

# Appendix B

## Solving Recurrence Equations

- The analysis of recursive algorithms is not as straightforward as it is for iterative algorithms.
- it is not difficult to represent the time complexity of a recursive algorithm by a recurrence equation.
- The recurrence equation must then be solved to determine the time complexity.
- We discuss techniques for solving such equations and for using the solutions in the analysis of recursive algorithms.

## B.1 Solving Recurrences Using Induction

### Algorithm B.1 Factorial

- Problem: Determine  $n!$  when  $n \geq 1$ ,  $0! = 1$
- Inputs: a nonnegative integer  $n$ .
- Outputs:  $n!$ .

```
int fact (int n )
{
    if ( n == 0 )
        return 1;
    else
        return n * fact ( n - 1 );
}
```

- $t_n$  : the number of multiplications for a given value of  $n$

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + 1, \quad t_0 = 0 \text{ (no multiplication are done when } n=0\text{)}$$

- Such equation is called *recurrence equation* because the value of the function at  $n$  is given in terms of the value of the function at a smaller value of  $n$ .

$$t_1 = 1, \quad t_2 = t_1 + 1 = 2, \quad t_3 = 3,$$

- An inspection of the values just computed indicates that

$$t_n = n$$

Proof by induction

## Example B.1

- Consider the recurrence

$$t_n = t_{n/2} + 1 \text{ for } n > 1, n \text{ is a power of } 2, t_1 = 1$$

- We use induction to prove  $t_n = \log n + 1$

**Induction base:**  $n=1, t_1 = \log 1 + 1 = 0 + 1 = 1$

**Induction step:** Assume, for an arbitrary  $n > 0$  and  $n$  a power of 2, that  $t_n = \log n + 1$

Because the recurrence is only for powers of 2, the next value to consider after  $n$  is  $2n$ .

We need show that  $t_{2n} = \log 2n + 1$

$$t_{2n} = t_n + 1 = \log n + 1 + 1 = \log n + \log 2 + 1 = \log 2n + 1$$

## Example B.2

- Consider the recurrence

$$t_n = 7 t_{n/2} \text{ for } n > 1, n \text{ is a power of } 2$$

$$t_1 = 1$$

$$t_1 = 7^0,$$

$$t_2 = 7 t_{2/2} = 7 t_1 = 7,$$

$$t_4 = 7 t_{4/2} = 7 t_2 = 7^2,$$

$$t_8 = 7 t_{8/2} = 7 t_4 = 7^3,$$

$$t_n = ?$$

$$t_n = 7^{\log n}$$

Use induction to prove that this is correct.

Induction base: For  $n = 1$ ,

$$t_1=1, \quad 7^{\log 1} = 7^0 = 1$$

Induction hypothesis: Assume, for an arbitrary  $n > 0$  and  $n$  a power of 2, that  $t_n = 7^{\log n}$

We need to show that  $t_{2n} = 7^{\log 2n}$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} t_{2n} &= 7 t_n \\ &= 7 \times 7^{\log n} = 7^1 \times 7^{\log n} \\ &= 7^{\log 2} \times 7^{\log n} \\ &= 7^{\log 2 + \log n} = 7^{\log 2n} \end{aligned}$$

Example:

Consider the recurrence

$$t_n = 2t_{n/2} + n + 1 \text{ for } n > 1, n \text{ is a power of } 2, t_1 = 0$$

There is no obvious candidate solution suggested by these values. As mentioned earlier, induction can only verify that a solution is correct. Because we have no candidate solution, we cannot use induction.



## B.2 Solving Recurrences Using the Characteristic Equation

### B.2.1 Homogeneous Linear Recurrences

#### Definition

- A recurrence of the form

$$a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = 0$$

where  $k$  and the  $a_i$  terms are constants, is called a *homogeneous linear recurrence equation* with constant coefficients:

- **Linear** : every term  $t_i$  appears only to the first power and : there be no terms  $t_{c(n-i)}$ , where  $c$  is a positive constant other than 1. For example, there may not be terms such as  $t_{n/2}$ ,  $t_{3(n-4)}$ , etc.
- **Homogeneous**: because the linear combination of the terms =0.

