

LECTURE 07 — DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING (PART 1)

COMPSCI 308 — DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

Xing Shi Cai <https://newptcai.gitlab.io>

Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan, China

Jan-Mar 2026

SUMMARY

ITA 15 Dynamic Programming

ITA 15.1 Rod Cutting

ASSIGNMENTS¹



Practice makes perfect!

Introduction to Algorithms (ITA) 
Required Readings:

- Section 15.1.

 Required Exercises:

- Exercises 15.1 — 1–5.

¹ ⚡ Assignments will not be collected; however, quiz problems will be selected from them. (This includes both Readings and Exercises.)

ITA 15 DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

FIBONACCI'S PUZZLE

Suppose that you want to have some 🐰 as pets—

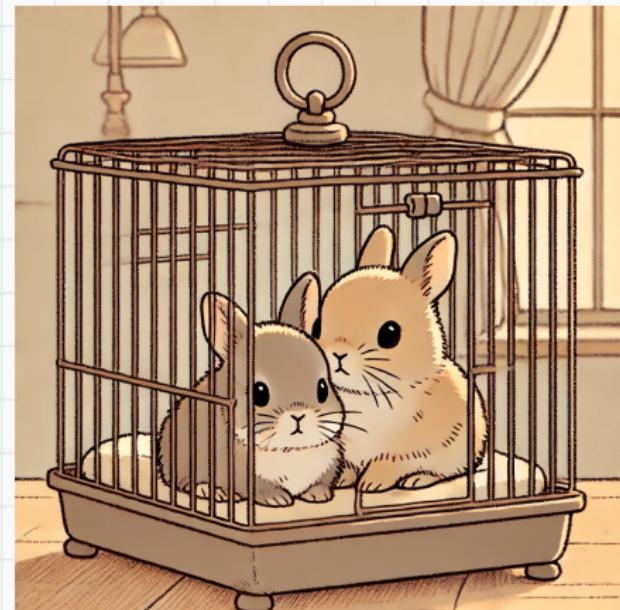
- Month 0 – You have no pets.



FIBONACCI'S PUZZLE

Suppose that you want to have some 🐰 as pets—

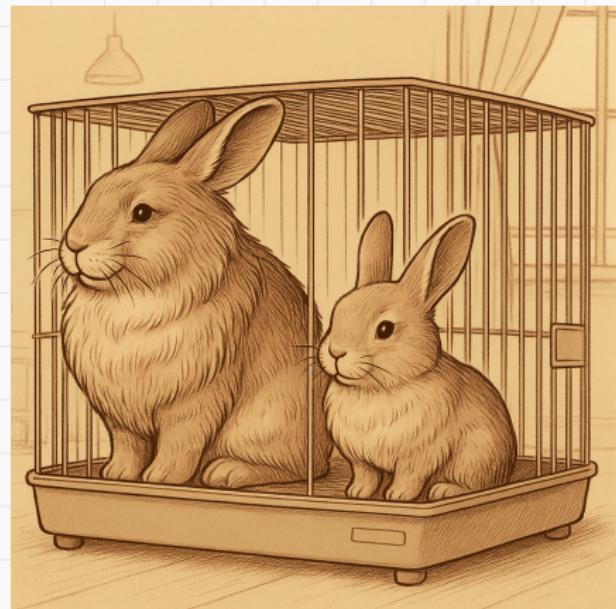
- Month 0 – You have no pets.
- Month 1—You get a pair of baby 🐰.



FIBONACCI'S PUZZLE

Suppose that you want to have some 🐰 as pets—

- Month 0 – You have no pets.
- Month 1—You get a pair of baby 🐰.
- Month 2—The pair of 🐰 matures.

