CSE 431/531: Algorithm Analysis and Design (Spring 2022)
Introduction and Syllabus

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University at Buffalo

Outline

CSE 431/531: Algorithm Analysis and Design

- Course Webpage (contains schedule, policies, and slides):
  http://www.cse.buffalo.edu/~shil/courses/CSE531/
- Please sign up course on Piazza via link on course webpage
  - homeworks, solutions, announcements, polls, asking/answering questions

CSE 431/531: Algorithm Analysis and Design

- Time & Location : 9:00am-9:50am, NSC 201
- Instructor:
  - Shi Li, shil@buffalo.edu
- TAs and Graders:
  - Sean Sanders, Xiaoyu Zhang,
  - Graders: TBD

You should already have/know:

- Mathematical Background
  - basic reasoning skills, inductive proofs
- Basic data Structures
  - linked lists, arrays
  - stacks, queues
- Some Programming Experience
  - Python, C, C++ or Java

You Will Learn

- Classic algorithms for classic problems
  - Sorting, shortest paths, minimum spanning tree, $\cdots$
- How to analyze algorithms
  - Correctness
  - Running time (efficiency)
- Meta techniques to design algorithms
  - Greedy algorithms
  - Divide and conquer
  - Dynamic programming
  - $\cdots$
- NP-completeness

Tentative Schedule

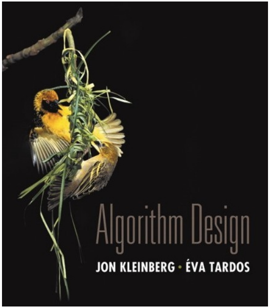
- 50 Minutes/Lecture $\times$ 42 Lectures

Introduction	4 lectures
Graph Basics	3 lectures
Greedy Algorithms	7 lectures
Divide and Conquer	7 lectures
Dynamic Programming	7 lectures
Graph Algorithms	7 lectures
NP-Completeness	5 lectures
Final Review	2 lectures

Textbook

Textbook (Highly Recommended):

- Algorithm Design, 1st Edition, by
  Jon Kleinberg and *Eva Tardos*



Other Reference Books

- Introduction to Algorithms, Third Edition, *Thomas Cormen, Charles Leiserson, Rondald Rivest, Clifford Stein*

Reading Before Classes

- Highly recommended: read the correspondent sections from the textbook (or reference book) before classes
  - Sections for each lecture can be found on the course webpage.
- Slides are posted on course webpage. They may get updated before the classes start.
- In last lecture of a major topic (Greedy Algorithms, Divide and Conquer, Dynamic Programming, Graph Algorithms), I will discuss exercise problems, which will be posted on the course webpage before class.

Grading

- 40% for theory homeworks
  - 8 points $\times$ 5 theory homeworks
- 20% for programming problems
  - 10 points $\times$ 2 programming assignments
- 40% for final exam

For Homeworks, You Are Allowed to

- Use course materials (textbook, reference books, lecture notes, etc)
- Post questions on Piazza
- Ask me or TAs for hints
- Collaborate with classmates
  - Think about each problem for enough time before discussions
  - Must write down solutions on your own, in your own words
  - Write down names of students you collaborated with

For Homeworks, You Are Not Allowed to

- Use external resources
  - Can't Google or ask questions online for solutions
  - Can't read posted solutions from other algorithm course webpages
- Copy solutions from other students

For Programming Problems

- Need to implement the algorithms by yourself
- Can not copy codes from others or the Internet
- We use Moss (`https://theory.stanford.edu/~aiken/moss/`) to detect similarity of programs

Late Policy

- You have 1 "late credit", using it allows you to submit an assignment solution for three days
- With no special reasons, no other late submissions will be accepted

- Final Exam will be closed-book

Academic Integrity (AI) Policy for the Course

- minor violation:
  - 0 score for the involved homework/prog. assignment, and
  - 1-letter grade down
- 2 minor violations = 1 major violation
  - failure for the course
  - case will be reported to the department and university
  - further sanctions may include a dishonesty mark on transcript or expulsion from university

Questions?

Outline

Outline

What is an Algorithm?

- Donald Knuth: An algorithm is a finite, definite effective procedure, with some input and some output.

- Computational problem: specifies the input/output relationship.
- An algorithm solves a computational problem if it produces the correct output for any given input.

