Recursion-tree method

- A recursion tree models the costs (time) of a recursive execution of an algorithm.
- The recursion tree method is good for generating guesses for the substitution method.
- The recursion-tree method can be unreliable, just like any method that uses ellipses (…).
- The recursion-tree method promotes intuition, however.

Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:

Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:

$$T(n)$$

Example of recursion tree

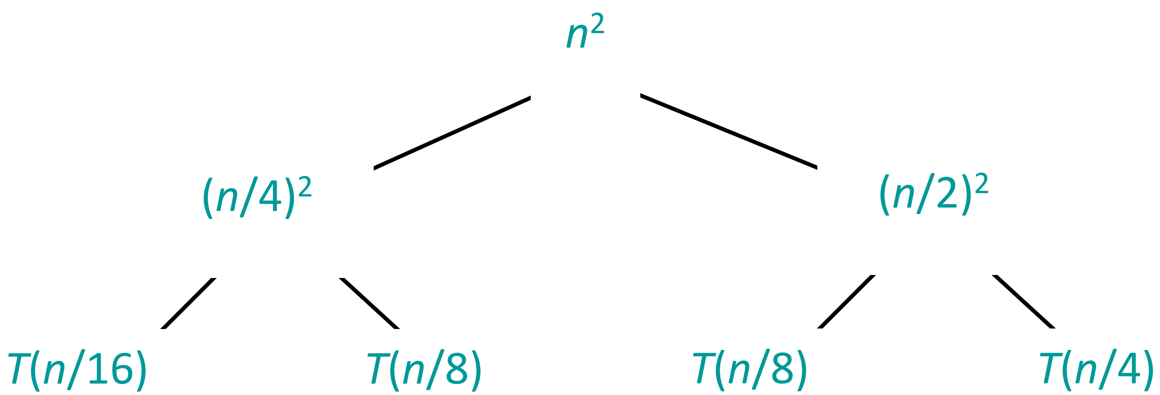
Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:

$$n^2$$

$$T(n/4) \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad T(n/2)$$

Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:



Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:

$$n^2$$

$$(n/4)^2 \qquad\qquad (n/2)^2$$

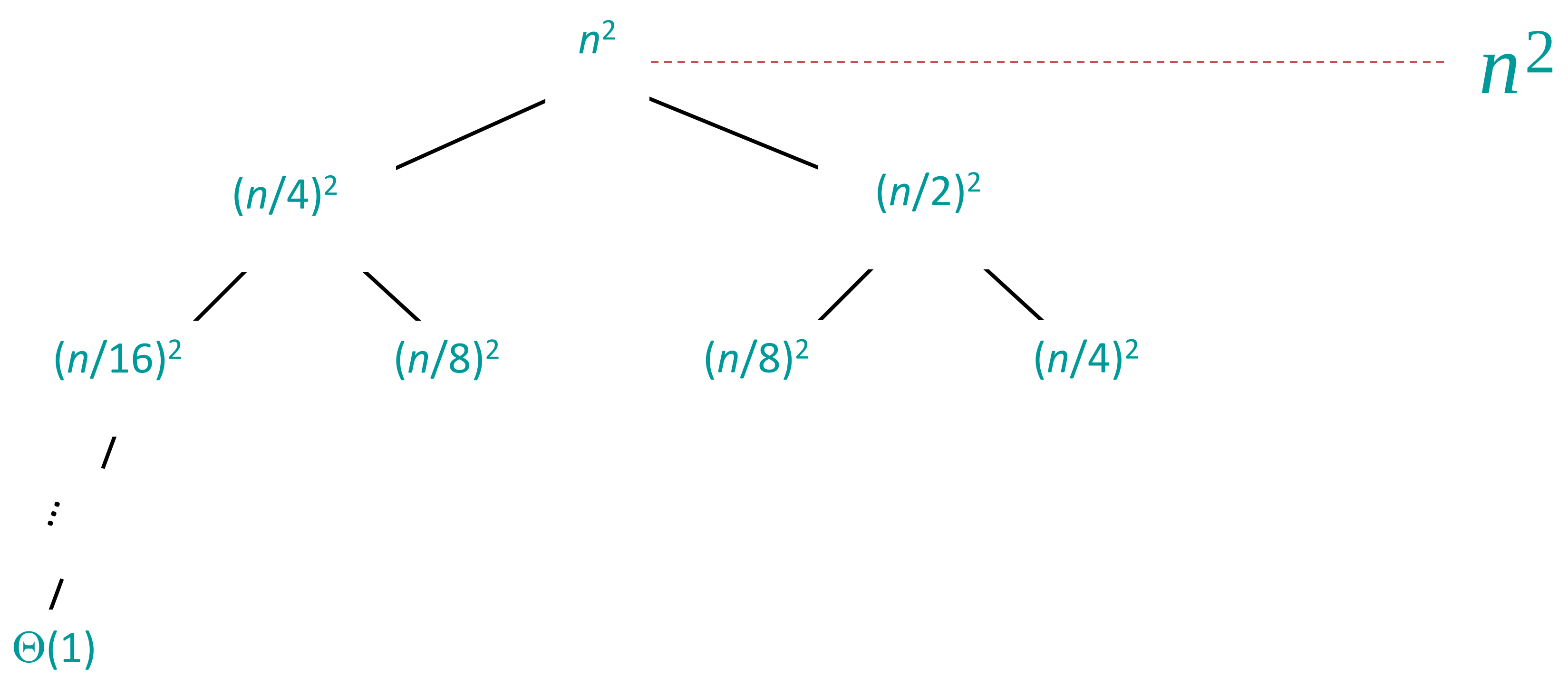
$$(n/16)^2 \qquad (n/8)^2 \qquad (n/8)^2 \qquad (n/4)^2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\Theta(1)$$

