COMP9020 18s2 • Practice Questions 4

Induction, Recursion, and Algorithmic Analysis

Exercise 1. Prove by induction that

$$1 \cdot 1! + 2 \cdot 2! + \ldots + n \cdot n! = (n+1)! - 1 \quad \text{for } n \geq 1$$

Exercise 2. Let $\Sigma = \{1, 2, 3\}$.

(a) Give a recursive definition for the function $\mathsf{sum} : \Sigma^* \to \mathbb{N}$ which, when given a word over Σ returns the sum of the digits. For example $\mathsf{sum}(1232) = 8$, $\mathsf{sum}(222) = 6$, and $\mathsf{sum}(1) = 1$. You should assume $\mathsf{sum}(\lambda) = 0$.

(b) For $w \in \Sigma^*$, let $P(w)$ be the proposition that for all words $v \in \Sigma^*$, $\mathsf{sum}(wv) = \mathsf{sum}(w) + \mathsf{sum}(v)$. Prove that $P(w)$ holds for all $w \in \Sigma^*$.

(c) Consder the function $\mathsf{rev} : \Sigma^* \to \Sigma^*$ defined recursively as follows:

- $\mathsf{rev}(\lambda) = \lambda$
- For $w \in \Sigma^*$ and $a \in \Sigma$, $\mathsf{rev}(aw) = \mathsf{rev}(w)a$

Prove that for all words $w \in \Sigma^*$, $\mathsf{sum}(\mathsf{rev}(w)) = \mathsf{sum}(w)$

Exercise 3. Define $f : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ recursively as follows: $f(m, 0) = 0$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f(m, n+1) = m + f(m, n)$.

(a) Let $P(n)$ be the proposition that $f(0, n) = f(n, 0)$. Prove that $P(n)$ holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

*(b) Let $Q(m)$ be the proposition $\forall n,\ f(m, n) = f(n, m)$. Prove that $Q(m)$ holds for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Exercise 4. Analyse the complexity of the following algorithms to compute the n-th Fibonacci number

(a) **FibOne**(n):

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if n ≤ 2 then return 1
else return FibOne(n − 1) + FibOne(n − 2)
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(b) **FibTwo**(n):

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x = 1, y = 0, i = 1
While i < n:
  t = x
  x = x + y
  y = t
  i = i + 1
return x
```

Exercise 5. Analyse the complexity of the following recursive algorithm to test whether a number x occurs in an *ordered* list $L = [x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$ of size n. Take the cost to be the number of list element comparison operations.

BinarySearch$(x, L = [x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n])$:

if $n = 0$ then return no

else

if $x_{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} > x$ then return **BinarySearch**$(x, [x_1, \ldots, x_{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil - 1}])$

else if $x_{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} < x$ return **BinarySearch**$(x, [x_{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 1}, \ldots, x_n])$

else return yes