

Word Break Problem Documentation

Problem Statement

Given a string `s` and a dictionary `wordDict` of strings, determine if the string `s` can be segmented into a sequence of one or more dictionary words. The dictionary words can be reused multiple times.

Function Signature:

```
def wordBreak(s: str, wordDict: List[str]) -> bool:
```

Inputs

- **`s (str)`:** A string that needs to be segmented.
- **`wordDict (List[str])`:** A list of words that form the dictionary. All words in the dictionary are unique and consist of lowercase English letters only.

Outputs

- Returns `True` if the string `s` can be segmented into a sequence of one or more words from the dictionary. Otherwise, returns `False`.

Example 1:

- **`Input`:** `s = "leetcode", wordDict = ["leet", "code"]`
- **`Output`:** `True`
- **`Explanation`:** The string "leetcode" can be segmented into "leet" and "code" which are both present in the dictionary.

Example 2:

- **Input:** `s = "applepenapple"`, `wordDict = ["apple", "pen"]`
- **Output:** `True`
- **Explanation:** The string "applepenapple" can be segmented into "apple", "pen", and "apple", all of which are present in the dictionary. The same word can be reused.

Example 3:

- **Input:** `s = "catsandog"`, `wordDict = ["cats", "dog", "sand", "and", "cat"]`
- **Output:** `False`
- **Explanation:** The string "catsandog" cannot be segmented into words from the dictionary.

Constraints

- $1 \leq s.length \leq 300$
- $1 \leq wordDict.length \leq 1000$
- $1 \leq wordDict[i].length \leq 20$
- `s` and `wordDict[i]` consist of only lowercase English letters.
- All strings in `wordDict` are unique.

Solution Approach

The solution employs dynamic programming to determine if the string s can be segmented using the dictionary wordDict . Here's the detailed explanation of the approach:

1. Initialization:

- Convert the list wordDict to a set wordSet for $O(1)$ average time complexity on lookups.
- Initialize a list dp of size $n + 1$ (where n is the length of s), with all values set to `False`. The value $\text{dp}[i]$ represents whether the substring $s[0:i]$ can be segmented using the dictionary. Set $\text{dp}[0]$ to `True` because an empty string can always be segmented.

2. Dynamic Programming Transition:

- Iterate through each index i from 1 to n .
- For each i , check all substrings $s[j:i]$ where $0 \leq j < i$.
- If $\text{dp}[j]$ is `True` (indicating that $s[0:j]$ can be segmented) and $s[j:i]$ is present in wordSet , set $\text{dp}[i]$ to `True`.
- If $\text{dp}[i]$ is set to `True`, break the inner loop as there's no need to check further substrings.

3. Result:

- Return $\text{dp}[n]$, which will be `True` if the entire string s can be segmented into dictionary words, otherwise `False`.

This solution efficiently checks whether the string s can be segmented into a sequence of words from wordDict using dynamic programming, with a time complexity of $O(n^2)$ and space complexity of $O(n)$.