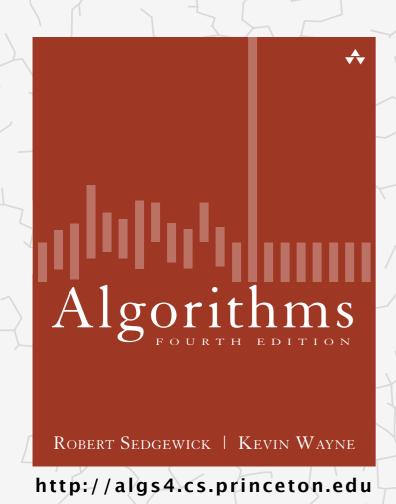
Algorithms



1.4 ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

- introduction
- observations
- mathematical models
- order-of-growth classifications
- memory

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Cast of characters



Programmer needs to develop a working solution.



Client wants to solve problem efficiently.

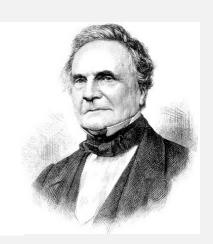
Student might play any or all of these roles someday.

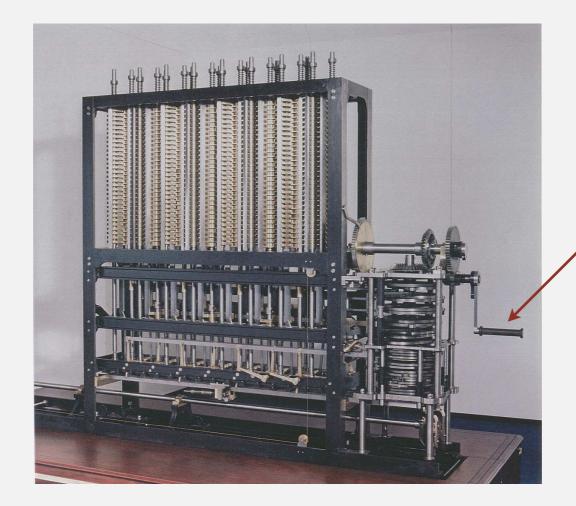


Theoretician wants to understand.

Running time

"As soon as an Analytic Engine exists, it will necessarily guide the future course of the science. Whenever any result is sought by its aid, the question will arise—By what course of calculation can these results be arrived at by the machine in the shortest time?" — Charles Babbage (1864)

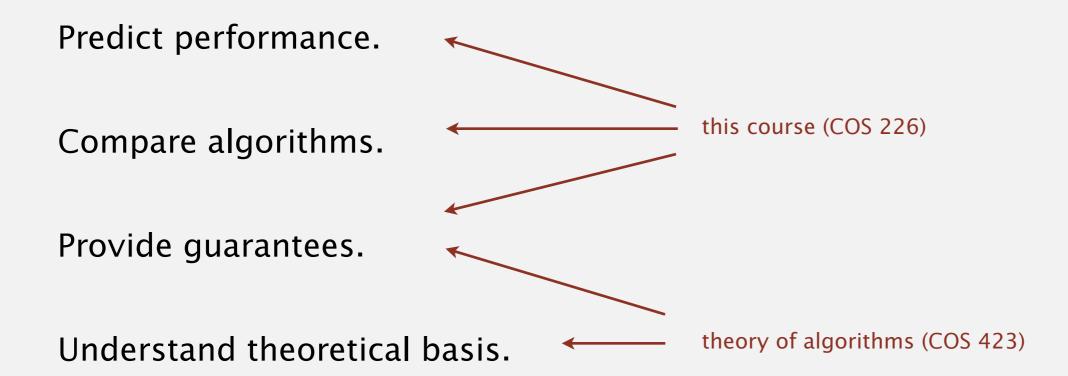




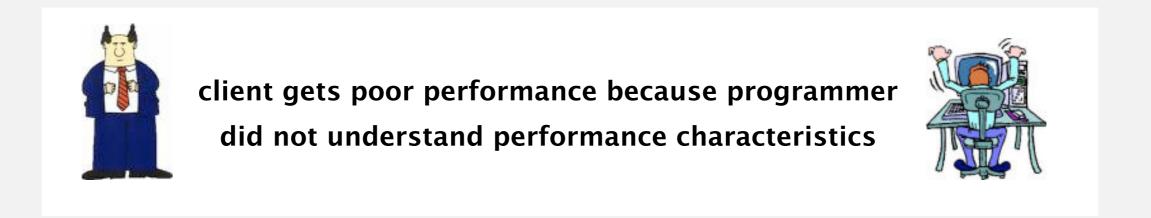
how many times do you have to turn the crank?

Analytic Engine

Reasons to analyze algorithms



Primary practical reason: avoid performance bugs.



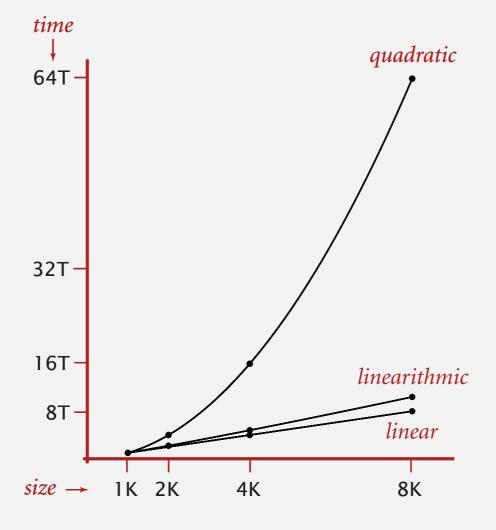
Some algorithmic successes

Discrete Fourier transform.

