Central Algorithmic Techniques

Iterative Algorithms

Code Representation of an Algorithm

class InsertionSortAlgorithm extends SortAlgorithm { void sort(int a[]) throws Exception { for (int i = 1; i < a.length; i++) { int j = i; int B = a[i]; while ((j > 0) && (a[j-1] > B))a[j] = a[j-1];j--; } **Pros and Cons?** a[j] = B;}}

Code Representation of an Algorithm

Pros:

- Runs on computers
- Precise and succinct



- I am not a computer
- I need a higher level of intuition.
- Prone to bugs
- Language dependent

Two Key Types of Algorithms

- Iterative Algorithms
- Recursive Algorithms

Iterative Algorithms

Take one step at a time towards the final destination

loop (done) take step end loop

Loop Invariants

A good way to structure many programs:

- Store the key information you currently know in some data representation.
- In the main loop,
 - take a step forward towards destination
 - by making a simple change to this data.

The Getting to School Problem



Problem Specification

- Pre condition: location of home and school
- Post condition: Traveled from home to school







General Principle

- Do not worry about the entire computation.
- Take one step at a time!







A Measure of Progress





Safe Locations

• Algorithm specifies from which locations it knows how to step.



Loop Invariant

- "The computation is presently in a safe location."
- May or may not be true.



Defining Algorithm

• From every safe location, define one step towards school.



Take a step

• What is required of this step?



Maintain Loop Invariant



• If the computation is in a safe location, it does not step into an unsafe one.

• Can we be assured that the computation will always be in a safe location?



No. What if it is not initially true?



Establishing Loop Invariant

From the Pre-Conditions on the input instance we must establish the loop invariant.



Maintain Loop Invariant



- Can we be assured that the computation will always be in a safe location?
- By what principle?





Ending The Algorithm

- Define Exit Condition
- Termination: With sufficient progress, the exit condition will be met.
- When we exit, we know
 - exit condition is true
 - loop invariant is true

from these we must establish the post conditions.











Designing an Algorithm **Define Problem Define Loop Invariants Define Measure of** Progress 79 km to school **Define Step** Maintain Loop Inv **Define Exit Condition** Exit Make Progress Ending **Initial Conditions →** Exit 0 km ∞km 79 km 75 km 21

Simple Example

Insertion Sort Algorithm

Code Representation of an Algorithm

```
class InsertionSortAlgorithm extends SortAlgorithm {
void sort(int a[]) throws Exception {
       for (int i = 1; i < a.length; i++) {
          int j = i;
          int B = a[i];
          while ((j > 0) \&\& (a[j-1] > B)) 
                 a[j] = a[j-1];
                j--; }
          a[j] = B;
          }
```

23

Higher Level Abstract View Representation of an Algorithm





Problem Specification

• Precondition: The input is a list of n values with the same value possibly repeated.

• Post condition: The output is a list consisting of the same n values in non-decreasing order.



Define Loop Invariant

- Some subset of the elements are sorted
- •The remaining elements are off to the side.



Defining Measure of Progress



Define Step

- Select arbitrary element from side.
- Insert it where it belongs.



Making progress while Maintaining the loop invariant







Running Time

Inserting an element into a list of size i takes $\theta(i)$ time.

Total = $1+2+3+...+n = \theta(n^2)$



Ok

I know you knew Insertion Sort

But hopefully you are beginning to appreciate Loop Invariants for describing algorithms

Assertions

in Algorithms

Purpose of Assertions

Useful for

- thinking about algorithms
- developing
- describing
- proving correctness

Definition of Assertions

An assertion is a statement about the current state of the data structure that is either true or false.

eg. the amount in your bank account is not negative.
Definition of Assertions

It is made at some particular point during the execution of an algorithm.

If it is false, then something has gone wrong in the logic of the algorithm.

Definition of Assertions

An assertion is not a task for the algorithm to perform.

