

# 12

## Dynamic Programming

19 January 2026

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Wild

#### **Learning Outcomes**

#### Unit 12: Dynamic Programming

1. Be able to apply the DP paradigm to solve new problems.

#### **Outline**

## 12 Dynamic Programming

- 12.1 Elements of Dynamic Programming
- 12.2 DP & Matrix Chain Multiplication
- 12.3 Greedy as Special Case of DP
- 12.4 The Bellman-Ford Algorithm
- 12.5 Making Change in Pre-1971 UK
- 12.6 Optimal Merge Trees & Optimal BSTs
- 12.7 Edit Distance

12.1 Elements of Dynamic Programming

#### Introduction

#### applicable to many problems

- ► *Dynamic Programming (DP)* is a powerful algorithm **design pattern** for exact solutions to **optimization** problems
- ► Some commonalities with Greedy Algorithms, but with an element of brute force added in

```
DP = "careful brute force" (Erik Demaine)
```

- often yields polynomial time, but usually not linear time algorithms
- ▶ for many problems the *only* way we know to build efficient algorithms

Naming fun: The term "dynamic programming", due to Richard Bellman from around 1953, does not refer to computer programming; rather to a program (= plan, schedule) changing with time.

It seems to have been at least partly marketing babble devoid of technical meaning . . .

#### Plan of the Unit

- **1.** Abstract steps of DP (briefly)
- **2.** Details on a concrete example (*matrix chain multiplication*)
- 3. More examples!

## The 6 Steps of Dynamic Programming

- 1. Define **subproblems** (and relate to original problem)
- **2. Guess** (part of solution) → local brute force
- **3.** Set up **DP recurrence** (for quality of solution)
- 4. Recursive implementation with Memoization
- 5. Bottom-up table filling (topological sort of subproblem dependency graph)
- **6. Backtracing** to reconstruct optimal solution
- ► Steps 1–3 require insight / creativity / intuition; Steps 4–6 are mostly automatic / same each time
- → Correctness proof usually at level of DP recurrence
- running time too! worst case time = #subproblems · time to find single best guess

#### When does DP (not) help?

- ▶ No Silver Bullet
  DP is the most widely applicable design technique, but can't always be applied
- **1.** Vitally important for DP to be correct:

Bellman's Optimality Criterion

For a correctly guessed fixed part of the solution, any optimal solution to the corresponding subproblems must yield an optimal solution to the overall problem (once combined).

at most polynomial in n

 Also, the total number of different subproblems should be "small" (DP potentially still works correctly otherwise, but won't be efficient.)

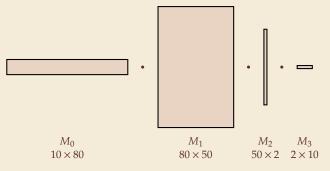
12.2 DP & Matrix Chain Multiplication

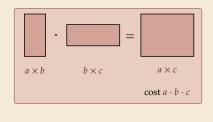
#### The Matrix-Chain Multiplication Problem

Consider the following exemplary problem

- ▶ We have a product  $M_0 \cdot M_1 \cdot \cdots \cdot M_{n-1}$  of n matrices to compute
- ► Since (matrix) multiplication is associative, it can be evaluated in different orders.
- ► For non-square matrices of different sizes, different order can change costs dramatically
  - ► Assume elementary matrix multiplication algorithm:
  - $\rightarrow$  Multiplying  $a \times b$ -matrix with  $b \times c$  matrix costs  $a \cdot b \cdot c$  integer multiplications
- ▶ **Given:** Row and column counts r[0..n) and c[0..n) with r[i+1] = c[i] for  $i \in [0..n-1)$  (corresponding to matrices  $M_0, \ldots, M_{n-1}$  with  $M_i \in \mathbb{R}^{r[i] \times c[i]}$ )
- ► **Goal:** parenthesization of the product chain with minimal cost really a binary tree with *n* leaves!

## Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Example





Parenthesization	Cost (integer multiplications)				
$M_0 \cdot (M_1 \cdot (M_2 \cdot M_3))$	1000 + 40 000 + 8000	=	49 000		
$M_0 \cdot ((M_1 \cdot M_2) \cdot M_3)$	8000 + 1600 + 8000	=	17600		
$(M_0 \cdot M_1) \cdot (M_2 \cdot M_3)$	40000 + 1000 + 5000	=	46 000		
$(M_0 \cdot (M_1 \cdot M_2)) \cdot M_3$	8000 + 1600 + 200	=	9800		
$((M_0 \cdot M_1) \cdot M_2) \cdot M_3$	40000 + 1000 + 200	=	41 200		

first or last operation

V

Greedy fails both ways!

#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – How about Brute Force?

If Greedy doesn't give optimal parenthesization, maybe just try all?

