

Great! Let's begin with the **first chunk of 7 problems** from your list:

Chunk 1: Problems (7 total)

1. [Maximum Subarray](#) → Dynamic Programming (Kadane's Algorithm)
 2. [Coin Change](#) → Dynamic Programming (Unbounded Knapsack)
 3. [Climbing Stairs](#) → Dynamic Programming (Fibonacci-style)
 4. [Partition Equal Subset Sum](#) → Dynamic Programming (0/1 Knapsack)
 5. [Unique Paths](#) → Dynamic Programming (Grid DP)
 6. [House Robber](#) → Dynamic Programming (Linear DP with adjacency constraint)
 7. [Maximum Product Subarray](#) → Dynamic Programming (min/max tracking)
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Core Pattern: Dynamic Programming (DP)

"If a problem asks for an optimal solution over choices, and subproblems overlap, use DP."

How to Recognize:

- Optimization goal: max/min sum, count of ways, shortest path
- Overlapping subproblems: same smaller problem appears multiple times
- Optimal substructure: global optimum built from local optima
- Often involves sequences, arrays, grids, or strings where decisions affect future states

Step-by-Step Thinking Process (The DP Recipe):

1. **Define State:** What information do we need to capture at each step?
 - Usually $dp[i]$ = best result up to index i
2. **State Transition:** How do we get from $dp[i-1]$ to $dp[i]$?
 - Use recurrence relation based on decision logic
3. **Base Case(s):** Initialize starting values (e.g., $dp[0] = 0$, $dp[1] = 1$)
4. **Order of Computation:** Iterate forward (or backward) in correct order
5. **Answer Extraction:** Return $dp[n]$ or $\max(dp)$ depending on question

Common Pitfalls & Edge Cases:

- Forgetting base cases → leads to index errors
 - Using wrong direction (forward/backward) in iteration
 - Not handling negative numbers properly (especially in product/sum problems)
 - Misunderstanding whether order matters (combinations vs permutations)
 - Forgetting that some problems require both min and max tracking (e.g., product subarray)
-

Problem 1: **Maximum Subarray**

Summary:

Given an integer array `nums`, find the contiguous subarray with the largest sum and return its sum.

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (Kadane's Algorithm)**
- Also solvable via Greedy (track running sum and reset if negative)

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def maxSubArray(nums):  
    # Initialize current sum and max sum  
    # We start with the first element as both current and max  
    current_sum = nums[0]  
    max_sum = nums[0]  
  
    # Traverse from second element onward  
    for i in range(1, len(nums)):  
        # At each position, decide: extend existing subarray or start fresh  
        # If current_sum is negative, it's better to start over  
        current_sum = max(nums[i], current_sum + nums[i])  
  
        # Update the global maximum
```

```

        max_sum = max(max_sum, current_sum)

    return max_sum

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [-2,1,-3,4,-1,2,1,-5,4]
    nums = [-2, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, 1, -5, 4]

