

# Longest Common Subsequence

**E-OLYMP 1618. The longest Common Subsequence** Two sequences are given. Find the length of their longest common subsequence. A subsequence is a sequence derived from the original sequence by deleting some elements while preserving the order of the remaining elements.

**Input.** The first line contains the length  $n$  ( $1 \leq n \leq 1000$ ) of the first sequence. The second line contains the elements of the first sequence – integers not exceeding  $10^4$  in absolute value.

The third line contains the length  $m$  ( $1 \leq m \leq 1000$ ) of the second sequence. The fourth line contains the elements of the second sequence – integers not exceeding  $10^4$  in absolute value.

**Output.** For the given two sequences, print the length of their longest common subsequence.

## Sample input

```
3
1 2 3
4
2 1 3 5
```

## Sample output

```
2
```

► A **subsequence** of a sequence is a set of elements that appear in left-to-right order, but not necessarily consecutively. A subsequence can be derived from a sequence only by deletion of some elements.

For example, consider the sequence  $\{2, 1, 3, 5\}$ . Then

- $\{1, 5\}$ ,  $\{2\}$ ,  $\{2, 3, 5\}$  are subsequences;
- $\{5, 1\}$ ,  $\{2, 3, 1\}$  are not subsequences;

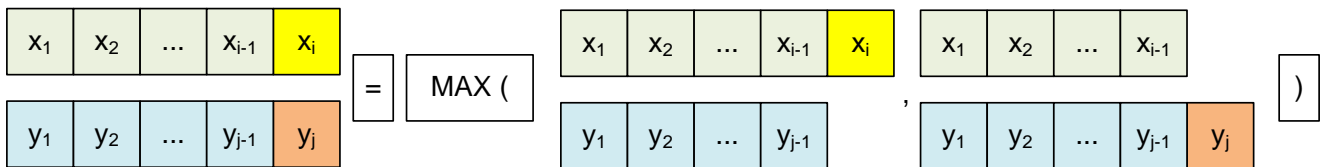
A **common subsequence** of two sequences is a subsequence that appears in both sequences. A **longest common subsequence (lcs)** is a common subsequence of maximal length.

For example, the longest common subsequence of  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\{2, 1, 3, 5\}$  can be  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 3\}$ . The length of lcs is 2.

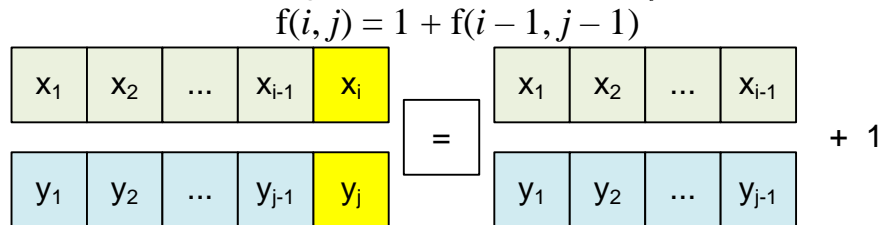
Let  $f(i, j)$  be the length of the longest common subsequence of sequences  $x_1x_2\dots x_i$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_j$ .

If  $x_i \neq y_j$ , then we find **lcs** among  $x_1x_2\dots x_i$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_{j-1}$ , and also among  $x_1x_2\dots x_{i-1}$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_j$ . Return the biggest value:

$$f(i, j) = \max( f(i, j - 1), f(i - 1, j) )$$



If  $x_i = y_j$ , then we find *lcs* among  $x_1x_2\dots x_{i-1}$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_{j-1}$ :



If one of the sequences is empty, then their lcs is empty:

$$f(0, j) = f(i, 0) = 0$$

Let's summarize the recurrence relation:

$$f(i, j) = \begin{cases} \max(f(i, j-1), f(i-1, j)), & x_i \neq y_j \\ f(i-1, j-1) + 1, & x_i = y_j \\ 0, & i = 0 \text{ or } j = 0 \end{cases}$$

