

Analysis of algorithms

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Programming and Data Structures with Python

Lecture 15, 17 Oct 2023

Measuring performance

- Example of validating SIM cards against Aadhaar data
 - Naive approach takes thousands of years
 - Smarter solution takes a few minutes
- Two main resources of interest
 - Running time — how long the algorithm takes
 - Space — memory requirement
- Time depends on processing power
 - Impossible to change for given hardware
 - Enhancing hardware has only a limited impact at a practical level
- Storage is limited by available memory
 - Easier to configure, augment
- Typically, we focus on time rather than space

Input size

- Running time depends on input size
 - Larger arrays will take longer to sort
- Measure time efficiency as function of input size
 - Input size n
 - Running time $t(n)$
- Different inputs of size n may take different amounts of time
 - How do we account for this?

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Example 1 SIM cards vs Aadhaar cards

- $n \approx 10^9$ — number of cards
- Naive algorithm: $t(n) \approx n^2$
- Clever algorithm: $t(n) \approx n \log_2 n$
 - $\log_2 n$ — number of times you need to divide n by 2 to reach 1
 - $\log_2(n) = k \Rightarrow n = 2^k$

Orders of magnitude

- When comparing $t(n)$, focus on orders of magnitude
 - Ignore constant factors
- $f(n) = n^3$ eventually grows faster than $g(n) = 5000n^2$
 - For small values of n , $f(n) < g(n)$
 - After $n = 5000$, $f(n)$ overtakes $g(n)$
- **Asymptotic complexity**
 - What happens in the limit, as n becomes large
- Typical growth functions
 - Is $t(n)$ proportional to $\log n, \dots, n^2, n^3, \dots, 2^n$?
 - Note: $\log n$ means $\log_2 n$ by default
 - Logarithmic, polynomial, exponential, ...

Orders of magnitude

Input size	Values of $t(n)$						
	$\log n$	n	$n \log n$	n^2	n^3	2^n	$n!$
10	3.3	10	33	100	1000	1000	10^6
100	6.6	100	66	10^4	10^6	10^{30}	10^{157}
1000	10	1000	10^4	10^6	10^9		
10^4	13	10^4	10^5	10^8	10^{12}		
10^5	17	10^5	10^6	10^{10}			
10^6	20	10^6	10^7	10^{12}			
10^7	23	10^7	10^8				
10^8	27	10^8	10^9				
10^9	30	10^9	10^{10}				
10^{10}	33	10^{10}	10^{11}				

Measuring running time

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 - Don't use actual time
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- Analysis should be independent of the underlying hardware
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 - Measure in terms of **basic operations**
- Typical basic operations
 - Compare two values
 - Assign a value to a variable
- Exchange a pair of values?

$(x, y) = (y, x)$

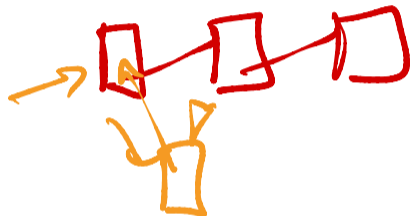
$t = x$

$x = y$

$y = t$

$l1 = l2$

$y = x$
 $l1 = l2 [:]$



- If we ignore constants, focus on orders of magnitude, both are within a factor of 3
- Need not be very precise about defining basic operations

What is the input size

- Typically a natural parameter
 - Size of a list/array that we want to search or sort
 - Number of objects we want to rearrange
 - Number of vertices and number edges in a graph
 - We shall see why these are separate parameters
- What about numeric problems? Is n a prime?
 - Magnitude of n is not the correct measure
 - Arithmetic operations are performed digit by digit
 - Addition with carry, subtraction with borrow, multiplication, long division ...
 - Number of digits is a natural measure of input size
 - Same as $\log_b n$, when we write n in base b

Which inputs should we consider?

- Performance varies across input instances
 - By luck, the value we are searching for is the first element we examine in an array
- Ideally, want the “average” behaviour
 - Difficult to compute
 - Average over what? Are all inputs equally likely?
 - Need a probability distribution over inputs
- Instead, **worst case** input
 - Input that forces algorithm to take longest possible time
 - Search for a value that is not present in an unsorted list
 - Must scan all elements
 - Pessimistic — worst case may be rare
 - Upper bound for worst case **guarantees** good performance

Summary

- Two important parameters when measuring algorithm performance
 - Running time, memory requirement (space)
 - We mainly focus on time
- Running time $t(n)$ is a function of input size n
 - Interested in orders of magnitude
 - Asymptotic complexity, as n becomes large
- From running time, we can estimate feasible input sizes
- We focus on worst case inputs
 - Pessimistic, but easier to calculate than average case
 - Upper bound on worst case gives us an overall guarantee on performance

Searching in a list

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- Is value v present in list l ?

