

# Module 1: Introduction and Asymptotic Analysis

## CS 240 - Data Structures and Data Management

Mark Petrick

Based on lecture notes by many previous cs240 instructors

David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science, University of Waterloo

Fall 2017

# Course Information

- Instructors

- ▶ Mark Petrick, DC 3109  
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- Lectures (Tuesday, Thursday)

- ▶ 001 10:00-11:20 in STC 0020 (Petrick)
- ▶ 002 08:30-09:50 in STC 0020 (Petrick)
- ▶ 003 02:30-03:50 in AL 124 (Petrick)

- Office hours, phone numbers etc.

- ▶ See web page

# Course Information

## Instructional Support


- Coordinator: Karen Anderson (MC 4010)  
kaanders [at] uwaterloo.ca
- Assistant: Benjamin Winger  
cs240 [at] uwaterloo.ca
- Office hours
  - ▶ TBD

## Tutorials (Mondays):

- 101 09:30-10:20M in MC 4021
- 102 12:30-01:20M in DWE 2527
- 103 03:30-04:20M in MC 4060
- 104 02:30-03:20M in MC 4059

Tutorial next week on  $\text{\LaTeX}$

Assignment 0 to learn  $\text{\LaTeX}$

(6 bonus marks on assignment 1 )

# Course Information

- Course Webpage

<http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs240/f17/>

Primary source for up-to-date information for CS 240.

- ▶ Lecture slides
- ▶ Assignments / Solution Sketches
- ▶ Course policies

- Main resource: Lectures

- ▶ Course slides will be available on the webpage before each lecture

- Textbooks

- ▶ Algorithms in C++, by Robert Sedgewick, Addison-Wesley, 1998
- ▶ More books on the webpage under Resources
- ▶ Topics and references for each lecture will be posted on the Webpage

# Electronic Communication in CS240

## Piazza

<https://piazza.com/uwaterloo.ca/fall2017/cs240>

- A forum that is optimized for asking questions and giving answers.
- You must sign up using your uwaterloo email address.
  - ▶ You can post to piazza using a nickname though
- Posting solutions to assignments is forbidden.

## Email

[cs240@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cs240@uwaterloo.ca)

- For private communication between students and course staff.
- You should be sending email from your uwaterloo email address.

# Mark Breakdown

- Final 50%
- Midterm 25%
  - ▶ Thursday October 19, 4:30-6:20pm
- Assignments 25%
  - ▶ 5 assignments each worth 5%
  - ▶ Approximately every 2 weeks
  - ▶ Due on Wednesdays at 5:00pm
  - ▶ No lates allowed
  - ▶ Follow the **assignment guidelines**
  - ▶ All assignment to be submitted electronically via MarkUs

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} Note: You must pass the weighted average of the midterm and the final exam to pass the course

# Cheating

- Cheating includes not only copying the work of another person (or letting another student copy your work), but also excessive collaboration.
- Standard penalties: a grade of 0 on the assignment you cheated on, and a deduction of 5% from your course grade. You will also be reported to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
- Do **not** take notes during discussions with classmates.



# Courtesy

- **Cardinal rule:** Do nothing that keeps your neighbour from learning.
- Please silence cell phones before coming to class.
- Questions are encouraged, but please refrain from talking in class.
- Does a laptop help, or does it distract?

# Advice

Attend all the lectures and pay attention!

Study the slides before the lectures, and again afterwards.

Read the reference materials to get different perspectives on the course material.

Keep up with the course material! Don't fall behind.

If you're having difficulties with the course, seek help.

# Course Objectives: What is this course about?

- The objective of the course is to study efficient methods of *storing*, *accessing*, and performing *operations* on large collections of data.
- Typical operations include: *inserting* new data items, *deleting* data items, *searching* for specific data items, *sorting*.
- **Motivating examples:** Digital Music Collection, English Dictionary
- We will consider various *abstract data types* (ADTs) and how to implement them efficiently using appropriate *data structures*.
- There is a strong emphasis on mathematical analysis in the course.
- Algorithms are presented using pseudocode and analyzed using order notation (big-Oh, etc.).

