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التوثيق الالكتروني والميكروفيلم



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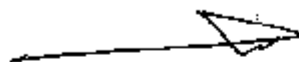
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ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

**LEAST COST INSERTION AND MERGING
AND THEIR APPLICATIONS**

A thesis submitted to the
Department of Computer Science and Automatic Control
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Science

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Abstract

Algorithms for achieving the least number of comparisons in insertion and merging are discussed .

First the problem of insertion of an element in a list of elements with different probability values is introduced. known optimal algorithms are presented and compared with old and new heuristic algorithms.

Next the problem of merging $(n,2)$ elements is discussed and a new optimal algorithm reaching the theoretical bound and depending on a geometric presentation of the problem is presented.

Based on this last algorithm the problem of inserting an element in a two_dimensional figure is introduced . New heuristic algorithms are proposed . and their complexities are discussed .

Finally extensions to the $(n,3)$ and (n,m) merging problems, geometrical applications and new multi_dimensional insertion algorithms are introduced .

Table of contents

Chapter 1 : Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 An overview	4
Chapter 2 : One_dimensional insertion	5
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Maximum information algorithm	8
2.2.1 Algorithm	8
2.2.2 Analysis	8
2.3 Huffman like algorithm	9
2.3.1 Definitions	9
2.3.2 Algorithm	10
2.3.3 Example	11
2.3.4 Analysis	12
2.3.5 Performance of the algorithm	12
2.4 Modification to the Huffman_like algorithm	13
2.4.1 Algorithm	14
2.4.2 Points on the algorithm	14
2.4.3 Example	14

2.5 Hu_Tucker algorithm	16
2.5.1 Algorithm	16
2.5.2 Analysis	17
2.5.3 Example	17
2.6 An optimal recursive algorithm	19
2.6.1 Definitions	19
2.6.2 Algorithm	20
2.6.3 Analysis	20
 Chapter 3 : Reaching the bound in the $(2,n)$ merging problem	22
3.1 introduction	23
3.2 Repeated binary insertion	24
3.3 Binary merge	24
3.3.1 Algorithm	25
3.3.2 Analysis	25
3.4 Graham's recurrence relation	26
3.5 A geometric Presentation	27
3.6 Algorithm	33
3.7 Proofs	36
3.8 Examples	40

Chapter 4 : Searching in two dimensional_arrays 46

4.1 Introduction	47
4.2 Maximum information algorithm	49
4.2.1 Algorithm	49
4.2.2 Example	50
4.2.3 Analysis	52
4.2.3 Applying the algorithm on merging (2.0)	53
4.2.4.1 Triangle	53
4.2.4.2 Trapezium	54
4.2.4.3 Figure c	56
4.2.4.4 Rectangle	60
4.2.4.5 Comparisons	61
4.3 Huffman_like two_dimensional searching algorithm	63
4.3.1 Algorithm	63
4.3.2 Example	65
4.3.3 Analysis	68

Chapter 5 : Extensions of the (n,2) merging problem 70

5.1 Introduction	71
5.2 Two_dimensional insertion in special geometrical figures	72
5.2.1 Rectangle	72
5.2.2 Right angled isosceles triangle	73
5.2.3 Symmetrical figures	73
5.2.4 A special figure	75

5.3 Merging $(n,3)$ elements and insertion in three dimensional figures	76
5.3.1 Merging $(n,3)$ elements	76
5.3.2 Examples for three dimensional figures	77
5.3.2.1 Cuboid	77
5.3.2.2 Right angled Prism with a right angled isosceles base	78
5.4 Merging (n,m) elements	79
5.4.1 Binary merge	79
5.4.1.1 Algorithm	80
5.4.1.2 Complexity of the algorithm	80
5.4.2 Maximum information algorithm	81
5.4.2.1 main idea	81
5.4.2.2 Explanatory diagrams	81
5.4.2.3 Algorithm	84
5.4.3 Modified maximum information algorithm	85
5.4.4 comparisons	85
5.4.5 Example	90
5.5 Merging (n,m) elements given probability values	93
5.5.1 Introduction	93
5.5.2 Algorithm	93
5.6 Future work	95
Appendix	96
References	99

Chapter 1

Introduction

Introduction

1.1 Introduction [1]

Although abandoned for several years , the problems of insertion, sorting and merging in the least number of comparisons is an area full of unanswered questions. Despite the fact that the theoretical bound is known in all cases , the actual minimum is only known in just very few cases .

For example in the problem of sorting n elements . the theoretical minimum is $\log(n!)$ but the actual minimum is only known for values up to $n=14$. For values greater than 14 , it is still not known whether the published values obtained by FORD and JOHNSON in 1959 are indeed the best possible . Prior to 1959 , the best known results were those obtained ten years earlier in 1949 .

In merging algorithms of n and m elements , the widely used algorithm using $n+m-1$ comparisons is only optimum when m is close to n .

For most values optimal solutions are not known , except when they coincide with the theoretical minimum.