Selected Solutions for Chapter 4: Divide-and-Conquer

Solution to Exercise 4.2-4

If you can multiply 3×3 matrices using k multiplications, then you can multiply $n \times n$ matrices by recursively multiplying $n/3 \times n/3$ matrices, in time $T(n) = kT(n/3) + \Theta(n^2)$.

Using the master method to solve this recurrence, consider the ratio of $n^{\log_3 k}$ and n^2:

- If $\log_3 k = 2$, case 2 applies and $T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \lg n)$. In this case, $k = 9$ and $T(n) = o(n^{\lg 7})$.
- If $\log_3 k < 2$, case 3 applies and $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$. In this case, $k < 9$ and $T(n) = o(n^{\lg 7})$.
- If $\log_3 k > 2$, case 1 applies and $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_3 k})$. In this case, $k > 9$. $T(n) = o(n^{\lg 7})$ when $\log_3 k < \lg 7$, i.e., when $k < 3^{\lg 7} \approx 21.85$. The largest such integer k is 21.

Thus, $k = 21$ and the running time is $\Theta(n^{\log_3 k}) = \Theta(n^{\log_3 21}) = O(n^{2.80})$ (since $\log_3 21 \approx 2.77$).

Solution to Exercise 4.4-6

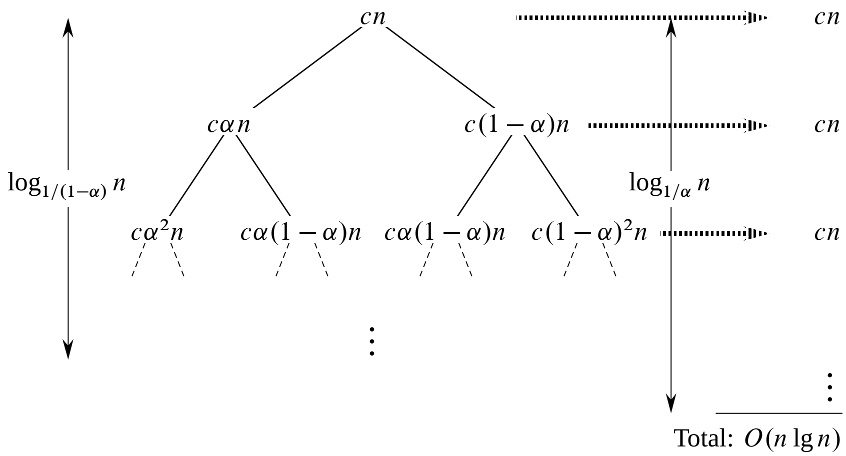
The shortest path from the root to a leaf in the recursion tree is $n \to (1/3)n \to (1/3)^2 n \to \cdots \to 1$. Since $(1/3)^k n = 1$ when $k = \log_3 n$, the height of the part of the tree in which every node has two children is $\log_3 n$. Since the values at each of these levels of the tree add up to cn, the solution to the recurrence is at least $cn \log_3 n = \Omega(n \lg n)$.

Solution to Exercise 4.4-9

$T(n) = T(\alpha n) + T((1-\alpha)n) + cn$

We saw the solution to the recurrence $T(n) = T(n/3) + T(2n/3) + cn$ in the text. This recurrence can be similarly solved.

Without loss of generality, let $\alpha \geq 1-\alpha$, so that $0 < 1-\alpha \leq 1/2$ and $1/2 \leq \alpha < 1$.



The recursion tree is full for $\log_{1/(1-\alpha)} n$ levels, each contributing cn, so we guess $\Omega(n \log_{1/(1-\alpha)} n) = \Omega(n \lg n)$. It has $\log_{1/\alpha} n$ levels, each contributing $\leq cn$, so we guess $O(n \log_{1/\alpha} n) = O(n \lg n)$.

Now we show that $T(n) = \Theta(n \lg n)$ by substitution. To prove the upper bound, we need to show that $T(n) \leq dn \lg n$ for a suitable constant $d > 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}
T(n) &= T(\alpha n) + T((1-\alpha)n) + cn \\
&\leq d\alpha n \lg(\alpha n) + d(1-\alpha)n \lg((1-\alpha)n) + cn \\
&= d\alpha n \lg \alpha + d\alpha n \lg n + d(1-\alpha)n \lg(1-\alpha) + d(1-\alpha)n \lg n + cn \\
&= dn \lg n + dn(\alpha \lg \alpha + (1-\alpha)\lg(1-\alpha)) + cn \\
&\leq dn \lg n ,
\end{aligned}$$

if $dn(\alpha \lg \alpha + (1-\alpha)\lg(1-\alpha)) + cn \leq 0$. This condition is equivalent to

$$d(\alpha \lg \alpha + (1-\alpha)\lg(1-\alpha)) \leq -c .$$

Since $1/2 \leq \alpha < 1$ and $0 < 1-\alpha \leq 1/2$, we have that $\lg \alpha < 0$ and $\lg(1-\alpha) < 0$. Thus, $\alpha \lg \alpha + (1-\alpha)\lg(1-\alpha) < 0$, so that when we multiply both sides of the inequality by this factor, we need to reverse the inequality:

$$d \geq \frac{-c}{\alpha \lg \alpha + (1-\alpha)\lg(1-\alpha)}$$

or

$$d \geq \frac{c}{-\alpha \lg \alpha + -(1-\alpha)\lg(1-\alpha)} .$$

The fraction on the right-hand side is a positive constant, and so it suffices to pick any value of d that is greater than or equal to this fraction.

To prove the lower bound, we need to show that $T(n) \geq dn \lg n$ for a suitable constant $d > 0$. We can use the same proof as for the upper bound, substituting $\geq$ for $\leq$, and we get the requirement that

$$0 < d \leq \frac{c}{-\alpha \lg \alpha - (1-\alpha)\lg(1-\alpha)} .$$

Therefore, $T(n) = \Theta(n \lg n)$.