

## More Recurrences

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cs140  
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## Administrative

Assignment 2



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## Recurrence



A function that is defined with respect to itself on smaller inputs

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

$$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n$$

$$T(n) = 2T(n-1) + n^2$$

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## The challenge



Recurrences are often easy to define because they mimic the structure of the program

But... they do not directly express the computational cost, i.e.  $n$ ,  $n^2$ , ...

We want to remove self-recurrence and find a more understandable form for the function

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## Three approaches

**Substitution method:** when you have a good guess of the solution, prove that it's correct

**Recursion-tree method:** If you don't have a good guess, the recursion tree can help. Then solve with substitution method.

**Master method:** Provides solutions for recurrences of the form:

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



## Substitution method

Guess the form of the solution  
Then prove it's correct by induction

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

Halves the input then constant amount of work

Similar to binary search:

Guess:  $O(\log_2 n)$

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



Assume  $T(k) = O(\log_2 k)$  for all  $k < n$

Show that  $T(n) = O(\log_2 n)$

From our assumption,  $T(n/2) = O(\log_2 n/2)$ :

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

From the definition of big-O:  $T(n/2) \leq c \log_2(n/2)$

How do we now prove  $T(n) = O(\log n)$ ?

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

To prove that  $T(n) = O(\log_2 n)$  identify the appropriate constants:

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

i.e. some constant  $c'$  such that  $T(n) \leq c' \log_2 n$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n/2) + d \\ &\leq c \log_2(n/2) + d \quad \text{from our inductive hypothesis} \\ &\leq c \log_2 n - c \log_2 2 + d \\ &\leq c \log_2 n - c + d \quad \text{residual} \end{aligned}$$

Key question: does a constant exist such that:  
 $T(n) \leq c' \log_2 n$



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

To prove that  $T(n) = O(\log_2 n)$  identify the appropriate constants:

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n_0 \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

i.e. some constant  $c'$  such that  $T(n) \leq c' \log_2 n$

Key question: does a constant exist such that:  
 $T(n) \leq c' \log_2 n$

$$T(n) \leq c \log_2 n - c + d$$

if  $c \geq d$ , then, yes!  
 (if not, just let  $c' = d$ )



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

**Guess the solution?**

At each iteration, does a linear amount of work (i.e. iterate over the data) and reduces the size by one at each step

$$O(n^2)$$

Assume  $T(k) = O(k^2)$  for all  $k < n$

- again, this implies that  $T(n-1) \leq c(n-1)^2$

Show that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$ , i.e.  $T(n) \leq c'n^2$



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

$\leq c(n-1)^2 + n$  from our inductive hypothesis

$$= c(n^2 - 2n + 1) + n$$

$$= cn^2 - 2cn + c + n \quad \text{residual}$$



if  $-2cn + c + n \leq 0$

then, we can let  $c' = c$  and  
 there exists a constant  
 such that  $T(n) \leq c'n^2$

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

$\leq c(n-1)^2 + n$  from our inductive hypothesis

$$= c(n^2 - 2n + 1) + n$$

$$= cn^2 - 2cn + c + n \quad \text{residual}$$



$$-2cn + c + n \leq 0$$

$$-2cn + c \leq -n$$

$$c(-2n + 1) \leq -n$$

$$c \geq \frac{n}{2n-1}$$

which holds for any  
 $c \geq 1$  for  $n \geq 1$

$$c \geq \frac{1}{2-1/n}$$

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

Guess the solution?

Recurse into 2 sub-problems that are half the size  
and performs some operation on all the elements  
 $O(n \log n)$

What if we guess wrong, e.g.  $O(n^2)$ ?

Assume  $T(k) = O(k^2)$  for all  $k < n$

- again, this implies that  $T(n/2) \leq c(n/2)^2$

Show that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$



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

$\leq 2c(n/2)^2 + n$  from our inductive hypothesis

$$= 2cn^2/4 + n$$

$$= 1/2cn^2 + n$$

$$= cn^2 - (1/2cn^2 - n) \text{ residual}$$



if

$$-(1/2cn^2 - n) \leq 0$$

$$-1/2cn^2 + n \leq 0$$

$$cn \geq 2$$

overkill?

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



What if we guess wrong, e.g.  $O(n)$ ?