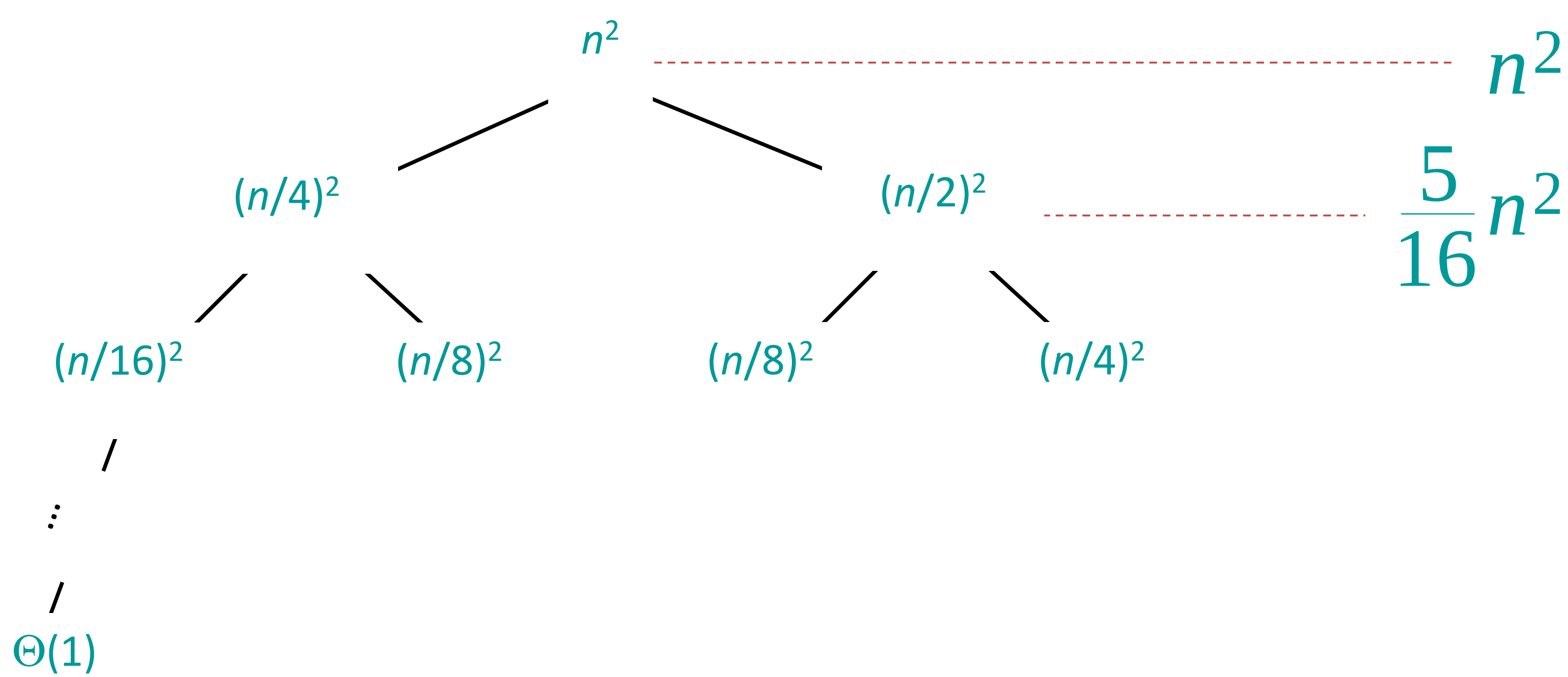
Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:



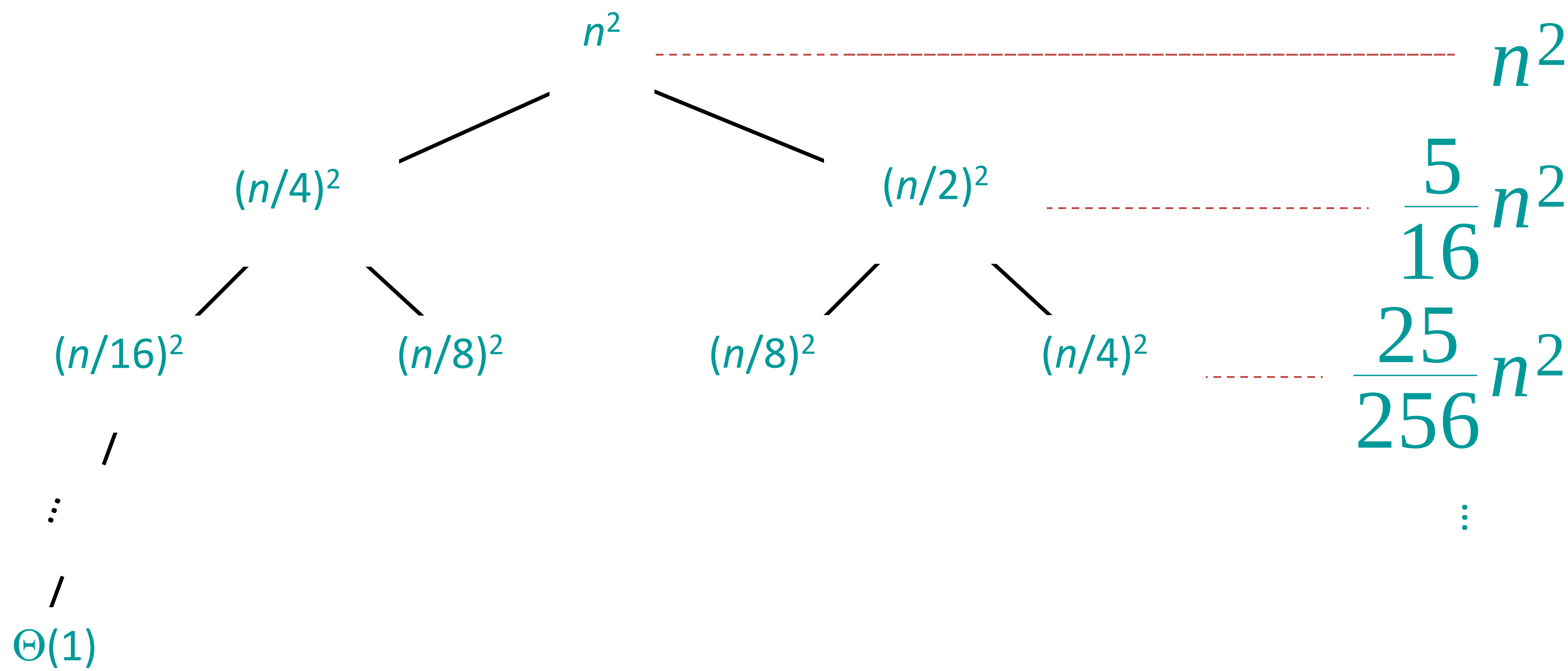
Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:



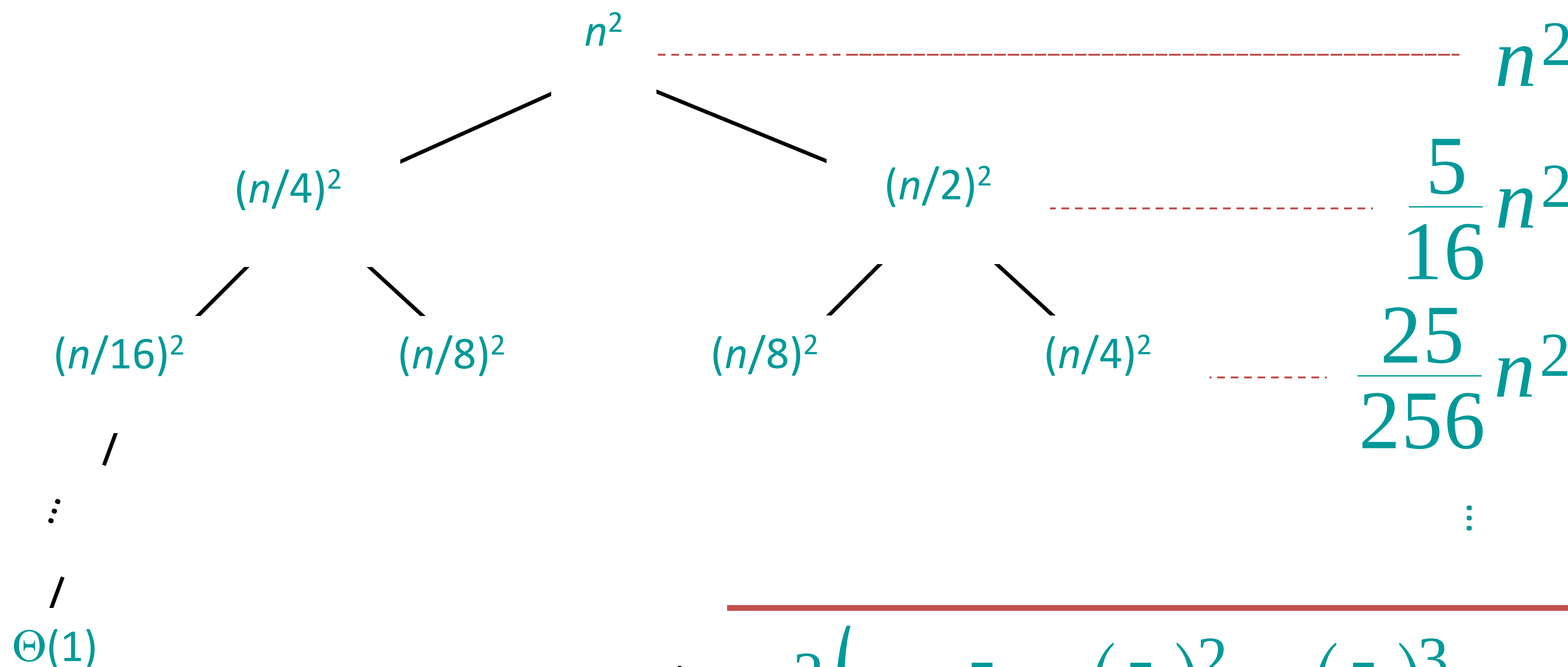
Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:



Example of recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:



Total $= n^2\left(1 + \frac{5}{16} + \left(\frac{5}{16}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{5}{16}\right)^3 + \cdots\right)$

$= \Theta(n^2)$ *geometric series*

Appendix: geometric series

$$1 + x + x^2 + \cdots + x^n = \frac{1 - x^{n+1}}{1 - x} \quad \text{for } x \neq 1$$

$$1 + x + x^2 + \cdots = \frac{1}{1 - x} \quad \text{for } |x| < 1$$

Return to last slide viewed.

The master method

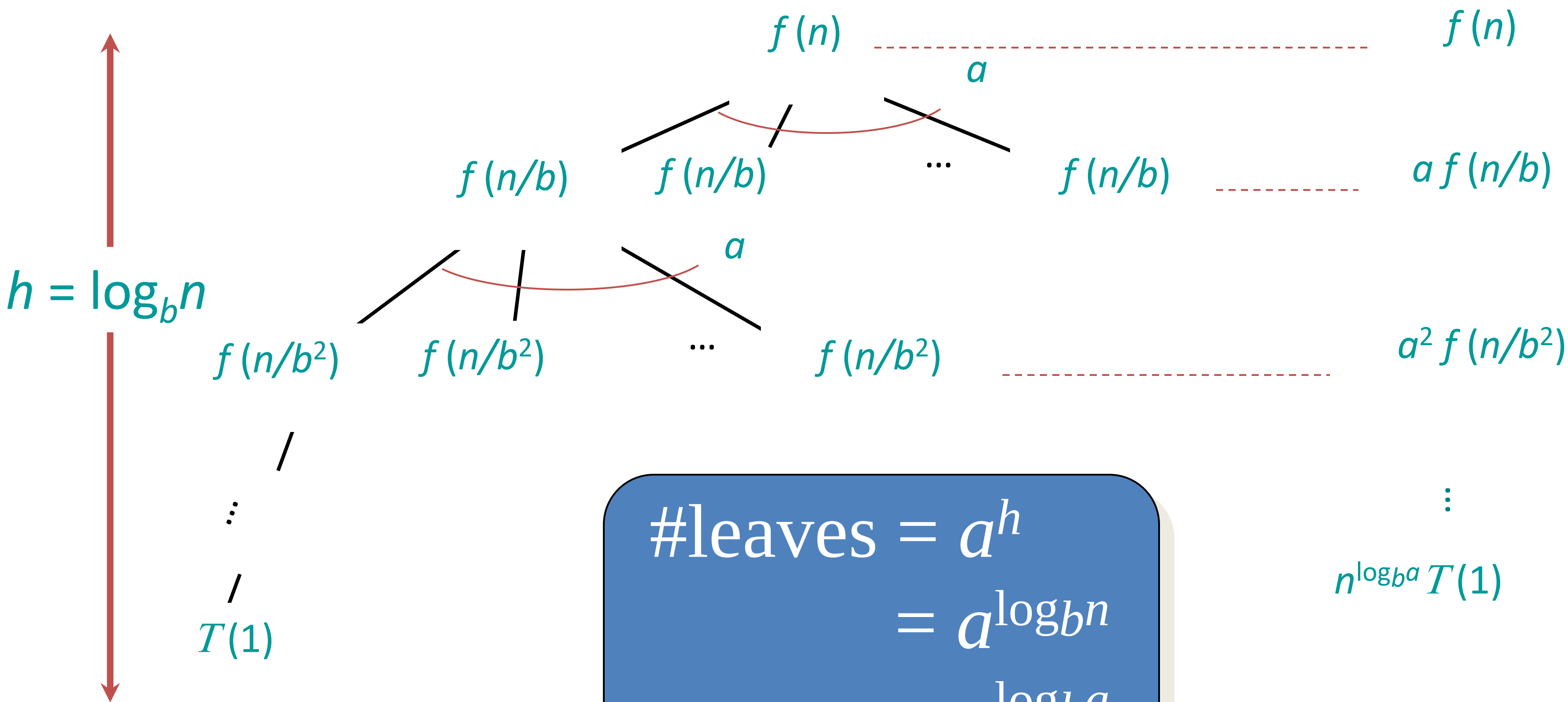
The master method applies to recurrences of the form

