

# bioinformatics algorithms

Review of algorithmic  
techniques  
A first problem



## Recap of 1<sup>st</sup> time:

- I did battle with technology (+ lost).
- Syllabus review
- Correctness
- Some runtimes

## Today

- More on runtimes
- Recursion + iteration
- Brute force
- The partial digest problem (PDP)

# Efficiency (2.7 & 2.8 in book)

- Exact speed can depend on many variables besides the algorithm.

Issues at play:

- machine
- language
- actual algorithm

Alternative approach:

Count primitive operations, which are smallest operations.

In addition: generally only examine worst case running time.

Why? more doable, or more pessimistic

Now: How to actually compare?

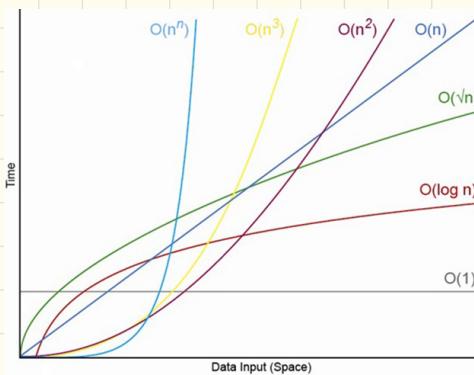
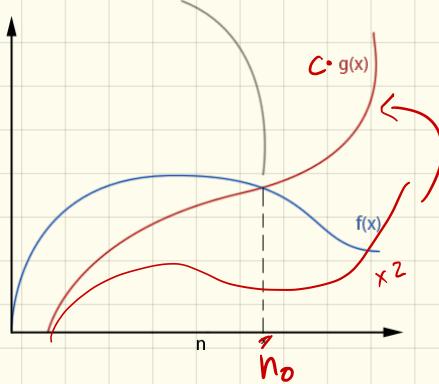
- Remember small difference may be due to processor, language, or any number of things that aren't dependent on the algorithm.
- Also: need a way to account for inputs changing  
eg searching a list

Big-O

# Big-O notation

We say  $f(n)$  is  $O(g(n))$  if  
 $\forall n > n_0, \exists c > 0$  such that  
 $f(n) \leq c \cdot g(n)$

from here on,  $f(x) \leq M(g(x))$



## Common run times

①  $O(1)$

②  $O(\log n)$

③  $O(n)$

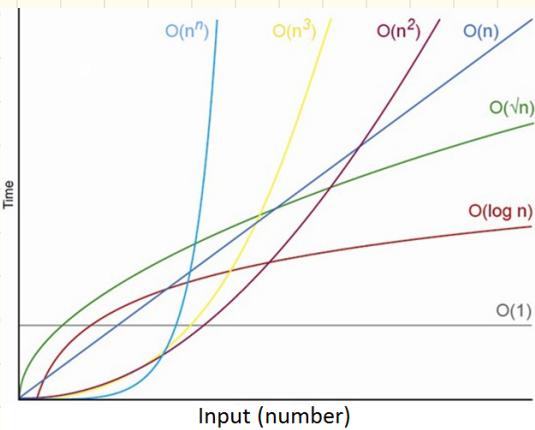
④  $O(n \log n)$

⑤  $O(n^2)$

(polynomial)

And:  $O(2^n)$

$O(n!)$



When these appear:

- For loop : often  $O(n)$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n 1 = \underbrace{1+ \dots + 1}_n = n$$

- Nested for loops; ie:

for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$

  for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $i$

    Total  $\leftarrow$  total +  $j$

not  
 $O(1)$

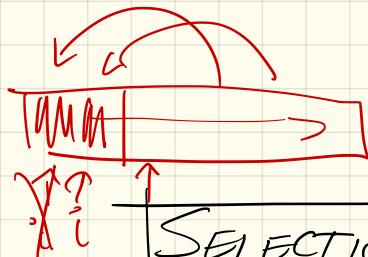
$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \sum_{j=1}^i 1 \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n i = 1+2+3+\dots+n = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} = O(n^2)$$

Both of these are examples of Iteration. (ie using loops).

Common & useful!

