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CSE 417  
Algorithms:  
Divide and Conquer

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## Outline:

General Idea

Review of Merge Sort

Why does it work?

- Importance of balance

- Importance of super-linear growth

Some interesting applications

- Inversions

- Closest points

- Integer Multiplication

Finding & Solving Recurrences

## Divide & Conquer

Reduce a problem to one or more (smaller) sub-problems of the same type

Typically, each sub-problem is at most a constant fraction of the size of the original problem

Subproblems typically disjoint

Often gives significant, usually polynomial, speedup

Examples:

Binary Search, Mergesort, Quicksort (roughly),  
Strassen's Algorithm, integer multiplication, powering,  
FFT, ...

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Motivating Example:  
Mergesort

```

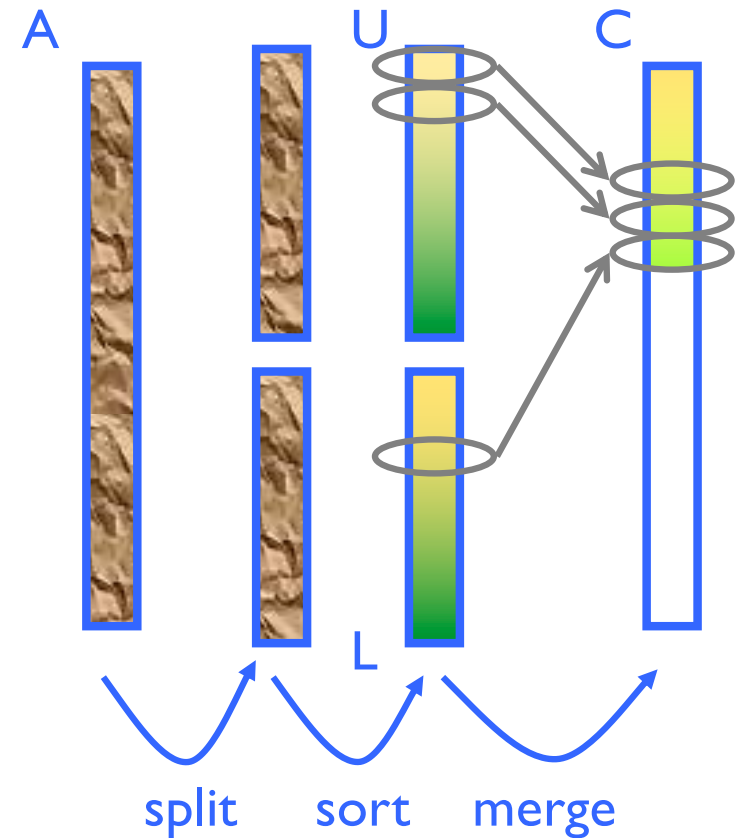
MS(A: array[1..n]) returns array[1..n] {
  If(n=1) return A;
  New U:array[1:n/2] = MS(A[1..n/2]);
  New L:array[1:n/2] = MS(A[n/2+1..n]);
  Return(Merge(U,L));
}

```

```

Merge(U,L: array[1..n]) {
  New C: array[1..2n];
  a=1; b=1;
  For i = 1 to 2n
    "C[i] = smaller of U[a], L[b] and correspondingly a++ or b++,
    while being careful about running past end of either";
  Return C;
}

```



Time:  $\Theta(n \log n)$

Why does it work? Suppose we've already invented DumbSort, taking time  $n^2$

Try *Just One Level* of divide & conquer:

DumbSort(first  $n/2$  elements)  $O((n/2)^2)$

DumbSort(last  $n/2$  elements)  $O((n/2)^2)$

Merge results  $O(n)$

Time:  $2 (n/2)^2 + n = n^2/2 + n \ll n^2$

*Almost twice as fast!*



D&C in a  
nutshell

## Moral 1: “two halves are better than a whole”

Two problems of half size are *better* than one full-size problem, even given  $O(n)$  overhead of recombining, since the base algorithm has *super-linear* complexity.

## Moral 2: “If a little's good, then more's better”

Two levels of D&C would be almost 4 times faster, 3 levels almost 8, etc., even though overhead is growing.

Best is usually full recursion down to some small constant size (balancing "work" vs "overhead").

In the limit: you've just rediscovered mergesort!

**Moral 3: unbalanced division good, but less so:**

$$(.1n)^2 + (.9n)^2 + n = .82n^2 + n$$

The 18% savings compounds significantly if you carry recursion to more levels, actually giving  $O(n \log n)$ , but with a bigger constant. So worth doing if you can't get 50-50 split, but balanced is better if you can.

This is intuitively why Quicksort with random splitter is good – badly unbalanced splits are rare, and not instantly fatal.

**Moral 4: but consistent, completely unbalanced division doesn't help much:**

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

Little improvement here.

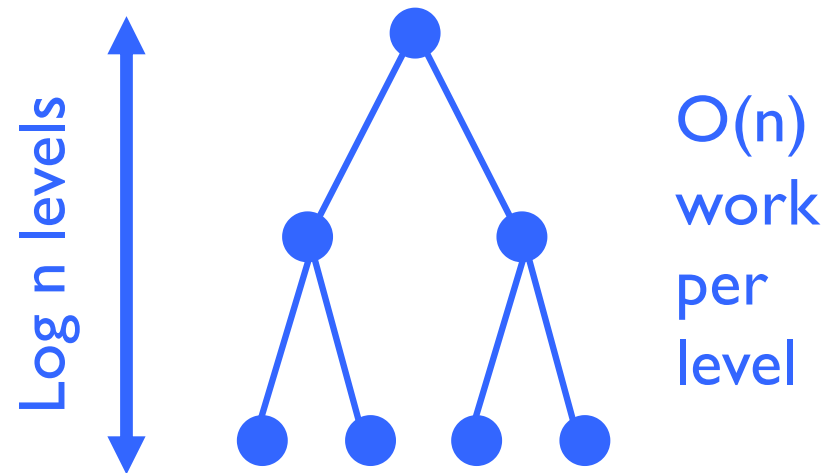


Mergesort: (recursively) sort 2 half-lists, then merge results.

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + cn, \quad n \geq 2$$

$$T(1) = 0$$

Solution:  $\Theta(n \log n)$   
(details later)



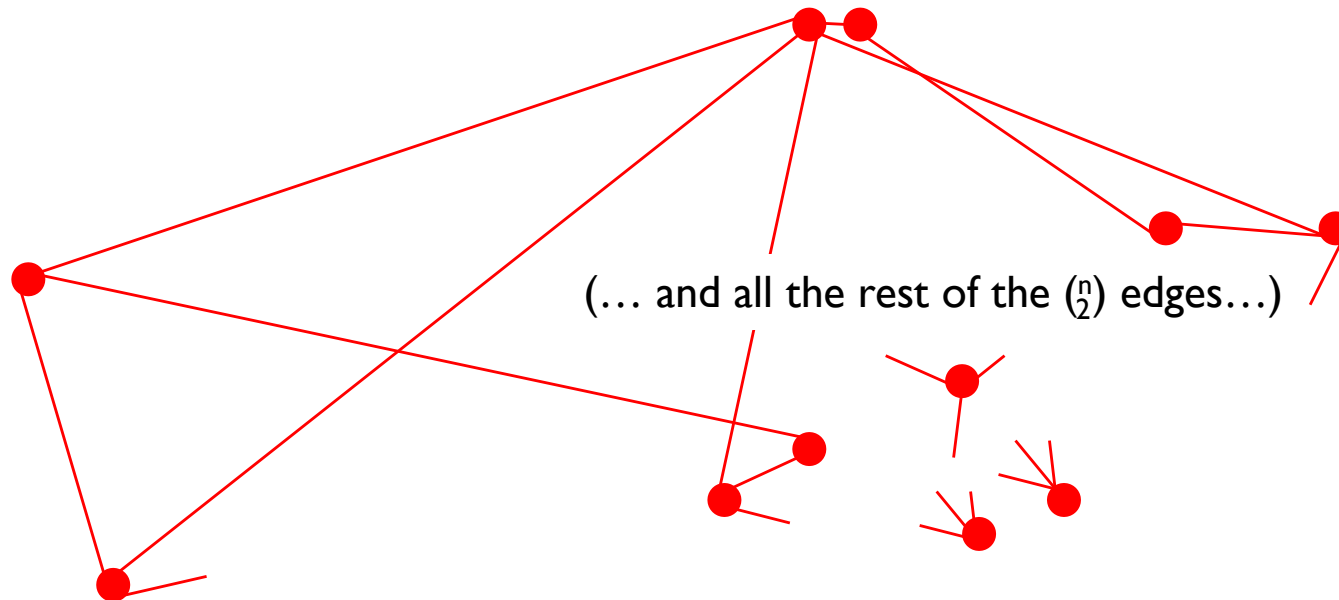
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A Divide & Conquer Example:  
Closest Pair of Points

## closest pair of points: non-geometric version

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Given  $n$  points and *arbitrary* distances between them, find the closest pair. (E.g., think of distance as airfare – definitely *not* Euclidean distance!)



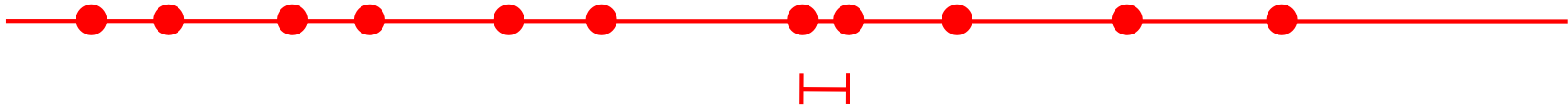
*Must* look at all  $n$  choose 2 pairwise distances, else any one you didn't check might be the shortest.

Also true for Euclidean distance in 1-2 dimensions?

## closest pair of points: 1 dimensional version

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Given  $n$  points on the real line, find the closest pair



Closest pair is *adjacent* in ordered list

Time  $O(n \log n)$  to sort, if needed

Plus  $O(n)$  to scan adjacent pairs

Key point: do *not* need to calc distances between all pairs: exploit geometry + ordering

# closest pair of points: 2 dimensional version

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Closest pair. Given  $n$  points in the plane, find a pair with smallest Euclidean distance between them.

