

[Data Strucs]

Schedule:

- Midterm: week 4, contributes 25% grade
- Exam: week 8, Tuesday, closed-book

Contact:

- f. van. ramswijk @ vu.nl, course in subject
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- Some problems can't be solved, some can, some efficiently.
efficiency := speed, power, security, etc.
- example algorithm - Euclid's greatest common divisor
 - two non-negative numbers, $a \geq b$
 - if $b = 0$, return a
 - if $b \neq 0$, then gcd of b and $(a \bmod b)$
- important aspects
 - correctness: does it output what it should?
 - termination: does it eventually produce out?
 - efficiency/complexity: how much time/mem does it use?
- complexity as a function of input
 - time: how long does it take?
 - space: how much space does it use?
 - counting elementary steps, if n is size of input, a function of n is the number of steps
 - approach: worst-case asymptotic time complexity
function $T(n)$ giving time complexity for input size n
want to know what happens to T as n gets very large