Divide and Conquer | Set 5 (Strassen's Matrix Multiplication) - GeeksforGeeks

Divide and Conquer | Set 5 (Strassen’s Matrix Multiplication)

Given two square matrices A and B of size n x n each, find their multiplication matrix.

Naive Method

Following is a simple way to multiply two matrices.

```
void multiply(int A[][N], int B[][N], int C[][N])
{
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    {
        for (int j = 0; j < N; j++)
        {
            C[i][j] = 0;
            for (int k = 0; k < N; k++)
            {
                C[i][j] += A[i][k]*B[k][j];
            }
        }
    }
}
```

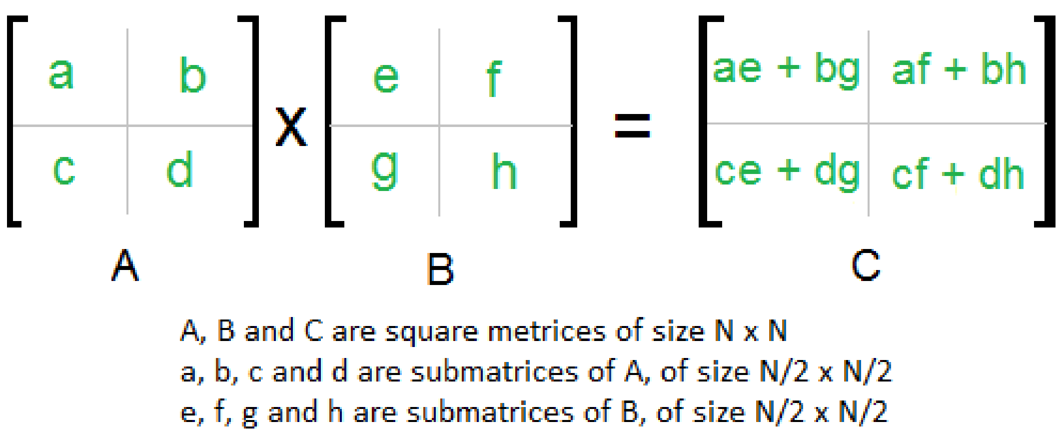
Time Complexity of above method is $O(N^3)$.

Divide and Conquer

Following is simple Divide and Conquer method to multiply two square matrices.

1) Divide matrices A and B in 4 sub-matrices of size N/2 x N/2 as shown in the below diagram.

2) Calculate following values recursively. ae + bg, af + bh, ce + dg and cf + dh.



In the above method, we do 8 multiplications for matrices of size N/2 x N/2 and 4 additions. Addition of two matrices takes $O(N^2)$ time. So the time complexity can be written as

```
T(N) = 8T(N/2) + O(N^2)

From Master's Theorem, time complexity of above method is O(N^3)
which is unfortunately same as the above naive method.
```

Simple Divide and Conquer also leads to $O(N^3)$, can there be a better way?

In the above divide and conquer method, the main component for high time complexity is 8 recursive calls. The idea of **Strassen's method** is to reduce the number of recursive calls to 7. Strassen's method is similar to above simple divide and conquer method in the sense that this method also divide matrices to sub-matrices of size N/2 x N/2 as shown in the above diagram, but in Strassen's method, the four sub-matrices of result are calculated using following formulae.

$$p1 = a(f - h) \qquad p2 = (a + b)h$$
$$p3 = (c + d)e \qquad p4 = d(g - e)$$
$$p5 = (a + d)(e + h) \qquad p6 = (b - d)(g + h)$$
$$p7 = (a - c)(e + f)$$

The A x B can be calculated using above seven multiplications.
Following are values of four sub-matrices of result C

$$\underset{A}{\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}} \times \underset{B}{\begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & h \end{bmatrix}} = \underset{C}{\begin{bmatrix} p5 + p4 - p2 + p6 & p1 + p2 \\ p3 + p4 & p1 + p5 - p3 - p7 \end{bmatrix}}$$

A, B and C are square metrices of size N x N
a, b, c and d are submatrices of A, of size N/2 x N/2
e, f, g and h are submatrices of B, of size N/2 x N/2
p1, p2, p3, p4, p5, p6 and p7 are submatrices of size N/2 x N/2

Time Complexity of Strassen's Method

Addition and Subtraction of two matrices takes $O(N^2)$ time. So time complexity can be written as

```
T(N) = 7T(N/2) +  O(N^2)

From Master's Theorem, time complexity of above method is
O(N^Log7) which is approximately O(N^2.8074)
```

Generally Strassen's Method is not preferred for practical applications for following reasons.
1) The constants used in Strassen's method are high and for a typical application Naive method works better.
2) For Sparse matrices, there are better methods especially designed for them.

3) The submatrices in recursion take extra space.
4) Because of the limited precision of computer arithmetic on noninteger values, larger errors accumulate in Strassen's algorithm than in Naive Method (Source: CLRS Book)

Please write comments if you find anything incorrect, or you want to share more information about the topic discussed above