Some Algorithm Design Techniques, I

- General overall idea
  - Reduce solving a problem to a smaller problem or problems of the same type
- Greedy algorithms
  - Used when one needs to build something a piece at a time
  - Repeatedly make the greedy choice - the one that looks the best right away
    - e.g. closest pair in TSP search
  - Usually fast if they work (but often don't)

Some Algorithm Design Techniques, II

- Divide & Conquer
  - Reduce problem to one or more sub-problems of the same type
  - Typically, each sub-problem is at most a constant fraction of the size of the original problem
    - e.g. Mergesort, Binary Search, Strassen’s Algorithm, Quicksort (kind of)

Some Algorithm Design Techniques, III

- Dynamic Programming
  - Give a solution of a problem using smaller sub-problems, e.g. a recursive solution
  - Useful when the same sub-problems show up again and again in the solution
A simple case: Computing Fibonacci Numbers

- Recall $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ and $F_0 = 0$, $F_1 = 1$
- Recursive algorithm:
  - Fibo(n)
    - if $n = 0$ then return(0)
    - else if $n = 1$ then return(1)
    - else return(Fibo(n-1)+Fibo(n-2))

Call tree - start

Full call tree

Memo-ization (Caching)

- Remember all values from previous recursive calls
- Before recursive call, test to see if value has already been computed
- Dynamic Programming
  - Convert memo-ized algorithm from a recursive one to an iterative one
Fibonacci - Dynamic Programming Version

- FiboDP(n):
  - F[0] ← 0
  - F[1] ← 1
  - for i = 2 to n do
    - F[i] = F[i-1] + F[i-2]
  - endfor
  - return(F[n])

Dynamic Programming

- Useful when
  - same recursive sub-problems occur repeatedly
  - Can anticipate the parameters of these recursive calls
  - The solution to whole problem can be figured out with knowing the internal details of how the sub-problems are solved
    - principle of optimality