Lecture 3: Probabilistic Analysis, Randomized Quicksort

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Introduction: Sorting

- Sorting: given array of comparable elements, put them in sorted order
- Popular topic to cover in Algorithms courses
- This course:
 - ▶ I assume you know the basics (mergesort, quicksort, insertion sort, selection sort, bubble sort, etc.) from Data Structures
 - Today: more advanced sorting (randomized quicksort)
 - Next week: Sorting lower bound and ways around it.

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Quicksort Basics (Review)

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Algorithm:

- 1. If n = 0 or 1, return A (already sorted)
- 2. Pick some element \boldsymbol{p} as the *pivot*
- 3. Compare every element of \boldsymbol{A} to \boldsymbol{p} . Let \boldsymbol{L} be the elements less than \boldsymbol{p} , let \boldsymbol{G} be the elements larger than \boldsymbol{p} . Create array $[\boldsymbol{L}, \boldsymbol{p}, \boldsymbol{G}]$
- 4. Recursively sort **L** and **G**.

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Not fully specified: how to choose p?

- ▶ Traditionally: some simple deterministic choice (first element, last element, etc.)
- ▶ Next lecture: better deterministic choice (not very practical)
- Now: first element



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Randomized Quicksort: pick **p** uniformly at random from **A**.

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Before doing analysis, quick review of basic probability theory.

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- "Event that first die is 3": $\{(3,x): x \in \{1,2,\ldots,6\}\}$
- "Event that dice add up to 7 or 11": $\{(x,y) \in \Omega : (x+y=7) \text{ or } (x+y=11)\}$

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Random Variable: $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$

- **X**₁: value of first die. $X_1(x, y) = x$
- **X**₂: value of second die. $X_2(x, y) = y$
- $X = X_1 + X_2$: sum of the dice. $X(x, y) = x + y = X_1(x, y) + X_2(x, y)$



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Random variables super important! Running time of randomized quicksort is a random variable.

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Conditional probability: if **A** and **B** are events:

$$Pr[B|A] = \frac{Pr[A \cap B]}{Pr[A]} = \frac{\sum_{e \in A \cap B} Pr[e]}{\sum_{e \in A} Pr[e]}$$

Probability Basics III: Expectations

Expectation of a random variable:

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Can be useful to rearrange terms to get different equation:

$$\boldsymbol{E}[\boldsymbol{X}] = \sum_{e \in \Omega} \boldsymbol{X}(e) \boldsymbol{Pr}[e] = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{e \in \Omega: \boldsymbol{X}(e) = y} \boldsymbol{y} \cdot \boldsymbol{Pr}[e] = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \boldsymbol{y} \cdot \boldsymbol{Pr}[\boldsymbol{X} = y]$$

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Conditional Expectation: **A** an event, **X** a random variable.

$$E[X|A] = \frac{1}{Pr[A]} \sum_{e \in A} X(e) Pr[e]$$



Amazing feature of expectations: linearity!

Theorem

For any two random variables ${\bf X}$ and ${\bf Y}$, and any constants ${\bf \alpha}$ and ${\bf \beta}$:

$$E[\alpha X + \beta Y] = \alpha E[X] + \beta E[Y]$$

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Consider rolling two dice. Let X be sum. What is E[X]?

- $E[X] = \sum_{e \in \Omega} X(e) Pr[e]$. 36 term sum!
- ▶ $E[X] = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{R}} y \cdot Pr[X = y]$. What is Pr[X = 2], Pr[X = 3], ...?

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$$\implies E[X] = 3.5 + 3.5 = 7$$



Lecture 3: Probability, Randomized Quicksort

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Proof.

$$E[\alpha X + \beta Y] = \sum_{e \in \Omega} Pr[e] (\alpha X(e) + \beta Y(e))$$

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Proof.

$$\begin{split} E[\alpha X + \beta Y] &= \sum_{e \in \Omega} Pr[e] \left(\alpha X(e) + \beta Y(e) \right) \\ &= \alpha \sum_{e \in \Omega} Pr[e] X(e) + \beta \sum_{e \in \Omega} Pr[e] X(e) \end{split}$$

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Holds no matter how correlated \boldsymbol{X} and \boldsymbol{Y} are!



