

Recurrences and The Master Theorem

Note Title

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Recall: Merge sort

1] Time Complexity of merge sort:

$$T(n) = 2 \times T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + \Theta(n) \leftarrow \text{recurrence relation}$$
$$= \Theta(n \log n) \leftarrow \text{by solving the recurrence}$$

2] Optimal Algorithm:

"Algorithm A is optimal for problem Π , if it has the "best" time complexity among all algorithms that solve Π ."

e.g. Merge sort is optimal for sorting

3] Recurrence Relations:

e.g.

$$f(n) = c_1 f(n-1) + c_2 f(n-2) + \dots$$

How to solve the recurrence relations?

1. Master theorem ✓
 2. Expansion / substitution
 3. Change of variable
- } textbook (Reading)

4] e.g. Hanoi Tower

by expansion:

$$h(n) = 2h(n-1) + 1$$

$$= 2[2h(n-2) + 1] + 1$$

=

⋮

$$= 2^n - 1$$



$$h(n-1) + 1 + h(n-1)$$
$$= 2h(n-1) + 1$$

5] The Master Theorem

Let $a \geq 1$ $b > 1$, $f(n) = a f\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) + g(n)$

then:

① if $g(n) = O\left(n^{\log_b a - \epsilon}\right)$
then $f(n) = \Theta\left(n^{\log_b a}\right)$

e.g. Merge sort $f(n) = 2f\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + cn$

look at $\log_b a$ and $g(n)$
 $\Rightarrow n^{\log_b a}$

② if $g(n) = \Theta\left(n^{\log_b a}\right)$
then $f(n) = \Theta\left(n^{\log_b a} \cdot \log n\right)$

③ if $g(n) = \Omega\left(n^{\log_b a + \epsilon}\right)$ and $\begin{cases} \text{if } \exists c < 1 \text{ s.t.} \\ a g\left(\frac{n}{b}\right) \leq c g(n) \quad \forall n > n_0 \end{cases}$
then

$f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$

6] e.g. Binary search : $f(n) = f\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 1$

$$\log_2 1 = 0 \Rightarrow n^{\log_2 1} = 1 \quad ; \quad g(n) = 1 = \Theta(1)$$

$$\therefore \text{case ② : } f(n) = \Theta\left(n^{\log_2 1} \cdot \log n\right) = \Theta(1 \cdot \log n)$$

7] e.g. $f(n) = 4f\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n$

$$n^{\log_2 4} = n^2, \quad g(n) = n = O(n^{2-\epsilon})$$

$$\therefore \text{case ① } f(n) = \Theta(n^2)$$

$$8] \quad \text{e.g.} \quad f(n) = 4f\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n^2$$

$$n^{\log_2 4} = n^2 \quad ,$$

$$g(n) = n^2 = \Theta(n^2)$$

\Rightarrow Case 2 :

$$f(n) = \Theta\left(n^{\log_2 4} \cdot \log n\right)$$

$$= \Theta\left(n^2 \cdot \log n\right)$$

