School of Computer Science

COMP SCI 1103/2103 Algorithm Design & Data Structure

Searching + more complexity examples

Overview

- Binary search
- Analysis of recursive algorithms: simple methods in this course
- Examples for finding Complexity
  - Binary Search
  - GCD
  - Fibonacci
  - Maximum Subsequence Sum Problem

Complexity Analysis

- How to prove things:
  - If we want to prove Big-oh (and other) notation, the only thing we can rely on is the formal definition.
  - Sometimes, if we want to disprove some statement, at least one counterexample will work.
- We will see examples later.

Searching an array

- Array access is O(1)

- But if we search for an element in an array, what's the worst case? What's the best case?
- What are your assumptions?
- Do these assumptions matter?
- What's the big-O for searching an array, if we can't make any assumptions about its contents?

Searching an array

- If we know that the data is sorted then we can make assumptions about where the thing that we're searching for is.
- I have an integer array of unique integers 1,2,3,4,..,10, inserted into locations 0..9 in order.
- What can I say about all of the elements from location 0 to location 4?
- What if they weren't in order?

Binary Search

- In binary search we locate the middle element in our structure, or nearest to middle element, and look at it.
- Is it what we're looking for? Stop.
- Is it less than what we're looking for? Look at the elements larger than this one.
- Is it greater? Look at the smaller elements?
- Have we run out of elements? Stop!

Binary Search

```
bool binarySearch(int arr[], int obj, int start, int end){

  while (start <= end){
    int middle = (start+end)/2;
    if(arr[middle] == obj)
      return true;
    else if(arr[middle] > obj)
      end = middle-1;
    else
      start = middle +1;
  }

  return false
}
```

Binary Search

- Benefits:
  - We halve the search space each time. Locating the middle element in an array is an $O(1)$ operation, so it doesn't add complexity.
  - We know if the element isn't there without having to search everything.
- What complexity is binary search?

Binary Search

- In binary search we:
  - halve the search space every time
  - don't have to search every element
- Intuitively, this is better than O(n). But what is it?
- We keep halving the search space - so it's better than O(n/2)... $O(\log_2 n)$ =O(log n) ,usually we drop the 2

- This is for worst case! Let's have a look at the average case as well.

Searching

- Sorted data can be searched faster

- So if we can search sorted data in O(log n), this is a strong motivation to sort it in the first place.
- You've already seen selection sort and insertion sort in CS1102.
- What are their complexities?
- Why would we take the effort to sort, given that sorting effort is >= O(n)?

Sorting and Searching

- Sort once, search a lot

- We assume that, most of the time, we will search data far more frequently than we will sort it.
- Thus, a once-off sorting cost of $O(n^2)$ is acceptable, if we can then search at $O(\log n)$ thereafter.

Complexity Analysis Example

```
int gcdIter(int a, int b){
  int minV = min(a,b);

  for(int gcd = minV; gcd >=1; gcd --){
    // upper bound to the lower bound
    if((a % gcd ==0) && (b % gcd ==0)) {
      return gcd;
    }
  }
  return 1;
}
```

Complexity Analysis

- Procedure for computing the running time:
  - Determine the bounds on the running times of the statements
  - Proceed up the program structure tree
  - Analyze compound statements only after their constituent parts have been analyzed
- Analysing programs is not always trivial

Example

- Euclid's Algorithm for computing the greatest common divisor.

```
int gcd(int a, int b){
  if(a == b){
    return a;
  }

  if(a < b){
    int tmp = a;
    a = b;
    b = tmp;
  }

  // a > b is for sure from this point

  int c = a % b;
  if(c == 0){
    return b;
  }else{
    return gcd(b,c);
  }
}
```

```
int gcd(int a, int b){

  while(b != 0){
    int reminder = a % b;
    a = b;
    b = reminder;
  }

  return a;
}
```

Try with 100 and 94
94 and 6
6 and 4
Try with 100 and 65
65 and 35
35 and 30

Example

```
int gcd(int a, int b){

  while(b != 0){
    int reminder = a % b;
    a = b;
    b = reminder;
  }

  return a;
}
```

- The size of the while loop depends on how long the sequence of remainders is.
- What is the relationship between the input size and the length of the remainder sequence?