- ▶ parenthesizations for n matrices = binary trees with n leaves (*evalution trees*) = binary trees with n 1 (internal) nodes
- ► How many such trees are there?
  - Let's write m = n 1;
  - $ightharpoonup C_0 = 1, C_1 = 1, C_2 = 2, C_3 = 5$

generating functions / combinatorics / guess (OEIS!) & check  $\dots$ 

 $\rightarrow$  exponentially many trees (almost  $4^n$ )

 $C_{20} = 6564120420$ ,  $C_{30} = 3814986502092304$ 

- → A brute-force approach is utterly hopeless
- → Dynamic programming to the rescue!

#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Step 1: Subproblems

- ► Key ingredient for DP: Problem allows for recursive formulation Need to decide:
  - **1.** What are the **subproblems** to consider?
  - **2.** How can the **original problem** be expressed as subproblem(s)?
- ▶ Often requires to solve a more general version of the problem

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- **3.** DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

#### Here:

- **1. Subproblems** = Ranges of matrices [i..j)  $0 \le i \le j \le n$  i. e., optimal parenthesization for each range  $M_i, M_{i+1}, \dots, M_{j-1}$
- **2.** Original problem = range [0..n)
- ► Intuition:
  - ► Any subtree in binary multiplication tree covers some range [i..j) (matrix multiplication is not commutative → left-right order has to stay)
  - ▶ left and right factors of a multiplication don't "see/influence" each other

#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Step 2: Guess

- Usually, any subproblem can be split into smaller subproblems in several ways
- ▶ Which way to decompose gives best solution not known a priori
- → What do we have to correctly *guess* to solve the problem?
- ► Here: **Guess** last multiplication / root of binary tree
- $\rightarrow$  index  $k \in [i+1..j)$  so that [i..j) computed with **last** multiplication  $(M_i \cdot \cdots \cdot M_{k-1}) \cdot (M_k \cdot \cdots \cdot M_{j-1})$
- $\leadsto$  optimal parenthesization of  $M_i, \dots, M_{k-1}$  and  $M_k, \dots, M_{j-1}$  computed recursively (corresponds to subproblems [i..k) and [k..j))

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- **3.** DP Recurrence
- **4.** Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Step 3: DP Recurrence

- With subproblems and guessed part fixed, we try to express total value/cost of solution recursively
- → We ignore the actual solution and just compute its cost!
- ▶ Often good to prove correctness at level of recurrence

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- 3. DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- **5.** Table Filling
- **6.** Backtrace
- ► Here: **Recurrence** for m(i, j) = total number of integer multiplications used in best parenthesization of [i..j)
- → Set up recurrence, including any base cases.

$$m(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{recursive cost} & \text{cost of last multiplication} & \text{if } j - i \leq 1 \\ \min \left\{ \frac{m(i,k) + m(k,j) + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j-1]}{m(i,k) + m(k,j) + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j-1]} : k \in [i+1..j) \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Correctness

**Claim:** Let m(i, j) for  $0 \le i \le j \le n$  be defined by the recurrence

$$m(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j - i \le 1 \\ \min\{m(i,k) + m(k,j) + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j-1] : k \in [i+1..j) \} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
Then  $m(i,j) = \text{\#integer multiplications in best parenthesization of } M_i \cdots M_{j-1}.$ 

*Proof:* By induction over j - i

- ▶ **IB:** When  $j i \le 1$  we have an empty product (j = i) or a single matrix (j = i + 1) In both cases, no multiplications are needed and m(i, j) = 0.
- ▶ **IS:** Given  $j i \ge 2$  matrices and an optimal evalution tree T for them.
  - ► *T*'s root must be a last product of left and right subterms  $(M_i \cdots M_{k-1}) \cdot (M_k \cdots M_{j-1})$  for some i < k < j, with cost r[i]r[k]c[j-1].
  - ▶ Moreover, left and right subtree  $T_{\ell}$  and  $T_r$  of the root must be optimal evaluation trees for subproblems [i..k) and [k..j); (otherwise can improve T)
  - $\rightarrow$  By IH, the cost of  $T_{\ell}$  and  $T_r$  are given by m(i, k) and m(k, j)
  - $\rightsquigarrow m(i, j) = \cos t \text{ of } T$

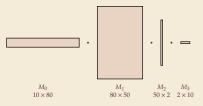
#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Step 4: Memoization

- ► Write **recursive** function to compute recurrence
- **▶** But *memoize* all results! (symbol table: subproblem  $\mapsto$  optimal cost)
- → First action of function: check if subproblem known
  - ► If so, return cached optimal cost
  - ▶ Otherwise, compute optimal cost and remember it!

