1. In class we saw a \((1 - \frac{1}{e})\)-approximation for the maximum \(k\)-coverage problem using a greedy algorithm. In the maximum coverage problem, you are given a universe \(U\) of \(n\) elements and a collections \(S\) of subsets of \(U\) such that \(\bigcup S_i = U\). The goal is to select a set \(X \subseteq S\) where \(|X| = k\) to maximize \(|\bigcup S_i \cap X|\). The greedy algorithm we considered iteratively selects sets such that at any point in time it chooses the set that includes the maximum number of uncovered elements.

Consider the following modification to the greedy algorithm, which we will call the \(\epsilon\)-greedy algorithm that is parameterized by a constant \(0 \leq \epsilon < 1\). This algorithm, like greedy, starts with an empty set and greedily builds it solution by adding sets one at a time to the solution. Let \(X_i\) denote \(\epsilon\)-greedy’s solution after adding \(i\) sets (note \(X_0 = \emptyset\)). Now rather than adding the set in each step that covers the most number of uncovered elements, it can add any set that covers almost as many elements as the best possible set. That is, in the \(i\)th set, \(\epsilon\)-greedy adds any set \(S_j\) such that \(|S_j \cap \bigcup_{a \in X_{i-1}} S_a| \geq (1 - \epsilon) \max_{j'} |S_{j'} \cap \bigcup_{a \in X_{i-1}} S_a|\). Note that if \(\epsilon = 0\) then this is exactly the greedy algorithm discussed in class. Prove the best approximation ratio possible for \(\epsilon\)-greedy.

2. In the Metric-TSP problem discussed in class, we are given an undirected graph \(G = (V, E)\) where for each \(e \in E\) there is a cost \(c(e) \geq 0\). The metric property ensures that \(c(uw) \leq c(uv) + c(vq)\) for any \(u, v, w \in V\) and that the graph is a complete graph. The goal is to find a Hamiltonian cycle of minimum length in \(G\).

Consider the following algorithm which greedily builds a Hamiltonian Cycle. Let \(u_i\) be the \(i\)th vertex the cycle visits and set \(u_1\) to be any arbitrary vertex. In the \(i\)th iteration of the algorithm, the next vertex chosen to visit is the closest vertex to \(u_i\) that is not in \(\bigcup_{j \leq i-1} u_j\). That is, the closest unvisited vertex. The algorithm completes when all vertices are visited. Prove that this algorithm gives a \(O(\log n)\)-approximation for the Metric-TSP problem where \(n = |V|\). (Hint: consider the greedy Steiner tree algorithm discussed in class.)

3. In the well known knapsack problem you are given a set of \(n\) items where each item \(i\) has size \(s_i\) and profit \(p_i\). The goal is to find a maximum profit subset of items that can fit in a knapsack of size \(B\).

In the multiple identical knapsack problem there are \(m\) knapsacks each of size \(B\) that the items can be packed in. Say that we know of an algorithm that can solve the single (classic) knapsack problem optimally in polynomial time. Using this, there is a natural greedy strategy for the multiple knapsack problem: Pack the first knapsack using the exact algorithm, remove the packed items, and recursively fill the remaining knapsacks.

(a) Prove that this greedy strategy does not give an exact solution
(b) Prove that this algorithm gives an $O(1)$-approximation for the *multiple identical* knapsack problem.

(c) **Extra Credit:** Prove that this algorithm gives an $O(1)$-approximation for the *multiple* knapsack problem where knapsacks have different sizes and knapsacks are packed in decreasing order of size.