

# Chapter 5

## Divide and Conquer



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# Divide-and-Conquer

## Divide-and-conquer.

- Break up problem into several parts.
- Solve each part recursively.
- Combine solutions to sub-problems into overall solution.

## Most common usage.

- Break up problem of size  $n$  into **two** equal parts of size  $\frac{1}{2}n$ .
- Solve two parts recursively.
- Combine two solutions into overall solution in **linear time**.

## Consequence.

- Brute force:  $n^2$ .
- Divide-and-conquer:  $n \log n$ .

Divide et impera.  
Veni, vidi, vici.  
- *Julius Caesar*

# 5.1 Mergesort

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# Sorting

**Sorting.** Given  $n$  elements, rearrange in ascending order.

Obvious sorting applications.

- List files in a directory.

- Organize an MP3 library.

- List names in a phone book.

- Display Google

- PageRank results.

Problems become easier once sorted.

- Find the median.

Non-obvious sorting applications.

- Data compression.

- Computer graphics.

- Interval scheduling.

- Computational biology.

- Minimum spanning tree.

- Supply chain

- management.

- Simulate a system of particles.

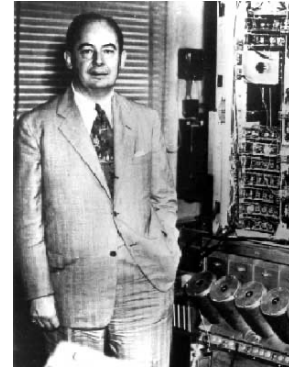
- Book recommendations on Amazon.

- Load balancing on a

# Mergesort

## Mergesort.

- Divide array into two halves.
- Recursively sort each half.
- Merge two halves to make sorted whole.



Jon von Neumann (1945)

A	L	G	O	R	I	T	H	M	S
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

A	L	G	O	R	I	T	H	M	S
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

divide  $O(1)$

A	G	L	O	R	H	I	M	S	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

sort  $2T(n/2)$

A	G	H	I	L	M	O	R	S	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

merge  $O(n)$

# Merging

**Merging.** Combine two pre-sorted lists into a sorted whole.

**How to merge efficiently?**



- Linear number of comparisons.
- Use temporary array.



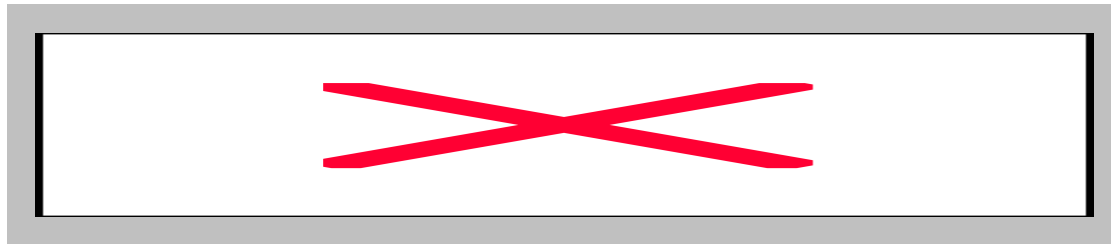
**Challenge for the bored.** In-place merge. [Kronrud, 1969]

↑  
using only a constant amount of extra storage

# A Useful Recurrence Relation

Def.  $T(n)$  = number of comparisons to mergesort an input of size  $n$ .

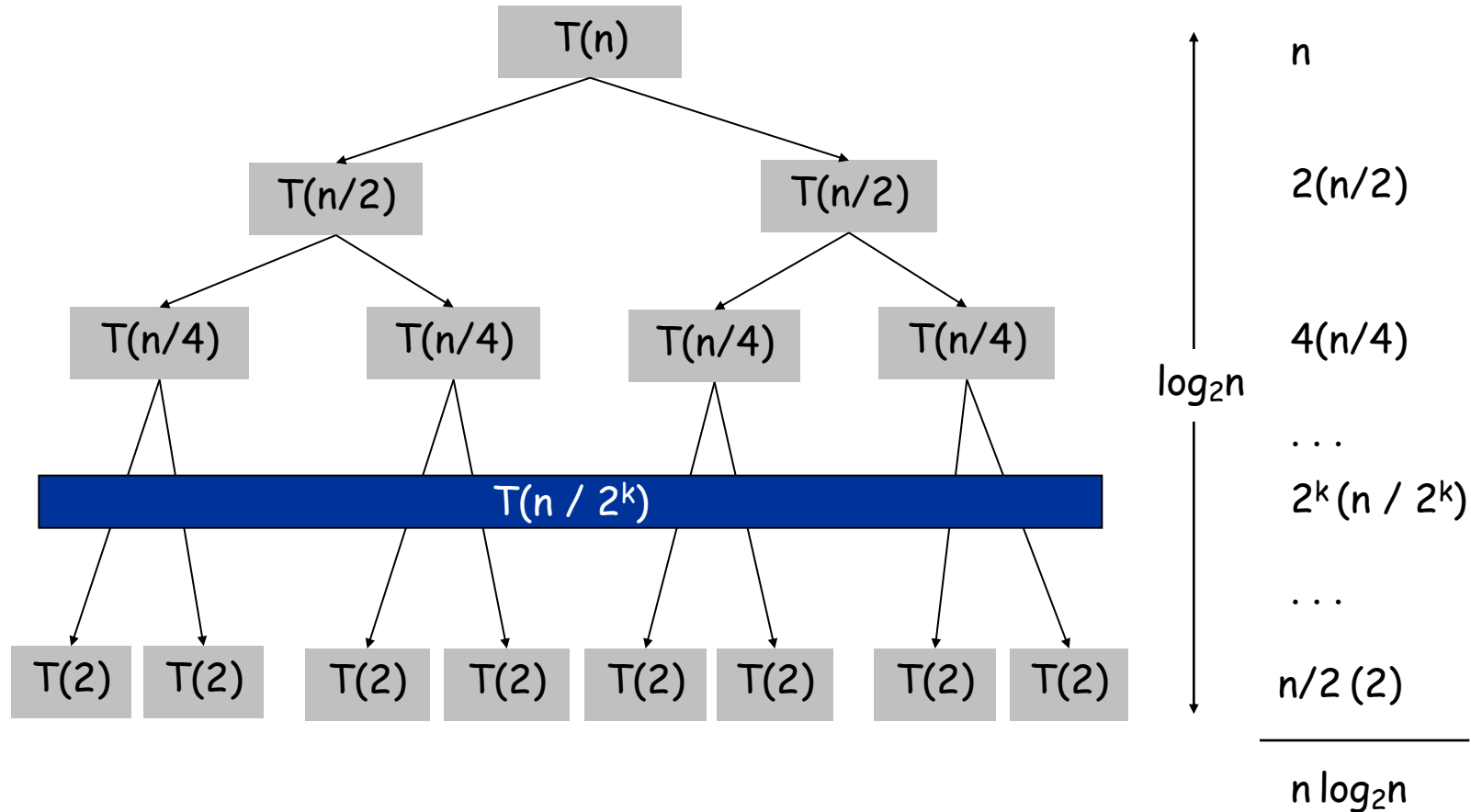
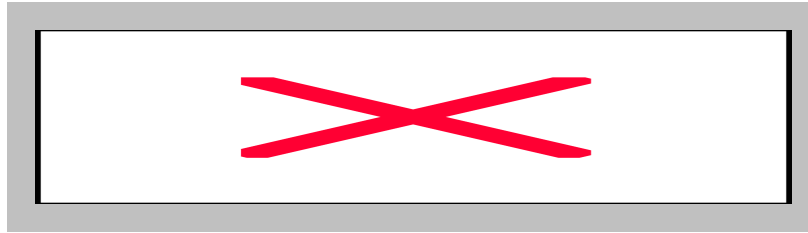
Mergesort recurrence.



Solution.  $T(n) = O(n \log_2 n)$ .

Assorted proofs. We describe several ways to prove this recurrence. Initially we assume  $n$  is a power of 2 and replace  $\leq$  with  $=$ .

# Proof by Recursion Tree

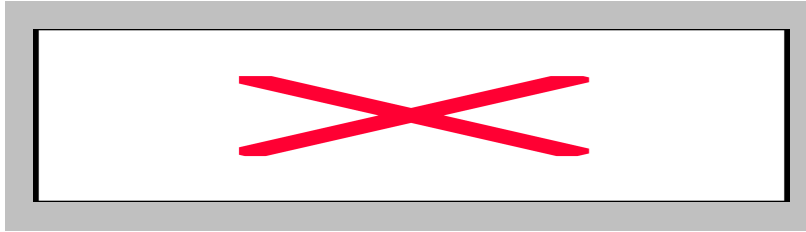




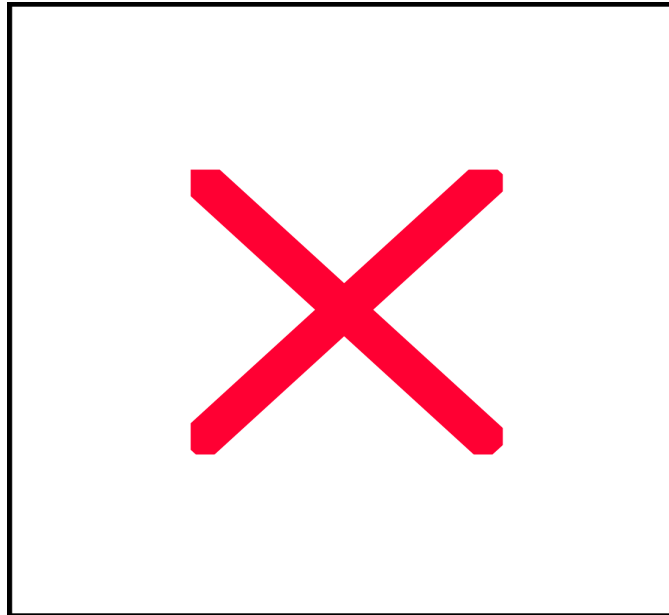
# Proof by Telescoping

**Claim.** If  $T(n)$  satisfies this recurrence, then  $T(n) = n \log_2 n$ .

↑  
assumes  $n$  is a power of 2



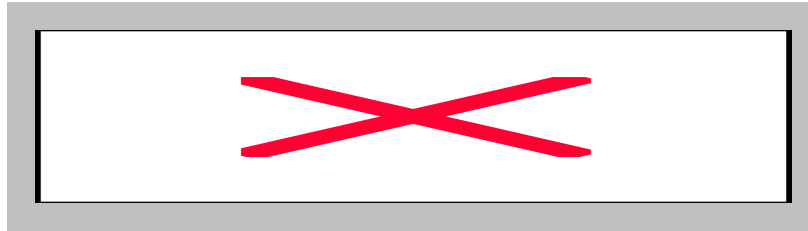
**Pf.** For  $n > 1$ :



