

# Week 01b: Analysis of Algorithms

## Analysis of Algorithms

### Running Time

2/87

An **algorithm** is a step-by-step procedure

- for solving a problem
- in a finite amount of time

Most algorithms map input to output

- running time typically grows with input size
- *average time* often difficult to determine
- Focus on *worst case* running time
  - easier to analyse
  - crucial to many applications: finance, robotics, games, ...

Assignment Project Exam Help

<https://tutorcs.com>

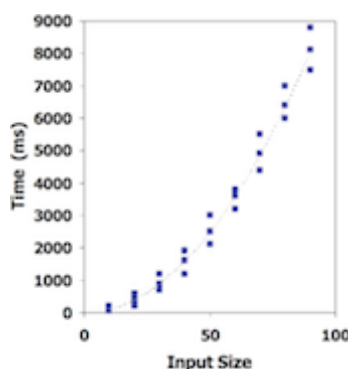
WeChat: cstutorcs



### Empirical Analysis

3/87

1. Write program that implements an algorithm
2. Run program with inputs of varying size and composition
3. Measure the actual running time
4. Plot the results



### Limitations:

- requires to implement the algorithm, which may be difficult
- results may not be indicative of running time on other inputs
- same hardware and operating system must be used in order to compare two algorithms

## Theoretical Analysis

4/87

- Uses high-level description of the algorithm instead of implementation ("pseudocode")
- Characterises running time as a function of the input size,  $n$
- Takes into account all possible inputs
- Allows us to evaluate the speed of an algorithm independent of the hardware/software environment

## Pseudocode

5/87

Example: Find maximal element in an array

arrayMax(A) :

Input array A of n integers  
Output maximum element of A

currentMax=A[0]

for all i=1..n-1 do

  if A[i]>currentMax then

    currentMax=A[i]

  end if

end for

return currentMax

Assignment Project Exam Help

<https://tutorcs.com>

WeChat: cstutorcs

## ... Pseudocode

6/87

Control flow

- **if ... then ... [else] ... end if**
- **while .. do ... end while**
- **repeat ... until**
- **for [all][each] .. do ... end for**

Function declaration

- **f(arguments):**  
  **Input ...**  
  **Output ...**  
  ...

Expressions

- **=** assignment
- **=** equality testing

- $n^2$  superscripts and other mathematical formatting allowed
  - `swap A[i] and A[j]` verbal descriptions of *simple* operations allowed
- 

## ... Pseudocode

7/87

- More structured than English prose
  - Less detailed than a program
  - Preferred notation for describing algorithms
  - Hides program design issues
- 

## Exercise #1: Pseudocode

8/87

Formulate the following verbal description in pseudocode:

*To reverse the order of the elements on a stack  $S$  with the help of a queue:*

- 1. In the first phase, pop one element after the other from  $S$  and enqueue it in queue  $Q$  until the stack is empty.*
- 2. In the second phase, iteratively dequeue all the elements from  $Q$  and push them onto the stack.*

*As a result, all the elements are now in reversed order on  $S$ .*

<https://tutorcs.com>

Sample solution:

```
while S is not empty do
    pop e from S, enqueue e into Q
end while
while Q is not empty do
    dequeue e from Q, push e onto S
end while
```

## Exercise #2: Pseudocode

10/87

Implement the following pseudocode instructions in C

1.  $A$  is an array of `ints`

```
...
swap A[i] and A[j]
...
```

2.  $S$  is a stack

```
...
swap the top two elements on S
...
```

---

```

1. int temp = A[i];
   A[i] = A[j];
   A[j] = temp;

2. x = StackPop(S);
   y = StackPop(S);
   StackPush(S, x);
   StackPush(S, y);

```

The following pseudocode instruction is problematic. Why?

```

...
swap the two elements at the front of queue Q
...

```

## The Abstract RAM Model

12/87

RAM = Random Access Machine

- A CPU (central processing unit)
- A potentially unbounded bank of memory cells
  - each of which can hold an arbitrary number, or character
- Memory cells are numbered, and accessing any one of them takes CPU time

<https://tutorcs.com>

## Primitive Operations

13/87

- Basic computations performed by an algorithm
- Identifiable in pseudocode
- Largely independent of the programming language
- Exact definition not important (we will shortly see why)
- Assumed to take a constant amount of time in the RAM model

Examples:

- evaluating an expression
- indexing into an array
- calling/returning from a function

## Counting Primitive Operations

14/87

By inspecting the pseudocode ...

- we can determine the maximum number of primitive operations executed by an algorithm
- as a function of the input size

Example:

```

arrayMax(A) :
|   Input  array A of n integers
|   Output maximum element of A
|
|   currentMax=A[0]
|   for all i=1..n-1 do
|       if A[i]>currentMax then
|           currentMax=A[i]
|       end if
|   end for
|   return currentMax

```

1
$n + (n-1)$
$2(n-1)$
$n-1$
1
-----
Total $5n-2$

## Estimating Running Times

15/87

Algorithm `arrayMax` requires  $5n-2$  primitive operations in the *worst* case

- *best* case requires  $4n-1$  operations (why?)

