

MA/CSSE 473

Day 12

Amortization
(growable Array)

Knuth interview

Brute Force
Examples



MA/CSSE 473 Day 12

- A6 Due date postponement:
 - You have been working *very* hard in this course.
 - Perhaps it's time for a little break.
 - A6 will be due next Tuesday, rather than this Friday.
 - (If you think you'll be busier next week than this week, you can go ahead and get A6 out of the way this week)
- I have another medical appointment in Indianapolis this afternoon. I will be gone after 5th period.
- I expect to be available most of tomorrow; meetings 10:50-11:40, 2:30-3:00, 4:30-5:30



Q1-2

Amortized efficiency analysis

- P49-50 in the textbook
- We analyze not just a single operation, but a sequence of operations performed on the same structure
 - We conclude something about the worst-case of the average of all of the operations in the sequence
- Example: Growable array exercise from 220/230, which we will quickly review today



Growable Array (implement ArrayList)

- An ArrayList has a *size* and a *capacity*
- The capacity is the length of the fixed-size array currently allocated to hold the list elements
- For definiteness, we start with *size*=0 and *capacity*=12
- We add a total of N items (N is not known in advance), one at a time, each to the end of the structure
- When there is no room in the array (i.e. *capacity*=*size* and we need to add another element)
 - Allocate a new, larger array
 - copy the *size* existing elements to the new array
 - add the new element to the new array
- What is the total/average overhead (due to element copying) if
 - a. we add one to the array capacity each time we have to grow it?
 - b. we double the array capacity each time we have to grow it?
- Note in the second case that the amortized worst-case cost is asymptotically less than the worst case for a single element
- Every time we have to enlarge the capacity, we make it so we do not have to enlarge again soon



Brute Force Algorithms

- Straightforward, simple, not subtle, usually a simple application of the problem definition.
- Often not very efficient
- Easy to implement, so often the best choice if you know you'll only apply it to small input sizes
- Take 10 minutes to do quiz questions 5-6, (and 1-2 if you did not already answer them)



Donald Knuth Interview

- List a few things that you found interesting in the interview
- What questions would you ask Donald Knuth if you had the chance?



What is a brute force approach to

1. Calculate the n^{th} Fibonacci number?
2. Compute the n^{th} power of an integer?
3. Search for a particular value in a sorted array?
4. Sort an array?
5. Search for a substring of a string?
6. Find the maximum contiguous subsequence? in an array of integers?
7. Find the largest element in a Binary Search Tree?
8. Find the two closest points among N points in the plane?
9. Find the convex hull of a set of points in the plane?
10. Find the shortest path from vertex A to vertex B in a weighted graph?
11. Solve the traveling salesman problem?
12. Solve the knapsack problem?
13. Solve the assignment problem?
14. Solve the $n \times n$ non-attacking chess queens problem?
15. Other problems that you can think of?

