



THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON DC

# INTRODUCTION AND ASYMPTOTIC NOTATION

CS 6212 – Design and Analysis  
of Algorithms

# CLASS & TEACHING STYLE

- Active Class
  - Frequent 1-3 minute discussion sessions
  - Talking/discussing/explaining concepts helps
- Programming Projects
  - Code style matters, long methods, variable naming, all are subject to criticism
- Frequent HWs and Quizzes
  - No makeup for anything missed
  - Do not hesitate to interrupt!
- Teaching Style (Criticism 😊)
  - I may not always give direct answers

# LOGISTICS

- Instructor

Prof. Amrinder Arora

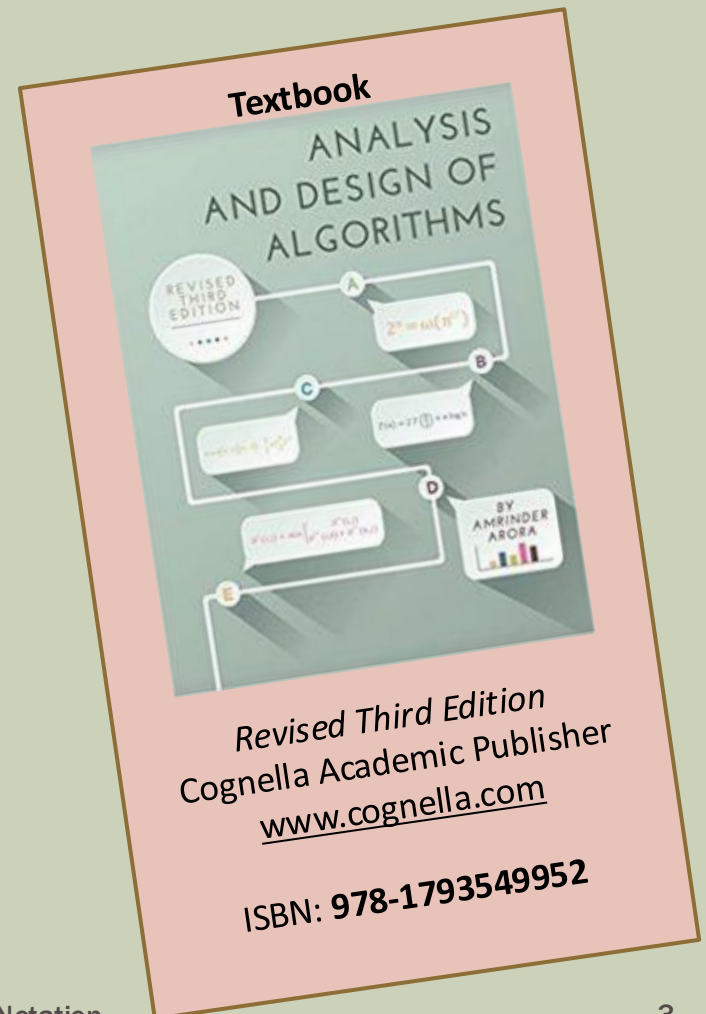
[amrinder@gwu.edu](mailto:amrinder@gwu.edu)

