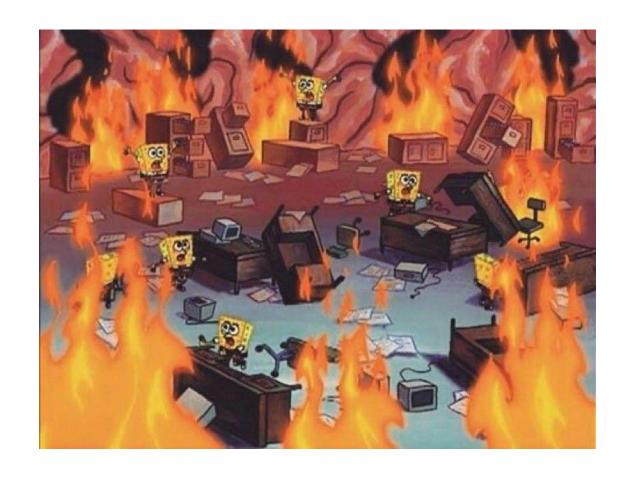
[1, 1, 5] and [5, 1, 1] is the same combination...

Permutations for 7 cents Using D = [1, 5, 10]

Order does not matter.
[1, 1, 5] and [5, 1, 1] are
considered different solutions

In our change making algorithm, we are calculating every possible permutation (bad)

Let's try 81 cents!



This algorithm returns the minimum number of coins needed (ie 4), but it does not tell us what coins were used in that solution

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D = Array of coin denominations [1, 5, 10, 25]

p = value to make change for

n = minimum number of coins used to make p cents

Goal: Find an **n-length** combination of coins from **D** that were used to make **p**

This algorithm returns the minimum number of coins needed (ie 4), but it does not tell us what coins were used in that solution

D = Array of coin denominations [1, 5, 10, 25]

p = value to make change for

n = minimum number of coins used to make p cents

Goal: Find an **n-length** combination of coins from **D** that were used to make **p**

To do this, we will compute **all n-length combinations**, but only return the combinations that add up to be **p** (not very efficient)

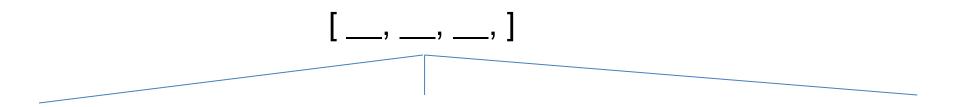
For **n=3**, these are the combinations to be generated:

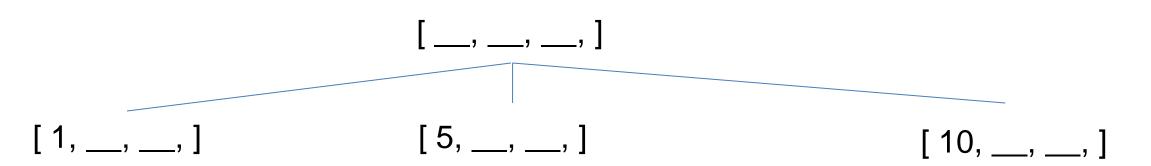
- [1, 1, 1]
- [1, 1, 5]
- [1, 1, 10]
- [1, 5, 5]
- [1, 5, 10]

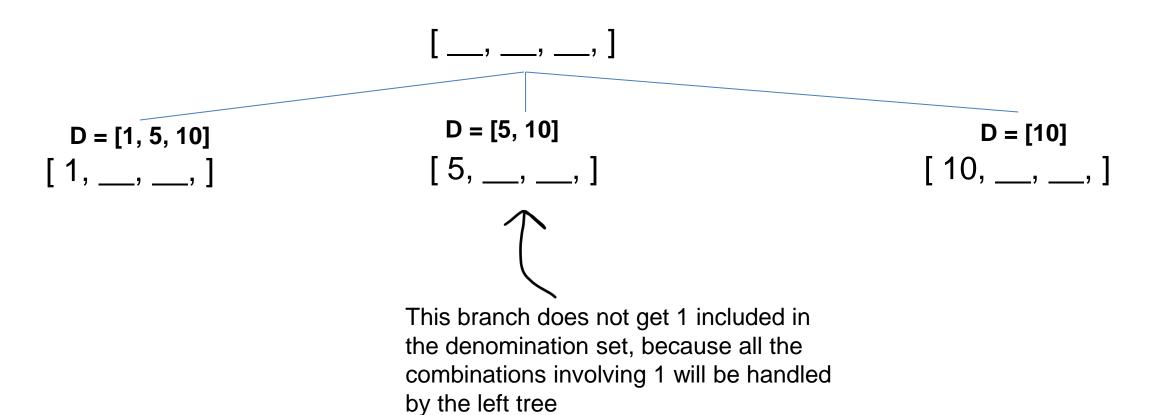
- [1, 10, 10]
- [5, 5, 5]
- [5, 5, 10]
- [5, 10, 10]
- [10, 10, 10]

