

# Modify Range Search to find NNs

Def Given a set  $P \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and a point  $q \in \mathbb{R}^d$   
the nearest neighbor of  $q$  (in  $P$ ) is  
the point  $p \in P$  s.t.  $\|p - q\| \leq \|p' - q\|$  for all  $p' \in P$ .

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A first attempt:

$NN_1(T, q)$

If  $T$  is a single node, return  $T$ . point

Else

    let  $a = NN(T.\text{left}, q)$

    let  $b = NN(T.\text{right}, q)$

    If  $\|a - q\| \leq \|b - q\|$  return  $a$  else return  $b$ .

This is  
Brute  
Force

A second Attempt

$NN_2(T, q)$

If  $T$  is a single node, return  $T$ . point

Else If  $q \in T.\text{left}$  return  $NN(T.\text{left}, q)$

Else return  $NN(T.\text{right}, q)$

gives wrong  
answer

(quickly!)

$NN(T: \text{tree}, q: \text{query}, p: \text{guess})$

If  $T$  is a leaf

~~return  $T.\text{point}$~~

return  $(\|q-p\| < \|q-T.\text{point}\|) ? p : T.\text{point}$

If  $(T.\text{left} \cap \text{ball}(q, \|q-p\|) \neq \emptyset)$

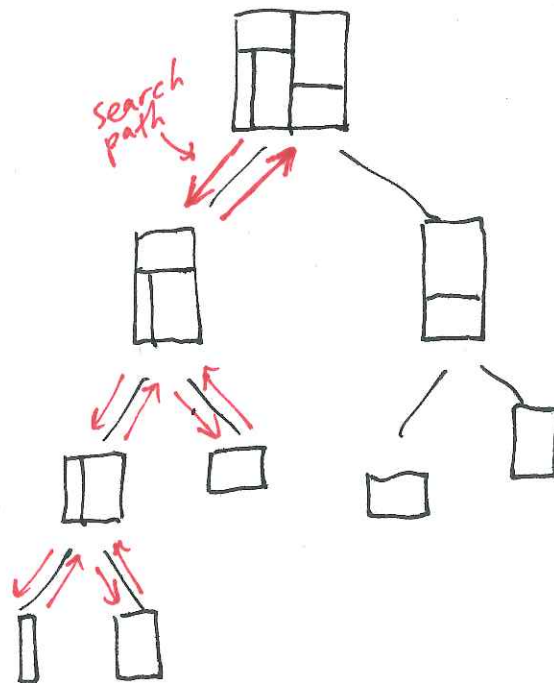
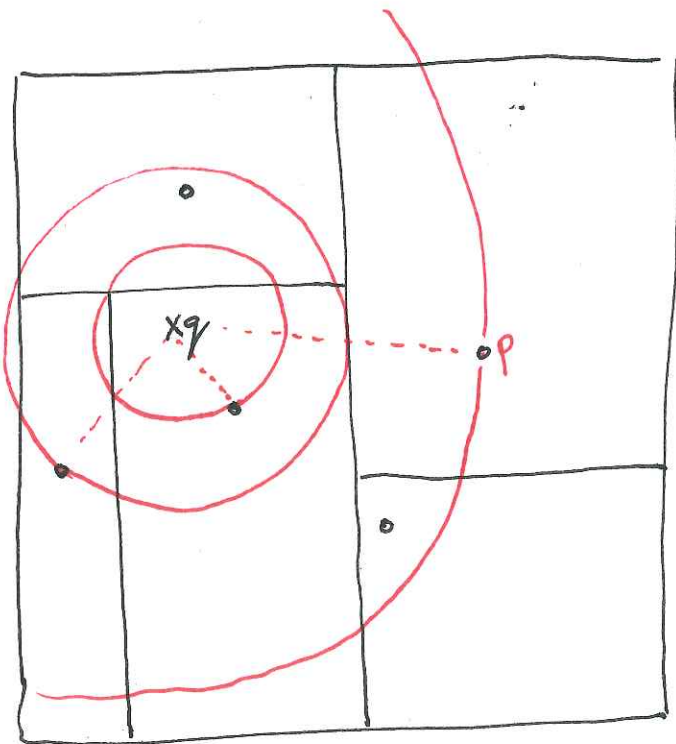
$\{ l = NN(T.\text{left}, q, p) \}$

If  $T.\text{right} \cap \text{ball}(q, \|q-p\|) \neq \emptyset$

~~return~~  $\{ r = NN(T.\text{right}, q, p) \}$

~~return  $(\|q-l\| < \|q-r\|) ? l : r$~~

Optimization (in red)  
use  $l$  as the new  
guess because it could  
be better than  $p$ .



Def Let  $P \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  and let  $q \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

For a constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , a c-approximate nearest neighbor (or c-ANN) of  $q$  is

a point  $p \in P$  s.t.  $\|p - q\| \leq c \|q - p'\|$  for all  $p' \in P$ .

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Note: It's easy to adapt our current NN code.

