CS2040S: Data Structures and Algorithms

Discussion Group Problems for Week 5

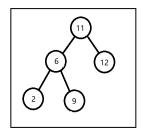
For: Feb. 8-Feb. 12

# 1 Review

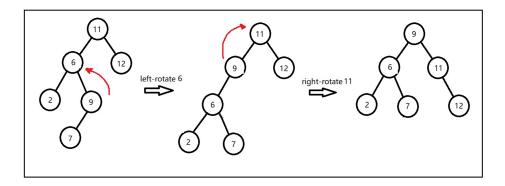
Discuss questions, if you have any, with the tutor and the rest of the class, about the material and content so far.

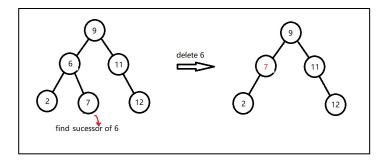
# 2 Problems

**Problem 1.** Review AVL tree insertion and deletion algorithms in class. What would the tree be like after inserting 7? What if we delete 6 after that?



**Solution:** See diagram below for the insertion, rotation and deletion.





**Problem 2.** (A few puzzles involving duplicates or array processing)

**Problem 2.a.** Given an array A, decide if there are any duplicated elements in the array.

**Solution:** An  $O(n \log n)$  solution is to sort the array first  $(O(n \log n))$ . Then we traverse the array from index 0 to n-2, checking whether the value at index i is the same as the value at index i+1. This takes O(n) time. The overall run time would then be  $O(n \log n)$ .

**Problem 2.b.** Given an array A, output another array B with all the duplicates removed. Note the order of the elements in B does not need to follow the same order in A. That means if array A is  $\{3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1\}$ , then your algorithm can output  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ .

**Solution:** We sort the array in ascending order, taking  $O(n \log n)$  time. We traverse the array. We use a variable to keep track of the largest element k encountered so far. We remove the element at index i if it is identical to k, or update the value of k if the element at index i is not a duplicate of previous elements. The overall run time would be  $O(n \log n)$ .

**Problem 2.c.** Given arrays A and B, output a new array C containing all the items in both A and B. You are given that array A and array B already have their duplicates removed.

**Solution:** We use the merge sort idea. Sort both arrays in ascending order, then use the merge step from merge sort to output array C. If the element has already been added to array C, then we discard this element, and advance our pointer in array A or array B. The run time would be  $O(n \log n)$ .

**Problem 2.d.** Given array A + target value, output two elements x and y in A where (x+y) equals the target value.

**Solution:** Sort the array. Use two pointers to mark the beginning and end of the array respectively. If the target is less than the sum of those two elements, shift the left pointer to increase the value of (x+y) and if the target is greater than the required value, shift the right pointer to decrease the value. The run time would be  $O(n \log n)$ .

## Problem 3. (Chicken Rice)

Imagine you are the judge of a chicken rice competition. You have in front of you n plates of chicken rice. Your goal is to identify which plate of chicken rice is best.

## **Problem 3.a.** A simple algorithm:

- Put the first plate on your table.
- Go through all the remaining plates. For each plate, taste the chicken rice on the plate, taste the chicken rice on the table, decide which is better. If the new plate is better than the one on your table, replace the plate on your table with the new plate.
- When you are done, the plate on your table is the winner!

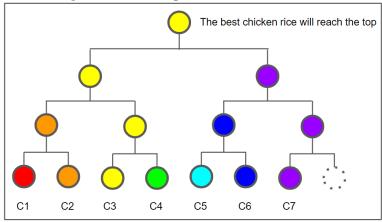
Assume each plate begins containing n bites of chicken rice. When you are done, in the worst-case, how much chicken rice is left on the winning plate?

**Solution:** There would only be one bite! In the worst case the first plate on the table is the best plate of chicken rice already, and every comparison thereafter, you keep holding onto the same plate of chicken rice, and compare it to the remaining n-1 plates, so you end up taking n-1 bites out of the same plate.

**Problem 3.b.** Oh no! We want to make sure that there is as much chicken rice left on the winning plate as possible (so you can take it home and give it to all your friends). Design an algorithm to maximize the amount of remaining chicken rice on the winning plate, once you have completed the testing/tasting process. How much chicken rice is left on the winning plate? How much chicken rice have you had to consume in total? (Give a tight asymptotic bound)

**Solution:** Use a tournament tree! Start with a perfectly balanced binary tree with each plate of chicken rice at a leaf. Work your way up the tree comparing plates, until you get to the root. That's the best chicken rice, and it only took  $\log(n)$  bites off that plate. In total for each comparison you will only need to consume 2 bites, and in total you need to make  $\leq 2n$  comparisons, so you only need to make at most O(n) bites.

