

Program 2 - Tower of Hanoi

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First, write a recursive algorithm to solve the problem.

Using pseudo-code, the recursive algorithm to solving the towers of hanoi is as follows:

```
move(n, A, B, C)
  if(n = 1)
    move disk n from A to B
  end
}
else
  move(n-1, A, C, B)
  move disk n from A to B
  move(n-1, C, B, A)
}
```

(See enclosed C program for specific implementation of the algorithm)

Write a recurrence equation for $f(n)$ and solve the recurrence. To get a better appreciation for this time complexity, tabulate $f(n)$ for the values of n from 1 to 20.

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 1 \\ 2f_{n-1} + 1, & n > 1 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$f(n)$	Output
$F1$	1
$F2$	$2(1) + 1 = 3$
$F3$	$2(3) + 1 = 7$
$F4$	$2(7) + 1 = 15$
$F5$	$2(15) + 1 = 31$
$F6$	$2(31) + 1 = 63$
$F7$	$2(63) + 1 = 127$
$F8$	$2(127) + 1 = 255$
$F9$	$2(255) + 1 = 511$
$F10$	$2(511) + 1 = 1,023$
$F11$	$2(1023) + 1 = 2,047$
$F12$	$2(2047) + 1 = 4,095$
$F13$	$2(4095) + 1 = 8,191$
$F14$	$2(8191) + 1 = 16,383$
$F15$	$2(16383) + 1 = 32,767$
$F16$	$2(32767) + 1 = 65,535$
$F17$	$2(65535) + 1 = 131,071$
$F18$	$2(131071) + 1 = 262,143$
$F19$	$2(262143) + 1 = 524,287$
$F20$	$2(524287) + 1 = 1,048,575$

Solve the recurrence formula for $f(n)$

To solve this recurrence formula, we can observe a pattern from the above shown outputs for the first 20 instances of n . We notice that the growth is exponential and can assume that it also includes some constant as well, leaving us the guess:

$$f(n) = A2^n + b$$

Using the above guess as the hypothesis for our induction, we can start by using the base cases from the recurrence equation

$$f(1) = 1$$

$$f(1) = 2A + B$$

The first of the above equations is straight from the recurrence equation above, the latter is the solution form we are looking to achieve, therefore the goal is to find $2A + B = 1$

We begin by making our guess the hypothesis and assuming it is correct for some $n/eq1$:

$$f(n) = A2^n + B$$

Then we must also prove the solution is also correct for $n + 1$

$$f(n + 1) = A2^{n+1} + B$$

To prove the conclusion, we can start with the recurrence equation with the input $n + 1$ and use the hypothesis to substitute in for $f(n)$. In addition to some distributive law as well we find

$$\begin{aligned} f(n + 1) &= 2f(n) + 1 \\ f(n + 1) &= 2(A2^n + B) + 1 \\ f(n + 1) &= A2^{n+1} + (2B + 1) \\ f(n + 1) &= A2^{n+1} + B \end{aligned}$$

The leap in the last step is that of a term by term equality, we will need this equality to help find the constant B which is can now be used in conjunction with our initial equation

$$\begin{aligned} 2B + 1 &= B \\ 2A + B &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Using algebra we find that $A = 1$ and $B = -1$ and thus we have the constants to properly fill in the previous guess turned hypothesis

$$f(n) = A2^n + B$$

becomes

$$f(n) = 2^n + 1$$

Run your program for two values of n .

4 Disks	3 Disks
Tower of Hanoi Solver	Tower of Hanoi Solver
Input number of disks (max 6): 4	Input number of disks (max 6): 3
1 Move disc 1 from A to C	1 Move disc 1 from A to B
2 Move disc 2 from A to B	2 Move disc 2 from A to C
3 Move disc 1 from C to B	3 Move disc 1 from B to C
4 Move disc 3 from A to C	4 Move disc 3 from A to B
5 Move disc 1 from B to A	5 Move disc 1 from C to A
6 Move disc 2 from B to C	6 Move disc 2 from C to B
7 Move disc 1 from A to C	7 Move disc 1 from A to B
8 Move disc 4 from A to B	
9 Move disc 1 from C to B	
10 Move disc 2 from C to A	
11 Move disc 1 from B to A	
12 Move disc 3 from C to B	
13 Move disc 1 from A to C	
14 Move disc 2 from A to B	
15 Move disc 1 from C to B	