

Chapter 5

Divide and Conquer



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Divide-and-Conquer

Divide-and-conquer.

- Break up problem into several parts.
- Solve each part recursively.
- Combine solutions to sub-problems into overall solution.

Most common usage.

- Break up problem of size n into **two** equal parts of size $\frac{1}{2}n$.
- Solve two parts recursively.
- Combine two solutions into overall solution in **linear time**.

Consequence.

- Brute force: n^2 .
- Divide-and-conquer: $n \log n$.

Divide et impera.
Veni, vidi, vici.
- *Julius Caesar*

5.1 Mergesort

Sorting

Sorting. Given n elements, rearrange in ascending order.

Obvious sorting applications.

- List files in a directory.

- Organize an MP3 library.

- List names in a phone book.

- Display Google

- PageRank results.

Problems become easier once sorted.

- Find the median.

Non-obvious sorting applications.

- Data compression.

- Computer graphics.

- Interval scheduling.

- Computational biology.

- Minimum spanning tree.

- Supply chain

- management.

- Simulate a system of particles.

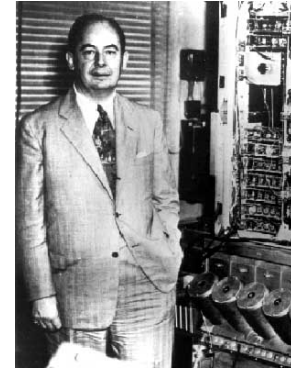
- Book recommendations on Amazon.

- Load balancing on a

Mergesort

Mergesort.

- Divide array into two halves.
- Recursively sort each half.
- Merge two halves to make sorted whole.



Jon von Neumann (1945)

A L G O R I T H M S

A L G O R

I T H M S

divide $O(1)$

A G L O R

H I M S T

sort $2T(n/2)$

A G H I L M O R S T

merge $O(n)$

Merging

Merging. Combine two pre-sorted lists into a sorted whole.

How to merge efficiently?



- Linear number of comparisons.
- Use temporary array.



Challenge for the bored. In-place merge. [Kronrud, 1969]

↑
using only a constant amount of extra storage

A Useful Recurrence Relation

Def. $T(n)$ = number of comparisons to mergesort an input of size n .

Mergesort recurrence.

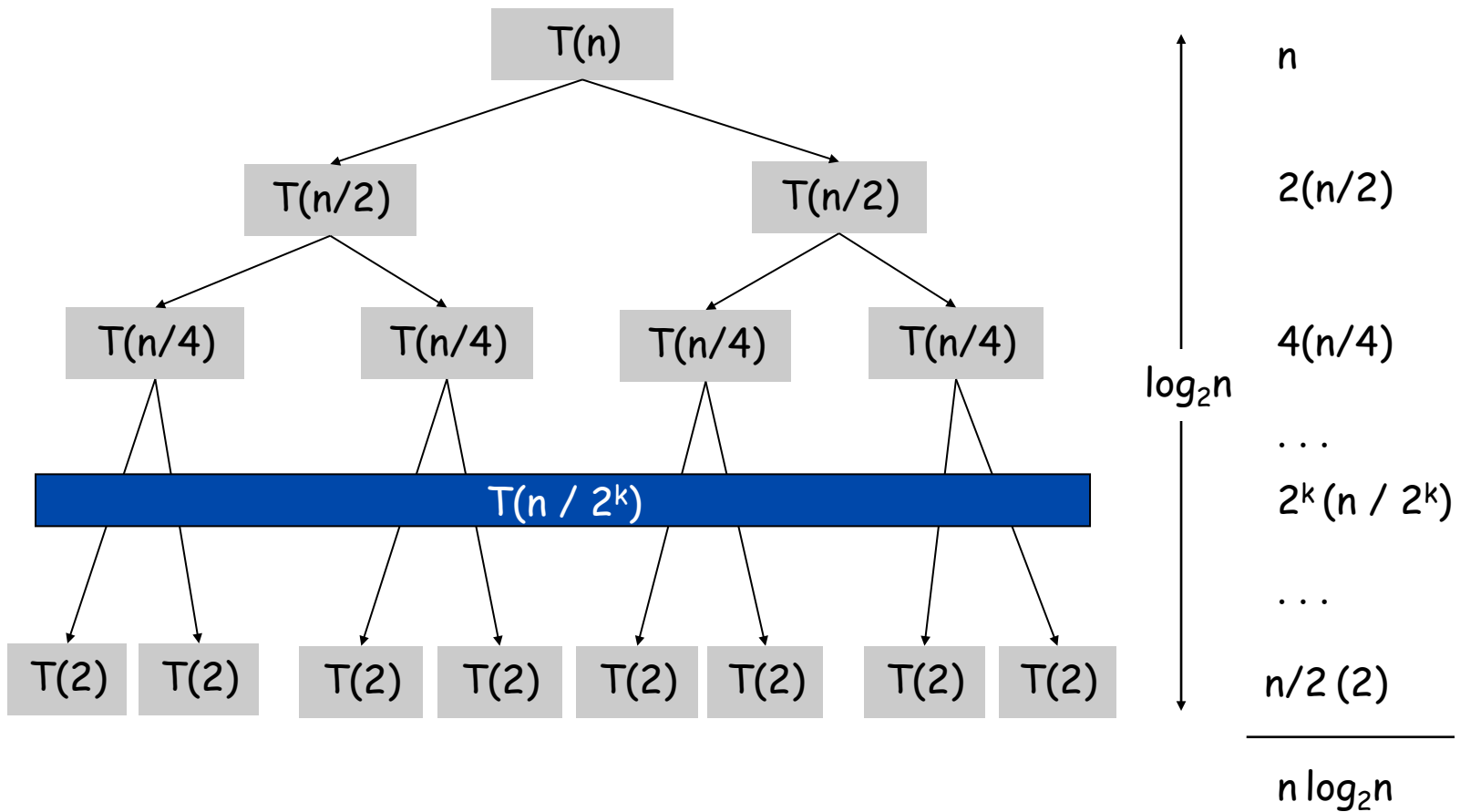
$$T(n) \leq \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \underbrace{T(\lceil n/2 \rceil)}_{\text{solve left half}} + \underbrace{T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)}_{\text{solve right half}} + \underbrace{n}_{\text{merging}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Solution. $T(n) = O(n \log_2 n)$.

Assorted proofs. We describe several ways to prove this recurrence. Initially we assume n is a power of 2 and replace \leq with $=$.

Proof by Recursion Tree

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \underbrace{2T(n/2)}_{\text{sorting both halves}} + \underbrace{n}_{\text{merging}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Proof by Telescoping

Claim. If $T(n)$ satisfies this recurrence, then $T(n) = n \log_2 n$.

↑
assumes n is a power of 2

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \underbrace{2T(n/2)}_{\text{sorting both halves}} + \underbrace{n}_{\text{merging}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Pf. For $n > 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{T(n)}{n} &= \frac{2T(n/2)}{n} + 1 \\ &= \frac{T(n/2)}{n/2} + 1 \\ &= \frac{T(n/4)}{n/4} + 1 + 1 \\ &\dots \\ &= \frac{T(n/n)}{n/n} + \underbrace{1 + \dots + 1}_{\log_2 n} \\ &= \log_2 n \end{aligned}$$

Proof by Induction

Claim. If $T(n)$ satisfies this recurrence, then $T(n) = n \log_2 n$.

