Analysis of Algorithms

CS 1037a - Topic 13

Overview

- Time complexity
 - exact count of operations T(n) as a function of input size n
 - complexity analysis using O(...) bounds
 - constant time, linear, logarithmic, exponential,... complexities
- Complexity analysis of basic data structures' operations
- Linear and Binary Search algorithms and their analysis
- Basic Sorting algorithms and their analysis

Related materials

from Main and Savitch "Data Structures & other objects using C++"

- Sec. 12.1: Linear (serial) search, Binary search
- Sec. 13.1: Selection and Insertion Sort

Analysis of Algorithms

- Efficiency of an algorithm can be measured in terms of:
 - Execution time (time complexity)
 - The amount of memory required (space complexity)
- Which measure is more important?
 - Answer often depends on the limitations of the technology available at time of analysis

- For most of the algorithms associated with this course, time complexity comparisons are more interesting than space complexity comparisons
- Time complexity: A measure of the amount of time required to execute an algorithm

- Factors that should not affect time complexity analysis:
 - The programming language chosen to implement the algorithm
 - The quality of the compiler
 - The speed of the computer on which the algorithm is to be executed

- Time complexity analysis for an algorithm is independent of programming language, machine used
- Objectives of time complexity analysis:
 - To determine the feasibility of an algorithm by estimating an upper bound on the amount of work performed
 - To compare different algorithms before deciding on which one to implement

- Analysis is based on the amount of work done by the algorithm
- Time complexity expresses the relationship between the size of the input and the run time for the algorithm
- Usually expressed as a proportionality, rather than an exact function

- To simplify analysis, we sometimes ignore work that takes a constant amount of time, independent of the problem input size
- When comparing two algorithms that perform the same task, we often just concentrate on the differences between algorithms

- Simplified analysis can be based on:
 - Number of arithmetic operations performed
 - Number of comparisons made
 - Number of times through a critical loop
 - Number of array elements accessed
 - etc

Suppose that exponentiation is carried out using multiplications. Two ways to evaluate the polynomial

$$p(x) = 4x^4 + 7x^3 - 2x^2 + 3x^1 + 6$$

are:

Brute force method.

$$p(x) = 4^*x^*x^*x^*x + 7^*x^*x^*x - 2^*x^*x + 3^*x + 6$$

Horner's method

$$p(x) = (((4*x + 7) * x - 2) * x + 3) * x + 6$$

Method of analysis:

- Basic operations are multiplication, addition, and subtraction
- We'll only consider the number of multiplications, since the number of additions and subtractions are the same in each solution
- We'll examine the general form of a polynomial of degree n, and express our result in terms of n
- We'll look at the *worst case* (max number of multiplications) to get an *upper bound* on the work

General form of polynomial is

$$p(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + a_{n-2} x^{n-2} + \dots + a_1 x^1 + a_0$$

where a_n is non-zero for all $n \ge 0$

Analysis for Brute Force Method:

$$p(x) = a_n * x * x * ... * x * x + a_{n-1} * x * x * ... * x * x + a_{n-2} * x * x * ... * x * x + ... + a_2 * x * x + a_1 * x + a_0$$

n multiplications

n-1 multiplications

n-2 multiplications

. . .

2 multiplications

1 multiplication

Number of multiplications needed in the worst case is

$$T(n) = n + n-1 + n-2 + ... + 3 + 2 + 1$$

= $n(n + 1)/2$ (result from high school math **)
= $n^2/2 + n/2$

This is an exact formula for the maximum number of multiplications. In general though, analyses yield upper bounds rather than exact formulae. We say that the number of multiplications is on the order of n^2 , or $O(n^2)$. (Think of this as being *proportional to* n^2 .)

(** We'll give a proof for this result a bit later)

Analysis for *Horner's Method*:

$$p(x) = (.... (((a_n * x + a_{n-1}) * x + a_{n-1}) * x + a_{n-2}) * x + ... + ... + ... + ... + ... + ... + ... + ... + ... a_1) * x + ... + ... a_0$$