# Proof by Induction

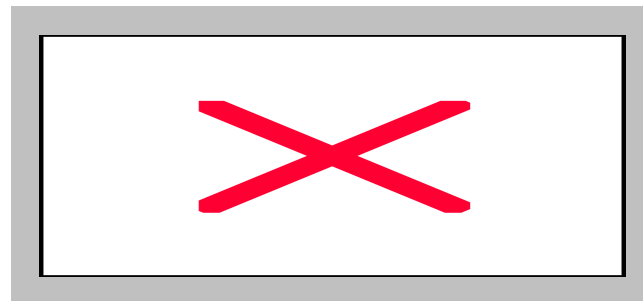
**Claim.** If  $T(n)$  satisfies this recurrence, then  $T(n) = n \log_2 n$ .

↑  
assumes  $n$  is a power of 2



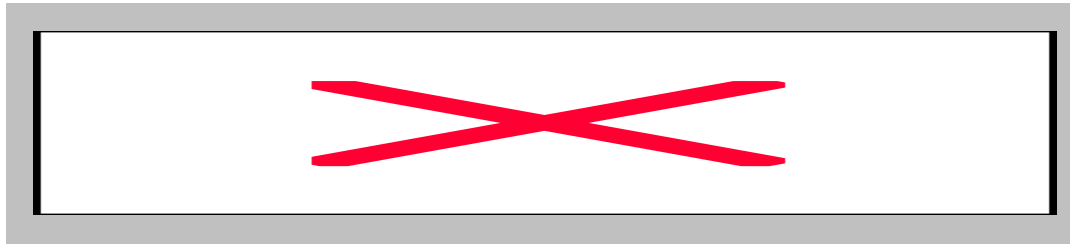
**Pf.** (by induction on  $n$ )

- Base case:  $n = 1$ .
- Inductive hypothesis:  $T(n) = n \log_2 n$ .
- Goal: show that  $T(2n) = 2n \log_2 (2n)$ .



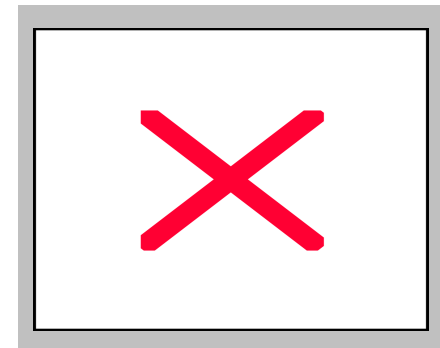
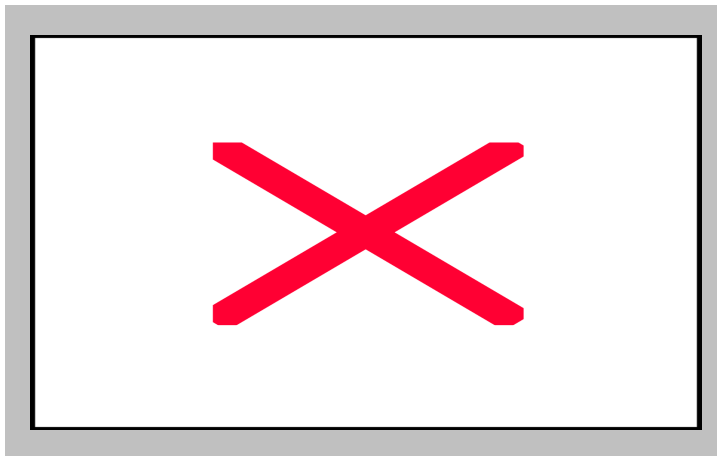
# Analysis of Mergesort Recurrence

**Claim.** If  $T(n)$  satisfies the following recurrence, then  $T(n) \leq n \lceil \lg n \rceil$ .



**Pf.** (by induction on  $n$ )

- Base case:  $n = 1$ .
- Define  $n_1 = \lfloor n / 2 \rfloor$ ,  $n_2 = \lceil n / 2 \rceil$ .
- Induction step: assume true for  $1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .



## 5.3 Counting Inversions

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# Counting Inversions

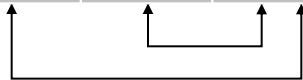
Music site tries to match your song preferences with others.

- You rank  $n$  songs.
- Music site consults database to find people with **similar** tastes.

**Similarity metric:** number of inversions between two rankings.

- My rank:  $1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- Your rank:  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ .
- Songs  $i$  and  $j$  **inverted** if  $i < j$ , but  $a_i > a_j$ .

<i>Songs</i>					
	A	B	C	D	E
Me	1	2	3	4	5
You	1	3	4	2	5



Inversions  
3-2, 4-2

**Brute force:** check all  $\Theta(n^2)$  pairs  $i$  and  $j$ .

# Applications

## Applications.

- Voting theory.
- Collaborative filtering.
- Measuring the "sortedness" of an array.
- Sensitivity analysis of Google's ranking function.
- Rank aggregation for meta-searching on the Web.
- Nonparametric statistics (e.g., Kendall's Tau distance).

# Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

Divide-and-conquer.

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

# Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

Divide-and-conquer.

- **Divide**: separate list into two pieces.

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

Divide:  $O(1)$ .

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---



# Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

## Divide-and-conquer.

- Divide: separate list into two pieces.
- **Conquer**: recursively count inversions in each half.

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

Divide:  $O(1)$ .

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

Conquer:  $2T(n / 2)$

5 blue-blue inversions

8 green-green inversions

5-4, 5-2, 4-2, 8-2, 10-2

6-3, 9-3, 9-7, 12-3, 12-7, 12-11, 11-3, 11-7

# Counting Inversions: Divide-and-Conquer

## Divide-and-conquer.

- Divide: separate list into two pieces.
- Conquer: recursively count inversions in each half.
- **Combine**: count inversions where  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are in different halves, and return sum of three quantities.

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

Divide:  $O(1)$ .

1	5	4	8	10	2	6	9	12	11	3	7
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---

5 blue-blue inversions

8 green-green inversions

Conquer:  $2T(n / 2)$

9 blue-green inversions

5-3, 4-3, 8-6, 8-3, 8-7, 10-6, 10-9, 10-3, 10-7

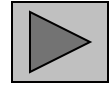
**Combine**: ???

Total =  $5 + 8 + 9 = 22$ .

# Counting Inversions: Combine

**Combine:** count blue-green inversions

- Assume each half is **sorted**.
- Count inversions where  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are in different halves.
- **Merge** two sorted halves into sorted whole.



to maintain sorted invariant

3	7	10	14	18	19
---	---	----	----	----	----

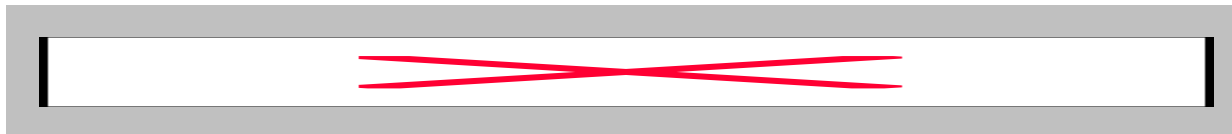
2	11	16	17	23	25
6	3	2	2	0	0

13 blue-green inversions:  $6 + 3 + 2 + 2 + 0 + 0$

Count:  $O(n)$

2	3	7	10	11	14	16	17	18	19	23	25
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Merge:  $O(n)$



# Counting Inversions: Implementation

**Pre-condition.** [Merge-and-Count] A and B are sorted.

**Post-condition.** [Sort-and-Count] L is sorted.

```
Sort-and-Count(L) {  
    if list L has one element  
        return 0 and the list L  
  
    Divide the list into two halves A and B  
    ( $r_A$ , A)  $\leftarrow$  Sort-and-Count(A)  
    ( $r_B$ , B)  $\leftarrow$  Sort-and-Count(B)  
    ( $r$ , L)  $\leftarrow$  Merge-and-Count(A, B)  
  
    return  $r = r_A + r_B + r$  and the sorted list L  
}
```

## 5.4 Closest Pair of Points

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# Closest Pair of Points

**Closest pair.** Given  $n$  points in the plane, find a pair with smallest Euclidean distance between them.

**Fundamental geometric primitive.**

- Graphics, computer vision, geographic information systems, molecular modeling, air traffic control.
- Special case of nearest neighbor, Euclidean MST, Voronoi.