It is only a comment that is added for the benefit of the reader.

Specifying a Computational Problem

Example of Assertions

- Preconditions: Any assumptions that must be true about the input instance.
- Postconditions: The statement of what must be true when the algorithm/program returns..

Definition of Correctness

<PreCond> & <code> ⇒ <PostCond>

If the input meets the preconditions, then the output must meet the postconditions.

If the input does not meet the preconditions, then nothing is required.

An Example: <assertion_> A Sequence of Assertions if(<condition_>) then

code<1,true>

else

code<1,false>

end if

<assertion₁>

<assertion_{r-1}>

if(<condition_r>) then

code_{<r,true>}

else

code_{<r,false>}

end if

<assertion_r>

Definition of Correctness $< assertion_0 >$ any <conditions> <assertion_> code How is this proved? Must check 2^r different •settings of <conditions> •paths through the code. Is there a faster way?







A Sequence of Assertions

<assertion₀> if(<condition₁>) then code<1,true> else code<1,false> Step r end if <assertion₁> <assertion_{r-1}> <assertion_r> <condition_r> <ass ertion_{r-1}> code_{<r,true>} if(< condition_> then code_{<r,true>} <assertion_{r-1}> else <assertion_> ¬<condition_r> code_{<r,false>} code_{<r,false>} end if <assertion,>

Another Example: A Loop

<preCond> codeA loop <loop-invariant> exit when <exit Cond> codeB endloop codeC <postCond>

Type of Algorithm:IterativeType of Assertion:Loop Invariants

codeA loop <loop-invariant> exit when <exit Cond> codeB endloop codeC <postCond>

<preCond>

Definition of Correctness?

```
<preCond>
codeA
loop
   <loop-invariant>
    exit when <exit Cond>
                             Definition of Correctness
   codeB
                    <preCond>
endloop
                    any <conditions> conditions>
codeC
                    code
<postCond>
```

How is this proved?

<preCond> any <conditions> code

Definition of Correctness



The computation may go around the loop an arbitrary number of times. Is there a faster way?



```
<preCond>
codeA
loop
    <loop-invariant>
    exit when <exit Cond>
                                  Step 1
    codeB
                   <loop-invariant>
endloop
                   -<exit Cond> <loop-invariant</p>
codeC
                   codeB
<postCond>
```

```
<preCond>
codeA
loop
   <loop-invariant>
   exit when <exit Cond>
                                 Step 2
     odeB
                   <loop-invariant>
endloop
                                     <loop-invariant
                   -<exit Cond>
codeC
                   codeB
<postCond>
```

```
<preCond>
codeA
loop
   <loop-invariant>
   exit when <exit Cond>
                                 Step 3
      deB
                   <loop-invariant>
endloop
                                      <loop-invariant
                   -<exit Cond>
codeC
                   codeB
<postCond>
```



All these steps are the same and therefore only need be done once!

```
<preCond>
codeA
loop
   <loop-invariant>
   exit when sexit Cond>
                                 Last Step
   codeB
                   <loop-invariant>
endloop
                                       <postCond>
                   <exit Cond>
codeC
                   codeC
<postCond>
```

Partial Correctness

Establishing Loop Invariant



<preCond> codeA



Maintaining Loop Invariant



<loop-invariant> ¬<exit Cond> codeB



Clean up loose ends



<loop-invariant><exit Cond>codeC



Proves that IF the program terminates then it works <PreCond> & <code> \Rightarrow <PostCond>

Algorithm Termination



Measure of progress

Algorithm Correctness





Designing Loop Invariants

Coming up with the loop invariant is the hardest part of designing an algorithm.

It requires practice, perseverance, and insight.



Yet from it the rest of the algorithm follows easily

Don't start coding

You must design a working algorithm first.



Exemplification: Try solving the problem on small input examples.



Start with Small Steps

What basic steps might you follow to make some kind of progress towards the answer?

