

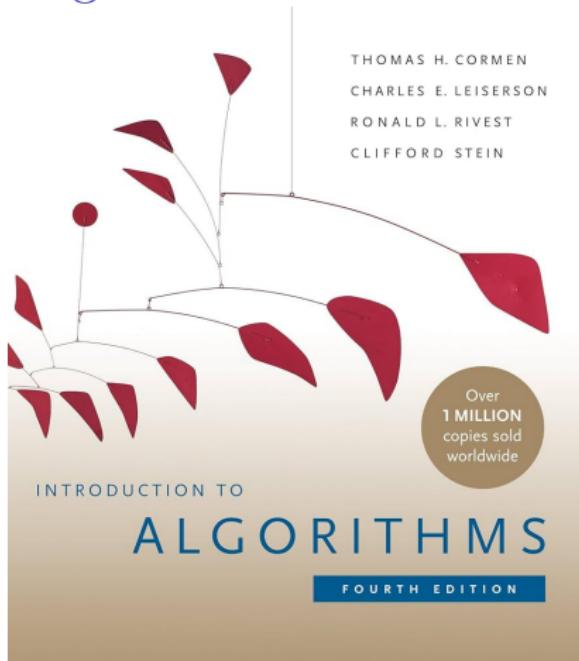
# Introduction to Algorithms

## Lecture 1: Analysis of Algorithms

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology

July 21, 2025

# Introduction to Algorithms



Content has been extracted from *Introduction to Algorithms*, Fourth Edition, by Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest, and Stein. MIT Press. 2022.

Visit <https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262046305/introduction-to-algorithms/>.

Original slides from *Introduction to Algorithms* 6.046J/18.401J, Fall 2005 Class by Prof. Charles Leiserson and Prof. Erik Demaine. MIT OpenCourseWare Initiative available at <https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/6-046j-introduction-to-algorithms-sma-5503-fall-2005/>.

# Plan

Analysis of Algorithms

Insertion-sort

Asymptotic Analysis

Merge-sort

Recurrences

# Analysis of Algorithms

- ▶ The theoretical study of computer-program performance and resource usage.
- ▶ But... What's more important than performance?

# Analysis of Algorithms

- ▶ The theoretical study of computer-program performance and resource usage.
- ▶ But... What's more important than performance?
  - ▶ modularity
  - ▶ correctness
  - ▶ maintainability
  - ▶ functionality
  - ▶ robustness
  - ▶ user-friendliness
  - ▶ programmer time
  - ▶ simplicity
  - ▶ extensibility
  - ▶ reliability

# Why study algorithms and performance?

- ▶ Algorithms help us to understand scalability.
- ▶ Performance often draws the line between what is feasible and what is impossible.
- ▶ Algorithmic mathematics provides a language for talking about program behavior.
- ▶ Performance is the currency of computing.
- ▶ The lessons of program performance generalize to other computing resources.
- ▶ Speed is fun!

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# The problem of sorting

**Input:** sequence  $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$  of numbers.

**Output:** permutation  $\langle a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n \rangle$  such that  
 $a'_1 \leq a'_2 \leq \dots \leq a'_n$ .

Example:

**Input:** 8 2 4 9 3 6

**Output:** 2 3 4 6 8 9

# Insertion Sort

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**Algorithm 1** Insertion Sort

