



CSE408

Longest Common Sub

Sequence

Lecture # 25

- It is used, when the solution can be recursively described in terms of solutions to subproblems (*optimal substructure*)
- Algorithm finds solutions to subproblems and stores them in memory for later use
- More efficient than “*brute-force methods*”, which solve the same subproblems over and over again

Longest Common Subsequence (LCS)



Application: comparison of two DNA strings

Ex: $X = \{A B C B D A B\}$, $Y = \{B D C A B A\}$

Longest Common Subsequence:

$X = A \text{ **B** } \text{ **C** } \text{ **B** } D \text{ **A** } B$

$Y = \text{ **B** } D \text{ **C** } A \text{ **B** } \text{ **A** }$

Brute force algorithm would compare each subsequence of X with the symbols in Y

LCS Algorithm



- if $|X| = m$, $|Y| = n$, then there are 2^m subsequences of x ; we must compare each with Y (n comparisons)
- So the running time of the brute-force algorithm is $O(n 2^m)$
- Notice that the LCS problem has *optimal substructure*: solutions of subproblems are parts of the final solution.
- Subproblems: “find LCS of pairs of *prefixes* of X and Y ”

LCS Algorithm



- First we'll find the length of LCS. Later we'll modify the algorithm to find LCS itself.
- Define X_i , Y_j to be the prefixes of X and Y of length i and j respectively
- Define $c[i,j]$ to be the length of LCS of X_i and Y_j
- Then the length of LCS of X and Y will be $c[m,n]$
$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} c[i-1, j-1] + 1 & \text{if } x[i] = y[j], \\ \max(c[i, j-1], c[i-1, j]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

LCS recursive solution



$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} c[i-1, j-1] + 1 & \text{if } x[i] = y[j], \\ \max(c[i, j-1], c[i-1, j]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- We start with $i = j = 0$ (empty substrings of x and y)
- Since X_0 and Y_0 are empty strings, their LCS is always empty (i.e. $c[0, 0] = 0$)
- LCS of empty string and any other string is empty, so for every i and j : $c[0, j] = c[i, 0] = 0$

LCS recursive solution



$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} c[i-1, j-1] + 1 & \text{if } x[i] = y[j], \\ \max(c[i, j-1], c[i-1, j]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- When we calculate $c[i, j]$, we consider two cases:
- **First case:** $x[i] = y[j]$: one more symbol in strings X and Y matches, so the length of LCS X_i and Y_j equals to the length of LCS of smaller strings X_{i-1} and Y_{j-1} , plus 1

LCS recursive solution



$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} c[i-1, j-1] + 1 & \text{if } x[i] = y[j], \\ \max(c[i, j-1], c[i-1, j]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- **Second case:** $x[i] \neq y[j]$
- As symbols don't match, our solution is not improved, and the length of $\text{LCS}(X_i, Y_j)$ is the same as before (i.e. maximum of $\text{LCS}(X_i, Y_{j-1})$ and $\text{LCS}(X_{i-1}, Y_j)$)

Why not just take the length of $\text{LCS}(X_{i-1}, Y_{j-1})$?

LCS Length Algorithm



LCS-Length(X, Y)

1. $m = \text{length}(X)$ // get the # of symbols in X
2. $n = \text{length}(Y)$ // get the # of symbols in Y
3. for $i = 1$ to m $c[i,0] = 0$ // special case: Y_0
4. for $j = 1$ to n $c[0,j] = 0$ // special case: X_0
5. for $i = 1$ to m // for all X_i
6. for $j = 1$ to n // for all Y_j
7. if ($X_i == Y_j$)
8. $c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$
9. else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$
10. return c

LCS Example



We'll see how LCS algorithm works on the following example:

- $X = \text{ABCB}$
- $Y = \text{BDCAB}$

What is the Longest Common Subsequence of X and Y?

$\text{LCS}(X, Y) = \text{BCB}$

$X = A \quad B \quad C \quad B$

$Y = \quad B \quad D \quad C \quad A \quad B$

LCS Example (0)



ABCB
BDCAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Yj	B	D	C	A	B	
i								
0	Xi							
1	A							
2	B							
3	C							
4	B							

$X = ABCB; m = |X| = 4$

$Y = BDCAB; n = |Y| = 5$

Allocate array $c[5,4]$

LCS Example (1)



ABCB
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0						
2	B	0						
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

for i = 1 to m c[i,0] = 0

for j = 1 to n c[0,j] = 0

LCS Example (2)



ABCB
BDCAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0					
2	B	0						
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (3)



ABCB
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0			
2	B	0						
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (4)



ABCB
BDCA

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1		
2	B	0						
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (5)



ABCB
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	→ 1	
2	B	0						
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (6)



		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1					
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (7)



ABCB
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1	1	1	1		
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (8)



ABCB
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1	1	1	1	2	
3	C	0						
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (10)



ABC
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0			0	0	0	0	0	
1	A		0	0	0	1	1	
2	B		0	1	1	1	2	
3	C		0	1	1			
4	B		0					

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (11)



ABC
BDCAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1	1	1	1	2	
3	C	0	1	1	2			
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (12)



ABC B
BDC AB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1	1	1	1	2	
3	C	0	1	1	2	2	2	
4	B	0						

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (13)



ABCB
BDCAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0			0	0	0	0	0	0
1	A		0	0	0	0	1	1
2	B		0	1	1	1	1	2
3	C		0	1	1	2	2	2
4	B		0	1				

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (14)



ABCB
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0			0	0	0	0	0	
1	A		0	0	0	1	1	
2	B		0	1	1	1	2	
3	C		0	1	2	2	2	
4	B		0	1	1	2	2	

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Example (15)



ABCB
BD CAB

		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1	1	1	1	2	
3	C	0	1	1	2	2	2	
4	B	0	1	1	2	2	3	

if ($X_i == Y_j$)

$c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1$

else $c[i,j] = \max(c[i-1,j], c[i,j-1])$

LCS Algorithm Running Time



- LCS algorithm calculates the values of each entry of the array $c[m,n]$
- So what is the running time?

$O(m*n)$

since each $c[i,j]$ is calculated in constant time, and there are $m*n$ elements in the array

How to find actual LCS



- So far, we have just found the *length* of LCS, but not LCS itself.
- We want to modify this algorithm to make it output Longest Common Subsequence of X and Y

Each $c[i,j]$ depends on $c[i-1,j]$ and $c[i,j-1]$ or $c[i-1, j-1]$

For each $c[i,j]$ we can say how it was acquired:

2	2
2	3

For example, here
 $c[i,j] = c[i-1,j-1] + 1 = 2+1=3$



- Remember that

$$c[i, j] = \begin{cases} c[i-1, j-1] + 1 & \text{if } x[i] = y[j], \\ \max(c[i, j-1], c[i-1, j]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- So we can start from $c[m, n]$ and go backwards
- Whenever $c[i, j] = c[i-1, j-1] + 1$, remember $x[i]$ (because $x[i]$ is a part of LCS)
- When $i=0$ or $j=0$ (i.e. we reached the beginning), output remembered letters in reverse order

Finding LCS



		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Y _j	B	D	C	A	B	
i	X _i							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1	1	1	1	2	
3	C	0	1	1	2	2	2	
4	B	0	1	1	2	2	3	

Finding LCS (2)



		j	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Yj	B	D	C	A	B	
i	Xi							
0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	A	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2	B	0	1	1	1	1	2	
3	C	0	1	1	2	2	2	
4	B	0	1	1	2	2	3	

LCS (reversed order): **B C B**

LCS (straight order): **B C B**
 (this string turned out to be a palindrome)



Thank You !!!