4005-800 Algorithms

Homework 1

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PROBLEM 1.

Solution. TODO: explain reasoning here...

$$
\begin{aligned}
2^{2^{n+1}} \\
2^{2^n} \\
(n+1)! \\
n! \\
TODO: continue
\end{aligned}
$$

PROBLEM 2-a. *Using the definition of O, prove that $n = O(n^2)$.*

Solution. If $n \geq 1$, then $n^2 \geq n$. Further, $0^2 \geq 0$. Therefore, $n^2 \geq n$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus, $cn^2 \geq n$ when $n \geq 0$ and $c \geq 1$. Finally, by definition, this means that $n \in O(n^2)$, or simply $n = O(n^2)$.

PROBLEM 2-b. *Using the definition of O, prove that $n^k = O(n^{k'})$ if $k \leq k'$.*

Solution.

If $k \leq k'$, then it follows that $n^k \leq n^{k'}$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus, for constants $c \geq 1$, it is true that $n^k \leq n^{k'} \leq cn^{k'}$, or simply $n^k \leq cn^{k'}$, for all $n \geq 0$. Therefore, by definition, this means that $n^k \in O(n^{k'})$, or simply $n^k = O(n^{k'})$.

PROBLEM 3. *Write a function fib that implements the recurrence relation for the Fibonacci numbers. What is the smallest n such that you notice fib running slowly?*

Solution. The source code for the fib routine (written in Python) is listed below. It is also included in the electronic submission.

```
def fib(n):
        if (n == 0):
                return 0
        elif (n == 1):
                return 1
        else:
```

```
            return (fib(n - 1) + fib(n - 2))
```

The smalest value of n that starts to yields long execution times is $n = 32$.

TODO: explain the time complexity of this guy by solving with second order nonlinear homogeneous equations!

PROBLEM 4-a. *Prove using the strong form of mathematical induction that for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ if $n > 1$ then $f(n; a, b) = f(n-1; a, b) + f(n-2; a, b)$.*

Solution. Based on the defintion for f and the problem constraints, we need only consider $n = 2$ as the base case for induction since it is the first valid value of n for which f is true.

Base $(n = 2)$

By definition, we know that $f(2; a, b) = f(1; b, a+b) = (a+b)$. Further, by definition we know that $f(1; a, b) + f(0; a, b) = b + a = (a+b)$. Thus, $f(2; a, b) = f(1; a, b) + f(0; a, b)$, as desired.

Induction $(n > 2)$

Assume that $f(k; a, b) = f(k-1; a, b) + f(k-2; a, b)$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $3 \leq k < n$. We now show that $f(n; a, b) = f(n-1; a, b) + f(n-2; a, b)$. This result is described below.

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(n; a, b) &= f(n-1; b, a+b) \text{ (by definition)} \\
&= f(n-2; b, a+b) + f(n-3; b, a+b) \text{ (by induction)} \\
&= f(n-1; a, b) + f(n-2; a, b) \text{ (by definition of } f\text{)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, $f(n; a, b) = f(n-1; a, b) + f(n-2; a, b)$, as desired.

PROBLEM 4-b. *Prove using the strong form of mathematical induction that for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $F_n = f(n; 0, 1)$.*

Solution. Based on the results from the previous problem, $f(n)$ can depend on both $f(n-1)$ and $f(n-2)$. Therefore, we have two base cases to cover, as shown below.

Base $(n = 0)$

By definition, $F_0 = 0$, and $f(0; 0, 1) = 0$. Thus, $F_0 = f(0; 0, 1)$.

Base $(n = 1)$

By definition, $F_1 = 1$, and $f(1; 0, 1) = 1$. Thus, $F_1 = f(1; 0, 1)$.

Induction $(n > 1)$

Assume that $F_k = f(k; 0, 1)$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $2 \leq k < n$. We now show that $F_n = f(n; 0, 1)$. This result is described below.

$$
\begin{aligned}
F_n &= F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \text{ (by definition)} \\
&= f(n-1;0,1) + f(n-2;0,1) \text{ (by induction)} \\
&= f(n;0,1) \text{ (by definition from problem 4-a)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, $F_n = f(n;0,1)$, as desired.

PROBLEM 5. *Write a function $fibIt$ that implements f. Does $fibIt$ also run slowly on the value of n that you found made fib run slowly?*

Solution. The source code for the *fibIt* routine (written in Python) is listed below. It is also included in the electronic submission.

```
def fibIt(n, a, b):
        if (n == 0):
                return a
        elif (n == 1):
                return b
        else:
                return fibIt(n - 1, b, a + b)
```

Based on empirical observations, *fibIt* **does not** run slowly on the same value of n that made fib run slowly. In fact, *fibIt* will execute in a reasonable amount of time up to the point where the size of the recursive call stack is too large for the system to maintain in memory.

TODO: explain why (why oh why is this the case? - put it in a complexity class?)