# Homogeneous Linear Recurrences

$$\begin{aligned}7t_n - 3t_{n-1} &= 0 \\6t_n - 5t_{n-1} + 8t_{n-2} &= 0 \\8t_n - 4t_{n-3} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

## Example B.4

The following is homogeneous linear recurrence equations with constant coefficients:

$$6 t_n - 5 t_{n-1} + 8 t_{n-2} = 0$$

## Example B.5

The Fibonacci sequence is defined as follows:

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + t_{n-2} \quad t_0 = 0, \quad t_1 = 1$$
$$\Rightarrow t_n - t_{n-1} - t_{n-2} = 0$$

which shows that the Fibonacci sequence is defined by a homogeneous linear recurrence.

## Example B.6

- Suppose we have the recurrence

$$t_n - 5t_{n-1} + 6t_{n-2} = 0 \text{ for } n > 1, t_0 = 0, t_1 = 1$$

- Notice that if we set  $t_n = r^n$

$$r^n - 5r^{n-1} + 6r^{n-2} = 0$$

$$r^{n-2} (r^2 - 5r + 6) = 0$$

$$r^{n-2} (r-2)(r-3) = 0$$

- Solution  $r=0$  or  $r=2$  or  $r=3$

$$t_n = 0 \text{ or } t_n = 2^n \text{ or } t_n = 3^n$$

- We verify that these are solutions

- We verify this for  $3^n$  by substituting it into the left side of the recurrence, as follows:

- $$\begin{aligned} & 3^n - 5(3^{n-1}) + 6(3^{n-2}) \\ &= 3^n - 5(3^{n-1}) + 2(3^{n-1}) \\ &= 3^n - 3(3^{n-1}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- The solution is

$$t_n = c_1 3^n + c_2 2^n$$

To find the constants

$$t_0 = 0 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$t_1 = 1 = 3c_1 + 2c_2$$

$$c_1 = 1, c_2 = -1$$


$$t_n = 3^n - 2^n$$

## Definition

- The *characteristic equation* for the homogeneous linear recurrence equation with constant coefficients

$$a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = 0$$

is defined as


$$a_0 r^k + a_1 r^{k-1} + \dots + a_k r^0 = 0$$

## Example B.7

- The characteristic equation for the recurrence

$$5t_n - 7t_{n-1} + 6t_{n-2} = 0$$

is

$$5r^2 - 7r^1 + 6 = 0$$


## Theorem B.1

- Consider the homogeneous linear recurrence equation with constant coefficients

$$a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = 0$$

If its characteristic equation

$$a_0 r^k + a_1 r^{k-1} + \dots + a_k r^0 = 0$$

has  **$k$  distinct solutions**  $r_1 r_2 \dots r_k$ , then the only solutions to the recurrence are

$$t_n = c_1 r_1^n + c_2 r_2^n + \dots + c_k r_k^n$$

where the  $c_i$  terms are constants.

- The constants are determined by the initial conditions.



## Example B.8

- We solve the recurrence

$$t_n - 3 t_{n-1} - 4 t_{n-2} = 0, t_0 = 0, t_1 = 1$$

The characteristic equation

$$r^2 - 3r - 4 = 0$$

$$(r-4)(r+1) = 0$$

- The roots are  $r = 4$  and  $r = -1$ .
- Apply Theorem B.1 to get the general solution to the recurrence:

$$t_n = c_1 4^n + c_2 (-1)^n$$

- Determine the values of the constants ?

$$c_1 = 1/5, c_2 = -1/5$$

- See **Example B.9**, the Fibonacci sequence:

$$t_n = \frac{[(1 + \sqrt{5}) / 2]^n - [(1 - \sqrt{5}) / 2]^n}{\sqrt{5}},$$

- Theorem B.1 requires that all  $k$  roots of the characteristic equation be **distinct**. The theorem does not allow a characteristic equation of the following form:

$$(r-1)(r-2)^3=0$$

*multiplicity 3*

- 2 is called a root of multiplicity 3 of the equation.

## Theorem B.2

- Let  $r$  be a root of *multiplicity*  $m$  of the characteristic equation for a homogeneous linear recurrence with constant coefficients. Then

$$t_n = r^n, t_n = n r^n, t_n = n^2 r^n, \dots, t_n = n^{m-1} r^n$$

are all solutions to the recurrence.