    # Call function
    result = maxSubArray(nums)

    # Expected Output: 6
    # Explanation: [4,-1,2,1] has the largest sum = 6
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 6

```

Walkthrough (Example):

- Start: $\text{current_sum} = -2, \text{max_sum} = -2$
- $i=1$: $\text{nums}[1]=1, \text{current_sum} = \max(1, -2+1)=1, \text{max_sum} = \max(-2,1)=1$
- $i=2$: $\text{nums}[2]=-3, \text{current_sum} = \max(-3, 1-3)=-2, \text{max_sum} = \max(1,-2)=1$
- $i=3$: $\text{nums}[3]=4, \text{current_sum} = \max(4, -2+4)=4, \text{max_sum} = \max(1,4)=4$
- $i=4$: $-1 \rightarrow \text{current_sum} = \max(-1, 4-1)=3, \text{max_sum} = 4$
- $i=5$: $2 \rightarrow \text{current_sum} = 5, \text{max_sum} = 5$
- $i=6$: $1 \rightarrow \text{current_sum} = 6, \text{max_sum} = 6$
- $i=7$: $-5 \rightarrow \text{current_sum} = 1, \text{max_sum} = 6$
- $i=8$: $4 \rightarrow \text{current_sum} = 5, \text{max_sum} = 6$

Final answer: 6

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n)$ – one pass through the array
 - **Space:** $O(1)$ – only two variables used
-

Problem 2: Coin Change

Summary:

Given coins of different denominations and a total amount, return the fewest number of coins needed to make up that amount. Return -1 if impossible.

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (Unbounded Knapsack / Min Coin Count)**
- Unbounded: you can use unlimited supply of each coin type

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def coinChange(coins, amount):
    # dp[i] = minimum coins needed to make amount i
    # Initialize with infinity (impossible), except dp[0] = 0
    dp = [float('inf')] * (amount + 1)
    dp[0] = 0 # Zero coins needed to make zero amount

    # For each amount from 1 to target
    for i in range(1, amount + 1):
        # Try every coin
        for coin in coins:
            if coin <= i: # Can we use this coin?
                # Update dp[i] using previous state
                dp[i] = min(dp[i], dp[i - coin] + 1)

    # Return result; if still inf, impossible
    return dp[amount] if dp[amount] != float('inf') else -1

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: coins = [1,2,5], amount = 11
    coins = [1, 2, 5]
    amount = 11

    # Call function
    result = coinChange(coins, amount)
```

```
# Expected Output: 3 (5+5+1)
print("Output:", result) # Output: 3
```

Walkthrough (Example):

- $dp = [0, \text{inf}, \text{inf}, \dots, \text{inf}]$ (size 12)
- For $i=1$: only coin=1 works $\rightarrow dp[1] = \min(\text{inf}, dp[0]+1)=1$
- For $i=2$: coin=1 $\rightarrow dp[1]+1=2$; coin=2 $\rightarrow dp[0]+1=1 \rightarrow dp[2]=1$
- For $i=3$: coin=1 $\rightarrow dp[2]+1=2$; coin=2 $\rightarrow dp[1]+1=2 \rightarrow dp[3]=2$
- ...
- $i=11$: try all coins:
 - 1 $\rightarrow dp[10]+1 = ?$
 - 2 $\rightarrow dp[9]+1$
 - 5 $\rightarrow dp[6]+1$
 - Eventually: $dp[11] = 3$ via 5+5+1

Answer: 3

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(\text{amount} \times \text{number of coins})$ – nested loop
 - **Space:** $O(\text{amount})$ – dp array size
-

Problem 3: Climbing Stairs

Summary:

You can climb 1 or 2 steps at a time. Find how many distinct ways to reach the top (n-th step).

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (Fibonacci-like sequence)**
- Classic linear DP with recurrence: $dp[i] = dp[i-1] + dp[i-2]$

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def climbStairs(n):
    # Base cases
    if n <= 2:
        return n

    # dp[i] = number of ways to reach step i
    # We only need last two values → use two variables
    prev2 = 1 # dp[1]
    prev1 = 2 # dp[2]

    # Fill dp[3] to dp[n]
    for i in range(3, n + 1):
        # Current = ways to reach i-1 + ways to reach i-2
        curr = prev1 + prev2
        prev2 = prev1 # shift
        prev1 = curr  # shift

