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Special acknowledgement to School of Computing, National University of Singapore  
for allowing Steven to prepare and distribute these teaching materials.



# CS3233

# Competitive Programming

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Week 04 – Problem Solving Paradigms  
(Dynamic Programming 1)

# Outline

- Mini Contest #3 + Break + Discussion + Admins
- Dynamic Programming – Introduction
  - Treat this as **revision** for ex CS2010/CS2020 students
  - **Listen carefully** for the other group of students!
  - I open consultation slots (Mon/Fri) for NUS students who need help with this topic, especially those who did not go through CS2010/CS2020 before
- Dynamic Programming
  - Some Classical Examples
- PS: I will use the term **DP** in this lecture
  - OOT: DP is NOT [Down Payment](#)!

# Wedding Shopping

## **EXAMPLE 1**



# Motivation

- How to solve UVa [11450](#) (Wedding Shopping)?
  - Given  $1 \leq \mathbf{C} \leq 20$  classes of garments
    - e.g. shirt, belt, shoe
  - Given  $1 \leq \mathbf{K} \leq 20$  different models for each class of garment
    - e.g. three shirts, two belts, four shoes, ..., each with its own price
  - Task: Buy **just one** model of **each class** of garment
  - Our budget  $1 \leq \mathbf{M} \leq 200$  is limited
    - We cannot spend more money than it
    - But we want to spend the maximum possible
  - What is our maximum possible spending?
    - Output “no solution” if this is impossible

- Budget  $M = 100$

– Answer: 75

Model Garment	0	1	2	3
0	8	6	4	
1	5	10		
2	1	3	3	7
$C = 3$	50	14	23	8

- Budget  $M = 20$

– Answer: 19

- Alternative answers are possible

Model Garment	0	1	2	3
0	4	6	8	
1	5	10		
$C = 2$	1	3	5	5

- Budget  $M = 5$

– Answer: no solution

Model Garment	0	1	2	3
0	6	4	8	
1	10	6		
$C = 2$	7	3	1	7

# Greedy Solution?

- What if we buy the most expensive model for each garment which still fits our budget?

- Counter example:

- $M = 12$

- Greedy will produce:

- no solution

- **Wrong answer!**

- The correct answer is 12

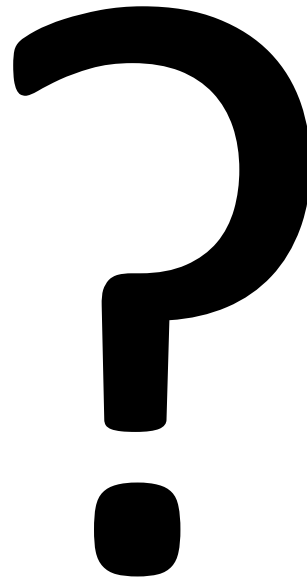
- (see the **green dotted highlights**)

- Q: Can you spot one more potential optimal solution?

Model Garment	0	1	2	3
0	6	4	8	
1	5	10		
C = 2	1	5	3	5

# Divide and Conquer?

- Any idea?



# Complete Search? (1)

- What is the potential **state** of the problem?
  - g (which garment?)
  - id (which model?)
  - money (money left?)
- Answer:
  - (money, g) or (g, money)
- Recurrence (recursive backtracking function):

```
shop(money, g)
  if (money < 0) return -INF
  if (g == C) return M - money
  return max(shop(money - price[g][model], g + 1),  $\forall \text{model} \in [1..K]$ )
```



