15-251: Great Theoretical Ideas in Computer Science Fall 2018, Lecture 8

Time Complexity



Dammit I'm mad! – is a palindrome



In 1993, comedian Demetri Martin took a math course at Yale called *Fractal Geometry*.

His final project: a 225-word palindromic poem.



In 1993, noted comedian Demetri Martin took a math course at Yale called *Fractal Geometry*.

His final project: a 225-word palindromic poem.

What does that have to do with fractals?

I don't know, it's a liberal arts school.

Dammit I'm mad, by Demetri Martin

Dammit I'm mad Evil is a deed as I live. God, am I reviled? I rise, my bed on a sun, I melt. To be not one man emanating is sad. I piss. Alas it is so late. Who stops to help? Man, it is hot.

> I'm in it. I tell. I am not a devil. I level "Mad Dog".

Ah, say burning is as a deified gulp in my halo of a mired rum tin.
I erase many men. Oh, to be man, a sin.
Is evil in a clam? In a trap?
No. It is open.
On it I was stuck. Rats peed on hope. Elsewhere dips a web. Be still if I fill its ebb. Ew, a spider ... eh? We sleep.

Oh no!

Deep, stark cuts saw it in one position. Part animal, can I live? Sin is a name. Both, one ... my names are in it. Murder? I'm a fool. A hymn I plug, Deified as a sign in ruby ash - a goddam level I lived at.

> On mail let it in. I'm it. Oh, sit in ample hot spots. Oh, wet! A loss it is alas (sip). I'd assign it a name. Name not one bottle minus an ode by me: "Sir, I deliver. I'm a dog." Evil is a deed as I live. Dammit I'm mad.

That's nothing.

In 1986, one Lawrence Levine wrote an entire palindromic **novel**.

It had ~100,000 letters.

Dr. Awkward & Olson in Oslo by Lawrence Levine

"Tacit, I hate gas (aroma of evil), masonry, tramps, a wasp martyr. Remote liberal ceding is idle - if... heh-heh," Sam X. Xmas murmured in an undertone to tow-trucker Edwards. "Alas. Simple - hot." To didos, no tracks, Ed decided. "Or - eh - trucks abob."

(...160 pages and 100,000 characters later...)

"Bob, ask Curt. He rode diced desk carton. So did Otto help Miss Alas draw Derek-cur. Two tote? Not red Nun. A nide. Rum. Rum Sam X. Xmas. Heh, heh. Field, I sign. I declare bile to merry tramps. A wasp martyr? No, Sam - live foam or a sage Tahiti Cat."

Suppose you are the proofreader. You have to check if there's a mistake...

"Tacit, I hate gas (aroma of evil), masonry, tramps, a wasp martyr. Remote liberal ceding is idle - if... heh-heh," Sam X. Xmas murmured in an undertone to tow-trucker Edwards. "Alas. Simple - hot." To didos, no tracks, Ed decided. "Or - eh - trucks abob."

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"Bob, ask Curt. He rode diced desk carton. So did Otto help Miss Alas draw Derek-cur. Two tote? Not red Nun. A nide. Rum. Rum Sam X. Xmas. Heh, heh. Field, I sign. I declare bile to merry tramps. A wasp martyr? No, Sam - live foam or a sage Tahiti Cat." Want to solve the PALINDROME problem on an instance with $n = 10^5$ characters.

Today's lecture:

Defining, discussing, and debating the words and ideas in the following sentence:

The intrinsic time complexity of solving the PALINDROME problem is $\Theta(n)$.

Where we've been, where we're going

Lecture 1-2: Overview & Review

Lectures 3–5: Defining computation...

- What is a computational problem?
- What is an algorithm?
- Computability: Which problems can be solved by algorithms, and which can't.

Where we've been, where we're going

 Computability: Which problems can be solved by algorithms, and which can't.

The PALINDROME problem *cannot* be solved by a wimpy notion of algorithms (DFAs),

but *can* be solved by the full notion of algorithms (Turing Machines; equivalently, Python, C, SML...).

Where we've been, where we're going

 Computability: Which problems can be solved by algorithms, and which can't.

Once we know a problem *can* be solved, in *principle*, we usually ask about *practical* computability.

• *Complexity*: How *efficiently* various problems can be solved by algorithms.

Complexity: How *efficiently* various problems can be solved by algorithms.

Interesting Questions:

- Efficiency with respect to what? (Time, space/memory, parallelizability, ...)
- What is the right model/level of abstraction?
- How to show efficient algorithms don't exist?
- "P vs. NP"...

Warning

For computability, the model doesn't matter. Computability is the same for TMs, C, Python, ...

For complexity, the model **does** matter. Not *too* much, but somewhat.



