DATA STRUCTURES

Space and Time Complexity

Program Performance

- To compare different solution for the same functionality
- Performance is measured by the amount of space and time needed to run the program.
- Two ways to determine:
 - Analytically: Analysing the program without executing it
 - Experimentally: measure performance by executing program for multiple set of inputs

Criteria for Measurement

Space

- Amount of memory program occupies
- Usually measured in Bytes, KB or MB
- Instruction space, data space and stack space are parts of total space

Time

- Execution time of the program
- Compilation time not included as it's a one time process
- Usually measured in number of executions of various statements in the program

Analytical Measurement

- Measure the performance of program without execution
- Performance is measured in terms of the size of the input
- Upper and lower bounds of the program are determined
- Results are not actual
- Commonly used for comparison between algorithms

Experimental Measurements

- Run multiple instances of algorithm for various input sets in a controlled environment
- Underlying software and hardware impacts the results
- Results are actual for the given environment and constraints

Space Complexity

- Space complexity is defined as the amount of memory a program needs to complete execution.
- Why is this of concern?
 - We could be running on a multi-user system where programs are allocated a specific amount of space.
 - We may not have sufficient memory on our computer.
 - There may be multiple solutions, each having different space requirements.
 - The space complexity may define an upper bound on the data that the program might have to handle.

 Program Space = Instruction Space + Data Space + Stack Space

- Instruction Space
 - Total memory occupied by instructions
 - Dependent on compiler, compilation options and target system

```
printHello( int n)
{          printf("Hello World!");        }
```

Constant space is required (not dependent on input size)

- Data Space:
 - Compile time allocated memory + dynamically allocated memory for data
 - Dependent on computer architecture and compiler

```
int arr[10][20]; \implies 200*sizeof(int) compile time
```

Eptr nNode = (Eptr)malloc(100*sizeof(Estruct));



100*sizeof(Estruct) run time

- Stack Space
 - Every time a function is called, following data (activation record) of calling function is stored on stack
 - Return address
 - Values of local variables and formal parameters
 - Binding of reference parameters

```
Eptr insertF (Eptr start, int nData) {
    return newNode(nData, start);
}

insertF()
Main()

Program Stack
```

- Identify instance characteristics (factors that determine the size of the problem instance e.g. the number of inputs, outputs, magnitude of numbers involved etc.)
- Total space needed by a program:
 - Fixed part independent of instance characteristics [instruction space, space for simple variables, constants etc.]
 - Variable part dynamically allocated space, recursion stack space[depends on space needed by local variables and formal parameters, maximum depth of recursion]

• Therefore, total space = C + S_p(instance characteristics)

Fixed Part

Variable Part

Space Complexity (Examples)

```
int abc(int a, int b, int c) {
        return a + b * c;
Space required by variable part: S_{abc}(ic) = 0
int sum(int a[], int n) {
// return the sum of numbers a[0:n-1]
        int the Sum = 0;
        for (int i=0; i< n; i++)
                theSum+=a[i];
        return theSum
Space required by variable part: S_{sum}(n) = 0
```

Space Complexity(Examples)

```
int rSum(int a[], int n) {
// return sum of numbers a[0:n-1] using recursion
        if (n>0)
            return (rSum(a, n-1) + a[n-1]);
        return 0;
}
```

$$S_{rSum}(n) = 2n + 2n + 2n = 6n$$

Reference of a Value of n

Return address (assuming address of 2 Bytes)

Space Complexity(Examples)

```
int factorial(int n) {
// return n!
        if (n <= 1)
                return 1;
        else
                return (n*factorial(n-1));
S_{factorial}(n) = 2*max\{n-1,1\} + 2*max\{n-1,1\} = 4*max\{n-1,1\}
                       Return address (assuming
      Value of n
                       address of 2 Bytes)
```

Time Complexity

- Time complexity is the total computer time a program needs to execute.
- Why is this a concern?
 - Some computers require upper limits for program execution times.
 - Some programs require a real-time response.
 - If there are many solutions to a problem, typically we'd like to choose the quickest.