## Example B.10

- We solve the recurrence

$$t_n - 7 t_{n-1} + 15 t_{n-2} - 9 t_{n-3} = 0, \text{ for } n > 2, \quad t_0 = 0, t_1 = 1, t_2 = 2$$

$$r^3 - 7 r^2 + 15 r - 9 = 0$$

$$(r-1)(r-3)^2 = 0$$

- The roots are  $r = 1$  and  $r = 3$ , of multiplicity 2.
- Apply Theorem B.2 to get the solution to the recurrence:

$$t_n = c_1 1^n + c_2 3^n + c_3 n 3^n$$

- Solving this system yields  $c_1 = -1, c_2 = 1, c_3 = 1/3$
- **See Example B.11**

## **B.2.2 Nonhomogeneous Linear Recurrences**

## Definition

- A recurrence of the form

$$a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = f(n)$$

where  $k$  and the  $a_i$  terms are constants and  $f(n)$  is a function other than the zero function, is called a **nonhomogeneous linear** recurrence equation with constant coefficients.

- We develop a method for solving the common special case

$$a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = b^n p(n)$$

$b$  : constant

$p(n)$  : polynomial in  $n$ .



## Example B.12

- The recurrence

$$t_n - 3 t_{n-1} = 4^n$$

$$k = 1, b = 4, \text{ and } p(n) = 1.$$

## Example B.13

- The recurrence

$$t_n - 3 t_{n-1} = 4^n (8n+7)$$

$$k = 1, b = 4, \text{ and } p(n) = 8n + 7.$$

## Example B.14

- We solve the recurrence

$$t_n - 3 t_{n-1} = 4^n, \quad t_0 = 0, \quad t_1 = 4$$

Replace  $n$  with  $n - 1$

$$t_{n-1} - 3 t_{n-2} = 4^{n-1} \quad \text{.....} \quad 1$$

Divide the original recurrence by 4

$$t_n / 4 - 3 t_{n-1} / 4 = 4^{n-1} \quad \text{.....} \quad 2$$

Subtracting 1 from 2

$$t_n / 4 - 7 t_{n-1} / 4 + 3 t_{n-2} = 0$$

- We can multiply by 4

$$t_n - 7t_{n-1} + 12t_{n-2} = 0$$

- This is a homogeneous linear recurrence equation, which means that it can be solved by applying Theorem B.1. That is, we solve the characteristic equation

$$r^2 - 7r + 12 = (r - 3)(r - 4) = 0,$$

obtain the general solution

$$t_n = c_1 3^n + c_2 4^n,$$

and use the initial conditions  $t_0 = 0$  and  $t_1 = 4$   
to determine the particular solution:

$$t_n = 4^{n+1} - 4(3^n).$$

## Theorem B.3

- A nonhomogeneous linear recurrence of the form

$$a_0 t_n + a_1 t_{n-1} + \dots + a_k t_{n-k} = b^n p(n)$$

can be transformed into a homogeneous linear recurrence that has the characteristic equation

$$(a_0 r^k + a_1 r^{k-1} + \dots + a_k)(r-b)^{d+1} = 0$$

where  $d$  is the **degree** of  $p(n)$ .

- If there is **more** than one term like  $b^n p(n)$  on the right side, **each one contributes** a term to the characteristic equation.

## Example B.15

Solve the recurrence

- $t_n - 3 t_{n-1} = 4^n (2n+1)$  for  $n > 1$
- $t_0 = 0, t_1 = 12$

1. Obtain the charac. equation for the corresponding homo. equation  
 $r-3=0$

2. Obtain a term from the nonhomo. part of the recurrence:

$$(r-b)^{d+1} = (r-4)^{1+1} = (r-4)^2$$

3. From Theorem B.3: the characteristic equation  $(r-3)(r-4)^2=0$

The roots are  $r = 3$  and  $r = 4$ , and the root  $r = 4$  has multiplicity 2.