8 Great Ideas in Theoretical Computer Science

Running time of deciding PALINDROME



^{*}I stole this picture from the Internet. It doesn't even decide PALINDROME, it decides {ww^R : w in {a,b}^{*}}.

How many steps does it take to decide if input x is in language PALINDROME?

Depends on the length of x!

Great Idea #1:

Measure running time as a function of the input length.

Usually denoted

PALINDROME: Input is a string x. **n** = # characters in x.

Usually denoted

PRIMALITY: Input is a number $B \in \mathbb{N}^+$. **n** depends on choice of encoding. The default is binary (base 2). Thus **n** = # binary digits = $\lceil \log_2(B + 1) \rceil$ Sometimes we might sloppily say "# of digits", and "log(B)".

Usually denoted

PRIMALITY: Input is a number $B \in \mathbb{N}^+$.

n ≠ B

This would mean encoding numbers in unary, which is a horrible idea.

Usually denoted

MULTIPLICATION: Input is pair of number, (B_1, B_2) . $n = \lceil \log_2(B_1 + 1) \rceil + \lceil \log_2(B_2 + 1) \rceil$ + 1 (for the delimeter)

Usually denoted

Warning: Sometimes you'll see it specified that **n** is something else.

E.g., for the SORTING problem, it is traditional for **n** to denote the number of items to be sorted (as opposed to total # of input bits).

Running time of deciding PALINDROME



^{*}I stole this picture from the Internet. It doesn't even decide PALINDROME, it decides {ww^R : w in {a,b}^{*}}.

Number of steps to decide if $x \in PALINDROME...$ Depends on n, the length of x. Also depends on x itself!


















































Running time of deciding PALINDROME Number of steps to decide if $x \in PALINDROME...$ Depends on n, the length of x.

If x really is a palindrome, # of TM steps is: (n+1) + n + (n-1) + ... 3 + 2 + 1 $= \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2} = \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$

If x isn't a palindrome, it depends. Could take as few as n+1 steps.

Great Idea #2:

Measure running time as a worst-case function of the input length. Defining running time

The running time of algorithm A is a function $T_A : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$, defined by



(When A is clear, we often just write T(n).)

Defining running time

The running time of algorithm A is a function $T_A : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$, defined by

T_A(n) = max {# steps A takes on x} instances x of length n

E.g., our PALINDROME TM had running time... $T(n) = \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$

Why worst case?

Well, we're not dogmatic about it.

Average (random) case, "typical" case, "smoothed analysis", all interesting too.

Pros of worst-case analysis:

- An ironclad guarantee.
- Matches our worst-case notion of an algorithm solving a problem.
- Hard to define what a 'typical' instance is.
- Random inputs are often not representative of typical inputs.
- Most straightforward way to do analysis.

Great Idea #3:

When it comes to running time, focus on the "big picture":how it scales as a function of n.

Our Palindrome TM had running time $T(n) = \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$



Our Palindrome TM had running time $T(n) = \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$

- Analogous to "too many significant figures"
- We'll soon study algorithms at a higher level (like, in C, or pseudocode), where it's not even exactly clear what counts as "1" time step
- Even for slightly more complicated algorithms, it's nearly impossible to calculate so precisely

Our Palindrome TM had running time T(n) = $\frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$

We want to use the right level of abstraction!

The key takeaway of this T(n): it's "quadratic"; that is, proportional to n².

This leads us to...

Great Idea #4:

Big-O notation

INFORMAL Definition

"As n gets large, T(n) is proportional to n^2 ."

"As n gets large, T(n) is at most proportional to n²."

"As n gets large, T(n) is at least proportional to n²." T(n) is $\Theta(n^2)$

T(n) is $O(n^2)$

T(n) is $\Omega(n^2)$





$\frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$ is $\Theta(n^2)$







 $\frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$ is $\Theta(n^2)$

 $\frac{1}{2}n^{2} + \frac{3}{2}n + 1 \qquad \text{is} \qquad O(n^{3})$ is $O(n^{2}), \text{ too}$

roughly $\geq \Omega(\cdot)$

 $\frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$ is $\Theta(n^2)$

 $\frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n + 1$ is O(n³) is O(n²), too





Definition: T(n) is $O(n^2)$ if and only if \exists positive real C, \exists positive real n_0 , such that $\forall n \ge n_0$ it holds that $T(n) \le Cn^2$. **Example:** $T(n) = 3n^2 + 10n + 30$ is $O(n^2)$ Why? Take C = 4. Take $n_0 = 13$. Now if $n \ge 13$, then $10n + 30 \le 10n + 3n$ $= 13n \le n^2$ and so T(n) = $3n^2 + 10n + 30 \le 3n^2 + n^2 = 4n^2$.



