

# Divide and Conquer

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Idea:

- 1 If the problem is small enough, then solve it
- 2 Otherwise:
  - 1 **Divide** the problem into two or more sub-problems
  - 2 **Solve** each sub-problem recursively
  - 3 **Combine** the solutions to the sub-problems to obtain a solution to the original problem



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Example:

**algorithm** MERGESORT( $S, l, h$ ):

```

if  $l < h$  then
     $m \leftarrow (l + h) / 2$            // divide
    MERGESORT( $S, l, m$ )             // conquer
    MERGESORT( $S, m + 1, h$ )         // conquer
    MERGE( $S, l, m, h$ )             // combine
    
```

**algorithm** MERGE( $S, l, m, h$ ):

```

 $T \leftarrow \langle \rangle$            // merge placeholder
 $i \leftarrow l$                // top of first half
 $j \leftarrow m$                // top of second half
 $k \leftarrow l$                // top of T

while  $i \leq m \wedge j \leq h$  do
    if  $S_i < S_j$  then       // compare top
         $T_k \leftarrow S_i$    // smaller in T
         $i \leftarrow i + 1$    // advance top
    else
         $T_k \leftarrow S_j$    // smaller in T
         $j \leftarrow j + 1$    // advance top
     $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 

while  $i \leq m$  do           // flush first half
     $T_k \leftarrow S_i$ 
     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
     $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 

while  $j \leq h$  do         // flush second half
     $T_k \leftarrow S_j$ 
     $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
     $k \leftarrow k + 1$ 

for  $k = l$  to  $h$  do     // result back into S
     $S_k \leftarrow T_k$ 
    
```



## Lemma (correctness of MERGE)

*If  $S_{l\dots m}$  and  $S_{m+1\dots h}$  are sorted then at the end of MERGE the sequence  $T_{l\dots h}$  contains a sorted permutation of  $S_{l\dots h}$*



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- Loop invariant (for all three loops):  $T_{l\dots k-1}$  is sorted and contains exactly all the  $k - 1$  smallest elements of  $S_{l\dots h}$ 
  - Proof by induction over  $k$
- At the end of the loop  $k = h + 1$  and so the invariant implies the desired properties of  $T$



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## Theorem (correctness of MERGESORT)

*MERGESORT replaces any input sequence  $S_{h..l}$  with a sorted permutation of that sequence*



# MERGESORT ANALYSIS

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## Theorem (correctness of MERGESORT)

MERGESORT replaces any input sequence  $S_{h..l}$  with a sorted permutation of that sequence

- Proof by induction on  $h - l$ :
  - In the base case  $h - l = 0$  MERGESORT (correctly) does nothing
  - To sort  $h - l$  values MERGESORT sorts correctly  $(h - l)/2$  values two times (inductive hypothesis) and then correctly merges the two sub-sequences (lemma), thus obtaining a sorted permutation of the original sequence

# MERGESORT ANALYSIS (CONT'D)



- $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n, T(1) = 1$  so  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n) \rightarrow$  already known!





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Theorem (comparison sorting lower bound)

*The lower bound for comparison sort algorithms is  $\Omega(n \log n)$*



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## Theorem (comparison sorting lower bound)

*The lower bound for comparison sort algorithms is  $\Omega(n \log n)$*

- We count comparisons using a **decision tree**
  - Internal node  $S_{i,j}$  represents a comparison between  $S_i$  and  $S_j$
  - The left [right] sub-tree represents all the decisions to be made provided that  $S_i \leq S_j$  [ $S_i > S_j$ ]
  - Each leaf labeled with a different permutation of  $S$
  - Following a path performs the sequence of comparison given by the sequence of nodes and produces the leaf permutation of  $S$
- We have  $n!$  permutations (leaves) so the **minimum** path from root to a leaf contains  $\log(n!) = \Theta(n \log n)$  nodes
- So a sorting algorithm must perform  **$\Omega(n \log n)$  comparisons** to differentiate between all the possible permutations

## Corollary (optimality of MERGESORT)

*MERGESORT is optimal*



- Problem with MERGESORT: **require substantial extra space**
- By contrast QuickSort is an **in-place sorting algorithm**

```

algorithm QUICKSORT( $S, l, h$ ):
  if  $l < h$  then
    Choose pivot  $S_x$ 
     $S_l \leftrightarrow S_x$ 
     $p \leftarrow \text{PARTITION}(S, l, h)$ 
    QUICKSORT( $S, l, p - 1$ )
    QUICKSORT( $S, p + 1, h$ )
  
