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indy256's blog

Dynamic Programming Optimizations

By [indy256](#), 3 years ago,  

Several recent problems on Codeforces concerned dynamic programming optimization techniques.

The following table summarizes methods known to me.

| Name | Original Recurrence | Sufficient Condition of Applicability |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Convex Hull Optimization1 | $dp[i] = \min_{j < i} \{dp[j] + b[j] * a[i]\}$ | $b[j] \geq b[j + 1]$ optionally $a[i] \leq a[i + 1]$ |
| Convex Hull Optimization2 | $dp[i][j] = \min_{k < j} \{dp[i - 1][k] + b[k] * a[j]\}$ | $b[k] \geq b[k + 1]$ optionally $a[j] \leq a[j + 1]$ |
| Divide and Conquer Optimization | $dp[i][j] = \min_{k < j} \{dp[i - 1][k] + C[k][j]\}$ | $A[i][j] \leq A[i][j + 1]$ |
| Knuth Optimization | $dp[i][j] = \min_{i < k < j} \{dp[i][k] + dp[k][j]\} + C[i][j]$ | $A[i, j - 1] \leq A[i, j] \leq A[i + 1, j]$ |

Notes:

- $A[i][j]$ — the smallest k that gives optimal answer, for example in $dp[i][j] = dp[i - 1][k] + C[k][j]$
- $C[i][j]$ — some given cost function
- We can generalize a bit in the following way: $dp[i] = \min_{j < i} \{F[j] + b[j] * a[i]\}$, where $F[j]$ is computed from $dp[j]$ in constant time.
- It looks like **Convex Hull Optimization2** is a special case of **Divide and Conquer Optimization**.
- It is claimed (in the references) that **Knuth Optimization** is applicable if $C[i][j]$ satisfies the following 2 conditions:
 - quadrangle inequality**: $C[a][c] + C[b][d] \leq C[a][d] + C[b][c]$, $a \leq b \leq c \leq d$
 - monotonicity**: $C[b][c] \leq C[a][d]$, $a \leq b \leq c \leq d$
- It is claimed (in the references) that the recurrence $dp[j] = \min_{i < j} \{dp[i] + C[i][j]\}$ can be solved in $O(n \log n)$ (and even $O(n)$) if $C[i][j]$ satisfies **quadrangle inequality**. [WJMZBMR](#) described how to solve some case of this problem.

Open questions:

- Are there any other optimization techniques?
- What is the sufficient condition of applying **Divide and Conquer Optimization** in terms of function $C[i][j]$? [Answered](#)

References:


- "Efficient dynamic programming using quadrangle inequalities" by F. Frances Yao. [find](#)
- "Speed-Up in Dynamic Programming" by F. Frances Yao. [find](#)
- "The Least Weight Subsequence Problem" by D. S. Hirschberg, L. L. Larmore. [find](#)

→ [Pay attention](#)

Before contest

[Technocup 2017 - Elimination Round 2](#)
 (Unofficially Open for Everyone. Rated for Div. 2)
 2 weeks

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Handle:

Find

- "Dynamic programming with convexity, concavity and sparsity" by Zvi Galil, Kunsoo Park. [find](#)
- "A Linear-Time Algorithm for Concave One-Dimensional Dynamic Programming" by Zvi Galil, Kunsoo Park. [find](#)

Please, share your knowledge and links on the topic.

dynamic programming, knuth optimization, convex hull optimization

+388



indy256

3 years ago

44



Comments (44)

[Write comment?](#)

3 years ago, # | ☆

← Rev. 4 +27

Here is another way to optimize some 1D1D dynamic programming problem that I know.

Suppose that the old choice will only be worse compare to the new choice(it is quite common in such kind of problems).

Then suppose at current time we are deal with dp_i , and we have some choice $a_0 < a_1 < a_2, \dots, a_{k-1} < a_k$. then we know at current time a_i should be better than a_{i+1} . Otherwise it will never be better than a_{i+1} , so it is useless.



WJMZBMR

we can use a deque to store all the a_i .