Define:

- $a$  ... time taken by the fastest primitive operation
- $b$  ... time taken by the slowest primitive operation

Let  $T(n)$  be worst-case time of `arrayMax`. Then

$$a(5n-2) \leq T(n) \leq b(5n-2)$$

Hence, the running time  $T(n)$  is bound by two linear functions

## ... Estimating Running Times

16/87

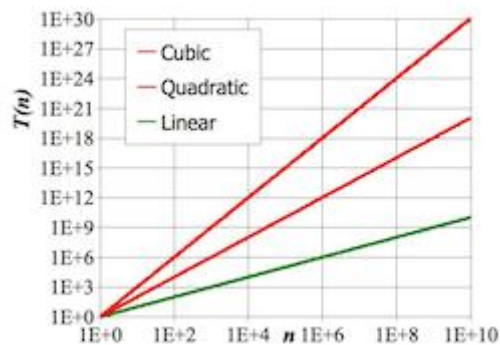
Seven commonly encountered functions for algorithm analysis

- Constant  $\cong 1$
- Logarithmic  $\cong \log n$
- Linear  $\cong n$
- N-Log-N  $\cong n \log n$
- Quadratic  $\cong n^2$
- Cubic  $\cong n^3$
- Exponential  $\cong 2^n$

## ... Estimating Running Times

17/87

In a log-log chart, the slope of the line corresponds to the growth rate of the function

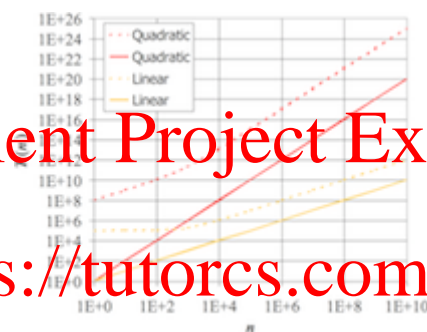


## ... Estimating Running Times

18/87

The growth rate is not affected by constant factors or lower-order terms

- Examples:
  - $10^2n + 10^5$  is a linear function
  - $10^5n^2 + 10^8n$  is a quadratic function



Assignment Project Exam Help

<https://tutorcs.com>

WeChat: cstutorcs

## ... Estimating Running Times

19/87

Changing the hardware/software environment

- affects  $T(n)$  by a constant factor
- but does not alter the growth rate of  $T(n)$

⇒ *Linear* growth rate of the running time  $T(n)$  is an intrinsic property of algorithm `arrayMax`

## Exercise #3: Estimating running times

20/87

Determine the number of primitive operations

```

matrixProduct(A, B):
|   Input  n×n matrices A, B
|   Output n×n matrix A • B
|
|   for all i=1..n do
|       for all j=1..n do
|           C[i, j]=0
|           for all k=1..n do
|               C[i, j]=C[i, j]+A[i, k] • B[k, j]
|           end for

```

```

|   |   end for
|   end for
|   return C

```

matrixProduct(A, B):

```

|   Input  n×n matrices A, B
|   Output n×n matrix A • B
|
|   for all i=1..n do
|       |   for all j=1..n do
|       |       |   C[i, j]=0
|       |       |   for all k=1..n do
|       |       |       C[i, j]=C[i, j]+A[i, k] • B[k, j]
|       |       |   end for
|       |   end for
|   end for
|   return C

```

$2n+1$   
 $n(2n+1)$   
 $n^2$   
 $n^2(2n+1)$   
 $n^3 \cdot 4$   
  
 $1$   


---

Total     $6n^3+4n^2+3n+2$

## Big-Oh

# Assignment Project Exam Help

## Big-Oh Notation

23/87

<https://tutorcs.com>

Given functions  $f(n)$  and  $g(n)$ , we say that

**WeChat: [tutorcs](https://tutorcs.com)**

$$f(n) \in O(g(n))$$

if there are positive constants  $c$  and  $n_0$  such that

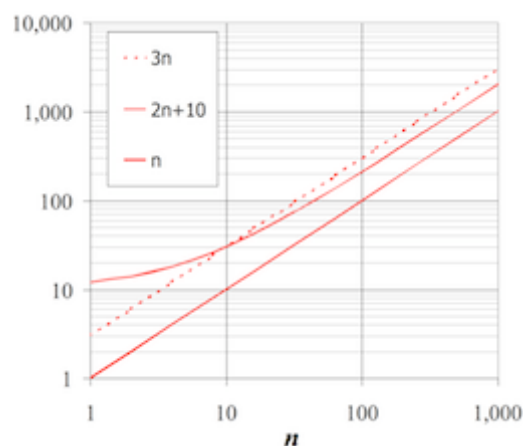
$$f(n) \leq c g(n) \quad \forall n \geq n_0$$

Hence:  $O(g(n))$  is the set of all functions that do not grow faster than  $g(n)$