```

```

algorithm PARTITION( $S, l, h$ ): // ver. 1
   $pivot \leftarrow S_l$ 
   $j \leftarrow l$ 
  for  $i = l + 1$  to  $h$  do
    if  $S_i < pivot$  then
       $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
       $S_i \leftrightarrow S_j$ 
   $S_l \leftrightarrow S_j$ 
  return  $j$ 
  
```

```

algorithm PARTITION( $S, l, h$ ): // ver. 2
   $pivot \leftarrow S_l$ 
   $i \leftarrow l$ 
   $j \leftarrow h + 1$  // start beyond ends
  repeat
    repeat  $i \leftarrow i + 1$  until  $S_i > pivot$ :
    repeat  $j \leftarrow j - 1$  until  $S_j < pivot$ :
    if  $i < j$  then  $S_i \leftrightarrow S_j$ 
  until  $i > j$ :
   $S_l \leftrightarrow S_j$ 
  return  $j$ 
  
```



- Time complexity:
  - **Best case:** we always partition equally  
 $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$ ,  $T(1) = 1$  and so  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$
  - **Worst case:** one partition is always empty (when?)  
 $T(n) = T(n-1) + n$ ,  $T(1) = 1$  and so  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$



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 $T(n) = T(n-1) + n$ ,  $T(1) = 1$  and so  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$
  - Can mitigate (but not fix) the worst case by choosing the pivot randomly of the best out of  $k$  random values for a small constant  $k$
- QuickSort is not stable



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  - Can mitigate (but not fix) the worst case by choosing the pivot randomly of the best out of  $k$  random values for a small constant  $k$
- QuickSort is not stable
- Correctness of PARTITION:
  - Loop invariant for version 1: **At the end of an iteration all values  $S_{l+1\dots j}$  are smaller than *pivot* and no value  $S_{j+1\dots i}$  is smaller than *pivot***
  - Can verify by induction over  $i$
  - Invariant implies desired postcondition that **everything in  $S_{l\dots p-1}$  is less than *pivot* and nothing in  $S_{p+1\dots h}$  is less than the pivot**
  - Loop invariant for version 2: **At the end of an iteration all values in  $S_{l+1\dots i}$  are smaller than the pivot and no values in  $S_{j\dots h}$  are smaller than the pivot**
  - Can verify by induction over the iteration number



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  - Can verify by induction over the iteration number
- Correctness of QUICKSORT: same as for MERGESORT (induction over  $h - l$ )



- We use the QuickSort idea to find the  $k$ -th smallest value in a given array, without sorting the array:

**algorithm** QUICKSELECT( $k, S, l, h$ ):

**if**  $l < h$  **then**

    Choose pivot  $S_x$

$S_l \leftrightarrow S_x$

$p \leftarrow$  PARTITION( $S, l, h$ )

**if**  $k = p$  **then return**  $S_k$

**else if**  $k < p$  **then** QUICKSELECT( $k, S, l, p - 1$ )

**else** QUICKSELECT( $k, S, p + 1, h$ )





# LINEAR-TIME SELECTION

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        Choose pivot  $S_x$ 
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         $p \leftarrow$  PARTITION( $S, l, h$ )
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- Correctness: just like for QUICKSORT
- Time complexity:
  - **Best case**: we always partition equally  
 $T(n) = T(n/2) + n$ ,  $T(1) = 1$  and so  $T(n) = \Theta(n)$  (better than sorting)
  - **Worst case**: one partition is always empty  
 $T(n) = T(n - 1) + n$ ,  $T(1) = 1$  and so  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$