↖ fast closest pair inspired fast algorithms for these problems

**Brute force.** Check all pairs of points  $p$  and  $q$  with  $\Theta(n^2)$  comparisons.

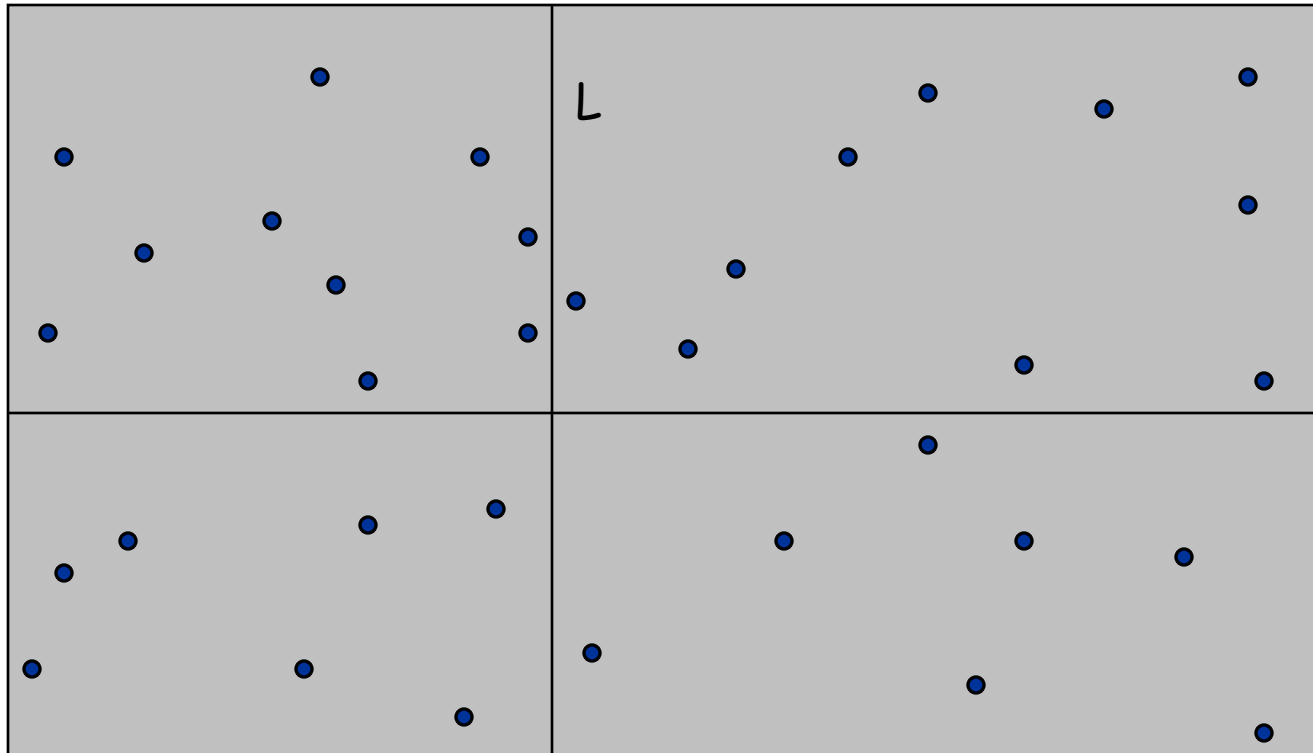
**1-D version.**  $O(n \log n)$  easy if points are on a line.

**Assumption.** No two points have same  $x$  coordinate.

↑  
to make presentation cleaner

# Closest Pair of Points: First Attempt

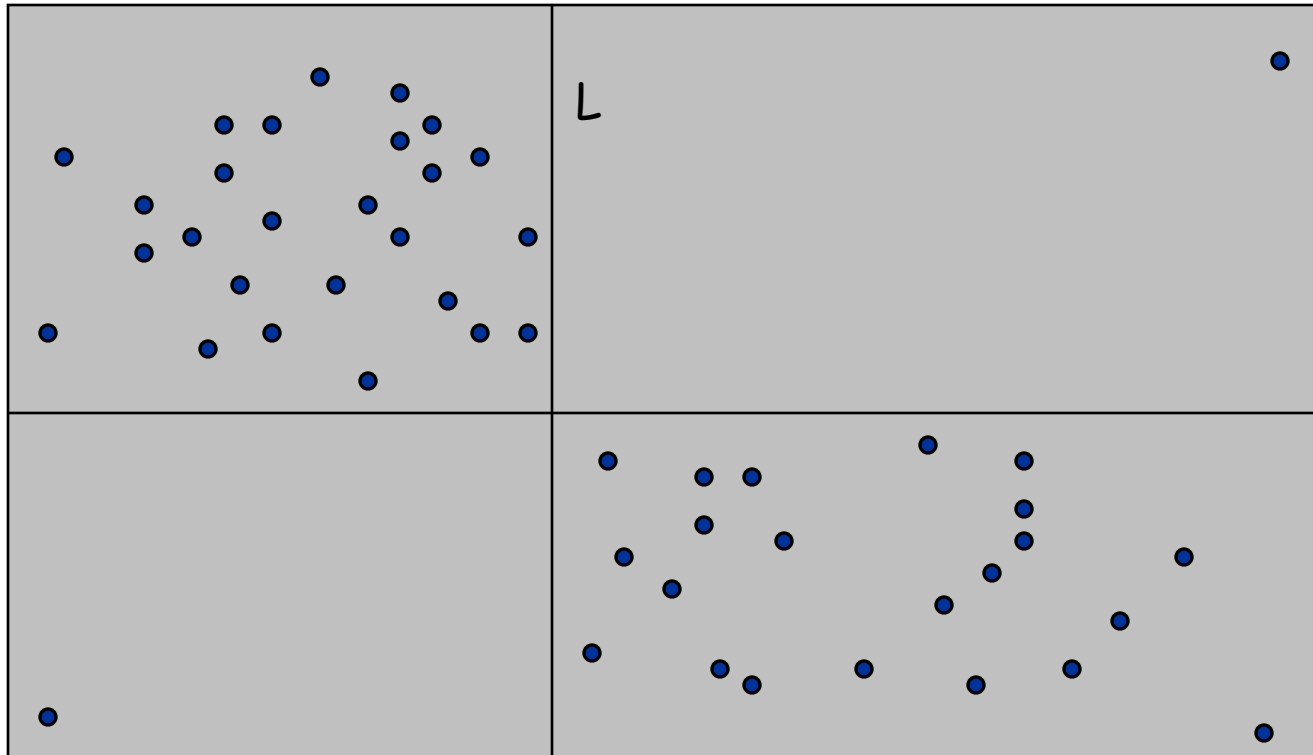
**Divide.** Sub-divide region into 4 quadrants.



## Closest Pair of Points: First Attempt

**Divide.** Sub-divide region into 4 quadrants.

**Obstacle.** Impossible to ensure  $n/4$  points in each piece.

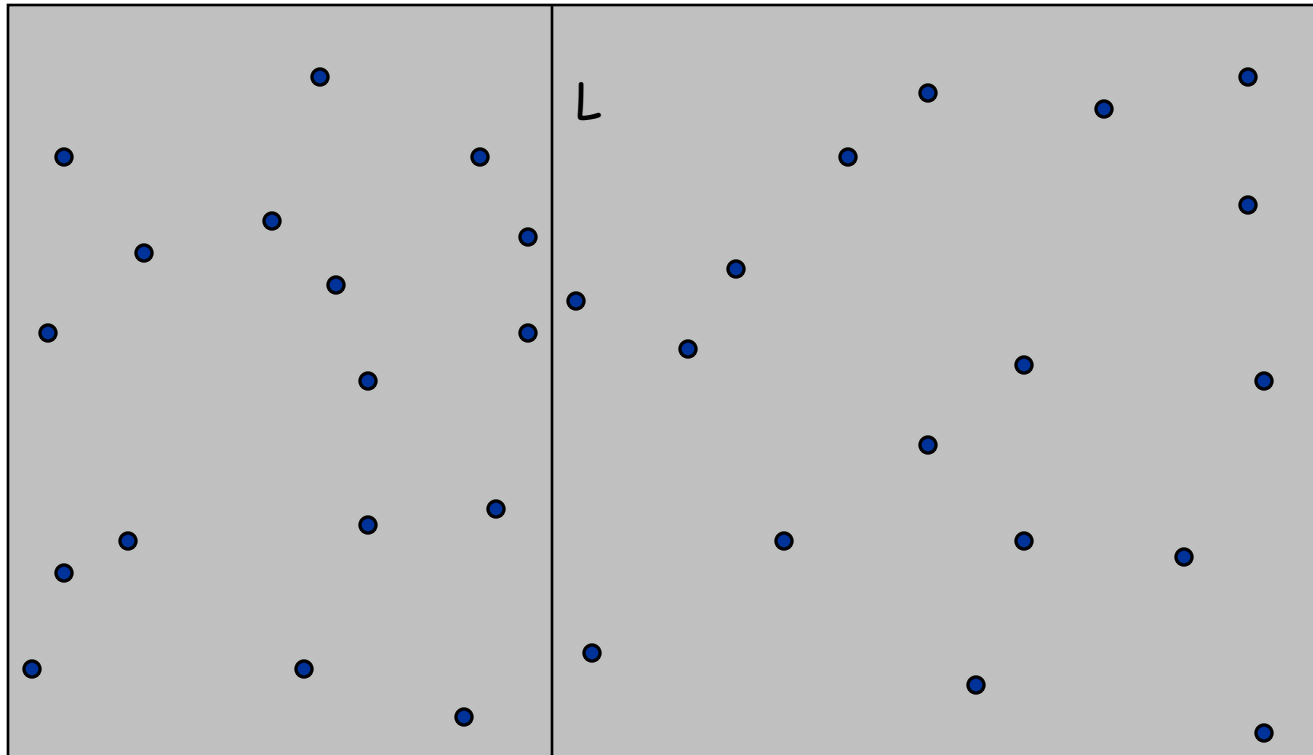




# Closest Pair of Points

Algorithm.

