

# EECS 3101 - Design and Analysis of Algorithms

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**Shahin Kamali**

Topic 2 - Divide & Conquer Technique  
and Recursion



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# Overview

- what is recursion?
- recursion vs. iteration
- analyzing the running time of recursive algorithms



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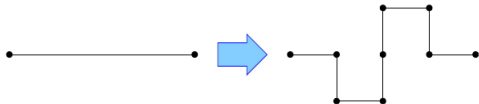
# Recursion

- The term **recursion** refers to a method that calls itself.
- Recursion is a powerful programming technique that results in efficient algorithms with concise descriptions.



## Recursion example

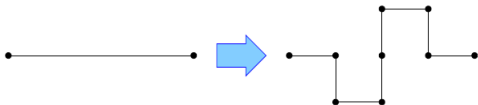
- Suppose we replace every line segment by eight shorter line segments according to the following geometric rule:



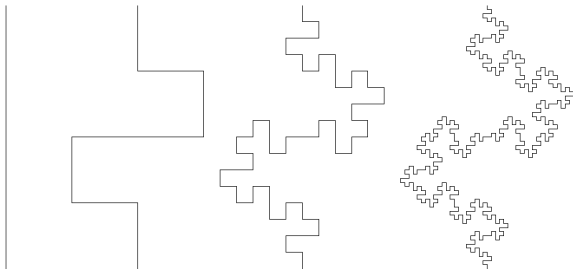


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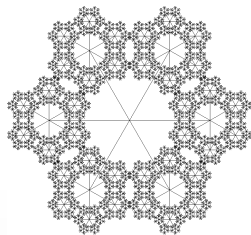
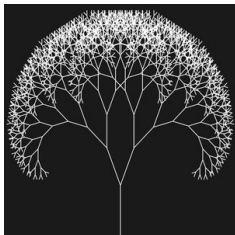
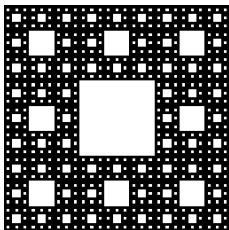
- By applying this rule recursively we obtain the following “fractal”:





# Fractals

- Fractals are beautiful “creatures” often built on the recursion principle:





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## Iteration versus Recursion

- An iterative algorithm for solving a problem  $P$  makes use of a loop to compute a sequence of analogous steps that solve  $P$ .



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$$n! = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$

- A recursive algorithm for solving a problem  $P$  computes one step and calls itself to solve the remaining subproblem.

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & n \leq 1 \\ n(n-1)! & n > 1 \end{cases}$$



## Iteration versus Recursion

- an iterative algorithm for computing  $n!$ :

### **FactorialIterative** ( $n$ )

1.  $result \leftarrow 1$
2. **for**  $i \leftarrow 1$  **to**  $n$  **do**
3.      $result \leftarrow result * i$
4. **return**  $result$

- This clearly takes  $\Theta(n)$  time.



## Iteration versus Recursion

- a recursive algorithm for computing  $n!$ :

### **FactorialRecursive** ( $n$ )

1.  $result \leftarrow 1$
2. **if**  $n > 1$
3.      $result \leftarrow n * \text{FactorialRecursive}(n - 1)$
4. **return**  $result$

- For the time complexity, we can write

$$f(n) = c + f(n-1) = 2c + f(n-2) = \dots = c(n-1) + f(1) = \Theta(n)$$

- For the factorial problem, both iterative and recursive functions run in time linear to  $n$ .



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# Fibonacci numbers

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0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, ...



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- Each succeeding number (third, fourth, ...) is defined as the sum of the two numbers that precede it in the sequence.



