Sergio E. Garcia Tapia Algorithms by Sedgewick and Wayne (4th edition) [SW11] September 8th, 2024

# 1.1: Basic Programming Model

Exercise 1. Give the value of each of the following expressions:

- (a) (0 + 15) / 2
- (b) 2.0e-6 \* 100000000.1
- (c) true && false || true && true

Solution.

- (a) 7 because integer division uses truncation.
- (b) 2.000000002E-6
- (c) true

Exercise 2. Give the type and value of each of the following expressions:

- (a) (1 + 2.236) / 2
- (b) 1 + 2 + 3 + 4.0
- (c) 4.1 >= 4
- (d) 1 + 2 + "3"

Solution.

- (a) double with value 1.6.18
- (b) double with value 10.0
- (c) boolean with value true
- (d) String with value "33"

Exercise 3. Write a program that takes three integer command-line arguments and prints equal if all three are equal, and not equal otherwise.

Solution. See com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex13.Compare3Integers. The command-line argument are String objects, so they can be converted to integers with Integer.parseInt(). Assuming the three integers are a, b, and c, we now just verify the value of the boolean expression a == b && b == c.

**Exercise 4.** What (if anything) is wrong with each of the following statements?

```
(a) if (a > b) then c = 0;
(b) if a > b { c = 0; }
(c) if (a > b) c = 0;
(d) if (a > b) c = 0 else b = 0;
```

# Solution.

- (a) then is not a valid Java keyword. If we remove it, the code snippet will be valid.
- (b) We need parentheses around the boolean condition of the if statement, in this case, around a > b. If we add this, the snippet will be valid.
- (c) The snippet is valid.
- (d) We need a semicolon to terminate the assignment statement c = 0. If we add this, the snippet will be valid.

Exercise 5. Write a code snippet that prints true if the double variables x and y are both strictly between 0 and 1 and false otherwise.

# Solution.

```
System.out.println(x > 0 && x < 1 && y > 0 && y < 1);
```

Exercise 6. What does the following program print?

```
int f = 0;
int g = 1;
for (int i = 0; i <= 15; i++)
{
    StdOut.println(f);
    f = f + g;
    g = f - g;
}</pre>
```

**Solution.** Note we are given:

$$f_0 = 0,$$
  
 $g_0 = 1,$   
 $f_n = f_{n-1} + g_{n-1}, \quad n \ge 1,$   
 $g_n = f_n - g_{n-1}, \quad n \ge 1.$ 

Notice the recurrence of  $g_n$  follows because the value just computed in the current iteration of the for loop is used to compute the new value for g. Note that  $f_0 = 0$ ,  $f_1 = f_0 + g_0 = 0$ 

0 + 1 = 1, and

$$f_{n+1} = f_n + g_n$$

$$= (f_{n-1} + g_{n-1}) + g_n$$

$$= f_{n-1} + (g_{n-1} + g_n)$$

$$= f_{n-1} + f_n$$

Altogether, we have:

$$f_0 = 0,$$
  
 $f_1 = 1,$   
 $f_{n+1} = f_{n-1} + f_n, \quad n \ge 1.$ 

Hence  $n \mapsto f_n$  is the Fibonacci sequence. The program will print the first 15 Fibonacci numbers:

```
1
1
2
3
5
8
13
21
34
55
89
144
233
377
610
```

**Exercise 7.** Give the value printed by each of the following code fragments.

```
(a)
double t = 9.0;
while (Math.abs(t - 9.0/t) > 0.001)
    t = (9.0/t + t) / 2.0;
StdOut.printf("%.5f\n", t);

int sum = 0;
for (int i = 1; i < 1000; i++)
    for (int j = 0; j < i; j++)
        sum++;
StdOut.println(sum);</pre>
```

```
(b)
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i = 1; i < 1000; i *= 2)</pre>
```