↑
assumes n is a power of 2

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \underbrace{2T(n/2)}_{\text{sorting both halves}} + \underbrace{n}_{\text{merging}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Pf. (by induction on n)

- Base case: $n = 1$.
- Inductive hypothesis: $T(n) = n \log_2 n$.
- Goal: show that $T(2n) = 2n \log_2 (2n)$.

$$\begin{aligned} T(2n) &= 2T(n) + 2n \\ &= 2n \log_2 n + 2n \\ &= 2n(\log_2(2n) - 1) + 2n \\ &= 2n \log_2(2n) \end{aligned}$$

Analysis of Mergesort Recurrence

Claim. If $T(n)$ satisfies the following recurrence, then $T(n) \leq n \lceil \lg n \rceil$.

$$T(n) \leq \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ \underbrace{T(\lceil n/2 \rceil)}_{\text{solve left half}} + \underbrace{T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)}_{\text{solve right half}} + \underbrace{n}_{\text{merging}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

\uparrow
 $\log_2 n$

Pf. (by induction on n)

- Base case: $n = 1$.
- Define $n_1 = \lceil n / 2 \rceil$, $n_2 = \lfloor n / 2 \rfloor$.
- Induction step: assume true for $1, 2, \dots, n-1$.

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\leq T(n_1) + T(n_2) + n \\ &\leq n_1 \lceil \lg n_1 \rceil + n_2 \lceil \lg n_2 \rceil + n \\ &\leq n_1 \lceil \lg n_2 \rceil + n_2 \lceil \lg n_2 \rceil + n \\ &= n \lceil \lg n_2 \rceil + n \\ &\leq n(\lceil \lg n \rceil - 1) + n \\ &= n \lceil \lg n \rceil \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} n_2 &= \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ &\leq \left\lfloor \frac{2^{\lceil \lg n \rceil}}{2} \right\rfloor \\ &= 2^{\lceil \lg n \rceil} / 2 \\ \Rightarrow \lg n_2 &\leq \lceil \lg n \rceil - 1 \end{aligned}$$

5.3 Counting Inversions

Counting Inversions

Music site tries to match your song preferences with others.

- You rank n songs.
- Music site consults database to find people with **similar** tastes.

Similarity metric: number of inversions between two rankings.

- My rank: $1, 2, \dots, n$.
- Your rank: a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n .
- Songs i and j **inverted** if $i < j$, but $a_i > a_j$.

		<i>Songs</i>				
		A	B	C	D	E
Me		1	2	3	4	5
You		1	3	4	2	5

Inversions
3-2, 4-2

Brute force: check all $\Theta(n^2)$ pairs i and j .

Applications

Applications.

- Voting theory.
- Collaborative filtering.
- Measuring the "sortedness" of an array.
- Sensitivity analysis of Google's ranking function.
- Rank aggregation for meta-searching on the Web.
- Nonparametric statistics (e.g., Kendall's Tau distance).

Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

Divide-and-conquer.

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

Divide-and-conquer.

- **Divide:** separate list into two pieces.

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

Divide: $O(1)$.

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

Divide-and-conquer.

- Divide: separate list into two pieces.
- **Conquer**: recursively count inversions in each half.



Divide: $O(1)$.



Conquer: $2T(n / 2)$

5 blue-blue inversions

8 green-green inversions

5-4, 5-2, 4-2, 8-2, 10-2

6-3, 9-3, 9-7, 12-3, 12-7, 12-11, 11-3, 11-7

Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

Divide-and-conquer.

- **Divide:** separate list into two pieces.
- **Conquer:** recursively count inversions in each half.
- **Combine:** count inversions where a_i and a_j are in different halves, and return sum of three quantities.



Divide: $O(1)$.



Conquer: $2T(n / 2)$

5 blue-blue inversions

8 green-green inversions

9 blue-green inversions

5-3, 4-3, 8-6, 8-3, 8-7, 10-6, 10-9, 10-3, 10-7

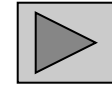
Combine: ???

$$\text{Total} = 5 + 8 + 9 = 22.$$

Counting Inversions: Combine

Combine: count blue-green inversions

- Assume each half is **sorted**.
- Count inversions where a_i and a_j are in different halves.
- Merge** two sorted halves into sorted whole.



to maintain sorted invariant

3	7	10	14	18	19
---	---	----	----	----	----

2	11	16	17	23	25
6	3	2	2	0	0

13 blue-green inversions: $6 + 3 + 2 + 2 + 0 + 0$

Count: $O(n)$

2	3	7	10	11	14	16	17	18	19	23	25
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Merge: $O(n)$

$$T(n) \leq T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + O(n) \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n \log n)$$

Counting Inversions: Implementation

Pre-condition. [Merge-and-Count] A and B are sorted.

Post-condition. [Sort-and-Count] L is sorted.

```
Sort-and-Count(L) {  
    if list L has one element  
        return 0 and the list L  
  
    Divide the list into two halves A and B  
    ( $r_A$ , A)  $\leftarrow$  Sort-and-Count(A)  
    ( $r_B$ , B)  $\leftarrow$  Sort-and-Count(B)  
    ( $r_C$ , L)  $\leftarrow$  Merge-and-Count(A, B)  
  
    return  $r = r_A + r_B + r_C$  and the sorted list L  
}
```

5.4 Closest Pair of Points

Closest Pair of Points

Closest pair. Given n points in the plane, find a pair with smallest Euclidean distance between them.

Fundamental geometric primitive.

- Graphics, computer vision, geographic information systems, molecular modeling, air traffic control.
- Special case of nearest neighbor, Euclidean MST, Voronoi.

fast closest pair inspired fast algorithms for these problems

Brute force. Check all pairs of points p and q with $\Theta(n^2)$ comparisons.

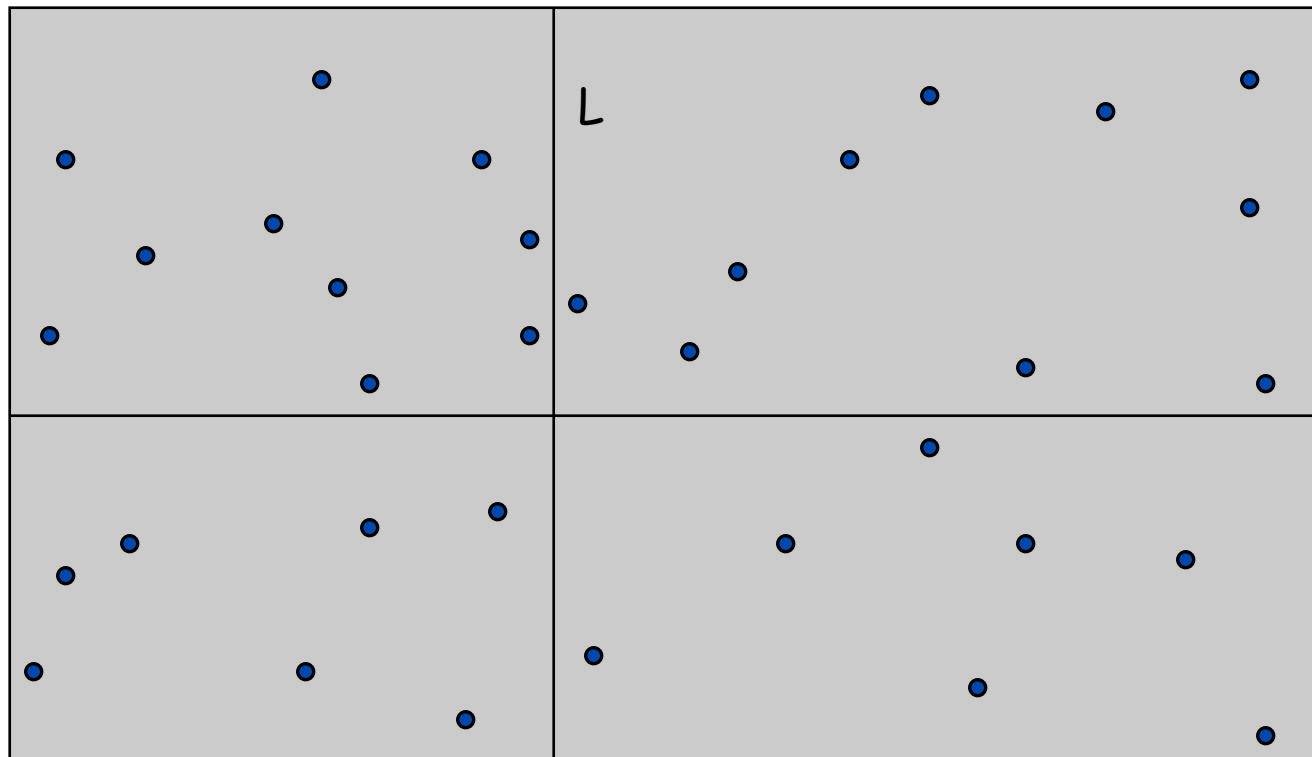
1-D version. $O(n \log n)$ easy if points are on a line.

