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Complexity Theory



Computability Theory
Can we solve this problem?

Complexity Theory

How much time/resources are required to solve the problem?

Time Complexity

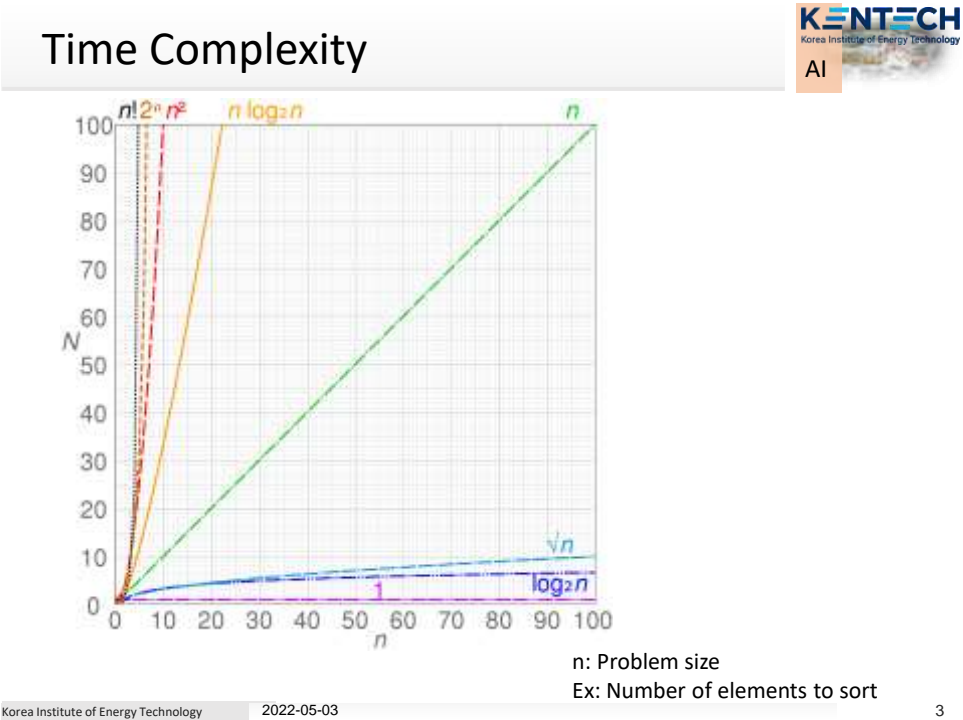
The amount of computer time to solve a problem
The number of elementary operations performed to solve a problem

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Time Complexity

$\log_2 n$	n	$n \log_2 n$	n^2	2^n
2	4	8	16	16
3	8	24	64	256
4	16	64	256	65,536
5	32	160	1,024	4,294,967,296
6	64	384	4,096	1.84x10 ¹⁹
7	128	896	16,384	3.40x10 ³⁸
8	254	2,048	65,363	1.16x10 ⁷⁷
9	512	4,608	262,144	1.34x10 ¹⁵⁴
10	1024	10,240	1,048,576	1.80x10 ³⁰⁸
30	1,073,741,824	32,212,254,720	1.15x10 ¹⁸	???

A few sec.

~100 years

~10 years

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Language & Complexity Class



Class **R**: Problems that can be solved by a computer

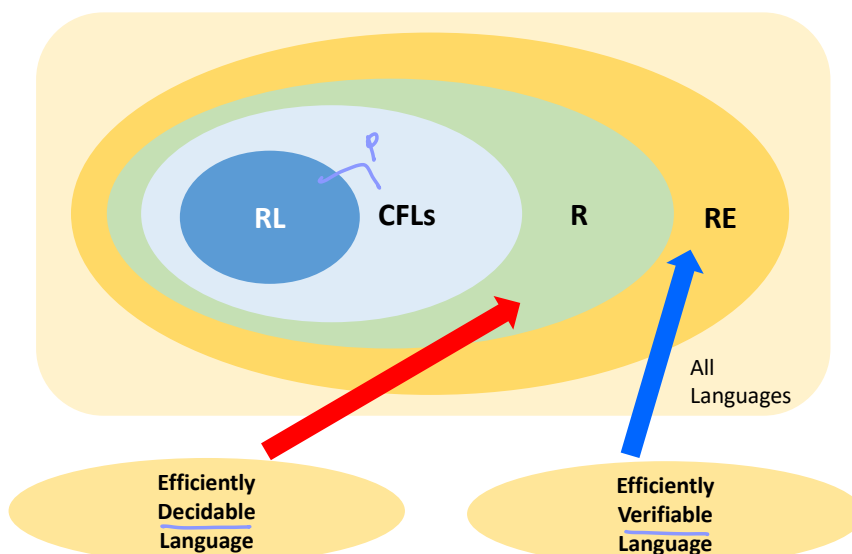
Class **P**: Problems that can be solved *efficiently* by a computer

