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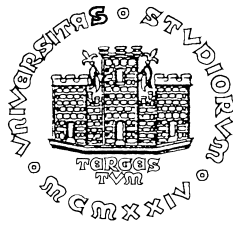
THE ABDUS SALAM INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

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# Algorithmic Design

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LECTURES NOTES



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## **Abstract**

This document contains my notes on the course of Algorithmic Design held by Prof. Alberto Casagrande for the Master Degree in Data Science and Scientific Computing at Trieste University in the year 2020/2021. As they are a work in progress, every correction and suggestion is welcomed. Please, write me at: [marco.sciorilli@gmail.com](mailto:marco.sciorilli@gmail.com) .

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# Chapter 1

## Fundamentals

### 1.1 Algorithm and Computational Model

**Definition 1.** *Algorithm: a sequence of well-defined steps that transforms a set of inputs into a set of outputs in a finite amount of time.*

The output should be consistent with the given definition of the problem. In some specific times, there could be actually an algorithm that goes on indefinitely. But that case is not studied in this course.

**Definition 2.** *Computational model: a mathematical tool to perform computations.*

A function described by an algorithm is calculable (i.e. I can give an high level set of instructions to turn the input of the function into the output of the function, I can provide and algorithm for it).

A function is implementable in a computational model is computable (i.e. Given a formal model, it provides a set of instructions which are fixed, making me able to write a program that turn the input of the function in the output of the function using only that proposed rules).

Notion of calculable and computable are related? Algorithms would not guarantee implementability! An interesting example is the "Halting problem": we want to write a program that takes as input any other program and it establish whether that ends in a finite amount of time or not.

**Example 1.** *Halting Problem: Let  $h$  be the function that establish whether any program  $p$  eventually ends its execution ( $\downarrow$ ) on an input  $i$  or runs forever ( $\uparrow$ )*

$$h(p, i) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p(i) \text{ never ends} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

It is not possible to implement  $h$ .

*Proof.* For any computable function  $f(a, b)$  we can define the function

$$g_f(i) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } f(i, i) = 0 (\text{if it ends}) \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise (it goes on forever)} \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

If we assume that  $f$  is computable, so is  $g_f$ , cause the first part can be implemented using a conditional statement, while the second can be implemented using a "while" forever loop. If I can evaluate the former, I can evaluate the latter. Let's call  $G_f$  the program implementing the function  $g_f$ .

Can  $f$  be the Halting function? No

- If  $f(G_f, G_f) = 0 \Rightarrow g_f(G_f) = 0$  and  $h(G_f, G_f) = 1$ : a.k.a. if  $G_f$  applied on  $G_f$  gives 0, then  $g_f$  ends, so the halting function return 1.
- If  $f(G_f, G_f) \neq 0 \Rightarrow g_f(G_f) \uparrow$  and  $h(G_f, G_f) = 0$ : a.k.a. if  $G_f$  applied on  $G_f$  is not 0, then  $g_f$  goes on forever, so the halting function return 0.

So, any computable function must be different from  $h$ , because any  $f$  with a given result must be different from its associated  $h$ . □

Luckily, there is a thesis that gives a correlation between computable and calculable.

**Thesis 1.** *Church-Turing Thesis: Every effectively calculable function is a computable function.*

So, if we are able to describe an algorithm for a function  $f$ , then  $f$  can be formally computed. This has some direct consequences

- All the "reasonable" computation models are equivalent.(i.e. we are able to write a program in every different programming language)
- We can avoid "hard-to-be-programmed" models.(i.e. we can avoid models which are not easy to be handled)

**Example 2.** *Random-Access Machine: an easy computational model.*

*It allows to*

- *Variables to store data (no types)*
- *Arrays*
- *Integer and floating point constants*
- *Algebraic functions*
- *Assignments*
- *Pointers (no pointer arithmetic)*
- *Conditional and loop statements*
- *Procedure definitions and recursion*
- *Simple "reasonable" functions*

This is the computational model used in this course, not a real machine. Now lets look at an example of an algorithm, assuming to work on this computational model (so thanks to the Church-Turing Thesis every conclusion on this machinery will work on real life machine)

---

**Algorithm 1:** Algorithm example: find the maximum in an array

---

**Input:** An array A of numbers  $\langle a_1, \dots, a_2 \rangle$

**Output:** The maximum among  $a_1, \dots, a_2$

```
def find_max(A)
    max_value ← A[1]
    for i ← 2..|A| do
        if A[i] > max_value then
            max_value ← A[i]
        end
    end
    return max_value
enddef
```

---

Ram is not a real hardware: any variable in a ram algorithm can store any possible number. It doesn't have memory hierarchy, and no difference in instruction execution time (for example, same time for all the operations).

## 1.2 Time Complexity

We want to asses the efficiency of the algorithm. Execution time is not an effective way to do so, because is not applicable in many cases. Counting the number of operations could be a good idea, but it depends on the size of the input.

**Definition 3.** *Scalability: effectiveness of a system in handling input growth.*

It means that the system has to keep the execution time low even if the input is big. We want to estimate the relation between the input size and the execution time, we use a function to do so.

The important part of this function is the asymptotic behavior (its exponent). Constants are not relevant. A theorem called "linear time speedup theorem", support this idea, as it asses that for every Touring Machine, it is possible to built an equivalent one scaled by a constant.

### Big \* notation

These are ways in which one can collect all the functions that behave in the same way.

**Definition 4.** *Big-O notation:*

$$O(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{g | \exists c > 0 \exists n_0 > 0 \text{ s.t. } m \geq n_0 \Rightarrow g(m) \leq cf(m)\} \quad (1.3)$$

It give the upper bound.

**Example 3.** *Examples of functions'  $O(n)$  appartenance:*

- $n \in O(n)$
- $2n \in O(n)$
- $500n \in O(n)$
- $2n + 7 \in O(n)$
- $n \in O(n^2)$
- $n \in O(2n) = O(n)$

**Definition 5.** *Big- $\Omega$  notation:*

$$\Omega(f) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{g | \exists c > 0 \exists n_0 > 0 \text{ s.t. } m \geq n_0 \Rightarrow cf(m) \leq g(m)\} \quad (1.4)$$

It gives a lower bound.

**Example 4.** *Examples of functions'  $\Omega(n)$  appartenance:*

- $n \in \Omega(n)$
- $2n \in \Omega(n)$
- $500n \in \Omega(n)$
- $2n + 7 \in \Omega(n)$
- $n \notin \Omega(n^2)$
- $n \in \Omega(2n) = \Omega(n)$

Properties of Big-O notation, for any  $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  and for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  :

- $f(n) \in O(f(n))$
- $O(f(n)) = O(c_1 f(n) + k)$
- if  $c_1 \geq c_2$  then  $O(f(n)^{c_1} + k f(n)^{c_2}) = O(f(n)^{c_1})$
- $O(f(n)^{c_1}) \subseteq O(f(n)^{c_1+c_2})$
- if  $h(n) \subseteq O(f(n))$  and  $h'(n) \in O(g(n))$ , then
  - $h(n) + h'(n) \in O(g(n) + f(n))$
  - $h(n) \times h'(n) \in O(g(n) \times f(n))$

**Definition 6.** *Big- $\Theta$  notation:*

$$\Theta(f(n)) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{g(n) | \exists c_1, c_2 > 0 \exists n_0 > 0 \text{ s.t. } m \geq n_0 \Rightarrow c_1 f(m) \leq g(m) \leq c_2 f(m)\} \quad (1.5)$$

**Theorem 1.**

$$f(n) \in \Theta(g(n)) \iff f(n) \in O(g(n)) \cap \Omega(g(n)) \quad (1.6)$$

### 1.3 Cost Criteria

We are interested in how many time instructions are executed, not in the time of the single instruction.

Uniform cost criterion states that time cost is:

- 1 for any Boolean and algebraic expression evaluation.
- 0 for assignments and control instructions.

Any expression, no matter how difficult it is, cost the same. The aim is not to evaluate the execution time, but how many time an instruction is executed.

