

# Classic "Sequence with Transition Constraint" DP Problems

## Paint / Coloring Problems

### 1. Paint House I (LeetCode 256)

- Each house can be painted with 3 colors.
- Adjacent houses can't have the same color.
- $dp[i][color] = \min \text{ cost up to house } i \text{ with color } .$

### 2. Paint House II (LeetCode 265)

- Generalization with  $k$  colors.
- Need optimization for  $O(n \cdot k) \rightarrow O(n \cdot k)$  with min-tracking.

### 3. Paint Fence (LeetCode 276)

- No more than 2 adjacent fences can have the same color.

## Training / Task Scheduling

### 4. Ninja's Training / Geek's Training (GFG)

- Pick 1 of 3 activities per day, no two consecutive days same activity.

### 5. Activity Selection with Constraints

- Each day choose one of  $k$  activities, can't repeat yesterday's.
- Sometimes adds cooldown (like "can't pick task again for 2 days").

### 6. House Robber I (LeetCode 198)

- Linear houses, can't rob adjacent.
- $dp[i] = \max(dp[i-1], dp[i-2] + val[i]) .$

### 7. House Robber II (LeetCode 213)

- Houses in a circle (first and last also adjacent).

### 8. House Robber III (LeetCode 337)

- Houses in a tree, can't rob parent & child simultaneously.
- Tree DP version.



## Scheduling / Job Problems

9. **Maximum Alternating Subsequence Sum (LeetCode 1911)**
  - Pick elements with alternating  $\pm$  contribution.
  - Similar to "choose, but not same mode as before".
10. **Stock Buy and Sell with Cooldown (LeetCode 309)**
  - State machine DP (buy, sell, cooldown).
  - Transition restricted by last action.
11. **Stock Buy and Sell with Fee (LeetCode 714)**
  - Variation with fee deduction on sell.
12. **Weighted Job Scheduling (LeetCode 1235)**
  - Jobs with start & end times, can't overlap.
  - Transition depends on compatibility with previous job.



## Subsequence/Sequence Constraints

13. **Longest Alternating Subsequence (GFG / LeetCode 376)**
  - Difference between consecutive elements must alternate sign.
14. **Delete and Earn (LeetCode 740)**
  - Pick a number, can't pick adjacent numbers (similar to House Robber).
15. **Frog Jump (GFG / Codeforces style)**
  - Frog can jump 1 or 2 steps, minimize cost.
  - Transition depends on previous step.
16. **Frog Jump with K Distance**
  - Generalization: can jump up to K steps.



## Expression / Partition Problems

17. **Palindrome Partitioning II (LeetCode 132)**
  - Cut string into palindromes, minimize partitions.
  - Transition depends on previous partition.
18. **Evaluate Boolean Expression to True (GFG)**
  - Partition expression at operators, combine results.
  - State:  $(i, j, isTrue)$ .
19. **Burst Balloons (LeetCode 312)**

- Interval DP, last balloon to burst in range matters.

## 20. Matrix Chain Multiplication

- Order of multiplication restricted by partitions.

## Key Patterns

- **Paint House / Ninja Training** → *Pick one of  $k$  options, can't repeat last.*
- **House Robber / Delete and Earn** → *Can't take adjacent items.*
- **Stock DP** → *Action restricted by last action (buy/sell/cooldown).*
- **Partition DP** → *Split problem at some  $k$ , transition depends on split.*