Syrian Private University

Algorithms & Data Structure I

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Solving Recurrences

Divide and Conquer

- Recursive in structure
  - ***Divide*** the problem into sub-problems that are similar to the original but smaller in size
  - ***Conquer*** the sub-problems by solving them recursively. If they are small enough, just solve them in a straightforward manner.
  - ***Combine*** the solutions to create a solution to the original problem

An Example: Merge Sort

***Sorting Problem*:** Sort a sequence of *n* elements into non-decreasing order.

- ***Divide*:** Divide the *n*-element sequence to be sorted into two subsequences of *n/2* elements each
- ***Conquer:*** Sort the two subsequences recursively using merge sort.
- ***Combine*:** Merge the two sorted subsequences to produce the sorted answer.

Merge-Sort (A, p, r)

INPUT: a sequence of n numbers stored in array A

OUTPUT: an ordered sequence of n numbers

```
MergeSort (A, p, r)   // sort A[p..r] by divide & conquer
1   if p < r
2       then q ← ⌊(p+r)/2⌋
3            MergeSort (A, p, q)
4            MergeSort (A, q+1, r)
5            Merge (A, p, q, r) // merges A[p..q] with A[q+1..r]
```

Initial Call: MergeSort(A, 1, n)

Analysis of Merge Sort

- Running time $T(n)$ of Merge Sort:
- Divide: computing the middle takes $\Theta(1)$
- Conquer: solving 2 sub-problems takes $2T(n/2)$
- Combine: merging n elements takes $\Theta(n)$
- Total:

$$T(n) = \Theta(1) \quad \text{if } n = 1$$
$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) \quad \text{if } n > 1$$

$\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n \lg n)$

Recursion-Tree Method

- Recursion Trees
  - Show successive expansions of recurrences using trees.
  - Keep track of the time spent on the sub problems of a divide and conquer algorithm.

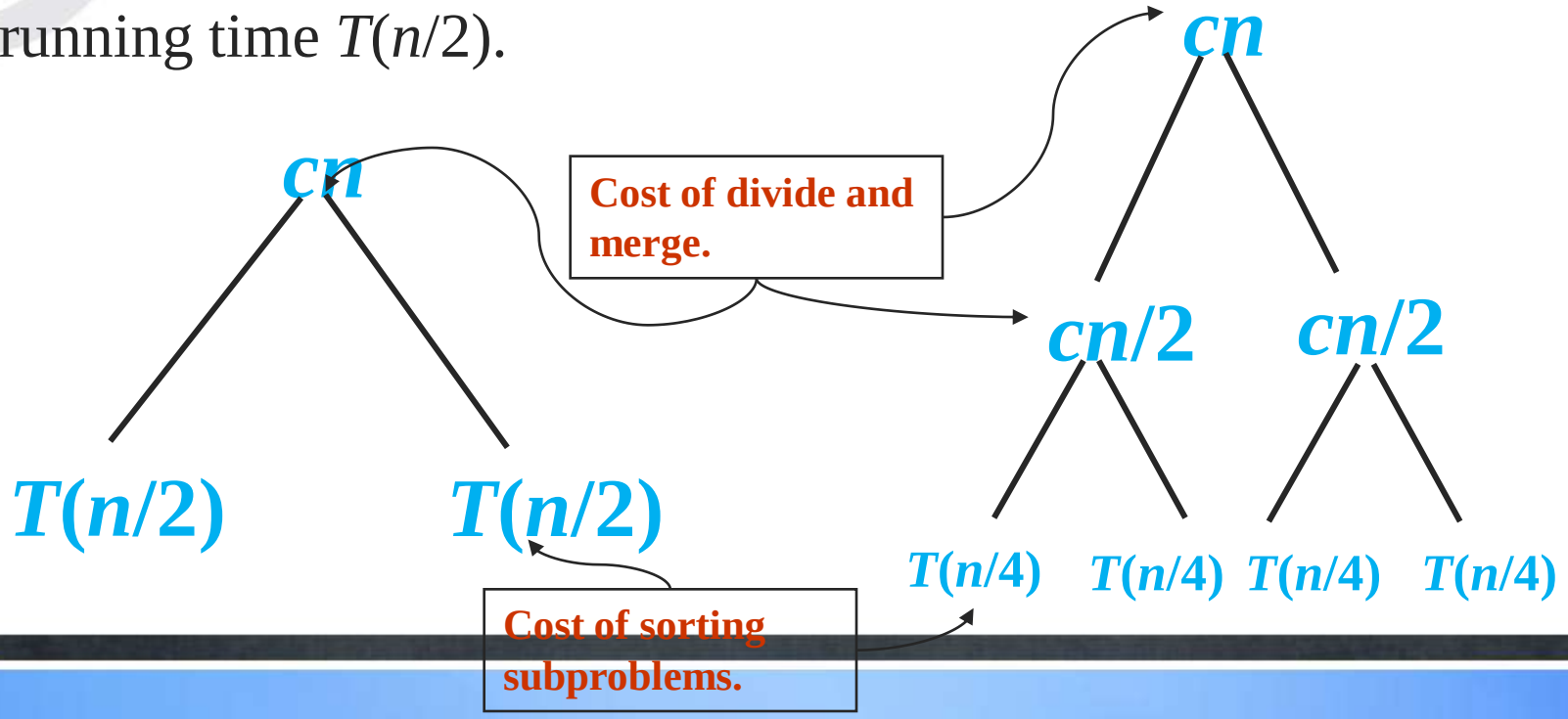
Recursion-Tree method

- A recursion tree models the costs (time) of a recursive execution of an algorithm.
- The recursion tree method is good for generating guesses for the substitution method.
- The recursion-tree method can be unreliable.
- The recursion-tree method promotes intuition, however.