Below is an example with 7 plates of chicken rice. Notice that any plate of chicken rice only needs to be compared with another plate at most  $\log n$  times.



**Problem 3.c.** Now I do not want to find the best chicken rice, but (for some perverse reason) I want to find the median chicken rice. Again, design an algorithm to maximize the amount of remaining chicken rice on the median plate, once you have completed the testing/tasting process. How much chicken rice is left on the median plate? How much chicken rice have you had to consume in total? (Give a tight asymptotic bound. If your algorithm is randomized, give your answers in expectation.)

**Solution:** Let's try to run QuickSelect. First, notice that in one level of QuickSelect (when the subarray is size n), almost all the plates in the subarray have one bite eaten from them; the unlucky "pivot" plate has n-1 bites eaten. If you choose the pivot at random, then the median plate has an expected cost of  $(1/n)n + (1 - 1/n)1 \le 2$ . So at every level of recursion, there are at most two bites consumed from the median plate, in expectation. Since the recursion will terminate in  $O(\log(n))$  levels (with high probability and in expectation), we conclude by linearity of expectation that the median plate only has  $O(\log(n))$  bites consumed. In total, you have consumed O(n) bites of chicken rice.

Another answer is to use an AVL tree. Inserting each plate into an AVL tree takes  $O(\log n)$  comparisons. At that point, you can find the median, e.g., by doing an in-order traversal of the AVL tree. (Or, in class, we will see how to find order statistics in an AVL tree.)

In fact, using a randomized algorithm, this can be solved with only  $O(\log \log(n))$  bites to the median plate, but that is much, much more complicated.

#### Problem 4. (Order Maintenance)

The goal of the order maintenance problem is to maintain a total order over some (unspecified) objects. The data structure supports two operations:

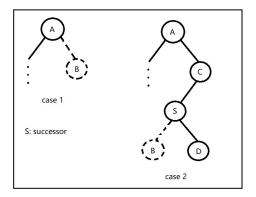
- InsertAfter(A, B): insert B immediately after A;
- InsertBefore(A, B): insert B immediately before A;
- isAfter(A, B): is B after A in the total order?

Notice that the insert operation adds B directly after A, while the query operation isAfter(A, B) asks whether B is anywhere after A in the total order. The expected complexity of each operation is  $O(\log n)$ , where n is the number of items in the data structure. Also, for this question, you're allowed to assume that when isAfter(A, B) is called, you're given the nodes corresponding to A and B.

#### Solution: (Sketch)

The data structure we use here is an AVL tree, but with an augmentation to how the insertion algorithm works. When inserting B after A, we do as follows:

- If A has no right child, then insert B as the right child of A.
- Otherwise, find the successor of A and insert B as the left child of the successor.



Either way, B now follows A in an in-order traversal of the tree. Complete the insertion by performing the rotations as described for an AVL Tree. When inserting B before A, do the same thing in reverse: either insert B as the left child (if none exists), or as the right child of the predecessor of A.

In order to determine whether A or B comes first, walk up the tree, until we find a common ancestor of A and B, i.e. when their paths "meet". We can then decide which comes first. We have to be careful, though, to compare ancestors at the same height. Thus, you need to walk all the way to the root from both A and B, storing for each step along the path (in an array), the key and whether the node was entered from the left or right. Then we can compare the two tree walks and find the common ancestor where one path entered from the left and the other from the right. (In coming lectures, we will see an alternative wherein we can store the depth in each node, maintain it during rotations, and then use that to make this easier.)

The cost of all operations here is  $O(\log n)$ , since the height of an AVL tree of n nodes is at most  $O(\log n)$ .

**Problem 5.** (If you have time) What solutions did you find for Contest 1 (Catch the Spies)? **Solution:** First, review the binary search approach. This should give a solution of cost  $O(k \log n)$ . Each binary search of cost  $\log n$  finds one more spy. Here's one approach for doing better:

- Choose a set of n/k students that are still unexamined and put them in set S.
- ullet Check if there is at least one spy in S by sending all the students not in S on a mission together.
- If there is at least one spy in S, then repeatedly use binary search to find the spies in S. Each spy you find here will take  $O(\log(n/k))$  time.
- $\bullet$  Mark the students in set S as examined, and repeat with the remaining students.

