

## Solving Recurrences

Lecture 13  
CS2110 – Summer 2008

## Announcements

- Prelim tomorrow!
  - Closed book
  - Try to arrive a little early
  - Exam will begin promptly at 10:00, end at 11:15
  - Topics include everything covered up to and including last Friday's class
- Assignment 2 is graded
  - Regrade requests due Friday (??)
  - Solutions available on CMS
- Assignment 3 solutions?

2

## Analysis of Merge-Sort

```

public static Comparable[] mergeSort(Comparable[] A, int low, int high) {
    if (low < high) { //at least 2 elements?
        int mid = (low + high)/2;
        Comparable[] A1 = mergeSort(A, low, mid);
        Comparable[] A2 = mergeSort(A, mid+1, high);
        return merge(A1,A2);
    }
    ....
}
  
```

Recurrence:  
 $T(n) = c + d + e + f + 2T(n/2) + gn + h$  ← recurrence  
 $T(1) = i$  ← base case

How do we solve this recurrence?

3

## Analysis of Merge-Sort

Recurrence:  
 $T(n) = c + d + e + f + 2T(n/2) + gn + h$   
 $T(1) = i$

First, simplify by dropping lower-order terms

Simplified recurrence:  
 $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + gn$   
 $T(1) = i$

How do we find the solution?

4

## Solving Recurrences

- Unfortunately, solving recurrences is like solving differential equations
  - No general technique works for all recurrences
- Luckily, can get by with a few common patterns
- You will learn some more techniques in CS 280

5

## Analysis of Merge-Sort

- Recurrence for MergeSort
  - $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + cn$
  - $T(2) = 2c$
  - Solution is  $T(n) = O(n \log n)$
- Proof: strong induction on n
- Show that
  - $T(2) \leq 2c$
  - $T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + cn$
  - imply
  - $T(n) \leq cn \log n$
- Basis
  - $T(2) \leq 2c = c \cdot 2 \log 2$
- Induction step
  - $T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + cn$
  - $\leq 2(cn/2 \log n/2) + cn$  (IH)
  - $= cn (\log n - 1) + cn$
  - $= cn \log n$

6

## Solving Recurrences

- Recurrences are important when designing divide & conquer algorithms
- Solution techniques:
  - Can sometimes change variables to get a simpler recurrence
  - Make a guess, then prove the guess correct by induction
  - Build a recursion tree and use it to determine solution
  - Can use the *Master Method*
    - A "cookbook" scheme that handles many common recurrences

7

## Master Method

- To solve recurrences of the form
 
$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n),$$
 with constants  $a \geq 0, b > 1$ , compare  $f(n)$  with  $n^{\log_b a}$ 
  - if  $f(n)$  grows more rapidly,
    - Solution is  $T(n) = O(f(n))$
  - if  $n^{\log_b a}$  grows more rapidly
    - Solution is  $T(n) = O(n^{\log_b a})$
  - if both grow at same rate
    - Solution is  $T(n) = O(f(n) \log n)$
- Not an exact statement of the theorem –  $f(n)$  must be "well-behaved"

8

## Recurrence Examples

- $T(n) = T(n-1) + 1 \rightarrow T(n) = O(n)$  Linear Search
- $T(n) = T(n-1) + n \rightarrow T(n) = O(n^2)$  QuickSort worst-case
- $T(n) = T(n/2) + 1 \rightarrow T(n) = O(\log n)$  Binary Search
- $T(n) = T(n/2) + n \rightarrow T(n) = O(n)$
- $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n \rightarrow T(n) = O(n \log n)$  MergeSort
- $T(n) = 2T(n-1) \rightarrow T(n) = O(2^n)$
- $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n \rightarrow T(n) = O(n^2)$

9

	10	50	100	300	1000
$5n$	50	250	500	1500	5000
$n \log n$	33	282	665	2469	9966
$n^2$	100	2500	10,000	90,000	1,000,000
$n^3$	1000	125,000	1,000,000	27 million	1 billion
$2^n$	1024	a 16-digit number	a 31-digit number	a 91-digit number	a 302-digit number
$n!$	3.6 million	a 65-digit number	a 161-digit number	a 623-digit number	unimaginably large
$n^n$	10 billion	an 85-digit number	a 201-digit number	a 744-digit number	unimaginably large

- protons in the known universe ~ 126 digits
- $\mu$ sec since the big bang ~ 24 digits

- Source: D. Harel, *Algorithmics*

10

How long would it take @ 1 instruction /  $\mu$ sec ?

	10	20	50	100	300
$n^2$	1/10,000 sec	1/2500 sec	1/400 sec	1/100 sec	9/100 sec
$n^3$	1/10 sec	3.2 sec	5.2 min	2.8 hr	28.1 days
$2^n$	1/1000 sec	1 sec	35.7 yr	400 trillion centuries	a 75-digit number of centuries
$n^n$	2.8 hr	3.3 trillion years	a 70-digit number of centuries	a 185-digit number of centuries	a 728-digit number of centuries

- The big bang was 15 billion years ago ( $5 \cdot 10^{17}$  secs)

- Source: D. Harel, *Algorithmics*

11

## The Fibonacci Function

- Mathematical definition:
 
$$\begin{aligned} \text{fib}(0) &= 0 \\ \text{fib}(1) &= 1 \\ \text{fib}(n) &= \text{fib}(n-1) + \text{fib}(n-2), \quad n \geq 2 \end{aligned}$$

- Fibonacci sequence: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ...

```
static int fib(int n) {
    if (n == 0) return 0;
    else if (n == 1) return 1;
    else return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
}
```



Fibonacci (Leonardo Pisano) 1170–1240?

