

AD Exam 2019

Divide and Conquer

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Disposition

Feedback fra Lars

Perfekt. Dette er bogstaveligt talt præcist sådan, jeg ville lave en disposition. Den viser klart, hvad du går igennem, uden at være for detaljeret. Strukturen har et naturligt flow, og den går i dybden med alt det, der er kød på. Hvis det er svært at holde sig til tiden, er det helt okay (og nogle gange anbefalet) at redegøre uformelt for korrektheden i stedet for bevise det formelt med løkkeinvarianter, som bogen gør. Men hvis du foretrækker det formelle, så gør du det.

- Divide-and-conquer
 - Divide, conquer, combine
 - Large problem \rightarrow small chunks \rightarrow combine solutions
- Algorithm: Mergesort
 - Demonstration (by manually running the algorithm on the board)
 - Runtime $\Theta(n \log n)$ - recursion tree
 - * $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n)$
 - Correctness - Proof by loop invariant
- Perspective: Quicksort (also a divide-and-conquer algorithm)

Answer

Divide and Conquer

The problem is **divided** into smaller subproblems. If the subproblems are large enough to be solved recursively, we call that the *recursive case*. Once the problem is too small, the recursion *bottoms out* and we are at the *base case*. We can no longer recurse, and we solve the problem. Sometimes the subproblems look different than the original problem on top of having to solve smaller instances of the same problem. This is the **conquer** step. Lastly we **combine** the subsolutions and the original problem is solved.

Mergesort

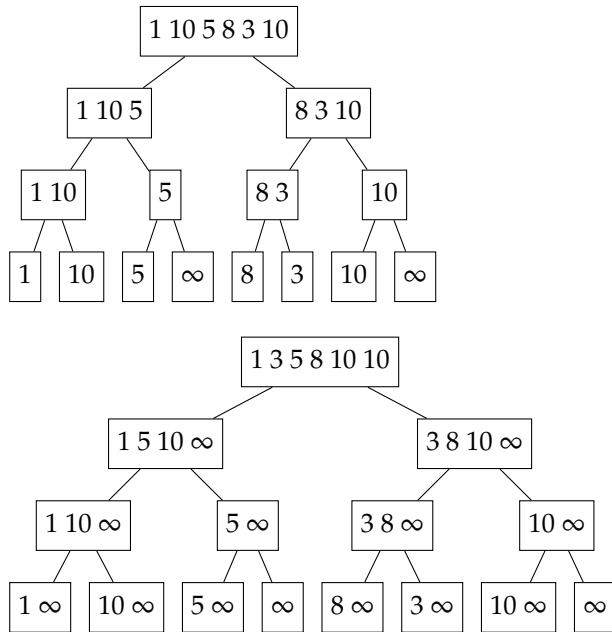
Divide: divides the sequence of size n into two subsequences of size $n/2$.

Conquer: Sort the subsequences recursively until the sequences have size 1, in which case the subsequence is sorted.

Combine: We merge the two sorted subsequences, making sure that they appear in the correct order.

The key operation in Mergesort is the combine step, where Merge is called, since Merge merges two already sorted subsequences, and ensures that the resulting merged sequence is sorted as well.

Example



∞ is not in the final sequence since the last for-loop in Merge only iterates for every element in the final sequence. That is also why there is only one ∞ symbol for each subsequence.

Runtime $\Theta(n \log n)$

The runtime of a **Divide-and-Conquer** algorithm is calculated as such:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(n) & \text{if } n \leq c \\ aT(n/b) + D(n) + C(n) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Merge runs in $\Theta(n)$ time since at most n basic steps are performed. Mergesort find **divides** the problem by finding the middle of the array. This happens in constant time. $D(n) = \Theta(1)$.

Since the algorithm is **conquered** there are two recursive calls, each of which represent half of the original problem, we have $2T(n/2)$.

Merge **combines** the subsolutions. If Merge is called with a sequence of size n , then $C(n) = \Theta(n)$.

See recursion tree on the next page.

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

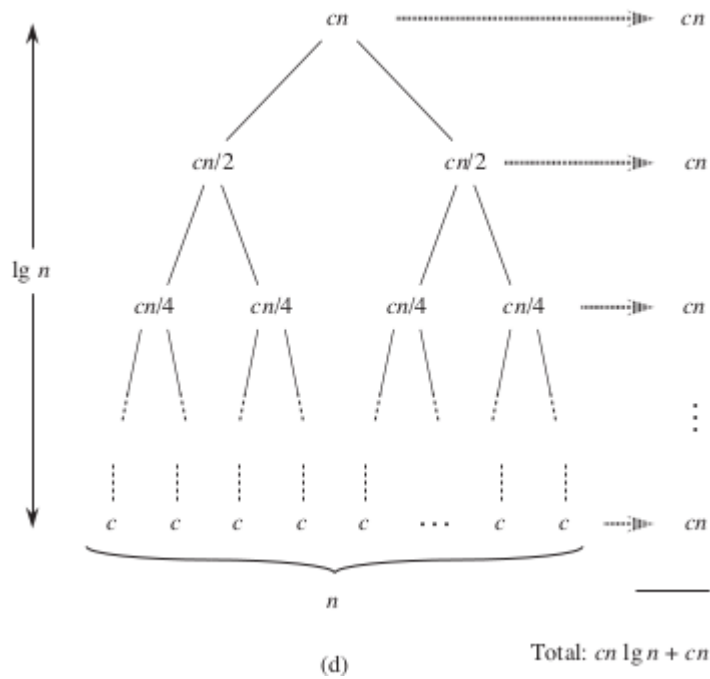


Figure 1: Recursion tree of Mergesort

Correctness: Proof by loop invariant

In Mergesort the **combine** step solves the problem, and thus the correctness of Merge will be proved.

We wish to maintain the following loop invariant.