

Pre-lecture brain teaser

Merge Sort splits into 2 (roughly) equal sized arrays. Can we do better by splitting into more than 2 arrays? Say k arrays of size n/k each?

ECE-374-B: Lecture 10 - Divide and Conquer Algorithms

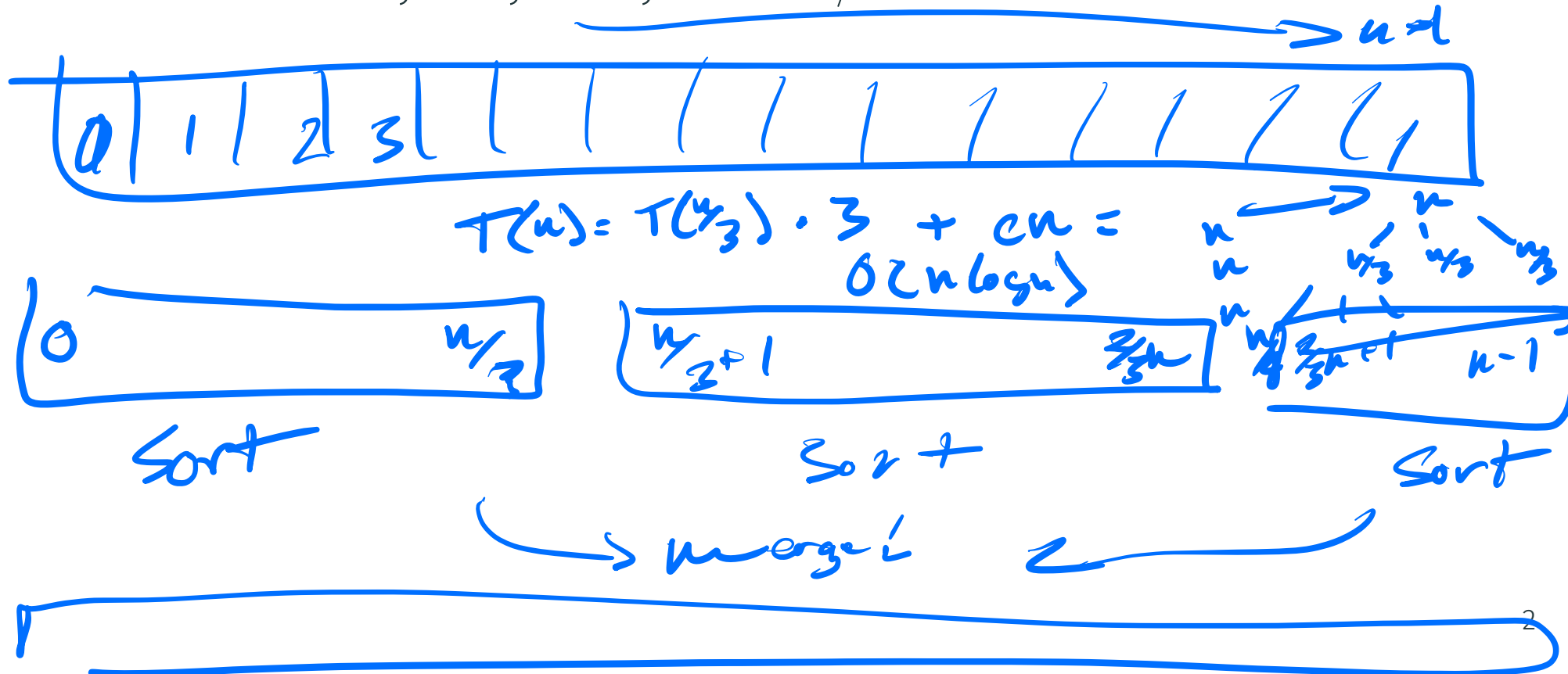
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Quick Sort

Quick Sort [Hoare]

1. Pick a pivot element from array
2. Split array into 3 subarrays: those smaller than pivot, those larger than pivot, and the pivot itself.
3. Recursively sort the subarrays, and concatenate them.

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Quick Sort: Example

- example array: 16, 12, 14, 20, 5, 3, 18, 19, 1
- worst case array: 3, 7, 5, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8

See visualizer:

<https://www.hackerearth.com/practice/algorithms/sorting/quick-sort/visualize/>

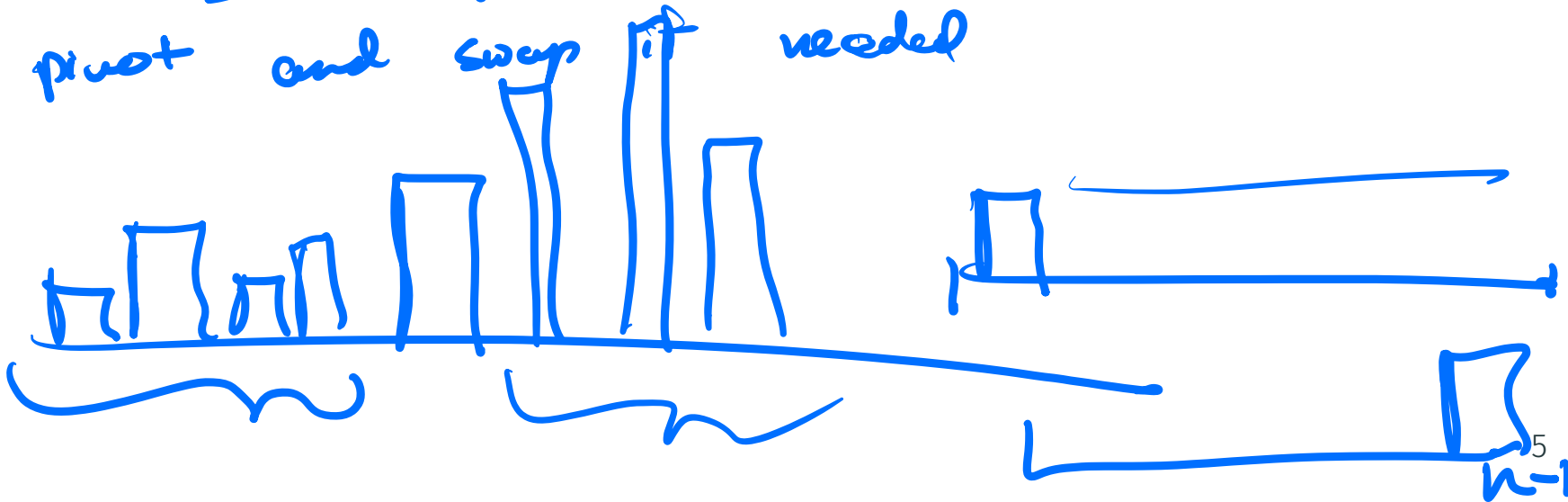
Time Analysis

- Let k be the rank of the chosen pivot. Then, $T(n) = T(k-1) + T(n-k) + O(n)$

- Choose pivot

$\frac{n}{2}$ $\frac{n}{2}$
0 $n-1$

- Run through array compare every element to the pivot and swap if needed



Time Analysis

- Let k be the rank of the chosen pivot. Then, $T(n) = T(k - 1) + T(n - k) + O(n)$
- If $k = \lceil n/2 \rceil$ then $T(n) = T(\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1) + T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + O(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + O(n)$.
Then, $T(n) = O(n \log n)$.

if pivot is smallest element in array

$$k = 0$$

largest

$$k = n - 1$$

→ median

Time Analysis

- Let k be the rank of the chosen pivot. Then, $T(n) = T(k - 1) + T(n - k) + O(n)$
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Time Analysis

- Let k be the rank of the chosen pivot. Then, $T(n) = T(k - 1) + T(n - k) + O(n)$
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Then, $T(n) = O(n \log n)$.
- Typically, pivot is the first or last element of array. Then,

$$T(n) = \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} (T(k - 1) + T(n - k) + O(n))$$

In the worst case $T(n) = T(n - 1) + O(n)$, which means $T(n) = O(n^2)$.
Happens if array is already sorted and pivot is always first element.

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + O(n)$$

Selecting in Unsorted Lists

The Selection Problem

Big problem with QuickSort is that the pivot might not be the median.

How long would it take us to find the median of an unsorted list?

The Selection Problem

Big problem with QuickSort is that the pivot might not be the median.

How long would it take us to find the median of an unsorted list?

Sort, then $A[n/2]$. Is this the optimal way? $O(n \log n)$

Rank of element in an array

A: an unsorted array of n integers

For $0 \leq j \leq n - 1$, element of rank j is the $j + 1$ -th smallest element in A.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Unsorted array
16	14	34	20	12	5	3	19	11	

5	4	8	7	3	1	0	6	2	Rank
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	------

Problem - Selection

Input Unsorted array A of n integers **and** integer j

Goal Find the j -th smallest number in A (rank j number)

Median: $j = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$

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Simplifying assumption for sake of notation: elements of A are distinct

Algorithm I

- Sort the elements in A
- Pick j th element in sorted order

return $A[j]$

Time taken = $O(n \log n)$

Algorithm I

- Sort the elements in A
- Pick j th element in sorted order

Time taken = $O(n \log n)$

Do we need to sort? Is there an $O(n)$ time algorithm?

Algorithm II

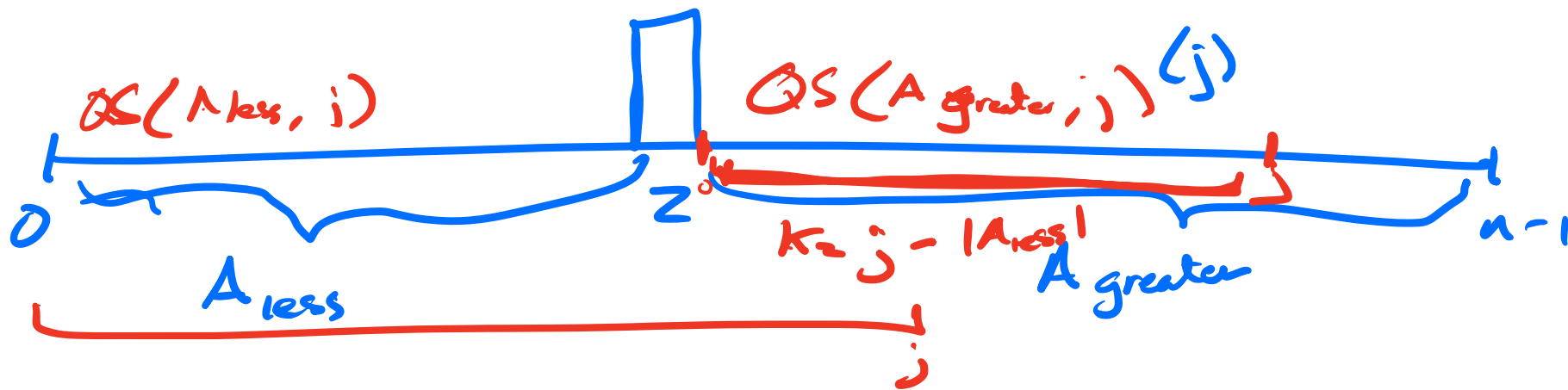
If j is small or $n - j$ is small then

- Find j smallest/largest elements in A in $O(jn)$ time. (How?)
- Time to find median is $O(n^2)$.

Quick select

QuickSelect

- Pick a pivot element a from A
- Partition A based on a .
 $A_{\text{less}} = \{x \in A \mid x \leq a\}$ and $A_{\text{greater}} = \{x \in A \mid x > a\}$
- $|A_{\text{less}}| = j$: return a
- $|A_{\text{less}}| > j$: recursively find j th smallest element in A_{less}
- $|A_{\text{less}}| < j$: recursively find k th smallest element in A_{greater} where $k = j - |A_{\text{less}}|$.



Example

16	14	34	20	12	5	3	19	11
----	----	----	----	----	---	---	----	----

Time Analysis

- Partitioning step: $O(n)$ time to scan A
- How do we choose pivot? Recursive running time?

$$T(n) = \max(T(k), T(n-k-1)) + O(n)$$

$k = \text{rank of the pivot}$
 $T(n/2) \rightarrow T(n-1)$

if $k = n/2$ $T(n) = T(n/2) + O(n) = O(n)$ $\begin{matrix} n \\ \downarrow \\ n/2 \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} n \\ \text{not down} \\ n/2 \\ O(n) \end{matrix}$

if $k = 0$ $T(n) = T(n-1) + O(n) = O(n^2)$ $\begin{matrix} n \\ \downarrow \\ n/2 \end{matrix}$

$n-1$

Time Analysis

- Partitioning step: $O(n)$ time to scan A
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Suppose we always choose pivot to be $A[1]$.

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- Partitioning step: $O(n)$ time to scan A
- How do we choose pivot? Recursive running time?

Suppose we always choose pivot to be $A[1]$.

Say A is sorted in increasing order and $j = n$.

How long does this new algorithm take?

Does this help with QuickSort?

Should we combine this with QuickSort

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Should we combine this with QuickSort

Of course not! It takes $O(n^2)$ which is already the worse case of QuickSort. Need another method....

Does this help with QuickSort?

Looking at the quicksort recurrence again:

$$T(n) = T(k - 1) + T(n - k) + O(n)$$

Does k need to be $n/2$?

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What if $k = \frac{7}{10}n$?

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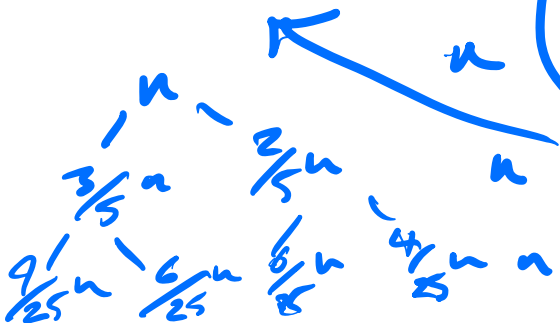
What if $k = \frac{3}{5}n$?

What if $k = \frac{7}{10}n$?

we only need to be able to find a rough median! How do we do that?

QS: $T(n) = \max(T(k-1), T(n-k)) + O(n)$
 $T(n) = T(\frac{3}{5}n) + O(n) = O(n)$

$T(n) = T(\frac{3}{5}n) + T(\frac{2}{5}n) + O(n)$
 $= O(n \log n)$



Median of Medians

Divide and Conquer Approach

Idea

- Break input A into many subarrays: L_1, \dots, L_k .
- Find median m_i in each subarray L_i .
- Find the median x of the medians m_1, \dots, m_k .
- Intuition: The median x should be close to being a good median of all the numbers in A .
- Use x as pivot in previous algorithm.

Finding a good pivot I

Holder for powerpoint animation

Deterministic selection - example

Given an array $A = [0, \dots, n - 1]$ of n numbers and an index i , where $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$, find the i^{th} smallest element of A .

For instance, assume $n = 20$ and $i = 10$.

3	2	14	6	0	16	8	9	13	12	7	17	10	1	11	15	5	18	4	19
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---	----

The smallest element of rank 10 would be 10. But how do we figure that out?

Do median of medians.....

Call **Median-of-Medians**(A , 10)

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First thing we need to do is find the pivot!

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Deterministic selection - example

First we reorganize:

3	16	7	15
2	8	17	5
14	0	10	18
6	13	1	4
0	12	11	19

Deterministic selection - example

First we reorganize:

3	16	7	15
2	8	17	5
14	0	10	18
6	13	1	4
0	12	11	19

Then we sort each column:

0	8	1	4
2	9	7	5
3	12	10	15
6	13	11	18
14	16	17	19

Deterministic selection - example

First we reorganize:

3	16	7	15
2	8	17	5
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6	13	1	4
0	12	11	19

Then we sort each column:

0	8	1	4
2	9	7	5
3	12	10	15
6	13	11	18
14	16	17	19

Still need the pivot. Find median of medians

Deterministic selection - example

0	8	1	4
2	9	7	5
3	12	10	15
6	13	11	18
14	16	17	19

Deterministic selection - example

0	8	1	4
2	9	7	5
3	12	10	15
6	13	11	18
14	16	17	19

- Call **Median-of-Medians**([3,12,10,15], $\text{floor}(\text{len}/2) = 2$)
- Can sort this in linear time.
- Get back 12.
- **12** is our new pivot!

Deterministic selection - example

Back to our original array! Use the pivot (=12) to break it up into two.

3	2	14	6	0	16	8	9	13	12	7	17	10	1	11	15	5	18	4	19
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---	----

3	2	6	0	8	9	7	10	1	11	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

12

14	16	13	17	15	18	19
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

We know the following:

- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Lower}}) = 12$
- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Upper}}) = 7$
- Want $k = 10$

Deterministic selection - example

Back to our original array! Use the pivot (=12) to break it up into two.

3	2	14	6	0	16	8	9	13	12	7	17	10	1	11	15	5	18	4	19
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---	----

3	2	6	0	8	9	7	10	1	11	5	4
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12

14	16	13	17	15	18	19
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We know the following:

- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Lower}}) = 12$
- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Upper}}) = 7$
- Want $k = 10$

Call **Median-of-Medians**(A_{Lower} , 10)

Deterministic selection - example

Then we do this again:

3	2	6	0	8	9	7	10	1	11	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

Deterministic selection - example

Then we do this again:

3	2	6	0	8	9	7	10	1	11	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

First we reorganize:

3	9	
2	7	5
6	10	4
0	1	
8	11	

Deterministic selection - example

Then we do this again:

3	2	6	0	8	9	7	10	1	11	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

First we reorganize:

3	9	
2	7	5
6	10	4
0	1	
8	11	

Then we sort each column:

0	1	
2	7	4
3	9	5
6	10	
8	11	

Deterministic selection - example

0	1	
2	7	4
3	9	5
6	10	
8	11	

Deterministic selection - example

0	1	
2	7	4
3	9	5
6	10	
8	11	

- Call **Median-of-Medians**([3,9,5], $\text{floor}(n/2) = 1$)
- Can sort this in linear time.
- Get back 5.
- **5** is our new pivot!

Deterministic selection - example

Back to our original array! Use the pivot (=5) to break it up into two (well three).

3	2	6	0	8	9	7	10	1	11	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

3	2	0	1	4
---	---	---	---	---

5

6	8	9	7	10	11
---	---	---	---	----	----

We know the following:

- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Lower}}) = 5$
- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Upper}}) = 6$
- Want $k = 10$ (pivot is of rank 5)

Deterministic selection - example

Back to our original array! Use the pivot (=5) to break it up into two (well three).

3	2	6	0	8	9	7	10	1	11	5	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

3	2	0	1	4
---	---	---	---	---

5

6	8	9	7	10	11
---	---	---	---	----	----

We know the following:

- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Lower}}) = 5$
- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Upper}}) = 6$
- Want $k = 10$ (pivot is of rank 5)

Call **Median-of-Medians**($A_{\text{Upper}}, 10 - (5 + 1) = 4$)

Deterministic selection - example

Then we do this again:

6	8	9	7	10	11
---	---	---	---	----	----

Deterministic selection - example

Then we do this again:

6	8	9	7	10	11
---	---	---	---	----	----

First we reorganize:

6	
8	
9	11
7	
10	

Deterministic selection - example

Then we do this again:

6	8	9	7	10	11
---	---	---	---	----	----

First we reorganize:

6	
8	
9	11
7	
10	

Then we sort each column:

6	
7	
8	11
9	
10	

Deterministic selection - example

6	
7	
8	11
9	
10	

Deterministic selection - example

6	
7	
8	11
9	
10	

- Call **Median-of-Medians**([8,11], $\text{floor}(\text{len}/2) = 1$)
- Can sort this in linear time.
- Get back 11.
- **11** is our new pivot!

