1. You must defend your house from attacking robots. You have an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) that can destroy some of the robots. Its power depends on how long it has been charging, specified by a given function $f()$ that takes a parameter $j$ in seconds and returns the number of robots the EMP is able to destroy at that point.

A robot swarm arrives over the course of $n$ seconds; in the $i$th second, $x_i$ robots arrive. You have sensors that report the sequence $x_1, x_2, \ldots x_n$ in advance, i.e. you know how many robots will be arriving at any given second.

If your EMP is used in the $k$th second, and it has been $j$ seconds since it was previously used, then it will destroy $\min(x_k, f(j))$ robots. Afterwards it will be completely drained.

Assume your EMP starts off completely drained, so if it used for the first time in the $j$th second, it is capable of destroying up to $f(j)$ robots.

Problem: Given the robot arrival data and the recharging function, choose the points in time at which you’re going to activate the EMP so as to destroy as many robots as possible.

2. You must set up a sensor network to detect invading waves of robots. You have $k$ sensors. There are $n$ different frequencies that need monitoring and to do this you have available a collection of sensors. You have identified a set $L$ of $m$ geographic locations at which $k$ sensors total can be placed. You have also identified a set $S$ of $b$ interference sources, each of which blocks certain frequencies at certain locations. Specifically, each interference source $i$ is specified by a pair $(F_i, L_i)$, where $F_i$ is a subset of the frequencies and $L_i$ is a subset of the locations. A given pair signifies that (due to radio interference) a sensor placed at any location in the set $L_i$ will not be able to receive signals on any frequency in the set $F_i$.

Problem: Given the frequencies, locations and interference sources, identify a set of at most $k$ locations such that for each frequency $j$ in the $n$ frequencies, there is some location in your chosen set where frequency $j$ is not blocked by any interference source.
Thus by placing a sensor at each location in a sufficient set, you can successfully monitor each of the n frequencies. **Sensors can monitor multiple frequencies at once.**

3. To train to defend yourself against attacking robots, your friends and family have decided to do a mini-triathlon. A mini-triathlon consists of 20 laps in the pool, 10 miles biking, and 3 miles running (in that order). You have limited space, so you need to stagger yourselves such that only one person is in the pool at a time. Any number of people can be running and biking at once.

Each of you has a projected swimming time (the expected time it takes you to complete the 20 laps), a projected biking time, and a projected running time. You need to decide on an order in which to sequence the starts of the contestants that lets the triathlon complete as early as possible assuming everyone sticks to their expected times.

Problem: Given projected swimming, biking, and running times of n people, decide on an order of those people starting the mini-triathlon that ends the earliest.

4. To recover from fighting robots, you have to have sufficient blood for blood transfusions. Not everyone can have every kind of blood however. An individual’s own blood has certain antigens and a person cannot receive blood that has an antigen they do not have (their immune system will think it is a foreign invader). Therefore, there are four main types of blood: A, B, AB, and O. Blood of type A has the A antigen, type B has the B antigen, type AB has both the A and B antigens, and type O has neither A or B antigens (there isn’t an O antigen, it just means null). Patients with type A blood can receive type A or type O blood, patients with type B can receive type B or O, AB can receive any of the four types, and O can only receive O.

You have a supply of So, Sab, Sb, and Sa of blood of type O, AB, B, and A, respectively. You also have estimated the amount of blood for people of each type you’ll need based on your knowledge of incoming robots and the blood types of the people fighting with you, represented as Do, Dab, Db, and Da (D stands for demand).

Problem: Given the supply amounts and estimated demand amounts, determine if you have enough blood of each type on hand to deal with the demand.