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- The first two numbers in the sequence are 0 and 1.
- Each succeeding number (third, fourth, ...) is defined as the sum of the two numbers that precede it in the sequence.
- That is, Fibonacci numbers are defined recursively:

$$fib(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & n = 0 \\ 1 & n = 1 \\ fib(n) + fib(n - 1) & n > 1 \end{cases}$$



## A Recursive Solution

**fib** ( $n$ )

1.  $result \leftarrow 0$
2. **if**  $n \leq 1$
3.      $result \leftarrow 1$
4. **else**
5.      $result \leftarrow fib(n - 1) + fib(n - 2)$
6. **return**  $result$





## A Recursive Solution

**fib** ( $n$ )

```
1.  result ← 0
2.  if  $n \leq 1$ 
3.      result ← 1
4.  else
5.      result ← fib( $n - 1$ ) + fib( $n - 2$ )
6.  return result
```

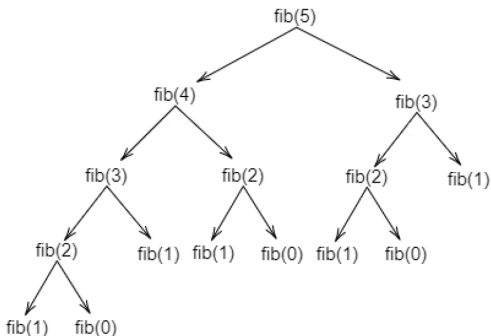
- For the running time of this algorithm, we can write:

$$\begin{aligned}t(n) &= t(n-1) + t(n-2) \geq 2T(n-2) \geq 4T(n-4) \geq 8T(n-6) \geq \dots \\ &\geq 2^k T(n-2k) = \Omega(2^{n/2})\end{aligned}$$



## Recursion Tree

- This implementation of Fibonacci numbers is inefficient because it recomputes values that have already been found.





## Efficient Fibonacci Computation

- A more efficient solution can be obtained by storing Fibonacci numbers that have already been computed in an array.

**fibonacci** ( $n$ )

```
1.   $F \leftarrow$  an array of size  $n$ 
2.   $F[1] \leftarrow 1$     $F[2] \leftarrow 1$ 
3.  for  $i = 3$  to  $n$ 
4.       $F[i] \leftarrow F[i - 1] + F[i - 2]$ 
return  $F[n]$ 
```

- This runs in  $\Theta(n)$



## Maximum Subarray Problem

- given an array  $A$  of  $n$  numbers, find the a contiguous subarray whose sum has the largest value!

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
13	-3	-25	20	-3	-16	-23	18	20	-7	12	-5	-22	15	-4	7

- In this example, it is 18, 20, -7, 12 for a sum of 43.



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- We denote the best solution with a triplet  $(lo, hi, sum)$ , indicating, start index, end index, and sum of the numbers in the sub-array. In this example, it would be (7, 10, 43)



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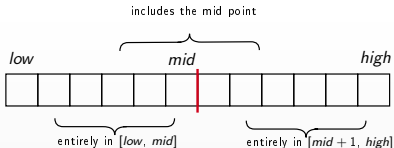
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- We denote the best solution with a triplet  $(lo, hi, sum)$ , indicating, start index, end index, and sum of the numbers in the sub-array. In this example, it would be  $(7, 10, 43)$
- Solution 1:** try all possible sub-arrays! There are  $\binom{n}{2} = \Theta(n^2)$  sub-arrays; thus the running time of this "Brute-Force" solution is  $\Omega(n^2)$ .



## Maximum Subarray Problem

- **Solution 2:** Use a divide and conquer approach!
- Suppose we want to find the sub-array with maximum sum from the input array from index  $low$  to index  $hi$ . There are three possibilities:
  - It is entirely in the left half of the range  $[low, hi]$
  - It is entirely in the right half of the range  $[low, hi]$
  - It straddles the midpoint  $mid = \lfloor (low + high)/2 \rfloor$  of the range.
- We compute the optimal sub-array for all possible three cases and take the maximum!





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## Maximum Subarray Problem

- The recursive  $\text{Find-Max-SubArray}(A, low, high)$  finds the sub array of  $A$  in the range  $[low, high]$  with maximum sum.





