

# CSC236 Homework Assignment #2

Induction Proofs on Program Correctness and  
Recurrences

Alexander He Meng

Prepared for October 28, 2024

## Question #1

Consider the following program from pg. 53-54 of the course textbook:

```
1 def avg(A):  
2     """  
3     Pre: A is a non-empty list  
4     Post: Returns the average of the numbers in A  
5     """  
6     sum = 0  
7     i = 0  
8     while i < len(A):  
9         sum += A[i]  
10        i += 1  
11    return sum / len(A)  
12  
13 print(avg([1, 2, 3, 4])) # Example usage
```

Denote the predicate:

$$Q(j) : \text{At the beginning of the } j^{\text{th}} \text{ iteration, } \text{sum}_j = \sum_{k=0}^{i_j-1} A[k].$$

**Claim:**

$$\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)$$

*Proof.*

This proof leverages the Principle of Simple Induction.

Base Case:

Let  $j = 1$ .

At the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> iteration,  $\text{sum}_1 = 0$  and  $i_1 = 0$ .

It follows that

$$\text{sum}_1 = \sum_{k=0}^{i_1-1} A[k] = \sum_{k=0}^{0-1} A[k] = \sum_{k=0}^{-1} A[k] = 0.$$

Hence,  $Q(1)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some iteration  $m \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A) - 1\}$ ,  $Q(m)$ .

Namely, for the  $m^{\text{th}}$  iteration,

$$\text{sum}_m = \sum_{k=0}^{i_m-1} A[k].$$

Induction Step:

Proceed to show  $Q(m+1)$ :

Notice that  $\text{sum}_{m+1} = \text{sum}_m + A[i_{m+1}]$ , by *Line 9* of the program.

By the Induction Hypothesis,

$$\text{sum}_m + A[i_{m+1}] = \sum_{k=0}^{i_m-1} A[k] + A[i_{m+1}],$$

and by *Line 10* of the program,  $i_{m+1} = i_m + 1$ ;

$$\sum_{k=0}^{i_m-1} A[k] + A[i_{m+1}] = \sum_{k=0}^{i_{m+1}-1} A[k].$$

Thus,

$$\text{sum}_{m+1} = \sum_{k=0}^{i_{m+1}-1} A[k]$$

as needed.

Therefore, by the Principle of Simple Induction,  $Q(j)$  holds for all  $j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}$ .



## Question #2

Recall  $Q(j)$  from *Question # 1*:

$$Q(j) : \text{At the beginning of the } j^{\text{th}} \text{ iteration, } \text{sum}_j = \sum_{k=0}^{i_j-1} A[k].$$

Denote the following predicate:

$$Q'(n) : 0 \leq n < \text{len}(A) \implies Q(n+1)$$

### Claim:

Proving  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)$  is equivalent to proving  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)$ .

*Proof.*

### Remarks

It is sufficient to show that  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j) \iff \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)$ , to show that proving one of these statements is equivalent to proving the other.

$$(\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)) \implies (\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)):$$

Suppose  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)$ .

Then, fix  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and suppose  $0 \leq n < \text{len}(A)$ .

Because  $n \in \{0, \dots, \text{len}(A) - 1\}$ , it follows that  $(n+1) \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}$ .

By assumption,  $Q(n+1)$ .

Thus,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)$ .

$$(\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)) \longleftarrow (\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)):$$

Suppose  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)$ .

Let  $j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}$ .

Then,  $(j - 1) \in \mathbb{N}$ .

It follows that  $0 \leq j - 1 \leq \text{len}(A) - 1$ .

Since  $\text{len}(A) - 1 < \text{len}(A)$ ,  $0 \leq j - 1 < \text{len}(A)$ .

By assumption,  $Q((j - 1) + 1)$ .

Thus,  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)$ .

Conclusion:

Therefore,  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j) \iff \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(j)$ .

□

## Question #3

As follows below, Q6-Q10 respectively represent questions 6 through 10 from pp. 64-66 of the course textbook.

### Q6:

Consider the following code:

```
1 def f(x):  
2     """Pre: x is a natural number"""  
3     a = x  
4     y = 10  
5     while a > 0:  
6         a -= y  
7         y -= 1  
8     return a * y
```

#### (a): Loop Invariant Which Characterizes a and y:

For arbitrary natural n...

Let  $i_1 = 0$  and  $i_n = i_{n-1} + 1$ .

Let  $y_n$  be the value of  $y$  before the  $(n + 1)$ th iteration. By *Line 4* (initializes  $y = 10$ ) and *Line 7* (decrements  $y$  by 1) of the program,  $y_n = 10 - \sum_{q=1}^n 1 = 10 - n \times 1 = 10 - n$ .

Denote the loop invariant:

$$P(j) : (a_j = x - \sum_{k=0}^{i_j-1} y_k) \wedge (y_j = 10 - j)$$

For example, before the 1<sup>st</sup> iteration,  $a_1 = x - \sum_{k=0}^{i_1-1} y_k = x - \sum_{k=0}^{0-1} y_k = x - 0 = x$ .

Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration,  $a_2 = x - \sum_{k=0}^{i_2-1} y_k = x - \sum_{k=0}^{1-1} y_k = x - y_0 = x - 10$ .

#### (b): Why This Function Fails to Terminate

Suppose  $x > \sum_{k=1}^{10} k = 55$ .

