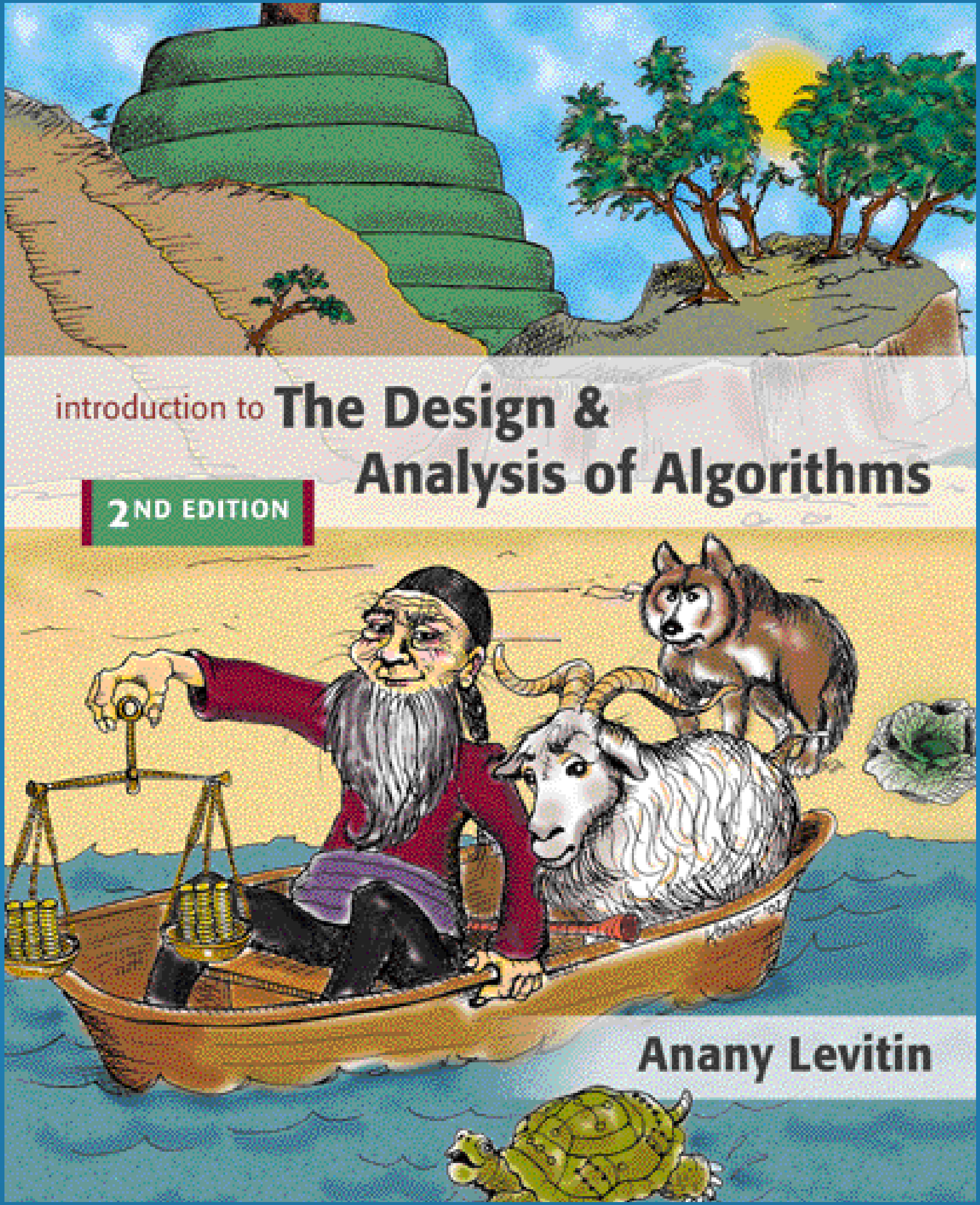
Chapter 4

Divide-and-Conquer



Divide-and-Conquer

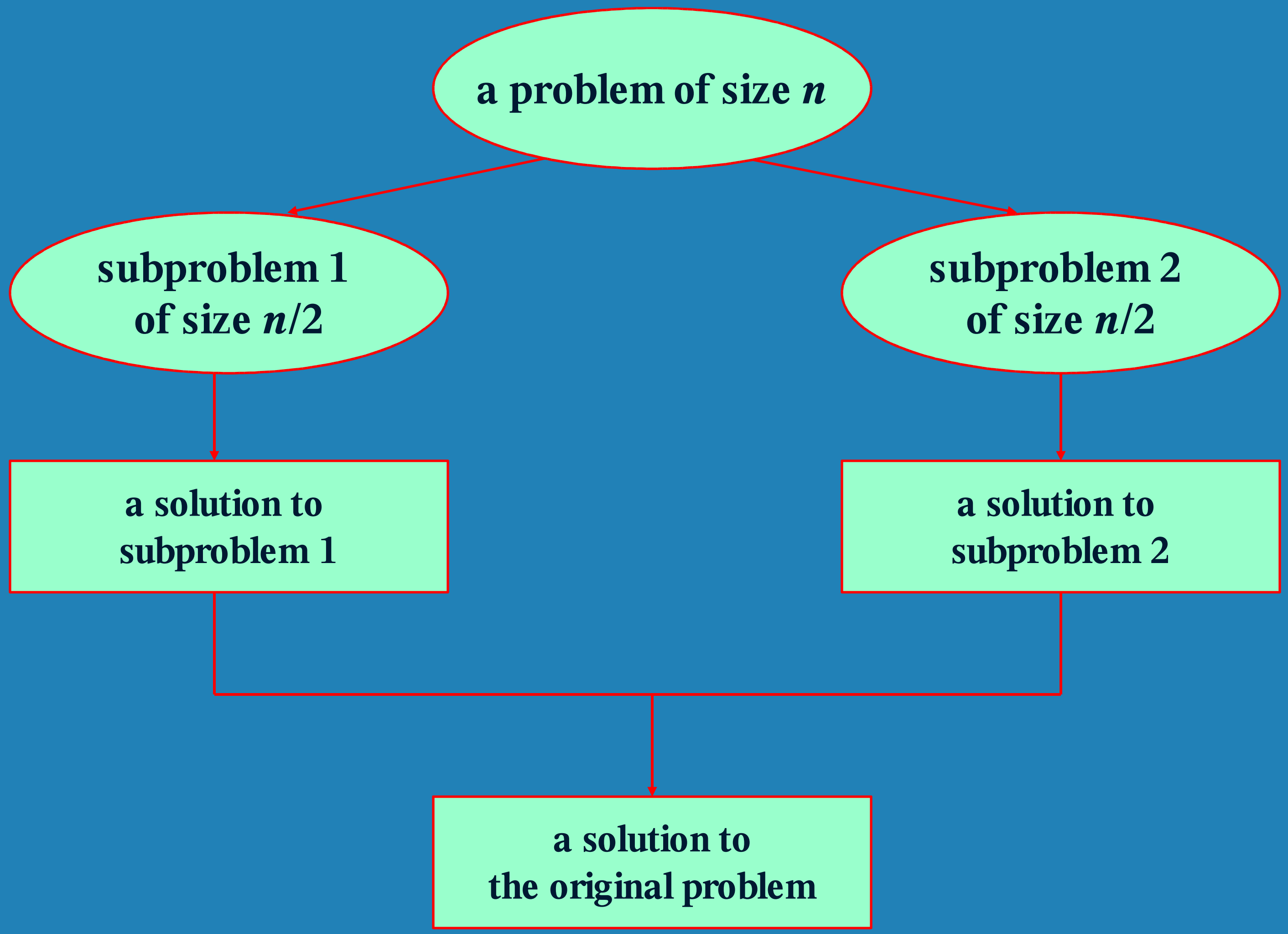
The most-well known algorithm design strategy:

2. Divide instance of problem into two or more smaller instances

4. Solve smaller instances recursively

6. Obtain solution to original (larger) instance by combining these solutions

Divide-and-Conquer Technique (cont.)



Divide-and-Conquer Examples

- Sorting: mergesort and quicksort
- Binary tree traversals
- Binary search (?)
- Multiplication of large integers
- Matrix multiplication: Strassen's algorithm
- Closest-pair and convex-hull algorithms

General Divide-and-Conquer Recurrence

$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$ where $f(n) \in \Theta(n^d)$, $d \geq 0$

Master Theorem:

If $a < b^d$, $T(n) \in \Theta(n^d)$

If $a = b^d$, $T(n) \in \Theta(n^d \log n)$

If $a > b^d$, $T(n) \in \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

Note: The same results hold with O instead of Θ.

