

# *Design and Analysis of Algorithms*



**CS3230**  
C23530

Week 3

Iteration, Recursion,  
and Divide-and-Conquer

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Iterative algorithms

# Iterative algorithms

- Algorithms which have one or multiple loops, sequentially processing input elements

```
NDAYSOFCHRISTMAS(gifts[2..n]):  
  for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$   
    Sing "On the  $i$ th day of Christmas, my true love gave to me"  
    for  $j \leftarrow i$  down to 2  
      Sing " $j$  gifts[ $j$ ]"  
    if  $i > 1$   
      Sing "and"  
    Sing "a partridge in a pear tree."
```

- Our running example in this lecture: **insertion sort**.

# The problem of sorting

- **Input:** sequence  $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$  of numbers.
- **Output:** permutation  $\langle a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n \rangle$  such that  $a'_1 \leq a'_2 \leq \dots \leq a'_n$ .
- Example:
  - **Input:** 8 2 4 9 3 6
  - **Output:** 2 3 4 6 8 9

# Insertion Sort

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
3.     // Insert  $A[j]$  into sorted seq  $A[1 .. j-1]$
4.      $i = j - 1$
5.     **while**  $i > 0$  and  $A[i] > key$
6.          $A[i+1] = A[i]$
7.          $i = i - 1$
8.      $A[i+1] = key$

Runtime of  $\Theta(n^2)$   
already argued in last  
lecture slides

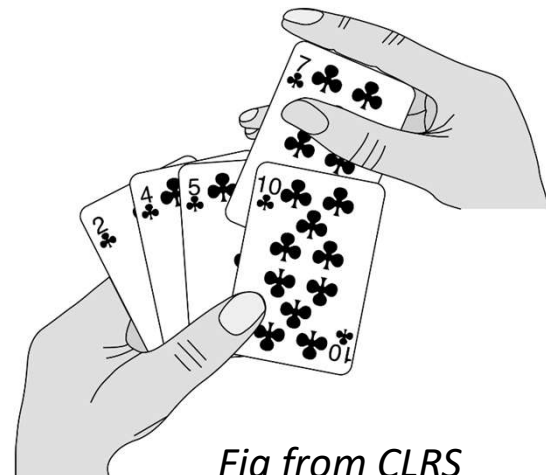


Fig from CLRS

# Example run of Insertion Sort

Consider the iteration of the **for** loop where  $j = 5$ .

Suppose the array A at this stage is [1, 4, 6, 9, 2, 7, 3].

i	
4	1 4 6 9 2 7 3

0<sup>th</sup> round of while loop



INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
3.     // Insert  $A[j]$  into sorted seq  $A[1 .. j-1]$
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Consider the iteration of the **for** loop where  $j = 5$ .

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i								
4	1	4	6	9	2	7	3	0 <sup>th</sup> round of while loop
3	1	4	6	9	9	7	3	1 <sup>st</sup> round of while loop

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
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Suppose the array A at this stage is [1, 4, 6, 9, 2, 7, 3].

i								
4	1	4	6	9	2	7	3	0 <sup>th</sup> round of while loop
3	1	4	6	9	9	7	3	1 <sup>st</sup> round of while loop
2	1	4	6	6	9	7	3	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of while loop

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
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# Example run of Insertion Sort



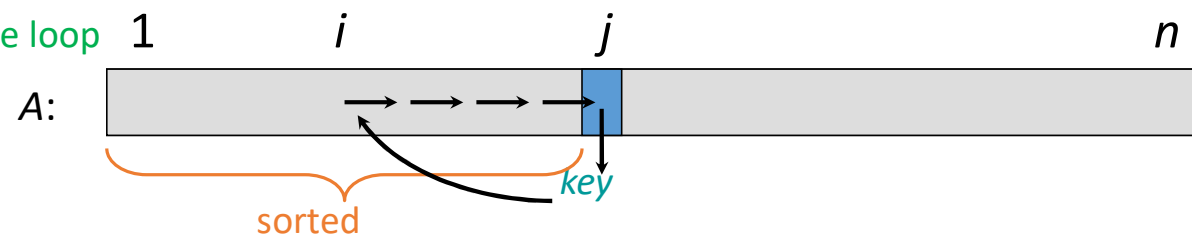
Consider the iteration of the **for** loop where  $j = 5$ .

Suppose the array  $A$  at this stage is  $[1, 4, 6, 9, 2, 7, 3]$ .

i		
4	1 4 6 9 2 7 3	0 <sup>th</sup> round of while loop
3	1 4 6 9 9 7 3	1 <sup>st</sup> round of while loop
2	1 4 6 6 9 7 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of while loop
1	1 4 4 6 9 7 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> round of while loop
		End of while loop

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
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3.     // Insert  $A[j]$  into sorted seq  $A[1 .. j-1]$
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# Correctness of Iterative Algorithms

The key step in the reasoning about the correctness of iterative algorithms is finding a:

## *Loop invariant*

- True before the first iteration
- If true before an iteration, then remains true at the beginning of the next iteration
- If true at the end, then it implies algorithm's correctness



See review of  
induction in  
supplementary  
material!

## Example: Step 1 (for loop) of Insertion sort

j		
	8 2 4 9 3 6	0 <sup>th</sup> round of for loop
2	2 8 4 9 3 6	1 <sup>st</sup> round of for loop
3	2 4 8 9 3 6	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of for loop
4	2 4 8 9 3 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> round of for loop
5	2 3 4 8 9 6	4 <sup>th</sup> round of for loop
6	2 3 4 6 8 9	6 <sup>th</sup> round of for loop

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
3.     // Insert  $A[j]$  into sorted seq  $A[1 .. j-1]$
4.      $i = j - 1$
5.     **while**  $i > 0$  and  $A[i] > key$
6.          $A[i+1] = A[i]$
7.          $i = i - 1$
8.      $A[i+1] = key$

By inspection, the invariant is “ $A[1..j-1]$  is the sorted list of elements originally in  $A[1..j-1]$ ”.

# How to use invariant to show the correctness of an iterative algorithm?

To understand the correctness of an algorithm using an invariant, we need to show three things:

- **Initialization:** The invariant is true before the first iteration of the loop
- **Maintenance:** If the invariant is true before an iteration, it remains true before the next iteration
- **Termination:** When the algorithm terminates, the invariant provides a useful property for showing correctness.

Invariant: the subarray  $A[1 \dots j-1]$  consists of the elements originally in  $A[1 \dots j-1]$ , but in sorted order

- **Initialization:** Before the start of the first iteration,  $j$  has been initialized to 2. The subarray  $A[1 \dots j-1]$  is just  $A[1]$ , which is trivially sorted.