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```
1: INSERTION-SORT( $A, n$ )       $\triangleright A[1 \dots n]$ 
2:   for  $j \leftarrow 2$  to  $n$  do
3:      $key \leftarrow A[j]$ 
4:      $i \leftarrow j - 1$ 
5:     while  $i > 0$  and  $A[i] > key$  do
6:        $A[i + 1] \leftarrow A[i]$ 
7:        $i \leftarrow i - 1$ 
8:      $A[i + 1] \leftarrow key$ 
```

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“pseudocode”

# Insertion Sort

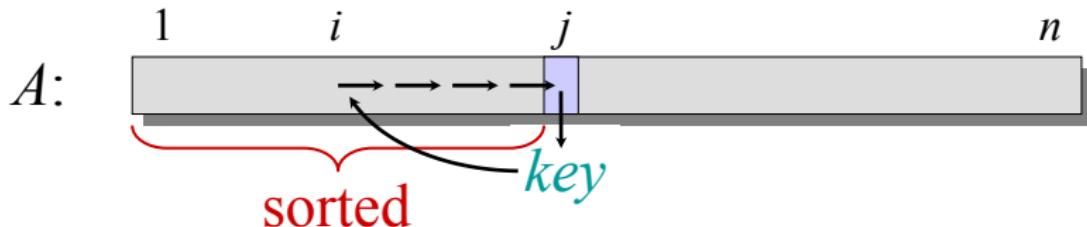
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## Algorithm 2 Insertion Sort

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```
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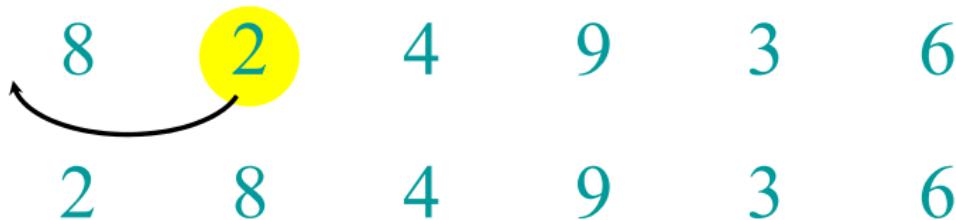
## Example of insertion sort

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## Example of insertion sort



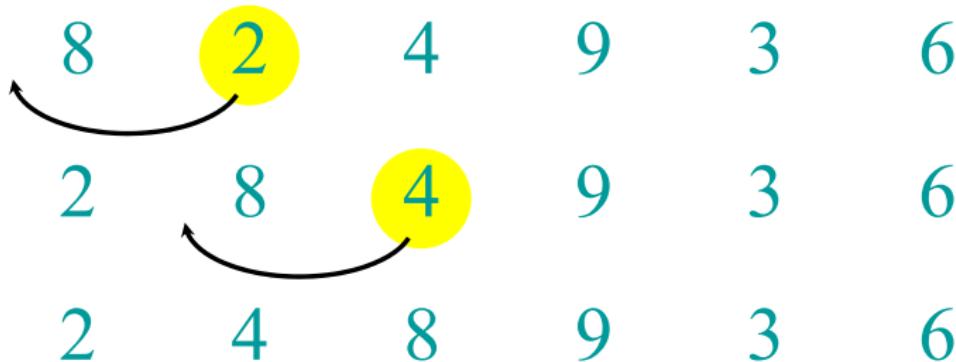
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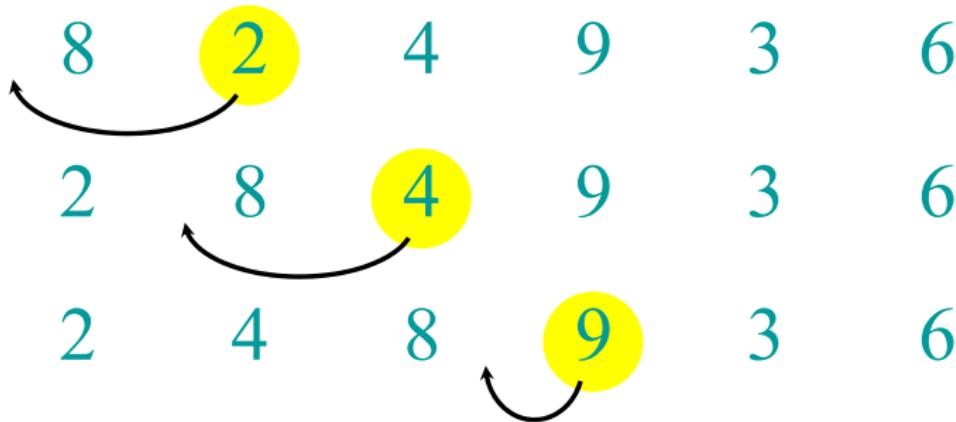
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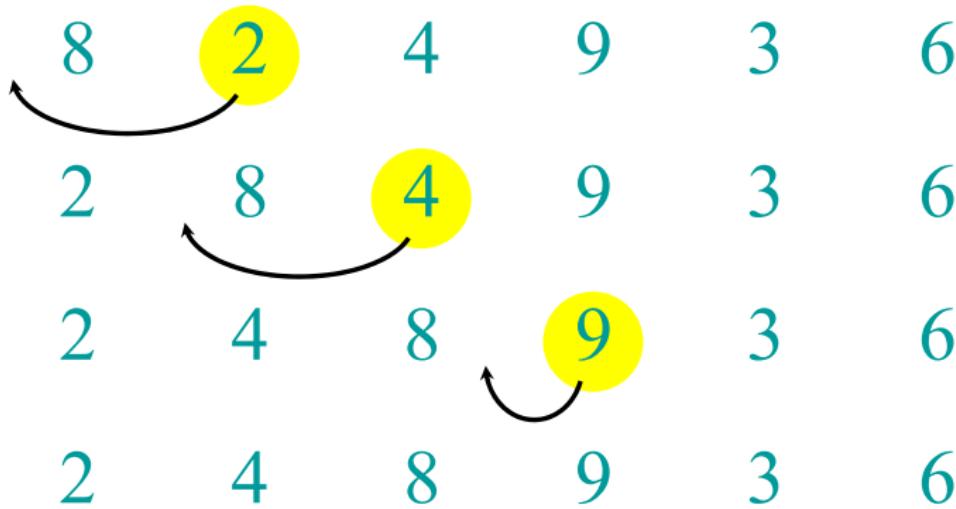
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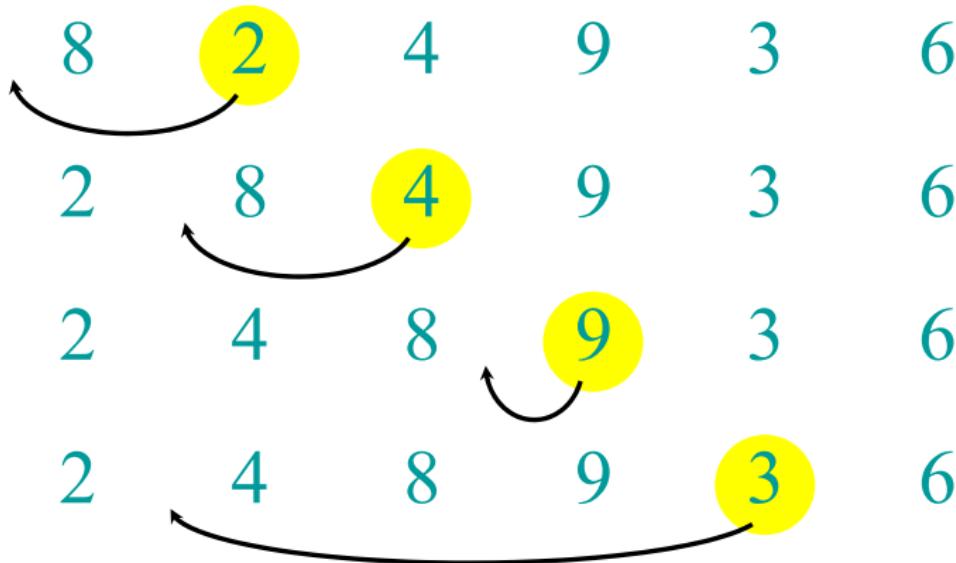
