



# Solving Recurrences

Data Structures and  
Parallelism

# Warm Up

Find a recurrence to represent the running time of this code

```
int Mystery(int n) {
    if (n <= 5)
        return 1;
    for (int i=0; i<n; i++) {
        for (int j=0; j<n; j++) {
            System.out.println("hi");
        }
    }
    return n*Mystery(n/2);
}
```

# Outline

Last Time:

- We started to write recurrences to describe the running times of recursive functions.

Today:

- How do we turn a recurrence into a big- $\Theta$  bound?

Monday:

- Quicker, messier method for getting big- $\Theta$  bounds
- Amortized Bounds

# Tree Method

Idea:

- Since we're making recursive calls, let's just draw out a tree, with one node for each recursive call.
- Each of those nodes will do some work, and (if they make more recursive calls) have children.
- If we can just add up all the work, we can find a big- $\Theta$  bound.

# Solving Recurrences: Tree Method Steps

0. Draw the tree.
1. What is the input size at level  $i$ ?
2. What is the number of nodes at level  $i$ ?
3. What is the work done at recursive level  $i$ ?
4. What is the last level of the tree?
5. What is the work done at the base case?
6. Sum over all levels (using 3,5).
7. Simplify

# Binary Search Analysis

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + c_2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

0. Draw the tree.
1. What is the input size at level  $i$ ?
2. What is the number of nodes at level  $i$ ?
3. What is the work done at recursive level  $i$ ?
4. What is the last level of the tree?
5. What is the work done at the base case?
6. Sum over all levels (using 3,5).
7. Simplify

# Solving Recurrences II:

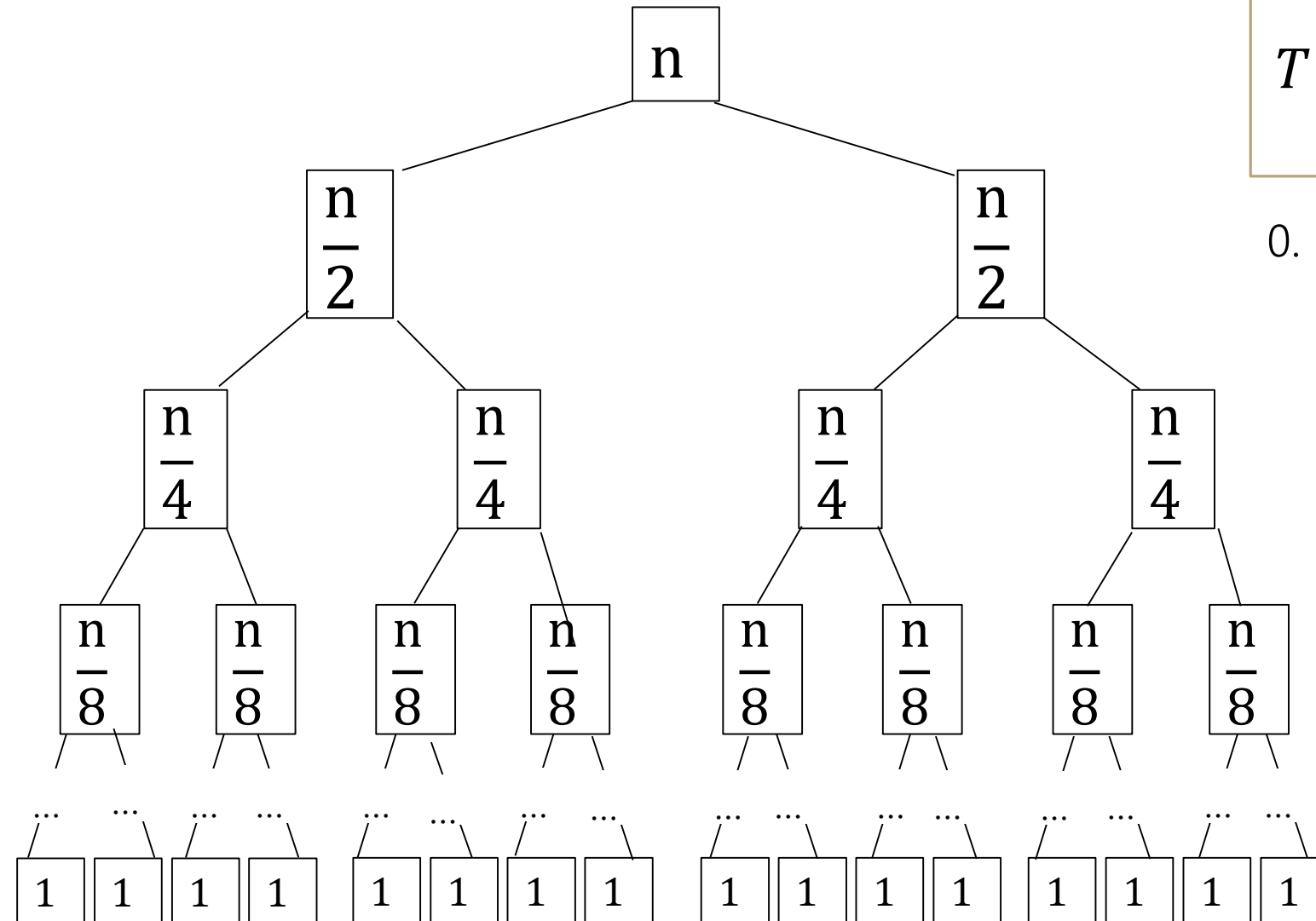
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