Examples:

$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n \Rightarrow T(n) \in$?

$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2 \Rightarrow T(n) \in$?

$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^3 \Rightarrow T(n) \in$?

Mergesort

- Split array A[0..n-1] in two about equal halves and make copies of each half in arrays B and C
- Sort arrays B and C recursively
- Merge sorted arrays B and C into array A as follows:
  - Repeat the following until no elements remain in one of the arrays:
    - compare the first elements in the remaining unprocessed portions of the arrays
    - copy the smaller of the two into A, while incrementing the index indicating the unprocessed portion of that array
  - Once all elements in one of the arrays are processed, copy the remaining unprocessed elements from the other array into A.

Pseudocode of Mergesort

ALGORITHM *Mergesort*$(A[0..n-1])$

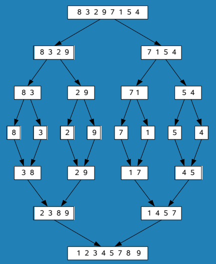
//Sorts array $A[0..n-1]$ by recursive mergesort
//Input: An array $A[0..n-1]$ of orderable elements
//Output: Array $A[0..n-1]$ sorted in nondecreasing order
if $n > 1$
copy $A[0..\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1]$ to $B[0..\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1]$
copy $A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor..n-1]$ to $C[0..\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1]$
$Mergesort(B[0..\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1])$
$Mergesort(C[0..\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1])$
$Merge(B, C, A)$

Pseudocode of Merge

ALGORITHM $Merge(B[0..p-1], C[0..q-1], A[0..p+q-1])$

//Merges two sorted arrays into one sorted array
//Input: Arrays $B[0..p-1]$ and $C[0..q-1]$ both sorted
//Output: Sorted array $A[0..p+q-1]$ of the elements of B and C
$i \leftarrow 0$; $j \leftarrow 0$; $k \leftarrow 0$
while $i < p$ **and** $j < q$ **do**
    if $B[i] \leq C[j]$
        $A[k] \leftarrow B[i]$; $i \leftarrow i + 1$
    else $A[k] \leftarrow C[j]$; $j \leftarrow j + 1$
    $k \leftarrow k + 1$
if $i = p$
    copy $C[j..q-1]$ to $A[k..p+q-1]$
else copy $B[i..p-1]$ to $A[k..p+q-1]$

Mergesort Example



Analysis of Mergesort

- **All cases have same efficiency: $\Theta(n \log n)$**

- **Number of comparisons in the worst case is close to theoretical minimum for comparison-based sorting:**

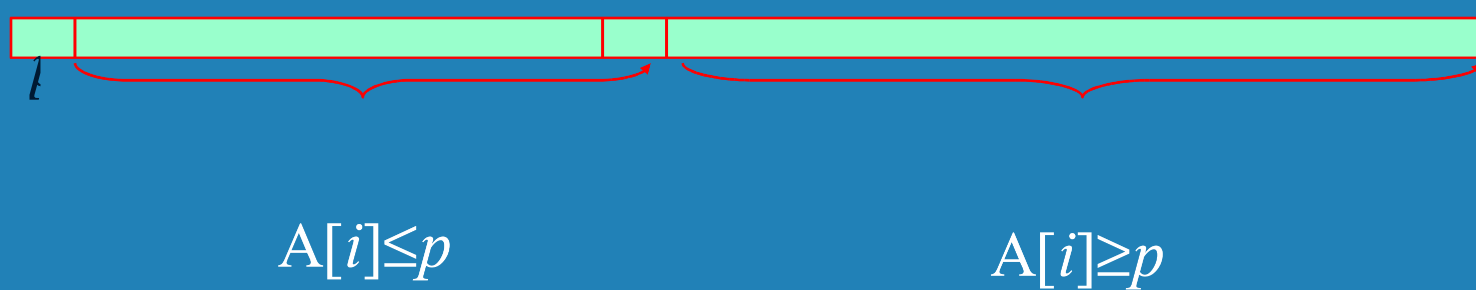
$$\lceil \log_2 n! \rceil \approx n \log_2 n - 1.44n$$