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- **3.** DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

```
procedure totalMults(r[i..j), c[i..j)):
        if j - i \le 1
                                                                                                                               if i - i < 1
             return ()
                                                          m(i,j) =
3
                                                                      \min \left\{ m(i,k) + m(k,j) + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j-1] : k \in [i+1..j) \right\}
                                                                                                                              otherwise
        else
             best := +\infty
5
             for k := i + 1, ..., j - 1
                  m_l := \text{cachedTotalMults}(r[i..k), c[i..k))
                  m_r := \text{cachedTotalMults}(r[k..i], c[k..i])
                                                                         procedure cachedTotalMults(r[i..j), c[i..j)):
                  m := m_l + m_r + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j-1]
                                                                                 //m[0..n)[0..n) initialized to NULL at start
                                                                         14
                  best := min\{best, m\}
                                                                                 if m[i][j] == NULL
                                                                         15
10
             end for
                                                                                      m[i][j] := totalMults(r[i..j), c[i..j))
                                                                         16
11
             return best
                                                                                 return m[i, j]
12
                                                                         17
```

#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Example Memoization



$$n = 4$$
  
 $r[0..n) = [10, 80, 50, 2]$   
 $c[0..n) = [80, 50, 2, 10]$ 

m[i][j]	j	0	1	2	3	4
	0	0	0	40000	9600	9800
	1	_	0	0	8000	9600
	2	_	_	0	0	1000
	3	_	_		0	0
	4	_		_	_	0

#### **Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Runtime Analyses**

```
procedure totalMults(r[i..j), c[i..j)):
        if j - i \le 1
             return ()
        else
             hest := +\infty
 5
             for k := i + 1, ..., j - 1
                  m_l := \text{cachedTotalMults}(r[i..k), c[i..k))
                  m_r := \text{cachedTotalMults}(r[k..j), c[k..j))
                  m := m_l + m_r + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j-1]
                  best := min\{best, m\}
10
             end for
11
             return best
12
```

```
13 procedure cachedTotalMults(r[i..j), c[i..j)):
14 //m[0..n)[0..n) initialized to NULL at start
15 if m[i][j] == NULL
16 m[i][j] := totalMults(r[i..j), c[i..j))
17 return m[i,j]
```

- ► With memoization, compute each subproblem at most once
- ► nonrecursive cost (totalMults): O(j-i) = O(n)
- Number of subproblems [i..j) for  $0 \le i \le j \le n$

$$\sum_{0 \le i \le j \le n} 1 = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \sum_{j=i}^{n} 1 = \Theta(n^{2})$$

 $\rightarrow$  total running time  $O(n^3)$ 

## Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Step 5: Table Filling

- ► Recurrence induces a DAG on subproblems (who calls whom)
  - Memoized recurrence traverses this DAG (DFS!)
  - We can slightly improve performance by systematically computing subproblems following a fixed topological order

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- **3.** DP Recurrence
- **4.** Memoization
- **5.** Table Filling
- **6.** Backtrace

```
► Topological order here: by increasing length \ell = j - i, then by i
```

```
1 procedure totalMultsBottomUp(r[0..n), c[0..n)):

2 m[0..n)[0..n) := 0 // initialize to 0

3 for \ell = 2, 3, ..., n // iterate over subproblems ...

4 for i = 0, 1 ..., n - \ell // ... in topological order

5 j := i + \ell

6 m[i][j] := +\infty

7 for k := i + 1, ..., j - 1

8 q := m[i][k] + m[k][j] + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j - 1]

9 m[i][j] := \min\{m[i][j], q\}

10 return m[0..n)[0..n)
```

- ► Same Θ-class as memoized recursive function
- In practice usually substantially faster
  - lower overhead
  - predictable memory accesses

#### Matrix-Chain Multiplication – Step 6: Backtracing

- ► So far, only determine the **cost** of an optimal solution
  - But we also want the solution itself
- ▶ By *retracing* our steps, we can determine/construct one!
- ► Here: output a parenthesized term recursively

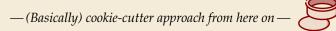
```
procedure matrixChainMult(r[0..n), c[0..n)):
       m[0..n)[0..n) := totalMultsBottomUp(r[0..n), c[0..n))
       return traceback([0..n))
5 procedure traceback([i..j)):
       if i - i = 1
           return Mi
       else
           for k := i + 1, ..., j - 1
                q := m[i][k] + m[k][j] + r[i] \cdot r[k] \cdot c[j-1]
10
                if m[i][j] == q
11
                    return (traceback([i..k))) \cdot (traceback([k..i)))
12
           end for
13
       end if
14
```

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- 3. DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace
- ► follow recurrence a second time
- ▶ always have for running time: backtracing = *O*(computing *M*)
- computing optimal cost and computing optimal solution have same complexity
- ► speedup possible by remembering correct guess *k* for each subproblem

## **Summary: The 6 Steps of Dynamic Programming**

- 1. Define **subproblems** and how **original problem** is solved
- 2. What part of solution to guess?
- **3.** Set up **DP recurrence** for quality/cost of solution
  - → Prove correctness here: induction over subproblems following recurrence
  - $\leadsto$  Analyze running time complexity here:  $\mbox{\#subproblems} \cdot \mbox{non-recursive time}$

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess
- 3. DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace



- **4.** Recursive implementation with **Memoization**: mutually recursive functions with cache *or*
- 5. Bottom-up table filling: define topological order of subproblem dependency graph
- **6. Backtracing** to reconstruct optimal solution: Recursively retrace cost recurrence

12.3 Greedy as Special Case of DP

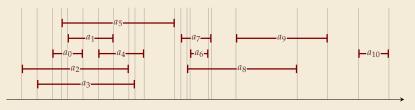
#### **Dynamic Greedy**

- Every Greedy Algorithm can also be seen as a DP algorithm without guessing
- → For new problems, it can help to first follow the DP roadmap and then check if we can select the "correct" guess without local brute force
- ▶ If so, we then recurse on a single branch of subproblems
- Greedy Algorithm doesn't need memoization or bottom-up table filling, but can do direct recursion instead

#### **Recall Unit 11**

#### The Activity selection problem

- Activity Selection: scheduling for single machine, jobs with fixed start and end times pick a subset of jobs without conflicts
  Formally:
  - ▶ **Given:** Activities  $A = \{a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}\}$ , each with a start time  $s_i$  and finish time  $f_i$   $(0 \le s_i < f_i < \infty)$
  - ▶ Goal: Subset  $I \subseteq [0..n)$  of tasks such that  $i, j \in I \land i \neq j \implies [s_i, f_i) \cap [s_j, f_j) = \emptyset$  and |I| is maximal among all such subsets
  - ▶ We further assume that jobs are sorted by finish time, i. e.,  $f_0 \le f_1 \le \cdots \le f_{n-1}$  (if not, easy to sort them in  $O(n \log n)$  time)



31

#### **DP Algorithm for Activity Selection**

- **1. Subproblems:**  $A_{i,j} = \{a_{\ell} \in A : s_{\ell} \ge f_i \land f_{\ell} \le s_j\}$  (after  $a_i$  finishes and before  $a_j$  begins)
  - **Original problem:**  $A_{-1,n}$  with dummy tasks  $f_{-1} = -\infty$ ,  $s_n = +\infty$
- original problems ri=1,n with desiring state y=

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- 3. DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

- **2.** Guess: Task  $k \in I^*$
- **3. DP Recurrence:** Denote  $c(i,j) = |I^*(A_{i,j})| = \text{maximum } \# \text{independent tasks in } A_{i,j}$

$$\sim c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0\,, & \text{if } A_{i,j} = \emptyset; \\ \max\{c(i,k) + c(k,j) + 1: a_k \in A_{i,j}\} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- **4.**−**6.** *Omitted* (could be done following the standard scheme)
  - ► Problem-specific insight from Unit 11  $\rightsquigarrow$  Can always use  $k = \min\{k : a_k \in A_{ij}\}$  (earliest finish time)

No guess needed!

12.4 The Bellman-Ford Algorithm

#### **Recall Shortest Paths**

- Single Source Shortest Path Problem (SSSPP)
  - ► **Given:** directed, edge-weighted, simple graph G = (V, E, c) with edge costs  $c : E \to \mathbb{R}$ , a start vertex  $s \in V$
  - ▶ **Goal:** a data structure that reports for every  $v \in V$ :  $\delta_G(s,v)$ : the shortest-path distance from s to v spath(v): a shortest path from s to v (if it exists)
- - Write  $\delta$  instead of  $\delta_G$  when graph clear from context
- ► Here: Assume **negative-weight edges** are present

(otherwise Dijkstra suffices)

- but for now: assume there is no negative cycle
- $\rightarrow$   $\delta(s, v) > -\infty$  and can restrict to shortest **paths** (not walks)

## Shortest Paths as DP – Last Edge Decomposition

- ▶ Idea: Every nontrivial shortest path has a **last edge**.
  - We don't know which; so guess!

- $\rightsquigarrow$  Subproblems: for  $w \in V$ , compute  $\delta(s, w)$ .
  - $\rightarrow$  Recurrence:  $\delta(s, w) = \min\{\delta(s, v) + c(vw) : vw \in E\}$



subproblem dependency graph is isomorphic to  $G^T$ !  $\leadsto$  doesn't work in general

→ Yields usable (terminating!) algorithm *iff G* is a DAG.



To break the cycles, let's turn them into a helix!

