



南京大學

NANJING UNIVERSITY

Introduction to

# *Algorithm Design and Analysis*

[3] Recursion



*Yu Huang*

<http://cs.nju.edu.cn/yuhuang>  
Institute of Computer Software  
Nanjing University



# In the Last Class ...

- **Asymptotic growth rate**
  - $O, \Omega, \Theta$
  - $O, \omega$
- **Brute force algorithms**
  - By iteration
  - By recursion

# Recursion

- **Recursion in algorithm design**
  - The divide and conquer strategy
  - Proving the correctness of recursive procedures
- **Solving recurrence equations**
  - Some elementary techniques
  - Master theorem

# Recursion in Algorithm Design

- Computing  $n!$  with  $\text{Fac}(n)$

- if  $n=1$  then return 1 else return  $\text{Fac}(n-1)*n$

**$M(1)=0$  and  $M(n)=M(n-1)+1$  for  $n>0$   
(critical operation: multiplication)**

- Hanoi Tower

- if  $n=1$  then move  $d(1)$  to peg3 else

Hanoi( $n-1$ , peg1, peg2); move  $d(n)$  to peg3; Hanoi( $n-1$ , peg2, peg3)

**$M(1)=1$  and  $M(n)=2M(n-1)+1$  for  $n>1$   
(critical operation: move)**



# Recursion in Algorithm Design

- **Counting the Number of Bits**
  - Input: a positive decimal integer  $n$
  - Output: the number of binary digits in  $n$ 's binary representation

## Int BitCounting (int n)

1. If( $n==1$ ) return 1;
2. Else
3. return BitCounting( $n \text{ div } 2$ ) +1;

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & n = 1 \\ T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1 & n > 1 \end{cases}$$



# Divide and Conquer

- **Divide**
  - Divide the “big” problem to smaller ones
- **Conquer**
  - Solve the “small” problems by **recursion**
- **Combine**
  - Combine results of small problems, and solve the original problem

# Divide and Conquer

The general pattern

`solve(I)`

`n=size(I);`

`if (n≤smallSize)`

`solution=directlySolve(I);`

`else`

`divide I into  $I_1, \dots, I_k$ ;`

`for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$`

`$S_i$ =solve( $I_i$ );`

`solution=combine( $S_1, \dots, S_k$ );`

`return solution`

$$T(n)=B(n) \text{ for } n \leq \text{smallSize}$$

$$T(n)=D(n)+\sum_{i=1}^k T(\text{size}(I_i))+C(n)$$

for  $n > \text{smallSize}$



# Divide Conquer

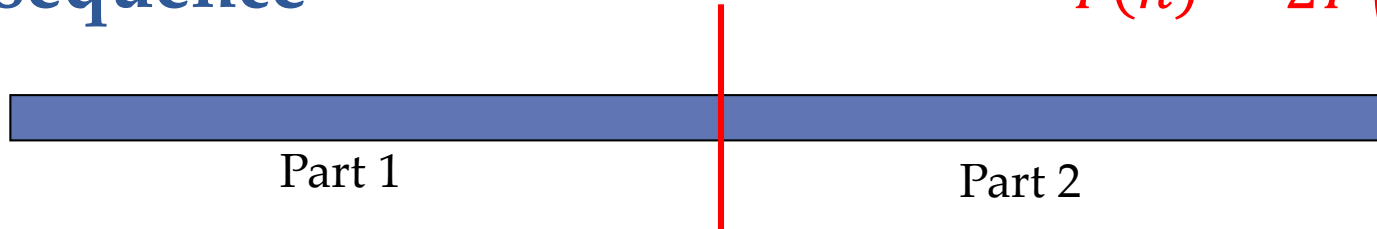
- **The BF recursion**
  - Problem size: often decreases linearly
    - “ $n, n-1, n-2, \dots$ ”
- **The D&C recursion**
  - Problem size: often decrease exponentially
    - “ $n, n/2, n/4, n/8, \dots$ ”