- **Space requirement: $\Theta(n)$ (<u>not</u> in-place)**

- **Can be implemented without recursion (bottom-up)**

Quicksort

- Select a *pivot* (partitioning element) – here, the first element
- Rearrange the list so that all the elements in the first *s* positions are smaller than or equal to the pivot and all the elements in the remaining *n-s* positions are larger than or equal to the pivot (see next slide for an algorithm)



- Exchange the pivot with the last element in the first (i.e., ≤) subarray — the pivot is now in its final position
- Sort the two subarrays recursively

Partitioning Algorithm

Algorithm $Partition(A[l..r])$
//Partitions a subarray by using its first element as a pivot
//Input: A subarray $A[l..r]$ of $A[0..n-1]$, defined by its left and right
// indices l and r $(l < r)$
//Output: A partition of $A[l..r]$, with the split position returned as
// this function's value
$p \leftarrow A[l]$
$i \leftarrow l; \quad j \leftarrow r + 1$
repeat
  repeat $i \leftarrow i + 1$ **until** $A[i] \geq p$
  repeat $j \leftarrow j - 1$ **until** $A[j] \cdot p$
  swap$(A[i], A[j])$
until $i \geq j$
swap$(A[i], A[j])$ //undo last swap when $i \geq j$
swap$(A[l], A[j])$
return j

Quicksort Example

5 3 1 9 8 2 4 7

Analysis of Quicksort

- Best case: split in the middle — $\Theta(n \log n)$
- Worst case: sorted array! — $\Theta(n^2)$
- Average case: random arrays — $\Theta(n \log n)$

- Improvements:
  - better pivot selection: median of three partitioning
  - switch to insertion sort on small subfiles
  - elimination of recursion

  These combine to 20-25% improvement

- Considered the method of choice for internal sorting of large files ($n \geq 10000$)

Binary Search

Very efficient algorithm for searching in sorted array:

K

vs

$A[0] \ . \ . \ . \ A[m] \ . \ . \ . \ A[n-1]$

If $K = A[m]$, stop (successful search); otherwise, continue searching by the same method in $A[0..m-1]$ if $K < A[m]$ and in $A[m+1..n-1]$ if $K > A[m]$

$l \leftarrow 0$; $r \leftarrow n-1$

while $l \leq r$ do

  $m \leftarrow \lfloor (l+r)/2 \rfloor$

  if $K = A[m]$ return m

  else if $K < A[m]$ $r \leftarrow m-1$

  else $l \leftarrow m+1$

return -1

Analysis of Binary Search

- Time efficiency
  - worst-case recurrence: $C_w(n) = 1 + C_w(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$, $C_w(1) = 1$
    solution: $C_w(n) = \lceil \log_2(n+1) \rceil$

    This is VERY fast: e.g., $C_w(10^6) = 20$

- Optimal for searching a sorted array

- Limitations: must be a sorted array (not linked list)

- Bad (degenerate) example of divide-and-conquer

- Has a continuous counterpart called ***bisection method*** for solving equations in one unknown $f(x) = 0$ (see Sec. 12.4)

Binary Tree Algorithms

Binary tree is a divide-and-conquer ready structure!

Ex. 1: Classic traversals (preorder, inorder, postorder)

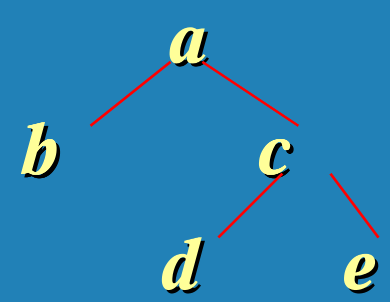
Algorithm *Inorder*(T)

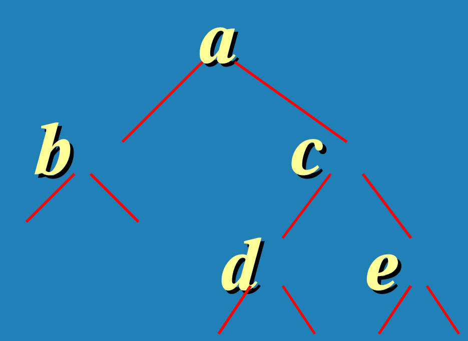
if $T \neq \varnothing$

  ***Inorder*(T_{left})**

  print(root of T)

  ***Inorder*(T_{right})**

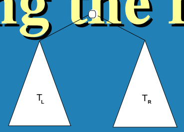




Efficiency: $\Theta(n)$

Binary Tree Algorithms (cont.)

