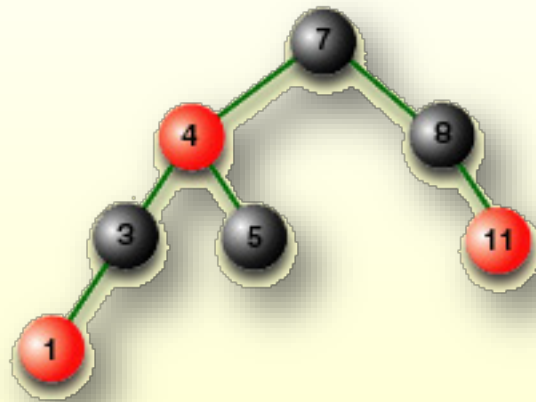


CS161: Design and Analysis of Algorithms



Lecture 5 Leonidas Guibas

Outline

- ◆ Review of last lecture: **QuickSort** and its analysis
- ◆ Today: **Medians and order statistics**
 - ◆ Minimum, maximum, median, ...
 - ◆ A randomized $O(n)$ median algorithm
 - ◆ A worst-case $O(n)$ median algorithm

Slides modified from

- <http://www.cs.virginia.edu/~luebke/cs332/>
- <http://www.cs.unc.edu/~plaisted/>

Review: Pseudocode for QuickSort

QUICKSORT(A, p, r)

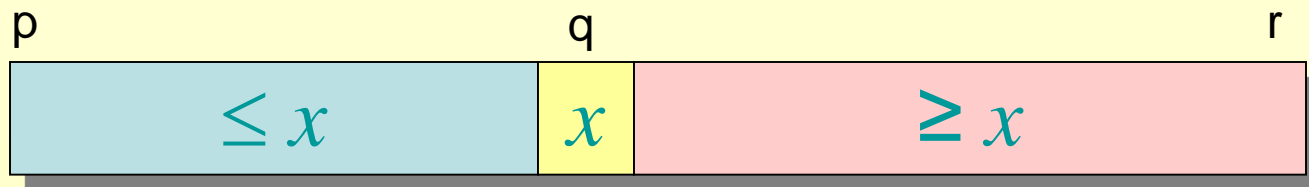
if $p < r$

then $q \leftarrow$ PARTITION(A, p, r)

QUICKSORT($A, p, q-1$)

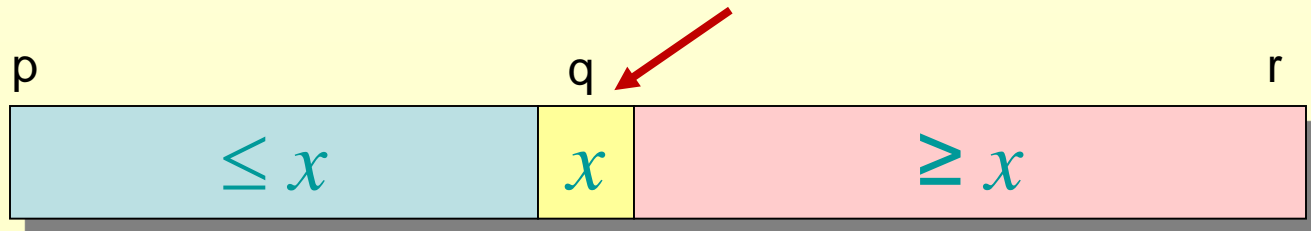
QUICKSORT($A, q+1, r$)

Initial call: QUICKSORT($A, 1, n$)



Key: The Partition Subroutine

- ◆ All the action takes place in the `partition()` function
 - ◆ Rearranges the subarray **in place**
 - ◆ End result: two subarrays
 - ◆ All values in first subarray \leq all values in second
 - ◆ Returns the index of the “pivot” element separating the two subarrays



QuickSort Runtime

- Best-case runtime $T_{\text{best}}(n) \in \Theta(n \log n)$
- Worst-case runtime $T_{\text{worst}}(n) \in \Theta(n^2)$
- Average runtime $T_{\text{avg}}(n) \in \Theta(n \log n)$
- Better even, the expected runtime of **randomized QuickSort** is $\Theta(n \log n)$
- Great in practice

Randomized Algorithms



Randomized QuickSort

- ◆ Randomly choose an element as pivot
 - ◆ Every time need to do a partition, throw a die to decide which element to use as the pivot
 - ◆ Each of the n elements has $1/n$ probability to be selected

```
Rand-Partition(A, p, r)
  d = random();    // a random number between 0 and 1
  index = p + floor((r-p+1) * d); // p<=index<=r
  swap(A[p], A[index]);
  Partition(A, p, r); // now do partition using A[p] as pivot
```

Randomized Analysis

- Assume each of the pivot is equally likely and hence probability is $1/N$.

$$T(N) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (T(i) + T(N-i-1) + cN)$$

$$NT(N) = 2 \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (T(i)) + cN^2 \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

$$(N-1)T(N-1) = 2 \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} T(i) + c(N-1)^2 \dots(2)$$

- Subtract (2) from (1)

$$NT(N) - (N-1)T(N-1) = 2T(N-1) + 2cN - c$$

$$NT(N) = (N+1)T(N-1) + 2cN$$

- Divide both sides by $N(N+1)$

$$\frac{T(N)}{N+1} = \frac{T(N-1)}{N} + \frac{2c}{N+1}$$

- Now we can iterate

$$\frac{T(N)}{N+1} = \frac{T(N-1)}{N} + \frac{2c}{N+1}$$

$$\frac{T(N-1)}{N} = \frac{T(N-2)}{N-1} + \frac{2c}{N}$$

$$\frac{T(N-2)}{N-1} = \frac{T(N-3)}{N-2} + \frac{2c}{N-1}$$

⋮

$$\frac{T(2)}{3} = \frac{T(1)}{2} + \frac{2c}{3}$$

- adding all equations

$$\frac{T(N)}{N+1} = \frac{T(1)}{2} + 2c \sum_{i=3}^{N+1} \frac{1}{i}$$

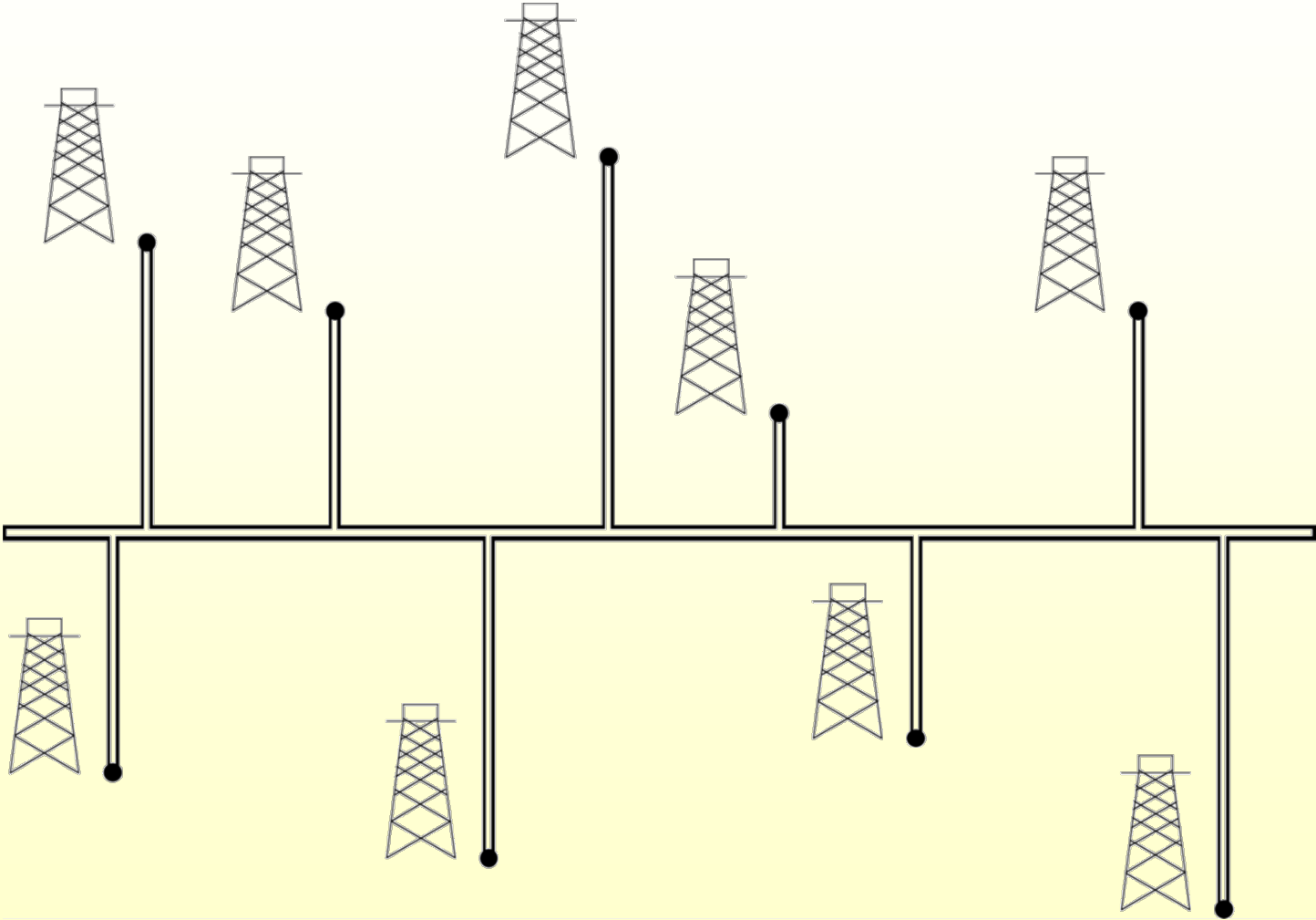
$$\frac{T(N)}{N+1} = \frac{T(1)}{2} + 2c(\log_e(N+1) + \gamma - \frac{3}{2})$$