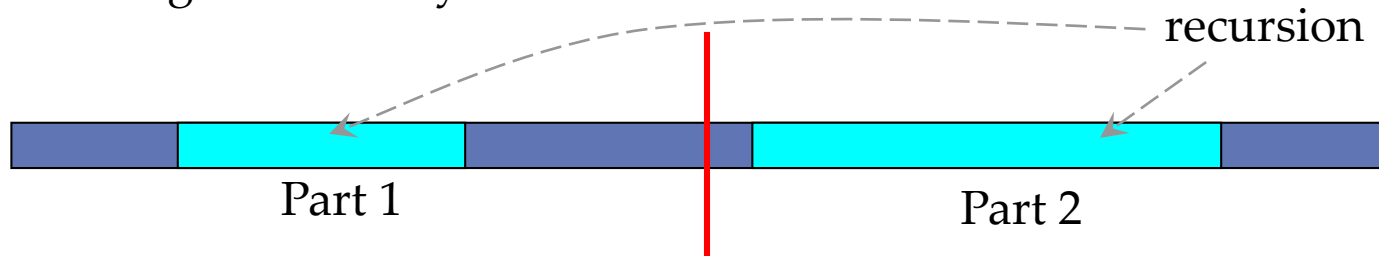
# Examples

## Max sum subsequence

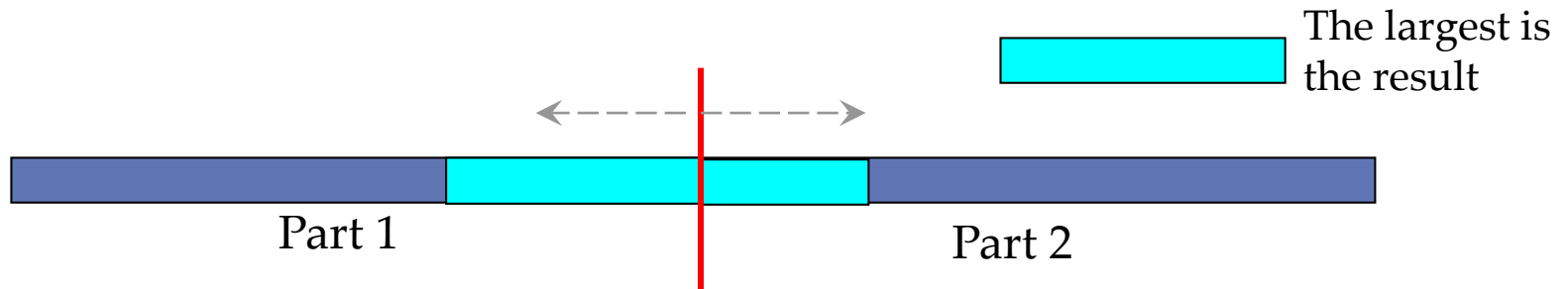
$$T(n) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n$$



the sub with largest sum may be in:



or:



# Examples

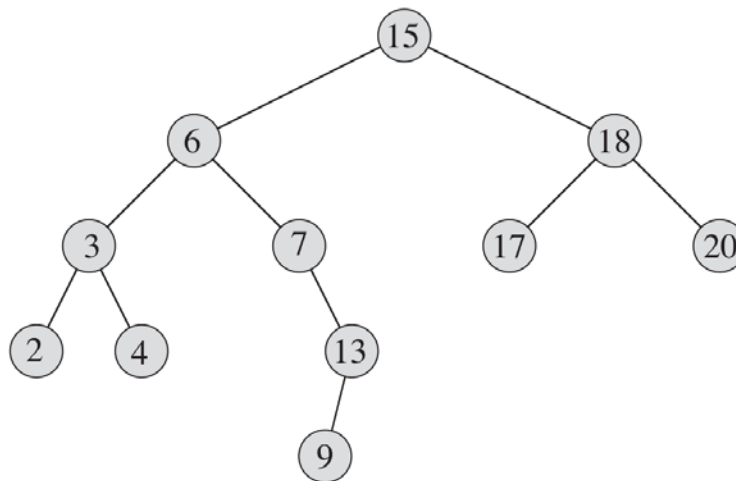
- **Maxima**
- **Frequent element**
- **Multiplication**
  - Integer
  - Matrix
- **Nearest point pair**

# Examples

- **Arrays**

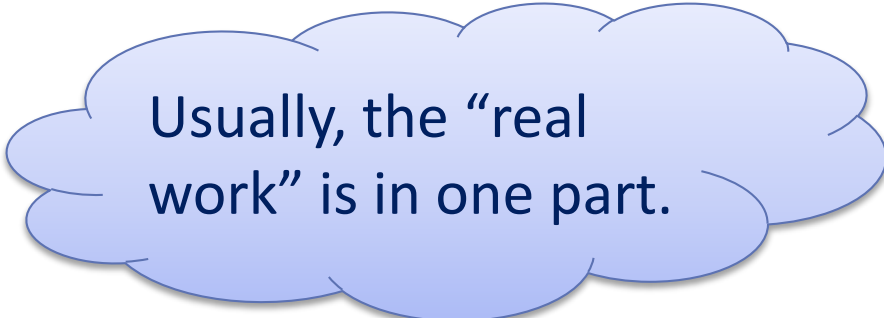
3 5 7 8 9 12 15

- **Trees**



# Workhorse

- “Hard division, easy combination”
- “Easy division, hard combination”



Usually, the “real work” is in one part.