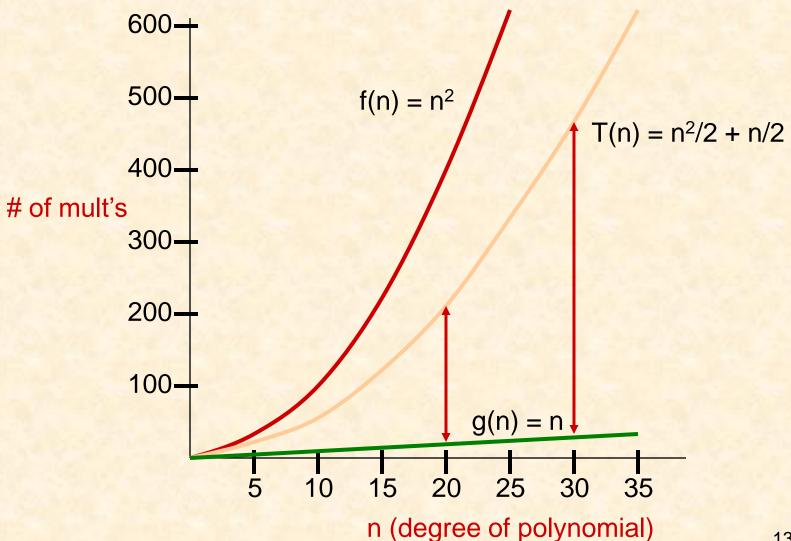
- 1 multiplication
- 1 multiplication
- 1 multiplication

- 1 multiplication
- 1 multiplication

n times

T(n) = n, so the number of multiplications is O(n)

n	n ² /2 + n/2	n ²	
(Horner)	(brute force)		
5	15	25	
10	55	100	
20	210	400	
100	5050	10000	
1000	500500	1000000	



Sum of First n Natural Numbers

Write down the terms of the sum in forward and reverse orders; there are n terms:

Add the terms in the boxes to get:

$$2*T(n) = (n+1) + (n+1) + (n+1) + ... + (n+1) + (n+1) + (n+1)$$
$$= n(n+1)$$

Therefore,
$$T(n) = (n^*(n+1))/2 = n^2/2 + n/2$$

Big-O Notation

Formally, the time complexity T(n) of an algorithm is O(f(n)) (of the order f(n)) if, for some positive constants C₁ and C₂ for all but finitely many values of n

$$C_1*f(n) \leq T(n) \leq C_2*f(n)$$

 This gives upper and lower bounds on the amount of work done for all sufficiently large n

Big-O Notation

Example: Brute force method for polynomial evaluation: We chose the highest-order term of the expression $T(n) = n^2/2 + n/2$, with a coefficient of 1, so that $f(n) = n^2$.

 $T(n)/n^2$ approaches 1/2 for large n, so T(n) is approximately $n^2/2$.

$$n^2/2 \le T(n) \le n^2$$

so T(n) is O(n²).

Big-O Notation

 We want an easily recognized elementary function to describe the performance of the algorithm, so we use the dominant term of T(n): it determines the basic shape of the function

Worst Case vs. Average Case

- Worst case analysis is used to find an upper bound on algorithm performance for large problems (large n)
- Average case analysis determines the average (or expected) performance
- Worst case time complexity is usually simpler to work out

- With independent nested loops: The number of iterations of the inner loop is independent of the number of iterations of the outer loop
- Example:

```
int x = 0;

for ( int j = 1; j <= n/2; j++ )

for ( int k = 1; k <= n*n; k++ )

x = x + j + k;
```

Outer loop executes n/2 times. For each of those times, inner loop executes n^2 times, so the body of the inner loop is executed $(n/2)*n^2 = n^3/2$ times. The algorithm is $O(n^3)$.

- With dependent nested loops: Number of iterations of the inner loop depends on a value from the outer loop
- Example:

```
int x = 0;

for ( int j = 1; j <= n; j++ )

for ( int k = 1; k < 3*j; k++ )

x = x + j;
```

When j is 1, inner loop executes 3 times; when j is 2, inner loop executes 3*2 times; ... when j is n, inner loop executes 3*n times. In all the inner loop executes $3+6+9+...+3n = 3(1+2+3+...+n) = 3n^2/2 + 3n/2$ times. The algorithm is $O(n^2)$.

Assume that a computer executes a million instructions a second. This chart summarizes the amount of time required to execute f(n) instructions on this machine for various values of n.

f(n)	n=10 ³	n=10 ⁵	n=10 ⁶
log ₂ (n)	10 ⁻⁵ sec	1.7 * 10 ⁻⁵ sec	2 * 10 ⁻⁵ sec
n	10 ⁻³ sec	0.1 sec	1 sec
n*log ₂ (n)	0.01 sec	1.7 sec	20 sec
n ²	1 sec	3 hr	12 days
n ³	17 min	32 yr	317 centuries
2 ⁿ	10 ²⁸⁵ centuries	10 ¹⁰⁰⁰⁰ years	10 ¹⁰⁰⁰⁰⁰ years

- To determine the time complexity of an algorithm:
 - Express the amount of work done as a sum f₁(n) + f₂(n) + ... + f_k(n)
 - Identify the dominant term: the f_i such that f_i is O(f_i) and for k different from j

```
f_k(n) < f_j(n) (for all sufficiently large n)
```

