Tools and Techniques

Introduction

Tools you can use individually: Test frameworks, memory checkers

The size of the task: Building software for a collaboration
What do you need to do the job?

I need to calculate the sum of prime numbers in the 1st 100 integers:

```c
int sumPrimes() {
    int sum = 0;
    for ( int i=1; i < 100; i++ ) { // loop over possible primes
        bool prime = true;
        for (int j=1; j < 10; j++) { // loop over possible factors
            if (i % j == 0) prime = false;
        }
        if (prime) sum += i;
    }
    return sum;
}
```

This is quick, throw-away code

- Not well structured, efficient, general or robust
- I understand what I intended, because I wrote it just now

Already, I need an editor, compiler, linker, and probably a debugger
int sumPrimes() {
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i=1; i < 100; i++) {  // loop over possible primes
        bool prime = true;
        for (int j=1; j < 10; j++) {  // loop over possible factors
            if (i % j == 0) prime = false;
        }
        if (prime) sum += i;
    }
    return sum;
}
“Don’t worry, I’ll remember what I changed.”

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“The answer looks OK, lets move on.”

“Does anybody know where this value came from?”

“Your #%@!& code broke again!”
“Don’t worry, I’ll remember what I changed.”

“The answer looks OK, let’s move on.”

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“Your #*%!& code broke again!”
Projects come in different sizes

My sample program is a pretty small project!
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It can be done with a simple technique:

But that won’t solve larger problems well
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Projects come in different sizes

A larger project may need a different approach

• Those tend to require more effort up front

What do you do when your project grows?
Projects come in different sizes

If you’re trying to solve a really large problem:
Projects come in different sizes

If you're trying to solve a really large problem:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size (arbitrary units)</th>
<th>Effort (arbitrary units)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Method 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10

**HOW TO WRITE GOOD CODE:**

1. **START PROJECT.**
2. **DO THINGS RIGHT OR DO THEM FAST?**
   - **RIGHT**
     - **CODE WELL**
     - **ARE YOU DONE YET?**
       - **NO**
         - **NO, AND THE REQUIREMENTS HAVE CHANGED.**
         - **THROW IT ALL OUT AND START OVER.**
       - **YES**
         - **DOES IT WORK YET?**
           - **NO**
             - **ALMOST, BUT IT'S A MASS OF KLUDGES AND SPAGHETTI CODE.**
           - **YES**
             - **GOOD CODE.**

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What has all this to do with us?

Our systems tend to be complex systems

- HEP tends to work at the limit of what we know how to do

“If you only have a hammer, wood screws look a lot like nails” - ??

“If you only have a screwdriver, nails are pretty useless” - Don Briggs
Larger projects have standard ways of doing things

To make it possible to communicate, you need a shared vocabulary
  • Standards for languages, data storage, etc.

For people to work together, you have to control integrity of source code
  • E.g. SVN/Git to provide versioning and control of source code

Just building a large system can be difficult
  • Need tools for creating releases, tracking problems, etc.
But individual effort is still important!

You can’t build a great system from crummy parts

You want your efforts to make a difference

Good tools & technique can help you do a better job

“Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it.” - Gandhi

“I’ve got it, too, Omar ... a strange feeling like we’ve just been going in circles.”
Tools you can use

Knowing whether it works - JUnit, CppUnit, PyTest etc
Toward an informed way of experimental working

Progress often comes from small, experimental changes

- Allows you to make quick progress on little updates
- Without risk to the big picture

How do you know those steps are progress?

Somewhere, something went terribly wrong
Testing

But don’t you see Gerson - if the particle is too small and too short-lived to detect, we can’t just take it on faith that you’ve discovered it.”
The role of testing tools

Remember our original example: sum of primes in first 100 integers

• Simple routine, written in a few minutes
• “So simple it must be right”

```c
int sumPrimes() {
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    }
    return sum;
}
```

Donald Knuth: “I have only proved it correct, I have not tested it”
The role of testing tools

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```cpp
int sumPrimes(int n) {
    int sum = 0;
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- (Assume) valuable enough to reuse and extend
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```

• (Assume) valuable enough to reuse and extend

But it’s not right...

