

# Greedy Algorithms (G.A)

G.A used for solving Optimization problems (in which you find not just a soln. but the best one).

**Goal :-** To find best solution among a set of possible solutions.

★ G.A are powerful to solve optimization problems But

they are not always applicable

or guaranteed to provide optimal solution.

But when they do, they're Simplest & efficient algos

**Example :-** D

available.

# Activity Selection Problem.

Activity Scheduling is a simple scheduling problem for which greedy approach provides an optimal solution?

## Problem Statement :-

- We are given a set  $S = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  of  $n$  activities that are to be scheduled to use some resource.
- Each activity  $a_i$  must be started at a given start time  $s_i^*$  and ends at finish time  $f_i^*$ .
- There is only one resource.
- Some start and finish time may overlap. Therefore not all requests can be honored.
- Two activities  $a_i^*$  and  $a_j^*$  are non-interfering if they do not overlap  $(s_i^*, f_i^*) \cap (s_j^*, f_j^*) = \emptyset$

## Goal:-

We've to select a maximum size set of mutually non-interfering activities to use that resource.

How do we schedule max. no of activities to use a resource?

# 1 - A Solution you can think of (But its not optimal one)

Intuitively, we don't like long activities. Because they occupy resource for long time and keep us away from honoring other requests.

## Greedy Choice :-

~~Repetitely~~ → Select activities with smallest duration ( $f_i - s_i$ ) and schedule it provided that it does not overlap with any previously scheduled activities.

Not optimal

Here is a **Counter Example**

Activities	Start_Time	Finish_Time
A	4	6
B	1*	5
C	5	7

Activity-A has duration of '2' (say hours)

Activity-B ----- 4 hours

Activity C ----- 2 hours.

★ Sort activities according to duration

If we select Activity -A first and schedule it (having smallest duration)  
Then other activities will not be scheduled because they both overlap with it

So Scheduled Activities = { A }  
Set

But optimal Solution is

{ B , C }

So

we didn't make greedy choice correctly.

Another Solution :- (Greedy Algorithm)

- Sort the activities by their finish time
- Select the activity that finishes first and schedule it.
- Now Select activities one by one that do not interfere with already scheduled activities.

Activity Scheduling ( $A, n$ )

{ Sort 'A' by finish times

 $S = \{ A[1] \}$  // Schedule first activityPrev  $\leftarrow 1$ for ( $i \leftarrow 2$  To  $n$ ){ if ( $A[i].start \geq A[Prev].finish$ ){  $S \leftarrow S \cup \{ A[i] \}$ Prev  $\leftarrow i$ PAINTS  
WorldwideTime is dominated by sorting  
Thus, Complexity is  $O(n \log n)$ Proof of Correctness

Actually Greedy Algorithms provide optimal solution for those problems that exhibits:

- 1 - Greedy choice property:  
(Selecting Local optimum at each step)
- 2 - Optimal Substructure:  
(Global optimal solution can be constructed from optimal solution of its subproblems)

So

- Our Proof of Correctness is based on showing that the first choice made by algorithm is best possible.
- And then using induction to show that the algorithm is globally optimal.

★ We'll always make some solution (optimal) then transform into greedy solution without increasing cost.

## For Greedy Choice Property:

Claim:

Let  $S = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  'n' activities sorted by increasing finish times need to be scheduled to use some resource.

Then there is an optimal solution in which  $a_1$  is scheduled first.

Proof :- greedy choice

Let "A" be an optimal schedule and let "x" be the activity in A with smallest finish time.

- if ( $x == a_1$ ) then we are done.
- Otherwise we form a new schedule  $A'$  by replacing  $x$  with  $a_1$   
(New Schedule Should be feasible)

$$A' = A - \{x\} \cup \{a_1\} \text{ is feasible}$$

Because

$A - \{x\}$  can not have any activities start before "x" finishes otherwise they will interfere with "x"

And

Since  $a_1$  is by definition first to finish. So it has an earlier finish time than "x"

Thus,  $a_1$  can not interfere with any activities in  $A - \{x\}$

So  $A'$  is feasible schedule.

Clearly, A and  $A'$  contain the same number of activities.

Implying that  $A'$  is also optimal.