Then the time complexity is O(f_i)

Examples of dominant terms:

```
n dominates log_2(n)

n*log_2(n) dominates n

n^2 dominates n*log_2(n)

n^m dominates n^k when m > k

a^n dominates n^m for any a > 1 and m >= 0
```

• That is, $log_2(n) < n < n^*log_2(n) < n^2 < ...$ < $n^m < a^n$ for a >= 1 and m > 2

Intractable problems

- A problem is said to be intractable if solving it by computer is impractical
- Example: Algorithms with time complexity O(2ⁿ) take too long to solve even for moderate values of n; a machine that executes 100 million instructions per second can execute 2⁶⁰ instructions in about 365 years

Constant Time Complexity

 Algorithms whose solutions are independent of the size of the problem's inputs are said to have constant time complexity

Constant time complexity is denoted as O(1)

Time Complexities for Data Structure Operations

 Many operations on the data structures we've seen so far are clearly O(1): retrieving the size, testing emptiness, etc

 We can often recognize the time complexity of an operation that modifies the data structure without a formal proof

Time Complexities for Array Operations

- Array elements are stored contiguously in memory, so the time required to compute the memory address of an array element arr[k] is independent of the array's size: It's the start address of arr plus k * (size of an individual element)
- So, storing and retrieving array elements are O(1) operations

Time Complexities for Array-Based List Operations

- Assume an n-element List (Topic 8):
 - insert operation is O(n) in the worst case, which is adding to the first location: all n elements in the array have to be shifted one place to the right before the new element can be added

Time Complexities for Array-Based List Operations

- Inserting into a full List is also O(n):
 - replaceContainer copies array contents from the old array to a new one (O(n))
 - All other activies (allocating the new array, deleting the old one, etc) are O(1)
 - Replacing the array and then inserting at the beginning requires O(n) + O(n) time, which is O(n)

Time Complexities for Array-Based List Operations

- remove operation is O(n) in the worst case, which is removing from the first location: n-1 array elements must be shifted one place left
- retrieve, replace, and swap operations are O(1): array indexing allows direct access to an array location, independent of the array size; no shifting occurs
- find is O(n) because the entire list has to be searched in the worst case

Time Complexities for Linked List Operations

- Singly linked list with n nodes:
 - addHead, removeHead, and retrieveHead are all O(1)
 - addTail and retrieveTail are O(1) provided that the implementation has a tail reference; otherwise, they're O(n)
 - remove Tail is O(n): need to traverse to the second-last node so that its reference can be reset to NULL

Time Complexities for Linked List Operations

- Singly linked list with n nodes (cont'd):
 - Operations to access an item by position (add, retrieve, remove(unsigned int k), replace) are O(n): need to traverse the whole list in the worst case
 - Operations to access an item by its value (find, remove(Item item)) are O(n) for the same reason

Time Complexities for Linked List Operations

- Doubly-linked list with n nodes:
 - Same as for singly-linked lists, except that all head and tail operations, including remove Tail, are O(1)
- Ordered linked list with n nodes:
 - Comparable operations to those found in the linked list class have the same time complexities
 - add(Item item) operation is O(n): may have to traverse the whole list

Time Complexities for Bag Operations

- Assume the bag contains n items, then
- add.
 - O(1) for our array-based implementation: new item is added to the end of the array
 - If the bag can grow arbitrarily large (i.e.: if we replace the underlying array), adding to a "full" bag is O(n)
 - Also O(1) if we add to end of an arraybased list, or head or tail of a linked list

Time Complexities for Bag Operations

getOne.

- Must be careful to ensure that it is O(1) if we use an underlying array or array-based list
- Don't shift array or list contents
- Retrieve the kth item, copy the nth item into the kth position, and remove the nth item
- Worst case is O(n) for any linked list implementation: requires list traversal

Time Complexities for Bag Operations

- Copy constructor for Bags (Topic 4, slide 4-33):
 - Algorithm is O(n) where n is the number of items copied
 - But, copying the underlying items may not be an O(1) task: it depends on the kind of item being copied
 - For class Bag<Item>: if copying an underlying item is O(m), then the time complexity for the copy constructor is O(n*m)

Time Complexities for Stack Operations

- Stack using an underlying array:
 - All operations are O(1), provided that the top of the stack is always at the highest index currently in use: no shifting required
- Stack using an array-based list:
 - All operations O(1), provided that the tail of the list is the top of the stack
 - Exception: push is O(n) if the array size has to double

Time Complexities for Stack Operations

- Stack using an underlying linked list:
 - All operations are, or should be, O(1)
 - Top of stack is the head of the linked list
 - If a doubly-linked list with a tail pointer is used, the top of the stack can be the tail of the list

Time Complexities for Queue Operations

- Queue using an underlying array-based list:
 - peek is O(1)
 - enqueue is O(1) unless the array size has to be increased (in which case it's O(n))
 - dequeue is O(n): all the remaining elements have to be shifted

Time Complexities for Queue Operations

- Queue using an underlying linked list:
 - As long as we have both a head and a tail pointer in the linked list, all operations are O(1)
 - important: enqueue() should use addTail()
 dequeue() should use removeHead()

Why not the other way around?