## ... Big-Oh Notation

24/87

Example: function  $2n + 10$  is in  $O(n)$

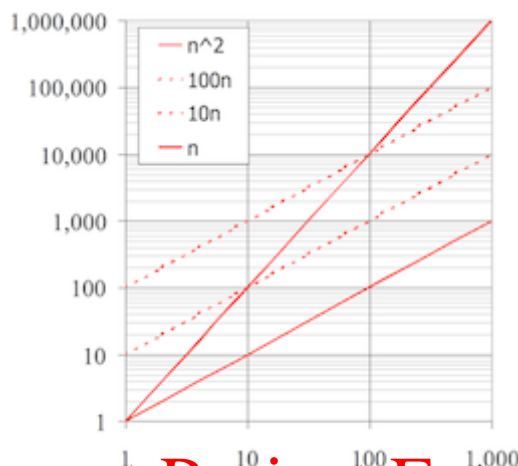


- $2n+10 \leq cn$   
 $\Rightarrow (c-2)n \geq 10$   
 $\Rightarrow n \geq 10/(c-2)$
- pick  $c=3$  and  $n_0=10$

## ... Big-Oh Notation

25/87

Example: function  $n^2$  is not in  $O(n)$



Assignment Project Exam Help

- $n^2 \leq cn$   
 $\Rightarrow n \leq c$
- inequality cannot be satisfied since  $c$  must be a constant

<https://tutorcs.com>

## Exercise #4: Big-Oh WeChat: cstutorcs

26/87

Show that

1.  $7n-2$  is in  $O(n)$
2.  $3n^3 + 20n^2 + 5$  is in  $O(n^3)$
3.  $3 \cdot \log n + 5$  is in  $O(\log n)$

1.  $7n-2 \in O(n)$   
 need  $c>0$  and  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that  $7n-2 \leq c \cdot n$  for  $n \geq n_0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  true for  $c=7$  and  $n_0=1$
2.  $3n^3 + 20n^2 + 5 \in O(n^3)$   
 need  $c>0$  and  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that  $3n^3+20n^2+5 \leq c \cdot n^3$  for  $n \geq n_0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  true for  $c=4$  and  $n_0=21$
3.  $3 \cdot \log n + 5 \in O(\log n)$   
 need  $c>0$  and  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that  $3 \cdot \log n + 5 \leq c \cdot \log n$  for  $n \geq n_0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  true for  $c=8$  and  $n_0=2$

## Big-Oh and Rate of Growth

28/87



- Big-Oh notation gives an upper bound on the growth rate of a function
  - " $f(n) \in O(g(n))$ " means growth rate of  $f(n)$  no more than growth rate of  $g(n)$
- use big-Oh to rank functions according to their rate of growth

	$f(n) \in O(g(n))$	$g(n) \in O(f(n))$
$g(n)$ grows faster	yes	no
$f(n)$ grows faster	no	yes
same order of growth	yes	yes

## Big-Oh Rules

29/87

- If  $f(n)$  is a polynomial of degree  $d \Rightarrow f(n)$  is  $O(n^d)$ 
  - lower-order terms are ignored
  - constant factors are ignored
- Use the smallest possible class of functions
  - say " $2n$  is  $O(n)$ " instead of " $2n$  is  $O(n^2)$ "
    - but keep in mind that,  $2n$  is in  $O(n^2)$ ,  $O(n^3)$ , ...
- Use the simplest expression of the class
  - say " $3n + 5$  is  $O(n)$ " instead of " $3n + 5$  is  $O(3n)$ "

## Exercise #5: Big-Oh

30/87

Show that  $\sum_{i=1}^n i$  is  $O(n^2)$

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

which is  $O(n^2)$

## Asymptotic Analysis of Algorithms

32/87

*Asymptotic analysis* of algorithms determines running time in big-Oh notation:

- find worst-case number of primitive operations as a function of input size
- express this function using big-Oh notation

Example:

- algorithm `arrayMax` executes at most  $5n - 2$  primitive operations  
 $\Rightarrow$  algorithm `arrayMax` "runs in  $O(n)$  time"

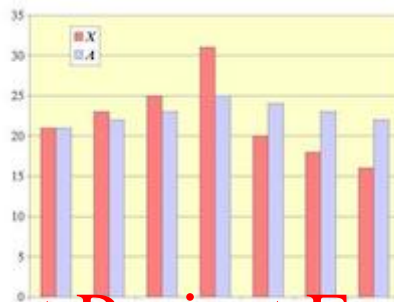
Constant factors and lower-order terms eventually dropped  
 $\Rightarrow$  can disregard them when counting primitive operations

## Example: Computing Prefix Averages

33/87

- The  $i$ -th prefix average of an array  $X$  is the average of the first  $i$  elements:

$$A[i] = (X[0] + X[1] + \dots + X[i]) / (i+1)$$



## Assignment Project Exam Help

NB. computing the array  $A$  of prefix averages of another array  $X$  has applications in financial analysis

## ... Example: Computing Prefix Averages

34/87

A quadratic algorithm to compute prefix averages:

```

prefixAverages1(X):
|   Input  array X of n integers
|   Output array A of prefix averages of X
|
|   for all i=0..n-1 do           O(n)
|   |   s=X[0]                   O(n)
|   |   for all j=1..i do         O(n^2)
|   |   |   s=s+X[j]             O(n^2)
|   |   |   end for
|   |   A[i]=s/(i+1)             O(n)
|   |   end for
|   return A                     O(1)