Time Complexity

- How do we measure?
 - 1. Count a particular operation (operation counts)
 - 2. Count the number of steps (step counts)

Running Example: Insertion Sort

```
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++)
                                         // n is the number of
                                         // elements in array
 //insert a[i] into a[0:i-1]
 int t = a[i];
 int j;
 for (j = i - 1; j >= 0 \&\& t < a[j]; j--)
        a[i + 1] = a[i];
 a[j + 1] = t;
```

Operation Count Method

- Pick an instance characteristic ... n,
 n = the number of elements in case of insertion sort.
- Determine count as a function of this instance characteristic.
- Focus only on key operations and ignore all others
- Worst case count = maximum count
- Best case count = minimum count
- Average count

Operation Count: Comparison

```
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++)
 // insert a[i] into a[0:i-1]
 int t = a[i];
  int j;
 for (j = i - 1; j >= 0 \&\& t < a[j]; j--)
        a[i + 1] = a[i];
 a[j + 1] = t;
```

Operation Count: Comparison

```
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++)
for (j = i - 1; j >= 0 && t < a[j]; j--)
a[j + 1] = a[j];
```

- How many comparisons are made?
- The number of compares depends on a[] and t as well as on n.

Worst Case Operation Count

Only inner Loop

```
for (j = i - 1; j >= 0 && t < a[j]; j--)
a[j + 1] = a[j];
```

```
a = [1,2,3,4] and t = 0 \Rightarrow 4 compares a = [1,2,3,4,...,i] and t = 0 \Rightarrow i compares
```

Worst Case Operation Count

Both the loops

```
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++)
for (j = i - 1; j >= 0 && t < a[j]; j--)
a[j + 1] = a[j];
```

```
total compares = 1+2+3+...+(n-1)
= (n-1)n/2
```

Step Count Method

- The operation-count method omits accounting for the time spent on all but the chosen operation
- The step-count method count for all the time spent in all parts of the program
- A program step is loosely defined to be a syntactically or semantically meaningful segment of a program for which the execution time is independent of the instance characteristics.
 - 100 adds, 100 subtracts, 1000 multiples can be counted as one step.
 - However, n adds cannot be counted as one step.

Step Count: insertion sort

```
steps/execution (s/e)
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++)
 // insert a[i] into a[0:i-1]
 int t = a[i];
 int j;
 for (j = i - 1; j >= 0 \&\& t < a[j]; j--)
        a[i + 1] = a[i];
 a[j + 1] = t;
```

Step Count: Insertion Sort

```
s/e
                                                          frequency
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++)
                                                             n-1
 // insert a[i] into a[0:i-1]
 int t = a[i];
                                                             n-1
 int j;
                                                             n-1
                                                          (n-1)n/2
 for (j = i - 1; j >= 0 \&\& t < a[j]; j--)
        a[i + 1] = a[i];
                                                          (n-1)n/2
 a[j + 1] = t;
                                                             n-1
```

Step Count: Insertion Sort

Total step counts

$$= (n-1) + 0 + 0 + (n-1) + (n-1) + (n-1)n/2 + (n-1) + 0$$

$$= n^2 + 3n - 4$$

Operation and Step Count

- Two important reasons to determine operation and step counts
 - To compare the time complexities of two programs that compute the same function
 - To predict the growth in run time as the instance characteristic changes

Examples(1)

```
Main() {
    int n;
    scanf("%d",&n);
    printf("\n Value of n is: %d",n);
}
```

Examples(1)

```
Main() {
                                          s/e
                                                Frequency
       int n;
      scanf("%d",&n);
      printf("\n Value of n is: %d",n);
Time Complexity
                    = 1*1 + 1*1 + 1*1
                     = 3
                    = O(1)
                     =>constant(independent of input size)
```

Examples(2)

```
Main() { //omitting print and scan statements
    int i, n, x=0;
    for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
        x=x+1;
    }
}</pre>
```

Examples(2)

```
Main() { //omitting trivial statements
                                                 Frequency
                                          s/e
       int i, n, x=0;
       for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
                                                      n+1
              x=x+1;
Time Complexity
                     = 1*1 + 1*(n+1) + 1*n
                     = 2*n + 2
                     = O(n)
                     =>Linear(grows linearly with input size)
```

Examples(3)

```
Main() {
    int i, j, x=0;
    for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
        x=x+1; }
    for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
        for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
            x=x+1; } }</pre>
```

Examples(3)

```
Main() {
                                                   Frequency
                                            s/e
       int i, n, x=0;
       for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
                                                        n+1
              x=x+1; 
       for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
                                                        n+1
              for (j=0; j<n; j++) {
                                                   (n+1)(n+1)
                     x=x+1; \} 
                                                        n*n
Time Complexity
                      = 2n^2 + 5n + 4
                      = O(n^2)
                      =>quadratic
```

Examples(4)

```
Main() {
    int n;
    while ( n > 1) {
        n = n/2;
    }
}
```

Examples(4)

```
Main() {
        int n;
        while (n > 1) {
                 n = n/2;
                         if n=2
                                          if n=4
                                                            if n=8
After 1st iteration
                          n=1
                                           n=2
                                                            n=4
After 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration
                                           n=1
                                                            n=2
After 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration
                                                            n=1
Frequency
                                                              3
```