# Course Topics

- priority queues and heaps
- sorting, selection
- binary search trees, AVL trees, B-trees
- skip lists
- hashing
- quadtrees, kd-trees
- range search
- tries
- string matching
- data compression

# CS Background

Topics covered in previous courses with relevant sections in [Sedgewick]:

- arrays, linked lists (Sec. 3.2–3.4)
- strings (Sec. 3.6)
- stacks, queues (Sec. 4.2–4.6)
- abstract data types (Sec. 4-intro, 4.1, 4.8–4.9)
- recursive algorithms (5.1)
- binary trees (5.4–5.7)
- sorting (6.1–6.4)
- binary search (12.4)
- binary search trees (12.5)

# Problems (terminology)

**Problem:** Given a problem instance, carry out a particular computational task.

**Problem Instance:** *Input* for the specified problem.

**Problem Solution:** *Output* (correct answer) for the specified problem instance.

**Size of a problem instance:**  $Size(I)$  is a positive integer which is a measure of the size of the instance  $I$ .

**Example:** Sorting problem

# Algorithms and Programs

**Algorithm:** An algorithm is a *step-by-step process* (e.g., described in pseudocode) for carrying out a series of computations, given an arbitrary problem instance  $I$ .

**Algorithm solving a problem:** An Algorithm  $A$  *solves* a problem  $\Pi$  if, for every instance  $I$  of  $\Pi$ ,  $A$  finds (computes) a valid solution for the instance  $I$  in finite time.

**Program:** A program is an *implementation* of an algorithm using a specified computer language.

In this course, our emphasis is on algorithms (as opposed to programs or programming).

# Algorithms and Programs

For a problem  $\Pi$ , we can have several algorithms.

For an algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  solving  $\Pi$ , we can have several programs (implementations).

Algorithms in practice: Given a problem  $\Pi$

- 1 Design an algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  that solves  $\Pi$ .  $\rightarrow$  **Algorithm Design**
- 2 Assess *correctness* and *efficiency* of  $\mathcal{A}$ .  $\rightarrow$  **Algorithm Analysis**
- 3 If acceptable (correct and efficient), implement  $\mathcal{A}$ .



# Efficiency of Algorithms/Programs

- How do we decide which algorithm or program is the most efficient solution to a given problem?
- In this course, we are primarily concerned with the *amount of time* a program takes to run.  
→ **Running Time**
- We also may be interested in the *amount of memory* the program requires.  
→ **Space**
- The amount of time and/or memory required by a program will depend on *Size(I)*, the size of the given problem instance *I*.

# Running Time of Algorithms/Programs

First Option: *experimental studies*

- Write a program implementing the algorithm.
- Run the program with inputs of varying size and composition.
- Use a method like `clock()` (from `time.h`) to get an accurate measure of the actual running time.
- Plot/compare the results.

# Running Time of Algorithms/Programs

## Shortcomings of experimental studies

- We must implement the algorithm.
- Timings are affected by many factors: *hardware* (processor, memory), *software environment* (OS, compiler, programming language), and human factors (programmer).
- We cannot test all inputs; what are good *sample inputs*?
- We cannot easily compare two algorithms/programs.

## We want a framework that:

- Does not require implementing the algorithm.
- Is independent of the hardware/software environment.
- Takes into account all input instances.

We need some *simplifications*.

# Running Time Simplifications

Overcome dependency on hardware/software

- Express algorithms using *pseudo-code*
- Instead of time, count the number of *primitive operations*

**Random Access Machine (RAM)** Model:

- The *random access machine* has a set of memory cells, each of which stores one item (word) of data.
- Any *access to a memory location* takes constant time.
- Any *primitive operation* takes constant time.
- The *running time* of a program can be computed to be the number of memory accesses plus the number of primitive operations.

This is an idealized model, so these assumptions may not be valid for a “real” computer.

