CSE3318: Divide & Conquer Algorithm Merge Sort by Dr. Bhanu Jain

Unauthorized copying, distribution, or reproduction of this material is strictly prohibited.

All slides are based on: *Introduction to Algorithms*, by Thomas H. Cormen, Charles E. Leiserson, Ronald E. Rivest, Clifford Stein, 3rd edition (CLRS)

Merge Sort

MERGE-SORT A[1..n]

- 1. If n = 1, done.
- 2. Recursively sort $A[1..\lceil n/2\rceil]$ and $A[\lceil n/2\rceil+1..n]$.
- 3. "Merge" the 2 sorted lists.

Key subroutine: MERGE

Merge Sort

MERGE-SORT (A, p, r)

- 1. if p < r
- 2. $q = \lfloor (p + r)/2 \rfloor$
- 3. MERGE-SORT(A,p,q)
- 4. MERGE-SORT(A,q+1,r)
- 5. MERGE(A,p,q,r)

Key subroutine: MERGE

MERGE-SORT(A,p,r)
Sorts the elements in the subarray A[p..r]
If p<=r, subarray A has at most 1 element-sorted

Merge Sort

MERGE-SORT(A, p, r)

- 1. if p < r
- 2. q = [(p + r) / 2]
- 3. MERGE-SORT(A, p, q)
- 4. MERGE-SORT(A, q + 1, r)
- 5. MERGE(A, p, q, r)

Divide Recursively: The array is divided recursively into two halves until each subarray has one element (base case). If p<r, subarray A has at least 2 elements

Merge: The MERGE function merges two sorted subarrays back into a single sorted array.

- 1. if p < r
- 2. q = [(p + r) / 2]
- 3. MERGE-SORT(A, p, q)
- 4. MERGE-SORT(A, q + 1, r)
- 5. MERGE(A, p, q, r)

Merge Sort

MERGE(A, p, q, r)

- 1. n1 = q p + 1
- 2. n2 = r q
- 3. let L[1..n1 + 1] and R[1..n2 + 1] be new arrays
- 4. for i = 1 to n1
- 5. L[i] = A[p + i 1]
- 6. for j = 1 to n2
- 7. R[j] = A[q + j]
- 8. $L[n1 + 1] = \infty$
- 9. $R[n2 + 1] = \infty$
- 10. i = 1
- 11. j = 1
- 12. for k = p to r
- 13. if $L[i] \leq R[j]$
- 14. A[k] = L[i]
- 15. i = i + 1
- 16. else A[k] = R[j]
- 17. j = j + 1

- 1. Divide the array into two parts.
- 2. Use two pointers (i and j) to traverse the sorted subarrays L and R.
- Compare the elements at the pointers and copy the smaller one into the array A.
- 4. Use sentinel values (∞) to not have to check the array boundaries explicitly.
- 5. Efficient merging technique for two sorted subarrays in O(n) time, where n=r-p+1

- 1. if p < r
- 2. q = |(p + r)/2|
- Merge Sort 3. Merge-sort(A, p, q) Merge-sort(A, q + 1, r)
 - 5. MERGE(A, p, q, r)

MERGE(A, p, q, r)

- 1. n1 = q p + 1
- 2. n2 = r q
- 3. let L[1..n1 + 1] and R[1..n2 + 1]
- 4. for i = 1 to n1
- 5. L[i] = A[p + i 1]
- 6. for j = 1 to n^2
- 7. R[j] = A[q + j]
- 8. $L[n1 + 1] = \infty$
- 9. $R[n2 + 1] = \infty$
- 10. i = 1
- 11. j = 1
- 12. for k = p to r
- 13. if $L[i] \leq R[i]$
- 14. A[k] = L[i]
- 15. i = i + 1
- 16. else A[k] = R[j]
- **17**. j = j + 1

- 1. Computes n1, the size of the subarray A[p..q].
- 2. Computes n2, the size of the subarray A[q+1..r].
- 4-5. Copies elements of the subarray A[p..q] into L[1..n1].
- 6-7. Copies elements of the subarray A[q+1..r] into R[1..n2].
- 8-9. Adds sentinel values to the ends of the arrays L and R.
- 10-11. Initializes i and i to start reading from arrays L and R.
- 10-11. L[i] and R[j] hold the smallest elements of L and R not yet merged into A.
- 12. The for loop executes r p + 1 basic steps.
- 12-17. After each step, A[p..k-1] contains the k p smallest elements of L[1..n1+1] and R[1..n2+1] in sorted order.