By  $P(j)$ , before the 11<sup>th</sup> iteration,  $a_{11} = x - \sum_{k=0}^{i_{11}-1} y_k = x - \sum_{k=0}^{10-1} y_k = x - \sum_{k=0}^9 (10 - k) =$

$$x - [10 \sum_{k=0}^9 (1) - \sum_{k=0}^9 (k)] = x - [10(10) - \frac{9(9+1)}{2}] = x - [100 - 45] = x - 55.$$

Since  $x > 55$ , it follows that  $a_{11} = x - 55 > 0$ .

As well,  $y_{10}$  (the value of  $y$  after the 11<sup>th</sup> iteration) is  $10 - 11 = -1$ .

Notice that in all subsequent iterations,  $a$  will decrement by  $y_n < 0|_{n \geq 11}$  (where  $n$  is the iteration number of the corresponding iteration).

Since  $a$  decrements by a negative number subsequently, the loop causes  $a$  to grow large, thereby retaining  $a > 0$ .

Thus, the function fails to terminate for  $x > 55$  (because  $\neg(a > 0)$  is never satisfied).

**Q7:**

(a) Consider the recursive program below:

```
1 def exp_rec(a, b):  
2     if b == 0:  
3         return 1  
4     else if b mod 2 == 0:  
5         x = exp_rec(a, b / 2)  
6         return x * x  
7     else:  
8         x = exp_rec(a, (b - 1) / 2)  
9         return x * x * a
```

Preconditions:

$$(b \in \mathbb{N}) \wedge (a \neq 0)$$

Postconditions:

Returns  $a^b$ .



Denote the following predicate:

$P(b)$  : The program returns  $a^b$ .

**Claim:**  $\forall b \in \mathbb{N}, P(b)$

*Proof.*

This proof explores the Principle of Complete Induction on  $b$ .

Fix  $a \neq 0$ .

Base Case:

Let  $b = 0$ .

Then, by *Lines 2-3* of the program, the program returns  $1 = a^0 = a^b$ .

Hence,  $P(0)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and for all  $l \in [0, k] \cap \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P(l)$ .

This means the program returns  $a^l$  for every  $l$  as described.

Induction Step:

Proceed to show  $P(k + 1)$  with case analysis:

*Case 1 - Suppose  $(k + 1)(\text{mod } 2) \neq 0$ :*

Then, program again enters the **else** statement in *Line 7*.

Here, the program sets  $x$  to `exp_rec(a, ((k + 1) - 1) / 2)`.

Notice that `exp_rec(a, ((k + 1) - 1) / 2) = exp_rec(a, (k / 2))`.

Since  $(k + 1)(\text{mod } 2) \not\equiv 0$ , it must be that  $k(\text{mod } 2 \equiv 0)$ .

Thus,  $\frac{k}{2} \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\frac{k}{2} < k$ .

By the Induction Hypothesis, `exp_rec(a, k / 2)` returns  $a^{\frac{k}{2}}$ .

Finally, the original function call returns  $x \times x \times a$ , which evaluates to  $a^{\frac{k}{2}} \times a^{\frac{k}{2}} \times a = a^{\frac{k}{2} + \frac{k}{2} + 1} = a^{k+1}$ , as needed.

Thus,  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

*Case 2 - Suppose  $(k + 1)(\text{mod } 2) \equiv 0$ :*

Then, the program reaches *Line 5* and sets  $x$  to `exp_rec(a, (k + 1) / 2)`.

Notice that  $\frac{k+1}{2} \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\frac{k+1}{2} \leq k$ .

By the Induction Hypothesis, `exp_rec(a, (k + 1) / 2)` returns  $a^{\frac{k+1}{2}}$ .

Finally, the original function call returns  $x \times x$ , evaluating to  $a^{\frac{k+1}{2}} \times a^{\frac{k+1}{2}} = a^{\frac{k+1}{2} + \frac{k+1}{2}} = a^{k+1}$ , as needed.

Thus,  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

Conclusion:

Therefore,  $P(k + 1)$  holds in all cases.

By the Principle of Complete Induction,  $\forall b \in \mathbb{N}, P(b)$ .

□

(b) Consider the iterative version of the previous program:

```
1 def exp_iter(a, b):  
2     ans = 1
```

```
3      mult = a
4      exp = b
5      while exp > 0:
6          if exp mod 2 == 1:
7              ans *= mult
8              mult = mult * mult
9              exp = exp // 2
10     return ans
```

Preconditions:

$$(b \in \mathbb{N}) \wedge (a \neq 0)$$

Postconditions:

Returns  $a^b$ .

**Claim:** For all natural  $b$ , the program returns  $a^b$  and terminates.

*Proof.*

Fix  $a \neq 0$  and  $b \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Loop Invariant Proof:

Denote the Loop Invariant:

$$P(i) : a^b = \text{mult}_i^{\text{exp}_i} \times \text{ans}_i$$

To prove the loop invariant, this proof explores the Principle of Simple Induction on  $i \in [1, \lfloor \log_2 b \rfloor + 2] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

Base Case:

Let  $i = 1$ .

Then, the program retains the values  $\text{mult}_1 = a$ ,  $\text{exp}_1 = b$ ,  $\text{ans}_1 = 1$ .

Notice that  $a^b = a^b \times 1 = \text{mult}_1^{\text{exp}_1} \times \text{ans}_1$ .

Hence, at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> iteration,  $P(1)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some  $k \in [1, \lfloor \log_2 b \rfloor + 1] \cap \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P(k)$ ;

$$P(k) : (a^b = \text{mult}_k^{\text{exp}_k} \times \text{ans}_k).$$

Induction Step:

Notice that  $\text{exp}_k = \lfloor \frac{b}{2^{k-1}} \rfloor$ .

