CS 19: Discrete Mathematics

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Pancakes With A Problem!

Getting into the mood

• Need to start by learning/reviewing some basic math notation and concepts. This can seem dry.

• Before getting to the juicy fruit, need to deal with the dry skin.

• But why not taste a slice of the fruit first?

Acknowledgment: Today's slice of fruit comes courtesy of Professor Anupam Gupta, CMU. These slides are from his Fall 2005 course "Great Ideas in Theoretical Computer Science". The chef at our place is sloppy, and when he prepares a stack of pancakes they come out all different sizes.

Therefore, when I deliver them to a customer, on the way to the table I rearrange them (so that the smallest winds up on top, and so on, down to the largest at the bottom)

I do this by grabbing several from the top and flipping them over, repeating this (varying the number I flip) as many times as necessary.



Developing A Notation: Turning pancakes into numbers

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How do we sort this stack? How many flips do we need?





4 Flips Are Sufficient





4 Flips are necessary in this case



Flip 1 has to put 5 on bottom Flip 2 must bring 4 to top.







The 5th Pancake Number: The MAX of the X's



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P_n = MAX over s2 stacks of n pancakes of MIN # of flips to sort s

P_n = The number of flips required to sort the worst-case stack of n pancakes. P_n = MAX over s2 stacks of n pancakes of MIN # of flips to sort s

P_n = The number of flips required to sort <u>a</u> worst-case stack of n pancakes.



What is P_n for small n?



Can you do n = 0, 1, 2, 3 ?

Initial Values Of P_n

n	0	1	2	3
P _n	0	0	1	3

 $P_3 = 3$

1 3 2

requires 3 Flips, hence $P_3 \ge 3$.

<u>ANY</u> stack of 3 can be done by getting the big one to the bottom (≤ 2 flips), and then using ≤ 1 extra flip to handle the top two. Hence, P₃ = 3.



Bracketing: What are the best lower and upper bounds that I can prove?

 \leq f(x) \leq



Take a few minutes to try and prove <u>upper</u> <u>and lower</u> bounds on P_n, for n > 3.

Bring-to-top Method



Bring biggest to top. Place it on bottom.

Bring next largest to top. Place second from bottom.

And so on ...

Upper Bound On P_n: Bring To Top Method For n Pancakes

 $? \leq P_n \leq ?$

If n=1, no work required - we are done! Otherwise, <u>flip pancake n to top</u> and then <u>flip it to position n</u>.

Now use:

Bring To Top Method For n-1 Pancakes

Total Cost: at most 2(n-1) = 2n -2 flips.

<u>Better</u> Upper Bound On P_n: Bring To Top Method For n Pancakes

If n=2, <u>at most one flip</u> and we are done. Otherwise, <u>flip pancake n to top</u> and then <u>flip it to position n</u>. Now use: Bring To Top Method For n-1 Pancakes

Total Cost: at most 2(n-2) + 1 = 2n - 3 flips.



Bring-to-top takes 5 flips, but we can do in 4 flips

$? \le P_n \le 2n-3$



What other bounds can you prove on P_n?

Breaking Apart Argument

Suppose a stack S contains a pair of adjacent pancakes that will not be adjacent in the sorted stack.

Any sequence of flips that sorts stack S must involve one flip that inserts the spatula between that pair and breaks them apart.

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Breaking Apart Argument

Suppose a stack S contains a pair of adjacent pancakes that will not be adjacent in the sorted stack.

Any sequence of flips that sorts stack S must involve one flip that inserts the spatula between that pair and breaks them apart.

Furthermore, this same principle is true of the "pair" formed by the

$n \le P_n$

Suppose n is even. S contains n pairs that will need to be broken apart during any sequence that sorts stack S.



$n \le P_n$

S

S

Suppose n is even. S contains n pairs that will need to be broken apart during any sequence that sorts stack S. Detail: This construction only works when m2

 $n \leq P_n$

Suppose n is odd. S contains n pairs that will need to be broken apart during any sequence that sorts stack S.





Suppose n is odd. S contains n pairs that will need to be broken apart during any sequence that sorts stack S. Detail: This

construction only works when n>3



Bring To Top is within a factor of two of optimal!

 $n \le P_n \le 2n - 3$ for $n \ge 3$



Starting from ANY stack we can get to the sorted stack using no more than P_n flips.

From ANY stack to sorted stack in $\leq P_n$. From sorted stack to ANY stack in $\leq P_n$?



