

HOMEWORK 2

COMP3121 - ALGORITHM DESIGN

QUESTION 1

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PSEUDO-CODE:

```
DEF power(M , n):  
    # Base case for the recursive function  
    # RETURN 1 because anything to the power of 0 is 1  
    IF n is 0:  
        RETURN 1  
  
    # Divide the number of power multiplications in HALF  
    # Repeat the calculations  
    temp = power(M, n/2)  
    IF y is even:  
        RETURN temp^2  
    ELSE:  
        RETURN (temp^2)*M
```

EXPLANATION:

For an example, $M = 3$ & $n = 5$,
Calculating $\text{power}(M, n)$ would look like:

$$3 * 3 * 3 * 3 * 3 = 243$$

This Brute force solution is $O(n)$.

The main approach to the solution involves doing approximately only half of the calculations required for a brute force and hence gives us $O(\log n)$

$$\begin{array}{c} 3^5 \\ / \quad \backslash \\ 3^4 \quad 3 \\ / \quad \backslash \\ 3^2 \quad 3^2 \\ / \quad \backslash \\ 3 \quad 3 \end{array}$$