Examples

Greatest Common Divisor

Input: two integers $a, b > 0$

Output: the greatest common divisor of a and b

Example:

- Input: 210, 270
- Output: 30

- Algorithm: Euclidean algorithm
- $\gcd(270, 210) = \gcd(210, 270 \bmod 210) = \gcd(210, 60)$
- $(270, 210) \to (210, 60) \to (60, 30) \to (30, 0)$

Examples

Sorting

Input: sequence of n numbers $(a_1, a_2, \cdots, a_n)$

Output: a permutation $(a'_1, a'_2, \cdots, a'_n)$ of the input sequence such that $a'_1 \leq a'_2 \leq \cdots \leq a'_n$

Example:

- Input: $53, 12, 35, 21, 59, 15$
- Output: $12, 15, 21, 35, 53, 59$

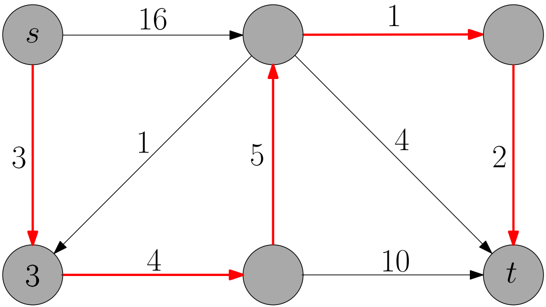
- Algorithms: insertion sort, merge sort, quicksort, ...

Examples

Shortest Path

Input: directed graph $G = (V, E)$, $s, t \in V$

Output: a shortest path from s to t in G



- Algorithm: Dijkstra's algorithm

Algorithm = Computer Program?

- Algorithm: "abstract", can be specified using computer program, English, pseudo-codes or flow charts.
- Computer program: "concrete", implementation of algorithm, using a particular programming language

Pseudo-Code

Pseudo-Code:

Euclidean(a, b)

1: **while** $b > 0$ **do**
2: $\quad (a, b) \leftarrow (b, a \bmod b)$
3: **return** a

C++ program:

```
int Euclidean(int a, int b){
    int c;
    while (b > 0){
        c = b;
        b = a % b;
        a = c;
    }
    return a;
}
```

Theoretical Analysis of Algorithms

- Main focus: correctness, running time (efficiency)
- Sometimes: memory usage
- Not covered in the course: engineering side
  - extensibility
  - modularity
  - object-oriented model
  - user-friendliness (e.g, GUI)
  - ...
- Why is it important to study the running time (efficiency) of an algorithm?

1. feasible vs. infeasible
2. efficient algorithms: less engineering tricks needed, can use languages aiming for easy programming (e.g, python)
3. fundamental
4. it is fun!

Outline

Sorting Problem

Input: sequence of n numbers $(a_1, a_2, \cdots, a_n)$

Output: a permutation $(a'_1, a'_2, \cdots, a'_n)$ of the input sequence such that $a'_1 \leq a'_2 \leq \cdots \leq a'_n$

Example:

- Input: $53, 12, 35, 21, 59, 15$
- Output: $12, 15, 21, 35, 53, 59$

Insertion-Sort

- At the end of j-th iteration, the first j numbers are sorted.

iteration 1: $53, 12, 35, 21, 59, 15$

iteration 2: $12, 53, 35, 21, 59, 15$

iteration 3: $12, 35, 53, 21, 59, 15$

iteration 4: $12, 21, 35, 53, 59, 15$

iteration 5: $12, 21, 35, 53, 59, 15$

iteration 6: $12, 15, 21, 35, 53, 59$

Example:

- Input: $53, 12, 35, 21, 59, 15$
- Output: $12, 15, 21, 35, 53, 59$

insertion-sort(A, n)

for $j \leftarrow 2$ to n **do**
  $key \leftarrow A[j]$
  $i \leftarrow j - 1$
  while $i > 0$ and $A[i] > key$ **do**
    $A[i + 1] \leftarrow A[i]$
    $i \leftarrow i - 1$
  $A[i + 1] \leftarrow key$

- $j = 6$
- $key = 15$

12 15 21 35 53 59

$\uparrow$

i

Outline

Analysis of Insertion Sort

- Correctness
- Running time

Correctness of Insertion Sort

- Invariant: after iteration j of outer loop, $A[1..j]$ is the sorted array for the original $A[1..j]$.

