

# Recurrences

CSE 332 - Section 3



# Recurrence Relations



# Recurrence Relations

- Describes the time complexity of recursive algorithms, often uses  $T(n)$ 
  - Same way that  $f(n)$  and  $g(n)$  described time complexity of non recursive algorithms last week
- Generally in the form:

$$T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n) \quad \text{“Divide \& Conquer”}$$

OR

$$T(n) = aT(n - b) + f(n) \quad \text{“Chip \& Conquer”}$$

# Recurrence Relations

$$T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n) \text{ \underline{OR} } T(n) = aT(n - b) + f(n)$$

- $n$  = input size
- $T(n)$  = runtime for input size  $n$
- $b$  = how input shrinks for next recursive call(s) (reduction factor/ constant)
- $a$  = number of recursive calls made per function call (branching factor)

```
bar(n) {  
    if (n <= 1) {  
        return 1;  
    }  
    return 2 * bar(n/2);  
}
```

$a = 1$   
 $b = 2$

```
foo(n) {  
    if (n <= 1) {  
        return 1;  
    }  
    return foo(n-1) + foo(n-1);  
}
```

$a = 2$   
 $b = 1$

# Problem 0a

Recurrence relation forms:

- $T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$   
 $T(n) = aT(n - b) + f(n)$

Find a recurrence  $T(n)$  modelling the *worst-case runtime complexity* of  $f(n)$

```
1  f(n) {  
2      if (n <= 0) {  
3          return 1  
4      }  
5      return 2 * f(n - 1) + 1  
6  }
```

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & \text{if } n \leq 0 \\ T(n - 1) + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- When does the base case occur?  $n \leq 0$
- What is the branching factor  $a$ ?  $a = 1$  since we only make one recursive call
- What is the reduction factor / **constant**  $b$ ?  $b = 1$  since we always reduce input size by 1
- What is the **amount of non-recursive work**  $f(n)$ ? constant, which we can denote as  $c_1$

# Tree Method Overview



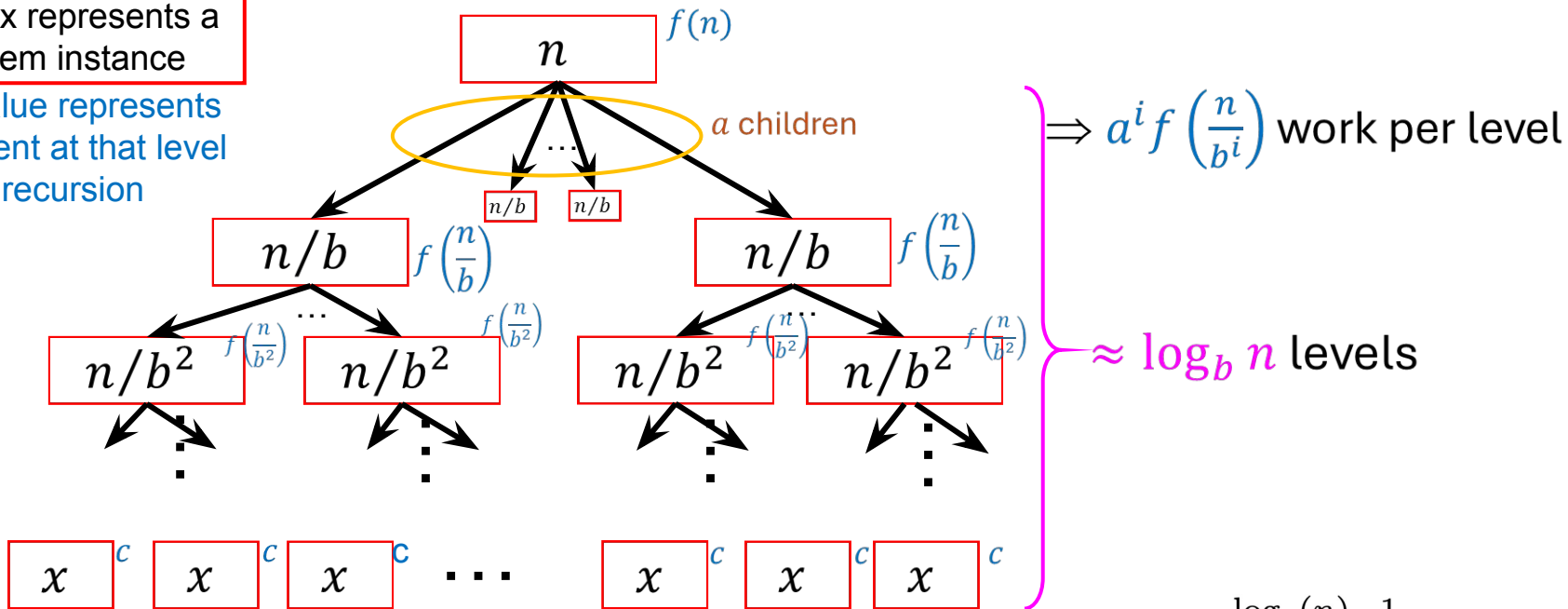
# Big Idea: $T(n/b)$

Asymptotically, these never matter!

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } n \leq x \\ a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



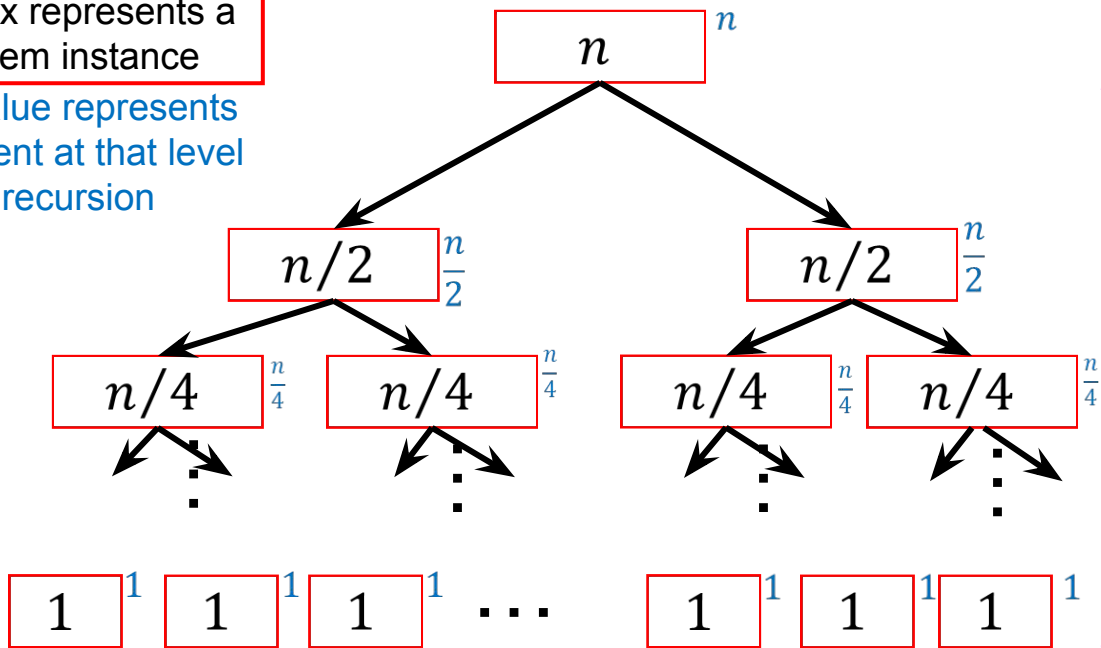
$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b(n)-1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)$$