Assumption. No two points have same x coordinate.

↑
to make presentation cleaner

Closest Pair of Points: First Attempt

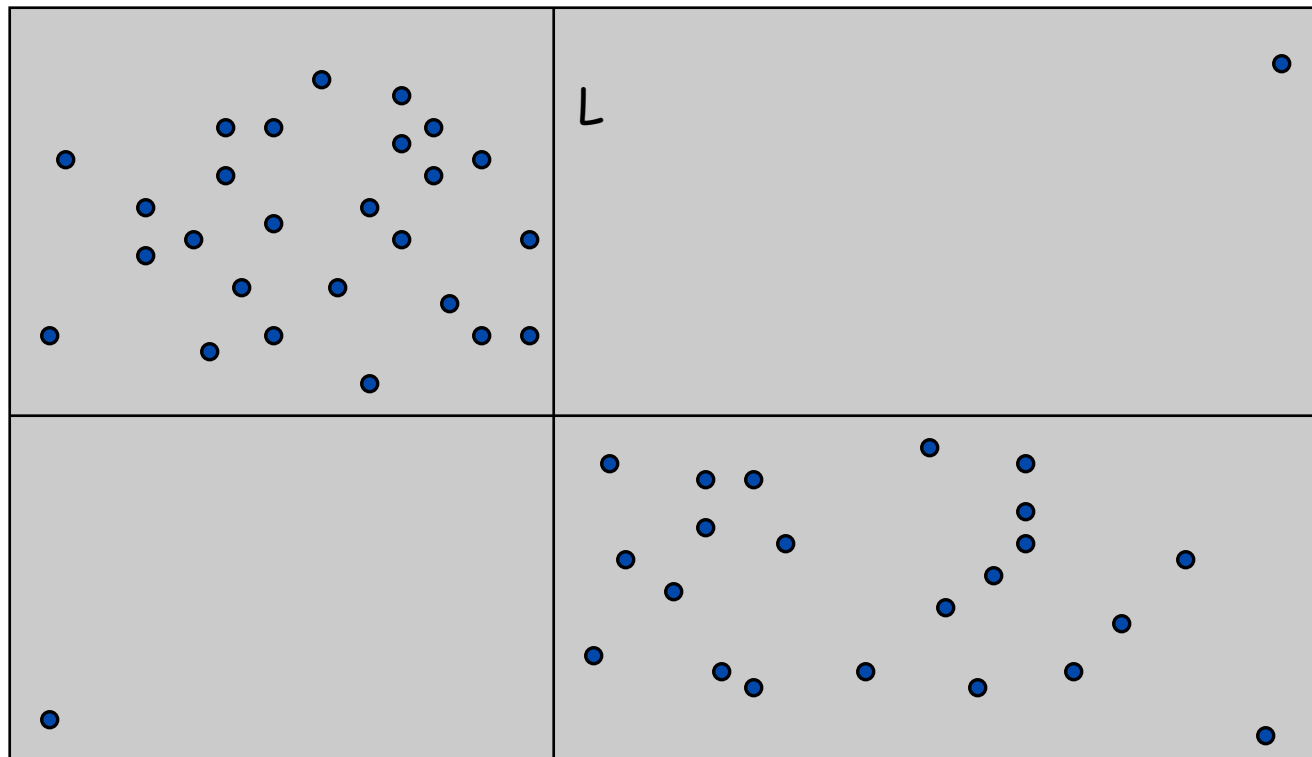
Divide. Sub-divide region into 4 quadrants.



Closest Pair of Points: First Attempt

Divide. Sub-divide region into 4 quadrants.

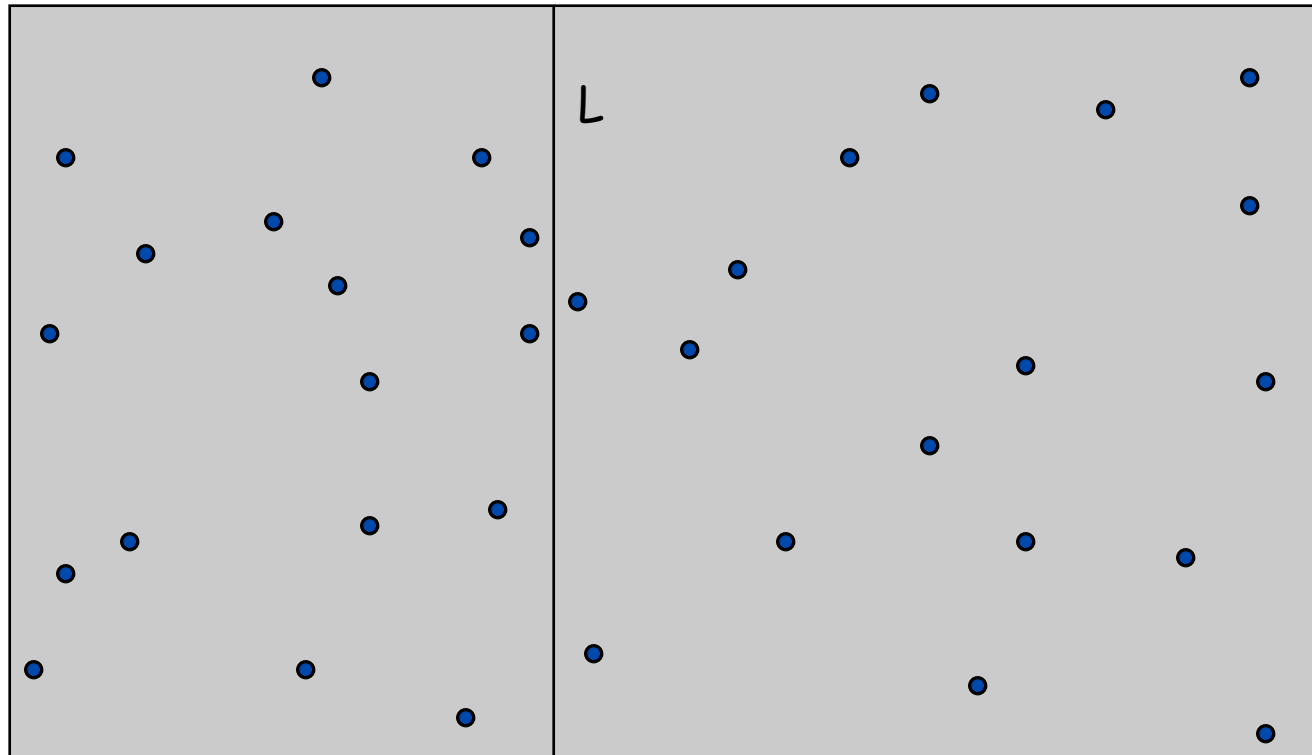
Obstacle. Impossible to ensure $n/4$ points in each piece.



