

# Programming Abstractions

CS106B

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# Topics roadmap:

Previous classes:

- Recursion intro: factorial and stack frames (Friday)
- Designing recursive solutions: binary search and fractals (Monday)
- Loops + recursion: permutations and backtracking (Wednesday)

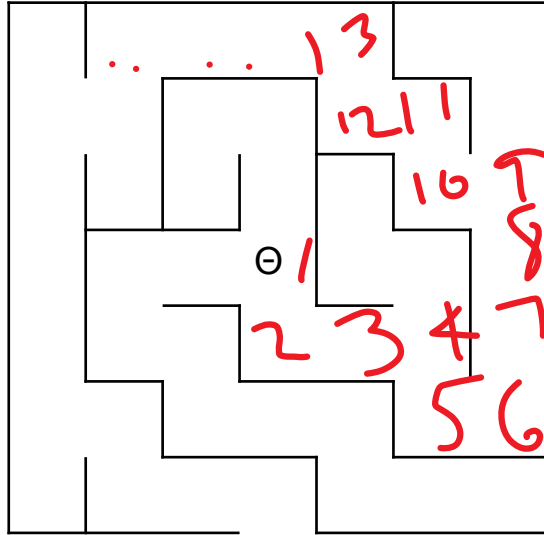
Today:

- Contrast: Word ladder and Maze solving
  - › Revisiting Wednesday's maze solving example
- Performance issues in recursion
- Big-O performance analysis

Monday:

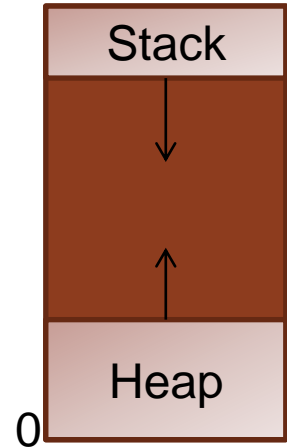
- More big-O performance analysis

## The stack



What is the deepest the Stack gets (number of stack frames) during the solving of this maze?

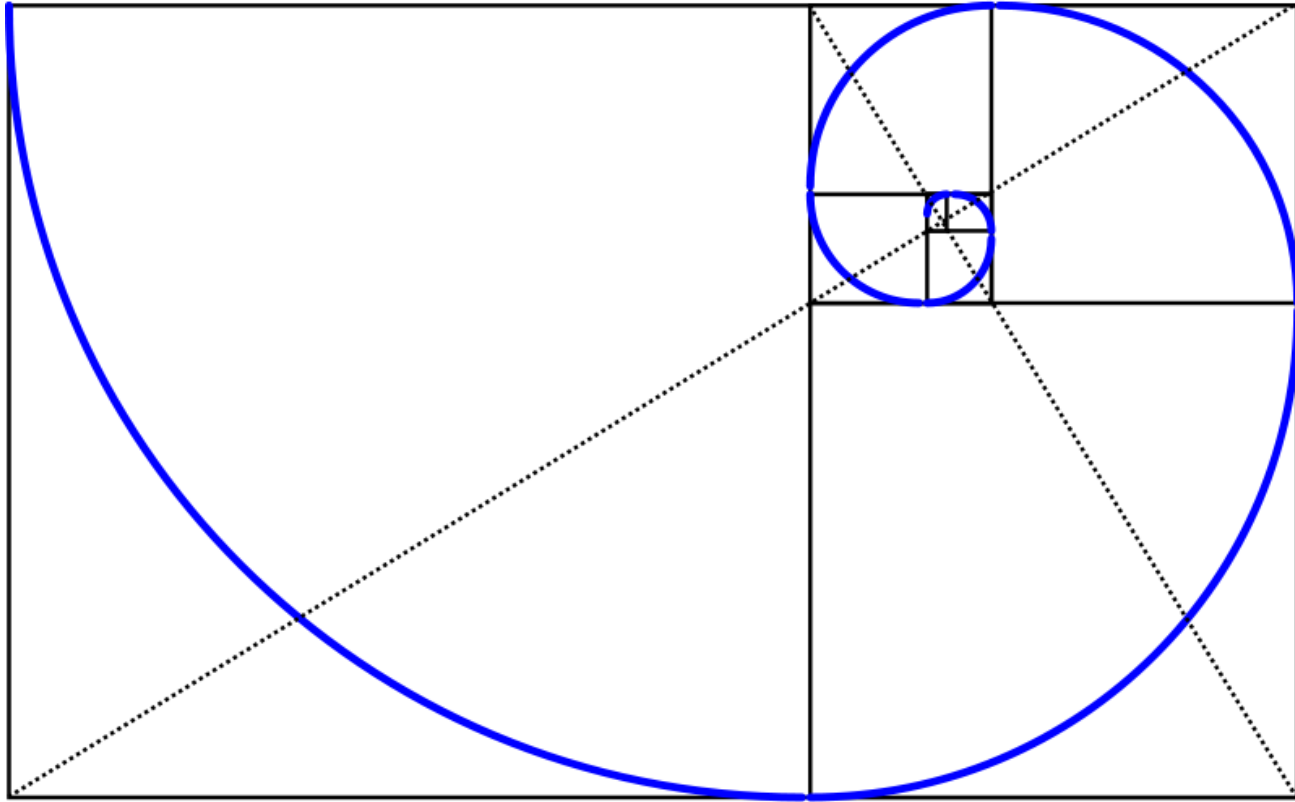
- A. Less than 5
- B. 5-10
- C. 11-20
- ☒ D. More than 20
- E. Other/none/more



