CSC 8301- Design and Analysis of Algorithms

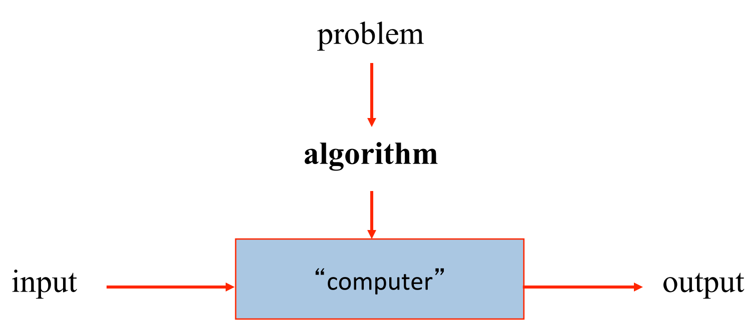
Lecture 1

Introduction

Analysis framework and asymptotic notations

What is an algorithm?

An ***algorithm*** is a finite sequence of unambiguous instructions for solving a problem, i.e., for obtaining a required output for any legitimate input.



Knuth's 5 important features of an algorithm

- finiteness – terminates after a finite number of steps
- definiteness – must be precisely defined
- has 0 or more inputs from predefined sets of objects
- has 1 or more outputs
- effectiveness – each operation can be executed exactly in a finite length of time using pencil and paper

(Donald E. Knuth, "The Art of Computer Programming", vol.1)

Euclid's algorithm

Problem: Find gcd(m,n), the greatest common divisor of two nonnegative, not both zero integers m and n

Euclid's algorithm is based on repeated application of equality

$$\gcd(m, n) = \gcd(n, m \bmod n)$$

Ex.: gcd(60,24) =

while $n \neq 0$ do
    $r \leftarrow m \bmod n$
    $m \leftarrow n$
    $n \leftarrow r$
return m

Why study algorithms?

- Theoretical importance
  - The cornerstone of computer science

- Practical importance
  - a practitioner's toolkit of known algorithms
  - frameworks for designing and analyzing algorithms for new problems

Two main issues related to algorithms

- How to design algorithms

- How to analyze algorithm efficiency

Major Algorithm Design Techniques/Strategies

- Brute force
- Decrease and conquer
- Divide and conquer
- Transform and conquer
- Space-time tradeoff
- Greedy approach
- Dynamic programming
- Iterative improvement
- Backtracking
- Branch and Bound

Analysis of Algorithms

- How good is the algorithm?
  - correctness (accuracy for approximation alg.)
  - time efficiency
  - space efficiency
  - optimality
- Approaches:
  - empirical (experimental) analysis
  - theoretical (mathematical) analysis

Theoretical analysis of time efficiency

Time efficiency is analyzed by determining the number of times the algorithm's *basic operation* is executed as a function of *input size*

- *Input size*: number of input items or, if matters, their size
- *Basic operation*: the operation contributing the most toward the running time of the algorithm

input size

$$T(n) \approx c_{op} C(n)$$

running time

execution time for basic operation

number of basic operation's executions

Example: Searching for a Key in a List

ALGORITHM *SequentialSearch*$(A[0..n-1], K)$

//Searches for a given value in a given array by sequential search
//Input: An array $A[0..n-1]$ and a search key K
//Output: The index of the first element of A that matches K
//   or -1 if there are no matching elements
$i \leftarrow 0$
while $i < n$ **and** $A[i] \neq K$ **do**
    $i \leftarrow i + 1$
if $i < n$ **return** i
else return -1

Input Size?
Basic Operation?

Example: Multiplying two *n*x*n* Matrices

ALGORITHM *MatrixMultiplication*$(A[0..n-1, 0..n-1], B[0..n-1, 0..n-1])$

```
//Multiplies two n-by-n matrices by the definition-based algorithm
//Input: Two n-by-n matrices A and B
//Output: Matrix C = AB
for i ← 0 to n − 1 do
    for j ← 0 to n − 1 do
        C[i, j] ← 0.0
        for k ← 0 to n − 1 do
            C[i, j] ← C[i, j] + A[i, k] ∗ B[k, j]
return C
```

Input Size?

Basic Operation?

