LeetCode Practice

Outline

Divide and Conquer

Dynamic Programming

Monotonic Stack

► Hint 1: Merging and find k-th element will result in O(m + n) time

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You can do the following:

The middle element of the first array is the $\frac{m}{2}$ -th element. Then determine its position in the 2nd array with binary search, say k. Now, it's $\frac{m}{2} + k$ -th element in the merged array. If this is smaller than $\frac{m+n}{2}$, we should proceed with the right half of the first array, otherwise, left half.

Median of Two Sorted Array (#4) Solution

```
class Solution {
public:
  int findKth(vector<int>& nums1, vector<int>& nums2, int s1, int e1, int k) {
    if (s1 == e1)
      return nums2[k - e1 - 1]:
    int mid = (s1 + e1) / 2:
    auto it = lower bound(nums2.begin(), nums2.end(), nums1[mid]);
    int rank = mid + distance(nums2.begin(), it) + 1;
   if (rank == k)
     return nums1[mid]:
    if (rank > k)
      return findKth(nums1, nums2, s1, mid, k);
   return findKth(nums1, nums2, mid + 1, e1, k);
 double findMedianSortedArrays(vector<int>& nums1, vector<int>& nums2) {
    int sz = nums1.size() + nums2.size():
    if (sz \% 2 == 0) {
      return (findKth(nums1, nums2, 0, nums1.size(), sz / 2) +
              findKth(nums1, nums2, 0, nums1.size(), sz / 2 + 1)) / 2.0;
    return findKth(nums1, nums2, 0, nums1.size(), sz / 2 + 1);
};
```

Edit Distance (#72)

Edit distance refers to a group of dynamic programming problems that mostly contains alignment of two or more sequences. The edit distance between two string can be described with the following formula:

$$dist(i,j) = \begin{cases} dist(i-1,j-1) & \text{if } A_i = B_j \\ min(dist(i-1,j), dist(i,j-1), dist(i-1,j-1)) + 1 \end{cases}$$

$$(1)$$

Edit Distance (#72) Solution

```
class Solution {
    public int minDistance(String word1, String word2) {
        int[][] dist = new int[word1.length() + 1][word2.length() + 1];
        for (int i = 0; i < word1.length(); i++) {
            for (int j = 0; j < word2.length(); j++) {
                dist[i + 1][j + 1] = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
        // Usually, using additional [0][0] can simplify subscript initialization.
        dist[0][0] = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < word1.length(); i++)</pre>
            dist[i + 1][0] = i + 1;
        for (int i = 0; i < word2.length(); i++)
            dist[0][i + 1] = i + 1;
        for (int i = 0; i < word1.length(); i++) {
            for (int j = 0; j < word2.length(); j++) {</pre>
                if (word1.charAt(i) == word2.charAt(j)) {
                    dist[i + 1][j + 1] = dist[i][j];
                } else {
                    dist[i + 1][j + 1] = Math.min(Math.min(dist[i][j + 1],
                            dist[i + 1][j]), dist[i][j]) + 1;
        return dist[word1.length()][word2.length()];
```

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 - "ab" and "cb"
 - "ab?" and "abc"

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 - "ab" and "cb"
 - "ab?" and "abc"
- ► Hint 3: You can simplify cases like "**" to "*"
- Hint 4: The formula is:

$$match(i,j) = \begin{cases} false \text{ if } A_i \neq B_j \land A_i \neq * \land A_i \neq ?\\ match(i-1,j-1) \text{ if } A_i = B_j \lor A_i = ?\\ match(i,j-1) \lor match(i-1,j) \text{ if } A_i = * \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

Wildcard Matching (#44) Solution

► Hint 1: Imagine we have a prefix of S3, S1, S2, say S3', S1', S2'. What happens if the last character of S3' equals the last character of S1' or S2'?

- ► Hint 1: Imagine we have a prefix of S3, S1, S2, say S3′, S1′, S2′. What happens if the last character of S3′ equals the last character of S1′ or S2′?
- ▶ Hint 2: Let i,j be the length of the prefix S1', S2'. The last character of S3' at this point is S3(i+j-1). What is the formula?