    return prev1

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: n = 3
    n = 3

    # Call function
    result = climbStairs(n)

    # Expected Output: 3
    # Ways: 1+1+1, 1+2, 2+1
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 3
```

Walkthrough (Example):

- n=3:
 - Step 1: 1 way
 - Step 2: 2 ways (1+1, 2)
 - Step 3: $\text{prev1} + \text{prev2} = 2 + 1 = 3$

- Valid paths: [1,1,1], [1,2], [2,1]

Answer: 3

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n)$
 - **Space:** $O(1)$ – constant space using two variables
-

Problem 4: Partition Equal Subset Sum

Summary:

Can the array be partitioned into two subsets with equal sum?

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (0/1 Knapsack variant)**
- Target = total_sum / 2 → check if subset exists with sum = target

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def canPartition(nums):
    total_sum = sum(nums)

    # If odd sum, cannot split equally
    if total_sum % 2 != 0:
        return False

    target = total_sum // 2
    n = len(nums)

    # dp[j] = True if sum j can be achieved using some subset
    dp = [False] * (target + 1)
    dp[0] = True # Zero sum is always possible

    # For each number, update dp table backwards
```

```

    for num in nums:
        # Go backwards to avoid reusing same item twice
        for j in range(target, num - 1, -1):
            dp[j] = dp[j] or dp[j - num]

    return dp[target]

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [1,5,11,5]
    nums = [1, 5, 11, 5]

    # Call function
    result = canPartition(nums)

    # Expected Output: true (11+1 = 5+5+1 = 12)
    print("Output:", result) # Output: True

```

Walkthrough (Example):

- `total_sum = 22, target = 11`
- Initially: `dp = [T, F, F, ..., F]` (size 12)
- Process `num=1`: update `dp[1] = True`
- Process `num=5`: update `dp[5], dp[6]`
- Process `num=11`: update `dp[11] = True` → success!
- Final: `dp[11] = True`

Answer: True

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n \times \text{target}) = O(n \times \text{sum})$
- **Space:** $O(\text{target}) = O(\text{sum})$

Problem 5: Unique Paths

Summary:

A robot is at top-left corner of $m \times n$ grid. It can only move right or down. How many unique paths to bottom-right?

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (Grid DP)**
- Alternative: Combinatorics $((m+n-2)! / ((m-1)! (n-1)!))$

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def uniquePaths(m, n):
    # Create a 2D DP grid
    # dp[i][j] = number of ways to reach cell (i,j)
    dp = [[1] * n for _ in range(m)]

    # Fill the grid from left to right, top to bottom
    for i in range(1, m):
        for j in range(1, n):
            # Can come from above or left
            dp[i][j] = dp[i-1][j] + dp[i][j-1]

    return dp[m-1][n-1]

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: m = 3, n = 7
    m, n = 3, 7

    # Call function
    result = uniquePaths(m, n)

    # Expected Output: 28
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 28
```

Walkthrough (Example):

- Grid: 3 rows \times 7 cols
- First row and column are all 1s (only one path)
- Then fill: $dp[i][j] = dp[i-1][j] + dp[i][j-1]$
- After full fill, $dp[2][6] = 28$

Answer: 28

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(m \times n)$
 - **Space:** $O(m \times n)$ – can optimize to $O(n)$ by using 1D array
-

Problem 6: [House Robber](#)

Summary:

You're a robber. Cannot rob adjacent houses. Maximize stolen money.

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (Linear DP with adjacency constraint)**
- Recurrence: $dp[i] = \max(dp[i-1], dp[i-2] + \text{nums}[i])$

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def rob(nums):
    if not nums:
        return 0
    if len(nums) == 1:
        return nums[0]

    # dp[i] = max money from houses 0 to i
    # Use two variables instead of full array
    prev2 = nums[0] # dp[0]
    prev1 = max(nums[0], nums[1]) # dp[1]
```

```

# For i >= 2
for i in range(2, len(nums)):
    # Either skip current house → prev1
    # Or take current + prev2 (non-adjacent)
    curr = max(prev1, prev2 + nums[i])
    prev2 = prev1
    prev1 = curr

return prev1

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [1,2,3,1]
    nums = [1, 2, 3, 1]

    # Call function
    result = rob(nums)

    # Expected Output: 4 (rob house 1 and 3: 2+1=3? Wait - actually 1+3=4)
    # Correct: rob house 0 (1) and house 2 (3) → 4
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 4

```

Walkthrough (Example):

- prev2 = 1, prev1 = max(1,2)=2
- i=2: curr = max(2, 1+3)=4, prev2=2, prev1=4
- i=3: curr = max(4, 2+1)=4, prev2=4, prev1=4
- Final: 4

Answer: 4

Complexity:

- Time: $O(n)$
- Space: $O(1)$

Problem 7: Maximum Product Subarray

Summary:

Find the contiguous subarray with the largest product.