$$T(n) = a\,T(n/b) + f(n)\ ,$$

where $a \geq 1$, $b > 1$, and f is asymptotically positive.

Idea of master theorem

Recursion tree:



$$\#\text{leaves} = a^h = a^{\log_b n} = n^{\log_b a}$$

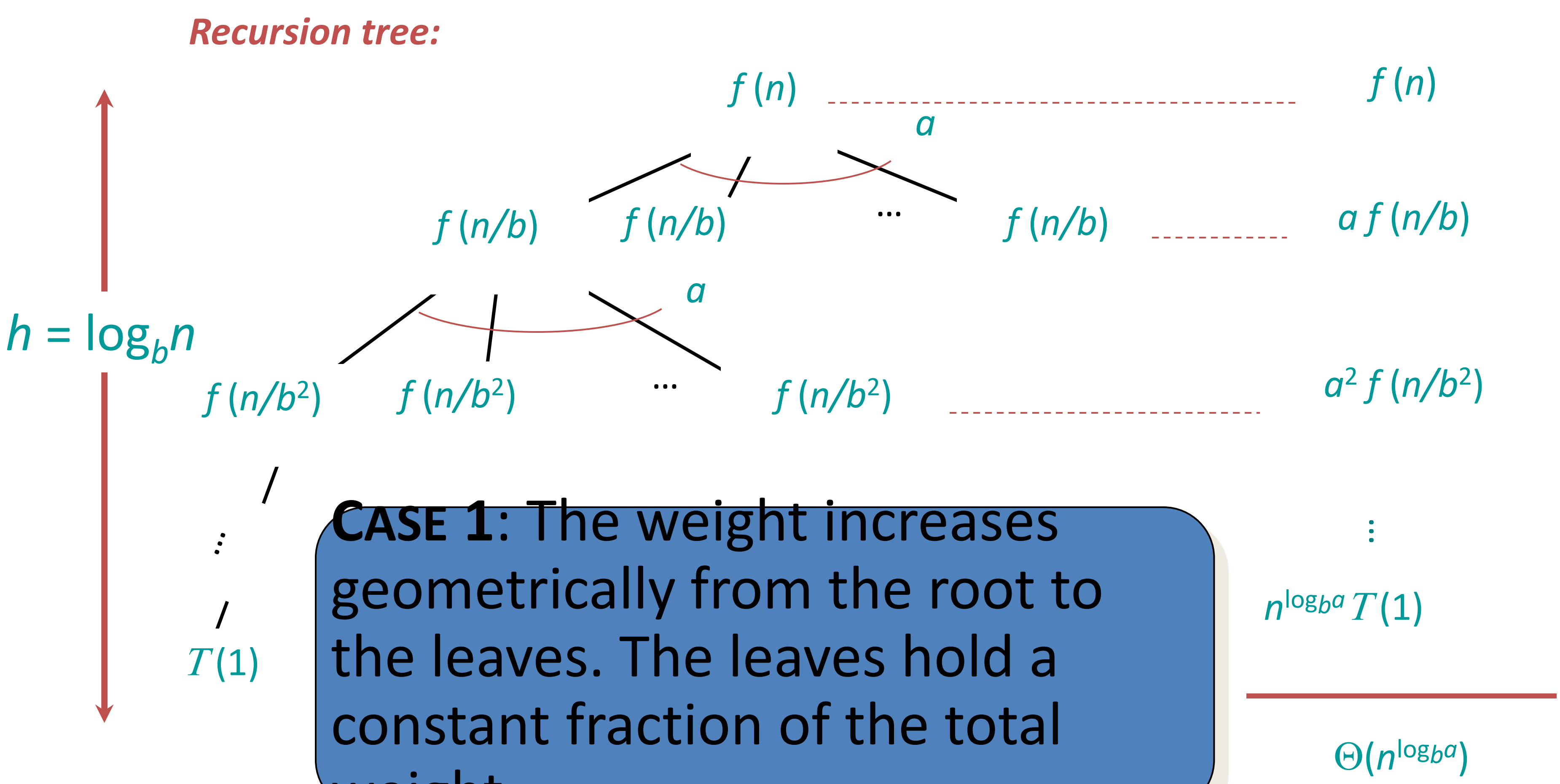
Three common cases

Compare $f(n)$ with $n^{\log_b a}$:

1. $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$ for some constant $\varepsilon > 0$.
   - $f(n)$ grows polynomially slower than $n^{\log_b a}$ (by an n^{ε} factor).

   Solution: $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$.