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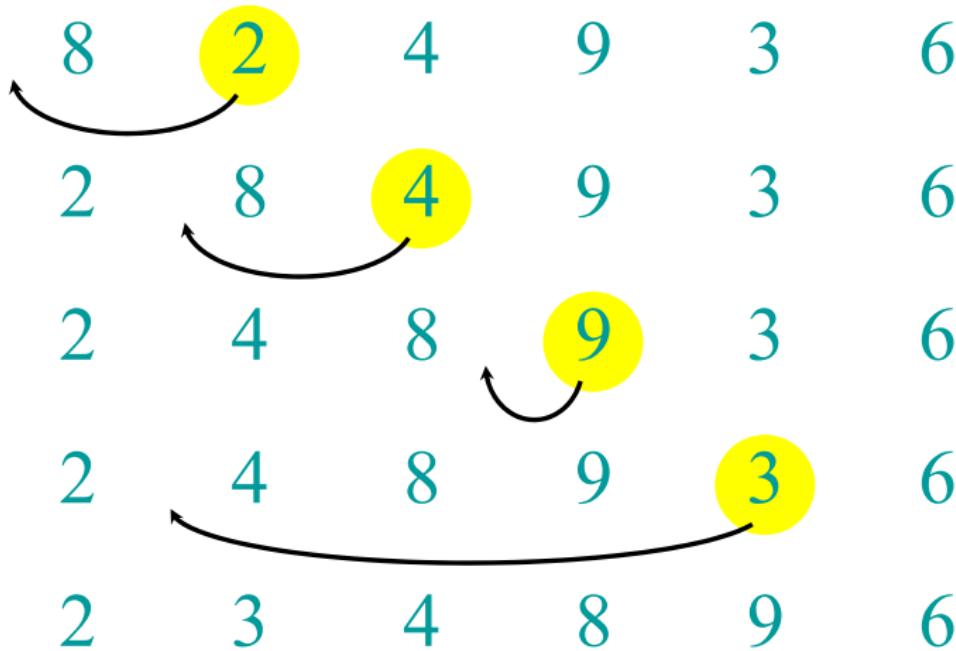
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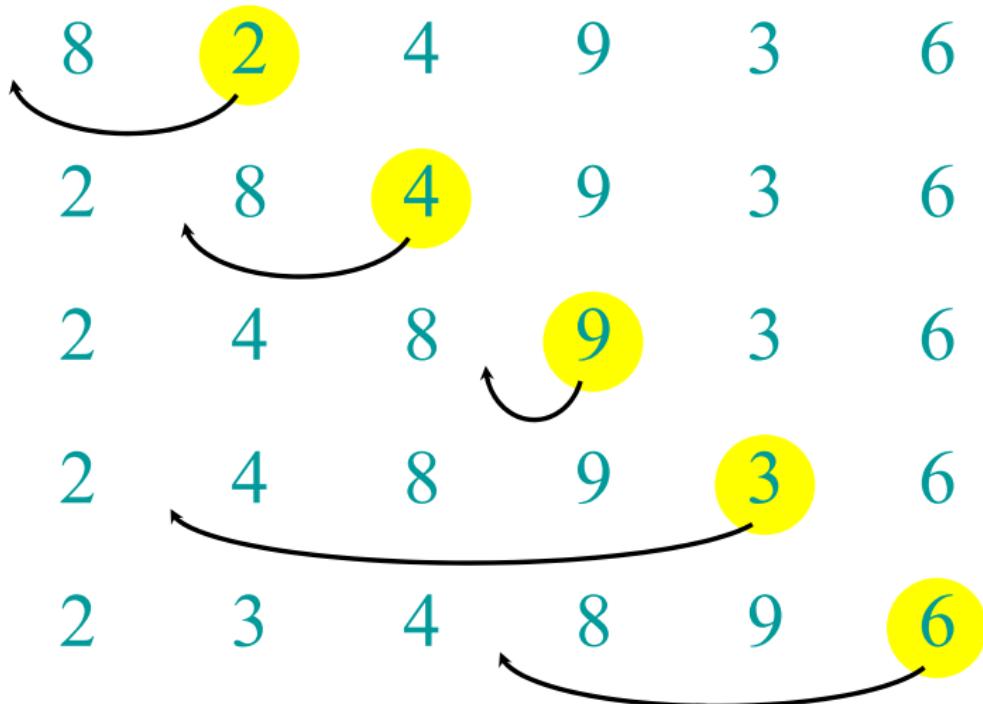
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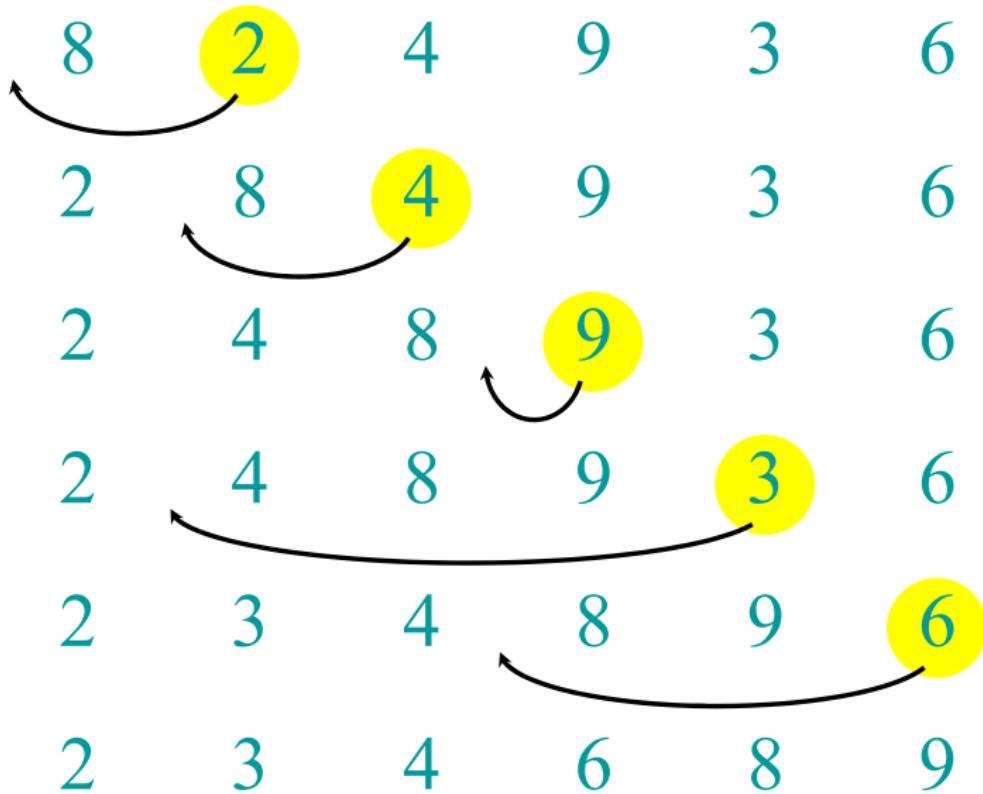
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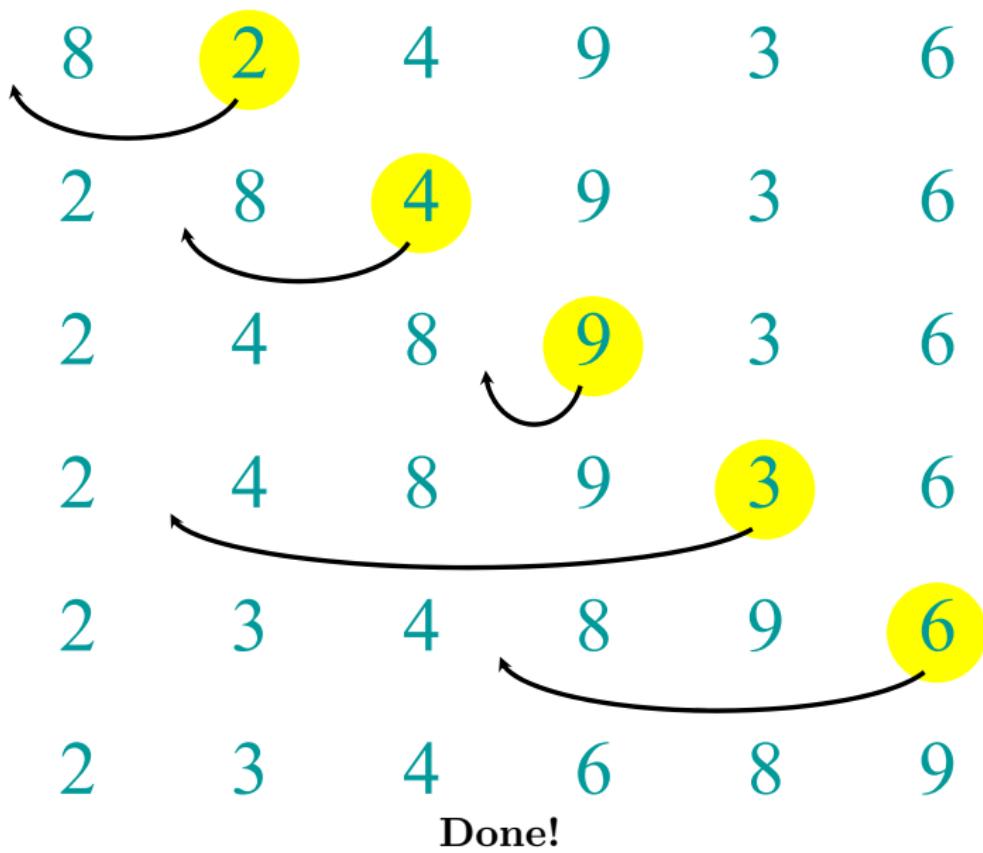
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## Example of insertion sort



## Example of insertion sort



# Running time

- ▶ The running time depends on the input: an already sorted sequence is easier to sort.
- ▶ Parameterize the running time by the size of the input, since short sequences are easier to sort than long ones.
- ▶ Generally, we seek upper bounds on the running time, because everybody likes a guarantee.

# Plan

Analysis of Algorithms

Insertion-sort

Asymptotic Analysis

Merge-sort

Recurrences

# Kinds of analyses

- ▶ Worst-case: (usually)
  - ▶  $T(n)$  = *maximum time* of algorithm on any input of size  $n$ .
- ▶ Average-case: (sometimes)
  - ▶  $T(n)$  = *expected time* of algorithm over all inputs of size  $n$ .
  - ▶ Need assumption of statistical distribution of inputs.
