## A general formula for the Frobenius number F(n+1, n+2, ..., n+r)

## A positive integer

(1) x = k\*(n+1) + j, with k>0 and 0<=j<=n, can be written as a linear combination of n+1, n+2, ..., n+r:

(2)  $x = c(1)^{*}(n+1) + c(2)^{*}(n+2) + ... + c(r)^{*}(n+r) = \sum_{i=1}^{r} c(i) * (n+i)$ We must solve this equation with suitable coefficients c(i) and look for a condition that these are non-negative.

The transformation (3)  $x = (n+1)^* \sum_{i=1}^r c(i) + \sum_{i=2}^r c(i) * (i-1)$ leads to (3a)  $k = \sum_{i=1}^r c(i)$  (because of j<=n) and (3b)  $j = \sum_{i=2}^r c(i) * (i-1)$ 

Replace c(1) by k - S(j) with  $S(j) = \sum_{i=2}^{r} c(i)$ , see (3a) (S depends on j, see(5)): (4)  $x = (k - S(j)) * (n + 1) + \sum_{i=2}^{r} c(i) * (n + i)$ 

The coefficients c(i) must be selected such that they satisfy (3b). We set c(r) = a and, if b > 0, c(b+1) = 1 and else c(i) = 0

with 
$$a = \left\lfloor \frac{j}{r-1} \right\rfloor$$
 and  $b = j \mod (r-1)$ .  
Result:  $\sum_{i=2}^{r} c(i) * (i-1) = (r-1)^{*} \left\lfloor \frac{j}{r-1} \right\rfloor + j \mod (r-1) = j$ .  
Thus(3b) is satisfied and (2) is solved.

This leads to S(j) = a if b=0, or S(j) = a+1 otherwise. For both cases: (5)  $S(j) = \left[\frac{j}{r-1}\right]$  and (6)  $k \ge S(n) = \left[\frac{n}{r-1}\right]$  as j=n must be included.

With this inequality, (2) has been solved such that all coefficients are non-negative. Thus any  $x \ge x_{min} = S(n) * (n+1)$  has such a linear combination.

On the other hand, (6) is necessary: We have set c(r) to the greatest possible value. This way, we made S(n) as small as possible because c(r) is the "heaviest" coefficient with the factor r-1.

Thus  $y = (S(n) - 1)^* (n+1) + n = x_{min} - 1$  is the greatest value of x which does not satisfy the necessary condition (6).

Result: F(n+1, n+2, ..., n+r) = (n + 1) \* 
$$\left[\frac{n}{r-1}\right] - 1$$
  
= (n + 1) \* ceiling  $\left(\frac{n}{r-1}\right) - 1$ ,  $r \ge 2$