

# University of Nevada, Las Vegas Computer Science 477/677 Fall 2021

## Answers to Assignment 2: Due Wednesday September 8, 2021

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1. Each of these code fragments takes  $O(n \log n)$  time, but not necessarily  $\Theta(n \log n)$ . Give the asymptotic complexity of each in terms of  $n$ , using  $\Theta$  in each case.

(a) 

```
for(int i = 1; i < n; i++)
  for(int j = 1; j < i; j = 2*j);
  cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

$$\int_{x=1}^n (\ln x) dx = x \ln x - x \Big|_{x=1}^n = \Theta(n \log n)$$

(b) 

```
for(int i = 1; i < n; i++)
  for(int j = i; j < n; j = 2*j);
  cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

$$\int_{x=1}^n (\ln n - \ln x) dx = x \ln x - x \ln x + x \Big|_{x=1}^n = \Theta(n)$$

(c) 

```
for(int i = 1; i < n; i=2*i)
  for(int j = 1; j < i; j++);
  cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Let  $k = \log_2 i$ ; then  $2^k = i$ .

```
for(int k = 0; i < log_2 n; k++)
  for(int j = 1; j < 2^k; j++);
  cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Let  $x$  be the continuous analog of  $k$  and  $y$  the continuous analog of  $j$ .

$$\int_{x=0}^{\log_2 n} \int_{y=1}^{2^x} dy dx = \int_{x=0}^{\log_2 n} (2^x - 1) dx = \frac{2^x - x}{\ln 2} \Big|_0^{\log_2 n} = \frac{2^{\log_2 n} - 1}{\ln 2} = \frac{n - 1}{\ln 2} = \Theta(n)$$

(d) 

```
for(int i = 1; i < n; i=2*i)
  for(int j = i; j < n; j++);
  cout << "Hello" << endl; cd /home/larmore/Dropbox/Courses/CS477/S21
```

Let  $k = \log_2 i$ ; then  $2^k = i$ .

```
for(int k = 0; i < log_2 n; k++)
  for(int j = 2^k; j < n; j++);
  cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Let  $x$  be the continuous analog of  $k$  and  $y$  the continuous analog of  $j$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{x=0}^{\log_2 n} \int_{y=2^x}^n dy dx &= \int_{x=0}^{\log_2 n} (n - 2^x) dx = \left( nx - \frac{2^x}{\ln 2} \right) \Big|_{x=0}^{\log_2 n} \\ &= n \log_2 n - \frac{2^{\log_2 n} - 1}{\ln 2} = n \log_2 n - \frac{n - 1}{\ln 2} = \Theta(n \log n) \end{aligned}$$

```
(e) for(int i = n; i > 1; i=i/2)
    for(int j = i; j > 1; j--);
    cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Same as (c).  $\Theta(n)$

```
(f) for(int i = n; i > 1; i=i/2)
    for(int j = n; j > i; j--);
    cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Same as (d).  $\Theta(n \log n)$

2. These problems are harder than the ones above. Given the asymptotic complexity of each fragment in terms of  $n$ , using  $\Theta$ .

```
(g) for(int i = 1; i < n; i=2*i)
    for(int j = 1; j < i; j=2*j);
    cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Hint: Use substitution. Let  $m = \log n$ ,  $k = \log i$ ,  $l = \log j$ .

```
for(int k = 0; k < m; k++)
    for(int l = 0; l < k; l++)
        cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

$\Theta(m^2) = \Theta(\log^2 n)$

```
(h) for(int i = 2; i < n; i=i*i)
    cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Hint: Use substitution. Let  $m = \log n$ ,  $k = \log i$ .

Use the fact that  $\log(x^y) = y \log x$

```
for(int k = 1; k < m; k=2*k)
    cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

$\Theta(\log m) = \Theta(\log \log n)$

```
(i) for(int i = 2; i < n; i=i*i)
    for(int j = 1; j < i; j = 2*j)
        cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

Hint: Use substitution. Let  $m = \log n$ ,  $k = \log i$ ,  $l = \log j$ .

```
for(int k = 1; k < m; k=2*k)
    for(int l = 0; l < k; l++)
```

$\Theta(m) = \Theta(\log n)$

```
(j) for(int i = n; i > 1; i = log i)
    cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

We will give the solution to this problem at the end of the document.

```
(k) for(int i = 2; i < n; i = i*i)
    for(int j = 0; j < i; j++)
        cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

In my opinion, this is the hardest problem in this assignment. The time complexity of the code is  $O$  of one function of  $n$  and  $\Omega$  of a different function of  $n$ , but is not  $\Theta$  of any of the “usual” functions of  $n$ . Give both the  $O$  and the  $\Omega$  answers, both of which are “usual” functions.<sup>1</sup>

Answer: The time complexity both  $O(n)$  and  $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$ .