$$T(N) = O(N \log N)$$

Today: Order Statistics

- ◆ i^{th} order statistic: i^{th} smallest element of a set of n elements.
- ◆ Minimum: 1st order statistic.
- ◆ Maximum: n^{th} order statistic.
- ◆ Median: $(n/2)^{\text{th}}$ order statistic -- “half-way point” of the set.
 - ◆ Unique, when n is odd – occurs at $i = (n+1)/2$.
 - ◆ Two medians when n is even.
 - ◆ Lower median, at $i = n/2$.
 - ◆ Upper median, at $i = n/2+1$.
 - ◆ For consistency, “median” will refer to the lower median.

Medians



Medians vs. means: robust statistics

Selection Problem

- ◆ The selection problem:

- ◆ **Input:** A set A of n **distinct** numbers and an index i , with $1 \leq i \leq n$.

- ◆ **Output:** the element $x \in A$ that is larger than exactly $i - 1$ other elements of A .

Minimum (Maximum)

Minimum (A)

```
1.  $min \leftarrow A[1]$ 
2. for  $i \leftarrow 2$  to  $length[A]$ 
3.     do if  $min > A[i]$ 
4.         then  $min \leftarrow A[i]$ 
5. return  $min$ 
```

Maximum can be determined similarly.

- $T(n) = \Theta(n)$.
- No. of comparisons: $n - 1$.
- Can we do better? Why not?
- Minimum(A) has *worst-case optimal* # of comparisons.

Problem

- ◆ Average for random input:
How many times
do we expect line 4
to be executed?

Minimum (A)

```
1.  $min \leftarrow A[1]$ 
2. for  $i \leftarrow 2$  to  $length[A]$ 
3.   do if  $min > A[i]$ 
4.     then  $min \leftarrow A[i]$ 
5. return  $min$ 
```

- ◆ X = RV for # of executions of line 4.
- ◆ X_i = Indicator RV for the event that line 4 is executed on the i^{th} iteration.
- ◆ $X = \sum_{i=2..n} X_i$
- ◆ $E[X_i] = 1/i$. Why?
- ◆ Hence, $E(X) = \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{1}{i} = H_n - 1 = \Theta(\ln n) = \Theta(\log n)$

Simultaneous Min and Max

- ◆ Some applications need to determine **both the maximum and minimum** of a set of elements.
 - ◆ **Example:** Graphics program trying to fit a set of points onto a rectangular display.
- ◆ Independent determination of maximum and minimum requires $2n - 2$ comparisons.
- ◆ Can we reduce this number?
 - ◆ Yes.

Simultaneous Min and Max

- ◆ Maintain *minimum* and *maximum* elements seen so far.
- ◆ Process elements in pairs.
 - ◆ Compare the smaller to the current minimum and the larger to the current maximum.
 - ◆ Update current minimum and maximum based on the outcomes.
- ◆ No. of comparisons per pair = 3. How?
- ◆ No. of pairs $\leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$.
 - ◆ For odd n : initialize min and max to $A[1]$. Pair the remaining elements. So, no. of pairs = $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$.
 - ◆ For even n : initialize min to the smaller of the first pair and max to the larger. So, remaining no. of pairs = $(n - 2)/2 < \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$.

Simultaneous Min and Max

- ◆ Total no. of comparisons, $C \leq 3\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$.
 - ◆ For odd n : $C = 3\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$.
 - ◆ For even n : $C = 3(n - 2)/2 + 1$ (For the initial comparison).
$$= 3n/2 - 2 < 3\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$$

Order Statistics

- ◆ The i^{th} order statistic in a set of n elements is the i^{th} smallest element
- ◆ The minimum is thus the 1st order statistic
- ◆ The maximum is the n^{th} order statistic
- ◆ The median is the $n/2$ order statistic
 - ◆ If n is even, there are 2 medians
- ◆ *How can we calculate general order statistics?*
- ◆ *What is the running time?*

The General Selection Problem

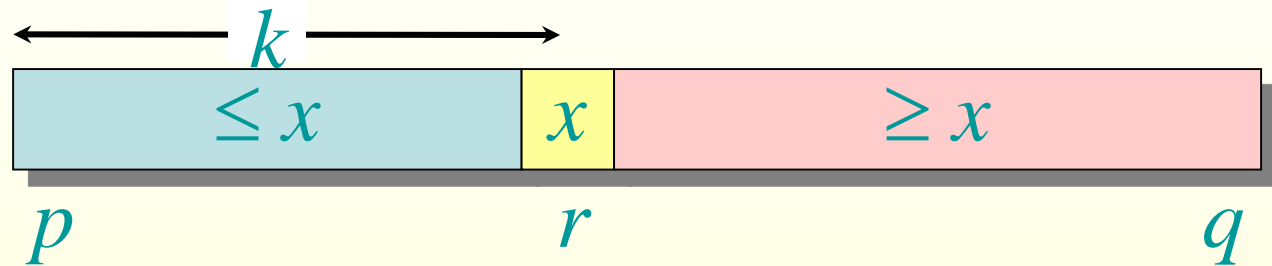
- ◆ Select the i^{th} smallest of n elements
- ◆ **Naive algorithm: Sort.**
 - ◆ Worst-case running time $\Theta(n \log n)$
using MergeSort (*not* InsertionSort or QuickSort).

