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Calculating the Time Complexity of Algorithms: General Rules for  
Time Complexity Analysis

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### **List of Literature**

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- Provide a comprehensive list of all books, research papers, and online sources cited in the thesis.

## **Abstract**

Time complexity is a fundamental aspect of algorithm design and analysis, directly influencing the efficiency and scalability of computational solutions. This paper aims to present a comprehensive framework for analyzing the time complexity of various algorithms, offering general rules that can be applied to a wide range of algorithmic structures. By examining key notations such as Big O, Big Theta, and Big Omega, the paper provides a clear methodology for evaluating time complexity in iterative, recursive, and divide-and-conquer algorithms. Additionally, the concept of amortized analysis is introduced to assess algorithms with periodic high-cost operations, further enhancing the depth of analysis. Practical applications of these general rules are demonstrated through real-world examples, including sorting, searching, and machine learning algorithms, providing readers with actionable insights for optimizing algorithm performance. This paper not only serves as a guide for understanding algorithm efficiency but also equips developers and researchers with the tools to systematically improve the performance of computational systems.

**Keywords** Time complexity • Algorithm analysis • Algorithm optimization • performance analysis

## **Анотація**

Часова складність є фундаментальним аспектом проектування та аналізу алгоритмів, що безпосередньо впливає на ефективність та масштабованість обчислювальних рішень. Ця стаття має на меті представити комплексний підхід до аналізу часової складності різних алгоритмів, пропонуючи загальні правила, які можуть бути застосовані до широкого спектру алгоритмічних структур. Розглядаючи ключові позначення, такі як Big O, Big Theta та Big Omega, стаття надає чітку методологію для оцінки часової складності ітеративних, рекурсивних алгоритмів та алгоритмів «розділяй і володаруй». Крім того, вводиться поняття амортизованого аналізу для оцінки алгоритмів з періодичними високовартісними операціями, що ще більше поглиблює глибину аналізу. Практичне застосування цих загальних правил продемонстровано на реальних прикладах, включаючи алгоритми сортування, пошуку та машинного навчання, що дає читачам практичні поради щодо оптимізації продуктивності алгоритмів. Ця стаття не лише слугує посібником для розуміння ефективності алгоритмів, але й надає розробникам та дослідникам інструменти для систематичного покращення продуктивності обчислювальних систем.

**Ключові слова** часова складність - аналіз алгоритмів - оптимізація алгоритмів - аналіз продуктивності

## Introduction

In computer science, the time complexity of an algorithm is a function that primarily measures how fast an algorithm runs. It refers to the computational cost and describes the trend of algorithm execution time with respect to the growth of data size[1]. As modern systems process increasingly large datasets, the need for efficient algorithms that scale well becomes even more important. The ability to understand, analyze, and optimize time complexity directly affects the performance and scalability of software applications across fields like machine learning, artificial intelligence, cryptography, and large-scale distributed systems.

Efficient algorithms are vital for ensuring that software can handle increasing input sizes without excessive delays [2]. This is particularly critical in performance-sensitive applications, such as real-time processing systems, large-scale databases, and web services. A poor understanding of time complexity can result in choosing inefficient algorithms, which may lead to slower system response times, increased hardware costs, and higher energy consumption. Understanding time complexity allows developers to predict the behavior of algorithms when the input size increases, ensuring that they can scale without degrading performance [3].

The main goal of this paper is to provide a structured framework for analyzing the time complexity of various algorithms, offering general rules that can be applied across different types of algorithmic structures. Time complexity analysis is often approached differently depending on the type of algorithm being studied, such as iterative, recursive, or divide-and-conquer algorithms. This paper seeks to unify these approaches under a single set of principles that can be applied consistently across these algorithmic categories.

The first goal is to simplify the process of analyzing iterative

algorithms, which are typically characterized by loops. From sorting data to searching through large data sets, these algorithms are widely used in a variety of applications. The second goal is to offer clear guidelines for analyzing recursive algorithms, which can be more difficult to assess due to their self-referential nature. Recursive algorithms are widely used in fields such as dynamic programming and divide-and-conquer strategies. Their time complexity can often be evaluated by recursive relations.

Additionally, the paper introduces the concept of amortized analysis, which is essential for algorithms that have occasional expensive operations but are efficient on average [5]. Amortized analysis provides a more realistic measure of time complexity in certain scenarios, especially when working with data structures like dynamic arrays and hash tables [4].

Finally, this paper applies these general rules to real-world algorithms used in software engineering and scientific computing, demonstrating how time complexity analysis can be applied in practical scenarios. This includes examining the efficiency of machine learning algorithms, distributed systems, and large-scale data processing. The paper also discusses how understanding time complexity allows for the optimization of these algorithms, resulting in better performance and resource utilization in both academic and industrial settings.

## Chapter 1. Overview of Algorithm Time Complexity

Some background concepts related to the proposed approach are briefly introduced in this section.

### 1.1 Basic Concepts of Time Complexity

Time complexity serves as a measurement of the computational time needed for an algorithm to operate, in relation to the size of its input. It facilitates the understanding the efficiency of the execution of the algorithm when the input size expands. Through the analysis of time complexity, we can anticipate how an algorithm will scale, particularly when dealing with large data sets. Time complexity is usually expressed by means of asymptotic notations like Big O ( $O$ ), Big Theta ( $\Theta$ ), and Big Omega ( $\Omega$ ), which respectively describe the upper, tight, and lower bounds on the running time of the algorithm.

- **Big O ( $O$ ):** This notation describes the upper bound of the algorithm, or the worst-case time complexity. It offers an upper limit for the running time, ensuring that as the input grows, the execute time will not exceed this upper bound. For example, if an algorithm has a time complexity of  $O(n^2)$ , then the time required for this algorithm to execute in the worst case grows quadratically as the input size  $n$  increases.
- **Big Theta ( $\Theta$ ):** This notation provides a strict limit for the running time of the algorithm. It indicates that the running time of the algorithm grows precisely at this rate, regardless of the input. If the time complexity of an algorithm is  $\Theta(n \log n)$ , then its running time will always be proportional to  $n \log n$ .
- **Big Omega ( $\Omega$ ):** This notation indicates the lower limit or the best case of time complexity. It guarantees that even under the best conditions, the algorithm will take at least this much time. For instance, an algorithm with  $\Omega(n)$  complexity will take at least linear time to process

the input, regardless of any optimizations .

## 1.2 Types of Time Complexities

Algorithms may exhibit several common types of time complexity, each of which affects the way the algorithm scales with increasing input size. The variation and comparison of these types of time complexity with the input size are shown in Fig. 1.1:

- **Constant Time ( $O(1)$ ):** Algorithm execution time is independent of input size. For example, the time it takes to access an element in an array by index is always constant.
- **Linear Time ( $O(n)$ ):** The running time grows linearly with input size, such as simple search operations, generally have linear time complexity.
- **Logarithmic Time ( $O(\log n)$ ):** The running time grows logarithmically with input size. Algorithms like binary search exhibit this complexity, as they split the input in half at each step.
- **Polynomial Time ( $O(n^k)$ ):** The running time grows polynomially with input size. Sorting algorithms like bubble sort require nested loops, which in the worst case have a polynomial time complexity of  $O(n^2)$ .
- **Exponential Time ( $O(2^n)$ ):** The running time increases exponentially with the increase of input size. This is often seen in algorithms for solving NP-complete problems, where each possible solution must be considered.

## 1.3 Factors Affecting Time Complexity

Several factors influence the time complexity of an algorithm:

- **Input Size ( $n$ ):** The size of the input is the factor that has the most significant impact on time complexity. In general as  $n$  grows, the time required for computation increases.
- **Data Structures:** Differences in data structures produce different time complexities. For example, operations like searching, inserting, or

deleting in arrays, linked lists, or hash tables differ in time complexity depending on the data structure used .

- **Recursion Depth:** Recursive algorithms often have time complexities tied to the depth of recursion. Like merge sort, decompose the input into smaller parts and solve them recursively, which affects their time complexity.

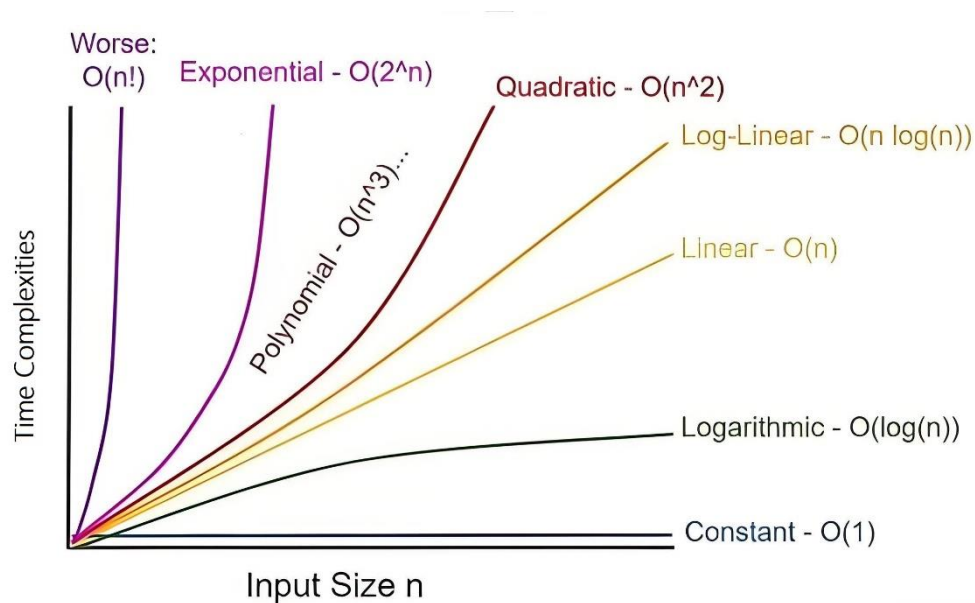


Fig. 1.1 Variation and comparison of Time Complexities

## 1.4 Challenges in Time Complexity Analysis

Time complexity analysis is key to understanding algorithm efficiency. For simple cases, the analysis of the time complexity of an algorithm is very straightforward, but it will become very complicated when dealing with advanced algorithms or special cases. Below is a brief discussion of the main difficulties encountered during time complexity analysis:

### 1.4.1 Real-World vs. Theoretical Analysis

In many cases, the theoretical time complexity of an algorithm does not align perfectly with its real-world performance. This discrepancy arises because theoretical analysis often simplifies or ignores certain practical considerations:

- **Hardware and System Dependencies:** The actual execution time of an algorithm depends not only on its time complexity but also on factors like CPU speed, memory hierarchy, and input/output operations.
- **Compiler Optimizations:** Modern compilers can optimize code execution in ways that may not be accounted for in theoretical models.
- **Best-, Worst-, and Average-Case Scenarios:** Understanding the complexity of best-case, average-case, and worst-case adds an additional layer of analysis. For example, the worst-case complexity of Quicksort is  $O(n^2)$ , but usually reaches  $O(n \log n)$  on average [1].

