

Recitation 20: Subset Sum Variants

Subset Sum Review

- Input: Set of n positive integers $A[i]$
- Output: Is there subset $A' \subset A$ such that $\sum_{a \in A'} a = S$?
- Can solve with dynamic programming in $O(nS)$ time
- (See lecture notes 19 for specifics)

Subset Sum

- Input: Set of n positive integers $A[i]$
- Output: Is there subset $A' \subset A$ such that $\sum_{a \in A'} a = S$?

1. Subproblems

- Idea: Is last item in a valid subset? (Guess!)
- If yes, then try to sum to $S - A[n] \geq 0$ using remaining items
- If no, then try to sum to S using remaining items
- $x(i, j)$: T if can make sum j using items 1 to i , F otherwise

2. Relate

- $x(i, j) = \text{OR} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} x(i-1, j - A[i]) & \text{if } j \geq A[i] \\ x(i-1, j) & \text{always} \end{array} \right\}$ for $i \in [0, n], j \in [0, S]$
- Subproblems $x(i, j)$ only depend on strictly smaller i , so acyclic

3. Base

- $x(i, 0) = T$ for $i \in [0, n]$, $x(0, j) = F$ for $j \in [1, S]$

4. Solution

- Solve subproblems via recursive top down or iterative bottom up
- Maximum evaluated expression is given by $x(n, S)$

5. Time

- (# subproblems: $O(nS)$) \times (work per subproblem $O(1)$) = $O(nS)$ running time.

Exercise: Partition - Given a set of n positive integers A , describe an algorithm to determine whether A can be partitioned into two non-intersecting subsets A_1 and A_2 of equal sum, i.e. $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$ and $A_1 \cup A_2 = A$ such that $\sum_{a \in A_1} a = \sum_{a \in A_2} a$.

Example: $A = \{1, 4, 3, 12, 19, 21, 22\}$ has partition $A_1 = \{1, 19, 21\}$, $A_2 = \{3, 4, 12, 22\}$.

Solution: Run subset sum dynamic program with same A and $S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a \in A} a$.

Exercise: Close Partition - Given a set of n positive integers A , describe an algorithm to find a partition of A into two non-intersecting subsets A_1 and A_2 such that the difference between their respective sums are minimized.

Solution: Run subset sum dynamic program as above, but evaluate for every $S' \in [0, \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a \in A} a]$, and return the largest S' such that the subset sum dynamic program returns true.

Exercise: Can you adapt subset sum to work with negative integers?

Solution: Same as subset sum (see L19), but we allow calling subproblems with larger j . But now instead of solving $x(i, j)$ only in the range $i \in [0, n]$, $j \in [0, S]$ as in positive subset sum, we allow j to range from $j_{min} = -\sum_{a \in A, a < 0} a$ (smallest possible j) to $j_{max} = \sum_{a \in A, a > 0} a$ (largest possible j).

$$x(i, j) = \text{OR} \begin{cases} x(i-1, j-A[i]) & \text{if } j_{min} \leq j-A[i] \leq j_{max} \\ x(i-1, j) & \text{always} \end{cases}$$

Subproblem dependencies are still acyclic because $x(i, j)$ only depend on strictly smaller i . Base cases are $x(0, 0) = T$ and $x(0, j) = F$ if $j \neq 0$. Running time is then proportional to number of constant work subproblems, $O(n(j_{max} - j_{min}))$.

Alternatively, you can convert to an equivalent instance of positive subset sum and solve that. Choose large number $Q > \max(|S|, \sum_{a \in A} |a|)$. Add $2Q$ to each integer in A to form A' , and append the value $2Q$, $n-1$ times to the end of A' . Now A' are all positive, so solve positive subset sum with $S' = S + n(2Q)$. Because $(2n-1)Q < S' < (2n+1)Q$, any satisfying subset will contain exactly n integers from A' since sum of any fewer would have sum no greater than $(n-1)2Q + \sum_{a \in A} |a| < (2n-1)Q$, and sum of any more would have sum no smaller than $(n+1)2Q - \sum_{a \in A} |a| > (2n+1)Q$. Further, at least one integer in a satisfying subset of A' corresponds to an integer of A . If A' has a subset B' summing to S' , then the items in A corresponding to integers in B' will comprise a nonempty subset that sum to S . Conversely, if A has a subset B that sums to S , choosing the k elements of A' corresponding the integers in B and $n-k$ of the added $2Q$ values in A' will comprise a subset B' that sums to S' .

0-1 Knapsack

- Input: Knapsack with size S , want to fill with items each item i has size s_i and value v_i .
- Output: A subset of items (may take 0 or 1 of each) with $\sum s_i \leq S$ maximizing value $\sum v_i$
- (Subset sum same as 0-1 Knapsack when each $v_i = s_i$, deciding if total value S achievable)
- Example: Items $\{(s_i, v_i)\} = \{(6, 6), (9, 9), (10, 12)\}$, $S = 15$
- Solution: Subset with max value is all items except the last one (greedy fails)

1. Subproblems

- Idea: Is last item in an optimal knapsack? (Guess!)
- If yes, get value v_i and pack remaining space $S - s_i$ using remaining items
- If no, then try to sum to S using remaining items
- $x(i, j)$: maximum value by packing knapsack of size j using items 1 to i

2. Relate

- $$x(i, j) = \begin{cases} \max(x(i-1, j), v_i + x(i-1, j - s_i)) & \text{if } j \geq s_i \\ x(i-1, j) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
- for $i \in [0, n], j \in [0, S]$
- Subproblems $x(i, j)$ only depend on strictly smaller i , so acyclic

3. Base

- $x(i, 0) = 0$ for $i \in [0, n]$, $x(0, j) = 0$ for $j \in [1, S]$

4. Solution

- Solve subproblems via recursive top down or iterative bottom up
- Maximum evaluated expression is given by $x(n, S)$
- Store parent pointers to reconstruct items to put in knapsack

5. Time

- # subproblems: $O(nS)$
- work per subproblem $O(1)$
- $O(nS)$ running time

Exercise: Close Partition (Alternative solution)

Solution: Given integers A , solve a 0-1 Knapsack instance with $s_i = v_i = A[i]$ and $S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a \in A} a$, where the subset returned will be one half of a closest partition.

Exercise: Unbounded Knapsack - Same problem as 0-1 Knapsack, except that you may take as many of any item as you like.

Solution:

1. Subproblems:

- Idea: Guess an item in an optimal knapsack
- If guess item i , receive value v_i , then pack remaining space $S - s_i$
- $x(j)$: maximum value by packing knapsack of size j using the provided items

2. Relate:

- $x(j) = \max(0, \max\{v_i + x(j - s_i) \mid i \in [1, n], s_i \leq j\})$ for $j \in [0, S]$
- Subproblems $x(j)$ only depend on strictly smaller j , so acyclic

3. Base

- $x(0) = 0$ (no space to pack!)

4. Solution

- Solve subproblems via recursive top down or iterative bottom up
- Maximum evaluated expression is given by $x(S)$
- Store parent pointers to reconstruct items to put in knapsack

5. Time

- # subproblems: $O(S)$
- work per subproblem $O(n)$
- $O(nS)$ running time

We've made CoffeeScript visualizers solving both subset sum and 0-1 Knapsack, which you can find here:

<https://codepen.io/mit6006/pen/JeBvKe>

<https://codepen.io/mit6006/pen/VVEPod>