## Mathematics

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## Today we're going to cover

## Basics

Number Theory

Combinatorics

Game Theory

## Basics

Computer Science $\subset$ Mathematics

- Usually at least one problem that involves solving mathematically.
- Problems often require mathematical analysis to be solved efficiently.
- Using a bit of math before coding can also shorten and simplify code.


## Finding patterns and formulas

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- Does the pattern involve some overlapping subproblem? We might need to use DP.
- Knowing reoccurring identities and sequences can be helpful.


## Arithmetic progression

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$$
2,5,8,11,14,17,20, \ldots
$$

- This is called a arithmetic progression.

$$
a_{n}=a_{n-1}+c
$$

## Arithmetic progression

- Depending on the situation we may want to get the $n$-th element

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a_{n}=a_{1}+(n-1) c
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- Or the sum over a finite portion of the progression

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- Remember this one?

$$
1+2+3+4+5+\ldots+n=\frac{n(n+1)}{2}
$$

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- More generally

$$
\begin{gathered}
a, a r, a r^{2}, a r^{3}, a r^{4}, a r^{5}, a r^{6}, \ldots \\
a_{n}=a r^{n-1}
\end{gathered}
$$

## Geometric progression

- Sum over a finite portion

$$
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- Or from the $m$-th element to the $n$-th

$$
\sum_{i=m}^{n} a r^{i}=\frac{a\left(r^{m}-r^{n+1}\right)}{(1-r)}
$$

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double log(double x);
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double log10(double x);
- And also the exponential
double exp(double x);


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- What if $k=500\left(\sim 1.7 \cdot 10^{615}\right)$, or something larger?
- Impossible to work with the numbers in a normal fashion.
- Why not log?


## Example

- Remember, we can calculate the length of a number $n$ in base $b$ with $\left\lfloor\log _{b}(n)\right\rfloor+1$.


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- But how do we do this with only In or $\log _{10}$ ?
- Change base!

$$
\log _{b}(a)=\frac{\log _{d}(a)}{\log _{d}(b)}=\frac{\ln (a)}{\ln (b)}
$$

- Now we can at least count the length without converting bases


## Example

- We still have to iterate over the powers of 17 , but we can do that in $\log$

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\ln \left(17^{x-1} \cdot 17\right)=\ln \left(17^{x-1}\right)+\ln (17)
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$$

- More generally

$$
\log _{b}(x y)=\log _{b}(x)+\log _{b}(y)
$$

- For division

$$
\log _{b}\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)=\log _{b}(x)-\log _{b}(y)
$$

## Example

- We can simplify this even more.
- The solution to our problem is in mathematical terms, finding the $x$ for

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- Using this identity and the ones we've covered, we get

$$
x=\left\lceil(k-1) \cdot \frac{\ln (10)}{\ln (17)}\right\rceil
$$

## Base conversion

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- Speaking of bases.
- What if we actually need to use base conversion?
- Simple algorithm

```
vector<int> toBase(int base, int val) {
    vector<int> res;
    while(val) {
        res.push_back(val % base);
        val /= base;
    }
    return val;
```

- Starts from the 0 -th digit, and calculates the multiple of each power.


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- What else can we do if we are working with real numbers?
- We compare them to a certain degree of precision.
- Two numbers are deemed equal of their difference is less than some small epsilon.

```
const double EPS = 1e-9;
if (abs(a - b) < EPS) {
}
```


## Working with doubles

- Less than operator:

```
    if (a < b - EPS) {
```

    \}
    - Less than or equal:

```
if (a < b + EPS) {
}
```

- The rest of the operators follow.


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- For example std::set<double>.

```
struct cmp {
    bool operator(){double a, double b}{
        return a < b - EPS;
    }
};
```

set<double, cmp> doubleSet();

- Other STL containers can be used in similar fashion.

Number Theory

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- This implies that we can do all the computation with integers modulo $n$.
- The integers, modulo some $n$ form a structure called a ring.
- Special rules apply, also loads of interesting properties.


