Lecture 10: Divide & Conquer; String Matching I

COMP526: Efficient Algorithms

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Updated: November 5, 2024

Announcements

1. **NO QUIZ THIS WEEK!**
2. Programming Assignment Posted
   - Due Wednesday, 13 November
3. Attendance Code:

Meeting Goals

- Discuss more Divide & Conquer algorithms
  - Order Statistics
  - Majority
  - Closest Pair of Points
- Introduce the **String Matching** problem
  - Problem definition
  - Elementary algorithm

Divide & Conquer

Previously: Divide & Conquer Strategy

Generic Strategy

Given an algorithmic task:

1. Break the input into smaller instances of the task
2. Solve the smaller instances
   - this is typically recursive!
3. Combine smaller solutions to a solution to the whole task

Divide & Conquer Examples (so far):

- MergeSort: divide an array *by index* to sort
  - $O(n \log n)$ time
- QuickSort: divide an array *by value* to sort
  - $O(n \log n)$ time
- BinarySearch: divide a *sorted* array to search it
  - $O(\log n)$ time

Three More Problems

Problem 1. k-Selection:

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Problem 2. Majority:

- Given an array a of n items, is there an item that is repeated more than $> n/2$ times?

Problem 3. Closest Points in the Plane

- Given n points $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$ in the plane, which *pair* of points p_i, p_j are closest to one another?

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- return $a[k]$

Can we do better?

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Modify QuickSort!

- Choose pivot p
- Perform split
- *only recurse on half that contains kth smallest value*
  - this will be the half that contains index k
- Random pivot selection $\implies O(n)$ expected time!

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$\Longrightarrow$ $O(n)$ expected time!

```
procedure QuickSelect(a, min, max, k)
    if max − min ≤ 1 then
        return a[min]
    end if
    p ← SelectPivot(a, min, max)
    j ← Split(a, min, max, p)
    if j = k then
        return a[k]
    else if j < k then
        QuickSelect(a, j + 1, max, k)
    else
        QuickSelect(a, min, j − 1, k)
    end if
end procedure
```

k-Selection

Problem. Given an array a of n numbers, find the kth smallest number.

PollEverywhere Question

What is the *worst case* running time of QuickSelect on an array of n elements?

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Question. Can we perform k-selection with a **worst case** $O(n)$ running time?

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Idea. What if we can select better pivots?

- Suppose we can *guarantee* that our pivot is "good enough:"
  - rank of p is between cn and $(1-c)n$ for $c > 0$
- How many recursive calls until we're done?

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  - each recursive call has size at most $(1-2c)n$
  - ℓ recursive calls $\implies$ size at most $(1-2c)^{\ell} n$
  - $\implies$ done after $\ell = O(\log n)$ levels of recursion
- What is overall running time?

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  - $Cn + (1-2c)Cn + (1-2c)^2 Cn + \cdots = O(n)$

But how can we find a good pivot *deterministically*?

- Need to find pivots close to the median…
- Median is (special case) of k selection!

Median of Medians Strategy

Strategy. To find a good pivot:

- Find a *smaller* set of values whose *median* is a good pivot
- Recursively find the median of the smaller set of values

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- Consider blocks of size 5
  - sort each block
  - find the block median
- Claim: median of medians is a good pivot:

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- Claim: median of medians is a good pivot:
  - at least $\frac{3}{10}$-fraction is excluded

procedure SELECTPIVOT(a, ℓ, r)
    $m \leftarrow n/5$
    for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, m-1$ **do**
        SORT($a[5i \ldots 5i+4]$)
        SWAP($a, i, 5i+2$)
    end for
    return QUICKSELECT($a, 0, m, (m-1)/2$)
end procedure