$$\text{after } j = 1 : 53, 12, 35, 21, 59, 15$$

$$\text{after } j = 2 : 12, 53, 35, 21, 59, 15$$

$$\text{after } j = 3 : 12, 35, 53, 21, 59, 15$$

$$\text{after } j = 4 : 12, 21, 35, 53, 59, 15$$

$$\text{after } j = 5 : 12, 21, 35, 53, 59, 15$$

$$\text{after } j = 6 : 12, 15, 21, 35, 53, 59$$

Analyzing Running Time of Insertion Sort

- Q1: what is the size of input?
- A1: Running time as the function of size
- possible definition of size :
  - Sorting problem: # integers,
  - Greatest common divisor: total length of two integers
  - Shortest path in a graph: # edges in graph
- Q2: Which input?
  - For the insertion sort algorithm: if input array is already sorted in ascending order, then algorithm runs much faster than when it is sorted in descending order.
- A2: Worst-case analysis:
  - Running time for size n = worst running time over all possible arrays of length n

Analyzing Running Time of Insertion Sort

- Q3: How fast is the computer?
- Q4: Programming language?
- A: They do not matter!

Important idea: asymptotic analysis

- Focus on growth of running-time as a function, not any particular value.

Asymptotic Analysis: O-notation

Informal way to define O-notation:

- Ignoring lower order terms
- Ignoring leading constant

- $3n^3 + 2n^2 - 18n + 1028 \Rightarrow 3n^3 \Rightarrow n^3$
- $3n^3 + 2n^2 - 18n + 1028 = O(n^3)$

- $n^2/100 - 3n + 10 \Rightarrow n^2/100 \Rightarrow n^2$
- $n^2/100 - 3n + 10 = O(n^2)$

Asymptotic Analysis: O-notation

- $3n^3 + 2n^2 - 18n + 1028 = O(n^3)$
- $n^2/100 - 3n^2 + 10 = O(n^2)$

O-notation allows us to ignore

- architecture of computer
- programming language
- how we measure the running time: seconds or $\#$ instructions?
- to execute $a \leftarrow b + c$:
  - program 1 requires 10 instructions, or 10^{-8} seconds
  - program 2 requires 2 instructions, or 10^{-9} seconds
  - they only change by a constant in the running time, which will be hidden by the $O(\cdot)$ notation

Asymptotic Analysis: O-notation

- Algorithm 1 runs in time $O(n^2)$
- Algorithm 2 runs in time $O(n)$

- Does not tell which algorithm is faster for a specific n!
- Algorithm 2 will eventually beat algorithm 1 as n increases.

- For Algorithm 1: if we increase n by a factor of 2, running time increases by a factor of 4
- For Algorithm 2: if we increase n by a factor of 2, running time increases by a factor of 2

Asymptotic Analysis of Insertion Sort

insertion-sort(A, n)

for $j \leftarrow 2$ to n **do**
    $key \leftarrow A[j]$
    $i \leftarrow j - 1$
    while $i > 0$ and $A[i] > key$ **do**
        $A[i+1] \leftarrow A[i]$
        $i \leftarrow i - 1$
    $A[i+1] \leftarrow key$

- Worst-case running time for iteration j of the outer loop?
  Answer: $O(j)$
- Total running time $= \sum_{j=2}^{n} O(j) = O(\sum_{j=2}^{n} j)$
  $= O(\frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1) = O(n^2)$

Computation Model

- Random-Access Machine (RAM) model
  - reading and writing $A[j]$ takes $O(1)$ time
- Basic operations such as addition, subtraction and multiplication take $O(1)$ time
- Each integer (word) has $c \log n$ bits, $c \geq 1$ large enough
  - Reason: often we need to read the integer n and handle integers within range $[-n^c, n^c]$, it is convenient to assume this takes $O(1)$ time.
- What is the precision of real numbers?
  Most of the time, we only consider integers.

- Can we do better than insertion sort asymptotically?
- Yes: merge sort, quicksort and heap sort take $O(n \log n)$ time

- Remember to sign up for Piazza.

Questions?

Outline

Asymptotically Positive Functions

Def. $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$ is an asymptotically positive function if:

- $\exists n_0 > 0$ such that $\forall n > n_0$ we have $f(n) > 0$

- In other words, $f(n)$ is positive for large enough n.

