

# Lecture 2021-03-09

Tuesday, 9 March, 2021 10:48

Last week: for QuizSort, we decided to use median as pivot, and reduced to Selection

↑  
more general than median!

Imagine (recursively) looking for the median:



pick a pivot & partition

if  $p > \frac{n}{2}$

recurse left

$A[1..p-1]$  "median" of  $A[1..n]$   
is not median of  $A[1..p-1]$ .

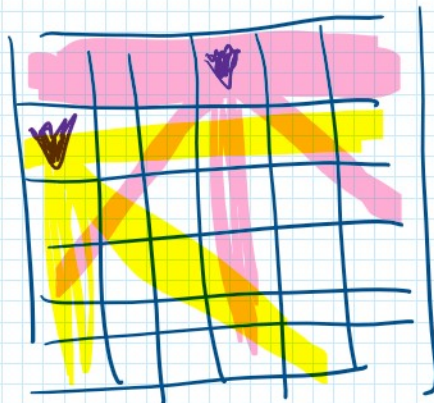
Immediately realize that "recursing"

requires thinking of the more general Selection problem.

→ Sometimes, to do recursion, sometimes first generalize the problem ←

————— x —————

## Recursive Backtracking



$n \times n$   
chessboard

place  $n$  "queens"  
on the board s.t.  
none of them are  
attacking each other  
(or report impossible)

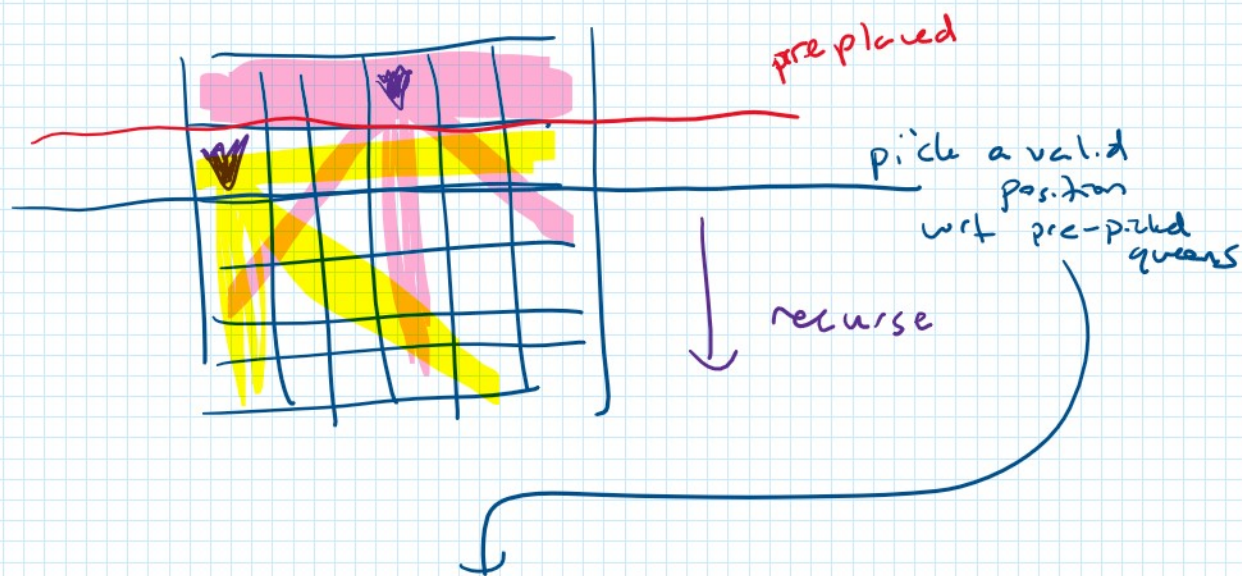
Generalize:



Generalize:

Given an  $n \times n$  chessboard & placements of  $r$  queens on the first  $r$  rows,

Place  $n-r$  queens on the remaining  $(n-r)$  rows so that no queens attack each other.



here, which (valid) position to pick?

recursive backtracking:

try all possible choices at current step  
→ recurse

figure out based on result of recursive call  
which choice was correct.