No need for the list to be doubly-linked

Time Complexities for Queue Operations

- Circular queue using an underlying array:
 - All operations are O(1)
 - If we revise the code so that the queue can be arbitrarily large, enqueue is O(n) on those occasions when the underlying array has to be replaced

Time Complexities for OrderedList Operations

OrderedList with array-based m_container:

- Our implementation of insert(item) (see slide 10-12) uses "linear search" that traverses the list from its beginning until the right spot for the new item is found linear complexity O(n)
- Operation remove(int pos) is also O(n) since items have to be shifted in the array

Basic Search Algorithms and their Complexity Analysis

Linear Search: Example 1

 The problem: Search an array a of size n to determine whether the array contains the value key; return index if found, -1 if not found

```
Set k to 0.

While (k < n) and (a[k] is not key)

Add 1 to k.

If k == n Return -1.

Return k.
```

Linear Search: Example 2 "find" in Array Based List

```
template <class Item> template <class Equality>
int List<Item>::find(Item key) const {
    for (int k = 1; k<= getLength(); i++)
        if ( Equality::compare(m_container[k], key) )        return k;
    return -1;
}</pre>
```

```
// this extra function requires additional templated
// argument for a comparison functor whose method
// compare checks two items for equality (as in slide 11-79)
```

Example of using LinearSearch

```
int main() {
    List<int> mylist;
    ... // code adding some ints into mylist
    cout << mylist.find<lsEqual>(5);
}
```

Additional templated argument for function *find()* should be specified in your code

- Total amount of work done:
 - Before loop: a constant amount a
 - Each time through loop: 2 comparisons, an and operation, and an addition: a constant amount of work b
 - After loop: a constant amount c
 - In worst case, we examine all n array locations, so T(n) = a +b*n + c = b*n + d, where d = a+c, and time complexity is O(n)

- Simpler (less formal) analysis:
 - Note that work done before and after loop is independent of n, and work done during a single execution of loop is independent of n
 - In worst case, loop will be executed n times, so amount of work done is proportional to n, and algorithm is O(n)

- Average case for a successful search:
 - Probability of key being found at index k is
 1 in n for each value of k
 - Add up the amount of work done in each case, and divide by total number of cases:

```
((a*1+d) + (a*2+d) + (a*3+d) + ... + (a*n+d))/n
= (n*d + a*(1+2+3+ ... +n))/n
= n*d/n + a*(n*(n+1)/2)/n = d + a*n/2 + a/2 = (a/2)*n + e,
where constant e=d+a/2, so expected case is also O(n)
```

- Simpler approach to expected case:
 - Add up the number of times the loop is executed in each of the n cases, and divide by the number of cases n
 - (1+2+3+ ... +(n-1)+n)/n = (n*(n+1)/2)/n = n/2 + 1/2; algorithm is therefore O(n)

Linear Search for LinkedList

- Linear search can be also done for LinkedList
 - exercise: write code for function

```
template <class Item> template <class Equality> int LinkedList<Item>::find(Item key) const { ...}
```

 Complexity of function find(key) for class LinkedList should also be O(n)

Binary Search

(on sorted arrays)

- General case: search a sorted array a of size n looking for the value key
- Divide and conquer approach:
 - Compute the middle index mid of the array
 - If key is found at mid, we're done
 - Otherwise repeat the approach on the half of the array that might still contain key
 - etc...

