

Problem statement: Find n^{th} Fibonacci number.

Iterative Method: Algorithm: f1(n): first=0; second=1; for i = 3 to n { next = first + second; first = second; second = next; } return next; Time complexity: $O(1) + O(n) + O(1) = O(n)$	Recursive Method: Algorithm: f2(n): if $n \leq 1$ return n return f2(n - 1) + f2(n - 2) Time complexity: ? If $n=0 \Rightarrow F(0) = 0$ $n=1 \Rightarrow F(1) = 1$ $n>1 \Rightarrow F(n) = F(n-1) + F(n-2)$
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Example-1:

What is the solution of the recurrence relation $f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$ with $f_0=0$ and $f_1=1$?

Solution:

Rewrite recurrence, $f_n - f_{n-1} - f_{n-2} = 0$

Compare recurrence with $a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = 0$

$K=2, a_0=1, a_1=-1, a_2=-1$

Characteristic eq. is $x^2 - x - 1 = 0$

Quadratic equation

$$ax^2+bx+c=0$$

$$a=1, b=-1, c=-1$$

$$\text{delta}=\text{root}(b^2-4ac) = \text{root}(1 + 4) = \text{root}(5)$$

$$\text{root1} = (-b + \text{delta})/2a = (1 + \text{root}(5))/2$$

$$\text{root2} = (-b - \text{delta})/2a = (1 - \text{root}(5))/2$$

Possible roots are $r_1 = (1+\sqrt{5})/2, r_2 = (1-\sqrt{5})/2$

General Solution is $f_n = c_1 r_1^n + c_2 r_2^n$

$$= c_1 \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n + c_2 \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n$$

Use initial condition to find c_1 and c_2

$$n=0 \Rightarrow f_0 = c_1 + c_2 \quad \Rightarrow 0 = c_1 + c_2 \quad \Rightarrow c_1 = -c_2$$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow f_1 = c_1 \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right) + c_2 \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right) \Rightarrow 1 = c_1 \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right) + c_2 \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)$$

Solving above equations, $c_1 = 1/\sqrt{5}$, $c_2 = -1/\sqrt{5}$

$$\text{Thus, } f_n = (1/\sqrt{5}) \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - (1/\sqrt{5}) \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n$$

$$f_n = O(1.6^n) = O(2^n)$$

Example-2:

Solve the recurrence:

$$t_n = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{if } n = 0 \\ 5 & , \text{if } n = 1 \\ 3t_{n-1} + 4t_{n-2} & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Rewrite recurrence, } t_n - 3t_{n-1} - 4t_{n-2} = 0$$

$$\text{Compare recurrence with } a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = 0$$

$$K=2, a_0=1, a_1=-3, a_2=-4$$

$$\text{Characteristic eq. is } x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0$$

$$\text{Possible roots are } r_1 = -1, r_2 = 4$$

$$\text{General Solution is } t_n = c_1 r_1^n + c_2 r_2^n$$

$$= c_1 (-1)^n + c_2 (4)^n$$

Use initial condition to find c_1 and c_2

$$n=0 \Rightarrow t_0 = c_1 + c_2 \Rightarrow 0 = c_1 + c_2 \quad \Rightarrow c_1 = -c_2$$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow t_1 = c_1(-1) + c_2(4) \Rightarrow 5 = c_2 + 4c_2 \Rightarrow c_2 = 1$$

Solving above equations, $c_1 = -1$, $c_2 = 1$

$$\text{Thus, } t_n = (-1)(-1)^n + (1)(4)^n$$

$$t_n = O(4^n)$$

Example-3:

Solve the recurrence:

$$t_n = \begin{cases} n & , \text{ if } n = 0, 1, 2 \\ 5t_{n-1} - 8t_{n-2} + 4t_{n-3} & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Rewrite recurrence, $t_n - 5t_{n-1} + 8t_{n-2} - 4t_{n-3} = 0$

Compare recurrence with $a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = 0$

$K=3, a_0=1, a_1=-5, a_2=8, a_3=-4$

Characteristic eq. is $x^3 - 5x^2 + 8x - 4 = 0$

Possible roots are $r_1 = 1, r_2 = 2, r_3 = 2 \Rightarrow \underline{r_1=1, m_1=1}$ and $\underline{r_2=2, m_2=2}$

General Solution is $t_n = c_1 r_1^n + c_2 r_2^n + c_3 n r_2^n$

$$t_n = c_1 (1)^n + c_2 (2)^n + c_3 n (2)^n \quad \text{----- (a)}$$

Use initial condition to find c_1, c_2 and c_3

$$n=0 \Rightarrow t_0 = c_1 + c_2 \quad \Rightarrow 0 = c_1 + c_2 \quad \Rightarrow c_1 = -c_2 \quad \text{----- (1)}$$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow t_1 = c_1(1)^1 + c_2(2)^1 + c_3(2)^1 \Rightarrow 1 = c_1 + 2c_2 + 2c_3 \quad \text{----- (2)}$$

$$n=2 \Rightarrow t_2 = c_1(1)^2 + c_2(2)^2 + c_3 2(2)^2 \Rightarrow 2 = c_1 + 4c_2 + 8c_3 \quad \text{----- (3)}$$

Solving above equations (1), (2) and (3), $c_1=-2, c_2=2, c_3=-(1/2)$

Put c_1, c_2 and c_3 into equation (a)

$$t_n = -2(1)^n + 2*2^n - (1/2)*n*2^n$$

Thus, $t_n = 2*2^n - n*2^{n-1} - 2$

$$t_n = O(2^n)$$