---

#### Algorithm 2: Uniform Cost Criterion Example

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**Example 5.**

```

def test(n):
    Z ← 2 // costs 1
    for i ← 1..n do // loop n time
        | Z ← Z * Z // costs 1
    end
    return Z
enddef

```

---

Cost functions is  $T(n) = 1 + n * 1 \in \Theta(n)$

However,  $test(n) = 2^{2^n}$ , so the function in linear time, according to the uniform cost criterion, return a very large number, that could not be stored in a linear space.

Logarithmic Cost Criterion states that:

- $\max_{i \in [0, c]} (\log a_i)$  for any Boolean and algebraic expression involving  $a_0, \dots, a_c$  as operands.
- 0 for assignments and control instructions.

---

#### Algorithm 3: Logarithmic Cost Criterion Example

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**Example 6.**

```

def test(n):
    Z ← 2 // costs 2
    for i ← 1..n do // loop n time
        | Z ← Z * Z // costs log Z
    end
    return Z
enddef

```

---

Cost functions is  $T(n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log 2^{2^i} = \sum_{i=1}^n 2^i = 2 * (2^n - 1) \in \Theta(2^n)$

Logarithmic cost better represents big-number algorithms. If instead the representation space is bounded (as for CPU arithmetic), uniform cost is enough. Where not otherwise declared, we will use uniform cost criterion.



## 1.4 Some Useful Notions

**Definition 7.** *Arrays: indexed collections of values which is fixed in length.*

**Definition 8.** *Single-Linked Lists: sequences of values supporting **head** (the first element) and **next** operations.*

**Definition 9.** *Double-Linked Lists: sequences of values supporting **head** (the first element), **next** and **previous** operations.*

**Definition 10.** *Queues: Collections of values ruled according to the FIFO policy (First In First Out: the first element inserted in the list, should be the first one to be taken out). They support **head**, **is\_empty**, **insert\_back**, **extract\_head** operations.*

**Definition 11.** *Stacks: Collections of values ruled according to the LIFO policy (Last In First Out: the last element inserted in the list, should be the first one to be taken out). They support **head**, **is\_empty**, **insert\_back**, **extract\_head** operations.*

**Definition 12.** *Graphs: set of pairs  $(V, E)$  where:*

- *$V$  is a set of nodes*
- *$E$  is a set of edges*

If the edges are (un)directed, the graph itself is (un)directed.

**Definition 13.** *Path of length  $n$  between  $a, b \in V$ : a sequence  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  s.t.*

- *$e_1$  involves  $a$*
- *$e_n$  involves  $b$*
- *$e_i$  and  $e_{i+1}$  involve a common node  $n_i$*

A Cycle is a node in which the first node is also the last one.

A graph is connected if there is a path between every pairs of nodes.

A graph is acyclic if it does not contains cycles.

A tree is a connected and acyclic undirected graph. Tree are useful to organize data, and store it in a smart way. The **root** is the node from which all the tree originate.

The **depth** the length of the path going from the node considered to the **root**.

A **level** is a set of nodes having the same **depth**.

The parent of a node is a node one step closer to the root. The children of a node have the node as a parent. Two nodes are siblings if they have the same parent. Leaves are nodes without children, while internal nodes have children.

The height of a tree is the max depth among those of its leaves.

Every node of a  $n$ -ary tree can have up to  $n$  children. A  $n$ -ary tree is complete if the nodes in all the levels but the last one have  $n$  children.

## Chapter 2

# Strassen's Algorithm for Matrix Multiplication

### 2.1 Problem definition

**Definition 14.** *Row-Column Multiplication:* let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  matrix and let  $B$  be a  $m \times l$  matrix.  $A \times B$  is a  $n \times l$  matrix s.t.

$$(A \times B)[i, j] = \sum_k A[i, k] * B[k, j] \quad (2.1)$$

**Input:** Two  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$  (where  $n$  is a power of 2)

**Output:** The  $n \times n$  matrix  $A \times B$

### 2.2 Motivation

- In Deep Neural Network, both training and evaluation heavily rely on matrix multiplication.
- Good example to learn how to compute the complexity of an algorithm.

## 2.3 Naive Solution

Do exactly as you would do by hand.

