

The Handshake Problem –Time Complexity

As we see the the program , the return value is:

return handshake($n - 1$) + ($n - 1$);

Hence , handshake($n - 1$) \Rightarrow $T(n - 1)$.

And now come to the base case:

***i. e. when 0 person or 1 person in the room returns 0
handshakes .***

***Hence base case always runs once after ` $n-1$ ` times
recursion is executed hence,***

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

Here 1 is added for base case.

Solution for the above recurrence relation

If we apply substitution method:

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

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

$$\therefore T(n - 2) = T(n - 2 - 1) + 1 = T(n - 3) + 1$$

Hence if it runs upto `k` times ,we get:

$$\therefore T(n - k) = T(n - k - 1) + 1$$

We can substitute them as :

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n - 1) + 1 \\ &= T((n - 1)(n - 2)) + 1 \\ &= T((n - 1)(n - 2)(n - 3)) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

upto `i` we get:

$$= T((n-1)(n-2)(n-3) + \dots + (n-i)) + 1$$

Let $i = n - 1$ and then ,we will have:

$$= T((n-1)(n-2)(n-3) + \dots + (n-(n-1))) + 1$$

$$= T((n-1)(n-2)(n-3) + \dots + (1)) + 1$$

$$\text{or, } T((1)(2)(3) + \dots + (n-1)) + 1$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{n-1} n + 1$$

By arithmetic progression we get:

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^n n = \frac{1}{2} n(n+1), \text{ hence:}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{n-1} n = \frac{1}{2} (n-1)((n-1)+1) = \frac{1}{2} n \times (n-1)$$

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

$$= \frac{n^2 - n}{2} + 1$$

$$= O\left(\frac{n^2 - n}{2}\right) + O(1)$$

$$= O\left(\frac{n^2 - n}{2}\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times O(n^2 - n)$$

$$= O(n^2)$$

By Recurrence Tree

$T(n) = T(n-1) + a$, where a is constant.

As it runs n times, we can say it will be :

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

And $n = 1$ then $T(n)$ or $T(1) = 1$, i. e. runs at constant time.

Hence,

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{for } n = 1 \\ T(n-1) + n & , \text{for } n > 1 \end{cases}$$

	<i>Level</i>	<i>No. of problems</i>	<i>Problem size</i>	<i>Work Done</i>
n	0	1	n	n
$n-1$	1	1	$n-1$	$n-1$
$n-2$	2	1	$n-2$	$n-2$
.
.
1	$n-1$	1	1	1

$$\Rightarrow n + (n-1) + (n-2) + \dots + 1 = \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$= O\left(\frac{n^2 - n}{2}\right)$$

$$= O\left(\frac{n^2 - n}{2}\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times O(n^2 - n)$$

$$= O(n^2)$$

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