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
3.     // Insert  $A[j]$  into sorted  
seq  $A[1 \dots j-1]$
4.      $i = j - 1$
5.     **while**  $i > 0$  and  $A[i] > key$
6.          $A[i+1] = A[i]$
7.          $i = i - 1$
8.      $A[i+1] = key$

Invariant: the subarray  $A[1 \dots j-1]$  consists of the elements originally in  $A[1 \dots j-1]$ , but in sorted order

- **Maintenance:** (Sketch) By the property of the invariant,  $A[1 \dots j-1]$  is sorted.
  - Line 2 assigns  $A[j]$  to  $key$ .
  - The **while** loop ensures that all array entries in  $A[1 \dots j-1]$  larger than  $key$  is shifted one place to the right.
  - Line 8 assigns  $key$  to location created by shifts.
  - Then,  $A[1..j]$  is sorted!

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
3.     // Insert  $A[j]$  into sorted seq  $A[1 \dots j-1]$
4.      $i = j - 1$
5.     **while**  $i > 0$  and  $A[i] > key$
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Invariant: the subarray  $A[1 \dots j-1]$  consists of the elements originally in  $A[1 \dots j-1]$ , but in sorted order

- **Termination:** Array length is  $n$  and after the final loop,  $j$  is incremented to  $n+1$ . From the invariant, we have  $A[1 \dots j-1]$  being sorted. Substituting  $j$ , the whole array is sorted.

INSERTION-SORT( $A[1..n]$ )

1. **for**  $j = 2$  **to**  $n$
2.      $key = A[j]$
3.     // Insert  $A[j]$  into sorted seq  $A[1 \dots j-1]$
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# Invariant of Iterative Algorithm

- Recap:
  - Invariant is a condition that is true at the beginning of every iteration
  - To show an invariant is true, we need to show that the invariant is true at initialization, is correctly maintained, and implies correctness with termination condition.



# Question 1

The pseudo-code for selection sort is given below:

SELECTION-SORT (*A*)

*n* = *A*.length

**for** *j* = 1 to *n*-1

*smallest* = *j*

**for** *i* = *j*+1 to *n*

**if** *A*[*i*] < *A*[*smallest*]

*smallest* = *i*

    exchange *A*[*j*] with *A*[*smallest*]

What is a suitable loop invariant for the outer loop?

- ☐ The array *A* is sorted.
- ☐ The array *A*[1..*j*-1] is sorted.
- ☐ The array *A*[1..*j*-1] contains the *j*-1 smallest elements of the array *A*[1..*n*]
- ☐ The array *A*[1..*j*-1] is sorted and contains the *j*-1 smallest elements of the array *A*[1..*n*].

# Answer to Question 1

**Answer:** The array  $A[1..j-1]$  is sorted and contains the  $j-1$  smallest elements of the array  $A[1..n]$

**Termination:** The invariant needs to imply a sorted array when the loop terminates.

- At termination,  $j == n$ , so by the invariant,  $A[1..n-1]$  is sorted and does not have elements larger than  $A[n]$ , implying that the whole array is sorted.

# Answer to Question 1

**Initialization:**  $A[1..j-1]$  is empty, so invariant is true.

**Maintenance:** Need invariant for inner loop stating that  $A[\textit{smallest}]$  is the smallest element in  $A[j .. i-1]$ .

When inner loop terminate,  $i == n + 1$ , so  $A[\textit{smallest}]$  is the smallest element in  $A[j .. n]$ .

If outer invariant is true before loop, it will be true after swapping on last line and incrementing  $j$ .

# Divide-and-conquer algorithms

# Divide-and-Conquer

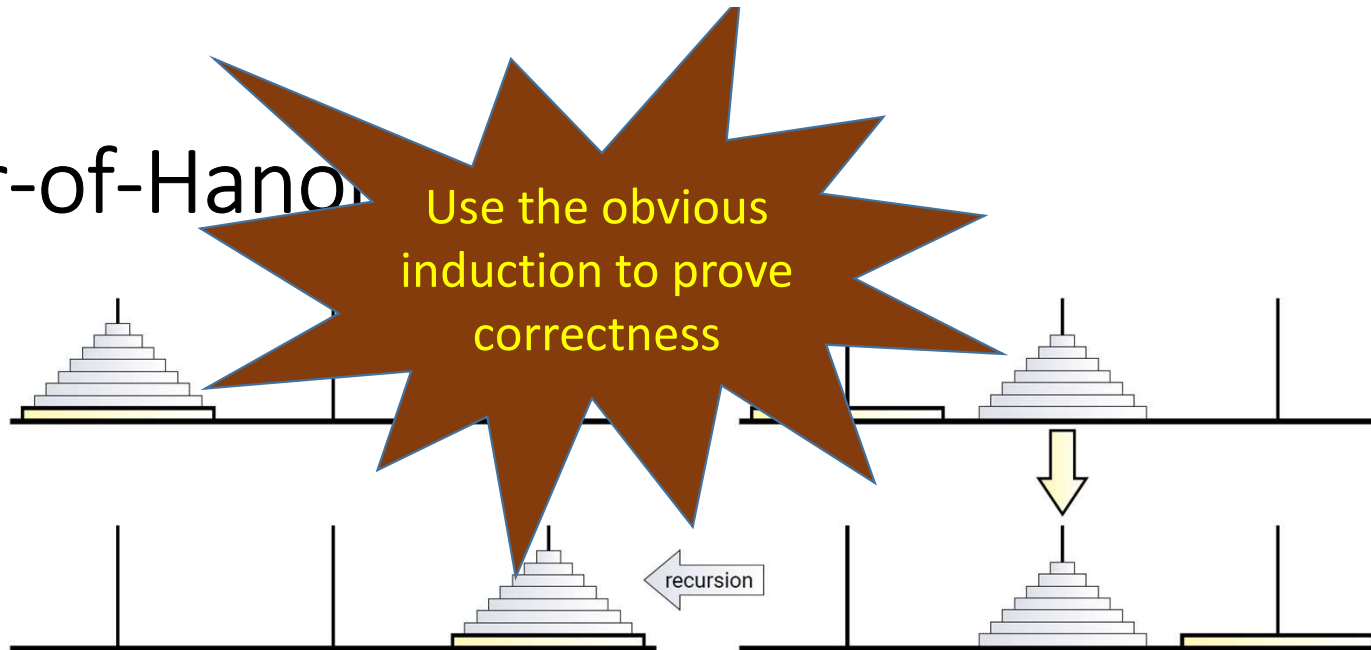
**Divide** the problem into a number of subproblems that are smaller instances of the same problem.

**Conquer** the subproblems by solving them recursively. If the subproblem sizes are small enough, however, just solve the subproblems in a straightforward manner.

