# COMP 251

Algorithms & Data Structures (Winter 2023)

Algorithm Paradigms – Divide and Conquer

School of Computer Science McGill University

Slides of (Comp321,2021), Langer (2014), slides by K. Wayne & Snoeyink and (Kleinberg & Tardos, 2005)

#### Announcements

#### Proof Project Instructions on myCourses - COMP251 #140







Hi everyone,

5

The instructions for the proof project have been released on myCourses. The first due date is not until March 15th, so you do not need to feel pressed for time. The goal of this project is to give you the opportunity to write proofs in a rigorous way, and to see how they are used in algorithms. This task focuses on clear explanations rather than difficult proofs. You will learn to write documents in LaTeX, which is the standard software used for writing most academic papers in computer science. You may start with the provided template on myCourses and gradually replace each section with your own. If you have not already made an Overleaf account, please do so, then you can click "New Project" -> "Upload Project" to upload the template. Starting soon is recommended so that you can take your time. Good luck!

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#### Outline

- Complete Search
- Divide and Conquer.
  - Introduction.
  - Examples.
- Dynamic Programming.
- Greedy.

#### Algorithmic Paradigms – Divide and Conquer

- It is a problem solving paradigm where we try to make a problem simpler by 'dividing' it into smaller parts and 'conquering' them.
- Recursive in structure
  - Divide the problem into sub-problems that are similar to the original but smaller in size
    - Usually by half or nearly half.
  - Conquer the sub-problems by solving them recursively. If they are small enough, just solve them in a straightforward manner.
  - Combine the solutions to create a solution to the original problem

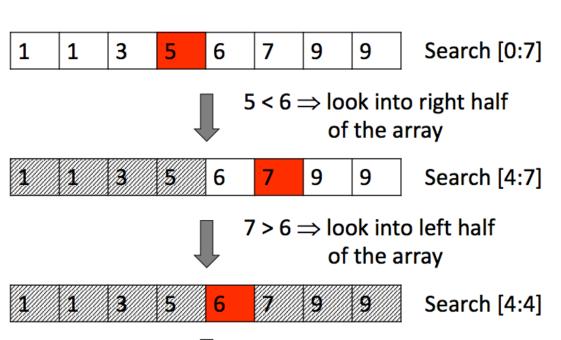
#### Decrease and Conquer

- Sometimes we're not actually dividing the problem into many subproblems, but only into one smaller subproblem
- Usually called decrease and conquer
- The most common example of this is binary search O(log n).
  - Given a sorted array of elements.
    - 1. Base case: the array is empty, return false
    - 2. Compare x to the element in the middle of the array
    - 3. If it's equal, then we found x and we return true
    - 4. If it's less, then x must be in the left half of the array
      - 4.1 Binary search the element (recursively) in the left half
    - 5. If it's greater, then x must be in the right half of the array
      - 5.1 Binary search the element (recursively) in the right half

#### Decrease and Conquer

**Example:** Does the following **sorted** array A contains the number 6?

Call: binarySearch(A, 0, 7, 6)





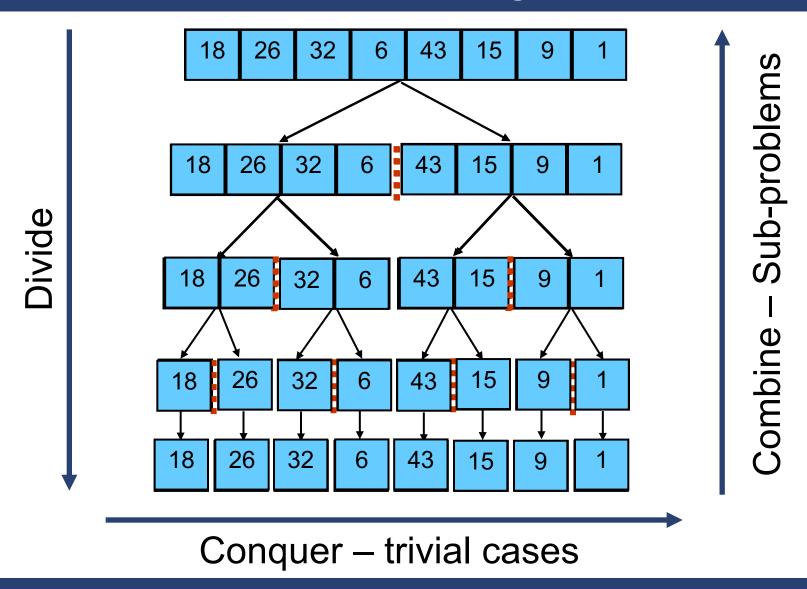
6 is found. Return 4 (index)