## Modular arithmetic

Some of the allowed operations:

- Addition and subtraction modulo $n$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (a \bmod n)+(b \bmod n)=(a+b \bmod n) \\
& (a \bmod n)-(b \bmod n)=(a-b \bmod n)
\end{aligned}
$$

- Multiplication

$$
(a \bmod n)(b \bmod n)=(a b \bmod n)
$$

- Exponentiation

$$
(a \bmod n)^{b}=\left(a^{b} \bmod n\right)
$$

- Note: We are only working with integers.


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- We could end up with a fraction!
- Division with $k$ equals multiplication with the multiplicative inverse of $k$.
- The multiplicative inverse of an integer $a$, is the element $a^{-1}$ such that

$$
a \cdot a^{-1}=1 \quad(\bmod n)
$$

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## Modular arithmetic

- What about logarithm? YES!
- But difficult.
- Basis for some cryptography such as elliptic curve, Diffie-Hellmann.
- Google "Discrete Logarithm" if you want to know more.


## Modular arithmetic

- Prime number is a positive integer greater than 1 that has no positive divisor other than 1 and itself.
- Greatest Common Divisor of two integers $a$ and $b$ is the largest number that divides both $a$ and $b$.
- Least Common Multiple of two integers $a$ and $b$ is the smallest integer that both $a$ and $b$ divide.
- Prime factor of an positive integer is a prime number that divides it.
- Prime factorization is the decomposition of an integer into its prime factors. By the fundamental theorem of arithmetics, every integer greater than 1 has a unique prime factorization.


## Extended Euclidean algorithm

- The Euclidean algorithm is a recursive algorithm that computes the GCD of two numbers.

```
int gcd(int a, int b){
    return b == 0 ? a : gcd(b, a % b);
}
```

- Runs in $O\left(\log ^{2} N\right)$.


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- Runs in $O\left(\log ^{2} N\right)$.
- Notice that this can also compute LCM

$$
\operatorname{Icm}(a, b)=\frac{a \cdot b}{\operatorname{gcd}(a, b)}
$$

- See Wikipedia to see how it works and for proofs.


## Extended Euclidean algorithm

- Reversing the steps of the Euclidean algorithm we get the Bézout's identity

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\operatorname{gcd}(a, b)=a x+b y
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- The extended Euclidean algorithm computes the GCD and the coefficients $x$ and $y$.
- Each iteration it add up how much of $b$ we subtracted from $a$ and vice versa.


## Extended Euclidean algorithm

```
int egcd(int a, int b, int& x, int& y) {
    if (b == 0) {
        x = 1;
        y = 0;
        return a;
    } else {
        int d = egcd(b, a % b, x, y);
        x -= a / b * y;
        swap(x, y);
        return d;
    }
}
```


## Applications

- Essential step in the RSA algorithm.
- Essential step in many factorization algorithms.
- Can be generalized to other algebraic structures.
- Fundamental tool for proofs in number theory.
- Many other algorithms for GCD


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- $O(\sqrt{N})$
- Even better: If $n$ is not a prime, it has a prime divisor $\leq \sqrt{n}$
- Iterate over the prime numbers up to $\sqrt{n}$.
- There are $\sim N / \ln (N)$ primes less $N$, therefore $O(\sqrt{N} / \log N)$.


## Primality testing

- Trial division is a deterministic primality test.
- Many algorithms that are probabilistic or randomized.
- Fermat test; uses Fermat's little theorem.
- Probabilistic algorithms that can only prove that a number is composite such as Miller-Rabin.
- AKS primality test, the one that proved that primality testing is in $P$.


