

Peak Finding In Arrays

1D:

Definition:

Let A be an array of size n .

Let A_{i-1} , A_i , and A_{i+1} , ($i < n$; $(A_{i-1}, A_i, A_{i+1}) \in A$) be any three subsequent items in A .

Let A_0 , A_1 be the first and the second items in the array, respectively.

Let A_{n-2} , A_{n-1} be the second to last, and the last items in the array, respectively.

An item A_i is a peak iff $A_i \geq A_{i-1} \wedge A_i \geq A_{i+1}$.

A_0 is a peak if $A_0 \geq A_1$. Wouldn't these two only be true if the array has exactly two elements?

A_n is a peak if $A_n \geq A_{n-1}$. Also that would mean that the second one is exactly the same as the first one.

Theorem 1: An array has at least one peak.

Proof: (By induction)

Let $P(n)$ = "an array of size n has at least one peak".

Base case: $P(1) \Rightarrow$ an array of size 1 has one element, which therefore is a peak. \Rightarrow Base case holds.

Inductive step: Assume $P(n)$ is true. $\Rightarrow \exists$ A of size n that has a peak.

Assume $P(n+1)$ by adding an element k into the array A creating a new array A' . There are three possibilities:

- an element is added to the end of the array A'
- an element is added to the beginning of the array A'
- an element is added somewhere in the array A' that is not beginning nor end.

Let's analyze each of the cases.

In the a) case, there are two possibilities. A'_0 was a peak, or A'_0 was not a peak.

- If A'_0 was a peak and $A'_0 \geq k$, then A'_0 is still a peak, since $A'_0 \geq A'_1 \wedge A'_0 \geq k$; otherwise k will be the new peak.
- If A'_0 was not a peak, then k will be a peak if $A'_0 \leq k$. Otherwise k would not be the peak, but, by $P(n)$, A' would have a peak of A .

In the b) case, there are two possibilities. A'_n was a peak, or A'_n was not a peak.

- If A'_n was a peak and $A'_n \geq k$, then A'_n is still a peak, since $A'_n \geq A'_{n-1} \wedge A'_n \geq k$; otherwise k will be the new peak.
- If A'_n was not a peak, then k will be a peak if $A'_n \leq k$. Otherwise k would not be the peak, but, by $P(n)$, A' would have a peak of A .

The c) case is a little bit more complicated. Let's assume that k is inserted between A'_i and A'_{i+1} . Then there are a couple of possibilities, but the rules from the previous two cases apply:

- If $k \geq A'_i \wedge k \geq A'_{i+1}$, k will be a peak.
- If $k \leq A'_i$, and A'_i was a peak, it will remain a peak. If A'_i was not a peak, then, by $P(n)$, A' would have a peak of A .

$\Rightarrow P(n+1)$ holds.

Algorithms' asymptotic complexity:

Greedy approach: Worst case, $T(n) = \Theta(n)$

Recursive approach:

Worst case, $T(n) = T(n/2) + \Theta(1)$.