

Problem 1

An array A of n distinct numbers are said to be *unimodal* if there exists an index k , $1 \leq k \leq n$, such that $A[1] \leq A[2] \leq \dots \leq A[k-1] \leq A[k]$ and $A[k] \geq A[k+1] \geq \dots \geq A[n]$. In other words A has a unique peak and are monotone on both sides of the peak. Design an $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ algorithm that finds the peak in a unimodal array of size n .

Problem 2

Let A be a heap of size n . Let T be the binary tree corresponding to A (that is, $A[1]$ is the root node of T , $A[2]$ and $A[3]$ are the left child and right child nodes of $A[1]$, etc). Prove the following properties of T (you need to pay attention to the floor notation in the equations).

- (a) The height of T is $\lfloor \log n \rfloor$;
- (b) T is a *balanced* binary tree, namely if we denote the two subtrees of the root node of T by T_L and T_R respectively, then $|T_R| \leq |T_L| \leq 2n/3$ (In fact, you have just proved a more general statement: the inequality holds for any non-leaf node in the tree) ;
- (c) The leaf nodes of T are $A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1], A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 2], \dots, A[n]$.

Problem 3

Suppose you are given an unsorted list of n distinct numbers. However, the list is close to sorted in the sense that each number is at most k positions away from its position in the sorted list. For example, suppose the sorted list is in ascending order, then the smallest element in the original list will lie between position 1 and position $k + 1$, as position 1 is its position in the final sorted list. Design an efficient algorithm that sorts such a list. Your running time should depend on both n and k .

Problem 4

Using the approach of Divide-and-Conquer, design an algorithm that finds the *median* of an unsorted list (the *median* of a list of n number is the $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ -th smallest number in the list; that is, the one that lies in the middle). State both the worst-case running time and the average-case running time of your algorithm. You do not need to give rigorous mathematical proofs of your claims but you should provide reasoning to support your conclusions. (hint: you will find the approach of **QuickSort** useful for this problem as well. Also, when applying the method of recursion, you will often find that working with a more *general* problem is a lot easier.)

Problem 5

You have n pairs of nuts and bolts (the bolts screw into the nuts) that have been dropped onto a table with the nuts on one side and the bolts on another side; however you cannot tell whether one nut is bigger than another nut or whether one bolt is bigger than another bolt. You can attempt to screw a bolt into a nut and this will tell you either that the nut matches the bolt, or that the bolt is too large or too small for the nut. Call this a *nut/bolt comparison*. Give a randomized algorithm that will match all nuts with their corresponding bolts with at most $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ nut/bolt comparisons.