## Solution.

(a) The iterations are computed as:

$$t_0 = 9.0 \quad ; \quad t_0 - \frac{9.0}{t_0} = 1 \quad ; \quad \to \quad t_1 = \frac{9.0/t_0 + t_0}{2.0} = 5.0$$

$$t_1 = 5.0 \quad ; \quad t_1 - \frac{9.0}{t_1} = 3.2 \quad ; \quad \to \quad t_2 = \frac{9.0/t_1 + t_1}{2.0} = 3.4$$

$$t_2 = 3.4 \quad ; \quad t_2 - \frac{9.0}{t_2} \approx 0.75294 \quad ; \quad \to \quad t_3 = \frac{9.0/t_2 + t_2}{2.0} = 3.023529411764706$$

$$t_3 \approx 3.02352 \quad ; \quad t_3 - \frac{9.0}{t_3} \approx 0.04687 \quad ; \quad \to \quad t_4 \approx \frac{9.0/t_3 + t_3}{2.0} = 3.00009155413138$$

$$t_4 = 3.00009155413138 \quad ; \quad t_4 - \frac{9.0}{t_4} = 0.00018310546879263256$$

The iteration ends once  $t_4$  has been computed because it's below the threshold of 0.004 that controls the while loop. Since the format specifier requires 5 places after the decimal, the output will be:

## 3.00009

(b) The outer i loop runs 999 times. The inner j loop runs i times, and each time, it increment sum by 1. The value of sum is given by:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{999} \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} = \sum_{i=1}^{999} i = \frac{999 \cdot (999+1)}{2} = 499500$$

Therefore the out will be:

#### 499500

(c) In this case, we start with 1 and double i each time. When i reaches  $2^{10} = 1024$ , the i loops will end. Hence, the loop will run for  $i = 2^0, i = 2^1, \ldots, i = 2^9$ . Since the j loops increases sum a total of i times, we find that sum will now be:

$$\sum_{k} \sum_{i=1}^{1000} [i = 2^{k}] \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} = \sum_{k} \sum_{1 \le i \le 1000} [i = 2^{k}] \cdot i$$

$$= \sum_{1 \le 2^{k} \le 1000} 2^{k}$$

$$= \sum_{0 \le k \le 9} 2^{k}$$

$$= 2^{10} - 1$$

$$= 1023$$

Therefore the output will be:

```
1023
```

Exercise 8. What do each of the following print?

- (a) System.out.println('b');
- (b) System.out.println('b' + 'c');
- (c) System.out.println((char) ('a' + 4));

# Solution.

(a) Java will display the char as the corresponding symbol:

b

(b) When Java adds two char values, it will promote the result to an int. In Java, char values are 16-bit Unicode characters. Since 'b' has decimal value 98 in Unicode, and 'c' has decimal value 99, the result is:

197

(c) The char value 'a' has decimal value 97, so when it is added to 4, it becomes integer value 101. The effect of (char) is to cast the result back to a char. The integer 101 fits into a char, and it corresponds to 'e':

е

**Exercise 9.** Write a code fragment that puts the binary representation of a positive integer n into a String s.

**Solution.** If we divide n by 2, then the remainder of the division is the least significant bit in the binary representation of n. If we were to divide by the resulting quotient by 2, then the remainder of that division is the next most significant bit. Continuing this way, the value of n falls to 0 as we continue to divide by 2. The solution is actually given in [SW11]:

```
String s = "";

for (int k = n; n > 0; n /= 2)

s = (k % 2) + s;
```

We could extend this to handle 0 by changing it to a do  $\{/*...*/\}$  while (/\*...\*/); .loop.

Exercise 10. What is wrong with the following code fragment?

```
int[] a;
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
   a[i] = i * i;</pre>
```

**Solution.** It fails to use **new** to allocate memory for the array before using it in the **for** loop.

Exercise 11. Write a code fragment that prints the contents of a two-dimensional boolean array, using \* to represent true and a space to represent false. Include row and column numbers.

# Solution.

```
for (int i = 0; i < m; i++) {
  for(int j = 0; j < n; j++)
     System.out.printf("(%d,%d): %s ", i, j, (a[i][j]) ? "*" : " ");

  System.out.println();
}</pre>
```

Exercise 12. What does the following code fragment print?

```
int[] a = new int[10];
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    a[i] = 9 - i;
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    a[i] = a[a[i]];
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++)
    System.out.println(a[i]);</pre>
```

**Solution.** The first lop sets a to {9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0}. The second loop {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0}. Thus the output is:

```
0
1
2
3
4
4
3
2
1
0
```

**Exercise 13.** Write a code fragment to print the transposition (rows and columns changed) of a two-dimensional array with m rows and n columns.

