

Design and Analysis of Algorithms

Practice sheet on Dynamic Programming

1. Weighted job scheduling problem

There are n jobs : $\langle J_1, \dots, J_n \rangle$ and a single server. Job J_i has a start time s_i and finish time f_i . The server can execute only one job at a time. Unfortunately, there is overlap between the time spans of various jobs, and so we can not execute all the jobs on the server. Each job has also a profit associated with it which is obtained if that job is executed on the server. Let p_i denote the profit associated with job J_i . Give a counter-example to show that the greedy strategy “select the earliest finish time” won’t work here. Design a polynomial time algorithm to find a subset of jobs that can be executed on the server such that the profit obtained is maximum.

Hint: Sort the jobs in the non-decreasing order of their finish times. Use this order to design a recursive formulation for the problem suitably.

2. Monotonically increasing subsequence

Given a sequence $A = a_1, \dots, a_n$, a subsequence $a_{i_1}, a_{i_2}, \dots, a_{i_k}$ is said to be monotonically increasing if $a_{i_j} < a_{i_{j+1}}$ for all $1 \leq j < k$. Design an $O(n^2)$ time algorithm to compute the longest monotonically increasing subsequence of sequence A .

Hint: Can you relate this problem to some problem discussed in the lectures ?

3. Box stacking

Box Stacking. You are given a set of n types of rectangular 3-D boxes, where the i th box has height $h(i)$, width $w(i)$ and depth $d(i)$ (all real numbers). You want to create a stack of boxes which is as tall as possible, but you can only stack a box on top of another box if the dimensions of the 2-D base of the lower box are each strictly larger than those of the 2-D base of the higher box. Of course, you can rotate a box so that any side functions as its base. It is also allowable to use multiple instances of the same type of box.

Hint: Let us consider 3 orientations of each box. So there are total $3n$ distinct boxes each with fixed orientation. For each pair of boxes, we can determine whether one box can be placed on the other one. Let b_1, \dots, b_{2n} be the sequence of the boxes arranged in the increasing order of their base area. Let $H(i)$ be the height of the tallest stack of boxes we can form with the box b_i at the bottom. Proceed along these lines ...

4. Bridges across a river

Consider a 2-D map with a horizontal river passing through its center. There are n cities on the southern bank with x -coordinates $a(1) \dots a(n)$ and n cities on the northern bank with x -coordinates $b(1) \dots b(n)$. Note that there is no order among $a(i)$ ’s.

Similarly, you can't assume any order among $b(i)$'s. You want to connect as many north-south pairs of cities as possible with bridges such that no two bridges cross. When connecting cities, you can only connect city i on the northern bank to city i on the southern bank. Design a polynomial time algorithm to compute the maximum number of non-crossing bridges that can be built.

Hint: Can you formulate it in terms of some problem discussed in the lectures ?

5. Edit Distance

Given two text strings A of length n and B of length m , you want to transform A into B with a minimum number of operations of the following types: delete a character from A , insert a character into A , or change some character in A into a new character. The minimal number of such operations required to transform A into B is called the edit distance between A and B . Design a polynomial time algorithm to compute edit distance between A and B .

Hint: Define a term $T(i, j)$ suitably. What is the minimum number of steps to transform A into $B[1..j]$ if A is empty ? If i th character of A has to be retained in transforming $A[1..i]$ to $B[1..j]$, how will the optimal transformation look like ? Likewise, what if the i th character of A has to be deleted or changed ?

6. Matrix chain multiplication

There is a sequence of matrices M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n storing numbers. For each $1 < i \leq n$, the number of rows of M_i is identical to the number of columns of M_{i-1} . So the product $M_1 \times M_2 \times \dots \times M_n$ is well defined. We also know that matrix multiplication is associative. That is, $(M_1 \times M_2) \times M_3 = M_1 \times (M_2 \times M_3)$. However, the number of arithmetic operations required may vary in these two possible ways. For example, let M_1 be 10×100 , M_2 be 100×5 , and M_3 be 5×50 .

- If we multiply according to $((M_1 \times M_2) \times M_3)$, we perform $10 \cdot 100 \cdot 5 = 5000$ multiplication operations to compute the 10×5 matrix $(M_1 \times M_2)$ and then $10 \cdot 5 \cdot 50$ multiplication operations to multiply this matrix with M_3 . So a total of 7500 multiplication operations are carried out.
- If instead we multiply according to $(M_1 \times (M_2 \times M_3))$, we perform $100 \cdot 5 \cdot 50 = 25000$ scalar multiplications to compute 100×50 matrix $(M_2 \times M_3)$ and then another $10 \cdot 100 \cdot 50 = 50000$ multiplication operation to multiply M_1 by this matrix. Hence a total of 75000 multiplication operations are carried out.

Our aim is to compute $M_1 \times M_2 \times \dots \times M_n$ using least number of multiplication operations. Design an algorithm based on dynamic programming to solve this problem in polynomial time. Here is some additional explanation which should help you understand the problem better.

The order in which we compute $M_1 \times M_2 \times \dots \times M_n$ is defined by parenthesizing the expression of n matrices. For example, if $n = 4$, then there are the following 4 ways to compute the product:

- $((M_1 \times M_2) \times M_3) \times M_4$

- $((M_1 \times M_2) \times (M_3 \times M_4))$
- $(M_1 \times ((M_2 \times M_3) \times M_4))$
- $(M_1 \times (M_2 \times (M_3 \times M_4)))$

The number of ways to parenthesize the expression is exponential (it is catalan number). Of course, we can not afford to try out each possible way to multiply the n matrices.

Hint 1: A better understanding of the algorithm for optimal triangulation of convex polygon might help.

Hint 2: Consider that parenthesized expression that corresponds to the least number of multiplication operations. If you multiply the matrices according to this parenthesization, the number of matrices will reduce by 1 each time. Finally we will be left with only 2 matrices. How do these last two matrices which are multiplied look like ? What can you infer from it ? Use it to come up with a recursive formulation.