Class **RE**: Problems that where "yes" answers can be verified by a computer

Class **NP**: Problems that "yes" answers can be *verified efficiently* by a computer

verify
: 맞는지 어떻게 구분

$$P \subset NP$$



RL
CFLs } P

Measurement of Complexity



- How do we measure the complexity of a decider, D ?
 - Number of states
 - Amount of tape required
 - Number of lines in TM
 - **Amount of time required**
 - ...

Big Oh Notation



Complexity Analysis

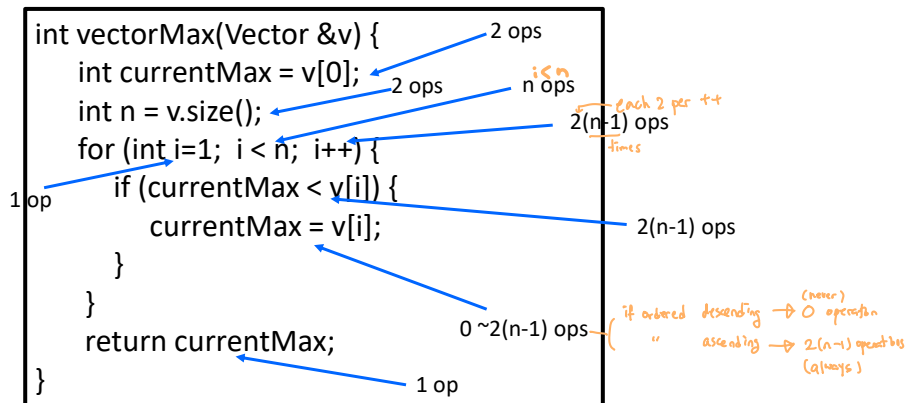


- Consider a program that finds the largest element from a given vector

```
int vectorMax(Vector &v) {
    int currentMax = v[0];
    int n = v.size();
    for (int i=1; i < n; i++) {
        if (currentMax < v[i]) {
            currentMax = v[i];
        }
    }
    return currentMax;
}
```

- How long will it take to complete the program with a vector of n elements?

Detailed Analysis



Minimum: $2+2+1+n+2(n-1)+2(n-1)+1 = 5n+2$ operations

Maximum: $2+2+1+n+2(n-1)+2(n-1)+2(n-1)+1 = 7n$ operations

Simplified Analysis



- In most cases, we do not need detailed analysis
- Enough to know that the time increases

Linear proportionally to n ^($5n$, $7n+2$)

→ If n increases 10 times, then time increases 10 times

^{complexity}

- Assume that exact analysis of an algorithm is $3n^2 + 6n + 500$

→ As n doubles, the time quadruples approximately when n is

large → unrealistically large n (million)

Coefficient not important

Ignore smaller polynomials

Algorithm Analysis: **Bog Oh, $O(\cdot)$**



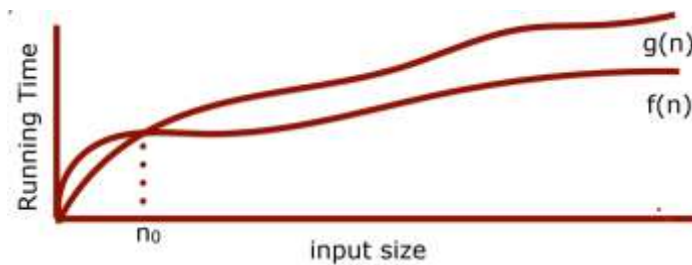
- Simplification uses a construct known as “Big-O” notation — think “O” as in “on the Order of”
- “Big-O notation describes the limiting behavior of a function when the argument tends towards a particular value or infinity, usually in terms of simpler functions.”