## Solution.

```
for (int i = 0; i < m; i++) {
   for (int j = 0; j < n; j++)
      System.out.printf("%d ", a[j][i]);
   System.out.println();
}</pre>
```

Exercise 14. Write a static method lg() that takes an int value n as argument and returns the largest int not larger than the base-2 logarithm of n. Do not use Math.

**Solution.** See the class com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex14.LgFloor. Note that the logarithm is only defined for positive numbers, so we begin by throwing an exception if  $n \leq 0$ . Assuming now that n > 0, suppose that  $2^m$  is the largest power of 2 in its base-2 (binary) representation. Since  $\log_2$  is monotonic, we know that:

$$\log_2(2^m) \le \log_2(n)$$
$$m \le \log_2(n)$$

Put another way,  $m = \lfloor \log_2(n) \rfloor$ , the *floor* of the base-2 logarithm; this is the number requested in this question. For example, we can make a table listing some sample values:

Note that if  $2^m$  is the largest power in the binary representation of n, then n can be represented by m+1 bits. To determine the number of bits in the binary representation of n we can repeatedly divide by 2 (or perform logical right arithmetic shifts) until the quantity becomes 0. Subtracting 1 from this yields m. Equivalently, we can continue as long as the result of dividing by 2 is still greater than 1, and skip the subtraction.

Exercise 15. Write a static method histogram() that takes an array a[] of int values and an integer m as arguments and returns an array m whose ith entry is the number of times the integer i appeared in the argument array. If the values in a[] are all between 0 and m-1, the sum of the values in the returned array should equal to a.length.

Solution. See com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex19.Histogram.

Exercise 16. Give the value of exR1(6):

```
public static String exR1(int n)
{
  if (n <= 0) return "";
  return exR1(n-3) + n + exR1(n-2) + n;
}</pre>
```

**Solution.** The first call is as follows:

```
exR1(6) -> exR1(3) + 6 + exR1(4) + 6
```

Now we look at exR1(3):

```
exR1(3) -> exR1(0) + 3 + exR1(1) + 3
```

By the base case, exR1(0) is "". Meanwhile, we keep going for exR1(1):

```
exR1(1) -> exR1(-2) + 1 + exR1(-1) + 1
```

Since exR1(-2) and exR1(-1) evaluate to "" due to the base case, we get exR1(1) is "11". Now exR1(3) is "3113". Next we need exR1(4):

```
exR1(4) \rightarrow exR1(1) + 4 + exR1(2) + 4
```

We already know that exR1(1) is "11". For exR1(2):

```
exR1(2) \rightarrow exR1(-1) + 2 + exR1(0) + 2
```

Hence exR1(2) is "22". Altogether, we find that exR1(4) is "114224". Finally, the value of exR1(6) is:

311361142246

Exercise 17. Criticize the following recursive function:

```
public static String exR2(int n)
{
   String s = exR2(n-3) + n + n + exR2(n-2) + n;
   if (n <= 0) return "";
   return s;
}</pre>
```

**Solution.** Because the base case comes after the recursive step, a program that invokes this function will crash with StackOverflowError.

Exercise 18. Consider the following recursive function:

```
public static int mystery(int a, int b)
{
   if (b == 0)    return 0;
   if (b % 2 == 0)    return mystery(a+a, b/2);
   return mystery(a+a, b/2) + a;
}
```

What are the values of mystery(2, 25) and mystery(3, 11)? Given positive integers a and b, describe what mystery(a, b) computes. Answer the same question, but replace the three + operators with \* and replace return 0 with return 1.

Solution. Begin with mystery(2, 25):

```
mystery(2, 25) -> 2 + mystery(4, 12):
mystery(4, 12) -> mystery(8, 6):
mystery(8, 6) -> mystery(16, 3):
mystery(16, 3) -> 16 + mystery(32, 1):
mystery(32, 1) -> 32 + mystery(64, 0):
mystery(64, 0) -> 0
```

Tracing back the calls, the result is  $2 + 16 + 32 + 0 = 50 = 2 \cdot 25$ . Similarly:

```
mystery(3, 11) -> 3 + mystery(6, 5):
mystery(6, 5) -> 6 + mystery(12, 2):
mystery(12, 2) -> mystery(24, 1):
mystery(24, 1) -> 24 + mystery(48, 0):
```

Tracing back the calls, the result is  $3+6+24+0=33=3\cdot 11$ . It appears that the mystery(a, b) computes the product  $a\cdot b$ . In essence, we are using the binary representation of b decide which weights of the multiples of a we should add.

