



# DIVIDE-AND-CONQUER ALGORITHMS, PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND EXAMPLES

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CMP 601 – Algorithms and Theory of Computation —

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## Outline

1. Divide-and-conquer algorithms

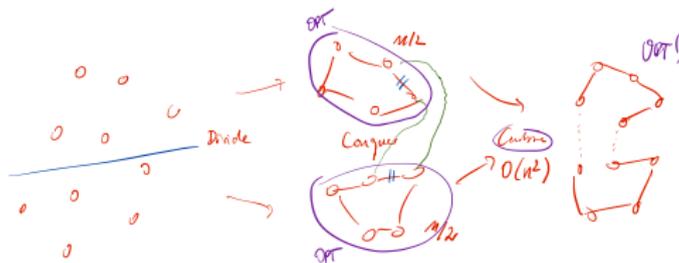
- Instance  $I$  of size  $n$

DC( $I$ ) :=

```
{if  $n \leq n_0$  then
  return direct solution of base case
else
  divide  $I$  into subproblems  $I_1, \dots, I_k$ .
  solve  $s_i = \text{DC}(I_i)$ ,  $i \in [k]$  recursively.
  solve  $I$  by combining solutions  $s_1, \dots, s_k$ .
end if
```

- Natural correctness proof is by (complete) induction
- **Base:** Show that the base case ( $n \leq n_0$ ) is solved correctly
- **Step:**
  - **Induction hypothesis:** the algorithm works correctly for smaller instances (size  $< n$ ).
  - Show: it works for instances of size  $n$ .
- Main problem here: correctness of the combine step

- Here's a divide-and-conquer algorithm to solve the TSP:
  - Divide the cities into two subsets of the same size.
  - Find the optimal routes for each subset.
  - Combine the two routes optimally, but checking all ways of removing an edge from each, and joining them.
- Recurrence:  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n^2) = O(n^2 \log n)$ .
- Correctness?



- Assume: divide takes time  $d(n)$ , combine  $s(n)$ , subproblems have size  $n_i$ ,  $i \in [k]$
- We have the *natural recurrence*

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1), & \text{for } n \leq n_0, \\ \sum_{i \in [k]} T(n_i) + f(n), & \text{otherwise, } n > n_0 \end{cases}$$

$n_i \leq n$   
 $\sum n_i = n$

with  $f(n) = d(n) + c(n)$ . If the subproblems are balanced, this simplifies to

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1), & \text{for } n \leq n_0, \\ kT(\lceil n/k \rceil) + f(n), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$n_i$  the same  
 $n/k$