- ▶ Best-case: (Bogus!)
  - ▶ Cheat with a slow algorithm that works fast on *some* input.

# Machine-independent time

What is insertion sort's worst-case time?

- ▶ It depends on the speed of our computer:
  - ▶ relative speed (on the same machine).
  - ▶ absolute speed (on different machines).

BIG IDEA!

- ▶ Ignore machine-dependent constants.
- ▶ Look at **growth** of  $T(n)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

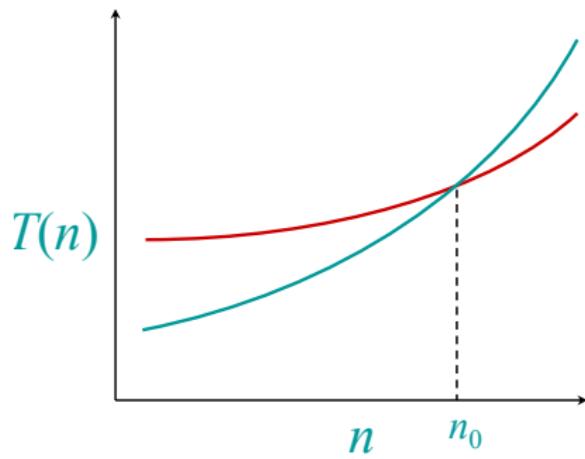
“Asymptotic Analysis”

# $\Theta$ -notation

- ▶ Math:
  - ▶  $\Theta(g(n)) = \{f(n) : \text{there exist positive constants } c_1, c_2, \text{ and } n_0 \text{ such that } 0 \leq c_1g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2g(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0\}$
- ▶ Engineering:
  - ▶ Drop low-order terms; ignore leading constants.
  - ▶ For instance:  $3n^3 + 90n^2 - 5n + 6046 = \Theta(n^3)$

# Asymptotic Performance

When  $n$  get large enough, a  $\Theta(n^2)$  algorithm **always** beats a  $\Theta(n^3)$  algorithm.



- ▶ We should not ignore asymptotically slower algorithms, however.
- ▶ Real-world design situations often call for a careful balancing of engineering objectives.
