

## Divide-and-Conquer Algorithms

Suppose you wanted to calculate  $a^n$  without using your programming languages built in exponential function (where  $a$  and  $n$  are integers greater than 0).

How could you write a recursive function to do this?

---

**Algorithm 1** `int pow(int a, int n)`  $\therefore n \geq 1$

---

```

//Base case:
if n == 1 then
    //a1 is a
    return a;
end if
//Recursive case:
return a*pow(a,n-1);

```

---

$a^{n-1} \cdot a = a^n$

*// Not divide & conquer  
cant use master theorem*

Analysis of runtime:

$$\Rightarrow T(n) = \underbrace{T(n-1)}_{\substack{\text{(Base case)} \\ T(1) = 1 \text{ step}}} + \underbrace{1}_{\substack{\text{// runtime dependent} \\ \text{on } (n-1)} \text{ multiplication } (a)}$$

---


$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow T(n) &= \boxed{T(n-1)} + 1 && \text{// To find } T(n), \text{ we need to find } T(n-1), \dots, T(n-2), \dots \\ &= \boxed{T(n-2) + 1} + 1 && \text{// notice pattern} \\ &= \boxed{T(n-3) + 1} + 1 + 1 && \begin{array}{l} (n-2) + 1 + 1 \\ (n-3) + 1 + 1 + 1 \end{array} \\ &\vdots \\ &= \boxed{T(n-i)} + i && \text{// This goes until base case reached} \\ &\vdots \\ &= \boxed{T(1)} + \underline{n-1} && \text{// } n-i = 1? \\ &= n \text{ steps} && \Rightarrow n = i + 1 \\ &= \theta(n) && \Rightarrow i = n-1 \quad \text{// This tells us we need to do } (n-1) \text{ steps to reach base case} \\ &\text{// can we do better?} \end{aligned}$$

Can we do better than this? We can use divide & conquer to do better

Observe the following facts: Will we have fewer multiplications using this method?

if  $n$  is even:  $a^n = a^{n/2+n/2} = a^{n/2} a^{n/2} = (a^{n/2})^2$

if  $n$  is odd:  $a^n = a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1} = a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} a = (a^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor})^2 a$

---

**Algorithm 2** int pow(int  $a$ , int  $n$ )

---

//Base case:

if  $n == 1$  then

    // $a^1$  is  $a$

    return  $a$ ;

end if

---

//Recursive case:

temp=pow( $a, n/2$ );

temp=temp\*temp;  $= (a^{n/2})^2$

if  $n$  is odd then

    temp=temp\* $a$ ;  $= (a^{n/2})^2 \cdot a$

end if

return temp;

---

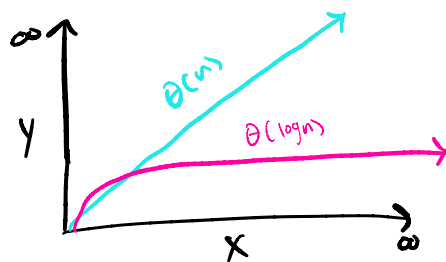
//recursive squaring

Analysis of runtime: //notice 1 recursive call

$$\Rightarrow T(n) = 1 \cdot T(n/2) + 2 \text{ multiplications (worst case)}$$

// using master theorem, we get case 2

$\Rightarrow 2 \in \theta(1) \Rightarrow T(n) = \theta(\log n)$ , which is better than  $\theta(n)$



**Matrix Multiplication ex**

$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$

$B = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$

$1(5) + 2(7) = 19$   
 $1(6) + 2(8) = 22$   
 $3(5) + 4(7) = 43$   
 $3(6) + 4(8) = 50$

2  $AB = \begin{bmatrix} 19 & 22 \\ 43 & 50 \end{bmatrix}$

## Matrix multiplication

(1) **input:**  $A = [a_{ij}]$ ,  $B = [b_{ij}]$

(2) **output:**  $C = [c_{ij}] = A \cdot B$

(where  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ )

$$c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} \cdot b_{kj}$$

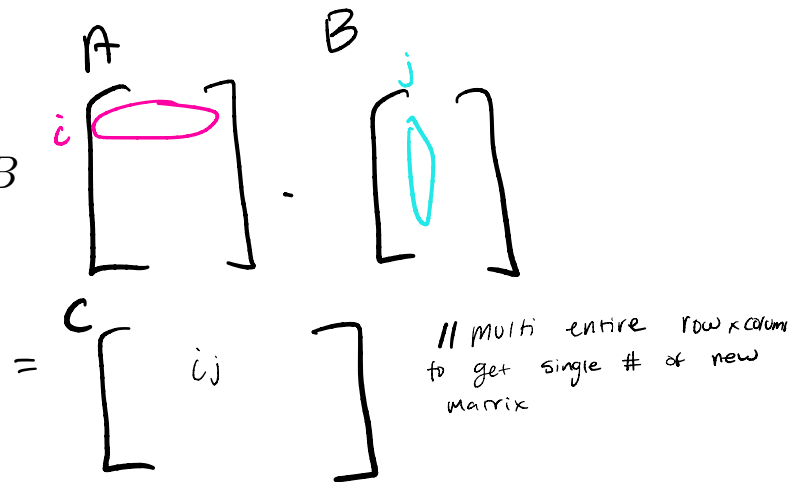
// k walks through columns of A  
 // k walks through rows of B

Standard algorithm:

```
for (i = 1; i <= n; ++i) {
  for (j = 1; j <= n; ++j) {
    for (k = 1; k <= n; ++k) {
      C[i][j] += A[i][k] * B[k][j];
    }
  }
}
```

Runtime:  $O(n^3)$ ; Naive matrix multi.

Could we perform matrix multiplication faster using a divide and conquer algorithm?



Key idea:  $n \times n$  matrix =  $2 \times 2$  matrix of  $(n/2) \times (n/2)$  submatrices.

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} r & s \\ t & u \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{bmatrix}$$

// is there a relationship between these quadrants? **Yes**

$$\Rightarrow r = \underbrace{a \cdot e + b \cdot g}_{\text{matrix multiplication}} \quad t = c \cdot e + d \cdot g$$

$$\Rightarrow s = a \cdot f + b \cdot h \quad u = c \cdot f + d \cdot h$$

Analysis of runtime:

$$\Rightarrow T(n) = 8 T(n/2) + n^2$$

// We can now use Master Theorem

8 recursive calls  
 $\Rightarrow$  if a matrix requires 2 calls,  
 and we have 4 matrices  
 $\Rightarrow 2 \cdot 4 = 8$

Cost of matrix addition  
 // technically its  $(n/2)^2$

## **Strassen's idea**

Multiply  $2 \times 2$  matrices with only 7 recursive multiplications:

## Strassen's algorithm

- (1) **Divide:** Partition  $A$  and  $B$  into  $(n/2) \times (n/2)$  submatrices. Form  $P$ -terms to be multiplied using  $+$  and  $-$ .
- (2) **Conquer:** Perform 7 multiplications of  $(n/2) \times (n/2)$  submatrices recursively.
- (3) **Combine:** Form  $C$  by using  $+$  and  $-$  on the  $(n/2) \times (n/2)$  submatrices