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Count Possible Decodings of a given Digit Sequence

Difficulty Level : Medium • Last Updated : 31 May, 2022



Let 1 represent 'A', 2 represents 'B', etc. Given a digit sequence, count the number of possible decodings of the given digit sequence.

Examples:

Input: `digits[] = "121"`

Output: 3

// The possible decodings are "ABA", "AU", "LA"

Input: `digits[] = "1234"`

Output: 3

// The possible decodings are "ABCD", "LCD", "AWD"

An empty digit sequence is considered to have one decoding. It may be assumed that the input contains valid digits from 0 to 9 and there are no leading 0's, no extra trailing 0's, and no two or more consecutive 0's.

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Got It !

count of decodings as 0. We recur for two subproblems.

1) If the last digit is non-zero, recur for the remaining (n-1) digits and add the result to the total count.

2) If the last two digits form a valid character (or smaller than 27), recur for remaining (n-2) digits and add the result to the total count.

Following is the implementation of the above approach.

C++

```
// C++ implementation to count number of
// decodings that can be formed from a
// given digit sequence
#include <cstring>
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

// recurring function to find
// ways in how many ways a
// string can be decoded of length
// greater than 0 and starting with
// digit 1 and greater.
int countDecoding(char* digits, int n)
{
    // base cases
    if (n == 0 || n == 1)
        return 1;
    if (digits[0] == '0')
        return 0;

    // for base condition "01123" should return 0
    // Initialize count
    int count = 0;

    // If the last digit is not 0,
    // then last digit must add
    // to the number of words
    if (digits[n - 1] != '0')
```

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```

        // last two digits and recur
        if (digits[n - 2] == '1'
            || (digits[n - 2] == '2'
                && digits[n - 1] < '7'))
            count += countDecoding(digits, n - 2);

        return count;
    }

    // Given a digit sequence of length n,
    // returns count of possible decodings by
    // replacing 1 with A, 2 with B, ... 26 with Z
    int countWays(char* digits, int n)
    {
        if (n == 0 || (n == 1 && digits[0] == '0'))
            return 0;
        return countDecoding(digits, n);
    }

    // Driver code
    int main()
    {
        char digits[] = "1234";
        int n = strlen(digits);
        cout << "Count is " << countWays(digits, n);
        return 0;
    }
    // Modified by Atanu Sen

```

Java

```

// A naive recursive Java implementation
// to count number of decodings that
// can be formed from a given digit sequence

class GFG {

    // recurring function to find
    // ways in how many ways a

```

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```

{
    // base cases
    if (n == 0 || n == 1)
        return 1;

    // for base condition "01123" should return 0
    if (digits[0] == '0')
        return 0;

    // Initialize count
    int count = 0;

    // If the last digit is not 0, then
    // last digit must add to
    // the number of words
    if (digits[n - 1] > '0')
        count = countDecoding(digits, n - 1);

    // If the last two digits form a number
    // smaller than or equal to 26,
    // then consider last two digits and recur
    if (digits[n - 2] == '1'
        || (digits[n - 2] == '2'
            && digits[n - 1] < '7'))
        count += countDecoding(digits, n - 2);

    return count;
}

// Given a digit sequence of length n,
// returns count of possible decodings by
// replacing 1 with A, 2 with B, ... 26 with Z
static int countWays(char[] digits, int n)
{
    if (n == 0 || (n == 1 && digits[0] == '0'))
        return 0;
    return countDecoding(digits, n);
}

// Driver code
public static void main(String[] args)

```

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```

        countWays(digits, n));
    }
}

// This code is contributed by Smitha Dinesh Semwal.
// Modified by Atanu Sen

```

Python3

```

# Recursive implementation of numDecodings
def numDecodings(s: str) -> int:
    if len(s) == 0
    or (len(s) == 1
        and s[0] == '0'):
        return 0
    return numDecodingsHelper(s, len(s))

def numDecodingsHelper(s: str, n: int) -> int:
    if n == 0 or n == 1:
        return 1
    count = 0
    if s[n-1] > "0":
        count = numDecodingsHelper(s, n-1)
    if (s[n - 2] == '1'
        or (s[n - 2] == '2'
            and s[n - 1] < '7')):
        count += numDecodingsHelper(s, n - 2)
    return count

