

DATA ANALYTICS REFERENCE DOCUMENT	
Document Title:	Dynamic programming questions with solutions and detailed explanations
Document No.:	1594121056
Author(s):	Gerhard van der Linde
Contributor(s):	

REVISION HISTORY

Revision	Details of Modification(s)	Reason for modification	Date	By
0	Draft release	Document the collection of dynamic programming problems and solutions in python code	2020/07/07 11:24	Gerhard van der Linde

Dynamic Programming Questions

Dynamic programming questions pops up in interview situations with the big technology companies and is used to asses analytical thinking and algorithm problem solving.

1. Longest Common Subsequence
2. Longest Increasing Subsequence
3. Edit Distance
4. Minimum Partition
5. Ways to Cover a Distance
6. Longest Path In Matrix
7. Subset Sum Problem
8. Optimal Strategy for a Game
9. 0-1 Knapsack Problem
10. Boolean Parenthesization Problem
11. Shortest Common Supersequence
12. Matrix Chain Multiplication
13. Partition problem
14. Rod Cutting
15. Coin change problem
16. Word Break Problem
17. Maximal Product when Cutting Rope
18. Dice Throw Problem
19. Box Stacking
20. Egg Dropping Puzzle

Longest Common Subsequence

```
# Longest Common Subsequence
```

```
# LCS Problem Statement: Given two sequences, find the length of
# longest subsequence present in both of them. A subsequence is a
# sequence that appears in the same relative order, but not
# necessarily contiguous. For example, "abc", "abg", "bdf",
```

```
# "aeg", "acefg", .. etc are subsequences of "abcdefg".

s=('ABCDGH')
t=('AEDFHR')

step=2

def lcs(X, Y, m, n):
    # naive
    if m == 0 or n == 0:
        return 0;
    elif X[m-1] == Y[n-1]:
        return 1 + lcs(X, Y, m-1, n-1);
    else:
        return max(lcs(X, Y, m, n-1), lcs(X, Y, m-1, n));

def lcs_d(X, Y):
    # find the length of the strings
    m = len(X)
    n = len(Y)

    # declaring the array for storing the dp values
    L = [[None]*(n+1) for i in range(m+1)]

    '''Following steps build L[m+1][n+1] in bottom up fashion
    Note: L[i][j] contains length of LCS of X[0..i-1]
    and Y[0..j-1]'''

    for i in range(m+1):
        for j in range(n+1):
            if i == 0 or j == 0 :
                L[i][j] = 0
            elif X[i-1] == Y[j-1]:
                L[i][j] = L[i-1][j-1]+1
            else:
                L[i][j] = max(L[i-1][j] , L[i][j-1])

    # L[m][n] contains the length of LCS of X[0..n-1] & Y[0..m-1]
    return L[m][n]
#end of function lcs

print(lcs(s,t,len(s),len(t)))
print(lcs_d(s,t))
```

Longest Increasing Subsequence

TestList: [22, 33, 55, 42, 63, 31, 44, 82, 84, 96]
Result: 7 --> [22, 33, 55, 63, 82, 84, 96]

Arr[]	22	33	55	42	63	31	44	82	84	96
LIS	1	2	3	-	4	-	-	5	6	7

```
# Longest Increasing Subsequence
import numpy as np

def lis():
    #n=[10, 22, 9, 33, 21, 50, 41, 60, 80]
```

```

n=list(np.random.randint(1,100,10))
#print(n)
test={} # create an empty library for the tests
for i in range(len(n)):
    #print()
    seq=[]
    seq.append(n[i])
    big=n[i]
    for j in range(i, len(n)):
        #print(i,j)
        if n[j]>big:
            seq.append(n[j])
            big=n[j]
    #print(seq)
    test[i]=seq
return test

# find the longest list
for i in range(1000):
    test=lis()
    l=test[list(map(lambda x: len(x), test.values()))].index(max(list(map(lambda x:
len(x), test.values()))))
    if len(l) > 5:
        print(len(l), '-->', l)

```

Edit Distance

Given two strings str1 and str2 using the lister operations that can performed on str1. Find minimum number of edits (operations) required to convert 'str1' into 'str2'.

1. Insert
2. Remove
3. Replace

All of the above operations are of equal cost.

Examples:

Input: str1 = "geek", str2 = "gesek"

Output: 1

Comment: We can convert str1 into str2 by inserting a 's'.

