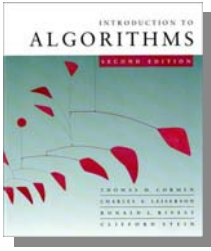


# Solving recurrences

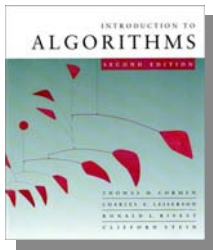
- The analysis of merge sort from *Lecture 1* required us to solve a recurrence.
- Recurrences are like solving integrals, differential equations, etc. Ex: Merge Sort:
  - Learn a few tricks.
$$T(n) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + \Theta(n)$$
- *Lecture 3*: Applications of recurrences to divide-and-conquer algorithms.



# Substitution method

*The most general method:*

- 1. *Guess*** the form of the solution.
- 2. *Verify*** by induction.
- 3. *Solve*** for constants.



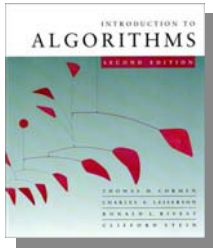
# Substitution method

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- 1. *Guess*** the form of the solution.
- 2. *Verify*** by induction.
- 3. *Solve*** for constants.

**EXAMPLE:**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$

- [Assume that  $T(1) = \Theta(1)$ .]
- Guess  $O(n^3)$ . (Prove  $O$  and  $\Omega$  separately.)
- Assume that  $T(k) \leq ck^3$  for  $k < n$ . I.H. : Inductive Hypothesis
- Prove  $T(n) \leq cn^3$  by induction.



# Example of substitution

I.H:  $T(k) \leq ck^3$  for  $k < n$

$$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$$

$$\leq 4c(n/2)^3 + n$$

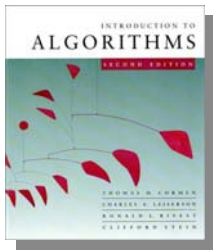
$$= (c/2)n^3 + n$$

$$= cn^3 - ((c/2)n^3 - n) \leftarrow \boxed{\text{desired} - \text{residual}}$$

$$\leq cn^3 \leftarrow \text{desired}$$

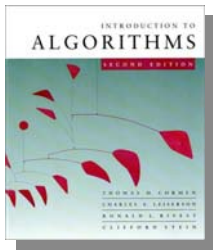
whenever  $(c/2)n^3 - n \geq 0$ , for example,  
if  $c \geq 2$  and  $n \geq 1$ .

*residual*



# Example (continued)

- We must also handle the initial conditions, that is, ground the induction with base cases.
- **Base:**  $T(n) = \Theta(1)$  for all  $n < n_0$ , where  $n_0$  is a suitable constant.
- For  $1 \leq n < n_0$ , we have “ $\Theta(1)$ ”  $\leq cn^3$ , if we pick  $c$  big enough.



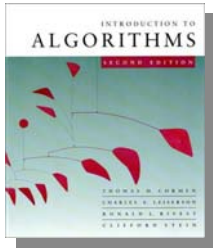
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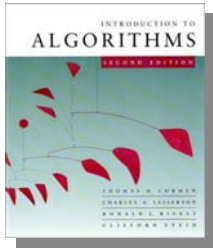
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***This bound is not tight!***



# A tighter upper bound?


We shall prove that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$ .



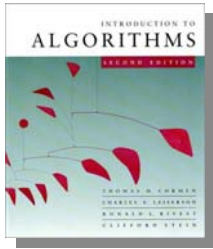
# A tighter upper bound?

We shall prove that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$ .

Assume that  $T(k) \leq ck^2$  for  $k < n$ : — I.H

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 4T(n/2) + n \\ &\leq 4c(n/2)^2 + n \\ &= cn^2 + n && \leq cn^2 \\ &= O(n^2) \end{aligned}$$






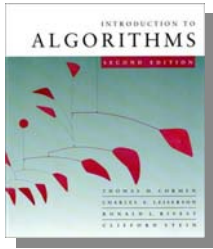
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~~$= O(n^2)$~~  **Wrong!** We must prove the I.H.



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We shall prove that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$ .

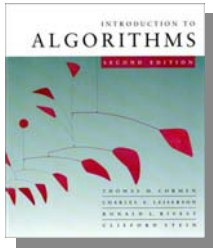
Assume that  $T(k) \leq ck^2$  for  $k < n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 4T(n/2) + n \\ &\leq 4c(n/2)^2 + n \\ &= cn^2 + n \end{aligned}$$

~~$= O(n^2)$~~  **Wrong!** We must prove the I.H.

$$= cn^2 - (-n) \quad [\text{desired} - \text{residual}]$$

$$\leq cn^2 \quad \text{for no choice of } c > 0. \text{ Lose!}$$

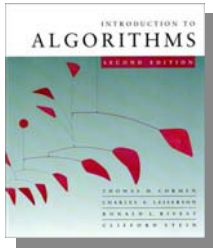


# A tighter upper bound!

**IDEA:** Strengthen the inductive hypothesis.

- *Subtract* a low-order term.

*Inductive hypothesis:*  $T(k) \leq c_1k^2 - c_2k$  for  $k < n$ .



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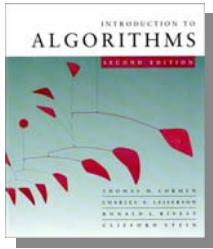
$$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$$

$$= 4(c_1(n/2)^2 - c_2(n/2)) + n$$

$$= c_1 n^2 - 2c_2 n + n$$

$$= \boxed{c_1 n^2 - c_2 n} - \boxed{(c_2 n - n)} \quad \text{Residual}$$

$$\text{Desired} \leftarrow \leq c_1 n^2 - c_2 n \quad \text{if } c_2 \geq 1.$$



# A tighter upper bound!

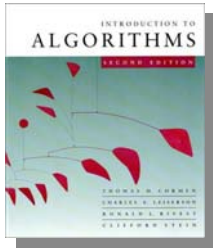
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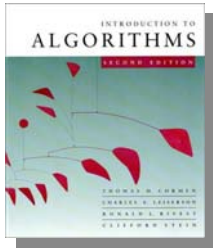
$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 4T(n/2) + n \\ &= 4(c_1(n/2)^2 - c_2(n/2)) + n \\ &= c_1 n^2 - 2c_2 n + n \\ &= c_1 n^2 - c_2 n - (c_2 n - n) \\ &\leq c_1 n^2 - c_2 n \text{ if } c_2 \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

Pick  $c_1$  big enough to handle the initial conditions.



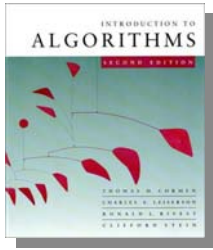
# Recursion-tree method

- A recursion tree models the costs (time) of a recursive execution of an algorithm.
- The recursion-tree method can be unreliable, just like any method that uses ellipses (...).
- The recursion-tree method promotes intuition, however.
- The recursion tree method is good for generating guesses for the substitution method.