# Q1(a) Tree Method Example

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

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



$\Rightarrow n$  work per level

$\log_2(n)$  levels

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log(n)-1} n$$



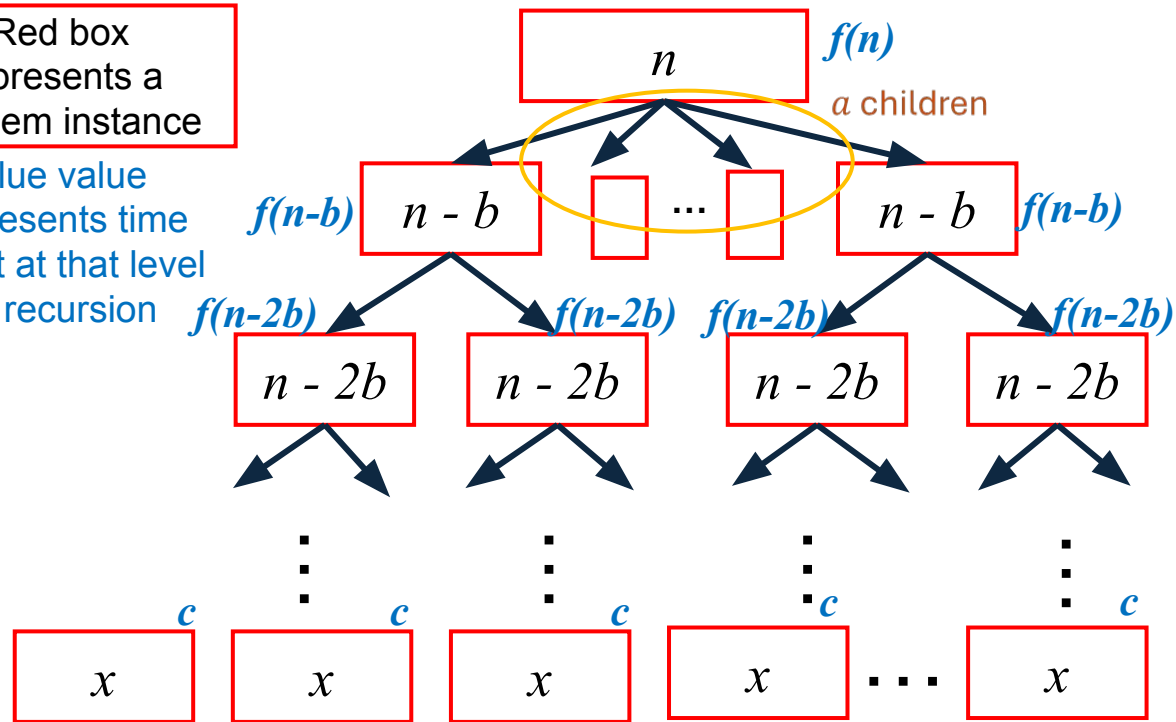
# Big Idea: $T(n - b)$

Asymptotically, these never matter!

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } n \leq x \\ aT(n - b) + f(n) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Red box  
represents a  
problem instance

Blue value  
represents time  
spent at that level  
of recursion

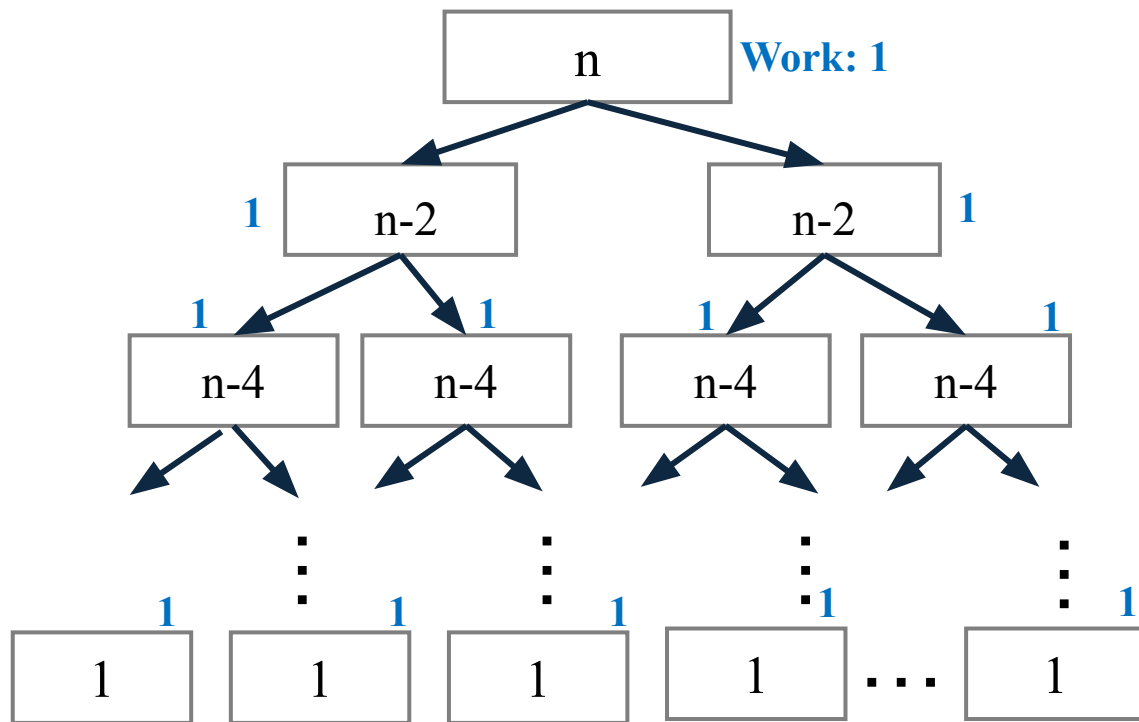


$\Rightarrow a^i f(n - bi)$   
work per level

$\approx n/b$  levels

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n/b-1} a^i f(n - bi)$$

# Q1(f): Tree method



$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n \leq 1 \\ 2T(n-2) + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

