Intro to Analysis of Algorithms Divide & Conquer Chapter 3

Michael Soltys

CSU Channel Islands

[Ed: 4th, last updated: September 16, 2025]



Herman Hollerith, 1860-1929

Suppose that we have two lists of numbers that are already sorted.

That is, we have a list $a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_n$ and $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq \cdots \leq b_m$.

We want to combine those two lists into one long sorted list $c_1 \leq c_2 \leq \cdots \leq c_{n+m}$.

The mergesort algorithm sorts a given list of numbers by first dividing them into two lists of length $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ and $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, respectively, then sorting each list recursively, and finally combining the results.

Pre-condition: $a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_n$ and $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq \cdots \leq b_m$ 1: $p_1 \leftarrow 1$; $p_2 \leftarrow 1$; $i \leftarrow 1$ 2: while i < n + m do if $a_{p_1} \leq b_{p_2}$ then 3: 4: $c_i \leftarrow a_{p_1}$ 5: $p_1 \longleftarrow p_1 + 1$ 6: else 7: $c_i \leftarrow b_{p_1}$ 8: $p_2 \longleftarrow p_2 + 1$ end if 9. $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 10:

11: end while

Post-condition: $c_1 \le c_2 \le \cdots \le c_{n+m}$

Pre-condition: A list of integers a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n

1:
$$L \leftarrow a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$$

2: **if** $|L| < 1$ **then**

4: **else**

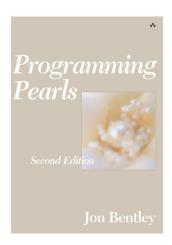
5:
$$L_1 \leftarrow$$
 first $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ elements of L

6:
$$L_2 \leftarrow last |n/2|$$
 elements of L

7: **return** Merge(Mergesort(
$$L_1$$
), Mergesort(L_2))

8: end if

Post-condition: $a_{i_1} \leq a_{i_2} \leq \cdots \leq a_{i_n}$



Multiplication

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
X					1	1	1	0
У					1	1	0	1
					1	1	1	0
<i>s</i> ₂				0	0	0	0	
<i>s</i> ₃			1	1	1	0		
<i>S</i> ₄		1	1	1	0			
$\overline{x \times y}$	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0

Multiply 1110 times 1101, i.e., 14 times 13. Takes $O(n^2)$ steps.

Clever multiplication

Let x and y be two n-bit integers. We break them up into two smaller n/2-bit integers as follows:

$$x = (x_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + x_0),$$

 $y = (y_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + y_0).$

 x_1 and y_1 correspond to the high-order bits of x and y, respectively, and x_0 and y_0 to the low-order bits of x and y, respectively.

The product of x and y appears as follows in terms of those parts:

$$xy = (x_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + x_0)(y_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + y_0)$$

= $x_1y_1 \cdot 2^n + (x_1y_0 + x_0y_1) \cdot 2^{n/2} + x_0y_0.$ (1)

A divide and conquer procedure appears surreptitiously. To compute the product of x and y we compute the four products $x_1y_1, x_1y_0, x_0y_1, x_0y_0$, recursively, and then we combine them to obtain xy.

Let T(n) be the number of operations that are required to compute the product of two n-bit integers using the divide and conquer procedure:

$$T(n) \le 4T(n/2) + cn, \tag{2}$$

since we have to compute the four products $x_1y_1, x_1y_0, x_0y_1, x_0y_0$ (this is where the 4T(n/2) factor comes from), and then we have to perform three additions of n-bit integers (that is where the factor cn, where c is some constant, comes from).

Notice that we do not take into account the product by 2^n and $2^{n/2}$ as they simply consist in shifting the binary string by an appropriate number of bits to the left (n for 2^n and n/2 for $2^{n/2}$). These shift operations are inexpensive, and can be ignored in the complexity analysis.

It appears that we have to make four recursive calls; that is, we need to compute the four multiplications $x_1y_1, x_1y_0, x_0y_1, x_0y_0$.

But we can get away with only three multiplications, and hence three recursive calls: x_1y_1, x_0y_0 and $(x_1 + x_0)(y_1 + y_0)$; the reason being that

$$(x_1y_0 + x_0y_1) = (x_1 + x_0)(y_1 + y_0) - (x_1y_1 + x_0y_0).$$
 (3)

	multiplications	additions	shifts
Method 1	4	3	2
Method 2	3	4	2

Algorithm takes $T(n) \leq 3T(n/2) + dn$ operations.

Thus, the running time is $O(n^{\log 3}) \approx O(n^{1.59})$.

Recursive Binary Mult A3.3

```
Pre-condition: Two n-bit integers x and y
 1: if n = 1 then
              if x = 1 \land y = 1 then
 2:
 3:
                        return 1
 4:
              else
 5:
                        return 0
            end if
 6:
 7. end if
 8: (x_1, x_0) \leftarrow (first \lfloor n/2 \rfloor bits, last \lceil n/2 \rceil bits) of x
 9: (y_1, y_0) \leftarrow (first \lfloor n/2 \rfloor bits, last \lceil n/2 \rceil bits) of y
10: z_1 \leftarrow \text{Multiply}(x_1 + x_0, y_1 + y_0)
11: z_2 \leftarrow \text{Multiply}(x_1, y_1)
12: z_3 \leftarrow \text{Multiply}(x_0, v_0)
13: return z_2 \cdot 2^n + (z_1 - z_2 - z_3) \cdot 2^{\lceil n/2 \rceil} + z_3
```

Savitch's Algorithm

We have a directed graph, and we want to establish whether we have a path from s to t.

Savitch's algorithm solves the problem in space $O(\log^2 m)$.

$$R(G, u, v, i) \iff (\exists w)[R(G, u, w, i - 1) \land R(G, w, v, i - 1)].$$
 (4)

```
1: if i = 0 then
           if u = v then
 2:
 3:
                  return T
           else if (u, v) is an edge then
 4:
                  return T
 5:
           end if
 6:
 7: else
           for every vertex w do
 8:
                  if R(G, u, w, i - 1) and R(G, w, v, i - 1) then
 9.
                          return T
10:
                  end if
11:
           end for
12:
13: end if
14: return F
```

Example run

$$\bullet^1$$
 ____ \bullet^2 ____ \bullet^3 ____ \bullet^4

Then the recursion stack would look as follows for the first 6 steps:

		R(1,4,0)	F	R(2,4,0)	F
		R(1,1,0)	T	R(1,2,0)	T
	R(1,4,1)	R(1,4,1)	R(1,4,1)	R(1,4,1)	R(1,4,1)
	R(1,1,1)	R(1,1,1)	R(1,1,1)	R(1,1,1)	R(1,1,1)
R(1, 4, 2)	R(1,4,2)	R(1,4,2)	R(1,4,2)	R(1,4,2)	R(1,4,2)
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6

Quicksort & git bisect

```
qsort [] = []
qsort (x:xs) = qsort smaller ++ [x] ++ qsort larger
  where
    smaller = [a | a <- xs, a <= x]
    larger = [b | b <- xs, b > x]
```