

* Divide and Conquer Algorithm:

It works recursively, breaking down a given problem P into two or more sub-problems (P_1, P_2, \dots etc.) of the same or related type, until these become simple enough to be solved directly. Then solutions to these sub-problems (S_1, S_2, \dots etc.) are combined to get a solution of original problem P .

A typical divide and conquer algorithm solves a given problem P using following steps.

Step 1: Divide:

- Breaks (or) divides the given problem P into sub-problem P_1, P_2, \dots etc of same type.

Step 2: Conquer:

- Recursively solve the sub-problem P_1, P_2, \dots etc.

Step 3: Combine:

- Combines the solutions of sub-problems S_1, S_2, \dots etc to get solution of original problem P .

* Idea behind Divide and Conquer Algorithm:

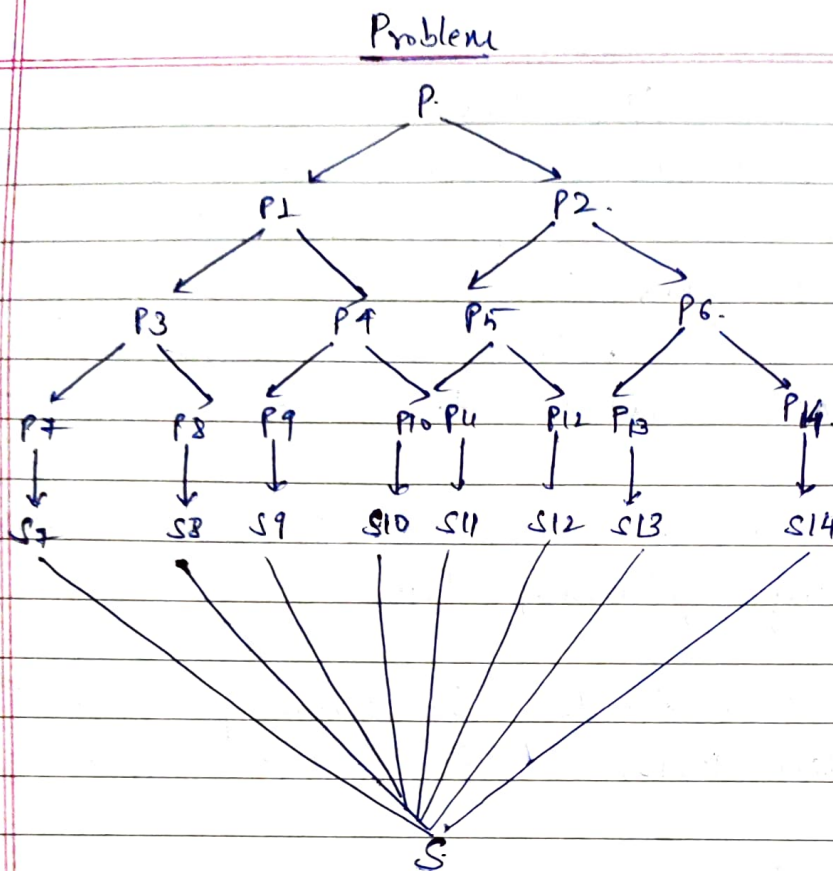
Given a problem P of size $n = 2^k$.

Algorithm $DAC(P)$:

- If ' n ' is small, solve it.
- else.

- divide P into 2 (or) more sub-problems P_1, P_2, \dots etc
- $DAC(P_1)$
- $DAC(P_2)$.
- \vdots

- combine solutions of S_1, S_2, \dots etc of sub-problems P_1, P_2, \dots etc.



$$n = 2^k$$

$$\frac{n}{2} = \frac{2^k}{2} = 2^{k-1}$$

$$\frac{n}{4} = \frac{2^k}{4} = 2^{k-2}$$

$$\frac{n}{8} = \frac{2^k}{8} = 2^{k-3}$$

★ Time Required to solve Problem P:

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + f(n)$$

Where,

$f(n)$ is the additional cost of combining solutions of sub-problems.

$$T(n) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + f(n)$$

In general,

$$T(n) = bT\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + f(n)$$

It is called recurrence relation of divide and conquer algorithm.

★ Examples:

① Solve $T(n) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n$, using iteration (or) substitution method taking $n = 2^k$.

Sol: Let $T(n) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n$ — ①

$$T(n) = 2\{2T(n/4) + n/2\} + n.$$

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

$$T(n) = 4\{2T(n/8) + n/4\} + 2n.$$

$$T(n) = 8T(n/8) + 3n.$$

$$T(n) = nT(n/n) + kn.$$

$$T(n) = nT(1) + kn.$$

$T(1)$ is negligibly small.

$$\therefore \boxed{T(n) = kn}$$

Put $n = 2^k$.

$$\log n = k \log 2$$

$$k = \frac{\log n}{\log 2}$$

$$\boxed{k = \log_2 n}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{T(n) = n \log_2 n}$$

\therefore Complexity $O(n \log_2 n)$

- ② In an algorithm, we divide large problem into 3-equal parts, and discard two of them, in a constant time, what is the complexity of the algorithm for the size $n=3^k$.

Solⁿ: Let $T(n) = T(n/3) + c$ — (1)

$$T(n) = T(n/3) + c + c.$$

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

$$T(n) = T(n/27) + c + 2c$$

$$T(n) = T(n/27) + 3c$$

$$T(n) = T(n/n) + kc.$$

$$T(n) = T(1) + kc$$

$T(n)$ is negligibly small.

$$\therefore \boxed{T(n) = kC}$$

Put $n = 3^k$.

$$\log n = k \log 3.$$

$$k = \frac{\log n}{\log 3}$$

$$\boxed{k = \log_3 n}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{T(n) = c \log_3 n}$$

\therefore Complexity $O(c \log_3 n)$

* Merge Sort Algorithm:

Merge sort keeps on dividing a given list of numbers into equal halves if possible until it can no more be divided. Then mergesort combines the smaller sorted list keeping new list sorted.

Algorithm:

Step 1: If there is only one element in the list it is sorted, return.

Step 2: Divide the list recursively into two halves until it can no more be divided.

Step 3: Merge the smaller lists into new list in a sorted order.

* Examples.

① Consider an unsorted list of numbers and sort it by merge sort algorithm.

10, 1, 5, 3, 7, 9, 11, 2, 6, 4, 8.

Sol: Given nos;

10, 1, 5, 3, 7, 9, 11, 2, 6, 4, 8.