Closest Pair of Points

Algorithm.

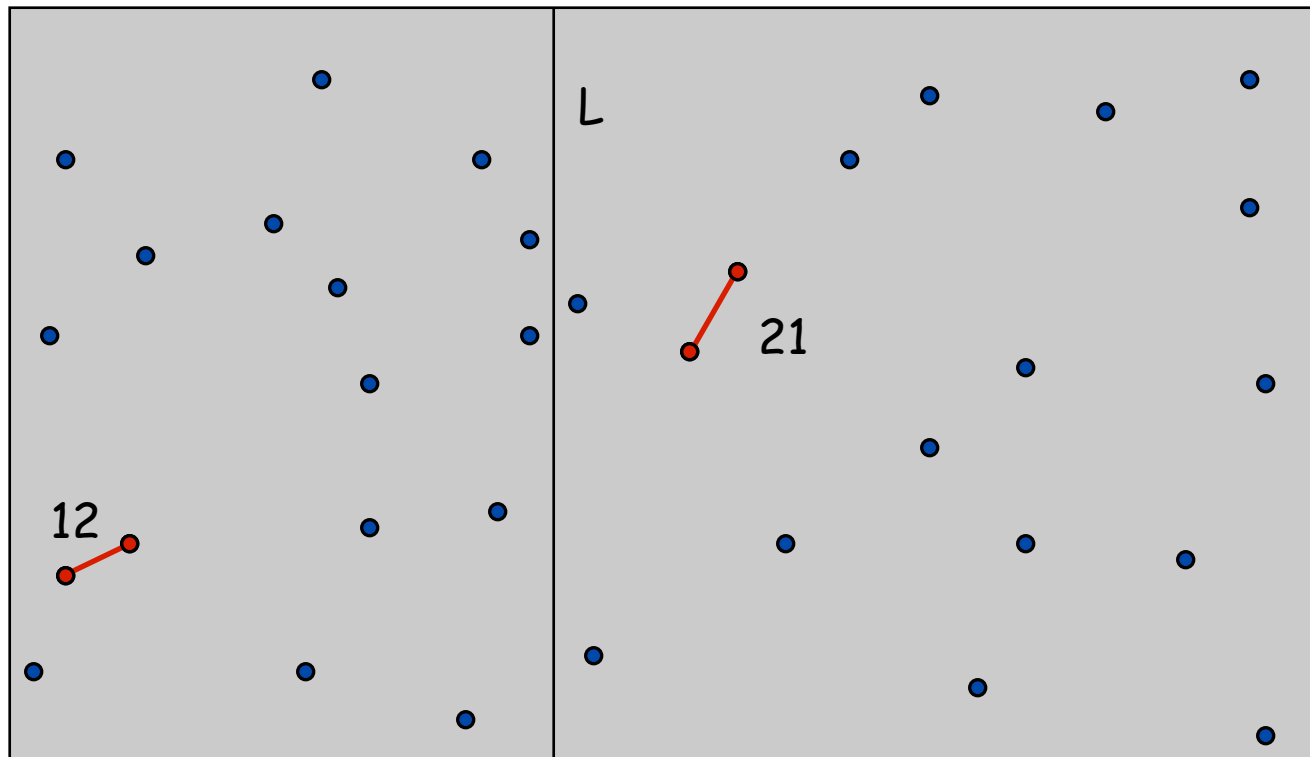
- **Divide:** draw vertical line L so that roughly $\frac{1}{2}n$ points on each side.



Closest Pair of Points

Algorithm.

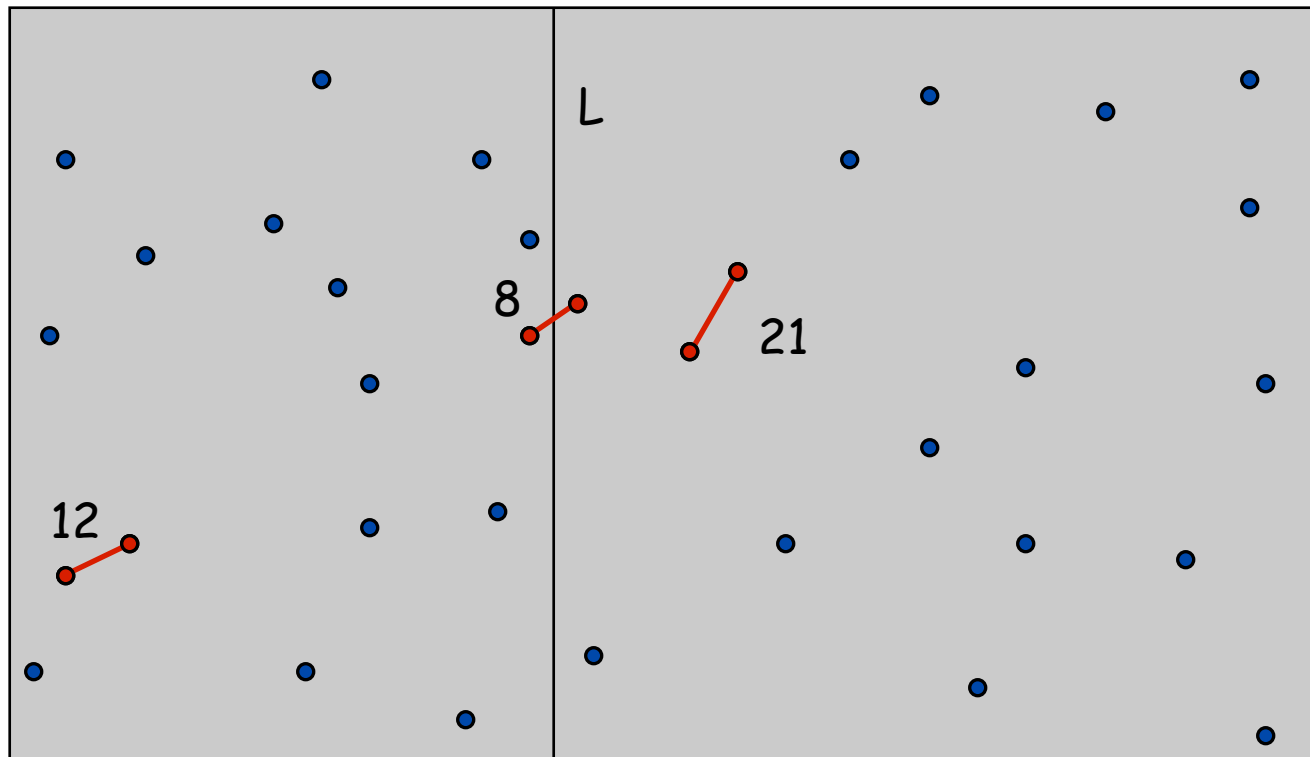
- Divide: draw vertical line L so that roughly $\frac{1}{2}n$ points on each side.
- **Conquer**: find closest pair in each side recursively.