0. Draw the tree.

# Solving Recurrences II:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

0. Draw the tree.

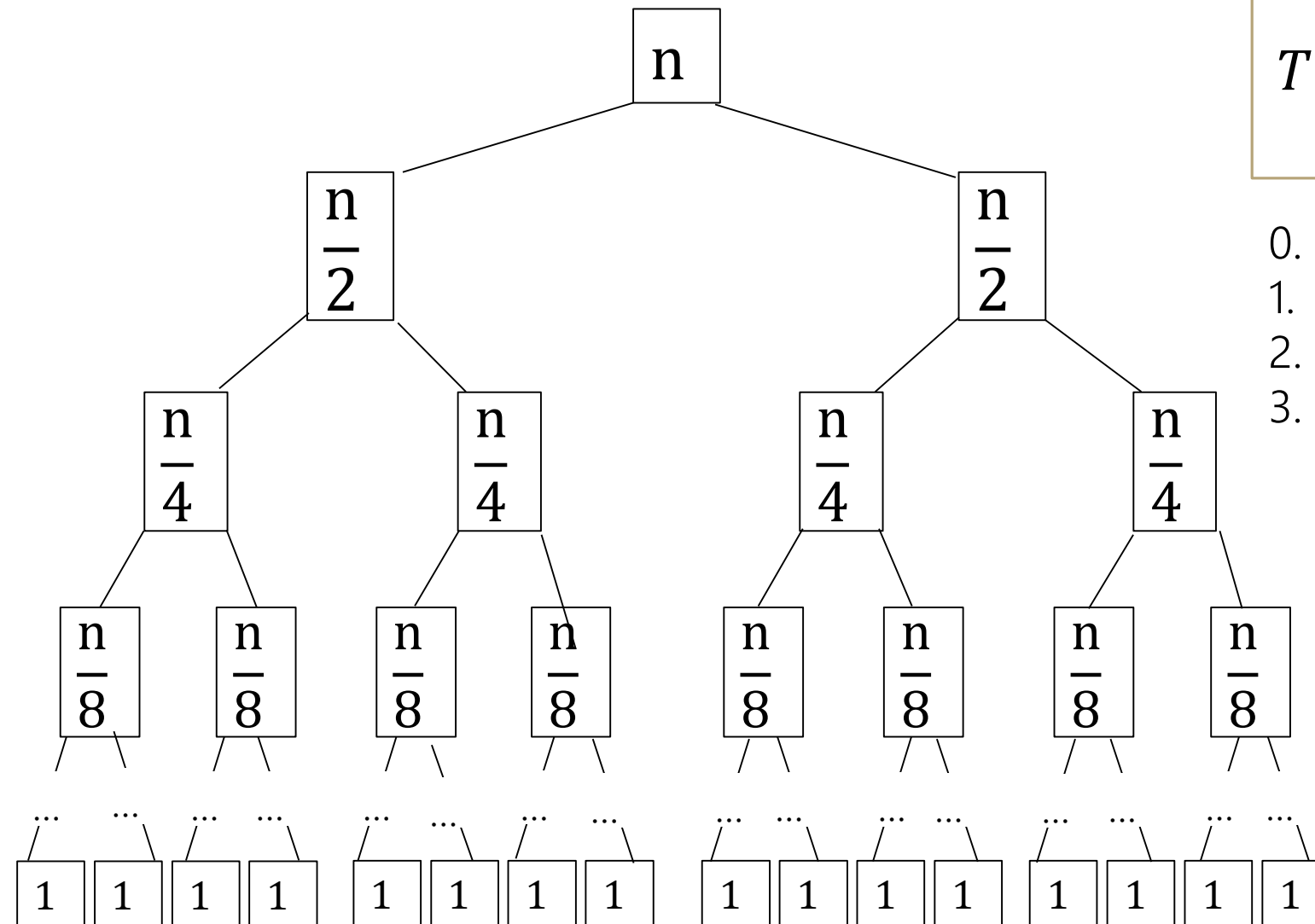




# Solving Recurrences II:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

0. Draw the tree.
1. What is the input size at level  $i$ ?
2. What is the number of nodes at level  $i$ ?
3. What is the work done at recursive level  $i$ ?