Algorithm Analysis: Big Oh



- Let $f(n)$ and $g(n)$ be functions mapping nonnegative integers to real numbers
- We say $f(n)$ is $O(g(n))$ if there is a real constant $c > 0$ and an integer constant $n_0 \geq 1$ such that $f(n) \leq cg(n)$ for all $n \geq n_0$

Mathematically
(6 notations)



Examples



- Detailed analysis

$$5n+2 \rightarrow O(n)$$

$$10n \log n + 4n \rightarrow O(n \log n)$$

$$0.00001n^2 + 500000n - 4000000000 \rightarrow O(n^2)$$

$$0.00001n \log n + 500000n - 4000000000 \rightarrow O(n \log n)$$

Example: Matrix Multiplication



```

int matrixProduct (real A, B) {
    for (int i=0; i<n; i++) {
        for (int j=0; j<n; j++) {
            C[i][j] = 0;
            for (int k=0; k<n; k++) {
                C[i][j] += A[i][k]*B[k][j];
            }
        }
    }
}

```

$\Rightarrow O(n^3)$

Loop →

Efficient Algorithms: Class P

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Searching Finite Space



- Many decidable problems can be solved by searching over a large but finite space of possible options
- Searching this space might take a staggeringly long time, but only finite time
- From a decidability perspective, this is totally fine!
- From a complexity perspective, this may be totally unacceptable

Efficiency



- Every person may have their own definitions of “Efficiency”
- When dealing with problems that search for the “best” solution of some sort, there are often at least exponentially many possible options
- Brute-force solutions tend to take at least exponential time to complete
 - $O(2^n)$, $O(n!)$, etc
- Clever algorithms often run in time $O(1)$, $O(\log n)$, $O(n)$, $O(n \log n)$, or $O(n^2)$, etc. good practicality

Polynomials and Exponentials



- An algorithm runs in polynomial time if its runtime is some polynomial in n
 - $O(n^k)$ for some constant k
- Polynomial functions “scale well.”
 - Small changes to the size of the input do not typically induce enormous changes to the overall runtime
- Exponential functions scale terribly
 - Small changes to the size of the input induce huge changes in the overall runtime

Cobham-Edmonds Thesis



- A language L can be decided efficiently if there is a TM that decides it in polynomial time
- Equivalently, L can be decided efficiently if it can be decided in time $O(n^k)$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$
- What are the efficient runtimes?
 - $4n^2 - 3n + 137 \rightarrow O(n^2) \in P$
 - $10^{500} \rightarrow O(1) (\text{constant}) \in P$
 - $2^n \rightarrow O(2^n) \notin P$
 - $1.000000001^n \rightarrow O(2^n) \notin P$
 - $n^{1,000,000,000,000} \rightarrow \in P$
 - $n^{\log n} \rightarrow O(n^{\log n}) \notin P$

Why Polynomials?



- Polynomial time somewhat captures efficient computation, but has a few edge cases
- However, polynomials have very nice mathematical properties:
 - The sum of two polynomials is a polynomial. (Running one efficient algorithm, then another, gives an efficient algorithm.)
 - The product of two polynomials is a polynomial. (Running one efficient algorithm a “reasonable” number of times gives an efficient algorithm.)
 - The composition of two polynomials is a polynomial. (Using the output of one efficient algorithm as the input to another efficient algorithm gives an efficient algorithm.)