Merge Procedure Runs in $\Theta(\mathbf{n})$ Time

```
MERGE(A, p, q, r)
1. n1 = q - p + 1
2. n2 = r - q
3. let L[1..n1 + 1] and R[1..n2 + 1]
4. for i = 1 to n1
5. L[i] = A[p + i - 1]
6. for j = 1 to n^2
7. R[j] = A[q + j]
8. L[n1 + 1] = \infty
9. R[n2 + 1] = \infty
10. i = 1
11. j = 1
12. for k = p to r
13. if L[i] \leq R[j]
    A[k] = L[i]
14.
15. i = i + 1
16. else A[k] = R[j]
17.
       j = j + 1
```

```
n = q - p + 1
1-3 Constant time
      Constant time
      \Theta(n_1+n_2) = \Theta(n) time
12-17 n iterations of the for loop (each constant time)
```

Merge Procedure Runs in $\Theta(\mathbf{n})$ Time

MERGE(A, p, q, r)

15.

17.

i = i + 1

16. else A[k] = R[j]

j = j + 1

```
1. n1 = q - p + 1
                                                 20 12
                                                                 20 12
                                                                                 20 12
                                                                                                 20 12
                                                                                                                 20
2. n2 = r - q
3. let L[1..n1 + 1] and R[1..n2 + 1]
                                                  13 11
                                                                 13 11
                                                                                                                 13
4. for i = 1 to n1
5. L[i] = A[p + i - 1]
                                        9
                                                       9
6. for j = 1 to n^2
7. R[j] = A[q + j]
8. L[n1 + 1] = \infty
9. R[n2 + 1] = \infty
10. i = 1
11. j = 1
12. for k = p to r
     if L[i] \leq R[j]
13.
                                       Time = \Theta(n) to merge a total of n elements (linear time).
      A[k] = L[i]
14.
```

Analyzing Divide and Conquer Algorithms

- Division of problem yields a subproblems, each of which is 1/b the size of the original
- D(n) time to divide the problem into subproblems
- C(n) time to combine the solutions
- c is some constant

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) \text{ if } n \le c; \\ aT(n/b) + D(n) + C(n) \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Recurrence for Merge Sort

- We will omit stating the base case when $T(n) = \Theta(1)$ for sufficiently small n, but only when it has no effect on the asymptotic solution to the recurrence.
- **Divide:** Compute the middle of the subarray constant time $D(n) = \Theta(1)$
- Conquer: Recursively solve two subproblems, each of size n/2- contributes to 2T(n/2) running time
- Combine: Merge procedure on n-element subarray takes $\Theta(n)$ time. Therefore, $C(n) = \Theta(n)$. (see next slide)

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) \text{ if } n = 1; \\ 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) \text{ if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) \text{ if } n \le c; \\ aT(n/b) + D(n) + C(n) \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Recurrence for Merge Sort

- We will omit stating the base case when $T(n) = \Theta(1)$ for sufficiently small n, but only when it has no effect on the asymptotic solution to the recurrence.
- **Divide:** Compute the middle of the subarray constant time $D(n) = \Theta(1)$
- Conquer: Recursively solve two subproblems, each of size n/2- contributes to 2T(n/2) running time
- **Combine:** Merge procedure on n-element subarray takes $\Theta(n)$ time. Therefore, $C(n) = \Theta(n)$

```
MERGE-SORT(A, p, r)
1. if p < r
2. q = |(p + r)/2|
3. MERGE-SORT(A, p, q)
4. MERGE-SORT(A, q + 1, r)
5. MERGE(A, p, q, r)
```

```
T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) \text{ if } n = 1; \\ 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) \text{ if } n > 1. \end{cases}
T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) \text{ if } n \le c; \\ aT(n/b) + D(n) + C(n) \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}
Should be T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor), but it is irrelevant for asymptotic analysis.
```

```
1. If n = 1, done.
3-4. Recursively sort A[1..[n/2]] and A[[n/2]+1..n].
5."Merge" the 2 sorted lists
```

