

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

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

- 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

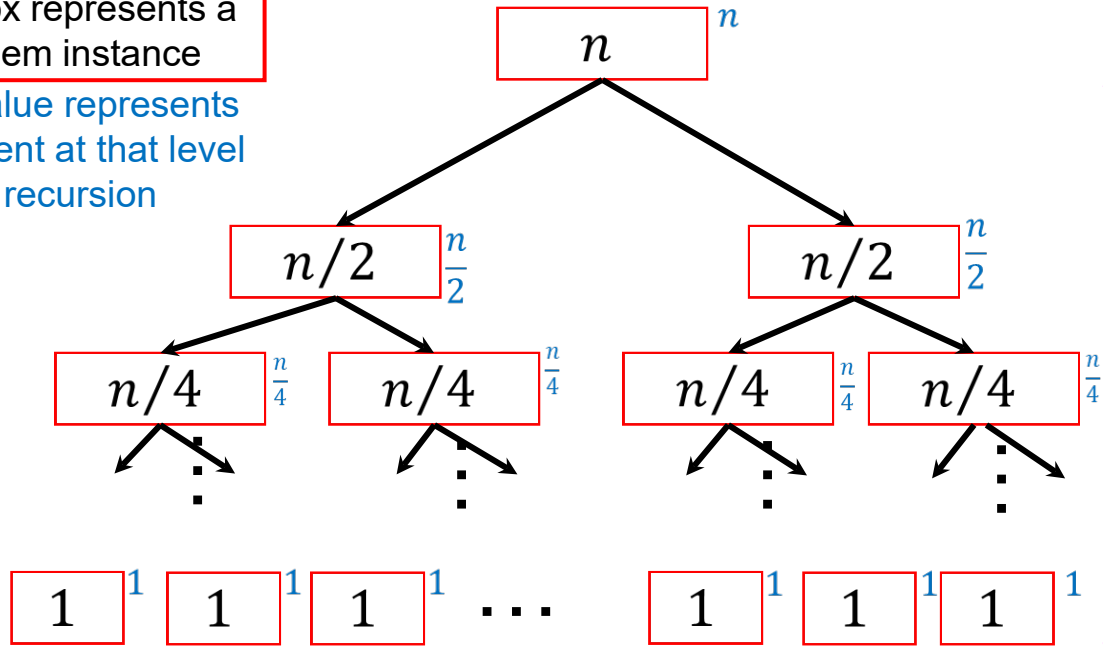


Tree Method Example

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

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

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

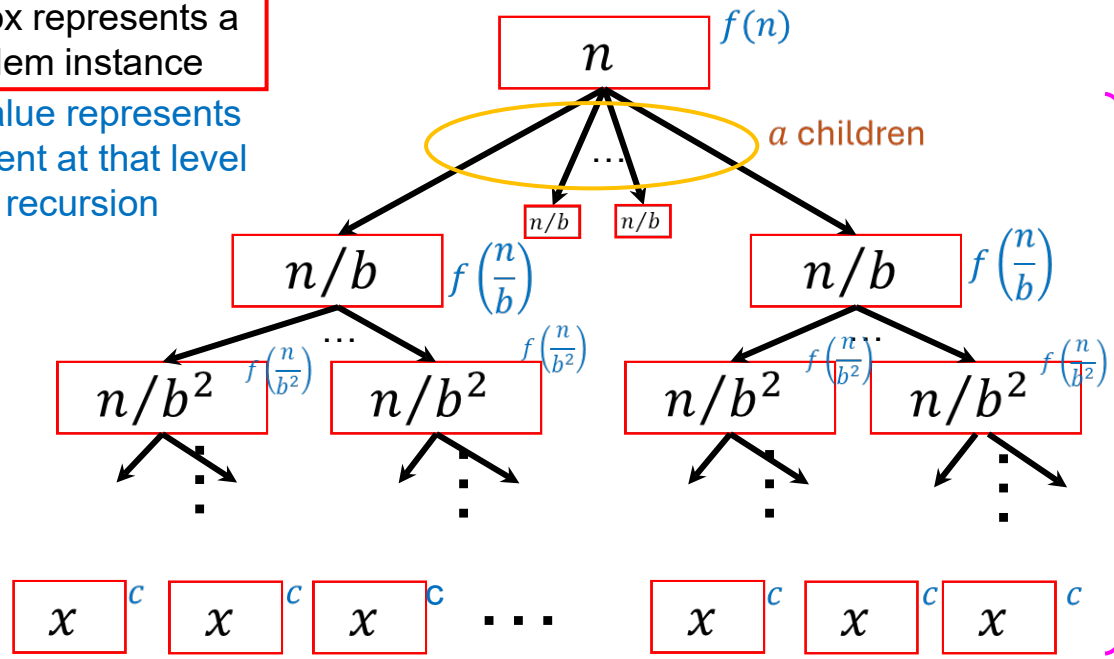
Big Idea: $T(n/b)$

Asymptotically, these never matter!