#### 1.4.2 Handling Recursive Algorithms

Recursive algorithms present unique challenges because their time complexity often depends on solving recurrence relations. These can be difficult to analyze, particularly in cases where recursion depth varies based on input.

- **Recurrence Relations:** The performance of recursive algorithms needs to be expressed as a recursive relation in order to analyze their time complexity. Solving these relations can be non-trivial, especially for complex recursions. For instance:

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n)$$

This recursive relationship appears in Merge Sort, which can be solved using the Master Theorem, and its time complexity is determined as  $O(n \log n)$  [2].

- **Variable Input Characteristics:** Some recursive algorithms, like Quicksort, depend on the input's distribution, which makes analyzing their average-case complexity more challenging [4].

#### 1.4.3 Analyzing Dynamic Programming Algorithms

Dynamic programming (DP) algorithms are designed to optimize recursive algorithms by storing intermediate results to avoid redundant computations. While this improves performance, it complicates time complexity analysis due to:

- **Overlapping Subproblems:** DP exploits overlapping subproblems, but analyzing how many subproblems are solved and how often each subproblem is revisited can be complex.
- **State Space Analysis:** In problems like Knapsack or Floyd-Warshall, the size of the state space directly affects the time complexity, which can vary based on the problem dimensions. For instance, the time complexity of the Knapsack Problem is  $O(nW)$ , where  $W$  is the maximum weight capacity and  $n$  is the number of items[5].

#### 1.4.4 Complex Data Structures

Algorithms that operate on advanced data structures, like heaps, graphs, or trees, pose additional challenges due to the complexity of their operations.

- **Graph Algorithms:** Algorithms like Dijkstra's or Bellman-Ford rely on graph representations (adjacency matrices or adjacency lists) that influence their time complexity. The graph's size (the number of vertices  $V$  and edges  $E$ ) plays a crucial role, making the analysis context-dependent [6].
- **Tree Algorithms:** Algorithms operating on balanced trees (e.g., Red-Black Trees or AVL trees) often need to account for rotations and rebalancing operations, adding layers of complexity to their time complexity analysis.

#### 1.4.5 Amortized Analysis

Amortized analysis is a method for evaluating the performance of an algorithm by averaging the results over all operations performed. This

approach is particularly applicable to data structure operations, where even if a single operation has a high cost, the average cost may be smaller when averaged over all operations.

- **Variable Cost Per Operation:** In data structures like dynamic arrays or hash tables, some operations (e.g., resizing a dynamic array or rehashing) are costly but occur infrequently. Amortized analysis helps average out these costs over multiple operations.
- **Potential Method and Accounting Method:** Understanding these methods requires a clear grasp of how potential changes or "prepaid" costs influence the time complexity. For example, in dynamic arrays, while an individual insertion may take  $O(n)$  when resizing, the amortized cost remains  $O(1)$  per insertion [4].

#### 1.4.6 Input Sensitivity and Variability

Algorithms often behave differently depending on the input characteristics:

- **Sorted vs. Unsorted Inputs:** Whether the input is ordered or not affects the performance of certain algorithms. For instance, in Insertion Sort, for unordered inputs, the time complexity is  $O(n^2)$ , but when the inputs are ordered, the operation time reduces to  $O(n)$ .
- **Sparse vs. Dense Graphs:** Graph algorithms exhibit different time complexities for different graph densities. For Breadth-First Search (BFS), although it has a time complexity of  $O(V+E)$ , where  $E$  can vary significantly between sparse and dense graphs [6].

#### 1.4.7 Algorithmic Optimizations

Optimizing algorithms often involves trade-offs between time and space complexity, complicating the analysis:

- **Space-Time Trade-Offs:** Techniques like memoization or caching improve time complexity but increase space consumption.
- **Parallel and Distributed Computing:** Time complexity analysis in

distributed systems must account for communication overhead and synchronization delays, making traditional models insufficient [5].

Time complexity analysis is an essential but challenging aspect of algorithm evaluation. Understanding its nuances, such as recursion, dynamic programming, and amortized analysis, enables better decision-making in selecting and optimizing algorithms for various computational problems. By addressing these challenges, we can improve the efficiency and scalability of both algorithms and systems.

## **Chapter 2. General Rules for Time Complexity Analysis**

To understand the efficiency and scalability of algorithms, time complexity analysis is critical. Efficient algorithm design and analysis require a comprehensive understanding of the rules governing time complexity. This chapter outlines general principles that help systematically evaluate the time complexity of various algorithms, focusing on iterative structures, recursive calls, and amortized scenarios.

### **2.1 Related work**

Researchers and practitioners have explored various strategies to decompose complex algorithms, enhancing both their understanding and efficiency. Foundational works by Cormen et al., Knuth, Tarjan, and others have established techniques such as recurrence analysis, dynamic programming, divide and conquer, and amortized analysis. These methods provide a framework for analyzing and optimizing the performance of complex algorithms.

Divide and Conquer is one of the earliest and most well-known strategies for breaking down algorithms. The technique has been formalized in foundational texts. Cormen et al. in *Introduction to Algorithms*[1] describe how divide and conquer splits problems into sub-problems, recursively solves them, and combines their solutions. Algorithms like Binary Search, Quick Sort, and Merge Sort are standard examples; Knuth in *The Art of Computer Programming* [2] highlights divide and conquer's role in early algorithmic developments, emphasizing its utility in sorting and searching problems. These works demonstrate that divide and conquer simplifies complex problems, reducing their computational overhead by solving smaller instances.

Dynamic programming (DP) builds upon divide and conquer by addressing redundant computations in recursive algorithms. The technique

is central to optimization problems like the Knapsack Problem, Floyd-Warshall Algorithm, and Longest Common Subsequence. Bellman introduced DP as a method to solve optimization problems by decomposing the problem into stages, with each stage representing a sub-problem [7]. Tarjan in Data Structures and Network Algorithms [5] explored DP's application in graph algorithms, where breaking down problems into overlapping sub-problems leads to efficient solutions. Dynamic programming reduces time complexity significantly by storing the results of sub-problems, transforming exponential complexities into polynomial ones.

The analysis of recursive algorithms often involves solving recurrence relations, a concept formalized in The Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms written by Aho, Hopcroft, and Ullman[4], where recurrence relations are used to describe the behavior of recursive algorithms like Towers of Hanoi and Merge Sort. Master Theorem, as described in Introduction to Algorithms [1], provides a systematic way to solve recurrence relations for divide and conquer algorithms, making it easier to analyze their time complexity. These contributions provide a mathematical foundation for breaking down recursive algorithms into solvable components.

Analyzing loops and nested loops is another critical aspect of breaking down algorithms. Knuth's analysis of basic iterative structures in The Art of Computer Programming [2], which is fundamental to understanding the time complexity of loops. Fischer and Meyer in their work on parallel algorithms emphasize how breaking down nested loops aids in optimizing time complexity for parallel computation [8]. These studies provide essential tools for understanding iterative structures and their contribution to an algorithm's overall time complexity.

Amortized analysis is the evaluation of the average time complexity

of a series of operations. Tarjan's work on Dynamic Trees [5], which demonstrates how amortized analysis can optimize data structures used in network algorithms. Sleator and Tarjan introduced the Splay Tree, showcasing amortized time complexity improvements for binary search trees [9]. Amortized analysis helps in breaking down the cost of infrequent expensive operations, offering a realistic measure of an algorithm's performance in practical scenarios.

## 2.2 Breaking Down Algorithms

Breaking down algorithms is when a complex algorithm is broken down into smaller, more manageable components to make it easier to analyze its time complexity. This is one of the basic principles of time complexity analysis. This approach simplifies the evaluation process which not only aids in understanding how an algorithm works but also helps in identifying performance bottlenecks and optimizing specific parts.

### 2.2.1 Divide and Conquer

Divide and Conquer is a fundamental approach to problem-solving that decomposes a complex problem into smaller, more manageable sub-problems. These sub-problems are then solved independently, and their solutions are subsequently combined to yield a solution to the original problem. This technique is particularly effective for problems that can be naturally divided into independent or overlapping sub-problems.

Key Steps in Divide and Conquer:

- **Divide:** The initial problem should be divided into smaller, more manageable sub-problems, with each sub-problem representing a similar level of complexity as the original problem but on a smaller scale.
- **Conquer:** Recursively solve each sub-problem. In the event that the sub-problem sizes are sufficiently modest, it is possible to

solve them directly (base case).

- **Combine:** The solutions to the sub-problems are then combined or merged in order to obtain the solution to the original problem.

Examples of Divide and Conquer Algorithms:

- **Merge Sort** is a classic example of the divide-and-conquer approach. The time complexity of this algorithm can be expressed as  $O(n \log n)$ , as derived from the Master Theorem. The details are in 3.1.3.
- **Quick Sort** algorithm employs a divide-and-conquer approach to sorting an array by partitioning it around a pivot. In the best or average case, the time complexity is  $O(n \log n)$ , while in the worst case, it is  $O(n^2)$ . The details are in 3.1.4.
- **Binary Search** is a highly effective method for searching in sorted arrays. Its time Complexity is  $O(\log n)$ . The details are in 3.2.2.

### 2.2.2 Dynamic Programming

Dynamic Programming (DP) is a sophisticated algorithmic technique that solves optimization and decision-making problems by decomposing them into simpler sub-problems. Unlike the divide-and-conquer approach, which solves each sub-problem independently, DP capitalizes on the potential of overlapping sub-problems by storing the solutions to previously solved sub-problems, thereby leveraging the advantages of overlapping computation. This technique is particularly suitable for problems with optimal substructure, wherein a solution to the overarching problem can be constructed by combining the solutions to the constituent subproblems. This technique is commonly used for problems like the Fibonacci Sequence or Knapsack Problem.

Key Concepts in Dynamic Programming:

- **Overlapping Sub-problems:** If a problem can be broken down

into constituent parts and subsequently employed on multiple occasions, then overlapping subproblems will occur. As like Fibonacci sequence computation: A simple recursive approach would recompute the same Fibonacci series multiple times, resulting in exponential time complexity ( $O(2^n)$ ). However, using DP, we store the calculated values of Fibonacci numbers, reducing the time complexity to  $O(n)$ .

- **Optimal Substructure:** An optimal substructure is one from which the optimal solution can be constructed in an efficient manner. The optimal solution of a problem is that which results in the shortest overall length of the path between two points. In the case of shortest path problems, the optimal substructure is that which allows the shortest path to be constructed between the source and destination vertices. This is exemplified in the Dijkstra's and Bellman-Ford Algorithms, which employ the shortest paths to intermediate vertices in order to determine the shortest path from source to destination.

Approaches to Dynamic Programming:

- **Top-Down Approach (Memoization):** In the top-down methods, we solve the problem recursively but store the results of solved sub-problems (memoization) to avoid redundant calculations. Such as Fibonacci Sequence:

```
def fib(n, memo={}):  
    if n <= 1:  
        return n  
    if n not in memo:  
        memo[n] = fib(n-1, memo) + fib(n-2, memo)  
    return memo[n]
```

Algorithm. 2.1 Python Code for Fibonacci Sequence (memoization)

Time Complexity:  $O(n)$

Space Complexity:  $O(n)$  (for storing the memoized results)

- **Bottom-Up Approach (Tabulation):** The bottom-up method iteratively builds solutions, starting with the smallest sub-problems and using their results to construct solutions for larger sub-problems.