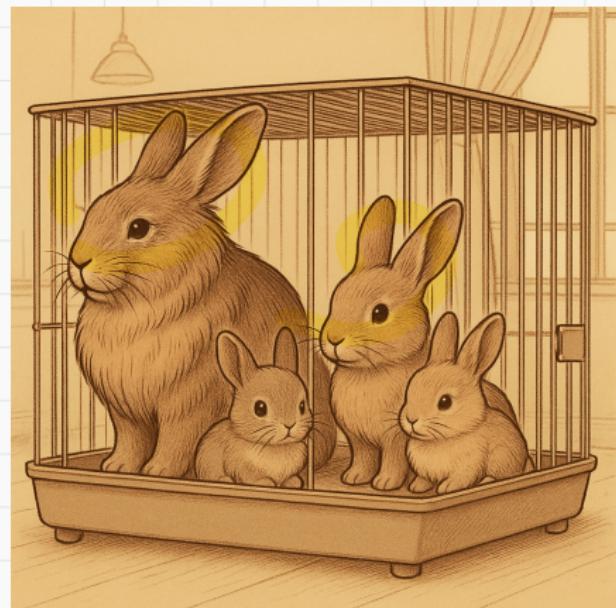


FIBONACCI'S PUZZLE

Suppose that you want to have some 🐰 as pets—

- Month 0 – You have no pets.
- Month 1—You get a pair of baby 🐰.
- Month 2—The pair of 🐰 matures.
- Month 4 and so on— Every subsequent month, a mature pair of 🐰 produces a pair of baby 🐰.

Month 5 : 3 pairs



FIBONACCI'S PUZZLE

Suppose that you want to have some 🐰 as pets—

- Month 0 – You have no pets.
- Month 1—You get a pair of baby 🐰.
- Month 2—The pair of 🐰 matures.
- Month 4 and so on— Every subsequent month, a mature pair of 🐰 produces a pair of baby 🐰.

If the 🐰 never 💀, how many pairs of 🐰 are there at month n ?





THE RECURRENCE RELATION FOR THE FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

Let F_n denote the pairs of 🐰 you have at month n .

The sequence

$$\{F_n\}_{n \geq 0} = 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, \dots \quad |3=5+8, \quad 2| = 8 + 13,$$

is called the Fibonacci sequence.

💡 Can we find a recurrence relation for F_n ?



THE RECURRENCE RELATION FOR THE FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

Let F_n denote the pairs of 🐰 you have at month n .

The sequence

$$\{F_n\}_{n \geq 0} = 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, \dots$$

is called the **Fibonacci sequence**.

❓ Can we find a recurrence relation for F_n ?

By observing the initial few numbers, we can see that

$$F_{n+2} = F_{n+1} + F_n, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0$$

🤔 How to prove this?

A VISUAL EXPLANATION OF THE FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

From the picture, we see that F_n consists of two parts

- F_{n-1} who are alive in month $n-1$
- F_{n-2} who are new bunnies.

This leads to the recursion —

$$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}.$$

All bunnies
alive in
month $n-2$.