```

$$2 \cdot O(n^2) + 3 \cdot O(n) + O(1) = O(n^2)$$

$\Rightarrow$  Time complexity of algorithm `prefixAverages1` is  $O(n^2)$

## ... Example: Computing Prefix Averages

35/87

The following algorithm computes prefix averages by keeping a running sum:

```

prefixAverages2(X):
  Input  array X of n integers
  Output array A of prefix averages of X

  s=0
  for all i=0..n-1 do           0(n)
    s=s+X[i]                     0(n)
    A[i]=s/(i+1)                 0(n)
  end for
  return A                      0(1)

```

Thus, prefixAverages2 is  $O(n)$

## Example: Binary Search

36/87

The following recursive algorithm searches for a value in a *sorted* array:

```

search(v, a, lo, hi):
  Input  value v
         array a[lo..hi] of values
  Output true if v in a[lo..hi]
         false otherwise

  mid=(lo+hi)/2
  if lo>hi then return false
  if a[mid]=v then
    return true
  else if a[mid]<v then
    return search(v, a, mid+1, hi)
  else
    return search(v, a, lo, mid-1)
  end if

```

Assignment Project Exam Help

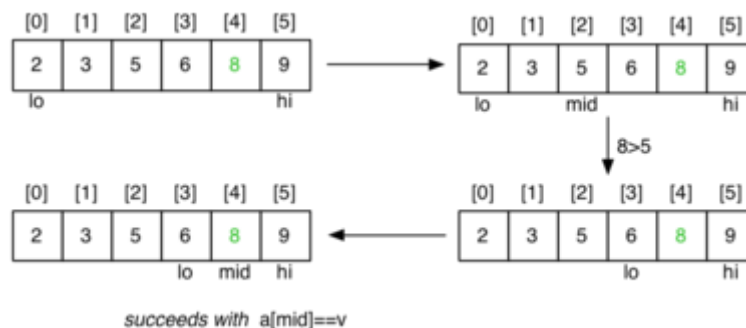
<https://tutorcs.com>

WeChat: cstutorcs

## ... Example: Binary Search

37/87

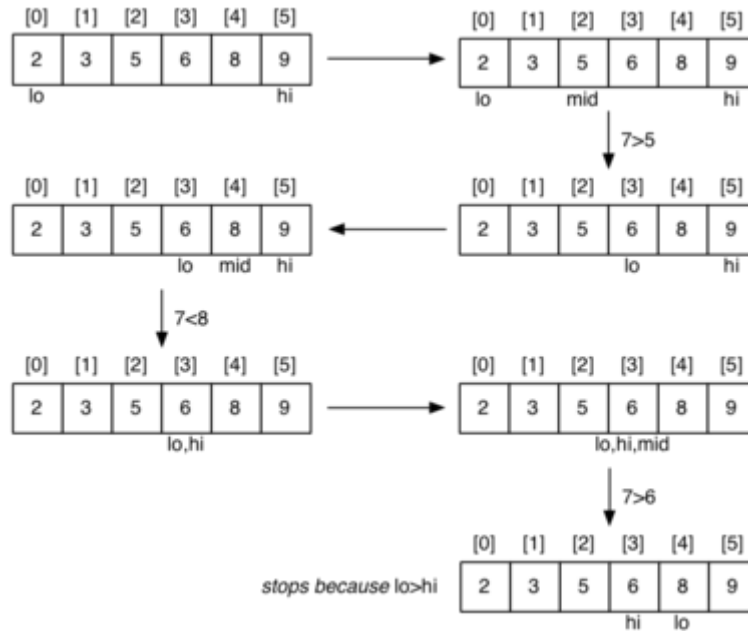
Successful search for a value of 8:



## ... Example: Binary Search

38/87

Unsuccessful search for a value of 7:



### ... Example: Binary Search

39/87

Cost analysis:

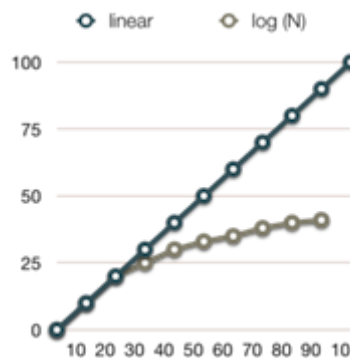
- $C_i$  = #calls to `search()` for array of length  $i$
- for best case,  $C_n = 1$
- for  $a[i..j]$ ,  $j < i$  (length=0)
  - $C_0 = 0$
- for  $a[i..j]$ ,  $i \leq j$  (length= $n$ )
  - $C_n = 1 + C_{n/2} \Rightarrow C_n = \log_2 n$

Thus, binary search is  $O(\log_2 n)$  or simply  $O(\log n)$  (why?)

