

CS 344: Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms

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Homework 1: Due on February 7, 2025

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Assumptions for Problems 1 and 2

In Problem 1, all named functions are strictly positive. In Problems 1 and 2, the limits in the notations $O, o, \Omega, \omega, \Theta$ are always $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

Problem 1

Is each of the following statements true or false? Give proofs for your answers.

1. If $f(n) \in O(g(n))$, then $\log_2(10 + f(n)) \in O(\log_2(10 + g(n)))$.
2. If $f(n) \in O(g(n))$, then $2^{f(n)} \in O(2^{g(n)})$.
3. If $f(n) \in o(g(n))$, then $2^{f(n)} \in o(2^{g(n)})$.
4. If $f_1(n) \in O(g_1(n))$ and $f_2(n) \in O(g_2(n))$, then $f_1(n) + f_2(n) \in O(g_1(n) + g_2(n))$.
5. We know that $f_i(n) \in O(g_i(n))$ for every $i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Define the functions F, G as $F(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k f_i(i)$ and $G(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k g_i(i)$ for every $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Then $F(n) \in O(G(n))$.
6. It is possible that $f(n) \in \omega(g(n))$ and $g(n) \in \Omega(f(n))$.
7. It is possible that $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n))$ and $g(n) \notin \Theta(f(n))$.

Solution.

- 1.
- 2.
3. True, Suppose $f(n) \in o(g(n))$ then $\forall c > 0, f(n) < c \cdot g(n)$ for all sufficiently large n . We need to show that for our choice of d that $2^{f(n)} < d \cdot o(2^{g(n)})$ we can let $c = \log_2(d)$ and thus $f(n) < c \cdot g(n) \implies 2^{f(n)} < 2^{c \cdot g(n)} = d \cdot 2^{g(n)}$.
- 4.

- 5.
6. False. Suppose $f(n) \in \omega(g(n))$ and $g(n) \in \Omega(f(n))$, then by definition of ω , $\forall c > 0$ $f(n) > c \cdot g(n)$ for all $n > N$. By definition of Ω , $\exists d > 0$ such that $g(n) > d \cdot f(n)$ for all $n > M$. If we let $K = \max(N, M)$, then for all $n > K$ $f(n) > c \cdot g(n) > c \cdot d \cdot f(n)$, which implies that $1 > c \cdot d$, which is a contradiction.
- 7.

Problem 2

Evaluate and simplify each of the following functions of n using the Θ notation. For example, $2n^2 + 1$ should be simplified into $\Theta(n^2)$. Clearly explain each of your answers.

1. $3^{3n} + 344^n + n^{344}$.
2. $2^n + 6^{\sqrt{n}}$.
3. $4n + n \ln \sqrt{n}$.
4. $\sum_{k=1}^n k^2$.
5. $\sum_{k=1}^n k \ln^2 k$.
6. $\sum_{k=1}^n 4^k$.
7. $\sum_{k=1}^n e^{\sqrt{k}}$.
8. $\sum_{k=1}^n (\sin k)^8$.

Solution.

1. Here is my solution.
- 2.
3. $\Theta(n \ln n)$ because we can simplify $n \ln \sqrt{n}$ to $\frac{1}{2}n \ln n$.
- 4.
- 5.
6. $\Theta(4^n)$ because the sum of a geometric series is $\frac{a_1(1-r^n)}{1-r}$, and since $r = 4$ in this case the dominating term is 4^n .
- 7.
- 8.

Problem 3

In the stable matching problem, is it possible that there are $10!$ different stable matchings in an instance with 10 vertices on each side? Give a proof for your answer. (Note that we assume strict preferences, that is, no vertex is indifferent between two vertices on the other side.)

Solution.

Lets say we have a stable matching problem with 10 vertices on each side, which we will name $M = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{10}\}$ and $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{10}\}$.

We first propose that there are exactly $10!$ possible perfect matchings. This is simply a combinatorics problem: if arbitrarily match members of set M to members of set W , m_1 has 10 choices of w_n that it can pair to, m_2 has 9, m_3 has 8, and so on, making $10 * 9 * \dots * 2 * 1 = 10!$ possible perfect matchings.

With this knowledge, if we prove that a single one of these perfect matchings is unstable, then we have proven that there cannot be $10!$ different stable matchings for this problem.

Consider a scenario where m_1 has the following preferences: $w_1 \succ w_2 \succ \dots$ and m_2 has the following preferences: $w_2 \succ w_1 \succ \dots$. Meanwhile, w_1 has the following preferences: $m_1 \succ m_2 \succ \dots$ and w_2 has the following preferences: $m_2 \succ m_1 \succ \dots$. Disregarding all other members of both sets, there exists at least one perfect matching where m_1 is paired with w_2 and m_2 is paired with w_1 . This matching is unstable, so the scenario does not have $10!$ different stable matchings.