And Also Let us denote $D(a, b)$ as the smallest i such that choice b will be better than a .

If $D(a_i, a_{i+1}) > D(a_{i+1}, a_{i+2})$, we can find a_{i+1} is also useless because when it overpass a_i , it is already overpass by a_{i+2} .

So we also let $D(a_i, a_{i+1}) < D(a_{i+1}, a_{i+2})$. then we can find the overpass will only happen at the front of the deque.

So we can maintain this deque quickly, and if we can solve $D(a, b)$ in $O(1)$, it can run in $O(n)$.

→ [Reply](#)



kingofnumbers

3 years ago, # ^ | ☆

+3

could you please give some example problems?

→ [Reply](#)



cgy4ever

3 years ago, # | ☆

+5

For question 2: The sufficient condition is:

$C[a][d] + C[b][c] \geq C[a][c] + C[b][d]$ where $a < b < c < d$.

→ [Reply](#)



wanbo

3 years ago, # ^ | ☆

0

Is it quadrangle inequalities? $\forall i, j, w[i, j] + w[i+1, j+1] \leq w[i+1, j] + w[i, j+1]$, and are these two inequalities equivalent except the \geq & \leq ?

→ [Reply](#)



Sammarize

3 years ago, # | ☆

+18

There is one more optimization of dynamic programming: 101E - Candies and Stones (editorial)

→ [Reply](#)

new, 11 days ago, # ^ | ☆

+3

More Problem Collection

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khatribiru

more problem correction.

→ [Reply](#)

kingofnumbers

3 years ago, # | ☆

▲ +13 ▼

you have put problem "B. Cats Transport" in "Convex Hull Optimization1", actually it belongs to "Convex Hull Optimization2"

→ [Reply](#)

indy256

3 years ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ +5 ▼

fixed

→ [Reply](#)

Zlobober

3 years ago, # | ☆

← Rev. 2 ▲ +55 ▼

For this moment it's the most useful topic of this year. Exactly in the middle: June 30th, 2013.

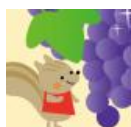
→ [Reply](#)

MarioYC

3 years ago, # | ☆

▲ +8 ▼

this one seemed a nice dp with optimization to me: <https://www.hackerrank.com/contests/monthly/challenges/alien-languages>

→ [Reply](#)

hogloid

3 years ago, # | ☆

← Rev. 4 ▲ +29 ▼

The problem mentioned in the article (Breaking Strings) is "Optimal Binary Search Tree Problem", traditional one.

It can be solved by simple DP in $O(N^3)$, by using Knuth's optimization, in $O(N^2)$. But it still can be solved in $O(N \log N)$ — <http://poj.org/problem?id=1738> (same problem but bigger testcases) (I don't know how to solve it. I hear the algorithm uses meld-able heap)

→ [Reply](#)

3 years ago, # | ☆

▲ +20 ▼

Convex Hull Optimization 1 Problems:

- [APIO 2010 task Commando](#)
- [TRAKA](#)
- [ACQUIRE](#)
- [SkyScrapers \(+Data Structures\)](#)



Giorgos_Christoglou

Convex Hull Optimization 2 Problems:

- [BAABO](#)

Convex Hull Optimization 3 Problems (No conditions for $a[]$ array and $b[]$ array) :

- [GOODG](#)
- [BOI 2012 Day 2 Balls](#)
- [Cow School](#)
- [Solution-Video](#)

→ [Reply](#)

victorsenam

10 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

GOODG can be solved with Type 1

→ [Reply](#)

gninrael

6 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

How? I noticed that, in this problem, $b[j]$ follows no order and $a[i]$ can be either decreasing or increasing, depending on how the equation is modeled. I was able to

solve it using the fully dynamic variant but I can't see

solve it using the fully dynamic variant, but I can't see how to apply the "type 1" optimization.

