

# Karatsuba $O(n^{1.585})$

Directly:  $n$  digits,  $\Theta(n^2)$  runtime

Bad algorithm:  $a+a+ \dots + a$  ( $b$  times),  $O(n \cdot 10^n)$

Let's use divide and conquer.

$$a = a_h \cdot 10^{\frac{n}{2}} + a_l$$

$$b = b_h \cdot 10^{\frac{n}{2}} + b_l$$

$$a \cdot b = a_h \cdot b_h \cdot 10^n + (a_h \cdot b_l + a_l \cdot b_h) \cdot 10^{\frac{n}{2}} + a_l \cdot b_l$$

First attempt:

MULT( $a, b$ ):

1. Recursively compute: MULT( $a_h, b_h$ ), MULT( $a_h, b_l$ ), MULT( $a_l, b_h$ ), MULT( $a_l, b_l$ )
2. Output: Runtime  $T(n) = 4 \cdot T(\frac{n}{2}) + \Theta(n)$   
 $n + 2n + 4n + \dots n^2 = \Theta(n^2)$

Actual idea:  $a_h \cdot b_l + a_l \cdot b_h = M - H - L$

1.  $H = a_h \cdot b_h$
2.  $M = (a_h + a_l) \cdot (b_h + b_l)$
3.  $L = a_l \cdot b_l$

MULT( $a, b$ ):

1. Recursively compute: MULT( $a_h, b_h$ ), MULT( $a_h + a_l, b_h + b_l$ ), MULT( $a_l, b_l$ )
2. Output: Runtime  $T(n) = 3 \cdot T(\frac{n}{2}) + \Theta(n)$   
 $n + \frac{3}{2}n + \frac{9}{4}n + \dots (\frac{3}{2})^{\log_2 n} n = \Theta(n^{1.585})$

Followup work:

- Toom-Cook (1963):  $T(n) = 5 \cdot T(\frac{n}{3}) + \Theta(n) = \Theta(n^{1.465})$
- Schomhage-Strassen (1971):  $\Theta(n \log n \cdot \log \log n)$
- Furer (2007):  $\Theta(n \log n \cdot 2^{\log_n^*}), \log_n^*$ : recursively take log of  $n$  until 1
- Harvey-de Hoeven (2019):  $\Theta(n \log n)$