

1 Integer Arithmetic

1.1 Addition

As you would expect, the time to add two n -digit numbers is proportional to the number of digits, $\Theta(n)$. Since each digit must be used to compute the sum.

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ + 1234 \\ \hline 6912 \end{array}$$

We assume that each digital addition takes constant time (with carry also) and label this constant α . The time to add two n -digit numbers is then αn .

1.2 Problem Size

If we were attempting to determine if a number was prime we would divide it by consecutive primes up to the square root of that number. In Computer Science we want to approach all problems in terms of the problem size. So we should look at both in terms of the *number of digits* and not the size of the number. So while the prime identification problem is $\Theta(\sqrt{m})$ where m is the number, expressed in binary as 2^n , n being the number of binary digits results in $\Theta(2^{n/2})$. Giving an exponential time algorithm.

1.3 Multiplication

The elementary approach to multiplication runs in $\Theta(n^2)$ time because every digit on top is multiplied by every digit on the bottom. There are $2n(n-1)$ atomic additions in this elementary approach.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1234 \\ \times 5678 \\ \hline 8638 \\ 7404 \\ 6170 \\ \hline 706652 \end{array}$$

Recursive Multiplication

By memorizing numbers in large bases, say base 100, 2-digit decimal numbers can be treated as 1-digit numbers in base 100. That makes the multiplication easier, because there will be fewer steps. To generalize this for n -digit numbers, treat them

as base $10^{n/2}$ and cut each in half. Each has $n/2$ digits, and we know the base. Then, recurse through this method until we reach a base we have memorized. Then multiply them as two 2-digit numbers, and pull the answer.

Say we want to multiply two 2-digit numbers, ab and cd , we can then do the following.

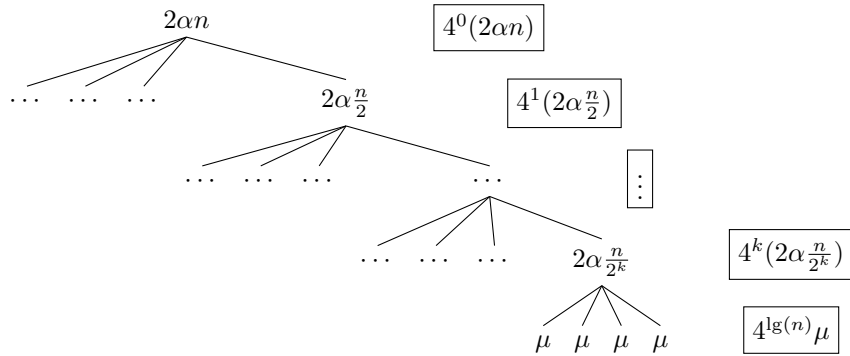
$$ad \times bc = ac + (ad + bc) + bd$$

In the example above ac is an n -digit number as are ad , bc , and bd . When adding, bc is not shifted, bc and ad are shifted by $n/2$ digits, and ac is shifted by n digits. Since ac and bd have no overlap you can add them through concatenation. Then, $ad + bc$ takes αn time and $ac + bd$ is also αn time. This results in a total add time of $2\alpha n$.

So without writing out a formal algorithm,

$$M(n) = 4M\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 2\alpha n$$

is the recursion we wish to work on. Now, to solve we assume that the base case time to multiply is μ . The base case is when both of our numbers are 1 digit long, i.e. $M(1) = \mu$.



Now to calculate the total number of atomic actions,

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i=0}^{\lg(n)-1} (4^i (2\alpha \frac{n}{2^i})) + 4^{\lg(n)} \mu \\
&= 2\alpha n \sum_{i=0}^{\lg n - 1} \frac{4^i}{2^i} \dots \\
&= 2\alpha n \sum_{i=0}^{\lg n - 1} 2^i \dots \\
&= 2\alpha n (2^{\lg n - 1 + 1} - 1) \\
&= 2\alpha n (n - 1) + 4^{\lg(n)} \mu \\
&= 2\alpha n (n - 1) + n^{\lg(4)} \mu \\
&= 2\alpha n (n - 1) + n^2 \mu \\
&= 2\alpha n (n - 1) + n^2 \mu
\end{aligned}$$

So we see that with this method we are doing n^2 multiplications and n^2 additions. In other words, this recursive method has the exact same running time as the elementary method.

Faster Multiplication