Master’s Method

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- Method for solving recurrences of the form:

$$T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$$

where, $a \geq 1$, $b > 1$, and $f(n) > 0$

Idea: compare $f(n)$ with $n^{\log_b a}$

- $f(n)$ is asymptotically smaller or larger than $n^{\log_b a}$ by a polynomial factor n^{ε}
- $f(n)$ is asymptotically equal with $n^{\log_b a}$

Master's method

- **Method for solving recurrences of the form:**

$$T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n)$$

where, $a \geq 1$, $b > 1$, and $f(n) > 0$

Case 1: if $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \varepsilon})$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$, then: $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$

Case 2: if $f(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a})$, then: $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \lg n)$

Case 3: if $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \varepsilon})$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$, and if

$af(n/b) \leq cf(n)$ for some c < 1 and all sufficiently large n, then:

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

regularity condition

Example 1

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$$

$a = 2$, $b = 2$, $\log_2 2 = 1$

Compare $n^{\log_2 2}$ with $f(n) = n$

$\Rightarrow f(n) = \Theta(n) \Rightarrow$ Case 2

$\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n\lg n)$

Example 2

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n^2$$

$a = 2$, $b = 2$, $\log_2 2 = 1$

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

$\Rightarrow f(n) = \Omega(n^{1+\varepsilon})$ Case 3 $\Rightarrow$ verify regularity cond.

$a\, f(n/b) \leq c\, f(n)$

$\Leftrightarrow 2\, n^2/4 \leq c\, n^2 \Rightarrow c = \frac{1}{2}$ is a solution $(c<1)$

$\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n^2)$

Example 3

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + \sqrt{n}$$

$a = 2$, $b = 2$, $\log_2 2 = 1$

Compare n with $f(n) = n^{1/2}$

$\Rightarrow f(n) = O(n^{1-\varepsilon})$ Case 1

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

Example 4

$$T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n\lg n$$

$a = 3$, $b = 4$, $\log_4 3 = 0.793$

Compare $n^{0.793}$ with $f(n) = n\lg n$

$f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_4 3+\varepsilon})$ Case 3

Check regularity condition:

$$3*(n/4)\lg(n/4) \le (3/4)n\lg n = c*f(n),\ c=3/4$$

$\Rightarrow T(n) = \Theta(n\lg n)$

Example 5

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n\lg n$$

$a = 2,\ b = 2,\ \log_2 2 = 1$

- Compare n with $f(n) = n\lg n$
  - seems like case 3 should apply
- f(n) must be polynomially larger by a factor of n^{ε}
- In this case it is only larger by a factor of $\lg n$