

0.1 Binary search

```
def binary_search(data, key):
    if len(data) == 1:
        return data[0] == key
    mid = len(data)//2
    if key < data[mid]:
        return binary_search(data[:mid], key)
    else:
        return binary_search(data[mid:], key)
```

Linked-list: is a linear collection of data elements whose order is not given by their physical placement in memory. Instead, each element points to the next.

Tree Trees are recursive data structures, like the linked lists.

```
class BinaryTree:
    def __init__(self, item):
        self.item = item
        self.left = None # type = BinaryTree
        self.right = None # type = BinaryTree
    def insert(self, item):
        left = np.random.rand() < 0.5# pick a random side to insert
        on
        if item == left:
            return
        if left:
            if self.left is None:
                self.left = BinaryTree(item)
            else:
                self.left.insert(item)
        else:
            if self.right is None:
                self.right = BinaryTree(item)
            else:
                self.right.insert(item)
    def contains(self, item):
        if self.item == item:
            return True
        if self.left is not None:
            if self.left.contains(item):
                return True
        if self.right is not None:
            if self.right.contains(item):
                return True
        return False
    def print_tree(self, level=0, prefix="Root: "):
        print(" " * level + prefix + str(self.item))
        if self.left:
            self.left.print_tree(level + 1, prefix="L--- ")
        if self.right:
            self.right.print_tree(level + 1, prefix="R--- ")
```

0.2 K-D Trees

One of the classic ways to speed up nearest neighbours is a data structure call the k-d tree. Basic idea:

In each recursive step, there is a certain number of datapoints. If there's only one, we're done.

Otherwise, for one of the two dimensions (we alternate back and forth), find the median value along the dimension.

Split the data into two subsets based on being above or below that median, and build a (sub)tree for each of those subsets.

Starting from the full dataset, you will create a tree where each leaf is a datapoint.

You can find an approximate nearest neighbour by traversing the down the tree using the same decision points as were used to original split the data; the final leaf is the desired neighbour.

Other nearest neighbour approaches

Note: there are other nearest neighbour approaches besides k-d trees, including some very fast approximate algorithms.

```
def nearest_neighbour(data, query): #Time O(nk)
    if query.ndim == 1:
        query = query[None]
    return np.argmin(np.sum((data - query)**2, axis=1))
```

0.3 Amortization of hash table growth

We say the up-front effort is amortized (or spread out) over the many queries. Hash table operations are amortized constant time, meaning that although occasional slower operations occur, their cost is spread

out so the average cost per operation remains $O(1)$.

0.4 Dynamic Programming

Optimal substructure — the optimal solution to the problem can be composed of optimal solutions to its subproblems.

Overlapping subproblems — the space of subproblems is small and the same subproblems are solved repeatedly.
Global sequence alignment in genetics, knapsack problem, matrix chain multiplication, shortest-path algorithms such as Floyd-Warshall.

Caching: is a general term that refers to the practice of storing data for later use. To solve the problem of redundant computation. **Memoization**: is a specific form of caching that involves storing the results of function calls so that when the same inputs are encountered again, the previously computed result can be reused. This avoids the need to recompute values that have already been calculated. **Top-down**: starting from (n) and recursively computing smaller subproblems while caching results.

bottom-up/tabulation: Instead of recursion, we start from the simplest subproblems, such as $\text{ways}(0)$ and $\text{ways}(1)$, and iteratively build up to $\text{ways}(n)$. Eliminates recursion overhead and can sometimes reduce memory usage.

0.5 Climbing Stairs (Counting Paths)

```
def climb_stairs_recurse(n): #Brute Force solution O(2^n)
    if n == 0 or n == 1:
        return 1
    return climb_stairs_recurse(n-1) + climb_stairs_recurse(n-2)
def climb_stairs_memoized(n: int) -> int: #DP solution Time O(n)
    Space O(n)
    if n < 0:
        return 0 # or we can: raise ValueError("n must be >= 0")
    memo = [-1] * (n + 1) # -1 marks "not computed yet"
    def _rec(k: int) -> int:
        if k <= 1: # W(0)=1, W(1)=1
            return 1
        if memo[k] != -1:
            return memo[k]
        memo[k] = _rec(k - 1) + _rec(k - 2)
        return memo[k]
    return _rec(n)
def climb_stairs_tab(n: int): #Bottom-up Time: O(n) Space: O(n)
    if n < 0:
        raise ValueError("n must be >= 0")
    if n <= 1:
        return 1
    dp: List[int] = [0] * (n + 1)
    dp[0] = 1
    dp[1] = 1
    for i in range(2, n + 1):
        dp[i] = dp[i - 1] + dp[i - 2]
    return dp[n]
def climb_stairs_tab(n: int): #Bottom-up Time: O(n) Space: O(1)
    if n < 0:
        raise ValueError("n must be >= 0")
    if n <= 1:
        return 1
    a, b = 1, 1 # dp[0], dp[1]
    for _ in range(2, n + 1):
        a, b = b, a + b
    return b
```