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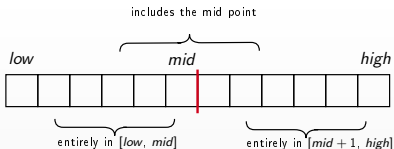
## Maximum Subarray Problem

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  - The output is  $(l, h, sum)$  and indicate the low-index, high-index, and the sum of the sub-array.
  - In the base, we have  $low = high$ , and the output is  $(low, high, A[low])$ .
- First, find the optimal solution that is entirely on the left:
  - recursively call  $\text{Find-Max-SubArray}(A, low, mid)$



## Maximum Subarray Problem

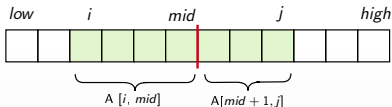
- The recursive  $\text{Find-Max-SubArray}(A, low, high)$  finds the sub array of  $A$  in the range  $[low, high]$  with maximum sum.
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  - In the base, we have  $low = high$ , and the output is  $(low, high, A[low])$ .
- First, find the optimal solution that is entirely on the left:
  - recursively call  $\text{Find-Max-SubArray}(A, low, mid)$
- Second, find the optimal solution that is entirely on the right:
  - recursively call  $\text{Find-Max-SubArray}(A, mid + 1, high)$





## Maximum Subarray Problem

- Finally, find the sub-array with maximum sum, subject to it containing  $mid$ .
  - The subarray is made up of  $A[i, mid]$  and  $A[mid + 1, j]$  for some  $i \in [low, mid]$  and  $j \in [mid + 1, high]$ .
  - Use a linear scan to find the values of  $i$  and  $j$  that give the sub-arrays with largest sums!
    - This can be done in linear time because one end (namely  $mid$ ) of the subarrays is fixed.





# Maximum Subarray Problem

- Finding the sub-array with maximum sum, subject to it containing *mid*.

FIND-MAX-CROSSING-SUBARRAY (*A*, *low*, *mid*, *high*)

```
1 left-sum =  $-\infty$ 
2 sum = 0
3 for i = mid downto low
4     sum = sum + A[i]
5     if sum > left-sum
6         left-sum = sum
7         max-left = i
8 right-sum =  $-\infty$ 
9 sum = 0
10 for j = mid + 1 to high
11     sum = sum + A[j]
12     if sum > right-sum
13         right-sum = sum
14         max-right = j
15 return (max-left, max-right, left-sum + right-sum)
```

<i>low</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>high</i>							
3	-6	8	-1	-2	2	5	1	-2	-2	3	-1

*i* :

sum : 0  
leftSum :  $-\infty$   
maxLeft :



# Maximum Subarray Problem

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3	-6	8	-1	-2	2	5	1	-2	-2	3	-1

*i* : *mid*

*sum* : 2

*leftSum* : 2

*maxLeft* : *mid*



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*i* : *mid* - 1

*sum* : 0

*leftSum* : 2

*maxLeft* : *mid*



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3	-6	8	-1	-2	2	5	1	-2	-2	3	-1

*i* : *mid* - 2

*sum* : -1

*leftSum* : 2

*maxLeft* : *mid*





# Maximum Subarray Problem

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3	-6	8	-1	-2	2	5	1	-2	-2	3	-1

*i* : *mid* - 3

*sum* : 7

*leftSum* : 7

*maxLeft* : *mid* - 3



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3	-6	8	-1	-2	2	5	1	-2	-2	3	-1

*i* : *mid* - 4

*sum* : 1

*leftSum* : 7

*maxLeft* : *mid* - 3



# Maximum Subarray Problem

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3	-6	8	-1	-2	2	5	1	-2	-2	3	-1

*i* : *mid* - 5

*sum* : 4

*leftSum* : 7

*maxLeft* : *mid* - 3



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*i* : *mid* - 5

*j* :

