

# CMPS 101: Master Theorem

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## I. The Master Method

Let  $A \geq 1$ ,  $b > 1$ ,  $f(n)$  asymptotic positive.

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

We have three cases

1. If  $f(n) = O(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon})$  for some  $\epsilon > 0$ , then  $T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_b a})$
2. If  $f(n) = \theta(n^{\log_b a})$ , then  $T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_b a} \log(n)) = \theta(f(n) \log n)$
3. If  $f(n) = \Omega(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon})$  for some  $\epsilon > 0$  and if  $af\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) \leq cf(n)$  for some  $c$  in  $0 < c < 1$  all sufficiently large  $n$ , then  $T(n) = \theta(f(n))$

Remember for all cases we compare  $f(n)$  to  $n^{\log_b a}$

in each case the Winner (faster growing function) determines asymptotic Solution, and the winner must win by a polynomial factor

EXAMPLE 1:

- $T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n^2$
- compare:  $n^3$  to  $n^{\log_2 2} = n^1$
- by case 2:  $T(n) = \theta(n^3 \log n)$

EXAMPLE 2:

- $T(n) = 5T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + n$
- compare:  $n$  to  $n^{\log_4 5}$
- note:  $4 < 5 \Rightarrow 1 < \log_4 5$
- Let  $\epsilon = \log_4 5 - 1$  then  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $1 = \log_4 5 - \epsilon$ , therefore  $n = O(n)$
- by case 1:  $T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_4 5})$

Example 3:

- $T(n) = 5T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + n^2$
- Compare  $n^2$  to  $n^{\log_4 5}$
- note  $5 < 16$  implies  $\log_4 5 < 2$

- Let  $\varepsilon = 2 - \log_4 5$  then  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $2 = \log_4 5 + 2, \geq 0$
  - must also show  $5\left(\frac{n}{4}\right)^2 \leq cn^2$
  - $\frac{5}{16}n^2 \leq cn^2$
  - IE  $\frac{5}{16} \leq c$
  - therefore Pick any  $c$  in  $\frac{5}{16} \leq c < 1$
- This is possible since  $\frac{5}{16} < 1$

Example 4:

- $T(n) = 8T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 10n^3 + 15n^2 - n\sqrt{n} + n\log n - 1$
- Simplify to  $T(n) = 8T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n^3$
- Answer by case 2 :  $T(n) = \theta(n^3 \log n)$

Often: we write the recurrence as

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

Exercises:

- Prove that if  $f(n)$  is a polynomial, and if  $\deg(f) > \log_b a$ , then case 3 holds, and regularity condition is necessarily satisfied

EXAMPLE 5:

- $T(n) = T\left(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor\right) + 2T\left(\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil\right) + \log(n!)$
- simplify  $T(n) = 3T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n\log n$
- compare  $n\log n$  to  $n^{\log_2 3}$
- Let  $\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}(\log_2 3 - 1)$  since  $2 < 3 \Rightarrow 1 < \log_2 3$ , we have  $\epsilon > 0$
- $2\epsilon = \log_2 3 - 1$
- $1 + \epsilon = \log_2 3 - \epsilon$
- NOTE:  $\frac{n\log n}{n^{1+\epsilon}} = \frac{n\log n}{n n^\epsilon} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$
- therefore  $n\log n = o(n^{1+\epsilon}) \subseteq O(n^{1+\epsilon}) = O(n^{\log_2 3 - \epsilon})$
- by case 1:  $T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_2 3})$