$$F_0 = F_1 + F_2$$
$$8 = 5 + 3$$

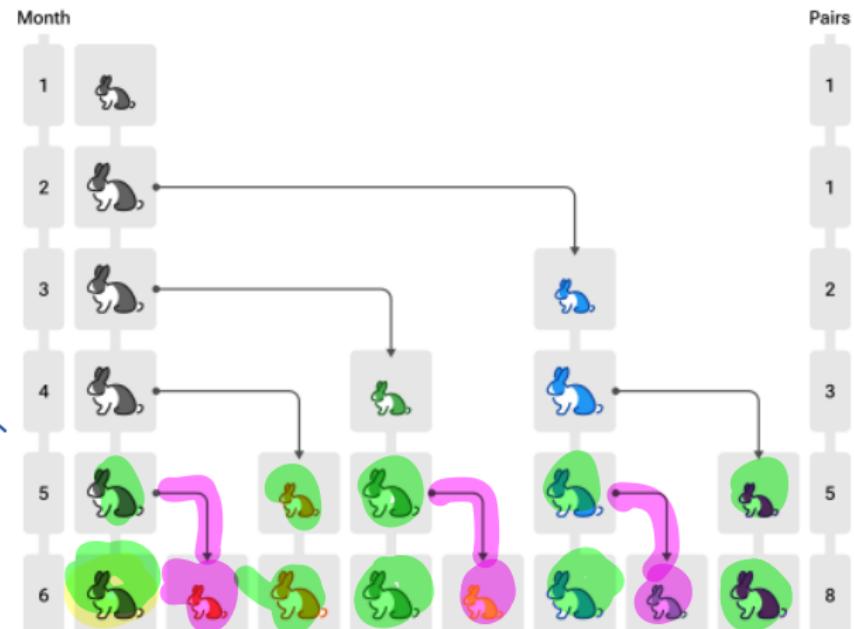


Figure 1: The recurrence relation for the Fibonacci sequence



FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

The Fibonacci sequence is defined recursively as —

$$F_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

✳️ Can you prove the following solution?

$$F_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n, \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

😩 It's not the most efficient for large values of n due to the irrational number $\sqrt{5}$.

FIBONACCI NUMBERS IN NATURE

Fibonacci numbers often appear in the spiral pattern of particular plants.

😲 There is actually quite a **elegant mathematical model** explaining it.



Figure 2: Yellow chamomile (洋甘菊) head showing the arrangement in 21 (blue) and 13 (cyan) spirals. Source — [Wikipedia](#)

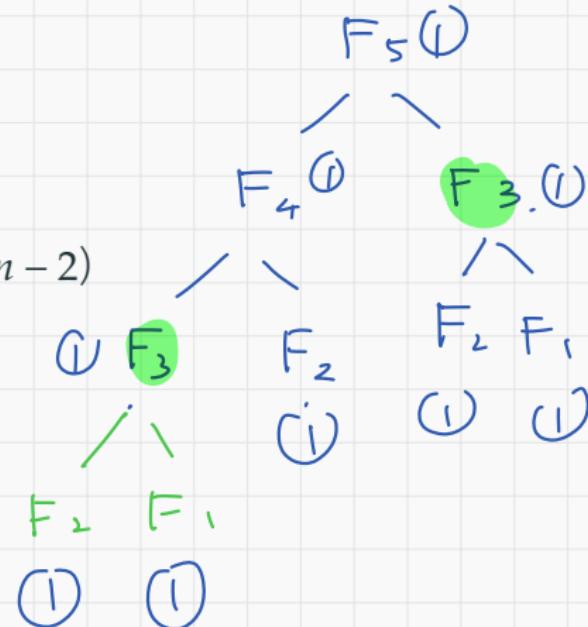
THE NAIIVE WAY

```
1: FibonacciNaive(n)
2: if n = 0 then
3:   return 0 ←  $F_0 = 0$ .
4: else if n = 1 then
5:   return 1 ←  $F_1 = 1$ 
6: else
7:    $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ 
    return FIBONACCINAIVE(n - 1) + FIBONACCINAIVE(n - 2)
```

🍰 Let's try to compute F_5 with the naive algorithm.

✳ What is the time complexity of this algorithm?

↑
Exponential.



A BETTER WAY

Let's try to compute F_5 with the following improved algorithm –

- 1: **Fibonacci(n)**
- 2: Initialize array $dp[0 \dots n]$ with zeros
- 3: $dp[0] \leftarrow 0$ $f_0 = 0$
- 4: $dp[1] \leftarrow 1$ $f_1 = 1$
- 5: **for** $i \leftarrow 2$ to n **do** *n times.*
- 6: $dp[i] \leftarrow dp[i - 1] + dp[i - 2]$ $F_i = F_{i-1} + F_{i-2}$.
- 7: **return** $dp[n]$ f_n .

An algorithm in this style is called **dynamic programming**.

