# **Range Searching**

• Data structure for a set of objects (points, rectangles, polygons) for efficient range queries.



- Depends on type of objects and queries. Consider basic data structures with broad applicability.
- Time-Space tradeoff: the more we preprocess and store, the faster we can solve a query.
- Consider data structures with (nearly) linear space.

# **Orthogonal Range Searching**

• Fix a *n*-point set P. It has  $2^n$  subsets. How many are possible answers to geometric range queries?



- Efficiency comes from the fact that only a small fraction of subsets can be formed.
- Orthogonal range searching deals with point sets and axis-aligned rectangle queries.
- These generalize 1-dimensional sorting and searching, and the data structures are based on compositions of 1-dim structures.

## **1-Dimensional Search**

- Points in 1D  $P = \{p_1, p_2, ..., p_n\}$ .
- Queries are intervals.



• If the range contains k points, we want to solve the problem in  $O(\log n + k)$  time.

- Does hashing work? Why not?
- A sorted array achieves this bound. But it doesn't extend to higher dimensions.
- Instead, we use a balanced binary tree.

#### **Tree Search**



- Build a balanced binary tree on the sorted list of points (keys).
- Leaves correspond to points; internal nodes are branching nodes.
- Given an interval  $[x_{lo}, x_{hi}]$ , search down the tree for  $x_{lo}$  and  $x_{hi}$ .
- All leaves between the two form the answer.
- Tree searches takes  $2 \log n$ , and reporting the points in the answer set takes O(k)time; assume leaves are linked together.

### **Canonical Subsets**

- $S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_k$  are canonical subsets,  $S_i \subseteq P$ , if the answer to any range query can be written as the disjoint union of some  $S_i$ 's.
- The canonical subsets may overlap.
- Key is to determine correct  $S_i$ 's, and given a query, efficiently determine the appropriate ones to use.
- In 1D, a canonical subset for each node of the tree:  $S_v$  is the set of points at the leaves of the subtree with root v.



# **1D Range Query**



- Given query  $[x_{lo}, x_{hi}]$ , search down the tree for leftmost leaf  $u \ge x_{lo}$ , and leftmost leaf  $v \ge x_{hi}$ .
- All leaves between *u* and *v* are in the range.
- If  $u = x_{lo}$  or  $v = x_{hi}$ , include that leaf's canonical set (singleton) into the range.
- The remainder range determined by maximal subtree lying in the range [u, v).

## **Query Processing**

- Let z be the last node common to search paths from root to u, v.
- Follow the left path from z to u. When path goes left, add the canonical subset of right child. (Nodes 7, 3, 1 in Fig.)
- Follow the right path from z to v. When path goes right, add the canonical subset of left child. (Nodes 20, 22 in Fig.)



#### Analysis



- Since search paths have O(log n) nodes, there are O(log n) canonical subsets, which are found in O(log n) time.
- To list the sets, traverse those subtrees in linear time, for additional O(k) time.
- If only **count** is needed, storing sizes of canonical sets at nodes suffices.
- Data structure uses O(n) space, and answers range queries in  $O(\log n)$  time.

## Multi-Dimensional Data



- Range searching in higher dimensions?
- *kD*-trees [Jon Bentley 1975]. Stands for *k*-dimensional trees.
- Simple, general, and arbitrary dimensional. Asymptotic search complexity not very good.
- Extends 1D tree, but alternates using xy-coordinates to split. In k-dimensions, cycle through the dimensions.

#### kD-Trees



- A binary tree. Each node has two values: split dimension, and split value.
- If split along x, at coordinate s, then left child has points with x-coordinate ≤ s; right child has remaining points. Same for y.
- When O(1) points remain, put them in a leaf node.
- Data points at leaves only; internal nodes for branching and splitting.

# Splitting



- To get balanced trees, use the median coordinate for splitting—median itself can be put in either half.
- With median splitting, the height of the tree guaranteed to be  $O(\log n)$ .
- Either cycle through the splitting dimensions, or make data-dependent choices. E.g. select dimension with max spread.

# **Space Partitioning View**



- *kD*-tree induces a space subdivision—each node introduces a *x* or *y*-aligned cut.
- Points lying on two sides of the cut are passed to two children nodes.
- The subdivision consists of rectangular regions, called cells (possibly unbounded).
- Root corresponds to entire space; each child inherits one of the halfspaces, so on.
- Leaves correspond to the terminal cells.
- Special case of a general partition BSP.

### Construction



- Can be built in  $O(n \log n)$  time recursively.
- Presort points by x and y-coordinates, and cross-link these two sorted lists.
- Find the x-median, say, by scanning the x list. Split the list into two. Use the cross-links to split the y-list in O(n) time.
- Now two subproblems, each of size n/2, and with their own sorted lists. Recurse.
- Recurrence T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n, which solves to  $T(n) = O(n \log n)$ .

