Problem: Given $n \times n$ matrices A and B, compute the product $C = A \cdot B$. **•** Traditional method: (i, j, k)-triple-loop for i = 1 to n for j = 1 to n C(i, j) = 0for k = 1:nC(i,j) = C(i,j) + A(i,k)*B(k,j)end end end

Complexity:

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\sum_{j=1}^{n} (\sum_{k=1}^{n} 2)) = 2n^{3} = \Theta(n^{3})$$

- Divide-and-conquer: a naive implementation
 - 1. partition and then direct block multiplication

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} A_{11}B_{11} + A_{12}B_{21} & A_{11}B_{12} + A_{12}B_{22} \\ A_{21}B_{11} + A_{22}B_{21} & A_{21}B_{12} + A_{22}B_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Complexity:

$$T(n) = 8 \cdot T(\frac{n}{2}) + \Theta(n^2) = \Theta(n^3).$$

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Same cost as the traditional method, No improvement

Strassen's divide-and-conquer method (Strassen's method): reduces the complexity to

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\lg 7}) \approx \Theta(n^{2.8074}).$$

Reference:

V. Strassen, *Gaussian elimination is not optimal*. Numer. Math. Vol.13, pp.354-356, 1969

• The subsequent improvements, with the current world record being $O(n^{2.37})$, are much more complicated (and astonishing), but less practical.

► Strassen's method – Step 1: Divide

$$A = \frac{\frac{n}{2}}{\frac{n}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{n}{2} & \frac{n}{2} \\ A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \frac{\frac{n}{2}}{\frac{n}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{n}{2} & \frac{n}{2} \\ B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

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• Strassen's method – Step 2: Compute 10 matrices by \pm only:

$$\begin{split} S_1 &= B_{12} - B_{22} \\ S_2 &= A_{11} + A_{12} \\ S_3 &= A_{21} + A_{22} \\ S_4 &= B_{21} - B_{11} \\ S_5 &= A_{11} + A_{22} \\ S_6 &= B_{11} + B_{22} \\ S_7 &= A_{12} - A_{22} \\ S_8 &= B_{21} + B_{22} \\ S_9 &= A_{11} - A_{21} \\ S_{10} &= B_{11} + B_{12} \end{split}$$

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Strassen's method – Step 3: Compute 7 matrices by multiplication:

$$P_{1} = A_{11} \cdot S_{1}$$

$$P_{2} = S_{2} \cdot B_{22}$$

$$P_{3} = S_{3} \cdot B_{11}$$

$$P_{4} = A_{22} \cdot S_{4}$$

$$P_{5} = S_{5} \cdot S_{6}$$

$$P_{6} = S_{7} \cdot S_{8}$$

$$P_{7} = S_{9} \cdot S_{10}$$

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▶ Strassen's method – Step 4: Add and subtract the P_i to construct submatrices C_{ij} of the product $C = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} \end{bmatrix}$:

$$\begin{split} C_{11} &= P_5 + P_4 - P_2 + P_6 \\ C_{12} &= P_1 + P_2 \\ C_{21} &= P_3 + P_4 \\ C_{22} &= P_5 + P_1 - P_3 - P_7 \end{split}$$

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- Correctness: straightfoward verification
- Strassen's method complexity

$$T(n) = 7 \cdot T(\frac{n}{2}) + \Theta(n^2) = \Theta(n^{\lg 7}).$$

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