🍰 What is the time complexity of this algorithm?

$\Theta(n)$

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is a method used primarily in optimization problems.

The **4** key elements of dynamic programming –

- Characterize the structure of an optimal solution.

Find
the best

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is a method used primarily in optimization problems.

The **4** key elements of dynamic programming –

- Characterize the structure of an optimal solution.
- Define the value of an optimal solution recursively.

↑ ↑ ↑

Optimal solution to sub problem.

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is a method used primarily in optimization problems.

The **4** key elements of dynamic programming –

-  Characterize the structure of an optimal solution.
-  Define the value of an optimal solution recursively.
-  Compute the value in a bottom-up fashion.

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is a method used primarily in optimization problems.

The **4** key elements of dynamic programming –

- ❶ Characterize the structure of an optimal solution.
- ❷ Define the value of an optimal solution recursively.
- ❸ Compute the value in a bottom-up fashion. *or use memoization*
- ❹ Construct the optimal solution from computed information. *(remember)*

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is a method used primarily in optimization problems.

The **4** key elements of dynamic programming –

-  Characterize the structure of an optimal solution.
-  Define the value of an optimal solution recursively.
-  Compute the value in a bottom-up fashion.
-  Construct the optimal solution from computed information.

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Dynamic programming is a method used primarily in optimization problems.

The **4** key elements of dynamic programming –

- ❶ Characterize the structure of an optimal solution.
- ❷ Define the value of an optimal solution recursively.
- ❸ Compute the value in a bottom-up fashion.
- ❹ Construct the optimal solution from computed information.

Both *dynamic programming* and *divide-and-conquer* solve problems by combining solutions to subproblems.

The differences are –

- ➊ divide-and-conquer –
 - Disjoint subproblems
 - Recursive solution

- ➋ dynamic programming –
 - Overlapping subproblems
 - Solve each subproblem once, store in table

😊 RICHARD E. BELLMAN

In 1950, Bellman introduced **dynamic programming** to 😊 the mathematical essence of his work.

During an era when 🚨 sponsors were skeptical of mathematics, he opted for a term that would be both uncriticizable and appealing.



Figure 3: Richard E. Bellman (1920–1984)

ITA 15.1 ROD CUTTING

THE ROD CUTTING PROBLEM

Given —

- A rod of length n .
- A table containing p_i 's for the price of a piece of length i .

Determine —

- The maximum revenue r_n achievable by possibly cutting the rod into integer lengths and selling them.



Figure 4: How to cut a rod to maximize revenue?

EXAMPLE OF ROD CUTTING

Given the following price table –

p_1	p_2	p_3	p_4	p_5	p_6	p_7	p_8	p_9	p_{10}
1	5	8	9	10	17	17	20	24	30

Let r_n be the maximum profit achievable by cutting the rod of length n .

What are r_1 , r_2 and r_3 ?

$$r_1 = p_1 = 1.$$

$$r_3 = 8 \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & \\ \hline \end{array}$$



$$P_3 = 8.$$

$$r_2 = 5. \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline i \\ \hline \end{array} \quad = 5$$



$$P_1 + P_1 = 2. \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

↑

len

$$r_4 = \max (P_1 + r_3, P_2 + r_2)$$

$$5 + 5$$

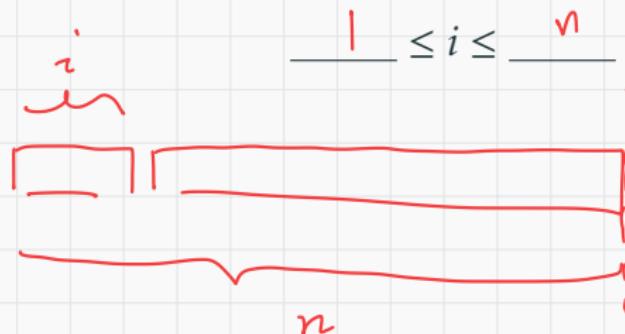
$$= P_2 + r_2 = 10.$$

$$P_3 + r_1, P_4 + r_0) \\ 8 + 1 \quad 9 + 0$$

9 + 0

RECURRENCE FOR MAXIMUM PROFIT

For a rod of length n , let i be the length of the **first piece** we cut off. The possible values for i are –