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

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



$\Rightarrow a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)$ work per level

$\approx \log_b n$ levels

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

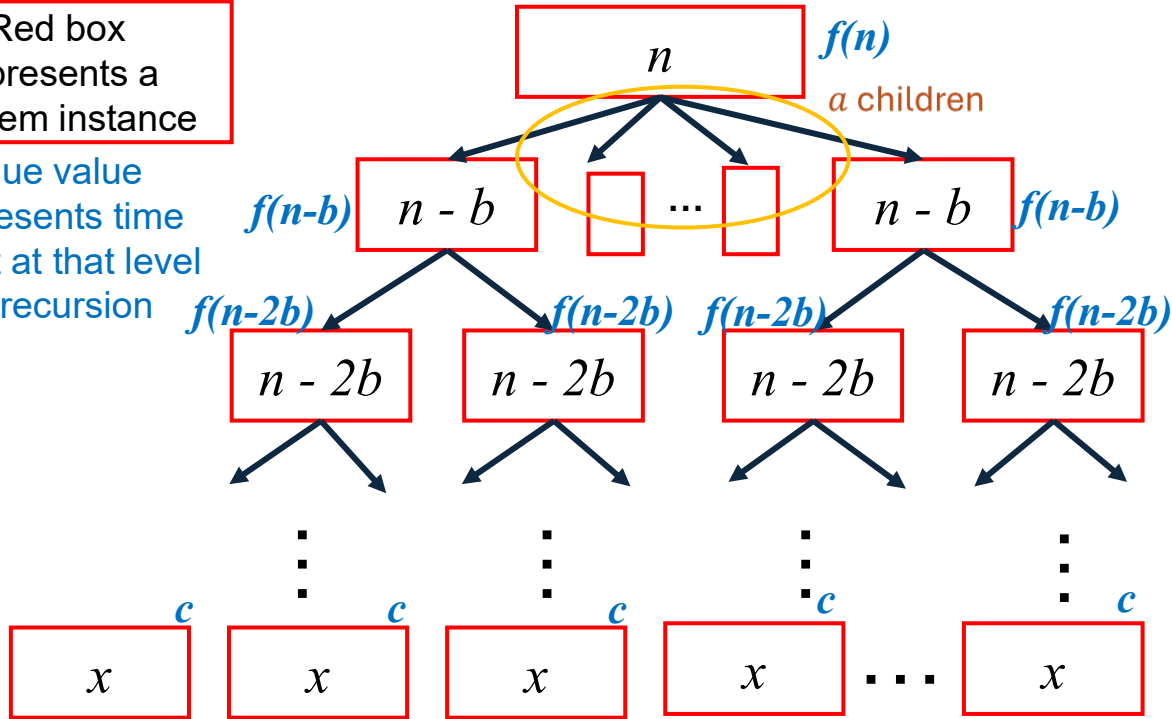
Big Idea: $T(n - b)$

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

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

What Parts Matter?

Asymptotically Speaking

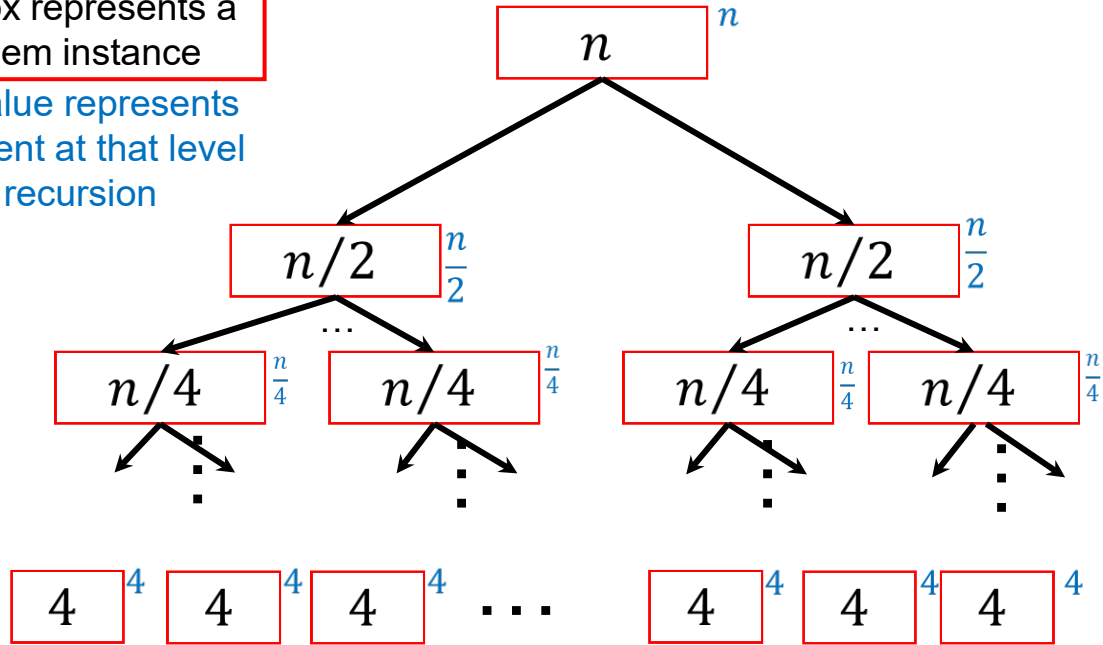


Base Case Doesn't Matter!