Assume  $T(k) = O(k)$  for all  $k < n$

- again, this implies that  $T(n/2) \leq c(n/2)$

Show that  $T(n) = O(n)$

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

$$\leq 2cn/2 + n$$

$$= cn + n$$

$$\leq cn$$

factor of  $n$  so we can just roll it in?

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



What if we guess wrong, e.g.  $O(n)$ ?

Assume  $T(k) = O(k)$  for all  $k < n$

- again, this implies that  $T(n/2) \leq c(n/2)$

Show that  $T(n) = O(n)$

Must prove the exact form!

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

$$\leq 2cn/2 + n$$

$$= cn + n$$

$$\leq cn$$

factor of  $n$  so we can just roll it in?

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

Prove  $T(n) = O(n \log_2 n)$

Assume  $T(k) = O(k \log_2 k)$  for all  $k < n$

- again, this implies that  $T(k) = ck \log_2 k$

Show that  $T(n) = O(n \log_2 n)$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 2T(n/2) + n \\ &\leq 2cn/2 \log(n/2) + n \\ &\leq cn(\log_2 n - \log_2 2) + n \\ &\leq cn \log_2 n - cn + n \quad \text{residual} \\ &\leq cn \log_2 n \\ &\text{if } cn \geq n, c > 1 \end{aligned}$$



## Recursion Tree

Guessing the answer can be difficult

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

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



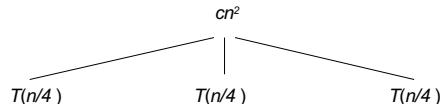
### The recursion tree approach

- Draw out the cost of the tree at each level of recursion
- Sum up the cost of the levels of the tree
  - Find the cost of each level with respect to the depth
  - Figure out the depth of the tree
  - Figure out (or bound) the number of leaves
- Verify your answer using the substitution method

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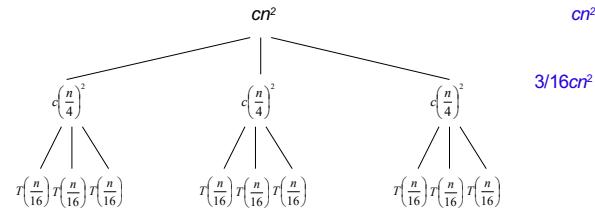
$$T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n^2$$



cost

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

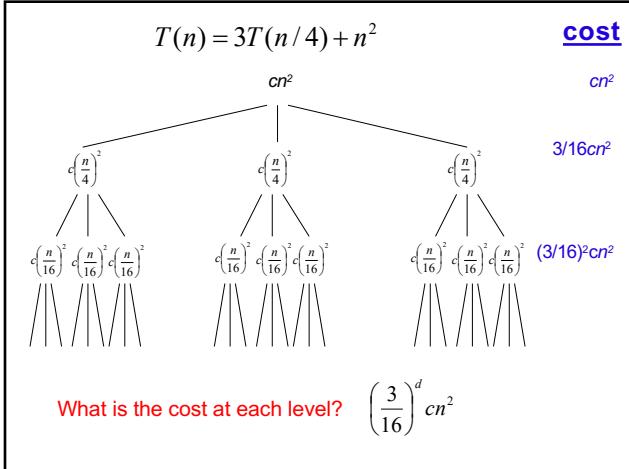
cost



cost

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## What is the depth of the tree?

At each level, the size of the data is divided by 4

$$\frac{n}{4^d} = 1$$

$$\log\left(\frac{n}{4^d}\right) = 0$$

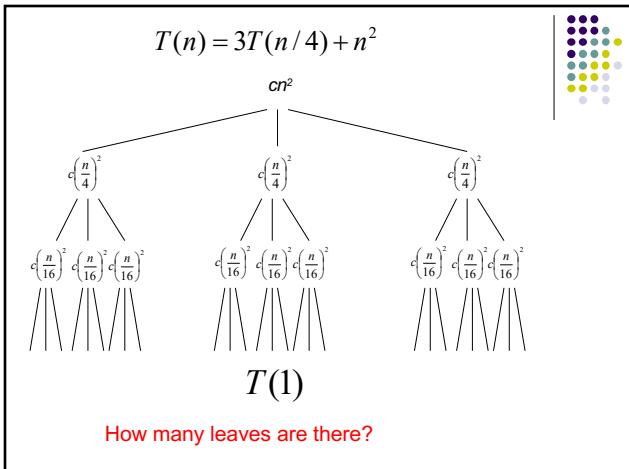
$$\log n - \log 4^d = 0$$

$$d \log 4 = \log n$$

$$d = \log_4 n$$



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## How many leaves?