RECURRENCE FOR MAXIMUM PROFIT

For a rod of length n , let i be the length of the **first piece** we cut off. The possible values for i are –

$$1 \leq i \leq n$$

✓ of len

If we do not divide piece i further, the maximum profit for the remaining length is r_{n-i} . Thus, the profit for this cut is –

$$P_i + r_{n-i}$$

RECURRENCE FOR MAXIMUM PROFIT

For a rod of length n , let i be the length of the **first piece** we cut off. The possible values for i are —

$$1 \leq i \leq n$$

If we do not divide piece i further, the maximum profit for the remaining length is r_{n-i} . Thus, the profit for this cut is —

$$p_i + r_{n-i}$$

To find the optimal profit r_n , we take the **maximum** over all possible first cuts —

$$r_n = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} (p_i + r_{n-i})$$

RECURRENCE FOR MAXIMUM PROFIT

For a rod of length n , let i be the length of the **first piece** we cut off. The possible values for i are —

$$1 \leq i \leq n$$

If we do not divide piece i further, the maximum profit for the remaining length is r_{n-i} . Thus, the profit for this cut is —

$$p_i + r_{n-i}$$

To find the optimal profit r_n , we take the **maximum** over all possible first cuts —

$$r_n = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} (p_i + r_{n-i})$$



Using this formula, what is r_4 for our previous example?

A NAIVE ALGORITHM

A naive algorithm for computing r_n is the following —

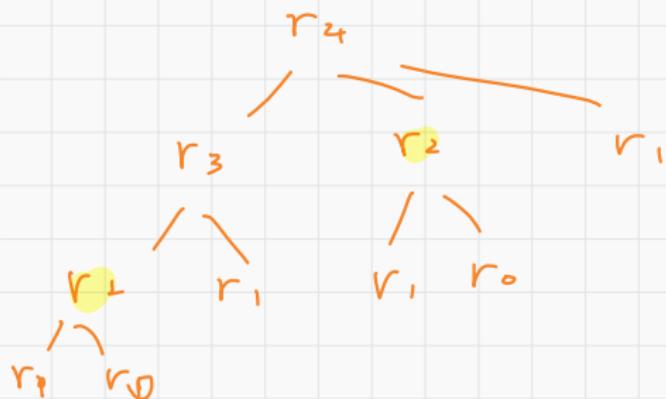
```
1: Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: if  $n == 0$  then  $r_0 = 0$ 
3:   return 0
4:  $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
5: for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
6:    $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + \text{CUT-ROD}(p, n - i))$ 
7: return  $q$ 
```

$p_i + r_{n-i}$

The naive algorithm is inefficient as many r_n 's must be computed more than once.

Let's consider what is involved in computing r_4 .

$$r_n = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} p_i + r_{n-i}$$



THE TIME COMPLEXITY

Let $T(n)$ be the time complexity of the naive algorithm. Then

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ 1 + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} T(i) & \text{if } n > 0. \end{cases}$$

THE TIME COMPLEXITY

Let $T(n)$ be the time complexity of the naive algorithm. Then

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ 1 + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} T(i) & \text{if } n > 0. \end{cases}$$

🎂 What are the values of $T(0), T(1), \dots, T(3)$?

$$T(0) = 1, \quad T(1) = 1 + T(0) = 2, \quad T(3) = 1 + T(6) + T(4)$$

$$T(2) = 1 + T(1) + T(0) = 1 + 2 + 1 = 4.$$

🎂 Can you guess a closed-form expression for $T(n)$?