# Example of recursion tree

Solve  $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$ :

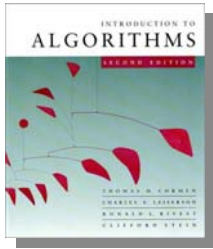


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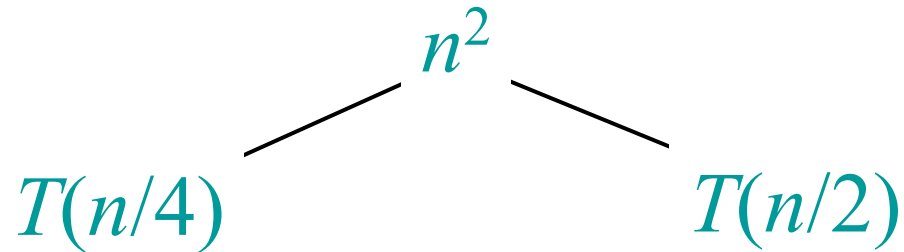
$$T(n)$$

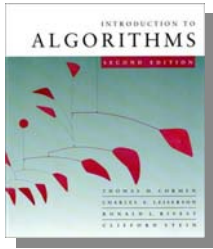




# Example of recursion tree

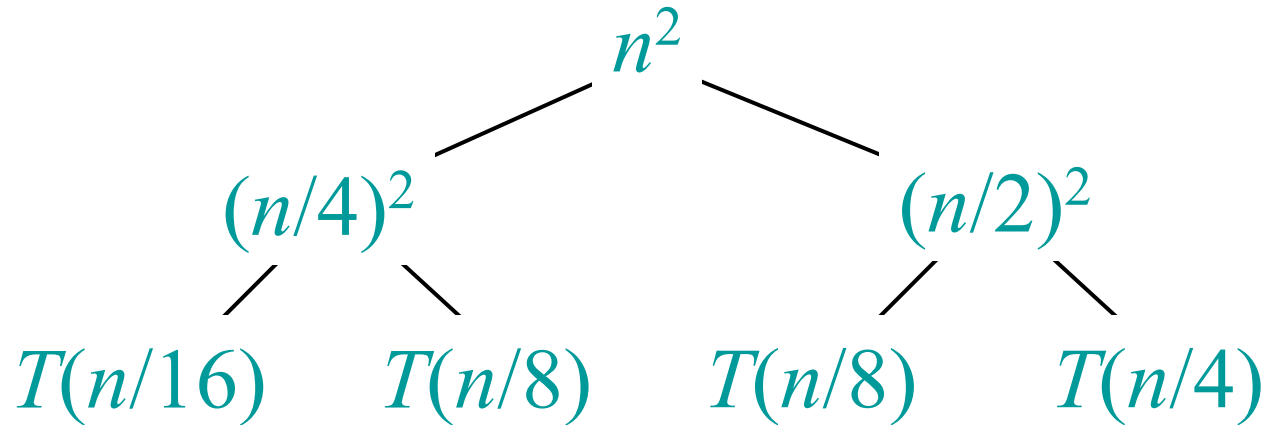
Solve  $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$ :

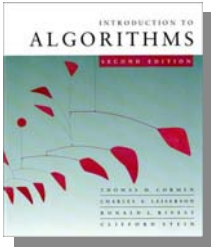




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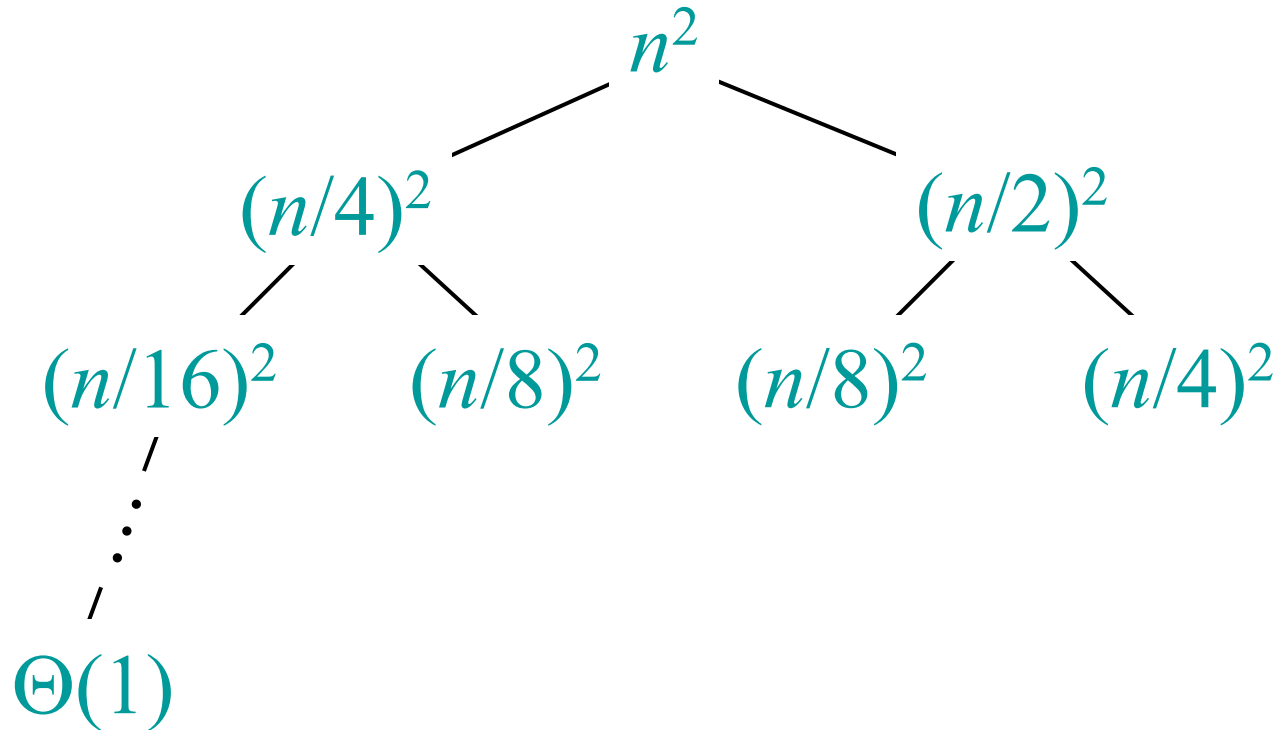
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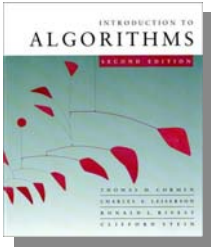




