1402. Reducing Dishes

Hard | Greedy | Array | Dynamic Programming | Sorting | Leetcode Link

Problem Description

The problem presents a scenario where a chef has various dishes to cook, each with its own satisfaction level. The chef aims to achieve the maximum total "like-time coefficient," which is the sum of individual dish satisfaction levels multiplied by the time taken to cook the dish, including the time taken to prepare all previous dishes. This means that if a dish is cooked second, its satisfaction level is multiplied by 2, if third, by 3, and so on.

The chef can choose to cook the dishes in any order and can also decide not to cook some dishes at all if it leads to a higher total like-time coefficient. The key challenge is to determine which dishes should be cooked and in what order to maximize the total like-time coefficient.

Intuition

The intuition behind the solution is that cooking dishes with higher satisfaction levels earlier usually leads to a higher like-time coefficient. However, dishes with negative satisfaction levels can decrease the overall score if they are cooked before dishes with positive satisfaction values.

So, the initial approach is to sort the dishes in descending order of satisfaction levels—this way, we look to cook the more satisfying dishes earlier. Then, we iterate through the sorted dishes, accumulating their satisfaction levels. If at any point the running total of satisfaction (sum s) becomes zero or negative, we stop adding more dishes; since adding a dish with a non-positive cumulative satisfaction won't help in increasing the like-time coefficient.

During the iteration, we keep accumulating the running total `s` to a separate answer variable `ans`. `ans` represents the sum of like-time coefficients. The moment the running total `s` would not increase if we added another dish, we break out of the loop, because including any further dishes (with a lesser or negative satisfaction level) would not increase the maximal like-time coefficient.

The key observations are:

1. Dishes with higher satisfaction levels should be prioritized.
2. If the accumulated satisfaction level falls to zero or below, further dishes (with lower satisfaction values due to sorting) will not contribute positively to the like-time coefficient.
3. By keeping track of a running total of satisfaction levels, we can decide when to stop adding more dishes to our final answer.

Solution Approach

The implementation of the solution takes a simple, yet effective approach to solving the given problem. Here's a step-by-step breakdown:

1. Sort the array: First, we sort the satisfaction levels of the dishes in descending order using `satisfaction.sort(reverse=True)`. This ensures that we consider the dishes with the highest satisfaction levels first.

2. Initialize variables: We initialize two variables, `ans` and `s`, to zero. `ans` will keep track of our maximum sum of like-time coefficients, while `s` will be used to keep track of the cumulative sum of the satisfaction levels as we iterate over the dishes.

3. Iterate over sorted dishes: We use a for-loop to iterate through each dish's satisfaction level in the sorted list.

4. Accumulate satisfaction levels: In each iteration, we add the satisfaction level of the current dish to our cumulative sum `s` with `s += x`.

5. Check for the break condition: After updating `s`, we check whether `s` is less than or equal to zero with `if s <= 0:`. This check is crucial because once `s` becomes non-positive, adding more dishes to the preparation (especially the ones with lower satisfaction levels that come later in the sorted list) would not increase the like-time coefficient.

6. Update the maximum sum: Only if `s` is positive do we proceed to add it to our answer `ans` with `ans += s`. This step effectively applies the like-time coefficient, accumulating the product of the satisfaction level and cooking order.

7. Return the result: Once the loop completes (either by exhaustion of the list or by breaking early), we return `ans` as the maximum sum of like-time coefficients.

This solution uses a greedy algorithm pattern where at each step it greedily chooses to cook the dish that can potentially increase the like-time coefficient. The efficiency of this solution lies in the fact that it leverages the sorted order of dishes (based on satisfaction level) and stops early if the future choices would not contribute positively to the outcome.

In terms of data structures, the solution doesn't require any advanced structures; it simply operates on the list of integers given as input. The sort operation on the list is an in-built Python feature that uses TimSort, a hybrid sorting algorithm derived from merge sort and insertion sort.

