

10. Regular Expression Matching

Given an input string (s) and a pattern (p), implement regular expression matching with support for `.` and `*`.

```
'.' Matches any single character.  
'*' Matches zero or more of the preceding element.
```

The matching should cover the **entire** input string (not partial).

Note:

- s could be empty and contains only lowercase letters `a-z`.
- p could be empty and contains only lowercase letters `a-z`, and characters like `.` or `*`.

Example 1:

```
Input:  
s = "aa"  
p = "a"  
Output: false  
Explanation: "a" does not match the entire string "aa".
```

Example 2:

```
Input:  
s = "aa"  
p = "a*"  
Output: true  
Explanation: '*' means zero or more of the preceding element, 'a'. Therefore, by repeating 'a' once, it becomes "aa".
```

Example 3:

```
Input:  
s = "ab"  
p = ".*"  
Output: true  
Explanation: ".*" means "zero or more (*) of any character (.)".
```

Example 4:

```
Input:  
s = "aab"  
p = "c*a*b"  
Output: true  
Explanation: c can be repeated 0 times, a can be repeated 1 time. Therefore, it matches "aab".
```

Example 5:

```
Input:  
s = "mississippi"  
p = "mis*is*p*."  
Output: false
```

INTUITION:

we will create a `dp[][]` array

where `dp[i][j]` denotes whether the string `s[0...i]` matches with `p[0...j]`

let `m = s.length()`

`n = p.length()`

create `dp[m+1][n+1] = {false};`

set `dp[0][0] = true` // "" matches with ""

fill 0th row // `dp[0][i] = dp[0][i-2]` if (`s[i-1] == '*'`) else `dp[0][i] = false`

meaning `'a*'`, `'a*b*'` => all evaluate to true

also set `dp[i][0] = false`

now let's fill the matrix

```
dp[i][j] = {dp[i-1][j-1] ; s[i-1] = p[j-1] OR p[j-1] = '.'  
            {if(p[i-1] == '*') => dp[i][j-2] ; if(s[i-1] = p[j-2] || p[j-2] = '.') => dp[i][j]  
            || dp[i-1][j]  
            {false
```

for doubts watch : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3hda49XcDE>

CODE:

```
bool isMatch(string s, string p) {  
    int m = s.length();  
    int n = p.length();  
    bool dp[m+1][n+1] = {false};  
    dp[0][0] = true;  
    for(int i=1;i<=n;i++){  
        if(p[i-1] == '*')  
            dp[0][i] = dp[0][i-2];  
        else  
            dp[0][i] = false;  
    }  
    for(int i=1;i<=m;i++){  
        dp[i][0] = false;  
        for(int j=1;j<=n;j++){  
            if(s[i-1] == p[j-1] || p[j-1] == '.')  
                dp[i][j] = dp[i-1][j-1];  
            else if(p[j-1] == '*'){  
                dp[i][j] = dp[i][j-2];  
                if(s[i-1] == p[j-2] || p[j-2] == '.')  
                    dp[i][j] = dp[i][j] || dp[i-1][j];  
            }  
            else  
                dp[i][j] = false;  
        }  
    }  
    return dp[m][n];  
}
```