

Lecture 03

Divide and Conquer

CSE373: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

Quicksort

Follows the **divide-and-conquer** paradigm.

Divide: Partition (separate) the array $A[p..r]$ into two (possibly empty) subarrays $A[p..q-1]$ and $A[q+1..r]$.

Each element in $A[p..q-1] \leq A[q]$.

$A[q] \leq$ each element in $A[q+1..r]$.

Index q is computed as part of the partitioning procedure.

Conquer: Sort the two subarrays by recursive calls to quicksort.

Combine: The subarrays are sorted in place – no work is needed to combine them.

How do the divide and combine steps of quicksort compare with those of merge sort?

Partitioning

Select the **last element** $A[r]$ in the subarray $A[p..r]$ as the **pivot** – the element around which to partition.

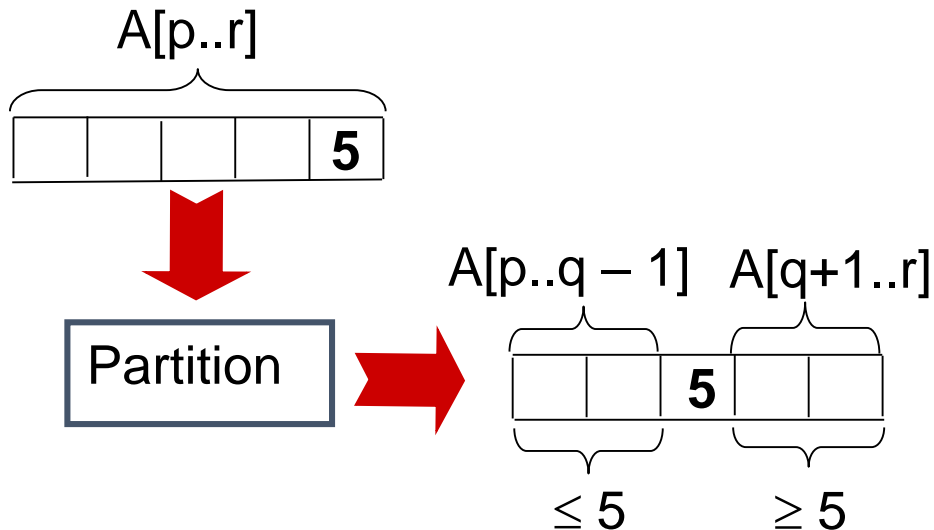
As the procedure executes, the array is partitioned into four (possibly empty) regions.

1. $A[p..i]$ — All entries in this region are \leq **pivot**.
2. $A[i+1..j-1]$ — All entries in this region are $>$ **pivot**.
3. $A[r] = \text{pivot}$.
4. $A[j..r-1]$ — Not known how they compare to **pivot**.

Partitioning

PARTITION(A, p, r)

1. $x = A[r]$
2. $i = p - 1$
3. **for** $j = p$ **to** $r - 1$
4. **if** $A[j] \leq x$
5. $i = i + 1$
6. exchange $A[i]$ with $A[j]$
7. exchange $A[i + 1]$ with $A[r]$
8. **return** $i + 1$



QUICKSORT(A, p, r)

1. **if** $p < r$ **then**
2. $q = \text{PARTITION}(A, p, r);$
3. $\text{QUICKSORT}(A, p, q - 1);$
4. $\text{QUICKSORT}(A, q + 1, r)$

Example

initially:

p
2 5 8 3 9 4 1 7 10 6
i j r

note: pivot (x) = 6

next iteration:

2 5 8 3 9 4 1 7 10 6
i j

next iteration:

2 5 8 3 9 4 1 7 10 6
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7. exchange $A[i + 1]$ with $A[r]$
8. **return** $i + 1$

Example (Continued)

next iteration: 2 5 3 8 9 4 1 7 10 6
 i j

next iteration: 2 5 3 8 9 4 1 7 10 6
 i j

next iteration: 2 5 3 4 9 8 1 7 10 6
 i j

next iteration: 2 5 3 4 1 8 9 7 10 6
 i j

next iteration: 2 5 3 4 1 8 9 7 10 6
 i j

next iteration: 2 5 3 4 1 8 9 7 10 6
 i j

after final swap: 2 5 3 4 1 6 9 7 10 8
 i j

PARTITION(A, p, r)

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Complexity of Partition

$\text{PartitionTime}(n)$ is given by the number of iterations in the *for* loop.

$$\Theta(n) : n = r - p + 1.$$

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7. exchange $A[i + 1]$ with $A[r]$
8. **return** $i + 1$

Algorithm Performance

Running time of quicksort depends on whether the partitioning is balanced or not.