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- ▶ Hint 2: Let i, j be the length of the prefix S1', S2'. The last character of S3' at this point is $S3_(i + j 1)$. What is the formula?
- Hint 3: The formula is:

Interleaving String (#97) Solution

```
public boolean isInterleave(String s1, String s2, String s3) {
    if (s1.length() + s2.length() != s3.length()) {
       return false:
    boolean[][] dp = new boolean[s1.length() + 1][s2.length() + 1];
    dp[0][0] = true:
    for (int i = 0: i < s1.length(): i++) {
        dp[i + 1][0] = dp[i][0] && s1.charAt(i) == s3.charAt(i);
    for (int j = 0; j < s2.length(); j++) {
        dp[0][j + 1] = dp[0][j] \&\& s2.charAt(j) == s3.charAt(j);
    for (int i = 0; i < s1.length(); i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < s2.length(); j++) {
            if (s3.charAt(i + j + 1) == s1.charAt(i) \&\& s3.charAt(i + j + 1) == s2.charAt(j)) {
                dp[i + 1][j + 1] = dp[i][j + 1] || dp[i + 1][j];
                continue;
            if (s3.charAt(i + j + 1) == s1.charAt(i)) {
                dp[i + 1][j + 1] = dp[i][j + 1];
                continue;
            if (s3.charAt(i + j + 1) == s2.charAt(j)) {
                dp[i + 1][j + 1] = dp[i + 1][j];
                continue;
            dp[i + 1][j + 1] = false:
   return dp[s1.length()][s2.length()];
```

Minimum ASCII Delete Sum for Two Strings (#712)

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Minimum ASCII Delete Sum for Two Strings (#712) Solution

Regular Expression Matching (#10)

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► Hint 1: Todo

Regular Expression Matching (#10)

// TODO

Single Sequence Styled DP

There is only one sequence. Current state is often determined by 1 or more previous states.

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- ► Hint 2: We can keep a minimum value seen so far and check is $P_i min$ is greater than current maximum.

Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock I (#121) Solution

```
public int maxProfit(int[] prices) {
  int minPrice = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
  int maxProfit = 0;
  for (int p : prices) {
    if (p - minPrice > maxProfit)
        maxProfit = p - minPrice;
    if (minPrice > p)
        minPrice = p;
    }
  return maxProfit;
}
```

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- ► Hint 2: You can use two states: bought and sold. How should they transfer upon seeing a new price? e.g. What will happen if bought -> sold at p? Or sold -> bought at p?
- ► Hint 3: At price p, we could have:

```
sold = max(bought + p, sold)
bought = max(bought, sold - p)
```

Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock II (Solution)

```
public int maxProfit(int[] prices) {
   int maxBought = Integer.MIN_VALUE;
   int maxSold = 0;

   for (int p : prices) {
      if (maxBought + p > maxSold)
            maxSold = maxBought + p;
      if (maxSold - p > maxBought)
            maxBought = maxSold - p;
      return maxSold;
}
```

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- ▶ Hint 2: We can use the following states:
 - Bought1, in 1st transaction, holding 1 stock.
 - Sold1, 1 transaction completed and not holding anything.
 - Bought2, in 2nd transaction, holding 1 stock.
 - Sold2, 2 transaction completed and not holding anything.

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 - Bought2, in 2nd transaction, holding 1 stock.
 - Sold2, 2 transaction completed and not holding anything.
- ► Hint 3: The state transfer would be: 0 (buy) -> Bought1 (sell) -> Sold1 (buy) -> Bought2 -> (sell) -> Sold2

 At each price P, the above sequence could happen and we'll take the max of each.

```
public int maxProfit(int[] prices) {
   int maxBought_1 = Integer.MIN_VALUE;
   int maxSold_1 = 0;
   int maxSold_2 = C;

   for (int p : prices) {
      maxBought_1 = Math.max(maxBought_1, -p);
      if (maxBought_1 + p > maxSold_1)
            maxSold_1 = maxBought_1 + p;
      if (maxSold_1 = maxBought_1 + p;
      if (maxSold_1 - p > maxSold_1 - p;
            if (maxBought_2 = maxSold_1 - p;
            if (maxBought_2 = maxSold_2)
            maxSold_2 = maxBought_2 + p;
            return maxSold_2;
    }
}
```