Recursion Tree for Merge Sort

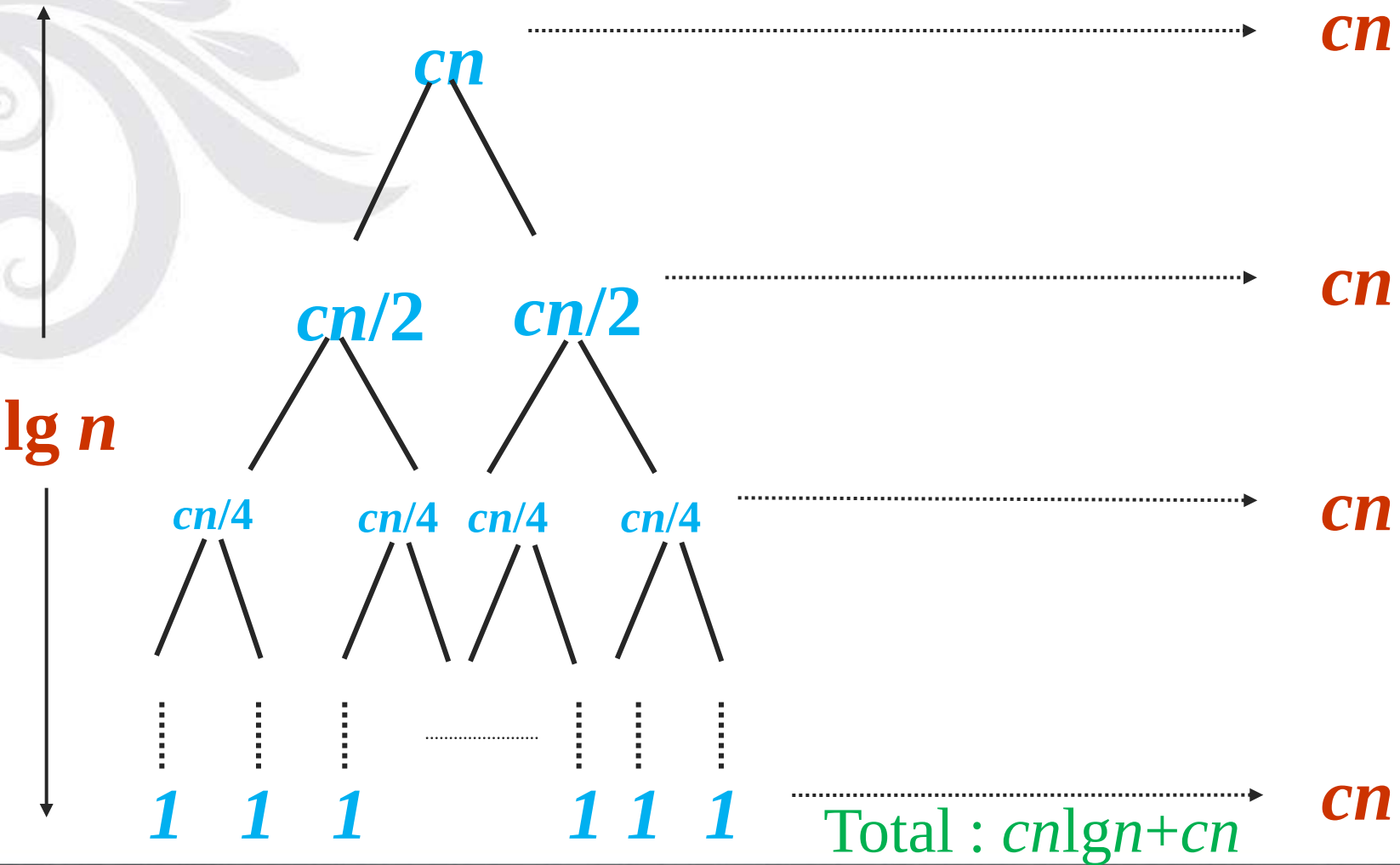
For the original problem, we have a cost of *cn*, plus two sub-problems each of size ($n/2$) and running time $T(n/2)$.

Each of the size $n/2$ problems has a cost of $cn/2$ plus two sub-problems, each costing $T(n/4)$.



Recursion Tree for Merge Sort

Continue expanding until the problem size reduces to 1.



Recursion Tree for Merge Sort

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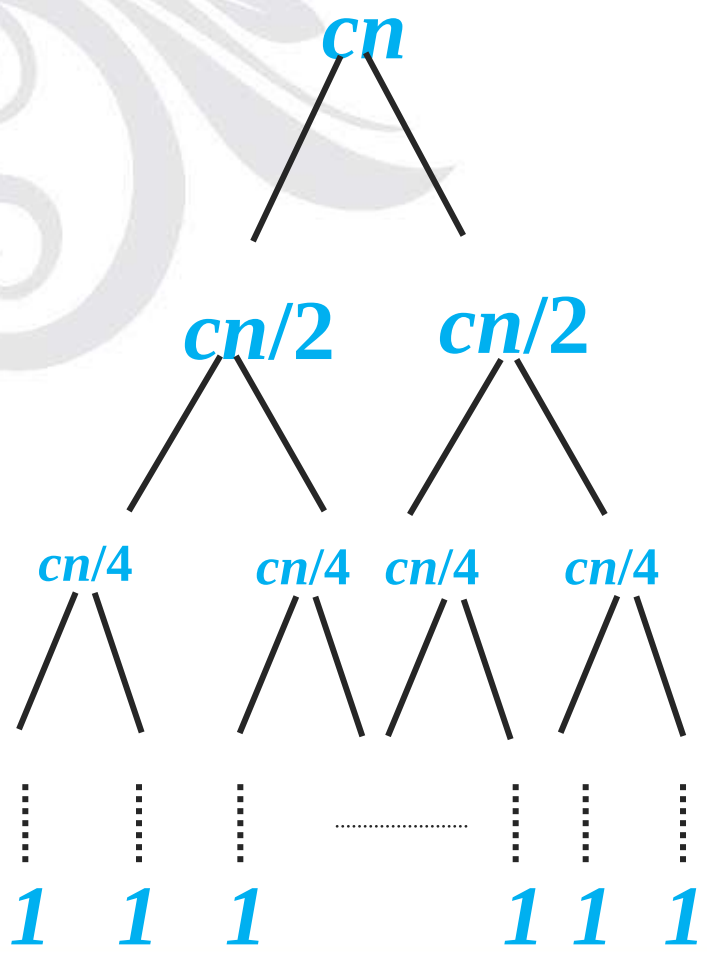

- **Each level has total cost *cn*.**
- **Each time we go down one level, the number of sub-problems doubles, but the cost per sub-problem halves ⇒ *cost per level remains the same*.**
- **There are lg *n* + 1 levels, height is lg *n*.**
- **Total cost = sum of costs at each level = (lg *n* + 1)*cn* = *cn*lg*n* + *cn* = Θ(*n* lg*n*).**

Example of Recursion Tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:

Example of Recursion Tree

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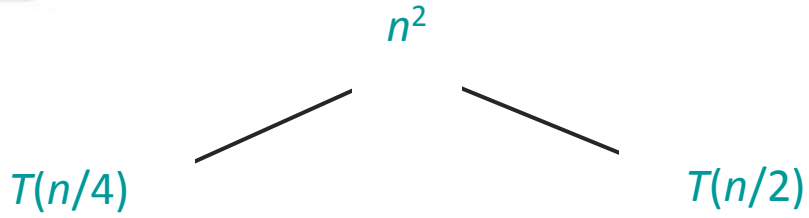