**Combine** the solutions to the subproblems into the solution for the original problem.

(CLRS, pg. 86)

# Tower-of-Hanoi



HANOI( $n, src, dst, tmp$ ):

if  $n > 0$

HANOI( $n - 1, src, tmp, dst$ ) *⟨⟨Recurse!⟩⟩*

move disk  $n$  from  $src$  to  $dst$

HANOI( $n - 1, tmp, dst, src$ ) *⟨⟨Recurse!⟩⟩*

Warning: don't try to unroll recursion. Head will explode!

# Merge Sort

Input is an array  
 $A[1, \dots, r]$

MERGE-SORT( $A, 1, r$ )

1 **if**  $p < r$

2      $q = \lfloor (1 + r)/2 \rfloor$

      MERGE-SORT( $A, 1, q$ )

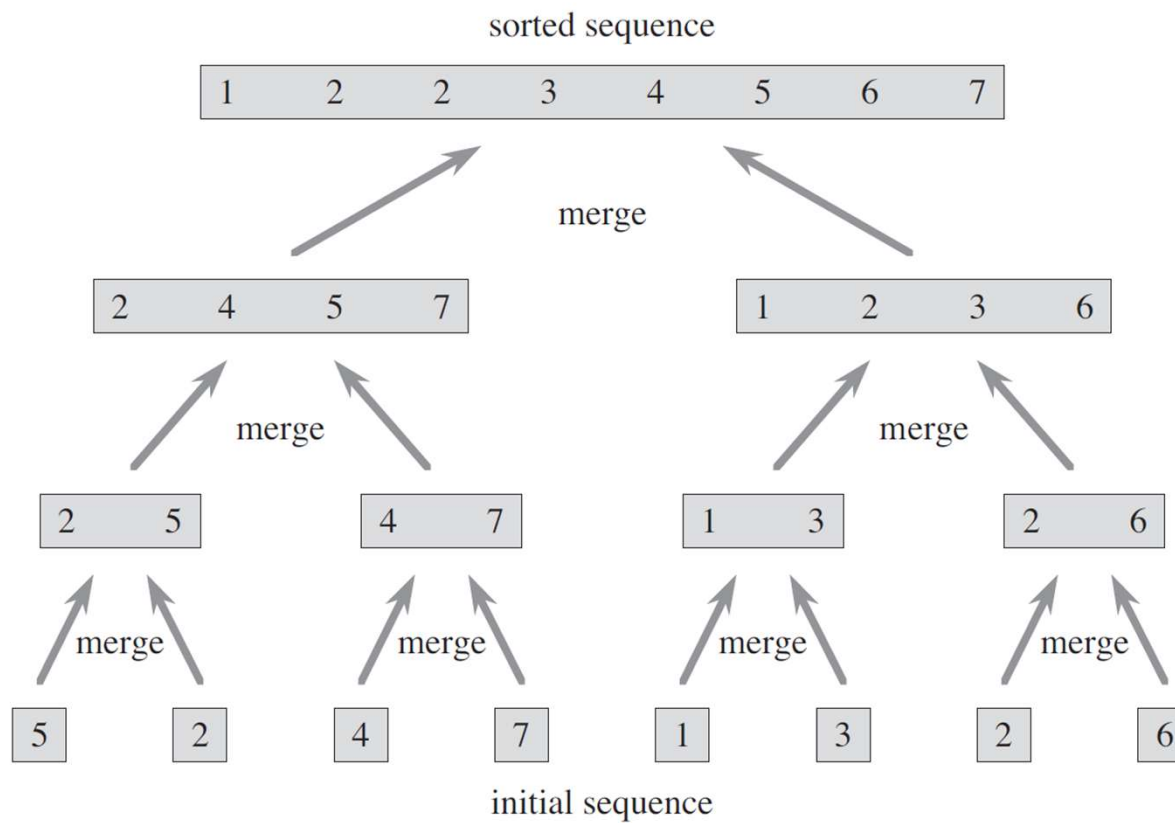
      MERGE-SORT( $A, q + 1, r$ )

      MERGE( $A, 1, q, r$ )

Use the obvious  
induction to prove  
correctness

Merges two sorted  $A[1, \dots, q]$  and  
 $A[q + 1, \dots, r]$  into one sorted

# The recursion tree



(CLRS, pg. 35)



# Correctness of Recursive Algorithms

- Use strong induction
- Prove base cases
- Show algorithm works correctly assuming algorithm works correctly for all smaller cases

# How to analyze the running time of a recursive algorithm?

1. Derive a recurrence

- Already seen one example (Recursive algorithm for Fibonacci number)

2. Solve the recurrence

# Analyzing Tower-Of-Hanoi

$T(n)$	$\text{HANOI}(n, \text{src}, \text{dst}, \text{tmp}):$
	if $n > 0$
$T(n - 1)$	$\text{HANOI}(n - 1, \text{src}, \text{tmp}, \text{dst})$
1	move disk $n$ from $\text{src}$ to $\text{dst}$
$T(n - 1)$	$\text{HANOI}(n - 1, \text{tmp}, \text{dst}, \text{src})$

**Recurrence:**  $T(1) = 1$  and  $T(n) = 2 \cdot T(n - 1) + 1$ .

**Claim:**  $T(n) = 2^n - 1$ .

**Proof:** By induction. Base case is  $n = 1$  which holds. Assuming induction hypothesis,  $T(n + 1) = 2 \cdot (2^n - 1) + 1 = 2^{n+1} - 1$ .

# Analyzing merge sort

$T(n)$   
 $\Theta(1)$   
 $2T(n/2)$   
 $\Theta(n)$

Unspecified constants

**MERGE-SORT**  $A[1 \dots n]$

1. If  $n = 1$ , done.
2. Recursively sort  $A[1 \dots \lceil n/2 \rceil]$  and  $A[\lceil n/2 \rceil + 1 \dots n]$ .
3. “Merge” the 2 sorted lists

**Sloppiness:** Should be  $T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$ , but it turns out not to matter asymptotically.

- See lecture notes for how to argue this formally for this recurrence
- For a general result showing that floors and ceilings don't matter, check out the SODA '21 paper posted on LumiNUS.

## Recurrence for merge sort

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

- We usually omit stating the base case when  $T(n) = \Theta(1)$  for sufficiently small  $n$ .
- Next, we describe a few ways to solve the recurrence to find a good upper bound on  $T(n)$ .

