



香港電腦奧林匹克競賽  
Hong Kong Olympiad in Informatics

# J262 - Bowling Score Recovery

Darren Lu {firewater}

2026-02-14

## Background

- Problem idea by hywong1
- Preparation by hywong1
- Presentation by firewater

## Problem Restatement

- You are given a sequence of pin counts for the  $N$  bowling balls that did not miss, and you can insert arbitrary amounts of misses in between
- Find the maximum possible score under the given scoring:
  - Strike: 30 points
  - Spare:  $10 + (\text{first ball pin count})$  points
  - Open Frame:  $(\text{sum of both ball pin counts})$  points
- Fun fact: this is the scoring system used in the World Bowling Tour!

## Statistics

Task	Attempts	Max	Mean	Std Dev	Subtasks					
<a href="#">J262 - Bowling Score Recovery</a>	97	100	73.69	25.284	10: 95	13: 94	14: 86	17: 92	18: 62	28: 39

First solved by **sms28128** at **0h 12m**

## Subtask 1: $N = 2, A_1, A_2 \neq 10$

- A strike is impossible here
- Check if the two pins form a spare
  - If so, the score is  $10 + A_1$
- Otherwise we can always form open frames with any two adjacent records by inserting 0 as follows:

$A_1$	0	$A_2$	0
-------	---	-------	---

- Even if  $A_1, A_2$  can form an open frame, we have the score being  $A_1 + A_2$  in both cases

## Subtask 2: $A_i < 5$

- Both strikes and spares are impossible
- We can use a similar strategy to the open frame case from subtask 1:

$A_1$	0	$A_2$	0	...	$A_N$	0
-------	---	-------	---	-----	-------	---

- Hence the score is the sum of all  $A_i$

## Subtask 3: $A_i + A_{i+1} \neq 10$

- Spares are impossible
- How do we deal with strikes?
- Since a strike (a 10) gives 30 points, we can just replace every 10 to 30
  - This functionally makes strikes the same as open frames
- We then can just perform the solution from subtask 2

## Subtask 4: $N > 1$ , $A_i + A_{(i+1)} = 10$ , $A_1 > A_2$

- Every adjacent pair can form a spare
- The array should look like one of this:

x	10-x	x	10-x	...	x	10-x	x
---	------	---	------	-----	---	------	---

(odd N)

x	10-x	x	10-x	...	x	10-x
---	------	---	------	-----	---	------

(even N)



## Subtask 4: $N > 1$ , $A_i + A_{i+1} = 10$ , $A_1 > A_2$

- For the even  $N$  case, consider the following way of grouping entries into spares:

x	10-x	x	10-x	...	x	10-x
---	------	---	------	-----	---	------

- This maximizes the number of spares that we can get

## Subtask 4: $N > 1$ , $A_i + A_{i+1} = 10$ , $A_1 > A_2$

- For the odd  $N$  case, consider both ways of grouping entries into spares:

x	10-x	x	10-x	...	x	10-x	x
---	------	---	------	-----	---	------	---

x	10-x	x	10-x	...	x	10-x	x
---	------	---	------	-----	---	------	---

- Since we have  $\text{floor}(N/2)$  spares in both groupings, we will use the first grouping since the score of each spare will be larger
  - The first grouping has each spare giving  $10+x$  points
  - The second grouping has each spare giving  $10+(10-x)$  points
  - We are given  $x > 10-x$  by the constraints

## Subtask 5: $A_i + A_{i+1} = 10$

- When will our previous solutions fail?
- Consider the following example for the even N case:

4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- Our previous grouping gives  $(10+4)*4 = 56$  points
- Now consider the following grouping:

4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- This gives  $4+(10+6)*3+6 = 58$  points

## Subtask 5: $A_i + A_{i+1} = 10$

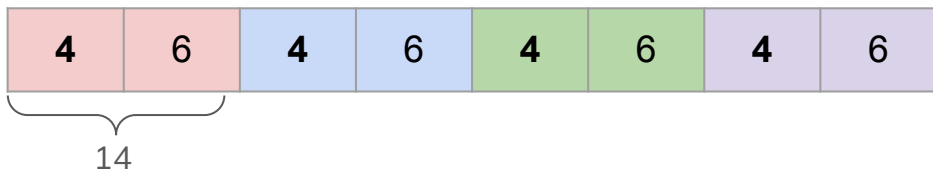
- How does this happen?
- Denote  $k$  as the number of spares in our previous grouping
- We formed one less spare for a loss of  $(10+x)$  points
- For the remaining  $k-1$  spares, we each gain  $(10-2x)$  points



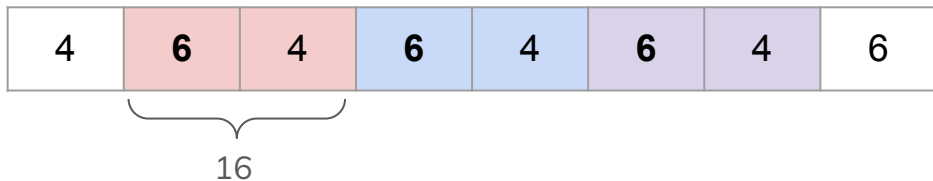
- The two open frames will also give a total of 10 points
- Therefore it is optimal to use the new grouping if  $(10-2x) \cdot (k-1) > x$

## Subtask 5: $A_i + A_{i+1} = 10$

- Let's look at the counterexample again:



- In the previous grouping, a spare gives  $10+4 = 14$  points



- If we switch to the new grouping, each spare gains  $16-14 = 2$  more points
- The open frames gains us 10 points for a total of 16, which is larger than the loss of 14 for forming one less spare

## Subtask 5: $A_i + A_{i+1} = 10$

- How about the odd N case?
- Consider the following example, and both groupings from before:

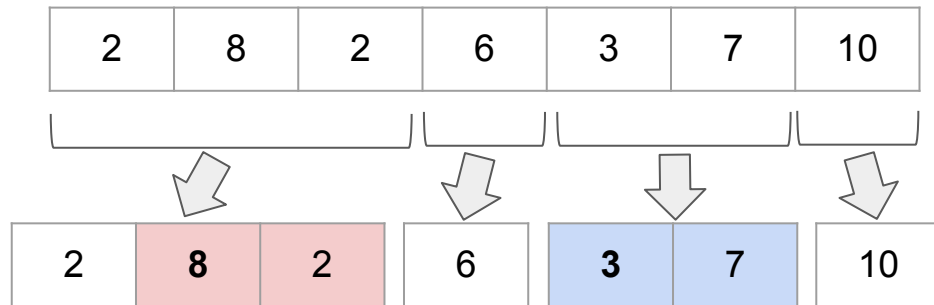
3	7	3	7	3	7	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	7	3	7	3	7	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- In this example, the first grouping scores a total of  $(10+3)*3+3 = 42$  points
- The second grouping scores a total of  $3+(10+7)*3 = 54$  points
- Hence we should try both groupings and take the maximum as answer
  - There are no other “more optimal” solutions since we have tried both  $x$  and  $10-x$  as the first value of the spare

## Subtask 6: No additional constraints

- From subtask 5, we have a way of handling a “block” of entries that, for some  $1 \leq x \leq 9$ , alternates between  $x$  and  $10-x$
- We can split the array into these “blocks” and process them individually
  - For each pair of adjacent elements, they belong to the same block if and only if their sum is 10



- For strikes, we handle them like that of subtask 3