Functional Programming Assignment 1 Theoretical Questions

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Question 2.2

The Rubik's cube can be twisted in six directions. For each state six new (non-distinct) states can be generated. n moves can be represented by the following mathematical function:

$$f(n) = 6^n \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}$$
 (1)

Question 3.2

Figure 1 indicates that there is a correlation between the running time and the memory usage. As n increases, so does the size of the search space grow exponentially. However, in terms of actually memory usage on the operating system we do not see this exponential growth, we instead see a logarithmic increase in memory usage of the process over the run duration.

Figure 1: Placeholder

Size of n	Peak Memory Usage	Running Time
1	null	null
2	null	null
3	null	null
4	null	null
5	null	null
6	null	null
7	null	null
8	null	null

Table 1: Memory usage and running time for different size of n

Tests were conducted for n up to size 8. The results would indicate ...

Question 4

Using function 1, the number of states that can be generated from 10 moves where 6 possible rotations can be made for each state is

$$f(10) = 6^{10}$$

= 60466176 states

Function 1 can be optimised such that from a given non-initial state, the new states generated are only those that will not undo the last move.

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} 6^n & \text{if } n \in T = \{0, 1\} \\ 5^n & \text{if } n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus T \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (2)