Dynamic Programming Part One

Announcements

- Problem Set Four due right now if you're using a late period.
 - Solutions will be released at end of lecture.
- Problem Set Five due Monday, August 5.
 - Feel free to email the staff list (cs161-sum1213-staff@lists.stanford.edu) with questions!
- Final project information will be announced early next week.
- A quick reminder about the Honor Code...

Outline for Today

- Buying Cell Towers
 - A surprisingly nuanced problem.
- Dynamic Programming
 - A completely different approach to recursion.
- Weighted Activity Selection
 - Breaking greedy algorithms, then fixing them.

Example: Cell Tower Purchasing













The Cell Tower Problem

- You are given a list of town populations.
- You can build cell towers in any town as long as you don't build towers in adjacent cities.
- Two questions:
 - What is the largest number of people you can cover?
 - How do you cover them?

















Maximize what's left in here.

Some Notation

- Let v_k be the value of the *k*th cell tower, 1-indexed.
- Let OPT(k) be the maximum number of people we can cover using the first k cell towers.
- If C is a set of cell towers, let C(k) denote the number of people covered by the towers in C numbered at most k.

• **Claim:** OPT(k) satisfies

$$OPT(k) = \begin{cases} 0 & if k=0 \\ v_k & if k=1 \\ max\{OPT(k-1), v_k+OPT(k-2)\} & otherwise \end{cases}$$

Theorem: OPT(k) satisfies the previous recurrence. **Proof:** If k = 0, no people can be covered, so OPT(0) = 0.

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If $k \in C$, then $k - 1 \notin C$. Then all towers in *C* besides *k* are within the first k - 2 towers, so $C(k - 2) \leq OPT(k - 2)$.

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Since the optimal solution for *k* towers must be the better of these, $OPT(k) = max{OPT(k - 1), v_k + OPT(k - 2)}$.

A Simple Recursive Algorithm

- Here is a simple recursive algorithm for computing OPT(k):
 - If k = 0, return 0.
 - If k = 1, return v_k .
 - Return max{OPT(k 1), OPT(k 2) + v_k }
- This follows directly from the recursive definition of OPT.
- **Question:** How efficient is this algorithm?



• The number of function calls made is given by this recurrence:

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- $F_n = \Theta(\varphi^n)$, where $\varphi \approx 1.618...$ is the golden ratio.
- **Runtime is exponential!**














Redundantly Redoing Completed Work That's Already Been Done

- This algorithm is inefficient because different branches of the recursion recompute the same work.
- Total number of *unique* recursive calls is low, though the total number of recursive calls is large.
- Idea: Avoid redundant work!
- How can we do this?

A Better Approach

- **Key Idea:** Compute answers *bottom-up* rather than *top-down*.
- Specifically:
 - Compute OPT(0) and OPT(1) directly.
 - Compute OPT(2) from OPT(0) and OPT(1).
 - Compute OPT(3) from OPT(1) and OPT(2).
 - Compute OPT(4) from OPT(2) and OPT(3).
 - . .
 - Compute OPT(*n*) from OPT(*n*-1) and OPT(*n*-2)























```
procedure maxCoverage(list A):
    let dp be a list of size length(A) + 1,
        zero-indexed.

dp[0] = 0
dp[1] = A[1]

for i = 2 to length(A):
        dp[i] = max(dp[i - 1], A[i] + dp[i - 2])

return dp[length(A)]
```

A Great Solution

- This new algorithm runs in time O(n) and works in O(n) space.
- Still evaluates the same subproblems, but does so only once and in a different order.
- This style of problem solving is called dynamic programming.

Dynamic Programming

- This algorithm works correctly because of the following three properties:
 - **Overlapping subproblems:** Different branches of the recursion will reuse each other's work.
 - **Optimal substructure:** The optimal solution for one problem instance is formed from optimal solutions for smaller problems.
 - **Polynomial subproblems:** The number of subproblems is small enough to be evaluated in polynomial time.
- A **dynamic programming** algorithm is one that evaluates all subproblems in a particular order to ensure that all subproblems are evaluated only once.