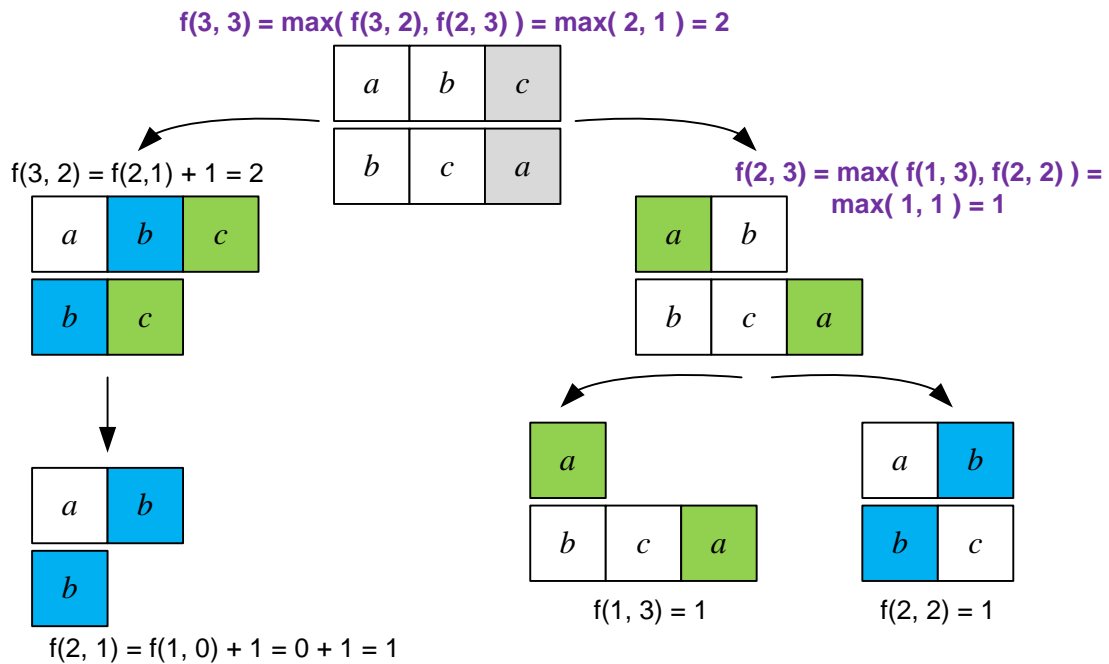
f(i, j)		Y	...	$y_{j-1}$	$y_j$
		0	...	$j-1$	$j$
X	0	0	0	0	0
...	...	0	...	...	...
$x_{i-1}$	$i-1$	0	...	$f(i-1, j-1)$	...
$x_i$	$i$	0	...	...	$f(i, j)$

$$x_i = y_j \\ f(i, j) = f(i-1, j-1) + 1$$

f(i, j)		Y	...	$y_{j-1}$	$y_j$
		0	...	$j-1$	$j$
X	0	0	0	0	0
...	...	0	...	...	...
$x_{i-1}$	$i-1$	0	...	...	$f(i-1, j)$
$x_i$	$i$	0	...	$f(i, j-1)$	$f(i, j)$

$$x_i \neq y_j \\ f(i, j) = \max(f(i, j-1), f(i-1, j))$$

Consider an example of calculations:



The values  $f(i, j)$  will be stored in array  $m[0..1000, 0..1000]$ , where  $m[0][i] = m[i][0] = 0$ . Each next line of array  $m[i][j]$  is calculated through the previous one. Therefore, to find the answer, it is enough to keep in memory only two lines of length 1000.

### Example

Let  $X = abcdgh$ ,  $Y = aedfhr$ . The longest common subsequence is  $adh$ , its length equals to  $f(6, 6) = 3$ .

$f(i, j)$		X	a	b	c	d	g	h
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	1	0	1(a)	1	1	1	1	1
e	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
d	3	0	1	1	1	2(d)	2	2
f	4	0	1	1	1	2	2	2
h	5	0	1	1	1	2	2	3(h)
r	6	0	1	1	1	2	2	3

$f(6, 6) = \max(f(6, 5), f(5, 6)) = \max(2, 3) = 3$ , because  $Y[6] = r \neq h = X[6]$ .

$f(5, 6) = 1 + f(4, 5) = 1 + 2 = 3$ , because  $Y[5] = h = X[6]$ .