Median of Medians Strategy

Illustration:

procedure SELECTPIVOT(a, ℓ, r)
    $m \leftarrow n/5$
    for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, m-1$ **do**
        SORT($a[5i \ldots 5i+4]$)
        SWAP($a, i, 5i+2$)
    end for
    return QUICKSELECT($a, 0, m, (m-1)/2$)
end procedure
procedure QUICKSELECT(a, ℓ, r, k)
    if $r - \ell \leq 1$ **return** $a[l]$
    $b \leftarrow$ SELECTPIVOT(a, ℓ, r)
    $j \leftarrow$ SPLIT($a, \ell, r, a[b]$)
    if $j = k$ **then**
        return $a[j]$
    else if $j < k$ **then**
        QUICKSELECT$a, j+1, r, k-j-1$
    else
        QUICKSELECT($a, 0, j, k$)
    end if
end procedure

Median of Medians Strategy

Analysis.

Running time $T(n)$ satisfies

$$
\begin{aligned}
T(n) &\leq Cn + T\left(\frac{1}{5}n\right) + T\left(\frac{7}{10}n\right) \\
&\leq Cn + T\left(\frac{1}{5}n + \frac{7}{10}n\right) \\
&\leq Cn + T\left(\frac{9}{10}n\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, $T(n) = O(n)$.

```
procedure SelectPivot(a, ℓ, r)
    m ← n/5
    for i = 0, 1, ..., m − 1 do
        Sort(a[5i...5i + 4])
        Swap(a, i, 5i + 2)
    end for
    return QuickSelect(a, 0, m, (m − 1)/2)
end procedure
procedure QuickSelect(a, ℓ, r, k)
    if r − ℓ ≤ 1 return a[l]
    b ← SelectPivot(a, ℓ, r)
    j ← Split(a, ℓ, r, a[b])
    if j = k then
        return a[j]
    else if j < k then
        QuickSelecta, j + 1, r, k − j − 1
    else
        QuickSelect(a, 0, j, k)
    end if
end procedure
```

Median of Medians Strategy

Conclusion. The Median of Medians strategy allows us to

- solve k-selection in $O(n)$ time, worst case
- sort in $O(n \log n)$ time, worst case too
  - use k selection as a sub-routine for SELECTPIVOT in QUICKSORT

Note. Randomized variants tend to be more efficient in practice.

```
procedure SELECTPIVOT(a, ℓ, r)
    m ← n/5
    for i = 0, 1, ..., m − 1 do
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        SWAP(a, i, 5i + 2)
    end for
    return QUICKSELECT(a, 0, m, (m − 1)/2)
end procedure
procedure QUICKSELECT(a, ℓ, r, k)
    if r − ℓ ≤ 1 return a[l]
    b ← SELECTPIVOT(a, ℓ, r)
    j ← SPLIT(a, ℓ, r, a[b])
    if j = k then
        return a[j]
    else if j < k then
        QUICKSELECTa, j + 1, r, k − j − 1
    else
        QUICKSELECT(a, 0, j, k)
    end if
end procedure
```

Majority

Majority

Problem 2. Majority:

- Given an array a of n items, is there an item that is repeated more than $n/2$ times?

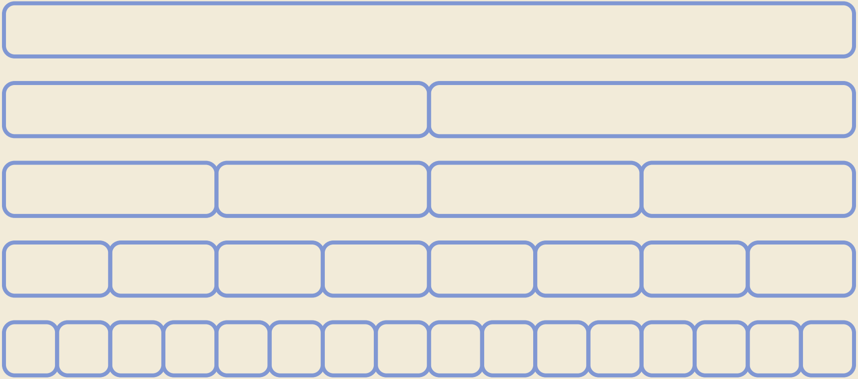
Naive Solution

- Iterate over elements and compare each element to all others to see if occurs at least $n/2$ times
- Takes $\Theta(n^2)$ time

Observation. If a value m is a majority, then m must either be a majority in $a[0 \ldots n/2]$ or $a[n/2+1 \ldots n-1]$ as well.