Such as Fibonacci Sequence (Tabulation):

```
def fib(n):
    dp = [0] * (n + 1)
    dp[1] = 1
    for i in range(2, n + 1):
        dp[i] = dp[i - 1] + dp[i - 2]
    return dp[n]
```

Algorithm. 2.2 Python Code for Fibonacci Sequence (Tabulation)

Time Complexity:  $O(n)$

Space Complexity:  $O(n)$  (for storing the table)

Common Applications of Dynamic Programming:

1. **Knapsack Problem:** Given a group of items, each item has weight and value, one must ascertain the maximum value that can be derived from the combination of items, while ensuring that the total weight remains below the specified limit.

- Recursive Relation:

$$dp[i][w] = \max(dp[i - 1][w], dp[i - 1][w - weight[i]] + value[i])$$

- Time Complexity:  $O(nW)$ .  $n$ : the number of items;  $W$ : the weight capacity.
2. **Longest Common Subsequence (LCS):** The objective is to determine the length of the longest contiguous subsequence that occurs between two given strings.

- Recursive Relation:

$$dp[i][j] = \begin{cases} dp[i-1][j-1] + 1 & \text{if } X[i] = Y[j] \\ \max(dp[i-1][j], dp[i][j-1]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Time Complexity:  $O(mn)$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  represent the lengths of the two strings.

**3. Matrix Chain Multiplication:** The most effective method of matrix sequence multiplication is determined by minimizing the number of scalar multiplications.

- Recursive Relation:

$$dp[i][j] = \min_{i \leq k < j} (dp[i][k] + dp[k+1][j] + cost[i-1] * cost[k] * cost[j])$$

- Time Complexity:  $O(n^3)$

Dynamic Programming is a robust technique that leverages overlapping sub-problems and optimal substructure to solve complex optimization and decision problems efficiently. Its top-down and bottom-up approaches provide flexibility in implementation, making it a critical tool for both theoretical analysis and practical applications. However, DP poses challenges such as high space complexity, difficulty in identifying substructures, and implementation complexity, which can make debugging and maintaining solutions more challenging.

## 2.3 Time Complexity of Loops and Recursions

Understanding the time complexity of loops and recursive functions is a crucial part of algorithm analysis. Both loops and recursions are fundamental constructs in programming and often determine the overall performance of an algorithm. Below, we explore the methods for analyzing their time complexity in detail.

### 2.3.1 Time Complexity of Loops

Loops are one of the most basic control structures in algorithms and

their time complexity often serving as a pivotal determinant of overall program efficiency. The time Complexity of loops is contingent upon the number of iterations they execute and the operations performed within each iteration. Analyzing their time complexity involves understanding how the number of iterations increases with the input size.

### 2.3.1.1 Single Loops

A single loop is a fundamental control structure that iterates a code block with a fixed or variable number of times. The time complexity of a single loop is directly proportional to the number of iterations it executes, making it one of the simplest constructs to analyze in terms of performance.

#### 1. Basic Structure of Single Loops:

The basic structure of a single loop can be expressed as:

```
for i in range(0, n):  
    # O(1) operation  
    print(i)
```

#### Algorithm. 2.3 Python Code for Single Loop

- Initialization:  $i=0$
- Condition:  $i < n$
- Increment/Update:  $i=i+1$

#### Time Complexity Analysis

- The loop runs  $n$  times..
- Each round performs a constant-time operation  $O(1)$ .
- The total time complexity is the product of the number of iterations and the operational complexity in the loop:  $O(n) \times O(1) = O(n)$

#### 2. Variations of Single Loops:

Fixed iteration count: In some cases, a loop runs a predetermined number of iterations, irrespective of the input size. E.g.

- Number of Iterations: 10 (constant)

```
for i in range(0, 10):
    print(i)
```

Algorithm. 2.4 Python Code for Fixed Number of Iterations

- Time Complexity:  $O(1)$  since the number of loop executions is constant regardless of the the size of input.

Variable Number of Iterations: When the iteration count depends on the input size, the time complexity of the loop is proportional to the input size. E.g.

- Number of Iterations:  $n$

```
for i in range(0, n):
    print(i)
```

Algorithm. 2.5 Python Code for Variable Number of Iterations

- Time Complexity:  $O(n)$

### 3. Loops with Different Step Sizes:

The step size or increment value determines how the loop variable changes after each iteration.

- Increment by 1: This is the most common case.

```
for i in range(0, n): # step size = 1
    print(i)
```

Algorithm. 2.6 Python Code for Increment by 1

- The loop executes  $n$  times.
- Time Complexity:  $O(n)$ .
- Increment by a Fixed Step

```
for i in range(0, n, 2): # step size = 2
    print(i)
```

Algorithm. 2.7 Python Code for Increment by a Fixed Step

- The loop executes approximately  $n/2$  times.
- Time Complexity:  $O(n)$ , as the constant factor  $1/2$  is ignored in

asymptotic analysis.

- Decrementing Loop

```
for i in range(n, 0, -1):  
    print(i)
```

Algorithm. 2.8 Python Code for Decrementing Loop

- The loop executes  $n$  times.
- Time Complexity:  $O(n)$ .

#### 4. Special Cases of Single Loops:

- Logarithmic Growth: If the loop variable grows or shrinks exponentially, the number of iterations will have a logarithmic relationship to the input size. Example:

```
i = 1  
while i < n:  
    print(i)  
    i *= 2
```

Algorithm. 2.9 Python Code for Logarithmic Growth

- The loop runs while  $i$  doubles each time:  $1, 2, 4, 8, \dots, 2^k$ , where  $2^k < n$ .
- The number of iterations is approximately  $\log_2 n$ .
- Time Complexity:  $O(\log n)$ .
- Early Termination: A loop may terminate early based on a condition inside the loop. Example:

```
for i in range(0, n):  
    if i == k:  
        break  
    print(i)
```

Algorithm. 2.10 Python Code for Early Termination

- If  $k$  is a constant, the loop executes  $k$  times.
- Time Complexity:  $O(1)$ .
- If  $k$  is proportional to  $n$ ,  $O(k)$  runs circularly, leading to  $O(n)$  in the

worst case.

By understanding various loop patterns and their impact on time complexity, developers can optimize algorithms for better performance. The comparison of these loop types of time complexity are shown in Table. 2.1

Loop Type	Iterations	Time Complexity
Loop from 0 to n	n	O(n)
Loop from 0 to a constant (e.g., 10)	Constant	O(1)
Loop with increment by a constant	$\lceil n/k \rceil$	O(n)
Logarithmic loop (multiplicative step)	$\log n$	O(logn)
Early termination	Up to k	O(k) or O(1)

Table. 2.1 comparison of Time Complexities with the loop types

### 2.3.1.2 Nested Loops

Nested loops occur when one loop is placed inside another, creating a hierarchical structure. The time complexity is dependent on the multiplication of each iteration of the nested loops, given that the innermost loop is fully executed in each iteration of the outermost loop.

#### 1. Basic Structure of Nested Loops

The general structure of nested loops can be represented as:

```
for i in range(0, n): # Outer Loop
    for j in range(0, m): # Inner Loop
        # O(1) operation
        print(i, j)
```

Algorithm. 2.11 Python Code for Nested Loops

- Outer Loop: Iterates n times.
- Inner Loop: Each iteration runs m times.

- Total Runs:  $n \times m$
  - Time Complexity:  $O(n \times m)$
2. Common Patterns of Nested Loops
- Nested Loops with Equal Iterations: When both loops iterate over the same range, the time needed is the square of the number of iterations in a single loop. Example:

```
for i in range(0, n):
    for j in range(0, n):
        print(i, j)
```

Algorithm. 2.12 Python Code for Nested Loops with Equal Iterations

- Outer loop executes  $n$  times.
  - For each iteration, the inner loop runs  $n$  times.
  - Total runs:  $n \times n = n^2$
  - Time Complexity:  $O(n^2)$
- Nested Loops with Different Iteration Ranges: If the inner and outer loops iterate over different ranges, the time complexity is the product of their iteration counts. Example:

```
for i in range(0, n):
    for j in range(0, m):
        print(i, j)
```

Algorithm. 2.13 Python Code for Nested Loops with Different Iteration Ranges

- Total Iterations:  $n \times m$
  - Time Complexity:  $O(n \times m)$
- Dependent Nested Loops: The number of inner loop iterations depends on the outer loop variable. Example:

```
for i in range(0, n):
    for j in range(0, i):
        print(i, j)
```

Algorithm. 2.14 Python Code for Dependent Nested Loops

- Outer loop executes n times.
- For each iteration, the inner loop runs i times.
- Total runs:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = \frac{(n-1) \times n}{2} = O(n^2)$$

- Time Complexity:  $O(n^2)$

### 3. Special Cases of Nested Loops

- **Logarithmic Growth in Nested Loops:** If the iteration count of an inner loop grows logarithmically, the total time complexity reflects this. Example:

```
for i in range(0, n):
    j = 1
    while j < n:
        print(i, j)
        j *= 2
```

#### Algorithm. 2.15 Python Code for Logarithmic Growth in Nested Loops

- Outer loop executes n times.
- For each iteration, the inner loop runs approximately  $\log_2 n$  times.
- Total runs:  $n \times \log n$
- Time Complexity:  $O(n \log n)$
- **Early Termination in Nested Loops:** The number of iterations in an inner loop depends on when the loop exits. Example:

```
for i in range(0, n):
    for j in range(0, n):
        if j == k:
            break
        print(i, j)
```

#### Algorithm. 2.16 Python Code for Early Termination in Nested Loops

- Outer loop executes n times.
- For each iteration, the inner loop runs k times (assuming  $k < n$ ).

- Time Complexity:  $O(n \times k)$ , If  $k$  is constant, it can simplify to  $O(n)$ .

#### 4. Analysis Techniques for Nested Loops

- Multiplicative Analysis: For loops with independent iteration counts: Total time complexity is the product of the complexities of each loop.
- Summation Analysis: For dependent loops: Use summation formulas to calculate the total number of iterations. The total iterations are:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = O(n^2)$$

- Logarithmic Growth: When one of the loops reduces the iteration range exponentially: Use logarithmic time complexity for that loop.

#### 5. Examples of Nested Loops

- Matrix Multiplication: In matrix multiplication, use three nested loops to multiply two  $n \times n$  matrices:

```
for i in range(0, n):
    for j in range(0, n):
        for k in range(0, n):
            result[i][j] += matrix1[i][k] * matrix2[k][j]
```

#### Algorithm. 2.17 Python Code for Matrix Multiplication in Nested Loops

- Total Iterations:  $n \times n \times n = n^3$
- Time Complexity:  $O(n^3)$
- Bubble Sort: Bubble Sort uses nested loops to repeatedly compare and swap adjacent elements. The time Complexity is  $O(n^2)$ . The details is in 3.1.1.

