

CMSC 351: Practice Questions for Midterm Exam

These are practice problems for the upcoming midterm exam. You will be given a sheet of notes for the exam. Also, go over your homework assignments. **Warning:** This does not necessarily reflect the length, difficulty, or coverage of the actual exam.

Problem 1. Do Problems 3.1-2 and 3.1-4 on page 50 of CLRS.

Problem 2. Show that $n^2 - 7n + 1 = \Theta(5n^2 + 6n - 10)$ using the definition of Θ given in class (do not use limits).

Problem 3. Use the iteration method to solve the following recurrences. You may assume n is “nice”. Prove your answers using mathematical induction.

- (a) $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n^3$, $T(1) = 1$.
- (b) $T(n) = T(\sqrt{n}) + 1$, $T(2) = 1$.
- (c) $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n \lg n$, $T(1) = 1$.
- (d) $T(n) = T(n - 3) + 5$, $T(1) = 2$.

Problem 4. Which of the above problems can be solved using the “Master Theorem” derived in class. Solve them exactly using the “Master Theorem”.

Problem 5. Show that

(a)

$$\frac{1}{2} \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j2^j} \leq 1$$

(b)

$$1 \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j^2} \leq 2$$

Problem 6. How many times on average must you flip six fair coins before you obtain exactly three heads and three tails?

Problem 7. Do Exercise 6.5-8 on page 142 of CLRS.

Problem 8. Do Problem 7-5 on pages 162-163 of CLRS.