Both A and  $A'$  are optimal. But  $A'$  uses greedy approach and select  $a_1$  as first activity and ~~new~~ schedule A can be converted into  $A'$  (just by replacing  $x$  with  $a_1$ ). Hence greed choice made by algorithm is optimal.

## Proof for Optimal Substructure

Claim :-

Solution to activity Scheduling problem.

Goal :-

Base Case :-

if there are no activities or there is just one activity then greedy Algo is trivially optimal.

Inductive Case :-

Inductive Hypothesis :- Let us assume that greedy algo is optimal on any set of activities of size smaller than  $|S|$ .

And

we have to prove it optimal for "S"

Let  $S'$  be the set of activities that do not interfere with  $a_1$ .

$$S' = \{ a_i \in S \mid \text{Start}_i \geq \text{Finish}_{a_1} \}$$

- Any Solution for  $S'$  can be converted to solution for "S" by simply adding activity  $a_1$  and vice versa.
  - Activity  $a_1$  is optimal schedule (by previous claim)
  - It follows that to produce an optimal schedule for overall problem, we first schedule  $a_1$  and append optimal schedule for  $S'$ .  
(for subproblem)
- So optimal Solution  $S'$  transformed into global <sup>optimal</sup> Solution  $S$  just by appending (no extra cost)

Hence

Prooved that greedy algorithm is providing optimal solution to ASP.

# Fractional Knapsack Problem

**Problem Statement:-**

- Given a set of "n" items, each with a weight " $w_i$ " and a value " $v_i$ ",
- Knapsack capacity is " $W$ "

**Goal:-**

Determine the most valuable combination of items to include in a knapsack with a limited capacity.

- Items can either be put in the knapsack or not
- One is allowed to take fraction of value an item for a fraction of weight and fraction of value.

★ If you make greedy choice that pick item having less weight first

★ If we make greedy choice that pick the item having max value first.

Both choices will not end up with optimal solution. So

**Greedy Choice:-** calculate value-to-weight ratio and pick item that has max ratio. (Repeatedly)

Algorithm

array  $\downarrow$  Size  $\downarrow$  Cap.  $\downarrow$   
fractionalKnapsack( items , n , W )

{ Sort items by value-to-weight ratio  
valueSum = 0 , frac = 1 <sup>in decreasing order</sup>

for ( i  $\leftarrow$  0 To n-1 )

{ if ( W == 0 )  
return valueSum ;

if ( ~~item[i].weight~~  $\geq W$  )

~~frac~~  $\rightarrow$   
frac =  $W/w_i$

ValueSum += frac \* vi

W = W - frac \* wi

Time Complexity dominated by Sorting  
so it is  $O(n \log n)$

## Proof of Correctness

In order to show the correctness of a greedy algorithm, we need to prove that the following two properties hold:

- 1 - Greedy choice property.
- 2 - Optimal Substructure.

## Prove Greedy Choice Property:

Let there is an optimal Solution  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  to fractional knapsack problem

And it does not include item "i" with max ratio. ( $\frac{V_i}{W_i}$ )

\*  $a_i$  indicates fraction of  $i^{th}$  item.  
Suppose  $a_i$  in  $A$  has highest ratio

$$\frac{V_{a_i}}{W_{a_i}} \geq \frac{V_{a_j}}{W_{a_j}}$$

Now if we remove  $a_i$  then solution is

$$A' = A - \{a_i\}$$

$$-W_{a_i} \frac{V_{a_i}}{W_{a_i}} + W_{a_i} \frac{V_{a_i}}{W_{a_i}} = W_{a_i} \left( \frac{V_{a_i}}{W_{a_i}} - \frac{V_{a_i}}{W_{a_i}} \right) = W_{a_i} > 0$$

Now combine  $A'$  with  $i^{th}$  item (or fraction of it)  
we'll have greater or equal valuable solution B

$$B = A' \cup \{a_i\}$$

If  $B$  is better than  $A$ :

this is contradiction and  $i^{th}$  item must be included.

If  $B = A$ :

Greedy choice already included anyway.

Since we are taking out weight " $W_{a_i}$ " and adding same weight of  $i^{th}$  item (as whole or fraction of it)

So we are still within capacity.

So our optimal solution is not so optimal. We have to transform it to greedy one by including item having  $\frac{V_i}{W_i}$  weight ratio.