### Searching kD-Trees



- Suppose query rectangle is *R*. Start at root node.
- Suppose current splitting line is vertical (analogous for horizontal). Let v, w be left and right children nodes.
- If v a leaf, report  $cell(v) \cap R$ ; if  $cell(v) \subseteq R$ , report all points of cell(v); if  $cell(v) \cap R = \emptyset$ , skip; otherwise, search subtree of v recursively.
- Do the same for w.
- Procedure obviously correct. What is the time complexity?

## Search Complexity



- When  $cell(v) \subseteq R$ , complexity is linear in output size.
- It suffices to bound the number of nodes vvisited for which the boundaries of cell(v)and R intersect.
- If cell(v) outside R, we don't search it; if cell(v) inside R, we enumerate all points in region of v; a recursive call is made only if cell(v) partially overlaps R; the kD-tree height is O(log n).
- Let  $\ell$  be the line defining one side of R.
- We prove a bound on the number of cells that intersect  $\ell$ ; this is more than what is needed; multiply by 4 for total bound.

# Search Complexity



- How many cells can a line intersect?
- Since splitting dimensions alternate, the key idea is to consider two levels of the tree at a time.
- Suppose the first cut is vertical, and second horizontal. We have 4 cells, each with n/4 points.
- A line intersects exactly two cells; the others cells will be either outside or entirely inside *R*.
- The recurrence is

$$Q(n) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \\ 2Q(n/4) + 2 \end{array} \right.$$

if n = 1, otherwise.

## Search Complexity



• The recurrence Q(n) = 2Q(n/4) + 2 solves to

 $Q(n) = O(\sqrt{n})$ 

• kD-Tree is an O(n) space data structure that solves 2D range query in worst-case time  $O(\sqrt{n} + m)$ , where m is the output size.

## *d*-Dim Search Complexity

- What's the complexity in higher dimensions?
- Try 3D, and then generalize.
- The recurrence is

$$Q(n) = 2^{d-1}Q(n/2^d) + 1$$

• It solves to

$$Q(n) = O(n^{1-1/d})$$

• kD-Tree is an O(dn) space data structure that solves d-dim range query in worst-case time  $O(n^{1-1/d} + m)$ , where m is the output size.

# **Orthogonal Range Trees**



- Generalize 1D search trees to dimension d.
- Each search recursively decomposes into multiple lower dimensional searches.
- Search complexity is  $O((\log n)^d + k)$ , where k is the answer size.
- Space & time complexity  $O(n(\log n)^{d-1})$ .
- Fractional cascading eliminates one  $\log n$  factor from search time.
- We focus on 2D, but ideas readily extend.

## **2D Range Trees**

- Suppose  $P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$  set of points in the plane.
- The generic query is  $R = [x_{lo}, x_{hi}] \times [y_{lo}, y_{hi}]$ .
- We first ignore the *y*-coordinates, and build a 1D *x*-range tree on *P*.



- The set of points that fall in  $[x_{lo}, x_{hi}]$ belong to  $O(\log n)$  canonical sets.
- This is a superset of the final answer. It can be significantly bigger than  $|R \cap P|$ , so we can't afford to look at each point in these canonical sets.

#### Level 2 Trees

- Key idea is to collect points of each canonical set, and build a *y*-range tree on them.
- E.g., the canonical set {9,12,14,15} is organized into a 1D range tree using those points' y-coordinates.



- We search each of the  $O(\log n)$  canonical sets that include points for x-range  $[x_{lo}, x_{hi}]$ using their y-range trees for range  $[y_{lo}, y_{hi}]$ .
- The y-range searches list out the points in  $R \cap P$ . (No duplicates.)

## **Canonical Sets**



Level 1 canonical sets.

#### Analysis

- Time complexity for 2D is  $O((\log n)^2)$ .
  - **1.**  $O(\log n)$  canonical sets for *x*-range.
  - 2. Each set's y-range query takes  $O(\log n)$  time.



- Space complexity is  $O(n \log n)$ .
  - 1. What is the total size of all canonical sets in *x*-tree?
  - **2.** Number of nodes  $\equiv$  number of leaves.
  - **3.** One set of size n. Two of size n/2, etc.
  - 4. Total is  $O(n \log n)$ .
  - 5. Each canonical set of size m requires O(m) space for the y-range tree.
  - 6. So, overall space is  $O(n \log n)$ .

