

Data Structures and Algorithms

Lecture 04

Aniket Basu Roy

BITS Pilani Goa Campus

2026-01-19 Mon

Agenda

Merge Sort

- ▶ Proof of Correctness
- ▶ Time Complexity

Merge Sort

Divide–Conquer–Combine Approach

- ▶ Divide the input into a number of subproblems.
- ▶ Conquer the subproblems by solving them recursively.
- ▶ Combine the solved subproblems to return the solution to the original problem.

Merge Sort

Input: $A[1 : n]$

- ▶ Divide $A[1 : n]$ into $A[1 : \lfloor n/2 \rfloor]$ and $A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 : n]$
- ▶ Recursively run Merge Sort on $A[1 : \lfloor n/2 \rfloor]$ and $A[\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 : n]$
- ▶ Merge the two sorted arrays to sort $A[1 : n]$

Output: $A[1 : n]$ is sorted.

Merge Sort

```
MERGE-SORT( $A, p, r$ )
1  if  $p \geq r$                                 // zero or one element?
2      return
3   $q = \lfloor (p + r) / 2 \rfloor$                     // midpoint of  $A[p : r]$ 
4  MERGE-SORT( $A, p, q$ )                          // recursively sort  $A[p : q]$ 
5  MERGE-SORT( $A, q + 1, r$ )                      // recursively sort  $A[q + 1 : r]$ 
6  // Merge  $A[p : q]$  and  $A[q + 1 : r]$  into  $A[p : r]$ .
7  MERGE( $A, p, q, r$ )
```

Merge Sort

```

MERGE( $A, p, q, r$ )
1   $n_L = q - p + 1$       // length of  $A[p : q]$ 
2   $n_R = r - q$          // length of  $A[q + 1 : r]$ 
3  let  $L[0 : n_L - 1]$  and  $R[0 : n_R - 1]$  be new arrays
4  for  $i = 0$  to  $n_L - 1$  // copy  $A[p : q]$  into  $L[0 : n_L - 1]$ 
5       $L[i] = A[p + i]$ 
6  for  $j = 0$  to  $n_R - 1$  // copy  $A[q + 1 : r]$  into  $R[0 : n_R - 1]$ 
7       $R[j] = A[q + j + 1]$ 
8   $i = 0$                 //  $i$  indexes the smallest remaining element in  $L$ 
9   $j = 0$                 //  $j$  indexes the smallest remaining element in  $R$ 
10  $k = p$                 //  $k$  indexes the location in  $A$  to fill
11 // As long as each of the arrays  $L$  and  $R$  contains an unmerged element,
    // copy the smallest unmerged element back into  $A[p : r]$ .
12 while  $i < n_L$  and  $j < n_R$ 
13     if  $L[i] \leq R[j]$ 
14          $A[k] = L[i]$ 
15          $i = i + 1$ 
16     else  $A[k] = R[j]$ 
17          $j = j + 1$ 
18          $k = k + 1$ 

```

Merge Sort

```
19 // Having gone through one of  $L$  and  $R$  entirely, copy the
    // remainder of the other to the end of  $A[p:r]$ .
20 while  $i < n_L$ 
21      $A[k] = L[i]$ 
22      $i = i + 1$ 
23      $k = k + 1$ 
24 while  $j < n_R$ 
25      $A[k] = R[j]$ 
26      $j = j + 1$ 
27      $k = k + 1$ 
```

Merge Sort

Proof of Correctness

Time Complexity

Merge Sort

Proof of Correctness

- ▶ Prove by Induction on the size of the array
- ▶ What about the Merge function?

Merge Sort

Time Complexity

- ▶ Recurrence Relation

$$T(1) = \Theta(1)$$

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n)$$