CS 61B Fall 2025

Midterm Review

Exam-Level Discussion 10: November 03, 2025

1 Recursive

For each of the following functions, give the tightest asymptotic runtime bound.

(a) *Hint: Draw out the recursive tree!*

```
void f(int N) {
    if (N <= 1) {
        return;
    }
    f(N - 1);
    f(N - 1);
    f(N - 1);
}
```

(b) Assume that `constantWork(N)` runs in constant $\Theta(1)$ time.

```
void f(int N) {
    if (N <= 1) {
        return;
    }
    constantWork(N); // Runs in constant time
    f(N / 2);
    f(N / 2);
}
```

(c) What is the best and worst case runtime of `alpha`?

```
public void alpha(int N) {
    if (N % 4 == 0 || N <= 0) {
        return;
    }
    alpha(N - 4);
}
```

Best Case:

- ◯ $\Theta(1)$
- ◯ $\Theta(\log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^2)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^3 \log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(\log(\log N))$
- ◯ $\Theta(N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^2 \log N)$
- ◯ Worse than $\Theta(N^3 \log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta((\log N)^2)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N \log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^3)$
- ◯ Never terminates (infinite loop)

Worst Case:

- ◯ $\Theta(1)$
- ◯ $\Theta(\log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^2)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^3 \log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(\log(\log N))$
- ◯ $\Theta(N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^2 \log N)$
- ◯ Worse than $\Theta(N^3 \log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta((\log N)^2)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N \log N)$
- ◯ $\Theta(N^3)$
- ◯ Never terminates (infinite loop)

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2 Comparisons Between Combinations

(a) Consider the four cases below, and decide whether the `Comparable` or `Comparator` interface is better suited for the job.

We are writing a custom `61BStudent` class, and want to define the default comparison behavior to be a comparison between their `Integer studentID`s.

◯ `Comparable` ◯ `Comparator`

We are writing a custom `Dog` class with many different attributes, including `size`, `age`, and `timesBarked`. We want to be able to sort 3 lists of `Dog`s by each of these attributes separately.

◯ `Comparable` ◯ `Comparator`

We have a list of `String`s and want to sort them by an `Integer` frequency value stored in an external `TreeMap` (sound familiar?)

◯ `Comparable` ◯ `Comparator`

We are writing a custom static sorting method that takes in a `List` and destructively sorts it. We want to be able to sort **anything** that has a predefined natural order.

◯ `Comparable` ◯ `Comparator`

(b) Consider the `City` and `CityPair` classes below.

```
public class City {

  private String name;
  private double x;
  private double y;
  private int ranking;

  /* Constructor not shown...*/
}

public class CityPair {

  private City a;
  private City b;

  public CityPair(City a, City b) {
    this.a = a;
    this.b = b;
  }

  @Override
  public boolean equals(Object other) {
    // Two CityPairs are equal if they contain the same two cities.
    if (other instanceof CityPair p) {
      return ((this.a == p.a) && (this.b == p.b)) ||
      ((this.a == p.b) && (this.b == p.a));
    }
    return false;
  }
}
```

Implement the static method **proximitySort**, that takes in a **Set** of cities and returns a **List** of **CityPair** objects, sorted from closest to furthest for every possible pair of distinct cities. Assume **proximitySort** is in the same file as **City** and **CityPair**. Assume that **CityPair** has a valid and good hash function.

Additionally, implement the **pairDistance** helper method and **DistanceComparator** nested class. **DistanceComparator** compares **CityPair** objects such that **CityPair**s with a lower Euclidean distance between their respecitve **City** objects are considered "less than" those with a greater Euclidean distance.

Remember that the Euclidean distance formula is $\sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$ for two points (x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2)

The square root function **Math.sqrt(double a)** and the power function **Math.pow(double base, int exponent)** may come in handy.

List.sort takes in a Comparator, and returns a sorted list according to the ordering defined by the comparator.

```
public static List<CityPair> proximitySort(Set<City> cities) {

  __________<CityPair> allCombinations = ____________________________________;


  for (____________________ : ____________________) {

    for (____________________ : ____________________) {

      if (____________________) {

        allCombinations.add(____________________);
      }
    }
  }

  __________<CityPair> orderedCombinations = new _________________(____________________);


  return orderedCombinations.sort(_____________________________)
}

public static double pairDistance(CityPair p) {
  // Returns the euclidean distance between the two cities represented by a CityPair

  return ____________________________________________________________________________;
}


public class DistanceComparator implements ____________________<CityPair> {


  @Override
  public int compare(CityPair p1, CityPair p2) {
    Double distance1 = pairDistance(p1);
    Double distance2 = pairDistance(p2);

    return ____________________________________________________;
  }
}
```

3 Filter

We want to make a `FilteredList` class that selects only certain elements of a `List` during iteration. To do so, we're going to use the `Predicate` interface defined below. Note that it has a method, `test` that takes in an argument and returns `true` if we want to keep this argument or `false` otherwise.

```
public interface Predicate<T> {
boolean test(T x);
}
```

For example, if `L` is any kind of object that implements `List<String>` (that is, the standard `java.util.List`), then `FilteredList<String> FL = new FilteredList<>(L, filter);` gives an **iterable** containing all items, `x`, in `L` for which `filter.test(x)` is `true`. Here, `filter` is of type `Predicate`.

Fill in the `FilteredList` class on the following page.

```
public class FilteredList<T> _____ {



    public FilteredList (List<T> L, Predicate<T> filter) {



    }

    @Override
    public Iterator<T> iterator() {

    }

    private class FilteredListIterator implements Iterator<T> {



        public FilteredListIterator() {



        }

        @Override
        public boolean hasNext() {




        }

        @Override
        public T next() {









        }









    }
}
```

4 A Tree Takes on Graphs

Your friend at Stanford has come to you for help on their homework! For each of the following statements, determine whether they are true or false; if false, provide counterexamples.

(a) "A graph with edges that all have the same weight will always have multiple MSTs."

(b) "No matter what heuristic you use, A* search will always find the correct shortest path."

(c) "If you add a constant factor to each edge in a graph, Dijkstra's algorithm will return the same shortest paths tree."