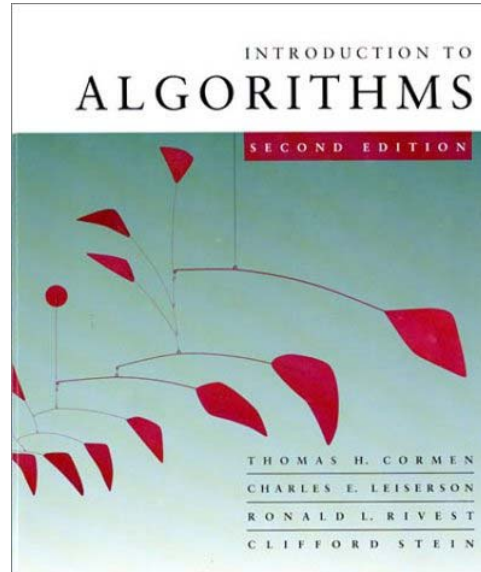




CS 5633 -- Spring 2004



Recurrences and Divide & Conquer

Carola Wenk

Slides courtesy of Charles Leiserson with small changes by Carola Wenk



Merge sort

MERGE-SORT $A[1 \dots n]$

1. If $n = 1$, done.
2. Recursively sort $A[1 \dots \lceil n/2 \rceil]$ and $A[\lceil n/2 \rceil + 1 \dots n]$.
3. “*Merge*” the 2 sorted lists.

