This 4-hour course is updated at https://github.com/JeremyCoxBMI/PythonDataStructures

Lecture Outline

- A. For next week
 - a. https://www.python.org/
 - b. Put it on laptop: Downloads \rightarrow Get Python 2.7 NOT Python 3.5
- B. Goals for class
 - a. Understand fundamental principles of data structures
 - b. Apply fundamental principles to your work
 - c. Know when to ask for help (and what to say)!
 - d. NOT a goal for you to be algorithms or data structures expert
- C. Vocabulary
 - a. Data Structure is how we store information + associated functions
 - i. Data structures have advantages and disadvantages.
 - b. Implementation is a specific approach to represent the data structure.
 - i. Implementations introduce new advantages and disadvantages.
 - c. Programming Language specific details can impact implementation
 - i. Languages also have advantages and disadvantages. You may pick a language because it is better to implement something.
 - d. Container simplest data structure
 - e. Model of computing: I am the computer, and the white board is my memory
 - i. ACTIVITY: demonstrate Linked List
- D. Fundamentals of Data Structures
 - a. Understand the basics, so you know when you are in trouble before you are in big trouble.
 - i. How to know the program works correctly and how long it will take to run.
 - b. Four resources

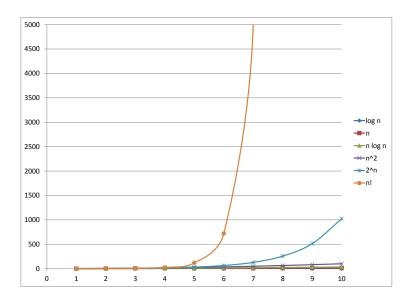
i. CPU \$ii. Memory \$\$iii. Disk space \$\$\$\$

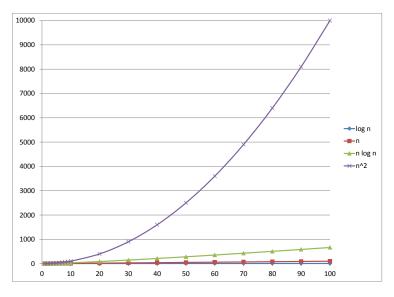
1. (Most valuable: enter the naïve algorithm).

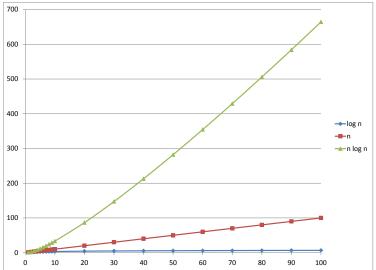
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- c. Algorithm
 - i. Strategy to solve a problem and get a correct answer.
 - ii. We know how to solve most problems, but almost all are "incalculable."
 - Example: chess and Big Blue 1989 (start), 1995 (prototype), 1996 (loss), 1997 (win vs Kasparov)

- iii. Some solutions are better than others. However, usually different solutions are better suited in different situations. Now we have choices.
- d. How do you choose? PRIMARY REASON to study data structures is to know strengths and weaknesses and to pick the right tool for the job.
 - i. Your goal for this class is (1) to be able to know what data structure is being used (2) ability to look it up in a "book" and know what it's weaknesses are (3) when to ask for help from a CS professional.
 - ii. Demonstration of sorted list, guess sorted list, list, heap
- e. Introduce O(n) notation
 - i. Relative number of computations. (This is a rough, not precise measure)
 - 1. Simplify: HOW MUCH TIME, keep time spent to a minimum
 - ii. WORST-CASE: what does worst-case mean?
 - 1. example: bubble sort \rightarrow O(n^2) or is it (n^2)/2?
 - 2. do you always want to design for the worst case scenario?
 - 3. for bubble sort: worst case is a reverse list -- but why?
 - a. (this insight lead to quick sort)
 - iii. $1 < \log(n) < n < \log(n^2) < ... < \log(n^c) < n^c < n! < C^n < P(n,r)$
 - 1. C is a constant
 - 2. Going over n^2 is undesirable
 - 3. Geometric or combinatorial unsustainable
 - iv. Best case and average case exist, although I am not certain there is a universal notation. Sometimes Θ (best) and Ω (average) are used (Wikipedia).