# More Applications of D&C

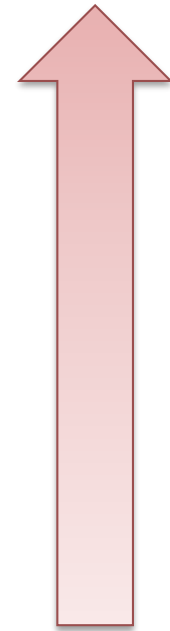
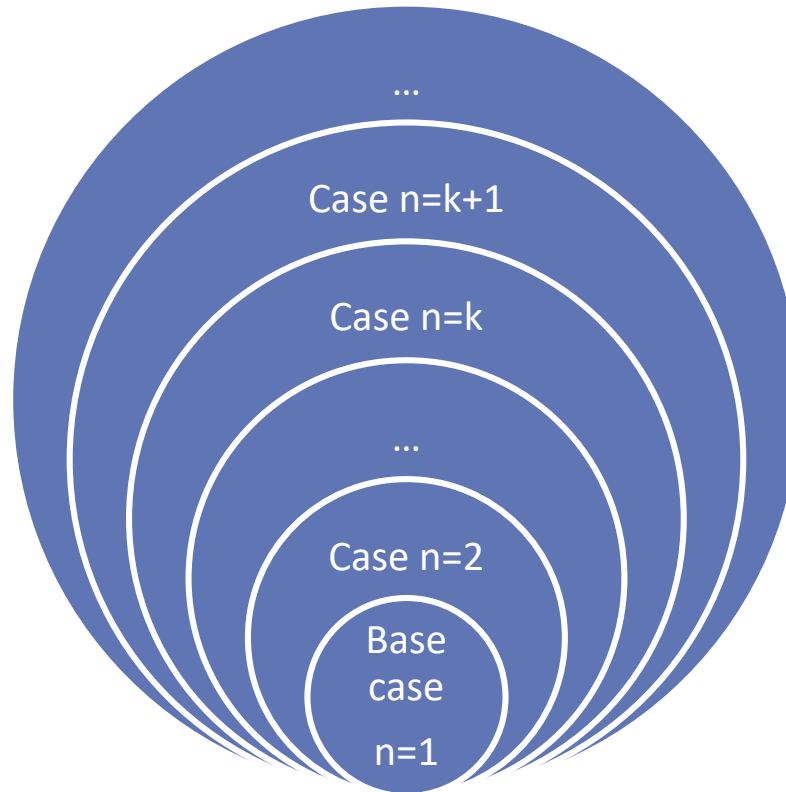
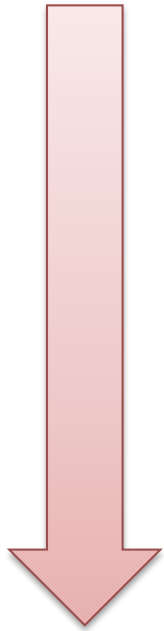
The simplest, most important tool for reducing complexity is the **divide-and-conquer** technique: analyze or design the system as a collection of interacting subsystems, called *modules*. The power of this technique lies primarily in being able to consider interactions among the components within a module without simultaneously thinking about the components that are inside other modules.

J. Saltzer et al., Principles of Computer System Design, Chap. 1.3.1.



# Correctness of Recursion

Recursion



Induction

# Analysis of Recursion

- Solving recurrence equations
- E.g., Bit counting
  - Critical operation: add
  - The recurrence relation

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & n = 1 \\ T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1 & n > 1 \end{cases}$$

# Analysis of Recursion

- Backward substitutions

By the recursion equation :  $T(n) = T\left(\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor\right) + 1$

For simplicity , let  $n = 2^k$  ( $k$  is a nonnegative integer ),  
that is,  $k = \log n$

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 1 = T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + 1 + 1 = T\left(\frac{n}{8}\right) + 1 + 1 + 1 = \dots$$

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2^k}\right) + \log n = \log n \quad (T(1)=0)$$