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

Red box represents a problem instance

Blue value represents time spent at that level of recursion



⇒ n work per level

$\log_2(n) - 2$ levels

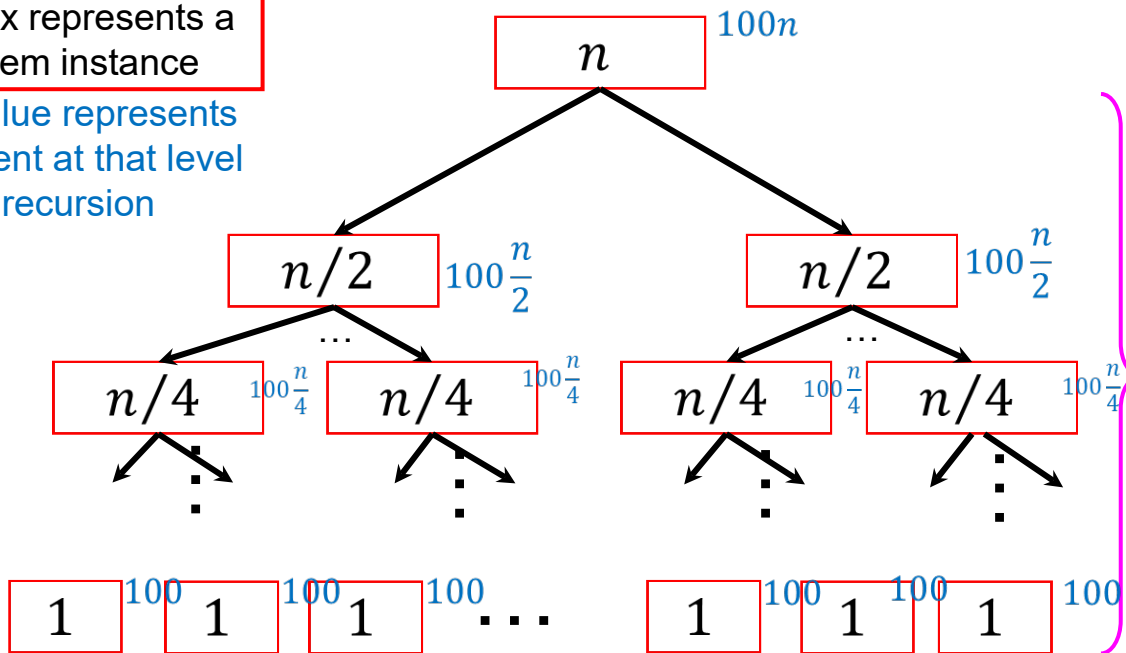
$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-3} n$$

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

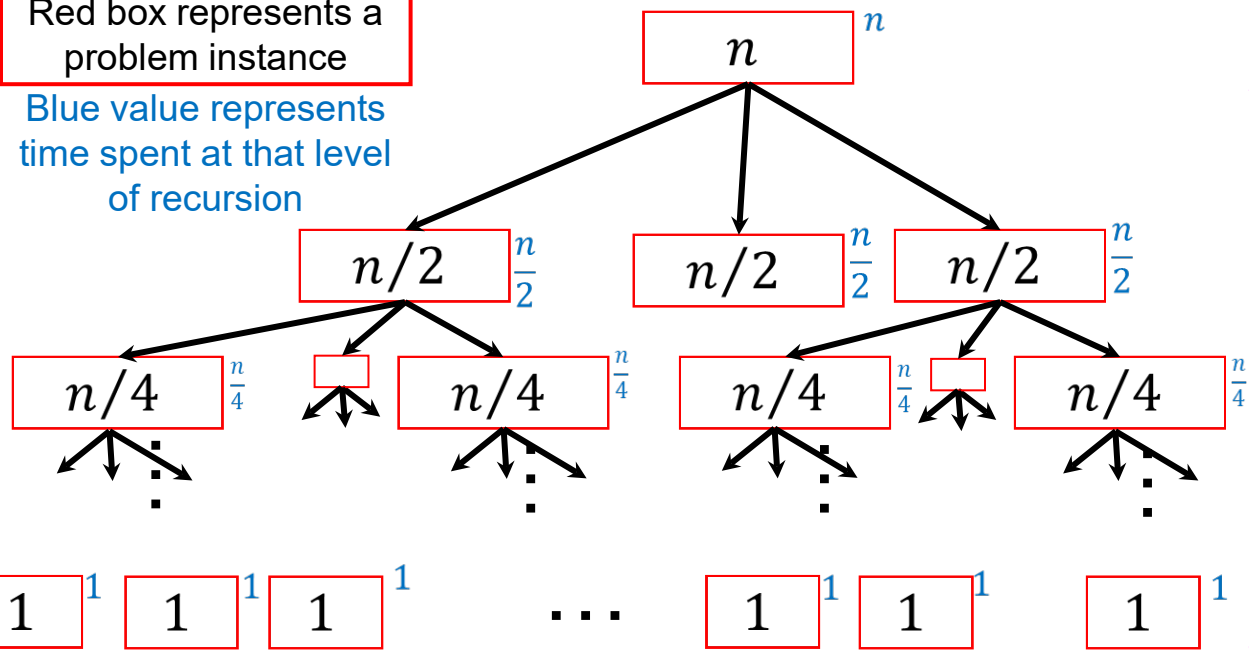
$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-1} 100n$$