Example: Sorting

Sorting: Input:  $n$  distinct integers  
 $A[1..n]$



Output: reordering of  $A$   
 into  $B[1..n]$  s.t.  $\forall i$ ,  
 $B[i] < B[i+1]$

SELECTION SORT ( $A, n$ ):

for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$   
 $\quad n[i] \leftarrow \text{GETMIN}(A, i, n)$   
 $\quad \text{swap } A[i] \leftrightarrow A[n[i]]$   
 return  $A$

GETMIN ( $A, first, last$ ):

$O(n^2)$  {  
 $\quad \text{index} \leftarrow first$   
 $\quad \text{for } k \leftarrow first \text{ to } last$   
 $\quad \quad \text{if } A[k] < A[\text{index}]$   
 $\quad \quad \text{index} \leftarrow k$   
 $\quad \text{return index}$

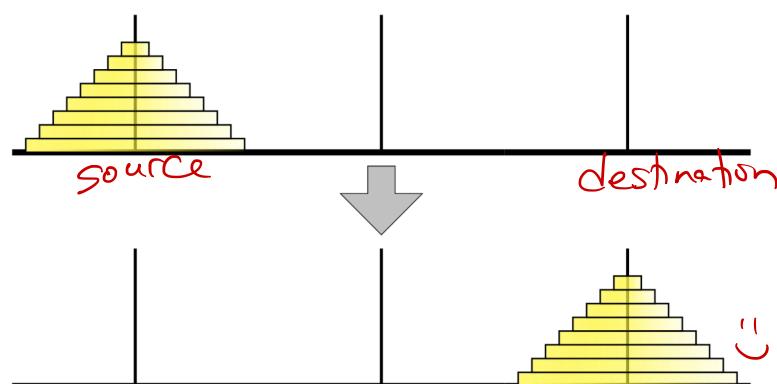
Correctness? At the end of iteration  $i$  of  
 Runtime? my loop, the  $i$ th element is of  
 $n$  in the correct spot.

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (n-i) = \sum_{i=1}^n i = O(n^2)$$

Recursion : an algorithm that calls itself

Simple example: (2.5 in book)  
Towers of Hanoi

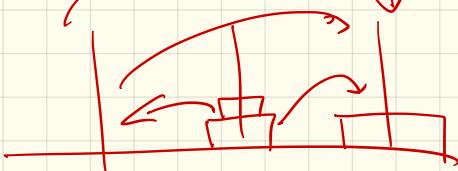
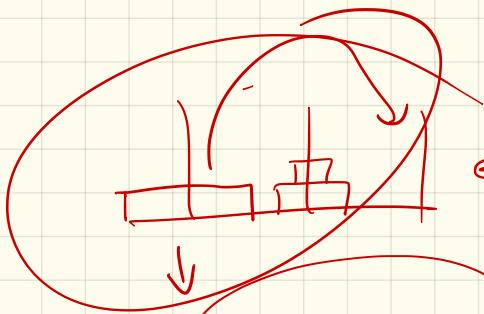
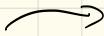
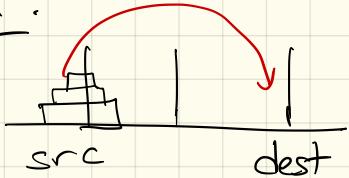
- 3 pegs & n disks, different sizes.
- Goal is to move disks from a source to destination peg, but only putting smaller pegs on larger ones



The Tower of Hanoi puzzle

How?

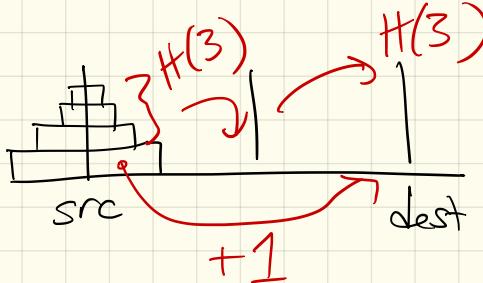
Ex:



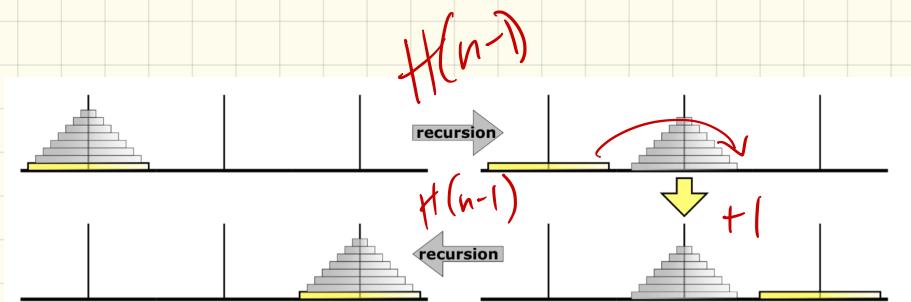
$$H(3) = 7$$

But stop for a minute:

How would we do 4?



$$H(4) = H(3) + 1 + H(3)$$



The Tower of Hanoi algorithm; ignore everything but the bottom disk

# Recursive algorithm:

HANOI( $n, src, dst, tmp$ ):

if  $n > 0$

HANOI( $n - 1, src, tmp, dst$ )

move disk  $n$  from  $src$  to  $dst$

HANOI( $n - 1, tmp, dst, src$ )

Runtime? (# moves)

$$H(1) = 1$$

$$H(n) = H(n-1) + 1 + H(n-1)$$

$$= 2H(n-1) + 1$$

$$\rightsquigarrow 2^n - 1$$

exponential

Sometimes both recursion  
and iteration make sense:

Fibonacci numbers:  $F_0 = 0$

$F_1 = 1$

$$\rightarrow F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$$

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ...

2 ways to compute:

RecFib(n):

if  $n=0$  or  $n=1$

return  $n$

else

return  $\text{RecFib}(n-1) + \text{RecFib}(n-2)$

Iterative Fib(n):

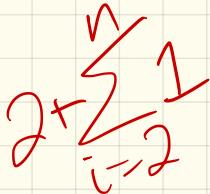
Create a blank array  $F[0..n]$

$F[0] = 0$

$F[1] = 1$

for  $i \geq 2$  to  $n$

$F[i] \leftarrow F[i-1] + F[i-2]$



Compare:

- Both are correct
- Efficiency?

RecFib:

$$\begin{aligned} R(n) &= \overbrace{R(n-1)}^{\downarrow} + \\ &\quad R(n-2) + 1 \\ &= \overbrace{R(n-2) + R(n-3) + 1} \\ &\quad + R(n-2) + 1 \\ &= 2R(n-2) + R(n-3) + 2 \\ &= O(\phi^n) \text{ exponential} \end{aligned}$$

Iterative Fib:  $O(n)$

## Rest of Ch 2:

- More big-O examples
- Brief overview of types of algorithmic approaches:
  - exhaustive search
  - branch + bound ↗ 3 paragraphs
  - greedy
  - dynamic programming
  - divide + conquer
  - ML
  - Randomized

(Useful to read, but I'll discuss these as we see bioinformatics examples in more detail.)

## Ch 3: Molecular Biology Primer

(This was super useful for me - but I suspect you all know it.)

Please skim, just so you know the terms I'll be using.)

Also: Ch 2 + 3 are background for your first essay.

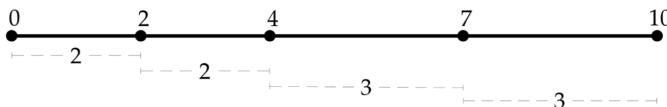
(due in 1 week)

## Ch 4: Finally, some bio problems!

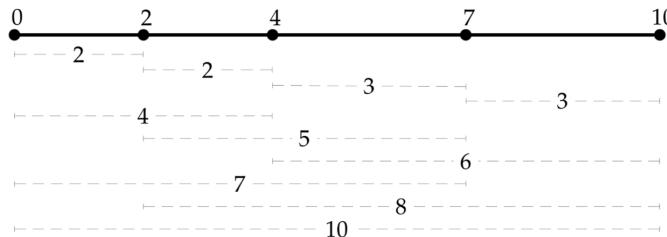
A first (if older) example:  
DNA restriction mapping

Story: In 1970, Smith discovered how to break long DNA molecules at sites holding GTGCAC or GTT AAC.

Result: Maps of these restriction sites, or restriction maps, become important.



(a) Complete digest.



(b) Partial digest.

**Figure 4.1** Different methods of digesting a DNA molecule. A complete digest produces only fragments between consecutive restriction sites, while a partial digest yields fragments between any two restriction sites. Each of the dots represents a restriction site.

Turning this into a concrete problem:

Partial digest problem (PDP):

Dfn: A multiset :

ex:  $\{2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5\}$

$$\{\underset{2_3}{2}, \underset{3_2}{3}, \underset{4,5}{4,5}\}$$

Dfn: If  $X$  is a set of  $n$  points on a line segment,

$$\Delta X = \{x_i - x_j : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$$

Aside: How big is  $\Delta X$ ?

$$\binom{n}{2} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} = \frac{n!}{2!(n-2)!}$$


Ex: Let  $X = \{0, 2, 4, 7, 10\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta X &= \{2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 6, \\ &\quad 7, 8, 10\}, \\ &= \{2_2, 3_2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10\}\end{aligned}$$

PDP: Given  $\Delta X$ , reconstruct  $X$ .