# HOW TO CHOOSE GOOD PIVOTS

```
algorithm MOMSELECT( $k, S, l, h$ ):  
  if  $h - l \leq 25$  then use brute force  
  else  
     $m \leftarrow (h - l) / 5$   
    for  $i = 1$  to  $m$  do  
       $M_i \leftarrow \text{MEDIANOFFIVE}(S_{l+5i-4 \dots l+5i})$  // brute force  
      // Note:  $M$  can and should be an in-place array (within  $S$ )  
     $mom \leftarrow \text{MOMSELECT}(m/2, M, 1, m)$   
     $S_1 \leftrightarrow S_{mom}$   
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- Obviously correct (why?)



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- Obviously correct (why?)
- $mom$  is larger [smaller] than about  $(h - l) / 10$  block-of-five medians
- Each block median is larger [smaller] than 2 other elements in its block
- So  $mom$  is larger [smaller] than  $3(h - l) / 10$  elements in  $S$  and so cannot be farther than  $7(h - l) / 10$  elements from the perfect pivot
- So  $T(n) = T(n/5) + T(7n/10) + n \Rightarrow T(n) = 10 \times c \times n \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n)$



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  - Note in passing:  $T(n) = T(n/3) + T(2n/3) + n \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$



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- So  $T(n) = T(n/5) + T(7n/10) + n \Rightarrow T(n) = 10 \times c \times n \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n)$ 
  - Note in passing:  $T(n) = T(n/3) + T(2n/3) + n \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$
- If QUICKSORT uses MOMSELECT to choose pivot then it gets down to  $O(n \log n)$  worst-case complexity (optimal)



# FAST MATRIX MULTIPLICATION

With  $A$  and  $B$   $n \times n$  matrices compute  $C = A \times B$  such that

$$C_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n A_{i,k} \times B_{k,j}$$

- Straightforward algorithm of complexity  $O(n^3)$
- Obvious lower bound  $\Omega(n^2)$



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- Divide and conquer approach:

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} \\ \hline A_{\leftarrow\downarrow} & A_{\rightarrow\downarrow} \end{array} \right) \times \left( \begin{array}{c|c} B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} \\ \hline B_{\leftarrow\downarrow} & B_{\rightarrow\downarrow} \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} C_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & C_{\rightarrow\uparrow} \\ \hline C_{\leftarrow\downarrow} & C_{\rightarrow\downarrow} \end{array} \right)$$

**algorithm** MATRIXMUL( $n, A, B$ ):

**if**  $n = 2$  **then return**  $A \times B$  (brute force)

**else**

    Partition  $A$  into  $A_{\leftarrow\uparrow}, A_{\rightarrow\uparrow}, A_{\leftarrow\downarrow}, A_{\rightarrow\downarrow}$

    Partition  $B$  into  $B_{\leftarrow\uparrow}, B_{\rightarrow\uparrow}, B_{\leftarrow\downarrow}, B_{\rightarrow\downarrow}$

$C_{\leftarrow\uparrow} \leftarrow \text{MATRIXMUL}(n/2, A_{\leftarrow\uparrow}, B_{\leftarrow\uparrow}) + \text{MATRIXMUL}(n/2, A_{\rightarrow\uparrow}, B_{\leftarrow\downarrow})$

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    Combine  $C_{\leftarrow\uparrow}, C_{\rightarrow\uparrow}, C_{\leftarrow\downarrow}, C_{\rightarrow\downarrow}$  into  $C$

**return**  $C$

- $T(n) = 8T(n/2) + n^2, T(2) = 8$



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$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} \\ \hline A_{\leftarrow\downarrow} & A_{\rightarrow\downarrow} \end{array} \right) \times \left( \begin{array}{c|c} B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} \\ \hline B_{\leftarrow\downarrow} & B_{\rightarrow\downarrow} \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} C_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & C_{\rightarrow\uparrow} \\ \hline C_{\leftarrow\downarrow} & C_{\rightarrow\downarrow} \end{array} \right)$$

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    Combine  $C_{\leftarrow\uparrow}, C_{\rightarrow\uparrow}, C_{\leftarrow\downarrow}, C_{\rightarrow\downarrow}$  into  $C$

**return**  $C$

- $T(n) = 8T(n/2) + n^2, T(2) = 8 \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n^3)$  (bummer!)