- $n^2 - n - 30$ Yes
- $2^n - n^{20}$ Yes
- $100n - n^2/10 + 50$? No

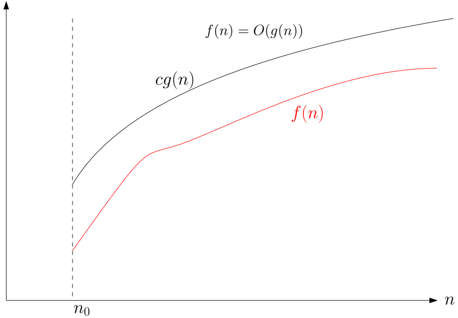
- We only consider asymptotically positive functions.

O-Notation: Asymptotic Upper Bound

O-Notation For a function $g(n)$,

$$O(g(n)) = \{\text{function } f : \exists c > 0, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that } f(n) \le cg(n), \forall n \ge n_0\}.$$

- In other words, $f(n) \in O(g(n))$ if $f(n) \le cg(n)$ for some $c > 0$ and every large enough n.



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- In other words, $f(n) \in O(g(n))$ if $f(n) \le cg(n)$ for some $c > 0$ and every large enough n.
- $3n^2 + 2n \in O(n^2 - 10n)$

Proof.

Let $c = 4$ and $n_0 = 50$, for every $n > n_0 = 50$, we have,

$$3n^2 + 2n - c(n^2 - 10n) = 3n^2 + 2n - 4(n^2 - 10n)$$
$$= -n^2 + 42n \le 0.$$
$$3n^2 + 2n \le c(n^2 - 10n)$$

$\square$

O-Notation For a function $g(n)$,

$$O(g(n)) = \Big\{\text{function } f : \exists c > 0, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that } f(n) \le cg(n), \forall n \ge n_0\Big\}.$$

- In other words, $f(n) \in O(g(n))$ if $f(n) \le cg(n)$ for some c and large enough n.

- $3n^2 + 2n \in O(n^2 - 10n)$
- $3n^2 + 2n \in O(n^3 - 5n^2)$
- $n^{100} \in O(2^n)$
- $n^3 \notin O(10n^2)$

Asymptotic Notations	O	Ω	Θ
Comparison Relations	$\le$		

Conventions

- We use "$f(n) = O(g(n))$" to denote "$f(n) \in O(g(n))$"
- $3n^2 + 2n = O(n^3 - 10n)$
- $3n^2 + 2n = O(n^2 + 5n)$
- $3n^2 + 2n = O(n^2)$

"$=$" is asymmetric! Following equalities are wrong:

- $O(n^3 - 10n) = 3n^2 + 2n$
- $O(n^2 + 5n) = 3n^2 + 2n$
- $O(n^2) = 3n^2 + 2n$

- Analogy: Mike is a student. ~~A student is Mike.~~

Ω-Notation: Asymptotic Lower Bound

O-Notation For a function $g(n)$,

$$O(g(n)) = \{\text{function } f : \exists c > 0, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that } f(n) \leq cg(n), \forall n \geq n_0\}.$$

Ω-Notation For a function $g(n)$,

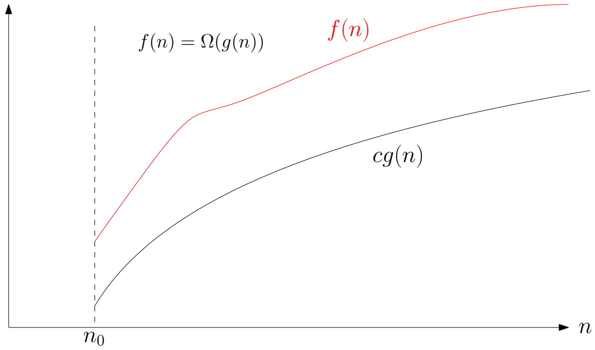
$$\Omega(g(n)) = \{\text{function } f : \exists c > 0, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that } f(n) \geq cg(n), \forall n \geq n_0\}.$$

- In other words, $f(n) \in \Omega(g(n))$ if $f(n) \geq cg(n)$ for some c and large enough n.

