

# **Master's Theorem**

# Master's Theorem

Master's Theorem is used for solving the recurrence relations.

Master's Theorem solves recurrence relations of the form-

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

## Master's Theorem

where  $a \geq 1$ ,  $b > 1$ ,  $k \geq 0$  and  $p$  is a real number

# Solving Recurrence Relations Using Master's Theorem-

In Master's Theorem, we compare 'a' with 'b<sup>k</sup>' and then follow the following cases-

## Case-01:

If  $a > b^k$ , then  $T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_b a})$

## **Case-02:**

If  $a = b^k$  and-

- If  $p < -1$ , then  $T(n) = \theta (n^{\log_b a})$
- If  $p = -1$ , then  $T(n) = \theta (n^{\log_b a} \cdot \log^2 n)$
- If  $p > -1$ , then  $T(n) = \theta (n^{\log_b a} \cdot \log^{p+1} n)$

### Case-03:

If  $a < b^k$  and-

- If  $p < 0$ , then  $T(n) = O(n^k)$
- If  $p \geq 0$ , then  $T(n) = \theta(n^k \log^p n)$

## **Problem-01:**

Solve the recurrence relation using Master's Theorem-

$$T(n) = 3T(n/2) + n^2$$

On comparing the given recurrence relation with-

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + \theta(n^k \log^p n)$$

we have-

$$a = 3$$

$$b = 2$$

$$k = 2$$

$$p = 0$$

Now,  $a = 3$  and  $b^k = 2^2 = 4$ .

Clearly,  $a < b^k$

So, we follow case-03.

Since  $p = 0$ , so we have-

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

$$T(n) = \theta(n^2 \log^0 n)$$

Thus,

$$T(n) = \theta(n^2)$$

Solve the recurrence relation using Master's Theorem-

$$T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n \log n$$

On comparing the given recurrence relation with-

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + \theta(n^k \log^p n)$$

we have-

$$a = 2$$

$$b = 2$$

$$k = 1$$

$$p = 1$$

Now,  $a = 2$  and  $b^k = 2^1 = 2$ .

Clearly,  $a = b^k$

So, we follow case-02.

Since  $p = 1$ , so we have-

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

$$T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_2 2} \log^{1+1} n)$$

Thus,

$$T(n) = \theta(n \log^2 n)$$

Solve the recurrence relation using Master's Theorem-

$$T(n) = 2T(n/4) + n^{0.51}$$

On comparing the given recurrence relation with-

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + \theta(n^k \log^p n)$$

we have-

$$a = 2$$

$$b = 4$$

$$k = 0.51$$

$$p = 0$$

Now,  $a = 2$  and  $b^k = 4^{0.51} = 2.0279$

Clearly,  $a < b^k$

So, we follow case-03.

Since  $p = 0$ , so we have-

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

$$T(n) = \theta(n^{0.51} \log^0 n)$$

Thus,

$$T(n) = \theta(n^{0.51})$$



Solve the recurrence relation using Master's Theorem-

$$T(n) = \sqrt{2}T(n/2) + \log n$$

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On comparing the given recurrence relation with-

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + \theta(n^k \log^p n)$$

we have-

$$a = \sqrt{2}$$

$$b = 2$$

$$k = 0$$

$$p = 1$$

Now,  $a = \sqrt{2} = 1.414$  and  $b^k = 2^0 = 1$ .

Clearly,  $a > b^k$

So, we follow case-01.

So we have-

$$T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_b a})$$

$$T(n) = \theta(n^{\log_2 \sqrt{2}})$$

$$T(n) = \theta(n^{1/2})$$

Thus,

$T(n) = \theta(\sqrt{n})$
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Solve the recurrence relation using Master's Theorem-

$$T(n) = 3T(n/3) + n/2$$

We can write the given recurrence relation as-

$$T(n) = 3T(n/3) + n$$

The reason is because in the general form, we have written  $\theta$  for function  $f(n)$  which hides constants in it.

Now, we can apply Master's Theorem.

On comparing the given recurrence relation with-

$$T(n) = aT(n/b) + \theta(n^k \log^p n)$$

we have-

$$a = 3$$

$$b = 3$$

$$k = 1$$

$$p = 0$$

Now,  $a = 3$  and  $b^k = 3^1 = 3$ .

Clearly,  $a = b^k$

So, we follow case-02.

Since  $p = 0$ , we have-

$$T(n) = \theta (n^{\log_b a} \cdot \log^{p+1} n)$$

$$T(n) = \theta (n^{\log_3 3} \cdot \log^{0+1} n)$$

$$T(n) = \theta (n^1 \cdot \log^1 n)$$

Thus,

$$\mathbf{T(n) = \theta (n \log n)}$$