

# Recurrences

Recursive Function - function calling itself.

Recurrence - is an equation or inequality that describes a function in terms of its value on smaller inputs.

Example to understand how recurrence is created from algorithm?

Algorithm ABC(n)...

if ( $n > 1$ )  
    return (ABC(n-1))

}

$$T(n) = 1 + T(n-1)$$

$$= O(1)$$

if  $n > 1$   
 $n = 1$

There are three methods to solve recurrences :-

- 1) The Substitution Method
- 2) The Recursion Tree Method
- 3) The Master Method.

## [I] The Substitution Method

There are two steps

- (i) Guess the form of the solution
- (ii) Use mathematical induction to find constant & show that solution works.

### Examples

1]  $T(n) = 2T(n/2) + n$  for  $n > 1$  and  $T(1) = 1$   
Determine upper bound.

Soln → Step 1: Guess the Solution  
 $T(n) = O(n \log n)$

Step 2: Mathematical Induction

(a) To prove:  $T(n) \leq cn \log n$  ... (I) for some constant  $c$   
 ~~$c > 0$~~

(b) Finding Constant  $c$ :

Let us assume that bound holds for  $T(n/2)$ .

$$\therefore T(n/2) \leq c(n/2) \log(n/2) \dots \text{--- (II)}$$

Substituting equation II in recurrence relation.

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



$$T(n) = 2 \left[ c \cdot \frac{n}{2} \log\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \right] + n$$

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

$$= cn \log n - cn \log 2 + n$$

$$T(n) = cn \log n - cn + n \quad \dots \text{III}$$

We need to prove,

$$e. T(n) \leq cn \log n$$

$$cn \log n - cn + n \leq cn \log n$$

$$-cn + n \leq 0$$

Dividing by  $n$ ,

$$-c + 1 \leq 0$$

$$\boxed{c > 1}$$

(c) Prove the base condition:

Suppose, put  $n=1$  in eqn I.

$$T(1) \leq c(1) \log(1) \leq 0$$

But  $T(1) = 1$ . Hence Not satisfied.

(d) Reverse the induction

Need to find lowest value of  $n_0$  for which relation is satisfied.

Consider,  $n_0 = 2$

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

$$= 2T(1) + 2$$

$$\boxed{T(2) = 4}$$

Now, for relation.

$$T(n) \leq cn \log n$$

$$T(2) \leq c(2 \log 2)$$

$$T(2) \leq 2c$$

For sufficient large value of  $c$ ,  $c \geq 2$  the condition holds the relation.

$$\therefore T(n) = O(n \log n) \quad \text{where } n_0 = 2$$

$$c = 2$$

For,  $n_0 = 3$ ,

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

$$= 2T(1) + 3$$

$$= 5$$

for relation,

$$T(n) \leq cn \log n$$

$$T(3) \leq 2 \times 3 \log 3$$

$$5 \leq 2 \times 3 (1.5)$$

$$5 \leq 9$$

$\therefore$  satisfied,  $\therefore T(n) = O(n \log n)$   $n_0 = 2$   
 $c = 2$

2]

$T(1) = 1$  and  $T(n) = T(n/2) + 1$  for  $n > 1$   
determine the upper bound

Solution: Step 1: Guess the solution.  
 $T(n) = O(\log n)$

Step 2: Mathematical Induction

- (a) To prove:  $T(n) \leq c \log n$  — (I) for some constant  $c$   
(b) Pending constant  $c$ :

Let us assume that bound holds for  $T(n/2)$   
 $\therefore T(n/2) \leq c \log(n/2)$  — (II)

using equation (II) in recurrence equation,

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n/2) + 1 \\ &= c \log(n/2) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$= c \log n - c + 1 \quad \text{--- (III)}$$

We need to prove,

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\leq c \log n \\ c \log n - c + 1 &\leq c \log n \end{aligned}$$

$$-c + 1 \leq 0$$

$$\boxed{c \geq 1}$$



AT  
③ Prove the base condition:

Suppose, put  $n=1$  in equation 1

$$T(1) \leq C \log 1 \leq 0$$

But  $T(1) = 1$ , hence Not satisfied.

