

4. Average Time and Probabilistic Programs [WiP]

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<https://cister-labs.github.io/alg2324>



CISTER - Research Centre in
Real-Time & Embedded
Computing Systems

- Measuring precisely performance of algorithms
- Measuring asymptotically performance of algorithms
- Analysing recursive functions
- Measuring **precisely** the **average time** of algorithms
- Possibly: sorting algorithms bubbleSort, swapSort, insertionSort, mergeSort, quickSort
- Next: analysis of sequences of operations (**amortised analysis**)

Recall goal

```
int count = 0;
for (int i=0; i<n; i++)
    if (v[i] == 0) count++
```

RAM

- worst-case: $T(n) = 5 + 5n$
- best-case: $T(n) = 5 + 4n$

#array-accesses + #count-increments

- worst-case: $T(n) = 2n$
- best-case: $T(n) = n$
- average-case:

$$\overline{T}(n) = n + \sum_{0 \leq r < n} P(v[r] = 0)$$

Preliminaries: series

Recall arithmetic series

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = 1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{i=a}^b i = a + (a+1) + \dots + b = \frac{(a-b+1)(a+b)}{2}$$

Intuition

[number of elements] \times [middle value]

Recall geometric series I

$$\sum_{i=0}^n x^i = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^n = \frac{x^{n+1} - 1}{x - 1}$$

Proof

Let $S = \sum_{i=0}^n x^i$. Then:

$$S \times x = x + x^2 + \dots + x^{n+1}$$

Hence we know $\left[(S \times x) - S = x^{n+1} - 1 \right]$.

Simplifying we get $\left[S = \frac{x^{n+1} - 1}{x - 1} \right]$.

Recall geometric series II

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i \times x^{i-1} = x + (2 \times x^2) + \dots + (n \times x^n) = \frac{n \times x^{n+1} - (n+1) \times x^n + 1}{(x-1)^2}$$

Proof

Recall $\left[S = \sum_{i=1}^n x^i = \frac{x^{n+1}-1}{x-1} \right]$. Derive both:

$$\begin{aligned} S' &= (1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^n)' = 0 + 1 + 2x + \dots + n \times x^{n-1} = \sum_{i=1}^n i \times x^{i-1} \\ &= \left(\frac{x^{n+1}-1}{x-1} \right)' = \frac{n \times x^{n+1} - (n+1) \times x^n + 1}{(x-1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Calculating average cases

...

Two's complement

...

...

...

(See animation at <https://visualgo.net/en/sorting>.)

Randomised Algorithms

slides by Pedro Ribeiro, slides 4
pages 9-13

Randomized Algorithms

Randomized algorithms

We call an algorithm **randomized** if its behavior is determined not only by its input but also by values produced by a **random-number generator**

- Most programming environments offer a (deterministic) **pseudorandom-number generator**: it returns numbers that *"look"* statistically random
- We typically refer to the analysis of randomized algorithms by talking about the **expected cost** (ex: the **expected running time**)
- We can use **probabilistic analysis** to analyse randomized algorithms

Basics of Probabilistic Analysis

- Consider rolling **two dice** and observing the results.
- We call this an **experiment**.
- It has **36 possible outcomes**:
1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, ..., 6-4, 6-5, 6-6
- Each of these outcomes has probability **$1/36$** (assuming fair dice)
- What is the probability of the sum of dice being 7?
Add the probabilities of all the outcomes satisfying this condition:
1-6, 2-5, 3-4, 4-3, 5-2, 6-1 (probability is **$1/6$**)



Basics of Probabilistic Analysis

In the language of probability theory, this setting is characterized by a **sample space** S and a **probability measure** p .

- **Sample Space** is constituted by all possible outcomes, which are called **elementary events**
- In a **discrete probability distribution** (d.p.d.), the probability measure is a function $p(e)$ (or $Pr(e)$) over elementary events e such that:
 - ▶ $p(e) \geq 0$ for all $e \in S$
 - ▶ $\sum_{e \in S} p(e) = 1$
- An **event** is a subset of the sample space.
- For a d.p.d. the probability of an event is just the **sum** of the probabilities of its elementary events.

Basics of Probabilistic Analysis

- A **random variable** is a function from elementary events to integers or reals:

Ex: let X_1 be a random variable representing result of first die and X_2 representing the second die.

$X = X_1 + X_2$ would represent the sum of the two

We could now ask: what is the probability that $X = 7$?

- One property of a random variable we care is **expectation**:

Expectation

For a discrete random variable X over sample space S , the expected value of X is:

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \sum_{e \in S} \text{Pr}(e) X(e)$$

Basics of Probabilistic Analysis

- In **words**: the expectation of a random variable X is just its average value over S , where each elementary event e is weighted according to its probability.

Ex: If we roll a single die, the expected value is 3.5
(all six elementary events have equal probability).

- One possible rewrite of the previous equation, grouping elementary events:

Expectation (possible rewrite)

$$E[X] = \sum_a Pr(X = a)a$$

Las Vegas vs. Monte Carlo

- QuickSort always returns a **correct result** (a sorted array) but its **runtime is a random variable** (with $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ in expectation)
- Some randomized algorithms are **not guaranteed to be correct**, but their **runtime is fixed**.

Las Vegas Algorithms

Randomized algorithms that always output the correct answer, and whose runtimes are random variables.

Monte Carlo Algorithms

Randomized algorithms that always terminate in a given time bound, but are correct with at least some (high) probability.