Ω-Notation: Asymptotic Lower Bound

Ω-Notation For a function $g(n)$,

$$\Omega(g(n)) = \{\text{function } f : \exists c > 0, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that } f(n) \geq cg(n), \forall n \geq n_0\}.$$



Ω-Notation: Asymptotic Lower Bound

- Again, we use "$=$" instead of $\in$.
  - $4n^2 = \Omega(n - 10)$
  - $3n^2 - n + 10 = \Omega(n^2 - 20)$

Asymptotic Notations	O	Ω	Θ
Comparison Relations	$\leq$	$\geq$	

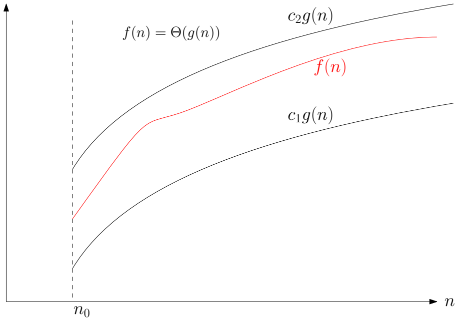
Theorem $f(n) = O(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow g(n) = \Omega(f(n))$.

Θ-Notation: Asymptotic Tight Bound

Θ-Notation For a function $g(n)$,

$$\Theta(g(n)) = \{\text{function } f : \exists c_2 \geq c_1 > 0, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that } c_1 g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 g(n), \forall n \geq n_0\}.$$

- $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$, then for large enough n, we have "$f(n) \approx g(n)$".



Θ-Notation: Asymptotic Tight Bound

Θ-Notation For a function $g(n)$,

$$\Theta(g(n)) = \big\{\text{function } f : \exists c_2 \geq c_1 > 0, n_0 > 0 \text{ such that } c_1 g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 g(n), \forall n \geq n_0\big\}.$$

- $3n^2 + 2n = \Theta(n^2 - 20n)$
- $2^{n/3+100} = \Theta(2^{n/3})$

Asymptotic Notations	O	Ω	Θ
Comparison Relations	$\leq$	$\geq$	$=$

Theorem $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$ if and only if $f(n) = O(g(n))$ and $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$.

Asymptotic Notations	O	Ω	Θ
Comparison Relations	$\leq$	$\geq$	$=$

Trivial Facts on Comparison Relations

- $a \leq b \;\; \Leftrightarrow \;\; b \geq a$
- $a = b \;\; \Leftrightarrow \;\; a \leq b$ and $a \geq b$
- $a \leq b$ or $a \geq b$

Correct Analogies

- $f(n) = O(g(n)) \;\; \Leftrightarrow \;\; g(n) = \Omega(f(n))$
- $f(n) = \Theta(g(n)) \;\; \Leftrightarrow \;\; f(n) = O(g(n))$ and $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$

Incorrect Analogy

- $f(n) = O(g(n))$ or $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$

Incorrect Analogy

- $f(n) = O(g(n))$ or $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$

$$f(n) = n^2$$

$$g(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ n^3 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

Recall: Informal way to define O-notation

- ignoring lower order terms: $3n^2 - 10n - 5 \to 3n^2$
- ignoring leading constant: $3n^2 \to n^2$
- $3n^2 - 10n - 5 = O(n^2)$
- Indeed, $3n^2 - 10n - 5 = \Omega(n^2), 3n^2 - 10n - 5 = \Theta(n^2)$

- In the formal definition of $O(\cdot)$, nothing tells us to ignore lower order terms and leading constant.
- $3n^2 - 10n - 5 = O(5n^2 - 6n + 5)$ is correct, though weird
- $3n^2 - 10n - 5 = O(n^2)$ is the most natural since n^2 is the simplest term we can have inside $O(\cdot)$.

Notice that O denotes asymptotic upper bound

- $n^2 + 2n = O(n^3)$ is correct.
- The following sentence is correct: the running time of the insertion sort algorithm is $O(n^4)$.
- We say: the running time of the insertion sort algorithm is $O(n^2)$ and the bound is tight.
- We do not use Ω and Θ very often when we upper bound running times.

Exercise

For each pair of functions f, g in the following table, indicate whether f is O, Ω or Θ of g.

f	g	O	Ω	Θ
$n^3 - 100n$	$5n^2 + 3n$	No	Yes	No
$3n - 50$	$n^2 - 7n$	Yes	No	No
$n^2 - 100n$	$5n^2 + 30n$	Yes	Yes	Yes
$\log_2 n$	$\log_{10} n$	Yes	Yes	Yes
$\log^{10} n$	$n^{0.1}$	Yes	No	No
2^n	$2^{n/2}$	No	Yes	No
$\sqrt{n}$	$n^{\sin n}$	No	No	No

We often use $\log n$ for $\log_2 n$. But for $O(\log n)$, the base is not important.

