Practical Exercise 10 – Algorithms Analysis and Big-O Notation

Overall Objective

To estimate algorithm efficiency using the Big-O notation and determine the complexity of various types of algorithms.

Description

1. Why is a constant factor ignored in the Big-O notation? Refer to Ch24 slide 17

> The Big *O* notation estimates the execution time of an algorithm in relation to the input size.
>
> If the time is not related to the input size, the algorithm is said to take *constant time* with the notation *O(1)*.
>
> For example, a method that retrieves an element at a given index in an array takes constant time, because it does not grow as the size of the array increases.

2. Why is a non-dominating term ignored in the Big-O notation? Refer to Ch24 slide 8

Consider the algorithm for finding the maximum number in an array of *n* elements.

If *n* is 2, it takes one comparison to find the maximum number.

If *n* is 3, it takes two comparisons to find the maximum number.

In general, it takes *n-1* times of comparisons to find maximum number in a list of *n* elements.

Algorithm analysis is for large input size. If the input size is small, there is no significance to estimate an algorithm's efficiency.

As *n* grows larger, the *n* part in the expression *n-1* dominates the complexity.

The Big *O* notation allows you to ignore the non-dominating part (e.g., -1 in the expression *n-1*) and highlight the important part (e.g., *n* in the expression *n-1*).

So, the complexity of this algorithm is $O(n)$.

3. What is the order of each of the following functions? Refer to Additional slide 21&22

   a. $\frac{(n^2+1)^2}{n} = \frac{(n^4+2n^2+1)}{n} = n^3+2n+\frac{1}{n} = n^3 = O(n^3)$
   (because n cube grow fastest)

   b. $\frac{(n^2+\log_2 n)^2}{n} = \frac{n^4+2n\log_2 n+(\log_2 n)^2}{n} = n^3 = O(n^3)$
   (because n cube grow fastest)

   c. $n^3+100n^2+n = n^3 = O(n^3)$ (because n cube grow fastest)

   d. $2^n+100n^2+45n = 2^n = O(2^n)$ (because 2 power n grow fastest)

   e. $n2^n+n^2 2^n = n^2 2^n = O(n^2 2^n)$ (because n square 2 power n grow fastest)

   f. $3n^4+2n^2+10000 = 3n^4 = O(n^4)$ (**NOTE:** *the 3 need to be omitted*)

4. What is the number of iterations in the following loop?

```
int count = 5;
while (count < n) {
   count = count + 3;
}
```

Formula for loop

$= \frac{n - startValue}{step}$

$= \frac{n-5}{3}$

$= n$

$= O(n)$

```
int sum = 1 + 2 + 3 … + 100
```

Answer $= O(1)$
Because it is only calculated once.

Always pay attention on the loop. If without loop is always O(1).

5. Use the Big-O notation to estimate the time complexity of the following methods:

   a.
```
public static void method1(int n) {
     for(int i = 0; i < n; i += 2) {
          System.out.print(Math.random() + " ");
     }
}
```
   Refer to Ch24 slide 11 or Additional slide 13, 21&22

   Answer

   $= \dfrac{n - startValue}{step}$

   $= \dfrac{n-0}{2}$

   $= \dfrac{n}{2}$

   $= O(n)$

b.
```
public static void method2(int n) {
      for(int i = 0; i <= n; i++) {
            for(int j = 0; j < i; j++) {
                  System.out.print(Math.random() + " ");
            }
      }
}
```

Refer to Ch24 slide 13 or Additional slide 19, 20, 21&22

c.
```
public static void method3(int[] m) {
     for(int i = 0; i < m.length; i += 2) {
          System.out.print(m[i] + " ");
     }

     for(int i = m.length - 1; i >= 0; i -= 2) {
          System.out.print(m[i] + " ");
     }
}
```

Refer to Ch24 slide 15

6. Put the following growth functions in order:

$$\frac{5n^3}{4032}, \quad 44\log n, \quad 500, \quad \frac{2^n}{45}, \quad 10n\log n, \quad 2n^2, \quad 3n$$

Refer to Ch24 slide 30 or Additional slide 25

7. Design/describe an algorithm for the following tasks, and analyse the time complexity of the algorithm.

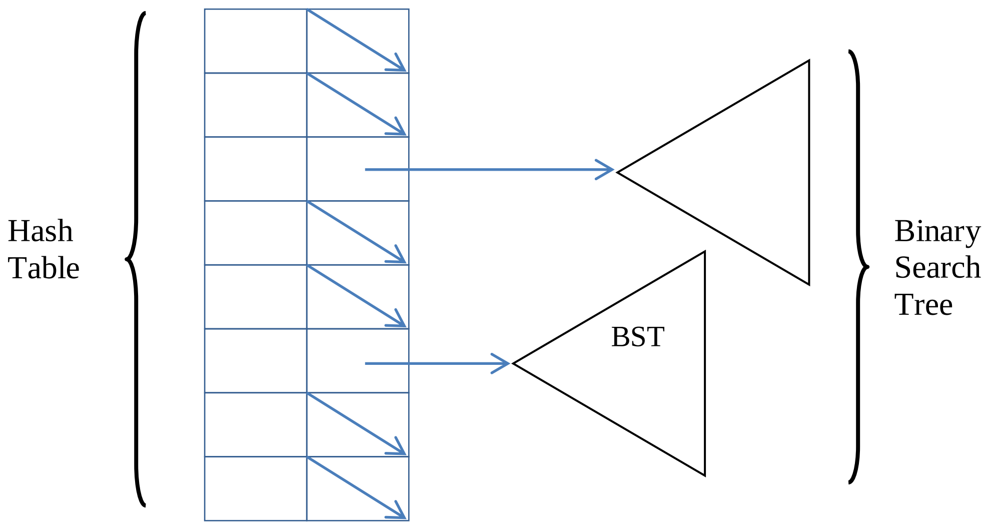
    a. Compute the sum of all numbers from n1 to n2 for (n1 < n2).

    b. Find the occurrence of the largest element in an array.

    c. Remove duplicate element in an array.

8. Give a diagram of conceptual design of a student database of *N* records that supports the following search-time constraints:

    Worst case search-time: O(log(*N*))
    Best and average search-time: O(1)



Hash table of *N* entries

9. What is dynamic programming? Give an example. (refer to recursive and non-recursive Fibonacci solutions)
Refer to Ch24 slide 36