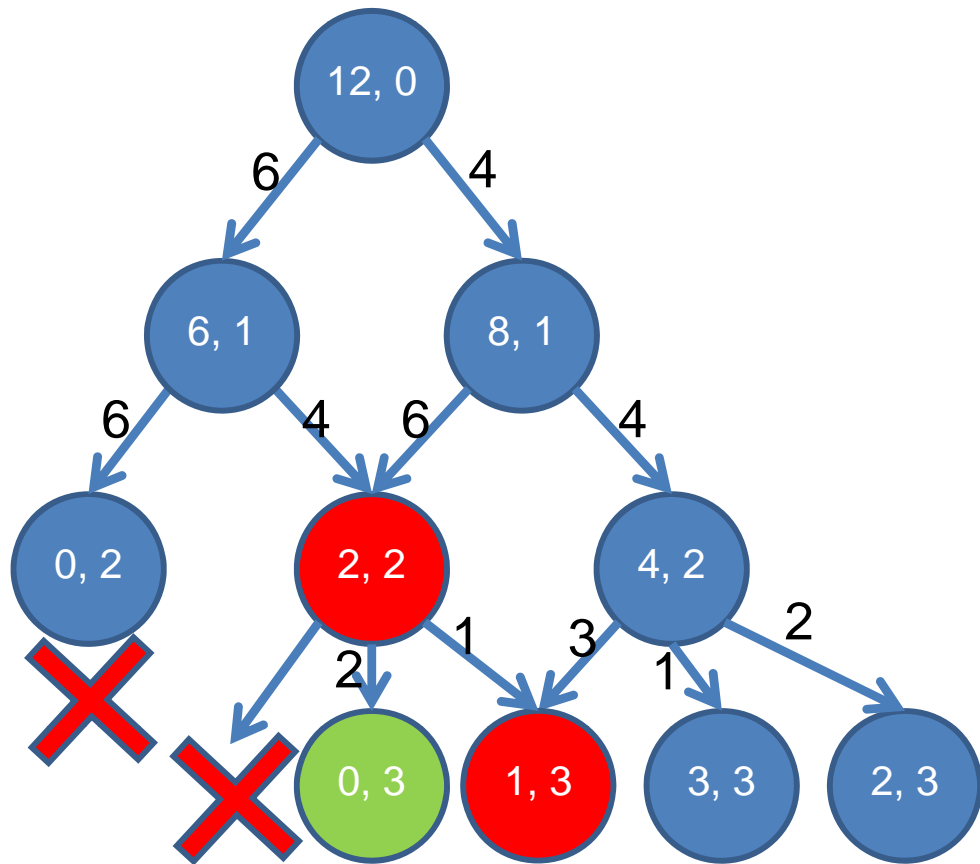
# Complete Search? (2)

- But, how to solve this?
  - M = 200 (maximum)
- Time Complexity:  $20^{20}$ 
  - Too many for 3s time limit ☹️

Model Garment	0	1	...	19
0	32	12		55
1	2	53		4
2	1	3		7
3	50	14		8
4	3	1		5
5	4	3		1
6	5	2		5
...				
19	22	11		99

# Overlapping Sub Problem Issue

- In the simple  $20^{20}$  Complete Search solution, we observe **many overlapping sub problems!**
  - Many ways to reach state (money, g), e.g. see below,  $M = 12$



Model Garment	0	1	2
0	6	4	
1	4	6	
C = 2	1	2	3

# DP to the Rescue (1)

- DP = Dynamic Programming
  - Programming here is not writing computer code, but a “**tabular method**”!
    - a.k.a. **table** method
  - A programming paradigm that you must know!
    - And hopefully, master...

# DP to the Rescue (2)

- Use DP when the problem exhibits:
  - Optimal sub structure
    - Optimal solution to the original problem contains optimal solution to sub problems
      - This is **similar** as the requirement of **Greedy algorithm**
      - If you can formulate complete search recurrences, you have this
  - **Overlapping sub problems**
    - Number of **distinct sub problems** are actually “small”
    - But they are **repeatedly computed**
      - This is **different** from **Divide and Conquer**

# DP Solution – Implementation (1)

- There are two ways to implement DP:
  - Top-Down
  - Bottom-Up
- Top-Down (Demo):
  - Recursion as per normal + **memoization table**
    - It is just a simple change from backtracking (complete search) solution!