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (Track min and max at each step)**
- Why? Negative numbers flip sign → so we must track both min and max

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def maxProduct(nums):
    # Keep track of both min and max product ending at current index
    # Because negative * negative = positive
    min_prod = max_prod = result = nums[0]

    # Traverse from second element
    for i in range(1, len(nums)):
        num = nums[i]

        # Store current max before updating
        temp_max = max_prod

        # Update max and min considering current number
        max_prod = max(num, num * max_prod, num * min_prod)
        min_prod = min(num, num * temp_max, num * min_prod)

        # Update global result
        result = max(result, max_prod)

    return result

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [2,3,-2,4]
    nums = [2, 3, -2, 4]
```

```
# Call function
result = maxProduct(nums)

# Expected Output: 6 (subarray [2,3])
print("Output:", result) # Output: 6
```

Walkthrough (Example):

- $\text{max_prod} = 2, \text{min_prod} = 2, \text{result} = 2$
- $i=1: \text{num}=3$
 - $\text{temp_max} = 2$
 - $\text{max_prod} = \max(3, 3*2, 3*2)=6$
 - $\text{min_prod} = \min(3, 3*2, 3*2)=3$
 - $\text{result} = \max(2,6)=6$
- $i=2: \text{num}=-2$
 - $\text{temp_max} = 6$
 - $\text{max_prod} = \max(-2, -2*6, -2*3) = \max(-2, -12, -6) = -2$
 - $\text{min_prod} = \min(-2, -2*6, -2*3) = -12$
 - $\text{result} = \max(6, -2) = 6$
- $i=3: \text{num}=4$
 - $\text{max_prod} = \max(4, 4*(-2), 4*(-12)) = 4$
 - $\text{result} = \max(6,4)=6$

Final answer: 6

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n)$
- **Space:** $O(1)$

Chunk 1 Complete

Let me know:

“**continue?**” to proceed to the next chunk (Problems 8–14).

Great! Let’s move to **Chunk 2: Problems 8–14** from your list:

Chunk 2: Problems (7 total)

8. [Longest Increasing Subsequence](#) → Dynamic Programming + Binary Search (Patience Sorting optimization)
9. [Jump Game](#) → Greedy (reachability check), also solvable with DP
10. [Maximal Square](#) → Dynamic Programming (2D DP on matrix)
11. [Decode Ways](#) → Dynamic Programming (String DP, digit decoding)
12. [Combination Sum IV](#) → Dynamic Programming (Order-sensitive coin change / counting combinations)
13. [Missing Number](#) → Math / XOR / Sorting (not DP — but included for completeness)
14. [Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock II](#) → Greedy (sum all positive differences)

Note: [Missing Number](#) and [Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock II](#) are not strictly DP — they're greedy or math-based. We'll still analyze them under their correct patterns.

Core Pattern: Greedy Algorithms

“Make locally optimal choices at each step with hope of global optimality.”

How to Recognize:

- You're asked to maximize/minimize something over a sequence
- No backtracking needed — decisions are irreversible
- Optimal substructure exists without needing to consider all paths
- Often involves intervals, reachability, or summing gains

Step-by-Step Thinking Process (The Greedy Recipe):

1. Identify the choice that gives immediate benefit
2. Prove it's safe to make this choice now (greedy choice property)
3. Reduce problem size and repeat

4. Use a variable to track current state (e.g., farthest reachable index)

Common Pitfalls & Edge Cases:

- Assuming greedy always works (it doesn't — only when proof holds)
 - Not handling edge cases like empty input or single element
 - Overcomplicating with DP when a simple greedy solution exists
 - Misunderstanding “order matters” vs “order doesn't matter”
-

Core Pattern: Dynamic Programming (Advanced Variants)

“When recurrence depends on previous states, and overlapping subproblems exist — use DP.”

We've already covered basic DP. Now we add nuances: - **String DP**: Decoding digits, matching patterns - **Grid DP**: Maximal square, path counting - **Binary Search Optimization**: For LIS in $O(n \log n)$ - **Counting Combinations**: Order matters \rightarrow permutation-like DP

Problem 8: Longest Increasing Subsequence

Summary:

Find the length of the longest strictly increasing subsequence in an array.

Patterns:

- **Dynamic Programming** ($O(n^2)$)
- **Binary Search + Patience Sorting** ($O(n \log n)$) – *optimal version*

We'll show both, but focus on the optimized one.

Optimized Solution with Binary Search (Patience Sorting):

