



Design and Analysis
of Algorithms I

Introduction

Merge Sort (Analysis)

Running Time of Merge Sort

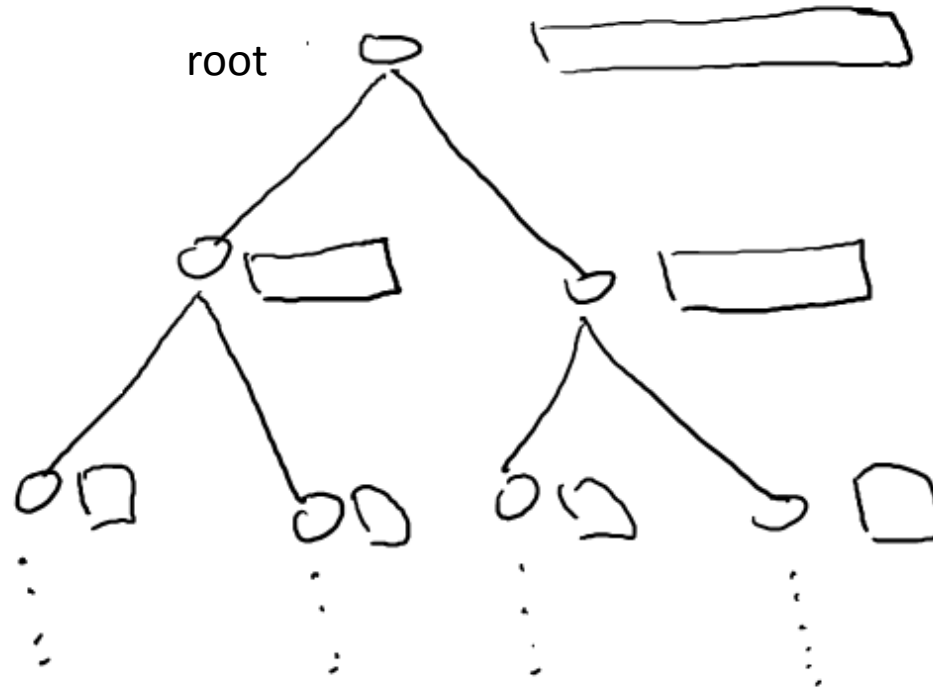
Claim: For every input array of n numbers, Merge Sort produces a sorted output array and uses at most $6n \log_2 n + 6n$ operations.

Proof of claim (assuming n = power of 2):

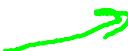
Level 0
[outer call to
Merge Sort]

Level 1
(1st recursive
calls)

