

Datastructures and Algorithms Introduction, Logistics, Asymptotics (*O*, Ω, Θ)

Adel Gavranović – ETH Zürich – 2025

Overview

Learning Objectives Exercise Management Repetition Theory Examples and Quiz on Theory Quiz on Asymptotic Running Time of Program Fragments Formulas and their Derivation* Past Exam Questions Tips for **code expert**



n.ethz.ch/~agavranovic



1. Intro

Hello, World!

Welcome!

2. Follow-up

Follow-up from last session

This is where I explain things I missed (or messed up) in last week's session

3. Feedback regarding code expert

General things regarding code expert

- This is where I mention very common mistakes that were made in the exercises on code expert
- Emails are welcome too

Any questions regarding code expert on your part?

This is where you'll have a chance to ask thigs regarding code expert that you think might be relevant for the class (hint: it almost always is)

4. Learning Objectives

Objectives

- \Box Know how the course is built up
- $\Box~$ Understand the definitions of \mathcal{O} , Ω , and Θ
- $\Box~$ Understand the uses of \mathcal{O} , Ω , and Θ

5. Summary

Getting on the same page

This is where we could talk about what happened during the week if you want to

Exercises



- Exercises available at lecture time.
- Preliminary discussion in the following recitation session
- Submit the exercise at the lecture two weeks later. Exception: for the first exercise you only have one week to finish.
- Dicussion of the exercise in the recitation session after the deadline. Feedback within a week after discussion.

7. Repetition Theory

Warm-up

- What is a problem?
- What is an algorithm?

→ well-defined computing procedure to compute output data from input data.

- What is a program?
 - → Concrete implementation of an algorithm

Problems, Algorithms and Programs



Warm-up



Efficiency

| Program | Computing time | Measurable value on an actual machine. |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| Algorithm | Cost | Number of elementary operations |
| Problem | Complexity | Minimal (asymptotic) cost over all algorithms that solve the problem. |

 \rightarrow Estimation of cost or computing time depending on the input size, denoted by n.

Asymptotic behavior

• What are $\Omega(g(n))$, $\Theta(g(n))$, $\mathcal{O}(g(n))$?

→ Sets of functions!

| subset | $A \subseteq B$ |
|---------------|---------------------|
| proper subset | $A \varsubsetneq B$ |
| intersection | $A \cap B$ |

Asymptotic behavior

Given: function $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$. Definition:

> $\mathcal{O}(g) = \{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} | \exists c > 0, n_0 \in \mathbb{N} | \forall n \ge n_0 : 0 \le f(n) \le c \cdot g(n) \}$ $\Omega(g) = \{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} | \exists c > 0, n_0 \in \mathbb{N} | \forall n \ge n_0 : 0 \le c \cdot g(n) \le f(n) \}$ $\Theta(g) = \mathcal{O}(g) \cap \Omega(g)$

Intuition:

 $f \in \mathcal{O}(g)$: f grows asymptotically **not faster** than g. Algorithm with running time f is **not worse** than any other algorithm with g.

 $f \in \Omega(g)$: f grows asymptotically **not slower** than g. Algorithm with running time f is **not better** than any other algorithm with g.

 $f \in \Theta(g)$: f grows asymptotically **as fast** as g. Algorithm with running time f is **as good as** any other algorithm with g.

Used less often

Given: function $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$. Definition:

$$\mathcal{O}(g) = \{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} | \exists c > 0, n_0 \in \mathbb{N} | \forall n \ge n_0 : 0 \le f(n) \le c \cdot g(n) \}$$
$$o(g) = \{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} | \forall c > 0 \ \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} | \forall n \ge n_0 : 0 \le f(n) \le c \cdot g(n) \}$$

$$\Omega(g) = \{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} | \exists c > 0, n_0 \in \mathbb{N} | \forall n \ge n_0 : 0 \le c \cdot g(n) \le f(n) \}$$
$$\omega(g) = \{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} | \forall c > 0 \ \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} | \forall n \ge n_0 : 0 \le c \cdot g(n) \le f(n) \}$$

 $f \in o(g)$: f grows much slower than g $f \in \omega(g)$: f grows much faster than g

Useful information for the exercise

Theorem 1

1.
$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 0 \Rightarrow f \in \mathcal{O}(g), \ \mathcal{O}(f) \subsetneq \mathcal{O}(g).$$

2. $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = C > 0 \ (C \ constant) \Rightarrow f \in \Theta(g).$
3. $\frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{} \infty \Rightarrow g \in \mathcal{O}(f), \ \mathcal{O}(g) \subsetneq \mathcal{O}(f).$

Example 2

1.
$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n}{n^2} = 0 \Rightarrow n \in \mathcal{O}(n^2), \ \mathcal{O}(n) \subsetneq \mathcal{O}(n^2).$$

2. $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{2n}{n} = 2 > 0 \Rightarrow 2n \in \Theta(n).$
3. $\frac{n^2}{n} \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{} \infty \Rightarrow n \in \mathcal{O}(n^2), \ \mathcal{O}(n) \subsetneq \mathcal{O}(n^2).$

Property

$f_1 \in \mathcal{O}(g), f_2 \in \mathcal{O}(g) \Rightarrow f_1 + f_2 \in \mathcal{O}(g)$

8. Examples and Quiz on Theory

Examples

$$\mathcal{O}(g) = \{ f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R} | \exists c > 0, \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} : \forall n \ge n_0 : 0 \le f(n) \le c \cdot g(n) \}$$