$$t_n = c_1 3^n + c_2 4^n + c_3 n 4^n$$

$$t_n = c_1 3^n + c_2 4^n + c_3 n 4^n$$

- Substituting  $n=2$  (the original recurrence equation):

$$t_2 - 3 t_1 = 4^2 (2 \times 2 + 1)$$

$$t_2 = 3 t_1 + 80 = 116 = c_1 3^2 + c_2 4^2 + c_3 2 \cdot 4^2$$

## Exercise

you are asked to determine the values  $c_1, c_2$ , and  $c_3$

$$t_n = 20 (3^n) - 20 (4^n) + 8 n 4^n$$

## Example B.16

Solve the recurrence

$$t_n - t_{n-1} = (n-1) \quad \text{for } n > 0$$

$$t_0 = 0 \quad ??$$



## Example B.17

- We solve the recurrence

$$t_n - 2 t_{n-1} = n + 2^n \quad \text{for } n > 1$$

$$t_1 = 0$$

Determine the characteristic equation for the corresponding homogeneous recurrence

$$t_n - 2 t_{n-1} = 0 \Rightarrow r - 2 = 0$$

This is a case in which there are two terms on the right

$$n = 1^n (n), \quad 2^n = 2^n (n^0)$$

$$(r-1)^{1+1} = (r-1)^2, \quad (r-2)^{0+1} = r-2$$

Apply Theorem B.3 to obtain the characteristic equation from all the terms:

$$(r-2) (r-1)^2 (r-2) = (r-2)^2 (r-1)^2$$

## B.2.3 Change of Variables (Domain Transformations)

### Example B.18

- We solve the recurrence  $T(n) = T(n/2) + 1$  for  $n > 1$  and  $n$  power of 2  
 $T(1) = 1$
- We can transform it into a recurrence that is in that form as follows.

First, set  $n = 2^k$

- $T(2^k) = T(2^{k-1}) + 1$
- Next, set  $t_k = T(2^k)$

$$t_k = t_{k-1} + 1$$

$$t_k - t_{k-1} = 1, \quad p(n)=1, \quad b=1, \quad p(n) \text{ is of degree } 0$$

$$(r-1)(r-1)^{0+1} = 0$$

$$(r-1)^2 = 0$$

- Therefore, applying theorem B.3, we can determine its general solution to be

$$t_k = c_1 + c_2 k$$

- Substitute  $T(2^k)$  for  $t_k$  in the general solution

$$T(2^k) = c_1 + c_2 k$$

$$T(n) = c_1 + c_2 \log n$$

$$T(2) = T(1) + 1 = 1 + 1 = c_1 + c_2 \log 2 = c_1 + c_2 \Rightarrow 2 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$T(1) = 1 = c_1 + c_2 \log 1 = c_1$$

$$c_1 = 1, \quad c_2 = 1$$

$$T(n) = 1 + \log n$$

## Example B.19

$T(n) = 2 T(n/2) + n - 1$  for  $n > 1$  and  $n$  power of 2

$T(1) = 0$

$T(n) = 2 T(n/2) + n - 1$  for  $n > 1$  and  $n$  power of 2

$$T(1) = 0$$

- First, set  $n = 2^k$
- $T(2^k) = 2T(2^{k-1}) + 2^k - 1$
- Next, set  $t_k = T(2^k)$

$$t_k = 2t_{k-1} + 2^k - 1$$

$$t_k - 2t_{k-1} = 2^k - 1,$$

$$t_k - 2t_{k-1} = 2^k - 1,$$

$2^k$ :  $b=2$ ,  $p(n)=1$  is of degree 0

1:  $b=1$ ,  $p(n)=-1$  is of degree 0

$$(r-2)(r-2)^{0+1} (r-1)^{0+1} = 0$$

$$t_k = c_1 + c_2 2^k + c_3 k 2^k$$

$$T(2^k) = c_1 + c_2 2^k + c_3 k 2^k$$

$$T(n) = c_1 + c_2 n + c_3 n \log n$$

## Excercise

- solve the recurrence eq

$T(n) = 7 T(n/2) + 18 (n/2)^2$  for  $n > 1$  and  $n$  power of 2,  $T(1) = 0$

## Example B.20

- We solve the recurrence

$$T(n) = 7 T(n/2) + 18 (n/2)^2 \text{ for } n > 1 \text{ and } n \text{ power of } 2, T(1) = 0$$