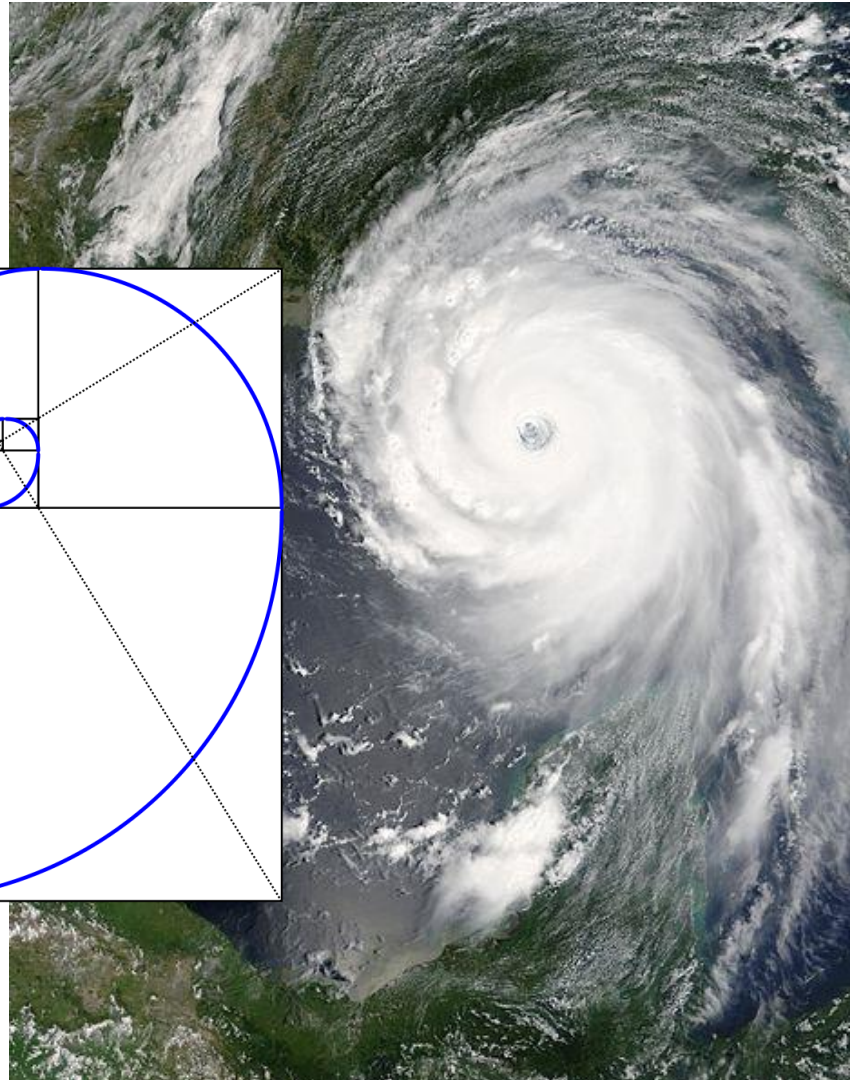
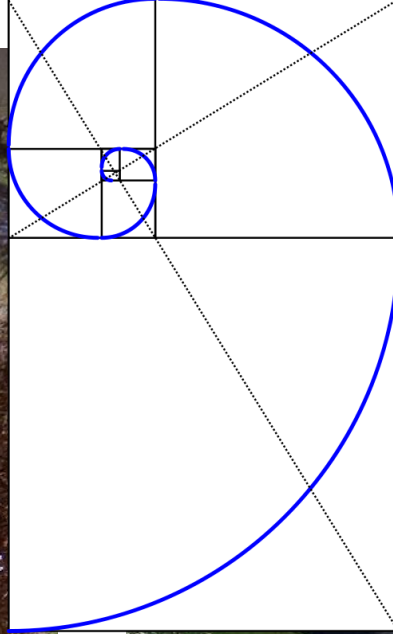
## Contrast: Recursive maze-solving vs. Word ladder

- With word ladder, you did **breadth-first search**
- Our recursive maze-solver uses **depth-first search**
- Both are possible for maze-solving!
- The contrast between these approaches is a theme that you'll see again and again in your CS career

