

Theory of Computation CS3102

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www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/theory



Problem: Can 5 test tubes be spun simultaneously in a 12-hole centrifuge in a balanced way?





- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations

Theory of Computation (CS3102) - Textbook

Textbook:

Introduction to the Theory of Computation, by Michael Sipser (MIT), 2nd Edition, 2005



Good Articles / videos:

Theory of Computation (CS3102)

Required reading:

How to Solve It, by George Polya (MIT), Princeton University Press, 1945

• A classic on problem solving



George Polya (1887-1985)

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Theory of Computation (CS3102) - Syllabus

A brief history of computing:

- Aristotle, Euclid, Archimedes, Eratosthenes
- Abu Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham
- Fibonacci, Descartes, Fermat, Pascal
- Newton, Euler, Gauss, Hamilton
- Boole, De Morgan, Babbage, Ada Agusta
- Venn, Carroll, Cantor, Hilbert, Russell
- Hardy, Ramanujan, Ramsey
- Godel, Church, Turing, von Neumann
- Shannon, Kleene, Chomsky





Fundamentals:

- Set theory
- Predicate logic
- Formalisms and notation
- Infinities and countability
- Dovetailing / diagonalization
- Proof techniques
- Problem solving
- Asymptotic growth
- Review of graph theory





Formal languages and machine models:

- The Chomsky hierarchy
- Regular languages / finite automata
- Context-free grammars / pushdown automata
- Unrestricted grammars / Turing machines
- Non-determinism
- Closure operators
- Pumping lemmas
- Non-closures
- Decidable properties

The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy



Computability and undecidability:

- Basic models
- Modifications and extensions
- Computational universality
- Decidability
- Recognizability
- Undecidability
- Church-Turing thesis
- Rice's theorem







NP-completeness:

- Resource-constrained computation
- Complexity classes
- Intractability
- Boolean satisfiability
- Cook-Levin theorem
- Transformations
- Graph clique problem
- Independent sets
- Hamiltonian cycles
- Colorability problems
- Heuristics





Other topics (as time permits):

- Generalized number systems
- Oracles and relativization
- Zero-knowledge proofs
- Cryptography & mental poker
- The Busy Beaver problem
- Randomness and compressibility
- The Turing test
- AI and the Technological Singularity





Generalized Numbers



Theorem: some real numbers are not finitely describable! Theorem: some finitely describable real numbers are not computable!

The Extended Chomsky Hierarchy



Other infinite complexity & descriptive hierarchies

Overarching Philosophy

- Focus on the "big picture" & "scientific method"
- Emphasis on problem solving & creativity
- Discuss applications & practice
- A primary objective: have fun!







Prerequisites

- Some discrete math & algorithms knowldege
- Ideally, should have taken CS2102
- Course will "bootstrap" (albeit quickly) from first principles
- Critical: Tenacity, patience



Course Organization

- Exams: probably take home
 - Decide by vote
 - Flexible exam schedule
- Problem sets:
 - Lots of problem solving
 - Work in groups!
 - Not formally graded
 - Most exam questions will come from these sets!
- Readings: papers / books / videos
- Extra credit problems
 - In class & take-home
 - Find mistakes in slides, handouts, etc.
- Course materials posted on Web site www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/theory



"Go for it, Sidney! You've got it! You've got it! Good hands! Don't choke!"

Contact Information

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Web: www.cs.virginia.edu/robins www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/theory Bureau STATISTICS

Office hours: after class

- Any other time
- By email (preferred)
- By appointment
- Q&A blog posted on class Web site



Grading Scheme

- Midterm 35%
- Final 35%
- Readings 30%
- Extra credit 10%

Best strategy:

- Solve lots of problems!
- Do lots of readings / EC!



Course Readings

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

Goal: broad exposure to lots of cool ideas & technologies!

