

# Some Topics in Elementary Computer Science

Nguyễn Quân Bá Hồng\*

Ngày 16 tháng 5 năm 2023

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## 1 Algorithm & Analysis of Algorithm – Thuật Toán & Phân Tích Thuật Toán

See, e.g, [Dàm+09, Chuyên đề 1, pp. 5–12].

### 1.1 Algorithm – Thuật Toán

**Definition 1.** “In mathematics & computer science, an algorithm is a finite sequence of *rigorous* instructions, typically used to solve a class of specific *computational problems* or to perform a *computation*.”

Algorithms are used as specifications for performing *calculations* & *data processing*. More advanced algorithms can use *conditionals* to divert the code execution through various routes (referred to as *automated decision-making*) & deduce valid *inferences* (referred to as *automated reasoning*), achieving *automation* eventually. Using human characteristics as descriptors of machines in metaphorical ways as already practiced by *Alan Turing* with terms e.g., “memory”, “search”, & “stimulus”.

In contrast, a *heuristic* is an approach to problem solving that may not be fully specified or may not guarantee correct or optimal results, especially in problem domains where there is no well-defined correct or optimal result.

As an *effective method*, an algorithm can be expressed within a finite amount of space & time, & in a well-defined formal language for calculating a function. Starting from an initial state & initial input (perhaps *empty*), the instructions describe a computation that, when *executed*, proceeds through a finite number of well-defined successive states, eventually producing “output” & terminating at a final ending state. The transition from 1 state to the next is not necessarily *deterministic*; some algorithms, known as *randomized algorithms*, incorporate random input.” – [Wikipedia/algorithm](#)

### 1.2 Analysis of Algorithm – Phân Tích Thuật Toán

**Definition 2.** “In computer science, the analysis of algorithms is the process of finding the *computational complexity* of algorithms – the amount of time, storage, or other resources needed to execute them.”

Usually, this involves determining a function that relates the size of an algorithm’s input to the number of steps it takes (its *time complexity*) or the number of storage locations it uses (its *space complexity*). An algorithm is said to be efficient when this function’s values are small, or grow slowly compared to a growth in the size of the input. Different inputs of the same size may cause the algorithm to have different behavior, so *best*, *worst*, & *average case* descriptions might all be of practical interest. When not otherwise specified, the function describing the performance of an algorithm is usually an *upper bound*, determined from the worst case inputs to the algorithm.

The term “analysis of algorithms” was coined by *Donald Knuth*. Algorithm analysis is an important part of a broader *computational complexity theory*, which provides theoretical estimates for the resources needed by any algorithm which solves a given *computational problem*. These estimates provide an insight into reasonable directions of search for *efficient algorithms*.

” – [Wikipedia/analysis of algorithms](#)

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\*Independent Researcher, Ben Tre City, Vietnam  
e-mail: [nguyenquanbahong@gmail.com](mailto:nguyenquanbahong@gmail.com); website: <https://nqbh.github.io>.

## 2 Competitive Programming CP

### 3 Number Theory

**Definition 3.** An integer  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  is called a factor or a divisor of an integer  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$  if  $a$  divides  $b$  (i.e.,  $b$  is divisible by  $a$ ). If  $a$  is a factor of  $b$ , we write  $a \mid b$ , or  $b : a$ , & otherwise we write  $a \nmid b$ , or  $b \nmid a$ .

**Bài toán 1** (Factor/Divisor – Ước số). Với  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  được nhập từ bàn phím, viết chương trình Pascal, Python, C/C++ xuất ra tất cả: (a) các ước nguyên dương của  $n$ . (b) các ước nguyên của  $n$ .

**Bài toán 2** (Prime factorization – Phân tích ra thừa số nguyên tố). Với  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  được nhập từ bàn phím, viết chương trình Pascal, Python, C/C++ xuất ra phân tích ra thừa số nguyên tố của  $n$ . E.g., với  $n = 72$ , xuất ra  $72 = 2^3 \cdot 3^2$ , với  $n = 12$ , xuất ra  $12 = 2^2 \cdot 3$ .

Let  $\tau(n)$  denote the number of (positive) divisors of an integer  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . E.g.,  $\tau(12) = 6$  since the divisors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, & 12. To calculate the value of  $\tau(n)$ , we can use the following formula:

$$n = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\alpha_i} = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots p_k^{\alpha_k} \Rightarrow \tau(n) = \prod_{i=1}^k (\alpha_i + 1) = (\alpha_1 + 1)(\alpha_2 + 1) \cdots (\alpha_k + 1), \forall n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

because for each prime  $p_i$ , there are  $\alpha_i + 1$  ways to choose how many times it appears in the factor.

**Example 1.**  $12 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \Rightarrow \tau(12) = (2 + 1)(1 + 1) = 3 \cdot 2 = 6$ .

**Bài toán 3** ( $\tau(n)$ ). Với  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  được nhập từ bàn phím, viết chương trình Pascal, Python, C/C++ xuất ra giá trị của hàm  $\tau(n)$  tổng tất cả các ước số của  $n$ .

Let  $\sigma(n)$  denote the sum of divisors of an integer  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Example 2.**  $\mathcal{U}(12) \cap \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12\} \Rightarrow \sigma(12) = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 6 + 12 = 28$ .

To calculate the value of  $\sigma(n)$ , we can use the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} n = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\alpha_i} = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots p_k^{\alpha_k} \Rightarrow \sigma(n) &= \prod_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=0}^{\alpha_i} p_i^j = \prod_{i=1}^k (1 + p_i + p_i^2 + \cdots + p_i^{\alpha_i}) = \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{p_i^{\alpha_i+1} - 1}{p_i - 1} \\ &= \frac{p_1^{\alpha_1+1} - 1}{p_1 - 1} \cdot \frac{p_2^{\alpha_2+1} - 1}{p_2 - 1} \cdots \frac{p_k^{\alpha_k+1} - 1}{p_k - 1}, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, \end{aligned}$$

where the latter form is based on the *geometric progression formula*.

**Example 3.**  $12 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \Rightarrow \sigma(12) = \frac{2^3-1}{2-1} \cdot \frac{3^2-1}{3-1} = 28$ .

**Bài toán 4** ( $\sigma(n)$ ). Với  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  được nhập từ bàn phím, viết chương trình Pascal, Python, C/C++ xuất ra giá trị của hàm  $\sigma(n)$  tổng tất cả các ước số của  $n$ .

### Tài liệu

[Đàm+09] Hồ Sĩ Đàm, Đỗ Đức Đông, Lê Minh Hoàng, and Nguyễn Thanh Hùng. *Tài Liệu Giáo Khoa Chuyên Tin, quyển 1*. Nhà Xuất Bản Giáo Dục Việt Nam, 2009, p. 219.