Since each spy you find takes  $O(\log(n/k))$  time, you will spend  $O(k\log(n/k))$  time doing binary searches for spies. How many times will you query a set S and discover no spies? Well, there are only k different sets with n/k students, so this will take at most k queries. So the total number of queries is  $k \log(n/k) + k$ . This is optimal, since  $\Omega(k \log(n/k))$  is the best you can do.

## Problem 6. (Ancestor Queries) (Just for fun)

Our job is now to *simulate* a binary tree. Each node has zero, one, or two children, and the tree is of height h. Unfortunately, it is not a balanced tree. By pre-processing the binary tree, design and implement an auxiliary data structure to support the following operations efficiently:

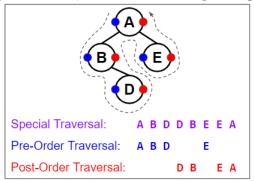
- InsertLeft(x, y): insert y as a left child of x in the binary tree.
- InsertRight(x, y): insert y as a right child of x in the binary tree.
- isAncestor(x, y): is x an ancestor of y in the binary tree that contains them?

Hint: Think about how you answer the isAncestor(x, y) query without the extra data structure. What would be the cost of that operation? How can you improve this?

**Solution:** We define a new type of traversal in which each node in the tree appears twice: once before all of its children and once after all of its children. For a node v with children y and z, we define traverse(v) recursively as follows:

#### print(v) traverse(y) traverse(z) print(v)

For example, given the binary tree below, we have the corresponding traversals:



That is, the traversal first visits v, then both of v's children (first left, then right), and then visits v again. (Define traverse(null) to be empty.) If v has no children, then its traversal consists of just two elements: v v. Note here that each node is only going to be printed twice. Let's consider the sequence that we obtain out of this traversal. We'll call the first time a node is printed as start(v), and the second time end(v).

If you just focus on the the first time the nodes are printed in the traversal (removing all the second printings), then the resulting total order is exactly a pre-order traversal. Likewise, if you focus on the end nodes in the traversal (removing all the start nodes), then the resulting total order is exactly a post-order traversal.

Given two nodes v and w, we observe that v comes before w in a **pre-order** traversal of the original (unbalanced) tree if **start(v)** comes before **start(w)** in the traversal. Similarly, v comes before w in a **post-order** traversal of the original (unbalanced) tree if end(v) comes before end(w) in the traversal.

The idea is to maintain a data structure OMtraverse that stores this (double) "traversal" of the tree. That is, the total order in the order maintenance data structure is exactly the described traversal (where each node appears twice). To answer the isAncestor(x,y) query, we check whether x precedes y in the pre-order traversal and whether y precedes x in the post-order traversal. The following lemma explains why:

**Lemma 1** Node x is an ancestor of y if and only if x comes before y in a pre-order traversal and x comes after y in a post-order traversal.

## Solution: (continued)

Thus, using the OMtraverse data structure, we can determine whether x is an ancestor of y, by having to check if start(x) is before start(y) and if end(y) is before end(x).

How about insertions? To insert a new node w as a child of x in the binary tree we are simulating, we need to insert  $\mathtt{start}(\mathtt{w})$  and  $\mathtt{end}(\mathtt{w})$  into OMtraverse. If w is the only child of x, then we simply insert  $\mathtt{start}(\mathtt{w})$  after x and  $\mathtt{end}(\mathtt{w})$  after  $\mathtt{start}(\mathtt{w})$ . If w is the left child of x, then again we insert  $\mathtt{start}(\mathtt{w})$  after x and  $\mathtt{end}(\mathtt{w})$  after  $\mathtt{start}(\mathtt{w})$ . Finally, if w is the right child of x, then we insert  $\mathtt{end}(\mathtt{w})$  immediately before  $\mathtt{end}(\mathtt{w})$  and we insert  $\mathtt{start}(\mathtt{w})$  immediately before  $\mathtt{end}(\mathtt{w})$ . The resulting ordering OMtraverse should exactly match the desired traversal of the binary tree. So what kind of operations we need to support? Given 2 items, we need to be able to check whether one is before the other, and also, we need to be able to insert items as either directly before or directly after them. But hey! That's exactly what the data structure in the previous question supports. So we should really just be using that.

Finally, we may want to maintain some additional index structures, e.g., a tree to translate the name of a node to its location in the OMtravers data structure, and/or the name of a node to its location in the unbalanced binary tree. This tree would let us lookup x, find start(x) and end(x) in the tree, and use them to make the ancestor query.