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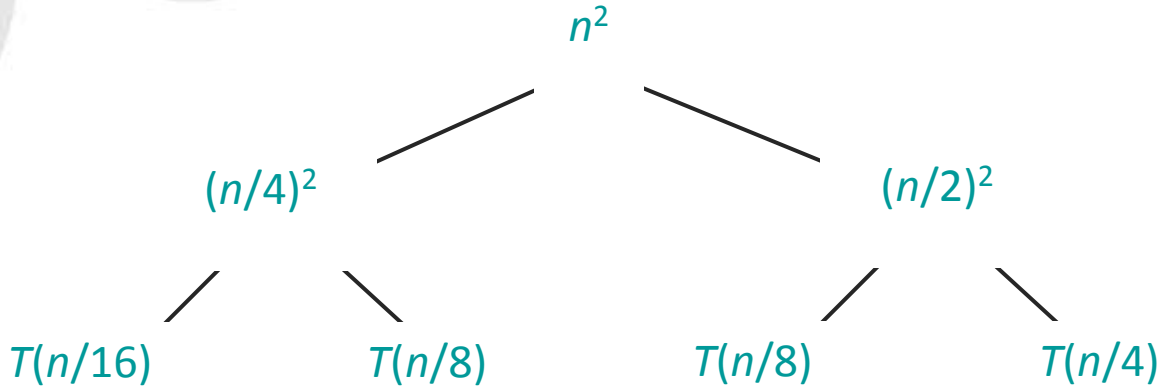

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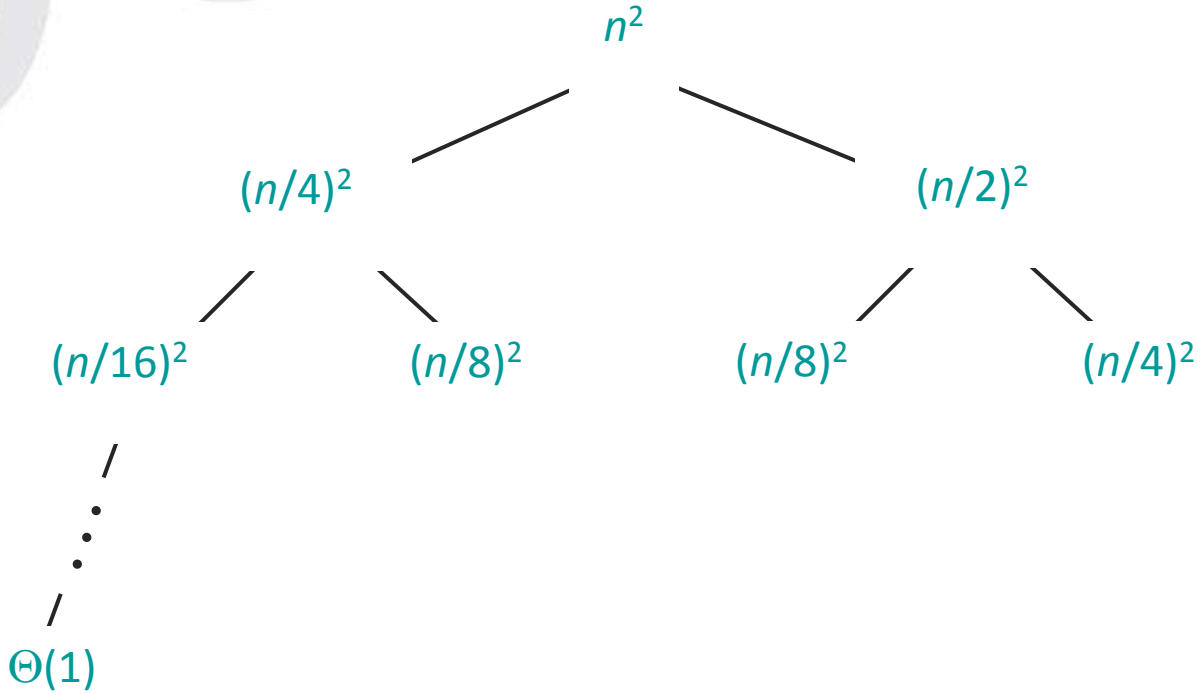

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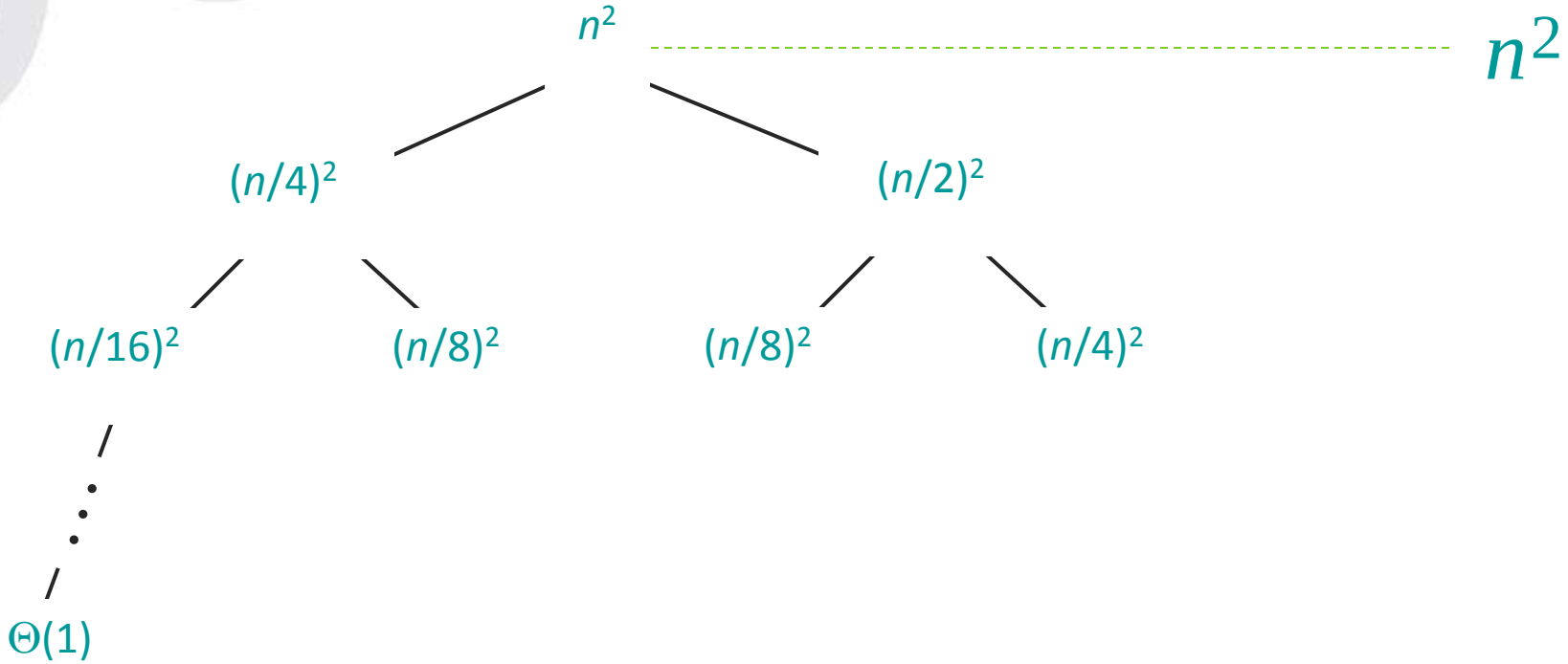

