

Dynamic Programming



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Programming Club Meeting

Dynamic Programming by Example

Example: Matrix Chain Multiplication

Given matrices M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n where matrix M_i is an $r_i \times c_i$ matrix and $c_i = r_{i+1}$.

Goal: Compute $M_1 \cdot M_2 \cdot \dots \cdot M_n$, an $r_1 \times c_k$ matrix.

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Associativity tells us there are many ways to do this:

$$A \cdot (B \cdot C) \quad \text{vs} \quad (A \cdot B) \cdot C$$

or

$$A \cdot (B \cdot (C \cdot D)) \quad \text{vs} \quad (A \cdot B) \cdot (C \cdot D) \quad \text{vs} \quad (A \cdot (B \cdot C)) \cdot D$$

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What is the **fastest** way.

Dynamic Programming by Example

Say the cost of multiplying an $a \times b$ matrix S with a $b \times c$ matrix T is $abc = \#$ of element-by-element multiplications when computing $S \times T$ naively.

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Example:

- $A : 1 \times 100$
- $B : 100 \times 100$
- $C : 100 \times 100$
- $D : 100 \times 1$

Cost of $(A \cdot (B \cdot C)) \cdot D$ is $100^3 + 100^2 + 100 = 1010100$.

Cost of $(A \cdot B) \cdot (C \cdot D)$ is $2 \cdot 100^2 + 100 = 20100$.

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Recall we want to compute $A_1 \cdot \dots \cdot A_k$ where A_j is an $r_j \times c_j$ matrix.

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Let $\text{cost}(i, j)$ be the cheapest way to compute $A_i \cdot \dots \cdot A_j$.

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Let $\text{cost}(i, j)$ be the cheapest way to compute $A_i \cdot \dots \cdot A_j$.

If $i = j$, nothing to compute (answer is 0).

Otherwise “guess” the outermost multiplication:

$$\text{cost}(i, j) = \min_{i \leq k \leq j-1} \text{cost}(i, k) + \text{cost}(k + 1, j) + r_i \cdot c_k \cdot c_j.$$

The Recurrence

Concisely,

$$\text{cost}(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = j \\ \min_{i \leq k \leq j-1} \text{cost}(i, k) + \text{cost}(k + 1, j) + r_i \cdot c_k \cdot c_j & \text{if } i < j \end{cases}$$

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```
int cost(int i, int j) {
    if (i == j) return 0; //base case
    int best = INT_MAX;
    for (int k = i; k < j; k++)
        best = min(best,
                    cost(i, k) + cost(k+1, j) + r[i]*c[k]*c[j]);
    return best;
}
```

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This takes exponential time.

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```
//table[][] is initialized to contain all -1 entries
int cost(int i, int j) {
    if (table[i][j] == -1) { //first time computing cost(i,j)
        if (i == j) table[i][j] = 0;
        else {
            table[i][j] = INT_MAX;
            for (int k = i; k < j; k++)
                table[i][j] = min(table[i][j],
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        }
    }
    return table[i][j];
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Running time: $O(n^3)$.

General Recipe

Formulate a mathematical *recurrence* that solves the problem.

Ingredients:

- “Base cases” that are trivial to solve.
- A clear way to break larger problems into “smaller” subproblems plus some easy to compute part.

Sort of a “computation by induction”. We can easily compute the solution if we know the solutions to smaller subproblems.

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Running Time Analysis Template:

(# of possible subproblems) \times (time in one recursive call)

Sometimes: even faster, this is an upper bound.

Bottom-Up

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Bottom-Up: solve subproblems from “smallest” to “largest”.