- Break down waveform of N samples into periodic components.
- Applications: DVD, JPEG, MRI, astrophysics,
- Brute force: N^2 steps.
- FFT algorithm: $N \log N$ steps, enables new technology.



Friedrich Gauss 1805









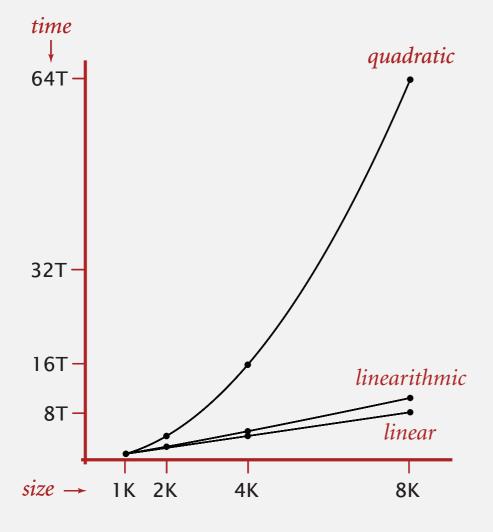
Some algorithmic successes

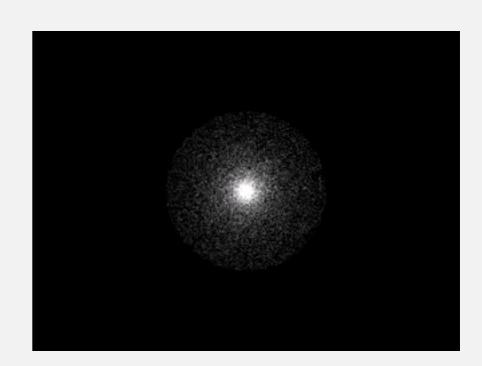
N-body simulation.

- Simulate gravitational interactions among N bodies.
- Brute force: N^2 steps.
- Barnes-Hut algorithm: $N \log N$ steps, enables new research.



Andrew Appel PU '81





The challenge

Q. Will my program be able to solve a large practical input?

Why is my program so slow?

Why does it run out of memory?



Insight. [Knuth 1970s] Use scientific method to understand performance.

Scientific method applied to analysis of algorithms

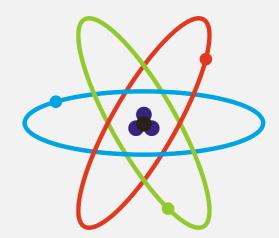
A framework for predicting performance and comparing algorithms.

Scientific method.

- Observe some feature of the natural world.
- Hypothesize a model that is consistent with the observations.
- Predict events using the hypothesis.
- Verify the predictions by making further observations.
- Validate by repeating until the hypothesis and observations agree.

Principles.

- Experiments must be reproducible.
- Hypotheses must be falsifiable.



Feature of the natural world. Computer itself.

Algorithms

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Example: 3-SUM

3-Sum. Given *N* distinct integers, how many triples sum to exactly zero?

% more 8ints.txt
30 -40 -20 -10 40 0 10 5
% java ThreeSum 8ints.txt 4

	Score	0
		-
HUNDER STEELS ST	Ti is	14.5
BEST CONTROL OF THE STATE OF TH	BOX	X

	a[i]	a[j]	a[k]	sum
1	30	-40	10	0
2	30	-20	-10	0
3	-40	40	0	0
4	-10	0	10	0

Context. Deeply related to problems in computational geometry.

3-SUM: brute-force algorithm

```
public class ThreeSum
   public static int count(int[] a)
      int N = a.length;
      int count = 0;
      for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
         for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)
                                                          check each triple
            for (int k = j+1; k < N; k++)
                if (a[i] + a[j] + a[k] == 0)
                                                          for simplicity, ignore
                                                          integer overflow
                   count++;
      return count;
   public static void main(String[] args)
      In in = new In(args[0]);
      int[] a = in.readAllInts();
      StdOut.println(count(a));
```

Measuring the running time

- Q. How to time a program?
- A. Manual.