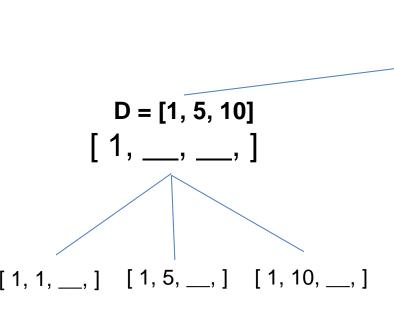
Note:

[5, 1, 1] is not a "valid" combination, because it is the same thing as [1, 1, 5]

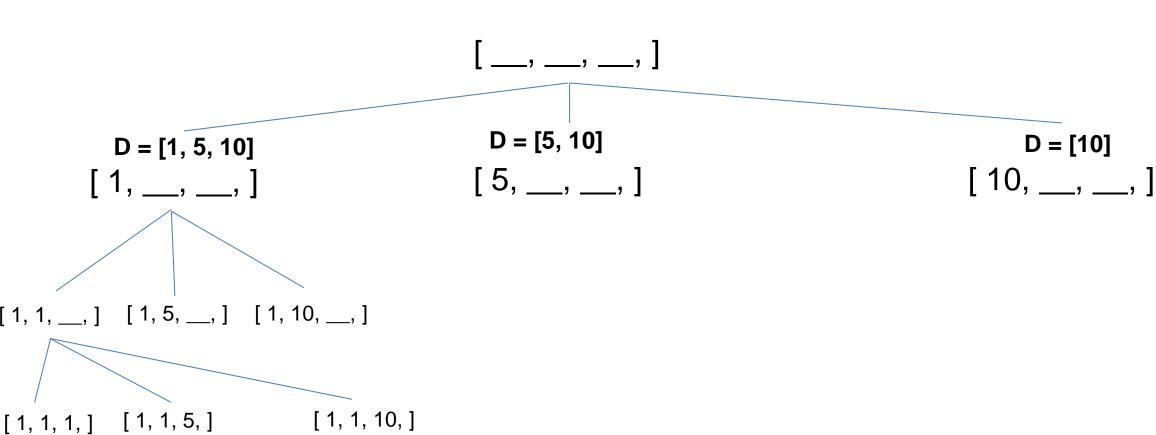






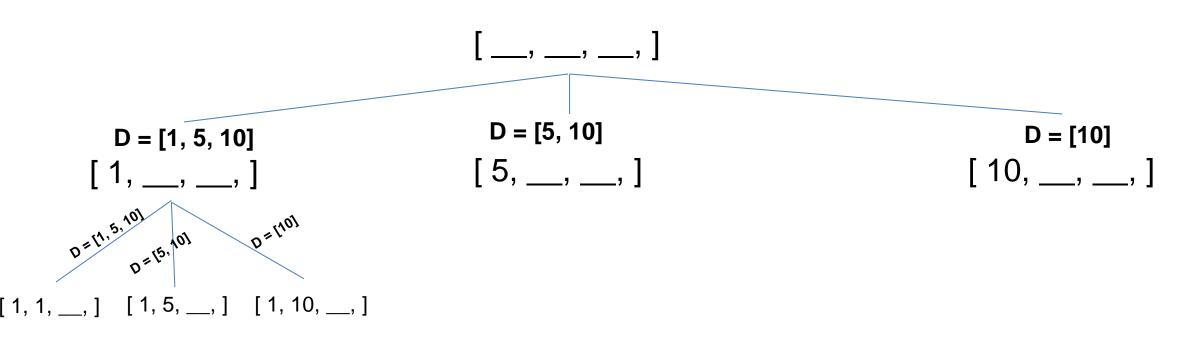


Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10] n = 3

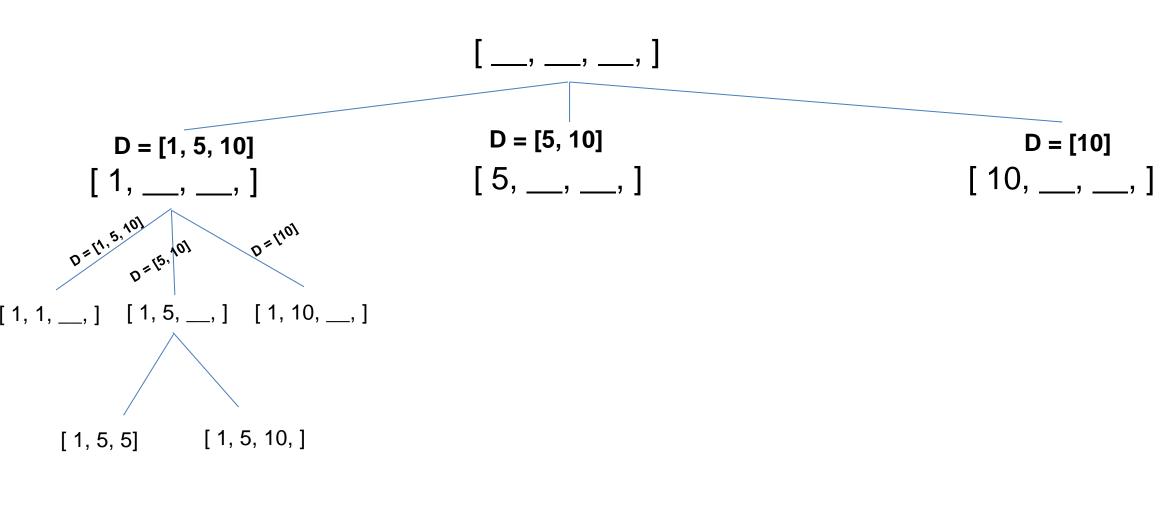


(Base case) When are combinations reach a length of 3, we will stop recursing

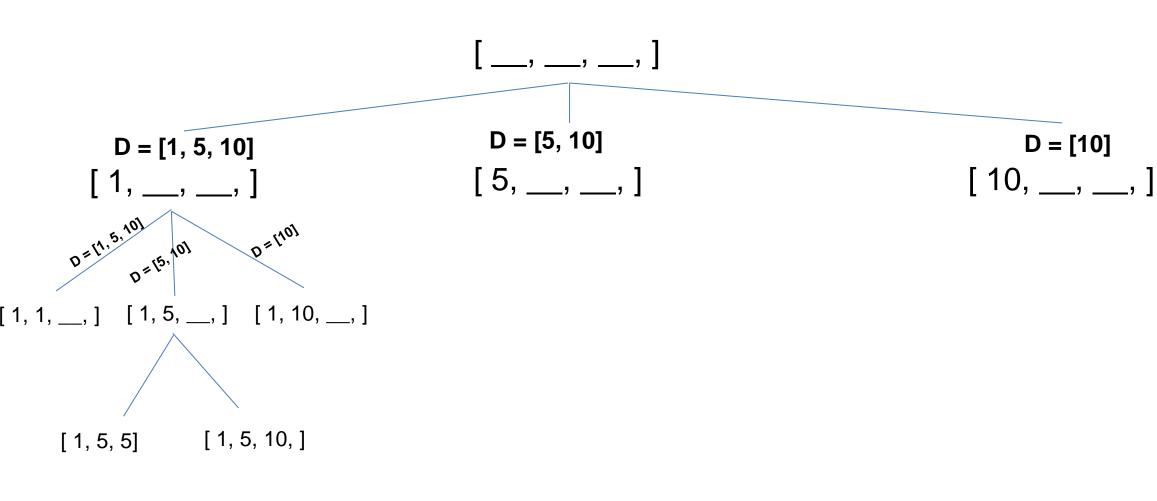
[1, 1, 1] [1, 1, 5] [1, 1, 10]

