

# Greedy Algorithms

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## Greedy Algorithms – Greedy Florist

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### Problem Statement:

You and your  $k$  friends want to buy  $n$  flowers. Each flower has a price. But the florist has a rule:

- If someone has already bought  $x$  flowers, the **next flower** they buy will cost  $\text{price} * (x + 1)$ .

Your goal is to **minimize the total cost** of buying all flowers.

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### Example:

java

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```
Input: n = 3, k = 3 c = [2, 5, 6] Output: 13 Explanation: Each person buys one flower. Cost = 6 + 5 + 2 = 13
```

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### Brute Force (Inefficient):

- Try all ways to assign flowers to people.
  - **Time Complexity:** Factorial — not feasible.
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### Greedy Intuition:

- Buy **expensive flowers first**.
  - Distribute purchases in **round-robin fashion**, keeping track of how many each person has bought.
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### Optimal Greedy Solution

- **Time Complexity:**  $O(n \log n)$
- **Space Complexity:**  $O(1)$

```
import java.util.*;

public class GreedyFlorist {
    public static int getMinimumCost(int k, int[] c) {
        Arrays.sort(c); // Sort prices in ascending
        int n = c.length;
        int cost = 0;
        int flowerBought = 0;
```

```

        for (int i = n - 1; i >= 0; i--) {
            int round = flowerBought / k;
            cost += c[i] * (round + 1);
            flowerBought++;
        }

        return cost;
    }
}

```

Input:

k = 2, c = [2, 5, 6]

Output: 15

Explanation:

First person buys 6 (cost:  $6 \times 1$ ), then second person buys 5 ( $5 \times 1$ ), then first person buys 2 ( $2 \times 2$ ). Total =  $6 + 5 + 4 = 15$



## Greedy Algorithms – Marc's Cakewalk

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### Problem Statement:

Marc loves cupcakes, but to stay healthy, he follows a rule:

- If he eats the  $i$ -th cupcake in order of **decreasing calorie count**, the calorie gain is:

`calories[i] * (2i)`

You must help him **minimize** total calorie gain.

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### Example:

Input:

calories = [5, 10, 7]

Output: 79

Explanation:

Eat in order: 10, 7, 5

Calories:  $10 \times 2^0 + 7 \times 2^1 + 5 \times 2^2 = 10 + 14 + 40 = 64$

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### Brute Force:

- Try all permutations to find the best order.
- Time Complexity:**  $O(n!)$

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## Greedy Intuition:

- Always eat the **highest calorie** cupcake first → minimum multiplier.

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## Optimal Greedy Solution

- **Time Complexity:**  $O(n \log n)$
- **Space Complexity:**  $O(1)$

```
import java.util.*;

public class MarcsCakewalk {
    public static long marcsCakewalk(int[] calories) {
        Arrays.sort(calories); // Sort in ascending
        long totalCalories = 0;
        int n = calories.length;

        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
            totalCalories += (long) calories[n - 1 - i] * (1L << i); // 2^i
        }

        return totalCalories;
    }
}
```

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## Output

Input: [1, 3, 2]

Output: 11

Explanation: Eat  $3 \times 1 + 2 \times 2 + 1 \times 4 = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11$

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## Greedy Algorithms – Luck Balance

### Problem Statement:

Lena loves to compete in contests. Each contest has:

- A luck value  $L$
- An importance flag  $T$  (1 = important, 0 = unimportant)

She can lose any **unimportant** contest.

She can **lose at most**  $k$  **important contests**.

Losing a contest **adds** its luck to her score.

Winning a contest **subtracts** its luck from her score.

**Goal:** Maximize total luck balance.

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### **Example:**

Input:

$k = 2$

contests =  $[[5, 1], [1, 1], [4, 0]]$

Output:  $10$

Explanation:

- Lose  $5$  and  $4$  (luck +=  $9$ )

- Win  $1$  (luck -=  $1$ )

Total:  $5 + 4 - 1 = 8$

### **Brute Force:**

- Try all combinations of contests to win/lose.
  - **Time Complexity:** Exponential
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### **Greedy Intuition:**

- Always lose unimportant contests.
  - For important ones:
    - Sort by highest luck.
    - Lose top  $k$ , win the rest.
- 

### **Optimal Greedy Solution**

- **Time Complexity:**  $O(n \log n)$
- **Space Complexity:**  $O(n)$

