



# Assignment Project Exam Help

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School of Computer Science and Engineering  
University of New South Wales

3. RECURRENCES - part A

- “Big Oh” notation:  $f(n) = O(g(n))$  is an abbreviation for:

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*“There exist positive constants  $c$  and  $n_0$  such that  
 $0 \leq f(n) \leq c g(n)$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ ”.*

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- $f(n) \in O(g(n))$  means that  $f(n)$  does not grow faster than  $g(n)$  because a multiple of  $g(n)$
- Clearly, multiplying constants  $c$  of interest will be larger than 1, thus “enlarging”  $g(n)$ .

## Asymptotic notation

- “Omega” notation:  $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$  is an abbreviation for:

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- “Theta” notation:  $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$  if and only if  $f(n) = O(g(n))$  and  $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ ; thus,  $f(n)$  and  $g(n)$  have the same asymptotic growth rate.

- Recurrences are important to us because they arise in estimations of time complexity of divide-and-conquer algorithms.

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MERGE-SORT( $A, p, r$ )

\*sorting  $A[p..r]$ \*

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- Since  $\text{Merge}(A, p, q, r)$  runs in linear time, the runtime  $T(n)$  of  $\text{Merge-Sort}(A, p, r)$  satisfies

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

- Let  $a \geq 1$  be an integer and  $b > 1$  a real number;

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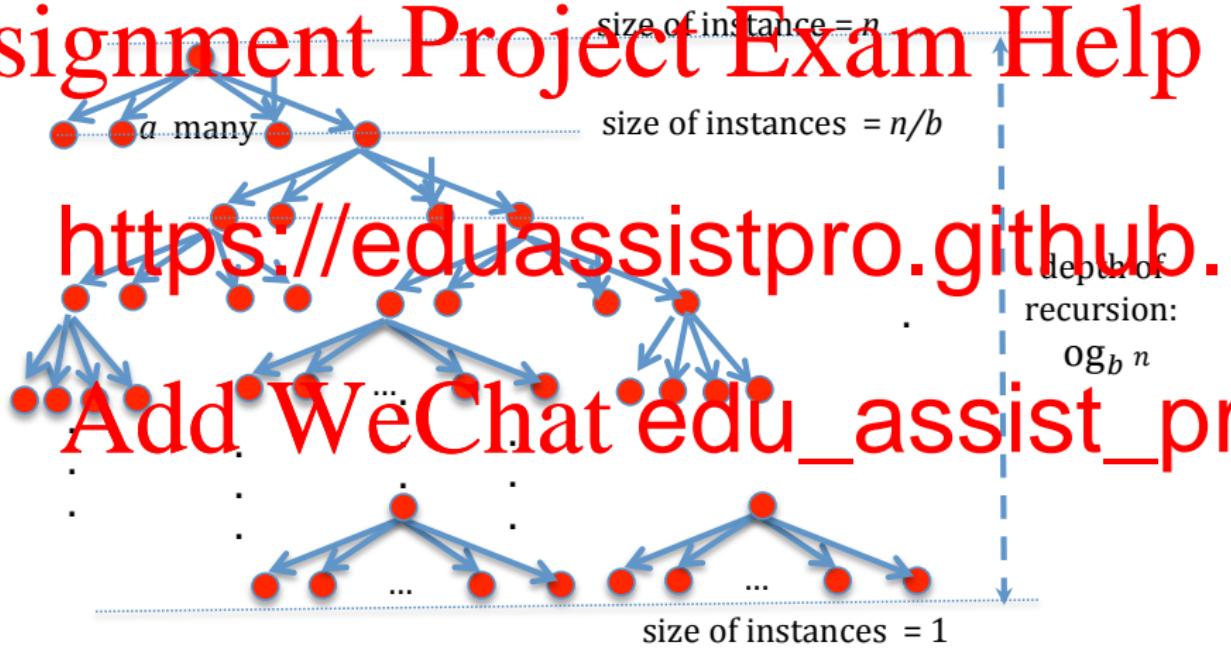
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but it can be shown that ignoring the integer parts and additive constants is OK when it comes to obtaining the asymptotics.

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- We have a GitHub repository:  
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## Assignment Project Exam Help

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- We can contact us via WeChat or email:  
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  - ① <https://eduassistpro.github.io>
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- This is what the **Master Theorem** applicable).