# Turn Recursion into Memoization

initialize memo table in main function (use 'memset')

```
return_value recursion(params/state) {  
    if this state is already calculated,  
        simply return the result from the memo table  
    calculate the result using recursion(other_params/states)  
    save the result of this state in the memo table  
    return the result  
}
```

# Dynamic Programming (Top-Down)

- For our example:

```
shop(money, g)
  if (money < 0) return -INF
  if (g == C) return M - money
  if (memo[money][g] != -1) return memo[money][g];
  return memo[money][g] = max(shop(money - price[g][model], g + 1),
     $\forall \text{model} \in [1..K]$ )
```

- As simple as that 😊

# If Optimal Solution(s) are Needed

- Clever solution for Top-Down DP
  - (See solution for Bottom-Up DP in Example 2)
- For our example:

```
print_shop(money, g)
  if (money < 0 || g == C) return
  for each model  $\in$  [1..K]
    if shop(money - price[g][model], g + 1) == memo[money][g]
      print "take model = " + model + " for garment g = " + g
      print_shop(money - price[g][model], g + 1)
      break
```

- As simple as that 😊



# DP Solution – Implementation (2)

- Another way: Bottom-Up:
  - Prepare a table that has size equals to the number of distinct states of the problem
  - Start to fill in the table with base case values
  - Get **the topological order** in which the table is filled
    - Some topological orders are natural and can be written with just (nested) loops!
  - Different way of thinking compared to Top-Down DP
- Notice that both DP variants use “table”!

# Dynamic Programming (Bottom-Up)

- For our example:
  - Start with with table **can\_reach** of size 20 (g) \* 201 (money)
    - The state (money, g) is reversed to (g, money) so that we can process bottom-up DP loops in row major fashion
    - Initialize all entries to 0 (false)
    - Fill in the first row with money left (column) reachable after buying models from the first garment (g = 0)
  - Use the information of current row g to update the values at the next row g + 1

- Budget  $M = 20$

- Answer: 19

- Alternative answers are possible

Model Garment	0	1	2	3
0	4	6	8	
1	5	10		
$C = 2$	1	3	5	5

money =>

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
g    v	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# Top-Down or Bottom-Up?

- Top-Down

- Pro:

- Natural transformation from normal recursion
    - Only compute sub problems when necessary

- Cons:

- Slower if there are many sub problems due to recursive call overhead
    - Use exactly  $O(\text{states})$  table size (MLE?)

- Bottom Up

- Pro:

- Faster if many sub problems are visited: no recursive calls!
    - Can save memory space\*

- Cons:

- Maybe not intuitive for those inclined to recursions?
    - If there are  $X$  states, bottom up visits/fills the value of all these  $X$  states

# Flight Planner

(study this on your own)

## EXAMPLE 2



[Click me to jump to the next section](#)

# Motivation

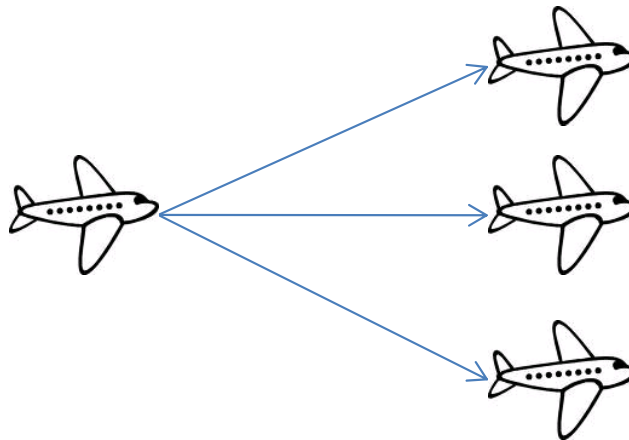


- How to solve this: [10337](#) (Flight Planner)?
  - Unit: 1 mile altitude and 1 (x100) miles distance
  - Given wind speed map
  - Fuel cost: {**climb** (+60), **hold** (+30), **sink** (+20)} - wind speed  $wsp[alt][dis]$
  - Compute **min** fuel cost from (0, 0) to (0,  $X = 4$ )!