```
import java.util.*;

public class LuckBalance {
    public static int luckBalance(int k, int[][] contests) {
        List<Integer> important = new ArrayList<>();
        int totalLuck = 0;

        for (int[] contest : contests) {
            int luck = contest[0];
            int type = contest[1];

            if (type == 0) {
```

```

        totalLuck += luck; // Always Lose unimportant contests
    } else {
        important.add(luck); // Store important ones
    }
}

// Sort important contests descending
Collections.sort(important, Collections.reverseOrder());

// Lose top k important
for (int i = 0; i < important.size(); i++) {
    if (i < k)
        totalLuck += important.get(i); // Lose
    else
        totalLuck -= important.get(i); // Win
}

return totalLuck;
}
}

```

#### ✓ Output

Input:

$k = 2$ , contests =  $[[5, 1], [2, 1], [1, 1], [8, 0]]$

Output: 18

Explanation:

Lose 5 and 2  $\rightarrow +7$

Win 1  $\rightarrow -1$

Lose 8 (unimportant)  $\rightarrow +8$

Total: 14

## ✓ Greedy Algorithms – Priyanka and Toys

### 🔗 Problem Statement:

Priyanka wants to buy toys.

Each toy has a **weight**.

She can buy all toys within a range of  $w$  to  $w + 4$  in a **single container**.

She wants to **minimize the number of containers** used.

### 📌 Example:

Input:

weights = [1, 2, 3, 17, 10]

Output: 3

Explanation:

- Container 1: [1, 2, 3]
- Container 2: [10]
- Container 3: [17]

### Brute Force:

- Try placing each toy in every container.
  - **Time Complexity:**  $O(2^n)$
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### Greedy Intuition:

- **Sort** the weights.
  - Start from smallest.
  - Put as many toys as possible within 4 units of that one.
  - Move to the next unplaced toy.
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### Optimal Greedy Solution

- **Time Complexity:**  $O(n \log n)$
- **Space Complexity:**  $O(1)$

```
import java.util.*;

public class PriyankaAndToys {
    public static int toys(int[] weights) {
        Arrays.sort(weights);
        int containers = 0;
        int i = 0;
        int n = weights.length;

        while (i < n) {
            int limit = weights[i] + 4; // Current container range
            containers++;

            // Skip all toys within range
            while (i < n && weights[i] <= limit) {
                i++;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```
        return containers;
    }
}
```

#### ✓ Output

Input: [1, 2, 3, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25]

Output: 2

Explanation:

- Container 1: [1, 2, 3]
- Container 2: [21-25]

## ✓ Greedy Algorithms – Beautiful Pairs

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### 🚩 Problem Statement:

You are given two arrays **A** and **B** of the same length. A *beautiful pair* is an element that exists in **both** arrays (can be matched once).

However, you are **allowed to change one element in B to any integer**.

**Goal:** Maximize the number of beautiful pairs after this one change.

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### 📦 Example:

Input:

A = [1, 2, 3, 4]

B = [1, 2, 3, 3]

Output: 4

Explanation:

- Initial pairs: [1, 2, 3] → 3 matches
- Modify B[3] = 4 → Add 4th match

### 🔄 Brute Force:

- Try all modifications in **B** and count matches.
  - **Time Complexity:**  $O(n^2)$
- 

### 🧠 Greedy Intuition:

- Count frequency of each element in both arrays.
- Find initial matches using  $\min(A[i], B[i])$
- Then:

- If total matches < A.length → We can **increase** by 1
- If total matches == A.length → One change will **break** a match → decrease by 1

## Optimal Greedy Solution

- **Time Complexity:**  $O(n)$
- **Space Complexity:**  $O(n)$

```
import java.util.*;

public class BeautifulPairs {
    public static int beautifulPairs(int[] A, int[] B) {
        Map<Integer, Integer> freqA = new HashMap<>();
        Map<Integer, Integer> freqB = new HashMap<>();

        for (int a : A) freqA.put(a, freqA.getOrDefault(a, 0) + 1);
        for (int b : B) freqB.put(b, freqB.getOrDefault(b, 0) + 1);

        int matches = 0;

        for (int key : freqA.keySet()) {
            if (freqB.containsKey(key)) {
                matches += Math.min(freqA.get(key), freqB.get(key));
            }
        }