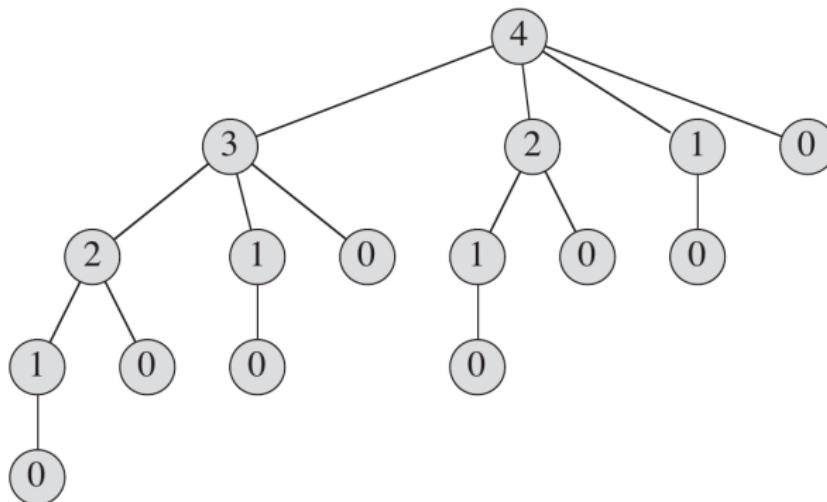
$$T(n) = 2^n.$$

✿ Prove your guess is correct. — Induction / substitution.

DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

There are two ways in dynamic programming for improving a naive recursive algorithm —

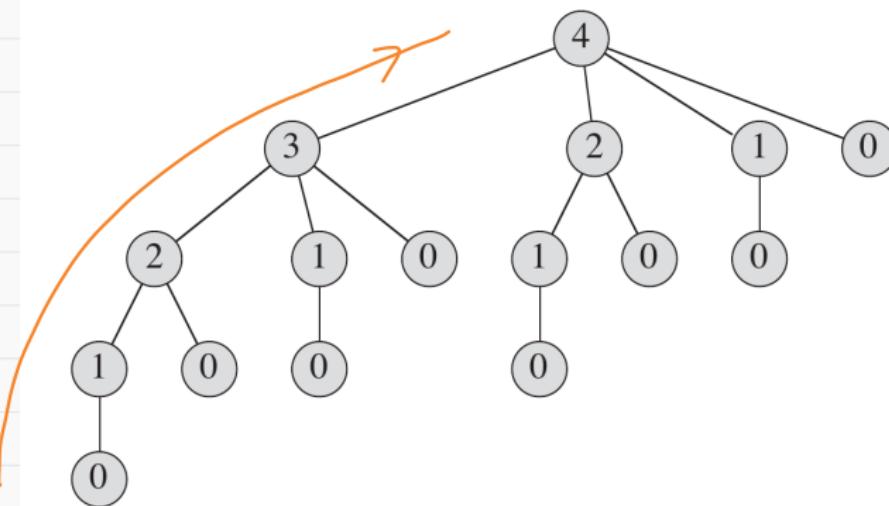
- ⬇️ Top-down with **memoization** – This method uses a recursive approach with a modification to **save results of subproblems**.



DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

There are two ways in dynamic programming for improving a naive recursive algorithm —

- Upward — This approach sorts subproblems by their natural size. It ensures that smaller subproblems are solved first.



ROD CUTTING WITH MEMOIZATION

```
1: Mem-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3: for  $i = 0$  to  $n$  do
4:    $r[i] = -\infty$ 
5: return
   MEM-CUT-ROD-AUX( $p, n, r$ )
```

💡 This procedure just does a bit
of initialization.