% java ThreeSum 1Kints.txt



70

% java ThreeSum 2Kints.txt



tick tick

528

% java ThreeSum 4Kints.txt



tick tick

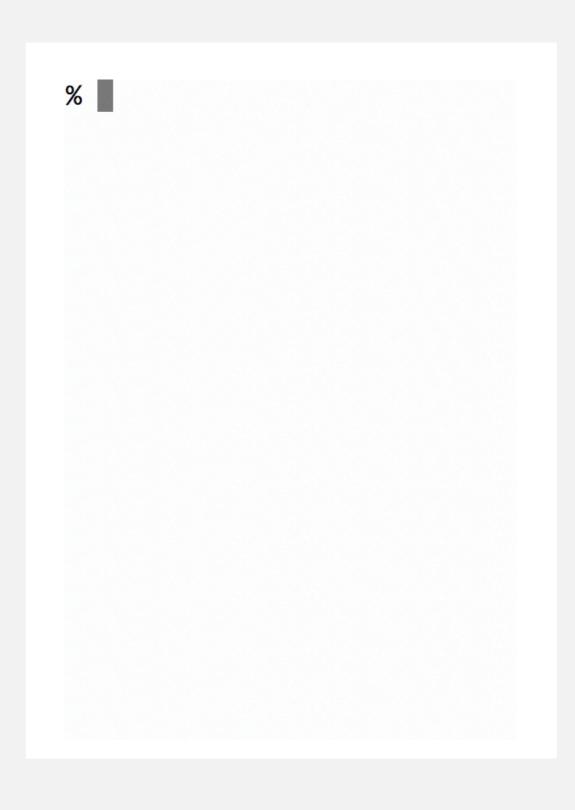
Measuring the running time

- Q. How to time a program?
- A. Automatic.

```
public static void main(String[] args)
{
    In in = new In(args[0]);
    int[] a = in.readAllInts();
    Stopwatch stopwatch = new Stopwatch();
    StdOut.println(ThreeSum.count(a));
    double time = stopwatch.elapsedTime();
    StdOut.println("elapsed time " + time);
}
```

Empirical analysis

Run the program for various input sizes and measure running time.



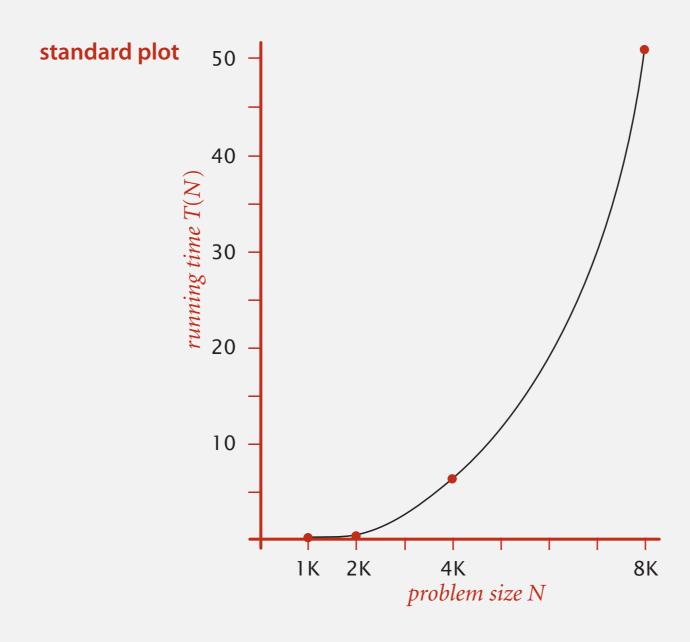
Empirical analysis

Run the program for various input sizes and measure running time.

N	time (seconds) †
250	0.0
500	0.0
1,000	0.1
2,000	0.8
4,000	6.4
8,000	51.1
16,000	?

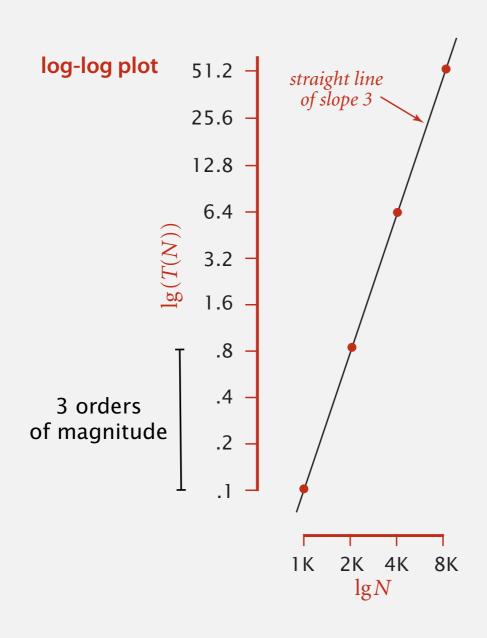
Data analysis

Standard plot. Plot running time T(N) vs. input size N.



Data analysis

Log-log plot. Plot running time T(N) vs. input size N using log-log scale.



$$lg(T(N)) = b lg N + c$$

 $b = 2.999$
 $c = -33.2103$

$$T(N) = a N^b$$
, where $a = 2^c$

power law

Regression. Fit straight line through data points: $a N^b$.

Hypothesis. The running time is about $1.006 \times 10^{-10} \times N^{2.999}$ seconds.

Prediction and validation

Hypothesis. The running time is about $1.006 \times 10^{-10} \times N^{2.999}$ seconds.

"order of growth" of running time is about N³ [stay tuned]

Predictions.

- 51.0 seconds for N = 8,000.
- 408.1 seconds for N = 16,000.

Observations.

N	time (seconds) †
8,000	51.1
8,000	51.0
8,000	51.1
16,000	410.8

validates hypothesis!

Doubling hypothesis

Doubling hypothesis. Quick way to estimate b in a power-law relationship.

Run program, doubling the size of the input.