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

# Complete Search? (1)

- First guess:
  - Do complete search/brute force/**backtracking**
  - Find *all possible* flight paths and pick the one that yield the minimum fuel cost



# Complete Search? (2)

- Recurrence of the Complete Search

- `fuel(alt, dis) =`  
    `min3(60 - wsp[alt][dis] + fuel(alt + 1, dis + 1),`  
        `30 - wsp[alt][dis] + fuel(alt, dis + 1),`  
        `20 - wsp[alt][dis] + fuel(alt - 1, dis + 1))`

- Stop when we reach final state (base case):

- $\text{alt} = 0$  and  $\text{dis} = X$ , i.e.  $\text{fuel}(0, X) = 0$

- Prune infeasible states (also base cases):

- $\text{alt} < 0$  or  $\text{alt} > 9$  or  $\text{dis} > X!$ , i.e. return INF\*

- Answer of the problem is **fuel(0, 0)**



# Complete Search Solutions (1)

- Solution 1

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

$$29 + 39 + 39 + 29 = 136$$

- Solution 2

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

$$29 + 39 + 69 + 19 = 156$$

# Complete Search Solutions (2)

- Solution 3

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

$$29 + 69 + 11 + 29 = \mathbf{138}$$

- Solution 4

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

$$59 + 11 + 39 + 29 = \mathbf{138}$$

# Complete Search Solutions (3)

- Solution 5

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

$$29 + 69 + 21 + 19 = \mathbf{138}$$

- Solution 6

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

$$59 + 21 + 11 + 29 = \mathbf{120(OPT)}$$

# Complete Search Solutions (4)

- Solution 7

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

59+ 21+ 21+ 19=120(OPT)

- Solution 8

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)