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

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

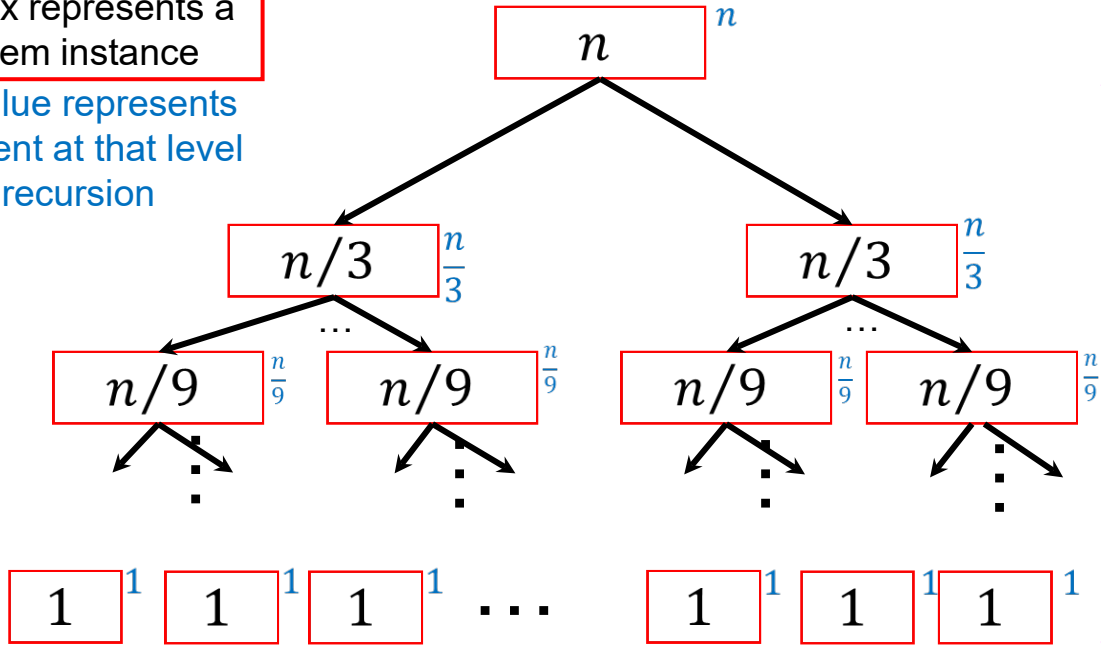
log rules: $3^{\log_2 n} = n^{\log_2 3}$ ($a^{\log_b c} = c^{\log_b a}$)

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

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

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

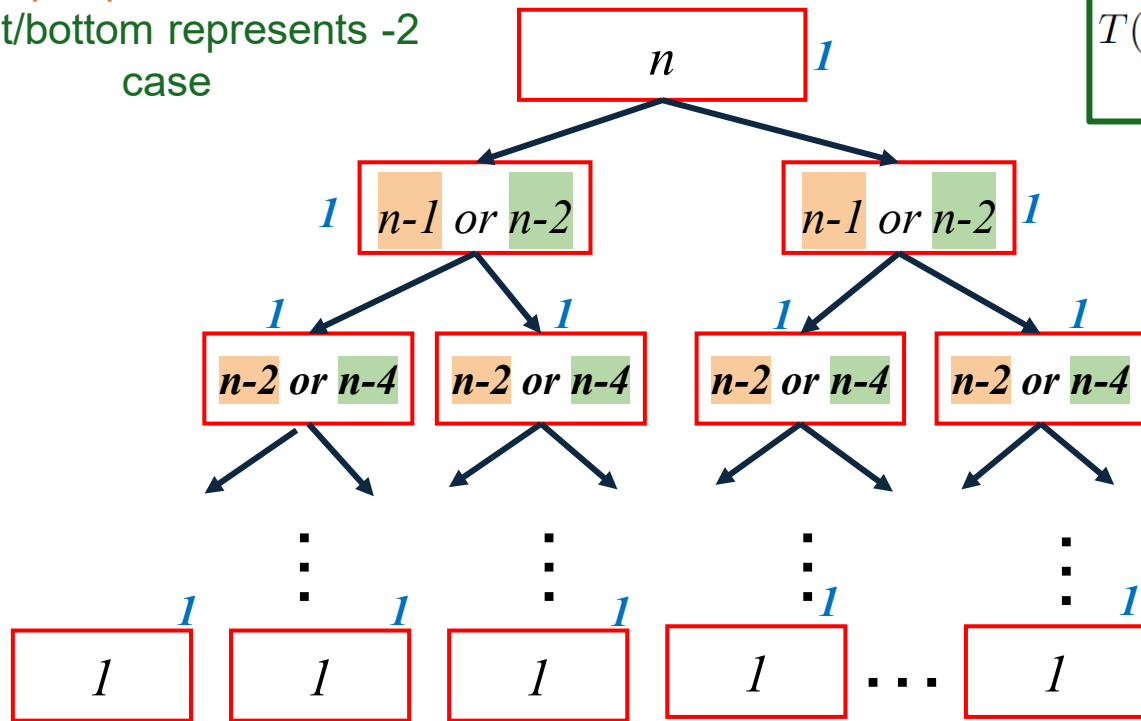
This is a geometric series with a ratio < 1 , so it converges to a constant!