Examples(4)

```
Main() {
         int n;
         while (n > 1) {
                   n = n/2;
                            if n=2
                                                if n=4
                                                                   if n=8
After 1<sup>st</sup> iteration
                             n=1
                                                n=2
                                                                    n=4
After 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration
                                                 n=1
                                                                    n=2
After 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration
                                                                    n=1
                                                                      3
Frequency
```

Time Complexity = $O(log_2 n)$ (grows logarithmically to input size)

Exercise

```
Main() {
  int i, j, k, n;
  for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
     for (j=0; j<i; j++) {
        if (j\%n == 0) {
           for (k=0; k<n; k++) {
              x=x+1;
```

Exercise

```
Main() {
                                                s/e frequency
  int i, j, k, n, x=0;
  for (i=1; i<n; i++) {
                                                     n
     for (j=1; j<i; j++) {
                                                        n*(n+1)/2
                                                n*(n+1)/2
        if (j\%n == 0) {
          for (k=1; k<n; k++) {
             x=x+1;
```

Time Complexity = $O(n^2)$

Asymptotic Notation

- Describes the behavior of the time or space complexity for large instance characteristic
- Big O (O) notation provides an upper bound for the function f
- Big Omega (Ω) notation provides a lower-bound
- Theta (⊕) notation is used when an algorithm can be bounded both from above and below by the same function
- Little O (o) defines a loose upper bound.
- Little Omega (ω) defines a loose lower bound.

Upper Bounds

- Time complexity T(n) is a function of the problem size n.
 The value of T(n) is the running time of the algorithm in the worst case, i.e., the number of steps it requires at most with an arbitrary input.
- Example: the sorting algorithm Insertion Sort has a time complexity of $T(n) = n \cdot (n-1)/2$ comparison-exchange steps to sort a sequence of n data elements.
- Often, it is not necessary to know the exact value of T(n), but only an **upper bound** as an estimate.
- e.g., an upper bound for time complexity T(n) of insertion sort is the function $f(n) = n^2$, since $T(n) \le f(n)$ for all n.

Big O (O) Notation

- In general, just the <u>order</u> of the asymptotic complexity is of interest, i.e., if it is a linear, quadratic, exponential function.
- Definition: f(n) = O(g(n)) (read as "f(n) is Big O of g(n)") iff positive constants c and n_0 exist such that $f(n) \le cg(n)$ for all $n, n \ge n_0$.
- That is, O(g(n)) comprises all functions f, for which there exists a constant c and a number n_0 , such that f(n) is smaller or equal to $c \cdot g(n)$ for all $n, n \ge n_0$.

Big O Examples

- Example: the time complexity T(n) of Insertion Sort lies in the complexity class $O(n^2)$.
- O(n²) is the complexity class of all functions that grow at most quadratically. Respectively, O(n) is the set of all functions that grow at most linearly, O(1) is the set of all functions that are bounded from above by a constant, O(nk) is the set of all functions that grow polynomially, etc.

Lower Bounds

- Once an algorithm for solving a specific problem is found, the question arises whether it is possible to design a faster algorithm or not.
- How can we know unless we have found such an algorithm? In most cases a <u>lower bound</u> for the problem can be given, i.e., a certain number of steps that every algorithm has to execute at least in order to solve the problem.
- e.g., In order to sort n numbers, every algorithm at least has to take a look at every number. So, it needs at least n steps. Thus, f(n) = n is a lower bound for sorting

Omega (Ω) Notation

- Again, only the order of the lower bound is considered, namely if it is a linear, quadratic, exponential or some other function. This order is given by a function class using the Omega (Ω) notation.
- Definition: $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ (read as "f(n) is omega of g(n)") iff positive constants c and n_0 exist such that $f(n) \ge cg(n)$ for all $n, n \ge n_0$.
- That is, $\Omega(g)$ comprises all functions f, for which there exists a constant c and a number n_0 , such that f(n) is greater or equal to $c \cdot g(n)$ for all $n \ge n_0$.

Omega Examples

- Let $f(n) = 2n^2 + 7n 10$ and $g(n) = n^2$. Since with c = 1 and for $n \ge n_0 = 2$ we have $2n^2 + 7n 10 \ge c \cdot n^2$, thus $f(n) = \Omega(g)$.
- This example function f(n) lies in $\Omega(n^2)$ as well as in $O(n^2)$, i.e., it grows at least quadratically, but also at most quadratically.
- In order to express the exact order of a function the class Θ(f) is introduced (Θ is the greek letter theta).