PlaceQueens( $Q[1..r]$ )

if  $r = n$   
return  $Q$

else

for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$

brute force check if column  $j$  is valid for row  $r+1$

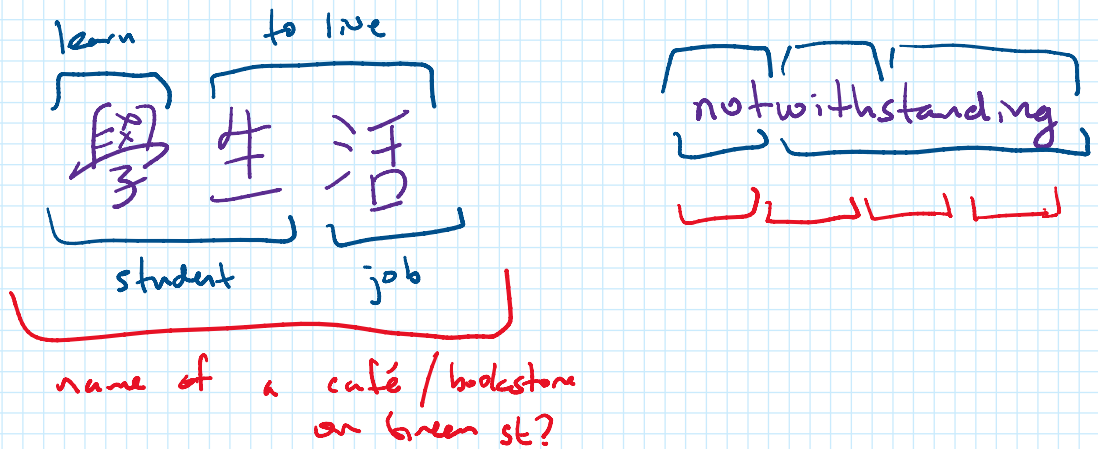
(doing DFS through dependency tree of the recursive function)

for j = 1 to r

brute force check if column j is valid for row r+1  
if so,  
recurse w/ Q{1..r} appended w/ j.

if recursive call did not return fail  
return output.

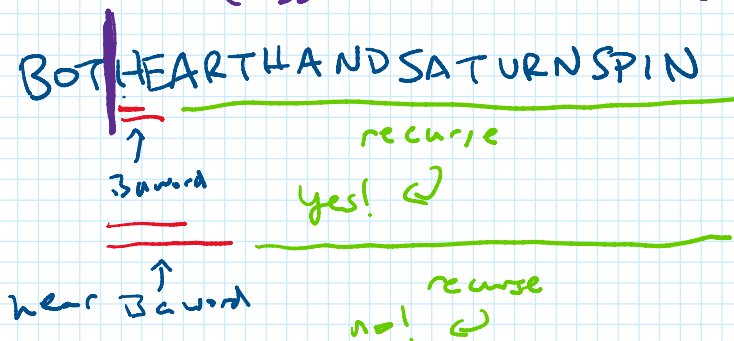
return fail.



preprocessing problem: given a string & a dictionary  
(to comp linguists/  
AI/ etc.) can we split the string into valid  
seq of words in the dictionary?

BOTHEARTHANDSATURNSPIN

(assume black box access to IsWord(w))



$$\text{Is Splittable?}(w[1..n]) = \begin{cases} \text{True} & \text{if } w = \epsilon \\ \bigvee_{i=1}^n (\text{isWord}(w[1..i]) \wedge \text{IsSplittable}(w[i+1..n])) & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

outputs True if  $w$  can be split into seq of valid words  
False o.w.

$\uparrow$   
 for loop!

fix equivalently:  
 input  $w[1..n]$

$$\text{Is Splittable?}(i) = \begin{cases} \text{True} & \text{if } i > n \ // \ w[n+1..n] = \epsilon \\ \bigvee_{j=i+1}^n (\text{isWord}(w[i..j]) \wedge \text{IsSplittable}(j+1)) & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

output True if  $w[i..n]$  can be split  
 False o.w.

(version of the)  
 what problem are you really solving recursively?  
 → what are the recursive subproblems?  
 what do you need to remember about past decisions?  
 (optional) Encode subproblem more efficiently?

— Longest Increasing Subsequence

Input sequence  $A[1..n]$  of numbers (array)

looking for the length of the longest inc subseq of  $A$ .

String  
 Sing is a subsequence

a sequence  $B[1..n]$  is increasing.  
 $B[i] > B[i-1]$  for all  $i \geq 2$ .

Q: what is a (local) decision we can try?  
 is  $A[i]$  in a LIS?

3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6

↪ recursive backtracking says for LIS... and

3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6  
 ↪ recursive backtracking says try both ways!  
 recurse here?

Q: what is the actual problem I'm solving recursively?

3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6  
 ↗ include this?  
 recurse here...  
 still LIS?  
 really: LIS of #s > 3.

Q: what to remember? k for solving LIS for #s > k.

$$\text{LIS greater}(A[1..n], k) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i > n \\ \max \begin{cases} 1 + \text{LIS greater}(A[i+1..n], A[i]) & \text{if } A[i] > k \\ \text{LIS greater}(A[i+1..n], k) \end{cases} & \text{if } A[i] > k \\ \text{LIS greater}(A[i+1..n], k) & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

return length of LIS consisting of #s > k. of A[i...n]

Q: can we encode more efficiently? Yes!

How to use LISgreater to solve original problem?

LIS(A[1..n]):  
 return LISgreater(1, -∞)