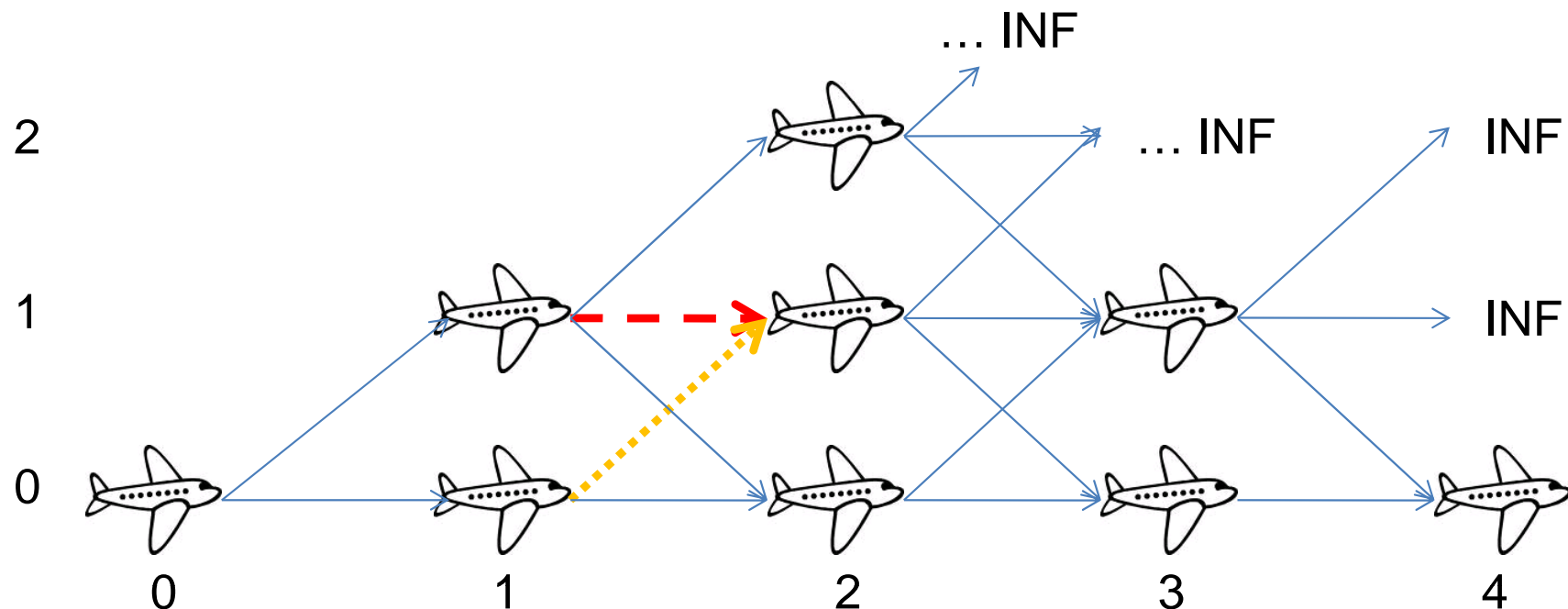
59+ 51+ 19+ 19=148

# Complete Search? (3)

- How large is the search space?
  - Max distance is 100,000 miles  
Each distance step is 100 miles  
That means we have **1,000** distance columns!
    - Note: this is an example of “coordinate compression”
  - Branching factor per step is 3... (climb, hold, sink)
  - That means complete search can end up performing  $3^{1,000}$  operations...
  - Too many for 3s time limit 😞

# Overlapping Sub Problem Issue

- In simple  $3^{1,000}$  Complete Search solution, we observe **many overlapping sub problems!**
  - Many ways to reach coordinate (alt, dis)



# DP Solution

- Recurrence\* of the Complete Search

- `fuel(alt, dis) =`  
    `min3(60 - wsp[alt][dis] + fuel(alt + 1, dis + 1),`  
        `30 - wsp[alt][dis] + fuel(alt, dis + 1),`  
        `20 - wsp[alt][dis] + fuel(alt - 1, dis + 1))`

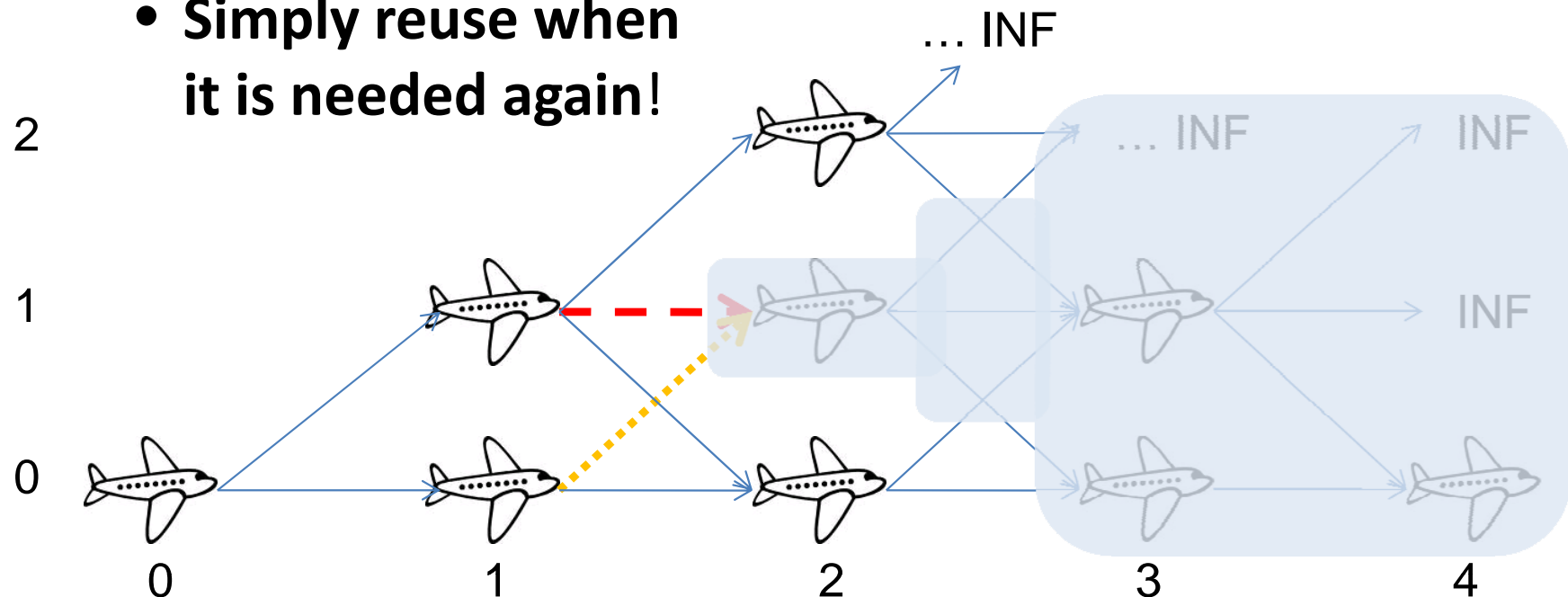
- Sub-problem `fuel(alt, dis)` can be **overlapping!**
  - There are only 10 alt and 1,000 dis = **10,000** states
  - A lot of time saved if these are not re-computed!
    - Exponential  $3^{1,000}$  to polynomial  $10 \cdot 1,000$ !