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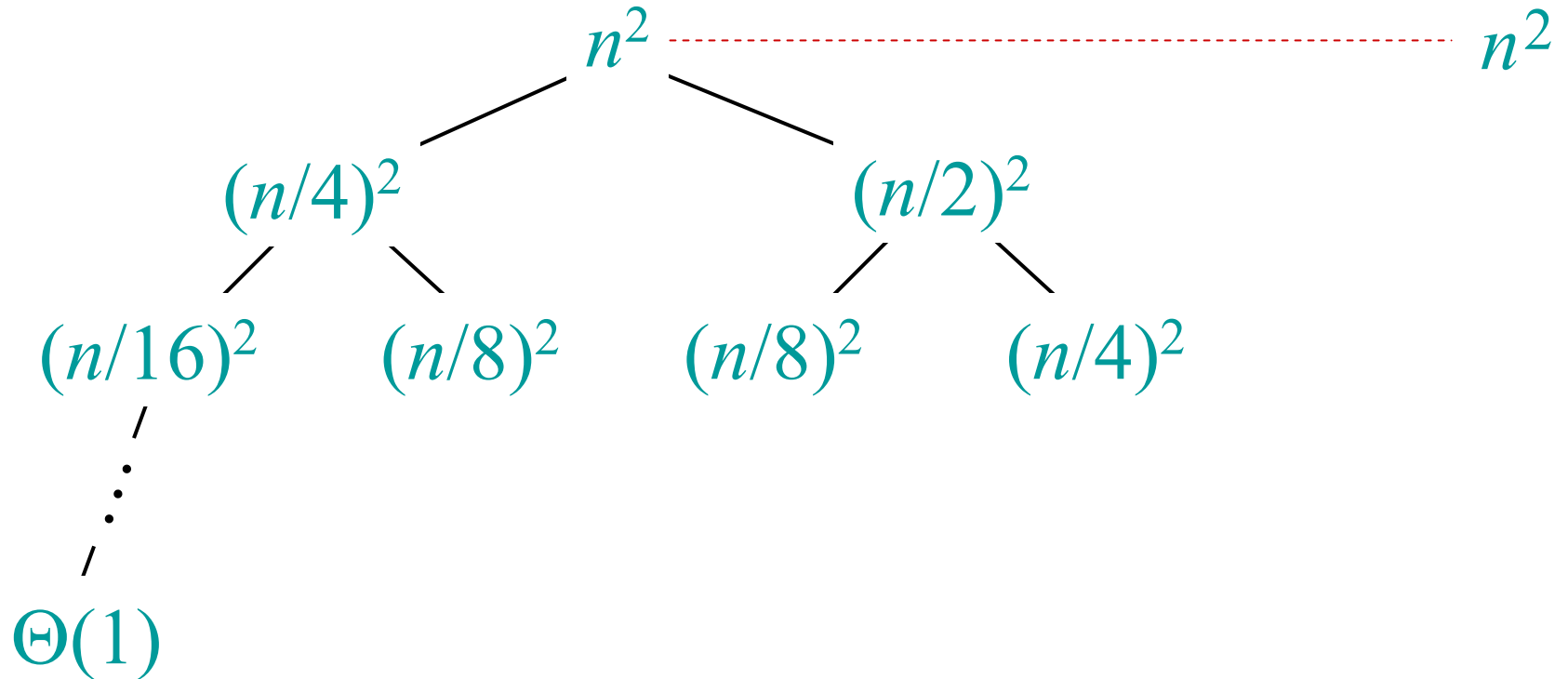
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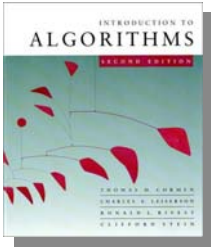




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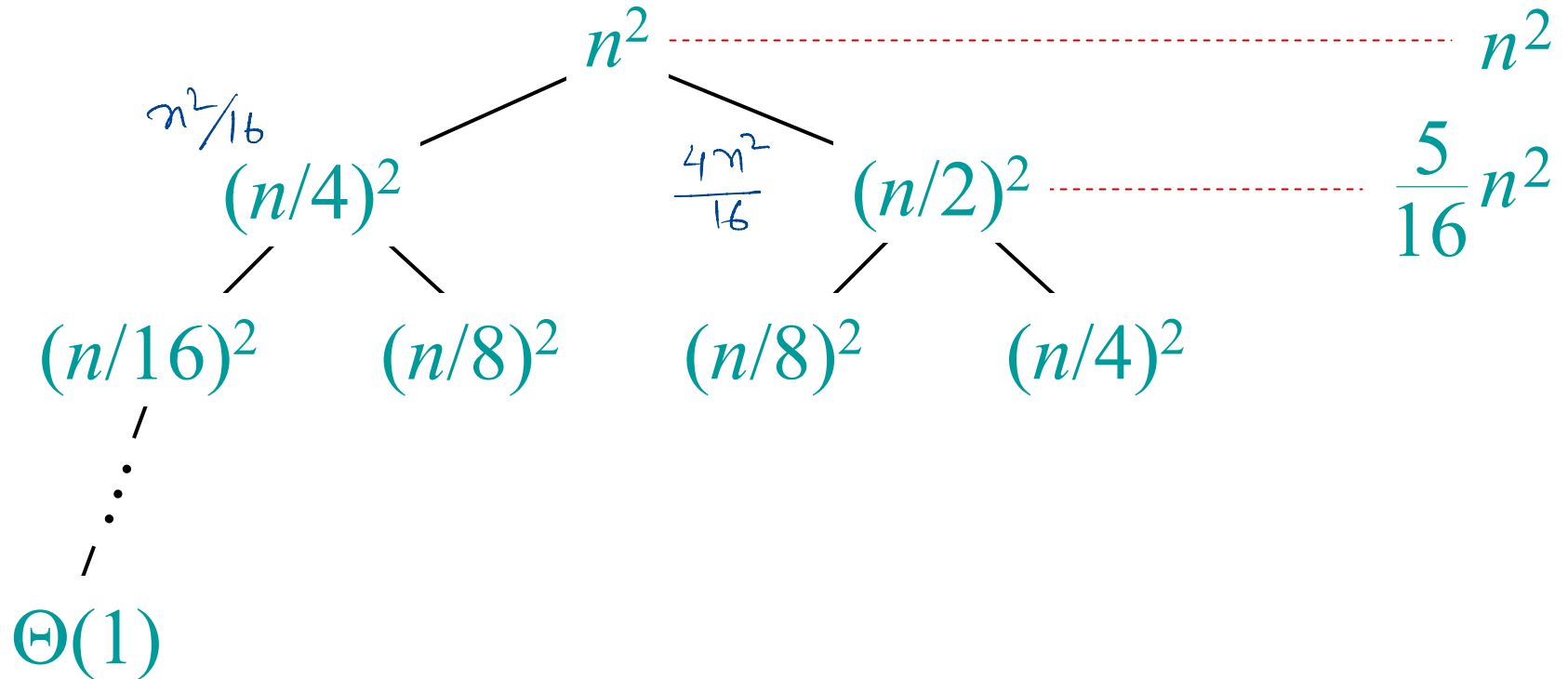
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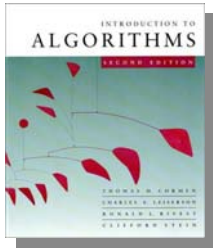