→ [Reply](#)

6 months ago, # ^ | ☆ ← Rev. 2 ▲ 0 ▼



samier_aldroubi

Can you add a link to your code I tried to implement the dynamic variant few weeks ago but there were so many bugs in my code :(.Maybe yours can help :/ .

→ [Reply](#)



victorsenam

10 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ +3 ▼

New link for Commando:

<http://www.spoj.com/problems/APIO10A/>

→ [Reply](#)



zscefn

3 years ago, # | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

For some reason I cannot open the links with firefox because they go over the Top Rated table.

→ [Reply](#)



indy256

3 years ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ +4 ▼

Try to zoom out, pressing Ctrl + -

→ [Reply](#)



Monyura

3 years ago, # | ☆

← Rev. 2 ▲ +8 ▼

One more problem where Knuth Optimization is used:

[Andrew Stankevich Contest 10, Problem C.](#)

BTW, does anybody know how to insert a direct link to a problem from gyms?

→ [Reply](#)



mbrc

2 years ago, # | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

I need some problems to solve on Divide and Conquer Optimization. Where can I find them? An online judge / testdata available would be helpful.

→ [Reply](#)



Giorgos_Christoglou

2 years ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ +1 ▼

Check this one : [Guardians of the Lunatics](#)

→ [Reply](#)



mbrc

2 years ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

Learnt Divide and Conquer Optimization just from there.

:P That is why I'm asking for more problems to practice.

:D

→ [Reply](#)



sifrit98

13 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

Is this the best complexity for this problem? Can't we do any better? Can't we somehow turn the logL needed into a constant?

→ [Reply](#)

13 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

We can, using that $\text{opt}[i-1][j] \leq \text{opt}[i][j] \leq \text{opt}[i][j+1]$.



Key thing is to see that opt function is monotone for both arguments. With that observation, we

don't need to use binary search

micklepru

don't need to use binary search.

Check out my submission.

→ [Reply](#)

92anurag

2 years ago, # | ☆

▲ +3 ▼

can anyone provide me good editorial for dp with bitmask .

→ [Reply](#)

I_love_Meta_MZ

2 years ago, # | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

Has matrix-exponent optimizations been included here?

→ [Reply](#)

Farsid

2 years ago, # | ☆

▲ +2 ▼

Can matrix chain multiplication problem b also optimized by knuth optimization? If not, dn why?

→ [Reply](#)

2 years ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ +3 ▼

Quote from the first of the references above:

The monotonicity property for the division points does not hold for the matrix multiplication chain problem...

indy256

*Consider the matrices M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4 with dimensions 2×3 , 3×2 , 2×10 , and 10×1 , respectively. As can be easily verified, the proper order to compute $M_1 M_2 M_3$ is to parenthesize it as $(M_1 M_2) M_3$, while the optimal computation of $M_1 M_2 M_3 M_4$ corresponds to $M_1 (M_2 (M_3 M_4))$.*The second reference gives $O(n^2)$ dynamic programming solution, based on some properties of the matrix chain multiplication problem.There is also an $O(n * \log n)$ algorithm by Hu and Shing.→ [Reply](#)

Thomas_Ahle

18 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

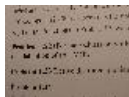
Link to the Hu and Shing algorithm?

→ [Reply](#)

4 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

Here is a link to a 1981 version of the thesis. The original was published in two parts in 1982 and 1984.



gsCEA

<http://i.stanford.edu/pub/cstr/reports/cs/tr/81/875/CS-TR-81-875.pdf>

However, I doubt that this will be used in competitive programming.

→ [Reply](#)

mayankp

20 months ago, # | ☆

▲ +1 ▼

What are some recent USACO questions that use this technique or variations of it?

→ [Reply](#)

16 months ago, # | ☆

← Rev. 6

▲ 0 ▼

Can this problem be solved using convex hull optimization?

You are given a sequence A of N positive integers. Let's define "value of a



ACMath

You are given a sequence A of N positive integers. Let's define "value of a splitting" the sequence to K blocks as a sum of maximums in each of K blocks. For given K find the minimal possible value of splittings.

$$N \leq 10^5$$

$$K \leq 100$$

Input:

5 2

1 2 3 4 5

→ [Reply](#)**Output:**

6



Na2a

16 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

I don't think so, but I guess it can be solved by Divide And Conquer optimization.