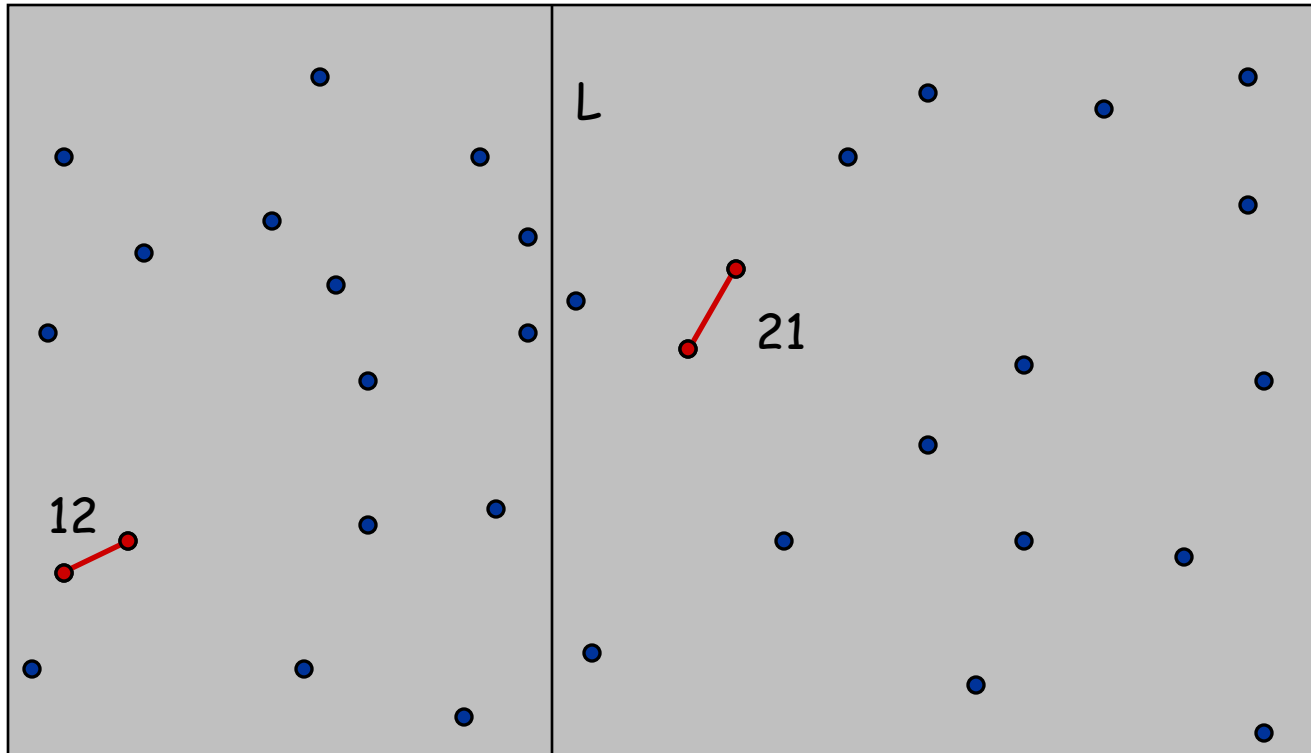
- **Divide:** draw vertical line  $L$  so that roughly  $\frac{1}{2}n$  points on each side.



# Closest Pair of Points

## Algorithm.

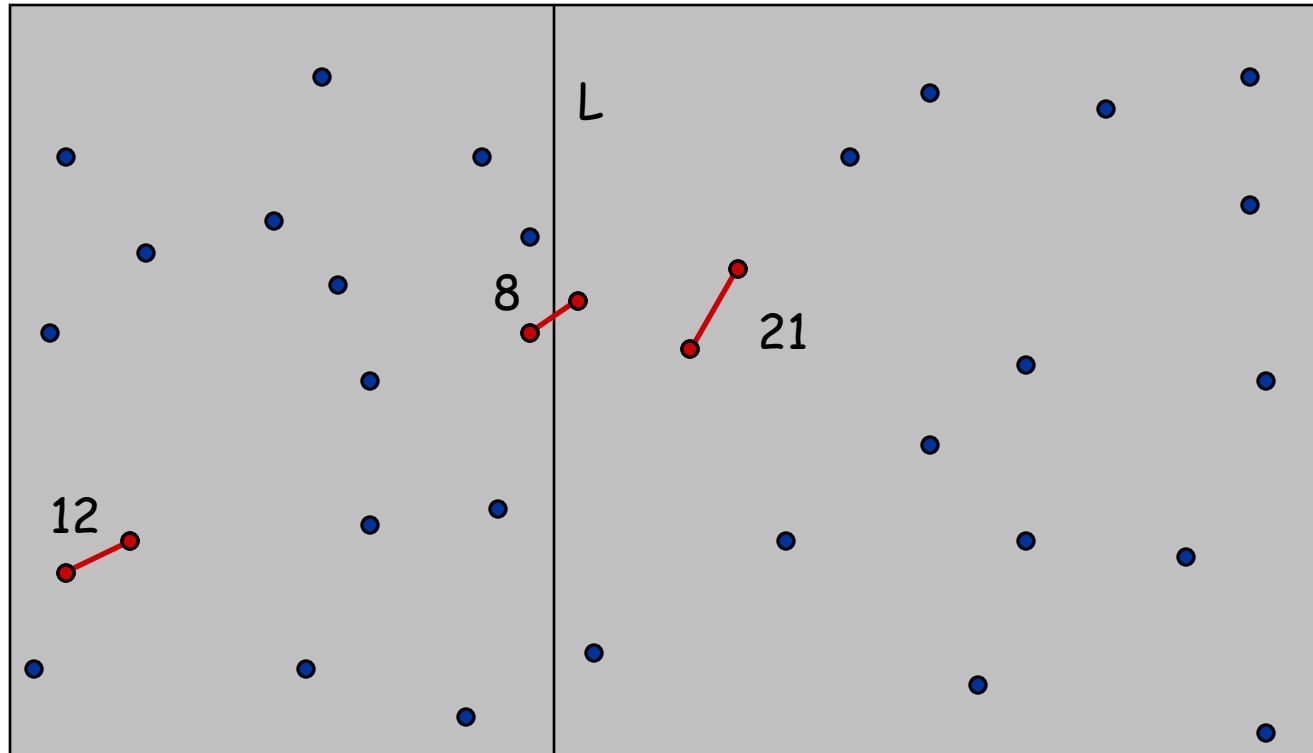
- Divide: draw vertical line  $L$  so that roughly  $\frac{1}{2}n$  points on each side.
- **Conquer**: find closest pair in each side recursively.



# Closest Pair of Points

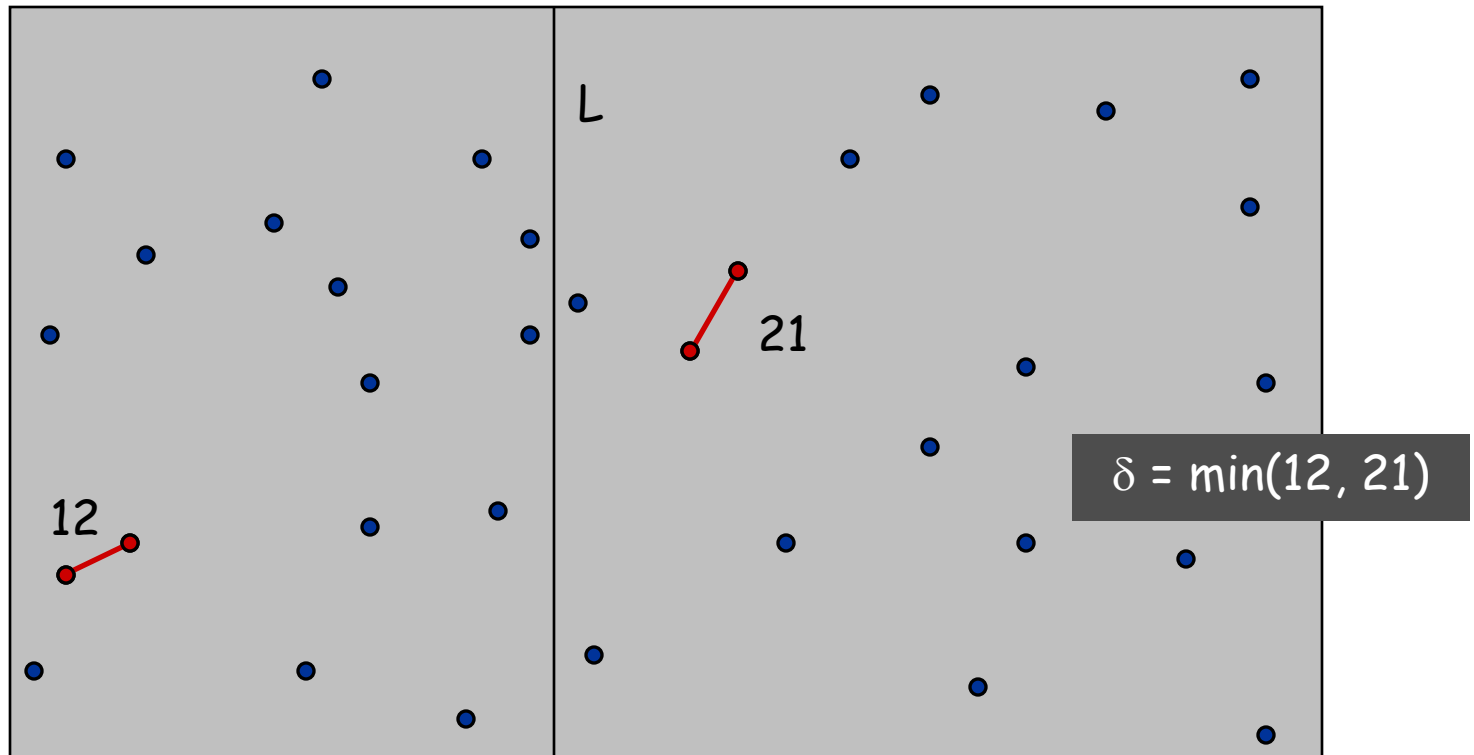
## Algorithm.