Asymptotic Notations	O	Ω	Θ	o	ω
Comparison Relations	$\leq$	$\geq$	$=$	$<$	$>$

Questions?

Outline

$O(n)$ (Linear) Running Time

Computing the sum of n numbers

sum(A, n)

```
S ← 0
for i ← 1 to n
        S ← S + A[i]
return S
```

$O(n)$ (Linear) Running Time

- Merge two sorted arrays

3	8	12	20	32	48

5	7	9	25	29

3	5	7	8	9	12	20	25	29	32	48

$O(n)$ (Linear) Running Time

merge(B, C, n_1, n_2) \\ B and C are sorted, with length n_1 and n_2

$A \leftarrow []$; $i \leftarrow 1$; $j \leftarrow 1$
while $i \leq n_1$ and $j \leq n_2$ **do**
  if $B[i] \leq C[j]$ **then**
    append $B[i]$ to A; $i \leftarrow i + 1$
  else
    append $C[j]$ to A; $j \leftarrow j + 1$
if $i \leq n_1$ then append $B[i..n_1]$ to A
if $j \leq n_2$ then append $C[j..n_2]$ to A
return A

Running time $= O(n)$ where $n = n_1 + n_2$.

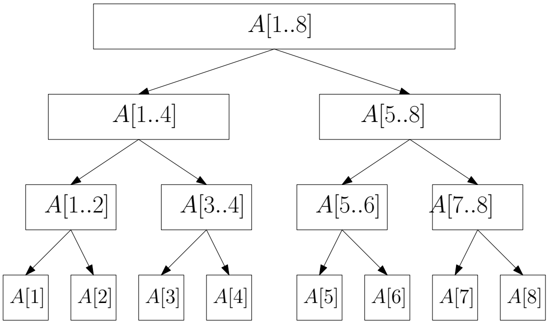
$O(n \log n)$ Running Time

merge-sort(A, n)

if $n = 1$ **then**
    return A
$B \leftarrow$ merge-sort$\Big(A\big[1..\lfloor n/2 \rfloor\big], \lfloor n/2 \rfloor\Big)$
$C \leftarrow$ merge-sort$\Big(A\big[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1..n\big], n - \lfloor n/2 \rfloor\Big)$
return merge$(B, C, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor, n - \lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$

$O(n \log n)$ Running Time

- Merge-Sort



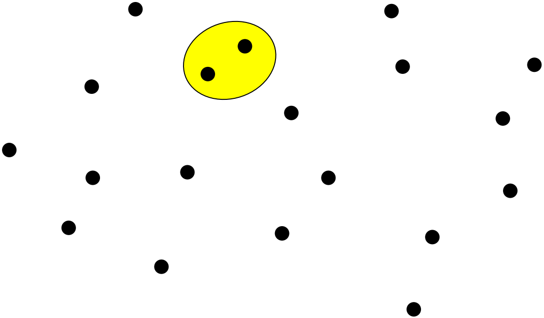
- Each level takes running time $O(n)$
- There are $O(\log n)$ levels
- Running time $= O(n \log n)$

$O(n^2)$ (Quardatic) Running Time

Closest Pair

Input: n points in plane: $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \cdots, (x_n, y_n)$

Output: the pair of points that are closest



$O(n^2)$ (Quardatic) Running Time

Closest Pair

Input: n points in plane: $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \cdots, (x_n, y_n)$

Output: the pair of points that are closest

closest-pair(x, y, n)

$bestd \leftarrow \infty$
for $i \leftarrow 1$ to $n - 1$ **do**
  for $j \leftarrow i + 1$ to n **do**
    $d \leftarrow \sqrt{(x[i] - x[j])^2 + (y[i] - y[j])^2}$
    if $d < bestd$ **then**
      $besti \leftarrow i, bestj \leftarrow j, bestd \leftarrow d$
return $(besti, bestj)$

Closest pair can be solved in $O(n \log n)$ time!