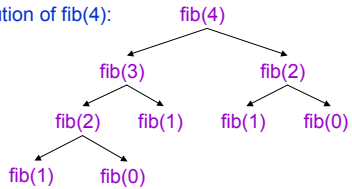
Statue in Pisa, Italy  
Giovanni Paganucci  
1863

12

## Recursive Execution

```
static int fib(int n) {
    if (n == 0) return 0;
    else if (n == 1) return 1;
    else return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
}
```

Execution of fib(4):



13

## The Fibonacci Recurrence

```
static int fib(int n) {
    if (n == 0) return 0;
    else if (n == 1) return 1;
    else return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
}
```

$$T(0) = c$$

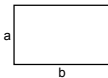
$$T(1) = c$$

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + c$$

- Solution is exponential in  $n$
- But not quite  $O(2^n)$ ...

14

## The Golden Ratio



ratio of sum of sides  
(a+b) to longer side (b)

=  
ratio of longer side (b) to  
shorter side (a)

$$\phi = (a+b)/b = b/a$$

$$\phi^2 = \phi + 1$$

$$\phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$= 1.618...$$

15

## Fibonacci Recurrence is $O(\phi^n)$

- want to show  $T(n) \leq c\phi^n$
- have  $\phi^2 = \phi + 1$
- multiplying by  $c\phi^n$ ,  $c\phi^{n+2} = c\phi^{n+1} + c\phi^n$
- Basis:
  - $T(0) = c = c\phi^0$
  - $T(1) = c \leq c\phi^1$
- Induction step:
  - $T(n+2) = T(n+1) + T(n) \leq c\phi^{n+1} + c\phi^n = c\phi^{n+2}$

16

## Can We Do Better?

```
if (n <= 1) return n;
int parent = 0;
int current = 1;
for (int i = 2; i <= n; i++) {
    int next = current + parent;
    parent = current;
    current = next;
}
return (current);
```

- Number of times loop is executed? **Less than n**
- Number of basic steps per loop? **Constant**
- Complexity of iterative algorithm =  $O(n)$
- Much, much, much, much, much, better than  $O(\phi^n)$ !

17

## ...But We Can Do Even Better!

- Let  $f_n$  denote the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Fibonacci number
  - $f_0 = 0$
  - $f_1 = 1$
  - $f_{n+2} = f_{n+1} + f_n, n \geq 0$
- Note that  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_n \\ f_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_{n+1} \\ f_{n+2} \end{pmatrix}$ , thus  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^n \begin{pmatrix} f_0 \\ f_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_n \\ f_{n+1} \end{pmatrix}$
- Can compute the  $n^{\text{th}}$  power of a matrix by repeated squaring in  $O(\log n)$  time
- Gives complexity  $O(\log n)$
- Just a little cleverness got us from exponential to logarithmic!

18

## Matrix Multiplication in Less Than $O(n^3)$ (Strassen's Algorithm)

- Idea: naive  $2 \times 2$  matrix multiplication takes 8 scalar multiplications, but we can do it in 7:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} s_1 + s_2 - s_4 + s_6 & s_4 + s_5 \\ s_6 + s_7 & s_2 - s_3 + s_5 - s_7 \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} s_1 &= (b - d)(g + h) & s_5 &= a(f - h) \\ s_2 &= (a + d)(e + h) & s_6 &= d(g - e) \\ s_3 &= (a - c)(e + f) & s_7 &= e(c + d) \\ s_4 &= h(a + b) \end{aligned}$$

19

## Now Apply This Recursively – Divide and Conquer!

- Break  $2^{n+1} \times 2^{n+1}$  matrices up into 4  $2^n \times 2^n$  submatrices
- Multiply them the same way

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E & F \\ G & H \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} S_1 + S_2 - S_4 + S_6 & S_4 + S_5 \\ S_6 + S_7 & S_2 - S_3 + S_5 - S_7 \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= (B - D)(G + H) & S_5 &= A(F - H) \\ S_2 &= (A + D)(E + H) & S_6 &= D(G - E) \\ S_3 &= (A - C)(E + F) & S_7 &= E(C + D) \\ S_4 &= H(A + B) \end{aligned}$$

20

## Now Apply This Recursively – Divide and Conquer!

- Gives recurrence  $M(n) = 7 M(n/2) + cn^2$  for the number of multiplications
- Solution is  $M(n) = O(n^{\log_2 7}) = O(n^{2.81\dots})$
- Number of additions is  $O(n^2)$ , bound separately

21

## Is That the Best You Can Do?

- How about  $3 \times 3$  for a base case?
  - best known is 23 multiplications
  - not good enough to beat Strassen
- In 1978, Victor Pan discovered how to multiply  $70 \times 70$  matrices with 143640 multiplications, giving  $O(n^{2.795\dots})$
- Best bound to date (obtained by entirely different methods) is  $O(n^{2.376\dots})$  (Coppersmith & Winograd 1987)
- Best known lower bound is still  $\Omega(n^2)$

22

## Moral: Complexity Matters!

- But you are acquiring the best tools to deal with it!

23