- We can prove that after two iterations, the remainder is at most half of its original value.
  - Therefore, the complexity is O(2log n) = O(log n)

Complexity Analysis

- How to analyze recursive functions
- It can be quite complicated.
- If the recursion is really just a thinly veiled loop, the analysis is usually trivial

```
int fac(int n){

  if(n <= 1){
    return 1;
  }else{

    return n*fac(n-1);
  }
}
```

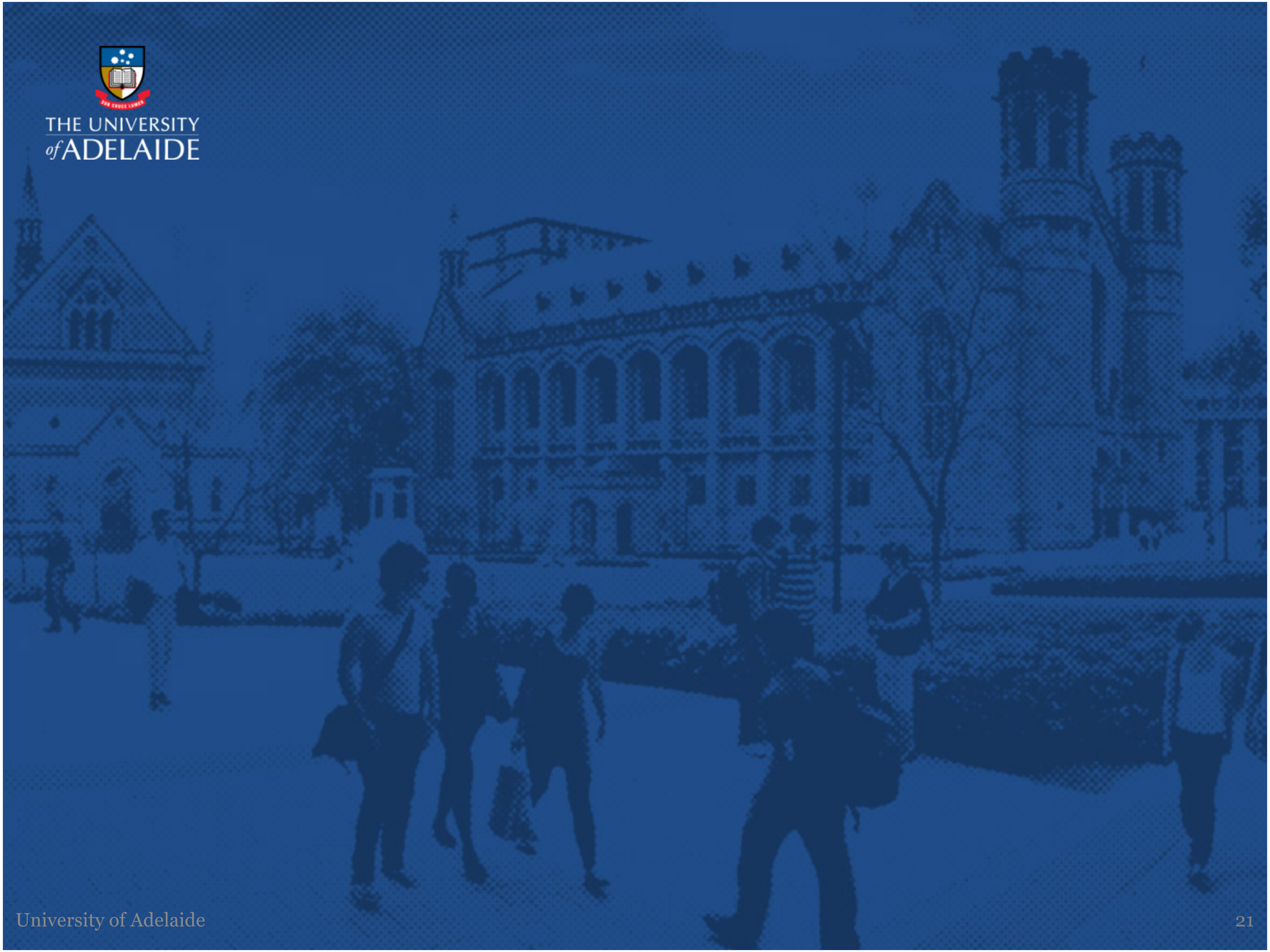
T(1)=c'
T(n)=c+T(n-1)
Gives us nc+c'= O(n)

Example

- However, when more than one recursive call is done in the function, it is difficult to convert the recursion into a simple loop structure.
- Recursive Fibonacci has a growth rate of:
- $1/\sqrt{5}\ (\ ((1+\sqrt{5})/2)^n - (1-\sqrt{5}/2)^n)$
  - complicated for this course!
- We can show that it is in $\Omega((3/2\ )^n)$

```
int fib(int n){

  if(n<=1)
    return 1;
  else
    return fib(n-1)+fib(n-2);
}
```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