---

**Algorithm 4:** Naive matrix multiplication

---

```
def naive_mult(C,A,B):
    for i ← 1..rows(A) do
        for j ← 1...cols(B) do
            a ← 0
            for k ← 1..cols(A) do
                a ← a + A[i, k] * B[k, j]
            end
            C[i, j] ← a
        end
    end
    return C
enddef
```

---

The algorithm is composed by 3 nested loop with indexes in  $[1, n]$ . The inner block takes  $O(1)$ , so the overall execution complexity takes time  $\Theta(n^3)$ . Is it possible to find a better algorithm using recursion?

## 2.4 Divide-and-Conquer Strategy

We try to use recursion by splitting the matrix into 4 quadrants, where

$$C_{ij} = (A_{i1} \times B_{1j}) + (A_{i2} \times B_{2j}) \quad (2.2)$$

We can then use the standard technique on the blocks. Let's find the complexity of this new matrix.

We can find the complexity required to find a quadrant by finding the complexity of the matrix product between matrices a quarter of the original size, plus the cost of the sum of the resulting matrices. Defining some symbols:

- $+$  is the element-wise matrix sum (with time complexity  $\Theta(n^2)$ )
- $\times$  is the usual row-column multiplication
- $A_{ik}$  and  $B_{kj}$  are  $\frac{n}{2} \times \frac{n}{2}$  matrices

So it is possible to write the equation

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 1 \\ 4(2 \cdot T(\frac{n}{2}) + \Theta(\frac{n^2}{4})) = 8 \cdot T(\frac{n}{2}) + \Theta(n^2) & otherwise \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

To solve it we can use a recursion tree. Each node is labeled by the cost of that specific call. In particular since we are saying that the cost at each step of the recursion is quadratic, we may select one specific constant such that the cost we are dealing with belong to  $\Theta(n^2)$ .

The first call cost  $c \cdot n^2$ . After the first call the matrix is split in four parts, and for each of the four new call we need to go through recursive call, so we have four child node of cost  $c \cdot (\frac{n^2}{2})$  and we go on splitting in new children nodes until  $n = 1$ . The height of the tree is  $\log_2 n$ . So

$$\begin{aligned}
T(n) &= c \cdot n^2 + 2 \cdot c \cdot \frac{4}{2^2} \cdot n^2 + \dots \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n} 8^i \cdot c \cdot \frac{n^2}{n^i} = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n} \left(\frac{8}{4}\right)^i \cdot c \cdot n \\
&= c \cdot n^2 \cdot \frac{(2^{\log_2 n + 1}) - 1}{2 - 1} \\
&= c \cdot n^2 \cdot (2 \cdot n - 1) \\
&= 2 \cdot c \cdot n^3 - c \cdot n^2 \in O(n^3)
\end{aligned}$$

Which is the same as the naive algorithm. It would be nice to reduce the recursive calls. It is possible to do so.

## 2.5 Strassen's Algorithm

This algorithm consists of doing a bunch of sums that ends up in 10 different matrices, than perform on them 7 matrix multiplications, and from them, doing other sums, we are able to end up with the quadrants of the final matrix. Strassen achieve better results by doing more sums. The recursive equation associated with Strassen's algorithm

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & n = 1 \\ 7 \cdot T(\frac{n}{2}) + \Theta(n^2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

The recursion tree this time is So the final time complexity is

$$\begin{aligned}
T(n) &= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n} 7^i \cdot c \cdot \frac{n^2}{n^i} \\
&= c \cdot n^2 \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n} \left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^i \\
&= c \cdot n^2 \cdot \frac{\left(\left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^{\log_2 n + 1} - 1\right)}{\frac{7}{4} - 1} \\
&= c' \cdot n^2 \cdot \left(\left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^{\log_2 n + 1} - 1\right) \quad \text{for } c' = \frac{4}{3}c \\
&= c'' \cdot n^2 \cdot \left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^{\log_2 n} - \frac{4}{7} \\
&= c'' \cdot 4^{\log_2 n} \cdot \left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^{\log_2 n} - c' \cdot n^2 \\
&= c'' \cdot 7^{\log_2 n} - c' \cdot n^2 \\
&= c'' \cdot n^{\log_2 7} - c' \cdot n^2 \in \Theta(n^{\log_2 7})
\end{aligned}$$

So we are able to reduce the complexity to

$$O(n^{\log_2 7}) \subseteq O(n^3) \tag{2.5}$$

## Chapter 3

# Matrix Chain Multiplication Problem

The problem is focused on the parenthesization of the product, the order in which we want to apply the matrix multiplication.