Closest Pair of Points

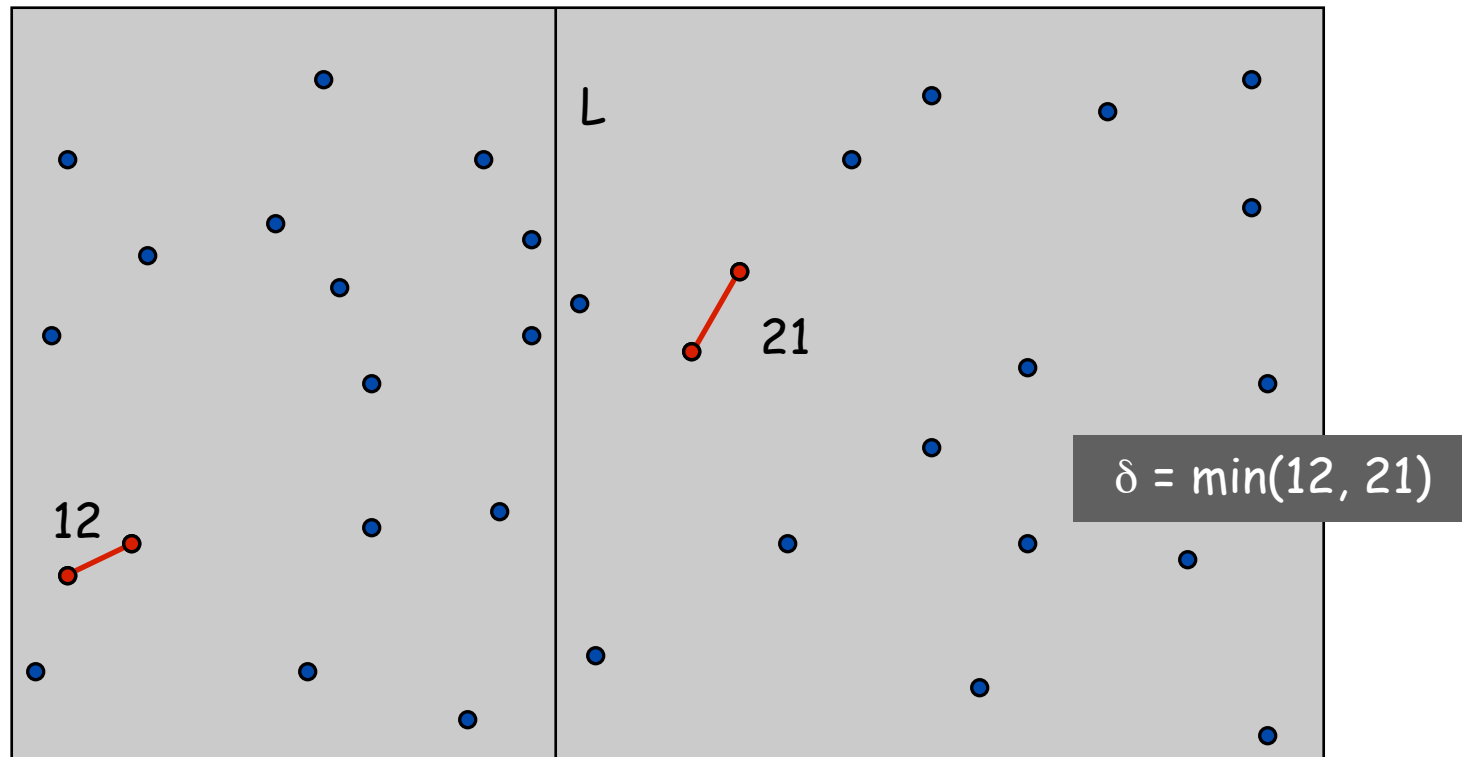
Algorithm.

- Divide: draw vertical line L so that roughly $\frac{1}{2}n$ points on each side.
- Conquer: find closest pair in each side recursively.
- **Combine**: find closest pair with one point in each side. ← seems like $\Theta(n^2)$
- Return best of 3 solutions.



Closest Pair of Points

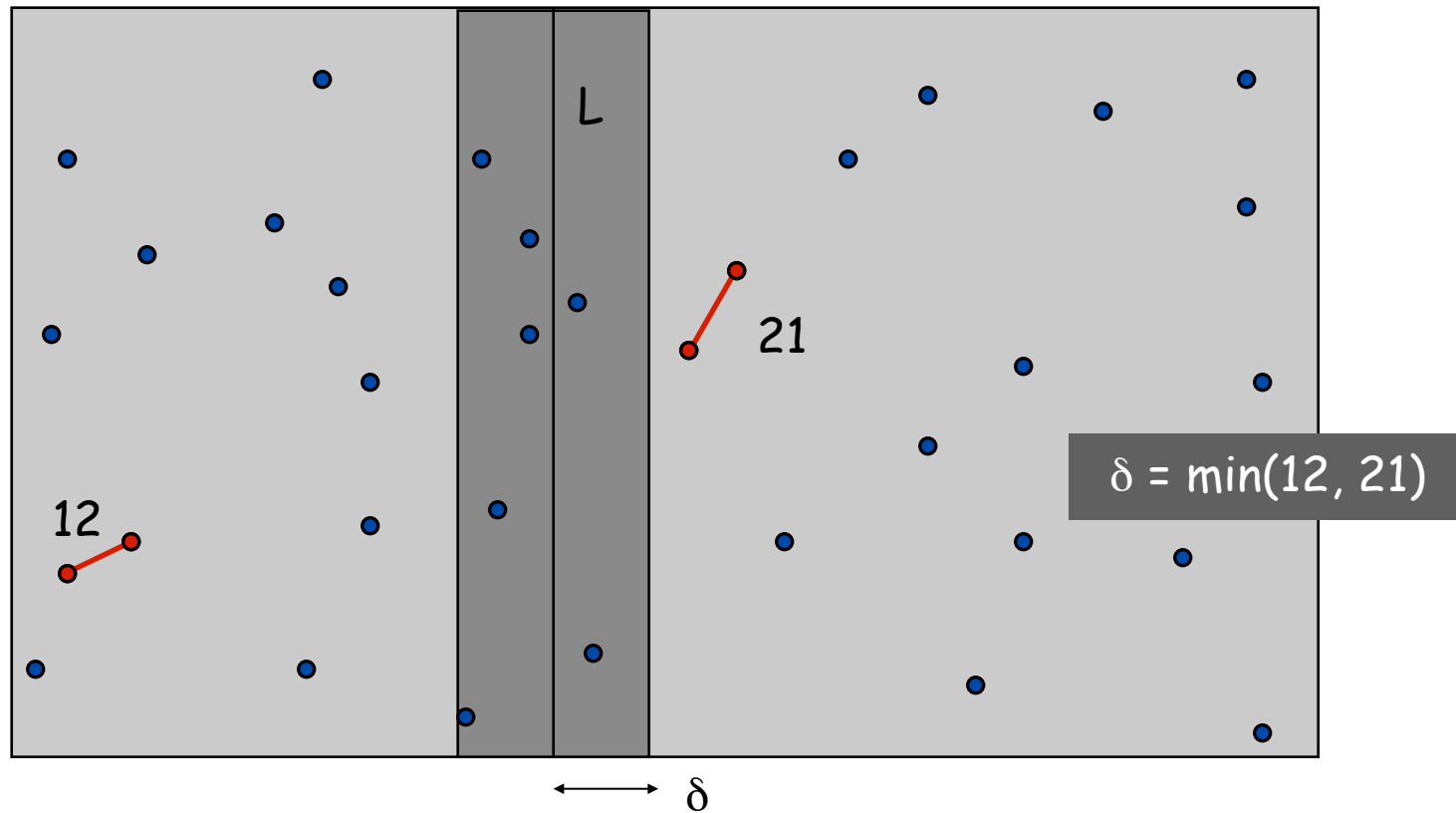
Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance $< \delta$** .



Closest Pair of Points

Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance $< \delta$** .