- Split a in half
- Recursively find candidate majority m_ℓ and m_r for halves
- Check to see if either is a majority

Divide & Conquer Majority Illustration



1	2	1	1	2	3	3	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Divide & Conquer Majority in Code

```
procedure IsMajority(a, ℓ, r, v)
    count ← 0
    for i = ℓ, ℓ + 1, ..., r do
        if a[i] = v then
            count ← count + 1
        end if
    end for
    return count > (r − ℓ + 1)/2
end procedure
procedure Majority(a, ℓ, r)
    if ℓ − r < 1 return a[ℓ]
    j ← (r − ℓ)/2
    v_ℓ ← Majority(a, ℓ, j)
    v_r ← Majority(a, j + 1, r)
    if IsMajority(a, ℓ, r, v_ℓ) then
        return v_ℓ
    else if IsMajority(a, ℓ, r, v_r) then
        return v_r
    end if
    return ⊥
end procedure
```

Divide & Conquer Majority in Code

PollEverywhere Question

What is the *worst case* running time of MAJORITY on an array of n elements?

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        return v_ℓ
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    end if
    return ⊥
end procedure
```

Divide & Conquer Majority in Code

Analysis.

- Almost identical to MERGESORT
- Each call to ISMAJORITY(a, ℓ, r, v) takes time $\Theta(\ell - r)$
- Running time $T(n)$ satisfies $T(n) \le 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n)$
- Solve recursion $\implies$ done!

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Challenge. Devise an algorithm that finds the majority in $\Theta(n)$ time (worst case). (Hint: don't use Divide & Conquer)

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    if IsMajority(a, ℓ, r, v_ℓ) then
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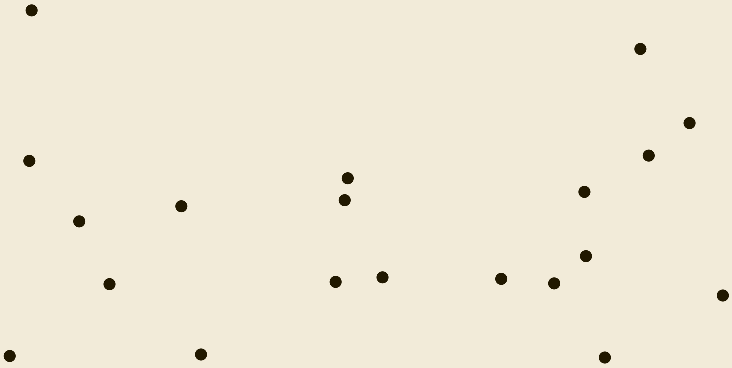
Closest Points in the Plane

Closest Points in the Plane

Problem 3. Given n points $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$ in the plane, which *pair* of points p_i, p_j are closest to one another?



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Naive Strategy suggested by GenAI:

- Compute distances between all pairs of points

```
procedure NaiveMinDist(p)
    d ← ∞
    for i = 1, 2, ..., n − 1 do
        for j = 0, 1, ..., i − 1 do
            if Dist(p[i], p[j]) < d then
                d ← Dist(p[i], p[j])
            end if
        end for
    end for
    return d
end procedure
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PollEverywhere Question

What is the worst case running time of NAIVEMINDIST on a set of n points in the plane?