### Divide and Conquer – Merge Sort

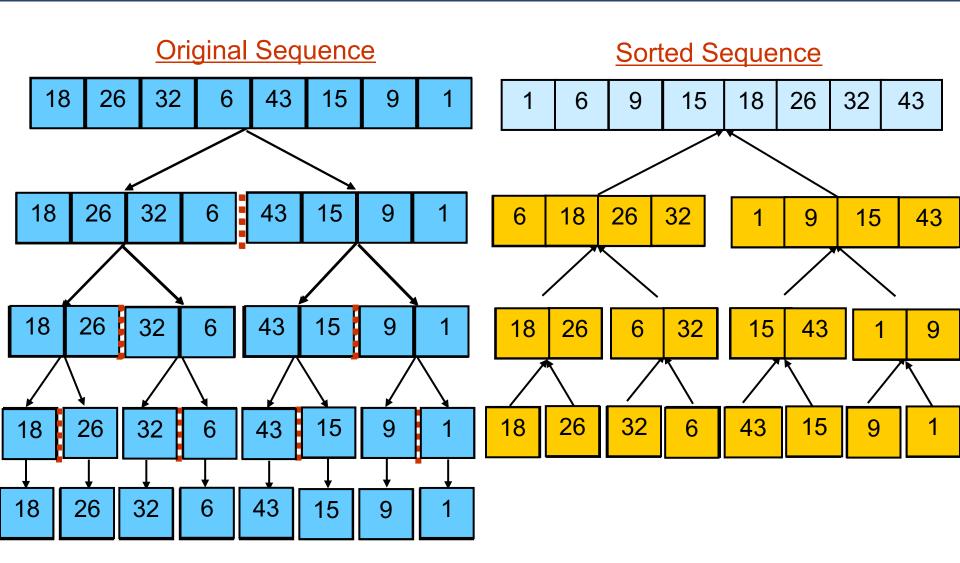
**Sorting Problem:** Sort a sequence of *n* elements into non-decreasing order.

- *Divide*: Divide the *n*-element sequence to be sorted into two subsequences of *n*/2 elements each
- Conquer: Sort the two subsequences recursively using merge sort.
- Combine: Merge the two sorted subsequences to produce the sorted answer.

### Divide and Conquer – Merge Sort



### Divide and Conquer – Merge Sort



## MergeSort(A, p, r)

INPUT: a sequence of *n* numbers stored in array A OUTPUT: an ordered sequence of *n* numbers

```
MergeSort (A, p, r) // sort A[p..r] by divide & conquer1 if p < r2 then q \leftarrow \lfloor (p+r)/2 \rfloor3 MergeSort (A, p, q)4 MergeSort (A, q+1, r)5 Merge (A, p, q, r) // merges A[p..q] with A[q+1..r]
```

Initial Call: MergeSort(A, 1, n)