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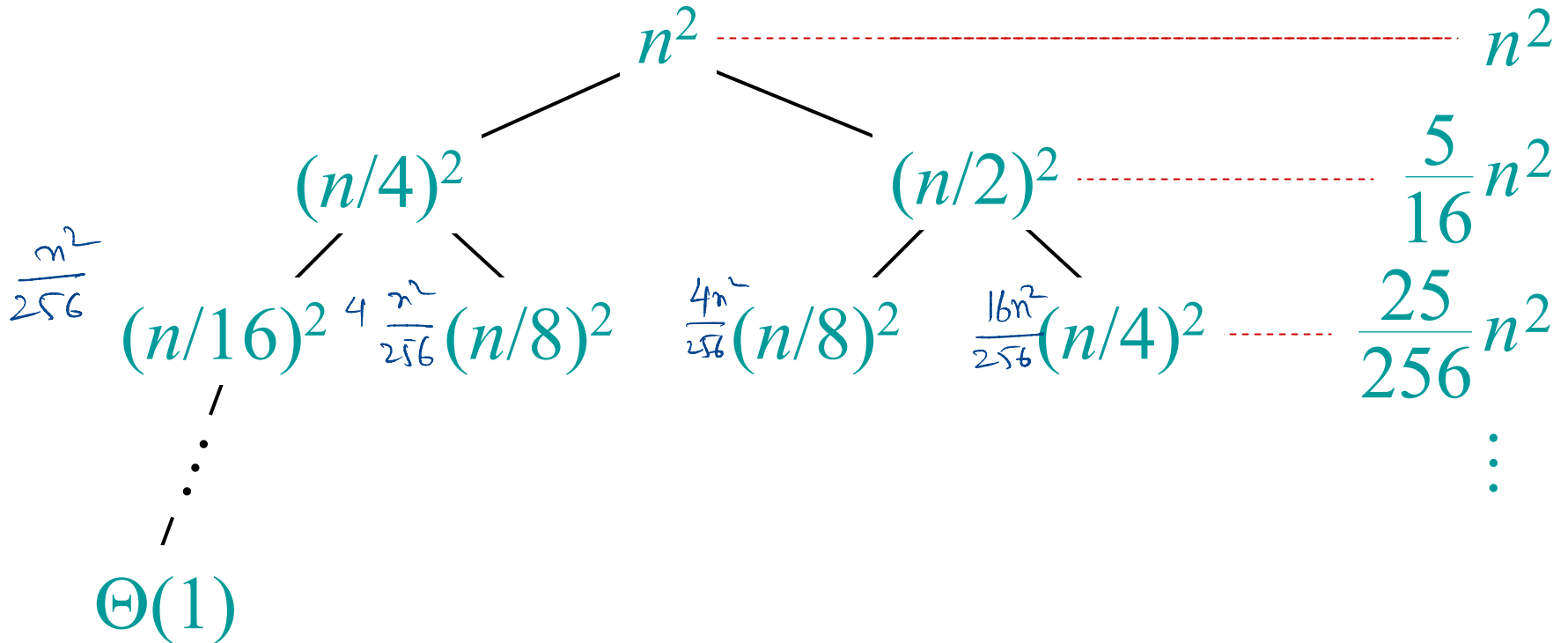
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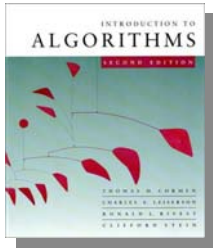




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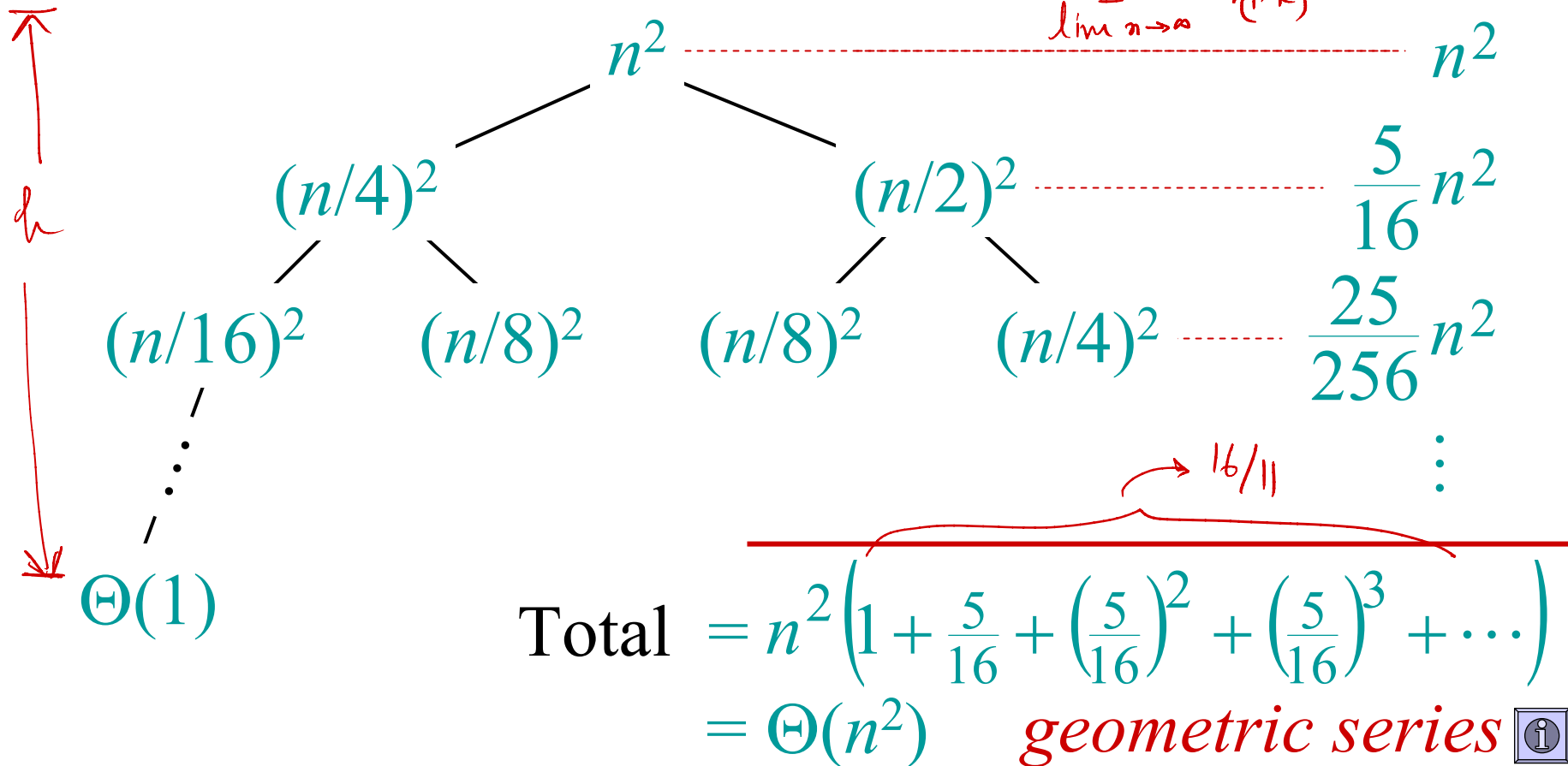
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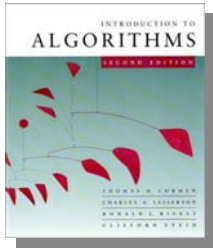




# Example of recursion tree

Solve  $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$ :  $\Rightarrow S = \left( \frac{1-k^{n+1}}{1-k} \right)$   
 $GP: (1+k+k^2+\dots+k^n) = S; k < 1$   
 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S = \frac{1}{1-k}$





# The master method

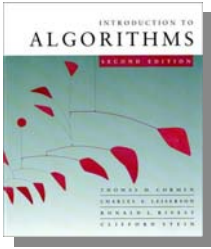
The master method applies to recurrences of the form

$$T(n) = a T(n/b) + f(n) ,$$

where  $a \geq 1$ ,  $b > 1$ , and  $f$  is asymptotically positive.



$$T(n) = a T(n/b) + f(n)$$



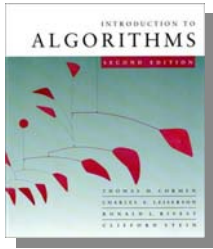
## Three common cases

Compare  $f(n)$  with  $n^{\log_b a}$ : Polynomial

1.  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for some constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

- $f(n)$  grows polynomially slower than  $n^{\log_b a}$  (by an  $n^\varepsilon$  factor). Polynomial factor

**Solution:**  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ .



# Three common cases

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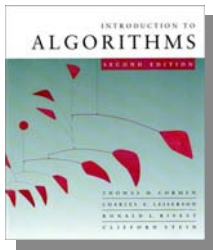
**Solution:**  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ .

2.  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^k n)$  for some constant  $k \geq 0$ .