Key subroutine: **MERGE**



Merging two sorted arrays

20 12

13 11

7 9

2 1

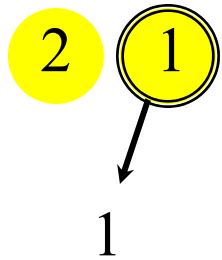


Merging two sorted arrays

20 12

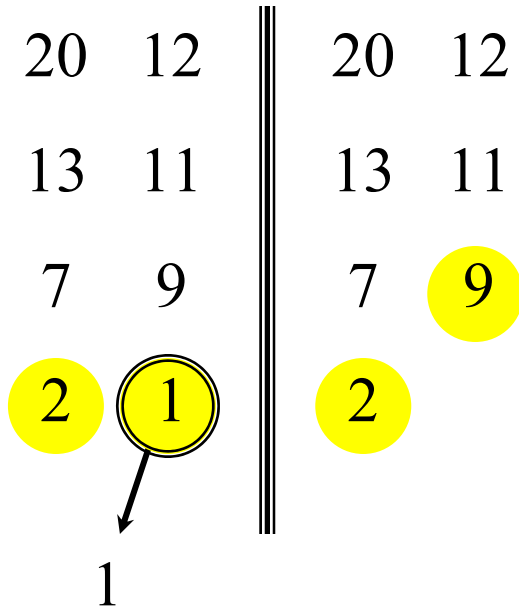
13 11

7 9



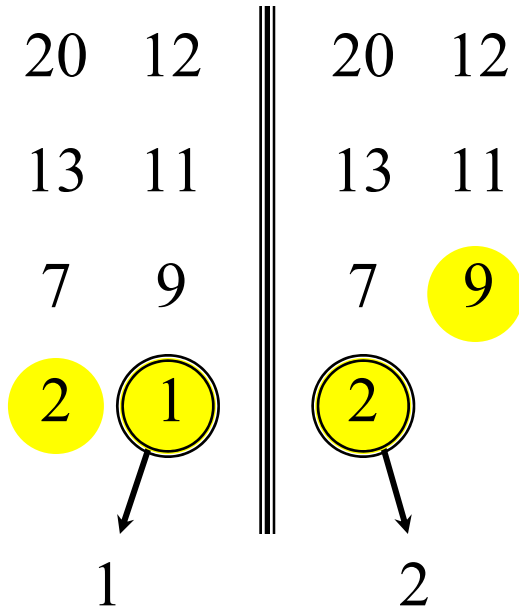


Merging two sorted arrays



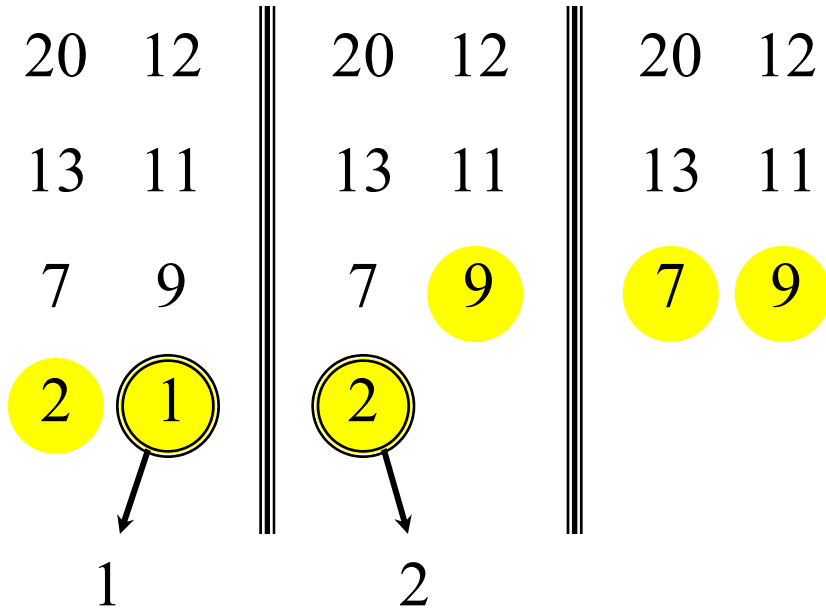


Merging two sorted arrays



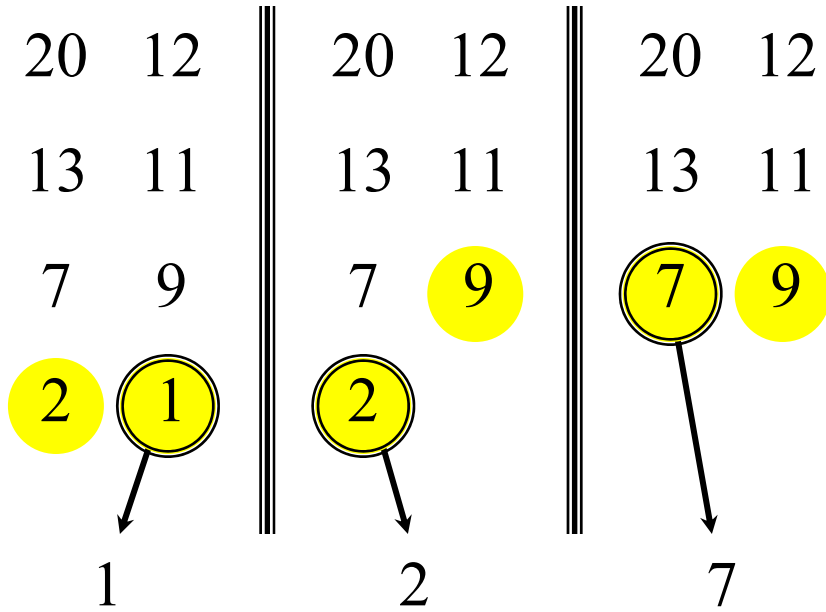


Merging two sorted arrays



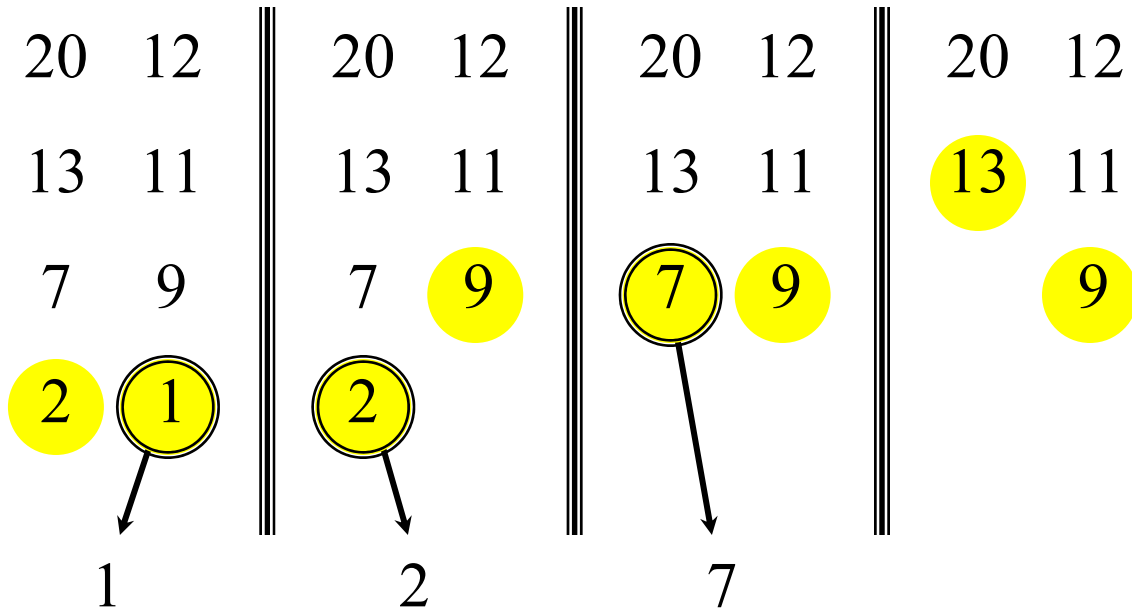


Merging two sorted arrays



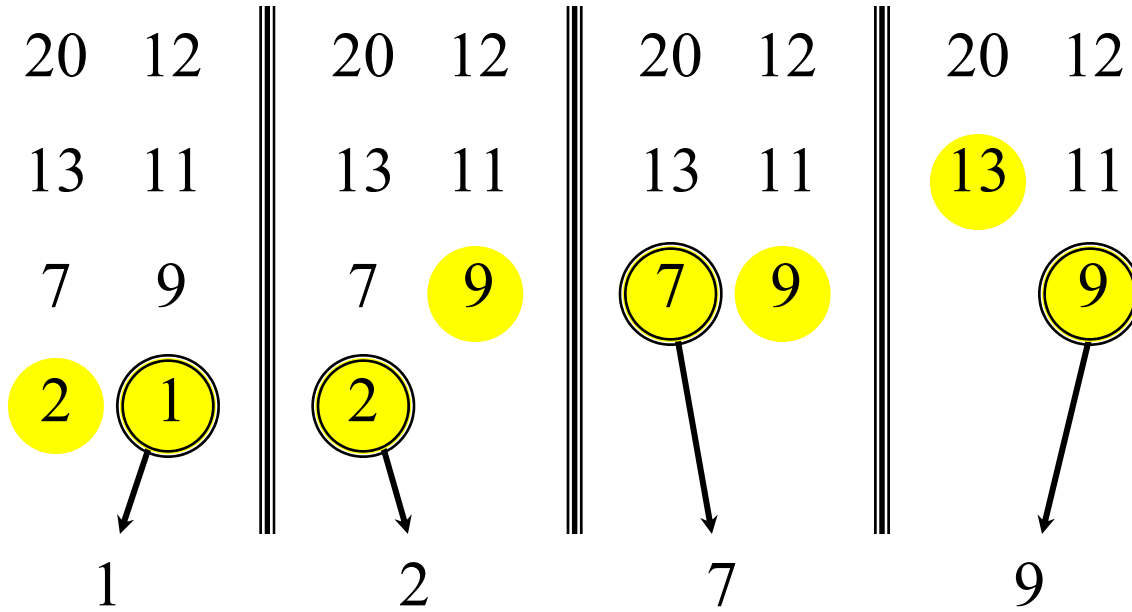


Merging two sorted arrays



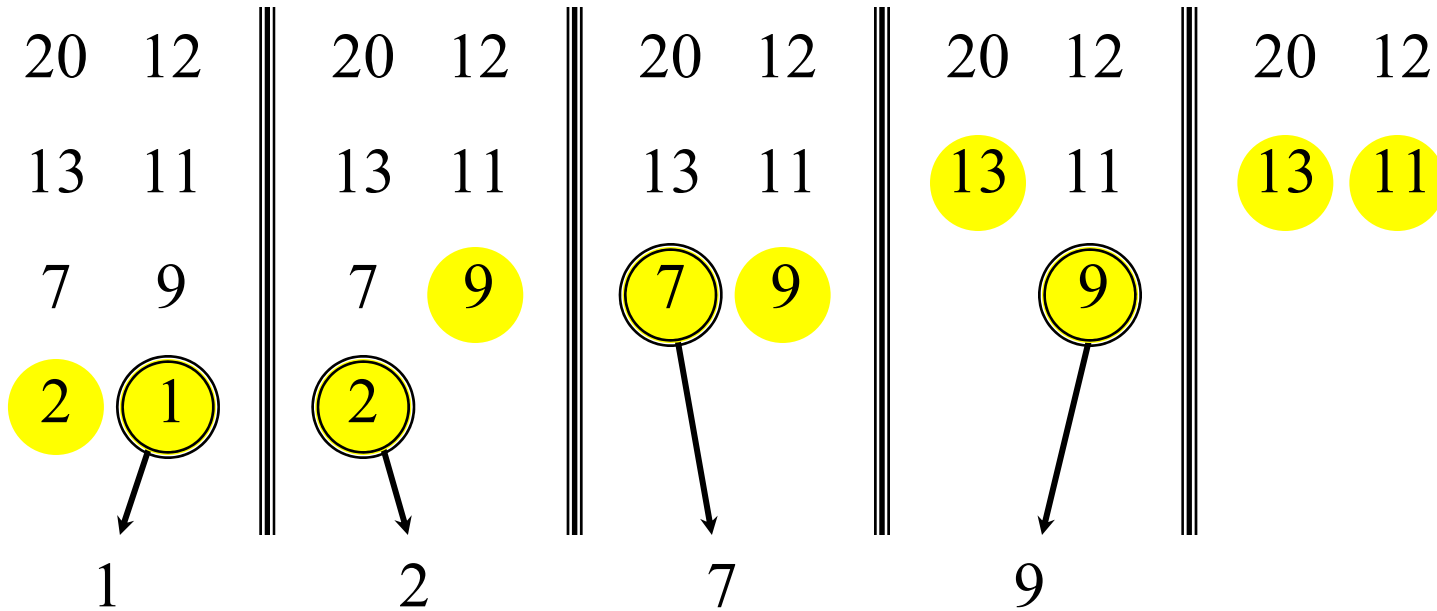


Merging two sorted arrays



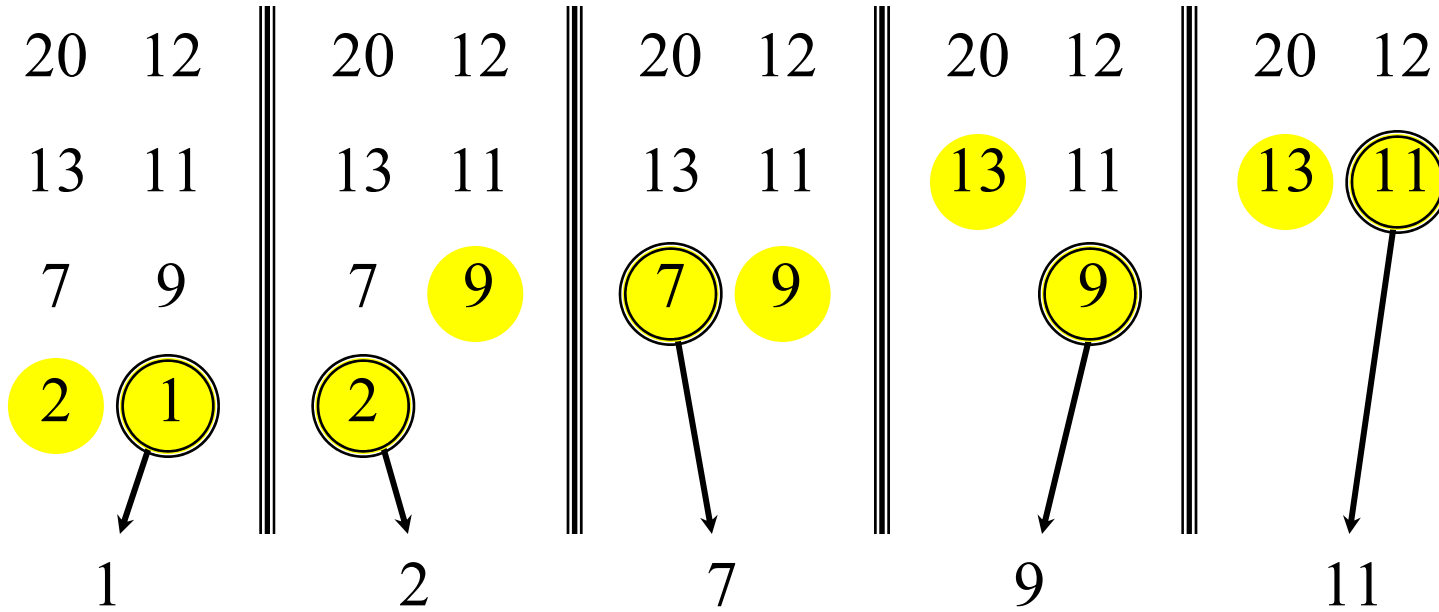


Merging two sorted arrays



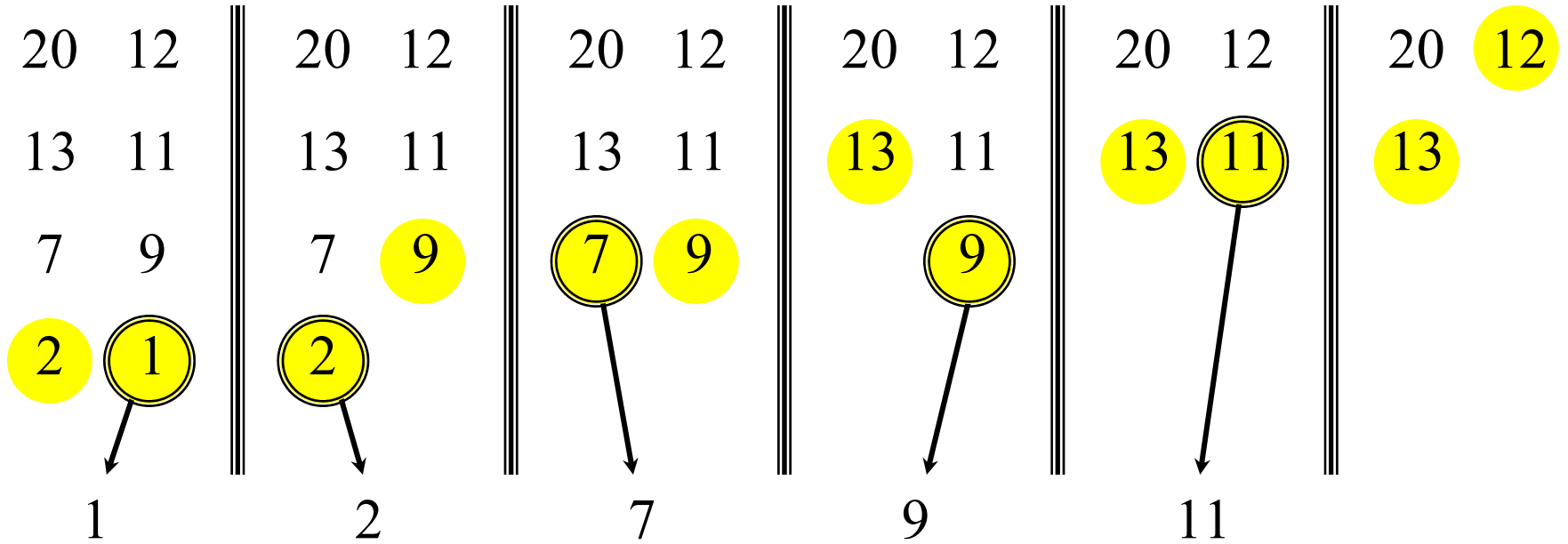


Merging two sorted arrays



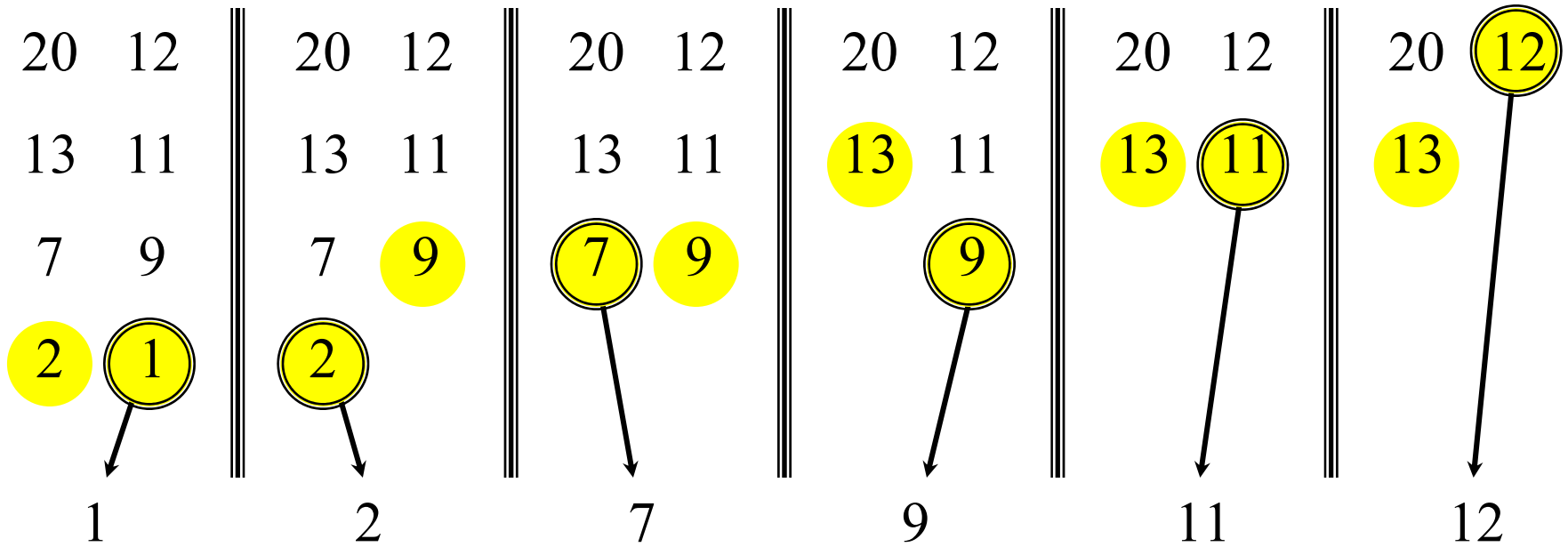


Merging two sorted arrays



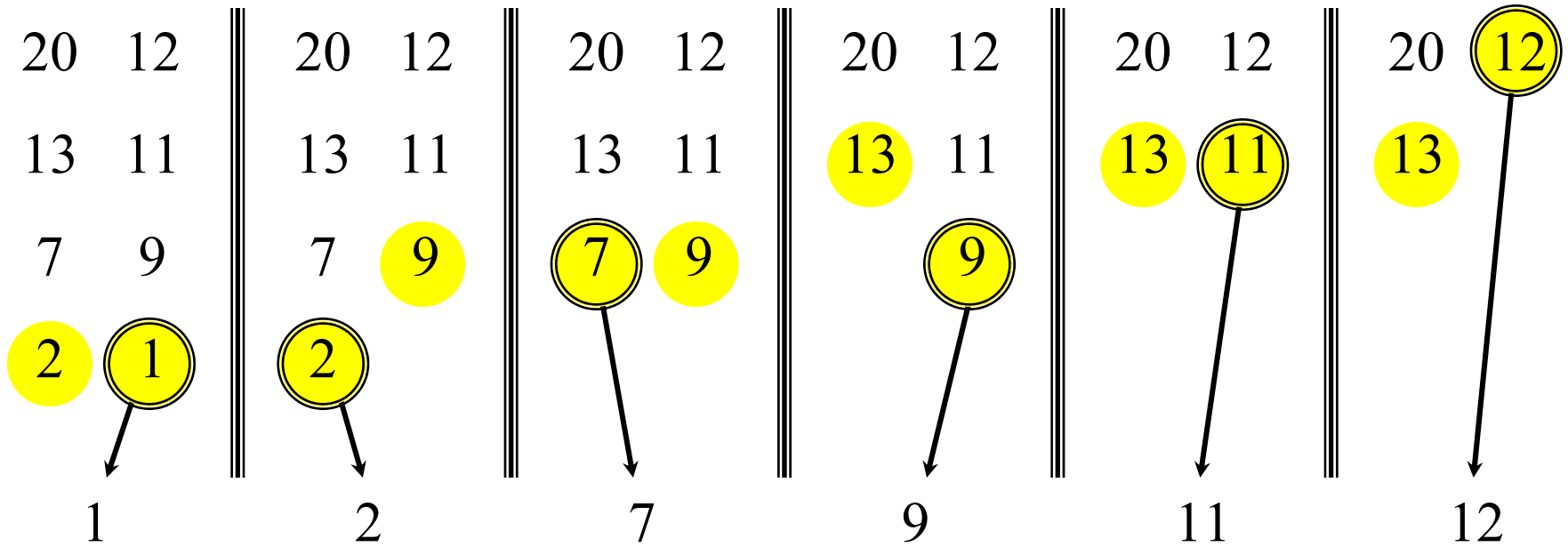


Merging two sorted arrays





Merging two sorted arrays



Time $dn = \Theta(n)$ to merge a total of n elements (linear time).



Analyzing merge sort

$T(n)$

d_0