### Exercise

Fill the table:

f(i, j)		X	d	f	c	a	b	a
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	0							
f	1							
d	2							
c	3							
c	4							
a	5							
a	6							

### Algorithm realization

Arrays  $x$  and  $y$  contain input sequences,  $n$  and  $m$  are their lengths. Array  $mas$  contains two last lines of dynamic calculations.

```
#define SIZE 1010
int x[SIZE], y[SIZE], mas[2][SIZE];
```

Main part of the program. Read input sequences to arrays, starting from the first index. Then read the data into  $x[1..n]$  and  $y[1..m]$ .

```
scanf("%d", &n);
for(i = 1; i <= n; i++) scanf("%d", &x[i]);
scanf("%d", &m);
for(i = 1; i <= m; i++) scanf("%d", &y[i]);
```

Fill array  $mas$  with zeroes. Dynamically calculate the values  $f(i, j)$ . Initially  $mas[0][j]$  contains the values  $f(0, j)$ . Then put into  $mas[1][j]$  the values  $f(1, j)$ . Since to calculate  $f(2, j)$  it is enough to have the values of the previous row of  $mas$  array, the values of  $f(2, j)$  can be stored in  $mas[0][j]$ , the values of  $f(3, j)$  in  $mas[1][j]$  and so on.

```
memset(mas, 0, sizeof(mas));
for(i = 1; i <= n; i++)
for(j = 1; j <= m; j++)
if (x[i] == y[j])
mas[i%2][j] = 1 + mas[(i+1)%2][j-1];
else
mas[i%2][j] = max(mas[(i+1)%2][j], mas[i%2][j-1]);
```

Print the answer, that is located in the cell  $mas[n][m]$ . Take the first argument modulo 2.

```
printf("%d\n", mas[n%2][m]);
```

### Algorithm realization – recursion

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#define SIZE 1002

int x[SIZE], y[SIZE], dp[SIZE][SIZE];
int n, m, i, j, res;

int max(int i, int j)
{
    return (i > j) ? i : j;
}

int lcs(int *x, int *y, int m, int n)
{
    if (m == 0 || n == 0)
        return 0;
    if (dp[m][n] != -1) return dp[m][n];

    if (x[m] == y[n])
        return dp[m][n] = 1 + lcs(x, y, m - 1, n - 1);
    else
        return dp[m][n] = max(lcs(x, y, m, n - 1), lcs(x, y, m - 1, n));
}

int main(void)
{
    scanf("%d", &n);
    for (i = 1; i <= n; i++) scanf("%d", &x[i]);
    scanf("%d", &m);
    for (i = 1; i <= m; i++) scanf("%d", &y[i]);