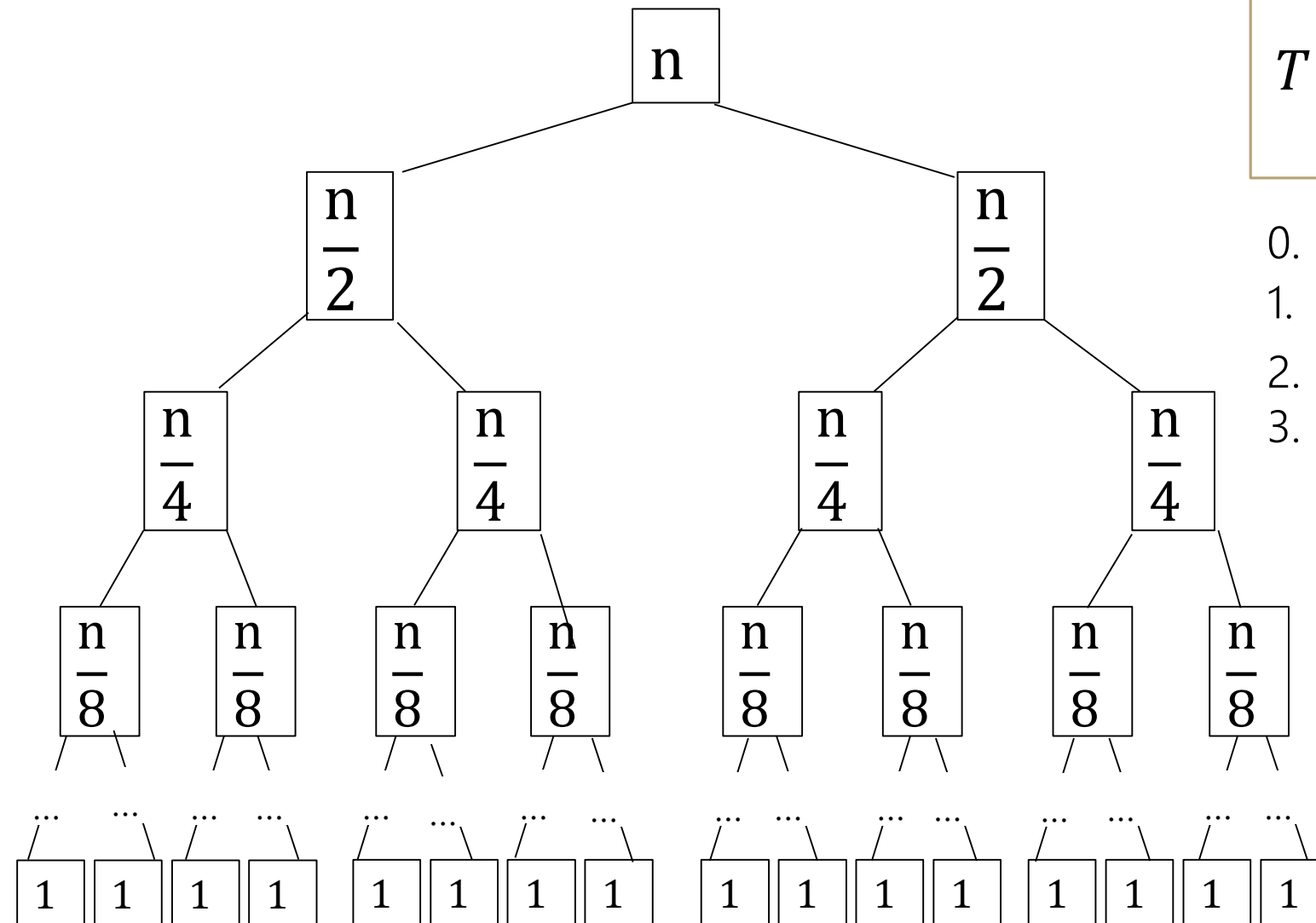


# Solving Recurrences II:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

0. Draw the tree.
1. What is the input size at level  $i$ ?  $\frac{n}{2^i}$
2. What is the number of nodes at level  $i$ ?  $2^i$
3. What is the work done at recursive level  $i$ ?

