

Q1.A solution

According to the text, $f(i)$ is the depth of the first i characters of the string s . And $f(j)$ is the depth of the first j characters of the string s .

As $f(i) = f(j)$, $d(S_{\leq i}) = d(S_{\leq j})$, which means that

$$\#a(S_{\leq i}) - \#b(S_{\leq i}) = \#a(S_{\leq j}) - \#b(S_{\leq j})$$

By simplifying this equation, we get $\#a(S_{\leq j}) - \#a(S_{\leq i}) - (\#b(S_{\leq j}) - \#b(S_{\leq i})) = 0$.

It can be seen that $\#a(S_{\leq j}) - \#a(S_{\leq i})$ is the number of a in the string constructed by index $i+1$ to j in string s , $\#b(S_{\leq j}) - \#b(S_{\leq i})$ is the number of b in the string constructed by index $i+1$ to j in string s .

So, $s_{i+1}s_{i+2} \dots s_j$ is a weakly balanced string.

Q1.B solution

The string is balanced, so the number of a must be equal to the number of b in this string. The base case is $s = \epsilon$ or $s \in \Sigma^*$.

So, (i) is proved.

As $x, y \in \Sigma^*$, by definition, we have $d(xy) = d(x) + d(y)$. As $d(x) = d(y) = 0$, $d(xy) = 0$. So $s = xy$ is also balanced, (ii) is proved.

Assume $s_1 = a$, $s_2 = b$. By definition, $d(s_1) = 1$, $d(s_2) = -1$. Since we also have $d(xy) = d(x) + d(y)$, we can get $d(axb) = d(s_1) + d(x) + d(s_2) = 1 + d(x) - 1$. As x is a balanced string, $d(x) = 0$. So, $d(axb) = 0$, $s = axb$ is also balanced, (iii) is proved.

There are no other cases.

Q1.C solution

There are two scenarios. As s is balanced, its length n must be even.

The first scenario is the string s is in the form of “ $aaa \dots bbb \dots$ ”, where the number of a in the front is equal to the number of b behind. And the number of “ a ” or “ b ”s must larger than 1.

For this case, we can get that $d_{max} = \frac{1}{2}n$.

Let $y = \frac{1}{2}n - \sqrt{n}$, by taking the derivative of it, we get $y' = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n}}$.

When $n = 1$, $y' = 0$, which means y is decreasing when $n < 1$, and increasing when $n \geq 1$.

Because $n \geq 4$, when $n = 4$, $y = 0$. So, $y \geq 0$, which means in this scenario the maximum depth of s is $\geq \sqrt{n}$.

The other scenario is the remaining cases. The base case is $s = ab$. By the definition, it can be broken into 1 substring, that is $m = 1$. And $\sqrt{n} - 1 = \sqrt{2} - 1 < 1 = m$.

In terms of this scenario, according to the question, it can be inferred that the first letter must be a , and the last letter must be b . Also, let $f(i) = d(s_{\leq i})$, then $f(0) = 0$, $f(1) = 1, \dots, f(n-1) = 1, f(n) = 0$.

Q1.D solution

Q2 solution

We use induction to solve this problem.

Base case: Let $n = 2$. There are only two people in the world and if there's only one tribe with 2 people, no lambs are sacrificed. If there are two tribes each with 1 person, then one tribe will lose and one lamb is sacrificed. In both cases. The number of lambs sacrificed is smaller than $n \log_2 n = 2$

Let $n = 3$, Then then number of lambs sacrificed can be 0 or 1, both of which is smaller than $3 \log_2 3$.

Inductive hypothesis: For any $n > 1$, at most $n \log_2 n$ lambs got sacrificed.

Induction step: Let W be a world of n people, Assume inductive hypothesis holds for all worlds with number of people greater than 2 and less than n .

Then in the world with $n-1$ people, we have number of lambs sacrificed $\leq (n-1) \log_2 (n-1)$. By adding one more person, this world will have n people. If the tribe this new-added person is in wins all the fight, then the number of lambs sacrificed doesn't change. If the the tribe this new-added person is in loses, there will be one more lamb sacrificed. In this case, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Number of lambs sacrificed in world } W &\leq (n-1) \log_2 (n-1) + 1 \\
&= n \log_2 (n-1) + 1 - \log_2 (n-1) \\
&\leq n \log_2 (n-1) \\
&< n \log_2 (n)
\end{aligned}$$

In both cases, the number of lambs sacrificed in world W is less than $n \log_2 (n)$

So during this process, at most $n \log_2 n$ lambs got sacrificed.

Q3.A solution

Intuition: Assume that $\exists t \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\exists C \in \mathbb{R}$, for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfying $n \leq t$ and $n \geq 4$, we can get $T(n) \leq Cn \log n$. Now, we are attempting to prove that for $n = t+1$, $T(n) \leq Cn \log n$.

- since $n \geq 4$, $[n/4] < n \leq t$, $[3n/4] < n \leq t$,

$$\begin{aligned}
T(n) &= 2n + T([n/4]) + T([3n/4]) \\
&\leq 2n + \frac{Cn}{4} \log \frac{n}{4} + \frac{3Cn}{4} \log \frac{3n}{4} \\
&= 2n + \frac{Cn}{4} (\log n - \log 4) + \frac{3Cn}{4} (\log n + \log \frac{3}{4}) \\
&= 2n + Cn \log n + \frac{3Cn \log 3}{4} - Cn \log 4
\end{aligned}$$

- In order to let $T(n) \leq Cn \log n$,

$$\begin{aligned}
2n + \frac{3Cn \log 3}{4} - Cn \log 4 &< 0 \\
2 + \frac{3C \log 3}{4} - C \log 4 &< 0 \\
C &> \frac{2}{\log 4 - \frac{3}{4} \log 3} \approx 8.189
\end{aligned}$$

Formal answer: Let $C = 9$ and set a constant b satisfying $b \geq 1$. We assume that $T(n) \leq 9n \log n + b$.

