

There were a few questions regarding the 3rd case of the Master Theorem that I am addressing in this. The 3rd case is when $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$ for some ε

Let's consider an actual example. Let $f(n) = n \log(n)$ and $\log_b a = 1$. The question becomes "is there an $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $n \log(n)$ is $\Omega(n^{1+\varepsilon})$? The answer is no.

We can prove by contradiction. Assume there is an ε such that $n \log(n)$ is $\Omega(n^{1+\varepsilon})$. It follows by definition of Ω that $\exists c, n_0$ s.t. $n \log(n) \geq n^{1+\varepsilon} \forall n \geq n_0 \Leftrightarrow \log(n) \geq n^\varepsilon \forall n \geq n_0 \Leftrightarrow \log(\log(n)) \geq \varepsilon \log(n) \forall n \geq n_0 \Leftrightarrow \log(n) \geq \varepsilon * n \forall n \geq \log(n_0) \Leftrightarrow \log(n)/n \geq \varepsilon \forall n \geq \log(n_0)$

The missing link is the fact that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log(n)}{n} = 0$ (this can be easily proven using l'Hôpital's rule.)

This means that $\exists m_0 > 0$ s.t. $\frac{\log(n)}{n} < \varepsilon \forall n \geq m_0$. Pick $n = \max(m_0, \log(n_0))$, and you get the contradiction.

Note that I do not expect you to prove it, but I do expect to recognize that this case is not Master Theorem case 3.