# FAST MATRIX MULTIPLICATION (CONT'D)

- To improve complexity we try to compute  $C_{\leftarrow\uparrow}$ ,  $C_{\rightarrow\uparrow}$ ,  $C_{\leftarrow\downarrow}$ ,  $C_{\rightarrow\downarrow}$  using less than 8 matrix multiplication operations
- Strassen's definitions:

$$\begin{aligned} P &= (A_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + A_{\rightarrow\uparrow})(B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + B_{\rightarrow\downarrow}) & \text{so} & & C_{\leftarrow\uparrow} &= P + S - T + V \\ Q &= (A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} + A_{\rightarrow\downarrow})B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & & & C_{\rightarrow\uparrow} &= R + T \\ R &= A_{\leftarrow\uparrow}(B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - B_{\rightarrow\downarrow}) & & & C_{\leftarrow\downarrow} &= Q + S \\ S &= A_{\rightarrow\downarrow}(B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - B_{\leftarrow\uparrow}) & & & C_{\rightarrow\downarrow} &= P + R - Q + U \\ T &= (A_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + A_{\rightarrow\uparrow})B_{\rightarrow\downarrow} \\ U &= (A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - A_{\leftarrow\uparrow})(B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + B_{\rightarrow\uparrow}) \\ V &= (A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - A_{\rightarrow\downarrow})(B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} + B_{\rightarrow\downarrow}) \end{aligned}$$

- Only 7 multiplication operations!
- $T(n) = 7T(n/2) + n^2$ ,  $T(2) = 8 \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n^{\log_2 7}) = O(n^{2.81})$ 
  - Subsequent algorithms were able to bring complexity down to  $O(n^{2.373})$



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- Strassen's definitions:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 P = (A_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + A_{\rightarrow\uparrow})(B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + B_{\rightarrow\downarrow}) & \text{so} \quad C_{\leftarrow\uparrow} = P + S - T + V \\
 Q = (A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} + A_{\rightarrow\downarrow})B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} & C_{\rightarrow\uparrow} = R + T \\
 R = A_{\leftarrow\uparrow}(B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - B_{\rightarrow\downarrow}) & C_{\rightarrow\uparrow} = Q + S \\
 S = A_{\rightarrow\downarrow}(B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - B_{\leftarrow\uparrow}) & C_{\rightarrow\downarrow} = P + R - Q + U \\
 T = (A_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + A_{\rightarrow\uparrow})B_{\rightarrow\downarrow} & \\
 U = (A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - A_{\leftarrow\uparrow})(B_{\leftarrow\uparrow} + B_{\rightarrow\uparrow}) & \\
 V = (A_{\rightarrow\uparrow} - A_{\rightarrow\downarrow})(B_{\rightarrow\uparrow} + B_{\rightarrow\downarrow}) &
 \end{array}$$

- Only 7 multiplication operations!
- $T(n) = 7T(n/2) + n^2$ ,  $T(2) = 8 \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n^{\log_2 7}) = O(n^{2.81})$ 
  - Subsequent algorithms were able to bring complexity down to  $O(n^{2.373})$
- Trick used: split into **fewer** (but less obvious) sub-problems



Manipulate big integers  $\rightarrow$  represented by arrays of  $n$  digits

- Obvious lower bound for addition and multiplication:  $\Omega(n)$
- The straightforward algorithms are optimal for addition ( $O(n)$ ) but not necessarily for multiplication ( $O(n^2)$ )



# LARGE INTEGER MULTIPLICATION

Manipulate big integers  $\rightarrow$  represented by arrays of  $n$  digits

- Obvious lower bound for addition and multiplication:  $\Omega(n)$
- The straightforward algorithms are optimal for addition ( $O(n)$ ) but not necessarily for multiplication ( $O(n^2)$ )
- Divide and conquer approach:
  - Let  $u$  and  $v$  be two  $n$ -digit integers
  - Let  $m = n/2$  and let  $u = x \times 10^m + y$  and  $v = w \times 10^m + z$
  - It follows that
$$u \times v = (x \times 10^m + y)(w \times 10^m + z) = xw \times 10^{2m} + (xz + yw) \times 10^m + yz$$

**algorithm** INTMUL( $n, u, v$ ):