General Selection Problem

- ◆ Seems more difficult than Minimum or Maximum.
 - ◆ Yet, *has solutions with same asymptotic complexity as Minimum and Maximum.*
- ◆ We will study two algorithms for the general problem.
 - ◆ One with *expected linear-time complexity.*
 - ◆ A second, whose *worst-case complexity is linear.*

Recall: QuickSort

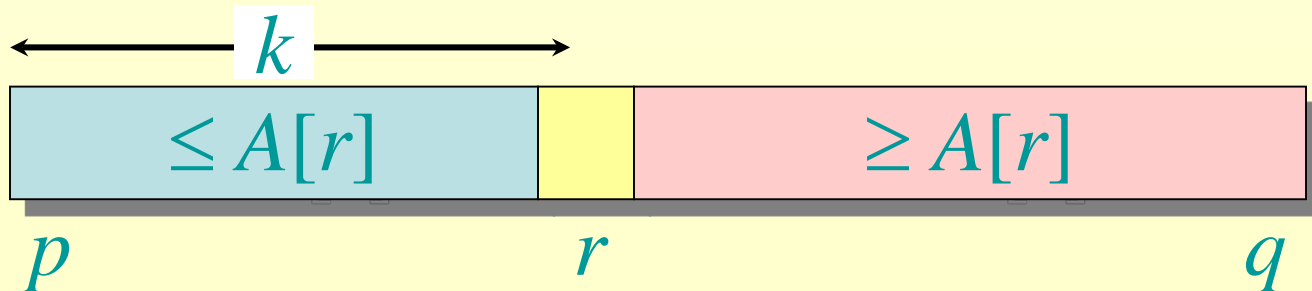
- ◆ The function *Partition* gives us the rank of the pivot



- ◆ If we are lucky, $k = i$. *done!*
- ◆ If not, at least get a smaller subarray to work with
 - ◆ $k > i$: i^{th} smallest is on the left subarray
 - ◆ $k < i$: i^{th} smallest is on the right subarray
- ◆ **Divide and conquer**
 - ◆ If we are lucky, k close to $n/2$, or desired # is in smaller subarray
 - ◆ If unlucky, desired # is in larger subarray (possible size $n-1$)

Randomized D&C Selection

```
RAND-SELECT( $A, p, q, i$ )    ▷  $i$ th smallest of  $A[p..q]$   
  if  $p = q$  &  $i > 1$  then error!  
   $r \leftarrow$  RAND-PARTITION( $A, p, q$ )  
   $k \leftarrow r - p + 1$       ▷  $k = \text{rank}(A[r])$   
  if  $i = k$  then return  $A[r]$   
  if  $i < k$   
    then return RAND-SELECT( $A, p, r - 1, i$ )  
  else return RAND-SELECT( $A, r + 1, q, i - k$ )
```



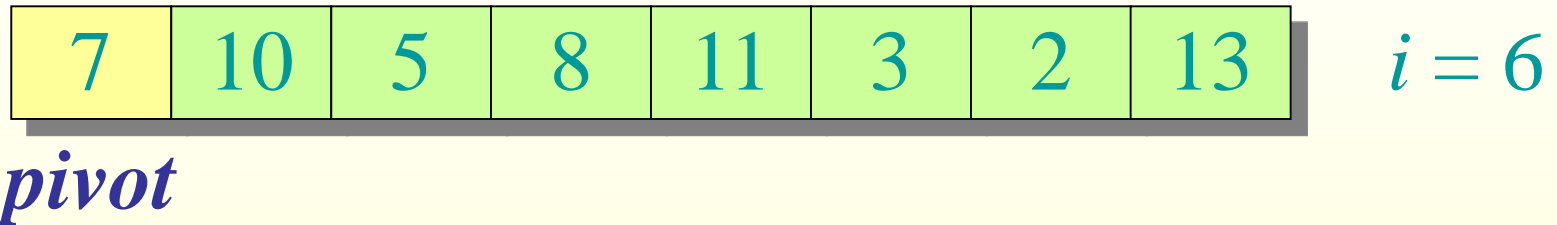
Randomized Partition

- ◆ Randomly choose an element as pivot
 - ◆ Every time need to do a partition, throw a die to decide which element to use as the pivot
 - ◆ Each element has $1/n$ probability to be selected

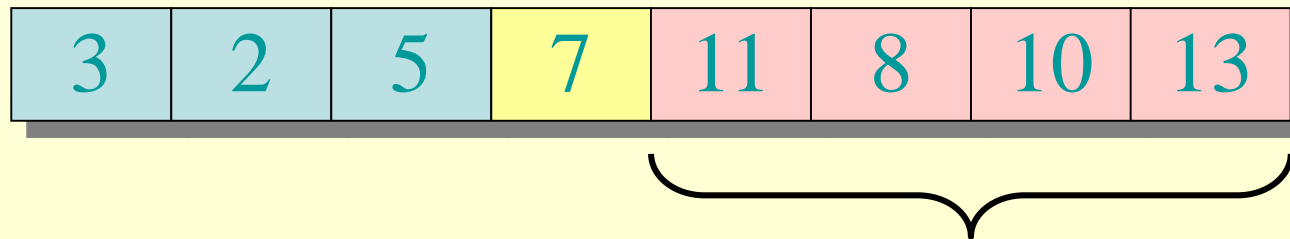
```
Rand-Partition(A, p, q){  
    d = random();    // draw a random number between 0 and 1  
    index = p + floor((q-p+1) * d); // p<=index<=q  
    swap(A[p], A[index]);  
    Partition(A, p, q); // now use A[p] as pivot  
}
```

Example

Select the $i = 6$ -th smallest:



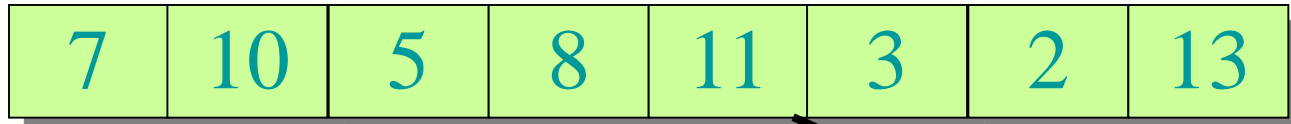
Partition: $k = 4$



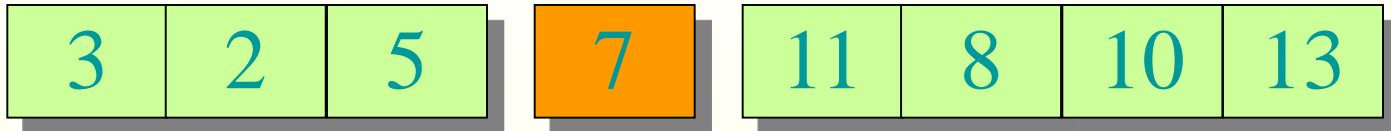
Select the $6 - 4 = 2$ -nd smallest recursively.

Complete example: select the 6th smallest element.

$i = 6$

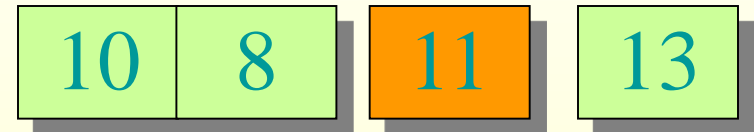


$k = 4$



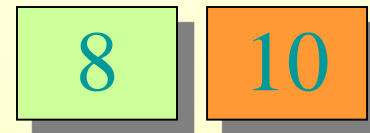
$i = 6 - 4 = 2$

$k = 3$



$i = 2 < k$

$k = 2$



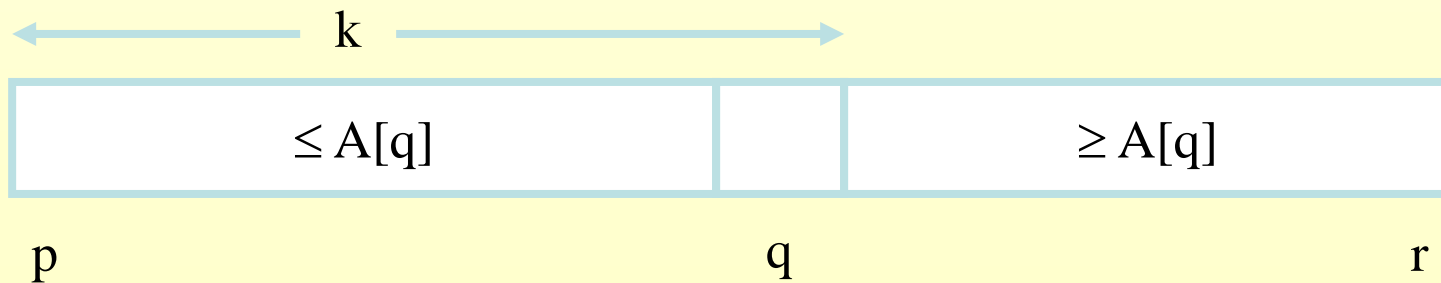
$i = 2 = k$



Note: here we always use first element as the pivot to do the partition (instead of rand-partition).