The outer loop iterates  $O(\log \log n)$  times. For each value of  $i$  used during the outer loop, the inner loop iterates  $I$  times. Those values of  $i$  are numbers of the form  $2^{2^k}$  for integers  $k \geq 0$ . That is,

$$2^{2^0} = 2,$$

$$2^{2^1} = 2^2 = 4,$$

$$2^{2^2} = 4^2 = 16,$$

$$2^{2^3} = 16^2 = 256,$$

$$2^{2^4} = 256^2 = 65536,$$

$$2^{2^5} = 65536^2 = 4294967296.$$

Since  $i$  increases rapidly, the time complexity of the code is dominated by the largest value of  $i$  generated in the outer loop, which is the largest value of  $2^{2^k}$  less than  $n$ . Let’s call that value  $I$ . For example, if  $4 < n \leq 16$ ,  $I = 4$ ; if  $16 < n \leq 256$ ,  $I = 16$ ; and if  $256 < n \leq 65536$ ,  $I = 256$ ; and so forth. Note that  $I < n \leq I^2$ , which implies that  $\sqrt{n} \leq I < n$ . The time complexity of the code is  $\Theta(I)$ , and we obtain our result.

3. Solve each of the following recurrences, giving the answer as  $\Theta$  of a function of  $n$ .

(l)  $F(n) = F(n/2) + n^2$

Master theorem:  $A = 1$ ,  $B = 2$ ,  $C = 2$ : Note that  $A < B^C$ .

Thus  $F(n) = \Theta(n^C) = \Theta(n^2)$

(m)  $F(n) = F(n/3) + 1$

Master theorem:  $A = 1$ ,  $B = 3$ ,  $C = 0$ : Note that  $A = B^C$ .

Thus  $F(n) = \Theta(n^C \log n) = \Theta(\log n)$

(n)  $F(n) = 16F(n/4) + n^2$

Master theorem:  $A = 16$ ,  $B = 4$ ,  $C = 2$ . Note that  $A = B^C$ .

Thus  $F(n) = \Theta(n^C \log n) = \Theta(n^2 \log n)$

(o)  $F(n) = F(n - 1) + n^5$

Anti-derivative method:  $\frac{F(n) - F(n - 1)}{1} = n^5$

$$F'(n) = \Theta(n^5)$$

$$F(n) = \Theta(n^6)$$

(p)  $F(n) = F(n - \log n) + \log n$

Anti-derivative method:  $\frac{F(n) - F(n - \log n)}{\log n} = \frac{\log n}{\log n}$

$$F'(n) = \Theta(1)$$

$$F(n) = \Theta(n)$$

---

<sup>1</sup>By *usual functions* I mean the functions we have discussed so far in class, which include polynomials, logarithms, iterated logarithms, powers of logarithms, roots, and even the iterated logarithm  $\log^*$ .

(q)  $F(n) = 16F(n/4) + n$

Master theorem:  $A = 16$ ,  $B = 4$ ,  $C = 1$ . Note that  $A > B^C$ , and that  $\log_B A = 2$ .

Thus  $F(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_B A}) = \Theta(n^2)$ .

### Answer to Problem 2(j)

Use the substitution  $m = \log^* n, k = \log^* i$ . We obtain:

```
for(int k = m; k > 0; k--)  
    cout << "Hello" << endl;
```

The recursive definition of  $\log^* x$  for any real number  $x$  is:  $\log^* x = 0$  if  $x \leq 1$

$\log^* x = 1 + \log^*(\log x)$  if  $x > 1$

Let  $i$  be the “old” value of  $i$  in the code, and  $\bar{i}$  the “new” value of  $i$ , namely  $\log i$ . Let  $k$  be the old value of  $k$  and  $\bar{k}$  the new value of  $k$ . Thus

$$m = \log^* n$$

$$\bar{i} = \log i$$

$$k = \log^* i$$

$$\bar{k} = \log^* \bar{i}$$

From the definition of  $\log^*$  we have:

$k = \log^* i = 1 + \log^* \log i = 1 + \log^* \bar{i} = 1 + \bar{k}$ . Thus  $\bar{k} = k - 1$ , and the last parameter of the for statement is  $k - -$ .

The solution is  $\Theta(m) = \Theta(\log^* n)$  where  $\log^*$  is the *iterated logarithm*. For any positive real number  $x$ ,  $\log^* x$  is the number of times the logarithm function must be iteratively applied before the result is less than or equal to 1.

We use the base 2 logarithm. In that case, the iterated algorithm is sometimes written as  $\lg^*$ .

(a) What is  $\log^* 65536$ ? Answer: 4.

(b) What is  $\log^* 65537$ ? Answer: 5.

(c) Let  $N$  be the number of baryons in the visible universe. (Neutrons and protons are baryons.) What is  $\log^* N$ ? Answer: 5.

(d) It has been seriously conjectured that the radius of the entire universe is  $10^{100}$  times the radius of the visible universe! If that is true, what is  $\log^*$  of the number of baryons in the universe? Answer 5.

$\log^*$  grows very slowly. However, it is not the slowest growing unbounded function that regularly arises in complexity theory. That honor goes to the inverse Ackermann function.