The *Levenshtein* distance is a string metric for measuring the difference between two sequences. Informally, the Levenshtein distance between two words is the minimum number of single-character edits (insertions, deletions or substitutions) required to change one word into the other. It is named after the Soviet mathematician Vladimir Levenshtein, who considered this distance in 1965.

$$lev_{a,b}(i,j) = \begin{cases} \max(i,j) & \text{if } \min(i,j) = 0 \\ \min \begin{cases} lev_{a,b}(i-1,j) + 1 \\ lev_{a,b}(i,j-1) + 1 \\ lev_{a,b}(i-1,j-1) + 1 \end{cases} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Levenshtein distance may also be referred to as edit distance, although that term may also denote a larger family of distance metrics known collectively as edit distance. It is closely related to pairwise string alignments.

		x				
			g	e	e	k
	0		1	2	3	4
y	g	1	0	1	2	3
	e	2	1	0	1	2
	s	3	2	1	1	2
	e	4	3	2	1	2
	k	5	4	3	2	1

So for every row and column there is only two cases:

- The pair match
- The pair do not match

y		x				
			g	e	e	k
		0	1	2	3	4
	g	1	0	1	2	3
	e	2	1	0	1	2
	s	3	2	1	1	2
	k	5	4	3	2	1

If the pair match copy the diagonal value across

y		x				
			g	e	e	k
		0	1	2	3	4
	g	1	0	1	2	3
	e	2	1	0	1	2
	s	3	2	1	1	2
	k	5	4	3	2	1

If the pair do not match, take the smallest of the three values highlighted and **add 1**.

Implementation in Python using Matrixes

```
import numpy as np

def getEditLen(inw, outw, verbose=False):
    """
    return the Levenstein distance between two word using the Levenstein formula implemented in
    python
    using a numpy array.

    input: Two strings to compare, example 'geek' and 'gesek'
    output: The number of edits required using insert, delete or replace to turn the input word
            into the output word.

    opetions: verbose=False|True, default is False

    Example: Calculate the distance between 'geek' and 'gesek'

    Compare the entire matrix row by row, starting with null cases answering the fundamental
    question for
    line g, how many edits is needed to turn g into g, g into ge, g into gee and g into geek and
    the answers
    would be 0,1,2,3 and so on.

    The second way to answer the question for every cell is, are the letters different or are the
    matched.
    If matched copy the value to the top left cell diagonally down. If the letters are different
    determine
    the lowest value of the three cell, left, top or diagonal left plus one to the cell. Keep on
    doing this
    till all the cells are filled.

    | | |g|e|e|k|
    | |0|1|2|3|4|
    |g|1|0|1|2|3|
    |e|2|1|0|1|2|
    |s|3|2|1|1|2|
    |e|4|3|2|1|2|
    |k|5|4|3|2|1|

    The final answer to the problem is now in the bottom right cell and can be returned by the
    function call.
    """
    # create an empty array for storing results
    #get the arary dimensions
    liw=len(inw)
    low=len(outw)
    #create an empty array
    ar=np.zeros((liw+1,low+1), dtype=np.int)
    #initialise the null array rows and columns
    for i in range(low+1): ar[0][i]=i
    for i in range(liw+1): ar[i][0]=i
    if verbose: print(ar)
    for i in range(len(inw)):
        row=i+1
        for o in range(len(outw)):
            col=o+1
            if verbose: print('{}[{}][{}] == {}[{}][{}] --> '.format(inw[i],i,outw[o],o), end='')
            if inw[i] == outw[o]: # if the letters match do this
                if verbose: print('True',' -->', ar[row-1][col-1])
                ar[row][col]=ar[row-1][col-1] # copy the value diagonally down, i.e one row up, one
```

```
column left
else: # if the letters do not match, do this part
    if verbose: print('False', '-->', min(ar[row-1][col], ar[row][col-1], ar[row-1][col-1])+1)
    # set te smallest value of the three columns, left, above or between plus one.
    ar[row][col]=min(ar[row-1][col], ar[row][col-1], ar[row-1][col-1])+1

if verbose: print(ar)
return ar[-1][-1] # return the bottom right value as the final answer.

if __name__ == '__main__':
    wlen=getEditLen('geek', 'gesek', verbose=False)
    print('The Levenstein length is: {}'.format(wlen))
```

References

- <https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html?highlight=center#text-sequence-type-str>

Minimum Partition

The objective of this exercise is to create two lists from once list of values and divide them in such a way that the difference of the sum of each list is the smallest possible solution for the numbers available.