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

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

$$T(n) = aT(n - b) + f(n) \quad \text{OR}$$

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 }
```

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

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) {
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 }
```

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

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

- 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).

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

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

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



Our first call to $T(n)$

Input: n

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

Our first call to T(n)

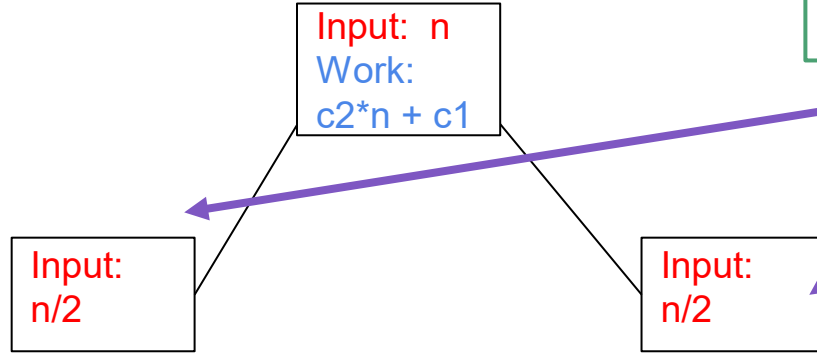
Input: n
Work:
 $c_2 * n + c_1$

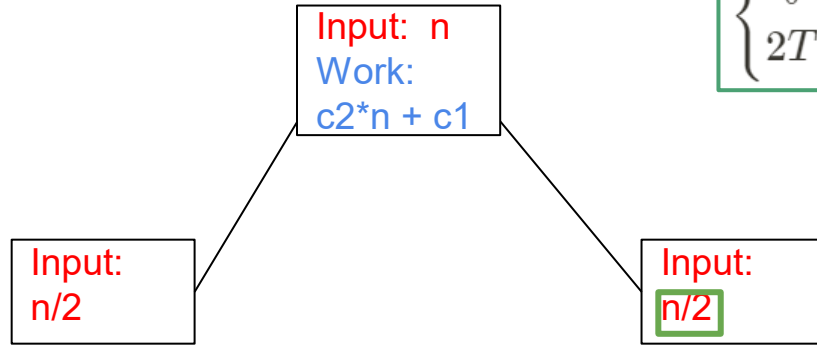
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + c_2n + c_1 & \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Our first
call to $T(n)$

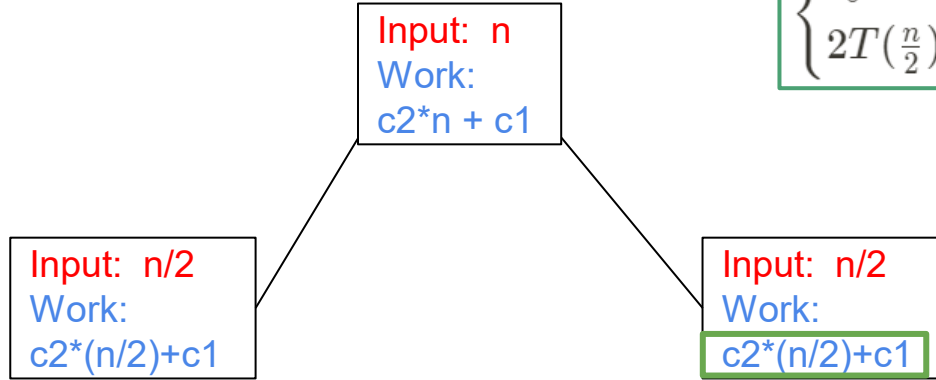
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + c_2n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