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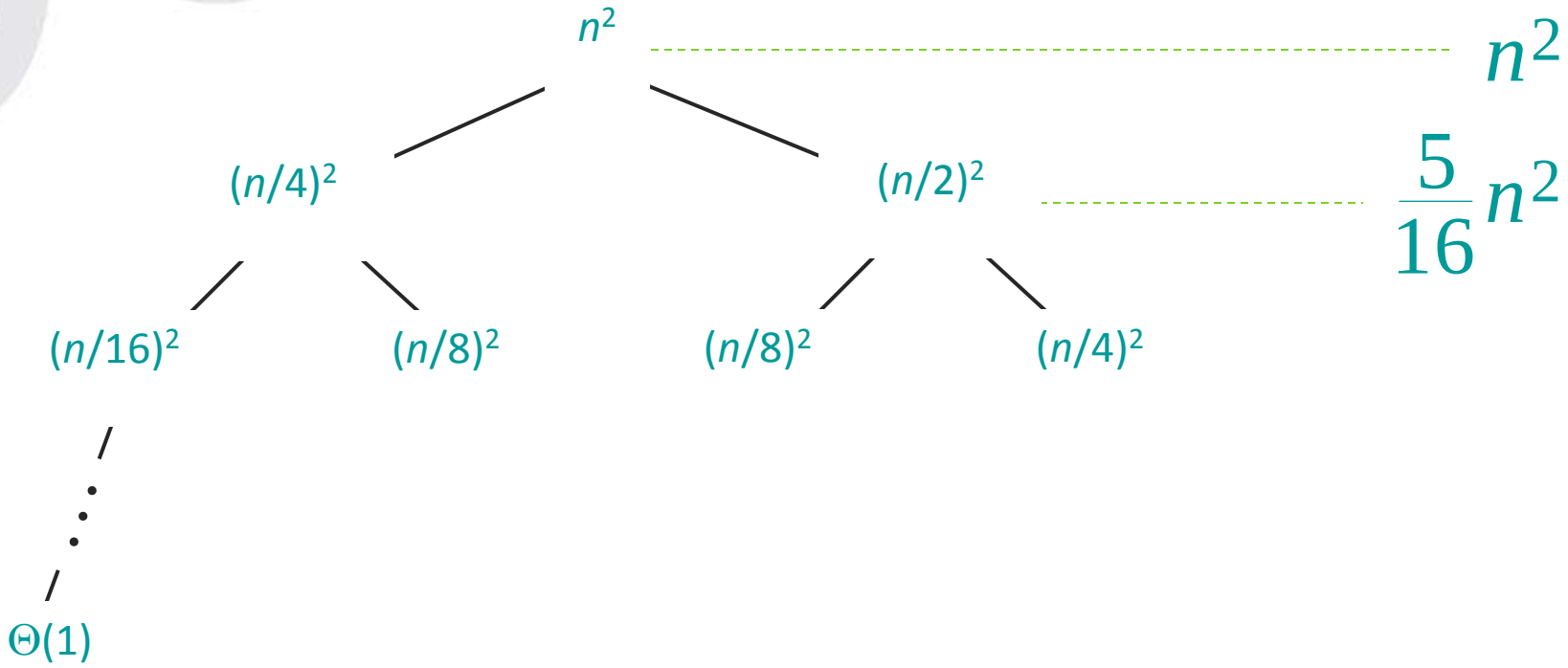

