

Practice Set 1

Sorting and Searching

1. Consider a building with infinitely many floors. You need to find the highest floor h from which an egg can be dropped without breaking. Can you do it with $O(\log h)$ egg droppings?
2. Given a sorted array A of n distinct integers, you want to find out whether there is an index i for which $A[i] = i$. Give a divide-and-conquer algorithm that runs in time $O(\log n)$.
3. Let $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$ be a sequence of n distinct numbers. We say that two indices $i < j$ form an *inversion* if $a_i > a_j$. Design and analyze an efficient algorithm to find out the number of inversions in A .
4. Given two sorted integer arrays (with all distinct numbers in them) of size n , we want to find the median of the union of the two arrays. Can you find it by accessing only $O(\log n)$ entries in the two arrays.
5. Given an array with n positive integers $[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n]$ and a target value S , find the minimum length subarray whose sum is at least S . Can you do it in $O(n \log n)$ time?
6. Prove that $\log n! = \Theta(n \log n)$.
7. Note that $\log n! = \log (\prod_{i=1}^n i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log i \geq \int_1^n \log x \, dx$. Solve the integral to get a lower bound.
8. Given an integer a , check if it is of the form b^k for some unknown integers b and $k > 1$. Can you do this in time $O(\log^3 a)$?
9. True or false:
 - $2n + 3$ is $O(n^2)$.
 - $\sum_{i=1}^n i^2$ is $O(n^2)$.
 - $\sum_{i=1}^n 1/i$ is $O(\log n)$.
 - n^n is $O(2^n)$.
 - 2^{3n} is $O(2^n)$.

- ✓ 10. Show that any sequence of n integers can be sorted in $O(n + M)$ time, where

$$M = \max_i x_i - \min_i x_i.$$

For small M , this is linear time: why doesn't the $\Omega(n \log n)$ lower bound apply in this case?

- ✓ 11. Is binary search optimal? Justify your answer.
- ✓ 12. Given a natural number N , write an algorithm to check if it is a perfect square or not.
- ✓ 13. Consider an $n \times n$ matrix M where every row and column is sorted in increasing order. Given a number x , design an efficient algorithm to find the position of x in M .
14. Show that there is no comparison sort whose running time is linear for at least half of the $n!$ inputs of length n .

Divide and Conquer Technique

- ✓ 1. Let us try to apply the divide and conquer approach on the integer multiplication problem. Suppose we want to multiply two n -bit integers a and b . Expand the product in the base $2^{n/2}$. The Karatsuba algorithm computes the coefficients in the $2^{n/2}$ base expansion using *only three multiplications* of $n/2$ bit integers and a few additions/subtractions and shift operations? Complete the details of the algorithm and analyze the running time.
- ✓ 2. Can you find square of an n -bit integer a , using square subroutine on $2k - 1$ integers with n/k bits and a some additions/subtractions? What's the running time you get? What if you take k as something like $n/2$? Does that give you a really fast algorithm?
- ✓ 3. Consider arbitrary eight numbers $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4$. Define these seven expressions.

$$\begin{aligned} p_1 &= (a_1 + a_4)(b_1 + b_4), & p_2 &= (a_3 + a_4)b_1, & p_3 &= a_1(b_2 - b_4), & p_4 &= a_4(b_3 - b_1), \\ p_5 &= (a_1 + a_2)b_4, & p_6 &= (a_3 - a_1)(b_1 + b_2), & p_7 &= (a_2 - a_4)(b_3 + b_4) \end{aligned}$$

- (a) Define the following four terms:

$$\begin{aligned} q_1 &= p_1 + p_4 - p_5 + p_7, & q_2 &= p_3 + p_5 \\ q_3 &= p_2 + p_4, & q_4 &= p_1 - p_2 + p_3 + p_6 \end{aligned}$$

We now consider the matrix multiplication algorithm. Given two $n \times n$ matrices A and B , their product C can be computed in $O(n^3)$ time. Recall that, a natural way to split any matrix as a 2×2 square matrix is following:

$$A = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} A_1 & A_2 \\ \hline A_3 & A_4 \end{array} \right].$$

Use this block decomposition to write the product in terms of $A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4$.

- (b) Use the identities defined, to compute the product in $O(n^{\log_2 7})$ time.

4. A univariate polynomial $P(x)$ of degree $< n$ is of form:

$$P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1}.$$

- (a) How can you represent the polynomial in terms of coefficients and in terms of evaluation points?
- (b) For any distinct n numbers $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}$, a *Vandermonde matrix* is defined as the following $n \times n$ matrix.

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \alpha_0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \dots & \alpha_{n-1} \\ \alpha_0^2 & \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_2^2 & \dots & \alpha_{n-1}^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_0^{n-1} & \alpha_1^{n-1} & \alpha_2^{n-1} & \dots & \alpha_{n-1}^{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Show that V is invertible.

- (c) Design an $O(n^3)$ -time algorithm using the Vandermonde matrix to change one polynomial representation to the other.
- (d) How can you choose the Vandermonde matrix wisely to improve the running time to $O(n \log n)$ [FFT algorithm].
- (e) Suppose we want to convert the coefficient representation of $P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3$ to the evaluation vector representation evaluated at the fourth roots of unity $1, -1, i, -i$. Consider how FFT algorithm will compute these. We will represent the algorithm as a circuit, with a gate labeled with α takes two numbers a and b as inputs and outputs two numbers $a + \alpha b$ and $a - \alpha b$. Write down the FFT circuit for the computation of the evaluation vector of the degree 3 polynomial at the 4th roots of unity.

5. Prove the Master theorem.