Worst-Case Partitioning (Unbalanced Partitions):

Occurs when every call to partition results in the most unbalanced partition.

Partition is most unbalanced when

Subproblem 1 is of size $n - 1$, and subproblem 2 is of size 0 or vice versa.

$pivot \geq$ every element in $A[p..r - 1]$ or $pivot <$ every element in $A[p..r - 1]$.

Every call to partition is most unbalanced when

Array $A[1..n]$ is sorted or reverse sorted!

Worst-case of quicksort

Input sorted or reverse sorted.

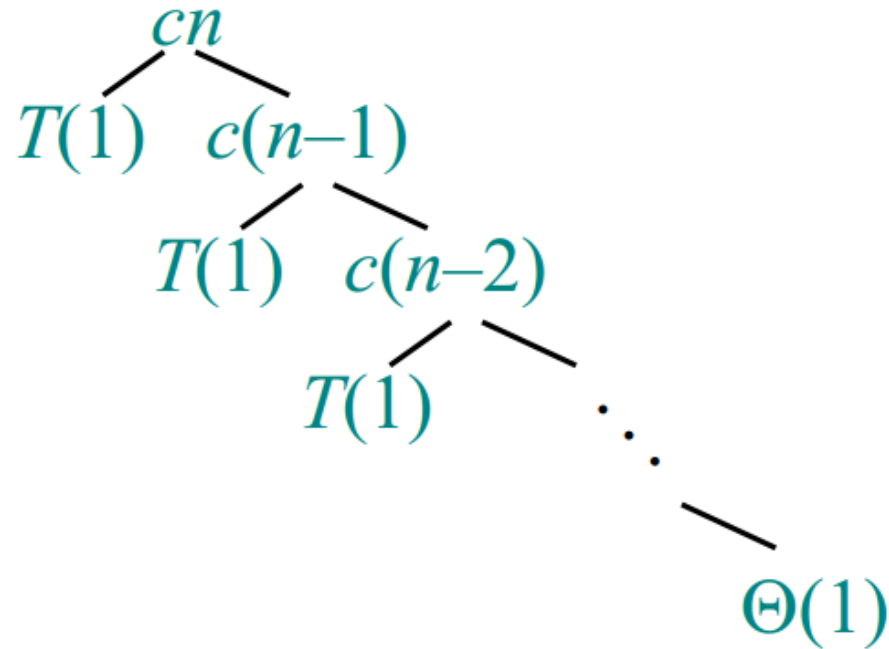
Partition around min or max element.

One side of partition always has one element.

$$\begin{aligned}T(n) &= T(1) + T(n-1) + \Theta(n) \\&= \Theta(1) + T(n-1) + \Theta(n) \\&= T(n-1) + \Theta(n) \\&= \Theta(n^2) \quad (\textit{arithmetic series})\end{aligned}$$