- ▶ Asymptotic analysis is a useful tool to help to structure our thinking.

# Insertion sort Analysis

- ▶ **Worst case:**
  - ▶ Input reverse sorted.
  - ▶  $T(n) = \sum_{j=2}^n \Theta(j) = \Theta(n^2)$ .
  - ▶ Arithmetic series!
- ▶ **Average case:**
  - ▶ All permutations equally likely.
  - ▶  $T(n) = \sum_{j=2}^n \Theta(\frac{j}{2}) = \Theta(n^2)$ .
- ▶ *Is insertion sort a fast sorting algorithm?*
  - ▶ Moderately so, for small  $n$ .
  - ▶ Not at all, for large  $n$ .

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# Merge-sort

---

## Algorithm 3 Insertion Sort

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- 1: MERGE-SORT( $A, n$ )       $\triangleright A[1 \dots n]$
  - 2:    **if**  $n = 1$ , done.
  - 3:    Recursively sort  $A[1 \dots \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil]$  and  $A[\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 1 \dots n]$
  - 4:    MERGE the 2 sorted list.
- 

Key subroutine: MERGE

# Merging two sorted arrays

20 12

13 11

7 9

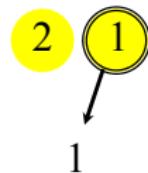
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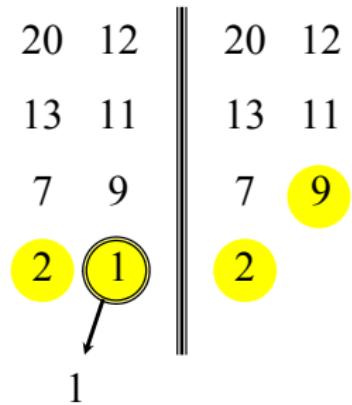