Theta (⊕) Notation

- Used when the function f can be bounded both from above and below by the same function g.
- Definition: $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$ (read as "f(n) is theta of g(n)") iff positive constants c_1 , c_2 and n_0 exist such that $c_1g(n) \le f(n)$ $\le c_2g(n)$ for all $n, n \ge n_0$.
- That is, f lies between c_1 times the function g and c_2 times the function g, except possibly when n is smaller than n_0 .

Theta Examples

- As seen above the lower bound for the sorting problem lies in $\Omega(n)$. Its upper bound lies in $O(n^2)$, e.g., using Insertion Sort. Thus, time complexity for insertion sort in not $\Theta(n)$
- e.g., with <u>Heapsort</u>, the upper bound is O(n.log(n)) and the lower bound can also be improved to $\Omega(n.log(n))$.
- Thus, <u>Heapsort</u> is an <u>optimal</u> sorting algorithm, since its upper bound matches the lower bound for the sorting problem and time complexity is Θ(n.log(n))

Little O (o) Notation

- Definition: f(n) = o(g(n)) (read as "f(n) is little o of g(n)") iff f(n) = O(g(n)) and $f(n) \neq \Omega(g(n))$.
- That is, f has a lower growth rate than g.
- Little oh is also called a loose upper bound.
- Hierarchy of growth rate functions:

$$1 < log n < n < n log n < n^2 < n^3 < 2^n < 3^n < n! < n^n$$

Little Omega (ω) Notation

- Definition: $f(n) = \omega(g(n))$ (read as "f(n) is little ω of g(n)") iff $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ and $f(n) \neq O(g(n))$.
- That is, g has a lower growth rate than f.
- Little omega is also called a loose lower bound.
- Hierarchy of growth rate functions:
 - $1 < log n < n < n log n < n^2 < n^3 < 2^n < 3^n < n! < n^n$

Common Growth Rate Functions

- 1 (constant): growth is independent of the problem size n.
- log₂n (logarithmic): growth increases slowly compared to the problem size (binary search)
- n (linear): directly proportional to the size of the problem.
- n * log₂n (n log n): typical of some divide and conquer approaches (merge sort)
- n² (quadratic): typical in nested loops
- n³ (cubic): more nested loops
- 2ⁿ (exponential): growth is extremely rapid and possibly impractical.
- n! (factorial)

Practical Complexities

logn	n	nlogn	n²	n ³	2 ⁿ
0	1	0	1	1	2
1	2	2	4	8	4
2	4	8	16	64	16
3	8	24	64	512	256
4	16	64	256	4096	65536
5	32	160	1024	32768	4294967296

Overly complex programs may not be practical given the computing power of the system.

Recurrence Relation

 A Recurrence Relation is an equation which is defined in terms of itself

• Eg.
$$A_n = A_{n-1} + 1$$
, $A_1 = 1$ $A_1 = 1$ Boundary Condition $A_1 = n^*A_{n-1}$, $A_1 = 1$

- Recursive function can be expressed as recurrence relation to find total time required in the program
- Time required to execute recursive problem is dependent on time required by its sub-problem

Recurrence Relation: Sum of Array

```
int rSum(int a[], int size) {
     if (size > 0)
         return(rSum(a, size-1) + a[size-1]);
     else
        return 0;
}
```

rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) +
$$C_1$$
, n>0
= C_2 , n=0

Recurrence Relation: Binary Search

```
int BS(int a[], int front, int rear, int key) {
         if (front == rear)
                  if (a[front] == key)
                           return front;
                  else
                           return -1;
         mid = (front + rear) / 2;
         if (a[mid] > key)
                  return BS(a, front, mid, key);
         else
                  return BS(a, mid+1, rear, key);
         BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1, n>1
                                    n=1
```

Recurrence Relation: Factorial

```
int factorial( int n) {
// return n!
    if (n <= 1)
        return 1;
    else
        return (n*factorial(n-1));
}</pre>
```

Recurrence Relation: Factorial

```
int fact( int n) {
// return n!
       if (n <= 1)
               return 1;
       else
               return (n*factorial(n-1));
       fact(n) = fact(n-1) + C_1
                                      n>1
                                      n<=1
```

Solve Recurrence Relation

- Three methods to solve
 - Substitution
 - Recursive Tree Method
 - Master Theorem

Solve Recurrence Relation

- Three methods to solve
 - Substitution
 - Recursive Tree Method
 - Master Theorem