### ... Example: Binary Search

40/87

Why logarithmic complexity is good:



## Math Needed for Complexity Analysis

41/87

- Logarithms

- $\log_b(xy) = \log_b x + \log_b y$
- $\log_b(x/y) = \log_b x - \log_b y$
- $\log_b x^a = a \log_b x$
- $\log_b a = \log_x a / \log_x b$
- Exponentials
  - $a^{(b+c)} = a^b a^c$
  - $a^{bc} = (a^b)^c$
  - $a^b / a^c = a^{(b-c)}$
  - $b = a^{\log_a b}$
  - $b^c = a^{c \cdot \log_a b}$
- Proof techniques
- Summation (addition of sequences of numbers)
- Basic probability (for average case analysis, randomised algorithms)

## Exercise #6: Analysis of Algorithms

42/87

What is the complexity of the following algorithm?

`enqueue(Q, Elem) :`

Input queue Q, element Elem  
Output Q with Elem added at the end

`Q.top=Q.top+1`

`for all i=Q.top down to 1 do`

`Q[i]=Q[i-1]`

`end for`

`Q[0]=Elem`

`return Q`

Assignment Project Exam Help

<https://tutorcs.com>

WeChat: cstutorcs

Answer:  $O(|Q|)$

## Exercise #7: Analysis of Algorithms

44/87

What is the complexity of the following algorithm?

`binaryConversion(n) :`

Input positive integer n

Output binary representation of n on a stack

`create empty stack S`

`while n>0 do`

`push (n mod 2) onto S`

`n= $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$`

`end while`

`return S`

Assume that creating a stack and pushing an element both are  $O(1)$  operations ("constant")

Answer:  $O(\log n)$

## Relatives of Big-Oh

46/87

### *big-Omega*

- $f(n) \in \Omega(g(n))$  if there is a constant  $c > 0$  and an integer constant  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that

$$f(n) \geq c \cdot g(n) \quad \forall n \geq n_0$$

### *big-Theta*

- $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n))$  if there are constants  $c', c'' > 0$  and an integer constant  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that

$$c' \cdot g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c'' \cdot g(n) \quad \forall n \geq n_0$$

## ... Relatives of Big-Oh

47/87

- $f(n)$  belongs to  $O(g(n))$  if  $f(n)$  is asymptotically *less than or equal to*  $g(n)$
- $f(n)$  belongs to  $\Omega(g(n))$  if  $f(n)$  is asymptotically *greater than or equal to*  $g(n)$
- $f(n)$  belongs to  $\Theta(g(n))$  if  $f(n)$  is asymptotically *equal to*  $g(n)$

<https://tutorcs.com>

## ... Relatives of Big-Oh

48/87

Examples:

WeChat: cstutorcs

- $\frac{1}{4}n^2 \in \Omega(n^2)$ 
  - need  $c > 0$  and  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that  $\frac{1}{4}n^2 \geq c \cdot n^2$  for  $n \geq n_0$
  - let  $c = \frac{1}{4}$  and  $n_0 = 1$
- $\frac{1}{4}n^2 \in \Omega(n)$ 
  - need  $c > 0$  and  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that  $\frac{1}{4}n^2 \geq c \cdot n$  for  $n \geq n_0$
  - let  $c = 1$  and  $n_0 = 2$
- $\frac{1}{4}n^2 \in \Theta(n^2)$ 
  - since  $\frac{1}{4}n^2$  belongs to  $\Omega(n^2)$  and  $O(n^2)$

## Complexity Analysis: Arrays vs. Linked Lists

## Static/Dynamic Sequences

50/87

Previously we have used an *array* to implement a stack

- fixed size collection of heterogeneous elements
- can be accessed via index or via "moving" pointer

The "fixed size" aspect is a potential problem:

- how big to make the (dynamic) array? (big ... just in case)
- what to do if it fills up?

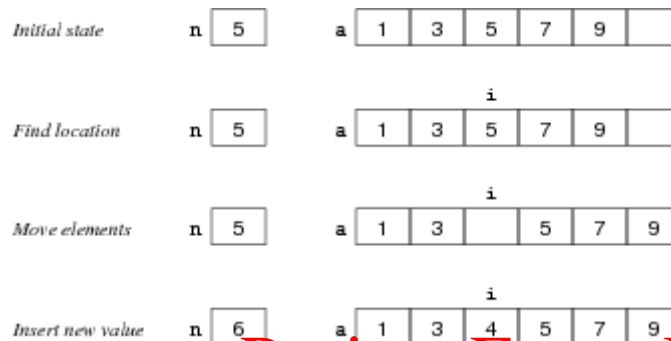
The rigid sequence is another problems:

- inserting/deleting an item in middle of array

## ... Static/Dynamic Sequences

51/87

Inserting a value (4) into a sorted array  $a$  with  $n$  elements:

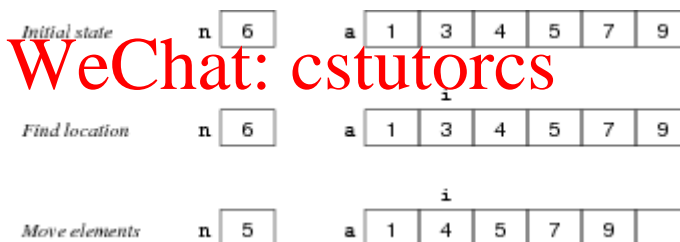


Assignment Project Exam Help

## ... Static/Dynamic Sequences

52/87

Deleting a value (3) from a sorted array  $a$  with  $n$  elements.