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Primes:
2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19,

## Prime sieves

- If we want to generate primes, using a primality test is very inefficient.
- Instead, our preferred method of prime generation is the sieve of Eratosthenes.
- For all numbers from 2 to $\sqrt{n}$ :
- If the number is not marked, iterate over every multiple of the number up to $n$ and mark them.
- The unmarked numbers are those that are not a multiple of any smaller number.
- $O(\sqrt{N} \log \log N)$

|  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |

Primes:<br>$2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19,23$

## Sieve of Eratosthenes

```
vector<int> eratosthenes(int n){
    bool *isMarked = new bool[n+1];
    memset(isMarked, 0, n+1);
    vector<int> primes;
    int i = 2;
    for(; i*i <= n; ++i)
        if (!isMarked[i]) {
            primes.push_back(i);
            for(int j = i; j <= n; j += i)
                isMarked[j] = true;
        }
    for (; i <= n; i++)
        if (!isMarked[i])
        primes.push_back(i);
    return primes;
}
```


## Integer factorization

The fundamental theorem of arithmetic states that

- Every integer greater than 1 is a unique multiple of primes.


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n=p_{1}^{e_{1}} p_{2}^{e_{2}} p_{3}^{e_{3}} \cdots p_{k}^{e_{k}}
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- Every integer greater than 1 is a unique multiple of primes.

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$$

We can therefore store integers as lists of their prime powers.
To factor an integer $n$ :

- Use the sieve of Eratosthenes to generate all the primes up $\sqrt{n}$
- Iterate over all the primes generated and check if they divide $n$, and determine the largest power that divides $n$.

```
map<int, int> factor(int N) {
    vector<int> primes;
    primes = eratosthenes(static_cast<int>(sqrt(N+1)));
    map<int, int> factors;
    for(int i = 0; i < primes.size(); ++i){
        int prime = primes[i], power = 0;
        while(N % prime == 0){
            power++;
                N /= prime;
            }
            if(power > 0){
                factors[prime] = power;
            }
    }
    if (N > 1) {
        factors[N] = 1;
    }
    return factors;
}
```


## Integer factorization

The prime factors can be quite useful.

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- The number of divisors

$$
\sigma_{0}(n)=\prod_{i=1}^{k}\left(e_{1}+1\right)
$$

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- The number of divisors

$$
\sigma_{0}(n)=\prod_{i=1}^{k}\left(e_{1}+1\right)
$$

- The sum of all divisors in $x$-th power

$$
\sigma_{m}(n)=\prod_{i=1}^{k} \frac{\left(p^{\left(e_{i}+1\right) \times}-1\right)}{\left(p_{i}-1\right)}
$$

## Integer factorization

- The Euler's totient function

$$
\phi(n)=n \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{k}(1-p)
$$

## Integer factorization

- The Euler's totient function

$$
\phi(n)=n \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{k}(1-p)
$$

- Euler's theorem, if $a$ and $n$ are coprime

$$
a^{\phi(n)}=1 \quad(\bmod n)
$$

Fermat's theorem is a special case when $n$ is a prime.

Combinatorics

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Combinatorics is study of countable discrete structures.

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Generic enumeration problem: We are given an infinite sequence of sets $A_{1}, A_{2}, \ldots A_{n}, \ldots$ which contain objects satisfying a set of properties. Determine

$$
a_{n}:=\left|A_{n}\right|
$$

for general $n$.

## Basic counting

- Factorial

$$
n!=1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdots n
$$

- Binomial coefficient

$$
\binom{n}{k}=\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}
$$

## Basic counting

- Factorial

$$
n!=1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdots n
$$

- Binomial coefficient

$$
\binom{n}{k}=\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}
$$

Number of ways to choose $k$ objects from a set of $n$ objects, ignoring order.