Because  $k - 1 \leq \lfloor \log_2 b \rfloor$ , then  $2^{k-1} \leq 2^{\lfloor \log_2 b \rfloor} \leq 2^{\log_2 b} = b$ .

Therefore, it follows that  $\frac{b}{2^{k-1}} \geq 1$ .

Thus,  $\text{exp}_k = \lfloor \frac{b}{2^{k-1}} \rfloor \geq 1$ , and the following iteration runs.

Then, the program yields the following values:

$$\begin{cases} \text{mult}_{k+1} = \text{mult}_k \times \text{mult}_k = \text{mult}_k^2, & \text{by Line 8} \\ \text{exp}_{k+1} = \lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor, & \text{by Line 9} \end{cases}$$

Notice that  $\text{mult}_{k+1}^{\text{exp}_{k+1}} = (\text{mult}_k^2)^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor} = \text{mult}_k^{2^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor}}$ .

Proceed to show  $P(k + 1)$  with case analysis:

Case 1 - Suppose  $\text{exp}_k \pmod 2 \equiv 1$ :

By Lines 6-7 of the program,  $\text{ans}_{k+1} = \text{ans}_k \times \text{mult}_k$ .

So,  $(\text{mult}_{k+1}^{\text{exp}_{k+1}}) \times (\text{ans}_{k+1}) = (\text{mult}_k^{2^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor}}) \times (\text{ans}_k \times \text{mult}_k)$ .

Since  $\text{exp}_k \pmod 2 \equiv 1$ , it follows that  $2^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor} = 2^{\frac{\text{exp}_k - 1}{2}} = \text{exp}_k - 1$ .

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\text{mult}_k^{2^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor}}) \times (\text{ans}_k \times \text{mult}_k) &= (\text{mult}_k^{\text{exp}_k - 1}) \times (\text{mult}_k \times \text{ans}_k) \\
 &= \text{mult}_k^{\text{exp}_k - 1} \times \text{mult}_k \times \text{ans}_k \\
 &= (\text{mult}_k^{\text{exp}_k - 1} \times \text{mult}_k) \times \text{ans}_k \\
 &= (\text{mult}_k^{(\text{exp}_k - 1) + 1}) \times \text{ans}_k \\
 &= \text{mult}_k^{\text{exp}_k} \times \text{ans}_k \\
 &= a^b,
 \end{aligned}$$

by the Induction Hypothesis.

Therefore,  $(\text{mult}_{k+1}^{\text{exp}_{k+1}}) \times (\text{ans}_{k+1}) = a^b$ ;  $P(k+1)$  holds.

Case 2 - Suppose  $\text{exp}_k(\text{mod } 2) \not\equiv 1$ :

By Line 6 of the program, Line 7 does not run.

Hence,  $\text{ans}_{k+1}$  retains the value as represented by  $\text{ans}_k$ ;  $\text{ans}_{k+1} = \text{ans}_k$ .

So,  $(\text{mult}_{k+1}^{\text{exp}_{k+1}}) \times (\text{ans}_{k+1}) = (\text{mult}_k^{2^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor}}) \times \text{ans}_k$ .

Notice that  $\text{exp}_k(\text{mod } 2) \not\equiv 1 \iff \text{exp}_k(\text{mod } 2) \equiv 0$ .

So,  $2^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor} = \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} = \text{exp}_k$ .

Then, it follows that  $(\text{mult}_k^{2^{\lfloor \frac{\text{exp}_k}{2} \rfloor}}) \times \text{ans}_k = (\text{mult}_k^{\text{exp}_k}) \times \text{ans}_k = a^b$ , by the Induction Hypothesis.

Still,  $(\text{mult}_{k+1}^{\text{exp}_{k+1}}) \times (\text{ans}_{k+1}) = a^b$ ;  $P(k+1)$  likewise holds.

Conclusion of Loop Invariant Proof:

Collectively,  $P(k+1)$  holds in all cases.

By the Principle of Simple Induction,  $P(i)$  holds for all  $i \in [1, \lfloor \log_2 b \rfloor + 2]$ .

Program Termination Proof

Notice that *Line 9* of the program performs floor division by 2 on `exp` in each iteration.

From continual division, `exp` eventually becomes small enough that it reaches 0 through the next floor division by 2.

Since the program's loop requires `exp > 0` to run, having `exp` reach 0 indeed terminates the loop.

Conclusion:

Therefore, this program is both correct (by the loop invariant) and terminates.

□

**Q8**

Consider the following linear time program:

```
1 def majority(A):
2     """
3     Pre: A is a list with more than half its entries equal to x
4     Post: Returns the majority element x
5     """
6     c = 1
7     m = A[0]
8     i = 1
9     while i <= len(a) - 1:
10         if c == 0:
11             m = A[i]
12             c = 1
13         else if A[i] == m:
14             c += 1
15         else:
16             c -= 1
17         i += 1
18     return m
```

---

**Claim:** For all lists  $A$  with more than half its entries equal to  $x$ , the program returns the majority element  $x$  and terminates.

*Proof.*

For simplicity, express “**List** has more than half its entries equal to  $x$ ” by “**List** is valid,” and its complement by “**List** is NOT valid.”