# Driver code
digits = "1234"
print("Count is ", numDecodings(digits))
# This code is contributed by Frank Hu

```

C#

```

// ...

```

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```

class GFG {

    // recurring function to find
    // ways in how many ways a
    // string can be decoded of length
    // greater than 0 and starting with
    // digit 1 and greater.
    static int countDecoding(char[] digits, int n)
    {

        // base cases
        if (n == 0 || n == 1)
            return 1;

        // Initialize count
        int count = 0;

        // If the last digit is not 0, then
        // last digit must add to
        // the number of words
        if (digits[n - 1] > '0')
            count = countDecoding(digits, n - 1);

        // If the last two digits form a number
        // smaller than or equal to 26, then
        // consider last two digits and recur
        if (digits[n - 2] == '1'
            || (digits[n - 2] == '2'
                && digits[n - 1] < '7'))
            count += countDecoding(digits, n - 2);

        return count;
    }

    // Given a digit sequence of length n,
    // returns count of possible decodings by
    // replacing 1 with A, 2 with B, ... 26 with Z
    static int countWays(char[] digits, int n)
    {
        if (n == 0 || (n == 1 && digits[0] == '0'))
            return 0;
    }
}

```

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```

public static void Main()
{
    char[] digits = { '1', '2', '3', '4' };
    int n = digits.Length;
    Console.Write("Count is ");
    Console.Write(countWays(digits, n));
}
}

```

// This code is contributed by nitin mittal.

PHP

```

<?php
// A naive recursive PHP implementation
// to count number of decodings that can
// be formed from a given digit sequence

//recurring function to find
//ways in how many ways a
//string can be decoded of length
//greater than 0 and starting with
//digit 1 and greater.
function countDecoding(&$digits, $n)
{
    // base cases
    if ($n == 0 || $n == 1)
        return 1;

    $count = 0; // Initialize count

    // If the last digit is not 0, then last
    // digit must add to the number of words
    if ($digits[$n - 1] > '0')
        $count = countDecoding($digits, $n - 1);

    // If the last two digits form a number
    // smaller than or equal to 26, then
    // consider last two digits and recur
    if ($digits[$n - 1] > '0' && $digits[$n - 2] < '2' || ($digits[$n - 2] == '2' && $digits[$n - 1] < '7'))
        $count += countDecoding($digits, $n - 2);
}

```

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```

        return $count;
    }

    // Given a digit sequence of length n,
    // returns count of possible decodings by
    // replacing 1 with A, 2 with B, ... 26 with Z
    function countWays(&$digits, $n){
        if($n==0 || ($n == 1 && $digits[0] == '0'))
            return 0;
        return countDecoding($digits, $n);
    }

    // Driver Code
    $digits = "1234";
    $n = strlen($digits);
    echo "Count is " . countWays($digits, $n);

    // This code is contributed by ita_c
    ?>

```

Javascript

```

<script>

// A naive recursive JavaScript implementation
// to count number of decodings that
// can be formed from a given digit sequence

// recurring function to find
// ways in how many ways a
// string can be decoded of length
// greater than 0 and starting with
// digit 1 and greater.
function countDecoding(digits, n)
{
    // base cases
    if (n == 0 || n == 1)
    {
        return 1;
    }

```

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```

        return 0;
    }

    // Initialize count
    let count = 0;

    // If the last digit is not 0, then
    // last digit must add to
    // the number of words
    if (digits[n - 1] > '0')
    {
        count = countDecoding(digits, n - 1);
    }
    // If the last two digits form a number
    // smaller than or equal to 26,
    // then consider last two digits and recur
    if (digits[n - 2] == '1'
        || (digits[n - 2] == '2'
            && digits[n - 1] < '7'))
    {
        count += countDecoding(digits, n - 2);
    }
    return count;
}

// Given a digit sequence of length n,
// returns count of possible decodings by
// replacing 1 with A, 2 with B, ... 26 with Z
function countWays(digits, n)
{
    if (n == 0 || (n == 1 && digits[0] == '0'))
    {
        return 0;
    }
    return countDecoding(digits, n);
}

