Quicksort

Quicksort

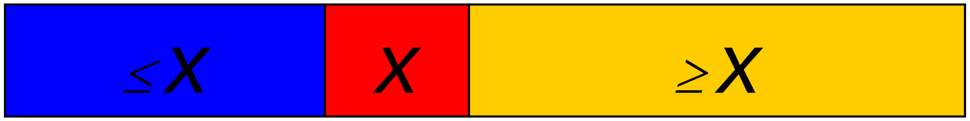
- Sorts in place
- Sorts O(n lg n) in the average case
- Sorts $O(n^2)$ in the worst case
  - But in practice, it's quick
  - And the worst case doesn't happen often (but more on this later…)

Quicksort

- Another divide-and-conquer algorithm
  - The array A[p..r] is *partitioned* into two non-empty subarrays A[p..q] and A[q+1..r]
    - Invariant: All elements in A[p..q] are less than all elements in A[q+1..r]
  - The subarrays are recursively sorted by calls to quicksort
  - Unlike merge sort, no combining step: two subarrays form an already-sorted array

Divide-and-conquer

1. *Divide*: Partition the array into two subarrays around a pivot x such that elements in lower subarray $\leq x \leq$ elements in upper subarray.



2. *Conquer*: Recursively sort the two subarrays.
3. *Combine*: Trivial (because in place).

Key: Linear-time partitioning procedure.

Quicksort Code

```
Quicksort(A, p, r)
{
    if (p < r)
    {
        q = Partition(A, p, r);
        Quicksort(A, p, q);
        Quicksort(A, q+1, r);
    }
}
```

Partition

- Clearly, all the action takes place in the **`partition()`** function
  - Rearranges the subarray in place
  - End result:
    - Two subarrays
    - All values in first subarray $\leq$ all values in second
  - Returns the index of the "pivot" element separating the two subarrays
- *How do you suppose we implement this?*

Partition In Words

- Partition(A, p, r):
  - Select an element to act as the "pivot" (*which?*)
  - Grow two regions, A[p..i] and A[j..r]
    - All elements in A[p..i] <= pivot
    - All elements in A[j..r] >= pivot
  - Increment i until A[i] >= pivot
  - Decrement j until A[j] <= pivot
  - Swap A[i] and A[j]
  - Repeat until i >= j
  - Return j

***Note: slightly different from book's* `partition()`**

Partition Code

```
Partition(A, p, r)
    x = A[p];
    i = p - 1;
    j = r + 1;
    while (TRUE)
        repeat
            j--;
        until A[j] <= x;
        repeat
            i++;
        until A[i] >= x;
        if (i < j)
            Swap(A, i, j);
        else
            return j;
```

Illustrate on
A = {5, 3, 2, 6, 4, 1, 3, 7};

What is the running time of ***partition()****?*

Partition Code

```
Partition(A, p, r)
    x = A[p];
    i = p - 1;
    j = r + 1;
    while (TRUE)
        repeat
            j--;
        until A[j] <= x;
        repeat
            i++;
        until A[i] >= x;
        if (i < j)
            Swap(A, i, j);
        else
            return j;
```

`partition()` *runs in O(n) time*

Analyzing Quicksort

- *What will be the worst case for the algorithm?*
  - Partition is always unbalanced
- *What will be the best case for the algorithm?*
  - Partition is perfectly balanced
- *Which is more likely?*
  - The latter, by far, except...
- *Will any particular input elicit the worst case?*
  - Yes: Already-sorted input

Analyzing Quicksort

- In the worst case:

  $T(1) = \Theta(1)$

  $T(n) = T(n - 1) + \Theta(n)$

- Works out to

  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$

Analyzing Quicksort

- In the best case:

  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n)$

- What does this work out to?