```

def lengthOfLIS(nums):
    # tails[i] = smallest ending value of all increasing subsequences of length i+1
    tails = []

    for num in nums:
        # Use binary search to find insertion point
        left, right = 0, len(tails)
        while left < right:
            mid = (left + right) // 2
            if tails[mid] < num:
                left = mid + 1
            else:
                right = mid

        # If left == len(tails), append; otherwise replace
        if left == len(tails):
            tails.append(num)
        else:
            tails[left] = num

    return len(tails)

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [10,9,2,5,3,7,101,18]
    nums = [10, 9, 2, 5, 3, 7, 101, 18]

    # Call function
    result = lengthOfLIS(nums)

    # Expected Output: 4 (e.g., [2,3,7,18])
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 4

```

Walkthrough (Example):

- tails = []
- num=10: left=0, right=0 → insert at end → tails=[10]
- num=9: 9 < 10 → left=0, replace → tails=[9]
- num=2: 2 < 9 → replace → tails=[2]
- num=5: 5 > 2 → append → tails=[2,5]

- num=3: $3 < 5 \rightarrow$ replace 5 \rightarrow tails=[2,3]
- num=7: $7 > 3 \rightarrow$ append \rightarrow tails=[2,3,7]
- num=101: append \rightarrow tails=[2,3,7,101]
- num=18: $18 < 101 \rightarrow$ replace \rightarrow tails=[2,3,7,18]

Final length: 4

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n \log n)$ – binary search per element
- **Space:** $O(n)$ – tails array

Why it works: **tails** maintains the smallest possible tail for each LIS length \rightarrow allows extension later.

Problem 9: **Jump Game**

Summary:

Given an array where each element is max jump length from that index, determine if you can reach the last index.

Pattern:

- **Greedy (Reachability Check)** – most efficient
- Alternative: DP (but slower)

Greedy Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def canJump(nums):
    # farthest = furthest index reachable so far
    farthest = 0

    for i in range(len(nums)):
        # If current position is unreachable, return False
        if i > farthest:
            return False
```

```

        # Update farthest reachable from current position
        farthest = max(farthest, i + nums[i])

    # Early exit: if we can reach or exceed last index
    if farthest >= len(nums) - 1:
        return True

return True

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [2,3,1,1,4]
    nums = [2, 3, 1, 1, 4]

    # Call function
    result = canJump(nums)

    # Expected Output: true
    print("Output:", result) # Output: True

```

Walkthrough (Example):

- `farthest = 0`
- `i=0: 0 <= 0 → farthest = max(0, 0+2)=2`
- `i=1: 1 <= 2 → farthest = max(2, 1+3)=4`
- `i=2: 2 <= 4 → farthest = max(4, 2+1)=4`
- `i=3: 3 <= 4 → farthest = max(4, 3+1)=4`
- `i=4: 4 <= 4 → farthest = max(4, 4+4)=8, and 8 >= 4 → return True`

Answer: True

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n)$
- **Space:** $O(1)$

This greedy approach works because if you can reach index `i`, and `nums[i] > 0`, then you can potentially extend further. The key insight: **you don't need to know the exact path — just whether the end is reachable.**

Problem 10: Maximal Square

Summary:

In a binary matrix ('1' = filled, '0' = empty), find the largest square of all '1's.