# Optimal Substructure Proof (Fractional knapsack)

Assume that  $A$  is optimal solution with value  $V$  to problem  $S$  with knapsack capacity  $W$ .

Then we want to prove that

with  $a_1$  the subproblem  $S' = S - \{a_1\}$  and knapsack capacity  $W' = W - w_1$ .  
(where  $a_1$  item has highest value-to-weight ratio)

Proof by Contradiction:

we assume  $A'$  is not optimal to  $S'$  and we have another solution

$A''$  to  $S'$  that has higher total value,  
 $V'' > V'$ ,

So  $A'' \cup \{a_1\}$  is a solution to problems with value  $V'' + V_1 > V' + V_1 = V$

So  $V'' + V_1 > V$  contradicts our assumption that  $V$  is optimal in the beginning.

★ Two conditions for a problem to be solved using DP.

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- 1- Overlapping Subproblems.
- 2- Optimal Substructure.

## Dynamic Programming

In DP, Problems are solved by breaking them down into simpler subproblems and solving each subproblem only once, storing the solutions to avoid redundant calculations.

★ It is essentially recursion without repetition

Steps :-

To develop a dynamic prog. algorithm, two key steps are involved.

1 - Formulate problem recursively.  
    (Write formula for whole prob.)  
    (as simple combination of smaller subproblems)

2 - Build Solution to above recurrence (using tabulation)

(Write algo that starts with base case and works its way up to the final solution)

★ DP algs store results of subproblems in a table (but not always)

## Motivation for DP (Fibonacci Seq)

- Put a pair of rabbits in a room
- How many pairs of rabbits can be produced from that in a year.  
 if
  - \* Every month each pair begets a new pair
  - \* Each new pair will mature for one month and then produce a new pair in second month.

Resulting Sequence :-

1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ...

Each number is sum of the two preceding numbers.

This sequence is called Fibonacci sequence.

Because this problem was posed by Leonardo Pisano known as Fibonacci in his book (Liber Abaci) published in 1202.

## Example #01

## Recursive Algo To Find $n^{\text{th}}$ Fibonacci term.

$\text{fib}(n)$

{ if ( $n < 2$ )

return  $n$ ;

return  $\text{fib}(n-1) + \text{fib}(n-2)$

}

In this algo a lot of calls are repetitive. So Time complexity is

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + 1$$

$$T(n) = O(2^n)$$

which is exponential.

We can avoid repetitive calls by storing results of recursive call and looking them up again, if we need them later. (Memorization)

Recurrence:  $\text{fib}(i) = \begin{cases} 1 & i < 2 \\ \text{fib}(i-1) + \text{fib}(i-2) & \text{else} \end{cases}$

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Memoization

$F = \boxed{-1 \mid -1 \mid -1 \mid \dots}$

$\text{memoFib}(n)$

{ if ( $n < 2$ )

    return  $n$

if ( $F[n] == -1$ )

$F[n] = \text{memoFib}(n-1) + \text{memoFib}(n-2)$

    return  $F[n]$

}

Tabulation

$\text{tabuFib}(n)$

{

$F[0] = 0$

$F[1] = 1$

    for ( $i \leftarrow 2$  To  $n$ )

$F[i] = F[i-1] + F[i-2]$

    return  $F[n]$

}

$T(n) = O(n)$

Example #02

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Date:  
Maximum Subarray Sum  
(Kadane's Algo)

$\text{maxSubarraySum}(A, n)$

{  $\text{curSum} = \text{overAllSum} = A[0]$

    for ( $i \leftarrow 1$  To  $n-1$ )

{

    if ( $\text{curSum} \geq 0$ )

$\text{curSum} += A[i]$

else

$\text{curSum} = A[i]$

if ( $\text{curSum} > \text{overAllSum}$ )

$\text{overAllSum} = \text{curSum}$

}

return  $\text{overAllSum}$

}

Time Complexity =  $O(n)$

Recurrence: Base case  $\Rightarrow M_0 = A[0]$   
 $M_i = \max\{A[i], M_{i-1} + A[i]\}$

## Example #03

# Edit Distance

- A Algo was introduced in 1966 by Molecular biologists.
- ⇒ Edit distance problem is used to measure the similarity b/w two strings.
- It calculates minimum number of operations required to transform one string to another.

