Randomized Selection

Andreas Klappenecker

Randomized Selection

```
Randomized-Select(A,p,r,i) // return the ith smallest elem. of A[p..r]
  if (p == r) then return A[p];
  q := Randomized-Partition(A,p,r); // compute pivot
  k := q-p+1; // number of elements <= pivot
  if (i==k) then return A[q]; // found ith smallest element
  elseif (i < k) then return Randomized-Select(A,p,q-1,i);
  else Randomized-Select(A,q+1,r, i-k);
```

Partition

```
Randomized-Partition(A,p,r)
  i := Random(p,r);
  swap(A[i],A[r]);
  Partition(A,p,r);
```

Almost the same as Partition, but now the pivot element is not the rightmost element, but rather an element from A[p..r] that is chosen uniformly at random.

Running Time

- The worst case running time of Randomized-Select is $\Theta(n^2)$
- The expected running time of Randomized-Select is $\Theta(n)$
- No particular input elicits worst case running time.

Running Time

- Let T(n) denote the random variable describing the running time of Randomized-Select on input of A[p..r].
- Suppose A[p..r] contains n elements. Each element of A[p..r] is equally likely to be the pivot, so A[p..q] has size k with probability 1/n.
- X_k = I{the subarray A[p..q] has k elements}
- $E[X_k] = 1/n$ (assuming elements are distinct)

Running Time

- Let's assume that $T(n)$ is monotonically growing.
- Three choices: (a) find i^{th} smallest element right away, (b) recurse on A[p..q-1], or (c) recurse on A[p+1,r].
- When $X_k = 1$, then
  - A[p..q-1] has k-1 elements and
  - A[p+1..r] has n-k elements.

Recurrence

$$T(n) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{n} X_k \left(T(\max(k-1, n-k)) + O(n)\right)$$

$$\leq \sum_{k=1}^{n} X_k T(\max(k-1, n-k)) + O(n)$$

- Assume that we always recurse to larger subarray
- O(n) for partitioning
- X_k = 1 for a single choice, so partition once

Expected Running Time

$$E[T(n)] \leq \sum_{k=1}^{n} E[X_k T(\max(k-1, n-k))] + O(n)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{n} E[X_k] E[T(\max(k-1, n-k))] + O(n)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{n} E[T(\max(k-1, n-k))] + O(n)$$

Expected Running Time

$$E[T(n)] \leq \sum_{k=\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{n} \frac{2}{n} E[T(k)] + O(n)$$

One can prove by induction that

$E[T(n)] = O(n).$