Problem 4

We have an $n \times n$ matrix A . The entries in the matrix are distinct real numbers. Our goal is to select n entries so that

- exactly one entry is selected in each row,
- exactly one entry is selected in each column, and
- any unselected entry in the matrix is either smaller than the selected entry in the same row or larger than the selected entry in the same column.

Prove that this is always possible by reducing our problem to the stable matching problem.

Solution. Here is my solution.

Problem 5

A *clique* in an undirected graph G is a set C of vertices in G with the property that every pair of distinct vertices in C are adjacent (i.e., connected by an edge) in G .

An *independent set* in an undirected graph G is a set I of vertices in G with the property that every pair of distinct vertices in I are not adjacent in G .

Prove the following statement on Ramsey numbers: Every undirected graph of 6 vertices contains either a clique of 3 vertices or an independent set of 3 vertices (or both).

Solution. Suppose G is a graph of 6 vertices. We can consider a vertex $v \in G$. Clearly v can have 0 to 5 edges connected to it, in other words $0 \leq \deg(v) \leq 5$. We can consider the following cases:

If v has degree 3 or more, then we can find at least 3 neighbors of v . Let us call them x, y, z . If x, y, z have at least one edge that connects any of the two members, then the two connected members form a clique with v . If they do not have any connection between them, then x, y, z form an independent set.

If v has degree 2 or less, then we can consider any combination of three vertices that are not connected to v , which we can call a, b, c . We are guaranteed at least three of these vertices because v is degree 2 or less. If there are edges connecting every pair of distinct vertices of a, b, c , a, b, c form a clique. If there are two who do not have an edge between them, the two unconnected vertices form an independent set with v .

Problem 6

A *quasi-kernel* in a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ is an *independent set* (See Problem 5) Q of vertices with the property that for any vertex $v \in V \setminus Q$, there exists a vertex $u \in Q$, so that there is a simple path of length at most 2 from u to v .

As a non-obvious fact, there is at least one quasi-kernel in every directed graph. (You can stop reading now and try to prove it yourself.) Here is an algorithm that finds one.

Prove the correctness of [Algorithm 1](#), and write down its running time (assuming a good implementation).

Solution.

Description of the Algorithm

The first loop of the algorithm goes through all the vertices in the graph and deactivates all the vertices that are outgoing from the current vertex if they have a higher index. The second loop goes through all the vertices in the graph in reverse order and deactivates all the vertices that are outgoing from the current vertex if they have a lower index. The vertices that are not deactivated are output as the quasi-kernel.

To prove this algorithm, we need to show that for any $v \in V \setminus Q$, there exists a vertex $u \in Q$ such that there is a simple path of length at most 2 from u to v .

Proof of the Algorithm

Let $v \in V \setminus Q$. Thus v must have been either deactivated in the first or the second loop.

Algorithm 1: Finding a quasi-kernel

Name the vertices $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$;

Initially all vertices are active;

foreach i from 1 to n **do**

if v_i is active **then**

foreach edge from v_i to v_j in the graph G **do**

 Deactivate v_j if $j > i$;

end

end

end

foreach i from n down to 1 **do**

if v_i is active **then**

foreach edge from v_i to v_j in the graph G **do**

 Deactivate v_j if $j < i$;

end

end

end

Output the active vertices as a quasi-kernel;

If v was deactivated in the first loop, then there exists a vertex w with index lower than v 's index with an edge from w to v .

If w is still active at the end of the algorithm, then w is an element of the output of the algorithm.

There is a path of length 1 from $w \rightarrow v$, since w deactivated v .

If w is later deactivated in the second loop, it would have been due to another active vertex with a higher index, which we call x . Since we reached x in the second loop, it is impossible to deactivate it, as the loop will proceed down the indices past x , and a lower-index vertex cannot deactivate a higher-index vertex in the second loop. Therefore we have a path of length 2 from $x \rightarrow w \rightarrow v$.

If v was deactivated in the second loop then there exist a vertex w with index higher than v 's index with an edge from w to v . Again, w cannot be deactivated if it was reached in the second loop, so there is a path of length 1 from w to v .

From these cases, we have concluded that the maximum path length from a member of the output of the algorithm to a vertex $v \in V \setminus Q$ is 2, so the output is a quasi-kernel.

Running Time

There are two loops in this algorithm. The first loop goes through all the vertices and for each vertex that is still active, it goes through all the edges. The second loop goes through all the vertices and for each vertex that is still active, it goes through all the edges. The worst-case is that all vertices and edges have to be considered; improvements can be made since the presence of edges will turn off some vertices, but this correction would be some coefficient on the two terms, or constant, so it does not matter in big O. Besides, optimizing how edges turn off vertices would no longer be worst case. Thus the running time of this algorithm is $O(V + E)$ where V is the

number of vertices and E is the number of edges.