ALGORITHMS
AND
DATA STRUCTURES

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http://www.princeton.edu/~cos226
COS 226 course overview

What is COS 226?
- Intermediate-level survey course.
- Programming and problem solving, with applications.
- **Algorithm**: method for solving a problem.
- **Data structure**: method to store information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>topic</th>
<th>data structures and algorithms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>data types</strong></td>
<td>stack, queue, bag, union-find, priority queue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>sorting</strong></td>
<td>quicksort, mergesort, heapsort, radix sorts</td>
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<td><strong>searching</strong></td>
<td>BST, red-black BST, hash table</td>
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<td><strong>graphs</strong></td>
<td>BFS, DFS, Prim, Kruskal, Dijkstra</td>
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<td><strong>strings</strong></td>
<td>KMP, regular expressions, tries, data compression</td>
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<td><strong>advanced</strong></td>
<td>B-tree, k-d tree, suffix array, maxflow</td>
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Why study algorithms?

Their impact is broad and far-reaching.

Internet. Web search, packet routing, distributed file sharing, ...

Biology. Human genome project, protein folding, ...

Computers. Circuit layout, file system, compilers, ...

Computer graphics. Movies, video games, virtual reality, ...

Security. Cell phones, e-commerce, voting machines, ...

Multimedia. MP3, JPG, DivX, HDTV, face recognition, ...

Social networks. Recommendations, news feeds, advertisements, ...

Physics. N-body simulation, particle collision simulation, ...

...
Why study algorithms?

Their impact is broad and far-reaching.

Mysterious algorithm was 4% of trading activity last week
October 11, 2012

A single mysterious computer program that placed orders — and then subsequently canceled them — made up 4 percent of all quote traffic in the U.S. stock market last week, according to the top tracker of high-frequency trading activity.

The motive of the algorithm is still unclear, CNBC reports.

The program placed orders in 25-millisecond bursts involving about 500 stocks, according to Nanex, a market data firm. The algorithm never executed a single trade, and it abruptly ended at about 10:30 a.m. ET Friday.

“My guess is that the algo was testing the market, as high-frequency frequently does,” says Jon Najarian, co-founder of TradeMonster.com. “As soon as they add bandwidth, the HFT crowd sees how quickly they can top out to create latency.” (Read More: Unclear What Caused Kraft Spike: Nanex Founder.)
Why study algorithms?

Old roots, new opportunities.

- Study of algorithms dates at least to Euclid.
- Formalized by Church and Turing in 1930s.
- Some important algorithms were discovered by undergraduates in a course like this!
Why study algorithms?

For intellectual stimulation.

“For me, great algorithms are the poetry of computation. Just like verse, they can be terse, allusive, dense, and even mysterious. But once unlocked, they cast a brilliant new light on some aspect of computing.” — Francis Sullivan

“An algorithm must be seen to be believed.” — Donald Knuth
Why study algorithms?

To become a proficient programmer.

“I will, in fact, claim that the difference between a bad programmer and a good one is whether he considers his code or his data structures more important. Bad programmers worry about the code. Good programmers worry about data structures and their relationships.”

— Linus Torvalds (creator of Linux)

“Algorithms + Data Structures = Programs.”

— Niklaus Wirth
Why study algorithms?

They may unlock the secrets of life and of the universe.

“Computer models mirroring real life have become crucial for most advances made in chemistry today.... Today the computer is just as important a tool for chemists as the test tube.”

— Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
(Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2013)

Martin Karplus, Michael Levitt, and Arieh Warshel
Why study algorithms?

To solve problems that could not otherwise be addressed.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua7YIN4eL_w
Why study algorithms?

Everybody else is doing it.

% sort -rn PU2013-14.txt

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<td>ECO 100</td>
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<td>Introduction to Programming Systems</td>
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Why study algorithms?

For fun and profit.
Why study algorithms?

- Their impact is broad and far-reaching.
- Old roots, new opportunities.
- For intellectual stimulation.
- To become a proficient programmer.
- They may unlock the secrets of life and of the universe.
- To solve problems that could not otherwise be addressed.
- Everybody else is doing it.
- For fun and profit.

Why study anything else?