Example: Binary Search For Ordered List

// A new member function for class OrderedList<Item,Order>

```
template <class Item, class Order>
int OrderedList<Item,Order>::binarySearch(Item key) const {
    int first = 1, last = m_container.getLength();
    while (first <= last) { // start of while loop
       int mid = (first+last)/2;
        Item val = retrieve(mid);
              (Order::compare(key, val)) last = mid-1;
        else if (Order::compare(val , key)) first = mid+1;
        else
                                              return mid;
       // end of while loop
   return -1;
                                                               13-58
```

- The amount of work done before and after the loop is a constant, and independent of n
- The amount of work done during a single execution of the loop is constant
- Time complexity will therefore be proportional to number of times the loop is executed, so that's what we'll analyze

- Worst case: key is not found in the array
- Each time through the loop, at least half of the remaining locations are rejected:
 - After first time through, <= n/2 remain
 - After second time through, <= n/4 remain
 - After third time through, <= n/8 remain
 - After kth time through, <= n/2^k remain

- Suppose in the worst case that maximum number of times through the loop is k; we must express k in terms of n
- Exit the do..while loop when number of remaining possible locations is less than 1 (that is, when first > last): this means that n/2^k < 1

- Also, n/2^{k-1}>=1; otherwise, looping would have stopped after k-1 iterations
- Combining the two inequalities, we get:

$$n/2^k < 1 \le n/2^{k-1}$$

Invert and multiply through by n to get:

$$2^k > n >= 2^{k-1}$$

Next, take base-2 logarithms to get:

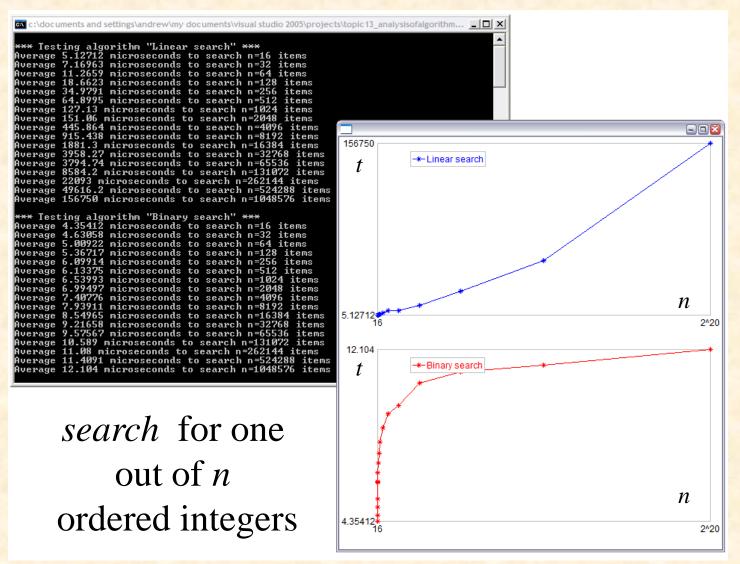
$$k > log_2(n) >= k-1$$

Which is equivalent to:

$$\log_2(n) < k <= \log_2(n) + 1$$

 Thus, binary search algorithm is O(log₂(n)) in terms of the number of array locations examined

Binary vs. Liner Search



13-64

Improving insert in OrderedList

Function insert(item) for OrderedList (see slide 10-12)
 can use binary search algorithm (instead of linear search)
 when looking for the "right" place for the new item inside m_container (an array-based List)

Question: would worst-case complexity of insert improve from O(n) to O(log₂(n))?

Answer: NO!

we can find the "right" position k faster, but $m_container.insert(k,item)$ still requires shifting of O(n) items in the underlying array

Improving insert in OrderedList

Question: would it be possible to improve complexity of *insert* from O(n) to O(log₂(n)) if we used *m_container* of class *LinkedList*?

Answer: still NO!

in this case we cannot even do Binary Search efficiently in O(log2(n))

- finding an item in the "middle" of the linked list requires linear traversal
- in contrast, accessing "middle" item in an array is a one step operation
 e.g. m_container[k] or *(m_container+k)

In topic 15 we will study a new data structure for storing ordered items (*BST*) which is better than our *OrderedList*

 operations insert and remove in BST are O(log₂(n))

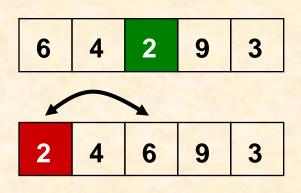
Basic Sorting Algorithms and their Complexity Analysis

Analysis: Selection Sort Algorithm

- Assume we have an unsorted collection of n elements in an array or list called container; elements are either of a simple type, or are pointers to data
- Assume that the elements can be compared in size (<, >, ==, etc)
- Sorting will take place "in place" in container

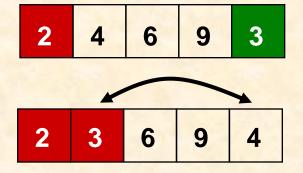
- sorted portion of the list
 - minimum element in unsorted portion

Analysis: Selection Sort Algorithm



Find smallest element in unsorted portion of container

Interchange the smallest element with the one at the front of the unsorted portion