Nested loops can significantly impact an algorithm's time complexity, especially in cases involving quadratic or cubic growth. Analyzing nested loops involves understanding the relationship between the outer and inner loops, using summation for dependent loops, and leveraging logarithmic growth for loops with exponential reductions. Mastering these techniques

helps optimize algorithms and improve performance in practical applications. The comparison of these nested loop types of time complexity are shown in Table. 2.2

Loop Type	Iterations	Time Complexity
<b>Independent nested loops (same range)</b>	$n \times n$	$O(n^2)$
<b>Independent nested loops (different range)</b>	$n \times m$	$O(n \times m)$
<b>Dependent nested loops</b>	$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i$	$O(n^2)$
<b>Nested loop with logarithmic inner loop</b>	$n \times \log n$	$O(n \log n)$
<b>Matrix multiplication</b>	$n^3$	$O(n^3)$

Table. 2.2 comparison of Time Complexities with the nested loop types

### 2.3.2 Time Complexity of Recursions

Recursion is a powerful technique in algorithm design where functions call themselves to solve smaller problems. To analyze a recursive algorithm, you must understand how the size of the problem is reduced in each recursive call and how the total workload is accumulated in all calls.

#### 1. Basic Structure of Recursion

A recursive function generally consists of:

- Base Case: The stopping condition that ends the recursion.
- Recursive Case: The logic that breaks the problem into smaller sub-problems and makes recursive calls.

Example:

```
def recursive_example(n):
    if n == 0: # Base case
        return 1
    return recursive_example(n - 1) + 1 # Recursive case
```

Algorithm. 2.18 Python Code for Basic Structure of Recursion

## 2. Basic Structure of Recursion

A recursive function's time complexity depends on:

- Number of recursive calls made before reaching the base case.
- Work done in each call, including the recursive and non-recursive operations.

Recurrence Relations:

- Recursive algorithms are often analyzed using recurrence relations. Recursive relation expresses the total time complexity  $T(n)$  of recursive function by the time complexity of sub-problems of recursive function.
- General Form:  $T(n)=aT(n/b)+f(n)$ .  $a$ : scale of sub-problems;  $n/b$ : size of each sub-problem;  $f(n)$ : time complexity of the non-recursive work done in each call (e.g., partitioning, merging).

## 3. Types of Recursions and Their Time Complexities

Linear recursion involves a single recursive call per function invocation. Example:

```
def linear_recursive(n):
    if n == 0:
        return 1
    return linear_recursive(n - 1) + 1
```

Algorithm. 2.19 Python Code for Linear Recursion

- Recurrence Relation:  $T(n)=T(n-1)+O(1)$
- Solution:  $T(n)=O(n)$
- A function called  $n$  times has an  $O(n)$  time complexity. Each call

performs constant work.

Binary recursion involves two recursive calls per function invocation.e.g.

```
def binary_recursive(n):
    if n <= 1:
        return 1
    return binary_recursive(n - 1) + binary_recursive(n - 1)
```

Algorithm. 2.20 Python Code for Binary Recursion

- Recurrence Relation:  $T(n)=2T(n-1)+O(1)$
- Solution:  $T(n)=O(2^n)$
- Binary recursion leads to exponential time complexity, as the number of recursive calls doubles at each level.

In divide and conquer, the problem is divided into smaller parts, each of which is solved recursively. Typical examples include Merge Sort. The details is in 3.1.3.

In tail recursion, the recursive call is the last thing done before the function returns. Tail recursion can be optimized as an iterative loop by the compiler, keeping the time complexity equal to its iteration. Example:

```
def tail_recursive(n, acc=1):
    if n == 0:
        return acc
    return tail_recursive(n - 1, acc * n)
```

Algorithm. 2.21 Python Code for Tail Recursion

- Time Complexity:  $O(n)$
- Space Complexity:  $O(1)$  (after optimization).

#### 4. Solving Recurrence Relations

Recursion Tree Method: This method visualizes recursive calls as a tree. Each layer of the tree represents the work done at a specific recursive depth.

Master Theorem: It provides a direct method for solving the recursive

relation in form:

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + O(n^d)$$

Where:

- a: Number of sub-problems.
- n/b: Size of each sub-problem.
- $O(n^d)$ : Cost of dividing or combining.

Three Cases:

- If  $d < \log_b a$ , then  $T(n) = O(n^{\log_b a})$ .
- If  $d = \log_b a$ , then  $T(n) = O(n^d \log n)$ .
- If  $d > \log_b a$ , then  $T(n) = O(n^d)$ .

## 5. Examples of Recursion in Real-World Algorithms

Fibonacci Sequence (Naive Recursion):

```
def fibonacci(n):  
    if n <= 1:  
        return n  
    return fibonacci(n - 1) + fibonacci(n - 2)
```

Algorithm. 2.22 Python Code for Fibonacci Sequence (Naive Recursion)

- Recurrence Relation:  $T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + O(1)$
- Time Complexity:  $O(2^n)$

Fibonacci Sequence (Dynamic Programming):

```
def fibonacci_dp(n, memo={}):  
    if n in memo:  
        return memo[n]  
    if n <= 1:  
        return n  
    memo[n] = fibonacci_dp(n-1, memo) + fibonacci_dp(n-2, memo)  
    return memo[n]
```

Algorithm. 2.23 Python Code for Fibonacci Sequence (Dynamic Programming)

- Time Complexity:  $O(n)$

Understanding the time complexity of recursive algorithms involves

analyzing how sub-problems are divided and how much work is done at each level of recursion. By using tools like recurrence relations, recursion trees, and the Master Theorem, we can effectively evaluate and optimize recursive algorithms for performance. The comparison of these recursion types of time complexity are shown in Table. 2.3

Recursion Type	Recurrence Relation	Time Complexity
<b>Linear Recursion</b>	$T(n)=T(n-1)+O(1)$	$O(n)$
<b>Binary Recursion</b>	$T(n)=2T(n-1)+O(1)$	$O(2^n)$
<b>Divide and Conquer</b>	$T(n)=aT(n/b)+O(n^d)$	Depends on Master Theorem
<b>Tail Recursion</b>	$T(n)=T(n-1)+O(1)$	$O(n)$

Table. 2.3 comparison of Time Complexities with the recursion types

## 2.4 Amortized Analysis

Amortized analysis is a method for calculating the average time needed for a series of operations. Different from worst-case or average-case analysis, there may occasionally be expensive operations in the amortized analysis, but after dispersing to other operations, ensure that the average cost of the operations is low. The operations applicable to some algorithms depend on specific conditions in terms of time complexity. For such cases, amortized analysis helps in assessing the average performance of a series of operations.

### 2.4.1 Key Concepts of Amortized Analysis

- Sequence of Operations: Amortized analysis evaluates the cost of a series of operations rather than individual operations.

- **Worst-Case Scenario:** Although some operations may have a high cost in the worst case, their infrequent occurrence ensures that the overall cost remains manageable.
- **Aggregate, Accounting, and Potential Methods:** These are the three main techniques used to calculate the average cost of each operation in amortized analysis.

### 2.4.2 Aggregate Method in Amortized Analysis

The aggregate method is one of the simplest techniques in amortized analysis. To find the average cost of each operation, you divide the total cost by the number of operations. It ensures a clear and accurate understanding of the average cost per operation. This method ensures that even if some operations are expensive, the overall cost spread across all operations remains manageable. This approach is especially useful for dynamic data structures and operations with occasional expensive costs.

Key Steps in Aggregate Method:

- **Identify the Operations:**  
Define the sequence of operations and their individual costs.
- **Calculate the Total Cost:**  
Add up the cost of all operations in the sequence.
- **Compute the Amortized Cost:**  
The average cost of each operation is found by dividing the total cost by the number of operations.

Example: Dynamic Array Resizing

Dynamic arrays grow in size when they run out of capacity. Typically, the array doubles in size upon resizing. Let's analyze the cost of inserting  $n$  elements.

1. Operations and Costs:
  - Insertion without resizing: Cost =  $O(1)$ .

- Insertion with resizing: Cost =  $O(n)$  (resize and copy all elements).
2. Sequence of Operations:
    - First insertion: Cost = 1 (no resize).
    - Second insertion: Cost = 1 (resize and copy 1 element).
    - Third insertion: Cost = 1.
    - Fourth insertion: Cost = 1 (resize and copy 2 elements).
    - Fifth to eighth insertions: Cost = 1 each, and so on.
  3. Total Cost Analysis:

Resizing occurs after 1,2,4,8,...,n/2 insertions. The total cost of resizing can be calculated as:

$$1+2+4+8+\dots+n=2n-1 \approx O(n)$$

Amortized Cost per Operation:

$$\frac{\text{Total Cost}}{\text{Number of Operations}} = \frac{O(2n)}{n} = O(1)$$

Thus, even though resizing is costly, the amortized cost per insertion remains constant,  $O(1)$ .

### 2.4.3 Accounting Method in Amortized Analysis

The Accounting Method is a technique used in amortized analysis to assign equalized costs to each operation to ensure that the total equalized cost of a series of operations accurately reflects its actual total cost. Unlike the aggregate method, which calculates the total cost directly, the accounting method allocates the cost of an expensive operation to the costs of multiple cheaper operations by maintaining a “credit” or “surplus”.

#### 1. Key Concepts of the Accounting Method

- **Amortized Cost:**

Each operation is assigned an amortized cost, which may differ from its actual cost. Some operations are assigned higher amortized

costs to "save" credits for future expensive operations.

- **Credits:**

The excess of the amortized cost over the actual cost is saved as "credits" for future payment of more expensive operations.

- **Cost Balancing:**

The total amortized cost of all operations should never exceed the total actual cost, ensuring the analysis remains valid.

## 2. Steps in the Accounting Method

- **Assign Amortized Costs:**

Determine an amortized cost for each operation, ensuring that any surplus is stored as credit.

- **Track Credits:**

Maintain a balance of credits to cover future operations that exceed their amortized cost.

- **Validate the Total Cost:**

The total amortized cost should be at least as high as the actual total cost.

## 3. Example: Binary Counter Increment

Consider a binary counter that adds 1 to each operation. Incrementing the counter involves flipping bits, and the number of bits flipped varies depending on the current value.

Actual Costs:

- Incrementing 0111 to 1000 flips 4 bits.
- Incrementing 1000 to 1001 flips 1 bit.

Assign Amortized Costs (2 per increment):

- Each bit flip costs 1, but some increments (like 0111→1000) flip multiple bits.
- The surplus from simpler increments (e.g., 0001→0010)

accumulates to pay for these expensive increments.

