

Recall our discussion of inverting an upper-triangular non-singular  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ . The basic idea is to use a divide and conquer approach. For the moment, assume that  $n = 2^k$  for some  $k \geq 0$ . We partition the matrix as follows:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} \\ 0 & A_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$$

We have a simple formula for the inverse of  $A$  as follows:

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{1,1}^{-1} & -A_{1,1}^{-1}A_{1,2}A_{2,2}^{-1} \\ 0 & A_{2,2}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Let  $M(n)$  denote the time needed to multiply two  $n \times n$  matrices. Further suppose that  $M(n)$  satisfies:

$$4M(n) \leq M(2n) \leq 8M(n) . \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) is equivalent to requiring that  $M(n)$  satisfy:

$$M(n) \in \Omega(n^2) \quad \text{and} \quad M(n) \in \mathcal{O}(n^3) .$$

If we apply equation (1) recursively, we have a divide and conquer algorithm with asymptotic complexity  $T(n)$ , where:

$$\begin{aligned} T(1) &= c \\ T(n) &= 2T(n/2) + 2M(n/2) + (n/2)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Observe the terms on the right hand side of equation (3) in relation to equation (1). The terms correspond to:

1. The term  $2T(n/2)$  gives the time needed to solve the two sub-problems  $A_{1,1}^{-1}$  and  $A_{2,2}^{-1}$ . Notice these sub-problems are size  $n/2$ .
2. The term  $2M(n/2)$  gives the time needed to perform the two multiplications involved in the upper right block of  $A^{-1}$ .
3. The term  $(n/2)^2$  gives the time needed to change the sign of each element (i.e., apply the unary minus) in the upper right block of  $A^{-1}$ .

From equation (2), we may conclude that

$$(n/2)^2 \leq M(n/2) . \quad (4)$$

Substituting equation (2) into (3) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} T(1) &= c \\ T(n) &\leq 2T(n/2) + 3M(n/2) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

We solve the recurrence equation by writing out the usual table of equations.

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &\leq 2T(n/2) + 3M(n/2) \\
 T(n/2) &\leq 2T(n/4) + 3M(n/4) \\
 T(n/4) &\leq 2T(n/8) + 3M(n/8) \\
 &\vdots \\
 T(n/2^{k-1}) &\leq 2T(1) + 3M(n/2^k)
 \end{aligned}$$

We need multiply each equaiton above by the appropriate power of two so that cancellation will occur when we sum.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &T(n) \leq 2T(n/2) + 3M(n/2) \\
 + &2T(n/2) \leq 2^2T(n/4) + 3M(n/4) \cdot 2 \\
 + &2^2T(n/4) \leq 2^3T(n/8) + 3M(n/8) \cdot 2^2 \\
 + &\quad \cdot \\
 + &\quad \cdot \\
 + &\quad \cdot \\
 + &2^{k-1}T(n/2^{k-1}) \leq 2^kT(1) + 3M(n/2^k) \cdot 2^{k-1}
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &\leq cn + 3 \left[ M(n/2) + 2M(n/4) + 2^2M(n/8) + \dots + 2^{k-1}M(n/2^k) \right] \\
 &= cn + \frac{3}{2} \left[ 2M(n/2) + 2^2M(n/4) + 2^3M(n/8) + \dots + 2^kM(n/2^k) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

The sum in the last expression above can be simplified using the first part of our hypothesis regarding  $M(n)$ . Recall:

$$4M(n) \leq M(2n) \tag{7}$$

We can re-formulate inequality (7) as:

$$M(n/2) \leq \frac{1}{4}M(n) \tag{8}$$

We can also generalize inequality (8) to  $j$  factors of 2 in the denominator.

$$M(n/2^j) \leq \frac{1}{4^j}M(n) \tag{9}$$

We apply inequality (9) to each term in the last result from equation (6) to obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &\leq cn + \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{2}{4}M(n) + \frac{2^2}{4^2}M(n) + \frac{2^3}{4^3}M(n) + \dots + \frac{2^k}{4^k}M(n) \right] \\
 &= cn + \frac{3}{2}M(n) \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^3} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^k} \right] \\
 &\in \mathcal{O}(M(n))
 \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$