Idea of master theorem



CASE 1: The weight increases geometrically from the root to the leaves. The leaves hold a constant fraction of the total weight.

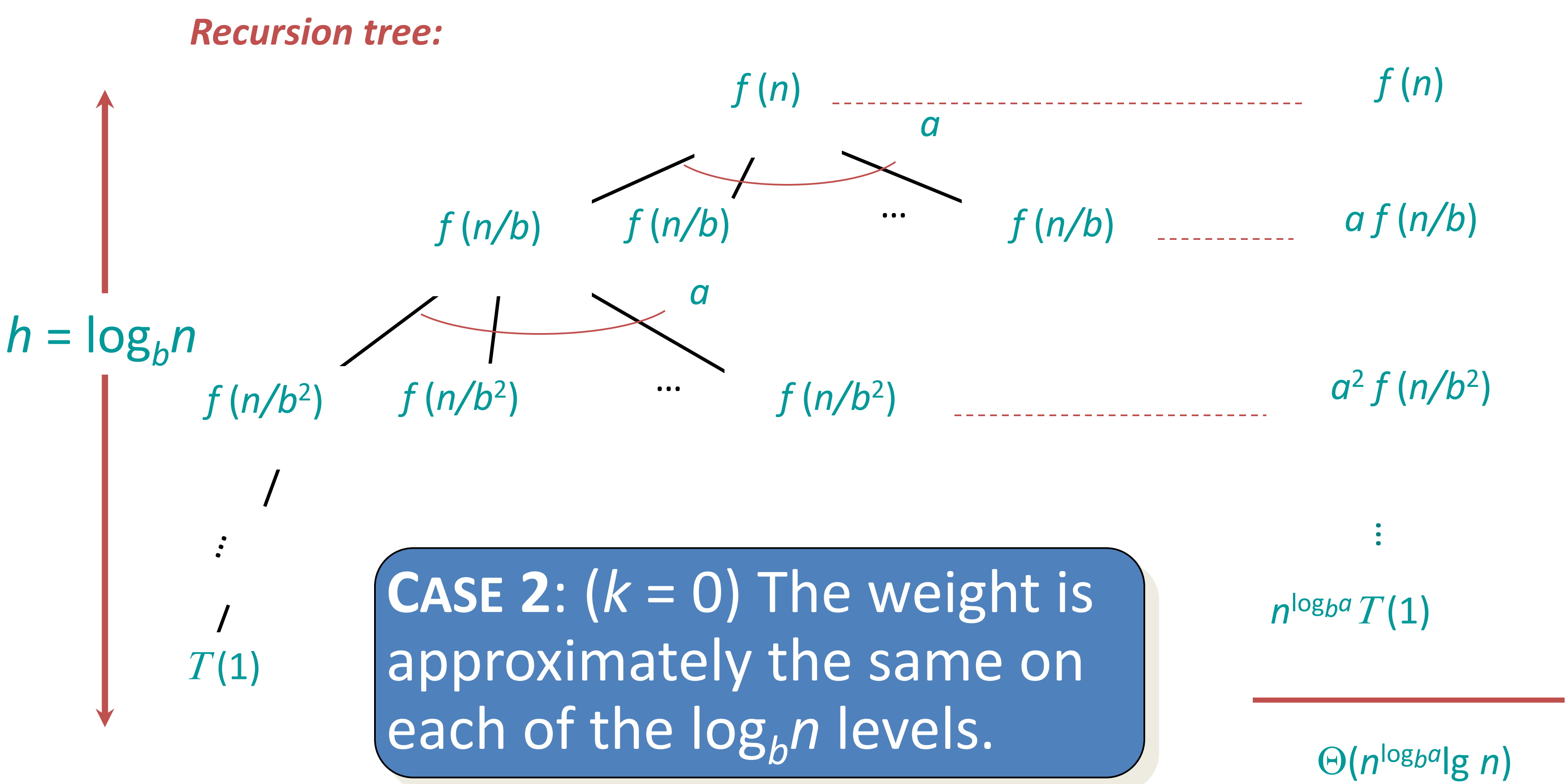
Three common cases

Compare $f(n)$ with $n^{\log_b a}$:

2. $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^k n)$ for some constant $k \geq 0$.
   - $f(n)$ and $n^{\log_b a}$ grow at similar rates.

   Solution: $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^{k+1} n)$.

Idea of master theorem



CASE 2: (k = 0) The weight is approximately the same on each of the $\log_b n$ levels.

Three common cases (cont.)

Compare $f(n)$ with $n^{\log_b a}$:

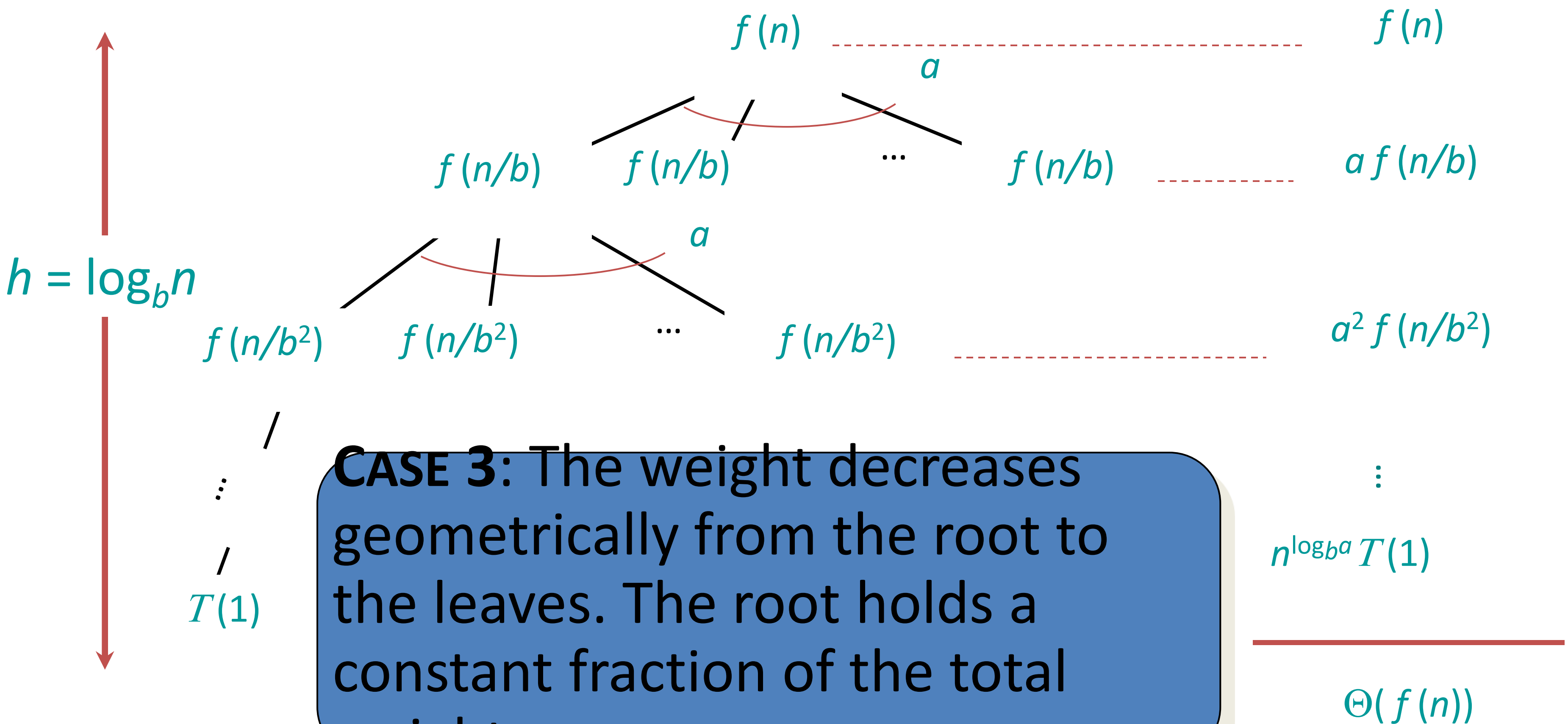
3. $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$ for some constant $\varepsilon > 0$.
   - $f(n)$ grows polynomially faster than $n^{\log_b a}$ (by an n^{ε} factor),

   and $f(n)$ satisfies the ***regularity condition*** that $a f(n/b) \le c f(n)$ for some constant $c < 1$.

   Solution: $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$.

Idea of master theorem

Recursion tree:



CASE 3: The weight decreases geometrically from the root to the leaves. The root holds a constant fraction of the total weight.

Examples

Ex. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$

$a = 4,\ b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2;\ f(n) = n.$

CASE 1: $f(n) = O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ for $\varepsilon = 1$.

$\therefore\ T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$.

Ex. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2$

$a = 4,\ b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2;\ f(n) = n^2.$

CASE 2: $f(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg^0 n)$, that is, $k = 0$.

$\therefore\ T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg n)$.

Examples

Ex. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^3$

$a = 4,\ b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2;\ f(n) = n^3.$

CASE 3: $f(n) = \Omega(n^{2+\varepsilon})$ for $\varepsilon = 1$

and $4(cn/2)^3 \le cn^3$ (reg. cond.) for $c = 1/2$.

$\therefore\ T(n) = \Theta(n^3)$.

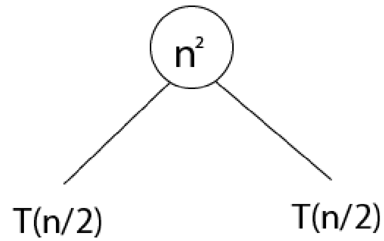
Ex. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2/\lg n$

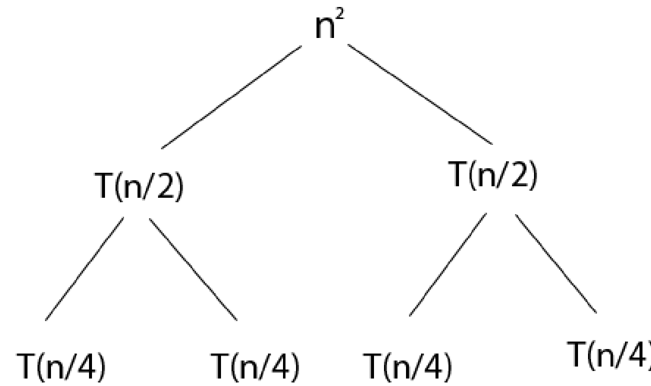
$a = 4,\ b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2;\ f(n) = n^2/\lg n.$

