

Computational problem:

A computational problem is a specification of the desired input-output relationship

Instance:

A problem instance is any valid input to the problem

Algorithm:

An algorithm is a well defined computational procedure that transforms inputs into outputs, achieving the desired input-output relationship

Analyzing Algorithms:

Predict resources utilization

Memory (space complexity)

Running time (time complexity)

Depends on the speed of the computer

Depends on the implementation details

Depends on the input, especially on the size of the input

A way of measuring running times that is mathematically elegant and machine-independent

Measure the running time as the number of primitive operations, (addition, multiplication, comparisons) used by an algorithm

Measure the running time as a function of the input size

Θ-notation

Drop low-order terms, ignore leading constant

Merge Sort

Mergesort(A, left, right):

if left < right, then

center ← (left + right) / 2

Mergesort(A, left, center) # T(n/2)

Mergesort(A, center + 1, right) # T(n/2)

Merge the two sorted arrays # Θ(n)

key subroutine: “merge”

end

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + \Theta(n), & \text{if } n > 1 \\ \Theta(1), & \text{if } n = 1 \end{cases}$$

T(n) = Θ(n log n)