N	time (seconds) †	ratio	lg ratio	$T(2N)$ $a(2N)^b$
250	0.0		-	$\frac{1}{T(N)} = \frac{1}{aN^b}$
500	0.0	4.8	2.3	$= 2^b$
1,000	0.1	6.9	2.8	
2,000	0.8	7.7	2.9	
4,000	6.4	8.0	3.0 ←	- Ig (6.4 / 0.8) = 3.0
8,000	51.1	8.0	3.0	
		seems	to converge to	a constant b ≈ 3

Hypothesis. Running time is about $a N^b$ with b = Ig ratio.

Caveat. Cannot identify logarithmic factors with doubling hypothesis.

Doubling hypothesis

Doubling hypothesis. Quick way to estimate b in a power-law relationship.

- Q. How to estimate a (assuming we know b)?
- A. Run the program (for a sufficient large value of N) and solve for a.

N	time (seconds) †	
8,000	51.1	
8,000	51.0	
8,000	51.1	

$$51.1 = a \times 8000^{3}$$

 $\Rightarrow a = 0.998 \times 10^{-10}$

Hypothesis. Running time is about $0.998 \times 10^{-10} \times N^3$ seconds.

1

almost identical hypothesis to one obtained via linear regression

Experimental algorithmics

System independent effects.

Algorithm.
 Input data.

determines exponent b
in power law

System dependent effects.

- Hardware: CPU, memory, cache, ...
- Software: compiler, interpreter, garbage collector, ...
- System: operating system, network, other apps, ...

determines constant a in power law

Bad news. Difficult to get precise measurements.

Good news. Much easier and cheaper than other sciences.



Algorithms

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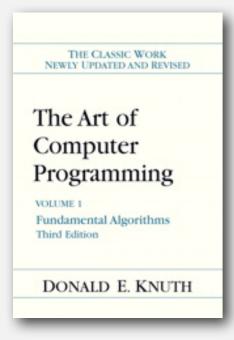
1.4 ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

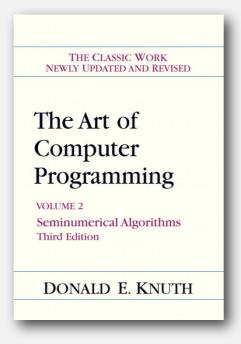
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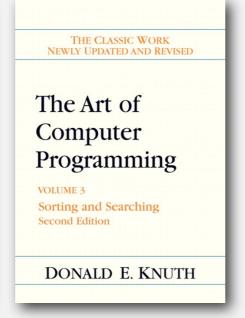
Mathematical models for running time

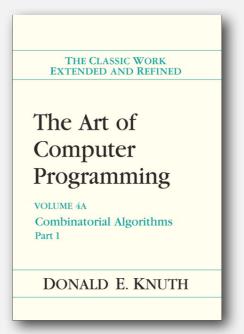
Total running time: sum of cost × frequency for all operations.

- Need to analyze program to determine set of operations.
- Cost depends on machine, compiler.
- Frequency depends on algorithm, input data.











Donald Knuth 1974 Turing Award

In principle, accurate mathematical models are available.

Cost of basic operations

Challenge. How to estimate constants.

operation	example	nanoseconds †
integer add	a + b	2.1
integer multiply	a * b	2.4
integer divide	a / b	5.4
floating-point add	a + b	4.6
floating-point multiply	a * b	4.2
floating-point divide	a / b	13.5
sine	Math.sin(theta)	91.3
arctangent	Math.atan2(y, x)	129.0

[†] Running OS X on Macbook Pro 2.2GHz with 2GB RAM

Cost of basic operations

Observation. Most primitive operations take constant time.

operation	example	nanoseconds †
variable declaration	int a	c_1
assignment statement	a = b	<i>C</i> 2
integer compare	a < b	<i>c</i> ₃
array element access	a[i]	<i>C</i> 4
array length	a.length	<i>C</i> 5
1D array allocation	new int[N]	$c_6 N$
2D array allocation	new int[N][N]	$c_7 N^2$

Caveat. Non-primitive operations often take more than constant time.

Example: 1-SUM

Q. How many instructions as a function of input size N?

```
int count = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    if (a[i] == 0)
        count++;</pre>
```

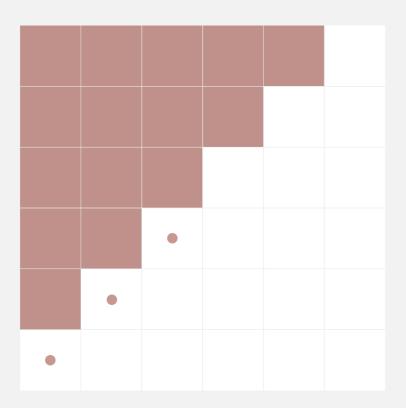
operation	frequency
variable declaration	2
assignment statement	2
less than compare	N+1
equal to compare	N
array access	N
increment	N to $2N$

Example: 2-SUM

Q. How many instructions as a function of input size N?

```
int count = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
  for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)
   if (a[i] + a[j] == 0)
      count++;</pre>
```

Pf. [n even]