Formal definition of O(n³)

Definition: T(n) is $O(n^3)$ if and only if

∃ positive real C,

 \exists positive real n_0 ,

such that $\forall n \ge n_0$ it holds that $T(n) \le Cn^3$.

"Once n is large enough...

....T(n) is at most a constant factor times n³."



Definition: T(n) is O(g(n)) if and only if ∃ positive real C, ∃ positive real n₀, such that \forall n ≥ n₀ it holds that T(n)≤C·g(n)

"Once n is large enough...

...T(n) is at most a constant factor times g(n)."




Formal definition of $\Theta(g(n))$

Definition: T(n) is $\Theta(g(n))$ if and only if T(n) is O(g(n))and T(n) is $\Omega(g(n))$.

"Once n is large enough...

 \dots T(n) is within a constant factor of g(n)."

Common run-time scaling					
Θ(logn)	"logarithmic"	$2 \times input size \Rightarrow run time +1$			
Θ(n)	"linear"	doubling the input size ⇒ doubling the running time			
Θ(n²)	"quadratic"	$2 \times \text{input size} \Rightarrow 4 \times \text{run time}$			
Θ(n ³)	"cubic"	$2 \times \text{input size} \Rightarrow 8 \times \text{run time}$			
Θ(n ^c)	"polynomial"	$2 \times \text{input size} \Rightarrow \text{constant} \times \text{run time}$			
Θ(2 ⁿ)	"exponential"	$2 \times \text{input size} \Rightarrow \text{run time squares}$			



A log-log plot Say 1 step = 1 μ s



Some functions, each $O(\cdot)$ of the next

1	n	2 ⁿ
log (log*n)	n log n	3 ⁿ
log*n	n ²	n!
/ log log n	n ³	n ⁿ
log n	n ¹⁰⁰	2 ²ⁿ
\sqrt{n}	n ^{log n}	2 ²²
n / log n		22
	inverse function of	n times

Some functions, each $O(\cdot)$ of the next				
fastest known alg.	n	• (log n) • 8 ^{log*n}		
for MULTIPLICATION) n (2 ⁿ		
log (log*n)	n log n	3 ⁿ		
log*n	n ²	n!		
log log n	n ³	n ⁿ		
log n	n ¹⁰⁰	2 ²ⁿ		
\sqrt{n}	n ^{log n}	- 2 ²²		
n / log n		22		
		n times		

Great Idea #5:

The computation model **does** make a difference when counting running time.



Suppose you are the proofreader. You have to check if there's a mistake...

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TwoFingersPalindromeTest(S,n) // ACCEPT iff string // S[1]...S[n] is a palindrome $10 \leftarrow 1$ hi ← n while (lo < hi)if $S[lo] \neq S[hi]$ then REJECT $lo \leftarrow lo + 1$ hi ← hi - 1 end while ACCEPT

Poll: what *should* the running time be?





TwoFingersPalindromeTest(S,n) // ACCEPT iff string // S[1]...S[n] is a palindrome $10 \leftarrow 1$ hi ← n while (lo < hi) if $S[lo] \neq S[hi]$ then REJECT $lo \leftarrow lo + 1$ $hi \leftarrow hi - 1$ end while ACCEPT

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This "feels like" it has running time $\Theta(n)...$

TwoFingersPalindromeTest(S,n) // ACCEPT iff string // S[1]...S[n] is a palindrome $10 \leftarrow 1$ hi ← n while (lo < hi) if $S[lo] \neq S[hi]$ then REJECT $lo \leftarrow lo + 1$ <u>hi ← hi - 1</u> end while ACCEPT

Next lecture:We'll discuss a model where
this has running time Θ(n).Today:Just want to point these issues out...

Great Idea #6:

Intrinsic complexity & beating brute force

Intrinsic complexity

Given a *problem*, e.g., PALINDROME, we can ask about its **intrinsic complexity**: How fast is its **fastest** algorithm?

(Up to $\Theta(\cdot)$, and fixing the model of computation!)

PALINDROME:

We know an O(n) algorithm, TwoFingers. Could there be a faster one? E.g., $O(\sqrt{n})$? Theorem: Any alg. solving PALINDROME uses $\geq n-1$ steps. **Proof sketch:** Suppose algorithm A solves it using $\leq n-2$ steps. Let x be the string aaaa \cdots a (n times), which is a palindrome. When A runs with input x there must be distinct $1 \leq j_1, j_2 \leq n$ such that A never reads $I[j_1]$ or $I[j_2]$. (Why?) Let x' be the same as x except that $x [j_1] = b$ and $x [j_2] = c$. When A runs on x' it has same behavior as when it runs on x. (Why?) But A accepts x and rejects x' (why?), a contradiction.