Fundamental geometric primitive.

Graphics, computer vision, geographic information systems, molecular modeling, air traffic control.

Special case of nearest neighbor, Euclidean MST, Voronoi.

↑ fast closest pair inspired fast algorithms for these problems

Brute force: Check all pairs of points  $p$  and  $q$  with  $\Theta(n^2)$  comparisons.

1-D version.  $O(n \log n)$  easy if points are on a line.

Can we do as well in 2-D?

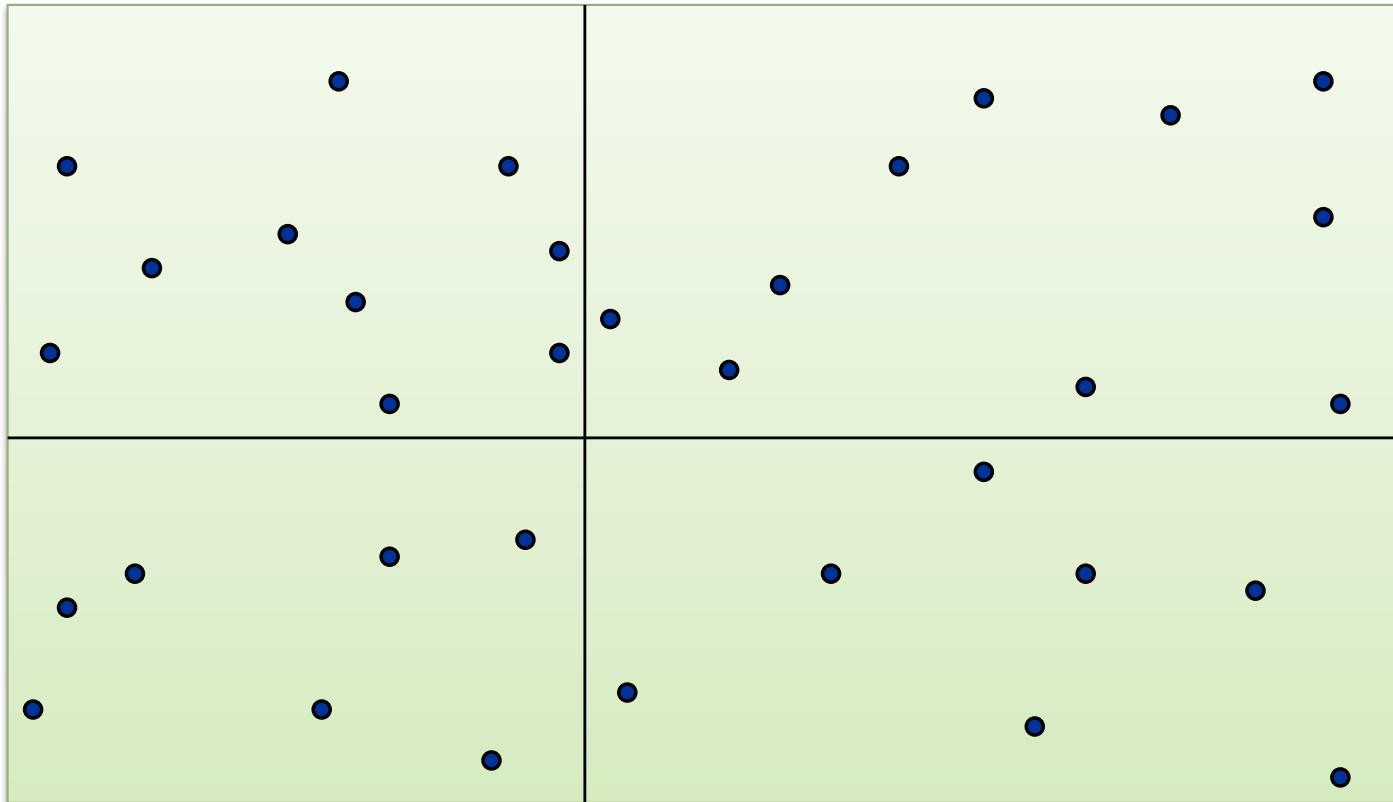
Just to simplify presentation

Assumption. No two points have same  $x$  coordinate.

closest pair of points. 2d, Euclidean distance: 1<sup>st</sup> try

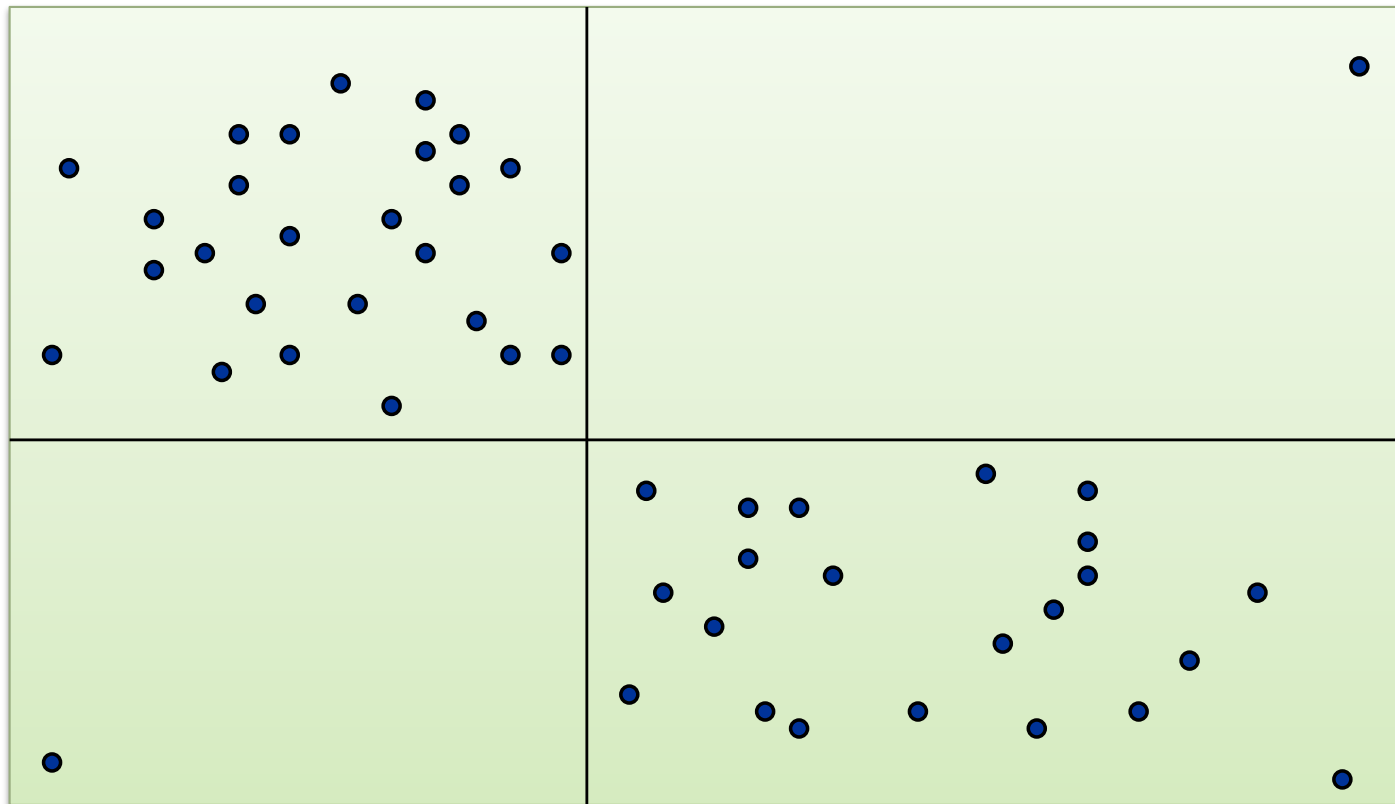
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**Divide. Sub-divide region into 4 quadrants.**



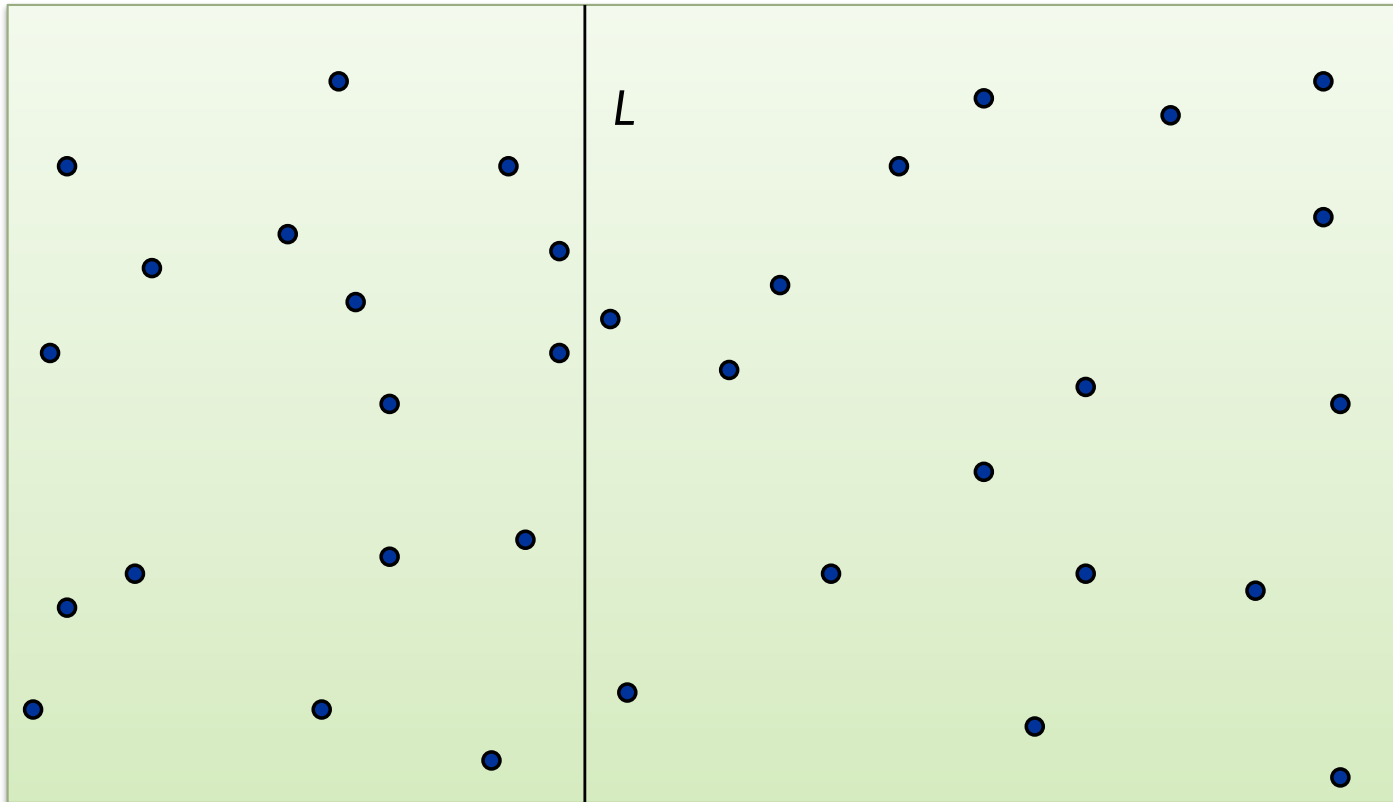
Divide. Sub-divide region into 4 quadrants.