Describe or draw a picture of what the data structure might look like after a number of these steps.



Picture from the Middle

Leap into the middle of the algorithm.

What would you like your data structure to look like when you are half done?



Ask for 100%

Pretend that a genie has granted your wish.

You are now in the middle of your computation and your dream loop invariant is true.



Ask for 100%

Maintain the Loop Invariant:

– From here, are you able to take some computational steps that will make progress while maintaining the loop invariant?



Ask for 100%

- If you can maintain the loop invariant, great.
- If not,
 - Too Weak: If your loop invariant is too weak, then the genie has not provided you with everything you need to move on.
 - Too Strong: If your loop invariant is too strong, then you will not be able to establish it initially or maintain it.

Differentiating between Iterations

x=x+2

- Meaningful as code
- False as a mathematical statement

 $x' = x_i$ = value at the beginning of the iteration

 $x'' = x_{i+1}$ = new value after going around the loop one more time. x'' = x'+2

– Meaningful as a mathematical statement

Loop Invariants for Iterative Algorithms

> Three Search Examples

Define Problem: Binary Search

- PreConditions
 - Key 25
 - Sorted List

3	5	6	13	18	21	21	25	36	43	49	51	53	60	72	74	83	88	91	95
•	•	•						•••			•••	•••	•••			00	00	• •	•••

PostConditions

– Find key in list (if there).

Define Loop Invariant



- Maintain a sublist.
- If the key is contained in the original list, then the key is contained in the sublist.

key 25



Define Step



- Make Progress
- Maintain Loop Invariant



key 25



Define Step



- Cut sublist in half.
- Determine which half the key would be in.
- Keep that half.


Define Step



- It is faster not to check if the middle element is the key.
- Simply continue.



Make Progress



• The size of the list becomes smaller.





Initial Conditions





Ending Algorithm





• If the key is contained in the original list,

then the key is contained in the sublist.

Sublist contains one element.



If the key is contained in the original list,
then the key is at this location.

If key not in original list

 If the key is contained in the original list,



Loop invariant true, even if the key is not in the list.

then the key is contained in the sublist.

key 24

• If the key is contained in the original list, then the key is at this location.

Conclusion still solves the problem.
 Simply check this one location for the key.

Running Time

The sublist is of size n, n/2, n/4, n/8,...,1 Each step $\theta(1)$ time.

Total = $\theta(\log n)$



BinarySearch(A[1..n], key)

<precondition>: A[1..n] is sorted in non-decreasing order

<postcondition>: If key is in A[1..n], algorithm returns its location p = 1, q = n

while q > p

< loop-invariant>: If key is in A[1..n], then key is in A[p..q]

$$mid = \left\lfloor \frac{p+q}{2} \right\rfloor$$

if $key \le A[mid]$
 $q = mid$
else
 $p = mid + 1$
end
end
if $key = A[p]$
return(p)
else
return("Key not in list")
end



BinarySearch(A[1..n], key)

<precondition>: A[1..n] is sorted in non-decreasing order

<postcondition>: If key is in A[1..n], algorithm returns its location p = 1, q = n

while q > p

< loop-invariant>: If key is in A[1..n], then key is in A[p..q]

$$mid = \left\lfloor \frac{p+q}{2} \right\rfloor$$

if $key \le A[mid]$
 $q = mid$
else
 $p = mid + 1$
end
end
if $key = A[p]$
return(p)
else
return("Key not in list")
end

Simple, right?

- Although the concept is simple, binary search is notoriously easy to get wrong.
- Why is this?



- The basic idea behind binary search is easy to grasp.
- It is then easy to write pseudocode that works for a 'typical' case.
- Unfortunately, it is equally easy to write pseudocode that fails on the *boundary conditions*.



What condition will break the loop invariant?