$2T(n/2)$

dn



MERGE-SORT $A[1 \dots n]$

1. If $n = 1$, done.
2. Recursively sort $A[1 \dots \lceil n/2 \rceil]$ and $A[\lceil n/2 \rceil + 1 \dots n]$.
3. **“Merge”** the 2 sorted lists

Sloppiness: Should be $T(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)$, but it turns out not to matter asymptotically.



Recurrence for merge sort

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} d_0 & \text{if } n = 1; \\ 2T(n/2) + dn & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

- We shall often omit stating the base case when $T(n) = \Theta(1)$ for sufficiently small n , but only when it has no effect on the asymptotic solution to the recurrence.

- But what does $T(n)$ solve to? I.e., is it $O(n)$ or $O(n^2)$ or $O(n^3)$ or ...?



The divide-and-conquer design paradigm

- 1. *Divide*** the problem (instance) into subproblems.
- 2. *Conquer*** the subproblems by solving them recursively.
- 3. *Combine*** subproblem solutions.



Example: merge sort

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

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

subproblems

subproblem size

work dividing and combining



Binary search

Find an element in a sorted array:

- 1. *Divide:*** Check middle element.
- 2. *Conquer:*** Recursively search **1** subarray.
- 3. *Combine:*** Trivial.

Example: Find 9

3 5 7 8 9 12 15



Binary search

Find an element in a sorted array:

- 1. *Divide:*** Check middle element.
- 2. *Conquer:*** Recursively search **1** subarray.
- 3. *Combine:*** Trivial.

Example: Find 9





Binary search

Find an element in a sorted array:

- 1. *Divide:*** Check middle element.
- 2. *Conquer:*** Recursively search **1** subarray.
- 3. *Combine:*** Trivial.

Example: Find 9

3 5 7 8 **9** 12 15



Binary search

Find an element in a sorted array:

- 1. *Divide:*** Check middle element.
- 2. *Conquer:*** Recursively search **1** subarray.
- 3. *Combine:*** Trivial.

Example: Find 9

3 5 7 8 9 12 15



Binary search

Find an element in a sorted array:

- 1. *Divide:*** Check middle element.
- 2. *Conquer:*** Recursively search **1** subarray.
- 3. *Combine:*** Trivial.