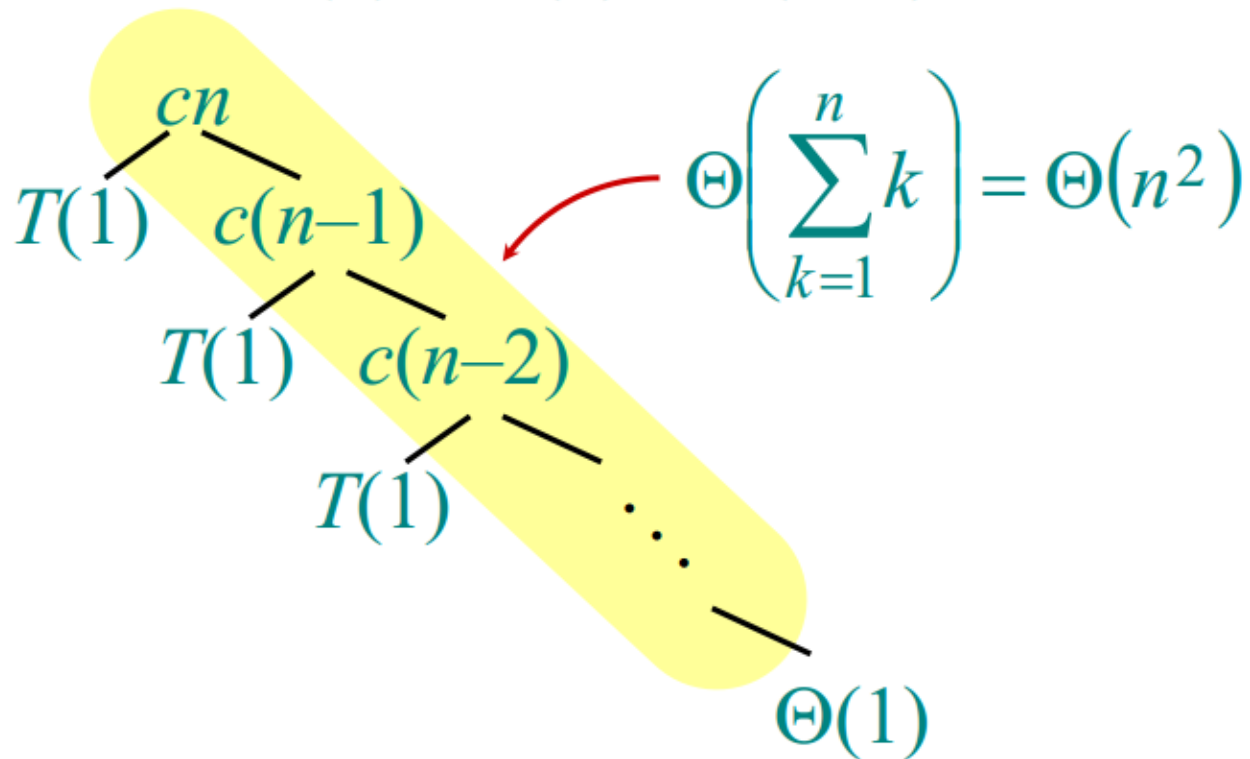
Worst-case recursion tree

$$T(n) = T(1) + T(n-1) + cn$$



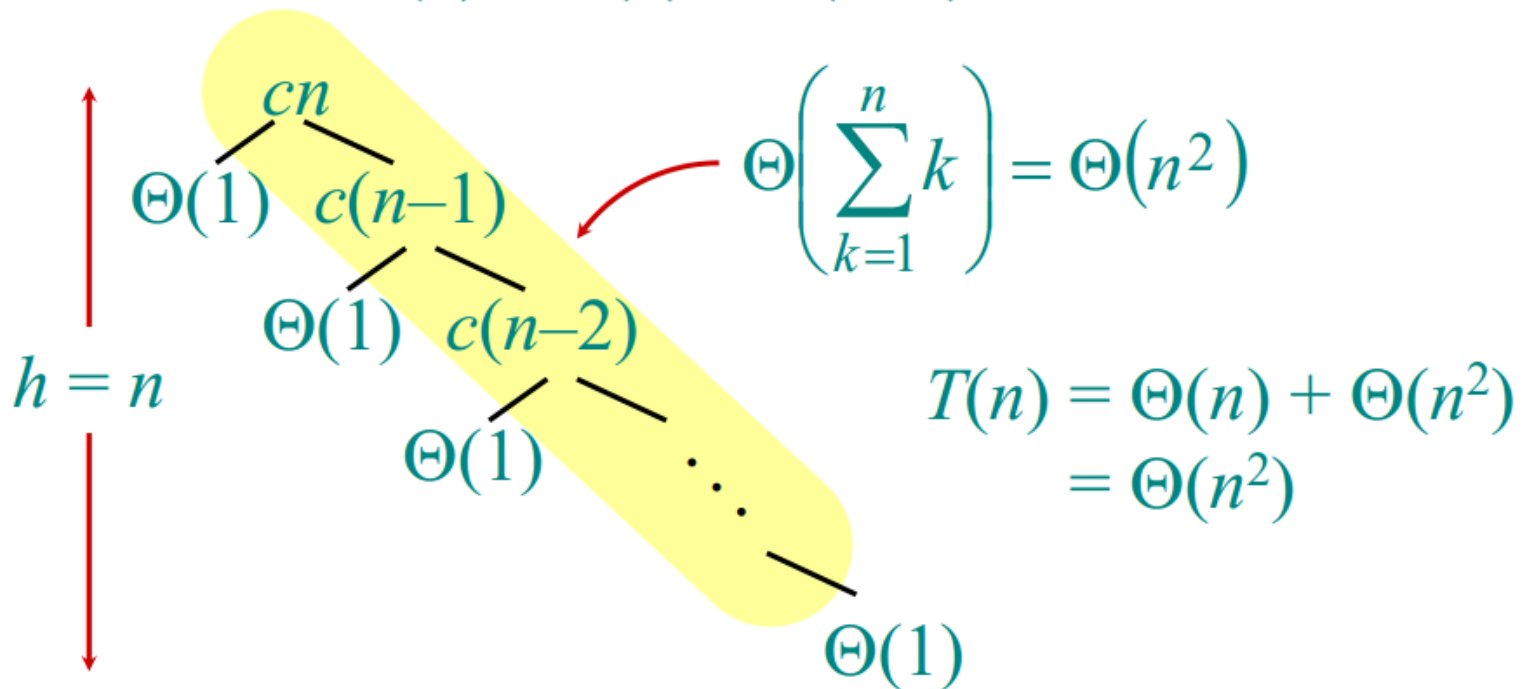
Worst-case recursion tree

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Worst-case recursion tree

$$T(n) = T(1) + T(n-1) + cn$$



Best-case Partitioning

Size of each subproblem $\leq n/2$.