## Basic counting

Properties

$$
\begin{gathered}
\binom{n}{k}=\binom{n}{n-k} \\
\binom{n}{0}=\binom{n}{n}=1 \\
\binom{n}{k}=\binom{n-1}{k-1}+\binom{n-1}{k}
\end{gathered}
$$

## Basic counting

## Pascal triangle!

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \binom{0}{0} \\
& \binom{1}{0} \quad\binom{1}{1} \\
& \binom{2}{0}\binom{2}{1} \quad\binom{2}{2} \\
& \binom{3}{0} \quad\binom{3}{1} \quad\binom{3}{2} \quad\binom{3}{3} \\
& \binom{4}{0} \quad\binom{4}{1} \quad\binom{4}{2} \quad\binom{4}{3} \quad\binom{4}{4} \\
& \binom{5}{0} \quad\binom{5}{1} \quad\binom{5}{2} \quad\binom{5}{3} \quad\binom{5}{4} \quad\binom{5}{5} \\
& \binom{6}{0} \quad\binom{6}{1} \quad\binom{6}{2} \quad\binom{6}{3} \quad\binom{6}{4} \quad\binom{6}{5} \quad\binom{6}{6} \\
& \binom{7}{0} \quad\binom{7}{1} \quad\binom{7}{2} \quad\binom{7}{3} \quad\binom{7}{4} \quad\binom{7}{5} \quad\binom{7}{6} \quad\binom{7}{7} \\
& \begin{array}{llllllll}
\binom{8}{0} & \binom{8}{1} & \binom{8}{2} & \binom{8}{3} & \binom{8}{4} & \binom{8}{5} & \binom{8}{6} & \binom{8}{7}
\end{array} \quad\binom{8}{8} \\
& \binom{9}{0}\left(\begin{array}{l}
\binom{9}{1}
\end{array}\binom{9}{2} \quad\binom{9}{3} \quad\binom{9}{4} \quad\binom{9}{5} \quad\binom{9}{6} \quad\binom{9}{7} \quad\binom{9}{8} \quad\binom{9}{9}\right. \\
& \binom{10}{0}\binom{10}{1}\binom{10}{2}\binom{10}{3}\binom{10}{4}\binom{10}{5}\binom{10}{6}\binom{10}{7}\left(\begin{array}{c}
\binom{10}{8}
\end{array}\binom{10}{9}\binom{10}{10}\right.
\end{aligned}
$$

## Example

How many rectangles can be formed on a $m \times n$ grid?


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- 2 horizontal
- Number of ways we can choose 2 vertical lines

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\binom{n}{2}
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- 2 horizontal
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$$

## Example

How many rectangles can be formed on a $m \times n$ grid?

- A rectangle needs 4 edges, 2 vertical and 2 horizontal.

- 2 vertical
- 2 horizontal
- Total number of ways we can form a rectangle

$$
\begin{aligned}
\binom{n}{2}\binom{m}{2} & =\frac{n!m!}{(n-2)!(m-2)!2!2!} \\
& =\frac{n(n-1) m(m-1)}{4}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Multinomial

What if we have many objects with the same value?

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What if we have many objects with the same value?

- Number of permutations on $n$ objects, where $n_{i}$ is the number of objects with the $i$-th value.(Multinomial)

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\binom{n}{n_{1}, n_{2}, \ldots, n_{k}}=\frac{n!}{n_{1}!n_{2}!\cdots n_{k}!}
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\binom{n}{n_{1}, n_{2}, \ldots, n_{k}}=\frac{n!}{n_{1}!n_{2}!\cdots n_{k}!}
$$

- Number of way to choose $k$ objects from a set of $n$ objects with, where each value can be chosen more than once.

$$
\binom{n+k-1}{k}=\frac{(n+k-1)!}{k!(n-1)!}
$$

## Example

How many different ways can we divide $k$ identical balls into $n$ boxes?

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- Same as number of nonnegative solutions to

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$$

- Let's imagine we have a bit string consisting only of 1 of length $n+k-1$

$$
\underbrace{1111111 \ldots 1}_{n+k-1}
$$

## Example

- Choose $n-1$ bits to be swapped for 0

$$
1 \ldots 101 \ldots 10 \ldots 01 \ldots 1
$$

## Example

- Choose $n-1$ bits to be swapped for 0

$$
\underbrace{1 \ldots 1}_{x_{1}} 0 \underbrace{1 \ldots 1}_{x_{2}} 0 \ldots 0 \underbrace{1 \ldots 1}_{x_{n}}
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- Then total number of 1 will be $k$, each 1 representing an each element, and separated into $n$ groups


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$$

- Then total number of 1 will be $k$, each 1 representing an each element, and separated into $n$ groups
- Number of ways to choose the bits to swap

$$
\binom{n+k-1}{n-1}=\binom{n+k-1}{k}
$$

## Example

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- Paths to $(1,1)$ is the sum of number of paths to $(0,1)$ and $(1,0)$.
- Number of paths to $(i, j)$ is the sum of the number of paths to $(i-1, j)$ and $(i, j-1)$.