Obstacle. Impossible to ensure  $n/4$  points in each piece, so the “balanced subdivision” goal may be elusive/problematic.



## Algorithm.

Divide: draw vertical line  $L$  with  $\approx n/2$  points on each side.

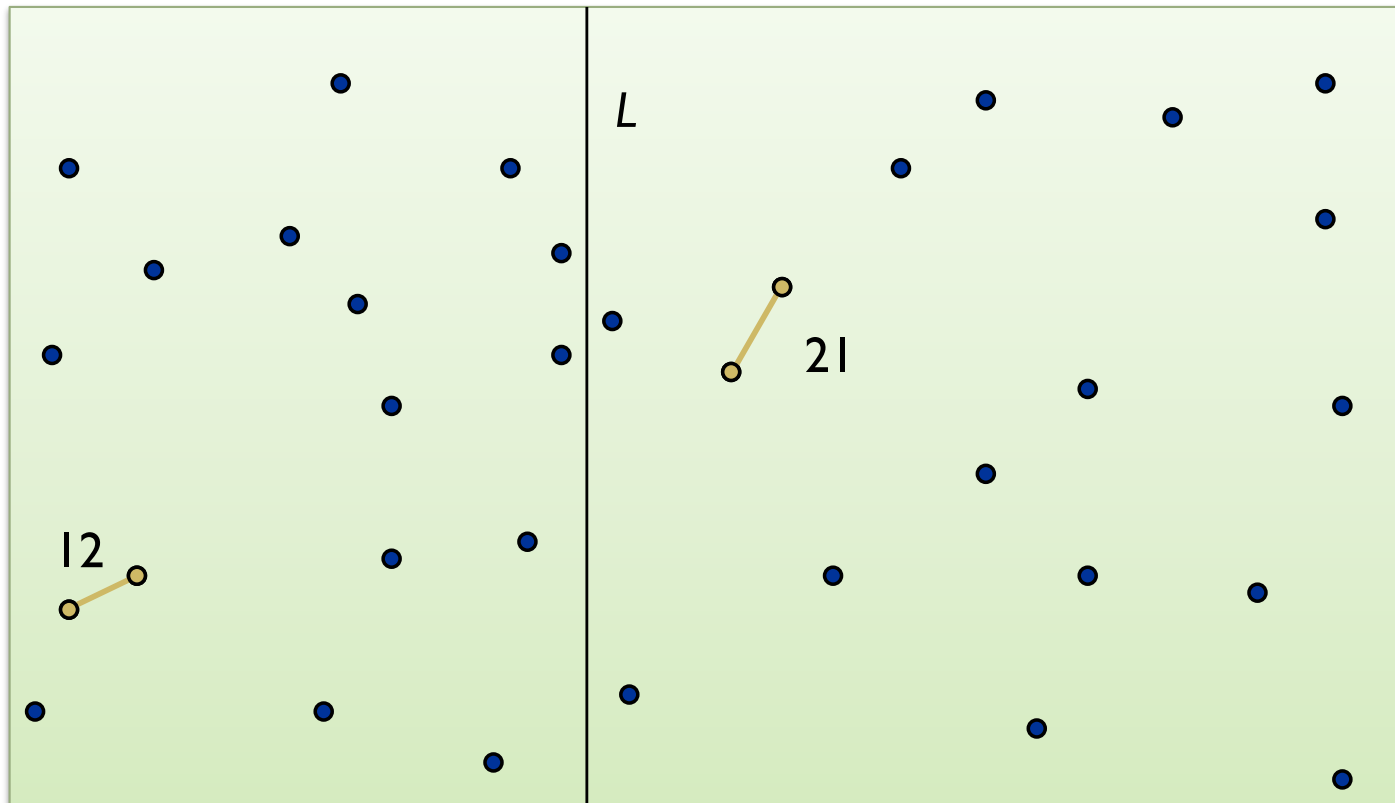




## Algorithm.

Divide: draw vertical line  $L$  with  $\approx n/2$  points on each side.

Conquer: find closest pair on each side, recursively.



## Algorithm.

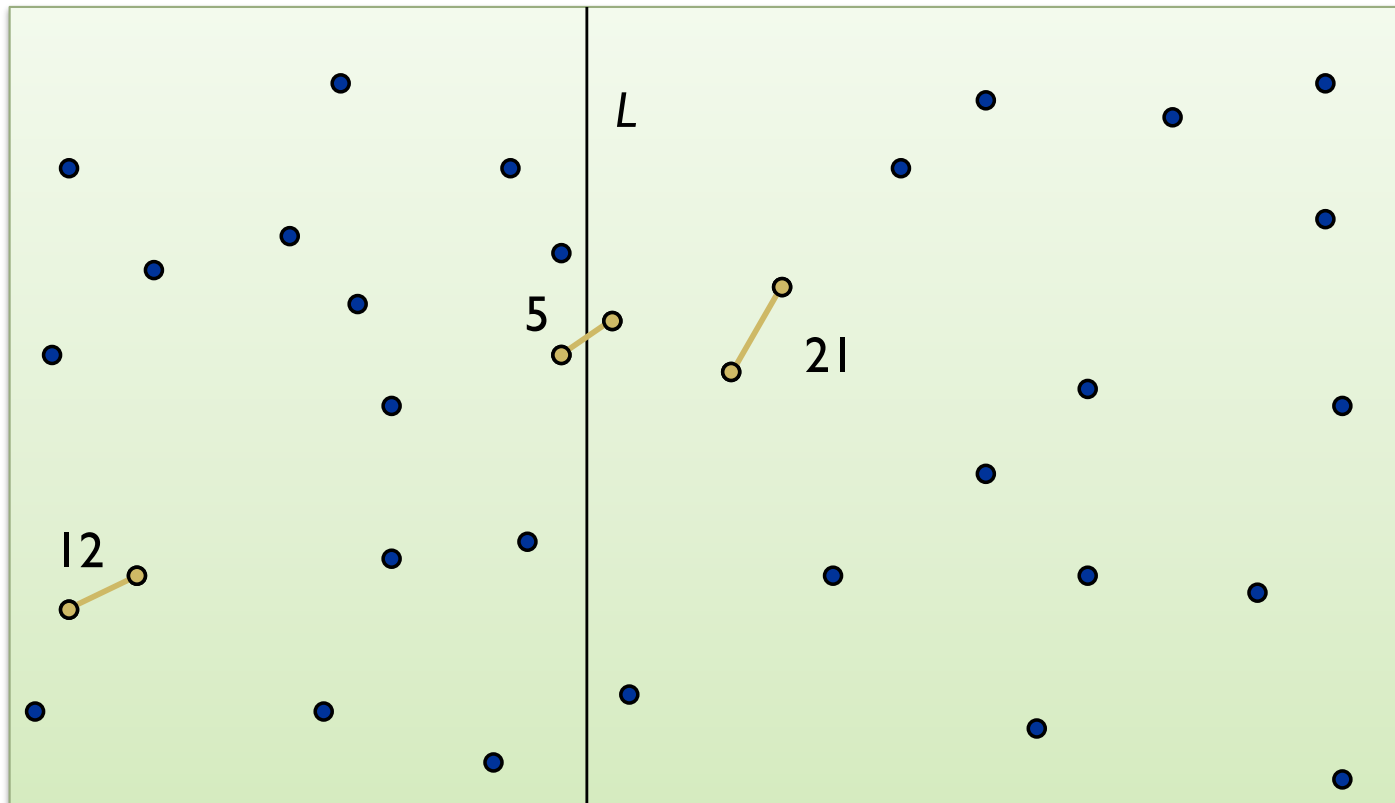
Divide: draw vertical line  $L$  with  $\approx n/2$  points on each side.

Conquer: find closest pair on each side, recursively.