#children #levels work

$\Rightarrow 2^i$  work per level

$\approx n/2$  levels

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n/2-1} 2^i$$

# Q1(f): Solving the Summation

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\frac{n}{2}-1} 2^i$$

$$= 2^0 \times \frac{1 - 2^{\frac{n}{2}}}{1 - 2}$$

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

$$= -1 \times (1 - 2^{\frac{n}{2}})$$

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

$$= \sqrt{2}^n - 1 \Rightarrow \in \Theta(\sqrt{2}^n)$$

(Sum of a finite geometric series)

$$S_n = a_1 \left( \frac{1 - r^n}{1 - r} \right)$$

WHERE:

$a_1$  = first term

$r$  = common ratio

$n$  = number of terms

$$\sum_{i=0}^n x^i = \frac{1-x^{n+1}}{1-x}$$

For a geometric series with a ratio  $< 1$ , it converges!

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_1 (r)^{n-1} = \frac{a_1}{1-r}$$

SUM

Note: formula like this will be provided for exams

# What Parts Matter?

Asymptotically Speaking

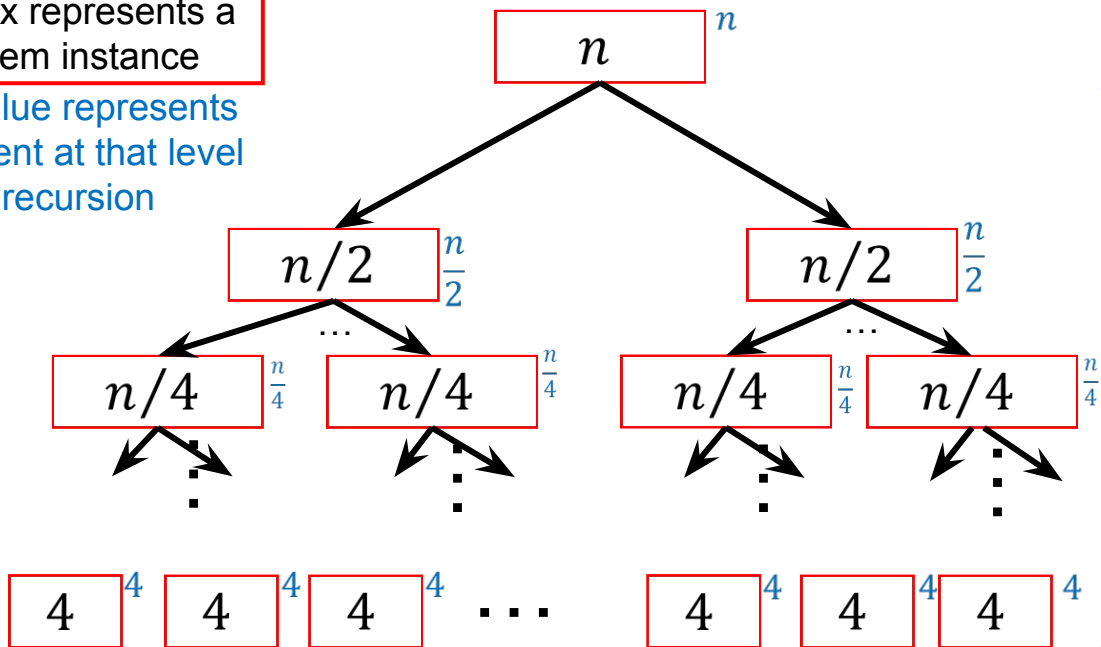


## Q1(b) Base Case Doesn't Matter!

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } n \leq 4 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



$\Rightarrow n$  work per level

$\log_2(n) - 2$  levels

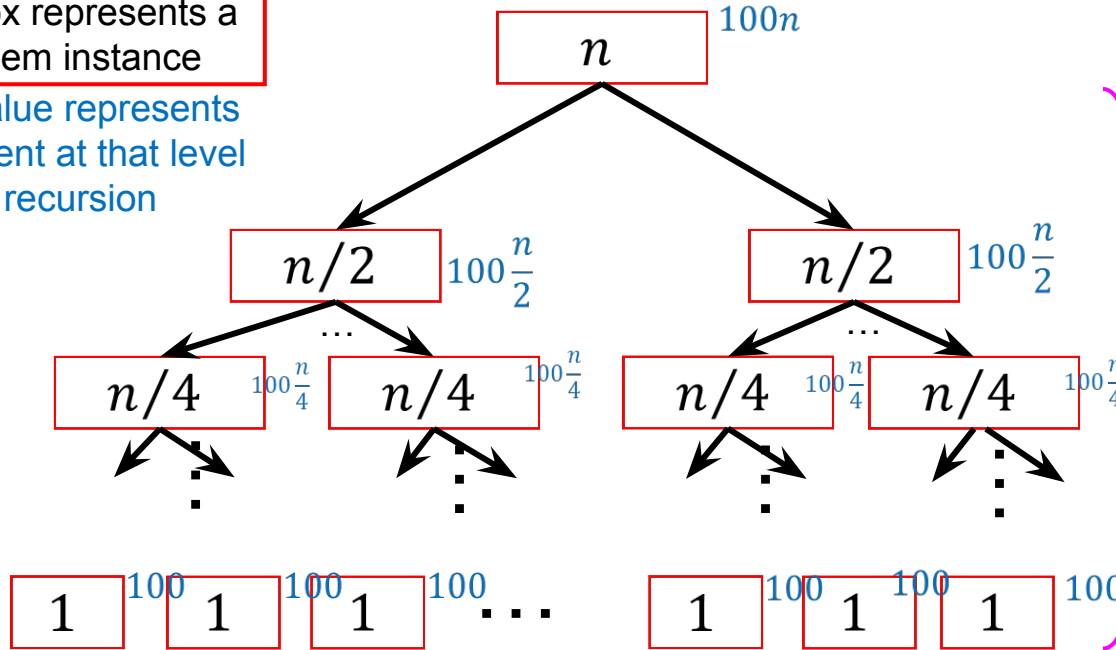
$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-3} n$$

# Q1(c) Constants for $f(n)$ Don't Matter!

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 100 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 100n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



