

General Problems - 2

Analysis of solutions

António Rui Borges

Summary

Towers of Hanoi

History

Type of solutions

- Recursive algorithm
- Iterative algorithm

Using inheritance mechanism

History - 1

In a room of a certain budist temple, three poles were spiked into the ground. The poles could hold up to 64 gold disks of different diameters. At each pole, the disks overlapped one another following an increased diameter rule, top to bottom. Every day, one of the monks would make a movement, taking the top disk from one of the poles and placing it on one of the others. The only allowed movements were the ones that lead to the placement of a smaller diameter disk on top of a larger one.

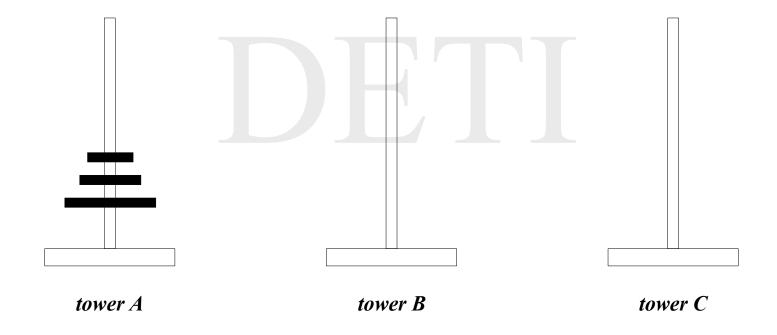
The aim was to move all the 64 disks, initially placed on the left pole, to the center one, using the right pole as auxiliary. According to tradition, once the task was completed, the world would come to an end ...

Believing the legend, should we worry about the event?

For a detailed description of the problem, see

Spitznagel, E. L., Selected topics in mathematics. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, p. 137, 1971.

History - 2



Recursive algorithm - 1

```
void moveDisks (int n, Tower a, Tower b, Tower c)
{
  if (n == 1)
    moveOneDisk (a,b);
  else { moveDisks (n-1, a, c, b);
    moveOneDisk (a,b);
    moveDisks (n-1, c, b, a);
}
```

Recursive algorithm - 2

Movements that take place assuming 3 disks at start

nIter	tower A	tower B	tower C
0	0-1-2	-	-
1	1-2	0	-
2	2	0	1
3	2	-	0-1
4	-	2	0-1
5	0	2	1
6	0	1-2	-
7	-	0-1-2	-

Recursive algorithm - 3

Movements that take place assuming 4 disks at start

nIter	tower A	tower B	tower C		
0	0-1-2-3	-	-		
1	1-2-3	-	0		
2	2-3	1	0		
3	2-3	0-1	-		
4	3	0-1	2		
5	0-3	/1	2		
6	0-3	-	1-2		
7	3	-	0-1-2		
8	-	3	0-1-2		
9	-	0-3	1-2		
10	1	0-3	2		
11	0-1	3	2		
12	0-1	2-3	-		
13	1	2-3	0		
14	-	1-2-3	0		
15	-	0-1-2-3	-		

```
void moveDisks (int n, Tower a, Tower b, Tower c)
{
   Tower ax = a,
        bx = ((n % 2) == 0) ? c : b,
        cx = ((n % 2) == 0) ? b : c;
   int nMov = (1 << n) - 1;

   for (int i = 1; i <= nMov; i++)
   { moveOneDisk (ax, bx);
        permutation (i, ax, bx, cx);
   }
}</pre>
```

Movements that take place assuming 3 disks at start

nIter	tower A	tower B	tower C	tower S	tower D	tower X	<i>permut</i>
0	0-1-2	-	1 -				
1	1-2	0		Α	В	C	D<->X
2	2	0	1	A	C	В	S < -> X
3	2	-	0-1	В	C	A	S->D->X->S
4	-	2	0-1	A	В	C	S->D->X->S
5	0	2	1	C	A	В	D<->X
6	0	1-2	-	C	В	A	S < -> X
7	-	0-1-2	-	A	В	C	