- Divide: draw vertical line  $L$  so that roughly  $\frac{1}{2}n$  points on each side.
- Conquer: find closest pair in each side recursively.
- **Combine**: find closest pair with one point in each side. ← seems like  $\Theta(n^2)$
- Return best of 3 solutions.



# Closest Pair of Points

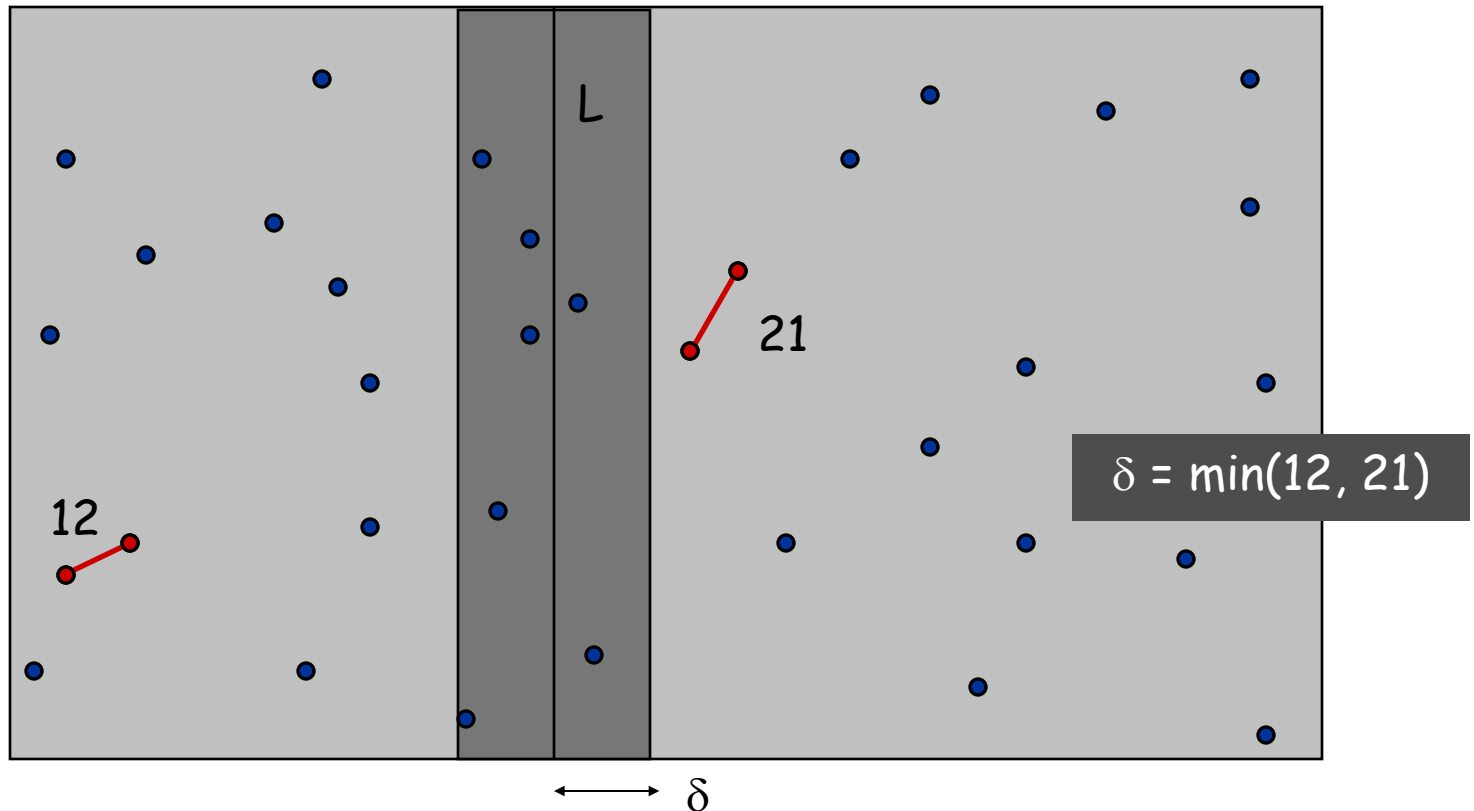
Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance  $< \delta$** .



# Closest Pair of Points

Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance  $< \delta$** .

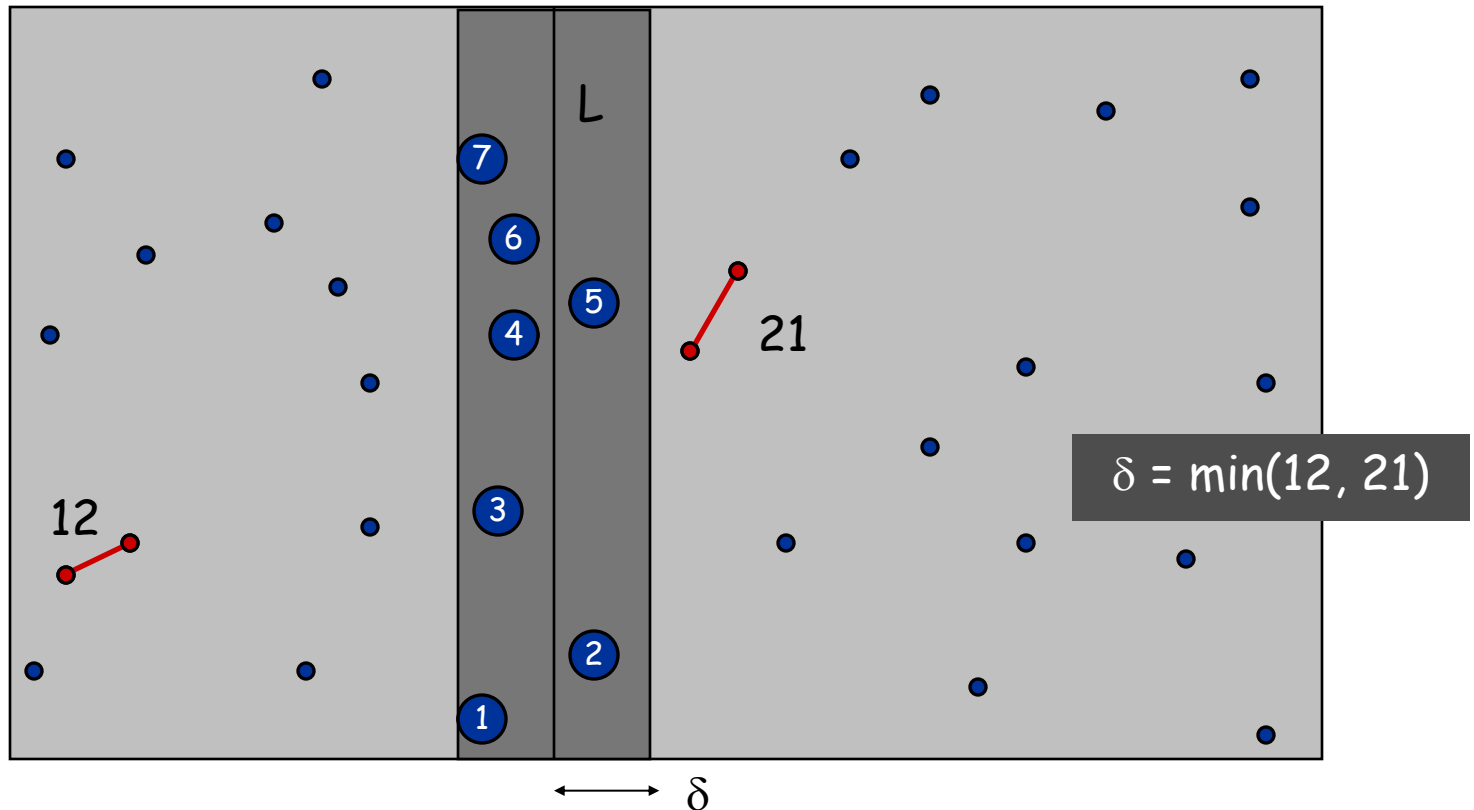
- Observation: only need to consider points within  $\delta$  of line  $L$ .



# Closest Pair of Points

Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance  $< \delta$** .