Code: key \ge A[mid] \rightarrow select right half

Bug!!

if $key \le A[mid]$ q = midelse p = mid + 1end if key < A[mid] q = mid - 1else p = midend f(key < A[mid]) q = midelse p = mid + 1end

OK

OK

Not OK!!



Shouldn't matter, right? Select mid = $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{p+q}{2} \end{bmatrix}$





If key \leq mid,If key > mid,then key is inthen key is inleft half.right half.





If key \leq mid,If key > mid,then key is inthen key is inleft half.right half.

 $mid = \left\lfloor \frac{p+q}{2} \right\rfloor$ if key $\leq A[mid]$ q = midelse p = mid + 1end

$$mid = \left[\frac{p+q}{2}\right]$$

if key < A[mid]
 $q = mid - 1$
else
 $p = mid$
end



OK

OK

Not OK!!

How Many Possible Algorithms?

$$mid = \left\lfloor \frac{p+q}{2} \right\rfloor \quad \text{or mid} = \left\lceil \frac{p+q}{2} \right\rceil ?$$
if $key \leq A[mid] \leftarrow \text{ or if } key < A[mid] ?$

$$q = mid$$
else
$$p = mid + 1 \quad \text{or } q = mid - 1$$
end
$$p = mid$$
end

Alternative Algorithm: Less Efficient but More Clear

```
BinarySearch(A[1..n], key)
<precondition>: A[1..n] is sorted in non-decreasing order
<postcondition>: If key is in A[1..n], algorithm returns its location
p = 1, q = n
while q > p
   < loop-invariant>: If key is in A[1..n], then key is in A[p..q]
   mid = \left| \frac{p+q}{2} \right|
   if key = A[mid]
      return(mid)
   elseif key < A[mid]
      q = mid - 1
   else
      p = mid + 1
   end
end
if key = A[p]
   return(p)
else
   return("Key not in list")
end
```

Moral

- Use the loop invariant method to think about algorithms.
- Be careful with your definitions.
- Be sure that the loop invariant is always maintained.
- Be sure progress is always made.
- Having checked the 'typical' cases, pay particular attention to boundary conditions and the end game.

Loop Invariants for Iterative Algorithms

A Second Search Example: The Binary Search Tree

Define Problem: Binary Search Tree

- PreConditions
 - Key 25
 - A binary search tree.



PostConditionsFind key in BST (if there).

Binary Search Tree

All nodes in left subtree ≤ Any node ≤ All nodes in right subtree



Define Loop Invariant



- Maintain a sub-tree.
- If the key is contained in the original tree, then the key is contained in the sub-tree.



Define Step

- Cut sub-tree in half.
- Determine which half the key would be in.
- Keep that half.



If key < root,</th>If key = root,If key > root,then key isthen key isthen key isin left half.foundin right half.



Algorithm Definition Completed **Define Problem Define Measure of Define Loop Invariants** Progress 79 km to school **Define Step** Maintain Loop Inv **Define Exit Condition** Exit Make Progress Ending **Initial Conditions** ∞km 100



Loop Invariants for Iterative Algorithms

A Third Search Example: A Card Trick



Loop Invariant: The selected card is one of these.





Which column?





105

Loop Invariant: The selected card is one of these.





Selected column is placed in the middle




Relax Loop Invariant: I will remember the same about each column.



Which column?



right 110

Loop Invariant: The selected card is one of these.





Selected column is placed in the middle





Which column?





Loop Invariant: The selected card is one of these.



Selected column is placed in the middle





Ternary Search

 Loop Invariant: selected card in central subset of cards

> Size of subset = $\left[n/3^{i-1} \right]$ where n = total number of cards i = iteration index

How many iterations are required to guarantee success?

Loop Invariants for Iterative Algorithms

A Fourth Example: Partitioning (Not a search problem: can be used for sorting, e.g., Quicksort)

The "Partitioning" Problem



Problem: Partition a list into a set of small values and a set of large values.