```
for (int len = 1; len <= n; len++)
  for (int i = 0, j = len - 1; j < n; i++, j++) {
    if (i == j) cost[i][j] = 0;
    else {
      cost[i][j] = INT_MAX;
      for (int k = i; k < j; k++)
        cost[i][j] = min(cost[i][j],
                        cost[i][k] + cost[k+1][j] + r[i] * c[k] * c[j]);
    }
  }
```

The loop ordering ensures when $\text{cost}[i][j]$ is computed, the relevant $\text{cost}[i][k]$ and $\text{cost}[k+1][j]$ are already computed.

Comparison

Top-Down Advantage:

- Never have to think about how to cleverly build the table from the bottom up. Just memoize the natural recurrence.

Bottom-Up Advantage:

- Runs a bit faster. Not asymptotically faster, though.
- No concern about filling the call stack by recursing too deep.
- Can sometimes use a smaller table:
example: if the recurrence has $f[i][j]$ only depending on $f[i-1][k]$ entries then we might only need to keep the single vector $f[i-1]$ when computing vector $f[i]$.

In the vast majority of contest problems, the top-down approach works fine.

Recovering a Solution

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To recover the sequence, just trace through the DP table.

The outermost multiplication in the cheapest way to compute $A_i \cdot \dots \cdot A_j$ is at the index k achieving the min-value in the recurrence.

For this k , we compute $(A_i \cdot \dots \cdot A_k) \cdot (A_{k+1} \cdot \dots \cdot A_j)$.

More Examples

Longest path in a DAG

Let G be a DAG, a **D**irected **A**cyclie **G**raph with vertices V and edges E . Let s be a vertex.

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Running Time: $O(|V|^2)$: $|V|$ vertices, each with $\leq |V|$ neighbours.

Maybe Better Analysis: $O(|V| + |E|)$ if $N(v)$ is stored as an array.

Longest Common Subsequence

Let $s = s_0s_1 \dots s_{n-1}$ and $t = t_0t_1 \dots t_{m-1}$ be two sequences.

Find a *longest common subsequence* (LCS) between s and t . For example, a LCS of $s = \textit{human}$ and $t = \textit{chimpanzee}$ is \textit{hman} .

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$$f(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \text{ or } j = 0 \\ 1 + f(i - 1, j - 1) & \text{if } s_i = t_j \\ \max(f(i - 1, j), f(i, j - 1)) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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Running Time: $O(nm)$

Subset Sum

Given integers $a_1, \dots, a_n \geq 0$ and some integer $\alpha \geq 0$, is there some $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ with $\sum_{i \in S} a_i = \alpha$?

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Let $f(k, b)$ be a boolean value that is true if and only if there is some $A \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}$ with $\sum_{i=1}^k a_i = b$.

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Running Time: $O(n \cdot \alpha)$

Example Problem: Kattis - uxuhulvoting

<https://open.kattis.com/problems/uxuhulvoting>

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Basic idea: index the priests $i = 0 \dots m - 1$ from youngest to oldest.

- For a priest i and a “configuration” of stones c , let $f(i, c)$ be the final configuration of if priest i plays optimally when presented with configuration c .
- As a base case, let $f(m, c) = c$ (here m signals “no more priests”).
- Let $\alpha(c)$ be the set of 3 possible configurations we can get from c by flipping one stone.
- For $0 \leq i < m$ we have $f(i, c)$ is the best of $f(i + 1, c')$ over all $c' \in \alpha(c)$.

Implementation detail: let c be an integer between 0 and 7 (the binary string representing set of flipped stones). The bitwise XOR of c with 1, 2, and 4 gives the three values in $\alpha(c)$.

Example Problem: Kattis - pebblesolitair2

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Basic idea:

- For a subset of positions S , let $f(S)$ be the minimum possible number that can be left if positions S have pebbles.
- Recurrence
 - if no moves from S the answer is $|S|$
 - otherwise, $f(S)$ is the minimum of $f(S')$ over all S' that can be obtained by one move from S
- For n holes, 2^n states and $O(n)$ moves/state so this takes $O(n \cdot 2^n)$ time.
- Don't reset the memo table between inputs to save time.

Implementation detail: Represent S by a single integer whose bits indicate the members of S .

Example Problem: Kattis - race

`https://open.kattis.com/problems/race`

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Basic idea:

- Similar to before, for a set of points S and some point $v \in S$, let $f(S, v)$ be the minimum time to complete S with v being the last thing completed in S . This is ∞ if it is impossible.
- In the recurrence, compute $f(S, v)$ by guessing what task u immediately preceded v .
- Quite a few simple low-level details to work out.
- $O(n2^n)$ subproblems, each with $O(n)$ recursive calls: $O(n^2 \cdot 2^n)$ time in total.