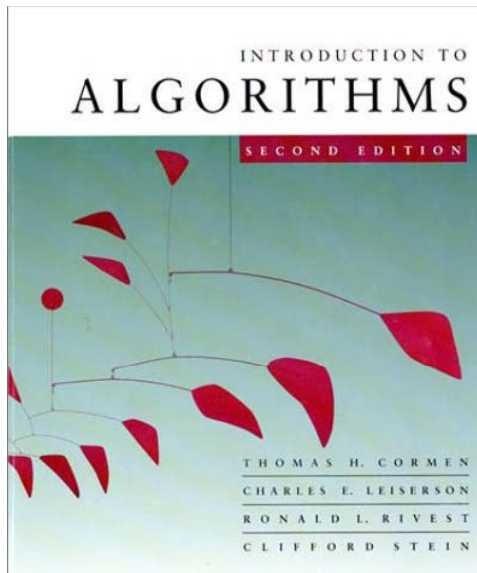


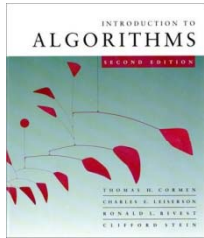
# CS 3343 – Fall 2011



## *Master Theorem*

**Carola Wenk**

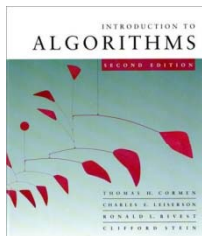
Slides courtesy of Charles Leiserson with small changes by Carola Wenk



# The divide-and-conquer design paradigm

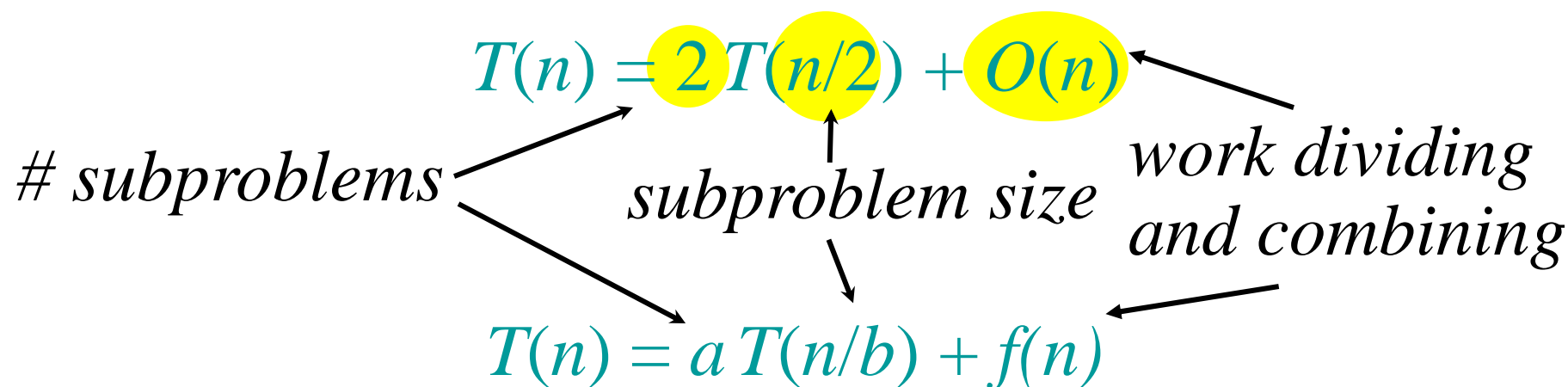
1. **Divide** the problem (instance) into subproblems.  
 $a$  subproblems, **each** of size  $n/b$
2. **Conquer** the subproblems by solving them recursively.
3. **Combine** subproblem solutions.

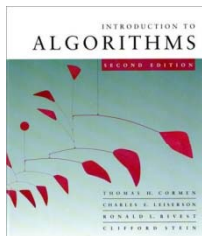
Runtime for divide and combine is  $f(n)$



# Example: merge sort

1. **Divide:** Trivial.
2. **Conquer:** Recursively sort  $a=2$  subarrays of size  $n/2=n/b$
3. **Combine:** Linear-time merge, runtime  $f(n) \in O(n)$



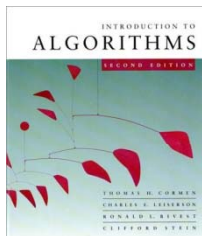


# The master method

The master method applies to recurrences of the form

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n) ,$$

where  $a \geq 1$ ,  $b > 1$ , and  $f$  is asymptotically positive.



