

VE281

Data Structures and Algorithms

Linear Time Selection

Learning Objective:

- Understand randomized selection algorithm
- Understand deterministic selection algorithm
- Know how to analyze their runtime complexity

Outline

- Randomized selection algorithm
- Deterministic selection algorithm

The Selection Problem

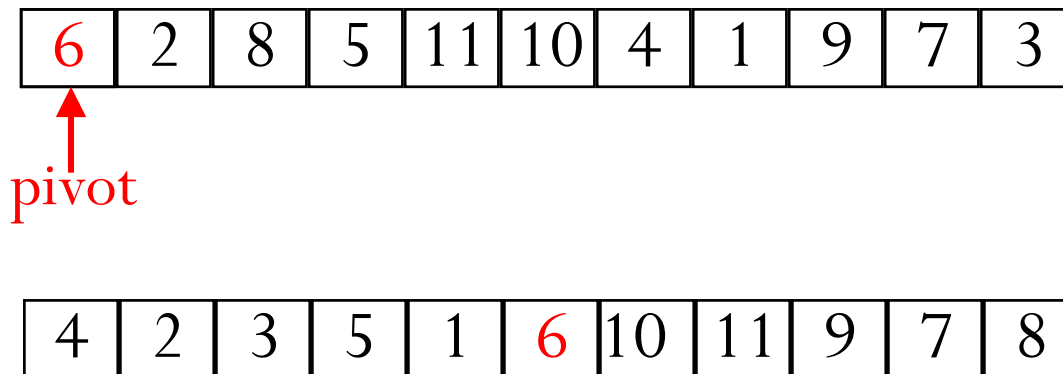
- Input: array A with n distinct numbers and a number i
 - “**Distinct**” for simplicity
- Output: i -th smallest element in the array
 - Assume index starts from 1
- Example: $A = (6, 3, 5, 4, 2)$, $i = 3$
 - Should return 4
- Special cases
 - $i = 1$: the smallest item. Runtime: $O(n)$
 - $i = n$: the largest item. Runtime: $O(n)$
 - $i = n/2$: the median

Solution: Reduction to Sorting

- Step 1: Do merge sort
- Step 2: output the i -th element of the sorted array
- Time complexity is $O(n \log n)$
- Can we do better?
 - This essentially asks whether selection is **fundamentally easier** than sorting
 - Answer: Yes!
 - We will show an $O(n)$ time randomized algorithm by modifying quick sort
 - Also will show an $O(n)$ time deterministic algorithm (However, not as practical as the randomized algorithm)

Recall: Partitioning in Quick Sort

- Pick a pivot
- Put all elements $<$ pivot to the left of pivot
- Put all elements \geq pivot to the right of pivot
- Move pivot to its correct place in the array



Basic Idea

- Suppose we are looking for 6th smallest item in an array of length 12. We do partition.
 - Suppose the pivot is at position 4. Then we only need to focus on the sub-array right of the pivot and look for the 2nd item in the array
 - Suppose the pivot is at position 8. Then we only need to focus on the sub-array left of the pivot and look for the 6th item in the array
 - In both cases, recurse!

Randomized Selection

```
Rselect(int A[], int n, int i) {  
    // find i-th smallest item of array A of size n  
    if(n == 1) return A[1];  
    Choose pivot p from A uniformly at random;  
    Partition A using pivot p;  
    Let j be the index of p;  
    if(j == i) return p;  
    if(j > i) return Rselect(1st part of A, j-1, i);  
    else return Rselect(2nd part of A, n-j, i-j);  
}
```



Which Statements Are Correct?