#### Construction



- The x-tree can be built in  $O(n \log n)$  time.
- Naively, since total size of all y-trees is O(n log n), it will take O(n(log n)<sup>2</sup>) time to build them.
- By building them bottom-up, we can avoid sorting cost at each node.
- Once *y*-trees for the children nodes are built, we can merge their *y*-lists to get the parent's *y*-list in linear time.
- The cost of building the 1D range tree is linear after sorting.
- Thus, total time is linear in  $O(n \log n)$ , the total sizes of all *y*-tree.s

# d-Dim Range Trees

- The multi-level range tree idea extends naturally to any dimension *d*.
- Build the *x*-tree on first coordinate.
- At each node v of this tree, build the (d-1)-dimensional range tree for canonical set of v on the remaining d-1 dimensions.
- Search complexity grows by one  $\log n$ factor for each dimension—each dimensional increases the number of canonical sets by  $\log n$  factor.
- So, search cost is  $O((\log n)^d)$ .
- Space and time complexity is  $O(n(\log n)^{d-1}).$

## **Fractional Cascading**

- A technique that improves the range tree search time by log factor. 2D search can be done in  $O(\log n)$  time.
- Basic idea: Range tree first finds the set of points lying in  $[x_{lo}, x_{hi}]$  as union of  $O(\log n)$  canonical sets.
- Next, each canonical set is searched using the *y*-tree for range  $[y_{lo}, y_{hi}]$ . We locate  $y_{lo}$ ; then read off points until  $y_{hi}$  reached.
- Since each set is searched for the same key,  $y_{lo}$ , we can improve the search to O(1) per set.
- In effect, we do the first search in  $O(\log n)$  time, but then use that information to search other structures more efficiently.
- The key is to place smart hooks linking the search structures for the canonical sets.

#### **Basic Idea**

- To understand the basic idea, consider a simple example.
- We have two sets of numbers,  $A_1, A_2$ , both sorted.
- Given a range [x, x'], want to report all keys in  $A_1, A_2$  that lie in the range.
- Straightforward method takes  $2 \log n + k$ , if k is the answer size; separate binary searches in  $A_1, A_2$  to locate x.
- For example, range [20, 65].



# **Fractional Cascading Idea**

- Suppose  $A_2 \subset A_1$ . Add pointers from  $A_1$  to  $A_2$ .
- If  $A_1[i] = y_i$ , store ptr to entry in  $A_2$  with smallest key  $\geq y_i$ . (Nil if undefined.)



- Suppose we want keys in range [y, y'].
- Search  $A_1$  for y, and walk until past y'. Time  $O(\log n + k_1)$ .
- If  $A_1$  search for y ended at  $A_1[i]$ , use its pointer to start search in  $A_2$ . This takes  $O(1+k_2)$  time.
- Example [20,65].

# FC in Range Trees

- Key observation: canonical subsets  $S(\ell(v))$ and S(r(v)) are subsets of S(v).
- The *x*-tree is same as before. But instead of building *y*-trees for canonical subsets, we store them as sorted arrays, by *y*-coordinate.
- Each entry in A(v) stores two pointers, into arrays  $A(\ell(v))$  and A(r(v)).
- If A(v)[i] stores point p, then ptr into  $A(\ell(v))$  is to entry with smallest y-coordinate  $\geq y(p)$ . Same for (r(v)).

## **Range Tree FC**

• Only some pointers shown to avoid clutter.



#### FC Search

- Consider range  $R = [x, x'] \times [y, y']$ .
- Search for x, x' in the main x-tree.
- Let  $v_{split}$  be the node where the two search paths diverge.
- The O(log n) canonical subsets correspond to nodes that lie below v<sub>split</sub>, and are the right (left) child of a node on search path to x (resp. x') where the path goes left (resp. right).



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#### FC Search

- At  $v_{split}$ , do binary search to locate y in  $A(v_{split})$ .  $O(\log n)$  time.
- As we search down the *x*-tree for x, x', keep track of the entries in the associated arrays for smallest keys  $\geq y$ , at O(1) cost per node.



- Let A(v) be one of the O(log n) canonical nodes that is to be searched for [y, y'] range.
- We just need to find the smallest entry in  $A(v) \ge y$ .

#### FC Search

• We can find this in O(1) time because parent(v) is on the search path, and we know smallest entry  $\geq y$  in A(parent(v)), and have a pointer from that to v's array.



- So we can output all points in A(v) that lie in range [y, y'] in time  $O(1 + k_v)$ , where  $k_v$  is the answer size.
- For 2D range search, the final time complexity is  $O(\log n + k)$ , and space  $O(n \log n)$ .
- d-dim range search takes  $O((\log n)^{d-1} + k)$ time with fractional cascading.