

Algorithms and Data Structures

C8. Concepts

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May 27, 2026

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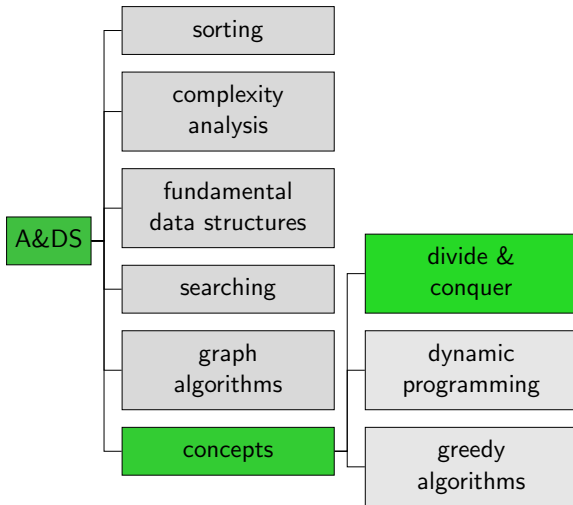
C8.1 Divide and Conquer

C8.2 Dynamic Programming

C8.3 Greedy Algorithms

C8.1 Divide and Conquer

Content of the Course



Recap: Divide-and-Conquer Algorithm Scheme

Base case: If the problem is small enough, solve it directly.

Recursive case: Otherwise

Divide the problem into disjoint subproblems that are smaller instances of the same problem.

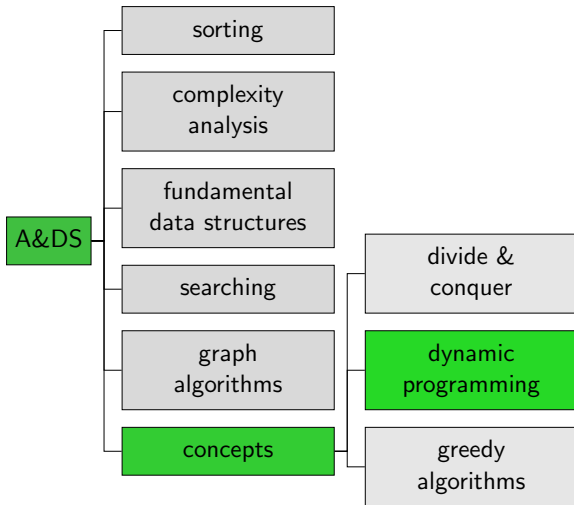
Conquer the subproblems by solving them recursively.

Combine the subproblem solutions to form a solution to the original problem.

Examples: Strassen's algorithm for multiplying square matrices, merge sort

C8.2 Dynamic Programming

Content of the Course



Dynamic Programming

Dynamic programming solves a problem by solving overlapping subproblems and combining their solutions.

Requirements:

- ▶ **optimal substructure**: (optimal) solutions of subproblems can be combined to (optimal) solutions of original problem
- ▶ **overlapping subproblems**: solving the subproblems requires solving common subsubproblems.

Solve each subsubproblem only once and store its solution.

Two Variants

- ▶ **Top-down:** Recursively call the algorithm for subproblems. If there already is a stored solution for the subproblem, use it. Otherwise solve it (recursively) and memoize its solution.
- ▶ **Bottom-up:** Solve the smallest subproblems first and combine their solutions into solutions of larger and larger subproblems.

Example: Fibonacci Numbers

The n -th Fibonacci number is

$$Fib(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We want to compute the n -th Fibonacci number.

Naive Implementation

```
def fibonacci(n):  
    if n <= 1:  
        return n  
    else:  
        return fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2)
```

Exponential running time!

Dynamic Programming: Top-Down Variant

```
values = {0 : 0, 1 : 1}
```

```
def fibonacci(n):  
    if n not in values:  
        values[n] = fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2)  
    return values[n]
```

Linear running time

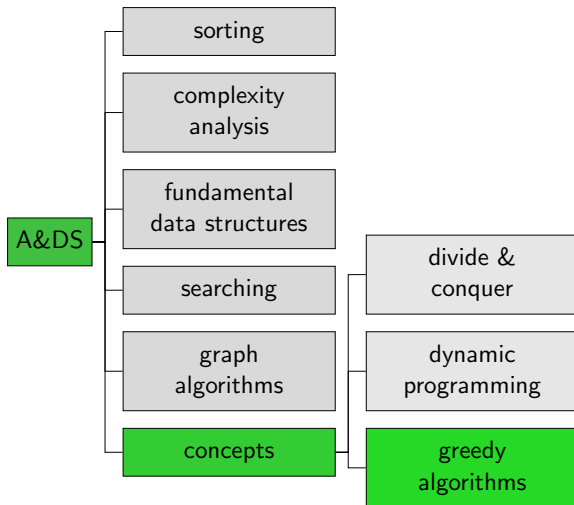
Dynamic Programming: Bottom-up Variant

```
def fibonacci(n):  
    if n <= 1:  
        return n  
    prev_fib = 0  
    curr_fib = 1  
    for i in range(2, n+1):  
        next_fib = prev_fib + curr_fib  
        prev_fib = curr_fib  
        curr_fib = next_fib  
    return curr_fib
```

Linear running time

C8.3 Greedy Algorithms

Content of the Course



Greedy Algorithms

- ▶ A **greedy algorithm** always makes the choice that looks best at the moment (locally optimal choice).
- ▶ Some problems can be solved optimally with a greedy algorithm, but in general they lead to suboptimal solutions.

Example: Prim's Algorithm for Minimum Spanning Trees

Prim's Algorithm

- ▶ Choose a random node as initial tree.
- ▶ Let the tree grow by one additional edge in each step.
- ▶ Always add an edge of minimal weight that has exactly one end point in the tree.
→ locally optimal choice of edge
- ▶ Stop after adding $|V| - 1$ edges.

Knapsack Problem

- ▶ A burglar wants to steal items from a house and can carry at most K kilos.
- ▶ There are n items, where the i th item is worth v_i CHF and weights w_i kilos.
- ▶ The burglar wants to maximize the value of the stolen items.

Knapsack Problem: Greedy Strategy

- ▶ Greedy strategy: grab the items with the **highest value per weight** v_i/w_i as long as the total weight does not exceed K .
- ▶ Not guaranteed to lead to an optimal solution
e.g. $K = 30, w_1 = 20, v_1 = 20, w_2 = w_3 = 15, v_2 = v_3 = 12$

Variant: Fractional Knapsack Problem

- ▶ In the fractional variant, the burglar can take away fractional amounts of an item.
Think of the items as bags of gold dust.
- ▶ Greedy strategy: grab the items with the highest value per weight v_i/w_i as long as the total weight does not exceed K .
If at the end there is room for a fraction of the next best item, take that fraction.
- ▶ Greedy strategy solves the problem optimally.