One of the subproblems is of size $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$

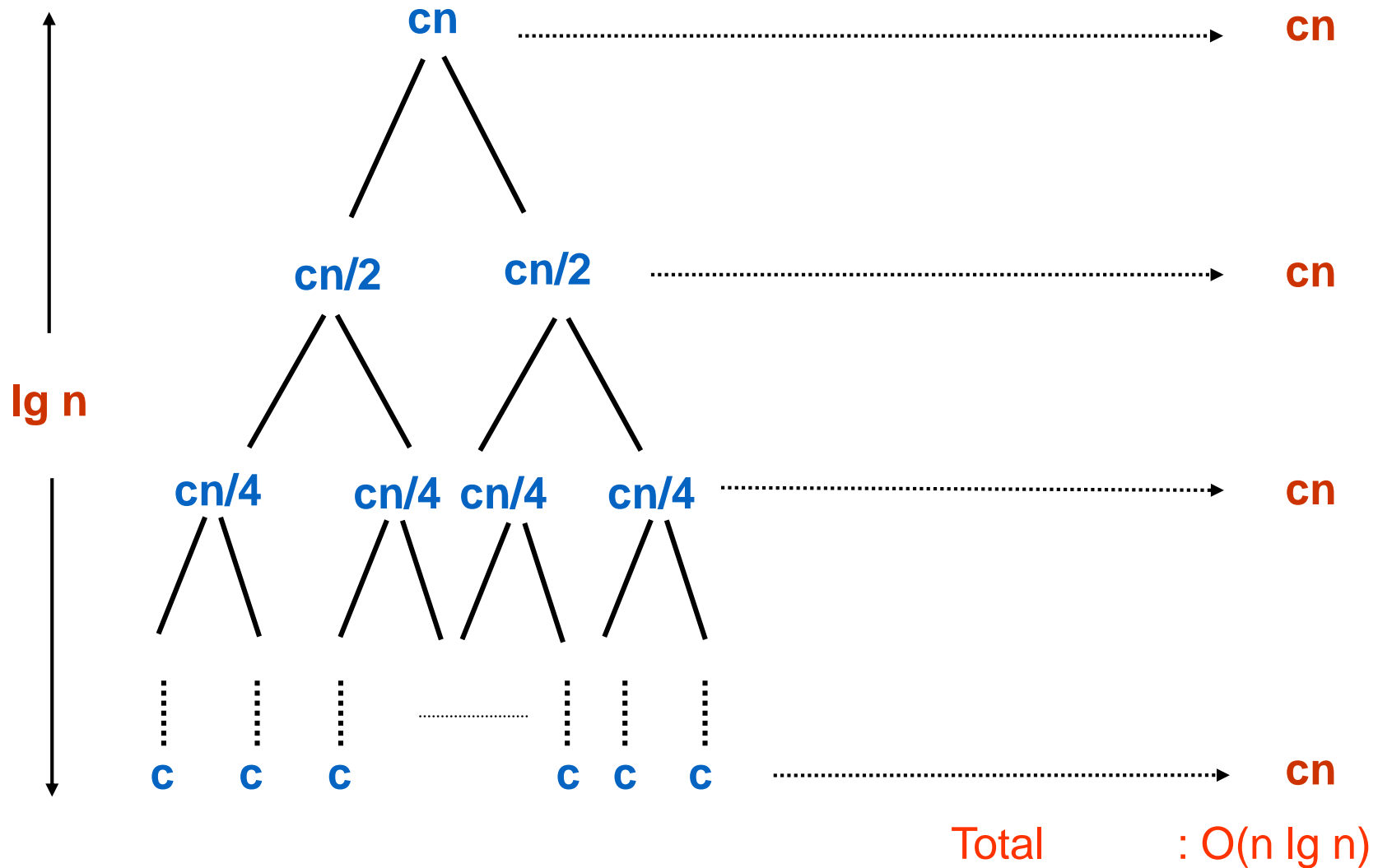
The other is of size $\lceil n/2 \rceil - 1$.