- Required: total of at least 50 items over the semester
- Diversity: minimums in each of 3 categories:
 - 1. Minimum of 20 videos
 - 2. Minimum of 20 papers / Web sites
 - 3. Minimum of 10 books
- More than 50 is even better! (extra credit)
- Some required items in each category
 - Remaining "elective" items should be a diverse mix
- Email all submissions to: homework.cs3102@gmail.com

Required Readings www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- **Required** videos:
 - Last Lecture, Randy Pausch, 2007
 - Time Management, Randy Pausch, 2007
 - Powers of Ten, Charles and Ray Eames, 1977





• "<u>Scale of the Universe</u>", Cary and Michael Huang, 2012



• 10⁻²⁴ to 10²⁶ meters \Rightarrow 50 orders of magnitude!

Required Readings

- More required videos:
 - Claude Shannon Father of the Information Age, UCTV
 - The Pattern Behind Self-Deception, Michael Shermer, 2010



Required Readings

- **Required** articles:
 - Decoding an Ancient Computer, Freeth, 2009
 - Who Can Name the Bigger Number, Scott Aaronson, 1999
 - You and Your Research, Richard Hamming, 1986
 - Alan Turing's Forgotten Ideas, Copeland and Proudfoot, 1999



"BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH IS OUTSTANDING"

BXtra credi

"THE BEST BRITISH FILM OF THE YEAR"



"A SUPERB THRILLER"



THE CUMBERBATCH KENGHTLEY

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

BACK GER PETING Nach Andern Andern Heinhander Jack ger Peting wurde Institut Automite wurden ihr Anterne ihr Anterne ist Ander Geraf im Villan Golderen ihr Anterforden der Anterne ist Anter Geraf im Villan Golderen ihr Anter State Geraf im Villan Golderen ihr Anter Villan Golderen ihr Villan Golderen ihr Anter Villan Golderen ihr Anter Villan Golderen ihr Villan Golderen ihr Villan Golderen ihr Villan Golderen ihr Anter Villan Golderen ihr Anter Villan G

/ImitationGameUK



Basic Concepts and Notation

Gabriel Robins

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean -- neither more nor less."

Required reading A <u>set</u> is formally an undefined term, but intuitively it is a (possibly empty) collection of arbitrary objects. A set is usually denoted by curly braces and some (optional) restrictions. Examples of sets are $\{1,2,3\}$, $\{hi, there\}$, and $\{k \mid k \text{ is a perfect square}\}$. The symbol \in denotes set **membership**, while the symbol \notin denotes set **non-membership**; for example, $7 \in \{p \mid p\}$ prime} states that 7 is a prime number, while $q \notin \{0, 2, 4, 6, ...\}$ states that q is not an even number. Some <u>common sets</u> are denoted by special notation:

The natural numbers :	$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3,\}$
The <u>integers</u> :	$\mathbb{Z} = \{,-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3,\}$
The <u>rational numbers</u> :	$\mathbb{Q} = \{ \frac{\mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{b}} \mid \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Z}, \mathbf{b} \neq 0 \}$
The <u>real numbers</u> :	$\mathbb{R} = \{x \mid x \text{ is a real number}\}\$
The <u>empty set</u> :	Ø = {}

http://www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/cs3102/basics.pdf



Discrete Math Review Slides



http://www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/cs3102/discrete_math_review_slides.pdf

Required Readings

- Required books:
 - How to Solve It, Polya, 1957
 - Infinity and the Mind, Rucker, 1995
 - Godel, Escher, Bach, Hofstadter, 1979
 - The Demon Hunted World, Sagan, 2009
 - What If Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions, Munroe, 2014



Required Readings

- Other videos / articles / books are "electives"
- Pacing: at least 3 submissions per week (due Monday)
- Length: 1-2 paragraphs per article / video
 1-2 pages per book
- Books are worth more credit than articles / videos
- Email all submissions to: homework.cs3102@gmail.com
- Additional readings beyond 50 are welcome!
 - => Extra credit