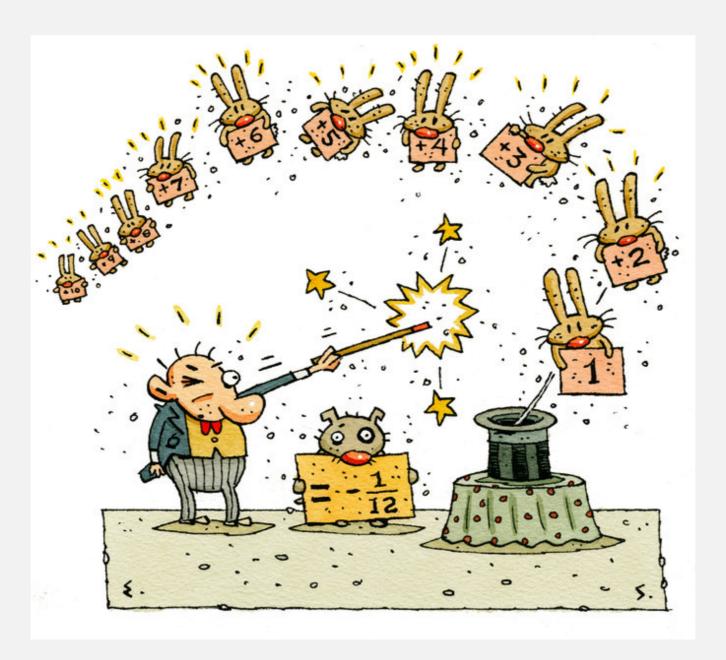


$$0+1+2+\ldots+(N-1) \ = \ \frac{1}{2}N^2 \ - \ \frac{1}{2}N$$
 half of square diagonal

$$0+1+2+\ldots+(N-1) = \frac{1}{2}N(N-1)$$
$$= {N \choose 2}$$

String theory infinite sum

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \dots = -\frac{1}{12}$$



http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/04/science/in-the-end-it-all-adds-up-to.html

Example: 2-SUM

Q. How many instructions as a function of input size N?

$$0+1+2+\ldots+(N-1) = \frac{1}{2}N(N-1)$$
$$= {N \choose 2}$$

operation	frequency
variable declaration	N + 2
assignment statement	N+2
less than compare	$\frac{1}{2}(N+1)(N+2)$
equal to compare	$\frac{1}{2}N(N-1)$
array access	N(N-1)
increment	$\frac{1}{2}N(N-1)$ to $N(N-1)$

tedious to count exactly

Simplifying the calculations

"It is convenient to have a measure of the amount of work involved in a computing process, even though it be a very crude one. We may count up the number of times that various elementary operations are applied in the whole process and then given them various weights. We might, for instance, count the number of additions, subtractions, multiplications, divisions, recording of numbers, and extractions of figures from tables. In the case of computing with matrices most of the work consists of multiplications and writing down numbers, and we shall therefore only attempt to count the number of multiplications and recordings." — Alan Turing

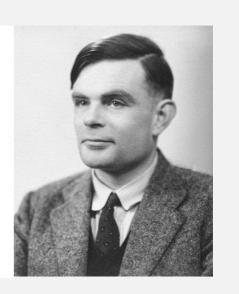
ROUNDING-OFF ERRORS IN MATRIX PROCESSES

By A. M. TURING

(National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex)
[Received 4 November 1947]

SUMMARY

A number of methods of solving sets of linear equations and inverting matrices are discussed. The theory of the rounding-off errors involved is investigated for some of the methods. In all cases examined, including the well-known 'Gauss elimination process', it is found that the errors are normally quite moderate: no exponential build-up need occur.



Simplification 1: cost model

Cost model. Use some basic operation as a proxy for running time.

$$0+1+2+\ldots+(N-1) = \frac{1}{2}N(N-1)$$

$$= \binom{N}{2}$$

operation	frequency
variable declaration	N+2
assignment statement	N+2
less than compare	$\frac{1}{2}(N+1)(N+2)$
equal to compare	½ N (N – 1)
array access	N(N-1)
increment	$\frac{1}{2} N (N-1)$ to $N (N-1)$

cost model = array accesses

(we assume compiler/JVM do not optimize any array accesses away!)

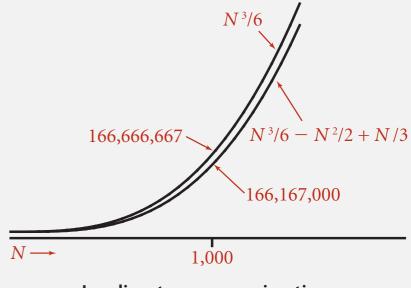
Simplification 2: tilde notation

- Estimate running time (or memory) as a function of input size N.
- Ignore lower order terms.
 - when N is large, terms are negligible
 - when N is small, we don't care

Ex 1.
$$\frac{1}{6}N^3 + 20N + 16$$
 ~ $\frac{1}{6}N^3$
Ex 2. $\frac{1}{6}N^3 + 100N^{4/3} + 56$ ~ $\frac{1}{6}N^3$

Ex 3.
$$\frac{1}{6}N^3 - \frac{1}{2}N^2 + \frac{1}{3}N$$
 ~ $\frac{1}{6}N^3$

discard lower-order terms (e.g., N = 1000: 166.67 million vs. 166.17 million)