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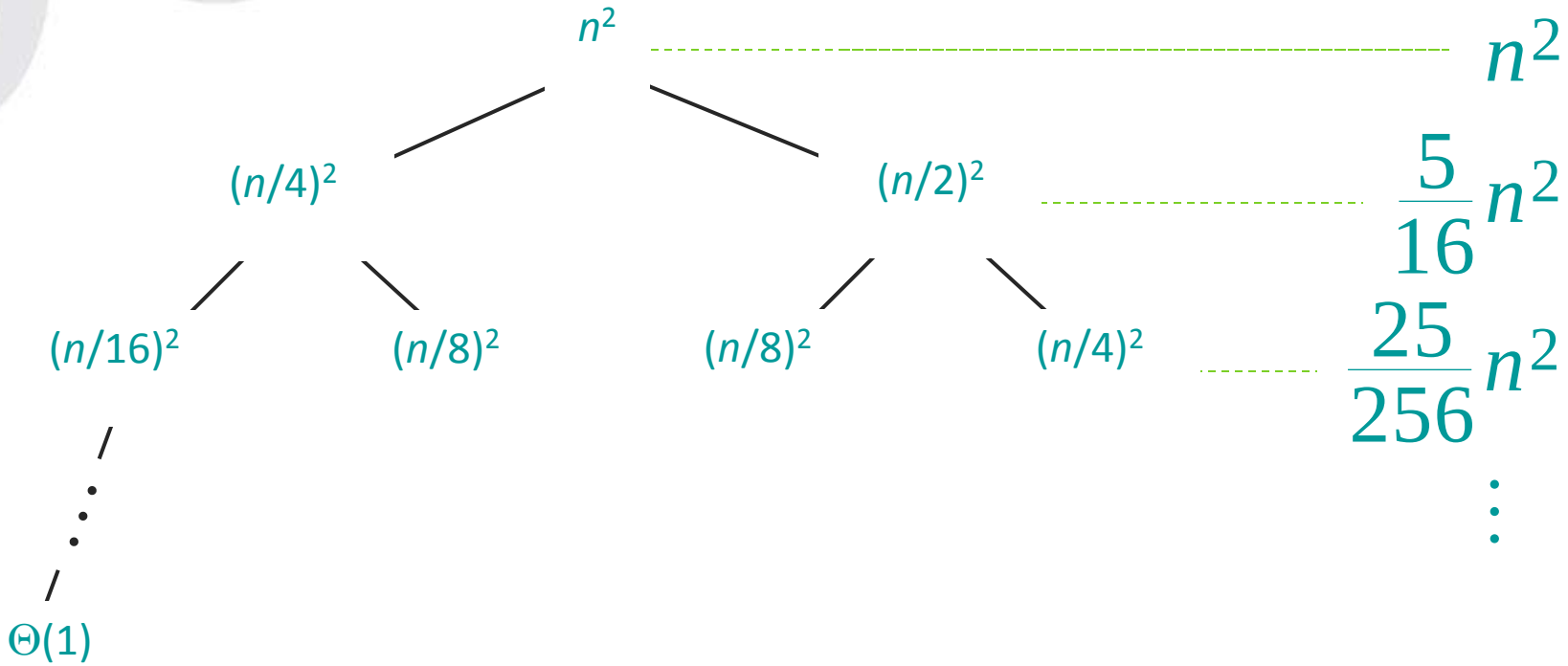
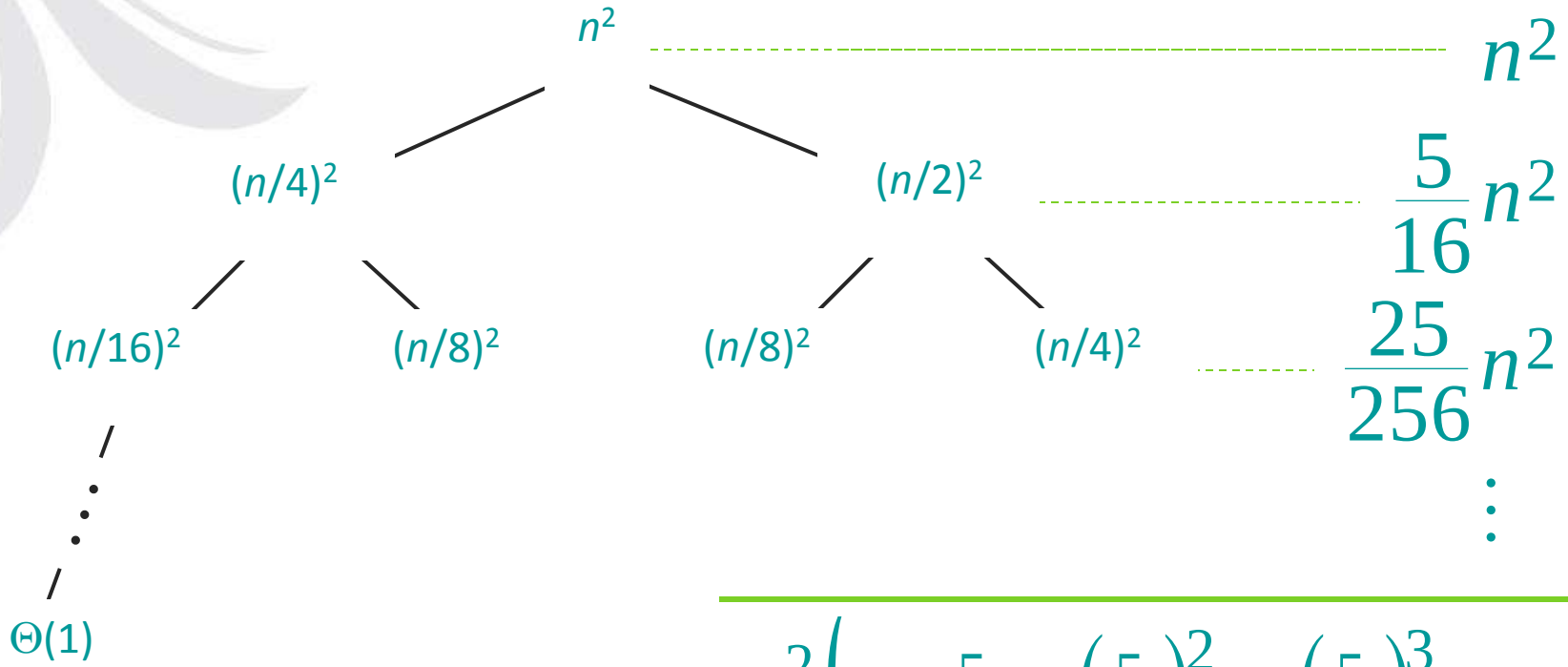


Example of Recursion Tree

Solve $T(n) = T(n/4) + T(n/2) + n^2$:



$$\text{Total} = n^2\left(1 + \frac{5}{16} + \left(\frac{5}{16}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{5}{16}\right)^3 + \cdots\right)$$

$$= \Theta(n^2) \quad \textit{geometric series}$$

Geometric Series

$$1 + x + x^2 + \cdots + x^n = \frac{1 - x^{n+1}}{1 - x} \quad \text{for } x \neq 1$$

