



# Algorithms and Data Structures

## Lecture 8 Matrix multiplication and Strassen's algorithm

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故用兵之法，十則圍之，五則攻之，  
倍則分之，敵則能戰之，少則能守之，不若則能避之。

*"It is the rule in war, if ten times the enemy's strength, surround them; if five times, attack them; if double, be able to divide them; if equal, engage them; if fewer, be able to evade them; if weaker, be able to avoid them."*

--- "Chapter III Strategic Attack" 500BC



# Matrix Multiplications

## Matrix Multiplication Problem

**INPUT:** Two  $n \times n$  integer matrices  $A, B$

**OUTPUT:** Their product matrix  $A \times B$ .

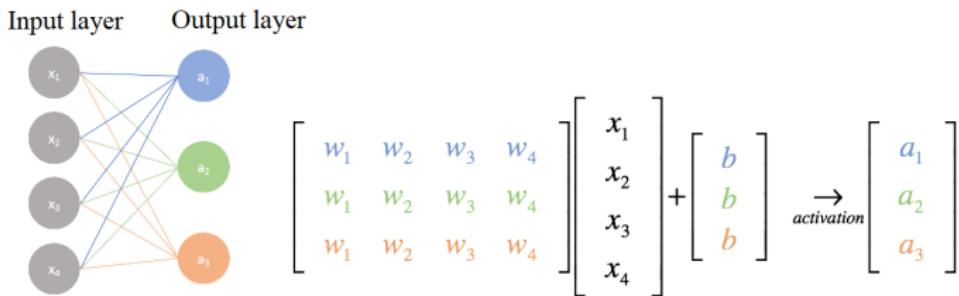
**Exercise.** Compute  $A \times B$  by hand, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 & 4 \\ 5 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & -2 \\ 1 & 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Why matrix multiplication?

- Linear programming and optimisation
- Neural networks and machine learning
- Supercomputing
- etc.

**Example.** A multi-layer perceptron (neural network):



# Standard Matrix Multiplications Algorithm

## Standard Matrix Multiplication Algorithm

The  $(i, j)$ -entry of  $A \times B$  is  $\sum_{k=1}^n A[i, k]B[k, j]$ , i.e.,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & c_1 \\ d_1 & e_1 & f_1 \\ g_1 & h_1 & i_1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 & c_2 \\ d_2 & e_2 & f_2 \\ g_2 & h_2 & i_2 \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1a_2 + b_1d_2 + c_1g_2 & a_1b_2 + b_1e_2 + c_1h_2 & a_1c_2 + b_1f_2 + c_1i_2 \\ d_1a_2 + e_1d_2 + f_1g_2 & d_1b_2 + e_1e_2 + f_1h_2 & d_1c_2 + e_1f_2 + f_1i_2 \\ g_1a_2 + h_1d_2 + i_1g_2 & g_1b_2 + h_1e_2 + i_1h_2 & g_1c_2 + h_1f_2 + i_1i_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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**Standard matrix multiplication algorithm:** a three-nested loop.

- **Inner-most loop:** Compute value for an entry
- **Middle loop:** Compute values in a row
- **Outer-most loop:** Compute values in all rows

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Time complexity  $\Theta(n^3)$

# Divide and Conquer

Let's try  
*Divide-and-Conquer*  
on this problem

Volker Strassen (1969)

Professor of Math and Stats

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Knuth Prize Winner 2008



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## Observations

We may divide a  $2n \times 2n$  matrix into **four**  $n \times n$  sub-matrices.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & a_{1,4} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} & a_{2,4} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} & a_{3,4} \\ a_{4,1} & a_{4,2} & a_{4,3} & a_{4,4} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} & b_{1,3} & b_{1,4} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} & b_{2,3} & b_{2,4} \\ b_{3,1} & b_{3,2} & b_{3,3} & b_{3,4} \\ b_{4,1} & b_{4,2} & b_{4,3} & b_{4,4} \end{pmatrix} = \\ \begin{pmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} & c_{1,3} & c_{1,4} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} & c_{2,3} & c_{2,4} \\ c_{3,1} & c_{3,2} & c_{3,3} & c_{3,4} \\ c_{4,1} & c_{4,2} & c_{4,3} & c_{4,4} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$A_1B_1 + A_2B_3$      $\left( \begin{array}{cc|cc} C_{1,1} & C_{1,2} & C_{1,3} & C_{1,4} \\ C_{2,1} & C_{2,2} & C_{2,3} & C_{2,4} \\ \hline C_{3,1} & C_{3,2} & C_{3,3} & C_{3,4} \\ C_{4,1} & C_{4,2} & C_{4,3} & C_{4,4} \end{array} \right)$

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Example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -2 & 4 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 5 & 2 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & -3 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Result:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 14 & 12 & -6 & 3 \\ -6 & -14 & -6 & 16 \\ -1 & 2 & 2 & -4 \\ 21 & 12 & -8 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

## First Attempt

Recursively solve the 8 sub-matrices multiplications:

$$A_1B_1, A_2B_3, A_1B_2, A_2B_4, A_3B_1, A_4B_3, A_3B_2, A_4B_4$$

Then a fixed number of matrix additions ( $\Theta(n^2)$ -time). Thus

$$T(n) = 8T(n/2) + cn^2$$

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$$T(n) = 8T(n/2) + cn^2$$

By Master theorem,

$$T(n) \in \Theta(n^3).$$

No improvement from the standard way.

First attempt fails.

# Strassen's Algorithm

**Next attempt:** “Group” some of the multiplications together so we need < 8 sub-matrix multiplication.

- $P_1 = A_1(B_2 - B_4)$
- $P_2 = (A_1 + A_2)B_4$
- $P_3 = (A_3 + A_4)B_1$
- $P_4 = A_4(B_3 - B_1)$
- $P_5 = (A_1 + A_4)(B_1 + B_4)$
- $P_6 = (A_2 - A_4)(B_3 + B_4)$
- $P_7 = (A_1 - A_3)(B_1 + B_2)$

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_1B_1 + A_2B_3 & A_1B_2 + A_2B_4 \\ \hline A_3B_1 + A_4B_3 & A_3B_2 + A_4B_4 \end{array} \right) =$$
$$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} P_5 + P_4 - P_2 + P_6 & P_1 + P_2 \\ \hline P_3 + P_4 & P_5 + P_1 - P_3 - P_7 \end{array} \right)$$

Thus we only need 7 multiplications of sub-matrices.

## Strassen's Algorithm

Given two input  $n \times n$  matrices  $A, B$ , do the following:

- If  $A, B$  have very small dimensions, directly multiply them
- Otherwise divide  $A, B$  into  $A_1, \dots, A_4, B_1, \dots, B_4$ .
- Compute  $P_1, \dots, P_7$ , each use one recursive call.
- Then add and subtract  $P_i$ 's to get the output matrix  $A \times B$

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## Complexity

- Let  $T(n)$  be the time it takes to multiples two  $n \times n$  matrices.
- We have  $T(n) = 7T(n/2) + cn^2$
- By Master theorem,  $T(n)$  is  $\Theta(n^{\log 7}) \approx \Theta(n^{2.808})$
- This is asymptotically better than  $\Theta(n^3)$ !

# Summary

In this lecture, we introduce Strassen's algorithm for matrix multiplication.

- Divide the problem of into seven subproblems of size  $n/2$
- Conquer each sub-problem by solving them recursively
- Combine their solutions into a solution for the original problem

Time complexity:  $O(n^{2.808})$ .