Let  $v_n$  represent the difference between the count of  $x$  and the count of elements that are not  $x$  in sublist  $A[0 : n]$ , before the  $n^{\text{th}}$  iteration.

Loop Invariant Proof:

Denote the Loop Invariant:

$$\begin{aligned} P(i) : \\ ((A[0 : i] \text{ is valid}) \implies ((m_i = x) \wedge (c_i \geq v_i))) \\ \wedge \\ ((A[0 : i] \text{ is NOT valid}) \implies ((m_i = x) \vee (c_i \leq -v_i))) \end{aligned}$$

To prove the loop invariant, this proof explores the Principle of Simple Induction on  $i \in [1, \text{len}(a)]$ .

Base Case:

Let  $i = 1$ .

Then,  $A[0 : i] = A[0 : 1] = [A[0]] = [x]$ , by the precondition.

With the sole element being  $x$ ,  $A[0 : i]$  is valid.

Notice that *Line 7* of the program sets  $m_1$  to  $A[0] = x$ , and  $c_1 = 1 = v_1$ .

Thus,  $m_1 = x$  and  $c_1 \geq v_1$ ;  $P(1)$  holds.

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some  $k \in [1, \text{len}(a) - 1]$ ,  $P(k)$ :

$P(k) :$

$$((A[0 : k] \text{ is valid}) \implies ((m_k = x) \wedge (c_k \geq v_k)))$$

$\wedge$

$$((A[0 : k] \text{ is NOT valid}) \implies ((m_k = x) \vee (c_k \leq -v_k)))$$

Induction Step:

Consider the following cases...

Suppose  $A[0 : k + 1]$  is valid:

By the Induction Hypothesis,  $m_k = x$  and  $c_k \geq v_k$ .

Notice that  $v_k > 0$  because  $A[0 : k + 1]$  is valid (the sublist has more entries of  $x$  than entries of not  $x$ ).

It follows that  $c_k \geq v_k > 0$ , so  $c \neq 0$ .

When the iteration runs, the program does not enter *Lines 10-12*.

So,  $m_{k+1}$  retains the value of  $m_k = x$ , and *CONTINUEHERE!!!*.

Suppose  $A[0 : k + 1]$  is NOT valid:

Conclusion of Loop Invariant Proof

wordsgohere



Program Termination Proof:

wordsgohere

Conclusion:

wordsgohere

□

### Q9

Consider the bubblesort algorithm as follows:

```
1 def bubblesort(L):
2     """
3     Pre: L is a list of numbers
4     Post: L is sorted
5     """
6     k = 0
7     while k < len(L):
8         i = 0
9         while i < len(L) - k - 1:
10             if L[i] > L[i + 1]:
11                 swap L[i] and L[i + 1]
12             i += 1
13         k += 1
```

(a): Denote the inner loop's invariant:

$$P(j) : (\forall i \in [0, j - 1] \cap \mathbb{N})(L[i] \leq L[j])$$

**Claim:** At the start of all iterations  $j \in [1, \text{len}(L) - k] \cap \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P(j)$ .

*Proof.*

Base Case:

Let  $j = 1$ . Then,  $i \in [0, 1 - 1] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

Then,  $i = 0$ .

Notice that  $L[0] \leq L[1]$ , by *Lines 10-11* of the program (if this is not satisfied, the elements are swapped so that it is).

Thus,  $P(1)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some  $k \in [1, \text{len}(L) - k - 1] \cap \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P(k)$  holds.

This means,  $(\forall i \in [0, k - 1] \cap \mathbb{N})(L[i] \leq L[k])$ .

Induction Step:

Suppose  $L[j] \leq L[j + 1]$ .

Then, no swaps are made and  $P(j + 1)$  immediately holds by the Induction Hypothesis.

So, consider  $L[j] > L[j + 1]$ .

By *Lines 10-11* of the program, the two elements are swapped.

The result is  $L[j] \leq L[j + 1]$  before the  $(j + 1)^{\text{th}}$  iteration, and  $P(j + 1)$  likewise holds by the Induction Hypothesis.

□

**(b):** Denote the outer loop's invariant:

$$Q(n) : L[\text{len}(L) - n :] \text{ is sorted.}$$

**Claim:** At the start of all iterations  $n \in [1, \text{len}(L)]$ ,  $Q(n)$ .

*Proof.*

Base Case:

Let  $n = 1$ .

Then,  $L[\text{len}(L) - n :] = L[\text{len}(L) - 1 :]$  is a sublist of  $L$  containing only the last element of  $L$ .

Vacuously, this list is indeed sorted, so  $Q(1)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some  $m \in [1, \text{len}(L)]$ ,  $Q(m)$ .

This means  $L[\text{len}(L) - m :]$  is sorted.

Induction Step:

By the inner loop of the program  $(\forall i \in [0, m - 1] \cap \mathbb{N})(L[i] \leq L[m])$ .

This means, there is no element larger than  $L[\text{len}(L) - m]$  for elements in indices less than  $\text{len}(L) - m$ .

The inner loop places this large value at  $L[\text{len}(L) - m]$ .

By the Induction Hypothesis,  $L[\text{len}(L) - m :]$  is sorted.

In the subsequent iteration, the program's inner loop grabs a new element from the pool of elements not larger than  $L[\text{len}(L) - m]$  (from the smaller indices).

This inner loop places this new large value at  $L[\text{len}(L) - (m + 1)]$ .

