

**CSCI 3104, Algorithms**  
**Problem Set 4 (50 points)**

*Advice 1:* For every problem in this class, you must justify your answer: show how you arrived at it and why it is correct. If there are assumptions you need to make along the way, state those clearly.

*Advice 2:* Verbal reasoning is typically insufficient for full credit. Instead, write a logical argument, in the style of a mathematical proof.

**Instructions for submitting your solution:**

- The solutions **should be typed** and we cannot accept hand-written solutions. [Here's a short intro to LaTeX.](#)
  - You should submit your work through [Gradescope](#) only.
  - The easiest way to access Gradescope is through our Canvas page. There is a Gradescope button in the left menu.
  - Gradescope will only accept **.pdf** files.
  - [It is vital that you match each problem part with your work.](#) Skip to 1:40 to just see the matching info.
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Recall that a function  $f$  expressed in terms that depend on  $f$  itself is a recurrence relation. “Solving” such a recurrence relation means expressing  $f$  without terms that depend on  $f$ .

1. Solve the following recurrence relations using the **unrolling method** (also called plug-in or substitution method), and find tight bounds on their asymptotic growth rates. Remember to show your work so that the graders can verify that you used the **unrolling method**. Assume that all function input sizes are non-negative integers. You may also assume that integer rounding of any fraction of a problem size won't affect asymptotic behavior.

$$(a) \ U_a(n) = \begin{cases} 2U_a(n-1) - 1 & \text{when } n \geq 1, \\ 2 & \text{when } n = 0. \end{cases}$$

$$(b) \ U_b(n) = \begin{cases} 3U_b(n/4) + n/2 & \text{when } n > 3, \\ 0 & \text{when } n = 3. \end{cases}$$

**Solution:**

(a) Begin unrolling

$$2U_a(n-1) - 1$$

$$2(2U_a(n-2) - 1) - 1 \quad (\text{Unroll})$$

$$= 4U_a(n-2) - 3 \quad (\text{Simplify})$$

$$4(2U_a(n-2) - 1) - 3 \quad (\text{Unroll})$$

$$= 8U_a(n-3) - 7 \quad (\text{Simplify})$$

$$8(2U_a(n-4) - 1) - 7 \quad (\text{Unroll})$$

$$= 16U_a(n-4) - 15 \quad (\text{Simplify})$$

General Equation -

$$U_a(n) = 2^k U_a(n-k) - (2^k - 1)$$

Our base case is  $U_a(0)$

$$U_a(0) = U_a(n-k) \text{ when } n = k$$

Solve For Base Case -

$$U_a(n) = 2^n U_a(0) - (2^n - 1)$$

$$= 2^n U_a(0) - 2^n + 1$$

$$= 2^n (U_a(0) - 1) + 1$$

$$= 2^n (C - 1) + 1$$

$$U_a(n) = \Theta(2^n)$$

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(b) Begin unrolling

$$3U_b\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + \frac{n}{2}$$

$$3\left(3U_b\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) + \frac{n}{8}\right) + \frac{n}{2} \quad (\text{Unroll})$$

$$= 9U_b\left(\frac{n}{16}\right) + \frac{3n}{8} + \frac{n}{2} \quad (\text{Simplify})$$

$$9\left(3U_b\left(\frac{n}{64}\right) + \frac{n}{32}\right) + \frac{3n}{8} + \frac{n}{2} \quad (\text{Unroll})$$

$$= 27U_b\left(\frac{n}{64}\right) + \frac{9n}{32} + \frac{3n}{8} + \frac{n}{2} \quad (\text{Simplify})$$

General Equation -

$$U_b(n) = 3^k U_b\left(\frac{n}{4^k}\right) + \frac{n}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i$$