- Theory and Algorithms:
 - Who Can Name the Bigger Number, Scott Aaronson, 1999
 - The Limits of Reason, Gregory Chaitin, Scientific American, March 2006, pp. 74-81.
 - Breaking Intractability, Joseph Traub and Henryk Wozniakowski, Scientific American, January 1994, pp. 102-107.
 - Confronting Science's Logical Limits, John Casti, Scientific American, October 1996, pp. 102-105.
 - Go Forth and Replicate, Moshe Sipper and James Reggia, Scientific American, August 2001, pp. 34-43.
 - The Science Behind Sudoku, Jean-Paul Delahaye, Scientific American, June 2006, pp. 80-87.
 - The Traveler's Dilemma, Kaushik Basu, Scientific American, June 2007, pp. 90-95.

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- Biological Computing:
 - Computing with DNA, Leonard Adleman, Scientific American, August 1998, pp. 54-61.
 - Bringing DNA Computing to Life, Ehud Shapiro and Yaakov Benenson, Scientific American, May 2006, pp. 44-51.
 - Engineering Life: Building a FAB for Biology, David Baker et al., Scientific American, June 2006, pp. 44-51.
 - Big Lab on a Tiny Chip, Charles Choi, Scientific American, October 2007, pp. 100-103.
 - DNA Computers for Work and Play, Macdonald et al, Scientific American, November 2007, pp. 84-91.

Email all submissions to: homework.cs3102@gmail.com

- Quantum Computing:
 - Quantum Mechanical Computers, Seth Lloyd, Scientific American, 1997, pp. 98-104.
 - Quantum Computing with Molecules, Gershenfeld and Chuang, Scientific American, June 1998, pp. 66-71.
 - Black Hole Computers, Seth Lloyd and Jack Ng, Scientific American, November 2004, pp. 52-61.
 - Computing with Quantum Knots, Graham Collins, Scientific American, April 2006, pp. 56-63.
 - The Limits of Quantum Computers, Scott Aaronson, Scientific American, March 2008, pp. 62-69.
 - Quantum Computing with Ions, Monroe and Wineland, Scientific American, August 2008, pp. 64-71.

- History of Computing:
 - Alan Turing's Forgotten Ideas, B. Jack Copeland and Diane Proudfoot, Scientific American, May 1999, pp. 98-103.
 - Ada and the First Computer, Eugene Kim and Betty Toole, Scientific American, April 1999, pp. 76-81.
- Security and Privacy:
 - Malware Goes Mobile, Mikko Hypponen, Scientific American, November 2006, pp. 70-77.
 - RFID Powder, Tim Hornyak, Scientific American, February 2008, pp. 68-71.
 - Can Phishing be Foiled, Lorrie Cranor, Scientific American, December 2008, pp. 104-110.

- Future of Computing:
 - Microprocessors in 2020, David Patterson, Scientific American, September 1995, pp. 62-67.
 - Computing Without Clocks, Ivan Sutherland and Jo Ebergen, Scientific American, August 2002, pp. 62-69.
 - Making Silicon Lase, Bahram Jalali, Scientific American, February 2007, pp. 58-65.
 - A Robot in Every Home, Bill Gates, Scientific Am, January 2007, pp. 58-65.
 - Ballbots, Ralph Hollis, Scientific American, October 2006, pp. 72-77.
 - Dependable Software by Design, Daniel Jackson, Scientific American, June 2006, pp. 68-75.
 - Not Tonight Dear I Have to Reboot, Charles Choi, Scientific American, March 2008, pp. 94-97.
 - Self-Powered Nanotech, Zhong Lin Wang, Scientific American, January 2008, pp. 82-87.