Given **a fixed input array**, consider the runtime of the randomized selection algorithm to choose the i -th smallest element

- **A.** The runtime depends on the pivot sequence
- **B.** When $i = n/2$, the worst-case runtime is $\Theta(n^2)$
- **C.** When $i = n/2$, the worst case happens when the pivot sequence is the sorted version of the input array
- **D.** For any given i , the best-case runtime is $\Theta(1)$



Average Runtime of Rselect

- Theorem: for every input array of length n , the average runtime of Rselect is $O(n)$
 - Holds for every input data (no assumption on data)
 - “Average” is over random pivot choices made by the algorithm

Average Runtime Analysis

- Note: Rselect uses $\leq cn$ operations outside of recursive call (from partitioning)
- Observation: the length of the array the algorithm works on decreases
- Definition: We say **Rselect is in phase j** if current array size is between $(\frac{3}{4})^{j+1}n$ and $(\frac{3}{4})^j n$
- X_j denote the number of recursive calls in phase j
- $runtime \leq \sum_j X_j \cdot c \cdot (\frac{3}{4})^j n$ We need to further get $E[X_j]$

$$E[runtime] \leq E \left[\sum_j X_j \cdot c \cdot \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^j n \right] = cn \sum_j \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^j E[X_j]$$

Average Runtime Analysis

- **Claim**: If Rselect chooses a pivot so that the **left sub-array**'s size is am , where $a \in [\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}]$ and m is the old length, then the current phase ends
 - Because new sub-array length is at most 75% of the old length
 - **“Good pivot”**
- What is the probability of $a \in [\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}]$ (i.e., good pivot)?
 - Answer: 0.5
- Claim: $E[X_j] \leq$ Expected number of times you need to get a good pivot
 - Same as the expected number of times you flip a fair coin to get a “head”. (Heads: good pivot; tails: bad pivot)

Coin Flipping Analysis

- Let N be the number of coin flips until you get heads
 - N is a geometric random variable:

$$P(N = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1} * p = \frac{1}{2^k}, k = 1, 2, \dots, p = \frac{1}{2}.$$

#flips when 1st is head #flips when 1st is tail

- $E[N] = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (1 + E[N]) \Rightarrow E[N] = 2$

Prob. 1st flip is head

Prob. 1st flip is tail

Therefore, $E[X_j] \leq E[N] = 2$

Average Runtime Analysis

$$\begin{aligned} E[\text{runtime}] &\leq E \left[\sum_j X_j \cdot c \cdot \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^j n \right] \\ &= cn \sum_j \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^j E[X_j] \leq 2cn \sum_j \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^j \leq 2cn \frac{1}{1 - \frac{3}{4}} \\ &= 8cn = O(n) \end{aligned}$$

Outline

- Randomized selection algorithm
- Deterministic selection algorithm

A Good Pivot

- Best pivot: the median
 - But, this is a circular problem
- Goal: find pivot guaranteed to be good enough
- Idea: use “median of medians”

A Deterministic ChoosePivot

ChoosePivot(A, n)

- A subroutine called by the deterministic selection algorithm
- Steps:
 1. Break A into $n/5$ groups of size 5 each
 2. Sort each group (e.g., use insertion sort)
 3. Copy $n/5$ medians into new array C
 4. Recursively compute median of C
 - By calling the deterministic selection algorithm!
 5. Return the median of C as pivot

Deterministic Selection Algorithm

```
Dselect(int A[], int n, int i) {  
    // find i-th smallest item of array A of size n  
    if(n == 1) return A[1];  
    Break A into groups of 5, sort each group;  
    C = n/5 medians;  
    p = Dselect(C, n/5, n/10);           ChoosePivot  
    Partition A using pivot p;  
    Let j be the index of p;  
    if(j == i) return p;  
    if(j > i) return Dselect(1st part of A, j-1, i);  
    else return Dselect(2nd part of A, n-j, i-j);  
}
```

Same as
Rselect

The function has two recursive calls

Runtime of Dselect

- Theorem: For every input array of length n , Dselect runs in $O(n)$ time
- Warning: not as good as Rselect in practice
 - Worse constants
 - Not-in-place: Need an additional array of $n/5$ medians