$\Rightarrow 100n$  work per level

$\log_2(n)$  levels

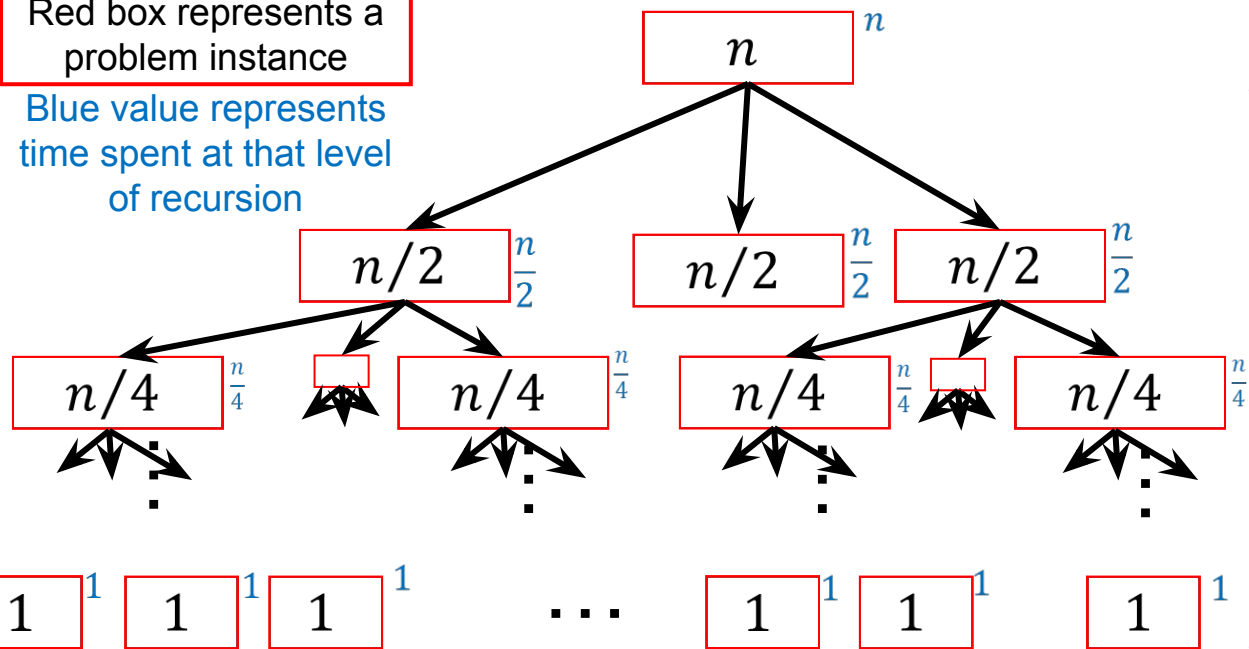
$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-1} 100n$$

# Q1(d) Branching Factor (a) Matters!

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ 3T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^i n$  work per level

$\log_2(n)$  levels

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-1} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^i n$$

# Solving the Summation

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-1} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^i n$$

$$= n \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-1} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^i$$

can move the n using the constant multiple rule

$$= n \frac{1 - \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{\log_2 n}}{1 - \frac{3}{2}}$$

Geometric Series Sum Rule

$$\sum_{i=0}^n x^i = \frac{1-x^{n+1}}{1-x}$$

$$= n \frac{1 - \left(\frac{3^{\log_2(n)}}{n}\right)}{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

simplification + props. of log & exponents:  $\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{\log_2(n)} = \frac{3^{\log_2(n)}}{2^{\log_2(n)}} = \frac{3^{\log_2(n)}}{n}$

$$= 2 \cdot 3^{\log_2 n} - 2n$$

multiplied by -2 and distributed our n

$$= 2 \cdot n^{\log_2 3} - 2n$$

log rules:  $3^{\log_2 n} = n^{\log_2 3}$  ( $a^{\log_b c} = c^{\log_b a}$ )

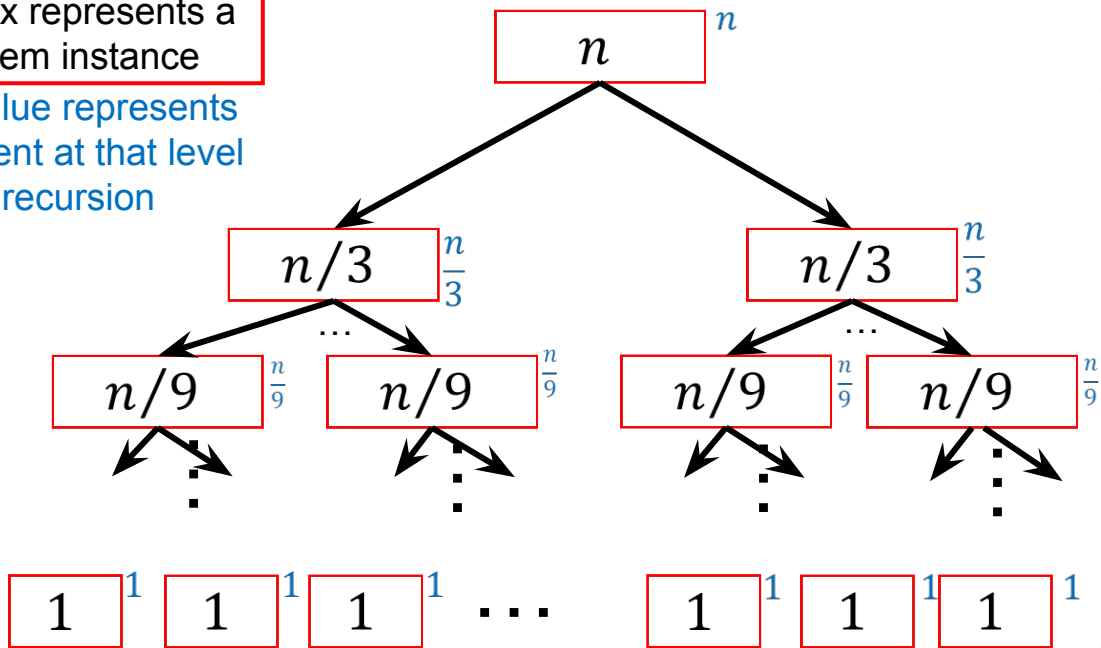


# Q1(e) Reduction Factor (/b) Does Matter!

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^i n$  work per level

$\log_3(n)$  levels

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_3(n)-1} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^i n$$

# Solving the Summation

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_3(n)-1} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^i n$$

