Dynamic Programming | Set 25 (Subset Sum Problem)

Given a set of non-negative integers, and a value *sum*, determine if there is a subset of the given set with sum equal to given *sum*.

```
Examples: set[] = {3, 34, 4, 12, 5, 2}, sum = 9
Output:  True  //There is a subset (4, 5) with sum 9.
```

Let isSubSetSum(int set[], int n, int sum) be the function to find whether there is a subset of set[] with sum equal to *sum*. n is the number of elements in set[].

The isSubsetSum problem can be divided into two subproblems
…a) Include the last element, recur for n = n-1, sum = sum – set[n-1]
…b) Exclude the last element, recur for n = n-1.
If any of the above the above subproblems return true, then return true.

Following is the recursive formula for isSubsetSum() problem.

```
isSubsetSum(set, n, sum) = isSubsetSum(set, n-1, sum) ||
                           isSubsetSum(arr, n-1, sum-set[n-1])
Base Cases:
isSubsetSum(set, n, sum) = false, if sum > 0 and n == 0
isSubsetSum(set, n, sum) = true, if sum == 0
```

Following is naive recursive implementation that simply follows the recursive structure mentioned above.

```
// A recursive solution for subset sum problem
#include <stdio.h>

// Returns true if there is a subset of set[] with sun equal to given sum
bool isSubsetSum(int set[], int n, int sum)
{
   // Base Cases
   if (sum == 0)
     return true;
   if (n == 0 && sum != 0)
     return false;

   // If last element is greater than sum, then ignore it
   if (set[n-1] > sum)
     return isSubsetSum(set, n-1, sum);
```

```
   /* else, check if sum can be obtained by any of the following
      (a) including the last element
      (b) excluding the last element   */
   return isSubsetSum(set, n-1, sum) || isSubsetSum(set, n-1, sum-set[n-1]);
}

// Driver program to test above function
int main()
{
  int set[] = {3, 34, 4, 12, 5, 2};
  int sum = 9;
  int n = sizeof(set)/sizeof(set[0]);
  if (isSubsetSum(set, n, sum) == true)
     printf("Found a subset with given sum");
  else
     printf("No subset with given sum");
  return 0;
}
```

Run on IDE

Output:

```
Found a subset with given sum
```

The above solution may try all subsets of given set in worst case. Therefore time complexity of the above solution is exponential. The problem is in-fact NP-Complete (There is no known polynomial time solution for this problem).

We can solve the problem in Pseudo-polynomial time using Dynamic programming. We create a boolean 2D table subset[][] and fill it in bottom up manner. The value of subset[i][j] will be true if there is a subset of set[0..j-1] with sum equal to i., otherwise false. Finally, we return subset[sum][n]

```
// A Dynamic Programming solution for subset sum problem
#include <stdio.h>

// Returns true if there is a subset of set[] with sun equal to given sum
bool isSubsetSum(int set[], int n, int sum)
{
    // The value of subset[i][j] will be true if there is a subset of set[0..j-1]
    //  with sum equal to i
    bool subset[sum+1][n+1];

    // If sum is 0, then answer is true
    for (int i = 0; i <= n; i++)
      subset[0][i] = true;

    // If sum is not 0 and set is empty, then answer is false
    for (int i = 1; i <= sum; i++)
      subset[i][0] = false;

     // Fill the subset table in botton up manner
     for (int i = 1; i <= sum; i++)
     {
       for (int j = 1; j <= n; j++)
       {
         subset[i][j] = subset[i][j-1];
         if (i >= set[j-1])
```

```
            subset[i][j] = subset[i][j] || subset[i - set[j-1]][j-1];
        }
      }

     /* // uncomment this code to print table
      for (int i = 0; i <= sum; i++)
      {
        for (int j = 0; j <= n; j++)
           printf ("%4d", subset[i][j]);
        printf("\n");
      } */

      return subset[sum][n];
}

// Driver program to test above function
int main()
{
  int set[] = {3, 34, 4, 12, 5, 2};
  int sum = 9;
  int n = sizeof(set)/sizeof(set[0]);
  if (isSubsetSum(set, n, sum) == true)
     printf("Found a subset with given sum");
  else
     printf("No subset with given sum");
  return 0;
}
```

Run on IDE

Output:

```
Found a subset with given sum
```

Time complexity of the above solution is O(sum*n).

Please write comments if you find anything incorrect, or you want to share more information about the topic discussed above.

123 Comments Category: Misc Tags: Dynamic Programming

Related Posts:

- Generate Pythagorean Triplets
- Square root of an integer
- Find minimum time to finish all jobs with given constraints
- Find number of solutions of a linear equation of n variables
- Sort a stack using recursion
- Length of the longest valid substring
- Worms ,Viruses and beyond !!
- Count number of ways to cover a distance