alt > 2 not shown

2	-1	-1	-1	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	-1	-1	40	19	$\infty$
0	-1	-1	-1	29	0
	0	1	2	3	4

# DP Solution (Top Down)

- Create a 2-D table of size  $10 * (X/100)$  ← Save Space!
  - Set “-1” for unexplored sub problems (memset)
  - Store the computation value of sub problem
    - Simply reuse when it is needed again!





# DP Solution (Bottom Up)

```
fuel(alt, dis) =
    min3(20 - wsp[alt + 1][dis - 1] + fuel(alt + 1, dis - 1),
         30 - wsp[alt      ][dis - 1] + fuel(alt      , dis - 1),
         60 - wsp[alt - 1][dis - 1] + fuel(alt - 1, dis - 1))
```

1	1	1	1	9
1	1	1	1	8
1	1	1	1	7
1	1	1	1	6
1	1	1	1	5
1	1	1	1	4
1	1	1	1	3
1	1	1	1	2
1	9	9	1	1
1	-9	-9	1	0
=====				
0	1	2	3	4 (x100)

Tips:  
(space-saving trick)

We can reduce one storage dimension by only keeping 2 recent columns at a time...

But the time complexity is unchanged:  
 $O(10 * X / 100)$

2	∞	∞			
1	∞	59			
0	0	29			
	0	1	2	3	4

2	∞	∞	110		
1	∞	59	80		
0	0	29	68		
	0	1	2	3	4

2	∞	∞	110	131	
1	∞	59	80	101	
0	0	29	68	91	
	0	1	2	3	4

2	∞	∞	110	131	-
1	∞	59	80	101	-
0	0	29	68	91	120
	0	1	2	3	4

# If Optimal Solution(s) are Needed

- Although not often, sometimes this is asked!
- As we build the DP table, record which option is taken in each cell!
  - Usually, this information is stored in different table
  - Then, do recursive scan(s) to output solution
    - Sometimes, there are more than one solutions!

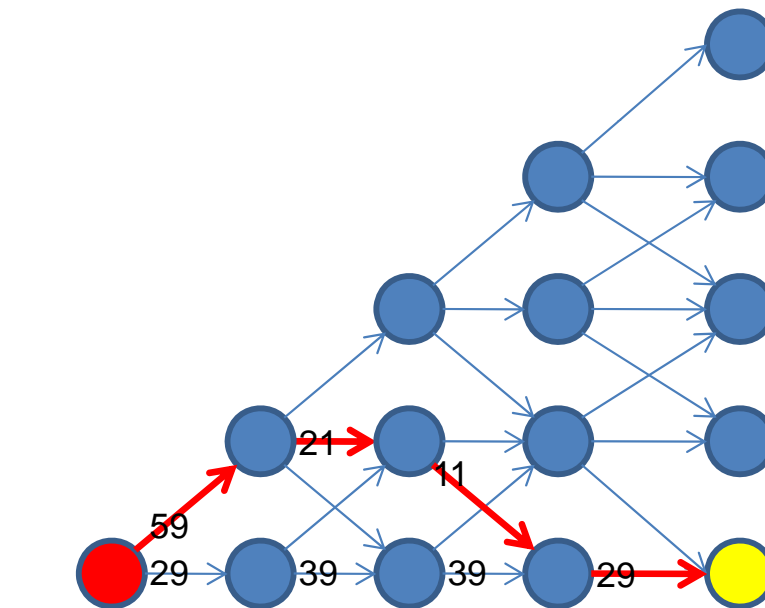
2	$\infty$	$\infty$	110	131	-
1	$\infty$	59	80	101	-
0	0	29	68	91	120
	0	1	2	3	4