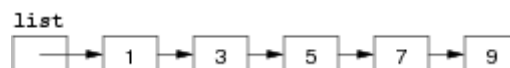
WeChat: cstutorcs

## ... Static/Dynamic Sequences

53/87

The problems with using arrays can be solved by

- allocating elements individually
- linking them together as a "chain"



Benefits:

- insertion/deletion have minimal effect on list overall
- only use as much space as needed for values

## Self-referential Structures

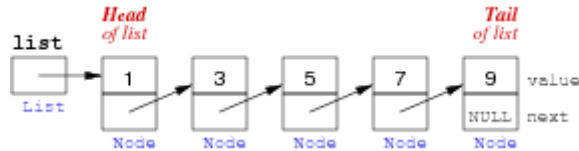
54/87

To realise a "chain of elements", need a *node* containing

- a value
- a link to the next node

To represent a chained (linked) *list* of nodes:

- we need a *pointer* to the first node
- each node contains a pointer to the next node
- the `next` pointer in the last node is `NULL`



### ... Self-referential Structures

55/87

Linked lists are more flexible than arrays:

- values do not have to be adjacent in memory
- values can be rearranged simply by altering pointers
- the number of values can change dynamically
- values can be added or removed in any order

Disadvantages:

- it is not difficult to get pointer manipulations wrong
- each value also requires storage for next pointer

### ... Self-referential Structures

56/87

Create a new list node:

```

makeNode(v)
|   Input  value v
|   Output new linked list node with value v
|
|   new.value=v           // initialise data
|   new.next=NULL        // initialise link to next node
|   return new           // return pointer to new node
  
```

### Exercise #8: Creating a Linked List

57/87

Write pseudocode to create a linked list of three nodes with values 1, 42 and 9024.

```

mylist=makeNode(1)
mylist.next=makeNode(42)
(mylist.next).next=makeNode(9024)
  
```



## Iteration over Linked Lists

When manipulating list elements

- typically have pointer  $p$  to current node
- to access the data in current node:  $p.value$
- to get pointer to next node:  $p.next$

To iterate over a linked list:

- set  $p$  to point at first node (head)
- examine node pointed to by  $p$
- change  $p$  to point to next node
- stop when  $p$  reaches end of list (NULL)

### ... Iteration over Linked Lists

60/87

Standard method for scanning all elements in a linked list:

```
list // pointer to first Node in list
p    // pointer to "current" Node in list

p=list
while p≠NULL do
|   ... do something with p.value ...
|   p=p.next
end while
```

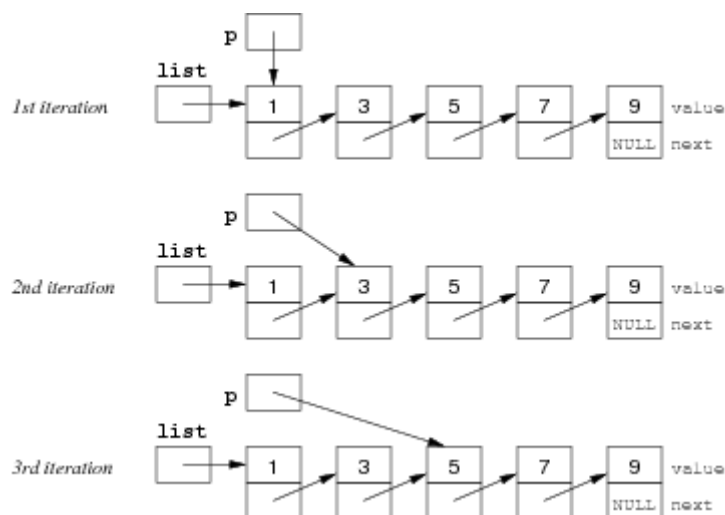
Assignment Project Exam Help

<https://tutorcs.com>

### ... Iteration over Linked Lists

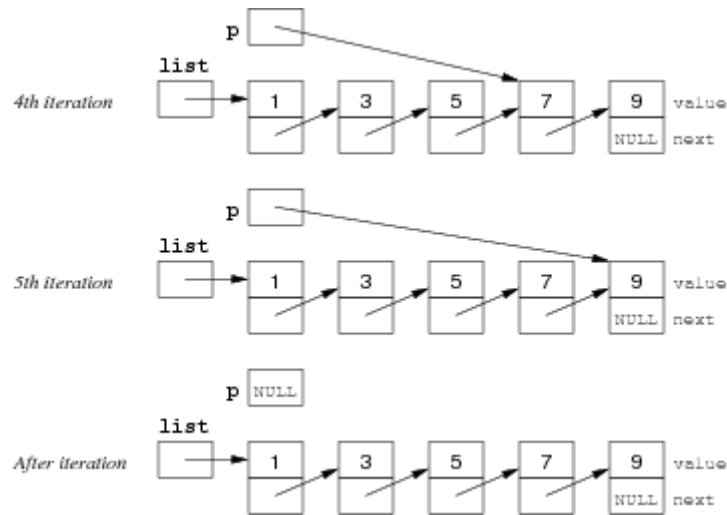
WeChat: cstutorcs

61/87



### ... Iteration over Linked Lists

62/87



## ... Iteration over Linked Lists

63/87

Check if list contains an element:

```

inLL(L, d):
    Input linked list L, value d
    Output true if d in list, false otherwise

    p=L
    while p≠NULL do
        if p.value=d then // element found
            return true
        end if
        p=p.next
    end while
    return false // element not in list
  