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- ► Hint 2: Now we have k states instead of 2. How do you represent them?
- ▶ Hint 3: Still the states could be represented as:

```
maxBought[0] = max(maxBought[0], -p)
maxBought[i] = max(maxSold[i - 1] - p, maxBought[i])
maxSold[i] = max(maxBought[i] + p, maxSold[i])
```

```
public int maxProfit(int k, int[] prices) {
    if (k == 0 || prices.length == 0) {
       return 0;
    // When k > prices.length / 2, this problem is simplified to
   // Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock II as you can complete as
    // many transactions as you like. This is here only to handle
    // LeetCode's corner cases.
    if (k > prices.length / 2) {
        int maxBought = Integer.MIN VALUE:
        int maxSold = 0:
        for (int p : prices) {
            if (maxBought + p > maxSold)
                maxSold = maxBought + p:
            if (maxSold - p > maxBought)
                maxBought = maxSold - p:
        return maxSold:
    int[] maxBought = new int[k]:
    int[] maxSold = new int[k]:
    Arrays.fill(maxBought, Integer.MIN VALUE);
    for (int p : prices) {
        maxBought[0] = Math.max(maxBought[0], -p);
        for (int i = 0; i < k - 1; i++) {
            maxSold[i] = Math.max(maxBought[i] + p, maxSold[i]);
            maxBought[i + 1] = Math.max(maxSold[i] - p, maxBought[i + 1]);
        \max Sold[k-1] = Math.max(\max Sold[k-1], \max Bought[k-1] + p);
    return maxSold[k - 1]:
```

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- Hint 3: The formula is:

```
let i = 0..k such that prices(n - 1, i) is smallest j = 0..k such that prices(n - 1, j) is second smallest prices(n, k) = prices(n - 1, i) + cost[n][k], if i != k prices(n - 1, j) + cost[n][k], if i := k
```

Do you need O(nk) storage space?

Paint House II (Solution)

```
public int minCostII(int[][] costs) {
    if (costs.length == 0)
        return 0;
    int [] cost = new int[costs[0].length];
    for (int i = 0; i < costs[0].length; i++)
        cost[i] = costs[0][i];
    for (int i = 1; i < costs.length; i++) {
        int[] prices = costs[i];
        // Find the lowest 2 cost.
        int minCost1 = Integer.MAX_VALUE, minColor1 = -1;
        int minCost2 = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
        for (int j = 0; j < cost.length; j++) {
            if (cost[j] < minCost1) {
                minCost2 = minCost1:
                minCost1 = cost[i]:
                minColor1 = i:
                continue:
            if (cost[j] < minCost2) {</pre>
                minCost2 = cost[i]:
        for (int j = 0; j < prices.length; j++) {
            if (i == minColor1) {
                cost[i] = minCost2 + prices[i]:
                cost[i] = minCost1 + prices[i]:
    return Arrays.stream(cost).min().orElse(-1);
```

Max Consecutive Ones (#485)

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- ► Hint 1: It's quite similar to Stock. What is the state you'll need to keep?
- ► Hint 2: You can keep two numbers: current consecutive ones and a max.

Max Consecutive Ones (#485) Solution

```
public int findMaxConsecutiveOnes(int[] nums) {
   int max = 0;
   int current = 0;
   for (int x : nums) {
      if (x == 0) current = 0;
      else current += 1;
      max = Math.max(max, current);
   }
   return max;
}
```

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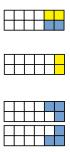
```
step(i) = step(i - 1) + step(i - 2)
```

So it only depends on 2 variables. And yes, it's same as getting n-th element from Fibonacci sequence.

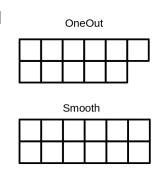
Climbing Stairs (#70) Solution

```
public int climbStairs(int n) {
   int a0 = 0;
   int a1 = 1;
   for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
      int a2 = a0 + a1;
      a0 = a1;
      a1 = a2;
    }
   return a1;
}</pre>
```

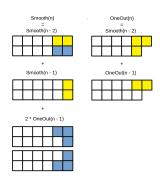
► Hint 1: Consider the following graph. How many types of states are there?



