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.

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.

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 ℓ be the line defining one side of R.
- We prove a bound on the number of cells that intersect ℓ ; 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.