With a short list of numbers a more thorough comparison is needed and all possible permutations must be tested to get the minimum difference. As the list size is increased a faster approach is needed for time efficiency and also the need to compare all permutation is no longer needed since multiple solutions becomes available.

A short solution for longer lists is to sort tow lists is ascending and descending order and subtract the one for the other and find the nearest solution to the sum of differences and swap the values around in the list to get the minimum error.

Testing this over a ranges of lengths works without fail.

The code below show the two tiered approach for this solution and includes time efficiencies generating the solutions.

```
import numpy as np
from time import time

def split(l):
    '''
    This function sorts the list from small to big and devide into two
    lists of equal length.

    input: a list of variables
    output: two lists of variables of very similar sums
    '''
    l.sort()
    a,b=[],[]
    for i in range(len(l)):
        if i%2==0:
            a.append(l[i])
        else:
            b.append(l[i])
    return a,b

def bestdiff(a,b,verbose=False):
    '''
    This function takes two lists of integer values and balances the list
    to be a close as possible to equal sums or in other words to have the
```

minimum difference in sums.

Inputs: Two lists in integeres and verbose processing or not, default off

Outputs: Two balanced lists of integeres and a flag for the fast or slow method. The slow method is more accurate and needed for very short lists while the fast method is best suited for longer lists. Lists over 1000 values in length takes very long to comlete using the slow method and does not yiled better results.

```

...
tlen=len(a)+len(b) # total length of both lists
if verbose: print('Lengt of testarray: {}'.format(tlen))
t=(sum(a)-sum(b)) # caalculate the delta between the lists entered
if verbose: print(t/2) # show the half of the delta
if t < 0: # if the delta is smaer than zero swop lists a and b
    b,a=a,b
d=[int((i-j)-(t/2)) for i,j in zip(a,b)] # calculate the list differences
b.sort() # sort the list
a.sort(reverse=True) #sort in reverses
if verbose: print(a)
if verbose: print(b)

m,p=[],[]
if tlen <=2**9: # if the list is smaller than 2^9, 512 do a thorough comparison
    fast=False
    # find the values closes to the delta and swop to make list sums equal or nearest equal
    for i in range(len(a)):
        for j in range(len(b)):
            v=a[i]-b[j]-int(abs(t/2))
            if verbose: print('{:>2} - {:>2} = {:>3} <-- {} {}'.format(a[i],b[j],v,i,j))
            m.append(abs(v))
            p.append((i,j))
    i,j=p[m.index(min(m))] #swop the values around
else: # otherwise if buger than 512 len do a faster compare
    fast=True
    t=(sum(a)-sum(b))
    d=[int((i-j)-(t/2)) for i,j in zip(a,b)]
    e=[abs(i) for i in d]
    #print(min(e),e.index(min(e)))
    i,j=e.index(min(e)),e.index(min(e))
if verbose: print(m,min(m),m.index(min(m)))
if verbose: print(p[m.index(min(m))])
#i,j=p[m.index(min(m))]
a[i],b[j]=b[j],a[i] # swop the values around
return a,b,fast

if __name__ == '__main__':
    # generate a range of numbers for increased list lengths for testing
    r=[2**i for i in range(2,21)] # 4 to 1 Million
    for v in r:
        #print(v)
        start=time() # start the time
        l=list(np.random.randint(1,100,v)) # generate a list of values for testing
        a,b=split(l) # split the list of values in tow sublists
        a,b,s = bestdiff(a,b) # return the best solution
        stop=time() # stop the timer
        #display the results
        t=stop-start
        if t < 0.5:
            t*=1000
            st='ms'
        else:
            t*=1
            st='s'

```

```
print('diff: {2:>3} len: {4:>9,} time: {3:8.3f} {5:>2} fast: {6:}'.format(a,b,sum(a)-  
sum(b),t,v,st,s))
```

```
diff: 26 len:      4 time:    0.496 ms fast: False  
diff:  3 len:      8 time:    0.000 ms fast: False  
diff: -1 len:     16 time:    0.495 ms fast: False  
diff:  1 len:     32 time:    0.992 ms fast: False  
diff:  1 len:     64 time:    3.965 ms fast: False  
diff:  0 len:    128 time:   13.399 ms fast: False  
diff:  0 len:    256 time:   32.237 ms fast: False  
diff:  0 len:    512 time:    4.465 ms fast: True  
diff: -1 len:   1,024 time:    8.929 ms fast: True  
diff:  0 len:   2,048 time:   14.884 ms fast: True  
diff:  0 len:   4,096 time:   25.296 ms fast: True  
diff:  0 len:   8,192 time:   57.052 ms fast: True  
diff:  0 len:  16,384 time:   92.770 ms fast: True  
diff: -1 len:  32,768 time:  208.359 ms fast: True  
diff:  0 len:  65,536 time:  374.552 ms fast: True  
diff: -1 len: 131,072 time:    0.964 s fast: True  
diff: -1 len: 262,144 time:    1.631 s fast: True  
diff: -1 len: 524,288 time:    3.240 s fast: True  
diff: -1 len:1,048,576 time:    5.768 s fast: True
```