"Study it forever and you'll still wonder. Fly it once and you'll know."
- Henry Spencer (aeronautical expert)
How to test?

Simplest: Run it and look at the output
- Gets boring fast!
- How often are you willing to do this? Really carefully?

More realistic: Code test routines to provide inputs, check outputs
- Can become ungainly

Most useful: A test framework
- Great feedback
- Better control over testing
Each time you write a function:

```java
public class FindVals {
    /** Return sum of primes up through n */
    public int sumPrimes(int n);
}
```

You should write a test:

```java
public void testOneIsNotPrime() {
    FindVals s = new FindVals();
    Assert.assertEquals(0, s.sumPrimes(1));
}
```

Plus tests for other cases...

```java
public void testTwoIsPrime() {
    MyClass s = new MyClass();
    Assert.assertEquals(2, s.sumPrimes(2));
}
```
Embed that in a framework

Gather together all the tests

```java
// define test suite
public static Test suite() {
    // all tests from here down in hierarchy
    TestSuite suite = new TestSuite(TestFindVals.class);
    return suite;
}
```

Start the testing

- To just run the tests:
  `junit.textui.TestRunner.main(TestFindVals.class.getName());`
- Via a GUI:
  `junit.swingui.TestRunner.main(TestFindVals.class.getName());`

And that’s it!
Running the tests
Running the tests
How JUnit works - one test:

```java
public void testOneIsNotPrime() {
    SumPrimes s = new SumPrimes();
    Assert.assertEquals("check sumPrimes(1)", 0, s.sumPrimes(1));
}
```

This defines a “method” (procedure) that runs one test (line 1 through 4)

• JUnit3 treats as a test procedure any method whose name starts with “test”
• JUnit4 lets you annotate methods with @Test to mark them

Line 2 creates an object “s” to be tested

Line 3 checks that sumPrimes(1) returns a 0

    Assert is a class that checks conditions
    assertEquals("message", valueExpected, valueToTest) does the check
    If the check fails, the message and observed values are displayed
Some checks pass: \texttt{sumPrimes(1) == 0}
And another: \texttt{sumPrimes(3) == 2}
Alternate view with more info:
int sumPrimes(int n) {
    int sum = 0;
    for ( int i=1; i < n; i++ ) {  // loop over possible primes
        bool prime = true;
        for (int j=1; j < 10; j++) { // loop over possible factors
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}
Results of testing “SumPrimes”

int sumPrimes(int n) {
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Results of testing “SumPrimes”

Should “max” be included or not?

All prime numbers are divisible by one, that’s OK

If you divide a number by itself, the remainder is zero
Results of testing "SumPrimes"

1 is not a prime, doesn’t include

```c
int sumPrimes(int n) {
    int sum = 0;
    for (int i=1; i < n; i++) {  // loop over possible primes
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Lesson 1: It's not easy to understand somebody else's code

• Assumptions, reasons are hard to see
  “Is one a prime number?”
  Sometimes bugs are hidden by other ones

int sumPrimes(int n) {
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Results of testing “SumPrimes”

Lesson 1: It's not easy to understand somebody else's code

- Assumptions, reasons are hard to see
  - “Is one a prime number?”
  - Sometimes bugs are hidden by other ones

Lesson 2: Better structure would have helped

- Separate “isPrime” from counting loop to allow separate understanding
  - Makes code checking for primes clearer, easier to test
  - Lets you check counting loop independently

```c
int sumPrimes(int n) {
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Should “max” be included or not?

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Integers 1 is not a prime, doesn’t include

Should “max” be included or not?

All prime numbers are divisible by one, that’s OK

If you divide a number by itself, the remainder is zero
Why?

One test isn’t worth very much
• Maybe saves you a couple seconds once or twice

But consistently building the tests as you build the code does have value
• Have you ever broken something while fixing a bug? Adding a feature?
  Tests remember what the program is supposed to do
• A set of tests is definitive documentation for what the code does
• Alternating between writing tests and code keeps the work incremental
  Keeping the tests running prevents ugly surprises
• And it’s very satisfying!