Movements that take place assuming 4 disks at start

nIter	tower A	tower B	tower C	tower S	tower D	tower 2	X permut
0	0-1-2-3	-	-				
1	1-2-3	-	0	A	C	В	D < -> X
2	2-3	1	0	A	В	C	S < -> X
3	2-3	0-1		C	В	A	S->D->X->S
4	3	0-1	2	A	C	В	S->D->X->S
5	0-3	1	2	В	A	C	D < -> X
6	0-3	-	1-2	В	C	A	S < -> X
7	3	-	0-1-2	A	C	В	D<->X
8	-	3	0-1-2	A	В	C	S < -> X
9	-	0-3	1-2	C	В	A	D<->X
10	1	0-3	2	C	A	В	S < -> X
11	0-1	3	2	В	A	C	S->D->X->S
12	0-1	2-3	-	C	В	A	S->D->X->S
13	1	2-3	0	A	C	В	D<->X
14	-	1-2-3	0	A	В	C	S < -> X
15	-	0-1-2-3	-	C	В	A	

Movements that take place assuming 5 disks at start

nIter	tower A	tower B	tower C	tower S	tower D	tower 2	X permut
15	4	-	0-1-2-3	В	C	A	S->D->X->S
16	-	4	0-1-2-3	A	В	C	S->D->X->S
17	0	4	1-2-3	C	A	В	

Movements that take place assuming 6 disks at start

nIter	tower A	tower B	tower C	tower S	tower D	tower X	permut
31	5	-	0-1-2-3-4	A	C	В	D<->X
32	-	5	0-1-2-3-4	A	В	C	S < -> X
33	-	0-5	1-2-3-4	C	В	A	

Type of permutation in function of iteration number

nIter mod $4 = 1$	D<->X
nIter mod $4 = 2$	S<->X
(nIter mod 4 = 3) and [(nIter+1) mod $2^k \neq 2^{k-1}$], with odd k	D<->X
(nIter mod $4 = 0$) and (nIter mod $2^k \neq 2^{k-1}$)	S < -> X
(nIter mod $4 = 3$) and [(nIter+1) mod $2^k = 2^{k-1}$], with odd k	S->D->X->S
(nIter mod $4 = 0$) and (nIter mod $2^k = 2^{k-1}$)	S->D->X->S

Applying the inheritance mechanism - 1

Problem simulation entails modeling the poles with the inserted disks through *stack* memories. One will be dealing with modified *stacks* since state description after each movement will require a new operation to enable the visualization of its contents without altering the stored values.

This means according to the object oriented paradigm that

• one applies the inheritance mechanism to specialize the *stack* into a new data type that defines the operation.

Applying the inheritance mechanism - 2

```
public class Tower<R> extends MemStack<R>
{
   public Tower (R [] storage) throws MemException
   {
      super (storage);
   }

   public R peek (int pos) throws MemException
   {
      if ((pos < 0) || (pos >= mem.length))
            throw new MemException ("Illegal position!");
        else if (pos < stackPnt)
            return (mem[pos]);
        else return (null);
   }
}</pre>
```

Aiming for two different solutions to the problem, it would be operationally convenient that, after a given solution is chosen, one gets a complete uniformity on its execution.

