

Class 42: Analyzing Procedures, Continued

Held: Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Summary: We continue our explorations of algorithm analysis.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Analyzing Procedures.
- Reading: Analyzing Procedures.

Notes:

- Reading for Wednesday: Association Lists.
- Are there final questions on the project proposals?
- You might enjoy this cartoon.
- EC for Thursday's Thursday Extra on Media Computation (Thursday, 4:30, Science 3821).

Overview:

- Comparing algorithms.
- Two related metrics: Time and Number of procedure calls.
- Tools for time analysis.

Choosing an Algorithm

- At this point, we've seen that there are often multiple algorithms that solve the same problem.
- What criteria might we use to choose an algorithm?
 - *To be discussed in class.*
- One of the ones that many programmers emphasize is efficiency:
 - Measured in terms of time
 - Measured in terms of memory usage
 - Measured in terms of procedure calls

Overview

- When comparing algorithms, we often care which one is faster.
- We can analyze by hand.
- We can analyze by using a library written at Grinnell.
- We can carefully study the code and predict (covered in future CS courses)

Steps in Automating Analysis

- Replace `define` with `define$`.
- Type `(analyze exp procedure)`
- Alternately, type `(analyze exp)`.
- *Warning! Due to a bug in `define$`, you can't use it with procedures that use symbols.*

Lab

- Do the lab.
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