So, Amortized Cost per Increment:  $O(1)$

#### 4. Comparison of Amortized and Actual Costs

The Accounting Method in amortized analysis provides a systematic way to allocate expensive operating costs to cheaper ones by assigning credits. This method is particularly useful for dynamic data structures like dynamic arrays, stacks, and binary counters, offering a clear understanding of average operation costs over time. The comparison of amortized and actual costs are shown in Table. 2.4

Operation	Actual Cost	Amortized Cost	Explanation
Insertion(no resize)	$O(1)$	$O(3)$	2 units saved for future resizing.
<b>Insertion(with resize)</b>	$O(n)$	$O(3)$	Costs covered by previous saved credits.
<b>Binary Counter Increment</b>	$O(1)$ to $O(k)$	$O(1)$	Saved credit covers multiple bit flips.
<b>Stack push(x)</b>	$O(1)$	$O(2)$	Extra credit saved for pop/multipop.

Table. 2.4 Comparison of Amortized and Actual Costs

#### 2.4.4 Potential Method in Amortized Analysis

The Potential Method is a powerful technique used in amortized analysis to measure the average cost of operations in a sequence. It introduces the concept of a potential function ( $\Phi$ ) to represent the "stored energy" or "future work" that can offset the cost of expensive operations.

This method allows us to redistribute costs dynamically by maintaining a balance between the actual cost and the amortized cost across operations. Unlike the accounting method, where credits are explicitly stored, the potential method implicitly manages these credits using the potential function.

## 1. Key Concepts of the Potential Method

- **Potential Function ( $\Phi$ ):**

Map the current state of a data structure to a function representing the value of "potential" or "stored work."

- **Amortized Cost Calculation:**

The amortized cost of an operation is calculated as:

$$\text{Amortized Cost} = \text{Actual Cost} + (\Phi_{\text{new}} - \Phi_{\text{old}})$$

Where:

$\Phi_{\text{new}}$  : Potential after the operation.

$\Phi_{\text{old}}$  : Potential before the operation.

- **Non-Negativity:**

The potential function must be non-negative ( $\Phi \geq 0$ ) to ensure valid cost distribution.

- **Initial and Final Potentials:**

The initial potential ( $\Phi_{\text{initial}}$ ) is often set to 0. The total cost of all operations must be less than the sum of their amortized costs.

## 2. Steps in the Potential Method

- **Define a Potential Function:**

Choose a potential function  $\Phi$  based on the data structure's state.

- **Compute Amortized Cost:**

For each operation, calculate the amortized cost using the change in potential.

- **Validate the Total Cost:**

Ensure that the sum of amortized costs provides an effective boundary to the actual total costs.

### 3. Example: Stack with Multipop Operation

A stack supports the following operations:

- $\text{push}(x)$ : Push an element onto the stack. Cost =  $O(1)$ .
- $\text{pop}()$ : Remove the top element from the stack. Cost =  $O(1)$ .
- $\text{multipop}(k)$ : Pop up to  $k$  elements. Cost =  $O(k)$ .

Define Potential Function:

Let  $\Phi$  = number of elements in the stack.

Amortized Cost Calculation:

- $\text{push}(x)$ :
  - Actual Cost =  $O(1)$ .
  - Change in Potential:  $\Phi_{\text{new}} - \Phi_{\text{old}} = 1$ .
  - Amortized Cost = Actual Cost + Change in Potential =  $O(1+1) = O(2)$ .
- $\text{pop}()$ :
  - Actual Cost =  $O(1)$ .
  - Change in Potential:  $\Phi_{\text{new}} - \Phi_{\text{old}} = -1$ .
  - Amortized Cost = Actual Cost + Change in Potential =  $O(1-1) = O(0)$ .
- $\text{multipop}(k)$ :
  - Actual Cost =  $O(k)$ .
  - Change in Potential:  $\Phi_{\text{new}} - \Phi_{\text{old}} = -k$ .
  - Amortized Cost = Actual Cost + Change in Potential =  $O(k-k) = O(0)$ .

So, It cost  $O(1)$  for each operation.

The Potential Method is a sophisticated technique, which uses potential function to dynamically manage and allocate costs. It is

particularly useful for analyzing operations in dynamic data structures like stacks, queues, and dynamic arrays. By leveraging the potential function, this method provides a clear and systematic way to ensure efficient performance over a sequence of operations.

## **Chapter 3. Time Complexity Analysis of Common Algorithms**

The comprehension of algorithms' time complexity is indispensable for the evaluation of their efficiency and scalability. Time complexity serves to quantify the expansion in an algorithm's operational time in proportion to the growth in the size of the input data. Different algorithms exhibit different time complexities based on their underlying logic and structure. This chapter analyzes the time complexity of widely used algorithms across various domains, including searching, graph traversal, sorting, and dynamic programming. By studying the time complexity of these algorithms, we can wisely decide which algorithm to use in specific scenarios, ensuring optimal performance and resource utilization.

### **3.1 Sorting Algorithms**

Sorting is one of the fundamental operations in computer science, serving to arrange data in a predefined sequence, typically in either ascending or descending order. The efficacy of sorting algorithms hinges on their time complexity, which is influenced by the magnitude of the input data and the initial arrangement of its elements. We can break down the sorting algorithms based on their loop structures, recursive relations, and amortized behaviors by using the general rules from time complexity analysis. Below is a detailed analysis of common sorting algorithms, including their approaches and time complexities.[2]

#### **3.1.1 Bubble Sort**

Bubble Sort is a straightforward comparison-based sorting algorithm. It entails a repetitive traverse of the list, during which neighboring elements are compared, and swapped if they are in the erroneous sequence. This process persists until there is no further need for exchanges, indicating that the list has been duly sorted.

1. Algorithm:

- Compare adjacent elements.
- Swap if the current element is larger than the following.
- Repeat for each element in the list, reducing the range with each pass.

```
def bubble_sort(arr):
    n = len(arr)
    for i in range(n):
        for j in range(0, n-i-1):
            if arr[j] > arr[j+1]:
                arr[j], arr[j+1] = arr[j+1], arr[j]
```

Algorithm. 3.1 Python Code for Bubble Sort

## 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Nested Loops)

- Outer Loop: Runs  $n-1$  times (iterates over all elements).
- Inner Loop: Runs  $n-i-1$  times in the  $i$ -th iteration of the outer loop.
- Total Iterations:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (n - i - 1) = \frac{(n - 1) \times n}{2} = O(n^2)$$

## 3. Time Complexity:

- Best Case:  $O(n)$  (no swaps needed; optimized with a flag).
- Worst and Average Case:  $O(n^2)$ .

### 3.1.2 Insertion Sort

Insertion sort is an elementary and logical sorting algorithm that creates an ordered series by inserting the unsorted data one by one into the designated position in the sorted series. This process is repeated until the desired result is achieved.

#### 1. Algorithm:

- Start from the second element.
- Compare it with elements in the sorted section.
- Insert it in the correct position.

- Repeat for all elements.

```
def insertion_sort(arr):
    for i in range(1, len(arr)):
        key = arr[i]
        j = i - 1
        while j >= 0 and key < arr[j]:
            arr[j + 1] = arr[j]
            j -= 1
        arr[j + 1] = key
```

Algorithm. 3.2 Python Code for Insertion Sort

## 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Nested Loops)

- Outer Loop: Runs  $n-1$  times.
- Inner Loop: For every item, shifts previous elements as needed. In the worst case (reversed array), it shifts all previous elements.
- Total Iterations:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} i = \frac{(n-1) \times n}{2} = O(n^2)$$

## 3. Time Complexity:

- Best Case:  $O(n)$  (already sorted, inner loop executes  $O(1)$  per element).
- Worst and Average Case:  $O(n^2)$ .

### 3.1.3 Merge Sort

Merge Sort is a classic divide-and-conquer approach. It involves partitioning a list into two subsets, recursively sorting each subset, and then merging the sorted subsets to form a single sorted list.

#### 1. Algorithm:

- Divide the array into two parts.
- Sort each part recursively.
- Merge the two sorted parts.

```

def merge_sort(arr):
    if len(arr) > 1:
        mid = len(arr) // 2
        left = arr[:mid]
        right = arr[mid:]

        merge_sort(left)
        merge_sort(right)

        i = j = k = 0

        while i < len(left) and j < len(right):
            if left[i] < right[j]:
                arr[k] = left[i]
                i += 1
            else:
                arr[k] = right[j]
                j += 1
            k += 1

        while i < len(left):
            arr[k] = left[i]
            i += 1
            k += 1

        while j < len(right):
            arr[k] = right[j]
            j += 1
            k += 1

```

Algorithm. 3.3 Python Code for Merge Sort

## 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Divide and Conquer)

- Recursive Splitting: Each division creates two sub-problems of size  $n/2$ .
- Merge Operation: Merging two sorted lists of size  $n/2$  takes  $O(n)$ .
- Recurrence Relation:  $T(n)=2T(n/2)+O(n)$
- Using the Master Theorem:

$$a=2, b=2, f(n)=O(n), \log_b a=1$$

Since  $f(n)=O(n^d)$  with  $d=\log_b a=1$ , the time complexity is  $T(n)=O(n \log n)$

### 3. Time Complexity:

- Best, Average, and Worst Case:  $O(n \log n)$ .

#### 3.1.4 Quick Sort

Another partitioning algorithm is quicksort. This algorithm selects a pivot, which is typically the first element in the array, divides the array into two subarrays (one containing the elements smaller than the pivot and the other containing the elements larger than the pivot), and then repeats this process for each of the subarrays until all elements are in order.

##### 1. Algorithm:

- Select a pivot (e.g., first element).
- Partition the array around the pivot.
- Repeatedly sort the sub-arrays.

```
def quick_sort(arr):  
    if len(arr) <= 1:  
        return arr  
    pivot = arr[len(arr) - 1]  
    left = [x for x in arr[:-1] if x <= pivot]  
    right = [x for x in arr[:-1] if x > pivot]  
    return quick_sort(left) + [pivot] + quick_sort(right)
```

##### Algorithm. 3.4 Python Code for Quick Sort

##### 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Divide and Conquer)

- Partition Operation: Takes  $O(n)$  for dividing the array.
- Recursive Calls: Two sub-arrays are sorted recursively.
- Recurrence Relation:  $T(n)=T(k)+T(n-k-1)+O(n)$ , where  $k$  is the size of one partition.
- Best and Average Case (Balanced Partition):

$$\text{If } k \approx n/2, \quad T(n)=2T(n/2)+O(n)=O(n \log n)$$

- Worst Case (Unbalanced Partition):

$$\text{If } k=0 \text{ or } n-1, \quad T(n)=T(n-1)+O(n)=O(n^2)$$

### 3. Time Complexity:

- Best and Average Case:  $O(n \log n)$ .
- Worst Case:  $O(n^2)$  (poor pivot selection).

### 3.1.5 Selection Sort

In the process of selection sort, the smallest (or largest) of the unsorted data elements is repeatedly selected and placed at the end of the sorted sequence.