$O(n^3)$ (Cubic) Running Time

Multiply two matrices of size $n \times n$

matrix-multiplication(A, B, n)

```
C ← matrix of size n × n, with all entries being 0
for i ← 1 to n do
    for j ← 1 to n do
        for k ← 1 to n do
            C[i, k] ← C[i, k] + A[i, j] × B[j, k]
return C
```

Beyond Polynomial Time: 2^n

Maximum Independent Set Problem

Input: graph $G = (V, E)$

Output: the maximum independent set of G

max-independent-set($G = (V, E)$)

```
R ← ∅
for every set S ⊆ V do
    b ← true
    for every u, v ∈ S do
        if (u, v) ∈ E then b ← false
    if b and |S| > |R| then R ← S
return R
```

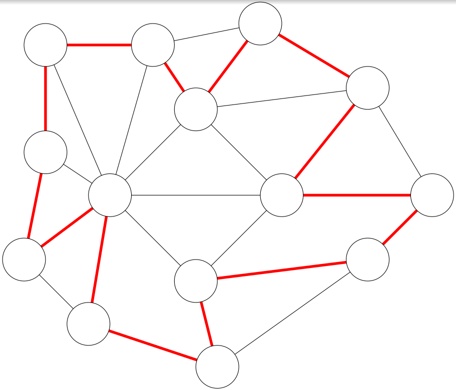
Running time $= O(2^n n^2)$.

Beyond Polynomial Time: $n!$

Hamiltonian Cycle Problem

Input: a graph with n vertices

Output: a cycle that visits each node exactly once,
or say no such cycle exists



Beyond Polynomial Time: $n!$

Hamiltonian($G = (V, E)$)

```
for every permutation (p_1, p_2, ..., p_n) of V do
    b ← true
    for i ← 1 to n − 1 do
        if (p_i, p_{i+1}) ∉ E then b ← false
    if (p_n, p_1) ∉ E then b ← false
    if b then return (p_1, p_2, ..., p_n)
return "No Hamiltonian Cycle"
```

Running time $= O(n! \times n)$

$O(\log n)$ (Logarithmic) Running Time

- Binary search
  - Input: sorted array A of size n, an integer t;
  - Output: whether t appears in A.
- E.g, search 35 in the following array:

3	8	10	25	29	37	38	42	46	52	59	61	63	75	79

$O(\log n)$ (Logarithmic) Running Time

Binary search

- Input: sorted array A of size n, an integer t;
- Output: whether t appears in A.

binary-search(A, n, t)

1: $i \leftarrow 1, j \leftarrow n$
2: **while** $i \leq j$ **do**
3: $\quad k \leftarrow \lfloor (i+j)/2 \rfloor$
4: $\quad$ if $A[k] = t$ return true
5: $\quad$ if $t < A[k]$ then $j \leftarrow k - 1$ else $i \leftarrow k + 1$
6: **return** false

Running time $= O(\log n)$

Comparing the Orders

- Sort the functions from smallest to largest asymptotically
  $\log n, \;\; n, \;\; n^2, \;\; n \log n, \;\; n!, \;\; 2^n, \;\; e^n, \;\; n^n$
- $\log n = O(n)$
- $n = O(n^2) n = O(n \log n)$
- $n \log n = O(n^2)$
- $n^2 = O(n!) n^2 = O(2^n)$
- $2^n = O(n!) 2^n = O(e^n)$
- $e^n = O(n!)$
- $n! = O(n^n)$

Terminologies

When we talk about upper bound on running time:

- Logarithmic time: $O(\log n)$
- Linear time: $O(n)$
- Quadratic time $O(n^2)$
- Cubic time $O(n^3)$
- Polynomial time: $O(n^k)$ for some constant k
  - $O(n \log n) \subseteq O(n^{1.1})$. So, an $O(n \log n)$-time algorithm is also a polynomial time algorithm.
- Exponential time: $O(c^n)$ for some $c > 1$
- Sub-linear time: $o(n)$
- Sub-quadratic time: $o(n^2)$

Goal of Algorithm Design

- Design algorithms to minimize the order of the running time.

- Using asymptotic analysis allows us to ignore the leading constants and lower order terms
- Makes our life much easier! (E.g., the leading constant depends on the implementation, complier and computer architecture of computer.)

Q: Does ignoring the leading constant cause any issues?

- e.g, how can we compare an algorithm with running time $0.1n^2$ with an algorithm with running time $1000n$?

A:

- Sometimes yes
- However, when n is big enough, $1000n < 0.1n^2$
- For "natural" algorithms, constants are not so big!
- So, for reasonably large n, algorithm with lower order running time beats algorithm with higher order running time.