### 3.1 Problem definition

We are dealing with a sequence of matrices. As the matrix product is associative, we can compute multiplication in the order we prefer. Even though the result is the same, the number of operations required by it can vary a lot.

**Example 7.** *Lets consider three matrices:  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$  and  $A_3$*

- $A_1$  has dimensions  $50 \times 5$
- $A_2$  has dimensions  $5 \times 100$
- $A_3$  has dimensions  $100 \times 10$

*The number of operations required for their product is:*

- For  $(A_1 \times A_2) \times A_3$

$$50 * 100 * 5 = 25000$$

$$50 * 10 * 100 = 50000$$

- For  $A_1 \times (A_2 \times A_3)$

$$5 * 10 * 100 = 5000$$

$$50 * 10 * 5 = 2500$$

*So the first case requires 75000 operations, the second 7500, 10 times less.*

Consider a chain of matrices  $\langle A_1, \dots, A_n \rangle$  where  $A_i$  has dimension  $p_{i-1} \times p_i$  for all  $i \in [1, n]$ . The aim is to compute a parenthesization that minimizes the number of scalar product for the chain multiplication considered. This problem is usually faced during the design part of the coding.

Chain matrix multiplication are often used in Deep neural networks. It is also useful because it gives a relevant speedup in data preparation pipeline.

## 3.2 A naive approach

Build up every possible parenthesization and compute the cost of the parenthesization. As we are doing it at design time, there usually are no time constraints.

- If  $n = 1$ , the parenthesization is obvious
- If  $n > 1$ , the chain can be parenthesization as

$$(A_1 \times \dots A_k) \times (A_{k+1} \times \dots A_n) \quad (3.1)$$

for any  $k \in [1, n - 1]$ . I can then recursively produce the parenthesization for  $\langle A_1, \dots, A_k \rangle$  and  $\langle A_{k+1}, \dots, A_n \rangle$

But for a sequence  $1..n$  the number of parenthesization is

$$P(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} P(k) \cdot P(n-k) & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases} \quad (3.2)$$

Trying to give a lower bound to the second term of the previous expression

$$\text{1st term } P(1) \cdot P(n-1) \quad (3.3)$$

$$\text{Last term } P(n-1) \cdot P(n-(n-1)) \quad (3.4)$$

So we can derive that

$$P(n) \geq 2 \cdot P(1) \cdot P(n-1) = 2 \cdot P(n-1) \quad (3.5)$$

So finally

$$P(n) \in \Omega(2^n) \quad (3.6)$$

And computing all of that is basically impossible.

We notice however that:

- If the given parenthesization  $(A_1 \times \dots A_k) \times (A_{k+1} \times \dots A_n)$  is the optima chain, than we may conclude that
  - The first part is optimal for  $\langle A_1 \times \dots A_k \rangle$
  - The second part is optimal for  $\langle A_{k+1} \times \dots A_n \rangle$
- So many branches of the naive recursive approach perform the same computation (once the parenthesization of a section is done, there is no need to re-evaluate it in a different recursion of the algorithm)

**Idea:**

Recursively compute optimal parenthesization and use dynamic programming.

This means that starting from the smallest parenthesization then built it up to the top, ending up with a possible solution.

**Definition 15.** *Dynamic programming: a strategy in which the program store the partial result in a place, and use it any time it is needed.*

### 3.3 A dynamic programming solution

Store the minimum number of products for all the sub-chains in  $m$ .

