**Chapter 1: The roles of Algorithms in Computing**

**Exercise 1.1 – 1**

**Give a real-world example that requires sorting or a real-world example that requires computing a convex hull.**

* English dictionary requires all the words to be arranged in their lexicographical order.
* Keeping track of the spatial extend of a disease outbreak could be done using the convex hull.

**Exercise 1.1 – 2**

**Other than speed, what other measures of efficiency might one use in a real-world setting?**

* Memory can be a measure of efficiency that one might use in a real-world setting.

**Exercise 1.1 – 3**

**Select a data structure that you have seen previously, discuss its strengths and weaknesses.**

* Array is a container that can hold a fixed number of elements (variables of same data type) and where each element can be accessed using its index.
* Strengths:

Easy and efficient data access.

Can be used to implement other, more complex data structures.

* Weaknesses:

We must know the size of array in advance.

Does not support insertion or deletion of elements.

**Exercise 1.1 – 4**

**How are shortest-path and travelling-salesman problems given above similar? How are they different?**

* Shortest-path and travelling-salesman problems are similar because they both aim to find the shortest path from point A to point B.
* The difference is that, in shortest-path we only need to cover two points. We start at point A and end up at point B, after travelling the shortest possible distance between them.
* On the other hand, in travelling-salesman problem, we might need to cover more than two points and then end up at the point we began the journey from.

**Exercise 1.1 – 5**

**Come up with a real-world problem in which only the best solution will do. Then come up with one in which a solution that is “approximately” the best is good enough.**

* In case of calculating the trajectory needed to enter a geostationary orbit for satellite launch, only the best solution will do. On the other hand, when calculating age of a person, rounding down to the closest integer is a good enough solution.

**Exercise 1.2 – 1**

**Give an example of an application that requires algorithmic content at the application level, and discuss the function of the algorithms involved.**

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**Exercise 1.2 – 2**

**Suppose we are comparing implementations of insertion sort and merge sort on the same machine. For inputs of size n, insertion sort runs in 8n2 steps, while merge sort runs in 64nlgn steps. For which values of n does insertion sort beat merger sort?**

* Since n represents input size, it can only take integer values starting from 0. We need to prove:

8n2 < 64nlgn

= n < 8lgn

* This condition is satisfied only when n takes values from [2, 43] (brackets “[]” represent inclusiveness of boundaries and brackets “()” represent exclusiveness).

**Exercise 1.2 – 3**

**What is the smallest value of n such that an algorithm whose running time is 100n2 runs faster than an algorithm whose running time is 2n on the same machine?**

* We need to find the smallest value of n that satisfies the equation:

100n2 < 2n

* When n takes the value 0, the above equation is satisfied. But if we are told to find a non-zero value, then 15 will be the minimum value n can take to satisfy the equation.

**Problem 1.1**

**For each function f(n) and time t in the following table, determine the largest size n of a problem that can be solved in time t, assuming that the algorithm to solve the problem takes f(n) microseconds.**

* The values in the below table are approximations since I have assumed there are 30 days in every month of the year.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1**  **second** | **1**  **minute** | **1**  **hour** | **1**  **day** | **1**  **month** | **1**  **year** | **1**  **century** |
| **lgn** | 21\*106 | 26\*107 | 23.6\*109 | 28.64\*1010 | 22.592\*1012 | 23.1104\*1013 | 23.1104\*1015 |
| **√n** | 1\*1012 | 6\*1013 | 3.6\*1015 | 8.64\*1016 | 2.592\*1018 | 3.1104\*1019 | 3.1104\*1021 |
| **n** | 1\*106 | 6\*107 | 3.6\*109 | 8.64\*1010 | 2.592\*1012 | 3.1104\*1013 | 3.1104\*1015 |
| **nlgn** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **n2** | 1000 | 7745 | 60000 |  |  |  |  |
| **n3** | 100 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2n** | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **n!** | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |