

Divide and Conquer

Selection

Selection Problem

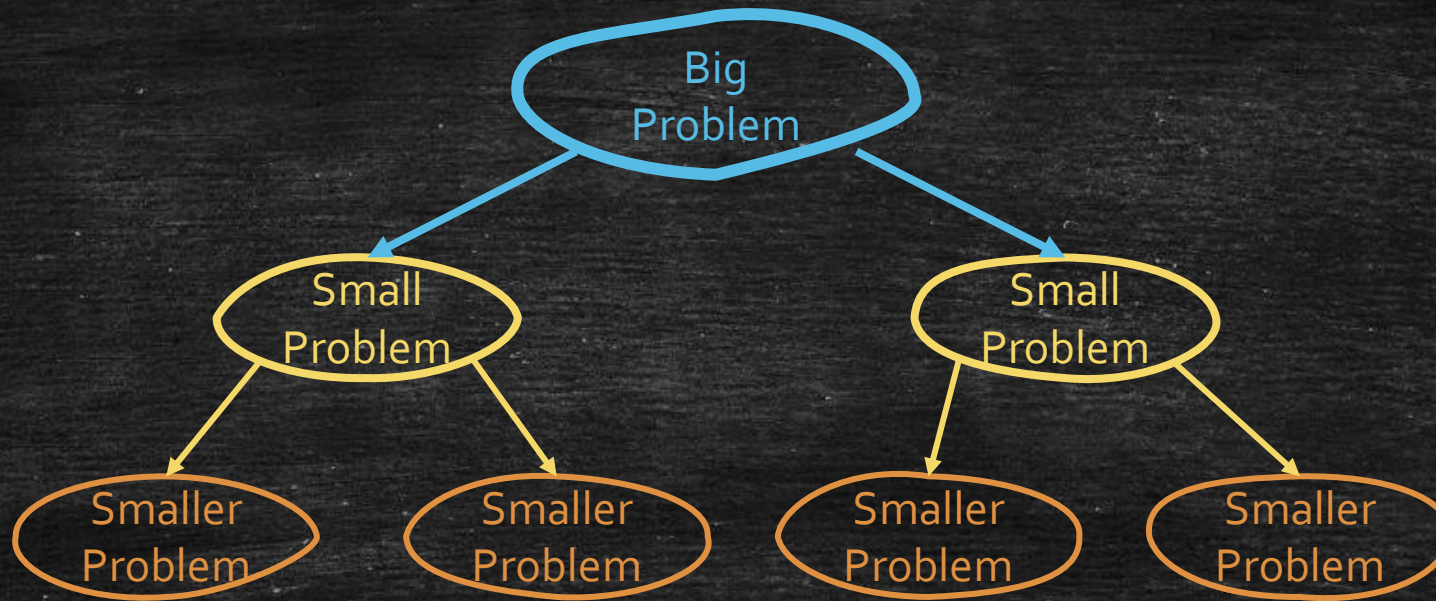
- **Input:** A set S of n integers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and an integer k
- **Output:** The k -th smallest integer x^* among x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n

One-by-one Selection

- **Input:** A set S of n integers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and an integer k
- **Output:** The k -th smallest integer x^* among x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n
- Plan 1
 - Select the smallest integer. $O(n)$
 - Select the 2nd smallest integer. $O(n - 1)$
 - ...
 - Select the k -th smallest integer. $O(n - k + 1)$
 - Total running time $O(nk)$

Sorting

- **Input:** A set S of n integers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and an integer k
- **Output:** The k -th smallest integer x^* among
- Plan 2
 - x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n Sort the integers in ascending order. $O(n \log n)$
 - Output the k -th integer. $O(1)$
 - Total running time $O(n \log n)$



Ok! Let's move to divide and conquer!

Divide and Conquer

- **Input:** A set S of n integers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and an integer k
- **Output:** The k -th smallest integer x^* among x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n
- Plan 2: Divide and Conquer
 - **Divide:**
 - Pick an arbitrary value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
 - Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
 - $L : x < v$
 - $M : x = v$
 - $R : x > v$
 - **Recurse:** find x^* in the subset contains x^* .
 - **Combine:** we already have x^* !

Divide

- Choose $v = 3$.

1	2	5	3	1	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- What is L, M, and R?

1	2	5	3	1	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- L:

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---

- M:

3	3
---	---

- R:

5	4
---	---

Divide

- L:

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---
- M:

3	3
---	---
- R:

5	4
---	---

Recurse

- Roughly sorted list



Recurse

- How to find x^* in L,M,R?
 - Recall x^* is the k -th smallest integer in S .

- L:

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---

 - x^* is the k -th integer in L

- M:

3	3
---	---

 - $x^* = 3$

- R:

5	4
---	---

 - x^* is the $(k - |L| - |M|)$ -th integer in R

Formalize

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

- **Divide:**
 - Pick an arbitrary value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
 - Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
 - $L : x < v$,
 - $M : x = v$,
 - $R : x > v$.
- **Recurse:**
 - Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output $\text{Select}(L, k)$;
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output $\text{Select}(R, k - |L| - |M|)$.

Is it correct?

Example: $k = 4$

1	2	5	3	1	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---

3	3
---	---

5	4
---	---

Example: $k = 4$

1	2	5	3	1	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---

Example: $k = 4$

1	2	5	3	1	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---

0

1	1
---	---

2

Example: $k = 4$

1	2	5	3	1	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---

2

Example: $k = 4$

1	2	5	3	1	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	2	1	0
---	---	---	---

2

2

Output 2

Running Time

We want to know $T(n)$

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

▪ Divide:

- Pick an arbitrary value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
- Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
 - $L : x < v$,
 - $M : x = v$,
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Divide: $O(n)$

▪ Recurse:

- Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output $\text{Select}(L, k)$;
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
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$T(|L|)$

$O(1)$

$T(R)$

Running Time

- $T(n) \leq O(n) + \max\{T(|L|), T(|R|)\}$

↓

$$\leq O(n) + T(n-1)$$

$$\leq O(n) + \underbrace{O(n-1) + T(n-2)} \leq \dots$$

$$= O(n) + O(n-1) + O(n-2) + \dots + O(1) = \mathbf{O(n^2)}$$

Fact

- $|L| + |M| + |R| = |S| = n$
- $|M| \geq 1$
- $|L|, |R| \leq n-1$

- **Very Bad!**

- One-by-one: $O(nk)$
- Sorting: $O(n \log n)$

Is it really that bad?

- Yes, the unluckiest case:
 - $k = 1$
 - Each time, v is the largest integer.
 - $T(n) = O(n) + T(n-1) = O(n) + O(n-1) + T(n-2) = \dots = O(n^2)$
- What if we are lucky?
 - Each time, v is in the middle.
 - $T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + O(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + O\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + O(n) = \dots = O(n)$.
- Idea: to make us reasonably lucky in average by randomness.

What is the next?

- Improving the running time **with** randomness.
- Improving the running time **without** randomness.

Using Randomness!

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

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 - Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output $\text{Select}(L, k)$;
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output $\text{Select}(R, k - |L| - |M|)$.

Using Randomness!

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

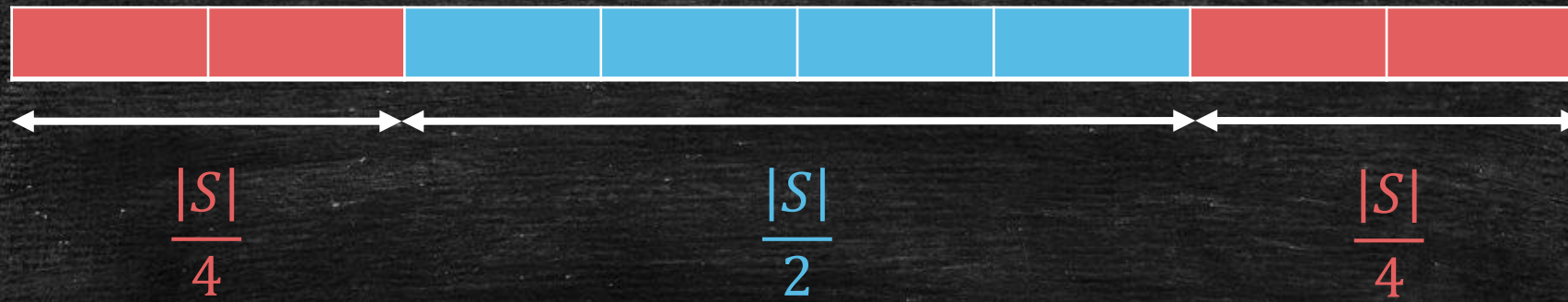
- **Divide:**
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 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output $\text{Select}(R, k - |L| - |M|)$.

Quick Selection

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

- **Divide:**
 - Pick a **random** value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
 - Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
 - $L : x < v$,
 - $M : x = v$,
 - $R : x > v$.
- **Recurse:**
 - Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output $\text{Select}(L, k)$;
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output $\text{Select}(R, k - |L| - |M|)$.

When we are lucky



- ■ : Lucky pivot area
- ■ : Bad pivot area
- Fact 1: With $\frac{1}{2}$ probability, we are lucky!
- Fact 2: If we are always lucky, $T(n) = T\left(\frac{3n}{4}\right) + O(n) = O(n)$

Analysis

- $\tau(n)$: Time we reduce n to $\frac{3n}{4}$
- $T(n) = \tau(n) + T(\frac{3n}{4})$
- $E[\tau(n)]$: The expected time we reduce n to $\frac{3n}{4}$
- $E[T(n)] = E\left[\tau(n) + T\left(\frac{3n}{4}\right)\right]$
 $= E[\tau(n)] + E\left[T\left(\frac{3n}{4}\right)\right]$
- $E[\tau(n)] = O(n)$
- $E[T(n)] = O(n) + E\left[T\left(\frac{3n}{4}\right)\right] = \mathbf{O(n)}$

Fact

Since we are lucky with probability $\frac{1}{2}$,
so the expected number of rounds
it takes to become lucky is 2.

What if we do not want
randomness?

Throw Randomness!

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

- **Divide:**
 - Pick a **random** value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
 - Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
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- **Recurse:**
 - Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output $\text{Select}(L, k)$;
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output $\text{Select}(R, k - |L| - |M|)$.

Throw Randomness!

Function Select(S, k)

- **Divide:**
 - Pick a **random** value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
 - Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
 - $L : x < v$,
 - $M : x = v$,
 - $R : x > v$.
- **Recurse:**
 - Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output Select(L, k);
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output Select($R, k - |L| - |M|$).

Median of medians (1973)

Blum, M.; Floyd, R. W.; Pratt, V. R.;
Rivest, R. L.; Tarjan, R. E.

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

- **Divide:**
 - Pick a **good pivot** value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
 - Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
 - $L : x < v$,
 - $M : x = v$,
 - $R : x > v$.
- **Recurse:**
 - Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output $\text{Select}(L, k)$;
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output $\text{Select}(R, k - |L| - |M|)$.

How to select a good pivot?

- Partition S into subsets with size 5.



How to select a good pivot?

- Partition S into subsets with size 5.

12	23	53	32	11
----	----	----	----	----

32	4	5	32	63
----	---	---	----	----

13	11	8	2	42
----	----	---	---	----

How to select a good pivot?

- Partition S into subsets with size 5.

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- Find the medians of them: v_1, v_2, v_3
 - 53, 32, 13

How to select a good pivot?

- Partition S into subsets with size 5.

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- Find the medians of them: v_1, v_2, v_3
 - 53, 32, 13
- Fix v to be the median of v_1, v_2, v_3
 - $v = 32$

How long it takes?

- Partition S into subsets with size 5.

12	23	53	32	11
----	----	----	----	----

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$O(n)$

- Find the medians of them: v_1, v_2, v_3

– 53, 32, 13

$O(n)$

- Fix v to be the median of v_1, v_2, v_3

– $v = 32$

$T(n/5)$

Why it is good?

- It should be in the middle range
- Why? Two questions
 - How many integers should be no greater than v ?
 - How many integers should be no less than v ?

Answer them step by step


- Partition S into subsets

12	23	53	32	11
----	----	----	----	----

32	4	5	32	63
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13	11	8	2	42
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- Answer

- We have $\frac{n}{5}$ groups, so $\frac{n}{5}$ medians.
- v is no greater than $n/10$ medians, no less than $n/10$ medians. 
- Each median is no greater than 2 integers, no less than 2 integers.
- v is no greater than $\frac{3n}{10}$ integers, no less than $3n/10$ integers.

The running time

Function $\text{Select}(S, k)$

▪ Divide:

- Pick a **good pivot** value v among x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots .
- Divide x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots into three subsets:
 - $L : x < v$,
 - $M : x = v$,
 - $R : x > v$.

$$T\left(\frac{n}{5}\right) + O(n)$$

$$O(n)$$

▪ Recurse:

- Recurse the subset contains x^* .
 - If $k \leq |L|$, output $\text{Select}(L, k)$;
 - If $|L| < k \leq |L| + |M|$, output v ;
 - If $|L| + |M| < k$, output $\text{Select}(R, k - |L| - |M|)$.

$$T(|L|) \leq T\left(n - \frac{3}{10}n\right)$$

$$T(|R|) \leq T\left(n - \frac{3}{10}n\right)$$

Make a guess

$$T(n) = T(0.2n) + T(0.7n) + O(n)$$

- Guess: $T(n) \leq Bn$?
- Try to prove it inductively
 - Basic step: $T(1) = 1$
 - Inductive step:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(0.2n) + (0.7n) + C \cdot n \\ &\leq 0.9Bn + Cn \\ &\leq Bn \end{aligned}$$

- We have $T(n) \leq 10Cn = O(n)$

It holds when
 $B \geq 10C$

One more Question

What if we group them by 2,3,4,5,...?

Today's goal

- Learn the quick selection algorithm
- Learn to make it polynomial by randomness (in expectation) **analytically**
- Learn to make it polynomial by median of medians **analytically**
- Remember to try to group by 2,3,4,5,6...