• **base case:** For $n = 1$ and $n = 2$, it is obvious that $T(1) = 1 \leq b$ and $T(2) = 1 \leq 18 \log 2 + b$.

• **Induction hypothesis:** Let $k > 0$ be an arbitrary integer, assume that $T(n) \leq 9n \log n + b$ for any integer n satisfying $n \leq k$.

• **Induction Step:** Now, if we prove that $T(n) \leq 9n \log n + b$ holds for $n = k + 1$, then we can conclude that $T(n) \leq 9n \log n + b$.

case 1 ($k \leq 8$): $T(n) = 1$ for n satisfying $n = k + 1 \leq 9$. Let $f(n) = 9n \log n + b$. Because $f'(n) = 9 + 9 \log n > 0$ for $n \geq 1$, $f(n)$ is an increasing function. We can prove that $T(n) \leq f(1) \leq f(n) = 9n \log n + b$.

case 2 ($k \geq 9$): $T(n) = 2n + T(\lfloor n/4 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor 3n/4 \rfloor)$ for n satisfying $n = k + 1 \geq 10$. since $n = k + 1 \geq 10$, we could know that $\lfloor n/4 \rfloor < n \leq k$ and $\lfloor 3n/4 \rfloor < n \leq k$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 2n + T(\lfloor n/4 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor 3n/4 \rfloor) \\ &\leq 2n + \frac{9n}{4} \log \frac{n}{4} + \frac{27n}{4} \log \frac{3n}{4} + 2b \\ &= 2n + \frac{9n}{4} (\log n - \log 4) + \frac{27n}{4} (\log n + \log \frac{3}{4}) + 2b \\ &= 2n + 9n \log n + \frac{27n \log 3}{4} - 9n \log 4 + 2b \\ &= -0.1980n + 9n \log n + 2b \end{aligned}$$

In order to let $T(n) \leq 9n \log n + b$, we can get $b \leq 0.1980n$. Since b is any constant that satisfying $b \geq 1$ and $n = k + 1 \geq 10$, we can simply let $b = 1$.

$$T(n) = -0.1980n + 9n \log n + 2 \leq 9n \log n + 0.02 \leq 9n \log n + 1 = 9n \log n + b$$

Now, we can conclude that $T(n) \leq 9n \log n + 1$ for all natural number n . According to the definition, we prove that $T(n) = O(n \log n)$ for natural number n . Finally, we consider the case where n is a negative integer or 0. Obviously, $T(n) = 1$, so $T(n) = O(1)$ for negative integer or 0. Overall, $T(n) = O(n \log n)$ for all integer n .

Q3.B solution Intuition: Assume that $\exists t \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\exists C \in \mathbb{R}$, for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfying $n \leq t$ and $n \geq 1$, we can get $T(n) \leq Cn$. Now, we are attempting to prove that for $n = t + 1$, $T(n) \leq Cn$.

• since $n \geq 1$, $\lfloor n/4 \rfloor \leq n \leq t$, $\lfloor n/6 \rfloor \leq n \leq t$, $\lfloor n/7 \rfloor \leq n \leq t$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= n + T(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor n/6 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor n/7 \rfloor) \\ &\leq n + \frac{Cn}{2} + \frac{Cn}{6} + \frac{Cn}{7} \end{aligned}$$

- In order to let $T(n) \leq Cn$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 n + \frac{Cn}{2} + \frac{Cn}{6} + \frac{Cn}{7} &\leq Cn \\
 n &\leq \frac{4Cn}{21} \\
 C &\geq \frac{21}{4}, (n \geq 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Formal answer: Let $C = 10$. We assume that $T(n) \leq f(n) = 10n$.

- **base case:** For $n = 1$ and $n = 2$, it is obvious that $T(1) = 1 \leq 10 = f(1)$ and $T(2) = 1 \leq 20 = f(2)$.

- **Induction hypothesis:** Let $k > 0$ be an arbitrary integer, assume that $T(n) \leq 10n$ for any integer n satisfying $n \leq k$.

- **Induction Step:** Now, if we prove that $T(n) \leq 10n$ holds for $n=k+1$, then we can conclude that $T(n) \leq 10n$.

case 1 ($k \leq 22$): $T(n) = 1$ for n satisfying $n = k + 1 \leq 23$. Let $f(n) = 10n$. Because $f'(n) = 10 > 0$ for $n \geq 1$, $f(n)$ is an increasing function. We can prove that $T(n) \leq f(1) \leq f(n) = 10n$.

case 2 ($k \geq 23$): $T(n) = n + T(\lfloor n/4 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor n/6 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor n/7 \rfloor)$ for n satisfying $n = k+1 \geq 24$. since $n = k+1 \geq 24$, we could know that $\lfloor n/4 \rfloor < n \leq k$, $\lfloor n/6 \rfloor \leq n \leq k$ and $\lfloor n/7 \rfloor \leq n \leq k$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(n) &= n + T(\lfloor n/4 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor n/6 \rfloor) + T(\lfloor n/7 \rfloor) \\
 &\leq n + \frac{10n}{4} + \frac{10n}{6} + \frac{10n}{7} \\
 &= \frac{277}{42}n \\
 &\approx 6.5952n \leq 10n
 \end{aligned}$$

Now, we can conclude that $T(n) \leq 10n$ for all integer n . According to the definition, we prove that $T(n) = O(n)$. Finally, we consider the case where n is a negative integer or 0. Obviously, $T(n) = 1$, so $T(n) = O(1)$ for negative integer or 0. Overall, $T(n) = O(n)$ for all integer n .