- $f(n)$  and  $n^{\log_b a}$  grow at similar rates.

**Solution:**  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^{k+1} n)$ .

↪ base 2



# Three common cases (cont.)

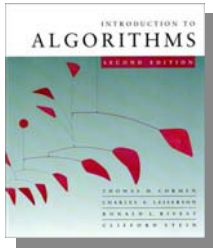
Compare  $f(n)$  with  $n^{\log_b a}$ :

3.  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for some constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

- $f(n)$  grows polynomially faster than  $n^{\log_b a}$  (by an  $n^\varepsilon$  factor),

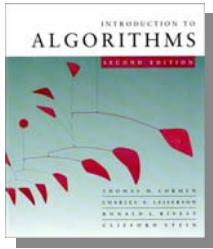
and  $f(n)$  satisfies the **regularity condition** that  $a f(n/b) \leq c f(n)$  for some constant  $c < 1$ .

**Solution:**  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$ .



# Examples

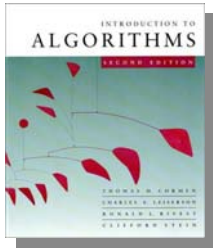
**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$   
 $a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n.$   
**CASE 1:**  $f(n) = O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon = 1.$   
 $\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2).$



# Examples

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**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2$   
 $a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^2.$   
**CASE 2:**  $f(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg^0 n)$ , that is,  $k = 0$ .  
 $\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg n).$



# Examples

**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^3$

$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^3.$

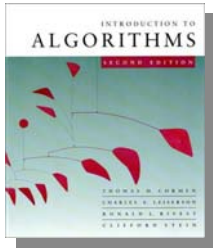
**CASE 3:**  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{2+\epsilon})$  for  $\epsilon = 1$

**and**  $4(n/2)^3 \leq cn^3$  (reg. cond.) for  $c = 1/2$ .

$\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^3).$

$\frac{n^3}{2} \leq cn^3$

$a f(n/b)$   
 $\Downarrow$   
 $4 \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^3$



# Examples

**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^3$

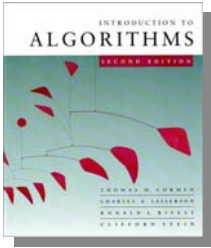
$$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^3.$$

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*and*  $4(n/2)^3 \leq cn^3$  (reg. cond.) for  $c = 1/2$ .  
 $\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^3)$ .

**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2/\lg n$

$$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^2/\lg n.$$

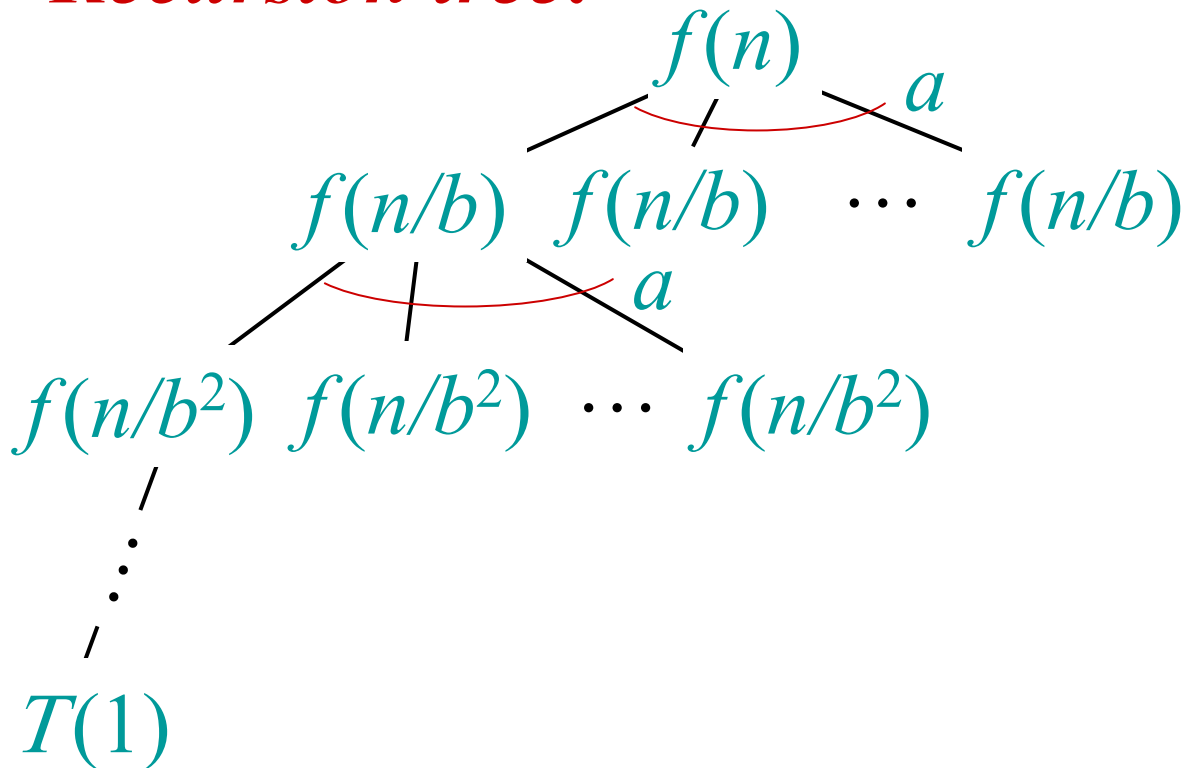
Master method does not apply. In particular,  
for every constant  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have  $n^\epsilon = \omega(\lg n)$ .