According to the object oriented paradigm, this means

- to define a common *interface* to the data types that implement the solutions
- use the resulting polymorphism on calling the solving methods on variables of the interface type.

```
public interface TowersOfHanoi
{
   public void problemSolving ();
}
```

```
public class RecursiveSolution implements TowersOfHanoi
   private int nDisks;
  private Tower<Integer> a;
   private Tower<Integer> b;
   private Tower<Integer> c;
   private int nIter;
   public RecursiveSolution (int nDisks)
     try
     { if (nDisks <= 0) throw new MemException ("Illegal number of disks!");
       this.nDisks = nDisks;
       a = new Tower<> (new Integer [nDisks]);
       b = new Tower<> (new Integer [nDisks]);
       c = new Tower<> (new Integer [nDisks]);
       for (int i = nDisks-1; i >= 0; i--)
       { try
         { a.write (i);
         catch (MemException e)
         { GenericIO.writelnString ("Error: ", e.getMessage (),
                                    " in iteration " + (i+1));
           e.printStackTrace ();
           System.exit (1);
     catch (MemException e)
     { GenericIO.writelnString ("Error: ", e.getMessage ());
       e.printStackTrace ();
       System.exit (1);
```

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```
@Override
public void problemSolving ()
  GenericIO.writelnString ("
                                        Listing of movements");
  GenericIO.writelnString ();
  showState ();
  moveDisks (nDisks, a, b, c);
private void moveDisks (int n, Tower<Integer> a, Tower<Integer> b, Tower<Integer> c)
   if (n == 1)
      moveOneDisk (a,b);
      else { moveDisks (n-1, a, c, b);
             moveOneDisk (a,b);
             moveDisks (n-1, c, b, a);
private void moveOneDisk (Tower<Integer> a, Tower<Integer> b)
  try
  { b.write (a.read ());
  catch (MemException e)
  { GenericIO.writelnString ("Error: ", e.getMessage ());
    e.printStackTrace ();
    System.exit (1);
  showState ();
```