Deterministic selection - example

Back to our original array! Use the pivot (=11) to break it up into partitions.

6	8	9	7	10	11
---	---	---	---	----	----

6	8	9	7	10
---	---	---	---	----

11

We know the following:

- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Lower}}) = 5$
- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Upper}}) = 0$
- Want $k = 4$ (pivot is of rank 5)

Deterministic selection - example

Back to our original array! Use the pivot (=11) to break it up into partitions.

6	8	9	7	10	11
---	---	---	---	----	----

6	8	9	7	10
---	---	---	---	----

11

We know the following:

- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Lower}}) = 5$
- $\text{len}(A_{\text{Upper}}) = 0$
- Want $k = 4$ (pivot is of rank 5)

Deterministic selection - example

Final Step!

6	8	9	7	10
---	---	---	---	----

Can sort in linear time!

6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	----

Return $\text{Sorted}(A[k] = A[4]) = 10$

Algorithm for Selection

select(A, j):

Form lists $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{\lceil n/5 \rceil}$ where $L_i = \{A[5i-4], \dots, A[5i]\}$

Find median b_i of each L_i using brute-force

Find median b of $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{\lceil n/5 \rceil}\}$

Partition A into A_{less} and A_{greater} using b as pivot

if $(|A_{\text{less}}|) = j$ return b

else if $(|A_{\text{less}}|) > j$

return **select**(A_{less} , j)

else

return **select**(A_{greater} , $j - |A_{\text{less}}|$)

Algorithm for Selection

select(A, j):

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How do we find median of B ?

Algorithm for Selection

select(A, j):

Form lists $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{\lceil n/5 \rceil}$ where $L_i = \{A[5i-4], \dots, A[5i]\}$

Find median b_i of each L_i using brute-force

Find median b of $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{\lceil n/5 \rceil}\}$

Partition A into A_{less} and A_{greater} using b as pivot

if ($|A_{\text{less}}| = j$) return b

else if ($|A_{\text{less}}| > j$)

return **select**(A_{less} , j)

else

return **select**(A_{greater} , $j - |A_{\text{less}}|$)

select(B, $n/5$)

How do we find median of B ? Recursively!

Running time of deterministic median selection

Running time of deterministic median selection

`select(A, j):`

Form lists $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{\lceil n/5 \rceil}$ where $L_i = \{A[5i-4], \dots, A[5i]\}$

Find median b_i of each L_i using brute-force

Find median b of $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{\lceil n/5 \rceil}\}$

Partition A into A_{less} and A_{greater} using b as pivot

if $(|A_{\text{less}}|) = j$ return b

else if $(|A_{\text{less}}|) > j$

return `select`(A_{less} , j)

else

return `select`(A_{greater} , $j - |A_{\text{less}}|$)

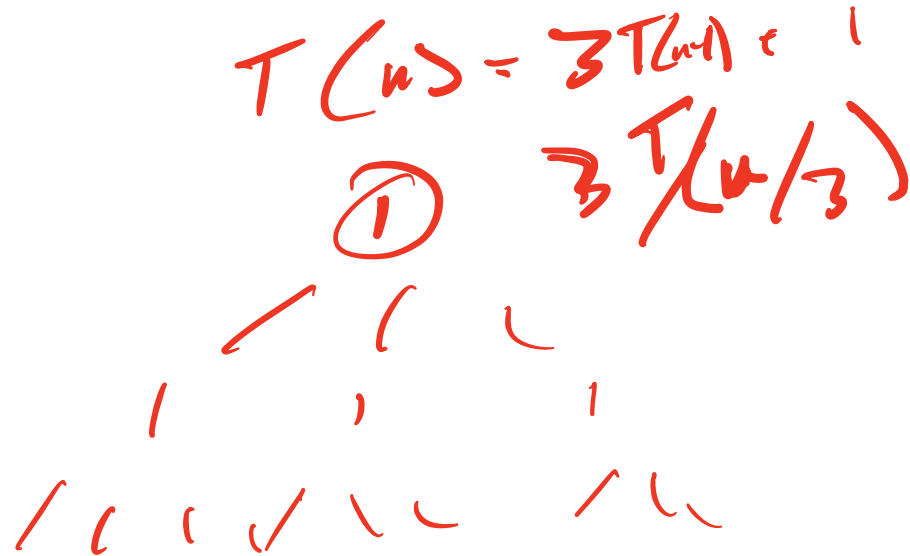
$$c \cdot \frac{n}{5} = O(n)$$

$$T(n) \leq T(\lceil n/5 \rceil) + \max\{T(|A_{\text{less}}|), T(|A_{\text{greater}}|)\} + O(n)$$

$$\begin{array}{cc} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{7}{10}n & \frac{3}{10}n \\ T(\frac{7}{10}n) & \end{array}$$