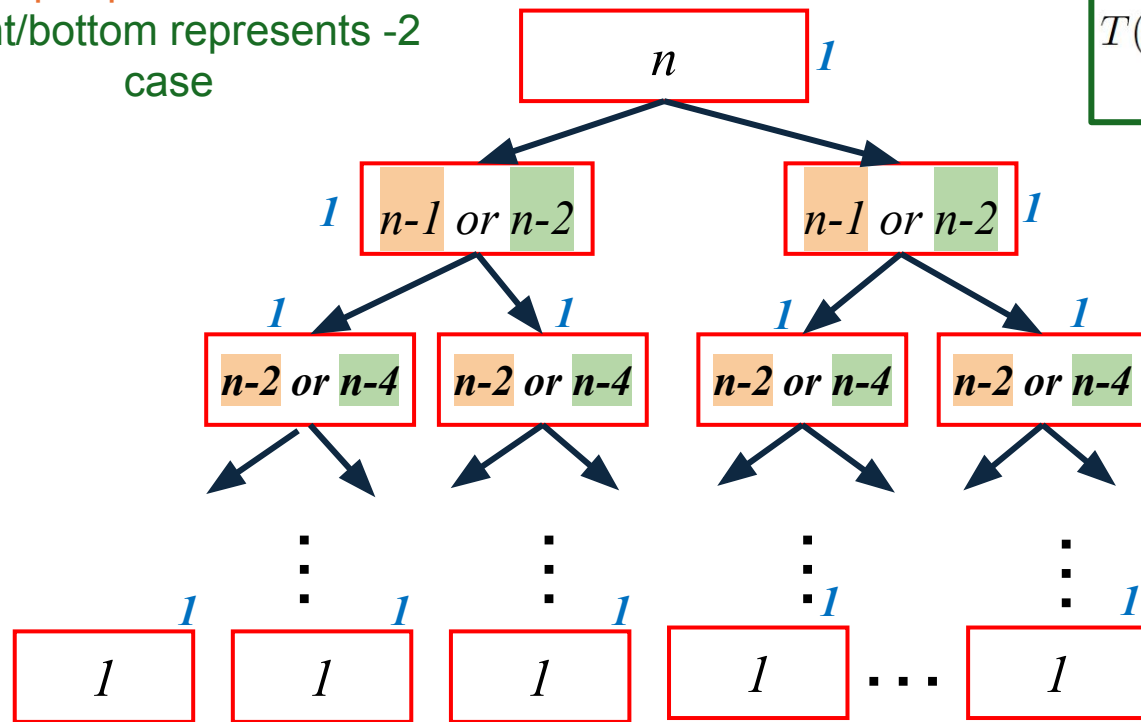
$$= n \sum_{i=0}^{\log_3(n)-1} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^i \quad \text{can move the } n \text{ using the constant multiple rule}$$

This is a geometric series with a ratio  $< 1$ , so it converges to a constant!

$$T(n) \in \Theta(n)$$

# Reduction Constant (-b) Matters!

Left/top represents -1 case  
Right/bottom represents -2 case



$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n \leq 1 \\ 2T(n-1) + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n \leq 1 \\ 2T(n-2) + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$\Rightarrow 2^i$

work per level for both cases

$\approx n$  levels for -1

$\approx n/2$  levels for -2

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^i \approx 2^n$$

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n/2-1} 2^i \approx \sqrt{2}^n$$

Hint: Use the Finite Geometric Series (#7 on Math Identities) to solve these summations!

# General Advice



# Recursive Running Times - Guidance

- Identify the number of subproblems you will have a recursive call for
  - This gives  $a$
- Identify the size of each of the subproblems
  - This gives  $b$
- Identify (asymptotically) the non-recursive running time
  - You can ignore constants and non-dominant terms!
  - This gives  $f(n)$
- Express running time as  $T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$  OR

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

# Solving $T(n)$ Using The Tree method

- $T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$
- Draw a tree such that:
  - Each node has  $a$  children
  - The “size” of each node is  $\frac{1}{b}$  times the size of its parent
  - The “work” for each node is  $f$  applied to its size
  - The height of the tree is  $\log_b n$
- Sum the tree horizontally
  - i.e. identify the total work done at each level
- Sum the levels’ work vertically
  - Gives the sum of all work in the entire tree

# Solving $T(n)$ Using The Tree method

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

Only differences between  $/b$  cases highlighted in yellow

- Draw a tree such that:
  - Each node has  $a$  children
  - The “size of each node is  $-b$  times the size of its parent
  - The “work” for each node is  $f$  applied to its size
  - The height of the tree is  $n/b$
- Sum the tree horizontally
  - I.e. identify the total work done at each level
- Sum the levels’ work vertically
  - Given the sum of all work in the entire tree

# Putting it All Together





## Problem 2(a)

(a) Find a recurrence  $T(n)$  modeling the *worst-case runtime complexity* of  $f(n)$ .

```
1  f(n) {  
2      if (n <= 1) {  
3          return 0  
4      }  
5      int result = f(n/2)  
6      for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
7          result *= 4  
8      }  
9      return result + f(n/2)  
10 }
```

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ \boxed{?} & \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Problem 2(a)

(a) Find a recurrence  $T(n)$  modeling the *worst-case runtime complexity* of  $f(n)$ .

```
1  f(n) {  
2      if (n <= 1) {  
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5      int result = f(n/2)  
6      for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
7          result *= 4  
8      }  
9      return result + f(n/2)  
10 }
```

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

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + c_2n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- 2 function calls  $\rightarrow a = 2$
- Reducing input size by half  $\rightarrow (n / 2)$
- Non-recursive work has loop with  $n$  iterations and some constant work  $\rightarrow f(n) = c_2n + c_1$

## Problem 2(b)

(b) Find a closed form to your answer for (a).

