

9101 Assignment 3

Haojin Guo

z5216214

Q3.

3. In a pond there is a sequence on n lily pads arranged in a straight line: $1, 2, 3 \dots n$. On lily pad i there are $f_i \geq 0$ flies. On lily pad 1 there is a frog sitting. The frog can only jump forward from a lily pad i to either lily pad $i + 3$ or lily pad $i + 4$. Find the largest number of flies that the frog can catch. (20 pts)

Hint: be careful: not all lily pads are accessible to the frog; the frog can only jump from the starting lily pad 1 to lily pads 4 and 5 but cannot access lily pads 2 and 3. Also, for some i there might be no flies on that lily pad (i.e., $f_i = 0$). So you want to distinguish between lily pads without flies but which are accessible and lily pads which are not accessible.

Solution.

Dynamic programming on the sequence of n lily pads. We will store the maximum number of flies that the frog can catch by jumping to the i_{th} lily pads in a table.

- 1) Subproblem,

Assuming that $opt(i)$, where $i \in [1, n]$, represents the largest number of flies that the frog can catch on i_{th} lily pads.

- 2) Base case,

$opt(1) = f_1$ when $i = 1$, frog on the 1th pad,

$opt(2) = 0$ when $i = 2$, frog cannot catch the flies on 2th pad,

$opt(3) = 0$ when $i = 3$, frog cannot catch the flies on 3th pad,

$opt(4) = f_1 + f_4$ when $i = 4$, frog on the 4th pad,

$opt(5) = f_1 + f_5$ when $i = 5$, frog on the 5th pad,

- 3) Suppose we have solved all the subproblems for $j < i$ (and meanwhile $i > 4$) and saved them in the table.

By obtain an optimal solution $opt(i)$ for i th jumping through choosing the maximum value between $opt(i - 4) + f_i$ and $opt(i - 3) + f_i$.

In short, $opt(i) = \max\{opt(i - 4) + f_i, opt(i - 3) + f_i\}$, and $i \in [1, n]$.

- 4) Final result,

The largest number of flies that the frog can catch is maximum value in $opt(i)$ sequence, $\max\{opt(i)\}$

- 5) Time complexity,

a) Traverse n lily pads to get each value of $opt(i)$. $O(n)$

b) Traverse the $opt(i)$ sequence, $O(n)$

Therefore, the total cost is $O(n)$,