Our base case is  $U_b(3)$

$$U_b(3) \text{ when } \frac{n}{4^k} = 3$$

$$3 \cdot 4^k = n$$

$$4^k = \frac{n}{3}$$

$$k = \log_4\left(\frac{n}{3}\right)$$

**Solve On Next Page**

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Solve For Base Case -

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_b(n) &= 3^k U_b\left(\frac{n}{4^k}\right) + \frac{n}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^i \\
 &= 3^k U_b\left(\frac{n}{4^k}\right) + \frac{n}{2} \frac{1 - \frac{3^k}{4}}{1 - \frac{3}{4}} \quad (\text{Apply geometric sum formula}) \\
 &= 3^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}} \cdot U_b(3) + \frac{n}{2} \frac{1 - \frac{3^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}}}{4}}{\frac{1}{4}} \quad (\text{Sub in } k = \log_4 \left(\frac{n}{3}\right)) \\
 &= 3^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}} \cdot 0 + 2n - 2n \frac{3^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}}}{4} \\
 &= 0 + 2n - 2n \frac{3^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}}}{4^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}}} \\
 &= 2n - 2n \frac{3^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}}}{\frac{n}{3}} \\
 &= 2n - 6 \left(3^{\log_4 \frac{n}{3}}\right) \\
 &= 2n - 6 \left(\frac{n}{3}\right)^{\log_4 3} \\
 &= 2n - 2n^{\log_4 3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Limit Comparison Test

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n}{2n^{\log_4 3}} \stackrel{L'H}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\frac{2 \ln(3) n^{\frac{\ln(3)}{\ln(4)} - 1}}{\ln(4)}} = \infty$$

Therefore  $2n$  grows faster than  $\frac{2n}{2n^{\log_4 3}}$  therefore  $U_b = \Theta(n)$

2. Consider this recurrence:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 4T(n/3) + 2n & \text{when } n > 1, \\ 1 & \text{when } n = 1. \end{cases}$$

- How many levels will the recurrence tree have?
- What is the cost at the level below the root?
- What is the cost at the  $\ell$ 'th level below the root?
- Is the cost constant for each level?
- Find the total cost for all levels. *Hint: You may need to use a summation. The Geometric Sum formula may be helpful.*
- If  $T(n)$  is  $\Theta(g(n))$ , find  $g(n)$ .

**Solution:**

- A node at depth  $k$  is a problem of size  $1 = n/3^k$ . Solve for  $k$  to get that there are  $k = \log_3 n$  levels, but consider the base case where  $n = 1$ , there is still one level to our tree. Therefore our total number of levels would be  $k = \log_3 n + 1$  levels.
- The cost at the level below the root is  $4 \cdot 2n/3 = 4(2n/3) = 8n/3$ .
- The cost at any level below the root is  $4^\ell(2n/3^\ell)$
- No, the cost changes as you move down a level, since you're splitting each node 4 times, but each node is doing  $2n/3$  the amount of work, the amount of work goes up by a factor of  $4/3$  each level.
- The total cost for all levels is -

$$T(n) = 2n \sum_{i=0}^k \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^i = 2n \frac{1 - \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{k+1}}{1 - \frac{4}{3}} = 2n \frac{1 - \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{k+1}}{-\frac{1}{3}} = -6n \left(1 - \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{k+1}\right) = -6n + 6n \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{k+1}$$

Plugging in  $k = \log_3 n$

$$T(n) = -6n + 6n \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{\log_3 n + 1}$$

- Solving for  $g(n)$  -

$$T(n) = -6n + 6n \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{\log_3 n + 1} = -6n + 6n \left(\frac{4^{\log_3 n + 1}}{3^{\log_3 n + 1}}\right) = -6n + 6n \left(\frac{4^{\log_3 n + 1}}{n}\right) = 6n^{\log_3 4} - 6n$$

Limit Comparison Test

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6n^{\log_3 4}}{6n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^{\log_3 4}}{n} \stackrel{L'H}{=} \frac{\ln(4) n^{\frac{\ln(4)}{\ln(3)} - 1}}{\ln(3)} = \infty$$