$$1 + x + x^2 + \cdots = \frac{1}{1 - x} \quad \text{for } |x| < 1$$

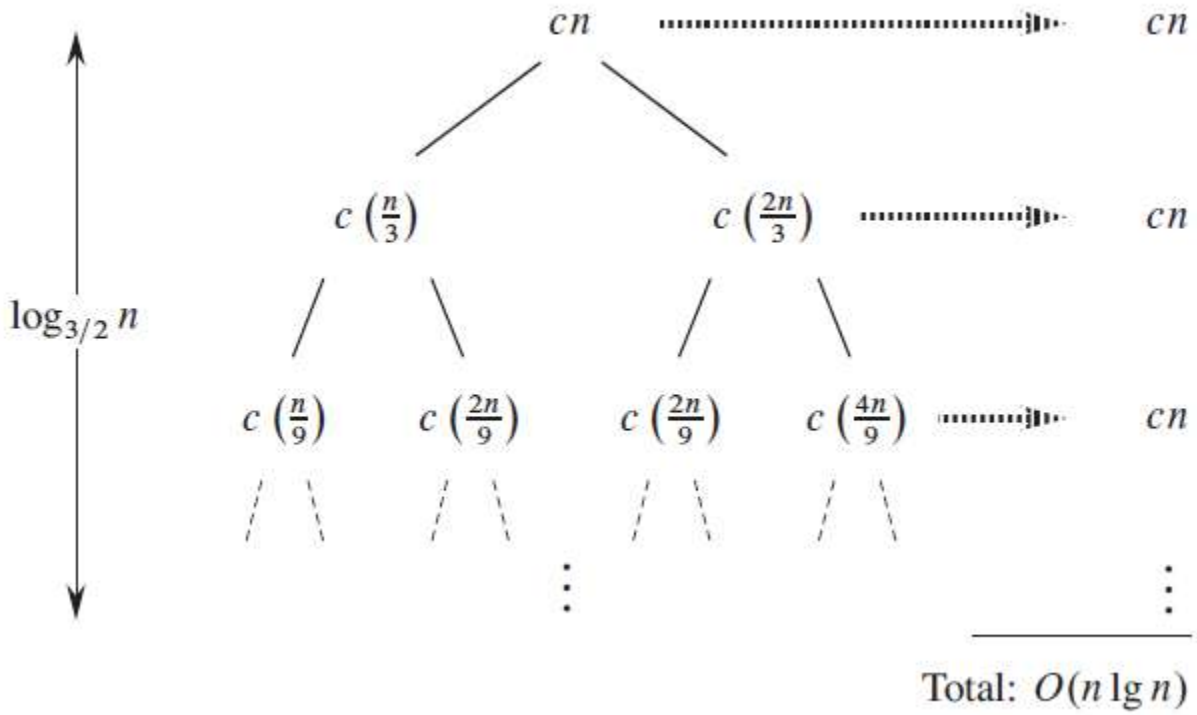
Exercise of Recursion Tree

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

Build the recursion Tree

Find the Big-O

Exercise of Recursion Tree



The Master Method

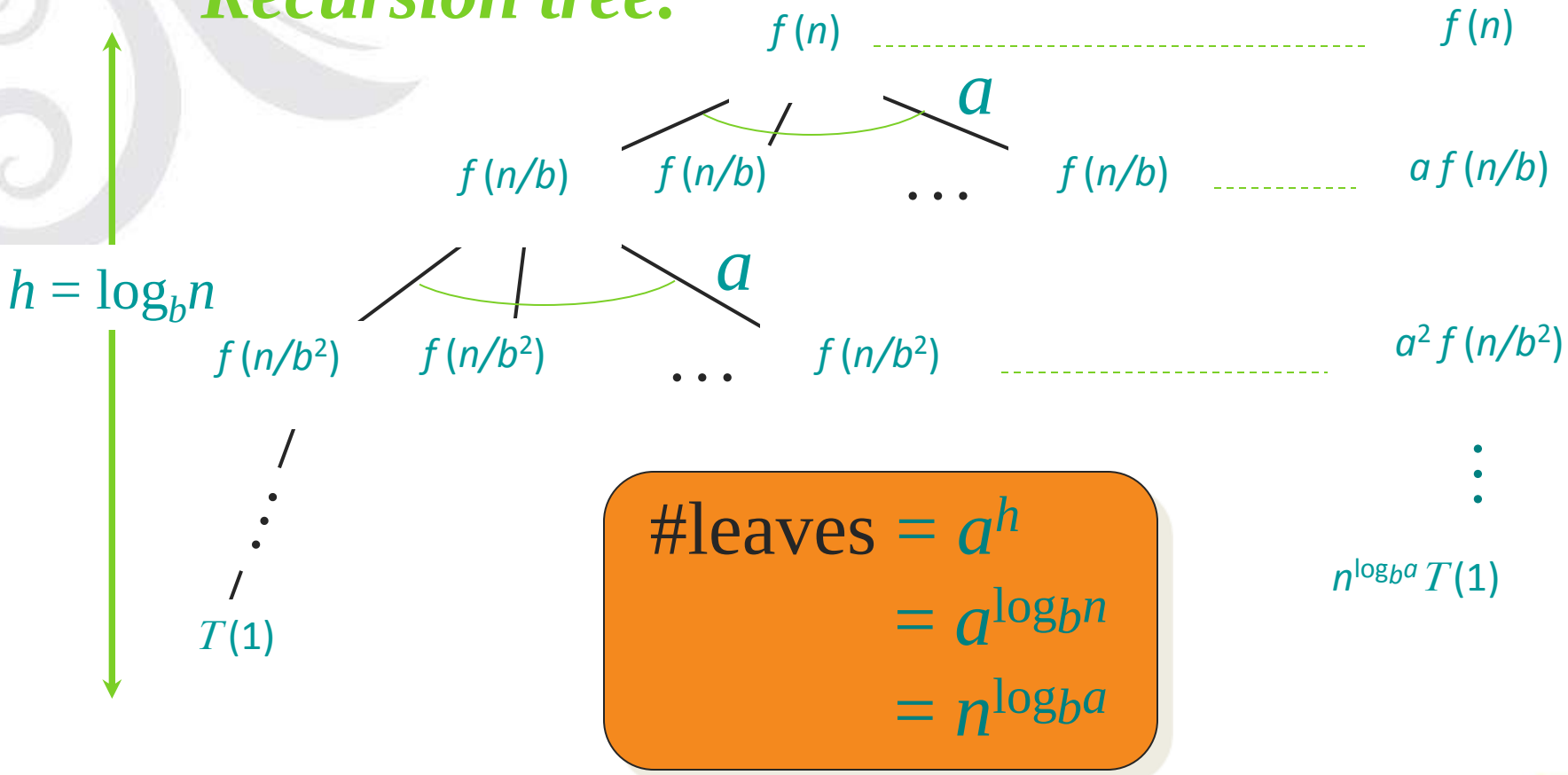
The master method applies to recurrences of the form

$$T(n) = a\,T(n/b) + f(n)\ ,$$

where $a \geq 1$, $b > 1$, and f is asymptotically positive.

Idea of Master Theorem

Recursion tree:



$$\#\text{leaves} = a^h = a^{\log_b n} = n^{\log_b a}$$

Three Common Cases

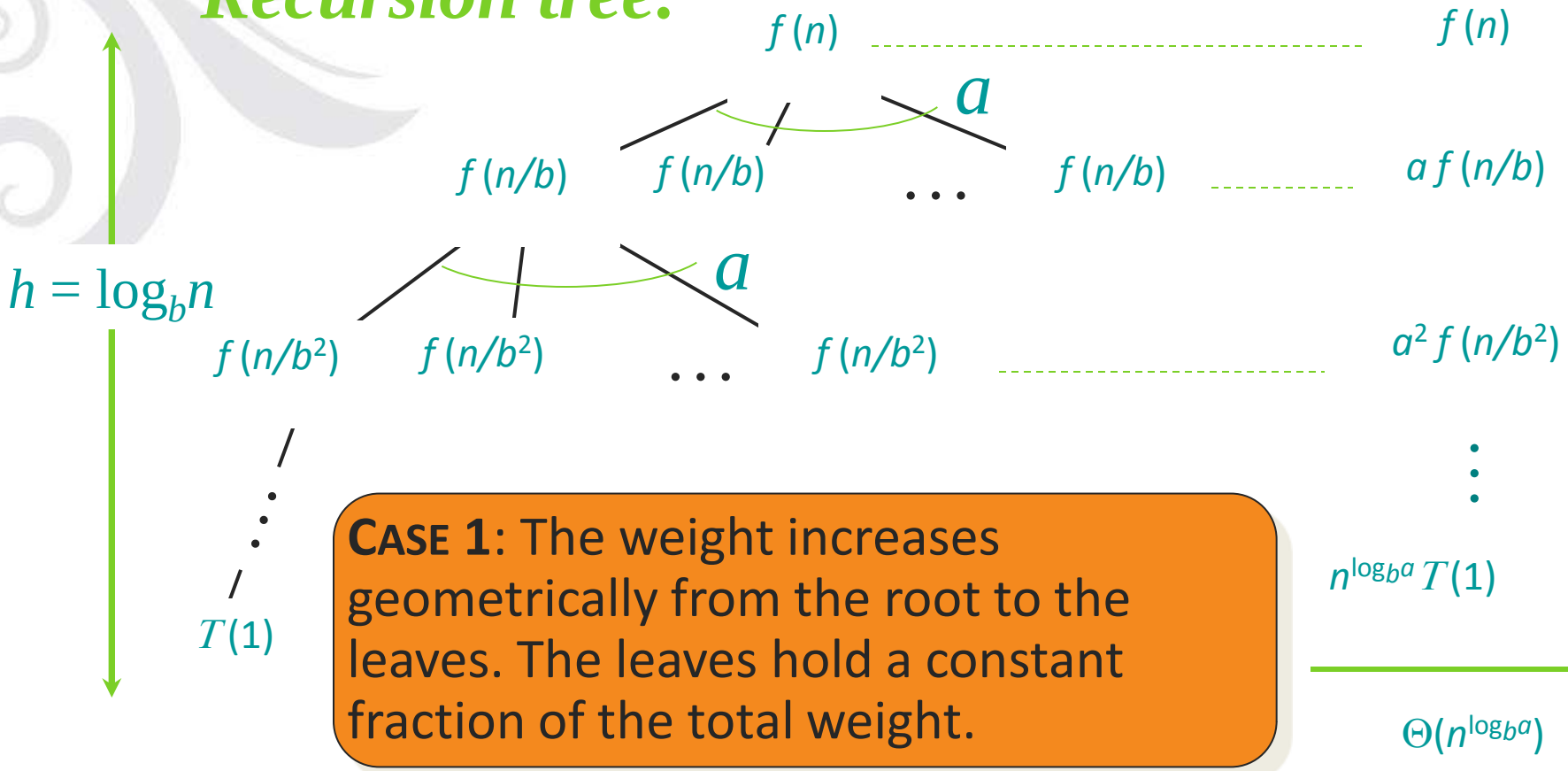
Compare $f(n)$ with $n^{\log_b a}$:

1. $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$ for some constant $\varepsilon > 0$.
   - $f(n)$ grows polynomially slower than $n^{\log_b a}$ (by an n^{ε} factor).

   Solution: $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$.

Idea of Master Theorem

Recursion tree:



CASE 1: The weight increases geometrically from the root to the leaves. The leaves hold a constant fraction of the total weight.

Three Common Cases

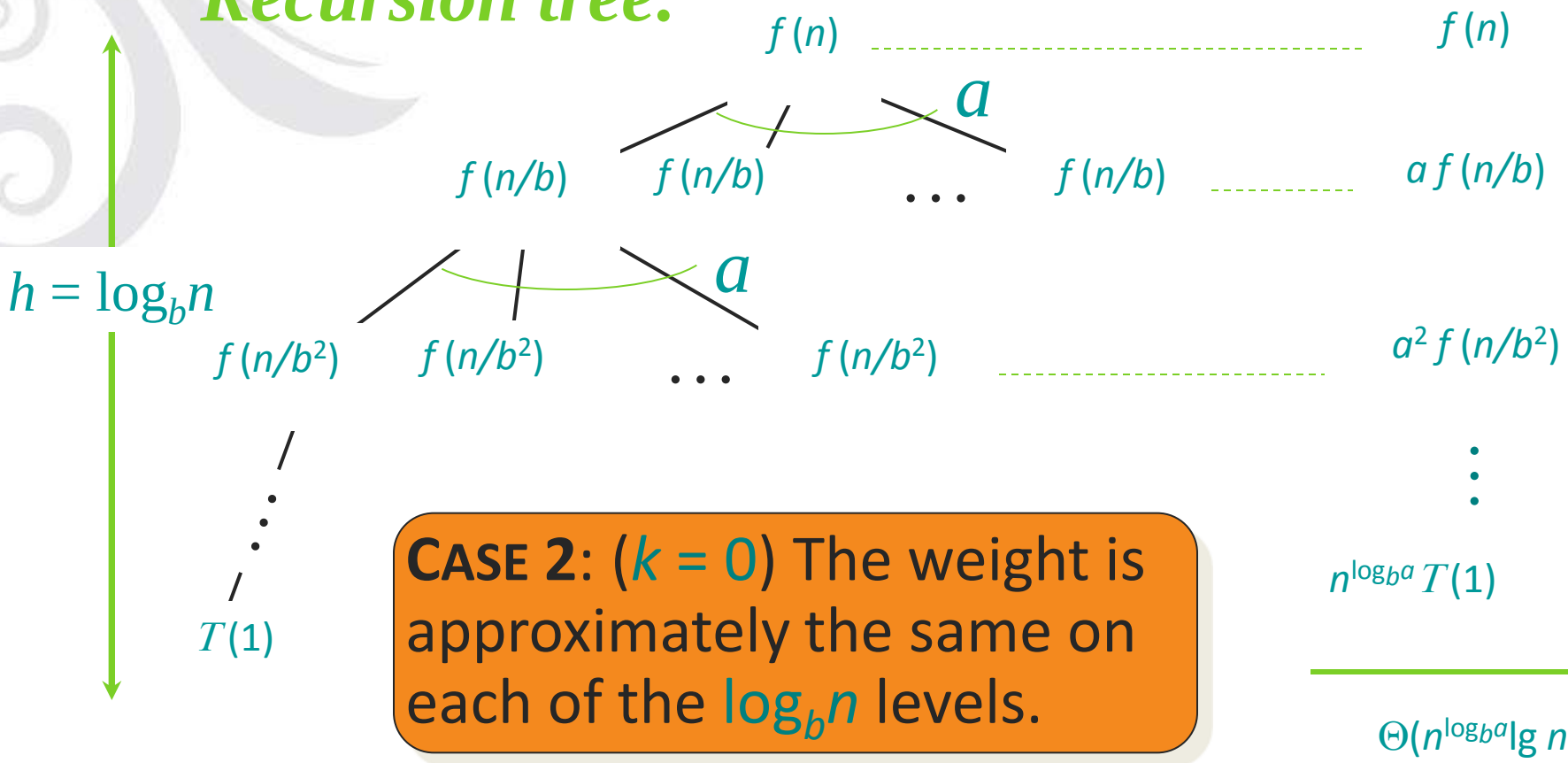
Compare $f(n)$ with $n^{\log_b a}$:

2. $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^k n)$ for some constant $k \geq 0$.
   - $f(n)$ and $n^{\log_b a}$ grow at similar rates.

   Solution: $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^{k+1} n)$.

Idea of Master Theorem

Recursion tree:



CASE 2: ($k = 0$) The weight is approximately the same on each of the $\log_b n$ levels.

Three common cases (cont.)