Recovering the Solution























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An Initial Approach

- Our original algorithm uses O(n) time and O(n) space.
- This new approach might use $\Theta(n^2)$ space just storing the incremental optimal solutions.
- It also might take $\Theta(n^2)$ time copying answers down the line.
- Can we do better?

















































Try It Yourself!



Try It Yourself!



Recovering the Solution

- Once you have filled in a DP table with values from the subproblems, you can often reconstruct the optimal solution by running the recurrence backwards.
- This is often done with a greedy algorithm, since the algorithm will never get stuck anywhere.
 - Consequence of the fact that you know the true values of all subproblems.

Reducing Space Usage

- If you only need the *value* of the optimal answer, can save space by not storing the whole table.
- For cell towers, all DP values depend only on previous two elements.

```
procedure maxCellTowers(list A):
let a = 0
let b = A[1]
for i = 2 to length(A):
    let newVal = max(a + A[i], b)
    a = b
    b = newVal
return b
```

A Second Example: Weighted Activity Selection







Weighted Activity Scheduling

- Not all fun activities are equally fun!
- Given a set of activities, which have associated weights, choose the set of non-overlapping activities that will maximize the total weight.
- A more realistic generalization of the problem we saw earlier.










An Algorithmic Insight

- Sort the activities in ascending order of finish time, breaking ties arbitrarily.
- The optimal solution either
 - Includes the very last event to finish, in which case it chooses an optimal set of activities from the activities that don't overlap it.
 - Doesn't include it, in which case it can choose from all other activities.

Formalizing the Idea

- Number the activities a₁, a₂, ..., a_n in ascending order of finishing time, breaking ties arbitrarily. Let w_k denote the weight of a_k.
- Let p(i) represent the *predecessor* of activity a_i (the latest activity a_k where a_k ends before a_i starts). If there is no such activity, set p(i) = 0.
- Let OPT(k) be the maximum weight of activities you can schedule using the first k activities.
- For any schedule S, let S(k) denote the weight of all activities in S numbered at most k.
- **Claim:** OPT(*k*) satisfies the recurrence

 $OPT(k) = \begin{cases} 0 & if k = 0 \\ max \{OPT(k-1), w_k + OPT(p(k))\} & otherwise \end{cases}$

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If $a_k \in S$, then no activity a_m where p(k) < m < k can be in S, since these activities overlap a_k . Since all activities in S other than a_k are chosen from the first p(k) activities, $S(p(k)) \leq OPT(p(k))$.

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Since OPT(k) must be the better of these two options, we have that $OPT(k) = max{OPT(k - 1), w_k + OPT(p(k))}$

Cut-and-Paste Arguments

- The style of argument used in the previous proof is sometimes called a *cut-and-paste argument*.
 - To show optimal substructure, assume that some piece of the optimal solution S^* is not an optimal solution to a smaller subproblem.
 - Show that replacing that piece with the optimal solution to the smaller subproblem improves the allegedly optimal solution S^* .
 - Conclude, therefore, that S^* must include an optimal solution to a smaller subproblem.
- This style of argument will come up repeatedly when discussing dynamic programming.

Evaluating the Recurrence

- As before, evaluating this recurrence directly would be enormously inefficient.
- Why?
- Overlapping subproblems!
 - Multiple different branches of the computation all will make the same calls.
- Instead, as before, we can evaluate everything bottom-up.
















































































```
procedure weightedActivitySelection(list A):
    let dp be an array of size length(A) + 1,
        0-indexed.

dp[0] = 0
for i = 1 to length(A):
    dp[i] = max(A[i] + dp[p(i)], dp[i - 1])
return dp[length(A)]
```




























0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Why This Works

- As before, this problem exhibits three properties:
 - **Overlapping subproblems**: Many different recursive branches have the same subproblems.
 - **Optimal substructure**: The solution for size *n* depends on the optimal solutions for smaller sizes.
 - **Polynomial subproblems**: There are only O(n) total subproblems.
- This is why the DP solution works.

Next Time

- Sequence Alignment
- The Needleman-Wunsch Algorithm
- Levenshtein Distance