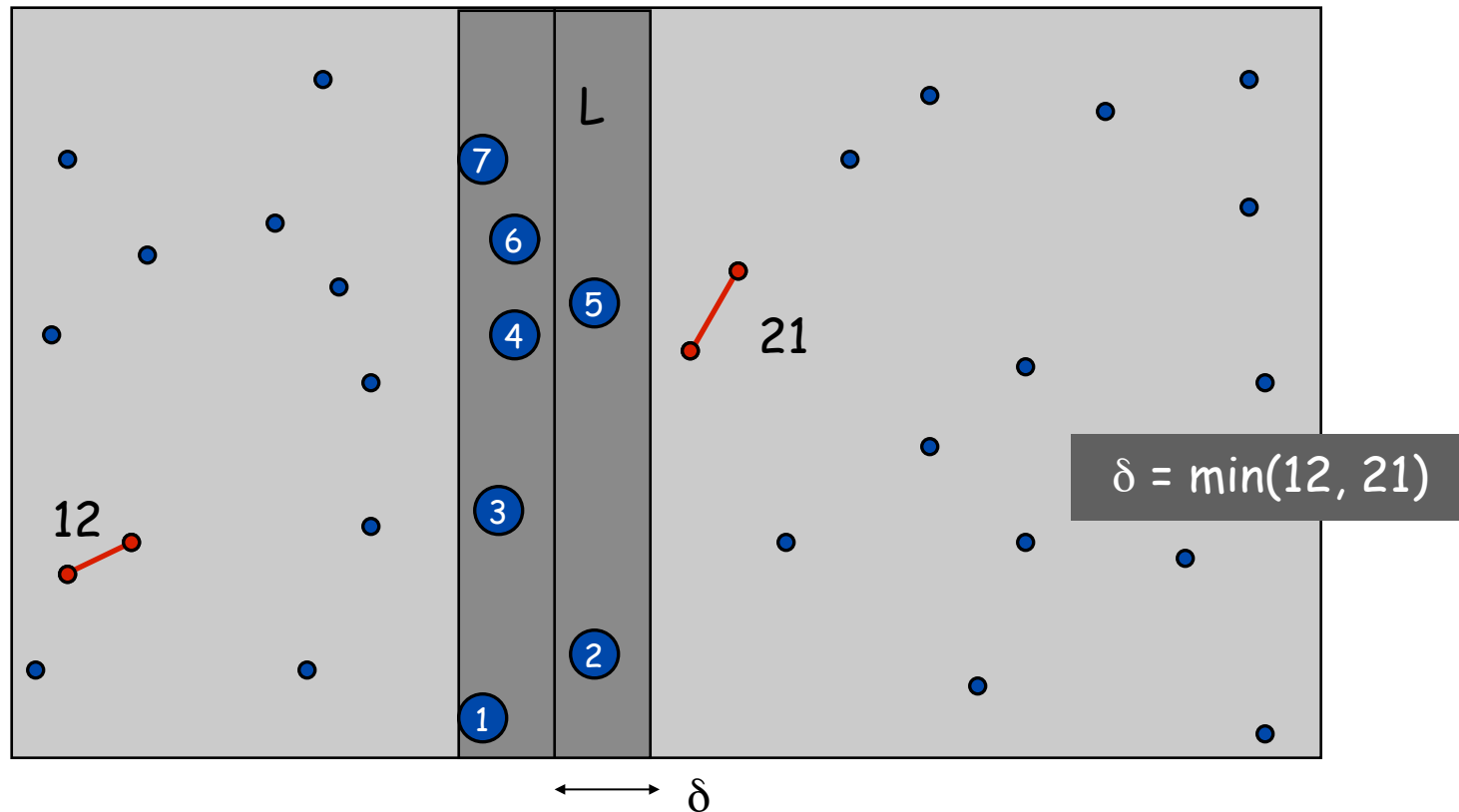
- Observation: only need to consider points within δ of line L .



Closest Pair of Points

Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance $< \delta$** .

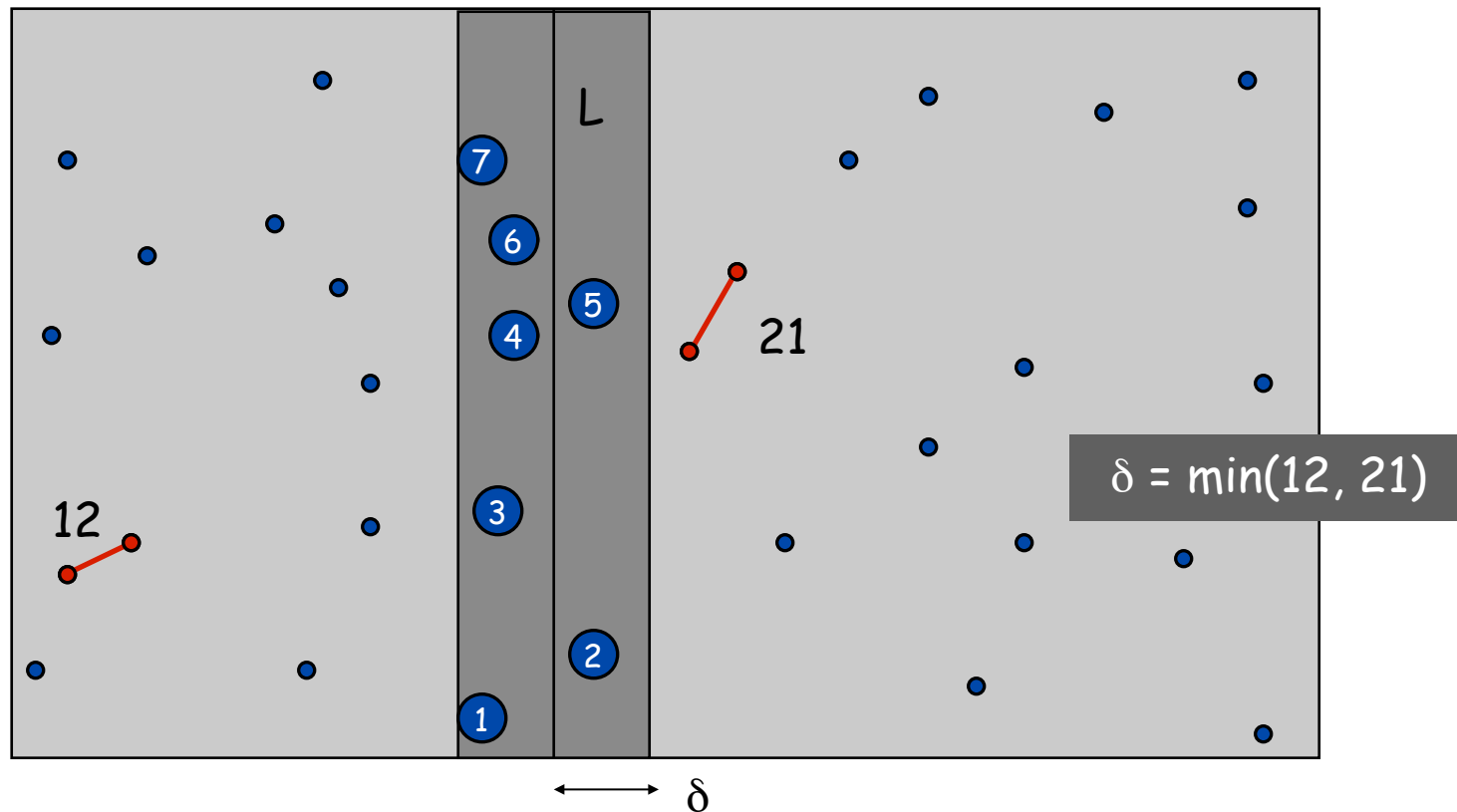
- Observation: only need to consider points within δ of line L .
- Sort points in 2δ -strip by their y coordinate.



Closest Pair of Points

Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance $< \delta$** .

