CSE 102
Homework Assignment 3
Solutions

1. Define $T(n)$ by the recurrence

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ 3T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + n^2 & \text{if } n \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

   Use the substitution method to show that $T(n) = O(n^2)$.

   Proof:
   We use induction to show that $T(n) \leq 4n^2$ for all $n \geq 1$, whence $T(n) = O(n^2)$.

   I. If $n = 1$, then $T(1) = 2 \leq 4 = 4 \cdot 1^2$, proving the base case.

   II. Let $n > 1$, and assume that $T(k) \leq 4k^2$ for all k in the range $1 \leq k < n$. We must show that $T(n) \leq 4n^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 3T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + n^2 \\ &\leq 3 \cdot 4\lfloor n/2 \rfloor^2 + n^2 && \text{by the induction hypothesis with } k = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ &\leq 3 \cdot 4(n/2)^2 + n^2 && \text{since } \lfloor x \rfloor \leq x \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R} \\ &= 3 \cdot 4 \cdot \frac{n^2}{4} + n^2 \\ &= 3n^2 + n^2 = 4n^2. \end{aligned}$$

   Therefore $T(n) \leq 4n^2$ for all $n \geq 1$ by the 2nd PMI. ■

2. Define $T(n)$ by the recurrence

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1 \\ T(n-1) + n & \text{if } n \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

   Use the iteration method to find the exact solution to this recurrence, then determine an asymptotic solution.

   Solution:
   Applying iteration to the above recurrence gives

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= n + T(n-1) \\ &= n + (n-1) + T(n-2) \\ &= n + (n-1) + (n-2) + T(n-3) \end{aligned}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{k-1}(n-i) + T(n-k)$$

The recurrence stops when the recursion depth k satisfies $n - k = 1$, so $k = n - 1$. Thus

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-2}(n-i) + 1$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} n - \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} i + 1$$

$$= n(n-1) - \frac{1}{2}(n-1)(n-2) + 1$$

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

■

3. Define $T(n)$ by the recurrence

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 9 & \text{if } 1 \le n < 15 \\ T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 6 & \text{if } n \ge 15 \end{cases}$$

Use the iteration method to find the exact solution to this recurrence, then determine an asymptotic solution.

Solution: Iteration yields

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 6 + T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) \\ &= 6 + 6 + T\left(\left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}{2} \right\rfloor\right) = 6 \cdot 2 + T(\lfloor n/2^2 \rfloor) \\ &= 6 \cdot 3 + T(\lfloor n/2^3 \rfloor) \\ &\ \ \vdots \\ &= 6k + T(\lfloor n/2^k \rfloor). \end{aligned}$$

The process terminates when the recursion depth k first satisfies $1 \le \lfloor n/2^k \rfloor < 15$, which is equivalent to $1 \le n/2^k < 15$. Thus we seek the smallest k satisfying $2^k \le n < 15 \cdot 2^k$. Since k is to be minimized, we ignore the left hand inequality and concentrate on the right: $n < 15 \cdot 2^k \Rightarrow n/15 < 2^k \Rightarrow \lg(n/15) < k$. The smallest such k must satisfy $k - 1 \le \lg(n/15) < k$, whence $k - 1 = \lfloor \lg(n/15) \rfloor$, and $k = \lfloor \lg(n/15) \rfloor + 1$. For this k we have $T(\lfloor n/2^k \rfloor) = 9$, and therefore

$$T(n) = 6(\lfloor \lg(n/15) \rfloor + 1) + 9$$

$$= 6\lfloor \lg(n/15) \rfloor + 15$$

$$= 6\lfloor \lg(n) - \lg(15) \rfloor + 15.$$

Ignoring the constants, the floor function and the base of the log, we get $T(n) = \Theta(\log(n))$. ■

4. Define $T(n)$ by the recurrence

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } 1 \le n < 3 \\ T(\lfloor n/3 \rfloor) + n & \text{if } n \ge 3 \end{cases}$$

Use iteration to find a tight asymptotic bound for $T(n)$.

Solution:
Recurring down to depth k gives $T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \lfloor n/3^i \rfloor + T(\lfloor n/3^k \rfloor)$. The recursion stops when $k = \lfloor \log_3(n) \rfloor$, at which point $T(\lfloor n/3^k \rfloor) = 4$. For this value of k then,

$$T(n) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \lfloor n/3^i \rfloor + 4$$

Estimating upward, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\le \textstyle\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left(n/3^i\right) + 4 \\ &= n \cdot \textstyle\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (1/3)^i + 4 \\ &\le n \cdot \textstyle\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (1/3)^i + 4 \\ &= n\left(\frac{1}{1-(1/3)}\right) + 4 \\ &= (3/2)n + 4 \\ &= O(n). \end{aligned}$$

To estimate downward, we refer to the recurrence itself.

$$T(n) = T(\lfloor n/3 \rfloor) + n \ge n = \Omega(n)$$

The two estimates together give $T(n) = \Theta(n)$. ■

5. Use the Master Theorem to find tight asymptotic bounds for the recurrences in problems 3 and 4 above.

   Solution:
   We first simplify each recurrence relation as appropriate to the Master method.