④ Revise the induction

Need to find the lowest value of  $n_0$  for which relation is satisfied.

Consider  $n_0 = 2$

$$T(2) = T\left(\frac{2}{2}\right) + 1$$

$$= 2$$

Now, for relation,

$$T(n) \leq C \log n$$

$$T(2) \leq C \log 2$$

$$T(2) \leq C$$

Consider  $n_0 = 3$

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

$$= T(1) + 1$$

$$= 2$$

Now for relation

$$T(n) \leq C \log 3$$

$$T(3) \leq 1.5 C$$

For sufficient larger value of  $C$ ,  $C \geq 2$  the condition holds the relation.

$$\therefore T(n) = O(\log n) \quad \text{for } n_0 = 2$$

$$C = 2$$

3] Show that solution for  $T(n) = T(n-1) + n$  is  $O(n^2)$

Soln  $\rightarrow$  Step 1: Guess the solution & find exact form  
 $T(n) = O(n^2)$

Exact form:

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + n$$

$$T(1) = 1$$

$$T(2) = T(2-1) + 2 = 1 + 2$$

$$T(3) = T(3-1) + 3 = 1 + 2 + 3$$

$$T(4) = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4$$

$$\therefore T(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Step 2: Mathematical Induction

(a) To prove:  $T(n) \leq c \left[ \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right] \text{ --- (I)}$

for some constant  $c$

(b) Finding constant  $c$ :

Let us assume that bound holds for  $T(n-1)$ .

$$\therefore T(n-1) \leq c \left[ \frac{(n-1)n}{2} \right] \text{ --- (II)}$$

using equation II, in recurrence equation,

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n-1) + n \\ &\leq c \left[ \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \right] + n \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{c}{2} n^2 - \frac{c}{2} n + n$$

We need to prove,

$$T(n) \leq c \left[ \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right]$$

$$\cancel{\frac{c}{2}n^2} - \frac{c}{2}n + n \leq \cancel{\frac{cn^2}{2}} + \frac{cn}{2}$$

$$n \leq cn$$

Dividing by  $n$ ,

$$\boxed{c \geq 1}$$

③ Prove the base condition :

Suppose, put  $n=1$  in equation I.

$$T(1) \leq c \left( \frac{1(1+1)}{2} \right)$$

$$\leq c \left( 1 \left( \frac{1+1}{2} \right) \right)$$

$$\leq c$$

$$\leq 1$$

$$[c=1]$$

which is satisfied.

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

for  $c=1$

$$n_0=1$$



4] Show that solution for  $T(n) = 2T(\lceil n/2 \rceil + 17) + n$  is  $O(n \log n)$ . 48

Solution:

Step 1: Guess the solution  
 $\therefore T(n) = O(n \log n)$

Step 2: Mathematical Induction

(a) To prove:  $T(n) \leq cn \log n \dots \textcircled{I}$

(b) Finding constant c:

Let us assume that the bound holds true for  $T(n/2 + 17)$

$$\therefore T\left(\frac{n}{2} + 17\right) = c\left(\frac{n}{2} + 17\right) \log\left(\frac{n}{2} + 17\right) \dots \textcircled{II}$$

using equation  $\textcircled{II}$  in recurrence equation.

$$\therefore T(n) = 2 \left[ c\left(\frac{n}{2} + 17\right) \log\left(\frac{n}{2} + 17\right) \right] + n.$$

$$= cn \log\left(\frac{n}{2} + 17\right) + 34c \log\left(\frac{n}{2} + 17\right) + n$$

$$= cn \log\left(\frac{n+34}{2}\right) + 34c \log\left(\frac{n+34}{2}\right) + n$$

$$= cn \log(n+34) - cn + 34c \log(n+34) - 34c + n$$

$$= cn \log\left(n\left(1+\frac{34}{n}\right)\right) + 34c \log\left(n\left(1+\frac{34}{n}\right)\right) - c(n+34) + n$$

$$= \underline{cn \log n} + \underline{cn \log\left(1+\frac{34}{n}\right)} + \underline{34c \log n} + \underline{34c \log\left(1+\frac{34}{n}\right)} - c(n+34) + n$$

$$= c(n+34) \log n + c(n+34) \log\left(1 + \frac{34}{n}\right) - c(n+34) + n$$

When  $n$  is very large, then  $\frac{34}{n}$  tends to zero and  $n+34 \approx n$ .