Please copy TA on emails

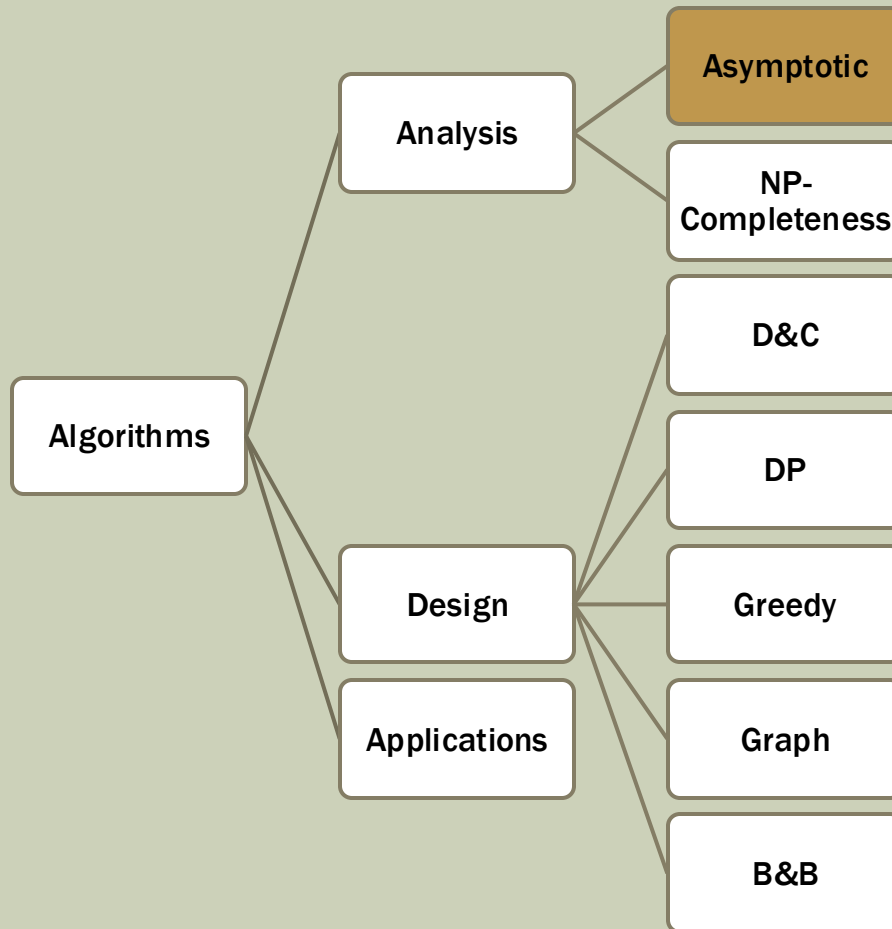
Please feel free to call as well



- Available for study sessions  
Science and Engineering Hall  
GWU



# COURSE OUTLINE



# PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS

## Design and Analysis of Algorithms

- Designing – Algorithmic Techniques
- Analyzing – how much time an algorithm takes
- Proving inherent complexity of problems

# “ALGORITHM” – DEFINITIONS

- A precise statement to solve a problem on a computer
- A sequence of definite instructions to do a certain job

# REPRESENTING AN ALGORITHM

Pseudo-code consisting of:

- Variables and assignments
- Data Structures (Arrays, objects, etc.)
- Loops
- If Else/Switch/Case
- Function/Procedure

# EXAMPLE 1: INSERTION SORT

Given: An array  $A$  of  $n$  numbers

Purpose: To sort the array

Algorithm:

```
for j = 1 to n-1
    key = A[j]
    // A[j] is added in the sorted sequence A[0..j-1]
    i = j - 1
    while i >= 0 and A[i] > key
        A[i + 1] = A[i]
        i = i - 1
    A[i + 1] = key
```



# EXAMPLE 2: EUCLID'S ALGORITHM

- Best case running time
- Worst case running time
- Average case running time

```
gcd(n,m) {  
    r = n%m  
    if r == 0 return m  
  
    // else  
    return gcd(m, r)  
}
```

*Fresh in the market.  
Cutting edge material!*

# EXAMPLE 3: BINARY SEARCH

```
binarySearch(A[0..N-1], value, low, high)
{
  if (high < low)
    return -1          // not found
  mid = (low + high) / 2
  if (A[mid] > value)
    return BinarySearch(A, value, low, mid-1)
  else if (A[mid] < value)
    return BinarySearch(A, value, mid+1, high)
  else return mid     // found
}
```

# ANALYZING AN ALGORITHM

- How long will the algorithm take?
- How much memory will it require?

For Example:

```
function sum (array a) {  
    sum = 0;  
    for (int j : a) {  
        sum = sum + j  
    }  
    return sum;  
}
```

# ANALYZING AN ALGORITHM

- Why to do it?
  - A priori estimation of performance
  - To compare algorithms on a level playing field
- How to do it? (What is the model?)
  - Random access memory model
  - Math operations take constant time
  - Read/write operations take constant time
- What do we compute?
  - Time complexity: # of operations as a function of input size
  - Space complexity: # of bits used

# ANALYZING ALGORITHMS

## How to Analyze a Given Algorithm (Program)

### Some tips:

- When analyzing an if then else condition, consider the arm that takes the longest time
- When considering a loop, take the sum
- When considering a nested loop, ...

# WHAT IS THE TIME COMPLEXITY OF THIS PROGRAM?

## Possible Quiz Questions

```
j = 1
while (j < n) {
  k = 2
  while (k < n) {
    Sum += a[j]*b[k]
    k = k * k
  }
  j++
}
```

$\Theta(n \log \log n)$

```
for (int j = 1 to n) {
  for (int k = j to n) {
    x = k
    while (x < n) {
      Sum +=
      a[j]*b[k]*c[x]
      If (x % 3 == 0) {
        x = n + 1
      }
      x = x + 1
    }
  }
}
```

```
for (int j = 1 to n) {
  k = j
  while (k < n) {
    Sum += a[k]*b[k]
    k += log n
  }
}
```