## Master Theorem:

Let:

- $a \geq 1$  be an integer and  $b > 1$  a real;

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## Master Theorem:

Let:

- $a \geq 1$  be an integer and  $b > 1$  a real;
- $f(n) > 0$  be a non-decreasing function;

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- ① If  $f(n) = O(n^c)$  for some  $c < 1$ , then  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$ .
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(But often the proof of the Master Theorem can be tweaked to obtain the asymptotic of the solution  $T(n)$  in such a case when the Master Theorem does not apply; an example is  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n \log n$ ).

## Master Theorem - a remark

- Note that for any  $b > 1$ ,

$$\log_b n = \log_b 2 \log_2 n;$$

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## Master Theorem - a remark

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- Thus,

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and also

$$\log_2 n = \Theta(\log_b n)$$

- So whenever we have  $f = \Theta(g(n) \log n)$  we do not have to specify what base the log is - all bases produce equivalent asymptotic estimates (but we do have to specify  $b$  in expressions such as  $n^{\log_b a}$ ).

- Let  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$ ;

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## Master Theorem - Examples

- Let  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$ ;

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thus  $f(n) = 5n = \Theta(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_2 2})$ .

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- Let  $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$ ;

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Co

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Thus, condition of case 2 is satisfied; and so,

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_2 2} \log n) = \Theta(n \log n).$$

- Let  $T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n$ ;

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## Master Theorem - Examples

- Let  $T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n$ ;
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*Hint:* Use *de L'Hôpital's Rule* to show that  $\log n / n^\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .
- Thus, in this case the Master Theorem does **not** apply!

## Master Theorem - Proof:

Since

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n) \quad (1)$$

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$$\overbrace{T(n) = a \underbrace{T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right)}_{(2L)} + f(n)}^{(1)} = a \underbrace{\left(a T\left(\frac{n}{b^2}\right) + f\left(\frac{n}{b}\right)\right)}_{(2R)} + f(n)$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Continuing in this way  $\log_b n - 1$  many times we get ...

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

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Add WeChat  $\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)$  edu\_assist\_pro

We now use  $a^{\log_b n} = n^{\log_b a}$ :

$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) \quad (4)$$

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Note that so far we did not use any assumptions on  $f(n)$ .

$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \underbrace{\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)}$$

Case 1:  $f(m) = O(m^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$

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$$\text{Case 1: } f(m) = O(m^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$$
$$\sum_i^{[\log_b n] - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(\sum_i^{[\log_b n] - 1} a^i \frac{n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}{b^{i\varepsilon}}\right)$$

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Case 1:  $f(m) = O(m^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i \left(\frac{n}{b^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - i}}\right)^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}\right)$$

$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{a}{b^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - i}}\right)^i\right)$

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$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{a}{b^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - i}}\right)^i\right)$$

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$$\text{Case 1: } f(m) = O(m^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$$
$$\sum_i^{[\log_b n] - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = a^i O\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}$$

$= O\left(\frac{n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}{b^{(\log_b a - \varepsilon)([\log_b n] - 1)}}\right)$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{a}{b^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}\right)^i\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \left(\frac{a}{b^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}\right)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1}\right)$$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{a b^\varepsilon}{a}\right)^i\right)$$

$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \underbrace{\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)}$$

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$$\text{Case 1: } f(m) = O(m^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i O\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}$$

$= O\left(\frac{n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}{b^{(\log_b a - \varepsilon)(\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1)}}\right)$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{a}{b^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}\right)^i\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \left(\frac{a}{b^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}\right)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1}\right)$$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{ab^\varepsilon}{a}\right)^i\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} (b^\varepsilon)^i\right)$$

$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \underbrace{\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)}$$

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$$\text{Case 1: } f(m) = O(m^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i \left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}\right)$$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{a}{b^{\log_b a - \varepsilon}}\right)^i\right)$$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{a}{b^{1-\varepsilon}}\right)^i\right)$$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \left(\frac{ab^\varepsilon}{a}\right)^i\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} (b^\varepsilon)^i\right)$$

$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right); \quad \text{we are using } \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} q^i = \frac{q^m - 1}{q - 1}$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 1 - continued:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 1 - continued:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 1 - continued:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$
$$= O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{\left((b^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor})^\varepsilon - 1\right)}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 1 - continued:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 1 - continued:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$

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$\frac{b^\varepsilon - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}$

$= O\left(n^{\log_b a}\right)$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 1 - continued:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$

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Since we had:  $T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \overline{b^i}$

# Master Theorem Proof:

Case 1 - continued:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon} \frac{(b^\varepsilon)^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor} - 1}{b^\varepsilon - 1}\right)$$