# Fibonacci

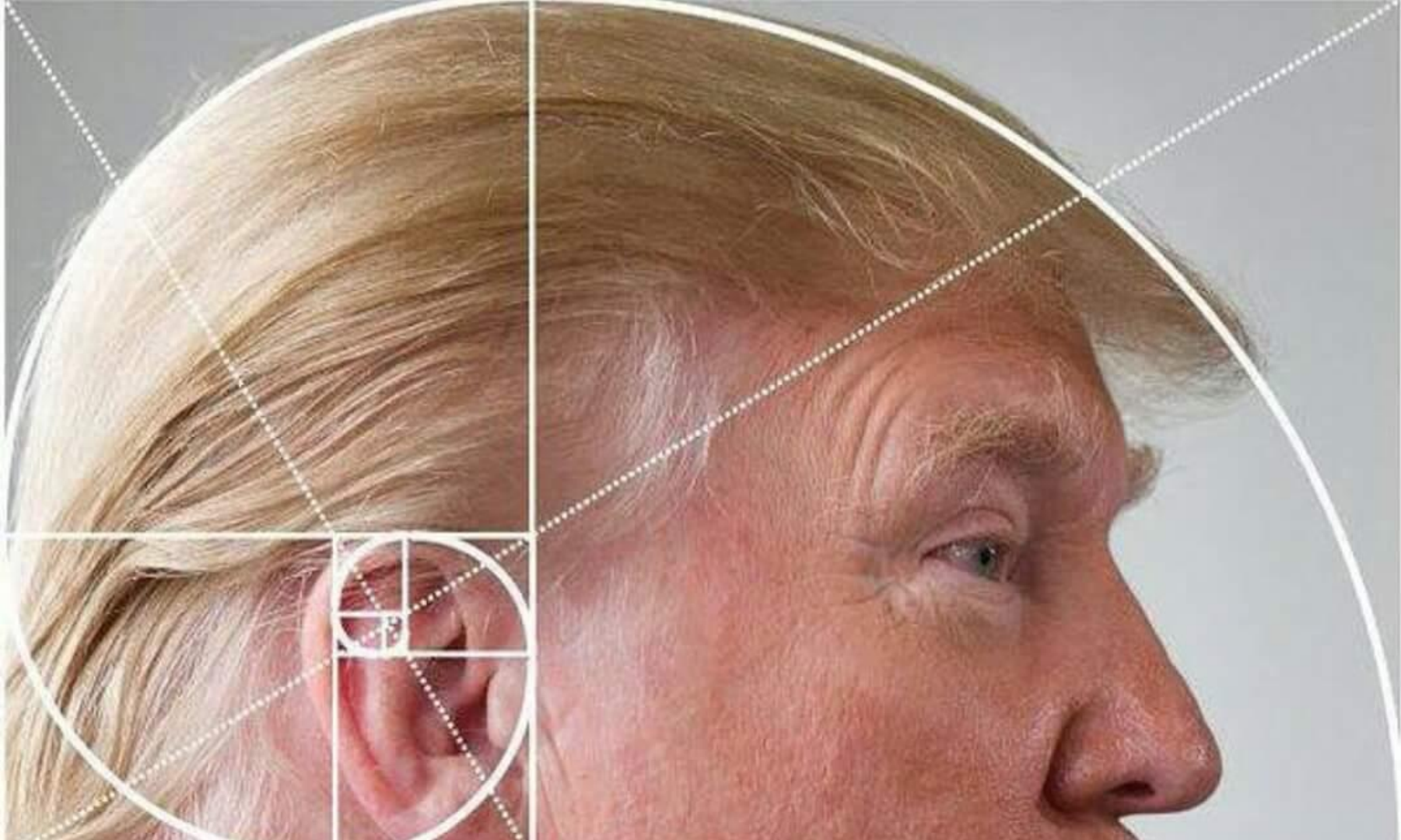


# Fibonacci in nature



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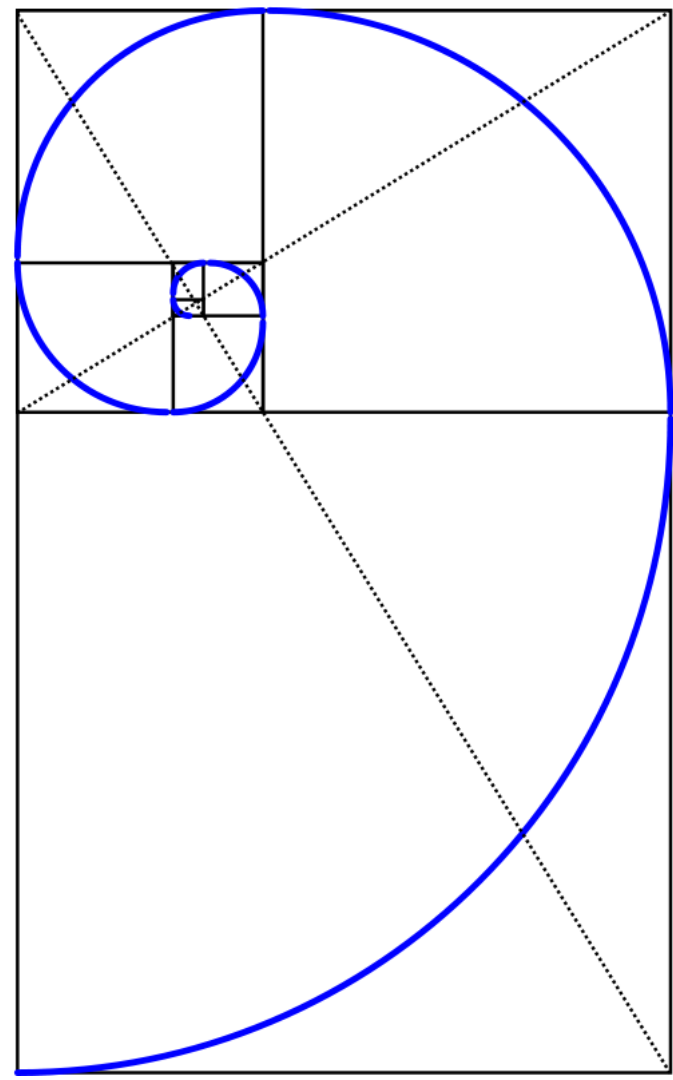
# Fibonacci

$$f(0) = 0$$

$$f(1) = 1$$

For all  $n > 1$ :

- $f(n) = f(n-1) + f(n-2)$





# Fibonacci

$$F(0) = 0$$

$$F(1) = 1$$

$$F(n) = F(n-1) + F(n-2) \quad \text{for } n > 1$$

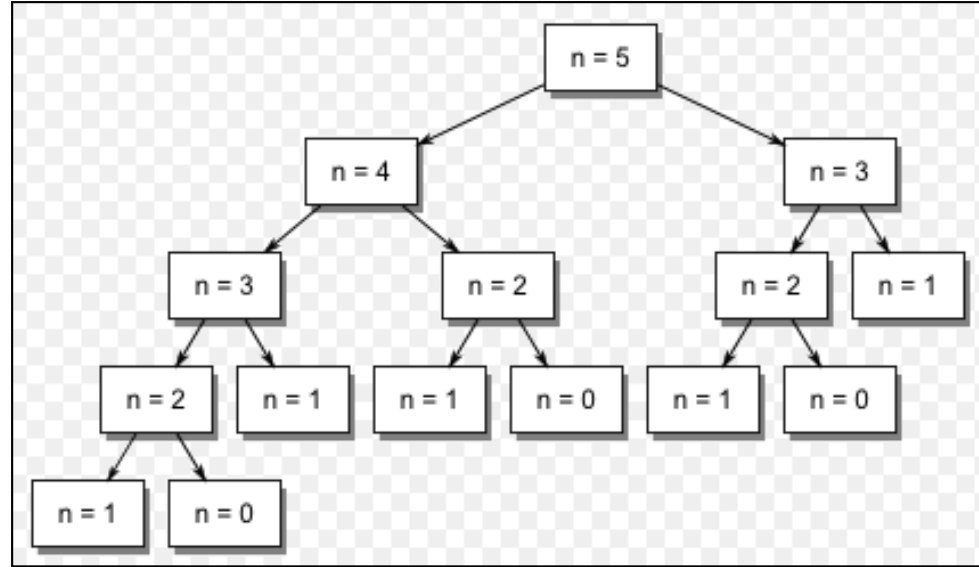


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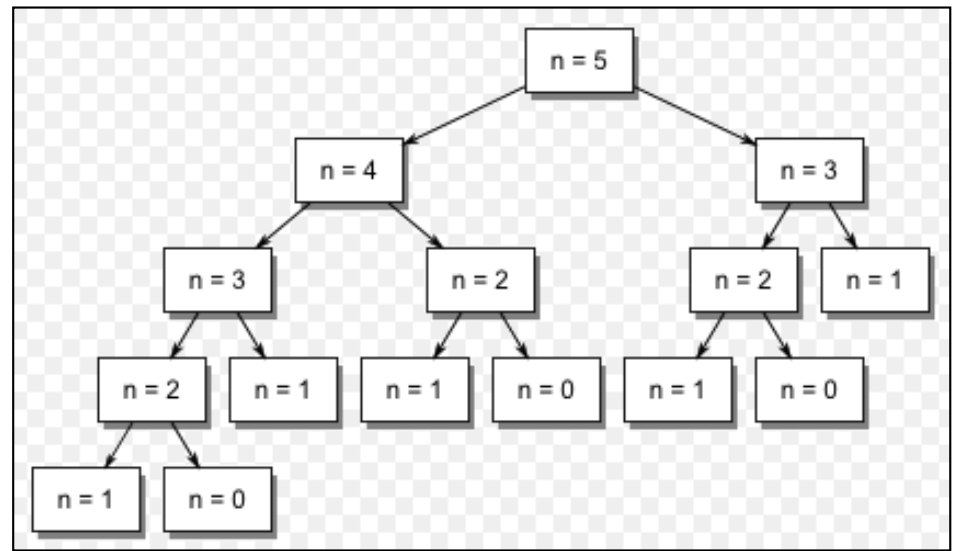
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fibonacci\\_call\\_tree\\_5.gif](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fibonacci_call_tree_5.gif)

Work is duplicated throughout the call tree

- $F(2)$  is calculated 3 separate times when calculating  $F(5)$ !
- 15 function calls in total for  $F(5)$ !