   Problem 3: $T(n) = T(n/2) + \Theta(1)$
   Compare $1 = n^0$ to $n^{\log_2(1)} = n^0$. Case (2) implies $T(n) = \Theta(\log(n))$.

   Problem 4: $T(n) = T(n/3) + \Theta(n)$
   Compare $n = n^1$ to $n^{\log_3(1)} = n^0 = 1$. Let $\epsilon = 1 > 0$, so $n = n^{0+\epsilon} = \Omega(n^{\log_3(1)+\epsilon})$. Also select any c in the range $\frac{1}{3} \le c < 1$. Then $1 \cdot (n/3) = (1/3)n \le cn$, for any $n \ge 1$, establishing the regularity condition. We obtain from case (3) that $T(n) = \Theta(n)$.

6. Use the Master Theorem to find tight asymptotic bounds on the following recurrences.

   a. $T(n) = 3T(2n/3) + n^3$
   Solution:
   Compare n^3 to $n^{\log_{3/2}(3)}$. Observe $3 = \frac{24}{8} < \frac{27}{8} = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^3 \Rightarrow \log_{3/2}(3) < 3$. Thus if we set $\epsilon = 3 - \log_{3/2}(3)$, then $\epsilon > 0$ and $n^3 = n^{\log_{3/2}(3)+\epsilon} = \Omega(n^{\log_{3/2}(3)+\epsilon})$. Select any c in the range $\frac{8}{9} \le c < 1$, so that $3(2n/3)^3 = (8/9)n^3 \le cn^3$, establishing the regularity condition. Case 3 now gives $T(n) = \Theta(n^3)$. ■

   b. $T(n) = 2T(n/3) + \sqrt{n}$
   Solution:
   We compare $n^{1/2}$ to $n^{\log_3(2)}$. Observe $3 < 4 \Rightarrow 1 < \log_3(4) = \log_3(2^2) = 2\log_3(2) \Rightarrow 1/2 < \log_3(2)$. Thus setting $\epsilon = \log_3(2) - (1/2)$, we have $\epsilon > 0$, and $1/2 = \log_3(2) - \epsilon$. Therefore $\sqrt{n} = n^{1/2} = O(n^{1/2}) = O(n^{\log_3(2)-\epsilon})$. By case (1): $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_3(2)})$. ■

   c. $T(n) = 5T(n/4) + n^{\lg\sqrt{5}}$
   Solution:
   We compare $n^{\log_2\sqrt{5}}$ to $n^{\log_4(5)}$. Observe $5 = \sqrt{5}^2 = \sqrt{5}^{\log_2(4)} = 4^{\log_2(\sqrt{5})} \Rightarrow \log_4(5) = \log_2(\sqrt{5})$. Therefore $n^{\log_2\sqrt{5}} = n^{\log_4(5)}$, and by case (2): $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_4(5)}\log(n))$. ■

   d. $T(n) = 3T(2n/5) + n\log n$
   Solution:
   We compare $n\log(n)$ to $n^{\log_{5/2}(3)}$. Observe that $3 > 5/2 \Rightarrow \log_{5/2}(3) > 1$, so upon setting $\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}\left(\log_{5/2}(3) - 1\right)$ we have $\epsilon > 0$, and $2\epsilon = \log_{5/2}(3) - 1 \Rightarrow 1 + \epsilon = \log_{5/2}(3) - \epsilon$. Thus

   $$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n\log(n)}{n^{\log_{5/2}(3)-\epsilon}} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n\log(n)}{n^{1+\epsilon}} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{\log(n)}{n^{\epsilon}} = 0$$

   and therefore $n\log(n) = o(n^{\log_{5/2}(3)-\epsilon}) \subseteq O(n^{\log_{5/2}(3)-\epsilon})$, so $T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_{5/2}(3)})$ by case (1) of the Master Theorem.

   ■

e. $S(n) = aS(n/4) + n^2$ (your answer will depend on the parameter a.)

Solution:

We compare n^2 to $n^{\log_4(a)}$. The answer depends on whether $\log_4(a)$ is greater than, equal to or less than 2. This is equivalent to asking whether a is greater than, equal to or less than 16.

If $a > 16$ then $\log_4(a) > 2$. In this case set $\epsilon = \log_4(a) - 2$ so $\epsilon > 0$. Then $2 = \log_4(a) - \epsilon$ and $n^2 = O(n^{\log_4(a)-\epsilon})$. By case (1) we have $S(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_4(a)})$.

If $a = 16$ then $\log_4(a) = 2$, and $n^2 = n^{\log_4(a)}$. Case (2) gives $S(n) = \Theta(n^2 \log(n))$.

If $1 \le a < 16$, then $0 \le \log_4(a) < 2$. Let $\epsilon = 2 - \log_4(a)$, so $\epsilon > 0$ and $2 = \log_4(a) + \epsilon$. Then $n^2 = \Omega(n^2) = \Omega(n^{\log_4(a)+\epsilon})$. Since $\frac{a}{16} < 1$ we can pick c satisfying $\frac{a}{16} \le c < 1$, and hence $a(n/4)^2 = (a/16)n^2 \le cn^2$ for all $n \ge 1$, establishing the regularity condition. Case (3) of the Master Theorem now yields $S(n) = \Theta(n^2)$. ■