



Subset Sum

We'll cover the following



- Problem Statement
 - Example 1:
 - Example 2:
 - Example 3:
- Try it yourself
- Basic Solution
 - Bottom-up Dynamic Programming
 - Code
- Challenge
 - Try it yourself

Problem Statement#

Given a set of positive numbers, determine if there exists a subset whose sum is equal to a given number 'S'.

Example 1:#

Input: {1, 2, 3, 7}, S=6

Output: True

The given set has a subset whose sum is '6': {1, 2, 3}



Example 2:#



Input: {1, 2, 7, 1, 5}, S=10

Output: True

The given set has a subset whose sum is '10': {1, 2, 7}

Example 3:#

Input: {1, 3, 4, 8}, S=6

Output: False

The given set does not have any subset whose sum is equal to '6'.

Try it yourself#

Try solving this question here:

 Python3



```
def can_partition(num, sum):  
    #TODO: Write - Your - Code  
    return False
```



Basic Solution#

This problem follows the **0/1 Knapsack pattern** and is quite similar to [Equal Subset Sum Partition](#). A basic brute-force solution could be to try all subsets of the given numbers to see if any set has a sum equal to 'S'.

So our brute-force algorithm will look like:



```
for each number 'i'
    create a new set which INCLUDES number 'i' if it does not
    process the remaining numbers
    create a new set WITHOUT number 'i', and recursively process the remaining
return true if any of the above two sets has a sum equal to 'S', otherwise r
```

Since this problem is quite similar to [Equal Subset Sum Partition](#), let's jump directly to the bottom-up dynamic programming solution.

Bottom-up Dynamic Programming#

We'll try to find if we can make all possible sums with every subset to populate the array `dp[TotalNumbers][S+1]`.

For every possible sum 's' (where $0 \leq s \leq S$), we have two options:

1. Exclude the number. In this case, we will see if we can get the sum 's' from the subset excluding this number => `dp[index-1][s]`
2. Include the number if its value is not more than 's'. In this case, we will see if we can find a subset to get the remaining sum => `dp[index-1][s - num[index]]`

If either of the above two scenarios returns true, we can find a subset with a sum equal to 's'.

Let's draw this visually, with the example input {1, 2, 3, 7}, and start with our base case of size zero:



num\sum

0 1 2 3 4 5 6



'0' sum can always be found through an empty set

1 of 10



Code#

Here is the code for our bottom-up dynamic programming approach:

Python3



```
def can_partition(num, sum):
    n = len(num)
    dp = [[False for x in range(sum+1)] for y in range(n)]

    # populate the sum = 0 columns, as we can always form '0' sum with an empty set
    for i in range(0, n):
        dp[i][0] = True

    # with only one number, we can form a subset only when the required sum is
    # equal to its value
    for s in range(1, sum+1):
        dp[0][s] = True if num[0] == s else False

    # process all subsets for all sums
    for i in range(1, n):
        for s in range(1, sum+1):
            # if we can get the sum 's' without the number at index 'i'
            if dp[i - 1][s]:
                dp[i][s] = dp[i - 1][s]
            elif s >= num[i]:
                # else include the number and see if we can find a subset to get the
                dp[i][s] = dp[i - 1][s - num[i]]

    # the bottom-right corner will have our answer.
    return dp[n - 1][sum]
```





The above solution has time and space complexity of $O(N * S)$, where 'N' represents total numbers and 'S' is the required sum.

Challenge#

Can we further improve our bottom-up DP solution? Can you find an algorithm that has $O(S)$ space complexity?

 Show Hint

Try it yourself#

 Python3



```
def can_partition(num, sum):  
    #TODO: Write - Your - Code  
    return False
```



Interviewing soon? We've partnered with Hired so that companies apply to you instead of you applying to them. [See how](#) ⓘ



 Back

Next 



Equal Subset Sum Partition

Minimum

?

Sum

📄

are

⚙️

✓

Completed

⚠️

Report an Issue