CMPSCI 611: Advanced Algorithms
Lecture 3: Fast Polynomial Multiplication

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Polynomial Multiplication

Problem: Suppose $A(x)$ and $B(x)$ are polynomials of degree $n - 1$:

\[
A(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \ldots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} \\
B(x) = b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + \ldots + b_{n-1}x^{n-1}
\]

Compute $C(x) = A(x)B(x)$. We’ll assume $n$ is a power of 2.

How long does naive algorithm take? $O(n^2)$
Representation of Polynomials

Definition
The coefficient representation (CR) of a polynomial the vector of coefficients. E.g., \((1, 3, -2, 1)\) is the coefficient representation of

\[ f(x) = 1 + 3x - 2x^2 + x^3 \]

Definition
The point-value representation (PVR) of a polynomial: for \(n\) distinct points \(x_0, \ldots, x_{n-1}\) the PVR of \(f\) is

\[ \{(x_0, f(x_0)), (x_1, f(x_1)), \ldots, (x_{n-1}, f(x_{n-1}))\} \]

E.g., \(f(x) \equiv \{(0, 1), (1, 3), (2, 7), (3, 19)\}\).

Lemma
Specifying the value of a function at \(n\) distinct points uniquely specifies a degree \(n - 1\) polynomial that goes through those points.
First attempt: Let $x_0, \ldots, x_{n-1}$ be distinct and suppose

$$A(x) \equiv \{(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_{n-1}, y_{n-1})\}$$
$$B(x) \equiv \{(x_0, z_0), (x_1, z_1), \ldots, (x_{n-1}, z_{n-1})\}$$

Then surely,

$$C(x) \equiv \{(x_0, y_0z_0), (x_1, y_1z_1), \ldots, (x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}z_{n-1})\}$$

Issue: While $C(x_i) = y_iz_i$, $C$ is a degree $2n - 2$ polynomial and we need $2n - 1$ distinct points to specify it.

Fix: Assume $A$ and $B$ are specified on at least $2n - 1$ distinct points.

Can compute PVR of $C$ is $\Theta(n)$ time. But what about coefficient representation?
Framework for Fast Polynomial Multiplication

- Input: Coefficient representation of $A(x)$ and $B(x)$
- Step 1: Transform into PVR by evaluating on at least $2n - 1$ points
- Step 2: Multiply polynomials to get $C(x)$ in PVR
- Step 3: Transform PVR of $C(x)$ back into CR.

Naive implementation of step 1 takes $O(n^2)$ time. We'll do steps 1 and 3 in $O(n \log n)$ time.

Important: We can choose any distinct points for the PVR. Let's use the complex roots of unity...
Complex Roots of Unity

Definition
The $n$-th roots of unity are the complex solutions to the equation $x^n = 1$, i.e.,
\[ e^{2\pi ik/n} = \cos \frac{2\pi k}{n} + i \sin \frac{2\pi k}{n} \quad k = 0, \ldots, n - 1. \]

Let $\omega_n = e^{2\pi i/n}$.

Lemma (Halving Lemma)
If $n$ is even, then the squares of the $n$-th roots of unity are two copies of the $n/2$-th roots of unity:
\[ \{(\omega_n^0)^2, \ldots, (\omega_n^{n-1})^2\} = \{\omega_n^0/2, \ldots, \omega_n^{n/2-1}\} \cup \{\omega_n^0/2, \ldots, \omega_n^{n/2-1}\} \]
Divide and Conquer for Polynomial Evaluation

- Write degree \( n - 1 \) polynomial to be evaluated in terms of two degree \( n/2 - 1 \) polynomials:

\[
A(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \ldots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} \\
= (a_0 + a_2x^2 + \ldots + a_{n-2}x^{n-2}) \\
+ x(a_1 + a_3x^2 + \ldots + a_{n-1}x^{n-2}) \\
= A_{\text{even}}(x^2) + xA_{\text{odd}}(x^2)
\]

- To evaluate \( A \) at \( n \)-th roots of unity, we evaluate \( A_{\text{even}} \) and \( A_{\text{odd}} \) at

\[x \in \{\omega_0^{n/2}, \omega_1^{n/2}, \ldots, \omega_{n/2}^{n/2-1}\}\]

- If \( T(n) \) is time to evaluate degree \( n - 1 \) poly at \( n \)-th roots of unity,

\[T(1) = \Theta(1) \quad \text{and} \quad T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n)\]

- Use Master Theorem to conclude that \( T(n) = \Theta(n \log n) \).
Input: Coefficient representation of $A(x)$ and $B(x)$

- Step 1: Transform into PVR by evaluating at $2n - 1$ points
- Step 2: Multiply polynomials to get $C(x)$ in PVR
- Step 3: Transform PVR of $C(x)$ back into CR.