Example: Find 9

3 5 7 8 **9** 12 15



Binary search

Find an element in a sorted array:

- 1. *Divide:*** Check middle element.
- 2. *Conquer:*** Recursively search **1** subarray.
- 3. *Combine:*** Trivial.

Example: Find 9

3 5 7 8 **9** 12 15



Recurrence for binary search

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

subproblems

subproblem size

*work dividing
and combining*



Recurrence for merge sort

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

- How do we solve $T(n)$? I.e., how do we find out if it is $O(n)$ or $O(n^2)$ or ...?



Recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.



Recursion tree

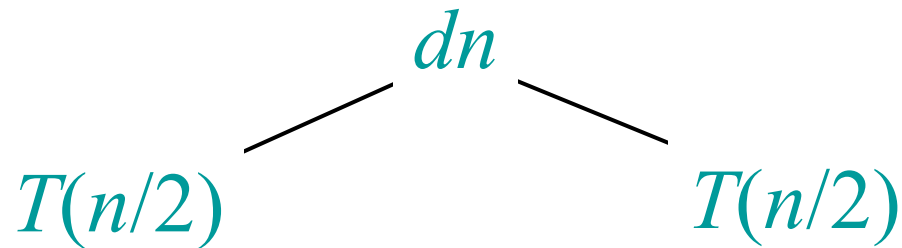
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.

$$T(n)$$



Recursion tree

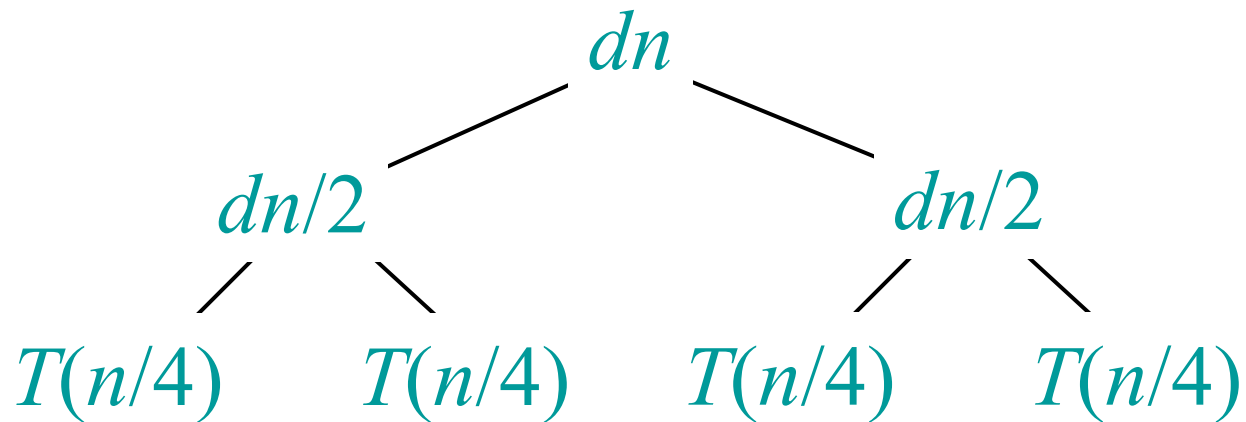
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

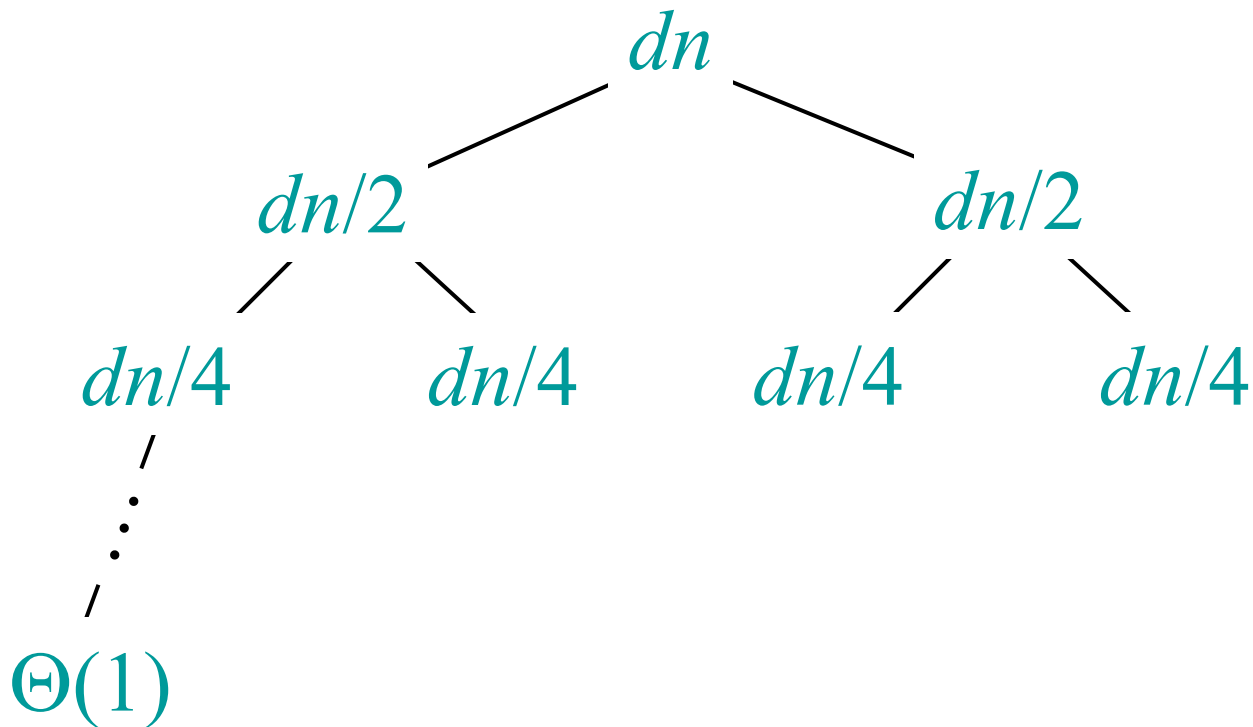
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