www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- The Web:
 - The Semantic Web in Action, Lee Feigenbaum et al., Scientific American, December 2007, pp. 90-97.
 - Web Science Emerges, Nigel Shadbolt and Tim Berners-Lee, Scientific American, October 2008, pp. 76-81.
- The Wikipedia Computer Science Portal:
 - Theory of computation and Automata theory
 - Formal languages and grammars
 - Chomsky hierarchy and the Complexity Zoo
 - Regular, context-free & Turing-decidable languages
 - Finite & pushdown automata; Turing machines
 - Computational complexity
 - List of data structures and algorithms



Email all submissions to: homework.cs3102@gmail.com

Other Readings www.cs.virginia.edu/robins/CS_readings.html

- The Wikipedia Math Portal:
 - Problem solving
 - List of Mathematical lists
 - Sets and Infinity
 - Discrete mathematics
 - Proof techniques and list of proofs
 - Information theory & randomness
 - Game theory
- Mathematica's_"Math World"








Good Advice

- Ask questions ASAP
- Solve problems ASAP
- Work in study groups
- <u>Do not</u> fall behind
- "Cramming" won't work
- Do lots of extra credit
- Attend every lecture
- Visit class Website often
- Solve lots of problems



Classroom afflictions

Goal: Become a more effective problem solver!





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Problem: Can 5 test tubes be spun simultaneously in a 12-hole centrifuge in a balanced way?

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No equations

tigh elegance beauty.

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- What does "balanced" mean?
- No vector calculu • Why are 3 test tubes balanced?
- Symmetry
- Can you merge solutions?
- Superposition.
- mdannental princippos exposed. • Linearity! f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)
- Can you spin 7 test tubes?
- Complementarity!
- Empirical testing...

Problem: $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \ldots + 100 = ?$





Drawbacks of Induction

Oh oh!

- You must a priori know the formula / result
- Easy to make mistakes in inductive proof
- Mostly "mechanical" ignores intuitions
- Tedious to construct
- Difficult to check
- Hard to understand
- Not very convincing
- Generalizations not obvious
- Does not "shed light on truth"
- Obfuscates connections

Conclusion: only use induction as a last resort! I.e., almost never!

Historical Perspectives



Historical Perspectives

- Science and mathematics builds heavily on past
- Often the simplest ideas are the most subtle
- Most fundamental progress was done by a few
- We learn much by observing the best minds
- Research benefits from seeing connections
- The field of computer science has many "parents"
- We get inspired and motivated by excellence
- The giants can show us what is possible to achieve
- It is fun to know these things!

"Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"

- Aristotle, Euclid, Archimedes, Eratosthenes
- Abu Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham
- Fibonacci, Descartes, Fermat, Pascal
- Newton, Euler, Gauss, Hamilton
- Boole, De Morgan
- Babbage, Ada Agusta
- Venn, Carroll







"Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"

- Cantor, Hilbert, Russell
- Hardy, Ramanujan, Ramsey
- Godel, Church, Turing
- von Neumann, Shannon
- Kleene, Chomsky
- Hoare, McCarthy, Erdos
- Knuth, Backus, Dijkstra

Many others...









Historical Perspectives

Aristotle (384BC-322BC)

- Founded Western philosophy
- Student of Plato
- Taught Alexander the Great
- "Aristotelianism"
- Developed the "scientific method"
- One of the most influential people ever
- Wrote on physics, theatre, poetry, music, logic, rhetoric, politics, government, ethics, biology, zoology, morality, optics, science, aesthetics, psychology, metaphysics, ...
- Last person to know everything known in his own time!

"Almost every serious intellectual advance has had to begin with an attack on some Aristotelian doctrine." – Bertrand Russell









STOTEN

ASHELLAS AP

"Wit is educated insolence." - Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)





V Cent^o del Descubrimiento de América. 1492-1992

JAY 750

5

Mare parvum est inter finem Ilyspanie a parte occidentis, et inter principium Indie a parte orientis.

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Aristóteles (De cælo et mundo)









"What I especially like about being a philosopher-scientist is that I don't have to get my hands dirty."