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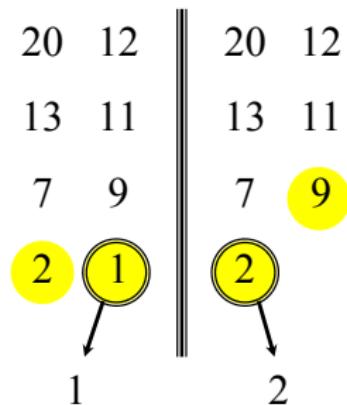
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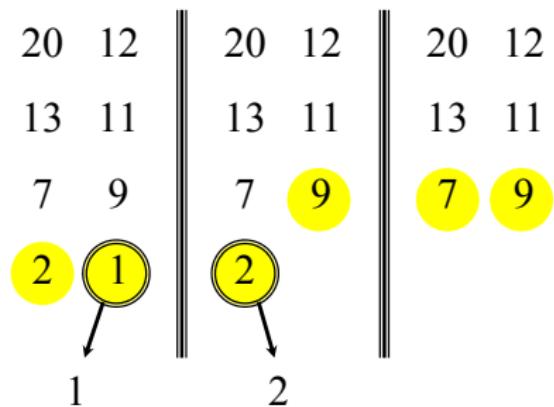
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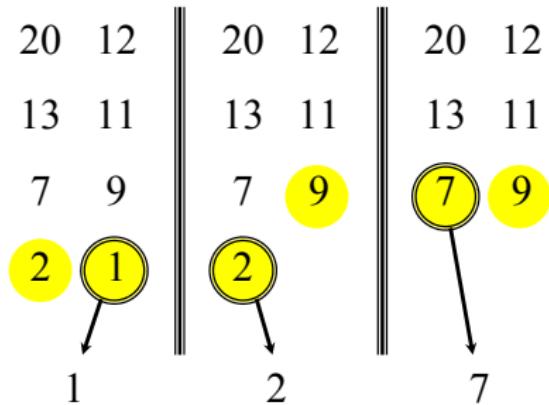
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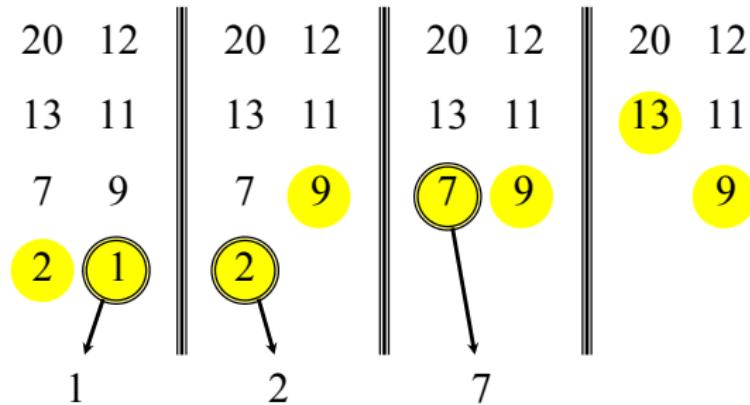
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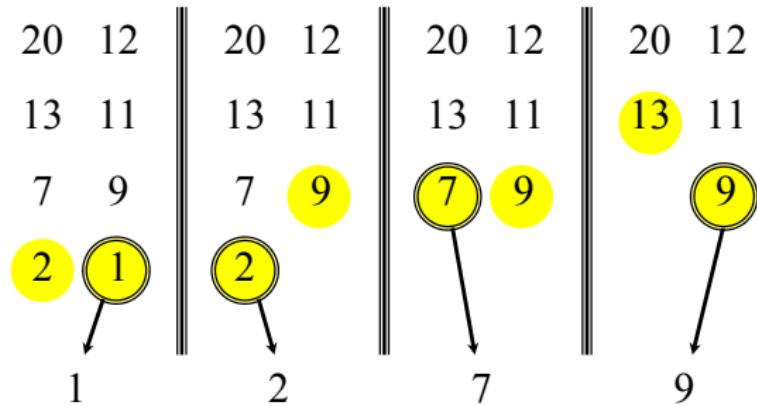
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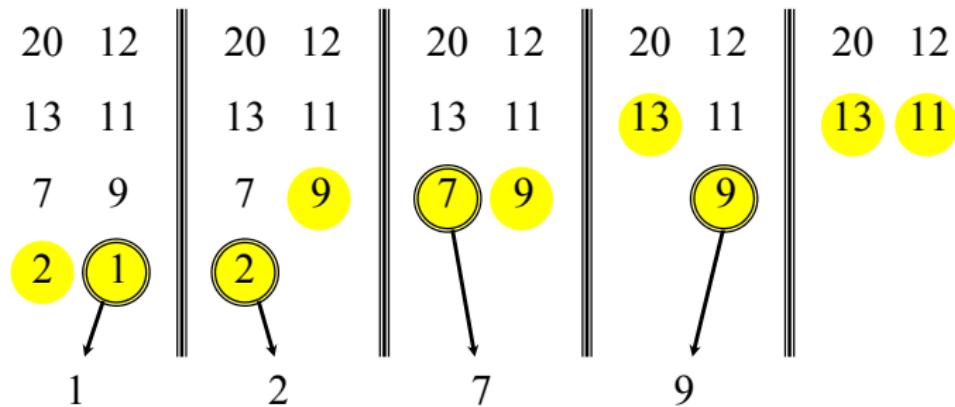
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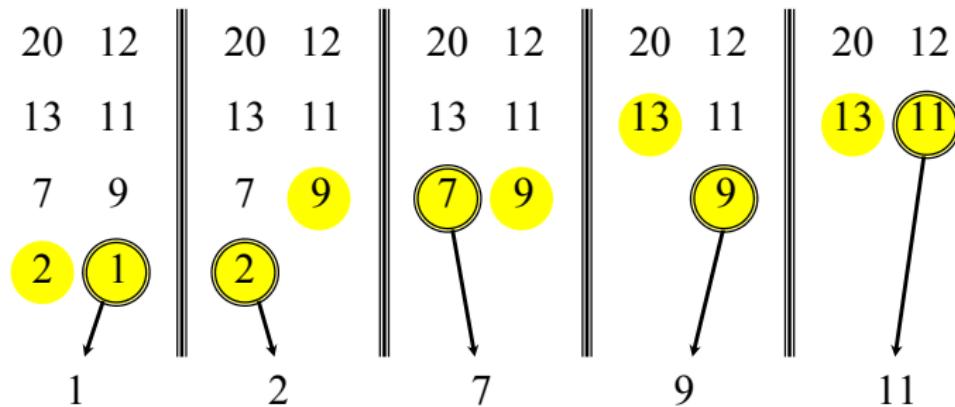
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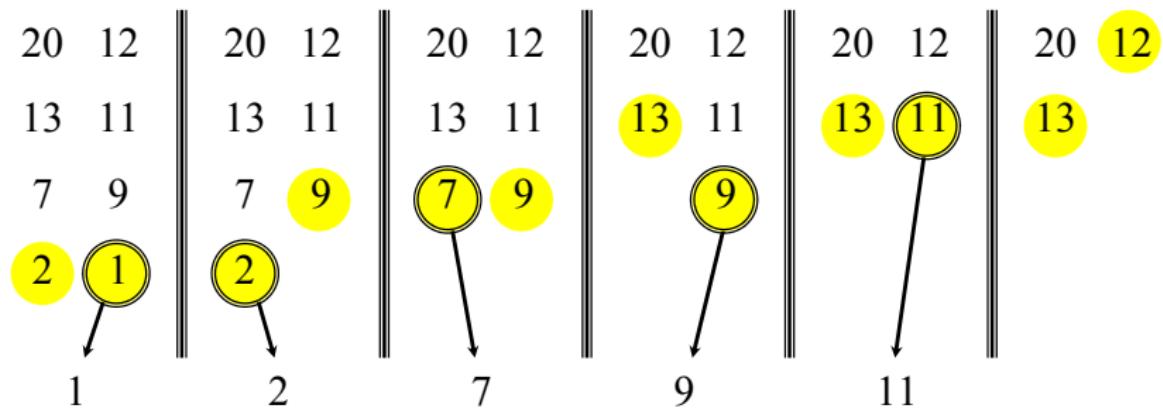
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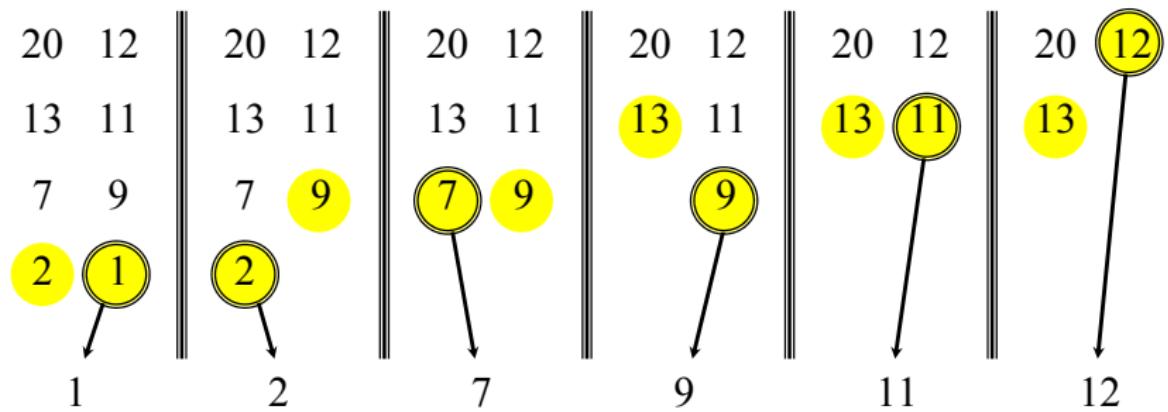
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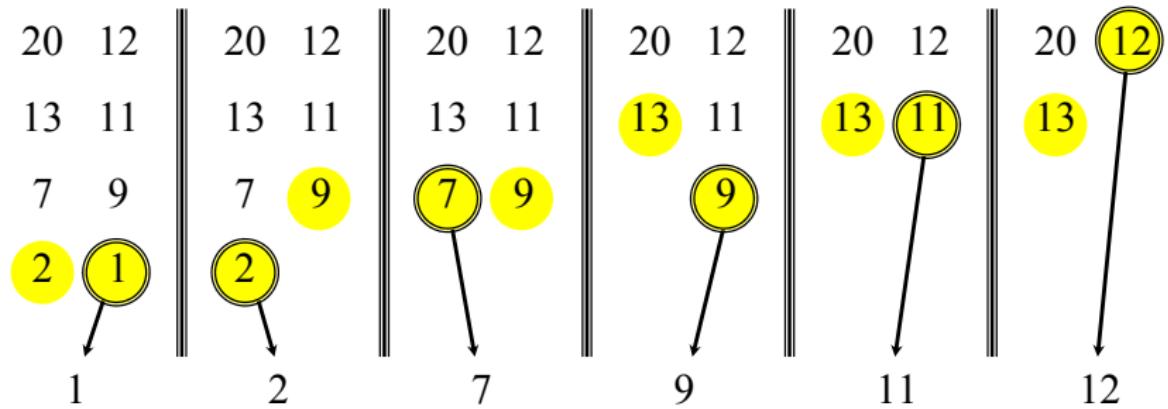
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## Merging two sorted arrays



Time =  $\Theta(n)$  to merge a total of  $n$  elements (linear time).

# Analyzing merge-sort

Abuse!

$T(n)$

MERGE-SORT  $A[1 \dots n]$

$\Theta(1)$