Next, we replace + with \* and return 0 with return 1:

```
mystery(2, 25) -> 2 * mystery(4, 12):
mystery(4, 12) -> mystery(16, 6):
mystery(16, 6) -> mystery(256, 3):
mystery(256, 3)-> 256 * mystery(65536, 1):
mystery(65536, 1) -> 65536 * mystery(4294967296, 0):
mystery(4294967296, 0) -> 1
```

The result is  $2 \cdot 256 \cdot 65536 \cdot 1 = 33554432 = 2^{25}$ . Meanwhile:

```
mystery(3, 11) -> 3 * mystery(9, 5):
mystery(9, 5) -> 9 * mystery(81, 2):
mystery(81, 2) -> mystery(6561, 1):
mystery(6561, 1) -> 6561 * mystery(43046721, 0):
mystery(43046721, 0) -> 1
```

The result is  $3 \cdot 9 \cdot 6561 \cdot 1 = 177147$ , which is  $3^{11}$ . In this case, mystery(a, b) appears to be computing  $a^b$  (meaning a to the power of b).

Exercise 19. Run the following program on your computer (see Section 1.1 page 57 for the snippet). What is the largest value of n for which this program takes less than 1 hour to compute the value of fibonacci(n)? Develop a better implementation of fibonacci(n) that saves computed values in an array.

**Solution.** See the class com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex19.Fibonacci. On my computer, when n = 58, it takes just under a hour, and during n = 59, it takes over an hour. See my fibonacciFaster method, which completes through n = 90 in less than a second.

**Exercise 20.** Write a recursive static method that computes the value of  $\ln(n!)$ .

**Solution.** See the class com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex20.FactorialLog. The implementation is fairly trivial if we recall the power rule of logarithms. If x, y are any two positive real numbers, then

$$\ln(xy) = \ln(x) + \ln(y)$$

Since  $n! = n \cdot (n-1)!$  for  $n \ge 1$  and 0! = 1, we have:

$$\ln(n!) = \ln(n \cdot (n-1)!) = \ln(n) + \ln[(n-1)!]$$

Exercise 21. Write a program that reads in lines from standard input with each line containing a name and two integers and then uses printf() to print a table with a column of the names, the integers, and the result of dividing the first by the second, accurate to three decimal places. You could use a program like this to tabulate batting averages for baseball players or grades for students.

Solution. See the class com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex21.StdinDivision. Notice that this behaves much like the cat command in a UNIX-based system. Ideally, input comes from a while so that output will be redirected to a file so that it is not interspersed with the input.

Exercise 22. Write a version of BinarySearch that uses the recursive indexOf() given on page 25 and *traces* the method calls. Each time the recursive method is called, print the argument values 10 and hi, indented by the depth of the recursion. *Hint*: Add an argument to the recursive method that keeps track of the depth.

Solution. See the class com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex23.BinarySearchTrace. Since the purpose of the depth argument is to affect indentation, I decided to pass a StringBuilder object to control the indentation, which is appropriate because the recursion in this case is unidirectional.

Exercise 23. Add to the BinarySearch test client the ability to respond to a second argument: + to print numbers from standard input that are not in the whitelist, - to print numbers that *are* in the whitelist.

Solution. See the class com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex23.Filtering.

Exercise 24. Give the sequence of values of p and q that are computed when Euclid's algorithm is used to compute the greatest common division of 105 and 24. Extend the code given on page 4 to develop a program Euclid that takes two integers from the command line and computes their greatest common divisor, printing out the two arguments for each call on the recursive method. Use your program to compute the greatest common divisor of 1111111 and 1234567.

**Solution.** Euclid's algorithm computes successive remainders. Hence if  $p_0 = p$ ,  $q_0 = q$ , then  $r_n = p_{n-1} \mod q_{n-1}$  for integer  $n \ge 1$ . If  $r_n$  is 0, then the greatest common divisor is  $r_n$ . Otherwise, we set  $p_n = q_{n-1}$  and  $q_n = r_n$ .

p	q	r
105	24	9
24	9	6
9	6	3
6	3	0

See the class com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec.ex24.Euclid.