# Smooth Functions

- $f(n)$ 
  - Nonnegative **eventually non-decreasing** function defined on the set of natural numbers
- $f(n)$  is called **smooth**
  - If  $f(2n) \in \Theta(f(n))$ .
- **Examples of smooth functions**
  - $\log n$ ,  $n$ ,  $n \log n$  and  $n^\alpha$  ( $\alpha \geq 0$ )
  - E.g.,  $2n \log 2n = 2n(\log n + \log 2) \in \Theta(n \log n)$

# Even Smoother

- Let  $f(n)$  be a smooth function, then, for any fixed integer  $b \geq 2$ ,  $f(bn) \in \Theta(f(n))$ .
  - That is, there exist positive constants  $c_b$  and  $d_b$  and a nonnegative integer  $n_0$  such that

$$d_b f(n) \leq f(bn) \leq c_b f(n) \quad \text{for } n \geq n_0.$$

*It is easy to prove that the result holds for  $b = 2^k$ , for the second inequality :*

$$f(2^k n) \leq c_2^k f(n) \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{ and } n \geq n_0.$$

*For an arbitrary integer  $b \geq 2$ ,  $2^{k-1} \leq b \leq 2^k$*

*Then,  $f(bn) \leq f(2^k n) \leq c_2^k f(n)$ , we can use  $c_2^k$  as  $c_b$ .*

# Smoothness Rule

- Let  $T(n)$  be an eventually non-decreasing function and  $f(n)$  be a smooth function.
  - If  $T(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$  for values of  $n$  that are powers of  $b(b \geq 2)$ , then  $T(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$ .

*Just proving the big - Oh part :*

*By the hypothesis :  $T(b^k) \leq cf(b^k)$  for  $b^k \geq n_0$ .*

*By the prior result :  $f(bn) \leq c_b f(n)$  for  $n \geq n_0$ .*

*Let  $n_0 \leq b^k \leq n \leq b^{k+1}$ ,*

*$T(n) \leq T(b^{k+1}) \leq cf(b^{k+1}) = cf(bb^k) \leq cc_b f(b^k) \leq cc_b f(n)$*



# Fibonacci Sequence

$$f_0=0$$

$$f_1=1$$

$$f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$$



0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, .....

Explicit formula for Fibonacci Sequence

The characteristic equation is  $x^2 - x - 1 = 0$ , which has roots:

$$s_1 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad s_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

Note: (by initial conditions)  $f_1 = us_1 + vs_2 = 1$  and  $f_2 = us_1^2 + vs_2^2 = 1$

which  
means:

$$f_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n$$

# Guess and Prove

- Example:  $T(n) = 2T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + n$

- Guess

- $T(n) \in O(n)$ ?

- $T(n) \leq cn$ , to be proved

- $T(n) \in O(n^2)$ ?

- $T(n) \leq cn^2$ , to be proved

- **Or maybe**,  $T(n) \in O(n \log n)$

- $T(n) \leq cn \log n$ , to be proved

- Prove

- by substitution

Try to prove  $T(n) \leq cn$ :

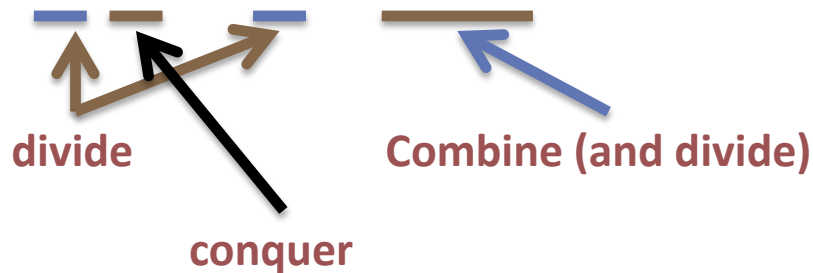
However:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 2T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + n \\ &\leq 2(c\lfloor n/2 \rfloor \log(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)) + n \\ &\leq cn \log(n/2) + n \\ &= cn \log n - cn \log 2 + n \\ &= cn \log n - cn + n \\ &\leq cn \log n \quad \text{for } c \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

