

1. 3-way-Merge Sort : Suppose that instead of dividing in half at each step of Merge Sort, you divide into thirds, sort each third, and finally combine all of them using a three-way merge subroutine. What is the overall asymptotic running time of this algorithm? (Hint: Note that the merge step can still be implemented in $O(n)$ time.)
- ☒

$n \log(n)$
- ☐

n
- ☐

$n^2 \log(n)$
- ☐

$n(\log(n))^2$

✓

Correct

That's correct! There is still a logarithmic number of levels, and the overall amount of work at each level is still linear.

2. You are given functions f and g such that $f(n) = O(g(n))$. Is $f(n) * \log_2(f(n)^c) = O(g(n) * \log_2(g(n)))$? (Here c is some positive constant.) You should assume that f and g are nondecreasing and always bigger than 1.
- ☐

Sometimes yes, sometimes no, depending on the constant c
- ☐

Sometimes yes, sometimes no, depending on the functions f and g
- ☐

False
- ☒

True



3. Assume again two (positive) nondecreasing functions f and g such that $f(n) = O(g(n))$. Is $2^{f(n)} = O(2^{g(n)})$? (Multiple answers may be correct, you should check all of those that apply.)
- ☒

Yes if $f(n) \leq g(n)$ for all sufficiently large n

✓

Correct

☐

Always

☐

Never

☒

Sometimes yes, sometimes no (depending on f and g)

4. k-way-Merge Sort. Suppose you are given k sorted arrays, each with n elements, and you want to combine them into a single array of kn elements. Consider the following approach. Using the merge subroutine taught in lecture, you merge the first 2 arrays, then merge the 3^{rd} given array with this merged version of the first two arrays, then merge the 4^{th} given array with the merged version of the first three arrays, and so on until you merge in the final (k^{th}) input array. What is the running time taken by this successive merging algorithm, as a function of k and n ? (Optional: can you think of a faster way to do the k-way merge procedure ?)
- ☒

$\theta(nk^2)$
- ☐

$\theta(nk)$



4. k-way-Merge Sort. Suppose you are given k sorted arrays, each with n elements, and you want to combine them into a single array of kn elements. Consider the following approach. Using the merge subroutine taught in lecture, you merge the first 2 arrays, then merge the 3^{rd} given array with this merged version of the first two arrays, then merge the 4^{th} given array with the merged version of the first three arrays, and so on until you merge in the final (k^{th}) input array. What is the running time taken by this successive merging algorithm, as a function of k and n ? (Optional: can you think of a faster way to do the k-way merge procedure ?)
- ☒

$\theta(nk^2)$
- ☐

$\theta(nk)$
- ☐

$\theta(n \log(k))$
- ☐

$\theta(n^2k)$

✓

Correct

That's correct! For the upper bound, the merged list size is always $O(kn)$, merging is linear in the size of the larger array, and there are k iterations. For the lower bound, each of the last $k/2$ merges takes $\Omega(kn)$ time.

5. Arrange the following functions in increasing order of growth rate (with $g(n)$ following $f(n)$ in your list if and only if $f(n) = O(g(n))$).
- a) $n^2 \log(n)$
- b) 2^n
- c) 2^{2^n}
- d) $n^{\log(n)}$
- e) n^2



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- a) $n^2 \log(n)$
- b) 2^n
- c) 2^{2^n}
- d) $n^{\log(n)}$
- e) n^2

Write your 5-letter answer, i.e., the sequence in lower case letters in the space provided. For example, if you feel that the answer is a->b->c->d->e (from smallest to largest), then type abcde in the space provided without any spaces before / after / in between the string.

You can assume that all logarithms are base 2 (though it actually doesn't matter).

WARNING: this question has multiple versions, you might see different ones on different attempts!

Preview

$eadbc$

Please note: Each of the following will be interpreted as a single variable, not as a product of variables: eadbc. To multiply variables, please use * (e.g. enter x*y to multiply variables x and y).

eadbc

✓

Correct

One approach is to graph these functions for large values of n. Once in a while this can be