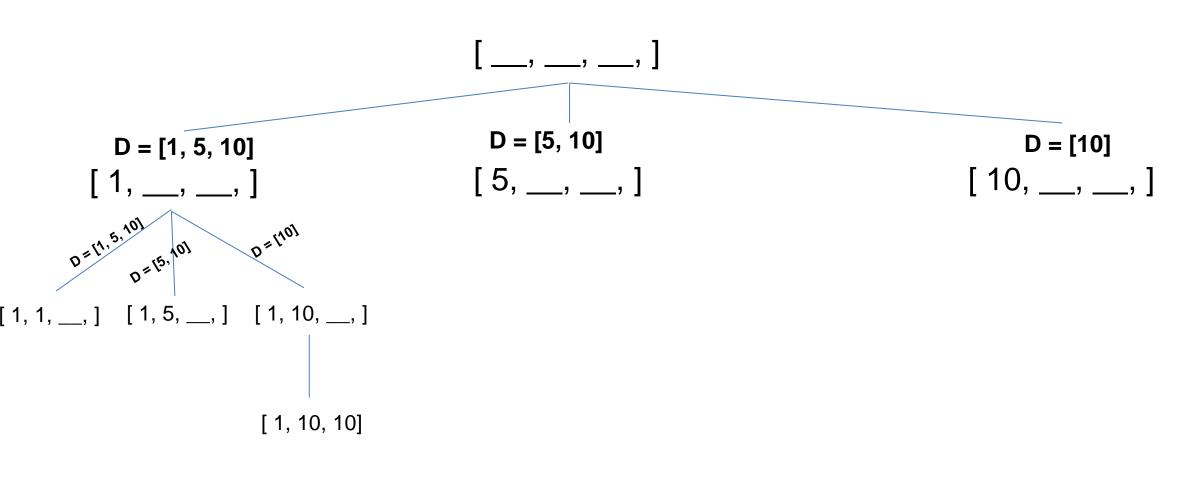


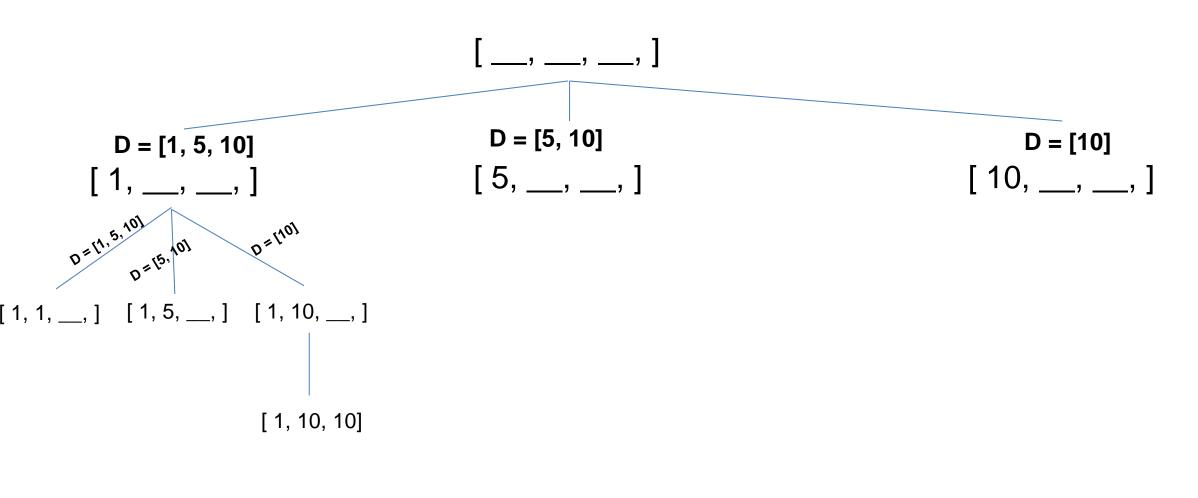
Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10] n = 3

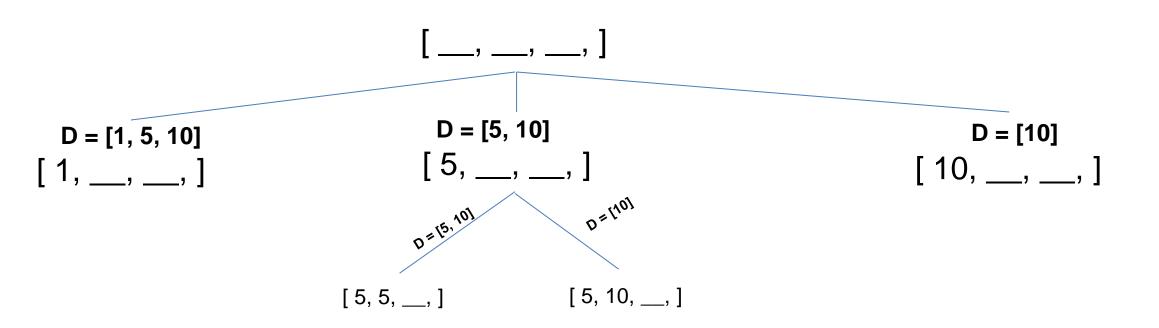


[1, 1, 1] [1, 1, 5] [1, 1, 10]