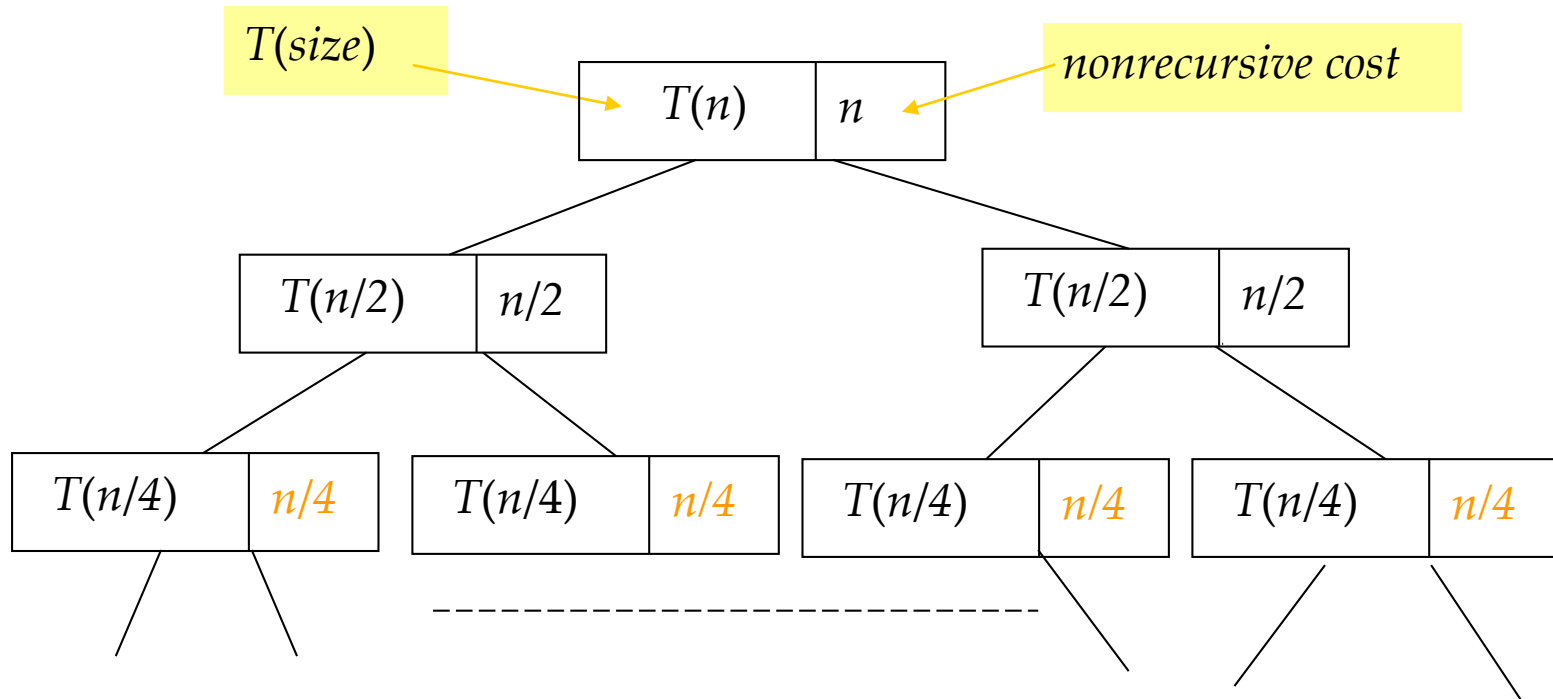
# Divide and Conquer Recursions

- **Divide and conquer**
  - **Divide** the “big” problem to smaller ones
  - **Conquer** the “small” problems by recursion
  - **Combine** results of small problems, and solve the original problem
- **Divide and conquer recursion**

$$T(n) = b T(n/c) + f(n)$$



# Recursion Tree



**The recursion tree for  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$**

# Recursion Tree

- **Node**

- Non-leaf

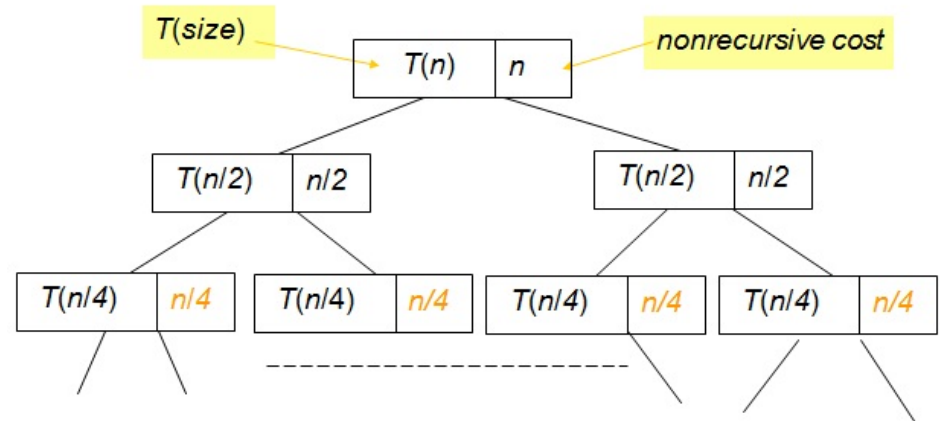
- Non-recursive cost
    - Recursive cost

