Practical 1

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Task 2

Sievepas.exe – 62 797 bytes

Fibopas.exe – 61 487 bytes

Emptypas.exe – 57 334 bytes

How do the sizes of the executables compare?

Sievepas.exe is the biggest, followed by fibopas.exe and lastly emptypas.exe.

Why do you suppose the "empty" program produces the amount of code that it does?

Simply successfully compiling a Pascal program, even if it is skeleton code with no actual coding inside, uses a minimum amount of space to create the executable. This is because all executables have ‘unseen’ metadata attached to the file that specify requirements for it to be run (which operating system it was compiled for etc).

How does the algorithm work?

Creates an array of all the numbers up to the inputted maximum number, then starts at the number 2, ‘crosses out’ (removes) all of it’s multiples from the array and then prints the number (2). It then repeats with the next number in the array (which we know is a prime as all multiples for the values smaller than it have already been removed) until there are no more values to check in the array (only primes are left in the array).

Why is it deemed to be particularly efficient?

Instead of checking every single number up to the inputted maximum number and trying to prove it has no factors, this method starts with the smallest known prime and removes all multiples of it (as those aren’t primes) which makes the list of numbers it needs to check smaller. Repeating this as it progresses through the list (as we know the next number in the list is always a prime as all multiples for the values smaller than it have already been removed) makes the list it’s checking accumulatively smaller every time. This makes it very efficient.

How much (mental) arithmetic does the "computer" have to master to be able to solve the problem?

All the computer is required to compute is multiplication and removing values from an array. It’s a simple program to execute.

What is the significance of this limit?

The highest index an array can have is 32000.

How many prime numbers can you find smaller than 20000?

1900 primes (16410 was the maximum input we could enter)

Task 3

Sievec.exe – 66 560 bytes

Sievecpp – 149 504 bytes

Can you think of any reason why the differences are as you find them?

C++ is a much more complex and higher level language compared to Pascal and even simply C and so it’s compiled file could and does easily result in it requiring more memory. Simpler languages are easier to translate to lower level languages and machine code and so the resulting machine code will most likely be fairly simple too.

How large a prime number can you handle now?

Up to 32 000

How many prime numbers can you find smaller than 20000? If there is a difference, explain it.

1900. The difference is that Pascal uses 16 bit integers and so crashes as soon as any value it calculates cannot be stored in a 16 bit integer. C and C++ use 32 bit integers and so can store much larger values.

Task 4

Sievecs.exe – 35 840 bytes

Sieveset.exe – 35 840 bytes

Sieveset2.exe – 35 840 bytes

Emptycs.exe – 35 328 bytes

Fibocs.exe – 35 328 bytes

How do these compare with the other executables?

They are all notably much smaller.

What limit is there now to the largest prime you can find?

Can test up to 32000