Course Outline

- **Goals:**
  1. Learn the commonly used data structures
  2. To learn how to measure the merits of these data structures
  3. To learn/reinforce the concept that every data structure has costs and benefits

- **Methodology:**
  - Algorithm analysis techniques
  - Algorithm design techniques
  - Implementation/analysis of data structures:
    - Lists, stacks, and queues
    - Trees
    - Hashing
    - Priority queues (heaps)
    - Sorting
    - Graphs

Why Study Data Structures?

Any organization for a collection of records can be searched, processed in any order, or modified.

- Data structures organize data:
  - Good choice: more efficient programs
  - Bad choice: poor program performance
    - The choice can make a difference between the program running in a few seconds or many days

- Justification: over time, there are
  - More powerful computers
  - More complex applications
  - Complex tasks unlike everyday experience

- Characteristics of a problem’s solution
  - Efficient: if it solves problem within resource constraints
    - Time
    - Space
  - Cost: amount of resources a solution consumes
Why Study Algorithms?

- Algorithms solve problems
  - Good choice: more efficient programs
  - Bad choice: poor program performance
- Example:
  - Selection problem: find the largest \( k \) out of \( N \) integers
  - Easy algorithm: sort all integers, then list the first (or last) \( k \)
  - Better algorithm: sort first \( k \) then read through the list...
- Different algorithms perform better on different inputs
- Input size can also affect the performance

Algorithm Design Techniques

Most chapters focus on implementation of algorithms. The design of algorithms is also an important focus.

- Types of algorithms:
  - Greedy algorithms
  - Divide and Conquer
  - Dynamic programming
  - Randomized algorithms
  - Backtracking
Abstract Data Types

- Basic definitions:
  - type: a set of objects
  - data item or element: a piece of information or a record
  - member: a data item is said to be a member of a data type
  - simple data item: a data item containing no subparts.
  - aggregate data item: a data item that may contain several pieces of information
  - abstract data type: a type and a collection of operations to manipulate that type

  ADTs are mathematical abstractions; an ADT only mentions what is to be done, not how.

Data Structure

- A data structure is the physical implementation of an ADT.
  - Each ADT operation is implemented by one or more subroutines
  - Data structures are organizations for data in main memory

- File structures organize data on peripheral storage
Selecting a Data Structure

- Analyze the problem to determine its basic operations
- Quantify the resource constraints for each operation
- Select a data structure best meeting these requirements
- Some questions to consider:
  - At what time(s) in the program run do inserts occur
  - Are deletes allowed?
  - Is there any order to the data processing?

Algorithm/Data Structure Philosophy

- Each data structure requires:
  - space to store each item, including overhead
  - time to perform basic operations
  - programming effort
- Algorithms are closely related:
  - poor data structure choice can make higher complexity algorithm
  - good data structure choice can make the algorithm trivial
Problems, Algorithms, and Programs

What is the difference among these?

- Key questions that relate:
  - Can a problem be solved efficiently?
  - What is efficient?
  - Which algorithms are more efficient?
  - How to answer the above?
  - How to estimate the time required for a program
  - How to reduce the running time of a program
  - The consequences of careless use of recursion

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Problems

- **Problem**: a task to be performed
  - One view: a set of inputs and matching outputs
  - Problem definition includes resource constraints

- Problems are analogous to mathematical functions
  - **Function**: mapping of inputs (domain) to outputs (range)
  - The input to a function can vary:
    - single number
    - multiple numbers
    - set of information
  - **Parameters**: the values making up an input
  - A given input must always map to the same output
**Algorithms and Programs**

**Algorithm**: a method or process followed to solve a problem

- Algorithm transforms the input of a problem to its output

- Algorithm properties:
  1. It must be correct
  2. It must be composed of a series of concrete steps
  3. There can be no ambiguity about which step is next
  4. It must be finite in length
  5. It must terminate

- **Program**: an instance of an algorithm, written in some programming language