ROD CUTTING WITH MEMOIZATION

```
1: Mem-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3: for  $i = 0$  to  $n$  do
4:    $r[i] = -\infty$ 
5: return
MEM-CUT-ROD-AUX( $p, n, r$ )
```

⚠️ This procedure just does a bit of initialization.

```
1: Mem-Cut-Rod-Aux( $p, n, r$ )
2: if  $r[n] \geq 0$  then ←  $r_n$  has already
3:   return  $r[n]$  been computed.
4: if  $n == 0$  then
5:    $q = 0$  →  $r_0 = 0$ .
6: else
7:    $q = -\infty$  ← Best profit we
8:   for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do have seen
9:     so far.
 $q = \max(q, p[i] + \text{MEM-CUT-ROD-AUX}(p, n - i, r))$ 
10:  $r[n] = q$  ↑
11: return  $q$   $r_n = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} p_i + r_{n-i}$ 
```

TIME COMPLEXITY

The most time-consuming part of the algorithm is the following loop –

```
1: Mem-Cut-Rod-Aux( $p, n, r$ )  
2: ...  
3:  $q = -\infty$   
4: for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do       $n$  times.  
5:      $q = \max(q, p[i] + \text{MEM-CUT-ROD-AUX}(p, n - i, r))$   
6: ...
```

r_j takes $\Theta(j)$.

But for each $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, this loop is run only once.

So the running time of Mem-Cut-Rod is

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \Theta(j) = \underline{\Theta(n^2)}.$$

ROD CUTTING WITH BOTTOM-UP

```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3:  $r[0] \leftarrow 0$   $r_0 = 0$ 
4: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do  $\leftarrow$  compute  $r_j$ .
5:  $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
6: for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
7:    $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j-i])$ 
8:  $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
9: return  $r[n]$   $\uparrow r_j$ 
```

$$r_j = \max_{1 \leq i \leq j} p_i + r_{j-i}$$

\uparrow
already
computed.

TIME COMPLEXITY

The most time-consuming part of the algorithm is the following double loop –

1: **Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod(p, n)**

2: ...

3: **for** $j = 1$ **to** n **do**

4: $q \leftarrow -\infty$

5: **for** $i = 1$ **to** j **do** \leftarrow j times

6: $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j - i])$

7: $r[j] \leftarrow q$

8: ...

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \end{array} \right\} \sum_{i=1}^n \Theta(j) = \Theta(n^2)$$

SUBPROBLEM GRAPHS

When thinking about dynamic programming, we often use graphs to represent the dependency of subproblems.

Typically, the time complexity of solving a subproblem is proportional to its out-degree.

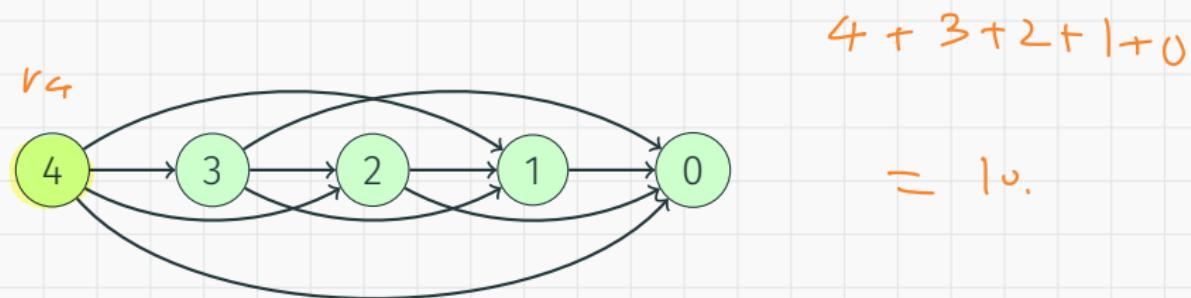


Figure 5: ❤ Example – r_4 depends on r_1, r_2, r_3 , etc.