Since this  $L[\text{len}(L) - (m + 1)]$  is not larger than  $L[\text{len}(L) - m]$ , and because  $L[\text{len}(L) - m :]$  is sorted,  $L[\text{len}(L) - (m + 1) :]$  is updated as a sorted sublist.

Thus,  $Q(m + 1)$ .

□

(c): **Claim:** If  $L$  is a list of numbers, then the program returns  $L$  as a sorted list.

*Proof.*

To show that this program is correct, it remains to show that the inner and outer loops both terminate, since their invariants are proven.

Inner Loop Termination:

To show that the inner loop terminates, consider the loop variant  $Var = len(L) - k - i$ .

Denote  $\widetilde{Var}$  as the loop variant in the subsequent iteration.

Then, notice that  $\widetilde{Var} = len(L) - k - (i + 1) < len(L) - k - i = Var$ .

Since  $len(L), k, i \in \mathbb{N}$ , and the variant decreases in subsequent iterations, the inner loop indeed terminates.

Outer Loop Termination:

To show that the outer loop terminates, consider the loop invariant  $Var = len(L) - i$ .

Denote  $\widetilde{Var}$  as the loop variant in the subsequent iteration.

Then, notice that  $\widetilde{Var} = len(L) - (i + 1) < len(L) - i = Var$ .

Likewise, since  $len(L), i \in \mathbb{N}$ , and the invariant decreases in subsequent iterations, the outer loop terminates as well.

Conclusion:

Therefore, because both the inner and outer loop are correct and terminate, the program

correctly takes any list of numbers  $L$  and returns its corresponding sorted list.

□

### Q10

Consider the following generalization of the `min` function:

```
1 def extract(A, k):
2     pivot = A[0]
3     # Use partition from quicksort
4     L, G = partition(A[1, ..., len(A) - 1], pivot)
5     if len(L) == k - 1:
6         return pivot
7     else if len(L) >= k:
8         return extract(L, k)
9     else:
10        return extract(G, k - len(L) - 1)
```

(a): Proof of Correctness

Preconditions:

$A$  is a list of numbers such that  $\text{len}(A) \geq 1$ , and  $k \in [1, \text{len}(A)] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

Postconditions:

Returns the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element of  $A$ .

Denote the following predicate:

$P(n)$  : The program returns the  $1 \leq k^{\text{th}} \leq n$  smallest element from the list  $A$  of size  $n$ .

**Claim:** For any list  $A$  of length  $n = \text{len}(A) \geq 1$ ,  $P(n)$  holds.

*Proof.*

This proof explores the Principle of Complete Induction on  $n$ .

Fix  $k \in [1, n] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

Base Case:

Let  $A$  be a list of length  $n = \text{len}(A) = 1$ .

Then,  $A$  is a list containing one element, and  $k = 1$  (representing the *first smallest* element of  $A$ ) is the only value of  $k$ .

By *Line 2* of the program,  $\text{pivot} = A[0]$ .

Because  $\text{pivot}$  is an element of  $A$ , the precondition for the function  $\text{partition}(A, \text{pivot})$  is satisfied.

So, assume the corresponding postcondition of  $\text{partition}(A, \text{pivot})$ :

$L$  contains the elements of  $A$  less than the pivot,  
and  $G$  contains the elements greater than the pivot.

With no other elements to compare with, both  $L$  and  $G$  will be empty.

In *Line 5* of the program, notice that  $\text{len}(L) == k - 1$  holds as  $\text{len}(L) = 0 = (1) - 1$ .

Therefore, the program enters *Line 6* and returns  $\text{pivot}$ .

As the sole and smallest element of  $A$ , returning  $\text{pivot}$  indeed returns the 1<sup>st</sup> smallest element of  $A$ .

Thus,  $P(1)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for all lists  $A$  of length  $j \in [1, i] \cap \mathbb{N}$ , for some  $i \geq 1$  and  $k \in [1, j] \cap \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P(j)$  holds.

This means all lists  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_i$  passed into  $\text{extract}(A, k)$  result in  $\text{extract}(A, k)$  returning the  $k_1^{\text{th}}$  or  $k_2^{\text{th}}$  or  $\dots$  or  $k_i^{\text{th}}$  corresponding smallest element from the corresponding list.

Induction Step:

Assume the algorithm is correct for all lists of length  $j \in [1, i] \cap \mathbb{N}$  for some  $i \geq 1$  and  $k \in [1, j] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

To show  $P(1), P(2), \dots, P(i) \implies P(i + 1)$ , it is necessary to show that the function algorithm is correct for all lists of size  $i + 1$  and  $k \in [1, i + 1] \cap \mathbb{N}$  for some  $i \geq 1$  and  $k \in [1, j] \cap \mathbb{N}$ , while assuming the preconditions hold on the function call.

Notice that the program sets `pivot` to  $A[0]$ , the first element in  $A$ .

So, `pivot` represents an element of  $A$ , satisfying the precondition for the *partition* function.

*partition* then returns  $L$  and  $G$ , which are lists containing all elements less than the pivot and greater than the pivot, respectively.

Consider the following cases...

Suppose  $\text{len}(L) = k - 1$ :

Then, there are  $k - 1$  elements smaller than the pivot, by the postcondition of *partition*.

Therefore, `pivot` must be the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in  $A$ .

The program enters *Line 6* and returns `pivot`.

Thus,  $P(i + 1)$ .

Suppose  $\text{len}(L) \geq k$ :

Then,  $L$  has enough elements to contain the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in  $A$ , so the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in  $A$  must be in  $L$ .

Notice, additionally, that `pivot` is not the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element.