**Exercise 25.** Use mathematical induction to prove that Euclid's algorithm computes the greatest common divisor for any pair of nonnegative integers p and q.

## Solution.

*Proof.* Suppose that q = 0. Then the algorithm returns p as the greatest common divisor and we are done.

Suppose now that p and q are nonnegative integers with q > 0. Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and define:

$$p_0 := p$$
 $q_0 := q$ 
 $r_{k-1} := p_{k-1} \mod q_{k-1},$ 
 $p_k := q_{k-1}$ 
 $q_k := r_{k-1}$ 

That is,  $r_{k-1}$  is the remainder of dividing  $p_{k-1}$  by  $q_{k-1}$ . If  $r_{k-1} \neq 0$ , then the algorithm continues to produce values for these sequences. The p% q operation in the algorithm translates into the  $p_{k-1} \mod q_{k-1}$  operation above, which always produces an integer  $r_{k-1}$  satisfying  $0 \leq r_{k-1} < q_{k-1}$ . Hence, the sequence of successive quotients,  $k \mapsto q_k$ , form a strictly monotonically decreasing sequence of integers. Since it is strictly decreasing, the values decrease by at least 1 after each step, so the sequence must converge to 0 after at most q steps, meaning  $q_k = 0$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . By assumption we know  $q_0 \neq 0$ , so let N the smallest nonnegative integer such that  $q_{N+1} = 0$ , and set  $d = q_N$ . Then the algorithm will return d.

We must prove that:

- (i) d is a common divisor of p and q.
- (ii) d is the greatest among all the divisors of p and q.

To prove (i), note that  $r_N = q_{N+1} = 0$ , which means  $r_N = 0$ , and hence,  $q_N$  divides  $p_N$ . Since  $d = q_N$ , this implies that d is a common divisor of  $p_N$  and  $q_N$ . If N = 0, then  $p_N = p$  and  $q_N = q$ , and we are done. Suppose that N > 0. Then  $p_N = q_{N-1}$  and  $q_N = r_{N-1}$ , and d divides  $q_{N-1}$  and  $r_{N-1}$ . By the definition of  $r_{N-1}$ , there is a non-negative integer  $s_{N-1}$  such that

$$p_{N-1} = s_{N-1} \cdot q_{N-1} + r_{N-1}$$

Since d divides  $q_{N-1}$  and  $r_{N-1}$ , it follows that d divides  $p_{N-1}$ . Proceeding by induction, we conclude that d divides  $p_k$  and  $q_k$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $q_0 = p_1$  and  $r_0 = q_1$ , the definition of  $p_0$  in terms of  $q_0$  and  $r_0$  implies that d divides  $p_0$  also. Hence, and in turn, d divides  $p_0 = p$  and  $q_0 = q$ , proving that d is a common divisor of p and q. This completes the proof of (i).

To prove (ii), suppose that d' is the greatest common divisor of p and q. Then  $d \leq d'$ , by definition. If we can prove that we also have  $d' \leq d$ , then both conditions together imply that d = d'. Recalling that  $d = q_N$ , suppose that N = 0. Since d' is the greatest common divisor, it must divide p and q. In particular, d' divides d because  $q = q_0 = d$ . Hence, we must have  $d' \leq d$ . Suppose now that N > 0, that  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and d' divides  $p_{k-1}$  and  $q_{k-1}$ . By definition of  $r_{k-1}$ , we can write

$$r_{k-1} = p_{k-1} - s_{k-1} \cdot q_{k-1}$$

for some non-negative integer  $s_{k-1}$ . Since d' divides  $p_{k-1}$  and  $q_{k-1}$ , it must divide  $r_{k-1}$ . In particular, d' divides  $q_{k-1}$  and  $r_{k-1}$ . Since  $p_k = q_{k-1}$  and  $q_k = r_{k-1}$ , this means d' divides  $p_k$  and  $q_k$ . By induction, d' divides  $p_k$  and  $q_k$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . In particular, d' divides  $q_N$ , and since  $d = q_N$ , this means d' divides d. We conclude that  $d' \leq d$ .