# Fibonacci

F(2) is calculated 3 separate times when calculating F(5)!



How many times would we calculate Fib(2) while calculating Fib(6)? ***See if you can just “read” it off the chart above.***

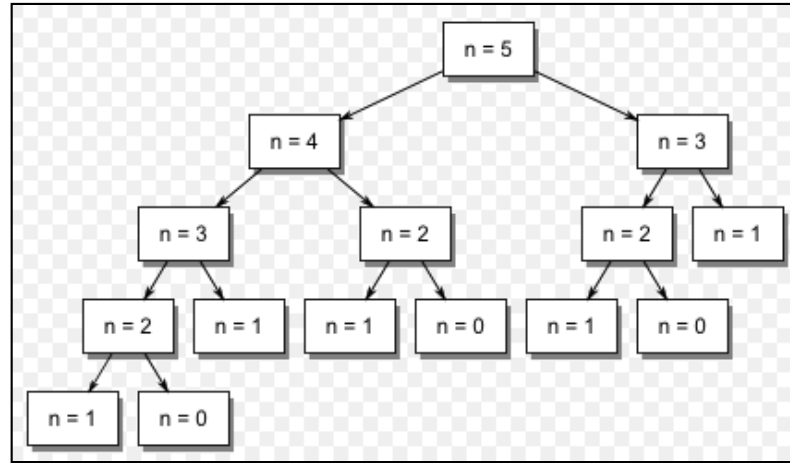
- A. 4 times
- B. 5 times
- C. 6 times
- D. Other/none/more

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[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fibonacci\\_call\\_tree\\_5.gif](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fibonacci_call_tree_5.gif)

# Fibonacci

| N  | fib(N) | # of calls to fib(2) |
|----|--------|----------------------|
| 2  | 1      | 1                    |
| 3  | 2      | 1                    |
| 4  | 3      | 2                    |
| 5  | 5      | 3                    |
| 6  | 8      |                      |
| 7  | 13     |                      |
| 8  | 21     |                      |
| 9  | 34     |                      |
| 10 | 55     |                      |



How many times would we calculate Fib(2) while calculating Fib(7)?

How many times would we calculate Fib(2) while calculating Fib(8)?

# Efficiency of naïve Fibonacci implementation

When we **added 1** to the input to Fibonacci, the number of times we had to calculate a given subroutine **nearly doubled** ( $\sim 1.6$  times\*)

- Ouch!

**Can we predict how much time it will take to compute for arbitrary input  $n$ ?**

\* This number is called the “Golden Ratio” in math—cool!

# Efficiency of naïve Fibonacci implementation

**Can we predict how much time it will take to compute for arbitrary input  $n$ ?**

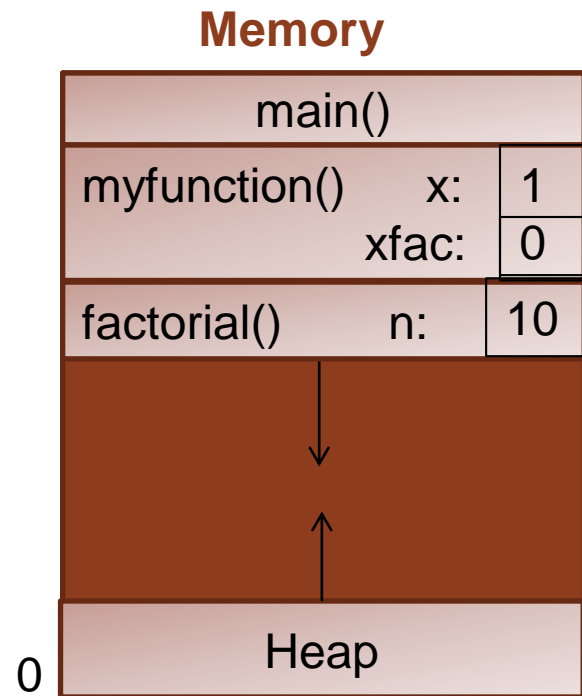
Each time we add 1 to the input, the time increases by a factor of 1.6

For input  $n$ , we multiply the “baseline” time by 1.6  $n$  times:

- $$b * \underbrace{1.6 * 1.6 * 1.6 * \dots * 1.6}_{n \text{ times}} = b * 1.6^n$$

- We don't really care what  $b$  is exactly (different on every machine anyway), so we just normalize by saying  $b = 1$  “time unit” (i.e. we remove  $b$ )

## Aside: recursion isn't *always* this bad!



### Recursive code

```
long factorial(int n) {  
    cout << n << endl;  
    if (n == 1) return 1;  
    else return n * factorial(n - 1);  
}
```

“Roughly” how much time does factorial take, as a function of the input  $n$ ?

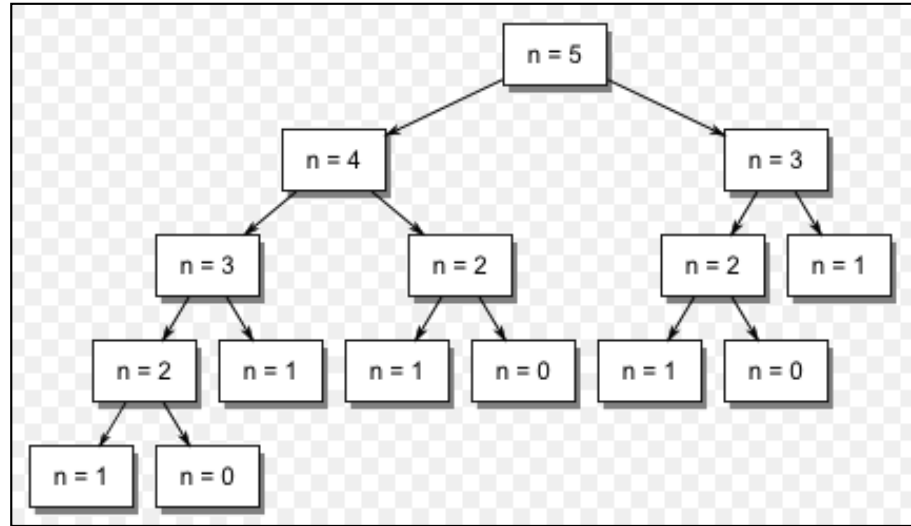
**It's better!!** Just  $b * n = n$  (when we say that  $b=1$  because we define  $b$  = one “time unit”)

# Fibonacci

Assume we have to calculate  
each unique function call  
once, *but never again*

