

4 Modelling Issues

What do you measure?

- ▶ Memory requirement
- ▶ Running time
- ▶ Number of comparisons
- ▶ Number of multiplications
- ▶ Number of hard-disc accesses
- ▶ Program size
- ▶ Power consumption
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How do you measure?

- ▶ Implementing and testing on representative inputs
 - ▶ How do you choose your inputs?
 - ▶ May be very time-consuming.
 - ▶ Very reliable results if done correctly.
 - ▶ Results only hold for a specific machine and for a specific set of inputs.
- ▶ Theoretical analysis in a specific **model of computation**.
 - ▶ Gives a **lower bound** like "this algorithm always runs in $\Omega(n^2)$ time".
 - ▶ Typically focuses on the **number of comparisons**.
 - ▶ Can this lower bound also apply to comparison-based sorting algorithms? Needs at least $\Omega(n \log n)$ comparisons in the worst case.

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Quick question: How many comparisons does this algorithm always take?

Typical answer: $\Theta(n^2)$

Can this lower bound be improved by using comparison-based sorting algorithms such as merge sort or quicksort? In the worst case?

Yes, it can!

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- ▶ Theoretical analysis in a specific model of computation.
 - ▶ Question: How long does this algorithm always run for?
 - ▶ Typical model: RAM
 - ▶ Can this lower bounds like very computer-aided sorting algorithms needs at least $\Omega(n \log n)$ comparisons in the worst case?

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- ▶ Theoretical analysis in a specific model of computation.
 - ▶ Complexity analysis: How fast algorithm always runs in worst case.
 - ▶ Time complexity: How long computation takes.
 - ▶ Space complexity: How much memory needed during computation.
 - ▶ Asymptotic analysis: How fast algorithm grows in worst case.

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The theoretical bounds are usually given by a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ that maps the **input length** to the running time (or storage space, comparisons, multiplications, program size etc.).

The **input length** may e.g. be

the size of the input (number of bits)

the number of arguments

the number of nodes in a tree

the number of elements in a set

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1. Calculate running time and storage space etc. on a simplified, idealized model of computation, e.g. Random Access Machine (RAM), Turing Machine (TM), . . .
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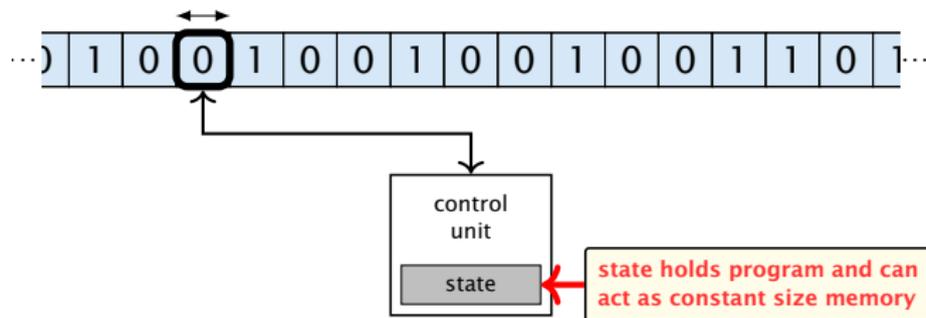
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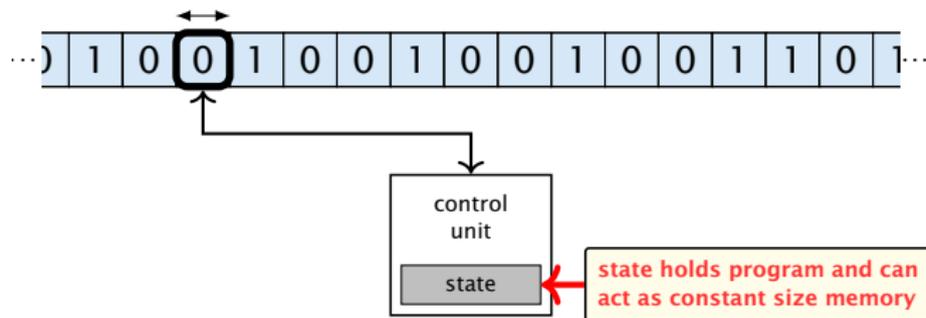
Turing Machine

- ▶ Very simple model of computation.
 - ▶ Only the “current” memory location can be altered.
 - ▶ Very good model for discussing computability, or polynomial vs. exponential time.
 - ▶ Some simple problems like recognizing whether input is of the form x^x , where x is a string, have quadratic lower bound.
- ⇒ Not a good model for developing efficient algorithms.



