

House Robber

Think of it as "for each house, pick it or skip it" while never taking neighbors.

How to model it:

Let $dp[i]$ be the max money from the first i houses (i.e. considering nums $[0..i-1]$).

Decision at house $i-1$:

- Skip it \rightarrow value $dp[i-1]$.
- Rob it \rightarrow you can't take the previous one, so value $dp[i-2] + \text{nums}[i-1]$.

Recurrence: $dp[i] = \max(dp[i-1], dp[i-2] + \text{nums}[i-1])$.

Base: $dp[0] = 0$

$dp[1] = \text{nums}[0]$

Answer: $dp[n]$ where $n = \text{nums.size}()$.

Space optimization (recommended):

You only need the last two states:

- Keep two variables: $\text{prev2} = dp[i-2]$, $\text{prev1} = dp[i-1]$.
- For each house x , $\text{new} = \max(\text{prev1}, \text{prev2} + x)$, then shift $\text{prev2} = \text{prev1}$, $\text{prev1} = \text{new}$.