// Driver code
digits=['1', '2', '3', '4'];
let n = digits.length;
document.write("Count is ",countWays(digits, n));

```

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Output:

Count is 3

The time complexity of above the code is exponential. If we take a closer look at the above program, we can observe that the recursive solution is similar to [Fibonacci Numbers](#). Therefore, we can optimize the above solution to work in $O(n)$ time using [Dynamic Programming](#).

Following is the implementation for the same.

C++

```
// A Dynamic Programming based C++
// implementation to count decodings
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>
using namespace std;

// A Dynamic Programming based function
// to count decodings
int countDecodingDP(char *digits, int n)
{
    // A table to store results of subproblems
    int count[n+1];
    count[0] = 1;
    count[1] = 1;
    //for base condition "01123" should return 0
    if(digits[0]=='0')
        return 0;
    for (int i = 2; i <= n; i++)
    {
        count[i] = 0;

        // If the last digit is not 0,
        // then last digit must add to the number of words
        if (digits[i-1] > '0')
```

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```

        // then last two digits form a valid character
        if (digits[i-2] == '1' ||
            (digits[i-2] == '2' && digits[i-1] < '7') )
            count[i] += count[i-2];
    }
    return count[n];
}

// Driver program to test above function
int main()
{
    char digits[] = "1234";
    int n = strlen(digits);
    cout << "Count is " << countDecodingDP(digits, n);
    return 0;
}
// Modified by Atanu Sen

```

Java

```

// A Dynamic Programming based Java
// implementation to count decodings
import java.io.*;

class GFG
{
    // A Dynamic Programming based
    // function to count decodings
    static int countDecodingDP(char digits[],
                                int n)
    {
        // A table to store results of subproblems
        int count[] = new int[n + 1];
        count[0] = 1;
        count[1] = 1;
        if(digits[0]=='0') //for base condition "01123" should return 0
            return 0;
        for (int i = 2; i <= n; i++)
        {

```

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```

        // the number of words
        if (digits[i - 1] > '0')
            count[i] = count[i - 1];

        // If second last digit is smaller
        // than 2 and last digit is smaller
        // than 7, then last two digits
        // form a valid character
        if (digits[i - 2] == '1' ||
            (digits[i - 2] == '2' &&
             digits[i - 1] < '7'))
            count[i] += count[i - 2];
    }
    return count[n];
}

// Driver Code
public static void main (String[] args)
{
    char digits[] = {'1','2','3','4'};
    int n = digits.length;
    System.out.println("Count is " +
        countDecodingDP(digits, n));
}
}

// This code is contributed by anuj_67
// Modified by Atanu Sen

```

Python3

```

# A Dynamic Programming based Python3
# implementation to count decodings

# A Dynamic Programming based function
# to count decodings
def countDecodingDP(digits, n):

```

```

    count = [0] * (n + 1); # A table to store

```

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```

count[i] = 0;

# If the last digit is not 0, then last
# digit must add to the number of words
if (digits[i - 1] > '0'):
    count[i] = count[i - 1];

# If second last digit is smaller than 2
# and last digit is smaller than 7, then
# last two digits form a valid character
if (digits[i - 2] == '1' or
    (digits[i - 2] == '2' and
     digits[i - 1] < '7')):
    count[i] += count[i - 2];

return count[n];

# Driver Code
digits = "1234";
n = len(digits);
print("Count is" ,
      countDecodingDP(digits, n));

# This code is contributed by mits

```

C#

```

// A Dynamic Programming based C#
// implementation to count decodings
using System;

class GFG
{
    // A Dynamic Programming based
    // function to count decodings
    static int countDecodingDP(char[] digits,
                                int n)

```

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```

count[1] = 1;

for (int i = 2; i <= n; i++)
{
    count[i] = 0;

    // If the last digit is not 0,
    // then last digit must add to
    // the number of words
    if (digits[i - 1] > '0')
        count[i] = count[i - 1];

    // If second last digit is smaller
    // than 2 and last digit is smaller
    // than 7, then last two digits
    // form a valid character
    if (digits[i - 2] == '1' ||
        (digits[i - 2] == '2' &&
         digits[i - 1] < '7'))
        count[i] += count[i - 2];
}
return count[n];
}

