CSCI2100: Regular Exercise Set 4

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Problem 1. Recall that our RAM model has been extended with an atomic operation RANDOM(x, y) which, given integers x, y, returns an integer chosen uniformly at random from $[x, y]$. Suppose that you are allowed to call the operation *only* with $x = 1$ and $y = 128$. Describe an algorithm to obtain a uniformly random number between 1 and 100. Your algorithm must finish in $O(1)$ expected time.

Problem 2*. Suppose that we enforce an even harder constraint that you are allowed to call RANDOM(x, y) *only* with $x = 0$ and $y = 1$. Describe an algorithm to generate a uniformly random number in $[1, n]$ for an arbitrary integer n. Your algorithm must finish in $O(\log n)$ expected time.

Problem 3. For the k-selection problem, consider an input array A that has $n = 120$ elements. Our randomized algorithm selects a number v, and recurse into a smaller array A' if the rank of v is within $[n/3, 2n/3] = [40, 80]$. For $k = 20$, what is the probability that the size of A' is at most 60?

Problem 4* (Textbook Exercise 9.3-8). Let $X[1..n]$ and $Y[1..n]$ be two arrays, each containing n integers in ascending order. Consider that all the $2n$ integers are distinct. Let k be an integer between 1 and $2n$. Give an $O(\log n)$-time algorithm for finding the k-th smallest of the $2n$ elements.

Problem 5 (A Simpler Randomized Algorithm for k-Selection, but with a More Tedious Analysis).** In the k-selection problem, we have an array S of n distinct integers (not necessarily sorted). We would like to find the k-th smallest integer in S where $k \in [1, n]$. Here is another way of solving it using randomization. If $n = 1$, then we simply return the only element in S. For $n > 1$, we proceed as follows:

- Randomly pick an integer v in S, and obtain the rank r of v in S.
- If $r = k$, return v.
- If $r > k$, produce an array S' containing the integers of S that are smaller than v. Recurse by finding the k-th smallest in S'.
- Otherwise, produce an array S' containing the integers of S that are larger than v. Recurse by finding the $(r - k)$-th smallest in S'.

Prove that the above algorithm finishes in $O(n)$ expected time.