# Running Time Simplifications

Overcome dependency on hardware/software

- Express algorithms using *pseudo-code*.
- Instead of time, count the number of *primitive operations*.
- Implicit assumption: primitive operations have fairly similar, though different, running time on different systems

Simplify Comparisons

- Example: Compare  $1000000n + 2000000000000000$  with  $0.01n^2$
- Idea: Use *order notation*
- Informally: ignore constants and lower order terms

# Order Notation

**$O$ -notation:**  $f(n) \in O(g(n))$  if there exist constants  $c > 0$  and  $n_0 > 0$  such that  $0 \leq f(n) \leq c g(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

**$\Omega$ -notation:**  $f(n) \in \Omega(g(n))$  if there exist constants  $c > 0$  and  $n_0 > 0$  such that  $0 \leq c g(n) \leq f(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

**$\Theta$ -notation:**  $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n))$  if there exist constants  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  and  $n_0 > 0$  such that  $0 \leq c_1 g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 g(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

**$o$ -notation:**  $f(n) \in o(g(n))$  if for all constants  $c > 0$ , there exists a constant  $n_0 > 0$  such that  $0 \leq f(n) < c g(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

**$\omega$ -notation:**  $f(n) \in \omega(g(n))$  if for all constants  $c > 0$ , there exists a constant  $n_0 > 0$  such that  $0 \leq c g(n) < f(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

## Example of Order Notation

In order to prove that  $2n^2 + 3n + 11 \in O(n^2)$  from first principles, we need to find  $c$  and  $n_0$  such that the following condition is satisfied:

$$0 \leq 2n^2 + 3n + 11 \leq c n^2 \text{ for all } n \geq n_0.$$

note that not all choices of  $c$  and  $n_0$  will work.

## Example of Order Notation

Prove that  $2010n^2 + 1388n \in o(n^3)$  from first principles.



# Complexity of Algorithms

Our goal: Express the running time of each algorithm as a function  $f(n)$  in terms of the *input size*.

Let  $T_A(I)$  denote the running time of an algorithm  $A$  on a problem instance  $I$ .

An algorithm can have different running times on input instances of the same size.

**Average-case complexity of an algorithm**

**Worst-case complexity of an algorithm**

# Complexity of Algorithms

**Average-case complexity of an algorithm:** The average-case running time of an algorithm  $A$  is a function  $f : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  mapping  $n$  (the input size) to the *average* running time of  $A$  over all instances of size  $n$ :

$$T_A^{avg}(n) = \frac{1}{|\{I : Size(I) = n\}|} \sum_{\{I : Size(I) = n\}} T_A(I).$$

**Worst-case complexity of an algorithm:** The worst-case running time of an algorithm  $A$  is a function  $f : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  mapping  $n$  (the input size) to the *longest* running time for any input instance of size  $n$ :

$$T_A(n) = \max\{T_A(I) : Size(I) = n\}.$$

# Growth Rates

- If  $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n))$ , then the *growth rates* of  $f(n)$  and  $g(n)$  are the *same*.
- If  $f(n) \in o(g(n))$ , then we say that the growth rate of  $f(n)$  is *less than* the growth rate of  $g(n)$ .
- If  $f(n) \in \omega(g(n))$ , then we say that the growth rate of  $f(n)$  is *greater than* the growth rate of  $g(n)$ .
- Typically,  $f(n)$  may be “complicated” and  $g(n)$  is chosen to be a very simple function.

# Common Growth Rates

Commonly encountered growth rates in analysis of algorithms include the following (in increasing order of growth rate):

- $\Theta(1)$  (*constant complexity*),
- $\Theta(\log n)$  (*logarithmic complexity*),
- $\Theta(n)$  (*linear complexity*),
- $\Theta(n \log n)$  (*linearithmic*),
- $\Theta(n \log^k n)$ , for some constant  $k$  (*quasi-linear*),
- $\Theta(n^2)$  (*quadratic complexity*),
- $\Theta(n^3)$  (*cubic complexity*),
- $\Theta(2^n)$  (*exponential complexity*).

# How Growth Rates Affect Running Time

It is interesting to see how the running time is affected when the size of the problem instance **doubles** (i.e.,  $n \rightarrow 2n$ ).