# Shortest Path Problem? (1)

- Hey, I have alternative solution:
  - Model the problem as a **DAG**
  - Vertex is each position in the unit map
  - Edges connect vertices reachable from vertex (alt, dis), i.e. (alt+1, dis+1), (alt, dis+1), (alt-1, dis)
    - Weighted according to flight action and wind speed!
    - Do not connect infeasible vertices
      - $\text{alt} < 0$  or  $\text{alt} > 9$  or  $\text{dis} > X$

# Visualization of the DAG

1	1	1	1		9
1	1	1	1		8
1	1	1	1		7
1	1	1	1		6
1	1	1	1		5
1	1	1	1		4
1	1	1	1		3
1	1	1	1		2
1	9	9	1		1
1	-9	-9	1		0
=====					
0	1	2	3	4	(x100)



Source

What is the  
**shortest path**  
from source  
to destination?

# Shortest Path Problem? (2)

- The problem: find the **shortest path** from vertex  $(0, 0)$  to vertex  $(0, X)$  on this DAG...
- $O(V + E)$  solution exists!
  - $V$  is just  $10 * (X / 100)$
  - $E$  is just  $3V$
  - Thus this solution is as good as the DP solution

# Break

- Coming up next, discussion of some **Classical DPs**:
  - Max Sum (1-D for now) → Kadane's Algorithm
  - Longest Increasing Subsequence (LIS) →  $O(n \log k)$  solution
  - 0-1 Knapsack / Subset Sum → Knapsack-style parameter!
  - Coin Change (the General Case) → skipped, see textbook
  - Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP) → bitmask again :O
- I will try to cover as many as possible, but will stop at 9 pm 😊; the details are in Chapter 3 of CP2.9

Let's discuss several problems that are solvable using DP  
First, let's see some classical ones...

# LEARNING VIA EXAMPLES

# Max Sum (1D)

- Find a **contiguous sub-array** in 1D array A with the **max sum**

i	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A[i]	1	-2	6	3	2	-12	-6	7	1

- The answer is **{6, 3, 2}** with max sum  $6 + 3 + 2 = 11$

Can we do this in  $O(n^3)$ ?

Can we do this in  $O(n^2)$ ?

Can we do this in  $O(n)$ ?



# Longest Increasing Subsequence

- Find the Longest Increasing **Subsequence** (LIS) in array A
  - Subsequence is not necessarily contiguous