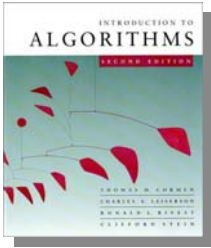
# Idea of master theorem

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$

*Recursion tree:*

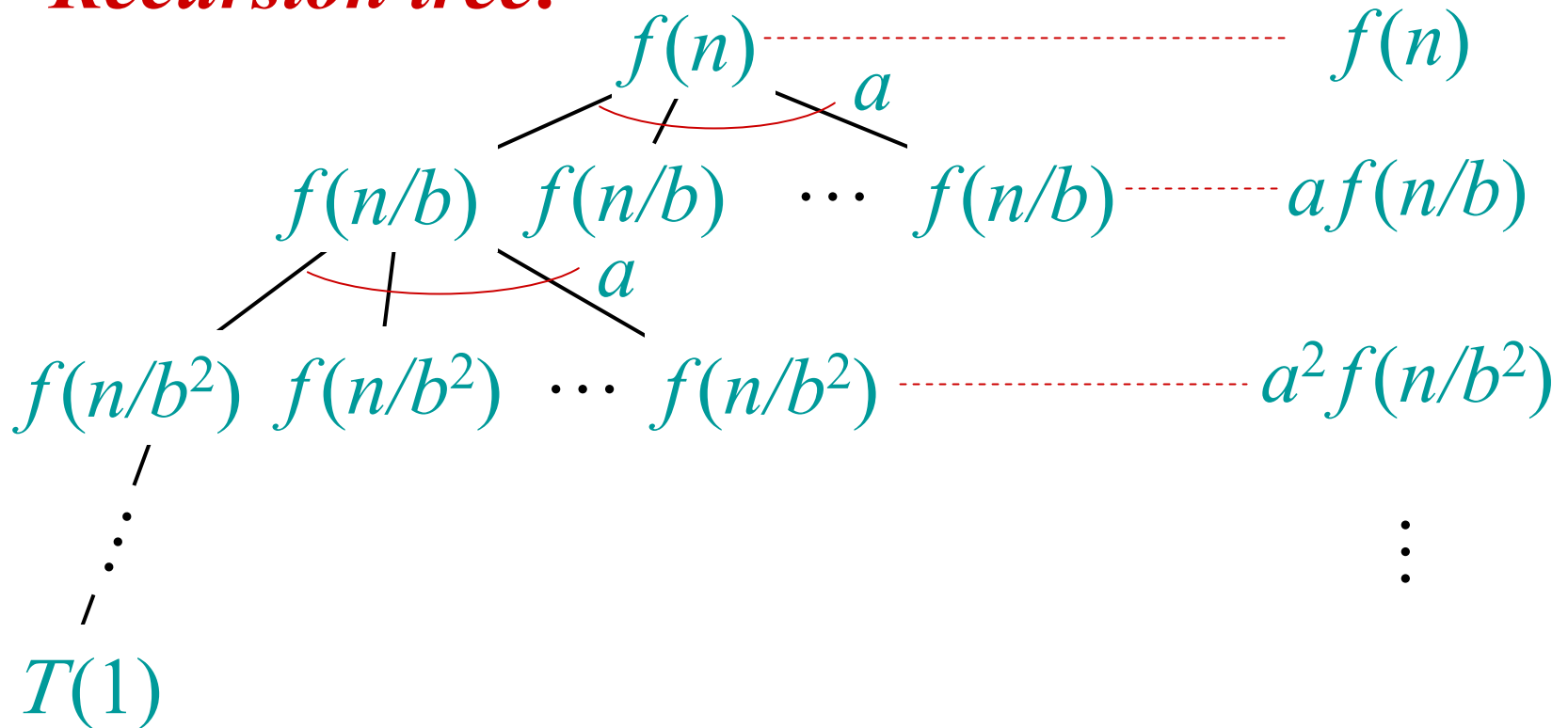


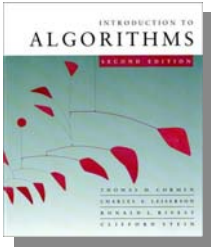




# Idea of master theorem

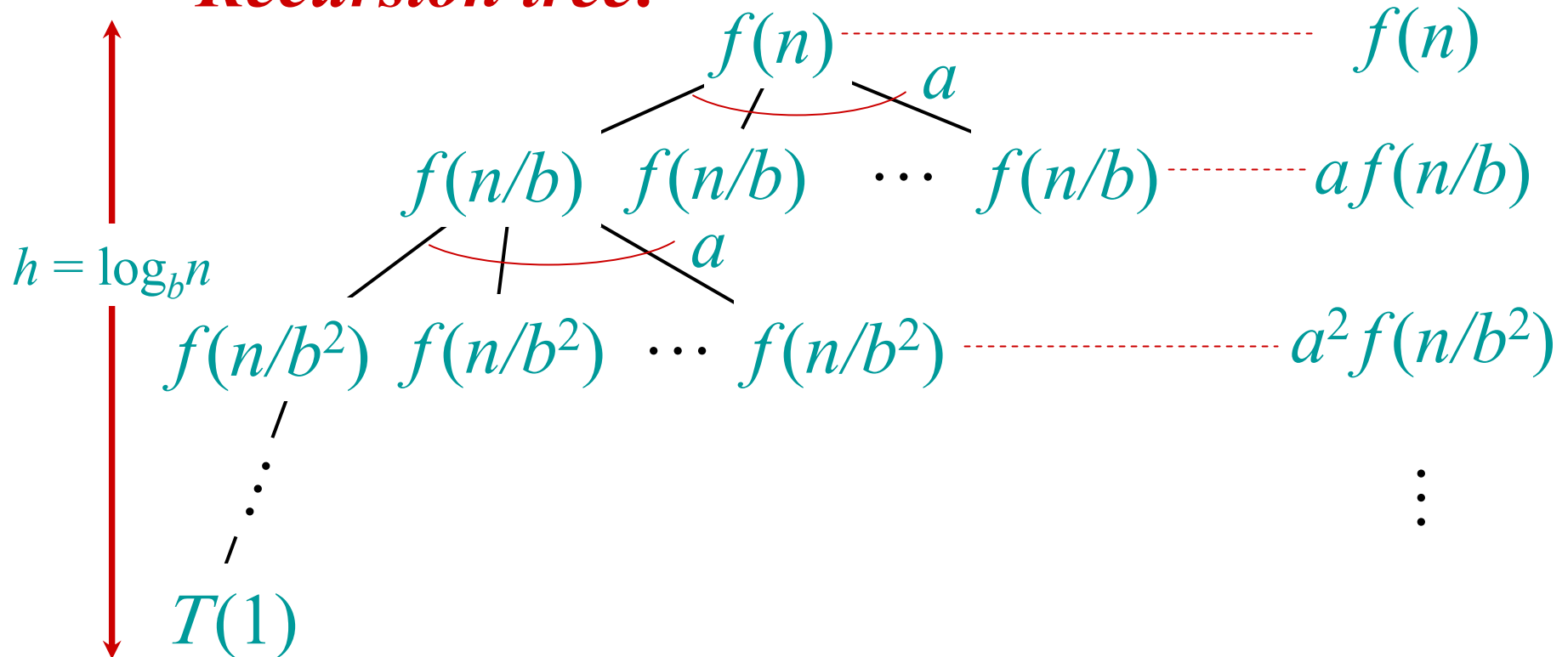
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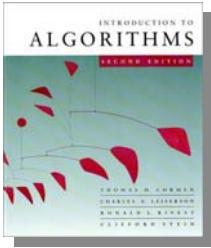