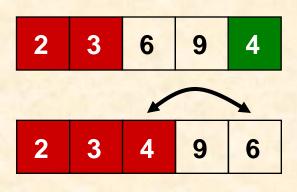


Find smallest element in unsorted portion of container

Interchange the smallest element with the one at the front of the unsorted portion

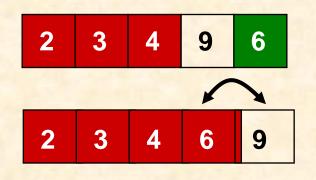
- sorted portion of the list
 - minimum element in unsorted portion

Analysis: Selection Sort Algorithm



Find smallest element in unsorted portion of container

Interchange the smallest element with the one at the front of the unsorted portion



Find smallest element in unsorted portion of container

Interchange the smallest element with the one at the front of the unsorted portion

After n-1 repetitions of this process, the last item has automatically fallen into place

Selection Sort for (array-based) List

// A new member function for class List<Item>, needs additional template parameter

```
template <class Item> template <class Order>
void List<Item>::selectionSort() {
   unsigned int minSoFar, i, k;
   for (i = 1; i < getLength(); i++ ) { // 'unsorted' part starts at given 'i'
       minSoFar = i;
       for (k = i+1; k <= getLength(); k++) // searching for min Item inside 'unsorted'
           if ( Order::compare(retrieve(k),retrieve(minSoFar)) ) minSoFar = k;
       swap(i, minSoFar); // reminder: "swap" switches Items in 2 given positions
    } // end of for-i loop
```

Example of applying selectionSort to a list

```
int main() {
    List<int> mylist;
    ... // code adding some into list a
    mylist.selectionSort<lsLess>();
}
```

additional templated argument for function *selectionSort()* should be specified in your code

- We'll determine the time complexity for selection sort by counting the number of data items examined in sorting an nitem array or list
- Outer loop is executed n-1 times
- Each time through the outer loop, one more item is sorted into position

- On the kth time through the outer loop:
 - Sorted portion of container holds k-1 items initially, and unsorted portion holds n-k+1
 - Position of the first of these is saved in minSoFar; data object is not examined
 - In the inner loop, the remaining n-k items are compared to the one at minSoFar to decide if minSoFar has to be reset

- 2 data objects are examined each time through the inner loop
- So, in total, 2*(n-k) data objects are examined by the inner loop during the kth pass through the outer loop
- Two elements may be switched following the inner loop, but the data values aren't examined (compared)

- Overall, on the kth time through the outer loop, 2*(n-k) objects are examined
- But k ranges from 1 to n-1 (the number of times through the outer loop)
- Total number of elements examined is:

```
T(n) = 2*(n-1) + 2*(n-2) + 2*(n-3) + ... + 2*(n-(n-2)) + 2*(n-(n-1))
= 2*((n-1) + (n-2) + (n-3) + ... + 2 + 1) (or 2*(sum of first n-1 ints))
= 2*((n-1)*n)/2) = n^2 - n, \text{ so the algorithm is } O(n^2)
```

 This analysis works for both arrays and array-based lists, provided that, in the list implementation, we either directly access array m_container, or use retrieve and replace operations (O(1) operations) rather than insert and remove (O(n) operations)

- The algorithm has <u>deterministic</u> complexity
 - the number of operations does not depend on specific items, it depends only on the number of items
 - all possible instances of the problem ("best case", "worst case", "average case") give the same number of operations **T(n)=n^2-n=O(n^2)**

items are sorted on "insertion", for example

```
List<int> a;

O(n) complexity operation "insert"

performed n times inside "while-loop"

=> overall complexity is O(n²)

OrderedList<int> sorted;

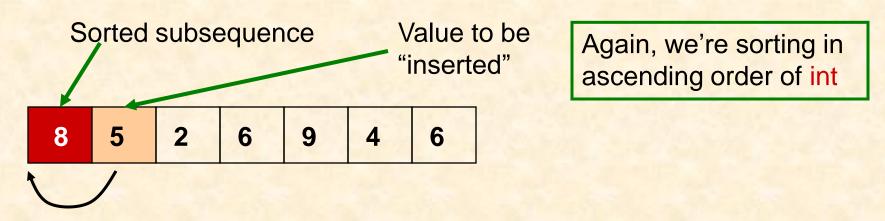
while (!a.isEmpty()) sorted.insert( a.popBack() ); // sorting on insertion

while (!sorted.isEmpty()) a.append( sorted.popBack() );
```

In this case, content of list a is sorted using one extra container (not "in place" sorting)

- Same approach can be also implemented in-place using existing container that is not in order:
 - Front item in sequence is a sorted subsequence of length 1
 - Second item of sequence is "inserted" into the sorted subsequence, which is now of length 2
 - Process repeats, always inserting the first item from the unsorted portion into the sorted subsequence, until the entire sequence is in order