- Leaf

- Base case

- **Edge**

- Recursion



The recursion tree for  $T(n) = T(n/2) + T(n/2) + n$



# Recursion Tree

Recursive cost

Non-recursive cost

- $T(n) = 3T(n/4) + \Theta(n^2)$

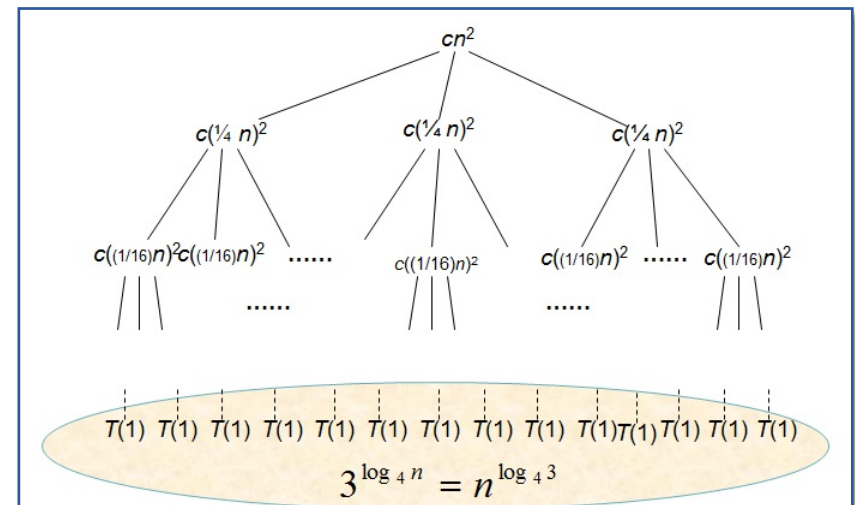
# of sub-problems

size of sub-problems

- Total cost

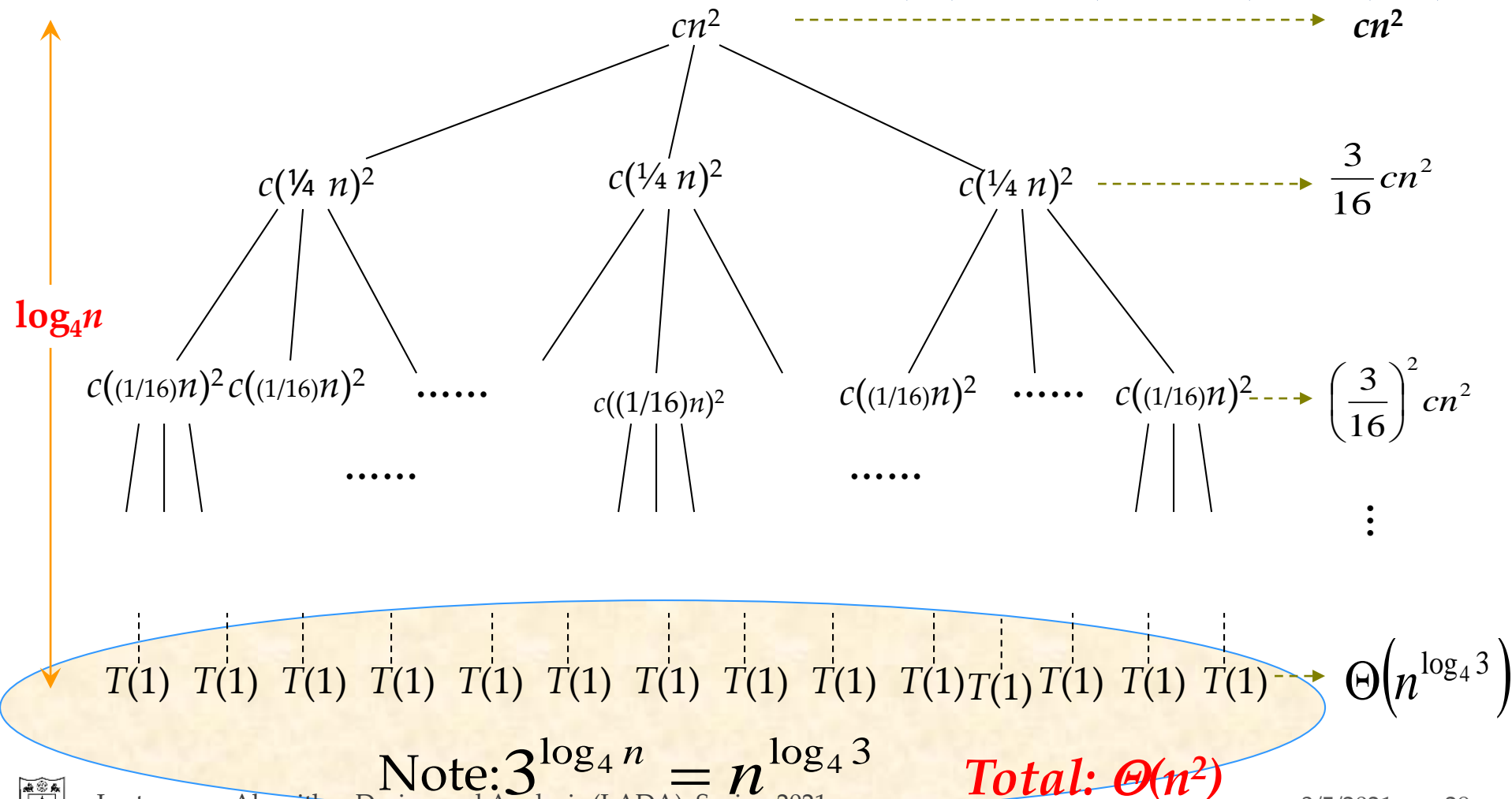
$\Sigma$

Sum of row sums



# Sum of Row-sums

$$T(n)=3T(\lfloor n/4 \rfloor)+\Theta(n^2)$$

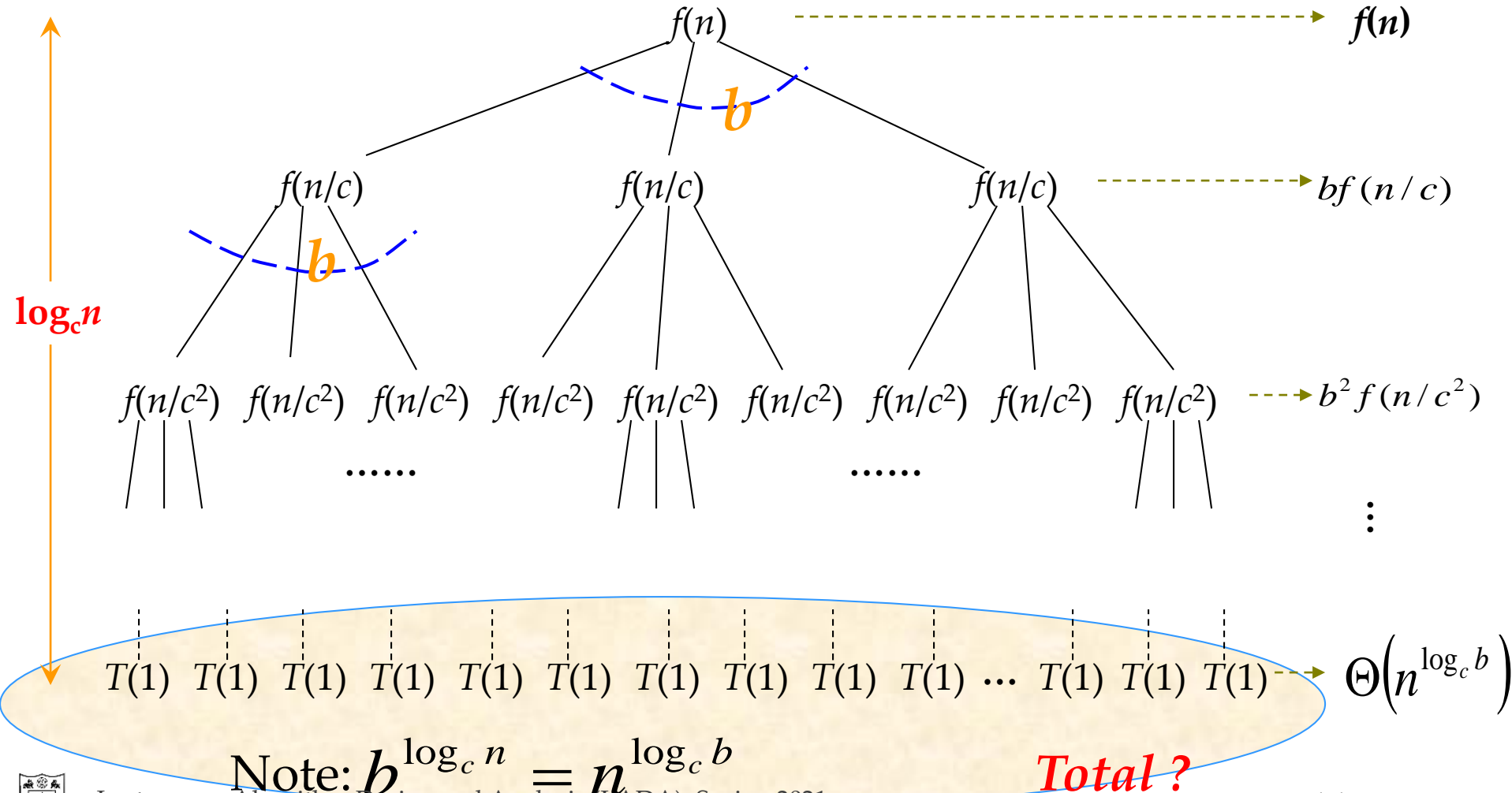


# Solving the Divide-and-Conquer Recurrence

- The recursion equation for divide-and-conquer, the general case:  $T(n)=bT(n/c)+f(n)$
- Observations:
  - Let base-cases occur at depth  $D(\text{leaf})$ , then  $n/c^D=1$ , that is  $D=\log(n)/\log(c)$
  - Let the number of leaves of the tree be  $L$ , then  $L=b^D$ , that is  $L=b^{(\log(n)/\log(c))}$ .
  - By a little algebra:  $L=n^E$ , where  $E=\log(b)/\log(c)$ , called *critical exponent*.

# Recursion Tree for

$$T(n) = bT(n/c) + f(n)$$



# Divide-and-Conquer - the Solution

- The solution of divide-and-conquer equation is the non-recursive costs of all nodes in the tree, which is the sum of the row-sums