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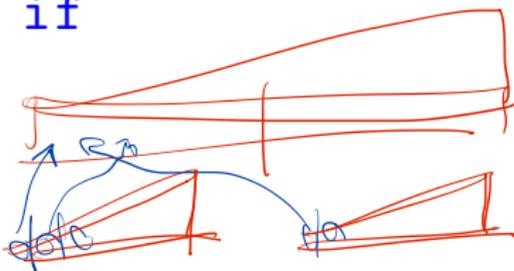
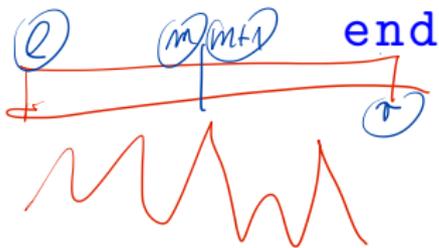
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MergeSort( $a, l, r$ ) :=
  if  $l < r$  then
     $m := \lfloor (l + r) / 2 \rfloor$ 
    MergeSort( $a, l, m$ )
    MergeSort( $a, m + 1, r$ )
    Merge( $a, l, m, r$ )
  end if

```



- Correctness: follows from correctness of "Merge".
- Complexity:  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n) = \underline{O(n \log n)}$ .

$\Theta(n^2)$ 

Take two  $n$ -bit numbers  $p, q$ , separate them:

$$p = \boxed{p_l} \boxed{p_r} = \underbrace{p_l}_{\uparrow} \underbrace{2^{n/2}}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{p_r}_{\downarrow}$$

$$q = \boxed{q_l} \boxed{q_r} = \underbrace{q_l}_{\uparrow} \underbrace{2^{n/2}}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{q_r}_{\downarrow}$$

Thus we have:

$$pq = (\underbrace{p_l}_{\uparrow} \underbrace{2^{n/2}}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{p_r}_{\downarrow})(\underbrace{q_l}_{\uparrow} \underbrace{2^{n/2}}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{q_r}_{\downarrow})$$

$$= \underbrace{2^n}_{\uparrow} \underbrace{p_l q_l}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{2^{n/2}}_{\uparrow} (\underbrace{p_l q_r}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{p_r q_l}_{\downarrow}) + \underbrace{p_r q_r}_{\downarrow}$$

$\Theta(n \times n/2)$        $\Theta(n/2 \times n/2)$     $\Theta(n/2 \times n/2)$        $\Theta(n/2 \times n/2)$

Note:



$$\underbrace{p_l q_r + p_r q_l}_{\text{1962}} = (p_l + p_r)(q_l + q_r) - p_l q_l - p_r q_r$$

$$T(n) = 3T(n/2) + O(n)$$



## Simplified recurrences

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} O(1), & n \leq 1, \\ T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + O(n), & n \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

$T(n/2 + \log \log n)$

- We usually don't write the base case.
- We drop "small perturbations" such as floor and ceilings
- This can be rigorously justified

$$\boxed{T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n)} = \sim$$

$$T(n) \leq 3T(n/2) + O(n) = O(n^{\log_2 3})!$$

- ① **Substitution**: **guess** the solution, and **prove by induction**
  - ② **Expansion**: expand recurrence tree, sum costs over levels, then levels
- 
- ③ **Master Theorem**
  - **Akra-Bazzi's theorem**  $\Leftarrow$  *NEW outside of K&T.*

Guess:  $T(n) \leq \underbrace{cn \log_2 n}_{\text{varies}} \Rightarrow \underline{O(n \log n)}$

• Take MergeSort  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n)$

$T(n) \leq c \cdot n \cdot \log_2 1$

①

$T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + c'n$

$\hookrightarrow \leq \underbrace{c'n}_{\text{given}}$

$n_0 = 2 \quad (= 1)$

②

H.I.

$\rightarrow \leq 2cn/2 \log_2(n/2) + c'n$

$T(2) \leq c \cdot 2 \log_2 2$

$\leq cn \log_2 n/2 + c'n = \underbrace{cn \log_2 n + cn + c'n}_{\leq 0 \text{ residual.}}$

$\Rightarrow \leq \underline{cn \log_2 n}$   $\square$

for  $c \geq c'$ .

$T(n/2) \leq c n/2 \log_2 n/2$

$c' > 0$

$\log_2 n/2 = \log_2 n - \log_2 2$

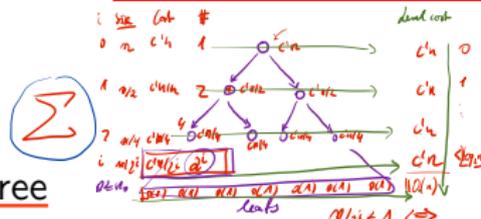
$-cn + c'n \leq 0$

$(c < c')$

$c > 0, c' > 0$

$[c = c'/2]$

$[c' \leq c]$



- A recursive algorithm corresponds to a tree
- We can **label** the internal vertices with the **divide** and **combine** costs
- We can **label** the **leaves** with the **cost of the base case**
- Thus: summing over all nodes we get the **total cost**
- **Idea**: sum over levels, then the levels
- Expansion is easiest for homogenous cases

$$T(n) = aT(bn) + f(n)$$

$$a=2 \quad b=1/2$$

$$\sum_{0 \leq i < \log_2 n} c'n = O(n \log_2 n) + O(n) = O(n \log n)$$

- We have  $a^i$  subproblems in level  $i$
- The size of the subproblems in level  $i$  is  $b^i n$
- Thus the cost of each internal node is  $f(b^i n)$
- And the total level cost is  $a^i f(b^i n)$
- We reach the base case  $n \leq n_0$  for  $i \geq \frac{\log_{1/b} n/n_0}{\downarrow}$
- So the internal cost is

$$\sum_{0 \leq i < \frac{\log_{1/b} n/n_0}{\downarrow}} a^i f(b^i n).$$

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- The number of leaves is  $O(a^{\log_{1/b} n}) = O(n^{\log_{1/b} a})$
- They cost  $O(1)$ , so their total cost is also  $O(n^{\log_{1/b} a})$
- So overall we have  $T(n) = aT(bn) + f(n)$

$$\sum_{0 \leq i < \log_{1/b} n} a^i f(b^i n) + O(n^\alpha)$$

- where  $\alpha = \log_{1/b} a$ .

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

- What happens if you divide the sequence into three parts? Or four?