- First, set  $n = 2^k$
- $T(2^k) = 7T(2^{k-1}) + 18(2^{k-1})^2$
- Next, set  $t_k = T(2^k)$

$$t_k = 7t_{k-1} + 18 \cdot 2^{2k-2}$$

$$t_k - 7t_{k-1} = 18 \cdot 2^{2k-2} \Rightarrow t_k - 7t_{k-1} = 9/2 \cdot 2^{2k}$$

$$t_k - 7t_{k-1} = 9/2 \cdot 4^k$$

$4^k$ :  $b=4$ ,  $p(n) = 9/2$  is of degree 0

$$(r-7)(r-4)^{0+1} = 0$$

$$T(2^k) = c_1 7^k + c_2 4^k$$

$$T(n) = c_1 7^{\log n} + c_2 4^{\log n}$$

$$T(n) = c_1 n^{\log 7} + c_2 n^2$$



## B.3 Solving Recurrences by Substitution

- The *method of substitution* if you cannot obtain a solution using the methods in the last two sections.

### Example B.21

- We solve the recurrence

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + n, \text{ for } n > 1, t_1 = 1$$

- In a sense, substitution is the opposite of induction. That is, we start at  $n$  and work backward:

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + n$$

$$t_{n-1} = t_{n-2} + n-1$$

$$t_{n-2} = t_{n-3} + n-2 \rightarrow$$

.....

$$t_2 = t_1 + 2$$

$$t_1 = 1$$

substitute each equality  
into the previous one,  
as follows:

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + n$$

$$t_n = t_{n-2} + (n-1) + n$$

$$= t_{n-3} + (n-2) + (n-1) + n$$

.....

$$= t_1 + 2 + \dots + n$$

$$= 1 + 2 + \dots + n$$

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

## Example B.22

- We solve the recurrence

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + 2/n, \text{ for } n > 1, t_1 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} t_n &= t_{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} \\ t_{n-1} &= t_{n-2} + \frac{2}{n-1} \\ t_{n-2} &= t_{n-3} + \frac{2}{n-2} \\ &\vdots \\ t_2 &= t_1 + \frac{2}{2} \\ t_1 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} t_n &= t_{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} \\ &= t_{n-2} + \frac{2}{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} \\ &= t_{n-3} + \frac{2}{n-2} + \frac{2}{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} \\ &\vdots \\ &= t_1 + \frac{2}{2} + \cdots + \frac{2}{n-2} + \frac{2}{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} \\ &= 0 + \frac{2}{2} + \cdots + \frac{2}{n-2} + \frac{2}{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} \\ &= 2 \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{1}{i} \approx 2 \ln n \end{aligned}$$

For large  $n$ , see appendix A

## B.4 Extending Results *to n in General*

- Recursive algorithms: we can determine the exact time complexity only *when  $n$  is a power of some base  $b$* , where  $b$  is a positive constant. Often the base  $b$  is 2.
- It seems that a result that holds for  $n$  a power of  $b$  should *approximately hold for  $n$  in general*.
- For example, if for some algorithm we establish that

$$T(n) = 2n \log n, \text{ for } n \text{ a power of } 2,$$

*it seems that for  $n$  in general we should be able to conclude that  $T(n) \in \Theta(n \log n)$*

## Definition

- A complexity function  $f(n)$  is called *strictly increasing* if

$$n_1 > n_2 \Rightarrow f(n_1) > f(n_2)$$

## Example

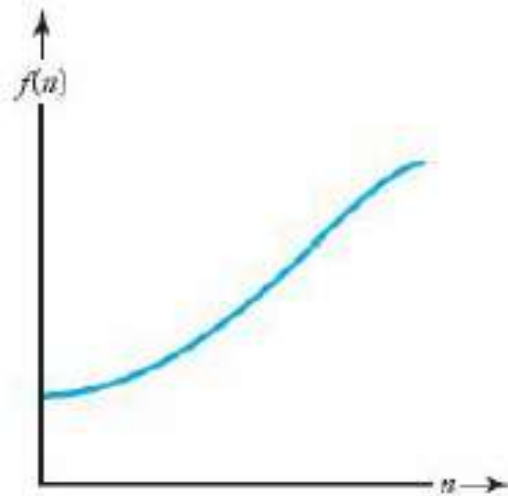
- $\lg n$ ,  $n$ ,  $n \lg n$ ,  $n^2$ , and  $2^n$  are all strictly increasing as long as  $n$  is nonnegative.