“2T(...)” = 2
recursive calls



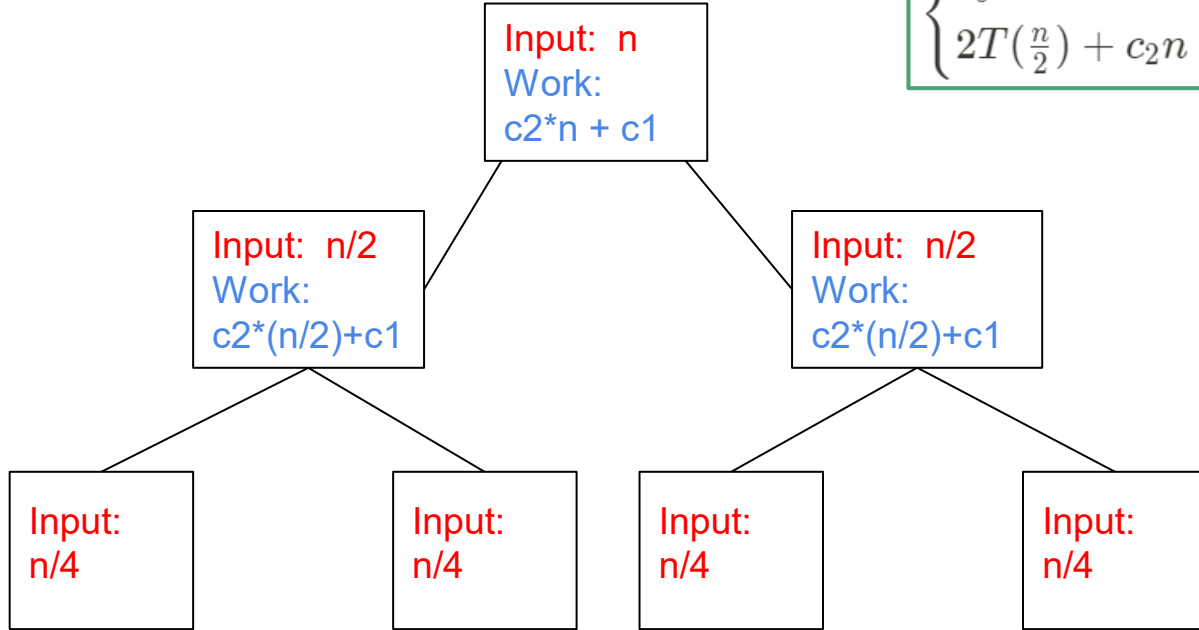


$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + c_2n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

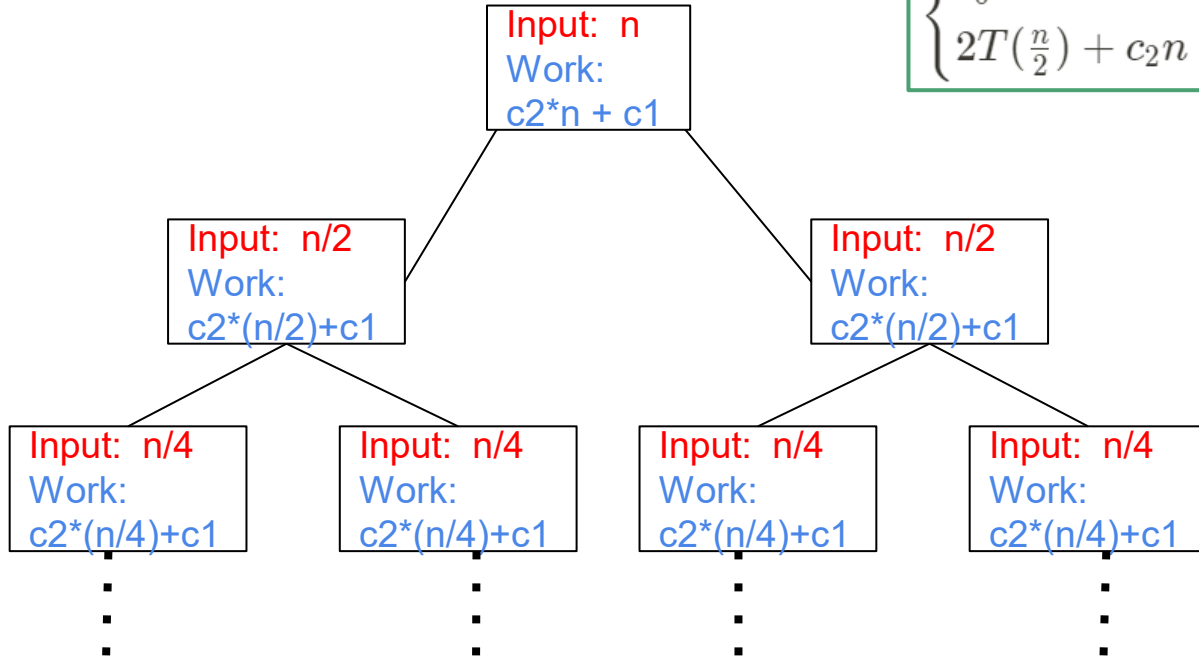


$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + c_2 n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