The Complexity Class P



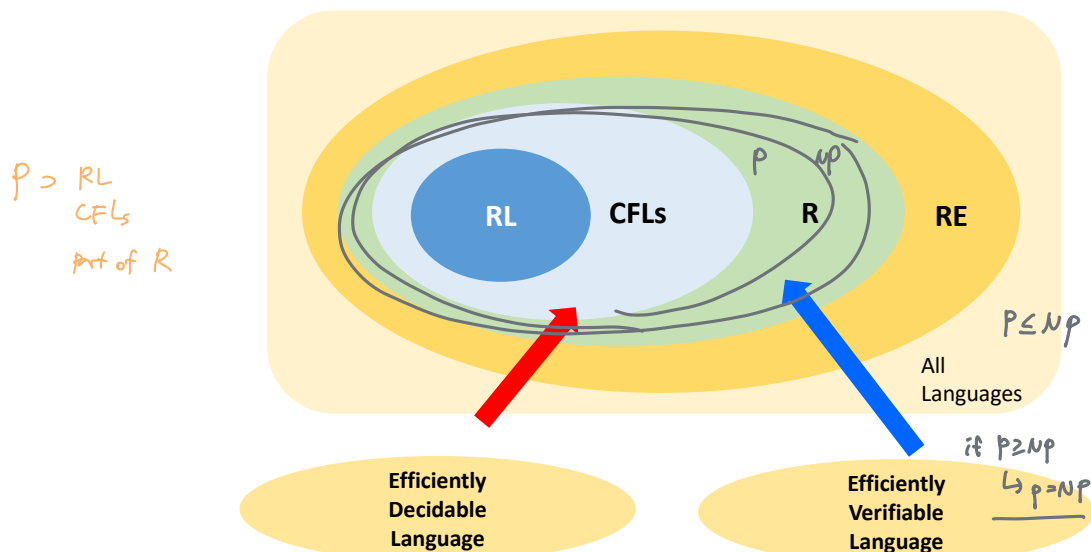
- The complexity class P (for polynomial time) contains all problems that can be solved in polynomial time
- Formally:

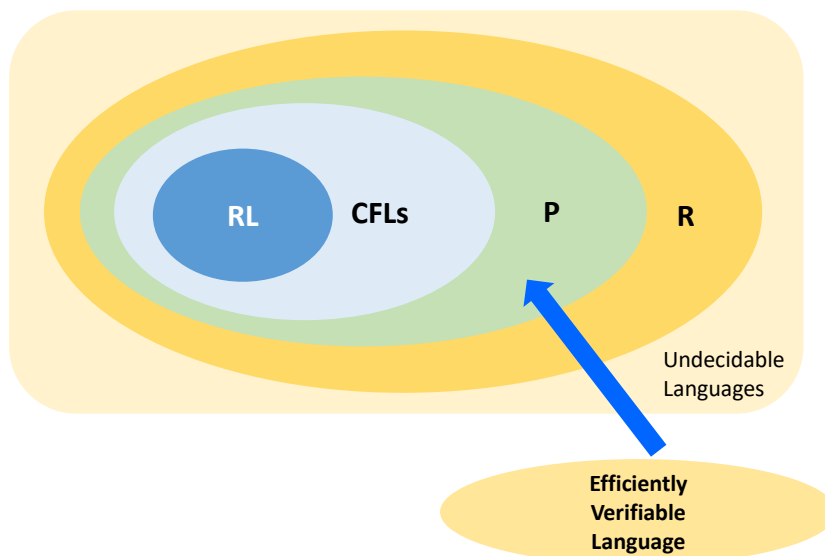
$P = \{ L \mid \text{There is a polynomial-time } \text{algorithm, TM, program} \dots \text{ decider for } L \}$
- Assuming the Cobham-Edmonds thesis, a language is in P if it can be decided efficiently

Examples

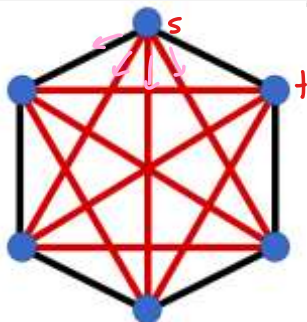


- All regular languages are in P
 - All have linear-time TMs
- All CFLs are in P
 - Requires a more nuanced argument (the CYK algorithm or Earley's algorithm)
- And a ton of other problems are in P as well





Problems not in P



How many simple paths are there from one node to another?

$4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 4! \rightarrow n \text{ nodes}$
 $(n-2)! = O(n!)$

List all subsets of a set that has n elements

$\hookrightarrow 2^n$

Class NP





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Verifier



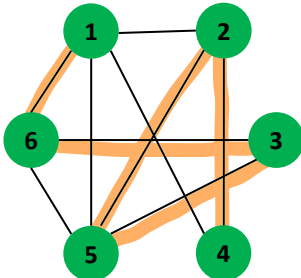
- What if you need to search a large space for a single object?