## Definition

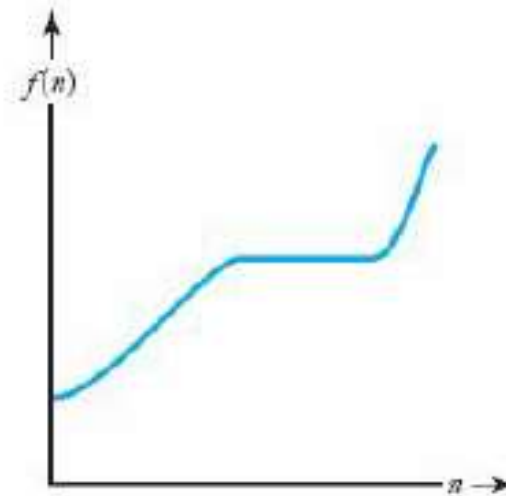
- A complexity function  $f(n)$  is called *nondecreasing* if

$$n_1 > n_2 \Rightarrow f(n_1) \geq f(n_2)$$

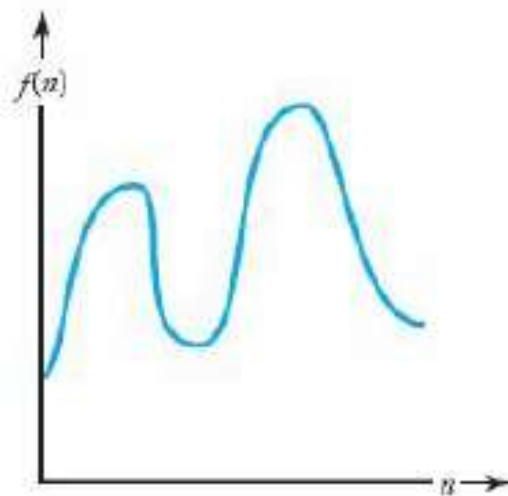
(a) Strictly increasing



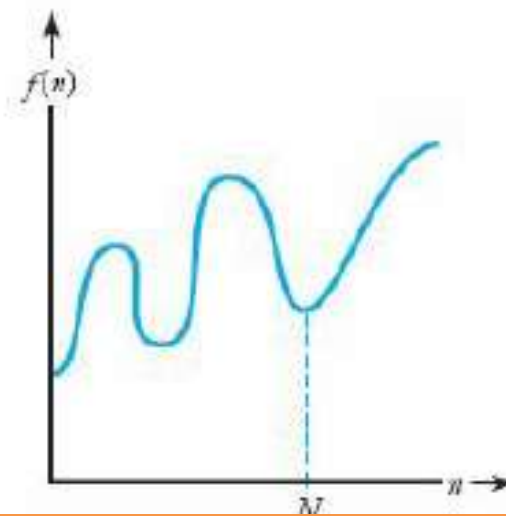
(b) Nondecreasing

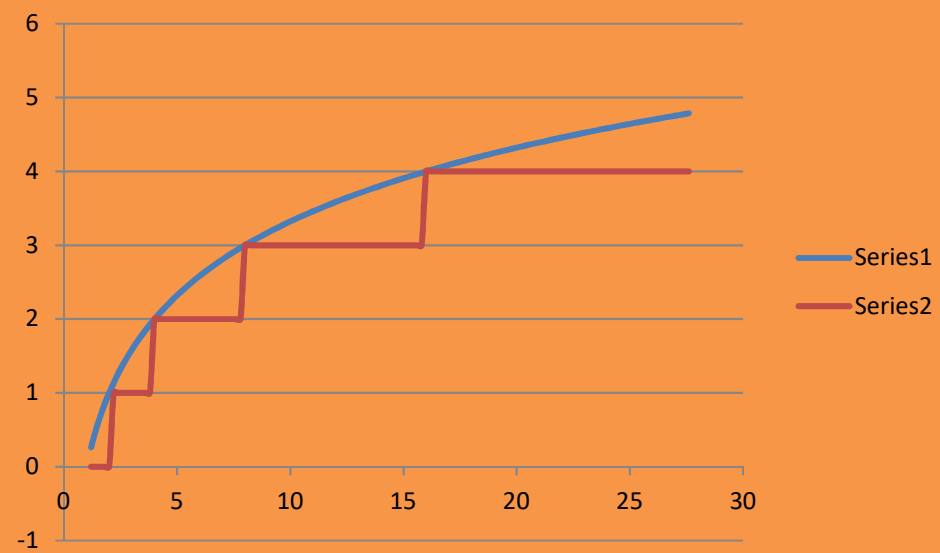


(c) Not nondecreasing



(d) Eventually nondecreasing





Log n, floor(log n))

- The time (or memory) complexities of most algorithms are **nondecreasing**.

## Definition

- A complexity function  $f(n)$  is called **eventually nondecreasing** if there exists an  **$N$**  such that

$$n_1 > n_2 > N \Rightarrow \text{then } f(n_1) \geq f(n_2)$$

- Any nondecreasing function is eventually nondecreasing

## Definition

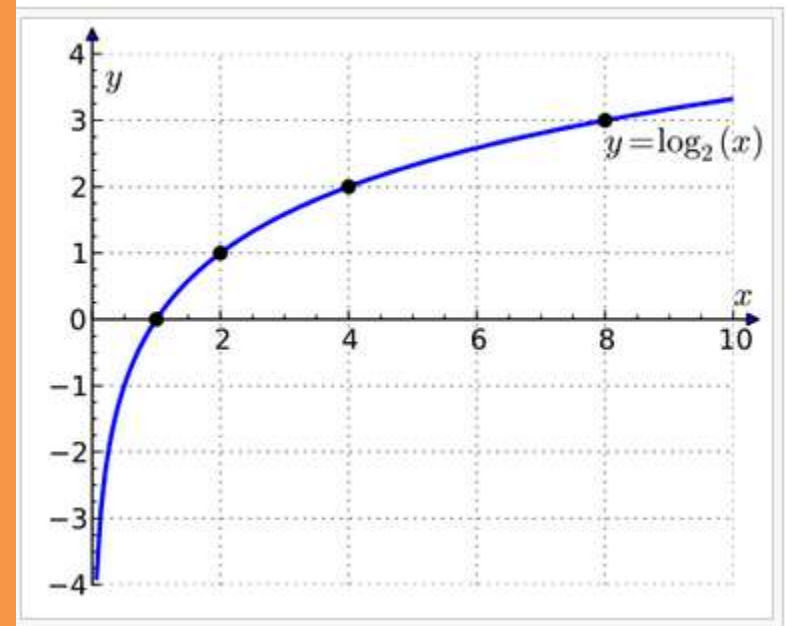
- A complexity function  $f(n)$  is called **smooth** if
  - $f(n)$  eventually nondecreasing and
  - and if  $f(2n) \in \theta(f(n))$

## Example B.23

- The functions  $\lg n$ ,  $n$ ,  $n \lg n$ , and  $n^k$ , where  $k \geq 0$ , are all smooth.

## Example

- $\lg n$  is eventually nondecreasing.
- As to the second condition, we have  $\log(2n) = \log 2 + \log n \in \theta(\log n)$





## Example B.24

- The function  $2^n$  *is not smooth*,
- By property 4:  $2^n \in o(4^n)$   
therefore,  $2^{2n} = 4^n \notin \theta(2^n)$

## Theorem B.4

- Let  $b \geq 2$  be an integer, let  $f(n)$  be a *smooth* complexity function, and let  $T(n)$  be an *eventually nondecreasing* complexity function.

If  $T(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$  for  $n$  a power of  $b$

Then  $T(n) \in \Theta(f(n))$  for any  $n$

Furthermore, the same implication holds if  $\Theta$  is replaced by “big  $O$ ,”  $\Omega$ , or “small  $o$ .”