        // We are allowed to change 1 element in B
        if (matches == A.length) return matches - 1;
        else return matches + 1;
    }
}
```

### Output

Input:

A = [1, 1, 2, 2]

B = [1, 2, 2, 3]

Output: 4

Explanation:

- Initial matches: 3
- Change 3 → 1 → Now 4 matches



## ✅ Greedy Algorithms – Maximum Perimeter Triangle

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### 📌 Problem Statement:

Given an array of stick lengths, choose **3 of them** to form a triangle with **maximum perimeter**. If more than one triangle has the same perimeter, pick the one with the **longest maximum side**. If no triangle is possible, return `-1`.

Triangle Rule: The sum of any two sides must be **greater than the third**.

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### 📌 Example:

Input:

sticks = [1, 1, 1, 3, 3]

Output:

[1, 3, 3]

Explanation:

- Possible triangles: (1, 1, 1), (1, 3, 3)
- Max perimeter = 7 from (1, 3, 3)

### 🔄 Brute Force:

- Try all combinations of 3 sticks.
  - Check if triangle is valid.
  - Track max perimeter.
  - **Time Complexity:**  $O(n^3)$
- 

### 🧠 Greedy Intuition:

- Sort array in **descending** order.
  - Try consecutive triplets:
    - Since sorted, if `a < b + c`, then triangle is valid.
  - First such triplet = largest possible perimeter.
- 

### 🚀 Optimal Greedy Solution

- **Time Complexity:**  $O(n \log n)$
- **Space Complexity:**  $O(1)$

```
import java.util.*;
```

```
public class MaxPerimeterTriangle {  
    public static List<Integer> maximumPerimeterTriangle(int[] sticks) {
```

```

Arrays.sort(sticks);
int n = sticks.length;

for (int i = n - 1; i >= 2; i--) {
    int a = sticks[i - 2];
    int b = sticks[i - 1];
    int c = sticks[i];

    if (a + b > c) {
        return Arrays.asList(a, b, c);
    }
}

return Arrays.asList(-1);
}

```

#### ✓ Output

Input: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10]

Output: [3, 4, 5]

Input: [1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5]

Output: [1, 1, 1]

### ✓ Greedy Algorithms – Largest Permutation

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#### 🔗 Problem Statement:

You are given an array `arr` of size `n` and a number `k`.

You can **swap any two elements** at most `k` times.

Your goal is to make the **largest lexicographical permutation** possible in **at most** `k` swaps.

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#### 📖 Example:

Input:

`arr = [4, 2, 3, 5, 1]`

`k = 1`

Output:

`[5, 2, 3, 4, 1]`

Explanation:

- Only one swap allowed.
- Swap 4 and 5 to get largest possible.

### Brute Force:

- Try all combinations of up to `k` swaps.
  - Compute and compare all permutations.
  - **Time Complexity:**  $O(n! * k)$
- 

### Greedy Intuition:

- To get the largest permutation:
    - Put the largest number at position 0.
    - Then second largest at position 1, and so on...
  - For each position `i`:
    - If current element is not the correct (largest possible):
      - Find its correct position and swap.
      - Decrease `k` by 1
      - Stop if `k == 0`
- 

### Optimal Greedy Solution

- **Time Complexity:**  $O(n)$
- **Space Complexity:**  $O(n)$

```
import java.util.*;

public class LargestPermutation {
    public static int[] largestPermutation(int k, int[] arr) {
        int n = arr.length;

        // Map each number to its index for O(1) Lookup
        Map<Integer, Integer> pos = new HashMap<>();
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
            pos.put(arr[i], i);
        }

        for (int i = 0; i < n && k > 0; i++) {
            int expected = n - i;

            if (arr[i] != expected) {
                int indexToSwap = pos.get(expected);
```

```

        // Swap in array
        pos.put(arr[i], indexToSwap);
        pos.put(expected, i);

        int temp = arr[i];
        arr[i] = arr[indexToSwap];
        arr[indexToSwap] = temp;

        k--;
    }
}

return arr;
}
}

```

#### Output

Input:

arr = [4, 2, 3, 5, 1], k = 1

Output: [5, 2, 3, 4, 1]

Input:

arr = [2, 1, 3], k = 1

Output: [3, 1, 2]