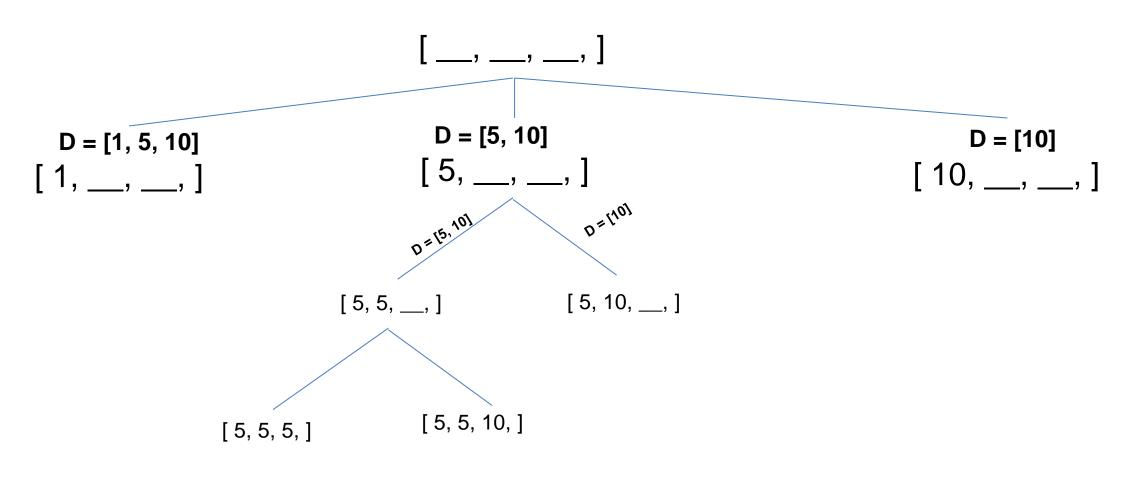






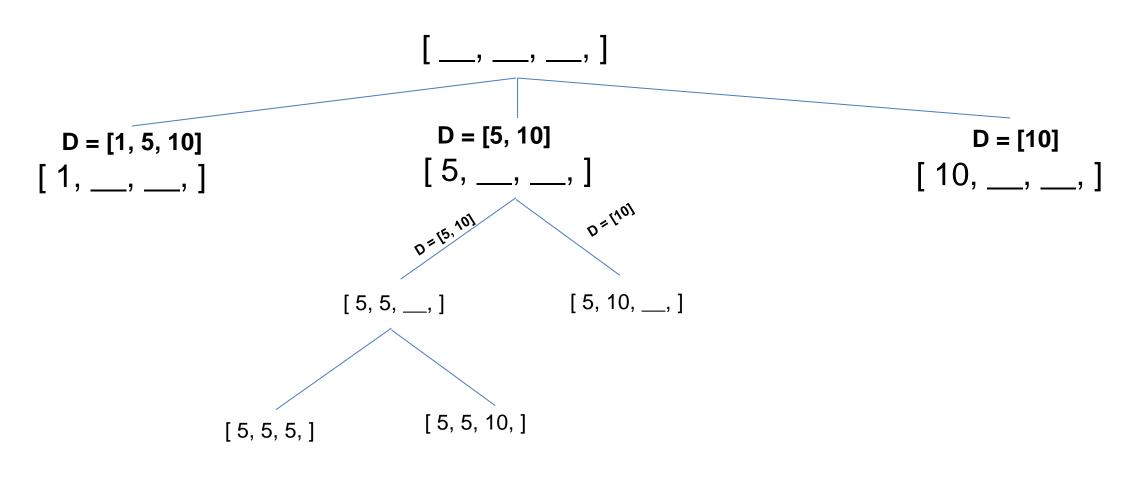


Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10] n = 3



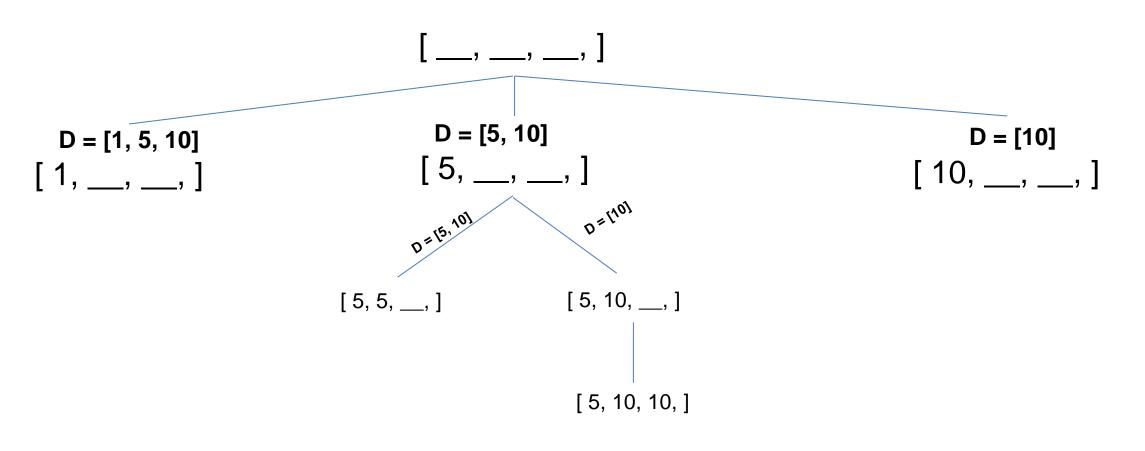
[1, 1, 1] [1, 1, 5] [1, 1, 10] [1, 5, 5] [1, 5, 10] [1, 10, 10]

Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10] n = 3

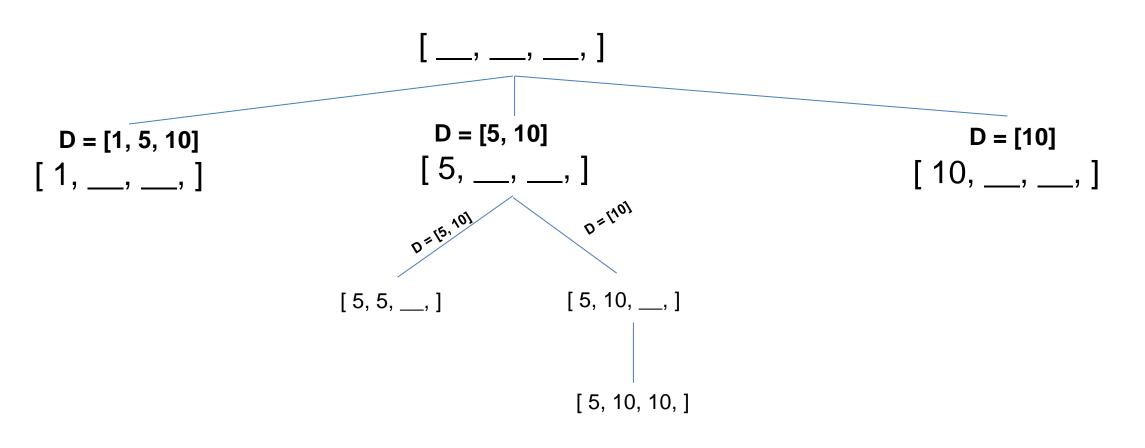


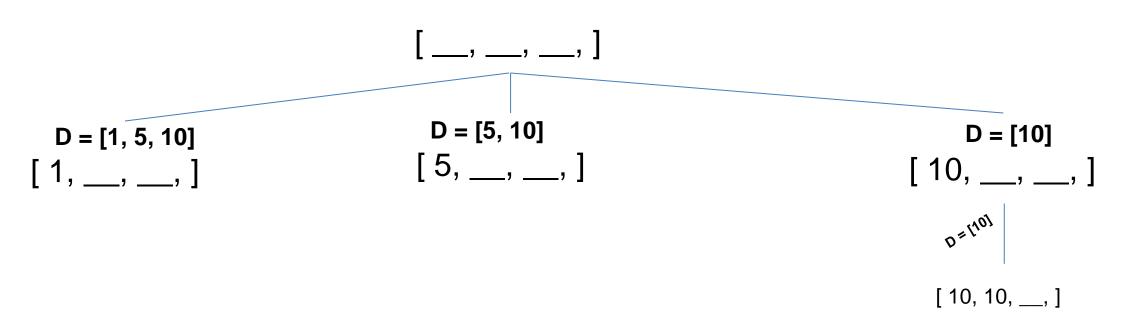
[1, 1, 1] [1, 1, 5] [1, 1, 10] [1, 5, 5] [1, 5, 10] [1, 10, 10] [5, 5, 5] [5, 5, 10]