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- Naive solution scans the list

```
def naive_search(v,l):  
    for x in l:  
        if v == x:  
            return(True)  
    return(False)
```

Search problem

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- Input size n , the length of the list

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Search problem

- Is value v present in list l ?
- Naive solution scans the list
- Input size n , the length of the list
- Worst case is when v is not present in l
- Worst case complexity is $O(n)$

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def naivesearch(v,l):  
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```

Searching a sorted list

- What if `l` is sorted in ascending order?

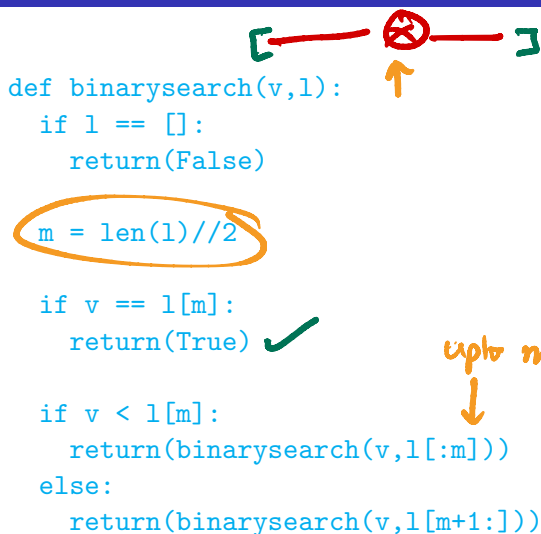
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- What if l is sorted in ascending order?
- Compare v with the midpoint of l

Searching a sorted list

- What if `l` is sorted in ascending order?
- Compare `v` with the midpoint of `l`
 - If midpoint is `v`, the value is found
 - If `v` less than midpoint, search the first half
 - If `v` greater than midpoint, search the second half
 - Stop when the interval to search becomes empty

```
def binarysearch(v,l):  
    if l == []:  
        return(False)  
    m = len(l)//2  
    if v == l[m]:  
        return(True) ✓  
    if v < l[m]:  
        return(binarysearch(v,l[:m]))  
    else:  
        return(binarysearch(v,l[m+1:]))
```



Searching a sorted list

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- Binary search

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Binary search

- How long does this take?

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Binary search

- How long does this take?
 - Each call halves the interval to search
 - Stop when the interval become empty
- $\log n$ — number of times to divide n by 2 to reach 1
 - $1 // 2 = 0$, so next call reaches empty interval

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- $O(\log n)$ steps

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Alternative calculation

- $T(n)$: the time to search a list of length n

- If $n = 0$, we exit, so $T(n) = 1$

- If $n > 0$, $T(n) = T(n // 2) + 1$

as $O(1)$

```
def bsearch(v,l):  
    if l == []:  
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    m = len(l)//2  
  
    if v == l[m]:  
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 $= (T(n // 4) + 1) + 1$

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$$= (T(n // 4) + 1) + 1 = T(n // 2^2) + \underbrace{1 + 1}_2$$

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list
takes time
 $O(m)$

```
def bsearch(v,l):  
    if l == []:  
        return(False)
```

len(l)
takes
const. time