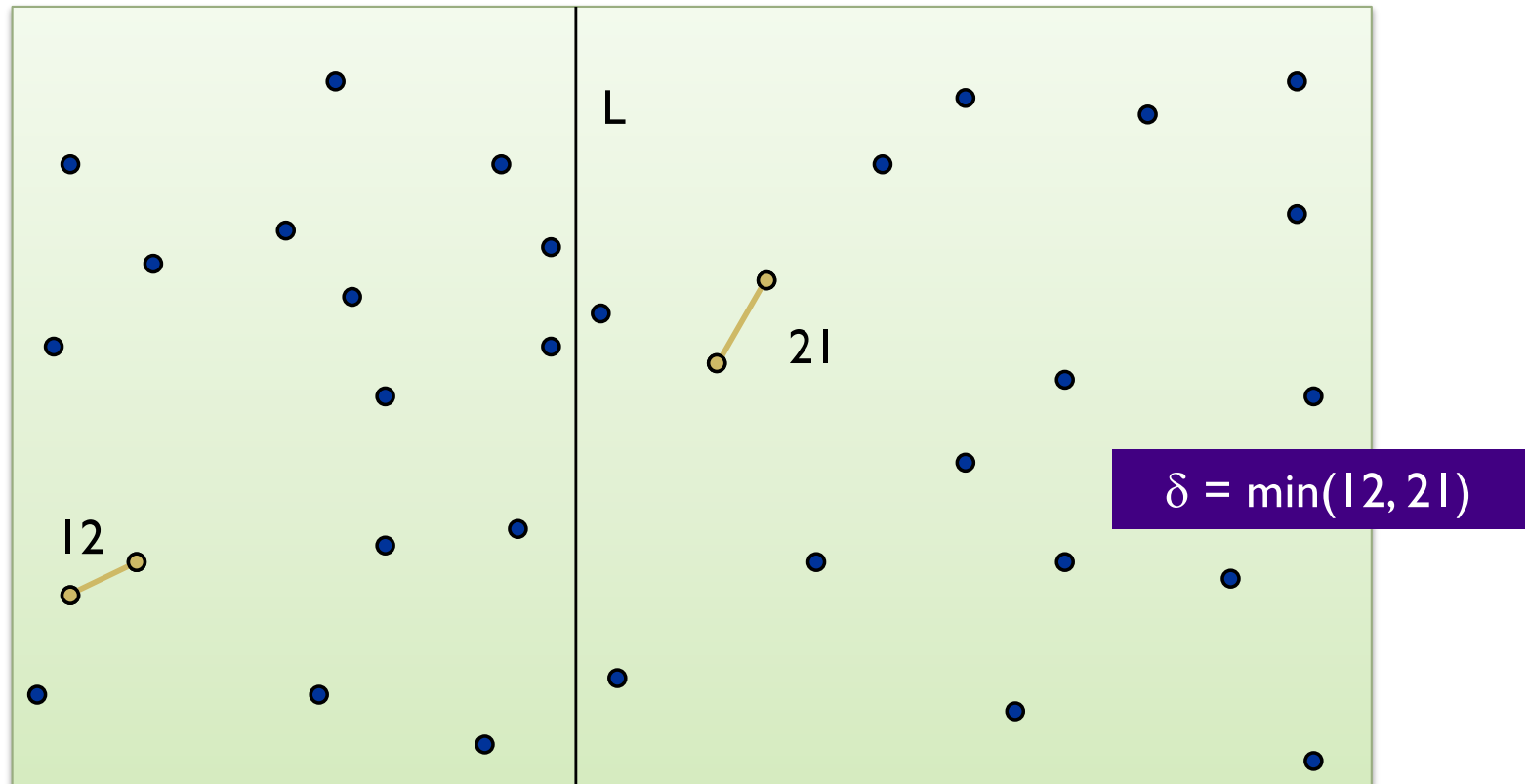
Combine: find closest pair with one point in each side.

Return best of 3 solutions.

←  
seems  
like  
 $\Theta(n^2)$ ?

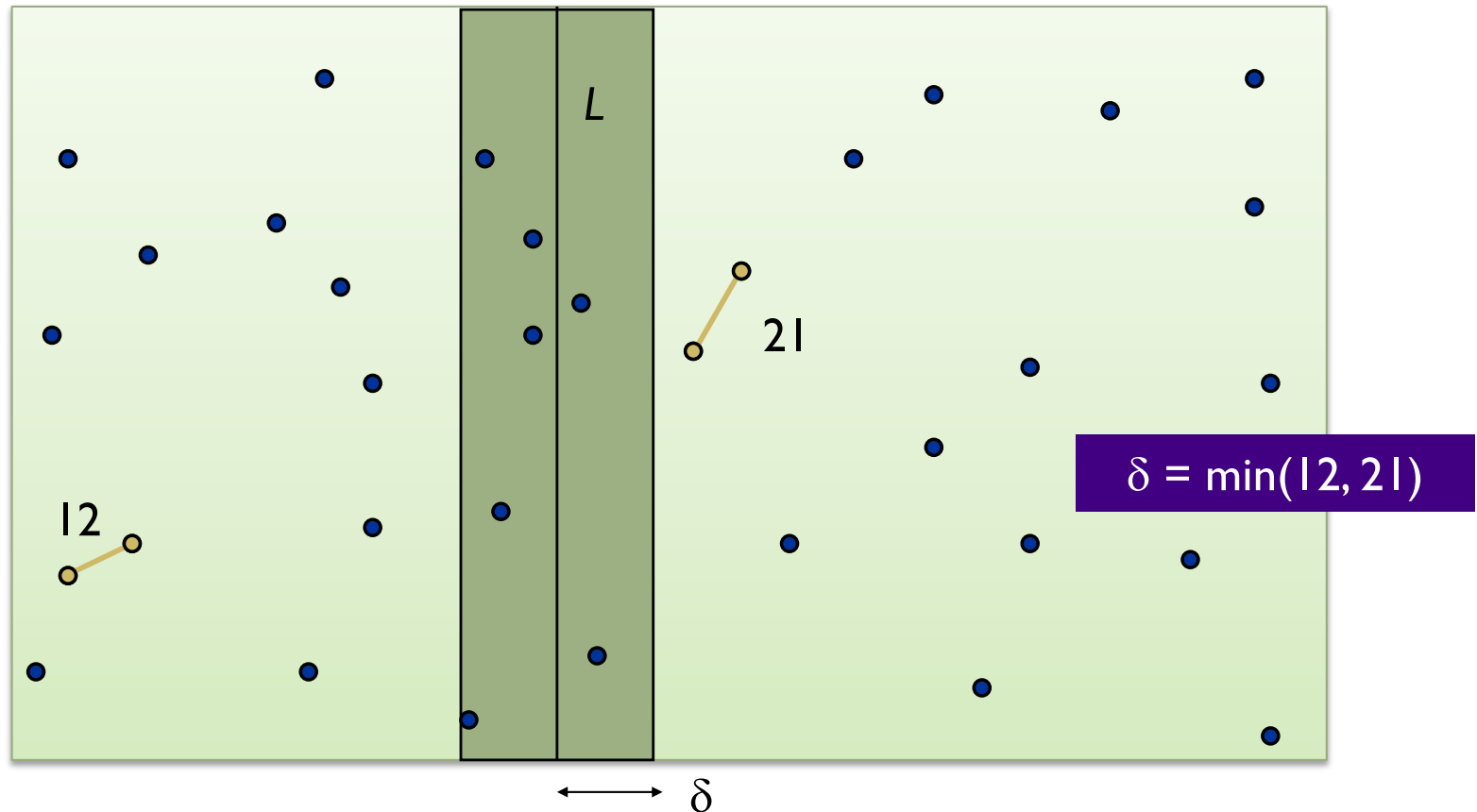


Find closest pair with one point in each side,  
*assuming distance*  $< \delta$ .



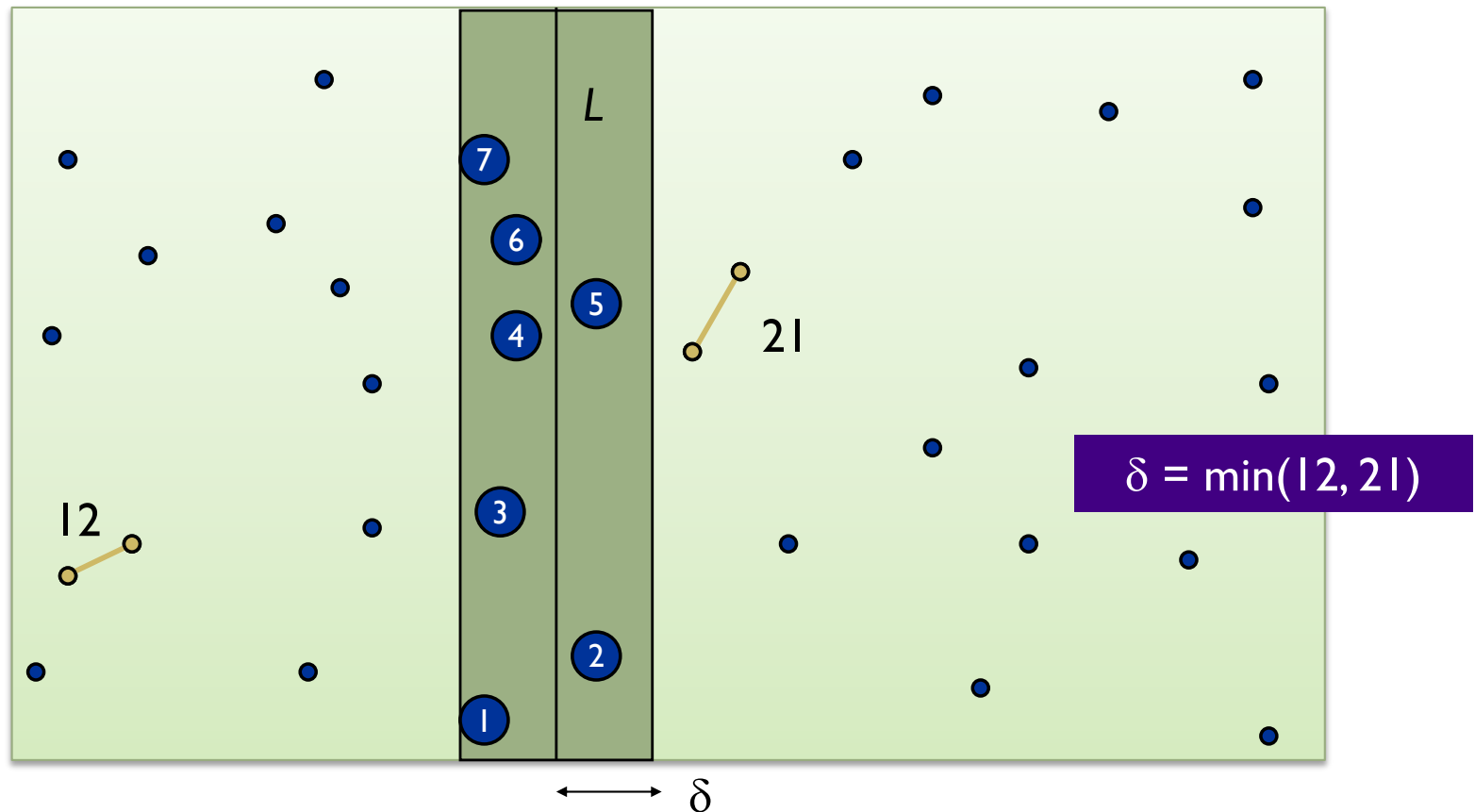
Find closest pair with one point in each side,  
*assuming distance*  $< \delta$ .