    memset(dp, -1, sizeof(dp));
    res = lcs(x, y, n, m);
    printf("%d\n", res);
    return 0;
}
```

**E-OLYMP 1079. Removing the letters** You are given two words (each word consists of upper-case English letters). Delete some letters from each word so that the resulting words become equal.

Find the maximum possible length of the resulting word.

► The answer to the problem is the length of the *longest common subsequence* (LCS) of input sequences of uppercase Latin letters.

Let  $f(i, j)$  be the longest common subsequence of sequences  $x_1x_2\dots x_i$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_j$ .

If  $x_i \neq y_j$ , then find LCS between  $x_1x_2\dots x_{i-1}$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_j$ , and also between  $x_1x_2\dots x_i$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_{j-1}$ . Return the largest of them:

$$f(i, j) = \max( f(i, j - 1), f(i - 1, j) )$$

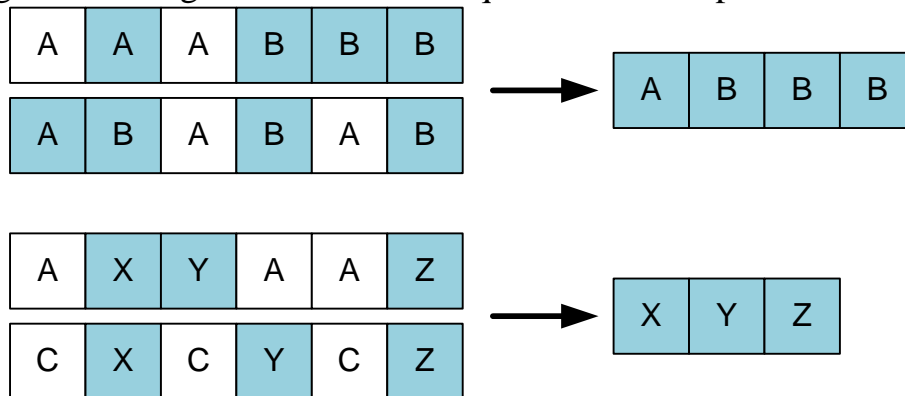
If  $x_i = y_j$ , then find LCS between  $x_1x_2\dots x_{i-1}$  and  $y_1y_2\dots y_{j-1}$ :

$$f(i, j) = 1 + f(i - 1, j - 1)$$

The values  $f(i, j)$  will be stored in array  $m[0.. \text{SIZE}, 0.. \text{SIZE}]$ , where  $m[0][i] = m[i][0] = 0$ . Since the length of words is no more than 200 characters then assign  $\text{SIZE} = 201$ .

Each next line of array  $m[i][j]$  is calculated through the previous one. Therefore, to find the answer, it is enough to keep only two lines in memory.

Here is given the largest common subsequences for samples.



**E-OLYMP 4260. LCS - 2** Two strings are given. Find and print their longest common subsequence.

► In the problem you must find the largest common subsequence (LCS) of two strings and print it.

Construct an array  $dp$ , where  $dp[i][j]$  is the length of LCS of strings  $x_{[1\dots i]}$  and  $y_{[1\dots j]}$ . The value of  $dp[n][m]$  equals to the length of LCS of input strings ( $|x| = n$ ,  $|y| = m$ ). Move through the matrix  $dp$  from the cell  $(n, m)$  to  $(0, 0)$ . For the current position  $(i, j)$  we have:

- If symbols  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  are the same, then this character must be present in the LCS, store it into the resulting string  $res$ . Move in array  $dp$  from cell  $(i, j)$  to cell  $(i - 1, j - 1)$ , that is, then construct LCS  $(x_{[1\dots i-1]}, y_{[1\dots j-1]})$ .
- If symbols  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  are different, then we can move in array  $dp$  from cell  $(i, j)$  either to cell  $(i, j - 1)$  or to cell  $(i - 1, j)$ . Since the largest subsequence is being built, the transition should be made to the cell where the value is greater. If  $dp[i - 1][j] = dp[i][j - 1]$ , we can go to any of the specified cells.

Find the LCS for two string given in a sample.

dp[i][j]		X	a	b	a	c	a	b	a
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
d	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
c	3	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
a	4	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	3
b	5	0	1	2	2	2	2	4	4
c	6	0	1	2	2	3	3	4	4

We start to search the LCS from position  $(i, j) = (6, 7)$ .

7).  $y[6] \neq x[7]$ , move to any adjacent cell with the maximum value. For example to (5,

$y[5] \neq x[7]$ , move to (5, 6).

$y[5] = x[6] = 'b'$ , move diagonally, include letter 'b' to LCS.

Declare the input strings  $x$  and  $y$ . To find their LCS declare dp array.

```
#define MAX 1001
int dp[MAX][MAX];
string x, y, res;
```

Read the input lines. Add a space to them so that the indexing will start from 1.

```
cin >> x; n = x.length(); x = " " + x;
cin >> y; m = y.length(); y = " " + y;
```

Finding the longest common subsequence.

```
for (i = 1; i <= n; i++)
for (j = 1; j <= m; j++)
    if (x[i] == y[j])
        dp[i][j] = dp[i - 1][j - 1] + 1;
    else
        dp[i][j] = max(dp[i - 1][j], dp[i][j - 1]);
```

Construct the LCS in the string  $res$ .

```
i = n; j = m;
while (i >= 1 && j >= 1)
    if (x[i] == y[j])
    {
        res = res + x[i];
```

```

        i--; j--;
    }
    else
    {
        if (dp[i - 1][j] > dp[i][j - 1])
            i--;
        else
            j--;
    }
}

```

Invert and print the resulting string.

```

reverse(res.begin(), res.end());
cout << res << endl;

```

**E-OLYMP 1765. Three sequences** Three sequences of integers are given. Find the length of their longest common subsequence.

► Let  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  be three input sequences. Let  $f(i, j, k)$  be the length of LCS of sequences  $a[1..i]$ ,  $b[1..j]$  and  $c[1..k]$ . The value  $f(i, j, k)$  we shall keep in  $dp[i][j][k]$ .

If  $a[i] = b[j] = c[k]$ , then

$$f(i, j, k) = 1 + f(i - 1, j - 1, k - 1)$$

Otherwise

$$f(i, j, k) = \max( f(i - 1, j, k), f(i, j - 1, k), f(i, j, k - 1) )$$