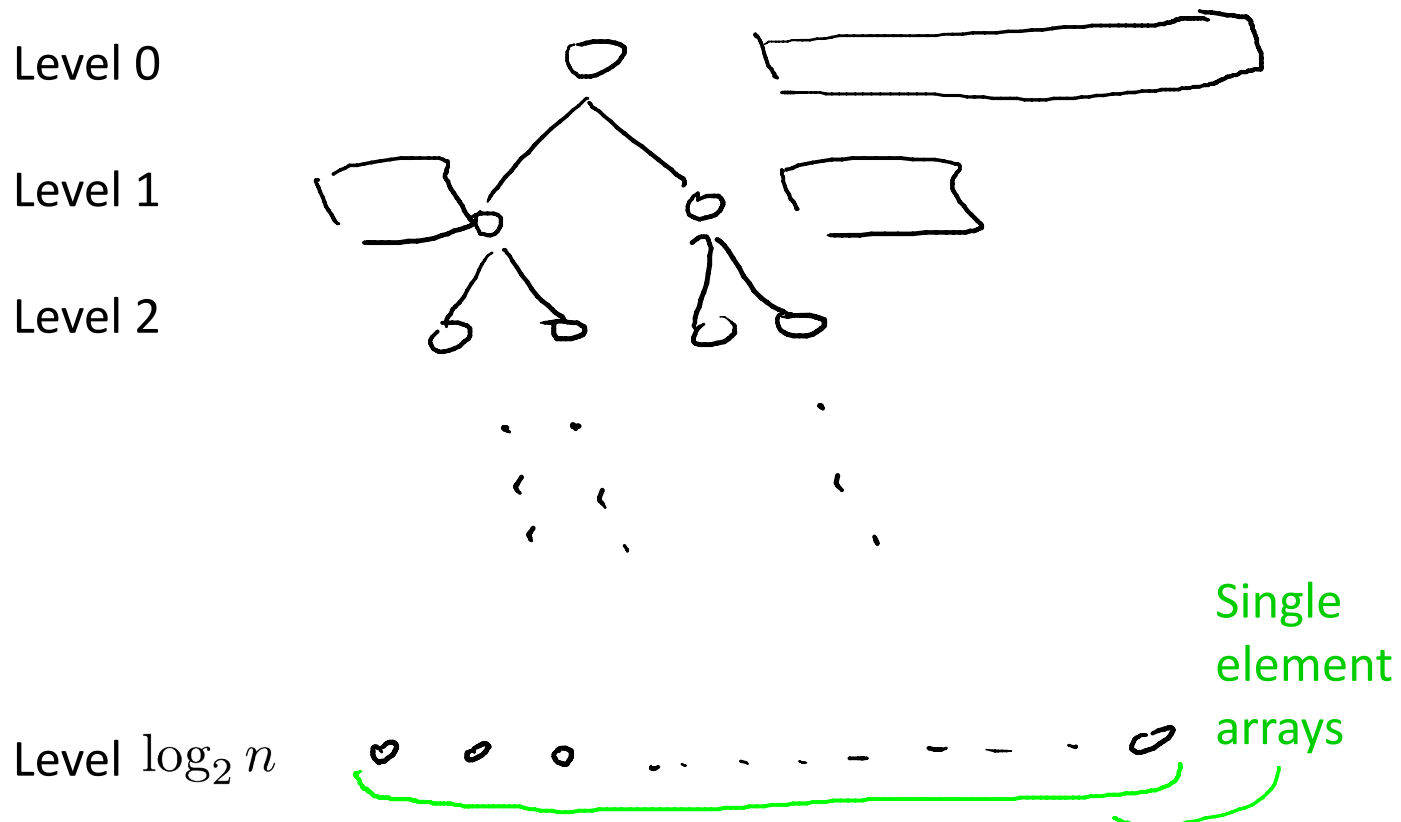
Level 2



Roughly how many levels does this recursion tree have (as a function of n , the length of the input array)?

- ☐ A constant number (independent of n).
-  ☒ $\log_2 n$ $(\log_2 n + 1)$ to be exact!
- ☐ \sqrt{n}
- ☐ n


Proof of claim (assuming $n = \text{power of } 2$):



What is the pattern ? Fill in the blanks in the following statement: at each level $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \log_2 n$, there are <blank> subproblems, each of size <blank>.

☐ 2^j and 2^j , respectively

☐ $n/2^j$ and $n/2^j$, respectively

 ☐ 2^j and $n/2^j$, respectively

☐ $n/2^j$ and 2^j , respectively

Proof of claim (assuming $n = \text{power of } 2$) :

At each level $j=0,1,2,\dots, \log_2 n$,

Total # of operations at level $j = 0,1,2,\dots, \log_2 n$

$$\leq 2^j * 6\left(\frac{n}{2^j}\right) = 6n$$

of level- j
subproblems

Size of level- j
subproblem

Work per level – j
subproblem

Total

$$6n(\log_2 n + 1)$$

Work
per level

of
levels

Running Time of Merge Sort

Claim: For every input array of n numbers, Merge Sort produces a sorted output array and uses at most $6n \log_2 n + 6n$ operations.

QED!