Observation: suffices to consider points within  $\delta$  of line  $L$ .



Find closest pair with one point in each side, *assuming* distance  $< \delta$ .

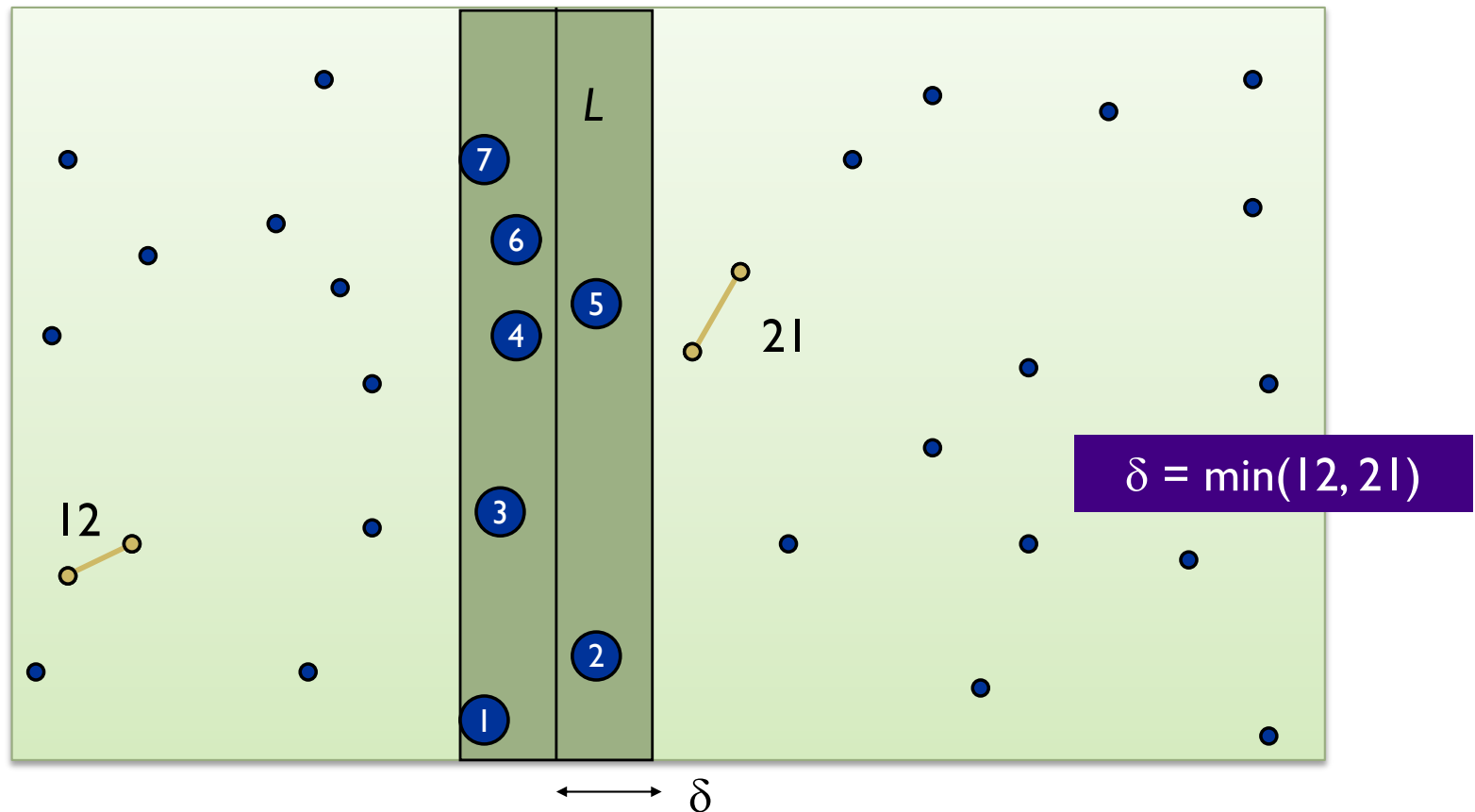
Observation: suffices to consider points within  $\delta$  of line  $L$ .  
 “Almost” the one-D problem again: Sort points in  $2\delta$ -strip by their  $y$  coordinate.



Find closest pair with one point in each side, assuming distance  $< \delta$ .

Observation: suffices to consider points within  $\delta$  of line  $L$ .

“Almost” the one-D problem again: Sort points in  $2\delta$ -strip by their  $y$  coordinate. Only check pts within 8 in sorted list!



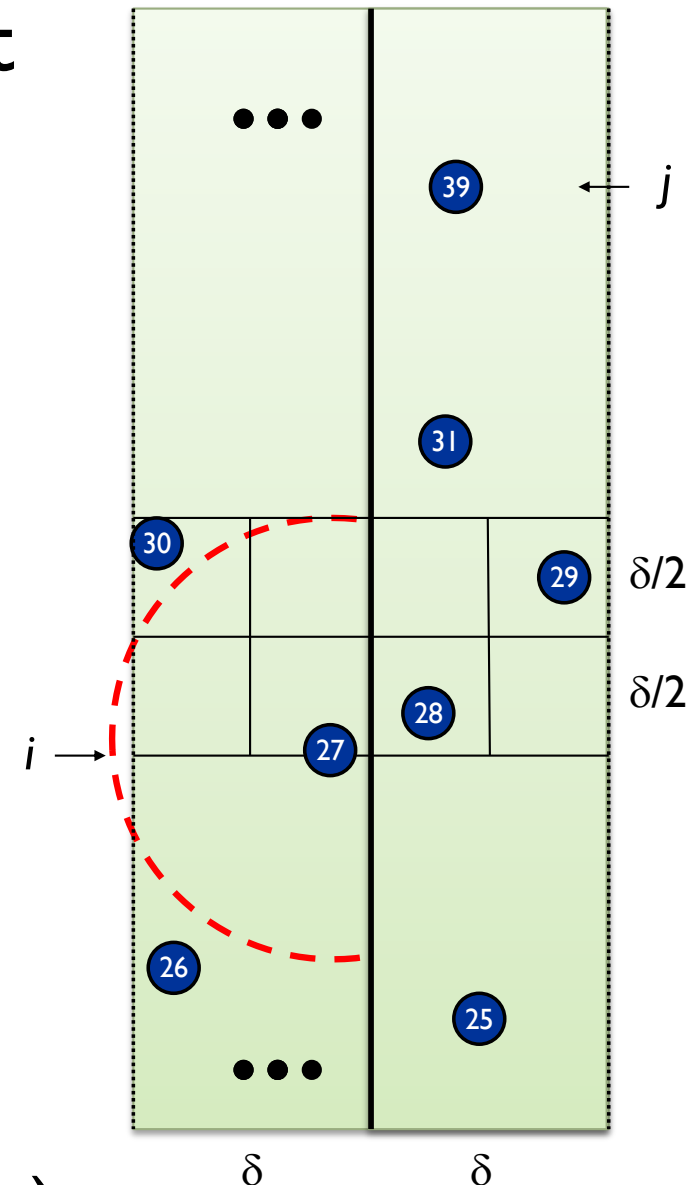
Def. Let  $s_i$  have the  $i^{\text{th}}$  smallest  $y$ -coordinate among points in the  $2\delta$ -width-strip.

Claim. If  $j - i \geq 8$ , then the distance between  $s_i$  and  $s_j$  is  $> \delta$ .

Pf: No two points lie in the same  $\delta/2$ -by- $\delta/2$  square:

$$\sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)^2} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \delta \approx 0.7\delta < \delta$$

so  $\leq 7$  points within  $+\delta$  of  $y(s_i)$ .



# closest pair algorithm

```
Closest-Pair( $p_1, \dots, p_n$ ) {  
  if( $n \leq ??$ ) return ??  
  
  Compute separation line  $L$  such that half the points  
  are on one side and half on the other side.  
  
   $\delta_1 = \text{Closest-Pair}(\text{left half})$   
   $\delta_2 = \text{Closest-Pair}(\text{right half})$   
   $\delta = \min(\delta_1, \delta_2)$   
  
  Delete all points further than  $\delta$  from separation line  $L$   
  
  Sort remaining points  $p[1] \dots p[m]$  by  $y$ -coordinate.  
  
  for  $i = 1..m$   
     $k = 1$   
    while  $i+k \leq m \ \&\& \ p[i+k].y < p[i].y + \delta$   
       $\delta = \min(\delta, \text{distance between } p[i] \text{ and } p[i+k]);$   
       $k++;$   
  
  return  $\delta$ .  
}
```



**Analysis, I:** Let  $D(n)$  be the number of pairwise distance calculations in the Closest-Pair Algorithm when run on  $n \geq 1$  points

$$D(n) \leq \begin{cases} 0 & n = 1 \\ 2D(n/2) + 7n & n > 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow D(n) = O(n \log n)$$

**BUT** – that's only the number of *distance calculations*

What if we counted comparisons?

Analysis, II: Let  $C(n)$  be the number of comparisons between coordinates/distances in the Closest-Pair Algorithm when run on  $n \geq 1$  points

$$C(n) \leq \begin{cases} 0 & n = 1 \\ 2C(n/2) + kn \log n & n > 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow C(n) = O(n \log^2 n)$$

for some constant  $k$

Sort center strip

Q. Can we achieve  $O(n \log n)$  overall?

A. Yes. Don't sort points from scratch each time.

Sort by  $x$  at top level only.

Recursive calls return  $\delta$  and list, sorted by  $y$ , of points @ edges  $\pm \delta$

Sort by **merging** two pre-sorted lists.

$$T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + O(n) \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n \log n)$$

Code is longer & more complex

$O(n \log n)$  vs  $O(n^2)$  may hide 10x in constant?

How many points?