Ex. 2: Computing the height of a binary tree



$$h(T) = \max\{h(T_L), h(T_R)\} + 1 \text{ if } T \neq \varnothing \text{ and } h(\varnothing) = -1$$

Efficiency: $\Theta(n)$

Multiplication of Large Integers

Consider the problem of multiplying two (large) n-digit integers represented by arrays of their digits such as:

A = 12345678901357986429   B = 87654321284820912836

The grade-school algorithm:

$$
\begin{array}{r}
a_1\ a_2 \ldots\ a_n \\
\underline{b_1\ b_2 \ldots\ b_n} \\
(d_{10})\ d_{11} d_{12} \ldots d_{1n} \\
(d_{20})\ d_{21} d_{22} \ldots d_{2n} \qquad \\
\ldots\ \ldots\ \ldots\ \ldots\ \ldots\ \ldots\ \ldots \\
\hline
(d_{n0})\ d_{n1} d_{n2} \ldots d_{nn} \qquad\qquad
\end{array}
$$

Efficiency: n^2 one-digit multiplications

First Divide-and-Conquer Algorithm

A small example: $A * B$ where $A = 2135$ and $B = 4014$

$A = (21 \cdot 10^2 + 35)$, $B = (40 \cdot 10^2 + 14)$

So, $A * B = (21 \cdot 10^2 + 35) * (40 \cdot 10^2 + 14)$

$$= 21 * 40 \cdot 10^4 + (21 * 14 + 35 * 40) \cdot 10^2 + 35 * 14$$

In general, if $A = A_1A_2$ and $B = B_1B_2$ (where A and B are n-digit, A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2 are $n/2$-digit numbers),

$A * B = A_1 * B_1 \cdot 10^n + (A_1 * B_2 + A_2 * B_1) \cdot 10^{n/2} + A_2 * B_2$

Recurrence for the number of one-digit multiplications $M(n)$:

$$M(n) = 4M(n/2), \quad M(1) = 1$$

Solution: $M(n) = n^2$

Second Divide-and-Conquer Algorithm

$A * B = A_1 * B_1 \cdot 10^n + (A_1 * B_2 + A_2 * B_1) \cdot 10^{n/2} + A_2 * B_2$

The idea is to decrease the number of multiplications from 4 to 3:

$$(A_1 + A_2) * (B_1 + B_2) = A_1 * B_1 + (A_1 * B_2 + A_2 * B_1) + A_2 * B_2,$$

I.e., $(A_1 * B_2 + A_2 * B_1) = (A_1 + A_2) * (B_1 + B_2) - A_1 * B_1 - A_2 * B_2,$
which requires only 3 multiplications at the expense of (4-1) extra add/sub.

Recurrence for the number of multiplications M(n):

$$M(n) = 3M(n/2), \quad M(1) = 1$$

Solution: $M(n) = 3^{\log_2 n} = n^{\log_2 3} \approx n^{1.585}$

Example of Large-Integer Multiplication

2135 ∗ 4014

Strassen's Matrix Multiplication

Strassen observed [1969] that the product of two matrices can be computed as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} C_{00} & C_{01} \\ C_{10} & C_{11} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{00} & A_{01} \\ A_{10} & A_{11} \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} B_{00} & B_{01} \\ B_{10} & B_{11} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} M_1 + M_4 - M_5 + M_7 & M_3 + M_5 \\ M_2 + M_4 & M_1 + M_3 - M_2 + M_6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Formulas for Strassen's Algorithm

$M_1 = (A_{00} + A_{11}) * (B_{00} + B_{11})$

$M_2 = (A_{10} + A_{11}) * B_{00}$

$M_3 = A_{00} * (B_{01} - B_{11})$

$M_4 = A_{11} * (B_{10} - B_{00})$

$M_5 = (A_{00} + A_{01}) * B_{11}$

$M_6 = (A_{10} - A_{00}) * (B_{00} + B_{01})$

$M_7 = (A_{01} - A_{11}) * (B_{10} + B_{11})$

Analysis of Strassen's Algorithm

If n is not a power of 2, matrices can be padded with zeros.

