

Constant Optimizations

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What Are Constant

Optimizations?

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- For example, searching for palindromic numbers can be done by iterating through integers in ascending order.
- Noticing that all palindromic integers are divisible by 11 allows for a constant optimization, where the time complexity remains the same.

Sometimes the slowest part of your program is reading input and writing output. We can limit the impact I/O has on our program by:

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- (C++) using a custom built function to read integers: LINK
- (Python) using sys.stdin and sys.stdout, and only flushing when needed. Note that print and input may flush your output arbitrarily, possibly slowing your program unnecessarily.
- (Java): I do not know how to make it fast, if I/O is a bottleneck, use a different language maybe? Kattio.java exists but is not even comparable to C++ speed.

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- We will be examining a bit how data and instructions are processed by a CPU.
- Be aware that microbenchmarks such as the ones I made for the slides may not always mean the changes translate perfectly into efficiency for real world code.
- The intent is to teach you the ideas. Do not assume that doing things manually guarantees speed increases! Try it out!

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- Temporal locality: A recently accessed (memory) address is likely to be accessed in the near future.
- Spatial locality: An address nearby a recently accessed address is likely to be accessed in the near future.

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int sum(int arr[N]) {
    int result = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        result += a[i];
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- Here the same instructions are used in each iteration of a short loop: temporal locality of instructions
- Here array elements are accessed in increasing order with no gaps: spatial locality of data
- Here instructions are processed sequentially: spatial locality of instructions

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int sum_by_col(int arr[N][M]){
   int result = 0;
   for (int j = 0; j < M; j++) {
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- Swapping the order of our loops makes use of spatial locality.
- That way the CPU cache will be utilized better.

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int sum_by_row(int arr[N][M]){
   int result = 0;
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- Setting $N=M=10\,000$, so 10^8 additions.
- The function sum_by_col runs in 1.025 seconds.
- The function sum_by_row runs in 0.041 seconds.
- A factor of 25, so not negligible at all! Note that L2 caches generally perform about 25 times faster than RAM.

A Scheduling Problem - From Errichto on CF

Problem description

There are N workers, where $1 \le N \le 5\,000$. There is a 30 day window for a two man group project.

Each worker is either available or unavailable each day. You are given the list of days on which each worker is available. The project can only be worked on if both group members are available. You may assume all workers are equally competent, so you only want to maximize the number of days they work together.

What is the best pair of workers to select?

```
vector<vector<int>> workers;
int intersection(int a, int b) {
    int i = 0, j = 0;
    int result = 0;
    while (i < N && j < N) {
        if (workers[a][i] == workers[b][j]) {
            result++, i++, j++;
        else if (workers[a][i] < workers[b][j]) {</pre>
            i++:
        else {
            j++;
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- The time complexity is $\mathcal{O}(N^2D)$, in our case D=30.

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- We can determine the best pair using this function and iterating through all pairs.
- The time complexity is $\mathcal{O}(N^2D)$, in our case D=30.
- Too slow.

```
vector<int> workers;
int intersection(int a, int b) {
   int result = 0;
   int inter = workers[a] & workers[b];
   for (int i = 0; i < D; i++) {
      if (inter & 1) {
        result++;
      }
      inter >>= 1;
   }
   return result;
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• Lets store the availability as bitmasks.

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- This allows us to pack our data more efficiently, which will improve our cache usage.

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- Lets store the availability as bitmasks.
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- Probably still too slow.
- The loop still takes D=30 steps, but we can do it faster.

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- But wait, there is more!

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- What if D > 64?

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The Infamous Bitset

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- We could make a size $\left\lceil \frac{D}{w} \right\rceil$ array using w-bit integers to store our set.
- Implementing this includes a lot of shifts and indexing and it is easy to make a mistake and get it wrong.

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- How much memory does bool arr[1 « 30] take?
- Despite booleans only requiring one bit, the data type bool is a byte.
- The array is therefore 1024^3 bytes or 1 Gibibyte.
- Bitsets use the method discussed previously, packing 8 booleans in each byte.
- A bitset<1 \ll 30> is therefore 1024^3 bits or 128 Mebibytes.

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constexpr int D{ 365 };
constexpr int max_n{ 5'000 };
bitset<D> workers[max_n];
int intersection(int i, int j) {
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- Total time complexity of the solution using bitsets is $\mathcal{O}\left(N^2\frac{D}{w}\right)$.
- On a 64-bit machine this is definitely fast enough.

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- Total time complexity of the solution using bitsets is $\mathcal{O}\left(N^2\frac{D}{w}\right)$.
- On a 64-bit machine this is definitely fast enough.
- Practice problem: Chef and Queries

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- Even loops may slow your code down. Why?

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- Loops are the same, either you repeat or break from the loop.
- A higher number of iterations on average with less branching is often faster.

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constexpr int N{ 100'000'000 };
int arr[N];
int regular_loop(int arr[N]) {
    int sm = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
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 This code adds up all the numbers in an array with a slight modification.

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- We can shave off a little by repeating ourselves.

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constexpr int N{ 100'000'000 };
int arr[N];
int unroll_2_loop(int arr[N]) {
    int sm = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i+=2) {
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- Bumping up to 4 elements per iteration gets us to 0.340 seconds.
 Again, a tiny improvement.

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constexpr int N{ 100'000'000 };
int arr[N];
int branchless(int arr[N]) {
   int sm = 0;
   for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) {
       sm += (arr[i] % 3 - 1) * arr[i];
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- When writing cryptographic code, it is also a security measure against timing attacks.

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constexpr int N{ 100'000'000 };
int arr[N];
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    for (int i = 0; i < N; i+=16) {
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        sm += (arr[i+1] % 3 - 1) * arr[i+1];
        // ...
        sm += (arr[i+15] % 3 - 1) * arr[i+15];
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- ullet Compute both the values a and b and then perform an assignment c

Single Instruction, Multiple

Data (SIMD)

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- See documentation for details on functions.

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#include <x86intrin.h> // includes all SIMD intrinsics
constexpr int N{ 100'000'000 };
int arr[N];
int simd(int arr[N]) {
   __m128i sm = _mm_setzero_si128();
   m128i one = mm set epi32(1, 1, 1, 1);
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- Constant time improvements are sometimes easier than algorithmic improvements, and may prove sufficient.