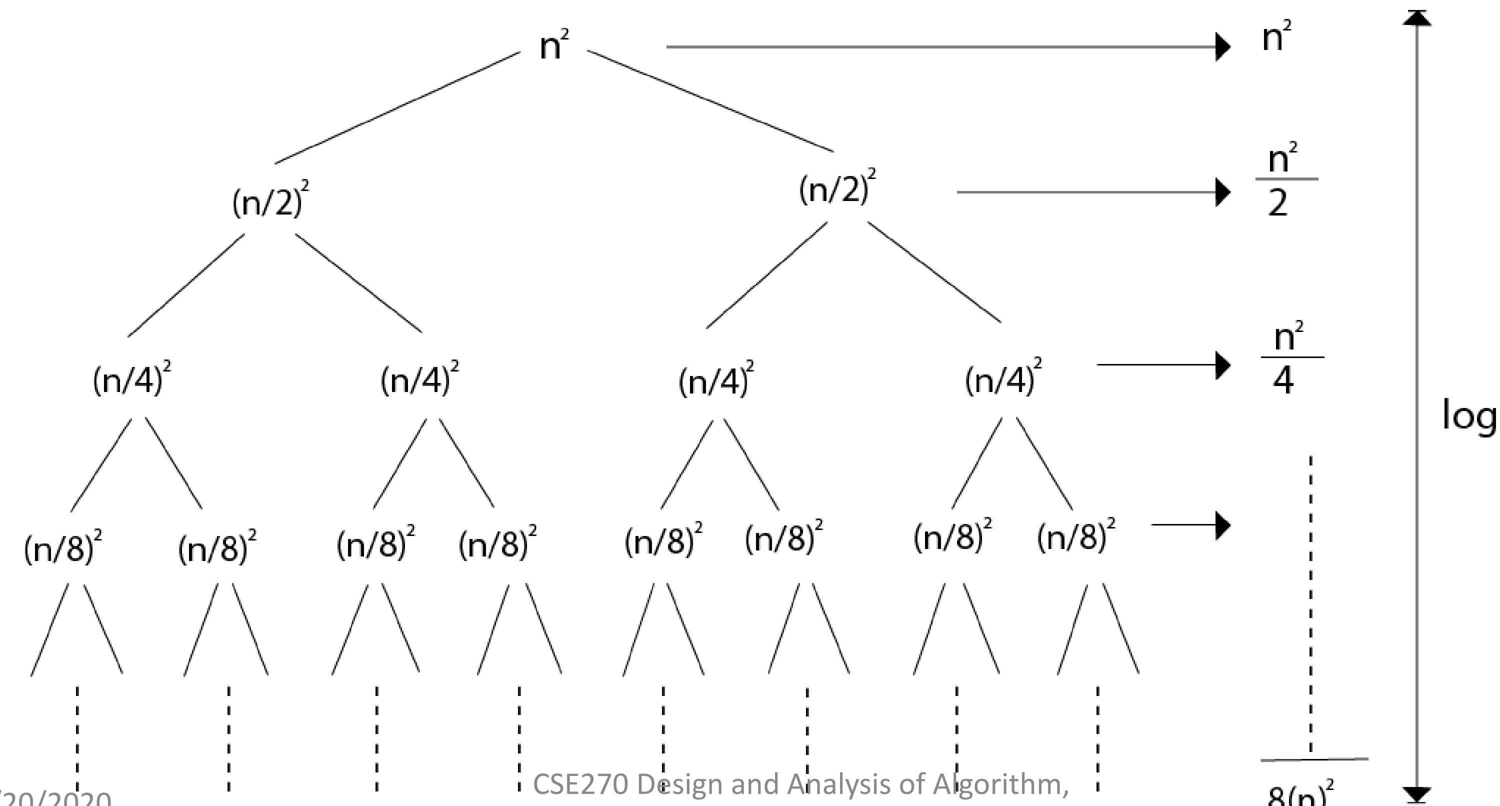
Master method does not apply. In particular, for every constant $\varepsilon > 0$, we have $n^{\varepsilon} = \omega(\lg n)$.

Recursion tree

Consider $T(n) = 2T\frac{n}{2} + n^2$


n²
T(n/2)
T(n/2)


n²
T(n/2)
T(n/2)
T(n/4)
T(n/4)
T(n/4)
T(n/4)


n²
(n/2)²
(n/2)²
(n/4)²
(n/4)²
(n/4)²
(n/4)²
(n/8)²
(n/8)²
(n/8)²
(n/8)²
(n/8)²
(n/8)²
(n/8)²
(n/8)²
n²
n²/2
n²/4
8(n)²
log

Cost of levels

$$T(n) = n^2 + \frac{n^2}{2} + \frac{n^2}{4} + \ldots\ldots\ldots \log n \text{ times.}$$

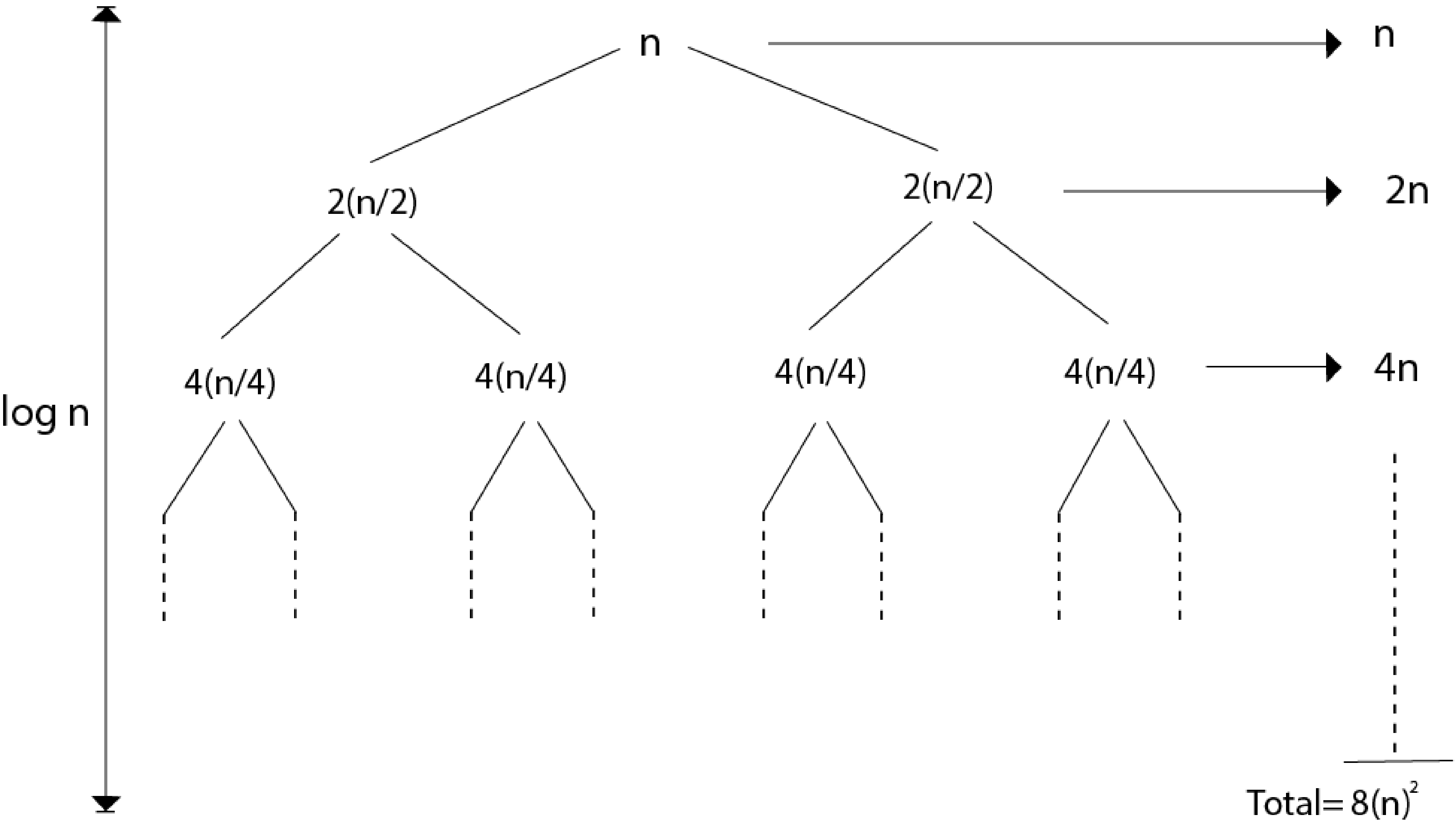
$$\leq n^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2^i}\right)$$