► Hint 2: We can classify them into two categories: OneOut and Smooth. How can you construct the subproblem for both types?



► Hint 3: You can have the following formula:



Domino and Tromino Tiling (#790) Solution

```
public int numTilings(int N) {
    final int MOD = 1000000007;

if (N == 0) return 0;
if (N == 1) return 1;
if (N == 2) return 2;

// Use long to avoid overflow during addition.
long[] smooth = new long[N];

smooth[0] = 1;
smooth[1] = 2;
oneOut[1] = 1;

for (int i = 2; i < N; i++) {
    smooth[i] = (smooth[i - 1] + smooth[i - 2] + 2 * oneOut[i - 1]) % MOD;
}

return (int) smooth[N - 1];
}</pre>
```

Bonus Point: Can you solve it with O(1) space?

Domino and Tromino (#790) Solution

Notice that $smooth_i$ / $oneOut_i$ only depends on $smooth_{i-1}$, $smooth_{i-2}$ and $oneOut_{i-1}$.

```
public int numTilings(int N) {
   if (N == 0) return 0;
   if (N == 1) return 1;

   final int MOD = 10000000007;

   long smooth0 = 1;
   long smooth1 = 2;
   long oneOut0 = 1;

   for (int i = 2; i < N; i++) {
      long smooth2 = (smooth1 + smooth0 + 2 * oneOut0) % MOD;
      smooth0 = smooth0 + oneOut0) % MOD;
      smooth1 = smooth1;
   }

   return (int) smooth1;
}</pre>
```

► Hint 1: Whether the frog can reach stone; depends solely on stones (0..i-1).

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- ► Hint 2: If the frog jumps from stone_j to stone_i, it must have jumped from another stone_k to stone_j, where |i - j - (j - k)| <= 1.</p>

- ► Hint 1: Whether the frog can reach stone; depends solely on stones (0..i-1).
- ► Hint 2: If the frog jumps from stone_j to stone_i, it must have jumped from another stone_k to stone_j, where |i - j - (j - k)| <= 1.</p>
- ► Hint 3: One way to express this is:

Frog Jump (#403) Solution

Knapsack Styled DP

Knapsack problems are pseudo-polynomial time. They require DP over the value domain of some of the parameters. The characteristic of the problems of this kind is they are often quite small on value range. For example, in subset sum, the largest number is usually in terms of 100s.

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- ► Hint 2: For a specific coin, I can use it or not use it. What is the difference?
- ► Hint 3: The formula is:

```
// # of ways to make value k from coins 0..n:
coin(n, k) =
// We don't use coin[n] or use it
coin(n - 1, k) + coin(n, k - value[n])
```

Coin Change II (#518) Solution

```
public int change(int amount, int[] coins) {
    int[][] dp = new int[coins.length + 1][amount + 1];
    for (int i = 0; i <= coins.length; i++) {
        dp[i][0] = 1;
    }

    for (int i = 0; i < coins.length; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j <= amount; j++) {
            int useCoin = (j) = coins[i]) ? dp[i + 1][j - coins[i]] : 0;
            dp[i + 1][j] = useCoin + dp[i][j];
        }
    return dp[coins.length][amount];
}</pre>
```

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- ▶ Hint 2: We can use change as state. What is the formula?
- ► Hint 3: The formula is:

```
changes[i] = \min(changes[i - coins[j]] + 1) \ for \ j = 0 \ to \ coins.length.
```

You'll need to work out the corner cases.

