Intro: What Is a Data Structure?

EECS 214, Fall 2017

One definition

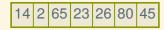
A scheme for organizing data to use it efficiently

Data structure goals

- Correctness (does what it promises)
- Efficient use of resources:
 - ► Time (for operations)
 - ► Space (memory)
 - ► Power

Example: array set

How long does it take to find an element? How long to add one?



Example: array set

How long does it take to find an element? How long to add one?

What if we sort it?

Characterizing data structures

- Almost always comes with an algorithm
 - (an effective procedure to a class of problems)
- Usually implements an abstract data type
 - (a set of operations with rules about their behavior)

Example abstract data type: stack

- Operations: push, pop, peek
- Implementations:
 - Linked list: cons, rest, first
 - ► Array?

Example abstract data type: set

- Operations: empty?, member?, insert, union, intersect, size
- Implementations:
 - ► Linked list
 - Array
 - ► Binary search tree
 - ► Hash table

Related things that aren't really data structures

- File/serialization/interchange formats (e.g., JSON, XML)
- Databases (though they often use very fancy data structures)

Concrete data structures

Concrete data structures

- struct
- array
- linked list (single, double, circular)
- ring buffer
- binary search tree
- adjacency list and adjacency matrix
- binary heap
- union-find
- hash table
- Bloom filter
- dynamic array
- AVL and red-black trees

Other concepts

- Abstract data types
- Asymptotic analysis (big-O notation)
 - ▶ Worst case
 - Average case
 - Amortized worst case
- Hashing



Course staff

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Office hours: Gladly by appointment

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Undergrad TAs:

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- Ellie Tyger
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- Jared Schifrien
- Matt Cheung
- Nathan Lindquist
- Sameena Khan
- Scott Renshaw
- Vickie Li

Prerequisites

One of:

- EECS 111 and 211
- EECS 230
- or something equivalent

Course structure

- Lectures will be mostly theoretical
- Homework is programming
- Exams cover both

Grading

- Five programming assignments worth 10% each
- Two in-class exams worth 25% each
- The map from numbers to letter grades is at my discretion

Exams

No final! Two in-class exams:

- 1st: Tuesday, October 24th
- 2nd: Thursday, November 30th

Homework

Five programming assignments:

- Four done with a partner
- Language: DSSL2 (Data Structures Student Language 2)

Graded by automated testing (which can be picky) and TAs (pickier still)

No late work accepted

Resources

In person:

- TAs
- Instructor

Online:

- http://users.eecs.northwestern.edu/~jesse/course/eecs214/
- Piazza board

Books (optional):

- Udi Manber, Introduction to Algorithms: A Creative Approach.
- CLRS (Corman, Leiserson, Rivest, Stein): algorithms

Stealing

Stealing

- Only turn in code you wrote (or consult instructor)
 - (but you can share tests in this class)
- Avoid poisoning (seeing something you shouldn't)
- Accessory to the crime is as culpable as the criminal
- (Your responsibility to protect your work)

How to avoid stealing

- Start early
- Don't look at others' homework
- Don't post homework code on Piazza
- If you aren't sure, ask course staff

Why not steal?

• You'll be reported to Dean Burghardt,

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Why not steal?

- You'll be reported to Dean Burghardt,
- you'll no longer be welcome in this class, and
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, you won't learn.

Next time: Boxes and arrows