#### 1. Algorithm:

- Find the smallest (or largest) element.
- Swap it with the first unsorted element.
- Repeat for all elements.

```
def selection_sort(arr):
    for i in range(len(arr)):
        min_idx = i
        for j in range(i+1, len(arr)):
            if arr[j] < arr[min_idx]:
                min_idx = j
        arr[i], arr[min_idx] = arr[min_idx], arr[i]
```

Algorithm. 3.5 Python Code for Selection Sort

#### 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Nested Loops)

- Outer Loop: Runs  $n-1$  times (iterates over all elements).
- Inner Loop: For each pass, the inner loop searches for the smallest element in the unsorted part:
  - In the 1st iteration:  $n-1$  comparisons.
  - In the 2nd iteration:  $n-2$  comparisons.
  - ...
  - In the last iteration: 1 comparison.

- Total Iterations:

$$(n - 1) + (n - 2) + \dots + 1 = \frac{(n - 1) \times n}{2} = O(n^2)$$

### 3. Time Complexity:

- Best Case:  $O(n^2)$ . (no early exit; comparisons still made)
- Average and Worst Case:  $O(n^2)$ .

### 3.1.6 Heap Sort

Heap sort is a sorting algorithm designed to take advantage of the data structure known as the heap, and is a type of selection sort. The largest (or smallest) element is extracted through the process of rebuilding a heap.

#### 1. Algorithm:

- Build a max heap.
- Exchange the root element with the last element.
- Reduce the heap size and heapify.

```
def heapify(arr, n, i):
    largest = i
    left = 2 * i + 1
    right = 2 * i + 2
    if left < n and arr[left] > arr[largest]:
        largest = left
    if right < n and arr[right] > arr[largest]:
        largest = right
    if largest != i:
        arr[i], arr[largest] = arr[largest], arr[i]
        heapify(arr, n, largest)

def heap_sort(arr):
    n = len(arr)
    for i in range(n // 2 - 1, -1, -1):
        heapify(arr, n, i)
    for i in range(n-1, 0, -1):
        arr[i], arr[0] = arr[0], arr[i]
        heapify(arr, i, 0)
```

Algorithm. 3.6 Python Code for Heap Sort

2. Analysis Using General Rules(Loop & Divide and Conquer)
  - Heapify Operation: Takes  $O(\log n)$  per element.
  - Building the Heap: For  $n$  elements, heapify runs in  $O(n)$ .
  - Extract-Max: Rebuilding the heap after extracting each element takes  $O(\log n)$ .
  - Total Time Complexity:

$$T(n)=O(n)+O(n\log n)=O(n\log n)$$

3. Time Complexity:
  - Best, Average, and Worst Case:  $O(n\log n)$ .

### 3.2 Search Algorithms

Search algorithms are fundamental tools in computer science for retrieving specific elements or identifying their presence within a dataset. Depending on the data structure and the needs of the application, different search algorithms offer varying levels of efficiency. [14][15]

#### 3.2.1 Linear Search

In a linear search, you start at one end of a list or array and look at each element until you find the target element or reach the end.

1. Algorithm:

```
def linear_search(arr, target):
    for i in range(len(arr)):
        if arr[i] == target:
            return i
    return -1
```

Algorithm. 3.7 Python Code for Linear Search

2. Analysis Using General Rules(Signal Loops)
  - Loop Condition: The loop runs from  $i = 0$  to  $i = n - 1$ .
3. Time Complexity:
  - Best Case:  $O(1)$  (If the target element is in the first ( $arr[0]$ ), the loop runs once).

- Worst Case:  $O(n)$  (If the array doesn't have the target or the target is the last element ( $arr[n-1]$ ), the loop runs  $n$  times).
- Average Case:  $O(n)$  (Assuming equal probability that the target element is in any position, the expected number of iterations is  $n/2$ ).

### 3.2.2 Binary Search

Binary search works better with sorted data. Split the data into two groups. Keep halving it until you find the target value, or it runs out.

#### 1. Algorithm:

- At each step, the problem size is halved.
- Divided the space into two parts, and only one part is explored until the element is found.

```
def binary_search(arr, target):
    left, right = 0, len(arr) - 1
    while left <= right:
        mid = (left + right) // 2
        if arr[mid] == target:
            return mid
        elif arr[mid] < target:
            left = mid + 1
        else:
            right = mid - 1
    return -1
```

Algorithm. 3.8 Python Code for Binary Search

#### 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Divide and Conquer)

- Initial Problem Size:  $n$ .
- After the 1st iteration: The problem size becomes  $n/2$ .
- After the 2nd iteration: The problem size becomes  $n/4$ .
- ...
- After  $\log n$ -th iteration: The problem size is 1.

### 3. Time Complexity:

- Best Case:  $O(1)$  (The target is found in the first iteration).
- Worst Case:  $O(\log n)$  (The loop runs until the search space is reduced to a single element).
- Average Case:  $O(\log n)$  (The behavior in the average case also follows the same logarithmic trend since each step reduces the search space exponentially).

#### 3.2.3 Depth-First Search (DFS)

Depth-First Search (DFS) is an algorithm for searching a tree or graph data structure. It explores along each branch as far as possible before backtracking, making it an excellent tool for solving graph-related problems.[16]

##### 1. Algorithm:

- Start at the source node.
- The current node should be marked as visited.
- For each neighboring node that has not yet been visited:
  - Visit the neighbor (recursively or using a stack).
- Backtrack when all neighbors are visited.

```
def dfs(graph, start, visited=set()):  
    if start not in visited:  
        visited.add(start)  
        for neighbor in graph[start]:  
            dfs(graph, neighbor, visited)
```

Algorithm. 3.9 Python Code for Depth-First Search (DFS)

##### 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Loop Analysis & Iterative Structures)

- **For Adjacency List Representation:**

Each vertex is dequeued once ( $O(V)$ ).

Each edge is traversed exactly twice (once from each endpoint).

Total Time Complexity:  $T(V,E)=O(V+E)$

- **For Adjacency Matrix Representation:**

The outer loop iterates  $V$  times.

The inner loop checks every possible edge, resulting in  $O(V^2)$  checks.

3. Time Complexity:

- Adjacency List:  $T(V,E)=O(V+E)$ .
- Adjacency Matrix:  $T(V,E)=O(V^2)$ .

### 3.2.4 Breadth-First Search (BFS)

Breadth-First Search (BFS) is a fundamental graph traversal algorithm that systematically examines all nodes at a given depth level before progressing to the subsequent level. BFS is a widely utilized approach for identifying the shortest path in an unweighted graph and is particularly suited for problems that necessitate a layer-by-layer analysis of nodes.

1. Algorithm:

- Create a queue with the initial node included;
- The initial node should be designated as visited;
- When the queue is not empty, loop through the following operations:
  - a. out of the queue a node;
  - b. access that node;
  - c. in all unvisited neighbor nodes of the aforementioned node, insert them into the queue and mark them as visited.

```

from collections import deque

def bfs(graph, start):
    visited = set()
    queue = deque([start])
    visited.add(start)

    while queue:
        node = queue.popleft()
        print(node) # Process the node

        for neighbor in graph[node]:
            if neighbor not in visited:
                visited.add(neighbor)
                queue.append(neighbor)

```

Algorithm. 3.10 Python Code for Breadth-First Search (BFS)

## 2. Analysis Using General Rules(Loop Analysis & Iterative Structures)

- **For Adjacency List Representation:**

Each vertex is dequeued once ( $O(V)$ ).

Each edge is processed once when visiting its endpoints ( $O(E)$ ).

Total Time Complexity:  $T(V,E)=O(V)+O(E)$

- **For Adjacency Matrix Representation:**

The outer loop processes each vertex ( $V$  iterations).

The inner loop scans all possible edges, leading to  $O(V^2)$ .

Total Time Complexity:  $T(V,E)=O(V^2)$

## 3. Time Complexity:

- Adjacency List:  $T(V,E)=O(V+E)$ .
- Adjacency Matrix:  $T(V,E)=O(V^2)$ .

### 3.3 Graph Algorithms

A graph algorithm is an algorithm for working with graph data, often

used to solve graph-related problems such as pathfinding, connectivity, and network flow. The following is a detailed analysis of commonly used graph algorithms.[10]

### 3.3.1 Dijkstra's Algorithm

Dijkstra's algorithm is a method for determining the shortest path from a given vertex to each of the remaining vertices in a weighted graph, thereby solving the shortest path problem.[18]

1. Algorithm:

- Initialize the distance of all nodes except the source node (distance= 0) to infinity.
- The node with the shortest distance should be extracted using a priority queue (min-heap).
- Recalculate the distance through each neighbor of the current node, if find a shorter path, update it.

```
import heapq

def dijkstra(graph, start):
    distances = {vertex: float('infinity') for vertex in graph}
    distances[start] = 0
    priority_queue = [(0, start)]

    while priority_queue:
        current_distance, current_vertex = heapq.heappop(priority_queue)

        if current_distance > distances[current_vertex]:
            continue

        for neighbor, weight in graph[current_vertex]:
            distance = current_distance + weight

            if distance < distances[neighbor]:
                distances[neighbor] = distance
                heapq.heappush(priority_queue, (distance, neighbor))

    return distances
```

Algorithm. 3.11 Python Code for Dijkstra's Algorithm

## 2. Analysis Using General Rules

- **For Adjacency List Representation:**

- Priority Queue Operations:
  - Insertion and Decrease-Key operations:  $O(\log V)$ .
  - Extract-Min operation:  $O(\log V)$ .
- Loop Analysis
  - Extracts a node from the priority queue for processing. This operation is repeated  $V$  times.  $O(V \log V)$  in total
  - For each extracted node, all its neighbors (connected by edges) are processed. This step runs  $O(E)$ .  $O(E \log V)$  in total

- **For Adjacency Matrix Representation:**

- Since every vertex pair is potentially connected ( $E=V^2$ )

$$T(V)=O(V^2)$$

This arises because every neighbor check involves scanning the entire row of the matrix.

## 3. Time Complexity:

- Adjacency List:  $T(V,E)= O((V+E)\log V)$ .
- Adjacency Matrix:  $T(V,E)=O(V^2)$ .

### 3.3.2 Floyd-Warshall Algorithm

Floyd-Warshall algorithm is a method for determining for solving the shortest path problem between any two points that can be used in any graph, including directed graphs and graphs with negatively weighted edges.

#### 1. Algorithm:

- A distance matrix should be created in which  $\text{dist}[i][j]$  denotes the

shortest path from vertex  $i$  to vertex  $j$ .

- Use dynamic programming to iteratively update the matrix:  
 $\text{dist}[i][j] = \min(\text{dist}[i][j], \text{dist}[i][k] + \text{dist}[k][j])$  for every vertex  $k$ .

```
def floyd_warshall(graph, v):
    dist = [[float('inf')] * v for _ in range(v)]

    for i in range(v):
        dist[i][i] = 0

    for u, v, w in graph:
        dist[u][v] = w

    for k in range(v):
        for i in range(v):
            for j in range(v):
                dist[i][j] = min(dist[i][j], dist[i][k] + dist[k][j])

    return dist
```

Algorithm. 3.12 Python Code for Floyd-Warshall Algorithm

## 2. Analysis Using General Rules

- Outer loop for  $k$ : iterates  $V$  times.
- Middle loop for  $i$ : iterates  $V$  times for each  $k$ .
- Inner loop for  $j$ : iterates  $V$  times for each pair  $k, i$ .