// Driver Code
public static void Main()
{
    char[] digits = {'1','2','3','4'};
    int n = digits.Length;
    Console.WriteLine("Count is " +
        countDecodingDP(digits, n));
}
}

// This code is contributed
// by Akanksha Rai
// Modified by Atanu Sen

```

PHP

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```
// A Dynamic Programming based function to count decodings
function countDecodingDP($digits, $n)
{
    // A table to store results of subproblems
    $count[$n+1]=array();
    $count[0] = 1;
    $count[1] = 1;

    for ($i = 2; $i <= $n; $i++)
    {
        $count[$i] = 0;

        // If the last digit is not 0, then last digit must add to
        // the number of words
        if ($digits[$i-1] > '0')
            $count[$i] = $count[$i-1];

        // If second last digit is smaller than 2 and last digit is
        // smaller than 7, then last two digits form a valid character
        if ($digits[$i-2] == '1' || ($digits[$i-2] == '2' && $digits[$i-1] < '7'))
            $count[$i] += $count[$i-2];
    }
    return $count[$n];
}

// Driver program to test above function
$digits = "1234";
$n = strlen($digits);
echo "Count is " , countDecodingDP($digits, $n);

#This code is contributed by ajit.
?>
```

Javascript

```
<script>

// A Dynamic Programming based Javascript
// implementation to count decodings
```

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```

{

    // A table to store results of subproblems
    let count = new Array(n + 1);
    count[0] = 1;
    count[1] = 1;

    // For base condition "01123" should return 0
    if (digits[0] == '0')
        return 0;

    for(let i = 2; i <= n; i++)
    {
        count[i] = 0;

        // If the last digit is not 0,
        // then last digit must add to
        // the number of words
        if (digits[i - 1] > '0')
            count[i] = count[i - 1];

        // If second last digit is smaller
        // than 2 and last digit is smaller
        // than 7, then last two digits
        // form a valid character
        if (digits[i - 2] == '1' ||
            (digits[i - 2] == '2' &&
             digits[i - 1] < '7'))
            count[i] += count[i - 2];
    }
    return count[n];
}

// Driver Code
let digits = [ '1','2','3','4' ];
let n = digits.length;

document.write("Count is " +
               countDecodingDP(digits, n));

// This code is contributed by rag2127

```

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Output:

Count is 3

Time Complexity of the above solution is $O(n)$ and it requires $O(n)$ auxiliary space. We can reduce auxiliary space to $O(1)$ by using the space-optimized version discussed in the [Fibonacci Number Post](#). Please write comments if you find anything incorrect, or you want to share more information about the topic discussed above

Method 3 : (Top Down DP)

Approach :

The above problem can be solved using Top down DP in the following way . One of the basic intuition is that we need to find the total number of ways to decode the given string such that each and every number in the string must lie in between the range of $[1 , 26]$ both inclusive and without any leading 0's . Let us consider an example string .

str = "123"

If we observe carefully we can observe a pattern over here i.e., the number of ways a particular substring can be decoded depends on the number of ways the remaining string is going to be decoded . For example , we want the number of ways to decode the string with "1" as a prefix the result depends on the number of ways the remaining string, i.e., "23" can be decoded . The number of ways the string "23" can be decoded are "2" , "3" and "23" there are 2 ways in both of these cases we can just append "1" to get the number of ways the given string can be decoded with "1" as a prefix i.e., "1" , "2" , "3" and "1" , "23" . Now we have found the number of ways we can decode the given string with "1" as a

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depends on the result on how the remaining string is decoded . Here the remaining string is "3" it can be decoded in only 1 way so we can just append "12" in front of the string "3" to get it i.e., "12" , "3" . So the total number of ways the given string can be decoded are 3 ways .

But we can see some of the overlapping of subproblems over here i.e., when we are computing the total number of ways to decode the string "23" we are computing the number of ways the string "3" can be decoded as well as when we are computing the number of ways the string "12" can be decoded we are again computing the number of ways the string "3" can be decoded . So we can avoid this by storing the result of every substring . Here we can identify each and every sub problem through the index of the string . So , if at any point of time if we have already computed the number of ways the substring can be decoded we can directly return the result and that leads to a lot of optimization .

Below is the C++ implementation

C++

