

# **Recurrences and the Complexity of Divide and Conquer Algorithms**

Antonio Carzaniga

Faculty of Informatics  
Università della Svizzera italiana

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- Analysis of recurrence expressions

# Complexity Analysis

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- We figured the complexity of **MERGESORT** is  $\Theta(n \log n)$ 
  - ▶ is this right?
  - ▶ can we generalize?

# Recurrence

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- Our goal is to obtain a closed-form formula for  $T(n)$

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with  $a > 0, b > 1, d \geq 0$  the asymptotic complexity is

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

# Divide-and-Conquer Tree

size

$n$

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



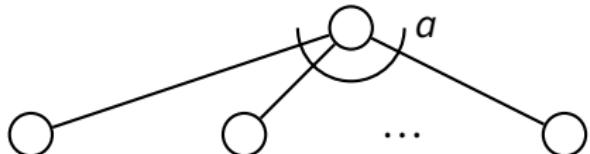
# Divide-and-Conquer Tree

size

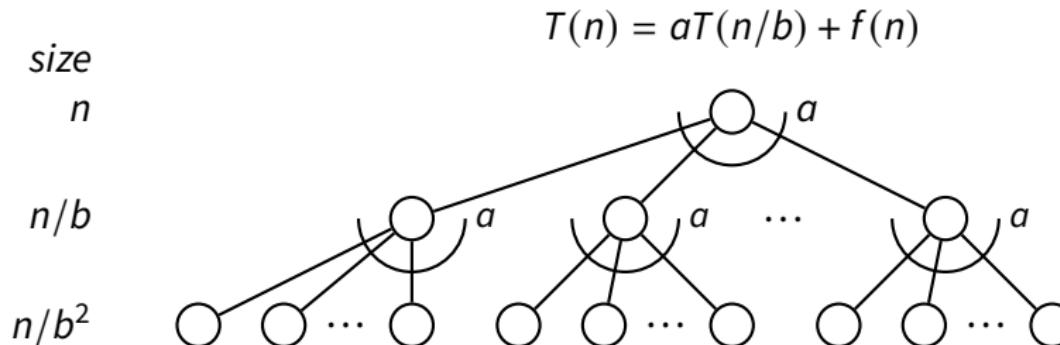
$n$

$n/b$

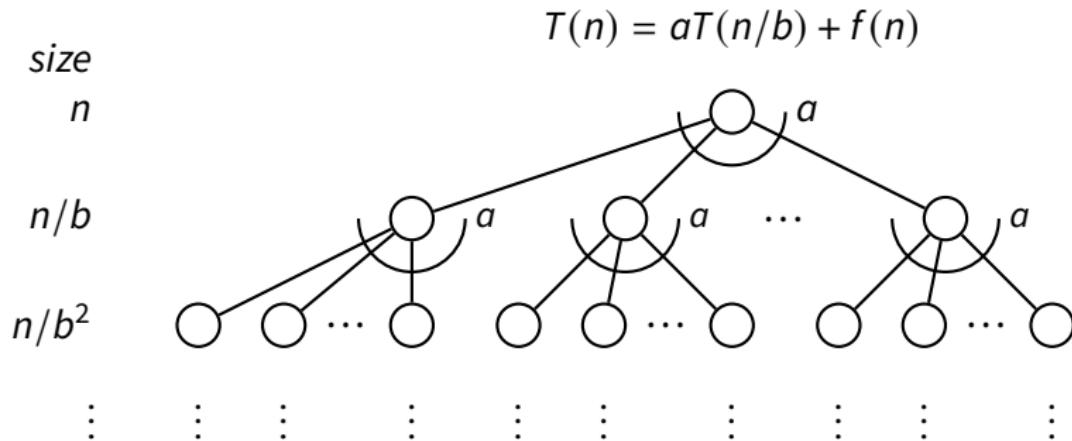
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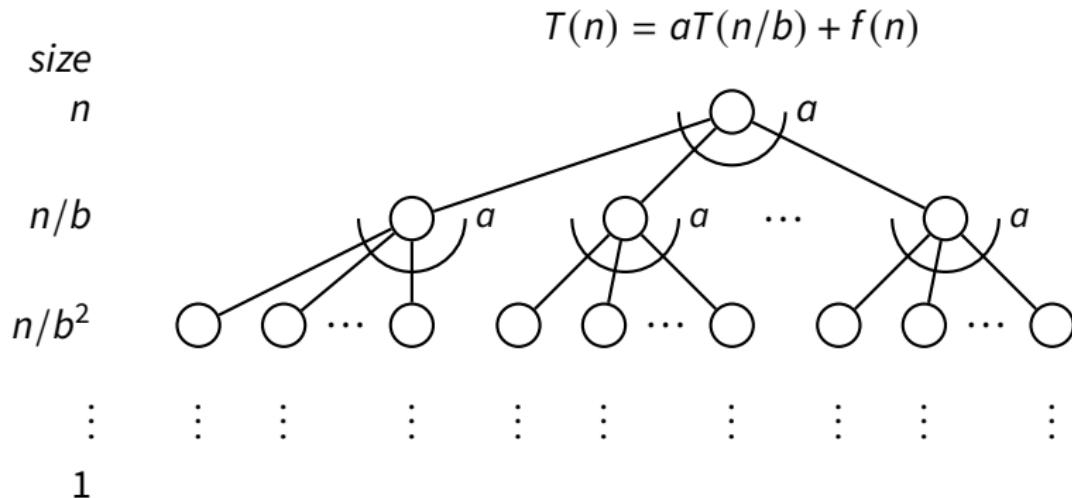
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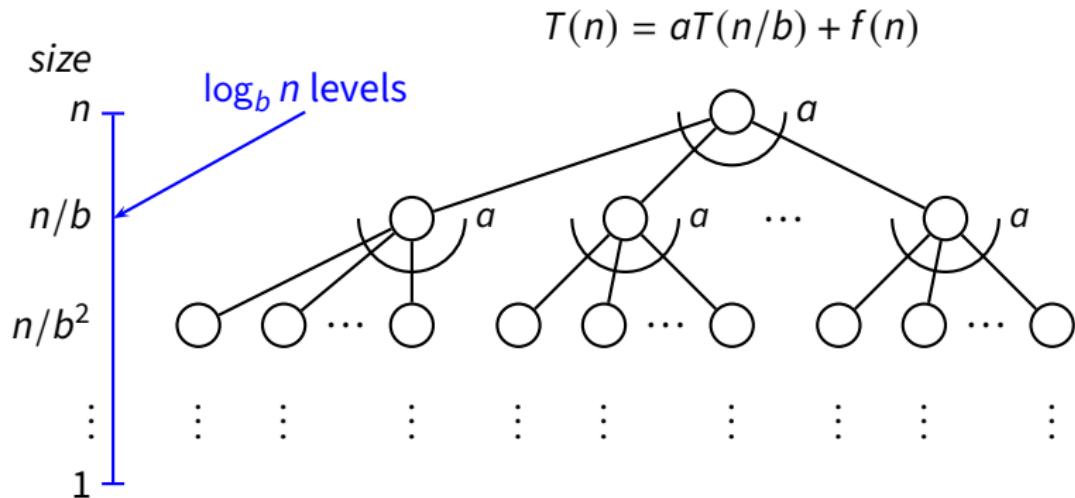
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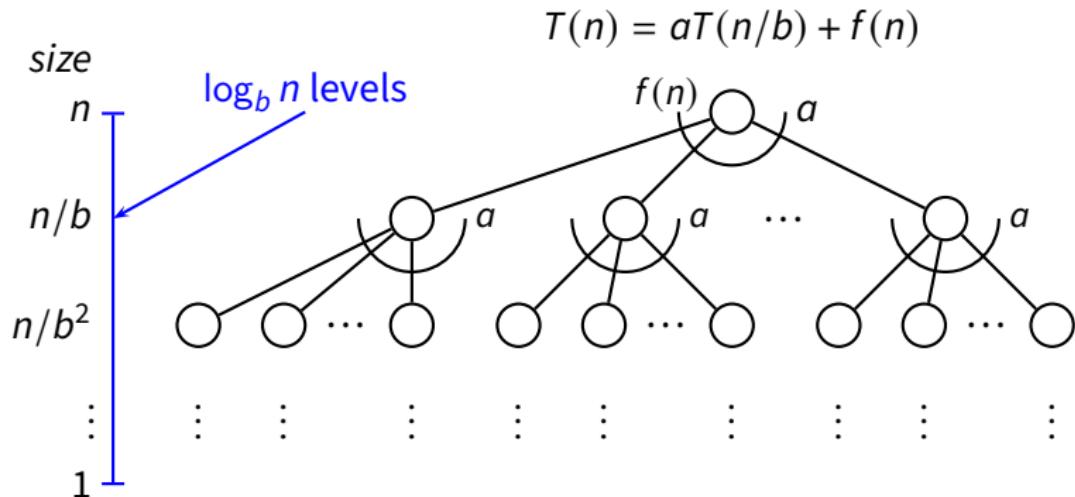
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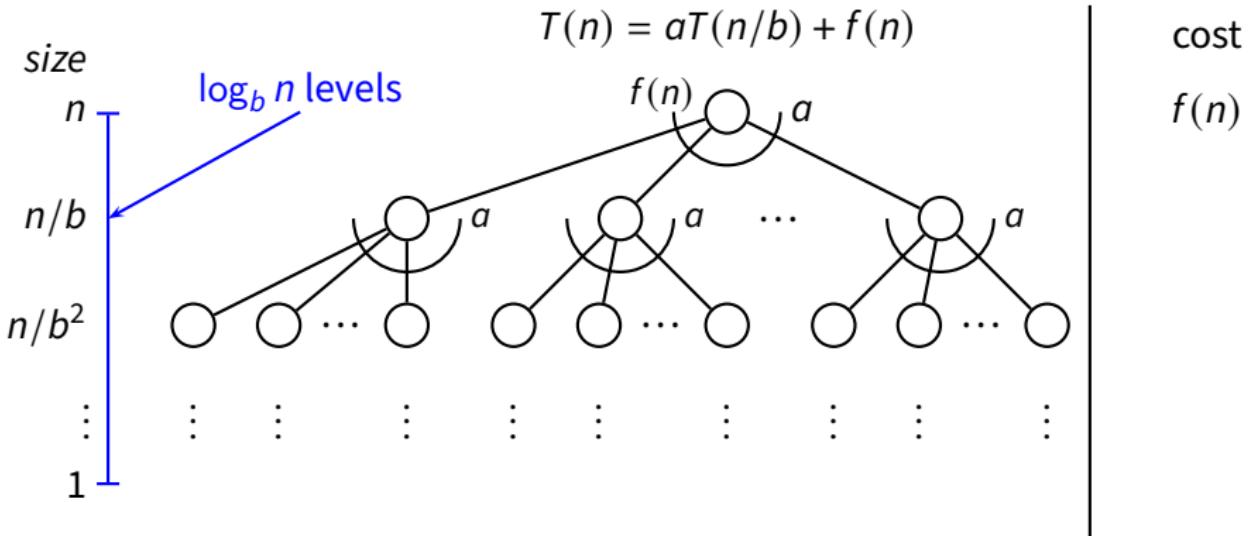