## Merge(A, p, q, r)

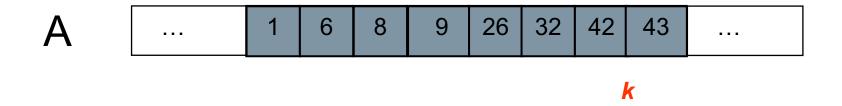
```
Merge(A, p, q, r)
1. n_1 \leftarrow q - p + 1
2. n_2 \leftarrow r - q
3. for i \leftarrow 1 to n_1
           do L[i] \leftarrow A[p+i-1]
   for j \leftarrow 1 to n_2
    do R[j] \leftarrow A[q + j]
   L[n_1+1] \leftarrow \infty \leftarrow
   R[n_2+1] \leftarrow \infty
9. i \leftarrow 1
10. j \leftarrow 1
11. for k \leftarrow p to r
12. do if L[i] \leq R[j]
13.
             then A[k] \leftarrow L[i]
                     i \leftarrow i + 1
14.
15. else A[k] \leftarrow R[j]
                     j \leftarrow j + 1
16.
```

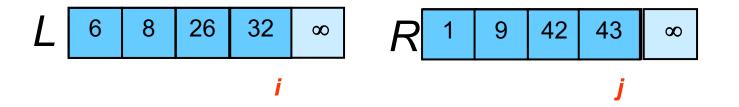
**Input:** Array containing sorted subarrays A[p..q] and A[q+1..r].

**Output:** Merged sorted subarray in A[p..r].

Sentinels, to avoid having to check if either subarray is fully copied at each step.

## Merge - Example





### Merge - Correctness

```
Merge(A, p, q, r)
   n_1 \leftarrow q - p + 1
2. n_2 \leftarrow r - q
3.
   for i \leftarrow 1 to n_1
           do L[i] \leftarrow A[p+i-1]
5. for j \leftarrow 1 to n_2
          do R[i] \leftarrow A[q + i]
    L[n_1+1] \leftarrow \infty
    R[n_2+1] \leftarrow \infty
9. i \leftarrow 1
10. j \leftarrow 1
11. for k \leftarrow p to r
12.
    do if L[i] \leq R[j]
13.
               then A[k] \leftarrow L[i]
                      i \leftarrow i + 1
14.
              else A[k] \leftarrow R[j]
15.
                      i \leftarrow i + 1
16.
```

#### **Loop Invariant property (main for loop)**

- At the start of each iteration of the for loop, subarray A[p..k 1] contains the k p smallest elements of L and R in sorted order.
- L[i] and R[j] are the smallest elements of L and R that have not been copied back into A.

#### **Initialization:**

#### Before the first iteration:

- •A[p..k 1] is empty, k = p => k p = 0.
- •i = j = 1.
- •*L*[1] and *R*[1] are the smallest elements of *L* and *R* not copied to *A*.

## Merge - Correctness

```
Merge(A, p, q, r)
1. n_1 \leftarrow q - p + 1
    n_2 \leftarrow r - q
3.
    for i \leftarrow 1 to n_1
           do L[i] \leftarrow A[p+i-1]
5. for j \leftarrow 1 to n_2
6.
           do R[j] \leftarrow A[q + j]
7. L[n_1+1] \leftarrow \infty
8. R[n_2+1] \leftarrow \infty
9. i \leftarrow 1
10. i \leftarrow 1
      for k \leftarrow p to r
11.
12.
           do if L[i] \leq R[j]
13.
               then A[k] \leftarrow L[i]
                       i \leftarrow i + 1
14.
15.
               else A[k] \leftarrow R[j]
                       j \leftarrow j + 1
16.
```

#### **Maintenance:**

#### Case 1: $L[i] \leq R[j]$

- •By LI, A contains k p smallest elements of L and R in sorted order.
- •By LI, L[i] and R[j] are the smallest elements of L and R not yet copied into A.
- •Line 13 results in A containing k p + 1 smallest elements (again in sorted order). Incrementing i and k reestablishes the LI for the next iteration.