Finding a good pivot I

Holder for powerpoint animation



Running time of deterministic median selection

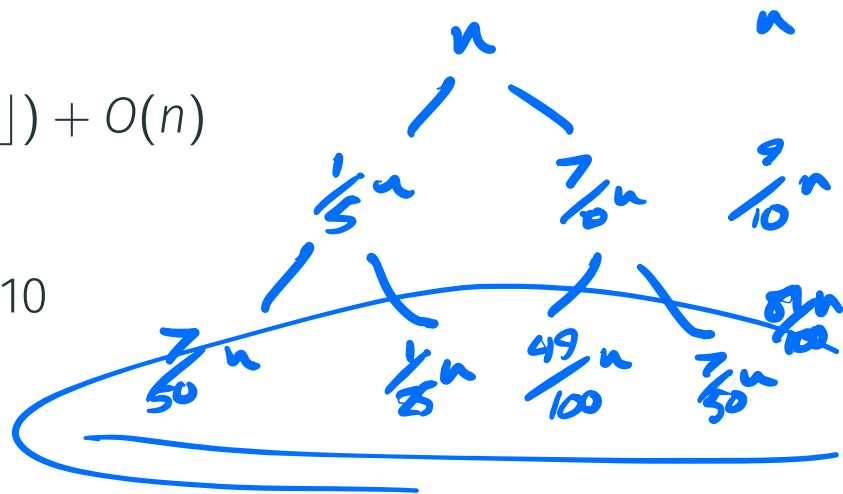
$$T(n) \leq T(\lceil n/5 \rceil) + \max\{T(|A_{\text{less}}|), T(|A_{\text{greater}}|)\} + O(n)$$

Going from what we know:

$$T(n) \leq T(\lceil n/5 \rceil) + T(\lfloor 7n/10 \rfloor) + O(n)$$

and

$$T(n) = O(1) \quad n < 10$$



Running time of deterministic median selection

$$T(n) \leq T(\lceil n/5 \rceil) + \max\{T(|A_{\text{less}}|), T(|A_{\text{greater}}|)\} + O(n)$$

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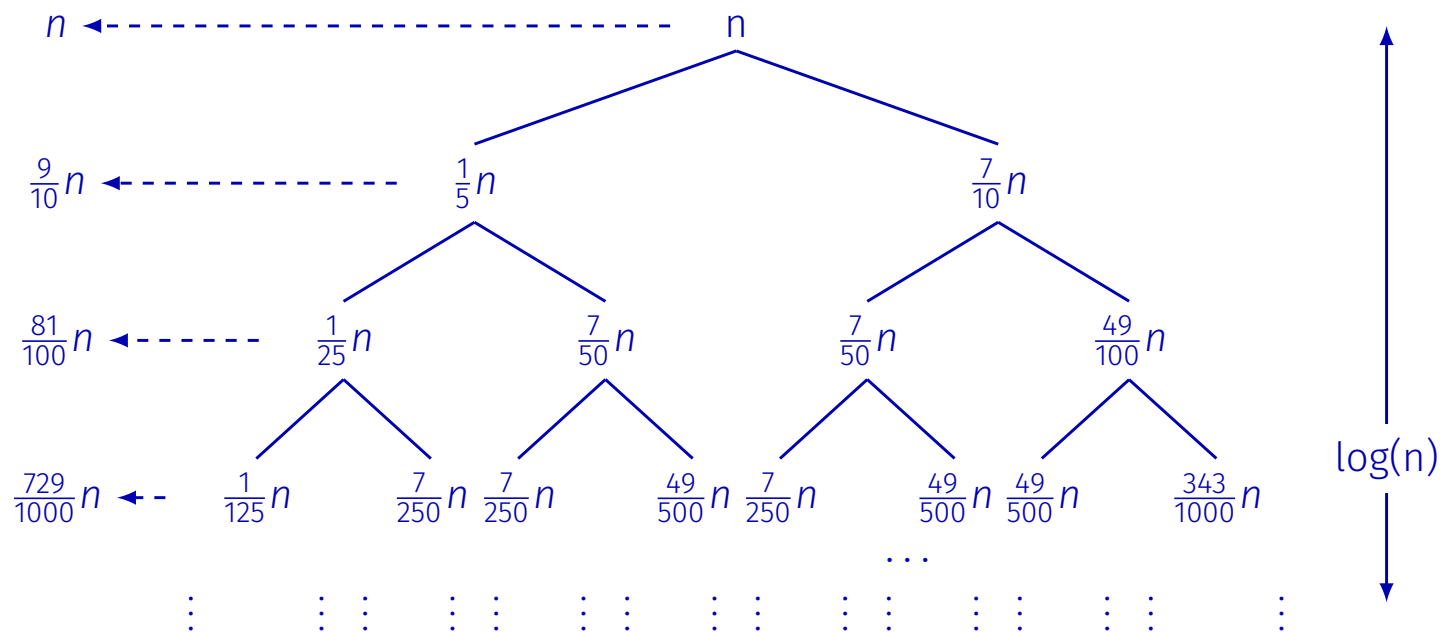
and

$$T(n) = O(1) \quad n < 10$$

Exercise: show that $T(n) = O(n)$

Recursion tree fill-in

If the workload is decreasing at every level, then total work is dominated by the root.



$$T(n) \leq T(\lceil n/5 \rceil) + T(\lfloor 7n/10 \rfloor) + O(n) = O(n)$$

What about QuickSort?

