

Editorial

Subset Sums

This is a classical dynamic programming problem. But a brute force approach can also partially solve the problem up to $n=100$.

- **Brute force approach**

This approach makes every possible subset and checks whether its sum equals to S and counts them. First, let's find how many subsets in total can be made from the n numbers.

For each number, we have two options, either to add the number to the subset or to not to add the number. So there are altogether $2 * 2 * 2 * 2 \dots \dots \dots * 2 = 2^n$ number of subsets that can be made from n numbers. If we check the time complexity of the algorithm it is $O(2^n)$. A normal computer can run a program up to $O(10^8)$ within a second. Therefore this solution will only work up to $n \sim 100$ ($O(2^n) \sim 10^8$). (If you are not familiar with the big O notation, please read the reference text book.)

```
#include <stdio.h>

using namespace std;

int nums[1010];
int N,S,ans;

void DFS(int n,int s){ // depth first search to make all subsets

    if(n==N){ // terminating condition - if iterated through all the numbers n=N
        if(s==S) // check whether this subset satisfies our condition
            ans++; // add to the list
        return; // stop running the below codes <-- finished
    }

    DFS(n+1,s); // without adding the nth number
    DFS(n+1,s+nums[n]); // adding the nth number
}

int main(){

    scanf ("%d %d",&N,&S);

    for(int i=0;i<N;i++)
        scanf ("%d",&nums[i]);

    DFS(0,0);

    printf("%d\n",ans);
    return 0;
}
```

- **Dynamic Programming approach**

Dynamic programming is a more efficient way to solve this problem. This method stores the results of smaller/lower levels and uses the result to solve large/higher levels.

Let's define a dynamic programming array as follows,

$$dp[0] = 1$$

$dp[s]$ = how many ways it is possible to make the sum s after inserting i th number

Then we can iterate through the number list. If number list was [2,3,5] and $S=10$ after adding each number in the list we need to update the dp array as follows,

$$1^{st} \text{ iteration } [2] - dp = [1,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0]$$

$$2^{nd} \text{ iteration } [2,3] - dp = [1,0,1,1,0,1,0,0,0,0,0]$$

$$3^{rd} \text{ iteration } [2,3,5] - dp = [1,0,1,1,0,2,0,1,1,0,1]$$

This is not possible to implement using a single dp array and at least two dp arrays are needed. For simplicity of our explanation, we will use a 2- dimensional dp array defined as follows.

$$dp[i][0] = 2 \text{ for all } i$$

$dp[i][s]$ = how many ways it is possible to make the sum s after inserting i th number

Since both $i, s \leq 1000$ it is possible to make this 2D array in the given memory space. When we have calculated $dp[i]$ (upto i^{th} number) it is possible to make $dp[i+1]$ easily using the result already created in $dp[i]$. The equation will look as follows,

$$dp[i][s] = dp[i-1][s] + dp[i-1][s-nums[i]]$$

number of ways to make sum s = number of ways to make sum s without adding i th number +

number of ways to make sum s after adding i th number

The code will look as follows.

```

1  #include <iostream>
2  #include <stdio.h>
3
4  using namespace std;
5
6  int dp[1010][1010];
7  int nums[1010];
8
9  int main() {
10
11     int N,S;
12     scanf ("%d %d",&N,&S);
13
14     for(int i=0;i<N;i++)
15         scanf("%d",&nums[i]);
16
17     dp[0][0]=1;
18     dp[0][nums[0]]=1;
19
20     for(int i=1;i<N;i++){ // i is the number
21         dp[i][0]=1; // manually add for the zero(# of ways =1)
22         for(int s=1;s<=S;s++){ // s is the sum
23             if(s-nums[i]>=0) // avoid negative indexing
24                 dp[i][s]=dp[i-1][s]+dp[i-1][s-nums[i]];
25             else    dp[i][s]=dp[i-1][s];
26         }
27     }
28     printf("%d\n",dp[N-1][S]);
29     return 0;
30 }

```