- ▶ Need to build "layers" in the subproblem dependency graph, so that edges can't go back up.
- ▶ **Subproblems:**  $(w, \ell)$  for  $w \in V, \ell \in [0..n)$ , compute  $\delta_{<\ell}(s, w)$ where  $\delta_{<\ell}(s,v) = \min\{\{+\infty\} \cup \{c(w) : w \text{ an } s\text{-}v\text{-walk with } \leq \ell \text{ edges}\}\}$
- ▶ **Original problems:**  $\ell = n 1$  (without negative cycles, paths suffice)

$$\textbf{Recurrence:} \ \, \delta_{\leq \ell}(s,w) = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } \ell = 0 \text{ and } s \neq w \\ 0 & \text{if } \ell = 0 \text{ and } s = w \\ \min \big\{ \delta_{\leq \ell-1}(s,v) + c(vw) : vw \in E \big\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## **Shortest Paths as DP – Length Layers**

#### Hold On – What about negative cycles?

The recurrence for δ<sub>≤ℓ</sub> seems to work fine with *negative* edges
 But *G* could contain a negative-weight cycle *C* . . .

$$\delta_{\leq \ell}(s,w) = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } \ell = 0 \text{ and } s \neq w \\ 0 & \text{if } \ell = 0 \text{ and } s = w \\ \min\{\delta_{\leq \ell-1}(s,v) + c(vw) : vw \in E\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Isn't that a contradiction to the non-existence of shortest paths?

- ▶ No. If we restrict the length, shortest walks always exist.
- ▶ But: If there is a negative cycle C[0..k] with paths  $s \leadsto C$  and  $C \leadsto w$ , then  $\delta_{\leq \ell}(s, w) > \delta_{\leq \ell+k}(s, w) > \delta_{\leq \ell+2k}(s, w) > \cdots$  (and  $\delta(s, w) = -\infty$ )
- We can *detect* if any negative cycle is reachable from s by including more layers  $\ell \ge n$  and check if some vertex still improves.
  - ► How many further layers do we need / when is it safe to stop?

#### **Detecting negative cycles**

We can detect reachable negative cycles by including just the *single* extra layer  $\ell = n!$ 

**Lemma:**  $\exists w : \delta_{\leq n}(s, w) < \delta_{\leq n-1}(s, w)$  *iff* negative cycle reachable from s

- **"**⇒'
- ► If some vertex w improves further, i. e.,  $\delta_{\leq n}(s, w) < \delta_{\leq n-1}(s, w)$  a walk W[0..n] with  $c(W) = \delta_{\leq n}(s, w)$  was the **shortest** way to reach w
- $\rightsquigarrow$  W is a non-simple walk, i. e., it contains a cycle
- Let P[0..k] be the path resulting from W by shortcutting all cycles  $\leftrightarrow k \le n-1$
- $\leadsto c(P) \ge \delta_{\le n-1}(s,w) > \delta_{\le n}(s,w) = c(W)$
- $\rightarrow$   $\exists$  negative cycle reachable from s
- "⇐"
- ightharpoonup Conversely, let negative cycle C[0..k] be reachable from s
- $\rightarrow c(C) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} c(C[i]C[i+1]) < 0$
- Assume towards a contradiction that  $\forall w : \delta_{\leq n}(s, w) = \delta_{\leq n-1}(s, w)$
- $\forall vw \in E : \delta_{< n-1}(s, w) \le \delta_{< n-1}(s, v) + c(vw)$  (no update in layer  $\ell = n$ )
- summing this inequality over C[0..k] yields (abbreviating  $\delta(w) := \delta_{\leq n-1}(s, w)$ )

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} \delta(C[i]) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{k} \left( \delta(C[i-1]) + c(C[i]C[i+1]) \right) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \delta(C[i]) + \sum_{i=1}^{k} c(C[i]C[i+1])$$

$$\rightarrow 0 \le c(C) < 0$$

#### Shortest Paths as DP – Template Algorithm

- Strictly following the template works . . .
  - ▶ Subproblem order: by increasing  $\ell \in [0..n]$  and  $v \in V$
  - Bottom-up table filling:

```
1. Subproblems
```

- Guess!
- 3. DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

```
1 procedure shortestPathsDP(G, s):
        // Base case \ell = 0:
         \delta[0..n][0..n) := +\infty // \delta[\ell][v] will store \delta_{<\ell}(s,v)
        \delta[0][s] := 0
                                                                                                                                           if \ell = 0 and s \neq w
        for \ell := 1, \ldots, n // layer
                                                                               \delta_{<\ell}(s,w) = \{0
                                                                                                                                           if \ell = 0 and s = w
               for w := 0, ..., n - 1 // vertex
                                                                                               \min \left\{ \delta_{\leq \ell-1}(s,v) + c(vw) : vw \in E \right\}
                                                                                                                                           otherwise
                     for vw \in E
7
                           \delta[\ell][w] := \min\{\delta[\ell][w], \, \delta[\ell-1][v] + c(vw)\}
         return \delta
9
```

- but some improvements are possible!
  - Iterating over *incoming* edges is not convenient
    - → order of updates within layer ℓ doesn't matter → iterate forwards!
  - only use final distances in the end; we waste space by keeping 2D array around
    - $\rightarrow$  can actually just do updates in place, using a single array  $\delta$
    - $\rightarrow$  Don't strictly solve subproblems  $(\ell, v)$  any more! (but final result correct)