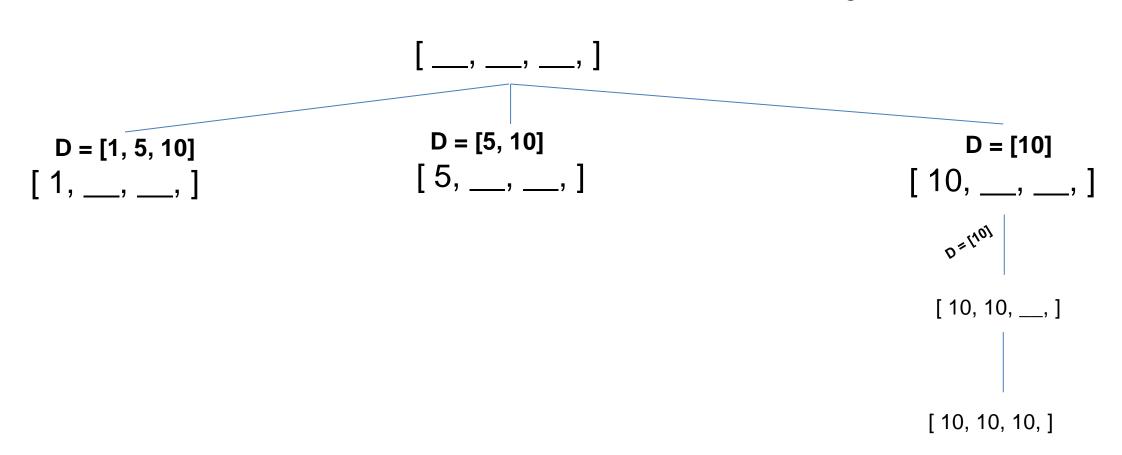
Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10] n = 3



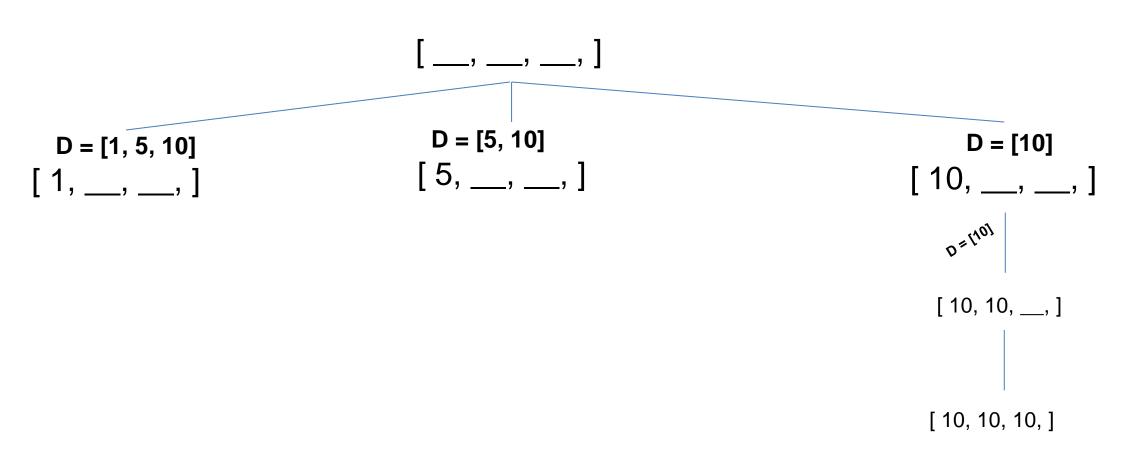
[1, 1, 1] [1, 1, 5] [1, 1, 10] [1, 5, 5] [1, 5, 10] [1, 10, 10] [5, 5, 5] [5, 5, 10]



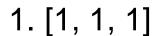




Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10] n = 3



[1, 1, 1] [1, 1, 5] [1, 1, 10] [1, 5, 5] [1, 5, 10] [1, 10, 10] [5, 5, 5] [5, 5, 10] [5, 10, 10] [10, 10, 10]



- 3. [1, 1, 10]
- 4. [1, 5, 5]
- 5. [1, 5, 10]
- 6. [1, 10, 10]
- 7. [5, 5, 5]
- 8. [5, 5, 10]
- 9. [5, 10, 10]
- 10.[10, 10, 10]



We've generated all combinations of length 3

Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10] n = 3

- 1. [1, 1, 1]
- 2. [1, 1, 5]
- 3. [1, 1, 10]
- 4. [1, 5, 5]
- 5. [1, 5, 10]
- 6. [1, 10, 10]
- 7. [5, 5, 5]
- 8. [5, 5, 10]
- 9. [5, 10, 10]
- 10.[10, 10, 10]



We've generated all combinations of length 3

Now, we only want to print out the combinations that add up to **K**

Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10]

$$n = 3$$

$$K = 16$$

10.[10, 10, 10]

We've generated all combinations of length 3

Now, we only want to print out the combinations that add up to K

Suppose K = 16 (a minimum of 3 coins is needed to make 16 cents)



Denominations (D) = [1, 5, 10]

$$n = 3$$

$$K = 16$$

We've generated all combinations of length 3

Now, we only want to print out the combinations that add up to K

Suppose K = 16 (a minimum of 3 coins is needed to make 16 cents)

Answer =
$$[1, 5, 10]$$

LET'S CODE THIS!!