*sum* : 4

*sum* : 0

*leftSum* : 7

*rightSum* :  $-\infty$

*maxLeft* : *mid* - 3

*maxRight* :



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*i* : *mid* - 5

*j* : *mid* + 1

*sum* : 4

*sum* : 5

*leftSum* : 7

*rightSum* : 5

*maxLeft* : *mid* - 3

*maxRight* : *mid* + 1



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*i* : *mid* - 5

*j* : *mid* + 2

*sum* : 4

*sum* : 6

*leftSum* : 7

*rightSum* : 6

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14         max-right = j
15 return (max-left, max-right, left-sum + right-sum)
```

<i>low</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>high</i>							
3	-6	8	-1	-2	2	5	1	-2	-2	3	-1

*i* : *mid* - 5

*j* : *mid* + 4

*sum* : 4

*sum* : 5

*leftSum* : 7

*rightSum* : 6

*maxLeft* : *mid* - 3

*maxRight* : *mid* + 2



# Maximum Subarray Problem

- Finding the sub-array with maximum sum, subject to it containing *mid*.

FIND-MAX-CROSSING-SUBARRAY (*A*, *low*, *mid*, *high*)

```
1 left-sum =  $-\infty$ 
2 sum = 0
3 for i = mid downto low
4     sum = sum + A[i]
5     if sum > left-sum
6         left-sum = sum
7         max-left = i
8 right-sum =  $-\infty$ 
9 sum = 0
10 for j = mid + 1 to high
11     sum = sum + A[j]
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<i>low</i>		<i>i</i>			<i>mid</i>		<i>j</i>			<i>high</i>	
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*leftSum* : 7

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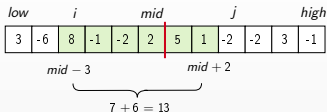


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*i* : *mid* - 5

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# Maximum Subarray Problem

- The recursive algorithm can be summarized as follows:

FIND-MAXIMUM-SUBARRAY( $A, low, high$ )

```
1  if  $high == low$ 
2      return ( $low, high, A[low]$ )           // base case: only one element
3  else  $mid = \lfloor (low + high)/2 \rfloor$ 
4      ( $left-low, left-high, left-sum$ ) =
        FIND-MAXIMUM-SUBARRAY( $A, low, mid$ )
5      ( $right-low, right-high, right-sum$ ) =
        FIND-MAXIMUM-SUBARRAY( $A, mid + 1, high$ )
6      ( $cross-low, cross-high, cross-sum$ ) =
        FIND-MAX-CROSSING-SUBARRAY( $A, low, mid, high$ )
7      if  $left-sum \geq right-sum$  and  $left-sum \geq cross-sum$ 
8          return ( $left-low, left-high, left-sum$ )
9      elseif  $right-sum \geq left-sum$  and  $right-sum \geq cross-sum$ 
10         return ( $right-low, right-high, right-sum$ )
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- The recursive algorithm can be summarized as follows:

FIND-MAXIMUM-SUBARRAY( $A, low, high$ )

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3  else  $mid = \lfloor (low + high)/2 \rfloor$ 
4      ( $left-low, left-high, left-sum$ ) =
        FIND-MAXIMUM-SUBARRAY( $A, low, mid$ )     $T(n/2)$ 
5      ( $right-low, right-high, right-sum$ ) =
        FIND-MAXIMUM-SUBARRAY( $A, mid + 1, high$ )  $T(n/2)$ 
6      ( $cross-low, cross-high, cross-sum$ ) =
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---

## Maximum Subarray Problem

- For the running time of the recursive algorithm, we can run:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$



## Maximum Subarray Problem

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$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

- The recurrence has the same form as that for MergeSort, and thus it has the same solution  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$ .
- This algorithm is **substantially** faster than any of the brute-force methods. It required some cleverness, and the programming is a little more complicated – but the payoff is large.



---

## Divide & Conquer Paradigm

- The **divide and conquer paradigm** is important general technique for designing algorithms. In general, it follows the steps:
  - **Divide:** divide the problem into subproblems and recursively solve the subproblems
  - **Conquer:** combine solutions to subproblems to get solution to original problem





---

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  - **Divide:** divide the problem into subproblems and recursively solve the subproblems
    - In merge sort, recursively sort two half-arrays on the left/right.
  - **Conquer:** combine solutions to subproblems to get solution to original problem
    - In merge sort, merge the two sorted half-arrays.



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  - **Divide:** divide the problem into subproblems and recursively solve the subproblems
    - In merge sort, recursively sort two half-arrays on the left/right.
    - In maximum sub-array problem, recursively find the optimal sub-arrays that are entirely in the left/right half-arrays.
  - **Conquer:** combine solutions to subproblems to get solution to original problem
    - In merge sort, merge the two sorted half-arrays.
    - In maximum sub-array problem, find the optimal sub-array that crosses mid and take the best sub-array among three candidates.



# Matrix Multiplication

- Consider two  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$ .
- The matrix product  $C = A \times B$  of two  $n \times n$  matrices is defined as the  $n \times n$  matrix that has the coefficient

$$c_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{i,k} \cdot b_{k,j}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & a_{1,4} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} & a_{2,4} \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} & a_{3,4} \\ a_{4,1} & a_{4,2} & a_{4,3} & a_{4,4} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} & b_{1,3} & b_{1,4} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} & b_{2,3} & b_{2,4} \\ b_{3,1} & b_{3,2} & b_{3,3} & b_{3,4} \\ b_{4,1} & b_{4,2} & b_{4,3} & b_{4,4} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} & c_{1,3} & c_{1,4} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} & c_{2,3} & c_{2,4} \\ c_{3,1} & c_{3,2} & c_{3,3} & c_{3,4} \\ c_{4,1} & c_{4,2} & c_{4,3} & c_{4,4} \end{bmatrix}$$

A

B

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$$c_{1,1} = a_{1,1}b_{1,1} + a_{1,2}b_{2,1} + a_{1,3}b_{3,1} + a_{1,4}b_{4,1}$$



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$$c_{4,3} = a_{4,1}b_{1,3} + a_{4,2}b_{2,3} + a_{4,3}b_{3,3} + a_{4,4}b_{4,3}$$



# Matrix Multiplication

- The straightforward algorithm takes  $\Theta(n^3)$  time.

SQUARE-MATRIX-MULTIPLY( $A, B$ )

```
1   $n = A.rows$ 
2  let  $C$  be a new  $n \times n$  matrix
3  for  $i = 1$  to  $n$ 
4      for  $j = 1$  to  $n$ 
5           $c_{ij} = 0$ 
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8  return  $C$ 
```



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8  return  $C$ 
```

- Can we design an algorithm with time  $o(n^3)$ ?



# Matrix Multiplication

- Partition each of  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  into four  $n/2 \times n/2$  matrices. We can write the product  $A \times B = C$  as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ A_3 & A_4 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 \\ B_3 & B_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 \times B_1 + A_2 \times B_3 & A_1 \times B_2 + A_2 \times B_4 \\ A_3 \times B_1 + A_4 \times B_3 & A_3 \times B_2 + A_4 \times B_4 \end{bmatrix}$$





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A

B

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A

B

C

- How can we use this observation to design a D&Q algorithm?