Therefore  $6n^{\log_3 4}$  grows faster than  $6n$  therefore  $g(n) = n^{\log_3 4}$

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3. Showing your work for relevant comparisons, for the following recurrence relations apply the **master method** to identify whether original problems or subproblems dominate, or whether they are comparable. Then write down a  $\Theta$  bound.

$$(a) \ M_a(n) = \begin{cases} 2M_a(n/3.14) + n \log(n) & \text{when } n > 0.001, \\ 1337 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$(b) \ M_b(n) = \begin{cases} 6M_b(n/2) + n^{7/3} \log(n) & \text{when } n > 2^{273}, \\ 6734 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$(c) \ M_c(n) = \begin{cases} 9M_c(n/3) + n^3 \log(n) & \text{when } n > 8/3, \\ 86 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Solution:**

(a)  $a = 2, b = 3.14, f(n) = n \log(n)$

Apply Master Theorem -

$$n^{\log_{3.14} 2} \approx n^{0.605}$$

Since  $n^{\log_{3.14} 2 + \epsilon}$  where  $\epsilon \approx 0.395$ , Case 3 of the master theorem applies.

Check extra case -

$$2(n/3.14) \log(n/3.14) \leq c(n \log n)$$

$$\text{Since } 2(n/3.14) \log(n/3.14) \leq \frac{2}{3.14} n \log n$$

$$\frac{2}{3.14} n \log n \leq c(n \log n)$$

$$c = \frac{2}{3.14} < 1 \checkmark$$

Therefore, we can conclude  $T(n) = \Theta(n \log n)$

(b)  $a = 6, b = 2, f(n) = n^{7/3} \log(n)$

Apply Master Theorem -

$$n^{\log_2 6} \approx n^{2.585}$$

Since  $n^{\log_2 6 - \epsilon}$  where  $\epsilon \approx 0.252$ , Case 1 of the master theorem applies.

Therefore, we can conclude  $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_2 6})$

(c)  $a = 9, b = 3, f(n) = n^3 \log(n)$

Apply Master Theorem -

$$n^{\log_3 9} = n^2$$

Since  $n^{2+\epsilon}$  where  $\epsilon = 1$ , Case 3 of the master theorem applies.

Check extra case -

$$9(n/3)^3 \log(n/3) \leq c(n^3 \log n)$$

$$9(n^3/27) \log(n/3) \leq c(n^3 \log n)$$

$$(n^3/3) \log(n/3) \leq c(n^3 \log n)$$

$$\text{Since } (n^3/3) \log(n/3) \leq \frac{1}{3}(n^3) \log(n)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}(n^3) \log(n) \leq c(n^3 \log n)$$

$$c = \frac{1}{3} < 1 \checkmark$$

Therefore, we can conclude  $T(n) = \Theta(n^3 \log n)$

4. This is a coding problem. You will implement a version of Quicksort.

- **You must submit a Python 3 source code file with a `quicksort` and a `partitionInPlace` function as specified below.** You will not receive credit if we cannot call your functions.
- The `quicksort` function should take as input an array (numpy array), and for large enough arrays pick a pivot value, call your partition function based on that pivot value, and then recursively call `quicksort` on resulting partitions that are strictly smaller in size than the input array in order to sort the input.
  - Additionally, your `quicksort` should transition from recursive calls to “manual” sorting (via `if` statements or equivalent) when the arrays become small enough.
- The `partitionInPlace` function should take as input an array (numpy array) and pivot value, partition the array (*in at most linear amount of work and constant amount of space*), and return an index such that (after returning) no further swaps need to occur between elements below and elements above the index in order for the array to be sorted.
- You are provided with a scaffold python file that you may use, which contains some suggested function behavior and loop invariants, as well as a simple testing driver. You may alter anything within or ignore it altogether **so long as you maintain the function prototypes specified above**.
  - In particular, the suggestions are meant to allow the pivot value to not be in the array, which is NOT a requirement for Quicksort.

**Solution:**