))) Reverse the sequences we use to sort. From ANY stack to sorted stack in $\leq P_n$. From sorted stack to ANY stack in $\leq P_n$?

Hence,

From ANY stack to ANY stack in $\leq 2P_n$.

From ANY stack to ANY stack in $\leq 2P_n$.



Can you find a faster way than 2P_n flips to go from ANY to ANY?

From ANY Stack S to ANY stack T in $\leq P_n$

Rename the pancakes in S to be 1,2,3,..,n. Rewrite T using the new naming scheme that you used for S. T will be some list: $\pi(1),\pi(2),..,\pi(n)$.

The sequence of flips that brings the sorted stack to $\pi(1),\pi(2),..,\pi(n)$ will bring S to T.

S:	Т:
4,3,5,1,2	5,2,4,3,1
1,2,3,4,5	3,5,1,2,4

The Known Pancake Numbers

n		Ρ.		
•••	1	·n	0	
	2		1	
	3		3	
	4		4	
	5		5	
	6		8	
	7		9	
	8		10	
	9		11	
	10		13	
	11		14	
	12		15	
	13			

P₁₄ Is Unknown

14! Orderings of 14 pancakes.

14! = 87,178,291,200





Posed in Amer. Math. Monthly 82 (1) (1975), "Harry Dweighter" a.k.a. Jacob Goodman

$(17/16)n \le P_n \le (5n+5)/3$



William Gates & Christos Papadimitriou

Bounds For Sorting By Prefix Reversal. Discrete Mathematics, vol 27, pp 47-57, 1979.





$(15/14)n \le P_n \le (5n+5)/3$



H. Heydari & H. I. Sudborough

On the Diameter of the Pancake Network. *Journal of Algorithms,* vol 25, pp 67-94, 1997.

Permutation

Any particular ordering of all n elements of an n element set S, is called a <u>permutation</u> on the set S.

Example: S = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5} One possible permutation: 5 3 2 4 1

5*4*3*2*1 = 120 possible permutations on S

Permutation

Any particular ordering of all n elements of an n element set S, is called a <u>permutation</u> on the set S.

Each different stack of n pancakes is one of the permutations on [1..n].

Representing A Permutation

- We have many ways to specify a permutation on S. Here are two methods:
- We list a sequence of all the elements of [1..n], each one written exactly once.
 Ex: 6 4 5 2 1 3
- 2) We give a function π on S such that π (1) π (2) π (3) ... π (n) is a sequence that lists [1..n], each one exactly once. Ex: π (1)=6 π (2)=4 π (3) = 5 π (4) = 2 π (4) = 1 π (6) = 3

A Permutation is a NOUN

An ordering S of a stack of pancakes is a permutation.

A Permutation is a NOUN. A permutation can also be a VERB.

An ordering S of a stack of pancakes is a permutation.

We can permute S to obtain a new stack S'.

<u>Permute</u> also means to rearrange so as to obtain a permutation of the original.

Permute A Permutation.



I start with a permutation S of pancakes. I continue to use a flip operation to permute my current permutation, so as to obtain the sorted permutation.

There are n! = 1*2*3*4*...*n permutations on n elements.

Easy proof in a later lecture.

Pancake Network: Definition For n! Nodes

For each node, assign it the name of one of the n! stacks of n pancakes.

Put a wire between two nodes if they are one flip apart.





Pancake Network: Message Routing Delay

What is the maximum distance between two nodes in the network?

D





If up to n-2 nodes get hit by lightning the network remains connected, even though each node is connected to only n-1 other nodes.

Pancake Network:

The Pancake Network is optimally reliable for its number of edges and nodes.

Mutation Distance

Head Cabbage (Brassica oleracea capitata)



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High Level Point

Computer Science is not merely about computers and programming, it is about mathematically modeling our world, and about finding better and better ways to solve problems.

This lecture is a microcosm of this exercise.



One "Simple" Problem



A host of problems and applications at the frontiers of science



Definitions of:

nth pancake number lower bound upper bound permutation

Proof of: ANY to ANY in $\leq P_n$

Important Technique: Bracketing

References

Bill Gates & Christos Papadimitriou: Bounds For Sorting By Prefix Reversal. *Discrete Mathematics*, vol 27, pp 47-57, 1979.

H. Heydari & H. I. Sudborough: On the Diameter of he Pancake Network. *Journal of Algorithms,* vol 25, pp 67-94, 1997