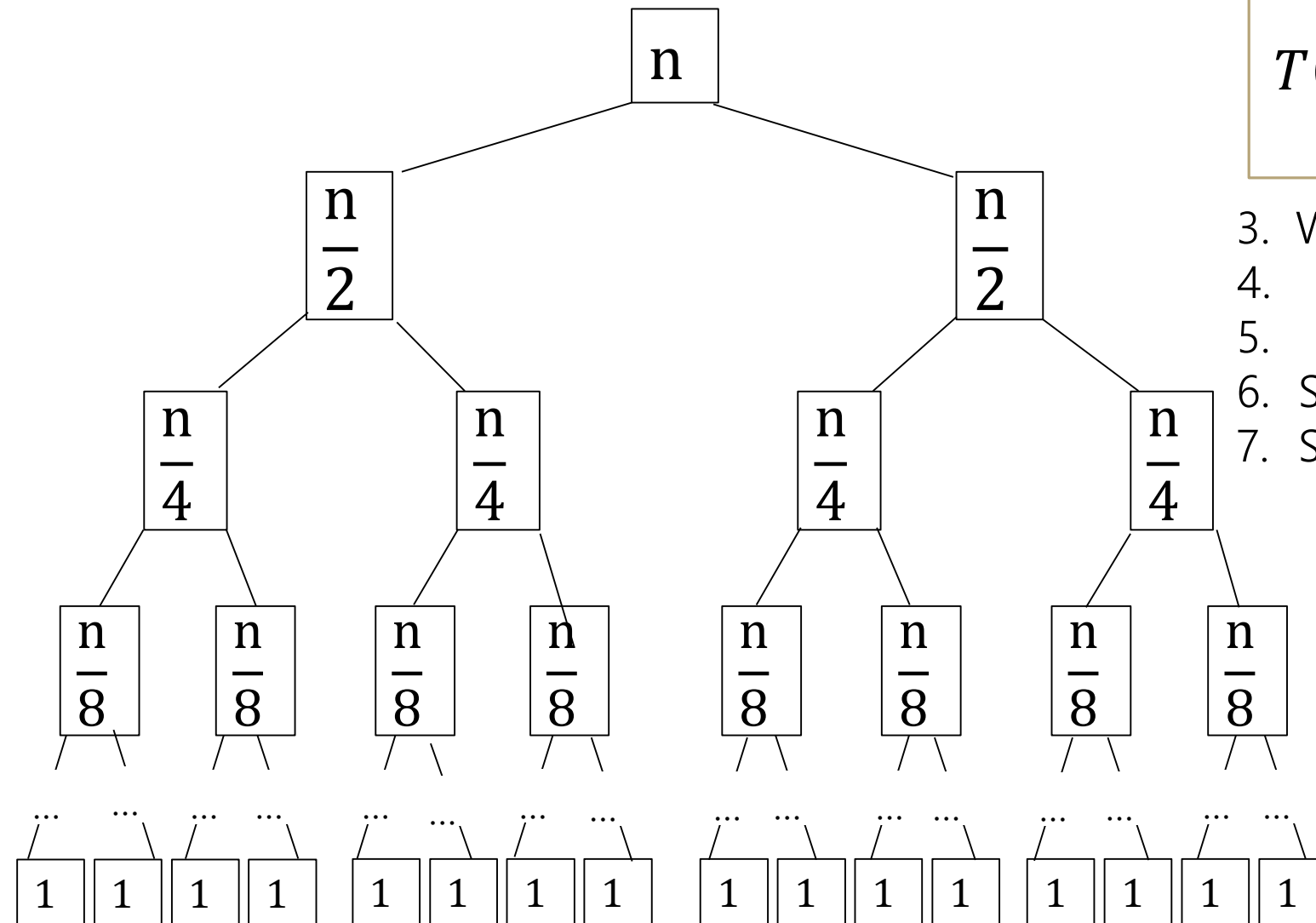
$$\frac{n2^i}{2^i} = n$$



# Solving Recurrences II:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

3. What is the work done at recursive level  $i$ ?  $n$
4. What is the last level of the tree?
5. What is the work done at the base case?
6. Sum over all levels (using 3,5).