PALINDROME:

We know an O(n) algorithm, TwoFingers. Could there be a faster one? E.g., $O(\sqrt{n})$?

Theorem:

Any alg. solving PALINDROME uses \geq n-1 steps.

Conclusion: The intrinsic time complexity of PALINDROME is **linear**; Θ(n) time is necessary and sufficient.

MULTIPLICATION:

In grade school you learn an $O(n^2)$ algorithm.





MULTIPLICATION:

In grade school you learn an $O(n^2)$ algorithm.

Easy to show \geq n steps are required: you at least have to write down the answer!

Is there a faster algorithm?

Yes! A much faster one, we'll see next time...

HAMILTONIAN-CYCLE:

Instance: A connected graph.

Notation: Solution: Let 'n' = # of vertices.

Yes/No: Is there a "tour"

visiting each vertex exactly once?



HAMILTONIAN-CYCLE:

Brute-force alg:

Try all tours ≈ n! steps

[Held-Karp'70]:

Dynamic programming ≈ 2ⁿ steps

[Björklund'10]:



Clever algebraic brute-force ≈ 1.657ⁿ steps

EULERIAN-CYCLE:

Instance: A connected graph. Notation: Let 'n' = # of vertices. Solution: Yes/No: Is there a "tour" visiting each edge exactly once?

EULERIAN-CYCLE:

Algorithm E:
Check if every vertex is attached to an even number of other vertices.
If so, output Yes. Else output No.

Euler's Theorem: Alg. E solves EULERIAN-CYCLE.

Time: $T_E(n) = O(n^2)$.

Great Idea #7:

Polynomial time.

I.e., time $O(n^c)$ for some constant c.

There is something truly **magical** about the notion of polynomial time.



There is an enormous efficiency chasm between polynomial and exponential time.

HAMILTONIAN-CYCLE:

Seems to require exponential time. We have no 'good' understanding of which graphs have Hamiltonian cycles.

EULERIAN-CYCLE:

Polynomial time. Euler's Theorem 'explains' Eulerian cycles.

There is an enormous efficiency chasm between polynomial and exponential time.

HAMILTONIAN-CYCLE:

Seems to require exponential time. We have no 'good' understanding of which graphs have Hamiltonian cycles.

EULERIAN-CYCLE:

Polynomial time. Euler's Theorem 'explains' Eulerian cycles.

There is an enormous **understanding chasm** between polynomial and exponential time.

Common progress paradigm for a problem

Brute force algorithm: Exponential time

what we care about most in 15-251

usually the 'magic' happens here

Algorithmic breakthrough: Polynomial time

what we care about more in 15-451

Blood, sweat, and tears: Nearly linear time

Does "polynomial time" imply "efficient"?

 $\Theta(n)$ Efficient (unless the constant is insane...) $\Theta(n \log n)$ Efficient. $\Theta(n^2)$ Kind of efficient. $\Theta(n^3)$ Barely efficient? $\Theta(n^{100})$ Not efficient. But it almost never arises.

It's a negatable benchmark: "Not polynomial time" pretty much implies "not efficient".

Polynomial time

50 years of computer science experience shows it's a very compelling definition:

- A necessary first step towards truly efficient algorithms, associated with "beating brute-force"
- Very robust to notion of what is an elementary step.
- Easy to work with: Plug a poly-time subroutine into a poly-time algorithm: still poly-time.
- Empirically, it seems that most natural problems with poly-time algorithms also have efficient-in-practice algorithms.

Great Idea #8: The Strong Church–Turing Thesis

All 'reasonable' models of step-counting for 'algorithms' are polynomially equivalent.

The Strong Church–Turing Thesis

Suggested by decades of computer science experience.

E.g., it's not hard to show that Turing Machines can simulate "C / python-style" algorithms/step-counting with at most polynomial slowdown, & vice versa.

The Strong Church–Turing Thesis Challenger from the 1970s: Randomized computation. Give the model the ability to generate random bits. In light of research from 1980s... We believe (can't prove) that the Strong Church–Turing Thesis holds true even with randomized computation.
The Strong Church–Turing Thesis Challenger from the 1980s: Quantum computation (Lecture 24). Allow "qubits" in quantum superposition.

In light of research from 1990s...

We believe (can't prove) that the Strong Church–Turing Thesis is not true.

Great Idea #8: The Strong Church–Turing Thesis

All 'reasonable' models of step-counting for 'algorithms' are polynomially equivalent.

Sometimes Great Ideas are wrong! Challenge all ideas!

Study Guide



Definitions: Running time complexity. Big Ο, Θ, Ω

Practice: Analyzing time complexity of TMs Proving T(n) is O(g(n))or $\Theta(g(n)), \Omega(g(n))$ Proving T(n) is **not** O(g(n)),