- constant complexity:  $T(n) = c$
- logarithmic complexity:  $T(n) = c \log n$
- linear complexity:  $T(n) = cn$
- $\Theta(n \log n)$ :  $T(n) = cn \log n$
- quadratic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^2$
- cubic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^3$
- exponential complexity:  $T(n) = c2^n$

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- logarithmic complexity:  $T(n) = c \log n$ ,  $T(2n) = T(n) + c$ .
- linear complexity:  $T(n) = cn$
- $\Theta(n \log n)$ :  $T(n) = cn \log n$
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- $\Theta(n \log n)$ :  $T(n) = cn \log n$
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- linear complexity:  $T(n) = cn$ ,  $T(2n) = 2T(n)$ .
- $\Theta(n \log n)$ :  $T(n) = cn \log n$ ,  $T(2n) = 2T(n) + 2cn$ .
- quadratic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^2$
- cubic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^3$
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- linear complexity:  $T(n) = cn$ ,  $T(2n) = 2T(n)$ .
- $\Theta(n \log n)$ :  $T(n) = cn \log n$ ,  $T(2n) = 2T(n) + 2cn$ .
- quadratic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^2$ ,  $T(2n) = 4T(n)$ .
- cubic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^3$
- exponential complexity:  $T(n) = c2^n$

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- linear complexity:  $T(n) = cn$ ,  $T(2n) = 2T(n)$ .
- $\Theta(n \log n)$ :  $T(n) = cn \log n$ ,  $T(2n) = 2T(n) + 2cn$ .
- quadratic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^2$ ,  $T(2n) = 4T(n)$ .
- cubic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^3$ ,  $T(2n) = 8T(n)$ .
- exponential complexity:  $T(n) = c2^n$

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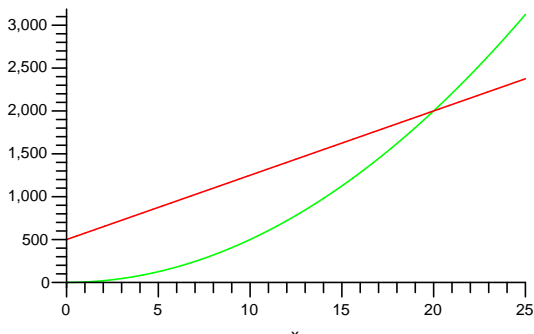
- constant complexity:  $T(n) = c$ ,  $T(2n) = c$ .
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- quadratic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^2$ ,  $T(2n) = 4T(n)$ .
- cubic complexity:  $T(n) = cn^3$ ,  $T(2n) = 8T(n)$ .
- exponential complexity:  $T(n) = c2^n$ ,  $T(2n) = (T(n))^2/c$ .

# Complexity vs. Running Time

- Suppose that algorithms  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  both solve some specified problem.
- Suppose that the complexity of algorithm  $A_1$  is *lower* than the complexity of algorithm  $A_2$ . Then, for sufficiently large problem instances,  $A_1$  will run *faster* than  $A_2$ . However, for small problem instances,  $A_1$  could be slower than  $A_2$ .
- Now suppose that  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  have the *same complexity*. Then we *cannot determine* from this information which of  $A_1$  or  $A_2$  is faster; a more delicate analysis of the algorithms  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  is required.

## Example

Suppose an algorithm  $A_1$  with linear complexity has running time  $T_{A_1}(n) = 75n + 500$  and an algorithm with quadratic complexity has running time  $T_{A_2}(n) = 5n^2$ . Then  $A_2$  is faster when  $n \leq 20$  (the *crossover point*). When  $n > 20$ ,  $A_1$  is faster.



# O-notation and Complexity of Algorithms

- It is important not to try and make *comparisons* between algorithms using O-notation.
- For example, suppose algorithm  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  both solve the same problem,  $A_1$  has complexity  $O(n^3)$  and  $A_2$  has complexity  $O(n^2)$ .
- The above statements are perfectly reasonable.
- Observe that we *cannot* conclude that  $A_2$  is more efficient than  $A_1$  in this situation! (Why not?)

# Techniques for Order Notation

Suppose that  $f(n) > 0$  and  $g(n) > 0$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ . Suppose that

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)}.$$

Then

$$f(n) \in \begin{cases} o(g(n)) & \text{if } L = 0 \\ \Theta(g(n)) & \text{if } 0 < L < \infty \\ \omega(g(n)) & \text{if } L = \infty. \end{cases}$$

The required limit can often be computed using ***Hôpital's rule***. Note that this result gives ***sufficient*** (but not necessary) conditions for the stated conclusions to hold.



