

PROBLEM SET 6

DISCRETE MATHEMATICS

Due: 27th of March, 2023

- Suppose that we are given a sorted list L of length $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and we are asked to determine whether or not $(\exists i \in n)(L(i) = x)$. The *binary search* algorithm solves this problem by comparing the middle element $L(n/2)$ of the list to x and either returning immediately (if they are equal) or recursively searching the appropriate sublist (if they are unequal).
 - Provide a *recursive* implementation in **Python** of *binary search*. Name your function **ps06pr1a**.
 - Input:** a list $L : n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ and an integer $x \in \mathbb{Z}$.
 - Output:** **True** if $(\exists i)(L(i) = x)$; **False** otherwise.
 - Constraints:** if $\text{len}(L) == 0$, your function should make 0 comparisons; if $\text{len}(L) == 1$, your function should make 1 comparison; otherwise, your function should make 2 comparisons.
 - Find a recurrence relation for the number of *comparisons* your function makes.
 - Prove that your recurrence relation has the closed form $T(n) = 2 \log_2(n) + 1$.
- In this problem, we want an efficient way of recursively *merging* two sorted lists into one sorted list.
 - Provide a *recursive* implementation in **Python** of *merge*. Name your function **ps06pr2a**.
 - Input:** a sorted list $L_1 : n_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ and a sorted list $L_2 : n_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$.
 - Output:** a sorted list $L : (n_1 + n_2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ containing all of the elements of L_1 and L_2 .
 - Constraints:** if the length of either input list is 0, your function can return immediately; otherwise, your function should make 1 comparison.
 - Find a recurrence relation for the number of *comparisons* your function makes.
Hint: your recurrence should be a function of *one* variable, which is the *size of the problem*.
 - Prove that your recurrence relation has the closed form $T(n) = n$.
- The towers of Hanoi are an arrangement of three wooden pegs, labelled *start*, *middle*, and *end*, along with a collection of n rings of distinct sizes. The rings are all stacked on the *start* peg in ascending order based on their sizes. The goal is to move all of the rings from the *start* peg to the *end* peg without violating the following constraints:
 - A *move* consists of moving the top-most ring from one peg to the top of the stack on another peg.
 - A larger ring can never be stacked on top of a smaller ring.
 - Rings can only be moved one-at-a-time.

The question is: what is the minimum number of moves required to win the game with $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$ rings?



(a) Initial configuration.



(b) After two moves.



(c) Final configuration.

- Provide a *recursive* implementation in **Python** of *towers of Hanoi*. Name your function **ps06pr3a**.
 - Input:** a positive natural number $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$ representing the number of rings.
 - Output:** a number $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$ denoting the minimum number of moves required to win the game.
 - Constraints:** none.
- Find a recurrence relation for the *minimum number of moves required to win the game* with n rings.
- Prove that your recurrence relation has the closed form $T(n) = 2^n - 1$.
Hint: recall that $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Remark. Formally, a *list* of length $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with elements from A is just a function $L : n \rightarrow A$. The k^{th} term in the list is given by $L(k)$ for $k \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$, so this corresponds to 0-indexed arrays when programming.

Code Submission Instructions:

Several of the problems in this problem set have a programming component. The **Python** functions you define must be named as the instructions for each problem indicate, and they *must be recursive*. You are not permitted to use any internal or external libraries (*i.e.*, no `import <...>` statements). Your functions should all be implemented in one file, with the filename `ps06-<lastname>-<firstname>.py`; for example, a possible file name would be `ps06-gonzalez-cedre-daniel.py`.

If you are submitting the rest of your solutions to this problem set electronically, then attach your **Python** file *in the same email* as the rest of your solutions.

If you are submitting your proofs in-person on paper, then email your code separately.