7. Simplify



# Solving Recurrences II:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

3. What is the work done at recursive level  $i$ ?

$$\frac{n2^i}{2^i} = n$$

4. What is the last level of the tree?

$$i = \log(n)$$

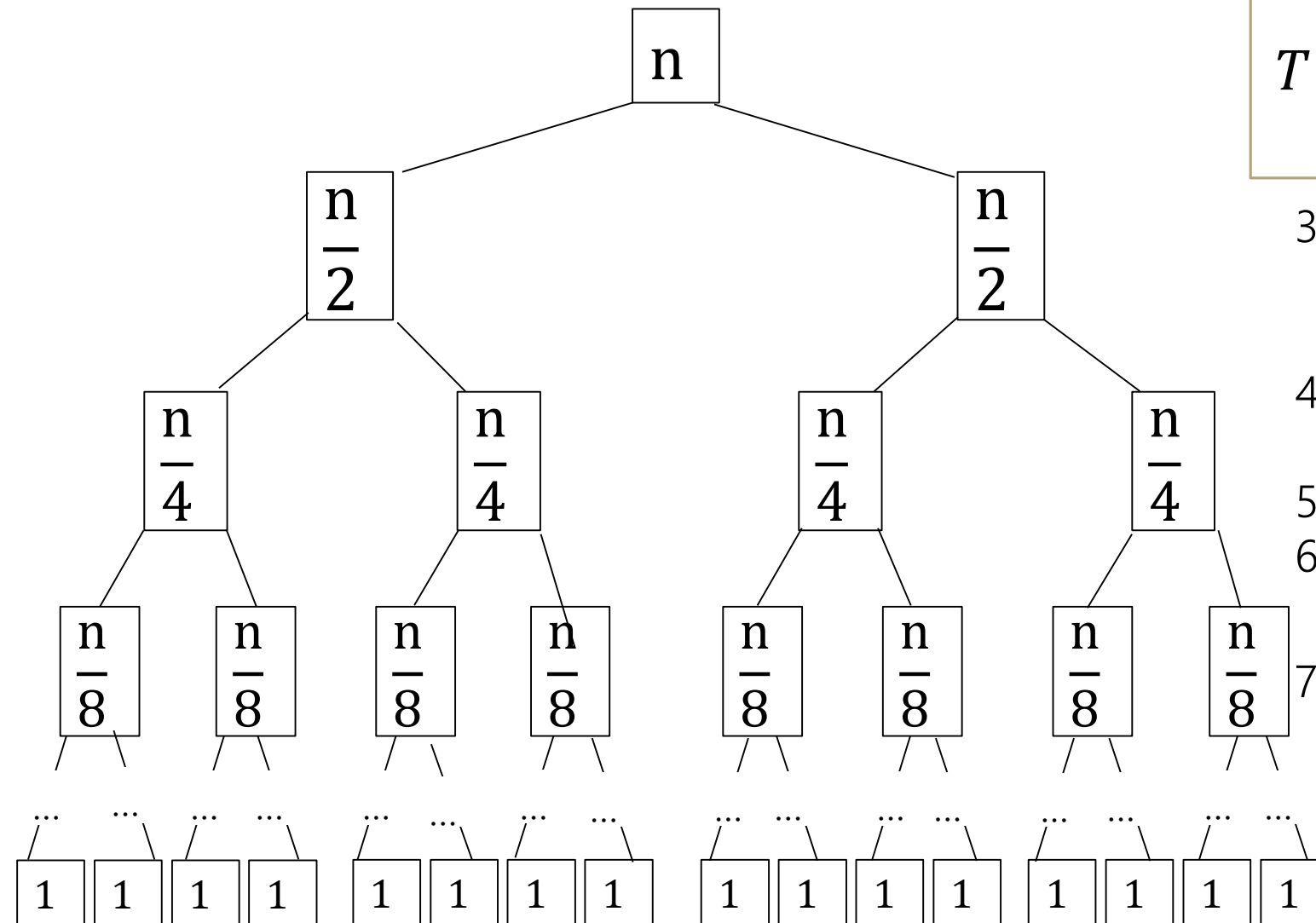
5. What is the work done at the base case?  $n$

