

3.2.2 Space Complexity:

Space complexity is nothing but the amount of memory space that an algorithm or a problem takes during execution of that particular problem.

Space needed by an algorithm is given by:

$$S(P) = C \text{ (fixed part)} + S_p \text{ (variable part)}$$

Fixed part: is independent of instance characteristic. i.e. space for simple variables, constants, etc (int a; int b)

Variable part: is space for variables whose size is dependent on particular problem instance.

Example: array

Example:

i. Algorithm max(A, n)
 {
 Result = A[1];
 For i = 2 to n do
 If A[i] > result then
 Result = A[i];
 Return = A[i];
 }

Answer:

Variables i, n, result = 1 unit each // 4 bytes each, which is fixed, can't be changed

Variable A = n units // n * 4 bytes, completely depends on 'n'

Total = n + 4

Removing constant value:

Space complexity: O(n)

ii. Algorithm abc(d, e, f)
 {
 Return d + e * f + (d + e + f)/(d + e) + 4.0
 }

Answer:

d: 4 bytes, fixed

e: 4 bytes, fixed

f: 4 bytes, fixed

total: 12 bytes at least

removing constant values:

space complexity: O(1), constant space

iii. Algorithm sum(a, n)
 {
 s=0.0;
 for i=1 to n do
 s=s+a[i];
 return s;
 }

Answer:

Variables i, n, s = 4 bytes each i.e. $(4 + 4 + 4 = 12)$ // fixed part

Variable a: $n * 4$ bytes // variable part

Total $= (4 * n + 12)$ bytes

Removing constant values:

Total $= 4 * n$

Space complexity: $O(n)$