# Recurrences for Divide-and-Conquer

**Divide, conquer, combine.**

Consider the recurrence

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

#sub-problems



sub-problem size

time to divide and combine

# How to solve a recurrence?

- Recursion tree
- Master method
- Substitution method

Recursion tree



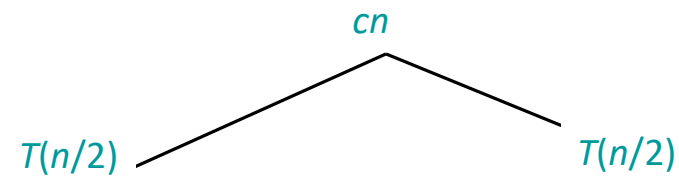
# Recursion tree

Solve  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + cn$ , where  $c > 0$  is constant.

$$T(n)$$

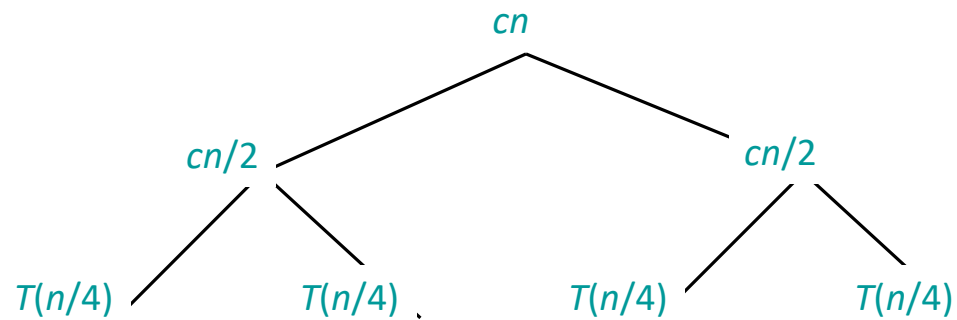