Recurrence for running time

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\leq 2T(n/2) + \text{PartitionTime}(n) \\ &= 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) \end{aligned}$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n \lg n)$$

Recursion Tree for Best-case Partition



Best-case analysis

If we're lucky, **H-PARTITION** splits the array evenly:

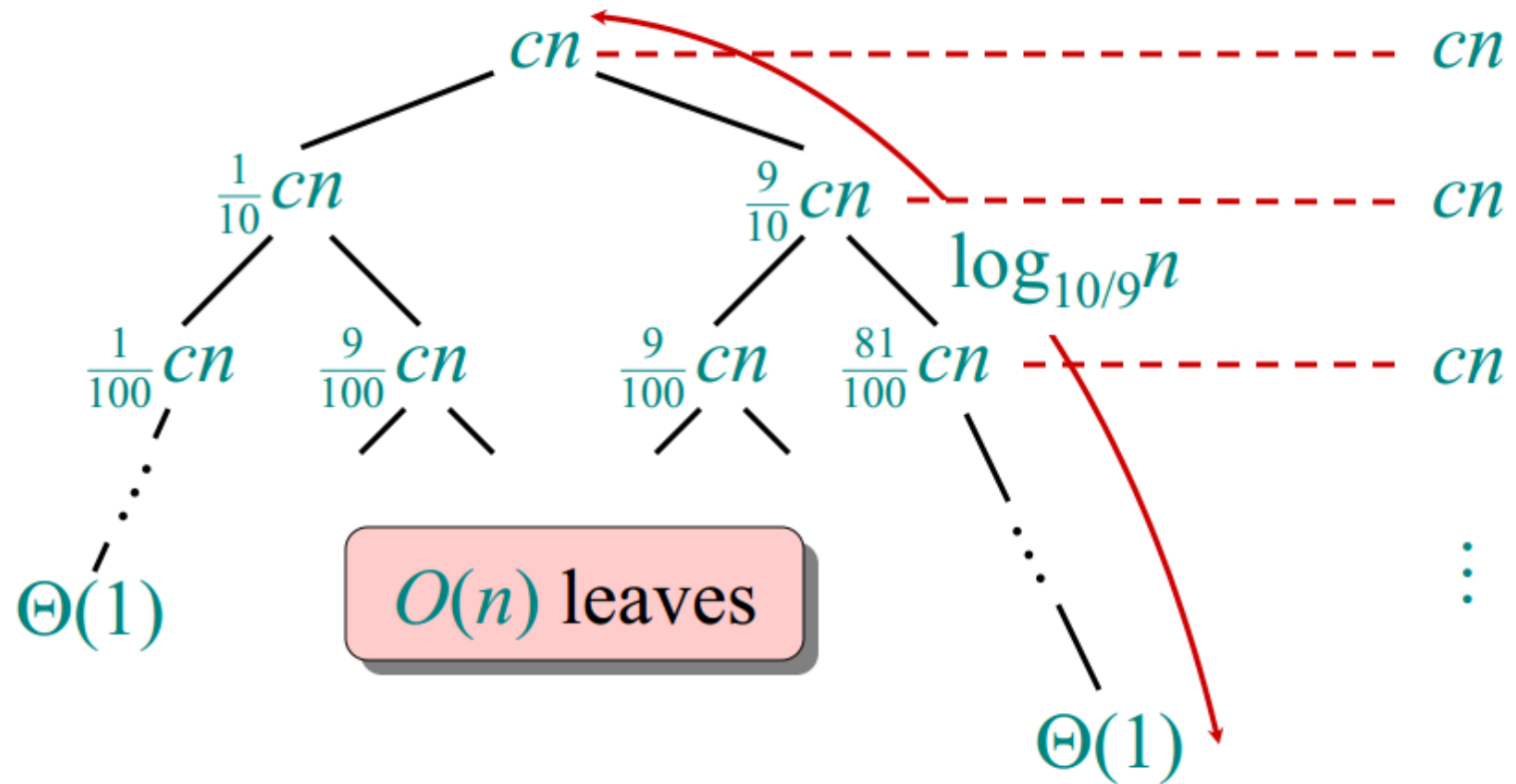
$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) \\ &= \Theta(n \lg n) \quad (\text{same as merge sort}) \end{aligned}$$

What if the split is always $\frac{1}{10} : \frac{9}{10}$?

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{1}{10}n\right) + T\left(\frac{9}{10}n\right) + \Theta(n)$$

What is the solution to this recurrence?

Analysis of “almost-best” case



Analysis of “almost-best” case