“Extreme Programming” advocates writing the tests before the code
• Large projects require structure
• Individuals report excellent results
The art of testing

What makes a good test?

• Not worth testing something that’s too simple to fail
• Some functionality is too complex to test reliably
• Best to test functionality that you understand, but can imagine failing
  If you’re not sure, write a test
  If you have to debug, write a test
  If somebody asks what it does, write a test

How big should a test be?

• A *Unit test is a unit of failure
  When a test fails, it stops and moves to the next test
  The pattern of failures can tell you what you broke

• Make lots of small tests so you know what still works

What about existing code?

• Probably not practical to sit down and write a complete set of tests
• But you can write tests for new code, modifications, when you have a question about what it does, when you have to debug it, etc
Avoiding memory problems - memprof et al
Memory-related problems

Read/write incorrectly
- Read from uninitialized memory
- Read/write via uninitialized pointer/ref
- Read/write past the valid range
- Read/write via a stale pointer/reference
  E.g. after deallocating memory

Memory management mistakes
- Deallocation of (currently) unowned memory
  Freeing something twice results in later overwrites
- Memory leaks
  Forgetting to free something results in unusable memory

Often cause “really hard to find” bugs
- Crashes, incorrect results - traceback, dump don’t show cause
- Occur far from the real cause - breakpoints don’t help
- Often intermittent

Note: Language choice reduces these, but doesn’t make them go away!
A better allocator (malloc) can find some of these

Standard GNU malloc has a run-time checking option:

```bash
$ a.out
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
$ setenv MALLOC_CHECK_1
$ a.out
malloc: using debugging hooks
free(): invalid pointer 0x8049840!
```

Why not always leave it set?

- Checking slows program significantly
- Too many errors?

3rd party tools exist to do an even better job

```c
char* new_key;
void* old_value;
int index = hashIndex(key);
for (last_entry = NULL, entry = ht[index];
    entry && strcmp(entry->key, key);
    last_entry = entry, entry = entry->next) {
}
```

```c
void testPutHash [testHash.c:84]
```
Specialized tools - leak checking

Automated, unambiguous identification of leaks is difficult

- “forgot to free” vs “haven’t freed yet” vs “program’s ending, don’t bother”
- “can no longer reference any part” vs “no references to the beginning”

But reading the code is not a reliable method either

- A leak is a mistake of omission, not commission
- Often requires cooperation to leak memory:
  Creator of allocated item may have no idea where it goes
  Consumer may not realize responsible for deallocation
  Doesn’t need to be deallocated
  Expects some third party to deallocate

Several approaches:

- “Print it all, and let the human sort it out”
- Provide a browser, let human reason about status of remaining memory
- Provide a suite of heuristics that can be tuned to the code’s structure
Example: memprof

memprof replaces the allocation library at runtime, provides simple GUI

- # of Allocations: 12
- Bytes / Allocation: 35.67
- Total Bytes: 428

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Caller</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0x804a410</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>__builtin_new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0x804a3b8</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>__builtin_new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0x804a3a8</td>
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<td>__builtin_new</td>
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<td>0x804a350</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>__builtin_new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0x804a340</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>__builtin_new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0x804a2e8</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>__builtin_new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0x804a2d8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>__builtin_new</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stack Trace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__builtin_new</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>/usr/src/redhat/BUILD/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__builtin_vec_new</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>/usr/src/redhat/BUILD/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub2(void)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>/u/ec/jake/CSC/simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>/u/ec/jake/CSC/simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>check_standard_fds</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>/usr/src/bs/BUILD/glib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_start</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do these actually work?