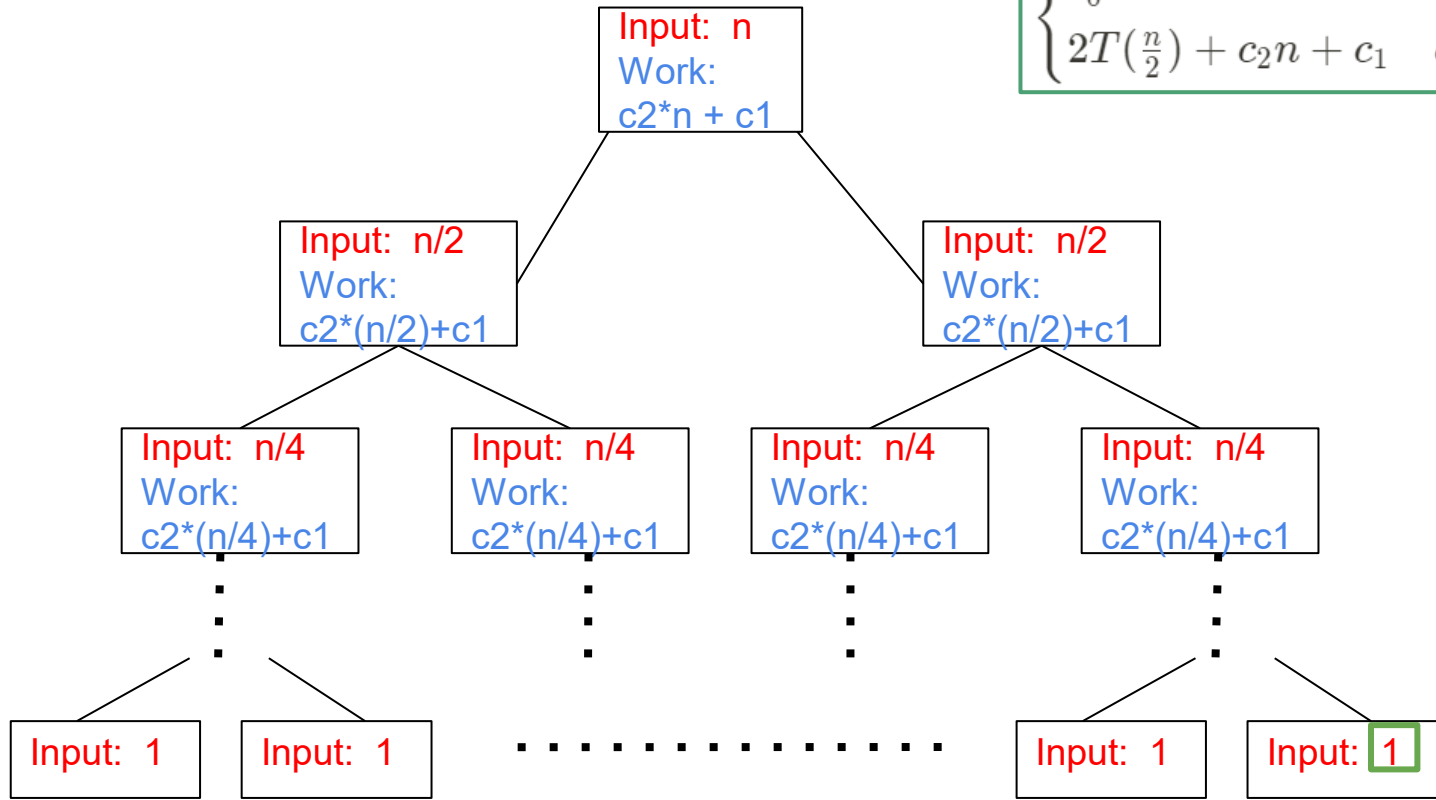
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + c_2n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



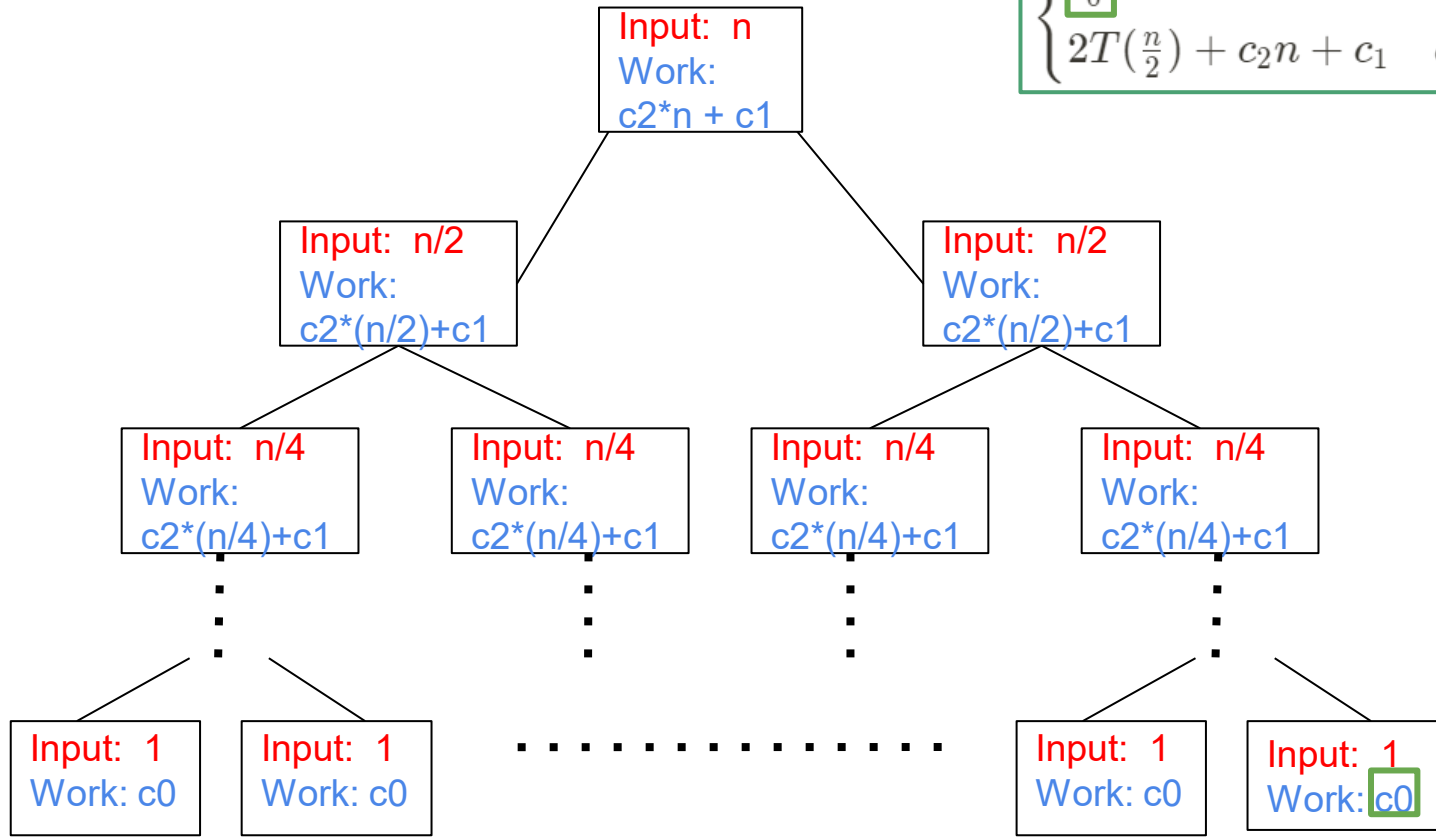
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_0 & n = 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + c_2n + c_1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