How would we use the median of medians approach for quicksort?

What about QuickSort?

How would we use the median of medians approach for quicksort?

Just use MoM to find pivot!

- Original recurrence: $T(n) = T(k - 1) + T(n - k) + O(n)$
- With MoM: $T(n) = T(\frac{3}{10}n) + T(\frac{7}{10}n) + O(n) + O(n)$

Median of Medians Algorithm

Due to: M. Blum, R. Floyd, D. Knuth, V. Pratt, R. Rivest, and R. Tarjan.

“Time bounds for selection”.

Journal of Computer System Sciences (JCSS), 1973.

~~Deterministic~~
Deterministic Time
Selection

Median of Medians Algorithm

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“Time bounds for selection”.

Journal of Computer System Sciences (JCSS), 1973.

How many Turing Award winners in the author list?

Median of Medians Algorithm

Due to: M. Blum, R. Floyd, D. Knuth, V. Pratt, R. Rivest, and R. Tarjan.

“Time bounds for selection”.

Journal of Computer System Sciences (JCSS), 1973.

How many Turing Award winners in the author list?

All except Vaughan Pratt!

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All except Vaughan Pratt! **Favorite Knuth quote:** He once warned a correspondent, “Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct, not tried it.”

Takeaway Points

- Recursion tree method and guess and verify are the most reliable methods to analyze recursions in algorithms.
- Recursive algorithms naturally lead to recurrences.
- Some times one can look for certain type of recursive algorithms (reverse engineering) by understanding recurrences and their behavior.

Problem statement: Multiplying
numbers + a slow algorithm

The Problem: Multiplying numbers

Given two large positive integer numbers b and c , with n digits, compute the number $b * c$.

Egyptian multiplication: 1850BC (3870 years ago?)

76 | 35 |

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$$\begin{array}{c|c|c} 76 & 35 & \\ 76 & 34 + 1 & 76 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{r|l|l} 76 & 35 & \\ 76 & 34 + 1 & 76 \\ 76 & 34 & \end{array}$$

Egyptian multiplication: 1850BC (3870 years ago?)

76	35	
76	$34 + 1$	76
76	34	
152	17	

Egyptian multiplication: 1850BC (3870 years ago?)

76	35	
76	$34 + 1$	76
76	34	
152	17	
152	$16 + 1$	152

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76	$34 + 1$	76
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152	17	
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152	16	

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76	35	
76	$34 + 1$	76
76	34	
152	17	
152	$16 + 1$	152
152	16	
304	8	

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76	35	
76	$34 + 1$	76
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152	17	
152	$16 + 1$	152
152	16	
304	8	
608	4	

Egyptian multiplication: 1850BC (3870 years ago?)

76	35	
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152	16	
304	8	
608	4	
1216	2	

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76	35	
76	$34 + 1$	76
76	34	
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152	16	
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608	4	
1216	2	
2432	1	2432

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76	35	
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152	16	
304	8	
608	4	
1216	2	
2432	1	2432
		2660

The problem: Multiplying Numbers

Problem Given two n -digit numbers x and y , compute their product.

Grade School Multiplication

Compute “partial product” by multiplying each digit of y with x and adding the partial products.

$$\begin{array}{r} 3141 \\ \times 2718 \\ \hline 25128 \\ 3141 \\ 21987 \\ 6282 \\ \hline 8537238 \end{array}$$

Time Analysis of Grade School Multiplication

- Each partial product: $\Theta(n)$
- Number of partial products: $\Theta(n)$
- Addition of partial products: $\Theta(n^2)$
- Total time: $\Theta(n^2)$

Multiplication using Divide and Conquer

Divide and Conquer

Assume n is a power of 2 for simplicity and numbers are in decimal.

Split each number into two numbers with equal number of digits

- $b = b_{n-1}b_{n-2} \dots b_0$ and $c = c_{n-1}c_{n-2} \dots c_0$
- $b = b_{n-1} \dots b_{n/2} 0 \dots 0 + b_{n/2-1} \dots b_0$
- $b(x) = b_L x + b_R$, where $x = 10^{n/2}$, $b_L = b_{n-1} \dots b_{n/2}$ and $b_R = b_{n/2-1} \dots b_0$
- Similarly $c(x) = c_L x + c_R$ where $c_L = c_{n-1} \dots c_{n/2}$ and $c_R = c_{n/2-1} \dots c_0$

Example

$$\begin{aligned} 1234 \times 5678 &= (12x + 34) \times (56x + 78) && \text{for } x = 100. \\ &= 12 \cdot 56 \cdot x^2 + (12 \cdot 78 + 34 \cdot 56)x + 34 \cdot 78. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1234 \times 5678 &= (100 \times 12 + 34) \times (100 \times 56 + 78) \\ &= 10000 \times 12 \times 56 \\ &\quad + 100 \times (12 \times 78 + 34 \times 56) \\ &\quad + 34 \times 78 \end{aligned}$$

Divide and Conquer for multiplication

Assume n is a power of 2 for simplicity and numbers are in decimal.