Then, the program reaches *Line 8*, returning  $\text{extract}(L, k)$ .

Notice that  $L$  is a list with  $\text{len}(L) \geq 1$ , and  $k \in [1, \text{len}(L)] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

Then, by the Induction Hypothesis (as  $\text{len}(L) < \text{len}(A)$ ),  $\text{extract}(L, k)$  correctly returns the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in the list  $L$ .

Thus,  $P(i + 1)$ .

Suppose  $\text{len}(L) < k - 1$ :

Then,  $L$  does not have enough elements to contain the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in  $A$ , so the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in  $A$  must be  $G$ .

Again, `pivot` is not the  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element.

Then, the program reaches *Line 10*, returning  $\text{extract}(G, k - \text{len}(L) - 1)$ .

Notice that the  $(k - \text{len}(L) - 1)^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in  $G$  is the smallest element in  $A$  (exclude the number of elements in  $L$  and `pivot`).

Notice that  $G$  is a list with  $\text{len}(G) \geq 1$ , and  $(k - \text{len}(L) - 1) \in [1, \text{len}(G)] \cap \mathbb{N}$ .

Then, by the Induction Hypothesis (as  $\text{len}(G) < \text{len}(A)$ ),  $\text{extract}(G, k - \text{len}(L) - 1)$  correctly returns the  $(k - \text{len}(L) - 1)^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in the list  $G$ .

Thus,  $P(i + 1)$ .

Conclusion:

Since the Base Case  $P(1)$  holds, and  $P(1), P(2), \dots, P(i) \implies P(i + 1)$ , by the Principle of Complete Induction,  $P(n)$  holds for all lists of length  $n \geq 1$ .

Termination Proof:



The above proof shows that each call to  $extract(A, k)$  considers a sublist with a length less than the initial list passed to the function, from either a previous call up the stack or the initial call.

In each recursive call case, either  $L$  or  $G$  is the sublist being passed.

Notice that, excluding `pivot`, each of these lists are at most as long as  $A$ .

Therefore,  $len(G) \leq len(A) - 1$  and  $len(L) \leq len(A) - 1$ .

As a note, the equalities hold when `pivot` is the smallest element in  $A$  and when `pivot` is the greatest element in  $A$ , respectively.

Citation:

This proof is inspired by the Tutorial 5 slides for its Problem 1 from this CSC236 course.

□

**(b): Worst-Case Runtime**

Denote the size of the list  $A$  by  $n = len(A)$ .

To find the worst-case runtime of the program, consider the program's behaviour for its base and recursive cases.

Base Case of Program:

Let  $n = 1$ .

Then, the program reaches the *if* block (for the reason as analysed in the above proof) and returns `pivot`.

Exiting here, the program runs in constant time.

Base Case of Program:

Let  $n > 1$ .

In quicksort partitioning, the worst case occurs when one of the lists  $L, G$  is empty.

Then, the *elseif* and *else* blocks run, making a function call on a sublist that is 1 size smaller than the size of the current list.

Also, the number of recursive steps depend on the size of the current list,  $n$ .

This means, the recursive case has runtime  $T(n - 1) + dn$ .

Define the recurrence:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ T(n - 1) + dn & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

For  $n \leq 1$ ,  $T(n) = c$ , for some constant  $c$ , and the program runs in constant time with the tight bound  $\Theta(1)$ .

Otherwise,  $n > 1$ ; evaluate the closed form for  $T(n)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n - 1) + dn \\ &= T((n - 1) - 1) + [dn] \\ &= T((n - 2) - 1) + [dn] \\ &\dots \\ &\dots \\ &\dots \\ &= c + d\left(\sum_{i=0}^k (n - 1)\right) \end{aligned}$$

Through repeated substitution,  $T(0)$  is eventually reached.

Notice that every unique call of  $T(n)$  has the form  $T((n - k) - 1)$ , for some natural  $k$ .

Therefore,  $T(0) = T((n - k) - 1) \implies 0 = (n - k) - 1 \implies k = n - 1$ ; the call of  $T(0)$  occurs when  $k = n - 1$ .

Continue evaluating  $T(n)$  with  $k = n - 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= c + d\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (n - 1)\right) \\ &= d\left[\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} n\right) - (n - 1)\right] + c \\ &= d\left[\left(\frac{((n - 1) + 1)(n - 1)}{2}\right) - (n - 1)\right] + c \\ &= d\left[\left(\frac{n^2 - n - 2n + 2}{2}\right)\right] + c \\ &= \frac{dn^2 - 3dn + 2c}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $T(n) = \frac{dn^2 - 3dn + 2c}{2}$  for  $n > 1$ .

Notice that in this closed form,  $n^2$  is the term with the highest degree, so it takes precedence.

Therefore, the tight asymptotic bound on the runtime of the program is  $\Theta(n^2)$ .

By definition, the worst-case runtime of the program is  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

Final Answer:

The worst-case runtime of the program is  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

## Question #4

As follows below, VI, VII, XII, and XIV respectively represent questions 6, 7, 12, and 14 from pp. 46-48 of the course textbook.

### VI

Let  $T(n)$  be the number of binary strings of length  $n$  where every 1 is immediately preceded by a 0.

(a): Recurrence for  $T(n)$ :

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ T(n-1) + T(n-2) & \text{if } n > 2 \end{cases}$$

(b): Closed Form Expression for  $T(n)$ :

Notice that  $T(n)$  is equivalent to the Fibonacci sequence, shifted left by one term.