Leading-term approximation

Technical definition.
$$f(N) \sim g(N)$$
 means $\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{f(N)}{g(N)} = 1$

Simplification 2: tilde notation

- Estimate running time (or memory) as a function of input size *N*.
- Ignore lower order terms.
 - when N is large, terms are negligible
 - when N is small, we don't care

operation	frequency	tilde notation
variable declaration	<i>N</i> + 2	~ N
assignment statement	<i>N</i> + 2	~ N
less than compare	$\frac{1}{2}(N+1)(N+2)$	$\sim \frac{1}{2} N^2$
equal to compare	$\frac{1}{2}N(N-1)$	$\sim \frac{1}{2} N^2$
array access	N(N-1)	~ N ²
increment	$\frac{1}{2}N(N-1)$ to $N(N-1)$	$\sim \frac{1}{2} N^2$ to $\sim N^2$

Example: 2-SUM

Q. Approximately how many array accesses as a function of input size *N*?

```
int count = 0;

for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)

for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)

if (a[i] + a[j] == 0)

count++;

0+1+2+...+(N-1) = \frac{1}{2}N(N-1)
= {N \choose 2}
```

A. $\sim N^2$ array accesses.

Bottom line. Use cost model and tilde notation to simplify counts.

Example: 3-SUM

Q. Approximately how many array accesses as a function of input size N?

Bottom line. Use cost model and tilde notation to simplify counts.

Diversion: estimating a discrete sum

- Q. How to estimate a discrete sum?
- A1. Take a discrete mathematics course (COS 340).
- A2. Replace the sum with an integral, and use calculus!

Ex 1.
$$1 + 2 + ... + N$$
.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} i \sim \int_{x=1}^{N} x \, dx \sim \frac{1}{2} N^2$$

Ex 2.
$$1^k + 2^k + ... + N^k$$
.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} i^{k} \sim \int_{x=1}^{N} x^{k} dx \sim \frac{1}{k+1} N^{k+1}$$

Ex 3.
$$1 + 1/2 + 1/3 + ... + 1/N$$
.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{1}{i} \sim \int_{x=1}^{N} \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln N$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=i}^{N} \sum_{k=j}^{N} 1 \sim \int_{x=1}^{N} \int_{y=x}^{N} \int_{z=y}^{N} dz \, dy \, dx \sim \frac{1}{6} N^{3}$$

Estimating a discrete sum

- Q. How to estimate a discrete sum?
- A1. Take a discrete mathematics course (COS 340).
- A2. Replace the sum with an integral, and use calculus!

Ex 4.
$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots$$

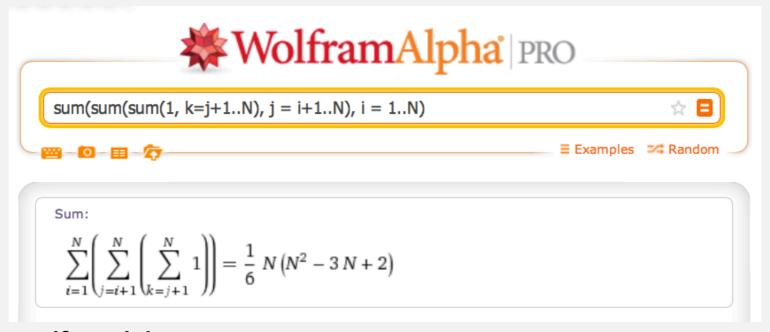
$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^i = 2$$

$$\int_{x=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x dx = \frac{1}{\ln 2} \approx 1.4427$$

Caveat. Integral trick doesn't always work!

Estimating a discrete sum

- Q. How to estimate a discrete sum?
- A3. Use Maple or Wolfram Alpha.



wolframalpha.com

Mathematical models for running time

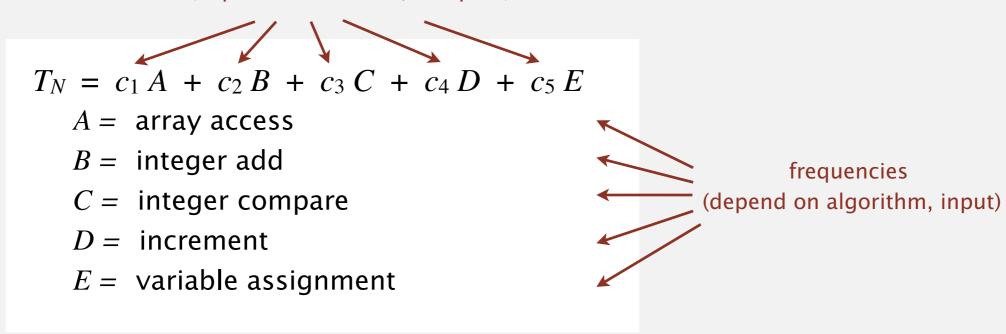
In principle, accurate mathematical models are available.

In practice,

- Formulas can be complicated.
- Advanced mathematics might be required.
- Exact models best left for experts.



costs (depend on machine, compiler)



Bottom line. We use approximate models in this course: $T(N) \sim c N^3$.

