

***Divide And Conquer –
Continuous Master Theorem or
Generalized Master Theorem
–Example – 1***

Example 1: Solve the following recurrence using the generalized master theorem:

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

Solution:

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

$$a = 8$$

$$b = 2$$

$$\therefore n^{\log_b a} = n^{\log_2 8} = n^{\log_2 2^3} = n^3 \text{ [as } \log_a a = 1]$$

$$\text{hence, } \varepsilon = n^3 - n^2 = n^1, \text{ hence } \varepsilon = 1.$$

$$\text{Hence } \varepsilon > 0, a > 0, b > 1$$

Now lets verify if there exists :

$$f(n) = O\left(\frac{n^{\log_a b}}{n^\varepsilon}\right)$$

$$= O\left(\frac{n^3}{n^1}\right)$$

$$= O(n^{3-1})$$

$$= O(n^2)$$

$$i.e. n^2 < n^3 \Rightarrow n^{\log_a b - \varepsilon} < n^{\log_a b}$$

Therefore, the given time complexity function belongs to Case 1,

$$Hence, T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_a b}) = \Theta(n^3).$$