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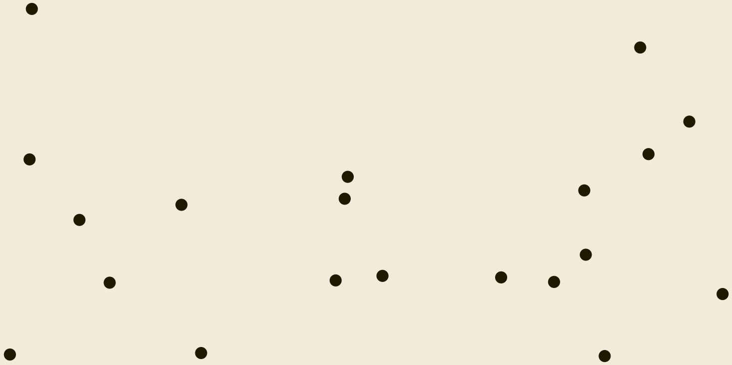
```

Question. How could we use **Divide & Conquer** to improve on this running time?

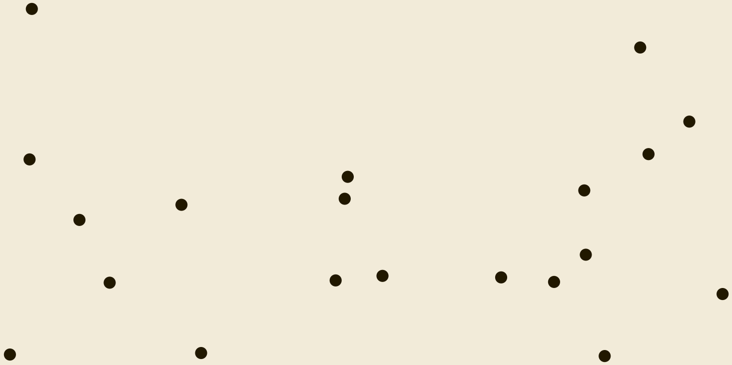
Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

Step 1. split the array according to x-coordinate



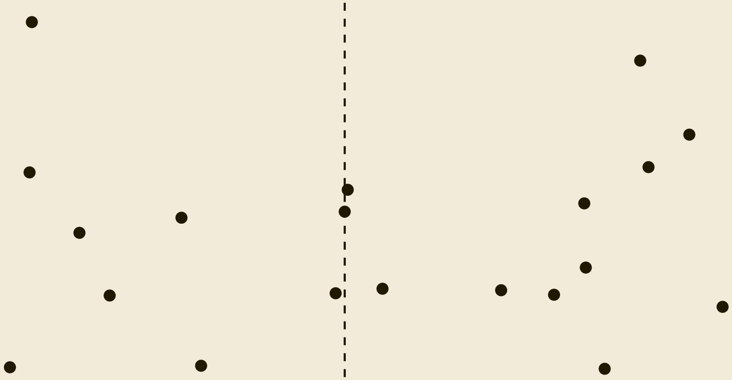
Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

Step 1a. sort the array by *x* coordinate



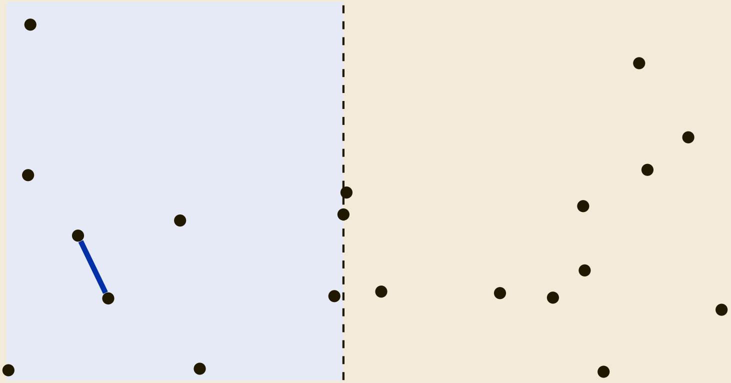
Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

Step 1b. find median according to x coordinate, p_m



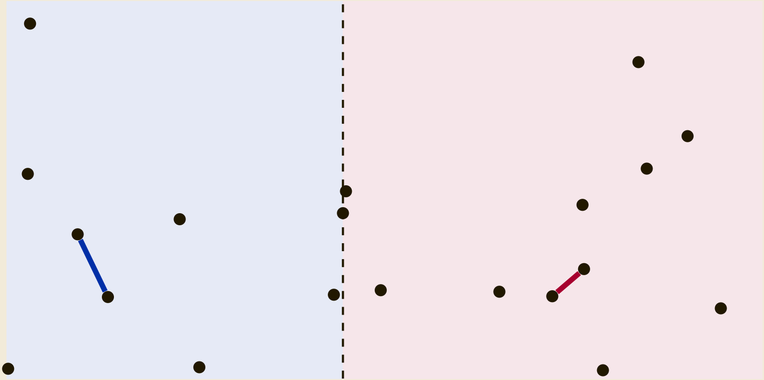
Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

Step 2a. (recursively) solve the problem for left half



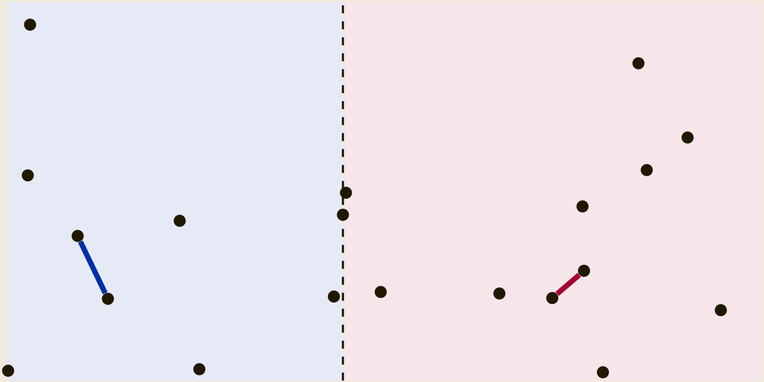
Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

Step 2b. (recursively) solve the problem for right half



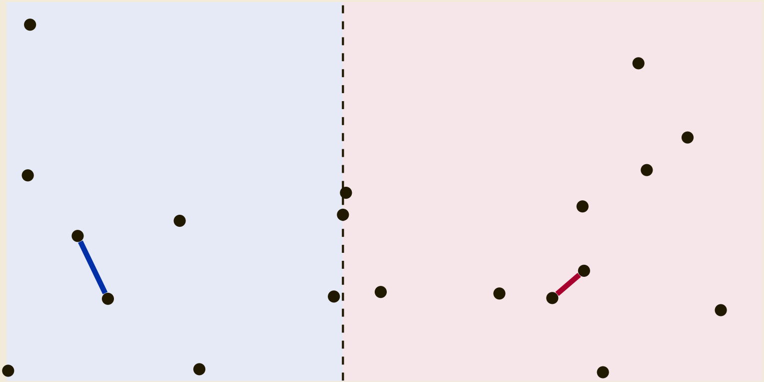
Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

Step 3. merge solutions together



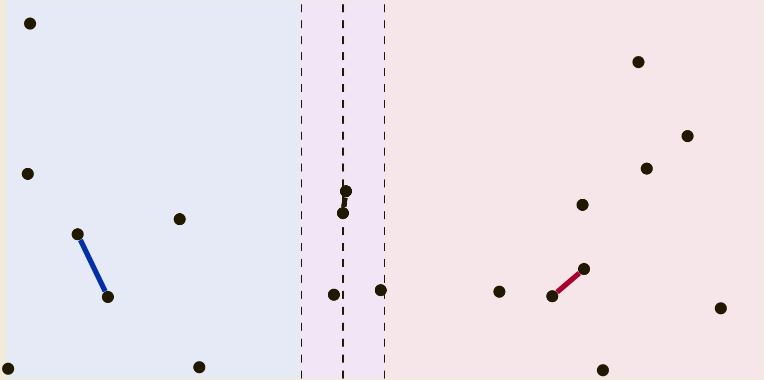
Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

Step 3. merge solutions together . . . but **how?**



Closest Points: Divide & Conquer

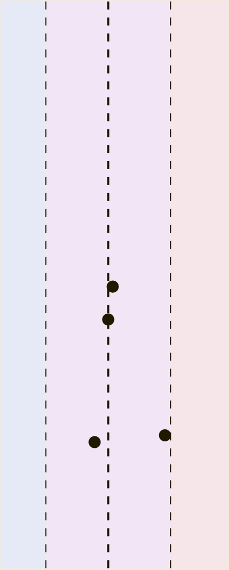
Critical Analysis. What happens in the middle strip?



Analysis of the Middle Strip

Suppose:

- d_ℓ is minimal distance on the left
- d_r is minimal distance on the right
- $\delta = \min\{d_\ell, d_r\}$
- x_m is the median x-coordinate among points



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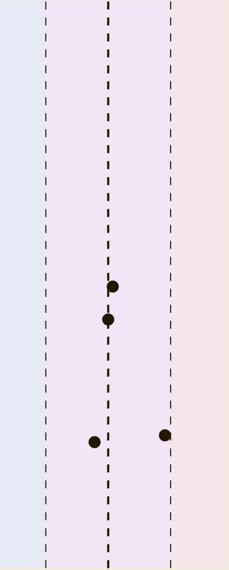
Claim 1. If p is in left half and q is on right have with $\textsc{Dist}(p_i, p_j) < \delta$, then $x_m - \delta < x_i \leq x_m$ and $x_m \leq x_j \leq x_m + \delta$.



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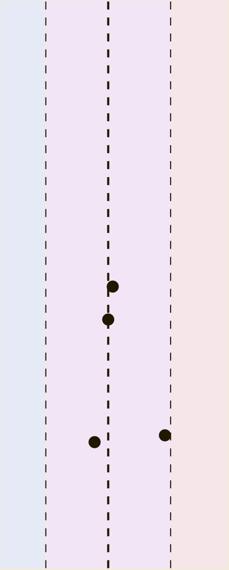
Claim 2. With p as above, there are at most 8 points q on the right side with $\textsc{Dist}(p, q) \le \delta$.