Replace  $\text{ball}(q, \|p - q\|)$  with  $\text{ball}(q, \frac{1}{c} \|p - q\|)$

ANN( $T$ : tree,  $q$ : query)

If  $T$  is a leaf, return  $T$ .point

For  $i = 1$  to 4

{ If  $q \in T$ .child( $i$ )

{  $p = \text{ANN}(T$ .child( $i$ ),  $q$ ) }

}

If  $p == \text{nil}$ , return whatever( $T$ )

else return  $p$ .

*any point will do.*

Assume  $P \subset \underbrace{[0,1] \times [0,1]}_{\text{unit square}}$

Level  $i$  of the QT has squares with sidelength  $\frac{1}{2^i}$  (so root is level 0).

The scale at level  $i$  is  $\frac{1}{2^i}$

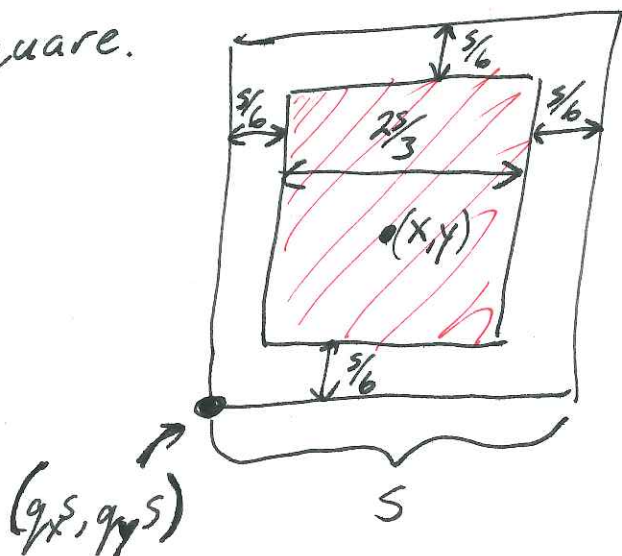
A square containing a point  $x$  at scale  $s$  is denoted  $\text{square}(s, x)$

Def A point  $(x,y)$  is central in Square  $(s, (x,y))$   
if there are integers  $q_x, q_y$  s.t.

$$\frac{s}{6} \leq x - q_x s \leq \frac{5s}{6}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{s}{6} \leq y - q_y s \leq \frac{5s}{6}$$

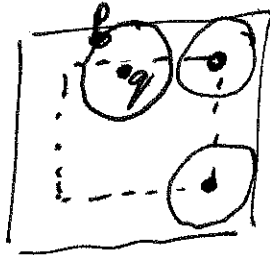
In other words  $(x,y)$  is in the middle  $\frac{2}{3}$  of  
the square.



Let  $q$  be the query and let  $p = \text{NN}(q)$ .

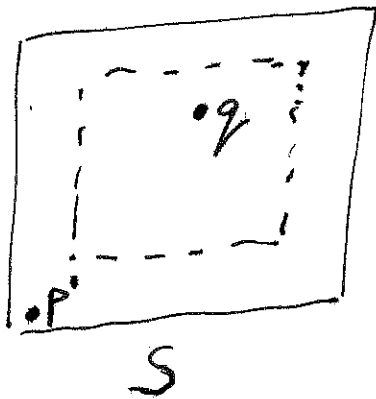
Lem 1 If  $q$  is central in  $\text{square}(s, q)$  for  $s > 6\|p-q\|$  then  $p \in \text{square}(s, q)$ .

pf sketch



Lem 2 If  $q$  is central in  $\text{square}(s, q)$  and  $\text{square}(s, q)$  contains at least one point of  $P$  then  $\|p-q\| \leq s\sqrt{2}$  and  $\|q - \text{ANN}(QT, q)\| \leq s\sqrt{2}$

pf sketch



Let  $p' = \text{ANN}(QT, q) \in \text{square}(s, q)$ .  
 $\|p-q\| \leq \|p'-q\| \leq s\sqrt{2}$ .



\* It would be nice if  $q$  is central  
in  $\text{Square}(s, q)$  where

$$6\|p-q\| \leq s < 12\|p-q\|$$

**Why?**

By Lem 1,  $p \in \text{Square}(s, q)$

So, by Lem 2,  $\|q - \text{ANN}(QT, q)\| \leq s\sqrt{2} < 12\sqrt{2}\|p-q\|$

Thus, by def<sup>n</sup>,  $\text{ANN}(QT, q)$  is a  $12\sqrt{2}$ -ANN.

not  
great, but it  
is constant.

Idea: Shift the Coordinate System

Store 3 QTs. Search in parallel.

(Search 3 times and pick best answer)

Let  $v_i = (\frac{i}{3}, \frac{i}{3})$  for  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$

$P_i = \{p + v_i : p \in P\}$  (so,  $P_0 = P$ )

$QT_i$  is the quadtree for  $P_i$

New Algorithm:

For  $i = 0 \dots 2$

answer[i] = ANN( $QT_i, q + v_i$ )

return best answer.

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Claim: For any  $p, q \in [0, 1]^2$ , there is a shift  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  s.t.  $q$  is central in square  $(s, q)$  where

$$6\|p - q\| \leq s < 12\|p - q\|$$

this should blow your mind a little.