Analysis of algorithms quiz

How many array accesses does the following code fragment make as a function of N?

```
int count = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
  for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)
    for (int k = 1; k < N; k = k*2)
      if (a[i] + a[j] >= a[k])
      count++;
```

- **A.** $\sim 3 N^2$
- **B.** $\sim 3/2 \ N^2 \ \lg N$
- C. $\sim 3/2 N^3$
- D. $\sim 3 N^3$
- **E.** *I don't know.*

Algorithms

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1.4 ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

- introduction
- observations
- mathematical models
- order-of-growth classifications
 - memory

Common order-of-growth classifications

Definition. If $f(N) \sim c \ g(N)$ for some constant c > 0, then the order of growth of f(N) is g(N).

- Ignores leading coefficient.
- Ignores lower-order terms.

Ex. The order of growth of the running time of this code is N^3 .

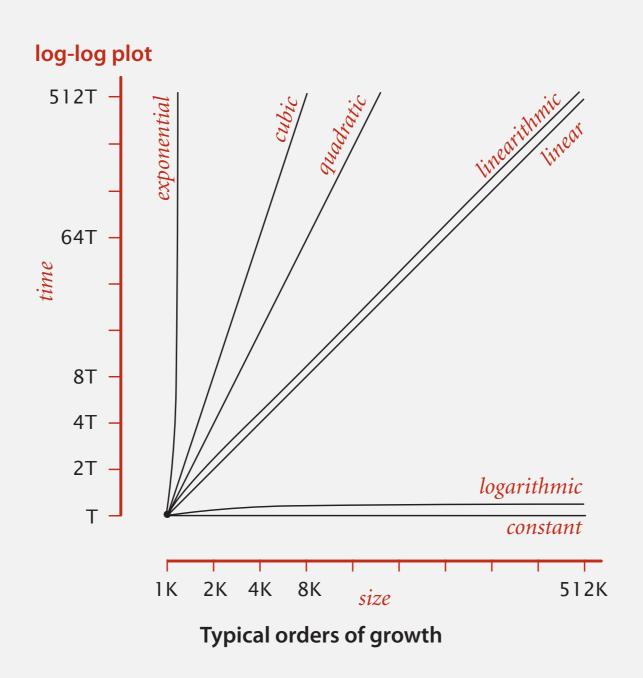
```
int count = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
  for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)
    for (int k = j+1; k < N; k++)
      if (a[i] + a[j] + a[k] == 0)
      count++;</pre>
```

Typical usage. With running times.

Common order-of-growth classifications

Good news. The set of functions

1, $\log N$, N, $N \log N$, N^2 , N^3 , and 2^N suffices to describe the order of growth of most common algorithms.



Common order-of-growth classifications

order of growth	name	typical code framework	description	example	T(2N) / T(N)
1	constant	a = b + c;	statement	add two numbers	1
$\log N$	logarithmic	while (N > 1) { N = N/2; }	divide in half	binary search	~ 1
N	linear	for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) { }	loop	find the maximum	2
$N \log N$	linearithmic	[see mergesort lecture]	divide and conquer	mergesort	~ 2
N^{2}	quadratic	for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) { }	double loop	check all pairs	4
N ³	cubic	<pre>for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) for (int k = 0; k < N; k++) { }</pre>	triple loop	check all triples	8
2^N	exponential	[see combinatorial search lecture]	exhaustive search	check all subsets	T(N)

Binary search

Goal. Given a sorted array and a key, find index of the key in the array?

Binary search. Compare key against middle entry.

- Too small, go left.
- Too big, go right.
- Equal, found.



6	13	14	25	33	43	51	53	64	72	84	93	95	96	97	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	

Binary search: implementation

Trivial to implement?

- First binary search published in 1946.
- First bug-free one in 1962.
- Bug in Java's Arrays.binarySearch() discovered in 2006.



Extra, Extra - Read All About It: Nearly All Binary Searches and Mergesorts are Broken

Posted by Joshua Bloch, Software Engineer

I remember vividly Jon Bentley's first Algorithms lecture at CMU, where he asked all of us incoming Ph.D. students to write a binary search, and then dissected one of our implementations in front of the class. Of course it was broken, as were most of our implementations. This made a real impression on me, as did the treatment of this material in his wonderful *Programming Pearls* (Addison-Wesley, 1986; Second Edition, 2000). The key lesson was to carefully consider the invariants in your programs.



http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html

Binary search: Java implementation

Invariant. If key appears in array a[], then a[10] \leq key \leq a[hi].

Binary search: mathematical analysis

Proposition. Binary search uses at most $1 + \lg N$ key compares to search in a sorted array of size N.

Def. T(N) = # key compares to binary search a sorted subarray of size $\leq N$.

Binary search recurrence.
$$T(N) \le T(N/2) + 1$$
 for $N > 1$, with $T(1) = 1$.

| left or right half | possible to implement with one | (floored division) | 2-way compare (instead of 3-way)

Pf sketch. [assume *N* is a power of 2]

$$T(N) \le T(N/2) + 1$$
 [given]
 $\le T(N/4) + 1 + 1$ [apply recurrence to first term]
 $\le T(N/8) + 1 + 1 + 1$ [apply recurrence to first term]
 \vdots
 $\le T(N/N) + 1 + 1 + \dots + 1$ [stop applying, $T(1) = 1$]
 $= 1 + \lg N$

TECHNICAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS







































WHY ARE MANHOLE COVERS ROUND?