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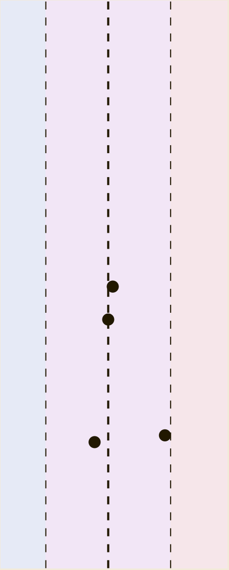
Consequence. We only need to make $O(n)$ further distance computations to compute overall minimum distance.



Putting it Together

Algorithm Sketch. Find the closest pair of points among $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$ in the plane:

1. Sort points by x-coordinate, x_m is the median value.
2. Recursively sort left and right halves.
3. Set δ to be the minimum distance on either half.
4. Consider points within distance δ of median line, and compute distances across the halves.
   - this can be done in $O(n)$ time
5. Report the smallest distance found.

Putting it Together

Algorithm Sketch. Find the closest pair of points among $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$ in the plane:

1. Sort points by x-coordinate, x_m is the median value.
2. Recursively sort left and right halves.
3. Set δ to be the minimum distance on either half.
4. Consider points within distance δ of median line, and compute distances across the halves.
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Running time analysis.

- Preprocessing takes $O(n \log n)$ to sort the points.
- The main algorithm running time satisfies the recursion $T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + O(n)$

$\Longrightarrow$ overall running time is $O(n \log n)$.

Concluding Thoughts

Divide & Conquer is a powerful algorithm design strategy.
Efficiency improvement over naive solutions:

- Sorting $\Theta(n^2) \longrightarrow \Theta(n \log n)$
- k-Selection $\Theta(n^2) \longrightarrow \Theta(n)$
- Majority $\Theta(n^2) \longrightarrow \Theta(n \log n)$
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Other applications:

- Matrix multiplication (Strassen's algorithm): $\Theta(n^3) \longrightarrow \Theta(n^{\log_2 7 + o(1)}) \approx \Theta(n^{2.807})$
- Integer multiplication: $\Theta(B^2) \longrightarrow \Theta(B^{\log_2 3}) \longrightarrow \Theta(B \log B)$