To do so, we first consider the subset of the sequence of matrix that goes from  $i$  to  $j$ . At this stage we are not storing the parenthesization, i.e. the position in which we are going to place the parenthesis, but just evaluating the minimal number of product required. So we recursively compute  $m[i, j]$  as:

$$m[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = j \\ \min_{k \in [i, j-1]} \{m[j, k] + m[k+1, j] + p_{i-1}p_kp_j\} & \text{if } i < j \end{cases} \quad (3.7)$$

The second term is well defined, and allow a minimum, because the two references to the matrix  $m$  are references in which the distances between the two indexes are smaller than the distance between  $i$  and  $j$ . So every time I am evaluating something in the matrix  $m[i, j]$ , I am reducing the distance between the indexes of the other two matrices  $m[i, k]$  and  $m[k+1, j]$ , ending up in a situation in which  $i = j$ . For each  $i, j$  also store in  $s[i, j]$  the  $k$  that minimizes

$$m[i, k] + m[k+1, j] + p_{i-1}p_kp_j \quad (3.8)$$

i.e. the parenthesization for the current level.

**Example 8.** Consider  $A_1(3 \times 5), A_2(5 \times 510), A_3(10 \times 52)$  and  $A_4(2 \times 53)$ . Each color on the matrix on the left represents different steps of the evaluation of parenthesization cost of the matrix chain. The matrix on the right is populated with the parenthesization once the minimal cost of product for a parenthesization placement is found. Both  $m$  and  $s$  can be computed iteratively from the shortest sub-chain to the longest: we can proceed from the mid diagonal to the top right corner.



---

**Algorithm 5:** Dynamic Programming Solution

---

```
def MatrixChain(P):  
    m ← allocate (1..n, 1..n)  
    s ← allocate (1..n-1, 2..n)  
    for i ← 1..n do  
        | m[i, i] ← 0  
    end  
    for l ← 2..n do  
        | for i ← 1..(n-l+1) do  
            | | j ← i + l - 1  
            | | MatrixChainAux(P, m, s, i, j)  
        | end  
    end  
    return (m, s)  
enddef
```

---

---

**Algorithm 6:** Dynamic Programming Solution

---

```
def MatrixChainAux(P, m, s, i, j):  
    m[i, j] ← INFINITY  
    for k ← 1..(j-1) do  
        | q ← m[i, k] + m[k+1, j] + P[i-i] * P[k] + P[j]  
        | if q < m[i, j] then  
            | | m[i, j] ← q  
            | | s[i, j] ← k  
        | end  
    end  
    return  
enddef
```

---

The computation of  $m[i, j]$  takes time:

$$\sum_{k=i}^{j-1} \Theta(1) = \Theta(j - i) \quad (3.9)$$

Since  $i \in [1, n]$  and  $j \in [i, n]$

$$T_C(n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i}^n \Theta(j - i) = \Theta\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\sum_{j=i}^n j\right) - n * i\right) \quad (3.10)$$

$$= \Theta\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{n * (n + 1)}{2} - \frac{i * (i + 1)}{2} - n * i\right) = \Theta(n^3) \quad (3.11)$$

# Chapter 4

## Heaps

**Definition 16.** *Heaps: Abstract data types which store totally ordered values with respect to a given total order ( $\preceq$ )*

**Example 9.** *If I have a bunch of data regarding students, and I order it based on the students ID, that domain can be stored into a Heap*

Heaps efficiently support the following tasks:

- Built a heap from a set of data
- Finding the minimum with respect to  $\preceq$
- Extracting the minimum with respect to  $\preceq$
- Decreasing the one of the values with respect to  $\preceq$
- Inserting a new value

**Example 10.** *A min-heap: a heap in which the relation between elements is "less" or "equal to" ( $\preceq$  is  $\leq$ ).*

*A max-heap: a heap in which the relation between elements is "more" or "equal to" ( $\preceq$  is  $\geq$ ).*

Heaps can be used to implement priority queues.

Queues elements respects the FIFO policy: the first object inserted in the queues will be the first object to exit from the queue. Sometimes however it is useful to establish a priority in the order to extract elements from a queue. To do so, the next element to be extracted from the queue is the one that minimizes a priority criterion.

**Example 11.** *In emergencies, more serious patient must be served first, and their condition may change and become more and more serious over time.*

### 4.1 Binary Heaps

**Definition 17.** *Binary heaps: A nearly completed binary tree. i.e. it is complete up to the second-last level and all leaves of the last level are on the left.*

The relation  $\text{parent}(p) \preceq p$  holds for any node (head property).