```
#include<bits/stdc++.h>
using namespace std;

int mod = 1e9 + 7;

// function which returns the number of ways to decode the message
int decodeMessage(vector<int> &dp,int s,string &str,int n)
{
    // an empty string can also form 1 valid decoding
    if(s >= n)
        return 1;

    /*
        if we have already computed the number of
```

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```

        return dp[s];

int num,tc;
num = tc = 0;
for(int i=s;i<n;i++)
{
    // generate the number
    num = num*10 + (str[i] - '0');

    // validate the number
    if(num >= 1 and num <= 26)
    {
        /*
            since the number of ways to decode any string
            depends on the result of
            how the remaining string is decoded so get the
            number of ways how the rest of the string can
            be decoded
        */
        int c = decodeMessage(dp,i+1,str,n);

        // add all the ways that the substring
        // from the current index can be decoded
        tc = (tc%mod + c%mod)%mod;
    }

    // leading 0's or the number
    // generated so far is greater than 26
    // we can just stop the process
    // as it can never be a part of our solution
    else
        break;
}

// store all the possible decodings and return the result
return (dp[s] = tc);
}
int CountWays(string str)
{
    int n = str.size();

```

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```

        // dp vector to store the number of ways
        // to decode each and every substring
        vector<int> dp(n,-1);

        // return the result
        return decodeMessage(dp,0,str,n);
    }
    int main()
    {
        string str = "1234";
        cout << CountWays(str) << endl;
        return 0;
    }

```

Java

```

/*package whatever //do not write package name here */
import java.io.*;

class GFG {
    static int mod = 1000000007;

    // function which returns the number of ways to decode the message
    static int decodeMessage(int[] dp, int s, String str, int n)
    {

        // an empty string can also form 1 valid decoding
        if(s >= n)
            return 1;

        /*
            if we have already computed the number of
            ways to decode the substring return the
            answer directly
        */
        if(dp[s] != -1)
            return dp[s];

        int num,tc;
        num = tc = 0;

```

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```

// validate the number
if(num >= 1 && num <= 26)
{
    /*
        since the number of ways to decode any string
        depends on the result of
        how the remaining string is decoded so get the
        number of ways how the rest of the string can
        be decoded
    */
    int c = decodeMessage(dp, i + 1, str, n);

    // add all the ways that the substring
    // from the current index can be decoded
    tc = (tc%mod + c%mod)%mod;
}

// leading 0's or the number
// generated so far is greater than 26
// we can just stop the process
// as it can never be a part of our solution
else
    break;
}

// store all the possible decodings and return the result
return (dp[s] = tc);
}
static int CountWays(String str)
{
    int n = str.length();

    // empty string can form 1 valid decoding
    if(n == 0)
        return 1;

    // dp vector to store the number of ways
    // to decode each and every substring
    int[] dp = new int[n];
    for(int i = 0; i < n; i++){

```

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```

        return decodeMessage(dp,0,str,n);
    }

    // Driver Code
    public static void main(String args[])
    {
        String str = "1234";
        System.out.println(CountWays(str));
    }
}

// This code is contributed by shinjanpatra

```

Python3

```

mod = 1e9 + 7

# function which returns the number of ways to decode the message
def decodeMessage(dp, s, str, n):

    # an empty string can also form 1 valid decoding
    if(s >= n):
        return 1

    # if we have already computed the number of
    # ways to decode the substring return the
    # answer directly

    if(dp[s] != -1):
        return dp[s]

    num = 0
    tc = 0
    for i in range(s,n):
        # generate the number
        num = num*10 + (ord(str[i]) - ord('0'))

        # validate the number
        if(num >= 1 and num <= 26):

```

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```

        # be decoded
        c = decodeMessage(dp, i + 1, str, n)

        # add all the ways that the substring
        # from the current index can be decoded
        tc = int((tc%mod + c%mod)%mod)

        # leading 0's or the number
        # generated so far is greater than 26
        # we can just stop the process
        # as it can never be a part of our solution
    else:
        break

    # store all the possible decodings and return the result
    dp[s] = tc
    return dp[s]

def CountWays(str):

    n = len(str)

    # empty string can form 1 valid decoding
    if(n == 0):
        return 1

    # dp vector to store the number of ways
    # to decode each and every substring
    dp = [-1]*(n)

    # return the result
    return decodeMessage(dp, 0, str, n)

# driver code
if __name__ == "__main__" :

    str = "1234"
    print(CountWays(str))

    # This code is contributed by shinjanpatra.

