First we need to get rid of the \mathcal{O} -notation in our recurrence:

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One way of solving such a recurrence is to guess a solution, and check that it is correct by plugging it in.





$$T(n) \le 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + cn$$



$$T(n) \le 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + cn$$
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Suppose we guess $T(n) \le dn \log n$ for a constant *d*. Then

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Formally one would make an induction proof, where the above is the induction step. The base case is usually trivial.



$$T(n) \leq \begin{cases} 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + cn & n \ge 16\\ b & \text{otw.} \end{cases}$$

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▶ base case (2 ≤ n < 16):</p>

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Guess: $T(n) \le dn \log n$. **Proof.** (by induction)

- **base case** $(2 \le n < 16)$: true if we choose $d \ge b$.
- induction step $2 \dots n 1 \rightarrow n$:

Suppose statem. is true for $n' \in \{2, ..., n-1\}$, and $n \ge 16$. We prove it for n:

$$T(n) \le 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + cn$$
$$\le 2\left(d\frac{n}{2}\log\frac{n}{2}\right) + cn$$
$$= dn(\log n - 1) + cn$$
$$= dn\log n + (c - d)n$$
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Hence, statement is true if we choose $d \ge c$.

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If we do not do this we instead consider the following recurrence:

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$$T(n) \le \begin{cases} 2T(\left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil) + cn & n \ge 16\\ b & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Note that we can do this as for constant-sized inputs the running time is always some constant (*b* in the above case).



We also make a guess of $T(n) \leq dn \log n$ and get

T(n)



$$T(n) \le 2T\left(\left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil\right) + cn$$



$$\begin{split} T(n) &\leq 2T \left(\left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil \right) + cn \\ &\leq 2 \left(d \left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil \log \left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil \right) + cn \end{split}$$



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$$\left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil \le \frac{n}{2} + 1$$



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$$\boxed{\left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil \le \frac{n}{2} + 1} \le 2\left(d(n/2 + 1)\log(n/2 + 1)\right) + cn$$



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$$\boxed{\frac{n}{2} + 1 \le \frac{9}{16}n}$$



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$$\begin{split} T(n) &\leq 2T\left(\left\lceil\frac{n}{2}\right\rceil\right) + cn \\ &\leq 2\left(d\left\lceil\frac{n}{2}\right\rceil\log\left\lceil\frac{n}{2}\right\rceil\right) + cn \\ \boxed{\left\lceil\frac{n}{2}\right\rceil \leq \frac{n}{2} + 1} &\leq 2\left(d(n/2 + 1)\log(n/2 + 1)\right) + cn \\ \boxed{\left\lceil\frac{n}{2} + 1 \leq \frac{9}{16}n\right\rceil} &\leq dn\log\left(\frac{9}{16}n\right) + 2d\log n + cn \end{split}$$

 $\log \frac{9}{16}n = \log n + (\log 9 - 4)$



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$$\log \frac{9}{16}n = \log n + (\log 9 - 4) = dn\log n + (\log 9 - 4)dn + 2d\log n + cn$$



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$$T(n) \leq 2T\left(\left\lceil\frac{n}{2}\right\rceil\right) + cn$$

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for a suitable choice of d.

