CSE247 DATA STRUCTURES Fall'25



 $Lab \ \#2$ Sep 1, 2025

Exercise 1

Empirical analysis of 3-SUM. Repeat the experiments from the slides to find the running time of brute-force 3Sum algorithm in the form an^b where a and b are constants. Run the experiments for n = 500, 1, 000, 2, 000, 4, 000, 8, 000, 16, 000. Estimate the value of a and b.

Note: The code from the slides and **stopwatch.hpp** is attached with this lab. Use optimization flag -02 while compiling the code, e.g., q++ -02 3sum.cpp -o 3sum.

Exercise 2

Throwing eggs from a building. Suppose that you have an n-story building and plenty of eggs. Suppose also that an egg is broken if it is thrown off floor m or higher, and unbroken otherwise.

Here we use a function object to simulate the process of throwing eggs from a building. The value of m is randomly chosen between 1 and n.

```
class EggDrop {
public:
    EggDrop(int n) : m(std::random_device()() % n + 1) {}
    bool operator()(int x) {
        if (x >= m) return true;
        return false;
    }
private:
    int m;
};
```

We can use binary search to determine the value of m using $\sim \log_2 n$ throws (the number of broken eggs is also $\sim \log_2 n$)

```
int main() {
    int n = 10000;
    EggDrop eggdrop(n);
    int lo = 1, hi = n;
    while (lo < hi) {
        int mid = lo + (hi-lo)/2;
        if (eggdrop(mid)) hi = mid;
        else lo = mid+1;
    }
    std::cout << "The value of m is " << lo << std::endl;
    return 0;
}</pre>
```

Devise and implement a strategy to reduce the cost to $\sim 2\log_2 m$ when n is much larger than m.

Hint: Probe at height $2^0, 2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^k, \dots$ and find the value of k such that $2^k \le m < 2^{k+1}$. Then do a binary search between $lo = 2^k$ and $hi = 2^{k+1}$.

Exercise 3

Anagrams. In this exercise, we design a $O(n \log n)$ algorithm to read in a list of words and print out all anagrams. For example, the strings "comedian" and "demoniac" are anagrams of each other. Assume there are n words and each word contains at most 20 letters.

(a) In this part you generate a list containing artificial data. (A list of 224,714 words is also provided in the file wordlist.txt.)

The following code generates a random word of length m:

```
std::string random_word(int m) {
    std::string s;
    for (int i = 0; i < m; ++i) {
        s.push_back('a' + std::random_device()() % 26);
    }
    return s;
}</pre>
```

For each word generated, we can shuffle the characters to generate an anagram. The following code shuffles the characters of a string **s**:

```
shuffle(s.begin(), s.end(),
    std::default_random_engine(std::random_device()()));
```

Generate a list of n = 1000 words, where each word has length at most 10. Ensure that the list contains anagrams.

- (b) Design a $O(n^2)$ algorithms to find all anagrams in a given list of words.
- (c) Improve the above algorithm to $O(n \log n)$.

We will make use of std::sort function from the C++ Standard Library. To sort a container, we can use the following syntax:

```
std::sort(container.begin(), container.end());
```

Now, do the following steps to solve the problem:

- 1. sort each word in the list of words.
- 2. sort the list of words.
- 3. After the above steps, all anagrams will be next to each other and can be counted in linear time.