#### The Bellman-Ford Algorithm

```
procedure bellmanFord(G, s):
       dist[0..n) := +\infty; pred[0..n) := null
       dist[s] := 0
       for \ell := 1, ..., n-1
           for v := 0, ..., n-1
               for (w, c) \in G.adi[v]
                    if dist[w] > dist[v] + c
                        dist[w] := dist[v] + c
                        pred[w] := v // remember for backtrace
       for v := 0, ..., n-1
10
           for (w, c) \in G.adi[v]
11
                if dist[w] > dist[v] + c
12
                    return HAS_NEGATIVE_CYCLE
13
       return (dist, pred)
14
```

- ► Final algorithm (including shortest path tree via *pred*)
- **▶** Correctness:
  - ▶ by induction over loop iteration show  $dist[w] \le \delta_{\le \ell}(s, w)$  and if finite, dist[w] is c(P) for some s-w-path
  - negative cycle detection from Lemma
- ▶ Space:  $\Theta(n)$
- **Running time:** O(n(n+m))

#### **Extensions:**

- ightharpoonup Can be implemented in O(nm) time by removing unreachable vertices from consideration
- Instead of only detecting a negative cycle, we can return one; we can also explicitly find all vertices with  $\delta(s, w) = -\infty$  (needs another traversal).
- ightharpoonup Can terminate with smaller  $\ell$  if no distance changed  $\leadsto$  faster for some graphs

12.5 Making Change in Pre-1971 UK

#### Recall Unit 11

#### **Greed For Change**

The Change-Making Problem (a. k. a. Coin-Exchange Problem)

- ▶ **Given:** a set of integer denominations of coins  $w_1 < w_2 < \cdots < w_k$  with  $w_1 = 1$ , target value  $n \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$  (we have sufficient supply of all coins ...)
- ▶ **Goal:** "fewest coins to give change n", i. e., multiplicities  $c_1, \ldots, c_k \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^k c_i \cdot w_i = n$  minimizing  $\sum_{i=1}^k c_i$

For Euro coins, denominations are (0, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 10, and 20). formally: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 200.  $w_1$   $w_2$   $w_3$   $w_4$   $w_5$   $w_6$   $w_7$   $w_8$ 

- Simple greedy algorithm: largest coins first
  - ightharpoonup optimal time (O(k) if coins sorted)
  - ▶ is  $\sum c_i$  minimal?

## **Pre-Decimal English Coins**

We discussed that for some (unwise) choices of denominations, Greedy cannot give optimal change. Welcome to Britain until 1971!

#### **British Pre-Decimal Coins:**

- $ightharpoonup rac{1}{2}$  penny,
- ▶ 1 penny,
- ▶ 3 pence,
- ▶ 6 pence,
- ▶ shilling = 12 pence,
- ▶ florin = 24 pence
- ► half-crown = 30 pence
- ightharpoonup crown = 60 pence
- ▶ pound = 240 pence
- ▶ guinea =  $21 \cdot 12 = 252$  pence (obsolete as coin since 1816)

- $\rightarrow$  Greedy would give 48 pence as 30p + 12p + 6p
- ▶ obviously, 2 florins are more efficient

→ How to solve exactly?

As the old saying goes . . .

Where Greedy fails, DP prevails. (but mind details, and how it scales)

## Making Change by DP

Idea: Every solution must pick a first coin. Which one? Unclear, so guess!

- ► **Subproblems:** Change for  $m \in [0..n]$  (with coins  $w_1, ..., w_k$ )
  Original problem m = n
- **Guess:** first coin  $w_i$  to use
- **Recurrence** C(m) = smallest #coins to give change m

$$C(m) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m = 0\\ 1 + \min\{C(m - w_i) : i \in [1..k] \land w_i \le m\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

► Bottom-up implementation & Backtrace

```
1 procedure dpChange(w[1..k], n):

2 C[0..n] := +\infty

3 C[0] := 0

4 for m := 1, ..., n

5 for i := 1, ..., k

6 if w[i] \ge m

7 q := 1 + C[m - w[i]]

8 C[m] := \min\{C[m], q\}

9 return C[n]
```

```
procedure tracebackChange(w[1..k], n):

C[0..n] := dpChange(<math>w[1..k], n)

c[1..k] := 0 // coin multiplicities

m := n

while m > 0

for i := 1, ..., k

if w[i] \ge m \land C[m] == 1 + C[m - w[i]]

c[i] := c[i] + 1; m := m - w[i]

return c[1..k]
```

Subproblems
 Guess!