$n$	Speedup: $n^2 / (10 n \log_2 n)$
10	0.3
100	1.5
1,000	10
10,000	75
100,000	602
1,000,000	5,017
10,000,000	43,004

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## Going From Code to Recurrence

Carefully define what you're counting, and *write it down!*

“Let  $C(n)$  be the number of comparisons between sort keys used by MergeSort when sorting a list of length  $n \geq 1$ ”

In code, clearly separate *base case* from *recursive case*, highlight *recursive calls*, and *operations being counted*.

Write Recurrence(s)

Base Case

MS(A: array[1..n]) returns array[1..n] {

If(n=1) return A;

New L:array[1:n/2] = MS(A[1..n/2]);

New R:array[1:n/2] = MS(A[n/2+1..n]);

Return(Merge(L,R));

}

Merge(A,B: array[1..n]) {

New C: array[1..2n];

a=1; b=1;

For i = 1 to 2n {

C[i] = "smaller of A[a], B[b] and a++ or b++";

Return C;

}

Recursive calls

One Recursive Level

Operations being counted

$$C(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2C(n/2) + (n - 1) & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

Base case

Recursive calls

One compare per element added to merged list, except the last.

**Total time: proportional to  $C(n)$**   
(loops, copying data, parameter passing, etc.)

Carefully define what you're counting, and *write it down!*

“Let  $D(n)$  be the number of pairwise distance calculations in the Closest-Pair Algorithm when run on  $n \geq 1$  points”

In code, clearly separate *base case* from *recursive case*, highlight *recursive calls*, and *operations being counted*.

Write Recurrence(s)



# closest pair algorithm

Basic operations:  
distance calcs

```
Closest-Pair( $p_1, \dots, p_n$ ) {  
  if( $n \leq 1$ ) return  $\infty$ 
```

Base Case

0

```
  Compute separation line  $L$  such that half the points  
  are on one side and half on the other side.
```

```
   $\delta_1 =$  Closest-Pair(left half)
```

```
   $\delta_2 =$  Closest-Pair(right half)
```

```
   $\delta = \min(\delta_1, \delta_2)$ 
```

Recursive calls (2)

$2D(n/2)$

```
  Delete all points further than  $\delta$  from separation line  $L$ 
```

```
  Sort remaining points  $p[1]..p[m]$  by  $y$ -coordinate.
```

```
  for  $i = 1..m$ 
```

```
     $k = 1$ 
```

```
    while  $i+k \leq m$  &&  $p[i+k].y < p[i].y + \delta$ 
```

```
       $\delta = \min(\delta, \text{distance between } p[i] \text{ and } p[i+k]);$ 
```

```
       $k++;$ 
```

```
  return  $\delta$ .
```

Basic operations at  
this recursive level

One  
recursive  
level

$7n$

**Analysis, I:** Let  $D(n)$  be the number of pairwise distance calculations in the Closest-Pair Algorithm when run on  $n \geq 1$  points

$$D(n) \leq \begin{cases} 0 & n = 1 \\ 2D(n/2) + 7n & n > 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow D(n) = O(n \log n)$$

**BUT** – that's only the number of *distance calculations*

What if we counted comparisons?

Carefully define what you're counting, and *write it down!*

“Let  $C(n)$  be the number of comparisons between coordinates/distances in the Closest-Pair Algorithm when run on  $n \geq 1$  points”

In code, clearly separate *base case* from *recursive case*, highlight *recursive calls*, and *operations being counted*.

Write Recurrence(s)

# closest pair algorithm

Basic operations:  
*comparisons*

Base Case

Recursive calls (2)

```
Closest-Pair( $p_1, \dots, p_n$ ) {  
  if( $n \leq 1$ ) return  $\infty$ 
```

```
  Compute separation line  $L$  such that half the points  
  are on one side and half on the other side.
```

```
   $\delta_1 =$  Closest-Pair(left half)
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```
   $\delta_2 =$  Closest-Pair(right half)
```

```
   $\delta = \min(\delta_1, \delta_2)$ 
```

```
  Delete all points further than  $\delta$  from separation line  $L$ 
```

```
  Sort remaining points  $p[1]..p[m]$  by  $y$ -coordinate.
```

```
  for  $i = 1..m$ 
```

```
     $k = 1$ 
```

```
    while  $i+k \leq m$  &&  $p[i+k].y < p[i].y + \delta$ 
```

```
       $\delta = \min(\delta, \text{distance between } p[i] \text{ and } p[i+k]);$ 
```

```
       $k++;$ 
```

```
  return  $\delta$ .
```

0

$k_1 n \log n$

$2C(n/2)$

1

$k_2 n$

$k_3 n \log n$

Basic operations at  
this recursive level

$8n$

$7n$

One  
recursive  
level

Analysis, II: Let  $C(n)$  be the number of comparisons of coordinates/distances in the Closest-Pair Algorithm when run on  $n \geq 1$  points

$$C(n) \leq \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0 & n = 1 \\ 2C(n/2) + k_4 n \log_2 n & n > 1 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow C(n) = O(n \log^2 n)$$

for  $k_4 = k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + 16$

Q. Can we achieve time  $O(n \log n)$ ?

A. Yes. Don't sort points from scratch each time.

Sort by  $x$  at top level only.

Recursive calls return  $\delta$  and list, sorted by  $y$ , of points @ edges  $\pm \delta$

Sort by **merging** two pre-sorted lists.

$$T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + O(n) \Rightarrow T(n) = O(n \log n)$$

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# Integer Multiplication

Add. Given two  $n$ -bit integers  $a$  and  $b$ , compute  $a + b$ .

Add

							Carries	
							0	
				0		0		0
	+	0						0
<hr/>								
		0		0		0	0	
								0

$O(n)$  bit operations.





## divide & conquer multiplication: warmup

To multiply two 2-digit (decimal) integers:

Multiply four 1-digit integers.

Add, shift some 2-digit integers to obtain result.

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 10 \cdot x_1 + x_0 \\y &= 10 \cdot y_1 + y_0 \\xy &= (10 \cdot x_1 + x_0)(10 \cdot y_1 + y_0) \\&= 100 \cdot x_1 y_1 + 10 \cdot (x_1 y_0 + x_0 y_1) + x_0 y_0\end{aligned}$$

Same idea works for *long* integers –  
can split them into 4 half-sized ints  
("10" becomes "10<sup>k</sup>",  $k = \text{length}/2$ )

4	5	$y_1 y_0$	
3	2	$x_1 x_0$	
<hr/>			
1	0	$x_0 y_0$	
0	8	$x_0 y_1$	
1	5	$x_1 y_0$	
1	2	$x_1 y_1$	
<hr/>			
1	4	4	0

NB:  $10^k \cdot z$  is a *shift*, not a (general) multiplication

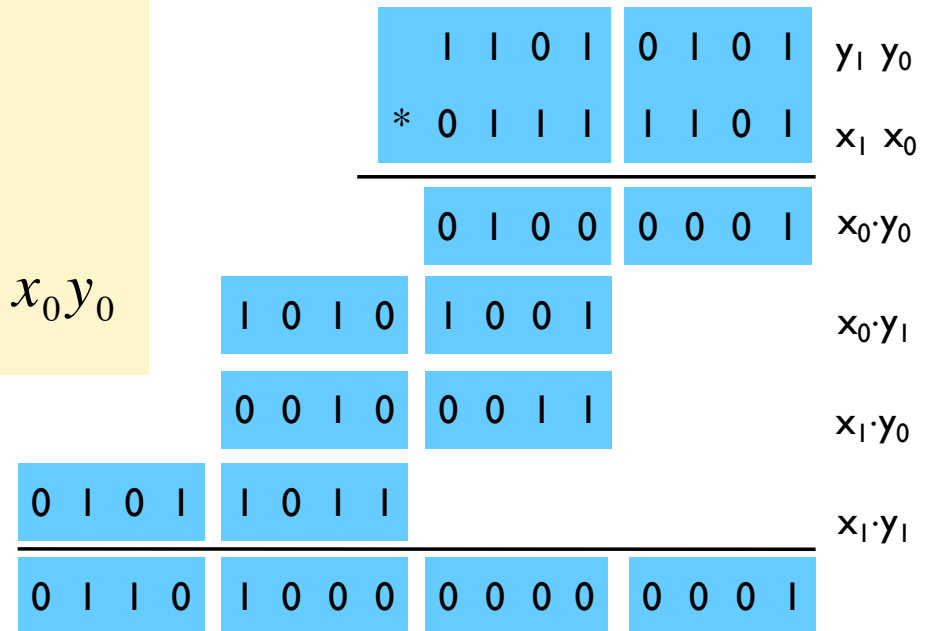
# divide & conquer multiplication: warmup

## To multiply two $n$ -bit integers:

Multiply four  $\frac{1}{2}n$ -bit integers.

Shift/add four  $n$ -bit integers to obtain result.

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 2^{n/2} \cdot x_1 + x_0 \\
 y &= 2^{n/2} \cdot y_1 + y_0 \\
 xy &= (2^{n/2} \cdot x_1 + x_0) (2^{n/2} \cdot y_1 + y_0) \\
 &= 2^n \cdot x_1 y_1 + 2^{n/2} \cdot (x_1 y_0 + x_0 y_1) + x_0 y_0
 \end{aligned}$$



$$T(n) = \underbrace{4T(n/2)}_{\text{recursive calls}} + \underbrace{\Theta(n)}_{\text{add, shift}} \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$$



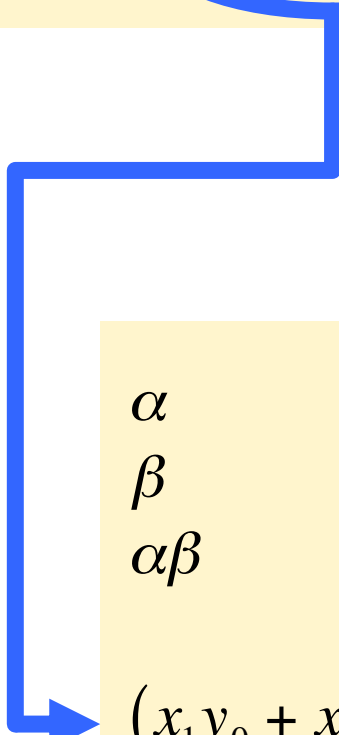
assumes  $n$  is a power of 2

key trick: 2 multiplies for the price of 1:

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$$\begin{aligned}x &= 2^{n/2} \cdot x_1 + x_0 \\y &= 2^{n/2} \cdot y_1 + y_0 \\xy &= (2^{n/2} \cdot x_1 + x_0)(2^{n/2} \cdot y_1 + y_0) \\&= 2^n \cdot x_1 y_1 + 2^{n/2} \cdot (x_1 y_0 + x_0 y_1) + x_0 y_0\end{aligned}$$

Well, ok, 4 for 3 is more accurate...