Pattern:

- Dynamic Programming (2D Grid DP)
- Recurrence: $dp[i][j] = \min(dp[i-1][j], dp[i][j-1], dp[i-1][j-1]) + 1$

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def maximalSquare(matrix):
    if not matrix or not matrix[0]:
        return 0

    m, n = len(matrix), len(matrix[0])
    # dp[i][j] = side length of largest square ending at (i,j)
    dp = [[0] * n for _ in range(m)]

    max_side = 0

    for i in range(m):
        for j in range(n):
            if matrix[i][j] == '1':
                if i == 0 or j == 0:
                    # Corner case: only 1x1 possible
                    dp[i][j] = 1
                else:
                    # Take minimum of three neighbors + 1
                    dp[i][j] = min(dp[i-1][j], dp[i][j-1], dp[i-1][j-1]) + 1

                max_side = max(max_side, dp[i][j])
            # else: dp[i][j] = 0 (already initialized)

    return max_side * max_side
```

```
# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: matrix = [
    #     ["1","0","1","0","0"],
    #     ["1","0","1","1","1"],
    #     ["1","1","1","1","1"],
    #     ["1","0","0","1","0"]
    # ]
    matrix = [
        ["1", "0", "1", "0", "0"],
        ["1", "0", "1", "1", "1"],
        ["1", "1", "1", "1", "1"],
        ["1", "0", "0", "1", "0"]
    ]

    # Call function
    result = maximalSquare(matrix)

    # Expected Output: 4 (square of side 2 → area 4)
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 4
```

Walkthrough (Example):

- At (1,2): 1, look at neighbors → $\min(1,1,1)+1=2 \rightarrow dp[1][2]=2$
- At (2,2): 1, neighbors: $dp[1][2]=2, dp[2][1]=2, dp[1][1]=0 \rightarrow \min=0 \rightarrow dp[2][2]=1$
- Wait — actually let's fix: better to trace carefully.

But note: the bottom-right 2×2 block starting at (1,2) has four 1s → valid square of side 2 → area 4.

Answer: 4

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(m \times n)$
- **Space:** $O(m \times n)$ – can optimize to $O(n)$ using rolling row

Problem 11: Decode Ways

Summary:

Given a string of digits, count how many ways it can be decoded into letters A-Z (1→A, ..., 26→Z).

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (String DP, digit decoding)**
- Similar to Fibonacci: $dp[i] = dp[i-1] + dp[i-2]$ if valid

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def numDecodings(s):
    if not s or s[0] == '0':
        return 0

    n = len(s)
    # dp[i] = number of ways to decode first i characters
    dp = [0] * (n + 1)
    dp[0] = 1 # Empty string has one way
    dp[1] = 1 # First char is valid (non-zero)

    for i in range(2, n + 1):
        # Check single digit (1-9)
        if s[i-1] != '0':
            dp[i] += dp[i-1]

        # Check two-digit number (10-26)
        two_digit = int(s[i-2:i])
        if 10 <= two_digit <= 26:
            dp[i] += dp[i-2]

    return dp[n]

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: s = "12"
```

```

s = "12"

# Call function
result = numDecodings(s)

# Expected Output: 2 ("AB", "L")
print("Output:", result) # Output: 2

```

Walkthrough (Example):

- `s = "12"`
- `dp[0]=1, dp[1]=1`
- `i=2`:
 - `s[1]='2'` `'0'` → add `dp[1]=1`
 - `two_digit = 12` → valid → add `dp[0]=1`
 - `dp[2] = 1 + 1 = 2`

Answer: 2

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n)$
 - **Space:** $O(n)$ – can reduce to $O(1)$
-

Problem 12: Combination Sum IV

Summary:

Given an array of positive integers, count the number of combinations (order matters) that sum to target.