We “remember” the answer  
from the first time

**How many rectangles  
remain in the above  
chart for  $n=5$ ?**





# Memo-ization

Take notes (“**memos**”) as you go

For Fibonacci, we will have answers for  $F(i)$  for all  $i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n$ , so a simple array or Vector can store intermediate results:

- › `results[i]` stores `Fib(i)`

# Big-O Performance Analysis

| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$ | $n^2$ | $2^n$         |
|------------|---------------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| 2          | 4             | 8            | 16    | 16            |
| 3          | 8             | 24           | 64    | 256           |
| 4          | 16            | 64           | 256   | 65,536        |
| 5          | 32            | 160          | 1,024 | 4,294,967,296 |
| 6          | 64            |              |       |               |
| 7          | 128           |              |       |               |
| 8          | 256           |              |       |               |
| 9          | 512           |              |       |               |
| 10         | 1,024         |              |       |               |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 |              |       |               |

# of Facebook accounts

| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$ | $n^2$ | $2^n$         |
|------------|---------------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| 2          | 4             | 8            | 16    | 16            |
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| 4          | 16            | 64           | 256   | 65,536        |
| 5          | 32            | 160          | 1,024 | 4,294,967,296 |
| 6          | 64            |              |       | 2.4s          |
| 7          | 128           |              |       | Easy!         |
| 8          | 256           |              |       |               |
| 9          | 512           |              |       |               |
| 10         | 1,024         |              |       |               |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 |              |       |               |

