

# Algorithms

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Recursion (final)  
+ Backtracking

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# Recap

- Error on HW1! (Sorry.)

$$\#1: E(n) = E(n-1)^2 - \underbrace{E(n-2)^2}$$

- HW1 - due Friday

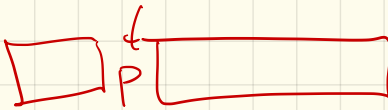
- HW2 - oral grading next  
Thursday → Friday

(Sign up sheet available  
on Monday)

# Linear Time Selection

First: Quicksearch

Idea: Modify quick sort,  
but don't recurse on  
both sides



```

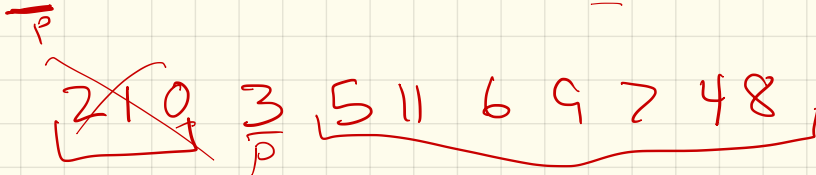
QUICKSELECT(A[1..n], k):
  if n = 1
    return A[1]
  else
    Choose a pivot element A[p]
    P ← PARTITION(A[1..n], p)
    if k < r
      return QUICKSELECT(A[1..r-1], k)
    else if k > r
      return QUICKSELECT(A[r+1..n], k-r)
    else
      return A[r]
  
```

median of medians

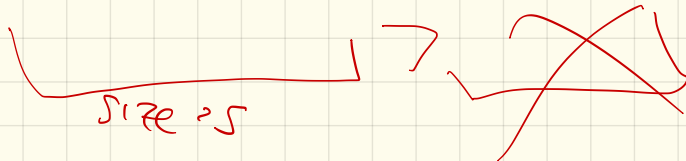
Figure 1.12. Quickselect, or one-armed quicksort

Ex: Find 5<sup>th</sup> element (in sorted order) from:

3 5 11 2 6 9 1 7 4 8 0



size = 3



Runtime:

Well, depends on pivot!

Ideal case:

divide in half

$$Q(n) = \cancel{O(n)} + Q\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)$$

$$= n + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{4} + \dots$$

$$= \sum \frac{n}{2^i} = O(n)$$

Worst case: 1st pivot is  
or last

$$Q(n) = O(n) + Q(n-1)$$

Big last time!!

$$Q(n) = n + Q(n-1)$$

$$= n + (n-1) + Q(n-2)$$

$$\dots = \sum_{i=1}^n i = O(n^2)$$

# New algorithm $m$ :

MOMSELECT( $A[1..n], k$ ):

if  $n \leq 25$  *⟨⟨or whatever⟩⟩*

use brute force

else

$m \leftarrow \lfloor n/5 \rfloor$

for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $m$

$M[i] \leftarrow \text{MEDIANOF FIVE}(A[5i-4..5i])$  *⟨⟨Brute force!⟩⟩*

$mom \leftarrow \text{MOMSELECT}(M[1..m], \lfloor m/2 \rfloor)$  *⟨⟨Recursion!⟩⟩*

$r \leftarrow \text{PARTITION}(A[1..n], mom)$

if  $k < r$

return  $\text{MOMSELECT}(A[1..r-1], k)$  *⟨⟨Recursion!⟩⟩*

else if  $k > r$

return  $\text{MOMSELECT}(A[r+1..n], k-r)$  *⟨⟨Recursion!⟩⟩*

else

return  $mom$

"good pivot"

2 things:

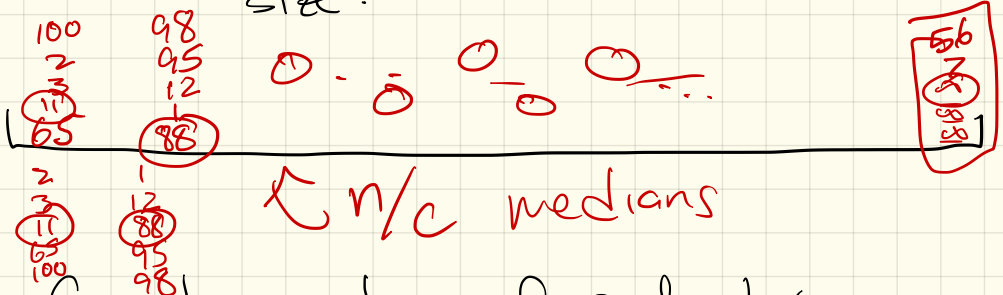
- Wierd 2<sup>nd</sup> recursion gives "good enough pivot"

- And linear time in the end

Improvement: Need a good enough pivot!