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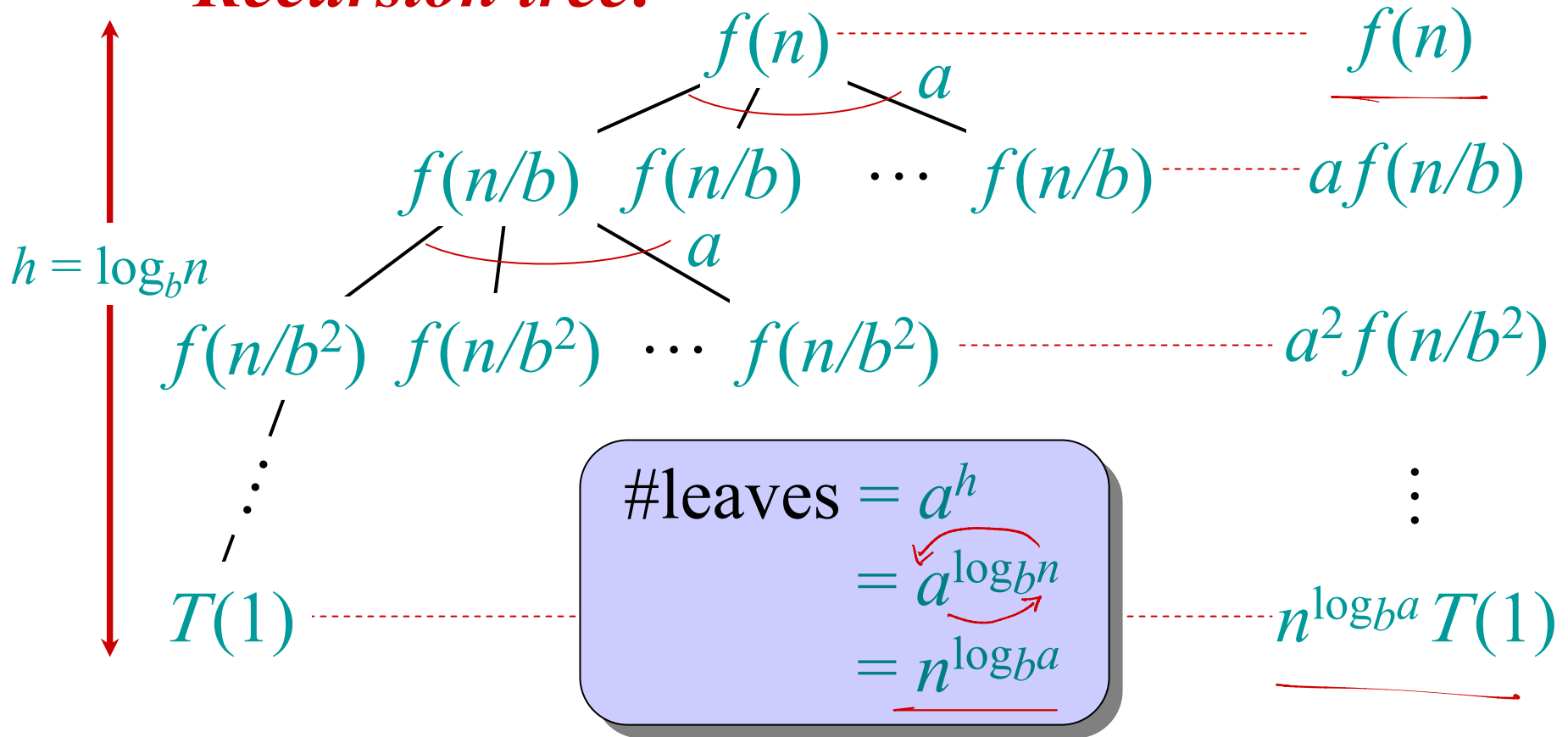
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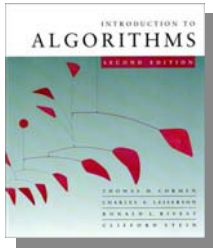




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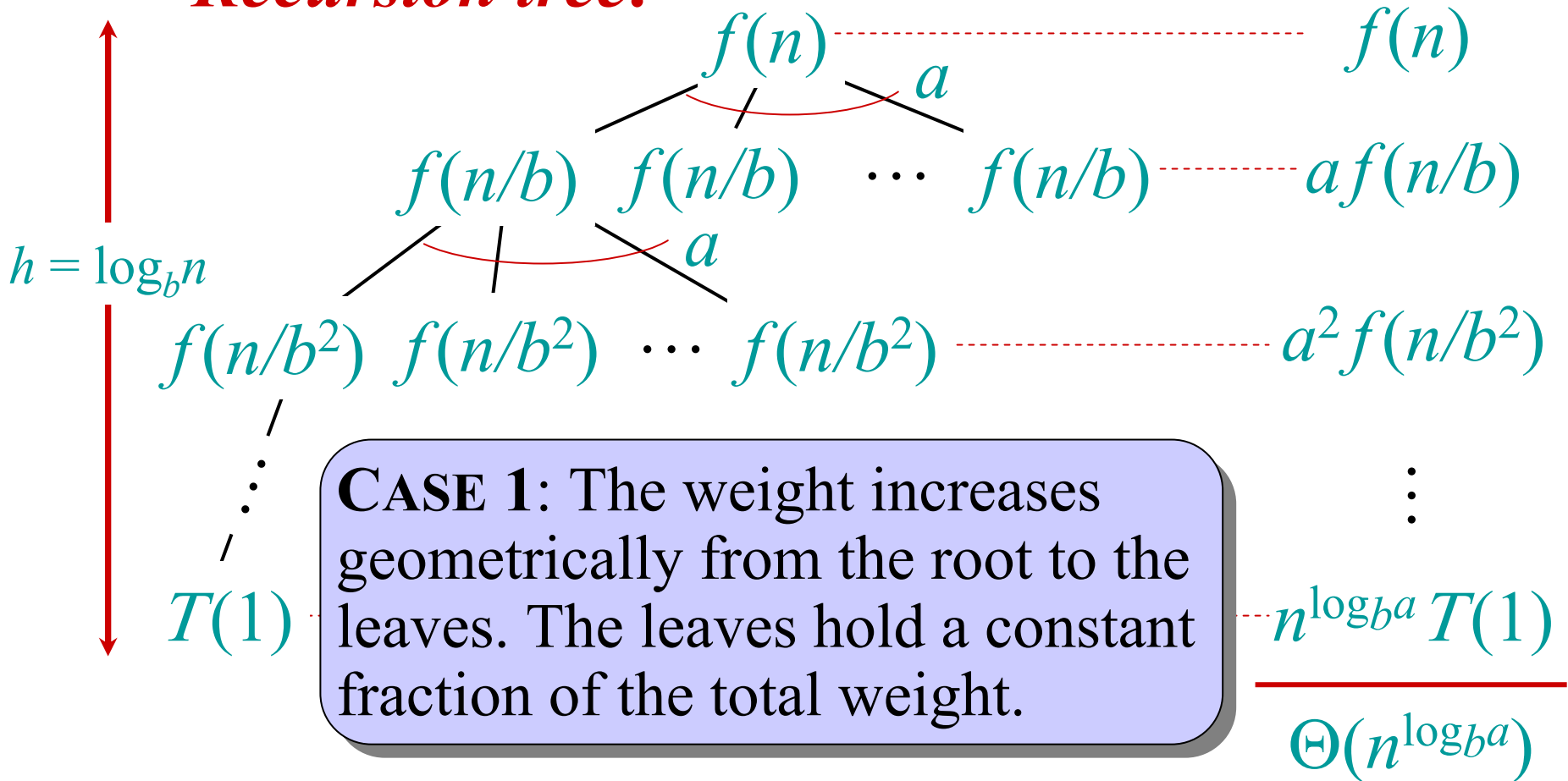
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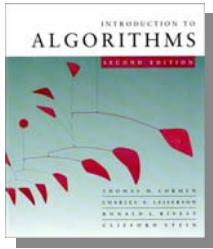