Case 2: Similar arguments with L[i] > R[j]

#### **Termination:**

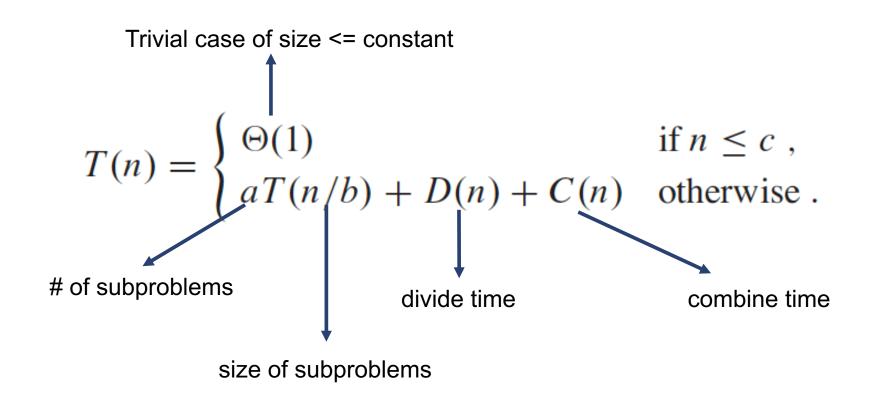
- •On termination, k = r + 1. By LI, A[p..k-1], which is A[p..r], contains k-p=r-p+1 smallest elements of L and R in sorted order.
- •L and R together contain  $n_1 + n_2 + 2 = r p + 3$  elements including the two sentinels. All but the two largest (i.e., sentinels) have been copied in A.

### MergeSort - Analysis

- Running time *T(n)* of Merge Sort:
  - falls out from the three steps of the basic paradigm
- Divide: computing the middle takes O(1)
- Conquer: solving 2 subproblems takes 2T(n/2)
- Combine: merging n elements takes O(n)
- Total:

$$T(n) = O(1)$$
 if  $n = 1$   
 $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n) + O(1)$  if  $n > 1$   
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = O(n \lg n)$ 

## In general – Analysis - Recurrence



### Solving recurrences

- Substitution method: we guess a bound and then use mathematical induction to prove that our guess is correct.
- Recursion-tree method: converts the recurrence into a tree
  whose nodes represent the costs incurred at various levels of
  the recursion. We use techniques for bounding summations to
  solve the recurrence.
- Master method: provides bounds for recurrences of the form.

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$
  
where  $a \ge 1$ ,  $b > 1$ , and  $f(n)$  is a given function

## MergeSort – Substitution method

Proposition. If T(n) satisfies the following recurrence, then  $T(n) = n \log_2 n$ .

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1\\ 2T(n/2) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

assuming n is a power of 2

#### Pf 2. [by induction on n]

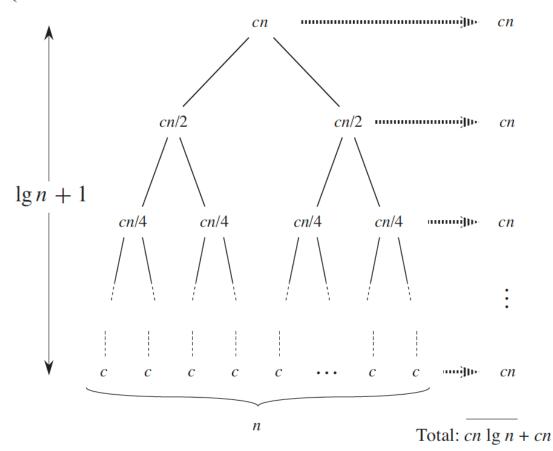
- Base case: when n = 1, T(1) = 0.
- Inductive hypothesis: assume  $T(n) = n \log_2 n$ .
- Goal: show that  $T(2n) = 2n \log_2 (2n)$ .

 $\log_2 2n = \log_2 2 + \log_2 n$  $\log_2 2n - 1 = \log_2 n$ 

$$T(2n) = 2T(n) + 2n$$
  
=  $2n \log_2 n + 2n$   
=  $2n (\log_2 (2n) - 1) + 2n$   
=  $2n \log_2 (2n)$ .