How many leaves are there in a complete ternary tree of depth  $d$ ?

$$3^d = 3^{\log_4 n}$$

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## Total cost

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= cn^2 + \frac{3}{16}cn^2 + \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^2 cn^2 + \dots + \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^{d-1} cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &= cn^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 1} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &< cn^2 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{16}\right)^i + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 - (3/16)} cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \\
 &= \frac{16}{13} cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n}) \quad ?
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

let  $x = 3/16$

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## Total cost

$$T(n) = \frac{16}{13} cn^2 + \Theta(3^{\log_4 n})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 3^{\log_4 n} &= 4^{\log_4 3^{\log_4 n}} \\
 &= 4^{\log_4 n \log_4 3} \\
 &= 4^{\log_4 n^{\log_4 3}} \\
 &= n^{\log_4 3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Assignment 1!

$$T(n) = \frac{16}{13} cn^2 + \Theta(n^{\log_4 3})$$

$$T(n) = O(n^2)$$



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## Verify solution using substitution

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

Assume  $T(k) = O(k^2)$  for all  $k < n$

Show that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$

Given that  $T(n/4) = O((n/4)^2)$ , then

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$T(n/4) \leq c(n/4)^2$$

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

To prove that Show that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$  we need to identify the appropriate constants:

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

i.e. some constant  $c$  such that  $T(n) \leq cn^2$

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

$$\leq 3c(n/4)^2 + n^2$$

$$= cn^2 3/16 + n^2$$

$$= cn^2 - cn^2 * \frac{13}{16} + n^2 \quad \text{residual}$$

a constant exists if, if  $-cn^2 * \frac{13}{16} + n^2 \leq 0$

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

To prove that Show that  $T(n) = O(n^2)$  we need to identify the appropriate constants:

$$O(g(n)) = \left\{ f(n) : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists positive constants } c \text{ and } n_0 \text{ such that} \\ 0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n) \text{ for all } n \geq n_0 \end{array} \right\}$$

i.e. some constant  $c$  such that  $T(n) \leq cn^2$

$$\begin{aligned} -cn^2 * \frac{13}{16} + n^2 &\leq 0 \\ cn^2 * \frac{13}{16} &\geq n^2 \\ c &\geq \frac{16}{13} \end{aligned}$$



## Master Method

Provides solutions to the recurrences of the form:

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

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$

if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$

then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$



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$$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n$$



if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$

if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{array}{ll} a = 16 & n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_4 16} \\ b = 4 & \\ f(n) = n & = n^2 \end{array}$$

is  $n = O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ ?

**Case 1:**  $\Theta(n^2)$

is  $n = \Theta(n^2)$ ?

is  $n = \Omega(n^{2+\varepsilon})$ ?

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

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$

if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{array}{ll} a = 1 & n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 1} \\ b = 2 & = n^0 \\ f(n) = 2^n & \end{array}$$

**Case 3?**

is  $2^n = O(n^{0-\varepsilon})$ ?

is  $2^n \leq c2^n$  for  $c < 1$ ?

is  $2^n = \Theta(n^0)$ ?

is  $2^n = \Omega(n^{0+\varepsilon})$ ?



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

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

is  $2^{n/2} \leq c2^n$  for  $c < 1$ ?

Let  $c = 1/2$

$$2^{n/2} \leq (1/2)2^n$$

$$2^{n/2} \leq 2^{-1}2^n$$

$$2^{n/2} \leq 2^{n-1}$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(2^n)$$



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

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{array}{ll} a = 2 & n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 2} \\ b = 2 & = n^1 \\ f(n) = n & \end{array}$$

is  $n = O(n^{1-\varepsilon})$ ?

is  $n = \Theta(n^1)$ ?

is  $n = \Omega(n^{1+\varepsilon})$ ?