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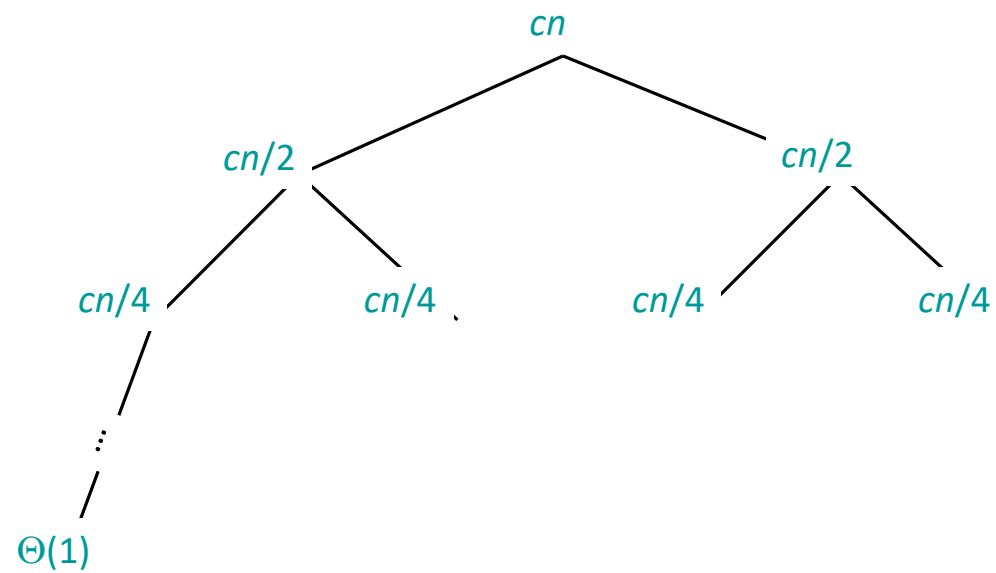
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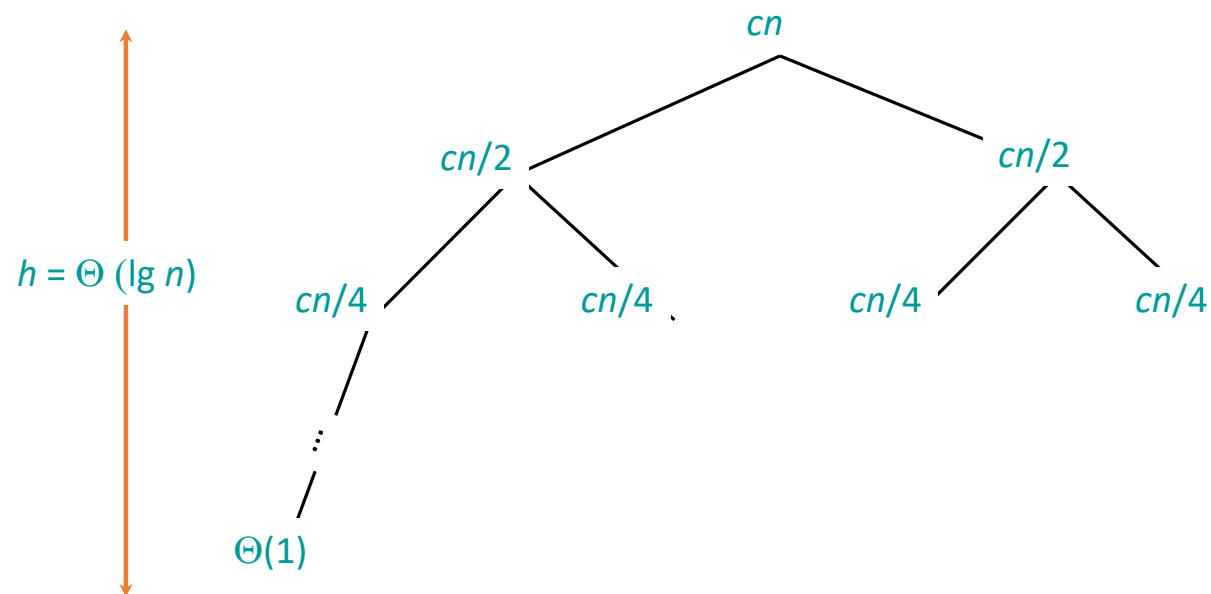
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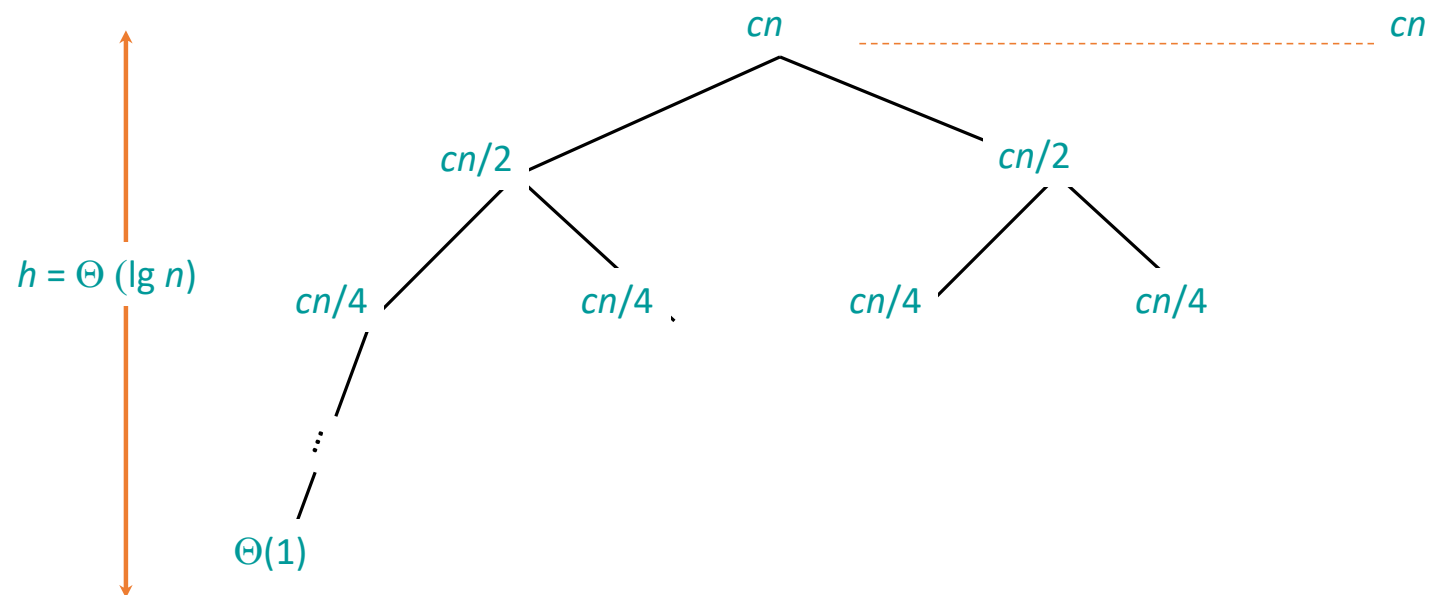
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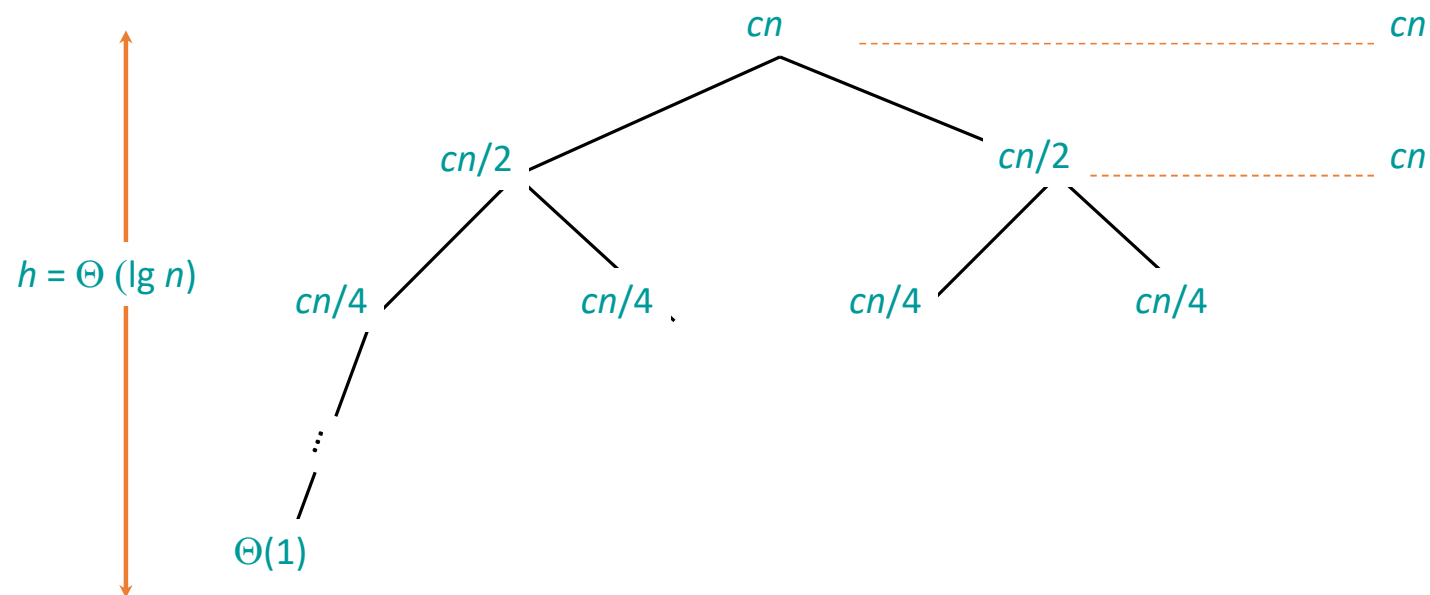
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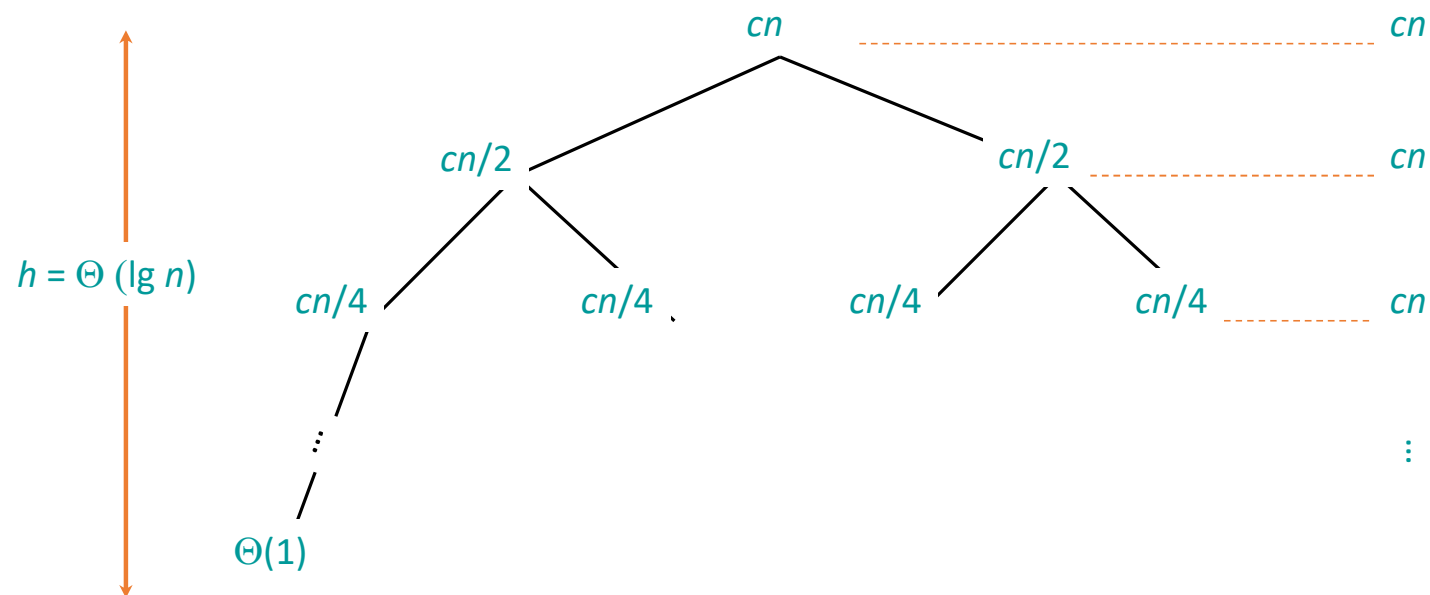
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# Recursion tree