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

$$T(n) = c n \log n - c n + n$$

We need to prove,

$$T(n) \leq c n \log n$$

$$c n \log n - c n + n \leq c n \log n$$

Dividing by  $n$ .

$$-c + 1 \leq 0$$

$$\therefore \boxed{c \geq 1}$$

③ Prove the base condition

Suppose put  $n=1$  in eqn ①

$$T(1) \leq c(1) \log(1) \leq 0$$

But  $T(1) = 1$ . Hence not satisfied.

(d) Reverse the induction

For larger values of  $n$ ,  $n/2 + 17 \approx n/2$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore T(n) &= 2T(n/2 + 17) + n \\ &\approx 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n\end{aligned}$$

We need to find lowest value of  $n_0$  for which relation is satisfied.

consider,

$$n_0 = 2$$

$$\begin{aligned}T(2) &= 2T(1) + 2 \\ &= 4\end{aligned}$$

For Relation,

$$\begin{aligned}T(2) &\leq C 2 \log 2 \\ &\leq 2C\end{aligned}$$

$$n_0 = 3$$

$$\begin{aligned}T(3) &= 2T\left(\left\lceil \frac{3}{2} \right\rceil\right) + 3 \\ &= 2T(2) + 3 \\ &= 8 + 3 \\ &= 11\end{aligned}$$

for relation

$$\begin{aligned}T(3) &\leq C \cdot 3 \log 3 \\ &\leq 4.5C\end{aligned}$$

For sufficient larger value of  $C$ ,  $C \geq 3$  then condition holds the relation.

$$\therefore T(n) = O(n \log n)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{for } n_0 &= 2 \\ C &= 3\end{aligned}$$



5] Solve the recurrence  $T(n) = 2T(\lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor) + \log n$  by making change of variable

Solution: 1] Changing the Variable

$$\text{Let } m = \log n \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\therefore n = 2^m \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\therefore \sqrt{n} = 2^{m/2} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$\therefore$  substituting (1), (2), (3) in recurrence equation,

$$T(2^m) = 2T(2^{m/2}) + m$$

Now Rename,  $S(m) = T(2^m)$

$$\therefore S(m) = 2S(m/2) + m \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

2] Prove:

(a) Guess the Solution:

$$S(m) = O(m \log m) \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

(b) Mathematical Induction

$$\text{To prove: } S(m) \leq cm \log m \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

Finding c:

Let us assume bound holds for  $S(m/2)$

$$\therefore S(m/2) \leq c m/2 \log m/2 \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

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Substituting eqn (3) in (4)

$$S(m) = 2 \left[ c \frac{m}{2} \log \frac{m}{2} \right] + m \\ = cm \log m - cm + m$$

we need to prove,

$$S(m) \leq cm \log m$$

$$cm \log m - cm + m \leq cm \log m$$

dividing by  $m$ ,

$$-c + 1 \leq 0$$

$$c \geq 1$$



prove the base condition:

put  $m = 1$ , in equation (4)

$$S(1) \leq c(1) \log(1) = 0$$

But  $S(1) = 1$ , Hence not satisfied.

Revise the induction

consider,  $m_0 = 2$

$$S(2) = 2S(1) + 2$$

$$= 4$$

For Relation,

$$S(2) \leq c \cdot 2 \log 2$$

$$\leq 2 \cdot c$$

for sufficient larger value of  $c$ ,  
 $c > 2$ , relation holds.

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$$\therefore S(m) = O(m \log m) \quad \text{for } c=2, m_0=2$$

3] Changing Back from  $S(m)$  to  $T(n)$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(2^m) \\ &= S(m) \\ &= O(m \log m) \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} n_0 &= 2^{m_0} \\ &= 2^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{n_0 = 4}$$

$$\therefore T(n) = O(\log n \log \log n)$$

$$\text{for } c=2, n_0=4$$