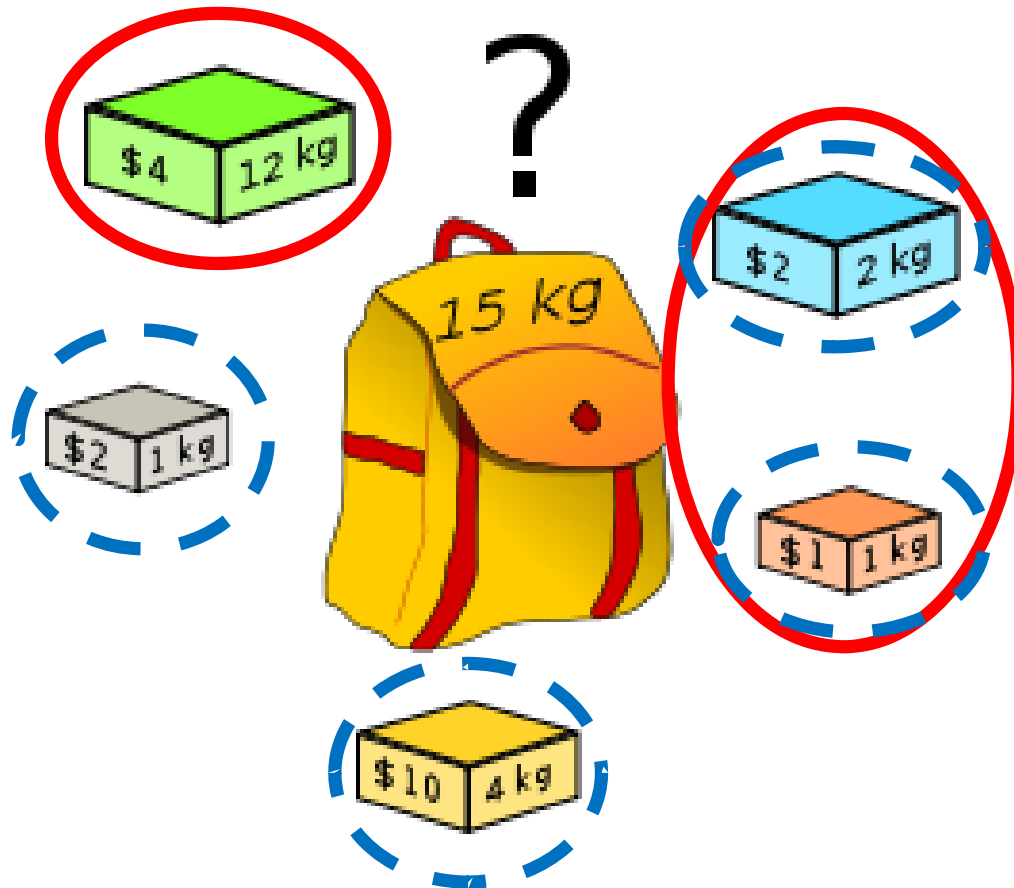
i	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A[i]	<b>-7</b>	10	9	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	8	1

- The answer is  $\{-7, 2, 3, 8\}$  with length 4

Can we do this in  $O(n^2)$ ?

Can we do this in  $O(n \log k)$ ?

# 0-1 Knapsack / Subset Sum



Red = 15 kg, \$ 7

Blue = 8 kg, \$ 15

**Can we do this in  $O(nS)$ ?**

$n$  = # items

$S$  = knapsack size

# Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP)



dist	0	1	...	n-1
0				
1				
...				
n-1				

# Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP)

- State:  $\text{tsp}(\text{pos}, \text{bitmask})$
- Transition:
  - If every cities have been visited
    - $\text{tsp}(\text{pos}, 2^N - 1) = \text{dist}[\text{pos}][0]$
  - Else, try visiting unvisited cities one by one
    - $\text{tsp}(\text{pos}, \text{bitmask}) =$   
 $\min(\text{dist}[\text{pos}][\text{nxt}] + \text{tsp}(\text{nxt}, \text{bitmask} | (1 \ll \text{nxt})))$   
 $\forall \text{nxt} \in [0..N-1], \text{nxt} \neq \text{pos}, \text{bitmask} \& (1 \ll \text{nxt}) == 0$

# Summary

- We have seen:
  - Basic DP concepts
  - DP on some **classical** problems
- We will see more DP next week:
  - DP on **non classical** problems
  - DP and its relationship with DAG
  - DP on Math & String Problems
  - Some other “cool” DP (optimization) techniques

# Good References about DP

- CP2.9, obviously 😊
  - Section 3.5 first
    - Then Section 4.7.1 (DAG), 5.4 (Combinatorics), 6.5 (String + DP), 8.3 (more advanced DP), parts of Ch 9
- <http://people.csail.mit.edu/bdean/6.046/dp/>
  - Current USACO Director
- TopCoder Algorithm Tutorial
  - <http://community.topcoder.com/tc?module=Static&d1=tutorials&d2=dynProg>