Precise Specification

Precondition: A[p...r] is an arbitrary list of values. x = A[r] is the pivot.



Postcondition: A is rearranged such that $A[p...q-1] \le A[q] = x \le A[q+1...r]$ for some q.



Loop Invariant



Loop invariant:

- 1. All entries in $A[p \dots i]$ are \leq pivot.
- 2. All entries in $A[i + 1 \dots j 1]$ are > pivot.
- 3. A[r] = pivot.

Maintaining Loop Invariant

- Consider element at location j
 - If greater than pivot, incorporate into
 '> set' by incrementing j.



- If less than or equal to pivot, incorporate into '≤ set' by swapping with element at location i+1 and incrementing both i and j.
- Measure of progress: size of unprocessed set.



Maintaining Loop Invariant



- 1. All entries in $A[p \dots i]$ are \leq pivot.
- 2. All entries in $A[i + 1 \dots j 1]$ are > pivot.
- 3. A[r] = pivot.

 $\leq x$

>x

Establishing Loop Invariant

Loop invariant:

- 1. All entries in $A[p \dots i]$ are \leq pivot.
- 2. All entries in $A[i + 1 \dots j 1]$ are > pivot.
- 3. A[r] = pivot.

Establishing Postcondition



Establishing Postcondition



An Example



Running Time

Each iteration takes $\theta(1)$ time \rightarrow Total = $\theta(n)$



More Examples of Iterative Algorithms

Using Constraints on Input to Achieve Linear-Time Sorting

Recall: InsertionSort

INSERTION-SORT(A)		cost	times
1	for $j \leftarrow 2$ to length[A]	c_1	n
2	do key $\leftarrow A[j]$	C2	n - 1
3	\triangleright Insert $A[j]$ into the sorted		
	sequence $A[1 \dots j - 1]$.	0	n - 1
4	$i \leftarrow j - 1$	C_4	n - 1
5	while $i > 0$ and $A[i] > key$	C5	$\sum_{i=2}^{n} t_i$
6	do $A[i + 1] \leftarrow A[i]$	c_6	$\sum_{j=2}^{n} (t_j - 1)$
7	$i \leftarrow i - 1$	c_7	$\sum_{i=2}^{n} (t_i - 1)$
8	$A[i+1] \leftarrow key$	C_8	n-1

Worst case (reverse order):
$$t_j = j$$
: $\sum_{j=2}^n j = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1 \rightarrow T(n) \in \theta(n^2)$

Recall: MergeSort



Comparison Sorts

- InsertionSort and MergeSort are examples of (stable) Comparison Sort algorithms.
- QuickSort is another example we will study shortly.
- Comparison Sort algorithms sort the input by successive comparison of pairs of input elements.
- Comparison Sort algorithms are very general: they make no assumptions about the values of the input elements.

Comparison Sorts

InsertionSort is $\theta(n^2)$.

MergeSort is $\theta(n \log n)$.

Can we do better?

Comparison Sort: Decision Trees

Example: Sorting a 3-element array A[1..3]



Comparison Sort

- Worst-case time is equal to the height of the binary decision tree.
- The height of the tree is the log of the number of leaves.
- The leaves of the tree represent all possible permutations of the input. How many are there?

$\log(n!) \in \Omega(n \log n)$

Thus MergeSort is asymptotically optimal.

Linear Sorts?

Comparison sorts are very general, but are $\Omega(n \log n)$

Faster sorting may be possible if we can constrain the nature of the input.

Example 1. Counting Sort

- Counting Sort applies when the elements to be sorted come from a finite (and preferably small) set.
- For example, the elements to be sorted are integers in the range [0...k-1], for some fixed integer k.
- We can then create an array V[0...k-1] and use it to count the number of elements with each value [0...k-1].
- Then each input element can be placed in exactly the right place in the output array in constant time.