$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= x_1 + x_0 \\ \beta &= y_1 + y_0 \\ \alpha\beta &= (x_1 + x_0)(y_1 + y_0) \\ &= x_1 y_1 + (x_1 y_0 + x_0 y_1) + x_0 y_0 \\ (x_1 y_0 + x_0 y_1) &= \alpha\beta - x_1 y_1 - x_0 y_0\end{aligned}$$



# Karatsuba multiplication

Theorem. [Karatsuba-Ofman, 1962] Can multiply two  $n$ -digit integers in  $O(n^{1.585})$  bit operations.

$$T(n) \leq \underbrace{T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + T(1 + \lceil n/2 \rceil)}_{\text{recursive calls}} + \underbrace{\Theta(n)}_{\text{add, subtract, shift}}$$

Best to solve it directly (but messy). Instead, it nearly always suffices to solve a simpler recurrence:

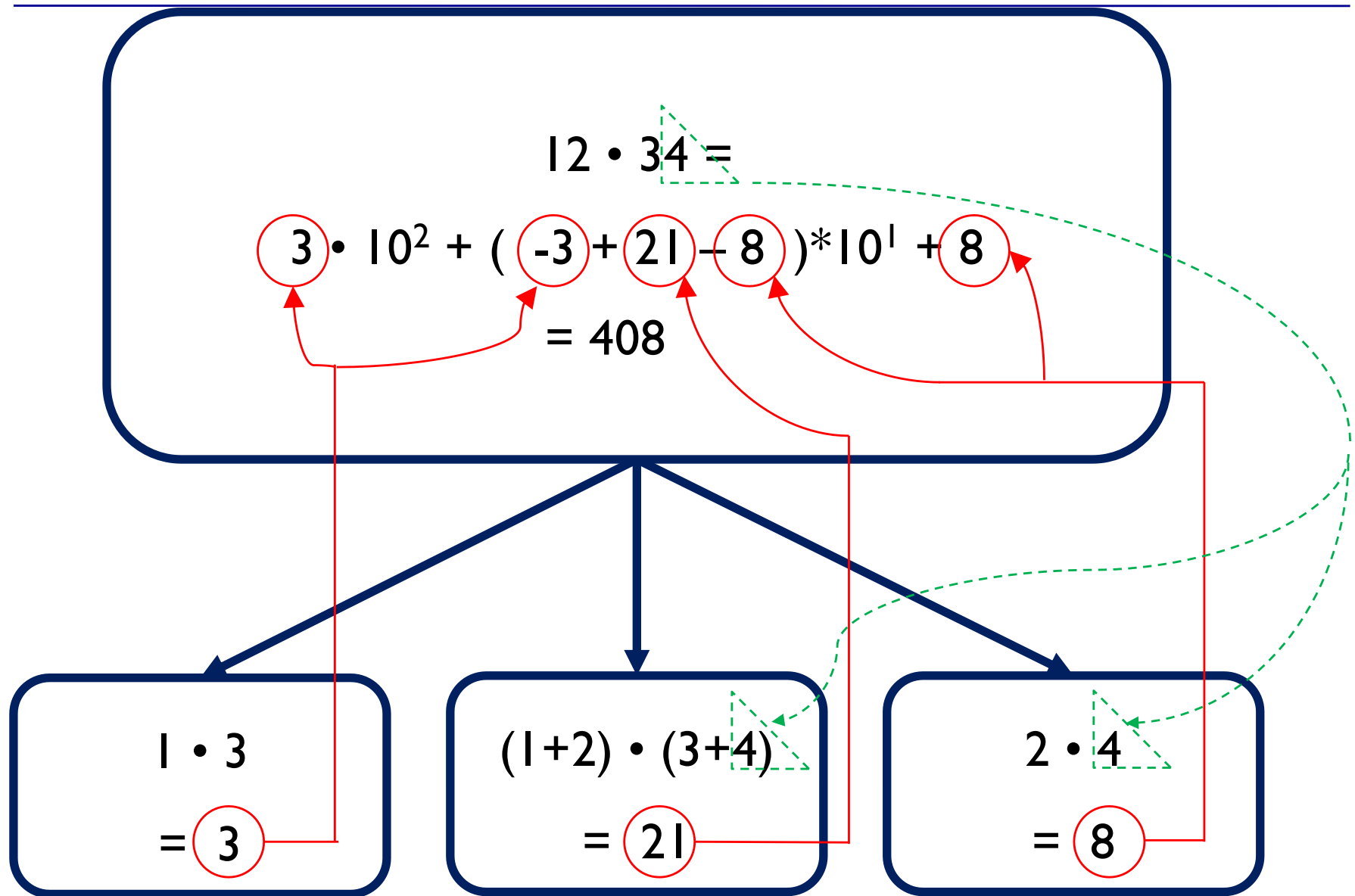
$$\text{Sloppy version : } T(n) \leq 3T(n/2) + O(n)$$

Intuition: If  $T(n) = n^k$ , then  $T(n+1) = n^k + kn^{k-1} + \dots = O(n^k)$

$$\Rightarrow T(n) = O(n^{\log_2 3}) = O(n^{1.585})$$

(Proof later.)

# Karatsuba: A Decimal Example



Each digit of multiplier & multiplicand flows into 2 of the lower subproblems (only “4” shown; green). Each sub-result flows back to 1 or 2 terms in parent (red).

Naïve:  $\Theta(n^2)$

Karatsuba:  $\Theta(n^{1.59\dots})$

Amusing exercise: generalize Karatsuba to do 5 size  $n/3$  subproblems  $\rightarrow \Theta(n^{1.46\dots})$

Best known:  $\Theta(n \log n \log \log n)$

"Fast Fourier Transform"

but mostly unused in practice, unless you need really big numbers - a billion digits of  $\pi$ , say

High precision arithmetic *IS* important for crypto, among other uses

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## Recurrences

Above: Where they come from, how to find them

Next: how to solve them



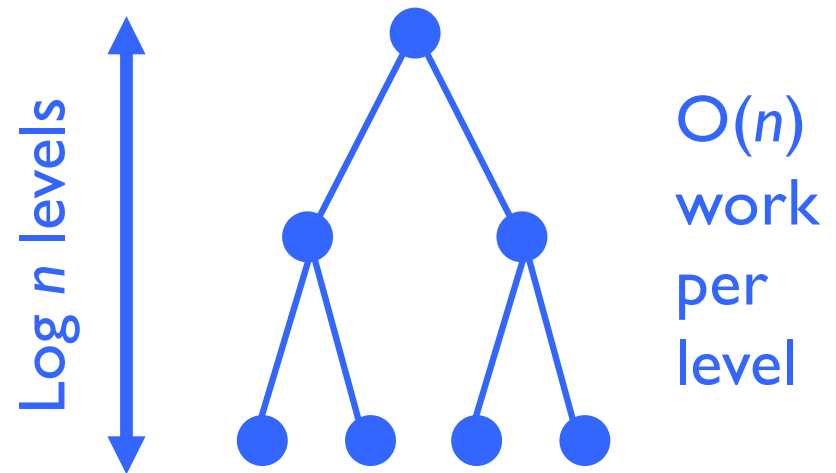
Mergesort: (recursively) sort 2 half-lists, then merge results.

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + cn, \quad n \geq 2$$

$$T(1) = 0$$

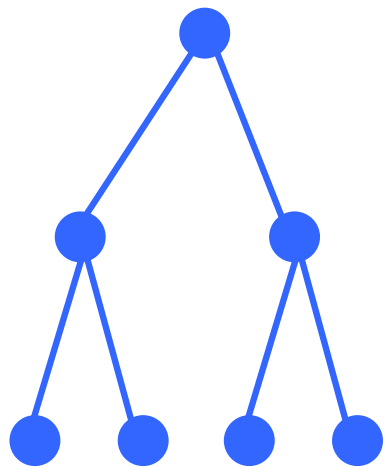
Solution:  $\Theta(n \log n)$   
(~~details later~~)

**now!**



Solve:  $T(1) = c$   
 $T(n) = 2 T(n/2) + cn$

Careful: what's being counted?

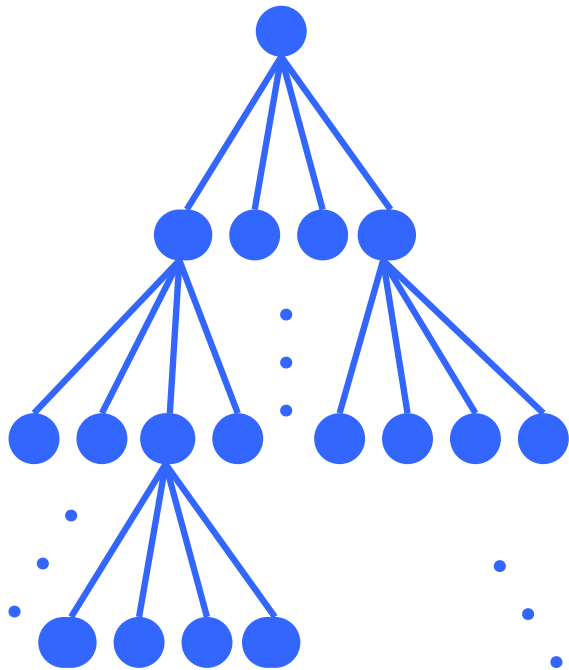


Level	Num	Size	Work
0	$1 = 2^0$	$n$	$cn$
1	$2 = 2^1$	$n/2$	$2cn/2$
2	$4 = 2^2$	$n/4$	$4cn/4$
...	...	...	...
$i$	$2^i$	$n/2^i$	$2^i c n/2^i$
...	...	...	...
$k-1$	$2^{k-1}$	$n/2^{k-1}$	$2^{k-1} c n/2^{k-1}$
$k$	$2^k$	$n/2^k = 1$	$2^k T(1)$