 $\begin{array}{ll} f(n) & f \in \mathcal{O}(?) & \mathsf{Example} \\ 3n+4 & & \\ 2n & & \\ n^2+100n & & \\ n+\sqrt{n} & & \end{array}$

Examples

- $\blacksquare \ n \in \mathcal{O}(n^2)?$
- $\blacksquare 3n^2 \in \mathcal{O}(2n^2)?$
- $\ \ \, \blacksquare \ \, 2n^2 \in \mathcal{O}(n)?$
- $\ \ \, {\cal O}(n)\subseteq {\cal O}(n^2)?$
- ${\scriptstyle \blacksquare} \ \Theta(n) \subseteq \Theta(n^2)?$

Quiz

 $1 \in \mathcal{O}(15)$? $2n+1 \in \Theta(n)$? $\sqrt{n} \in \mathcal{O}(n)$? $\sqrt{n} \in \Omega(n)$? $n \in \Omega(\sqrt{n})$? $\sqrt{n} \notin \Theta(n)$? $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n}) \subset \mathcal{O}(n)$? $2^n \notin \mathcal{O}(\exp(n))$?

A good strategy?

... Then I simply buy a new machine! If today I can solve a problem of size n, then with a 10 or 100 times faster machine I can solve ...



9. Quiz on Asymptotic Running Time of Program Fragments

```
void run(int n){
  for (int i = 1; i<n; ++i)
  op();
}</pre>
```

```
void run(int n){
  for (int i = 1; i<n; ++i)
    for (int j = 1; j<n; ++j)
        op();
}</pre>
```

```
void run(int n){
  for (int i = 1; i<n; ++i)
    for (int j = i; j<n; ++j)
        op();
}</pre>
```

```
void run(int n){
  for (int i = 1; i<n; ++i){
    op();
    for (int j = i; j<n; ++j)
        op();
    }
}</pre>
```

How often is op() called?

```
void run(int n){
  for (int i = 1; i<n; ++i){
    op();
    for (int j = 1; j<i*i; ++j)
        op();
    }
}</pre>
```

How often is op() called?

```
void run(int n){
  for(int i = 1; i <= n; ++i)
    for(int j = 1; j*j <= n; ++j)
    for(int k = n; k >= 2; --k)
        op();
}
```

```
int f(int n){
    i=1;
    while (i <= n*n*n){
        i = i*2;
        op();
    }
    return i;
}</pre>
```

10. Formulas and their Derivation*

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} i = \frac{n \cdot (n+1)}{2}$$

Why? Intuition

$$1 + \dots + 100 = (1 + 100) + (2 + 99) + (3 + 98) + \dots + (50 + 51)$$

More formally?

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} (n-i) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} i$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{n} i = \sum_{i=0}^{n} i + \sum_{i=0}^{n} (n-i)$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^{n} (i + (n-i)) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} n = (n+1) \cdot n$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

This you do not need to know by heart. But you should know that it is a polynomial of third degree.

How do you derive something like this? Interesting Trick: On the one hand

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} i^{3} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} (i-1)^{3} = \sum_{i=0}^{n} i^{3} - \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i^{3} = n^{3},$$

on the other hand

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} i^3 - \sum_{i=1}^{n} (i-1)^3 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} i^3 - \sum_{i=1}^{n} (i-1)^3$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} i^3 - (i-1)^3 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} 3 \cdot i^2 - 3 \cdot i + 1$$

Exponents and Logarithms

$$\log_a y = x \Leftrightarrow a^x = y \quad (a > 0, y > 0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} a^x \cdot a^y &= a^{x+y} & \log_a(x \cdot y) = \log_a x + \log_a y \\ \frac{a^x}{a^y} &= a^{x-y} & \log_a \frac{x}{y} = \log_a x - \log_a y \\ a^{x \cdot y} &= (a^x)^y & \log_a x^y = y \log_a x \\ & \log_a n! = \sum_{i=1}^n \log i \\ \log_b x &= \log_b a \cdot \log_a x & a^{\log_b x} = x^{\log_b a} \end{aligned}$$

To see the last line, replace $x \to a^{\log_a x}$

$$\frac{n^2}{2^n} \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} 0$$

$$\frac{n^{10000}}{2^n} \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{} 0$$

d > 1, c > 0

$$\frac{n^c}{d^n} \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} 0$$

because

$$\frac{n^c}{d^n} = \frac{2^{\log_2 n^c}}{2^{\log_2 d^n}} = 2^{c \cdot \log_2 n - n \log_2 d}$$

$$\frac{n}{\log n} \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{} \infty$$

$$\frac{n\log n}{\sqrt{n}} \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} \infty$$

$$\frac{\log_2 n^2}{\sqrt{n}} \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} 0$$

$$\log_2 n^2 = 2 \log_2 n$$
$$\sqrt{n} = n^{1/2} = 2^{\log_2 n^{1/2}} = \left(\sqrt{2}\right)^{\log_2 n}$$
$$\frac{\log n^2}{\sqrt{n}} = 2\frac{\log_2 n}{\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^{\log_2 n}}$$

which behaves because of $\log_2 n \to \infty$ for $n \to \infty$ like $2\frac{n}{\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^n}$

11. Past Exam Questions

Past Exam Questions

If time allows, this is where we could have a look at old exam questions and go over them together





12. Tips for code expert

Tips for upcoming **code** expert exercises

Task "Taskname"

This is where I give you hints and tips for the upcoming code expert exercises

13. Outro

General Questions?

This is where you can ask general questions regarding the course or bring up things I didn't cover during the session

See you next time!

Have a nice week!