## An Example

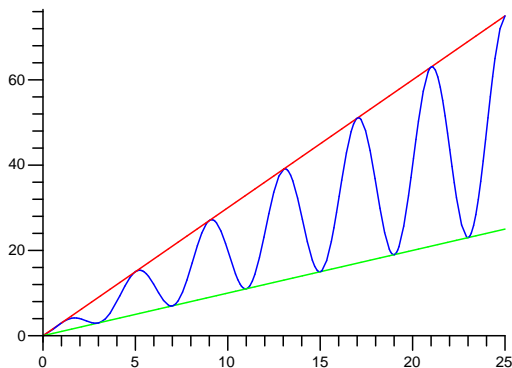
Compare the growth rates of  $\log n$  and  $n^i$  (where  $i > 0$  is a real number).

## Example

Prove that  $n(2 + \sin n\pi/2)$  is  $\Theta(n)$ . Note that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2 + \sin n\pi/2)$  does not exist.

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# Relationships between Order Notations

- $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow g(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$
  - $f(n) \in O(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow g(n) \in \Omega(f(n))$
  - $f(n) \in o(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow g(n) \in \omega(f(n))$
- 
- $f(n) \in \Theta(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow f(n) \in O(g(n))$  and  $f(n) \in \Omega(g(n))$
  - $f(n) \in o(g(n)) \Rightarrow f(n) \in O(g(n))$
  - $f(n) \in o(g(n)) \Rightarrow f(n) \notin \Omega(g(n))$
  - $f(n) \in \omega(g(n)) \Rightarrow f(n) \in \Omega(g(n))$
  - $f(n) \in \omega(g(n)) \Rightarrow f(n) \notin O(g(n))$

# Algebra of Order Notations

**“Maximum” rules:** Suppose that  $f(n) > 0$  and  $g(n) > 0$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .  
Then:

- $O(f(n) + g(n)) = O(\max\{f(n), g(n)\})$
- $\Theta(f(n) + g(n)) = \Theta(\max\{f(n), g(n)\})$
- $\Omega(f(n) + g(n)) = \Omega(\max\{f(n), g(n)\})$

**Transitivity:** If  $f(n) \in O(g(n))$  and  $g(n) \in O(h(n))$  then  $f(n) \in O(h(n))$ .

# Summation Formulae

## Arithmetic sequence:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (a + di) = na + \frac{dn(n-1)}{2} \in \Theta(n^2) \quad \text{for } d \neq 0.$$

## Geometric sequence:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a r^i = \begin{cases} a \frac{r^n - 1}{r - 1} \in \Theta(r^n) & \text{if } r > 1 \\ na \in \Theta(n) & \text{if } r = 1 \\ a \frac{1 - r^n}{1 - r} \in \Theta(1) & \text{if } 0 < r < 1. \end{cases}$$

## Harmonic sequence:

$$H_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \in \Theta(\log n)$$

# More Formulae and Miscellaneous Math Facts

- $\sum_{i=1}^n i r^i = \frac{nr^{n+1}}{r-1} - \frac{r^{n+1} - r}{(r-1)^2}$
- $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} i^{-2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$
- for  $k \geq 0$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n i^k \in \Theta(n^{k+1})$
- $\log_b a = \frac{1}{\log_a b}$
- $\log_b a = \frac{\log_c a}{\log_c b}$
- $a^{\log_b c} = c^{\log_b a}$
- $n! \in \Theta(n^{n+1/2} e^{-n})$
- $\log n! \in \Theta(n \log n)$

# Techniques for Algorithm Analysis

Two general strategies are as follows.

- Use  $\Theta$ -bounds *throughout the analysis* and obtain a  $\Theta$ -bound for the complexity of the algorithm.
- Prove a  $O$ -bound and a *matching*  $\Omega$ -bound *separately* to get a  $\Theta$ -bound. Sometimes this technique is easier because arguments for  $O$ -bounds may use simpler upper bounds (and arguments for  $\Omega$ -bounds may use simpler lower bounds) than arguments for  $\Theta$ -bounds do.



