

# Divide and Conquer Theoretical Analysis

## Psuedocode

Note: Originally based on pseudocode found in Introduction to Algorithms, 3rd Edition.

```
FIND-MAX-SUBARRAY(A, low, high)
1  if high = low
2      return low, high, A[low]
3  else
4      mid = floor((low+high)/2)
5      left-low, left-high, left-sum = FIND-MAX-SUBARRAY(A, low, mid)
6      right-low, right-high, right-sum = FIND-MAX-SUBARRAY(A, mid+1, high)
7      left-sum = 0
8      max-left = -inf
9      max-subarray-sum = 0
10     for i = mid <- low
11         sum = sum + A[i]
12         if sum > left-sum
13             left-sum = sum
14             max-left = i
15     right-sum = 0
16     max-right = -inf
17     max-subarray-sum = 0
18     for i = mid+1 -> high
19         sum = sum + A[i]
20         if sum > right-sum
21             right-sum = sum
22             max-right = i
23     cross-low, cross-high, cross-sum = max-left, max-right, left-sum+right-sum
24     if left-sum >= right-sum and left-sum >= cross-sum
25         return left-low, left-high, left-sum
26     else if right-sum >= left-sum and right-sum >= cross-sum
27         return right-low, right-high, right-sum
28     else
29         return cross-low, cross-high, cross-sum
```

## Theoretical Runtime Analysis

The divide and conquer algorithm for finding a maximum subarray can be divided into three parts:

1. Setup, control statements, calculations, comparisons, and base case handling
2. Recursive subproblems
3. Maximum subarray crossing midpoint subproblem

The first section includes the lines that occur in  $\Theta(1)$  time. These constant time tasks include the work done on the following lines:

1. Lines 1-2: Handling the  $T(1)$  base case
2. Line 4: Calculating the midpoint of the array or subarray
3. Lines 7-9, 11-14: Initialization, comparison, and calculations for the crossing sub-problem
4. Lines 15-17, 19-22: Initialization, comparison, and calculations for the crossing sub-problem
5. Lines 24-29: Comparisons and calculations for the combine step
6. Misc: Control statements (e.g. if/else if/else/return)

The second section includes slines related to the recursive sub-problems. There are two subproblems of  $n/2$  size. For purposes of this analysis we will consider  $n$  as a power of two, such that  $n/2$  is always an integer. Adding the constant time work done by the lines in the previous section gives us a recurrence relation of  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(1)$ . The recursive tasks include the work done on the following lines:

1. Line 5: Recursive subproblem handling the left subarray
2. Line 6: Recursive subproblem handling the right subarray

The final section includes the lines related to the subproblem which finds a maximum subarray crossing the midpoint of  $A[\text{low}..\text{high}]$ . This work occurs in the for loops which are initialized on lines 10 and 18. Each of these loops processes an  $n/2$  subarray, for a total of  $n$  elements processed. Therefore, the work done during the crossing sub-problem occurs in  $\Theta(n)$  time. The linear time tasks include the work done in the following lines:

3. Line 10: Loop handling the left subarray for the crossing subproblem
4. Line 18: Loop handling the right subarray for the crossing subproblem

At this point the recurrence relation is  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) + \Theta(1)$ . Using the master theorem to solve this recurrence indicates that the total runtime for the divide and conquer approach is  $\Theta(n \lg n)$ .