**Case 2:**  $\Theta(n \log n)$



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$$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n!$$

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{array}{ll} a = 16 & n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_4 16} \\ b = 4 & = n^2 \\ f(n) = n! & \end{array}$$

**Case 3?**

is  $n! = O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ ?

is  $16(n/4)! \leq cn!$  for  $c < 1$ ?

is  $n! = \Theta(n^2)$ ?

is  $n! = \Omega(n^{2+\varepsilon})$ ?



$$T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n!$$

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

is  $16(n/4)! \leq cn!$  for  $c < 1$ ?

Let  $c = 1/2$

$$cn! = 1/2n!$$

$$> (n/2)!$$

therefore,

$$16(n/4)! \leq (n/2)! < 1/2n!$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n!)$$



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$$T(n) = \sqrt{2}T(n/2) + \log n$$

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{array}{lll} a & = \sqrt{2} & n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 \sqrt{2}} \\ b & = 2 & = n^{\log_2 2^{1/2}} \\ f(n) & = \log n & = \sqrt{n} \end{array}$$

is  $\log n = O(n^{1/2-\varepsilon})$ ?

is  $\log n = \Theta(n^{1/2})$ ?

is  $\log n = \Omega(n^{1/2+\varepsilon})$ ?

**Case 1:**  $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$



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

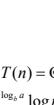
if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{array}{lll} a & = 4 & n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 4} \\ b & = 2 & = n^2 \\ f(n) & = n & \end{array}$$

is  $n = O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ ?

is  $n = \Theta(n^2)$ ?

is  $n = \Omega(n^{2+\varepsilon})$ ?



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## Recurrences



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

$$T(n) = 7T(n/7) + n$$

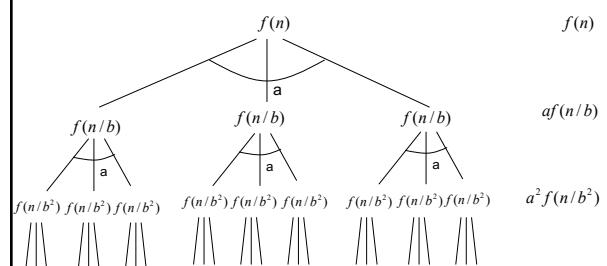
if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + \log n$$

$$T(n) = 8T(n/2) + n^3$$

## Why does the master method work?

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



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## What is the depth of the tree?

At each level, the size of the data is divided by b

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n}{b^d} &= 1 \\ \log\left(\frac{n}{b^d}\right) &= 0 \\ \log n - \log 4^b &= 0 \\ d \log b &= \log n \\ d &= \log_b n \end{aligned}$$


## How many leaves?

How many leaves are there in a complete a-ary tree of depth d?

$$\begin{aligned} a^d &= a^{\log_b n} \\ &= n^{\log_b a} \end{aligned}$$

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## Total cost

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= cf(n) + af(n/b) + a^2 f(n/b^2) + \dots + a^{n-1} f(n/b^{n-1}) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a^3}) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n-1} a^i f(n/b^i) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a}) \end{aligned}$$

Case 1: cost is dominated by the cost of the leaves

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n-1} a^i f(n/b^i) < \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

## Total cost

if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$   
 if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$   
 if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
 then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= cf(n) + af(n/b) + a^2 f(n/b^2) + \dots + a^{n-1} f(n/b^{n-1}) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a^3}) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n-1} a^i f(n/b^i) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a}) \end{aligned}$$

Case 2: cost is evenly distributed across tree

As we saw with mergesort,  $\log n$  levels to the tree and at each level  $f(n)$  work

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**Total cost**

- if  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$
- if  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$
- if  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for  $c < 1$   
then  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$T(n) = cf(n) + af(n/b) + a^2 f(n/b^2) + \dots + a^{d-1} f(n/b^{d-1}) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a^3})$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n - 1} a^i f(n/b^i) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

Case 3: cost is dominated by the cost of the root

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**Other forms of the master method**

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + O(n^d)$$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} O(n^d) & \text{if } d > \log_b a \\ O(n^d \log n) & \text{if } d = \log_b a \\ O(n^{\log_b a}) & \text{if } d < \log_b a \end{cases}$$

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