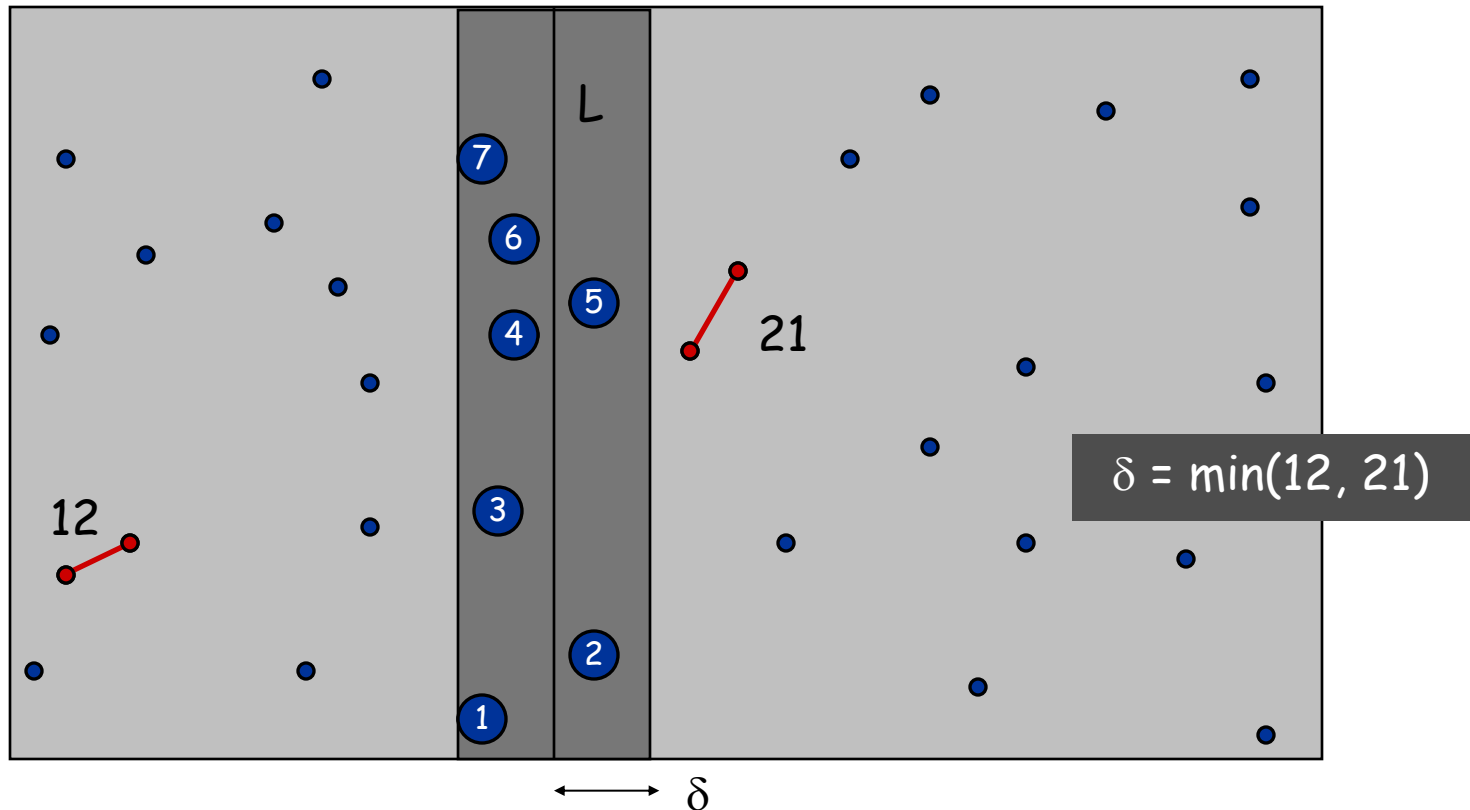
- Observation: only need to consider points within  $\delta$  of line  $L$ .
- Sort points in  $2\delta$ -strip by their  $y$  coordinate.



# Closest Pair of Points

Find closest pair with one point in each side, **assuming that distance  $< \delta$** .

- Observation: only need to consider points within  $\delta$  of line  $L$ .
- Sort points in  $2\delta$ -strip by their  $y$  coordinate.
- Only check distances of those within 11 positions in sorted list!



# Closest Pair of Points

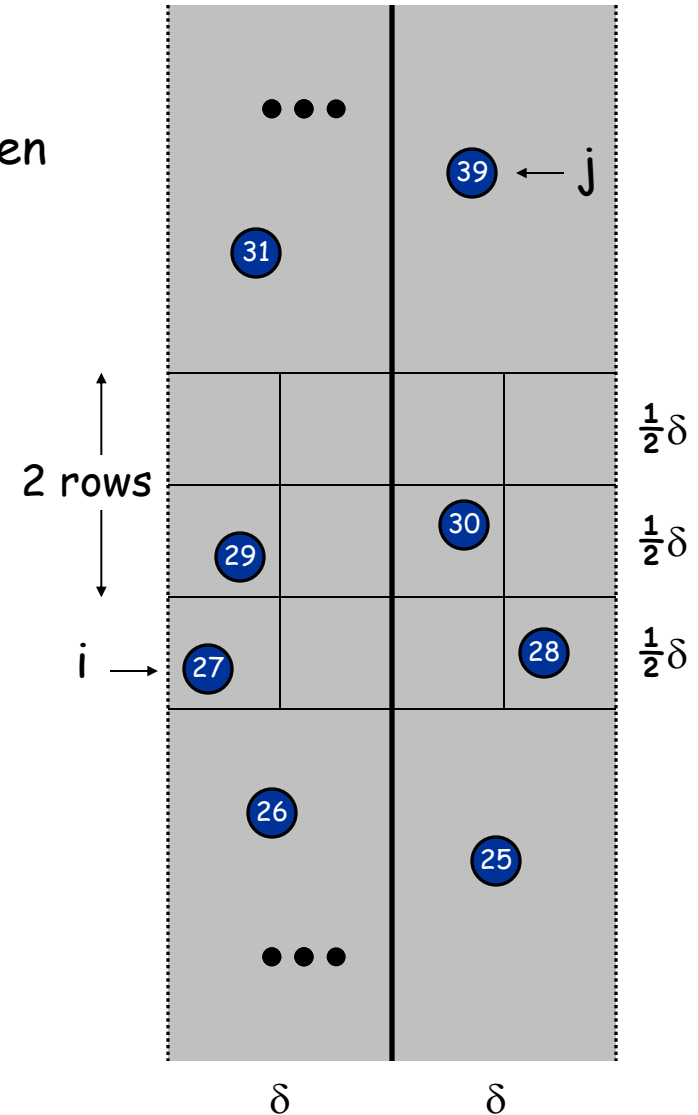
**Def.** Let  $s_i$  be the point in the  $2\delta$ -strip, with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  smallest y-coordinate.

**Claim.** If  $|i - j| \geq 12$ , then the distance between  $s_i$  and  $s_j$  is at least  $\delta$ .

**Pf.**

- No two points lie in same  $\frac{1}{2}\delta$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}\delta$  box.
- Two points at least 2 rows apart have distance  $\geq 2(\frac{1}{2}\delta)$ . ▪

**Fact.** Still true if we replace 12 with 7.



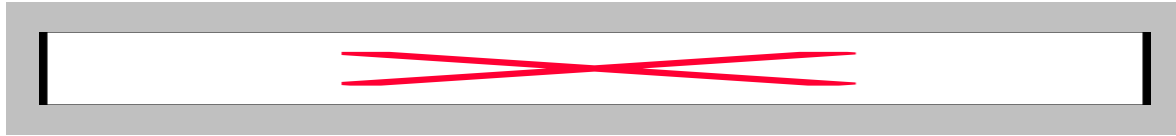


# Closest Pair Algorithm

```
Closest-Pair( $p_1, \dots, p_n$ ) {  
    Compute separation line  $L$  such that half the points  
    are on one side and half on the other side.  $O(n \log n)$   
  
     $\delta_1 = \text{Closest-Pair}(\text{left half})$   
     $\delta_2 = \text{Closest-Pair}(\text{right half})$   $2T(n / 2)$   
     $\delta = \min(\delta_1, \delta_2)$   
  
    Delete all points further than  $\delta$  from separation line  $L$   $O(n)$   
  
    Sort remaining points by y-coordinate.  $O(n \log n)$   
  
    Scan points in y-order and compare distance between  
    each point and next 11 neighbors. If any of these  
    distances is less than  $\delta$ , update  $\delta$ .  $O(n)$   
  
    return  $\delta$ .  
}
```

# Closest Pair of Points: Analysis

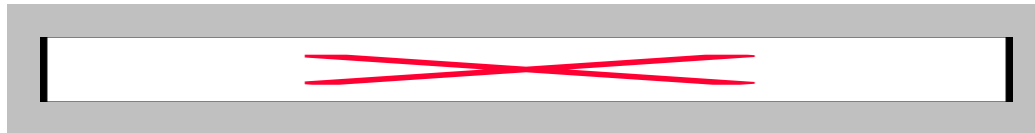
Running time.



Q. Can we achieve  $O(n \log n)$ ?

A. Yes. Don't sort points in strip from scratch each time.

- Each recursive returns two lists: all points sorted by y coordinate, and all points sorted by x coordinate.
- Sort by **merging** two pre-sorted lists.



## 5.5 Integer Multiplication

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# Integer Arithmetic

**Add.** Given two  $n$ -digit integers  $a$  and  $b$ , compute  $a + b$ .

- $O(n)$  bit operations.