$$\leq n^2 \left(\frac{1}{1-\frac{1}{2}}\right) \leq 2n^2$$

$$\mathbf{T\ (n) = \theta} n^{\mathbf{2}}$$

Recursion Tree

$$T(n) = 4T\frac{n}{2}+n$$



n
2(n/2)
2(n/2)
4(n/4)
4(n/4)
4(n/4)
4(n/4)
n
2n
4n
log n
Total= 8(n)
2

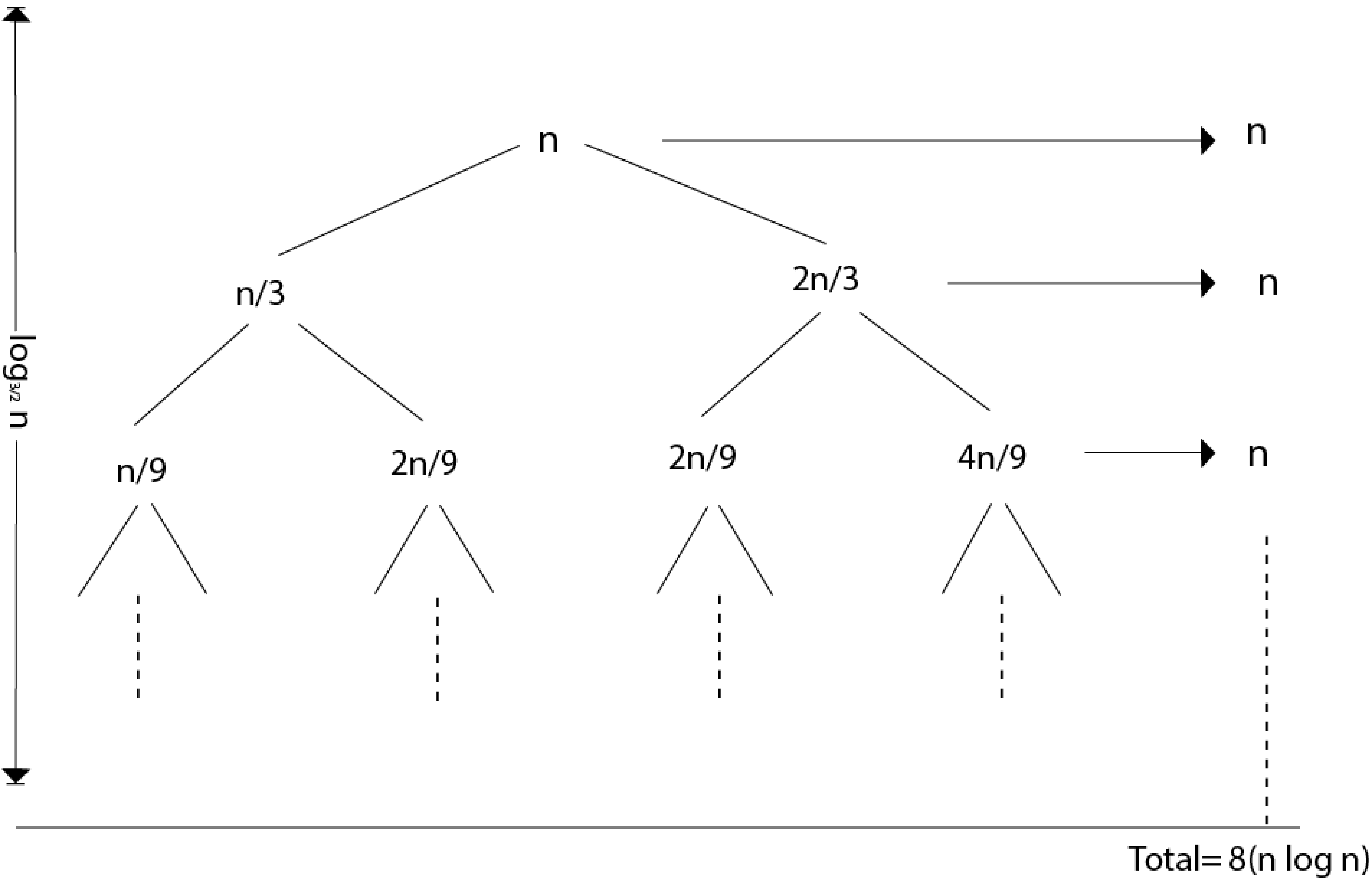
We have $n + 2n + 4n + \ldots\ldots \log_2 n$ times

$$= n\,(1 + 2 + 4 + \ldots\ldots \log_2 n \text{ times})$$

$$= n\,\frac{(2\ \log_2 n - 1)}{(2-1)} = \frac{n(n-1)}{1} = n^2 - n = \theta(n^2)$$

$$\mathbf{T\ (n) = \theta(n^2)}$$

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) + T\left(\frac{2n}{3}\right) + n$$


log₃/₂ n
n
n/3
2n/3
n/9
2n/9
2n/9
4n/9
n
n
n
Total= 8(n log n)

$$n \longrightarrow \frac{2}{3}n \longrightarrow \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) n \longrightarrow \ldots 1$$

Since $\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)$ n=1 when i=$\log_{\frac{3}{2}}$ n.

Thus the height of the tree is $\log_{\frac{3}{2}}$ n.

$$T(n) = n + n + n + \ldots\ldots + \log_{\frac{3}{2}} n \text{ times.} = \boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{n \log n})$$