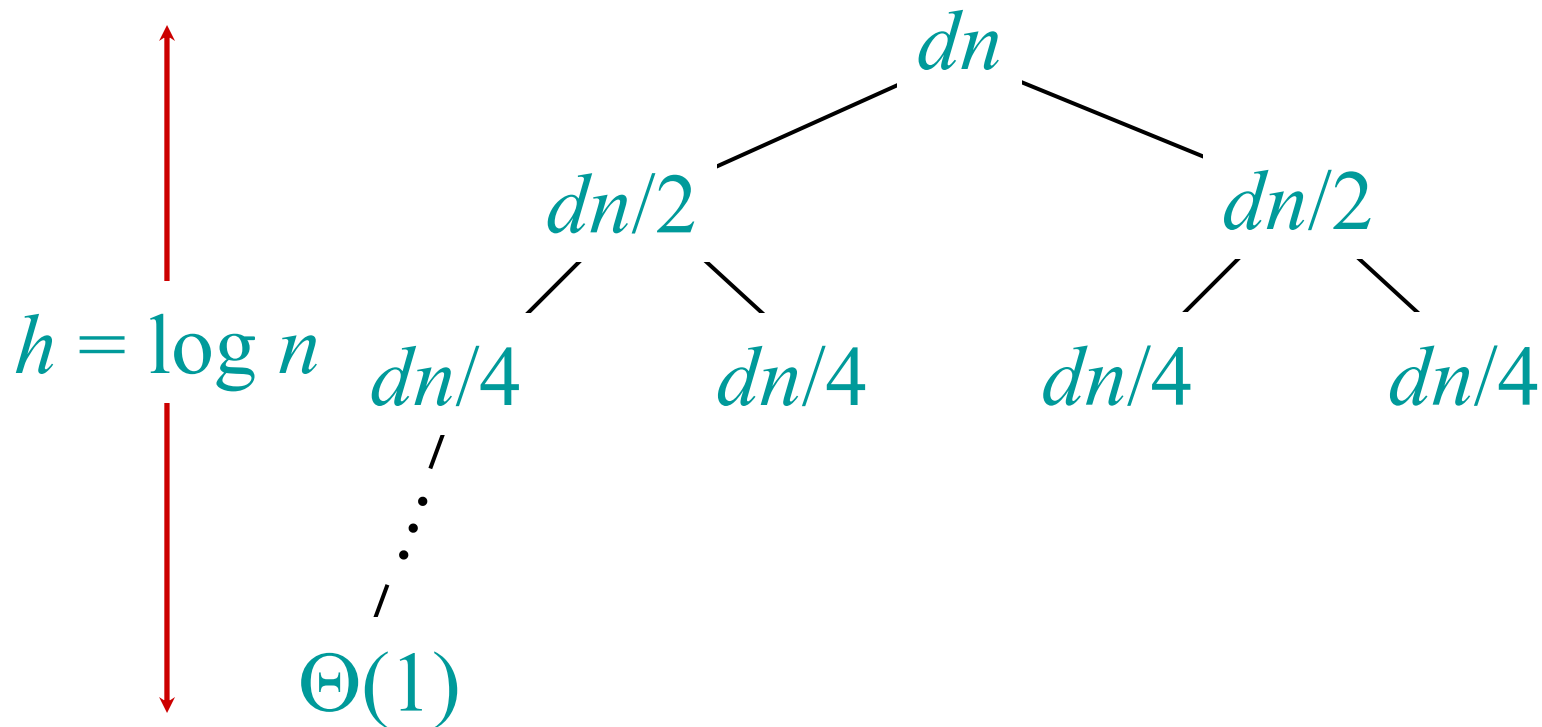
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

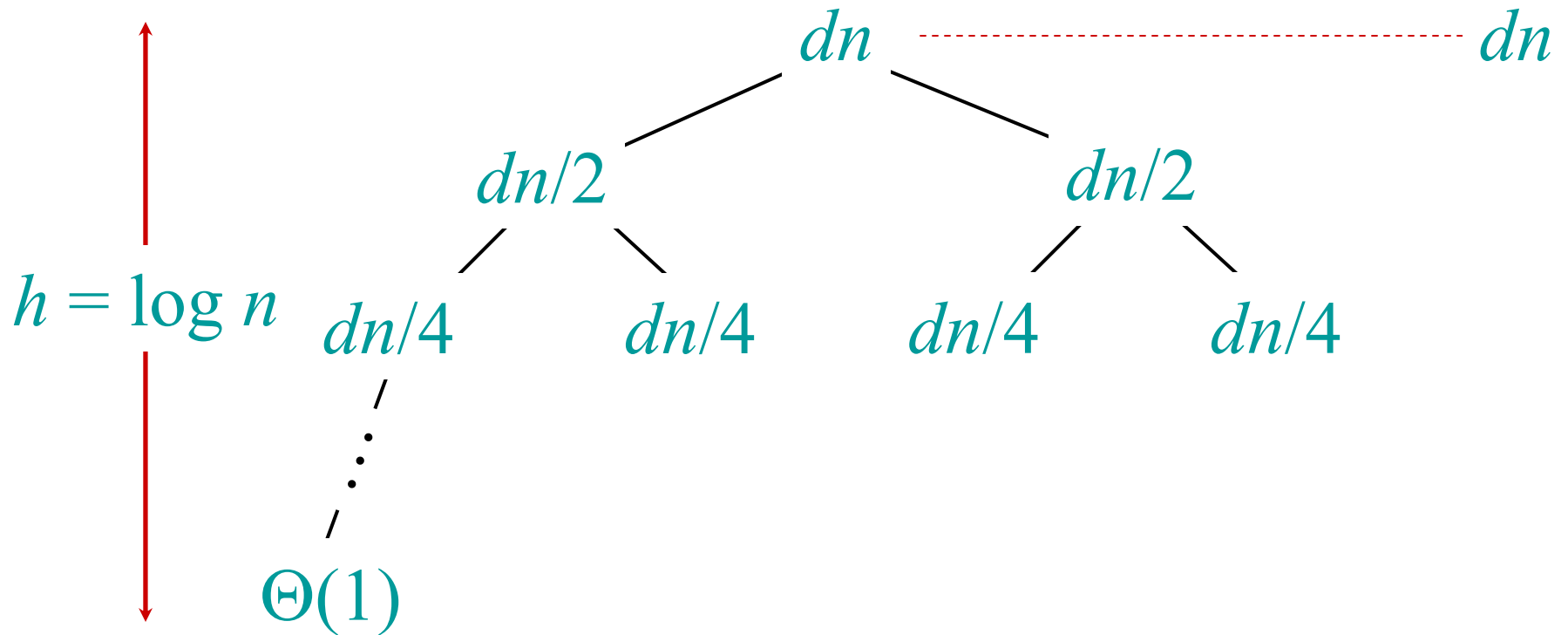
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