What's the Runtime of Step 2?

```
Dselect(int A[], int n, int i) {  
    // find i-th smallest item of array A of size n  
    1 if(n == 1) return A[1];  
    2 Break A into groups of 5, sort each group;  
    3 C = n/5 medians;  
    4 p = Dselect(C, n/5, n/10);  
    5 Partition A using pivot p;  
    6 Let j be the index of p;  
    7 if(j == i) return p;  
    8 if(j > i) return Dselect(1st part of A, j-1, i);  
    9 else return Dselect(2nd part of A, n-j, i-j);  
}
```

A. $\Theta(n)$

B. $\Theta(n^2)$

C. $\Theta(n \log n)$

D. $\Theta(n \log \log n)$



Runtime of Dselect

Assume the runtime is $T(n)$

```
Dselect(int A[], int n, int i) {  
  // find i-th smallest item of array A of size n  
  1 if(n == 1) return A[1];  
  2 Break A into groups of 5, sort each group;  $\Theta(n)$   
  3 C = n/5 medians;  $\Theta(n)$   
  4 p = Dselect(C, n/5, n/10);  $T(n/5)$   
  5 Partition A using pivot p;  $\Theta(n)$   
  6 Let j be the index of p;  
  7 if(j == i) return p;  
  8 if(j > i) return Dselect(1st part of A, j-1, i);  
  9 else return Dselect(2nd part of A, n-j, i-j);  
}
```

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{8} \\ \text{9} \end{array} \right\} T(?)$

Recurrence

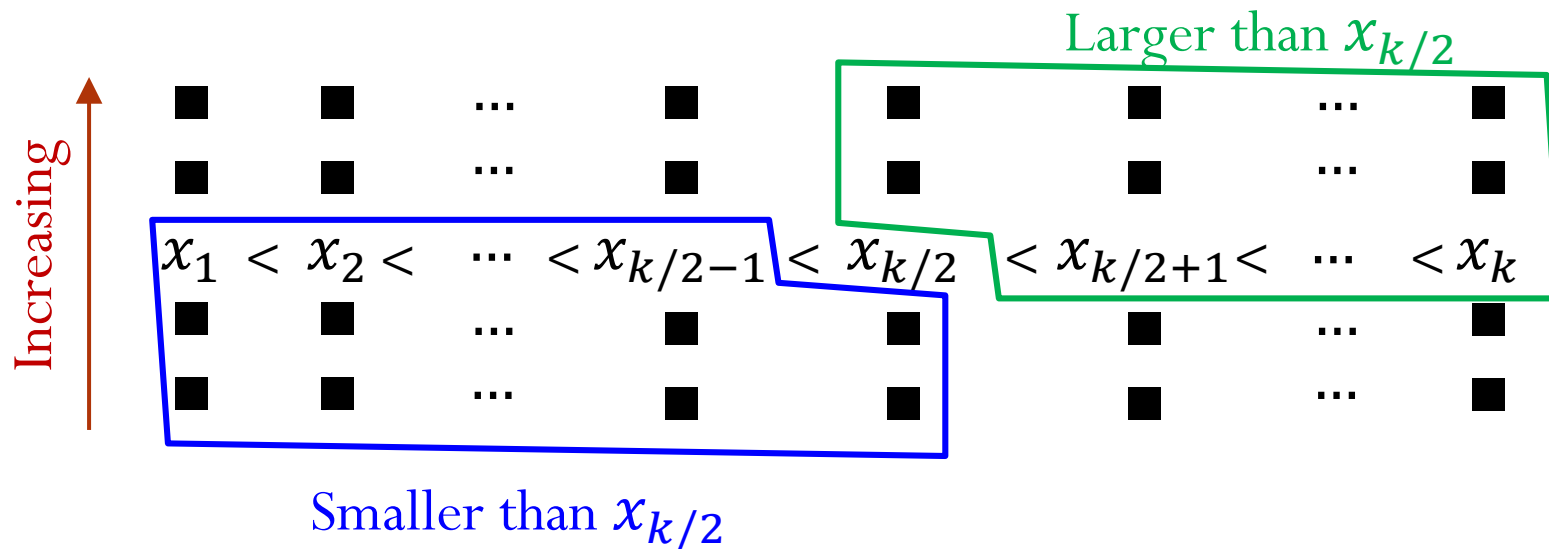
- There exists a positive constant C such that
 - $T(1) \leq c$
 - $T(n) \leq cn + T\left(\frac{n}{5}\right) + T(?)$
- The next question is what is the size of the array of the second recursive call