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Other considerations:

- Practical because of **parallelism**

String Matching

String Matching: Motivation

Fundamental Problems. Given a (large) **text** T and (small) **pattern** P:

- Determine if T contains the pattern P.
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Interesting parameters. $|T|$ is large ($\sim$ 1B), $|P|$ is relatively small ($\sim$ 1K)

Making Things Precise

Notation

- Σ is a finite **alphabet** or set of **characters**, $\sigma = |\Sigma|$
  - $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ is binary alphabet
  - $\Sigma = \{A, B, \ldots\}$ is Roman alphabet
  - $\Sigma = \cdots$ e.g., ASCII, Unicode,
- $\Sigma^n = \Sigma \times \Sigma \times \cdots \times \Sigma = \{(c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_n) \,|\, \text{each } c_i \in \Sigma\}$ = strings of exactly n characters
- $\Sigma^* = \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \Sigma^n$ = all *finite* strings
- $\Sigma^+ = \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \Sigma^n$ = all *nonempty* (finite) strings
- $\varepsilon \in \Sigma^0$ is the **empty string**
- for $S \in \Sigma^n$, $S[i]$ is ith character of S
- for $S, T \in \Sigma^*$, ST is the **concatenation** of S and T
- for $S \in \Sigma^n$, $S[i..j] = S[i]S[i+1] \cdots S[j]$ is a **substring**
  - $S[0..j]$ is a **prefix**, $S[j..n-1]$ is a **suffix**
  - $S[i..j) = S[i..j-1] \implies S = S[0..n)$

The String Matching Problem

Input:

- A **text** $T \in \Sigma^*$ of length n
- A **pattern** $P \in \Sigma^*$ of length m (typically $m \ll n$)

Output:

- The index of the **first occurrence** of P in T, or -1 if T does not contain P as a substring:
  - $\min\{i \mid T[i, i+m) = P\}$

Example.

- $T = 10110011011101$
- $P_1 = 1101$

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Brute Force Matching

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Guess an index i where a match might occur