Number of multiplications:

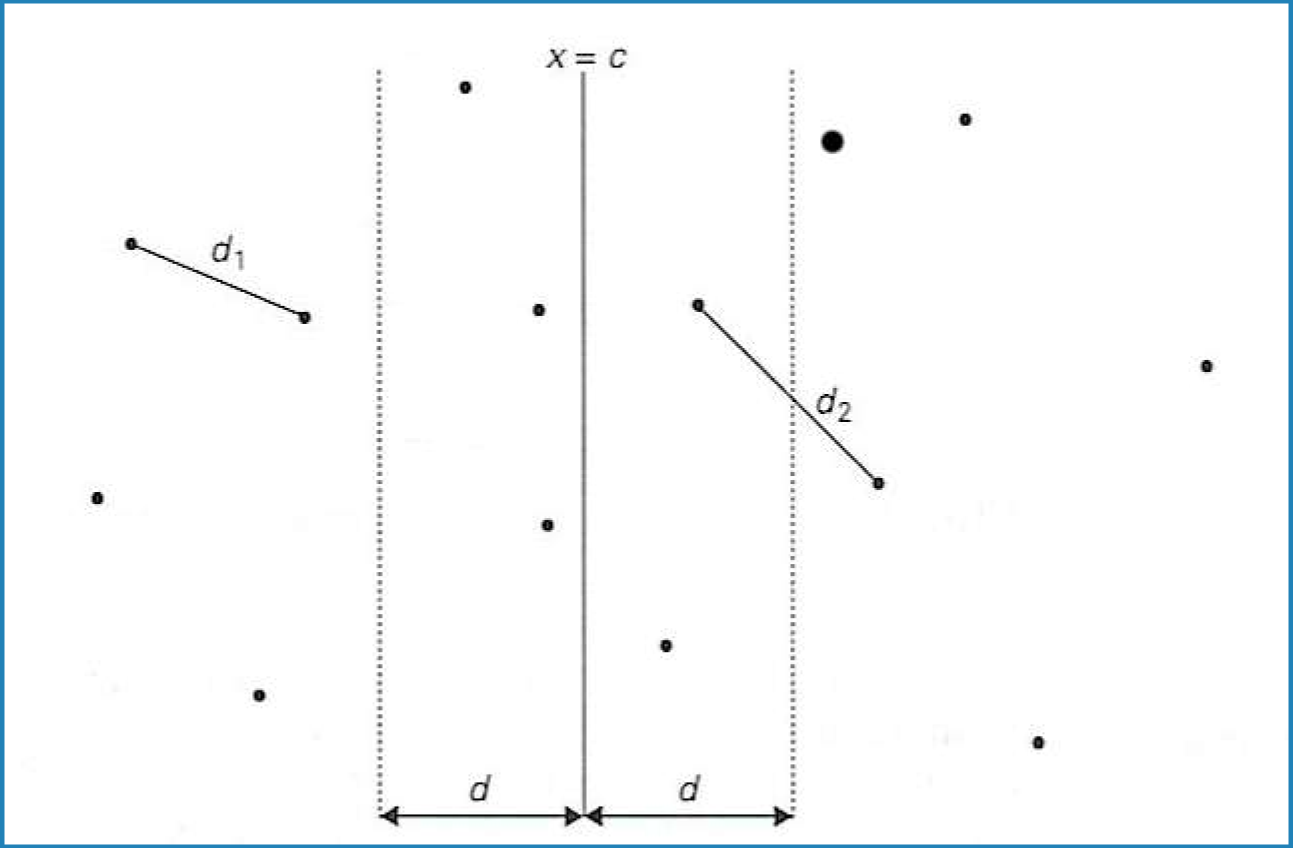
$$M(n) = 7M(n/2), \quad M(1) = 1$$

Solution: $M(n) = 7^{\log_2 n} = n^{\log_2 7} \approx n^{2.807}$ **vs.** n^3 **of brute-force alg.**

Algorithms with better asymptotic efficiency are known but they are even more complex.

Closest-Pair Problem by Divide-and-Conquer

Step 1 Divide the points given into two subsets S_1 and S_2 by a vertical line $x = c$ so that half the points lie to the left or on the line and half the points lie to the right or on the line.



Closest Pair by Divide-and-Conquer (cont.)

Step 2 Find recursively the closest pairs for the left and right subsets.