Therefore,  $T(n) = F_{n+1}$ , where  $F_n$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  value of the Fibonacci sequence.

Then, the closed form for  $T(n)$  is as follows:

$$T(n) = \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n+1} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{n+1}}{\sqrt{5}}$$

(c): Proof of Correctness of Closed Form Expression

Denote the following predicate:

$P(n) : T(n)$  represents the number of binary strings of length  $n$

where every 1 is immediately preceded by a 0.

**Claim:**  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, T(n)$

*Proof.*

Base Cases:

Let  $n = 0$ .

Then,

$$T(0) = \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{0+1} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{0+1}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} - \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\frac{2\sqrt{5}}{2}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{5}} = 1.$$

Indeed, there is only one binary string (the empty string) with length 0, there are simply no 1's.

Thus, “0 immediately precedes every 1” is vacuously true;  $T(0)$ .

Let  $n = 1$ .

Then,

$$T(1) = \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{1+1} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{1+1}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\frac{1+2\sqrt{5}+5}{4} - \frac{1-2\sqrt{5}+5}{4}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\frac{4\sqrt{5}}{4}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{5}} = 1.$$

If the string solely contains 0, then there is simply no 1 in the string; vacuously, this is a valid string.

If the string solely contains 1, then it is clearly not preceded by a 0 which does not fit

(string has length 1).

Therefore, there is only 1 valid string of length 1;  $P(1)$  holds.

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , for all  $m \in [0, k]$ ,  $P(m)$ .

This means for some natural  $k$ , for all strings of length  $m \in [0, k]$ , there are  $T(m)$  binary strings where every 1 is immediately preceded by a 0.

Induction Step:

Evaluate  $T(m+1)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T(m+1) &= T((m+1)-1) + T((m+1)-2) \\ &= T(m) + T(m-1) \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1}}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{(m-1)+1} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{(m-1)+1}}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1} + \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^m - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^m}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1} \left[1 + \frac{2}{1+\sqrt{5}}\right] - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1} \left[1 + \frac{2}{1-\sqrt{5}}\right]}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{m+1} \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{(m+1)+1} - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^{(m+1)+1}}{\sqrt{5}} \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $1 + \frac{2}{1+\sqrt{5}} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$  and  $1 + \frac{2}{1-\sqrt{5}} = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$ .

Therefore,  $T(m + 1)$  holds for the recurrence.

Conclusion:

By the Principle of Complete Induction, the  $T(n)$  holds for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

□

## VII

Let  $T(n)$  denote the number of distinct full binary trees with  $n$  nodes. For example,  $T(1) = 1$ ,  $T(3) = 1$ , and  $T(7) = 5$ . Note that every full binary tree has an odd number of nodes.

Recurrence for  $T(n)$ :

The recursive part of the recurrence of  $T(n)$  connects the number of nodes to the unique number of full binary trees.

As well, the left and right subtrees can at most have  $\frac{n-3}{2}$  nodes.

Finally, when the left subtree has  $2k + 1$  nodes and the right subtree has  $n - 1 - (2k + 1)$  nodes, there are  $T(2k + 1)T(n - 1 - (2k + 1))$  full binary trees.

Altogether, for particular numbers of nodes for the left and right subtree, the sum of all of these combinations is obtained.

Therefore, denote the recurrence as follows:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{n-3}{2}} T(2k+1)T(n-1-(2k+1)) & \text{if } n > 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

**Claim:**  $T(n) \geq (\frac{1}{n})(2)^{(n-1)/2}$

*Proof.*

Base Case:

Let  $n = 1$ .

Then,  $T(1) = 1$  by the recurrence.

Notice that  $(\frac{1}{1})(2)^{(1-1)/2} = 2^0 = 1$ .

Indeed,  $T(1) = 1 \leq 1$ ;  $T(1)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume for some odd  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , for all odd  $m \in [1, k] \cap \mathbb{N}$ ,  $T(m)$ .

This means, for some odd natural number  $k$ , the number of distinct full binary trees with  $m$  nodes is less than or equal to  $(\frac{1}{n})(2)^{(n-1)/2}$ , for all smaller natural numbers  $m \in [1, k] \cap \mathbb{N}$

Induction Step:

Consider  $T(m+2)$ .



By the recurrence definition,

$$\begin{aligned} T(m+2) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{(m+2)-3}{2}} T(2k+1)T(n-1-(2k+1)) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{m-1}{2}} T(2k+1)T(n-1-(2k+1)). \end{aligned}$$

By the Induction Hypothesis,

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{\frac{m-1}{2}} T(2k+1)T(n-1-(2k+1)) \\ &\geq \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{m-1}{2}} \left( \left( \frac{1}{2k+1} \right) (2)^{((2k+1)-1)/2} \right) \left( \left( \frac{1}{n-1-(2k+1)} \right) (2)^{((n-1-(2k+1))-1)/2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by the Principle of Complete Induction, the claim holds.

□

## XII

Consider the following function:

```
1 def fast_rec_mult(x, y):
2     n = length of x  # Assume x and y have the same length
3     if n == 1:
4         return x * y
5     else:
6         a = x // 10^(n // 2)
7         b = x % 10^(n // 2)
8         c = y // 10^(n // 2)
9         d = y % 10^(n // 2)
10        p = fast_rec_mult(a + b, c + d)
```

```
11         r = fast_rec_mult(a, c)
12         u = fast_rec_mult(b, d)
13
14         return r * 10^n + (p - r + u) * 10^(n // 2) + u
```

### Worst-Case Runtime Analysis:

To find the worst-case runtime of the program, consider the program's behaviour for its base and recursive cases.