Randomized Selection

```
RandomizedSelect(A, p, r, i)
  if (p == r) then return A[p];
  q = RandomizedPartition(A, p, r)
  k = q - p + 1;
  if (i == k) then return A[q];    // not in book
  if (i < k) then
    return RandomizedSelect(A, p, q-1, i);
  else
    return RandomizedSelect(A, q+1, r, i-k);
```



Intuition for Analysis

(Our analyses assume that all elements are distinct.) Like QuickSort – but now only ONE recursive call.

Lucky:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(9n/10) + \Theta(n) \\ &= \Theta(n) \end{aligned}$$

$$n^{\log_{10/9} 1} = n^0 = 1$$

CASE 3

Unlucky:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n - 1) + \Theta(n) \\ &= \Theta(n^2) \end{aligned}$$

arithmetic series

Worse than sorting!

Running Time of Randomized Selection

$$T(n) \leq \begin{cases} T(\max(0, n-1)) + n & \text{if } 0 : n-1 \text{ split,} \\ T(\max(1, n-2)) + n & \text{if } 1 : n-2 \text{ split,} \\ \vdots & \\ T(\max(n-1, 0)) + n & \text{if } n-1 : 0 \text{ split,} \end{cases}$$

- ◆ For upper bound, assume i^{th} element always falls in larger side of partition
- ◆ The expected running time is an average of all cases

Expectation \rightarrow

$$\overline{T}(n) \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \overline{T}(\max(k, n-k-1)) + n$$

Randomized Selection

◆ Analyzing `RandomizedSelect()`

- ◆ Worst case: partition always 0:n-1

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n-1) + O(n) && = ??? \\ &= O(n^2) && \text{(arithmetic series)} \end{aligned}$$

- ◆ No better than sorting!

- ◆ “Best” case: suppose a 9:1 partition

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(9n/10) + O(n) && = ??? \\ &= O(n) && \text{(Master Theorem, case 3)} \end{aligned}$$

- ◆ Better than sorting!

- ◆ *What if this had been a 99:1 split?*

Randomized Selection

- ◆ Average case

- ◆ For upper bound, assume i -th element always falls in **larger** side of partition:

$$T(n) \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} T(\max(k, n-k-1)) + \Theta(n)$$

$$\leq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{k=n/2}^{n-1} T(k) + \Theta(n)$$

What happened here?

- ◆ Let's show that $T(n) = O(n)$ by substitution

Randomized Selection

◆ Assume $T(n) \leq cn$ for sufficiently large c :

$$T(n) \leq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{k=n/2}^{n-1} T(k) + \Theta(n)$$

The recurrence we started with

$$\leq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{k=n/2}^{n-1} ck + \Theta(n)$$

Substitute $T(n) \leq cn$ for $T(k)$

$$= \frac{2c}{n} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k - \sum_{k=1}^{n/2-1} k \right) + \Theta(n)$$

“Split” the recurrence

$$= \frac{2c}{n} \left(\frac{1}{2}(n-1)n - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{n}{2} - 1 \right) \frac{n}{2} \right) + \Theta(n)$$

Expand arithmetic series

$$= c(n-1) - \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{n}{2} - 1 \right) + \Theta(n)$$

Multiply it out

Randomized Selection

- Assume $T(n) \leq cn$ for sufficiently large c :

$$T(n) \leq c(n-1) - \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{n}{2} - 1 \right) + \Theta(n)$$

The recurrence so far

$$= cn - c - \frac{cn}{4} + \frac{c}{2} + \Theta(n)$$

Multiply it out

$$= cn - \frac{cn}{4} - \frac{c}{2} + \Theta(n)$$

Subtract $c/2$

$$= cn - \left(\frac{cn}{4} + \frac{c}{2} - \Theta(n) \right)$$

Rearrange the arithmetic

$$\leq cn \quad (\text{if } c \text{ is big enough})$$

What we set out to prove

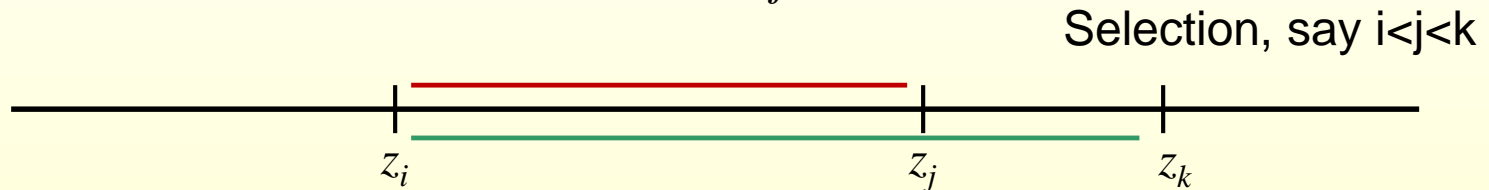
Different Probabilistic Analysis

- ◆ Assume each of $n!$ permutations is equally likely
- ◆ Modify earlier indicator variable analysis of quicksort (method 2) to handle this k -selection problem
- ◆ What is probability i -th smallest item is compared to j -th smallest item (assume $i < j$)?
 - ◆ If k is contained in $(i..j)$?
 - ◆ If $k \leq i$?
 - ◆ If $k \geq j$?

Now the Probabilities of Comparison Get Smaller

$$E[X] = E\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n X_{ij}\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n E[X_{ij}] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \Pr\{z_i \text{ is compared to } z_j\}.$$

◆ Before $\Pr\{z_i \text{ is compared to } z_j\} = \frac{2}{j-i+1}$



◆ So now $\Pr\{z_i \text{ is compared to } z_j\} = \frac{2}{k-i+1}$

Case: (i..j) Does Not Contain k

$$E[X] = E \left[\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n X_{ij} \right] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n E[X_{ij}] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \Pr \{ z_i \text{ is compared to } z_j \}$$

◆ Case $k \geq j$:

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \sum_{(i=1 \text{ to } k-1)} \sum_{j=i+1 \text{ to } k} 2/(k-i+1) &= \sum_{i=1 \text{ to } k-1} (k-i) 2/(k-i+1) \\ &= \sum_{i=1 \text{ to } k-1} 2i/(i+1) \text{ [replace } k-i \text{ with } i] \\ &= 2 \sum_{i=1 \text{ to } k-1} i/(i+1) \\ &\leq 2(k-1) \end{aligned}$$

◆ Case $k \leq i$:

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \sum_{(j=k+1 \text{ to } n)} \sum_{i=k \text{ to } j-1} 2/(j-k+1) &= \sum_{j=k+1 \text{ to } n} (j-k) 2/(j-k+1) \\ &= \sum_{j=1 \text{ to } n-k} 2j/(j+1) \\ &\text{[replace } j-k \text{ with } j \text{ and change bounds]} \\ &= 2 \sum_{j=1 \text{ to } n-k} j/(j+1) \\ &\geq 2(n-k) \end{aligned}$$

◆ Total for both cases is $\leq 2n-2$

Case: (i..j) contains k

$$E[X] = E\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n X_{ij}\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n E[X_{ij}] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \Pr\{z_i \text{ is compared to } z_j\}$$

- ◆ At most 1 interval of size 3 contains k
 - ◆ $i=k-1, j=k+1$
- ◆ At most 2 intervals of size 4 contain k
 - ◆ $i=k-1, j=k+2$ and $i=k-2, j=k+1$
- ◆ In general, at most $q-2$ intervals of size q contain k
- ◆ Thus we get $\sum_{(q=3 \text{ to } n)} (q-2)2/q \leq \sum_{(q=3 \text{ to } n)} 2 = 2(n-2)$
- ◆ Summing together all cases we see the expected number of comparisons is less than $4n$

Summary of Randomized Selection

- Works fast: linear expected time.
- Excellent algorithm in practice.
- But, the worst case is *very* bad: $\Theta(n^2)$.

Q. Is there an algorithm that runs in linear time in the worst case?

A. Yes, due to Blum, Floyd, Pratt, Rivest, and Tarjan [1973].

IDEA: Generate a good pivot recursively.

