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Partial match queries in random quadtrees

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We consider the problem of recovering items matching a partially specified pattern in multidimensional trees (quad trees and k-d trees). We assume the traditional model where the data consist of independent and uniform points in the unit square. For this model, in a structure on $n^{0} \$ points, it is known that the number of nodes $C_n(xi)$ to visit in order to report the items matching an independent and uniformly on 0,1] random query xis satisfies $E_C (C_n(xi)) \$ im kappa $n^{1} \$, where $\lambda a a \beta \$ are explicit constants. We develop an approach based on the analysis of the cost $C_n (x)$ of any fixed query xin [0,1], and give precise estimates for the variance and limit distribution of the cost $C_n(x)$. Our results permit to describe a limit process for the costs $C_n(x)$ as $xx \$ varies in [0,1]; one of the consequences is that $E{\max_{xin} [0,1]} C_n(x)$ is matching an $n^{1} \$.

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