even as an algorithmic question. But, in fact, elementary schoolers are taught a concrete (and quite efficient) algorithm to multiply two n-digit numbers x and y. You first compute a "partial product" by multiplying each digit of y separately by x, and then you add up all the partial products. (Figure 5.8 should help you recall this algorithm. In elementary school we always see this done in base-10, but it works exactly the same way in base-2 as well.) Counting a single operation on a pair of bits as one primitive step in this computation, it takes O(n) time to compute each partial product, and O(n) time to combine it in with the running sum of all partial products so far. Since there are n partial products, this is a total running time of $O(n^2)$.

First Idea

$$xy = (x_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + x_0)(y_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + y_0)$$

= $x_1y_1 \cdot 2^n + (x_1y_0 + x_0y_1) \cdot 2^{n/2} + x_0y_0.$ (5.1)

$$T(n) \le 4T(n/2) + cn$$

$$T(n) \leq = O(n^2)$$

Second Idea

$$(x_1 + x_0)(y_1 + y_0) = x_1y_1 + x_1y_0 + x_0y_1 + x_0y_0.$$

$$T(n) \leq 3T(n/2) + cn$$

$$O(n^{\log_2 3}) = O(n^{1.59}).$$

Recursive-Multiply(x,y):

Write
$$x = x_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + x_0$$

 $y = y_1 \cdot 2^{n/2} + y_0$

Compute $x_1 + x_0$ and $y_1 + y_0$

 $p = \text{Recursive-Multiply}(x_1 + x_0, y_1 + y_0)$

 $x_1y_1 = \text{Recursive-Multiply}(x_1, y_1)$

 $x_0y_0 = \text{Recursive-Multiply}(x_0, y_0)$

Return $x_1y_1 \cdot 2^n + (p - x_1y_1 - x_0y_0) \cdot 2^{n/2} + x_0y_0$