

Guess And Verify Method – Example – 3

Example 3: Use the guess – and – verify method and solve the following recurrence equation:

$$T(n) = 3T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \text{ subjected to initial condition.}$$

$$T(1) = 1$$

Note that n is greater than 1 and a power of 2.

Solution:

As $n > 1$ and a power of 2, it can 2, 4, 8 and so on.

$$T(1) = 1$$

$$T(2) = 3T\left(\frac{2}{2}\right) = 3 \times T(1) = 3 \times 1 = 3.$$

$$T(4) = 3T\left(\frac{4}{2}\right) = 3 \times T(2) = 3 \times 3 = 3^2.$$

$$T(8) = 3T\left(\frac{8}{2}\right) = 3 \times T(4) = 3 \times 3^2 = 3^3.$$

$$T(16) = 3T\left(\frac{16}{2}\right) = 3 \times T(8) = 3 \times 3^3 = 3^4.$$

Guess:

One can observe that as `n` increases, the power of 3 increases incrementally. Therefore the guessed solution for this recurrence would be the following:

$$t_n = 3^{\log_2 n}$$

if $n > 1$ and n is power of 2 , we can get the values:

$$\Rightarrow 3^{\log_2 2} = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{\log_2 4} = 9 = 3^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{\log_2 8} = 27 = 3^3$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{\log_2 16} = 81 = 3^4$$

....

Verify:

Now we can verify using mathematical induction:

$$P(1) = 3^{\log_2 1} = 3^0 = 1 \text{ also } T(1) = 1, \text{ hence true.}$$

For $2n$, the solution should be (as n is a power of 2)

$$t_{2n} = 3 \log_2 2n$$

Substituting $2n$ in place of n in the original equation:

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

$$= 3 \times 3^{\log_2 n} = 3^{1+\log_2 n}$$

$$= 3^{\log_2 2 + \log_2 n} (\because 1 \text{ can be written as } \log_2 2)$$

$$= 3^{\log_2 2n} (\because \log_a x + \log_a y = \log_a xy)$$

$P(m)$

$$3^{\log_2 2} = 3$$

$$3^{\log_2 4} = 9$$

$$3^{\log_2 8} = 27$$

$$3^{\log_2 16} = 81$$

$P(m+1)$

$$3^{\log_2 4} = 9$$

$$3^{\log_2 8} = 27$$

$$3^{\log_2 16} = 81$$

Hence $P(m) = 3^{\log_2 m}$ is true then $P(m+1) = 3^{1+\log_2 m}$ is also true.

Hence by induction, recurrence equation, $t_n = 3^{\log_2 n}$ is true.