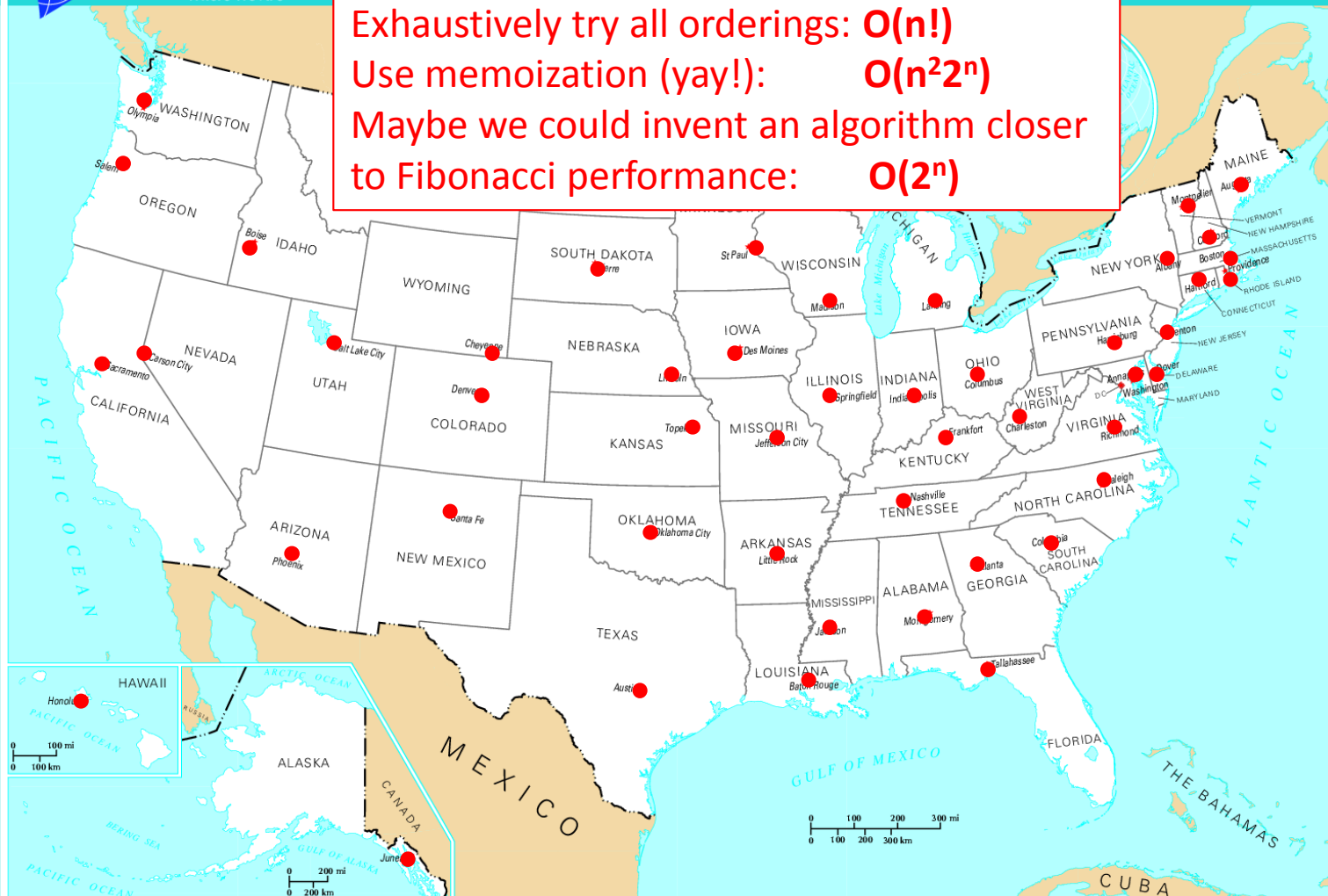
# of Facebook accounts

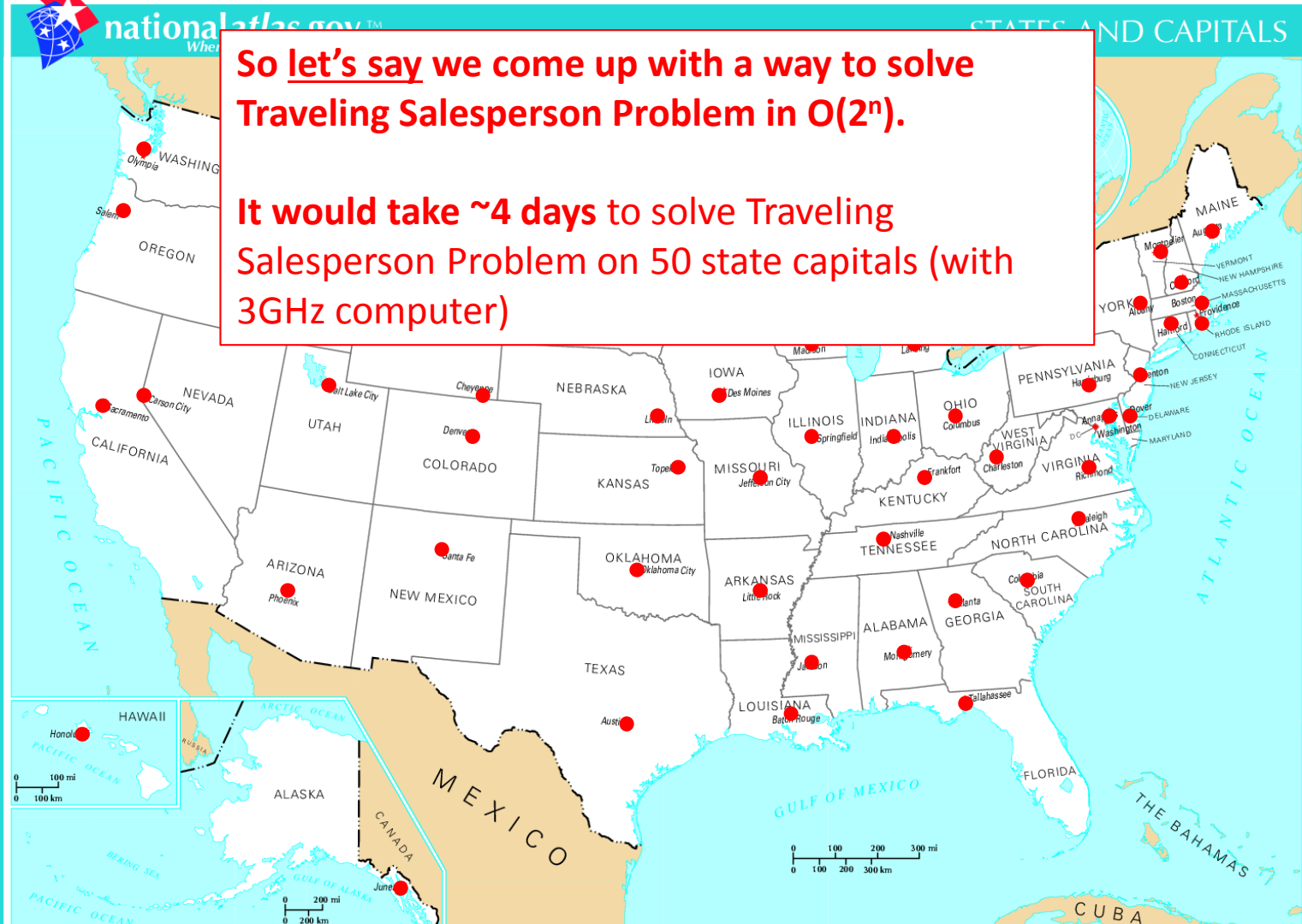
## Traveling Salesperson Problem:

We have a bunch of cities to visit. In what order should we visit them to minimize total travel distance?



Exhaustively try all orderings:  $O(n!)$   
Use memoization (yay!):  $O(n^2 2^n)$   
Maybe we could invent an algorithm closer  
to Fibonacci performance:  $O(2^n)$