```
    m = len(l)//2
```

```
    if v == l[m]:  
        return(True)
```

Checking l[m]
takes

```
    if v < l[m]:  
        return(bsearch(v,l[:m]))
```

const time

```
    else:  
        return(bsearch(v,l[m+1:]))
```

Binary search on a linked list

Checking $l[m]$ takes time $O(m)$

$$T(0) = 1$$

$$T(n) = T(n/2) + \underline{n/2}$$

↓

$$T(n/4) + n/4$$

↙

$$T(n/8) + n/8$$

$$T(n) =$$

$$n/2 + n/4 + n/8 + \dots$$



n

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 - Worst case is when the value is not present in the list
- For a sorted list, binary search takes time $O(\log n)$
 - Halve the interval to search each time
- In a sorted list, we can determine that v is absent by examining just $\log n$ values!

Naïve Sorting Algorithms

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 - Instructor has a pile of evaluated exam papers
 - Papers in random order of marks
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- Move this paper to a new pile

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- Repeat with the remaining papers
 - Add the paper with next minimum marks to the second pile each time

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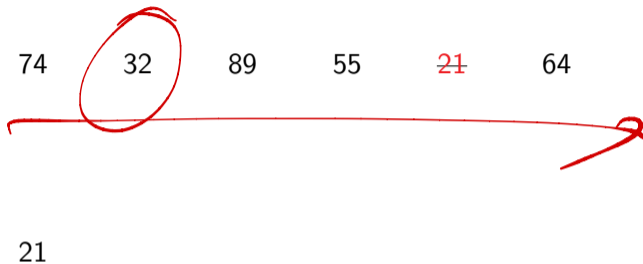
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- Scan the entire pile and find the paper with minimum marks
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- Eventually, the new pile is sorted in descending order

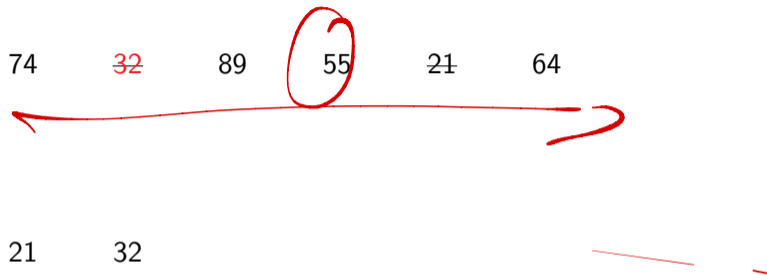
Sorting a list



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Sorting a list



Sorting a list

74 32 89 55 21 64

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Selection sort

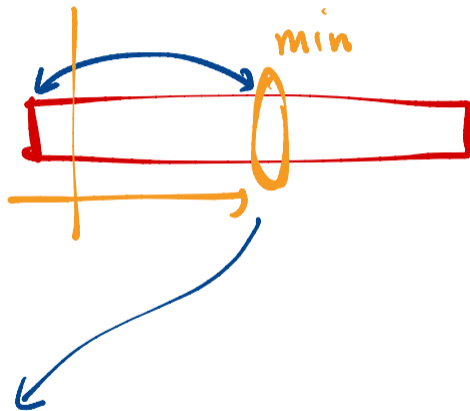
- **Select** the next element in sorted order

Selection sort

- **Select** the next element in sorted order
- Append it to the final sorted list

Selection sort

- **Select** the next element in sorted order
- Append it to the final sorted list
- Avoid using a second list
 - Swap the minimum element into the first position
 - Swap the second minimum element into the second position
 - ...



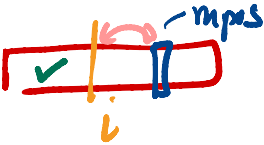
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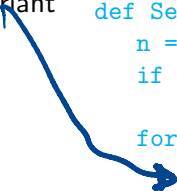
```
def SelectionSort(L):  
    n = len(L)  
    if n < 1:  
        return(L)  
    for i in range(n):  
        # Assume L[:i] is sorted  
        mpos = i  
        # mpos: position of minimum in L[i:]  
        for j in range(i+1,n):  
            if L[j] < L[mpos]:  
                mpos = j  
        # L[mpos] : smallest value in L[i:]  
        # Exchange L[mpos] and L[i]  
        (L[i],L[mpos]) = (L[mpos],L[i])  
        # Now L[:i+1] is sorted  
    return(L)
```



Analysis of selection sort

- Correctness follows from the invariant

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def SelectionSort(L):
    n = len(L)
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    for i in range(n):
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Analysis of selection sort

- Correctness follows from the invariant
- Efficiency

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- Do this for the remaining papers
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Sorting a list

74 32 89 55 21 64

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74

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Insertion sort

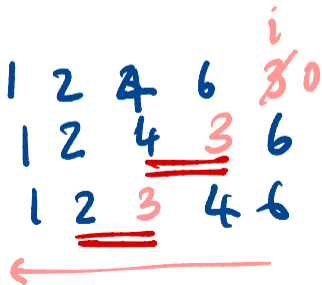
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- Insertion sort
 - Create a new sorted list and repeatedly insert elements into the sorted list
 - Worst case complexity is $O(n^2)$
 - Unlike selection sort, not all cases take time n^2
 - If list is already sorted, **Insert** stops in 1 step
 - Overall time can be close to $O(n)$