

# Solving Recurrence Relations:-

①

Iteration Method:-

Example:

$$T(n) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n \quad \text{--- (A)}$$

Lets expand recurrence:

$$T(n) = 2( \quad ) + n$$

put  $n = \frac{n}{2}$  in (A)

$$\therefore T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + \frac{n}{2}$$

$$= 2\left(2T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + \frac{n}{2}\right) + n$$

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

$$= 4( \quad ) + n + n$$

put  $n = \frac{n}{4}$  in (A)

$$\therefore T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{8}\right) + \frac{n}{4}$$

$$= 4\left(2T\left(\frac{n}{8}\right) + \frac{n}{4}\right) + n + n$$

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

$$= 8( \quad ) + n + n + n$$

$$T\left(\frac{n}{8}\right) = 2T\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) + \frac{n}{8}$$

put  $n = \frac{n}{8}$  in (A)

$$= 8\left(2T\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) + \frac{n}{8}\right) + n + n + n$$

$$= 16T\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) + n + n + n + n$$

$\therefore$  If  $n$  is in power of 2, then we can say,

$$n = 2^k$$

(i.e.  $n$  is in some power of 2)

$$n = 2^k$$

Take log on both sides,

$$\Rightarrow \log_2 n = \log_2 2^k$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_2 n = k$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{k = \log_2 n}$$

$$T(n) = 2^k T\left(\frac{n}{2^k}\right) + \underbrace{n + n + \dots + n}_{kn}$$

$$T(n) = 2^k T\left(\frac{n}{2^k}\right) + kn, \quad (\text{generalized eq})$$

put the value of  $k$

$$= 2^{\log_2 n} T\left(\frac{n}{2^{\log_2 n}}\right) + n \log_2 n$$

$$= n T\left(\frac{n}{n}\right) + n \log_2 n$$

$$= n T(1) + n \log_2 n$$

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

$$\boxed{T(n) = n \log_2 n + n}$$

$$\therefore O(n \log_2 n)$$

$\Rightarrow T(n)$  is solved to a closed form i.e.  $n \log_2 n$

$$\boxed{2^{\log_2 n} = n}$$

How?

if  $n=1$ ,  
 $2^{\log_2 1} = 1$

if  $n=2$ ,  
 $2^{\log_2 2} = 2$

if  $n=4$ ,  $2^{\log_2 4} = 4$   
 $n=8$ ,  $2^{\log_2 8} = 8$   
 $\vdots$

Example: Let's have a recurrence relation,

(3)

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 3T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + n & \text{otherwise i.e. } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

This is some random recurrence relation, let's find its closed form:

Here we will assume,  $n$  is in some power of 4.  
i.e.

$$n = 4^k \text{ and } k = \log_4 n$$

How? take  $\log_4$  on both sides.

$$T(n) = 3T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + n \quad \text{--- (A)}$$

$$T(n) = 3\left( \quad \right) + n$$

$$T(n) = 3\left( 3T\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) + \frac{n}{4} \right) + n$$

put  $n = \frac{n}{4}$  in (A)

$$T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) = 3T\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) + \frac{n}{4}$$

$$T(n) = 9\left( T\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) \right) + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)n + n$$

$$= 9\left( \quad \right) + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)n + n$$

put  $n = \frac{n}{16}$  in (A)

$$T\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) = 3T\left(\frac{n}{64}\right) + \frac{n}{16}$$

$$= 9\left( 3T\left(\frac{n}{64}\right) + \frac{n}{16} \right) + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)n + n$$

$$T(n) = 3^3 T\left(\frac{n}{4^3}\right) + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 n + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)n + n$$

⋮

$$T(n) = 3^k T\left(\frac{n}{4^k}\right) + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{k-1} n + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{k-2} n + \dots + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^1 n + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^0 n \quad (4)$$

$$T(n) = 3^k T\left(\frac{n}{4^k}\right) + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i n$$

$$T(n) = 3^k T\left(\frac{n}{4^k}\right) + n \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i$$

$$= 3^k T\left(\frac{n}{n}\right) + n \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i$$

$$= 3^k T(1) + n \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i$$

$$\therefore n = 4^k \text{ and } k = \log_4 n$$

$$= 3^k + n \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i$$

Notice: Recurrence solved to Base Case.  
i.e.  $T(1) = 1$

$$T(n) = 3^{\log_4 n} + n \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i$$

putting value of  $k$ ,

$$= n^{\log_4 3} + n \sum_{i=0}^{\log_4 n - 1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i$$

closed form.

$$O(n)$$

Log property:

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

$\therefore$  Hint: This can be further solved with Geometric Series & gives constant.



Example:  $T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n=1 \\ T(n-2) + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

(5)

$$T(n) = T(n-2) + 1 \quad \text{--- (A)}$$

1st iteration:

$$T(n) = ( \quad ) + 1$$

$$= (T(n-4) + 1) + 1$$

put  $n = n-2$  in (A)

$$T(n-2) = T(n-2-2) + 1$$

$$= T(n-4) + 1$$

$$T(n) = T(n-4) + 2$$

2nd iteration

$$= ( \quad ) + 2$$

$$= (T(n-6) + 1) + 2$$

put  $n = n-4$  in (A)

$$T(n-4) = T(n-6) + 1$$

$$T(n) = T(n-6) + 3$$

3rd iteration

$$T(n) = ( \quad ) + 3$$

$$= (T(n-8) + 1) + 3$$

put  $n = n-6$  in (A)

$$T(n-6) = T(n-8) + 1$$

$$T(n) = T(n-8) + 4$$

General form :

$$T(n) = T(n-k) + \frac{k}{2}$$

we want this to be resolved to base case.

plug in  $k = n-1$

$$T(n) = T(n-(n-1)) + k/2$$

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + \frac{k}{2}$$

$$= T(1) + \frac{k}{2}$$

putting the value of  $k$ ,

$$= T(1) + \frac{n-1}{2}$$

$$T(n) = 1 + \frac{n-1}{2}$$

$$\in n.$$