Replacement libraries

- E.g. a more careful malloc, perhaps automatically linked
- Can’t check individual load/store instructions

Source code manipulation

- Preprocessor inserts instrumentation before compilation
  - Can know about scope, variable accesses, control flow
  - But requires source code, is language specific

Object code insertion

- Process object code to recognize & instrument load/store instructions
  - Can efficiently check every use of memory
  - Specific to both architecture and compiler, hard to port

Yes, you can write your own code to do some of this

But do you really want to spend the time to do it well?
A small catalog of available memory tools

Free validity tests
- GNU C library - enable checking via MALLOC_CHECK_
- DMalloc - replacement library with instrumentation
- ElectricFence - checks for write outside proper boundaries
- AddressSanitizer - integrated with clang & gcc compiler to check operations
- valgrind - instruction-by-instruction checking

Free leak checkers
- Windows Leak Detector - runtime attach
- LeakTracer - compilation based
- Memprof
- MemCheck - part of Valgrind
- ccmalloc

Commercial code-check suites
- Purify (Rational Software)
- Insure (Parasoft)
How do you use these?

Big-bang approach is incredibly depressing
- Familiar products have lots of memory “errors”
- These swamp your own tiny efforts

Better: isolate your own code for initial checks
- Ties in with a test framework:
  “Does it work as expected?”
- Check often, fix incrementally

You still have to test “in the wild”
- Many errors are due to poor interfaces
- Learn from these and fix them!
When Data Arrives
Performance

More computing sins are committed in the name of efficiency (without necessarily achieving it) than for any other single reason - including blind stupidity - W.A. Wulf

Perceived performance is what really matters
- Is the system getting the job done or not?
- Function of resources, efficiency, scope, etc.

Most people can only effect efficiency
- That’s why people like to tune their programs to make them more efficient
- But it might not be the best way to get improvement
  People are expensive, often overloaded

But if you’re going to tune a program, you might as well do a good job

Reminder: Performance assumes correctness!
- You have to make sure the program still works after you tune it
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**Reminder: Performance assumes correctness!**

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Start by understanding the problem

“Show me what part is taking all the time!”
Need tools to get reliable performance info

Several ways to acquire data

• Your OS probably has high-level tools for checking machine status
top, lsof, vmstat
Tools available vary with OS type
  Linux tools: free, memalloc
  macOS: vm_stat, lsof
• C/C++ performance measurement tools: gprof, valgrind
• Java virtual machines can capture data at runtime

Several approaches:

• Periodic samples
  Use the procedure stack in each sample to figure out what’s being done
  Use statistical arguments to provide profiles
• Tracking call/return control flow
  Captures entire behavior, even for fast programs
  Requires instrumenting the code
• Processor-based instrumentation

Plus tools to make the data understandable
Sampling data looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rank</th>
<th>self</th>
<th>accum</th>
<th>count</th>
<th>trace method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>java/lang/StringBuffer.&lt;init&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26.51%</td>
<td>55.12%</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>java/lang/StringBuffer.&lt;init&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>24.42%</td>
<td>79.54%</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>java/lang/StringBuffer.&lt;init&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.62%</td>
<td>84.16%</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>java/lang/System.arraycopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.96%</td>
<td>88.12%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>java/lang/System.arraycopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.85%</td>
<td>91.97%</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>java/lang/System.arraycopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.66%</td>
<td>92.63%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringInline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.44%</td>
<td>93.07%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>java/lang/String.getChars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.33%</td>
<td>93.40%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>java/lang/StringBuffer.toString</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>java/lang/StringBuffer.append</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
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<td>0.22%</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringWithLocal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
<td>94.28%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>java/lang/StringBuffer.toString</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
<td>94.50%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>com/develop/demos/TestHprof.addToCat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
<td>94.72%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>java/lang/String.&lt;init&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
<td>94.94%</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
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<td>95.16%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>sun/misc/URLClassPath$2.run</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now what?
Now what?

What you have: How often some function was running
What you want: “Improve this place first”
Now what?

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What you want: “Improve this place first”

Is this a poor algorithm?
Now what?

What you have: How often some function was running
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Is this asking for too much work?

Is this a poor algorithm?
Now what?

What you have: How often some function was running
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Now what?

What you have: How often some function was running
What you want: “Improve this place first”

Which caller is causing for all this work?
Tools to help understand performance info

Commercial performance tools tend to have powerful analysis features
  • This is why people are willing to pay so much for them...

