

Time Complexity Explanation of Post fix and Prefix

This is a separate section to explain what actually the time complexity of Postfix and Prefix expression: –

More or less the code is same during prefix and postfix:

1. Stack st; i. e. creating a variable of Stack , hence it is done at constant amount of time.

2. int len = strlen(infix);

Now think of calculating the length of array of characters(also known as String) think of a function like:

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int strlen (char *str) {
    int c = 0;
    for (int i = 0; str[i] != '\0'; i++)
    {
        c=c+1;
    }
    return c;
}
```

```

int main(){

    char str[100];
    cout<<"Enter the string: ";
    cin>>str;
    cout<<"Length of the string is:
"<<strlen(str)<<endl;

    return 0;

}

```

Hence obviously when we are importing some inbuilt function i.e. `strlen()` → which calculates length of a string takes `n` amount of time i.e. $O(n)$.

And as we know creating `n` length of array takes $O(n)$ time complexity.

```

void create(Stack *st, int cap)
{
    st->size = cap;
    st->top = -1;
    st->s = (char *)malloc(st->size * sizeof(char));
}

create(&st, len);

```

Hence create() function is creating an stack of array dynamically of length `n` takes $O(n)$.

Next is declaration `int i = 0, j = 0`, which takes $O(1)$ constant time. For infix to prefix `int i = len - 1`, and `int r, op1, op2` takes $O(1)$ constant time.

But the real thing starts when we are traversing the array of characters from first to last during infix to postfix conversion:

```
while (infix[i] != '\0')
{
    if (isOperand(infix[i]) == 1)
    {
        postfix[j] = infix[i];
        j++;
        i++;
    }
    .....
}
```

We know that the no. of inner statement of loop runs is the time taken by the loop.

Now `postfix[j] = infix[i]`, takes $O(1)$ constant time per run of `if` and length of infix statement is `n`, `postfix[j] = infix[i]` run n time.

Now if we take :

```

if (pre(infix[i]) > pre(st.s[st.top]) || isEmpty(st)
|| infix[i] == '(')
{
    push(&st, infix[i]);
    i++;
}

```

Push operation too take $O(1)$ constant time ,now this statement is linked with next statement.

```

else if (pre(infix[i]) <= pre(st.s[st.top]) &&
infix[i] == ')')
{
    while (st.s[st.top] != '(')
    {
        postfix[j] = pop(&st);
        j++;
    }
    pop(&st);
    i++;
}

```

i. e. as soon as we find `(` , $postfix[j] = pop()$, i. e. the top element of the stack gets added to array by popping out till we find `)`.

Lets assume there are `k` amounts of `(` opening braces and `q` amount of `)` closing braces and `n` amount data inside those braces, Hence, $postfix[j] = n$ where `p` and `k` will get excluded.

Now if there is `s` no. of operand and `q` no. of operator outside consider free then : –

Postfix array will have : $N - (p + k) - (s + q) = n$, N is the total length of the characters.

Hence the both loop constitutes the above equation which we get.

Now,

```
else
    {
        while (pre(infix[i]) <=
pre(st.s[st.top]) && !isEmpty(st) && infix[i] != '('
&& infix[i] != ')')
        {
            postfix[j] = pop(&st);
            j++;
        }
        push(&st, infix[i]);
        i++;
    }
...
while (!isEmpty(st))
{
    postfix[j] = pop(&st);

    j++;
}
```

This will pop out and add `s` no. of operand and `q` no. of operator outside `()` hence it will be:

$$N - (n + p + k) = (s + q)$$

Now, if we see that postfix equation will have:

$$P = n + s + q.$$

Where if we include the push and pop the total iteration will occur:

$$N = (n + s + q) + (p + k)$$

or, $N = P + (p + k)$, where P is postfix expression.

Hence full iteration needed is : $O(N)$, where N is the length of Postfix expression.

At each condition push and pop occurred at constant time $O(1)$ till the iteration it takes $1 + 1 + 1 + \dots + N$, $= O(N)$, where N is the Length of the array.

This same thing repeats in Prefix expression.

In Prefix expression we have an extra section ,that is swapping and interchanging of characters .

```
// Reverse the prefix expression to get the correct order
int start = 0;
int end = j - 1;
while (start < end)
{
    char temp = prefixExpr[start];
    prefixExpr[start] = prefixExpr[end];
    prefixExpr[end] = temp;
    start++;
    end--;
}

free(st.s);

return prefixExpr;
}
```

The while loop iterates over the entire prefix expression, but not N i.e. length of the prefix expression as the reason:

Each statement inside loop runs at a constant time $O(1)$.

But swapping occurs between two(2) element whose index is `start` and `end`.

Hence whole complexity takes : $\frac{n}{2}$ times. Hence time complexity:

$$O\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \times O(n) = O(n).$$