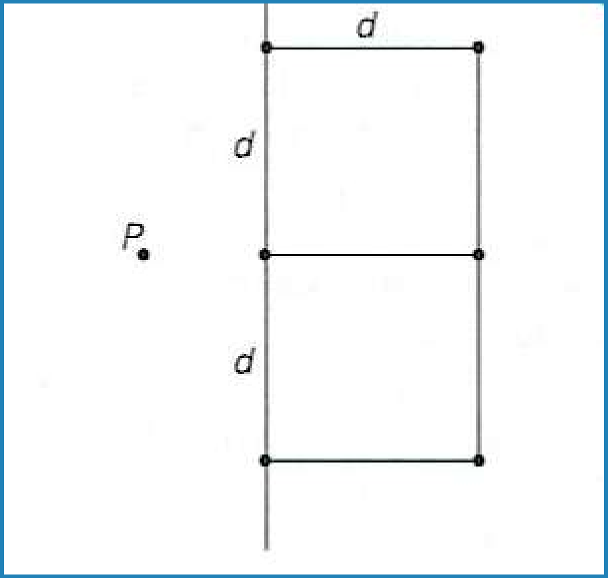
Step 3 Set $d = \min\{d_1, d_2\}$

We can limit our attention to the points in the symmetric vertical strip of width $2d$ as possible closest pair. Let C_1 and C_2 be the subsets of points in the left subset S_1 and of the right subset S_2, respectively, that lie in this vertical strip. The points in C_1 and C_2 are stored in increasing order of their y coordinates, which is maintained by merging during the execution of the next step.

Step 4 For every point $P(x,y)$ in C_1, we inspect points in C_2 that may be closer to P than d. There can be no more than 6 such points (because $d \le d_2$)!

Closest Pair by Divide-and-Conquer: Worst Case

The worst case scenario is depicted below:



Efficiency of the Closest-Pair Algorithm

Running time of the algorithm is described by

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + M(n), \quad \text{where } M(n) \in O(n)$$

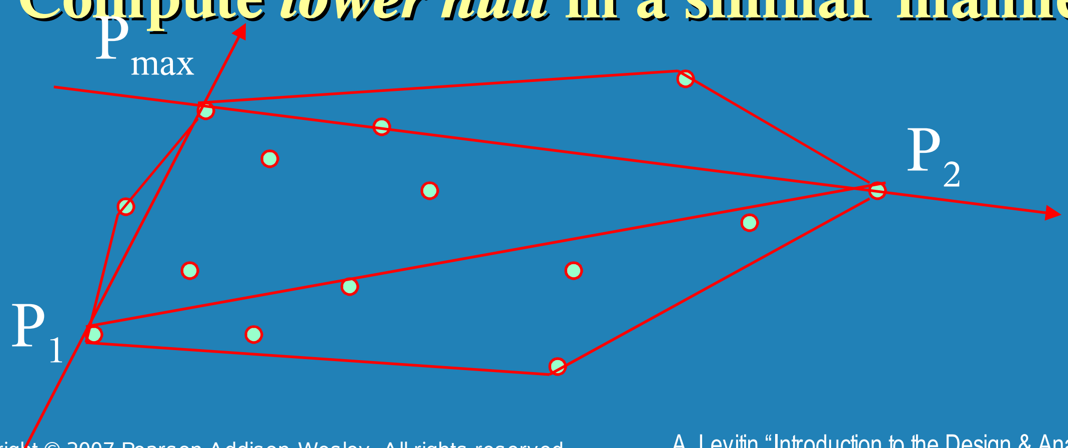
By the Master Theorem (with $a = 2$, $b = 2$, $d = 1$)

$$T(n) \in O(n \log n)$$

Quickhull Algorithm

Convex hull: smallest convex set that includes given points

- Assume points are sorted by *x*-coordinate values
- Identify *extreme points* P_1 and P_2 (leftmost and rightmost)
- Compute *upper hull* recursively:
  - find point P_{max} that is farthest away from line P_1P_2
  - compute the upper hull of the points to the left of line P_1P_{max}
  - compute the upper hull of the points to the left of line $P_{max}P_2$
- Compute *lower hull* in a similar manner



Efficiency of Quickhull Algorithm

- Finding point farthest away from line P_1P_2 can be done in linear time
- Time efficiency:
  - worst case: $\Theta(n^2)$ (as quicksort)
  - average case: $\Theta(n)$ (under reasonable assumptions about distribution of points given)

- If points are not initially sorted by x-coordinate value, this can be accomplished in $O(n \log n)$ time

- Several $O(n \log n)$ algorithms for convex hull are known