6. Sum over all levels (using 3,5).

$$\left(\sum_{i=0}^{\log(n)-1} n\right) + n$$

7. Simplify

$$O(n \log(n))$$



# Tree Method All Together

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

How much work is done by recursive levels (branch nodes)?

1. What is the input size at level  $i$ ?

-  $i = 0$  is overall root level.

$$(n/2^i)$$

2. At each level  $i$ , how many calls are there?

$$2^i$$

3. At each level  $i$ , how much work is done??

$$2^i(n/2^i) = n$$

$$\text{Recursive work} = \sum_{i=0}^{\text{lastRecursiveLevel}} \text{branchNum}(i) \text{branchWork}(i)$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n - 1} 2^i \left(\frac{n}{2^i}\right)$$

How much work is done by the base case level (leaf nodes)?

4. What is the last level of the tree?

$$(n/2^i) = 1 \rightarrow 2^i = n \rightarrow i = \log_2 n$$

5. What is the work done at the last level?

$$\text{NonRecursive work} = \text{WorkPerBaseCase} \times \text{numberCalls}$$

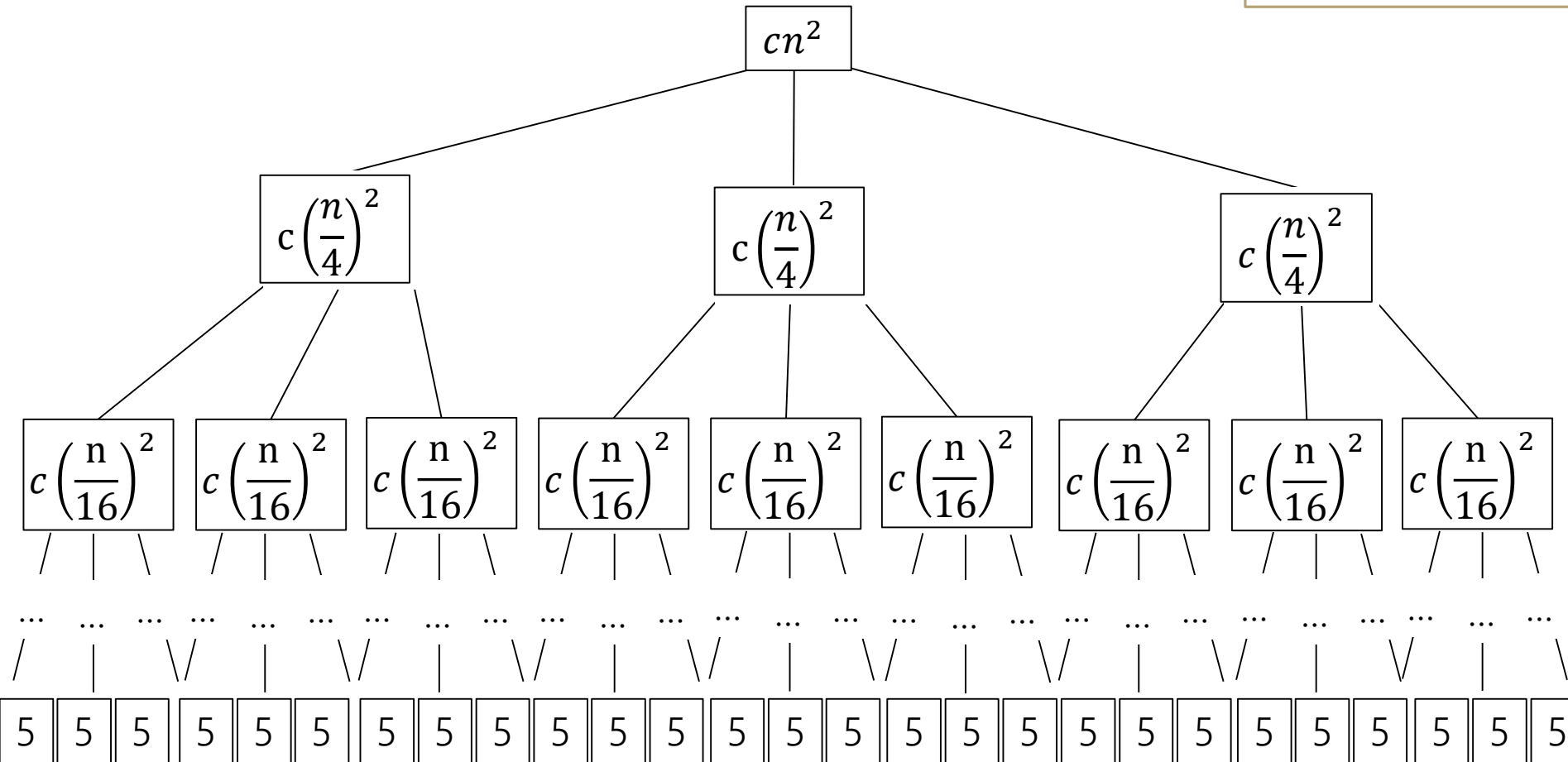
$$1 \cdot 2^{\log_2 n} = n$$

6. Combine and Simplify

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n - 1} 2^i \left(\frac{n}{2^i}\right) + n = n \log_2 n + n$$

# Solving Recurrences III

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 5 & \text{when } n \leq 4 \\ 3T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + cn^2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Answer the following questions:

1. What is input size on level  $i$ ?
2. Number of nodes at level  $i$ ?
3. Work done at recursive level  $i$ ?
4. Last level of tree?
5. Work done at base case?
6. What is sum over all levels?

# Solving Recurrences III

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 5 & \text{when } n \leq 4 \\ 3T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + cn^2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

1. Input size on level  $i$ ?  $\frac{n}{4^i}$   $c\left(\frac{n}{4^i}\right)^2$

2. How many calls on level  $i$ ?  $3^i$

3. How much work on level  $i$ ?  $3^i c \left(\frac{n}{4^i}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i cn^2$

4. What is the last level? When  $\frac{n}{4^i} = 4 \rightarrow \log_4 n - 1$

5. A. How much work for each leaf node? 5