## Allowed Operations

Maintain, Insertion, deletion, Substitution,  
(M) (I) (D) (S)

Example:-

if we type a word which is not present in dictionary then google / ms word / cell phone

give us some suggestions close to that word

( Suggestions are taken by calculating edit distances. And words having less edit distance to target word are suggested )

if there  
is match

## Step-1 (Formulate Recurrence)

- Suppose we have an  $m$ -character string A and an  $n$  character string B
- Define  $E(i, j)$  to be the edit distance b/w first  $i$  characters of A and  $j$  characters of B
- The edit distance b/w entire strings 'A' and 'B' is  $E(m, n)$

### Optimal Substructure:

If we remove last column, the remaining columns must represent the shortest edit sequence for remaining substrings.

Let's denote two input strings

$A[1..i]$  and  $B[1..j]$ , where  $i, j$  represents their lengths. Then

Recurrence formula:

$$E(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & ; \text{ if } i=0 \& j=0 \\ i & ; \text{ if } j=0 \Rightarrow (\text{B string is empty}) \\ j & ; \text{ if } i=0 \Rightarrow (\text{A is empty so strings are}) \end{cases}$$

$$E(i, j) = \min \begin{cases} E(i-1, j-1) & \text{if } A[i] = A[j] \\ E(i-1, j-1) + 1 & \text{Substitution} \\ E(i-1, j) + 1 & \text{deletion} \\ E(i, j-1) + 1 & \text{insertion} \end{cases}$$

In our example,  
we have to find edit distance  
of 'ARTS' and "MATHS"

so we need to compute  $E(5, 4)$   
then

$$E(5, 4) = \begin{cases} E(4, 3) \\ E(4, 3) + 1 \\ E(4, 4) + 1 \\ E(5, 3) + 1 \end{cases}$$

Recursion leads to same repetitive calls.

To avoid this we'll use DP  
(Tabulation)

$\text{editDistance}(m, n, A, B)$

{

~~ed~~  $\boxed{ed[m+1][n+1]}$

for ( $i \leftarrow 0$  To  $m$ )

$ed[i][0] = i$

for ( $j \leftarrow 0$  To  $n$ )

$ed[0][j] = j$

for ( $i \leftarrow 1$  To  $m$ )

{ for ( $j \leftarrow 1$  To  $n$ )

{ if ( $A[i-1] == B[j-1]$ )

$ed[i][j] = ed[i-1][j-1]$

else

$ed[i][j] = 1 +$

$\min$   
 $(ed[i-1][j],$   
 $ed[i][j-1],$   
 $ed[i-1][j-1])$

{

return  $ed[m][n]$

Time Complexity  $\Rightarrow O(m \times n)$

if  $n == m$

$\Rightarrow O(n^2)$



### Naive Solution.

$\text{editDistance}(A, m, B, n)$

{ if ( $m == 0$ ) return  $n$

if ( $n == 0$ ) return  $m$

if ( $A[m-1] == B[n-1]$ )

return  $\text{editDistance}(A, m-1, B, n-1)$

return  $1 + \min ($

$\text{editDistance}(A, m, B, n-1),$

$\text{editDistance}(A, m-1, B, n),$

$\text{editDistance}(A, m-1, B, n-1))$

{

Time Complexity  $\Rightarrow O(3^n)$

Step-2 :- (Tabulation)

$E(i-1, j)$

$E(i-1, j-1) \rightarrow E(i, j)$

To fill first row and first column,  
use base cases.

	A	R	T	S
0 → 1	1	2	3	4
M 1	1	2	3	4
A 2	1	2	3	4
T 3	2	2	2	3
H 4	3	3	3	3
S 5	4	4	4	3

minimum cost

Solution Path -1

Edit transcript  
(ET)

D M S S M  
M A T H S  
— A R T S

$$+1 +0 +1 +1 +0 = 3$$

Solution Path -2

D M I M D M ←(ET)  
M A - T H S  
— A R T - S

$$+1 +0 +1 +0 +1 +0 = 3$$

Solution Path -3

S S M D M ←(ET)  
M A T H S

A R T - S

$$+1 +1 +0 +1 +0 = 3$$