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CST-201 Complexity

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Number of Moves for The Largest Disk

Pattern Explanation:

1. The smallest disk ($i = 1$) moves every other step.
2. The second smallest disk ($i = 2$) moves every fourth step
3. The third smallest disk ($i = 3$) moves every eighth step.
4. This will continue to grow exponentially per disk.

The i th Largest Disk Explanation:

Now to find out how many moves are made by the i th largest disk:

1. Total number of moves in the Tower of Hanoi solution:

$$2^n - 1.$$

2. Frequency of moves for the i th disk:

Every 2^i steps.

The number of moves for the i th largest disk algorithm is:

$$2^{(n-i)} - (1/2^i)$$

However we cannot count half a move so rounding down this value will give us an approximate answer.

The final answer:

Number of moves for the i th largest disk = $\text{floor}(2^{(n-i)})$

- n is the total number of disks.
- i is the size of the disk ($1 \leq i \leq n$), with 1 being the smallest disk
- $\text{floor}()$ means we round down to the nearest integer.

This algorithm shows:

- The smallest disk ($i = 1$) moves $2^{(n-1)}$ times.
- The largest disk ($i = n$) moves only once.
- Each disk moves half as many times as the disk below it.

Pseudo code for Tower of Hanoi

Initialize Towers:

METHOD InitializeTowers(number_of_disks)

CREATE three empty stacks to represent towers A, B, and C

FOR each disk from largest to smallest

PUSH disk onto tower A

END FOR

DISPLAY initial state of towers

Move Disks Iteratively:

METHOD MoveDisksIterative(number_of_disks,source,destination,auxiliary)

SET total_moves to $(2^{\text{number_of_disks}})-1$

FOR move_number from 1 to total_moves

CALCULATE source_tower using bitwise operations on move_number

CALCULATE destination_tower using bitwise operations on move_number

MAP calculated indices to actual tower indices (source, auxiliary, destination)

CALL MoveSingleDisk with source_tower, destination_tower, and number_of_disks

END FOR

Move Single Disk:

METHOD MoveSingleDisk(source,destination,total_disks)

IF source tower is not empty **AND** (destination_tower is empty OR top disk on source is smaller than top disk on destination)

THEN

REMOVE top disk from the source tower

ADD removed disk to destination tower

DISPLAY current state of towers

END IF

Pseudo code for Tower of Hanoi

Print Towers:

METHOD PrintTowers(*total_disks*)

CLEAR console display

CALCULATE width for each towers display area

FOR each level from top to bottom of towers

FOR each tower (*A, B, C*)

IF tower has a disk at this level **THEN**

PRINT disk with appropriate size and color

ELSE

PRINT empty space with center pole

END IF

MOVE to next line

END FOR

PRINT labels (*A, B, C*) for towers

PAUSE briefly to show towers

Main:

Method Main

PROMPT user for number of disks

READ *number_of_disks* from user input

CALL initializeTowers with *number_of_disks*

CALL MoveDisksIterative with:

- *number_of_disks*
- source tower index (0 for A)
- destination tower index (2 for C)
- auxiliary tower index (1 for B)

DISPLAY “Puzzle solved!” message

Bias and Consequences within the Tower of Hanoi Puzzle

- **Scale Insensitivity Bias:**

Our algorithm scales up to handle any number of disks, but it doesn't consider practical limitations that might arise with extremely large numbers.

Consequence: *In real-world applications, this could lead to proposing solutions that are theoretically correct but practically infeasible due to time, resource, or physical constraints.*

- **Binary Outcome Bias:**

The Tower of Hanoi problem has a clear, binary outcome - either the puzzle is solved or is not solved. My algorithm is designed with this binary success/failure mentality.

Consequence: *In more nuanced real-world problems, this bias could lead to overlooking partial solutions or improvements that, while not perfect, could still be valuable.*

Tower of Hanoi Puzzle code output:

```
Microsoft Visual Studio Debug Console
+ v
```

Towers:

A B C

Puzzle solved!

Enter the rank of the disk to see its number of moves (1 for largest, 7 for smallest):
1
The 1th largest disk moved 64 times.

C:\git\CST-201\Code\TowerOfHanoi\bin\Debug\net8.0\TowerOfHanoi.exe (process 3324) exited with code 0 (0x0).
Press any key to close this window . . .

Video Explanation for Tower of Hanoi Puzzle

Loom Video: [Tower Of Hanoi Problem implementation by Owen Lindsey](#)