```

Assignment Project Exam Help

<https://tutorcs.com>

WeChat: cstutorcs

Time complexity:  $O(|L|)$

## ... Iteration over Linked Lists

64/87

Print all elements:

```

showLL(L):
    Input linked list L

    p=L
    while p≠NULL do
        print p.value
        p=p.next
    end while
  
```

Time complexity:  $O(|L|)$

## Exercise #9: Traversing a linked list

65/87

What does this code do?

```

1 p=list
2 while p≠NULL do
3   print p.value
4   if p.next≠NULL then
5     p=p.next.next
6   else
7     p=NULL
8   end if
9 end while

```

What is the purpose of the conditional statement in line 4?

Every second list element is printed.

If `p` happens to be the last element in the list, then `p.next.next` does not exist. The if-statement ensures that we do not attempt to assign an undefined value to pointer `p` in line 5.

## Exercise #10: Traversing a linked list

67/87

Rewrite `showLL()` as a recursive function.

Assignment Project Exam Help

```

printLL(L):
| Input linked list L
|
| if L≠NULL do
|   print p.value
|   printLL(L.next)
| end if

```

<https://tutorcs.com>

WeChat: cstutorcs

## Modifying a Linked List

69/87

Insert a new element at the beginning:

```

insertLL(L, d):
| Input linked list L, value d
| Output L with d prepended to the list
|
| new=makeNode(d) // create new list element
| new.next=L      // link to beginning of list
| return new      // new element is new head

```

Time complexity:  $O(1)$

## ... Modifying a Linked List

70/87

Delete the *first* element:

```

deleteHead(L):
| Input non-empty linked list L, value d

```

```
| Output L with head deleted
```

```
| return L.next    // move to second element
```

Time complexity:  $O(1)$

Delete a *specific* element (recursive version):

```
deleteLL(L, d):
| Input  linked list L
| Output L with element d deleted
|
| if L=NULL then           // element not in list
|   return L
| else if L.value=d then   // d found at front
|   return deleteHead(L)  // delete first element
| else                     // delete element in tail list
|   L.next=deleteLL(L.next, d)
| end if
| return L
```

Time complexity:  $O(|L|)$

Assignment Project Exam Help

## Exercise #11: Implementing a Queue as a Linked List

71/87

<https://tutorcs.com>

Develop a datastructure for a queue based on linked lists such that ...

- enqueueing an element takes constant time
- dequeuing an element takes constant time

WeChat: cstutorcs

Use pointers to both ends



Dequeue from the front ...

```
dequeue(Q):
| Input  non-empty queue Q
| Output front element d, dequeued from Q
|
| d=Q.front.value           // first element in the list
| Q.front=Q.front.next     // move to second element
| return d
```

Enqueue at the rear ...

```
enqueue(Q, d):
| Input queue Q
```

```

new=makeNode(d)    // create new list element
Q.rear.next=new    // add to end of list
Q.rear=new          // link to new end of list

```

## Comparison Array vs. Linked List

73/87

Complexity of operations,  $n$  elements

	array	linked list
insert/delete at beginning	$O(n)$	$O(1)$
insert/delete at end	<del><math>O(n)</math></del> $O(1)$	$O(1)$ ("doubly-linked" list, with pointer to rear)
insert/delete at middle	$O(n)$	$O(n)$
find an element	$O(n)$ ( $O(\log n)$ , if array is sorted)	$O(n)$
index a specific element	$O(1)$	$O(n)$

Assignment Project Exam Help

<https://tutorcs.com>

## Complexity Classes

WeChat: cstutorcs

## Complexity Classes

75/87

Problems in Computer Science ...

- some have *polynomial* worst-case performance (e.g.  $n^2$ )
- some have *exponential* worst-case performance (e.g.  $2^n$ )

Classes of problems:

- $P$  = problems for which an algorithm can compute answer in polynomial time
- $NP$  = includes problems for which no  $P$  algorithm is known

Beware: NP stands for "nondeterministic, polynomial time (on a theoretical *Turing Machine*)"

## ... Complexity Classes

76/87

Computer Science jargon for difficulty:

- tractable ... have a polynomial-time algorithm (useful in practice)
- intractable ... no tractable algorithm is known (feasible only for small  $n$ )
- non-computable ... no algorithm can exist

Computational complexity theory deals with different degrees of intractability

## Generate and Test

77/87

In scenarios where

- it is simple to test whether a given state is a solution
- it is easy to generate new states (preferably likely solutions)

then a *generate and test* strategy can be used.