Lemma on Size

- Lemma: 2nd recursive call guaranteed to be on an array of size $\leq 0.7n$ (roughly)
- (Rough) proof:
 - Let $k = n/5$: number of groups
 - Let x_i be the i -th smallest of the k medians
 - Thus, the pivot is $x_{k/2}$

Proof of Lemma

- Imagine we layout elements of A in a 2-D grid



- At least $\sim (3/5) * (1/2) = 30\%$ elements smaller than $x_{k/2}$
- At least $\sim 30\%$ elements larger than $x_{k/2}$
- Result: Number of elements $< x_{k/2}$ is in between 30% and 70%. The same for number of elements $> x_{k/2}$

Example

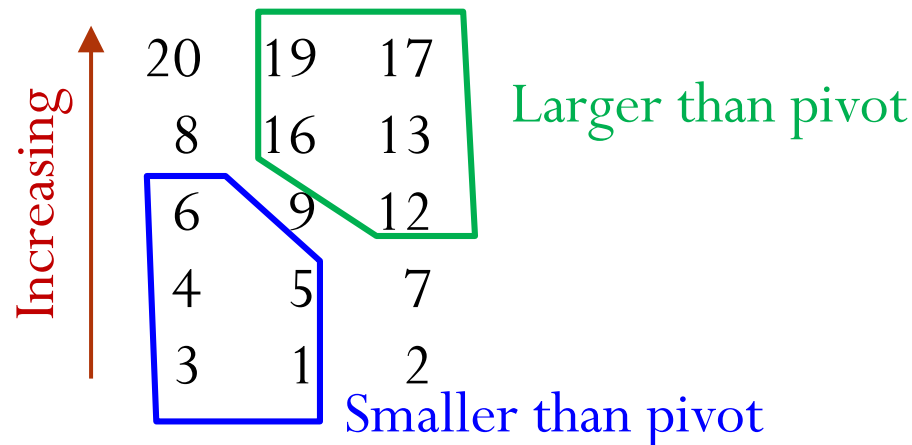
- Input:

7,2,17,12,13 | 8,20,4,6,3 | 19,1,9,5,16

- After sorting each group of 5 elements

2,7,12,13,17 | 3,4,6,8,20 | 1,5,9,16,19

← pivot



Recurrence

- There exists a positive constant c such that
 - $T(1) \leq c$
 - $T(n) \leq cn + T\left(\frac{n}{5}\right) + T\left(\frac{7n}{10}\right)$
- Note: different-sized sub-problems. Cannot use master method!
- How can we solve this?
 - Strategy: Hope and check
- Hope: there is a constant a (independent of n) such that $T(n) \leq an$ for all $n > 1$
 - Then $T(n) = O(n)$
- We choose $a = 10c$

Proof $T(n) = O(n)$

- Claim: suppose there exists a positive constant c such that

1. $T(1) \leq c$

2. $T(n) \leq cn + T\left(\frac{n}{5}\right) + T\left(\frac{7n}{10}\right)$

Then $T(n) \leq 10cn$

- Proof by induction

- Base case: $T(1) \leq 10c$

- Inductive step: inductive hypothesis $T(k) \leq 10ck, \forall k < n$.

Then

$$T(n) \leq cn + T\left(\frac{n}{5}\right) + T\left(\frac{7n}{10}\right) \leq cn + 2cn + 7cn = 10cn$$

Dselect runs in linear time