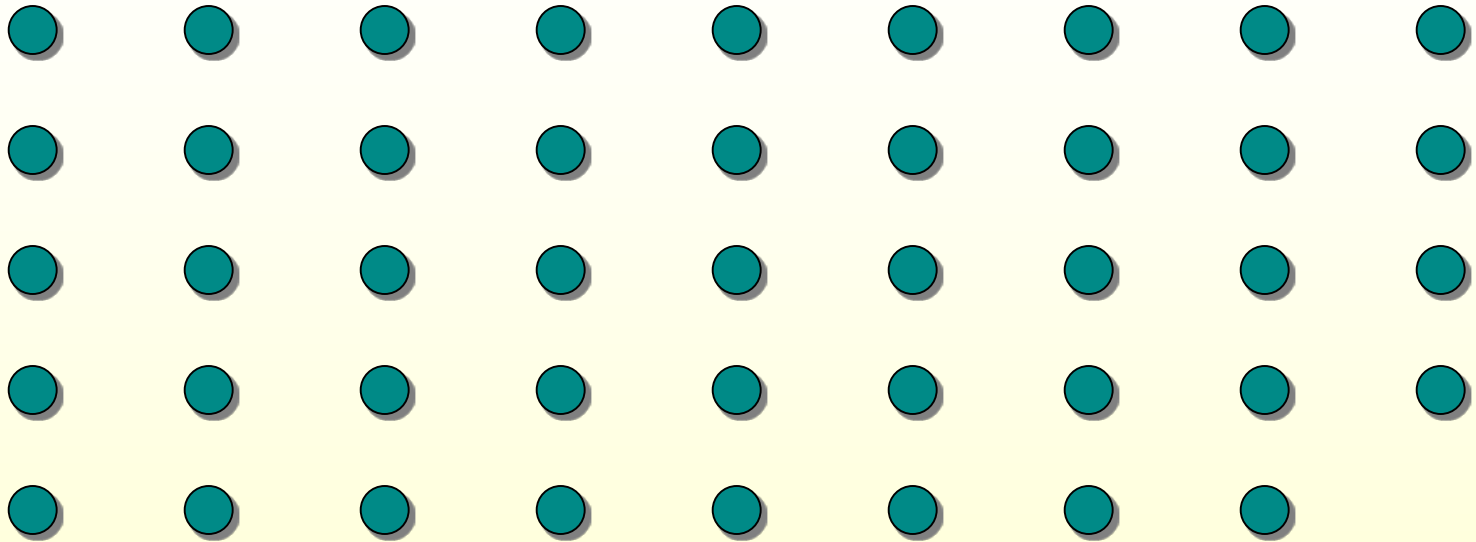
Worst-Case Linear-Time Selection

SELECT(i, n)

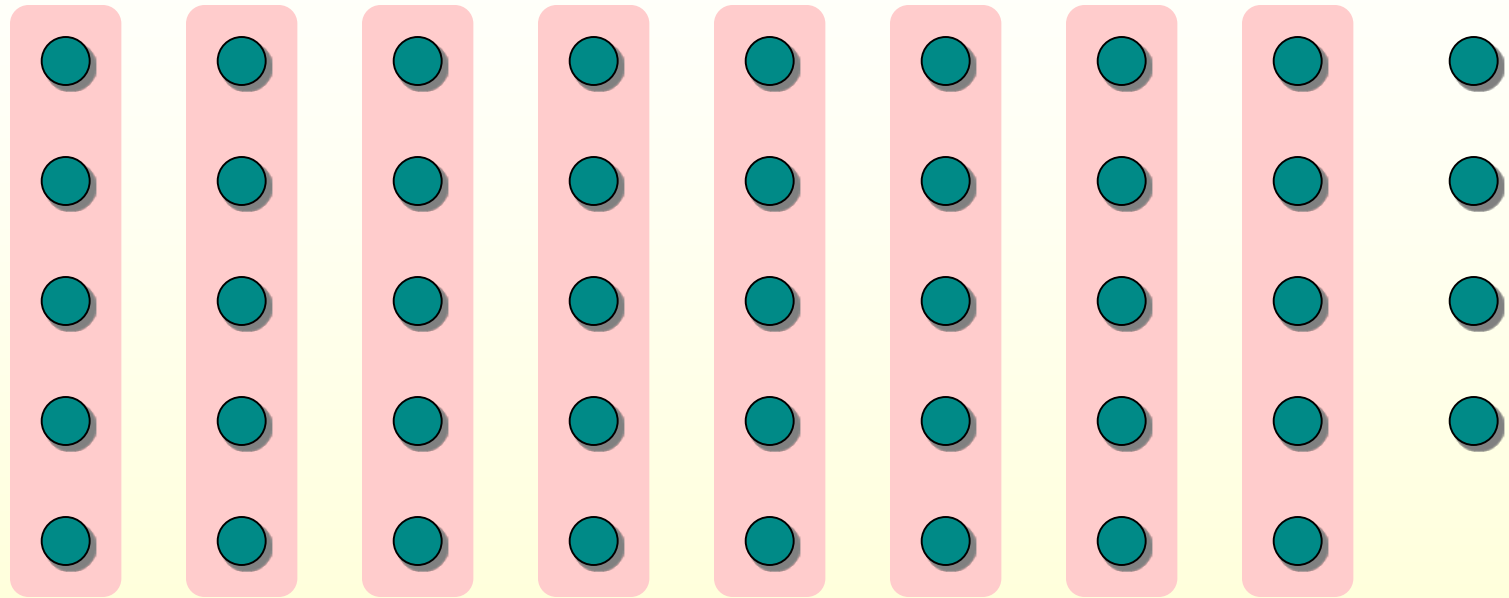
1. Divide the n elements into groups of 5. Find the median of each 5-element group by brute force.
2. Recursively SELECT the median x of the $\lfloor n/5 \rfloor$ group medians to be the pivot.
3. Partition around the pivot x . Let $k = \text{rank}(x)$.
4. **if** $i = k$ **then return** x
elseif $i < k$
then recursively SELECT the i -th smallest element in the lower part
else recursively SELECT the $(i-k)$ -th smallest element in the upper part

Same as
RAND-
SELECT

Choosing the Pivot

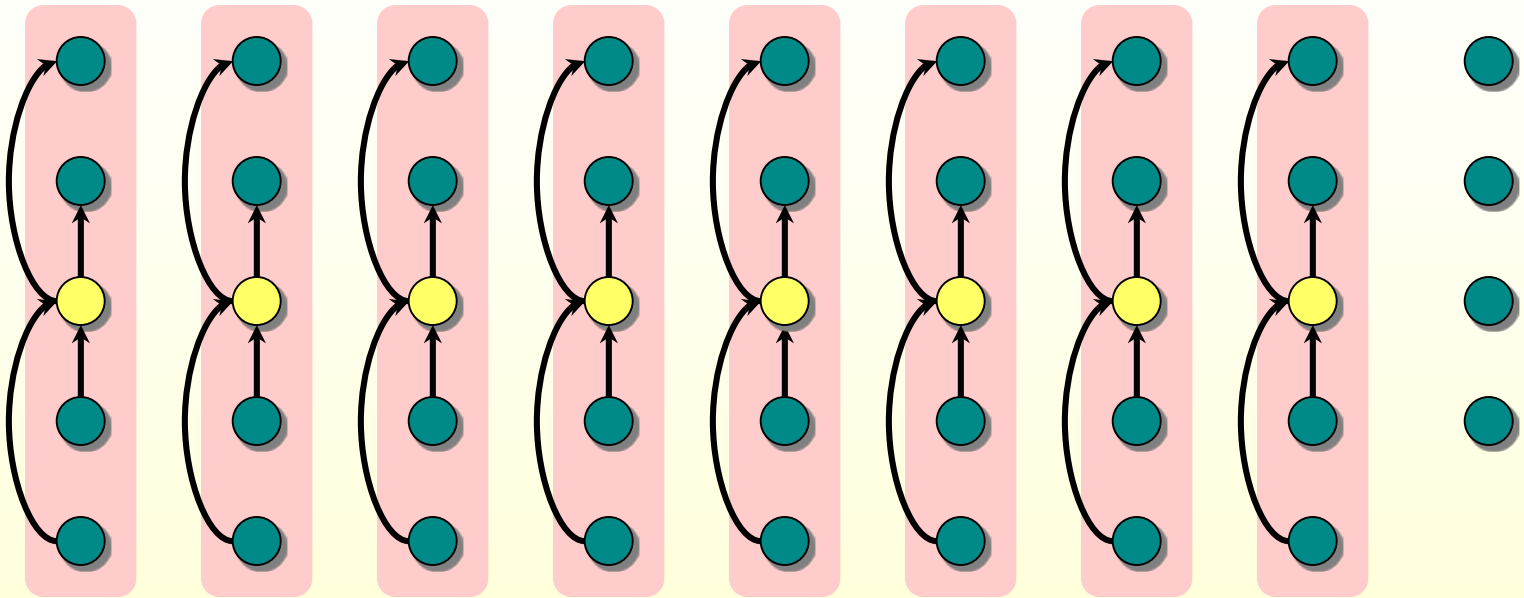


Choosing the Pivot



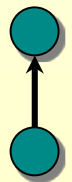
1. Divide the n elements into groups of 5.