Input: Output: 00 $\mathbf{0}$

- Input: N records with integer keys between [0...k-1].
- Output: Stable sorted keys.
- Algorithm:
 - Count frequency of each key value to determine transition locations
 - Go through the records in order putting them where they go.

Input: 3 3 2 () ()U ()Output: 2 |2|1 1 2 3 3 0 0 () 4 Index: 2 3 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 6

Stable sort: If two keys are the same, their order does not change.

Thus the 4th record in input with digit 1 must be the 4th record in output with digit 1.

It belongs at output index 8, because 8 records go before it ie, 5 records with a smaller digit & 3 records with the same digit Count These!



N records. Time to count? $\Theta(N)$



Value v:0123# of records with digit v:5933# of records with digit < v:</td>051417

N records, k different values. Time to count? $\Theta(k)$



= location of first record with digit v.



Algorithm: Go through the records in order putting them where they go.
Loop Invariant



- The first *i*-1 keys have been placed in the correct locations in the output array
- The auxiliary data structure v indicates the location at which to place the *i*th key for each possible key value from [1..k-1].





























Time = $\Theta(N)$ +k)

Example 2. RadixSort

Input:

- A of stack of *N* punch cards.
- Each card contains *d* digits.
- Each digit between [0...k-1]

Output:

• Sorted cards.

Digit Sort:

- Select one digit
- Separate cards into k piles
 based on selected digit (e.g., Counting Sort).

Stable sort: If two cards are the same for that digit, their order does not change.



Sort wrt which digit first?

The most significant.



Sort wrt which digit Second?

The next most significant.



All meaning in first sort lost.

Sort wrt which digit first?

The least significant.



Sort wrt which digit Second?

The next least significant.





344		333		2 24
125		143		1 25
333	Sort wrt which	243	Sort wrt which	2 2 5
134	digit first?	344	digit Second?	3 2 5
224		134		3 33
334	The least	224	The next least	1 34
143	significant.	334	significant.	3 34
225	C	125	C	1 43
325		225		2 43
243		325		3 44
	*		Is sorted wrt least sig.	ہے 2 digits.





Is sorted wrt first i+1 digits.

These are in the correct order because sorted wrt high order digit





	l .			
1	25			
1	34			
1	43			
2	24 ·			
2	25			
2	43			
3	25			
3	33			
3	34			
3	44			
165				



Is sorted wrt first i+1 digits.

These are in the correct order because was sorted & stable sort left sorted





• The keys have been correctly stable-sorted with respect to the *i-1* least-significant digits.

Running Time

Radix-Sort(A, d)

for $i \leftarrow 1$ to d

do use a stable sort to sort array A on digit i

Running time is $\Theta(d(n+k))$

Where

d = # of digits in each number

n = # of elements to be sorted

k = # of possible values for each digit

Example 3. Bucket Sort

- Applicable if input is constrained to finite interval, e.g., [0...1).
- If input is random and uniformly distributed, expected run time is Θ(n).

Bucket Sort

insert A[i] into list $B[\lfloor n \cdot A[i] \rfloor]$





- Loop 1
 - The first *i*-1 keys have been correctly placed into buckets of width 1/n.
- Loop 2
 - The keys within each of the first *i*-1 buckets have been correctly stable-sorted.

PseudoCode

BUCKET-SORT(A, n)for $i \leftarrow 1$ to n do insert A[i] into list $B[[n \cdot A[i]]] \leftarrow \Theta(1)$ for $i \leftarrow 0$ to n-1do sort list B[i] with insertion sort $\leftarrow \Theta(1) \times n$ concatenate lists $B[0], B[1], \ldots, B[n-1] \leftarrow \Theta(n)$ **return** the concatenated lists $\Theta(n)$

Examples of Iterative Algorithms

- Binary Search
- Partitioning
- Insertion Sort
- Counting Sort
- Radix Sort
- Bucket Sort

- Which can be made stable?
- Which sort in place?
- How about MergeSort?

End of Iterative Algorithms