

The problem is to count all the possible paths from top left to bottom right of a mXn matrix with the constraints that **from each cell you can either move only to right or down**

We have discussed a [solution to print all possible paths](#), counting all paths is easier. Let NumberOfPaths(m, n) be the count of paths to reach row number m and column number n in the matrix, NumberOfPaths(m, n) can be recursively written as following.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// Returns count of possible paths to reach cell at row number m and column
// number n from the topmost leftmost cell (cell at 1, 1)
int numberOfPaths(int m, int n)
{
    // If either given row number is first or given column number is first
    if (m == 1 || n == 1)
        return 1;

    // If diagonal movements are allowed then the last addition
    // is required.
    return numberOfPaths(m-1, n) + numberOfPaths(m, n-1);
        // + numberOfPaths(m-1,n-1);
}

int main()
{
    cout << numberOfPaths(3, 3);
    return 0;
}
```

Output:

6

The time complexity of above recursive solution is exponential. There are many overlapping subproblems. We can draw a recursion tree for numberOfPaths(3, 3) and see many overlapping subproblems. The recursion tree would be similar to [Recursion tree for Longest Common Subsequence problem](#).

So this problem has both properties (see [this](#) and [this](#)) of a dynamic programming problem. Like other typical [Dynamic Programming\(DP\) problems](#), recomputations of same subproblems can be avoided by constructing a temporary array count[][] in bottom up manner using the above recursive formula.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// Returns count of possible paths to reach cell at row number m and column
// number n from the topmost leftmost cell (cell at 1, 1)
int numberOfPaths(int m, int n)
{
    // Create a 2D table to store results of subproblems
    int count[m][n];

    // Count of paths to reach any cell in first column is 1
    for (int i = 0; i < m; i++)
        count[i][0] = 1;

    // Count of paths to reach any cell in first column is 1
    for (int j = 0; j < n; j++)
        count[0][j] = 1;

    // Calculate count of paths for other cells in bottom-up manner using
    // the recursive solution
    for (int i = 1; i < m; i++)
    {
        for (int j = 1; j < n; j++)
```

```
// By uncommenting the last part the code calculate the total
// possible paths if the diagonal Movements are allowed
count[i][j] = count[i-1][j] + count[i][j-1]; //+ count[i-1][j-1];

}
return count[m-1][n-1];
}
```

```
// Driver program to test above functions
int main()
{
    cout << numberOfPaths(3, 3);
    return 0;
}
```

Output:

6

Time complexity of the above dynamic programming solution is $O(mn)$.

Note the count can also be calculated using the formula $(m-1 + n-1)! / (m-1)!(n-1)!$ as mentioned in the comments of [this](#) article.