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- Number of paths to $(i, j)$ is

$$
\binom{i+j}{i}
$$

## Catalan

What if we are not allowed to cross the main diagonal?


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- The number of paths from $(0,0)$ to ( $n, m$ )

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C_{n}=\frac{1}{n+1}\binom{2 n}{n}
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- The number of paths from $(0,0)$ to
 ( $n, m$ )

$$
C_{n}=\frac{1}{n+1}\binom{2 n}{n}
$$

- $C_{n}$ are known as Catalan numbers.
- Many problems involve solutions given by the Catalan numbers.


## Catalan

- Number of different ways $n+1$ factors can be completely parenthesized.

$$
((a b) c) d \quad(a(b c)) d \quad(a b)(c d) \quad a((b c) d) \quad a(b(c d))
$$

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$$

- Number of stack sortable permutations of length $n$.
- Number of different triangulations convex polygon with $n+2$ sides

- Number of full binary trees with $n+1$ leaves.
- And aloot more.


## Fibonacci

The Fibonacci sequence is defined recursively as

$$
\begin{aligned}
& f_{1}=1 \\
& f_{2}=1 \\
& f_{n}=f_{n-1}+f_{n-2}
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& f_{n}=f_{n-1}+f_{n-2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Already covered how to calculate $f_{n}$ in $O(N)$ time with dynamic programming.
But we can do even better.

## Fibonacci as matrix

The Fibonacci sequence can be represented by a vectors

$$
\binom{f_{n+2}}{f_{n+1}}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
1 & 1 \\
1 & 0
\end{array}\right)\binom{f_{n+1}}{f_{n}}
$$

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1 & 0
\end{array}\right)\binom{f_{n+1}}{f_{n}}
$$

Or simply as a matrix

$$
\left(\begin{array}{ll}
1 & 1 \\
1 & 0
\end{array}\right)^{n}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
f_{n+1} & f_{n} \\
f_{n} & f_{n-1}
\end{array}\right)
$$

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Or simply as a matrix

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1 & 0
\end{array}\right)^{n}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
f_{n+1} & f_{n} \\
f_{n} & f_{n-1}
\end{array}\right)
$$

Using fast exponentiaton, we can calculate $f_{n}$ in $O(\log N)$ time.

## Fibonacci as matrix

Any linear recurrence

$$
a_{n}=c_{1} a_{n-1}+c_{2} a_{n-2} \ldots c_{k} a_{n-k}
$$

can be expressed in the same way

$$
\left(\begin{array}{c}
a_{n+1} \\
a_{n} \\
\vdots \\
a_{n-k}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
c_{1} & c_{2} & \ldots & c_{k} \\
1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\
\vdots & & \vdots & \\
0 & 0 & \ldots & 0
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}
a_{n} \\
a_{n-1} \\
\vdots \\
a_{n-k-1}
\end{array}\right)
$$

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$$
a_{n}=c_{1} a_{n-1}+c_{2} a_{n-2} \ldots c_{k} a_{n-k}
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can be expressed in the same way

$$
\left(\begin{array}{c}
a_{n+1} \\
a_{n} \\
\vdots \\
a_{n-k}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
c_{1} & c_{2} & \ldots & c_{k} \\
1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\
\vdots & & \vdots & \\
0 & 0 & \ldots & 0
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}
a_{n} \\
a_{n-1} \\
\vdots \\
a_{n-k-1}
\end{array}\right)
$$

With a recurrence relation defined as a linear function of the $k$ preceding terms the running time will be $O\left(k^{3} \log N\right)$.