- Is there an ascending subsequence of length at least 7?

9	3	11	4	2	13	5	6	1	12	7	8	0	10
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----

→ find subsequence
in certain length
→ NP

- Is there a simple path that goes through every node exactly once?



Hamiltonian Path

Loop

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Verifier

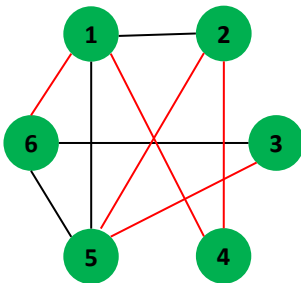


- What if you need to search a large space for a single object?
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9	3	11	4	2	13	5	6	1	12	7	8	0	10
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----

$O(n)$

- Is there a simple path that goes through every node exactly once?



length: $n-1$

Polynomial Verifiers



- Recall that a **verifier** for **L** is a **TM V** such that
 - V halts on all inputs
 - $w \in L$ iff $\exists c \in \Sigma^*$. V accepts $\langle w, c \rangle$
- A **polynomial-time verifier** for **L** is a **TM V** such that
 - V halts on all inputs
 - $w \in L$ iff $\exists c \in \Sigma^*$. V accepts $\langle w, c \rangle$
 - V's runtime is a polynomial in $|w|$ (that is, V's runtime is $O(|w|^k)$ for some integer k)

The Complexity Class NP



- The complexity class NP (**n**ondeterministic **p**olynomial time) contains all problems that can be verified in polynomial time
- Formally:

$$NP = \{ L \mid \text{There is a polynomial-time verifier for } L \}$$

decider
- The name NP comes from another way of characterizing NP
- If you introduce nondeterministic Turing machines and appropriately define “polynomial time,” then NP is the set of problems that an NTM can solve in polynomial time

P=NP ???



P = NP



- The **most important** problem in theoretical Computer Science
- P=NP; The Million-Dollar Questions

The Clay Mathematics Institute has offered a \$1,000,000 prize to anyone who proves or disproves $P = NP$

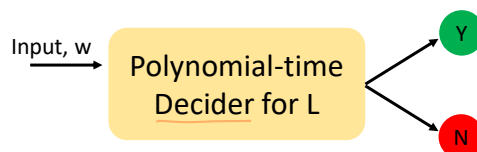
2 cases
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P \text{ is NP} \\ P \text{ is not NP} \end{array} \right.$

One of seven millennium problems

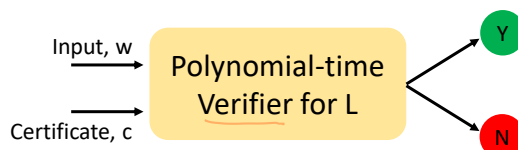
P = NP



- $P = \{ L \mid \text{There is a polynomial-time } \textcolor{blue}{\text{decider}} \text{ for } L \}$



- $NP = \{ L \mid \text{There is a polynomial-time } \textcolor{blue}{\text{verifier}} \text{ for } L \}$



Obviously, $P \subseteq NP$

P is subset of NP

P = NP ?



- With the verifier definition of NP, one way of phrasing this question is
If a solution to a problem can be checked (verified) efficiently, can that problem be solved efficiently?
- An answer either way will give fundamental insights into the nature of computation

Why This Matters



if $N=P$ is
solved,
problems solved
efficiently

- The following problems are known to be efficiently verifiable, but have no known efficient solutions:
 - Determining whether an electrical grid can be built to link up some number of houses for some price (Steiner tree problem)
 - Determining whether a simple DNA strand exists that multiple gene sequences could be a part of (shortest common supersequence)
 - Determining the best way to assign hardware resources in a compiler (optimal register allocation)
 - Determining the best way to distribute tasks to multiple workers to minimize completion time (job scheduling)
 - And **many more**

SOTA



- Resolving $P \stackrel{?}{=} NP$ has proven extremely difficult
- In the past 50 years:
 - Not a single correct proof either way has been found
 - Many types of proofs have been shown to be insufficiently powerful to determine whether $P \stackrel{?}{=} NP$
- Most(?) computer scientists believe $P \neq NP$