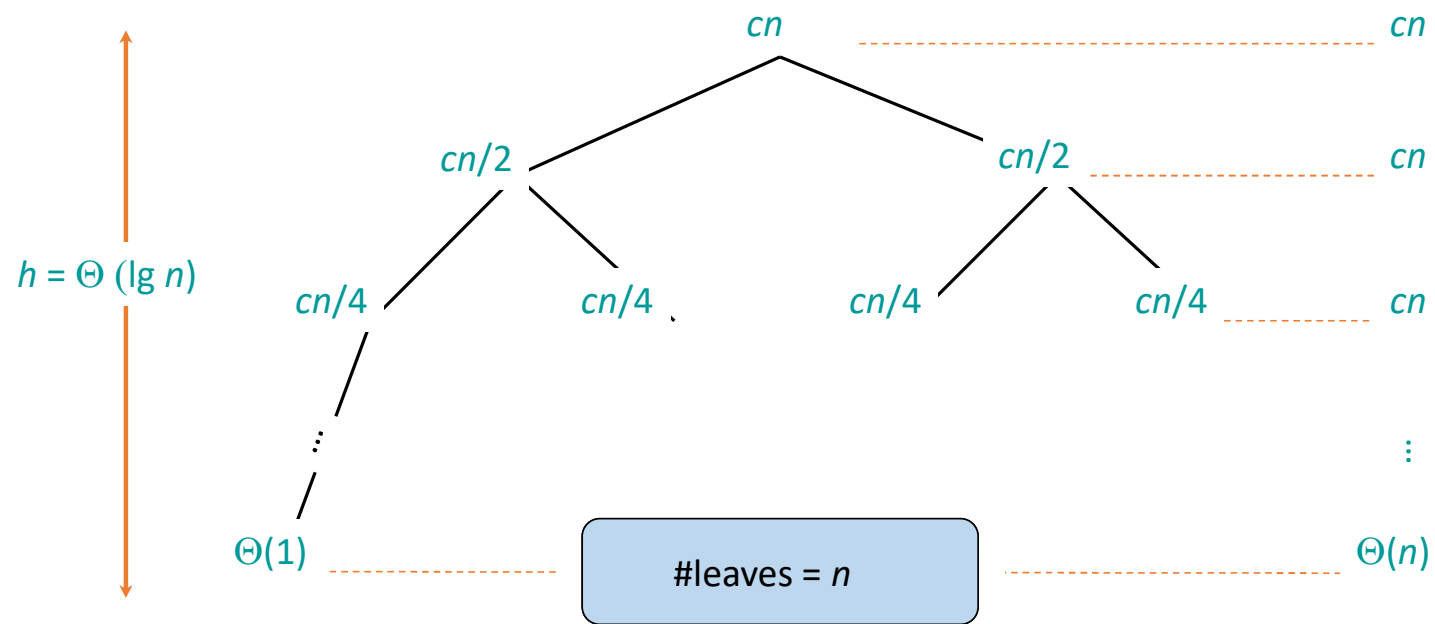
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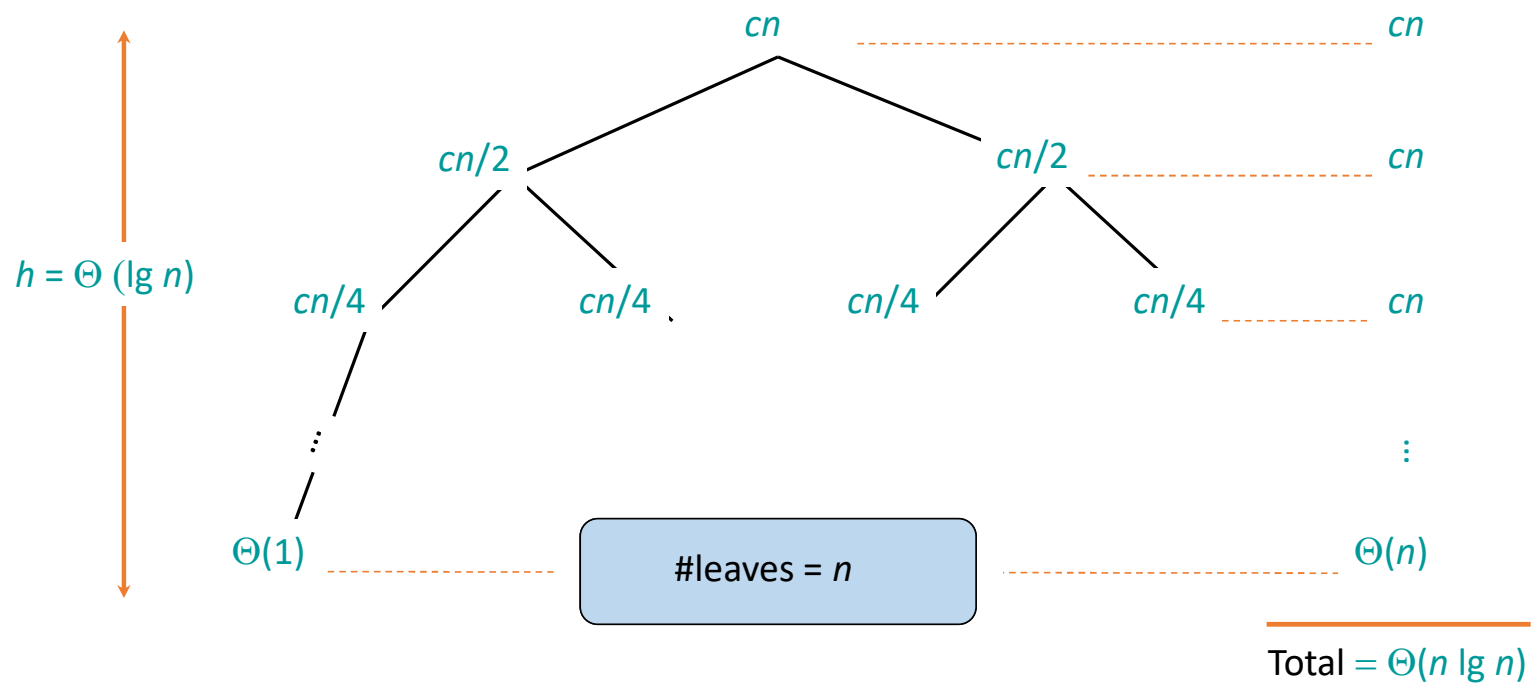
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# Recursion tree

Solve  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + cn$ , where  $c > 0$  is constant.



