



Algorithms and Data Structures

Lecture 6 Karatsuba'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



The Multiplication Problem

- Multiplication of integers is considered an elementary operation.
- However, this is constrained by the number of bits that can be processed at once by the CPU.
- For 64-bit system, the largest integer is normally bounded by 2^{63} .

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There are cases when large integer multiplication is needed:

- Cryptography
- Financial calculation
- Scientific computing
- Bio-informatics
- Random number generation
- Blockchain: Ethereum smart contract integers occupy 256 bits.

- For **large integers**, multiplication is no longer an elementary operation, and the time complexity is no longer $O(1)$.
- It is thus important to investigate the algorithm for performing multiplication of two integers.

Multiplication problem

- **INPUT:** Two arrays $x[0..n-1]$, $y[0..n-1]$ representing **binary** numbers of equal number of bits
- **OUTPUT:** Array $z[0..2n-1]$ that represents the product $x \times y$

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Remark. 1. We assume that x, y represent integers reading backwards, e.g.,

$$x = [0, 0, 0, 1] \text{ represents } (1000)_2 = 8$$

2. For x, y with different lengths, pad the shorter one with 0, e.g.,

$$x = [0, 0, 0, 1] \text{ \& } y = [1, 0, 1, 0] \text{ represents } (1000)_2 \times (101)_2 = (40)_{10} = (101000)_2$$

$$\text{Output: } z = [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1]$$

Long Multiplication: The “Grade School” Algorithm

Described by Al-Khwārizmī in “Al-Kitab al-Mukhtasar fi Hisab al-Jabr wal-Muqabala” (The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing)

$$\begin{array}{r} 1100101 \\ \times 1011001 \\ \hline 1100101 \\ 1100101 \\ 1100101 \\ 1100101 \\ \hline 10001100011101 \end{array}$$

Question. How to implement this algorithm using a programming language?

To perform `LongMultiplication(x[0.. $n - 1$], y[0.. $n - 1$]):`

① **Multiplication:**

- ① Starting with $y[0]$, multiply it by each digit of x .
- ② Write each partial product, shifted one position to the left for each successive digit of the bottom number.

② **Addition:**

- ① Sum up all the partial products, aligning them vertically.
- ② Carry over any digits when necessary.

③ **Result:** The result is the combined sum of the partial products.


```
function LongMultiplication(arrays x[0..n - 1], y[0..n - 1])
```

INPUT: arrays x, y where each element is 0/1-valued

Create a new 0-valued array $z[0..2n-1]$

for $i \leftarrow 0$ to $n - 1$ **do**

- Outer loop: Iterate through y

$$carry \leftarrow 0$$

if $y[i] = 1$ then

```

for  $j \leftarrow 0$  to  $n - 1$  do

```

- ▶ Inner loop: Iterate through x

$$product \leftarrow x[j] + z[i + j] + carry$$
$$z[i + j] \leftarrow product \% 10_2$$
$$carry \leftarrow product/10_2$$
$$z[i + n] \leftarrow carry$$

```
return z
```

$$\begin{array}{r}
 6543210 \\
 \overline{1100101} \quad x \\
 \times 1011001 \quad y \\
 \hline
 1100101 \\
 1100101 \\
 1100101 \\
 1100101 \\
 1100101 \\
 \hline
 100011000111101
 \end{array}$$

Time complexity of long multiplication

- Outer for-loop: repeats n times
- Inner for-loop: repeats n times in worst case
- Each iteration in the inner loop: Constant number of (single-bit) addition, modulo, division, and assignment

Therefore the running time of long multiplication is $\Theta(n^2)$.

A Faster Multiplication?

Kolmogorov's Conjecture



A.Kolmogorov (1952):

“Is there a more efficient algorithm?”

A Faster Multiplication?