Compare $f(n)$ with $n^{\log_b a}$:

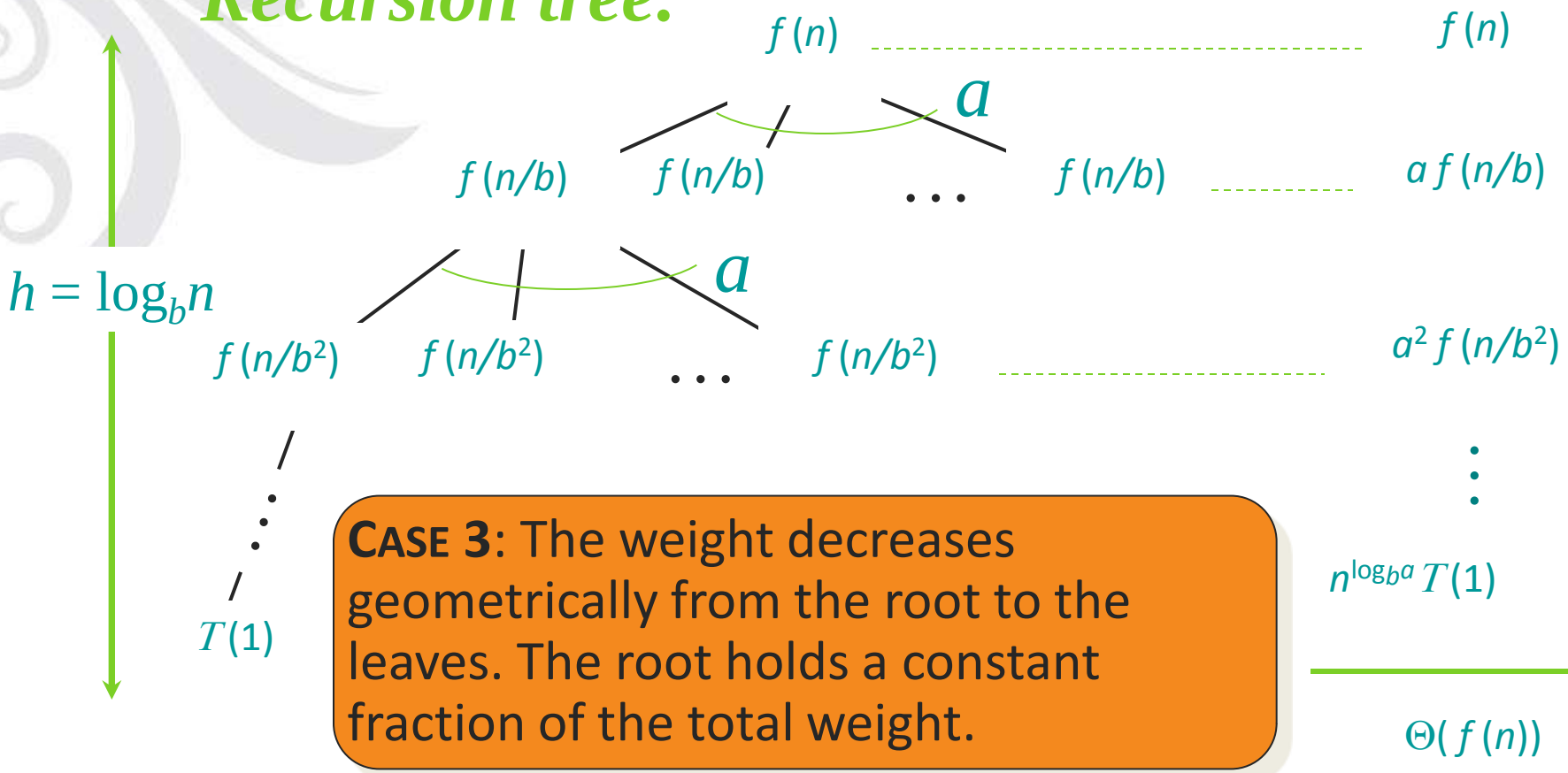
3. $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$ for some constant $\varepsilon > 0$.
   - $f(n)$ grows polynomially faster than $n^{\log_b a}$ (by an n^{ε} factor),

   and $f(n)$ satisfies the ***regularity condition*** that $a f(n/b) \leq c f(n)$ for some constant $c < 1$.

   Solution: $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$.

Idea of Master Theorem

Recursion tree:



CASE 3: The weight decreases geometrically from the root to the leaves. The root holds a constant fraction of the total weight.

Examples

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

$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n.$

CASE 1: $f(n) = O(n^{2-\varepsilon})$ for $\varepsilon = 1$.

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

Ex. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2$

$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^2.$

CASE 2: $f(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg^0 n)$, that is, $k = 0$.

$\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg n).$

Examples

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

$a = 4,\ b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2;\ f(n) = n^3.$

CASE 3: $f(n) = \Omega(n^{2+\varepsilon})$ for $\varepsilon = 1$

and $4(n/2)^3 \le cn^3$ (reg. cond.) for $c = 1/2$.

$\therefore\ T(n) = \Theta(n^3).$

Exercises

1. $T(n) = 9T(n/3) + n$
2. $T(n) = T(2n/3) + 1$
3. $T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n \lg n$
4. $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n \lg n$

Exercises

$T(n) = 9T(n/3) + n$.

For this recurrence, we have $a = 9$, $b = 3$, $f(n) = n$, and thus we have that $n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_3 9} = \Theta(n^2)$. Since $f(n) = O(n^{\log_3 9 - \epsilon})$, where $\epsilon = 1$, we can apply case 1 of the master theorem and conclude that the solution is $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$.

Exercises

$$T(n) = T(2n/3) + 1,$$

in which $a = 1$, $b = 3/2$, $f(n) = 1$, and $n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_{3/2} 1} = n^0 = 1$. Case 2 applies, since $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a}) = \Theta(1)$, and thus the solution to the recurrence is $T(n) = \Theta(\lg n)$.

Exercises

$T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n \lg n$,

we have $a = 3$, $b = 4$, $f(n) = n \lg n$, and $n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_4 3} = O(n^{0.793})$. Since $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_4 3+\epsilon})$, where $\epsilon \approx 0.2$, case 3 applies if we can show that the regularity condition holds for $f(n)$. For sufficiently large n, we have that $af(n/b) = 3(n/4)\lg(n/4) \leq (3/4)n \lg n = cf(n)$ for $c = 3/4$. Consequently, by case 3, the solution to the recurrence is $T(n) = \Theta(n \lg n)$.

Exercises

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n \lg n \ ,$$

even though it appears to have the proper form: $a = 2$, $b = 2$, $f(n) = n \lg n$, and $n^{\log_b a} = n$. You might mistakenly think that case 3 should apply, since $f(n) = n \lg n$ is asymptotically larger than $n^{\log_b a} = n$. The problem is that it is not *polynomially* larger. The ratio $f(n)/n^{\log_b a} = (n \lg n)/n = \lg n$ is asymptotically less than n^{ϵ} for any positive constant ϵ. Consequently, the recurrence falls into the gap between case 2 and case 3. (See Exercise 4.6-2 for a solution.)