# Matrix Multiplication

- We have 8 smaller matrix multiplications and 4 additions.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ A_3 & A_4 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 \\ B_3 & B_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 \times B_1 + A_2 \times B_3 & A_1 \times B_2 + A_2 \times B_4 \\ A_3 \times B_1 + A_4 \times B_3 & A_3 \times B_2 + A_4 \times B_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

SQUARE-MATRIX-MULTIPLY-RECURSIVE( $A, B$ )

```
1   $n = A.rows$ 
2  let  $C$  be a new  $n \times n$  matrix
3  if  $n == 1$ 
4       $c_{11} = a_{11} \cdot b_{11}$ 
5  else partition  $A, B$ , and  $C$  as in equations (4.9)
6       $C_{11} = \text{SQUARE-MATRIX-MULTIPLY-RECURSIVE}(A_1, B_1)$ 
           +  $\text{SQUARE-MATRIX-MULTIPLY-RECURSIVE}(A_2, B_3)$ 
7       $C_{12} = \text{SQUARE-MATRIX-MULTIPLY-RECURSIVE}(A_1, B_2)$ 
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8       $C_{21} = \text{SQUARE-MATRIX-MULTIPLY-RECURSIVE}(A_3, B_1)$ 
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# Matrix Multiplication

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- What is the running time of this algorithm?



## Matrix Multiplication

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- For the time complexity  $T(n)$  we can write:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 8T(n/2) + \Theta(n^2) & \text{if } n \geq 2 \\ c & \text{if } n = 1 \end{cases}$$



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- This is Case 1 of Master theorem; the time complexity is  $n^{\log_2 8} = \Theta(n^3)$ .



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- This is Case 1 of Master theorem; the time complexity is  $n^{\log_2 8} = \Theta(n^3)$ .
- How can we improve this? **Strassen's Algorithm**



# Strassen's Algorithm

- To get  $A \times B$ , it suffices to find  $C_1, C_2, C_3$ , and  $C_4$

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ A_3 & A_4 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 \\ B_3 & B_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{C_1}{A_1 \times B_1 + A_2 \times B_3} & \overset{C_2}{A_1 \times B_2 + A_2 \times B_4} \\ \underset{C_3}{A_3 \times B_1 + A_4 \times B_3} & \underset{C_4}{A_3 \times B_2 + A_4 \times B_4} \end{bmatrix}$$





## Strassen's Algorithm

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$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ A_3 & A_4 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 \\ B_3 & B_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{C_1}{A_1 \times B_1 + A_2 \times B_3} & \overset{C_2}{A_1 \times B_2 + A_2 \times B_4} \\ \underset{C_3}{A_3 \times B_1 + A_4 \times B_3} & \underset{C_4}{A_3 \times B_2 + A_4 \times B_4} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Divide:** compute the following seven  $n/2 \times n/2$  matrices by calling the multiplication function recursively **seven times**.

$$P_1 = A_1 \times (B_2 - B_4)$$

$$P_2 = (A_1 + A_2) \times B_4$$

$$P_3 = (A_3 + A_4) \times B_1$$

$$P_4 = A_4 \times (B_3 - B_1)$$

$$P_5 = (A_1 + A_4) \times (B_1 + B_4)$$

$$P_6 = (A_2 - A_4) \times (B_3 + B_4)$$

$$P_7 = (A_1 - A_3) \times (B_1 + B_2)$$



