Programming Assignment #2 - CS325

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Introduction

In this writeup, we will both assess time complexity and prove three algorithms designed to solve the Maximum Subarray problem.

According to Wikipedia:

'In computer science, the maximum subarray problem is the task of finding the contiguous subarray within a one-dimensional array of numbers (containing at least one positive number) which has the largest sum. For example, for the sequence of values 2, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2, 1, 5, 4; the contiguous subarray with the largest sum is 4, 1, 2, 1, with sum 6.'

Pseudocode

Brute Force:

```
def brute_force(x):
  max_sum = 0
  l = len(x)
  for i in xrange(l):
    new_sum = 0
    for j in range(i,l):
      new_sum += x[j]
      if new_sum > max_sum: max_sum = new_sum
  return max_sum
```

Divide and Conquer:

```
def div_and_conq(x):
  max_sum = 0
  def inner(x,max_sum):

    if (len(x) <= 1): # base case
      if sum(x) > max_sum:
        max_sum = sum(x)
      return max_sum

    mid = int(len(x)/2) # split into two halves
    l = x[:mid]
    r = x[mid:]

    max_sum = max(max_sum, sum(l)) # is left half max?
    max_sum = max(max_sum, sum(r)) # is right half max?

    # does max consists of suffix+prefix?
    suffix_sum = 0
    max_suffix_sum = 0
    for i in range(mid-1,-1,-1):
      suffix_sum += x[i]
      max_suffix_sum = max(max_suffix_sum, suffix_sum)
    prefix_sum = 0
```

```
        max_prefix_sum = 0
        for i in range(mid,len(x)):
          prefix_sum += x[i]
          max_prefix_sum = max(max_prefix_sum, prefix_sum)
        max_sum = max(max_sum, max_suffix_sum + max_prefix_sum)

        # recursive calls
        ret = inner(l,max_sum)
        if (ret != None):
          max_sum = max(ret,max_sum)
        ret = inner(r,max_sum)
        if (ret != None):
          max_sum = max(ret,max_sum)

        return max_sum # end of inner function

      return inner(x,max_sum)
```

Dynamic Programming:

```
    def dynamic_prog(x):
      this_sub_arr_sum = 0
      max_sum = 0
      for i in x:
        if this_sub_arr_sum + i > 0:
          this_sub_arr_sum = this_sub_arr_sum + i
        else:
          this_sub_arr_sum = 0
        if this_sub_arr_sum > max_sum:
          max_sum = this_sub_arr_sum

      return max_sum
```

Correctness Proofs

Brute Force:

In order to prove the correctness of brute force, we can show how to construct the definition of this problem from the code itself. Consider lines 5 & 6. This loop can be represented by the following summation:

$\sum_{k=i}^{l} x[k]$

Then lines 5 and 8 keep track of the max, allowing us to add in a max() type function. Since this is inside the loop, it checks the max as the sum is modified, as to include the whole range of n in the upper bound for a possible max array. Lastly, including line 4, add in a range for the lower index of the above sum. Including the max and additional loop in our above sum, we are left with something like this:

$max \sum_{k=i}^{l} x[k]$, where i is less than l, & i/l range from 1 to n.

This is the same as the definition of the maximum subarray problem.

Additionally, to approach this from another angle, brute-force tries every possible contigious sub-array, so it's guaranteed to arrive at the maximum one.

Divide and Conquer:

TODO

Dynamic Programming:

TODO

Asymptotic Analysis of Run Time

Brute Force:

Brute force consists mainly of two nested loops. The outer loop covers the range of n, and the inner loop covers the range from the current index of the outer loop to n. The outer loop contributes n to T(n) and the inner loop contributes n/2. Since they are nested, this means they are multiplied. This gives us: T(n) = n*n/2 + c.

In big-O notation, the 1/2 can be factored out and we drop the c since we are just concerned with the dominant term. The result is: $O(n^2)$.

Divide and Conquer:

TODO - finished by Josh already?

Dynamic Programming:

This dynamic algorithm only needs to traverse the array of once. The other lines outside of this single loop happen in constant time. So the algorithm only requires O(n).

Empirical Testing of Correctness

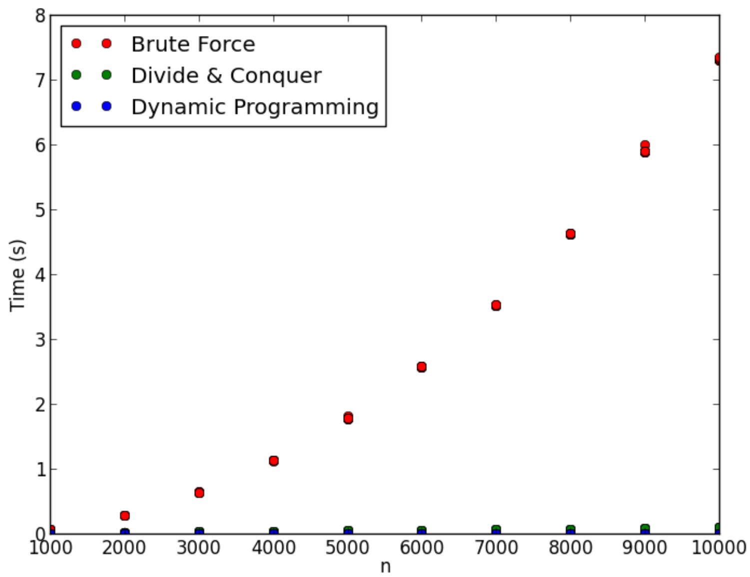
Correctness of the three algorithms was verified using the provided file of test cases verify_2.txt. See the function 'test_correctness' in main.py for details.

Here is the output from the final text input file (name.txt):

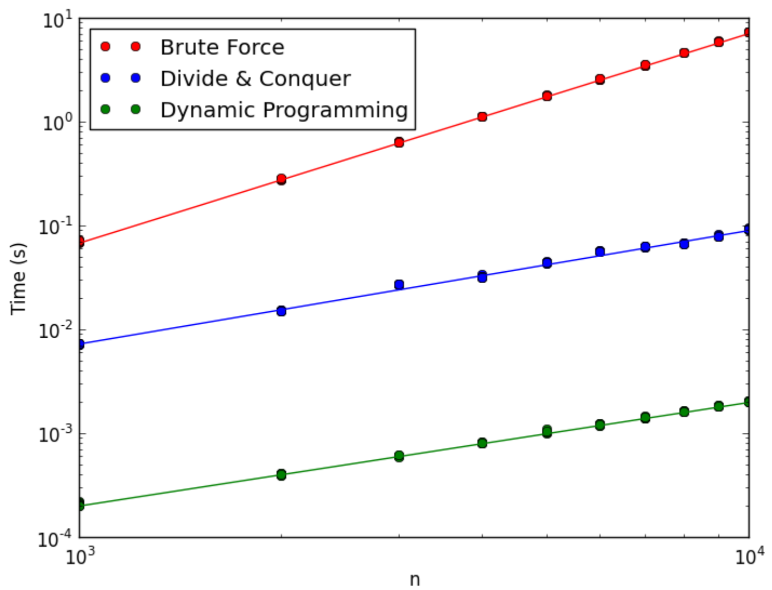
- OUTPUT HERE (TODO)

Empirical Analysis of Run Time

Linear Plot:



Log-log Plot:



Slope of lines in log-log plot:

The equation for the best fit line on the log-log plot (calculated using numpy.polyfit()) has the following form:

$f(n) = e^{\text{y-intercept}} * n^{\text{slope}}$

Brute Force:

- slope: 2.0177140011

Divide & Conquer:

- slope: 1.09279503259

Dynamic Programming:

- slope: .996887276493

Performance Comparison

Over the range of array sizes under test, Divide and Conquer always performs better than Brute Force, and the Dynamic Programming algorithm always performs better than Divide and Conquer. Sometimes it's necessary to use more temporary memory in order to get performance gains, especially in the case of dynamic programming. But that's not the case here. Some memory usage tests were performed as well, but the results were boring (i.e. no noticeable differences between the algorithms) and don't warrant a graph.

So in conclusion - for solving the maximum subarray problem, you probably should always use some version of the dynamic programming algorithm presented here.