  $T(n) = \Theta(n \lg n)$

Improving Quicksort

- The real liability of quicksort is that it runs in $O(n^2)$ on already-sorted input
- Book discusses two solutions:
  - Randomize the input array, OR
  - *Pick a random pivot element*
- *How will these solve the problem?*
  - By insuring that no particular input can be chosen to make quicksort run in $O(n^2)$ time

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- Assuming random input, average-case running time is much closer to O(n lg n) than O(n^2)
- First, a more intuitive explanation/example:
  - Suppose that partition() always produces a 9-to-1 split. This looks quite unbalanced!
  - The recurrence is thus:

    T(n) = T(9n/10) + T(n/10) + n

    Use n instead of O(n) for convenience (how?)
  - *How deep will the recursion go?* (draw it)

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- Intuitively, a real-life run of quicksort will produce a mix of “bad” and “good” splits
  - Randomly distributed among the recursion tree
  - Pretend for intuition that they alternate between best-case (n/2 : n/2) and worst-case (n-1 : 1)
  - *What happens if we bad-split root node, then good-split the resulting size (n-1) node?*
    - We end up with three subarrays, size 1, (n-1)/2, (n-1)/2
    - Combined cost of splits = n + n -1 = 2n -1 = O(n)
    - No worse than if we had good-split the root node!

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- Intuitively, the O(n) cost of a bad split (or 2 or 3 bad splits) can be absorbed into the O(n) cost of each good split
- Thus running time of alternating bad and good splits is still O(n lg n), with slightly higher constants
- How can we be more rigorous?

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- For simplicity, assume:
  - All inputs distinct (no repeats)
  - Slightly different **`partition()`** procedure
    - partition around a random element, which is not included in subarrays
    - all splits (0:n-1, 1:n-2, 2:n-3, … , n-1:0) equally likely
- *What is the probability of a particular split happening?*
- Answer: 1/n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- So partition generates splits
  (0:n-1, 1:n-2, 2:n-3, … , n-2:1, n-1:0)
  each with probability 1/n
- If T(n) is the expected running time,

$$T(n) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{n-1}\left[T(k) + T(n-1-k)\right] + \Theta(n)$$

- *What is each term under the summation for?*
- *What is the Θ(n) term for?*

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- So…

$$T(n) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{n-1}\left[T(k) + T(n-1-k)\right] + \Theta(n)$$

$$= \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} T(k) + \Theta(n)$$

Write it on the board

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
  - Prove that it follows for n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
    - *What's the answer?*
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
  - Prove that it follows for n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
    - $T(n) = O(n \lg n)$
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
  - Prove that it follows for n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
    - T(n) = O(n lg n)
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
    - *What's the inductive hypothesis?*
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
  - Prove that it follows for n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
    - $T(n) = O(n \lg n)$
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
    - $T(n) \leq an \lg n + b$ for some constants a and b
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
  - Prove that it follows for n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
    - T(n) = O(n lg n)
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
    - T(n) $\leq$ an lg n + b for some constants a and b
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
    - *What value?*
  - Prove that it follows for n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
    - $T(n) = O(n \lg n)$
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
    - $T(n) \le an \lg n + b$ for some constants a and b
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
    - The value k in the recurrence
  - Prove that it follows for n

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- We can solve this recurrence using the dreaded substitution method
  - Guess the answer
    - $T(n) = O(n \lg n)$
  - Assume that the inductive hypothesis holds
    - $T(n) \leq an \lg n + b$ for some constants a and b
  - Substitute it in for some value < n
    - The value k in the recurrence
  - Prove that it follows for n
    - Grind through it…

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

$$T(n) = \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} T(k) + \Theta(n)$$

The recurrence to be solved

$$\leq \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (ak\lg k + b) + \Theta(n)$$

Plug in inductive hypothesis

$$\leq \frac{2}{n}\left[b + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (ak\lg k + b)\right] + \Theta(n)$$

Expand out the k=0 case

$$= \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (ak\lg k + b) + \frac{2b}{n} + \Theta(n)$$

2b/n is just a constant, so fold it into Θ(n)

$$= \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (ak\lg k + b) + \Theta(n)$$

Note: leaving the same recurrence as the book

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

$$T(n) = \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=1}^{n-1}\left(ak\lg k + b\right) + \Theta(n)$$

