

# Dynamic Programming Examples

---

Sam McCauley

April 7, 2025

# Welcome Back!

---

- Two weeks is surprisingly short!
- Problem Set 5 due Wednesday
- Today: start with something familiar, then extend to new things
- Last lecture before break is recorded and posted
- Questions?

## **Longest Increasing Subsequence**

---

# Longest Increasing Subsequence

---

- **Given:** an arbitrary array  $A$  of length  $n$
- **Goal:** find the length of the **longest subsequence** of elements that are in **sorted order**

1	2	10	3	7	6	4	8	11	3	1
---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

# Longest Increasing Subsequence

---

- **Given:** an arbitrary array  $A$  of length  $n$
- **Goal:** find the length of the **longest subsequence** of elements that are in **sorted order**

1	2	10	3	7	6	4	8	11	3	1
---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

The longest increasing subsequence has length 6.

# Breaking down a DP

---

- What does an optimal solution look like? Can we break it down further?
- **Strategy:** split into several cases
  - The optimal solution must satisfy one of these case
  - We don't know which yet! That's OK
  - Get the cost of each case **recursively** and take whichever has lowest cost

# Longest Increasing Subsequence: Cases

---

- **Given:** an arbitrary array  $A$  of length  $n$
- **Goal:** find the length of the **longest subsequence** of elements that are in **sorted order**

1	2	10	3	7	6	4	8	11	3	1
---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

We solve a slightly different problem: longest increasing subsequence ending at the last element. Let's look at 11.

The *second-to-last* element must have been one of 1, 2, 10, 3, 7, 6, 4, 8.

**Strategy:** find the cost of the longest increasing subsequence ending at each. Take the smallest!

# LISE Using Dynamic Programming

---

Subproblem:  $L[i]$  stores the longest increasing sequence ending at  $A[i]$

- **Base Case:**  $L[0] = 1$
- **How to Fill in  $L[i]$ :** First, create a set  $M$  consisting of all entries in  $A$  that are:
  - before  $i$  in  $A$ , and
  - less than  $A[i]$
- $L[i] = 1 + \max_{m \in M} L[m]$
- **Running time:**  $O(n^2)$
- **How to find the solution:**  $\text{LIS} = \max_j L[j]$



# LIS Using Dynamic Programming

---

- First set  $L[0] = 1$
- Fill out each  $L[i]$  by finding previous elements smaller than  $i$  and taking the max
- Take the max  $L[i]$  after we are done to find the LIS
- Takes  $\Theta(i)$  time to fill out  $L[i]$ , giving  $\Theta(n^2)$  time overall.

1	2	10	3	7	6	4	8	11	3	1
---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

## **New Ideas for LIS**

---

# Recovering the LIS Solution

---

1	2	10	3	7	6	4	8	11	3	1
---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

- **Recall:** our solution **cost** was  $L[i] = 1 + \max_{m \in M} L[m]$ ;  $M$  consists of entries  $L[j]$  with  $j < i$  and  $L[j] < L[i]$
- What elements are in the LISE of  $A[i]$  (the longest increasing subsequence that must include  $A[i]$ )?
  - $A[i]$  is! And?
  - All the elements in the LISE of  $A[m]$  (where  $m$  is the max above)
  - What do we need to store to get the solution back?
    - Store the “m” for each element! Can just store them in an array
    - Doesn't matter how we break ties
    - Store  $-1$  if there is no  $m$  (i.e. if  $M$  is empty)

# Recovering the LIS Solution

---


Visually:

A : 

2	1	10	3	7	6	4	8	11	5
---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	----	---

L : 

1	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



The diagram illustrates the recovery of the Longest Increasing Subsequence (LIS) solution L from the array A. The array A is [2, 1, 10, 3, 7, 6, 4, 8, 11, 5]. The LIS solution L is [1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 5, 4]. Red arrows indicate the mapping from the LIS values in L to their corresponding values in A: 1 to 1, 2 to 2, 3 to 3, 4 to 4, and 5 to 5. Grey arrows indicate the mapping from the LIS values in L to the next LIS value in L: 1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 4, and 4 to 5.

# Recovering the LIS Solution

---

## What we actually store:

Original array  $A$ :

2	1	10	3	7	6	4	8	11	5
---	---	----	---	---	---	---	---	----	---

Dynamic Programming array  $L$ :

1	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Solution array  $B$  storing best value of  $m$  for each  $i$  (or  $-1$  if  $M$  empty):

-1	-1	1	1	3	3	3	6	7	6
----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Can fill in  $B$  while filling in  $L$ !

## Recovering the LIS Solution

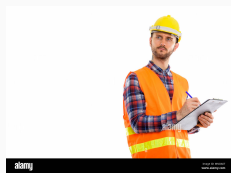
---

```
1  $i = \text{max value in } L$ 
2  $S = \emptyset$  // holds our solution
3 while  $i \neq -1$ :
4     add  $i$  to  $S$ 
5      $i = B[i]$ 
```

- It took  $O(n^2)$  time to fill out  $L$  and  $B$
- How much time does it take to find the solution  $S$  using the above?
  - $O(n)$
- Total time:  $O(n^2)$  to find the LIS!