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



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

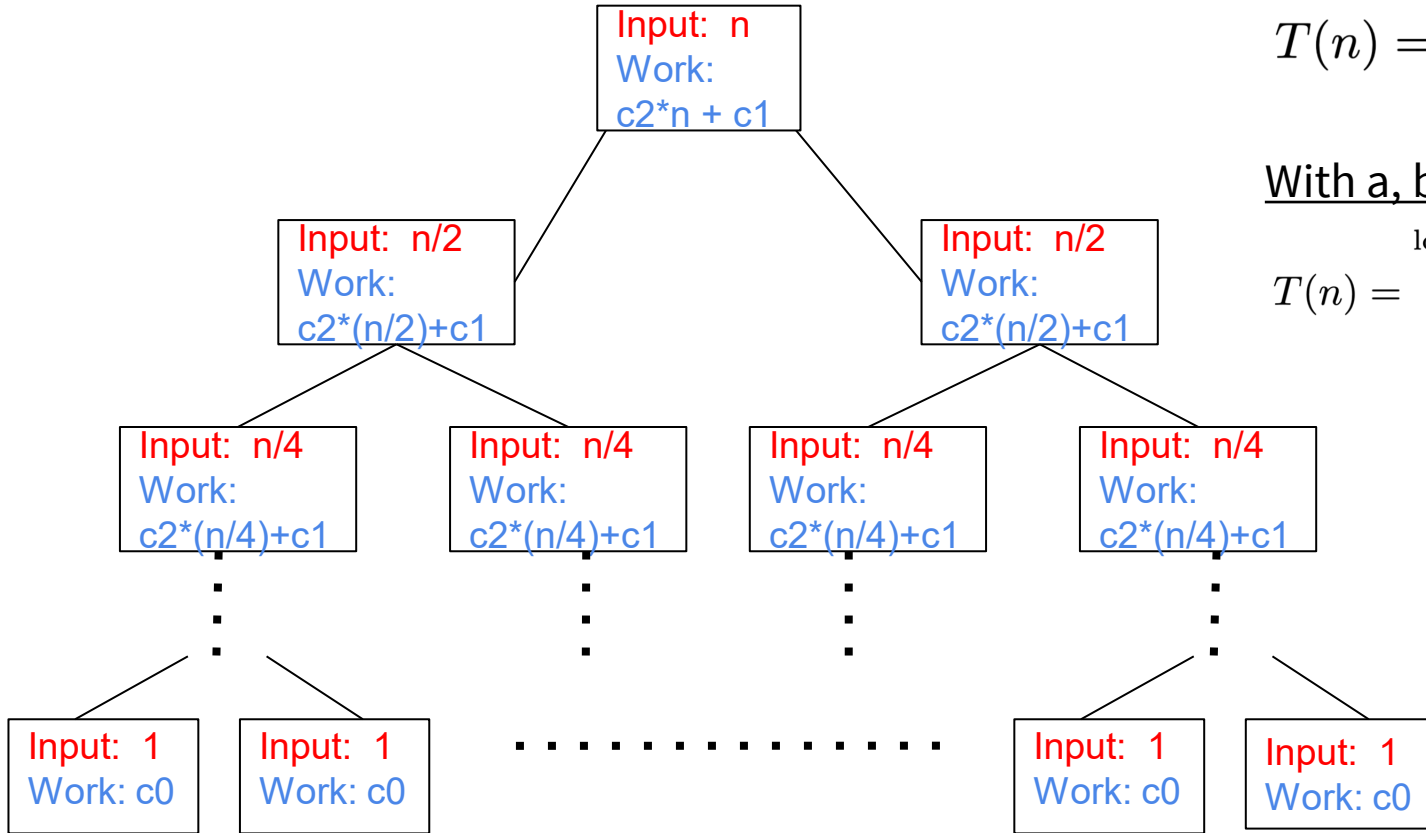


Since we're in /b case:

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

With a, b, and f(n) plugged in:

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



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

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\log_2(n)-1} (c_2 n + 2^i \cdot c_1)$$

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

$$= c_2 n \log_2(n) + c_1 \frac{1 - 2^{\log_2(n)}}{1 - 2}$$

$$= c_2 n \log_2(n) + c_1 (n - 1)$$

$$\in \Theta(n \log n)$$

Finite Geometric Series:

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



Thank You!