Choosing the Pivot



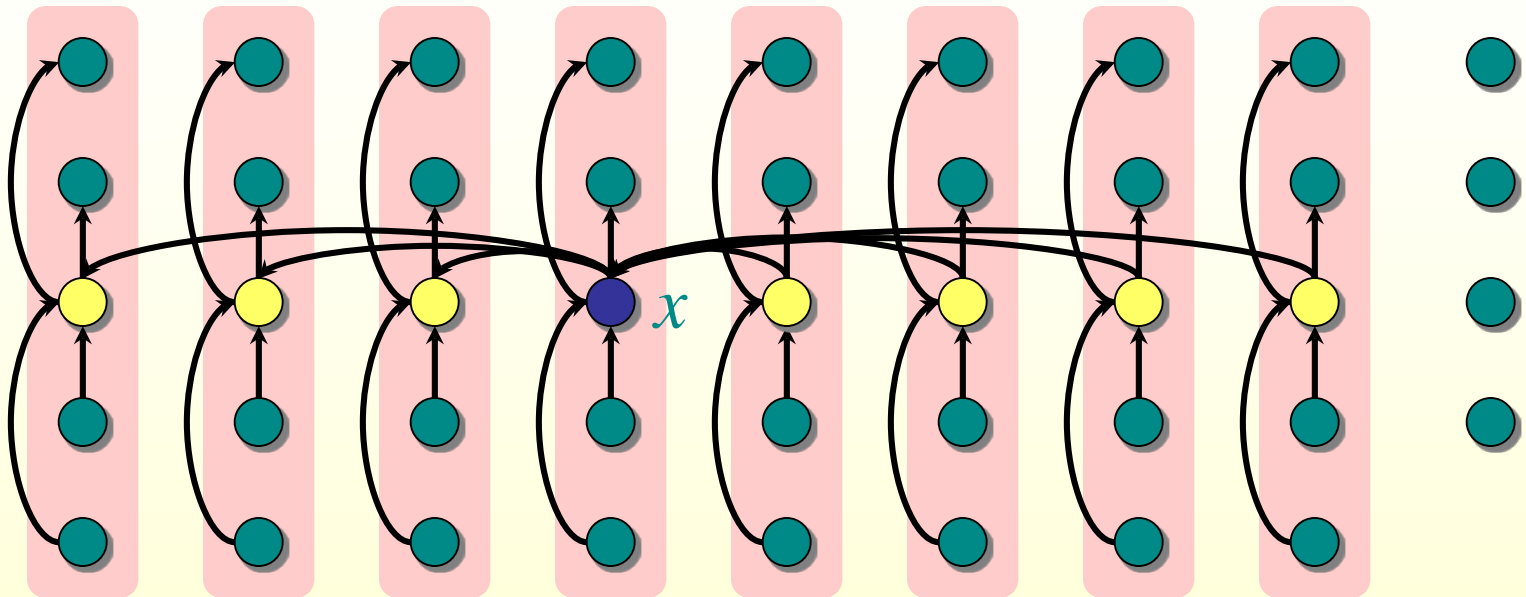
1. Divide the n elements into groups of 5. Find the median of each 5-element group by rote.

lesser



greater

Choosing the Pivot



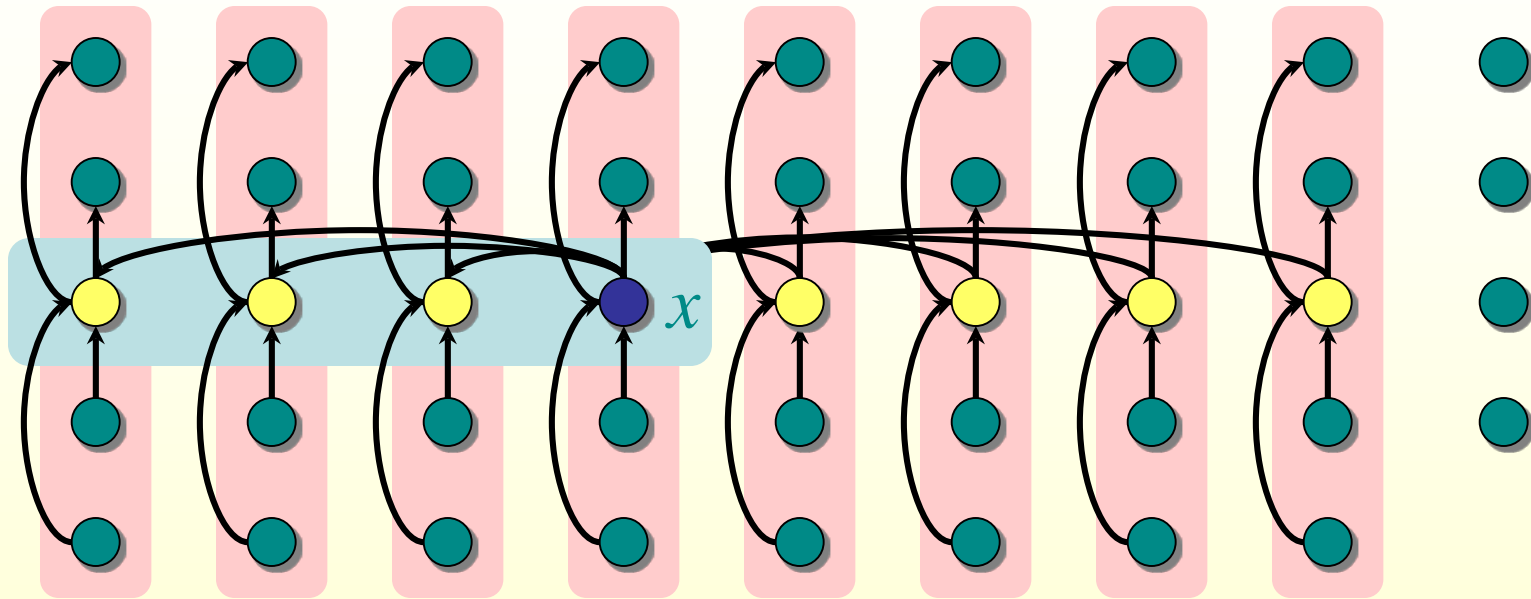
1. Divide the n elements into groups of 5. Find the median of each 5-element group by rote.
2. Recursively SELECT the median x of the $\lfloor n/5 \rfloor$ group medians to be the pivot.