## Question 2

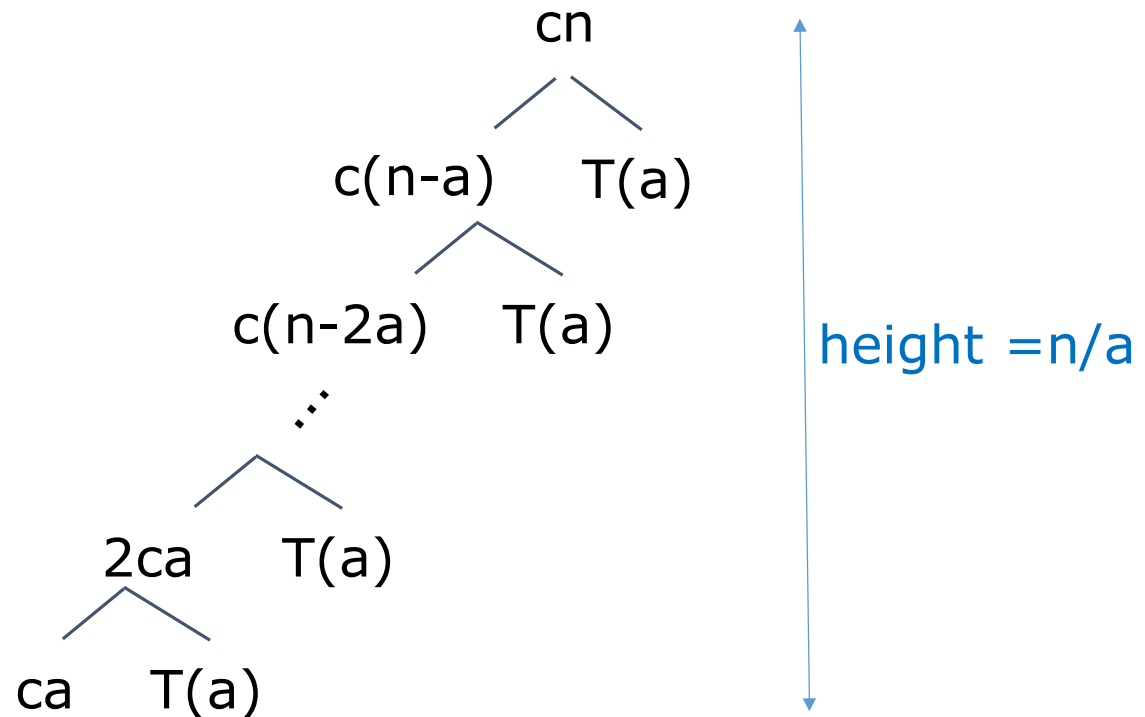
Use a recursion tree to give an asymptotically tight upper bound to the recurrence  $T(n) = T(n - a) + T(a) + cn$  where  $a \geq 1$  and  $c > 0$ , and  $T(a)$  is a constant.

- ☐  $T(n) \leq C \frac{n}{a} \log n$  for some constant  $C$
- ☐  $T(n) \leq Cn/a$  for some constant  $C$
- ☐  $T(n) \leq Cn^2/a$  for some constant  $C$
- ☐  $T(n) \leq Ca \log n$  for some constant  $C$

# Answer of Question 2

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

**Answer:**  $T(n) \leq Cn^2/a$



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

Recursion tree height is  $n/a$

At depth  $k$ , computation:

$$T(a) + c(n-ka).$$

Summed over height, we get

#### Arithmetic Series

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n k &= 1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n \\ &= \frac{1}{2}n(n+1) = \Theta(n^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T(a) \frac{n}{a} + ac + 2ac + 3ac + \cdots + \frac{n}{a}ac \\ = T(a) \frac{n}{a} + \frac{ac}{2} \frac{n}{a} \left( \frac{n}{a} + 1 \right) \leq C \left( \frac{n^2}{a} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Master method

# 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.

# Three common cases

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

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).

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



# Three common cases

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

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).

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

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

The regularity condition guarantees the sum of subproblems is smaller than  $f(n)$

# Summary: Master Theorem

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

Case 1:

$$f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$$
$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

← If  $\epsilon=0$ , it is case 2.

Case 2:

$$f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^k n)$$
$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^{k+1} n)$$

Case 3:

$$f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$$
$$af(n/b) \leq cf(n), c < 1$$
$$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$

# 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  $\varepsilon = 1.$   
 $\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2).$

**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,  $k = 0.$   
 $\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg n).$

## Question 3

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

1.  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$ .
2.  $T(n) = \Theta(n^3)$ .
3.  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$ .
4.  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \log n)$ .

## Answer of Question 3

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

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

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

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

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

# Examples

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

$n^2/\lg n \notin O(n^{2-\varepsilon}) \rightarrow$  Not case 1

- *Reason:* for every constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we have  $n^\varepsilon = \omega(\lg n)$ .

$n^2/\lg n \notin \Theta(n^2 \log^k n)$  for any  $k \geq 0 \rightarrow$  Not case 2

$n^2/\lg n \notin \Omega(n^{2+\varepsilon}) \rightarrow$  Not case 3

Master method does not apply.

# Summary: Master Theorem

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

Case 1:

$$f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$$
$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

← If  $\epsilon=0$ , it is case 2.

