

GEM 1501 Problem Solving With Computers

Lecture 11:

Probabilistic Algorithms

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Summary of Previous Lecture

- Parallelism allows to speed up computation
- New complexity classes that take parallelism in to account
- Problems of synchronization

Appendix to last lecture: Semaphores

- Programming languages for concurrent programming have constructs for synchronization
- Example: Semaphore
 - S is shared integer variable
 - $request(S)$ decrements S if it is positive and waits otherwise
 - $release(S)$ increments S .
 - Both actions are atomic (cannot be interrupted).

Solving Mutual Exclusion Problems with Semaphores

Semaphore Shower

Subroutine takeAShower

```
request(Shower);  
enter and take a shower  
release(Shower)
```

Dining Philosophers with Semaphores?

First attempt:

```
Semaphore F0,F1,F2,F3,F4
Subroutine philosopher_P2
  think;
  request(F2);
  request(F3);
  eat;
  release(F3);
  release(F2);
```

Problem: Deadlock!

- This problem cannot be handled with semaphores (or any other mechanism), where each philosopher can only communicate with his forks.
- Centralized control is needed

Dining Philosophers (Centralized Control)

```
Semaphore Manager
Array Fork[5]
Subroutine philosopher(i)
  think;
  request(Manager);
  if Fork[i] = ontatable and Fork[(i+1) mod 5] = ontatable
  then Fork[i] := i; Fork[(i+1) mod 5] := i;
    release(Manager);
    eat;
    Fork[i] := ontatable; Fork[(i+1) mod 5] := ontatable;
  else release(Manager);
    philosopher(i)
```

Probabilistic Algorithms

- Probabilistic algorithms make use of random choices
- “Tossing a coin”
- Used in:
 - concurrency (Dining Philosophers)
 - generating large prime numbers
 - cryptography

Dining Philosophers

1. do the following forever:
 - (a) think until hungry;
 - (b) toss a coin to choose left or right;
 - (c) wait until fork in the chosen direction is free, lift it;
 - (d) if other fork is not available:
 - i. put down fork;
 - ii. go to 1b
 - (e) otherwise lift other fork; eat;
 - (f) put down both forks;

Randomization for Problem Solving

- Many intractable problems have probabilistic solutions
- Such solution guarantee with a certain probability to find the answer.
- Example: Generating large prime numbers

Generating Large Prime Numbers

- Let's say we need new prime numbers with 100 digits.
- Observation: The number of primes less than N is $O(N/\log N)$.
- About one in every 300 numbers with 100 digits is a prime number.
- If we had a way of testing the primality of numbers, we could proceed as follows:
 - Make a random number with 100 digits
 - Test it for primality, and if yes, you are done

Update on Primality

- Book (second edition) says that primality testing is unsolved
- In 2002, Prof. Manindra Agarwal (IIT Kanpur) and two of his students, Nitin Saxena and Neeraj Kayal gave a polynomial algorithm ($O((\log n)^{12} f(\log \log n))$ where f is a polynomial)
- Unfortunately, the algorithm is not fast enough (yet) to work for 100 digit numbers.

Testing for Primality

- There is an exact algorithm that runs in $O(N^{O(\log \log N)})$
- There are very fast probabilistic algorithms.
 - They indicate primality of large numbers with very low chance of being wrong.
 - Based on witnesses; numbers that allow us to state with a probability of $1/2$ that N is prime.

Other Applications

- Searching in strings
- Traveling salesman
- Satisfiability problems

Encrypting and Decrypting Data

Can we encode data such that:

- the receiver can be sure that it comes from the sender
- the receiver cannot send messages pretending to be the sender

The Usual Way

Sender invents a secret “key” and gives it to the receiver.

Sender: $H = Encr(M)$

Receiver: $M = Decr(H)$

Public Key Cryptography

- Consider locks that can be closed without a key, but opened only with a key.
- Everyone has such a lock and a secret key for his/her lock.
- B can send a message to A by placing it in a box and locking it with A's lock.

Details

- Of course we must have $Decr_A(Encr_A(M)) = M$.
- We also require $Encr_A(Decr_A(M)) = M$.
- The most important is that having $Encr$ does not allow to deduce $Decr$.

RSA Cryptosystem

- Based on easy primality testing,...
- ... and hard factoring!
- The secret key consists of a pair of large prime numbers P and Q
- The public key consists of $P \times Q$
- In RSA, the public is a bit more involved.

The Essence of RSA

- It is hard to factor a given large number.
- Factoring is believed not to be in P.
- We are making use of intractability!
- If we would have a fast factoring algorithm, RSA would come apart!

Next Week

- Artificial Intelligence
- Summary of course