DP Recurrence
 Memoization

Table Filling

6. Backtrace

## Making Change by DP – Analysis

- ▶ **Input:** denominations of coins  $w_1 < w_2 < \cdots < w_k$  with  $w_1 = 1$ , target value  $n \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$
- ► Space:  $\Theta(n)$  #subproblems

  ↓ time per subproblem

  ► Running Time:  $O(n \cdot k)$

```
1 procedure dpChange(w[1..k], n):

2 C[0..n] := +\infty

3 C[0] := 0

4 for m := 1, ..., n

5 for i := 1, ..., k

6 if w[i] \ge m

7 q := 1 + C[m - w[i]]

8 C[m] := \min\{C[m], q\}

9 return C[n]
```

#### How good is this running time?

- ► A linear function in both input numbers seems decent, right? (If *k* and *n* small, certainly Yes.)
  - ▶ Running time is also certainly a *polynomial* in *n* and *k*
- ▶ But: In terms of *computational complexity*, dpChange is an **exponential-time algorithm**!
  - ightharpoonup Reason: We give the input **number** n in **binary**, so n is exponential in its *input size*.
  - Must distinguish: *value* of a number (in the input) vs. *size* of the (encoding of the) input
    - dpChange is a *pseudo-polynomial time* algorithm
- ► Actually, the general making-change problem is NP-complete (!)

## Knapsack

Let's look at slightly more interesting problem: *Knapsack* ("*Rucksack*").

#### The 0/1-Knapsack Problem

a.k.a. the burglar's problem

- **Given:** *k* items with weights  $w_1 \ldots, w_k \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$  and values  $v_1, \ldots, v_k \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ; a weight budget  $W \in \mathbb{N}$
- ▶ Goal: Subset  $I \subseteq [1..k]$  such that  $\sum_{i \in I} w_i \leq W$  with maximum  $\sum_{i \in I} v_i$ .

  Variant closer to Making change: Can use each item several times
- ▶ Recall from tutorials: Greedy fails miserably in general.
- - ▶ **Subproblems:**  $B \in [0..W]$ , best value with total weight  $\leq B$
  - ▶ **Guess:** first item *i* with  $w_i \leq B$ .
  - **7** Subproblem not of same type since  $w_i$  no longer there!
  - $\rightarrow$  2<sup>k</sup> possible "states" to be in (items already used) (0/1-Knapsack)
  - **77** need a table of size  $W \cdot 2^k \dots$  might as well do brute force then!

- 1. Subproblems
- Guess!
- 3. DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

## Knapsack by DP

- → Force order to consider items in!
- ► Let's refine the guessing part to **Guess:** Whether or not to include the *last* item (*k*)
  - $\rightarrow$  For subproblem, restrict to items  $1, \dots, k-1$  (in either case)

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- **3.** DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

$$\rightarrow$$
 **Subproblems:** (ℓ, B) for ℓ ∈ [1..k] and B ∈ [0..W]

$$V(\ell,B) = \max_{I} \sum_{i \in I} v_i$$
 over sets of items  $I \subset [1..\ell]$  with  $\sum_{i \in I} w_i \leq B$ 

Original problem corresponds to V(k, W)

$$\textbf{Recurrence:} \ \ V(\ell,B) \ = \ \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if} \ \ell = 1 \land w_1 > B \\ v_1 & \text{don't take} \ \ell \\ \max \left\{ v_\ell + V(\ell-1,B-w_k), \ V(\ell-1,B) \right\} \end{cases} \ \ \text{otherwise}$$



#### Cookie-Cutter Steps 4. – 6. Omitted

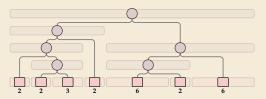
- ▶  $V(\ell, \cdot)$  only needs  $V(\ell-1, \cdot)$   $\longrightarrow$  two arrays V[0..W] and  $V_{\text{prev}}[0..W]$  suffice
- $\rightarrow$   $\Theta(W)$  **space**,  $\Theta(W \cdot k)$  **time** (pseudo-polynomial algorithm)

# 12.6 Optimal Merge Trees & Optimal BSTs

#### **Recall Unit 4**

### Good merge orders

- Let's take a step back and breathe.
- ► Conceptually, there are two tasks:
  - **1.** Detect and use existing runs in the input  $\rightsquigarrow \ell_1, \ldots, \ell_r$  (easy)
  - 2. Determine a favorable order of merges of runs ("automatic" in top-down mergesort)



Merge cost = total area of

= total length of paths to all array entries  $- \sum_{z \neq z \neq b} t(zz) \cdot denth(zz)$ 

$$= \sum_{w \text{ leaf}} weight(w) \cdot depth(w)$$

well-understood problem with known algorithms

optimal merge tree  $\downarrow$  = optimal binary search tree for leaf weights  $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_r$  (optimal expected search cost)

29

## **Optimal Alphabetic Trees**

"well-understood problem with known algorithms" . . . let's make it so ☺️

- ▶ **Given:** Leaf weights  $\ell_0, \ldots, \ell_n$  normalized to  $\ell_0 + \cdots + \ell_n = 1$
- ▶ **Goal:** Binary search tree T with n + 1 null pointers  $L_0, \ldots, L_n$ , such that

$$c(T) := \sum_{i=1}^{n} \ell_i \cdot \operatorname{depth}_T(L_i)$$
 is minimized