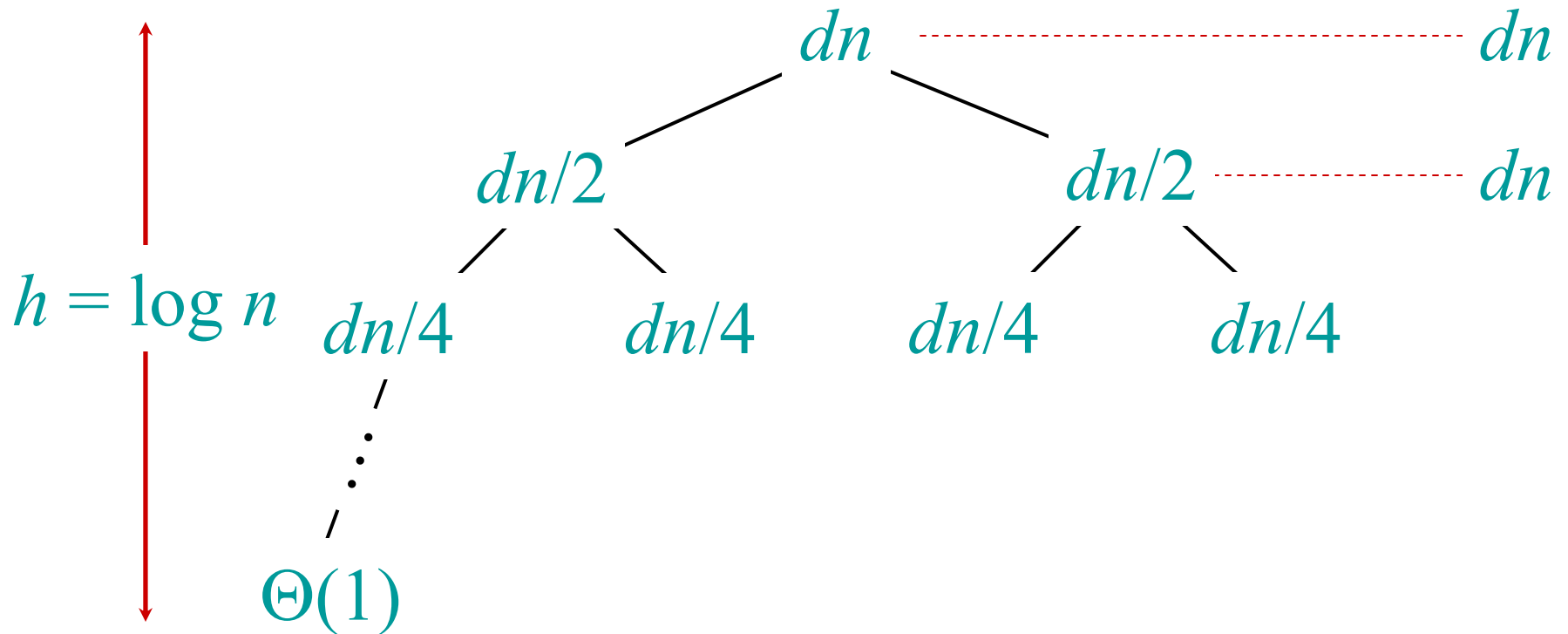
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

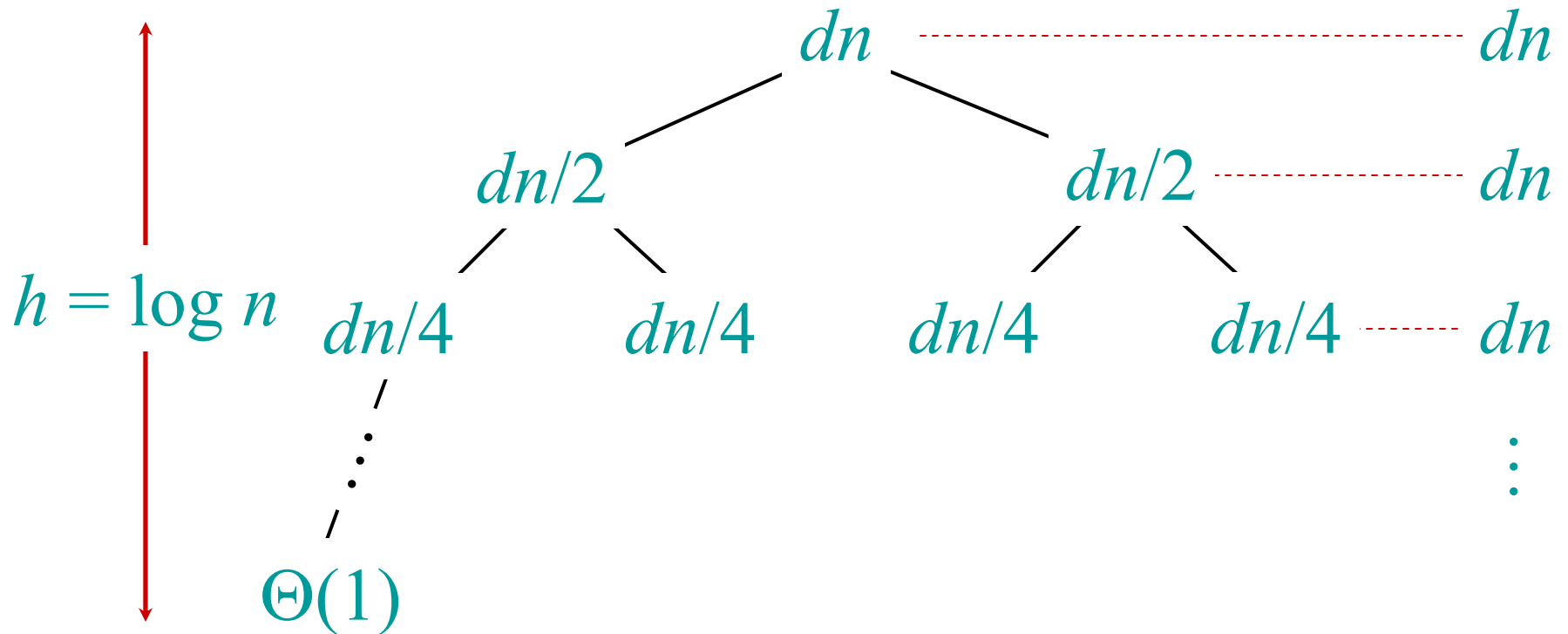
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

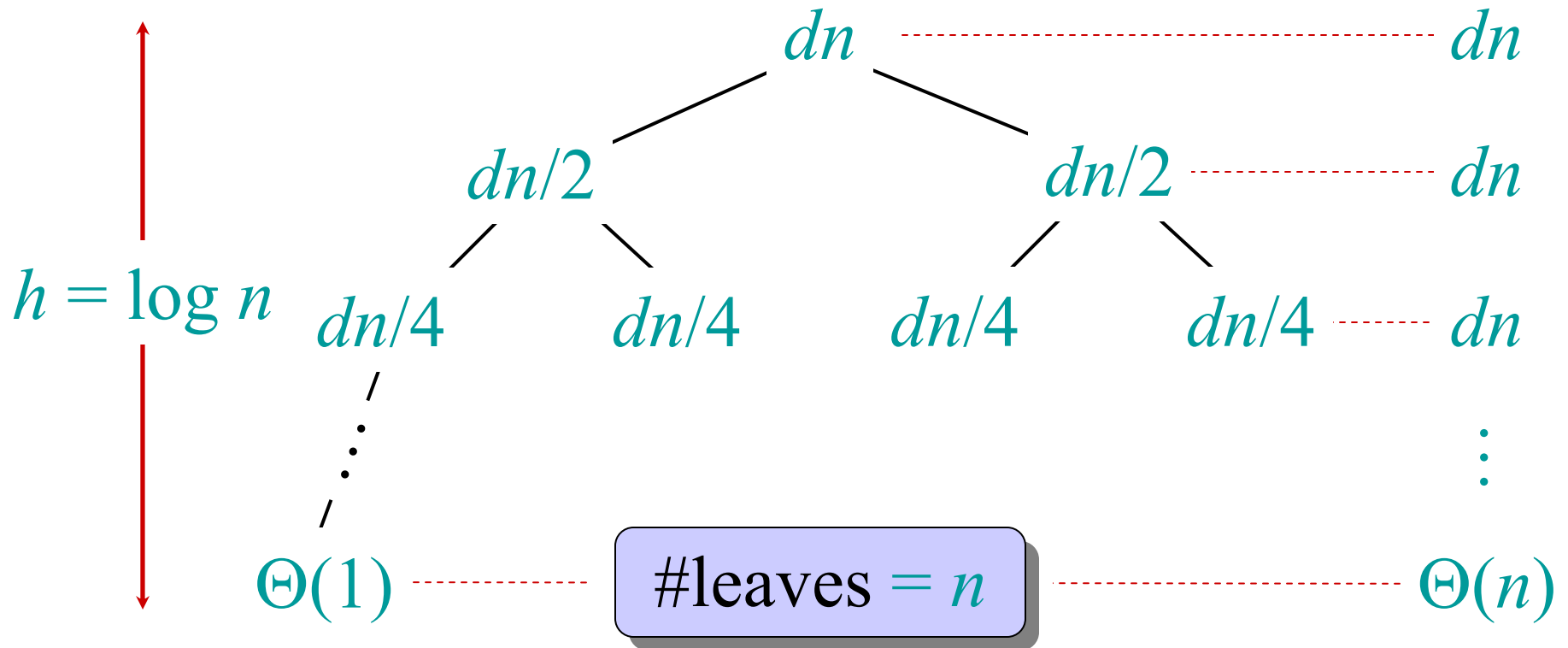
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