Kolmogorov's Conjecture



A. Kolmogorov (1960):

Dean at Moscow State University

“ Prove that there is no more efficient algorithm for integer multiplication ”



A. Karatsuba :

23 year old grad student

“ There is a more efficient algorithm — divide and conquer ”

Observation

- $(2x + 3)(5x + 7) = 2 \times 5x^2 + (2 \times 7 + 3 \times 5)x + 3 \times 7$

4 multiplications, 3 additions

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$$\Rightarrow 2 \times 7 + 3 \times 5 = (2 + 3) \times (5 + 7) - 2 \times 5 - 3 \times 7$$

$$\Rightarrow (2x + 3)(5x + 7) =$$

$$2 \times 5x^2 + 3 \times 7 + ((2 + 3) \times (5 + 7) - 2 \times 5 - 3 \times 7)x$$

3 multiplications, 6 additions

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 $\Rightarrow (2x + 3)(5x + 7) =$
 $2 \times 5x^2 + 3 \times 7 + ((2 + 3) \times (5 + 7) - 2 \times 5 - 3 \times 7)x$

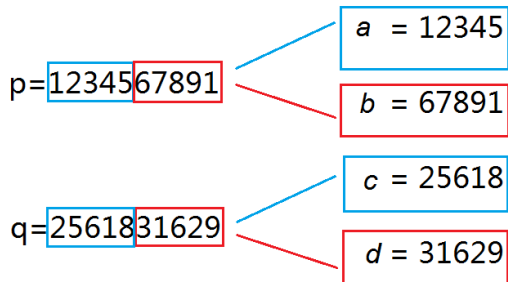
3 multiplications, 6 additions

General Version

$$(ax + b)(cx + d) = acx^2 + bd + ((a + b)(c + d) - ac - bd)x$$

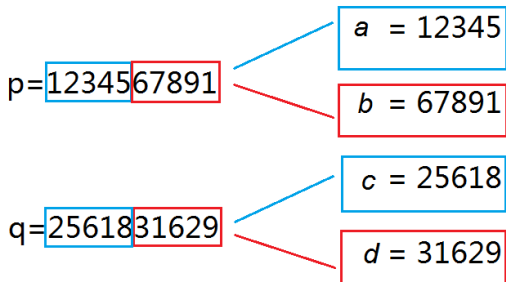
Karatsuba's Algorithm

Example:



Karatsuba's Algorithm

Example:



$$\begin{aligned} p \times q &= (a \times 10^5 + b) \times (c \times 10^5 + d) \\ &= ac \times 10^{10} + bd + ((a + b)(c + d) - ac - bd) \times 10^5 \end{aligned}$$

Function **karatsuba**($x[0..n-1]$, $y[0..n-1]$)

- **Input:** Two integers x, y , represented as arrays of bits.
- **Base Case:** If the integers have only one digit, multiply them directly.
- **Recursive Step:**
 - Split each integer into two halves: a "high" part and a "low" part.
 - Recursively compute:
 - z_0 : the product of the "low" parts.
 - z_2 : the product of the "high" parts.
 - z_1 : the product of the sum of the "low" and "high" parts of both numbers.
 - Combine the results using:
 - $z_2 \ll 2k$ to shift z_2 by two halves (to the left).
 - $(z_1 - z_2 - z_0) \ll k$ to shift and adjust z_1 .
 - Add z_0 directly.
- **Output:** The combined result gives the final product of the two large integers.

```

function KaratsubaMultiplication(arrays  $x[0..n-1]$ ,  $y[0..n-1]$ )
    if  $n = 1$  then
        return  $x[0] \times y[0]$ 
     $k \leftarrow \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ 
    Divide  $x$  into two parts:  $x_{high} \leftarrow x[k..n-1]$ ,  $x_{low} \leftarrow x[0..k-1]$ 
    Divide  $y$  into two parts:  $y_{high} \leftarrow y[k..n-1]$ ,  $y_{low} \leftarrow y[0..k-1]$ 
     $z_0 \leftarrow \text{KaratsubaMultiplication}(x_{low}, y_{low})$ 
     $z_1 \leftarrow \text{KaratsubaMultiplication}(x_{low} + x_{high}, y_{low} + y_{high})$ 
     $z_2 \leftarrow \text{KaratsubaMultiplication}(x_{high}, y_{high})$ 
    return  $(z_2 \ll 2k) + ((z_1 - z_2 - z_0) \ll k) + z_0$ 

```

Time Complexity of Karatsuba's Algorithm

Question. What is the time complexity of Karatsuba's algorithm?