## MergeSort – Recursion Tree

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 2T(n/2) + cn & \text{if } n > 1, \end{cases}$$
 assuming n is a power of 2



#### Recursion Tree

Suppose we have a divide and conquer algorithm that gives a recurrence:

$$t(n) = a t(\frac{n}{b}) + c n d$$
Notice that a, b and d are independent of n

and is the number of subproblems

Note that  $n^d$  represents the work done outside the recursive call

#### Recursion Tree

height of call tree number of leaves. 
$$=$$
  $a + (n) + (n)$ 

Recursion stops at the base case, typically when problem size is a small number

### Recursion Tree - Good VS Evil

## Let's the battle begin



Taken from pinterest

- But first lets define (recall) the allowed 'super powers'.
- Geometric series power (convergence power).
  - Sum of a number of terms that have a constant ratio between successive terms.

$$\frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots$$

In general:

$$S_n = \sum_{k=0}^n r^k = 1 + r + r^2 + \dots + r^n$$

Multiplying both sides by r gives.

$$rS_n = r + r^2 + r^3 + \dots + r^{n+1}$$

- Geometric series (convergence power).
  - Substracting the two previous equations.

$$(1-r)S_n = (1+r+r^2+\cdots+r^n) - (r+r^2+r^3+\cdots+r^{n+1})$$
$$(1-r)S_n = 1 - r^{n+1}$$

$$S_n = \sum_{k=0}^n r^k = \frac{1 - r^{n+1}}{1 - r}$$

• For -1 < r < 1, the sum converges as  $n \to \infty$ , in which case

$$S_{\infty} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} r^k = \frac{1}{1 - r}$$

Exponents and logs (manipulation power).

$$\chi^{(y^2)} = (\chi^y)^2 \neq \chi^{(y^2)}$$
e.g. 
$$\chi^{2.3} = (\chi^2)^3 \qquad \neq \chi^{(2^3)}$$

$$= (\chi^2)(\chi^2)(\chi^2)$$

$$= \chi^6 \qquad = \chi^8$$
e.g. 
$$(b^d)^{\log 6^n} = b^{\log 6^n}$$

$$= (b^{\log 6^n})^d$$

$$= \Lambda^d$$

Exponents and logs (manipulation power).

for any 
$$a,b,x > 0$$

$$\log_b x = \log_b a \cdot \log_a x$$
Why?
$$\chi = a \log_a x$$

$$\log_b f \left( a \log_a x \right)$$
both sides  $\log_b x = \log_b \left( a \log_a x \right)$ 

$$\log_b x = \log_b \left( a \log_a x \cdot \log_a x \right)$$

Exponents and logs (manipulation power).

Claim: 
$$\alpha^{\log_b n} = n^{\log_b a}$$

Proof:
$$\alpha^{\log_b n} = \alpha^{\log_b a} \log_a n$$

$$= (\alpha^{\log_a n})^{\log_b a}$$

$$= n^{\log_b a}$$

#### Good VS Bad - battle

#### Good VS Bad – battle

level

$$k = a k + (\frac{n}{bk}) + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} a^{i} (\frac{n}{b^{i}})^{d}$$

level

 $log b n = a + (1) + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} a^{i} (\frac{n}{b^{i}})^{d}$ 

Number each leaf

of leaves

at level i

at level i

 $log b n - l$ 
 $log b n$ 

#### Good VS Bad - battle

$$t(n) = a + \left(1\right) + \sum_{i=0}^{\log b} a^{i} \left(\frac{h}{b^{i}}\right)^{d}$$

$$= n^{d} + \sum_{i=0}^{\log b} a^{i} \left(\frac{h}{b^{i}}\right)^{d}$$
Note that the battle is this ratio.