- Observation: only need to consider points within δ of line L .
- Sort points in 2δ -strip by their y coordinate.
- Only check distances of those within 11 positions in sorted list!



Closest Pair of Points

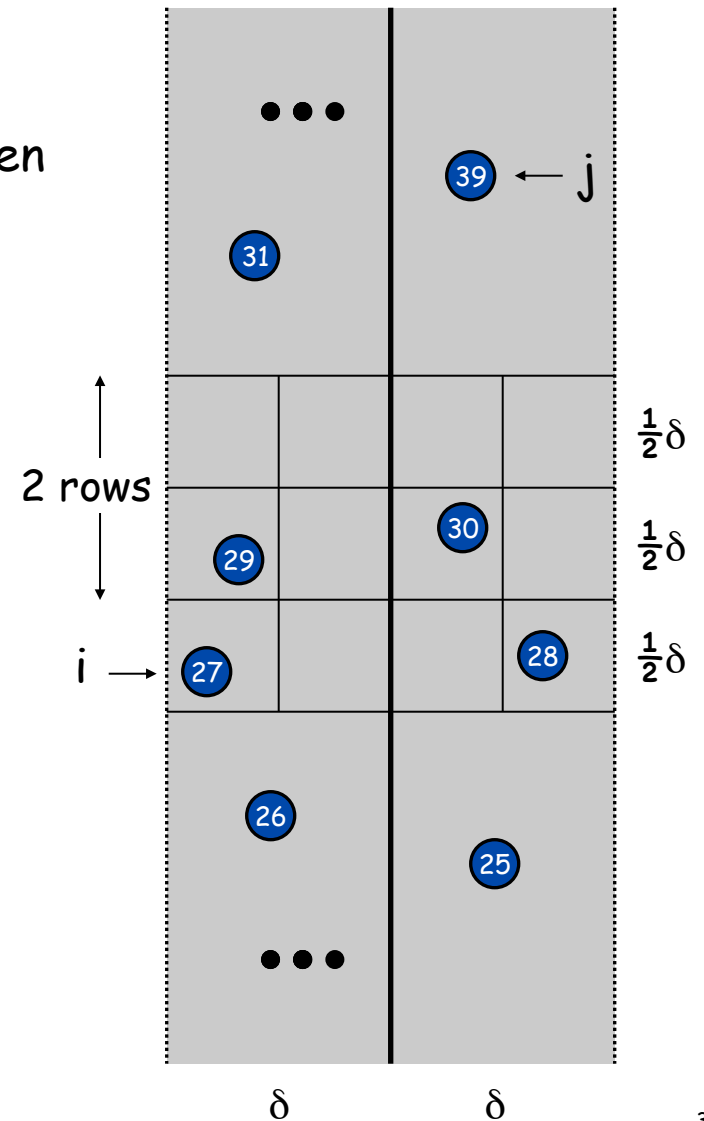
Def. Let s_i be the point in the 2δ -strip, with the i^{th} smallest y -coordinate.

Claim. If $|i - j| \geq 12$, then the distance between s_i and s_j is at least δ .

Pf.

- No two points lie in same $\frac{1}{2}\delta$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}\delta$ box.
- Two points at least 2 rows apart have distance $\geq 2(\frac{1}{2}\delta)$. ▪

Fact. Still true if we replace 12 with 7.



Closest Pair Algorithm

```
Closest-Pair( $p_1, \dots, p_n$ ) {  
  Compute separation line  $L$  such that half the points  
  are on one side and half on the other side.  $O(n \log n)$   
  
   $\delta_1 = \text{Closest-Pair}(\text{left half})$   
   $\delta_2 = \text{Closest-Pair}(\text{right half})$   $2T(n / 2)$   
   $\delta = \min(\delta_1, \delta_2)$   
  
  Delete all points further than  $\delta$  from separation line  $L$   $O(n)$   
  
  Sort remaining points by  $y$ -coordinate.  $O(n \log n)$   
  
  Scan points in  $y$ -order and compare distance between  
  each point and next 11 neighbors. If any of these  
  distances is less than  $\delta$ , update  $\delta$ .  $O(n)$   
  
  return  $\delta$ .  
}
```

Closest Pair of Points: Analysis

Running time.

$$T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + O(n \log n) \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n \log^2 n)$$

Q. Can we achieve $O(n \log n)$?

A. Yes. Don't sort points in strip from scratch each time.

- Each recursive returns two lists: all points sorted by y coordinate, and all points sorted by x coordinate.
- Sort by **merging** two pre-sorted lists.

$$T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + O(n) \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n \log n)$$

5.5 Integer Multiplication

Divide-and-Conquer Multiplication: Warmup

To multiply two n -digit integers:

- Multiply four $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers.
- Add two $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers, and shift to obtain result.

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 2^{n/2} \cdot x_1 + x_0 \\y &= 2^{n/2} \cdot y_1 + y_0 \\xy &= (2^{n/2} \cdot x_1 + x_0)(2^{n/2} \cdot y_1 + y_0) = 2^n \cdot x_1y_1 + 2^{n/2} \cdot (x_1y_0 + x_0y_1) + x_0y_0\end{aligned}$$

$$T(n) = \underbrace{4T(n/2)}_{\text{recursive calls}} + \underbrace{\Theta(n)}_{\text{add, shift}} \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$$



assumes n is a power of 2

Karatsuba Multiplication

To multiply two n -digit integers:

- Add two $\frac{1}{2}n$ digit integers.
- Multiply **three** $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers.
- Add, subtract, and shift $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers to obtain result.

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 2^{n/2} \cdot x_1 + x_0 \\
 y &= 2^{n/2} \cdot y_1 + y_0 \\
 xy &= 2^n \cdot x_1 y_1 + 2^{n/2} \cdot (x_1 y_0 + x_0 y_1) + x_0 y_0 \\
 &= 2^n \cdot x_1 y_1 + 2^{n/2} \cdot \underbrace{(x_1 + x_0)}_B \underbrace{(y_1 + y_0)}_A - \underbrace{x_1 y_1}_A - \underbrace{x_0 y_0}_C + \underbrace{x_0 y_0}_C
 \end{aligned}$$

