

# CS 173 Lecture 17c: Analyzing Recursion

part of an array  
starting at index  $l$   
& ending at index  $u$

MergeSort( $A[l..u]$ ):

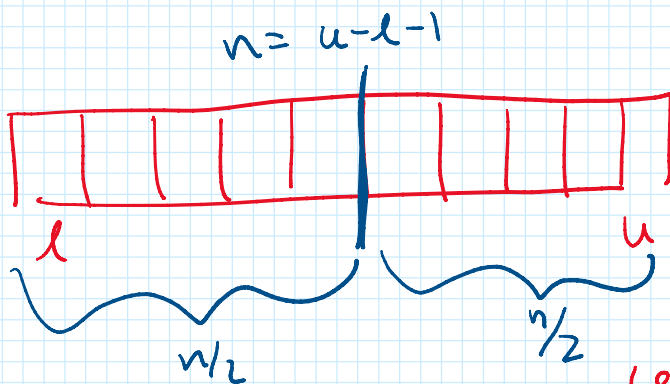
1. if ( $u-l \geq 1$ ):
2.  $m = \lfloor (u-l)/2 \rfloor$
3. MergeSort( $A[l..m]$ )
4. MergeSort( $A[m+1..u]$ )
5. Merge( $A[l..u], m$ )

Merge( $A[l..u], m$ ):

(omitted)

recursive version in BBfTCS  
(CS173 text)

iterative version in algorithms.wtf  
(CS 374 text).



if line 1 returns true:  
recursively sort first half  
& second half  
"merges" afterwards

Merge takes  $\leq dn$  time  
for some  $d \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $f(n)$  be running time of  
MergeSort on input of size  $n$

Line 1: always executes &  
takes  $c_1$  time.

Lines 2-4 execute if  $n > 1$ .

Line 2: takes  $c_2$  time

Line 3:  $f(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$  time.

Line 4:  $f(\lceil n/2 \rceil)$  time

Line 5:  $\leq dn$  time.

MergeSort( $A[l..u]$ ):

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$$f(1) = c_1$$

$$f(n) \leq c_1 + c_2 + f(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + f(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + dn$$

assume  $n$  is a power of 2:

know from Lecture on Recursion trees:

$$f(n) \leq k_1 n (\log_2 n - 1) + k_2 n + k_3$$

Asymptote analysis:

$$f(n) = O(n \log n)$$

unbalanced

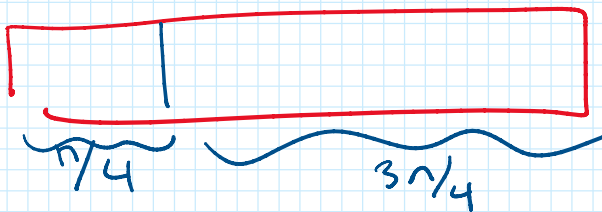
UMergeSort( $A[l..u]$ ):

1. if  $(u-l \geq 1)$ :
2.  $m = \lfloor (u-l)/4 \rfloor$
3. UMergeSort( $A[l..m]$ )
4. UMergeSort( $A[m+1..u]$ )
5. Merge( $A[l..u], m$ )

$$g(1) = c$$

$$g(n) \leq c_1 + c_2 + g(\lfloor n/4 \rfloor) + g(\lfloor 3n/4 \rfloor) + dn$$

unbalanced?  
floors/ceilings?



floors & ceilings: ignore them  
justification

replace  $g(n) : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

w/ upper bound  $h(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

if done right,

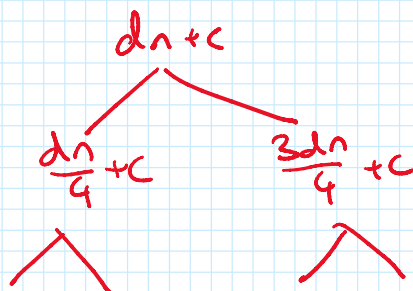
$$g(n) = O(h(n)).$$

(kind of a l.e.)

full details: algorithms.wtf.

unbalanced recursion:

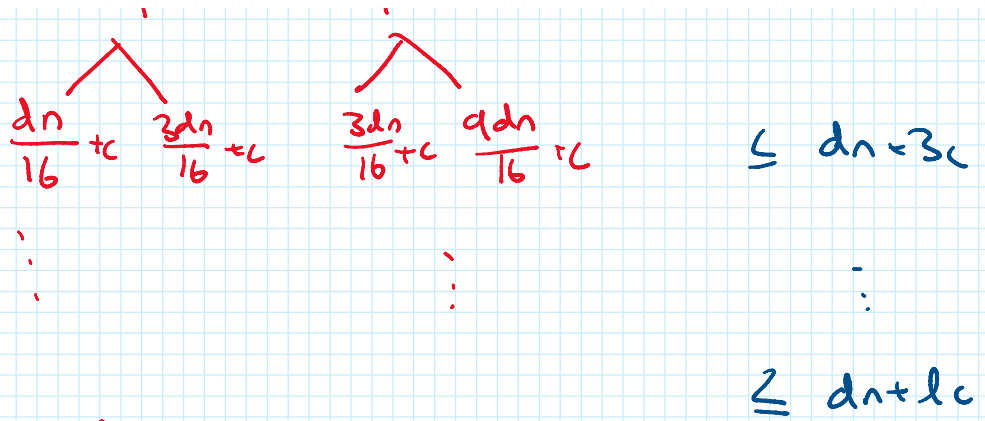
$$g(n) = g(\frac{n}{4}) + g(\frac{3n}{4}) + dn + c$$



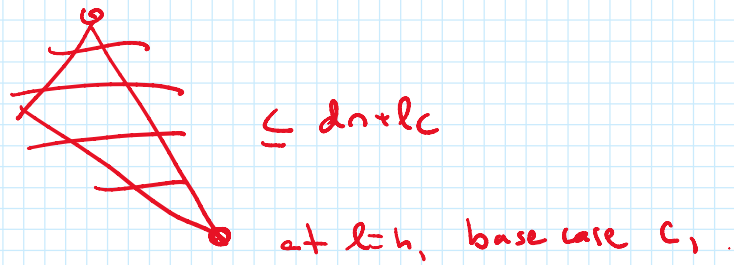
total extra work?

$$\leq dn + c$$

$$\leq dn + 2c$$



at some level  $l$ ,  $\frac{dn}{4^l} \leq 1$ .  
 height  $> l$  since  $\frac{3^l dn}{4^l} > 1$ .



$$\begin{aligned}
 g(n) &\leq \left( \sum_{l=0}^{h-1} dn + lc \right) + c_1 \\
 &\leq \left( \sum_{l=0}^{\log_{\frac{4}{3}} n} dn + lc \right) + c_1 \\
 &= O(n \log n).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^h n &\leq 1 \\
 \Leftrightarrow n &\leq \left( \frac{4}{3} \right)^h \\
 \Leftrightarrow \log_{\frac{4}{3}} n &\leq h
 \end{aligned}$$