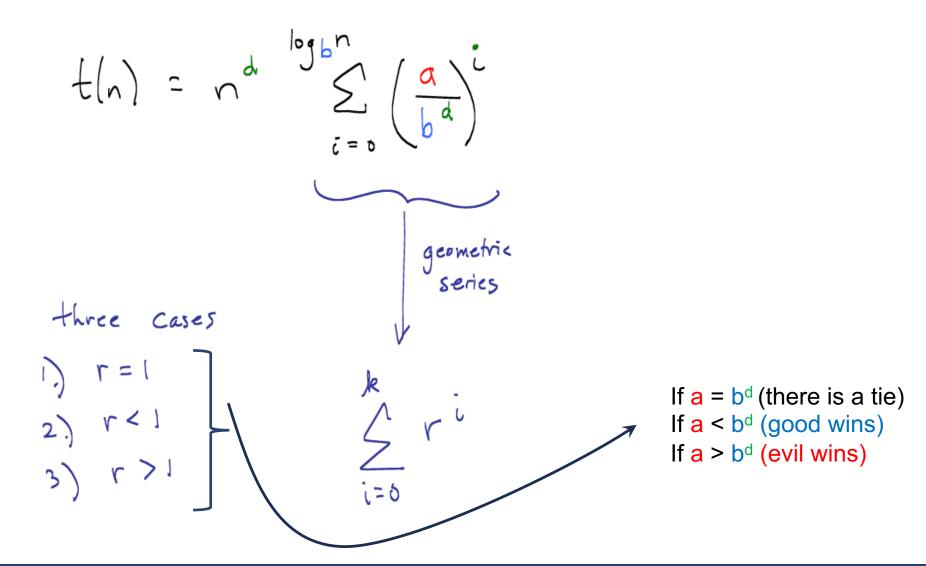
Assume  $t(1) = 1$ , and note  $\frac{h}{b^{\log b}} = 1$ .

### Good VS Bad – battle possible results

$$t(n) = n^{d} \frac{\log b^{n}}{\sum_{i=0}^{d} \left(\frac{a}{b^{d}}\right)^{i}}$$

- If a < b<sup>d</sup> (good wins)
  - The amount of work is decreasing with the recursion level i.
  - Worst case is in the root (i.e., i = 0)
    - Might expect O(n<sup>d</sup>) => The work n<sup>d</sup> of the root dominates
- If a = b<sup>d</sup> (there is a tie)
  - The amount of work is the same at every recursion level i.
  - All levels have the same 'worst' case.
    - Might expect O(n<sup>d</sup> log n) => n<sup>d</sup> for all the log levels
- If a > b<sup>d</sup> (evil wins)
  - The amount of work is increasing with the recursion level i.
  - Worst case is in the leaves (i.e.,  $i = log_b n$ )
    - Might expect => O(nlog(a)) => O(#leaves) because leaves dominates

#### Good VS Bad – battle possible results



## Case 1 $(r = 1) : a = b^{\circ}$

Here we have the same amount of work at each level.

$$|+r+r^{2}+r^{3}+...r^{k}|$$

$$=|+|+|+|+...|$$

$$=k+|$$

$$=|og_{b}n+|$$

$$=(n^{d})^{og_{b}n}$$

$$\downarrow^{(n)}=0$$

$$(n^{d}|og_{b}n)$$

$$t(n) = n^{d} \sum_{i=0}^{\log b} \left(\frac{a}{b^{d}}\right)^{i}$$

## Case 1 $(r = 1) : a = b^d$

eg. mergesort

$$t(n) = a t\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + cn$$

$$a = 2, b = 2, d = 1$$

$$t(n) = O(n \log_b n) = O(n \log_2 n)$$
Total:  $cn \lg n + cn$ 

The same amount of total work done
at each level  $i$ , namely  $O(n)$ .

## Case 2 (r < 1): a < b

Here we have a decreasing amount of work at each level.

$$1 + r + r^{2} + r^{3} + \dots r^{k}$$

$$= \frac{1 - r^{k+1}}{1 - r}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 - r} \quad \text{if } r < 1$$

$$= \text{constant (independent of n)}$$

$$\Rightarrow t(n) = O(n^{d})$$

$$t(n) = n^{d} \sum_{i=0}^{\log b} \left(\frac{a}{b^{d}}\right)^{i}$$

# Case 3 (r > 1) : a > b

Here we have an increasing amount 
$$f(n) = n^{d} \int_{i=0}^{\log n} \left(\frac{a^{i}}{b^{d}}\right)^{i}$$

The leaves dominate.

