



Advanced Data Structures

An introduction



Topics

- Data structures
 - (review) stack, list, array, BST
 - (new) Trees, heaps, union-find, hash tables, specialized (for spatial & strings)
- Algorithm design & analysis
 - Sorting, graph algorithms
- Applications



So, what is a data structure?

A container for data that allows organized access and manipulation



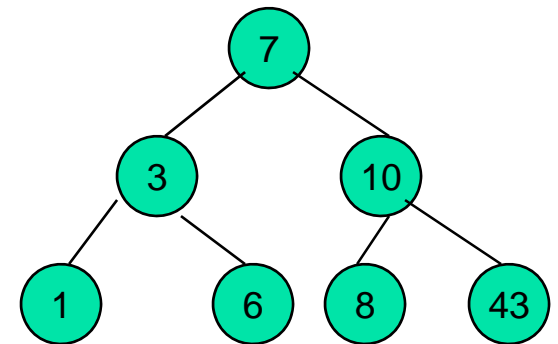
Why study data structures?

- Example problem
 - Given: a set of N numbers
 - Goal: search for number k
- Solution
 - Store numbers in an array of size N
 - Linearly scan array until k is found or array is exhausted
 - Number of checks
 - Best case: 1
 - Worst case: N
 - Average case: $N/2$

3	7	6	1	10	8	43
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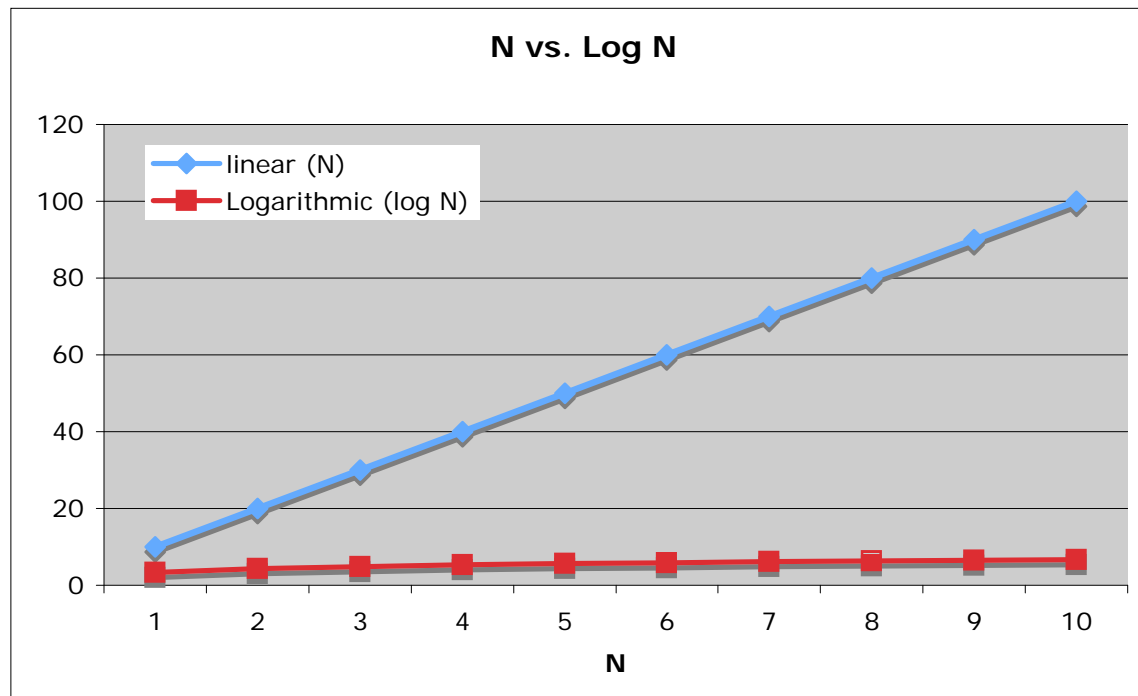
Why study data structures?

- Solution #2
 - Store numbers in a binary search tree
 - Search tree until find k
 - Number of checks
 - Best case: 1
 - Worst case: $\log_2 N$
 - Average case: $(\log_2 N)/2$



Analysis

- Does it matter?
 - N vs. $\log_2 N$





Analysis

- Assume
 - $N = 1,000,000,000$
 - 1 billion (Walmart transactions in 100 days)
 - 1 GHz processor = 10^9 cycles per second
- 1 cycle per transaction

- $O(N)$ algorithm
 - 1 billion transactions = > 1 billion clock cycles
- $O(\lg N)$ algorithm
 - 1 billion transactions => 30 clock cycles



Example 2

- Scheduling job in a printer
 - Write a code to manage the printer queue
 - Functions to support
 - Insert, delete
 - Special accommodations needed for:
 - Priority
 - Dynamic update
 - Scheduling challenges



Example 3

- Exploring the Facebook connection network
 - Write a code to tell who is connected to who (directly or indirectly) through your Facebook profile
 - Degrees of separation



Example 4

- Pattern matching
 - Write a code to do Google search on your web database



Summary

- Keep the data organized
- Choice of data structures matters
- Appropriate data structures ease design & improve performance
- Challenge
 - Design appropriate data structure & associated algorithms for a problem
 - Analyze to show improved performance