## Two *tiny* little updates

Imagine we approve statehood for  
Puerto Rico

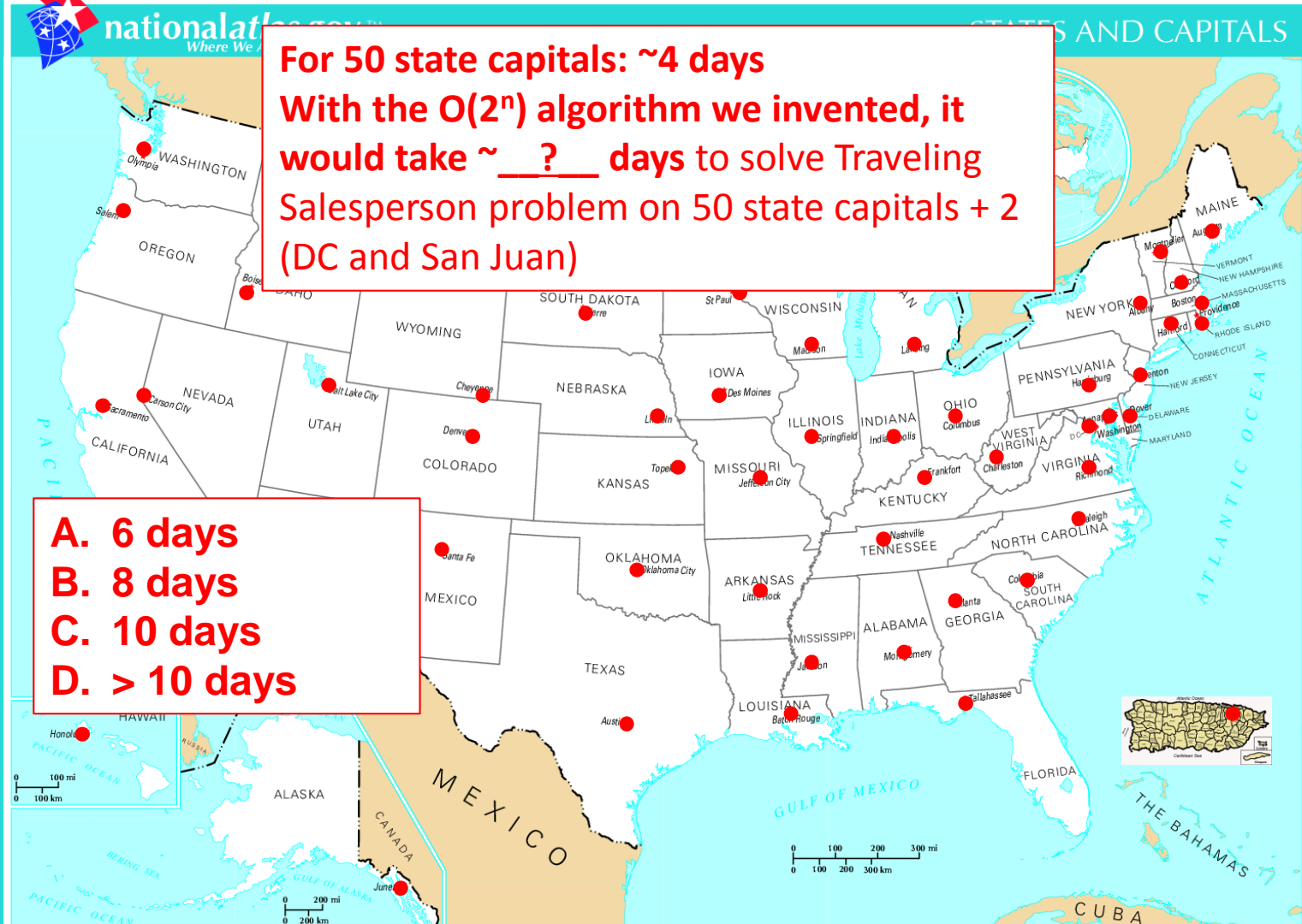
- Add San Juan, the capital city

Also add Washington, DC

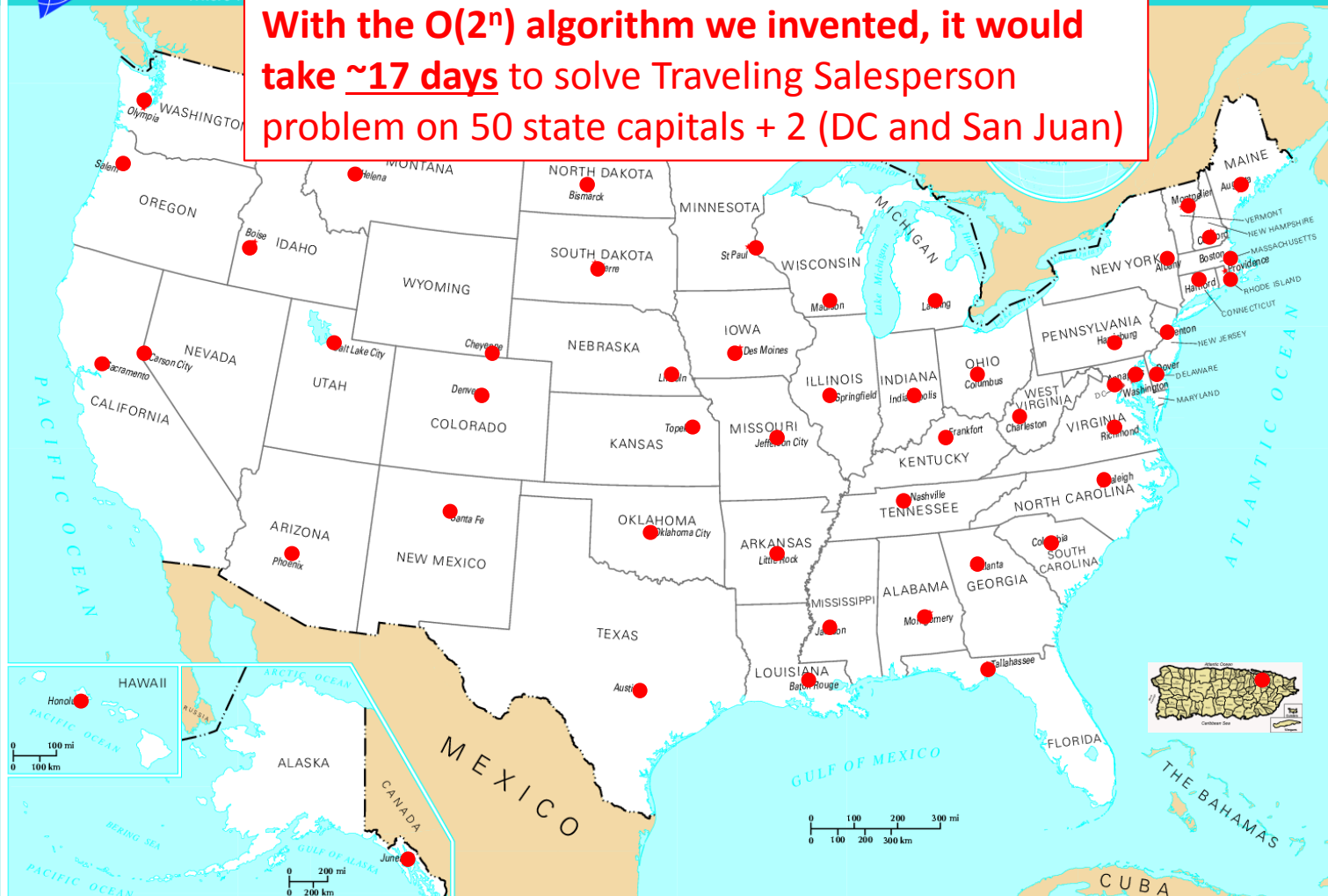


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This applies worldwide.