If you don't fully understand this code, that is fine.

b to **K**

16 cents)

Answer = [1, 5, 10]

```
private static void find_coins(int[] d, int k, int n) {
    int chosen[] = new int[n + 1];
    calculate_combinations(chosen, d, 0, n, 0, d.length - 1, k);
}

void calculate_combinations(int[] chosen, int[] arr, int index, int r, int start, int end, int target) {
```

Array that we build up over time. Holds **indices** of currently selected denominations for some combination

```
[1,___, ___]
[1,1, ___]
[1,1, 5]
```

```
private static void find_coins(int[] d, int k, int n) {
    int chosen[] = new int[n + 1];
        calculate_combinations(chosen, d, 0, n, 0, d.length - 1, k);
}

void calculate_combinations(int[] chosen, int[] arr, int index, int r, int start, int end, int target) {
```

Array of denominations we pass for each recursive call

$$[_, _, _,]$$

$$[D = [1, 5, 10]$$

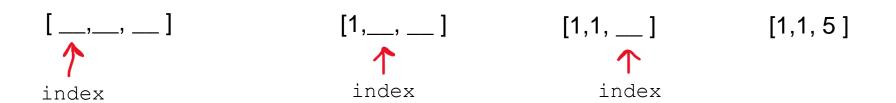
$$[5, _, _,]$$

$$[10, _, _,]$$

```
private static void find_coins(int[] d, int k, int n) {
    int chosen[] = new int[n + 1];
    calculate_combinations(chosen, d, 0, n, 0, d.length - 1, k);
}

void calculate_combinations(int[] chosen, int[] arr, int index, int r, int start, int end, int target) {
```

The next index that we need to insert at for chosen array



```
private static void find_coins(int[] d, int k, int n) {
    int chosen[] = new int[n + 1];
    calculate_combinations(chosen, d, 0, n, 0, d.length - 1, k);
}
```

void calculate_combinations(int[] chosen, int[] arr, int index, int r, int start, int end, int target) {

The desired size of the combination. When index == r, we have reached the desired combination size

```
void calculate_combinations(int[] chosen, int[] arr, int index, int r, int start, int end, int target) {
       if (index == r) {
               int counter = 0;
               ArrayList<Integer> coins = new ArrayList<Integer>();
               for (int i = 0; i < r; i++) {</pre>
                       counter += arr[chosen[i]];
                       coins.add(arr[chosen[i]]);
               if(counter == target) {
                       System.out.println(coins);
               return;
       for (int i = start; i <= end; i++) {
               chosen[index] = i;
               calculate combinations(chosen, arr, index + 1, r, i, end, target);
       return;
```

```
void calculate_combinations(int[] chosen, int[] arr, int index, int r, int start, int end, int target) {
       if (index == r) {
                                                                            If we hit our base
                int counter = 0;
                                                                            case, we know we
               ArrayList<Integer> coins = new ArrayList<Integer>();
                                                                            have N things, so
  Base case
               for (int i = 0; i < r; i++) {
                                                                            put them in an
                       counter += arr[chosen[i]];
                                                                            ArrayList and add
                       coins.add(arr[chosen[i]]);
                                                                            them up
                                                      Only print out the combination if it
                if(counter == target) { 
                                                      adds up to target
                       System.out.println(coins);
                return;
       for (int i = start; i <= end; i++) {
               chosen[index] = i;
               calculate combinations(chosen, arr, index + 1, r, i, end, target);
       return;
```

```
void calculate_combinations(int[] chosen, int[] arr, int index, int r, int start, int end, int target) {
        if (index == r) {
                 int counter = 0;
                ArrayList<Integer> coins = new ArrayList<Integer>();
                 for (int i = 0; i < r; i++) {</pre>
                         counter += arr[chosen[i]];
                         coins.add(arr[chosen[i]]);
                 if(counter == target) {
                         System.out.println(coins);
                 return;
Recursive Case
        for (int i = start; i <= end; i++) {
    chosen[index] = i;</pre>
                calculate_combinations(chosen, arr, index + 1, r, i, end, target);
        return:
             Otherwise, insert selected coin into the chosen array
             create (end-start) branches, and give it a smaller section of D
```