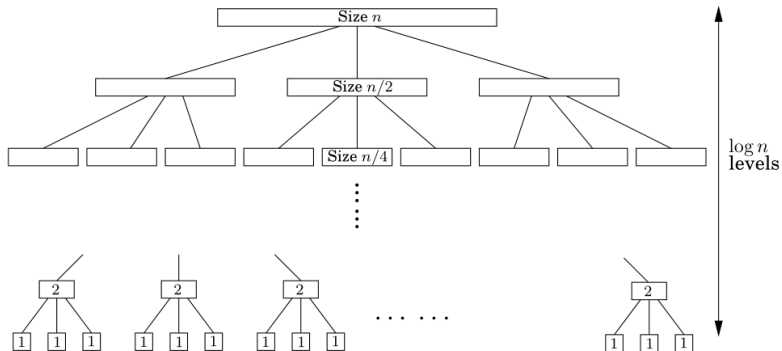
Time Complexity

Let $T(n)$ be the time complexity of multiplying two length- n integers.

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 3T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + cn & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where c is a constant.

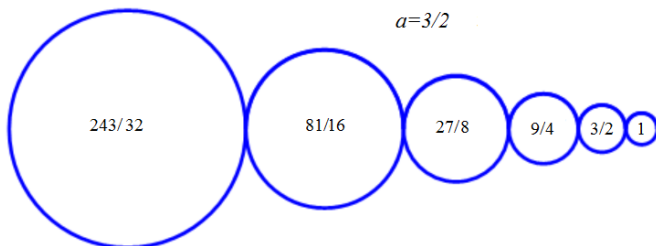
Tree of Recursive Calls



Time Complexity

$$T(n) = nc \left(1 + \frac{3}{2} + \frac{3^2}{2^2} + \dots + \frac{3^{k-1}}{2^{k-1}} + \frac{3^k}{2^k} \right)$$

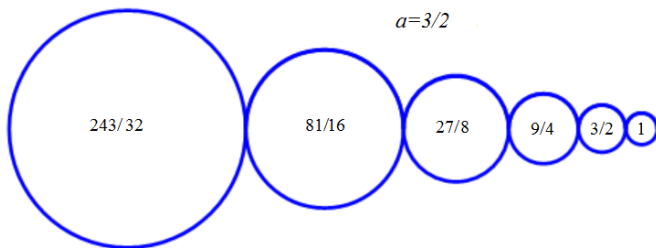
Geometric Series



Time Complexity

$$T(n) = nc \left(1 + \frac{3}{2} + \frac{3^2}{2^2} + \dots + \frac{3^{k-1}}{2^{k-1}} + \frac{3^k}{2^k} \right)$$

Geometric Series



Therefore

$$T(n) = nc \frac{(3/2)^{k+1} - 1}{3/2 - 1} \leq 3nc \frac{3^k}{2^k}$$

Solving Recurrence

Time Complexity

Recall $n = 2^k$. Therefore $k = \log_2 n$. We have

$$T(n) \leq 3nc \frac{3^{\log_2 n}}{2^{\log_2 n}} = 3nc \frac{3^{\log_2 n}}{n} = 3c \times 3^{\log_2 n}$$

Solving Recurrence

Time Complexity

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$$T(n) \leq 3nc \frac{3^{\log_2 n}}{2^{\log_2 n}} = 3nc \frac{3^{\log_2 n}}{n} = 3c \times 3^{\log_2 n}$$

Note that $3 = 2^{\log_2 3}$. So

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\leq 3c \times (2^{\log_2 3})^{\log_2 n} \\ &= 3c \times 2^{\log_2 3 \times \log_2 n} \\ &= 3c \times 2^{\log_2 n \times \log_2 3} \\ &= 3c \times (2^{\log_2 n})^{\log_2 3} \\ &= 3c \times n^{\log_2 3} \\ &\leq 3c \times n^{1.59} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $T(n)$ is $O(n^{1.59})$, a big improvement from $O(n^2)$!!

In this lecture, we start to explore an important algorithm design strategy: **divide and conquer**.

We looked at Karatsuba's algorithm as a first example of a divide and conquer algorithm.

- Multiplication problem: Finding the product of two (large) integers
- **Classical approach:** Long multiplication method dated back to ancient time.

Running time $O(n^2)$

- **Karatsuba's algorithm:**
 - Dividing integer arrays into halves
 - Reduce the multiplication problem into three sub-problems.
 - Recursively solve the sub-problems
 - Add the results to produce a result of the original problem

Running time $O(n^{1.59})$

This is the first time in 5000 years when human multiply numbers asymptotically faster than quadratic time.

