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.