```
private void showState ()
  Integer [] val = new Integer[3];
  boolean isValue;
  Tower<Integer> w;
  GenericIO.writelnString ("Iteration " + nIter);
  GenericIO.writelnString ();
  for (int i = nDisks-1; i >= 0; i--)
  { isValue = false;
    for (int j = 0; j < 3; j++)
    { try
      \{ w = (j == 0) ? a : (j == 1) ? b : c; \}
        val[j] = w.peek(i);
        isValue = isValue || (val[j] != null);
      catch (MemException e)
      { GenericIO.writelnString ("Error: ", e.getMessage (),
                                 " in iteration ", "(" + i + ", " + j + ")" );
        e.printStackTrace ();
        System.exit (1);
    if (isValue)
       { for (int j = 0; j < 3; j++)
           if (val[j] != null)
              GenericIO.writeFormInt (6, val[j]);
              else GenericIO.writeFormChar (6, ' ');
         GenericIO.writelnString ();
  GenericIO.writelnString ("\n A B C\n");
  nIter += 1;
```

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```
public class IterativeSolution implements TowersOfHanoi
  private int nDisks;
  private Tower<Integer> a;
   private Tower<Integer> b;
   private Tower<Integer> c;
   private int nIter;
  public IterativeSolution (int nDisks)
     try
     { if (nDisks <= 0) throw new MemException ("Illegal number of disks!");
       this.nDisks = nDisks;
       a = new Tower<> (new Integer [nDisks]);
       b = new Tower<> (new Integer [nDisks]);
       c = new Tower<> (new Integer [nDisks]);
       for (int i = nDisks-1; i >= 0; i--)
       { try
         { a.write (i);
         catch (MemException e)
         { GenericIO.writelnString ("Error: ", e.getMessage (),
                                    " in iteration " + (i+1));
           e.printStackTrace ();
           System.exit (1);
     catch (MemException e)
     { GenericIO.writelnString ("Error: ", e.getMessage ());
       e.printStackTrace ();
       System.exit (1);
```

```
@Override
public void problemSolving ()
  GenericIO.writelnString ("
                                        Listing of movements");
  GenericIO.writelnString ();
  showState ();
  moveDisks (nDisks, a, b, c);
private void moveOneDisk (Tower<Integer> a, Tower<Integer> b)
  try
  { b.write (a.read ());
  catch (MemException e)
  { GenericIO.writelnString ("Error: ", e.getMessage ());
    e.printStackTrace ();
    System.exit (1);
private void showState ()
```

```
private void moveDisks (int n, Tower<Integer> a, Tower<Integer> b, Tower<Integer> c)
                                               // source pole during the iteration process
  Tower<Integer> sx = a,
                 dx = ((n \% 2) == 0) ? c : b, // destination pole during the iteration process
                 xx = ((n \% 2) == 0) ? b : c; // auxiliary pole during the iteration process
                                               // total number of movements
  int nMov;
  int dim = (n + (n % 2)) / 2 - 1;
                                               // number of points of rotation
                                               // reference values for rotation
  int [] turn = new int [dim];
                                               // signaling a rotation should take place
  boolean rot;
  nMov = (1 << n) - 1;
  for (int j = 0; j < dim; j++)
    if ( ightharpoonup === 0)
       turn[0] = 8;
       else turn[j] = 4 * turn[j-1];
```

```
Tower<Integer> tx;
                                                               // temporary pole
for (int i = 1; i <= nMov; i++)</pre>
{ /* base movement */
 moveOneDisk (sx, dx);
  /* pole permutation */
  rot = false;
  for (int j = dim-1; j >= 0; j--)
  { rot = (((i + 1) % turn[j]) == (turn[j] / 2) || (i % turn[j]) == (turn[j] / 2));
    if (rot) break;
  if (!rot && ((i % 2) == 0) || ((i % 4) == 2))
                                                              // sx <-> xx
     \{ tx = sx; 
       sx = xx;
       xx = tx;
     else if (!rot && ((i % 2) == 1) || ((i % 4) == 1)) // dx <-> xx
          \{ tx = dx;
            dx = xx;
            xx = tx;
          else { tx = sx;
                                                               // sx \rightarrow dx \rightarrow xx \rightarrow sx
                  sx = xx;
                  xx = dx;
                  dx = tx;
```

```
public class ProbTowersOfHanoi
                                                                         enumeration of the alternatives
   private static enum MenuOpt {RECUR, REP, END};
   public static void main (String [] args)
     GenericIO.writelnString ();
     GenericIO.writelnString ("
                                             Problem of Towers of Hanoi");
     GenericIO.writelnString ();
     String [] menu = {"1 - Recursive solution",
                                                               // menu
                        "2 - Iterative solution",
                        "0 - Program exit"
                                                              // selected option
     int opt;
     MenuOpt [] choice = {MenuOpt.END,
                                                              // listing of the options
                           MenuOpt.RECUR,
                           MenuOpt.REP
     boolean end = false:
                                                              // signaling end of operations
     do
       { GenericIO.writelnString ();
                                                                      presentation of the alternatives
         for (int i = 0; i < menu.length; i++)
         { GenericIO.writeFormChar (10, '');
           GenericIO.writelnString (menu[i]);
         GenericIO.writelnString ();
         GenericIO.writeString ("What is your choice? ");
         opt = GenericIO.readlnInt ();
                                                                  Departamento de Electrónica, Telecomunicações e Informática
       } while ((opt < 0) || (opt >= menu.length));
```

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```
switch (choice [opt])
            { case RECUR:
                                                                  // number of disks in the pile
              case REP:
                           int val;
                          TowersOfHanoi tH;
                                                                     solution configuration
                          GenericIO.writelnString ();
                           { GenericIO.writeString ("Number of disks in the pile? ");
                            val = GenericIO.readlnInt ();
                          } while ((val <= 0) || (val > 20));
                                                                  // keeping number of disks within
                                                                  // reasonable limits
                          switch (choice [opt])
                           { case RECUR: tH = new RecursiveSolution (val);
                                                                                             selective
                                                                                           instantiation
                                         tH = new IterativeSolution (val);
                             case REP:
                                         break;
                             default:
                                         tH = null;
                          GenericIO.writelnString ();
                                                                       polymorphic calling
                          tH.problemSolving ();
                          break;
              case END:
                          end = true;
           while (!end);
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```