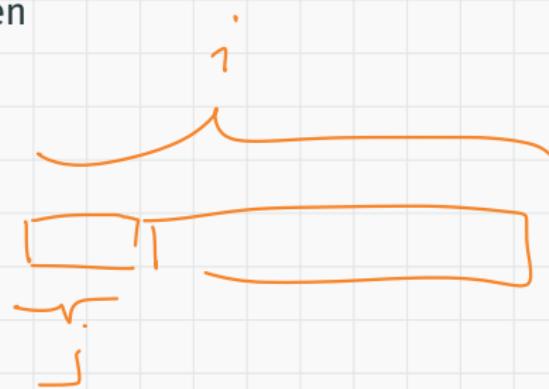
So the total time complexity is proportional to the number of edges.

🎂 How many are there in the above graph?

RECONSTRUCTING A SOLUTION

The cut positions can be recorded in an auxiliary array $s[0..n]$.

```
1: Extended-Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  and  $s[0..n]$  be new arrays
3:  $r[0] \leftarrow 0$ 
4: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
5:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
6:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
7:     if  $q < p[i] + r[j - i]$  then
8:        $q \leftarrow p[i] + r[j - i]$ 
9:        $s[j] \leftarrow i$ 
10:       $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
11: return ( $r, s$ )
```



RECONSTRUCTING A SOLUTION

The cut positions can be recorded in an auxiliary array $s[0..n]$.

Then the solution can be reconstructed as follows —

```
1: Print-Cut-Rod-Solution( $p, n$ )
2:  $(r, s) \leftarrow$ 
   Extended-Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
3: while  $n > 0$  do
4:   print  $s[n]$ 
5:    $n \leftarrow n - s[n]$ 
```

TRY IT OUT!

Given the following price table –

p_1	p_2	p_3	p_4
1	4	8	9

🎂 What is r_4 ?

$$r_1 =$$

$$r_2 =$$

$$r_3 =$$

$$r_4 =$$

F I G N Q O

 EXERCISE

How should we modify **Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod**, if each piece must have a minimum length l ?

```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3:  $r[0] \leftarrow 0$ 
4: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
5:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
6:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
7:      $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j - i])$ 
8:    $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
9: return  $r[n]$ 
```

```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod-Mod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3: for  $j = 1$  to  $l$  do
4:    $r[j] = 0$ .
5: for  $j = l+1$  to  $n$  do
6:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
7:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
8:      $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j - i])$ 
9:    $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
10: return  $r[n]$ 
```

 EXERCISE

How should we modify **Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod**, if each cut has a cost c ?

```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3:  $r[0] \leftarrow 0$ 
4: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
5:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
6:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
7:      $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j-i])$ 
8:    $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
9: return  $r[n]$ 
```



```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod-Mod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3:  $r[0] \leftarrow 0$ 
4: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
5:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
6:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
7:      $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j-i] - c)$ 
8:    $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
9: return  $r[n]$ 
```

 EXERCISE

How should we modify **Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod**, if the price of a piece of the rod depends on the total length of that rod? In other words, what if $p[i]$ is replaced by $p[n, i]$?

```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3:  $r[0] \leftarrow 0$ 
4: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
5:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
6:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
7:      $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j - i])$ 
8:    $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
9: return  $r[n]$ 
```

```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod-Mod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
4:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
5:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
6:      $q \leftarrow \underline{\max(q, p[j, i] + r[j - i])}$ 
7:    $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
8: return  $r[n]$ 
```

 EXERCISE

How should we modify **Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod**, if the number of pieces is limited to at most m ?

```
1: Bottom-Up-Cut-Rod( $p, n$ )
2: let  $r[0..n]$  be a new array
3:  $r[0] \leftarrow 0$ 
4: for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
5:    $q \leftarrow -\infty$ 
6:   for  $i = 1$  to  $j$  do
7:      $q \leftarrow \max(q, p[i] + r[j - i])$ 
8:    $r[j] \leftarrow q$ 
9: return  $r[n]$ 
```

 Is it enough to compute only $r[0..n]$?

WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN TAKEAWAYS TODAY? ANY QUESTIONS?