$$| + r + r^{2} + r^{3} + ... \quad r^{da}$$

$$= \frac{r^{k+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$
 $C r^{k}$ , for some  $C$  which depends on  $r$ 

$$t(n) = n^{d} \sum_{i=0}^{\log b} \left(\frac{a}{b^{d}}\right)^{i}$$

# Case 3 (r > 1): a > books

$$t(n) = n^{d} \sum_{i=0}^{\log b n} \left(\frac{a}{b^{d}}\right)^{i}$$

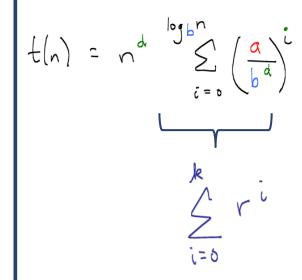
$$k$$

# Case 3 $(r > 1) : a > b^d$

$$t(n) = n^{d} \underbrace{\sum_{i=0}^{\log n} r^{i}}_{i=0}$$

$$= n^{d} C r^{\log n}$$

$$= n^{d} C \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{\log n}$$



### Master Method (summary)

t(n) = 
$$a + (\frac{n}{b}) + nd$$
,  $t(1) = 1$ 

same work of (nd log b n),  $a = b$ 

tevel

t(n) is of (nd),  $a < b$ 

root of (ngb a),  $a > b$ 

leaves dominate

## Master Method (summary)

$$t(n) = a + (\frac{n}{b}) + nd, t(1) = 1$$

same work
at each
level
$$t(n) \text{ is } O(nd \log b n), a = b$$

root
$$dominater$$

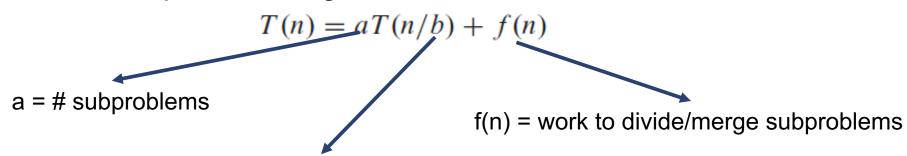
$$O(n \log b a), a > b$$

leaves dominate

- Limitations:
  - Defined for worst case.
  - Sub-problems need to have the same size.
  - Applicable to recursions of divide-and-conquer solutions
  - Etc
  - Etc

#### Master theorem

Goal: Recipe for solving common recurrences.



b = factor by which the subproblem size decreases

- 1. If  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a \epsilon})$  for some constant  $\epsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ . bad wins
- 2. If  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg n)$ . tie
- 3. If  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$  for some constant  $\epsilon > 0$ , and if  $af(n/b) \le cf(n)$  for some constant c < 1 and all sufficiently large n, then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$ .

Note that the three cases do not cover all the possibilities for f(n).

#### Master theorem – Case 1

Master theorem. Suppose that T(n) is a function on the nonnegative integers that satisfies the recurrence

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$$

where n/b means either  $\lfloor n/b \rfloor$  or  $\lceil n/b \rceil$ . Let  $k = \log_b a$ . Then,

Case 1. If  $f(n) = O(n^{k-\varepsilon})$  for some constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^k)$ .

Ex. 
$$T(n) = 3T(n/2) + n$$
.

- a = 3, b = 2, f(n) = n,  $k = \log_2 3$ .
- $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\lg 3})$ .

The formula works with  $\varepsilon = \log_2 3 - 1 > 0$  $f(n) = n = O(n^{\log_2 3 - (\log_2 3 - 1)})$ 

### Master theorem - Case 2

Master theorem. Suppose that T(n) is a function on the nonnegative integers that satisfies the recurrence

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$$

where n/b means either  $\lfloor n/b \rfloor$  or  $\lceil n/b \rceil$ . Let  $k = \log_b a$ . Then,

Case 2. If  $f(n) = \Theta(n^k \log^p n)$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^k \log^{p+1} n)$ .

