

# Master Theorem

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## General Format

$$T(n) = a \cdot T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$$

where  $a \geq 1$ ,  $b > 1$  and  $f(n)$  should +ve always.

## Cases :

i]  $f(n) < n^{\log_b a}$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

ii]  $f(n) = n^{\log_b a}$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$$

iii]  $f(n) > n^{\log_b a}$

$$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$

Q.  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:  $a = 4$

$b = 2$

$f(n) = n$

$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 4} = n^2$

$\therefore f(n) < n^{\log_b a}$  Case I

$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

$T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$

Q.  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:  $a = 2$

$b = 2$

$f(n) = n$

$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 2} = n$

$\therefore f(n) = n^{\log_b a}$  Case II

$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \cdot \log n)$

$T(n) = \Theta(n \cdot \log n)$

Q.  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n^2$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:  $a = 2$

$b = 2$

$f(n) = n^2$

$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 2} = n$

$\therefore f(n) > n^{\log_b a}$

Case III

$T(n) = \theta f(n)$

$T(n) = \theta(n^2)$

Q.  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^3$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:  $a = 4$

$b = 2$

$f(n) = n^3$

$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 4} = n^2$

$\therefore f(n) > n^{\log_b a}$

Case III

$T(n) = \theta f(n)$

$T(n) = \theta(n^3)$

Q.  $T(n) = T(n/10) + n$

Soln:

$$T\left(\frac{n}{10}\right) + n$$

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{10}\right) + n$$

III  $a = 1$

$b = 10$

$f(n) = n$

$$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_{10} 1} = n^0$$

$\therefore f(n) > n^{\log_b a}$

Case III

$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n)$$



Q.  $T(n) = 8T(n/4) + n^2$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:

$$a = 8$$

$$b = 4$$

$$f(n) = n^2$$

$$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_4 8} = n^{3/2}$$

$$\therefore f(n) > n^{\log_b a} \quad \text{Case III}$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$$

Q.  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^3$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:  $a = 4$

$$b = 2$$

$$f(n) = n^3$$

$$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 4} = n^2$$

$$\therefore f(n) > n^{\log_b a} \quad \text{Case III}$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^3)$$

Q.  $T(n) = 3T(n/6) + n$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

$$3T\left(\frac{2n/2}{6/2}\right) + n$$

$$3T\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) + n$$

$$a = 3$$

$$b = 3$$

$$f(n) = n$$

$$n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_3 3} = n$$

$$\therefore f(n) = n^{\log_b a}$$

Case II

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log n)$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$$

Q.  $T(n) = 8T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + n$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:  $a = 8$

$b = 4$

$f(n) = n$

$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_4 8} = n^{3/2}$

$\therefore f(n) < n^{\log_b a}$

Case I

$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

$T(n) = \Theta(n^{3/2})$

Q.  $T(n) = 16T(n/8) + n^2$

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

Given:  $a = 16$

$b = 8$

$f(n) = n^2$

$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_8 16} = n^{4/3}$

$\therefore f(n) > n^{\log_b a}$

Case III

$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

$T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$