lesser

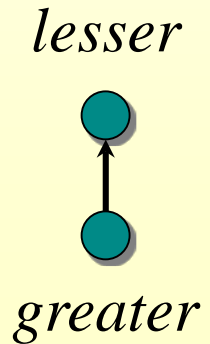


greater

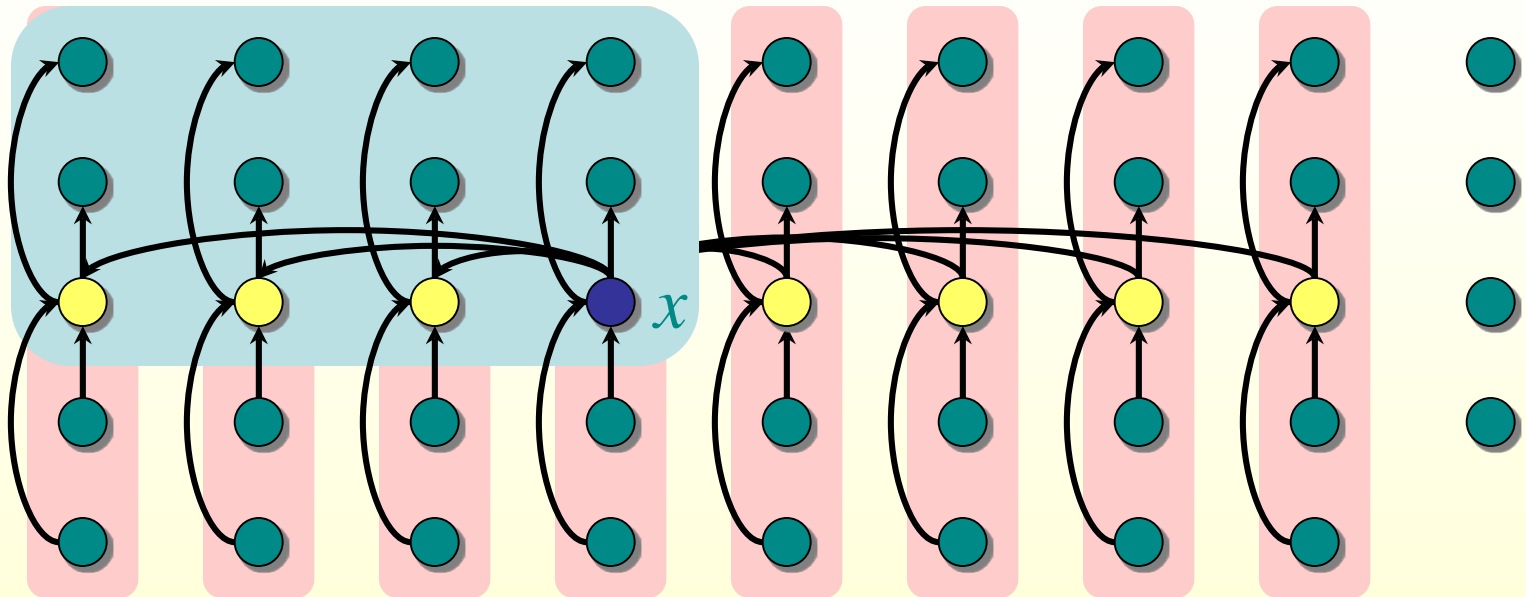
Analysis



At least half the group medians are $\leq x$, which is at least $\lfloor \lfloor n/5 \rfloor / 2 \rfloor = \lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ group medians.



Analysis

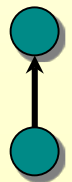


At least half the group medians are $\leq x$, which is at least $\lfloor \lfloor n/5 \rfloor / 2 \rfloor = \lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ group medians.

- Therefore, at least $3 \lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements are $\leq x$.

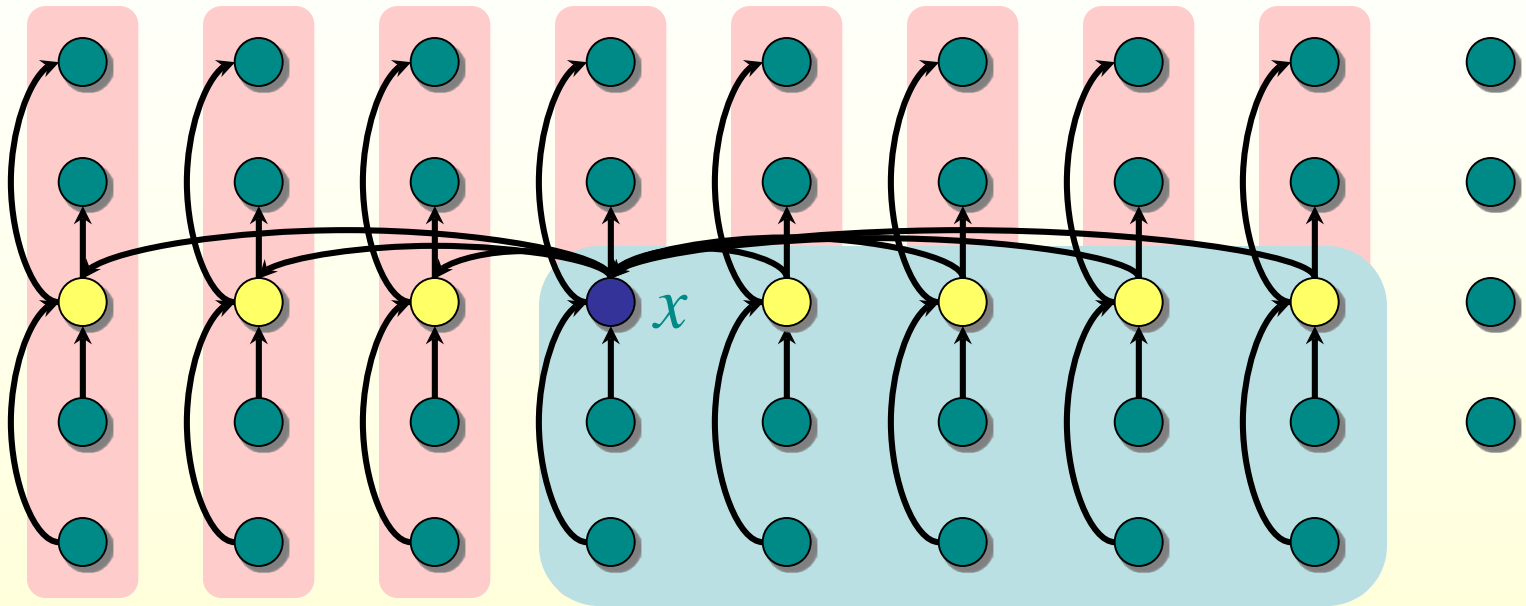
(Assume all elements are distinct.)

lesser



greater

Analysis



- At least half the group medians are $\leq x$, which is at least $\lfloor \lfloor n/5 \rfloor / 2 \rfloor = \lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ group medians.
- Therefore, at least $3 \lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements are $\leq x$.
 - Similarly, at least $3 \lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements are $\geq x$.

lesser

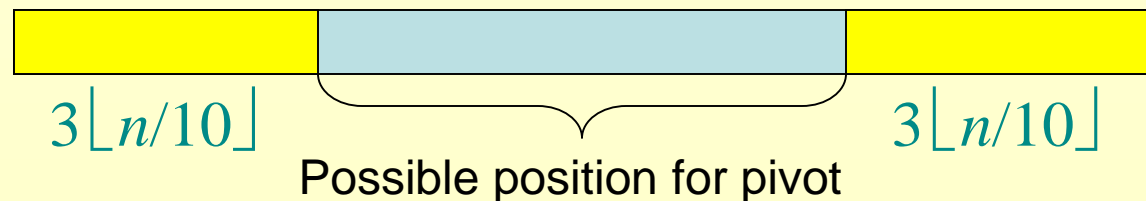


greater

Analysis

Need “at most” for worst-case runtime

- At least $3\lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements are $\leq x$
 \Rightarrow at most $n - 3\lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements are $\geq x$
- At least $3\lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements are $\geq x$
 \Rightarrow at most $n - 3\lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements are $\leq x$
- The recursive call to SELECT in Step 4 is executed recursively on at most $n - 3\lfloor n/10 \rfloor$ elements.



Analysis

- Use fact that $\lfloor a/b \rfloor > a/b - 1$
- $n - 3 \lfloor n/10 \rfloor < n - 3(n/10 - 1) \leq 7n/10 + 3$
[$\leq 3n/4$ if $n \geq 60$]
- The recursive call to SELECT in Step 4 is executed recursively on at most $7n/10 + 3$ elements.