# Techniques for Loop Analysis

- Identify *elementary operations* that require constant time (denoted  $\Theta(1)$  time).
- The complexity of a loop is expressed as the *sum* of the complexities of each iteration of the loop.
- Analyze independent loops separately, and then *add* the results (use “maximum rules” and simplify whenever possible).
- If loops are nested, start with the innermost loop and proceed outwards. In general, this kind of analysis requires evaluation of *nested summations*.

# Example of Loop Analysis

*Test1*(*n*)

1.      $sum \leftarrow 0$
2.     **for**  $i \leftarrow 1$  **to**  $n$  **do**
3.         **for**  $j \leftarrow i$  **to**  $n$  **do**
4.              $sum \leftarrow sum + (i - j)^2$
5.              $sum \leftarrow sum^2$
6.     **return**  $sum$

# Example of Loop Analysis

*Test2*(*A*, *n*)

```
1.  max  $\leftarrow$  0
2.  for i  $\leftarrow$  1 to n do
3.      for j  $\leftarrow$  i to n do
4.          sum  $\leftarrow$  0
5.          for k  $\leftarrow$  i to j do
6.              sum  $\leftarrow$  A[k]
7.              if sum > max then
8.                  max  $\leftarrow$  sum
9.  return max
```

# Example of Loop Analysis

*Test3*(*n*)

```
1.  sum  $\leftarrow$  0
2.  for i  $\leftarrow$  1 to n do
3.      j  $\leftarrow$  i
4.      while j  $\geq$  1 do
5.          sum  $\leftarrow$  sum + i/j
6.          j  $\leftarrow$   $\lfloor j/2 \rfloor$ 
7.  return sum
```

# Design of MergeSort

**Input:** Array  $A$  of  $n$  integers

- *Step 1:* We split  $A$  into two subarrays:  $A_L$  consists of the first  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  elements in  $A$  and  $A_R$  consists of the last  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  elements in  $A$ .
- *Step 2:* *Recursively* run *MergeSort* on  $A_L$  and  $A_R$ .
- *Step 3:* After  $A_L$  and  $A_R$  have been sorted, use a function *Merge* to merge them into a single sorted array. This can be done in time  $\Theta(n)$ .

# MergeSort

```
MergeSort( $A, n$ )
1.   if  $n = 1$  then
2.        $S \leftarrow A$ 
3.   else
4.        $n_L \leftarrow \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ 
5.        $n_R \leftarrow \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ 
6.        $A_L \leftarrow [A[1], \dots, A[n_L]]$ 
7.        $A_R \leftarrow [A[n_L + 1], \dots, A[n]]$ 
8.        $S_L \leftarrow \textit{MergeSort}(A_L, n_L)$ 
9.        $S_R \leftarrow \textit{MergeSort}(A_R, n_R)$ 
10.       $S \leftarrow \textit{Merge}(S_L, n_L, S_R, n_R)$ 
11.  return  $S$ 
```

# Analysis of MergeSort

Let  $T(n)$  denote the time to run *MergeSort* on an array of length  $n$ .

- Step 1 takes time  $\Theta(n)$
- Step 2 takes time  $T(\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil) + T(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor)$
- Step 3 takes time  $\Theta(n)$

The *recurrence relation* for  $T(n)$  is as follows:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} T(\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil) + T(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1 \\ \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1. \end{cases}$$

# Analysis of MergeSort

- The mergesort recurrence is

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} T(\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil) + T(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1 \\ \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1. \end{cases}$$

- It is simpler to consider the following *exact recurrence*, with unspecified constant factors  $c$  and  $d$  replacing  $\Theta$ 's:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} T(\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil) + T(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor) + cn & \text{if } n > 1 \\ d & \text{if } n = 1. \end{cases}$$



# Analysis of MergeSort

- The following is the corresponding *sloppy recurrence* (it has floors and ceilings removed):

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 2 T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + cn & \text{if } n > 1 \\ d & \text{if } n = 1. \end{cases}$$

- The exact and sloppy recurrences are *identical* when  $n$  is a power of 2.
- The recurrence can easily be solved by various methods when  $n = 2^j$ . The solution has growth rate  $T(n) \in \Theta(n \log n)$ .
- It is possible to show that  $T(n) \in \Theta(n \log n)$  *for all  $n$*  by analyzing the exact recurrence.