A possible representation for a binary heap is using an array: the first position stores the root key.

**Example 12.** *Let's assume that the emergency room aforementioned can contain a maximum number of people. In that case we can organize the priority queues using an array, whose size corresponds to the number of places available.*

The values stored in the array would be the keys of the tree, while its position corresponds to the node. The first position of the array is the root.

The  $i$ -th position of the array represents a node whose:

- Left child has index  $2 * i$
- Right child has index  $2 * i + 1$
- Parent has index  $i/2$

(In pseudo code the index starts from 1)

Following, the pseudo code for some useful function:

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**Algorithm 7:** Array-based representation: useful functions

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```
def LEFT(i):  
  | return 2* i  
enddef
```

---

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**Algorithm 8:** Array-based representation: useful functions

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```
def GET_ROOT():  
  | return 1  
enddef
```

---

---

**Algorithm 9:** Array-based representation: useful functions

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```
def RIGHT(i):  
  | return 2 * i + 1  
enddef
```

---

---

**Algorithm 10:** Array-based representation: useful functions

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```
def IS_ROOT(i):  
  | return i = 1  
enddef
```

---

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**Algorithm 11:** Array-based representation: useful functions

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```
def PARENT(i):  
  | return floor (i/2)  
enddef
```

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**Algorithm 12:** Array-based representation: useful functions

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```
def IS_VALID_NODE(H, i):  
  | return H.size ≤ i  
enddef
```

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## 4.2 Finding the Minimum

For minimum we mean the minimum with relation to the relation which parameterize our heap.

The minimum with relation to the  $\preceq$  is in the root of the heap. If this is not the case, the heap property did not hold.

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**Algorithm 13:** Array-based representation: minimum

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```
def HEAP_MIN(H):  
  | return H.root.key  
enddef
```

---

Which for array based representation became

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**Algorithm 14:** Array-based representation: minimum (array)

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```
def HEAP_MIN(H):  
    | return H[ 1]  
enddef
```

---

In both case the complexity is  $\Theta(1)$ .

### 4.3 Removing the minimum

When removing the minimum, we have to

- Preserve the heap topological structure of the heap itself. To do so, we have to remove a leaf on the last level, the rightmost more.
- Preserve the property. Removing the minimum means to remove the key to the root, which could create some problem.

The solution to achieve the removal is to replace the root's key with the rightmost leaf of the last level, then delete the rightmost leaf of the least-level, as its key is already stored. Doing so, the heap property may be lost (but only in one point).

To restore the property, we use a procedure called heapify. It consists in

- Find the node  $n$ , among the root and its children, whose key is minimum with relation to  $\preceq$
- If the root's key is the minimum, we are done
- Otherwise, swap  $n$ 's and root's keys
- Repeat on the sub-tree rooted on  $n$

#### Correctness of HEAPIFY

**Before the iteration:** the heap property holds in  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ .

**After the iteration:**

- The heap property still holds on  $T_2$  and between  $a$  and  $b$ .
- $T_1$  has been messed up, but it is shorter than the original tree and all the keys on  $T_1$  are greater than  $a$ .

We are pushing the problem constantly deeper, and at some point we end up either solving the problem, or in a leaf (where the problem is also solved).

Replacing the root's key cost  $\Theta(1)$ , because finding the rightmost most node is simply finding the value which is in the last position of the array in this representation. Assigning the root key to that value is again easy, we just have to assign the value of the last position of the array, to the first position.

For each iteration of HEAPIFY:

- 2 comparison to find the minimum.

- 1 swap at most.

The distance from a leaf is decreased is decreased by one at each iteration. The total cost of HEAPIFY is the height of the heap  $O(\log n)$

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**Algorithm 15:** HEAPIFY

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```

def HEAPIFY(H, i):
    m ← i
    for i in [LEFT(i), RIGHT(i)] do
        if IS_VALID_NODE(H, j) and H[j] ≤ H[m] then
            m ← j
        end
    end
    if i != m then
        swap(H, i, m)
        HEAPIFY(H, m)
    end
enddef

```

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**Algorithm 16:** Array-based representation: remove minimum

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```

def REMOVE_MIN(H):
    H[1] ← H[H.size]
    H.size ← H.size-1
    HEAPIFY(H, 1)
enddef

```

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## 4.4 Building a Heap

Building the topology is easy because it can be done automatically once we decide to go for the array implementation of the heap. Once we have the heap topology, we can try to call the functions already implemented, which should preserve the heap topology. We cannot however call the **heapify** function on the root, because it can happen that the array is not yet ready to satisfy the precondition of the function.