```

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```

// the above approach
using System;

class GFG
{
    static int mod = 1000000007;

    // function which returns the number of ways to decode the message
    static int decodeMessage(int[] dp, int s, string str, int n)
    {
        // an empty string can also form 1 valid decoding
        if(s >= n)
            return 1;

        /*
            if we have already computed the number of
            ways to decode the substring return the
            answer directly
        */
        if(dp[s] != -1)
            return dp[s];

        int num,tc;
        num = tc = 0;
        for(int i=s;i<n;i++)
        {
            // generate the number
            num = num*10 + ((int)str[i] - '0');

            // validate the number
            if(num >= 1 && num <= 26)
            {
                /*
                    since the number of ways to decode any string
                    depends on the result of
                    how the remaining string is decoded so get the
                    number of ways how the rest of the string can
                    be decoded
                */
            }
        }
    }
}

```

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```

        tc = (tc%mod + c%mod)%mod;
    }

    // leading 0's or the number
    // generated so far is greater than 26
    // we can just stop the process
    // as it can never be a part of our solution
    else
        break;
}

// store all the possible decodings and return the result
return (dp[s] = tc);
}
static int CountWays(string str)
{
    int n = str.Length;

    // empty string can form 1 valid decoding
    if(n == 0)
        return 1;

    // dp vector to store the number of ways
    // to decode each and every substring
    int[] dp = new int[n];
    for(int i = 0; i < n; i++){
        dp[i] = -1;
    }

    // return the result
    return decodeMessage(dp,0,str,n);
}

// Driver Code
public static void Main()
{
    string str = "1234";
    Console.Write(CountWays(str));
}
}

```

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```
<script>
```

```
const mod = 1e9 + 7;
```

```
// function which returns the number of ways to decode the message
```

```
function decodeMessage(dp,s,str,n)
```

```
{
```

```
    // an empty string can also form 1 valid decoding
```

```
    if(s >= n)
```

```
        return 1;
```

```
    /*
```

```
        if we have already computed the number of
        ways to decode the substring return the
        answer directly
```

```
    */
```

```
    if(dp[s] != -1)
```

```
        return dp[s];
```

```
    let num,tc;
```

```
    num = tc = 0;
```

```
    for(let i=s;i<n;i++)
```

```
    {
```

```
        // generate the number
```

```
        num = num*10 + (str.charCodeAt(i) - '0'.charCodeAt(0));
```

```
        // validate the number
```

```
        if(num >= 1 && num <= 26)
```

```
        {
```

```
            /*
```

```
                since the number of ways to decode any string
                depends on the result of
                how the remaining string is decoded so get the
                number of ways how the rest of the string can
                be decoded
```

```
            */
```

```
            let c = decodeMessage(dp,i+1,str,n);
```

```
            // add all the ways that the substring
```

```
            // from the current index can be decoded
```

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```

        // generated so far is greater than 26
        // we can just stop the process
        // as it can never be a part of our solution
        else
            break;
    }

    // store all the possible decodings and return the result
    return (dp[s] = tc);
}
function CountWays(str)
{
    let n = str.length;

    // empty string can form 1 valid decoding
    if(n == 0)
        return 1;

    // dp vector to store the number of ways
    // to decode each and every substring
    let dp = new Array(n).fill(-1);

    // return the result
    return decodeMessage(dp,0,str,n);
}
// driver code

let str = "1234";
document.write(CountWays(str), "</br>");

// This code is contributed by shinjanpatra.
</script>

```

Output :

3

Time Complexity : $O(N)$ where N is the length of the string . As we are solving each and every sub – problem only once .

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