# DS 320 Algorithms for Data Science Spring 2024

Lecture #1 Worksheet Prof. Kira Goldner

Covered in introduction slides:

- Course policies (also in syllabus).
- Course learning objectives and what to expect in this class (also in FAQ).
- Sample of content we'll cover.

#### Announcement:

• Homework 0 on Gradescope due Sunday 11:59pm. Answer all the questions and get 100% toward participation.

### Runtime Review

In runtime analysis we do an informal accounting. We count basic operations (algebra, array assignment, etc) as constant time.<sup>1</sup>

Analyze the runtime of the following algorithm:

# **Algorithm 1** FindMinIndex(B[t+1, n]).

```
Let MinIndex = t + 1.

for i = t + 1 to n do

if B[i] < B[MinIndex] then

MinIndex = i.

end if

end for

return MinIndex.
```

Which lines of this pseudocode are constant-time?

Are there any loops? How many times do they run?

How do we combine these together to get the running time of the algorithm?

Which factors dominate asymptotically?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>This isn't quite right—for example, multiplication of large numbers should scale with the bit complexity—but is a good approximation for us.

# **Asymptotic Notation**

**Definition 1** (Upper bound  $O(\cdot)$ ). For a pair of functions  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$ , we write  $f \in O(g(n))$  if there exist  $(\exists)$  constants  $c_1, c_2$  such that for all (s.t.  $\forall$ )  $n \geq c_1$ ,

$$f(n) \le c_2 g(n).$$

We'll often write f(n) = O(g(n)) because we are sloppy.

Translation: For large n (at least some  $c_1$ ), the function g(n) dominates f(n) up to a constant factor.

**Definition 2** (Lower bound  $\Omega(\cdot)$ ). For a pair of functions  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$ , we write  $f \in \Omega(g(n))$  if there exist constants  $c_1, c_2$  such that for all  $n \geq c_1$ ,

$$f(n) \ge c_2 g(n)$$
.

**Definition 3** (Tight bound  $\Theta(\cdot)$ ). For a pair of functions  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$ , we write  $f \in \Theta(g(n))$  if  $f \in O(g(n))$  and  $f \in \Omega(g(n))$ .

**Exercise:** True or False?

**Definition 4** (Strict upper bound  $o(\cdot)$ ). For a pair of functions  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$ , we write  $f \in o(g(n))$  if

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 0,$$

or equivalently, for any constant  $c_2 > 0$ , there exists a constant  $c_1$  such that for all  $n \ge c_1$ ,

$$f(n) < c_2 g(n)$$
.

**Definition 5** (Strict lower bound  $\omega(\cdot)$ ). For a pair of functions  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$ , we write  $f \in \omega(g(n))$  if

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{f(n)}{g(n)}=\infty,$$

or equivalently, for any constant  $c_2 > 0$ , there exists a constant  $c_1$  such that for all  $n \ge c_1$ ,

$$f(n) > c_2 g(n).$$

## **Asymptotic Properties**

• Multiplication by a constant:

If 
$$f(n) = O(g(n))$$
 then for any  $c > 0$ ,  $c \cdot f(n) =$ 

• Transitivity:

If 
$$f(n) = O(h(n))$$
 and  $h(n) = O(g(n))$  then  $f(n) =$ 

• Symmetry:

If 
$$f(n) = O(g(n))$$
 then  $g(n) =$ 

If 
$$f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$$
 then  $g(n) =$ 

• Dominant Terms:

If f(n) = O(g(n)) and d(n) = O(e(n)) then  $f(n) + d(n) = O(\max\{g(n), e(n)\})$ . It's fine to write this as O(g(n) + e(n)).

## **Common Functions**

- Polynomials:  $a_0 + a_1 n + \cdots + a_d n^d$  is  $\Theta(n^d)$  if  $a_d > 0$ .
- Polynomial time: Running time is  $O(n^d)$  for some constant d independent of the input size n.
- Logarithms:  $\log_a n = \Theta(\log_b n)$  for all constants a, b > 0. This means we can avoid specifying the base of the logarithm.

For every x > 0,  $\log n = o(n^x)$ . Hence  $\log$  grows slower than every polynomial.

- Exponentials: For all r > 1 and all d > 0,  $n^d = o(r^n)$ . Every polynomial grows slower than every exponential
- Factorial: By Sterling's formula, factorials grow faster than every exponential:

$$n! = (\sqrt{2\pi n}) \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n (1 + o(1)) = 2^{\Theta(n \log n)}.$$