## 3. Time Complexity:

- $T(V, E) = O(V^3)$ .

### 3.3.3 Prim's Algorithm

Prim's algorithm represents a greedy approach for solving minimum spanning trees in weighted connected graphs a greedy algorithm. The MST is an undirected connected subgraph connecting all vertices with minimum total edge weights.[17]

#### 1. Algorithm:

- Start from an arbitrary node.

- Use a priority queue to track the shortest edge linking a visited node to an unvisited node.
- Repeat until all vertices are incorporated into in the MST.

```

import heapq

def prim(graph, start):
    mst = []
    visited = set()
    min_heap = [(0, start, None)] # (weight, current_node, previous_node)

    while min_heap:
        weight, current, previous = heapq.heappop(min_heap)
        if current not in visited:
            visited.add(current)
            if previous is not None:
                mst.append((previous, current, weight))

            for neighbor, edge_weight in graph[current]:
                if neighbor not in visited:
                    heapq.heappush(min_heap, (edge_weight, neighbor, current))

    return mst

```

Algorithm. 3.13 Python Code for Prim's Algorithm

## 2. Analysis Using General Rules

- **For Adjacency List Representation:**
  - Priority Queue Operations:
    - Insertion and Decrease-Key operations:  $O(\log V)$ .
    - Extract-Min operation:  $O(\log V)$ .
  - Loop Analysis
    - Runs  $V$  times, processing each vertex once.  $O(V \log V)$  in total
    - Processes each edge adjacent to the current vertex, leading

to  $O(E)$  edge updates.  $O(E \log V)$  in total

- **For Adjacency Matrix Representation:**

- For a dense graph represented by an adjacency matrix, the complexity increases:  $O(V^2)$

Each extraction and neighbor check involves  $V$  operations.

3. Time Complexity:

- Adjacency List:  $T(V,E) = O((V+E) \log V)$ .
- Adjacency Matrix:  $T(V,E) = O(V^2)$ .

## Chapter 4. Practical Applications and Optimization

### 4.1 Optimizing Algorithm Efficiency

Efficient algorithms are crucial for solving problems effectively, particularly when dealing with large-scale datasets, where efficient algorithms can significantly reduce processing time and increase efficiency. This section delves into strategies for improving algorithm efficiency by analyzing time complexity and applying optimization techniques such as memoization, dynamic programming, and heuristic approaches.

#### 4.1.1 Memoization

Memoization is an optimization technique that is employed primarily to accelerate the execution of computer programs. It entails the storage of the results of costly function calls, which are then returned when the same input is encountered again. It is particularly useful for overlapping subproblems, where the same computations are repeated multiple times.

Converts recursive solutions with overlapping subproblems into efficient solutions by avoiding redundant calculations. It works through the following steps:

- **Recursive Problem Solving:** This algorithm solves problems by recursively decomposing them into smaller subproblems.
- **Storing Results:** Results of subproblems are stored in a data structure (e.g., dictionary, array) for future reference.
- **Reusing Stored Results:** Before solving a subproblem, the algorithm checks if the result is already computed. If yes, it retrieves the result from memory.

The Fibonacci sequence is a classic example of overlapping subproblems. Compared with the naive recursive approach, the time complexity of the memoized approach is significantly reduced. The time complexity of the naive recursive approach is  $O(2^n)$  due to repeated

calculations, while the time complexity of the memoized approach is reduced to  $O(n)$  as each subproblem is solved only once. Below is a python code example about the Fibonacci sequence memorization approach implementation:

```
def fibonacci_memo(n, memo={}):
    if n in memo:
        return memo[n]
    if n <= 1:
        return n
    memo[n] = fibonacci_memo(n-1, memo) + fibonacci_memo(n-2, memo)
    return memo[n]
```

#### Algorithm. 4.1 Python Code for Memoized Approach

Memoization is widely used in various computational problems, especially in dynamic programming. Below are some notable applications:

- **Dynamic Programming Problems**
  - 0/1 Knapsack Problem: Optimize item selection within a weight limit.
  - Longest Common Subsequence (LCS): Find the longest subsequence shared by two sequences.
- **Combinatorial Problems**
  - Binomial Coefficients: Compute combinations efficiently using Pascal's triangle.
  - Catalan Numbers: Used in counting problems, e.g., number of valid parentheses.
- **Graph Problems**
  - Shortest Paths in Graphs: Optimized solutions for graphs with overlapping subpaths.
- **Computational Geometry**
  - Edit Distance: Measure the minimum operations required to convert one string to another string.

Memoization is an optimization technique for reducing time complexity of recursive algorithms. By storing and reusing results of subproblems, it transforms inefficient solutions into efficient ones. While it requires additional memory, its benefits in terms of performance make it a cornerstone of dynamic programming and a valuable tool in computational problem-solving.

#### **4.1.2 Greedy Algorithms**

A Greedy Algorithm represents a particular strategy within the field of algorithmic decision-making, whereby the optimal choice is determined at each stage of the selection process, with the objective of achieving a result that represents the global best or optimal solution.

The greedy algorithm has several key characteristics:

- **Greedy Choice Property:** By selecting the optimal local selection at each step, a global solution can be obtained.
- **Optimal Substructure:** A problem has an optimal substructure if its optimal solution can be constructed from the optimal solutions of its subproblems.
- **No Backtracking:** Unlike dynamic programming or brute-force methods, greedy algorithms do not revisit previously made decisions.
- **Efficiency:** Greedy algorithms are typically faster and simpler compared to other approaches, often operating in  $O(n \log n)$  or  $O(n)$  time.

By understanding the key features of the greedy algorithm, there are four steps in designing a greedy algorithm:

- **Define the Problem:** Clearly understand the problem and identify if it exhibits the greedy choice property and optimal substructure.
- **Make a Greedy Choice:** At each step, select the best option based

on a specific criterion.

- Iterative or Recursive Construction: Build the solution iteratively (e.g., using loops) or recursively (e.g., divide and conquer).
- Proof of Correctness: Prove that the greedy method leads to an optimal solution.

For example, Dijkstra's algorithm. It solves the shortest path from a vertex to all the remaining vertices and solves the shortest path problem in the entitled graph. The strategy of the greedy algorithm is used, traversing the neighboring nodes of the nearest and unvisited vertices to the starting point each time until the extension reaches the end point. The time complexity is  $O((V+E)\log V)$  using a min-heap. The details is in 3.3.1.

A greedy algorithm's time complexity depends on sorting or priority queue operations and number of iterations. So the common complexities are:

- Sorting-based Greedy Algorithms:  $O(n\log n)$ .
- Graph-Based Greedy Algorithms (with min-heap):  $O((V+E)\log V)$ .

Greedy algorithms are tools for solving optimization problems efficiently. While they are not universally applicable, their simplicity and speed make them ideal for problems with specific properties, such as the greedy choice property and optimal substructure. By understanding their strengths and limitations, developers can leverage greedy algorithms effectively in diverse applications, from graph theory to resource management.

### **4.1.3 Heuristic Approaches**

Heuristic Approaches are problem-solving techniques that prioritize speed and practicality over guaranteed optimal solutions. These methods use educated guesses, rules of thumb, or intuition to simplify complex problems, making them computationally manageable.[13] It works through

the following steps:

- Define the Problem: Understand the problem's constraints and objectives.
- Design the Heuristic: Create a rule or strategy that prioritizes solutions or simplifies the search space.
- Apply the Heuristic: Use the heuristic to guide decision-making during the algorithm's execution.
- Evaluate and Iterate: Measure the quality of the heuristic solution and adjust if needed.

Its purpose is to find satisfactory solutions quickly for problems that are too complex or time-consuming to solve optimally. Heuristics often trade optimality, accuracy, or completeness for faster results. Common heuristic approaches are as follows:

- Greedy Heuristics: Select the best choice based on a local criterion at each step. Such as Fractional Knapsack Problem: Choose items with the best value-to-weight ratio. The time complexity is  $O(n \log n)$  (due to sorting).
- A\* Algorithm: A pathfinding algorithm that uses heuristic algorithms to estimate the cost of reaching a target. Heuristic Function:  $f(n) = g(n) + h(n)$ , where  $h(n)$  is the cost of reaching the target from  $n$  and  $g(n)$  is the cost of reaching node  $n$ . In the grid,  $h(n)$  could be the Euclidean or Manhattan distance to the goal. So The time complexity is  $O(E)$ .
- Hill Climbing: Iteratively improves a solution by making small changes that lead to a better result. Example: Optimizing function values by moving in the steepest upward direction. Limitation: May get stuck in local optima.
- Simulated Annealing: Inspired by the metallurgical annealing

process, it combines hill climbing with a probabilistic mechanism to escape local optima. First, start with a random solution. Then gradually "cool" the system by reducing the probability of accepting worse solutions over time. It can be used in solving TSP or scheduling problems.

- Genetic Algorithms: Mimic natural selection and evolve over generations of candidate solutions. Use cases: Optimization problems in machine learning and engineering. Steps:
  1. Initialize a random population of solutions.
  2. Use selection, crossover, and mutation to create new generations.
  3. Iterate until a satisfactory solution is found.

Heuristic approaches are indispensable for solving complex, large-scale problems efficiently. By leveraging domain-specific insights and simplifying the search process, heuristics strike a balance between computational feasibility and solution quality. Although they do not guarantee optimal solutions, their speed and practicality make them valuable in fields like AI, optimization, and real-time systems.

## **4.2 Time Complexity in Large-Scale Systems**

In large-scale systems, such as distributed computing environments, time complexity analysis is crucial for ensuring that algorithms perform efficiently under high workloads. These systems often handle massive datasets, making scalability a primary concern.[11][12]

### **4.2.1 Scalability and Performance Considerations**

1. Scalability:
  - Horizontal Scaling: Adding more nodes to distribute workload.
  - Vertical Scaling: Enhancing the capability of existing nodes.
  - Impact of Time Complexity: Algorithms with poor time

complexity (e.g.,  $O(n^2)$  or higher) can become bottlenecks as input sizes grow.

## 2. Distributed Computing:

- Challenge: Dividing a computational task among multiple machines without introducing excessive communication overhead.
- Optimization: Use algorithms that minimize inter-node communication and maximize local computation efficiency.
- Example: MapReduce framework efficiently processes large-scale data using divide-and-conquer principles.

## 3. Load Balancing:

- Ensures that no single node becomes a bottleneck by distributing work evenly.
- Time complexity considerations help in designing efficient load-balancing algorithms, ensuring  $O(\log n)$  or  $O(1)$  updates.

### **4.2.2 Techniques for Optimizing Performance in Large-Scale Systems**

#### 1. Parallel Algorithms:

- Definition: Break down tasks into smaller tasks that can be processed simultaneously.
- Example: Parallel BFS or DFS in graph traversal.
- Impact on Time Complexity: Reduces runtime significantly, e.g., from  $O(n)$  to  $O(n/p)$  with  $p$  processors.