Coin Change I (#322) Solution

```
public int coinChange(int[] coins, int change) {
   int[] changes = new int[change + 1];
   Arrays.fill(changes, Integer.MAX_VALUE);

   changes[0] = 0;
   for (int i = 0; i < coins.length; i++) {
        if (coins[i] <= change) {
            changes[coins[i]] = 1;
        }
   }
}

for (int i = 1; i <= change; i++) {
        for (int coin : coins) {
            if (i >= coin && changes[i - coin] != Integer.MAX_VALUE) {
                changes[i] = Math.min(changes[i], changes[i - coin] + 1);
        }
   }
}

return changes[change] == Integer.MAX_VALUE ? -1 : changes[change];
}
```

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- ► Hint 2: The target change is sum/2. The contraint is each coin can only be used once. How should you encode such info in the formula?
- ► Hint 3: The formula is:

```
// canSum(i, target) represents whether we can select nums[0..i] to
// get the sum target.
canSum(i, target) = canSum(i - 1, target) || canSum(i - 1, target - nums[i])
```

Again, please work out the edge cases.

Partition Equal Subset Sum (#416) Solution

Tree Style DP

This should not be very common. Each tree node represents one optimal value when we apply the operation within that subtree.

▶ Hint 1: This is a little bit tricky. For each root node, you have 2 options rob it or no. If root is robbed, you should not rob its left child and right child. Otherwise, you can choose to rob either child, both children or none. How do you represent the state?

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- ▶ Hint 2: You can use two hashmap: hasRoot<TreeNode, Int>, noRoot<TreeNode, Int>. Then you can establish a connection between its a node and its children and get the formula.
- ► Hint 3: The formula is:

House Robber III (#337) Solution

```
// Do a level order tranversal so that we could manipulate nodes bottom-up.
private ArrayList<TreeNode> addNodes(TreeNode root) {
    ArrayList<TreeNode> nodes = new ArrayList<>();
    int index = 0;
    nodes.add(root):
    while (index < nodes.size()) {
        TreeNode cur = nodes.get(index);
        if (cur.left != null) nodes.add(cur.left);
        if (cur.right != null) nodes.add(cur.right);
        index++:
    return nodes:
private int getOrZero(TreeNode node, HashMap<TreeNode, Integer> map) {
    if (node != null && map.containsKev(node)) return map.get(node);
    return 0:
public int rob(TreeNode root) {
    if (root == null) return 0:
    HashMap<TreeNode. Integer> hasRoot = new HashMap<>();
    HashMap<TreeNode. Integer> noRoot = new HashMap<>();
    ArrayList<TreeNode> nodes = addNodes(root);
    for (int i = nodes.size() - 1; i >= 0; i--) {
        TreeNode node = nodes.get(i);
        int noRootLeft = getOrZero(node.left, noRoot);
        int noRootRight = getOrZero(node.right, noRoot);
        hasRoot.put(node, noRootLeft + noRootRight + node.val);
        int hasRootLeft = getOrZero(node.left, hasRoot);
        int hasRootRight = getOrZero(node.right, hasRoot);
        noRoot.put(node, Math.max(hasRootLeft, noRootLeft)
                + Math.max(hasRootRight, noRootRight));
    return Math.max(getOrZero(root, hasRoot), getOrZero(root, noRoot));
```

Coordinate Style DP

This normally consists of a grid-like structure, with coordinates representing the states.

ightharpoonup Hint 1: When robot is at (x, y), where can it come from?

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- ► Hint 3: The formula is:

```
pos(x, y) = pos(x - 1, y) + pos(x, y - 1)
```

Unique Paths (#62) Solution

```
public int uniquePaths(int m, int n) {
    int[][] dp = new int[m][n];
    for (int i = 0; i < m; i++) {
        dp[i][0] = 1;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        dp[0][i] = 1;
    }
    for (int i = 1; i < m; i++) {
        for (int j = 1; j < n; j++) {
            dp[i][j] = dp[i - 1][j] + dp[i][j - 1];
        }
    return dp[m - 1][n - 1];
}</pre>
```

► Hint 1: The same as unique paths I. You can use 2D grid and coordinates as states. What to do with obstacles?