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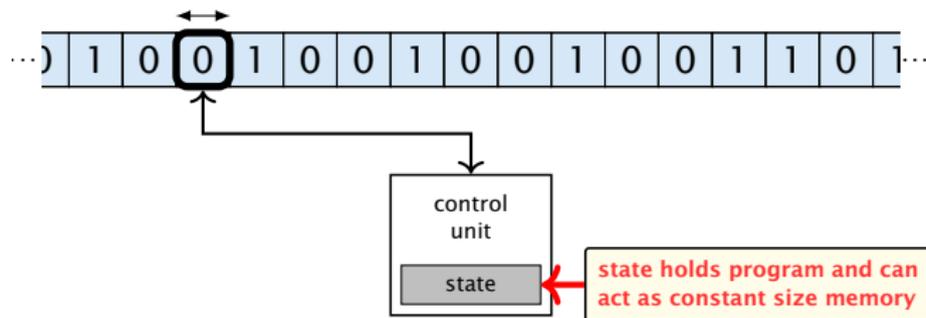
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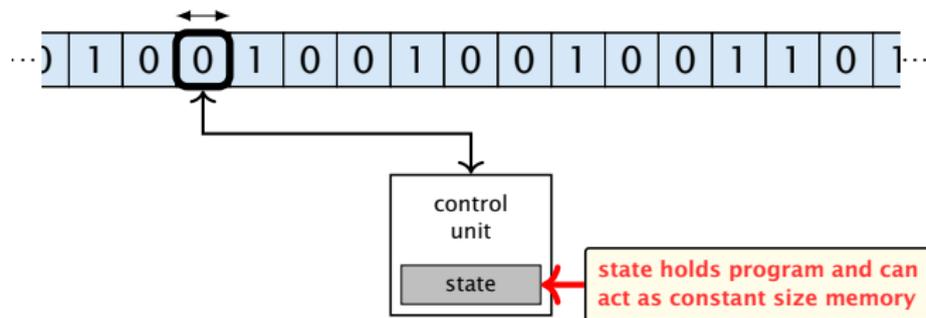
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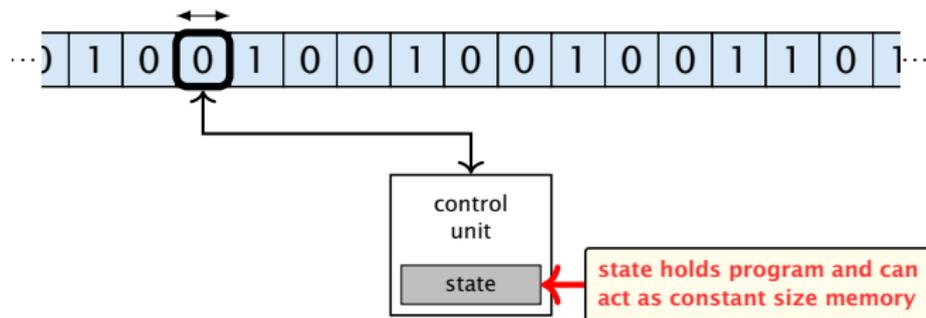
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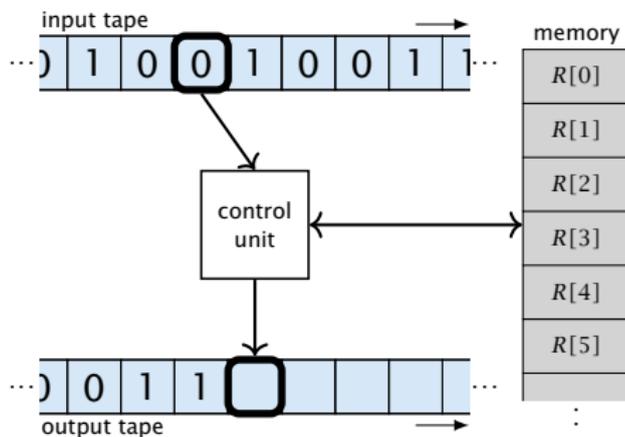
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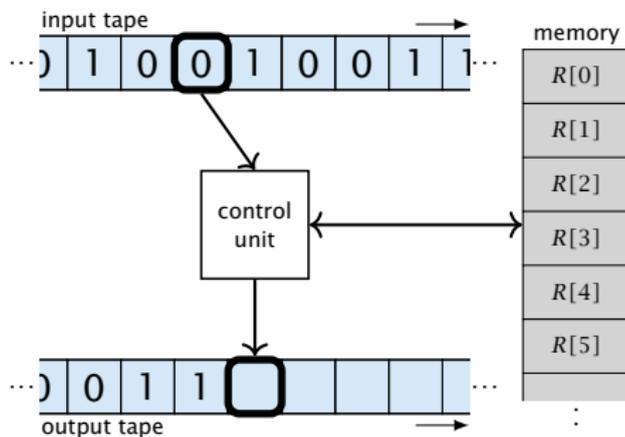
- ▶ Input tape and output tape (sequences of zeros and ones; unbounded length).
- ▶ Memory unit: infinite but countable number of registers $R[0], R[1], R[2], \dots$
- ▶ Registers hold integers.
- ▶ Indirect addressing.