Developing the Recurrence

$T(n)$	SELECT(i, n)
$\Theta(n)$	{ 1. Divide the n elements into groups of 5. Find the median of each 5-element group by rote.
$T(n/5)$	
$\Theta(n)$	{ 3. Partition around the pivot x . Let $k = \text{rank}(x)$.
$T(7n/10 + 3)$	{ 4. if $i = k$ then return x elseif $i < k$ then recursively SELECT the i -th smallest element in the lower part else recursively SELECT the $(i-k)$ -th smallest element in the upper part

Solving the Recurrence

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{1}{5}n\right) + T\left(\frac{7}{10}n + 3\right) + n$$

Assumption: $T(k) \leq ck$ for all $k < n$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\leq c(n/5) + c(7n/10 + 3) + n \\ &\leq cn/5 + 3cn/4 + n \quad \text{if } n \geq 60 \\ &= 19cn/20 + n \\ &\leq cn - (cn/20 - n) \\ &\leq cn \quad \text{if } c \geq 20 \text{ and } n \geq 60 \end{aligned}$$

Worst-Case Linear-Time Selection

- ◆ Intuitively:
 - ◆ Work at each level is a constant fraction (19/20) smaller as we go down the tree
 - ◆ Geometric progression!
 - ◆ Thus the $O(n)$ work at the root dominates

Linear-Time Median Selection

- ◆ Given a “black box” $O(n)$ median algorithm, what can we do?
 - ◆ i -th order statistic:
 - ◆ Find median x
 - ◆ Partition input around x
 - ◆ if $(i \leq (n+1)/2)$ recursively find i th element of first half
 - ◆ else find $(i - (n+1)/2)$ th element in second half
 - ◆ $T(n) = T(n/2) + O(n) = O(n)$
 - ◆ *Can you think of an application to sorting?*

Linear-Time Median Selection

- ◆ Worst-case $O(n \lg n)$ QuickSort
 - ◆ Find median x and partition around it
 - ◆ Recursively quicksort two halves
 - ◆ $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n) = O(n \lg n)$

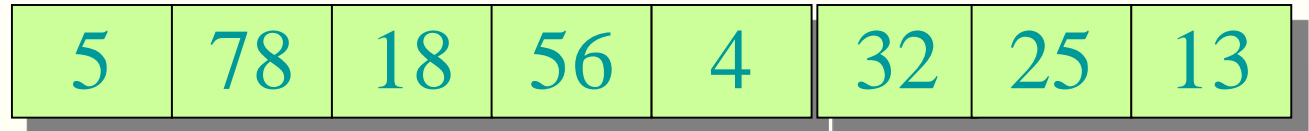
Conclusion

- In practice, the $\Theta(n)$ median algorithm runs very slowly, because the constant in front of n is large.
- The randomized algorithm is far more practical.

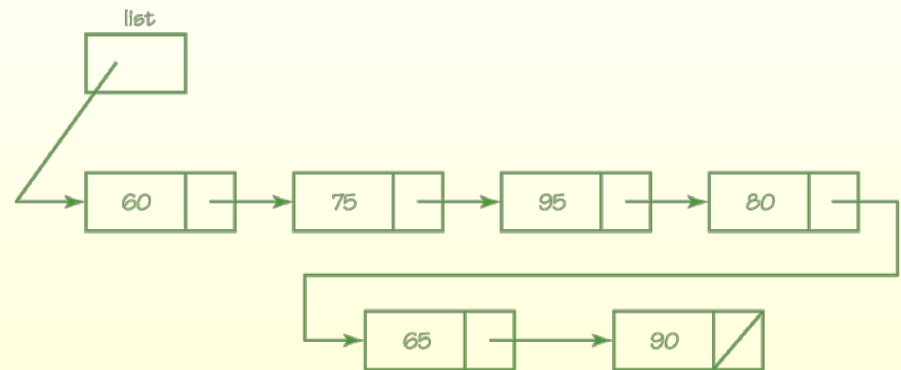
Exercise: *Try to divide into groups of 3 or 7.*

Basic Data Structures

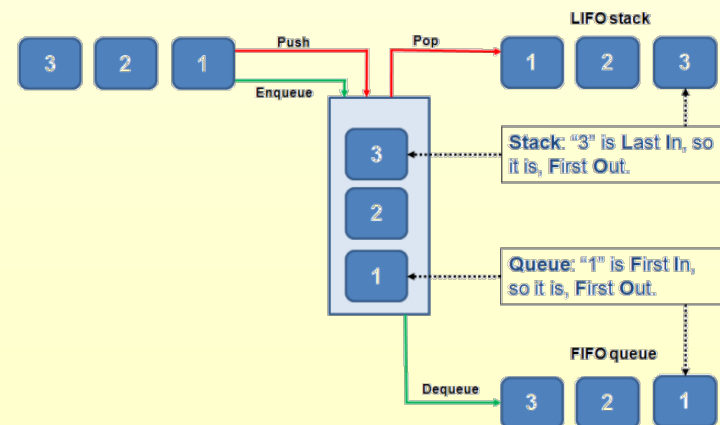
◆ Arrays



◆ Linked lists

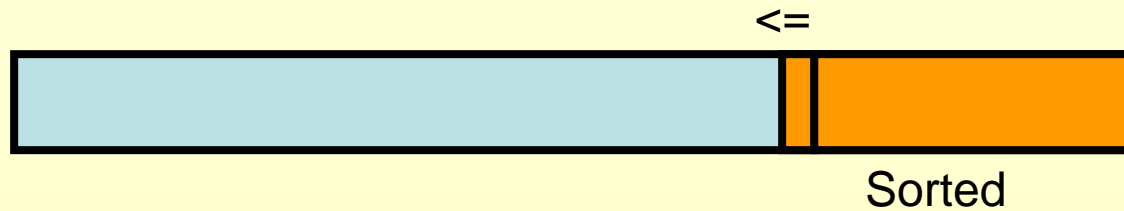
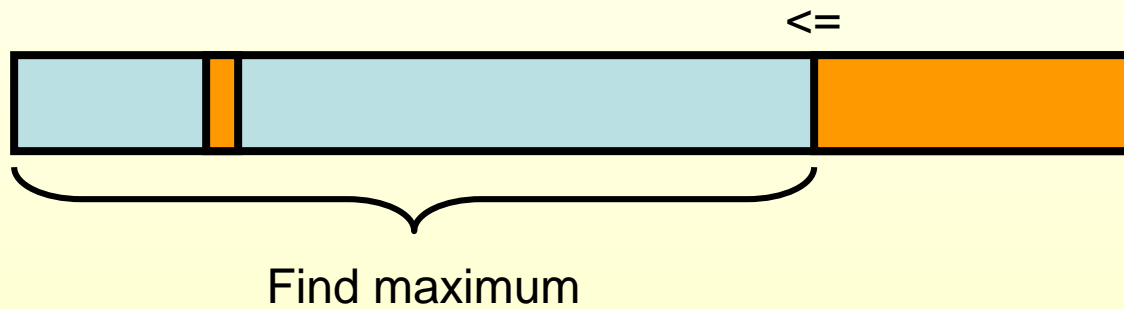
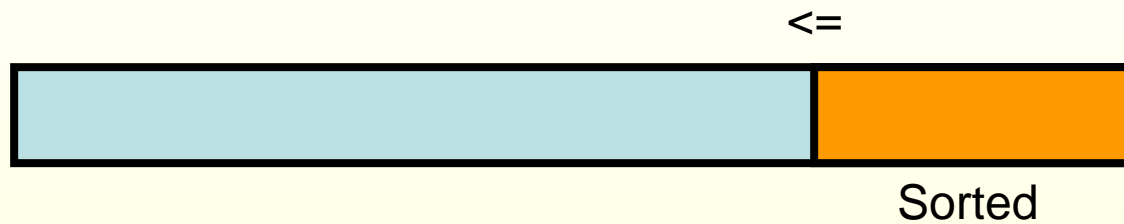


◆ Stacks



◆ Queues

SelectionSort



SelectionSort

```
SelectionSort(A[1..n])  
  for (i = n; i > 0; i--)  
    index = max_element(A[1..i])  
    swap(A[i], A[index]);  
end
```

What's the time complexity?

If max_element takes $\Theta(n)$,
selection sort takes $\sum_{i=1}^n i = \Theta(n^2)$

HeapSort

- ◆ Another $\Theta(n \log n)$ sorting algorithm
- ◆ In practice QuickSort wins
- ◆ However, the heap data structure and its variants are very useful for many algorithms