The recurrence to be solved

$$= \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} ak\lg k + \frac{2}{n}\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} b + \Theta(n)$$

Distribute the summation

$$= \frac{2a}{n}\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k\lg k + \frac{2b}{n}(n-1) + \Theta(n)$$

Evaluate the summation:
b+b+…+b = b (n-1)

$$\leq \frac{2a}{n}\boxed{\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k\lg k} + 2b + \Theta(n)$$

Since n-1<n, 2b(n-1)/n < 2b

This summation gets its own set of slides later

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

$$T(n) \le \frac{2a}{n}\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \lg k + 2b + \Theta(n)$$

The recurrence to be solved

$$\le \frac{2a}{n}\left(\frac{1}{2}n^2 \lg n - \frac{1}{8}n^2\right) + 2b + \Theta(n)$$

We'll prove this later

$$= an \lg n - \frac{a}{4}n + 2b + \Theta(n)$$

Distribute the (2a/n) term

$$= an \lg n + b + \left(\Theta(n) + b - \frac{a}{4}n\right)$$

Remember, our goal is to get $T(n) \le an \lg n + b$

$$\le an \lg n + b$$

Pick a large enough that $an/4$ dominates $\Theta(n)+b$

Analyzing Quicksort: Average Case

- So $T(n) \le an \lg n + b$ for certain a and b
  - Thus the induction holds
  - Thus $T(n) = O(n \lg n)$
  - Thus quicksort runs in $O(n \lg n)$ time on average (phew!)
- Oh yeah, the summation…

Tightly Bounding
The Key Summation

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \lg k = \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k \lg k + \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k \lg k$$

Split the summation for a tighter bound

$$\leq \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k \lg k + \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k \lg n$$

The* lg *k in the second term is bounded by* lg *n

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k \lg k + \lg n \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k$$

Move the* lg *n outside the summation

Tightly Bounding
The Key Summation

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \lg k \le \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k \lg k + \lg n \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k$$

The summation bound so far

$$\le \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k \lg(n/2) + \lg n \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k$$

The* lg *k in the first term is bounded by* lg *n/2

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k(\lg n - 1) + \lg n \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k$$

lg *n/2* = lg *n* - 1

$$= (\lg n - 1) \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k + \lg n \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k$$

Move (*lg *n* - 1*) outside the summation

Tightly Bounding
The Key Summation

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \lg k \le (\lg n - 1) \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k + \lg n \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k$$

The summation bound so far

$$= \lg n \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k - \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k + \lg n \sum_{k=\lceil n/2 \rceil}^{n-1} k$$

Distribute the (lg n - 1)

$$= \lg n \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k - \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k$$

The summations overlap in range; combine them

$$= \lg n \left(\frac{(n-1)(n)}{2} \right) - \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k$$

The Guassian series

Tightly Bounding The Key Summation

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \lg k \le \left(\frac{(n-1)(n)}{2}\right) \lg n - \sum_{k=1}^{\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1} k$$

The summation bound so far

$$\le \frac{1}{2}[n(n-1)] \lg n - \sum_{k=1}^{n/2-1} k$$

Rearrange first term, place upper bound on second

$$\le \frac{1}{2}[n(n-1)] \lg n - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)\left(\frac{n}{2}-1\right)$$

X Guassian series

$$\le \frac{1}{2}\left(n^2 \lg n - n \lg n\right) - \frac{1}{8}n^2 + \frac{n}{4}$$

Multiply it all out

Tightly Bounding
The Key Summation

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k \lg k \le \frac{1}{2}\left(n^2 \lg n - n \lg n\right) - \frac{1}{8}n^2 + \frac{n}{4}$$

$$\le \frac{1}{2}n^2 \lg n - \frac{1}{8}n^2 \text{ when } n \ge 2$$

Done!!!

Quicksort in practice

- Quicksort is great general-purpose sorting algorithm.
- Quicksort is typically over twice as fast as merge sort.
- Quicksort can benefit substantially from *code tuning*.
- Quicksort behaves well even with caching and virtual memory.