  - The recursion tree has depth  $D = \log(n) / \log(c)$ , so there are about that many row-sums.
- The 0<sup>th</sup> row-sum
  - is  $f(n)$ , the nonrecursive cost of the root.
- The  $D^{\text{th}}$  row-sum
  - is  $n^E$ , assuming base cases cost 1, or  $\Theta(n^E)$  in any event.

# Solution by Row-sums

- [Little Master Theorem] Row-sums decide the solution of the equation for divide-and-conquer:
  - Increasing geometric series:  $T(n) \in \Theta(n^E)$
  - Constant:  $T(n) \in \Theta(f(n) \log n)$
  - Decreasing geometric series:  $T(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$

This can be generalized to get a result not using explicitly row-sums.

# Master Theorem

- **Loosening the restrictions on  $f(n)$** 
  - Case 1:  $f(n) \in O(n^{E-\varepsilon})$ , ( $\varepsilon > 0$ ), then:  
$$T(n) \in \Theta(n^E)$$
  - Case 2:  $f(n) \in \Theta(n^E)$ , as all node depth contribute about equally:  
$$T(n) \in \Theta(f(n) \log(n))$$
  - case 3:  $f(n) \in \Omega(n^{E+\varepsilon})$ , ( $\varepsilon > 0$ ), and if  $bf(n/c) \leq \theta f(n)$  for some constant  $\theta < 1$  and all sufficiently large  $n$ , then:  
