Winter 2016 COMP-250: Introduction to Computer Science

Lecture 8, February 4, 2016

Stacks in the Java Virtual Machine

- Each process running in a Java program has its own Java Method Stack.
- Each time a method is called, it is pushed onto the stack.
- The choice of a stack for this operation allows Java to do several useful things:
 - Perform recursive method calls
 - Print stack traces to locate an error



Java Stack

Application: Time Series

• The *span* s_i of a stock's price on a certain day *i* is the maximum number of consecutive days (up to the current day) the price of the stock has been less than or equal to its price on day *i*.



An Inefficient Algorithm

• There is a straightforward way to compute the span of a stock on each of *n* days:

Algorithm computeSpans1(*P*):

```
Input: an n-element array P of numbers such that
        P[i] is the price of the stock on day i
Output: an n-element array S of numbers such that
          S[i] is the span of the stock on day i
for i \leftarrow 0 to n - 1 do
  k \leftarrow 0
                                                 s<sub>0</sub>=1
  done \leftarrow false
  repeat
                                                      s_1=1
     if P[i-k] \leq P[i] then
                                                              s_3=2
       k \leftarrow k + 1
                                                            s<sub>2</sub>=1
     else
        done \leftarrow true
  until (k = i) or done
  S[i] \leftarrow k
return S
```

 $s_6 = 6$

*s*₅=4

*s*₄=1

• The running time of this algorithm is (ugh!) *O*(*n*²). Why?

A Stack Can Help

We see that s_i on day i can be easily computed if we know the closest day preceding i, such that the price is greater than on that day than the price on day i. If such a day exists, let's call it h(i), otherwise, we conventionally define h(i) = −1



• The span is now computed as $s_i = i - h(i)$

We use a *stack* to keep track of h(i)

An Efficient Algorithm

• The code for our new algorithm:

```
Algorithm computeSpan2(P):
 Input: An n-element array P of numbers representing
           stock prices
  Output: An n-element array S of numbers such that
           S[i] is the span of the stock on day i
 Let D be an empty stack
 for i \leftarrow 0 to n - 1 do
    done \leftarrow false
    while not(D.isEmpty() or done) do
      if P[i] \ge P[D.top()] then
        D.pop()
      else
         done \leftarrow true
      if D.isEmpty() then
        h \leftarrow -1
      else
        h \leftarrow D.top()
      S[i] \leftarrow i - h
      D.push(i)
                                           0
                                                      2
                                                            3
                                                                 4
    return S
```

5

6

Queue ADT



Queue

- A queue differs from a stack in that its insertion and removal routines follows the first-in-first-out (FIFO) principle.
- Elements may be inserted at any time, but only the element which has been in the queue the longest may be removed.
- Elements are inserted at the rear (enqueued) and removed from the front (dequeued).

Queue

- The queue has two fundamental methods:
 - enqueue(o): Inserts object o at rear of the queue
 - dequeue(): Removes object from front of queue and returns it; an error occurs if queue is empty.
- These support methods should also be defined:
 - size(): Returns number of objects in the queue
 - isEmpty(): Returns a boolean value that indicates whether the queue is empty

- front(): Returns, but not remove, the front object in the queue; an error occurs if queue is empty.

Queue

OPERATION	STATE
	_
add(a)	a
add(b)	ab
remove()	b
add(c)	bc
add(d)	bcd
add(e)	bcde
remove()	cde
add(f)	cdef
remove()	def
add(g)	defg

	0123456789	head	size
OPERATION			
		0	0
add(a)	a	0	1
add(b)	ab	0	2
remove()	b	1	1
add(c)	bc	1	2
add(d)	bcd	1	3
add(e)	bcde	1	4
remove()	cde	2	3
add(f)	cdef	2	4
remove()	def	3	3
add(g)	defg	3	4

	0123456	head	size
OPERATION			
		0	0
add(a)	a	0	1
add(b)	ab	0	2
remove()	b	1	1
add(c)	bc	1	2
add(d)	bcd	1	3
add(e)	bcde	1	4
remove()	cde	2	3
add(f)	cdef	2	4
remove()	def	3	3
add(g)	defg	3	4





Size=5



Size=6

Queue as Array



Size=5



Size=5



Size=5





head=3, tail=7, (size=5)



head=3, tail=7, (size=5)







head=3, tail=0, (size=6)





```
enqueue( element ){ // array implementation
    if ( size == length)
        increase length of array // *** SEE BELOW **
    a[ (head + size) % length ] = element
    size = size + 1
}
```

```
dequeue(){
    out = a[head]
    head = (head + 1) % length
    size = size - 1
    return out
}
```

```
// copy the length elements to a new bigger array
create a bigger array
for i = 0 to small.length-1
    big[i] = small[ (head + i) % small.length ]
head = 0
tail = small.length-1
size = small.length
```







































Running Times and Asymptotic Notation

Computational Tractability

As soon as an Analytic Engine exists, it will necessarily guide the future course of the science. Whenever any result is sought by its aid, the question will arise - By what course of calculation can these results be arrived at by the machine in the shortest time? - Charles Babbage

Charles Babbage (1864)

Analytic Engine (schematic)

Computational Tractability

Brute force. For many non-trivial problems, there is a natural brute force search algorithm that tries every possible solution.

- Typically takes 2^N time or worse for inputs of size N.
- Unacceptable in practice.

```
even worse : N ! for some problems
```

Desirable scaling property. When the input size doubles, the algorithm should only slow down by some constant factor C.

There exists constants a > 0 and d > 0 such that on every input of size N, its running time is bounded by $a N^d$ steps.

Def. An algorithm is poly-time if the above scaling property holds.

Worst Case Analysis

Worst Case Analysis

Worst case running time. Obtain bound on largest possible running time of algorithm on any input of a given size N.

- Generally captures efficiency in practice.
- Draconian view, but hard to find effective alternative.

Average case running time. Obtain bound on running time of algorithm on random input as a function of input size N.

- Hard (or impossible) to accurately model real instances by random distributions.
- Algorithm tuned for a certain distribution may perform poorly on other inputs.

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