Michael Dinitz Lecture 3: Probability, Randomized Quicksort

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Definitions:

- ► **X** = # of comparisons (random variable)
- $e_i = i$ 'th smallest element (for $i \in \{1, ..., n\}$)
- ▶ X_{ij} random variable for all $i, j \in \{1, ..., n\}$ with i < j:

$$X_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if algorithm compares } e_i \text{ and } e_j \text{ at any point in time} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Algorithm never compares the same two elements more than once $\implies X = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i=i+1}^{n} X_{ij}$

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Algorithm never compares the same two elements more than once $\implies X = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i=i+1}^{n} X_{ii}$

$$E[X] = E\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} X_{ij}\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} E[X_{ij}]$$

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- j = i + 1: $X_{ii} = 1$ no matter what, so $E[X_{ii}] = 1$
- i = 1, i = n:

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Simple cases:

- ▶ i = 1, j = n: e_1 and e_n compared if and only if first pivot chosen is e_1 or e_n $\implies E[X_{1n}] = \frac{2}{n}$



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$$E[X_{ij}]$$
: General Case $(i < j)$

If $p = e_i$ or $p = e_j$:

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If
$$p < e_i$$
 or $p > e_j$:

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If
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 or $p = e_j$: $X_{ij} = 1$

If
$$e_i : $X_{ij} = 0$$$

▶ Condition on $e_i \le p \le e_j$:

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If
$$p = e_i$$
 or $p = e_j$: $X_{ij} = 1$

If
$$e_i : $X_{ij} = 0$$$

► Condition on $e_i \le p \le e_j$: $E[X_{ij} \mid e_i \le p \le e_j] = \frac{2}{j-i+1}$

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- ▶ Condition on $e_i \le p \le e_j$: $E[X_{ij} \mid e_i \le p \le e_j] = \frac{2}{j-i+1}$
- ▶ Condition on $p \notin [e_i, e_j]$:

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- ▶ Condition on $e_i \le p \le e_j$: $E[X_{ij} \mid e_i \le p \le e_j] = \frac{2}{j-i+1}$
- ▶ Condition on $p \notin [e_i, e_i]$: still undetermined

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: General Case $(i < j)$

If
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 or $p = e_j$: $X_{ij} = 1$

If
$$e_i : $X_{ij} = 0$$$

- Condition on $e_i \le p \le e_i$: $E[X_{ij} \mid e_i \le p \le e_i] = \frac{2}{i-i+1}$
- Condition on p ∉ [e_i, e_i]: still undetermined

So X_{ij} not determined until $e_i \le p \le e_i$, and when it is determined has $E[X_{ij}] = \frac{2}{i-i+1}$

$$\Longrightarrow E[X_{ij}] = \frac{2}{i-i+1}$$

$E[X_{ij}]$: General Case (formally)

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Showed that $E[X_{ij}|Y_k] = \frac{2}{i-i+1}$ for all k.

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Showed that $E[X_{ij}|Y_k] = \frac{2}{j-i+1}$ for all k.

$$E[X_{ij}] = \sum_{k=1}^{n} E[X_{ij}|Y_k] Pr[Y_k]$$
 (Y_k disjoint and partition Ω)
$$= \frac{2}{j-i+1} \sum_{k=1}^{n} Pr[Y_k]$$

$$= \frac{2}{j-j+1}$$

Randomized Quicksort: Final Analysis

Expected running time of randomized quicksort:

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} E[X_{ij}]$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \frac{2}{j-i+1}$$

$$= 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-i+1}\right)$$

$$\leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} H_n$$

$$\leq 2nH_n$$

$$\leq O(n \log n)$$

(linearity of expectations)

$$\left(H_n = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{j}\right)$$