

Master Theorem

In the analysis of algorithms, the "master theorem" provides a cookbook solution in asymptotic terms (using Big O notation) for recurrence relations of types that occur in the analysis of many divide & conquer algorithms.

Consider algorithm:

Begin $T(n)$ {

 if $(n > 1)$ {
 Statements
 :
 :
 :
 $T(n/b)$
 $T(n/b)$
 :
 $T(n/b)$
 }
}

} $\rightarrow f(n)$

End

for above algorithm we will write general recurrence relation

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + f(n) \quad \text{where } a \geq 1, b > 1$$

$n \rightarrow$ is the size of the problem

$a \rightarrow$ is the n-of subproblems in recursion

$n/b \rightarrow$ size of each subproblem

$f(n) \rightarrow$ cost of the work done other than recursive calls.

Master theorem:

$$T(n) = a T\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + \theta\left(n^k \log^p n\right)$$

for $a \geq 1$, $b > 1$, $k \geq 0$ and p is real numbers

Case 1: $a > b^k$

$$\text{Then } T(n) = \theta\left(n^{\log_b a}\right)$$

Case 2: $a = b^k$

$$a) \text{ if } p > -1 \text{ then } T(n) = \theta\left(n^{\log_b a} \log^{p+1} n\right)$$

$$b) \text{ if } p = -1 \text{ then } T(n) = \theta\left(n^{\log_b a} \log \log n\right)$$

$$c) \text{ if } p < -1 \text{ then } T(n) = \theta\left(n^{\log_b a}\right)$$

Case 3 $a < b^k$

$$a) \text{ if } p \geq 0 \text{ then } T(n) = \theta\left(n^k \log^p n\right)$$

$$b) \text{ if } p < 0 \text{ then } T(n) = O(n^k)$$

Note: Not all recurrence relations can be solved by using master theorem. It is applicable when $a \geq 1$, $b > 1$ and $f(n)$ is asymptotically positive function.

Eg1: $T\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) + n$

Here $a=9$ $b=3$ $k=1$

$a > b^k$

check whether

$a \geq 1, b > 1, k \geq 0$
 $p=0$

case $a > b^k$ then $\theta(n^{\log_b a})$
 $= \theta(n^{\log_3 9})$
 $= \theta(n^{\log_3 3^2})$
 $= \theta(n^2)$

$\therefore T(n) = O(n^2)$

Eg2:

$T(n) = 3T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + cn^2$

$a=3$ $b=4$ $k=2$ $p=0$

$a \geq 1, b > 1, k \geq 0, p=0$ so apply master theorem

$3 < 4^2 \Rightarrow 3 < 16$

case $a < b^k$ and $p \geq 0$ then $\theta(n^k \log^p n)$

$\Rightarrow \theta(n^2 \log^0 n)$

$= \theta(n^2)$

$\therefore T(n) = O(n^2)$

$$3. \quad T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n \log n$$

$$a=3 \quad b=4 \quad k=1 \quad p=1$$

$$3 < 4^1$$

$$a \geq 1$$

$$b > 1$$

$$k \geq 0$$

p real number

case $a < b^k$

$$p \geq 0$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(n^k \log^p n)$$

$$= \Theta(n^1 \log^1 n) = O(n \log n)$$

$$\boxed{\therefore T(n) = O(n \log n)}$$

$$4. \quad T(n) = T\left(\frac{2n}{3}\right) + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{3/2}\right) + 1$$

$$a=1 \quad b=3/2 \quad k=0 \quad p=0$$

Apply master theorem

$$a < b^k$$

$$1 < \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^0$$

$$1 < 1$$

case $a = b^k$ $p > -1$

$$\text{so } T(n) = \Theta(n^{\log_b a} \log^{p+1} n)$$

$$= \Theta(n^{\log_{3/2} 1} \log n)$$

Master theorem Pitfalls:

We can't use the master theorem if

- * $T(n)$ is not monotone, ex: $T(n) = \sin n$
- * $f(n)$ is not a polynomial ex: $T(n) = 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + \underline{2^n}$
- * b cannot be expressed as a constant ex: $T(n) = T(\sqrt{n})$
- * $T(n) = \underset{\downarrow}{2^n} T(\frac{n}{2}) + n^n$
 a is not a constant

- * $T(n) = 0.5T(\frac{n}{2}) + n$
 $a < 1$ can't have less than one sub problem

- * $T(n) = 64T(\frac{n}{8}) - n^2 \log n$
 $f(n)$ which is the combination time is not positive

- * $T(\frac{n}{2}) + n(2 - \cos n)$

- * $T(n) = 2T(\frac{n}{2}) + \frac{n}{\log n}$

Here $f(n)$ and $n \log_b^a$ can be expressed with the ratio

$$\frac{f(n)}{n \log_b^a} = \frac{n / \log n}{n \log_2^1} = \frac{n}{n \log n} = \frac{1}{\log n} \text{ which is less than } \underline{n^c}, c > 0$$

\therefore nonpolynomial, so doesn't apply

Assignments: Solve the Recurrence relations

1. $T(n) = 3T(n/2) + n^2$
2. $T(n) = 7T(n/2) + n^2$
3. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2$
4. $T(n) = 3T(n/4) + n \log n$
5. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + \log n$
6. $T(n) = T(n-1) + n$
7. $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n^2 \log n$
8. $T(n) = 5T(n/2) + n^2 \log n$
9. $T(n) = 3T(n/3) + n / \log n$
10. $T(n) = 2T(n/4) + c$
11. $T(n) = T(n/4) + \log n$
12. $T(n) = T(n/2) + T(n/4) + n^2$
13. $T(n) = 2T(n/4) + \log n$
14. $T(n) = 3T(n/3) + n \log n$
15. $T(n) = 8T((n-\sqrt{n})/4) + n^2$
16. $T(n) = 2T(n/4) + \sqrt{n}$
17. $T(n) = 2T(n/4) + n^{0.5}$
18. $T(n) = 16T(n/4) + n!$