#### **▶** Equivalent interpretations:

- **1.** Optimal Static BST with keys 1, 2, ..., n  $\Leftrightarrow$  leaf  $L_i$  reached when searching for  $i + 0.5 \Leftrightarrow c(T)$  expected cost of unsuccessful search
- Alphabetic code for σ = n + 1 symbols; like Huffman code, but codewords must retain order (if i < j then the codeword for i lexicographically smaller than codeword for j)</li>
   c(T) expected codeword length
  - Inherit lower bound from Huffman codes:  $c(T) \ge \mathcal{H}$  with  $\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \ell_i \cdot \log_2\left(\frac{1}{\ell_i}\right)$
- **3.** *Merge tree* for adaptive sorting; c(T) = merge cost per element.
  - ▶ Via Peeksort or Powersort know methods to achieve  $c(T) \le \mathcal{H} + 2$
  - But neither are in general optimal

# **Optimal Alphabetic Trees by DP**

- ▶ **Guess:** (Key in) root  $r \in [1..n]$  of BST T (= #leaves in left subtree)
- ▶ Subproblems: [i..j) for  $0 \le i < j \le n+1$   $C(i,j) = \text{cost of opt. BST with leaf weights } \ell_i, \dots, \ell_{j-1}$ Original problem: C(0,n+1)

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- 3. DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

► Recurrence:

$$C(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{all leaves in subtree pay 1 at root...} & \text{if } j-i=1 \\ \ell_i + \dots + \ell_{j-1} + \min \left\{ \frac{C(i,r) + C(r,j)}{C(i,r) + C(r,j)} : r \in [i+1..j-1] \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
... plus cost to continue in left/right subtree



Obtain a  $O(n^3)$  time and  $O(n^2)$  space algorithm

## **Optimal Binary Search Trees**

- ▶ Algorithm can be generalized to Optimal BSTs when also internal nodes have weights
  - ► Same DP subproblems
- ▶ Running time can be reduced to  $O(n^2)$  using quadrangle inequality
  - ▶ Intuitively: When adding more weight in right subtree, optimal root cannot move left.
  - ightharpoonup Requires to remember r for each subproblem
- ► For original alphabetic tree problem, can actually find optimal tree in  $O(n \log n)$  time with a much more intricate algorithm

# 12.7 Edit Distance

#### **Edit Distance**

Our last DP application here: (algorithmic foundation of) diff!

- diff is a classic Unix tool to compare two text files
- routinely used in version control systems such as git
- abstract problem: measure how different two strings are
  - ► We've seen *Hamming distance* . . . But how to deal with strings of different lengths?
  - how to match common parts that are far apart?
  - diff works line-oriented, but we will formulate the problem character oriented

#### **Edit Distance Problem**

- ▶ **Given:** String A[0..m) and B[0..n) over alphabet  $\Sigma = [0..\sigma)$ .
- ▶ **Goal:**  $d_{\text{edit}}(A, B) = \text{minimal #symbol operations to transform } A \text{ into } B$  operations can be insertion/deletion/substitution of single character

## **Edit Distance Example**

**Example:** edit distance  $d_{\text{edit}}(\text{algorithm}, \text{logarithm})$ ?

algorithm logarithm 0123456789 al·gorithm -|+|X||||| ·logarithm

## **Edit Distance by DP**

- **1. Subproblems:** (i, j) for  $0 \le i \le m$ ,  $0 \le j \le m$  compute  $d_{\text{edit}}(A[0..i), B[0..j))$
- 2. Guess: What to do with last positions? (insert/delete/(mis)match)
- **3. Recurrence:**  $D(i, j) = d_{edit}(A[0..i), B[0..j))$

$$D(i,j) = \begin{cases} i & \text{if } j = 0 \\ j & \text{if } i = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$D(i,j) = \begin{cases} D(i-1,j) + 1, & \text{otherwise} \\ D(i,j-1) + 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\sim$  O(nm) space and time space can be improved to  $O(\min\{n, m\})$  by remembering only 2 rows or columns
- ► An optimal *edit script* can be constructed by a backtrace

#### **Generalized Edit Distances**

- ► The variant we discussed is also called *Levenshtein distance* 
  - all operation have cost 1
- ▶ we can directly give each of the following its **own cost** in our DP algorithm
  - ▶ deleting an occurrence of  $a \in \Sigma$
  - ▶ inserting an  $a \in \Sigma$
  - ▶ substituting  $a \in \Sigma$  for  $b \in \Sigma$
- ► Extensions of the algorithm can support:
  - ▶ free insert/delete at beginning/end of a string
  - ▶ affine gap costs, i. e., inserting/deleting k consecutive chars costs  $c \cdot k + d$  for constants c and d
- extensions widely used to find approximate matches, e. g., in DNA sequences

# **Dynamic Programming – Summary**

- 1. Subproblems
- 2. Guess!
- **3.** DP Recurrence
- 4. Memoization
- 5. Table Filling
- 6. Backtrace

- Versatile and powerful algorithm design paradigm
- 🖒 Once key idea (recurrence) clear, implementation rather straight-forward

