



Design and Analysis
of Algorithms I

Master Method

Proof (Part II)

The Story So Far/Case 1

$$\text{Total work: } \leq \underline{cn^d} \times \sum_{j=0}^{\log_b n} \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^j \quad (*)$$

If $a = b^d$, then

$$(*) = cn^d (\log_b n + 1)$$

$$= O(n^d \log n)$$

[end case 1]

Basic Sums Fact

For $r \neq 1$, we have

$$1 + r + r^2 + r^3 + \dots + r^k = \frac{r^{k+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

Proof: by induction (you check).

Upshot:

① if $r < 1$ is constant, ^{RHS is} $\leq \frac{1}{1-r} =$ a constant
(i.e., 1st term of sum dominates)

② if $r > 1$ is constant, RHS is $\leq r^k \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{r-1}\right)$
(i.e., last term of sum dominates)

independent of k

Case 2

$$\text{Total work: } \leq cn^d \times \sum_{j=0}^{\log_b n} \left(\frac{a}{b^d} \right)^j \quad (*)$$

$$\text{If } a < b^d \text{ [RSP < RWS]} \\ = O(n^d)$$

↳ \leq a constant
(independent of n)
[by basic sums fact]

[Total work dominated by top level]

Case 3

Total work: $\leq \underline{cn}^d \times \sum_{j=0}^{\log_b n} \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^j \quad (*)$

If $a > b^d$ (RSP > RWS)

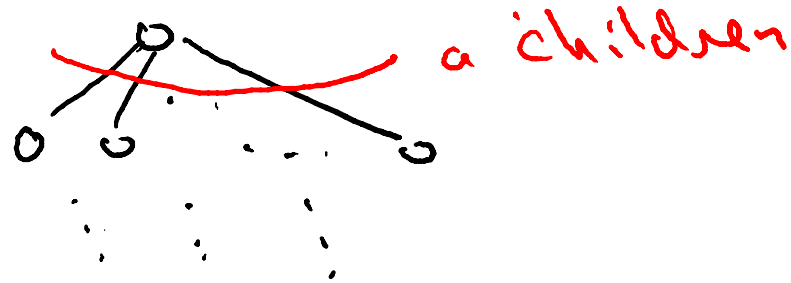
then $(*) = O(n^d \cdot \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^{\log_b n})$

Note: $b^{-d \log_b n} = (\cancel{b^{\log_b n}})^{-d} = n^{-d}$

So: $(*) = O(a^{\log_b n})$

$\hookrightarrow \leq \underline{\text{constant}} \times \text{largest term}$

level 0
1



level $\log_b n$

leaves = $a^{\log_b n}$

Which of the following quantities is equal to $a^{\log_b n}$?

- ☐ The number of levels of the recursion tree.
- ☐ The number of nodes of the recursion tree.
- ☐ The number of edges of the recursion tree.

→ ☒ The number of leaves of the recursion tree.

Case 3 continued

$$\text{Total work: } \leq cn^d \times \sum_{j=0}^{\log_b n} \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^j \quad (*)$$

$$\underline{\text{So:}} \quad (*) = O(a^{\log_b n}) = O(\# \text{ leaves})$$

Note: $a^{\log_b n} = n^{\log_b a}$ — more intuitive
— simpler to apply

$$[\text{since } (\log_b n)(\log_b a) = (\log_b a)(\log_b n)]$$

(end Case 3)

QED!

The Master Method

If $T(n) \leq aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + O(n^d)$

then

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} O(n^d \log n) & \text{if } a = b^d \text{ (Case 1)} \\ O(n^d) & \text{if } a < b^d \text{ (Case 2)} \\ O(n^{\log_b a}) & \text{if } a > b^d \text{ (Case 3)} \end{cases}$$