

Amortized analysis of computational complexity



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Analysis of Algorithms and Heuristic Problem Solving
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Three methods

- aggregated analysis
 - the accounting method
 - the potential method
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- Cormen et al, 2009, Chapter 17 or 2022, Chapter 16

Aggregated analysis

- Two examples:
 - stack
 - binary counter

Example1: Stack with MULTIPOP operation

MULTIPOP(S, k)

```
1  while not STACK-EMPTY( $S$ ) and  $k > 0$   
2      POP( $S$ )  
3       $k = k - 1$ 
```

Example 2: Incrementing binary counter

INCREMENT(A)

```
1   $i = 0$   
2  while  $i < A.length$  and  $A[i] == 1$   
3       $A[i] = 0$   
4       $i = i + 1$   
5  if  $i < A.length$   
6       $A[i] = 1$ 
```

Binary counter: aggregated analysis

Example: $k = 3$

[Underlined bits flip. Show costs later.]

counter	A	
value	2 1 0	cost
0	0 0 <u>0</u>	0
1	0 0 <u>1</u>	1
2	0 1 <u>0</u>	3
3	<u>0 1 1</u>	4
4	1 0 <u>0</u>	7
5	1 <u>0 1</u>	8
6	1 1 <u>0</u>	10
7	<u>1 1 1</u>	11
0	0 0 <u>0</u>	14
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	15

Cost of INCREMENT = $\Theta(\# \text{ of bits flipped})$.

Binary counter: aggregated analysis

Not every bit flips every time.

[Show costs from above.]

bit	flips how often	times in n INCREMENTS
0	every time	n
1	$1/2$ the time	$\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$
2	$1/4$ the time	$\lfloor n/4 \rfloor$
	$\vdots$	
i	$1/2^i$ the time	$\lfloor n/2^i \rfloor$
	$\vdots$	
$i \geq k$	never	0

Stack: accounting method

Stack

operation	actual cost	amortized cost
PUSH	1	2
POP	1	0
MULTIPOP	$\min(k, s)$	0

Stack: potential method

operation	actual cost	$\Delta \Phi$	amortized cost
PUSH	1	$(s + 1) - s = 1$ where $s = \#$ of objects initially	$1 + 1 = 2$
POP	1	$(s - 1) - s = -1$	$1 - 1 = 0$
MULTIPOP	$k' = \min(k, s)$	$(s - k') - s = -k'$	$k' - k' = 0$

Example 3: Dynamic arrays

TABLE-INSERT(T, x)

```
1  if  $T.size == 0$ 
2      allocate  $T.table$  with 1 slot
3       $T.size = 1$ 
4  if  $T.num == T.size$ 
5      allocate  $new-table$  with  $2 \cdot T.size$  slots
6      insert all items in  $T.table$  into  $new-table$ 
7      free  $T.table$ 
8       $T.table = new-table$ 
9       $T.size = 2 \cdot T.size$ 
10 insert  $x$  into  $T.table$ 
11  $T.num = T.num + 1$ 
```