$n = 2^k ; k = \log_2 n$

Total Work:  $T(n) = c n (1 + \log_2 n)$  (add last col)

Solve:  $T(1) = c$   
 $T(n) = 4 T(n/2) + cn$



$n = 2^k ; k = \log_2 n$

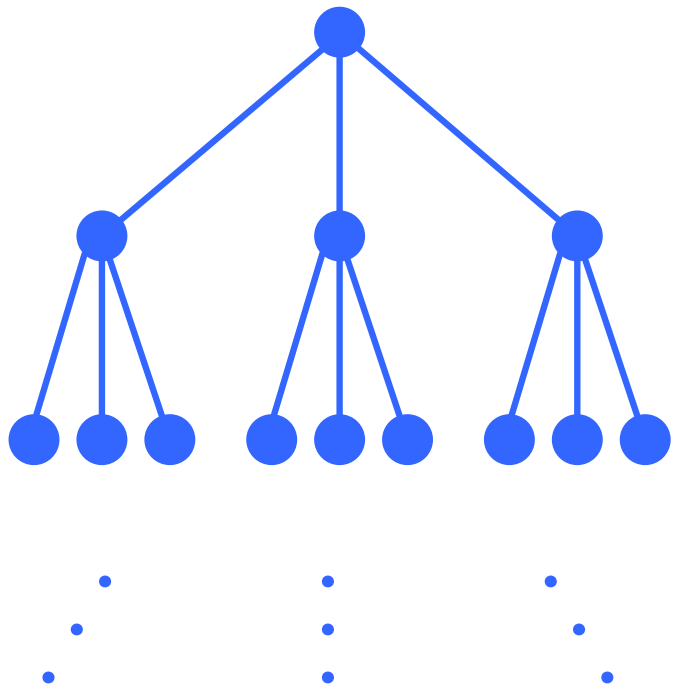
Level	Num	Size	Work
0	$1 = 4^0$	$n$	$cn$
1	$4 = 4^1$	$n/2$	$4cn/2$
2	$16 = 4^2$	$n/4$	$16cn/4$
...	...	...	...
i	$4^i$	$n/2^i$	$4^i c n/2^i$
...	...	...	...
k-1	$4^{k-1}$	$n/2^{k-1}$	$4^{k-1} c n/2^{k-1}$
k	$4^k$	$n/2^k = 1$	$4^k T(1)$

Total Work:  $T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^k 4^i cn / 2^i = O(n^2)$

Details below

$4^k = (2^2)^k = (2^k)^2 = n^2$

Solve:  $T(1) = c$   
 $T(n) = 3 T(n/2) + cn$



$n = 2^k ; k = \log_2 n$

Level	Num	Size	Work
0	$1 = 3^0$	$n$	$cn$
1	$3 = 3^1$	$n/2$	$3cn/2$
2	$9 = 3^2$	$n/4$	$9cn/4$
...	...	...	...
$i$	$3^i$	$n/2^i$	$3^i c n/2^i$
...	...	...	...
$k-1$	$3^{k-1}$	$n/2^{k-1}$	$3^{k-1} c n/2^{k-1}$
$k$	$3^k$	$n/2^k = 1$	$3^k T(1)$

Total Work:  $T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^k 3^i cn / 2^i = O(n^{\log_2 3})$

Details below

Theorem: for  $x \neq 1$ ,

$$1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots + x^k = (x^{k+1} - 1)/(x - 1)$$

proof:

Corr.: for  $0 < x < 1$ ,  
the sum is  $< 1/(1-x)$

$$y = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots + x^k$$

$$xy = x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots + x^k + x^{k+1}$$

$$xy - y = x^{k+1} - 1$$

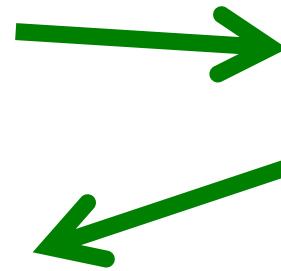
$$y(x - 1) = x^{k+1} - 1$$

$$y = (x^{k+1} - 1)/(x - 1)$$

Solve:  $T(1) = c$   
 $T(n) = 3 T(n/2) + cn$  (cont.)

---

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= \sum_{i=0}^k 3^i cn / 2^i \\ &= cn \sum_{i=0}^k 3^i / 2^i \\ &= cn \sum_{i=0}^k \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^i \\ &= cn \frac{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{k+1} - 1}{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) - 1} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^k x^i &= \\ \frac{x^{k+1} - 1}{x - 1} \\ (x \neq 1) \end{aligned}$$

Solve:  $T(1) = c$

$$T(n) = 3 T(n/2) + cn \quad (\text{cont.})$$

---

$$cn \frac{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{k+1} - 1}{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) - 1} = 2cn \left( \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{k+1} - 1 \right)$$

$$< 2cn \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{k+1}$$

$$= 3cn \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^k$$

$$= 3cn \frac{3^k}{2^k}$$

Solve:  $T(1) = c$

$$T(n) = 3 T(n/2) + cn \quad (\text{cont.})$$

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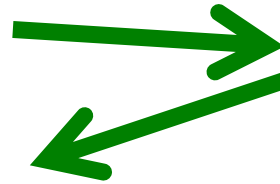
$$3cn \frac{3^k}{2^k} = 3cn \frac{3^{\log_2 n}}{2^{\log_2 n}}$$

$$= 3cn \frac{3^{\log_2 n}}{n}$$

$$= 3c 3^{\log_2 n}$$

$$= 3c \left( n^{\log_2 3} \right)$$

$$= O\left( n^{1.585\dots} \right)$$



$$\begin{aligned} & a^{\log_b n} \\ &= \left( b^{\log_b a} \right)^{\log_b n} \\ &= \left( b^{\log_b n} \right)^{\log_b a} \\ &= n^{\log_b a} \end{aligned}$$



## divide and conquer – master recurrence

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$$T(n) = d \quad \text{for } n < b,$$

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + cn^k \text{ for } n \geq b \text{ then}$$

$$c=0 \text{ or } a > b^k \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a}) \quad [\text{many subprobs} \rightarrow \text{leaves dominate}]$$

$$a < b^k \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^k) \quad [\text{few subprobs} \rightarrow \text{top level dominates}]$$

$$a = b^k \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^k \log n) \quad [\text{balanced} \rightarrow \text{all } \log n \text{ levels contribute}]$$

Fine print:

$$a \geq 1; b > 1; c, d, k \geq 0; n = b^t \text{ for some } t > 0;$$

$a, b, k, t$  integers. True even if it is  $\lceil n/b \rceil$  instead of  $n/b$  when  $t$  is not an integer.

Expand recurrence as in earlier examples, to get

$$T(n) = n^h ( d + c S )$$

where  $h = \log_b(a)$  (and  $n^h =$  number of tree leaves) and  $S = \sum_{j=1}^{\log_b n} x^j$ ,  
where  $x = b^k/a$ .

If  $c = 0$  the sum  $S$  is irrelevant, and  $T(n) = O(n^h)$ : all work happens in the base cases, of which there are  $n^h$ , one for each leaf in the recursion tree.

If  $c > 0$ , then the sum matters, and splits into 3 cases (like previous slide):

if  $x < 1$ , then  $S < x/(1-x) = O(1)$ . [S is the first  $\log n$  terms of the infinite series with that sum.]

if  $x = 1$ , then  $S = \log_b(n) = O(\log n)$ . [All terms in the sum are 1 and there are that many terms.]

if  $x > 1$ , then  $S = x \cdot (x^{1+\log_b(n)} - 1)/(x - 1)$ . [And after some algebra,  $n^h * S = O(n^k)$ .]

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Another D & C Example:  
Exponentiation

Power( $a,n$ )

**Input:** integer  $n$  and number  $a$

**Output:**  $a^n$

Obvious algorithm

$n-1$  multiplications

Observation:

if  $n$  is even,  $n = 2m$ , then  $a^n = a^m \bullet a^m$

Power( $a, n$ )

if  $n = 0$  then return(1)

if  $n = 1$  then return( $a$ )

$x \leftarrow \text{Power}(a, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$

$x \leftarrow x \bullet x$

if  $n$  is odd then

$x \leftarrow a \bullet x$

return( $x$ )

Let  $M(n)$  be number of multiplies

Worst-case  
recurrence: 
$$M(n) \leq \begin{cases} 0 & n \leq 1 \\ M(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 2 & n > 1 \end{cases}$$

By master theorem

$$M(n) = O(\log n) \quad (a=1, b=2, c=2, d=k=0)$$

More precise analysis:

$$M(n) = \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + (\# \text{ of } 1\text{'s in } n\text{'s binary representation}) - 1$$

Time is  $O(M(n))$  if numbers  $<$  word size, else also depends on length, multiply algorithm

Instead of  $a^n$  want  $a^n \bmod N$

$$a^{i+j} \bmod N = ((a^i \bmod N) \cdot (a^j \bmod N)) \bmod N$$

same algorithm applies with each  $x \cdot y$  replaced by

$$((x \bmod N) \cdot (y \bmod N)) \bmod N$$

In RSA cryptosystem (widely used for security, e.g. <https://...>)

need  $a^n \bmod N$  where  $a, n, N$  each typically have 1024 bits

Power: at most 2048 multiplies of 1024 bit numbers

relatively easy for modern machines

Naive algorithm:  $2^{1024} \approx 1.8 \times 10^{308}$  multiplies

For comparison, the age of the universe is  $\approx 4.4 \times 10^{26}$  nanoseconds

I.e., @ 1 mult per ns, naive alg would take  $10^{282} \times$  age of universe

Idea: Divide large problem into a few smaller problems of the same type & join sub-results

“Two halves are better than a whole”

if the base algorithm has *super-linear* complexity, & “join” is cheap

“If a little's good, then more's better”

repeat above, recursively

Utility:

Often faster; correctness often easy

Analysis: recursion tree, Master Recurrence, etc.

Applications: Many.

Binary Search, Merge Sort, (Quicksort), Closest Points, Integer Multiply, Exponentiation, FFT, ...