Overall, this approach is efficient, with a time complexity of O(n log n) due to the sorting step, and a space complexity of O(1), since no additional space other than a few variables is used.

Example Walkthrough

Let's use a small example to illustrate the solution approach. Consider that the chef has five dishes to choose from with the following satisfaction levels: `[4, 3, -1, -8, -2]`.

1. **Sort the array**: We sort the satisfaction levels in descending order, giving us `[-1, -2, -8, 3, 4]`. To sort in reverse order correctly, the elements should be arranged as `[4, 3, -1, -8, -2]`.

2. **Initialize variables**: We set `ans = 0` and `s = 0`.

3. **Iterate over sorted dishes**: We go through each dish's satisfaction level in the sorted list, which goes as `[4, 3, -1, -8, -2]` after sorting it in descending order.

4. **Accumulate satisfaction levels**:

   - For the first dish with satisfaction 4, `s += 4` giving `s = 4`.
   - Next dish with satisfaction 3, `s += 3` giving `s = 7`.
   - Next dish with satisfaction -1, `s += (-1)` giving `s = 6`.
   - The next dish has satisfaction -8, but before we add it, we check if `s` has become zero or negative. It's still positive, so we continue.
   - `s += (-8)` would give `s = -2`, a negative number, so we do not include this dish as it would decrease our total like-time coefficient.

5. **Check for break condition**: Once `s` becomes non-positive, we stop adding more dishes since future additions will not increase the like-time coefficient anymore.

6. **Update the maximum sum**: After each addition to `s` that is positive, we also add that running total to `ans`:

   - After the first dish, `ans = 0 + 4 = 4`.
   - After the second dish, `ans = 4 + 7 = 11`.
   - After the third dish, `ans = 11 + 6 = 17`.
   - We do not consider the last two dishes because adding them would lower the total.

7. **Return the result**: The total maximum sum of like-time coefficients based on the dishes chosen is `ans = 17`.

By following this approach, the chef can easily figure out the best possible combination of dishes to cook in order to maximize the like-time coefficient.

Python Solution

```python
class Solution:
    def max_satisfaction(self, satisfaction: List[int]) -> int:
        # Sort the satisfaction values in descending order to process the larger
        # values first, which is beneficial when cumulatively multiplying by the index.
        satisfaction.sort(reverse=True)

        # Initialize the running total of satisfaction (`cumulative_satisfaction`) and the answer.
        cumulative_satisfaction = 0
        max_total_satisfaction = 0

        # Iterate over each satisfaction value.
        for value in satisfaction:
            # Update the cumulative satisfaction sum.
            cumulative_satisfaction += value

            # If the cumulative satisfaction becomes non-positive,
            # no point in considering further values (since they are sorted in descending order).
            if cumulative_satisfaction <= 0:
                break

            # Increment the answer by the current cumulative satisfaction value.
            max_total_satisfaction += cumulative_satisfaction

        # Return the maximum total satisfaction possible.
        return max_total_satisfaction

```

Java Solution

```java
class Solution {

    /**
     * This method finds the maximum total satisfaction by choosing a sub-sequence to cook in a sequence each
     * element having a satisfaction level represented by the array satisfaction. More formally, it maximizes
     * the sum of the satisfaction[i] * (i+1), where i is the order of cooking in the sequence and satisfaction[i]
     * is the satisfaction from the i-th dish.
     *
     * @param satisfaction Array of satisfaction levels from different dishes.
     * @return The maximum total satisfaction that can be achieved.
     */
    public int maxSatisfaction(int[] satisfaction) {
        // First, sort the satisfaction levels to potentially cook less satisfying dishes earlier.
        Arrays.sort(satisfaction);

        int totalSatisfaction = 0; // Stores the maximum total satisfaction that can be achieved.
        int cumulativeSatisfaction = 0; // Used in calculating the total satisfaction iteratively.

        // Start with the most satisfying dish and move towards the least satisfying.
        for (int i = satisfaction.length - 1; i >= 0; --i) {
            cumulativeSatisfaction += satisfaction[i];

            // If the cumulative satisfaction becomes non-positive then no need to consider previous dishes
            // as it will not contribute to increasing the total satisfaction anymore.
            if (cumulativeSatisfaction <= 0) {
                break;
            }

            // Update the total satisfaction.
            totalSatisfaction += cumulativeSatisfaction;
        }

        // Return the maximum total satisfaction.
        return totalSatisfaction;
    }
}