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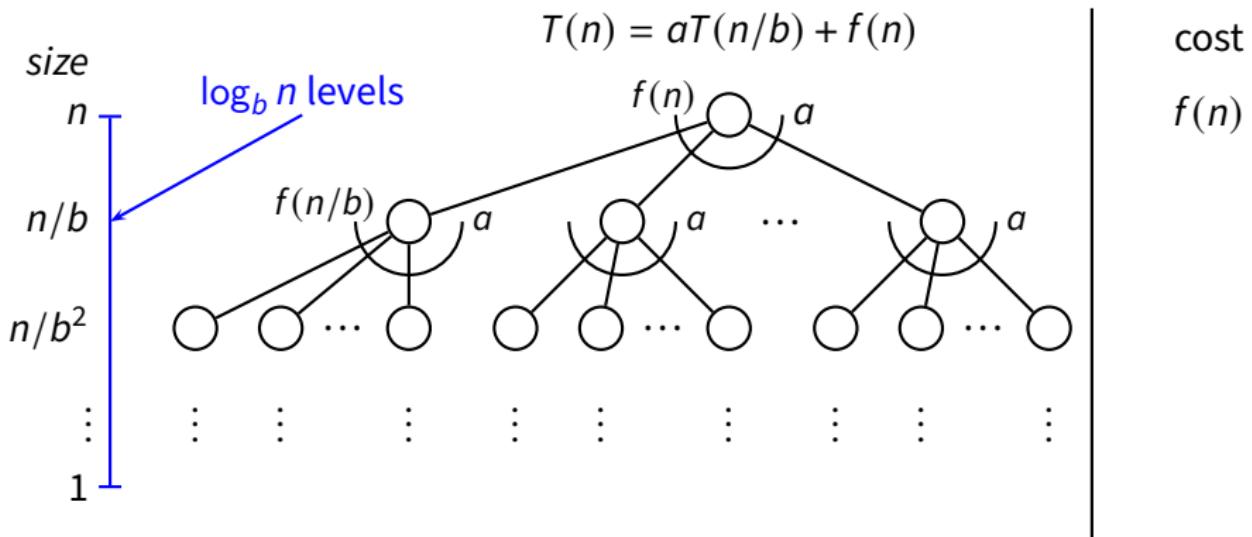
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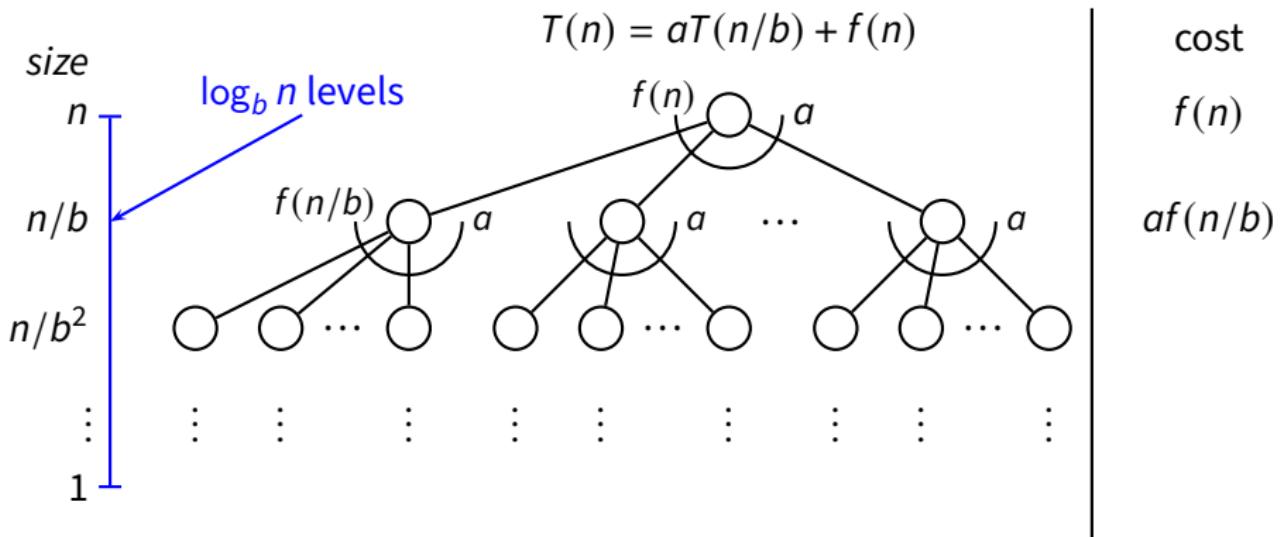
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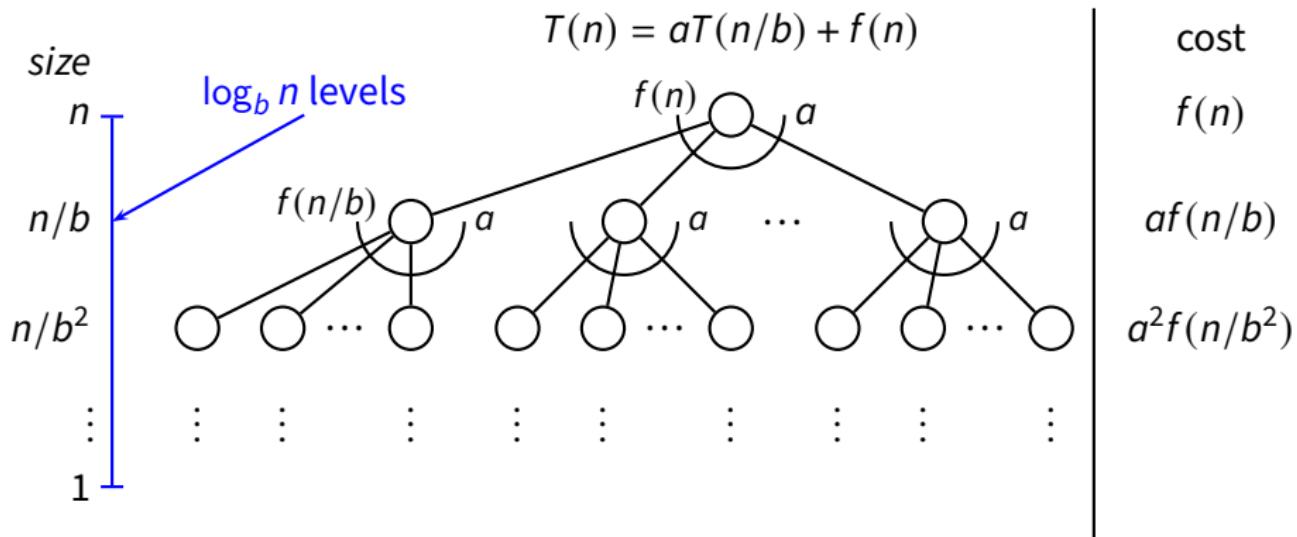
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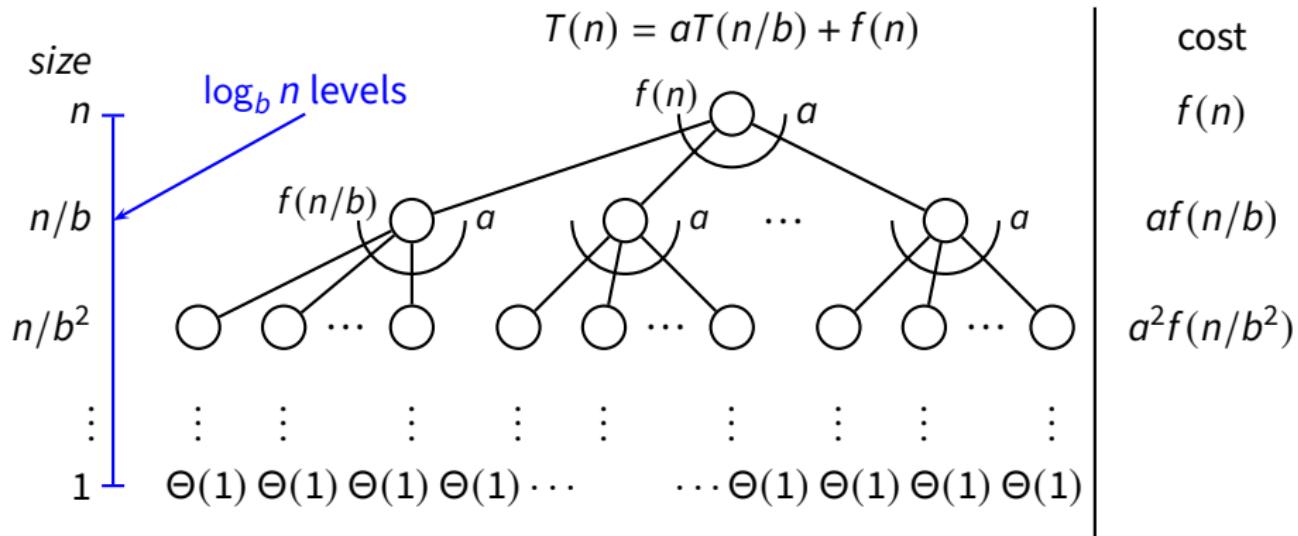
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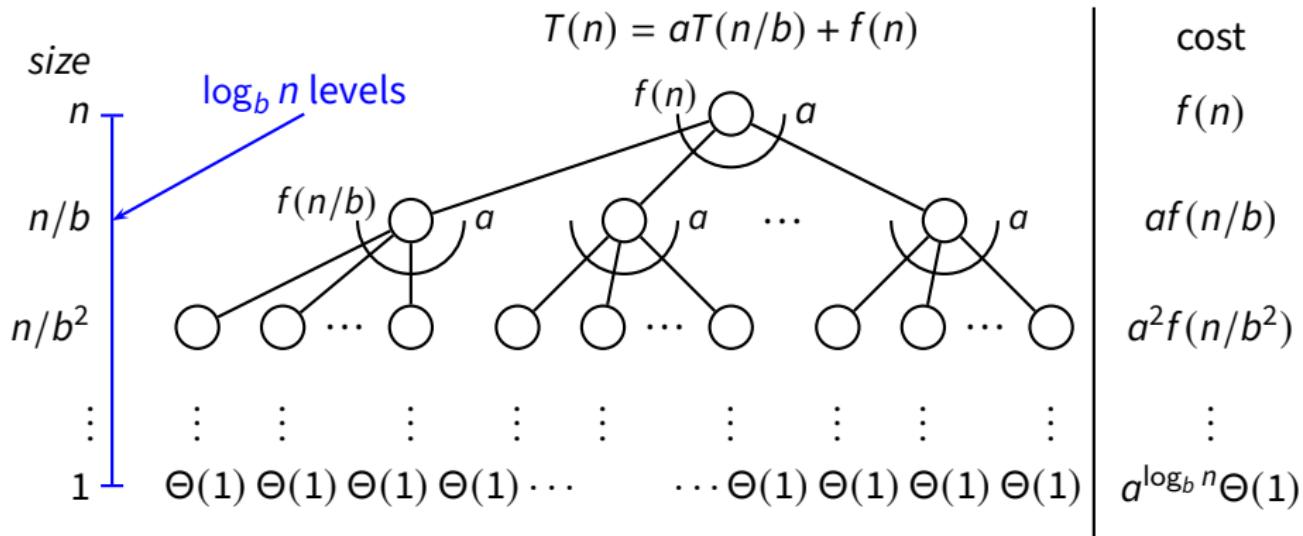