- $b = b_{n-1}b_{n-2} \dots b_0$ and $c = c_{n-1}c_{n-2} \dots c_0$
- $b \equiv b(x) = b_Lx + b_R$
where $x = 10^{n/2}$, $b_L = b_{n-1} \dots b_{n/2}$ and $b_R = b_{n/2-1} \dots b_0$
- $c \equiv c(x) = c_Lx + c_R$ where $c_L = c_{n-1} \dots c_{n/2}$ and $c_R = c_{n/2-1} \dots c_0$

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- $c \equiv c(x) = c_Lx + c_R$ where $c_L = c_{n-1} \dots c_{n/2}$ and $c_R = c_{n/2-1} \dots c_0$

Therefore, for $x = 10^{n/2}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} bc &= b(x)c(x) = (b_Lx + b_R)(c_Lx + c_R) \\ &= b_Lc_Lx^2 + (b_Lc_R + b_Rc_L)x + b_Rc_R \\ &= 10^n b_Lc_L + 10^{n/2}(b_Lc_R + b_Rc_L) + b_Rc_R \end{aligned}$$

Time Analysis

$$bc = 10^n b_L c_L + 10^{n/2} (b_L c_R + b_R c_L) + b_R c_R$$

4 recursive multiplications of number of size $n/2$ each plus 4 additions and left shifts (adding enough 0's to the right)

Time Analysis

$$bc = 10^n b_L c_L + 10^{n/2} (b_L c_R + b_R c_L) + b_R c_R$$

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$$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + O(n) \quad T(1) = O(1)$$

Time Analysis

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$$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + O(n) \quad T(1) = O(1)$$

$T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$. No better than grade school multiplication!

Faster multiplication: Karatsuba's Algorithm

A Trick of Gauss

Carl Friedrich Gauss: 1777–1855 “Prince of Mathematicians”

Observation: Multiply two complex numbers: $(a + bi)$ and $(c + di)$

$$(a + bi)(c + di) = ac - bd + (ad + bc)i$$

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How many multiplications do we need?

Only 3! If we do extra additions and subtractions.

Compute ac , bd , $(a + b)(c + d)$. Then

Gauss technique for polynomials

$$p(x) = ax + b \quad \text{and} \quad q(x) = cx + d.$$

$$p(x)q(x) = acx^2 + (ad + bc)x + bd.$$

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$$p(x)q(x) = acx^2 + ((a + b)(c + d) - ac - bd)x + bd.$$

Improving the Running Time

$$bc = b(x)c(x) = (b_Lx + b_R)(c_Lx + c_R)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}bc &= b(x)c(x) = (b_Lx + b_R)(c_Lx + c_R) \\ &= b_Lc_Lx^2 + (b_Lc_R + b_Rc_L)x + b_Rc_R\end{aligned}$$

Improving the Running Time

$$\begin{aligned}bc &= b(x)c(x) = (b_Lx + b_R)(c_Lx + c_R) \\&= b_Lc_Lx^2 + (b_Lc_R + b_Rc_L)x + b_Rc_R \\&= (b_L * c_L)x^2 + \left((b_L + b_R) * (c_L + c_R) - b_L * c_L - b_R * c_R \right)x \\&\quad + b_R * c_R\end{aligned}$$

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Recursively compute only $b_Lc_L, b_Rc_R, (b_L + b_R)(c_L + c_R)$.

Improving the Running Time

$$\begin{aligned}bc &= b(x)c(x) = (b_Lx + b_R)(c_Lx + c_R) \\&= b_Lc_Lx^2 + (b_Lc_R + b_Rc_L)x + b_Rc_R \\&= (b_L * c_L)x^2 + \left((b_L + b_R) * (c_L + c_R) - b_L * c_L - b_R * c_R \right)x \\&\quad + b_R * c_R\end{aligned}$$

Recursively compute only b_Lc_L , b_Rc_R , $(b_L + b_R)(c_L + c_R)$.

Time Analysis

Running time is given by

$$T(n) = 3T(n/2) + O(n) \qquad T(1) = O(1)$$

which means $T(n) = O(n^{\log_2 3}) = O(n^{1.585})$

State of the Art

Schönhage-Strassen 1971: $O(n \log n \log \log n)$ time using Fast-Fourier-Transform (FFT)

Martin Fürer 2007: $O(n \log n 2^{O(\log^* n)})$ time

Conjecture: There is an $O(n \log n)$ time algorithm.