Historical Perspectives

Euclid (325BC-265BC)

- Founder of geometry
 & the axiomatic method
- "Elements" oldest and most impactful textbook
- Unified logic & math
- Introduced rigor and "Euclidean" geometry
- Influenced all other fields of science: Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Russell, Lincoln, Einstein & many others











Euclid's Straight-Edge and Compass Geometric Constructions







Problem: $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + \ldots + n^3 = ?$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} i^3 = ?$$

Extra Credit:

find a short, geometric, induction-free proof.



"Yes, yes, I know that, Sidney ... everybody knows that! ... But look: Four wrongs squared, minus two wrongs to the fourth power, divided by this formula, do make a right."

Problem: $(1/4) + (1/4)^2 + (1/4)^3 + (1/4)^4 + \dots = ?$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^i} = ?$$

Extra Credit:

Find a short, geometric, induction-free proof.

Problem: $(1/8) + (1/8)^2 + (1/8)^3 + (1/8)^4 + \ldots = ?$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{8^i} = ?$$

Extra Credit:

Find a short, geometric, induction-free proof.

Problem: Are the complex numbers closed under exponentiation ? E.g., what is the value of i^i ?









HOLD ON. IS THIS PAPER SIMPLY A GIANT BUILD-UP TO AN "IMAGINARY FRIENDS" PUN?







Problem: Prove that there are an infinity of primes.

Extra Credit: Find a short, induction-free proof.

- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations



Problem: True or false: there arbitrary long blocks of consecutive composite integers.

Extra Credit: find a short, induction-free proof.

- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations



Problem: Prove that $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

Extra Credit: find a short, induction-free proof.

- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations



Einstein discovers that time is actually money.

Problem: Does exponentiation preserve irrationality? i.e., are there two irrational numbers x and y such that x^y is rational?

Extra Credit: find a short, induction-free proof.

- What approaches fail?
- What techniques work and why?
- Lessons and generalizations



Euclid's Axioms

- 1: Any two points can be connected by exactly one straight line.
- 2: Any segment can be extended indefinitely into a straight line.
- 3: A circle exists for any given center and radius.
- 4: All right angles are equal to each other.
- 5: The parallel postulate: Given a line and a point off that line, there is exactly one line passing through the point, which does not intersect the first line.
- The first 28 propositions of Euclid's Elements were proven without using the parallel postulate!
- Theorem [Beltrami, 1868]: The parallel postulate is independent of the other axioms of Euclidean geometry.
- The parallel postulate can be modified to yield non-Euclidean geometries!







Non-Euclidean Geometries

Hyperbolic geometry: Given a line and a point off that line, there are an infinity of lines passing through that point that do not intersect the first line.

- Sum of triangle angles is less than 180°
- Not all triangles have the same angle sum
- Triangles with same angles have same area
- There are no similar triangles
- Used in relativity theory











Analytic Hyperbolic Geometry and Albert Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity

Non-Euclidean Geometries

Spherical / Elliptic geometry: Given a line and a point off that line, there are no lines passing through that point that do not intersect the first line.

- Lines are geodesics "great circles"
- Sum of triangle angles is $> 180^{\circ}$
- Not all triangles have same angle sum
- Figures can not scale up indefinitely
- Area does not scale as the square
- Volume does not scale as the cube
- The Pythagorean theorem fails
- Self-consistent, and complete








Founders of Non-Euclidean Geometry

János Bolyai (1802-1860)



Nikolai Ivanovich Lobachevsky (1792-1856)











Non-Euclidean Non-Orientable Surfaces



THE GEOMETRY OF EVERYDAY LIFE



TUNA SANDWICH

SNEAKER

GRANDMA

Problem: A man leaves his house and walks one mile south. He then walks one mile west and sees a Bear. Then he walks one mile north back to his house. What color was the bear?



Problem: Is the house location unique?