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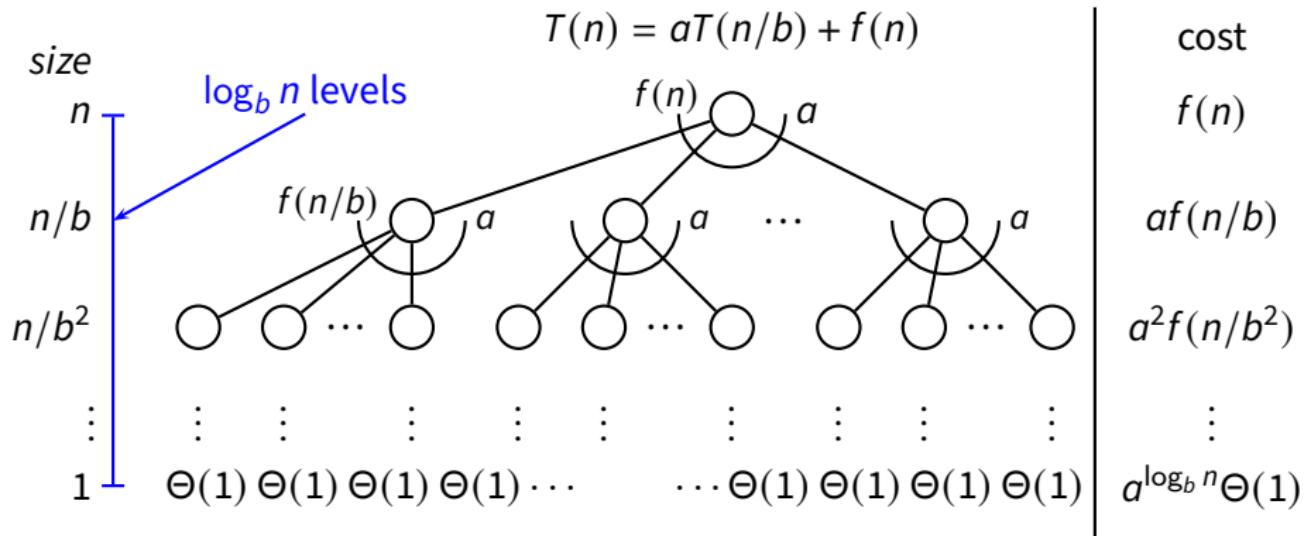
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- Let's look at the geometric-series component; we should figure out the asymptotic behavior of this term

$$O(n^d) \sum_{i=0}^{\log_b n - 1} \left(\frac{a}{b^d}\right)^i$$

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$$g(\ell) = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} c^i = c^\ell + c^{\ell-1} + \cdots + c + 1$$

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$$g(\ell) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } c < 1 \\ \Theta(\ell) & \text{if } c = 1 \\ \Theta(c^\ell) & \text{if } c > 1 \end{cases}$$

## Divide-and-Conquer Complexity (4)

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- In other words, we proved

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