```
 $m \leftarrow n/2$   
if  $u = 0 \vee v = 0$  then return 0  
else if  $n = 2$  then return  $u \times v$   
else  
     $x \leftarrow u \text{ DIV } 10^m$      // most significant  $m$  digits  
     $y \leftarrow u \text{ REM } 10^m$      // least significant  $m$  digits  
     $w \leftarrow v \text{ DIV } 10^m$   
     $z \leftarrow v \text{ REM } 10^m$   
    return INTMUL( $m, x, w$ )  $\times 10^{2m}$   
        + (INTMUL( $m, x, z$ )  
          + INTMUL( $m, y, w$ ))  $\times 10^m$   
        + INTMUL( $m, y, z$ )
```



# LARGE INTEGER MULTIPLICATION

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**algorithm** INTMUL( $n, u, v$ ):

```

   $m \leftarrow n/2$ 
  if  $u = 0 \vee v = 0$  then return 0
  else if  $n = 2$  then return  $u \times v$ 
  else
     $x \leftarrow u \text{ DIV } 10^m$  // most significant  $m$  digits
     $y \leftarrow u \text{ REM } 10^m$  // least significant  $m$  digits
     $w \leftarrow v \text{ DIV } 10^m$ 
     $z \leftarrow v \text{ REM } 10^m$ 
    return INTMUL( $m, x, w$ )  $\times 10^{2m}$ 
      + (INTMUL( $m, x, z$ )
      + INTMUL( $m, y, w$ ))  $\times 10^m$ 
      + INTMUL( $m, y, z$ )
  
```

- Running time:  
 $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n,$   
 $T(2) = 4$
- Complexity:  $O(n^2)$



- Improvement:

- Let  $p_1 = xw$ ,  $p_2 = yz$ ,  $p_3 = (x + y)(w + z)$
- Then  $p_3 - p_1 - p_2 = (x + y)(w + z) - xw - yz = xz + yw$
- Then  $p = (x \times 10^m + y)(w \times 10^m + z) =$   
 $xw \times 10^{2m} + (xz + yw) \times 10^m + yz = p_1 10^{2m} + (p_3 - p_1 - p_2) 10^m + p_2$

**algorithm** FASTMUL( $n, u, v$ ):

```

 $m \leftarrow n/2$ 
if  $u = 0 \vee v = 0$  then return 0
else if  $n = 2$  then
     $\quad$  return  $u \times v$ 
else
     $\quad x \leftarrow u \text{ DIV } 10^m$ 
     $\quad y \leftarrow u \text{ REM } 10^m$ 
     $\quad w \leftarrow v \text{ DIV } 10^m$ 
     $\quad z \leftarrow v \text{ REM } 10^m$ 
     $\quad p_1 = \text{FASTMUL}(m, x, w)$ 
     $\quad p_2 = \text{FASTMUL}(m, y, z)$ 
     $\quad p_3 = \text{FASTMUL}(m, x + y, w + z)$ 
    return  $p_1 10^{2m} + (p_3 - p_1 - p_2) 10^m + p_2$ 
    
```

- Running time:  
 $T(n) = 3T(n/2) + n$ ,  
 $T(2) = 4$
- Complexity:  
 $O(n^{\log_2 3}) = O(n^{1.585})$



Tile a bathroom floor (“board”) with trominos without covering the drain (designated square on the board)

**algorithm** TILE( $B, n, L$ ): //  $B$  is the  $n \times n$  board,  $L$  is the drain location

**if**  $n = 2$  **then**

    Tile with one tromino without covering  $L$

**else**

    Divide  $B$  into 4  $n/2 \times n/2$  sub-boards  $B_1, \dots, B_4$

    Place a tromino to cover one square on each board that does not contain  $L$

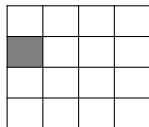
    Let  $L_1, \dots, L_4$  be the squares on each sub-board that are either covered or  $L$

**for**  $i = 1$  **to** 4 **do**

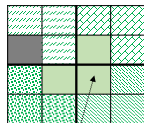
      TILE( $B_i, n/2, L_i$ )

Running time/trominoes used:

- $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + 1, T(2) = 1$
- $T(n) = 1/3(n^2 - 1)$
- **Much** better than the trial and error approach



Tromino



1<sup>st</sup> Tromino to be placed



- Divide and conquer does not work for everything
- The crux of the technique is the ability to divide a problem into-sub problems
- Therefore divide and conquer is not the right thing to do when:
  - The size of sub-problems is the same (or larger) than the size of the original problem
    - Example: initial version of matrix or integer multiplication
    - Dramatic example: computing Fibonacci numbers
  - When the process of splitting into sub-problems takes too much time
  - When the process of combining the sub-solutions takes too much time