→ [Reply](#)

15 months ago, # | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

Could you elaborate a little me more in the "Convex Hull Optimization2" and other sections for the clearer notations.



vdmeddragon

For example, You have "k" — a constant in $O(kn^2)$. So the first dimension is of the length K and the second dimension is of the length N ?

I think it would be clearer if you can write $dp[n]$, $dp[k][n]$... instead of $dp[i]$, $dp[i][j]$.

Best regards,

→ [Reply](#)

anh11ator

5 months ago, # | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

I don't get it why there is a $O(\log N)$ depth of recursion in Divide and conquer optimization ?

Can someone explain it ?

→ [Reply](#)

Na2a

5 months ago, # ^ | ☆

← Rev. 2

▲ +3 ▼

Because each time range is decreased twice.

→ [Reply](#)

5 months ago, # ^ | ☆

← Rev. 2

▲ 0 ▼

Oh, that was very trivial.



anh11ator

I get it now, we spend total $O(N)$ for computing the cost at each depth $2N$ to be specific at the last level of recursion tree.

And therefore $O(N * \log N)$ is the cost of whole computation in dividing conquer scheme for relaxation.

Thanks

→ [Reply](#)

4 months ago, # | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

Hello , I have a doubt can anyone help?



anh11ator

In the divide and conquer optimization ,can we always say that it is possible to use in a system where we have to minimize the sum of cost of k continuous segments(such that their union is the whole array and their intersection is null set) such that the cost of segment increases with increase in length of the segment?

I feel so we can and we can prove it using contradiction Thanks :)

→ [Reply](#)

3 months ago, # | ☆

▲ +5 ▼



xforceco

For convex hull optimizations, with only $b[j] \geq b[j + 1]$ but WITHOUT $a[i] \leq a[i + 1]$,

I don't think the complexity can be improved to $O(n)$, but only $O(n \log n)$ Is there any example that can show I am wrong?

→ Reply



MPeti

3 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

I think you're right

→ Reply



xforceco

3 months ago, # | ☆

▲ +15 ▼

ZOJ is currently dead. For the problem "Breaking String" (Knuth opt.), please find at [here](#)

→ Reply



indy256

3 months ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ +13 ▼

fixed

→ Reply



So_Cold

2 months ago, # | ☆

▲ 0 ▼

please someone tell me why in convex hull optimization should be $b[j] \geq b[j + 1]$ and $a[i] \leq a[i + 1]$

in [APIO'10 Commando](#) the DP equation is

$$Dp[i] = -2 * a * pre_sum[j] * pre_sum[i] + pre_sum[j]^2 + Dp[j] - b * pre_sum[j] + a * pre_sum[i]^2 + b * pre_sum[i] + c$$

we can use convex hull trick so the line is $y = A * X + B$

$$A = -2 * a * pre_sum[j]$$

$$X = pre_sum[i]$$

$$B = pre_sum[j]^2 + Dp[j] - b * pre_sum[j]$$

$$Z = a * pre_sum[i]^2 + b * pre_sum[i] + c$$

and then we can add to $Dp[i] += Z$, because z has no relation with j

the question is, since a is always negative (according to the problem statement) and $pre_sum[i], pre_sum[j]$ is always increasing we conclude that $b[j] \leq b[j + 1]$ and $a[i] \leq a[i + 1]$

I've coded it with convex hull trick and got AC, and the official solution is using convex hull trick

someone please explain to me why I'm wrong or why that is happening

thanks in advance

→ Reply



dcms2

5 weeks ago, # ^ | ☆

▲ +8 ▼

if $b[j] \geq b[j + 1]$, then the technique is going to calculate the minimum value of the lines, if $b[j] \leq b[j + 1]$, then it's going to calculate the maximum value of the lines, as this problem requires.

→ Reply