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■ **Theorem** Suppose that we have a recurrence of the form T(n) = aT(n/2) + n,

where a is a positive integer and T(1) is nonnegative. Then we have the following big  $\Theta$  bounds on the solution:

- 1. If a < 2, then  $T(n) = \Theta(n)$ .
- 2. If a = 2, then  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$ .
- 3. If a > 2, then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_2 a})$

## **Proof**

We already proved Case 1 when a=1 in Example 3. (will not prove it for 1 < a < 2)

We already proved Case 2 in Example 1.

We will now prove Case 3.



T(n) = aT(n/2) + n, where a > 2. Assume that  $n = 2^i$ .

Iterating as in Example 5 gives

$$T(n) = a^i T\left(\frac{n}{2^i}\right) + \left(\frac{a^{i-1}}{2^{i-1}} + \frac{a^{i-2}}{2^{i-2}} + \cdots + \frac{a}{2} + 1\right) n$$

$$T(n) = a^{\log_2 n} T(1) + n \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n-1} \left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^i$$
Work at Iterated "bottom" Work

n times the largest term in the geometric series is

$$n\left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^{\log_2 n - 1} = \frac{2}{a} \cdot \frac{n \cdot a^{\log_2 n}}{2^{\log_2 n}} = \frac{2}{a} \cdot \frac{n \cdot a^{\log_2 n}}{n} = \frac{2}{a} \cdot a^{\log_2 n}$$

Notice that

$$a^{\log_2 n} = (2^{\log_2 a})^{\log_2 n} = (2^{\log_2 n})^{\log_2 a} = n^{\log_2 a}$$

So the total work is

$$a^{\log_2 n} T(1) + n \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n-1} \left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^i$$
  
$$\Theta\left(n^{\log_2 a}\right) \qquad \Theta\left(n^{\log_2 a}\right)$$