#### 2. Caching and Data Locality:

- Definition: Storing frequently accessed data closer to the computation to reduce access times.
- Example: Web caching in content delivery networks (CDNs).
- Impact: Reduces latency, improving overall system performance.

#### 3. Algorithm Selection:

- For tasks like sorting or searching, the choice of algorithms based on input characteristics (e.g., size, distribution) is critical.
  - Example: Merge Sort  $O(n \log n)$  for large datasets vs. Insertion Sort  $O(n^2)$  for small or nearly sorted datasets.
4. Dynamic Adaptation:
- Algorithms can adapt their behavior based on runtime conditions.
  - Example: Hybrid algorithms like Timsort (a combination of Insertion Sort and Merge Sort) dynamically adjust based on data patterns.

#### **4.2.3 Example: Real-Time Search in Distributed Systems**

1. Problem: Search for a keyword in a distributed file system.
2. Naive Approach: Sequentially search all nodes  $O(n)$ .
3. Optimized Approach:
  - Use distributed indexing (like Elasticsearch) with time complexity  $O(\log n)$  for searches.
  - Partition data effectively to minimize search time across nodes.

Optimizing algorithms based on time complexity is crucial for both small-scale and large-scale applications. Techniques like memoization, dynamic programming, and heuristic optimizations enhance performance in individual computations, while scalability and distributed computing considerations ensure efficiency in large-scale systems. By carefully selecting and optimizing algorithms, developers can ensure robust performance in diverse environments.

## Chapter 5. Case Study: Time Complexity in Real-World Scenarios

This chapter explores how time complexity analysis plays a critical role in solving practical problems using algorithms. Through two case studies, we illustrate the impact of algorithm design and time complexity optimization in real-world scenarios such as dynamic programming and big data processing.

### 5.1 Case Study 1: Dynamic Programming Algorithms

The 0/1 knapsack problem is a classic optimization problem in which, given a set of items, each with its own weight and price, we choose how to maximize the total price of the items within a limited total weight [20], where each item can either be loaded or unloaded into the knapsack (hence the term “0/1”).

#### 5.1.1 Recursive Solution

$p[i][w]$  is the maximum value you can get using the first  $i$  items and a weight limit  $w$ .

$$dp[i][w] = \begin{cases} dp[i-1][w], & \text{if } weight[i] > w \\ \max(dp[i-1][w], dp[i-1][w - weight[i]] + value[i]), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Case 1: The  $i$ -th item is excluded.
- Case 2: The  $i$ -th item is included if it fits in the knapsack.

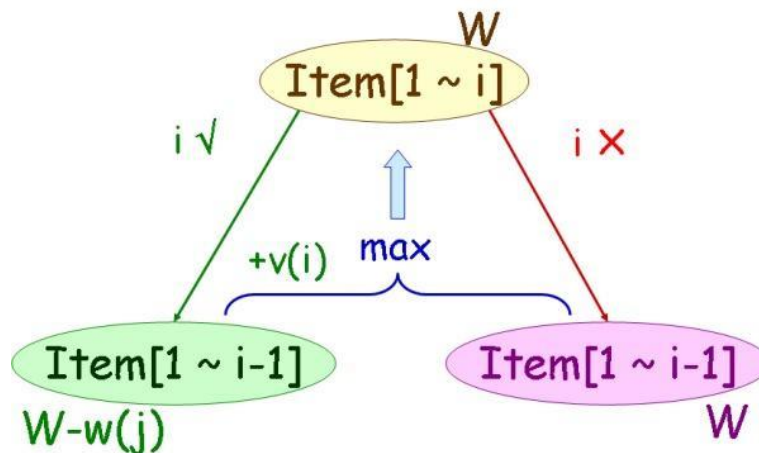


Fig. 5.1. Implementation Process of Recursive Solution

Then, the base case is:

$$dp[0][w]=0, \text{ for all } w$$

Time complexity analysis for the 0/1 Knapsack Problem with recursive approach:

Process:

1. For each item, we have two options:
  - If the item weighs less than or equal to the remaining capacity, include it.
  - Exclude the item.
2. The recursion tree explores all combinations of including and excluding items.

Recurrence Relation:

$$T(n,W)=T(n-1,W)+T(n-1,W-\text{weight}[n])$$

Time Complexity:

- Each level of the tree is solved using two subproblems.
- The tree is n levels high. Each level doubles the number of calls:

$$T(n, W) = O(2^n)$$

### 5.1.2 Dynamic Programming Approach

To optimize the recursive solution, dynamic programming is used to avoid redundant calculations by storing intermediate results. The algorithm is:

1. Initialization:
  - Create a 2D array  $dp[i][w]$  where the number of items considered is  $i$  and weight capacity is  $w$ .
  - Initialize  $dp[0][w]=0$  for all  $w$ .
2. Iterative Calculation:
  - For each item  $i$  (1 to  $n$ ):
    - For each weight  $w$  (1 to  $W$ ):

Update  $dp[i][w]$  based on the recursive formula.

### 3. Result:

The final result is stored in  $dp[n][W]$ .

```
def knapsack(values, weights, capacity):
    n = len(values)
    dp = [[0] * (capacity + 1) for _ in range(n + 1)]
    for i in range(1, n + 1):
        for w in range(1, capacity + 1):
            if weights[i - 1] <= w:
                dp[i][w] = max(dp[i - 1][w], dp[i - 1][w - weights[i - 1]] + values[i - 1])
            else:
                dp[i][w] = dp[i - 1][w]
    return dp[n][capacity]
```

Fig. 5.2. Implementation Process of Dynamic Programming Approach

So, time complexity analysis for the 0/1 Knapsack Problem with dynamic programming approach:

Loops in the Algorithm:

- Outer loop over  $n$  items:  $O(n)$ .
- Inner loop over  $W$  capacities:  $O(W)$ .

Time Complexity:

$$T(n,W)=O(n \times W)$$

### 5.1.3 Real-World Application

- Investment Portfolio Optimization: Allocate resources to maximize returns under a fixed budget.
- Resource Allocation: Optimize resource distribution in logistics or cloud computing.

### 5.2 Case Study 2: Algorithm Efficiency in Big Data

In the era of big data, organizations deal with datasets that are massive in size, often spanning terabytes or petabytes. Efficient algorithms are essential for processing these datasets within reasonable time and resource constraints. This case study explores how time complexity analysis ensures algorithmic efficiency in large-scale systems, focusing on MapReduce.

## 5.2.1 MapReduce Framework

MapReduce is a distributed computing framework designed for big data processing. The computation is divided into two primary phases—Map and Reduce—allowing parallel execution across a cluster of machines. The goal of word counting algorithms is to count the frequency of each word in a massive dataset. The mapReduce workflow is:

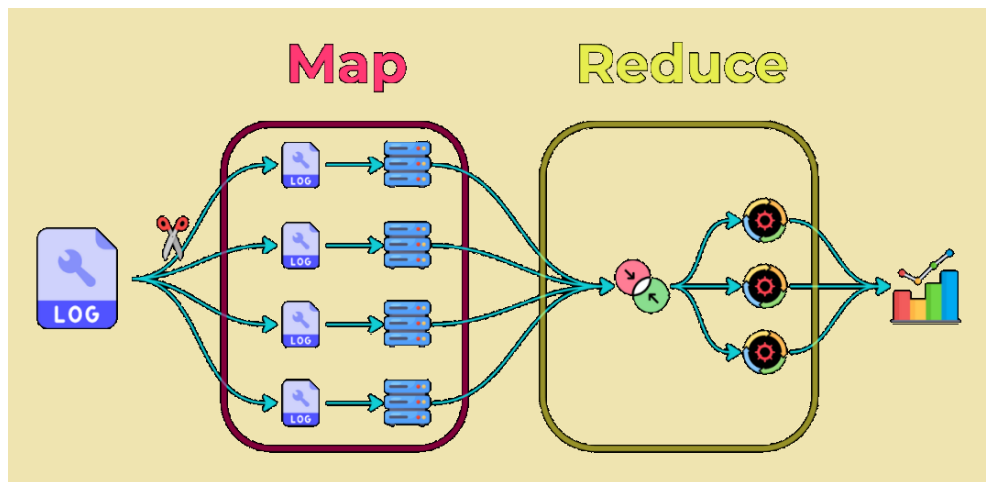


Fig. 5.3. Implementation Process of MapReduce workflow

### 1. Map Phase:

- Input: Splits of text data.
- Process: Emit key-value pairs (word,1) for each word.

### 2. Shuffle and Sort:

- Group all pairs by key.

### 3. Reduce Phase:

- Sum values for each key to compute word counts.

Time complexity analysis for MapReduce:

- Map Phase: Each mapper processes its chunk of data linearly:  $O(n)$ , where  $n$  is the sum of words.
- Shuffle and Sort Phase: Sorting all key-value pairs by key:  $O(n \log n)$ .
- Reduce Phase: Each reducer processes grouped data for  $k$  unique keys:  $O(k)$ , where  $k$  is the number of unique words.

- Overall Time Complexity:

$$T(n,k)=O(n\log n).$$

Optimizations:

1. Combiner:

- Performs local aggregation in the Map phase to reduce data transferred to the Reducers.
- Reduces intermediate data size, optimizing communication and computation.

2. Partitioning:

- Ensures even distribution of keys across reducers to avoid bottlenecks.

3. Skew Handling:

- Mitigates load imbalance by splitting high-frequency keys among multiple reducers.

### 5.2.2 Real-World Application

- Social Media Analysis: Counting hashtags or keywords in tweets for trend analysis.
- E-commerce: Analyzing customer reviews or product search logs for insights.
- Genomics: Processing DNA sequence data for genetic research.

These case studies illustrate the practical importance of time complexity analysis in real-world scenarios. Dynamic programming transforms inefficient recursive solutions into scalable algorithms, while time complexity analysis in big data ensures that distributed systems like MapReduce can handle massive datasets efficiently. To meet the needs of modern applications, developers can optimize algorithm performance by applying these principles.

## Chapter 6. Conclusions

This paper emphasizes the critical role of time complexity analysis in both theoretical and practical algorithm development. By employing structured methods such as loop analysis, recursion trees, and amortized analysis, it ensures that algorithms are not only efficient but also scalable for real-world applications. The case studies, including dynamic programming and big data processing, demonstrate how these principles translate into significant performance improvements in diverse fields.

The general rules for time complexity analysis serve as a unifying framework for academic research and software development. In academia, they provide a foundational approach to teaching and innovating algorithms, while in industry, they guide developers in optimizing performance, memory usage, and scalability. Their adaptability to both simple and complex problems underscores their enduring relevance in solving computational challenges.

The evolution of computing introduces exciting opportunities for extending time complexity analysis into emerging fields like quantum computing and AI. New paradigms demand innovative approaches to efficiency and scalability, particularly in dynamic and real-time systems. Moreover, integrating energy efficiency and interdisciplinary applications promises to enhance the practical impact of time complexity research across domains such as biology, cryptography, and finance.

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