Case 2:

$$f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^k n)$$
$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^{k+1} n)$$

Case 3:

$$f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$$
$$af(n/b) \leq cf(n), c < 1$$
$$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$



# Substitution method

- The most general method:
  1. Guess the form of the solution
  2. Verify by induction

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

- [Assume  $T(1)=q$  where  $q$  is a constant.]
- **Step 1:** Guess  $T(n) = O(n^3)$ .
  - I.e. there exists a constant  $c$  such that  $T(n) \leq c \cdot n^3$ , for  $n \geq n_0$ .
- **Step 2:** Verify by induction.
  - Set  $c = \max\{2, q\}$  and  $n_0 = 1$ .
  - Base case ( $n = n_0 = 1$ ):  $T(1) = q \leq c(1)^3$ .
  - Recursive case ( $n > 1$ ):
    - By strong induction, assume  $T(k) \leq c \cdot k^3$  for  $n > k \geq 1$ .
      - $T(n) = 4 T(n/2) + n \leq 4 c (n/2)^3 + n = (c/2) n^3 + n \leq c n^3$ .
  - Hence,  $T(n) \leq c n^3$  for  $n \geq 1$ .
- **Conclusion:**  $T(n) = O(n^3)$ .

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

- Is  $T(n) = O(n^3)$  a tight bound?
- **Answer:** No.
- The tight bound is  $T(n) = O(n^2)$

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

- A possible solution to prove that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$ .
  - i.e. we show that  $T(n) \leq c n^2$  for  $n \geq n_0$ .
- Set  $c = \max\{2, q\}$  and  $n_0 = 1$ .
- Base case ( $n=1$ ):  $T(1) = q \leq c(1)^2$ .
- Recursive case ( $n > 1$ ):
  - By strong induction, assume  $T(k) \leq c \cdot k^2$  for  $n > k \geq 1$ .
  - $T(n) = 4 T(n/2) + n$
  - $\leq 4 c \cdot (n/2)^2 + n$
  - $= c n^2 + n$
  - $= O(n^2)$ . ← This is not correct! You need to show  $T(n) \leq c n^2$ !

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

- [Assume  $T(1)=q$  where  $q$  is a constant.]
- Correct solution: Show that, for  $n \geq n_0$ ,  $T(n) \leq c_1 n^2 - c_2 n$ .
- Set  $c_1 = q+1$  and  $c_2=1$  and  $n_0=1$ .
- Base case ( $n=1$ ):  $T(1) = q \leq (q+1) (1)^2 - (1)(1)$ .
- Recursive case ( $n>1$ ):
  - By strong induction, assume  $T(k) \leq c_1 \cdot k^2 - c_2 \cdot k$  for  $n > k \geq 1$ .
  - $T(n) = 4 T(n/2) + n = 4 (c_1 (n/2)^2 - c_2 (n/2)) + n = c_1 n^2 - 2 c_2 n + n$   
 $= c_1 n^2 - c_2 n + (1 - c_2) n$
  - Since  $(1 - c_2) = 0$ ,  $T(n) \leq c_1 n^2 - c_2 n$ .

# Summary for substitution method

- Guess the time complexity and verify that it is correct by induction.
- Sometimes, the verification is a bit tricky.
- Sometimes, guessing the correct expression is also difficult and need experience. So I will suggest not to use this method as a beginner (unless you feel comfortable).

Powering a number

# Powering a number

- **Problem:** Compute  $f(n, m) = a^n \pmod{m}$  for any integer  $n, m$ .  
(Assume each of  $n, m$  fits into one/constantly many words)
- **Observation:**  $f(x+y, m) = f(x, m) * f(y, m) \pmod{m}$ .
- Naïve solution:
  1. **Divide:** Trivial.
  2. **Conquer:** Recursively compute  $f(n-1, m)$  and  $f(1, m)$ .
  3. **Combine:**  $f(n-1, m) * f(1, m) \pmod{m}$ .



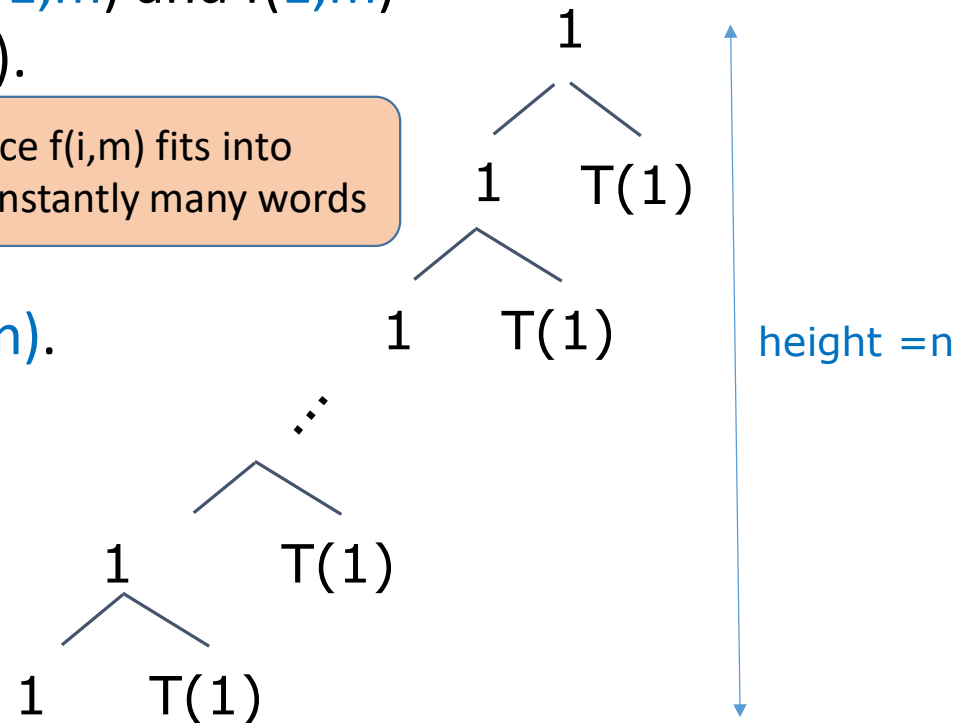
# Running time of naïve solution

1. **Divide:** Trivial.
2. **Conquer:** Recursively compute  $f(n-1, m)$  and  $f(1, m)$
3. **Combine:**  $f(n-1, m) * f(1, m) \pmod m$ .

Not affected by  $m$

Since  $f(i, m)$  fits into one/constantly many words

- $T(n) = T(n-1) + T(1) + \Theta(1)$
- By recursion tree, we have  $T(n) = \Theta(n)$ .



# A better algorithm for powering a number

1. **Divide:** Trivial.
  2. **Conquer:** Recursively compute  $f(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, m)$
  3. **Combine:**  $f(n, m) = f(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, m)^2 \pmod{m}$  if  $n$  is even;  
 $f(n, m) = f(1, m) * f(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, m)^2 \pmod{m}$  if  $n$  is odd.
- $T(n) = T(n/2) + \Theta(1)$ .
  - By master theorem, we have  $T(n) = \Theta(\log n)$ .

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