

## Problem Set #3

Quiz, 5 questions

4/5 points (80%)

**Congratulations! You passed!**

Next Item

1 / 1  
point

1.

Let  $0 < \alpha < .5$  be some constant (independent of the input array length  $n$ ). Recall the Partition subroutine employed by the QuickSort algorithm, as explained in lecture. What is the probability that, with a randomly chosen pivot element, the Partition subroutine produces a split in which the size of the smaller of the two subarrays is  $\geq \alpha$  times the size of the original array?

 $1 - 2 * \alpha$ **Correct**

That's correct!

 $\alpha$  $1 - \alpha$  $2 - 2 * \alpha$ 1 / 1  
point

2.

Now assume that you achieve the approximately balanced splits above in every recursive call --- that is, assume that whenever a recursive call is given an array of length  $k$ , then each of its two recursive calls is passed a subarray with length between  $\alpha k$  and  $(1 - \alpha)k$  (where  $\alpha$  is a fixed constant strictly between 0 and .5). How many recursive calls can occur before you hit the base case? Equivalently, which levels of the recursion tree can contain leaves? Express your answer as a range of possible numbers  $d$ , from the minimum to the maximum number of recursive calls that might be needed.


$$-\frac{\log(n)}{\log(\alpha)} \leq d \leq \frac{\log(n)}{\log(1-\alpha)}$$
**Correct**

That's correct!

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$$0 \leq d \leq \frac{\log(n)}{\log(\alpha)}$$

$$\frac{\log(n)}{\log(1-\alpha)} \leq d \leq \frac{\log(n)}{\log(\alpha)}$$

$$\frac{\log(n)}{\log(1-2*\alpha)} \leq d \leq \frac{\log(n)}{\log(1-\alpha)}$$

1 / 1  
point

3.

Define the recursion depth of QuickSort to be the maximum number of successive recursive calls before it hits the base case --- equivalently, the number of the last level of the corresponding recursion tree. Note that the recursion depth is a random variable, which depends on which pivots get chosen. What is the minimum-possible and maximum-possible recursion depth of QuickSort, respectively?

Minimum:  $\Theta(\log(n))$  ; Maximum:  $\Theta(n)$ **Correct**

The best case is when the algorithm always picks the median as a pivot, in which case the recursion is essentially identical to that in MergeSort. In the worst case the min or the max is always chosen as the pivot, resulting in linear depth.

Minimum:  $\Theta(\log(n))$  ; Maximum:  $\Theta(n \log(n))$ Minimum:  $\Theta(1)$  ; Maximum:  $\Theta(n)$ Minimum:  $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$  ; Maximum:  $\Theta(n)$ 1 / 1  
point

4.

Consider a group of  $k$  people. Assume that each person's birthday is drawn uniformly at random from the 365 possibilities. (And ignore leap years.) What is the smallest value of  $k$  such that the expected number of pairs of distinct people with the same birthday is at least one?

[Hint: define an indicator random variable for each ordered pair of people. Use linearity of expectation.]



28

**Correct**

Correct!



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Problem Set #3

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☐ 270 / 1  
point

5.

Let  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  denote the outcomes of three rolls of a six-sided die. (I.e., each  $X_i$  is uniformly distributed among 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and by assumption they are independent.) Let  $Y$  denote the product of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  and  $Z$  the product of  $X_2$  and  $X_3$ . Which of the following statements is correct?

- ☐  $Y$  and  $Z$  are independent, but  $E[Y * Z] \neq E[Y] * E[Z]$ .
- ☐  $Y$  and  $Z$  are not independent, but  $E[Y * Z] = E[Y] * E[Z]$ .
- ☒  $Y$  and  $Z$  are independent, and  $E[Y * Z] = E[Y] * E[Z]$ .

**This should not be selected**Note that both  $Y$  and  $Z$  depend on a common random variable  $X_2$ .

- ☐  $Y$  and  $Z$  are not independent, and  $E[Y * Z] \neq E[Y] * E[Z]$ .