## Strassen's Algorithm

- Conquer:** Use matrices  $P_i$  to compute  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ , and  $C_4$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ A_3 & A_4 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 \\ B_3 & B_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{C_1}{A_1 \times B_1 + A_2 \times B_3} & \overset{C_2}{A_1 \times B_2 + A_2 \times B_4} \\ \overset{C_3}{A_3 \times B_1 + A_4 \times B_3} & \overset{C_4}{A_3 \times B_2 + A_4 \times B_4} \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= P_5 + P_4 - P_2 + P_6 \\ &= (A_1 B_1 + A_1 B_4 + A_4 B_1 + A_4 B_4) + \\ &\quad (A_4 B_3 - A_4 B_1) + \\ &\quad (-A_1 B_4 - A_2 B_4) + \\ &\quad (A_2 B_3 + A_2 B_4 - A_4 B_3 - A_4 B_4) \\ &= A_1 B_1 + A_2 B_3 \end{aligned}$$



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$$= A_1 B_1 + A_2 B_3$$

$$C_2 = P_1 + P_2$$

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$$C_1 = P_5 + P_4 - P_2 + P_6$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (A_1 B_1 + A_1 B_4 + A_4 B_1 + A_4 B_4) + \\ &\quad (A_4 B_3 - A_4 B_1) + \\ &\quad (-A_1 B_4 - A_2 B_4) + \\ &\quad (A_2 B_3 + A_2 B_4 - A_4 B_3 - A_4 B_4) \\ &= A_1 B_1 + A_2 B_3 \end{aligned}$$

$$C_2 = P_1 + P_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (A_1 B_2 - A_1 B_4) + \\ &\quad (A_1 B_4 + A_2 B_4) \\ &= A_1 B_2 + A_2 B_4 \end{aligned}$$

$$C_3 = P_3 + P_4$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (A_3 B_1 + A_4 B_1) + \\ &\quad (A_4 B_3 - A_4 B_1) \\ &= (A_3 B_1 + A_4 B_3) \end{aligned}$$



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$$C_1 = P_5 + P_4 - P_2 + P_6$$

$$= (A_1 B_1 + A_1 B_4 + A_4 B_1 + A_4 B_4) +$$

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$$= A_1 B_1 + A_2 B_3$$

$$C_2 = P_1 + P_2$$

$$= (A_1 B_2 - A_1 B_4) +$$

$$(A_1 B_4 + A_2 B_4)$$

$$= A_1 B_2 + A_2 B_4$$

$$C_3 = P_3 + P_4$$

$$= (A_3 B_1 + A_4 B_1) +$$

$$(A_4 B_3 - A_4 B_1)$$

$$= (A_3 B_1 + A_4 B_3)$$

$$C_4 = P_5 + P_1 - P_3 - P_7$$

$$= (A_1 B_1 + A_1 B_4 + A_4 B_1 + A_4 B_4) +$$

$$(A_1 B_2 - A_1 B_4) +$$

$$(-A_3 B_1 - A_4 B_1) +$$

$$(-A_1 B_1 - A_1 B_2 + A_3 B_1 + A_3 B_2)$$

$$= A_3 B_2 + A_4 B_4$$



## Strassen's Algorithm Summary

- We make 7 recursive calls to multiply matrices of size  $n/2 \times n/2$ .
  - The additional work involves adding/subtracting matrices of size  $n/2 \times n/2$  several times; this takes  $\Theta(n^2)$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & A_2 \\ A_3 & A_4 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & B_2 \\ B_3 & B_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underbrace{A_1 \times B_1 + A_2 \times B_3}_{C_1} & \underbrace{A_1 \times B_2 + A_2 \times B_4}_{C_2} \\ \underbrace{A_3 \times B_1 + A_4 \times B_3}_{C_3} & \underbrace{A_3 \times B_2 + A_4 \times B_4}_{C_4} \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$C_1 = P_5 + P_4 - P_2 + P_6$$

$$C_2 = P_1 + P_2$$

$$C_3 = P_3 + P_4$$

$$C_4 = P_5 + P_1 - P_3 - P_7$$

The time complexity of the Strassen's algorithm is:  $T(n) = \begin{cases} 7T(n/2) + \Theta(n^2) & \text{if } n \geq 2 \\ c & \text{if } n = 2 \end{cases}$

This is case 1 of Master theorem, and  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_2 7})$



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- A naive iterative algorithm runs in  $\Theta(n^3)$ .
- A simple D&Q does not improve the running time (it stays  $\Theta(n^3)$ ).
- Strassen algorithm is a D&Q algorithm with improved running time of  $\Theta(n^{\log_2 7})$ .
- The best existing algorithm has running time  $O(n^{2.373})$  [Alman 2020]
  - We know we cannot do better than  $\Omega(n^2)$  (why?)
  - Finding the best running time is still an open problem!