Best-case, average-case, worst-case

For some algorithms efficiency depends on form of input:

- Worst case: $C_{worst}(n)$ – maximum over inputs of size *n*
- Best case: $C_{best}(n)$ – minimum over inputs of size *n*
- Average case: $C_{avg}(n)$ – "average" over inputs of size *n*
  - Number of times the basic operation is executed on *typical* input
  - NOT the average of worst and best case
  - Expected number of basic operations considered as a random variable under some assumption about the probability distribution of all possible inputs

Average-case approach

- Random variable C(*I*):
  - number of steps taken by algorithm on input *I*
- Probability P(*I*) of input *I*:
  - how likely input I is
- Average running time is

$$\Sigma_I \, C(I) * P(I)$$

Example: Searching for a Key in a List

ALGORITHM *SequentialSearch*$(A[0..n-1], K)$

```
//Searches for a given value in a given array by sequential search
//Input: An array A[0..n − 1] and a search key K
//Output: The index of the first element of A that matches K
//            or −1 if there are no matching elements
i ← 0
while i < n and A[i] ≠ K do
    i ← i + 1
if i < n return i
else return −1
```

Worst Case?

Best Case?

Average Case? (assuming probability of successful search is p and probability of the first match in each position i is same)

Average Case for Sequential Search (1)

Case 1: The key K is in the list, equally likely to be in any position

Average Case for Sequential Search (2)

Case 2: The probability that the key K is in the list is $p \leq 1$

Example: Multiplying two nxn Matrices

ALGORITHM *MatrixMultiplication*$(A[0..n-1, 0..n-1], B[0..n-1, 0..n-1])$
//Multiplies two n-by-n matrices by the definition-based algorithm
//Input: Two n-by-n matrices A and B
//Output: Matrix $C = AB$
for $i \leftarrow 0$ **to** $n-1$ **do**
  for $j \leftarrow 0$ **to** $n-1$ **do**
    $C[i, j] \leftarrow 0.0$
    for $k \leftarrow 0$ **to** $n-1$ **do**
      $C[i, j] \leftarrow C[i, j] + A[i, k] * B[k, j]$
return C

Worst Case?
Best Case?
Average Case?

Types of formulas for basic operation count

- Exact formula
  e.g., $C(n) = n(n-1)/2$

- Formula indicating *order of growth* with specific multiplicative constant
  e.g., $C(n) \approx 0.5\, n^2$

- Formula indicating order of growth with unknown multiplicative constant
  e.g., $C(n) \approx cn^2$

Order of growth

Most important: Order of growth within a constant multiple as $n \to \infty$

Example:

- $C(n) = 3n(n-1)$
- Suppose we double the input size. How much longer will the algorithm take?

Values of several functions important for analysis of algorithms

n	$\log_2 n$	n	$n \log_2 n$	n^2	n^3	2^n	$n!$
10	3.3	10^1	$3.3 \cdot 10^1$	10^2	10^3	10^3	$3.6 \cdot 10^6$
10^2	6.6	10^2	$6.6 \cdot 10^2$	10^4	10^6	$1.3 \cdot 10^{30}$	$9.3 \cdot 10^{157}$
10^3	10	10^3	$1.0 \cdot 10^4$	10^6	10^9		
10^4	13	10^4	$1.3 \cdot 10^5$	10^8	10^{12}		
10^5	17	10^5	$1.7 \cdot 10^6$	10^{10}	10^{15}		
10^6	20	10^6	$2.0 \cdot 10^7$	10^{12}	10^{18}		

Example

- Order these functions according to their order of growth (from lowest to highest):

  2^n $n^{4/3}$ $n(\lg n)^3$ $n^{\lg n}$

Main Points of the Analysis Framework

- Both time and space efficiencies are measured as functions of the algorithm's input size.
- Time efficiency is measured by counting the number of times the algorithm's basic operation is executed.
- Space efficiency is measured by counting the number of extra memory units (beyond input and output) used by the algorithm.
- For some algorithms, one should distinguish among the worst, best and average case efficiencies.
- The main concern is the *order of growth* of the algorithm's running time and extra memory units consumed as input size goes to infinity.

Asymptotic order of growth

A way to classify functions according to their order of growth
- *practical* way to deal with complexity functions
- ignores constant factors and small input sizes

- Big-O
  - $O(g(n))$: class of functions $f(n)$ that grow <u>*no faster*</u> than $g(n)$

- Big-Theta
  - $\Theta(g(n))$: class of functions $f(n)$ that grow <u>*at same rate*</u> as $g(n)$

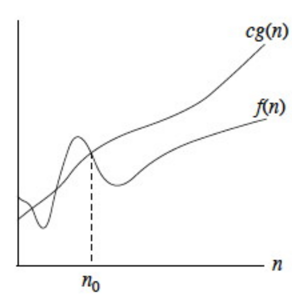
- Big-Omega
  - $\Omega(g(n))$: class of functions $f(n)$ that grow <u>*at least as fast*</u> as $g(n)$

Big-O (asymptotic ≤)

