

**Matrix Multiplication Assignment (Dynamic Programming)**  
**Due: December 5, 2016**

Given  $n$  matrices and their dimensions, write a function to determine the associative order of multiplication that minimizes the number of numeric multiplications required. As we know, if two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  have dimensions  $r_A \times c_A$  and  $r_B \times c_B$ , multiplication is possible iff  $c_A = r_B$ . If this condition holds, the cost (number of numeric multiplications) is  $r_A \times r_B \times c_B$  (or equivalently,  $r_A \times c_A \times c_B$ ). Then, for example, if we have four matrices  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$  and  $D$ , having dimensions  $2 \times 10$ ,  $10 \times 5$ ,  $5 \times 1$  and  $1 \times 7$ , respectively, computing  $(AB)(CD)$  requires 205 multiplications, whereas computing  $(A(BC))D$  requires only 84 multiplications. Since returning merely a number gives us no clue as to how to achieve it, your function will return the associative order of multiplication as a string containing only asterisks and parentheses, with the asterisks as placeholders for the matrices, and the parentheses indicating the multiplicative grouping. For example, “ $(**))*$ ” (quotes not included!) would indicate  $(A_0(A_1A_2))A_3$ . Specifically, your function’s signature is

```
string matmul(const VI& d)
```

where  $\mathbf{d}$  is an  $(n + 1)$ -element vector such that the  $i^{\text{th}}$  matrix has dimensions  $\mathbf{d}[\mathbf{i}] \times \mathbf{d}[\mathbf{i} + 1]$ .

The number of matrices,  $n$  satisfies  $3 \leq n \leq 1000$ , and each matrix dimension  $\mathbf{d}[\mathbf{i}]$  satisfies  $1 \leq \mathbf{d}[\mathbf{i}] \leq 1000$ .