New York, New York



Geneva, Switzerland



Zermatt, Switzerland

THE 3-SUM PROBLEM

3-SUM. Given *N* distinct integers, find three such that a + b + c = 0.

Version 0. N^3 time, N space.

Version 1. $N^2 \log N$ time, N space.

Version 2. N^2 time, N space.

Note. For full credit, running time should be worst case.

An N² log N algorithm for 3-SUM

Algorithm.

- Step 1: Sort the *N* (distinct) numbers.
- Step 2: For each pair of numbers a[i]
 and a[j], binary search for -(a[i] + a[j]).

Analysis. Order of growth is $N^2 \log N$.

- Step 1: N^2 with insertion sort.
- Step 2: $N^2 \log N$ with binary search.

Remark. Can achieve N^2 by modifying binary search step.

input

sort

binary search

$$(-40, -20)$$
 60
 $(-40, -10)$ 50
 $(-40, 0)$ 40
 $(-40, 5)$ 35
 $(-40, 10)$ 30
 \vdots \vdots
 $(-20, -10)$ 30
 \vdots \vdots only count if a[i] < a[j] < a[k] < 10, 30) -40 to avoid (10, 40) -50 double counting (30, 40) -70

Comparing programs

Hypothesis. The sorting-based $N^2 \log N$ algorithm for 3-Sum is significantly faster in practice than the brute-force N^3 algorithm.

N	time (seconds)
1,000	0.1
2,000	0.8
4,000	6.4
8,000	51.1

ThreeSum.java

N	time (seconds)
1,000	0.14
2,000	0.18
4,000	0.34
8,000	0.96
16,000	3.67
32,000	14.88
64,000	59.16

ThreeSumDeluxe.java

Guiding principle. Typically, better order of growth \Rightarrow faster in practice.

Algorithms

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1.4 ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

- introduction
- observations
- mathematical models
- order-of-growth classifications
- memory

Basics

Bit. 0 or 1.

NIST

most computer scientists

Byte. 8 bits.



 \downarrow

Megabyte (MB). 1 million or 2²⁰ bytes.

Gigabyte (GB). 1 billion or 2³⁰ bytes.



64-bit machine. We assume a 64-bit machine with 8-byte pointers.

- Can address more memory.
- Pointers use more space.



some JVMs "compress" ordinary object pointers to 4 bytes to avoid this cost



Typical memory usage for primitive types and arrays

type	bytes
boolean	1
byte	1
char	2
int	4
float	4
long	8
double	8

primitive types

type	bytes
char[]	2N + 24
int[]	4N + 24
double[]	8N + 24

one-dimensional arrays

type	bytes
char[][]	$\sim 2 MN$
int[][]	$\sim 4~M~N$
double[][]	~ 8 <i>M N</i>

two-dimensional arrays

Typical memory usage for objects in Java

Object overhead. 16 bytes.

Reference. 8 bytes.

Padding. Each object uses a multiple of 8 bytes.

Ex 1. A Date object uses 32 bytes of memory.

```
public class Date
   private int day;
                                    object
                                                        16 bytes (object overhead)
   private int month;
                                  overhead
   private int year;
                                    day
                                                        4 bytes (int)
                                   month
                                                        4 bytes (int)
                                   year
                                                        4 bytes (int)
                                   padding
                                                        4 bytes (padding)
                                                        32 bytes
```

Typical memory usage summary

Total memory usage for a data type value:

- Primitive type: 4 bytes for int, 8 bytes for double, ...
- Object reference: 8 bytes.
- Array: 24 bytes + memory for each array entry.
- Object: 16 bytes + memory for each instance variable.
- Padding: round up to multiple of 8 bytes.

+ 8 extra bytes per inner class object (for reference to enclosing class)

Note. Depending on application, we may want to count memory for any referenced objects (recursively).

Memory analysis quiz

How much memory does a WeightedQuickUnionUF use as a function of N?

```
A. \sim 4 N bytes
```

```
B. \sim 8 N \ bytes
```

- C. $\sim 4 N^2$ bytes
- **D.** $\sim 8 N^2$ bytes
- **E.** I don't know

```
public class WeightedQuickUnionUF
   private int[] id;
   private int[] sz;
   private int count;
   public WeightedQuickUnionUF(int N)
      id = new int[N];
      sz = new int[N];
      for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) id[i] = i;
      for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) sz[i] = 1;
}
```

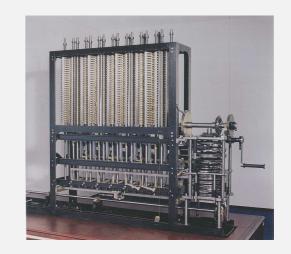
Turning the crank: summary

Empirical analysis.

- Execute program to perform experiments.
- Assume power law and formulate a hypothesis for running time.
- Model enables us to make predictions.

Mathematical analysis.

- Analyze algorithm to count frequency of operations.
- · Use tilde notation to simplify analysis.
- Model enables us to explain behavior.



Scientific method.

- Mathematical model is independent of a particular system;
 applies to machines not yet built.
- Empirical analysis is necessary to validate mathematical models and to make predictions.