

## 2 Egg Drop

- (a)  $f(1, k) = 1$   
 $f(0, k) = 0$   
 $f(n, 1) = n$   
 $f(n, 0) = \infty$
- (b) If we drop eggs from  $i$ -th layer ( $0 \leq i \leq n$ ), two conditions would happen a breath away:  
 if egg broken, the subproblem will be  $f(i - 1, k - 1)$ ;  
 if else, the subproblem will be  $f(n - i, k)$ .  
 so the recurrence relation for  $f(n, k)$  is:

$$f(n, k) = 1 + \min(\{ \max(f(i - 1, k - 1), f(n - i, k)) \}, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\})$$

## 3 Paper Cutting

- (a) We define  $B[i_1, j_1, i_2, j_2]$  to be the minimum number of cuts needed to separate the sub-matrix  $A[i_1 \leq i_2, j_1 \leq j_2]$  into pieces consisting either entirely of pieces with stains on them or clean pieces.

(b)

$$B[i_1, j_1, i_2, j_2] = \min \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if all entries of } A[i_1 \dots i_2, j_1 \dots j_2] \text{ are equal} \\ 1 + B[i_1, j_1, i_1 + k, j_2] + B[i_1 + k + 1, j_1, i_2, j_2] & \text{for any } k \in \{1, \dots, i_2 - i_1\} \\ 1 + B[i_1, j_1, i_2, j_1 + k] + B[i_1, j_1 + k + 1, i_2, j_2] & \text{for any } k \in \{1, \dots, j_2 - j_1\} \end{cases}$$

Alternatively, you could have also encapsulated the 0 base case in all single-square pieces, and determined if a piece was pure via the merging, see below.

- (c) Two answers are acceptable:  $O((m + n)m^2n^2)$  and  $O(m^3n^3)$

We have  $O(m^2n^2)$  total subproblems:  $O(mn)$  possibilities for  $(i_1, j_1)$ , and  $O(mn)$  possibilities for  $(i_2, j_2)$ . For each subproblem, we examine up to  $m$  possible choices for horizontal splits, and  $n$  possible choices for vertical splits. A single split consideration will result in two smaller subproblems, which we can assume have already been solved, so we just need to find the best split, which takes  $O(n + m)$  time.

In addition, for a subproblem, we also want to check the base case for if the piece is “pure” (contains only clean paper, or contains only paper with stains). Brute force checking this takes  $O(mn)$  time, for a total subproblem time of  $O(mn + (m + n)) \Rightarrow O(mn)$ .

However, this  $O(mn)$  factor can be reduced to  $O(m + n)$  (this is not required to receive full points). We can pre-compute the purities of every single possible subrectangle and store it in a table. Technically, for us to pre-compute faster than  $O(m^3n^3)$ , we’ll need to compute the purities more intelligently than by brute-force. It is possible to do this in as fast as  $O(\max\{m, n^2\})$  time, although the details of this are complicated and won’t be explained here. So to solve our recurrence relation, if we can determine purity/impurity in  $O(1)$  time, then we can reach an overall time of  $O((m + n)m^2n^2)$ .

Alternatively, we can initialize all min-cut values of single square pieces to be 0. Then, if it is possible to have some cut such that both resulting pieces have min-cut values of 0, and both resulting pieces are of the same type (clean-only or stain-only, and we can take any sample of either and compare them), then we ourselves are a pure piece. This would allow you to avoid the entire pre-computation business as mentioned before, and still achieve a runtime of  $O((m + n)m^2n^2)$ .