Ways to Cover a Distance

Code

```
'''  
Count number of ways to cover a distance  
  
Given a distance 'dist, count total number of ways to  
cover the distance with 1, 2 and 3 steps.  
  
Examples :  
Input: n = 3  
Output: 4  
Below are the four ways  
 1 step + 1 step + 1 step  
 1 step + 2 step  
 2 step + 1 step  
 3 step  
  
Input: n = 4  
Output: 7  
'''  
import itertools as itr  
  
def uniquePermutations(inv):  
    return list(set(itr.permutations(inv,len(inv))))  
  
def calcdist(n=3,steps=(1,2,3), verbose=False):  
    p=[]  
    if n>10:  
        print('n need to be less than 10')  
        return -1,p  
    for i in range(1,n+1):  
        l=list(itr.combinations_with_replacement(steps,i))
```



```

for v in l:
    if sum(v)==n:
        if verbose: print('{}: {}-->{}'.format(i,v,sum(v)))
        p.append(v)
        if len(v)>1:
            u=uniquePermutations(v)
            for q in u:
                if verbose: print(q)
                p.append(q)
return len(list(set(p))), list(set(p))

if __name__ == '__main__':
    #for i in range(1,10):
    for i in range(11):
        ways,steplist=calcdist(i)
        if i<7:
            print('{}: {:>2} --> {}'.format(i,ways,steplist))
        else:
            print('{}: {:>2} --> '.format(i,ways,steplist))

```

Output

```

0: 0 --> []
1: 1 --> [(1,)]
2: 2 --> [(2,), (1, 1)]
3: 4 --> [(1, 2), (1, 1, 1), (3,), (2, 1)]
4: 7 --> [(1, 2, 1), (1, 3), (3, 1), (2, 1, 1), (1, 1, 1, 1), (1, 1, 2), (2, 2)]
5: 13 --> [(3, 2), (3, 1, 1), (1, 1, 3), (1, 2, 2), (2, 2, 1), (1, 1, 2, 1), (1, 3, 1), (2, 1, 1, 1), (1, 2, 1, 1), (2, 3), (2, 1, 2), (1, 1, 1, 2), (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)]
6: 24 --> [(2, 2, 1, 1), (1, 3, 2), (1, 1, 1, 2, 1), (1, 1, 2, 1, 1), (1, 1, 3, 1), (2, 3, 1), (1, 1, 2, 2), (2, 1, 2, 1), (3, 3), (1, 2, 2, 1), (3, 1, 1, 1), (3, 1, 2), (1, 2, 1, 1, 1), (1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1), (1, 2, 1, 2), (3, 2, 1), (2, 1, 1, 2), (1, 2, 3), (1, 1, 1, 1, 2), (1, 3, 1, 1), (2, 1, 3), (1, 1, 1, 3), (2, 2, 2), (2, 1, 1, 1, 1)]
7: 44 -->
8: 81 -->
9: 149 -->
10: 274 -->

```

Longest Path In Matrix

Subset Sum Problem

Optimal Strategy for a Game

0-1 Knapsack Problem

Boolean Parenthesization Problem

Shortest Common Supersequence

Matrix Chain Multiplication

Partition problem

Rod Cutting

Coin change problem

Word Break Problem

Maximal Product when Cutting Rope

Dice Throw Problem

Box Stacking

Egg Dropping Puzzle

References

- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/top-20-dynamic-programming-interview-questions/>
- <https://medium.com/@codingfreak/top-10-dynamic-programming-problems-5da486eeb360>
- <https://blog.usejournal.com/top-50-dynamic-programming-practice-problems-4208fed71aa3>

From:
<http://hdip-data-analytics.com/> - **HDip Data Analytics**

Permanent link:
http://hdip-data-analytics.com/programming/dynamic_programmig_questions

Last update: **2020/07/07 11:40**