Instead, we can call **heapify** from the bottom-up, starting from the leafs:

- Fix the heaps rooted on the second-last level with children.
- Fix the heaps rooted on the third-last level, and so on.

### Complexity of Build\_Heap

Let us focus on complete binary tree. How many nodes do they have at level  $i$  of the tree?

The answer is  $2^i$ . If  $n$  is the number of nodes in our tree, then  $n = \sum_{i=0}^l 2^i = 2^{l+1} - 1$ . The number of leaves in a complete binary tree is then  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  (ceiling of the fraction). This quantity holds also for nearly complete binary tree.

Let us consider the nodes at height  $h$ , how many  $h$ -heighted nodes has a nearly complete

binary tree having  $n$  nodes?

For height  $h$  we have  $\lceil \frac{n}{2^{h+1}} \rceil$  nodes. What about the complexity of build\_heap?

At each height  $h$  we have  $\lceil \frac{n}{2^{h+1}} \rceil$  nodes. We want to fix the heap property by calling heapify on all the nodes of the tree. So the overall complexity, a.k.a. the complexity of invoking Build\_Heap on  $n$  nodes

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{BH}(n) &\leq \sum_{h=0}^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor} \lceil \frac{n}{2^{h+1}} \rceil \cdot O(h) \\
 &\leq c \cdot n \cdot \sum_{h=0}^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor} \frac{h}{2^h} \\
 &\leq c \cdot n \cdot \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} \frac{h}{2^h} \\
 &\leq c \cdot n \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{(1 - \frac{1}{2})^2} = 2 \cdot c \cdot n
 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$T_{BH}(n) \in O(n) \tag{4.1}$$

## 4.5 Decreasing a Key

In a Min-heap we are talking about a decrease in the key of a node, in a Max-heap we are talking about an increase in the key of a node.

The heap property doesn't hold anymore (in relation to the parent, for both cases): it preserve the heap property only on the sub-tree rooted to the node. Heapify solve the heap property on a sub-tree rooted on the node we are dealing with.

Swapping the keys of the node and its parent solves the problem on the sub-tree rooted on the parent (it preserve the relation with the sibling node). We could end up breaking the relation between the new parent node and its parent. In this case, we just need to reiterate the same procedure, repeating until the heap property is restored.

At each iteration we have to either:

- Ends the computation in time  $\Theta(1)$  or
- Pushes the problem one step closer to the root in time  $\Theta(1)$

Since the heap height is  $\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor$ , the complexity is  $O(\log n)$

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**Algorithm 17:** Array-based representation: decreasing a key

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```

def DECREASE_KEY(H, i, value):
    if H[i]  $\preceq$  value then
        | error(value+ "is not smaller than H["+i+"]")
    end
    H[i]  $\leftarrow$  value
    while not (IS_ROOT(i) or H[PARENT(i)]  $\preceq$  H[i]) do
        | swap(H, i, PARENT(i))
        | i  $\leftarrow$  PARENT(i)
    end
enddef

```

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## 4.6 Inserting a Value

Add the new value as the rightmost node (where we would remove a node). A new node  $N$  has to be added preserving the heap topology. We could set the key of  $N$  to the maximum value with relation to  $\preceq$  ( $\infty$  or  $-\infty$ ). Decrease then the key of  $N$  to the desired value.

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**Algorithm 18:** Array-based representation: inserting a new value

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```

def INSERT_VALUE(H, value):
    H.size  $\leftarrow$  H.size + 1
    H[H.size]  $\leftarrow$   $\infty_{\preceq}$ 
    DECREASE_KEY(H, H.size, value)
enddef

```

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Has the same complexity of DECREASE\_KEY:  $O(\log n)$



## Chapter 5

# Retrieving Data and Sorting