

Tree Method

Way to solve certain recurrences

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + O(n^d)$$

$$T(n) \leq C \text{ for } n < n^*$$

a, b, d don't depend on n

Q: If $T(n)$ is runtime of an algorithm,

What are a, b, d in words?

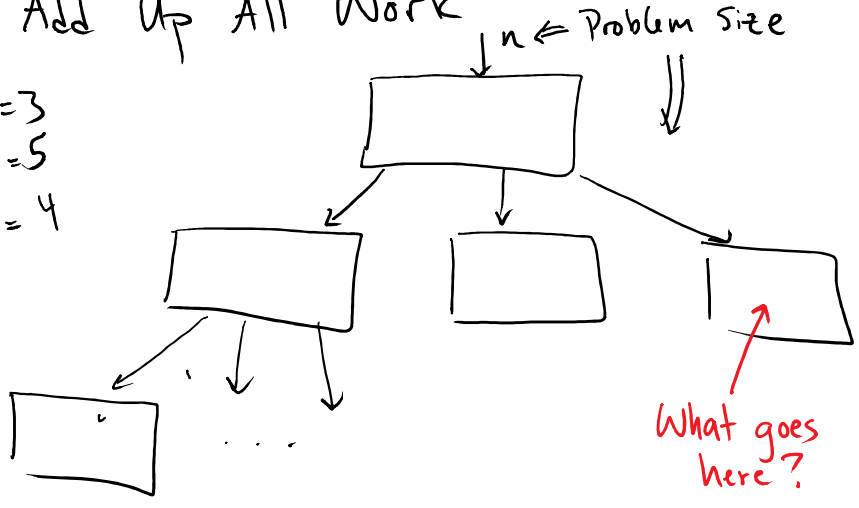
A: a: # of recursive calls

b: factor by which problem shrinks in recursive call

d: characterizes extra work outside recursive call

Let's Add Up All Work

ex: a=3
b=5
d=4



Input size
n

$\frac{n}{5}$

$\frac{n}{25}$

A) $O\left(\frac{n}{5}\right)$

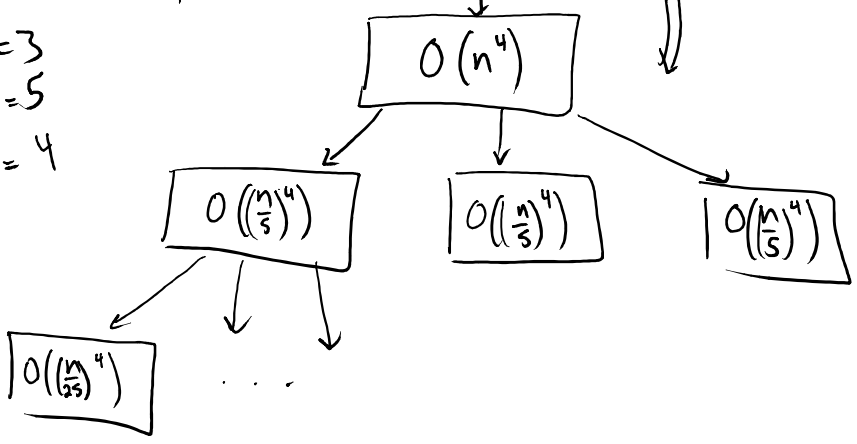
B) $O\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)$

C) $O\left(\left(\frac{n}{5}\right)^4\right)$

D) $O\left(\left(\frac{n}{3}\right)^4\right)$

Let's Add Up All Work $n \leftarrow$ Problem Size

ex: $a=3$
 $b=5$
 $d=4$



Input size

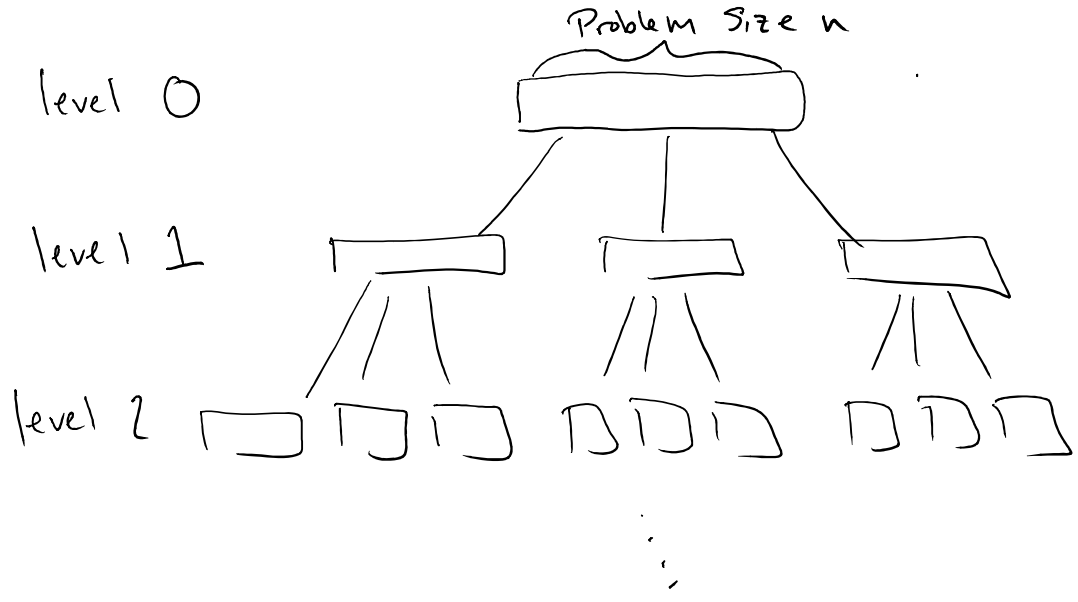
n

$\frac{n}{3}$

$\frac{n}{9}$

\vdots

Proof of Tree Method



level F $b \cdot b \cdot b \cdot b \dots b \cdot b \cdot b$ constant

Q. What is F (in terms of a, b, d)?

- A) $O(\log_b n)$ B) $O(\log_d n)$ C) $O(n^{\log_b d})$ D) $O(b^{\log_d n})$



Because at each level, problem size is divided by b . $\log_b n$ is number of times n can be divided by b before reaching a constant.

$$\text{constant} \cdot \underbrace{b \cdot b \cdot \dots \cdot b}_F = n$$

$$c \cdot b^F = n$$

$$b^F = \frac{n}{c}$$

$$F = \log_b n - \log_b c$$

take \log_b of both sides $\rightarrow F \log_b b = \log_b n - \log_b c$
 $F = \log_b n + \text{constant}$

Q. What is the ~~total~~ work done just at level k , not at other levels?

- a^k subproblems at level k .
 - level k subproblem size: $\frac{n}{b^k}$
 - Work outside of recursive call required to solve 1 subproblem: $\left(\frac{n}{b^k}\right)^d$
- \Rightarrow Total work $a^k \left(\frac{n}{b^k}\right)^d = \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^k n^d$

Now we add up work done at all levels:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\log_b n} \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^k n^d$$

$$T(n) = n^d \left[\sum_{k=0}^{\log_b n} \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^k \right]$$

Multiplicative
Distributive property

Geometric Series:

$$\sum_{k=0}^F r^k = \begin{cases} F+1 & \text{if } r = 1 \\ \frac{1-r^{F+1}}{1-r} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

PSET:

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



This is usually called "master method"
"master theorem"

Master has pretty unpleasant connotations. Also
it is not descriptive

My term: "Tree method"