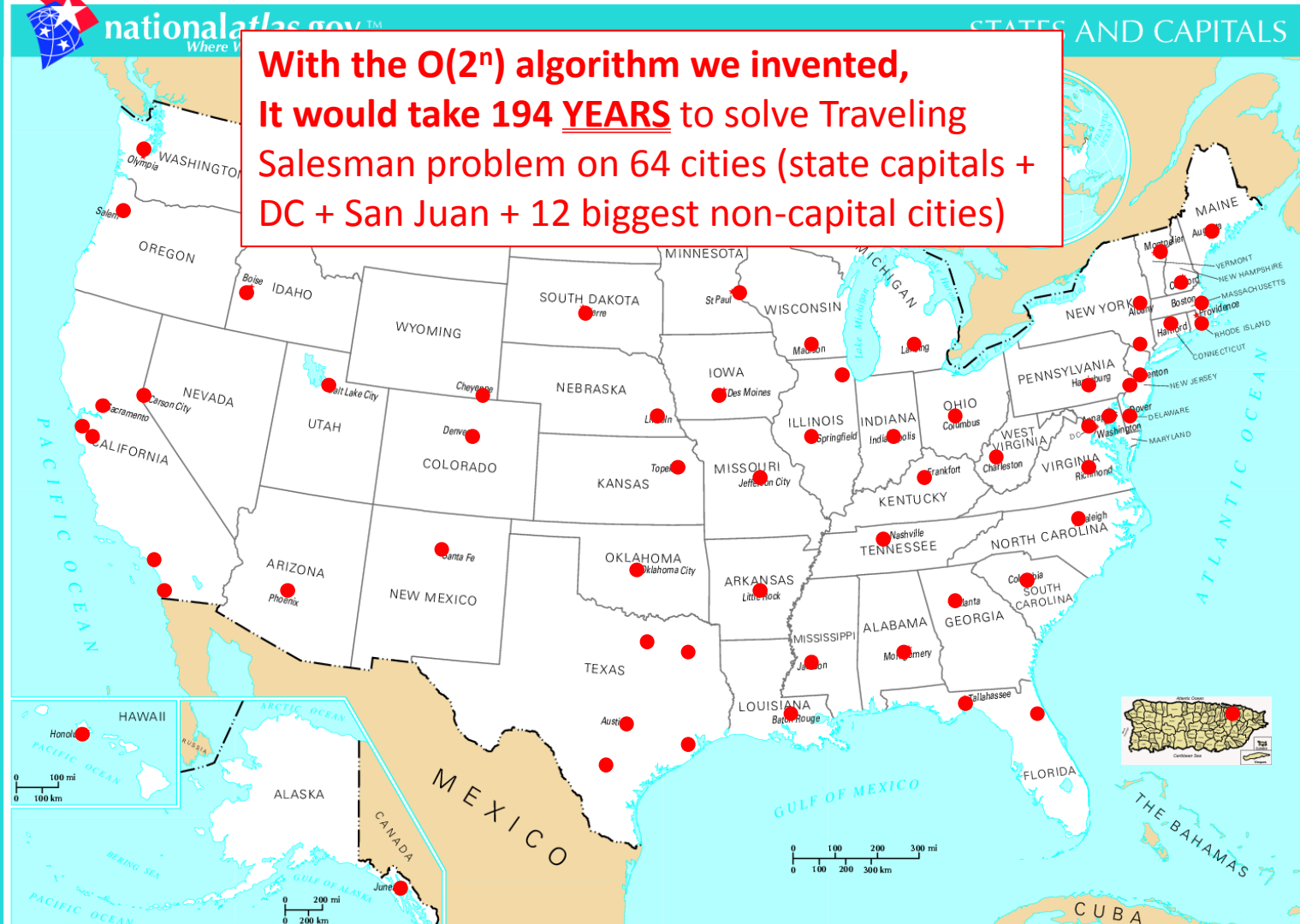
**Now 52 capital cities instead of 50**



With the  $O(2^n)$  algorithm we invented, it would take ~17 days to solve Traveling Salesperson problem on 50 state capitals + 2 (DC and San Juan)







| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$ | $n^2$ | $2^n$                 |
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| 6          | 64            | 384          | 4,096 | $1.84 \times 10^{19}$ |
| 7          | 128           |              |       |                       |
| 8          | 256           |              |       |                       |
| 9          | 512           |              |       |                       |
| 10         | 1,024         |              |       |                       |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 |              |       |                       |

**194 YEARS**

# of Facebook accounts

Stanford University

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| 8          | 256           |              |        |                       |
| 9          | 512           |              |        |                       |
| 10         | 1,024         |              |        |                       |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 |              |        |                       |

**3.59E+21 YEARS**

# of Facebook accounts



| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$ | $n^2$  | $2^n$                 |
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| 10         | 1,024         |              |        |                       |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 |              |        |                       |

3,590,000,000,000,000,000,000  
YEARS

# of Facebook accounts

| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$ | $n^2$  | $2^n$                 |
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| 9          | 512           |              |        |                       |
| 10         | 1,024         |              |        |                       |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 |              |        |                       |

For comparison: there are about  $10^{80}$  atoms in the universe. No big deal.

# of Facebook accounts

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| 8          | 256           | 2,048        | 65,536  | $1.16 \times 10^{77}$  |
| 9          | 512           | 4,608        | 262,144 | $1.34 \times 10^{154}$ |
| 10         | 1,024         |              |         |                        |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 |              |         |                        |

# of Facebook accounts

1.42E+137 **YEARS** (another way of thinking about the size: including commas, this number of years cannot be written in a single tweet)

| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$         | $n^2$                             | $2^n$                  |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2          | 4             | 8                    | 16                                | 16                     |
| 3          | 8             | 24                   | 64                                | 256                    |
| 4          | 16            | 64                   | 256                               | 65,536                 |
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| 6          | 64            | 384                  | 4,096                             | $1.84 \times 10^{19}$  |
| 7          | 128           | 896                  | 16,384                            | $3.40 \times 10^{38}$  |
| 8          | 256           | 2,048                | 65,536                            | $1.16 \times 10^{77}$  |
| 9          | 512           | 4,608                | 262,144                           | $1.34 \times 10^{154}$ |
| 10         | 1,024         | 10,240<br>(.000003s) | 1,048,576<br>(.0003s)             | $1.80 \times 10^{308}$ |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 | 39000000000<br>(13s) | 1690000000000000000<br>(18 years) | LOL                    |

# of Facebook accounts

| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$         | $n^2$                             | $2^n$                         |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2          | 4             | 8                    | 16                                | 16                            |
| 3          | 8             | 24                   | 64                                | 256                           |
| 4          | 16            | 64                   | 256                               | 65,536                        |
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# of Facebook accounts

| $\log_2 n$ | $n$           | $n \log_2 n$      | $n^2$                          | $2^n$                         |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| 4          | 16            | 64                | 256                            | 65,536                        |
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| 8          | 256           | 2,048             | 65,536                         | $1.16 \times 10^{77}$         |
| 9          | 512           |                   |                                |                               |
| 10         | 1,024         |                   |                                |                               |
| 30         | 1,300,000,000 | 39000000000 (13s) | 1690000000000000000 (18 years) | $2.3 \times 10^{391,338,994}$ |

$2^n$  is way into crazy LOL territory, but  
look at  $n \log_2 n$ —only 13 seconds!!

# of Facebook accounts

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a black long-sleeved top and a long, flowing grey skirt, is captured in a joyful dance pose with her arms outstretched. She is standing in a vibrant green field filled with small yellow wildflowers. In the background, there are majestic, snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of freedom and happiness.

**THIS IS ME NOT  
CARING**

**ABOUT PERFORMANCE TUNING UNLESS IT CHANGES  
BIG-O**



# Big-O

Extracting time cost from example code

# Translating code to a $f(n)$ model of the performance

$(n = \text{size of vector})$

|     | Statements                              | Cost    |
|-----|---|---------|
| 1   | double findAvg ( Vector<int>& grades ){ |         |
| 2   | double sum = 0;                         | 1       |
| 3   | int count = 0;                          | 1       |
| 4   | while ( count < grades.size() ) {       | $n + 1$ |
| 5   | sum += grades[count];                   | $n$     |
| 6   | count++;                                | $n$     |
| 7   | }                                       |         |
| 8   |   | 1       |
| 9   | grades.size();                          |         |
| 10  |   | 1       |
| 11  | return 0.0;                             |         |
| 12  | }                                       |         |
| ALL |   | $3n+5$  |

Do we really care about the +5?  
Or the 3 for that matter?

## Formal definition of Big-O

We say a function  $f(n)$  is “**big-O**” of another function  $g(n)$ , and write “ $f(n)$  is  $\mathbf{O}(g(n))$ ” if there exist positive constants  $c$  and  $n_0$  such that:

$$f(n) \leq c g(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0.$$



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## Big-O

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$$f(n) \leq c g(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0.$$

### What you need to know:

$O(X)$  describes an “upper bound”—**the algorithm will perform no worse than  $X$**

- We ignore constant factors in saying that
- We ignore behavior for “small”  $n$