# Idea of master theorem

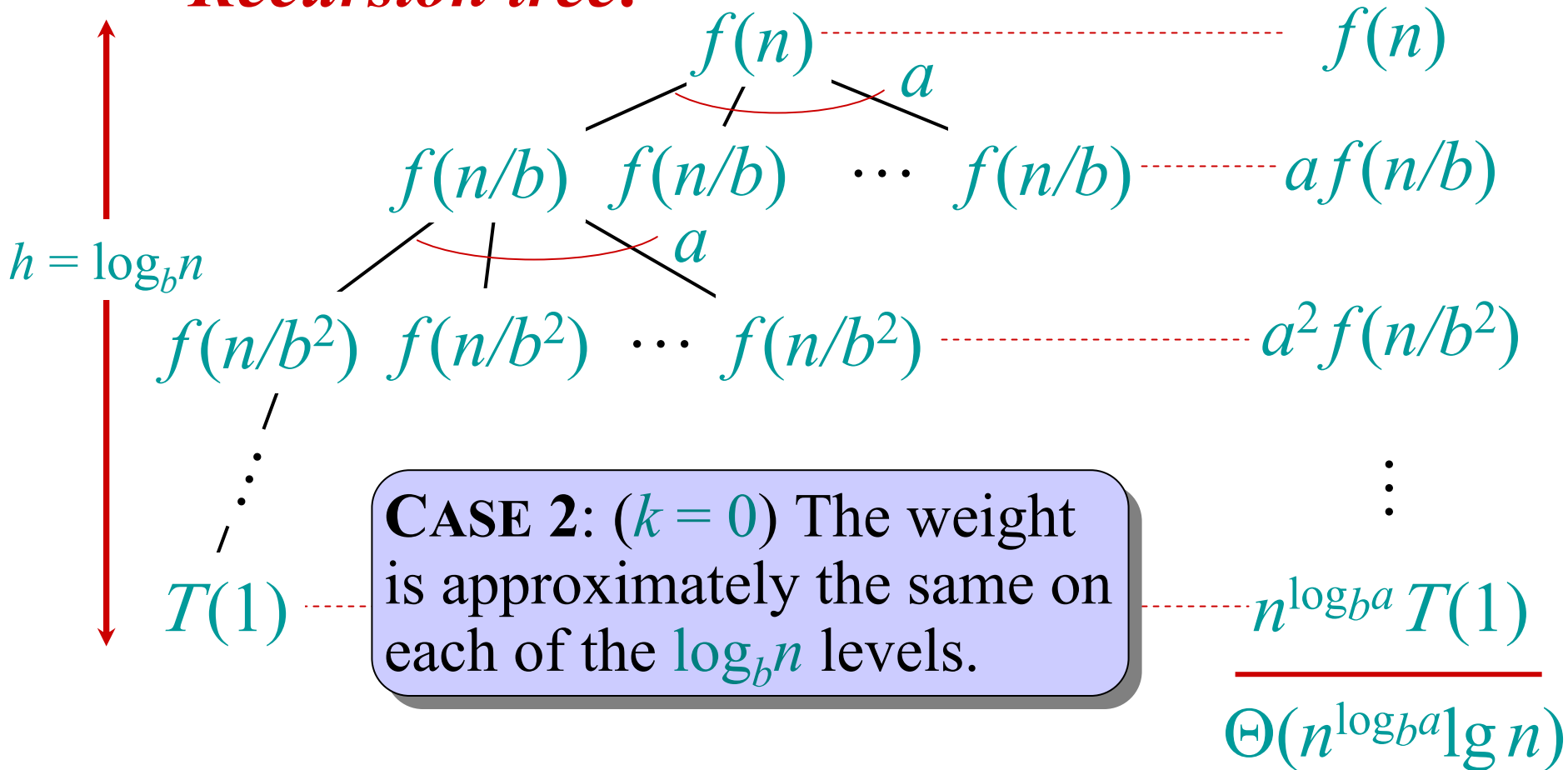
*Recursion tree:*

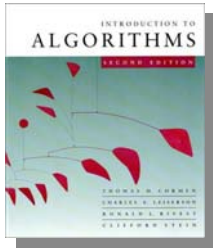




# Idea of master theorem

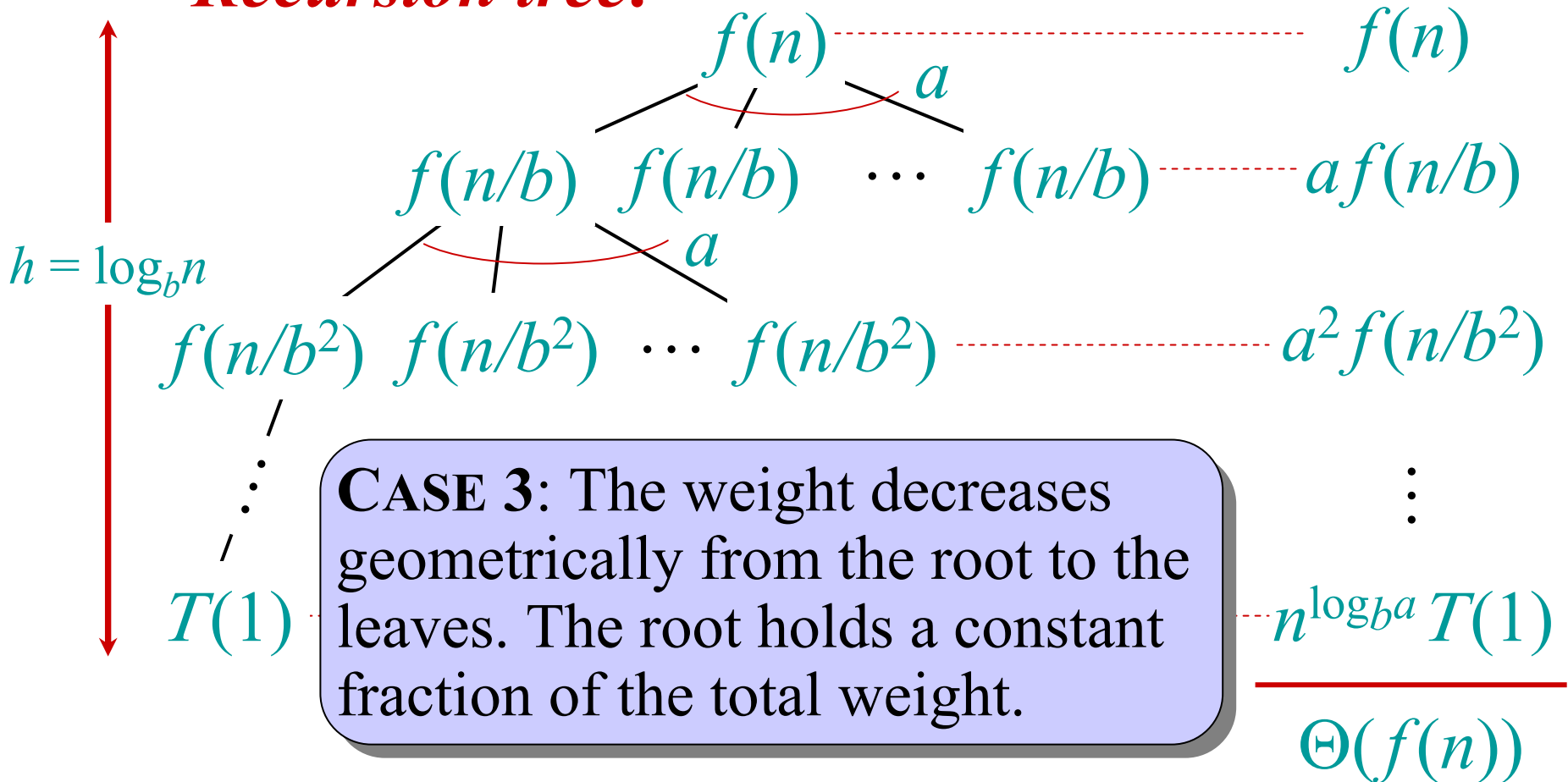
*Recursion tree:*

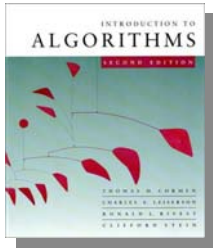




# Idea of master theorem

*Recursion tree:*





# Appendix: geometric series

$$1 + x + x^2 + \cdots + x^n = \frac{1 - x^{n+1}}{1 - x} \quad \text{for } x \neq 1$$

$$1 + x + x^2 + \cdots = \frac{1}{1 - x} \quad \text{for } |x| < 1$$

Return to last  
slide viewed.