- Possible guesses $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n - m - 1$

Check if match at i:

- is $T[i, i + m) = P$?
- verify each character individually

Cost = number of comparisons made

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```
procedure VerifyMatch(T, P, i)
    j ← 0
    while j < m do
        if T[i + j] ≠ P[j] then
            return False
        end if
        j ← j + 1
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    return True
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PollEverywhere Question

What are the worst case and best case running times of VerifyMatch?

pollev.com/comp526

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Best and Worst Cases:

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Brute force. Guess and check every value $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n - m - 1$

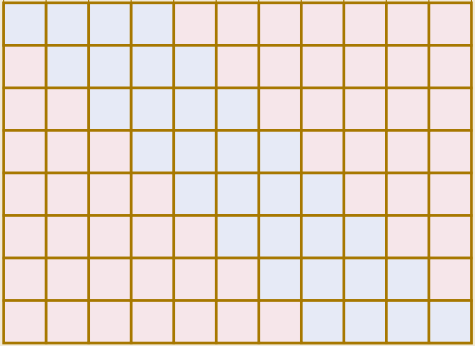
- Worst case running time is $\Theta(nm)$
  - What is example has cost $\Omega(nm)$?
- Best case cost is $\Theta(m)$

Brute Force Example

Example

- $T = abbbababbab$
- $P = abba$

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a	b	b	b	a	b	a	b	b	a	b



procedure BRUTEFORCEMATCH(T, P)
    for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n-m-1$ **do**
        if VERIFYMATCH(T, P, i) **then**
            return i
        end if
    end for
    return -1
end procedure

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  - How can you search with fewer comparisons?

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  - *Why?*
- Which of these comparisons were unnecessary?
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More generally: How can we use results of *previous comparisons* to avoid making unnecessary comparisons in the future?

For Next Time

Consider How could we improve upon BruteForceMatch

- How can we use information about *previous matches* in order to avoid doing some *future checks*?

Scratch Notes