Computer Science Theory I

Summer Term 2011

Jan-Georg Smaus

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

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1 Introduction

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Names of this Lecture and its People

- This lecture is entitled “Computer Science Theory I”, in German “Informatik Theorie I”, in short “Theory I”.
- The course was given in 2010 by Robert Elsässer and in previous years by Georg Lausen, Thomas Ottmann, Peter Thiemann, Fang Wei and others.
- This year the lecturer is Jan-Georg Smaus, the assistant is Alexander Schimpf and the tutor is Ahmed Mahdi.

Webpage

http://www.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/~ki/teaching/ss11/theoryI/

Prerequisite of Theory I

- Programming language, such as C++
- Basic knowledge on data structures and algorithms, mathematics
- Sufficient knowledge on English for reading research papers

Course Goal

- Get an in-depth knowledge on
  - Data structures and algorithms
  - Programming languages, logic, and software engineering
  - Database systems
- Improve your problem solving ability by doing the exercises
- Practicing skills in conducting research work:
  - Reading papers efficiently
  - Writing reviews and surveys

Course load

- 11 exercises
  - exercises posted one week ahead
  - exercise classes take place on each Wednesday (one hour)
  - hand in your solution before the exercise class starts!
- 5-6 Reading assignments (submit reviews on the assigned papers)
- Final exam

Topics

- Data structures and algorithms
  - Trees, balanced trees
  - Hashing, dynamic tables, randomization
  - Text search
- Logic, programming languages and software engineering
  - Logic and relations
  - Abstract datatypes
- Database systems

Algorithm

- An algorithm is a sequence of computational steps that transform the input into the output, e.g. sorting
- In computer science we distinguish
  - Input/output
  - Algorithms
  - Programs
  - Processes

Properties of Algorithms

- An algorithm should meet the following requirements:
  - Effectiveness
  - Determinacy
  - Finiteness
  - Termination
  - Generality
  - Precision
- Correctness of algorithms is a concern in this course.

Hard Problems

- There are some problems for which no efficient solution is known.
- Why are NP-complete problems interesting?
  - although no efficient algorithm for an NP-complete problem has ever been found, it is unknown whether or not efficient algorithms exist for NP-complete problems.
  - the set of NP-complete problems has the remarkable property that if an efficient algorithm exists for any one of them, then efficient algorithms exist for all of them.
  - if a problem is proven NP-complete, one can instead spend your time developing an efficient algorithm that gives a good, but not the best possible, solution.

Analysis of Algorithms

- Approaches:
  - theoretical analysis
  - empirical analysis
- Issues:
  - correctness
  - time efficiency
  - space efficiency
  - optimality

Best Case, Average Case, Worst Case

For most algorithms, the time and space requirements depend on the size and form of the input:

- Worst case: $C_{worst}(n)$ – maximum over inputs of size n
- Best case: $C_{best}(n)$ – minimum over inputs of size n
- Average case: $C_{avg}(n)$ – “average” over inputs of size n
  - Number of times the basic operation will be executed on typical input
  - NOT the average of worst and best case
  - Expected number of basic operations considered as a random variable under some assumption about the probability distribution of all possible inputs. So, avg = expected under uniform distribution.

Example: Sequential Search

ALGORITHM *SequentialSearch*$(A[0..n-1], K)$

//Searches for a given value in a given array by sequential search
//Input: An array $A[0..n-1]$ and a search key K
//Output: The index of the first element of A that matches K
//   or -1 if there are no matching elements
$i \leftarrow 0$
while $i < n$ **and** $A[i] \neq K$ **do**
    $i \leftarrow i + 1$
if $i < n$ **return** i
else return -1

- Worst case
- Best case
- Average case

Type of Formula for Basic Operations' Count

- Exact formula

  e.g., $C(n) = n(n-1)/2$

- Formula indicating order of growth with specific multiplicative constant

  e.g., $C(n) \approx 0.5\, n^2$

- Formula indicating order of growth with unknown multiplicative constant

  e.g., $C(n) \approx cn^2$

Order of Growth

- Most important: Order of growth within a constant multiple as $n \to \infty$

- Example:
  - How much faster will algorithm run on computer that is twice as fast?
  - How much longer does it take to solve problem of double input size?

Values of some Functions for Various *n*

n	$\log_2 n$	n	$n \log_2 n$	n^2	n^3	2^n	$n!$
10	3.3	10^1	$3.3 \cdot 10^1$	10^2	10^3	10^3	$3.6 \cdot 10^6$
10^2	6.6	10^2	$6.6 \cdot 10^2$	10^4	10^6	$1.3 \cdot 10^{30}$	$9.3 \cdot 10^{157}$
10^3	10	10^3	$1.0 \cdot 10^4$	10^6	10^9		
10^4	13	10^4	$1.3 \cdot 10^5$	10^8	10^{12}		
10^5	17	10^5	$1.7 \cdot 10^6$	10^{10}	10^{15}		
10^6	20	10^6	$2.0 \cdot 10^7$	10^{12}	10^{18}		

Table 2.1 Values (some approximate) of several functions important for analysis of algorithms

Asymptotic Order of Growth

A way of comparing functions that ignores constant factors and small input sizes

- $O(g(n))$: class of functions $f(n)$ that grow <u>no faster</u> than $g(n)$
- $\Theta(g(n))$: class of functions $f(n)$ that grow <u>at same rate</u> as $g(n)$
- $\Omega(g(n))$: class of functions $f(n)$ that grow <u>at least as fast</u> as $g(n)$

Useful summation and formula rules

$\sum_{l \le i \le n} 1 = 1+1+\ldots+1 = n - l + 1$

In particular, $\sum_{1 \le i \le n} 1 = n - 1 + 1 = n \in \Theta(n)$

$\sum_{1 \le i \le n} i = 1+2+\ldots+n = n(n+1)/2 \approx n^2/2 \in \Theta(n^2)$

$\sum_{1 \le i \le n} i^2 = 1^2+2^2+\ldots+n^2 = n(n+1)(2n+1)/6 \approx n^3/3 \in \Theta(n^3)$

$\sum_{0 \le i \le n} a^i = 1 + a + \ldots + a^n = (a^{n+1} - 1)/(a - 1)$ for any $a \neq 1$

In particular, $\sum_{0 \le i \le n} 2^i = 2^0 + 2^1 + \ldots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1 \in \Theta(2^n)$

$\sum(a_i \pm b_i) = \sum a_i \pm \sum b_i \qquad \sum c a_i = c \sum a_i$

$\sum_{l \le i \le u} a_i = \sum_{l \le i \le m} a_i + \sum_{m+1 \le i \le u} a_i$