Definition: $f(n)$ is in $O(g(n))$ if order of growth of $f(n) \leq$ order of growth of $g(n)$ (within constant multiple),
i.e., there exist positive constant c and non-negative integer n_0 such that

$$f(n) \leq c\, g(n) \text{ for every } n \geq n_0$$

Examples:
- $10n^2$ is $O(n^2)$
- $10n$ is $O(n^2)$
- $5n+20$ is $O(n)$



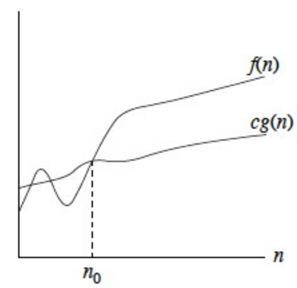
Ω (Omega, asymptotic ≥)

Definition: $f(n)$ is in $\Omega(g(n))$ if there exist positive constant c and non-negative integer n_0 such that

$$f(n) \geq c\, g(n) \text{ for every } n \geq n_0$$

These are all $\Omega(n^2)$:

- n^2
- $n^2 + 100n$
- $1000n^2 - 1000\, n$
- n^3



These are not:

- $n^{1.999}$
- n
- $\lg n$

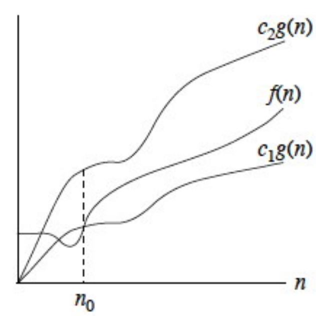
Θ (Theta, asymptotic =)

Definition: $f(n)$ is in $\Theta(g(n))$ if there exist positive constants c_1, c_2 and non-negative integer n_0 such that

$$c_1\, g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2\, g(n) \text{ for every } n \geq n_0$$

Example:

- n^2-$2n$ is $\Theta(n^2)$
  - pick $c_1 = 0.5$, $c_2 = 1$, $n_0 = 4$



Find a tight Θ-bound for:

- $4n^3$
- $4n^3+2n$

Establishing order of growth

High level idea: ignore:
- constant factors (too system-dependent)
- low-order terms (irrelevant for large inputs)

For example,
$6n \log n + 2n$ becomes _______________

Establishing order of growth using limits

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} f(n)/g(n) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{0} & \text{order of growth of } \boldsymbol{f(n)} < \text{order of growth of } \boldsymbol{g(n)} \\ \boldsymbol{c} > \mathbf{0} & \text{order of growth of } \boldsymbol{f(n)} = \text{order of growth of } \boldsymbol{g(n)} \\ \infty & \text{order of growth of } \boldsymbol{f(n)} > \text{order of growth of } \boldsymbol{g(n)} \end{cases}$$

Examples:

- $10n$ vs. n^2

- $n(n+1)/2$ vs. n^2

L' Hôpital' s Rule and Stirling' s Formula

L' Hôpital' s rule: If $lim_{n\to\infty} f(n) = lim_{n\to\infty} g(n) = \infty$ and the derivatives f', g' exist, then

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{f'(n)}{g'(n)}$$

Example: $\log_2 n$ vs. $\sqrt{n}$

Stirling' s formula: $n! \approx (2\pi n)^{1/2} (n/e)^n$

Orders of growth of some important functions

- All logarithmic functions $\log_a n$ belong to the same class $\Theta(\log n)$ no matter what the logarithm's base $a>1$ is.
- All polynomials of the same degree k belong to the same class: $a_k n^k + a_{k-1} n^{k-1} + \ldots + a_0 \in \Theta(n^k)$.
- Exponential functions a^n have different orders of growth for different a.
- order $\log n$ < order n^α ($\alpha>0$) < order a^n < order $n!$ < order n^n

Some properties of asymptotic order of growth

- $f(n) \in O(f(n))$
- $f(n) \in O(g(n))$ iff $g(n) \in \Omega(f(\mathrm{n}))$
- If $f(n) \in O(g(n))$ and $g(n) \in O(h(n))$, then $f(n) \in O(h(n))$

  Note similarity with $a \leq \mathrm{b}$

- If $f_1(n) \in O(g_1(n))$ and $f_2(n) \in O(g_2(n))$, then

  $$f_1(n) + f_2(n) \in O(\max\{g_1(n), g_2(n)\})$$

Homework

- Exercises
  1.1: 6, 9a, 12
  1.2: 1, 2
  1.3: 4, 5
  2.1: 3, 5a, 8, 9
  2.2: 3, 5, 9, 12
- Reading:
  - Preface and Chapter 1 (Sections 1.1-1.4)
  - Sections 2.1 and 2.2