#### Base Case of Program:

Let  $n = 1$ .

Then, by *Lines 3-4*, the program returns shortly, so it runs in constant time.

#### Recursive Case of Program:

Let  $n > 1$ .

Then, *Lines 6-9* run in constant time, preparing  $\frac{n}{2}$  for the recursive calls in the subsequent lines.

To follow, *Lines 10-12* has runtime  $3T(\frac{n}{2})$ .

What remains is the function's return statement on *Line 14*, which runs in constant time.

This means, the recursive case has runtime  $3T(\frac{n}{2}) + c$ , for some constant  $c$ .

Define the recurrence:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 3T(\frac{n}{2}) + c & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

By the Master Theorem,  $a = 3, b = 2, k = 0$ ;  $c$  is some constant.

Notice that  $a > b^k \implies 3 > 2^0 \implies 3 > 1$  (which is true).

Therefore,  $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ .

By definition,  $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a}) \implies T(n) \in \mathcal{O}(n^{\log_b a})$ .

Because  $\log_b a = \log_2 3$ , the worst-case runtime of the program is  $\mathcal{O}(n^{\log_2 3})$ .

Final Answer:

The worst-case runtime of the program is  $\mathcal{O}(n^{\log_2 3})$ .

#### XIV

Recall the recurrence for the worst-case runtime of quicksort:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ T(|L|) + T(|G|) + dn & \text{if } n > 1, \end{cases}$$

where  $L$  and  $G$  are the partitions of the list to sort.

For simplicity, ignore that each list has size  $\frac{n-1}{2}$ .

**(a):** Assume the lists are always evenly split; that is,  $|L| = |G| = \frac{n}{2}$  at each recursive call.

#### Tight Asymptotic Bound on the Runtime of Quicksort:

If  $n \leq 1$ , then  $T(n) = c$ , for some constant  $c$ , and the program runs in constant time with the tight bound  $\Theta(1)$ .

Otherwise, when  $n > 1$ ,  $T(n) = T(|L|) + T(|G|) + dn$ .

With  $|L| = |G| = \frac{n}{2}$ , it follows that  $T(n) = T(\frac{n}{2}) + T(\frac{n}{2}) + dn = 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + dn$ .

By the Master Theorem,  $a = 2, b = 2, k = 1$ ;  $c$  is some constant  $d$ .

Since  $a = b^k \implies 2 = 2^1$  (which is true),  $T(n) \in \Theta(n^k \log n)$ .

With  $k = 1$ , the tight asymptotic bound on the program's runtime is  $\Theta(n \log n)$ .

Final Answer:

The tight asymptotic bound on the program's runtime is  $\Theta(n \log n)$ .

(b): Assume the lists are always very unevenly split; that is,  $|L| = n - 2$  and  $|G| = 1$  at each recursive call.

Tight Asymptotic Bound on the Runtime of Quicksort:

If  $n - 2 \leq 1$ , then  $n \leq 3$ .

So, for  $n \leq 3$ ,  $T(n) = c$ , for some constant  $c$ , and the program runs in constant time with the tight bound  $\Theta(1)$ .

Otherwise, for  $n > 3$ , evaluate the closed-form for  $T(n)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= T(n-2) + [\cancel{T(1)}^c + dn] \\
 &= T(\cancel{(n-2)-2}^{(n-4)}) + [\cancel{T(1)}^c + d(n-2) + [c + dn]] \\
 &= T((n-4)-2) + \cancel{T(1)}^c + d(n-4) + [c + d(n-2) + [c + dn]] \\
 &\dots \\
 &\dots \\
 &\dots \\
 &= c + d(kn - \sum_{i=0}^k 2i) + kc \\
 &= d[kn - (2)(\frac{(k+1)(k)}{2})] + (k+1)c
 \end{aligned}$$

Through repeated substitution,  $T(0)$  is eventually reached.

Notice that every unique call of  $T(n)$  has the form  $T(n - 2k)$ , for some natural  $k$ .

Therefore,  $T(0) = T(n - 2k) \implies 0 = n - 2k \implies k = \frac{n}{2}$ ; the call of  $T(0)$  occurs when  $k = \frac{n}{2}$ .

Continue evaluating  $T(n)$  with  $k = \frac{n}{2}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= d[kn - (2)(\frac{\frac{n}{2} + 1)(\frac{n}{2}}{2})] + (k + 1)c \\ &= d[(\frac{n}{2})n - (\frac{n}{2} + 1)(\frac{n}{2})] + (\frac{n}{2} + 1)c \\ &= d[\frac{n^2}{2} - \frac{n^2}{4} - \frac{n}{2}] + (\frac{n}{2} + 1)c \\ &= d[\frac{2n^2 - n^2 - 2n}{4}] + \frac{2cn + 2c}{4} \\ &= \frac{dn^2 - 2dn + 2cn + 2c}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $T(n) = \frac{dn^2 - 2dn + 2cn + 2c}{4}$  for  $n > 3$ .

Notice that in this closed-form,  $n^2$  is the term with the highest degree, so it takes precedence.

Therefore, the tight asymptotic bound on the runtime of the program is  $\Theta(n^2)$ .

Final Answer:

The tight asymptotic bound on the runtime of the program is  $\Theta(n^2)$ .