**Multiply.** Given two  $n$ -digit integers  $a$  and  $b$ , compute  $a \times b$ .

- Brute force solution:  $\Theta(n^2)$  bit operations.

1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	
	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
+	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

Add

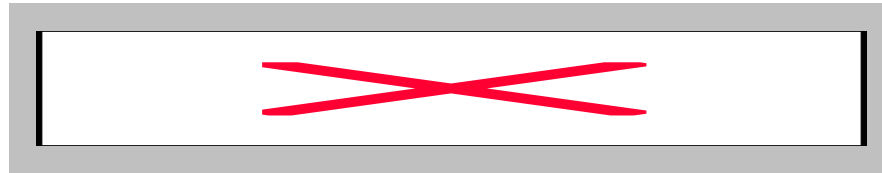
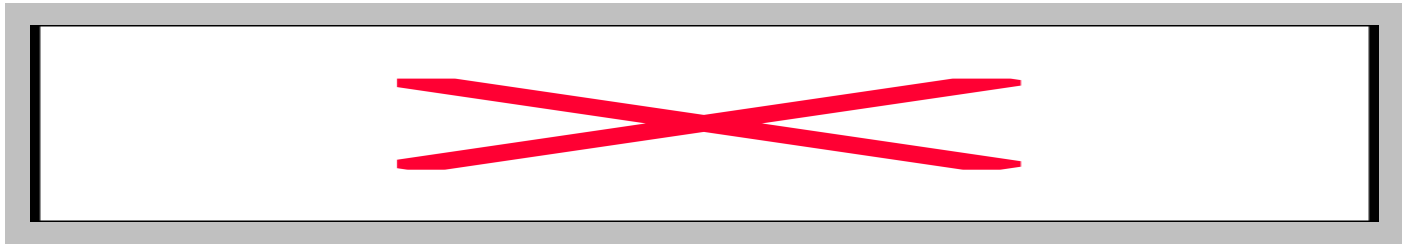
## Multiply

[illegible]

# Divide-and-Conquer Multiplication: Warmup

To multiply two  $n$ -digit integers:

- Multiply four  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers.
- Add two  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers, and shift to obtain result.

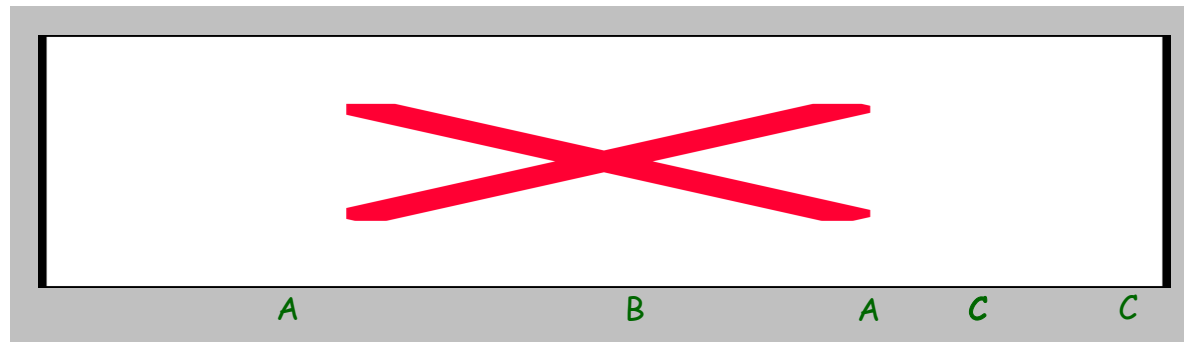


↑  
assumes  $n$  is a power of 2

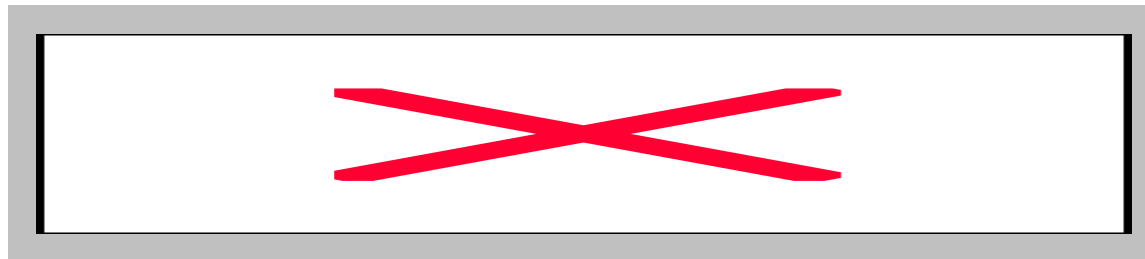
# Karatsuba Multiplication

To multiply two  $n$ -digit integers:

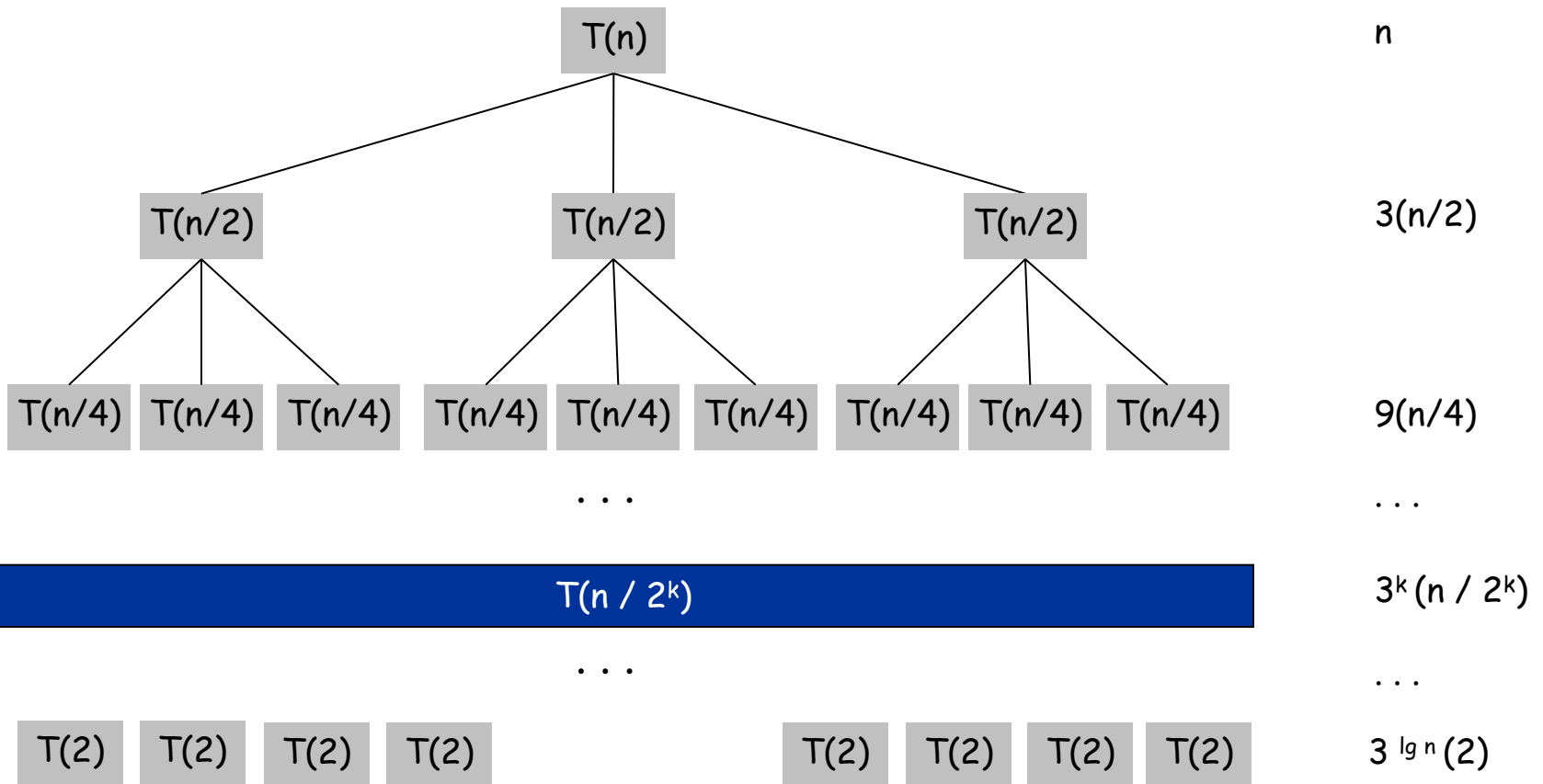
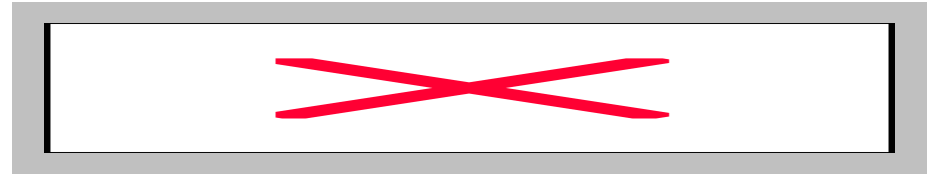
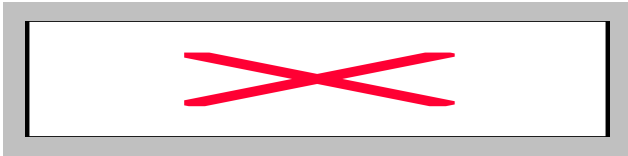
- Add two  $\frac{1}{2}n$  digit integers.
- Multiply **three**  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers.
- Add, subtract, and shift  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -digit integers to obtain result.