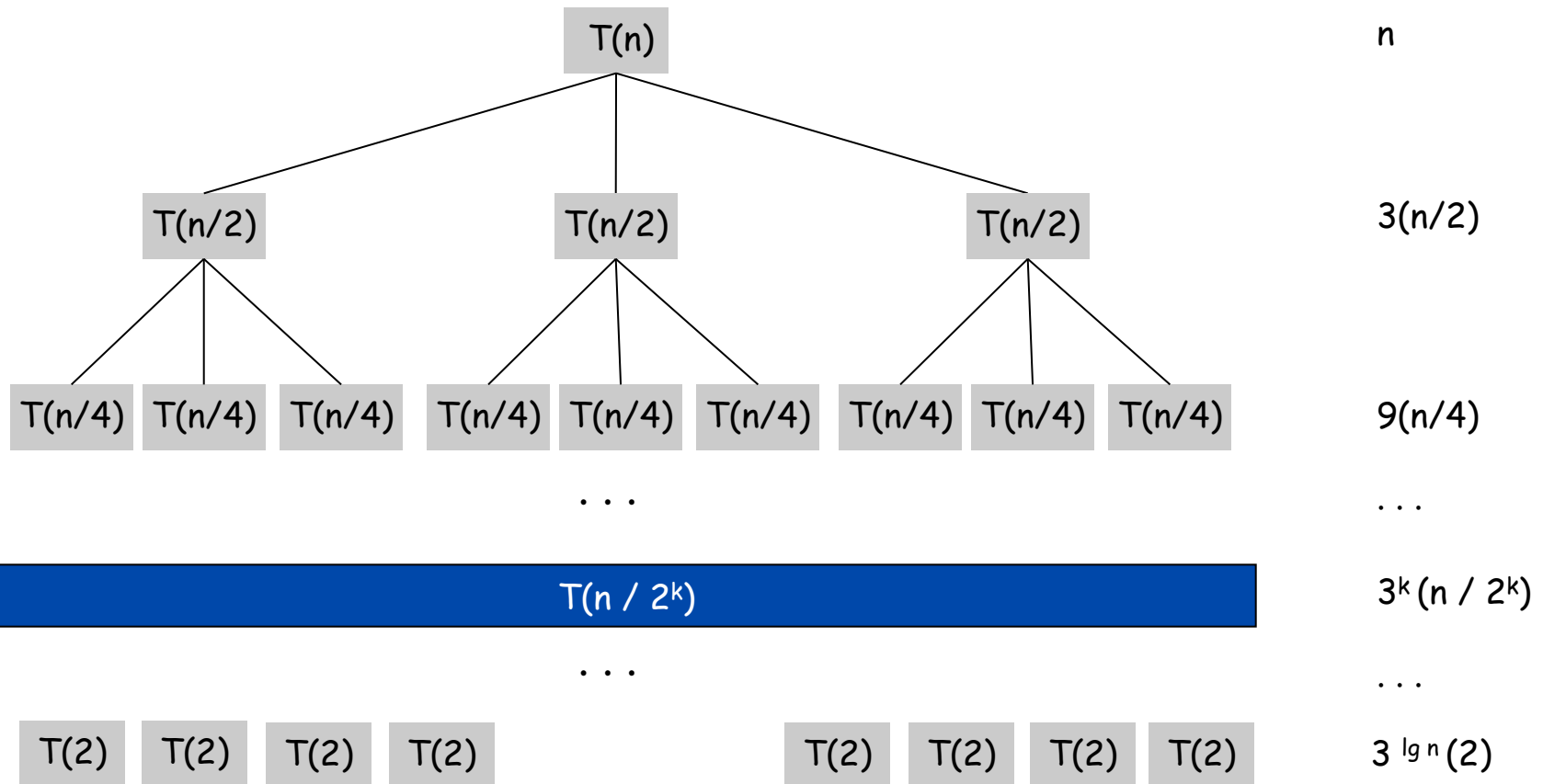
Theorem. [Karatsuba-Ofman, 1962] Can multiply two n -digit integers in $O(n^{1.585})$ bit operations.

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &\leq \underbrace{T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + T(1 + \lceil n/2 \rceil)}_{\text{recursive calls}} + \underbrace{\Theta(n)}_{\text{add, subtract, shift}} \\
 \Rightarrow T(n) &= O(n^{\log_2 3}) = O(n^{1.585})
 \end{aligned}$$

Karatsuba: Recursion Tree

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 3T(n/2) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$T(n) = \sum_{k=0}^{\log_2 n} n \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^k = \frac{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{1+\log_2 n} - 1}{\frac{3}{2} - 1} = 3n^{\log_2 3} - 2$$



Matrix Multiplication

Matrix Multiplication

Matrix multiplication. Given two n-by-n matrices A and B, compute $C = AB$.

$$c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} b_{kj}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & \cdots & c_{1n} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & \cdots & c_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{n1} & c_{n2} & \cdots & c_{nn} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \cdots & b_{1n} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \cdots & b_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{n1} & b_{n2} & \cdots & b_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

Brute force. $\Theta(n^3)$ arithmetic operations.

Fundamental question. Can we improve upon brute force?

Matrix Multiplication: Warmup

Divide-and-conquer.

- Divide: partition A and B into $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$ blocks.
- Conquer: multiply 8 $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$ recursively.
- Combine: add appropriate products using 4 matrix additions.

$$\begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_{11} &= (A_{11} \times B_{11}) + (A_{12} \times B_{21}) \\ C_{12} &= (A_{11} \times B_{12}) + (A_{12} \times B_{22}) \\ C_{21} &= (A_{21} \times B_{11}) + (A_{22} \times B_{21}) \\ C_{22} &= (A_{21} \times B_{12}) + (A_{22} \times B_{22}) \end{aligned}$$

$$T(n) = \underbrace{8T(n/2)}_{\text{recursive calls}} + \underbrace{\Theta(n^2)}_{\text{add, form submatrices}} \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^3)$$

Matrix Multiplication: Key Idea

Key idea. multiply 2-by-2 block matrices with only **7** multiplications.

$$\begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{11} = P_5 + P_4 - P_2 + P_6$$

$$C_{12} = P_1 + P_2$$

$$C_{21} = P_3 + P_4$$

$$C_{22} = P_5 + P_1 - P_3 - P_7$$

$$P_1 = A_{11} \times (B_{12} - B_{22})$$

$$P_2 = (A_{11} + A_{12}) \times B_{22}$$

$$P_3 = (A_{21} + A_{22}) \times B_{11}$$

$$P_4 = A_{22} \times (B_{21} - B_{11})$$

$$P_5 = (A_{11} + A_{22}) \times (B_{11} + B_{22})$$

$$P_6 = (A_{12} - A_{22}) \times (B_{21} + B_{22})$$

$$P_7 = (A_{11} - A_{21}) \times (B_{11} + B_{12})$$

- 7 multiplications.
- 18 = 10 + 8 additions (or subtractions).

Fast Matrix Multiplication

Fast matrix multiplication. (Strassen, 1969)

- Divide: partition A and B into $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$ blocks.
- Compute: 14 $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$ matrices via 10 matrix additions.
- Conquer: multiply 7 $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$ matrices recursively.
- Combine: 7 products into 4 terms using 8 matrix additions.

Analysis.

- Assume n is a power of 2.
- $T(n) = \#$ arithmetic operations.

$$T(n) = \underbrace{7T(n/2)}_{\text{recursive calls}} + \underbrace{\Theta(n^2)}_{\text{add, subtract}} \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_2 7}) = O(n^{2.81})$$

Fast Matrix Multiplication in Practice

Implementation issues.

- Sparsity.
- Caching effects.
- Numerical stability.
- Odd matrix dimensions.
- Crossover to classical algorithm around $n = 128$.

Common misperception: "Strassen is only a theoretical curiosity."

- Advanced Computation Group at Apple Computer reports 8x speedup on G4 Velocity Engine when $n \sim 2,500$.
- Range of instances where it's useful is a subject of controversy.

Remark. Can "Strassenize" $Ax=b$, determinant, eigenvalues, and other matrix ops.

Fast Matrix Multiplication in Theory

Q. Multiply two 2-by-2 matrices with only 7 scalar multiplications?

A. Yes! [Strassen, 1969] $\Theta(n^{\log_2 7}) = O(n^{2.81})$

Q. Multiply two 2-by-2 matrices with only 6 scalar multiplications?

A. Impossible. [Hopcroft and Kerr, 1971] $\Theta(n^{\log_2 6}) = O(n^{2.59})$

Q. Two 3-by-3 matrices with only 21 scalar multiplications?

A. Also impossible. $\Theta(n^{\log_3 21}) = O(n^{2.77})$

Q. Two 70-by-70 matrices with only 143,640 scalar multiplications?

A. Yes! [Pan, 1980] $\Theta(n^{\log_{70} 143640}) = O(n^{2.80})$

Decimal wars.

- December, 1979: $O(n^{2.521813})$.
- January, 1980: $O(n^{2.521801})$.

Fast Matrix Multiplication in Theory

Best known. $O(n^{2.376})$ [Coppersmith-Winograd, 1987.]

Conjecture. $O(n^{2+\varepsilon})$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$.

Caveat. Theoretical improvements to Strassen are progressively less practical.