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + c_2n + c_1 & \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + c_2n + c_1 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + c_2n + c_1 & otherwise \end{cases}$$



Our first call to  $T(n)$

Input:  $n$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + c_2n + c_1 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

Our first call to  $T(n)$

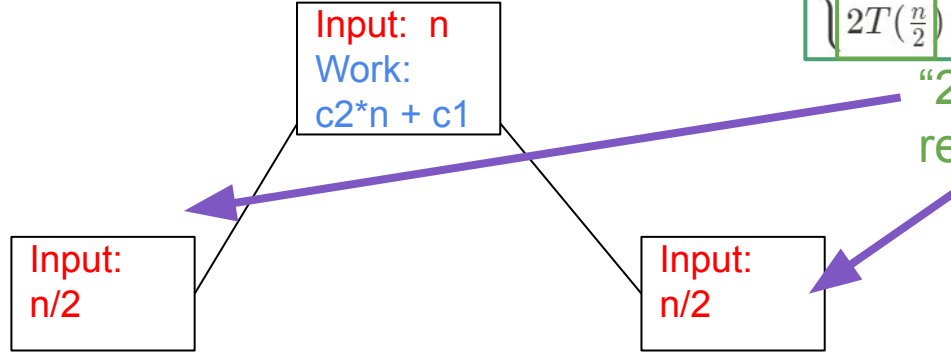
Input:  $n$   
Work:  
 $c_2 \cdot n + c_1$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + c_2n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

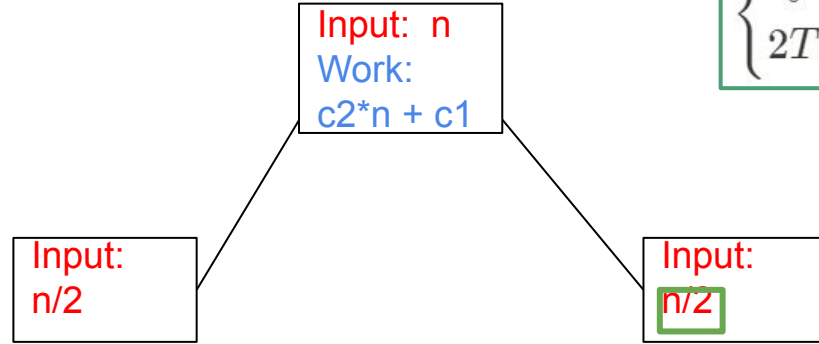
Our first  
call to  $T(n)$

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + c_2n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

“2T(...)” = 2  
recursive calls

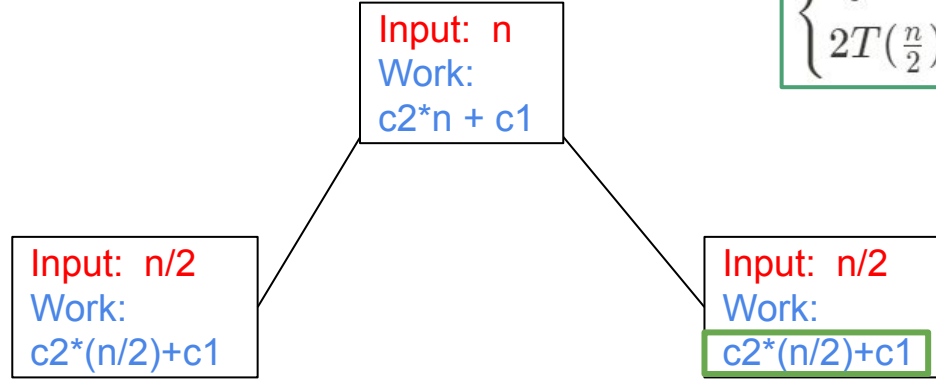




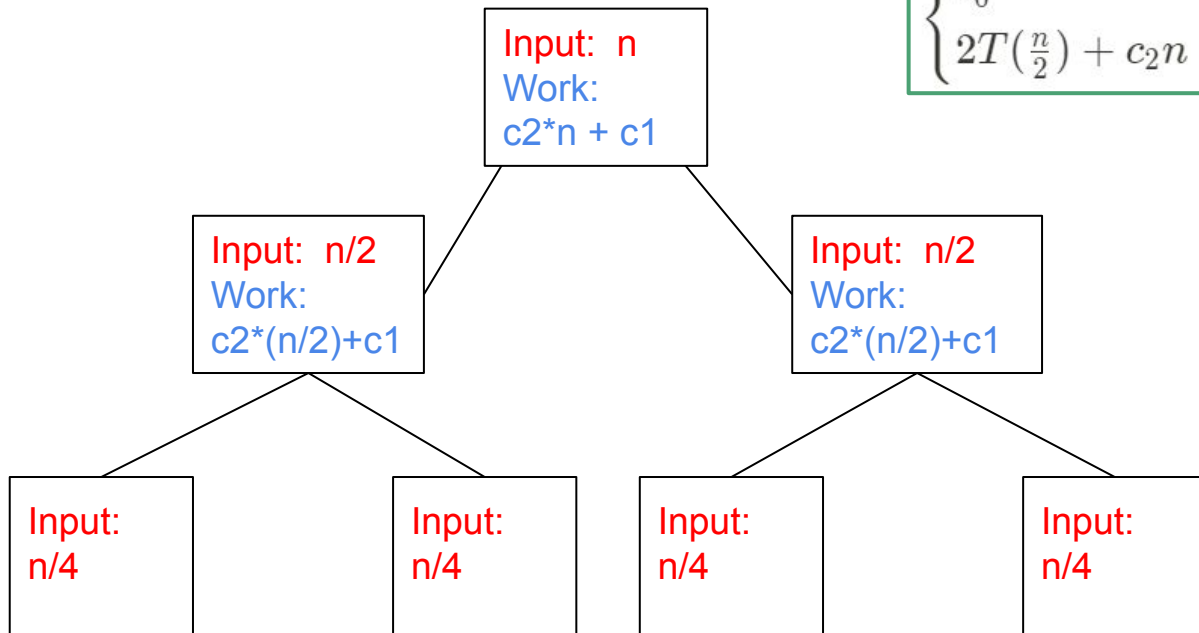


$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\boxed{\frac{n}{2}}) + c_2n + c_1 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