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- ► Hint 1: The same as unique paths I. You can use 2D grid and coordinates as states. What to do with obstacles?
- ► Hint 2: If grid(x, y) == 1 then pos(x, y) = 0. The rest are the same.
- ► Hint 3: The formula is:

```
pos(x, y) = 0 if grid(x, y) == 1

pos(x, y) = pos(x - 1, y) + pos(x, y - 1) otherwise
```

Unique Paths II (#63) Solution

```
public int uniquePathsWithObstacles(int[][] obstacleGrid) {
    int m = obstacleGrid(.length;
    int n = obstacleGrid[0].length;
    int n[][] dp = new int[m][n];
    dp[0][0] = obstacleGrid[0][0] == 0 ? 1 : 0;
    for (int i = 1; i < m; i++) {
        dp[i][0] = obstacleGrid[i][0] == 0 ? dp[i - 1][0] : 0;
    }

    for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {
        dp[0][i] = obstacleGrid[0][i] == 0 ? dp[0][i - 1] : 0;
    }

    for (int i = 1; i < m; i++) {
        for (int j = 1; j < n; j++) {
            for (int j = 1; j < n; j++) {
                 dp[i][j] = (obstacleGrid[i][j] == 0) ? dp[i - 1][j] + dp[i][j - 1] : 0;
    }
    return dp[m - 1][n - 1];
}</pre>
```

Triangle (#120)

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- ► Hint 2: The formula is:

```
a(i, j) = min(a(i - 1, j - 1), a(i - 1, j)) + triangle(i, j)
```

Triangle (#120)

- ► Hint 1: Similar to unique paths, you can still use coordinates as state.
- ► Hint 2: The formula is:

```
a(i, j) = min(a(i - 1, j - 1), a(i - 1, j)) + triangle(i, j)
```

► Hint 3: For layer N, you may only care about layer N - 1, which saves you from using O(n²) space

Triangle (#120) Solution

```
public int minimumTotal(List<List<Integer>> triangle) {
   int[] dp = new int[triangle.size()];
   for (int i = 0; i < triangle.size(); i++) {
      int[] tmp = new int[triangle.size()];
      List<Integer> row = triangle.get(i);
      for (int j = 0; j < row.size(); j++) {
        if (i == 0 || j == 0) tmp[j] = dp[j] + row.get(j);
        else if (j == row.size() - 1) tmp[j] = dp[j - 1] + row.get(j);
        else tmp[j] = Math.min(dp[j], dp[j - 1]) + row.get(j);
      }
      dp = tmp;
   }
   int min = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
   for (int a : dp) min = Math.min(min, a);
      return min;
}</pre>
```

▶ Hint 1: Traditionally if we walk forward, we don't know what the start HP is. It's not easy to go right / down. It's probably better to go backwards, since we know at the point we reach the princes, we should have at least 1 HP to spare.

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- ► Hint 2: The formula is:

```
// minHp represents the minimum Hp we need *before* we step on cell[i][j]. minHp(i, j) = min(minHp(i + 1, j) ? dungeon(i, j), minHp(i, j + 1) ? dungeon(i, j))
```

Can you guess what ? should represent?

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```

Can you guess what ? should represent?

▶ Hint 3: ? could be represented as the following function:

```
// LastCell is either [i+1][j] or [i][j+1]. currentCell is dungeon[i][j].
// This says that if we want to move from currentCell to lastCell, the Hp we need
// before we step onto [i][j] so that we can finally reach the bottom / right cell.
private int getValue(int lastCell, int currentCell) {
    // If [i][j] is negative, we'll need to add that to our budget.
    if (currentCell < 0) return lastCell - currentCell;
    // If lastCell's required amount is less than the amount we can gain from
    // current cell, we only need to be alive before we step on it.
    if (lastCell <= currentCell) return 1;
    // btherwise, we can charge up at current cell to the point that lastCell
    // requires.
    return lastCell - currentCell;
}</pre>
```

Dungeon Game (#174) Solution

```
private int getValue(int lastCell, int currentCell) {
    if (currentCell < 0) return lastCell - currentCell:
   if (lastCell <= currentCell) return 1:
   return lastCell - currentCell:
public int calculateMinimumHP(int[][] dungeon) {
    int[][] minHp = new int[dungeon.length][dungeon[0].length];
    int h = dungeon.length - 1;
    int w = dungeon[0].length - 1;
    for (int i = h; i >= 0; i--) {
        for (int j = w; j >= 0; j--) {
            if (i == h && j == w) minHp[i][j] = getValue(1, dungeon[i][j]);
            else if (i == h) minHp[i][j] = getValue(minHp[i][j + 1], dungeon[i][j]);
            else if (j == w) minHp[i][j] = getValue(minHp[i + 1][j], dungeon[i][j]);
            else minHp[i][j] = Math.min(getValue(minHp[i + 1][j], dungeon[i][j]),
                        getValue(minHp[i][j + 1], dungeon[i][j]));
   return minHp[0][0];
```