Exercise 26. Sorting three numbers. Suppose that the variables a, b, c, and c are all of the same numeric primitive type. Show that the following code puts a, b, and c in ascending order:

```
if (a > b) { t = a; a = b; b = t; }
if (a > c) { t = a; a = c; c = t; }
if (b > c) { t = b; b = c; c = t; }
```

## Solution.

*Proof.* Suppose that a > b so that the body of the first if runs. The effect is to swap a and b. After the first if statement, we have a <= b, but we do not yet know how c compares.

Suppose that a > c. This means that b >= a and a >= c. If the body of the second if runs, then it swaps a and c. At this point, we will have b >= c and c >= a. If the body of the if does not run, then we can certainly assure that b >= a and c >= a.

At this point we can be sure that a has the smallest value. The last if tests to see if b is greater than c, in which case it swaps them. After this, we will have  $c \ge b$  and  $b \ge a$ , so that a, b, and c are in ascending order.

Exercise 27. Binomial distribution. Estimate the number of recursive calls that would be used by the code

```
public static double binomial(int n, int k, double p)
{
   if ((n == 0) && (k == 0)) return 1.0;
   if ((n < 0) || (k < 0 )) return 0.0;
   return (1 - p)*binomial(n-1, k, p) + p*binomial(n-1, k-1, p);
}</pre>
```

to compute binomial (100, 50, 0.25). Develop a better implementation that is based on saving computed values in an array.

**Solution.** The sequence of invocations, top-to-bottom, is as follows:

```
binomial(100, 50, p)
binomial(99, 50, p), binomial(99, 49, p)
binomial(98, 50, p), binomial(98, 49, p), binomial(98, 48, p).
```

Notice that each row corresponds to a separate value of n. Moreover, if r denotes the r-th row, starting at row r = 0 (the initial invocation), then i can be as large as 100, and the r-th row has  $2^r$  such invocations. Therefore, a (not-so-tight) upper bound on the number of recursive invocations is:

$$\sum_{r=0}^{100} 2^r = 2^{101} - 1 - 1 = 2^{101} - 2$$

Notice the extra -1 because the initial invocation binomial (100, 50, p) is not a recursive call. Beyond row i = 100 we will have n = -1, which will not lead to a recursive

invocation due to the guarding if statements. However, when i=50, the value of k is 0 for the rightmost column, and 50 for the leftmost column. Hence, the rightmost instance of the call, namely binomial(50, 0, p), will not lead to a recursive call thereafter, because of the if that guards when k=0. Hence, starting at i=51 (meaning n=49), some recursive invocations will begin to return because of k reaching its threshold.

Exercise 28. Remove duplicates. Modify the test client in BinarySearch to remove any duplicate keys in the whitelist after the sort.

Solution. See the com.segarciat.algs4.ch1.sec1.ex28.RemoveDuplicates class. After devising a way to remove the duplicates, I used the Array.copyOf() method to create a new array large enough to hold the unique values.

Exercise 29. Equal keys. Add to BinarySearch a static method rank() that takes a sorted array of int values (some of which may be equal) and a key as arguments and returns the number of elements that are smaller than the key and a similar method count() that returns the number of elements equal to the key. Note: If i and j are the values returned by rank(a, key) and count(a, key), respectively, then a[i..i+j-1] are the values in the array that are equal to key.

Solution. My rank() algorithm uses a modified version of the indexOf() algorithm. We can collapse the three if-else branches from indexOf() into two:

- (i) If the target entry is larger than the middle key, increment 10 to search starting at mid + 1.
- (ii) Otherwise, decrement hi to end the search at mid 1.

This guarantees that, at each step, key is larger than a[lo]. As usual, the search ends when lo exceeds hi. Because we never break, the algorithm takes all keys into consideration. This of course necessitates that the array be sorted to exploit transitivity.

The count() algorithm can the be implemented in a couple different ways. One way is as rank(a, key + 1) - rank(a, key). Another way is to implement a modified version of rank(), call it rankGe() that makes a single change: replace key > a[mid] with key >= a[mid] in the if statement that controls the assignment operation on lo. Then we can implement count() as rankGe(a, key) - rank(a, key). The former approach would work only for integer data, but the latter would work for other data types.

# References

[SW11] Robert Sedgewick and Kevin Wayne. Algorithms. 4th ed. Addison-Wesley, 2011. ISBN: 9780321573513.