**Ex.** 
$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n \log n)$$
.

- a = 2, b = 2,  $f(n) = n \log n$ ,  $k = \log_2 2 = 1$ , p = 1.
- $T(n) = \Theta(n \log^2 n)$ .

$$f(n) = \Theta(n \log n) = \Theta(n^{\log_2 2} \log n)$$

### Master theorem – Case 3

Master theorem. Suppose that T(n) is a function on the nonnegative integers that satisfies the recurrence

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$$

where n/b means either  $\lfloor n/b \rfloor$  or  $\lceil n/b \rceil$ . Let  $k = \log_b a$ . Then,

regularity condition holds if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{k+\epsilon})$ 



Case 3. If  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{k+\epsilon})$  for some constant  $\epsilon > 0$  and if  $a f(n/b) \le c f(n)$  for some constant c < 1 and all sufficiently large n, then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$ .

Ex. 
$$T(n) = 3 T(n/4) + n^5$$
.

- a = 3, b = 4,  $f(n) = n^5$ ,  $k = \log_4 3$ .
- $T(n) = \Theta(n^5)$ .

1st property satisfied with  $\varepsilon = 4 - \log_4 3$   $f(n) = n^5 = \Omega(n^{\log_4 3 + (4 - \log_4 3)})$ 2nd property satisfied with  $c = \frac{3}{4}$  $3 \cdot \left(\frac{n}{4}\right)^5 \le c \cdot n^5$ 

### Master theorem – Applications

$$k = \log_2 1 = 0; f(n) = 2^n$$
$$2^n = \Omega(n^{0 + \log 2})$$
$$1 \cdot 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \le \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2^n$$

$$T(n) = 3 * T(n/2) + n^2$$
  
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^2) \text{ (case 3)}$ 

$$T(n) = T(n/2) + 2^n$$
  
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(2^n)$  (case 3)

$$T(n) = 16 * T(n/4) + n$$
  
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = Θ(n2) (case 1)$ 

$$T(n) = 2 * T(n/2) + n log n$$
  
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = n log^2 n (case 2)$ 

$$T(n) = 2^n * T(n/2) + n^n$$
  
 $\Rightarrow$  Does not apply!!

$$k = \log_4 16 = 2; f(n) = n$$

 $n = O(n^{2-1})$ 

$$k = \log_2 2 = 1; f(n) = n \log n$$
$$n \log n = \Theta(n^1 \log^1 n)$$

 $k = \log_2 3; f(n) = n^2$ 

 $n^2 = \Omega(n^{\log_2 3 + (2 - \log_2 3)})$ 

 $3 \cdot \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^2 \leq \frac{3}{4} \cdot n^2$ 

#### Master theorem – Other variants – Akra-Bazzi

Desiderata. Generalizes master theorem to divide-and-conquer algorithms where subproblems have substantially different sizes.

Theorem. [Akra-Bazzi] Given constants  $a_i > 0$  and  $0 < b_i \le 1$ , functions  $h_i(n) = O(n / \log^2 n)$  and  $g(n) = O(n^c)$ , if the function T(n) satisfies the recurrence:

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i T(b_i n + h_i(n)) + g(n)$$
 $a_i \text{ subproblems of size } b_i \text{ n} \text{ floors and ceilings}$ 

Then 
$$T(n) = \Theta\left(n^p\left(1 + \int_1^n \frac{g(u)}{u^{p+1}}du\right)\right)$$
 where  $p$  satisfies  $\sum_{i=1}^k a_i\,b_i^p = 1$ .

Ex. 
$$T(n) = 7/4 T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + T(\lceil 3/4 n \rceil) + n^2$$
.

- $a_1 = 7/4$ ,  $b_1 = 1/2$ ,  $a_2 = 1$ ,  $b_2 = 3/4 \implies p = 2$ .
- $h_1(n) = \lfloor 1/2 \ n \rfloor 1/2 \ n$ ,  $h_2(n) = \lceil 3/4 \ n \rceil 3/4 \ n$ .
- $g(n) = n^2 \implies T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \log n)$ .

### Outline

- Complete Search
- Divide and Conquer.
  - Introduction.
  - Examples.
- Dynamic Programming.
- Greedy.

