Lecture 4: Linear Search, Binary Search, Proofs by Induction

COMS10007 - Algorithms

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Runtime of Algorithms

Consider an algorithm **A** for a specific problem PROBLEM

Set of Potential Inputs

- Let $S(n)$ be the set of all potential inputs of length n for PROBLEM
- For $I \in S(n)$, let $T(I)$ be the runtime of **A** on input I

Worst-case Runtime: $\max_{I \in S(n)} T(I)$

Best-case Runtime: $\min_{I \in S(n)} T(I)$

Average-case Runtime: $\frac{1}{|S(n)|} \sum_{I \in S(n)} T(I)$

Linear Search

Linear Search:

- **Input:** An array A of n integers from the range $\{0, 1, 2, \ldots, k-1\}$, for some integer k, an integer $t \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, k-1\}$
- **Output:** 1, if A contains t, 0 otherwise

Worst-case Runtime: $\Theta(n)$
E.g. on any input with $A[i] \neq t$ for every $i \leq n-2$ and $A[n-1] = t$

Require: Array A, integer t
  for $i = 0, \ldots, n-1$ **do**
    if $A[i] = t$ **then**
      return 1
  return 0

Best-case Runtime: $O(1)$
On any input with $A[0] = t$

Average-case Runtime: (over all possible inputs of length n)

Average-case Analysis of Linear Search

Possible Inputs of Length n

$$\begin{aligned} S(n) &:= \{\text{arrays } A \text{ of length } n \text{ with } A[i] \in \{0,1,2,\dots,k-1\}, \\ &\quad\ \text{for every } 0 \le i \le k-1\} \\ |S(n)| &= k^n \,. \end{aligned}$$

Simplification: Suppose that $k = 2$. Then $|S(n)| = 2^n$

Average-case Runtime (suppose that $t = 1$)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AVG} &= \frac{1}{|S(n)|} \sum_{A \in S(n)} \text{“left-most pos. } i \text{ such that } A[i] = 1\text{“} + 1 \\ &= 2^{-n} \left(\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} |\{A : \text{left-most 1 is at pos. } i\}| \cdot (i+1) \right) + n \right) \,. \end{aligned}$$

Average-case Analysis of Linear Search (continued)

$$2^{-n}\left(\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} |\{A : \text{left-most 1 is at pos. } i\}| \cdot (i+1)\right) + n\right)$$

$$\underbrace{0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ \ldots 0}_{i \text{ times}}\ 1\ \underbrace{X\ X\ X\ \ldots\ X}_{n-i-1 \text{ times}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2^{-n}\left(\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^{n-1-i} \cdot (i+1)\right) + n\right) = \left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{i+1}{2^{i+1}}\right) + n2^{-n} \\ &\leq O(1) + 1 = O(1)\ . \end{aligned}$$

$\rightarrow$ Average-case runtime of linear search with $k = 2$ is $O(1)$

Question: Average-case runtime of linear search for $k > 2$?

Binary Search

Binary Search:

- **Input:** A sorted array A of integers, an integer t
- **Output:** -1 if A does not contain t, otherwise a position i such that $A[i] = t$

Require: Sorted array A of length n, integer t
  if $|A| \leq 2$ **then**
    Check $A[0]$ and $A[1]$ and **return** answer
  if $A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor] = t$ **then**
    return $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$
  else if $A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor] > t$ **then**
    return $\textsc{Binary-Search}(A[0, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1])$
  else
    return $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 + \textsc{Binary-Search}(A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1, n-1])$

Algorithm $\textsc{Binary-Search}$

Worst-case Analysis of Binary Search

Worst-case Analysis

- Without the recursive calls, we spend $O(1)$ time in the function
- Worst-case runtime $=$ $\underbrace{\text{"maximum number of recursive calls"}}_{r} \cdot O(1)$
- Observe that in iteration i the size of the array is at half the size than in iteration $i-1$
- We stop as soon as the size of the array is at most two
- Hence, we obtain the necessary and sufficient condition:

$$\frac{n}{2^r} \leq 2$$

Solving $\frac{n}{2^r} \leq 2$ yields $r \geq \log n - 1$. Hence, $\lceil \log n - 1 \rceil \leq \log n$ iterations are enough.

Worst-case runtime of Binary Search: $O(\log n)$

Proofs by Induction and Loop Invariants

Proofs by Induction and Loop Invariants

Proofs by Induction

- Correctness of an algorithm often requires proving that a property holds throughout the algorithm (e.g. loop invariant)
- This is often done by induction
- We will first discuss the "proof by induction" principle
- We will use proofs by induction for proving loop invariants (soon) and for solving recurrences (later)

Geometric Series: Let n be an integer and let $x \neq 1$. Then:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} x^i = \frac{x^{n+1} - 1}{x - 1} .$$

Proof. (by induction on n)

- *Base case.* $(n = 0)$
  $\sum_{i=0}^{0} x^i = x^0 = 1$ and $\frac{x^{n+1}-1}{x-1} = \frac{x-1}{x-1} = 1$. ✓
- *Induction Step.* Suppose the formula holds for n. We will prove that it also holds for $n + 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} x^i &= x^{n+1} + \sum_{i=0}^{n} x^i = x^{n+1} + \frac{x^{n+1} - 1}{x - 1} \\ &= \frac{x^{n+1}(x-1) + x^{n+1} - 1}{x - 1} = \frac{x^{n+2} - 1}{x - 1} . \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

□

Structure of a Proof by Induction

- **Statement to prove:** For example, for all $n \geq k$ $P(n)$ is true

$$\forall n \geq 0 \ : \ \sum_{i=0}^{n} i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \ .$$

- **Base case:** Prove that $P(k)$ holds

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

- **Induction hypothesis:** Assume that P holds for some n (Strong induction: for all m with $k \leq m \leq n$)
- **Induction step:** Prove that $P(n+1)$ holds

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

Induction without sums

Exercise Prove that $n^3 - n$ is divisible by 3, for $n \geq 2$

Proof.

- *Base case.* $(n = 2)$ $2^3 - 2 = 6$, which is divisible by 3 ✓
- *Induction step.* Assume statement holds for n. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
(n+1)^3 - (n+1) &= n^3 + 3n^2 + 3n + 1 - n - 1 \\
&= n^3 - n + 3n^2 + 3n \\
&= n^3 - n + 3(n^2 + n) \; .
\end{aligned}$$

By the induction hypothesis $n^3 - n$ is divisible by 3. The term $3(n^2 + n)$ is clearly divisible by 3. The sum of two numbers that are divisible by 3 is also divisible by 3. □

Proof without Induction

Exercise Prove that $n^3 - n$ is divisible by 3, for $n \geq 2$

Proof.

$$n^3 - n \;\; = \;\; n(n^2 - 1) = n(n+1)(n-1)\ .$$

Observe that $n-1, n, n+1$ are three consecutive numbers larger equal to 1 (for $n \geq 2$). Hence, one of them is necessarily divisible by 3. $\square$