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**Partial Digest Problem:**

Given all pairwise distances between points on a line, reconstruct the positions of those points.

**Input:** The multiset of pairwise distances  $L$ , containing  $\binom{n}{2}$  integers.

**Output:** A set  $X$ , of  $n$  integers, such that  $\Delta X = L$

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Aside: CS people also studied this!

(We called it the Turnpike problem.)

Note: These aren't unique!

Given a set  $A$  + value  $v$ ,

$$\text{let } A \oplus \{v\} = \{a+v : a \in A\}$$

$$\text{Then } \Delta(A \oplus \{v\}) = \Delta A$$

Ex:  $A = \{0, 2, 4, 7, 10\}$

$$A \oplus 100 = \{100, 102, 104, 107, 110\}$$

In general, 2 sets  $A + B$  are called homometric if  $\Delta A = \Delta B$ .

Can show that if  $U + V$  are two sets of numbers,

$$U \oplus V = \{u+v : u \in U, v \in V\}$$

$$+ U \ominus V = \{u-v : u \in U, v \in V\}$$

are always homometric.

Ex:  $U = \{6, 7, 9\}$

$$V = \{-6, 2, -6\}$$

$U \oplus V$	-6	2	6
6	0	8	12
7	1	9	13
9	3	11	15

$U \ominus V$	-6	2	6
6	12	4	0
7	13	5	1
9	15	7	3

Both have  $\Delta(U \oplus V) = \Delta(U \ominus V)$

$$= \{1_4, 2_4, 3_4, 4_3, 5_2, 6_2, 7_2, \\ 8_3, 9_2, 10_2, 11_2, 12_3, 13_1, 14_1, 15\}$$

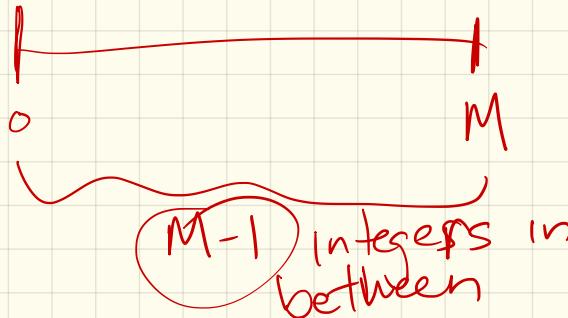
Note: PDP asks for one  $X$ , but biologists often want all  $X$ .  
We'll always include 0.

Brute force:

$\text{BRUTEFORCEPDP}(L, n)$

- 1  $M \leftarrow$  maximum element in  $L$
- 2 **for** every set of  $n - 2$  integers  $0 < x_2 < \dots < x_{n-1} < M$
- 3    $X \leftarrow \{0, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}, M\}$
- 4   Form  $\Delta X$  from  $X$
- 5   **if**  $\Delta X = L$
- 6      **return**  $X$
- 7 **output** "No Solution"

Ex at end of chapter



Correctness:  
Our alg. tries everything.

Runtime:  $\binom{M-1}{n-2} = \frac{(M-1)!}{(n-2)! (M-1-(n-2))!}$

$$= O(M^{n-2})$$

(You can bound this a bit more carefully - see book)

Improved brute force:

Do we really need all items  $\leq M$ ?

Observation: If  $L$  does not contain the value  $y$ , then  $y$  can't be in  $X$ .  
Why? Spp's it were:

Result:



ANOTHERBRUTEFORCEPDP( $L, n$ )

- 1  $M \leftarrow$  maximum element in  $L$
- 2 **for** every set of  $n - 2$  integers  $0 < x_2 < \dots < x_{n-1} < M$  from  $L$
- 3  $X \leftarrow \{0, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}, M\}$
- 4 Form  $\Delta X$  from  $X$
- 5 **if**  $\Delta X = L$
- 6     **return**  $X$
- 7 **output** "No Solution"

Runtime:  $\binom{L}{n-2} + L \ll M$

Correctness: trying everything

Next time:

- A more practical approach
- & then on to motif finding