PerfAnal, gprof as low-end examples for exercises
  Good for teaching, but better tools exist for real use

Gives four views of the program behavior
  • Top down look
    How is each routine spending its time
  • Bottom up look
    Who is asking this routine to spend time?
  • Detail within each function by line number
    How is time spent in each function?
      including calls to others
      not including calls, just this line
    How can we localize how time is spent?
Top-down view of the program

How is the routine spending its time?

Method Times by Caller (times inclusive): 909 ticks

- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.main: 93.73% (852 inclusive / 0 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.<init>: 93.73% (852 inclusive / 727 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringInline: 35.20% (320 inclusive / 6 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeString: 32.67% (297 inclusive / 0 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.addToCat: 32.67% (297 inclusive / 2 exclusive)

Method Times by Caller (times inclusive): 909 ticks

- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.main: 93.73% (852 inclusive / 0 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringInline: 35.20% (320 inclusive / 6 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.<init>: 33.22% (302 inclusive / 2 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.toString: 0.88% (8 inclusive / 2 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.append: 0.44% (4 inclusive / 3 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeWithStringLocal: 30.03% (273 inclusive / 0 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeString: 28.05% (255 inclusive / 0 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.addString: 28.05% (255 inclusive / 0 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.append: 0.11% (1 inclusive / 0 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.<init>: 93.73% (852 inclusive / 727 exclusive)
Bottom-up view

Who is asking this routine to spend time?

Method Times by Callee (times inclusive): 909 ticks

- `com/develop/demos/TestHprof.main: 93.73% (852 inclusive)`
- `java/lang/StringBuffer.<init>: 93.73% (852 inclusive)`
- `com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringInline: 33.22% (302 inclusive)`
- `com/develop/demos/TestHprof.addToCat: 31.79% (289 inclusive)`
- `com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeString: 31.79% (289 inclusive)`
- `com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringWithLocal: 28.71% (261 inclusive)`
- `com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringInline: 35.20% (320 inclusive)`
- `com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeString: 32.67% (297 inclusive)`
Within a member function

Method Times by Line Number (times inclusive): 909 ticks

- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.main: 93.73% (852 inclusive)
  - (TestHprof.java:57): 35.20% (320 inclusive)
  - (TestHprof.java:58): 30.03% (273 inclusive)
  - (TestHprof.java:56): 28.05% (255 inclusive)
  - (TestHprof.java:59): 0.33% (3 inclusive)
  - (TestHprof.java:64): 0.11% (1 inclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.<init>: 93.73% (852 inclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringInline: 35.20% (320 inclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeString: 32.67% (297 inclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.addToCat: 32.67% (297 inclusive)

Method Times by Line Number (times exclusive): 909 ticks

- java/lang/StringBuffer.<init>: 79.98% (727 exclusive)
  - (StringBuffer.java:120): 79.54% (723 exclusive)
  - (StringBuffer.java:135): 0.33% (3 exclusive)
  - (StringBuffer.java:134): 0.11% (1 exclusive)
- java/lang/System.arraycopy: 12.54% (114 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.append: 1.65% (15 exclusive)
- java/lang/String.getChars: 0.99% (9 exclusive)
- java/lang/StringBuffer.toString: 0.66% (6 exclusive)
- com/develop/demos/TestHprof.makeStringInline: 0.66% (6 exclusive)
- java/lang/String.<init>: 0.55% (5 exclusive)
How do you use this?

Two approaches:

• Make often-used routines faster
• Call slow routines less often

But it has to stay correct!