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Since we had:  $T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} \overline{b^i}$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + O\left(n^{\log_b a}\right) \\ &= \Theta\left(n^{\log_b a}\right) \end{aligned}$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 2:**  $f(m) = \Theta(m^{\log_b a})$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 2:**  $f(m) = \Theta(m^{\log_b a})$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i \Theta\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)^{\log_b a}$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 2:**  $f(m) = \Theta(m^{\log_b a})$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i \Theta\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)^{\log_b a}$$
$$= \Theta\left(a^i \frac{n}{a^i}\right)^{\log_b a}$$

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**Case 2:**  $f(m) = \Theta(m^{\log_b a})$

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$$= \Theta\left(a^i \frac{n}{a^i}\right)^{\log_b a}$$

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$i=0$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 2:**  $f(m) = \Theta(m^{\log_b a})$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i \Theta\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)^{\log_b a}$$
$$= \Theta\left(a^i \frac{n}{a^i}^{\log_b a}\right)$$

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$i=0$

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$$= \Theta\left(n^{\log_b a} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} 1\right)$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 2:**  $f(m) = \Theta(m^{\log_b a})$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i f\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} a^i \Theta\left(\frac{n}{b^i}\right)^{\log_b a}$$
$$= \Theta\left(a^i \frac{n}{a^i}^{\log_b a}\right)$$

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$$= \Theta\left(n^{\log_b a} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1} 1\right)$$
$$= \Theta\left(n^{\log_b a} \lfloor \log_b n \rfloor\right)$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 2 (continued):

Thus,

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$$\frac{n}{i^{\lfloor \log_b n \rfloor - 1}} = \frac{n}{\log_b a}$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 2 (continued):

Thus,

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$$n = \underbrace{i}_{\log_b n - 1} + \underbrace{\dots}_{\log_b a} + \underbrace{\dots}_{\log_b a}$$

because  $\log_b n = i + \frac{1}{\log_b a}$

$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) +$$

$$\underbrace{\dots}_{\log_b n - 1}$$

-

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## Master Theorem Proof:

Case 2 (continued):

Thus,

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$$i \quad \frac{n}{\log_b a} \quad \log_b a$$

because  $\log$

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we get:

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$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \Theta(n^{\log_b a - 1}) \\ &= \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log_2 n) \end{aligned}$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 3:**  $f(m) = \Omega(m^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$  and  $a f(n/b) \leq c f(n)$  for some  $0 < c < 1$ .

We get by substitution:

$$f(n/b) \leq \frac{c}{a} f(n)$$

$$f(n/b^2) \leq \frac{c}{a} f(n/b)$$

$$f(n/b^3) \leq \frac{c}{a} f(n/b^2)$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

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We get by substitution:

$$f(n/b) \leq \frac{c}{a} f(n)$$

$$\underline{f(n/b^2)} \leq \frac{c}{a} \underline{f(n/b)}$$

$$f(n/b^3) \leq \frac{c}{a} f(n/b^2)$$

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$$f(n/b^3) \leq \frac{c}{a} \underbrace{f(n/b^2)}_{\frac{c^2}{a^2}} \leq \frac{c}{a} \cdot \frac{c^2}{a^2} f(n)$$

...

$$f(n/b^i) \leq \frac{c}{a} \underbrace{f(n/b^{i-1})}_{\frac{c^{i-1}}{a^{i-1}}} \leq \frac{c}{a} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{c^{i-1}}{a^{i-1}} f(n)}_{\frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)} = \frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 3 (continued):**

We got

$$f(n/b^i) \leq \frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

**Case 3 (continued):**

We got

$$f(n/b^i) \leq \frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)$$

Thns,  
 $a^i f \stackrel{n}{\sim} a^i c^i f(n) \stackrel{\infty}{<} f(n) \quad c^i = \frac{f(n)}{c}$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

### Case 3 (continued):

We got

$$f(n/b^i) \leq \frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)$$

Thus,

$$a^i f \stackrel{n}{\underline{-}} \stackrel{\lceil \log_b n \rceil - 1}{\overbrace{a^i c^i}} f(n) < f(n) \stackrel{\infty}{\overbrace{c^i}} = \frac{f(n)}{c}$$

Since we have

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$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \stackrel{b}{\overbrace{a^i}} \stackrel{i}{\overbrace{\frac{n}{c^i}}}$$

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## Master Theorem Proof:

### Case 3 (continued):

We got

$$f(n/b^i) \leq \frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)$$

Thus,

$$a^i f \stackrel{n}{\underline{-}} \stackrel{\lceil \log_b n \rceil - 1}{\overbrace{a^i c^i}} f(n) < f(n) \stackrel{\infty}{\overbrace{c^i}} = \frac{f(n)}{c}$$

Since we have

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$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \stackrel{b}{\overbrace{a^i}} \stackrel{i}{\overbrace{\underline{-}}} \stackrel{n}{\underline{-}}$$

and since  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$  we get:

$$T(n) < n^{\log_b a} T(1) + O(f)$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

### Case 3 (continued):

We got

$$f(n/b^i) \leq \frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)$$

Thus,

$$a^i f \stackrel{n}{\underline{-}} \stackrel{\lceil \log_b n \rceil - 1}{\overbrace{a^i c^i}} f(n) < f(n) \stackrel{\infty}{\overbrace{c^i}} = \frac{f(n)}{c}$$

Since we have

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$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \stackrel{b}{\overbrace{a^i}} \stackrel{i}{\overbrace{\underline{-}}} \stackrel{n}{\underline{-}}$$

and since  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a})$  we get:

$$T(n) < n^{\log_b a} T(1) + O(f)$$

but we also have

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n) > f(n)$$

## Master Theorem Proof:

### Case 3 (continued):

We got

$$f(n/b^i) \leq \frac{c^i}{a^i} f(n)$$

Thus,

$$a^i f \stackrel{n}{\underline{-}} \stackrel{\lceil \log_b n \rceil - 1}{\overbrace{a^i c^i}} f(n) < f(n) \stackrel{\infty}{\overbrace{c^i}} = \frac{f(n)}{c}$$

Since we have

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$$T(n) \approx n^{\log_b a} T(1) + \stackrel{b}{\overbrace{a^i}} \stackrel{i}{\overbrace{\underline{-}}} \stackrel{n}{\underline{-}}$$

and since  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a})$  we get:

$$T(n) < n^{\log_b a} T(1) + O(f)$$

but we also have

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + f(n) > f(n)$$

thus,

$$T(n) = \Theta(f(n))$$

## Master Theorem Proof: Homework

**Exercise 1:** Show that condition

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follows from the condition

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**Example:** Let us estimate the asymptotic growth rate of

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**Note:** we have seen that the Master Theorem does **NOT** apply, but the technique used in its proof still works! So let us just unwind the recurrence and sum up the logarithmic overheads.

$$\begin{aligned}T(n) &= 2 \underbrace{T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}_{\text{Recurrence}} + n \log n \\&= 2 \left( \overbrace{2T\left(\frac{n}{2^2}\right)}_{\text{Recurrence}} + \frac{n}{2} \log \frac{n}{2} \right) + n \log n\end{aligned}$$

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$$= 2^2 \left( \overbrace{2T\left(\frac{n}{2^2}\right)}_{\text{Recurrence}} + \frac{n}{2} \log \frac{n}{2} + n \log n \right)$$

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

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

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

$$= nT(1) + n(\log n \times \log n - \log 2^{\log n-1} - \dots - 1)$$

$$= nT(1) + n((\log n)^2 - (\log n - 1) - \dots - 3 - 2)$$

$$= nT(1) + n((\log n)^2 - \log n(\log n - 1)/2)$$

$$= nT(1) + n((\log n)^2/2 + \log n/2)$$

$$= \Theta(n(\log n)^2).$$

# PUZZLE!

Five pirates have to split 100 bars of gold. They all line up and proceed as follows:

- ① The first pirate in line gets to propose a way to split up the gold (for example: everyone gets 20 bars)
- ② The pirates, including the one who proposed, vote on whether to accept the proposal. If the proposal is rejected, the pirate who made the proposal is killed.
- ③ The next pirate in line then makes his proposal, and the 4 pirates vote again. If the vote is tied (2 vs 2) then the proposing pirate is still killed. Only majority can accept a proposal.

pirate 1's proposal:

- pirate 1 gets 98 bars
- pirate 2 gets 1 bar
- given maximal possible amount of gold, he wants to split it just for fun;
- each pirate knows his exact position in line
- all of the pirates are excellent puzzle solvers.

Question : What proposal should the first pirate make?

*Hint: assume first that there are only two pirates, and see what happens. Then assume that there are three pirates and that they have figured out what happens if there were only two pirates and try to see what they would do. Further, assume that there are four pirates and that they have figured out what happens if there were only three pirates, try to see what they would do. Finally assume there are five pirates and that they have figured out what happens if there were only four pirates.*