$$T(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$$

The positive  $\varepsilon$  is critical, resulting gaps between cases as well

# Using Master Theorem

- Example 1:  $T(n) = 9T(\frac{n}{3}) + n$   
 $b = 9, c = 3, E = 2, f(n) = n = O(n^{E-1})$   
Case 1 applies:  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$
- Example 2:  $T(n) = T(\frac{2}{3}n) + 1$   
 $b = 1, c = \frac{3}{2}, E = 0, f(n) = 1 = \Theta(n^E)$   
Case 2 applies:  $T(n) = \Theta(\log n)$
- Example 3:  $T(n) = 3T(\frac{n}{4}) + n \log n$   
 $b = 3, c = 4, E = \log_4 3, f(n) = \Omega(n^{E+\epsilon})$   
 $bf(\frac{n}{4}) = \frac{3}{4}n \log n - \frac{3}{2}n$   
Case 3 applies:  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$



# Using Master Theorem

- $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n \log n$ 
  - Does Case 3 apply? Why?
- $T(n) = \sqrt{n} T(\sqrt{n}) + n$
- The gap between the 3 cases
  - Often, none of the 3 cases apply
  - Your task: design more non-solvable recursions

*Thank you!*

*Q & A*

*Yu Huang*

yuhuang@nju.edu.cn

<http://cs.nju.edu.cn/yuhuang>