```

C++ Solution

```cpp
#include <vector>
#include <algorithm>

class Solution {
public:
    // Function to calculate the maximum satisfaction
    int maxSatisfaction(vector<int>& satisfaction) {
        // Sorting the satisfaction values in non-increasing order
        sort(satisfaction.rbegin(), satisfaction.rend());

        int maxSatisfaction = 0;  // This will store the maximum total satisfaction
        int runningSum = 0;       // This keeps the running sum of satisfaction values

        // Iterate through the sorted satisfaction values
        for (int satValue : satisfaction) {
            runningSum += satValue;  // Update the running sum with the current value

            // If the running sum becomes non-positive, we should stop
            // because adding more negative values will not increase the total satisfaction
            if (runningSum <= 0) {
                break;
            }

            // Update the maximum satisfaction value
            maxSatisfaction += runningSum;
        }

        // Return the computed maximum satisfaction value
        return maxSatisfaction;
    }
};

```

Typescript Solution

```typescript
// This function calculates the maximum total satisfaction
// by sorting the array and choosing dishes to maximize
// the sum of (satisfaction of the i-th dish * (i+1)).
function maxSatisfaction(satisfaction: number[]): number {
    // Sort the satisfaction array in descending order to consider the most satisfying dishes first.
    satisfaction.sort((a, b) => b - a);

    // Initialize variables for the maximum answer (ans) and a running sum (runningSum).
    let maxTotalSatisfaction = 0;
    let runningSum = 0;

    // Loop through each satisfaction value in the sorted array.
    for (const satValue of satisfaction) {
        // Add the current satisfaction value to the running sum.
        runningSum += satValue;

        // If the running sum becomes non-positive, it's not beneficial to serve more dishes.
        if (runningSum <= 0) {
            break;
        }

        // Update the maximum total satisfaction so far by adding the current running sum.
        maxTotalSatisfaction += runningSum;
    }

    // Return the maximum total satisfaction value.
    return maxTotalSatisfaction;
}

```

Time and Space Complexity

Time Complexity

The time complexity of the provided code primarily comes from the sorting operation and the for-loop.

- Sorting the `satisfaction` list has a time complexity of `O(N log N)`, where `N` is the length of the `satisfaction` list. This is because the sort function in Python uses the Timsort algorithm, which is a combination of merge sort and insertion sort.

- After sorting, the code iterates over the sorted `satisfaction` list, performing a constant amount of work for each element, thus the time complexity of the for-loop is `O(N)`.

Since these operations are performed sequentially, the overall time complexity of the algorithm is the sum of the two complexities – however, the dominating factor here is the sorting operation. Therefore, the overall time complexity of the code is `O(N log N)`.

Space Complexity

The space complexity of the code comes from the extra space used to sort the `satisfaction` array and the variables `ans` and `s` used to compute the result. Sorting the array in Python is done in-place, which means that no extra space proportional to the input size is used, so the space complexity would be `O(1)` for the sorting operation. However, if the implementation of the sort function creates a copy of the array, then the space complexity would be `O(N)`.

As the only extra variables used are `ans` and `s`, both of which use a constant amount of space, the space complexity due to these variables is `O(1)`.

Therefore, the overall space complexity of the code is `O(1)` if the sort is done in-place. If not, it would be `O(N)` due to the space required for a copy of the array during sorting.