Note that in the picture on the right the tapes are one-directional, and that a READ- or WRITE-operation always advances its tape.

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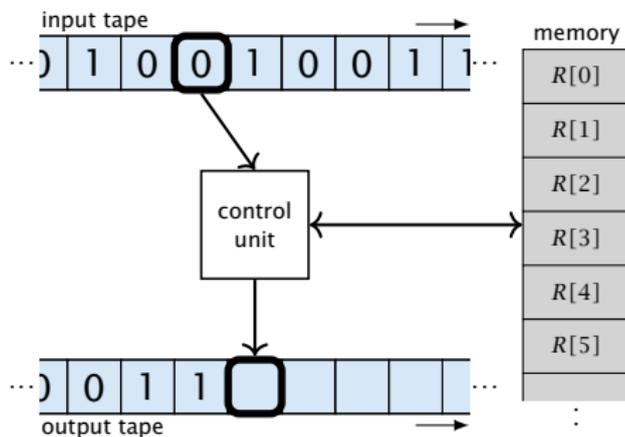
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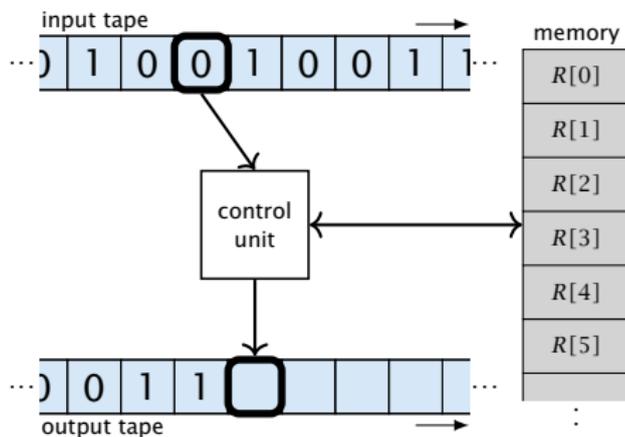
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 - ▶ $R[j] := R[R[i]]$
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- ▶ branching (including loops) based on comparisons
 - ▶ `jump x`
jumps to position x in the program;
sets instruction counter to x ;
reads the next operation to perform from register $R[x]$
 - ▶ `jumpz x R[i]`
jump to x if $R[i] = 0$
if not the instruction counter is increased by 1;
 - ▶ `jumpi i`
jump to $R[i]$ (indirect jump);
- ▶ arithmetic instructions: $+$, $-$, \times , $/$

The jump-directives are very close to the jump-instructions contained in the assembler language of real machines.

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Model of Computation

- ▶ **uniform** cost model

Every operation takes time 1.

- ▶ **logarithmic** cost model

The cost depends on the content of memory cells:

- ▶ The time for a step is equal to the largest operand involved.
- ▶ The amount of space required is equal to the length of the largest operand.
- ▶ The amount of space required is $O(\log n)$.

Bounded word RAM model: cost is uniform but the largest value stored in a register may not exceed 2^w , where usually $w = \log_2 n$.

The latter model is quite realistic as the word-size of a standard computer that handles a problem of size n must be at least $\log_2 n$ as otherwise the computer could either not store the problem instance or not address all its memory.

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Algorithm 1 RepeatedSquaring(n)

```
1:  $r \leftarrow 2$ ;  
2: for  $i = 1 \rightarrow n$  do  
3:    $r \leftarrow r^2$   
4: return  $r$ 
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- ▶ running time:
 - ▶ uniform model: n steps
 - ▶ logarithmic model: $1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1 = \Theta(2^n)$
- ▶ space requirement:

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- ▶ **best-case** complexity:

$$C_{bc}(n) := \min\{C(x) \mid |x| = n\}$$

Usually easy to analyze, but not very meaningful.

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more general: probability measure μ

$$C_{avg}(n) := \sum_{x \in I_n} \mu(x) \cdot C(x)$$

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