

The RAM Model and Runtime Analysis

COMS10018 - Algorithms

Dr Christian Konrad

What is an Algorithm?



Muhammad ibn
Musa **al-Khwarizmi**
~ 780 - ~ 850
(\approx Algorithms)

What is an Algorithm?

- Computational procedure to solve a computational problem



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Depends on computer, compiler optimization, ...

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Memory hierarchy

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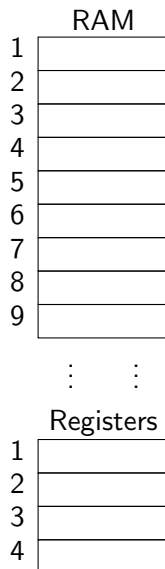
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See also:

COMS20007: Programming Languages and Computation

RAM Model

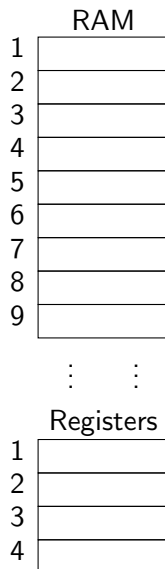
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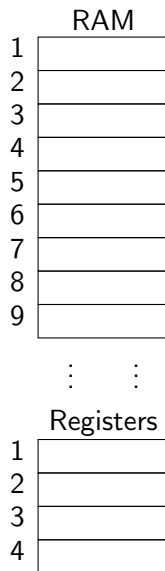
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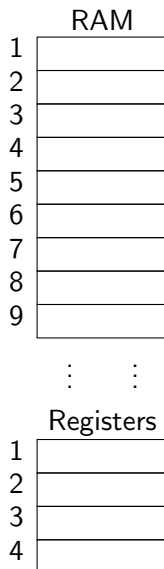
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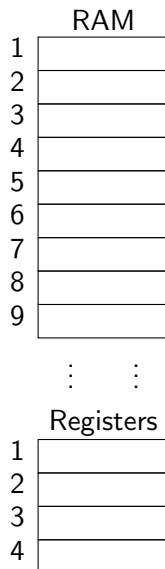
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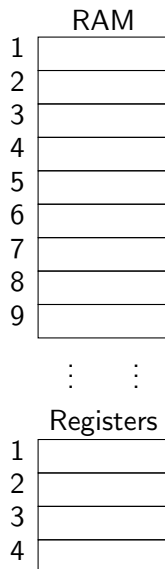
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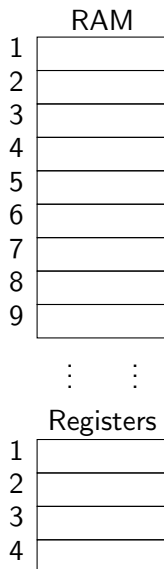


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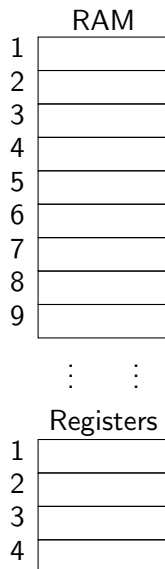


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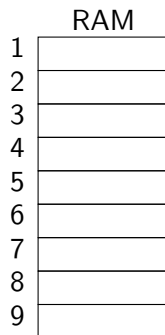
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In a single Time Step we can:

- Load a word from memory into a register
- Compute $(+, -, *, /)$, bit operations, comparisons, etc. on registers
- Move a word from register to memory



Algorithm in the RAM Model

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Sequence of elementary operations (similar to assembler code)

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Exercise: How to implement in RAM model?

```
Require: Array of  $n$  integers  $A$   
 $S \leftarrow 0$   
for  $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$  do  
     $S \leftarrow S + A[i]$   
return  $S$ 
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Given a specific input X , what is the number of elementary operations of the algorithm on X ?

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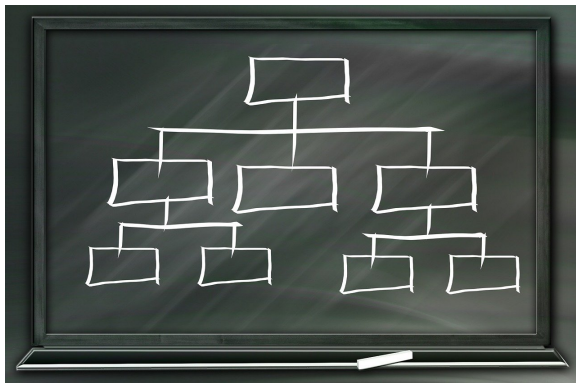
Best-case

Consider the set of all inputs of length n . What is the minimum number of elementary operations executed by the algorithm when run on every input of this set?

Average-case

Consider a set of inputs (e.g. the set of all inputs of length n). What is the average number of elementary operations executed by the algorithm when run on every input of this set?

Runtime Hierarchy:



Best-case = $O(\mathbf{Average-case}) = O(\mathbf{Worst-case})$

Runtime/Space Analysis of Algorithms

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Solution:

- Analyze algorithm as specified in pseudo code directly
- Make sure that every instruction can be implemented in the RAM model using $O(1)$ elementary operations

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Require: Integer array A of length n

$s \leftarrow 0$

for $i \leftarrow 0 \dots n - 1$ **do**

$s \leftarrow s + A[i]$

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Runtime: $O(n)$