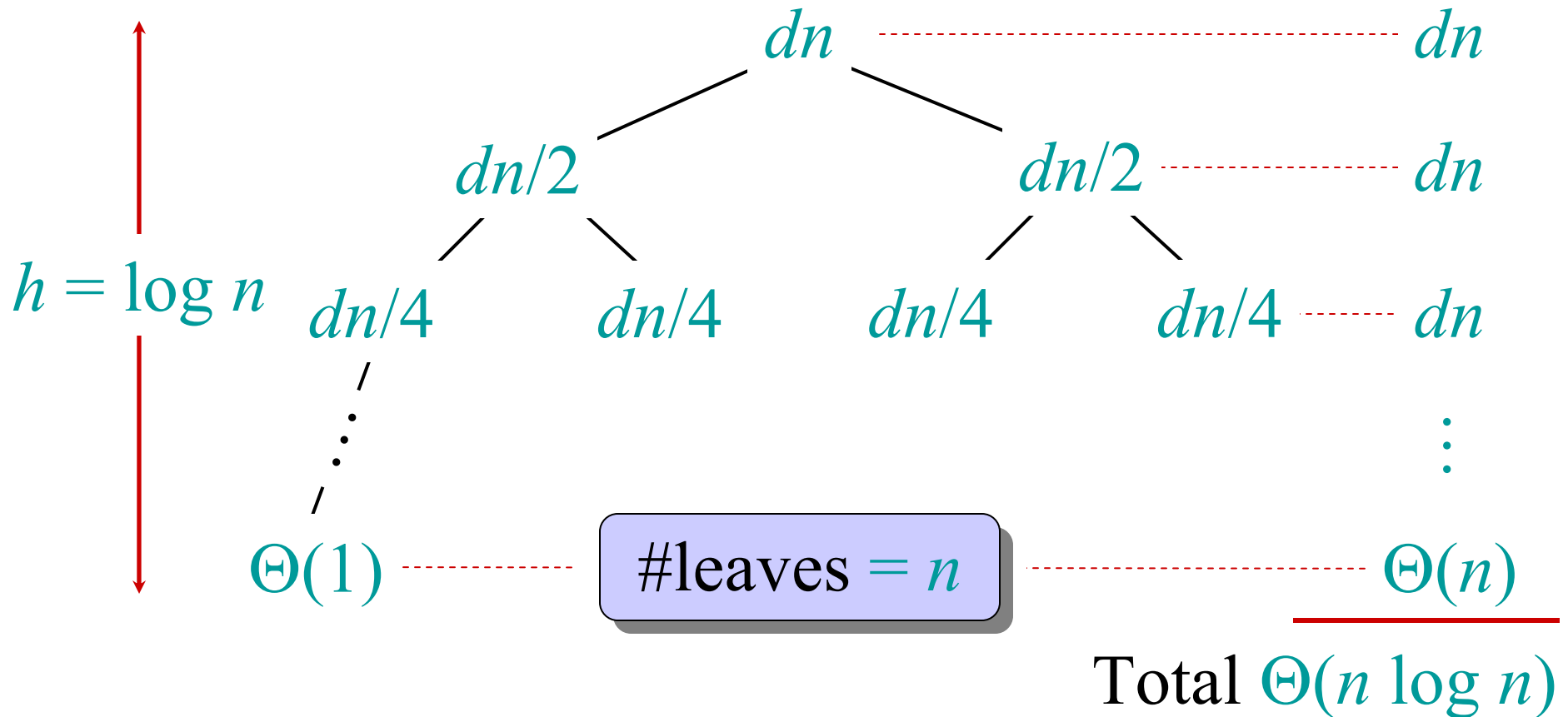
Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Recursion tree

Solve $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + dn$, where $d > 0$ is constant.





Conclusions

- Merge sort runs in $\Theta(n \lg n)$ time.
- $\Theta(n \lg n)$ grows more slowly than $\Theta(n^2)$.
- Therefore, merge sort asymptotically beats insertion sort in the worst case.
- In practice, merge sort beats insertion sort for $n > 30$ or so. (Why not earlier?)



Recursion-tree method

- A recursion tree models the costs (time) of a recursive execution of an algorithm.
- The recursion-tree method can be unreliable, just like any method that uses ellipses (...).
- It is good for generating **guesses** of what the runtime could be.

But: Need to **verify** that the guess is right.
→ Induction (substitution method)



Substitution method

The most general method to solve a recurrence (prove O and Θ separately):

- 1. *Guess*** the form of the solution:
(e.g. using recursion trees, or expansion)
- 2. *Verify*** by induction (inductive step).
- 3. *Solve*** for constants n_0 and c (base case of induction)



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 is $f(n)$



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.



Three common cases

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^ε factor).

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

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

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

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



Three common cases (cont.)

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

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^ε factor),

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

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



Examples

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

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

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

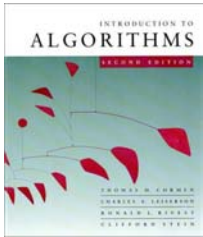
$$\therefore T(n) = \Theta(n^2).$$

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

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



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

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

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

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

Master method does not apply. In particular, for every constant $\epsilon > 0$, we have $n^\epsilon = \omega(\lg n)$.



Master theorem (summary)

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

CASE 1: $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$.

CASE 2: $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^k n)$
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg^{k+1} n)$.

CASE 3: $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$ and $a f(n/b) \leq c f(n)$
 $\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$.

Merge sort: $a = 2, b = 2 \Rightarrow n^{\log_b a} = n$
 \Rightarrow **CASE 2** ($k = 0$) $\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n \lg n)$.