Game Theory

## Game theory

Game theory is the study of strategic decision making, but in competitive programming we are mostly interested in combinatorial games.

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Game theory is the study of strategic decision making, but in competitive programming we are mostly interested in combinatorial games.

## Example:

- There is a pile of $k$ matches.
- Player can remove 1, 2 or 3 from the pile and alternate on moves.
- The player who removes the last match wins.
- There are two players, and the first player starts.
- Assuming that both players play perfectly, who wins?


## Example

We can analyse these types of games with backward induction.

## Example

We can analyse these types of games with backward induction. We call a state $N$-position if it is a winning state for the next player to move, and $P$-position if it is a winning position for the previous player.

- All terminal positions are $P$-positions.
- If every reachable state from the current one is a $N$-position then the current state is a $P$-position.
- If at least one $P$-position can be reached from the current one, then the current state is a $N$-position.
- A position is a $P$-position if all reachable states form the current one are $N$ position.


## Example

Let's analyse our previous game.

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- The terminal position is a $P$-position.

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | $\ldots$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $P$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Example

Let's analyse our previous game.

- The terminal position is a $P$-position.
- The positions reachable from the terminal positions are $N$-positions.

$$
\begin{array}{llllllllllllll}
0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & \ldots \\
\hline P & N & N & N & & & & & & & & & &
\end{array}
$$

## Example

Let's analyse our previous game.

- The terminal position is a $P$-position.
- The positions reachable from the terminal positions are $N$-positions.
- Position 4 can only reach $N$-positions, therefore a $P$ position.

$$
\begin{array}{lccccccccccccc}
0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & \ldots \\
\hline P & N & N & N & P & & & & & & & & &
\end{array}
$$

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- The terminal position is a $P$-position.
- The positions reachable from the terminal positions are $N$-positions.
- Position 4 can only reach $N$-positions, therefore a $P$ position.
- The next 3 positions can reach the $P$-position 4 , therefore they are $N$-positions.

$$
\begin{array}{cccccccccccccc}
0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & \ldots \\
\hline P & N & N & N & P & N & N & N & & & & & &
\end{array}
$$

## Example

Let's analyse our previous game.

- The terminal position is a $P$-position.
- The positions reachable from the terminal positions are $N$-positions.
- Position 4 can only reach $N$-positions, therefore a $P$ position.
- The next 3 positions can reach the $P$-position 4 , therefore they are $N$-positions.
- And so on.

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | $\ldots$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $P$ | $N$ | $N$ | $N$ | $P$ | $N$ | $N$ | $N$ | $P$ | $N$ | $N$ | $N$ | $P$ | $\ldots$ |

## Game theory

We can see a clear pattern of the $N$ and $P$ positions in the previous game. - Easy to prove that a position is $P$ if $x \equiv 0(\bmod 4)$.

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- Not only one dimensional games.


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- What if there are $n$ piles instead of 1 ?


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- Many games can be analyzed this way.
- Not only one dimensional games.
- What if there are $n$ piles instead of 1 ?
- What if we can remove 1,3 or 4 ?


## The game called Nim

- There are $n$ piles, each containing $x_{i}$ chips.
- Player can remove from exactly one pile, and can remove any number of chips.
- The player who removes the last match wins.
- There are two players, and the first player starts and they alternate on moves.
- Assuming that both players play perfectly, who wins?


## The game called Nim

Nim can be analyzed with $N$ and $P$ position.

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Buton's theorem states that a position $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ in Nim is a $P$-position if and only if the xor over the number of chips is 0 .

## The game called Nim

Nim can be analyzed with $N$ and $P$ position.

- Not trivial to generalize over $n$ piles.
- Luckily someone has already done that for us.

Buton's theorem states that a position $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ in Nim is a $P$-position if and only if the xor over the number of chips is 0 . This theorem extends to other sums of combinatorial games!