0.6 Fibonacci

```
def f(n):#Recursive solution Time: O(2^n) Space : O(n)
    if n == 1 or n == 2:
        return 1
    else:
        return f(n-1) + f(n-2)
def fib(n):#Iterative Solution
    f = np.zeros(n+1, dtype=int)
    f[1] = 1
    for i in range(2,n+1):
        f[i] = f[i-1] + f[i-2]
    return f[-1]
#Memoisation method functools.lru_cache stores the cached results
# in memory like in temp file (function results of fib (5))
memory = joblib.Memory("/tmp", verbose=0)
@memory.cache
def fib_recursive_cache2(n):
    if n == 0 or n == 1:
        return n
    return fib_recursive_cache2(n-1) + fib_recursive_cache2(n-2)
```

```
# Memoized Fibonacci DP top down Time: O(n) Space: O(n)
def fib(n, memo={}):
    if n in memo:
        return memo[n]
    if n <= 1:
        return n
    memo[n] = fib(n - 1, memo) + fib(n - 2, memo)
    return memo[n]
# Bottom-Up Fibonacci Time: O(n) Space: O(n)
def fib(n):
    if n <= 1:
        return n
    dp = [0] * (n + 1)
    dp[1] = 1
    for i in range(2, n + 1):
        dp[i] = dp[i - 1] + dp[i - 2]
    return dp[n]
```

Seam Carving

```
#O(W * 3^H) in Recursive
def min_cost(grid): #O(W*H) in DP
    nrows, ncols = grid.shape
    opt = np.zeros((nrows, ncols + 2), dtype=float)
    opt[:, 0] = np.inf
    opt[:, -1] = np.inf
    opt[:, 1:-1] = grid
    for i in range(1, nrows):
        for j in range(1, ncols + 1):
            opt[i, j] += min(opt[i - 1, j - 1], opt[i - 1, j], opt[i - 1, j + 1])
    return np.min(opt[-1, 1:-1])
def find_vertical_seam(self, energy): # Vectorized DP
    nrows, ncols = energy.shape
    column_of_inf = np.full((nrows,1), np.inf)
    CME = np.hstack((column_of_inf, energy, column_of_inf))
    for i in range(1, nrows):
        prev = CME[i - 1]
        # Stack the three possible previous-row shifts
        candidates = np.vstack([prev[:-2], prev[1:-1], prev[2:]])
        CME[i, 1:-1] += np.min(candidates, axis=0)
    seam = np.zeros(nrows, dtype=int)
    seam[-1] = np.argmax(CME[-1, :])
    for i in range(nrows - 2, -1, -1):
        delta = np.argmax(CME[i, seam[i + 1] - 1 : seam[i + 1] + 2]) - 1
        seam[i] = seam[i + 1] + delta
    return seam - 1
#miscellaneous functions for recursion and dp
def recursive_reverse_list(lst):
    if not lst or len(lst) <= 1:
        return lst
    return lst[-1:] + recursive_reverse_list(lst[:-1])
def recursive_reverse_list(lst):
    if not lst or len(lst) <= 1:
        return lst
    return lst[-1:] + recursive_reverse_list(lst[:-1])
def remove_char(s, ch):
    if len(s) == 0:
        return ""
    if s[0] == ch:
        return remove_char(s[1:], ch)
    return s[0] + remove_char(s[1:], ch)
```

Dynamic Programming (DP) Problem-Solving Template

Identify subproblems: Break the problem into smaller instances (e.g., prefixes, suffixes, or states like the last move).

Set base cases: Define simplest inputs and outputs to initialise the DP table.

Form recurrence: Express each subproblem in terms of smaller ones, ensuring no cyclic dependencies.

Choose strategy: Use *top-down* (recursion + memoization) or *bottom-up* (iterative tabulation).

Implement & test: Code the recurrence, verify on small examples, and confirm expected complexity.

Optimise: Reduce space/time if possible (e.g., keep only necessary previous states).