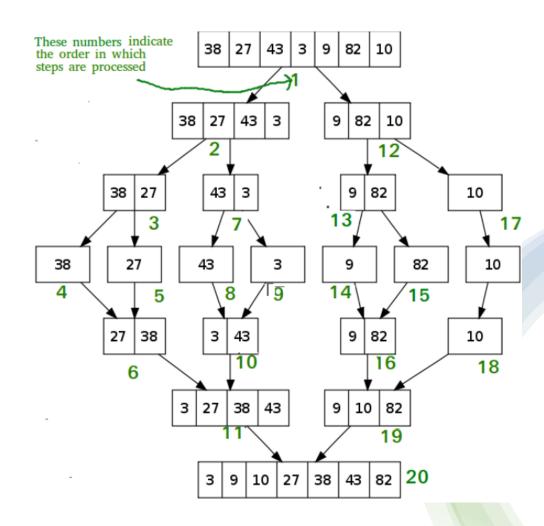
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) \text{ if } n \le c; \\ aT(n/b) + D(n) + C(n) \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- 1. if p < r
- 2. $q = \lfloor (p + r) / 2 \rfloor$
- 3. MERGE-SORT(A, p, q)
- 4. MERGE-SORT(A, q + 1, r)
- 5. MERGE(A, p, q, r)

MERGE(A, p, q, r)

- 1. n1 = q p + 1
- 2. n2 = r q
- 3. let L[1..n1 + 1] and R[1..n2 + 1] be new arrays
- 4. for i = 1 to n1
- 5. L[i] = A[p + i 1]
- 6. for j = 1 to n^2
- 7. R[j] = A[q + j]
- 8. $L[n1 + 1] = \infty$
- 9. $R[n2 + 1] = \infty$
- 10. i = 1
- 11. j = 1
- 12. for k = p to r
- 13. if $L[i] \leq R[j]$
- 14. A[k] = L[i]
- 15. i = i + 1
- 16. else A[k] = R[j]
- 17. j = j + 1

Recurrence for Merge Sort



- 1. if p < r
- 2. q = |(p + r)/2|
- 3. MERGE-SORT(A, p, q)
- 4. MERGE-SORT(A, q + 1, r)
- 5. MERGE(A, p, q, r)

MERGE(A, p, q, r)

- 1. n1 = q p + 1
- 2. n2 = r q
- 3. let L[1..n1 + 1] and R[1..n2 + 1] be new arrays
- 4. for i = 1 to n1
- 5. L[i] = A[p + i 1]
- 6. for j = 1 to n^2
- 7. R[j] = A[q + j]
- 8. $L[n1 + 1] = \infty$
- 9. $R[n2 + 1] = \infty$
- 10. i = 1
- 11. j = 1
- 12. for k = p to r
- 13. if $L[i] \leq R[j]$
- 14. A[k] = L[i]
- 15. i = i + 1
- 16. else A[k] = R[j]
- 17. j = j + 1

Recurrence for Merge Sort

Given array is [38, 27, 43, 3, 9, 82, 10]

```
p,q,r
```

147

124

112 First MERGE() call

3 3 4

567

5 5 6

Sorted array is [3, 9, 10, 27, 38, 43, 82]

MERGE-SORT(A, p, r) 1. if p < r 2. q = |(p + r) / 2| 3. MERGE-SORT(A, p, q)

Recurrence for Merge Sort

4. MERGE-SORT(A, q + 1, r)

5.
$$MERGE(A, p, q, r)$$

End of/inside Merge()

MERGE(A, p, q, r)

1.
$$n1 = q - p + 1$$

$$2. n2 = r - q$$

3. let
$$L[1..n1 + 1]$$
 and $R[1..n2 + 1]$ be new arrays

4. for
$$i = 1$$
 to $n1$

5.
$$L[i] = A[p + i - 1]$$

6. for
$$j = 1 \text{ to } n2$$

7.
$$R[j] = A[q + j]$$

8.
$$L[n1 + 1] = \infty$$

9.
$$R[n2 + 1] = \infty$$

12. for
$$k = p$$
 to r

13. if
$$L[i] \leq R[j]$$

14.
$$A[k] = L[i]$$

15.
$$i = i + 1$$

16. else
$$A[k] = R[j]$$

17.
$$j = j + 1$$



$$2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) \text{ if } n > 1$$

Given array is [38, 27, 43, 3, 9, 82, 10]

p,q,r, A

147

124

112

1 1 2 [**27, 38**, 43, 3, 9, 82, 10] L= [38] R= [27]

3 3 4 [27, 38, **3, 43**, 9, 82, 10] L= [43] R= [3]

1 2 4 [3, 27, 38, 43, 9, 82, 10] L= [27, 38] R= [3, 43]

These numbers indicate

27

27 38

3 27 38 43

steps are processed

38 27 43 3 9 82 10

9 82 10

9 82

9 10 82

3 | 9 | 10 | 27 | 38 | 43 | 82 | 20

17

10

10

18

13

Sorted array is [3, 9, 10, 27, 38, 43, 82]

© Bhanu Jain 2025

The END!