# Finding DP Solutions

---



- Dynamic programming: use the solution to already-solved subproblems to find solutions to a larger subproblem (a.k.a. recursion)
- To keep track of the solution: write down what subproblems we used to find the new solution
- By backtracking through what subproblems were used for the optimal cost, we can find the actual solution

## **Edit Distance**

---

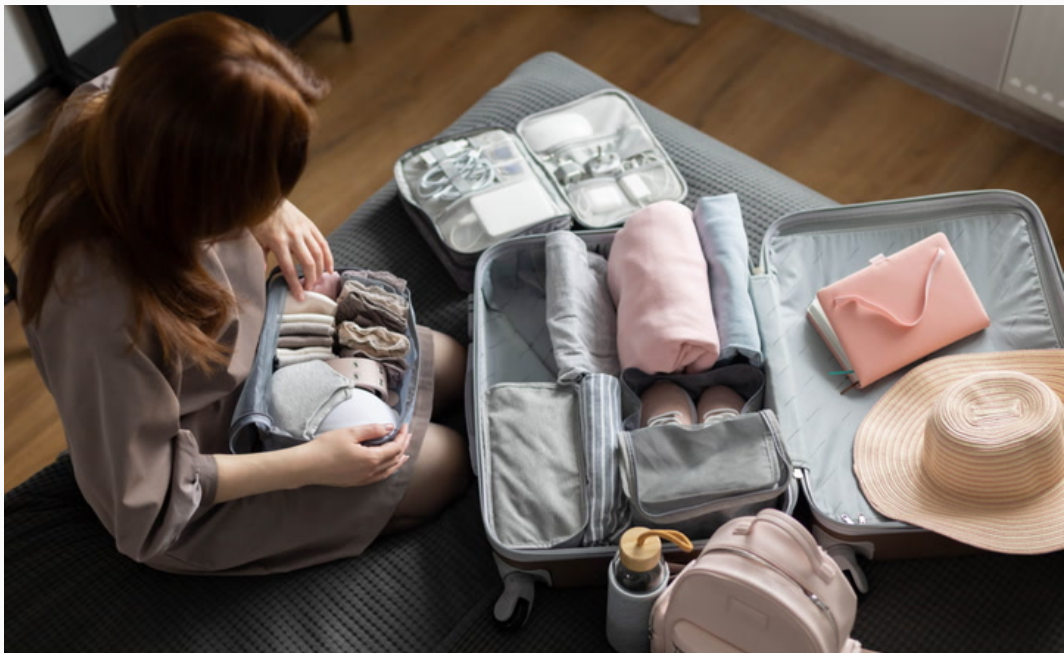


# Knapsack

---

A familiar problem?

---



A familiar problem?



## A familiar problem?

---



# Packing is *Hard*

---

- Sometimes: you pack a suitcase, dishwasher, backpack, etc.
- Items don't fit
- You take everything out and put it back in and suddenly it fits
- Can we come up with an algorithm to pack items efficiently? Can we beat brute force?

Today: Weight limit only



# Knapsack

---



- You are packing a bag, with a weight capacity  $C$
- You have a collection of items to put in your bag
- Each item  $i$  has a weight  $w_i$  and a value  $v_i$  (both nonnegative integers)
- Choose a subset of items with *total weight* at most  $C$
- **Goal:** maximize the *total value* of the items you pack

# Knapsack

---



- Does greedy work? How could we greedily pack a bag?
- Option 1: pick the highest-value item. Counterexample? [Blackboard]
- Option 2: pick the lowest-weight item. Counterexample?
- Option 3: pick the item maximizing value/weight. Counterexample?



# Recursive Knapsack

---

- Goal for the next portion of class: come up with the dynamic program for knapsack together [Blackboard]
- There are likely to be some false starts! I'm not writing the solution line by line.
- (Also there are some ideas that don't work that I specifically want to discuss :) so we may circle back to some suggestions)

# Recursive Knapsack Solution

---

- **Subproblem:**  $(i, c)$ : what is the largest-value solution among the first  $i$  items with total weight at most  $c$ ?
- **Memoization structure:**  $n \times C$  matrix (storing  $OPT(i, c)$  for  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $c \in \{1, \dots, C\}$ ).
- **Recurrence:**  $OPT(i, c) = \max\{OPT(i-1, c), v_i + OPT(i-1, c - w_i)\}$
- **Final answer:**  $OPT(n, C)$
- Before moving forward: what subproblems do we need to solve in order to fill in  $OPT(i, c)$ ?
  - In what order should we fill out the table?
  - Base cases?
  - Answer: we need all entries in  $OPT(i-1, c)$  to fill out any entry in  $OPT(i, c)$ . So go item by item. Our base case must fill out all entries in  $OPT(1, c)$ .

# Recursive Knapsack Solution

---

- (recall) **Memoization structure:**  $n \times C$  matrix (storing  $OPT(i, c)$  for  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $c \in \{1, \dots, C\}$ ).
- **Evaluation order:** Row-major order (row by row: fill in  $OPT(i, c)$  for  $c \in \{1, \dots, C\}$  before filling in  $OPT(i + 1, c)$  for  $c \in \{1, \dots, C\}$ ).
- **Base cases:**  $OPT(1, c) = v_1$  if  $c \geq w_1$ ,  $OPT(1, c) = 0$  if  $c < w_1$ .
- **Space:**  $O(nC)$  **Time:**  $O(nC)$

# A Comment on Running Time

---

- Running time is  $O(nC)$
- In algorithms we generally want a “polynomial” running time (i.e. a polynomial in the *size* of the input). All running times we’ve seen so far in this class were polynomial.
- Is this polynomial in the size of the input?
  - No! The size of the input is  $O(n + \log_2 C)$  (it takes  $\log_2 C$  bits to write  $C$  down)
  - $C$  is exponential in  $\log_2 C$ . So this running time is not polynomial
- This knapsack DP is **pseudopolynomial**: the running time is polynomial in the *value* of the input, not the *size*

# Pseudopolynomial Running Time Comments

---

- When is pseudopolynomial running time a big downside?
- Is this a practical problem?
- What happens when the weights of the items are not integers? Does our DP work? Can we make it work?