It is necessary that states are generated systematically

- so that we are guaranteed to find a solution, or know that none exists
  - some **randomised** algorithms do not require this, however (more on this later in this course)

### ... Generate and Test

78/87

Simple example: checking whether an integer  $n$  is prime

- generate/test all possible factors of  $n$
- if none of them pass the test  $\Rightarrow n$  is prime

Generation is straightforward:

- produce a sequence of all numbers from 2 to  $n-1$

Testing is also straightforward:

- check whether next number divides  $n$  exactly

### ... Generate and Test

79/87

Function for primality checking:

```
isPrime(n):
|   Input  natural number n
|   Output true if n prime, false otherwise
|
|   for all i=2..n-1 do           // generate
|   |   if n mod i = 0 then       // test
|   |   |   return false         // i is a divisor => n is not prime
|   |   end if
|   end for
|   return true                  // no divisor => n is prime
```

Complexity of `isPrime` is  $O(n)$

Can be optimised: check only numbers between 2 and  $\lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor \Rightarrow O(\sqrt{n})$

## Example: Subset Sum

Problem to solve ...

Is there a subset  $S$  of these numbers with  $\sum_{x \in S} x = 1000$ ?

34, 38, 39, 43, 55, 66, 67, 84, 85, 91,  
101, 117, 128, 138, 165, 168, 169, 182, 184, 186,  
234, 238, 241, 276, 279, 288, 386, 387, 388, 389

General problem:

- given  $n$  arbitrary integers and a target sum  $k$
- is there a subset that adds up to exactly  $k$ ?

## ... Example: Subset Sum

Generate and test approach:

```
subsetsum(A, k):
```

```
  Input  set A of n integers, target sum k
```

```
  Output true if  $\sum_{x \in S} x = k$  for some  $S \subseteq A$ 
```

```
         false otherwise
```

```
  for each subset  $B \subseteq A$  do
```

```
    if  $\sum_{b \in B} b = k$  then
```

```
      return true
```

```
    end if
```

```
  end for
```

```
  return false
```

- How many subsets are there of  $n$  elements?
- How could we generate them?

## ... Example: Subset Sum

Given: a set of  $n$  distinct integers in an array  $A$  ...

- produce all subsets of these integers

A method to generate subsets:

- represent sets as  $n$  bits (e.g.  $n=4$ , 0000, 0011, 1111 etc.)
- bit  $i$  represents the  $i^{th}$  input number
- if bit  $i$  is set to 1, then  $A[i]$  is in the subset
- if bit  $i$  is set to 0, then  $A[i]$  is not in the subset
- e.g. if  $A[] = \{1, 2, 3, 5\}$  then 0011 represents  $\{1, 2\}$

## ... Example: Subset Sum

**Algorithm:**

```

subsetsum1(A, k):
|   Input  set A of n integers, target sum k
|   Output true if  $\sum_{x \in S} x = k$  for some  $S \subseteq A$ 
|           false otherwise
|
|   for s=0.. $2^n-1$  do
|       if  $k = \sum_{(i^{\text{th}} \text{ bit of } s \text{ is } 1)} A[i]$  then
|           return true
|       end if
|   end for
|   return false

```

Obviously, subsetsum1 is  $O(2^n)$

**... Example: Subset Sum**

84/87

**Alternative approach ...**

subsetsum2(A, n, k)  
 (returns true if any subset of A[0..n-1] sums to k, returns false otherwise)

- if the  $n^{\text{th}}$  value A[n-1] is part of a solution ...
  - then the first  $n-1$  values must sum to  $k - A[n-1]$
- if the  $n^{\text{th}}$  value is not part of a solution ...
  - then the first  $n-1$  values must sum to  $k$
- base cases:  $k=0$  (solved by {});  $n=0$  (unsolvable if  $k>0$ )

```

subsetsum2(A, n, k):
|   Input  array A, index n, target sum k
|   Output true if some subset of A[0..n-1] sums up to k
|           false otherwise
|
|   if k=0 then
|       return true    // empty set solves this
|   else if n=0 then
|       return false   // no elements => no sums
|   else
|       return subsetsum(A, n-1, k-A[n-1]) or subsetsum(A, n-1, k)
|   end if

```

**... Example: Subset Sum**

85/87

**Cost analysis:**

- $C_i = \# \text{calls to } \text{subsetsum2}() \text{ for array of length } i$
- for worst case,
  - $C_1 = 2$
  - $C_n = 2 + 2 \cdot C_{n-1} \Rightarrow C_n \cong 2^n$



Thus, `subsetsum2` also is  $O(2^n)$

---

## ... Example: Subset Sum

86/87

Subset Sum is typical member of the class of *NP-complete problems*

- intractable ... only algorithms with exponential performance are known
    - increase input size by 1, double the execution time
    - increase input size by 100, it takes  $2^{100} = 1,267,650,600,228,229,401,496,703,205,376$  times as long to execute
  - but if you can find a polynomial algorithm for Subset Sum, then any other *NP*-complete problem becomes *P*...
- 

## Summary

87/87

- Big-Oh notation
- Asymptotic analysis of algorithms
- Examples of algorithms with logarithmic, linear, polynomial, exponential complexity
- Linked lists vs. arrays

Assignment Project Exam Help

- Suggested reading:
  - Sedgewick, Ch. 2.1-2.4, 2.6

<https://tutorcs.com>

---

Produced: 6 Jan 2020

WeChat: cstutorcs