We now know:

1. Step 1 can be done in $O(n \log n)$ time.
2. Step 2 can be done in $O(n)$ time.

It turns out that Step 3 is almost identical to Step 1!
Polynomial Evaluation and Interpolation

**Step 1 Revisited:** Transform \((a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_{n-1})\) to
\[
\{(\omega_n^0, y_0), (\omega_n^1, y_1), \ldots, (\omega_n^{n-1}, y_{n-1})\}
\]
where \(y_i = A(\omega_n^i)\). In other words, we need to evaluate:

\[
V_n \cdot \begin{pmatrix}
a_0 \\
a_1 \\
a_2 \\
\vdots \\
a_{n-1}
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
y_0 \\
y_1 \\
y_2 \\
\vdots \\
y_{n-1}
\end{pmatrix}
\]

where

\[
V_n = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\
1 & \omega_n & \omega_n^2 & \omega_n^3 & \cdots & \omega_n^{n-1} \\
1 & \omega_n^2 & \omega_n^4 & \omega_n^6 & \cdots & \omega_n^{2(n-1)} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
1 & \omega_n^{n-1} & \omega_n^{2(n-1)} & \omega_n^{3(n-1)} & \cdots & \omega_n^{(n-1)(n-1)}
\end{pmatrix}
\]
Polynomial Evaluation and Interpolation

Step 3 as inverse of Step 1: Need to transform

\[ \{(\omega_0^n, y_0), (\omega_1^n, y_1), \ldots, (\omega_{n-1}^n, y_{n-1})\} \]

into \((a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_{n-1})\) where \(y_i = A(\omega_i^n)\). In other words, we need

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
a_0 \\
a_1 \\
a_2 \\ \\
\vdots \\
a_{n-1}
\end{pmatrix} = V_n^{-1} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} y_0 \\
y_1 \\
y_2 \\
\vdots \\
y_{n-1}
\end{pmatrix}
\]

The inverse of \(V_n\) is just \(V_n\) with \(\omega_n\) replaced by \(\omega_n^{-1}\)

\[
V_n^{-1} = \frac{1}{n} \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \ldots & 1 \\
1 & \omega_n^{-1} & \omega_n^{-2} & \omega_n^{-3} & \ldots & \omega_n^{-1(n-1)} \\
1 & \omega_n^{-2} & \omega_n^{-4} & \omega_n^{-6} & \ldots & \omega_n^{-2(n-1)} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
1 & \omega_n^{-(n-1)} & \omega_n^{-(n-1)(n-2)} & \omega_n^{-(n-1)(n-3)} & \ldots & \omega_n^{-(n-1)(n-1)}
\end{pmatrix}
\]
Solving Step 3 Outline

- Need to compute:

\[ a_k = \frac{\hat{A}(\omega_n^{-k})}{n} \quad \text{for } k = 0, \ldots, n - 1 \]

where \( \hat{A}(x) = y_0 + y_1 x + \ldots + y_{n-1} x^{n-1} \)

- Rewrite \( \hat{A}(x) = \hat{A}_{\text{even}}(x^2) + x \hat{A}_{\text{odd}}(x^2) \)

- To evaluate \( \hat{A} \) on

\[ \{\omega_0^0, \omega_n^{-1}, \ldots, \omega_n^{-(n-1)}\} \]

it suffices to evaluate \( \hat{A}_{\text{even}} \) and \( \hat{A}_{\text{odd}} \) on

\[ \{\omega_0^{0}, \omega_n^{-1}, \ldots, \omega_n^{-(n/2-1)}\} \]

because Halving Lemma also applies to \( \omega_n^{-1} \).

- Step 3 can also be done in \( O(n \log n) \) steps.