Substitution

- Substitute the given function again and again until a pattern is visible
- Use Boundary/Terminating condition to end substitution
- Find the sum of the terms

$$rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) + C_1, n>0$$

= $C_2, n=0$

$$rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) + C_1$$

rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) +
$$C_1$$
, n>0
= C_2 , n=0

$$rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) + C_1$$

= $(rSum(n-2) + C_1) + C_1$

rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) +
$$C_1$$
, n>0
= C_2 , n=0

```
rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) + C_1
= (rSum(n-2) + C_1) + C_1
= rSum(n-2) + 2*C_1
```

rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) +
$$C_1$$
, n>0
= C_2 , n=0

```
rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) + C_1
= (rSum(n-2) + C_1) + C_1
= rSum(n-2) + 2*C_1
= rSum(n-3) + 3*C_1
```

rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) +
$$C_1$$
, n>0
= C_2 , n=0

```
rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) + C_1
= (rSum(n-2) + C_1) + C_1
= rSum(n-2) + 2*C_1
= rSum(n-3) + 3*C_1
Substituting n times
= rSum(0) + n*C1
```

rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) +
$$C_1$$
, n>0
= C_2 , n=0

```
rSum(n) = rSum(n-1) + C_1

= (rSum(n-2) + C_1) + C_1

= rSum(n-2) + 2*C_1

= rSum(n-3) + 3*C_1

Substituting n times

= rSum(0) + n*C1

= C2 + n*C1

= O(n)
```

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1, n>1$$

= $C_2, n=1$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1$$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1, n>1$$

= $C_2, n=1$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1$$

$$= (BS(n/2^2) + C_1) + C_1$$

$$= BS(n/2^2) + 2*C_1$$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1, n>1$$

= $C_2, n=1$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1$$

$$= (BS(n/2^2) + C_1) + C_1$$

$$= BS(n/2^2) + 2*C_1$$

$$= BS(n/2^3) + 3*C_1$$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1, n>1$$

= $C_2, n=1$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1$$
= $(BS(n/2^2) + C_1) + C_1$
= $BS(n/2^2) + 2*C_1$
= $BS(n/2^3) + 3*C_1$
Substituting log_2 n times
= $BS(1) + (log_2n)*C1$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1, n>1$$

= $C_2, n=1$

$$BS(n) = BS(n/2) + C_1$$

$$= (BS(n/2^2) + C_1) + C_1$$

$$= BS(n/2^2) + 2*C_1$$

$$= BS(n/2^3) + 3*C_1$$
Substituting log₂ n times
$$= BS(1) + (log_2n)*C1$$

$$= C2 + (log_2n)*C1$$

$$= O(log_2n)$$

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

= 1, n=1

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

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

= 1, n=1

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

= $(T(n-2) + (n-1)) + n$
= $T(n-2) + n + (n-1)$

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

= 1, n=1

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

$$= (T(n-2) + (n-1)) + n$$

$$= T(n-2) + n + (n-1)$$

$$= T(n-3) + n + (n-1) + (n-2)$$

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

= 1, n=1

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

$$= (T(n-2) + (n-1)) + n$$

$$= T(n-2) + n + (n-1)$$

$$= T(n-3) + n + (n-1) + (n-2)$$
Substituting n-1 times
$$= T(1) + n + (n-1) + (n-2) + ... + (n-(n-k)) + 3 + 2$$

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

= 1, n=1

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

$$= (T(n-2) + (n-1)) + n$$

$$= T(n-2) + n + (n-1)$$

$$= T(n-3) + n + (n-1) + (n-2)$$
Substituting **n-1** times
$$= T(1) + n + (n-1) + (n-2) + ... + (n-(n-k)) + 3 + 2$$

$$= 1 + 2 + 3 + ... + (n-2) + (n-1) + n$$

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

= 1, n=1

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

$$= (T(n-2) + (n-1)) + n$$

$$= T(n-2) + n + (n-1)$$

$$= T(n-3) + n + (n-1) + (n-2)$$
Substituting n-1 times
$$= T(1) + n + (n-1) + (n-2) + ... + (n-(n-k)) + 3 + 2$$

$$= 1 + 2 + 3 + ... + (n-2) + (n-1) + n$$

$$= n^*(n+1)/2 = (n^2 + 2^*n + 1)/2$$

$$= O(n^2)$$

Exercise

Find Time Complexity of below recurrence relation:

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + 2,$$
 $n>2$
= 1, $n=2$
= 0, $n=1$

Exercise

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T.C. of T(n) = O(n)

Solve Recurrence Relation

- Three methods to solve
 - Substitution
 - Recursive Tree Method
 - Master Theorem

Master Theorem

Let $a \ge 1$ and b > 1 be constants, let f(n) be a function and let T(n) be defined on the non-negative integers by the recurrence

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

Then T(n) can be bounded asymptotically as follows:

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