**Theorem.** [Karatsuba-Ofman, 1962] Can multiply two  $n$ -digit integers in  $O(n^{1.585})$  bit operations.



# Karatsuba: Recursion Tree



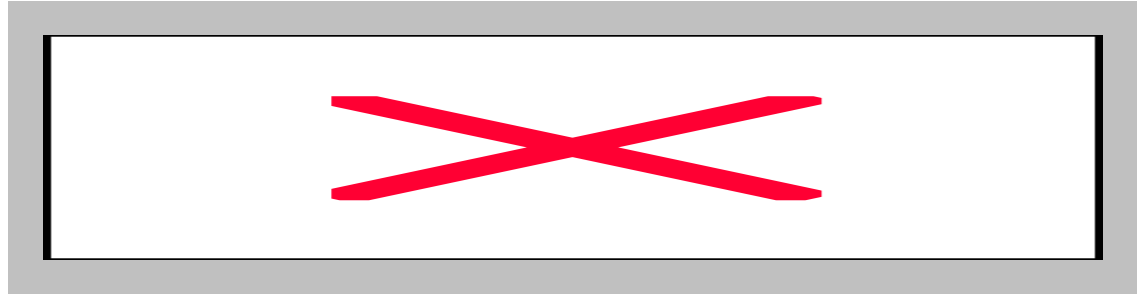
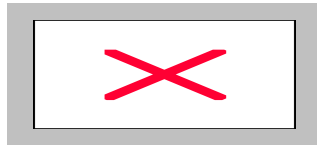
# Matrix Multiplication

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# Matrix Multiplication

**Matrix multiplication.** Given two  $n$ -by- $n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$ , compute  $C = AB$ .



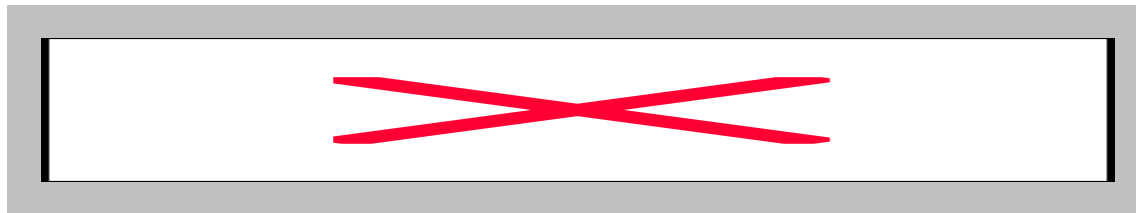
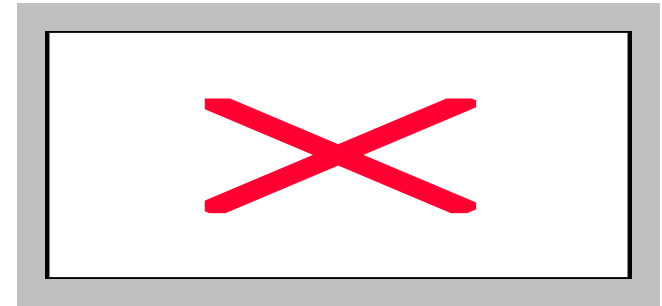
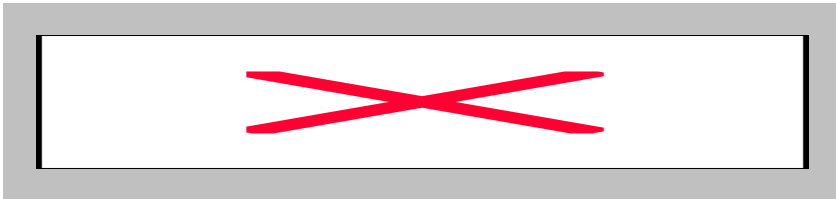
**Brute force.**  $\Theta(n^3)$  arithmetic operations.

**Fundamental question.** Can we improve upon brute force?

# Matrix Multiplication: Warmup

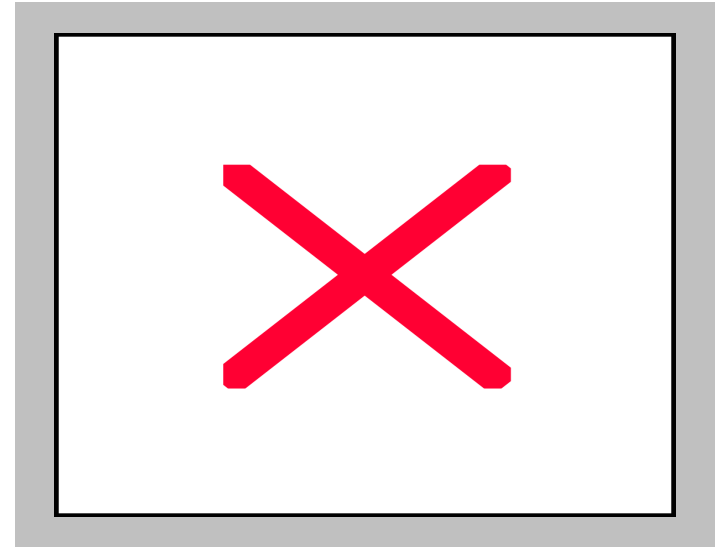
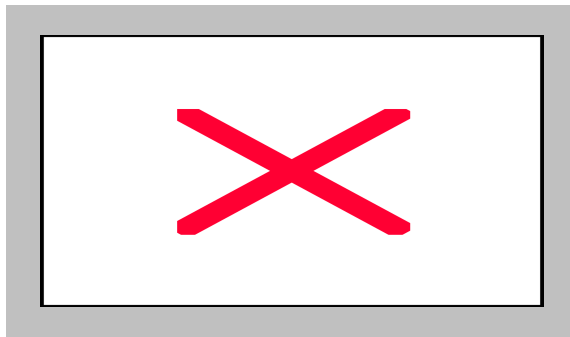
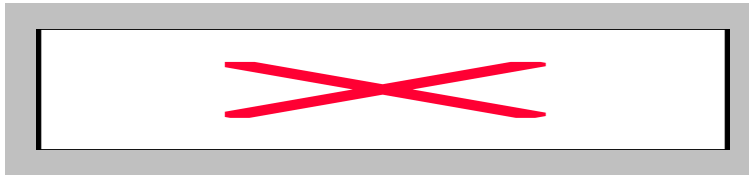
## Divide-and-conquer.

- Divide: partition  $A$  and  $B$  into  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$  blocks.
- Conquer: multiply 8  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$  recursively.
- Combine: add appropriate products using 4 matrix additions.



# Matrix Multiplication: Key Idea

Key idea. multiply 2-by-2 block matrices with only 7 multiplications.



- 7 multiplications.
- $18 = 10 + 8$  additions (or subtractions).

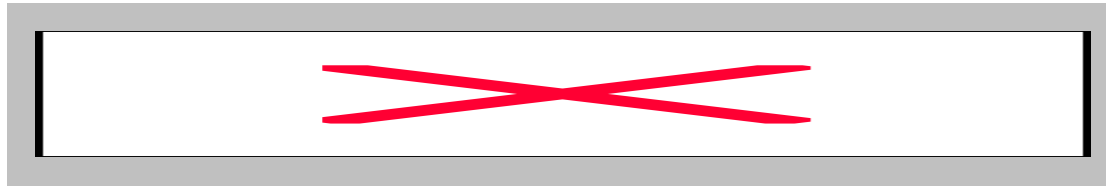
# Fast Matrix Multiplication

Fast matrix multiplication. (Strassen, 1969)

- Divide: partition  $A$  and  $B$  into  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$  blocks.
- Compute: 14  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$  matrices via 10 matrix additions.
- Conquer: multiply 7  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -by- $\frac{1}{2}n$  matrices recursively.
- Combine: 7 products into 4 terms using 8 matrix additions.

Analysis.

- Assume  $n$  is a power of 2.
- $T(n)$  = # arithmetic operations.



# Fast Matrix Multiplication in Practice

## Implementation issues.

- Sparsity.
- Caching effects.
- Numerical stability.
- Odd matrix dimensions.
- Crossover to classical algorithm around  $n = 128$ .

## Common misperception: "Strassen is only a theoretical curiosity."

- Advanced Computation Group at Apple Computer reports 8x speedup on G4 Velocity Engine when  $n \sim 2,500$ .
- Range of instances where it's useful is a subject of controversy.

**Remark.** Can "Strassenize"  $Ax=b$ , determinant, eigenvalues, and other matrix ops.

# Fast Matrix Multiplication in Theory

Q. Multiply two 2-by-2 matrices with only 7 scalar multiplications?

A. Yes! [Strassen, 1969]



Q. Multiply two 2-by-2 matrices with only 6 scalar multiplications?

A. Impossible. [Hopcroft and Kerr, 1971]



Q. Two 3-by-3 matrices with only 21 scalar multiplications?

A. Also impossible.



Q. Two 70-by-70 matrices with only 143,640 scalar multiplications?

A. Yes! [Pan, 1980]



## Decimal wars.

- December, 1979:  $O(n^{2.521813})$ .
- January, 1980:  $O(n^{2.521801})$ .

# Fast Matrix Multiplication in Theory

**Best known.**  $O(n^{2.376})$  [Coppersmith-Winograd, 1987.]

**Conjecture.**  $O(n^{2+\varepsilon})$  for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

**Caveat.** Theoretical improvements to Strassen are progressively less practical.