## Example B.25

- Suppose for some complexity function we establish that  $T(n) = T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1$ ,  $n > 1$ ,  $T(1) = 1$
- When  $n$  is a power of 2, we have  $T(n) = 1 + \log n \in \theta(\log n)$
- Because  $\lg n$  is *smooth*, we need only show that  $T(n)$  is *eventually nondecreasing* in order to apply Theorem B.4 to conclude that  $T(n) \in \theta(\log n)$
- $W(n) = W(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + W(\lceil n/2 \rceil) + n - 1$

- $T(n)$  is eventually nondecreasing
- We use induction to establish for  $n \geq 2$  that

*if  $1 \leq k < n$ , then that  $T(k) \leq T(n)$*

- Induction base: For  $n = 2$ , we must show that  $T(1) \leq T(2)$

$$T(1)=1$$

$$T(2)=T(\lfloor 2/2 \rfloor)+1=T(1)+1=2$$

Therefore,  $T(1) \leq T(2)$

- Induction hypothesis: Let  $n \geq 2$ .
- Assume for all  $k \leq n$  that  $T(k) \leq T(n)$
- Induction step: we need only show that  $T(n) \leq T(n+1)$
- It is not hard to see that if  $n \geq 1$ , then  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor \leq \lfloor (n+1)/2 \rfloor$

Therefore, by the induction hypothesis,

$$T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) \leq T(\lfloor (n+1)/2 \rfloor)$$

Using the recurrence, we have

$$T(n) = T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1 \leq T(\lfloor (n+1)/2 \rfloor) + 1 = T(n+1)$$

## Theorem B.5

Suppose a complexity function  $T(n)$  is eventually nondecreasing and satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + cn^k && \text{for } n > 1, n \text{ a power of } b \\ T(1) &= d \end{aligned}$$

where  $b \geq 2$  and  $k \geq 0$  are constant integers, and  $a$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  are constants such that  $a > 0$ ,  $c > 0$ , and  $d \geq 0$ . Then

$$T(n) \in \begin{cases} \Theta(n^k) & \text{if } a < b^k \\ \Theta(n^k \lg n) & \text{if } a = b^k \\ \Theta(n^{\log_b a}) & \text{if } a > b^k. \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.5})$$

Furthermore, if, in the statement of the recurrence,

$$T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + cn^k$$

is replaced by

$$T(n) \leq aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + cn^k \quad \text{or} \quad T(n) \geq aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + cn^k,$$

then Result B.5 holds with “big  $O$ ” or  $\Omega$ , respectively, replacing  $\Theta$ .

## Example B.26

- Suppose that  $T(n)$  is eventually nondecreasing and satisfies  
 $T(n) = 8 T(n/4) + 5n^2$  for  $n > 1$  a power of 4

$$T(1) = 3$$

By Theorem B.5,  $a=8$ ,  $b=4$ ,  $k=2$ , because  $8 < 4^2$ ,  $T(n) \in \theta(n^2)$

## Example B.27

- Suppose that  $T(n)$  is *eventually nondecreasing* and satisfies  
 $T(n) = 9 T(n/3) + 5n^1$  for  $n > 1$  a power of 3  
 $T(1) = 7$

By Theorem B.5, because  $9 > 3^1$ ,  $T(n) \in \theta(n^{\log_3 9}) = \theta(n^2)$



## Theorem B.6

- Suppose that a complexity function  $T(n)$  is eventually nondecreasing and satisfies

$$T(n) = aT\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + cn^k \quad \text{for } n > 2, n \text{ a power of } b$$

$$T(s) = d$$

- where  $s$  is a constant that is a power of  $b$ ,  $b \geq 2$  and  $k \geq 0$  are constant integers, and  $a$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  are constants such that  $a > 0$ ,  $c > 0$ , and  $d \geq 0$ . Then the results in Theorem B.5 still hold.

## Example B.28

- Suppose that  $T(n)$  is eventually nondecreasing and satisfies

$$T(n) = 8 T(n/2) + 5n^3 \text{ for } n > 64 \text{ a power of } 2$$

$$T(64) = 200$$

By Theorem B.6, because  $b=2$ ,  $a=8 = 2^3$ ,  $k=3$ ,  $b^k = 2^3$ ,

$$T(n) \in \theta(n^3 \log n)$$