Median of medians: "MOM"

Divide into blocks that are  $O(1)$  size:



Compute median of each by brute force

Runtime so far:  $O(1) \times (\# \text{ blocks})$   
blocks of size  $c$   
 $n/c$  blocks  
 $= O(n)$

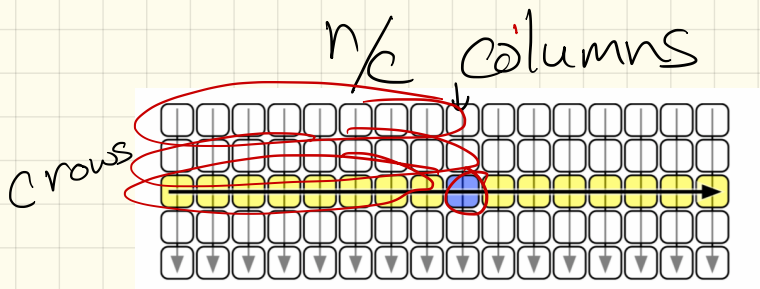
Then, recurse, & find median of medians.

Why does this work!?

Claim: MoM is a good pivot.

Why? Well, we've chopped the  $n$  elements into  $n/c$  groups of  $c$ .

Say  $c=5$ :



$n/c$  blocks, each holding  $c$   
( $n/5$ , each  $w/5$ )

The median of medians

is  $\geq$  at least

$\lceil \frac{c}{2} \rceil \cdot \left( \lceil \frac{n}{c} \rceil \cdot \frac{1}{2} \right)$  elements

With  $n=5$ :  $\lceil \frac{5}{2} \rceil \left( \lceil \frac{5}{5} \rceil \cdot \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq 3 \cdot \frac{n}{10} + 1$

Runtime: Let  $M(n)$  be runtime on a list of size  $n$

```

MOMSELECT(A[1..n], k):
  if  $n \leq 25$  ⟨⟨or whatever⟩⟩
    use brute force
  else
     $m \leftarrow \lfloor n/5 \rfloor$ 
    for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $m$ 
       $M[i] \leftarrow \text{MEDIANOF FIVE}(A[5i-4..5i])$  ⟨⟨Brute force!⟩⟩
     $mom \leftarrow \text{MOMSELECT}(M[1..m], \lfloor m/2 \rfloor)$  ⟨⟨Recursion!⟩⟩
     $r \leftarrow \text{PARTITION}(A[1..n], mom)$ 
    if  $k < r$ 
      return  $\text{MOMSELECT}(A[1..r-1], k)$  ⟨⟨Recursion!⟩⟩
    else if  $k > r$ 
      return  $\text{MOMSELECT}(A[r+1..n], k-r)$  ⟨⟨Recursion!⟩⟩
    else
      return  $mom$ 
  
```

$M(\frac{n}{5})$   
one call of size

$O(n)$

Recurrence:

$$M(n) \leq M\left(\frac{n}{5}\right) + M\left(\frac{7n}{10}\right) + O(n)$$

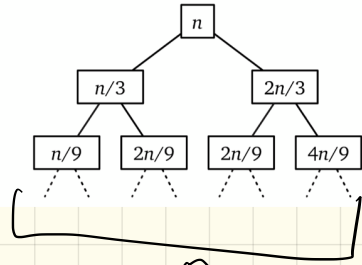
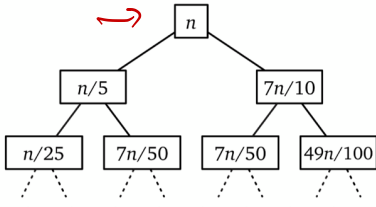
finds good enough pivot

a chunk recursion on smaller list

Not a nice Master theorem!

(Back to proof again...)





Mom with  $c=5$   
(good!)

Mom with  $c=3$   
(BAD!)  
works, but  $O(n \log n)$

$$\frac{9}{10} \cdot n$$

$$M(n) \leq n + \left( \frac{n}{5} + \frac{7n}{10} \right) +$$

$$\left( \frac{n}{25} + \frac{7n}{50} + \frac{7n}{50} + \frac{49n}{100} \right)$$

$$+ \left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^2 \cdot n$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_{10/9} n} \left( \frac{9}{10} \right)^i n \leq O(n)$$

# Another recursive strategy: Backtracking (Chapter 2)

Idea: Build up a solution iteratively.

Setting: an algorithm needs to try multiple options.

Strategy: Make a recursive call for each possibility.

Downside: SLOW

## Example: Subset Sum

Given a set  $X$  of positive integers and a target value  $t$ , is there a subset of  $X$  which sums to  $t$ ?

Ex:  $X = \{8, 6, 7, 3, 10, 5, 9\}$

$$t = 15$$

How would we solve?

Consider recursively:

$$X = \{8, 6, 7, 5, 3, 1, 9\}$$

Formalize this: recursion!

or base case?

Pseudocode:

```
SUBSETSUM( $X[1..n]$ ,  $T$ ):
```

```
  if  $T = 0$ 
```

```
    return TRUE
```

```
  else if  $T < 0$  or  $n = 0$ 
```

```
    return FALSE
```

```
  else
```

```
    return (SUBSETSUM( $X[1..n-1]$ ,  $T$ )  $\vee$  SUBSETSUM( $X[1..n-1]$ ,  $T - X[n]$ ))
```

Runtime:

Correctness :

Next time:

Text segmentation