• Start by working in small steps
Sometimes you need to think big thoughts

Not all problems will be solved with an incremental approach

• “Do we have to do this?”
• “Is there a better way to do this?”
Traditional example: Sorting a new deck of cards
Traditional example: Sorting a new deck of cards

Method 1: Pattern recognition

• There are a finite number of possible arrangements
• Find which one you have, and then reorder
• $52! = 4 \times 10^{66}$ so will need about $52/2 \times 4 \times 10^{66}/2$ comparisons
Traditional example: Sorting a new deck of cards

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  • There are a finite number of possible arrangements
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  • $52! = 4 \times 10^{66}$ so will need about $\frac{52}{2} \times 4 \times 10^{66}/2$ comparisons

Method 2: Bubble sort
  • Scan through, finding the smallest number
  • Then repeat, scanning through the $N-1$ that’s left
  • Cost is $O(N^2)$ “sum of numbers from 1 to $N$” = $\frac{52 \times (52+1)}{2} = 1.4 \times 10^3$
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**Method 3: Better sorts - Shell sort, syncsort, split sort, ...**
- Even for arbitrary data, better sort algorithms exist
- $O(N \log N) = k \times 52 \times 5.7 = k \times 300$, where “k” is time per operation
- For N large, important gain regardless of k
- As ideas improve, k has come down from 5 to about $1.2 = 360$
Traditional example: Sorting a new deck of cards

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Method 4: Bin sort (“Solitaire sort”)
- Use knowledge that there are 52 specific items
- Throw each card into the right bin with 52 calculations
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**Method 4: Bin sort  (“Solitaire sort”)**
- Use knowledge that there are 52 specific items
- Throw each card into the right bin with 52 calculations

**Method 5: New decks are already sorted  (No operations!)**
Telling pions from kaons via Cherenkov light

Pions & Kaons have similar interactions in matter, differ in mass

Particles moving faster than light in a medium (glass, water) emit light
  • Angle is related to velocity
  • Light forms a cone

Focus it onto a plane, and you get a circle: single muon events
Radius of the reconstructed circle give particle type:
How to make this fit?

Space inside a detector is very tight, and the ring needs space to form. BaBar used “DIRC” geometry of multiple bars:

Quartz

Detector Surface

Particle Trajectory

θ_D

Side View
Good news: It fits!

Bad news: Rings get messy due to ambiguities in bouncing
Simple event with five charged particles:
Simple event with five charged particles:
Why is this hard?

Brute-force circle-finding is an $O(N^4)$ problem

- Basic algorithm: Are these four points consistent with a ‘circle’?

We catalog algorithms by how their cost grows with input size: $O(N)$
Realistic solution for DIRC?  (Avoiding $O(N^4)$)

Use what you know:

- Have track trajectories, know position and angle in DIRC bars
- All photons from a single track will have the same angle w.r.t. track
  No reason to expect that for photons from other tracks

For each track, plot angle between track and every photon - $O(N)$

- Don’t do pattern recognition with individual photons
- Instead, look for overall pattern you already know is present

Not perfect, but optimal?
Realistic solution for DIRC? (Avoiding $O(N^4)$)

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- Don’t do pattern recognition with individual photons
- Instead, look for overall pattern you already know is present

Not perfect, but optimal?
“But each operation is so much slower…”

How do I compare a “fast” $O(N^4)$ algorithm with a slow $O(N)$?

Many realistic problems deal with lots of data items

• Sharp coding is unlikely to save you a factor of $50^2$ per calculation
Where else do we see this pattern?

What do we do when we can’t figure out the exact answer?
Where else do we see this pattern?

What do we do when we can’t figure out the exact answer?
CMS Preliminary \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}, L = 5.05 \text{ fb}^{-1}; \sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}, L = 5.26 \text{ fb}^{-1} \)

- **Data**
- **Z+X**
- **Z\gamma^*,ZZ**
- **\( m_H = 126 \text{ GeV} \)**
Exercises

Test Frameworks
Performance Profiling
Memory Issues
Code Management
Release Management

Instructions to get started on Indigo (Tools & Techniques E1)

https://indico.cern.ch/event/769356/contributions/3197065/

You’ll work in pairs. Try to find somebody with complementary skills!

Learn about each topic, spend more time on the ones that interest you.

Speed is not the issue: no reward for first done, no complaint about last.

Think about what you’re doing: There are larger lessons to be found!
Goal: “An informed way of experimental working”

Find a way of doing good work

Use tools wisely

Think about what you’re doing