

Sugar packet game:

$n \times n$ grid

n pink tokens on left border

n green tokens on top
border

- pink player moves one token one square right or jumps over a green token to go ~~one~~ two squares right

- skip turn if no legal moves

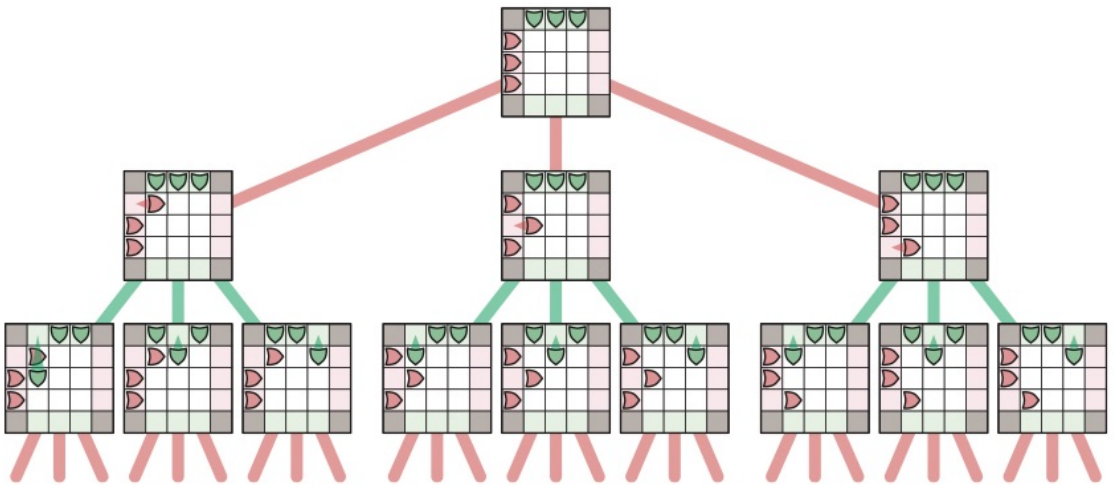
- winner gets all their tokens off the grid first

An algorithm for any
2-player game (almost)

state: location of pieces,
current player, etc.

game tree: nodes are
states,

edge from x to y if
you can go from x to y
in a single move



recursive det. for good/
bad game states

- a state is good if
current player has already
won or there is some
move to put other player
in a bad state.

- a state is bad if
current player lost or
all moves put other
player into a good
state

good: you can always
win

bad: you cannot win
unless opponent makes
a mistake

↙ state

PLAYANYGAME($X, player$): ← current player

if *player* has already won in state X

return GOOD

if *player* has already lost in state X

return BAD

for all legal moves $X \rightsquigarrow Y$

if $\text{PLAYANYGAME}(Y, \neg player) = \text{BAD}$

return GOOD $\langle\langle X \rightsquigarrow Y \text{ is a good move} \rangle\rangle$

return BAD $\langle\langle \text{There are no good moves} \rangle\rangle$

Backtracking:

- you have some problem that requires you to make a sequence of decisions

- make one decision

by examining each choice

• ask Recursion Fairy to consistently make remaining decisions

- want to tell Recursion

Fairy enough to make

consistent decisions

for each choice

◦ try to minimize

amount of info passed

to R.F.

Rod Cutting

an optimization problem

◦ many feasible/valid solutions

◦ each has a value;
find the optimal
(max or min value)
solution

Input: n : integer length
of a rod we need to
cut

$P[1..n]$: $P[i]$ = how
much we charge for
a rod of length i

A solution: a sequence
 $\langle i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k \rangle$ of integer
lengths s.t. $\sum_{j=1}^k i_j = n$.

Want to maximize
total revenue $\sum_{j=1}^k P[x_j]$.

Ex: $n=4$ $p = \langle 1, 5, 8, 9 \rangle$

opt. solution: $\langle 2, 2 \rangle$

value $5 + 5 = 10$

Usually enough to
compute optimal value.

Guess one piece size
to sell & recursively
cut up the length
that remains.

↙ amount

remaining

RODCUTTING($P[1 \dots n], i$):

if $i = 0$

return 0

+ RodCutting($P, i-1$)

$maxRev \leftarrow P[1]$ *«We must sell something.»*

for $j \leftarrow 2$ to i

$optionalRev \leftarrow P[j] + RODCUTTING(P[1 \dots n], i - j)$

if $optionalRev > maxRev$

$maxRev \leftarrow optionalRev$

return $maxRev$

($O(2^n)$ as written)

Subset Sum

Input: A set X of positive integers & a target integer T .

Output: Is there some subset of X that sums to T .

Ex: $X := \{2, 5, 8\}$

$T: 10$ True ($2+8=10$)

$X := \{2, 5, 8\}$

$T := \perp$ False

Easy cases:

- $T = 0$, Answer is True, (empty set sums to 0)
- $T < 0$ or ($T \neq 0$ and X is empty)

Answer is False.

Otherwise, let x be any member of X .

If there is a good subset summing to T ...

- with x , everything else is a subset of

$X \setminus \{x\}$ + they add

↑ set subtraction

up to $T - x$.

- without x , the whole subset comes from

$X \setminus \{x\}$ + sums to T .

⟨⟨Does any subset of $X[1..i]$ sum to T ?⟩⟩

SUBSETSUM(X, i, T):

if $T = 0$

return TRUE

else if $T < 0$ or $i = 0$

return FALSE

else

with \leftarrow SUBSETSUM($X, i-1, T-X[i]$)

⟨⟨Recurse!⟩⟩

wout \leftarrow SUBSETSUM($X, i-1, T$)

⟨⟨Recurse!⟩⟩

return (with \vee wout)

logical or

do we include

$X[i]$ in our
subset?

Is this a good subset
with $X[i]$ or
without $X[i]$?

$O(2^n)$ time (where $n = |X|$)