# REQUIRED MATH CONSTRUCTS

- Sets, functions
- Logs and Exponents
  - Taking log to the base 2 or the base 10 of random numbers (without using a calculator)
- Recurrence Relations
- Sums of series
  - Arithmetic Progression:  $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n$
  - Geometric Progress:  $1 + 3 + 9 + \dots 3^k$
  - AGP:  $1 + 2 \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 9 + \dots (k+1) 3^k$
  - Others:  $1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2$ , Harmonic Series

# ASYMPTOTIC NOTATION

## ■ Big O notation

- $f(n) = O(g(n))$  if there exist constants  $n_0$  and  $c$  such that  $f(n) \leq c g(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

For example, consider  $f(n) = n$ , and  $g(n) = n^2$ . Then,  $f(n) = O(g(n))$

If  $f(n) = a_0 n^0 + a_1 n^1 + \dots + a_m n^m$ ,  
then  $f(n) = O(n^m)$

## ■ Big Omega notation

- $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$  if there exist constants  $n_0$  and  $c$  such that  $f(n) \geq c g(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .



# ASYMPTOTIC NOTATIONS (CONT.)

## ■ Small o notation

- $f(n) = o(g(n))$  if for any constant  $c > 0$ , there exists  $n_0$  such that  $0 \leq f(n) < c g(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

For example,  $n = o(n^2)$

## ■ Small omega ( $\omega$ ) notation

- $f(n) = \omega(g(n))$  if for any constant  $c > 0$ , there exists  $n_0$  such that  $f(n) \geq c g(n) \geq 0$ , for all  $n \geq n_0$

For example,  $n^3 = \omega(n^2)$

# ASYMPTOTIC NOTATIONS (CONT.)

- $f(n) = O(g(n))$  if and only if  $g(n) = \Omega(f(n))$
- If  $f(n) = O(g(n))$  and  $g(n) = O(f(n))$ , then  $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$
- $f(n) = o(g(n))$  if and only if  $g(n) = \omega(f(n))$
- $f(n) = o(g(n))$  implies  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n)/g(n) = 0$

# PROVING SMALL OH USING L'HOPITAL'S RULE

- In some cases, we need to use the L'Hopital's rule to prove the small oh notation. L'Hopital's rule states that assuming certain conditions hold, 
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

- For example, suppose we want to prove the following:

$$(\log n)^3 + 3 (\log n)^2 = o(\sqrt{n})$$

- We can find the limit of these functions as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\log n)^3 + 3 (\log n)^2 / \sqrt{n} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 6 (\log n)^2 + 12 \log n / n^{1/2} && // \text{ Using L'Hopital's rule} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 24 \log n + 24 / n^{1/2} && // \text{ Using L'Hopital's rule} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 48 / n^{1/2} && // \text{ Using L'Hopital's rule} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

# ASYMPTOTIC NOTATIONS (CONT.)

## Analogy with real numbers

$O$

$o$

$\Theta$

$\omega$

$\Omega$

$\leq$

$<$

$=$

$>$

$\geq$

# ASYMPTOTIC NOTATIONS (CONT.)

Which properties apply to which (of 5) asymptotic notations?

- Transitivity
- Reflexivity
- Symmetry
- Transpose Symmetry
- Trichotomy

# ASYMPTOTIC NOTATIONS (CONT.)

## Which properties apply to which (of 5) asymptotic notations?

- Transitivity:  $O, o, \Theta, \omega, \Omega$
- Reflexivity:  $O, \Theta, \Omega$
- Symmetry:  $\Theta$
- Transpose Symmetry: ( $O$  with  $\Omega$ ,  $o$  with  $\omega$ )
- Trichotomy: Does not hold. For real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , we can always say that either  $x < y$  or  $x = y$  or  $x > y$ . For functions, we may not be able to say that. For example, if  $f(n) = \sin(n)$  and  $g(n) = \cos(n)$

# LOGISTICS

- Rigor required by this class
- Saturday study sessions (Optional)
- Study sessions on other days – You need to coordinate
- Grading – Review course information sheet in Blackboard

# TO DOS

- Review Project P1
- Review Course Outline
- Lecture 2 – I will begin the slides at Graph (~slide 19)



# HOMWORK ASSIGNMENTS

- Via Blackboard
- Due one week from when they are given

# HELPFUL LINKS

## ■ Core Concepts on Wikipedia

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arithmetic\\_progression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arithmetic_progression)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geometric\\_series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geometric_series)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27H%C3%B4pital%27s\\_rule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27H%C3%B4pital%27s_rule)

## ■ Videos

- Class Prelim video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50BuWtYyPk8>
- Limits and L'Hopitals Rule  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdSzruR50eE>

# SOME LESSONS FROM PREVIOUS CLASSES

- Almost no correlation between grades and background
- Correlation between grades and number of classes attended
- Correlation between grades and time spent on course
- Strong correlation between grades and homeworks/projects

**80% of  
success is  
showing up!**