

# Foundations of Algorithm SCS1308

Dr. Dinuni Fernando  
PhD

Senior Lecturer



# Solving recurrence equations

- Techniques for solving recurrence equations:
  - *Recursion tree method*
  - *Substitution method*
  - *Iteration method*
  - *Master Theorem*
- We discuss these methods with examples.

# Solve the following recurrence using Recursion Tree method

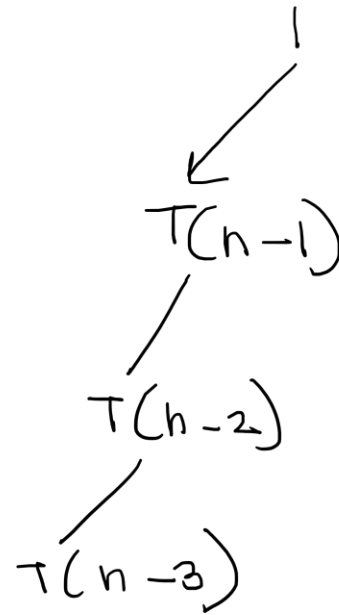
- $T(n) = T(n-1) + 1 : n > 0$
- $T(n) = 1 : n = 0$

# Solving using Recursion Tree method

- $T(n) = T(n-1) + 1 : n > 0$
- $T(n) = 1 : n = 0$
- $T(n) = T(n-1) + 1$

$$\underbrace{[0 \dots (n-1)]}_{n} * O(1)$$

$O(n)$



depths	
0	$O(1)$
1	$O(1)$
2	$O(1)$
3	$O(1)$
⋮	⋮
	$(n-1)$

# Solving using Iteration method

- $T(n) = T(n-1) + 1 : n > 0$
- $T(n) = 1 : n = 0$

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

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

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

assume  $n-k = 0$  ;

$$= T(0) + n = 1 + n = \underline{\underline{\Theta(n)}}$$

# Solving using Iteration method

- Unroll the recurrence step by step.

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

- $$\begin{aligned}&= T(n-3) + 3 \\ &\vdots \\ &= T(n-k) + k.\end{aligned}$$

- Choose  $k = n$  so the argument becomes  $T(0)$ :

- $T(n) = T(0) + n = 1 + n.$

- So by iteration/unrolling the solution is  $\boxed{T(n) = n + 1}.$

# Solving using substitution method (induction proof)

- Prove by induction that  $T(n) = n + 1$ .
- **Base.**  $n = 0$ :  $T(0) = 1$  and formula gives  $0 + 1 = 1$ . True.
- **Inductive step.** Assume for some  $m \geq 0$  that  $T(m) = m + 1$ . Then for  $n = m + 1$ ,

$$T(m + 1) = T(m) + 1 = (m + 1) + 1 = (m + 1) + 1.$$

So  $T(m + 1) = (m + 1) + 1$ . Thus by induction  $T(n) = n + 1$  for all  $n \geq 0$ .

- Therefore  $O(n)$

# Masters Theorem

- Let  $T(n)$  be a monotonically increasing function that satisfies

$$T(n) = a T(n/b) + f(n)$$

$$T(1) = c$$

where  $a \geq 1$ ,  $b \geq 2$ ,  $c > 0$ . If  $f(n)$  is  $\Theta(n^d)$  where  $d \geq 0$  then

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(n^d) & \text{if } a < b^d \\ \Theta(n^d \log n) & \text{if } a = b^d \\ \Theta(n^{\log_b a}) & \text{if } a > b^d \end{cases}$$



# When Master's Theorem Does not Apply

- Master's Theorem cannot be used in certain cases:
  - 1.If  $f(n)$  is not polynomially related to  $n^{\log_b^a}$  (*if  $f(n)$  involves with irregular functions like logarithms or exponential terms*)
  - 2.If the recurrence relation does not fit the required form.

Other methods such as recursion tree, substitution method can be used.

# Master method examples

- Case 1:
  - $T(n) = 8T(n/4) + 5n^2$  for  $n > 1$ ,  $n$  is a power of 4
  - $T(1) = 3$
  - $a=8, b=4, d=2$
  - As  $a < b^d$  (i.e.,  $8 < 4^2$ ),  $T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$

# Master method examples

- Case 2:
    - $T(n) = 8T(n/2) + 5n^3$  for  $n > 64$ ,  $n$  is a power of 2
    - $T(64) = 200$
- As  $a = b^k$  (i.e.,  $8 = 2^3$ ),  $T(n) = \Theta(n^3 \lg n)$

# Master method examples

- Case 3:
  - $T(n) = 9T(n/3) + 5n$  for  $n > 1$ ,  $n$  is a power of 3
  - $T(1) = 7$

→  $a = 9, b = 3, d = 1$

→ Since  $a > b^d$ ,

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_3 9}) = \Theta(n^2)$$

Thank you