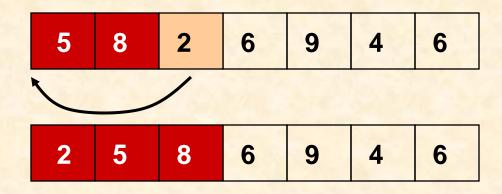
- sorted portion of the list
 - first element in unsorted portion of the list

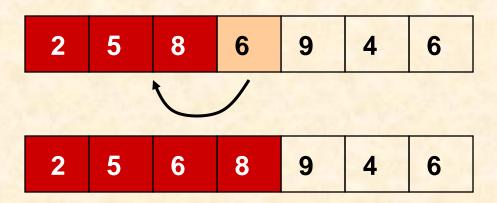


Value 5 is to be inserted where the 8 is; reference to 8 will be copied to where the 5 is, the 5 will be put in the vacated position, and the sorted subsequence now has length 2

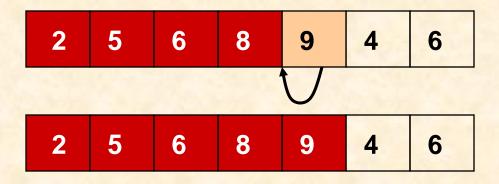


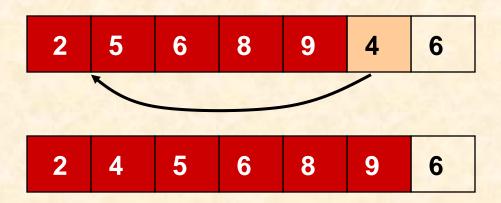
- sorted portion of the list
 - first element in unsorted portion of the list



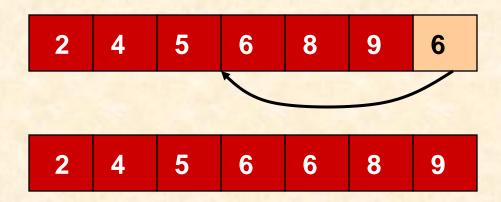


- sorted portion of the list
 - first element in unsorted portion of the list





- sorted portion of the list
 - first element in unsorted portion of the list



We're done!

In-place Insertion Sort For Array-Based List

// A new member function for class List<Item>, needs additional template parameter

```
template <class Item> template <class Order>
void List<Item>::insertionSort() {
  unsigned int i, k;
  for (i = 2; i <= getLength(); i++) { // item 'i' will move into 'sorted'
     for (k = i-1; k > 0; k--) {
         if (Order::compare( retrieve(k), retrieve(k+1) )) break;
         else swap(k,k+1); // shifting i-th item "down" until the
                              // "right" spot in 'sorted' 1 <= k <= (i-1)
```

Analysis: Insertion Sort Algorithm

- the worst case complexity of insertionSort() is quadratic O(n²)
 - in the worst case, for each *i* we do *(i-1)* swaps inside the inner for-loop
 - therefore, overall number of swaps (when i goes from 2 to n in the outer for-loop) is

$$T(n)=1+2+3+...+(i-1)+....+n-1=n*(n-1)/2$$

Analysis: Insertion Sort Algorithm

 Unlike selection-sort, complexity of insertion-sort DOES depend on specific instance of the problem (data values)

Exercise: show that the *best case* complexity is O(n) (consider the case when the array is already sorted)

- also, works well also if array is "almost" sorted
- however, average case complexity will be still O(n²)

Radix Sort

- Sorts objects based on some key value found within the object
- Most often used when keys are strings of the same length, or positive integers with the same number of digits
- Uses queues; does not sort "in place"
- Other names: postal sort, bin sort

Radix Sort Algorithm

- Suppose keys are k-digit integers
- Radix sort uses an array of 10 queues, one for each digit 0 through 9
- Each object is placed into the queue whose index is the least significant digit (the 1's digit) of the object's key
- Objects are then dequeued from these 10 queues, in order 0 through 9, and put back in the original queue/list/array container; they're sorted by the last digit of the key

Radix Sort Algorithm

- Process is repeated, this time using the 10's digit instead of the 1's digit; values are now sorted by last two digits of the key
- Keep repeating, using the 100's digit, then the 1000's digit, then the 10000's digit, ...
- Stop after using the most significant (10ⁿ⁻¹'s) digit
- Objects are now in order in original container

Algorithm: Radix Sort

Assume n items to be sorted, k digits per key, and t possible values

for a digit of a key, 0 through t-1. (k and t are constants.)