# Master Theorem

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n)$$

## CASE 1:

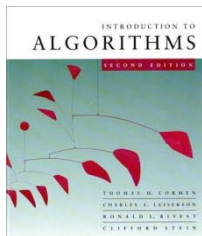
$$f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

## CASE 2:

$$f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^k n) \quad \Rightarrow \quad T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^{k+1} n)$$

## CASE 3:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon}) \\ \text{and } af(n/b) \leq cf(n) \\ \text{for some constant } c < 1 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$



# How to apply the theorem

Compare  $f(n)$  with  $n^{\log_b a}$ :

1.  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$  for some constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

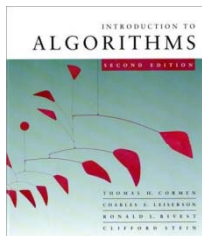
- $f(n)$  grows polynomially slower than  $n^{\log_b a}$  (by an  $n^\varepsilon$  factor).

**Solution:**  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ .

2.  $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^k n)$  for some constant  $k \geq 0$ .

- $f(n)$  and  $n^{\log_b a}$  grow at similar rates.

**Solution:**  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^{k+1} n)$ .



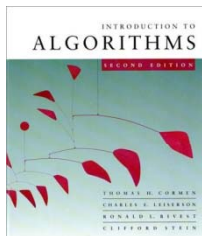
# How to apply the theorem

3.  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  for some constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

- $f(n)$  grows polynomially faster than  $n^{\log_b a}$  (by an  $n^\varepsilon$  factor),

*and*  $f(n)$  satisfies the **regularity condition** that  $af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$  for some constant  $c < 1$ .

**Solution:**  $T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$ .



# Example: merge sort

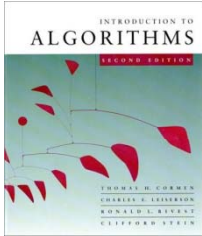
- 1. Divide:** Trivial.
- 2. Conquer:** Recursively sort 2 subarrays.
- 3. Combine:** Linear-time merge.

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + O(n)$$

# subproblems  $\nearrow$   $2$   $\nearrow$   $T(n/2)$   $\nearrow$   $n/2$   $\nearrow$   $O(n)$   $\longleftarrow$  work dividing and combining

$$n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 2} = n^1 = n \Rightarrow \text{CASE 2 } (k = 0)$$
$$\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n \log n).$$



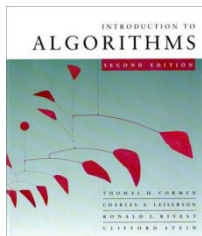


# Example: binary search

$$T(n) = 1T(n/2) + \Theta(1)$$

*# subproblems*      *subproblem size*      *work dividing and combining*

$$n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 1} = n^0 = 1 \Rightarrow \text{CASE 2 } (k = 0)$$
$$\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(\log n) .$$



# Examples

**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + \text{sqrt}(n)$

$$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = \text{sqrt}(n).$$

**CASE 1:**  $f(n) = O(n^{2-\epsilon})$  for  $\epsilon = 1.5$ .

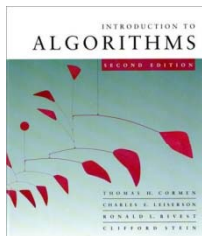
$$\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2).$$

**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2$

$$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^2.$$

**CASE 2:**  $f(n) = \Theta(n^2 \log^0 n)$ , that is,  $k = 0$ .

$$\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2 \log n).$$



# Examples

**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^3$

$$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^3.$$

**CASE 3:**  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{2+\epsilon})$  for  $\epsilon = 1$

**and**  $4(n/2)^3 \leq cn^3$  (reg. cond.) for  $c = 1/2$ .

$$\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^3).$$

**Ex.**  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2/\log n$

$$a = 4, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n^2; f(n) = n^2/\log n.$$

Master method does not apply. In particular, for every constant  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have  $\log n \in o(n^\epsilon)$ .