E. Compare three containers

	Write	Read	Space	
	insert()	contains()?	required	Comments
List	O(1)	O(n)	n	
Неар	O(log n)	O(log n)	n	fixed maximum size
Sorted List	O(n)	O(log n)	n	

- a. Which applications belong to which?¹
 - i. Grocery List
 - ii. Priority Queue (Wife's Honey-do list, Tasks at Work)
 - iii. Patients in a data table

¹ Heap has limited sort property, always know what maximum is.

- b. Do board exercises, where we add things to list, heap, and sorted list. (Do we want a max-heap or a min-heap?)
- c. Heap is "partially sorted" so you can ONLY READ first value, you don't know where the 15th value is.

F. When to ask for help

- a. How long will my program run?
- b. I need a faster algorithm
- c. I am using too much memory
- d. I can't figure out the algorithm
- e. I can't get it to work right
- f. I got a weird compiler/interpreter error
 - i. Computers sometimes make mistakes (Shh! It's a secret.)

G. How to get help: bring the details

- a. Don't ask me "will my program finish before Christmas?" without details.
 - i. Get help long before this point
- b. If I had a nickel for someone asking me this simple question, "Why doesn't my program work?"
- c. Can you clearly define what are you trying to compute?
 - i. As simple as "converting A -> B"
 - ii. It is very common that this is not clear. Getting this clear is essential.
 - iii. This question drives me crazy. "Can you go try this program on our data?"
- d. What data structure and algorithm are you using? Why?
- e. What is your theoretical and observed O() function?
- f. What is going wrong?
 - i. Bad computation
 - ii. Speed (too slow)
 - iii. Memory (too much)
 - iv. Does it happen only in some circumstances? (does it ever work?)

H. Fun With Arrays and Pointers

- a. Fixed (or Static) vs Dynamic memory
 - i. Array vs Linked List
 - ii. Static Memory -- very stable, fixed size
 - iii. Dynamic memory slightly unstable, prone to misbehavior
 - iv. Compare Array and Linked List
 - 1. Both implement the idea of a list of numbers.
 - 2. Besides size difference, how do they compare on
 - a. insert()
 - b. get()
 - v. Talk about implementing a Heap as an Array or Tree

- vi. Garbage Collection
 - 1. C and C++ language allow direct dynamic memory control.
 - a. Good to micromanage if you need to. But if you don't it's a big hassle. Programmer time: \$\$\$\$\$
 - 2. Other commonly used languages do this automatically.
- b. Arrays are pointers
 - i. 0-index math and memory
 - ii. Let's resize an array to
- c. Implement my list from before as
 - i. Array is fixed length
 - ii. Linked list takes more memory, O(n) time to access nth member.
- I. Data structure: Map
 - a. Maps can be built in many ways
 - b. Math: Map stores (x, f(x)), and lets you lookup f(x) given an x.
 - c. Programming: a Data Structure
- J. Case Study in building the KLUE map
 - a. How do you store the map in memory?
 - i. My map is huge, so I don't want to waste memory
 - ii. Problem: one to many relationship
 - iii. Can we save by not writing down keys?
 - iv. Could make a list of pairs
 - 1. key is static
 - 2. value is dynamic, unknown length
 - b. Building a Map in Java
 - i. Map Long to List<Long> (DYNAMIC)
 - 1. HashMap stores separately
 - a. a list of keys
 - b. a hash table to pointers to values
 - 2. Problem is that values change size.
 - a. costs time
 - 3. Problem: memory fragmentation. 50% I lose all benefit.
 - a. It's actually worse, the garbage collector goes apeshit
 - ii. Solution:
 - 1. Store heap as an array of all (key, value) pairs (STATIC)
 - 2. When heap is full,
 - a. Output in order as dump to disk
 - b. Destructive In-place Heapsort
 - 3. Later, combine the databases