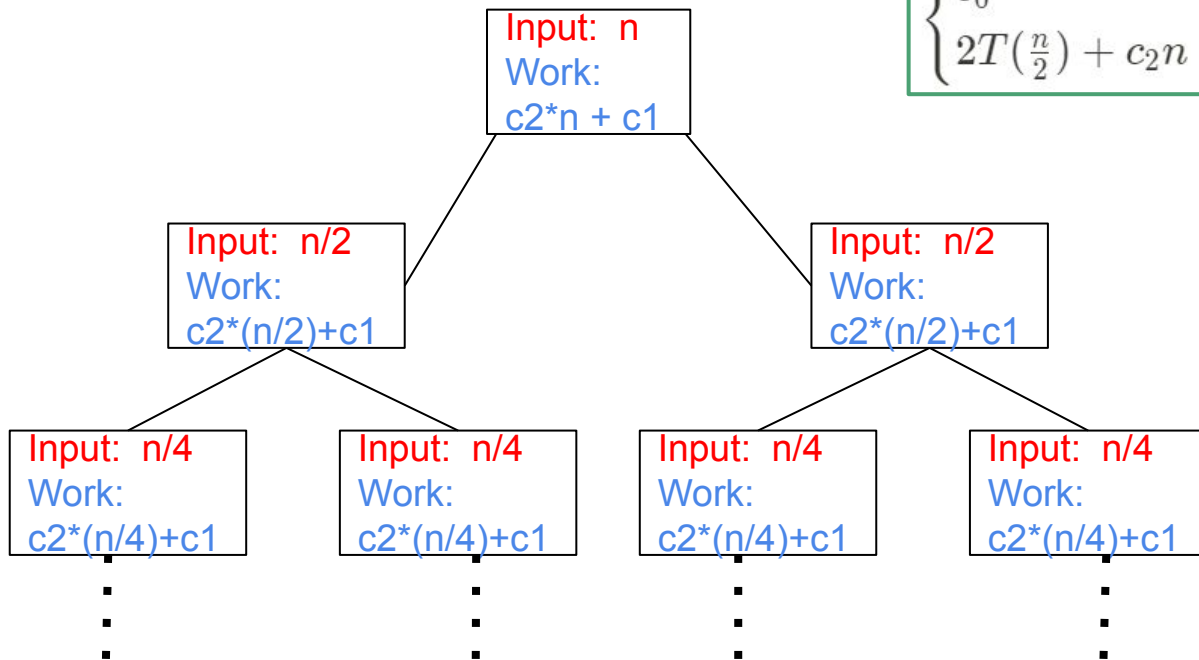
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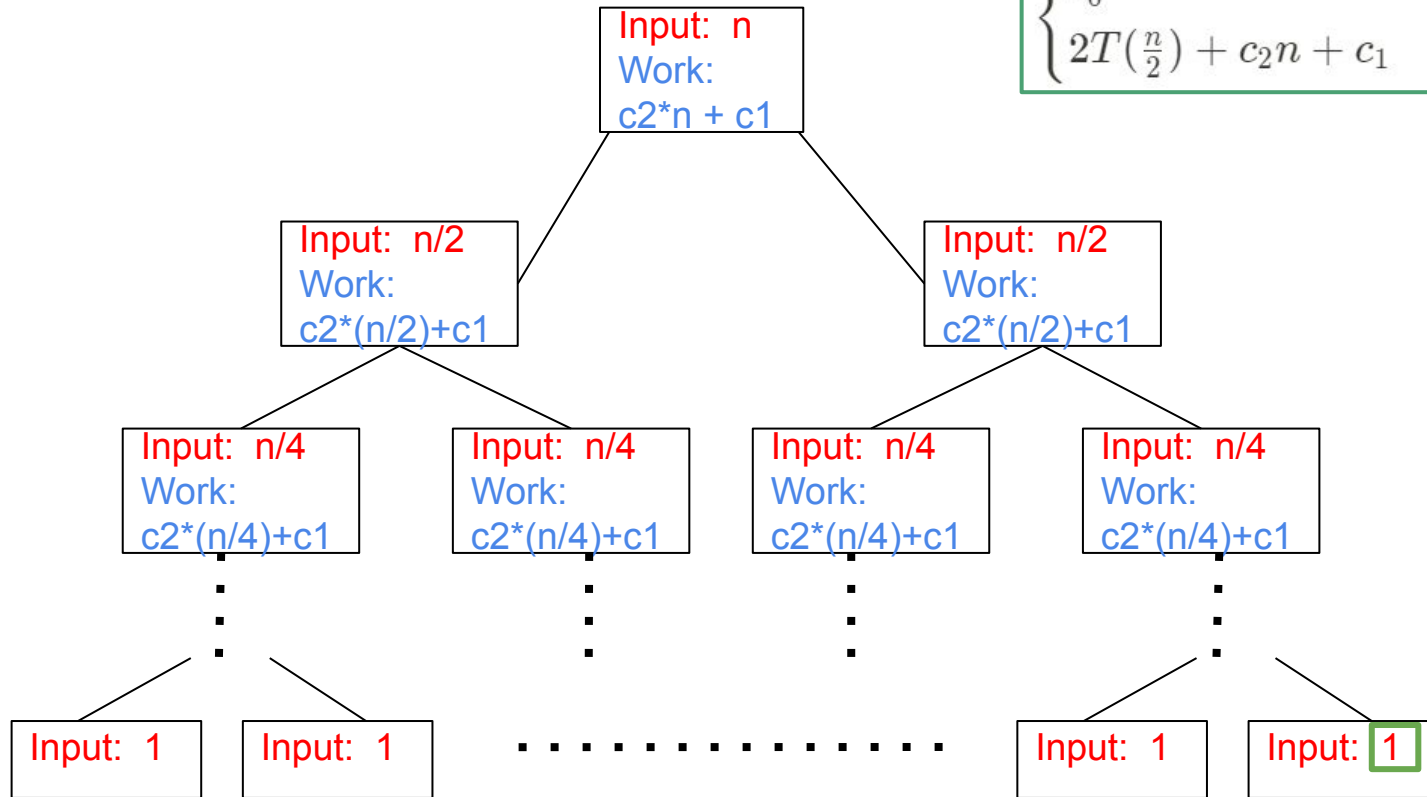
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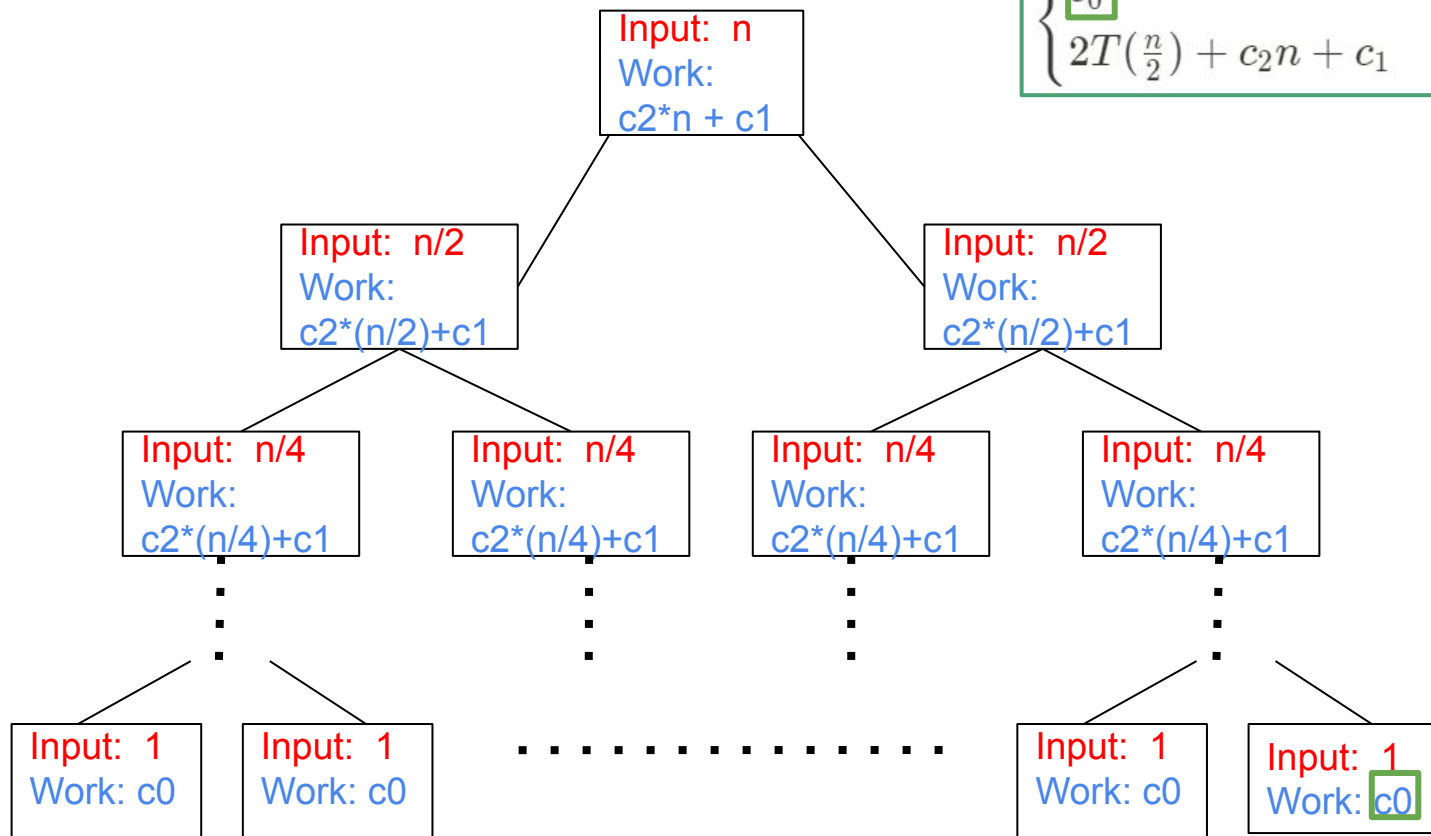
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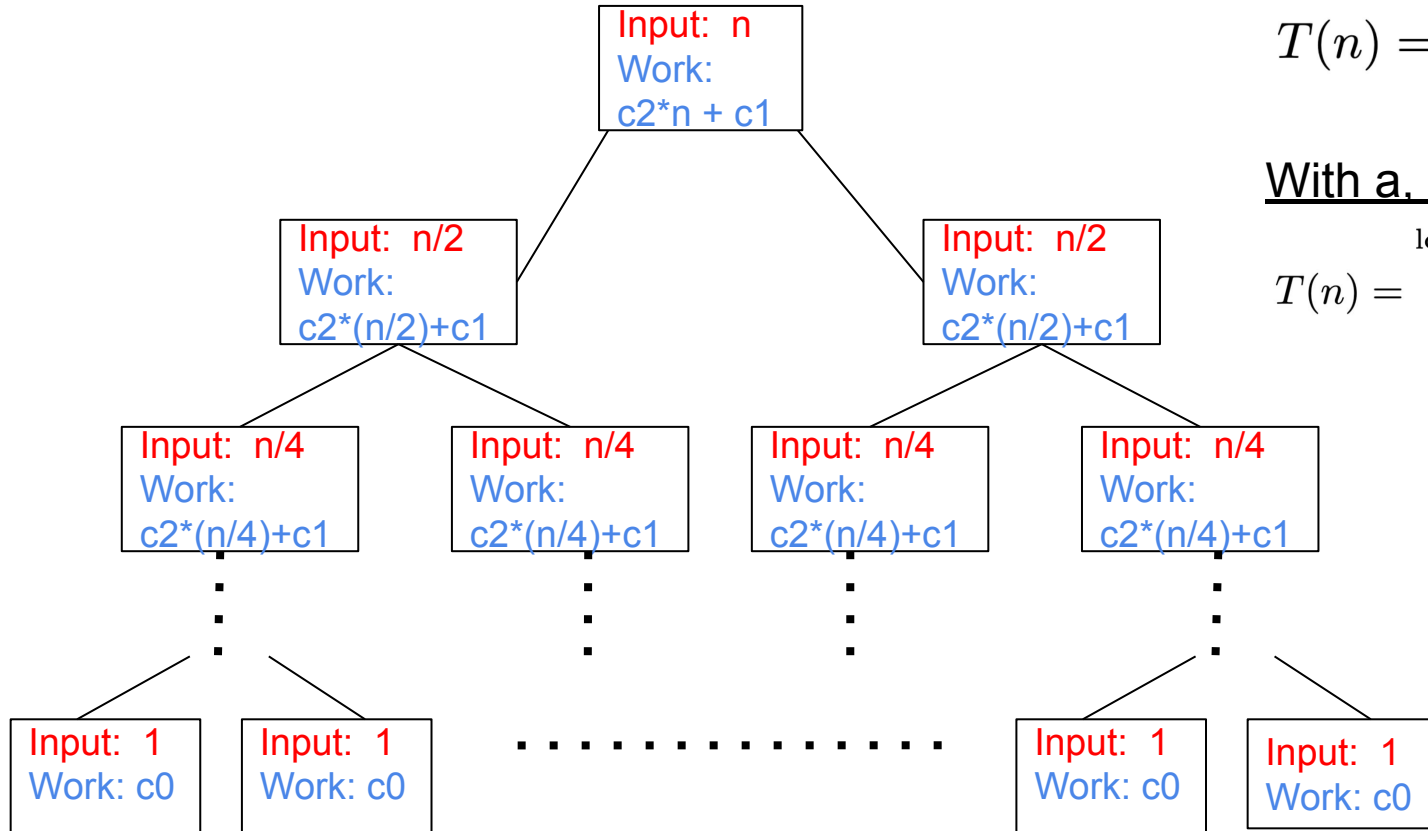


Since we're in /b case:

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b(n)-1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)$$

With a, b, and f(n) plugged

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-1} 2^i \left( c_2 \left( \frac{n}{2^i} \right) + c_1 \right)$$



Thank You!

