Self Assessment

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Introduction

Thinking and working through problems this quarter has made been very satisfying. Challenge has been very prominent in just about every aspect of this course. Not only have the actual problems been difficult, but keeping my time managed while not losing quality has been as well. Trying to wrap my head around problems in this class was at first intimidating, but throughout the quarter I've developed a toolset and way of thinking that makes them much more managable.

Class Participation

After a rather tough bi-weekly assignment, I was chosen to present and explain the idea behind one of my solutions to the class. This is easier said than done. Actually getting up in front of a full class and trying to convey a hard-to-visualize thought is a bit nerve-racking. Luckily, I noticed that 'excellent' was written (and underlined twice!) next to my solution, so I was nearly positive I was going up. Knowing in advance gave me a bit of time to mentally prepare, but I don't have much experience in front of a class.

My solution was 'excellent' for the reason that I made sure to not use any assumptions without showing they were true. The problem was a divide and conqueror algorithm, but to prove that you could split the problem in half relied on an extra piece of information that I provided.

Asymptotic Notation

'Big-O' notation wasn't brand new to me coming in to this class, but my understanding was at a very simple level. It is generally easy to analyze basic algorithms using 'Big-O' notation, but in this course I came to appreciate it when analyzing more complicated forms like recursion.