For each of the k digits in a key:

While the queue q is not empty:

Dequeue an element e from q.

Isolate the kth digit from the right in the key for e; call it d.

Enqueue e in the dth queue in the array of queues arr.

For each of the t queues in arr:

While arr[t-1] is not empty

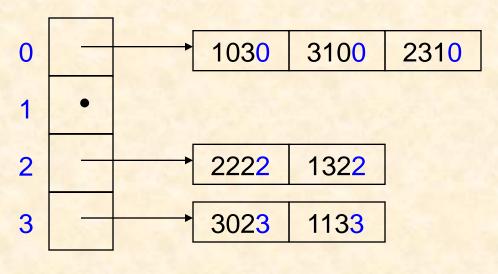
Dequeue an element from arr[t-1] and enqueue it in q.

Suppose keys are 4-digit numbers using only the digits 0, 1, 2 and 3, and that we wish to sort the following queue of objects whose keys are shown:

3023 1030 2222	1322	3100	1133	2310
--------------------	------	------	------	------

	3023	1030	2222	1322	3100	1133	2310
--	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

First pass: while the queue above is not empty, dequeue an item and add it into one of the queues below based on the item's last digit

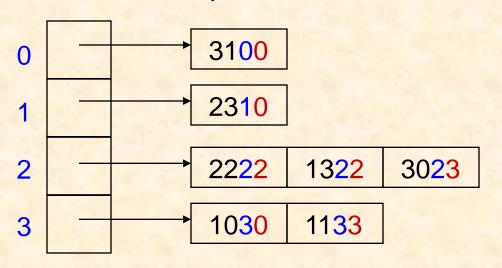


Array of queues after the *first* pass

Then, items are moved back to the original queue (first all items from the top queue, then from the 2nd, 3rd, and the bottom one):

	1030	3100	2310	2222	1322	3023	1133
--	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Second pass: while the queue above is not empty, dequeue an item and add it into one of the queues below based on the item's 2nd last digit



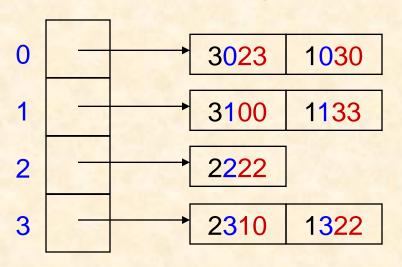
Array of queues after the second pass

Then, items are moved back to the original queue (first all items from the top queue, then from the 2nd, 3rd, and the bottom one):

3100 2310	2222	1322	3023	1030	1133
-----------	------	------	------	------	------

3100	2310	2222	1322	3023	1030	1133
------	------	------	------	------	------	------

First pass: while the queue above is not empty, dequeue an item and add it into one of the queues below based on the item's 3rd last digit



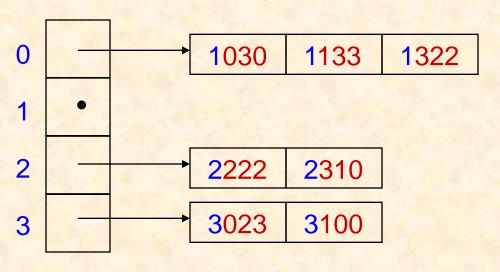
Array of queues after the *third* pass

Then, items are moved back to the original queue (first all items from the top queue, then from the 2nd, 3rd, and the bottom one):

3023 1	1030	3100	1133	2222	2310	1322
--------	------	------	------	------	------	------

3023	1030	3100	1133	2222	2310	1322

First pass: while the queue above is not empty, dequeue an item and add it into one of the queues below based on the item's first digit



Array of queues after the *fourth* pass

Then, items are moved back to the original queue (first all items from the top queue, then from the 2nd, 3rd, and the bottom one): NOW IN ORDER

1030	1133	1322	2222	2310	3023	3100	13-97
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

Analysis: Radix Sort

- We'll count the total number of enqueue and dequeue operations
- Each time through the outer for loop:
 - In the while loop: n elements are dequeued from q and enqueued somewhere in arr: 2*n operations
 - In the inner for loop: a total of n elements are dequeued from queues in arr and enqueued in q: 2*n operations

Analysis: Radix Sort

- So, we perform 4*n enqueue and dequeue operations each time through the outer loop
- Outer for loop is executed k times, so we have 4*k*n enqueue and dequeue operations altogether
- But k is a constant, so the time complexity for radix sort is O(n)
 - COMMENT: If the maximum number of digits in each number k is considered as a parameter describing problem input, then complexity can be written in general as O(n*k) or O(n*log(max_val)).99