Higher Ordered DPs

I'm calling this type "higher ordered DP" because it generally requires $O(n^3)$ to solve. One example of it would be matrix multiplication:

Given matrix chain ABCDEFG, calculate the product of it with least number of multiplications. Different number of multiplications could be achieved by adding parentheses. For example, (A(B(CD)E)(FG)) and ((ABCD)(EFG)) may require different number of multiplications.

Read

https://home.cse.ust.hk/~dekai/271/notes/L12/L12.pdf for more information on matrix multiplication.

Burst Balloons (#312)

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- ► Hint 1: If I burst balloons between (i, j) and iand j becomes neighbor, assume the sequence is optimal, do any subsequent operations affect it?
- ► Hint 2: The formula:

```
\max(i, j) = \max\{\max(i, k) + \max(k, j) + \text{balloons[i]} * \text{balloons[k]} * \text{balloons[j]}\}.
```

► Hint 3: It helps to prepend 1 and append 1 to both sides of the array.

Burst Balloons (#312) Solution

Monotonic Stack

It's generally used for linear data structure. You maintain a (stack-like) structure that is increasing or decreasing. When you encounter an element that's smaller / larger than this one, you keep popping the stack until the element is larger than / smaller than the current top of the stack. In the process of popping, you can do various operations on it. Since each element enters the stack and is popped off the stack once, it's still linear.

Remove K Digits (#402)

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► Hint 1: What you need to do to make sure the end number is smaller?

Remove K Digits (#402)

- ► Hint 1: What you need to do to make sure the end number is smaller?
- ▶ Hint 2: You can use a stack, when you encounter an element that's smaller than the top of the stack, you keep on popping. Then push the element onto the stack. You'll need to keep track of *k* as well, since you can only pop *k* times maximum.

Remove K Digits (#402) Solution

```
public String removeKdigits(String num, int k) {
   StringBuilder stack = new StringBuilder();
   for (char n : num.toCharArray()) {
        while (stack.length() > 0 && stack.charAt(stack.length() - 1) > n && k > 0) {
            k--;
            stack.deleteCharAt(stack.length() - 1);
        }
        stack.append(n);
   }
   while (k!= 0 && stack.length() > 0) {
            stack.deleteCharAt(stack.length() - 1);
            k--;
   }
   while (stack.length() > 0 && stack.charAt(0) == '0') {
            stack.deleteCharAt(0);
   }
   return stack.length() == 0 ? "0" : stack.toString();
}
```

Next Greater Element II (#503)

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► Hint 1: You'll need to keep track the elements you've encountered so far until you meed a greater element. Then assign all the elements that are smaller than that one the index. What can you do?

Next Greater Element II (#503)

- ▶ Hint 1: You'll need to keep track the elements you've encountered so far until you meed a greater element. Then assign all the elements that are smaller than that one the index. What can you do?
- ► Hint 2: You can use a stack that's monotonically decreasing. When you find an element that's greater than the stack top, you keep popping element and assign the index. Just remember the array counts circular so you'll need to take care of it.

Next Greater Element II (#503) Solution

```
public int[] nextGreaterElements(int[] nums) {
   int[] result = new int[nums.length];
   Arrays.fill(result, -1);
   Stack:Integer> stack = new Stack<>();
   for (int i = 0; i < 2 * nums.length - 1; i++) {
      int index = i % nums.length - 1; i++) {
      int index = i % nums.length;
      while (!stack.empty() && nums[index] > nums[stack.peek()]) {
            result[stack.pop()] = nums[index];
      }
      if (result[index] == -1) {
            stack.push(index);
      }
    }
    return result;
}
```