1. **if**  $n = 1$ , done!

$2T(\frac{n}{2})$

2. Recursively sort  $A[1 \dots \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil]$   
and  $A[\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 1 \dots n]$ .

$\Theta(n)$

3. MERGE the 2 sorted lists.

**Sloppiness:** Should be  $T(\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil) + T(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor)$ , but it turns out  
not matter asymptotically.

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## Recurrence for merge-sort

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

- ▶ We shall usually omit stating the base case when  $T(n) = \Theta(1)$  for sufficiently small  $n$ , but only when it has no effect on the asymptotic solution to the recurrence.
- ▶ CLRS<sup>1</sup> and Lecture 2 provide several ways to find a good upper bound on  $T(n)$ .

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<sup>1</sup>The book

# Recursion Tree

Solve  $T(n) = 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + cn$ , where  $c > 0$  is constant.

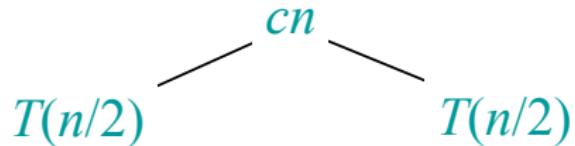
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$$T(n)$$

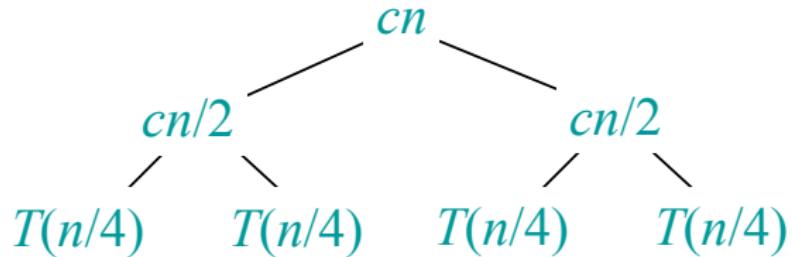
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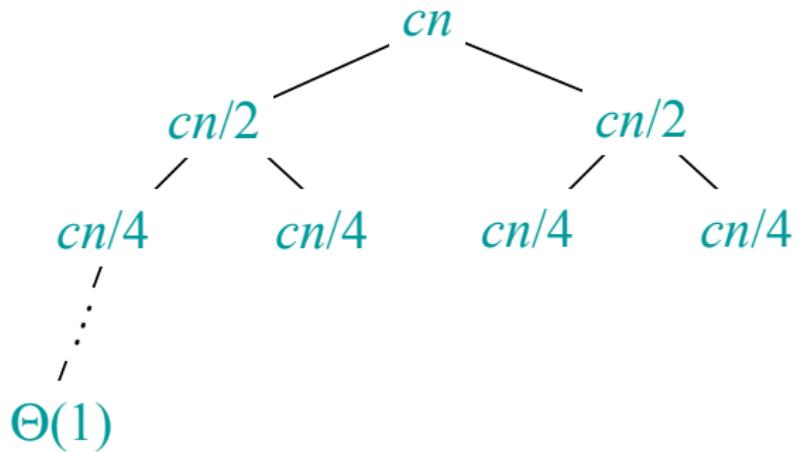
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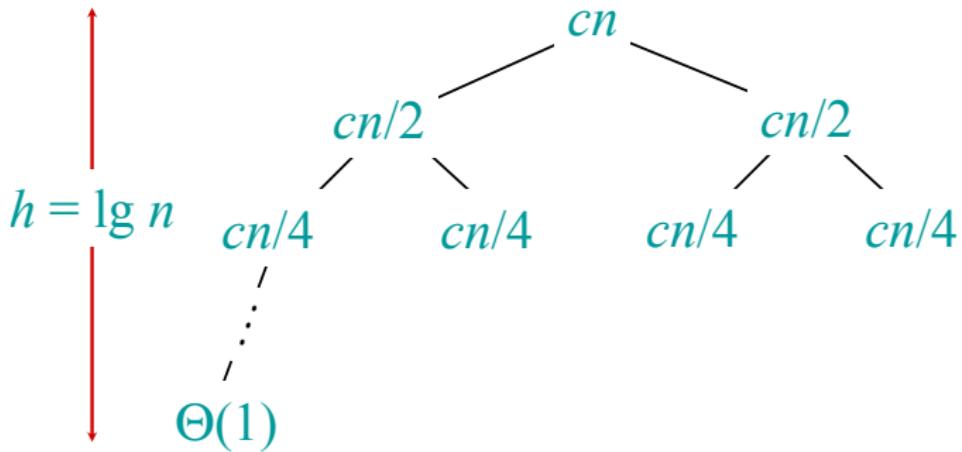
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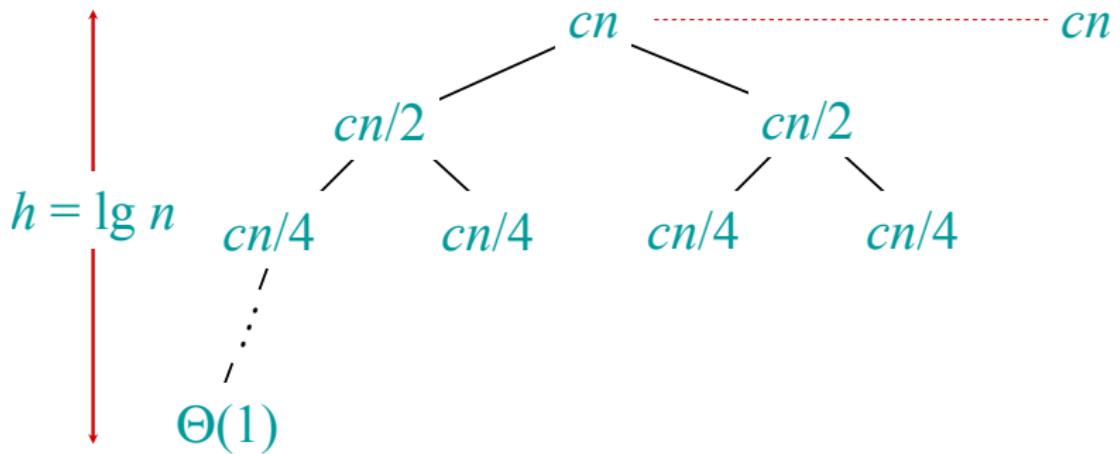
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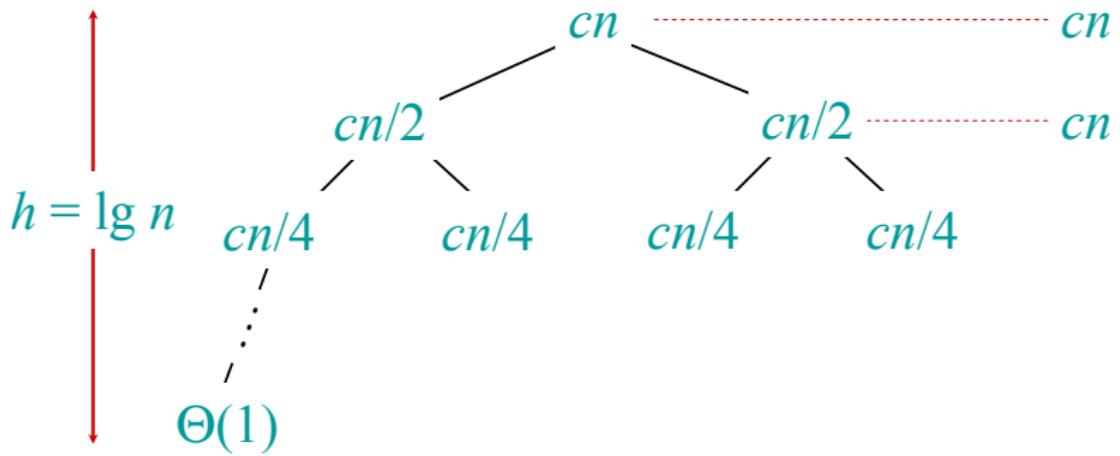
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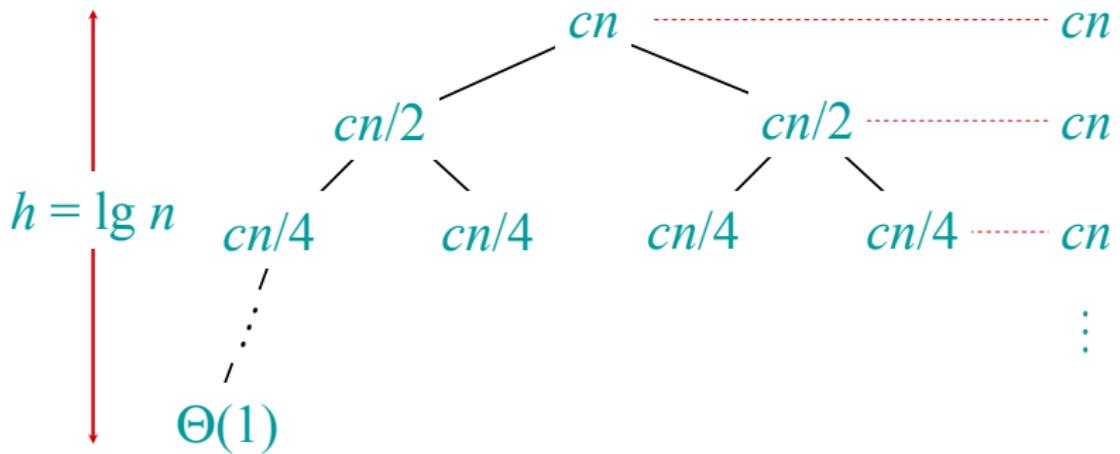
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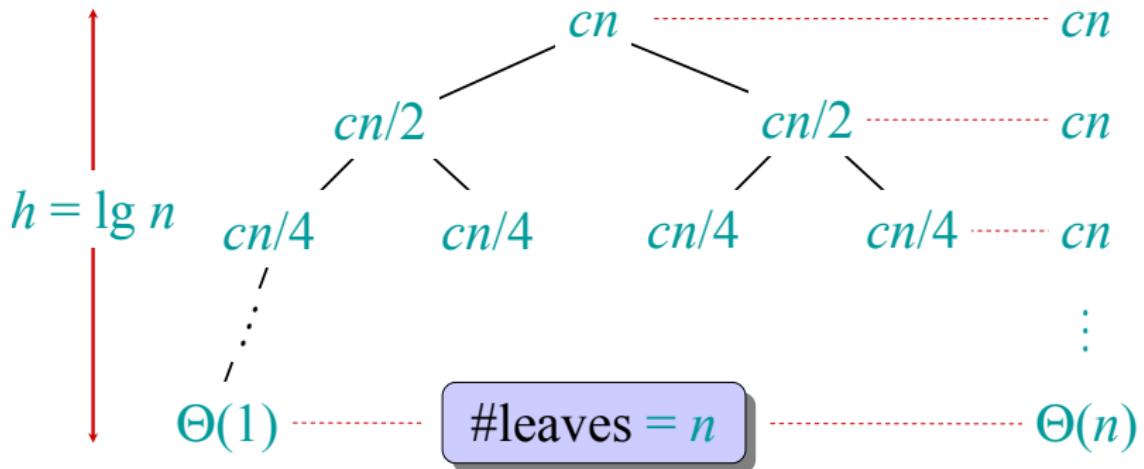
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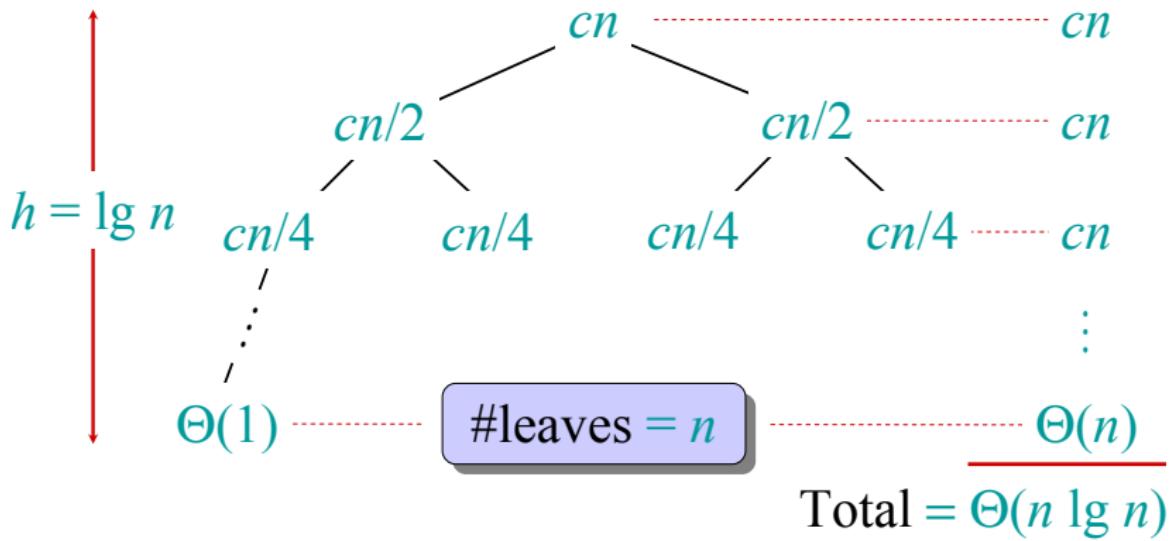
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TDT5FTOTC



Tim Duncan in Wikipedia.

# TDT5FTOTC



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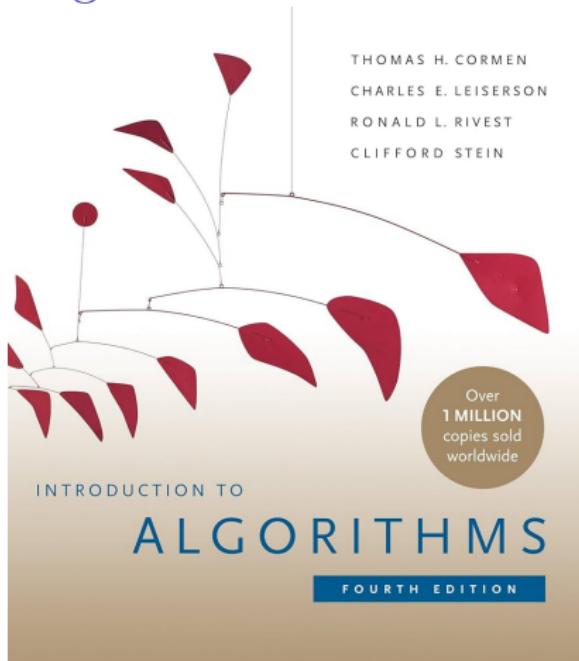
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- 1 **Recurrence Relations Model Recursive Algorithms:** Recurrence relations, solved using tools like recursion trees, allow us to determine the runtime of recursive algorithms.

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