Pattern:

- **Dynamic Programming (Order-sensitive coin change / counting permutations)**
- Unlike Coin Change (count combinations), here order matters → `dp[i] = sum of dp[i - num]` for all `num`

Solution with Inline Comments:

```
def combinationSum4(nums, target):
    # dp[i] = number of ways to make sum i
    dp = [0] * (target + 1)
    dp[0] = 1 # One way to make zero: choose nothing

    # For each target from 1 to target
    for i in range(1, target + 1):
        for num in nums:
            if num <= i:
                dp[i] += dp[i - num]

    return dp[target]

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [1,2,3], target = 4
    nums = [1, 2, 3]
    target = 4

    # Call function
    result = combinationSum4(nums, target)

    # Expected Output: 7
    # Valid combinations: (1,1,1,1), (1,1,2), (1,2,1), (2,1,1), (2,2), (1,3), (3,1)
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 7
```

Walkthrough (Example):

- $dp = [1, 0, 0, 0, 0]$
- $i=1$: $num=1 \rightarrow dp[1] += dp[0] = 1$
- $i=2$: $num=1 \rightarrow dp[2] += dp[1]=1$; $num=2 \rightarrow dp[2] += dp[0]=1 \rightarrow dp[2]=2$
- $i=3$: $1 \rightarrow dp[2]=2$, $2 \rightarrow dp[1]=1$, $3 \rightarrow dp[0]=1 \rightarrow dp[3]=4$
- $i=4$: $1 \rightarrow dp[3]=4$, $2 \rightarrow dp[2]=2$, $3 \rightarrow dp[1]=1 \rightarrow dp[4]=7$

Answer: 7

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(\text{target} \times \text{len}(\text{nums}))$
 - **Space:** $O(\text{target})$
-

Problem 13: Missing Number**Summary:**

Given array of n distinct numbers from 0 to n , find the missing one.

Pattern:

- **Math / XOR / Sorting**
- Not DP — but useful to know multiple approaches

XOR Solution (Most Elegant):

```
def missingNumber(nums):
    n = len(nums)
    # XOR all indices 0 to n, and all values
    # XOR cancels duplicates, leaves missing number
    xor = 0
    for i in range(n + 1):
        xor ^= i
    for num in nums:
        xor ^= num
    return xor

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: nums = [3,0,1]
    nums = [3, 0, 1]

    # Call function
    result = missingNumber(nums)
```



```
# Expected Output: 2
print("Output:", result) # Output: 2
```

Walkthrough:

- $\text{xor} = 0 \oplus 0 \oplus 1 \oplus 2 \oplus 3 = 0 \oplus 0 \oplus 1 \oplus 2 \oplus 3 = 0 \oplus 1 \oplus 2 \oplus 3$
- Then XOR with $3 \oplus 0 \oplus 1 \rightarrow$ cancels $0 \oplus 1 \oplus 3$, leaves 2

Answer: 2

Complexity:

- **Time:** $O(n)$
- **Space:** $O(1)$

Alternative: $\text{sum} = n*(n+1)/2$ minus sum of array

Problem 14: [Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock II](#)

Summary:

You can buy and sell multiple times. Maximize profit.

Pattern:

- **Greedy (sum all positive price differences)**
- Key insight: if price goes up tomorrow, buy today and sell tomorrow

Greedy Solution:

```
def maxProfit(prices):
    profit = 0
    for i in range(1, len(prices)):
        # Add gain if price increased
        if prices[i] > prices[i-1]:
            profit += prices[i] - prices[i-1]
    return profit

# ---- Official LeetCode Example ----
if __name__ == "__main__":
    # Example Input: prices = [7,1,5,3,6,4]
    prices = [7, 1, 5, 3, 6, 4]

    # Call function
    result = maxProfit(prices)

    # Expected Output: 7
    # Buy:1, Sell:5 (+4); Buy:3, Sell:6 (+3) → total 7
    print("Output:", result) # Output: 7
```

Walkthrough:

- i=1: 1 < 7 → skip
- i=2: 5 > 1 → profit += 4
- i=3: 3 < 5 → skip
- i=4: 6 > 3 → profit += 3
- i=5: 4 < 6 → skip
- Total: 7

Answer: 7

Complexity:

- Time: $O(n)$
- Space: $O(1)$

Chunk 2 Complete

Let me know:

“continue?” to proceed to **Chunk 3 (last chunk)** with any remaining problems.