B. How many base case calls?  $3^{\log_4 n - 1} = \frac{3^{\log_4 n}}{3}$

$$\text{power of a log} \\ x^{\log_b y} = y^{\log_b x}$$

Level (i)	Number of Nodes	Work per Node	Work per Level
0	1	$cn^2$	$cn^2$
1	3	$c\left(\frac{n}{4}\right)^2$	$\frac{3}{16}cn^2$
2	$3^2$	$c\left(\frac{n}{4^2}\right)^2$	$\left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^2 cn^2$
$i$	$3^i$	$c\left(\frac{n}{4^i}\right)^2$	$\left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i cn^2$
Base = $\log_4 n - 1$	$3^{\log_4 n - 1}$	5	$\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)n^{\log_4 3}$

6. Combining it all together...

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 2} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i cn^2 + \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)n^{\log_4 3}$$

# Solving Recurrences III

7. Simplify...

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 2} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i cn^2 + \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)n^{\log_4 3}$$

factoring out a  
constant

$$\sum_{i=a}^b cf(i) = c \sum_{i=a}^b f(i)$$

$$T(n) = cn^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 2} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i + \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)n^{\log_4 3}$$

finite geometric series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x^i = \frac{x^n - 1}{x - 1}$$

Closed form:

$$T(n) = cn^2 \left( \frac{\frac{3}{16}^{\log_4 n - 1} - 1}{\frac{3}{16} - 1} \right) + \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)n^{\log_4 3}$$

Ugly, but very accurate

If we're trying to prove upper bound...

$$T(n) \leq cn^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i + \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)n^{\log_4 3}$$

infinite geometric  
series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x^i = \frac{1}{1 - x}$$

when  $-1 < x < 1$

$$T(n) \leq cn^2 \left( \frac{1}{1 - \frac{3}{16}} \right) + \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)n^{\log_4 3}$$

$$T(n) \in O(n^2)$$



# Reminders

Have a good holiday!

Exercise 1 Due Friday

Project 1 Checkpoint Due Friday

Come to lecture, we will practice recurrences and more